

Food Access Profile: Iron County

UTAHNS AGAINST HUNGER

Food Insecurity, Food Access, Poverty

Population		
48,504	County population (# of individuals), 5 year average 2013-2017 ¹	
1.62%	County population as a percentage of state population, 5 year average 2013-2017 ²	
Food Insecurity, Limited Access to Healthy Food		
10.7%	% Households experiencing food insecurity in the State of Utah 2017 ³	
16.90%	% Individuals food insecure in 2017, county (not directly comparable with state % above) ⁴	
8,220	# Individuals food insecure in 2017, county ⁵	
19.50%	% Children food insecure in 2017, county ⁶	
2,750	# Children food insecure in 2017, county ⁷	
16.02%	% Households in Southwest Utah Health District reporting "yes" to the statement: <i>"The food that I bought just didn't last, and I don't have money to get more, often or sometimes"</i> in 2017 ⁸	
14.82%	% Households in Southwest Utah Health District reporting "yes" to the statement: <i>"I couldn't afford to eat balanced meals, often or sometimes"</i> in 2017 ⁹	
6,366	# Individuals in county with limited access to grocery store (low-income & low access) ¹⁰	
14%	% Individuals in county with limited access to grocery store (low-income & low access) ¹¹	
Poverty		
10,001	# Individuals living below federal poverty level, 5 year average 2013-2017 ¹²	
20.9% (+/-2.7)	% Individuals living below federal poverty level, 5 year average 2013-2017 ¹³	
3,255	# Individuals under age 18 living below poverty level, 5 year average 2013-2017 ¹⁴	
23.3% (+/- 4.7)	% Individuals under age 18 living below poverty level, 5 year average 2013-2017 ¹⁵	
679*	# Individuals 60 years and over living below poverty level, 5 year average 2013-2017 ¹⁶	
8.7% (+/- 2.1)*	% Individuals 60 years and over living below poverty level, 5 year average 2013-2017 ¹⁷	
School District	# Ages 5 to 17 in families in poverty 2017 ¹⁸	% Ages 5 to 17 in families in poverty 2017 ¹⁹
Iron	1,848	17.6%

Poverty, continued...	
9.73% (+/- 2.30)	% Individuals living at 50% or below poverty level, 5 year average 2013-2017 ²⁰
4,658	# Individuals living at 50% or below poverty level, 5 year average 2013-2017 ²¹
26.26% (+/- 3.4)	% Individuals living at 125% or below poverty level, 5 year average 2013-2017 ²²
12,575	# Individuals living at 125% or below poverty level, 5 year average 2013-2017 ²³
34.39% (+/- 2.84)	% Individuals living at 150% or below poverty level, 5 year average 2013-2017 ²⁴
16,467	# Individuals living at 150% or below poverty level, 5 year average 2013-2017 ²⁵
41.64% (+/- 3.06)	% Individuals living at 185% or below poverty level, 5 year average 2013-2017 ²⁶
19,937	# Individuals living at 185% or below poverty level, 5 year average 2013-2017 ²⁷
44.51% (+/-3.02)	% Individuals living at 200% or below poverty level, 5 year average 2013-2017 ²⁸
21,309	# Individuals living at 200% or below poverty level, 5 year average 2013-2017 ²⁹

Poverty Rate by Race/Ethnicity, 5 Year Average 2013-2017 for State of Utah ³⁰						
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
9.7%	26.6%	29.7%	15.0%	15.3%	22.70%	14.10%
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)			White alone, not Hispanic or Latino			
20.40%			8.80%			

Economic Status, Financial Insecurity	
\$48,168	Area median household income 2017 ³¹
\$62,329	Annual family budget needed for modest living, 2 adults, 1 child ³²
\$77,675	Annual family budget needed for modest living, 2 adults, 2 child ³³
50.9%	% Households living below basic survival budget threshold, 2016 ³⁴
7,743	# Households living below basic survival budget threshold, 2016 ³⁵
2.90%	Unemployment rate, State of Utah April 2019 ³⁶
3.18%	Unemployment rate, county April 2019 ³⁶
4.42%	Unemployment rate, county April 2017 ³⁶
-1.24%	Change in unemployment rate, county April 2017 to April 2019 ³⁷

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Iron County

SNAP Participation	
1,978	# SNAP households, April 2019 ³⁸
5,154	# SNAP individuals, April 2019 ³⁹
10.32%	% County population participating in SNAP, April 2019 ⁴⁰
2,057	# Average monthly SNAP households, SFY 2018 ⁴¹
-6.48%	Change in number of SNAP households, SFY 2016 to SFY 2018 ⁴¹
70%	SNAP participation rate for eligible individuals (for State of Utah as a whole), FY 2016 ⁴²
46.93% (+/- 6.13)	Program Access Index 2017: Average monthly number of SNAP participants in county compared with estimated number of people with incomes below 125% of poverty level, 5 year average 2013-2017 ⁴³
5,902	# Low-income individuals enrolled in SNAP, monthly average for 2013-2017 ⁴⁴
6,673	Estimated # low-income individuals NOT enrolled in SNAP, 5 year average 2013-2017 ⁴⁵

SNAP Benefits	
\$7,194,101	SNAP benefits issued (\$) to county residents, SFY 2018 ⁴⁶
\$291.45	Average monthly benefit per household, county, SFY 2018 ⁴⁷
\$1.18	Average benefit per person per meal, county, SFY 2018 ⁴⁸
\$2.88	Average cost per meal in county, 2017 ⁴⁹
2,497,952	Estimated number of meals that SNAP covered in county, 2018 ⁵⁰

SNAP Participant Demographics, SFY 2018 ⁵¹					
% Individuals under 18, SFY 2018	% Individuals w/disability, SFY 2018	% Individuals 60 and older, SFY 2018	% Households with individuals under 18, SFY 2018	% Households with individuals with a disability, SFY 2018	% Households with individuals 60 and older, SFY 2018
49.99%	10.99%	4.88%	53.56%	27.64%	11.71%
39.71%	% Households headed by single parents 2018 ⁵²				

Race/Ethnicity of SNAP Householders, 5 Year Average 2013-2017 for State of Utah ⁵³						
% 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
81.3%	2.6%	2.9%	2%	1.6%	6.9%	2.7%
% Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)			% White alone, not Hispanic or Latino			
19.5%			69.9%			

Work Status of Families Participating in SNAP, 5 Year Average 2013-2017 for State of Utah ⁵⁴		
% No workers in past 12 months	% 1 worker in past 12 months	% 2 or more workers in past 12 months
14%	47.3%	38.7%

Child Nutrition Programs

Iron County

National School Lunch Program (NSLP) ⁵⁵					
School district	# Participating schools/sites 2017-18 SY (public school districts)	% Students eligible for free & reduced price meals Oct 2018	Total free & reduced price lunches served 2017-18 SY	Average daily participation - free & reduced price lunch prog 2017-18 SY	Federal reimbursement for all meals (free, reduced, paid) 2017-18 SY
Iron	15	43.15%	545,205	3,027.7	\$1,865,983.92

School Breakfast Program (SBP) ⁵⁶						
School district	# Participating schools/sites 2017-18 SY (public school districts)	Total free & reduced price breakfasts served 2017-18 SY	Average daily participation - free & reduced price breakfast program 2017-18 SY	Number free & reduced price students participating in SBP per 100 participating in NSLP 2017-18	# Students participating in free & reduced lunch but NOT free & reduced price breakfast 2017-18	Federal reimbursement for all meals (free, reduced, paid) 2017-18 SY
Iron	15	190,086	1,055.5	34.9	1,972	\$396,165.54

Summer Nutrition Programs ⁵⁷	
4	Number of summer food sites in county, summer 2018
14,005	Total meals served summer 2018 in county
276	Average daily participation in county, July 2018
\$53,300.38	Total reimbursement summer 2018, county
9	# Students who participated in Summer Food Program per 100 who participated in free & reduced price school lunch program 2017-18, county

Utah Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program

WIC Participation ⁵⁸				
	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) ⁵⁹			

Congregate Meals ⁶⁰	
14	Number of meal sites in area aging district, 2018 (Beaver, Iron, Washington, Garfield, and Kane)
2	Number of meal sites in Iron County, 2018
2,095	People served FY 2018, in area aging district (Beaver, Iron, Washington, Garfield, and Kane)
56,455	Meals served FY 2018, in area aging district (Beaver, Iron, Washington, Garfield, and Kane)
-7.55%	% Change in people served FY 2016-2018
-4.99%	% Change in meals served FY 2016-2018
Home Delivered Meals Meals on Wheels ⁶¹	
1,428	People served FY 2018, in area aging district (Beaver, Iron, Washington, Garfield, and Kane)
116,186	Meals served FY 2018, in area aging district (Beaver, Iron, Washington, Garfield, and Kane)
2.15%	% Change in people served FY 2016-2018
8.49%	% Change in meals served FY 2016-2018
Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) - Senior Food Boxes ⁶²	
57	Number of participants 2018, county
1	Number of pickup sites 2018, county

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 | Food Access Profiles

For all counties **excluding** Cache, Daggett, Davis, Salt Lake, Utah, Washington, Weber

¹⁻² U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, Table S1701

³ Alisha Coleman-Jensen, Matthew P. Rabbitt, Christian A. Gregory, and Anita Singh. 2018. *Household Food Security in the United States in 2017*, 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 2019: A Report on County and Congressional District Food Insecurity and County Food Costs in the United States in 2017*. Feeding America, 2019.

⁸⁻⁹ Utah Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2017, Utah Department of Health.

¹⁰ United States Department of Agriculture, Food Environment Atlas, Version updated 3/27/2018 based on 2015 data. Accessed January 20, 2019. **Notes:** Indicator is defined as “Number of people in a county with low income and living more than 1 mile from a supermarket or large grocery store if in an urban area, or more than 10 miles from a supermarket or large grocery store if in a rural area.”

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/foodatlas/>

¹¹ Ibid. **Notes:** Indicator is defined as “Percentage of people in a county with low income and living more than 1 mile from a supermarket or large grocery store if in an urban area, or more than 10 miles from a supermarket or large grocery store if in a rural area.”

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/foodatlas/>

¹²⁻¹⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1701

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE), 2017. Poverty estimates for school districts, based on district boundaries for the 2017-2018 school year.

²⁰⁻²⁹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, Table S1701

³⁰ Ibid. State-level data tables were used for smaller counties if county-level data had high margins of error.

³¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE), 2017.

³²⁻³³ Economic Policy Institute (EPI), Family Budget Calculator, March 2018. **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/>

³⁴⁻³⁵ United Way of Northern New Jersey, United Way ALICE Project, 2016 (last updated 7/23/18). **Notes:** The United Way ALICE Project developed this new measure to identify and assess financial hardship at a local level and to enhance existing local, state, and national poverty measures. The Household Survival Budget is “an estimate of the total cost of household essentials – housing, child care, food, transportation, technology, and health care, plus taxes and a 10 percent contingency. It is calculated separately for each county, and for six different household types. [...] The ALICE Threshold represents the minimum income level necessary based on the Household Survival Budget. Households below the Threshold include both ALICE households and those living in poverty.” Estimates based on American Community Survey 1 year data (2016) for counties with populations over 65,000, and 5-year averages (2012-2016) for all other counties.

<https://www.unitedforalice.org/home>

³⁶⁻³⁷ Utah Department of Workforce Services, Accessed June 7, 2019.

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

³⁸⁻⁴⁰ Utah Department of Workforce Services, Public Assistance Recipients Dashboard. Accessed June 7, 2019.

<https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/data/misstats/pubassist/>

⁴¹ Utah Department of Workforce Services. Average monthly household SNAP participation for state fiscal year (SFY) 2018 (July 2017 to June 2018).

⁴² Cunnyngham, Karen. *Reaching Those in Need: Estimates of State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Participation Rates in 2016*. Final report submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. Washington, DC: Mathematica Policy Research, March 2019.

⁴³ Program Access Index (PAI) calculated by Utahns Against Hunger (UAH) by dividing the 12-month average number of SNAP recipients by the population living below 125% of federal poverty level in a county for calendar year 2017. SNAP data from the Utah Department of Workforce Services. Poverty data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Estimates for more populated counties, and 2013-2017 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 2017 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>

⁴⁴ Utah Department of Workforce Services. 12-month average number of SNAP recipients in county for calendar year 2017.

⁴⁵ Number of estimated individuals at or below 125% poverty line, minus those participating in SNAP (Ibid.). Poverty data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Estimates for more populated counties, and 2013-2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates for less populated counties.

⁴⁶⁻⁴⁸ Utah Department of Workforce Services. Totals for state fiscal year 2018 (July 2017 to June 2018).

⁴⁹ Gunderen, C., A. Dewey, M. Kato, A. Crumbaugh & M. Strayer. *Map the Meal Gap 2019: A Report on County and Congressional District Food Insecurity and County Food Costs in the United States in 2017*. Feeding America, 2019.

⁵⁰ Estimate calculated by Utahns Against Hunger (UAH) by dividing the dollar value of SNAP benefits issued to county residents, in SFY 2018 by average cost per meal in county, 2017 (Ibid.)

⁵¹⁻⁵² Utah Department of Workforce Services, state fiscal year 2018 (July 2017 to June 2018).

⁵³⁻⁵⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, Table S1701. State-level data tables were used for smaller counties if county-level data had high margins of error.

⁵⁵ Utah State Board of Education (USBE) Child Nutrition Department, 2019. **Notes:** All National School Lunch Program (NSLP) data for school year 2017-2018 for all schools/sites sponsored by the public school districts. The number of participating schools/sites in each public school district includes predominantly regular public schools, but also public or private/non-profit charters, Head Start sites, camps, and Residential Child Care Institutions that were sponsored by the public school districts and participated in the NSLP. Percentages of students eligible for free or reduced price lunch come from the 2018 October Survey which gives enrollment and free/reduced meal percentages for each school as of October 31 (revised February 2019). All other data was obtained from USBE's Child Nutrition Department on January 9th, 2019. Average daily participation (ADP) numbers for the NSLP were calculated by Utahns Against Hunger for each school/site in a school district and combined to arrive at district totals.

⁵⁶ Utah State Board of Education (USBE) Child Nutrition Department, 2019. **Notes:** All School Breakfast Program (SBP) data for school year 2017-2018 for all of the same schools/sites included in the NSLP table that were sponsored by the public school districts. The number of participating schools/sites in each public school district includes predominantly regular public schools, but also some public or private/non-profit charters, Head Start sites, camps, and Residential Child Care Institutions that were sponsored by the public school districts and participated in the NSLP. Average daily participation (ADP) numbers were calculated by Utahns Against Hunger (UAH) for each school in a school district and combined to arrive at district totals. UAH divided the ADPs for SBP by the ADPs for NSLP, and multiplied by 100, to arrive at the number of free/reduced price students participating in SBP per 100 participating in NSLP during the 2017-18 school year. UAH subtracted SBP ADP from NSLP ADP to arrive at the number of students participating in NSLP but not SBP.

⁵⁷ Utah State Board of Education (USBE) Child Nutrition Department, 2019. **Notes:** Summer Nutrition Program data includes all Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) locations active in Summer 2018. Average daily participation (ADP) numbers were calculated by Utahns Against Hunger (UAH) for each site and combined to arrive at county totals. The ADP numbers are based on the 'Max Claim ADP' for the month of July, used by the USBE to compare summer sites. Most SFSP and SSO sites offer multiple meals in a given day and do not keep enrollment records. Any student may eat one or more meals/snacks on a given day. The 'Max Claim ADP' provides a way to track the number of students participating at the site each month. The ADP values provided are for the meal or snack with the highest ADP in the month of July, excluding second meals. UAH divided the ADPs for Summer Nutrition Programs by the ADPs for the NSLP, and multiplied by 100, to arrive at the number of free/reduced price students participating in Summer Nutrition per 100 participating in NSLP during the 2017-18 school year.

⁵⁸ 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).

⁵⁹ 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.

⁶⁰⁻⁶¹ Utah Department of Human Services, Division of Aging & Adult Services (DAAS), 2019. **Notes:** All data for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2018 (October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018).

⁶² Utah Food Bank, 2018. **Notes:** All data for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2018 (October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018).