

Each year, the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) files a report with the Utah Legislature that conveys information on the state of the public's health, the health care system, and the public health infrastructure in Utah. The report includes data and context for 93 health indicators. This Update summarizes selected information from that report. The entire Public Health Outcome Measures report is available online at: <http://health.utah.gov/opha/publications/phom2003.pdf>.

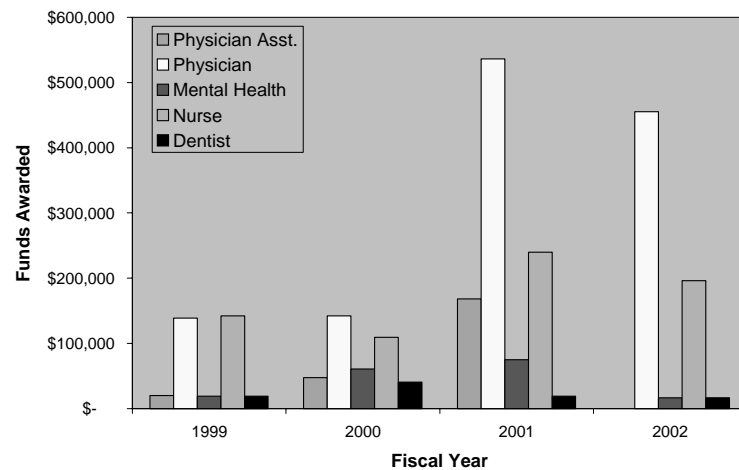
Health Care Services and Systems

Goal: All Utahns will have access to high-quality, affordable health care services.

- Health professional education grants support education of professionals who desire to work in under-served areas of the

UDOH Health Professional Education Grants

Figure 1. Health Professional Education Loan Repayment Grants Amount Awarded by Profession and Fiscal Year, Utah, FY99-FY02.



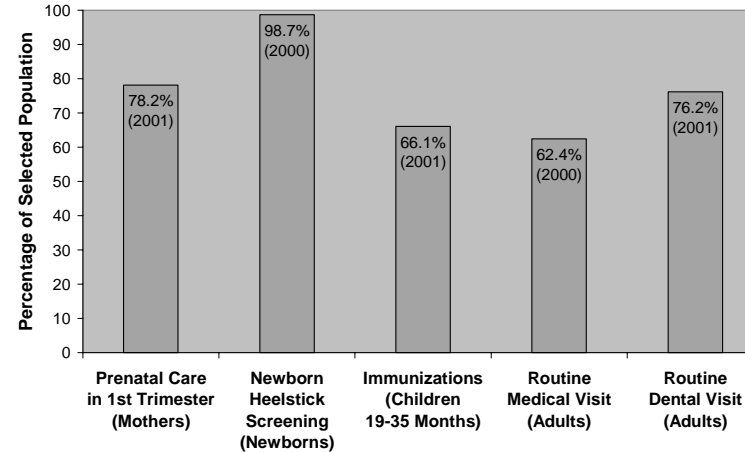
Source: Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, Utah Department of Health

state (Figure 1). The UDOH also helps support local EMS agencies.

- An estimated 199,100 Utahns were without health insurance coverage in 2001. Three quarters of uninsured Utah adults in 2001 were employed either part-time or full-time.
- Quality of care is measured by a number of indicators, including patient safety, consumer satisfaction, and meeting standards in health facilities.
- Clinical preventive services, including immunization and screening for evidence of disease, are important for maintaining good health (Figure 2).

Five Preventive Health Exams

Figure 2. Percentage of persons in selected populations who had a preventive health exam by type of exam, Utah 2000-2001.



Sources: Office of Vital Records and Statistics, UDOH; Division of Community and Family Health Services, UDOH; National Immunization Survey, National Center for Health Statistics, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Office of Public Health Assessment, UDOH

- Local health departments provide a range of preventive services including immunizations, health screening exams, and investigation of disease outbreaks.

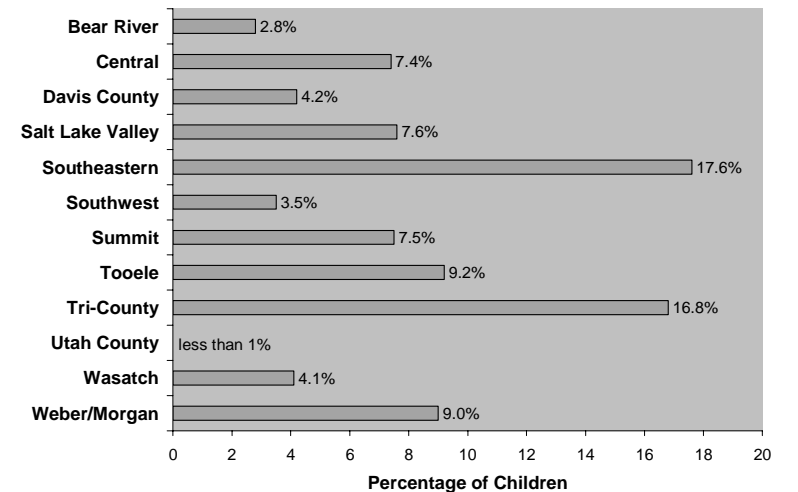
Risk Factors for Illness

Goal: Utahns will achieve a higher quality of life by adopting safe, healthy lifestyles and providing safe and healthy environments.

- Environmental risk factors include contaminated food, air, and drinking water. Utah's local health departments inspect food establishments. Exposure to environmental tobacco smoke is monitored by the UDOH (Figure 3).

Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS)

Figure 3. Percentage of Children Who Had Been Exposed to Cigarette Smoke Inside the Home by Local Health District, Utah Children Age 17 or Less, 2001.



Source: Utah Health Status Survey, Office of Public Health Assessment, Utah Department of Health

- Lifestyle risk factors include smoking, alcohol and substance abuse, poor diet, sedentary lifestyle, and risk behaviors such as not wearing a seat belt and unprotected sexual activity. Public health programs at both the state and local levels provide education and marketing to reinforce healthy lifestyles.

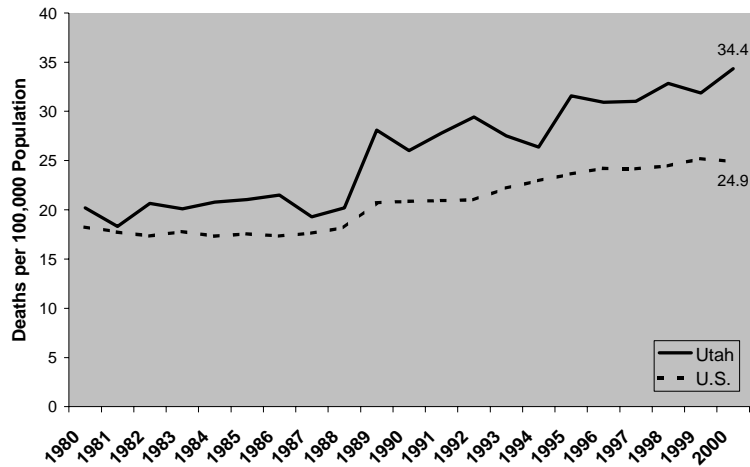
Common Preventable Diseases and Conditions

Goal: Utah will reduce illness, disability, and death from common preventable diseases and conditions.

- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of injury and death in Utah. Suicide was the leading cause of death among males age 15-44 from 1996 to 1998.
- Chronic diseases such as diabetes, cancer, asthma, arthritis, and cardiovascular and heart disease affect many Utahns. Coronary heart disease death rates have declined dramatically, largely due to improvements in medical treatment for persons who have a heart attack. Rates of diabetes-related deaths, on the other hand, show a marked increase (Figure 4).
- Rates of the childhood diseases pertussis and measles were low in 2001, as were Hepatitis A and tuberculosis.
- Rates of food-borne illnesses fluctuate from year to year, but have not seen recent changes in trend.
- Rates of syphilis and gonorrhea infection are very low in Utah, but rates for another sexually transmitted disease, chlamydia,

Diabetes-related Death Rates, 1980-2000

Figure 4. Diabetes-related Deaths, Utah and U.S., 1980-2000.



Sources: Utah Death Certificate Database, Office of Vital Records and Statistics, Utah Department of Health; Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget; U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, on-line data - CDC WONDER

have been increasing since the mid-1990s.

- Infant mortality rates continue to decline, with the largest declines seen in sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and perinatal conditions such as low birth weight and infections.
- Of the grade school children screened for dental disease in 2000, 22% had obvious untreated dental decay, and 2% had urgent dental needs.

Utah's **Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS-PH)** website offers access to this and other UDOH publications. It provides information on over 100 health topics (or health indicators), such as health insurance, adolescent births, and physical activity. It also allows users to query a variety of public health data sets, including mortality, birth, hospitalization, and health survey data. The website may be accessed at: <http://health.utah.gov/ibis-ph>.

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