

# Homicide in Michigan: A Pressing Public Health Concern

*In recent years, Michigan has made considerable progress in improving the health of its residents, but the problem of homicide remains a pressing public health concern.*

- From 2007–2009 disparities in homicide by age, race/ethnicity, and gender were evident. Homicide rates were highest among blacks and young males (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

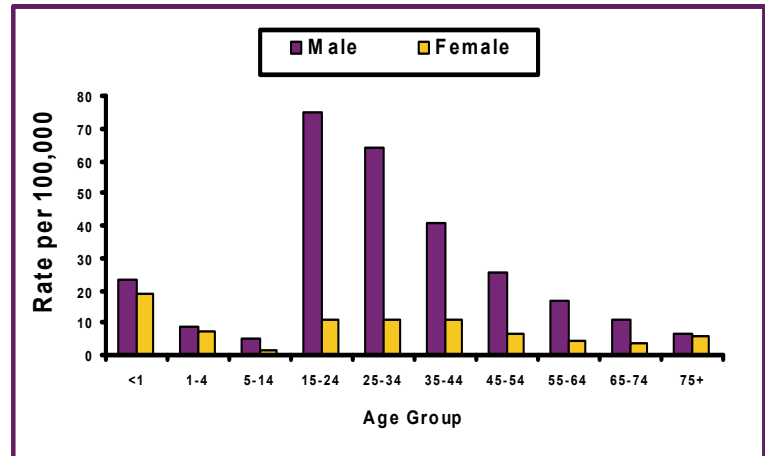
**Homicide rates were highest among Michigan residents aged 15–34. The overall rate was almost 5 times higher among males than females.**

- There were 66 homicides among children less than 5 years old.
- Firearms were used in 74.3% of homicides.
- The homicide rate among non-Hispanic blacks (31.9) was about 17 times higher than the rate among non-Hispanic whites (1.9) and 5 times higher than the rate among Hispanics.

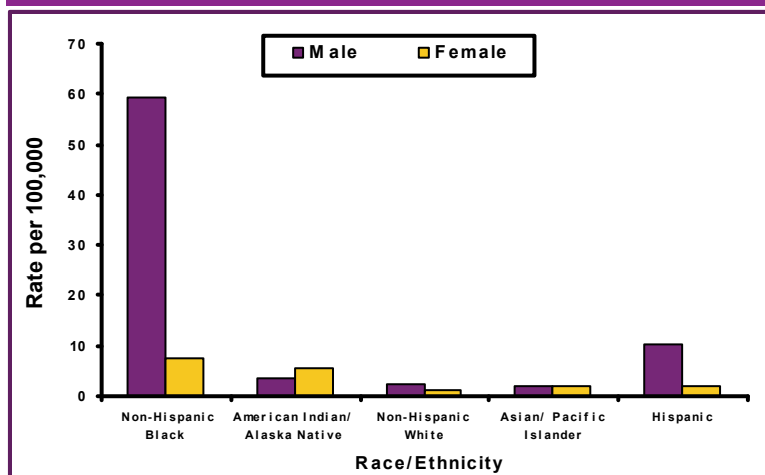
**Approximately 71% of homicide victims were black. The homicide rate was highest among non-Hispanic black males.**

- Non-Hispanic black males had the highest rate (59.2), which was about 24 times higher than the rate among non-Hispanic white males (2.5). Among females, the rate for non-Hispanic blacks (7.3) was 5 times higher than the rate among non-Hispanic whites. Hispanic males were 5 times more likely to die by homicide than Hispanic females (Figure 2).

**Figure 1: Homicide Rates by Age and Gender Michigan, 2007–2009**



**Figure 2: Homicide Rates by Gender, Race and Ethnicity, Michigan, 2007–2009**

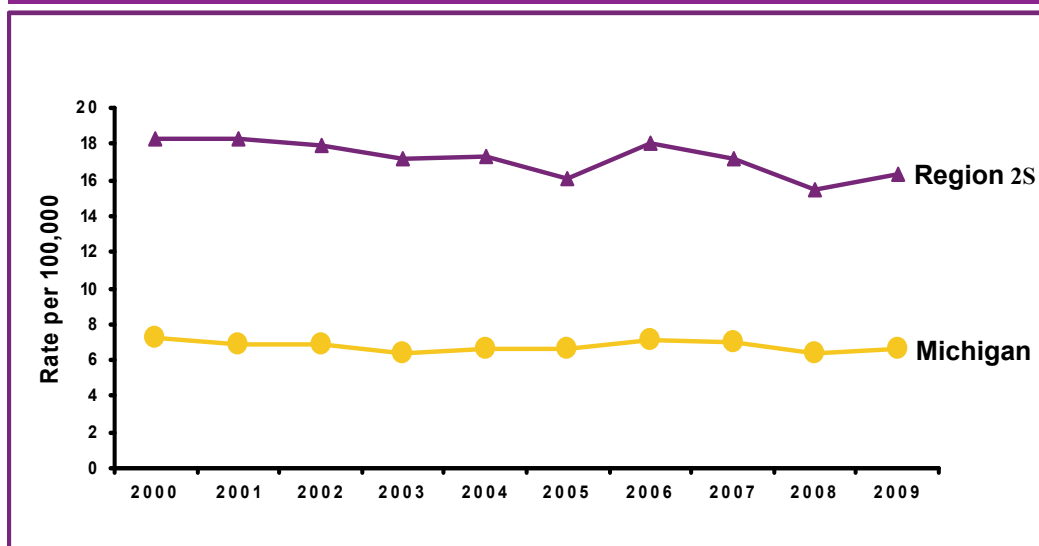


## What can be done to reduce homicide?

- Build organizational and community capacity in the most affected cities to address the root causes of violence, as well as strengthen community and individual protective factors.
- Increase awareness across the state that homicide is one of the most pressing and critical health challenges in Michigan.
- In the most vulnerable communities, support the implementation of a broad range of proven intervention and prevention programs in schools and for preschool through high school aged youth.
- Build and strengthen partnerships among organizations and communities to ensure that the necessary data are collected and used to identify critical issues, implement effective programs across the continuum of prevention and intervention, and evaluate outcomes.

## Emergency Preparedness Region 2S<sup>†</sup> Homicide Rate = 145% Higher than State Rate

### Long-term Trends in Homicide Rates Region 2S and Michigan, 2000–2009



The Region 2S homicide rate far exceeded the state rate for all years between 2000 and 2009

### Comments for recent years (2007-2009)

- The average annual homicide rate for region 2S (16.3 deaths per 100,000 population) was 2.4 times higher than the state rate (6.7 per 100,000). This was statistically significant.\*
- Annually, an average of 400 homicides occurred among Region 2S residents.
- Region 2S accounted for more than half (59.9%) of the state's homicides. A majority of the homicide victims (97%) in this region were Wayne County residents.

<sup>†</sup>Counties in Emergency Preparedness Region 2S include Wayne, Washtenaw and Monroe

\* $P < .0001$  meaning that the probability that the observed difference in homicide rates between the state and Region 2S could have arisen by chance alone, and that this difference does not reflect any true differences in homicide between the state and the region, is less than 1 in 10,000.

For more information about homicide in Michigan, visit <http://www.michigan.gov/injuryprevention> or contact the Injury and Violence Prevention Section at the Michigan Department of Community Health at 517-335-9518.