



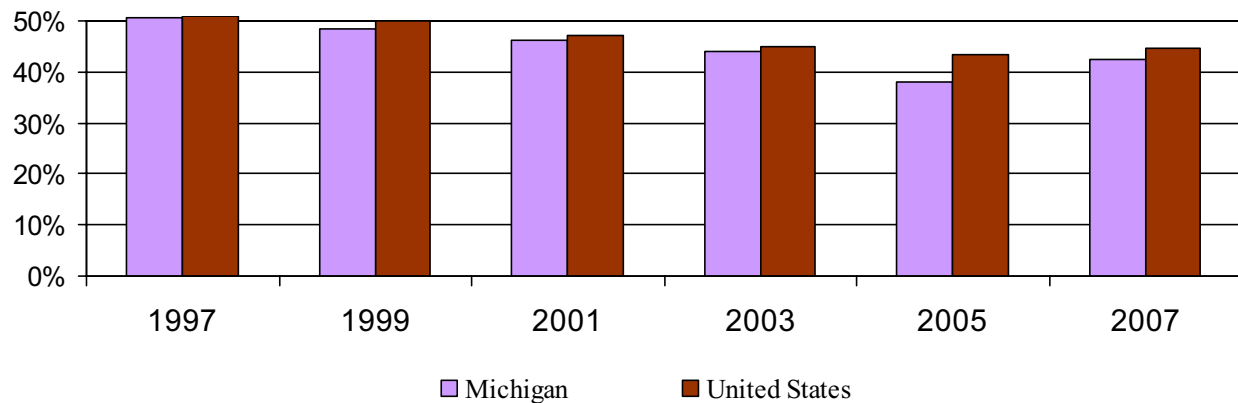
Topic: Risky Health Behaviors

7. Adolescent Alcohol and Drug Use

Substance abuse affects not only an individual and his/her family, but also the welfare of the community. As a major contributing factor to crime and the need for social services, the costs of substance abuse far outweigh the resources committed to its prevention and treatment. Adolescent use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs is measured by the biennial Michigan Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS).

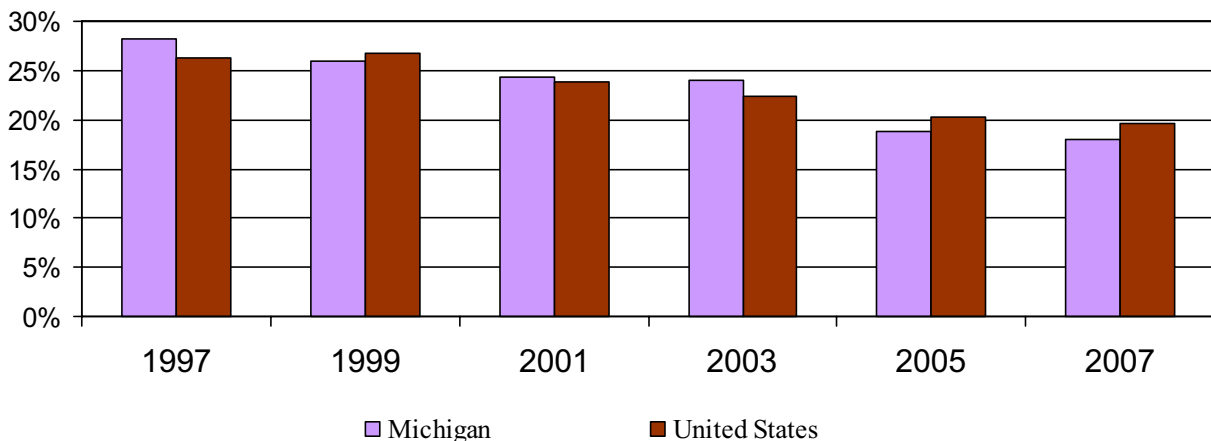
How are we doing?

**Percent of Current Alcohol Use Among Adolescents
Michigan and the United States**



The percent of adolescents that use alcohol in Michigan has dropped over the past 10 years to 42.5% in 2007.

**Percent of Current Marijuana Use Among Adolescents
Michigan and the United States**



Marijuana use in adolescents has dropped over the past 10 years, from 28.2% in 1997 to 18.0% in 2007.



How does Michigan compare with the U.S.?

According to the YRBS, the percent of adolescents who identified themselves as current alcohol and marijuana users are similar to the United States average.

How are different populations affected?

Twelfth grade students were more likely than ninth grade students to report ever drinking alcohol, and more likely than all other grades to drink recently and binge on alcohol. White and Hispanic students were more likely than African-American students to ever drink, be current alcohol drinkers, and engage in binge drinking. Illegal drug use among black and white students was equal for all substances, lifetime and recent use. Males and females were equally likely to have ever used various illicit drugs. Hispanic students were more likely than African-American and White students to report lifetime cocaine, barbiturate, and club drug use as well as recent heroin use.

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

Twenty-one programs within the state offer specialized substance abuse assessment, outpatient, intensive outpatient, and residential services to adolescents. The Department also continues to offer leadership and advisory support to Child and Adolescent Health Centers. They provide primary healthcare services to adolescents, including an evaluation of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use and support for secondary and tertiary services. Health promotion and education are also offered.

Departmental prevention initiatives include information dissemination through newsletters and presentations, education, problem identification and referral, support for coalitions that raise awareness and mobilize communities for change, and environmental activities such as point-of-sale reduction activities and promotion of healthy lifestyles. The Department supports peer counseling, mentoring, life skills development, information and help lines, and other prevention programs.

Approximately \$13 million in substance abuse prevention and treatment block grant funds support substance abuse prevention efforts to communities. Substance abuse prevention needs in each region of the state are prioritized and addressed by incorporating the needs of the general population and the needs of high-risk groups, including youth. In addition, local agencies provide specialized services to additional populations, including African-American youth, gay/lesbian youth and Arab/Chaldean youth.

To address substance abuse among Michigan's citizens, the MDCH contracts with 16 coordinating agencies to develop comprehensive plans for substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation, and prevention services. Coordinating agencies provide treatment services to substance abusers, including women of childbearing age, pregnant women and children. Coordinating agencies develop and evaluate a network of funded, licensed substance abuse treatment providers within the geographic area.

The Department works with local criminal justice agencies, education providers, grassroots organizations, and other state agencies to reduce and prevent adolescent substance abuse, to restore neighborhoods, and to educate the children of Michigan about the dangers of substance abuse. Programs such as the Michigan Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking (MCRUD), a coalition of prevention partners, focus on underage drinking issues through grant awards and support of local coalitions.