

Social Indicators

Overview

Quality of life is a subjective notion that is difficult to measure. However, the connection between economic performance and quality of life is indisputable. While economic growth has slowed considerably in recent months, it is too soon to know which quality of life measurements will be affected, and by how much. According to the most recent data available, Utah's violent crime rate continues to slide. Poverty rates remain low, educational attainment remains high, and Utah's birth rate continues to be the highest among states. Utah ranked third in the nation on the indicators of child well-being. Utahns identified ramifications of terrorism as the most important issue facing the state in October 2001; education dropped to the second most important issue.

Utah Quality of Life Information

Terrorism is a Concern to Utahns. The *Utah Consumer Survey*, a quarterly survey conducted by Valley Research, Inc., provides valuable information about consumer sentiment and Utah demographic characteristics. The survey has been administered for several years and allows comparisons over time. The most recent survey was taken in October 2001. Interviews were conducted by telephone with 501 randomly-selected adults throughout Utah. The survey report details the answers given by respondents. One of the questions asked is "What is the most important issue facing Utah today?" In the last six quarterly surveys, education had been identified as the most important issue facing Utah. However, in October 2001, 26% of Utahns indicated that ramifications of terrorism was the most important issue facing the state. Among those concerned about terrorism, 15% mentioned security during the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City. According to the survey, education and the economy are the second- and third-most important issues facing Utah today.

Utah's Kids Count. According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation's National Composite Rank, Utah ranked third among states in child well-being, behind New Hampshire and Minnesota in 2001. The Foundation tracks indicators of child well-being by state that are published in the 2001 Kids Count Data Book. A state's National Composite Rank is determined by the sum of the state's standing on each of 10 measures of the condition of children arranged in order from best (1) to worst (51). The Foundation's indicators are: percent low birth weight babies; infant mortality rate; child death rate; rate of teen deaths by accident, homicide, and suicide; teen birth rate; percent of teens who are high school dropouts; percent of teens not attending school and not working; percent of children living with parents who do not have full-time, year-round employment; percent of children in poverty; and percent of families with children headed by a single parent.

Current Data on Social Well-Being

Crime. Statistics for 2000 from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) uniform crime reports show the rate of violent crimes (murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) per 100,000 persons to be 255.7 in Utah. This is a 7.2% decrease from the 1999 violent crime rate. Only nine states had lower rates than Utah. Utah's rate continues to be significantly lower than the U.S. rate (506.1 in 2000).

Education. In 2000, Utah had the fourth highest percentage of persons age 25 and over with at least a high school degree (90.7%). Utah dropped from the 11th rank to the 18th rank for the percentage of persons 25 years and over with a Bachelor's degree or higher (26.4%).

Home Ownership. Home ownership rates for 2000 show that Utah has the 16th-highest percent of home owners at 72.7%. The rate for the nation is 67.4%. The lowest rates were in D.C., New York, Hawaii, and California.

Vital Statistics and Health. Utah's unique age structure impacts its ranking among other states on many vital statistics. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Utah continues to have the highest percentage of the population under 18 years of age (32.2% in 2000) in the nation and the lowest median age (27.1 in 2000). Utah also has the second-lowest percentage of the population age 65 and over (8.5% in 2000) behind Alaska. The vital statistics listed below, excluding health insurance coverage, are from the National Center for Health Statistics.

Births. Utah's birth rate in 2000 continues to be the highest estimated rate of all states at 21.9 births per 1,000 people. Texas and Arizona rank second and third at 18.0 and 17.5 respectively. The U.S. rate is 14.8.

Deaths. The overall death rate in Utah was 5.7 per 1,000 people in 2000, which ranked second-lowest among U.S. states. The age-adjusted death rate was 7.9 per 1,000 people, ranking fifth lowest. The infant mortality rate (deaths to infants less than one year-old per 1,000 live births) was 5.6 in Utah in 1998. Only three states had lower rates. Utah ranks second among states, behind Alaska, for the lowest death rates from heart disease and cancer. Utah's death rate per 100,000 people in 1998 from heart disease was 137.2 and 112.9 from cancer. The death rate per 100,000 people in the U.S. in 1998 from heart disease was 268.2 and 200.3 from cancer.¹

Health Insurance Coverage. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 13.2% of the Utah population was without health insurance coverage (a three-year average for 1998-2000). Utah ranked 27th among states. The U.S. average was 14.4%.

Poverty. Utah dropped from the second-lowest poverty rate among states in the nation to the sixth lowest. Statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey show 8.1% of the population was in poverty in Utah for the 1998-2000 three-year average.² The five states with lower poverty rates than Utah were Maryland (7.3%), New Hampshire (7.4%), Connecticut (7.6%), Minnesota (7.8%), and Iowa (7.9%). In the U.S., approximately 11.9% of the population was in poverty.

Public Assistance. There were an estimated 24,000 recipients of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) in 2000, down 5,000 recipients since 1999. Utah ranked 10th lowest among states. Approximately 82,000 people in Utah received benefits from the Federal Food Stamp Program, which dispersed \$68 million worth of benefits in Utah in 1999. Utah ranked 13th-highest in the number of people and the amount of benefits for the Food Stamp Program.

¹ Due to processing problems, Ohio birth and death data for 2000 are not shown separately, but are included in U.S. totals.

² Because the sample of households contacted in small states like Utah is relatively few in number, the data for two or three years is combined to calculate less variable estimates. The Census Bureau recommends using two-year averages for evaluating changes in state estimates over time, and three-year averages when comparing the relative ranking of states.

Table 60
Crime, Education, and Home Ownership

	CRIME				EDUCATION				HOME OWNERSHIP	
	Violent Crime* per 100,000 People 2000 (1)		Child Abuse Children that are Subject of an Investigation 1998**(2)		Educational Attainment Persons 25 Years Old and Over, 2000:				Home Ownership Rates 2000 (3)	
	Rate	Rank	Number	Rank	Completed High School (3) Percent	Rank	Bachelor's Degree or Higher (3) Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank
U.S.	506.1	-	2,972,862	-	84.1	-	25.6	-	67.4	-
Alabama	486.2	31	35,912	26	77.5	50	20.4	44	73.2	14
Alaska	566.9	41	11,326	42	90.4	5	28.1	13	66.4	40
Arizona	531.7	37	60,610	16	85.1	31	24.6	24	68.0	38
Arkansas	445.3	29	29,572	29	81.7	41	18.4	49	68.9	33
California	621.6	42	413,372	1	81.2	43	27.5	14	57.1	48
Colorado	334.0	20	39,141	24	89.7	9	34.6	2	68.3	36
Connecticut	324.7	18	40,905	23	88.2	13	31.6	6	70.0	28
Delaware	684.4	45	9,693	45	86.1	25	24.0	29	72.0	17
District of Columbia	1,507.9	51	9,862	44	83.2	35	38.3	1	41.9	51
Florida	812.0	50	186,967	3	84.0	34	22.8	37	68.4	35
Georgia	504.7	35	74,180	12	82.6	38	23.1	35	69.8	30
Hawaii	243.8	8	63,568	14	87.4	17	26.3	20	55.2	49
Idaho	252.5	9	26,682	34	86.2	23	20.0	45	70.5	25
Illinois	656.8	43	110,658	8	85.5	29	27.1	17	67.9	39
Indiana	349.1	22	102,155	9	84.6	33	17.1	50	74.9	8
Iowa	266.4	11	28,072	30	89.7	9	25.5	23	75.2	6
Kansas	389.4	27	26,751	33	88.1	14	27.3	15	69.3	31
Kentucky	294.5	15	63,439	15	78.7	49	20.5	43	73.4	13
Louisiana	681.1	44	45,318	22	80.8	44	22.5	39	68.1	37
Maine	109.6	2	9,030	46	89.3	12	24.1	28	76.5	2
Maryland	786.6	48	55,964	18	85.7	27	32.3	4	69.9	29
Massachusetts	476.1	30	52,899	19	85.1	31	32.7	3	59.9	47
Michigan	555.0	40	156,425	5	86.2	23	23.0	36	77.2	1
Minnesota	280.8	13	24,844	35	90.8	3	31.2	7	76.1	4
Mississippi	360.9	24	32,404	27	80.3	45	18.7	48	75.2	6
Missouri	490.0	32	75,178	11	86.6	21	26.2	21	74.2	10
Montana	240.6	7	19,004	39	89.6	11	23.8	31	70.2	26
Nebraska	327.6	19	14,641	40	90.4	5	24.6	24	70.2	26
Nevada	524.2	36	23,229	36	82.8	37	19.3	46	64.0	43
New Hampshire	175.4	5	8,974	47	88.1	14	30.1	8	69.2	32
New Jersey	383.8	26	75,988	10	87.3	18	30.1	8	66.2	41
New Mexico	757.9	47	13,403	41	82.2	40	23.6	33	73.7	12
New York	553.9	39	240,655	2	82.5	39	28.7	11	53.4	50
North Carolina	497.6	33	125,862	7	79.2	47	23.2	34	71.1	21
North Dakota	81.4	1	7,098	48	85.5	29	22.6	38	70.7	24
Ohio	334.1	21	135,628	6	87.0	19	24.6	24	71.3	19
Oklahoma	497.8	34	60,340	17	86.1	25	22.5	39	72.7	15
Oregon	350.7	23	27,680	31	88.1	14	27.2	16	65.3	42
Pennsylvania	420.0	28	22,589	37	85.7	27	24.3	27	74.7	9
Rhode Island	297.7	16	9,863	43	81.3	42	26.4	18	61.5	46
South Carolina	804.9	49	38,238	25	83.0	36	19.0	47	76.5	2
South Dakota	166.8	4	5,313	49	91.8	1	25.7	22	71.2	20
Tennessee	707.2	46	32,286	28	79.9	46	22.0	41	70.9	23
Texas	545.1	38	172,718	4	79.2	47	23.9	30	63.8	44
Utah	255.7	10	27,222	32	90.7	4	26.4	18	72.7	16
Vermont	113.5	3	1,973	51	90.0	7	28.8	10	68.7	34
Virginia	281.7	14	49,026	20	86.6	21	31.9	5	73.9	11
Washington	369.7	25	47,281	21	91.8	1	28.6	12	63.6	45
West Virginia	316.5	17	64,483	13	77.1	51	15.3	51	75.9	5
Wisconsin	236.8	6	22,232	38	86.7	20	23.8	31	71.8	18
Wyoming	266.5	12	2,209	50	90.0	7	20.6	42	71.0	22

Note: Rank is most favorable value to least favorable. When states share the same rank, the next lower rank is omitted.

* Violent crimes are offenses of murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

** Because no new child abuse data is available, the 1998 data is being reprinted in this report.

Sources: (1) Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Crime in the United States, 2000"; (2) Bureau of the Census, "Statistical Abstract of the United States, 2001"; (3) U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Current Population Survey".

Table 61
Vital Statistics and Health

	Births per 1,000 People, 2000 (1)		Deaths per 1,000 People 2000 (1) Age-Adjusted				Infant Deaths per 1,000 Live Births, 1998 (2)		Death Rate per 100,000 People, 1998: Heart Disease (2) Cancer (2)				Persons Without Health Insurance, 3-year Average 1998-2000(3)	
	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Percent	Rank
	U.S.	14.8	-	8.7	-	8.7	-	7.2	-	268.2	-	200.3	-	14.4
Alabama	14.4	23	10.3	43	10.1	44	10.2	50	309.7	40	222.4	39	14.2	33
Alaska	16.1	6	4.7	1	8.6	23	5.9	7	91.9	1	106.0	1	18.1	45
Arizona	17.5	3	8.3	16	834.0	50	7.5	29	225.8	13	181.6	12	19.5	48
Arkansas	14.8	17	11.0	48	10.0	41	8.9	43	333.3	46	234.8	46	15.3	38
California	15.8	8	6.8	4	7.7	2	5.8	6	213.5	9	157.4	4	19.2	47
Colorado	15.8	8	6.6	3	7.9	5	6.7	14	167.3	3	146.4	3	14.1	32
Connecticut	13.1	40	9.2	28	8.0	7	7.0	16	294.4	36	217.0	35	9.5	9
Delaware	14.5	22	9.0	24	9.2	34	9.6	47	257.8	21	222.2	37	11.2	17
District of Columbia	14.8	17	11.5	49	10.4	48	12.5	51	317.7	42	259.4	50	14.5	34
Florida	13.3	38	10.7	46	8.3	15	7.2	22	342.8	48	255.9	49	17.2	42
Georgia	16.7	4	8.1	12	10.0	41	8.5	39	235.1	16	171.8	9	15.2	36
Hawaii	14.9	15	7.0	5	6.7	1	6.9	15	206.0	8	165.0	7	9.8	11
Idaho	16.0	7	7.5	7	8.1	10	7.2	22	197.1	5	170.0	8	16.5	41
Illinois	15.2	14	8.8	20	8.8	27	8.4	38	272.4	28	204.5	23	13.3	28
Indiana	14.6	21	9.3	30	9.4	36	7.6	31	279.4	30	214.5	33	11.3	18
Iowa	13.4	37	9.8	37	8.0	7	6.6	13	319.6	43	224.6	41	8.2	2
Kansas	14.9	15	9.3	30	8.5	22	7.0	16	274.1	29	194.4	15	11.0	16
Kentucky	14.1	28	9.9	39	10.0	41	7.5	29	302.9	38	225.5	43	13.1	26
Louisiana	15.5	12	9.4	34	10.2	46	9.1	44	271.6	26	214.2	32	19.5	48
Maine	10.8	50	9.8	37	8.9	30	6.3	9	286.3	34	234.6	45	11.5	19
Maryland	14.2	26	8.4	17	9.1	33	8.6	41	232.5	15	198.6	18	11.9	20
Massachusetts	13.2	39	9.1	26	8.2	14	5.1	2	260.4	23	224.7	42	9.2	7
Michigan	13.7	35	8.8	20	8.9	28	8.2	36	285.3	32	197.6	17	10.6	14
Minnesota	14.0	30	7.8	10	7.7	2	5.9	7	198.3	6	186.2	13	8.2	2
Mississippi	15.8	8	10.3	43	10.7	49	10.1	49	346.6	50	216.5	34	15.7	40
Missouri	13.9	33	10.0	40	9.3	35	7.7	32	330.4	45	226.9	44	9.0	6
Montana	12.3	44	9.1	26	8.4	19	7.4	28	227.8	14	207.3	26	18.3	46
Nebraska	14.8	17	9.0	24	8.0	7	7.3	27	284.7	31	197.1	16	9.5	9
Nevada	16.4	5	8.1	12	9.5	37	7.0	16	235.8	17	201.7	20	17.5	43
New Hampshire	12.0	47	8.0	11	8.4	19	4.4	1	239.1	19	205.4	25	8.6	5
New Jersey	14.0	30	9.2	28	8.6	23	6.4	11	288.2	35	222.2	37	12.9	24
New Mexico	15.6	11	7.7	9	8.4	19	7.2	22	185.4	4	157.8	5	22.6	51
New York	14.1	28	8.7	19	8.1	10	6.3	9	327.5	44	203.1	21	15.3	38
North Carolina	15.5	12	9.3	30	9.6	38	9.3	46	258.3	22	203.5	22	13.7	29
North Dakota	12.2	45	9.3	30	7.7	2	8.6	41	272.3	27	209.8	28	12.1	22
Ohio*	*	-	*	-	*	-	8.0	34	297.6	37	222.5	40	10.2	12
Oklahoma	14.8	17	10.4	45	9.9	39	8.5	39	337.6	47	212.4	30	17.7	44
Oregon	13.7	35	8.8	20	8.3	15	5.4	3	222.1	12	212.4	30	13.7	29
Pennsylvania	12.2	45	10.9	47	9.0	31	7.1	21	345.1	49	248.5	47	8.3	4
Rhode Island	12.5	43	10.1	42	8.3	15	7.0	16	310.6	41	250.9	48	6.9	1
South Carolina	14.3	25	9.4	34	9.9	39	9.6	47	261.4	24	200.9	19	13.8	31
South Dakota	14.0	30	9.5	36	8.1	10	9.1	44	285.6	33	211.9	29	12.0	21
Tennessee	14.4	23	10.0	40	10.2	46	8.2	36	304.1	39	220.8	36	10.8	15
Texas	18.0	2	7.3	6	8.9	28	6.4	11	216.5	10	163.5	6	22.2	50
Utah	21.9	1	5.7	2	7.9	5	5.6	4	137.2	2	112.9	2	13.2	27
Vermont	10.9	49	8.6	18	8.6	23	7.0	16	242.7	20	205.3	24	10.3	13
Virginia	14.2	26	8.1	12	9.0	31	7.7	32	235.9	18	189.8	14	12.9	24
Washington	13.9	33	7.6	8	8.1	10	5.7	5	202.4	7	180.6	11	12.8	23
West Virginia	11.6	48	11.7	50	10.1	44	8.0	34	380.0	51	260.8	51	15.2	36
Wisconsin	13.1	40	8.8	20	8.3	15	7.2	22	262.0	25	208.7	27	9.3	8
Wyoming	13.0	42	8.1	12	8.6	23	7.2	22	218.5	11	175.7	10	15.1	35

Note: Rank is most favorable value to least favorable. When states share the same rank, the next lower rank is omitted.
*Due to processing problems, Ohio data for 2000 are not shown separately but are included in U.S. totals.

Sources: (1) National Center for Health Statistics, "National Vital Statistics Report"; (2) Bureau of the Census, "Statistical Abstract of the United States, 2001"; (3) U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Current Population Survey".

Table 62
Poverty and Public Assistance

	POVERTY		PUBLIC ASSISTANCE					
	All Ages in Poverty		Temporary Assistance for		Federal Food Stamp Program			
	3-year Average 1998-2000 (1)		Needy Families (TANF)		2000 (2)		2000 (2)	
	Percent	Rank	Recipients	Rank	Persons	Rank	Benefits	Rank
U.S.	11.9	–	5,785	–	17,125	–	14,928	–
Alabama	14.6	42	56	27	396	37	344	38
Alaska	8.3	10	25	11	38	5	46	7
Arizona	13.6	39	83	32	259	30	240	31
Arkansas	15.8	46	29	15	247	28	206	28
California	14.0	40	1,300	51	1,832	51	1,639	51
Colorado	8.5	11	29	15	156	19	127	18
Connecticut	7.6	3	66	28	165	20	138	20
Delaware	9.8	16	18	9	32	2	31	4
District of Columbia	17.3	49	46	25	81	12	77	14
Florida	12.1	31	151	43	882	48	772	47
Georgia	12.6	33	140	41	559	43	489	44
Hawaii	10.5	25	44	23	118	17	166	23
Idaho	13.3	37	2	2	58	8	46	7
Illinois	10.5	25	183	45	779	47	777	48
Indiana	8.2	9	97	35	300	34	269	35
Iowa	7.9	5	53	26	123	18	100	17
Kansas	10.4	24	36	19	117	16	83	16
Kentucky	12.5	32	89	34	403	38	337	37
Louisiana	18.6	50	85	33	500	42	448	42
Maine	9.8	16	28	13	102	15	81	15
Maryland	7.3	1	72	31	219	24	199	27
Massachusetts	10.2	22	100	37	232	26	182	24
Michigan	10.2	22	207	46	611	45	457	43
Minnesota	7.8	4	115	38	196	23	164	22
Mississippi	15.5	45	33	18	276	31	226	30
Missouri	9.7	15	125	39	420	39	358	39
Montana	16.0	48	14	5	59	9	51	9
Nebraska	10.6	27	28	13	82	13	61	12
Nevada	10.0	19	15	7	61	10	57	10
New Hampshire	7.4	2	14	5	36	4	28	3
New Jersey	8.1	6	131	40	345	36	304	36
New Mexico	19.3	51	71	29	169	21	140	21
New York	14.7	43	723	50	1,439	50	1,361	50
North Carolina	13.2	36	99	36	488	40	403	40
North Dakota	12.7	34	8	4	32	2	25	2
Ohio	11.1	29	252	48	610	44	520	45
Oklahoma	14.1	41	25	11	253	29	209	29
Oregon	12.8	35	43	22	234	27	198	26
Pennsylvania	9.9	18	238	47	777	46	656	46
Rhode Island	10.0	19	45	24	74	11	59	11
South Carolina	11.9	30	37	20	295	32	249	33
South Dakota	9.3	13	7	3	43	7	37	6
Tennessee	13.3	37	146	42	496	41	415	41
Texas	14.9	44	338	49	1,333	49	1,215	49
Utah	8.1	6	24	10	82	13	68	13
Vermont	10.1	21	16	8	41	6	32	5
Virginia	8.1	6	71	29	336	35	262	34
Washington	9.4	14	154	44	295	32	241	32
West Virginia	15.8	46	32	17	227	25	185	25
Wisconsin	8.8	12	38	21	193	22	129	19
Wyoming	11.0	28	1	1	22	1	19	1

Note: Rank is most favorable value to least favorable. When states share the same rank, the next lower rank is omitted.

Sources: (1) U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Current Population Survey"; (2) U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Statistical Abstract of the United States, 2001"