

Utah's Public Health History

Presented by the Utah Public Health Association

For the 1997 Annual Conference of the American Public Health Association

Year	Historical Event
<u>Pre-History-1840s</u> Anasazi, American Indians, Trappers	Centuries before the European development of the western America, the area was inhabited by people. The Anasazi lived in the Utah area, building villages and living with the animals and land. Later, what we now call American Indians , from several tribes used the Utah area for their homes. What the health conditions of these early inhabitants is known by archaeological evidence, the success of their cultures and cultural histories which continue today. Thousands of these early 'pioneers' lived successfully in this area, and their relative health was the same as any of the other successful populations on this continent at the same time. Health practices included the use of natural elements in plants and minerals, and spiritual elements taken from the culture of these people. Healers were honored members of these societies, and continue to hold special positions in the cultures which survived to this day. It is also understood that personal and public health matters were discussed and handled within small groups, and taught by the senior members of the society to the young. These people also understood environmental issues, as most of them respected the earth and its resources as a provider of all bounties of life. The environment was even worshipped by many early inhabitants.
<u>1847</u> Brigham Young and Mormon pioneers arrived in Salt Lake Valley	Public Health as we know it now began in Utah in July, 1847, when Brigham Young and his company of 143 pioneers emerged from Emigration Canyon in the Wasatch Mountains and spread out on the site now known as Salt Lake City.
<u>1847 - 1860s</u> Mormon Immigrants came to Utah by the thousands	Immigrants from parts of the United States and other countries came to Salt Lake City to find freedom of worship. Until the eastern and western railroads joined the country together, thousands of immigrants traveled to Utah by wagon train or in hand cart companies. Over 60,000 people migrated to this area before the middle 1860s.
<u>1848</u> Early preventive health education taught	Because of Brigham Young's good judgment and common sense, the first years of residence in the valley were more healthful than they might have been since in that day there was little knowledge of sanitation or hygiene. Brigham Young was constantly advising as to the arrangement of barns, stables and privies in their relationship to the pioneer homes and water supplies . He repeatedly told the people to " boil the water they drank " and sensible eating was often the subject of discussion. He even suggested meals which measured up to an acceptable balanced diet and counseled the people on the need for work, proper sleep, and clothing needs.

1849
The Society of Health and a Council of Health organized

An organization for the "teaching of health and control of disease" was created in the spring of 1849. This body was called **The Society of Health** with a stated objective "To give information to the masses of the people, to lessen their burdens, and to enable them to help themselves." How interesting it is that the first public health organization in Utah saw fit to recognize the need to teach community health and health education to the people. Even today the same priority exists.

Later a **Council of Health** was organized and met once a week at the home of Willard Richards, an early Mormon church leader. The greatest fears of these early pioneers were of cholera, diphtheria and typhoid. These diseases had for many years been endemic in many parts of the country and were familiar to the pioneers as they made their westward trek. Death rates varied with the kinds of epidemics occurring in different years.

1870s - 1880s
Utah Press proposed construction of sewers, condemning all surface wells and connecting all residences with city water lines

In the 1870s and 1880s medical science progressed with research in the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases. With this progress, health departments began to be established in various parts of the country. Mostly, however, these early public health efforts were toward educating the public and campaigning for safe water systems and better sewage disposal. The Deseret News, May 4, 1889, **advocated the construction of a sewer** for Main and adjacent streets, and a "dry earth system of defecation" for the rest of the city. On May 3, 1890 the same paper published an article "The Water We Drink," which **advocated condemning all surface wells and connecting all residences with city water pipe lines**. By this time it was generally known that water could contain germs and that cholera and other diseases were spread by contaminated water. Undoubtedly, during that nearly half century, 1847-1890, the pioneers had lost many hundreds of lives from using water from contaminated sources.

1872
Epidemics of diphtheria, scarlet fever, and an epidemic bowel complaint

In 1872 **diphtheria, scarlet fever, and an epidemic bowel complaint** caused great alarm, with several deaths and much suffering.

1872
Utah's first two hospitals built - Saint Mark's and Holy Cross Hospitals

Utah's first hospital, Saint Mark's Hospital was begun in April 1872. Frequent mining and industrial accidents created an urgent need for a hospital. Saint Mark's founders were Major Wilkes, a manager of one of the mines, and three men who were all members of the Episcopal church. This first small, adobe hospital had six beds. It served as a county hospital until 1912 when the Salt Lake County Hospital was opened.

Holy Cross Hospital was the second in Utah. It was founded by the Catholic church. When two nuns came to set up a school, they learned of the need for a hospital. With the aid of two more nuns, a hospital was opened in a rented 14 room house in Salt Lake City. There were beds for 12 or 13 patients. In 1883, a new building with a 125-bed capacity was built.

**1872
American Public
Health
Association
organized**

The **American Public Health Association** was organized in 1872. In the 125 years since its creation, it has become the prominent organization promoting public in the world.

**1880
Diphtheria
epidemic took 749
lives**

In 1880 **Diphtheria** took 749 lives, a death rate of 525 per 100,000 of the population. Whole families were wiped out. The high death rate among mothers and babies called for better care. This care rested on midwives. Many of them had never received training. Some mid-wives used good hygiene. They delivered hundreds of babies without loss of mother or child. Others carried infection from one home to another. They caused tragedy wherever they went.

**1882
Deseret Hospital
built by Mormon
Church**

The **Deseret Hospital** was built by the Mormons in 1882, and had 40 beds. Before the hospital started, men and women were sent east to study medicine. Romania B. Pratt left her five children with her mother and went to Philadelphia to study. She graduated in 1877. Ellis R. Shipp got her degree there the next year. Besides doctoring, these people taught classes that spread their knowledge throughout the territory. Health conditions improved as the people used the latest scientific practices.

Many of the leading women Utah comprised the Board of Directors of the Deseret Hospital. These included Jane S. Richards, Emmeline B. Phoebe Woodruff, Isabelle M. Home, Eliza R. Snow, Zina D. Young, Marinda N. Hyde, Dr. Ellis R. Shipp, Bathsheba W. Smith, Elizabeth Howard, Dr. Romania B. Pratt Penrose

**1896
Utah becomes a
State**

After many attempts, the State of Utah is finally created in 1896.

1897
**Martha Hughes
Cannon first
Woman state
legislator in U.S.
History elected to
Utah State Senate**

Martha Hughes Cannon became Utah's first woman senator, the first woman state senator in the United States. Martha became one of Utah's most colorful politicians.

The fourth wife of polygamous Mormon Leader George Q. Cannon, "Mattie" was determined to become a physician to help alleviate the endless sickness and death associated with early frontier life. Her credentials were so impressive that she was one of the few applicants accepted to the University of Michigan Medical School without an interview.

Cannon established her medical practice and in 1896 won a seat in the Utah State Senate by easily defeating (among others) her own husband. As a state senator, Cannon worked for the passage of one of the first "pure food" laws in the nation and the establishment of the State Board of Health - the forerunner of the Utah Department of Health. She also helped found the state's first nursing college, and the first school for the deaf and blind, and she raised her children.

Active in the women's suffrage movement, Cannon was also well known nationally. Martha Cannon was a featured speaker at the 1893 Chicago World Fair. She was described by a Chicago newspaper as "the brightest exponent of the women's cause in the United States." . She later became the first woman to vote in Utah. She was born in 1857 in Llandudno, Wales, and died in 1932 in Los Angeles.

1898
**Law creating a
State Board of
Health enacted
and Utah's first
health officer
appointed**

Utah became a state in 1896 and the law creating a **State Board of Health** was enacted in 1898. It was sponsored by Dr. Martha Hughes Cannon, a physician and the first woman elected to serve in a State Senate in the United States. Dr. Theodore Bruce Beatty was **Utah's first health officer**, being appointed Health Commissioner by Governor Heber M. Wells at a salary of \$1,000 a year. Dr. Beatty filled this part-time position until 1915 when the law providing for a full time health officer was enacted. Dr. Beatty served as the State's health officer for 36 years, from 1898 until 1934, and as an advisor and member of the Board of Health until 1947, a period of 51 years.

1898-1934

Theodore B. Beatty M.D. - State Health Officer

1900
**A compulsory
vaccination
ordinance
repealed by
Legislature**

In 1900 Dr. Beatty recommended that the State Board of Health adopt a **compulsory vaccination ordinance** in order to control the outbreaks of smallpox among school children. Compulsory vaccination laws were in effect in many surrounding states, none of which were having smallpox to the extent found in Utah. There was immediate and statewide opposition to the ordinance, led by the editorial writer of the Deseret News. Support for the Board's action came from the Utah State Medical Association and the Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Finally, a bill to repeal the compulsory vaccination ordinance was passed by the State Legislature, vetoed by Governor Wells, but then passed over the Governor's veto. Thus, Utah was deprived of a life-saving measure for many years.

**1903
Salt Lake City
appointed its first
City Health
Commissioner**

Salt Lake City appointed its **first City Health Commissioner in 1903**. Dr. Samuel G. Paul served on a part-time basis and was instrumental in developing well-baby clinics, milk stations, public health nursing, and a laboratory. The compensation for such local health officers was so small that it was frequently impossible to interest capable men and women in the work. In 1912 Dr. Beatty, the State Health Commissioner, summed up the situation in his Annual-Report to the Utah State Board of Health: "Local authorities frequently employ as health officers men who are wholly unfit and incompetent, because more capable members of the community refuse to accept the miserable pittance doled out to them as compensation. It is only just to add that there are many competent and faithful health officers who do not consider the question of compensation. They know that lives may be saved by their efforts, and the consciousness of that fact is the reward for the performance of a responsible service which often engenders dislike and hostility of the very people whom they endeavor to protect."

**1904 - 1940
Tuberculosis
Sanitorium
proposed by
Board of Health
and finally built
in 1940, but co-
resident with
Silicosis patients
(which was
opposed by Board
of Health)**

In addition to the controversy over vaccination mentioned previously, another incident from the past will serve to illustrate the difficulties experienced by public health officials. Dr. Beatty advocated the construction of a **Tuberculosis Sanitorium** in 1904. It was finally built in Ogden in 1940 and was filled to capacity from the beginning. The Sanitorium did not come under the administration of the Health Department because certain interest groups wanted a hospital for patients with silicosis in addition to the one for TB. The State Board of Health opposed the proposal to mix together both classes of patients since such action could possibly expose the victims of silicosis to tuberculosis. The result of this position of the Board of Health was the placement of the TB Sanitorium under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Welfare. This administrative arrangement continued until the late 1960s when the Health Department engaged in a statewide TB eradication program using health education and the new TB drugs, resulting in a dramatic reduction in TB cases and closure of the Sanitorium a few years later.

**1907
Law enacted to
allow teaching
sanitation and
disease
prevention in
public schools**

In 1907 there was **authorization to teach sanitation and disease prevention in public schools**.

**1911
physical
examinations of
pre-school and
school children
and Health
Education begins**

In 1911 it became possible to conduct **physical examinations of pre-school and school children**, with found defects being called to the attention of parents. **Health education** for the prevention of venereal diseases was also begun in 1911 when laws were enacted to require the reporting of all cases of venereal disease to the State Board of Health and treatment of the eyes of newborn infants to prevent gonorrhoea.

1915
Salt Lake City becomes first community in Utah to chlorinate its drinking water

While Salt Lake City became the **first community in Utah to chlorinate its drinking water** in 1915, the first State legislation authorizing regulation of water supplies and waste water systems was not passed until 1953.

1916
Utah Public Health Association organized

The **Utah Public Health Association** was organized in 1916, with primary emphasis on tuberculosis control activities and responsibility for the Christmas Seal fund raising campaign. Over time the Association became involved in a wide range of public health service and education.

1922
Maternal and Child Health programs funded by Congress

The Sheppard-Towner Act passed by Congress in 1922 provided the first financial assistance to states in the area of **Maternal and Child Health**. Dr. Beatty turned to the Relief Society of the LDS Church as the most suitable organization through which to administer that law. The Relief Society soon had 194 clinics in operation throughout Utah. The Federal money was used to pay the doctors while the local Relief Societies provided the quarters, the necessary equipment, and volunteers to staff the clinics.

1925
First public health laboratory established

In 1925 a **public health laboratory was established** in space at the State Capitol. Before this, Dr. Beatty did laboratory examinations for tuberculosis, typhoid fever, diphtheria, and glanders in his private medical office.

1930
Public Health nurses making quarantine visits to homes

In recent centuries cholera, diphtheria, typhoid and smallpox have flourished, often in epidemic proportions, but have then been brought under control. To those raised in the 1930s, public health meant the visit of a **public health nurse** who provided what care and comfort she could, then placed a **Measles, Mumps, Chicken Pox or Scarlet Fever sign** in the front window of the home. However, in the environment, pollution and more complex wastes from society now have grown into major public health issues during these same centuries - issues relating to the health of all life of this planet.

**1930s
Public Health
programs
enhanced by
Federal funding
with the advent
of the Social
Security Law**

Significant progress in **public health programs also was made possible with Federal funding** that came with the advent of the **Social Security Law** in the 1930s. For the first time a complete preventive and public health educational program could be implemented statewide.

Federal funds have, since the 1930s, played a major role in **financing public health activities in Utah**. This infusion of Federal dollars, while enhancing the ability of the Department to promote and conduct worthwhile health programs, has its drawbacks. Federal requirements dictate how these funds must be used and determine the type of health program that is to be conducted. Available Federal funds do not always meet the State's needs or health priorities and the Legislature is reluctant to continue a program begun with Federal funds when those funds are reduced or withdrawn.

**1930s
Well Child,
Dental and
Prenatal clinics
began**

Early programs in maternal and child health involved **well child conferences, dental clinics, and prenatal clinics**. In the late 1930s public health nurses demonstrated the value of **prenatal and postnatal care**, and the proper preparation for **home deliveries**. At the same time the Board of Health strengthened regulations for the 22 **maternity homes** in Utah.

**1930s
Early efforts in
environmental
health started**

One of the most significant areas of program growth has been in **environmental health**. Early efforts were directed at proper sewage disposal, including the supervision of the construction of standardized pit privies throughout the State in the 1930s.

**1934 -1949
Reports criticizing
Utah's lack of
funding for Public
Health published
by the Utah
Medical
Association and
Yale University**

Public Health in Utah has always been underfunded, a fact severely criticized by the Utah State Medical Association. In a **report published in 1934, the Medical Association** stated that "the State Legislature has always been niggardly in its financial support of this Department, being more interested, apparently, in roads and cows than in the lives and health of human beings. In spite of the lack of funds, Dr. Beatty maintained a high degree of efficiency, initiative, and loyalty by his staff, partly due to his own outstanding capabilities and tenaciousness. After he retired in 1935, the Department was headed by Dr. J.L. Jones and then by Dr. William M. McKay. After Dr. McKay's unexpected death in 1947, great difficulty was experienced in finding a qualified Health Commissioner at the salary being offered. The period from 1947 to 1951 was a particularly low period for the Department of Health. All salaries were extremely low and key officers and employees in all divisions resigned. At the urging of the Utah Public Health Association, a survey of the State Health Department was made in 1949 by Dr. Ira S. Hiscock, Professor of Public Health at Yale University. Dr. Hiscock's report concluded, "The lack of satisfactory working conditions is alarming... It is doubtful if there is a more acute or critical condition existing in any state."

1934-1939

J.L. Jones, M.D., Dr.P.H. - State Health Officer

**1936
Crippled Children
Program started**

Identification of **Crippled Children** who needed surgery or other types of corrective care was begun in 1936, primarily focused on physical handicaps

1937
Standards on testing of prophylactics approved

The 1937 Legislature adopted a law charging the State Board of Health with setting standards on testing before **prophylactics** (condoms and ointments) could be sold in Utah. The prophylactics were tested at the State Health Laboratory after which the Board issued a list of approved products.

1937
Utah's first fully organized local health department, in Davis County

The **first fully organized local health department** in Utah began in **Davis County** in 1937. During the next 20 years local health services were organized in most of the major cities and larger counties of the State.

1939-1947

William M. McKay, M.O. - State Health Officer

1940s
First Maternal and Infant Care program started

A special **maternal and infant care program** for enlisted men's wives and children was enacted by Congress and carried out through the use of Federal funds in the 1940s.

1947-1949

Welby W. Bigelow, M.D., Acting - State Health Officer

1950-1955

George A. Spendlove, M.D., M.P.H. - State Health Officer

1950s
Immunization programs began

With the development of vaccines, emphasis in the 1950s and 1960s was on mass **immunization** programs. Utah was the first state to have a statewide a "**Sabin-on-Sunday**" program to distribute oral polio vaccine to the citizens.

1950s
Emergency Medical Services begun

Some of the **early EMS** services included training Utah Highway Patrol officers in emergency treatments.

1950s
Monitoring radiation from the Nevada Atomic Test Site began

Unique to Utah and adjacent states was the necessity to **monitor radiation** from the Nevada Atomic Test Site, beginning in the 1950s. Due to contamination of hay and pasture lands, increased levels of radioactive iodine occurred in Utah milk in 1962 and required extensive milk control efforts. All of these environmental activities gave the State Health Department a much greater regulatory role than in the past. The most recent addition to the environmental health arena has been the prevention and clean up of pollution from hazardous substances, such as toxic chemicals and uranium mill tailings.

1952

Problems with underfunding Public Health in Utah continued; (133 resignations out of a total of 175 employees at State Health Department)

The condition of **underfunding Public Health in Utah** continued through the administration of Dr. George Spendlove, who became State Health Commissioner in 1950. In his 1952-1954 Biennium Report he stated that there were **133 resignations out of a total of 175 employees** of the Department. Even Dr. Spendlove left in 1955 for a higher salary with the State of Washington. Turmoil continued until 1961, when Dr. G.D. Carlyle Thompson was hired from the State of Montana with a gubernatorial promise of assistance if he would come and reorganize the Department and regain and improve on the stature it had once enjoyed.

1952

Rheumatic heart disease programs began

Rheumatic heart disease was added to the Crippled Children program in 1952

1953

Utah Health Code established

A complete **Utah Health Code was established** in 1953 setting out the laws and the organization of the State Health Department. Chapters related to vital statistics, the control of communicable diseases, a state health laboratory, public health nursing, sanitation, hospital licensure, and maternal and child health

1955-1958

Joseph P. Kesler, M.D., M.P.H., Acting - State Health Officer

1958-1960

George W. Soffe, M.D., Interim - State Health Officer

1960s

Air pollution, PKU testing and a statewide Medical Examiner system started

In the 1960s laws were enacted to control **air pollution**, require testing of all newborns for phenylketonuria (**PKU**), and establish a **statewide Medical Examiner system**.

1960s

Few Fluoridated water supplies in Utah

Another example of politics and public health comes from this time period. Utah has consistently been among states with the lowest percentage of the population served by **fluoridated water supplies**, a measure known to prevent dental cavities. In the 1960s three attempts were made to pass, by popular vote, a measure to fluoridate the water in Salt Lake City; all failed. During 1976 the State Board of Health decided to try to remedy the situation by establishing a Board regulation requiring all public water supplies to be fluoridated. An aggressive campaign was launched to educate the citizens and public hearings were held around the State. The regulation was actively opposed by the Libertarian Party and others who petitioned for a ballot initiative. Mandatory fluoridation was narrowly defeated amid complaints of voter fraud and ballot stuffing. Since then fluoridation decisions have been left to cities and require initiative votes. Only two small cities in Utah have chosen to fluoridate their water supplies.

1960s
**Cerebral palsy and
mental
retardation
program began**

1961-1970

Cerebral palsy and mental retardation were added to the Crippled Children program in the 1960s.

G.D. Carlyle Thompson, M.D., M.P.H. - State Health Officer

1965
**Utah had the
highest rate for
deaths from
rheumatic fever
and chronic
rheumatic heart
disease in U.S.**

While making great strides in eliminating these diseases, Utah had the highest 1965 rate for deaths from **rheumatic fever and chronic rheumatic heart disease**, 55 percent above the national average. In cooperation with the private medical community and the Utah Pharmaceutical Association, a major effort was launched to prevent this disease by treating all cases of streptococcal infection with low cost penicillin. In the mid-1980s rheumatic fever again appeared as a significant problem in Utah.

1967
**the State Health
Department
reduced in status
from a
Department to a
Division within
in Welfare agency**

Public health was dealt another political blow in 1967 when the State Health Department was reduced in status with a reorganization of State government. Public health was placed in a new Department of Health and Welfare as the Division of Health. This new department was predominantly a welfare organization and Dr. Thompson retired in 1970 because of philosophical and political differences with the Department's Executive Director. Dr. Lyman Olsen served as Division Director during much of the time the agency was in the combined Department. This was a **difficult time politically** for public health since welfare services had a higher priority than public health services.

1967
**A very successful
"Muzzle
Measles"
campaign
launched**

A **"Muzzle Measles"** campaign in 1967 reached an estimated 96 percent of susceptible Utah children;

1969
**The Salt Lake
County and Salt
Lake City Health
Departments
merged**

After a 30 year effort, **the Salt Lake County and Salt Lake City Health Departments were merged** in 1969. Still public health services in the rural areas of the State consisted primarily of a public health nurse and a sanitarian who were State employees serving a multi-county area. Local physicians often served as part-time health officers in rural Utah.

1970

**A very successful
"Rub Out
Rubella"
campaign
launched**

a "Rub Out Rubella" campaign was held in the 1970s.

1970-1979

Lyman J. Olsen, M.D., M.P.H. - State Health Officer

1970s

**New emphasis on
prevention and
early detection ,
Cervical cancer ,
hypertension,
tobacco, families
at high risk and
cholesterol
awareness**

As chronic diseases moved into the forefront as causes of morbidity and mortality, public health efforts aimed at **prevention and early detection** were expanded in the 1970s and 1980s. **Cervical cancer** and **hypertension** screening, education on the harmful effects of **tobacco**, identification of **families at high risk** for heart disease, and education of physicians regarding **cholesterol** in diets were emphasized, with support and cooperation from the private medical community.

1970s

**Emergency
Medical Services
extended
statewide**

As communities developed efforts to **expand emergency medical services** to their citizens, the State Legislature gave the State Health Department authority in the 1970s to organize these services into a statewide system and to train and certify the persons who were delivering such services in the field. Utah developed one of the premiere emergency medical services programs in the country.

1970s

**12 new local
multi-county
health
departments
created**

In the 1970s a concerted effort was made by the State Health Department to **develop multi-county health departments**, directed by full-time health officers, for parts of the State where local health services had been only loosely organized. By the end of that decade, there were **12 local health departments**: six served single counties (Davis, Salt Lake, Summit, Tooele, Utah, and Wasatch), while the other six covered combinations of counties (Bear River--Box Elder, Cache, and Rich; Central--Juab, Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, and Wayne; Southeastern--Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan; Southwest--Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, and Washington; Uintah Basin-- Daggett, Duchesne, and Uintah; and Weber-Morgan). In 1988 five of the local health officers were physicians; the others were persons trained in some other aspect of public health. These local health departments have undertaken a full scope of public health services for the communities they serve, including, for example, restaurant and water supply inspection, maternal and child health clinics, screening for chronic diseases, school health, control of sexually transmitted diseases, immunizations, and distribution of children's protective car seats.

1976

Utah begins WIC Program
(2nd to the last state to implement this nutrition program)

In 1976, the **US Department of Agriculture funded Utah's Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)**. Local health departments provided the health and nutrition screenings and partnerships were formed with the grocery retail business, as part of the voucher system used by the Utah WIC program. Wyoming was the only other state which did not operate a WIC Program. Utah County was the last county in the state to offer the program to the women, infants and children living in this county.

1979

State Board of Health replaced with a Health Advisory Council

In 1979 the political wheel had turned sufficiently to allow consideration for Health again to have department status, which occurred through legislative action in 1981. At the same time the **State Board of Health was replaced with a Health Advisory Council**, with the Executive Director of Health reporting directly to and serving at the pleasure of the Governor. Also, the State's Medicaid Program was transferred from the Department of Social Services (the new name for the welfare agency) to the Department of Health for cost containment purposes. Replacing the State Board of Health with a Health Advisory Council was a departure from traditional state public health organization and tended, in the opinion of some, to politicize public health since the Executive Director no longer enjoyed a political buffer by serving at the pleasure of the State Board of Health. This trend is one that has been seen nationwide, however.

1979

New efforts promoting wellness, changing lifestyles and eliminating risk factors

Beginning in 1979, Dr. James Mason became Director of Health and brought a new focus to public health, **promoting wellness by having people change their lifestyles and eliminating the risk factors that cause poor health and disease**. He left the Department in 1983 to head the Communicable Disease Centers, Centers for Disease Control, (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia. After a year during which two Acting Executive Directors served, Dr. Suzanne Dandoy was recruited from Arizona.

1979-1983

James O. Mason, M.D., Dr.P.H. - State Health Officer

1981

Utah's health statutes recodified

The **health statutes were recodified** in 1981; they had broadened in the intervening 30 years to cover emergency medical services, solid and hazardous waste, radiation, health facility planning, and financial assistance for medical care. Protecting the health of the public was no longer restricted to the traditional areas of infectious diseases and the care of poor pregnant women and children. It included responsibilities for how health care was delivered and how it was financed.

1984
**Two Important
Policy documents
published**

“A Statement of Health Policy-A Prescription to Improve the Health Status of Utahns” and “A Prescription for Health Care Costs in Utah”

In order to maintain Utah's past accomplishments in citizen health and to establish goals for the future, "**A Statement of Health Policy-A Prescription to Improve the Health Status of Utahns**" was published by the Utah Department of Health in September, 1984. Another statement of health policy focused on "**A Prescription for Health Care Costs in Utah**", with emphasis on competitive strategies to control health care costs. The Department also published a document outlining social barriers to the health care system for ethnic minorities. Thus, public health began to focus on the operation of the health care system and citizens' access to health care.

1983-1985-

Michael J. Stapley - State Health Officer

1985-1992-

Suzanne Dandoy, M.D., M.P.H. - State Health Officer

1986
**New State Health
Building
Dedicated**

**Named after
pioneer, woman,
public health
leader Martha
Hughes Cannon**

Ground was broken for the **Martha Hughes Cannon Health Building** on September 13, 1984. It was built for \$15.8 million and completed in April of 1986. It was dedicated June 12, 1986. The four-story building's namesake was Utah's first woman senator, the first woman state senator in the United States and one of Utah's most colorful politicians.

1987
**New emphasis on
educating the
pubic about AIDS**

The American Red Cross had taken the lead in programs to **educated the pubic about AIDS**. Sometimes such organizations are able to sponsor activities that government agencies are politically unable to manage.

1987
**Utah increased
the tax on
cigarettes**

In 1987 a coalition of voluntary organizations, working with the Utah Department of Health, was successful in persuading the State Legislature to **increase the tax on cigarettes**, with the additional revenues directed in part to an expanded program of prenatal and maternal care. This effort would not have been as successful if launched alone by the State Health Department.

1988
**Attempt to
remove the
requirement that
a physician must
be the Executive
Director of UDOH**

In the 1988 session of the State Legislature a bill was introduced **to remove the requirement that a physician must be the Executive Director** of the Department of Health from the statutes. The bill was defeated through the combined efforts of the Utah Medical Association and the local public health community.

1990s
**New public
health issues
developed**

The public health issues of the 1990s include: AIDS, the rampages of tobacco use, access to health care, health care reform, contamination from hazardous wastes, immigration of international health problems, maintaining healthy populations, understanding community health problems, making health data available, technology, the Internet, networking with private health, and professional training.

1992- Present

Rod L. Betit - State Health Officer

1995
**First searchable
health data
system available
online through
the Internet
(ACTION 2000)**

Utah's health data became available to everyone on the **Internet** in 1995. Utah's **ACTION 2000** system allows a researcher to enter elements of a search of data and an online query is made, and a report appears. The address of this creative method of sharing data to the world is found on the Utah Department of Health's Internet server, at address : <http://hlunix.hl.ut.us>

1996
**Utah Centennial
celebration - 100
Years as a State**

The state celebrated its 100 year anniversary all this year. Celebrations were held throughout the state, with many local health departments taking the opportunity to educate and promote healthy lifestyles.

1996
**Statue of Martha
Cannon placed in
State Capitol**

A **statue of Martha Hughes Cannon** stands proudly in the Utah Capitol Rotunda. The unveiling was July 24, 1996, - Pioneer Day - a fitting time to honor one of Utah's and the nation's pioneers. Governor Mike Leavitt commissioned the \$120,000 work of art that was sculpted by Utahn Laura Lee Stay.

1997
**Sesquicentennial
of the Pioneers
entering Salt Lake
Valley**

Residents of the state celebrated the 150 year anniversary of the entrance into the Salt Lake Valley by the Mormon pioneers, led by Brigham Young. Celebrations were held throughout the state, nation and world, focusing attention on the early settlers of the state and the conditions in which the state was founded. A reenactment of the Pioneer Trek, traveling at the same time and on approximately the same trails used by the original pioneers, left Iowa, and made its way to the Salt Lake Valley. Some health officials and the media uses this opportunity to educate the public on the health conditions at the time of the settlement of Utah, and promote healthy lifestyles today.

1997
**125 Year
Anniversary of
APHA**

2002
**Winter Olympics
in Salt Lake City
and surrounding
areas**

Winter Olympics to be held in Salt Lake City and surrounding communities. Public and private health sectors have begun planning for the public health aspects of this international event and how communities can come together to insure the impact of world-wide events like the Olympics address the public health infrastructure.

2002
**Health Legacy as
part of Olympics**

Public Health leaders are combining with private and voluntary organizations to make Utah's health an international event during the 2002 Winter Olympics, to be held in Salt Lake city and surrounding communities. **Health Legacy 2002** will call attention to the public and private health nature of the Olympics and how communities can come together to insure the impact of world-wide events like the Olympics address the public health infrastructure. The mission statement of this project is: **To utilize the Olympic Spirit to maximize the health of individuals and communities in Utah.**

2000s
**New Century
Public Health
Issues will
continue to be
addressed**

Public Health leaders in Utah have been planning for the future. As the new century arrives, Utah stands to be one of the healthiest states in the nation. However, unless the public health initiatives of the past can be maintained and new problems addressed, the health of Utahns will deteriorate. **The Public Health Infrastructure is as important as any other in our society.** Public Health, which should involve all of us, must continue to address the issues of today and tomorrow.

Assembled & Combined to match Poster: "Utah's Public Health History", by Paul Wightman, Utah Department of Health, 1997. Many Events taken from paper "A History of Public in Utah", Melvin M. Owens & Dr. Suzanne Dandoy, ~1990.

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