

Working Families Benchmarking Project

2018 edition

Utah vs. Idaho

Reality Check



July 2018

Acknowledgements

This third edition of the *Working Families Benchmarking Project* was authored by Zachary Cutshall and Matthew Weinstein. Zachary Cutshall graduated from the University of Utah with a bachelor's in economics in 2018. Matthew Weinstein is state priorities partnership director at Voices for Utah Children.

This report is published as part of the *State of Working America* series, which is available online at www.StateofWorkingAmerica.org.



Voices for Utah Children is the Utah affiliate of the State Priorities Partnership, a 42-state consortium of independent nonprofit research and policy organizations that use evidence and analysis to advance public policies and investments that reduce poverty and give all people the opportunity to achieve the American Dream.

Voices for Utah Children

747 E. South Temple
Suite 100
Salt Lake City, UT 84102
(801) 364-1182
www.utahchildren.org



Table of Contents

Summary of Key Findings	4
Executive Summary.....	6
Policy Implications	8
Part I: Economic Opportunity.....	10
Business	11
GDP.....	12
Productivity.....	14
Employment	15
Education.....	17
Equity.....	27
Gender	28
Part II: Standard of Living.....	29
Income.....	30
Wages	31
Poverty	33
Cost of Living.....	38
Taxes.....	40
Quality of Life.....	41
Health	43
Civic Engagement.....	50

Working Families Benchmarking Project

Summary of Key Findings



Part I: Economic Opportunity

("winner" highlighted and bolded)

	Utah			Idaho		
Business Climate Metrics						
Business climate average rank 2014-2017	3rd			20 th		
Kauffman Index 2016 startup activity indicators: startups per 1,000 firms/% of new business owners not unempl before	94	88.1%		80.6	89.3%	
Productivity and GDP						
Real per-worker GDP 2016 (US = \$84,386) \$ and rank	\$70,647/39th			\$61,073/49 th		
Change in real GDP 2007-2016 (US = 10.4%) % and rank	15.6%/9th			5.9%/34 th		
Change in real per capita GDP 2007-16 (US = \$1,451 / 3.0%)	-\$657 / -1.5%			-\$1,614/-4.4%		
Employment						
Unemployment rate 2017 (US = 4.4%)	3.2%			3.2%		
Labor force participation rate 2017 (US = 62.8%)	69.4%			64%		
Change in labor force participation rate 2006-2017 (US = -3.4%)	-2.4%			-4.8%		
Education						
Current public K-12 spending per pupil & rank of K-12 finances per \$1,000 personal income 2015 (US = \$11,392)	\$6,575/50 th			\$6,923/49th		
K-12 education funding fairness ranking	#1			#23		
Percent/rank of 3- and 4-year-olds below 200% of poverty level not enrolled in any educ program 2012-2016 (US = 60%)	65%/36th			75%/48 th		
Percent in full-day kindergarten 2013 (US = 75%)	25%			38%		
NAEP rankings: average rank of 4 th and 8 th grade math and reading scores 2015-2017	12th			20th		
Average higher education state spending per full-time student 2016 & rank (US avg = \$6,791)	\$9,730/5th			\$7,181/18 th		
Bachelor's degree or higher, ages 25-64, 2016 (US = 32.6% all, 30.5% men, 34.7% women)	All: 32.8%	M: 33.2%		All: 28.1%	M: 27.5%	
		F: 32.4%			F: 28.7%	
Bachelor's degree or higher, ages 25-34, 2016 (US = 34.9% all, 31.0% men, 38.9% women)	All: 33.6%	M: 31.0%		All: 26.3%	M: 22.7%	
		F: 36.3%			F: 30%	
Associate's degree or higher 2016 ages 25-64 (US = 41.7%)	43.5%			38.6%		
School-to-prison fairness index: referral to law enforcement by race, where 1 is fair, >1 is more referrals than fair and <1 is fewer referrals than fair (US = .94 Hisp., 1.62 black, 0.76 white)	Hisp: 1.34	Black: 2.21	White: 0.89	Hisp: 1.15	Black: 1.65	White: 0.96
Income and Gender Equity + Mobility						
Income inequality (Gini) state rank 2016 (1 = lowest)	2nd			12 th		
Intergenerational mobility rank, 50 largest metros (1 is best)	1st (SLC metro)			46 th (Boise metro)		
Gender wage ratio (female/male) & rank 2016	70%/50 th			75.6%/41st		

Part II: Standard of Living (“winner” highlighted and bolded)

	Utah	Idaho
Income & Wages		
Real median household income & rank 2016 (US = \$57,617)	\$65,977/11th	\$51,807/37 th
Average rank for median household income 2007-2016	13th	37 th
Median hourly wage & rank 2017 (US = \$18.28)	\$17.61/27th	\$16.74/ 43 rd
Median hourly wage adj for cost of living 2016 (US = \$18.24)	\$18.20	\$17.48
Minimum wage / tipped worker min wage (US = \$7.25/ \$2.13)	\$7.25/\$2.13	\$7.25/\$3.35
% of workers earning below poverty wage 2016 (US = 23.9%)	23%	29%
Poverty		
Household poverty rate 2016 (US = 14.0%)	10.2%	14.4%
Child poverty rate 2016 (US = 19.5%)	11.1%	17.7%
Hispanic poverty rate 2016 (US = 21.0%)	17.6%	22.1%
Share & rank of all children/Latino children in single-parent households 2015 (US = 35%/42%) (1 is best)	All: 19% (1 st) Latino: 33% (2 nd)	All: 26% (3 rd) Latino: 31% (1st)
Child food insecurity rate & rank 2015 (US = 17.9%)	16.4%/9th	17.6%/17 th
Child homelessness rate & rank 2014 (US = 2.26%)	2.22%/30th	2.25%/31 st
Cost of Living		
BEA Cost of Living Level 2016 (US = 100)	97.3	93.0
Housing cost burden ranking 2016 (1 is best/lowest)	14th	18 th
Home energy costs 2016 as % of 2011 costs (US = 94.2%)	139%	114%
Transport. cost as % of HH inc (metro average) 2009-2013	25.3%	27.5%
State & local own-source revenue as percent of personal income & rank 2015 (1 is highest) (US = 15.3%)	16.0%/17 th	14.1%/39th
Quality of Life Metrics		
Commute time to work in minutes, 2016 (US = 26.6)	21.6	20.9
Homeownership rate & rank 2017 (US = 63.9%)	71.0%/9th	69.9%/16 th
Kids Count overall ranking (2017)	7th	20 th
Health		
State health system performance rank 2017 (Commonwealth Fund rank/US News rank)	15th / 15th	26 th /18 th
Population without health insurance 2016 (US = 8.6%)	8.8%	10.1%
ALA State of the Air 2017, # of metros in top 20 for ozone pollution/# of metros top 10 for short-term PM2.5	1/2	0/0
Civic Engagement		
Percent of eligible adults that voted in general election 2016 & rank (US = 60.2%)	57.7%/35 th	61.0%/25th
Volunteerism rank 2015 (CNC5)	1st	11 th

Executive Summary

The goal of the Working Families Benchmarking Project is to identify economic and related issues affecting Utah families and examine them through a comparative lens, evaluating Utah using a peer state as a benchmark.

Many existing economic comparison studies and rankings look at the economy as a whole or at its impact on specific sectors or on employers. This project seeks to augment those very useful comparisons by focusing on how the economy is experienced by moderate- and lower-income families. It is these families whose children are most at risk of not achieving their potential in school and later in the workplace. Thus, how they experience the economy is of particular interest to Voices for Utah Children.

Colorado was chosen for the inaugural edition in 2016, and then Minnesota in 2017. For this 3rd edition in 2018, we are comparing Utah to our neighbor to the north, Idaho. Idaho is an interesting comparison because of its geographic proximity to Utah — and thus similar regional identity — as well as its cultural similarities and the strength of its economy in recent years.

We hope that this benchmarking project contributes in a constructive way to the broader economic policy conversation among experts, policymakers, and the general public.

Our findings are summarized on the next page.



Part I: Economic Opportunity

The dynamism, flexibility, and competitiveness of a state's economy is a major contributor to economic opportunity, so we look at this topic through a wide range of metrics, from business climate and entrepreneurship rankings to educational attainment and demographic gaps. **Our most significant findings are as follows:**

Utah ranks ahead of Idaho by nearly every measure of economic opportunity, including educational attainment, economic productivity, job growth, business climate rankings, high level of economic mobility, and low level of income inequality.

Idaho matches Utah for low unemployment and outpaces the Beehive State by one of the two measures of startup activity. Idaho also has more of its children in full-day kindergarten and has maintained a small but steady lead in per-pupil K-12 education investment, ranking 49th for many years, compared to 50th for Utah, last place in the nation. Utah also ranks last in the gender wage gap, where Idaho is 41st.

Part II: Standard of Living

Ultimately, it is by standard of living that we judge the success of our economy. We measure standard of living for average and below-average families by looking at such measures as wages, poverty, and affordability of major household expenditures such as housing, transportation, and energy. **Our most significant findings are:**

Utah is the clear winner by most measures of wages and poverty. Utah's median hourly wage was 5% higher than Idaho's last year, though that advantage shrinks by about a fifth when adjusted for Idaho's lower cost of living. Utah's slightly higher median hourly wage is consistent with (though much smaller than) the state's 17% advantage over Idaho in higher education attainment (Bachelor's degrees and above) and 16% advantage over Idaho in worker productivity (see Part I). By the poverty metrics, Utah leads in nearly every category.

Idaho biggest advantage over Utah in the Standard of Living metrics is its low cost of living. Idaho also enjoys better air quality and shorter commutes. In terms of civic engagement, Idaho boasts a voter participation rate higher than the national average, while Utah tops the nation for volunteerism.

Policy Implications

Utah and Idaho share many characteristics in common. Our neighbor to the north shares our Intermountain West setting and quality of life amenities, such as ready access to outdoor recreation opportunities. The two states share important cultural features as the nation's #1 and #2 states for their share of Mormons, with Utah's LDS share estimated as high as two-thirds and Idaho at about one-quarter of its population. Both also have growing minority populations, most notably Latinos, who made up 14% of Utah's population and 12.5% of Idaho's in 2017.

In terms of economic performance, both states have been standouts in recent years and seem well-positioned for the years to come. Utah ranks higher by the Forbes and CNBC rankings, but Bloomberg said about Idaho last year that it "outperforms all 49 other states with a 21st-century economy" and the "best combination... of robust personal income, job growth, stock-market gain and home price appreciation," all of which Bloomberg attributed to Idaho's increasing integration with the global economy.¹ But notwithstanding Idaho's increasing economic vitality, the most noteworthy findings of this report is that Utah ranks far ahead of Idaho by key metrics of standard of living, including median household income, median hourly wage, and poverty rates. It should therefore come as no surprise that Utah also ranks far ahead for educational attainment and worker productivity.

The Link Between Education and Income

The link between education and income is well-established. States with higher education levels generally have higher levels of worker productivity, wages, and incomes. In the current comparison, Utah's higher education levels make for a more productive workforce, which in turn makes possible higher levels of wages and income. The lesson for Idaho seems clear – raise education levels to raise the state's standard of living. And the same applies to Utah, where the Legislature has struggled to turn seemingly large dollar increases in education funding every year into actual increases in real per-pupil education investment.

The Census Bureau reported in May 2018 that Utah remains in last place in per-pupil K-12 education investment at \$6,953, which is \$204 behind Idaho in 49th place (for FY 2016). While Utah has done well for its meager investment levels, achieving impressive gains in educational performance as measured by NAEP 4th and 8th grade math and reading scores (see Figure 23 on page 20), will we be able to continue to advance while remaining in last place?

¹ Source: <https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2017-08-18/trump-friendly-idaho-doesn-t-put-america-first>

In particular, as noted in Figure 16 on page 17, teacher pay in Utah has been on a steady downward slide over the last decade, and we are not alone. In several states this year, low pay and overcrowded classrooms have led teachers to an unprecedented level of political activity, including strikes and protests at state capitals. Could Utah be next? This past winter the Legislature sought to head off such an uprising – in the form of the Our Schools Now initiative – by accepting hundreds of millions of dollars in property tax increases to enable a real education funding boost. This fall Utah voters will decide on the second part of this question by voting on an increase in the state gas tax. While these particular tax increases – property and motor fuels rather than an income tax increase as originally proposed by Our Schools Now -- add regressivity to Utah’s tax code, they also represent what may well be a once-in-a-generation opportunity to bolster education finance in Utah.

Can Utah Become a High-Wage State?

For many years, economists have debated whether Utah is a low-wage state, as the Utah Foundation discussed a decade ago in their report, “Is Utah Really a Low-Wage State?”² Many have argued that our seemingly low wages were explained by our younger demographic profile and lower cost of living. While this report does not examine demographics, it seems clear from Utah’s #27 rank in median hourly wages in Figure 40 on page 30 and the cost of living data in Figure 53 on page 37 that, when adjusted for our low cost of living, Utah’s median hourly wage is right at the national level. This indicates that Utah is no longer a low-wage state (if we ever truly were), and that we have, in fact, achieved the status of a middle-wage state.

The question now becomes, is that good enough? Should we declare, “Mission Accomplished”? Or is Utah in a position, like Colorado and Minnesota before us, to become over time a high-wage state and set our sights on taking the necessary steps today to achieve that goal over the years and decades to come, even as we deal with the challenges and opportunities presented by our ongoing demographic transformation?

The main lesson is clear from three years of Working Families Benchmarking Project reports comparing Utah to Colorado, Minnesota, and now Idaho: Higher levels of educational attainment translate into higher hourly wages, higher family incomes, and an overall higher standard of living. The challenge for policymakers is to determine the right combination of public investments and economic development policies that will enable Utah to continue our progress and achieve not just steady job growth, but also a rising standard of living for average and below average working families.

² Source: <http://www.utahfoundation.org/reports/is-utah-really-a-low-wage-state/>

Part I: Economic Opportunity



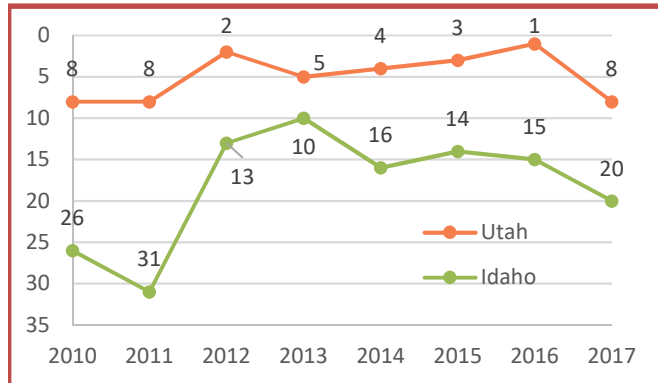
**Reality
Check**

Business

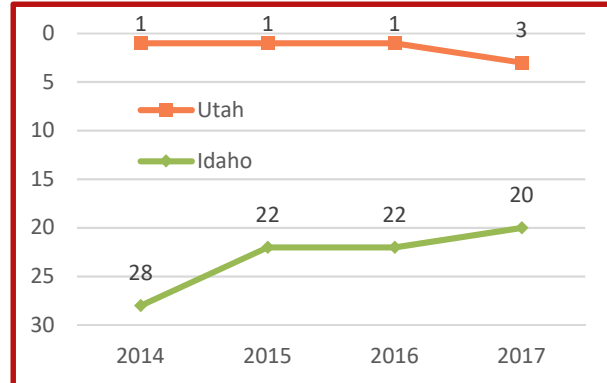
Utah has remained one of the top-rated states for business over the last decade.

Figure 1 – Business Climate Rankings (1 is best, 50 worst)

CNBC's America's Top States for Business

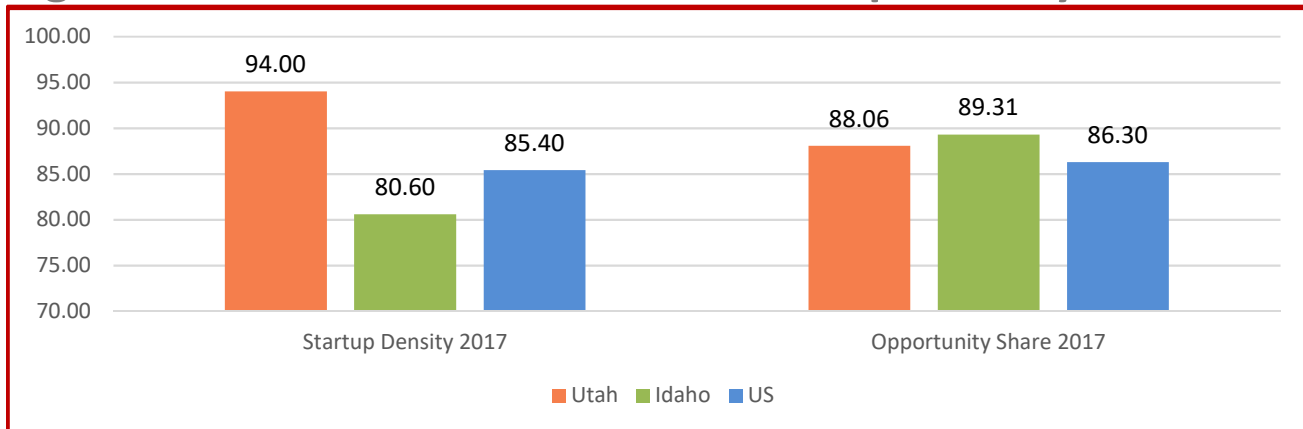


Forbe's Best States for Business



Source: <http://www.cnbc.com/americas-top-states-for-business/>, <https://www.forbes.com/best-states-for-business/list/#tab:overall>

Figure 2 – Kauffman Index 2017: Startup Activity



Source: Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation: www.kauffman.org/microsites/kauffman-index/rankings/state; startup density is the number of startup firms per 1,000 firms; opportunity share is percent of new entrepreneurs not unemployed before starting new business

Figure 3 – Hachman Index of Industry Diversity Rank 2015

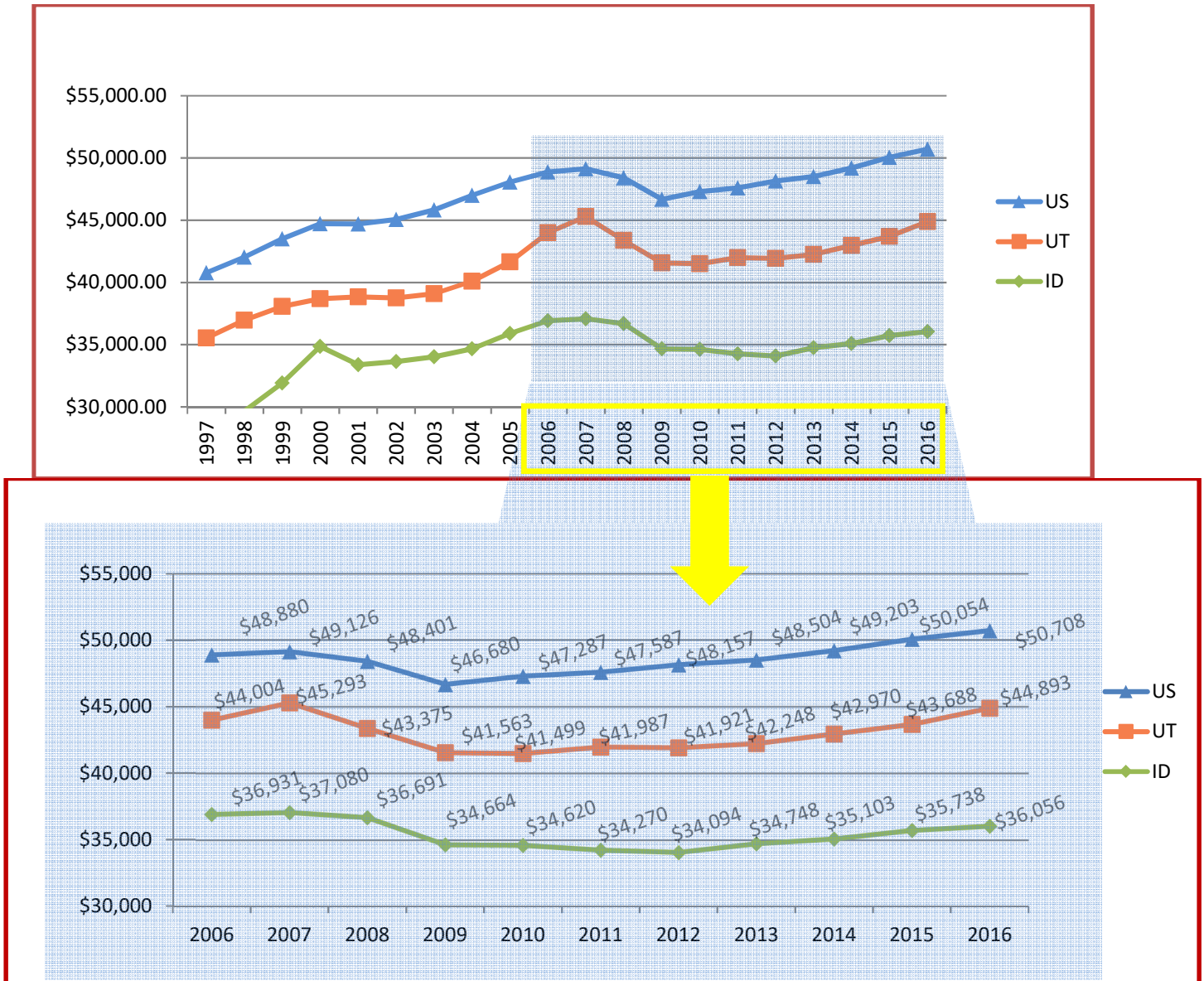
UT	ID
1 st	35 th

The Hachman Index measures economic diversity by comparing the industry composition of a state to the industry composition of the nation. Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute Analysis of Bureau of Economic Analysis data, available online at: <http://edcutah.org/news/2016/05/26/research-weekly-utah-1-economic-diversity>

GDP

Fueled by our high birth rate, Utah's GDP growth leads the nation. However, neither state's per capita GDP has recovered from the Great Recession, largely because labor force participation rates remain lower than they were, though Utah's is moving toward its pre-recession level.

Figure 4 – Real GDP per capita (chained 2009 dollars)



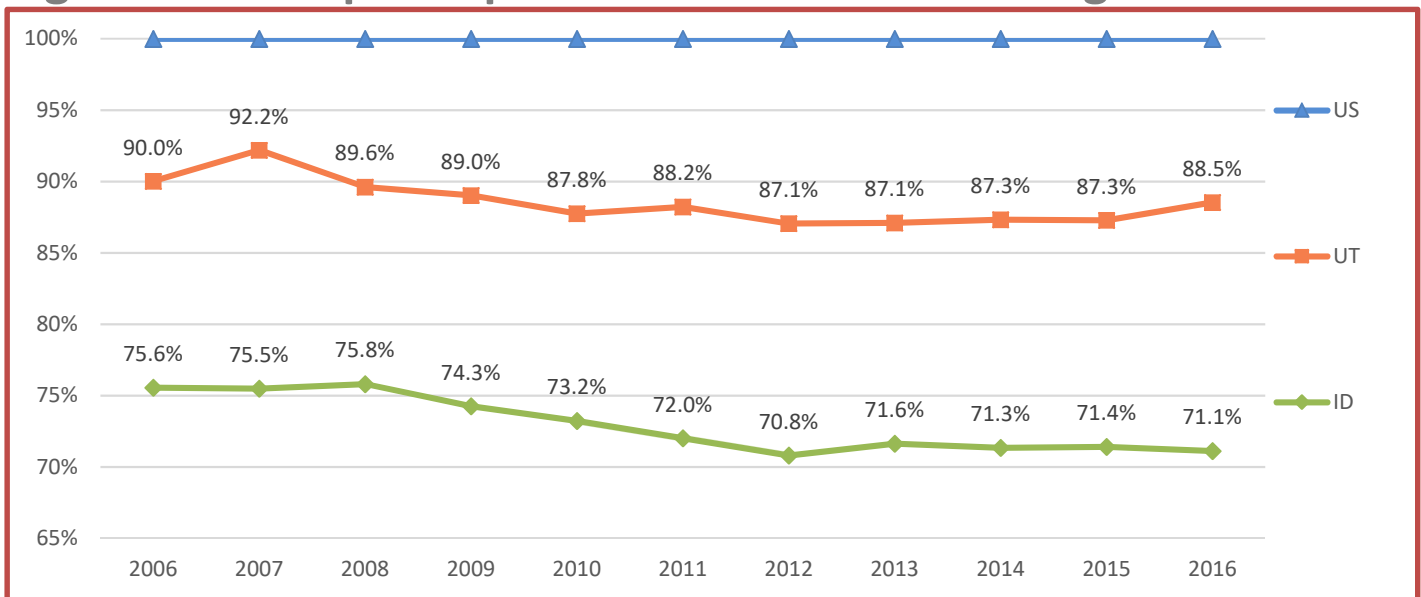
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce

Figure 5 – Change in Real GDP per Capita, 2016 Compared to Pre-Recession (2007) (“winner” *bolded and highlighted*)

UT	ID	US
-\$657	-\$1,614	\$1,451

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce

Figure 6 – GDP per Capita as Percent of US Average



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce

Figure 7 – Growth in Real GDP 2007-2016 (“winner” *bolded and highlighted*)

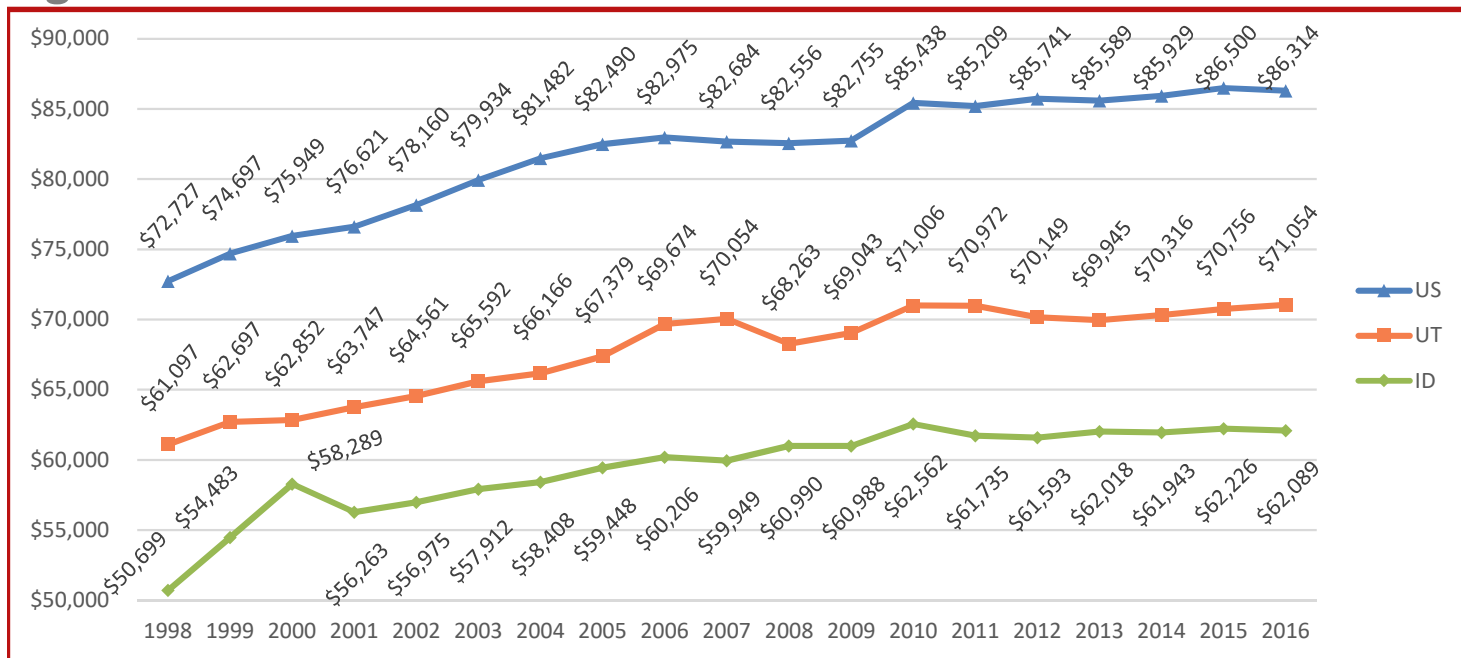
UT	ID	US
15.6%	5.9%	10.4%

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce

Productivity

Utah lags behind most states in productivity per worker at 39th place, but Idaho is even further behind in 49th place.

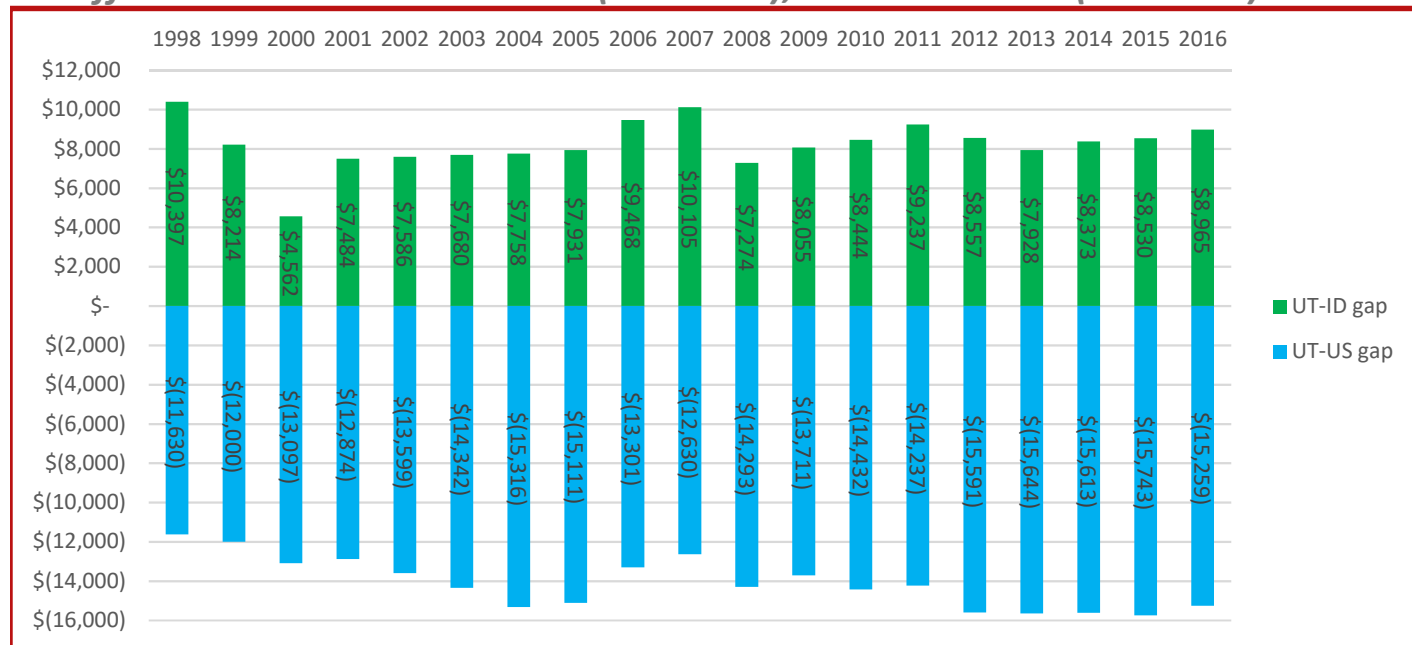
Figure 8 – Real Per-Worker GDP



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis, in chained 2009 dollars

Figure 9 – Real Per-Worker GDP Gap

As difference between UT and ID (= UT - ID), and UT and US (= UT - US)

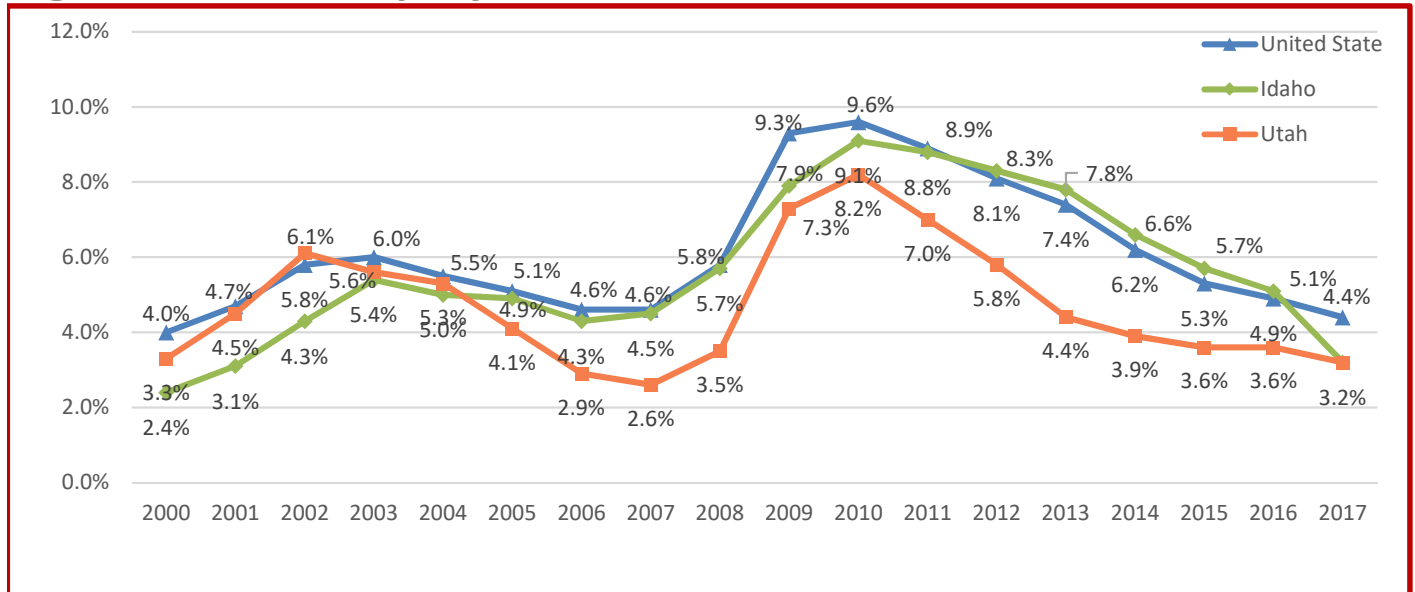


Source: U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis, in chained 2009 dollars

Employment

Unemployment rates have fallen below pre-Great Recession levels nationally. In 2017 Idaho matched Utah's low unemployment rate.

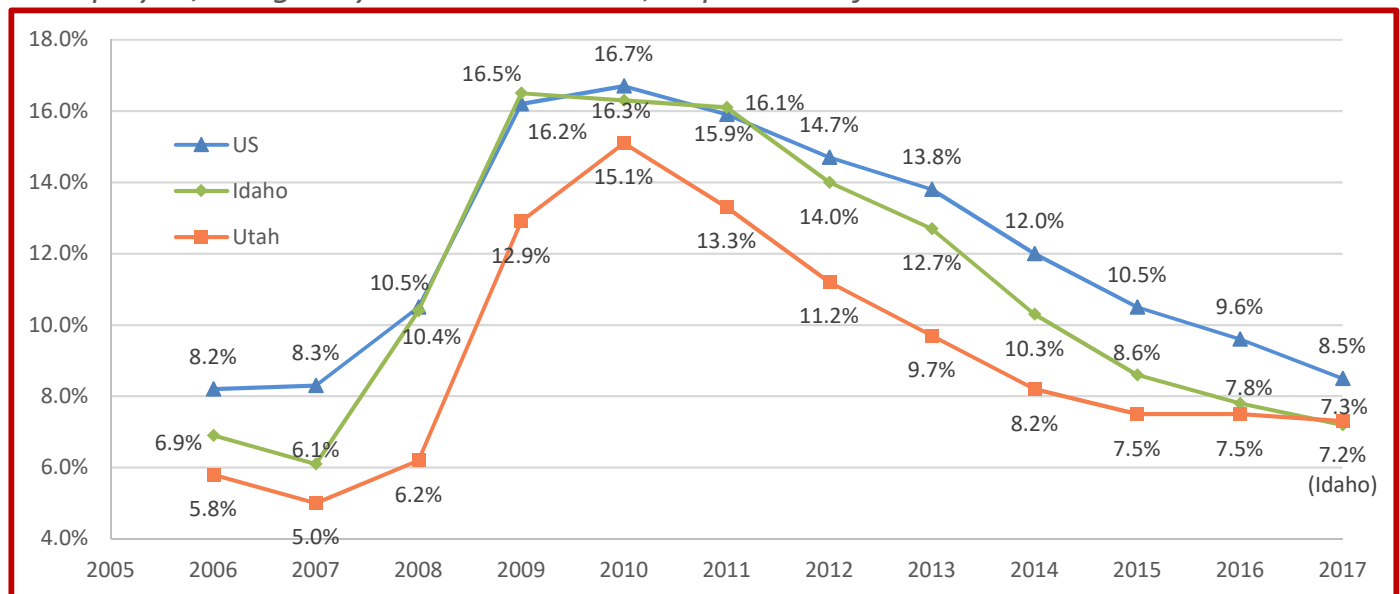
Figure 10 – Unemployment Rate



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, US: table LNU04000000 annual averages of monthly estimates; States: Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population, 1976 to 2017 annual averages, available online at: <https://www.bls.gov/lau/staadata.txt>

Figure 11 – Underemployment Rate

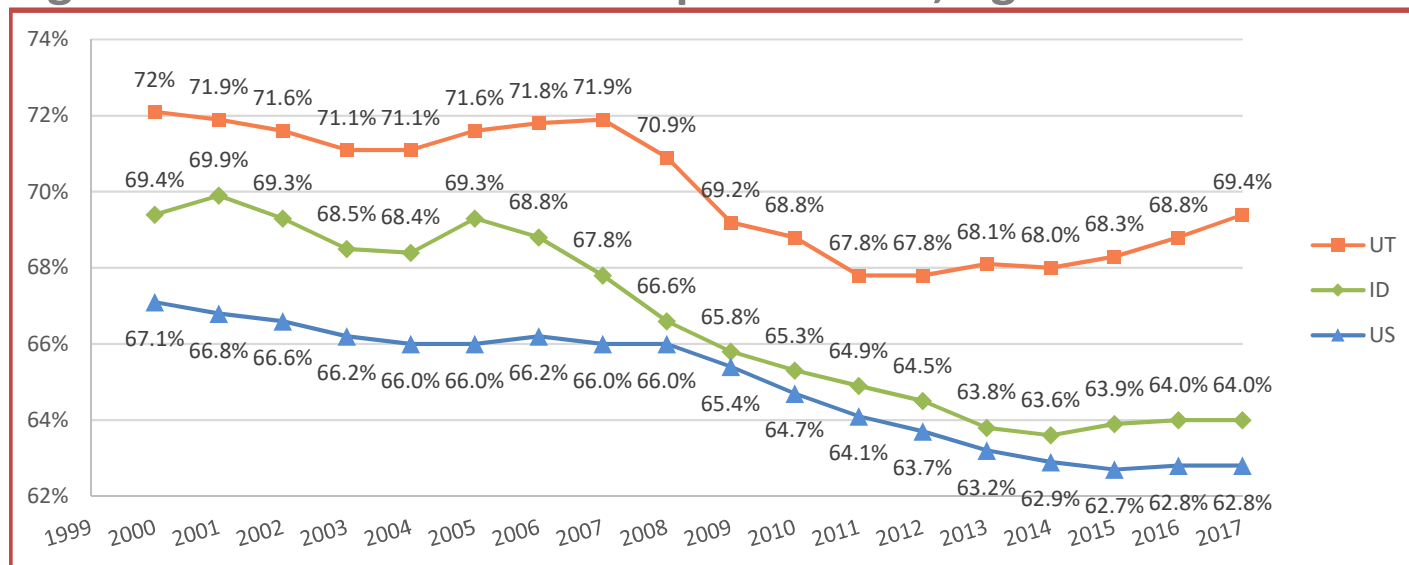
Defined as the percentage of the civilian labor force and marginally attached workers who are unemployed, marginally attached workers, or part-time for economic reasons



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

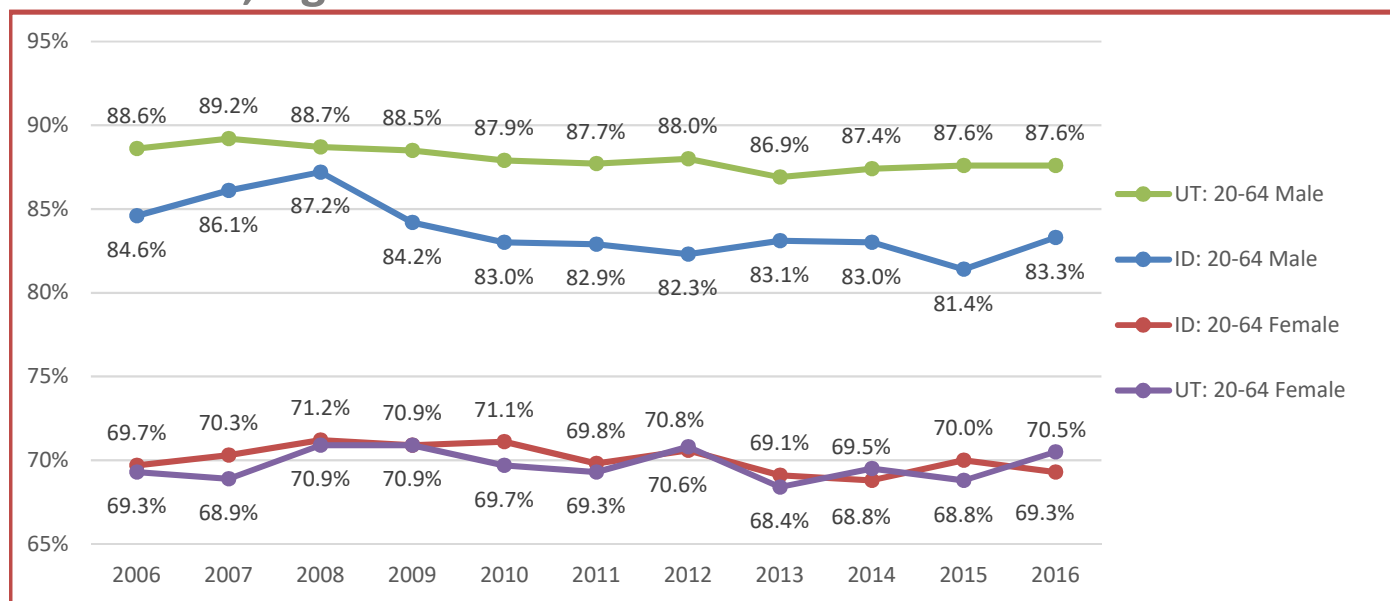
Labor force participation rates fell sharply due to the Great Recession, but Utah has been recovering since 2013, unlike Idaho and the nation, which have remained close to their post-recession lows.

Figure 12 – Labor Force Participation Rate, Age 16+



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics analysis of Current Population Survey, employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and older. **US:** table LNU01300000 annual average of monthly estimates; **States:** 1976 to 2016 annual averages, available online at: <https://www.bls.gov/lau/staadata.txt>

Figure 13 – Labor Force Participation Rate by Gender, 2006-2016, Ages 20-64

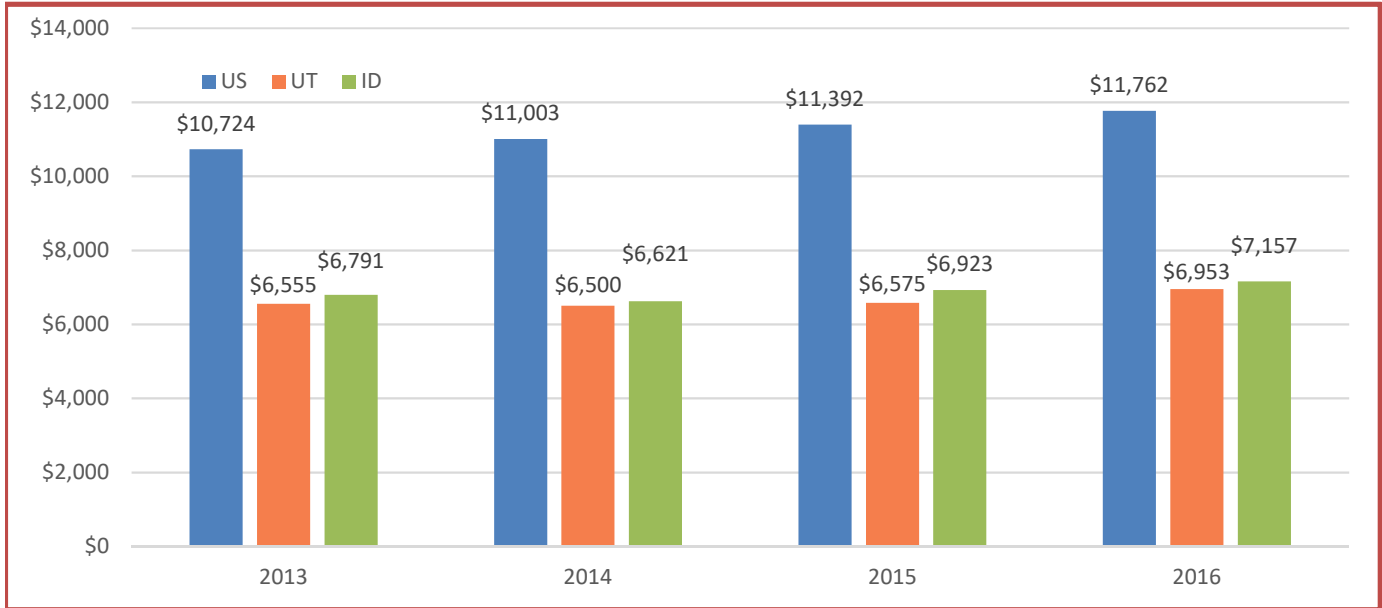


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-year Estimates (table S2301); Labor Force Participation Rate ages 20-64 by gender

Education

Idaho and Utah rank 49th and 50th respectively for per-pupil investment in K-12 education. But for equity of funding, Utah ranks #1 and Idaho #23.

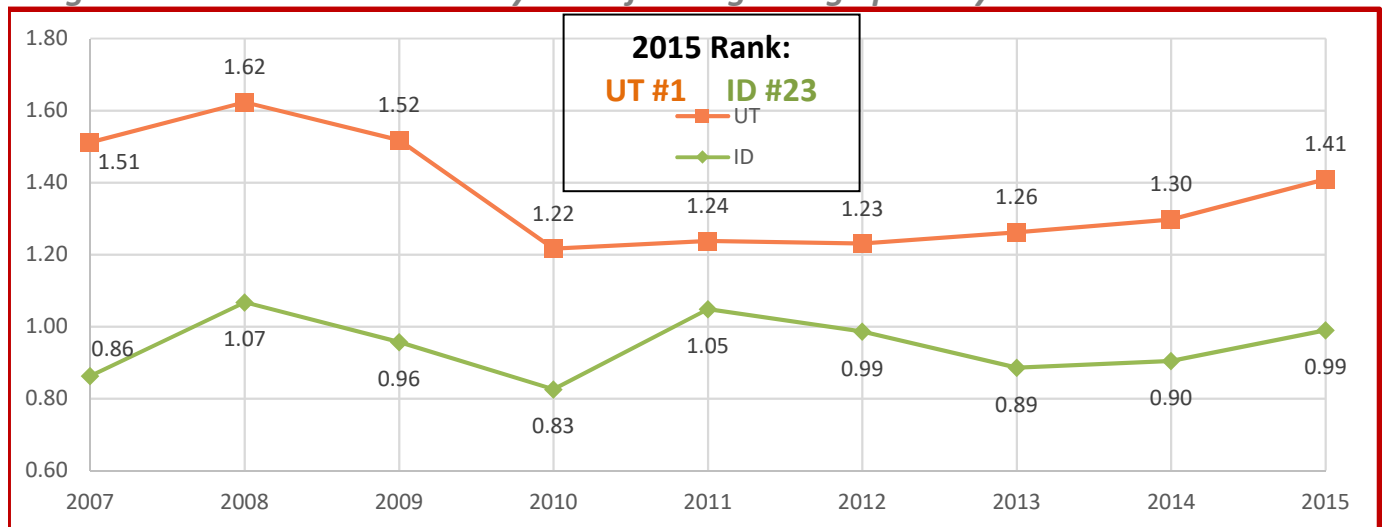
Figure 14 – State Current Spending per Pupil, Public Elementary and Secondary Schools (not adjusted for inflation)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Survey of School System Finances, table SS1400A08

Figure 15 – State Education Funding Equity

*as a ratio of: (funding for high poverty areas) / (funding in low poverty areas);
a higher value indicates relatively more funding to high poverty areas*

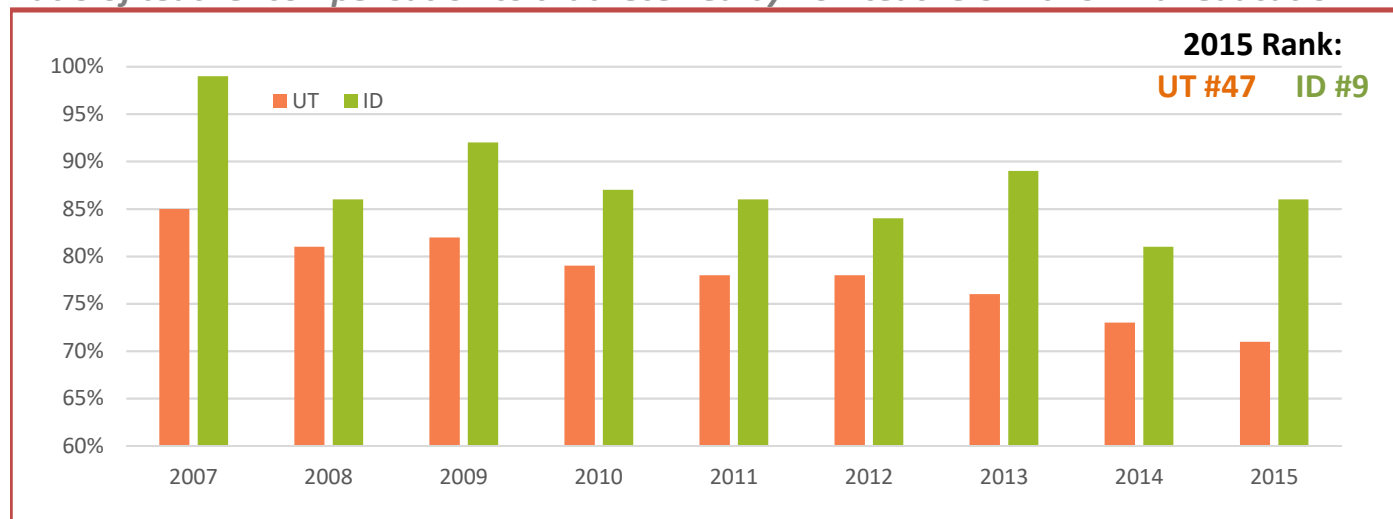


Source: Rutgers Graduate School of Education, Education Law Center, School Funding Fairness Interactive Data, online at <http://www.schoolfundingfairness.org/is-school-funding-fair/interactive-data>

Teacher wage competitiveness and education funding effort have been on a downward slide in Utah in recent years.

Figure 16 – Wage Competitiveness for Teachers

Ratio of teacher compensation to that received by non-teachers with similar education



Source: Rutgers Graduate School of Education, Education Law Center, School Funding Fairness Interactive Data, online at <http://www.schoolfundingfairness.org/is-school-funding-fair/interactive-data>

Figure 17 – Public School System Funding Effort, FY 2015

	UT	ID	US
Spending per \$1,000 of personal income and national rank	\$37/#36	\$31/#47	\$38

Source: <http://www.schoolfundingfairness.org/is-school-funding-fair/interactive-data> for state figures and <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2017/econ/g15-aspef.pdf> for US.

Figure 18 – School Staffing Fairness in Pupil-to-Teacher Ratio 2015

Staffing fairness is a ratio of teachers per 100 students in: (high poverty areas) / (low poverty areas); a higher value indicates relatively smaller classroom size in high poverty areas

	UT	ID
Staffing Fairness ratio	95%	108%
Staffing Fairness rank	35 th	14th
Pupil-teacher ratio in average district (teacher:pupil)	6.0:100	5.6:100

Source: Rutgers Graduate School of Education, Education Law Center, School Funding Fairness Interactive Data, online at <http://www.schoolfundingfairness.org/is-school-funding-fair/interactive-data>

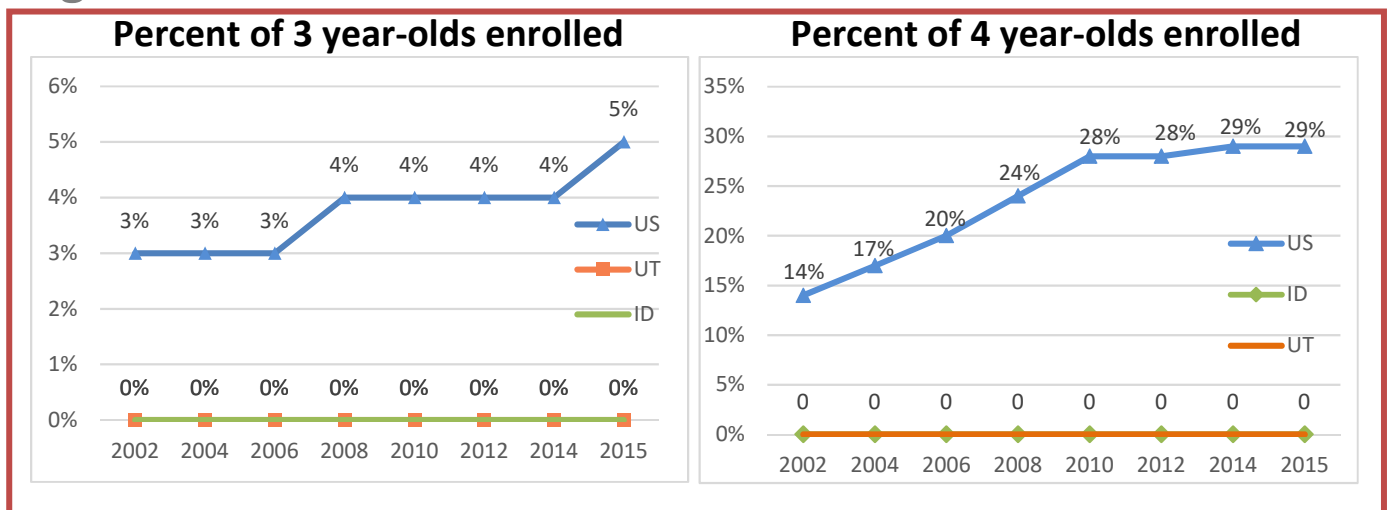
Utah's recent decision (FY 2016) to invest state tax dollars for the first time in public preschool has yet to register in the national rankings, which always have a lag of a few years, leaving Utah behind most states.

Figure 19 – Preschool Support 2015 (“winner” ***bolded and highlighted***)

	UT	ID	US (average)
State pre-k spending	\$0	\$0	\$147,816,036
Local match required?	N/A	N/A	14 state programs require local match
State Head Start spending	\$0	\$0	\$3,315,164
State spending per child enrolled	\$0	\$0	\$4,976
4 year-olds: access to state-funded preschool rank	Tied for last place w 7 other states	Tied for last place w 7 other states	
3 year-olds: access to state-funded preschool rank	Tied for last place with 20 other states	Tied for last place with 20 other states	
Percent/rank of all 3- and 4-year-olds not enrolled in school (2013-2015)	58%/33 rd	69%/50 th	53%
Percent/rank of 3- and 4-year-olds below 200% of poverty level not enrolled in school (2011-2015)	66%/38 th	75%/50 th	60%

Source: Barnett, W. S., Friedman-Krauss, A. H., Weisenfeld, G. G., Horowitz, M., Kasmin, R., & Squires, J. H. (2017). The State of Preschool 2016: State Preschool Yearbook. New Brunswick, NJ: National Institute for Early Education Research.; percent of young children not enrolled in school from Kids Count: DataCenter.KidsCount.org.

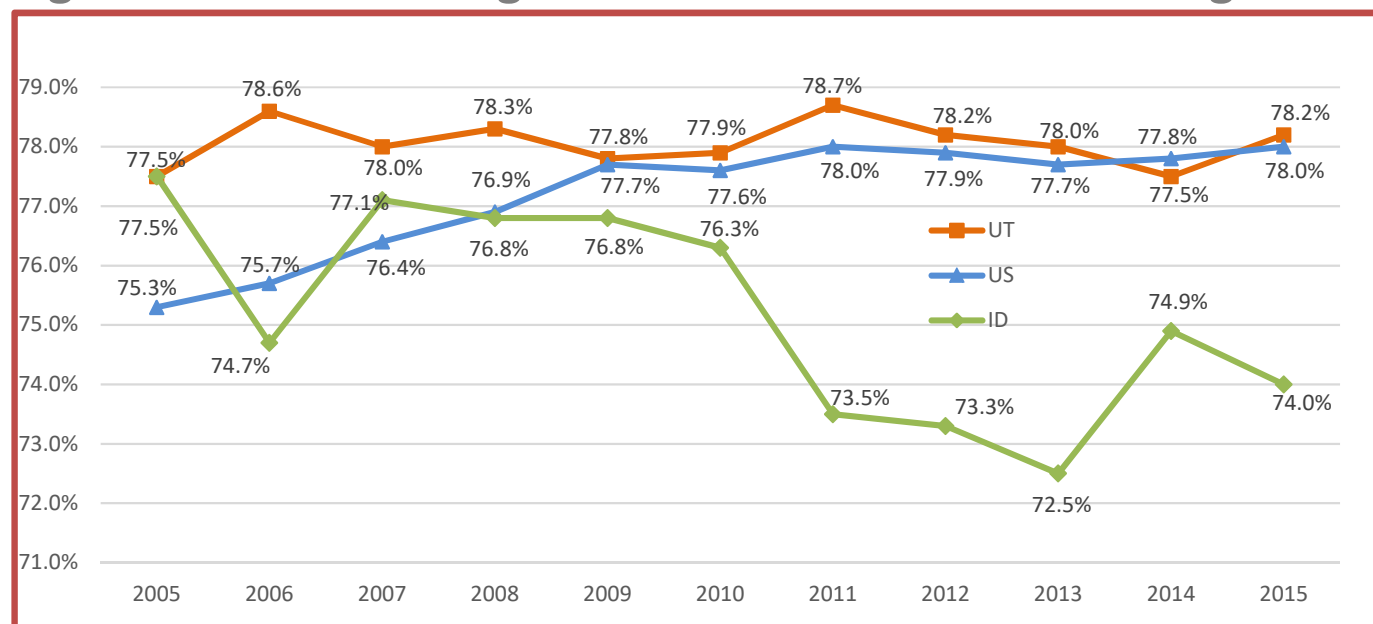
Figure 20 – State-funded Preschool Enrollment Rates



Source: National Institute for Early Education Research, The State of Preschool 2015 report, available online at: http://nieer.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Yearbook_2015_rev1.pdf

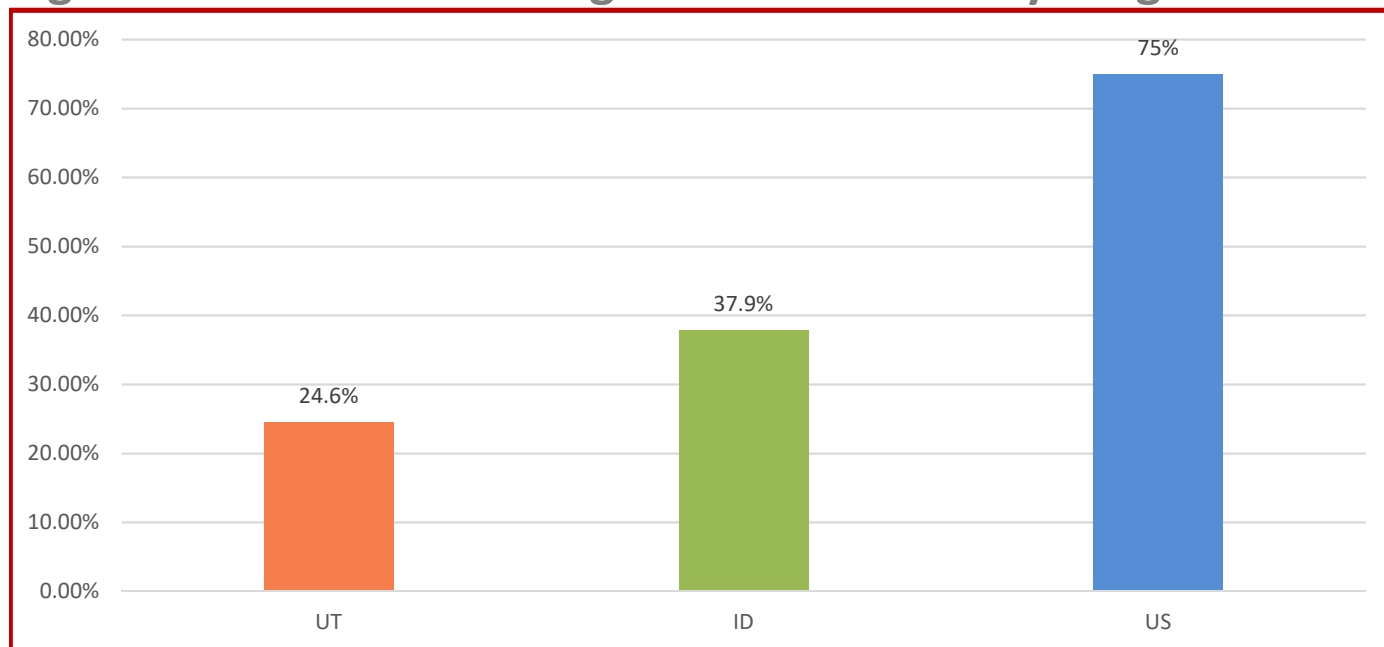
Utah kindergarten enrollment matches the national level, but only 25% attend full-day K, compared to 75% nationally and 38% in Idaho.

Fig. 21 – Percent of Eligible Children Enrolled in Kindergarten



Source: Education Week, Education Counts Research Center, Early-Childhood Education Statistics, online at: <http://www.edcounts.org/createtable/step1.php?clear=1>

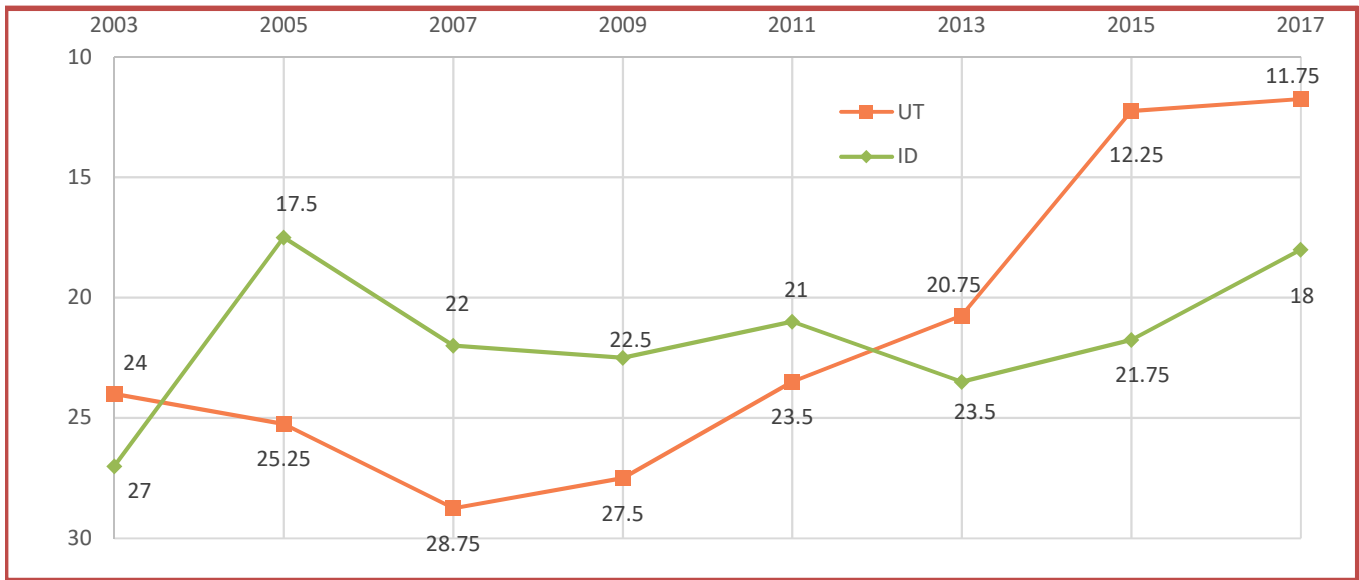
Fig. 22 – Percent of Kindergarteners in Full-Day Programs 2013



Source: Education Week, Education Counts Research Center <http://www.edcounts.org/createtable/viewtable.php>

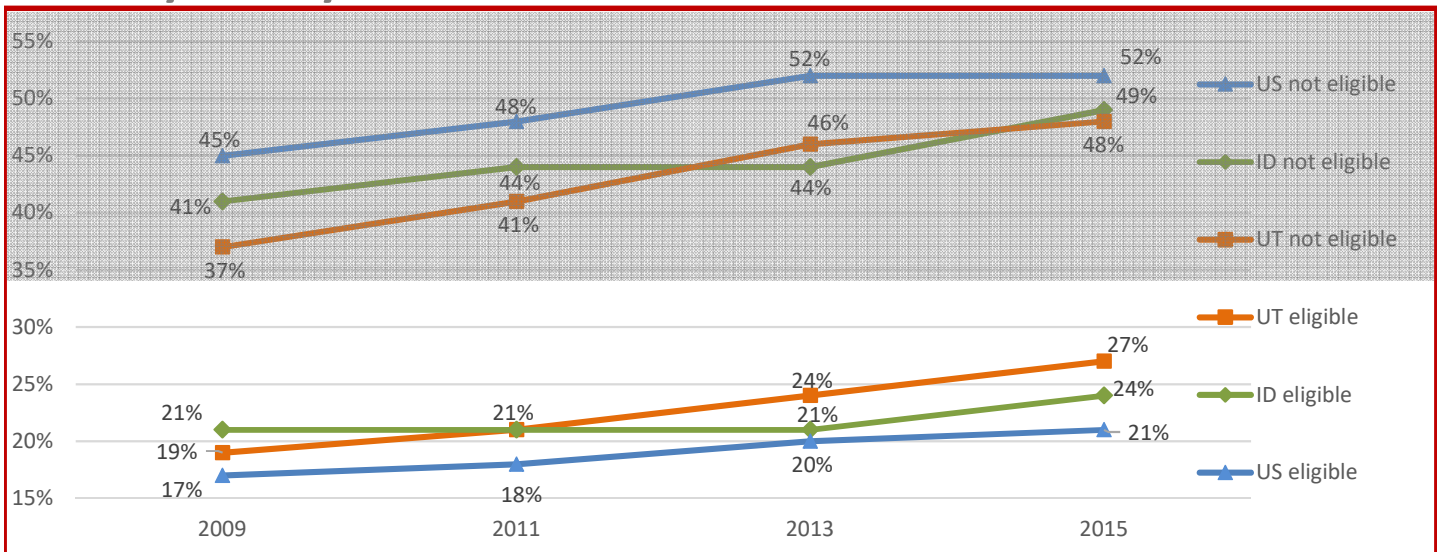
Utah school performance has been climbing steadily since 2007, passing Idaho in 2013.

Figure 23 – Average NAEP 4th + 8th Grade Math + Reading Rank



Source: U.S. Dept. of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata/report.aspx

Figure 24 – 4th Graders Scoring At or Above Proficient Reading Level by Family Income (eligible vs not eligible for free/reduced school lunch)

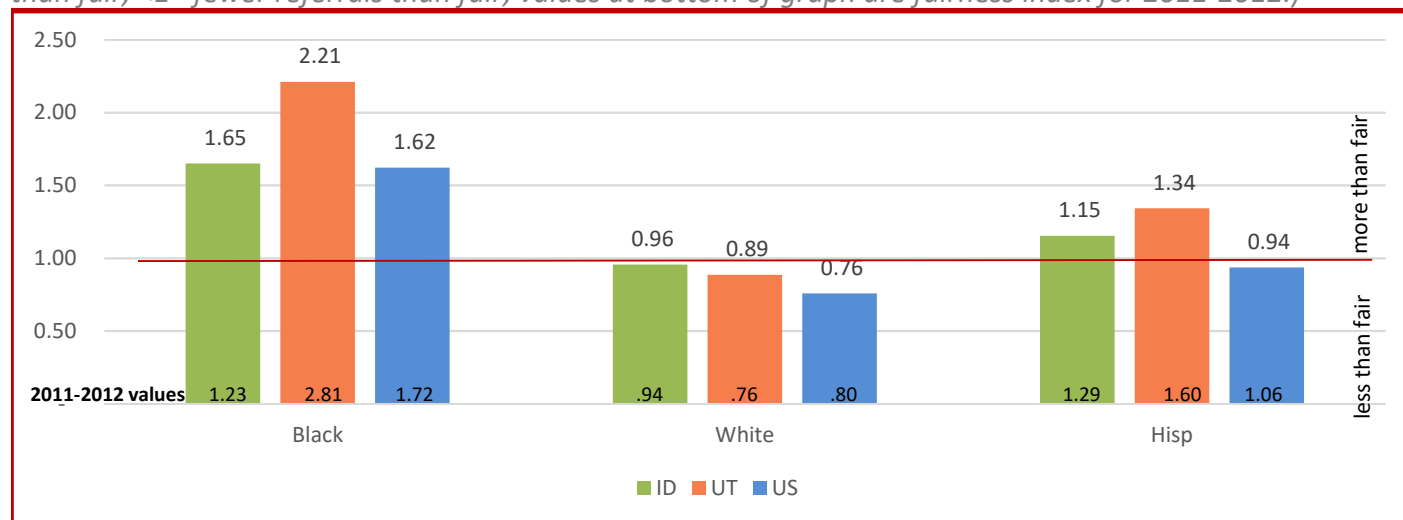


Source: Kids Count, online at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#USA/2/8/10,11,12,13,15,14,2719/char/0>

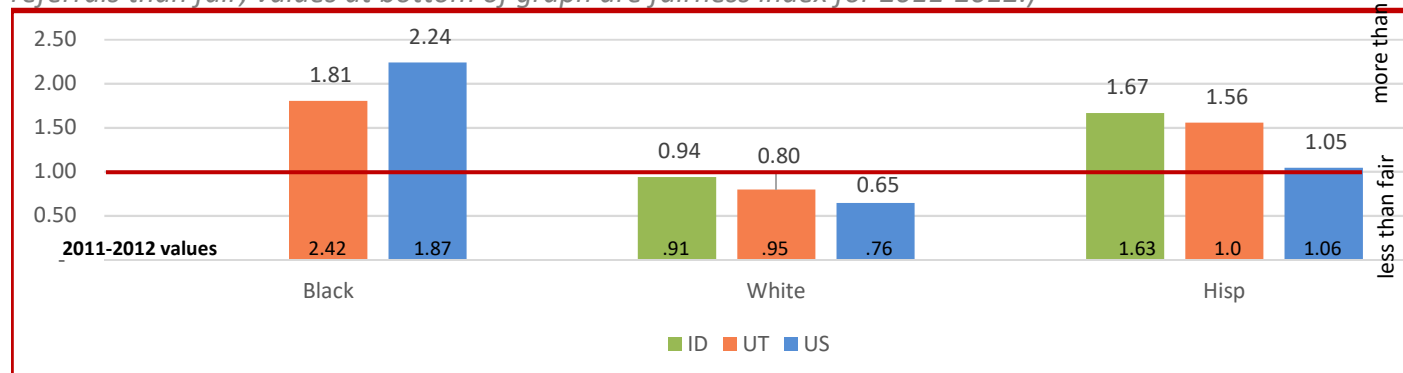
Figure 25 - School-to-Prison Referrals, Arrests, and Racial Fairness Indices 2013-14 *(for students without disabilities)*
(arrows indicate whether rates have increased or decreased since 2011-12)

	UT	ID	US
Rate of students referred to law enforcement (as % of all students)	0.248%↓	0.281%↓	0.288%↓
Rate of students with school-related arrests (as % of all students)	0.027%↓	0.024%↓	0.089%↓

Referral to law enforcement fairness index 2013-14: referrals to law enforcement by race in ratio to enrolled student population racial makeup (*1=totally fair, >1=more referrals than fair, <1= fewer referrals than fair; values at bottom of graph are fairness index for 2011-2012.*)

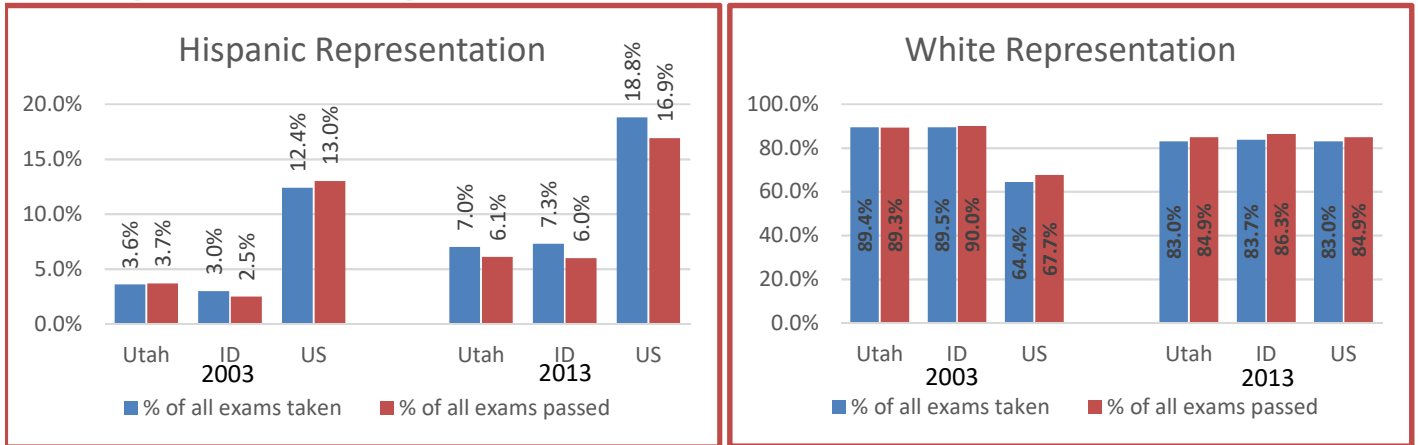


School-related arrests fairness index 2013-14: school-related arrests by race in ratio to enrolled student population racial makeup (*1=totally fair, >1=more referrals than fair, <1= fewer referrals than fair; values at bottom of graph are fairness index for 2011-2012.*)



Source: Civil Rights Data Collection, U.S. Dept of Education Office for Civil Rights <http://ocrdata.ed.gov/DataAnalysisTools/>

Figure 26 – Hispanic and White Makeup of Student Population Taking and Passing AP Exams, 2003 and 2013



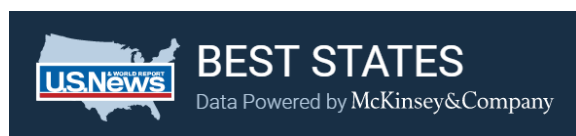
Source: The College Board, *AP Report to the Nation 2014*, available at research.collegeboard.org/programs/ap/data/nation/2014

Figure 27 – High School Students Not in School and Not Graduating on Time (*“winner” bolded and highlighted*)

	UT	ID	US
Teens (ages 16-19) not in school and not high school graduates (2016)	5%	4%	4%
High school students not graduating on time (2014-15)	15%	21%	17%

Source: Kids Count, available at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>, accessed 11/06/2017



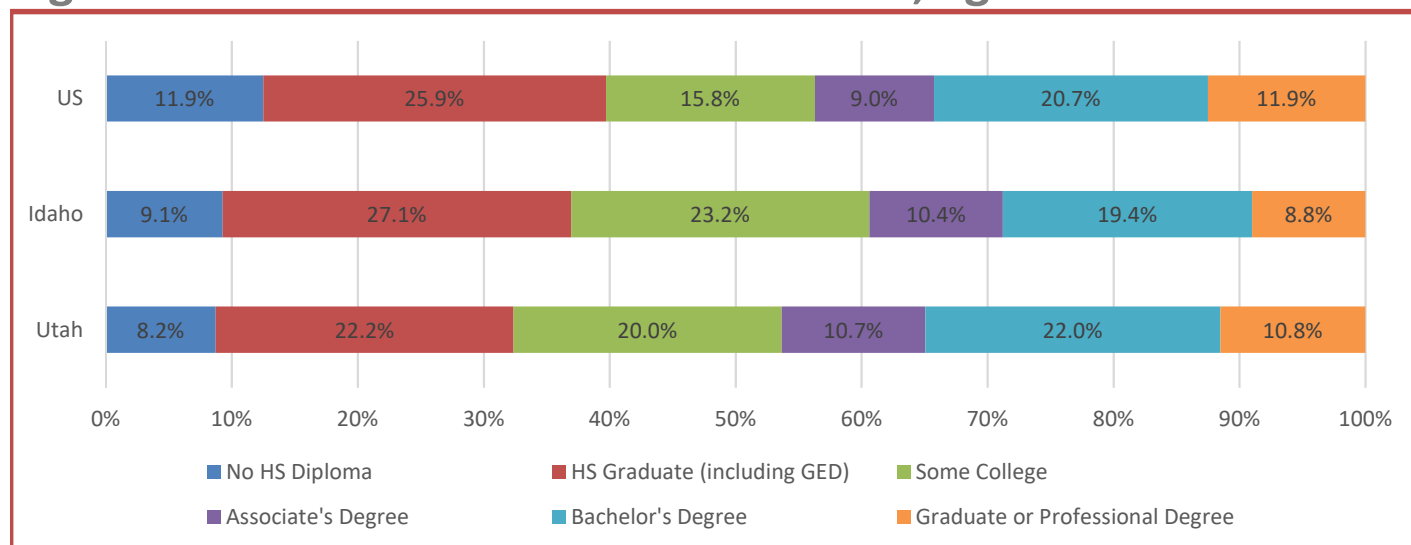


US News ranks Utah second in the country for overall higher education in 2017, thanks to our low tuition and debt levels.

Higher Education Rank	State	2-Year College Grad. Rate	4-Year College Grad. Rate	Educational Attainment	Low Debt at Graduation	Tuition and Fees
#2	Utah	6	43	15	1	4
#37	Idaho	36	48	36	20	12

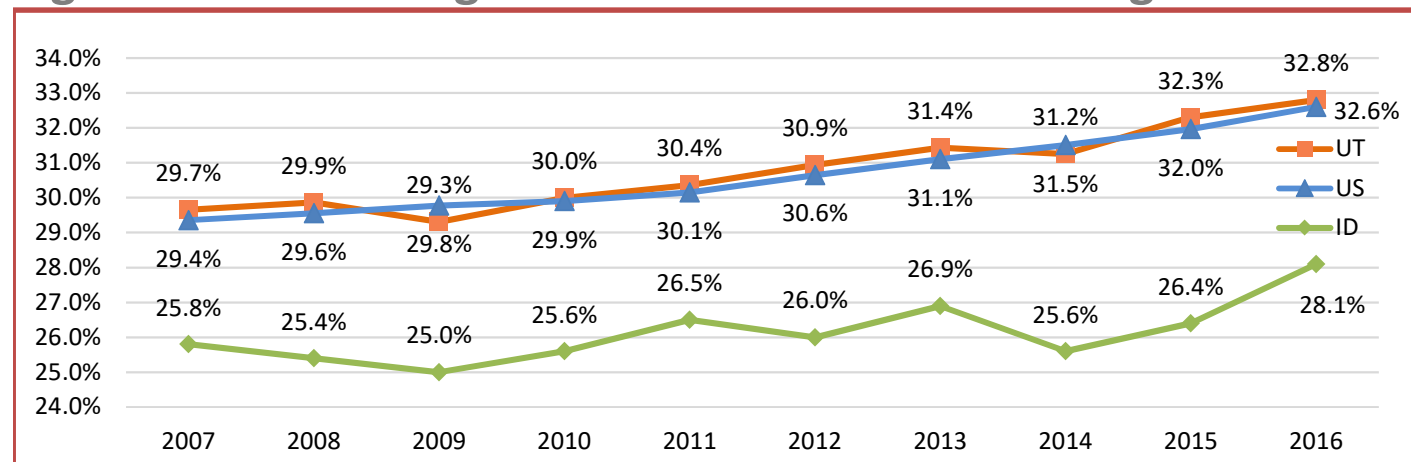
Source: <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/rankings/education/higher-education>

Figure 28 – Educational Attainment 2014, ages 25-64



Source: Lumina Foundation analysis of U.S. Census Bureau ACS data: <http://strongernation.luminafoundation.org/report/#nation>

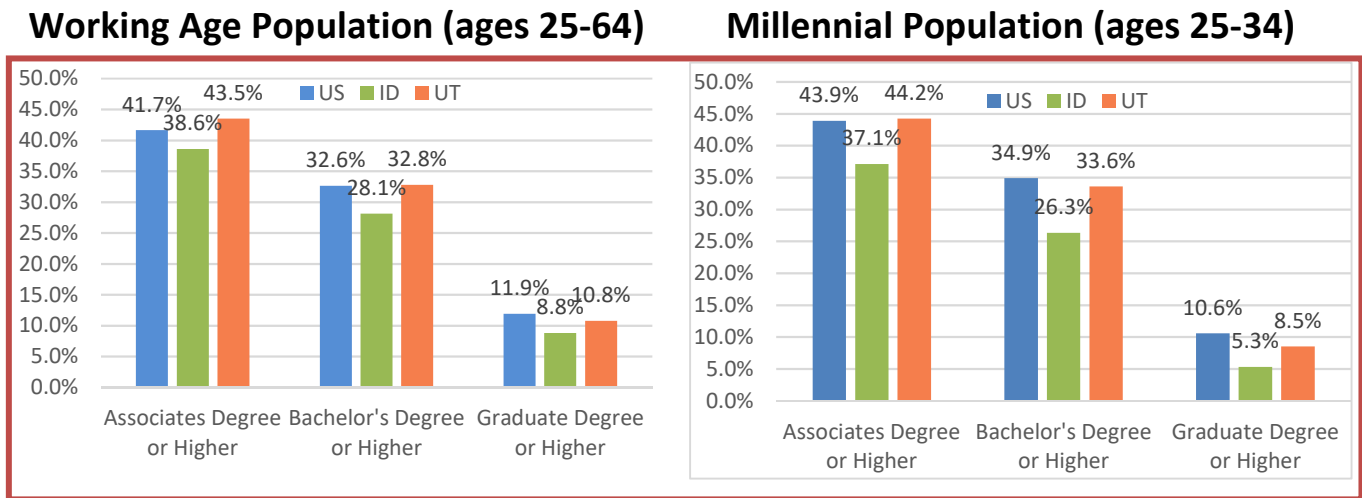
Figure 29 – Adults Ages 25-64 with a Bachelor's Degree or More



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, table B23006 Educational Attainment

The Millennial generation in Utah and Idaho has not seen the higher education gains experienced by their peers across the nation.

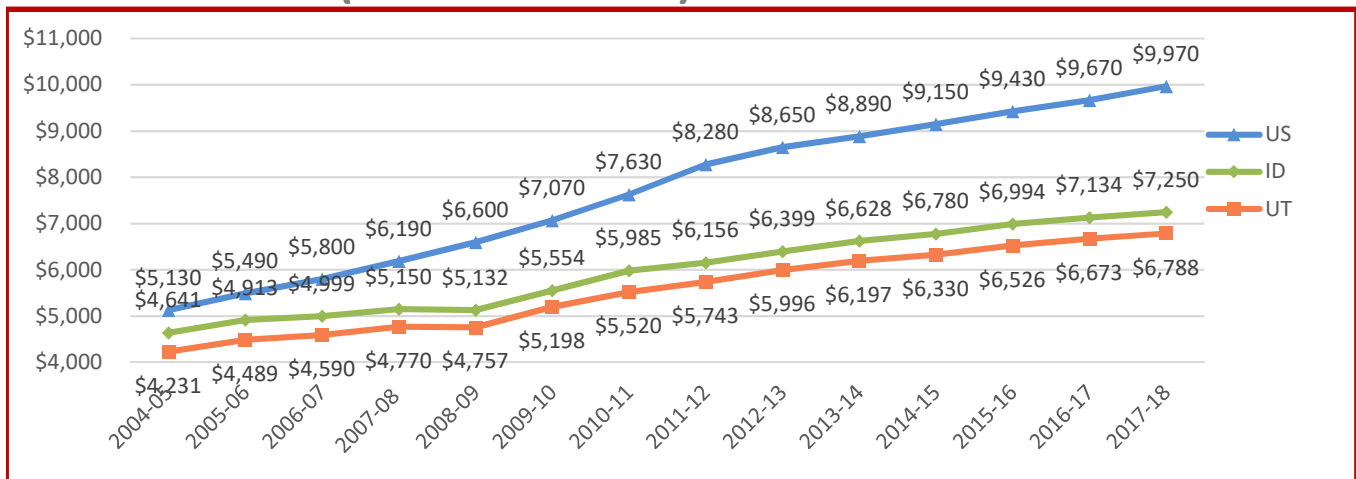
Figure 30 – Educational attainment by age group, 2016



Source: Voices for Utah Children analysis of U.S. Census Bureau ACS 1-year data by Zachary Cutshall.

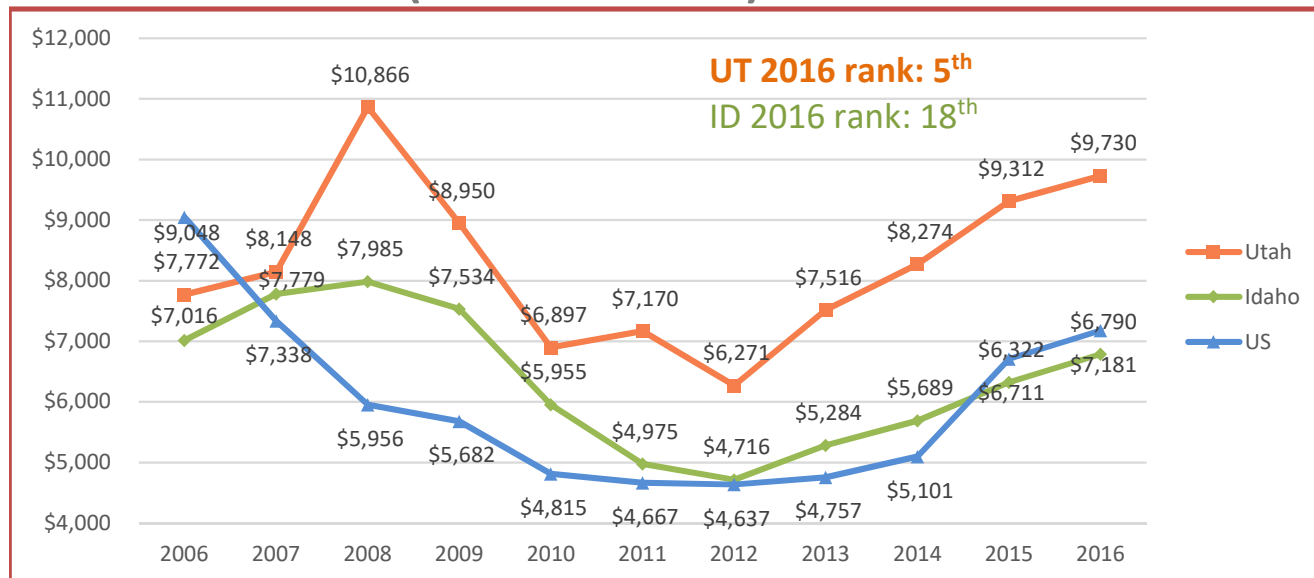
Utah and Idaho keep public university tuition relatively affordable with generous state appropriations.

Figure 31 – Average Public Four-Year In-State Public University Tuition & Fees (in 2016 dollars)



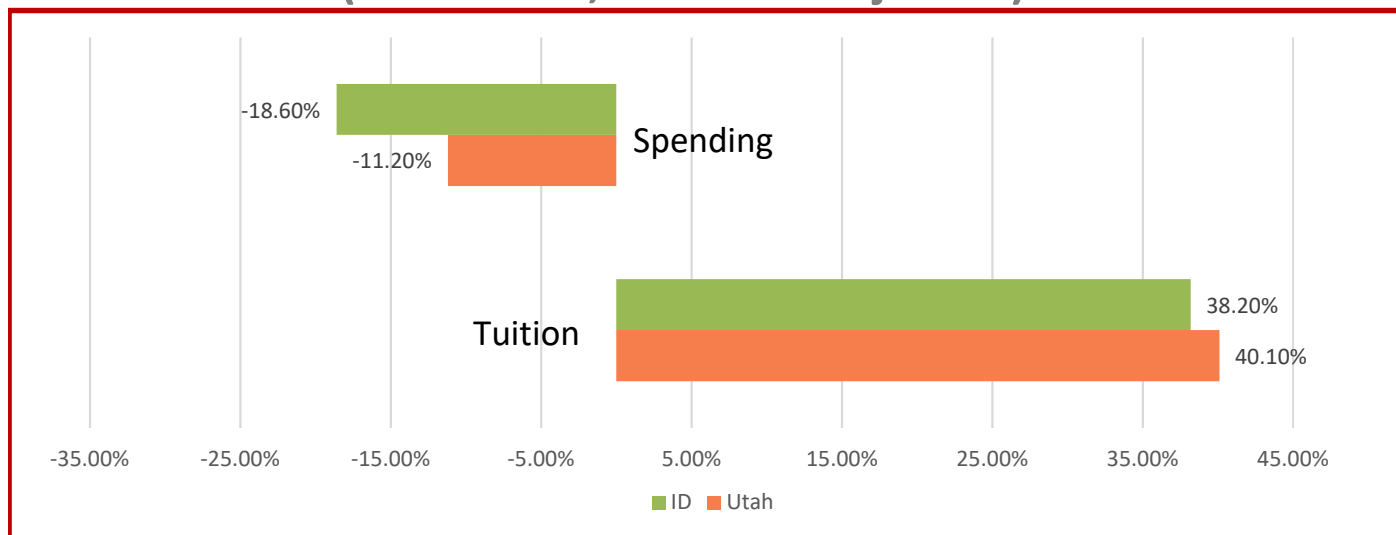
Source: College Board, Annual Survey of Colleges, Table 5 – based on published tuition and fees, available at: <https://trends.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/cp-2016-table-5.xlsx>

Figure 32 – Higher Education State Appropriations per Full-time Enrolled Student (in 2015 dollars)



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Institute for Education Sciences' Integrated Postsecondary Education Data

Figure 33 – Percent Changes in Total State Spending on Higher Education and Percent Changes in Public Four-Year In-State Tuition & Fees (2008-2016, inflation-adjusted)



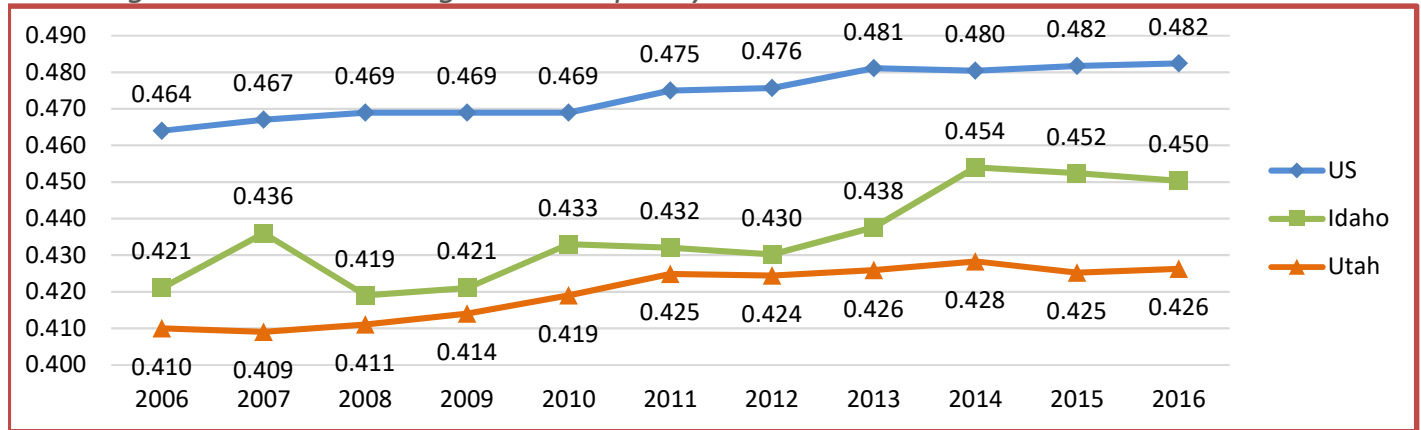
Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *A Lost Decade in Higher Education Funding State Cuts Have Driven Up Tuition and Reduced Quality*, available online at: <https://www.cbpp.org/research/state-budget-and-tax/funding-down-tuition-up>

Equity

Utah ranks at or near the top of the national scale, ahead of the nation and Idaho for income equity and intergenerational social mobility.

Figure 34 – GINI Index (2006-2016)

Note: higher values indicate greater inequality



Source: Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) GINI Index of Income Inequality 1-year estimates, table B19083, 2006-2016 - UT, ID, & U.S. (Source: American Community Survey, <http://factfinder.census.gov>)

Figure 35 – Intergenerational Upward Mobility Rankings

(higher expected income percentile rank for a person whose parents were at the 25th income percentile)

	UT	ID
Among the 200 largest commuting zones (urban + rural) in the US		
	#1 – Provo, UT	#46 – Boise, ID
Among 381 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (urban only)		
	#3 – Logan, UT-ID	#30 – Idaho Falls, ID
	#16 – Provo-Orem, UT	#59 – Coeur d’Alene, ID
	#35 – Ogden-Clearfield, UT	#121- Pocatello, ID
	#41 – Saint George, UT	#147 – Boise, ID
	#43 – Salt Lake City, UT	
Average MSA rank	28th	89th

Source: Chetty, Raj, et al. "Where is the land of opportunity? The geography of intergenerational mobility in the United States." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 129.4 (2014): 1553-1623. Data tables online at: <http://www.equality-of-opportunity.org/data/>

Gender

Idaho and Utah rank toward the back of the pack nationally for gender equity.

Figure 36 – Status of Women Indices, 2016

(“winner” **bolded and highlighted**)

Ranking: 1 is best, 50 worst Grades: A is best, F worst	UT		ID	
	Rank	Grade	Rank	Grade
Employment & Earnings	44	D	49	F
Political Participation	50	F	40	D-
Poverty & Opportunity	30	D+	45	D-
Health & Well-being	4	B	14	C+
Work & Family	50	F	46	D-

Source: Institute for Women’s Policy Research (IWPR), *Status of Women in the States* dataset, available online at: <https://statusofwomendata.org/explore-the-data/>

Figure 37 – Gender Pay Gap, 2016

Ranking: 1 is best, 50 worst	UT	UT rank	ID	ID rank
Gender Wage Ratio (Female/Male), 2015	70%	50	75.6%	41
Gender Wage Ratio for millennials (ages 16-34), 2013-15	78.8%	49	81.5%	48
Projected Year to Close Gender Pay Gap (at current rate of progress since 1959)	2106	48	2083	36

Source: Institute for Women’s Policy Research (IWPR), *Status of Women in the States* dataset, available online at: <https://statusofwomendata.org/explore-the-data/>

A 2015 analysis by Voices for Utah Children found the **disparity between men’s and women’s wages in Utah to be much larger** than the same disparity at both national and regional levels. The research also found that **Utah’s gap is so much larger than the nation’s because of how women’s qualification and characteristics** – such as educational disparities – **put them at a much larger disadvantage in Utah.**

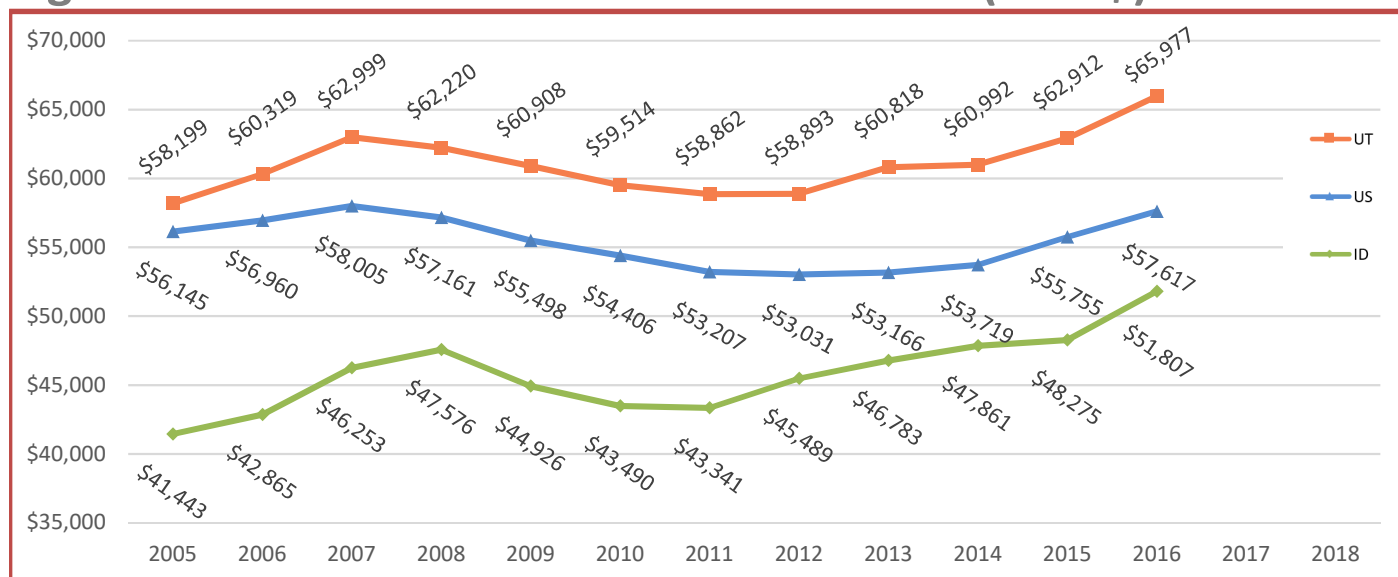
Part II: Standard of Living



Income

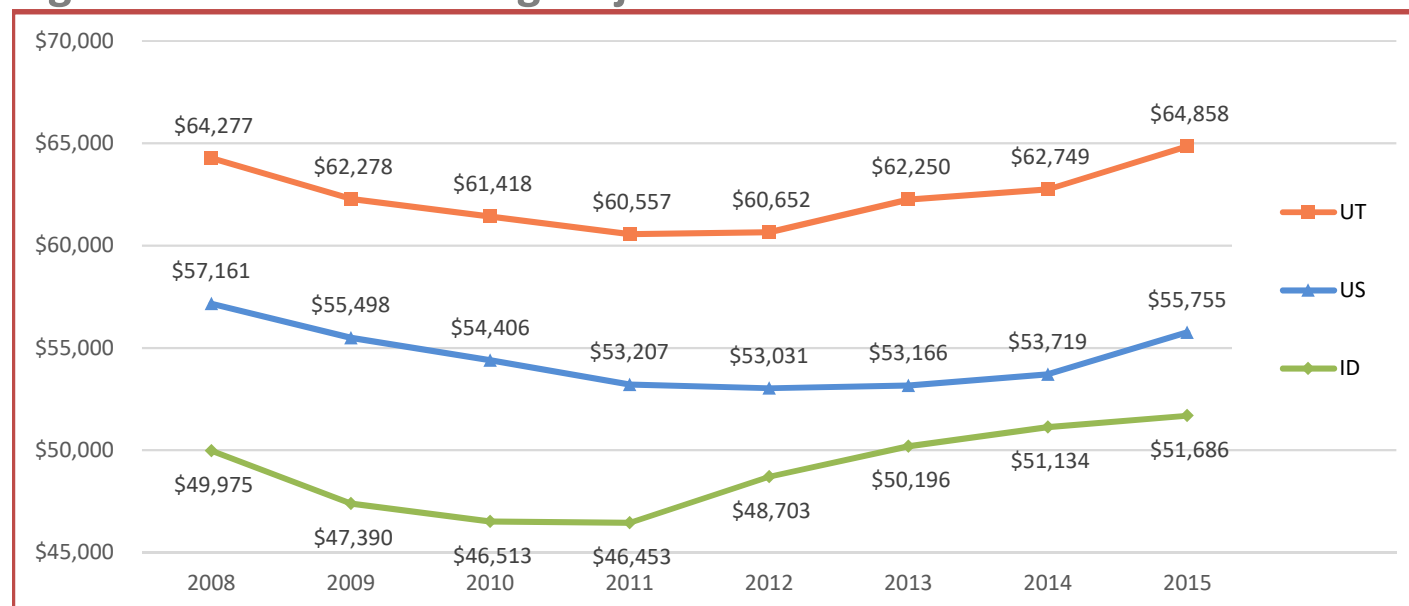
While Utah is well ahead of the nation for household income, ranking #11 in 2016, Idaho lags behind at #37. Both states enjoy a low cost of living relative to the nation.

Figure 38 – Real Median Household Income (2016\$)



Source: Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) Median Household Income table B19013, factfinder.census.gov

Figure 39 – Cost-of-Living-Adjusted Real Median Household Income



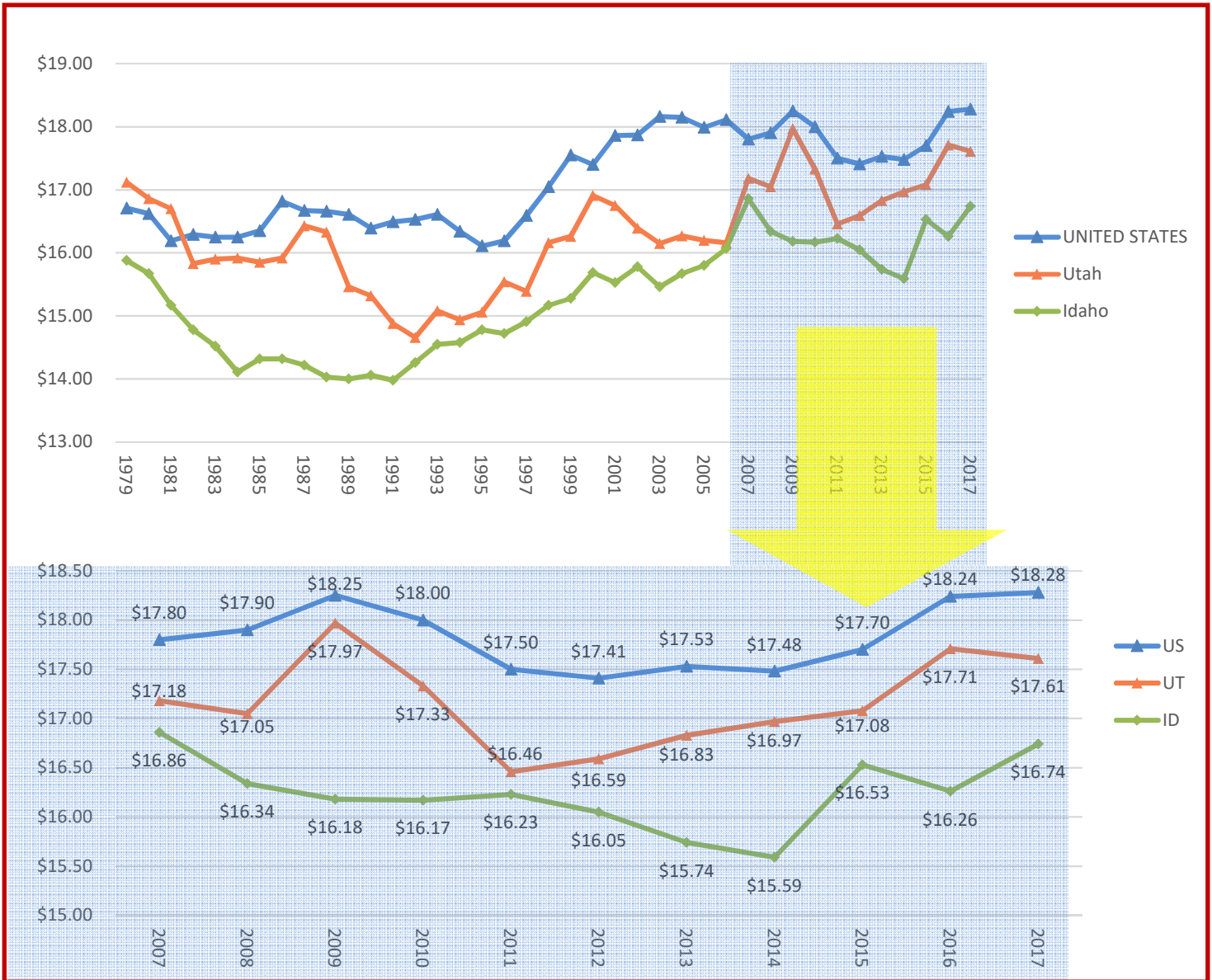
Source: Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) table B19013; adjusted by BEA Regional Price Parities, all items (available online: American Community Survey, <http://factfinder.census.gov> & Bureau of Economic Analysis, <http://bea.gov>)

Wages

Both Utah and Idaho rank in the bottom half of states for median hourly wage.

In 2017, Idaho ranked #43 and Utah #27 for median hourly wage.

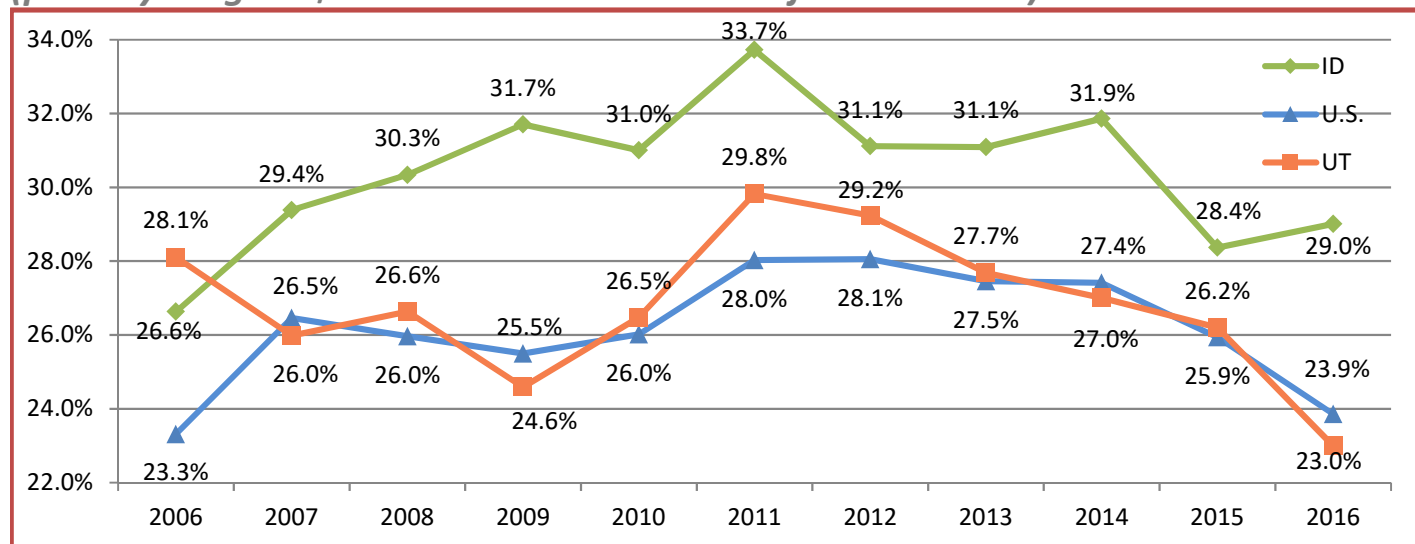
Figure 40 - Real Median Hourly Wage (in 2017 dollars)



Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of Current Population Survey data.

Compared to Utah and the nation, many more Idahoans earn a poverty-level wage. Idaho ranks #42 in the nation for hourly wages for low-skilled workers (10th percentile of hourly wages); Utah ranks #21.

Figure 41 – Share of Workers Earning Below Poverty Wage
(poverty wage is \$11.81 in 2016 CPI-U-RS adjusted dollars)



Source: EPI analysis of CPS-ORG using poverty threshold of family of four (\$24,563 in 2016) divided by (52weeks*40hours/week), see <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html>

Figure 42 – Minimum Wage 2017 and 10th Percentile Wage 2017
(“winner” bolded and shaded)

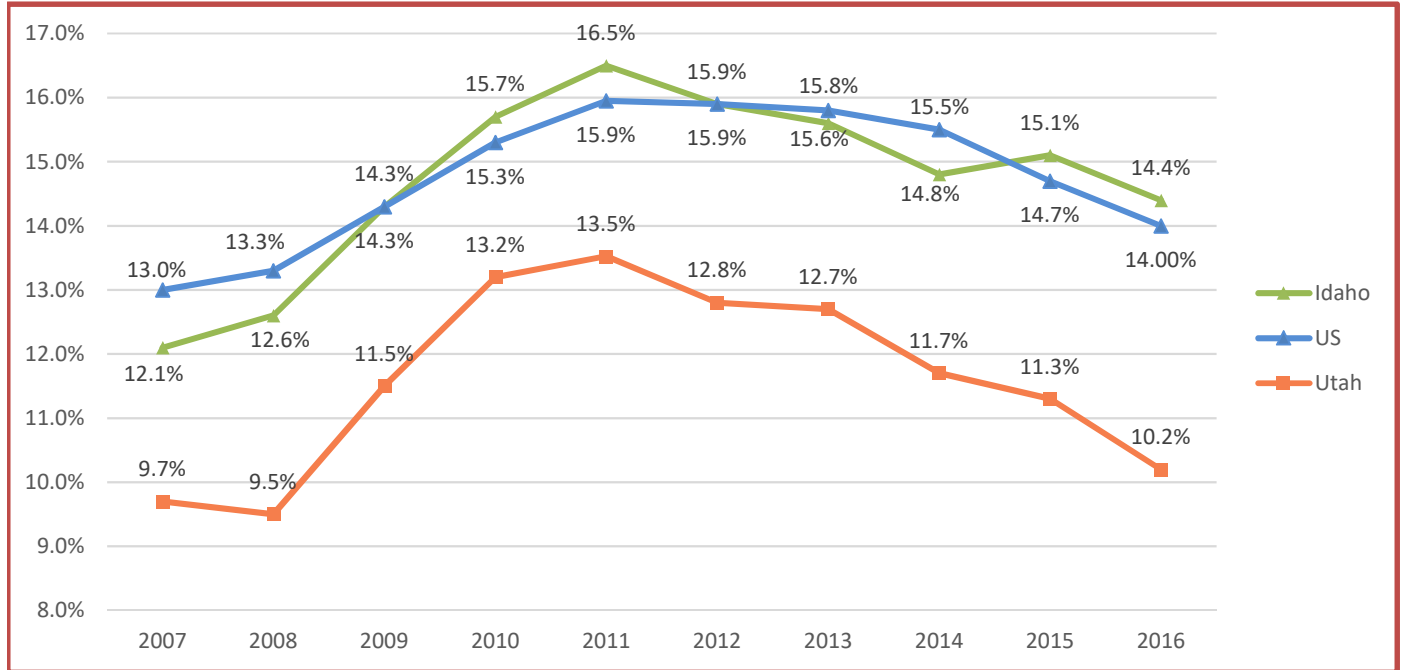
	US	UT	ID
Minimum wage	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25
Minimum wage inflation indexing	No	No	No
Hourly wage/rank at the 10th percentile in 2016	\$9.90	\$9.92/#21	\$9.14/#42

Sources: Minimum wage data from US Department of Labor, available online at <https://www.dol.gov/whd/minwage/america.htm>. 10th percentile wages from EPI analysis of Census Bureau CPS data.

Poverty

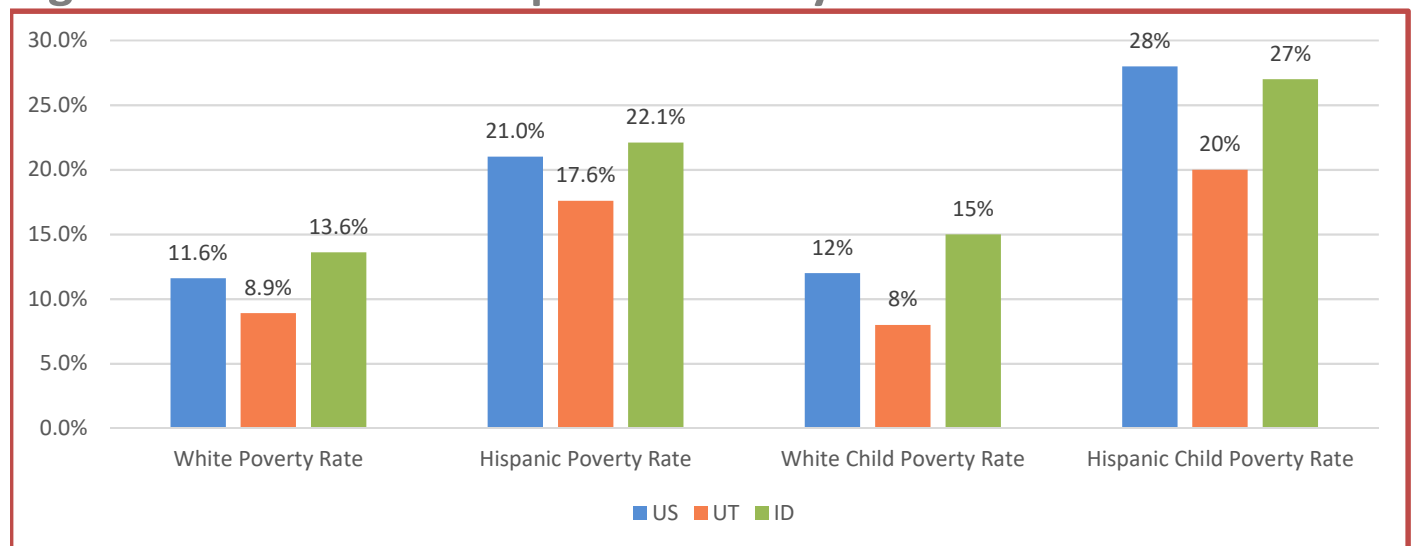
While Utah enjoys low poverty rates, Idaho is above the national average.

Figure 43 – Poverty Rates 2007-2016



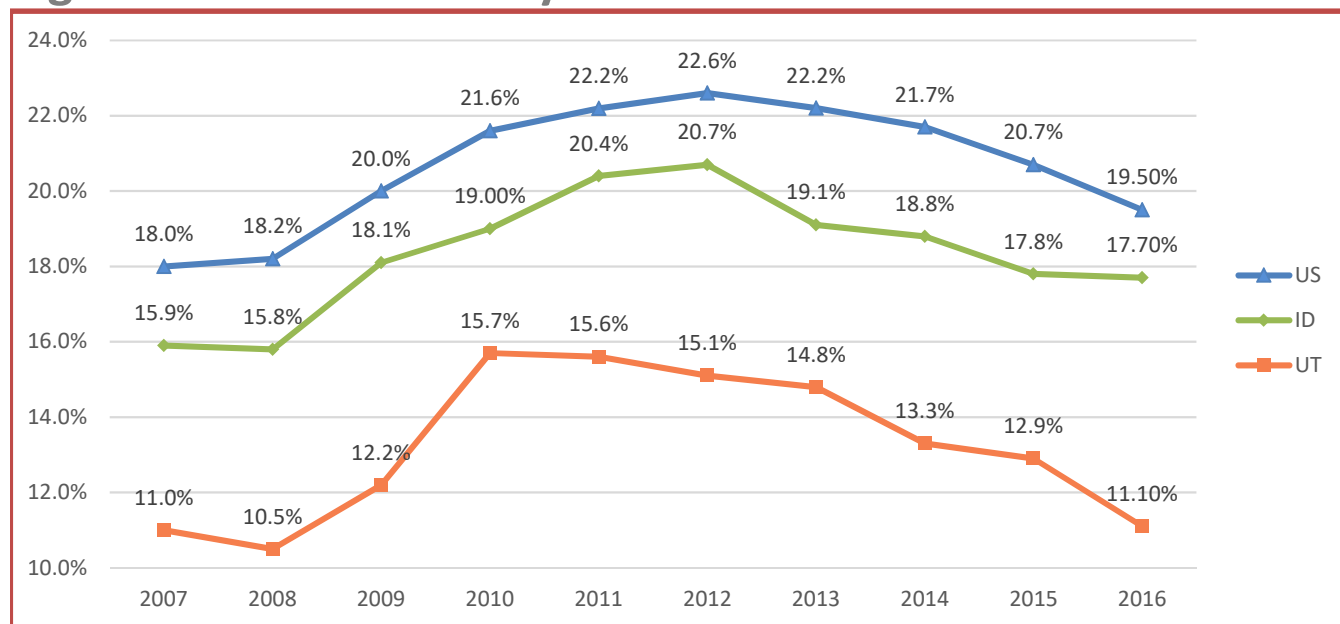
Source: Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) Poverty Rates, 2007-2016 - UT, ID , & U.S. (Source: American

Figure 44 – White & Hispanic Poverty Rates 2016



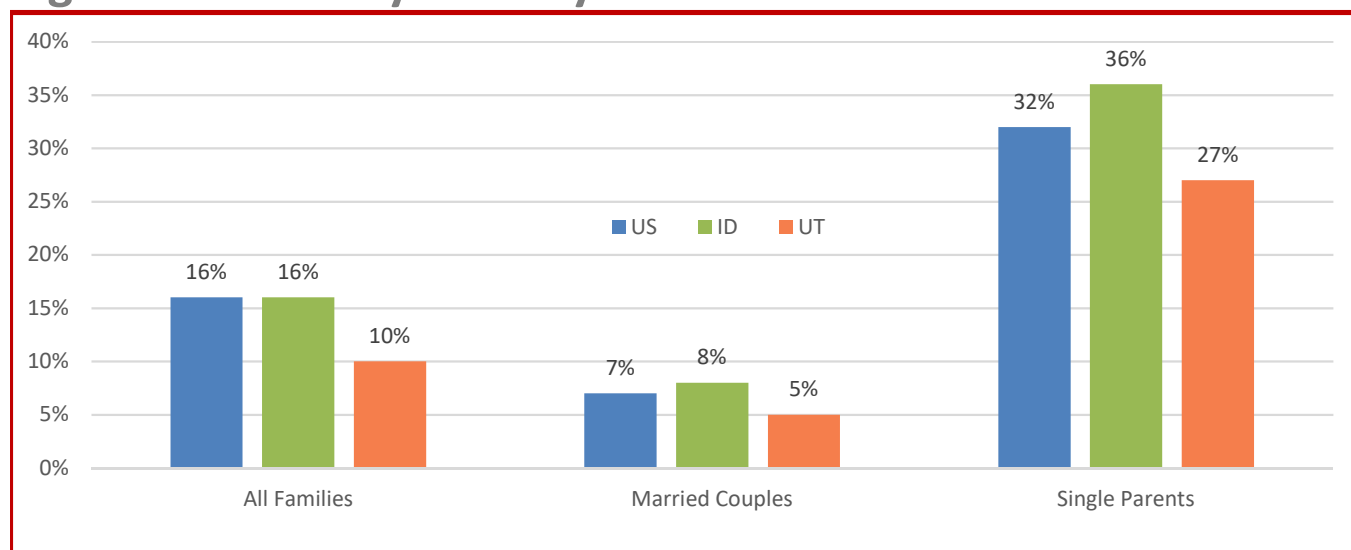
Source: Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) Poverty Rates 2016 - UT, ID , & U.S. (Source: American Community Survey, <http://factfinder.census.gov>; Kids Count Data Center datacenter.kidscount.org)

Figure 45 – Child Poverty Rates 2007-2016



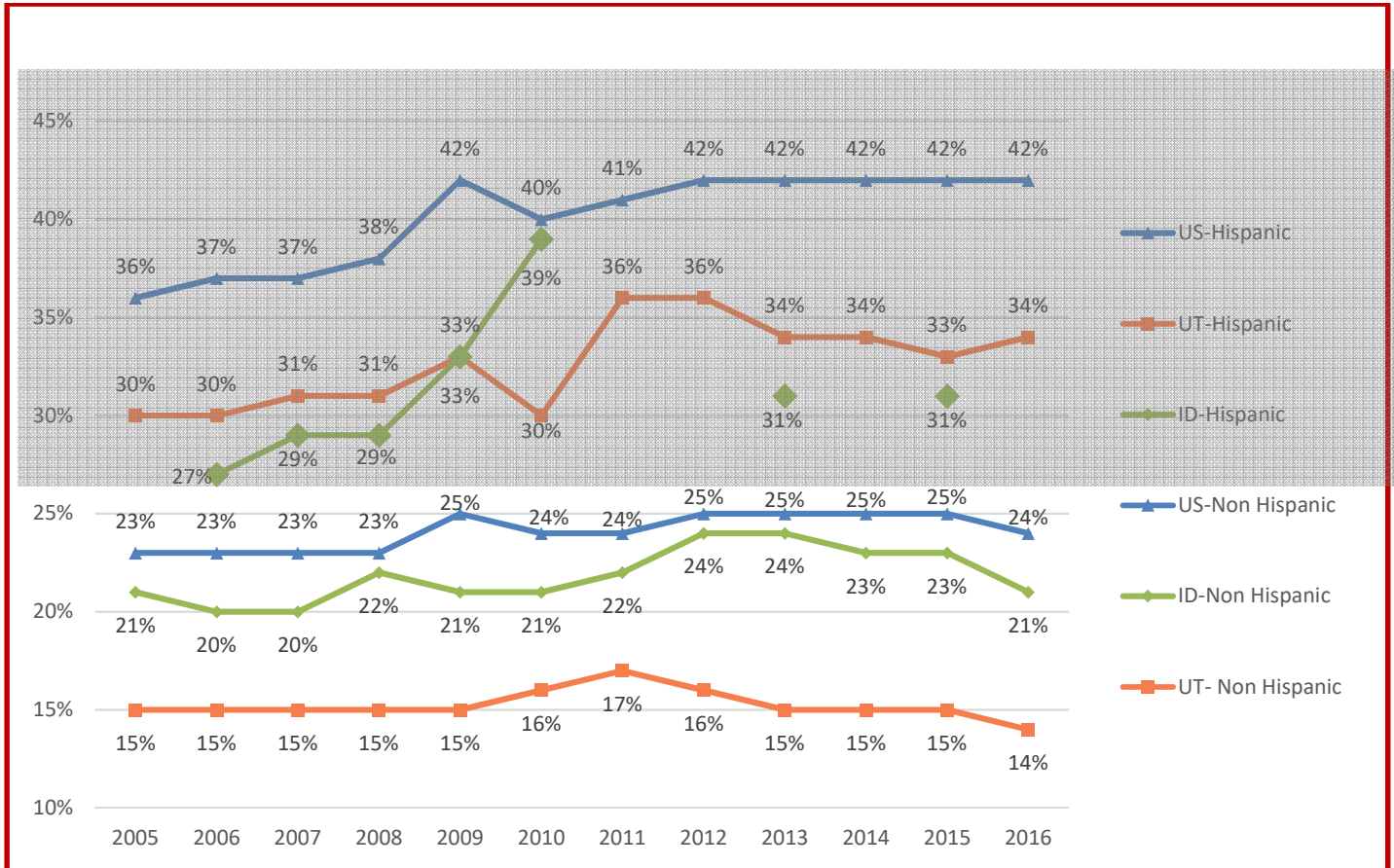
Source: Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) Poverty Rates, 2007-2016 - UT, ID , & U.S. (Source: Kids Count Data Center datacenter.kidscount.org)

Figure 46 – Family Poverty Rates 2016



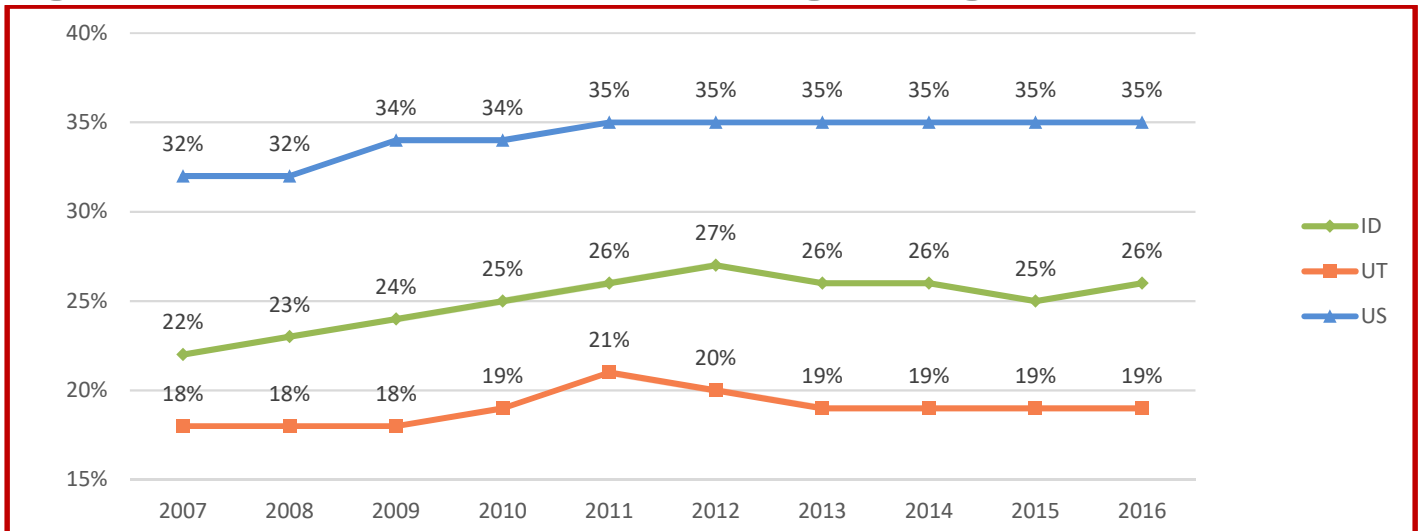
Source: Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) Poverty Rates, 2007-2016 - UT, ID , & U.S. (Source: Kids Count Data Center datacenter.kidscount.org)

Figure 47 – Percent of Children Living in Single-Parent Homes by Hispanic/Non-Hispanic



Source: Kidscount.org

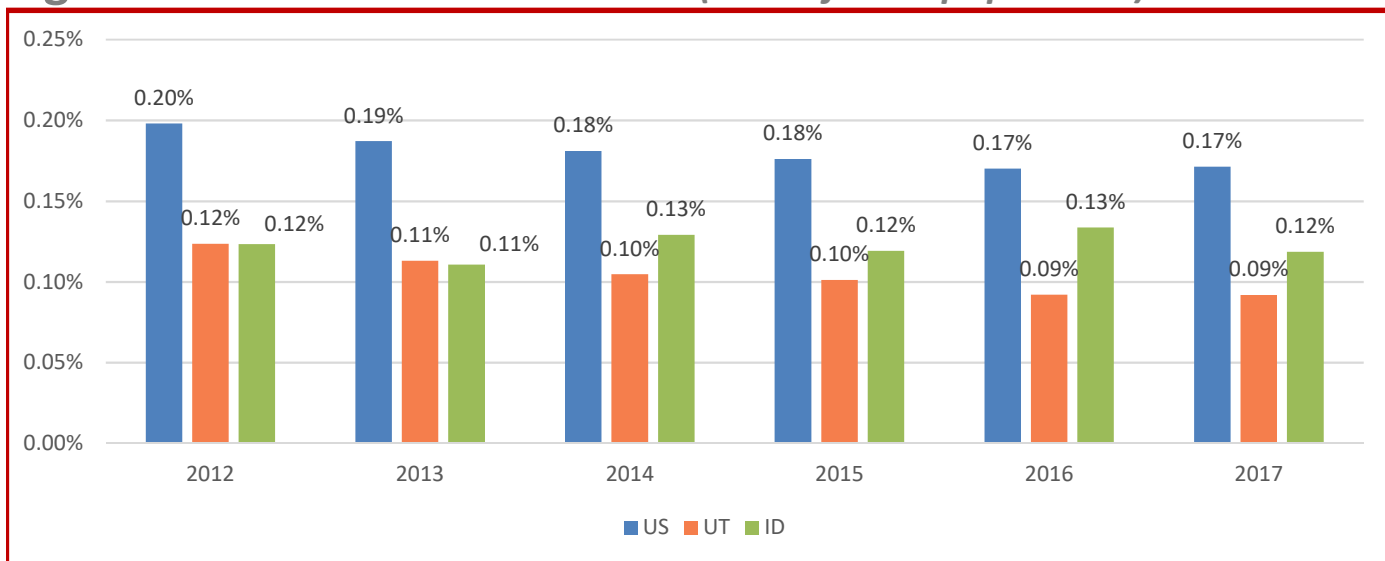
Figure 48 – Percent of Children Living in Single-Parent Homes



Source: Kidscount.org

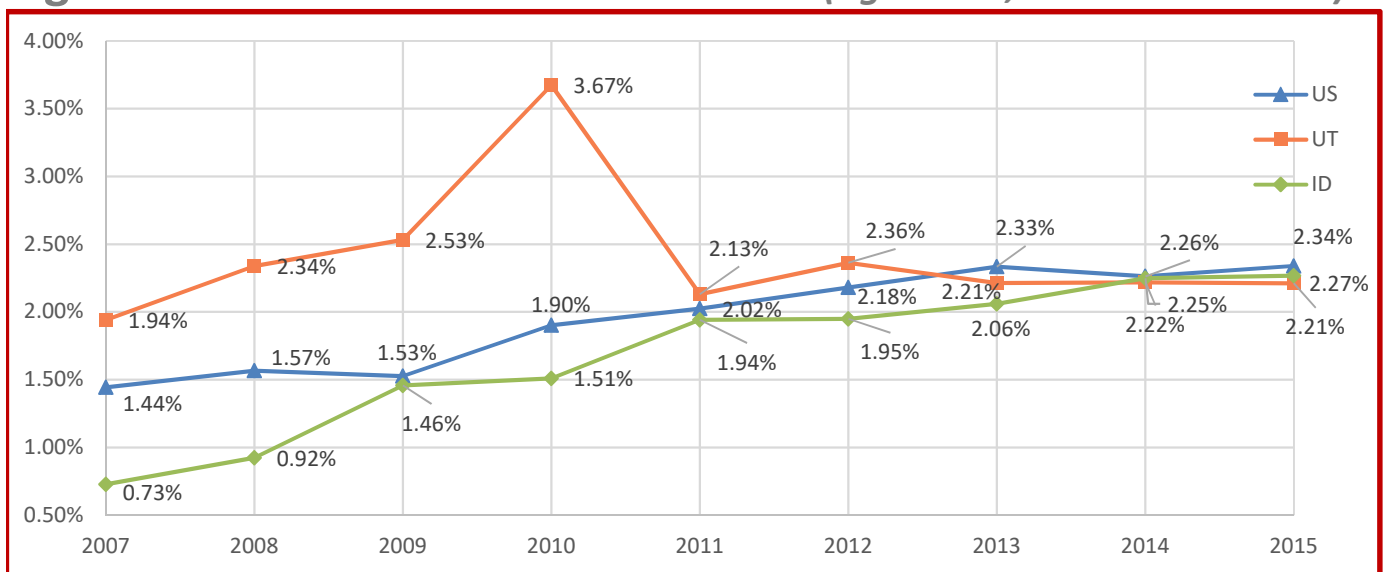
Utah has a lower homelessness rate than Idaho and the nation, but all three share a similar child homelessness rate.

Figure 49 – Homelessness Rate (as % of total population)



Source: **Population data:** U.S. Census Bureau table PEANNRES (2017 population estimates); **Total homeless persons data:** U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs, Homeless Populations and Subpopulations, available online from: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-homeless-populations-and-subpopulations-reports/>

Figure 50 – Child Homelessness Rate (ages 3-17, enrolled students)



Source: **Population data:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-year estimates, Children ages 3-17 in households and enrolled in school (table S0901); **Child homelessness data:** National Center for Homeless Education, Federal Data Summary for McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program, available online at: http://nche.ed.gov/ibt/sc_data.php

Figure 51 – Percent of Children Facing Food Insecurity 2015

UT	ID	US
16.4%	17.6%	17.9%

Source: Feeding America, available online at: <http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/our-research/map-the-meal-gap/2015/2015-mapthemealgap-exec-summary.pdf>

The Census Bureau's **Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM)** counts poverty more accurately by taking into account local cost of living, household expenses such as taxes, childcare, and medical bills, and government safety net programs such as Social Security/SSI, SNAP/food stamps, TANF, unemployment insurance benefits, federal tax credits like the EITC, and government subsidies for housing and school lunches.

Figure 52 – Supplemental Poverty Measure (2013-2015)

	UT	ID	US
All persons	9.4%	10.0%	15.0%

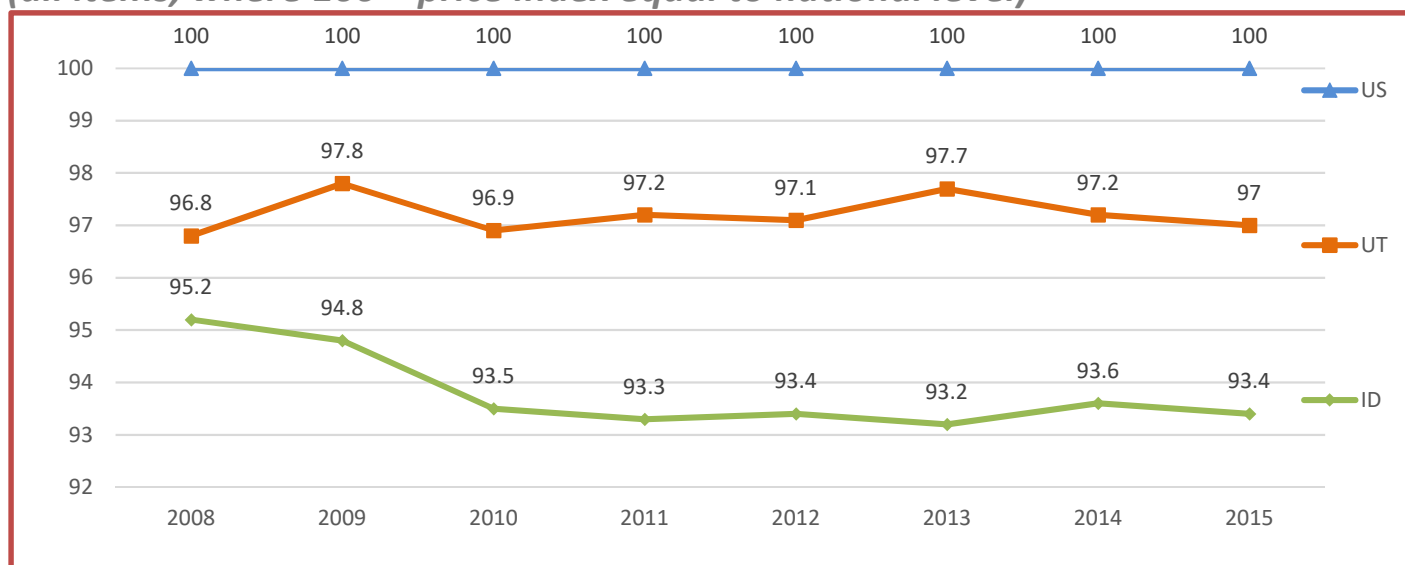
Source: Voices for Utah Children Analysis of CPS data by Anastasia Baranowska. For more information on the SPM see: <https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/supplemental-poverty-measure.html>



Cost of Living

Idaho enjoys a lower cost of living than Utah; both are below the national average.

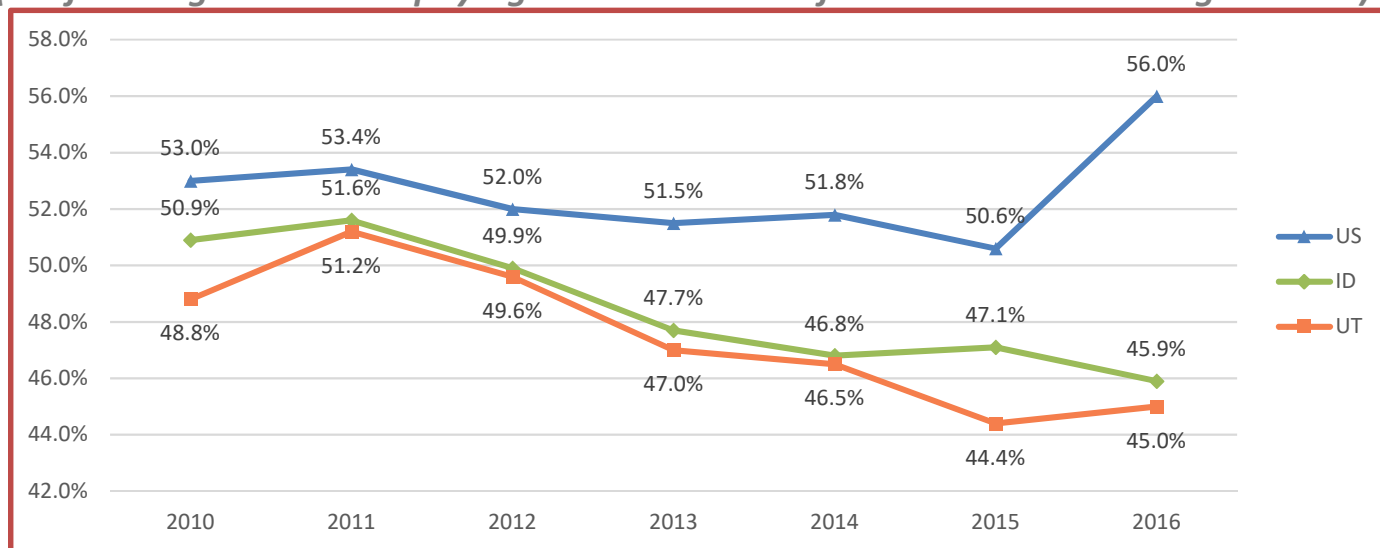
Figure 53 – Cost of Living: Regional Price Parities
(all items, where 100 = price index equal to national level)



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Price Parities by state, all items, available online at: <https://www.bea.gov/iTable/iTable.cfm?reqid=70&step=1&isuri=1&acrdn=8#reqid=70&step=1&isuri=1>

Figure 54 – Unaffordable Rent Burden Rate

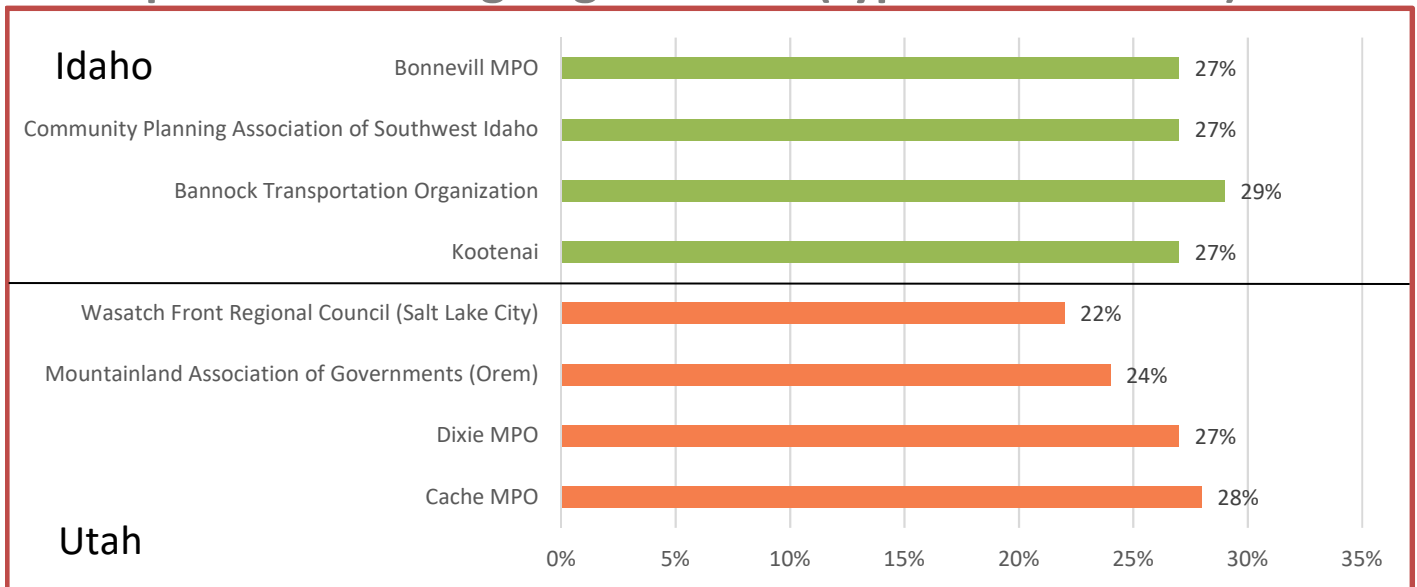
(% of renting households paying more than 30% of household income to gross rent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-year estimates (table DP04)

Utah enjoys mostly lower transportation costs than Idaho.

Figure 55 – Transportation Expense as Percent of Income by Metropolitan Planning Organization (typical household)



Source: Center for Neighborhood Technology, Housing and Transportation Affordability Index, htaindex.cnt.org

Figure 56 – Annual Household Transportation Costs by Metropolitan Planning Organization (typical household)

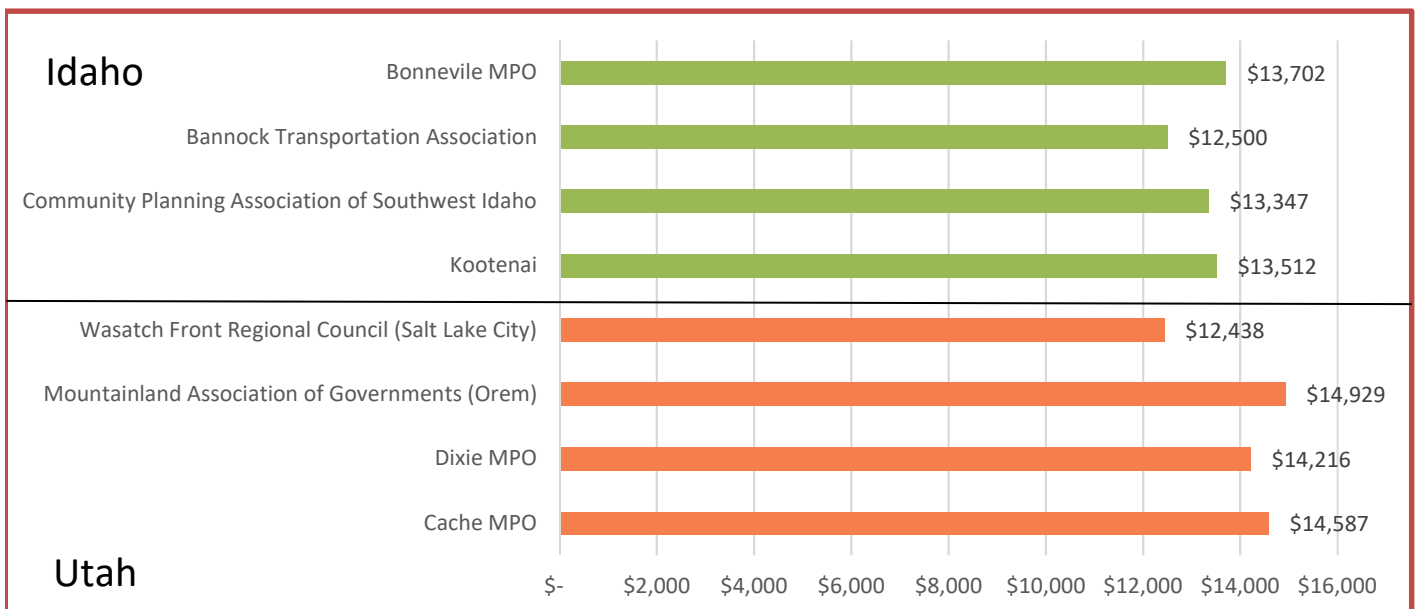
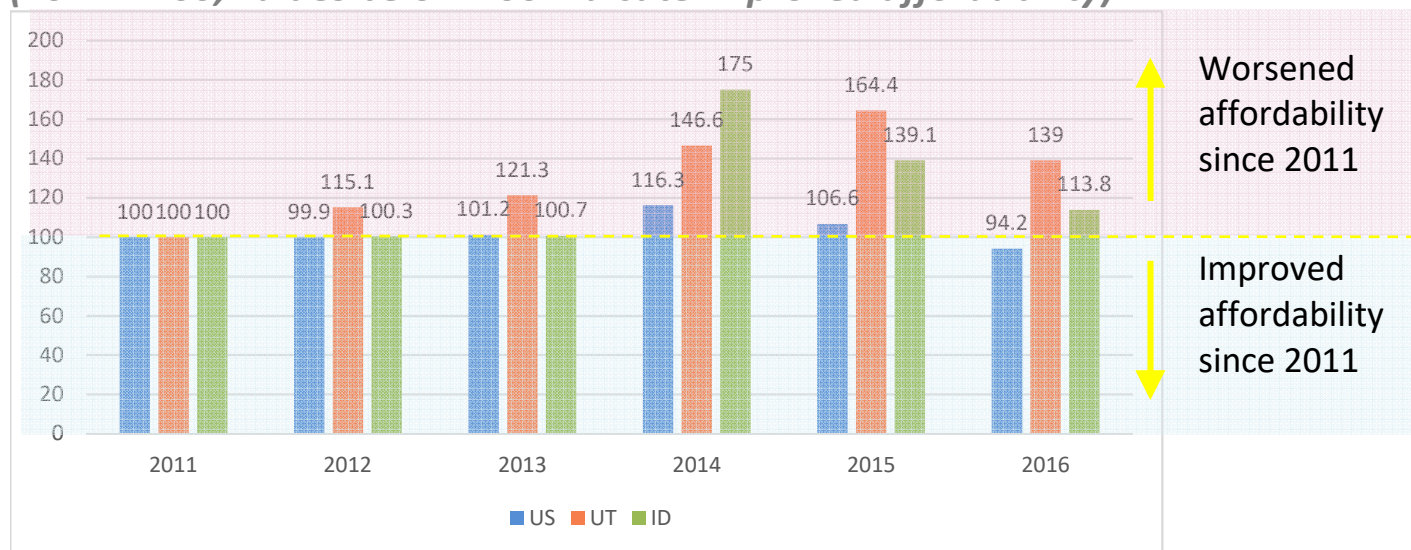


Figure 57 – Home Energy Affordability Gap Index
(2011 = 100, values below 100 indicate improved affordability)



Source: Fisher, Sheehan & Colton, *Home Energy Affordability Gap 2nd series* data, available online at: http://www.homeenergyaffordabilitygap.com/03a_affordabilityData.html

Taxes

Figure 58 – State and Local Own-Source Revenue, 2015
(“winner” bolded and highlighted)

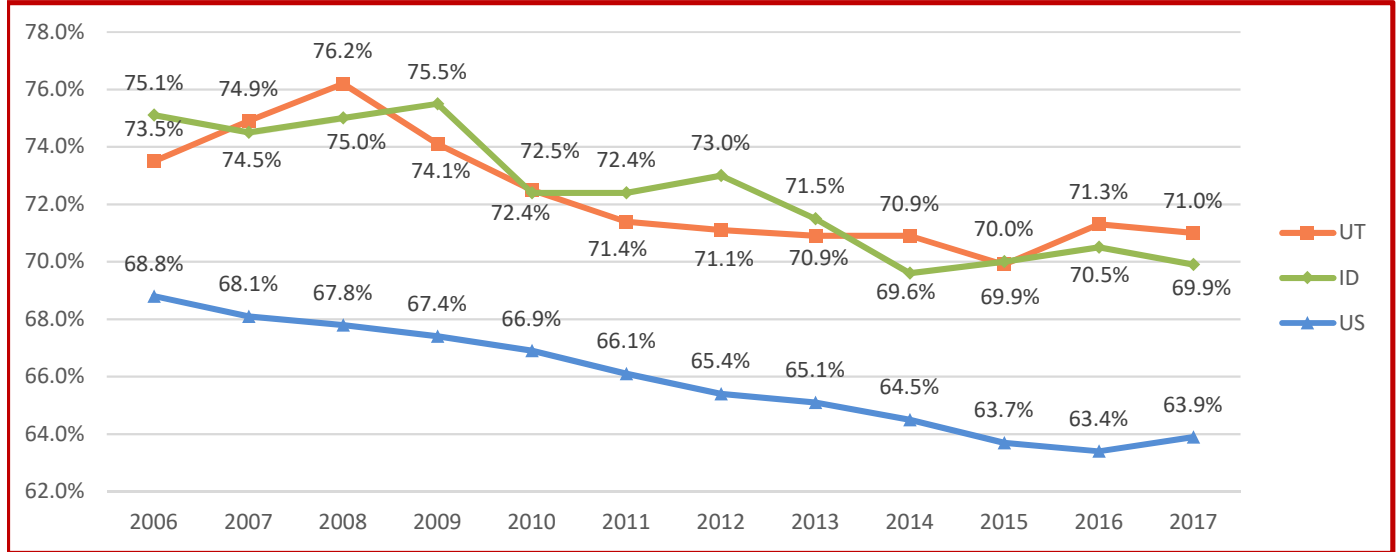
Rankings: 1 is best, 50 worst	UT	ID	US (average)
Total own source revenue (\$ million)	\$17,760	\$8,549	\$44,362
Own source revenue as percent of personal income	16.0%	14.1%	15.3%
Rank of own source revenue as percent of personal income (1 is highest)	17 th	39th	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Economic Analysis, from Federation of Tax Administrators, available online at <https://www.taxadmin.org/2014-state-and-local-revenue-as-a-percentage-of-personal-income>. Own Source Revenue is all revenue collected by state and local government from its own sources (excluding federal transfers).

Quality of Life

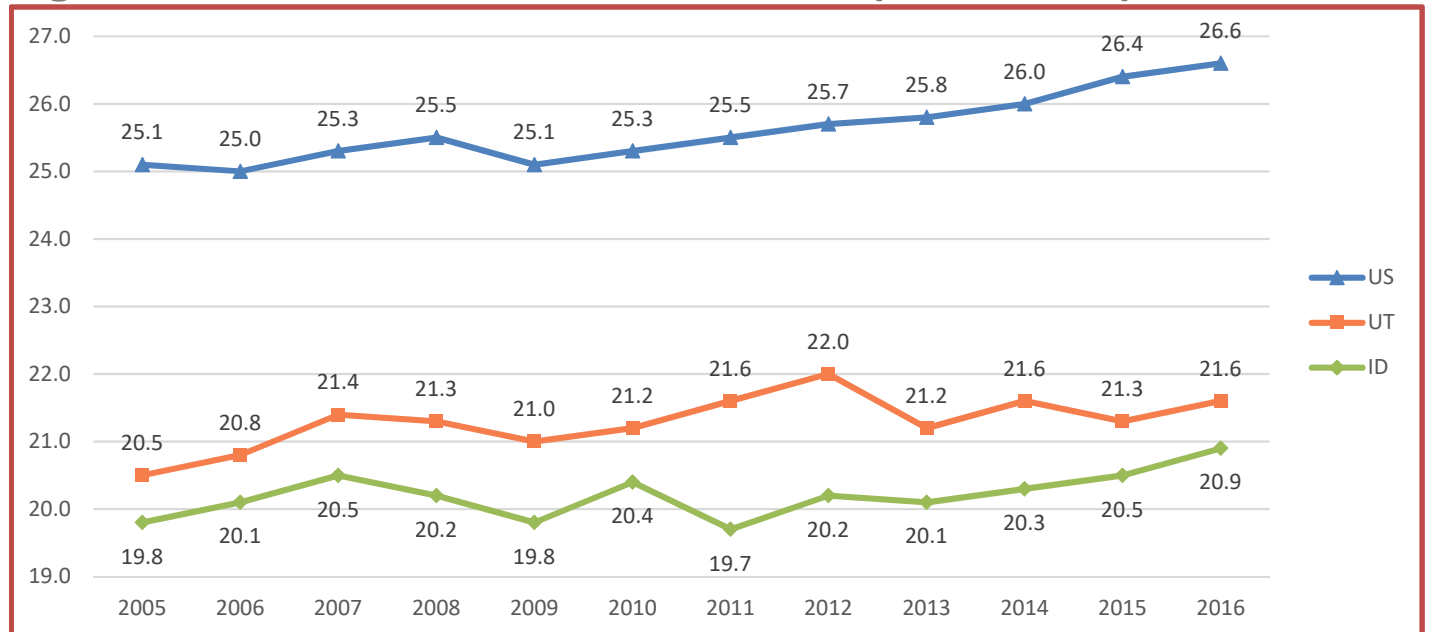
Compared to the nation, Utah and Idaho have higher homeownership rates and shorter commutes.

Figure 59 – Homeownership Rates (% of households that own)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, CPS/HVS Housing Vacancies and Homeownership dataset, state data available at:

Figure 60 – Mean Travel Time to Work (in minutes)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 1-year estimates (table S0802)

Utah could further improve its already-strong child well-being rankings by focusing on education and health policy.

Figure 61 – Overall Child Well-being Rankings 2018
(“winner” bolded and highlighted)

<i>Ranking: 1 is best, 50 worst</i>	UT	ID
Overall	6th	21 st
Economic	7th	12 th
Education	12th	40 th
Health	19th	26 th
Family and Community	1st	14 th

Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation, *Kids Count Databook 2018*, available online at <http://www.aecf.org/resources/2018-kids-count-data-book/>



Health

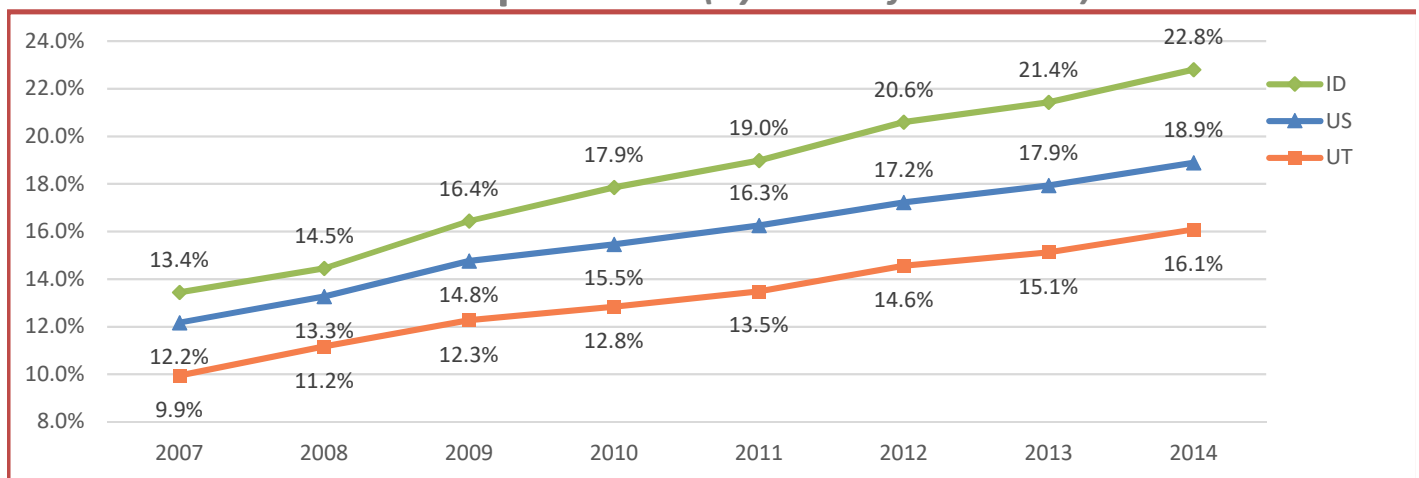
Utah leads Idaho by most measures of health care quality and ranks in the top ten nationally.

Figure 62 – Selected Health Care Performance Rankings, 2017
(“winner” **bolded and highlighted**)

Ranking: 1 is best, 50 worst	UT Rank	ID Rank
Overall Ranking	10th	18 th
Infant Mortality Rate	12 th	9th
Hospital Readmissions	3 rd	2nd
Nursing Home Citations	7th	15 th
Age-adjusted Mortality Rate	17th	26 th
Obesity Rate	5th	14 th
Suicide Rate	42nd	43 rd
Self-reported Mental Health	23 rd	17th
Child Wellness Visits	29th	45 th

Source: McKinsey & Company’s Leading States Index, via U.S. News & World Report Best States, available online at: <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states>

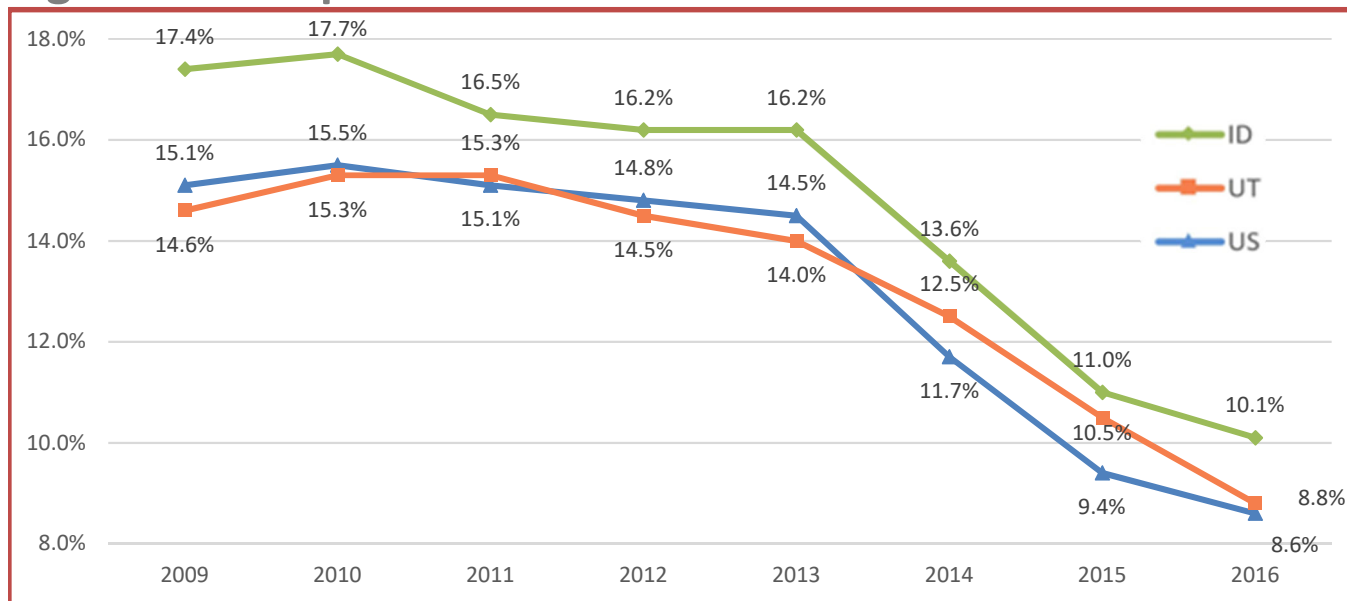
Figure 63 – Real Per Capita Personal Healthcare Spending as Percent of Real Per Capita GDP (by state of residence)



Source: Healthcare spending data from U.S. Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, table 11, available online at: <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/NationalHealthExpendData/NationalHealthAccountsStateHealthAccountsResidence.html>, converted to chained 2009 dollars using annual averages of series SUUR0000SAM c-cpi-u for medical care (US city average); per capita state GDP from Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce

Idaho ranks 11th worst in the nation for its high uninsured rate, while Utah is 18th worst. Neither state has expanded Medicaid.

Figure 64 – Population without Health Insurance 2016



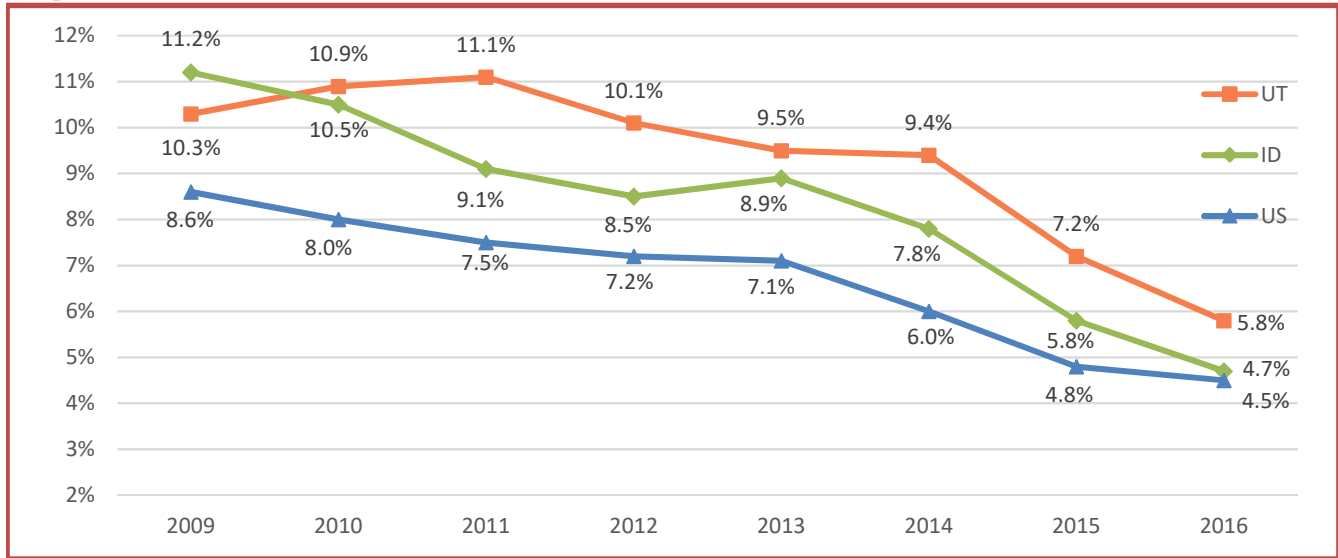
Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 1-year estimates, Health Insurance Coverage Status for Total Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population (table S2701) <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2017/demo/p60-260.html>

Figure 65 – Population with Health Insurance by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, 2013-2015 (ages 18-64)



Source: <https://statusofwomensdata.org/explore-the-data/download-the-data/>

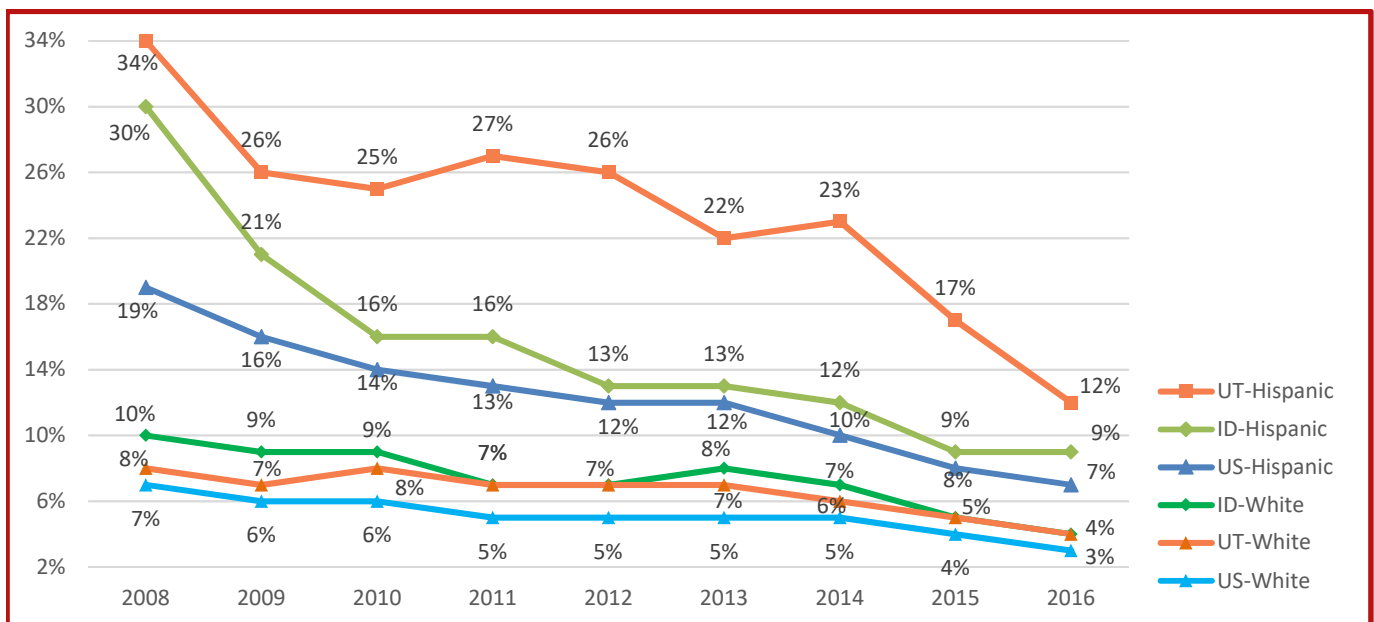
Figure 66 – Percent of Children without Health Insurance



Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 1-year estimates (table S2701). Children include noninstitutionalized persons under the age of 18.

In 2015 Utah had the highest uninsured rate for Latino children of any state. In 2016, this ranking dropped to fourth highest.

Figure 67 – Percent of White and Hispanic Children without Health Insurance



Source: National Kids Count, available online at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/rawdata.axd?ind=107&loc=1>, accessed 04/05/2018

Figure 68 – Selected County Air Quality Report Card (Scale A–F)

UT	Ozone	Particle Pollution	ID	Ozone	Particle Pollution
Box Elder	D	D	Anoka	C	B
Cache	C	F	Becker	A	B
Carbon	C		Carlton	B	
Davis	F	F	Crow Wing	A	B
Duchesne	F		Goodhue	A	
Garfield	C		Hennepin	A	B
Salt Lake	F	F	Lake	A	B
San Juan	B		Lyon	C	B
Tooele	D		Olmstead	A	B
Uintah	F		Scott	B	A
Utah	F	F	St. Louis	A	B
Washington	C	A	Stearns	A	B
Weber	F	F	Washington	A	B
			Wright	B	A

Source: American Lung Association, *State of the Air 2017* report, available online at: <http://www.lung.org/our-initiatives/healthy-air/sota/city-rankings/states>

Both Utah and Idaho have stricter eligibility requirements for public health insurance programs than most states and lower participation.

Figure 70 – Healthcare System (“winner” bolded and highlighted)

	UT		ID		US	
State Adoption of 12-Month Continuous Eligibility for Children’s Medicaid and CHIP	Medicaid: No	CHIP: Yes	Medicaid: Yes	CHIP: Yes	Medicaid: Yes in 24 States	CHIP: Yes in 26 States
Medicaid/CHIP child participation rate, 2015	82.9%		93.3%		93.1%	
Medicaid/CHIP parent participation rate, 2015	68.1%		67%		80.2%	
Average annual growth in Medicaid Spending	2007-2010 7.3%	2010-2014 5.1%	2007-2010 8%	2010-2014 3.9%	2007-2010 6.8%	2010-2014 5.2%
Medicaid Income Eligibility Limits for parents (in a family of 3) as a Percent of the Federal Poverty Level	60%		26%		138%	
Medicaid and Income Eligibility Limits for Pregnant Women as a Percent of the Federal Poverty Level	144%		138%		200%	
Lawfully residing immigrant children covered without a 5-year wait (ICHIA Option), by Medicaid/CHIP	Yes		No		Yes, in 33 States	
Lawfully residing immigrant pregnant women covered without a 5-year wait (ICHIA Option), by Medicaid/CHIP	No		No		Yes, in 25 States	
Presumptive Eligibility in Medicaid and CHIP for children (Medicaid or CHIP) and pregnant women	Children No	Pregnant Women Yes	Children Yes	Pregnant Women Yes	Children Yes in 31 States	Pregnant Women Yes in 30 States

Source: <https://www.kff.org/state-category/medicaid-chip/>

Figure 71 – Medicaid and CHIP Income Eligibility Limits for Children as a Percent of the Federal Poverty Level

Location	Medicaid Coverage for Infants Ages 0-1		Medicaid Coverage for Children Ages 1-5		Medicaid Coverage for Children Ages 6-18		Separate CHIP for Uninsured Children Ages 0-18	Upper Income Limit
	Medicaid Funded	CHIP-Funded for Uninsured Children	Medicaid Funded	CHIP-Funded for Uninsured Children	Medicaid Funded	CHIP-Funded for Uninsured Children		
United States ¹	195%	217%	149%	216%	142%	155%	254%	255%
Idaho	147%	N/A	147%	N/A	138%	107%-138%	190%	190%
Utah	144%	N/A	144%	N/A	138%	105%-138%	205%	205%

Source: <https://www.kff.org/health-reform/state-indicator/medicaid-and-chip-income-eligibility-limits-for-children-as-a-percent-of-the-federal-poverty-level/>

Figure 72 – Health Measures (“winner” bolded and highlighted)

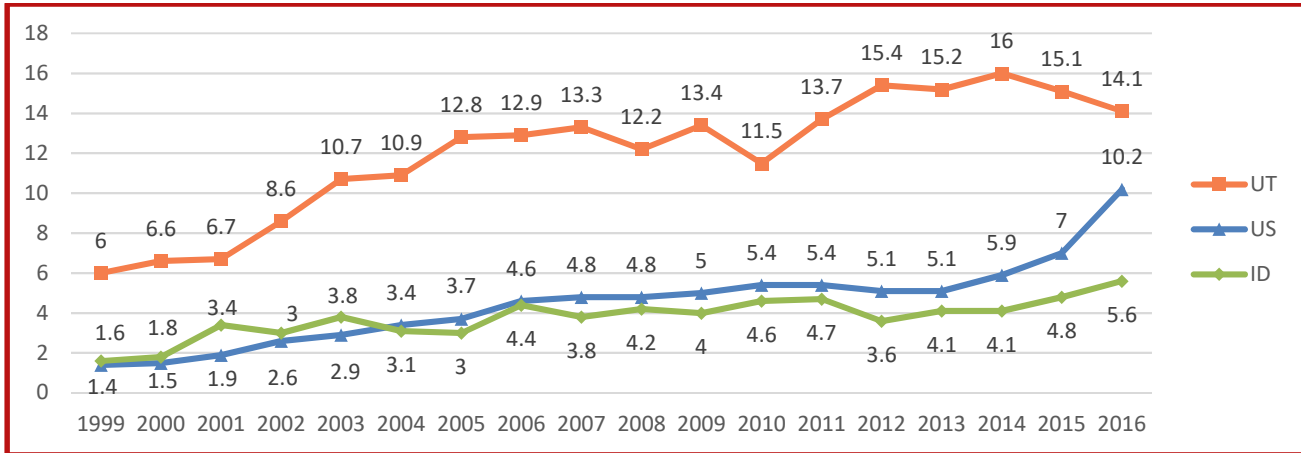
	UT			ID			US		
	Total	White	Hisp	Total	White	Hisp	Total	White	Hisp
Teen Birth Rate per 1,000 Women, by Race/Ethnicity, 2015	17.6	13.2	38.6	22.5	18.9	39.2	22.3	16	34.9
Infant Mortality Rate by Race/Ethnicity, 2011-2013	5.2	4.8	5.1	5.6	5	6.7	6.0	5.1	5.0
Percent of Adults who Smoke by Race/Ethnicity, 2016	8.8%	8.1%	9.6%	14.5%	14.8%	NSD	16.4%	17.4%	12.4%
Percent of children (age 19-35) months who are immunized, 2015	68.1%			71.6%			72.2%		
	Total	White	Other	Total	White	Other	Total	White	Other
Heart Disease Deaths per 100,000 Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2016	150	151.3	105.6	160	161.8	86.9	165.5	154.5	NA
Diabetes Deaths per 100,000 Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2016	24.6	24	36.5	19.8	19.6	NSD	21.0	19.3	18.3
Suicide Rate per 100,000 Individuals, 2015	22.4			22.2			13.3		
Percent of Children with Oral Health Problems, 2016	13.5%			15.4%			13.4%		

Source: <https://www.kff.org/state-category/health-status/>, <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/default.htm>

* NSD: Not Sufficient Data. Data unreliable due to small sample size

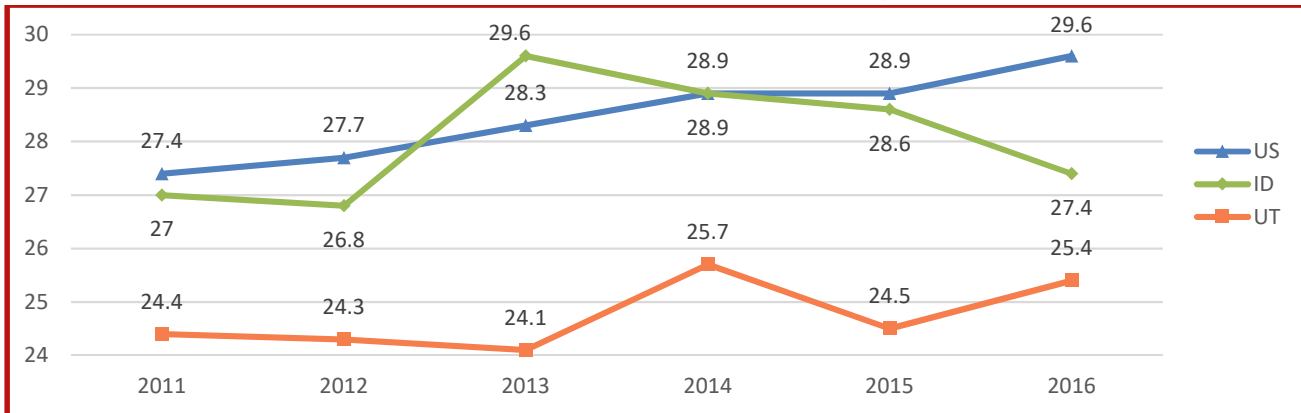
* NA: Total not available due to suppression constraints

Figure 73 – Prescription Opioid Overdose Deaths and Death Rate per 100,000 Population (Age-Adjusted)



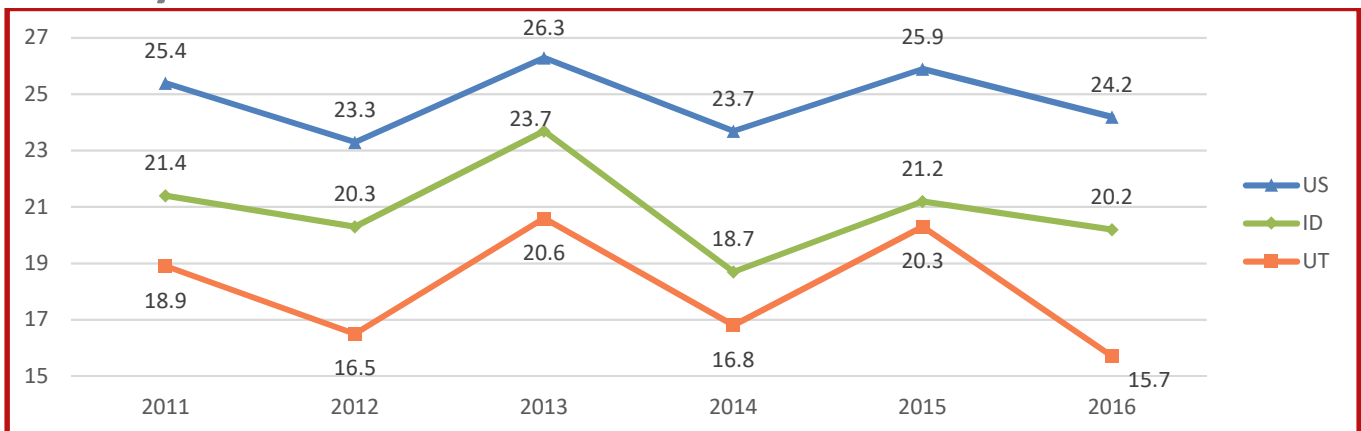
Source: <https://www.kff.org/state-category/health-status/>

Figure 74 – Obesity (BMI ≥ 30.0) Rate Ages 18 and Over



Source: https://nccd.cdc.gov/dnpao_dtm/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=DNPAO_DTM.ExploreByLocation&rdRequestForwarding=Form

Figure 75 – Percentage of Adults Who Reported No Physical Activity in the Last Month Outside of Work

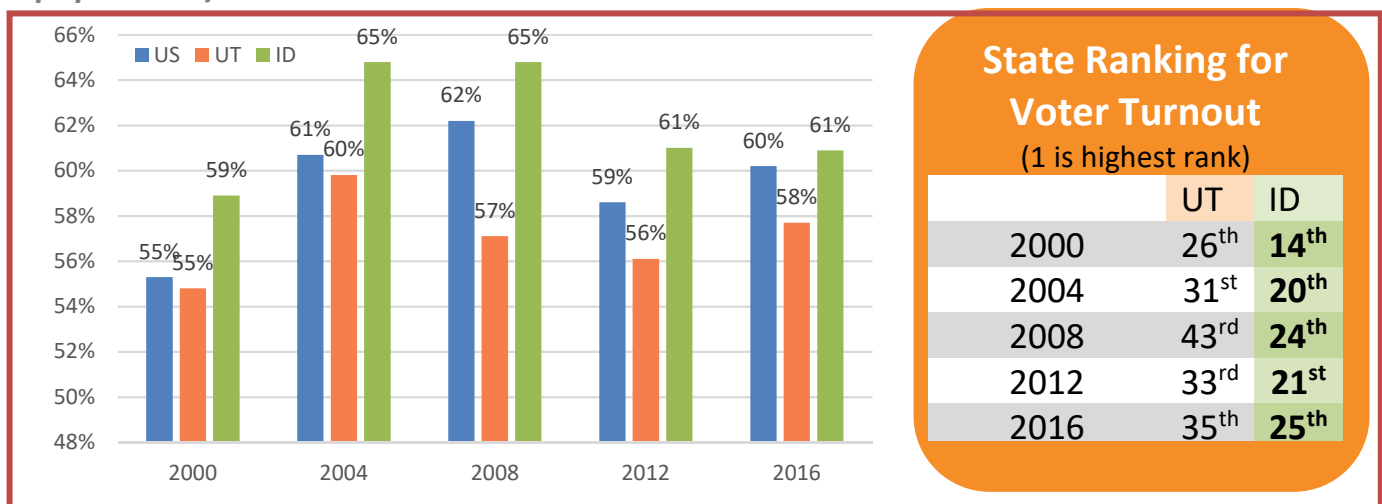


Source: https://nccd.cdc.gov/dnpao_dtm/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=DNPAO_DTM.ExploreByLocation&rdRequestForwarding=Form

Civic Engagement

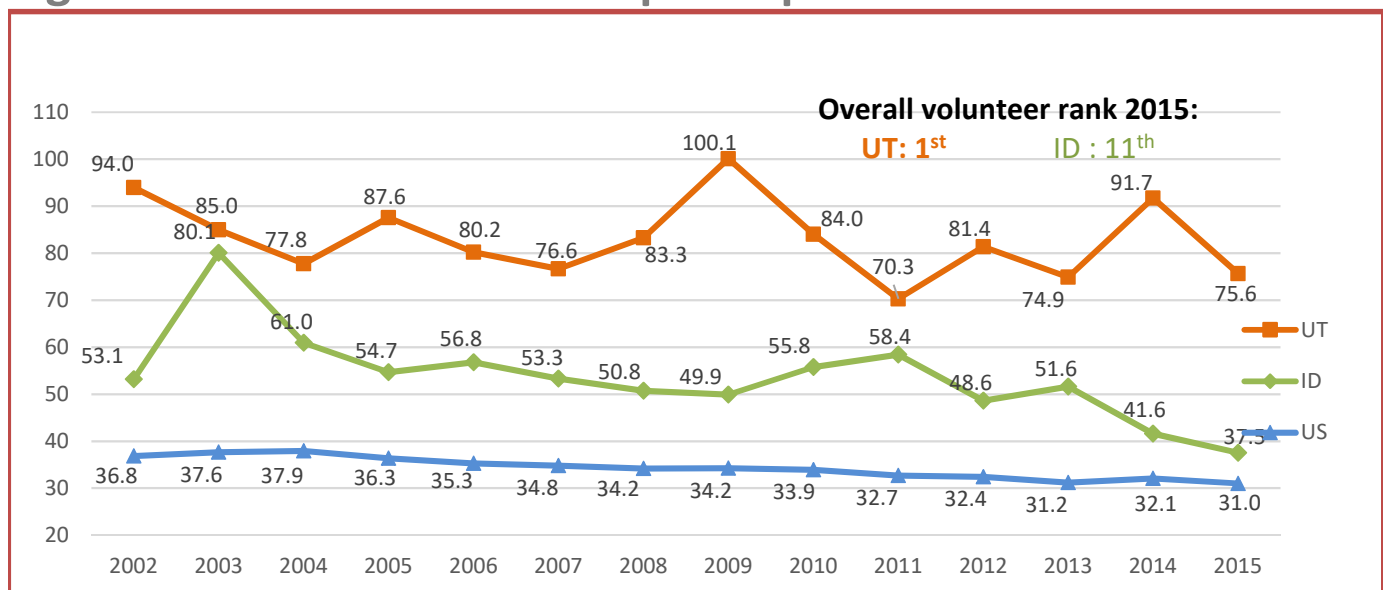
Utah leads the nation with our strong culture of volunteerism. Idaho ranks 11th for volunteer hours per capita and has higher levels of voter turnout.

Figure 76 – General Election Voter Turnout *(as % of eligible adult population)*



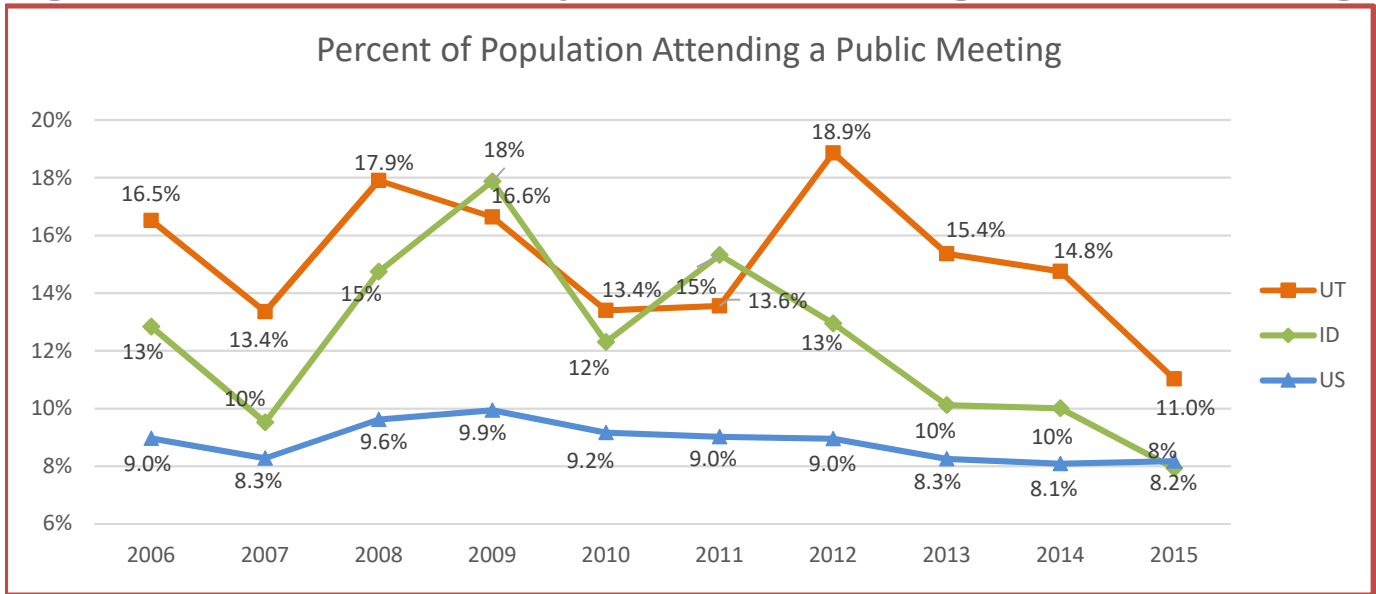
Source: Electproject.org, *Voter Turnout Data*: <http://www.electproject.org/home/voter-turnout/voter-turnout-data>

Figure 77 – Volunteer Hours per Capita



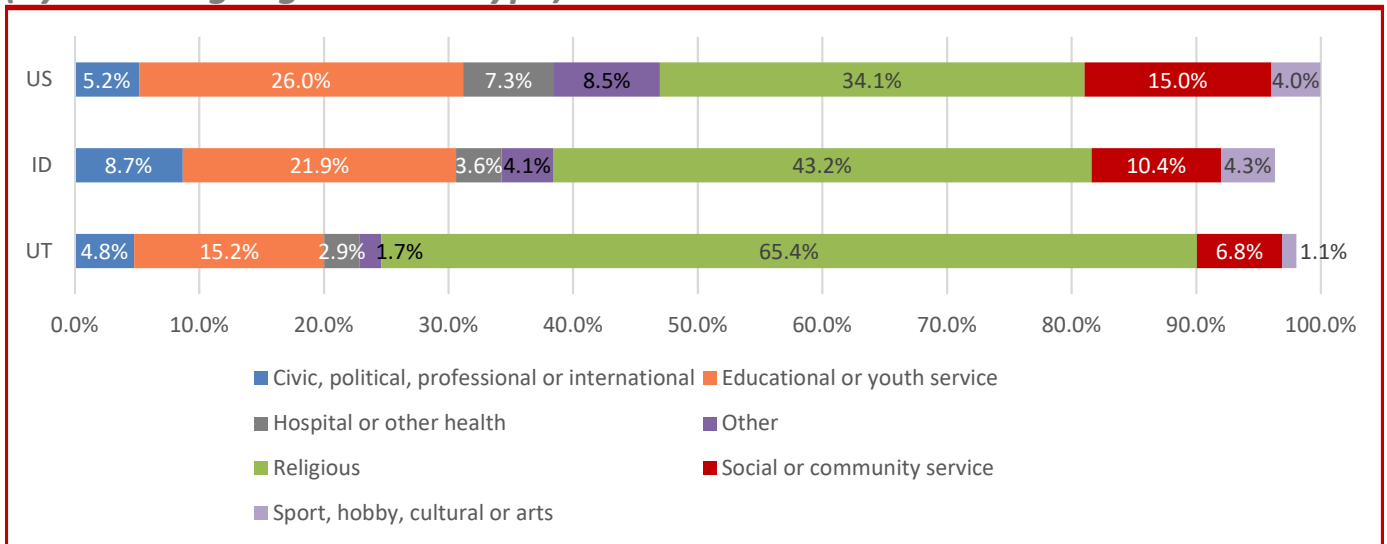
Source: Corporation for National & Community Service, *Volunteering and Civic Life in America Dataset* (2015), available online at: <https://data.nationalservice.gov/Volunteering-and-Civic-Engagement/Volunteering-and-Civic-Life-in-America/spx3-tt2b>

Figure 78 – Percent of Population Attending a Public Meeting



Source: Corporation for National & Community Service, Volunteering and Civic Life in America Dataset (2015), available online at: <https://data.nationalservice.gov/Volunteering-and-Civic-Engagement/Volunteering-and-Civic-Life-in-America/spx3-tt2b>

Figure 79 – Distribution of Community Service Provided
(by receiving organization type)



Source: Corporation for National & Community Service, Volunteering and Civic Life in America Dataset (2015), available online at: <https://data.nationalservice.gov/Volunteering-and-Civic-Engagement/Volunteering-and-Civic-Life-in-America/spx3-tt2b>

Working Families Benchmarking Project

Reality Check



Voices for Utah Children

747 E. South Temple
Suite 100
Salt Lake City, UT 84102
(801) 364-1182
www.utahchildren.org