Then and Now, 2007, Voices for Utah Children KIDS COUNT Project

Ten Years of Child Well-Being in Utah
“If our American way of life fails the child, it fails us all.”

Pearl S. Buck
Then and Now: Ten Years of Child Well-Being In Utah

Author
Terry Haven, KIDS COUNT Director

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I began working at Utah Children in the summer of 1996. The very first publication I worked on was our annual county-by-county data book, *Measures of Child Well-Being in Utah*. The theme for that book was “Tracking the condition of our children so our children don’t get off track.” Train images and pictures of children near trains were used throughout the book, including the first picture on the cover of this publication. The little girl in the picture is my daughter and the boys on either side of her are my co-workers children. In the years since that picture was taken, I have produced many data books and a multitude of special reports on the well-being of children. In the years since that picture was taken, I have produced many data books and a multitude of special reports on the well-being of children. My daughter has managed to make it to adulthood relatively unscathed. She is a first year nursing student at the University of Utah, a good student, a good athlete, active in her community and church and well on her way to becoming a productive member of society. One of the boys is a junior at the University of Utah and the other will graduate from there this spring.

As I contemplate their journey into becoming the young adults you see in the second picture on the cover, I have to ask myself, how did the last ten years treat the rest of Utah’s children? Not all children in Utah have two parents who are employed in good jobs with livable wages and health insurance. Not all children in Utah can go to the doctor whenever they need to or have the opportunity to participate in sports or ballet. Not all children in Utah go to bed with a full stomach knowing that in the morning they will be fed again. The reality is, not all children and families in Utah look like mine - or yours.

The purpose of this publication is to look at how indicators of child well-being in Utah have changed over the last ten years. Have we made strides in improving their overall health? Have we done a better job of providing quality education, has their economic situation improved?

To begin with, there has been a 13.5% increase in the number of children in Utah, almost 92,000 more children. And by the year 2025, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that there will be an additional 55,000 children in Utah.

There are many indicators which seem to conflict with each other; suicide rates are down but suicide attempts are up, median income is up and unemployment rates are down but Utah’s poverty rate continues to rise, teen pregnancy is down but sexually transmitted disease infections are up. All are indications that improvements made have not reached those children and families that need it the most.

Child death rates are down, a tribute to the legislative changes around seat belt use, car seat education and graduated drivers licenses. Finally, our children are making wiser choices and avoiding smoking and drinking and remembering to buckle up and exercise.

The last ten years have been a mixed bag for our children. It is my hope that this data will help Utahns continue to make wise choices when making decisions affecting all our children.

Terry Haven
KIDS COUNT Director
State Spending Analysis

“Each successive generation is invested in the welfare of each new generation.”
Fred Rogers
Changes in Spending Over the Last Ten Years

The Utah budget is the state’s ultimate policy document. More so than the bills that pass or fail, the budget identifies where Utah’s priorities lie. For this reason, Voices for Utah Children created a “budget tracker” that analyzed changes in state spending year-to-year over the past ten years. This analysis can help inform policymakers and voters about expenditure trends and changing priorities. The budget tracker looked at both the changes in spending as it related to personal income (a measure linked to broad economic trends) and changes in the percent of state budget that were dedicated to different areas.

This spending tracker illuminates two important pieces of information for current political debates. First, although health expenditures have grown, they are a small percentage of the state’s budget and have had relatively small growth in the state’s budget relative to other priorities. Second, despite large amounts of investment in public education in recent years, public education is receiving a smaller share of state dollars than it did in 1999 primarily due to increased spending for transportation. Perhaps more significantly, the sharp growth in transportation expenditure in recent years has actually led to a decline in the relative importance of spending in public education and health. Since 1999, Utah’s population has grown by 13%. During that same period, state spending for operations has actually decreased slightly.

CHANGES IN STATE SPENDING OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS.

- The overall state budget has grown by 10% since 1999
- Operating Expenditures have declined by 1% since 1999
- Capital Expenditures have grown by 77% since 1999

The following areas have seen positive growth in their budgets (listed in order of percent growth, see figure 1):
- Administrative Services
- Transportation
- Debt Service
- Community and Culture
- Health
- National Guard
- Elected Officials
- Public Education

The following areas have seen a decline in their budgets (listed in order of percent growth, see Figure 1):
- Environmental Quality
- Courts
- Commerce and Revenue
- Corrections
- Human Services
- Legislature
- Higher Education
The following areas have seen no change in their budgets (see figure 1):
- Public Safety
- Natural Resources

**CHANGES IN PRIORITIES IN STATE SPENDING OVER THE LAST TEN YEAR**

The following areas now absorb a greater share of state dollars than in 1999.
- Administrative Services
- Community and Culture
- Elected Officials
- Health
- National Guard
- Transportation

The following areas now receive a smaller share of state dollars than in 1999
- Commerce and Revenue
- Human Services
- Corrections
- Legislature
- Natural Resources
- Environmental Quality
- Public Education
- Higher Education
- Public Safety

Photo courtesy of the Children's Action Alliance in Arizona
Demographics

“If we don’t stand up for children, then we don’t stand for much.”
Marion Wright Edelman
**Definition:** The number of people estimated to be living in Utah by age. The child population is defined as under age 18.

**Source:** Annual Estimates of the Population by Age, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau

**Trend:** The population in Utah has risen by 23% in the last ten years, from 2,022,253 to 2,490,334. The child population has seen a 13.5% rise, from 683,422 to 775,353.

**Trend Line - Utah Population**

**Utah’s Population**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>2,022,253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>2,022,253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>2,022,253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>2,022,253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2,022,253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>2,022,253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>2,022,253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>2,022,253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>2,490,334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>2,490,334</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Trend Line - Utah Child Population

Utah’s Child Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>All Children</th>
<th>Ages 5-17</th>
<th>Under 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>683,422</td>
<td>492,205</td>
<td>191,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>694,934</td>
<td>496,697</td>
<td>198,237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>703,703</td>
<td>498,336</td>
<td>205,367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>707,366</td>
<td>496,925</td>
<td>210,441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>720,854</td>
<td>510,916</td>
<td>209,938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>727,598</td>
<td>510,014</td>
<td>217,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>732,163</td>
<td>508,951</td>
<td>223,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>736,661</td>
<td>507,651</td>
<td>229,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>755,550</td>
<td>517,420</td>
<td>238,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>775,353</td>
<td>529,922</td>
<td>245,431</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Then and Now, 2007, Voices for Utah Children KIDS COUNT Project
### Child Population, by Race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic White alone</td>
<td>595,544</td>
<td>599,610</td>
<td>603,028</td>
<td>601,448</td>
<td>599,788</td>
<td>597,164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic Black alone</td>
<td>5,871</td>
<td>5,870</td>
<td>5,951</td>
<td>5,905</td>
<td>5,822</td>
<td>5,711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaskan Native alone</td>
<td>10,455</td>
<td>10,310</td>
<td>10,280</td>
<td>10,202</td>
<td>9,910</td>
<td>9,639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic Asian alone</td>
<td>9,336</td>
<td>9,603</td>
<td>9,778</td>
<td>9,919</td>
<td>10,058</td>
<td>10,005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone</td>
<td>6,436</td>
<td>6,477</td>
<td>6,435</td>
<td>6,373</td>
<td>6,314</td>
<td>6,148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic Two or More Race Groups</td>
<td>14,508</td>
<td>14,770</td>
<td>15,043</td>
<td>15,185</td>
<td>15,287</td>
<td>15,306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>79,080</td>
<td>83,345</td>
<td>88,605</td>
<td>92,795</td>
<td>96,106</td>
<td>98,583</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: Ages 0-17, 2000 through 2005 data for the United States and each State: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

### Child Population, by Household Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Type</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>married-couple households</td>
<td>538,000</td>
<td>598,000</td>
<td>578,000</td>
<td>611,000</td>
<td>612,000</td>
<td>613,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>father only households</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>28,000</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>29,000</td>
<td>34,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mother only households</td>
<td>127,000</td>
<td>87,000</td>
<td>92,000</td>
<td>89,000</td>
<td>92,000</td>
<td>89,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Nothing you do for children is ever wasted. They seem not to notice us, hovering, averting our eyes, and they seldom offer thanks, but what we do for them is never wasted.”

Garrison Keillor
Definition: Number and percent of infants born to pregnant women receiving prenatal care in the first trimester as a percentage of the total number of live births. These data are based on self-reports of the mother after she delivers the infant, during the process of compiling the birth certificate information. Resident births that occurred outside of Utah are omitted.


Trend: While the number of women receiving adequate prenatal care has risen over the last 10 years in Utah from 34,885 to 40,444 (a 16% increase), the percentage of women receiving adequate prenatal care has declined over the last ten years from 83.4% in 1996 to 78.8% in 2005. This discrepancy is due to the fact that the number of women getting care has not kept pace with the increase in the number of births. In other words, this indicator has worsened over the last ten years even though more women are receiving prenatal care now than in 1996.
**Low Birth Weight Babies**

**Definition:** Number and percent of infants born weighing less than 2,500 grams (about 5.5 pounds) as a percentage of the total number of live births. Resident births that occurred outside of Utah are omitted.

**Source:** Office of Vital Records and Statistics, Utah Department of Health.

**Trend:** The percent of babies born at low birth weight has changed very little over the last ten years, from 6.6% of all births to 6.8%. But again, the number of births has gone up so the number of low birth weight babies has increased from 2,769 in 1996 to 3,492 in 2005, a 26% increase.

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**Percent of Utah Babies Born at Low Birth Weight**

![Graph showing the trend of low birth weight babies from 1996 to 2005 with the percent remaining relatively constant at 6.6% in 1996 and 6.8% in 2005.](image-url)
Infant Mortality

Definition: An infant death is defined as death of a live-born infant within one year of birth. Rates are per 1,000 live births.


Trend: The infant mortality rate has gone up and down over the last ten years but overall, the rate has dropped from 5.9 per 1,000 live births to 4.5, a 13% decrease. The number of infant deaths has also declined, from 250 to 231.
**Child Injury Death**

**Definition:** Child injury deaths are those occurring to individuals 1 to 19 due to injuries (e.g. accidents, suicides, and homicides). Rates are per 100,000 youth.

**Source:** Utah Department of Health, Office of Vital Records and Statistics.

**Trend:** The child injury death rate has shown a substantial decrease over the last 10 years from 27.7 per 100,000 youth to 17.7, a 36% reduction. The number of deaths has also dropped from 196 to 144. The majority of child injury deaths are due to motor vehicle accidents.
Uninsured Children

Definition: Number of uninsured children (ages 0-18) in Utah.


Trend: The number of uninsured children continues to rise, increasing by 57% since 2003. In 2003, 7.2% of all Utah children were uninsured, and by 2006, this rate had risen to 10.6%. The Utah Department of Health conducted an internal study on this increase and found that the majority of the increase was due to a rise in the number of uninsured children in families with incomes between 100% and 200% of the federal poverty level ($20,000 to $40,000 annual income for a family of four). The increase overall may also be attributed to CHIP (the Children’s Health Insurance Program) being closed off and on during this time period and the fact that fewer employers may be offering family coverage.

Trend Line - Number of Uninsured Children in Utah

Number of Uninsured Children, Ages 0-18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>56,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>89,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Percentage Distribution of Uninsured Children by Poverty Level

Photo courtesy of the Children's Action Alliance in Arizona
**Hospital Discharge Data**

**Definition:** The number of Utah resident children who were discharged from the hospital following an admittance due to a variety of injuries, including violent injuries. Data is reported by county of resident.

**Source:** Utah Department of Health, Hospital Discharge Database, Office of Health Care Statistics.

**Trend:** Of all the hospital discharges following an injury included in the data below, attempted suicide is the only one that increased over the last 10 years. All the other injuries including unintentional injuries, motor vehicle injuries, assault and legal intervention, and firearm related injuries all decreased. Hospital discharges following any injuries decreased by 20%.

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**Hospital Discharges Due to Injuries, per 100,000 Youth Ages 1-19**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>All injuries</th>
<th>Unintentional injuries</th>
<th>Motor vehicle</th>
<th>Assault and legal intervention</th>
<th>Firearm related</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Child Abuse**

**Definition:** Figures given represent the number of supported victims of abuse or neglect. Abuse and neglect can include domestic violence related abuse, neglect or deprivation of necessities, sexual abuse, dependency, failure to protect, physical abuse, non-supervision, psychological or emotional abuse or neglect, or medical neglect. Rates are per 1,000 children under age 18.

**Source:** Utah Department of Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services.

**Trend:** The child abuse and neglect rate has been steadily climbing since 1996 showing a 37% increase from 11% per 1,000 children to 16.3. The number of abused and neglected children has risen from 7,559 in 1996 to 11,979 in 2005. This 58% increase is important since this increased case load means increased work for child protection workers and more children and youth entering the system.

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**Trend Line - Child Abuse and Neglect Rate per 1,000 Children**

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**Child Abuse and Neglect Rate per 1,000 Children**

![Chart showing the trend of child abuse and neglect rate per 1,000 children from 1996 to 2005. The rate has increased from 11.0 in 1996 to 16.3 in 2005.](chart.png)
**Suicide Death Rates**

**Definition:** Suicide deaths among children (10-19 years), per 100,000 children in the same age group.

**Source:** The age and cause of a person’s death are recorded on death certificates. Data are collected and kept by the Utah State Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics.

**Trend:** The suicide death rate has declined by almost 50% from 10.3 to 5.3 per 100,000 children. The number has decreased from 40 in 1996 to 21 in 2005. Keep in mind that while the suicide rate has dropped, the hospital discharges for suicide attempts have increased.

---

**Trend Line - Suicide Death Rate per 100,000 Children, Ages 10-19**

---

**Suicide Death Rate, per 100,000 Children**

**Ages 10-19**

---

**Year**

**Rate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td></td>
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<td>1998</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer
**Definition:** Number and percent of all persons and children under 18 living below the federal poverty level. In 2004, the poverty level for a family of 4 (2 adults and 2 children) was $19,157.

**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates. The data presented are from the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) project. SAIPE produces model-based estimates of income and poverty for states, counties, and school districts. While the Census 2000 data is a good point-in-time estimate, it is only available every 10 years and the American Community Survey data does not go back in time far enough for this analysis. The SAIPE data, while still several years behind, is consistent data that is available every year.

**Trend:** While vacillating over the years, the poverty rates have changed slightly from 1996 to 2004. There has been a slight increase for both all persons and children only. The number for all persons and children have also increased, by 30% for all ages and by 15% for children. Children make up over one-third of the persons in poverty (37%).

**Percent of Utahns Living at or Below Poverty**

- **Trend Line - Percent of All Ages in Poverty**
- **Trend Line - Percent of Children Under 18 in Poverty**

**Percent of Utahns Living at or Below Poverty**

![Graph showing the percentage of Utahns living at or below the poverty line from 1996 to 2004.](image-url)
Number of Utahns Living at or Below Poverty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of All Ages in Poverty</th>
<th>Number of Children Under 18 in Poverty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>193,893</td>
<td>80,071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>251,092</td>
<td>92,251</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trend Line - Number of All Ages in Poverty
Trend Line - Number of Children Under 18 in Poverty

Number

Year


All persons
Children under 18
Definition: Number and percent of the civilian labor force who are unemployed.


Trend: The unemployment rate has dropped by 17% since 1996. However, due to an increase in population, the number of unemployed Utahns rose by 6% from 36,100 in 1996 to 38,272 in 2006.
**Median Family Income**

**Definition:** Median income is determined using the most recent data available from the March Current Population Survey (CPS) and the decennial census of population conducted by the Bureau of the Census; as well as per capita personal income estimates produced by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Figures are a three year average so, for example, income for 2005 is a three year average from 2002-2005.

**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division.

**Trend:** Median family income has risen from $42,630 in 1996 to $59,864 in 2005. This represents a 40% increase. Yet, as we have already seen, the poverty rate has also increased in this same time period, indicating that the rising income is not reaching all segments of our population.
Free and Reduced Lunch Usage

**Definition:** An approved application allows a child to receive lunch and/or breakfast (if served) free or at a reduced price depending on household income. A child qualifies for free lunch if his family is at 130% of the federal poverty level or below. Children whose families are at 131-185% of poverty level qualify for reduced-price meals. The data is a point in time enrollment number in October of every year. Not every child who is eligible for free or reduced lunch applies for the program so the numbers do not represent all eligible children in the above income categories.

**Source:** Utah State Office of Education, School Finance and Statistics.

**Trend:** The percentage of Utah’s students who receive free or reduced lunch has grown over the last ten years. Peaking in 2003 at 34.2%, it has declined (though not significantly) over the last few years. The percentage has grown by 16% while the number of students has grown 5% from 44,522 to 46,844.
“Life affords no greater responsibility, no greater privilege, than the raising of the next generation.”

C. Everett Koop
**Definition:** The following rates represent the number of referrals (for juveniles) for the various offenses examined. Juvenile numbers are for youth through age 17. The referrals/filings do not include those cases where the victims did not press charges or where the police decided there was insufficient evidence to warrant adjudication. These are only the cases which actually made it to court. Two types of offenses are examined:

- **Violent crime offenses in juvenile court:** Violent crimes are all felonies, plus class A, B, and C misdemeanors against persons and also class A misdemeanors against property. This includes murder, rape, and assault. They also include property crimes which are committed with a weapon.

- **Substance abuse offenses in juvenile court:** Substance abuse offenses are those that deal with alcohol, tobacco or a controlled substance (drugs).

**Source:** Utah State Courts; Juvenile Court Information System (JIS).

**Trend:** The number of offenses for both violent crimes and substance abuse has declined. In addition, the rate per 1,000 has also declined from 25 to 16 per 1,000 for violent crimes and 33 to 17 per 1,000 for substance abuse.
**Definition:** Domestic Violence cases represent a count of protective order filings in the districts courts.

**Source:** Utah State Courts, adult court database (CORIS)

**Trend:** The number of filings for both domestic violence and cohabitant abuse has declined. Domestic violence fell from 6,498 to 4,954 while cohabitant abuse fell from 6,917 to 4,863.
“Children are the world’s most valuable resource and its best hope for the future.”

John Fitzgerald Kennedy
**Fall Enrollment**

**Definition:** Enrollment is the number of all students enrolled in Utah schools (including Charter schools) in the fall of each school year.

**Source:** School District Fall Enrollment Report, Utah State Office of Education, School Finance and Statistics.

**Trend:** Since 1996 there has been a 7% increase in enrollment in Utah’s schools from 478,028 students to 510,012. The number of students has begun to increase at a faster pace and the Utah Office of Education projects that the number of students will rise an additional 30% to 665,808 by the year 2015.

**Number of Students Enrolled in Utah Schools**

![Graph showing the number of students enrolled in Utah schools from 1996 to 2005.](image)

- **1996:** 478,028
- **2005:** 510,012

- **Year**
- **Number**
  - 200,000
  - 225,000
  - 250,000
  - 275,000
  - 300,000
  - 325,000
  - 350,000
  - 375,000
  - 400,000
  - 425,000
  - 450,000
  - 475,000
  - 500,000

*Then and Now, 2007, Voices for Utah Children KIDS COUNT Project*
**Pupil/Teacher Ratios**

**Definition:** Pupil/Teacher ratios are calculated by taking the total number of students divided by the total number of teachers. Interns and resource teachers are included. Pupil/Teacher ratios represent average daily membership (ADM) in classrooms. ADM does not include students attending out of state. Statistics do not include charter schools. Starting in 2002 Kindergarten was included with all elementary grades.

**Source:** Utah State Office of Education, School Finance and Statistics.

**Trend:** The pupil/teacher ratio has seen little change overall. In grades 1 through 6, the ratio has risen from 22 students per teacher to 25. (Remember, starting in 2002 Kindergarten is included in these figures.) In grades 7 through 12 the ratio has dropped from 25 to 24. Kindergarten ratios had also changed very little from 1996 through 2001 from 21 to 20.
**Expenditures per Pupil**

**Definition:** Expenditures include instruction and support services (salaries, benefits, supplies, purchased services, and other). Property, equipment, community services, and debt services expenditures are excluded. Title I and Title VI expenditures, food service, tuition, transportation, textbook and summer school are all deducted. Expenditures are reported for the fiscal year.

**Source:** Utah State Office of Education, School Finance and Statistics and the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics

**Trend:** Expenditures per student have risen every year with the exception of 2003 when there was a slight drop. Overall, expenditures have risen 30% over the last ten years from $3,334 to $4,995. The U.S. expenditures per student in 2005 were $8,482.
Safe Behaviors

“Safety and security don’t just happen, they are the result of collective consensus and public investment.”

Nelson Mandela
Definition: Teen births represent live births to married and unmarried females aged 15-17 years. Rates are per 1,000 females (aged 15-17 years).

Source: Utah Department of Health, Utah Birth Certificates.

Trend: Teen births have shown a steady decline over the last ten years. Birth rates fell from 25 per 1,000 teens in 1996 to 16 in 2005, a 37% decrease. Teen birth numbers fell from 1,460 in 1996 to 917 in 2005.
**Chlamydia Infection Among Teens**

**Definition:** Number and rate of teens diagnosed with chlamydia per 100,000 teens, ages 15-19 years old. Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted infection caused by the bacteria *Chlamydia trachomatis*.

**Source:** Utah Department of Health, Bureau of Epidemiology.

**Trend:** Chlamydia rates have steadily risen from 342 per 100,000 teens to 686. The number of chlamydia infections among teens has risen from 691 cases in 1997 to 1,207 in 2005 (a 97% increase). It is interesting to note that while we have seen a slow, steady drop in the number and rates of teen births, the same is not true of sexually transmitted diseases.
**Youth Risk Behavior Survey**

**Definition:** The Utah Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is a statewide school-based survey of a representative sample of 9th through 12th grade students in public high schools in Utah. The survey has been conducted every two years since 1991 during the spring semester. Keep in mind that the data is self-reported, the survey is done confidentially and teens know their answers will not be attached to their name in any way. Results for the questions included below are given as a percentage of all surveyed students. The data are weighted to be representative of the entire student population in Utah public schools (grades 9 through 12).

Individual definitions include:
- Teen Smoking - Percentage of students reporting having smoked tobacco during the past 30 days.
- Overweight Youth - Percentage of students who described themselves as slightly or very overweight.
- Seat Belt Use - Percentage of students who reported wearing a seat belt “always” when riding in a car driven by someone else.
- Teen Alcohol Use - Percentage of students reporting alcohol use during the past 30 days.
- Teen Binge Drinking - Percentage of students reporting having taken 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row on one or more days during the past 30 days.
- Teen Illicit Drug Use - Percentage of students reporting having used marijuana/cocaine/inhalants during the past 30 days.
- Physical Exercise - Percentage of students reporting having engaged in vigorous physical activity for more than 20 minutes, at least three or more times a week.

**Source:** Utah Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System; Utah State Office of Education.

**Trend:** None of the behaviors we included in this publication worsened between 1997 and 2005. The percent of student who identified themselves as overweight and the percentage participating in physical activity saw no change while teen smoking, drug use, and seat belt usage all improved.

Responses for 1997 and 2005 are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1997</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teen Smoking</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overweight Youth</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seat Belt Use</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen Alcohol Use</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen Binge Drinking</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen Illicit Drug Use</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Exercise</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results

Year

Percent

1997 1999 2001 2003 2005

Teen smoking
Overweight
Seat belt
Alcohol use
Binge drinking
Drug use
Exercise

1997: Teen smoking 15%, Overweight 30%, Seat belt 10%, Alcohol use 25%, Binge drinking 10%, Drug use 5%
1999: Teen smoking 18%, Overweight 35%, Seat belt 15%, Alcohol use 30%, Binge drinking 15%, Drug use 10%
2001: Teen smoking 20%, Overweight 40%, Seat belt 20%, Alcohol use 35%, Binge drinking 20%, Drug use 15%
2003: Teen smoking 25%, Overweight 45%, Seat belt 25%, Alcohol use 40%, Binge drinking 25%, Drug use 20%
2005: Teen smoking 30%, Overweight 50%, Seat belt 30%, Alcohol use 45%, Binge drinking 30%, Drug use 25%
Voices for Utah Children promotes sound, far-reaching program and policy solutions that focus on early care and education, health care, child welfare, and violence prevention. Although we work to protect and improve the situation for all children in Utah, we are especially concerned about the over 92,000 children who live in poverty. Utah Children was founded in 1985 by a small group of individuals concerned about improving the lives of children. In 2003 Utah Children became Voices for Utah Children.

Voices for Utah Children believes all children have the right to:
• Be economically secure and free from poverty and its debilitating effects.
• Have quality health care.
• Have quality care and educational opportunities throughout their childhood.
• Be safe from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence.
• Live in a nurturing family in a supportive community committed to the development of children to their maximum potential.

Voices for Utah Children is a nonprofit, nonpartisan child advocacy organization that sees children as a whole - and knows that they need all the building blocks - food, shelter, security, love, education, health care - to grow up strong and productive. We educate decision makers, the media and the public on policies and programs that affect children and work to ensure positive change for all children affected by policy decisions, rather than just one child at a time.

Voices for Utah Children supports the work of other advocates, citizens, and policy-makers by:
• Acting as a vital link to share ideas, trade information, and plan strategies.
• Connecting state and local advocates with national experts.
• Acting as a clearing house for child advocacy information and providing technical assistance in advocacy strategies and child related issues and policies.

About KIDS COUNT

Utah KIDS COUNT is one of several projects of Voices for Utah Children. It is partially funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation of Baltimore, Maryland which funds similar projects in every state for the purpose of measuring and reporting on the status of children over time. The data is used to inform public debate and strengthen public action on behalf of children and families within our nation.

Through KIDS COUNT projects the Annie E. Casey Foundation encourages state, county, and city efforts to track the status of children for the purpose of ensuring better futures for all communities in the United States.

By providing Utah policy makers and citizens with data-based information about child well-being, UTAH KIDS COUNT seeks to enhance local, state, and national discussions concerning healthy, educated, safe, and economically-secure futures for all our children.
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of Making

a Difference
for Kids

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