

2026 Utah Public Health Conference

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

*subject to change

Breakfast and Registration
8:30am - 9:30am

Opening Session
Nalini Padmanabhan, deBeaumont Foundation
Navigating the Present and Future of Public Health Communications
9:30am - 10:45am

Posters, Exhibitors, Networking
10:45am - 11:15am

Breakout Session 1
11:15am - 12:15pm

<p>Rethinking the American Workday to Address Chronic Disease in the 21st Century Presenter: Tycen Flygare, Utah State University</p>	<p>From Dippers to Drones: The Evolution of Mosquito Abatement in Utah County Presenter: Jason Bird, Utah County Health Department</p>	<p>Flexibility, Agility, and Pivoting: Building Hope and Opportunity in an Evolving Public Health Landscape Presenter: UPHA Academic Section</p>	<p>Transforming Health Through Community Collaboration: The Power of Community Care Hubs Presenters: Katrina Seipp-Lewington, Trei Herd, Dave Cook, Comagine Health</p>		<p>From Resistance to Readiness: Motivational Interviewing Strategies for Vaccine Communication During Utah's Measles Outbreak Presenter: Aaron Hunt, Utah State University</p>	<p>Lightning Round: Health Equity *The Impact of Disability Status on Sexual and Reproductive Health Experiences among Women *Tools for Helping Older Adults With Health Questions *Building Community Champions: A Model for Community-Led Cancer Prevention in the Mountain West *The UHEART Online Hub: Empowering Utahns to Make Health Decisions in a Changing Environment *From assessment to action: Fostering inclusive workplaces with the Disability Training Policy Toolkit</p>	<p>Communication Track: Navigating the Present and Future of Public Health Communications Presenter: Nalini Padmanabhan, deBeaumont Foundation</p>
<p>Supporting and Optimizing the Workforce through the Science of Happiness Presenter: Michele Bildner, Utah Valley University</p>	<p>Environmental Contaminants and Oral Health Inequities: A One Health Perspective on Prevention and Policy Presenter: Edmond Appiah, Drexel University</p>						

Lunch
12:15pm - 1:15pm

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

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Breakout Session 2 1:15pm - 2:15pm							
<p>NourishHealth: Affordable, Culturally Inspired Nutrition Education to Improve Diet Quality and Reduce Food Insecurity Presenter: Palak Gupta, Missy White USU Extension</p>	<p>Rapid Resilience: A Prevention Science Approach to Quick Climate Resilience Presenter: Mamta Chaudhari, Caroline Moreno, Emily Paskett, Salt Lake County Health Department</p>	<p>Local Uses of the Utah Healthy Places Index (HPI) Panelists: Sarah Hodson, Chloe Roghaar, Rehana Baksh, DHHS; Carrie Bennett, Utah County Health Department; Tabitha Allred, Summit County Health Department</p>	<p>People or Numbers? Understanding our "Why" While Working to Make Measurable Change Presenter: Meghan Balough, DHHS</p>	<p>Yoga / Meditation / Walking *no CHES credits</p>	<p>Here We Are Now, Entertain Us! Engagement Strategies for Effective Meetings Presenter: Sarah Davis, Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center</p>	<p>Lightning Round: Student Research *Health Coaches' Perspectives on Implementation and Impact of the Prevention Plus Wellness Program *Unequal Plates: Gender Gaps and Food Security in Rural Malawi *Adverse and Positive Childhood Experiences in Alaska Associations with Adult Physical and Mental Health *Integrating Human and Environmental Health *College Students Perceptions of Genetic Risk, Family History, and Prevention of Breast Cancer</p>	<p>Communication Track Reels That Serve - Editing Short Videos That Stick Presenters: UDOT Social Media Team</p>
Posters, Exhibitors, Networking 2:15pm - 2:45pm							
Breakout Session 3 2:45pm - 3:15pm							
<p>How Good Is Syndromic Surveillance? Depends on How You Define It (or at least your queries). The Continuing Journey From GIGO to QIQO Presenter: Jerry Nelson, DHHS</p>		<p>Putting the Promotion in Health Promotion: Tools Every Health Educator Needs to Boost Engagement Presenter: Whitney Ockey, Salt Lake Community College Student</p>	<p>Community Engagement in Health Research: A Process-Oriented Overview of Feasible Community-Engaged Research From Start to Finish Presenters: Brandy Westwood, Heather Williamson, University of Utah</p>		<p>Do More with Less: Operational Efficiency in Public Health Presenter: Logan Waechtler, Utah Valley University</p>	<p>Utah's Rural Health Transformation Plan: A Catalyst for Change Presenter: Brittney Okada, DHHS</p>	<p>Communication Track Communicating for Change: Advocacy in Action Presenters: UPHA Advocacy Unit</p>
Posters, Exhibitors, Networking 3:15pm - 3:30pm							
Closing Session Rash, Rinse, Repeat: Inside Utah's 2025 Measles Outbreak 3:30pm - 4:30pm							

2026 Utah Public Health Conference

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

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UPHA Annual Business Meeting (UPHA members only) 7:30am - 9:15am							
Breakfast and Registration 8:30am - 9:30am							
Opening Session Jamuna Jones, University of Utah Resiliency Center Personal and Professional Well-Being: Remembering Ourselves While Caring for Others 9:30am - 10:30am							
Posters, Exhibitors, Networking 10:30am - 10:45am							
Breakout Session 1 10:45am - 11:45am							
Strengthening Youth Resilience Through Connection: Utah's CHAT Campaign and Promoting Positive Childhood Experiences Presenter: Nathan Malan, DHHS	Decentralizing Clinical Trials - Building on the Foundations of the Past for a Healthier and More Equitable Future Presenters: Colleen Marshall, Kristen Jones, Clinical Research Connection	Utah's HPV Vaccine Journey: Celebrating Progress and Charting the Path Ahead Presenters: Shannon England-Rice, Kayla Rypien, DHHS	Tribal Consultation: from Policy to Action Presenters: Alex Merrill, Jeremy Taylor, DHHS	UPHA: Our Past, Present, and Future	Partnership Power Mapping: Building Bridges Across Sectors Presenters: Alysia Ducuara, Emma Andreasen, Megan Larsen, Get Healthy Utah	Lightning Round: Data *Expanded Targeted cCMV Testing *Strengthening Statewide Overdose Readiness Through Updated Response Framework *Food Insecurity in Utah *Mapping Hypertension: Using the HPI to Inform Rural Public Health Action *Uninsurance Associates with Unmet Financial, Medical, and Social Needs among Young Adults with Cancer	Building a Better Boat: the Future of Utah's Public Health System Panelists: Melissa Dimond, Janae Duncan, DHHS, LHD presenters TBD
Chatbot vs. Human: How Conversations Compare in Loneliness Reduction and Heart Rate Variability Presenter: Emily Grover, University of Utah Student	Raising Awareness and Improving Outcomes for Chronic Kidney Disease Presenter: Pam Chapman, DHHS; Dave Cook, Comagine; Navina Forsythe, UHIN	Bridging Research and Reality: Coalition Work to Champion Immunizations Presenters: Whitney Stephens, Promise Partnership Utah; Caitlyn Jasumback, UPHA; Michael Stapley, Utah Citizen's Council	Health Perspectives from People Experiencing Homelessness 2025: Summary of Findings Tyler Riedesel, DHHS				
Lunch and Awards 11:45am - 1:00pm							
Posters, Exhibitors, Networking 1:00pm - 1:30pm							

**Breakout Session 2
1:30pm - 2:30pm**

Paso a Paso: A Campus-Community Partnership for the Design, Implementation and Evaluation of a Cultural and Linguistic Responsive Diabetes Prevention Program for Hispanic Populations Presenter: Teresa Molina, University Neighborhood Partners; Maribel Cedillo, University of Utah; Gabriela Portugal; Alliance Community Services	Same Team: A Consortium Model for Disease Surveillance Presenter: Katie Zimmerman, DHHS	Fueling Change: Using Nutrition Landscape Assessments to Define Community Priorities Presenter: Katerina Boliger, DHHS	Creating safe play for Utah's children – improvements we can make today so they can live and play for many tomorrows Presenters: Stephanie Stokes, Michelle Jamison, Primary Children's Hospital	Book Club: Reproduction on the Reservation: Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Colonialism in the Long Twentieth Century by, Brianna Theobald	Lessons Learned from Creating a Widely Adapted High School Nutrition Curriculum - Updated nutrition standards Presenter: Madeleine French, University of Utah	Lightning Round: Mental Health and Substance Use *Utah Suicides by Job Type *Mental Health and Fatal Overdose in Utah *Spatial Separation of Populations, Ethnic Enclaves, and Cognitive and Mental Health Outcomes among Older Adults *Safe Firearm Storage Initiative	From Principles to Action: Advancing Community Collaboration for Public Health Impact Panelists: Heather Williamson, Brandy Westwood, Jennie Hill, University of Utah
Finding Meaning in Evaluation Practice: Engaging Participants Early to Make Sure You Got it Right Presenters: Macie Swensen, Camille Roundy, DHHS	Accelerating Public Health Data Modernization: Utah's AI-Powered Strategy Presenter: Nicole Yerkes, DHHS	Early Childcare Policy in Transition: Current Landscape and Future Sustainability Presenter: Mary Kathryn Curcio Stoddard, Cheryl Saunders, DHHS	Reclaiming Real Childhood: Addressing the Developmental Harms of Youth Technology Use and Launching a USU Extension Pilot Program Presenter: Aaron Hunt, Utah State University	How the New Dietary Guidelines for Americans Could Impact Public Health in Utah Presenter: Madeleine French, University of Utah			

**Posters, Exhibitors, Networking
2:30pm - 2:45pm**

**Breakout Session 3
2:45pm - 3:15pm**

Improving Digital Health Equity: Characteristics of Health Apps Serving Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing and Blind/Low-Vision Individuals Presenter: Sarah Hall, Kayla Zayas, Tasha Anderson, Becca Greenhalgh, Brigham Young University	Crafting Change in the Uintah Basin: An Overview of a Community-Based Health Education Program and Evaluation Results Presenter: Cara Murray, Cris Meier, Utah State University Extension	Program Past, Present, Future of Naloxone Access in Utah: Operational Lessons from a Statewide Overdose Prevention Program Presenter: Carla Arancibia, DHHS	A Bolder Way Forward for Utah Presenters: Amy Anderson, Utah Women & Leadership Project; Erika Lindley, University of Utah Healthcare; Audrey Jiricko, Stephanie Stokes, Intermountain Healthcare		Life Skills Rx: From Collaboration to Application in School-Based Prevention Presenter: Mekel Jones, Utah County Health Department	Belonging, Culture, and Identity: Shaping the Emotional Well-Being of New Generations Presenter: Sandra Uribe De la Fuente, I am Bienestar	Applying the CDC Science Impact Framework: Describing and Implementing the Framework to Demonstrate the Value of the Utah Public Health Infrastructure Presenters: Camille Roundy, Macie Swensen, DHHS
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**Poster, Exhibitors, Networking
3:15pm - 3:30pm**

**Closing Session
The Past, Present, and Future of Public Health
a conversation with:
Angela Dunn, Dorothy Adams, Heather Borski, Sarah Woolsey, Sharon Talboys, and Teresa Garrett
3:30pm - 4:30pm**

2026 Utah Public Health Conference Poster Sessions

Tuesday, March 24th Poster Session	
Poster Title	Poster Author
Differences in HIV diagnostic settings across two time periods: An opportunity for prioritized testing	Johnny Rodriguez
Healthy Smiles: Bringing Oral Health Into Primary Care	Truc Ho
Developing a Public Health Action Plan to Prevent Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) Through Candida auris Wastewater Surveillance	Lydia Farrow
Door-to-door response efforts: Lessons from COVID	Siosaia Hafoka
Advancing Maternal and Child Health through Immunization: Childhood Vaccine Adherence in Rural Ghana	Elizabeth Brennan
Exploring Barriers and Facilitators to Evidence-Based Instructional Practices in Post-Secondary Public Health Education	Josh Oliver
A hexagon-based synoptic weather typing approach for environmental health analysis in the Intermountain West	Kailey Mahoney
Medical Misinformation: Present Challenges and Future Implications for Health Care Providers	Nathanael Pennock
A Statewide Analysis of Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Education in Utah K-6 Schools	Mishelle Kehoe-Seamons
Antenatal Care Assessment in Rural Ghana	Katie Stansfield
Using Syndromic Surveillance Data to Enhance Chronic Disease Surveillance Efforts in Utah	Shannon Robinson
HPV Vaccine Attitudes Among Tongan Adults in Utah	Aclen Obray

Wednesday, March 25th Poster Session	
Poster Title	Poster Author
Association Between Body Shape Index and Depression among Young Adults Aged 18-30 Years in the USA	Tinsae Abeya Geleta
The Role of Community Flourishing in Promoting College Student Flourishing and Mental Health	Steven Ko
Barriers and Facilitators of Tuberculosis Treatment Among Pastoralist Populations in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Scoping Review	Pablo Troop
Prevalence of advanced hepatic fibrosis and steatosis in an underserved Hispanic population	Christopher Danford
Building Bridges: Enhancing Social Connection Among Housed and Unhoused Women Through a Community Integration Pilot Program	Séphora Giraud-Carrier
The past, present, and future of online surveys: Developing feasible and effective strategies for ensuring trustworthy and actionable data	Ida Tovar
Bridging the Gap: Transforming Maternal Healthcare for Rural Utah's Future with FQHC-Driven Solutions	Benedicta Kwakye-Andoh
Pediatric Malnutrition Screening in Developing Countries	Kimberlee Creech
Virtual Community Engagement to Increase Access and Impact Across the Healthcare Landscape	Brandy Westwood
From Assessment to Action: A Data-Driven and Community-Led Approach to Developing a Community Health Improvement Plan	Nancy Porter
Beyond Insured vs. Uninsured: How Insurance Adequacy Shapes Mental Health Among Working-Age U.S. Adults	Tania Akter
Genomic Epidemiology of a Developing Measles Outbreak	Abbey Marye
Perceptions of ACEs and Their Impact on Health Outcomes in Alaska	Ivles Datoon