

Using the Utah Healthy Places Index to Address Equity

Utahns should have fair and equitable opportunities to be as healthy as possible, no matter where they are born, grow, live, work, or age. While some Utahns are protected from health harms, others are not. For example, some neighborhoods have an adequate supply of fresh, affordable food while others do not. Together we can create healthy environments, systems, and policies that protect the health and safety of Utahns.

The Utah Healthy Places Index was built on the premise that lasting change can only happen when communities and leaders identify inequity, prioritize equitable investment, and strengthen community voices with sound, validated data. We can work together to influence and shape community conditions so all Utahns have the opportunity to live healthy and safe lives.

The Utah Healthy Places Index helps address equity by:

- Properly framing equity issues facing communities across Utah as policy, systems, and environmental problems.
- Identifying neighborhoods or communities where prevention efforts will make a difference.
- Highlighting upstream factors that contribute to poor outcomes.
- Applying an equity lens to better target investments and resources.
- Bringing partners together around shared, accessible data to work together toward solutions.



Measures of racial equity and diversity in the Utah Healthy Places Index include:

- Detailed race/ethnicity profiles of each census tract which show the racial/ethnic make-up of the area.
- Historically redlined tracts indicating whether a census tract was officially redlined by the Home Owners Loan Corporation in the early 20th century.
- Race/ethnicity diversity index which measures how racially and ethnically diverse the community is.
- Race/ethnicity diversity of electeds which measures how the race/ethnicity composition of the county's elected representatives compares to its population.

