

# Utah Health Status Update:

## Community Health Indicators

April 2004

Utah Department of Health

This update contains a brief description of the purpose and development of the public health measures used in the Community Health Indicators report. Selected data from the report are presented here to demonstrate the usefulness of assessment at the community level.

It is known that health differences exist across communities. The causes are varied but often accompany differences in income, education, behavior, and urban versus rural living. Regardless of what may underlie the differences it is important to identify and address the critical health issues that face each community and provide useful health status information to local organizations that serve these communities and neighborhoods.

The 42 Community Health Indicators were developed to facilitate community health assessment. In the report, each measure is presented at the smallest possible level of geography that the data will allow. This information, depending on the indicator, might be reported for a small area, the local health district, or the state.

### Current Smoking

More than 440,000 deaths each year are attributable to smoking, making it the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. Smoking increases the risk for chronic lung disease, coronary heart disease, and stroke. Smoking during pregnancy is associated with miscarriage, low birth weight, and sudden infant death syndrome.

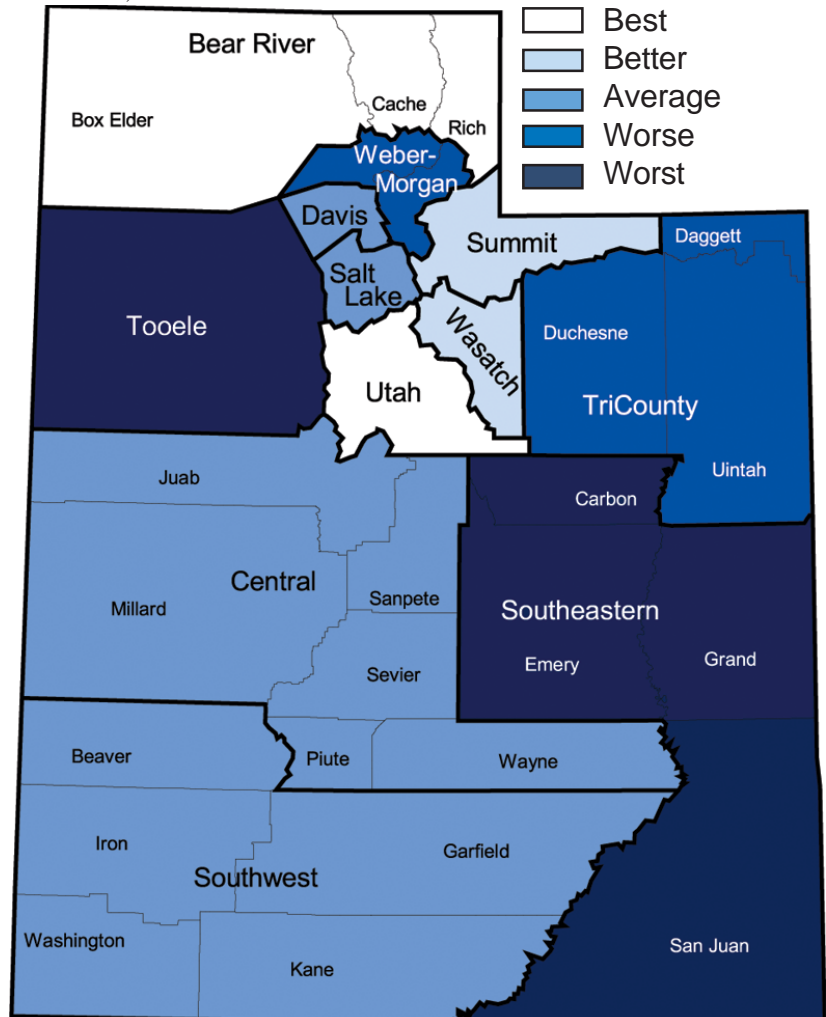
From Figure 1 we see that adults in the Weber-Morgan, Tooele County, TriCounty, and Southeastern Utah Health Districts reported the highest levels of current cigarette smoking, all with rates significantly above the state rate of 12.4%. In contrast, adults in Bear River, Utah County, Summit County, and Wasatch County Health Districts reported the lowest levels of current smoking, significantly below the state rate. The table (right) also illustrates a large variation in adult smoking rates with a low of 6.0% in Utah County Health District and a high of 19.2% in Southeastern Health District.

### Adult Diabetes

Ambulatory care sensitive conditions refer to those conditions for which a significant number of hospitalizations could be avoided with regular preventive care. Uncontrolled diabetes is a life-threatening

### Current Smoking

Figure 1. Current cigarette smoking by local health district, Utah adults age 18 and over, 2001-2003.



Rank	Area of Residence	Age-adjusted Rates	95% Confidence Interval**	
			Lower	Upper
	State Total	12.4%	( 11.7% - 13.2% )	
2	Bear River	7.0%	( 5.0% - 9.0% )	
6	Central	14.1%	( 11.3% - 16.9% )	
5	Davis	10.1%	( 7.8% - 12.4% )	
7	Salt Lake	14.4%	( 13.0% - 15.8% )	
12	Southeastern	19.2%	( 16.2% - 22.3% )	
8	Southwest	14.5%	( 11.7% - 17.3% )	
4	Summit	8.6%	( 6.0% - 11.2% )	
11	Tooele	18.8%	( 15.3% - 22.2% )	
10	TriCounty	18.1%	( 15.2% - 21.0% )	
1	Utah	6.0%	( 4.4% - 7.6% )	
3	Wasatch	8.5%	( 6.3% - 10.6% )	
9	Weber-Morgan	15.6%	( 12.8% - 18.4% )	

\* Percentages have been age-adjusted to the U.S. 2000 standard population.

\*\* 95% confidence intervals have been calculated with SUDAAN software.

Source: Utah Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

condition that can be very effectively managed with patient education and appropriate outpatient services.

Of the 61 Utah small areas, those with highest rates of adult diabetes hospitalization are Glendale, Midvale, Downtown Ogden, South Salt Lake, and Magna. Certain risk factors lead to higher rates of diabetes-related complications that may require hospitalization. In particular, members of minority racial or ethnic groups and people with low incomes have an excess risk.

For example, Glendale, with the highest diabetes adult hospitalization rate, also had the highest proportion of uninsured persons (24.9%, compared with 8.7% statewide). 2000 Census data from Glendale's most populous ZIP code area, 84104, indicates that, although there are similar proportions of adults in the labor force (64% versus 69% statewide), per-capita income is lower (\$11,542 vs. \$18,185), as is the proportion of high school graduates (63% vs. 88%). Glendale has higher proportions of persons in poverty (21% vs. 9%), working in the manufacturing sector (19% vs. 12%), born outside the U.S. (34% vs. 7%), and speaking a language other than English at home (46% vs. 13% statewide). Glendale has historically been an area in which Utah's immigrant populations, such as Greeks, Italians, and Latin Americans, have initially settled.

A high diabetes adult hospitalization rate is used as an indicator of poor access to preventive health care. In the case of Glendale, knowledge of the community not only validates that conclusion, but also suggest reasons why poor access may exist.

### Conclusion

Reporting health information at a local level will allow public health officials and community leaders to address the specific health issues that confront their neighborhoods and helps to inform their decisions and interventions. We invite readers to think about health promotion priorities in their communities and recommend contacting state and local health agencies for more comprehensive information. The IBIS website at <http://ibis.health.utah.gov> provides a good starting point for those interested in community health issues.

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For additional information about this topic, contact the Office of Public Health Assessment, Utah Department of Health, P.O. Box 142101, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-2101, (801) 538-6108, FAX (801) 538-9346, email: [phdata@utah.gov](mailto:phdata@utah.gov).

## Adult Diabetes Hospitalization

Figure 2. Adult diabetes hospitalization rate per 10,000 and rank by small area, Utah adults age 18 to 64, 2000-2002.

Rank	Area of Residence	Age-Adjusted Rates*	95% Confidence Interval**	
			Lower	Upper
	0 State Total	9.2	( 8.8 - 9.6 )	
19	1 Brigham City	6.7	( 3.8 - 10.9 )	
46	2 Other Box Elder Co.	11.3	( 7.4 - 16.5 )	
7	3 Logan	4.8	( 3.0 - 7.2 )	
4	4 Other Cache/Rich Co.	4.1	( 2.3 - 6.6 )	
48	5 Ben Lomond	11.8	( 9.0 - 15.2 )	
11	6 Morgan/East Weber Co.	6.2	( 3.8 - 9.6 )	
59	7 Downtown Ogden	23.1	( 17.9 - 29.3 )	
46	8 South Ogden	11.3	( 8.2 - 15.2 )	
31	9 Roy/Hooper	8.6	( 6.1 - 11.8 )	
10	10 Riverdale	6.0	( 3.5 - 9.6 )	
27	11 Clearfield/Hill AFB	8.3	( 6.0 - 11.1 )	
23	12 Layton	7.5	( 5.6 - 9.9 )	
16	13 Syracuse/Kaysville	6.3	( 4.1 - 9.3 )	
2	14 Farmington/Centerville	3.0	( 1.4 - 5.5 )	
11	15 Woods Cross/North SL	6.2	( 3.3 - 10.5 )	
37	16 Bountiful	9.2	( 6.7 - 12.3 )	
54	17 Rose Park	14.9	( 11.0 - 19.8 )	
11	18 Avenues	6.2	( 3.5 - 10.1 )	
1	19 Foothill/U of U	1.4	( 0.4 - 3.6 )	
57	20 Magna	19.4	( 14.3 - 25.8 )	
61	21 Glendale	30.7	( 23.9 - 38.8 )	
50	22 West Valley West	12.2	( 9.9 - 14.9 )	
56	23 West Valley East	18.2	( 14.8 - 22.2 )	
42	24 Downtown Salt Lake	9.8	( 7.4 - 12.7 )	
58	25 South Salt Lake	21.2	( 16.1 - 27.5 )	
36	26 Millcreek	8.9	( 6.7 - 11.6 )	
11	27 Holladay	6.2	( 4.2 - 8.8 )	
9	28 Cottonwood	5.1	( 3.4 - 7.3 )	
34	29 Keams	8.7	( 6.8 - 11.1 )	
51	30 Taylorsville	13.2	( 10.0 - 17.1 )	
52	31 Murray	13.8	( 10.2 - 18.3 )	
60	32 Midvale	23.5	( 18.6 - 29.4 )	
37	33 West Jordan No.	9.2	( 6.7 - 12.2 )	
43	34 W. Jordan, Copperton	10.0	( 7.1 - 13.6 )	
17	35 South Jordan	6.4	( 4.1 - 9.6 )	
41	36 Sandy Center	9.5	( 7.2 - 12.2 )	
26	37 Sandy, Northeast	7.7	( 4.9 - 11.4 )	
30	38 Sandy, Southeast	8.5	( 5.5 - 12.6 )	
8	39 Riverton/Draper	5.0	( 3.5 - 7.0 )	
44	40 Tooele Co.	10.5	( 7.8 - 13.8 )	
24	41 Lehi/Cedar Valley	7.6	( 4.3 - 12.5 )	
40	42 American Fork/Alpine	9.4	( 6.6 - 13.0 )	
5	43 Pleasant Grove/Lindon	4.2	( 2.4 - 6.8 )	
18	44 North Orem	6.6	( 4.1 - 10.1 )	
34	45 West Orem	8.7	( 5.4 - 13.2 )	
45	46 East Orem	11.2	( 7.2 - 16.6 )	
6	47 Provo/BYU	4.4	( 2.3 - 7.8 )	
53	48 Provo South	14.0	( 9.9 - 19.1 )	
24	49 Springville/Spanish Fork	7.6	( 5.5 - 10.3 )	
31	50 Utah Co. South	8.6	( 5.4 - 13.1 )	
3	51 Summit Co.	3.3	( 1.8 - 5.6 )	
22	52 Wasatch Co.	7.4	( 4.0 - 12.5 )	
55	53 TriCounty LHD	16.7	( 13.2 - 20.9 )	
11	54 Juab/Millard/Sanpete Co.	6.2	( 4.2 - 9.0 )	
27	55 Sevier/Piute/Wayne Co.	8.3	( 5.1 - 12.7 )	
39	56 Carbon/Emery Co.	9.3	( 6.3 - 13.1 )	
20	57 Grand/San Juan Co.	6.8	( 4.0 - 10.9 )	
29	58 St. George	8.4	( 6.1 - 11.2 )	
31	59 Other Washington Co.	8.6	( 6.1 - 11.8 )	
21	60 Cedar City	7.2	( 4.4 - 11.2 )	
49	61 Other Southwest	11.9	( 7.9 - 17.2 )	

\* Percentages have been age-adjusted to the U.S. 2000 standard population.

\*\*95% confidence intervals have been calculated with SUDAAN software.

Source: Utah Hospital Discharge Database