



Legislative Report 2020

Mandate	Utah Code Title 26, Chapter 7, Section 2
Mission	To advance health equity and reduce health disparities in Utah
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COVID-19 RELATED ACTIVITIES

- **Utah COVID-19 Language Materials and Resources**

Early in March 2020, the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) Office of Health Disparities (OHD) compiled, hosted, and maintained local and national COVID-19 information and materials in all available languages.

- **UDOH Health Equity Work Group Statement on COVID-19 and Utah's Underserved Populations**

Early in March 2020, the OHD created a statement to identify underserved/underrepresented communities that would be disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and recommended tailored actions for these communities.

- **Community Partners Updates**

At the end of March 2020, the OHD began hosting weekly community partner updates to better understand community-based organizations' needs and get feedback from communities experiencing health disparities.

- **OHD Website COVID-19 Updates in Spanish**

Early in March 2020, the OHD identified the need for the coronavirus.utah.gov website to be available in Spanish. The OHD translated material daily and created a page on its website dedicated to updates and data in Spanish.

- **Spanish Website Proposal for coronavirus.utah.gov**

By April 2020, the OHD created a proposal to include a Spanish site for coronavirus.utah.gov. The OHD began translating pages and organizing content.

- **Language Translation Mission**

The OHD analyzed language data to assist in determining the prioritization of language translation for COVID-19 materials and information.

- **COVID Community Partnership (CCP) Pilot Project**

In May 2020, the OHD implemented the CCP Project in order to pilot the utilization of community health workers (CHWs) to help mitigate the spread and effects of COVID-19 on underserved and underrepresented communities, particularly racial/ethnic minority communities in Utah.

- **COVID Community Partnership (CCP) Extension Project**

By August 2020, the OHD extended the CCP project to expand capacity among community-based organizations, incorporate local health departments, increase reach statewide, and introduce allied services.

- **COVID Testing**

The OHD coordinated 160 testing events in hot-spot areas highly populated by racial/ethnic minorities. Testing events were implemented in collaboration with the University of Utah Wellness Bus and the Utah Public Health Mobile Testing Team. More than 14,000 individuals were tested.

- **Technical Assistance**

The OHD requested disaggregate COVID-19 surveillance data by race/ethnicity and provided technical assistance to the surveillance team regarding population datasets and analysis.

- **Groups and/or advisory committees membership**

COVID-19 Surveillance Team, JIC Language Mission, Vulnerable Populations Taskforce Changing the Curve, Multicultural Commission COVID Sub-Committee

OTHER PROJECTS

- **State Partnership Initiative to Address Health Disparities**

Purpose: To improve the health of racial/ethnic minorities through the implementation and/or development of best practices.

Target Population: Racial/ethnic minority women in Salt Lake, Utah, Weber, Morgan, and Davis counties.

Partners: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health
The University of Utah, Wellness Bus
Community-based organizations

Status: Grant awarded in September 2020. Only 10 awards were awarded nationwide and only five state offices received awards.

- **Seal Your Smile School-Based Sealant Program**

Purpose: To evaluate the impact of a school-based sealant program and its impact on oral health disparities

Target Population: Children attending schools on the west side of Salt Lake City

Partners: UDOH Family Dental Plan
Salt Lake Foundation & Salt Lake School District

Status: Not completed. Because of COVID, screenings were cancelled in March. The Family Dental Plan lost funding to continue operations.

- **IBIS HII Indicator Report**

Purpose: To create a health indicator report for the UDOH Utah Health Improvement Index (HII) to include on Utah's Public Health Indicator Based Information System (IBIS). The HII measures a combination of social and economic conditions that determine health and when combined with health indicators can help identify health disparities.

Target Population: Epidemiologists and researchers

Partners: The UDOH Office of Public Health Assessment

Status: Completed. <https://ibis.health.utah.gov/ibisph-view/indicator/view/HII.html>

- **Primary Care at Fortitude Treatment Center**

Purpose: To provide mobile primary medical and vision care services to the Fortitude Treatment Center, a Department of Corrections halfway house facility located on Salt Lake City's west side neighborhood of Glendale.

Target Population: Male offenders under parole supervision

Partners: UDOH Violence and Injury Prevention
Department of Corrections Fortitude Treatment Center
Utah Partners for Health

Status: Facilitated and conducted four primary and vision care clinics before efforts were halted due to the pandemic. Utah Partners for Health has committed to continue services and add medically assisted treatment (MAT) for substance use disorders to the scope of services for Fortitude residents and other halfway house residents in Salt Lake County.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- **It Takes a Village (ITAV) Replication**

Partners: University of Utah and Southern Utah Pacific Islander Coalition

With the support of the OHD, the University of Utah was awarded national funding to replicate the OHD's It Takes a Village project in St. George, Utah. The OHD is providing technical assistance through facilitator training, data support, a fidelity assessment, and guidance.

- **Weber County CASPER Survey Community Assessment**

Partners: Weber-Morgan Health Department, UDOH Bureau of Health Promotion

The OHD provided technical assistance on surveying communities experiencing health disparities and assisted with survey development and design. The survey will assess Weber County residents' perspective on social determinants of health indicators.

- **An Analysis of Utah's Emergency Department Non-traumatic Dental Visits**

Partners: UDOH Oral Health Program

The OHD provided feedback and guidance on a report the UDOH Oral Health Program produced about Utah's emergency department non-traumatic dental visits.

<http://health.utah.gov/oralhealth/resources/reports/2019%20-%20UDOH%20Analysis%20of%20Emergency%20Dept%20Non-traumatic%20Dental%20Visits.pdf>

GROUPS COORDINATED

- **The Health Disparities Advisory Council (HDAC)**

Purpose: The OHD hosts and facilitates the HDAC, an advisory council from the UDOH that aims to align public health efforts with key stakeholders in the state of Utah to systematically address health disparities.

Partners: University of Utah Health Systems, Huntsman Cancer Institute, Voices for Utah Children, Community Health Centers of Utah, Intermountain Health Care, Brigham Young University, Utah Multicultural Affairs Office, Association for Utah Community Health, Neighbor Works Salt Lake, Select Health, Steward Health Care, Community Building Community, Comunidades Unidas, Health Access Project, Somali Community Self-Management Agency, National Tongan American Society; and Utah Department of Health programs, Children with Special Health Care Needs and Oral Health

Summary: The HDAC convenes meetings three times per year: April, August, and December where specific health equity issues are discussed. The committee currently has 25 members.

- **The UDOH Health Equity Work Group (HEWG)**

Purpose: The purpose of this workgroup is to advance health equity (HE) in Utah by integrating HE principles and practices into the UDOH's work internally, with communities, with outside agencies, and to champion a transformative change. In addition, this workgroup will help the UDOH with public health accreditation requirements.

Summary: The HEWG comprised of 21 representatives from all the UDOH divisions. A representative from human resources and a representative from the Utah Association of Local Health Departments are also invited to attend.

COMMITTEES

OHD staff participates in the following committees:

- ***The Utah Health Literacy Coalition***

Purpose: To help provide accurate health information and services people can easily find, understand, and use to inform their health decisions and actions.

Partners: Intermountain Health Care, the University of Utah Medical Library, Huntsman Cancer Institute, Salt Lake County Libraries, Summit County Library, Utah Library Association, Select Health.

Role of OHD: This year the Coalition advanced the effort by adding capacity for formal training for Utah librarians to identify and access credible health information by community members as well as design and execute an organizational website to establish an online presence.

- ***United Way Social Determinants of Health Coalition***

Purpose: To share a community protocol around five elements of social determinants of health: assessment, referral, communication, follow up, and analysis.

Partners: University of Utah Health Care, Intermountain Healthcare, Utah Health Information Network, Association of Utah Community Health, Select Health, Steward Health Care, City of South Salt Lake Promise Neighborhood, Salt Lake County Health Department, among others.

Role of OHD: Provided feedback; share data and information.

- ***Driving Out Diabetes External Advisory Board***

This is an initiative from the Larry H. Miller Wellness Initiative at the University of Utah. The working areas include diabetes prevention, diabetes clinical care, and research.

Role of OHD: Provide feedback on projects and activities.

- ***Utah Oral Health Coalition***

Role of OHD: OHD's staff serves as Technology and Data subcommittee chair.

- ***Utah Newborn Safe Haven***

- ***March of Dimes***

- ***ASTHO Minority Health and Health Equity Leadership***

- ***UDOH SEED Group***

- ***UDOH Population Health Subcommittee***

- ***UDOH Senior Leadership Team***

- ***UDOH Bureau Directors***

DISSEMINATION

REPORTS

- February 2020: Why establishing a primary care provider is not so simple for some.
<http://health.utah.gov/disparities/data/ohd/PCP-study-focus-groups.pdf>
- COVID Communities Partnership Project
<https://www.health.utah.gov/disparities/data/ohd/CCPPilotProjectNov2020.pdf>

HEALTH STATUS UPDATE ARTICLES

- A November 2019 Survey Shows How Health Equity Frameworks Redirect Efforts from Short-term Care to Invest in Utah Oral Health Workforce
https://ibis.health.utah.gov/ibisph-view/pdf/opha/publication/hsu/2019/1911_Morbidity.pdf#Spotlight2
- February 2020 Accessing Primary Care: The Unheard Voices
https://ibis.health.utah.gov/ibisph-view/pdf/opha/publication/hsu/2020/2002_Ecig.pdf#Spotlight

WEBSITE AND MEDIA

- **Website Analytics**
 - Page views 195,100
 - Sessions 87,247
 - New Users 69,027
 - Users 68,947
 - Most common page visit: /disparities/coronavirus.html
- **OHD Newsletters**
 - Opens 2,543
 - Clicks 597
 - Total reach 3,140
 - Note: OHD combined communications efforts with BHP CHW Program to consolidate COVID-19 messaging in April until current.
- December 31, 2019 Utah Department of Health *Top 10 public health stories in Utah 2019*
<https://health.utah.gov/featured-news/top-10-public-health-stories-in-2019>

PRESENTATIONS

- November 5, 2019 Multicultural Commission
- December 3, 2019 UDOH Bureau of Health Promotion Conference
- December 11, 2019 Utah Health Policy Project Conference
- December 12, 2019 Health Disparities Advisory Committee
- January 30, 2020 Utah Senate Minority Caucus
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- February 5, 2020 UDOH Population Health Steering Committee
- February 12, 2020 American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN) Health Data Summit
- April 2, 2020 Ethnic, Immigrant, and Refugee Communities Facing COVID

- May 8, 2020 Multicultural Commission
- August 6, 2020 Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) National Conference
- October 13, Health Challenges for Hispanic/Latino Communities in Utah