

# Social Indicators

## Overview

Quality of life is a subjective concept that is difficult to measure. The connection between economic performance and quality of life is indisputable. With growth in the economy in 2005, Utah remained among the top states in terms of quality of life. Utah's transportation infrastructure is diverse and growing. Utah's violent crime rate declined from the previous year and remained among the lowest in the United States. Poverty rates for 2004 decreased slightly from the 2003 estimate and educational attainment increased in 2004. Utah ranked ninth in the nation in the indicators of child well being and fourth highest in overall health status. The combination of these and other measurable data reveal that Utah's social structure continues to be among the best in the nation.

## Utah Quality of Life Information

**Utah's Kids Count.** According to the 2005 Kids Count Data Book, published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Utah ranked ninth among the states in child well-being in 2005. This Foundation tracks indicators of child well-being and determines a state's National Composite Rank by the sum of the state's standing on each of ten measures 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.

**Transportation Choices.** The availability of multiple transportation alternatives is an often overlooked measure of an area's quality of life. The 2004 American Community Survey showed that the majority of working Utahns (73.8%) drove alone as their means of transportation to work, 13.6% carpooled, and 2.6% used public transportation. The mean travel time to work was 20.7 minutes. Between 2003 and 2004, the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) reported a 13.6% increase in the number of passengers using the TRAX light rail system, a 20.1% increase in the number of people using vanpools, and a 2.2% increase in the number of passengers using bus service. Paratransit service saw a 4.0% decrease. Overall, UTA total regular service increased by 6.0%.

## Current Data on Social Well Being

**Crime.** Statistics for 2004 from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Uniform Crime Reports show the rate of violent crime (murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) in Utah was 236.0 per 100,000 people. This is a 5.8% decrease from the 2003 violent crime rate. Only seven other states had lower rates, and Utah's rate continued to be significantly lower than the U.S. rate (465.5 per 100,000 people in 2004).

**Education.** The 2004 Current Population Survey, conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, ranked Utah as the fifth highest state in its proportion of persons age 25 and over with at least a high school degree (91.0%). Utah ranked 12th in higher education, with 30.8% of persons 25 years and over having obtained a bachelor's degree or higher.

**Home Ownership.** According to home ownership rates for 2004, Utah's home ownership rate was 74.9%, the eighth highest in the nation. The rate for the nation was 69.0%. The highest rates occurred in West Virginia

(80.3%), Alabama (78.0%), Delaware (77.3%), Michigan (77.1%), and Minnesota (76.4%). The lowest rates were in the District of Columbia (45.6%), New York (54.8%), California (59.7%), and Hawaii (60.6%).

**Vital Statistics and Health.** Utah's unique age structure impacts its ranking among other states on many vital statistics. According to 2004 data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Utah continued to have the highest percentage of the population less than 18 years of age (31.0%) in the nation, and the lowest median age (27.9). Utah also has the second lowest percentage of the population age 65 and over (8.7%), behind only Alaska.

**Births.** Final data for 2003 from the National Center for Health Statistics revealed that Utah's birth rate was 21.2 births per 1,000 people, the highest in the nation and above the national average of 14.1. Texas and Arizona ranked second and third at 17.1 and 16.3, respectively.

**Deaths.** According to preliminary data from the National Center for Health Statistics, the overall death rate in Utah was 5.7 per 1,000 people in 2003, the second lowest in the nation. The age adjusted death rate was 7.8 per 1,000 people, ranking Utah as the 14th lowest. The infant mortality rate (deaths to infants less than one year old per 1,000 live births) was 5.6 in Utah in 2002, up from 4.8 in 2001. American Cancer Society 2005 data revealed the number of Utah deaths caused by cancer per 100,000 people was 110.9, the lowest in the nation. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Utah's HIV/AIDS rate per 100,000 people in 2004 at 3.3, the ninth lowest in the nation. Actual deaths by AIDS in 2002 numbered 19 for the entire Utah population.

**Health Insurance Coverage.** According to the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 13.4% of the Utah population lacked health insurance coverage (three-year average), ranking Utah 31st among the states. The U.S. average was 15.5%.

**Poverty.** According to the 2004 Current Population Survey, Utah's poverty rate (three-year average) was 9.6%, the ninth lowest in the nation, and below the national average of 12.4%. The states with the lowest poverty rates were New Hampshire (5.7), Minnesota (7.0), New Jersey (8.2) Delaware (8.5), and Connecticut (8.8).

**Public Assistance.** There were an estimated 23,012 monthly recipients of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) in 2004, ranking Utah 13th lowest among the states in the total number of TANF recipients. Approximately 123,411 people in Utah received monthly benefits from the Federal Food Stamp Program, which dispersed \$19.5 million worth of benefits in Utah in 2003. Utah ranked 37th in the number of food stamp recipients, and 32nd in the amount of benefits from the Federal Food Stamp Program.

Table 58  
Social Indicators: Crime, Education and Home Ownership

	Violent Crime*		Property Crime**		Educational Attainment Persons 25 Years Old and Over 2004 <sup>2</sup>				Home Ownership Rates 2004 <sup>3</sup>	
	per 100,000 People 2004 <sup>1</sup>		per 100,000 People 2004 <sup>1</sup>		High School or Higher		Bachelor's Degree or Higher			
	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank
U.S.	465.5	(X)	3,517.1	(X)	85.2	(X)	27.7	(X)	69.0	(X)
Alabama	426.6	23	4,025.0	17	82.4	43	22.3	46	78.0	2
Alaska	634.5	8	3,382.8	28	90.2	8	25.5	26	67.2	42
Arizona	504.1	14	5,340.5	1	84.4	38	28.0	17	68.7	40
Arkansas	499.1	16	4,013.0	18	79.2	49	18.8	50	69.1	37
California	551.8	11	3,419.0	26	81.3	45	31.7	11	59.7	49
Colorado	373.5	26	3,919.3	20	88.3	16	35.5	3	71.1	30
Connecticut	286.3	35	2,627.2	40	88.8	13	34.5	7	71.7	26
Delaware	568.4	10	3,163.9	31	86.5	30	26.9	21	77.3	3
District of Columbia	1,371.2	1	4,859.1	2	86.4	32	45.7	1	45.6	51
Florida	711.3	3	4,179.7	14	85.9	34	26.0	23	72.2	23
Georgia	455.5	20	4,265.9	10	85.2	36	27.6	18	70.9	32
Hawaii	254.4	40	4,792.8	4	88.0	18	26.6	22	60.6	48
Idaho	244.9	42	2,794.4	37	87.9	19	23.8	41	73.7	12
Illinois	542.9	12	3,186.1	30	86.8	29	27.4	19	72.7	20
Indiana	325.4	30	3,397.6	27	87.2	26	21.1	47	75.8	7
Iowa	270.9	38	2,905.3	35	89.8	9	24.3	38	73.2	17
Kansas	374.5	25	3,973.5	19	89.6	11	30.0	14	69.9	35
Kentucky	244.9	42	2,537.7	41	81.8	44	21.0	48	73.3	14
Louisiana	638.7	7	4,410.2	8	78.7	50	22.4	45	70.6	33
Maine	103.5	50	2,409.6	46	87.1	27	24.2	40	74.7	10
Maryland	700.5	4	3,640.2	23	87.4	24	35.2	5	72.1	24
Massachusetts	458.8	19	2,459.7	43	86.9	28	36.7	2	63.8	46
Michigan	490.2	18	3,057.6	32	87.9	19	24.4	37	77.1	4
Minnesota	269.6	39	3,039.0	33	92.3	1	32.5	10	76.4	5
Mississippi	295.1	33	3,478.5	25	83.0	40	20.1	49	74.0	11
Missouri	490.5	17	3,903.5	21	87.9	19	28.1	16	72.4	21
Montana	293.8	34	2,936.2	34	91.9	2	25.5	26	72.4	21
Nebraska	308.7	31	3,520.6	24	91.3	4	24.8	33	71.2	29
Nevada	615.9	9	4,206.6	12	86.3	33	24.5	35	65.7	44
New Hampshire	167.0	48	2,040.1	49	90.8	6	35.4	4	73.3	14
New Jersey	355.7	27	2,429.2	44	87.6	22	34.6	6	68.8	39
New Mexico	687.3	6	4,197.7	13	82.9	41	25.1	31	71.5	28
New York	441.6	22	2,198.6	48	85.4	35	30.6	13	54.8	50
North Carolina	447.8	21	4,160.2	15	80.9	47	23.4	42	69.8	36
North Dakota	79.4	51	1,916.6	51	89.5	12	25.2	30	70.0	34
Ohio	341.8	29	3,673.2	22	88.1	17	24.6	34	73.1	18
Oklahoma	500.5	15	4,242.1	11	85.2	36	22.9	43	71.1	30
Oregon	298.3	32	4,631.3	5	87.4	24	25.9	24	69.0	38
Pennsylvania	411.1	24	2,415.0	45	86.5	30	25.3	29	74.9	8
Rhode Island	247.4	41	2,884.1	36	81.1	46	27.2	20	61.5	47
South Carolina	784.2	2	4,504.8	6	83.6	39	24.9	32	76.2	6
South Dakota	171.5	47	1,933.5	50	87.5	23	25.5	26	68.5	41
Tennessee	695.2	5	4,306.5	9	82.9	41	24.3	38	71.6	27
Texas	540.5	13	4,494.0	7	78.3	51	24.5	35	65.5	45
Utah	236.0	44	4,085.6	16	91.0	5	30.8	12	74.9	8
Vermont	112.0	49	2,308.2	47	90.8	6	34.2	8	72.0	25
Virginia	275.6	36	2,676.6	38	88.4	15	33.1	9	73.4	13
Washington	343.8	28	4,849.2	3	89.7	10	29.9	15	66.0	43
West Virginia	271.2	37	2,506.2	42	80.9	47	15.3	51	80.3	1
Wisconsin	209.6	46	2,663.1	39	88.8	13	25.6	25	73.3	14
Wyoming	229.6	45	3,334.3	29	91.9	2	22.5	44	72.8	19

Notes: Rank is high to low. 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, 2004," October 2005.
2. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 Current Population Survey.
3. U.S. Census Bureau. Housing Vacancy Survey Annual Statistics: 2004.

Table 59

## Social Indicators: Vital Statistics and Health

	Births per 1,000 People 2003 <sup>1</sup>		Deaths per 1,000 People 2003 <sup>2</sup>		Estimated Deaths by Cancer per 100,000 People 2005 <sup>3</sup>		AIDS cases per 100,000 People 2004 <sup>4</sup>		State Health Ranking 2005 <sup>5</sup>		Persons Without Health Insurance (3 Year Average) (2002-2004) <sup>6</sup>	
	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Score	Rank	Percent	Rank
U.S.	14.1	(X)	8.4	(X)	194.2	(X)	15.0	(X)	(X)	(X)	15.5	(X)
Alabama	13.2	33	10.4	3	222.9	9	10.3	22	-12.8	45	13.5	29
Alaska	15.5	6	4.9	51	122.1	50	8.4	26	-1.2	30	18.2	8
Arizona	16.3	3	7.8	40	172.7	42	9.8	23	-1.6	31	17.0	12
Arkansas	13.9	21	10.2	4	225.6	7	6.7	31	-16.1	47	16.7	14
California	15.2	7	6.7	48	156.3	48	13.0	18	6.0	22	18.4	7
Colorado	15.2	7	6.5	49	145.2	49	7.3	28	9.7	17	16.8	13
Connecticut	12.3	45	8.4	31	200.7	28	18.4	9	15.9	7	10.9	41
Delaware	13.9	21	8.6	27	190.3	36	18.9	7	-2.6	33	11.8	34
District of Columbia	13.5	26	9.8	10	211.4	20	179.2	1	na	na	13.5	29
Florida	12.5	42	9.9	6	229.7	5	33.5	3	-8.6	40	18.5	6
Georgia	15.7	5	7.7	41	167.7	44	18.6	8	-10.2	43	16.6	15
Hawaii	14.4	16	7.1	46	157.6	47	10.8	20	17.0	5	9.9	50
Idaho	16.0	4	7.6	42	163.6	45	1.6	49	10.4	16	17.3	10
Illinois	14.4	16	8.5	30	195.1	35	13.2	14	0.9	28	14.2	22
Indiana	14.0	20	9.1	21	212.4	19	6.3	33	-2.1	32	13.7	27
Iowa	13.0	37	9.5	15	223.7	8	2.2	48	14.9	10	10.1	49
Kansas	14.5	13	9.0	22	196.3	33	4.2	40	5.8	23	10.8	42
Kentucky	13.4	30	9.8	9	230.6	4	6.1	34	-9.7	42	13.9	25
Louisiana	14.5	13	9.5	14	214.1	17	22.4	5	-18.4	49	18.8	5
Maine	10.6	50	9.6	13	244.4	2	4.6	38	15.5	8	10.6	44
Maryland	13.6	25	8.1	36	190.2	37	26.1	4	-3.6	34	14.0	24
Massachusetts	12.5	42	8.8	24	213.8	18	8.8	25	15.2	9	10.8	42
Michigan	13.0	37	8.6	28	206.3	22	6.5	32	0.3	29	11.4	38
Minnesota	13.8	23	7.4	45	186.4	40	4.3	39	22.1	1	8.5	51
Mississippi	14.7	12	9.9	7	214.3	16	16.5	11	-19.1	50	17.2	11
Missouri	13.5	26	9.7	11	218.1	12	6.8	30	-4.1	35	11.7	36
Montana	12.4	44	9.2	19	220.1	10	0.8	51	6.6	21	17.9	9
Nebraska	14.9	10	8.9	23	198.0	30	3.9	41	12.2	11	11.0	39
Nevada	15.0	9	8.0	37	197.9	31	13.1	15	-5.9	37	19.1	4
New Hampshire	11.2	49	7.5	43	201.6	27	3.2	44	18.1	3	10.6	44
New Jersey	13.5	26	8.5	29	205.3	23	21.2	6	10.6	15	14.4	21
New Mexico	14.8	11	7.9	38	169.7	43	9.6	24	-6.2	38	21.4	2
New York	13.2	33	8.1	35	188.1	38	39.7	2	1.2	26	15.0	20
North Carolina	14.1	19	8.7	25	197.0	32	13.3	13	-5.6	36	16.6	15
North Dakota	12.6	41	9.6	12	201.8	26	2.7	46	16.6	6	11.0	39
Ohio	13.1	35	9.5	16	216.3	14	5.8	35	1.1	27	11.8	34
Oklahoma	14.5	13	10.2	5	217.7	13	5.5	36	-11.4	44	19.2	3
Oregon	12.9	39	8.7	26	204.8	24	7.8	27	8.3	18	16.1	17
Pennsylvania	11.8	47	10.5	2	240.5	3	13.1	15	1.9	25	11.5	37
Rhode Island	12.3	45	9.3	18	225.8	6	12.2	19	11.5	12	10.5	46
South Carolina	13.4	30	9.2	20	216.3	15	18.1	10	-15.8	46	13.8	26
South Dakota	14.4	16	9.3	17	210.1	21	1.6	49	6.7	20	11.9	33
Tennessee	13.5	26	9.8	8	218.8	11	13.1	15	-17.1	48	12.7	32
Texas	17.1	2	7.0	47	160.5	46	14.7	12	-6.7	39	25.1	1
Utah	21.2	1	5.7	50	110.9	51	3.3	43	17.5	4	13.4	31
Vermont	10.6	50	8.3	34	202.8	25	2.7	46	21.3	2	10.5	46
Virginia	13.7	24	7.9	39	187.5	39	10.7	21	5.5	24	13.6	28
Washington	13.1	35	7.5	44	183.1	41	7.2	29	10.7	14	14.2	22
West Virginia	11.6	48	11.8	1	256.1	1	5.1	37	-9.3	41	15.9	18
Wisconsin	12.8	40	8.4	32	198.6	29	3.2	44	11.0	13	10.4	48
Wyoming	13.4	30	8.3	33	195.4	34	3.6	42	7.0	19	15.9	18

Note: Rank is high to low. When states share the same rank, the next lower rank is omitted.

## Sources:

1. National Center for Health Statistics, "National Vital Statistics Reports," Vol 54, No 2.
2. National Center for Health Statistics, "National Vital Statistics Reports," Vol 53, No 15. Not age adjusted. Data is preliminary. Rates for California and Illinois are from 2002.
3. American Cancer Society, "Cancer Facts and Figures 2005," Rates calculated by the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget using Census Bureau 2004 population estimates. Not age-adjusted.
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report," Vol 16. U.S. total includes Puerto Rico, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, and U.S. Pacific Islands as well as persons whose state of residence is unknown.
5. United Health Foundation, "America's Health: United Health Foundation State Health Rankings 2005."
6. U.S. Census Bureau, "Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2004," Current Population Survey. August 2005.

Table 60  
Social Indicators: Poverty and Public Assistance

	All Ages in Poverty 3-year Average 2002-2004 <sup>1</sup>		Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (Monthly) 2004 <sup>2</sup>			Federal Food Stamp Program 2004 <sup>3</sup>			
	Percent	Rank	Recipients	Percent of U.S.		Persons	Rank	2003 <sup>4</sup> Thousands of Dollars	
				Rank	Benefits			Rank	
U.S.	12.4	(X)	4,784,042	100%	(X)	23,857,607	(X)	\$4,013,337	(X)
Alabama	15.5	8	45,377	0.9%	24	497,591	17	33,573	23
Alaska	9.2	44	13,768	0.3%	45	49,323	47	7,742	47
Arizona	13.8	15	114,970	2.4%	12	529,556	15	32,532	24
Arkansas	17.6	2	22,360	0.5%	41	346,441	25	22,989	30
California	13.2	16	1,103,152	23.1%	1	1,859,486	2	347,047	1
Colorado	9.8	37	38,162	0.8%	32	241,780	31	26,856	28
Connecticut	8.8	45	42,782	0.9%	28	195,980	33	26,388	29
Delaware	8.5	48	12,723	0.3%	46	55,642	45	8,077	45
District of Columbia	16.8	5	43,610	0.9%	27	88,655	42	10,190	42
Florida	12.3	20	116,208	2.4%	11	1,202,227	4	88,333	9
Georgia	12.0	23	124,239	2.6%	10	867,148	9	74,269	11
Hawaii	9.7	40	22,908	0.5%	40	98,589	40	12,966	36
Idaho	10.5	30	3,405	0.1%	50	91,395	41	8,962	43
Illinois	12.5	18	89,018	1.9%	16	1,069,596	5	94,181	6
Indiana	10.2	33	131,125	2.7%	9	526,324	16	40,914	18
Iowa	9.7	40	44,753	0.9%	25	179,179	34	19,788	31
Kansas	10.7	29	43,640	0.9%	26	169,528	35	13,620	35
Kentucky	15.4	9	78,174	1.6%	18	544,744	14	30,781	27
Louisiana	17.0	4	45,506	1.0%	23	705,700	12	48,132	14
Maine	12.2	21	26,651	0.6%	38	141,929	36	8,477	44
Maryland	8.6	47	59,362	1.2%	20	273,872	28	36,086	21
Massachusetts	9.8	37	107,630	2.2%	14	334,939	26	31,642	26
Michigan	12.1	22	212,182	4.4%	5	943,713	8	89,394	8
Minnesota	7.0	50	88,302	1.8%	17	247,465	30	56,594	12
Mississippi	17.7	1	42,459	0.9%	29	376,864	23	34,164	22
Missouri	10.9	27	99,613	2.1%	15	699,616	13	48,492	13
Montana	14.3	13	14,284	0.3%	43	77,478	44	11,785	37
Nebraska	9.9	36	26,749	0.6%	37	113,900	39	14,925	34
Nevada	10.2	33	20,956	0.4%	42	120,275	38	11,150	40
New Hampshire	5.7	51	14,032	0.3%	44	48,449	48	5,377	50
New Jersey	8.2	49	107,703	2.3%	13	368,695	24	93,803	7
New Mexico	17.5	3	45,926	1.0%	22	222,716	32	18,471	33
New York	14.4	12	336,236	7.0%	2	1,598,143	3	264,580	2
North Carolina	14.8	11	77,119	1.6%	19	747,274	11	74,988	10
North Dakota	10.3	32	7,871	0.2%	48	41,421	50	7,809	46
Ohio	10.8	28	186,272	3.9%	7	945,435	7	121,992	5
Oklahoma	12.6	17	34,229	0.7%	34	411,840	22	45,367	16
Oregon	11.7	24	42,362	0.9%	30	419,736	21	45,220	17
Pennsylvania	10.4	31	231,260	4.8%	4	960,941	6	160,545	4
Rhode Island	11.3	26	31,929	0.7%	35	77,528	43	7,389	48
South Carolina	14.0	14	38,567	0.8%	31	497,218	18	32,232	25
South Dakota	12.5	18	6,001	0.1%	49	53,459	46	10,888	41
Tennessee	14.9	10	190,132	4.0%	6	806,490	10	39,163	20
Texas	16.4	6	249,634	5.2%	3	2,258,951	1	190,187	3
Utah	9.6	42	23,012	0.5%	39	123,411	37	19,542	32
Vermont	8.8	45	12,257	0.3%	47	42,862	49	11,534	39
Virginia	9.8	37	26,883	0.6%	36	485,877	19	4,460	51
Washington	11.7	24	136,747	2.9%	8	453,497	20	40,114	19
West Virginia	16.1	7	35,559	0.7%	33	255,936	29	11,634	38
Wisconsin	10.2	33	54,314	1.1%	21	324,047	27	45,512	15
Wyoming	9.6	42	633	0.01%	51	25,649	51	6,159	49

Note: Rank is high to low. When states share the same rank, the next lower rank is omitted.

Sources:

1. U.S. Census Bureau, "Poverty In the United States: 2004," Current Population Survey, August 2005.
2. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, "Total Number of Recipients for Fiscal Year 2004," June 2005. 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 61,299 recipients in U.S. territories (48,904 in Puerto Rico).
3. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services, "Food Stamp Program: Average Monthly Participation," August 2005.
4. U.S. Department of Commerce, "Federal Aid to States for Fiscal Year 2003," September 2004.