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/oph/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 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).

UDOH Health Professional Education Grants

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

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.

- 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.
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