

## Data Book

# Diversity in Utah: Race, Ethnicity, and Sex

## Analysis in Brief

Utah ranks as the 34<sup>th</sup> most racially and ethnically diverse state in the nation, with 22% of the state identifying as other than non-Hispanic White. This places Utah’s racial/ethnic diversity just below Pennsylvania and above several larger states like Ohio, Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. Utah’s minority share of the population is expected to increase to one in three Utahns by 2060.

Race, ethnicity, and sex indicators in Utah show significant differences in economic, education, health, and housing outcomes. These differences, while multi-layered and complex, show Utah’s minority populations (with a few notable exceptions, especially among the Asian population) are more likely than Utah’s White population to have less income and wealth, higher poverty rates, lower educational achievement and attainment, less home ownership, and higher housing cost burdens. Utah health data show more variance and nuance by race and ethnicity with some minority populations showing

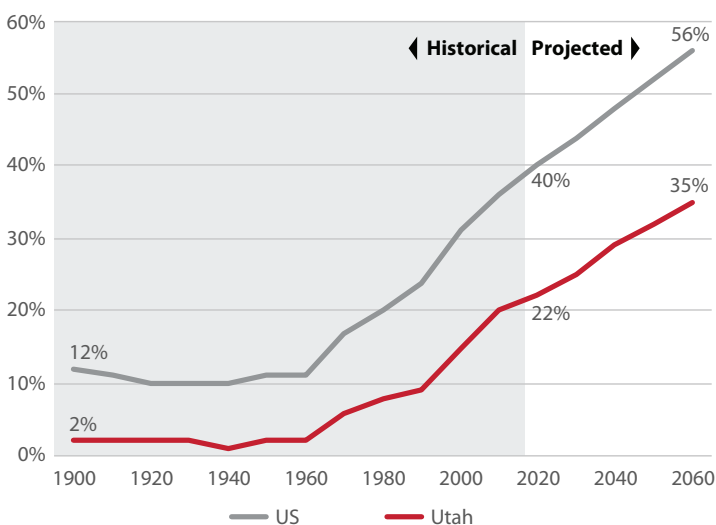
longer life expectancies and lower rates of depression, obesity, and asthma than the White population.

An equitable society is one where race, ethnicity, and sex do not determine opportunity and life outcomes. Utah community leaders – including the governor, Legislature, and business leaders – have made extending greater opportunity to all Utahns a priority. This leadership, along with the Beehive State’s nation-leading social capital, family stability, income equality, and social mobility position Utah well to make important progress in addressing racial, ethnic, and sex disparities.

### Key Background Information

- **Definitions** – This data book generally follows the categories and definitions for race, ethnicity, and sex used by the Census Bureau and other federal agencies. This includes five race categories (American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, Black/African American, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and White) and one ethnic category (Hispanic or Latino), as well as “Some Other Race” or “Two or More Races.” Variations on these terminologies are used in the data from the Utah Department of Health and Utah System of Higher Education. Sex is also based on the Census Bureau definition and follows the biological attributes of men and women.
- **Sample data** – Many of the estimates in this report are based on a sample of the population. Sample estimates include sampling variation. We show this variation with a confidence interval on the graphics or in margin-of-error tables in the appendix.
- **Explaining disparities** – This data book does not evaluate the reasons or assign causality for racial, ethnic, and sex disparities. The range of potential explanations is large, complex, and interrelated. It includes demographic, economic, behavioral, and societal factors (including discrimination). We leave it to readers to review the data, consider the context, engage in discussions, consider additional data, and ultimately, glean greater understanding.

**Minority Share of Population, Utah and U.S., 1900–2060**

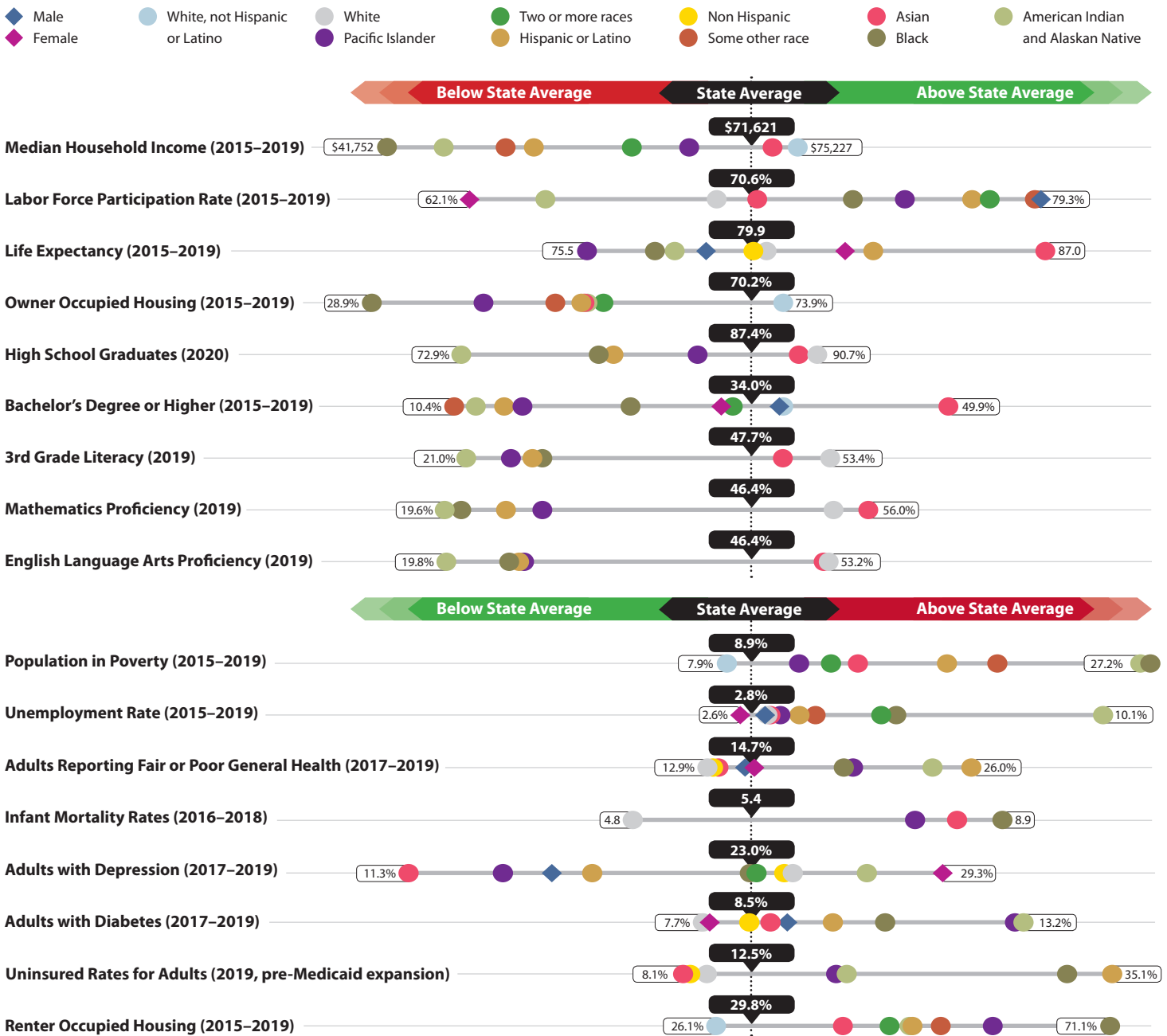


Note: Minority includes those identifying as something other than Non-Hispanic White Alone  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Perlich 2002; Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute

■ **Feedback and additional conversations** – The Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute appreciates the helpful feedback and comments on this data book provided by the Multicultural Commission, Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable, Salt Lake Chamber, Utah Black Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Corporation of Utah, World Trade Center Utah, Governor’s Office of Economic Opportunity, Sutherland Institute, Wheatley Institution at Brigham Young University,

and community leaders. All reviewers affirm the value of considering equity, diversity, and inclusion based on a foundation of credible data. Reviewers also recognize the critical importance of context and additional information. Most importantly, reviewers agree that if we use this data to engage in meaningful and thoughtful conversations, Utah will become an even better state by extending greater opportunity to all.

## Race, Ethnicity, and Sex Indicators



Note: This figure highlights the data in this report that contain a state average. It does not include all indicators included in the data book. For some indicators, sex is not available and the racial categories can differ across indicators. Please see data therein for important data notes and sources.