

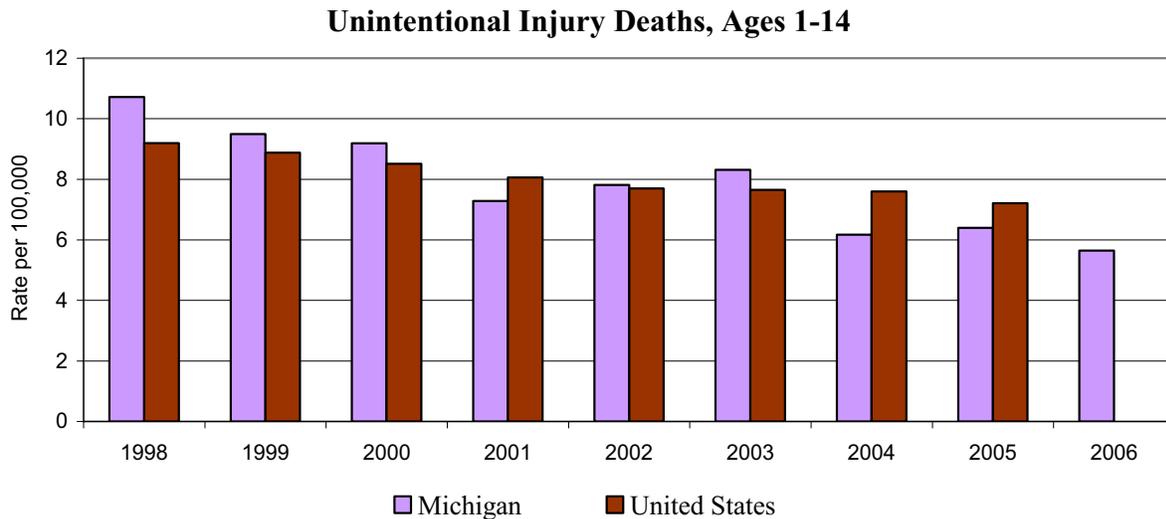


Topic: Unintentional and Childhood Injuries

39. Childhood Injuries

Unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death for children ages 1-14 in Michigan, resulting in 1,196 deaths between 1999 and 2006. During this time, motor vehicle traffic crashes were the most common cause of unintentional injury death to this age group (524 deaths, 43.8%). Fire/burn was the second leading cause of death (212 deaths, 17.7%) and drowning was the third leading cause of death (191 deaths, 16.0%).

How are we doing?



In 2006, there were 107 deaths due to all unintentional injuries in Michigan for children ages 1-14, a crude rate of 5.64 (number of deaths per 100,000 residents). This is a substantial decrease from 1998, when there were 217 deaths and a crude rate of 10.72.

How does Michigan compare with the U.S.?

The unintentional injury death rate for Michigan children is very similar to the U.S. rate. This similarity is true for most of the individual causes as well (e.g., motor vehicle traffic crashes, falls, drowning). However, Michigan’s death rate due to fires among ages 1-14 was 71% greater than the corresponding national rate during 1999-2005.

How are different populations affected?

Although unintentional injury death rates for Michigan and U.S. children were nearly equivalent during 1999-2005, rates for Michigan Hispanic and African-American children exceeded their national counterparts by 26% and 15%, respectively. During this period in Michigan, the death rate for African-American children due to fires was nearly four times the rate for white children. Boys have higher drowning rates than girls and for both sexes the highest rates are among those ages 1-4 years. During 1999-2005, boys in this age group had a drowning rate that was two-and-a-half times the rate for all children ages 1-14.



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 cause of injuries.

A Child Passenger Safety (CPS) strategic planning process was coordinated by the MDCH, which resulted in a five-year plan. Law enforcement, health care, injury prevention, auto insurance, research institutes, and auto manufacturers were represented on the strategic planning team and contributed to the plan. The five-year plan includes recommendations in: Education and Training, Public Information and Education, Health Care and Family Service Providers, Research, and Funding. The Department is in the process of implementing objectives of the plan. The Department is expanding its CPS program to include injury prevention activities directed toward the 9-18 year-old population.

MDCH coordinates the distribution of child safety seats and safety education materials with a focus on at-risk populations such as rural, non-English speaking, minority, and low-income families. The Department also offers training to certify child passenger safety technicians so that they can conduct child safety seat inspections; and continuing education training to help technicians retain their certification. To publicize the recent enactment of the booster seat law for Michigan children ages 4-7, the Department worked in conjunction with the Michigan State Police Office of Highway Safety Planning to develop public service announcements that included television and radio spots. The Department works with hospitals to provide training and car seats as incentives for them to establish or strengthen policies for discharging infants in car seats.

Safe Kids Worldwide is a non-profit organization with the mission of preventing accidental injury to children age 14 and under. MDCH is the lead agency for Safe Kids Michigan, a state coalition comprised of local coalitions and chapters. Local Safe Kids groups are comprised of firefighters, medical and health professionals, law enforcement officers, educators, parents and other child safety advocates. Local groups conduct events and programs designed to teach parents, caregivers and children how to prevent unintentional injuries. Currently, there are 22 local Safe Kids coalitions and chapters in Michigan that address major risk areas for children (motor vehicle crashes, bicycle-related injuries, pedestrian injuries, fire/burn injuries, drowning, scald burns, poisoning, choking and falls).

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 data reports have been prepared and are available at: www.michigan.gov/injuryprevention. In addition, strategic plans, program descriptions and reports, educational materials and injury prevention links are available at this website.