



The Health Status Survey Overview Report provides information on 25 health measures from the 2001 Health Status Survey, plus a variety of Utah demographic characteristics from the survey and elsewhere. The 25 health measures represent most of the topical areas covered in the 2001 survey.

The report is intended to provide a brief overview of each of the measures. More detailed analysis will be provided in future reports. For the purposes of the overview report, the measures have been simplified such that only one level is reported. For instance, each respondent's general health status was originally reported on a five-point scale (excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor). The simplified measure reports only one level, those with fair or poor health.

For each measure, an attempt was made to report information in a meaningful manner. For instance, for the variable "time since blood pressure checked" the reported category indicates the percentage of adults who had their blood pressure checked in the last year. This level was used because the current clinical guidelines recommend that adults should have their blood pressure checked at least once each year unless more frequent screening is medically indicated.

It is also common for a measure to be reported for only a sub-population of Utahns. For instance, prevalence of high cholesterol was reported only for persons age 35 or over because clinical guidelines recommend testing beginning at age 35. General mental health status was reported for only the respondent. It was believed that the respondent would be unable to provide valid information about the feelings of other household members. The sub-population of inference is always indicated in the title of the figure or table.

Each measure is depicted on two pages. The first page displays a bar chart of the information by sex and age group. The second page provides a reference table. Reference tables for the measures typically report an overall percentage for the entire relevant Utah population, and for that population by sex, age group, and age group by sex. When the sample size allowed for it, the measures are also presented by local health district. Additional comparisons for each measure may be found in that measure's detailed health status survey report, or by requesting it through the Center for Health Data at the address listed inside the front cover of this report.

The information in the tables and figures is presented for different sex, age, and geographic groups. By presenting the information this way, it is not meant to imply that differences in a measure are caused by a person's sex, age, area of residence, or any other variable in the survey. Data collected in a single-point-in-time survey will never provide sufficient evidence of a cause and effect relationship between two variables. For instance, a relationship between obesity and overall ill health has been observed. The data do not suggest whether being obese causes ill health, being ill causes one to be obese, or whether some third variable, such as a chronic condition, causes a person to be obese and to experience overall ill health.

It should be noted that this report is an overview of the Health Status Survey results, and not a complete overview of the health status of Utahns. There is other relevant information that should be taken into account in order to gain perspective on Utahns' overall health status, such as leading causes of death, trends in hospitalization for various conditions, infectious disease rates, characteristics of mothers and newborns, injury deaths and hospitalizations, and many other factors. Some of this information can be found

in other Center for Health Data publications and on Utah's Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS-PH) at <http://health.utah.gov/ibis-ph>. In addition, the Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System is a source for additional survey information on adult Utahns' health behaviors.