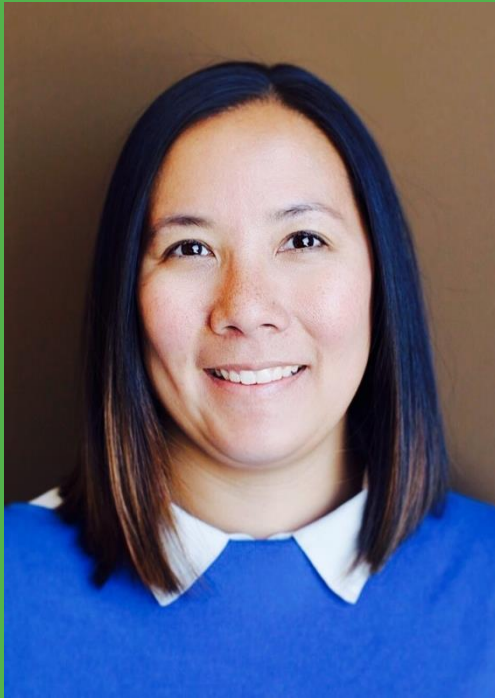


# Presenter



**Denni Cawley, MPA**  
Executive Director  
Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment





UTAH PHYSICIANS  
for a HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

# Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment

Denni Cawley, MPA  
Executive Director



Healthy air. Healthy climate.

THE GLOBAL  
CLIMATE & HEALTH  
ALLIANCE



UTAH PHYSICIANS  
for a HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT



# Overview

1. Air Pollution, Health, and Climate Change
2. Unmask My City initiative
3. Salt Lake City context

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# Air pollution is driving a global health crisis.

**6.5 million**

premature deaths are caused by air pollution each year. Nearly half are due to outdoor air pollution.<sup>1</sup>

**80 percent**

of people in urban areas\* are exposed to air pollution levels exceeding the WHO safety limits.<sup>2</sup>

\*where air pollution is monitored

# Air pollution is linked to several adverse health outcomes<sup>1</sup>



Respiratory disease



Cardiovascular disease



Adverse birth outcomes



Growing evidence for impact on brain development and cognitive function

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3. Salt Lake City context





**Unmask My City is a global initiative by health professionals for clean, safe air in our cities.**

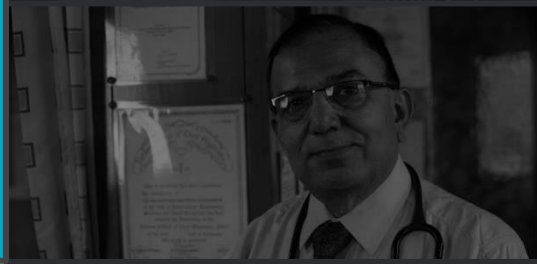
# Unmask My City Campaign



Unmask partners in 10 cities around the world launched Phase One in May 2017.



- São Paulo (Brazil)
- Chennai (India)
- Adana, Hatay, and Istanbul (Turkey)
- Salt Lake City (USA)
- Warsaw (Poland)
- London (UK)
- Belgrade (Serbia)
- Emalaheni (South Africa)



# Unmask My City

UMC calls for cities to meet **World Health Organization** air quality guidelines **by 2030** through city and regional-level **policy changes**, such as the following:



Congestion charging to reduce car and truck traffic in cities



Increased support for active transportation and electric public & private transport



Transition away from dirty coal for home heating



Blocking construction of new coal power plants



Monitoring and regulating air pollutants

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# Salt Lake City, UT

According to the Utah Division of Air Quality, currently, about **48%** of air pollution in the valley comes from **mobile sources** (vehicles), **39% from area sources** (homes, buildings, small businesses) and **13% from industry point sources** (refineries, mining, factories)

- In 2014, Utah was in the top five states for the high carbon intensity of energy supply, where the use of coal is a major contributor to air pollution.
- EPA has reclassified Utah's non-attainment areas (areas that do not meet -- or "attain" EPA air quality standards, which include Salt Lake County) from "moderate" to "serious" for not meeting fine particulate matter standards. The levels of air pollution found in the area called the "Wasatch Front" increases the rates of heart attacks, stroke and sudden death.

# Impact of air pollution on health in Salt Lake City

- Utah has experienced a **slow but steady increase** in the rate of **emergency room** visits due to COPD, asthma, and hypersensitivity pneumonitis over the past decade (Utah DOH)
- 9% of adults and 7% of kids have asthma (slightly above national ave.)
- **Dr. Arden Pope**, well-known air pollution researcher at BYU, published a study on the effects air pollution typical of SLC wintertime levels on young, healthy Provo, UT residents. His research showed that **breathing the pollution from our temporary winter inversions damaged the lining of blood vessels.**
- ALA State of the Air report shows Salt Lake City-Provo-Orem areas as ranking **7th worst for short-term particle pollution** and breaking in the ranking for ozone pollution (that causes serious lung damage among other effects) at #20.



# Policy ask

We are asking Utah leaders and lawmakers to prioritize the health of the community and take a long-term view, by preparing a strong **state implementation plan** to meet federal air quality standards.

- Supporting diesel emissions testing
- Prevent any water diversion projects that would affect the inflow of water to the Great Salt Lake
- Better air quality monitoring
- Regulation of the toxic dust that spreads across the valley from the dry lakebed, gravel pits and mining operations

#UnmaskMyCity



Photo Credit: GCCA / @GREGMCNEVIN

“The mainstream medical organizations of the United States... are calling it 'the 'biggest global health threat of the 21st century.'”

- Brian Moench, MD -

Anaesthesiologist, Salt Lake City, United States



Healthy air.  
Healthy climate.

**Health professionals are leading the call for action on air pollution in this campaign.**

Health voices have the potential to profoundly shift the political landscape in favour of a healthier future for all.

**Join us**

to work towards saving **millions of lives** from air pollution, addressing **climate change**, reducing **health costs** and creating new **economic opportunities**.





# Partners



UK HEALTH  
ALLIANCE ON  
CLIMATE CHANGE



Ennore Anaithu  
Meenava Grama  
Kootamaipu