



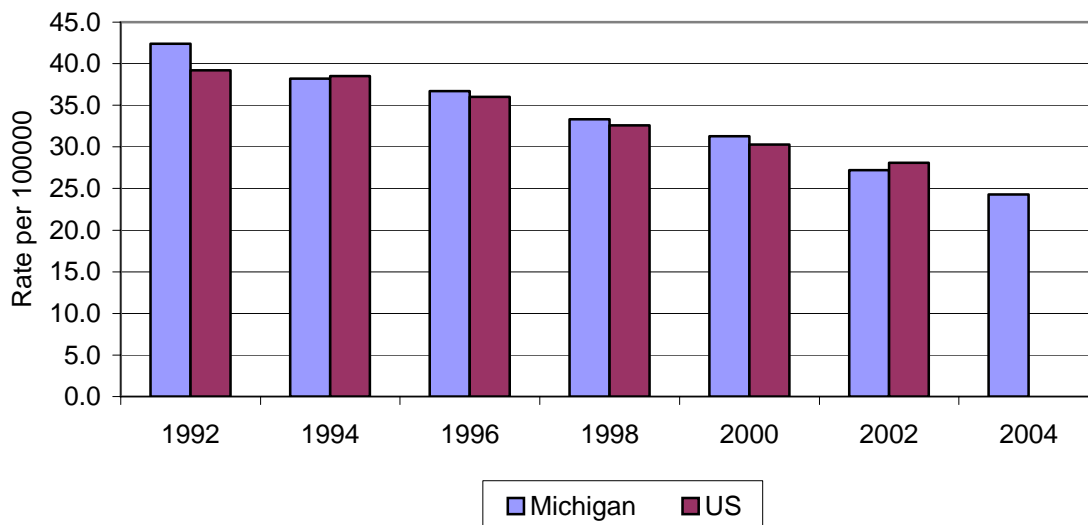
Topic: Cancer and Cancer Screening

17. Prostate Cancer Deaths

Unlike other cancers, many prostate cancers grow slowly, never causing problems or affecting how long a man lives. However, some prostate cancers can become a serious health threat, growing quickly and spreading beyond the prostate gland to other parts of the body, and are sometimes fatal. We have no way of distinguishing between the early stages of these two types of cancer. Research is ongoing to discover ways of distinguishing virulent from indolent forms of cancer.

How are we doing?

**Invasive Prostate Cancer Death Rates
Michigan and the United States, 1992-2004**



Since the development of the prostate specific antigen (PSA) test in the late 1980s, mortality associated with prostate cancer has declined fairly consistently. Even though prostate cancer mortality rates for Michigan men have decreased over the past few years, prostate cancer remains the second leading cause of cancer-related death in Michigan men. Michigan is currently ranked 13th lowest in the nation in prostate cancer mortality. During 2004, 967 Michigan men died from the disease. Death rates associated with prostate cancer have decreased in Michigan, falling from 3.8 deaths per 10,000 men in the late 1980s to 2.4 deaths per 10,000 men in 2004. In 2006, the American Cancer Society estimates that 7,370 Michigan men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer and approximately 860 men within the state will die from the disease.

There are now more than 80,000 Michigan men who are living after being treated for prostate cancer. As mortality rates continue to decrease, this number will continue to grow.

How does Michigan compare with the U.S.?

In 2002, the Michigan age-adjusted mortality rate for prostate cancer was 27.2 per 100,000 compared to the slightly higher U.S. rate of 28.1 per 100,000, and at that time Michigan ranked 13th lowest in the nation in prostate cancer deaths.



How are different populations affected?

African-American men have a higher incidence of prostate cancer and are also more likely than Caucasian men to die of the disease. The incidence of prostate cancer is 1.7 times greater and mortality is two times greater in the African-American population.

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

Although screening with the PSA and digital rectal exam can detect prostate cancer at an earlier stage, we do not have definitive evidence that screening and early treatment of prostate cancer decrease prostate cancer mortality. In addition to the lack of evidence that screening saves lives, each prostate cancer treatment may result in lingering and sometimes lifelong problems that impact a man's quality of life. As of early 2007, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Michigan Department of Community Health and the United States Preventive Services Task Force for Clinical Preventive Services do not support population-based prostate cancer screening with PSA. The American Cancer Society and the American Urological Association recommend screening, and the MDCH and the Michigan Cancer Consortium recommend that each man weigh the pros and cons about screening.

Because of these uncertainties, screening for prostate cancer must be the result of shared decision making between the man and his healthcare provider. Shared decision making encourages the patient to actively participate in the decision, emphasizing the importance of the patient's values and preferences.

The MDCH and the Michigan Cancer Consortium have developed and offer high quality informational materials to empower men to more effectively decide whether to be tested and, if early prostate cancer is found, to decide among several treatment options, including watchful waiting.

Starting in 2006, the MDCH and the Michigan Cancer Consortium began a new initiative to address the needs of prostate cancer survivors and their families. By 2010, with the advice of men who have been treated for prostate cancer and prostate cancer experts, materials will be developed and available to assist men, their families, and their healthcare providers to manage the problems that develop after treatment, thereby enhancing their quality of life. More information can be found at:

www.michigancancer.org/OurPriorities/Prostate_InformationForConsumers.cfm.