

1 Sociodemographics of Utah Women

The overall health status of a population is influenced by the age, race, sex, and socioeconomic characteristics of the people of whom it is composed as much as by health care technology. Therefore, a review of the characteristics of Utah's population and of women's status in education, employment, and family life will provide background material for understanding the health issues of concern for women.

- By the year 2000, it is projected that there will be 132 women aged 65 and older per 100 men in the same age group.
- Utah women have been more likely to work outside their homes than other American women since 1980. The gender gap in median income is larger in Utah than in the U.S.
- In 1990, 11.3 percent of Utah families were headed by a single woman; that represents a nearly 74 percent increase from 1960.

Overview

Utah's population has nearly tripled during the past 44 years (see table below). Utahns are younger, have more children, and are more likely to live in urban areas than other Americans on average. While the crude birth rate (number of live births per 1,000 population) in U.S. and Utah dropped by more than one third between 1950 and

1994, the Utah birth rate remains over 30 percent higher than the national birth rate (15.2 per 1,000). Utahns have also married and divorced more often than other Americans since 1970. They have lower per capita income than other Americans as well (see Appendix A).

Population and Socioeconomic Profiles of Utah: 1950-1994

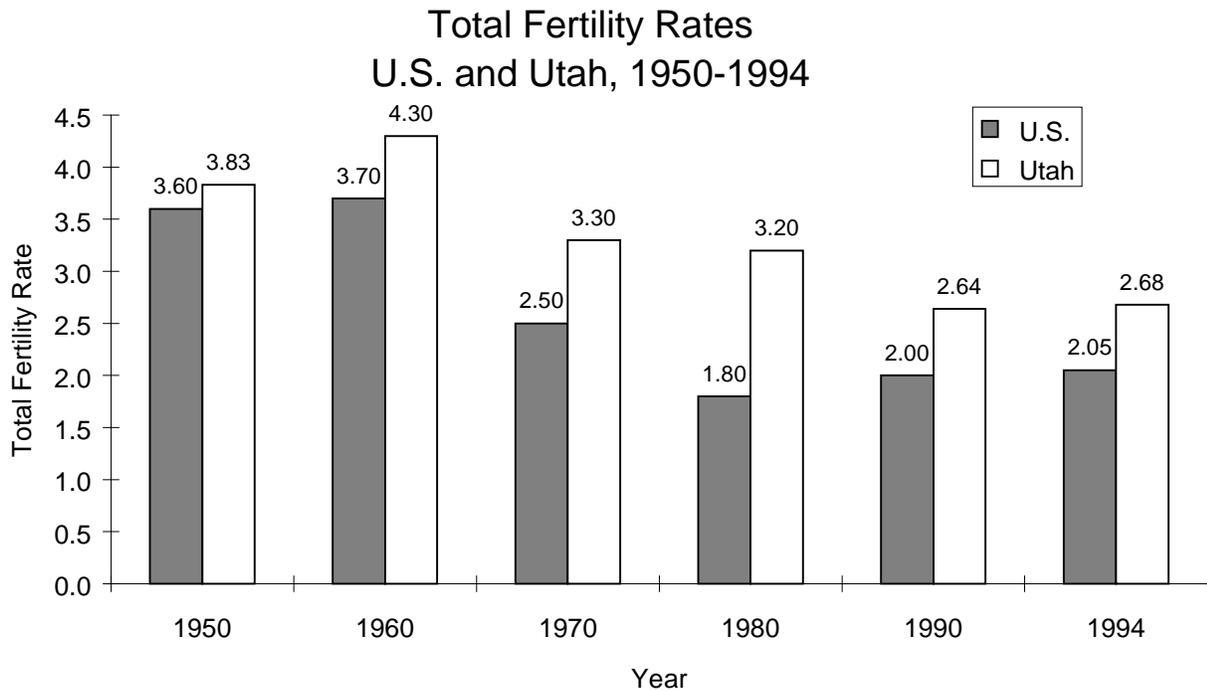
	<u>1950</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1994</u>
Total Population	668,860	890,627	1,059,273	1,461,037	1,723,000	1,991,811
Female Population	341,226	445,703	536,008	736,537	867,091	1,005,384
Males per 100 Females	101.88	99.83	97.62	98.37	98.69	98.11
Males per 100 Females Age 65+	92.97	86.91	78.04	74.33	75.05	75.70
Crude Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	30.8	29.2	25.5	28.6	21.1	20.0
College graduates (% of women age 25+)	5.90%	7.10%	9.60%	14.50%	17.40%	N/A
Per Capita Income	\$1,266	\$1,921	\$3,220	\$4,272	\$12,237	\$13,181 (1993)
Marriage Rate (per 1,000 population)	10.2	7.9	11.2	11.6	11.2	11.0 (1993)
Divorce Rate (per 1,000 population)	3.1	2.4	3.7	5.4	5.2	4.7

Note: Appendix A contains data sources as well as additional information on Utah and the United States.

Fertility

Fertility has declined in the U.S. and Utah since 1960. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR)¹ is a measure that indicates the number of children an average woman can expect to have in her life-

time*. Based on Total Fertility Rates in 1994, Utah women have, on average, 0.63 more children than do women in the United States as a whole.



Note: Total fertility rate means the average number of children expected to be born to each woman in a cohort at the time she completes fertility.

Source: Statistical Abstract of the U.S., 1953, No.50, p.55. Table 27: Total Fertility Rates, Utah and U.S. In Utah Demographic Report June 1993.

* The Total Fertility Rate for a given year is calculated based on the fertility rates experienced by women of different ages during that year. For example, the 1994 United States TFR was 2.05. That means that women who experience the fertility rates of women of various ages in 1994 over their lifetimes would have, on average, 2.05 children.

Female Labor Force Participation

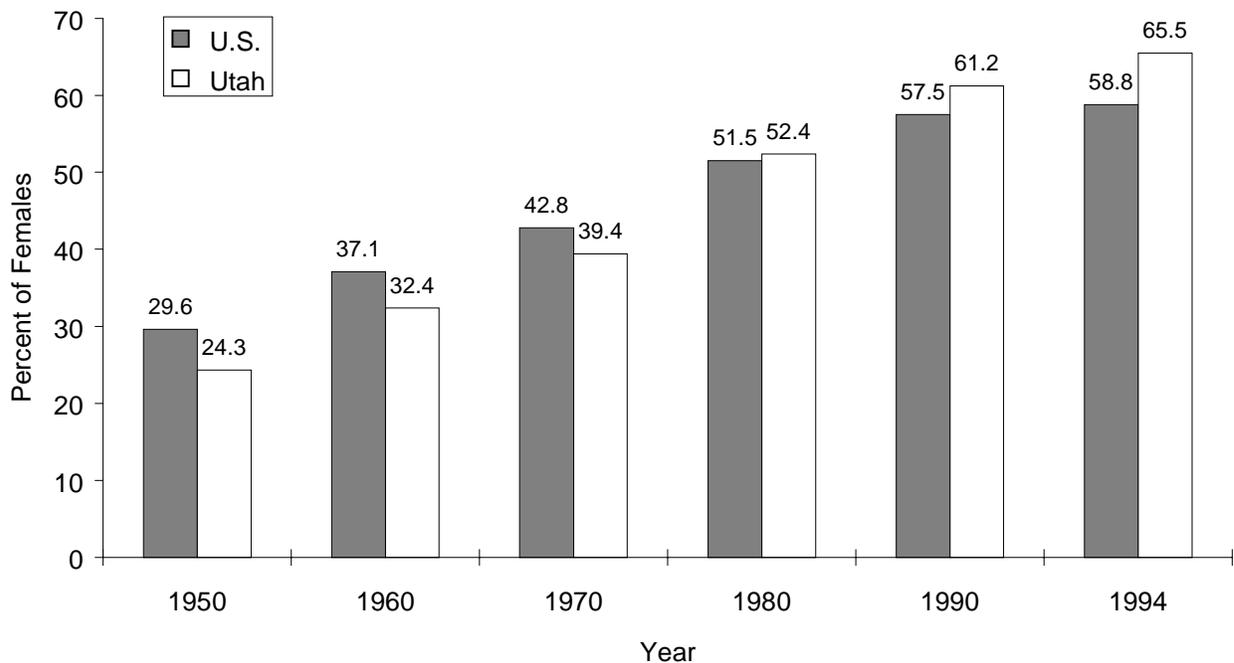
In 1950, only 24.3 percent of Utah women participated in the paid labor force; that was 5.4 percent lower than the U.S. rate. Since 1980, Utah women (65.5% in 1994) have been more likely to work outside their homes than other American women (58.8% in 1994).

Although most women are in the paid labor force and are working full-time, year-round, there are significant differences between women's and men's employment experiences. Occupational segregation exists, and men earn more than

women.³ Women also face different challenges in how work and family roles interact than do men.⁴

Literature on how these factors affect women's health has been inconclusive. Some have argued that working outside of the home enhances self-esteem for women. Others have found that working mothers, who must take on multiple roles, experience more stress in their lives.⁴ Specific studies on the working patterns of Utah women and on how those patterns influence their health are needed.

Percentage of Females Participating as Members of the Paid Labor Force, U.S. and Utah, 1950-1994



Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1995.

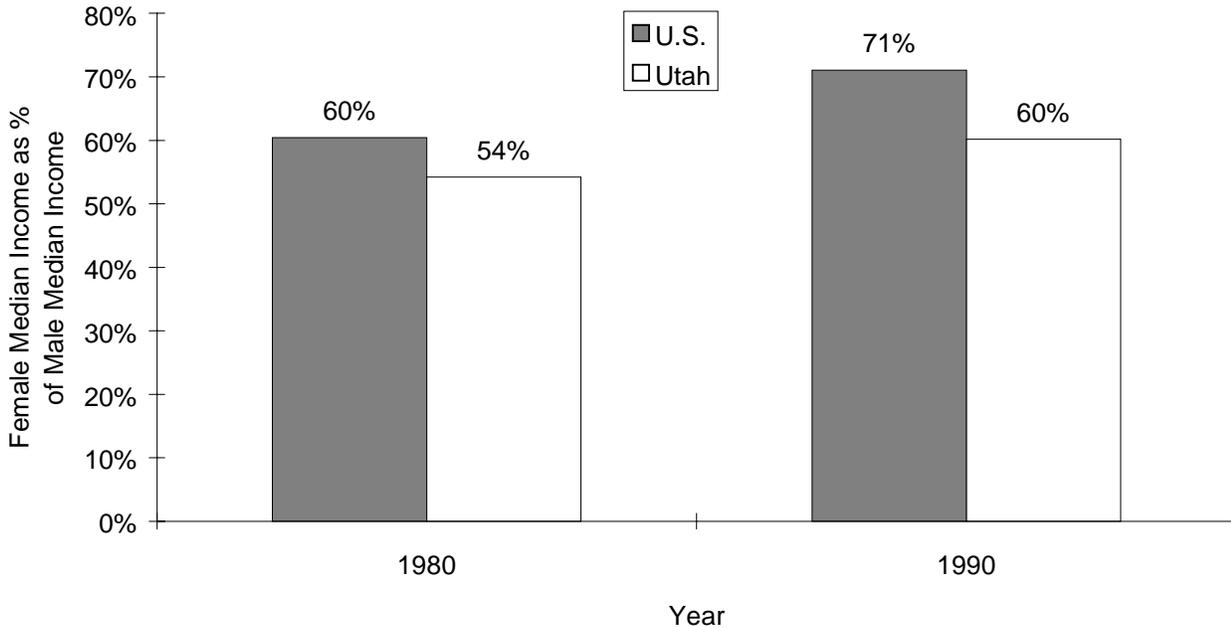
Women's Wages and Cost of Child Care

Women still earn less than men in the U.S. and Utah. The gender gap in median income is larger in Utah than in the U.S. (see figure below).

Nearly 10 percent of Utahns were under five years of age in 1990 compared with 7.6 percent of the U.S. population. In September 1995, costs for

child care in Utah ranged from \$56 to \$120 weekly for children up to two years of age and \$48 to \$92 weekly for older pre-school children.⁵ In 1993, low-income families typically spent over 20 percent of their income to pay for child care, while wealthier families spend much less (6% to 7%) in the U.S.⁶

Women's Median Income as a Percentage of Men's Median Income, U.S. and Utah, 1980 and 1990



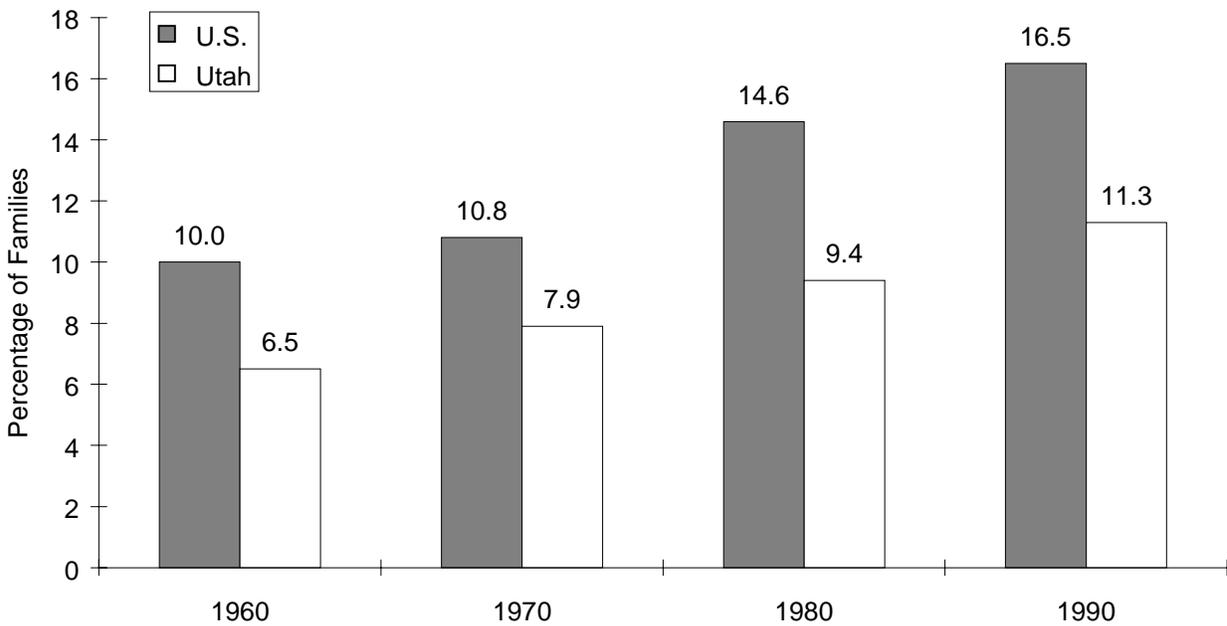
Note: Salary is based on full-time year-round employees aged 15 years and older.
Source: Income, Poverty, and Valuation of Non-Cash Benefits: 1994 Statistical Abstract of the U.S.

Families Headed by A Single Female

The proportion of families headed by a single woman has increased over the past three decades. In 1990, 11.3 percent of Utah families were headed by a single female, nearly a 74 percent

increase from 1960 (6.5%). In these families, the children, as well as the women themselves, may be vulnerable, financially and in other ways; such families are also at risk in the areas of nutrition and stress.

Percentage of Families Headed by a Single Female
U.S. and Utah, 1960-1990



Source: Decennial Census of Population and Housing

Sociodemographics of Utah Women

References:

1. Haupt, Arthur and Thomas T. Kane. *Population Handbook (International Edition)*. Washington, D.C.: The Population Reference Bureau, Inc., 1980.
2. Renzetti, Claire M. and Curran, Daniel J. *Women, Men, and Society, Third Edition*. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon, 1995; 254-59.
3. Leffler, Ann, and Wu Xu. Impacts of Gender and Race on Occupational Segregation, Prestige, and Earnings. In: Dubeck, Paula J. and Borman, Kathryn, eds. *Women and Work: A Handbook*. New York: Garland. 1996.
4. Verbrugge, Lois M. Multiple Roles and Physical Health of Women and Men. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 1983; 24: 16-30.
5. Utah Office of Child Care & Utah Office of Licensing. *A Status Report on Child Care in Utah, 1995 Report*. Salt Lake City, Utah 1995; 16 p.
6. Casper, Lynne M., *What Does It Cost to Mind Our Preschoolers?* Washington, D.C.: Statistical Information Office, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau, 1993. 70-72 p.