The purpose of completing this report was to better understand the burden of cancer at smaller geographic levels in order to better target those areas in greatest need.

Why report by small area?
- Reporting by small area is a step toward understanding the relative burden of cancer in our communities.
- As the cost of cancer screening, diagnosis, hospitalizations, and treatment increase each year, this report can help decision makers and stakeholders determine how to best allocate limited resources and focus on communities in need.

Small Areas Defined
In 1997, the UDOH developed Utah’s 61 small areas to facilitate the reporting of health information at the community level. These areas, based on city/town, county, and health district boundaries, were designed to conform to established political city/town boundaries and reflect homogenous communities. These are two examples of small areas. Figure 1 is an example of a small area that encompasses an entire county, while Figure 2 shows a total of ten small areas within a county.

In more sparsely-populated areas of the state, entire counties were used to define small areas to provide a more accurate comparison.

Small area analysis has many uses in public health. It can assist in targeting health promotion efforts and examining health status in small areas. It can also identify environmental, health system, and demographic attributes that may be related to the health of a community.

The Utah Cancer Small Area Report 2011 was released by the Utah Department of Health on November 29, 2011. The report provides detailed summaries, tables, and maps by cancer type. While incidence and mortality rates in Utah have been historically lower than the U.S. screening rates (specifically female breast and cervical) continue to lag behind other states.

The report also has the following data at state and U.S. level:
- Screening—From the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2006-2008
- Incidence—from the Utah Cancer Registry, 2007-2009

The 178-page report presents the following data for each of Utah’s 61 small areas:

- Female breast
- Cervical
- Prostate
- Colorectal
- Melanoma
- Lung
- Staging—from the Utah Cancer Registry, 2003-2007

The report focuses on the top six cancers in Utah:
- Female breast
- Cervical
- Prostate
- Colorectal
- Melanoma
- Lung

Key messages:
- Screening: With early detection cancer can be a survivable disease, but not all Utahns are getting screened according to recommended screening guidelines. Community screening rates vary across the state of Utah. Incidence and Mortality. While this report does not provide a clear reason for the variability in incidence rates by small area, there are behaviors Utahns can adopt to lessen their risk of getting cancer and dying from it, including:
  - Adopting healthy eating habits
  - Staying active
  - Maintaining a healthy weight
- Protecting your skin from sun exposure
- Reducing or avoiding alcohol consumption
- Getting vaccinated for Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
- Getting recommended cancer screenings

Using small areas as the basic level of analysis will allow states to:
- Identify specific populations or target specific communities for cancer prevention and control
- Strengthen targeted prevention programs and reduce costs by focusing on priority areas.

Conclusion and Implications
- Future Collaborations
- Future Collaborations
- The UDOH Cancer Control Program and the Utah Cancer Registry continue to collaborate on public health activities and plan to improve upon the Cancer Small Area Report in future revisions.
- This report will provide the evidence for local health districts to focus cancer prevention and control efforts where they are most needed.
- Community-based organizations will also benefit from the data in this report for cancer prevention purposes.
- The document also serves as a resource to provide education on the public health importance of the major cancers in Utah.