**Health Outcomes - 1**

**Life Expectancy at Birth and at Age 65**

**Indicator Definition:** Life Expectancy at Birth is the number of years that a newborn is expected to live if current mortality rates continue to apply. Life Expectancy at Age 65 is the number of years of life remaining to a person at age 65 if current mortality rates continue to apply.

**Indicator Overview:**
- **Life Expectancy at Birth** is a standard for comparing populations both within countries and internationally. It reflects the overall mortality pattern of a population across all age groups and is often used as an overall measure of the state of a population’s general health. Life Expectancy at Birth is also commonly used to identify disparities among populations.
- **Life Expectancy at Age 65** is a measure used as a general indicator of the overall health of those over 65, as well as the quality of, and access to, healthcare services among the elderly. It is also an indicator used to examine inequalities across populations and for international comparisons.

**Trends:** Life expectancy at birth and life expectancy at age 65 are both generally trending upward. In 2000, life expectancy at birth for Michigan and the United States was at 76.2 and 76.8 years, respectively, increasing to 77.8 and 78.2 years by 2009. Similarly, the life expectancy at age 65 increased from 17.3 to 18.6 years in Michigan and 17.6 years to 18.7 years for the US. Michigan residents continue to have a slightly lower life expectancy than the United States population as a whole, both at birth and at age 65.

**Health Disparities:** Gender and racial disparities continue to exist in life expectancy. White women in Michigan have the longest life expectancy. Black women and white men have a life expectancy of about four years less than white women, while black men have a shorter life expectancy than white women by more than 10 years.

**Links to Other Sources of Information:**
- Life Expectancy at birth by sex and race in Michigan, MDCH: [http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/pha/osp/deaths/lifesxrctrend.asp](http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/pha/osp/deaths/lifesxrctrend.asp)

**Links to Related Public Health Programs:**
- MDCH: Physical Health & Prevention Programs: [http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2940_2955---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2940_2955---,00.html)
- CDC: Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion: [http://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/index.htm)