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or County Health Officers

Health Indicators Profiled in County Health Status Reports

(Salt Lake City, UT) – The health status of every county in Utah has been detailed in a new report issued by a consortium of public health organizations led by the Health Resources and Services Administration.* The Community Health Status Reports enable county leaders to compare their counties to counties of similar size, population composition and density, state and nationwide.

The reports are presented in a brief, uniform format that is easy to read and understand. The profile offers a variety of health indicator information such as risk factors for premature death, leading causes of death, birth weight, infant mortality, vulnerable populations, access to health care, and average life expectancy. The report also includes whether the county is meeting environmental health standards and regulations. The majority of the data are specific to the county and state data is used where county data were not available. “This report will be used to assist us in prioritizing local health department efforts in our community,” said Robert Resendes, Executive Director, Central Utah Health Department.

The profiles provide a count of primary doctors, dentists and nurses in the county and can identify shortages. It offers data on the number of uninsured residents, Medicaid beneficiaries and the percentage of residents living below the poverty level.

These documents are also useful tools for health and medical providers, boards of health, community planners, government, real estate agents, schools, economic development agencies, etc., to understand the health in a defined area. The public can obtain copies of any Utah or U.S. county profile beginning on August 1, 2000, at www.communityhealth.hrsa.gov. Embargoed reports (until July 31, 2000 at Noon) for press review can be obtained from your local health department or the Utah Department of Health. For a list of local health officers and geographic breakdown of the counties served by health departments, log on to <http://www.health.state.ut.us/lhd/>.

*Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
National Association of County and City Health Officials
Public Health Foundation
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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