Health-Related Behaviors - 3

Binge Drinking

Indicator Definition: Percentage of adults consuming four (women), five (men), or more drinks on at least one occasion in the past month.

Indicator Overview:

- In 2005, more than 1.6 million hospitalizations and over 4 million emergency room visits nationally were for alcohol related conditions.
- Approximately 79,000 people die each year in the United States as a result of excessive alcohol use, making its use the third leading behavior related cause of death for the nation.
- Excessive alcohol consumption has both immediate consequences - such as miscarriage, stillbirth, birth defects, unintentional injuries, and violence - and long-term consequences, such as neurological problems; cardiovascular problems; social problems; and cirrhosis.

**Trends:** When compared with the national median, Michigan consistently had a slightly higher prevalence of binge drinking, until 2010, when the two estimates were very similar. The prevalence of binge drinking has remained relatively stable over the past decade in Michigan and the United States. In 2010, 15.0 percent of Michigan adults reported binge drinking within the past month, compared to 15.1 percent of United States adults.

**Health Disparities:** In Michigan, White males have consistently reported higher prevalence rates of binge drinking when compared to Black males, White females, and Black females. The prevalence of binge drinking among Black males has decreased significantly over the past decade, but the prevalence of binge drinking among White males remains high. Both White and Black females have consistently reported lower rates of binge drinking.

**Links to Other Sources of Information:**
- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data, CDC: [http://www.cdc.gov/brfss](http://www.cdc.gov/brfss)

**Links to Related Public Health Programs:**
- MDCH: Substance Abuse Prevention: [http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2941_4871_29888---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2941_4871_29888---,00.html)