Asthma-related deaths are rare and occur most commonly among the elderly population. During the 10-year period 2001-2010, asthma was listed as the primary cause of death for 327 individuals in Utah; more than half of those deaths (54.1%) occurred among individuals ages 75 and older. Asthma mortality has been following a decreasing trend both state- and nationwide over the past decade.

Key Findings:

- In Utah and the United States, the asthma mortality rate appears to have followed a decreasing trend for the years 2001-2010.
- From 2006-2010, the asthma mortality rate among elderly adults ages 75 and older (135.9 deaths per million Utah residents) was more than five times greater than the asthma mortality rate for any other age group.
- For most years from 2001-2010, females suffered a higher asthma mortality rate compared to males.
- From 2006-2010, the Utah asthma mortality rate for elderly adults ages 65 and older (76.3 deaths per million population) was more than triple the national Healthy People 2020 target for that age group (22.9 deaths per million population).
Figure 51. Asthma Mortality Rate by Year, Utah Compared to the United States, 2001-2010

Overall, the asthma mortality rate has followed a decreasing trend over the past 10 years. In 2010, the Utah asthma mortality rate was 48% lower than the rate in 2001 (11.7 versus 22.5 deaths per million Utah residents, respectively).

Figure 52. Asthma Mortality Rate by Age Group, Utah, 2006-2010

From 2006-2010, the asthma mortality rate among elderly adults ages 75 and older (135.9 deaths per million Utah residents) was more than five times greater than the asthma mortality rate for any other age group. The asthma mortality rate appears to increase with advancing age.
**Figure 53. Asthma Mortality Rate by Year and Sex, 2001-2010**

For most years from 2001-2010, females maintained a higher asthma mortality rate compared to males. Overall, the asthma mortality rate appears to have been following a decreasing trend during the past 10 years among both males and females.

**Figure 54. Utah Asthma Mortality Rates Compared to Healthy People 2020 Targets, 2006-2010**

From 2006-2010, Utah asthma mortality rates for ages 35-64 and 65 and older exceeded national Healthy People 2020 targets. The asthma mortality rate among elderly adults must decrease by nearly 70% to meet the national target.