

3.1 Life Expectancy

3.1.1 Life Tables

Life expectancy at birth represents the average number of years that members of a generation may expect to live. This average can be impacted by changes in longevity but is most dramatically impacted by changes in premature death rates. Infant and child mortality has a large impact on life expectancy in a population. For example, the average number of years lived for a person who lives to be 80 years old and a child who dies at age 10 is only 45 years. As an indicator, life expectancy provides information about the extent to which premature mortality is impacting populations.

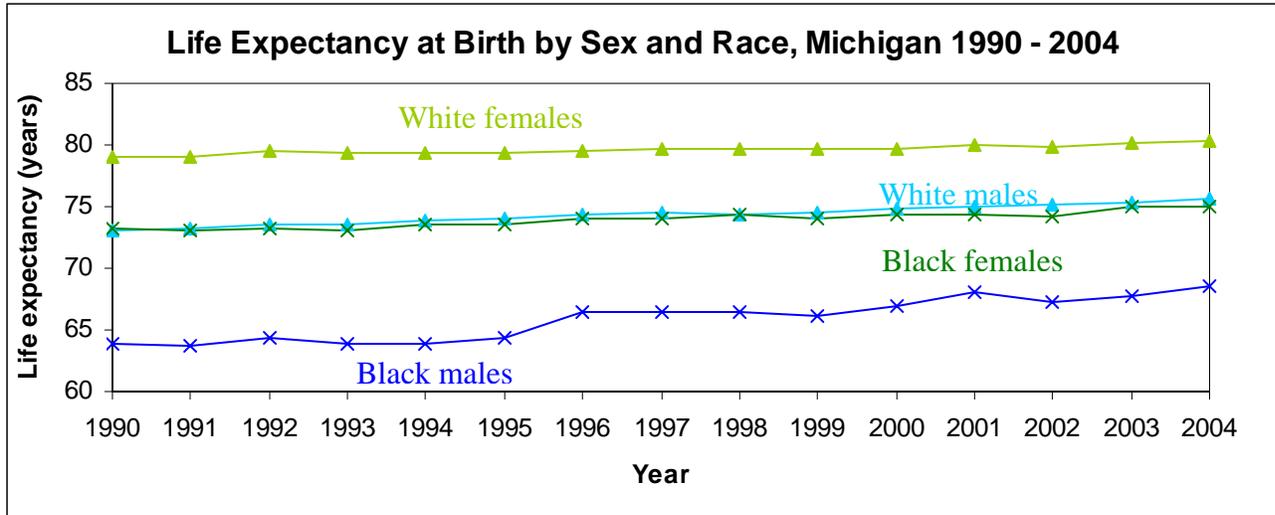
Among the total population in the United States, life expectancy at birth has increased over time from 47.3 years in 1900 to 68.2 years in 1950 to 77.9 years in 2004.¹ The increase in life expectancy at birth for Michigan residents has been similar to the increase nationally. Although life expectancy estimates are not available for Kalamazoo over this span of time, the current life expectancy in Kalamazoo County is similar to life expectancy for the state and nation, and presumably the trend in increasing life expectancy for the county mirrored the state and national trends.

In 2003, life expectancy at birth for the total population in Kalamazoo County was 77.5 years. For women, life expectancy at birth was 79.6 years and men's life expectancy was 75.2 years.²

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Preliminary Mortality Data, 2004.

² Mortality data source: Michigan Department of Community Health, Division for Vital Records and Health Data Development, Michigan Resident Mortality File
Population data source: National Center for Health Statistics, U.S. Census Populations with Bridged Race Categories, updated 9/2004.

Life expectancy at birth for Michigan residents by sex and race is shown in the chart and table below. Women have a longer life expectancy than men (consistent with life expectancy differences by sex in the United States), and white males and females have a longer life expectancy than black males and females (also similar to life expectancy differences nationally). Although life expectancy has increased over time in all groups, the disparity by race has remained.



Mortality data source: Michigan Department of Community Health, Division for Vital Records and Health Data Development, Michigan Resident Mortality File

Population data source: National Center for Health Statistics, U.S. Census Populations with Bridged Race Categories, updated 9/2005.

Life Expectancy at Birth by Race and Sex in Michigan, 1990 – 2004

Year	Total		White		Black	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
1990	71.8	78.1	73.1	79.0	63.9	73.2
1991	71.8	78.1	73.2	79.0	63.7	73.1
1992	72.2	78.5	73.5	79.5	64.4	73.2
1993	71.2	78.3	73.5	79.3	63.8	73.0
1994	72.3	78.4	73.8	79.3	63.8	73.5
1995	72.6	78.5	74.0	79.4	64.4	73.6
1996	73.0	78.7	74.3	79.5	66.5	74.1
1997	73.3	78.9	74.5	79.7	66.4	74.0
1998	73.3	78.9	74.4	79.7	66.4	74.4
1999	73.4	78.8	74.5	79.6	66.1	74.0
2000	73.7	78.8	74.8	79.6	66.9	74.4
2001	74.0	79.1	75.0	80.0	68.0	74.3
2002	74.1	79.0	75.2	79.8	67.3	74.2
2003	74.3	79.3	75.3	80.1	67.8	75.0
2004	74.7	79.5	75.7	80.3	68.5	75.0

Mortality data source: Michigan Department of Community Health, Division for Vital Records and Health Data Development, Michigan Resident Mortality File

Population data source: National Center for Health Statistics, U.S. Census Populations with Bridged Race Categories, updated 9/2005.

Life expectancy can also be calculated for other ages. Life expectancy for other ages besides zero represents the average number of additional years that a person who has reached a particular age is expected to live if they were to experience the current age-specific death rates. The table below shows life expectancy at different ages by sex in Kalamazoo County in 2003. Among the total population, at birth a person is expected to live for 77.5 years, a person at the age of one year is expected to live for 77.2 more years, etc.

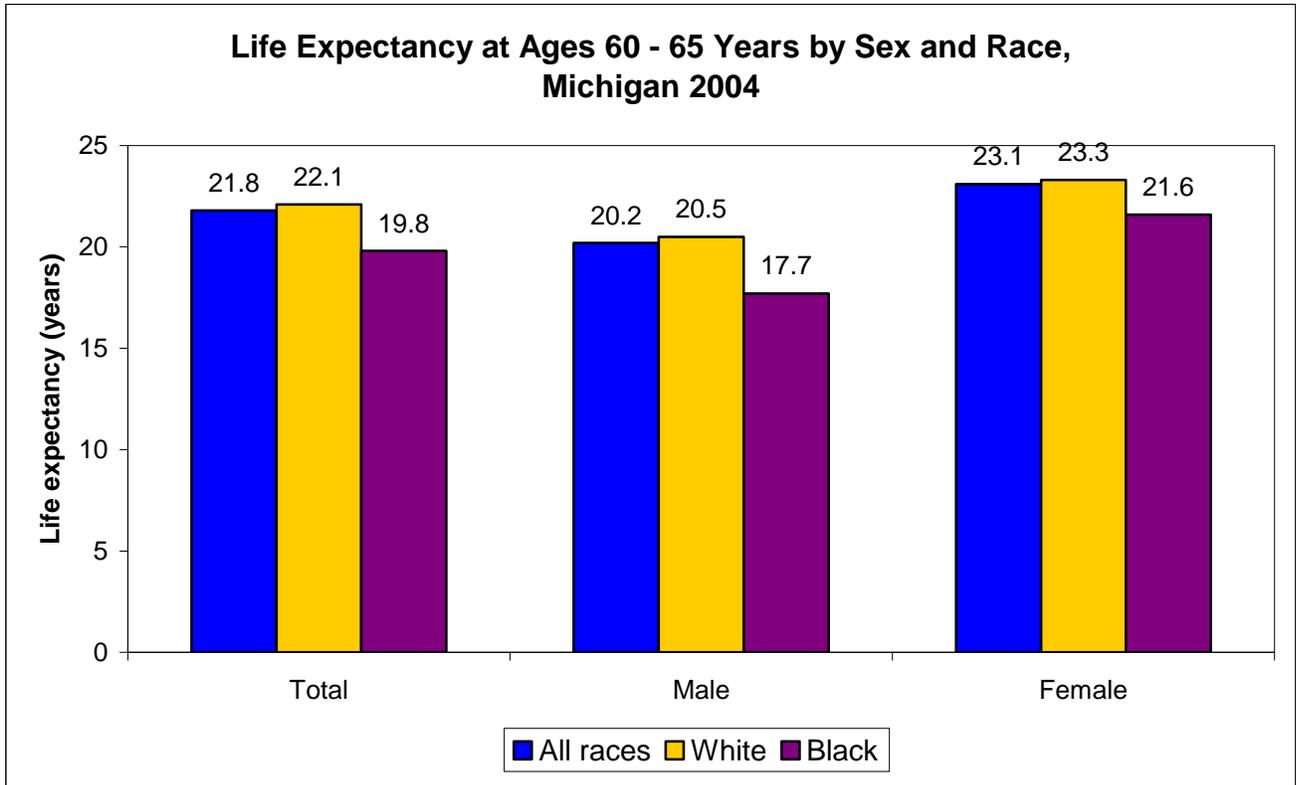
Life Expectancy by Age and Sex in Kalamazoo County, 2003

Age	Total	Male	Female
0-1	77.5	75.2	79.6
1-5	77.2	74.8	79.3
5-10	73.2	70.9	75.4
10-15	68.3	66.0	70.4
15-20	63.4	61.1	65.4
20-25	58.6	56.3	60.6
25-30	53.7	51.5	55.7
30-35	48.9	46.7	50.8
35-40	44.0	41.9	45.9
40-45	39.4	37.4	41.1
45-50	34.8	32.9	36.5
50-55	30.3	28.4	31.9
55-60	26.1	24.3	27.5
60-65	21.8	20.1	23.2
65-70	17.9	16.3	19.2
70-75	14.3	12.9	15.5
75-80	11.1	9.9	11.9
80-85	8.3	7.2	9.0
85+	5.6	4.7	6.1

Mortality data source: Michigan Department of Community Health, Division for Vital Records and Health Data Development, Michigan Resident Mortality File

Population data source: National Center for Health Statistics, U.S. Census Populations with Bridged Race Categories, updated 9/2004.

Life expectancy at age 65 is an indicator of premature mortality in a population. Comparing the life expectancy at age 65 for population groups by sex and race in Michigan reveals disparities in health (life expectancy for age 60 to 65 is shown in the chart below); life expectancy for ages 60 to 65 among these groups in Kalamazoo County is likely similar.



Mortality data source: Michigan Department of Community Health, Division for Vital Records and Health Data Development, Michigan Resident Mortality File

Population data source: National Center for Health Statistics, U.S. Census Populations with Bridged Race Categories, updated 9/2005.