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Weber-Morgan Health Department's New Online Dashboard Tells the Story of Local Health

(Ogden, UT) – The Weber-Morgan Health Department is launching a new online Community Health Assessment to help residents, policy makers and other stakeholders learn more about the public health indicators that affect the health of our community.

The online dashboard, developed using the Kansas City-based mySidewalk data analysis platform, makes available much of the statistical information health workers use to focus their efforts and financial resources to address public health needs of the residents of Weber and Morgan counties.

“As your local health department, we use data to improve health outcomes by exploring their root causes,” says Brian Bennion, executive director of the Weber-Morgan Health Department. “We use this information to collaborate with our partners and focus our efforts on evidence-based interventions in the community to encourage healthy behaviors and a safer environment.”

The department renewed its emphasis on community health assessments in 2015 with a static publication and a plan to update it every five years. The new online dashboard is searchable and updates as soon as the information becomes public. It draws from such resources as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Healthy People 2020, the U.S. Census, Robert Woods Johnson County Health Rankings, the Utah Department of Health's Indicator-based Information System and other health databases.

Currently, users can find information on such topics as the leading causes of death, life span, infant and maternal health, access to healthcare and others. New information will be incorporated into the dashboard as community initiatives move forward and other data and resources become available, says Jesse Bush, director of health promotion.

“Now that it's online, our Community Health Assessment will not only be used to inform our work but we believe it will be a bridge to building partnerships in the

community and aligning our resources,” Bush says. “It could be used by everyone from school children to elected officials and business executives.”

The Weber-Morgan Community Health Assessment is found at www.webermorganhealth.org/CHA/. For more information on the mySidewalk platform, see www.mysidewalk.com.

Residents are encouraged to help document the health of our community by sending in photographs to be featured on the site to webermorganhealth@gmail.com or tagging the Weber-Morgan Health Department on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

“We can’t tell this story without the help of our residents, neighbors and friends,” Bush says.

These would include photos of:

- families, especially new or expecting parents
- people of all ages and from all walks of life participating in healthy activities
- scenery of the beautiful place where we live

Individuals depicted in the photographs must give permission to be displayed on the Weber-Morgan Health Department website.