

# 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. Through 2002, Utah's economy continued to reflect the national trend of slow growth that started in the last quarter of 2001. 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 drop. 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. The state ranked third highest in overall health status. Overall, Utah continues to rank among the top states in terms of quality of life.

## Utah Quality of Life Information

**Education and the Economy a Concern to Utahns.** The *Utah Consumer Survey*, a quarterly survey conducted by Valley Research, Inc., provides valuable information about consumer sentiment and Utah's demographic characteristics. The survey has been administered for several years and allows comparisons over time. The most recent survey was taken in October 2002. Interviews were conducted by telephone with 500 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 October 2002, education and the economy were on the minds of Utahns. Of the respondents, 29% indicated that education was the most important issue facing the state. Their main concerns were the lack of adequate funding, class size, and the overall quality of education. Twenty-three percent indicated that the economy was the most important issue facing the state.

**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 2002.<sup>1</sup> The Foundation tracks indicators of child well-being by state that are published in the 2002 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 2001 from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's uniform crime reports show the rate of violent crimes (murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) in Utah at 234.1 per 100,000 persons. This is an 8.4% decrease from the 2000 violent crime rate. Only six other states had lower rates than Utah. Utah's rate continues to be significantly lower than the U.S. rate of 444.8.

**Education.** Census 2000 data ranks Utah as the fourth highest state in its proportion of persons age 25 and over with at least a high school degree (87.7%). Between the 1990 and 2000 censuses, there was a 17% increase in the percent of persons 25 years and over with a

Bachelor's degree or higher (26.1%) in Utah. The state ranks 16th highest in higher education.

**Home Ownership.** According to the U.S. Census Bureau, home ownership rates for 2001 show that Utah has the 16th-highest proportion of home owners at 72.4%. The rate for the nation is 67.8%. The lowest rates were in Washington D.C. (42.7%), New York (53.9%), Hawaii (55.5%), and California (58.2%).

**Vital Statistics and Health.** Utah's unique age structure impacts its ranking among other states on many vital statistics. According to Census 2000, Utah continues to have the highest percentage of the population under 18 years of age (32.2%) in the nation and the lowest median age (27.1). Utah also has the second-lowest percentage of the population age 65 and over (8.5%) 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 2001 continues to be the highest estimated rate of all states at 21.8 births per 1,000 people. Texas and Arizona rank second and third at 17.5 and 17.2 respectively. The U.S. rate is 14.5.

**Deaths and Other Statistics.** 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. Utah ranks last among all states for the estimated death rate for cancer, in 2002. Utah's AIDS rate per 100,000 people for 2001 was 19.0 -- the third lowest in the nation.

**Health Insurance Coverage.** According to the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 13.6% of the Utah population was without health insurance coverage (a three-year average for 1999-2001). Utah ranked 22nd among states. The U.S. average was 14.5%.

**Poverty.** According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Utah's 2001 poverty rate (based on a 3-year moving average) was 8.0%, or the tenth lowest in the nation. States with lower poverty rates than Utah were Alaska (7.9%), Indiana (7.9%), Iowa (7.7%), New Jersey (7.7%), Connecticut (7.4%), Maryland (7.3%), and Minnesota (6.8%).<sup>2</sup> In the U.S., approximately 11.9% of the population was in poverty.

**Public Assistance.** There were an estimated 22,474 recipients of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) in 2001. Utah ranked 11th lowest among states in the total number of TANF recipients. Approximately 79,716 people in Utah received benefits from the Federal Food Stamp Program, which dispersed \$22.8 million worth of benefits in Utah in 2001. Utah ranked 39th in the number of food stamps recipients, and 29th in the amount of benefits from the Federal Food Stamp Program.

<sup>1</sup> Rankings are based on data from 1990-1999.

<sup>2</sup> Virginia has the same poverty rate (8.0%) as Utah.

Table 59  
Crime, Education, and Home Ownership

	CRIME				EDUCATION Educational Attainment Persons 25 Years Old and Over 2000 (2)				HOME OWNERSHIP	
	Violent Crime* per 100,000 People 2001 (1)		Property Crime** per 100,000 People 2001 (1)		High School or Higher		Bachelor's Degree or Higher		Home Ownership Rates 2001 (3)	
	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank
U.S.	444.8	(X)	3626.8	(X)	80.4	(X)	24.4	(X)	67.8	(X)
Alabama	438.6	23	3880.8	20	75.3	46	19.0	45	73.2	15
Alaska	588.3	11	3,647.9	26	88.3	1	24.7	21	65.3	43
Arizona	540.3	16	5,537.1	2	81.0	32	23.5	25	68.1	38
Arkansas	452.8	22	3681.4	24	75.3	47	16.7	50	71.2	23
California	617.0	9	3286	34	76.8	42	26.6	13	58.2	48
Colorado	350.7	31	3868.2	21	86.9	8	32.7	3	68.5	35
Connecticut	335.5	33	2782.4	41	84.0	20	31.4	4	71.8	18
Delaware	611.4	10	3441.4	30	82.6	25	25.0	20	75.4	7
District of Columbia	1,736.7	1	5972.8	1	77.8	41	39.1	1	42.7	51
Florida	797.2	2	4772.5	5	79.9	35	22.3	32	69.2	34
Georgia	497.0	19	4149.3	13	78.6	38	24.3	23	70.1	29
Hawaii	254.6	43	5131.5	3	84.6	18	26.2	14	55.5	49
Idaho	243.1	44	2890.3	38	84.7	17	21.7	36	71.7	19
Illinois	636.9	8	3460.8	28	81.4	30	26.1	15	69.4	33
Indiana	371.8	27	3459.6	29	82.1	26	19.4	44	75.3	8
Iowa	269.1	39	3032.1	37	86.1	11	21.2	39	76.6	2
Kansas	404.8	25	3916.6	19	86.0	12	25.8	17	70.4	28
Kentucky	257.0	42	2681.1	42	74.1	50	17.1	48	73.9	13
Louisiana	687.0	7	4651.1	7	74.8	49	18.7	46	67.1	39
Maine	111.5	49	2576.7	45	85.4	13	22.9	28	75.5	6
Maryland	783.0	3	4083.8	15	83.8	22	31.4	5	70.7	27
Massachusetts	479.5	21	2619.1	44	84.8	16	33.2	2	60.6	46
Michigan	554.7	14	3526.8	27	83.4	23	21.8	35	77.1	1
Minnesota	264.4	40	3319.3	33	87.9	2	27.4	11	76.1	4
Mississippi	350.1	32	3835.1	22	72.9	51	16.9	49	74.5	10
Missouri	541.3	15	4234.9	12	81.3	31	21.6	37	74.0	12
Montana	352.4	29	3336.3	32	87.2	6	24.4	22	68.3	37
Nebraska	304.3	36	4025.3	17	86.6	9	23.7	24	70.1	30
Nevada	586.8	12	3679.2	25	80.7	33	18.2	47	64.6	44
New Hampshire	170.3	47	2151.3	51	87.4	5	28.7	9	68.4	36
New Jersey	390.1	26	2835.2	40	82.1	27	29.8	6	66.5	40
New Mexico	781.1	4	4542.8	9	78.9	37	23.5	26	70.8	26
New York	516.0	17	2409.1	47	79.1	36	27.4	12	53.9	50
North Carolina	494.3	20	4443.7	10	78.1	39	22.5	29	71.3	22
North Dakota	79.6	51	2338.1	48	83.9	21	22.0	33	71.0	25
Ohio	351.9	30	3825.7	23	83.0	24	21.1	40	71.2	24
Oklahoma	512.3	18	4094.7	14	80.6	34	20.3	42	71.5	20
Oregon	306.7	35	4737.4	6	85.1	14	25.1	19	65.8	42
Pennsylvania	410.4	24	2550.7	46	81.9	28	22.4	30	74.3	11
Rhode Island	309.6	34	3375.3	31	78.0	40	25.6	18	60.1	47
South Carolina	720.3	6	4032.4	16	76.3	43	20.4	41	76.1	5
South Dakota	154.8	48	2177.2	50	84.6	19	21.5	38	71.5	21
Tennessee	745.3	5	4407.5	11	75.9	44	19.6	43	69.7	32
Texas	572.8	13	4579.9	8	75.7	45	23.2	27	63.9	45
Utah	234.1	45	4008.9	18	87.7	4	26.1	16	72.4	16
Vermont	105.0	50	2664.2	43	86.4	10	29.4	8	69.8	31
Virginia	291.3	37	2886.9	39	81.5	29	29.5	7	75.1	9
Washington	355.0	28	4796.8	4	87.1	7	27.7	10	66.4	41
West Virginia	279.4	38	2280.1	49	75.2	48	14.8	51	76.4	3
Wisconsin	231.1	46	3090.1	36	85.1	15	22.4	31	72.3	17
Wyoming	257.3	41	3260.4	35	87.9	3	21.9	34	73.5	14

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.

\*\* Property crimes are offenses of burglary, larceny-theft, and motor-vehicle thefts.

Sources: (1) Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Crime in the United States, 2001"; (2) U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 - Summary File 3; (3) U.S. Census Bureau, "Housing Vacancy Survey," Annual 2001.

**Table 60**  
**Vital Statistics and Health**

	VITAL STATISTICS AND HEALTH											
	Births per		Deaths per		Estimated Deaths		AIDS cases per		State Health		Persons Without	
	1000 People		1000 People		by Cancer per		100,000 People		Ranking		Health Insurance	
	2001 (1)	2000 (1)	2000 (1)	2000 (1)	100,000 Persons	2002 (2)	2001 (2)	2001 (2)	2001 (3)	2001 (3)	(3 Year Average)	(1999-2001) (4)
Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Percent	Rank	
U.S.	14.5	(X)	8.7	(X)	195.1	(X)	14.8	(X)	(X)	(X)	14.5	(X)
Alabama	13.7	32	10.3	43	219.5	10	9.8	23	-11.0	45	13.2	25
Alaska	16.0	6	4.7	1	110.3	50	2.8	47	2.4	25	17.7	8
Arizona	17.2	3	8.3	16	180.9	42	10.2	21	-4.4	35	18.4	5
Arkansas	14.3	21	11.0	48	230.3	5	7.4	30	-9.3	42	15.0	17
California	15.5	9	6.8	4	150.1	48	12.5	15	5.2	22	19.2	4
Colorado	15.9	8	6.6	3	142.6	49	6.5	32	13.6	10	15.1	16
Connecticut	12.7	42	9.2	28	204.4	27	17.1	10	16.5	4	9.7	39
Delaware	13.9	30	9.0	24	226.1	7	31.1	5	-5.9	38	9.5	43
District of Columbia	14.7	17	11.5	49	209.9	23	152.1	1	n/a	n/a	13.6	20
Florida	13.2	38	10.7	46	243.3	2	31.3	4	-12.5	46	17.8	7
Georgia	16.5	4	8.1	12	163.4	45	20.9	6	-4.8	36	15.3	14
Hawaii	14.5	18	7.0	5	163.3	46	10.1	22	14.4	7	9.7	40
Idaho	16.0	7	7.5	7	174.1	43	1.4	49	6.8	19	16.5	10
Illinois	15.0	14	8.8	20	198.7	31	10.6	19	-1.6	30	13.6	21
Indiana	14.4	20	9.3	30	212.6	17	6.2	33	4.5	23	10.8	33
Iowa	13.1	39	9.8	37	218.9	12	3.1	46	13.7	8	8.0	49
Kansas	14.5	19	9.3	30	196.7	34	3.6	41	6.9	18	11.4	30
Kentucky	13.6	34	9.9	39	223.8	8	8.2	26	-6.1	39	13.0	27
Louisiana	15.3	11	9.4	34	212.7	16	19.3	8	-21.4	50	19.7	3
Maine	10.9	50	9.8	37	233.2	4	3.7	40	13.7	9	10.7	36
Maryland	14.2	22	8.4	17	189.8	38	34.6	3	1.6	28	11.3	31
Massachusetts	13.0	40	9.1	26	214.8	15	12.0	16	15.4	5	8.7	46
Michigan	13.4	37	8.8	20	198.2	33	5.5	34	0.1	29	9.9	38
Minnesota	13.9	31	7.8	10	181.0	41	3.2	44	23.1	1	7.8	50
Mississippi	15.1	12	10.3	43	216.9	14	14.7	12	-19.1	49	15.2	15
Missouri	13.7	33	10.0	40	218.5	13	7.9	27	-2.1	32	8.8	45
Montana	12.3	45	9.1	26	210.1	22	1.7	48	1.9	27	16.0	11
Nebraska	14.8	15	9.0	24	192.6	36	4.3	38	9.4	16	9.6	42
Nevada	16.1	5	8.1	12	194.7	35	12.0	17	-9.3	43	17.2	9
New Hampshire	11.9	48	8.0	11	198.5	32	3.2	45	20.2	2	9.0	44
New Jersey	14.0	25	9.2	28	209.8	24	20.8	7	6.5	20	12.5	28
New Mexico	15.4	10	7.7	9	164.0	44	7.8	28	-7.6	40	23.2	1
New York	14.0	26	8.7	19	190.4	37	40.5	2	-3.1	33	15.8	12
North Carolina	15.1	13	9.3	30	201.6	30	11.6	18	-3.8	34	14.2	18
North Dakota	12.2	46	9.3	30	204.9	26	0.5	51	11.4	13	10.9	32
Ohio	14.0	27	*	-	223.3	9	5.1	37	3.4	24	10.8	34
Oklahoma	14.8	16	10.4	45	211.0	20	7.0	31	-7.7	41	17.9	6
Oregon	13.5	36	8.8	20	210.2	21	7.5	29	7.8	17	13.1	26
Pennsylvania	12.2	47	10.9	47	242.5	3	15.0	11	2.2	26	8.7	47
Rhode Island	12.7	43	10.1	42	226.6	6	9.7	24	9.7	14	7.2	51
South Carolina	14.1	23	9.4	34	206.7	25	17.9	9	-14.6	48	13.3	24
South Dakota	14.1	24	9.5	36	211.5	19	3.3	43	5.7	21	10.4	37
Tennessee	14.0	28	10.0	40	219.5	11	10.5	20	-10.1	44	10.8	35
Texas	17.5	2	7.3	6	161.8	47	13.6	13	-4.8	37	23.0	2
Utah	21.8	1	5.7	2	110.1	51	5.5	35	19.0	3	13.6	22
Vermont	10.6	51	8.6	18	212.0	18	4.1	39	15.3	6	9.7	41
Virginia	14.0	29	8.1	12	187.8	39	13.2	14	9.6	15	11.9	29
Washington	13.6	35	7.6	8	185.4	40	8.9	25	12.3	12	13.5	23
West Virginia	11.4	49	11.7	50	260.8	1	5.5	36	-12.6	47	14.2	19
Wisconsin	12.9	41	8.8	20	203.6	28	3.6	42	12.4	11	8.5	48
Wyoming	12.7	44	8.1	12	202.3	29	1.0	50	-1.8	31	15.6	13

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's data for 2000 are not shown.

Sources: (1) National Center for Health Statistics, "National Vital Statistics Report." 2001 Mortality rates for states had not been released. (2) Morgan Quinto Press. State Rankings 2002. A Statistical View of the 50 United States (Data reprinted with permission from the American Cancer Society); at the time of the printing of this document. (3) CQ's State Fact Finder, 2002. Rankings Across America, by Kendra Hovey and Harold Hovey. Congressional Quarterly. Washington D.C. (4) U.S. Census Bureau, "Health Insurance Coverage: 2001", Current Population Survey. September 2002.

**Table 61**  
**Poverty and Public Assistance**

	POVERTY		PUBLIC ASSISTANCE						
	All Ages in Poverty 3-year Average 1999-2001 (1)		Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (Monthly) 2001 (2)			Federal Food Stamp Program			
			Recipients	Percent of USA	Rank	2001 (3)		2001 (4) Thousands of Dollars	
	Persons	Rank				Benefits	Rank		
Percent	Rank								
U.S.	11.6	(X)	5,382,063	(X)	(X)	17,316,276	(X)	\$3,738,896	(X)
Alabama	14.8	8	42,538	0.8%	28	411,292	15	34,108	25
Alaska	7.9	44	17,484	0.3%	43	37,897	47	8,141	43
Arizona	12.9	14	83,310	1.5%	18	291,372	22	35,649	23
Arkansas	16.3	4	27,375	0.5%	37	256,441	25	20,874	31
California	13.1	13	1244667	23.1%	1	1,668,351	1	288,467	1
Colorado	9.0	37	27,137	0.5%	38	153,952	33	18,913	33
Connecticut	7.4	48	58,653	1.1%	23	157,031	32	22,706	30
Delaware	8.5	41	12,842	0.2%	47	31,886	50	5,571	50
District of Columbia	16.1	5	42,591	0.8%	27	73,494	40	8,276	42
Florida	12.0	21	117,122	2.2%	13	887,256	4	82,897	8
Georgia	12.6	18	117,268	2.2%	12	573,505	9	59,292	11
Hawaii	10.4	24	35,232	0.7%	34	108,313	36	7,989	44
Idaho	12.7	16	2,268	0.0%	50	59,667	44	7,661	45
Illinois	10.2	28	172,408	3.2%	7	825,295	5	89,872	7
Indiana	7.9	45	118,775	2.2%	11	346,551	16	39,822	16
Iowa	7.7	46	44,496	0.8%	25	126,494	34	20,625	32
Kansas	10.1	31	33,076	0.6%	35	124,285	35	10,998	38
Kentucky	12.4	19	79,722	1.5%	19	412,680	14	29,030	27
Louisiana	17.5	2	62,089	1.2%	22	518,384	11	38,068	19
Maine	10.3	26	25,842	0.5%	39	104,383	37	12,254	36
Maryland	7.3	49	66,923	1.2%	20	208,426	29	57,004	13
Massachusetts	10.2	29	91,588	1.7%	16	219,223	27	42,370	15
Michigan	9.7	34	195,499	3.6%	5	641,269	7	152,442	4
Minnesota	6.8	50	115,122	2.1%	14	197,727	30	55,608	14
Mississippi	16.8	3	36,602	0.7%	33	297,805	21	29,373	26
Missouri	10.2	30	119,411	2.2%	10	454,427	13	38,029	20
Montana	14.4	9	15,884	0.3%	44	61,957	43	9,661	40
Nebraska	9.7	35	23,892	0.4%	40	80,652	38	12,731	35
Nevada	9.0	38	19,717	0.4%	42	69,396	42	7,028	47
New Hampshire	6.2	51	13,634	0.3%	46	35,554	49	5,890	49
New Jersey	7.7	47	110,477	2.1%	15	317,579	18	71,192	9
New Mexico	18.8	1	52,119	1.0%	24	163,265	31	16,528	34
New York	14.1	11	592,653	11.0%	2	1,353,542	3	287,119	2
North Carolina	12.9	15	87,739	1.6%	17	493,672	12	58,233	12
North Dakota	12.4	20	8,894	0.2%	48	37,755	48	7,216	46
Ohio	10.8	23	189,592	3.5%	6	640,503	8	97,192	6
Oklahoma	14.3	10	32,499	0.6%	36	271,001	24	37,109	22
Oregon	11.8	22	43,319	0.8%	26	281,450	23	37,489	21
Pennsylvania	9.2	36	210,931	3.9%	4	748,074	6	119,896	5
Rhode Island	10.0	32	40,663	0.8%	30	71,272	41	6,041	48
South Carolina	12.7	17	40,143	0.7%	31	315,718	19	28,752	28
South Dakota	9.0	39	6,236	0.1%	49	44,594	45	9,599	41
Tennessee	13.2	12	156,247	2.9%	8	521,510	10	38,398	17
Texas	15.2	7	338,787	6.3%	3	1,366,210	2	164,567	3
Utah	8.0	42	22,474	0.4%	41	79,716	39	22,786	29
Vermont	9.8	33	14,417	0.3%	45	38,874	46	9,768	39
Virginia	8.0	43	63,633	1.2%	21	332,312	17	62,208	10
Washington	10.4	25	140,446	2.6%	9	308,589	20	34,736	24
West Virginia	15.6	6	39,382	0.7%	32	221,361	26	12,066	37
Wisconsin	8.6	40	41,257	0.8%	29	215,786	28	38,363	18
Wyoming	10.3	27	898	0.0%	51	22,539	51	3,883	51

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. Census Bureau. "Poverty In the United States: 2001." *Current Population Survey*, September 2002; (2) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. "Total Number of Recipients." As of June 2001. Welfare reform replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program with Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) as of July 1, 1997. National total includes 86,090 recipients in U.S. territories (73,408 in Puerto Rico); (3) U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Nutrition and Consumer Services. "Food Stamp Program: Benefits;" (4) Federal Aid to States for Fiscal Year 2001, U.S. Department of Commerce. April 2002.