



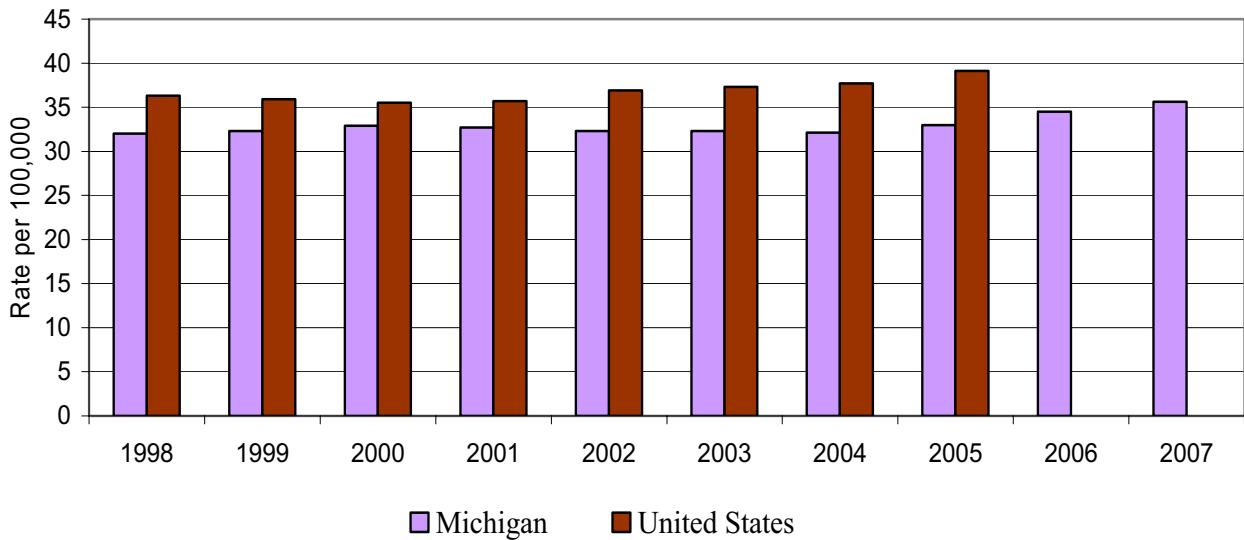
## Topic: Unintentional and Childhood Injuries

### 38. Unintentional Injuries

Unintentional injuries are the fifth leading cause of all deaths in Michigan and the third leading cause of Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL) for people below the age of 75. They are the leading cause of death to Michigan residents who are at least one year of age but under age 35.

#### *How are we doing?*

**Age-Adjusted Unintentional Injury Death Rates**



In 2007, there were 3,714 Michigan resident deaths due to all causes of unintentional injury. The corresponding age-adjusted death rate was 35.6 per 100,000 population. This rate has remained relatively stable since 1992, although the change to ICD10 coding artificially increased the rate by three percent. There is one notable exception to this stable trend: the Michigan unintentional poisoning death rate had increased more than 500% between 1995 and 2006.

Motor vehicle traffic crashes are the most common cause of unintentional injury deaths, representing 36 percent of the total. The trend for motor vehicle deaths has improved since 1996; by 2006, the age-adjusted death rate had decreased by 31 percent. The introduction of advanced safety equipment in cars, combined with stricter laws regarding use of seatbelts and child restraints, and drinking and driving, has pushed the trend downward since the late 1970s.

#### *How Does Michigan compare with the U.S.?*

The unintentional injury death rate for Michigan has been consistently lower than the U.S. rate. In 2006, the most recent year for which national data are available, Michigan’s age-adjusted death rate of 34.5 per 100,000 was 10% lower than the U.S. rate of 38.5 per 100,000.

#### *How are different populations affected?*

In Michigan between 2002 and 2006, the unintentional injury death rate was 80% higher for males than females, 440% higher for those aged 75 years and older than those under age 75, and 3% higher for whites



## Critical Health Indicators

than African-Americans. For certain causes of unintentional injury, however, disparities were much larger. The drowning rate was 240% higher for males than females. The death rate due to unintentional falls was 31 times higher for those aged 75 years and older than for those under age 75. African-American males under age 1 year had a suffocation/strangulation rate that was 54 times the state rate.

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

The Department is decreasing the incidence and burden of unintentional injuries by providing leadership, training, public education, data collection and analysis, funding support and technical assistance related to the leading causes of injuries. With statewide stakeholders, several injury prevention plans have been developed over the past few years addressing key injury issues in Michigan. One such plan is the Michigan Plan for Injury Prevention which contains recommendations to build the core capacity of the state injury program as well as impact the top four priority causes of injury in Michigan (motor vehicle crashes, firearms, falls and poisoning).

The Department compiles fatality and hospitalization data on injuries to determine the magnitude of the problem, describe the characteristics of the populations at risk, and determine causes of injuries so that prevention programming can be effectively targeted. Several reports have been prepared and are available at: [www.michigan.gov/injuryprevention](http://www.michigan.gov/injuryprevention). In addition, strategic plans, program descriptions and reports, educational materials and injury prevention links are available at this website.