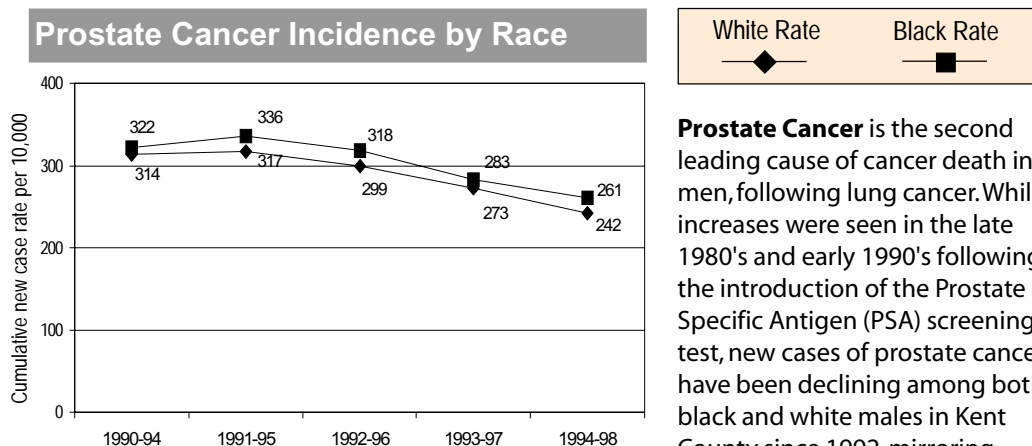


Focus on Chronic Disease

The Community HealthWatch report cards are developed by the Kent County Health Department to present health information that is being monitored by Healthy Kent 2010, a community health committee dedicated to improving our county's health. This report card focuses on chronic disease, specifically cancer. While cancer incidence (new cases) remained stable overall during the 1990's in Kent County, there were notable declines in some types of cancer among men, who overall have higher rates of cancer than women. Because early detection of cancer, and all chronic diseases, greatly increases both treatment options and short- and long-term survival, the Healthy Kent Chronic Disease Implementation Team has developed screening guidelines to promote chronic disease screening in the community.

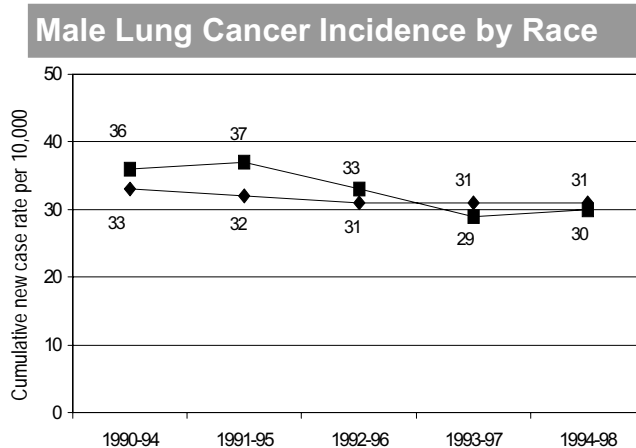
Prostate Cancer Incidence by Race



White Rate Black Rate

Prostate Cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in men, following lung cancer. While increases were seen in the late 1980's and early 1990's following the introduction of the Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) screening test, new cases of prostate cancer have been declining among both black and white males in Kent County since 1992, mirroring national trends.

Male Lung Cancer Incidence by Race



Trends in **lung cancer** in Kent County during the 1990's showed both increases and decreases in different populations. While males have a higher incidence of lung cancer than females, the rate of lung cancer incidence declined 6% among white males, and 17% among black males, between 1990 and 1998 in Kent County. Similar trends, however, were not observed among Kent County females. Between 1990 and 1998, lung cancer incidence remained relatively stable among white females, but increased significantly, 58%, among black females in Kent County. Because over a quarter of the population - both in Kent County and in Michigan -- continue to smoke, assuring access to low-cost and free smoking cessation programs (i.e., Tobacco Free for Good), as well as medical treatments for nicotine addiction, must continue to be a priority.

Female Lung Cancer Incidence by Race

