

ULACHES

bulletin

Spring 2007

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Visit the Health Promotion New Employee Orientation web site. It is a great introduction to the profession of Health Education. Please go to: www.health.utah.gov/bhp/ulaches

Future Meetings:

April 19-20, 07	St. George
July 12-13, 07	Provo
Oct. 18-19, 07	Heber
Jan. 08	Farmington
April 08	Vernal
July 08	Park City or Tooele
Oct. 08	Price

Obesity Prevention in Utah: First Steps

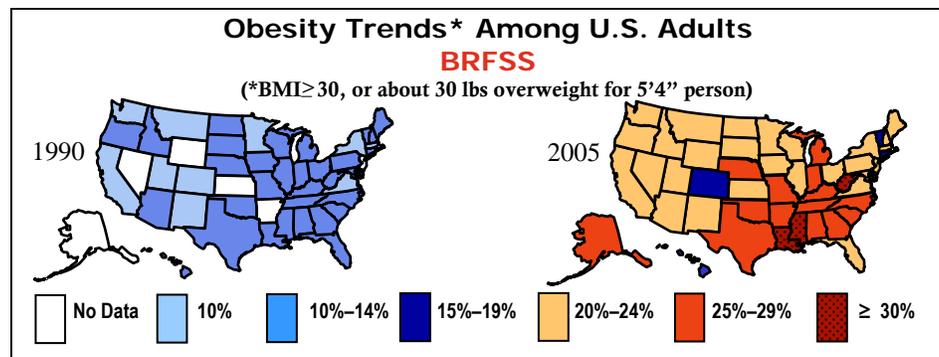
We are encouraged that UDOH has spearheaded a process to involve stakeholders throughout Utah in new initiatives to prevent obesity, called *The Utah Blueprint to Promote Healthy Weight*. LHOs have been invited and have designated ULACHES as partners in this effort. At the organizing meeting on February 1, partners agreed to incorporate a nonprofit foundation called the *Utah Partnership for Healthy Weight*. Their next meeting is May 10 at the Cannon Building in SLC.

All partners have been asked to specify where their interests lie, in the categories of Family, School, Community, Worksites, Healthcare, and Media. Nine areas were identified where Local Health Districts may have interest. One example is **Community Objective 4: Increase the proportion of mothers who breastfeed their infants and toddlers.** **Strategy 1: Work with public health, community health, and other segments of the community to provide education regarding the benefits of breastfeeding.** This was indicated because of LHDs' direct connection with breastfeeding promotion in our WIC clinics.

In addition to the general concerns LHDs have, ULACHES has also identified thirteen interest areas where our specific programs are already involved, such as **School Objective 1: Increase the number of schools that have policies and an environment that encourage regular physical activity.** **Strategy 1: Encourage the elementary and middle/junior high schools to participate in the Gold Medal Schools Program.**

The complete list of 26 objectives and 83 topic areas in the Blueprint is available at <http://health.utah.gov/obesity/docs/ObesityBlueprint.pdf>. The completed participation grid including areas identified for LHO and ULACHES involvement is available via email from bhyatt@slco.org. Since it is difficult to print out, Beverly can also mail you a hard copy.

We are pleased to be included in this initiative, to stay involved as UDOH and other partners consider funding and new initiatives in these obesity prevention areas.



Tobacco Civil Hearing Workgroup Update

A Best Practice Recommendations Guide has been developed by the tobacco civil hearing workgroup. The draft copy is still under review and should be ready for dissemination by May. The goal of the workgroup was to review civil hearing procedures at Health Departments across the state and to develop a set of best practice recommendations that may be implemented. The workgroup will encourage each Hearing Officer to review the document and utilize any of the recommendations where applicable. The workgroup is comprised of Health Educators from Utah County, Salt Lake County, Davis, Tooele, Summit, Bear River, Weber Morgan and the Utah Department of Health.

Teen Seat Belt Data Follow-up

As a follow up to our last ULACHES bulletin section on a new focus for injury, and concerns expressed about the data, the Utah Department of Health has provided additional data stating why more resources are being used to promote teen seat belt use. You can view the data at the following web site:
<http://health.utah.gov/bhp/ulaches/>

Safe Kids Week: April 28 - May 6

Make It A Safe Kids Summer is the theme for this year's safe kids week. Safe Kids Coalitions and Chapters across the state will have an exciting new safety game called "**Safe Kids Safety Zone**" that will engage participants at their Safe Kids Week events, and to educate them about summer safety.

Thanks to funding from Johnson & Johnson, the centerpiece of Safe Kids Week 2007 will be the release of a new study ranking and grading all 50 states and the District of Columbia on children's summer safety in line with our theme this year of *Make it a Safe Kids Summer*.

States' grades and ranks will be based on the rate of accidental deaths of children 14 and under during the summer months of May through August and whether that number has gone up or down in the last 5 years. Utah is currently ranked in the middle tier. Injury hospitalization rates are not being used for the ranking because there is not sufficient comparable data for all states. In the ranking report that will be unveiled on April 30, Safe Kids also will still be showing where states have different policies and other related prevention-related indicators.

This study is likely to attract more media attention than Safe Kids Week usually gets. ULACHES is encouraging a coordinated effort between local Health Officers, Safe Kids Coordinators, and their Public Information Officers in the event that local media has inquiries. **All of this information will be under a news embargo until the morning of April 30, which means this information should not be shared with any journalists or stakeholders before Safe Kids Worldwide releases it publicly.** For more information contact your local Safe Kids Coordinator:

Bear River - Farrin Wiese
Central Utah - Terry Smith
Davis County - Jeri Boren
Great Basin - Dean Shields
Iron County - Faelynn Kartchner
Salt Lake County - Kathy Chambers
Southeast Utah - Georgina Nowak

Summit County - Geri Essen
Tooele County - Brenda Nelson
Tri-County - Jeramie Tubbs
Utah County - Bonnie Hargreaves
Wasatch County - Amber Peterson
Washington County - Nikki Weber
Weber-Morgan - Jann Fawcett



Area Spotlight

The Utah Department of Health Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program has recognized Jessie Huff at the Southeastern Utah Public Health Department for all of her hard work with "Go Red for Women" activities this year. Jessie has been pro-active in making plans for a luncheon with TV News anchor Mary Nickles from Channel 2 News. Jessie has also helped to coordinate an event called "Painting the Town Red" where different stores along Main Street will "Go Red" with Red tag sales, discounts for people wearing red, Red window decorating contests, health screenings and of course lots of health information everywhere you go.

The Southeastern Utah Health District had the highest fall hospitalization rate among older adults in Utah in 1996. The majority of falls happen in or around the house. Therefore the Southeastern Utah Health District worked on an intervention to reduce home hazards and make living areas safer. During the last year, interventions included: promoting fall prevention to older adults who are at-risk for falls at community events and senior centers; conducting assessments of fall risks in homes; distributing medical equipment such as toilet risers, shower rails, walkers and canes; and collaborating with local health care providers.



For additional information about ULACHES please visit:
<http://health.utah.gov/bhp/ulaches/HPOM/LHD/ULACHES.htm>