

# ATSDR Public Health Investment

## Utah

### CDC/ATSDR support helps Utah reduce exposures to hazardous substances in the environment

ATSDR funds 25 cooperative agreements to help states build their capacity to assess and respond to site-specific issues involving human exposure to hazardous substances in the environment.

### Public Health in Action

**North Salt Lake Medical Waste Incinerator** — Substantial residential growth in the area adjacent to a medical waste incinerator in North Salt Lake has raised community concern about the health effects of incinerator releases. These include non-permitted amounts of dioxins, nitrogen dioxide, and hydrogen chloride gas, and intermittent bypassing of emission control systems. UDOH evaluated the health risks from exposure to air and soil contaminated with dioxins and heavy metals released from the facility and provided health education to residents. The incinerator operator is working to shift operations to a new, cleaner facility in a remote area of Tooele County.

### Utah

#### Award amount:

\$235,314 per year

Term: 3 years

Grantee since: 1998

### About ATSDR

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), based in Atlanta, Georgia along with 10 regional offices, is a federal public health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ATSDR serves the public by using the best science, taking responsive public health actions, and providing trusted health information to prevent harmful exposures and diseases related to toxic substances.

### Key projects

- **U.S. Magnesium** — This NPL site in active operation is contaminated with heavy metals, acidic wastewater, dioxins, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), hexachlorobenzene, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Releases of chlorine gas and hydrogen chloride into the air are also a concern. UDOH, in cooperation with ATSDR, will evaluate the public health impacts from contaminated soil, water, and air when environmental sampling is complete.
- **700 South 1600 East PCE Plume** — The groundwater at this NPL site in Salt Lake City is contaminated with tetrachloroethylene (PCE). Residents may be exposed to PCE in the home via vapor intrusion. The remedial investigation is in progress.
- **San Juan River/Lake Powell** — The water and sediment at these important recreational areas are contaminated with heavy metals from historic mining activity. We are working to determine contaminants and potential health effects at this site.

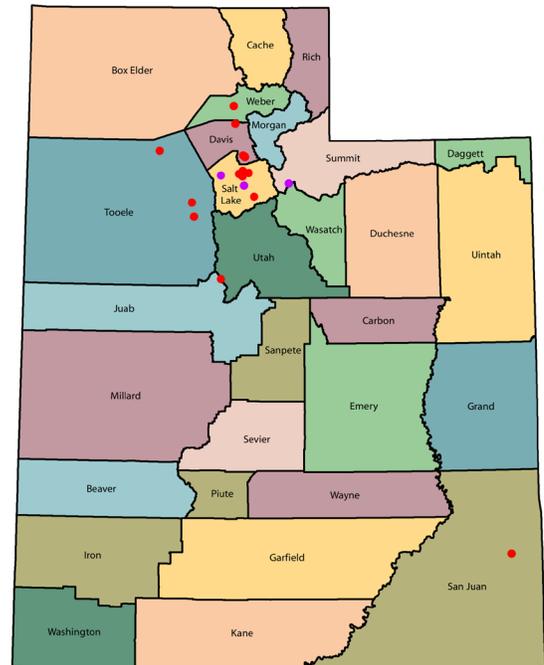
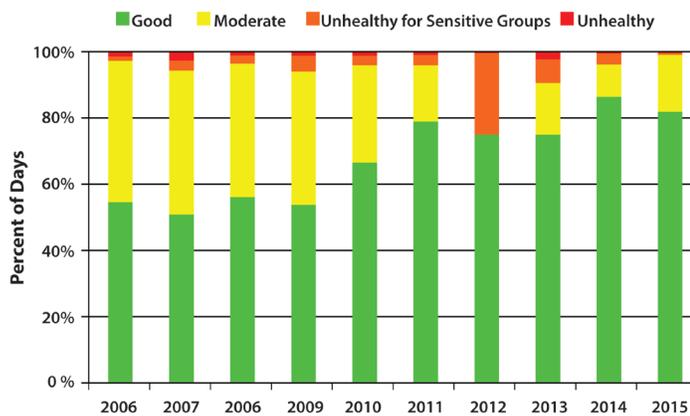
### State Priorities

- **Historic Mining Activity** — Assessing many sites and waterbodies contaminated by past mining and smelting activities. ATSDR supports Utah by providing technical, scientific, and health education expertise during all stages of the assessment process.
- **Harmful Algal Blooms** — Evaluating and responding appropriately to algal blooms threatening Utah's recreational and drinking waters.
- **Air Quality** — Collaborating with stakeholders to educate the public and policy makers about air pollution; assessing health impacts of air pollution caused by fine particulate matter and ozone, which are major concerns in Utah.

## Did you know?

- State and federal agencies estimate that Utah has 10,700 abandoned hard rock (gold, silver, copper, lead) mines and 17,000 mine openings.
- An extremely large harmful algal bloom in July 2016 forced a two week closure of Utah Lake, the fourth largest natural freshwater lake in the Western U.S.
- Approximately 85% of Utah's 3,000,000 citizens live and work along the Wasatch Front; most of this area does not meet federal air quality standards for fine particulate matter. Fine particulate matter is particulate matter that is **2.5 microns in diameter and less**. It is also known as PM2.5.

Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5) Air Quality in Salt Lake City, UT



Site on Final National Priorities List (NPL)  
as of September 9, 2016

● On Final NPL

● Proposed for NPL

Data sources: Esri, U.S. EPA "Search Superfund Site Information" query (2016), U.S. EPA SEMS (2016), U.S. EPA Facility Registry Service (2016).

## Learn more

Follow these links to learn more about programs protecting public health in Utah:

ATSDR — <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/>

Division of Community Health Investigations (DCHI) — <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hac/index.html>

ATSDR Public Health Assessments and Consultations for Utah — <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/PHA/HCPHA.asp?State=UT>

Utah Department of Health (UDOH) — [health.utah.gov/enviroepi/appletree](http://health.utah.gov/enviroepi/appletree)

Air Quality and Public Health — [health.utah.gov/utahair](http://health.utah.gov/utahair)

Harmful Algal Blooms — [health.utah.gov/enviroepi/appletree/HAB](http://health.utah.gov/enviroepi/appletree/HAB)

Utah Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program — <http://ogm.utah.gov/amr/amrtemp/default.html>

*ATSDR – The most trusted Agency protecting American communities from environmental health threats through application of state of the art science.*

Last updated 8/15/2017