

# Food Access Profile: Washington County

UTAHNS AGAINST HUNGER

## Food Insecurity, Food Access, Poverty

Population <sup>1</sup>	
180,279	County population (# of individuals), 2020
5.5%	County population as a percentage of state population, 2020

Food Insecurity, Limited Access to Healthy Food	
11.2%	% Households experiencing food insecurity in the <b>State of Utah</b> 2021 (Reflects Pandemic figures) <sup>2</sup>
11.1%	% Individuals food insecure in 2020, county (not directly comparable with state % above) <sup>3</sup>
19,190	# Individuals food insecure in 2020, county <sup>4</sup>
15.5%	% Children food insecure in 2020, county <sup>5</sup>
6,940	# Children food insecure in 2020, county <sup>6</sup>

Poverty <sup>7</sup>	
16,037	# Individuals living below federal poverty level, 2021
9.2%	% Individuals living below federal poverty level, 2021
4,612	# Individuals under age 18 living below poverty level, 2021
10.3%	% Individuals under age 18 living below poverty level, 2021
2,513	# Individuals 60 years and over living below poverty level, 2021
6.7%	% Individuals 60 years and over living below poverty level, 2021
3%	% Individuals living at 50% or below poverty level, 2021
6,086	# Individuals living at 50% or below poverty level, 2021
13%	% Individuals living at 125% or below poverty level, 2021
23,258	# Individuals living at 125% or below poverty level, 2021
18%	% Individuals living at 150% or below poverty level, 2021
32,005	# Individuals living at 150% or below poverty level, 2021
24%	% Individuals living at 185% or below poverty level, 2021
41,919	# Individuals living at 185% or below poverty level, 2021
27%	% Individuals living at 200% or below poverty level, 2021
47,722	# Individuals living at 200% or below poverty level, 2021

### School Aged Children in Poverty by District<sup>8</sup>

Washington	10.3%
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### Poverty Rate by Race/Ethnicity<sup>9</sup>

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%	19.3%	32.3%	21.3%	12.7%	13.3%	8.5%
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)			White alone, not Hispanic or Latino			
12.1%			8.3%			

### Economic Status, Financial Insecurity

\$65,040	Area median household income 2021 <sup>10</sup>
\$68,411	Annual family budget needed for modest living, 2 adults, 1 child <sup>11</sup>
\$84,422	Annual family budget needed for modest living, 2 adults, 2 child <sup>12</sup>
\$43,560	Income needed for 2 bedroom apartment at fair market rent <sup>13</sup>
\$15.29	Mean renter wage, hourly <sup>14</sup>
2.4%	Unemployment rate, State of Utah March 2022 <sup>15</sup>
2.5%	Unemployment rate, county March 2023 <sup>16</sup>
2.2%	Unemployment rate, county March 2022 <sup>17</sup>
0.3%	Change in unemployment rate, county March 2022 to March 2023 <sup>18</sup>

## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP Participation	
<b>4,143</b>	# SNAP households, 2022 <sup>19</sup>
<b>9,112</b>	# SNAP individuals, 2022 <sup>20</sup>
<b>5%</b>	% County population participating in SNAP, 2022 <sup>21</sup>
<b>4052</b>	# Average monthly SNAP households, SFY 2021 <sup>22</sup>
<b>259</b>	Change in number of SNAP households, SFY 2020 to SFY 2021 <sup>23</sup>
<b>39%</b>	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 <sup>24</sup>
<b>14146</b>	Estimated # low-income individuals NOT enrolled in SNAP, 2022 <sup>25</sup>
<b>\$311</b>	Monthly average SNAP benefits issued (\$) to Utah residents, SFY 2023 <sup>26</sup>

SNAP Participant Demographics, April 2023 <sup>27</sup>					
% 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
<b>44.59%</b>	<b>14.03%</b>	<b>10.41%</b>	<b>39.64%</b>	<b>27.99%</b>	<b>20.38%</b>
<b>29.63%</b>	% Households headed by single parent				

Economic Characteristics of SNAP participants by County <sup>28</sup>		
Median income of SNAP participant households		
<b>28,320</b>		
# 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
<b>20.00%</b>	<b>48.50%</b>	<b>31.60%</b>

## Child Nutrition Programs

National School Lunch Program (NSLP) <sup>29</sup>		
School district	# Participating schools/sites (public school districts)	% Students eligible for free & reduced price meals Oct 2022
Washington	48	33.79%

Summer Nutrition Programs <sup>30</sup>	
9	Number of summer food sites in county, summer 2023

## Utah Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program

WIC Participation <sup>31</sup>				
	Total women September 2021	Total infants September 2021	Total children September 2021	Total participants September 2021
Southwest Health District	1,249	1,350	1,487	4,086
2,904	Total participants, local health district, September 2018			
41%	Change in total participation, September 2018 to September 2021			

## Senior Meals Programs

Senior Meals <sup>32</sup>	
2,058	Individuals -- Home Delivered Five County AAA FY22
178,665	Total Meals -- Home Delivered Meals Five County AAA FY22
1,945	Individuals -- Congregate Meals Five County AAA FY22
44,351	Total Meals -- Congregate Meals Five County 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 |

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census, Dataset: DECENNIALPL2020

<sup>2</sup> 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

<sup>3-6</sup> Feeding America *Map the Meal Gap Data Report: "Food Insecurity by County 2020"*. Accessed April 2023.

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

<sup>8</sup> 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)

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

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

<sup>11-12</sup> 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/>

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

<sup>16-19</sup> Utah Department of Workforce Services, Accessed April 2023.

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

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

<sup>25-26</sup> 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>

<sup>27</sup> Utah Department of Workforce Services. Report: "FS Demographics". Accessed April 2022

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

<sup>29</sup> Utah State Board of Education (USBE) Child Nutrition Department, 2021. "October Survey", Accessed April 2022

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

<sup>31</sup> 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).

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