

# Utah Health Improvement Index

## 2022 update



Utah Department of  
**Health & Human**  
Services

# Acknowledgments

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**Special thanks:** A special thanks to all those who contributed to the original version of the Utah Health Improvement Index.

**Published September 2022**

**Updated January 2024**

Utah Department of Health and Human Services

[dhhs.utah.gov](https://dhhs.utah.gov)

**Suggested citation:** Utah Department of Health and Human Services (2022). *Utah Health Improvement Index—2022 update*. Salt Lake City, UT.

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# Introduction

In 2017, the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) created the first [Utah Health Improvement Index \(HII\)](#), a composite health equity measure by geography. In 2022, the Utah HII was updated with more recent data. Although there are many different ways to analyze data to identify health disparities and inequities, the Utah HII uses geographic and socio-economic indicators. This report provides an overview of the updated numbers and additional context to understand how these measures can be used to address health disparities and advance health equity in Utah.

## What is health equity?

Health equity is the principle underlying the commitment to reduce and, ultimately, eliminate health disparities by addressing its drivers. Pursuit of health equity means striving for the highest possible standard of health for all people with special attention to the needs of those communities at greatest risk for health disparities.

## What are health disparities?

Health disparities are differences in health outcomes closely linked with economic, social, cultural, environmental and geographic disadvantage.

## Why is this report important?

The Utah HII provides insights to guide the actions of local officials, health departments, social services agencies, healthcare systems, and community-based organizations to advance health equity. Informed decisions to foster and improve the health status of Utahns elevates the health of Utah overall. In order for Utah to become the healthiest state in the nation, health disparities must be addressed.

# Utah Health Improvement Index

## What is the Utah Health Improvement Index?

The Utah Health Improvement Index (HII) is a health equity measure by geography. It includes 9 indicators that describe important determinants of health such as demographics, socio-economic deprivation, economic inequality, resource availability, and opportunity structure. Those indicators are:

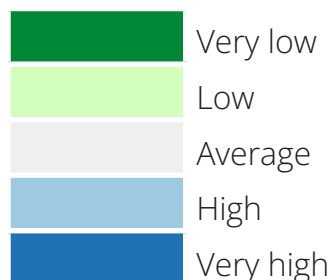
- Population aged ≥25 years with <9 years of education, %
- Population aged ≥25 years with at least a high school diploma, %
- Median family income, \$
- Income disparity (GINI coefficient)
- Owner-occupied housing units, % (home ownership rate)
- Civilian labor force population aged ≥16 years unemployed, % (unemployment rate)
- Families below poverty level, %
- Population below 150% of the poverty threshold, %
- Single-parent households with children aged <18 years, %

## What are the geographic focus areas of the Utah HII?

The geographic areas for the Utah HII are the DHHS-defined 99 Utah Small Areas. These geographic areas have population sizes ranging from approximately 8,000 to 86,000. They are especially useful for conducting public health assessments in communities and for developing locally tailored policies and interventions to improve the health and quality of life of Utahns. In 2018, UDOH and local health departments collaborated to identify and define 99 small areas in Utah. More information can be found at [ibis.health.utah.gov/resource/Guidelines.html](https://ibis.health.utah.gov/resource/Guidelines.html).

## What are the Utah HII groups?

The Utah HII gives a score to each Utah Small Area. Based on their score, Utah Small Areas are categorized into 5 groups: very low, low, average, high, and very high. The higher the group, the more improvements the area needs. The HII groups are indicated by color:



## How was the Utah HII developed?

The Utah HII is grounded in the methods used by Dr. Gopal K. Singh for the Area Deprivation Index (ADI).<sup>1</sup> While the ADI is based on 17 U.S. Census Data markers, the original [2017 Utah HII](#) was based on 9 Utah Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) indicators. Analysis showed the computed HII values for the Utah Small Areas were within 1% of the approximate ADI values. This demonstrated the Utah HII was a robust measure that classifies Utah Small Areas almost identically to the ADI. This validated the use of the BRFSS data and the selected 9 indicators. The Utah HII 2022 update includes the use of BRFSS and American Community Survey (ACS) indicators.

## Why is the Utah HII important?

The Utah HII is an innovative, data-driven, and practical way to advance health equity and inform efforts to reduce, in a more efficient and effective way, the burden of health disparities in diseases and health conditions in specific geographic areas.

To integrate a health equity approach, strategies, and interventions in all geographic areas must consider all the populations who live in the area. For areas with high and very high HII, strategies and interventions should include supportive activities to address the barriers that the populations who live in the area may face during implementation.

## What are limitations of the Utah HII?

Important limitations of the Utah HII to consider include: (a) some small areas might have a high HII because of their large and transient college student populations, (b) within areas with average and low HII, there may be clusters of underserved and underresourced communities, (c) some communities are more geographically granular or span multiple geographical units, and (d) geographical unit limitations like some ZIP codes cross county boundaries, ZIP codes in BRFSS may not exactly correspond to ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs) in ACS, and zip codes were developed for mail routes and not geographic designations.

## What can be done to address limitations of the Utah HII?

Efforts should be made to identify, understand, and address limitations of the Utah HII and may include:

- Identify areas with large and transient college student populations;
- Use secondary data from reliable sources such as the Utah Healthy Places Index to identify, understand, and justify, with data, needs of small clusters within Utah Small Areas; and
- Collaborate with local authorities, tribal leaders, and local community leaders to collect primary quantitative and qualitative data using reliable methodologies.

<sup>1</sup> Singh, GK. 2003. Area Deprivation and Widening Inequalities in US Mortality, 1969–1998. *Am J Public Health*. 2003 July; 93(7): 1137–1143. doi: 10.2105/ajph.93.7.1137

# Utah HII 2022 update

## Methodology update

All 9 indicators in the 2017 Utah HII came from 2015–2017 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data.<sup>2</sup> The 2022 Utah HII uses the 2016–2020 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)<sup>3</sup> for 5 indicators and 2016–2020 BRFSS data for 4 indicators. For more information on the 2022 Utah HII methodology, see [ibis.health.utah.gov/ibisph-view/pdf/resource/HII\\_UT\\_methodology\\_2022.pdf](https://ibis.health.utah.gov/ibisph-view/pdf/resource/HII_UT_methodology_2022.pdf).

### 2017 Utah HII

2015–2017 BRFSS data:

- Population aged ≥25 years with <9 years of education, %
- Population aged ≥25 years with at least a high school diploma, %
- Median family income, \$
- Income disparity
- Civilian labor force population aged ≥16 years unemployed, % (unemployment rate)
- Owner-occupied housing units, % (home ownership rate)
- Families below poverty level, %
- Population below 150% of the poverty threshold, %
- Single-parent households with children aged <18 years, %

### 2022 Utah HII




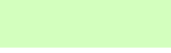

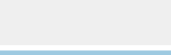




2016–2020 ACS PUMS data:

- Population aged ≥25 years with <9 years of education, %
- Population aged ≥25 years with at least a high school diploma, %
- Median family income, \$
- Income disparity
- Civilian labor force population aged ≥16 years unemployed, % (unemployment rate)

2016–2020 BRFSS data:

- Owner-occupied housing units, % (home ownership rate)
- Families below poverty level, %
- Population below 150% of the poverty threshold, %
- Single-parent households with children aged <18 years, %

## Utah HII color coding update

2017	2022	HII group
		Very low
		Low
		Average
		High
		Very high

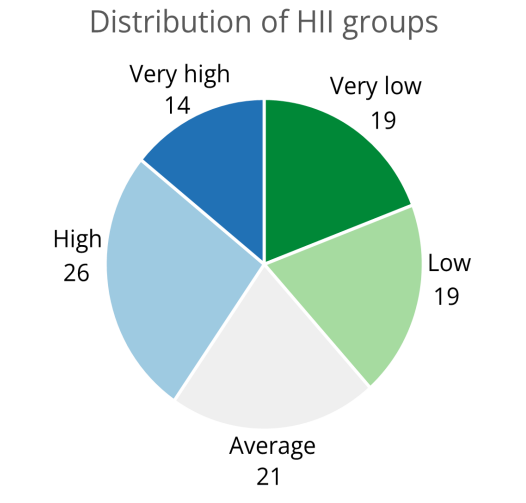
<sup>2</sup> Office of Research and Evaluation. Utah Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data. Salt Lake City, UT: Utah Department of Health and Human Services, [2016–2020].

<sup>3</sup> American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), 2016–2020, accessed at <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/microdata/faqs.html>

## 2022 classification of Utah Small Areas in HII groups

The 2022 Utah HII ranges from 58.53 to 152.80. The 99 Utah Small Areas are distributed across 5 HII groups:

- Very low (19 areas)
- Low (19 areas)
- Average (21 areas)
- High (26 areas)
- Very high (14 areas)



For the purposes of this report, a health disparity area is a Utah Small Area where poor health outcomes are considered to be closely linked to economic disadvantages.

**Very high HII  $\geq 120.00$ .** Geographically, this is a very high disparities area, meaning overall, poor health outcomes are considered to be closely linked to economic disadvantage. **Substantial supportive activities** are needed to advance health equity and reduce health disparities in the area.

**High HII 105–119.99.** Geographically, this is a high disparities area, meaning overall, poor health outcomes are considered to be closely linked to economic disadvantage. **Supportive activities** are needed to advance health equity in the area and reduce health disparities in the area.

**Average HII 95.00–104.99.** Geographically, this is **not** considered a health disparities area, meaning overall, poor health outcomes in this area are **not** considered health disparities. Within these areas, there might be small clusters that, with additional data granularity, might qualify as health disparities. In these clusters, **supportive activities** might be needed to advance health equity in the area and reduce health disparities in the area.

**Low HII 80.00–94.99.** Geographically, this is **not** a health disparities area, meaning overall, poor health outcomes in this area are not considered to be closely linked to economic disadvantages. Within these areas, there might be small clusters that, with additional data granularity, might qualify as health disparities. In these clusters, **supportive activities** might be needed to reduce health disparities in the area.

**Very low HII  $< 80.00$ .** Geographically, this is **not** a health disparities area meaning overall, poor health outcomes in this area are not considered to be closely linked to economic disadvantages. Within these areas, there might be small clusters that, with additional data granularity, might qualify as health disparities. In these clusters, **supportive activities** might be needed to reduce health disparities in the area.

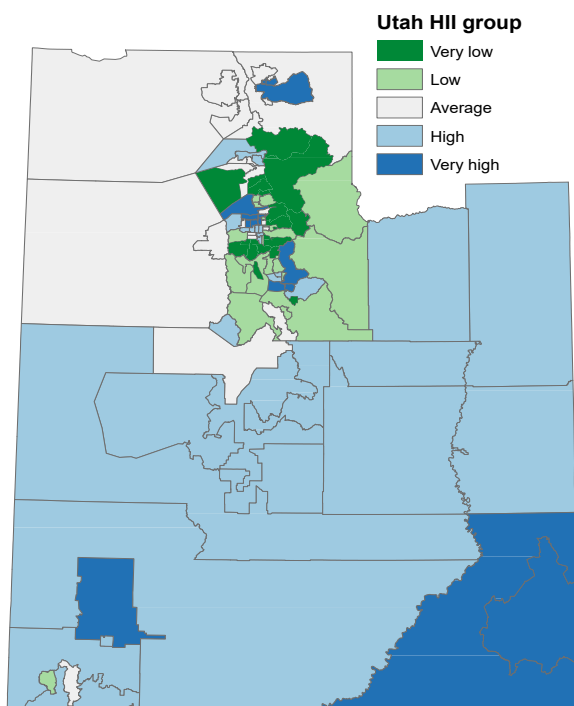


## Utah HII dashboard

The Utah Health Improvement Index (HII) dashboard provides a new way to visualize the Utah HII. Utah Small Areas may be selected to view HII scores and outcomes for the 9 factors that make up the score for the area. This gives greater insight into the factors which affect an area's HII score. It can be found at [experience.arcgis.com/experience/c61e2a0dac1d4cb4bcce9690d23882ae/](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/c61e2a0dac1d4cb4bcce9690d23882ae/).

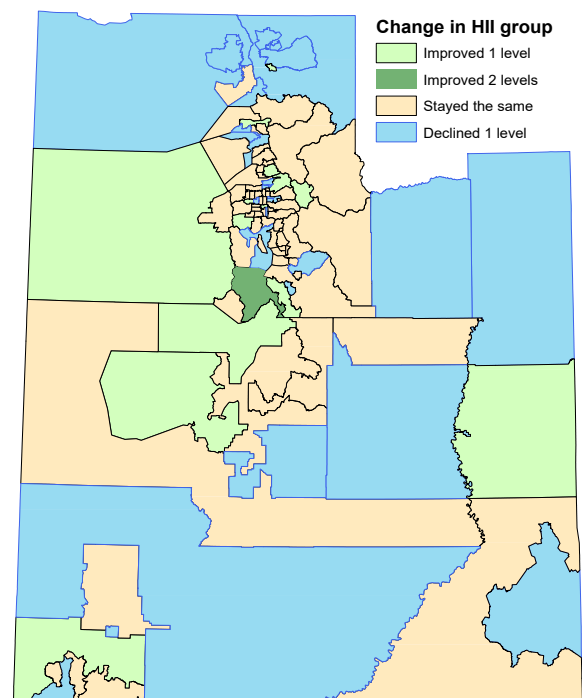
## 2022 HII Utah Small Area individual scores and group update

Figure 1. Map of Utah Small Areas by 2022 Utah Health Improvement Index (HII) group



Data source: 2016–2020 ACS PUMS and 2016–2020 BRFSS data

Figure 2. Map of Utah Small Areas by change in Utah Health Improvement Index (HII) group from 2017 HII to 2022 HII



Data source: 2017 Utah HII: 2015–2017 BRFSS data. 2022 Utah HII: 2016–2020 ACS PUMS and 2016–2020 BRFSS data.

**Table 1: Comparison of 2017 Utah HII groups and scores with 2022 Utah HII by Utah Small Area**

Utah Small Area	2017 Utah HII group (score)	2022 Utah HII group (score)	Change in HII group
Brigham City	Average (96.54)	Average (100.17)	No change
Box Elder County (Other) V2	Low (91.71)	Average (96.97)	Declined 1 level
Tremonton	Low (93.35)	Average (102.97)	Declined 1 level
Logan V2	High (119.08)	Very high (122.25)	Declined 1 level
North Logan	High (120.00)	Very high (121.23)	Declined 1 level
Cache County (Other)/Rich County (All) V2	Low (92.25)	Average (95.01)	Declined 1 level
Hyrum	High (106.79)	Average (104.81)	Improved 1 level
Smithfield	Low (92.55)	Average (97.37)	Declined 1 level
Ben Lomond	High (106.80)	High (114.57)	No change
Weber County (East)	Very low (74.97)	Very low (78.53)	No change
Morgan County	Very low (75.35)	Very low (74.01)	No change
Ogden (Downtown)	Very high (123.12)	High (115.62)	Improved 1 level
South Ogden	High (106.17)	High (106.67)	No change
Roy/Hooper	Low (89.07)	Average (96.82)	Declined 1 level
Riverdale	Average (100.86)	Average (100.81)	No change
Clearfield Area/Hooper	Low (94.74)	Average (101.95)	Declined 1 level
Layton/South Weber	Low (86.84)	Average (95.38)	Declined 1 level
Kaysville/Fruit Heights	Very low (78.56)	Very low (77.18)	No change

Utah Small Area	2017 Utah HII group (score)	2022 Utah HII group (score)	Change in HII group
Syracuse	Very low (76.15)	Very low (72.78)	No change
Centerville	Very low (76.72)	Very low (74.51)	No change
Farmington	Very low (72.34)	Very low (74.64)	No change
North Salt Lake	Low (93.54)	Low (91.07)	No change
Woods Cross/West Bountiful	Low (85.91)	Low (86.59)	No change
Bountiful	Average (95.57)	Low (87.87)	Improved 1 level
Salt Lake City (Rose Park)	Very high (130.70)	Very high (141.15)	No change
Salt Lake City (Avenues)	Low (87.18)	Average (101.85)	Declined 1 level
Salt Lake City (Foothill/East Bench)	Low (83.53)	Very low (79.46)	Improved 1 level
Magna	High (118.99)	High (115.82)	No change
Salt Lake City (Glendale) V2	Very high (150.66)	Very high (151.39)	No change
West Valley (Center)	Very high (128.72)	Very high (120.10)	No change
West Valley (West) V2	Average (95.78)	Average (102.12)	No change
West Valley (East) V2	Very high (142.82)	Very high (136.26)	No change
Salt Lake City (Downtown) V2	High (117.85)	Very high (133.77)	Declined 1 level
Salt Lake City (Southeast Liberty)	Low (90.01)	Low (91.16)	No change
South Salt Lake	Very high (137.64)	Very high (142.81)	No change
Salt Lake City (Sugar House)	Average (101.57)	Average (98.51)	No change
Millcreek (South)	Very low (79.14)	Low (81.04)	Declined 1 level

Utah Small Area	2017 Utah HII group (score)	2022 Utah HII group (score)	Change in HII group
Millcreek (East)	Very low (75.67)	Very low (76.26)	No change
Holladay V2	Low (83.29)	Average (96.05)	Declined 1 level
Cottonwood	Low (80.31)	Low (83.12)	No change
Kearns V2	Very high (124.89)	High (116.11)	Improved 1 level
Taylorsville (East)/Murray (West)	High (114.47)	High (112.79)	No change
Taylorsville (West)	Average (101.26)	High (107.80)	Declined 1 level
Murray	High (105.90)	High (117.65)	No change
Midvale	Very high (120.10)	High (111.77)	Improved 1 level
West Jordan (Northeast) V2	Average (97.35)	Average (102.94)	No change
West Jordan (Southeast)	Average (101.36)	Average (96.86)	No change
West Jordan (West)/Copperton	Low (86.82)	Low (84.11)	No change
South Jordan V2	Very low (77.65)	Very low (72.56)	No change
Daybreak	Very low (71.89)	Very low (71.29)	No change
Sandy (West)	High (113.53)	High (107.54)	No change
Sandy (Center) V2	Very low (78.80)	Low (85.76)	Declined 1 level
Sandy (Northeast)	Very low (72.53)	Very low (69.58)	No change
Sandy (Southeast)	Very low (74.24)	Very low (64.14)	No change
Draper	Very low (77.93)	Very low (71.57)	No change
Riverton/Bluffdale	Very low (76.83)	Very low (76.89)	No change
Herriman	Low (80.09)	Very low (73.78)	Improved 1 level
Tooele County (Other)	High (116.23)	Average (95.49)	Improved 1 level

Utah Small Area	2017 Utah HII group (score)	2022 Utah HII group (score)	Change in HII group
Tooele Valley	Average (97.62)	Average (97.87)	No change
Eagle Mountain/Cedar Valley	Low (85.08)	Low (88.81)	No change
Lehi	Very low (78.18)	Low (80.49)	Declined 1 level
Saratoga Springs	Very low (72.12)	Very low (73.06)	No change
American Fork	Low (83.90)	Low (85.68)	No change
Alpine	Very low (76.66)	Very low (58.53)	No change
Pleasant Grove/Lindon	Low (87.97)	Low (88.72)	No change
Orem (North)	High (114.93)	High (113.04)	No change
Orem (West)	High (117.34)	High (111.28)	No change
Orem (East)	Low (92.92)	Low (92.17)	No change
Provo/BYU	Very high (125.07)	Very high (125.90)	No change
Provo (West City Center)	Very high (121.53)	Very high (130.27)	No change
Provo (East City Center)	Very high (148.80)	Very high (148.92)	No change
Salem City	Very low (77.77)	Low (84.46)	Declined 1 level
Spanish Fork	Low (91.21)	Low (94.97)	No change
Springville	Average (96.36)	High (105.97)	Declined 1 level
Mapleton	Very low (74.96)	Very low (71.97)	No change
Utah County (South) V2	High (107.80)	Low (94.38)	Improved 2 levels
Payson	High (106.92)	Average (96.43)	Improved 1 level



Utah Small Area	2017 Utah HII group (score)	2022 Utah HII group (score)	Change in HII group
Park City	Low (91.28)	Very low (75.07)	Improved 1 level
Summit County (East)	Low (88.67)	Low (86.01)	No change
Wasatch County	Low (90.67)	Low (92.63)	No change
Daggett and Uintah County	Average (101.46)	High (109.47)	Declined 1 level
Duchesne County	Average (96.05)	High (112.54)	Declined 1 level
Nephi/Mona	High (109.12)	Average (98.69)	Improved 1 level
Delta/Fillmore	Very high (127.63)	High (108.75)	Improved 1 level
Sanpete Valley	High (118.73)	High (108.58)	No change
Central (Other)	High (110.92)	High (112.95)	No change
Richfield/Monroe/Salina	Average (101.61)	High (109.33)	Declined 1 level
Carbon County	High (109.61)	High (115.02)	No change
Emery County	Average (96.64)	High (105.94)	Declined 1 level
Grand County	Very high (132.53)	High (112.17)	Improved 1 level
Blanding/Monticello	High (112.98)	Very high (121.99)	Declined 1 level
San Juan County (Other)	Very high (160.87)	Very high (152.80)	No change
St. George	Average (99.59)	High (107.02)	Declined 1 level
Washington County (Other) V2	Very high (132.66)	High (110.27)	Improved 1 level
Washington City	Average (101.52)	Average (95.85)	No change

Utah Small Area	2017 Utah HII group (score)	2022 Utah HII group (score)	Change in HII group
Hurricane/La Verkin	High (108.13)	High (109.68)	No change
Ivins/Santa Clara	Low (82.04)	Low (90.54)	No change
Cedar City	Very high (121.34)	Very high (123.51)	No change
Southwest LHD (Other)	Average (104.07)	High (119.00)	Declined 1 level

**Table 2: Comparison of 2017 Utah HII groups and scores with 2022 Utah HII by Utah local health district**

Local health district	Utah Small Area	2017 HII group (score)	2022 HII group (score)	Change in HII group	Population (2020) <sup>a</sup>	% Racial/ethnic minority (2016–2020) <sup>b</sup>
Bear River	Brigham City	Average (96.54)	Average (100.17)	No change	26,080	14.6%
	Box Elder County (Other) V2	Low (91.71)	Average (96.97)	Declined 1 level	12,748	7.3%
	Tremonton	Low (93.35)	Average (102.97)	Declined 1 level	18,187	14.8%
	Logan V2	High (119.08)	Very high (122.25)	Declined 1 level	58,934	18.4%
	North Logan	High (120.00)	Very high (121.23)	Declined 1 level	24,364	22.6%
	Cache County (Other)/Rich County (All) V2	Low (92.25)	Average (95.01)	Declined 1 level	25,372	8.4%
	Hyrum	High (106.79)	Average (104.81)	Improved 1 level	9,563	18.2%
	Smithfield	Low (92.55)	Average (97.37)	Declined 1 level	14,214	8.8%
Weber-Morgan	Ben Lomond	High (106.80)	High (114.57)	No change	65,305	30.4%
	Weber County (East)	Very low (74.97)	Very low (78.53)	No change	38,095	10.0%
	Morgan County	Very low (75.35)	Very low (74.01)	No change	12,484	5.9%
	Ogden (Downtown)	Very high (123.12)	High (115.62)	Improved 1 level	43,325	34.3%
	South Ogden	High (106.17)	High (106.67)	No change	38,158	26.7%
	Roy/Hooper	Low (89.07)	Average (96.82)	Declined 1 level	49,369	20.2%
	Riverdale	Average (100.86)	Average (100.81)	No change	28,391	15.7%

<sup>a</sup> Utah Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Research and Evaluation, IBIS version 2020.

<sup>b</sup> American Community Survey (ACS) 2013-2017

Local health district	Utah Small Area	2017 HII group (score)	2022 HII group (score)	Change in HII group	Population (2020)	% Racial/ethnic minority (2016–2020)
Davis	Clearfield Area/Hooper	Low (94.74)	Average (101.95)	Declined 1 level	74,608	23.9%
	Layton/South Weber	Low (86.84)	Average (95.38)	Declined 1 level	85,853	21.8%
	Kaysville/Fruit Heights	Very low (78.56)	Very low (77.18)	No change	39,973	6.3%
	Syracuse	Very low (76.15)	Very low (72.78)	No change	31,223	11.8%
	Centerville	Very low (76.72)	Very low (74.51)	No change	18,101	11.2%
	Farmington	Very low (72.34)	Very low (74.64)	No change	24,415	11.4%
	North Salt Lake	Low (93.54)	Low (91.07)	No change	21,293	24.0%
	Woods Cross/West Bountiful	Low (85.91)	Low (86.59)	No change	15,550	16.4%
	Bountiful	Average (95.57)	Low (87.87)	Improved 1 level	48,365	11.9%
Salt Lake	Salt Lake City (Rose Park)	Very high (130.7)	Very high (141.15)	No change	37,564	63.0%
	Salt Lake City (Avenues)	Low (87.18)	Average (101.85)	Declined 1 level	23,836	15.6%
	Salt Lake City (Foothill/East Bench)	Low (83.53)	Very low (79.46)	Improved 1 level	21,220	15.7%
	Magna	High (118.99)	High (115.82)	No change	28,391	39.1%

<sup>a</sup> Utah Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Research and Evaluation, IBIS version 2020.

<sup>b</sup> American Community Survey (ACS) 2013-2017

Local health district	Utah Small Area	2017 HII group (score)	2022 HII group (score)	Change in HII group	Population (2020)	% Racial/ethnic minority (2016–2020)
Salt Lake	Salt Lake City (Glendale) V2	Very high (150.66)	Very high (151.39)	No change	24,787	66.2%
	West Valley (Center)	Very high (128.72)	Very high (120.10)	No change	51,130	53.1%
	West Valley (West) V2	Average (95.78)	Average (102.12)	No change	31,987	49.5%
	West Valley (East) V2	Very high (142.82)	Very high (136.26)	No change	52,062	57.8%
	Salt Lake City (Downtown) V2	High (117.85)	Very high (133.77)	Declined 1 level	39,337	30.3%
	Salt Lake City (Southeast Liberty)	Low (90.01)	Low (91.16)	No change	21,876	17.0%
	South Salt Lake	Very high (137.64)	Very high (142.81)	No change	26,869	46.8%
	Salt Lake City (Sugar House)	Average (101.57)	Average (98.51)	No change	35,569	18.3%
	Millcreek (South)	Very low (79.14)	Low (81.04)	Declined 1 level	21,262	16.7%
	Millcreek (East)	Very low (75.67)	Very low (76.26)	No change	24,002	13.5%
	Holladay V2	Low (83.29)	Average (96.05)	Declined 1 level	24,802	14.8%
	Cottonwood	Low (80.31)	Low (83.12)	No change	41,913	12.9%
	Kearns V2	Very high (124.89)	High (116.11)	Improved 1 level	40,444	42.3%
	Taylorsville (East)/Murray (West)	High (114.47)	High (112.79)	No change	37,647	32.9%

<sup>a</sup> Utah Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Research and Evaluation, IBIS version 2020.

<sup>b</sup> American Community Survey (ACS) 2013-2017



Local health district	Utah Small Area	2017 HII group (score)	2022 HII group (score)	Change in HII group	Population (2020)	% Racial/ethnic minority (2016–2020)
Salt Lake	Taylorsville (West)	Average (101.26)	High (107.80)	Declined 1 level	38,314	n/a*
	West Valley (Center)	Very high (128.72)	Very high (120.10)	No change	51,130	53.1%
	Murray	High (105.90)	High (117.65)	No change	35,788	27.0%
	Midvale	Very high (120.10)	High (111.77)	Improved 1 level	33,147	36.3%
	West Jordan (Northeast) V2	Average (97.35)	Average (102.94)	No change	31,311	33.9%
	West Jordan (Southeast)	Average (101.36)	Average (96.86)	No change	37,900	28.4%
	West Jordan (West)/Copperton	Low (86.82)	Low (84.11)	No change	52,009	27.7%
	South Jordan V2	Very low (77.65)	Very low (72.56)	No change	41,127	15.7%
	Daybreak	Very low (71.89)	Very low (71.29)	No change	39,395	n/a*
	Millcreek (East)	Very low (75.67)	Very low (76.26)	No change	24,002	13.5%
	Sandy (West)	High (113.53)	High (107.54)	No change	30,992	30.1%
	Sandy (Center) V2	Very low (78.80)	Low (85.76)	Declined 1 level	29,286	19.0%
	Sandy (Northeast)	Very low (72.53)	Very low (69.58)	No change	23,096	11.8%
	Sandy (Southeast)	Very low (74.24)	Very low (64.14)	No change	30,853	11.6%
	Draper	Very low (77.93)	Very low (71.57)	No change	47,778	17.1%

\* New ZIP Code—data not available

<sup>a</sup> Utah Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Research and Evaluation, IBIS version 2020.

<sup>b</sup> American Community Survey (ACS) 2013–2017

Local health district	Utah Small Area	2017 HII group (score)	2022 HII group (score)	Change in HII group	Population (2020) <sup>a</sup>	% Racial/ethnic minority (2016–2020) <sup>b</sup>
Salt Lake	Riverton/Bluffdale	Very low (76.83)	Very low (76.89)	No change	47,318	11.8%
	Herriman	Low (80.09)	Very low (73.78)	Improved 1 level	62,514	16.4%
Tooele	Tooele County (Other)	High (116.23)	Average (95.49)	Improved 1 level	18,195	15.8%
	Tooele Valley	Average (97.62)	Average (97.87)	No change	56,311	19.0%
Utah County	Eagle Mountain/Cedar Valley	Low (85.08)	Low (88.81)	No change	40,577	14.6%
	Lehi	Very low (78.18)	Low (80.49)	Declined 1 level	74,319	14.3%
	Saratoga Springs	Very low (72.12)	Very low (73.06)	No change	36,127	13.3%
	American Fork	Low (83.90)	Low (85.68)	No change	51,779	11.5%
	Alpine	Very low (76.66)	Very low (58.53)	No change	10,678	6.1%
	Pleasant Grove/Lindon	Low (87.97)	Low (88.72)	No change	61,161	13.1%
	Orem (North)	High (114.93)	High (113.04)	No change	38,945	28.4%
	Orem (West)	High (117.34)	High (111.28)	No change	43,721	24.8%
	Orem (East)	Low (92.92)	Low (92.17)	No change	23,827	13.5%
	Provo/BYU	Very high (125.07)	Very high (125.90)	No change	53,425	20.2%
	Provo (West City Center)	Very high (121.53)	Very high (130.27)	No change	34,608	36.5%

<sup>a</sup> Utah Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Research and Evaluation, IBIS version 2020.

<sup>b</sup> American Community Survey (ACS) 2013-2017

Local health district	Utah Small Area	2017 HII group (score)	2022 HII group (score)	Change in HII group	Population (2020) <sup>a</sup>	% Racial/ethnic minority (2016–2020) <sup>b</sup>
Utah County	Provo (East City Center)	Very high (148.80)	Very high (148.92)	No change	35,609	27.1%
	Salem City	Very low (77.77)	Low (84.46)	Declined 1 level	10,286	9.2%
	Spanish Fork	Low (91.21)	Low (94.97)	No change	45,993	15.3%
	Springville	Average (96.36)	High (105.97)	Declined 1 level	34,833	20.1%
	Mapleton	Very low (74.96)	Very low (71.97)	No change	11,088	8.2%
	Utah County (South) V2	High (107.80)	Low (94.38)	Improved 2 levels	15,991	16.2%
	Payson	High (106.92)	Average (96.43)	Improved 1 level	28,076	13.8%
Summit	Park City	Low (91.28)	Very low (75.07)	Improved 1 level	30,568	15.0%
	Summit County (East)	Low (88.67)	Low (86.01)	No change	11,923	18.7%
Wasatch	Wasatch County	Low (90.67)	Low (92.63)	No change	35,300	15.9%
Tri-County	Daggett and Uintah County	Average (101.46)	High (109.47)	Declined 1 level	37,003	18.1%
	Duchesne County	Average (96.05)	High (112.54)	Declined 1 level	19,894	16.2%
Central Utah	Nephi/Mona	High (109.12)	Average (98.69)	Improved 1 level	10,166	8.1%
	Delta/Fillmore	Very high (127.63)	High (108.75)	Improved 1 level	10,288	19.6%
	Sanpete Valley	High (118.73)	High (108.58)	No change	22,572	14.4%

<sup>a</sup> Utah Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Research and Evaluation, IBIS version 2020.

<sup>b</sup> American Community Survey (ACS) 2013–2017

Local health district	Utah Small Area	2017 HII group (score)	2022 HII group (score)	Change in HII group	Population (2020) <sup>a</sup>	% Racial/ethnic minority (2016–2020) <sup>b</sup>
Central Utah	Central (Other)	High (110.92)	High (112.95)	No change	24,428	10.9%
	Richfield/Monroe/Salina	Average (101.61)	High (109.33)	Declined 1 level	15,429	7.4%
Southeastern Utah	Carbon County	High (109.61)	High (115.02)	No change	20,767	17.2%
	Emery County	Average (96.64)	High (105.94)	Declined 1 level	10,146	9.0%
	Grand County	Very high (132.53)	High (112.17)	Improved 1 level	9,798	17.3%
San Juan	Blanding/Monticello	High (112.98)	Very high (121.99)	Declined 1 level	7,706	26.9%
	San Juan County (Other)	Very high (160.87)	Very high (152.80)	No change	7,574	88.8%
Southwest Utah	St. George	Average (99.59)	High (107.02)	Declined 1 level	98,526	17.9%
	Washington County (Other) V2	Very high (132.66)	High (110.27)	Improved 1 level	11,118	6.3%
	Washington City	Average (101.52)	Average (95.85)	No change	29,456	17.7%
	Hurricane/La Verkin	High (108.13)	High (109.68)	No change	28,507	14.0%
	Ivins/Santa Clara	Low (82.04)	Low (90.54)	No change	17,272	12.9%
	Cedar City	Very high (121.34)	Very high (123.51)	No change	50,289	14.8%
	Southwest LHD (Other)	Average (104.07)	High (119.00)	Declined 1 level	26,238	12.0%

<sup>a</sup> Utah Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Research and Evaluation, IBIS version 2020.

<sup>b</sup> American Community Survey (ACS) 2013-2017

## Key findings

From the 2017 Utah HII to the 2022 Utah HII, most small areas (60%) did not change HII group. However, 1% improved 2 levels, 14% improved 1 level, and 26% declined 1 level.

**Table 3: Change in Utah Health Improvement Index (HII) group from the 2017 Utah HII to the 2022 Utah HII.**

Change in HII group	Count (%)
Improved 2 levels	1 (1%)
Improved 1 level	14 (14%)
No change	59 (60%)
Declined 1 level	25 (26%)

The Utah HII 2022 update continues to show a relationship with small areas' percentage of the population who identify as racial and ethnic minority communities.

- The small areas with the two highest HII scores have the highest percentage of the population that identifies as racial and ethnic minority communities, respectively 88.8% and 66.2%.

Additional findings based on local health district jurisdictions and population density include:

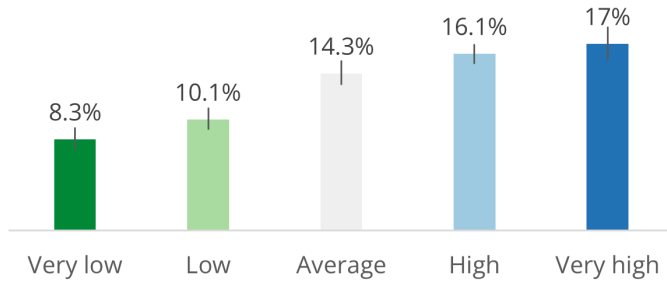
- Nine of 13 local health districts have high or very high HII areas.
- A majority (79%) of very high HII areas are considered urban with 100 or more persons per square mile.
- The small area with the highest HII score is considered frontier with 6 or fewer people per square mile.<sup>3</sup>
- About half of high HII areas are considered rural with a population density of fewer than 99, but greater than 6 people per square mile.<sup>3</sup>
- All very low HII areas are along Utah's Wasatch Front.

<sup>3</sup> [ruralhealth.health.utah.gov/portal/county-classifications-map/](https://ruralhealth.health.utah.gov/portal/county-classifications-map/)



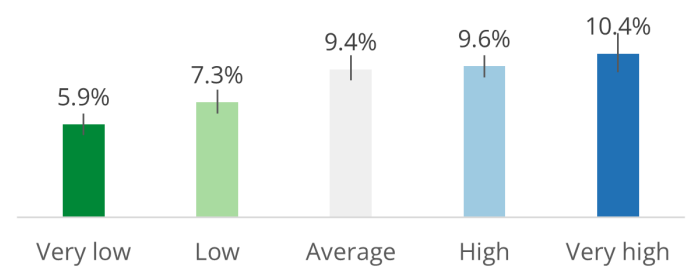
The Utah HII 2022 update continues to show various relationships between HII group and health outcomes in chronic disease, infectious disease, access to care, and other areas.

**Figure 3: Fair or poor health status by Utah Health Improvement Index (HII) area, Utah, 2016–2020**



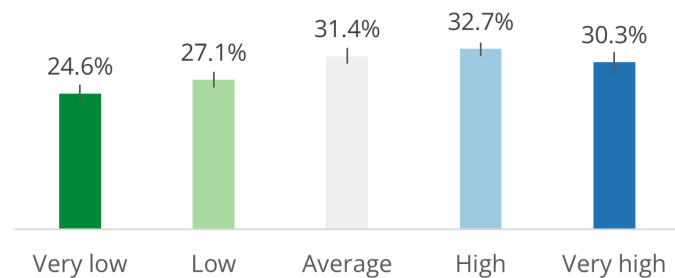
Source: DHHS Office of Research and Evaluation, Utah BRFSS

**Figure 4: Diabetes prevalence by Utah Health Improvement Index (HII) area, Utah, 2016–2020**



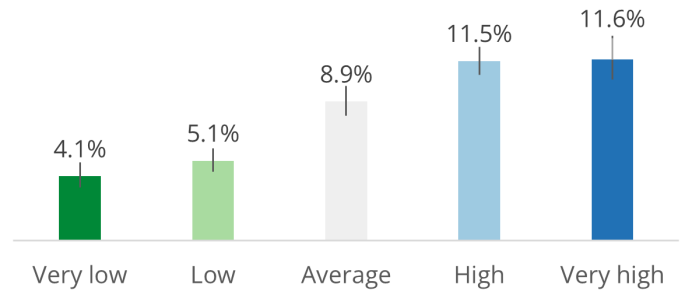
Source: DHHS Office of Research and Evaluation, Utah BRFSS

**Figure 5: Obesity prevalence by Utah Health Improvement Index (HII) area, Utah, 2016–2020**



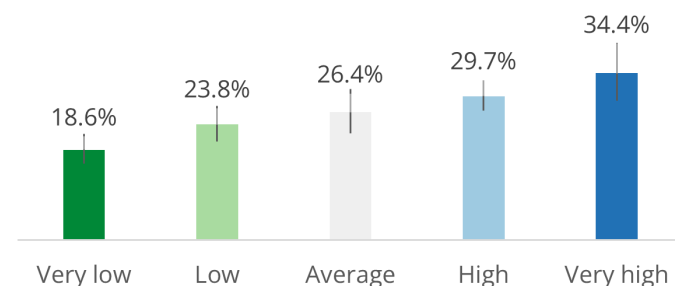
Source: DHHS Office of Research and Evaluation, Utah BRFSS

**Figure 6: Current cigarette smoking by Utah Health Improvement Index (HII) Area, Utah, 2016–2020**



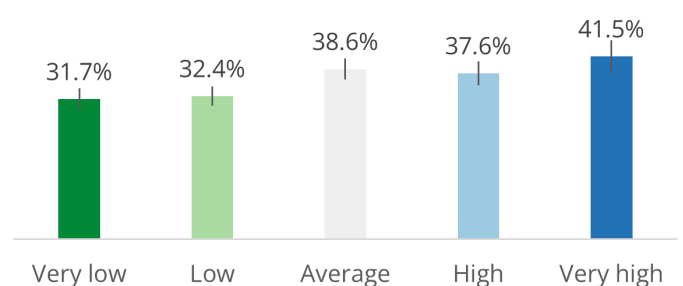
Source: DHHS Office of Research and Evaluation, Utah BRFSS

**Figure 7: Population who did not complete recommended colon cancer screening by Utah Health Improvement Index (HII) area, Utah, 2016, 2018–2020**



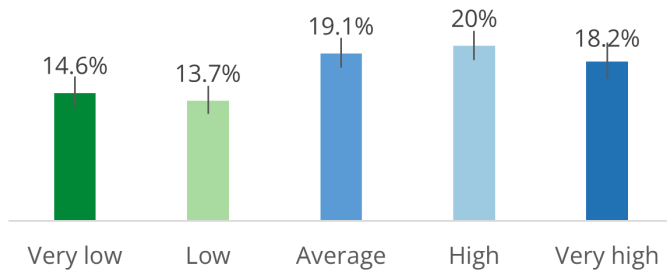
Source: DHHS Office of Research and Evaluation, Utah BRFSS

**Figure 8: Population with a mammogram more than 2 years ago or never by Utah Health Improvement Index (HII) area, Utah, 2016, 2018–2020**



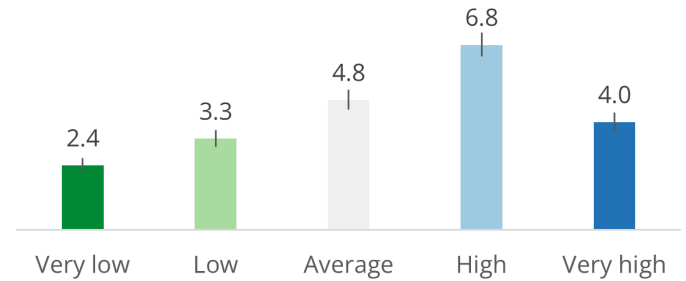
Source: DHHS Office of Research and Evaluation, Utah BRFSS

Figure 9: Population with 4 or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) by Utah Health Improvement Index (HII) area, Utah, 2016, 2018–2020



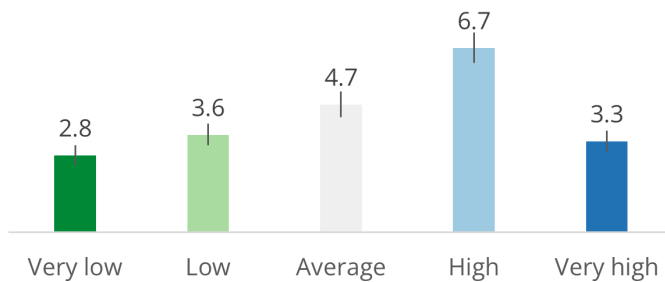
Source: DHHS Office of Research and Evaluation, Utah BRFSS

Figure 10: Drug overdose deaths per 100,000 involving any drug by Utah Health Improvement Index (HII) area, Utah, 2016–2020



Source: DHHS Office of Vital Records and Statistics, Utah Death Certificate Database

Figure 11: Suicide mortality per 100,000 by Utah Health Improvement Index (HII) area, Utah, 2016–2020



Source: DHHS Office of Vital Records and Statistics, Utah Death Certificate Database

## Applications of the Utah HII

Since its creation in 2017, the Utah HII has been integrated into Utah Department of Health and Human Services' and partner activities including Utah's Public Health Indicator Based Information System (IBIS), health disparities reporting, community health needs assessments, COVID-19 surveillance and response, and grant applications.

### Utah's Public Health Indicator Based Information System (IBIS)

[ibis.health.utah.gov/ibisph-view/indicator/view/HII.SA.html](https://ibis.health.utah.gov/ibisph-view/indicator/view/HII.SA.html)

### Health Disparities by Utah Legislative District

[healthequity.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/HealthDisparitiesbyUtahStateLegislativeDistrict2019.pdf](https://healthequity.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/HealthDisparitiesbyUtahStateLegislativeDistrict2019.pdf)

### University of Utah Community Health Needs Assessment

[healthcare.utah.edu/about/pdfs/u-of-u-health-hospitals-and-clinics-community-health-needs-assessment,-2021-2023.pdf](https://healthcare.utah.edu/about/pdfs/u-of-u-health-hospitals-and-clinics-community-health-needs-assessment,-2021-2023.pdf)

### Primary Prevention: Needs Assessments in Three Utah Communities

[eventscribe.com/2020/NACCHO360/fsPopup.asp?efp=SUJLRUVFT1Y2MjA5&PosterID=284275&rnd=0.9843181&mode=posterinfo](https://eventscribe.com/2020/NACCHO360/fsPopup.asp?efp=SUJLRUVFT1Y2MjA5&PosterID=284275&rnd=0.9843181&mode=posterinfo)

### COVID-19

[cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6938a4.htm](https://cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6938a4.htm)  
[cdc.gov/dhds/mgs/maps/gisx/mapgallery/UT-covid.html](https://cdc.gov/dhds/mgs/maps/gisx/mapgallery/UT-covid.html)

## Moving forward

The Utah Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) vision is to advocate for, support, and serve all individuals and communities in Utah. DHHS ensures all Utahns have fair and equitable opportunities to live safe and healthy lives. This is achieved through effective policy and a seamless system of services and programs.

Efforts to identify, understand, and monitor health disparities and inequities using data such as the Utah Health Improvement Index (HII) are critical to fulfilling this vision. While there are many different ways to analyze data to identify health disparities and inequities, the Utah HII uses geographic and socio-economic indicators.

The Utah HII 2022 update will continue to serve as a useful data tool to identify health inequities and contextualize population health outcomes of Utahns. It is included in the Utah Healthy Places Index and helps to build a more comprehensive picture of health disparities and inequities in Utah. Used effectively, it may inform and mobilize partners to collaboratively advance health equity efforts across Utah.

## Appendix

In order to promote uniformity in data visualization, color-coding is provided.

HII group	Color	RGB	HEX	CMYK	Visualization
Very low		R: 0 G: 136 B: 55	#008837	C: 87 M: 22 Y: 100 K: 8	Very low
Low		R: 169 G: 219 B: 160	#A9DBA0	C: 35 M: 0 Y: 48 K: 0	Low
Average		R: 239 G: 239 B: 239	#EFEFEF	C: 5 M: 3 Y: 3 K: 0	Average
High		R: 158 G: 202 B: 225	#9ECAE1	C: 36 M: 9 Y: 6 K: 0	High
Very high		R: 33 G: 113 B: 181	#2171B5	C: 86 M: 53 Y: 2 K: 0	Very high