



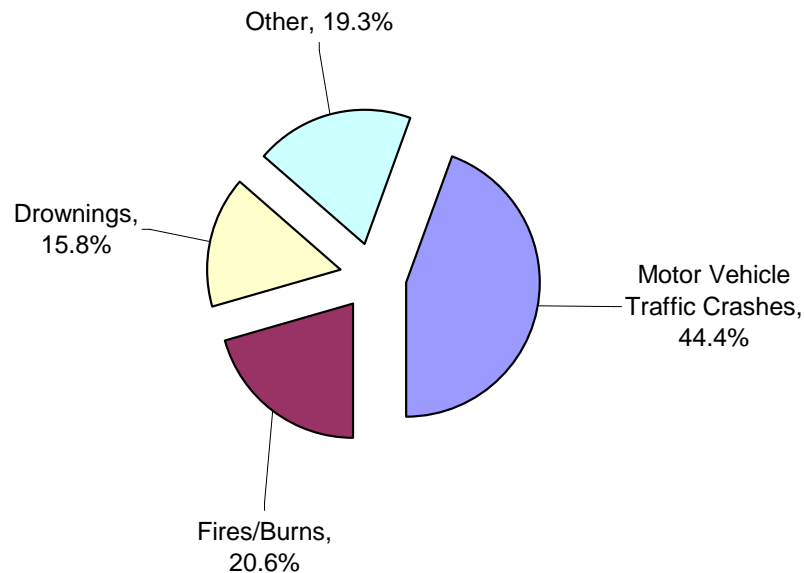
Topic: Unintentional and Childhood Injuries

39. Childhood Injuries

Unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death for children ages 1-14 in Michigan, resulting in 850 deaths from 1999-2003. During this time, motor vehicle crashes were the most common cause of unintentional injury death to this age group (377 deaths, 44.4%). Fire/burn was the second leading cause of death (175 deaths, 20.6%), and drowning was the third leading cause of death (134 deaths, 15.8%).

How are we doing?

**Leading Causes of Unintentional Injury Deaths
Children Ages 1-14, 1999-2003**



In 2003, there were 166 deaths due to all unintentional injuries in Michigan for children ages 1-14, a crude rate of 8.42 (number of deaths per 100,000 residents). This is a substantial decrease from 1999, when there were 196 deaths and a crude rate of 9.65.

How does Michigan compare with the U.S.?

The unintentional injury death rate for Michigan children has been consistently lower than the U.S. rate. Michigan's death rates in the categories of drowning, falls, motor vehicle crashes, poisoning, and traumatic brain injury for the period of 1999-2003 are all lower than the U.S. rate. Michigan's fire and burn-related death rate is higher than the U.S. rate.

How are different populations affected?

For the period of 1999-2003, Hispanic children ages 1-14 in Michigan had a slightly higher proportion of unintentional injury death as a percentage of all deaths versus the U.S. (41.7% vs. 35.6%). During the same period, Michigan children ages 1-14 of all races and both genders had nearly twice the proportion of



deaths caused by fire and/or burns. Michigan children ages 1-9 of all races and both genders had lower proportions of death caused by motor vehicle crashes compared to the U.S. rate. Michigan children ages 10-14 of all races and both genders had a substantially lower proportion of death due to drowning compared to the U.S. rate.

Of Michigan children ages 1-14, the proportion of African-American children that died as a result of fire/burn was over twice the percentage of Caucasian children from 1999-2003. For females ages 1-14, over half (51.5%) of the unintentional injury deaths were due to motor vehicle crashes, compared to males ages 1-14 where 40.5% of the unintentional injury deaths were due to motor vehicle crashes. In Michigan, for the period of 1999-2003, children ages 1-4 died as a result of drowning at a substantially higher proportion than those ages 5-14. Michigan children ages 5-14 had a substantially higher rate of motor vehicle-related death from 1999-2003 than children ages 1-4.

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

The Department is decreasing the incidence and burden of unintentional injuries by providing leadership, training, public education, data collection and analysis, funding support and technical assistance related to the leading cause of injuries.

A Child Passenger Safety (CPS) strategic planning process was coordinated by the MDCH, which resulted in a five-year plan. Law enforcement, health care, injury prevention, auto insurance, research institutes, and auto manufacturers were represented on the strategic planning team and contributed to the plan. The five-year plan includes recommendations in: Education and Training, Public Information and Education, Health Care and Family Service Providers, Research, and Funding. The MDCH is in the final year of a four-year grant with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop interventions for reducing motor vehicle-related injuries to children. The Department is in the process of expanding its CPS program to include injury prevention activities directed toward the 9-18 year-old population.

The MDCH coordinates distribution of child safety seats, bicycle helmets, and safety education materials with a focus on at-risk populations such as rural, non-English speaking, minority, and low-income families. The Department also offers training to certify child passenger safety technicians so that they can conduct child safety seat inspections. To increase booster seat use, the Department conducted public education campaigns that included radio public service announcements to reach Hispanic and inner city populations. The Department works with hospitals to provide training and car seats as incentives for them to establish or strengthen policies for discharging infants in car seats.

Safe Kids Worldwide is a non-profit organization with the mission of preventing accidental injury to children age 14 and under. The MDCH is the lead agency for Safe Kids Michigan, a state coalition comprised of local coalitions and chapters. Local Safe Kids groups are comprised of firefighters, medical and health professionals, law enforcement officers, educators, parents and other child safety advocates. Local groups conduct events and programs designed to teach parents, caregivers and children how to prevent unintentional injuries. Currently, there are 24 local Safe Kids coalitions and chapters in Michigan that address major risk areas for children (motor vehicle crashes, bicycle-related injuries, pedestrian injuries, fire/burn injuries, drowning, scald burns, poisoning, choking and falls).

The Department compiles fatality, hospitalization and emergency department data on injuries to determine the magnitude of the problem, describe the characteristics of the populations at risk, and determine causes of injuries so that prevention programming can be effectively targeted. Several data reports have been prepared and are available at: www.michigan.gov/injuryprevention. In addition, strategic plans, program descriptions and reports, educational materials and injury prevention links are also available at this website.