

# Prescription Drug Overdose in Michigan : A Growing Problem

## Who is at highest risk of dying from a prescription drug overdose?

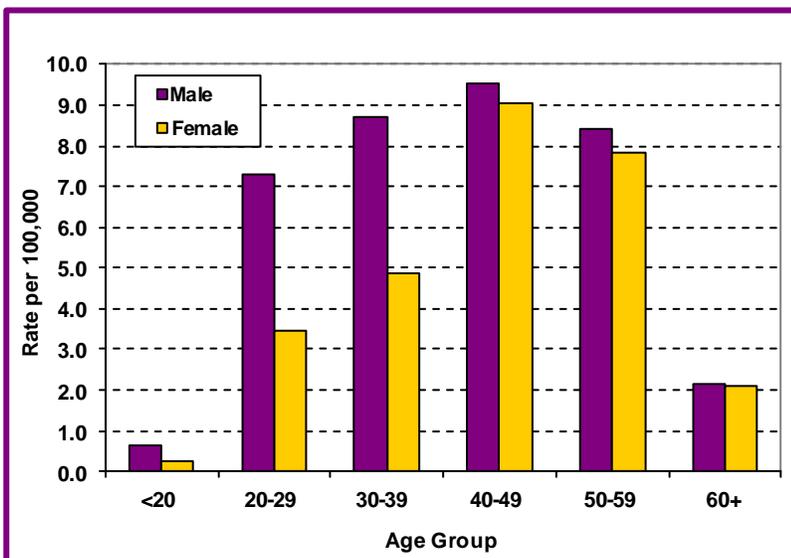
Prescription drug overdose deaths are more common among males than females, and death rates are highest among middle-aged residents.

**From 2007-2010 rates were highest among males and females aged 40-49.**

The largest gender difference was among those aged 20-39 where rates were two times higher among males than females.

Residents aged 40-49 were almost 18 times as likely to die from prescription drug overdose as residents under the age of 20.

**Prescription Drug Overdose Death\* Rates, by Age and Sex, Michigan, 2007-2010**



\* Prescription drug overdose death: death due to misuse or abuse of a legal drug that can be prescribed by a health care provider.

## What can be done to reduce prescription drug overdose in Michigan?

Dispel the perception that prescription medications are safer to abuse, and result in less shame if caught, than illegal drugs.

Encourage the proper disposal of unused medications. For example, through community drug take-back programs.

Promote involvement in local efforts to address this important health issue.

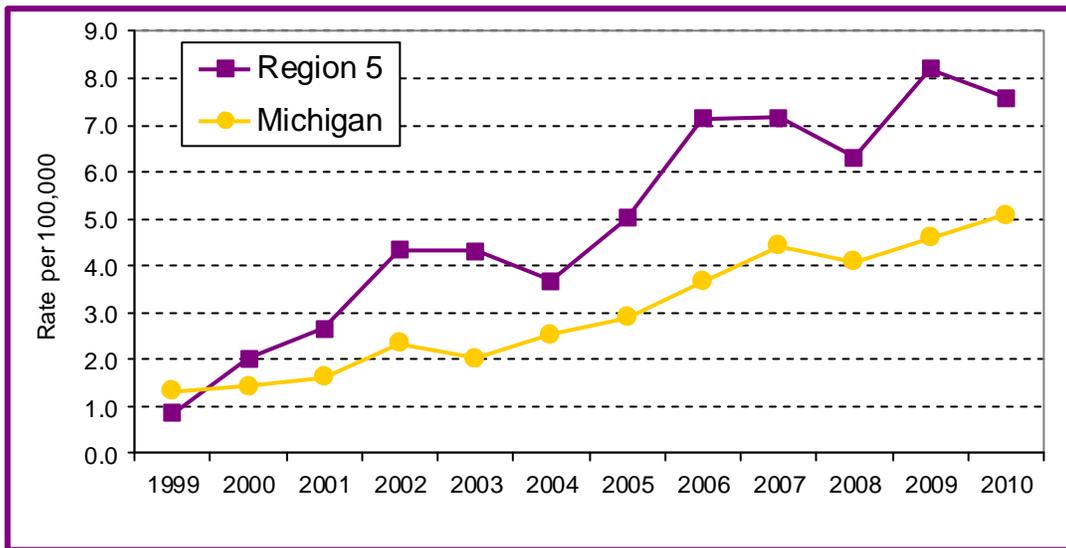
Information about Regional Substance Abuse Coordinating Agencies and other resources on this topic are available at [www.michigan.gov/mdch-bsaas](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch-bsaas).

## Emergency Preparedness Region 5

Counties of Allegan, Barry, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, and Branch

### Prescription Drug Overdose Death Rate is Increasing Faster than the State Rate

**Long-term Trends in Prescription Drug Overdose Death Rates, Region 5 and Michigan, 1999-2010**



In Region 5, the prescription drug overdose death rate was eight and a half times higher in 2010 than it was in 1999

### Comments for recent years (2007-2010)

The prescription drug overdose death rate for Region 5 was 69% higher than the state rate. This was statistically significant.\*

About 70 Region 5 residents died each year from prescription drug overdose. Over half of these deaths were among those aged 35-54.

Males comprised 58% of decedents.

\*P<.0001 meaning that the probability that the observed difference in prescription drug overdose death rates between the state and Region 5 could have arisen by chance alone, and that this difference does not reflect any true differences in rate between the state and the region, is less than 1 in 10,000.