

Food Access Profile: Utah County

UTAHNS AGAINST HUNGER

Food Insecurity, Food Access, Poverty

Population ¹	
659,399	County population (# of individuals), 2020
20.2%	County population as a percentage of state population, 2020

Food Insecurity, Limited Access to Healthy Food	
11.2%	% Households experiencing food insecurity in the State of Utah 2021 (Reflects Pandemic figures) ²
9.1%	% Individuals food insecure in 2020, county (not directly comparable with state % above) ³
56,270	# Individuals food insecure in 2020, county ⁴
10.2%	% Children food insecure in 2020, county ⁵
21,050	# Children food insecure in 2020, county ⁶

Poverty ⁷	
58842	# Individuals living below federal poverty level, 2021
9.3%	% Individuals living below federal poverty level, 2021
16,607	# Individuals under age 18 living below poverty level, 2021
7.8%	% Individuals under age 18 living below poverty level, 2021
2,540	# Individuals 60 years and over living below poverty level, 2021
5.2%	% Individuals 60 years and over living below poverty level, 2021
4%	% Individuals living at 50% or below poverty level, 2021
27,496	# Individuals living at 50% or below poverty level, 2021
12%	% Individuals living at 125% or below poverty level, 2021
78,994	# Individuals living at 125% or below poverty level, 2021
17%	% Individuals living at 150% or below poverty level, 2021
104,540	# Individuals living at 150% or below poverty level, 2021
23%	% Individuals living at 185% or below poverty level, 2021
145,982	# Individuals living at 185% or below poverty level, 2021
26%	% Individuals living at 200% or below poverty level, 2021
163,217	# Individuals living at 200% or below poverty level, 2021

School Aged Children in Poverty by District ⁸	
Alpine	6.5%
Nebo	7.0%
Provo	17.7%

Poverty Rate by Race/Ethnicity ⁹						
White alone	Black or African American alone	American Indian and Alaska Native alone	Asian alone	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	Some other race alone	Two or more races
8.6%	18.2%	14.2%	20.8%	23.5%	18.4%	9.5%
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)			White alone, not Hispanic or Latino			
13.9%			8.2%			

Economic Status, Financial Insecurity	
\$82,893	Area median household income 2021 ¹⁰
\$64,980	Annual family budget needed for modest living, 2 adults, 1 child ¹¹
\$80,393	Annual family budget needed for modest living, 2 adults, 2 child ¹²
\$41,640	Income needed for 2 bedroom apartment at fair market rent ¹³
\$17.22	Mean renter wage, hourly ¹⁴
2.4%	Unemployment rate, State of Utah March 2022 ¹⁵
2.3%	Unemployment rate, county March 2023 ¹⁶
1.7%	Unemployment rate, county March 2022 ¹⁷
0.6%	Change in unemployment rate, county March 2022 to March 2023 ¹⁸

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP Participation	
9,507	# SNAP households, 2022 ¹⁹
22,527	# SNAP individuals, 2022 ²⁰
3%	% County population participating in SNAP, 2022 ²¹
9194	# Average monthly SNAP households, SFY 2021 ²²
678	Change in number of SNAP households, SFY 2020 to SFY 2021 ²³
29%	Program Access Index 2020: Average monthly number of SNAP participants in county compared with estimated number of people with incomes below 125% of poverty level in 2020 ²⁴
56467	Estimated # low-income individuals NOT enrolled in SNAP, 2022 ²⁵
\$311	Monthly average SNAP benefits issued (\$) to Utah residents, SFY 2023 ²⁶

SNAP Participant Demographics, April 2023 ²⁷					
% Individuals under 18,	% Individuals w/disability,	% Individuals 60 and older,	% Households with individuals under 18,	% Households with individuals with a disability	% Households with individuals 60 and older
44.59%	14.03%	10.41%	39.64%	27.99%	20.38%
29.63%	% Households headed by single parent				

Economic Characteristics of SNAP participants by County ²⁸		
Median income of SNAP participant households		
41,285		
# of employed members of households		
% No workers in past 12 months	% 1 worker in past 12 months	% 2 or more workers in past 12 months
8.40%	41.80%	49.80%

Child Nutrition Programs

National School Lunch Program (NSLP) ²⁹		
School district	# Participating schools/sites (public school districts)	% Students eligible for free & reduced price meals Oct 2022
Alpine	33	20.59%
Nebo	47	25.48%
Provo	18	39.88%

Summer Nutrition Programs ³⁰	
42	Number of summer food sites in county, summer 2023

Utah Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program

WIC Participation ³¹				
	Total women September 2021	Total infants September 2021	Total children September 2021	Total participants September 2021
Utah County Health District	3,913	4,161	5,139	13,213
8,962	Total participants, local health district, September 2018			
47%	Change in total participation, September 2018 to September 2021			

Senior Meals Programs

Senior Meals ³²	
799	Individuals -- Home Delivered Meals MAG AAA FY22
102,552	Total Meals -- Home Delivered Meals MAG AAA FY22
2,610	Individuals -- Congregate Meals MAG AAA FY22
102,617	Total Meals -- Congregate Meals MAG AAA FY22

All data provided at the county level unless otherwise specified

* = Use data with caution due to relatively high margins of error, low sample size.

N/A = No data available, or no reliable data available due to very high margins of error, low sample size.

Sources & Notes |

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census, Dataset: DECENNIALPL2020

² Alisha Coleman-Jensen, Matthew P. Rabbitt, Christian A. Gregory, and Anita Singh. 2021, *Household Food Security in the United States in 2020*, ERR-298, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service

³⁻⁶ Feeding America *Map the Meal Gap Data Report: "Food Insecurity by County 2020"*. Accessed April 2023.

⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, "Poverty Status in the Last 12 Months by County" Table S1701

⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, "Poverty Status in the Last 12 Months by Unified School district", Table S1701 (Percentages are out of total counted children 5-17 per district)

⁹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, "Poverty Status in the Last 12 Months by County" Table S1701

¹⁰ U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, "Income in the Last 12 Months by County", Table S1901

¹¹⁻¹² Economic Policy Institute (EPI), Family Budget Calculator, March 2021. **Notes:** according to the EPI, the Family Budget Calculator "measures the income a family needs in order to attain a modest yet adequate standard of living. The budgets estimate community-specific costs for 10 family types (one or two adults with zero to four children) in all counties and metro areas in the United States. Compared with the federal poverty line and the Supplemental Poverty Measure, EPI's family budgets provide a more accurate and complete measure of economic security in America." Budgets are in 2020 dollars. <https://www.epi.org/resources/budget/>

¹³⁻¹⁵ Low Income Housing Coalition, *Out Of Reach 2022 Utah State Report*, 2022. <https://nlihc.org/oor/state/ut>

¹⁶⁻¹⁹ Utah Department of Workforce Services, Accessed April 2023.

<https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/data/library/employment/countyunemployment.html>

²⁰⁻²⁴ Utah Department of Workforce Services. Report: "FS Individuals and by Zip/County". Accessed April 2023

²⁵⁻²⁶ Program Access Index (PAI) calculated by Utahns Against Hunger (UAH) by dividing the 12-month average number of SNAP recipients by the population living at or below 125% of federal poverty level in a county for calendar year 2020. **Notes:** According to the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), "the PAI is designed to indicate the degree to which low-income people have access to SNAP benefits."

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/calculating-supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap-program-access-index-step-step-guide>

²⁷ Utah Department of Workforce Services. Report: "FS Demographics". Accessed April 2022

²⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, Food Stamp/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Table S2201

²⁹ Utah State Board of Education (USB E) Child Nutrition Department, 2021. "October Survey", Accessed April 2022

³⁰ Utah State Board of Education (USB E) Child Nutrition Department. Report: "USDA 543a 2020" Accessed August 2021 **Note:** Includes sites operating on waivers

³¹ Utah Department of Health, Division of Family Health and Preparedness, Utah WIC Program, 2022. **Notes:** All data for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2018 (October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018).

³² Utah State Division of Aging and Adult Services "Utah Home Delivered Meals (Meals on Wheels) & Congregate Meals by AAA" Accessed April 2023