

RISK FACTORS AMONG CHILDREN IN UTAH: AN ANALYSIS OF THE 2007 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

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The American Community Survey (ACS) began in the late 1990's and is an ongoing continuous data collection project of the U.S. Census Bureau. Designed to replace the detailed long-form of the decennial Census, the ACS provides information routinely for all parts of the country based on a total sample of about 2.2 million households a year.

A single year of ACS data provides detailed data for geographic units in the country with a population of 65,000 or greater. The Census Bureau uses 3 year rolling averages to produce data for geographic units of 20,000 and greater and will use 5 year rolling averages to provide data down to the block group level. Data for this analysis uses only one year of data from 2007. For Utah, this means we have data for the state; Cache, Davis, Salt Lake, Utah, Washington, and Weber counties; and the Logan UT-ID Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the Ogden-Clearfield MSA, the Provo-Orem MSA, and the Salt Lake City MSA. This report focuses on the state and the four MSA's.

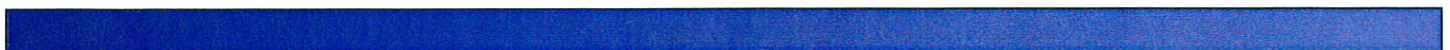
Researchers at the U.S. Census Bureau identified a list of data items included in the ACS questionnaire that are believed to have an impact on a child's life. These "risk factors", 22 in all, are divided into 4 categories as shown below:

Risk Factors Identified From the American Community Survey			
Individual	Familial and Household	Economic	Physical Environment
Presence of Disability	Single parent household	Receives food stamps	Overcrowded housing
Presence of multiple disabilities	Linguistically isolated household	Household receives public assistance	Household lacks complete kitchen
Not enrolled in school	Non-English speaking household	Household below poverty	Household lacks complete plumbing
Speaks English less than very well	Parent(s) foreign born and in U.S. for 5 years or less	No employed parent in household	Rented home
	Parent(s) has less than high school education	Chronic unemployment in household	Not a single family home
	Cared for by grandparent		
	Cared for by grandparent for 3 or more years		

Highlights from the report include:

- 45% of Utah's children had none of the risk factors, 33% had 1 or 2 risk factors and 33% had 3 to 7 of the risk factors
- Of the children in Utah who had a risk factor, the majority were in the domains of Familial and Household and Physical Environment
- The Salt Lake City MSA had a higher percentage of its children with a variety of risk factors.

The table on the next page presents a detailed look at the information.



CHILDREN'S RISK FACTORS FOR UTAH STATE AND SELECT METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS: 2007

Geography	Total number of children	Average # of Risk Factors	Number of Risk Factors, Grouped						Risk Factor Domains									
			No risk factors	1 to 2 risk factors	3 to 7 risk factors	8 or more risk factors	Individual risk factors	Familial & household risk factors	Economic risk factors	Physical environment risk factors	Percent of children	Percent of children	Percent of children	Percent of children				
		Mean																
United States	73,590,243	2.2	31.5	32.5	33.0	3.0	17.0	52.0	27.1	44.1								
Utah State	815,914	1.4	44.7	33.4	20.6	1.3	16.5	32.8	16.6	32.9								
Logan UT-ID MSA	37,511	1.2	52.6	29.0	18.3	0.1	16.9	22.7	16.6	29.5								
Ogden-Clearfield MSA	161,846	1.2	51.2	31.1	16.6	1.0	14.2	28.9	17.1	24.5								
Provo-Orem MSA	169,295	1.2	50.5	33.5	14.8	1.2	16.8	23.4	12.8	29.5								
Salt Lake City MSA	322,674	1.7	40.0	32.8	25.4	1.8	17.7	40.5	16.8	36.4								

Source: From "Risk Factors for Children in the U. S., States, and Metropolitan Areas: Data from the 2007 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates" for the Population Association of America 2009 Annual Meeting, Data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007



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