11. All Cancer Deaths

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 encompasses more than 100 different diseases, each characterized by the uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells. The most common forms of the disease in Michigan are lung cancer, colorectal cancer, breast cancer, and prostate cancer.

How are we doing?

In 2007, there were 20,059 deaths due to cancer in Michigan, at an age-adjusted rate of 187.1 per 100,000 of the population. Cancer deaths have shown a decline from 1998, from a rate of 203.8 per 100,000 residents to 187.1 per 100,000 in 2007.

How Does Michigan compare with the U.S.?

In 2005, 20,077 deaths occurred from cancer in Michigan, ranking Michigan as 21st in the United States. As of 2005, Michigan’s death rate, (191.2 per 100,000) for all types of cancer was higher than the U.S. rate of 184.0 per 100,000. Cancer death rates in Michigan are moving in the right direction, in general downward from year to year, thanks to advances in early detection and treatment.

How are different populations affected?

In 2005, Blacks in Michigan had higher cancer death rates (226.9 per 100,000) than Whites (186.8 per 100,000). Among Black women, cancer death rates were higher (187.1 per 100,000) than White women (160.2 per 100,000). Cancer death rates are also higher among Black men (288.6 per 100,000) compared to White men (225.9 per 100,000). The incidence of all cancers among Black men is significantly higher than all-cancer incidence in white men, 671.7 vs. 529.5 per 100,000.
Critical Health Indicators

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

Ongoing surveillance focuses on incidence and mortality of five cancers of public health significance: breast, cervical, colorectal, lung and prostate. The Michigan Cancer Consortium, a statewide public-private partnership of more than 110 organizations, is implementing strategies to address its cancer control priorities (http://www.michigancancer.org). Michigan’s Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan is currently under revision, with the updated plan expected for release in 2009. The updated plan will address the continuum of cancer care, be responsive to scientific changes and focus on access to care and health disparities.

Five projects from the revised plan have been identified for special focus over the next three years. One project will expand public knowledge regarding the impact of genetics on breast, ovarian and colorectal cancers. A workgroup will develop the strategic plan addressing this area. Expert consultation will guide public education efforts which will address the importance of family history and its relationship to cancer.

A second project will increase awareness of and access to resources and services for cancer survivors in Michigan. Experts from across the state will identify resources currently available and determine the most effective ways to share relevant information with survivors, their families, and the general public.