

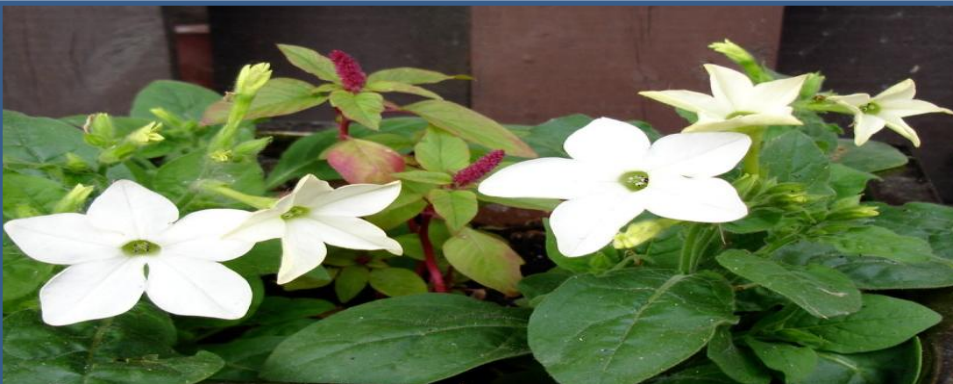


Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Cancer Report

1998-2012,

Bonnie Culfa, Health Director RN, MSN



Background Mortality Report

Michigan's Vital Records under-estimates the burden death from specific preventable diseases among American Indians. This is because American Indian people are often reported as White on their death certificates or medical records. As a result, American Indian tribes may not have accurate mortality records. The true burden of disease, illness, and injury that leads to death is sometimes much higher in tribal communities than what is reported and monitored, which may lead to inadequate funding and resource allocation. Tribes need tribe-specific data that reflects the true burden of mortality so they can plan prevention, screening, and treatment services appropriately.

In 2015, a "linkage" was conducted as a partnership between the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the Michigan Public Health Institute, and the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan. The linkage process allowed the tribe to correctly label its own members within the state vital records by directly linking tribal enrollment data with state records. The linkage turned out a total of 1254 mortality cases among Sault Tribe members from 2004 – 2013.

Purpose

This report presents findings from the linkage project so that tribal leaders, health care staff, and community members have the most accurate mortality data available.

Key Findings

Between 2004-2013, Cancer was the leading cause of death among Sault Tribe members living in Michigan.

Compared to the state as a whole, Sault Tribe members had higher rates of death due to cancer, chronic lower respiratory diseases, diabetes, suicide, and kidney disease.

Compared to the state as a whole, Sault Tribe members had lower rates of death due to accidents, stroke, and influenza and pneumonia.

The top ten leading causes of death among Sault Tribe members living in Michigan were:

1. Cancer
2. Heart Disease
3. Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases
4. Accidents / Unintentional Injuries
5. Diabetes

Average Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates for 10 Leading Causes of Death 2004-2013

Cause of Death	Sault Tribe 2004-2013			State of MI (all races) 2013			MI Non-Hispanic White 2013		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
All Causes of Death	755.6	898.4	635.9	783.3	921.4	669.9	758.3	888.5	650.2
1. Cancer State rank: 2 nd leading COD	195.9	238.4	162.8	170.7	203.1	147.9	166.7	198.3	144.0
2. Heart Disease State rank: 1 st leading COD	186.4	234.4	146.9	199.9	249.2	160.2	190.3	238.2	151.2
3. Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases State rank: 3 rd leading COD	59.8	55.3	63.4	46.8	52.5	43.0	48.6	53.5	45.5
4. Accidents (Unintentional Injuries) State rank: 5 th leading COD	32.2	47.1	19.2	39.8	53.0	27.6	40.0	53.1	27.7
5. Diabetes State rank: 7 th leading COD	36.9	43.1	27.9	23.7	28.5	19.9	21.6	26.6	17.7
6. Stroke State rank: 4 th leading COD	29.1	-	26.4*	36.3	36.5	35.5	34.7	34.7	34.0
7. Suicide State rank: 10 th leading COD	15.6	-	-	12.9	20.7	5.5	13.9	22.2	5.9
8. Chronic Liver Disease & Cirrhosis	16.3	19.6	-						
9. Kidney Disease State rank: 9 th leading COD	17.8	-	-	13.9	16.5	12.3	12.4	15.0	10.8
10. Influenza and Pneumonia 8 th leading COD	14.0*	-	-	15.7	19.0	13.5	15.4	18.4	13.2
All Other causes	123.6	142.5	108.9	197.1	220.3	175.7	187.5	206.1	170.4

Leading Cause of Death by Age Group

Age	Rank and Cause of Death	Number
0-19 years	All Causes	31
20-44 years	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unintentional Injuries 2. Cancer 2. Suicide 3. Heart Disease 4. Stroke All Causes	42 22 22 11 5 145
45-64 years	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cancer 2. Heart Disease 3. Chronic Liver Disease & Cirrhosis 4. Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease 4. Unintentional Injuries All Causes	147 72 22 15 15 363
65-84 years	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cancer 2. Heart Disease 3. Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease 4. Diabetes 5. Stroke All Causes	150 141 57 30 20 538
85+ years	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Heart Disease 2. Cancer 3. Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease 4. Stroke 5. Alzheimer's All Causes	57 23 13 10 8 177



LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe



From 2004 to 2013, a total of 1,254 reported deaths occurred among Sault Tribe members living in Michigan.

1. Cancer

Cancer was the leading cause of death in Sault Tribe.



More than 1 in 4 deaths were due to cancer.

2. Heart Disease



23% of deaths were due to heart disease.

3. Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease



Sault Tribe members were **1.3 times more likely** to die from respiratory diseases than all Michigan residents.

4. Accidents

Sault Tribe members were **less likely** to die from accidents than all Michigan residents.



5. Diabetes



Sault Tribe members were **1.6 times more likely** to die from diabetes than all Michigan residents.

6. Stroke

F.A.S.T.

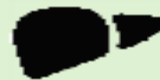
Sault Tribe members were **less likely** to die from stroke than all Michigan residents.

7. Suicide



Sault Tribe members were **1.2 times more likely** to die from suicide than all Michigan residents.

8. Chronic Liver Disease & Cirrhosis



3% of deaths were due to chronic liver disease.

9. Kidney Disease



Sault Tribe members were **1.3 times more likely** to die from kidney diseases than all Michigan residents.

10. Flu and Pneumonia

Sault Tribe members were **slightly less likely** to die from flu and pneumonia than all Michigan residents.



Nearly all of the top 10 leading causes of death are preventable. Health risk behaviors such as smoking, obesity, physical inactivity, and unhealthy eating are related to most of the leading causes of death of Sault Tribe members.



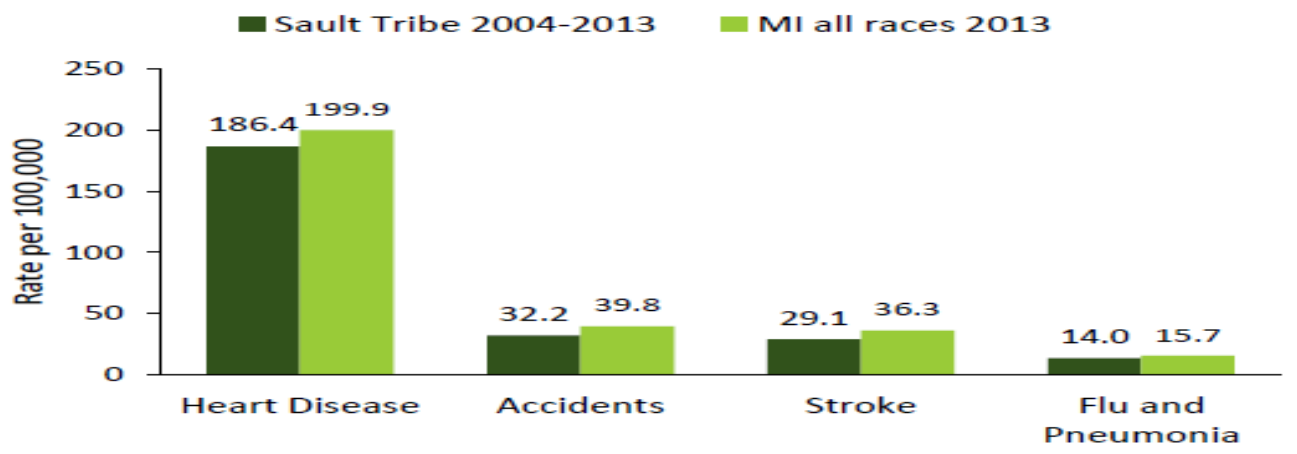
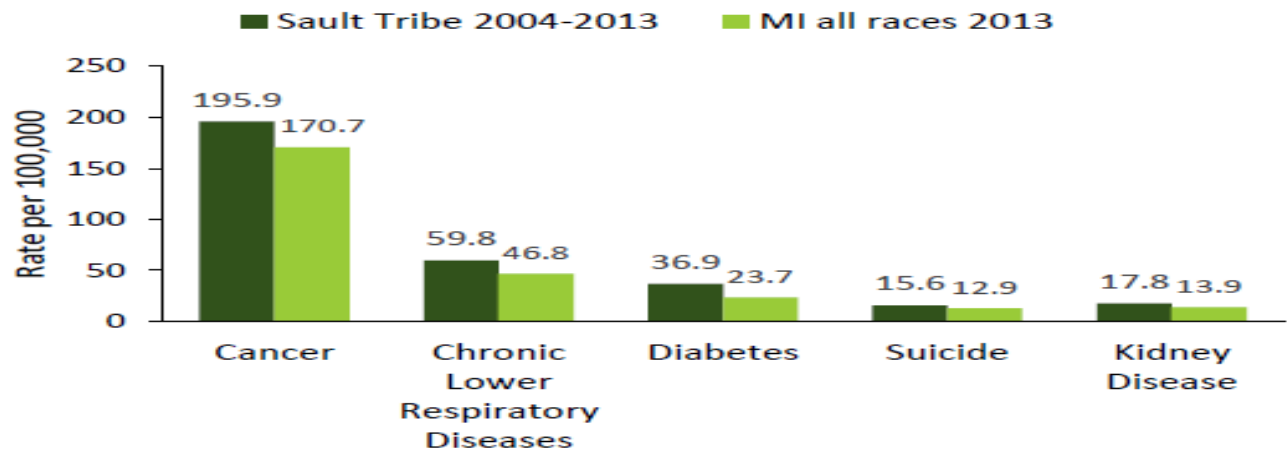
LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe



Sault Tribe members **were more likely** to die from the following causes compared to all Michigan residents:

- **Cancer**
- **Chronic lower respiratory diseases**
- **Diabetes**
- **Suicide**
- **Kidney Disease**



Sault Tribe members **were less likely** to die from the following causes compared to all Michigan residents:

- **Heart Disease**
- **Accidents**
- **Stroke**
- **Flu and Pneumonia**

Recommendations for a healthy lifestyle and to prevent early death



- Maintain a healthy weight.
- Eat five or more servings of fruits and vegetables daily, eat whole grains and less red meat.
- Get at least 30 minutes of moderate exercise (like walking) 5 days a week.
- Schedule your wellness health checkups as recommended for your age group.
- Do not use commercial tobacco products and avoid breathing second-hand smoke. If you smoke, see a healthcare provider or traditional healer to help you quit.
- Practice healthy habits to relieve stress; your emotions affect your health and wellbeing. Get help if you are having trouble dealing with your stress, emotions, or mental health.
- Get enough sleep each night, for most people about 7-8 hours per night.



Introduction

Background

Michigan’s State Cancer Registry and Vital Records underestimates the burden of cancer and death from specific preventable diseases among American Indians. This is because American Indian people are often reported as White by their doctors. As a result, American Indian tribes may not have accurate cancer records. The number of cancer cases is sometimes much higher in tribal communities than what is reported and monitored, which may lead to inadequate funding and resource allocation. Tribes need tribe-specific data that reflects the true burden of cancer so they can plan prevention, screening, and treatment services appropriately.

In 2015, a “linkage” was conducted as a partnership between the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the Michigan Public Health Institute, and the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan. The linkage process allowed the tribe to correctly label its own members within the state cancer registry and vital records by directly linking tribal enrollment data with state records. The linkage turned out a total of 1222 cancer cases among Sault Tribe members from 1998 – 2012.

Purpose

This report presents findings from the linkage project so that tribal leaders, health care staff, and community members have the most accurate cancer and mortality data available.

Key Findings

Lung cancer is the most common type of cancer among Sault Tribe members.

The age group with the highest proportion of new cancer diagnoses is 55-64 years; however, new cancer diagnoses among 65-74 year olds are almost equal.

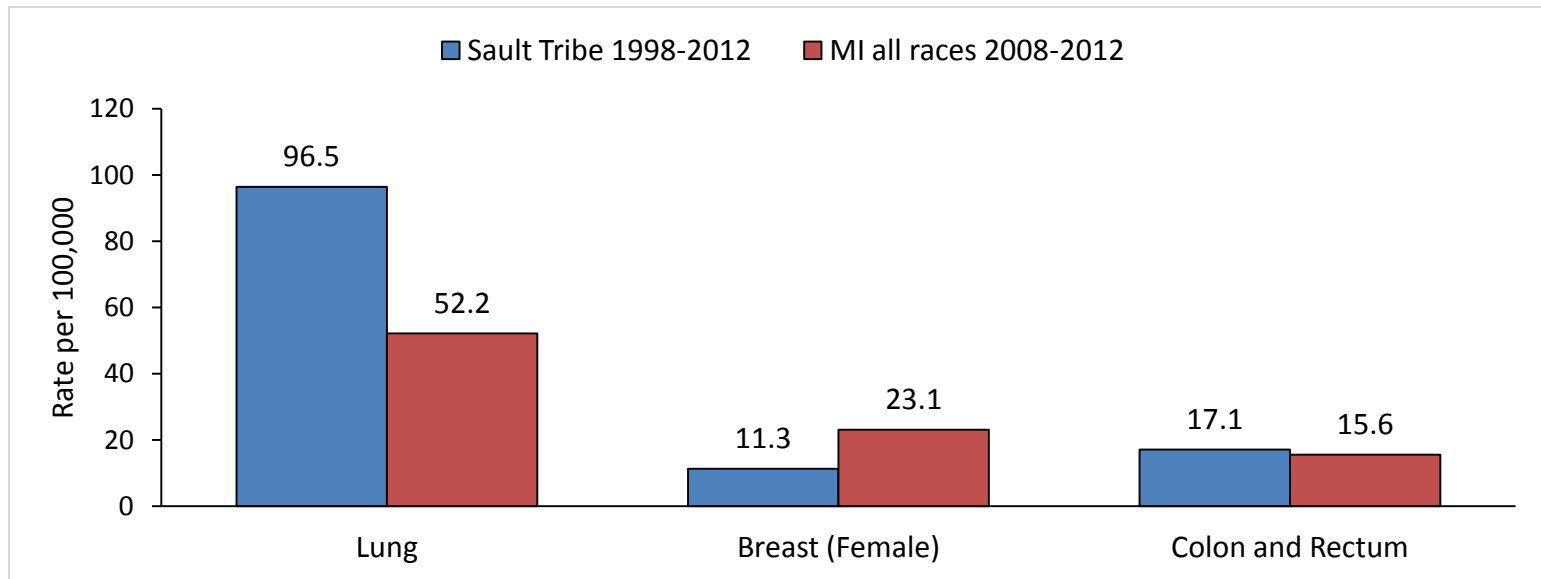
Many cancer cases are diagnosed at the localized stage. There are, however, notable disparities in later stage diagnoses of colorectal, breast, prostate, and lung cancers.

Other common types of cancer include: breast, prostate, and colorectal.

Compared to the state of Michigan as a whole, there is a higher rate of lung cancer among Sault Tribe members.

There is a significant disparity in lung cancer mortality – Sault Tribe members are much more likely than other people in the state to die from lung cancer.

Average Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates by Leading Cancer Site





Discussion and Recommendations

There are many pathways to a healthy community. In Anishinaabe lifeways, every aspect of community and health are related. Healing modalities, while diverse, all seek to uphold the sacredness of life and kinship.

The results of the Sault Tribe linkage project demonstrated that the community is impacted by significant health disparities – such as high rates of deadly lung cancer and low survival rates for breast cancer patients. Here are some recommendations and resources that primarily focus on clinical treatment and prevention of various cancers and risk factors, particularly commercial tobacco abuse. Focused campaigns to improve access to traditional healing, good nutrition, and other community level interventions are of equal importance for addressing health disparities; however, those strategies are beyond the scope of this report. Taken together, diverse healing approaches can help stem the tide of cancer and lead to a healthier community.

Recommendation 1: Implement and maintain a comprehensive commercial tobacco control program.

Recommendation 2: Screen, treat, and prevent breast cancer.

Recommendation 3: Screen, treat, and prevent colorectal cancer.

Recommendation 4: Screen, treat, and prevent lung cancer.

This section contains the following resources:

Excerpts from “The Community Guide” to implement **Comprehensive commercial tobacco control programs**, as well as prevention and screening recommendations for:

Breast Cancer

Colorectal Cancer

Lung Cancer

Additional resources including complete screening guidelines for breast, colorectal, lung, and prostate cancers are available online at **www.itcmi.org**