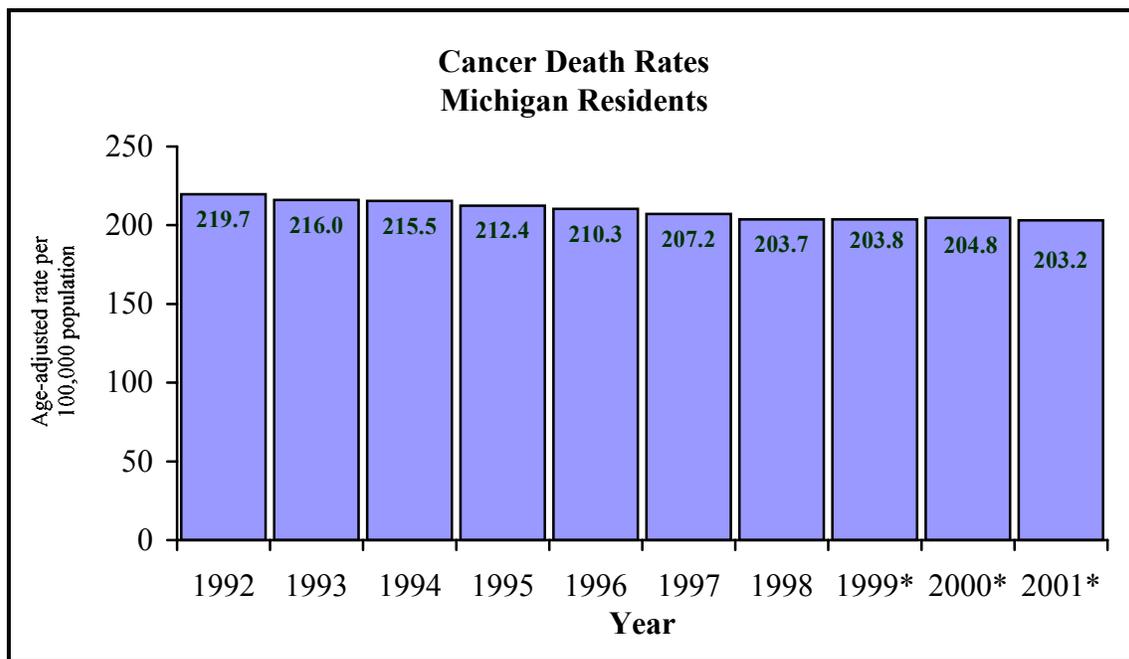


Vital Statistics Indicators

Cancer Deaths



* Death data based on ICD-10 coding. See *Technical Notes* for detailed explanation on ICD coding changes.
Source: Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics, MDCH

How are we doing?

Cancer is the second leading cause of all deaths in Michigan and the leading cause of Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL) for people below the age of 75.

Cancer refers to more than 100 different diseases, each characterized by the uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells. The most common cancers in Michigan are lung cancer, colorectal cancer, breast cancer, and prostate cancer. Cancer deaths can be reduced by changes in lifestyle, such as quitting smoking or improving diet.

In 2001, there were 19,608 deaths due to cancer in Michigan. The age-adjusted rate for cancer deaths was 203.2 per 100,000 population. The age-adjusted cancer death rate in Michigan has been declining since 1992.

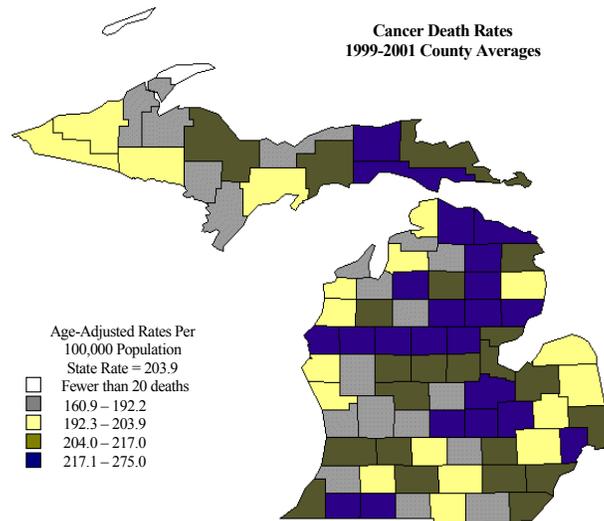
How does Michigan compare with the U.S.?

Michigan's 2000 age-adjusted cancer death rate of 204.8 was similar to the U.S. rate of 201.0. Cancer was the second leading cause of all deaths in the U.S. and the leading cause of YPLL in 1999 and 1998, respectively.

How are different populations affected?

In Michigan, 43 percent of cancer deaths occurred to individuals aged 75 or older in 2001. In the same year, individuals aged 50 to 74 years accounted for 49.2 percent of deaths due to cancer.

African-Americans had higher cancer death rates in 2001 than whites with rates of 242.5 and 198.4, respectively.



The cancer death rate for men was 50 percent higher than the rate for women (259.7 and 169.1, respectively). African-American men had the highest cancer death rate of 322.6.

For more state and local data on cancer deaths, visit the Michigan Department of Community Health Web site at www.michigan.gov/mdch.

What other information is important to know?

Cigarette smoking is the leading preventable cause of cancer. Other risk factors include high-fat and low-fiber diets, sedentary lifestyles, and environmental factors such as radon exposure. Early detection, including mammograms, Pap smears, sigmoidoscopies, and digital rectal exams may lead to early treatment and increased survival. Some physicians believe that the Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) test for men may also be helpful.

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

The department is actively working to decrease the incidence and impact of cancer. The department performs testing on a variety of biological and environmental specimens for cancer-related toxins such as PCBs and pesticides. The department focuses on five cancers of public health significance (breast, cervical, colorectal, lung and prostate). The department's Breast and Cervical Cancer Control program provides clinical breast exams and mammograms to screen for breast cancer and Pap smears to detect cervical cancer for low-income women. Information about the efficacy of screening protocols is also monitored and analyzed. Ongoing surveillance of trends in cancer incidence and mortality particularly for lung, breast, colon, and prostate are currently being conducted. Public and professional education programs concentrate on breast, cervical, and prostate cancers. The Michigan Cancer Consortium, a statewide public private partnership of eighty

organizations, is implementing strategies to address its ten cancer control priorities, including breast, cervical, colorectal cancer, early detections, and tobacco control.

In addition, the department is actively working to decrease the use of tobacco since smoking is a cause of certain types of cancer. Programs to reduce tobacco use focus on promoting strong public and voluntary policies that increase community awareness of the dangers associated with tobacco use and secondhand smoke; preventing the sale and promotion of tobacco to youth; and providing a statewide media campaign that contains prevention, cessation and secondhand smoke messages. Initiatives include providing Medicaid coverage for smoking cessation products, developing a telephone-based cessation support program for Medicaid patients, and offering self-help kits and tobacco related information. The department makes available training for health professionals and other service providers to recognize and treat nicotine addiction. Tobacco use prevention is also offered through Teen Health Centers/Alternative Models.

The WIC Division's Project FRESH Program provides access to Michigan-grown fruits and vegetables and nutrition education for low-income pregnant breastfeeding and postpartum women and children ages 1 through 5, who are at nutritional risk. Fresh fruits and vegetables contain vitamin A, vitamin C, and phytochemicals, which research suggests is a contributing factor in reducing the risk of cancer.

For more information on preventing and reducing the impact of cancer, please visit the Michigan Cancer Consortium website at www.michigancancer.org

Last Updated: May 2003.