



Created 02/08/23 by Ren Griffeth

Version 1

There is no shortage of data to show that Utah residents live shorter, sicker lives as a result of poor air quality. But, do you know just how bad it is? Below is a compiled list of quality, published research on the topic.

Scan the QR code for each item or click on the listed source to find the original publication.



1. ***Utah residents have been shown to lose 1.1 to 3.5 years of their life on average due to poor air quality.*** Up to 23% of the population loses 5 years or more. Source: [Brigham Young University](#), published 11/18/2020.



2. ***Short-term exposure to air pollution is known to increase the rates of suicide completion in Utah.*** Suicide is the 8th leading cause of death in Utah, and we have one of the highest rates of death by suicide in the country. Source: [American Journal of Epidemiology](#), published 02/10/2015.



3. ***The risk for a spontaneous loss of pregnancy is increased by up to 16% in women along the Wasatch Front*** from even short-term exposure to some pollutants. They evaluated 1,398 women who had suffered a sudden loss of pregnancy from 2007-2015. Source: [University of Utah](#), published 02/2019.



4. ***Babies who are exposed to air pollution in-utero are more likely to be born preterm or underweight,*** putting them at an increased risk of long-term health complications and death. Source: [Utah's Bureau of Epidemiology](#).



5. ***Utah averages 1.51 infant deaths from birth defects per 1,000 live births.*** The US Target for infant deaths from major birth defects is 1.3 per 1,000 live births. Source: [Utah's Public Health Indicator Based Information System.](#)



6. ***Utah is the 2nd highest state in the US for lifetime prevalence of asthma among adults as of 2020, at 16.3%.*** West Virginia is the only state with a higher lifetime prevalence, at 16.9%. Source: [Statista.](#)



7. ***Multiple studies from across the globe reveal that air pollution increases rates of depression and other mental illnesses.*** According to one study, every 1 standard deviation rise in particulate matter over an average PM2.5 concentration increases the likelihood of having a mental illness (including depression) by 6.67%. Source: The [Ochsner Journal](#), published Spring 2019.



8. ***Utah is currently ranked #48 in the country for mental health.*** Only Oregon, Wyoming, and Colorado have higher rates of mental illness in the US. Source: [Mental Health America.](#)



9. ***Air pollution is linked to higher rates of criminal behavior and Alzheimer's disease, decreased cognitive function, and impaired emotional and behavioral development in infants.*** Source: [Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment- New Research.](#)



10. ***Alzheimer's is the 5th leading cause of death in Utah.*** Chronic lower respiratory diseases are the 6th leading cause of death. Source: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.](#)



11. ***As the Great Salt Lake dries up, its newly exposed lakebed adds arsenic, lead, antimony, and several other highly hazardous chemicals to the air we breathe.*** A report published on January 4th, 2023 reveals that the lake could be completely gone within 5 years without intervention. Source: [Brigham Young University.](#)



12. ***The plant owned by US Magnesium emits 10%-25% of the total 2.5PM winter inversion pollution in Northern Utah.*** The study, completed by NOAA, was conducted with sophisticated equipment and identified excessive pollutants such as bromide gas that are not required to be reported by regulations. However, they are still incredibly harmful. Source: [National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration](#), published 01/25/2023.



13. ***Air pollution costs Utah taxpayers an average of \$1.8 billion annually in healthcare costs and loss of tourism, among other costs.*** Source: [Brigham Young University](#), published 01/23/2020.



Conclusion

My deepest hope is that this fact sheet alerts readers to the severity and urgency of the current situation in Utah. Undeniably, the longer we go without definitive legislative action to safeguard our future, the worse the consequences and statistics will become. Importantly, these statistics represent real people, who are suffering every day as a result of the environment they live in.

Utah is such a beautiful place, filled with incredible people. However, it has disastrous downsides that must be mitigated in order for the people who live here to thrive.

Please visit StopTheArsenicDustStorms.org to learn more about the current situation, sign a petition to save the Great Salt Lake, and contact your legislators. Let's ask for more to be done on behalf of the people of Utah.



