

# Food Access Profile: Iron County

UTAHNS AGAINST HUNGER

## Food Insecurity, Food Access, Poverty

Population <sup>1</sup>	
53,148	County population (# of individuals), 2020
1.69%	County population as a percentage of state population, 2020

Food Insecurity, Limited Access to Healthy Food	
10%	% Households experiencing food insecurity in the State of Utah 2020 (Doesn't reflect pandemic) <sup>2</sup>
14.9%	% Individuals food insecure in 2021, county (not directly comparable with state % above) <sup>3</sup>
7,660	# Individuals food insecure in 2021, county <sup>4</sup>
17.3%	% Children food insecure in 2021, county <sup>5</sup>
2,550	# Children food insecure in 2021, county <sup>6</sup>

Poverty <sup>7</sup>	
8,606	# Individuals living below federal poverty level, 2020
16.4%	% Individuals living below federal poverty level, 2020
2,432	# Individuals under age 18 living below poverty level, 2020
16.2%	% Individuals under age 18 living below poverty level, 2020
738	# Individuals 60 years and over living below poverty level, 2020
8%	% Individuals 60 years and over living below poverty level, 2020
7.9%	% Individuals living at 50% or below poverty level, 2020
4,157	# Individuals living at 50% or below poverty level, 2020
22.6%	% Individuals living at 125% or below poverty level, 2020
11,906	# Individuals living at 125% or below poverty level, 2020
31.1%	% Individuals living at 150% or below poverty level, 2020
16,361	# Individuals living at 150% or below poverty level, 2020
36.3%	% Individuals living at 185% or below poverty level, 2020
19,084	# Individuals living at 185% or below poverty level, 2020
39.6%	% Individuals living at 200% or below poverty level, 2020
20,834	# Individuals living at 200% or below poverty level, 2020

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

Iron	16%
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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
16.3%	43.2%	22.5%	N/A	N/A	20%	5%
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)			White alone, not Hispanic or Latino			
13.9%			16.3%			

## Economic Status, Financial Insecurity

\$52,045	Area median household income 2020 <sup>10</sup>
\$62,815	Annual family budget needed for modest living, 2 adults, 1 child <sup>11</sup>
\$77,777	Annual family budget needed for modest living, 2 adults, 2 child <sup>12</sup>
2.0%	Unemployment rate, State of Utah March 2022 <sup>13</sup>
2.9%	Unemployment rate, county March 2021 <sup>14</sup>
2.1%	Unemployment rate, county March 2022 <sup>15</sup>
-0.8%	Change in unemployment rate, county March 2021 to March 2022 <sup>16</sup>

## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP Participation	
1,966	# SNAP households, 2022 <sup>17</sup>
4,487	# SNAP individuals, 2022 <sup>18</sup>
8.4%	% County population participating in SNAP, 2022 <sup>19</sup>
1,939	# Average monthly SNAP households, SFY 2021 <sup>20</sup>
31	Change in number of SNAP households, SFY 2020 to SFY 2021 <sup>21</sup>
16.3%	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 2021 <sup>22</sup>
9,967	Estimated # low-income individuals NOT enrolled in SNAP, 2021 <sup>23</sup>
\$259	Monthly average SNAP benefits issued (\$) to Utah residents, SFY 2022 <sup>24</sup>

SNAP Participant Demographics, April 2022 <sup>25</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
46.6%	14.48%	10%	40.94%	29.58%	20%
30.1%	% Households headed by single parent				

Race/Ethnicity of SNAP Households, 5 Year Estimate 2016-2020 for Iron County <sup>26</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
90.7%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
% Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)			% White alone, not Hispanic or Latino			
10.1%			88.4%			

Work Status of Families Participating in SNAP, Iron County, 5 Year Estimate 2016-2020 <sup>27</sup>		
% No workers in past 12 months	% 1 worker in past 12 months	% 2 or more workers in past 12 months
13.2%	48.1%	38.7%

## Child Nutrition Programs

Iron County

National School Lunch Program (NSLP) <sup>28</sup>		
School district	# Participating schools/sites (public school districts)	% Students eligible for free & reduced price meals Oct 2021
Iron	14	33.23%

School Breakfast Program (SBP) <sup>29</sup>	
School district	# Participating Schools (public)
Iron	14

Summer Nutrition Programs <sup>30</sup>	
13	Number of summer food sites in county, summer 2021

## 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>	
Five County AAA	
2,617	Individuals -- Home Delivered Meals FY21
196,805	Total Meals -- Home Delivered Meals FY21
1,079	Individuals -- Congregate Meals FY21
13,987	Total Meals -- Congregate Meals FY21

## 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 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, Table B01003

<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: "Projected Food Insecurity by County 2021"*. Accessed April 2022.

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, "Poverty Status in the Last 12 Months by County" Table S1701

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 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, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, "Poverty Status in the Last 12 Months by County" Table S1701

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 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 2017 dollars. <https://www.epi.org/resources/budget/>

<sup>13-16</sup> Utah Department of Workforce Services, Accessed June 7, 2019.

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

<sup>17-21</sup> Utah Department of Workforce Services. Report: "FS Individuals and by Zip/County". Accessed April 2022

<sup>22-23</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>24</sup> Utah Department of Workforce Services. Report: "FS Individuals and by Zip/County". Accessed April 2022

<sup>25</sup> Utah Department of Workforce Services. Report: "FS Demographics". Accessed April 2022

<sup>26-27</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, Food Stamp/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Table S2201

<sup>28-29</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 2022