



SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH  
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## Causes and effects

Utah has the lowest cigarette consumption per capita in the United States, a rate which is only 53 percent of the national per capita consumption of cigarettes.

And Utah has the lowest age-adjusted mortality rate from cancer in the United States. Is there a real relationship?

There most certainly is. These facts are produced in the Cancer in Utah report No. 2, published by the Utah Cancer Registry. The period covered in the report is from 1957 to 1974.

Since 1966, the Utah State Cancer Registry has been gathering data on who gets cancer, how they were treated and how they survived. The registry has been funded since 1973 by the National Cancer Institute's "Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Result" program. The Utah State Legislature in 1975 provided additional funds through a special appropriation to the Utah State Division of Health.

The study is not only helpful to medical men but should be most meaningful to the citizens of the state at large.

The report indicates another factor in the low cancer rate in Utah, which is that this state is the seventh lowest in the nation in alcohol consumption per capita.

It includes results of a survey conducted in 1970 by the sociology department of the University of Utah having to do with the incidence of smoking in the population.

This study was divided between LDS citizens and non-LDS citizens. The figures showed that the percentage of male smokers among the LDS people was 17.5 compared to 50 percent among non-LDS people, and 45.9 percent for the nation at large. Among women smokers, the figures

were 13 percent for LDS, 32.3 for non-LDS, and 30.5 for the nation.

The incidence of cancer in the United States as a whole is shown to be 342.6 for men per 100,000 population, and 303.8 for women. In Utah the figures are 245.3 for men and 268 for women. For LDS people the figures are 234.3 for men and 244.1 for women. For the non-LDS sector, the figures are 274.9 for men and 343.0 for women.

The cancer mortality per 100,000 of population is shown to be 174.04 for men in the nation at large and 130.10 for women. In Utah the rate is 133.14 for men and 102.06 for women.

Since smoking affects cancer of the mouth and tongue, the rate for mouth cancer per 100,000 is shown to be 3.9 among men in the nation, 1.8 for women. In Utah the rate is 2.8 for men and 1.4 for women. Among non-LDS men in Utah the rate is 3.8; among women 3.2. Among LDS men the rate is 2.3 for men and 0.6 for women.

Cancer of the tongue and pharynx show similar comparisons. Deaths from cancer of the esophagus per 100,000 of population are 4.1 for men in the nation; 1.03 for women in the nation. For Utah the figures are 1.56 for men and 0.26 for women.

Stomach cancer among LDS men in Utah, for 100,000 of population, is reported at 9.8 and for women 7.5. This is compared to the national rate of 14.3 for men and 6.8 for women.

For cancer of the colon, the rate in the nation is 33.4 for men and 29.4 for women. For LDS only, in Utah, the figures are 18.4 for men and 20.3 for women.

**THE REPORT GOES** on at length in an invaluable manner and provides much food for thought as to our manner of life.

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