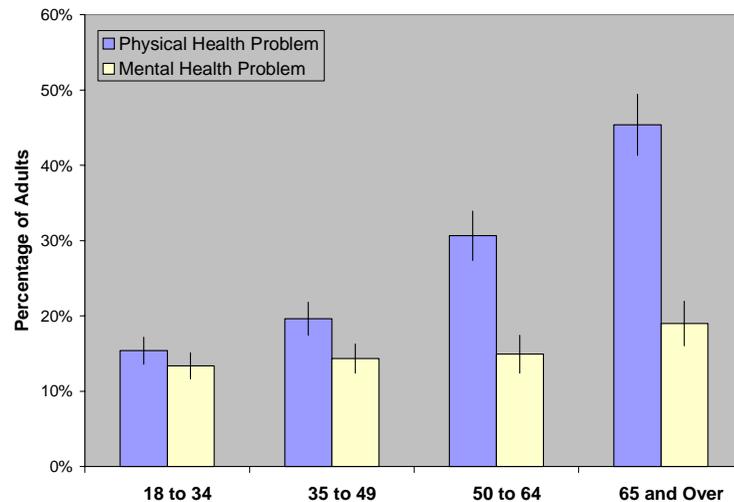


Since June 1997, the Utah Health Status Update has presented data from a variety of sources, including surveillance systems (e.g., notifiable diseases), vital records (e.g., birth and death certificates), administrative databases (e.g., inpatient hospital discharges and emergency visits), and surveys conducted with Utah residents. Surveys are a critical source of information because a well-designed and implemented survey can represent the entire population, persons of all ages regardless of health status, and not just those who sought health care or reported an illness to a health care provider.

The 2001 Utah Health Status Survey was designed and implemented to be representative of all persons living in Utah, and includes information on physical and mental health status, chronic medical conditions, health insurance and access to care, health care utilization, injury, and health lifestyles and risks. Selected

Health Status

Figure 1. Percentage of Utahns who reported accomplishing less in the past 30 days because of a physical or mental health problem by age group, Utah adults age 18 and over, 2001.



survey results on health insurance coverage were provided in the April 2002 Health Status Update. What follows is a summary of results found in the recently published 2001 Health Status Survey Overview Report.

- Almost one in ten Utahns (9%) were reported to be in fair or poor health, and almost one in four adult Utahns, age 18 and over, (23%) reported that they accomplished less in the last month because of physical health problems. Those percentages were lower for younger persons and increased markedly with age.
- The healthiest Utahns were in Summit County, while southern and eastern areas of the state had relatively high proportions of persons in fair or poor health. Those areas of the state also had higher proportions of older Utahns, which may account for the differences in health status.
- The percentage of adults who accomplished less because of problems with their mental health (15%) varied much less by age group.
- 8.7% of Utahns lacked health insurance coverage, and of the 91.3% who had coverage, more than one in ten (11.4%) had problems getting health care they needed. In all, just over 19% of Utahns were either uninsured or had had problems getting access to care.
- On average, Utahns made 3.7 visits to a medical health provider in the previous 12 months. The number of visits was higher for women (4.2) than for men (3.1), and increased with age. But there was relatively little geographic variation.
- 71% of Utahns received a medical well care check-up in the previous 12 months.
- Almost 9% had no usual place where they went for medical care, and almost 5% had a usual place that was either a hospital emergency department or urgent care center.

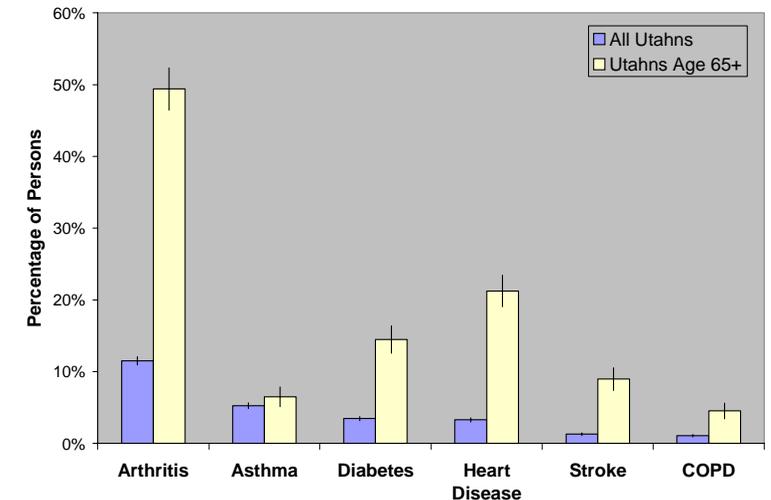
Utahns reported a variety of chronic medical conditions. Public health strives to reduce the burden of death and disease from

chronic medical conditions through prevention, early detection, and proper treatment.

- About 12% of all Utahns and almost 50% of persons age 65 or over reported that they had been diagnosed with arthritis.
- Other relatively common chronic conditions included asthma (5.3% of all Utahns), diabetes (3.5%) and heart disease (3.3%).
- Approximately 55,500 children were estimated to have been exposed to cigarette smoke inside the home, predisposing them to chronic medical conditions.
- Older Utahns (age 65 and over) had higher rates of almost all chronic medical conditions.

Chronic Medical Conditions

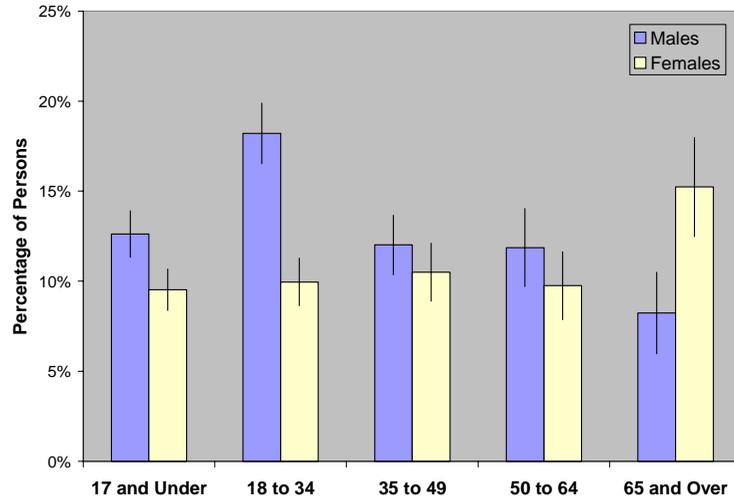
Figure 2. Prevalence of selected chronic medical conditions for all Utahns and older Utahns, 2001.



- 12% of Utahns reported that they had sustained one or more serious injuries in the past 12 months (defined as an accidental or intentional injury that limited their activity for a day or longer

Injuries

Figure 3. Percentage of persons who sustained a serious injury in the past 12 months by age and sex, Utah 2001.



or caused them to seek medical attention). Injury was more common among males (13.6%), young adults age 18 to 34 (14.1%) and elderly females (15.2%).

- There were few households (1.5%, or about 10,900 Utah households) where a gun was stored loaded, in an unlocked location. However, 3,400 of those households had children in the home. One in ten Utah households (10.2%), stored an unloaded gun in an unlocked location, with ammunition accessible. 60% of households had no guns at all.

The 2001 Utah Health Status Survey Overview Report may be found on the Internet at http://health.utah.gov/ibis-ph/opho_pubs.html. The report also includes frequently-requested population data.

The 2001 Utah Health Status Survey was conducted from May through November 2001 in 7,520 households across the state, providing health information for 24,088 individuals. Rural areas of the state were oversampled to provide precise survey estimates for all 12 Utah health districts. The data have been weighted to represent the Utah population.

July 2002 Utah Health Status Update

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