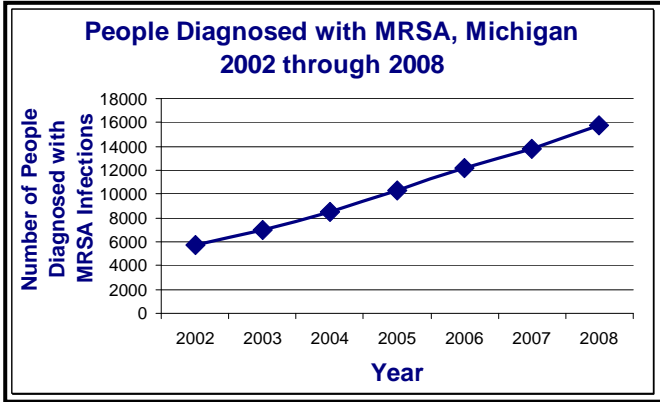


[www.mrsaresources.com](http://www.mrsaresources.com)

*Staphylococcus aureus* (*S. aureus*) are normal germs (bacteria) that can be carried on healthy people, usually on their skin. In some cases, these germs have a way to stop certain drugs from working. When they stop a certain group of drugs, including one called “methicillin”, it is called “methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*” or MRSA. MRSA can live on a person’s skin or other areas of the body without causing you to be sick. This is called **colonization**.

Sometimes MRSA may cause illness. When a person gets a MRSA infection, how sick they become depends on their general state of wellness before getting MRSA and the part of the body that is affected. MRSA infections can be mild or very serious. If MRSA causes a skin infection, it could look and act like a pimple or become more serious like a boil. The most serious MRSA infections happen when MRSA gets into areas like your lungs, bloodstream or joints. Even though MRSA can block treatment with some drugs, there are other drug and treatment options that work against MRSA infections.

### How much MRSA is in MI?



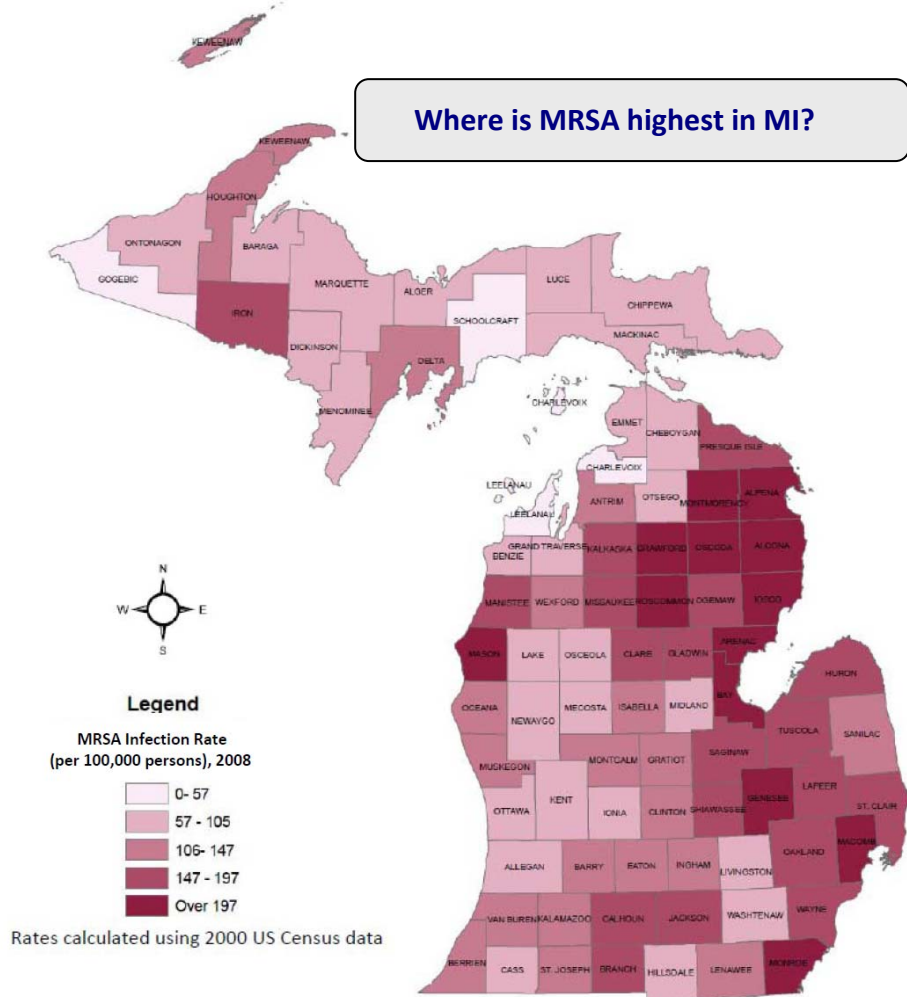
The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) uses data collected from Michigan hospitals to look at the number of people who left the hospital with MRSA over the years. MDCH has found that the number of MRSA reports is rising. In 2002, there were only about 5,000 MRSA cases in MI. By 2008, there were over 15,000 MRSA cases. This may be because doctors are finding and recording it more often and because of the increase of MRSA in the community away from health care facilities.

### How is MRSA spread?

A person can get MRSA in several ways. MRSA is spread person-to-person through touching someone with MRSA or by touching a surface or object that has MRSA on it. A few examples of how MRSA could spread would be skin-to-skin contact, cleaning an infected wound, or by sharing a towel, mat, kneepads, or other material with someone who has MRSA. Keep in mind; however, that not all contact with MRSA leads to infection. Some people can carry MRSA without getting sick (colonization).

### How do you prevent MRSA?

Keep your hands clean and cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when you cough or sneeze. Keep wounds clean, dry, and covered. These are the best ways to prevent MRSA infections. In hospitals, nursing homes, doctors’ offices, and other healthcare settings, it is important to clean patient rooms, laundry, and equipment and to follow advice for infection control. For people who have MRSA infections, it is important to use the right treatment, including following doctors’ orders if drugs are needed, taking good care of open wounds, and never sharing personal items that could spread infection to others.



Across Michigan, there are different rates of MRSA. The areas on the map that are the darkest shade of red show the highest rate of MRSA among people who left the hospital. The lightest shade of red is where there is the least. We are still looking into factors to better understand these differences.

**Who has higher MRSA rates?**

MRSA rates show the number of infections people with a certain set of factors get compared other factors. For example, our data show that people aged 65 and older had higher rates of infection that those younger than 65 years. This is likely due to the weakening of the person’s immune system with age and is not special to Michigan, the trend is seen nationally. Our data did show a difference in MRSA infection rate based on race. In Michigan, Blacks had higher rates of MRSA infections than did Whites. Additionally, Whites had higher rates than Native Americans, Hispanics, and Asians. The reason for these gaps could be due to differences in health status, population characteristics, immunity, socio-economic status or other factors, but is generally not well understood.

**Where can I find more info?**

For more information, please visit: [www.cdc.gov/mrsa](http://www.cdc.gov/mrsa).  
 For Michigan specific MRSA information, please visit: [www.michigan.gov/hai](http://www.michigan.gov/hai) or the [Michigan MRSA Report](#).  
 For questions about MRSA, please contact your [local health department](#), and the Michigan Antibiotic Resistance Reduction coalition [MARR website](#).  
 For specific medical advice, please contact your physician.  
 For questions regarding this study, please contact the author listed below.