Topic: Cancer and Cancer Screening

18. Lung Cancer Deaths

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths for both men and women in Michigan and in the United States. The primary prevention of lung cancer includes elimination of tobacco use and exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke.

How are we doing?

In 2007, 5,822 Michigan men and women died from lung cancer. Death rates associated with lung cancer dropped slightly in Michigan over the past several years, from 57.9 deaths per 100,000 men and women in 1998 to 55.4 deaths per 100,000 men and women in 2007. Lung cancer death rates have not moved sufficiently or as much as desired over many years due to high case fatality rate of this cancer and lack of an effective screening test which would improve the odds of survival at the population level. An increase in lung cancer death rates among females has been observed as well.

In 2008, the American Cancer Society estimated that 8,020 Michigan men and women will be diagnosed with lung cancer and approximately 5,890 men and women within the state will die from the disease. Death rates for lung cancer have remained stable in recent years and more efforts will be required to improve outcomes of this cancer at the population level.

How does Michigan compare with the U.S.?

Michigan ranks 21st in the nation in lung cancer death rates. Michigan consistently has had higher death rates than the United States over the years. In 2005, the lung cancer death rate was 52.8 per 100,000 in the United States compared to 55.9 per 100,000 in Michigan.

How are different populations affected?

Incidence and death rates from lung cancer continue to decrease in men, and have leveled off in women between Years 2000 and 2005. The 2005 Michigan death rate for Black males (84.2 deaths per 100,000)
is significantly higher than the death rate for White males (72 deaths per 100,000). For Black females the death rate (45.4 deaths per 100,000) is only slightly higher than for White females (42.7 deaths per 100,000).

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

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) Cancer Prevention and Control Section (CPCS) has staffed and supported a nationally recognized and award winning cancer control program that includes a statewide strategic plan for the prevention and reduction of the lung cancer burden in Michigan. This initiative has engaged public and private stakeholders who are experts in the prevention, control, and treatment of lung cancer. The Department collaborates with stakeholders throughout the state to implement evidence-based, measurable objectives and strategies to reduce the lung cancer burden. As a result, tobacco use and smoking prevalence have decreased for both adults and youth.

The MDCH cancer and tobacco section staff developed an integrated program for tobacco control that includes policy promotion, professional education, and public education. The MDCH intra-agency initiatives to reduce the state’s lung cancer burden include development of the Michigan Providers Tobacco Cessation Toolkit, position statements for consumers and providers regarding new scientific publications and studies about lung cancer early detection, and a study to identify participation in lung cancer clinical trials throughout the state. More information about the department’s activities can be found at: [http://www.michigancancer.org/OurPriorities/LungPriorityStrategicPlan.cfm](http://www.michigancancer.org/OurPriorities/LungPriorityStrategicPlan.cfm) and at: [http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2940_3182_22973---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2940_3182_22973---,00.html).

