

**OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH ASSESSMENT**

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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](http://ibis.health.utah.gov)) at many geographic levels including state, local health districts, county, and Utah 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 13 local health districts (LHDs). The Utah LHDs include Bear River, Central Utah, Davis County, Salt Lake County, San Juan County, Southeast Utah, Southwest Utah, Summit County, Tooele County, TriCounty, Utah County, Wasatch County, and Weber-Morgan. Information on the Local Health Districts can be found at [www.ualhd.org](http://www.ualhd.org).

**COUNTIES**

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

**UTAH SMALL AREAS**

The Utah Small Areas were first defined in 1997<sup>1</sup> by UDOH staff and were updated since then as needed due to zip codes being added or boundaries changed. In 2017-2018, two decades after the initial development, an entire reassessment was completed and new small area definitions were released in October 2018. Utah 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. Utah 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. Utah Small Areas range in population size from 8,000 to 86,000.

There are currently 99 Utah Small Areas defined. The current boundaries and relation to LHDs and counties can be found in the [Utah Small Area Information](#) document. These areas will be updated as needed when ZIP Codes change, boundary changes, population in areas change significantly, or feedback from community partners indicate a need to reevaluate.

Many public health programs have adopted the Utah Small Areas in their public reporting.

**ALGORITHM AND CODE**

The algorithm utilized for assignment of geographic areas is located online <https://ibis.health.utah.gov/pdf/resource/Algorithm.pdf>.

SAS code for geographic assignment is located here: <http://health.utah.gov/oph/IBIShelp/SASGeoAssignCode.sas>

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