

HEALTH CARE

INDICATOR: UNINTENTIONAL INJURY FATALITIES

MEASURE

The number of unintentional injury deaths per 100,000 population.

WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

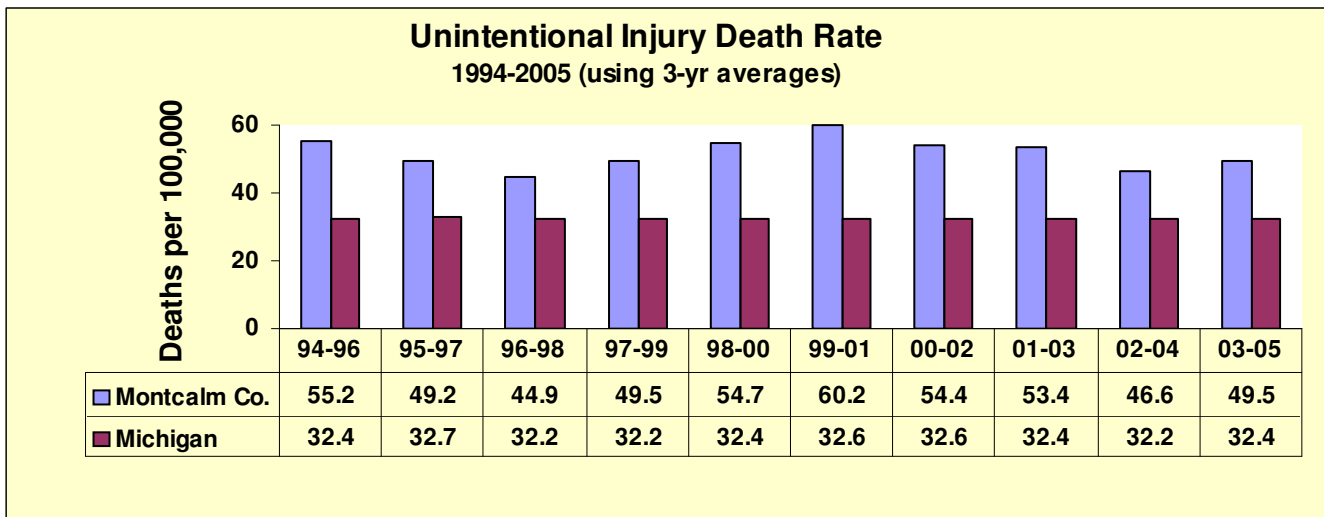
Injuries are one of the most under-recognized public health problems facing society today (Healthy Michigan 2010). "Unintentional injuries" are injuries that have historically been referred to as accidents and include injuries due to motor vehicle accidents, fires, falls, drowning, poisoning, suffocation, and others. The word "accident" implies that the event could not have been prevented; however, public health professionals use the term "unintentional injuries" knowing that prevention plays a key role in reducing deaths contributed to these causes. Injury deaths, motor vehicle injury deaths, fall injury deaths, and poisoning deaths have been identified as priority causes of injury in the Michigan Injury Prevention Plan.

HOW WELL IS THE MONTCALM COMMUNITY DOING?

In 2005, injuries were the fifth leading cause of death for all age groups combined, and the leading cause of death for people ages 1-34 years in Michigan. As can be seen in the figure below, no sustainable county trend was observed for the years 1994 through 2005, although the Montcalm County rate has continuously surpassed the overall Michigan rate during the years indicated. As can be seen in the table of specific causes of injury, motor vehicle fatalities account for more than half of all unintentional injury deaths in the county and are a proportionately greater contributor to total injury deaths than they are for the State (56.1% vs. 38.4% for combined years 1996-2005).

GOAL FOR THE COUNTY

To reduce deaths caused by unintentional injury from a baseline of 35.0 per 100,000 population in 1998 to 17.5 per 100,000 by the year 2010, per the HP 2010 Goals.



Unintentional Injury Deaths by Cause, 1996-2005, Montcalm County

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	*MC %	^ MI %
TOTAL DEATHS	28	26	26	37	36	37	27	35	26	34	100.0	100
Motor vehicle	12	19	18	21	24	19	14	19	16	13	56.1	38.4
Poisoning	1	0	3	2	6	2	3	2	4	6	9.3	20.2
Falls	4	2	0	1	1	4	3	9	2	5	9.9	18.9
Fire	0	2	0	6	0	1	0	1	0	0	1.6	2.9
Drowning	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1.6	2.9
Other	9	3	4	7	5	9	7	4	4	6	18.6	16.0

NOTES:

1) "Other" causes includes unintentional death from firearms, machinery, suffocation, aircraft-related, overexertion, cut/piercing, etc...

2) *MC% is Montcalm Co. avg. percent of total injury deaths for combined years 1996-05. MI% is avg. % of total injury deaths for MI for years 1996-05.

SOURCE: Vital Records and Health Data Section, Table 31D, Michigan Department of Community Health, 2006