



The Health Status Survey Overview Report provides information on 18 health measures from the 2003 Health Status Survey. The 18 health measures represent most of the content areas covered in the 2003 survey.

The report is intended to provide a brief overview of each measure. More detailed analysis of the data may be accomplished online using the custom query option at <http://ibis.health.utah.gov/>.

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 "percentage of persons who received a routine medical check-up" the reported category indicates the percentage of persons who had received a routine medical check-up in the previous 12 months. This time interval was used because the current clinical guidelines recommend that persons should have a routine medical check-up 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, general mental health status was reported for only adults. 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. Reference tables for the measures typically report an overall percentage for the entire relevant Utah population, and for that population by sex, age group, age group by sex, local health district, annual household income, and health insurance status.

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. Other relevant information 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. Much 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://ibis.health.utah.gov>. In addition, the Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System is a source for additional survey information on adult Utahns' health behaviors.