

Air Pollution in Utah

- » Air pollution is generally concentrated along the Wasatch Front and Cache Valley.
- » Particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) levels are higher in the winter months and increase during weather inversions.
- » Ozone is usually higher in summer months.
- » Rural areas generally have fewer air pollution concerns; therefore, the guidance may not apply.
- » High air pollution days are associated with:
 - Increased emergency room visits for asthma
 - Increased incidence of symptoms and medication use for asthma
 - Increased number of asthma attacks on days following higher ozone levels
 - Increased school absenteeism among those with respiratory diseases on days following high PM_{2.5} levels
- » Keeping all students indoors due to worsening air quality does not happen very often. For example, during the winter of 2006-07, there were only four days at *Hawthorne Elementary in Salt Lake City* during which PM_{2.5} levels were above 90 ug/m³. In *Ogden*, there were only two days during which PM_{2.5} levels were above 90 ug/m³.

Asthma in Utah, Ages 0-17

- » Most common chronic illness among children.
- » Leading cause of missed school days due to a chronic condition in the United States, accounting for more than 12 million missed school days a year.
- » Prevalence, ages 0-17 in Utah (2007)
 - Males - 8.7 %
 - Females - 6.8%Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, UDOH
- » Emergency Room Visits (Treat and Release), ages 0-17 in Utah (2006)
 - 2,266 visits
 - Average charge: \$559Source: Emergency Department Encounter Database, UDOH
- » Hospitalizations, ages 0-17 in Utah (2006)
 - 639 visits
 - Average charge: \$4,897/visitSource: Inpatient Hospital Discharge Database, UDOH

For more information visit the Utah Department of Health Asthma Program at www.health.utah.gov/asthma or the Utah Department of Environmental Quality at www.airquality.utah.gov.