



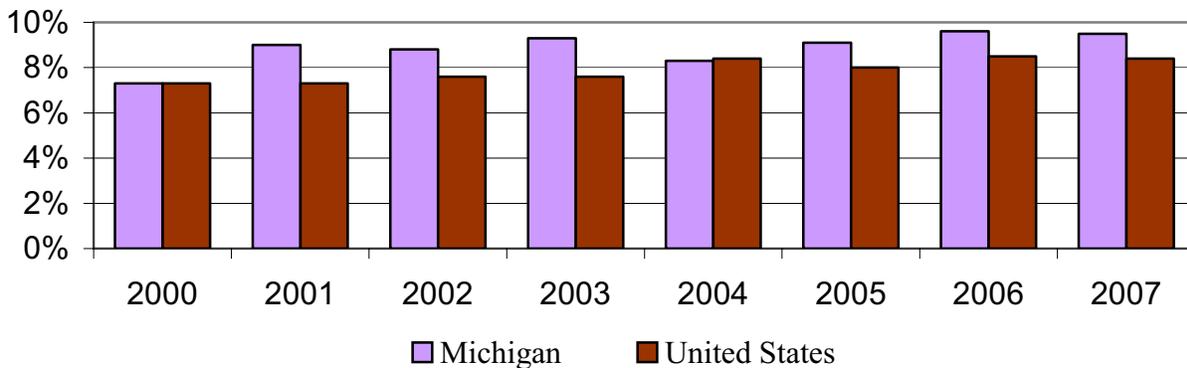
Topic: Respiratory Disease

22. Asthma Hospitalizations

Asthma is a chronic respiratory disease characterized by episodes or attacks of inflammation and narrowing of small airways which result in shortness of breath, wheeze, cough, and/or chest tightness in response to asthma triggers. Many factors can trigger an asthma attack, including allergens, infections, exercise, abrupt changes in the weather, or exposure to airway irritants, such as tobacco smoke. Although there is no cure, asthma can be controlled using long-term control medications and rescue medications, regular assessment of lung function, and avoidance of exposures that make asthma worse.

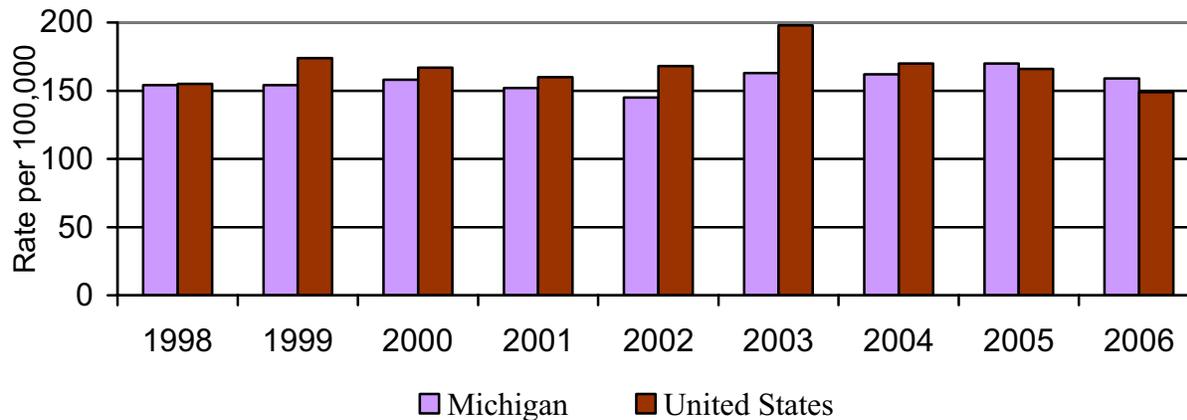
How are we doing?

Percentage of Adults with Asthma



The estimated proportion of Michigan adults ever told by a health care professional that they had asthma was 14.7% in 2007. Among those, 67.3% were estimated to still have asthma. The most recent Michigan data indicate that 233,000 children and 724,000 adults currently have asthma. Over one-half of adults with asthma have had an asthma attack in the past 12 months. Only 24.9% report that they have ever been given an asthma action plan and 38.5% of them did not see their health care professional for a routine check of their asthma in the last year.

Asthma Hospitalizations





In 2006, there were 16,067 hospitalizations due to asthma in Michigan. Asthma is the fourth leading cause of Ambulatory Care Sensitive (ACS) hospitalizations in Michigan, causing 6.1% of all these hospitalizations in the year 2006. ACS conditions refer to those conditions for which hospitalizations could have been avoided, or conditions that could have been less serious, if they had been treated early and appropriately. Since 2000, hospitalization rates among adults age 35 years and older have significantly increased, with no significant change observed for other age groups.

How does Michigan compare with the U.S.?

The prevalence of asthma in Michigan adults is very similar to that of the nation as a whole. Asthma hospitalization rates for children and adults in the Michigan are not significantly different than those for the US.

How are different populations affected?

A higher proportion of adult women (11.0%) than men (7.9%) reported they currently had asthma in Michigan during 2007. During childhood, rates are higher among males than females. After age 15 rates among females are higher than rates for males. Asthma hospitalization rates are highest in younger children (0-4 years of age); however, the largest numbers of hospitalizations occur in adults.

The proportion of Michigan adults with asthma was higher in low-income households and among adults with less than a college degree. Asthma hospitalization rates for people living in poor areas were four times higher than those for people living in highest income areas (top 20% of median household income) (2000-2002 data).

Asthma hospitalization rates in Michigan are three to five times higher in Blacks than in Whites, depending on age group, 2004-2006. The racial disparity in hospitalization rates persists across all income groups, with Black residents of high-income ZIP codes having rates 3.8 times higher than White residents of high-income ZIP codes.

What is the Department of Community Health doing to improve this indicator?

In 2000, the Asthma Initiative of Michigan (AIM) was formed to implement the Michigan Asthma Strategic Plan. AIM includes the Michigan Asthma Communication Network, eleven local asthma coalitions, health care providers, schools and workplaces across Michigan. A state-level advisory committee guides and monitors the strategic plan implementation. For further information, please visit: <http://www.getastmahelp.org/> or call the toll-free information line 1-866-EZLUNGS.

The Asthma Prevention and Control Program is currently working on replicating the asthma case management services, based on the effective and sustainable model used by the Asthma Network of West Michigan (ANWM), in high-burden areas. These high-burden areas include the counties of Genesee, Saginaw and Wayne. This program is reimbursed by contracting health plans and has shown to significantly reduce emergency department visits and hospital stays.

With federal and state funding, the MDCH Asthma Control Program is identifying and eliminating asthma disparities, assessing asthma burden and response, supporting partnerships to address asthma, partnering with health plans to promote the use of national guidelines for asthma diagnosis and management, improving systems of care, reducing barriers to self-management in people with asthma, and reducing exposures to environmental factors that cause and/or exacerbate asthma. The MDCH also reviews all asthma deaths in children and young adults to identify ways to prevent these deaths in the future. The MDCH Asthma Prevention and Control Program conducts evaluation of its partnerships, surveillance system and interventions.