

Summary of Findings

Demographics

- Overall, in the Northwest SL Valley communities, 58% of adult residents (age 18 or over) were employed full-time at the time of the survey.
- Males (71%), persons of Asian descent (73%), and persons of Hispanic ethnicity (67%) were more likely than average to be employed full-time.
- The median income for the households in the survey area was \$23,845, with 53% of the households making \$25,000 or less. The median income for Salt Lake County in 1999 was estimated by the U.S. Census Bureau at \$40,420.
- Households that included persons of Hispanic ethnicity were more likely to have incomes under \$25,000 (61%).
- Of Northwest SL Valley residents age 18 and over, almost a third (31%) had not completed high school, and 10% had completed at least a four-year college degree. In 1990, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that only 15% of Utahns age 25 or over had not obtained a high school diploma, and another 22% had completed at least a four-year college degree.
- Forty percent of Northwest Salt Lake Valley communities residents were Hispanic or Latino. This is a proportion that is much higher than that which was estimated by the U.S. Census Bureau in 1999 for the county (8.9%) or the state as a whole (7.1%).
- A higher proportion of Hispanic persons in the population may signal the need for health care system accommodations, such as translation services and providers who are sensitive to potential cultural differences.

Health Status

- Overall, 13% of survey respondents were reported to be in fair or poor health. This compares with 9% of persons statewide at the time of the 1996 Utah Health Status Survey².
- Persons who were age 65 or over (38%), and those in the Rose Park community (18%) were more likely to report being in fair/poor health.
- When asked how many of the past 30 days their physical health (including illness and injury) was not good, 29% of Northwest SL Valley community residents reported one or more, and 18% reported four or more days of “not good” physical health.
- The survey asked persons to report the number of days in the past 30 when their mental health (including stress, depression, and problems with emotions) was not good. Overall, 19% reported one or more days, and 13% reported four or more days when their mental health was “not good.”
- Persons age 35 to 49 (22%) and age 50 to 64 (24%) were more likely to report “not good” mental health on at least one day in the past 30.

Health Insurance Coverage

- Fifty-five percent of Northwest SL Valley community residents reported that they had health insurance coverage through an employer, 23% indicated that they pay for their own care (no health insurance). In 1996, the percentage of all Utahns who lacked health insurance coverage was estimated to be 9.5%².
- Persons age 18 to 34 (31%) and those in the Poplar Grove community (33%) were most likely to be without health care coverage.
- Although they were more likely than non-Hispanic persons to be employed full-time, persons who were Hispanic were more likely to be without health insurance coverage (38%) than others. Persons who were American Indian (36%) were also more likely than average to be without health insurance coverage.

- A little over half of all Northwest SL Valley community residents had insurance coverage for dental care, with 42%, overall, lacking such coverage.
- Persons most likely to lack coverage for dental care included persons age 65 or over (79%), those in the Poplar Grove community (54%), and Hispanic persons (52%).

Health Care Utilization and Access

- Those most likely to have gone without a doctor visit in the past three years were males age 18 to 34 (21%), males age 35 to 49 (22%), those in the Poplar Grove community (17%), and persons who indicated they were Pacific Islander (27%).
- Fifty-eight percent of Northwest SL Valley residents had seen a dentist in the past year, 12% reported that it had been more than three years and 14% had never seen a dentist.
- Persons 65 or over were more likely than the average (34%) to have gone over 3 years without a dental visit, as were persons in Poplar Grove (35%), and those who were Hispanic (35%) or Black (43%).
- Fluoride supplementation is recommended for all children aged 6 months to 16 years. Only about half the children in that age group (48%) were reported to take fluoride.
- Overall, 28% of Northwest SL Valley community residents indicated that they had experienced barriers to accessing medical care (had problems or delayed getting needed medical care for some reason). The most commonly cited reason for delaying medical care was cost.
- Among residents of Northwest SL Valley, 34% indicated that they needed health care in the previous 12 months, but were unable to get it because of cost.
- The type of health care that cost most often prevented due to cost was dental care, reported for 26% of all persons surveyed. Following that were prescription medicine (prevented for 14%), and medical care (prevented for 11%).

Safety, Lifestyle, and Household Risk Factors

- Although using a seat belt or car seat dramatically reduces the risk of injury in a motor vehicle crash, only 86% of Northwest SL Valley community residents reported that they always used some sort of motor vehicle restraint (seat belt or car seat). Children were more likely (90%) and persons who were Pacific Islander were less likely (71%) to be restrained, although the differences were not statistically significant.
- A little over 4% of the survey population indicated that they had been victims of interpersonal violence in the past year.
- A relatively high proportion (21%) of Northwest SL Valley community adults reported that they were current smokers. The 1999 rate for the state overall was 14%, according to the Utah Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey. Smoking was more common among men (26%) than women (16%).
- Twenty-two percent of area residents indicated that they had a firearm in their house or on the premises. There was a firearm that was loaded and stored in an unlocked location in 3% of homes overall, and 14% of homes with firearms.
- Eighteen percent of area residents reported being unable to obtain enough food in the past year.
- The inability to obtain enough food was found to be directly related to household size. Households with children were less likely to obtain enough food (26% were unable to obtain food).
- Most respondents (81%) reported that they felt safe in their neighborhood.
- Respondents who had lived in their neighborhood for less than a year were less likely to report feeling safe (76%) but this difference was not statistically significant.