

# Violence and Injury Prevention Program October 2022 newsletter

Connecting to create a safer, more resilient Utah

## Disability healthcare provider training

The Utah Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Violence and Injury Prevention Program (VIPP) has partnered with the University of New Hampshire to provide 2 free on-line courses for healthcare providers interested in learning how to better serve patients with disabilities. The courses will help you find ways to make office visits more comfortable and accessible to your patients. You can study them at your own pace and the courses only take about 1 1/2 hours to complete. You will receive 1 1/2 CEU credits for completing the courses.



- “Providing Healthcare and Screenings to Individuals with Disabilities,” go to [bit.ly/healthcarescreenings](https://bit.ly/healthcarescreenings)
- “Accessible and Adaptive Communications,” go to [bit.ly/adaptivecommunication](https://bit.ly/adaptivecommunication)

If you have questions about the courses email Kara Taylor at [karataylor@utah.gov](mailto:karataylor@utah.gov).



## The Utah Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is officially created

July 1, 2022 was the official first day of the new Utah Department of Health and Human Services ([DHHS](https://dhhs.utah.gov)). DHHS is now the largest state agency in Utah government.

Staff with the Utah Department of Health and Utah Department of Human services have worked since March 2021 to merge into 1 department, as outlined in [House Bill 365](#) which was passed during the 2021 Utah General Legislative Session. This has been no easy task but, Utah cannot afford to delay improving the delivery of critical services to our undeserved and marginalized communities.

To learn more about DHHS services visit [dhhs.utah.gov](https://dhhs.utah.gov).

## Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)

The DHHS Violence and Injury Prevention Program (VIPP) has partnered with the Utah Coalition for Protecting Children to provide a series of educational presentations called the ACEs learning collaborative. These presentations bring together experts from across Utah to discuss ways we can improve the lives of children.



**Promoting prevention through parent engagement** was the topic of discussion in July. Research has shown that the most effective way to provide safe healthy childhoods is to first support the mental and emotional needs of parents and caregivers.

This in-depth conversation was enlightening and provided multiple resources that parents and caregivers can utilize. To watch the presentation, go to [bit.ly/promoteparentengagement](https://bit.ly/promoteparentengagement).

In September, the ACEs learning collaborative was titled **Family friendly workplaces: better workforces, stronger families**. Family friendly workplace policies are good for families, businesses, and the economy. But for far too many American families, polices such as paid parental leave, flexible scheduling, remote work, and childcare are simply out of reach. Research shows investment in family friendly workplaces not only pays off in healthier, safer children, and stronger families, but also increases workforce productivity and the ability to find, motivate, and retain quality employees.

To watch the presentation on family friendly workplace policies go to [bit.ly/friendlyworkplaces](https://bit.ly/friendlyworkplaces).



## Falls Prevention Awareness week

Most falls are preventable. Programs that help older adults increase their strength and balance and remove hazards from their homes can lower the risk of falling.

Governor Cox declared the week of September 18-24 as Falls Prevention Awareness Week in hopes to shine a light this largely preventable health problem.

Visit [vippp.utah.gov/falls/](https://vippp.utah.gov/falls/) to learn more about falls prevention.



## Harm Reduction Navigator Certificate Training

Once a quarter the HIV/STD Elimination, Analysis, Response & Treatment Program (HEART) and the Violence and Injury Prevention Program (VIIPP) offer training designed to teach participants the basics of harm reduction. Participants will learn to use these principals to meet at risk individuals where they are and use compassion to help reduce the risk they are facing.

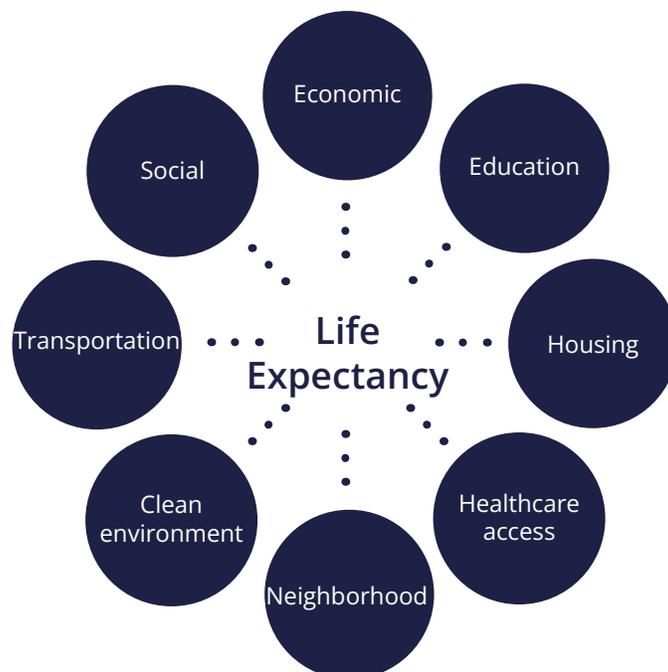
To register for the training, go to [bit.ly/harmreductioncertification](https://bit.ly/harmreductioncertification).

---

## Utah Healthy Places Index

On October 20, 2022 the Utah Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) launched the Utah Healthy Places Index (Utah HPI). The Utah HPI can help community leaders understand how different neighborhoods experience the community conditions known to impact health, such as education, job opportunities, and transportation. The Utah HPI includes policy guides that serve as a resource to identify policy solutions for healthier community conditions.

Visit [dhhs.utah.gov/utahhpi](https://dhhs.utah.gov/utahhpi) or contact [ohpp@utah.gov](mailto:ohpp@utah.gov) for more information.





## Utah Child Fatality Review Committee report

The Utah Child Fatality Review Committee in collaboration with the DHHS Violence and Injury Prevention Program (VIPP) recently released an annual report. The report looks at all child deaths in 2020. It's available at [vippp.health.utah.gov/child-trauma-data/](http://vippp.health.utah.gov/child-trauma-data/).

The death of a child is a tragedy for families and communities. In 2020, there were 451 Utah children aged 0–18 who died. Of those deaths, 29.4% were determined to be from injury. Injury deaths are mostly preventable, yet they continue to be the leading cause of death for children aged 1–18 in Utah.



## Suicide age-specific reports

In 2020, the VIPP released a suicide report that provided data for the entire state. Requests were made for more detailed information by age group. In September 2022, the VIPP released 4 age specific suicide reports; 10–17, 18–24, 25–26, and 65+. Each report provides an in-depth look at suicide by age and introduces preventative factors and resources to help those who may be coping with suicide thoughts or behaviors. The reports are available at [vippp.health.utah.gov/suicide-prevention-data/](http://vippp.health.utah.gov/suicide-prevention-data/).

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call or text [988](https://www.988lifeline.org/) or chat [988lifeline.org](https://www.988lifeline.org/).