



OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH ASSESSMENT

The Utah Department of Health (UDOH) Office of Public Health Assessment (OPHA) makes data available through the Indicator Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS-PH; ibis.health.utah.gov) at many geographic levels including state, local health districts, county, and small areas. In the advanced query section of IBIS-PH users can choose to combine small areas to create their own geographic area. The purpose of providing different geographic areas is to allow for analyzing health status information at the community level, and exploring relationships between health status, lifestyles, the environment and the health system.

GEOGRAPHIC AREAS AVAILABLE FOR HEALTH REPORTING

LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICTS

IBIS-PH has information for all local health departments (LHDs). For data 2014 and earlier it includes 12 LHDs. In 2015 a new health district was formed so data from 2015 forward will include 13 LHDs. The Utah LHDs include Bear River, Weber-Morgan, Davis, Tooele, Salt Lake, Summit, Utah County, Wasatch, TriCounty, Central, Southeast, Southwest, and San Juan. Information on the local health districts can be found at www.ualhd.org.

COUNTIES

Utah has 29 counties. IBIS-PH contains data relevant to all counties. <http://www.utah.gov/government/countymap.html>

HEALTH SMALL AREAS

The small areas were first defined in 1997 by UDOH staff and have been updated since then as needed. Small areas allow for more meaningful analysis by reducing areas to the smallest unit where there is enough data to be reliable and the area is similar. The smallest unit of analysis for most data housed in the Indicator Based Information System (IBIS) is ZIP code. Small areas are defined based on ZIP codes, population size, local health district and county boundaries, similarity of ZIP code area income levels, community political boundaries, and input from local community representatives. Most small areas range in population size from 40,000 to 60,000.

There are currently 63 small areas defined. Historically there have been 68 total small areas over time. The current boundaries and relation to LHDs and counties can be found in the [Utah Small Area Information](#) document.

The most recent update occurred in 2013 for the 2012 data year (information on the basis for the changes can be found in the [Utah Small Area Changes Summary](#) dated 2/27/2014). The need to update the small areas is assessed as ZIP codes change, boundary changes, population in areas change, or feedback from community partners indicate a need to reevaluate.

For more information on the **methodology** of the small areas and the original analysis please see the document [Assessing Community Health Status: Establishing Geographic Areas for Small Area Analysis in Utah](#).¹

Many public health programs have adopted the health small areas in their public reporting.

¹ Haggard, L.M., Shah, G., Rolf, R.T. (1998). Assessing Community Health Status: Establishing Geographic Areas for Small Area Analysis in Utah.