

Using the Utah Healthy Places Index to Address Equity

Utahns should have an equitable opportunity 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 address the social problems, unfair practices, and unjust conditions that weaken the health of Utahns.

The Utah Healthy Places Index (HPI) was built on the premise that lasting systems change can only occur when communities and leaders recognize the need to 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 lives.

The Utah HPI 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 inequity 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 HPI 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.

