

Health Trends in Weber County (with Focus on Vaping)

Adolescent Births

- Decline, but Still High: The adolescent birth rate in Weber-Morgan is 10.2 per 1,000 (2022), higher than the Utah state average (8.2) but below the U.S. average (13.6). Rates have declined substantially over the last decade.
- Ethnic Disparities: Hispanic/Latina adolescents have a much higher birth rate (21.0 per 1,000) than non-Hispanics (6.2).
- Consequences: Teen births are linked to increased risks for low birth weight, infant mortality, and lower educational attainment for both mothers and children.
- Prevention Efforts: Evidence-based programs (SRAE, PREP, SHARP, etc.) are active locally, focusing on at-risk youth and families ([source](#), pp. 3–8).

General Youth Health Trends (2025 SHARP Survey)

- Substance Use: Alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drug use rates among students are low and either declining or stable. Vaping is the most commonly used tobacco product among youth, but rates are dropping.
- Mental Health: Rates of sadness, hopelessness, suicidal thoughts, and self-harm are rising among students, indicating a need for expanded mental health supports.
- Physical Health: Obesity and physical inactivity remain concerns; less than 20% of students are physically active all seven days a week.
- Protective Factors: Family support and school connectedness are strong protective factors for both substance use and mental health ([source](#), pp. 1, 29, 45).

Vaping: Detailed Trends in Weber County

- Prevalence (2025):
 - Past 30-day vaping rates:
 - 8th grade: 2.5%
 - 10th grade: 5.7%
 - 12th grade: 6.3%
 - All grades combined: 3.9%
 - These rates are lower than the Utah state average and continue to decline ([source](#), p. 16).
- Product Preferences:
 - Over two-thirds of students who vape use products with nicotine.
 - Most prefer sweet, alcohol, or other non-tobacco flavors.
- Sources:

- Students most often obtain vape products by borrowing from friends, being given them by someone 18+, or purchasing at convenience stores or vape shops.
- Perceptions and Attitudes:
 - Parental and peer disapproval of vaping is high (over 70% say it's "wrong" or "very wrong").
 - More than 75% believe vaping is risky ([source](#), pp. 39–41).
- School Climate:
 - 39% of students report that vaping is a problem at their school ([OPA SHARP Climate Survey](#)).

Summary:

Weber County is seeing positive trends—declining adolescent birth and youth vaping rates—but continues to face challenges, especially in youth mental health and ethnic disparities in teen births. Continued emphasis on prevention, mental health supports, and family/school engagement is recommended.

Weber County Youth Health Trends (2025)

| Category | Indicator/Group | Weber County Value | Notes/Trends |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Adolescent Births | Females (15–19), 2022 | 10.2 per 1,000 | Declining, above Utah average (8.2), below US (13.6) |
| | Hispanic/Latina, 2022 | 21.0 per 1,000 | Over 3x higher than non-Hispanic whites (6.2) |
| Vaping (Past 30 Days) | 8th Grade | 2.5% | Declining trend (source) |
| | 10th Grade | 5.7% | |
| | 12th Grade | 6.3% | |
| | All Grades Combined | 3.9% | Lower than state average |
| Vape Preferences | Use nicotine vapes | ~67% | Most use sweet/alcohol flavors |
| Access to Vapes | Main sources | Friends, 18+, stores | Borrowed/given by others or bought in stores |
| Vaping Perception | Say it's "wrong"/"very wrong" | 70%+ | High disapproval (parents/peers) |
| | Believe it's risky | 75%+ | High perceived risk |
| School Climate | See vaping as a problem | 39% | From OPA SHARP Survey |
| Mental Health | Sadness/hopelessness | Increasing | Rising trend among students |
| Physical Health | Obesity/inactivity | High | Area for improvement |
| Protective Factors | Family support/school connectedness | Strong | Linked to better outcomes |

References:

- 2025 Weber And Morgan Counties LSAA Profile Report
- IBIS-PH Complete Health Indicator Report of Adolescent Births
- OPA SHARP School Climate Report