

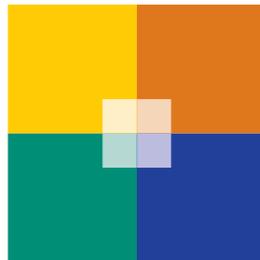
The 2005 report, *Utah Health Status by Race and Ethnicity*, portrays important “health disparities” by race and ethnicity. Disparities are said to exist when the health status on a given measure in one or more race/ethnic populations is different from that found in other populations. It is a national goal of the U.S. Public Health Service to eliminate health disparities including those by race and ethnicity, sex, income, education, sexual orientation, disability, and geographic location.

We acknowledge that significant diversity exists within each of the race and ethnic categories used in this report, and that the use of such broad categories will, at times, obfuscate health disparities among smaller subgroups. Regardless of its limitations, it is hoped that this report will serve as a guide for Utah Department of Health programs, Utah’s Ethnic Health Advisory Committee, and others with an interest in reducing health disparities, so that they may make evidence-based decisions on their priorities and future activities aimed at improving health status in Utah populations.

The report was produced with significant contributions from programs across the Utah Department of Health. Health program staff produced the most recent data available by race and ethnicity and submitted text contributions. The contributing health programs are cited at the bottom of each data page. Readers with additional questions on the information presented on a page can contact the health program cited at the bottom of that page.

This report presents 69 data pages. Each data page represents a quantitative measure that indicates population health status according to a key public health construct, such as infant mortality or cigarette smoking. For each measure, text health status and provide contextual understanding of the issue. The order of of contents.

The text element, “Why is it important?” the public health relevance of the measure. state’s overall results on the measure, as race or ethnic disparities. “How can we race- and ethnicity-specific interventions that are effective in improving status on the measure.



and data elements provide a view of information that aim to enrich reader the data pages is displayed in the table

includes a short paragraph that describes “How are we doing?” describes the well as text bullets that describe any improve?” describes general as well as

Near the top of each page is a bar graph that depicts the age-adjusted values for the measure for all Utahns, and for selected race and ethnic populations. Each bar in this graph includes a narrow line that depicts the 95% confidence interval for that bar. At the bottom of each page is a data table that includes those age-adjusted values as well as the annual number of events, population counts that were used to compute rates, and crude rates and 95% confidence intervals for the crude and age-adjusted rates. A description of the use and meaning of confidence intervals may be found in Appendix F on page 100.

Readers may notice that the race and Hispanic ethnicity categories that were used vary from one page to another. Whenever possible, five race categories were used, separating Pacific Islander from Asian, but this was not always possible. It was also our goal to present three categories for Hispanic ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino; White, non-Hispanic; and other non-Hispanic, but sometimes the data were not presented to us in this way. As a result, each page represents the way the data have been stored. In some cases, as with the death certificate data, data are now stored with Asian and Pacific Islander coded separately, but the change occurred only recently and sufficient data from past years were not available to produce reliable results by race and ethnicity. Readers must refer to the labels on the graphs and tables to see how race and ethnicity have been presented for that measure. A complete description of the race and ethnicity grouping recommended by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget [OMB] may be found in Appendix B on page 92.



Introduction

Population counts used to compute population rates are presented in the data tables on each page. The data used to calculate each measure spanned the time period that included the year 2000. Because the 2000 U.S. Census numbers are considered the most reliable estimates available, those numbers have been used as population denominators, regardless of the exact time period used in the numerator data. A complete table of numbers used, as well as a description of considerations in using those numbers is included in Appendix C on page 94.

Other appendices to this report include descriptions of how rates were computed, why age-adjusted numbers were used to make race/ethnic comparisons, and other technical considerations.