

Food Access Profile: Iron County

UTAHNS AGAINST HUNGER

Food Insecurity, Food Access, Poverty

Population	
51,213	County population (# of individuals), 2019 ¹
1.65%	County population as a percentage of state population, 2019 ²

Food Insecurity, Limited Access to Healthy Food	
10.7%	% Households experiencing food insecurity in the State of Utah 2019 ³
16.9%	% Individuals food insecure in 2017, county (not directly comparable with state % above) ⁴
8,220	# Individuals food insecure in 2017, county ⁵
19.5%	% Children food insecure in 2017, county ⁶
2,750	# Children food insecure in 2017, county ⁷

Poverty	
8,622	# Individuals living below federal poverty level, 2019 ⁸
17%	% Individuals living below federal poverty level, 2019 ⁹
2,551	# Individuals under age 18 living below poverty level, 2019 ¹⁰
17.5%	% Individuals under age 18 living below poverty level, 2019 ¹¹
694	# Individuals 60 years and over living below poverty level, 2019 ¹²
8%	% Individuals 60 years and over living below poverty level, 2019 ¹³
3,887	# Individuals living at 50% or below poverty level, 2019 ¹⁶
8%	% Individuals living at 50% or below poverty level, 2019 ¹⁷
10,942	# Individuals living at 125% or below poverty level, 2019 ¹⁸
22%	% Individuals living at 125% or below poverty level, 2019 ¹⁹
15,288	# Individuals living at 150% or below poverty level, 2019 ²⁰
30%	% Individuals living at 150% or below poverty level, 2019 ²¹

18,239	# Individuals living at 185% or below poverty level, 2019 ²²
36%	% Individuals living at 185% or below poverty level, 2019 ²³
19,749	# Individuals living at 200% or below poverty level, 2019 ²⁴
39%	% Individuals living at 200% or below poverty level, 2019 ²⁵
School District	% of children 5-17 in poverty 2019 ²⁶
Iron	18%

Poverty Rate by Race/Ethnicity, 5 Year Average 2015-2019 ²⁷						
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
15.9%	76.4%	23.5%	34.6%	54% (+/-44%)	24.1%	26.1%
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)			White alone, not Hispanic or Latino			
19.1%			16.2%			

Economic Status, Financial Insecurity	
\$51,807	Area median household income 2019 ²⁸
\$62,329	Annual family budget needed for modest living, 2 adults, 1 child ²⁹
\$77,675	Annual family budget needed for modest living, 2 adults, 2 child ³⁰
3.1%	Unemployment rate, State of Utah January 2021 ³¹
3.5%	Unemployment rate, county January 2020 ³²
3.6%	Unemployment rate, county January 2021 ³³
+0.1%	Change in unemployment rate, county January 2020 to January 2021 ³⁴

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP Participation	
1,902	# SNAP households, June 2021 ³⁵
4,415	# SNAP individuals, June 2021 ³⁶
9%	% County population participating in SNAP, June 2021 ³⁷
1,957	# Average monthly SNAP households, SFY 2021 ³⁸
+86	Change in number of SNAP households, SFY 2020 to SFY 2021 ³⁹
40.3%	Program Access Index 2021: Average monthly number of SNAP participants in county compared with estimated number of people with incomes below 125% of poverty level in 2021 ⁴⁰
6,527	Estimated # low-income individuals NOT enrolled in SNAP, 2021 ⁴¹

SNAP Benefits	
\$260	Monthly average SNAP benefits issued (\$) to Utah residents, SFY 2021 ⁴²
2.2	Average household size ⁴³
\$1.31	Average benefit per person per meal 2021 ⁴⁴

SNAP Participant Demographics, State of Utah SFY 2021 ⁴⁵					
% 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+
48.06%	14.13%	9.16%	43.41%	29.73%	9.16%
31.52%	% Households headed by single parent				

Race/Ethnicity of SNAP Householders, County 5 Year Average 2015-2019 ⁴⁶						
% White alone	% Black or African American alone	% American Indian and Alaska Native alone	% Asian alone	% Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander alone	% Some other race alone	% Two or more races
93.8%	0.2%	2.1%	0.7%	0.2%	1.5%	1.4%
% Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)			% White alone, not Hispanic or Latino			
6.3%			89.5%			

Work Status of Families Participating in SNAP, County, 5 Year Average 2015-2019 ⁴⁷		
% No workers in past 12 months	% 1 worker in past 12 months	% 2 or more workers in past 12 months
15.5%	33.3%	51.2%

Child Nutrition Programs

National School Lunch Program (NSLP) ⁴⁸		
School district	# Participating schools/sites (public school districts)	% Students eligible for free & reduced price meals Oct 2019
Garfield	8	35-39%

School Breakfast Program (SBP) ⁴⁹	
School district	# Participating schools/sites (public school districts)
Garfield	8

Summer Nutrition Programs ⁵⁰	
4	Number of summer food sites in county, summer 2020

Utah Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program

WIC Participation ⁵¹				
	Total women September 2018	Total infants September 2018	Total children September 2018	Total participants September 2018
Southwest Utah Health District (Garfield, Iron, Kane, Washington, Beaver)	733	756	1,415	2,904
3,616	Total participants, local health district, September 2016			
-19.69%	Change in total participation, September 2016 to September 2018			
\$50.46	Average monthly WIC benefit (State of Utah), FFY18			
\$1,882,890.72	Total WIC benefits spent, local health district, FFY18			
39.4%	Coverage rate 2016, State of Utah (eligible Utahns participating) ⁵²			

All data provided at the county level unless otherwise specified

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

Sources & Notes | Food Access Profiles

¹⁻² U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, Table B01003

³ Alisha Coleman-Jensen, Matthew P. Rabbitt, Christian A. Gregory, and Anita Singh. 2018. *Household Food Security in the United States in 2019*, ERR-256, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service

⁴⁻⁷ Gunderen, C., A. Dewey, M. Kato, A. Crumbaugh & M. Strayer. *Map the Meal Gap 2017: A Report on County and Congressional District Food Insecurity and County Food Costs in the United States in 2017*. Feeding America, 2017.

⁸⁻²⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Poverty Status in the Last 12 Months by County, Table S1701

²⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 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)

²⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, Income in the Last 12 Months by County, Table S1901

²⁹⁻³⁰ 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 2017 dollars. <https://www.epi.org/resources/budget/>

³¹⁻³⁴ Utah Department of Workforce Services, Accessed June 7, 2019.

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

³⁴⁻³⁸ Utah Department of Workforce Services. Report: “FS Individuals and by Zip/County”. Accessed July 2021

⁴⁰⁻⁴¹ 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 2019. SNAP data from the Utah Department of Workforce Services. Poverty data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Estimates for more populated counties, and 2013-2019 ACS 5-Year Estimates for less populated counties. **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.” The PAI is not technically a measure of SNAP participation (participants versus eligibles) because the SNAP eligibility level is 130% of poverty, not 125%, and because the index does not account for any of the other factors impacting an individual’s eligibility for SNAP. Also, when calculating the PAI the FNS typically subtracts participants in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) from the number below 125% poverty because the former would qualify for SNAP but have opted to participate in the FDPIR instead. In federal fiscal year 2019 there were 384 FDPIR participants in Utah. UAH did not subtract these participants from our county poverty estimates because we were unable to determine the counties in which they lived. More information on the PAI can be found at:

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

⁴²⁻⁴⁵ Utah Department of Workforce Services. Report: “FS Individuals and by Zip/County”. Accessed July 2021

⁴⁶⁻⁴⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, Food Stamp/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Table S2201

⁴⁸⁻⁴⁹ Utah State Board of Education (USB E) Child Nutrition Department, 2020. “October Survey”, Accessed July 2021

⁵⁰ Utah State Board of Education (USB E) Child Nutrition Department. Report: “USDA 543a 2020” Accessed August 2020 **Note:** Includes sites operating on waivers

⁵¹ Utah Department of Health, Division of Family Health and Preparedness, Utah WIC Program, 2019. **Notes:** All data for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2018 (October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018).

⁵² United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Policy Support. *National- and State-Level Estimates of Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Eligibles and Program Reach in 2016*, by Carole Trippe, Chrystine Tadler, Paul Johnson, Linda Giannarelli, and David Betson. Project Officer: Grant Lovellette. Alexandria, VA: February 2019.