

# UTAH COUNTY COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

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2025



**2025**

**UTAH COUNTY COMMUNITY  
ASSESSMENT**

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**2025**

# **Utah County Community Assessment**

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**Early Learning Essentials**

**Kids on the Move**

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**UCCU**

**Utah County Health Department**

**Wasatch Behavioral Health**



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- |                                       |                                |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
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| Bridle Up Hope                        | Kids Who Count                 |
| Centro Hispano                        | Mountainland Continuum of Care |
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| Community Health Connect              | Project Read                   |
| Early Learning Essentials             | RAH                            |
| Easterseals Goodwill                  | Self-Help Homes                |
| Ella Rises                            | Teens ACT                      |
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| Help Me Grow Utah                     | Utah Valley Paratransit        |
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# Executive Summary

The 2025 Utah County Community Assessment is the fifth in a series of assessments using the same (or similar) methodology; it is coordinated by United Way of Utah County and funded by not only United Way, but also multiple partners—nonprofit, government, and private-sector corporations—each of whom has a stake in improving the quality of life in Utah County. For nearly 40 years, United Way has conducted similar assessments. Following the 2011 assessment, subsequent assessments in 2015, 2018, and 2022 have built upon the data and insights of earlier studies, using the same (or virtually the same) telephone survey instrument and other methods. Its benefits to Utah County leaders, service providers, and residents is unparalleled.

## Components of Assessment

As in years past, this assessment relies on both primary and secondary research. Primary research includes a telephone survey of nearly 1,410 adults in Utah County—the largest sample undertaken in any of our assessments. One-one-one interviews with stakeholders shed additional light on the quantitative data. Secondary research was gathered from included multiple government and private-sector sources such as the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Utah Department of Health, Utah State Board of Education, Low-Income Housing Coalition, the three school districts in Utah County, Utah Department of Public Safety, the Federal Bureau of Investigations Uniform Crime Reporting Program, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Kem C. Gardner Public Policy Institute at the University of Utah, and dozens of other sources. Private-sector sources such as CBRE, Redfin, and the Utah Association of Realtors also proved to be significant sources of valuable data.

## Telephone Survey

This year’s telephone survey was the largest ever conducted as part of the Utah County community assessment. Its sample of 1,410 adult residents provided indispensable insights into the issues facing residents, including neighborhood attachment, loneliness, and social isolation. Key takeaways include the following points.

- The overall quality of life in Utah County, including family values, recreation, faith, and people, friends, and family in general are seen as the primary benefits of living in Utah County. Amenities such as restaurants, shopping, the climate, and arts and culture, though at the bottom of the list of attributes most prized among residents, are mentioned by about one in five residents. Younger residents (18 to 44 years) are more likely to value recreation, quality of life, and schools and education; older residents are more likely to mention faith, family values, and quality of life as top attributes.
- Population growth and related issues such as traffic, congestion, and air quality are, by far, on the top of residents' minds more than any other set of related issues.
- Housing costs—though tied to population growth—are a significant issue as well. Not only are home purchase prices remaining high and out of reach for many, but rental rates have continued to increase. Nearly eight of 10 younger residents mentioned housing costs as a “most pressing issue,” while only 33 percent of older residents did.
- Anxiety and depression, education, domestic violence, and substance abuse are at the bottom of residents' minds, being overshadowed by issues related to growth.
- Neighborhood attachment continues to be moderate. Highly valued characteristics in neighborhoods include public safety, amenities, church, and family and friends; undesirable elements include neighbors, home values, and distance to public transportation.
- Social isolation and loneliness are emerging as significant issues in Utah County. More than 22 percent of respondents indicated they don't have enough people to rely on, and nearly 60 percent say they miss having people around them.

## Key Findings

Key findings, which are discussed in more detail later, include the following.

- **Utah County continues to become more diverse** in terms of racial and ethnic minority composition. While the County’s non-White population has grown slowly over the decades, its pace of growth has increased over the past six years. In particular, the Hispanic or Latino population in Utah County has grown from 10.2 percent in 2010 to 13.9 percent in 2023—an increase of 36.0 percent. In contrast, the statewide growth has been 25.2 percent, and nationally it is 21.0 percent. The number of community members of two or more races is increasing as well. In 2023, only 86.3 percent of the population is White alone—down from 92.2 percent in 2016; 8.2 percent is of two or more races, on par with state (8.3) and national (10.7) percentages.
- **Utah County remains young.** With a median age of 25.5, the County is the youngest in the state; it is also the youngest in the nation, with 32.2 percent of its population being younger than 18 years.
- **Growth and related issues are the greatest concerns.** When asked what the most pressing issues facing Utah County are, growth in population was mentioned by nearly 80 percent of respondents to our telephone survey. Issues that are related to this growth, such as traffic congestion, air quality, and housing costs, round out the list of highest concerns.
- **Emotional wellbeing is at risk.** Depression, anxiety, and poor emotional and mental wellbeing are becoming even more prevalent among both adolescents and adults—but notably among younger adolescents. More students in grade 6 indicate more emotional wellbeing challenges than ever before.
- **Young children are falling behind in school, and more are not prepared for Kindergarten.** While children fell behind in educational achievement during and immediately after the COVID-19 pandemic, many have not recuperated in their test score benchmarks. Although graduation rates and other measures of secondary school success appear unaffected, the wave of children who are behind in literacy and numeracy may affect these rates down the road.

- **Neighborhood attachment is increasing among adults, but decreasing among adolescents.** While 42.8 percent of adults report they would miss their neighborhood if they had to move, and 44.6 percent say they like their neighborhood, the percentage of adolescents with low neighborhood attachment has increased to 30.7 percent. Students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 have seen increases in low neighborhood attachment since 2019, but grade 12 students have the highest percent (39.4).
- **Loneliness and social isolation are concerns to be addressed.** The percentage of adults who say they often feel that they lack companionship has increased slightly between 2024 and 2025, going from 27.7 percent to 29.4 percent. More than 51 percent say they sometimes feel left out, and 22.6 percent often feel this way. While 21.7 percent believe there are not plenty of people they can count on when they have problems, another 27.8 percent indicate it's difficult for them to determine whether this is the case—in other words, about half of the adult population don't readily believe they have people they can rely on.
- **The number of children living with single fathers is increasing.** The number of children living in single-parent homes has increased from 17,743 in 2019 to 20,958 in 2023—an increase of 18.1 percent. But the number of children living with single fathers has increased by 47.3 percent during the same period—from 4,347 to 6,402. Children living with single mothers has increased by 8.7 percent. Although the number of children with single fathers is relatively small, this increase is a major change in household types; if the trend continues, the number of children living with single fathers will exceed 11,000 by 2030.
- **There is a disconnect between public perception and reality on key human service issues.** Although the issues of population growth and housing costs are at the top of residents' minds, there are some key issues that are not receiving the degree of public discussion they should. For example, depression was mentioned by only 1.0 percent of adults when asked what the most pressing issues in Utah County are; only 0.4 percent said anxiety.

- And in the rating of community issues, “depression and anxiety” were rated as significant by only 5.8 percent of respondents—down from 19.4 percent in 2022. Yet about one in four adult residents have been diagnosed with a depressive disorder. Similar disparities in perception and data are found in education, suicide, neighborhood attachment, and domestic violence.
- **Informal caring systems must be significantly reinforced, deepened, and increased.** Improved neighborhood attachment, along with decreased loneliness and social isolation, will result in more powerful personal and family resiliency, increased public safety, greater trust, enhanced health outcomes, and magnified social capital.
- **Formal caring systems must be strengthened.** Rapid population growth and changing demographics are outpacing the human service system’s ability to meet demand. Not only does the system’s infrastructure need to be strengthened through increased volunteering and funding, but the systems themselves must improve the nature of their work—addressing root causes more in order to decrease the symptoms of human challenges.



## Foreword

The 2025 Utah County Community Assessment presents a comprehensive view of life in the County through the lens of human services. It not only presents extensive data from multiple sources—as our assessments always do—but it includes data from a survey of more than 1,400 adults in Utah County.

All secondary data presented in this assessment are from credible sources such as the U.S. Census Bureau, the Utah State Board of Education, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The latest available figures from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey are included. Our intention is to once again provide data to meet the needs of policy makers, grant-making entities, elected officials, grant writers, human service agencies, faith-based organizations, and others.

### *Definitions and Methods*

We use the U.S. Census Bureau’s definitions of *household, family, family group, family household, householder, own children, related children, college enrollment, citizenship, health insurance coverage, non-family household, marital status, nativity, race, and unmarried couple*.

A *household* consists of all people who live within the same structural housing unit. It could be a house, an apartment, a single room, or a group of rooms, as long as the intent is occupancy and the occupants do not live and eat with other persons in another unit.

A *family* is a group of two or more people (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together.

A *family group* is two or more people (not necessarily including a householder) residing together, and related by birth, marriage, or adoption.

A *family household* is a household maintained by a householder and includes any unrelated people who may be residing there. The number of family households is equal to the number of families.

A *householder* is the person in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented or, if there is no such person, any adult member, excluding roomer, boarder, or paid employees. If the house is

owned or rented jointly by a married couple, the householder may be either the husband or the wife.

*Own children* are sons and daughters, including stepchildren and adopted children, of the householder.

*Related children* include own children and all other children under 18 years old living in the household and related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

*College enrollment* can be full-time or part-time enrollment, day or evening, two-year or four-year, as long as classes taken would normally be given as credit toward a degree-seeking student.

*Citizenship* has five possible categories: born in the USA, born in Puerto Rico or other outlying area of the U.S., born abroad of U.S. citizen parents, naturalized citizens, or noncitizens.

*Health insurance coverage* is measured by asking the individual if, during the previous 12 months, he or she was covered by at least one of the following: employer or union insurance, privately purchased insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, military health care, or other health insurance.

A *non-family household* consists of a householder living alone or where the householder shares the home exclusively with people to whom he or she is not related.

*Marital status* includes four categories: never married, married, widowed, and divorced. It can be further divided into married, spouse present, separated, and other married, spouse absent.

*Nativity* is either native born (citizens at birth) or foreign born.

*Race* includes White; Black; American Indian, Eskimo or Aleut; Asian or Pacific Islander, and Other. Hispanic or Latino individuals are of an ethnicity that is a subset of any other race. For school data, Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander is listed as a separate ethnicity.

*Unmarried couples* are two unrelated adults of the opposite sex (one of whom is the householder) who share a housing unit with or without the presence of children under age 15.

*Unmarried couple households* consist of only two adults.

## Key Findings and Summary Analysis

Utah County is changing. Although many of its core characteristics and values remain—such as its young population, large and strong families, healthy and highly educated citizenry (and workforce), robust economy, and low crime—others are being threatened. Emotional wellbeing of children, youth, and adults; Kindergarten readiness; neighborhood attachment; loneliness and social isolation; and growth-related issues such as high housing costs—all have an impact on the County's short- and long-term future.

Utah County's growth is seen throughout the County. Public infrastructure systems are being updated and improved, traffic congestion mitigation efforts are being implemented, new home construction and other housing costs are being addressed, a new high school is being built, and adjustments are being made in government and nonprofit services to meet increasing demand. Businesses expand, multi-family housing units are built, and residents modify their daily and weekly routines to meet changes.

Yet there are elements of Utah County that are struggling and not always seen. Emotional wellbeing is being threatened, personal and family resiliency is at risk, changes in family structures force adaptation at personal, family, and community levels, and some people feel a disconnect from their neighbors and neighborhoods, family members and friends.

The 2025 Utah County Community Assessment identifies some of the key issues to be addressed in the human service infrastructure. It provides stakeholders, policymakers, service providers, and interested parties from all parts of our community with data and analysis to inform and strategize for the ongoing changes we are experiencing. Here are the key findings and analysis from this assessment.

## Utah County Continues to Become More Diverse

In the 2022 Utah County Community Assessment, we pointed out that latest figures showed more than 68,000 persons of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity were living in the County. Since then, the number has grown to nearly 95,000. Between 2022 and 2023 alone, more than 10,500 Hispanic or Latino persons were added to Utah County’s rolls. From 2010 to 2023, the Hispanic or Latino population has increased by 91.3 percent. In 2010, 9.7 percent of all persons age 5 or older spoke Spanish at home; by 2023, that figure had increased to 11.3. When looking at the raw number of Spanish speaking residents, the change is even more apparent: in 2010, the County had 44,645 persons who speak Spanish at home; in 2023, that number is 70,847—an increase of 58.7 percent.

Using a linear regression model, the number of Utah County persons who are of Hispanic or Latino descent could reach about 118,726—or 15.2 percent of the population—in 2028.

In addition, the number and percent of persons who are of two or more races has increased significantly. In 2010, Utah County’s White-only population was 91.0 percent of all residents; by 2023, that figure has decreased to 86.3 percent.

In 2010, persons of two or more races made up 2.3 percent of the County; in 2023, the figure is 8.7.

Utah County’s increase in persons of two or more races follows national (10.7) and state (8.3) trends.

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### Persons of Hispanic or Latino

#### Descent, Utah County, 2010 – 2023

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	Number	Percent
2010	49,522	10.2
2011	52,929	10.5
2012	55,498	10.7
2013	57,464	10.9
2014	59,376	11.0
2015	61,287	11.1
2016	62,919	11.2
2017	65,539	11.4
2018	68,285	11.6
2019	71,315	11.8
2020	74,069	11.9
2021	79,058	12.2
2022	83,047	12.5
2023	94,727	13.9

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## Utah County Remains Young

The County’s population remains young—especially when compared with other counties (with populations greater than 100,000). The median age is 25.5, and nearly a third—32.3 percent—of its residents are younger than 18 years.

The County’s median age has increased by one 1.2 years since 2010, compared to the state’s increase of 2.9 years and the nation’s 1.7 years. Of course, the median age nationally is much older—38.7 years—and the state’s (31.7 years) is between the two. The increase in median age for Utah County’s population is significantly slower than both the state’s and the nation’s, with statistical significance confirmed by t-tests ( $p < 0.05$ ). The community with the youngest median age in Utah is Lake Shore (18.8) followed by Eagle Mountain (22.1) and Saratoga Springs (23.3) The oldest is Sundance (59.5) followed by Hobbles Creek (53.3) and Palmyra (47.4).

Youngest Counties in U.S.			
	Population	Number Under 18	Percent Under 18
Utah County, Utah	683,622	219,931	32.2
Hidalgo County, Texas	880,921	276,639	31.4
Tulare County, California	475,774	143,115	30.1
Kern County, California	910,433	262,550	28.8
Fresno County, California	1,012,152	283,823	28
Fort Bend County, Texas	859,721	231,703	27
Stanislaus County, California	552,250	148,315	26.9
Prince William County, Virginia	484,625	129,111	26.6
San Joaquin County, California	787,416	208,930	26.5
El Paso County, Texas	866,275	228,795	26.4

When comparing Utah County’s young population against those of other counties, Cache County often trails by only a slight margin. While Utah County’s median age is 25.5, Cache County’s is 25.9.

Utah County has the largest percentage of minors (32.2) of any county in the country (for counties of 100,000 persons or more). Hidalgo County, Texas has 31.4 percent of its population under 18 years.

## Growth and Related Issues are of Greatest Concerns

Our telephone survey of more than 1,400 adults in Utah County asked respondents to identify up to five “most pressing issues or problems facing residents” of the County. More respondents indicated population growth (88.4 percent) than ever before. Related issues of traffic and traffic congestion, housing costs or rental rates, and air quality or air pollution were the next most frequent responses. The significance of the response to this top-of-mind issue—growth in general—cannot be overstated. The 2022 assessment found 71 percent of interviewees mentioning this issue. Clearly, growth is the number one concern on residents’ minds.

Traffic and congestion were mentioned more frequently by residents age 45 or older, with 92.3 percent of these residents naming it (the most of any response in this age group). The older group’s concern about population growth is clear, as 91.1 percent mention it. That’s not to say younger residents don’t share the concern; 87.5 percent of those age 18 to 44 mention population growth.

Three Most Pressing Issues by Age Group			
< 45 Years		45+ Years	
Issue	Percent	Issue	Percent
Growth in population (general)	87.5	Traffic/congestion	92.3
Housing costs/rental rates	78.7	Growth in population (general)	91.1
Traffic/congestion	76.9	Housing costs/rental rates	33.4

In addition to the open-ended inquiry about most pressing issues or problems, we also tested 15 possible community concerns to measure the public’s sentiment. Respondents were asked to rate these issues on a five-point scale, where one means “not at all a problem” and five represents “a significant problem.” The twin issues of population growth and housing costs received the highest median scores at 4.7 and 4.3, respectively. To put this in perspective, issues such as depression or anxiety (2.7), jobs or the economy (2.7) suicide (2.5) and even education (1.8) scored much lower.

## Emotional Wellbeing is at Risk

About one out of four adults in Utah County have been diagnosed with depressive disorder, and 24 percent say their own mental health is “poor” or “fair.” More than half report that someone in

their household has been diagnosed with a mental health condition. The Utah Department of Health and Human Services reports that 21.6 of Utah County survey respondents say their mental health has been “not good” for seven or more of the past 30 days.

Higher numbers of women in Utah County have reported being diagnosed with a depressive disorder. In 2023, 18.7 percent of Utah County men reported being so diagnosed, while 29.8 percent of women have. This disparity has ranged from 7.8 percent in 2014 to 15.9 percent in 2020.

Challenging emotional wellbeing is not limited to adults. In Utah County, 30.3 percent of adolescents responding to the

biennial Student Health and Risk Prevention (SHARP) survey in 2023 reported they had felt so sad or

hopeless almost every day for two

weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities. Sadly, 35.3 percent of grade 12 students, and 23.4 percent of grade 6 students, reported this effect in their lives. Nearly 20 percent say that in the past seven days they have “always” or “often” felt left out or felt isolated from others; 20.2 percent say that they have felt people barely know them during the same seven-day period. The SHARP study concludes that in Utah County, 9.3 percent of all adolescents have high depressive symptoms, and 22.4 percent have no depressive symptoms.

Students Reporting “Always” or “Often” Felt in Past Seven Days				
	2019	2021	2023	
Felt left out	16.0	19.0	19.3	
Felt that people barely know me	14.6	20.4	20.2	
Felt isolated from others	13.9	20.4	19.8	
Felt that people are around me but not with me	18.3	23.9	24.5	

### **Young Children Are Falling Behind in School, and More Are Not Prepared for Kindergarten**

Since 2019, the percentage of young children who are below reading benchmarks has fluctuated. For Kindergarteners, the end-of-year assessments show that between 24.8 and 32.9 percent of these children are not at the point they should be at. And for grade 1 students, the numbers are even worse: anywhere from 31.6 to 40.1 percent of these children are not able to read as expected.

Similar rates are found among grade 2 and grade 3 students, where 22 percent to 32 percent of children are not meeting these basic benchmarks. Children who enter Kindergarten must be better prepared to learn through increased and improved parental and other caretaker interactions and regular engagement.

Percent Students Below Reading Benchmark, Kindergarten and Grade 1		
	Kindergarten	Grade 1
2019	28.3	31.7
2020	31.0	31.6
2021	32.9	40.1
2022	31.7	34.5
2023	24.8	35.4

In addition, Utah County is experiencing an increase in the number and percentage of students who are learning

English. In school year 2024-2025, the County had 10,185 such students; this number has been climbing for many years. Children who are trying to learn English in addition to the regular academic subjects will have more difficulty mastering the skills and knowledge necessary for school success and productive adulthoods.

**Neighborhood Attachment is Increasing Among Adults, But Decreasing Among Adolescents**

Although more than four out of 10 adults report that they would miss their neighborhood if the were required to move, there are other indicators that adult neighborhood attachments isn't always strong. For example, in response the statement, "I'd like to get out of my neighborhood," 16.8 percent say the definitely disagree—up from 12.8 percent in 2022.

However, a more immediate concern is the neighborhood attachment of adolescents. The SHARP study reports that 30.7 percent of students in Utah County have low neighborhood attachment; grade 12 students are most likely to experience low neighborhood attachment, at 39.4 percent.

**Loneliness and Social Isolation are Concerns to be Addressed**

The 2023 U.S. Surgeon General's report on loneliness and isolation shows that these conditions result in myriad challenges in life—most urgent, perhaps, is health. People who are lonely or are socially isolated (or both) are more at risk of hypertension and heart disease, have a higher likelihood of experiencing depression and anxiety, have compromised immune systems, have a greater risk of stroke, can experience cognitive decline earlier and more rapidly, are more likely to

be obese (due to disrupted behavior patterns), and—most surprisingly to many—have a reduced life expectancy that is comparable to smoking more than 15 cigarettes a day.

Utah County residents are not immune from loneliness and social isolation. In 2025, telephone survey respondents reported not having enough people one feel’s close to, feeling rejected, not having plenty of people to rely on, and experiencing a general sense of emptiness. The causes for social isolation and loneliness are not always known, but the cure is: more meaningful interactions with others, more relationships built on trust and caring, more interaction with neighbors, friends, and social networks, and engagement in meaningful volunteering.

Loneliness and Social Isolation			
	Yes	No	Difficult to say
There are many people I can trust completely	58.1	22.8	19.1
I miss having people around me	59.8	25.3	14.9
I often feel rejected	28.5	44.2	27.3

### The Number of Children Living with Single Fathers Is Increasing

Single-parent families with young children are more likely to be living in long-term financial difficulties than any other family type. Utah County has a lower ratio of this family makeup than state or national figures. Still, there are more than 20,000 children growing up with a single parent. For decades, the ratio of Utah County children living with a single mother has been around 7 percent; about 2 percent live with a single father. However, the single-father ratio has been increasing since 2020; in 2023, it is 3.3 percent of all children. If current trends and population projections hold true, by 2030 about 4.9

Projection: Children with Single Parent, 2025-2030				
	Total Children	Living with Single Fathers	Living with Single Mothers	Total with Single Parent
2024	225,581	7,668	16,185	23,853
2025	227,264	8,305	16,344	24,649
2026	228,716	8,943	16,486	25,429
2027	230,025	9,578	16,624	26,202
2028	231,144	10,203	16,749	26,952
2029	232,250	10,816	16,873	27,689
2030	233,987	11,442	17,030	28,472

percent of all children in Utah County—roughly 11,442—will be living with single fathers, and just over 17,000 children (7.3 percent) will be living with single mothers. Human service systems generally

have not provided programming to address the unique issues single fathers face. Community leaders would do well to begin working now on this emerging issue.

- **There Is a Disconnect between Public Perception and Reality on Key Human Service Issues**

Although this year’s telephone survey showed significant concern among residents about growth and related issues of traffic, air quality, and housing costs, there are two observations that reveal a disconnect between the public and other key human service issues. First, some of the most difficult issues are not in the public discourse; second, the sentiment toward some of these difficult issues demonstrates a lack of awareness and knowledge.

Standard elements of our telephone survey are two top-of-mind questions: “What are the best things about living in Utah County?” and “What are the most pressing issues or problems facing residents of Utah County?” Although the issues of population growth and housing costs are at the top of residents’ minds, domestic violence, (1.9 percent), education (1.9 percent) depression (1.0 percent) and anxiety (0.4 percent) are mentioned by fewer than two percent of the respondents. In addition, there are several issues of significance in the human service world that not a single respondent identified—among these are food or hunger, poverty, autism, children with disabilities, early childhood education or school readiness, sexual assault, and domestic violence.

When asked specifically about some of these issues, respondents often underestimated the degree of the problem in Utah County. For example, respondents rated both “depression or anxiety”

Disconnect: Emotional and Mental Wellbeing				
	Top of Mind: Percentage Mentioning	Sentiment Mean (1-5)	Adults with Depressive Disorder	Adolescents with High Depressive Symptoms
and “mental health in general”				
a mean score of 2.8 on a significance scale of 1 to 5 (to put this in perspective,	Depression/anxiety	1.0	25.7	9.3
	Mental health (general)	13.1	2.8	

“growth in population” was rated 4.7 and “housing costs” rated 4.3). Yet more than one in four adults in the County has been diagnosed with a depressive disorder, and nearly 10 percent of adolescents demonstrate high depressive symptoms.

Another example is education. Interestingly, only 1.9 percent of respondents to the open-ended, top-of-mind item about most pressing issues or problems mentioned education; when asked to rate this issue on a scale of 1 to 5, the mean score was also 1.9. Yet 24.8 percent of

Disconnect: Education				
			Percent Below Reading Benchmark	
Top of Mind:				
Percentage Mentioning	Sentiment Mean (1-5)	Kindergarten	Grade 1	
Education	1.9	24.8	35.4	

Kindergarteners, and 35.4 percent of grade 1 students, are below reading benchmarks.

Similar disparities are found in other human service issues as well.

### **Informal Caring Systems Must be Reinforced, Deepened, and Increased**

Informal caring systems—that is, the many ways individuals and families support each other through their own actions—play a vital role in building social capital: the network of relationships that enriches life and enables individuals to function harmoniously with reduced conflict in neighborhoods and communities. Areas with high social capital experience many benefits. For example, a neighborhood with high social capital experiences increased safety because of community trust and vigilance—such as neighbors watching each other’s homes when they are away. Such neighborhoods also see improvements in health; an example may be that friends check in on elderly individuals living alone. And youth become stronger and more resilient as their emotional intelligence is boosted through interactions with caring adults who know their names.

These informal acts of helping others build a sense of connection that strengthens social fabric, making it easier to address individual, neighborhood, and community challenges in Utah County. In developing strategies to improve informal caring systems, the key component is the grassroots, self-driven aspect of informal caring.

Neighborhood attachment—the emotional connection people feel toward the social and physical aspects of their neighborhoods—is tied directly to informal caring systems. The need for increased neighborhood attachment has been discussed above.

To maintain and improve health, education, public safety, and other quality-of-life elements that make Utah County attractive for individuals and families, it is essential to encourage more

adolescents and adults to engage in these personal interactions with others, building overall community wellbeing

### **Formal Caring Systems Must be Strengthened**

Utah County, with a population that surged from approximately 516,564 in 2010 to 707,917 by 2023, is home to a healthy network of long-standing and newer human service providers, yet the County's rapid growth—averaging about 2.5% annually—has increasingly strained these providers' capacity to serve the community effectively. Over the decades, the human service system has demonstrated adaptability by responding to evolving needs. Of note are the establishment of Community Action Services and Food Bank in the 1960s to foster self-sufficiency amid the county's early population boom, the creation of the Volunteer Center in the 1970s to mobilize and organize community members to help others, the initiation of domestic violence services in the 1980s, the development of housing solutions and homelessness initiatives during the same period, and the expansion of child abuse and neglect services in the 1990s. More recently, as the County's population growth accelerated—driven by cities like Lehi (up 10.5 percent from 2020 to 2023), Vineyard (now at more than 13,000 residents), Saratoga Springs, Eagle Mountain, and others—new efforts have emerged, including additional food pantry programs, expanded United Way Community Centers, and resiliency-building programs tailored to support the county's diverse and expanding individuals and families.

However, with the County's population nearly doubling since 2000, human service needs are rising proportionally—and in some service areas, rising disproportionately. This requires the existing human service infrastructure to not only expand its capacity but also streamline services, improve operational efficiencies, coordinate intake and delivery, and align strategically with other providers and government agencies to address the growing demand. While many partnerships and improvements have been made, more can be accomplished.

## 1. The Place

### 1.1. A Brief History

Utah County was home to Native American peoples for perhaps thousands of years prior to the first permanent white settlers arriving in the 1840s. The area was officially settled in 1849 when Brigham Young sent Latter-day Saint pioneers to establish communities in the valley. In 1850, the area formerly known as “Utah Valley” was designated “Utah County” by the territorial legislature, and Provo was established as the county seat.

In 1857 and 1858, several hundred settlers arrived after abandoning Salt Lake City for fear of U.S. troops sent to quell a rumored “Mormon Rebellion.” Following this exodus, the Provo and Utah County areas continued to grow, primarily because of agricultural and ranching opportunities.

As rail lines, electricity, and other vital infrastructure improvements began to take hold, the area attracted more residents. Once Brigham Young Academy opened in 1875, education eventually became a primary product of the area, and today Provo is known as the home of Brigham Young University. Orem is home to the ever-growing Utah Valley University, which is now the largest university in the state in terms of full-time students.

Today, Utah County has more than 700,000 residents.

### 1.2. Land Area

Utah County is in north central Utah and includes a diversity of terrain: mountains, valleys, rivers, streams, and lakes. It encompasses nearly 2,000 square miles of land area. Utah Lake stretches about 24 miles from north to south and 13 miles from east to west, comprising about 95,000 acres. It holds about 870 acre feet of water.

### 1.3. Parks and Recreation

Utah County is home to one national monument, three state parks, three scenic drives, countless city parks, 14 golf courses, a ski resort, and several camping and fishing sites. In addition, parts of four national forests are found in Utah County.

Timpanogos Cave National Monument is located on State Highway 92 in American Fork Canyon. Open from mid-May to mid-October, depending on weather, the cave has numerous unique formations including draperies, popcorn, and flowstone, in addition to the more common stalactites and stalagmites. Park rangers guide visitors through the cave for narrated tours.

Deer Creek State Park is home to Deer Creek Reservoir and boasts camping, fishing, hiking, boating, and other day-trip opportunities. Utah Lake State Park includes boating, camping, and picnicking sites, while Camp Floyd/Stagecoach Inn State Park and Museum provides several educational opportunities.

Scenic drives include the Alpine Loop, which runs from American Fork Canyon to Provo Canyon; Nebo Loop, which goes from Payson to Nephi; and Provo Canyon Scenic Byway, which runs from Provo/Orem to Heber.

Parts of Manti-La Sal National Forest and Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest are within Utah County.

Golf courses are found throughout Utah County, from Lehi's Thanksgiving Point Golf Course in the north to Payson's Gladstan Golf Course in the south:

**Table 1: Golf Courses in Utah County**

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Golf Courses in Utah County	
Alpine Country Club	Highland
Cedar Hills Golf Course	Cedar Hills
Timpanogos Golf Club	Provo
Fox Hollow Golf Club	American Fork
Gladstan Golf Course	Payson
Hobble Creek Golf Course	Springville
Riverside Country Club	Provo
Sleepy Ridge	Orem
Talons Cove	Saratoga Springs
Thanksgiving Point Golf Course	Lehi
The Oaks at Spanish Fork	Spanish Fork
The Ranches Golf Club	Eagle Mountain
East Bay Golf Course	Provo
Canyon Hills Golf Course	Provo

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The Provo River is a world-renowned fly-fishing venue. American Fork River, Hobble Creek, Payson Creek, and Thistle Creek are ideal trout-fishing sites. Deer Creek Reservoir is another popular fishing site, while Utah Lake is known for catfish, walleye, and white bass.

Sundance Resort offers recreational opportunities as well as business, wedding, or other event facilities. Skiing and snowboarding in winter months are supplemented by fine and casual dining, shopping, lodging, and camping. The Sundance Summer Theater, hiking, and other outdoor activities are available during warmer months.

#### **1.4. Culture**

Utah County has many art galleries, performing arts venues, and museums, including publicly funded facilities, private nonprofit organizations, and university-related sites. Thanks to Brigham Young University and Utah Valley University, the diversity of learning opportunities is strong.

According to the Utah Valley Visitors' and Convention Bureau, there are 33 museums in Utah County.

**Table 2: Museums in Utah County**

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Museums in Utah County	
BYU B.F. Larsen Gallery	Provo
BYU Family History Library	Provo
BYU Harold B. Lee Library	Provo
BYU Legacy Hall Provo	Provo
BYU Monte L. Bean Life Science Museum Provo	Provo
BYU Museum of Art Provo	Provo
BYU Museum of Paleontology Provo	Provo
BYU's Museum of Peoples and Cultures Provo	Provo
Cabela's	Lehi
Camp Floyd/Stagecoach Inn State Park and Museum	Fairfield
Chieftain Museum	Santaquin
Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum	American Fork
Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum	Highland
Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum	Payson
Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum	Pleasant Grove
Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum	Provo
Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum	Spanish Fork
Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum	Springville
Historic County Courthouse	Provo
Historic Pioneer Relic Hall	Alpine
Historic Provo Buildings Walking Tour	Provo
Mapleton Heritage Museum	Mapleton
Museum of Ancient Life	Lehi
Museum of Natural Curiosity	Lehi
Orem Heritage Museum	Orem
Pedal Provo	Provo
Peteetneet Museum and Cultural Arts Center	Payson
Petroliana Museum	Provo
Provo Pioneer Village	Provo
Roots of Knowledge	Orem
Springville Museum of Art	Springville
The Hutchings Museum	Lehi
The Museum of Mormon Mexican History	Provo

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Galleries are also abundant in Utah County. In addition to the art exhibits found in various building on the campuses of Brigham Young University and Utah Valley University, the following galleries host tens of thousands of visitors each year:

**Table 3: Art Galleries in Utah County**

Art Galleries in Utah County	
Alpine Art Center	Alpine
Woodbury Art Museum	Orem
Brownstone Gallery	Provo
Covey Center for the Arts	Provo
Museum of Art at Brigham Young University	Provo
Terra Nova Gallery	Provo
Utah County Art Gallery	Provo
Springville Museum of Art	Springville

Performing arts are alive and well in Utah County, with sixteen community, university, or other organization performing groups to entertain. Performing arts venues include Hale Center Theater in Orem, SCERA Center for the Arts in Orem, Sundance Outdoor Theater in Sundance, and Utah Valley Symphony, among others—including many at Brigham Young University and Utah Valley University.

**Table 4: Performing Arts in Utah County**

Performing Arts in Utah County	
Alpine Community Theater	American Fork
Angelus Theatre	Spanish Fork
BYU Performing Arts	Provo
Comedy Sportz	Provo
Dry Bar Comedy	Provo
Hale Center Theater	Orem
Heart & Seoul Karaoke	Provo
Payson Community Theater	Payson
SCERA	Orem
ShadowLight Events	Pleasant Grove
Sundance Summer Theatre	Sundance
The Covey Center for the Arts	Provo
The Hive Collaborative	Provo
Utah Valley Symphony	Provo
Utah Valley University Performing Arts	Orem
Velour Live Music	Provo

## 1.5. Recognitions

Utah County has received numerous recognitions, including the following.

**Table 5: Recognitions of Utah County and Its Cities**

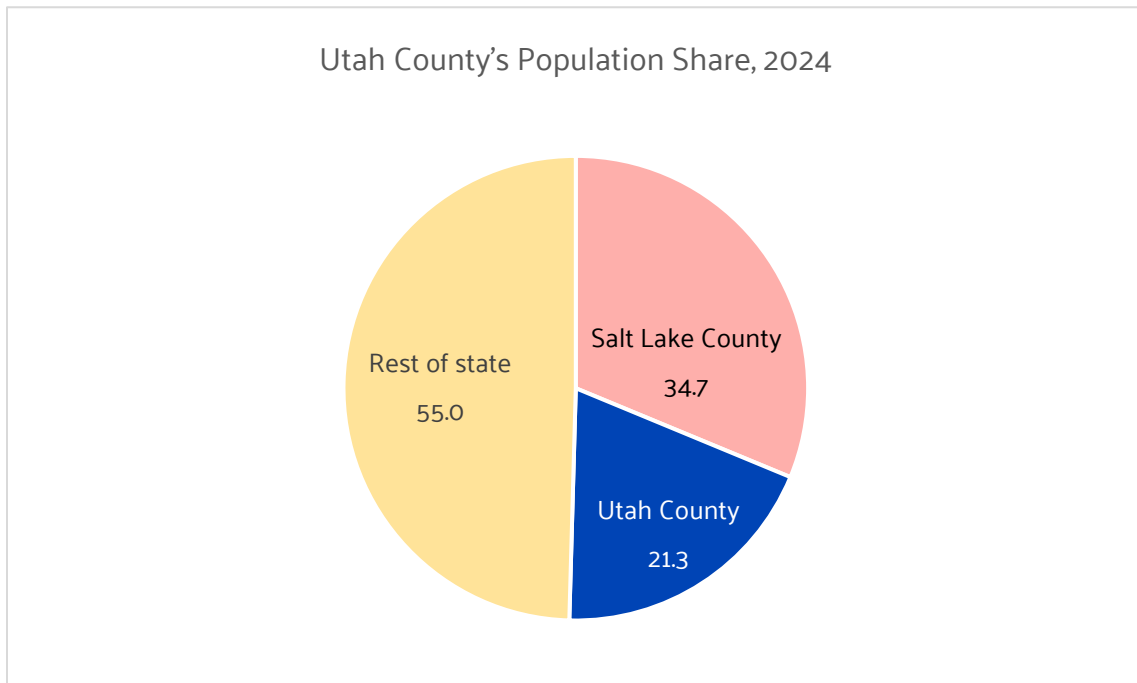
Recognitions of Utah County and Its Cities		
Recognition	Institution Awarding	Recipient
#1 Boomtown in America (2023)	Checkr	Provo
#1 City for Worker Satisfaction (2023)	Glassdoor	Provo
#1 in Utah Overall Quality of Life (2022)	AreaVibes	Orem
#3 Best City for Allergies (2023)	RentCafe	Provo
#3 City with the Best Water (2023)	WaterFilterGuru	Provo
#5 Best-Run City (2023)	WalletHub	Provo
Best College (2025)	WSJ/College Pulse	Brigham Young University (Provo)
Best Performing City (2023)	Milken Institute	Provo-Orem (Utah County)
Sporting Grounds of the Year (2023)	Intermountain Chapter of Sports Field Manager Association	Orem Parks and Recreation
Top City for Millennials (2023)	Livability	Provo
Top-100 U.S. Colleges (No. 36, 2025)	Forbes	Brigham Young University (Provo)

## 2. The People

### 2.1 Overview

#### 2.1.1 Population and Age

Utah County's population continues to swell, with the U.S. Census Bureau estimating its 2024 population at 747,234. Since 2000, when the population was 371,811, the population has grown by 101.0 percent; from 2020, it grew by 20.2 percent. One in five Utahns live in Utah County.<sup>1</sup>



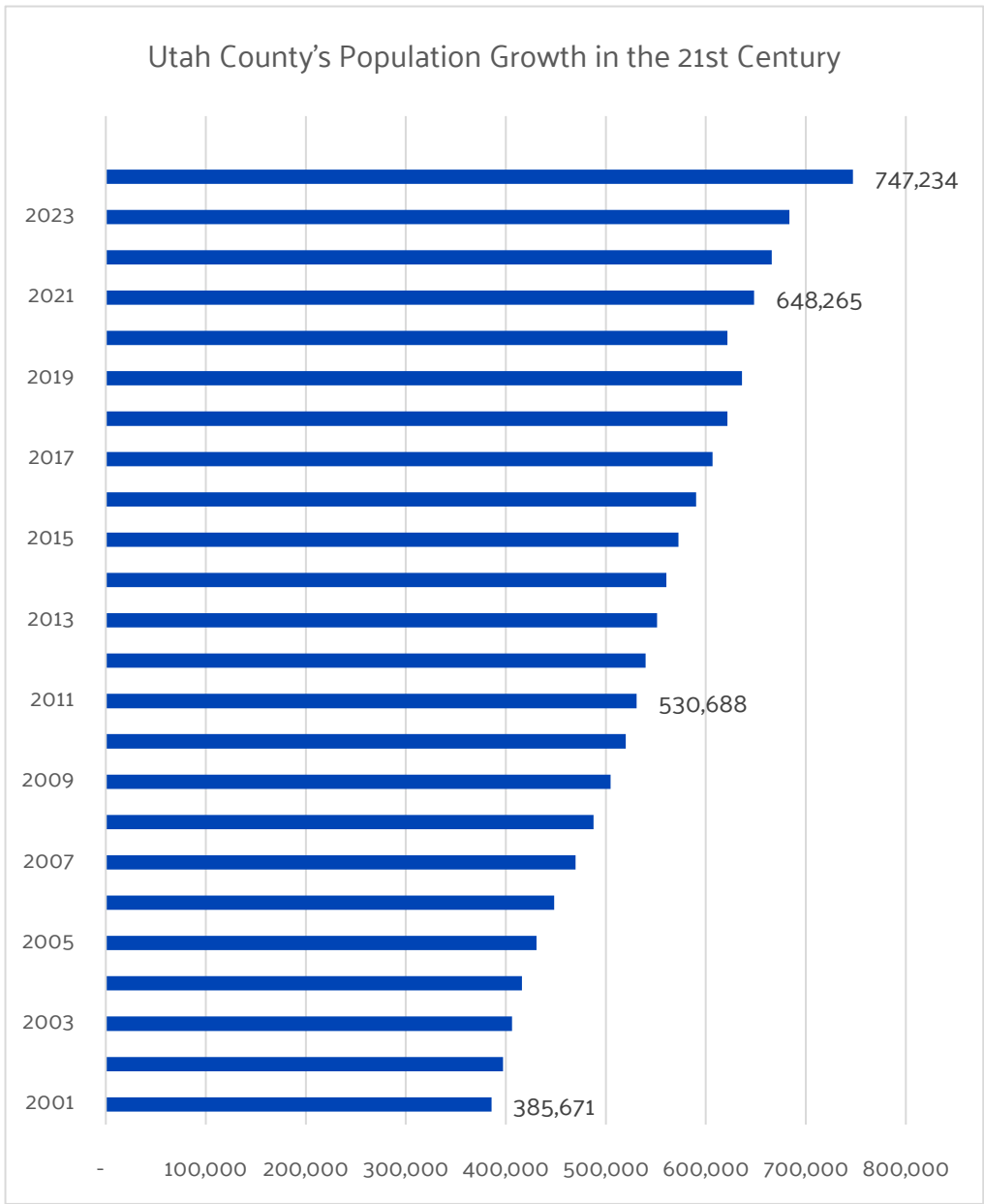
**Figure 1: Utah County's Population Share, 2024**

Utah County's population growth continues to be a topic of significant public concern. In an unaided, open-ended question in the 2025 United Way Community Assessment telephone survey, 88.4 percent of County residents mentioned population growth as one of the worst things about living in Utah County. When asked to rate growth on a sentiment scale, 70.3 percent said it is of

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Total Population." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B01003, 2023 and related years; U.S. Census Bureau, "Population Estimates." 2024.

very significant concern or significant concern.<sup>2</sup> Growth is a matter being dealt with at all levels of



government in Utah. At the fourth annual Growth and Prosperity Summit in November 2024, experts from the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute shared that the County's population is expected to grow by 64,000 by 2033.<sup>3</sup>

**Figure 2: Utah County's Population Growth in the 21st Century**

<sup>2</sup> United Way of Utah County Telephone Survey of 1,410 adult residents, conducted March 2025. Hereafter, this source is cited as "Telephone Survey."

<sup>3</sup> Curtis Booker, "Annual Summit Highlights Economic Successes and Challenges in Utah County" (Salt Lake City, November 2024), <https://www.heraldextra.com/news/local/2024/nov/08/annual-summit-highlights-economic-successes-and-challenges-in-utah-county/>.

Utah County's growth from 2010 to 2023 has been an astounding 40.6 percent—outpaced only by the less-populated areas of Wasatch County (61.5 percent) and Washington County (41.6 percent). Utah County added more residents than any county in the state, at 197,555, exceeding Salt Lake County's 184,534 additional residents.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS Table B01003

### Percent Growth, 2010 to 2023, Counties and State

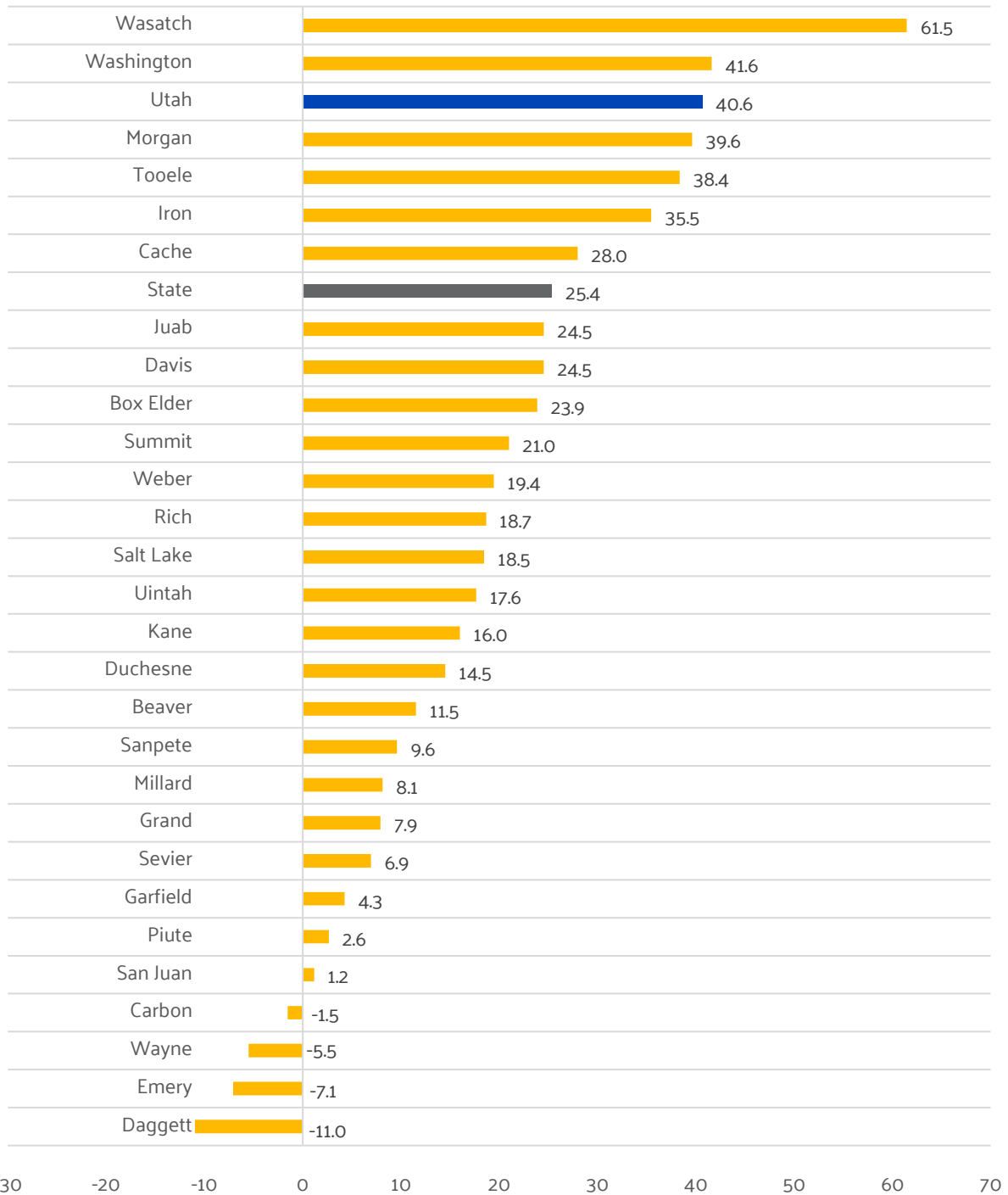


Figure 3: Percent Growth, 2010 to 2023, Counties and State

Utah County remains the youngest in the state, with a median age of 25.5 years.

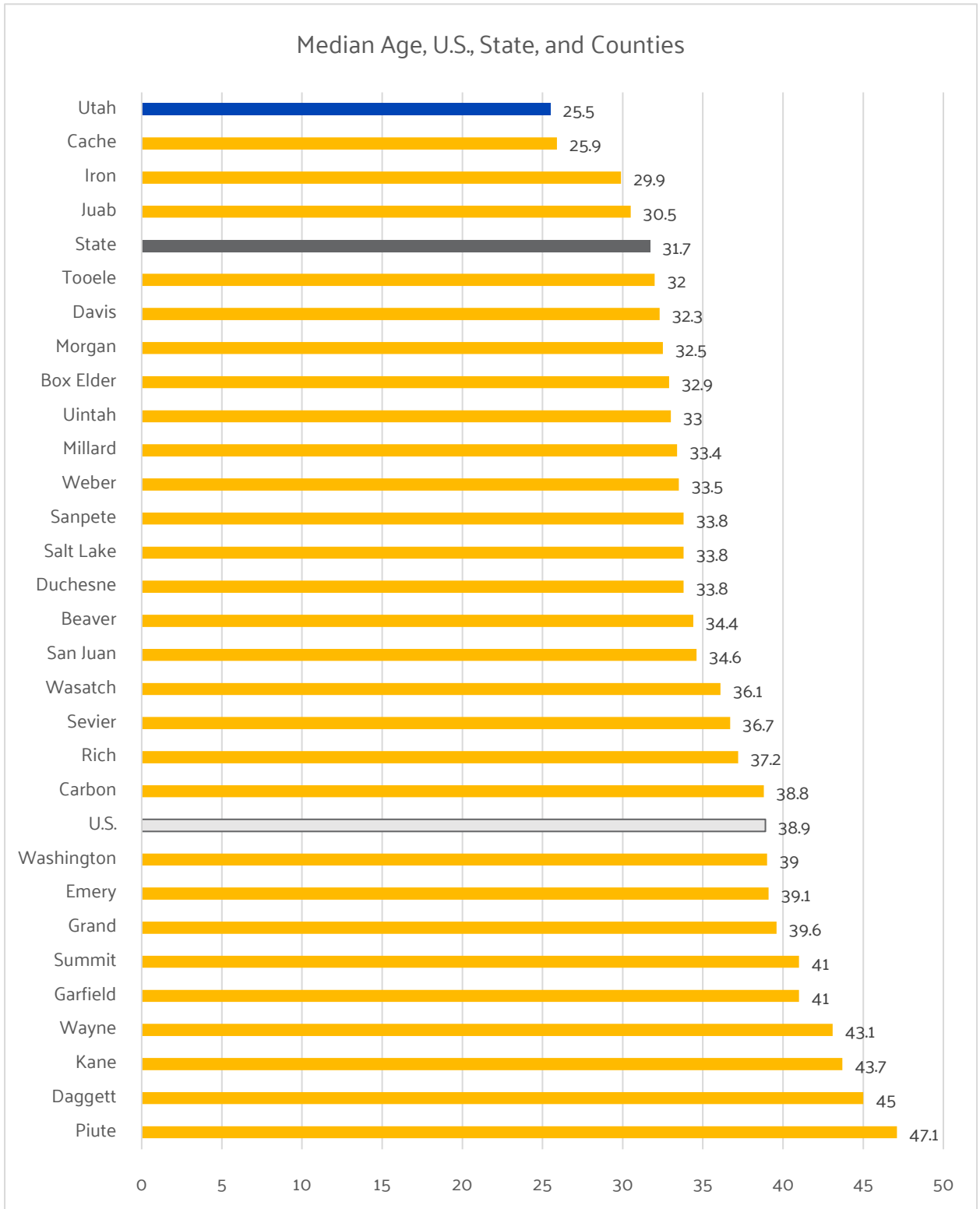


Figure 4: Median Age, U.S., State, and Counties

The County’s population is not only the youngest in the state, but it is also the youngest in the nation (counties with more than 100,000 population). The County’s median age of 25.5 remains slightly ahead of Cache County’s 25.9. Nationally, the median age is 38.7.<sup>5</sup>

Utah County continues to have the largest percentage of children of any county in the nation (with at least 100,000 population), at 32.2 percent.<sup>6</sup>

**Table 6: Youngest Counties in U.S.**

Youngest Counties in U.S.			
Utah County, Utah	683,622	219,931	32.2
Hidalgo County, Texas	880,921	276,639	31.4
Tulare County, California	475,774	143,115	30.1
Kern County, California	910,433	262,550	28.8
Fresno County, California	1,012,152	283,823	28.0
Fort Bend County, Texas	859,721	231,703	27.0
Stanislaus County, California	552,250	148,315	26.9
Prince William County, Virginia	484,625	129,111	26.6
San Joaquin County, California	787,416	208,930	26.5
El Paso County, Texas	866,275	228,795	26.4

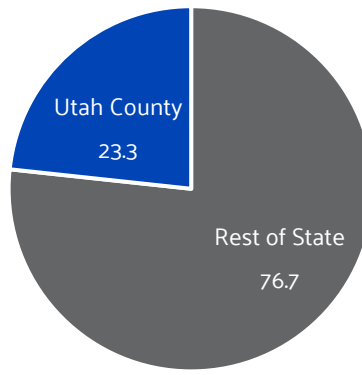
The County’s minor population, at 219,931, is 23.3 percent of all minors in the state.<sup>7</sup> Lest some may believe this percentage is due to the high number of college students in Utah County, consider this: the County is home to 24.0 percent of all persons under 10 years old, and 24.9 percent of children under 5 years old, statewide.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, Table B01002

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, Table S0101

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Census Bureau ACS, Table B01001

## Percent Persons Under 18 Years, State, 2023



**Figure 5: Percent Persons Under 18 Years, State, 2023**

Lake Shore is the youngest of all places in Utah County, with a median age of 18.8. Of the incorporated communities, Eagle Mountain continues to be the youngest, with a median age of 22.1—up from 19.0 in the last assessment. Saratoga Springs (23.3), Provo (23.7), and Vineyard (24.8) round out the youngest five communities. Genola (25.2) and Cedar Hills (25.4) are the other communities younger than the County’s 25.5. The oldest place in Utah County is Sundance, at 59.5 years; the oldest incorporated community is Woodland Hills, at 40.9. Of note is that Woodland Hills, considered to be an older community, is only about two years older than the national median age (38.7)<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> U.S. Census Bureau ACS, Table B01003

### Median Age, U.S., State, County, and Places, 2023

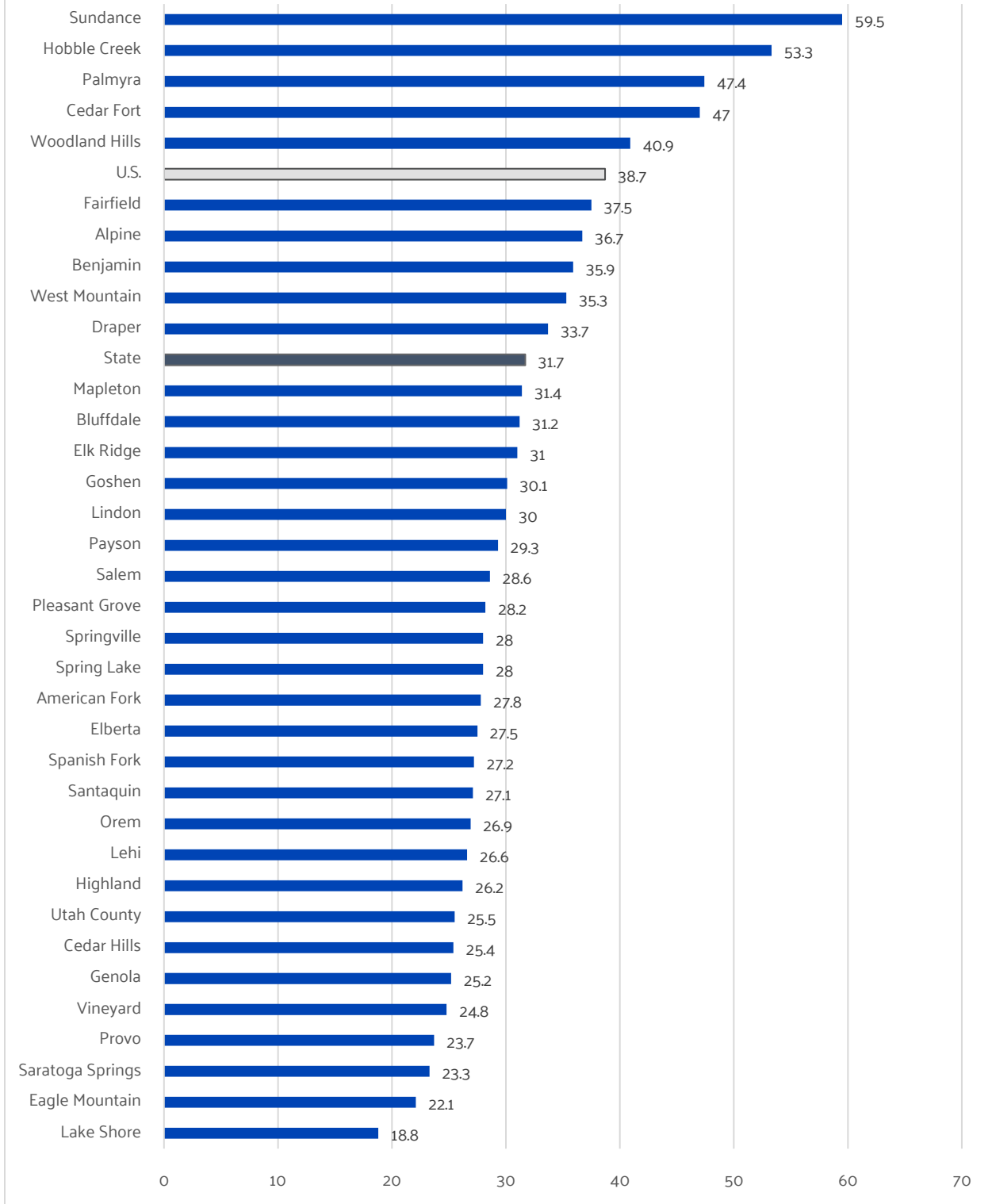


Figure 6: Media Age, U.S., State, County, and Places, 2023

Utah County’s population is expected to grow to 861,468 by 2030, and it will eclipse 900,000 just three years later.<sup>9</sup> The population is expected to continue to grow, reaching 1,000,000

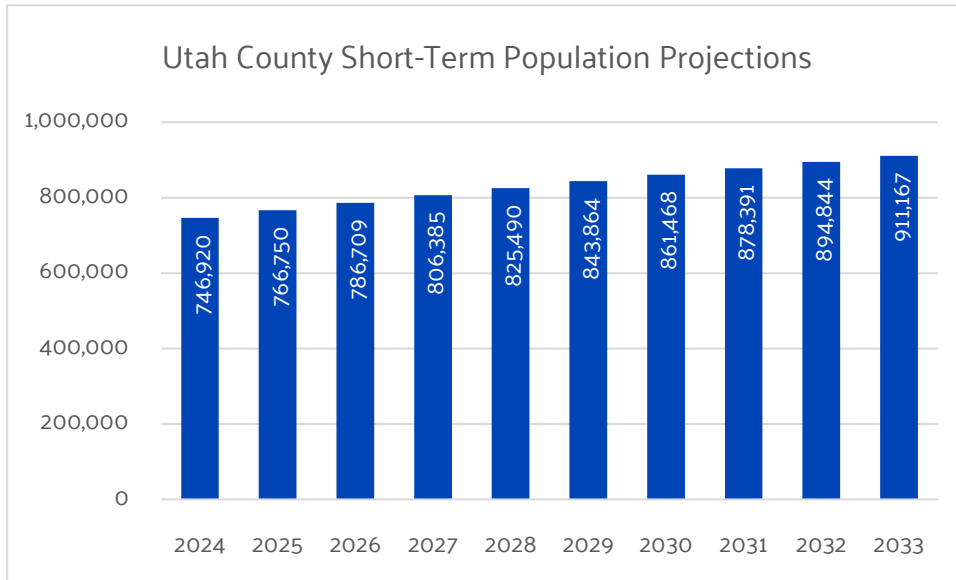


Figure 7: Utah County Short-Term Population Projections

sometime in 2039—only 15 years from now. The year-over-year rate of growth, which peaked at 2.9 percent in 2023, is projected to slow to 2.0 by 2030 and 1.7 by 2040. Demographers expect the rate will continue to slow, dropping to 1.3 by

2050.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Mike Hollingshaus et al, “Utah Long-Term Planning Projections: A Baseline Scenario of Population and Employment Change in Utah and Its Counties” (Salt Lake City, 2022).

<sup>10</sup> Thiriot, N. (2024, January 6). *State and County Projections Tableau - Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute*. Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute. <https://gardner.utah.edu/utah-demographics/population-projections/state-and-county-projections-tableau/>

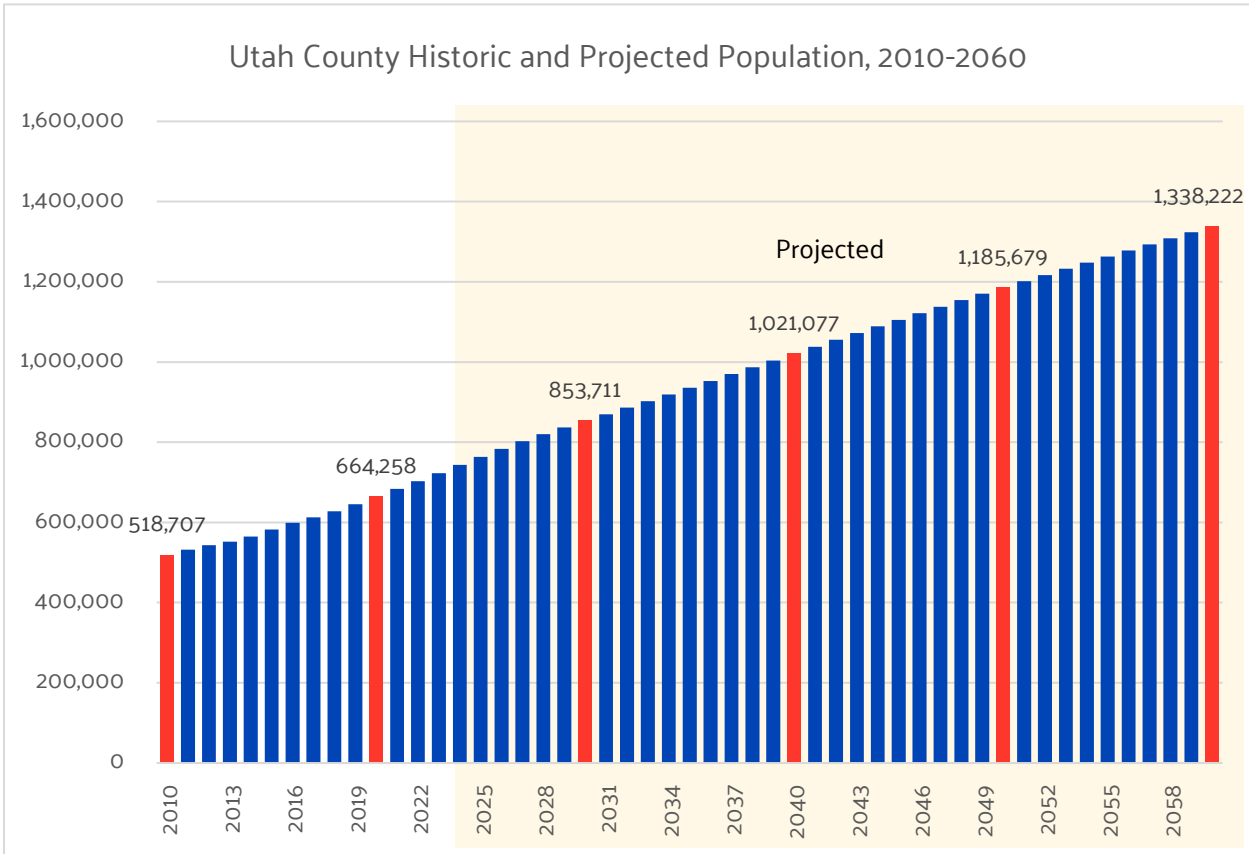


Figure 8: Utah County Historic and Projected Population, 2010-2060

**2.1.2 Race and Ethnicity**

Nearly 84 percent of Utah County’s population is White alone, compared to 80.7 percent of statewide residents. Since the 2022 assessment, the Hispanic population in Utah County has grown from about 11.9 percent to 13.9 percent of the population, reaching nearly 100,000 in the ACS five-year average for 2023.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2023 5-year averages, Table B03002

**Table 7: Race and Ethnicity, State vs. Utah County, 2023**

	<b>State</b>	<b>Utah County</b>
Hispanic or Latino (raw number)	513,013	94,727
Percent Hispanic or Latino	15.40	13.9
White alone (raw number)	2,688,129	572,479
Percent White alone	80.7	83.7
Black or African American alone	37,772	4,597
Percent Black or African American alone	1.1	0.7
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	33,869	3,757
Percent American Indian and Alaska Native alone	1.0	0.5
Asian alone	79,387	10,067
Percent Asian alone	2.4	1.5
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	31,483	5,544
Percent Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.9	0.8
Some other race alone	185,734	27,638
Percent Some other race alone	5.6	4.0
Two or more races	275,313	59,540
Percent Two or more races	8.3	8.7

### 2.1.3 Civilian Labor Force: Unemployment

Utah County’s unemployment rate has followed the same trend as the state’s rate but has typically been 0.1 to 0.3 percent lower. The largest gap occurred in April 2020 (due to the COVID-19 pandemic), when the state experienced a monthly unemployment rate of 9.8 compared to the County’s 7.4. As of January 2025, the state and the County have the same rate: 3.2. This is slightly better than it was in January 2015, when both the state (3.9) and the County (3.5) were slightly higher than today. Utah County’s lowest monthly unemployment during this 10-year period came in

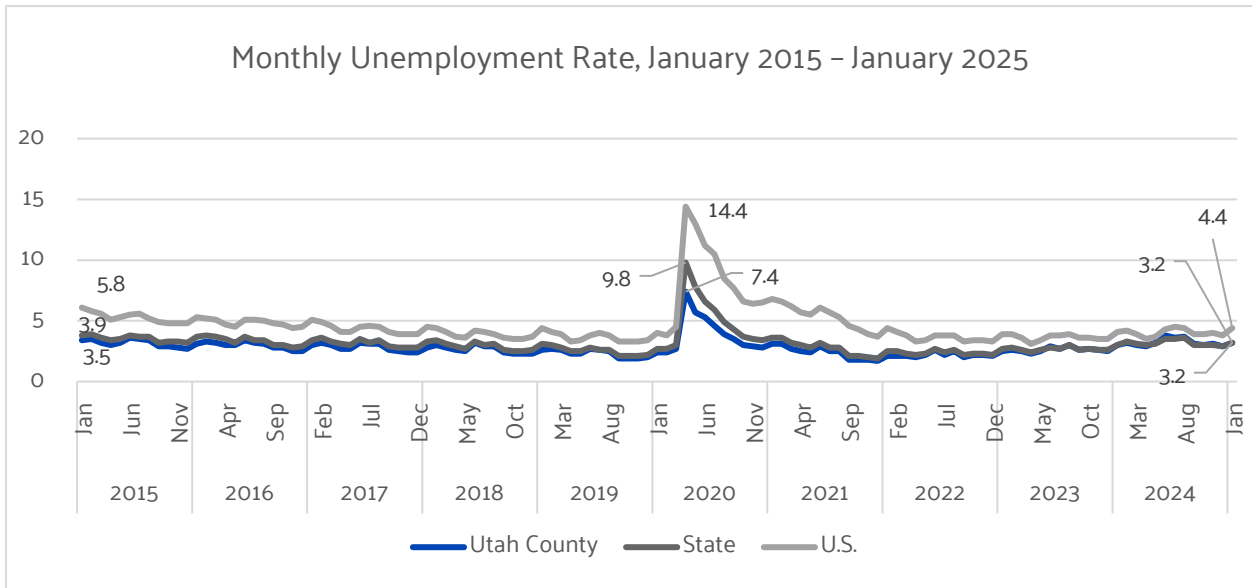


Figure 9: Monthly Unemployment Rate, January 2015 - January 2025

December 2021, when it was 1.7 percent; this followed three months at 1.8 percent. The County and the state usually fare better than the national figures.<sup>12</sup>

### 2.1.4 Crime

As population and population density grows, rates of crime generally increase. Utah has been a low-crime state for decades, and Utah County has been among the counties with low crime rates in the state. In 2021, Utah began collecting and reporting crime using the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS); virtually every law enforcement agency in the U.S. has

<sup>12</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics (2025). *Monthly Unemployment Rate*

transitioned to utilizing this system. Prior methods of crime data collection and reporting used “violent crime” and “property crime” as the two broad categories. Now, three categories are reported: crimes against persons, crimes against property, and crimes against society. Utah County continues to enjoy lower crime rates overall, as well as in each of the three categories, than the state.<sup>13</sup>

**Table 8: Crime Rates, County, State, U.S., 2021, 2022, 2023**

		Crimes Against...			
		Rate per 100,000			
		Persons	Property	Society	Overall
2021	County	480	1,793	989	3,263
	State	993	3,425	1,386	5,805
	U.S.	387	1,958	485	2,633
2022	County	582	1,925	1,173	3,680
	State	1,007	3,226	1,414	5,648
	U.S.	381	1,954	557	2,635
2023	County	622	1,790	1,062	3,475
	State	1,021	2,874	1,410	5,305
	U.S.	364	1,908	595	2,580

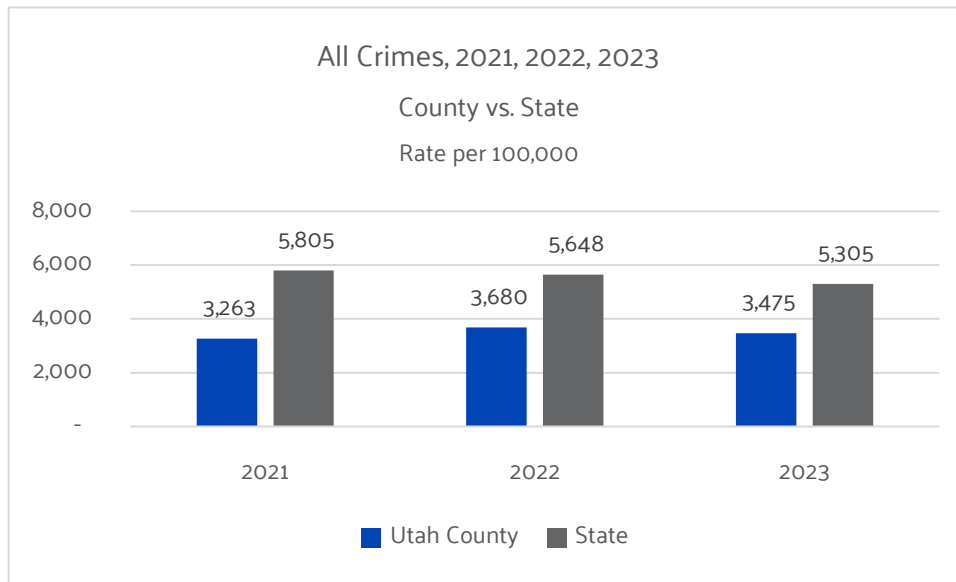
The steady increase in crimes against persons (480 to 622, a 29.6 percent rise) is one to watch. This increase outpaces the state’s slight increase (993 to 1,021, a 2.8 rise), although it remains significantly lower. This increase could be driven by the continued growth in the County’s population. Property crime rates (1,793 in 2021 to 1,790 in 2023) show virtually no net change over the three years, with a spike in 2022 (1,925). Property crime remains lower than the statewide figures. Utah County’s rates are consistently below both state and national averages, indicating a

<sup>13</sup> Jess L Anderson and Greg Willmore, “Crime in Utah 2023” (Salt Lake City, 2024), and reports for respective years.

“Document and Downloads.” *FBI Crime Data Explorer*, [cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/downloads](https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/downloads). Accessed 5 Mar. 2025..

relatively lower property crime concern. Crimes against society—for example, driving under the influence, disorderly conduct, prostitution, and drugs—increased from 2021 to 2022 (989 to 1,173—an 18.6 percent increase), but decreased in 2023 (1,062); Over the three-year period, there was a net increase of 7.4 percent. Over the same period, Utah’s rate increased by 1.7 percent, from (1,386 in 2021 to 1,410 in 2023).

The overall crime rate in Utah County increased from 3,263 per 100,000 population in 2021 to 3,680 in 2022 (a 12.8 percent jump). In 2023, it dropped by 5.6 percent to 3,475, for a net increase

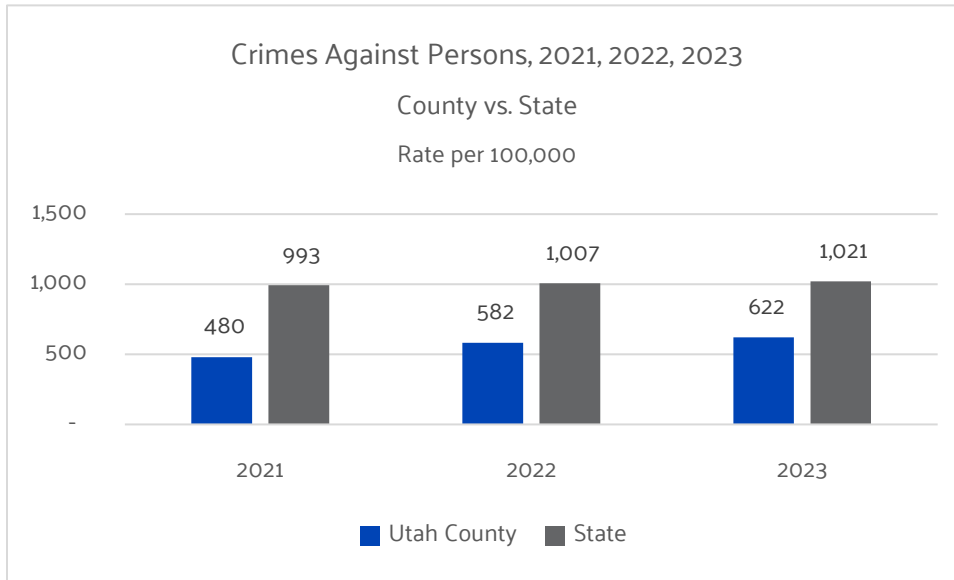


over the three years of 6.4 percent. Although the County’s rate increased from 2021 to 2024, the state’s rate decreased; however, Utah County remains much safer than the state as a whole.

**Figure 10: All Crimes, 2021, 2022, 2023, County vs. State, Rate per 100,000**

### 2.1.4.1 Crimes Against Persons

The increasing rate of crimes against persons—from 480 per 100,000 in 2021 to 622 in 2023—could be a symptom of Utah County’s growing population. Studies demonstrate that higher



population density is associated with increased crime against persons, likely due to increased opportunities for crime, anonymity, and reduced social control in dense areas.<sup>14</sup>

Figure 11: Crimes Against Persons, 2021, 2022, 2023, County vs. State, Rate per 100,000

Crime continues to be of low concern among Utah County residents. Respondents were asked, “what are the worst things about living in Utah County?” Crime was mentioned by less than one-tenth of one percent of respondents.

The tables below indicate the number of various crimes against persons by law enforcement agency.

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<sup>14</sup> Marcos Oliveira, “More Crime in Cities? On the Scaling Laws of Crime and the Inadequacy of per Capita Rankings—a Cross-Country Study,” *Crime Science* 10, no. 1 (2021): 1–13, <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40163-021-00155-8>.

Daniel A. Bowen et al., “Ability of Crime, Demographic and Business Data to Forecast Areas of Increased Violence,” *Physiology & Behavior* 176, no. 1 (2016): 139–48, <https://doi.org/10.1080/17457300.2018.1467461>.

Table 9: Crimes Against Persons, by Agency, 2023

Crimes Against Persons, by Agency, 2023										
Number of Incidents										
	Aggravated Assault	Simple Assault	Intimidation	Assault Offenses Total	Murder & Nonnegligent Manslaughter	Negligent Manslaughter	Homicide Offenses Total	Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts	Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude	Human Trafficking Offenses Total
Utah County Sheriff	39	188	55	282	1	1	2	-	-	-
American Fork PD	27	203	64	294	-	1	1	-	-	-
Lehi PD	33	245	95	373	1	-	1	-	-	-
Orem DPS	65	431	136	632	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payson PD	16	76	29	121	1	-	1	-	-	-
Pleasant Grove PD	29	114	69	212	-	-	-	-	-	-
Provo PD	93	411	90	594	-	1	1	-	-	-
Spanish Fork PD	14	103	21	138	1	-	1	-	-	-
Springville PD	21	149	30	200	2	-	2	-	-	-
Lone Peak PD	2	32	8	42	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salem PD	2	21	7	30	-	-	-	-	-	-
Santaquin PD	10	58	20	88	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brigham Young University PD	2	5	4	11	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lindon PD	3	27	15	45	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mapleton PD	4	37	7	48	-	-	-	-	-	-
Utah Valley University PD	0	6	3	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Utah County Major Crimes Task Force	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Utah County Attorney	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saratoga Springs PD	29	128	37	194	-	-	-	-	-	-
Utah County Total	389	2235	692	3316	6	3	9	-	-	-

Table 10: Crimes Against Persons, by Agency, 2023 (continued)

Crimes Against Persons, by Agency, 2023 (continued)									
Number of Incidents									
	Kidnaping/Abduction	Rape	Sodomy	Sexual Assault with an Object	Fondling	Forcible Sex Offenses Total	Incest	Statutory Rape	Non-Forcible Sex Offenses Total
Utah County Sheriff	20	25	3	2	70	120	-	-	-
American Fork PD	8	23	1	-	58	90	-	-	-
Lehi PD	18	25	6	2	38	89	-	-	-
Orem DPS	44	51	9	1	224	329	-	-	-
Payson PD	2	5	1	1	13	22	-	-	-
Pleasant Grove PD	14	18	3	4	25	64	-	-	-
Provo PD	38	43	13	10	82	186	-	-	-
Spanish Fork PD	4	14	-	-	38	56	-	-	-
Springville PD	11	13	1	1	26	52	-	-	-
Lone Peak PD	1	1	-	-	8	10	-	-	-
Salem PD	-	1	-	-	5	6	-	-	-
Santaquin PD	5	-	-	-	10	15	-	-	-
Brigham Young University PD	1	1	-	-	1	3	-	-	-
Lindon PD	-	1	-	-	11	12	-	-	-
Mapleton PD	-	2	-	-	4	6	-	-	-
Utah Valley University PD	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-
Utah County Major Crimes Task Force	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-
Utah County Attorney	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Saratoga Springs PD	11	14	9	4	31	69	-	-	-
Utah County Total	177	238	46	25	646	1132	-	-	-

Note that crimes against children, the elderly, and domestic partners are reported in more detail in section 2.4: Health.

### 2.1.4.2 Crimes Against Property

The National Incident-Based Reporting System indicates that crimes against property as are offenses that involve the unlawful taking, destruction, or damage of property without direct harm or threat to a person. Primarily motivated by financial or material gain, they do not involve direct physical harm to individuals (which would classify them as crimes against persons). The key

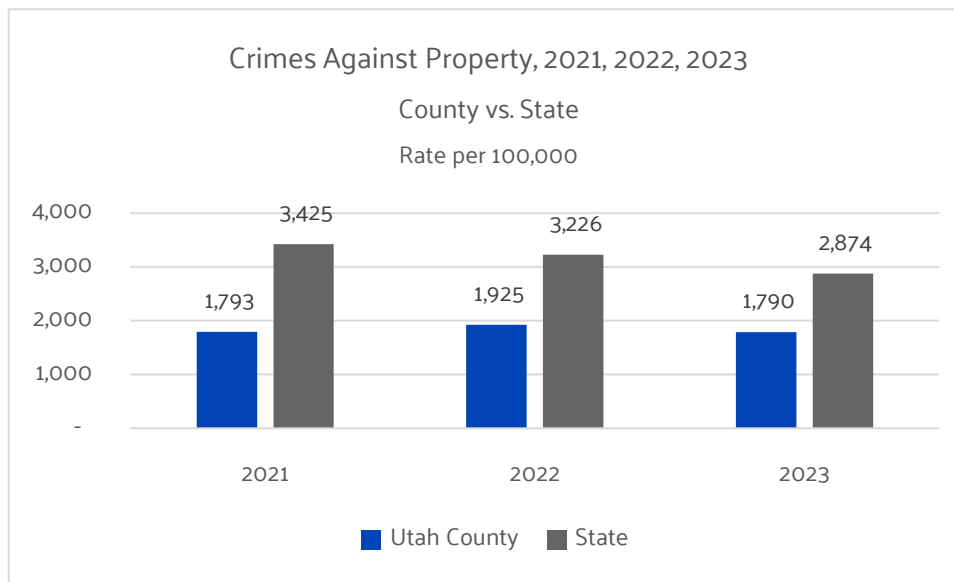


Figure 12: Crimes Against Property, 2021, 2022, 2023, County vs. State, Rate per 100,000

characteristic is that the victim is typically the owner of the property, and the offense targets the property itself rather than a person or societal norms. In some cases, the intent of the perpetrator could be to simply

destroy or deface property.<sup>15</sup>

In Utah County, there was a spike in crimes against property in 2022, going from 1,793 per 100,000 population to 1,925. However, the rate decreased again in 2023, dropping to 1,790. Utah County's 2023 rate fares favorably to the state rate of 2,874.

<sup>15</sup> "Criminal Justice Information Services ( CJIS ) Division Uniform Crime Reporting ( UCR ) Program National Incident-Based Reporting System ( NIBRS ) User Manual" (Washington, DC, US, 2023).

Table 11: Crimes Against Property, by Agency, 2023

	Crimes Against Property, by Agency, 2023						
	Number of Incidents						
	Arson	Bribery	Burglary/Breaking & Entering	Counterfeiting/Forgery	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	Embezzlement	Extortion/Blackmail
Utah County Sheriff	1	-	36	6	263	-	4
American Fork PD	6	-	59	11	248	-	5
Lehi PD	2	-	74	12	295	1	10
Orem DPS	5	-	90	42	558	-	82
Payson PD	1	-	15	3	88	-	4
Pleasant Grove PD	3	1	63	33	198	-	23
Provo PD	13	-	118	43	571	-	12
Spanish Fork PD	-	-	27	2	200	-	5
Springville PD	2	-	20	6	112	-	4
Lone Peak PD	-	-	8	2	62	-	2
Salem PD	-	-	5	2	51	-	-
Santaquin PD	-	-	7	6	63	-	1
Brigham Young University PD	-	-	3	-	21	-	2
Lindon PD	-	-	15	2	63	-	6
Mapleton PD	-	-	3	-	33	-	1
Utah Valley University PD	1	-	1	1	29	-	-
Utah County Major Crimes Task Force	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Utah County Atty - Investigations Division	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saratoga Springs PD	1	-	24	17	184	-	15
Utah County Total	35	1	568	189	3,039	1	176

Table 12: Crimes Against Property, by Agency, 2023 (continued)

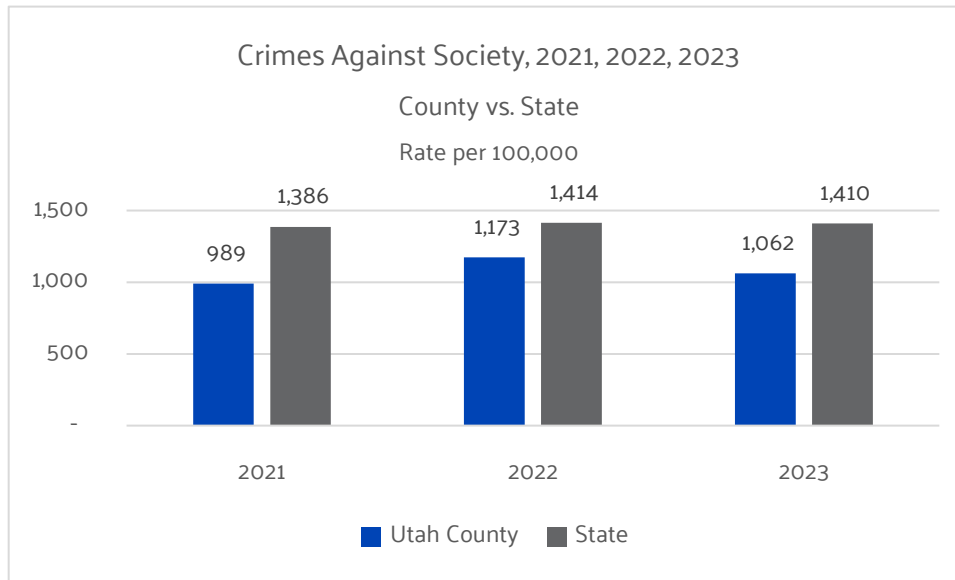
	Crimes Against Property, by Agency, 2023 (continued)							Fraud Offenses Total
	Number of Incidents							
	False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game	Credit Card/Automatic Teller Machine Fraud	Impersonation	Welfare Fraud	Wire Fraud	Identity Theft	Hacking/Computer Invasion	
Utah County Sheriff	160	12	-	-	-	-	-	172
American Fork PD	165	1	7	-	-	-	-	173
Lehi PD	273	18	4	-	-	-	-	295
Orem DPS	303	40	34	-	-	1	-	378
Payson PD	31	3	-	-	-	-	-	34
Pleasant Grove PD	138	30	34	-	-	1	-	203
Provo PD	196	26	79	-	-	6	-	307
Spanish Fork PD	128	5	9	-	-	-	-	142
Springville PD	100	10	4	-	-	-	-	114
Lone Peak PD	31	2	-	-	-	-	-	33
Salem PD	19	2	-	-	-	-	-	21
Santaquin PD	40	4	1	-	-	-	-	45
Brigham Young University PD	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	6
Lindon PD	21	2	2	-	-	-	-	25
Mapleton PD	24	-	1	-	-	-	-	25
Utah Valley University PD	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Utah County Major Crimes Task Force	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Utah County Attorney	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Saratoga Springs PD	87	19	15	-	-	-	-	121
Utah County Total	1,726	176	190	-	-	8	-	2,100

Table 13: Crimes Against Property, by Agency, 2023 (continued)

	Crimes Against Property, by Agency, 2023 (continued)											
	Number of Incidents											
	Pocket-picking	Purse-snatching	Shoplifting	Theft From Building	Theft From Coin-Operated Machine or Device	Theft From Motor Vehicle	Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories	All Other Larceny	Larceny/Theft Offenses Total	Motor Vehicle Theft	Robbery	Stolen Property Offenses
Utah County Sheriff	-	-	31	4	-	126	8	139	308	24	3	15
American Fork PD	-	6	221	13	1	83	18	289	631	55	3	34
Lehi PD	-	-	78	4	-	163	3	263	511	72	2	18
Orem DPS	1	1	405	151	-	305	42	318	1,223	103	10	65
Payson PD	-	4	25	1	-	17	2	81	130	11	3	2
Pleasant Grove PD	2	-	28	9	-	81	8	118	246	39	1	30
Provo PD	2	1	202	192	2	320	67	527	1,313	113	18	90
Spanish Fork PD	1	5	87	-	-	89	8	167	357	21	4	5
Springville PD	1	-	92	5	-	64	5	150	317	27	3	19
Lone Peak PD	-	-	5	2	-	22	1	42	72	7	1	1
Salem PD	-	-	2	2	-	9	-	29	42	2	-	2
Santaquin PD	-	-	13	2	-	9	2	25	51	7	-	11
Brigham Young University PD	-	-	5	6	-	24	1	70	106	2	-	3
Lindon PD	1	-	87	1	-	19	6	101	215	22	3	5
Mapleton PD	-	-	7	1	-	6	-	28	42	1	-	1
Utah Valley University PD	-	-	1	2	-	2	1	22	28	-	-	-
Utah Cnty Major Crimes Task Force	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Utah County Attorney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Saratoga Springs PD	-	-	56	15	-	57	6	102	236	20	2	6
Utah County Total	8	17	1,345	410	3	1,396	178	2,472	5,829	526	53	308

### 2.1.4.3 Crimes Against Society

Utah County's safe environment is demonstrated by the lower-than-state-numbers rate of crimes against society. In 2023, the County's rate per 100,000 was 1,062, compared to the state's



1,410. 2023's rate is lower than the County's 2022 rate of 1,173, but higher than the 2021 rate of 989.

Figure 13: Crimes Against Society, 2021, 2022, 2023, County vs. State, Rate per 100,000:

Drug-related crimes are by far the most prevalent in this category for Utah County, accounting for 6,857 of the 7,610 incidents in 2023. These drug incidents are split evenly between drug equipment violations and drug or narcotic violations. There were 639 weapon violations, and 108 pornography or obscene material violations. The County experienced only six prostitution-related incidents in 2023.

Table 14: Crimes Against Society, by Agency, 2023

	Crimes Against Society, by Agency, 2023							
	Number of Incidents							
	Animal Cruelty	Drug Equipment Violations	Drug/Narcotic Violations	Drug/Narcotic Offenses Total	Betting/Wagering	Gambling Equipment Violations	Operating/Promoting/Assisting	Gambling Offenses Total
Utah County Sheriff	-	929	912	1,841	-	-	-	-
American Fork PD	-	312	350	662	-	-	-	-
Lehi PD	-	176	190	366	-	-	-	-
Orem DPS	-	422	417	839	-	-	-	-
Payson PD	-	101	107	208	-	-	-	-
Pleasant Grove PD	-	106	108	214	-	-	-	-
Provo PD	-	554	482	1,036	-	-	-	-
Spanish Fork PD	-	140	154	294	-	-	-	-
Springville PD	-	212	230	442	-	-	-	-
Lone Peak PD	-	27	29	56	-	-	-	-
Salem PD	-	16	29	45	1	-	-	-
Santaquin PD	-	48	49	97	-	-	-	-
Brigham Young University PD	-	9	16	25	-	-	-	-
Lindon PD	-	48	54	102	-	-	-	-
Mapleton PD	-	17	17	34	-	-	-	-
Utah Valley University PD	-	6	10	16	-	-	-	-
Utah County Major Crimes Task Force	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Utah County Atty - Investigations	-	200	217	417	-	-	-	-
Division								
Saratoga Springs PD	-	78	85	163	-	-	-	-
Utah County Total	-	3,401	3,456	6,857	1	-	-	1

Table 15: Crimes Against Society, by Agency, 2023, (continued)

	Crimes Against Society, by Agency, 2023 (continued)					
	Number of Incidents					
	Pornography/Obscene Material	Prostitution	Assisting or Promoting Prostitution	Purchasing Prostitution	Prostitution Offenses Total	Weapon Law Violations
Utah County Sheriff	16	-	-	-	-	84
American Fork PD	2	2	-	-	2	70
Lehi PD	18	-	-	-	-	53
Orem DPS	21	2	-	-	2	140
Payson PD	1	-	-	-	-	15
Pleasant Grove PD	21	-	-	-	-	39
Provo PD	7	1	-	-	1	96
Spanish Fork PD	6	-	-	-	-	25
Springville PD	1	-	-	-	-	23
Lone Peak PD	3	-	-	-	-	4
Salem PD	1	-	-	-	-	8
Santaquin PD	4	-	-	-	-	13
Brigham Young University PD	-	-	-	-	-	3
Lindon PD	-	-	-	-	-	10
Mapleton PD	-	-	-	-	-	6
Utah Valley University PD	-	-	-	-	-	0
Utah County Major Crimes Task Force	-	-	-	-	-	0
Utah County Attorney	-	-	-	-	-	27
Saratoga Springs PD	7	1	-	-	1	23
Utah County Total	108	6	-	-	6	639

## 2.1.5 Justice

Gathering and reporting criminal justice data for Utah County (or other counties, for that matter) from publicly available sources is a nearly insurmountable challenge because of the decentralized nature of the U.S. criminal justice system. When someone is charged with a crime, there are multiple possible next steps.

1. Dismissal. Charges are dropped by the prosecutor or dismissed by the court due to insufficient evidence, procedural issues, or other factors.
2. Plea bargain. The defendant pleads guilty (often to reduce sentencing or to avoid a trial).
3. Trial. The case proceeds to court, and the defendant is either acquitted or convicted. If convicted, the result could be incarceration, probation, or fines—or even combinations of these.
4. Diversion. The arrested person agrees to comply with prescribed activities (such as completing an anger management program, attending Alcoholics Anonymous, etc.) or to remain free of law enforcement interactions in exchange for charges being dropped.

There is no standardized, publicly accessible reporting mechanism for each of these possible outcomes. National data is provided by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), the United States Sentencing Commission (USSC), and others. However, county-level data is not available.

As of June 2022, there were 429 incarcerated persons in Utah County. Seventy percent of incarcerated persons are White, while 17 percent are Hispanic or Latino and five percent are Black or African American; the remainder of other races. Most are men, with only 33 women incarcerated at the time the data was gathered. Most of those held in Utah County's jail are local inmates; as of June 2022, about 102 of the 429 inmates were being held on behalf of the state, and only three were held for federal authorities.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> "Utah County, Utah, Incarceration Trends," Vera Institute, 2024, [https://trends.vera.org/state/UT/county/utah\\_county](https://trends.vera.org/state/UT/county/utah_county).

## 2.1.6 Households

*Households* are defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as all people who occupy a housing unit, whether they are related or not. For example, a group of students sharing an apartment would be considered one household.

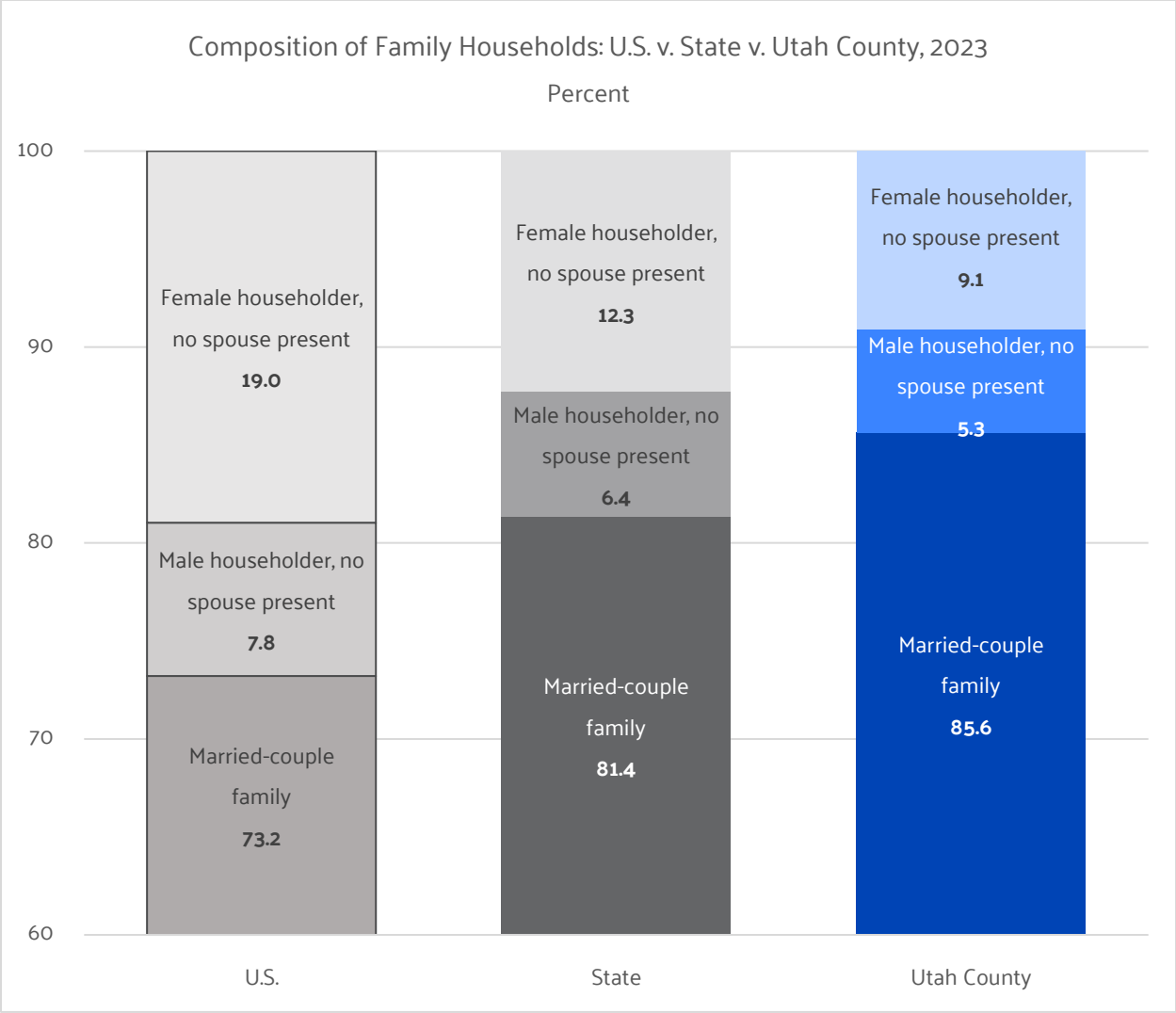
There are two types of households: Family Households and Non-family Households. *Family Households* are those households that are maintained by a householder who is in a family—a group of two or more people related by birth, marriage, or adoption, and are living together. *Non-family Households* include individuals living alone or sharing the home exclusively with people to whom he or she is not related. People living in *Group Quarters* are non-institutionalized individuals living together in nonconventional housing units. For example, halfway houses, staff quarters for a hospital, etc., are considered group quarters.

Of all households in Utah County, 80.5 percent are family households—this is down about one percentage point since the last assessment. This figure has remained relatively steady for several years. In 2010, 80.9 percent of all households were family households, and in 2020, 81.3 percent were. Of all family households, 85.6 percent are married-couple families, and 14.4 percent are other types of families. Most of these other families are single women without a spouse present, with 14,369 (63.5 percent of all non-married-couple families); single males without a spouse present account for the remaining 36.5 percent (8,275 families).<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 5-year ACS, Table B11012

<sup>18</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 5-year ACS, Table B11001



**Figure 14: Composition of Family Households: U.S. v. State v. Utah County, 2023**

The percentage of female householder families in Utah County is less than half the national rate of 19.0 and about three-fourths of the state rate of 12.3. Because single females with children in the home are likely to earn less than any other family type, Utah County’s situation is better than many others’. That being said, the plight of these families—more than 14,000 of them—will be discussed further in Section 2.3: Income.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

### 2.1.6.1 Household Size

Utah County's average household size has decreased since the last assessment, when it was at 3.48. In 2023, it dropped to 3.41—still larger, however, than the state (2.99) and nation (2.54). The communities with the largest household sizes are Lake Shore (4.29), Eagle Mountain (4.18), Genola (4.12), Elberta (4.11), Highland (4.10), and Saratoga Springs.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Ibid., Table B25010

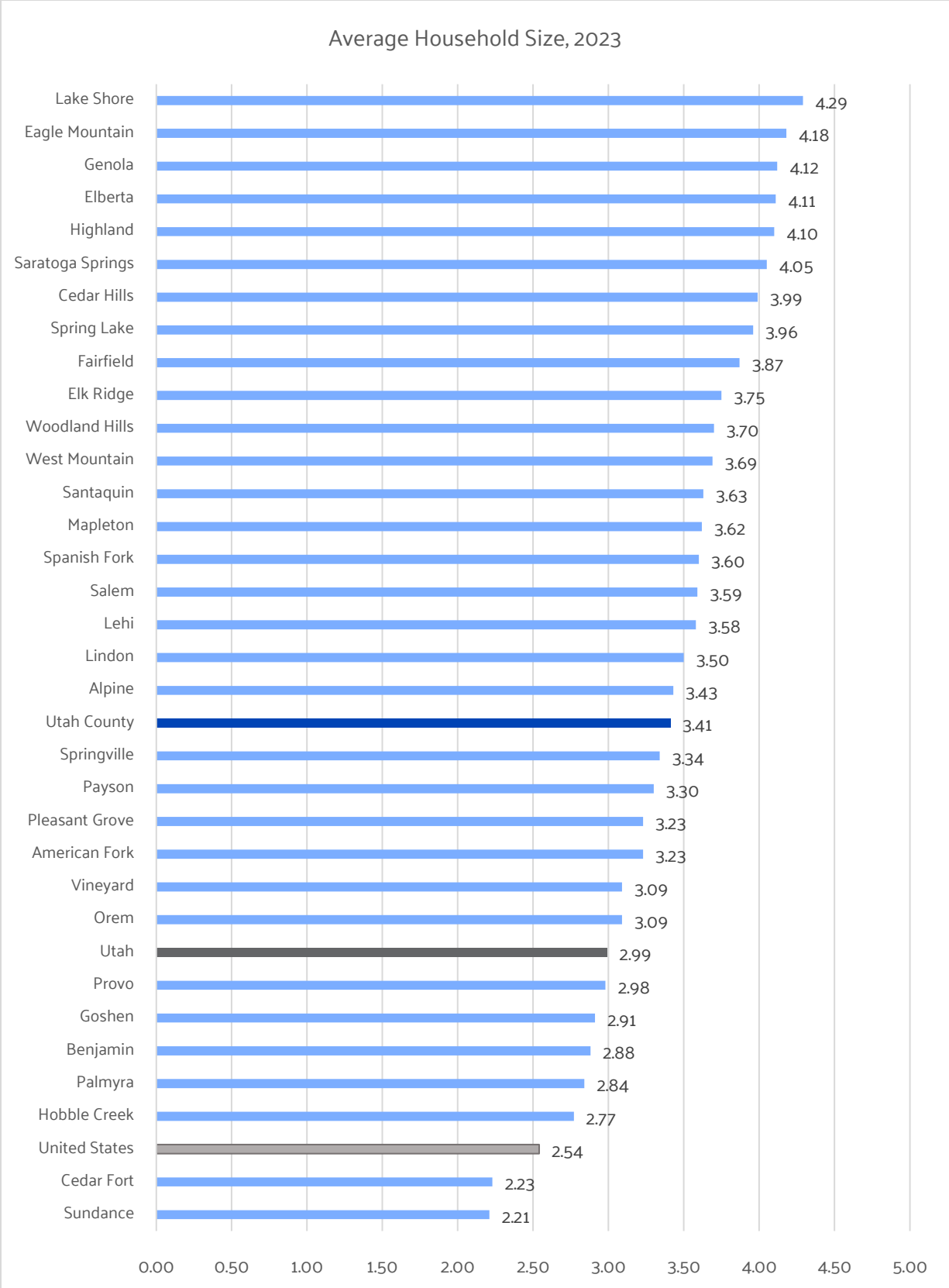


Figure 15: Average Household Size, 2023

Utah County's family households are larger than both U.S. and statewide family households. Slightly more than 31 percent of the County's family households are two-person households,

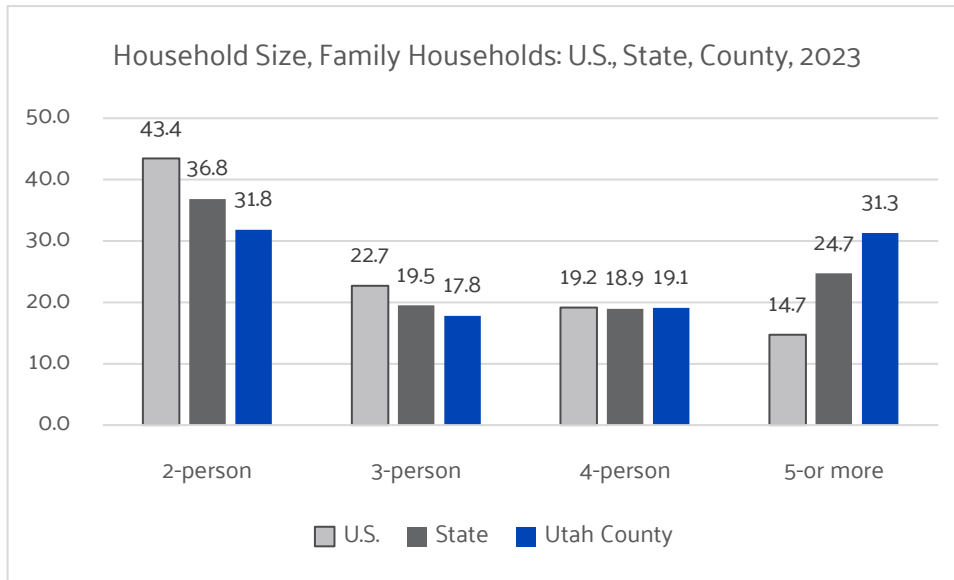


Figure 16: Household Size, Family Households: U.S., State, County, 2023

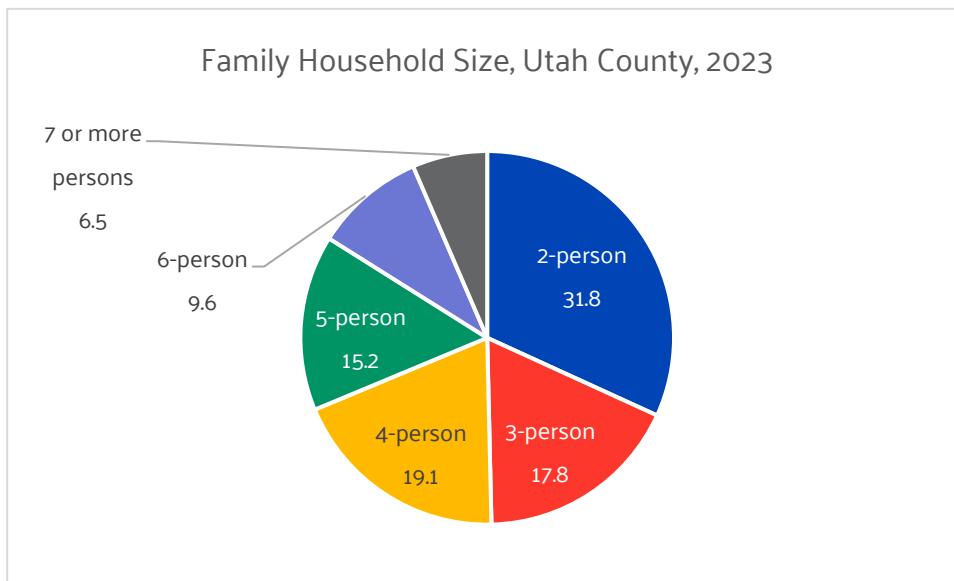


Figure 17: Family Household Size, Utah County, 2023

compared to 43.4 percent of nationwide family households and 36.8 percent of statewide family households. On the other end of the spectrum, 31.3 percent of Utah County's households have five or more persons, compared to only 14.7 percent nationally and 24.7 percent statewide.<sup>21</sup>

Six and a half percent of the County's families have seven or more persons, while 9.6 percent have 6 persons, and 15.2 percent have five persons.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>21</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 ACS, Table B11016

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

The County’s non-family households are also unique. While more than 80 percent of non-family households in the U.S. are one-person households, only 63.2 percent are in Utah County. Large non-family households are much more common than throughout the state or the nation. Nearly four percent of non-family households in Utah County have five or more persons, and six percent have four persons; this compares to 1.1 percent and 2.1 percent for the state, respectively—and even lower numbers nationally.<sup>23</sup>

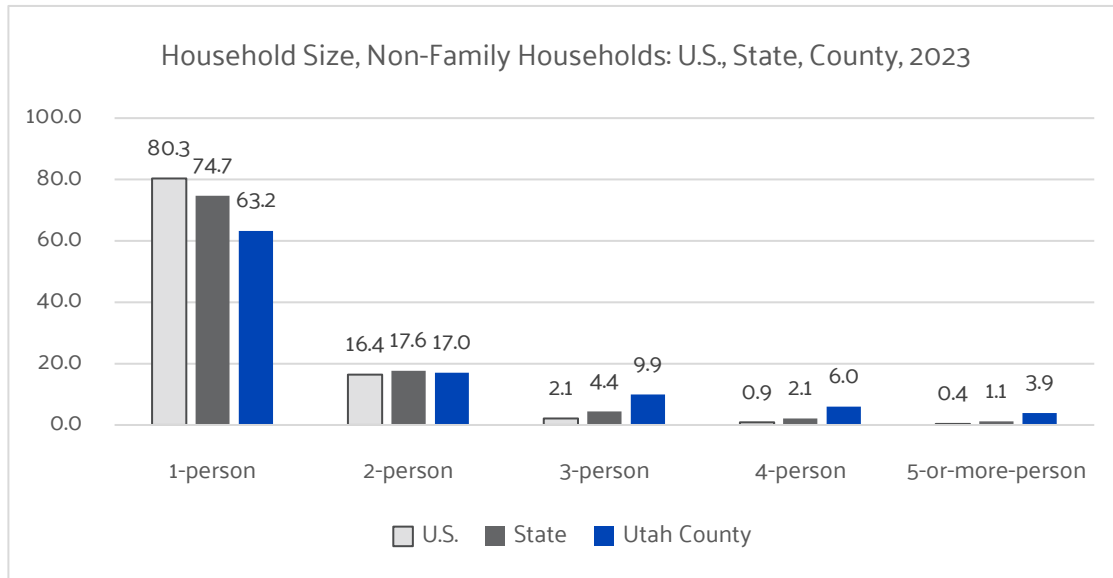


Figure 18: Household Size, Non-Family Households: U.S., State, County, 2023

### 2.1.6.2 Households with Children

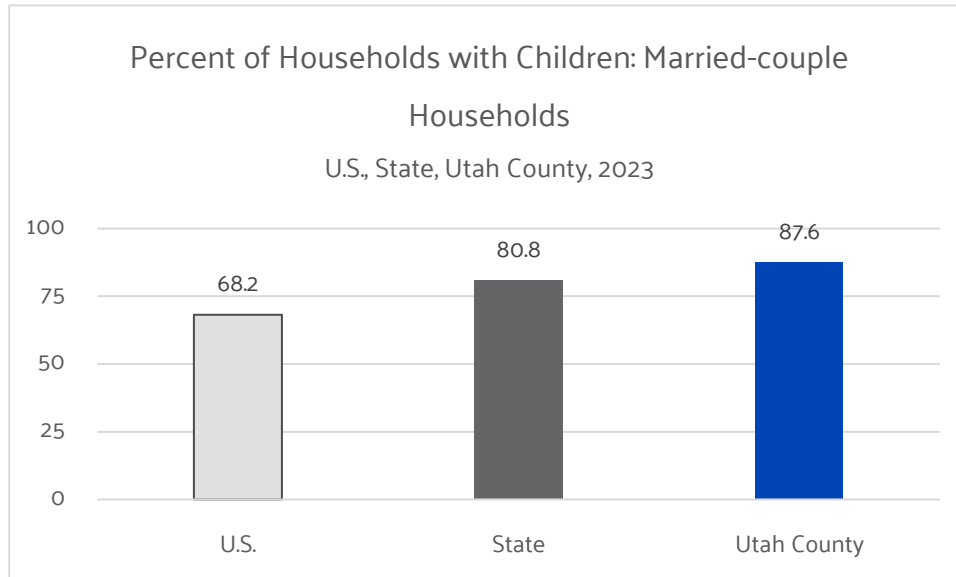
Family households are defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as households with “a householder and one or more other people living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.”<sup>24</sup> Of the 195,602 households in Utah County, 84,254 have children; the majority (87.6 percent) of those with children are married-couple households. Precisely seven percent are those with a female householder and no spouse or partner present,

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

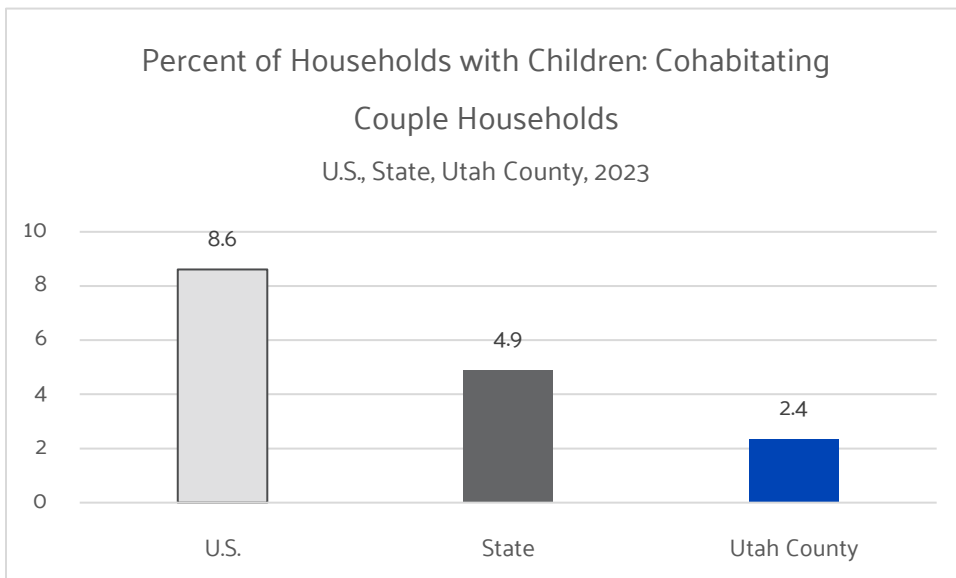
<sup>24</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2023 Subject Definitions*

three percent are male householder with no spouse or partner present, and 2.4 percent are cohabitating couple households.<sup>25</sup>

When viewed as household types, households with children present in Utah County are very different than U.S. households as a whole; they even have some differences to the statewide



**Figure 19: Percent of Households with Children: Married-couple Households U.S., State, Utah County, 2023**



numbers. While 87.6 percent of households with children are married-couple households in Utah County, they are only 68.2 percent of households nationally.

Throughout Utah, they are 80.8 percent of households with children.

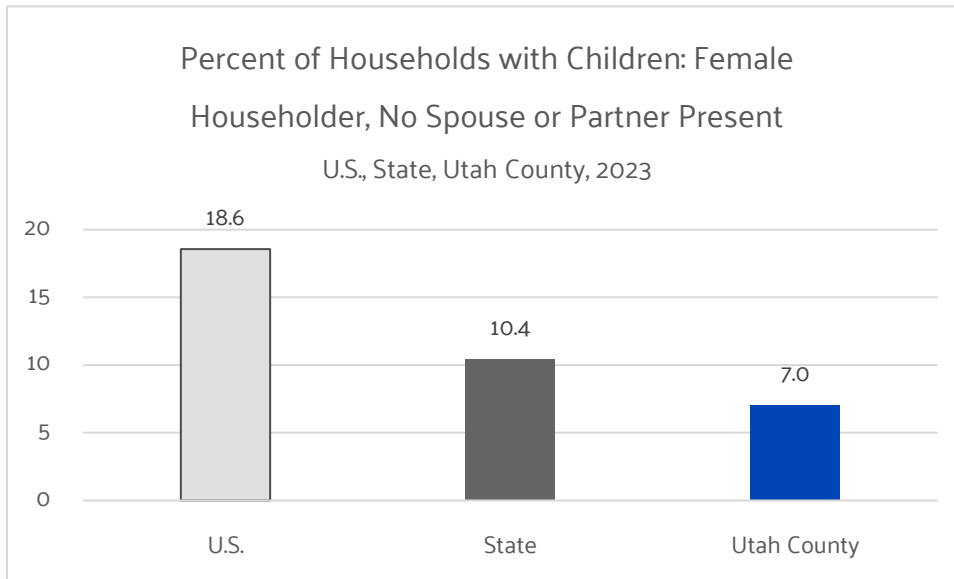
Cohabiting couples provide households for only 2.4 percent of all households with children in Utah County, but 8.6 percent nationwide.<sup>26</sup>

Single-parent households present additional challenges

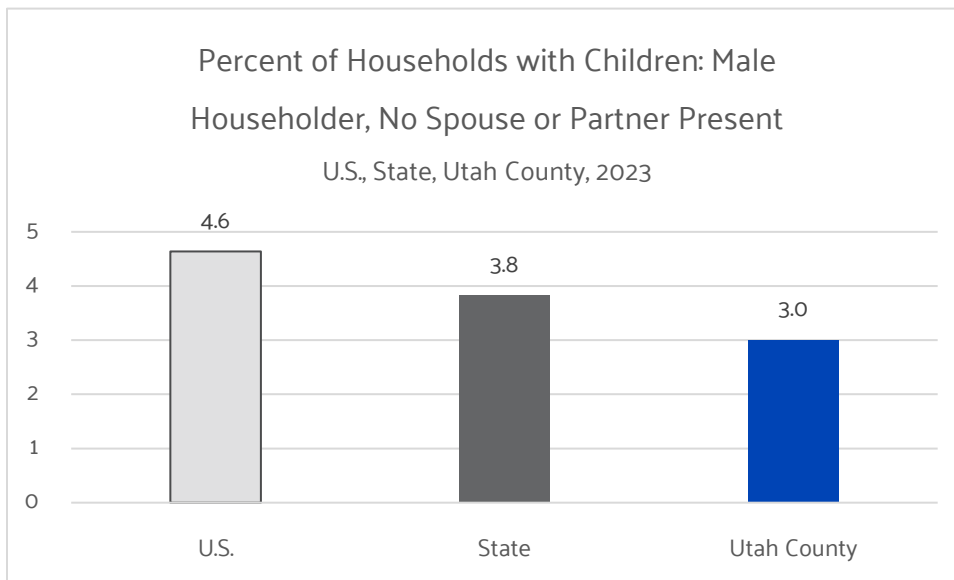
<sup>25</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 ACS, Table B11012

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

for families and human service providers. As will be discussed later, single-parent households—



**Figure 20: Percent of Households with Children: Female Householder, No Spouse or Partner Present**



**Figure 21: Percent of Households with Children: Male Householder, No Spouse or Partner Present**

particularly single-mother households—are more likely to be in poverty than other household types. In Utah County, single-mother households comprise 7.0 percent of all households with children, while single-father households comprise 3.0 percent. Nationally, single-mother households comprise 18.6 percent of households with children; single-father households are 4.6 percent.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

With most of Utah County’s children living in married-couple families, it is likely the ratio of all age groups of children living in married-couple families is also high. More than 92 percent of all

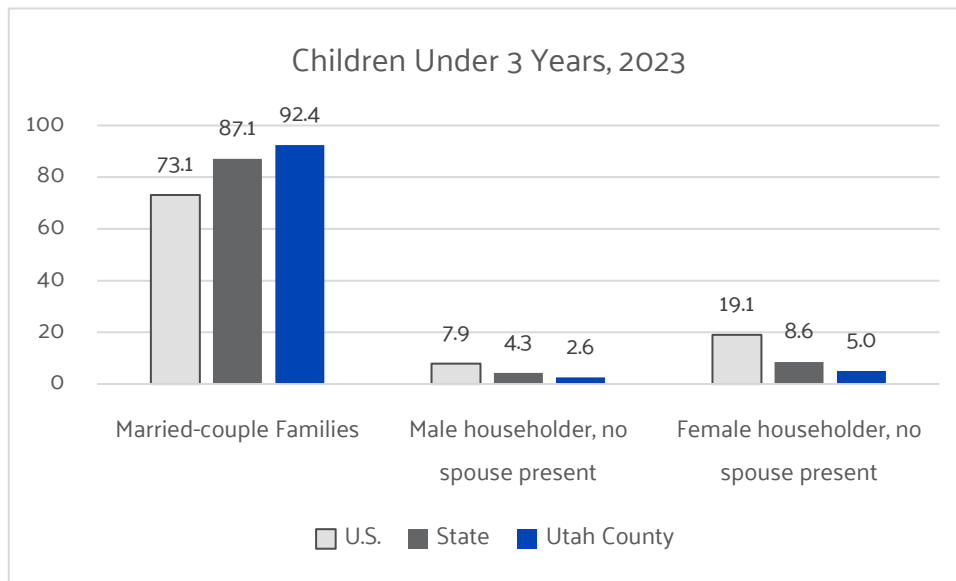


Figure 23: Children Under 3 Years, 2023

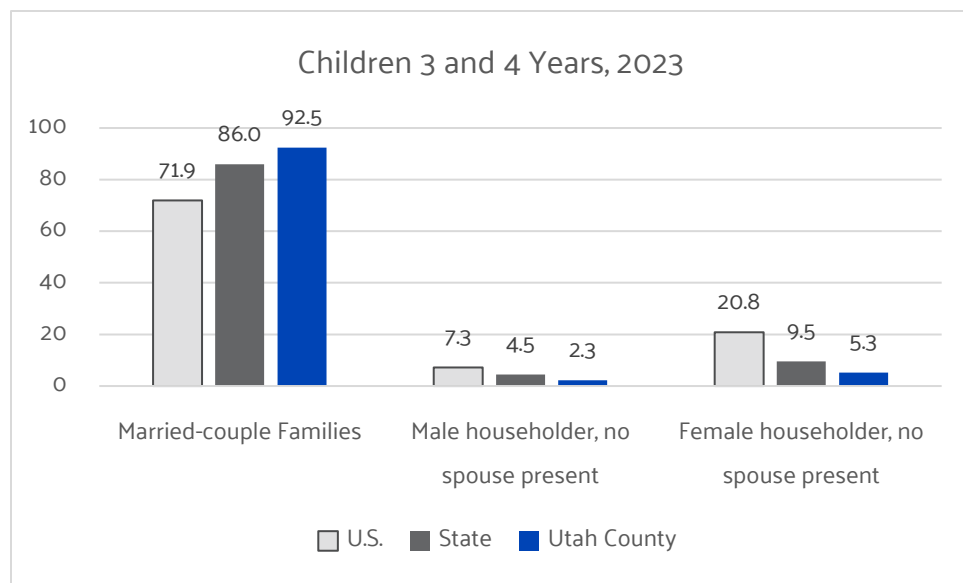


Figure 22: Children 3 and 4 Years, 2023

children under the age of 3 in Utah County are in married-couple families, compared to 87.1 percent statewide and 73.1 percent nationally. Notably, only 5 percent of children in this age group are in single-mother households, compared to 19.1 percent nationally. Similar ratios are found for children 3 and 4 years old: 92.5 percent of this age group are living in married-couple households—more than 20 percentage points higher than national figures. While 5.3 percent of this age group live

with single mothers in Utah County, 20.8 percent do nationally.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>28</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 ACS, 2023

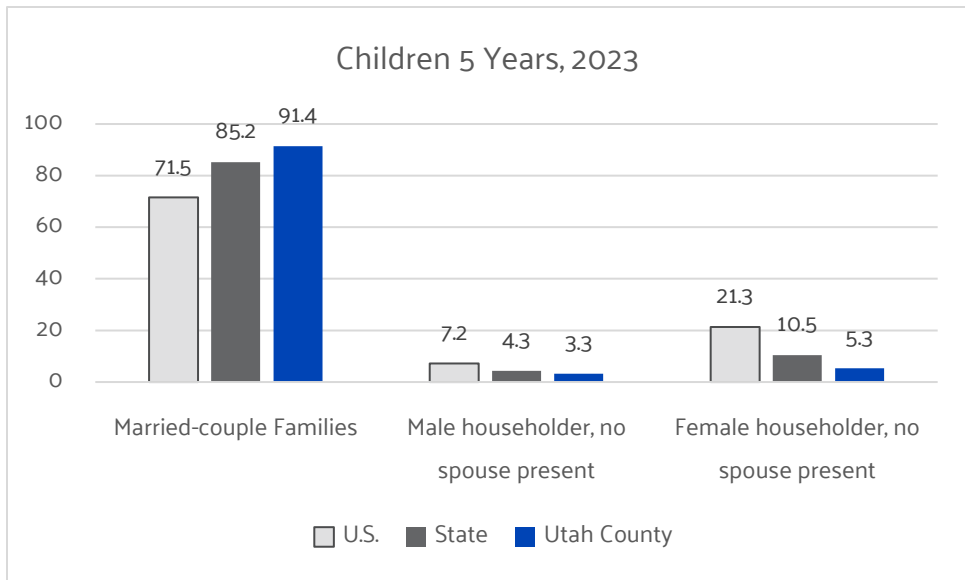


Figure 25: Children 5 Years, 2023

Five-year old children are similar in ratio: 97.4 percent of Utah County’s children age 5 years are living in married-couple families, while 5.3 percent are living in single-mother households and 3.3 percent in single-father households.

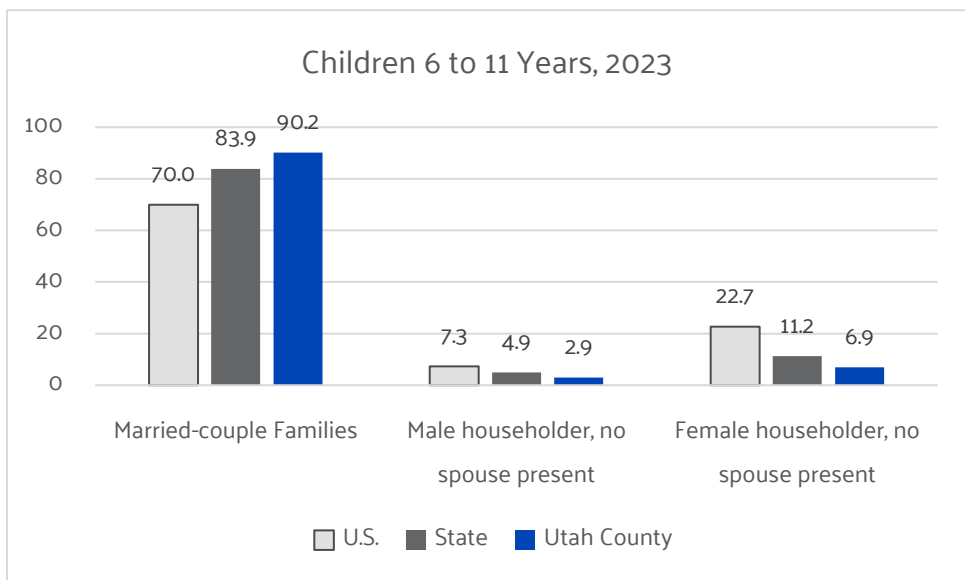


Figure 24: Children 6 to 11 Years, 2023

Nationally, 21.3 percent of children in this age group are living with single mothers. Among children age 6 to 11 years, 90.2 percent of Utah County children in this age group are in married-couple families while 6.9 percent are with single mothers.

Nationally, 22.7 percent live in single-mother families.<sup>29</sup>

A higher percentage of older children—those age 12 to 17—are living in single-mother households than any other age group in Utah County. While 86.8 percent live in married-couple

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

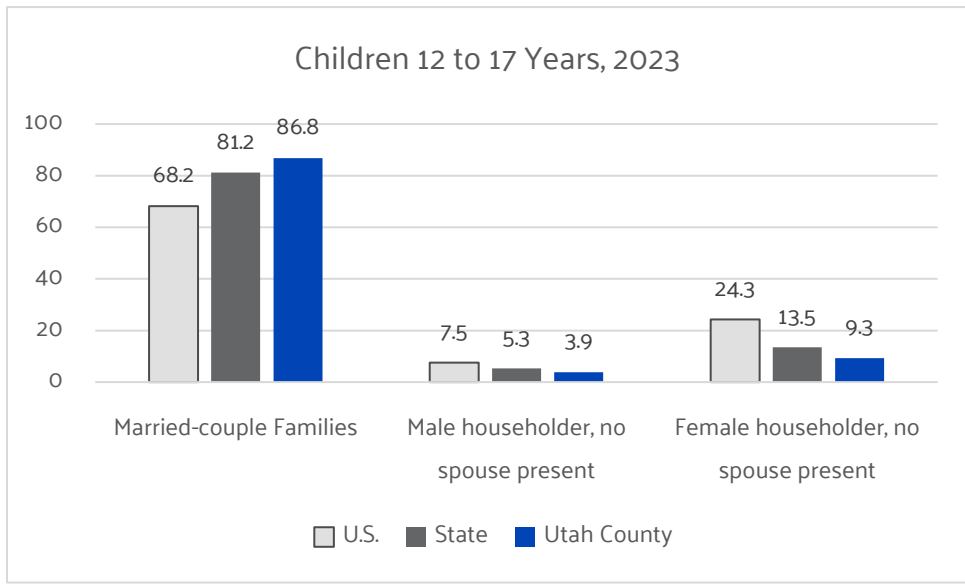


Figure 26: Children 12 to 17 Years, 2023

households, 9.3 percent live in single-mother households. This compares with 24.3 percent living with single mothers nationally. Nearly 4 percent are living with single fathers locally, while 7.5 percent are living in this type of family nationally.<sup>30</sup>

**2.1.6.2.1 Single-Parent Households with Children**

For decades, research has demonstrated that children growing up in single-parent families struggle in many areas Children raised by single mothers are more likely to experience lower school achievement, more likely to have discipline problems, less likely to graduate from high school, less likely to attend or graduate from post-secondary education, and more likely to commit crime and become incarcerated—particularly for boys.<sup>31</sup> As stated by Melanie Wasserman, an economist at UCLA, “The evidence supports an emerging consensus that growing up in a family without biological married parents produces more adverse consequences for boys than for girls.”<sup>32</sup>

Utah County has much lower ratios of single parents raising children than the state or nation. However, there are 22,977 children in Utah County who are living with a single parent. Of

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>31</sup> Hymowitz, K. “Disentangling the Effects of Family Structure on Boys and Girls,” Institute for Family Studies, 2020  
<sup>32</sup> Wasserman, M., 2020. “The Disparate Effects of Family Structure,” The Future of Children V. 30 No. 1, p. 66

these, 14,556 are living with single mothers—about 63.4 percent. Nationally, 69.3 percent of children living with a single parent are living with mothers.<sup>33</sup>

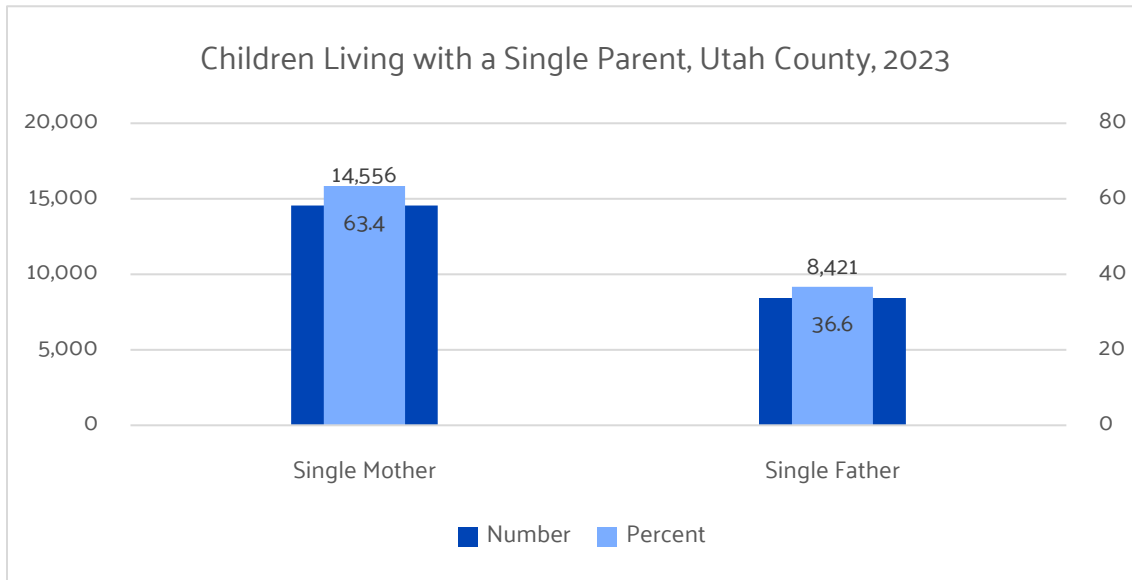


Figure 27: Children Living with a Single Parent, Utah County, 2023

### 2.1.6.2.2 Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

In Utah County, about 4.7 percent—or 10,299—of all children are living with at least one grandparent. This compares to 7.9 percent nationally and 5.6 percent statewide. The number of children in Utah County living with at least one grandparent in 2023 is a slight increase over 2020’s 9,891. Of the 10,299 children living with at least one grandparent, about one in four are living with a grandparent who has responsibility for them. This compares to 30.5 percent statewide and 44.2 percent nationally. And 1,774 of these have at least one parent living with them and their grandparent as well, although the parent(s) do not have responsibility for the children. Nearly 700 children who live with a grandparent who is responsible for them have no parent present in the home.<sup>34</sup> Table 16 below presents percentages for the U.S., statewide, and Utah County.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2023 Table B10002

**Table 16: Percent of Children Living with a Grandparent with Responsibility**

Percent of Children Living with a Grandparent with Responsibility			
	U.S.	State	Utah County
Percent of all children living with a householder grandparent who is responsible for them	7.9	5.6	4.7
Parent present	61.3	68.5	71.7
No parent present	38.7	31.5	28.3

### 2.1.6.2.3 Households with Persons 65 Years and Older

In Utah County, there are 36,654 households with at least one person age 65 or over—about 18.7 percent of all households. Of these, 9,546 are one-person households, and 27,108 are two-or-more-person households; nearly 98 percent of two-or-more-person households with a person age 65 or older are family households.<sup>35</sup>

Households with At Least One Person 65 Years or Older, Percent			
	U.S.	State	Utah County
Total	31.3	24.5	18.7
1-person household	37.2	31.3	26.1
2-or-more-person household:	62.8	68.7	73.9
Family households	94.5	96.7	97.7
Nonfamily households	5.5	3.3	2.3

<sup>35</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2023, Table B11007

More detail on the aging of Utah County will be provided in the following section. However, when looking at households, the percentage of households with at least one person age 65 years or older has increased. In 2010, 15.8 percent of all households had a person age 65 or older; in 2020, 18.9 percent fall into this category.<sup>36</sup> Of all persons age 65 or older living alone, nearly three out of four are female.<sup>37</sup>

Over the last decade, the percentage of all households that have someone age 65 or older that are one-person households has declined, dropping from 28.8 percent to 26.7 percent. In 2020, 8,667 persons age 65 or older are living alone in Utah County. Of these, 72.3 percent are women.<sup>38</sup>

## **2.1.7 Population**

### **2.1.7.1 Population Counts and Projections**

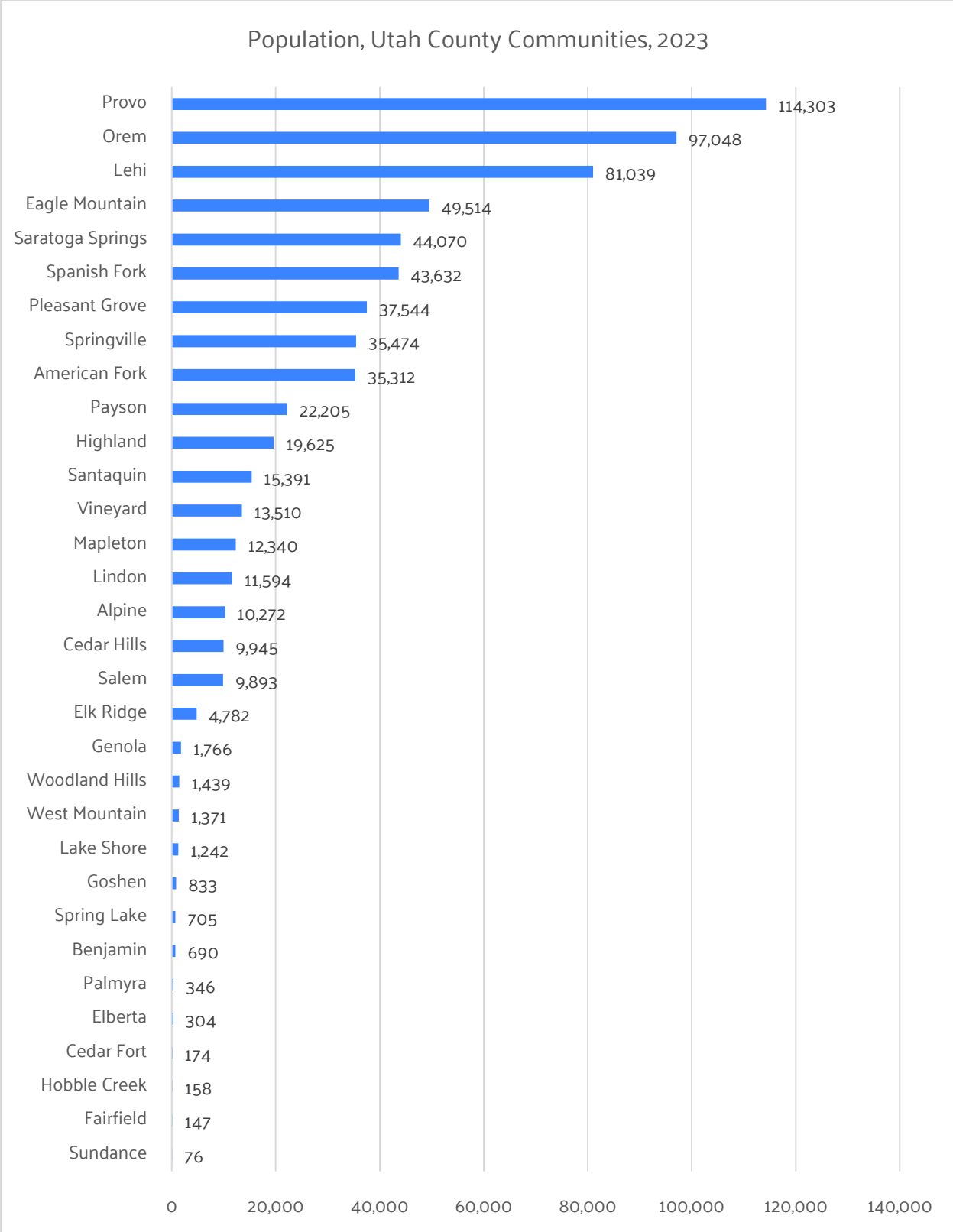
The 2024 estimate of 747,234 continues a path that has been in the making for decades (see 2.1.1 Population and Age). Provo and Orem remain the home to the bulk of Utah County's residents, at 114,303 and 97,048 respectively. Lehi (81,039), Eagle Mountain (49,514), Saratoga Springs (44,070), and Spanish Fork (37,632) are the next largest.

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<sup>36</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 ACS, Table B11007

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.



**Figure 28: Population, Utah County Communities, 2023**

The Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute at the University of Utah projects that Utah County's population will reach 853,711 by 2030; by 239, it will exceed 1,000,000.<sup>39</sup>

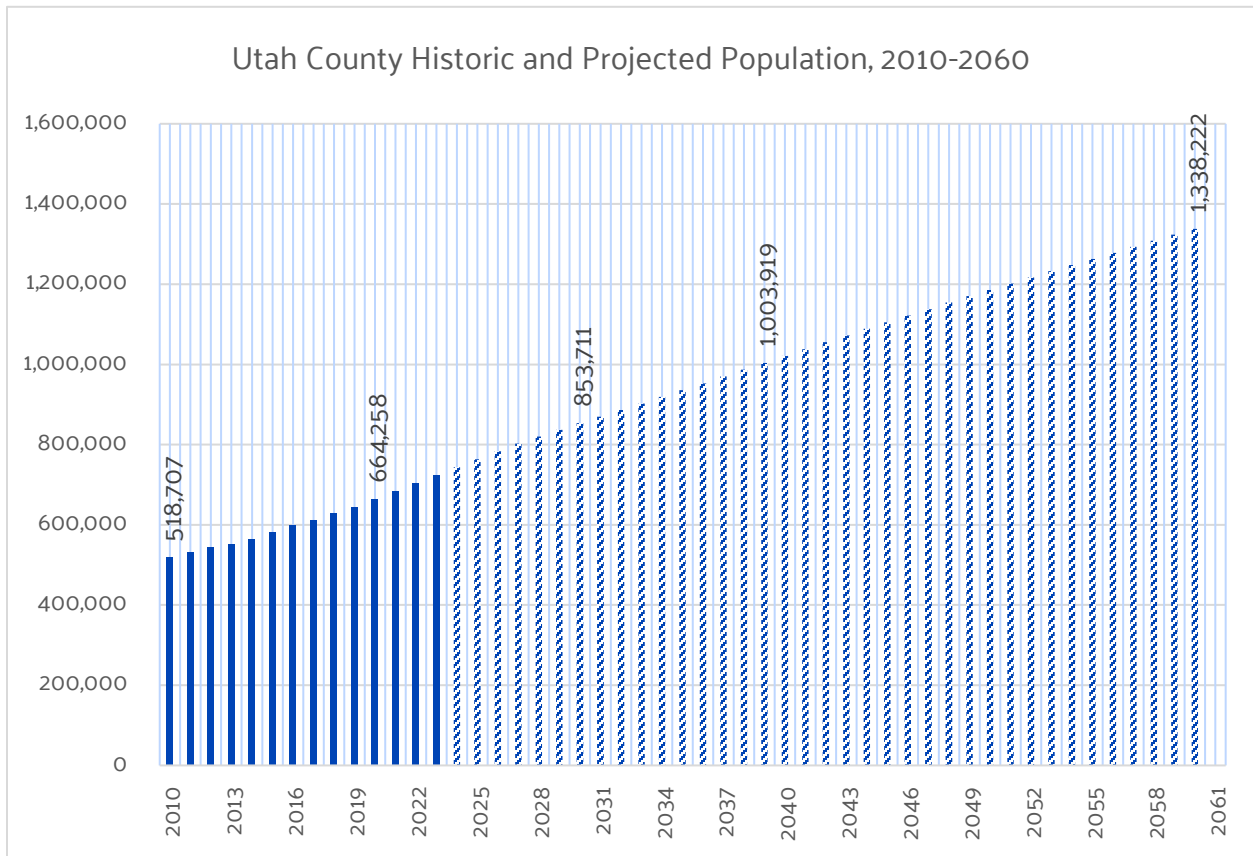


Figure 29: Utah County Historic and Projected Population, 2010-2060

Today, about one out of every three persons is a minor child; by 2060, that is expected to decrease to one out of every four.<sup>40</sup>

### 2.1.7.2 Population by Race and Ethnicity

Utah County's population remains primarily White; however, this majority category dropped from 90.1 percent of population in 2020 to 83.7 percent in 2023. Over the same period, the

<sup>39</sup> Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute State and County Short-term Projections, 2024-2033 (2024); long-term projections accessed 22 March 2025 from <https://gardner.utah.edu/utah-demographics/population-projections/state-and-county-projections-tableau/>

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

percentage of Utah County residents indicating two or more races increased from 4.4 percent to 8.2 percent. Nationally, 63.5 percent of the population indicates they are White alone; statewide, 85 percent claim White alone as their race.<sup>41</sup>

**Table 17: Racial Composition, U.S., State, Utah County, 2023**

Racial Composition, U.S., State, Utah County, 2023			
	U.S.	State	Utah County
White alone	63.5	85.0	83.7
Black or African American alone	12.4	1.1	0.6
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	0.6	1.1	0.3
Asian alone	6.0	2.4	1.5
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.2	0.9	0.8
Some Other Race alone	8.4	5.4	4.0
Two or More Races	8.9	4.1	8.2

The decreasing White alone population has been dramatic since 2019, when 91.6 percent of the population claimed this as their race. Since then, the percentage dropped to 91.1 in both 2020 and 2022, then to 88.2 in 2022 and 83.7 in 2026. Since 2010, the year with the highest percent of White alone population was 2016 (92.2).<sup>42</sup>

<sup>41</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 ACS, Table B02001

<sup>42</sup> Ibid., with respective years

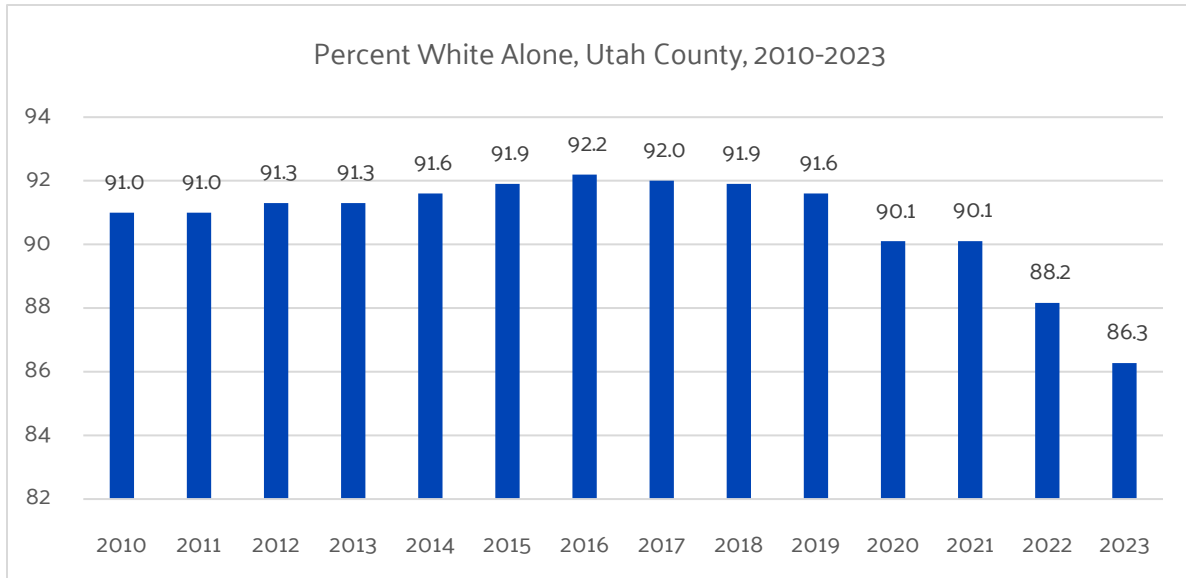


Figure 32: Percent White Alone, Utah County, 2010-2023

The largest non-White racial group in Utah County is two or more races, at 8.2 percent. This is double the state rate (4.1), but similar to the national ratios (8.9). The second largest category in Utah County is “some other race,” at 4.0 percent; Asian alone is the next highest, at 1.5 percent.<sup>43</sup>

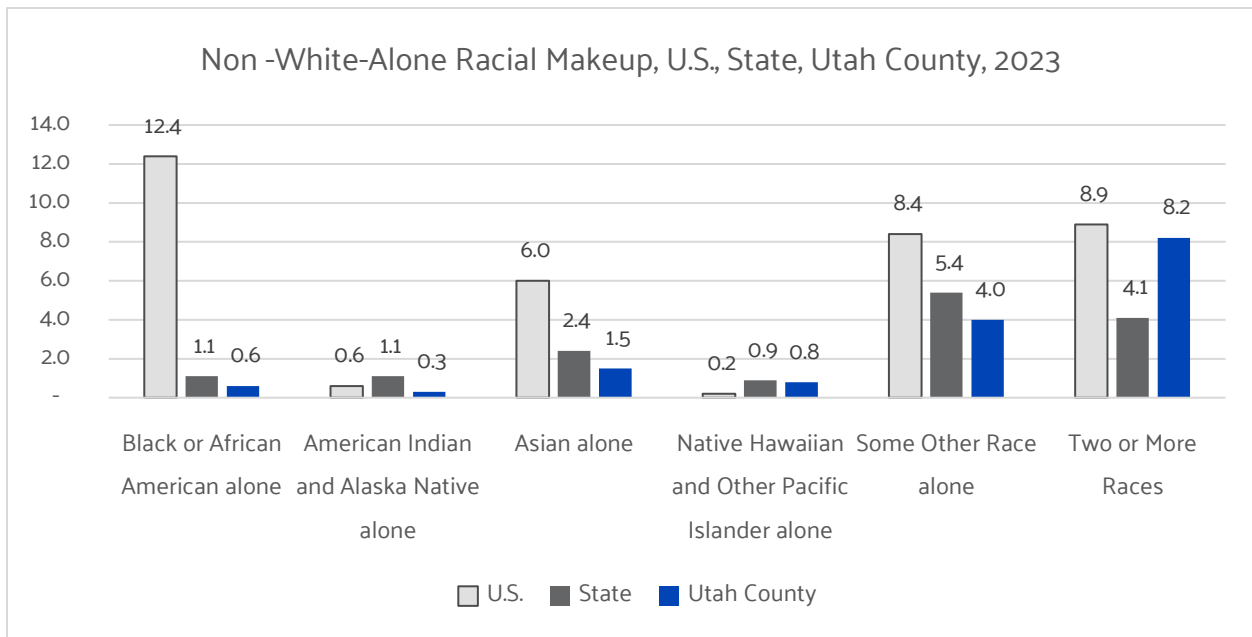
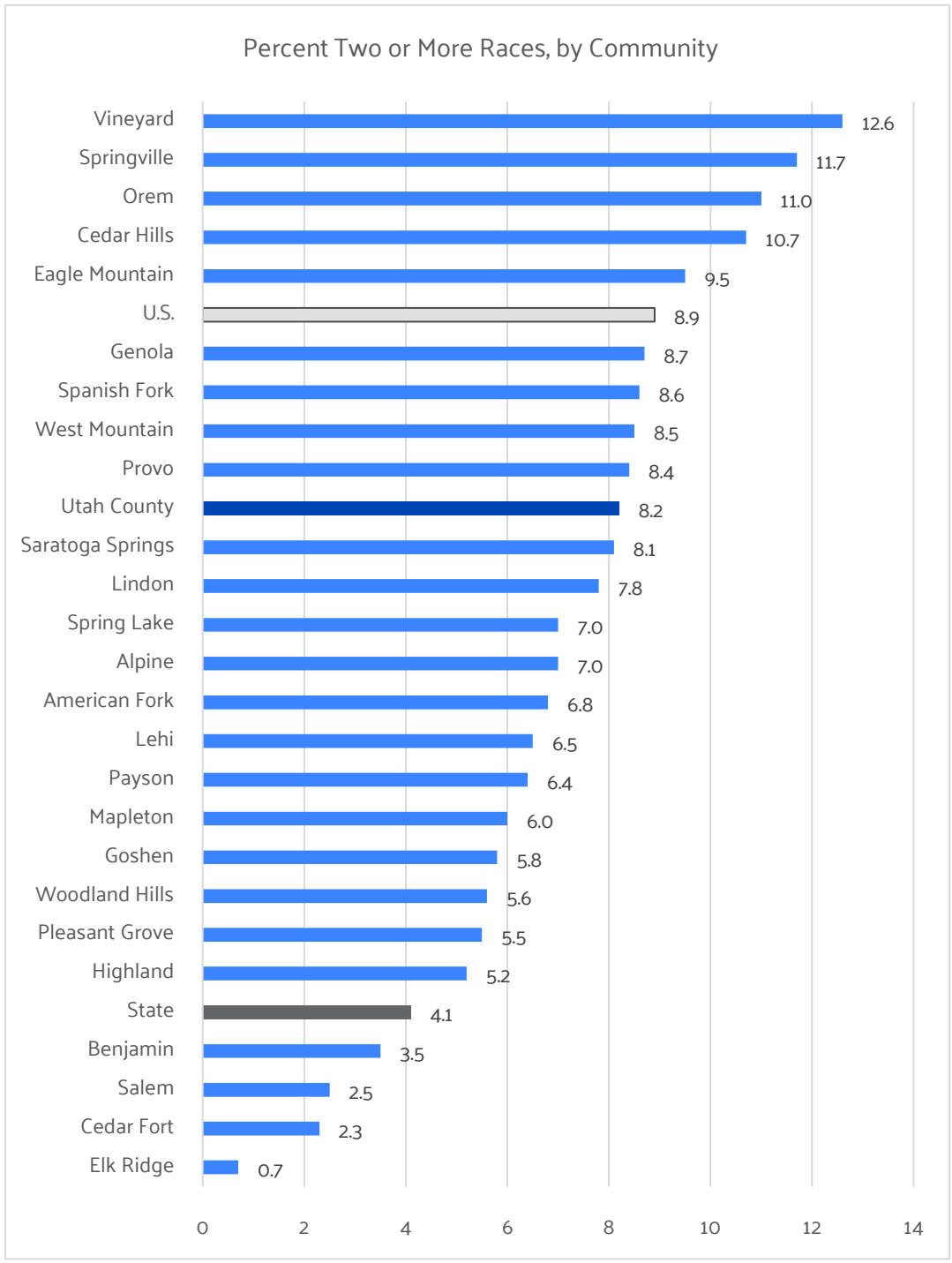


Figure 31: Non-White-Alone Racial Makeup, U.S., State, Utah County, 2023

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

Vineyard is the community with the highest percentage of persons of two or more races, at



12.6 percent; followed by Springville (11.7), Orem (11.0), Cedar Hills (10.7), and Eagle Mountain (9.5).<sup>44</sup>

Figure 33: Percent Two or More Races, by Community

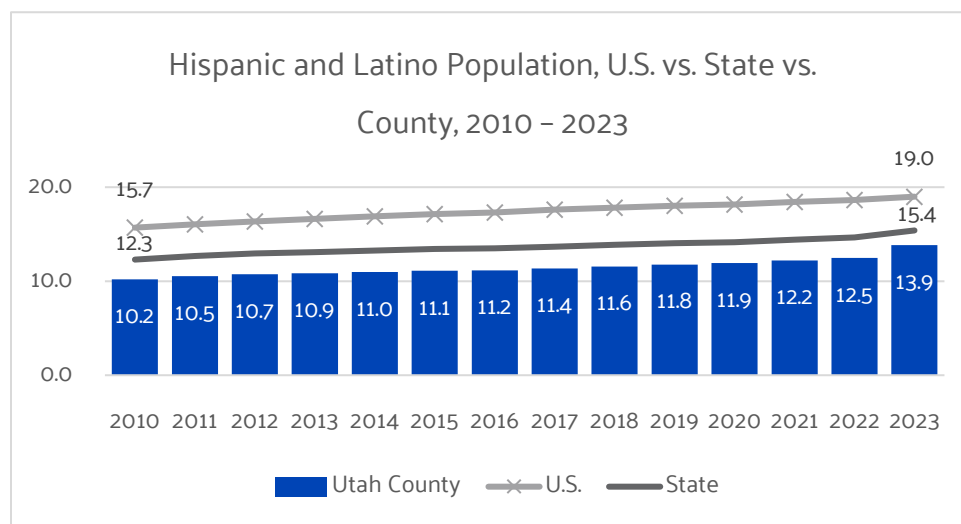
<sup>44</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 ACS, Table B02001

The Hispanic population in Utah County is nearly 14 percent, at 94,727 persons. Persons of Hispanic or Latino descent can be of any race; Utah County’s percentage of White alone Hispanic or Latino persons dropped from 68.7 percent in 2020 to 35.0 percent. Over the same period, the percentage of this population indicating they are of two or more races increased from 12.1 percent to 34.7 percent. The presumption is that this dramatic change is more likely due to reporting errors, not actual changes in the demographic composition. Utah County’s figures are similar to state and national data.<sup>45</sup>

**Table 18: Hispanic Population by Race, Percent, 2023**

	Hispanic Population by Race, Percent, 2023		
	U.S.	State	Utah County
White alone	27.8	32.4	35.0
Black or African American alone	1.7	0.6	0.5
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	1.9	2.2	2.2
Asian alone	0.4	0.3	0.3
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.1	0.2	0.2
Some other race alone	32.1	33.9	27.2
Two or more races:	36.0	30.4	34.7

Since 2010, the percentage of Hispanic or Latino individuals in Utah County has increased



from 10.2 percent to 13.9 percent. Although this remains lower than state (15.4) and national (19.0) figures, the rate of increase is much higher. Nationally,

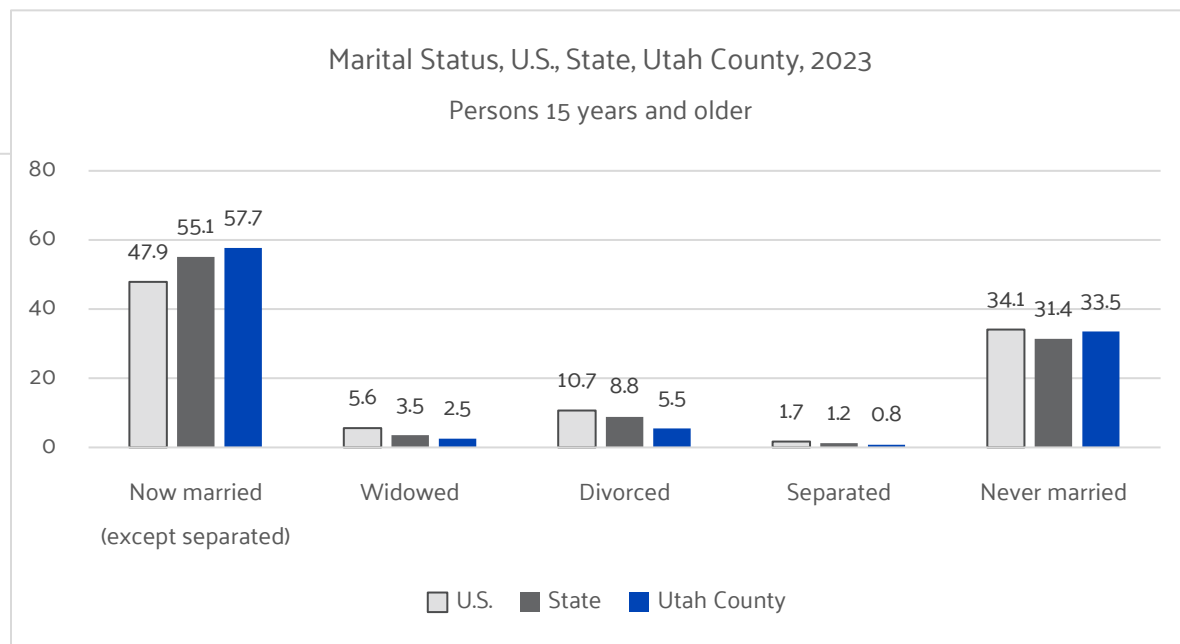
**Figure 34: Hispanic and Latino Population, U.S. vs. State vs. County, 2010 - 2023**

<sup>45</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 ACS, Table B03002

the increase in Hispanic or Latino populations from 2010 to 2023 was 21.0 percent; statewide it was 25.2 percent—and in Utah County, it was 36.0 percent.

### 2.1.7.3 Population by Marital Status

Marital status ratios for Utah County continue to differ from national norms. In Utah County, 57.7 percent of all persons age 15 and older are currently married (except separated), compared to 47.9 percent nationally. Although the County’s ratio of never married persons (33.5) is similar to the national figure (34.1), its divorced percentage is about half the national percentage (5.5 percent and 10.7 percent, respectively).<sup>46</sup>



**Figure 35: Marital Status, U.S., State, Utah County, 2023 Persons 15 years and older**

Utah County’s distinctive marriage culture is further manifest when looking at various age groups. About half of all men age 20 to 34 in Utah County have never been married; statewide, this figure is 54.8 percent; nationally, it is 69.9 percent. About four out of 10 women age 20 to 34 in Utah County have never married and more than six out of 10 nationally.<sup>47</sup>

<sup>46</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 ACS, Table S1201

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

### 2.1.7.4 Population by Nativity

About two-thirds of Utah County native U.S. citizens were born in Utah; 37.7 percent were born in another U.S. state, and 1.0 percent were born outside the U.S. The County has a lower percentage of foreign-born residents than the state or the U.S., at 7.8 percent. Of these, 40.1 percent are naturalized U.S. citizens, and 59.9 percent are not a U. S. Citizen. The non-citizen population of Utah County residents is 31,904.<sup>48</sup>

**Table 19: Nativity of Residents, Percent, U.S., State, Utah County, 2023**

Nativity of Residents, Percent, U.S., State, Utah County, 2023			
	U.S.	State	Utah County
Native U.S. citizen population	86.1	91.4	92.2
Born in state of residence	66.9	67.0	66.3
Born in other state	31.2	31.9	32.7
Born outside the United States:	2.0	1.1	1.0
Foreign-born population	13.9	8.6	7.8
Naturalized U.S. citizen	52.3	43.2	40.1
Not a U.S. citizen	47.7	56.8	59.9

<sup>48</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 ACS, Table C05002

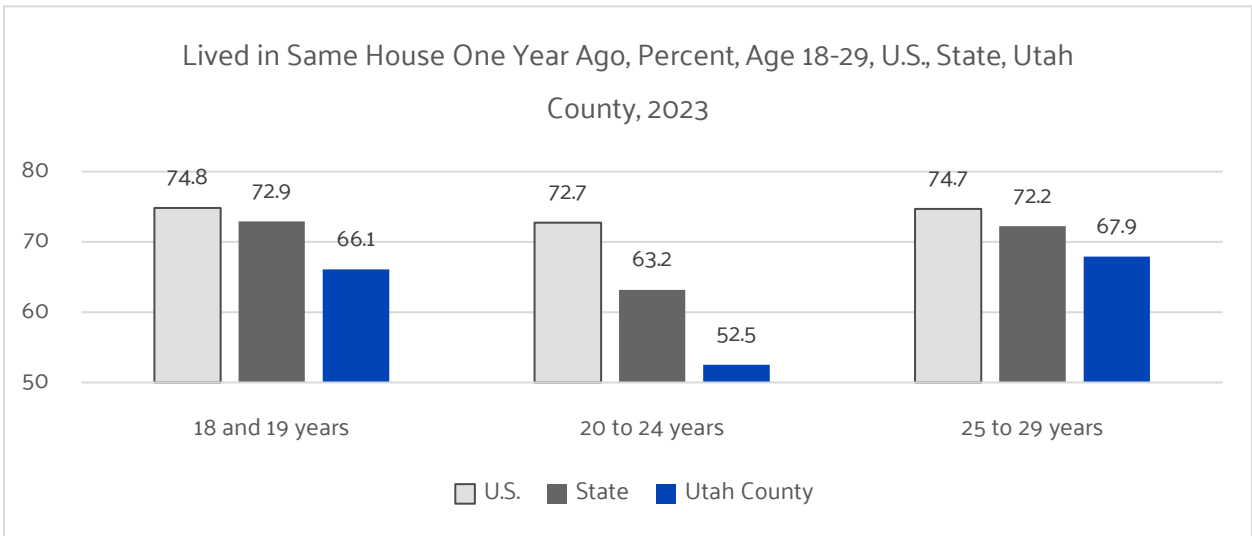
### 2.1.7.5 Population Mobility

Nearly 82 percent of Utah County residents live in the same house they lived in one year ago, compared to 79.6 percent in the prior assessment. Nationally, 87.3 percent live in the same dwelling, compared to 86.2 percent in 2020.<sup>49</sup>

**Table 20: Geographical Mobility in the Past Year, U.S., State, Utah County, 2023**

Geographical Mobility in the Past Year, U.S., State, Utah County, 2023			
	U.S.	State	Utah County
Same house 1 year ago	87.3	85.5	81.8
Moved within same county	6.6	8.2	10.5
Moved from different county within same state	2.3	2.9	3.9
Moved from different state	2.3	2.9	3.9
Moved from abroad	0.6	0.6	0.8

The high mobility of the County’s 18- to 29-year-old residents—approximately 173,000 persons—is stark. Only 52.5 percent of those age 20 to 24 live in the same house as one year ago.<sup>50</sup>



**Figure 36: Lived in Same House One Year Ago, Percent, Age 18-29, U.S., State, Utah County, 2023**

<sup>49</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 ACS, Table B07001

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

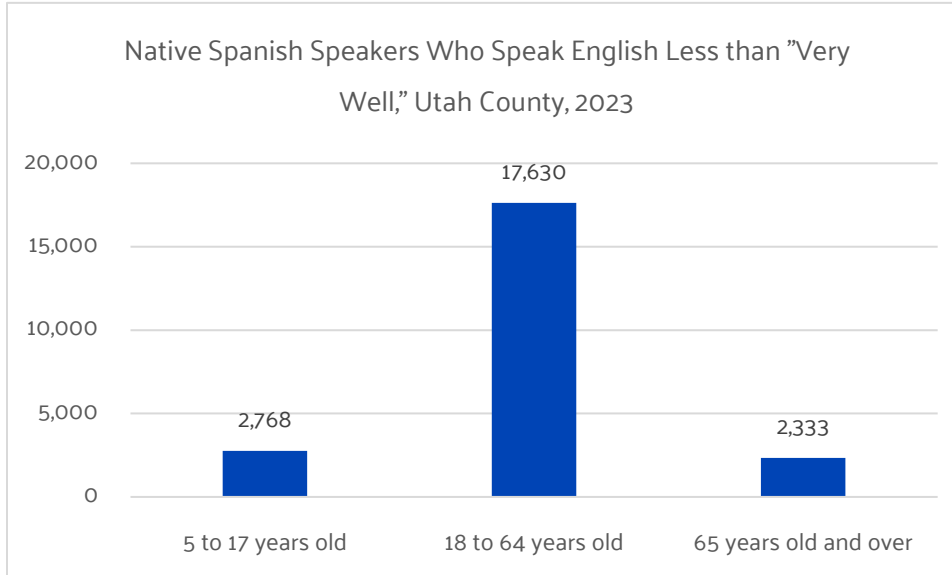
### 2.1.7.6 Population by Language Spoken at Home

Almost 85 percent of persons in Utah County speak English. at home; 11.3 percent speak Spanish, 2.2 percent speak other Indo-European languages, 2.0 percent speak Asian and Pacific Island languages, and 0.3 percent speak another language.<sup>51</sup>

**Table 21: Language Spoken at Home, Percent, U.S., State, Utah County, 2023**

Language Spoken at Home, Percent, U.S., State, Utah County, 2023			
	U.S.	State	Utah County
Speak only English	78.0	84.3	84.1
Speak Spanish	13.4	10.7	11.3
Speak other Indo-European language	3.8	2.1	2.2
Asian and Pacific Island languages	3.5	2.2	2.0
Other languages	1.2	0.7	0.3

In all, there are about 70,847 residents of the County who speak Spanish at home. This



includes 14,505 children age 5 to 17 years, 52,579 adults age 18 to 64 years, and 3,763 adults age 65 and older. Of these, 22,731—or 32.1 percent—speak English less than “very well.”<sup>52</sup>

Orem and Provo have the most Spanish-speaking

**Figure 37: Native Spanish Speakers Who Speak English less than “very well,” Utah County, 2023**

<sup>51</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 ACS, Table S1601

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

residents who speak English less than “very well” (5,812 and 5,487, respectively. Springville (1,763), Spanish Fork (1, 227), Lehi (1,170), Eagle Mountain (1,106), Saratoga Springs (1,012), and Pleasant Grove (1,003) also have sizeable numbers.<sup>53</sup>

**Table 22: Number and Percent Spanish Speaking Residents Who Speak English Less than “Very Well”**

Number and Percent Spanish Speaking Residents Who Speak English Less than “Very Well”					
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>		<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Alpine	-	-	Orem	5,812	39
American Fork	916	38.9	Palmyra	-	-
Benjamin	-	-	Payson	1,138	37.9
Cedar Fort	-	-	Pleasant Grove	1,003	35.4
Cedar Hills	285	44	Provo	5,487	27.5
Eagle Mountain	1,106	32.5	Salem	-	-
Elberta	-	-	Santaquin	266	21.3
Elk Ridge	-	-	Saratoga Springs	1,012	29.2
Fairfield	-	-	Spanish Fork	1,227	32.3
Genola	-	-	Spring Lake	-	-
Goshen	-	-	Springville	1,763	33.1
Highland	-	-	Sundance	-	-
Hobble Creek	-	-	Vineyard	827	49.3
Lake Shore	-	-	West Mountain	-	-
Lehi	1,170	24.8	Woodland Hills	-	-
Mapleton	-	-	Woodland Hills	-	-

Note: “-” indicates community has fewer than 100, so percentage not valid

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

## 2.1.8 Vital Statistics

### 2.1.8.1 Birth and Fertility

#### 2.1.8.1.1 Births by Year

In the first 23 years of this century, Utah County's births peaked in 2008 at 12,506. Despite the population's continued growth, the number of births generally declined over the next 10 years to 11,515 in 2018. In 2023, there were 12,046 births.<sup>54</sup>

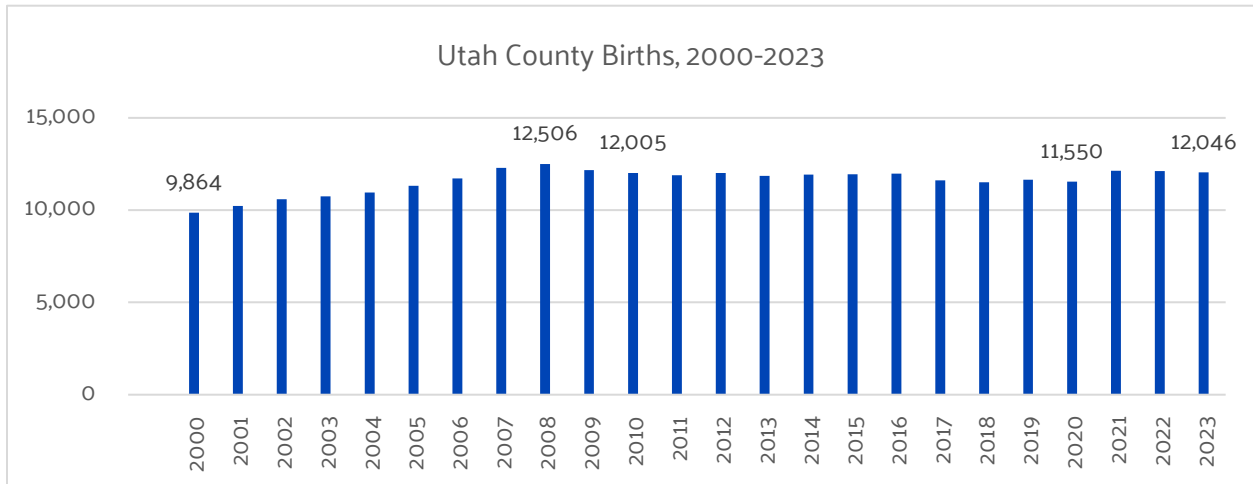


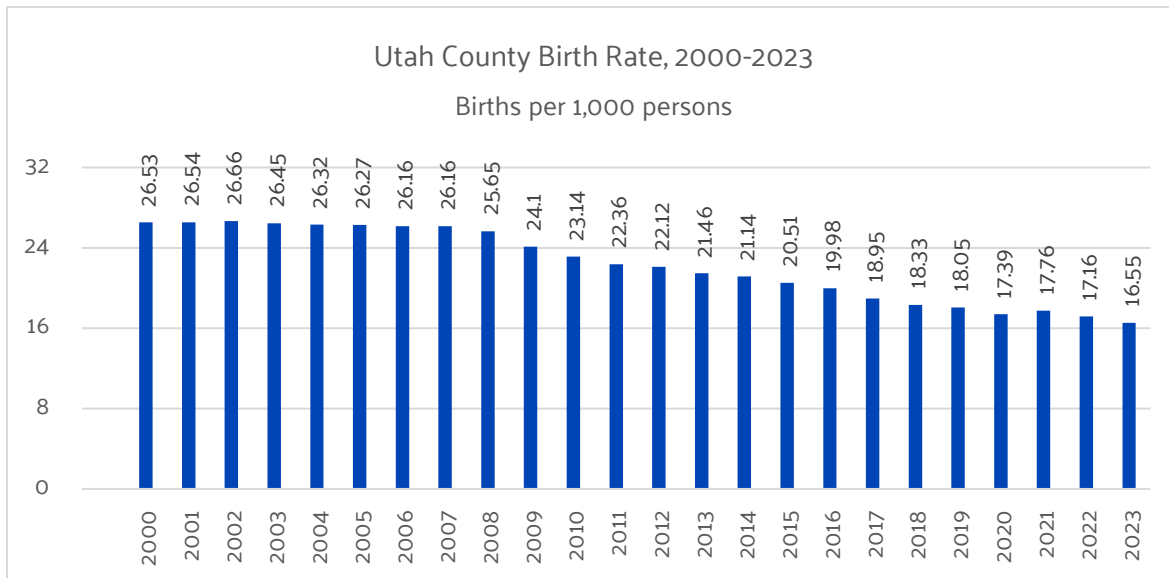
Figure 38: Utah County Births, 2000-2023

#### 2.1.8.1.2 Births per 1,000 Population

Given the decreasing number of births amid a fast-growing population, it comes as no surprise that the birth rate—measured as the number of live births per 1,000 population—has decreased sharply. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the birth rate reached its peak in 2002 at 26.66 births per 1,000. It slowly diminished over the next six years, then took a significant drop starting in 2009 (24.1). From then, the decline continued, reaching 16.55 in 2023.<sup>55</sup>

<sup>54</sup> Utah Department of Health, Public Health Indicator Based Information System (IBIS), Retrieved March 2025

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.



**Figure 39: Utah County Birth Rate, 2000-2023, Births per 1,000 persons**

With 2023’s rate of 16.55 per 1,000 resulting in 12,046 births, it is possible to calculate the number of babies who would have been born had the birth rate remained at the 2000 level of 26.53. Had the birth rate remained the same, 2023 would have seen 27,421 births—more than twice the number experienced.

### 2.1.8.1.3 Teen Births

The negative effects of teenage motherhood have been well documented. Children of teen mothers often experience

- low birth weight;
- health problems associated with poor perinatal outcomes;
- greater risk of perinatal death;
- lower IQ and academic achievement later in life;
- increased risk of socio-emotional problems;
- greater likelihood of having a fatal accident before age one; and
- greater probability of starting one’s own family at an early age.<sup>56</sup>

<sup>56</sup> Hofferth, S. (1987): *Risking the Future: Adolescent Sexuality, Pregnancy, and Childbearing, Volume II: Working Papers and Statistical Appendices*. Chapter 8: The Children of Teen Childbearers

Teenage mothers suffer negative consequences as well. Unmarried teenage mothers experience lower educational attainment, lower income (both short-term and lifetime), and greater likelihood of relying on government assistance.<sup>57</sup> Teenage mothers who birth more than one child are likely to suffer even more, being less likely to graduate from high school and more likely to receive public assistance. All these challenges make it less likely for unwed teenage mothers to secure economic stability in life.<sup>58</sup>

Although the effects of teenage fatherhood have not been explored and reported with as much vigor as those of teenage motherhood, studies show negative outcomes. Teenage fathers are less likely to complete high school and more likely to marry or cohabitate at a younger age. They are more likely to enlist in the military or find full-time employment at a younger age. Although they experience less social capital than their non-father peers, this negative effect is somewhat mitigated by engagement in military or employment. Due to decreased educational attainment,

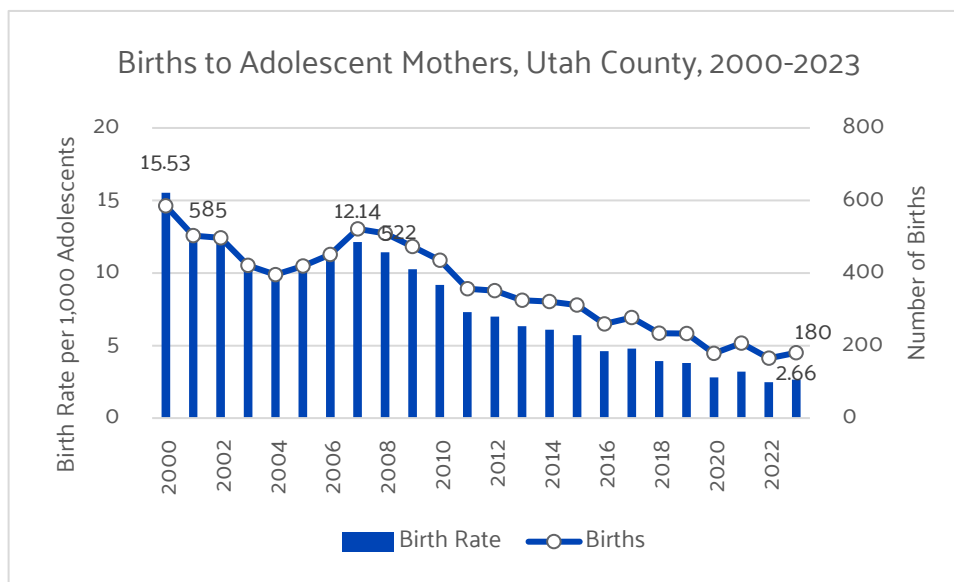


Figure 40: Births to Adolescent Mothers, Utah County, 2000-2023

teenage fathers experience decreased lifetime earnings.<sup>59</sup>

Births to teenage mothers and adolescent birth rates in Utah County have been decreasing since 2000, although there was a period of

<sup>57</sup> Gorry, D. (2019). Heterogeneous Consequences of Teenage Childbearing. *Demography* (Springer Nature), 56(6), 2147-2168.

<sup>58</sup> Cone, J. N., Hendrick, C. E., Owotomo, O., Al-Hamoodah, L., & Maslowsky, J. (2021). Socioeconomic Well-Being in Early Adulthood among Repeat versus One-Time Teenage Mothers. *Youth & Society*, 53(7), 1090-1110.

<sup>59</sup> Fletcher, J. M., & Wolfe, B. L. (2012). The Effects of Teenage Fatherhood on Young Adult Outcomes. *Economic Inquiry*, 50(1), 182-201.

increase from 2005 to 2007. The number of births to teen mothers this century reached peaked in 2000, at 585 (15.53 per 1,000 girls 10-19 years). In 2023, only 180 children were born to adolescents; the birth rate for adolescent births has decreased 2.66 in 2023.<sup>60</sup>

## 2.1.8.2 Mortality

### 2.1.8.2.1 Mortality Counts and Rates

Mortality rates in Utah County have generally remained steady from 2015 to 2023, in the low- to mid-400s range for every 100,000 population. In 2023, the County experienced 3,089 deaths, with a rate of 424.46.<sup>61</sup>

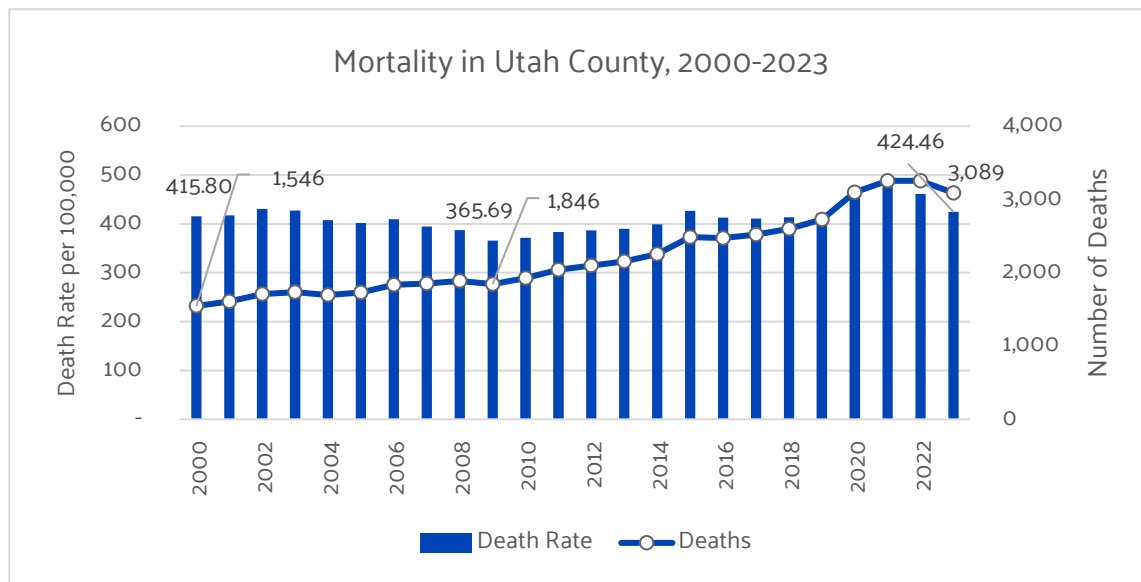


Figure 41: Mortality in Utah County, 2000-2023

### 2.1.8.2.2 Infant Mortality Counts and Rates

Except for a spike in 2016 (78 deaths and rate of 6.51 per 1,000 live births), Utah County’s infant mortality rate has been around 5.0 since 2000. In 2023, there were 57 deaths.<sup>62</sup>

<sup>60</sup> Utah Department of Health, Public Health Indicator Based Information System (IBIS), Retrieved March 2025

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid.

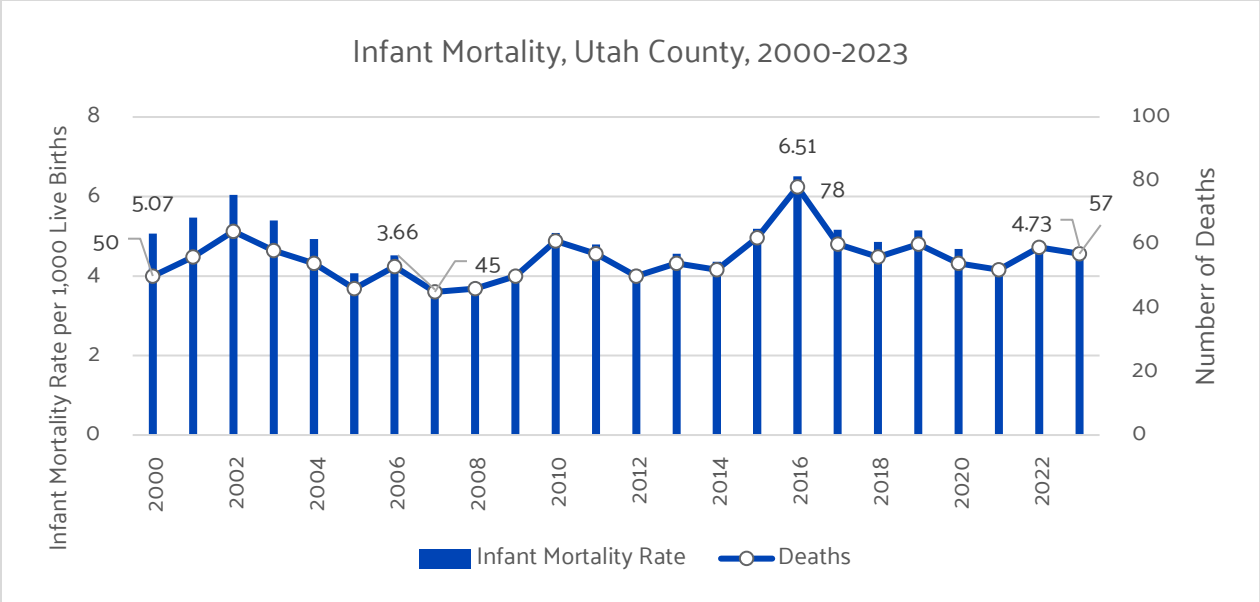


Figure 43: Infant Mortality, Utah County, 2000-2023

Neonatal infant mortality rates—infants age 0 to 27 days—have remained about the same this century. In 2023, the rate was 1.83 per 1,000 live births; 22 infants died.<sup>63</sup>

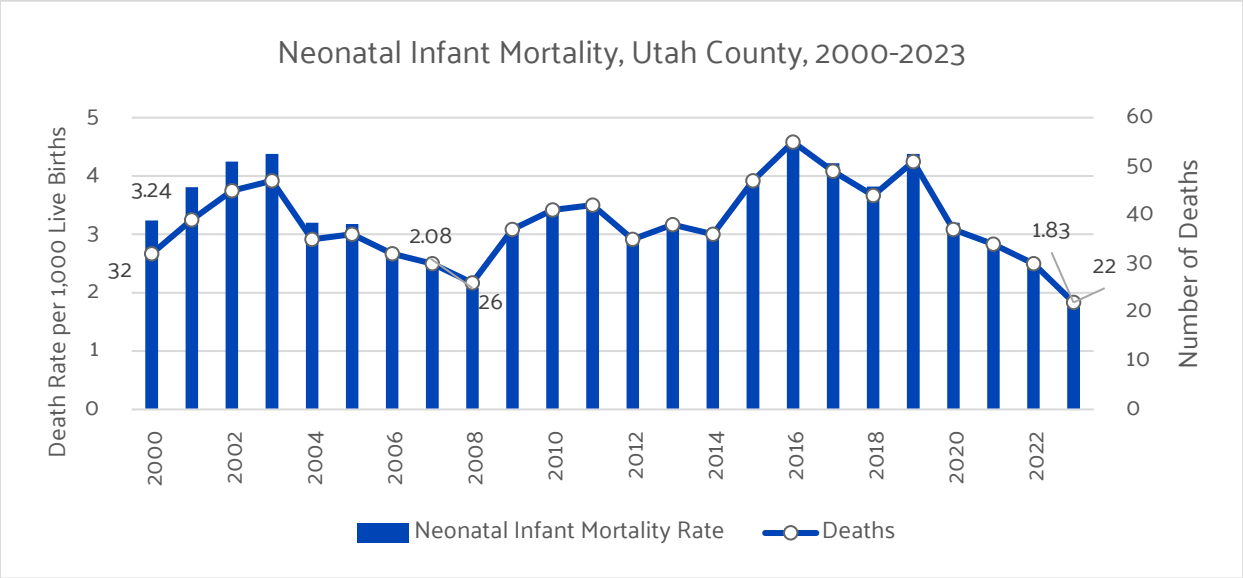


Figure 42: Neonatal Infant Mortality, Utah County, 2000-2023

<sup>63</sup> Ibid.

### 2.1.8.2.3 Causes of Infant Mortality

Because the numbers of infant mortality are so low, the causes of death are reported in five-year periods. But even using these aggregated numbers make it virtually impossible to analyze this data and draw conclusions. The tables below show causes of infant mortality in both raw numbers and rates per 1,000 infants.<sup>64</sup>

**Table 23: Causes of Infant Mortality, Utah County, Rates per 1,000 Live Births, 2004-2023**

Causes of Infant Mortality, Utah County, Rates per 1,000 Live Births, 2004-2023				
	2004- 2008	2009- 2013	2014- 2018	2019- 2023
Medical Conditions	0.58	0.47	0.58	0.54
Perinatal Conditions	1.6	1.89	2.39	2.35
Congenital Malformations	1.26	1.47	1.76	1.48
SIDS	0.31	0.35	0.22	0.22
Undetermined	**	**	**	**
Unintentional and Accidental	**	0.22	**	**
Assault and Homicide	**	**	**	**
Other External Causes	**	**	**	**

<sup>64</sup> Ibid.

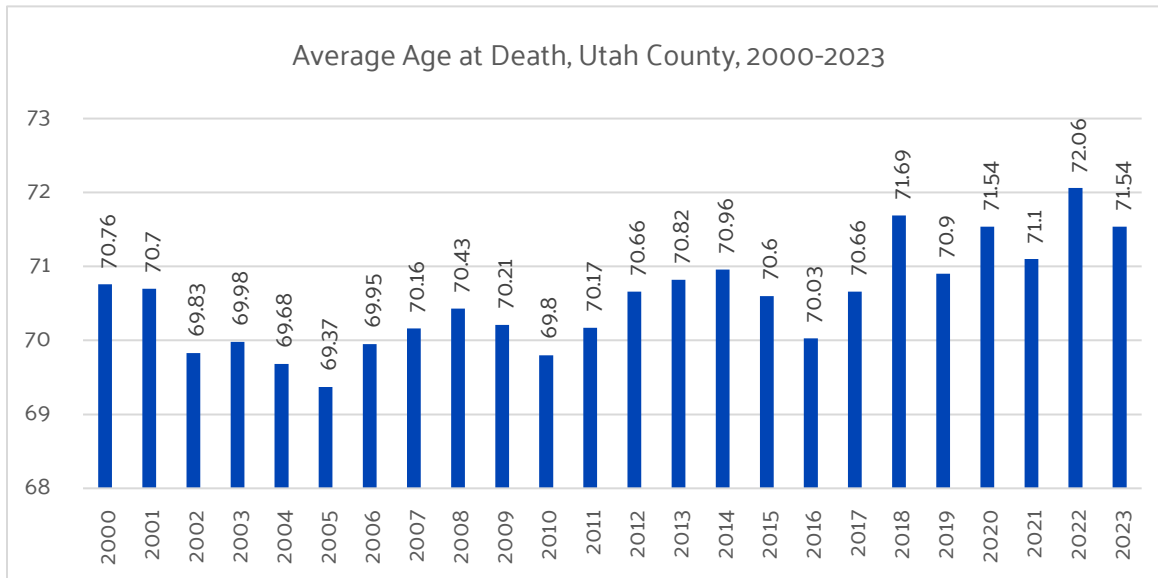
\*\*The estimate has been suppressed because 1) the relative standard error is greater than 50% or the relative standard error can't be determined, 2) the observed number of events is very small and not appropriate for publication, or 3) it could be used to calculate the number in a cell that has been suppressed. Consider aggregating years to decrease the relative standard error and improve the reliability of the estimate.

**Table 24: Causes of Infant Mortality, Utah County, Number Deaths, 2004-2023**

Causes of Infant Mortality, Utah County, Number Deaths, 2004-2023				
	2004- 2008	2009- 2013	2014- 2018	2019- 2023
Medical Conditions	34	28	34	32
Perinatal Conditions	94	113	141	140
Congenital Malformations	74	88	104	88
SIDS	18	21	13	13
Undetermined	**	**	**	**
Unintentional and Accidental	**	13	**	**
Assault and Homicide	**	**	**	**
Other External Causes	**	**	**	**

#### 2.1.8.2.4 Average Age at Death

The average age at death in Utah County has generally been around 69 to 72 years.<sup>65</sup>



**Figure 45: Average Age at Death, Utah County, 2000-2023**

<sup>65</sup> Ibid.

### 2.1.8.2.5 Causes of Death

Heart disease and cancer were the most common causes of death in Utah County in 2023. Heart disease (625 deaths) had a death rate per 100,000 population of 86.9, and cancer (546 deaths) had a rate of 75.9.<sup>66</sup>

**Table 25: 15 Leading Causes of Death, Utah County, 2023**

15 Leading Causes of Death, Utah County, 2023		
	Number of Deaths	Crude Rate per 100,000
Heart disease	625	86.9
Cancer	546	75.9
Accidents (unintentional injuries)	215	29.9
Alzheimer	173	24.1
Cerebrovascular diseases	140	19.5
Suicide	104	14.5
Chronic lower respiratory diseases	101	14
Diabetes mellitus	99	13.8
Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	61	8.5
Parkinson disease	56	7.8
Nutritional deficiencies	53	7.4
Septicemia	45	6.3
Influenza and pneumonia	45	6.3
Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	39	5.4
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	30	4.2

<sup>66</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics

### 2.1.8.2.6 Leading Causes of Injury Death

Unintentional injuries, the third leading cause of death in 2023, include motor vehicle accidents, poisoning, firearm accident, falls, and suffocation.<sup>67</sup>

**Table 26: Causes of Injury Deaths, Utah County, 2000-2023**

Causes of Unintentional Injury Death, 2000 – 2023: Number of Deaths				
	Motor Vehicle	Drowning	Poisoning	Unintentional Fall
2000	34	5*	24	12
2001	32	5*	26	9*
2002	43	**	38	15
2003	47	**	60	15
2004	33	**	56	12
2005	29	9*	76	15
2006	41	6*	84	11*
2007	41	**	82	29
2008	44	4*	58	18
2009	29	**	82	23
2010	35	6*	79	25
2011	22	7*	94	32
2012	25	5*	97	33
2013	26	**	88	24
2014	24	4*	96	26
2015	36	7*	104	26
2016	31	7*	112	32
2017	31	6*	113	32
2018	28	5*	98	36
2019	29	7*	92	56
2020	44	6*	94	66
2021	31	**	76	73
2022	26	**	53	65
2023	22	**	78	55

<sup>67</sup> Utah Department of Health, Public Health Indicator Based Information System (IBIS), Retrieved March 2025

Drug-induced deaths (overdose deaths) in Utah County are relatively few, and alcohol-induced deaths are even fewer. The rates below are deaths per 100,000 population.

**Table 27: Drug- and Alcohol-Induced Deaths, Utah County, 2000-2023**

Drug- and Alcohol-Induced Deaths, Utah County, 2000-2023 <sup>68</sup>				
	Drug-Induced Deaths		Alcohol-Induced Deaths	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
2000	25	6.8		
2001	24	6.2		
2002	40	10.1		
2003	58	14.3	14	Unreliable
2004	53	12.7	13	Unreliable
2005	78	18.1	14	Unreliable
2006	82	18.3	13	Unreliable
2007	79	16.8		
2008	58	11.9	14	Unreliable
2009	79	15.6	13	4.1
2010	77	14.9	21	Unreliable
2011	92	17.3	11	3.7
2012	96	17.8		
2013	85	15.4		
2014	95	16.9	21	3.7
2015	98	17.0	21	3.7
2016	108	18.2	28	4.7
2017	116	19.1	18	Unreliable
2018	101	16.2	23	3.7
2019	93	14.6	22	3.5
2020	94	14.4	38	5.8
2021	73	10.7	20	2.9
2022	49	7.0	41	5.8
2023	77	10.7	34	4.7

<sup>68</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics

### 2.1.8.2.7 Suicide

Suicide in Utah County has not abated, In 2023, the age group with the highest rate and the largest number of suicides was 35-44 years, with 23 suicides and a rate of 27.85 per 100,000.<sup>69</sup>

**Table 28: Suicides by Age Group, Utah County, Rate per 100,000, 2000-2023**

Suicides by Age Group, Utah County, Rate per 100,000, 2000-2023					
	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years
2000	**	**	**	**	**
2001	12.62	**	32.13	**	**
2002	10.38*	20.57	**	**	**
2003	**	**	**	**	**
2004	14.25	22.09	**	**	**
2005	15.04	21.09	**	**	**
2006	**	**	30.05	31.66	**
2007	10.31*	**	**	**	**
2008	14.08	**	**	**	**
2009	10.32*	18.61	31.38	**	**
2010	**	22.71	**	**	**
2011	13.48	20.30	21.85	26.72	33.20*
2012	18.28	20.23	17.79*	30.35	**
2013	15.26	26.99	31.31	**	**
2014	20.54	19.02	19.61	**	**
2015	13.43	20.93	23.05	31.85	**
2016	13.71	16.30	23.47	30.79	**
2017	12.56	24.81	21.33	37.47	**
2018	13.60	21.35	35.97	23.66	**
2019	22.16	18.96	33.37	**	**
2020	17.39	30.07	23.74	39.22	**
2021	10.92	21.63	17.81	**	24.17*
2022	17.45	13.57	33.50	22.72	32.00
2023	13.30	13.43	27.85	25.62	**

<sup>69</sup> Utah Department of Health, Public Health Indicator Based Information System (IBIS), Retrieved March 2025

Suicides by Age Group, Utah County, Number, 2000-2023<sup>70</sup>

	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years
2000	**	**	**	**	**
2001	13	**	13	**	**
2002	11*	12	**	**	**
2003	**	**	**	**	**
2004	15	14	**	**	**
2005	16	14	**	**	**
2006	**	**	14	12	**
2007	11*	**	**	**	**
2008	15	**	**	**	**
2009	11*	16	17	**	**
2010	**	20	**	**	**
2011	15	18	13	12	11*
2012	21	18	11*	14	**
2013	18	24	20	**	**
2014	25	17	13	**	**
2015	17	19	16	16	**
2016	18	15	17	16	**
2017	17	23	16	20	**
2018	19	20	28	13	**
2019	32	18	27	**	**
2020	26	29	20	23	**
2021	17	22	15	**	11*
2022	28	15	28	15	15
2023	22	16	23	18	**

<sup>70</sup> \*Use caution in interpreting; the estimate has a coefficient of variation > 30% and is therefore deemed unreliable by Utah Department of Health and Human Services standards. Consider aggregating years to decrease the relative standard error and improve the reliability of the estimate. \*\*The estimate has been suppressed because 1) the relative standard error is greater than 50% or the relative standard error can't be determined, 2) the observed number of events is very small and not appropriate for publication, or 3) it could be used to calculate the number in a cell that has been suppressed.

## 2.2 Education

### 2.2.1 Educational Attainment

Utah County’s residents remain highly educated. With 78.6 percent of its population age 25 or older have at least some college education,<sup>71</sup> it is the 8<sup>th</sup> most highly educated county in the nation<sup>72</sup>. The culture of education is manifest throughout Utah County, with two major universities,

**Table 29: Percent Population Age 25 and Older with Some College Education, Counties 500,00+ Population**

Percent Population Age 25 and Older with Some College Education, Counties 500,00+ Population		
Rank	County	Some College
1	Johnson County, Kansas	82.3
2	Fairfax County, Virginia	81.3
3	Collin County, Texas	80.1
4	King County, Washington	79.5
5	Wake County, North Carolina	79.4
6	Dane County, Wisconsin	78.9
7	Hennepin County, Minnesota	78.8
8	Utah County, Utah	78.6
9	Fulton County, Georgia	78.2
10	Montgomery County, Maryland	77.8

multiple independent colleges and trade schools, and abundant primary and secondary educational institutions throughout each community. The County’s highly educated workforce is often cited as a draw to employers relocating to the area, and the strong work ethic of many western states has likely permeated educational endeavors for families and individuals. The percentage of Utah County residents who have at least some college education continues to beat out the state of Utah a whole (70.8 percent), and easily surpasses the national number (63.2 percent).

<sup>71</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 ACS, Table S1501

<sup>72</sup> Ibid. Among U.S. counties of 500,000 population or more

Utah County's college educational attainment outpaces both the state and the U.S., except for residents with a graduate or professional degree. Nearly one in four County residents age 25 or older has some college education but no degree—compared to 24.1 percent statewide and 19.4 percent nationally. One in ten County residents has an associate's degree, compared to 9.8 percent

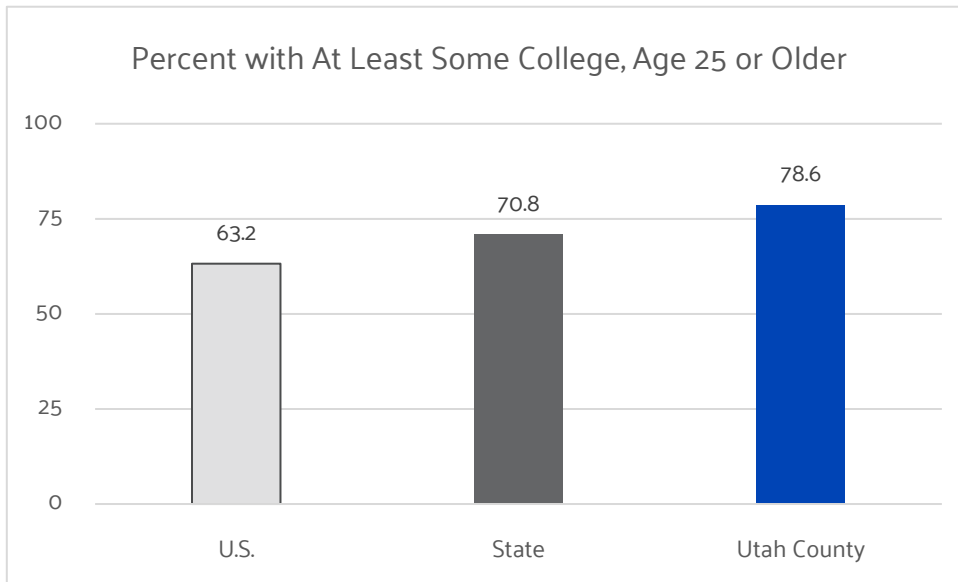


Figure 47: Percent with At Least Some College, Age 25 or Older

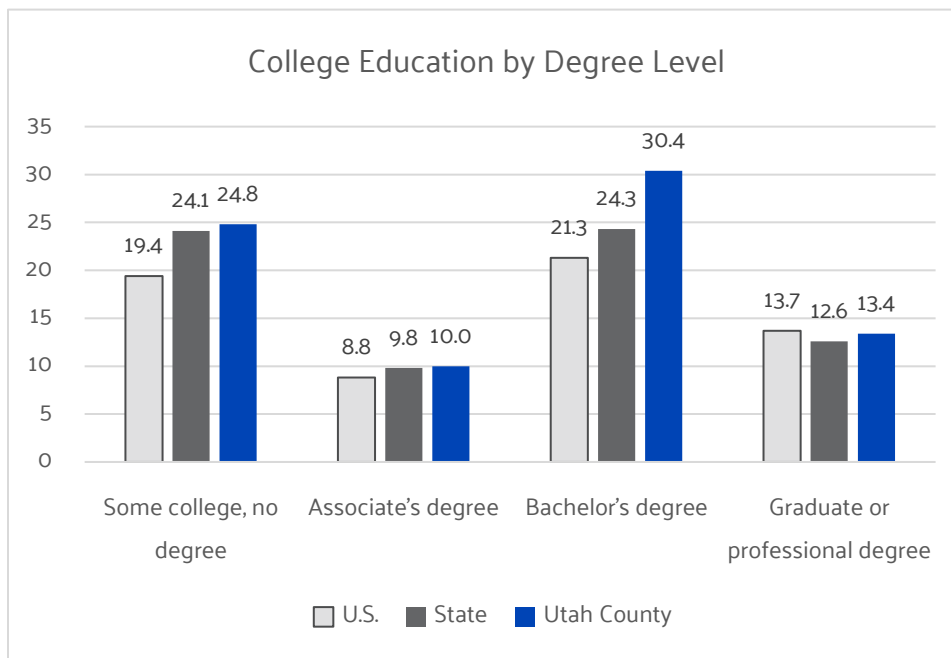
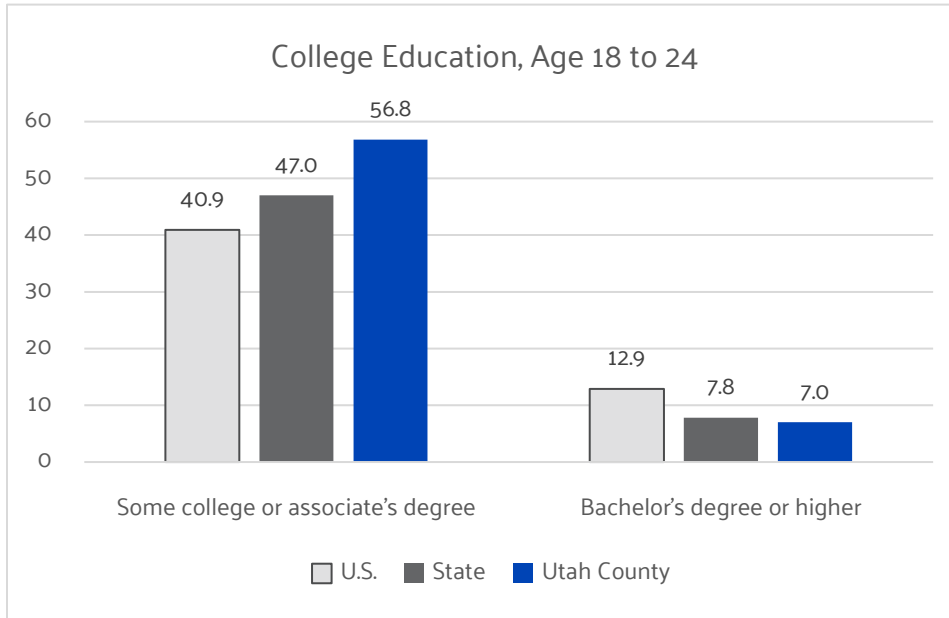


Figure 46: College Education by Degree Level

throughout Utah and 8.8 percent nationally. The County excels in individuals with a bachelor's degree; 30.4 percent have earned this level of degree, compared to 24.3 percent for the state and 21.3 percent nationally. Graduate and professional

degrees are more on par with state and national figures; the County's 13.4 percent compares with

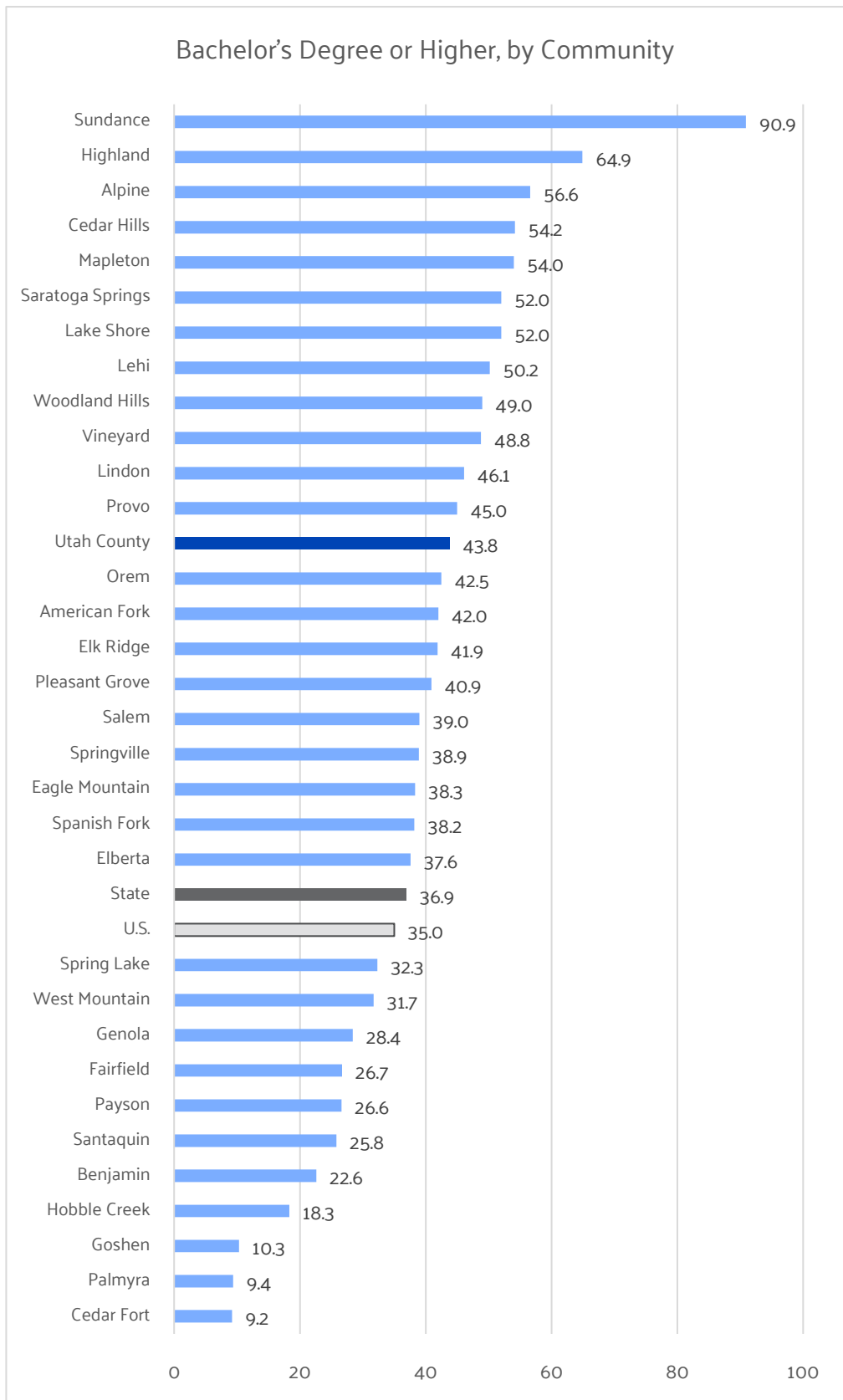
the state's 12.6 and the nation's 13.7 percent.<sup>73</sup> The numbers are different for those age 18 to 24. About 57 percent of County residents in this age group have at least some college education or have earned an associate's degree, compared to 47.0 percent statewide and 40.9 percent nationally. Only 7.0 percent of County residents in this age group have a bachelor's degree or higher, lower than both the state (7.8 percent) and U.S. (12.9 percent).<sup>74</sup> This is likely due to the culture of young adults serving up to two years of mission work, delaying post-secondary education or employment.



**Figure 48: College Education, Age 18-24**

<sup>73</sup> Ibid.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid.



Sundance has the highest percentage of adults age 25 or older with a bachelor's degree or higher, at nearly 91 percent. Highland has 64.9 percent, while alpine (56.6), Cedar Hills (54.2), Mapleton (54.0), Saratoga Springs (52.0) Lake Shore (50.2), and Lehi (50.2) have at least half their populations at this level. Those with fewer bachelor's, graduate, or professional degrees include Cedar Fort (9.2 percent), Palmyra (9.4), Hobble Creek (18.3), Benjamin

Figure 49: Bachelor's Degree or Higher, by Community

(22.6)—all of which have fewer than one in four residents in this age group with this level of educational attainment.<sup>75</sup>

### 2.2.1.1 Educational Attainment by Sex

Both men and women in Utah County have achieved bachelor's or graduate (or professional) degrees at higher rates than their counterparts in the state and nation. While 47

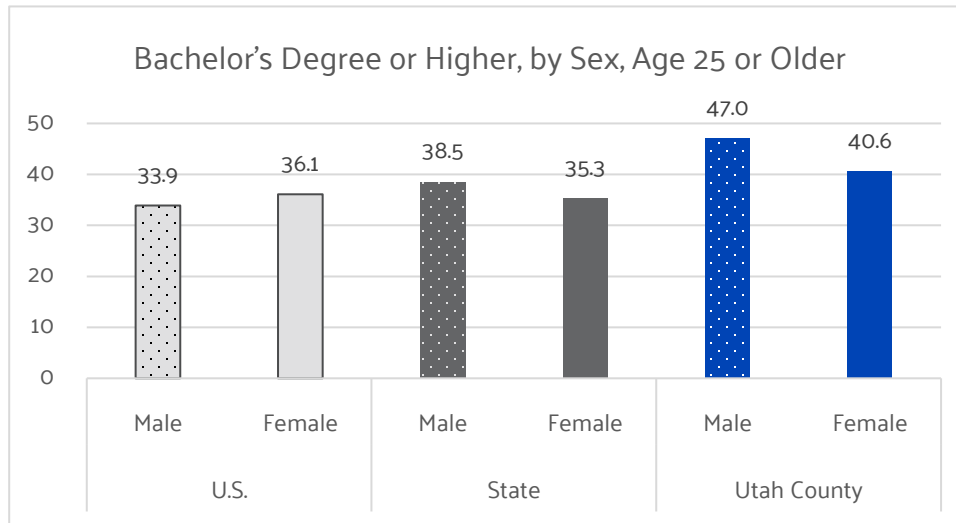


Figure 51: Bachelor's Degree or Higher, by Sex, Age 25 or Older

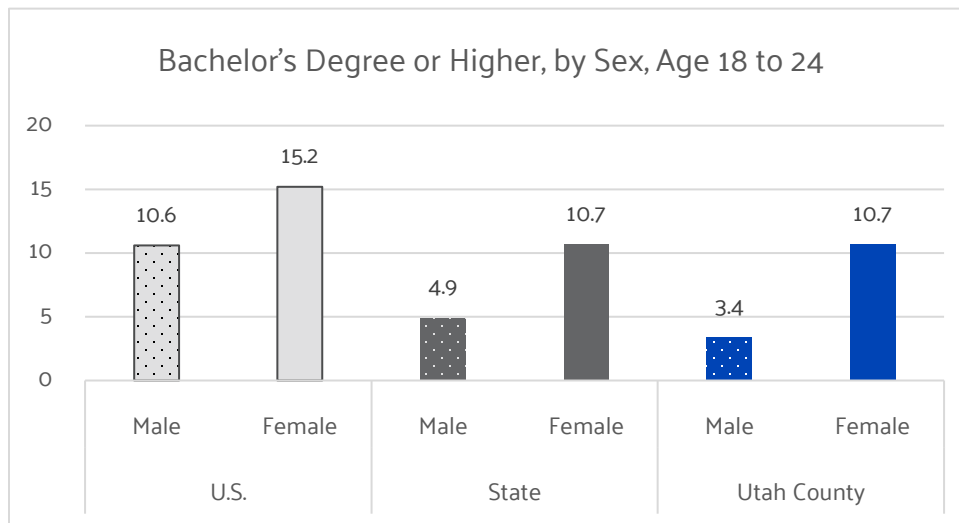


Figure 50: Bachelor's Degree or Higher, by Sex, Age 18 to 24

percent of Utah County men have attained this level of post-secondary education, 38.5 percent of men statewide, and 33.9 percent of men nationally, have done so. Nearly 41 percent of the County's women have achieved this, which is higher than the state (35.3 percent) and national (36.1 percent) figures.<sup>76</sup>

Both men and women age 18 to 24 years in Utah County, however,

<sup>75</sup> Ibid.

<sup>76</sup> Ibid.

lag behind national peers—likely due to the voluntary service missions this age group often serve. Only 3.4 percent of Utah County men, and 10.7 percent of women, have attained bachelor’s degrees or higher.<sup>77</sup>

When considering completion of any college among Utah County adults, both men and women are also ahead of state and national figures. Men (78.7) and women (78.6) in Utah County are virtually even; this compares to statewide figures of 70.2 percent and 71.4 percent, respectively, statewide. Nationally, 61.1 percent of men, and 65.2 percent of women, have completed at least some college, irrespective of degrees awarded.<sup>78</sup>

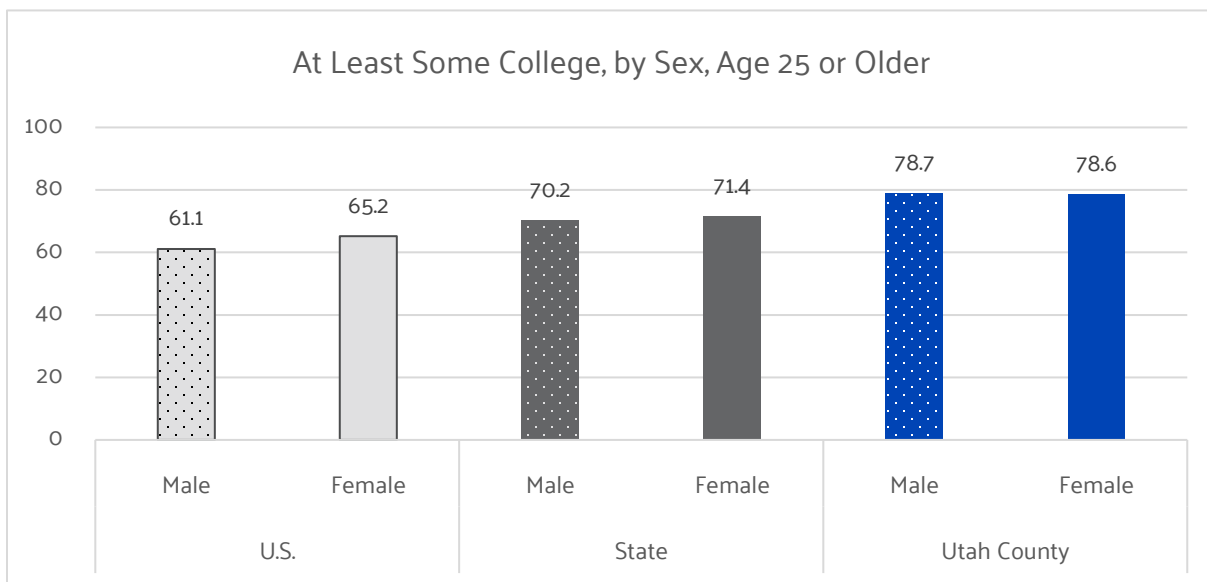


Figure 52: At Least Some College, by Sex, Age 25 or Older

### 2.2.1.1.1 Educational Attainment by Sex by Age Group

When it comes to educational attainment in Utah County, there is little distinction between men and women. More distinct differences include those with some college education but no degree awarded (men: 22.7 percent; women: 26.9 percent) and graduate or professional degrees

<sup>77</sup> Ibid.

<sup>78</sup> Ibid.

(men: 17.4 percent; women: 9.3 percent). A higher percentage of Utah County men achieve the latter category than statewide or nationally; a lower percentage of Utah County women do.<sup>79</sup>

**Table 30: Educational Attainment by Sex by Age Group, Age 25 or Older**

Educational Attainment by Sex by Age Group, Age 25 or Older	U.S.		State		Utah County	
Less than 9th grade	4.9	4.5	2.8	2.5	2.0	1.8
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	6.5	5.4	4.5	3.6	3.0	2.5
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	27.5	24.9	22.5	22.5	16.4	17.2
Some college, no degree	19.3	19.5	22.9	25.2	22.7	26.9
Associate's degree	7.9	9.6	8.8	10.9	9.0	11.1
Bachelor's degree	20.8	21.8	23.7	24.8	29.6	31.3
Graduate or professional degree	13.1	14.3	14.8	10.5	17.4	9.3
High school graduate or higher	88.6	90.1	92.7	93.9	95.0	95.7
Bachelor's degree or higher	33.9	36.1	38.5	35.3	47.0	40.6

Except for those in the 18-24 years group, Utah County women are ahead of state and national peers for bachelor's degree or higher in virtually every age group. Utah County women age 25 to 34 outpace national rates by about three percentage points, and those age 35 to 44 are virtually tied with the national figure (43.6 percent for County women, and 43.7 percent nationally). Among older age groups—those age 45 to 64 and age 65 and over—Utah County women are clearly more advanced than corresponding age groups statewide and nationally.<sup>80</sup>

<sup>79</sup> Ibid.

<sup>80</sup> Ibid.

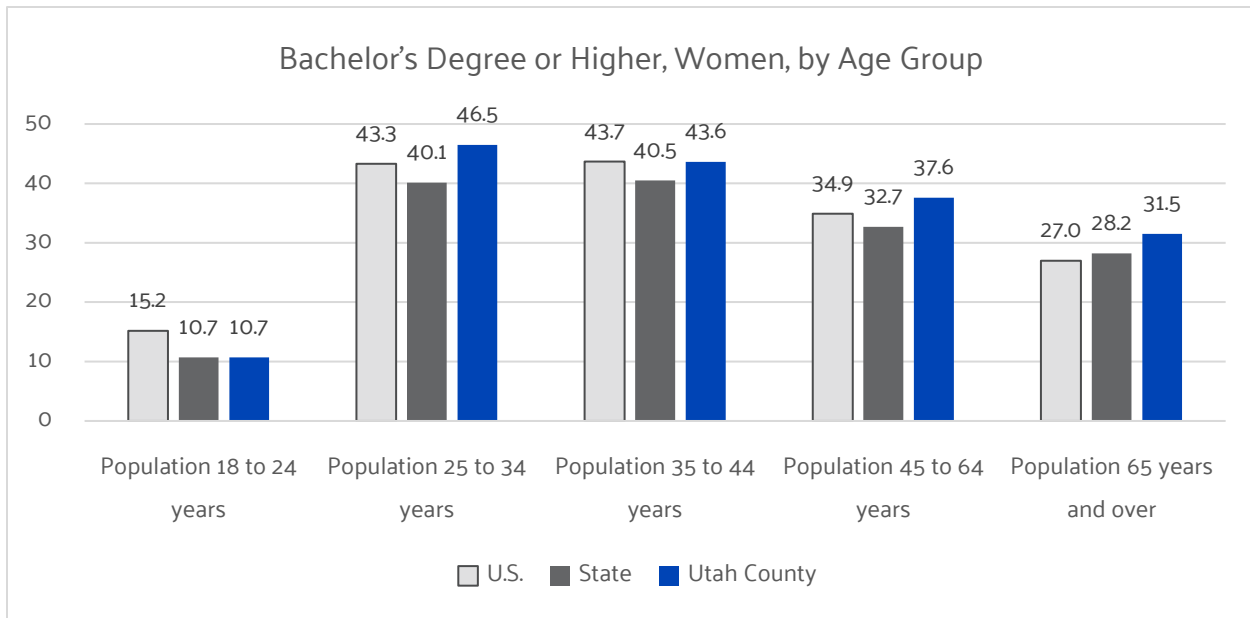


Figure 53: Bachelor's Degree or Higher, Women, by Age Group

Utah County women age 35 to 44, and those age 45 to 64, are about 10 percentage points behind men when it comes to attaining a bachelor's degree or higher. County women age 65 and older are about 20 points behind men.<sup>81</sup>

Table 31: Bachelor's Degree or Higher, by Sex and Age Group

	U.S.		State		Utah County	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Population 18 to 24 years	10.6	15.2	4.9	10.7	3.4	10.7
Population 25 to 34 years	34.5	43.3	34.6	40.1	40.4	46.5
Population 35 to 44 years	36.0	43.7	41.3	40.5	53.2	43.6
Population 45 to 64 years	32.2	34.9	37.9	32.7	47.0	37.6
Population 65 years and over	34.3	27.0	41.3	28.2	50.5	31.5

<sup>81</sup> Ibid.

## 2.2.2 Primary and Secondary Education

### 2.2.2.1 School Enrollment

#### 2.2.2.1.1 Public School Enrollment

In school year 2024-2025, there were 160,836 students enrolled in public schools, compared to 150,995 at the time of the last community assessment (2021-2022 figures). Children are distributed somewhat evenly across all grade levels; however, there are fewer students in the youngest grade levels than the corresponding older grade level. That is, there are 1,018 fewer Kindergartners than grade 10 students, 846 fewer grade 1 students than grade 11 students, and 383 fewer grade 2 students than grade 12 students. In all, there are 2,247 fewer students in grades K-2 than in grades 10-12.<sup>82</sup> This could be an indicator of the declining birth rates discussed in Section 2.1.8.1. and projected by demographers. Overall, however, Utah County's school-age population is expected to increase by 73,089 between 2020 and 2060 due to population increase, despite declining birth rates.<sup>83</sup>

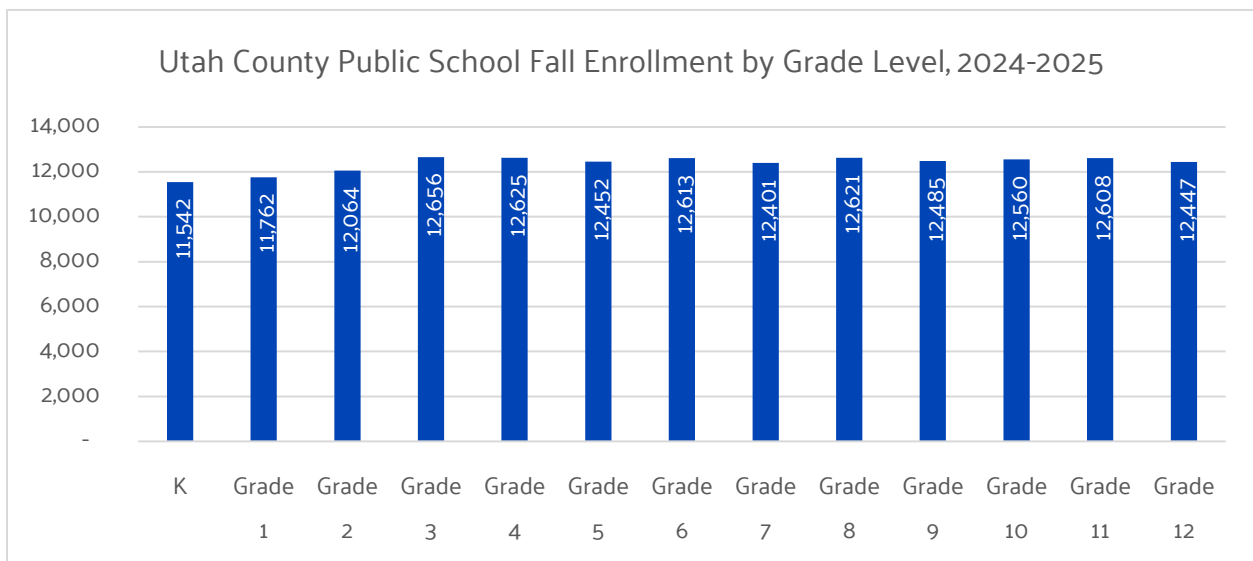


Figure 54: Utah County Public School Fall Enrollment by Grade Level, 2024-2025

<sup>82</sup> Utah State Board of Education, Fall Enrollment Dataset

<sup>83</sup> Mallory Bateman, Heidi Prior, and Andrea Brandley, "Utah's School- and College-Age Populations" (Salt Lake City, 2022).

The percentage of Utah County’s public school students continues to become more racially and ethnically diverse, although at least three out of every four students are White. In the 2021-2022 community assessment, 76.8 percent were classified as White; fall 2024 enrollment figures show 74.1 percent are White. Note that the Utah State Board of Education classifies “Hispanic” as a separate race; therefore, although the majority of the nearly 24,000 Hispanic students in Utah County schools are white, they are classified separately. The number of Hispanic students has increased from 23,787 in the last assessment to 29,347.<sup>84</sup>

**Table 32: Utah County’s Public School Students by Race and Ethnicity, Fall 2024**

Utah County’s Public School Students by Race and Ethnicity, Fall 2024							
	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	White	Two or more races	Hispanic (may be of any race)
Number	540	1,607	1,186	2,204	119,223	6,729	29,347
Percent	0.3	1.0	0.7	1.4	74.1	4.2	18.2

### 2.2.2.2 Class Size and Student-Teacher Ratio

With such so many children in Utah County, resources for public education can be stretched. The County’s three public school districts—Alpine, Nebo, and Provo—have average class sizes that are often higher than statewide numbers. For example, the average Kindergarten class size statewide is 21; Alpine (23) exceeds the average, while Nebo (19.5) and Provo (19) are smaller (2024 figures). The state’s average for grade 4 classes is 25; Alpine (27.5), Nebo (26.5), and Provo (27.5) all exceed this number.<sup>85</sup>

<sup>84</sup> Utah State Board of Education, Fall Enrollment Dataset

<sup>85</sup> Utah State Board of Education, Median Class Size Dataset

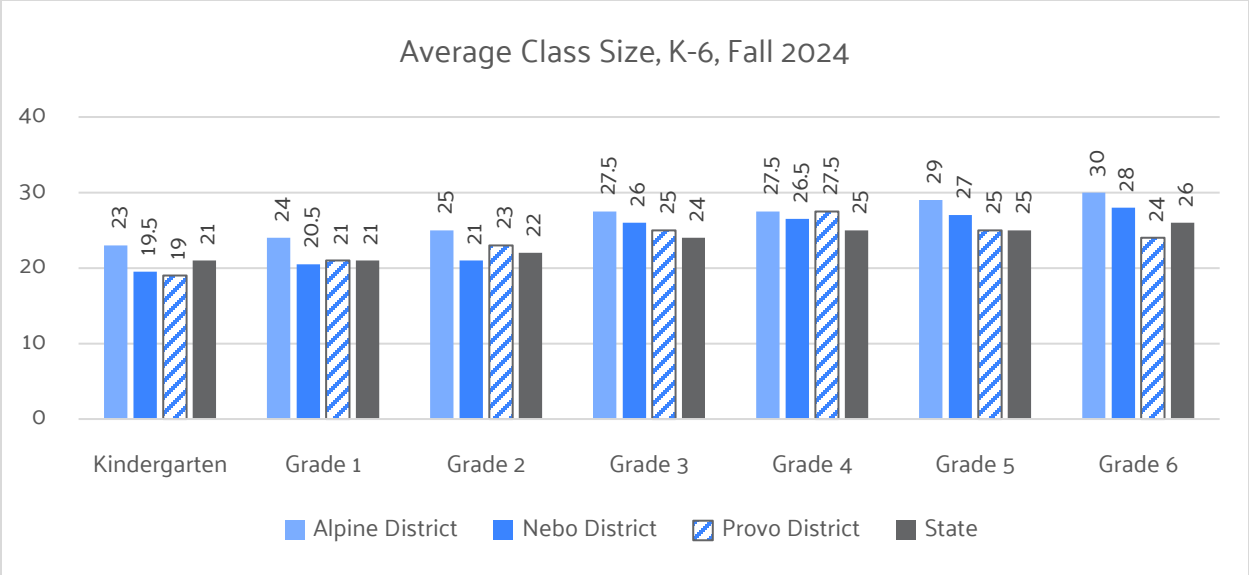


Figure 56: Average Class Size, K-6, Fall 2024

Language Arts classes also tend to exceed state averages. Statewide, grade 7 language arts, for example, has an average class size of 27. All three County districts—Alpine (33), Nebo (28), and Provo (28.5)—exceed this number. Alpine and Nebo school districts exceed state averages in every Language Arts grade level, while Provo has a smaller class size for grade 11 Language Arts.<sup>86</sup>

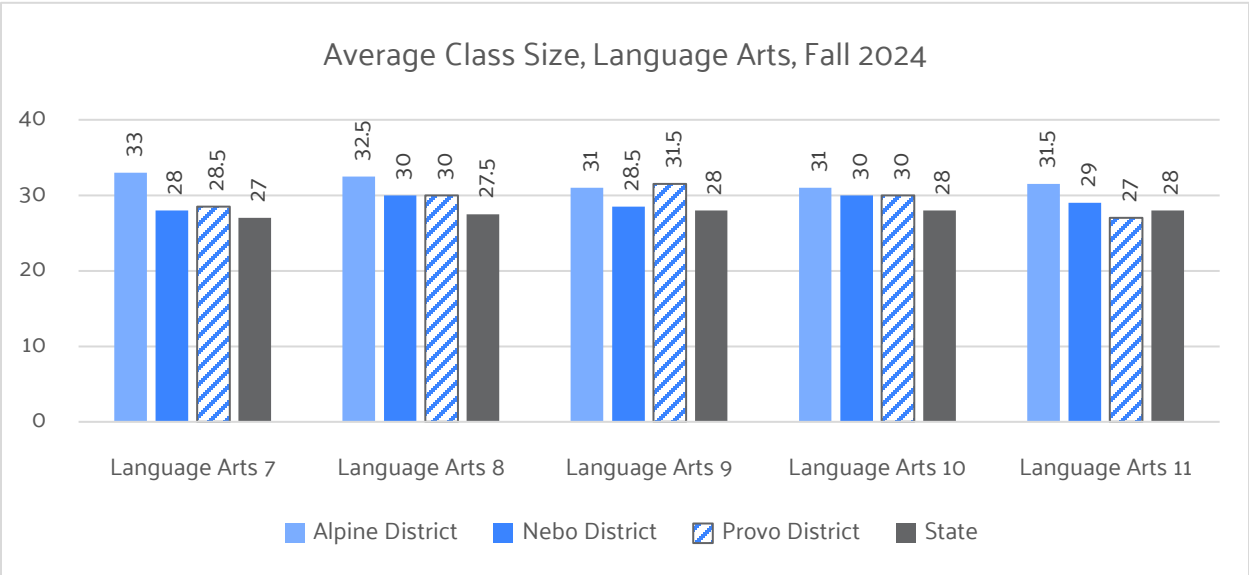


Figure 55: Average Class Size, Language Arts, Fall 2024

<sup>86</sup> Ibid.

Alpine School District's math classes exceed state averages at every grade level. Nebo's Secondary Math I is at the state average (26) and its secondary math II (23.5) is lower (26).<sup>87</sup>

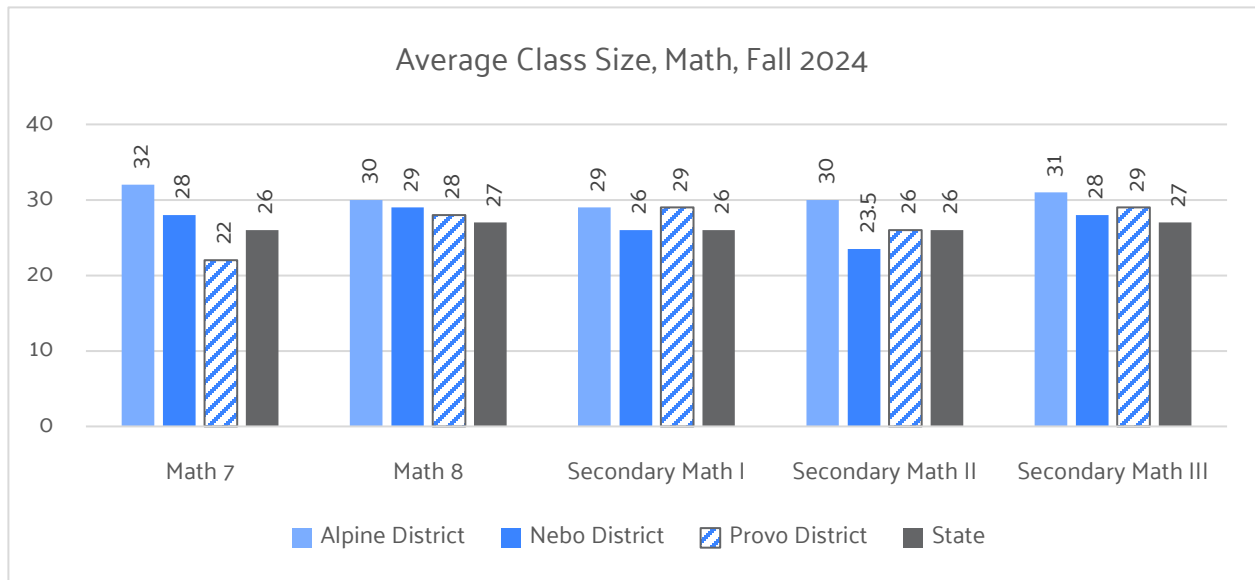


Figure 57: Average Class Size, Math, Fall 2024

Provo School District's averages are lower than the state's in Science 8 (26 versus 29) and Physics (23.5 versus 25.5). Alpine School District exceeds state averages in every math class size.<sup>88</sup>

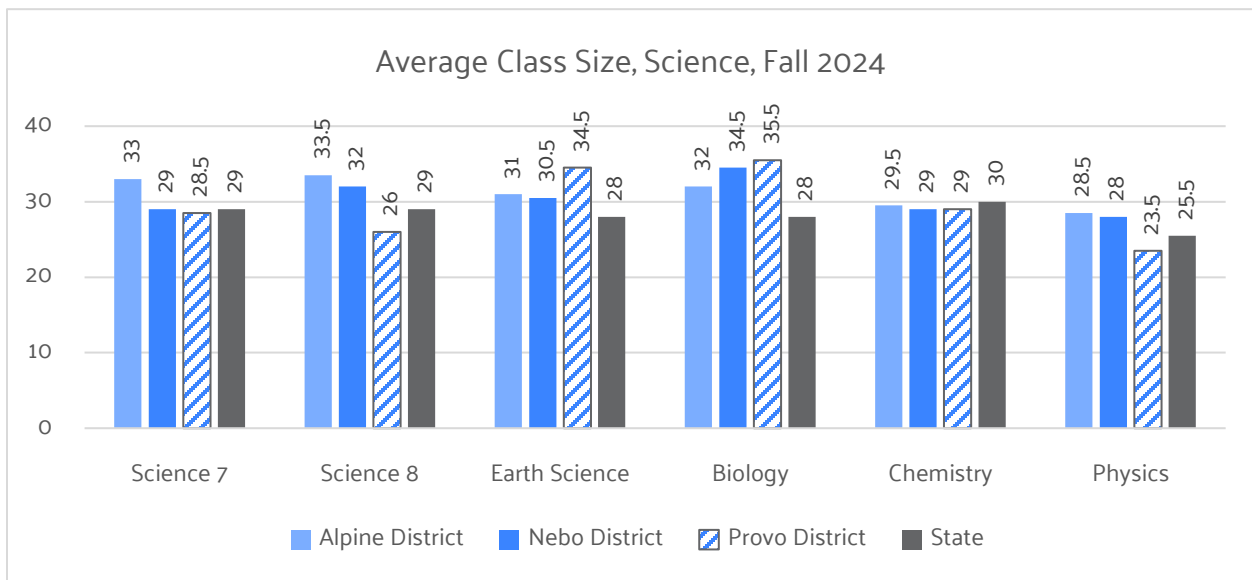


Figure 58: Average Class Size, Science, Fall 2024

<sup>87</sup> Ibid.

<sup>88</sup> Ibid.

Over the past five years, the student-teacher ratio in each of the County’s school districts has varied. Alpine School District’s ratio had remained consistently between 24 and 25 students per teacher; Nebo’s has increased from 22.9 to 26.3; Provo’s has decreased from 23.0 to 19.0. During the same time, the state’s ratio has been between 20.6 and 21.6.<sup>89</sup>

**Table 33: 2024 Student Teacher Ratio, 2020-2024, School Districts and State**

2024 Student Teacher Ratio, 2020-2024, School Districts and State				
	Alpine	Nebo	Provo	State
2020	24.9	22.9	23.0	21.6
2021	24.1	23.4	18.6	21.1
2022	24.4	22.9	18.6	21.1
2023	24.0	22.7	19.2	20.9
2024	24.1	26.3	19.0	20.6

### 2.2.2.3 English Learner Students

Both the number and the percentage of English Learner Students have increased since the last assessment. In the 2020-2021 school year, 5.4 percent of public school students in the County were learning English, which equates to nearly 8,000. By 2024-2025, the percentage increased to 6.3 and 10,185 students.<sup>90</sup> Studies show that students learning English in the U.S. experience lower

<sup>89</sup> Utah State Board of Education, Student-Teacher Ratio Dataset

<sup>90</sup> Utah State Board of Education, Fall Enrollment Dataset

graduation rates that lead to less stable employment.<sup>91</sup> Lack of English proficiency also contributes to weaker peer interactions and lower self-esteem, which can exacerbate social exclusion.<sup>92</sup>

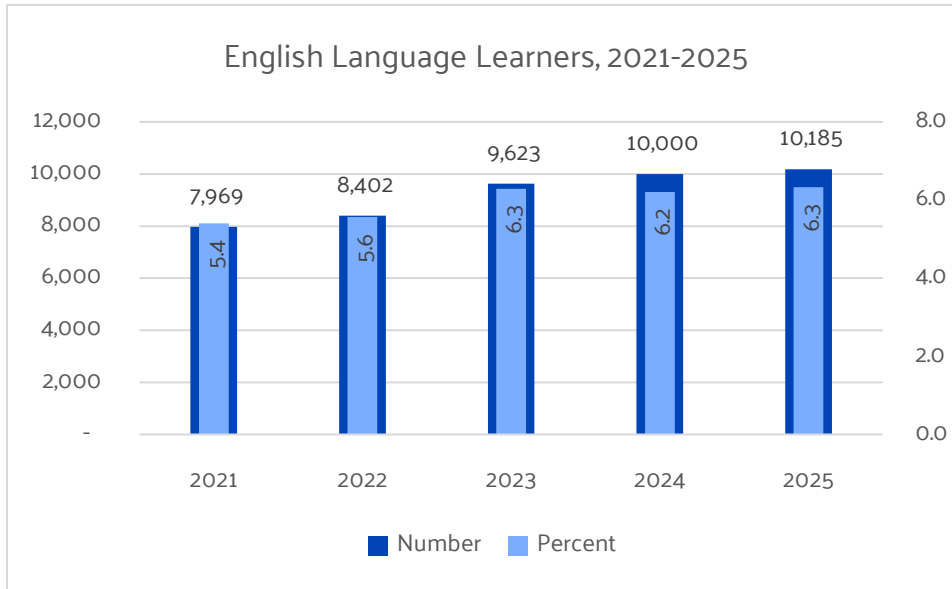


Figure 59: English Language Learners, 2021-2025

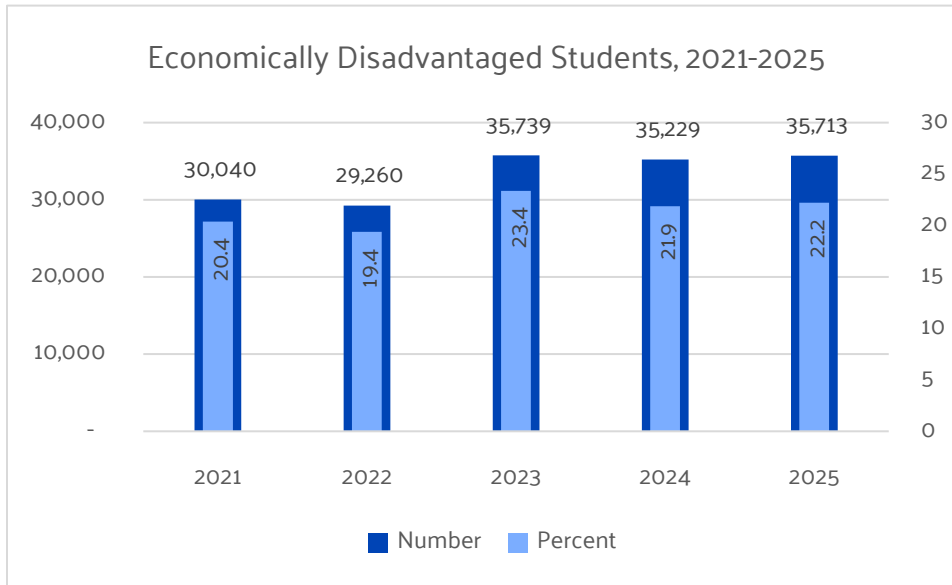
#### 2.2.2.4 Economically Disadvantaged Students

Children who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch are categorized as Economically Disadvantaged Students. In Utah County, 22.2 percent—or 35,713—who qualify for the benefits of free and reduced-price lunch. Generally, Economically Disadvantaged Students experience stresses in their homes that can significantly reduce likelihood of academic success. Lower high school completion, reduced access to post-secondary education, and higher likelihood of

<sup>91</sup> Callahan, R. M. (2010). Academic achievement and course taking among language minority youth in U.S. schools: Effects of ESL placement. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 32(1), 84–117. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0162373709359805>

<sup>92</sup> Halle, T., Hair, E., Wandner, L., McNamara, M., & Chien, N. (2012). Predictors and outcomes of early versus later English language proficiency among English language learners. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 27(1), 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecresq.2011.07.004>

underemployment often result.<sup>93</sup> However, studies also show that parental involvement in a child’s education can significantly mitigate these negative effects.<sup>94</sup> Given the data regarding educational attainment in Utah County, combined with the larger-than-average family size of the area (thereby qualifying more children who have other familial and social supports than otherwise), it is likely that many Utah County students are at lower risk of these negative outcomes than the national data predicts.



**Figure 60: Economically Disadvantaged Students, 2021-2025**

<sup>93</sup> Domina, T., Pharris-Ciurej, N., Penner, A. M., Penner, E. K., Brannegan, A., Conley, A., & Porter, S. R. (2018). Is free and reduced-price lunch a valid measure of educational disadvantage? *Educational Researcher*, 47(9), 539–555. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0013189X18797686> and Michelmores, K., & Dynarski, S. (2017). The gap within the gap: Using longitudinal data to understand income differences in educational outcomes. *AERA Open*, 3(1), 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2332858417692958>

<sup>94</sup> Jeynes, W. H. (2010). The salience of the subtle aspects of parental involvement and encouraging that involvement: Implications for school-based programs. *Teachers College Record*, 112(3), 747–774. <https://doi.org/10.1177/016146811011200311> and Fan, X., & Chen, M. (2001). Parental involvement and students’ academic achievement: A meta-analysis. *Educational Psychology Review*, 13(1), 1–22. <https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1009048817385>

### 2.2.2.5 Students Living with Disabilities

About 19,500 public school students in Utah County are living with disabilities, which is 12.1 percent of students enrolled. This percentage has increased from 2021's 10.9 percent and 16,134 students. These students qualify for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) assistance.<sup>95</sup>

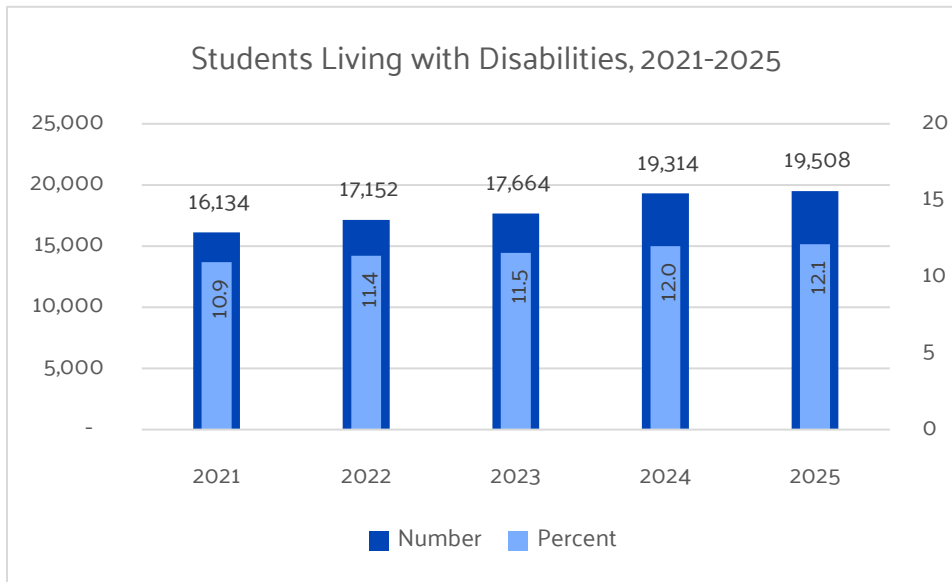


Figure 61: Students Living with Disabilities, 2021-2025

### 2.2.2.6 Administrators, Teachers, Support Staff

Between the three school districts in the County, there are approximately 7,300 fulltime equivalent employees; nearly 80 percent of these are teachers.<sup>96</sup>

<sup>95</sup> Utah State Board of Education, Fall Enrollment Dataset for respective years

<sup>96</sup> Utah State Board of Education, Licensed Staff FTE Dataset

**Table 34: District Staff by Category, 2024**

District Staff by Category, 2024						
	Teachers	Administrators	Library, media, instructional coordinators	Guidance Counselors	Other student support staff	Total
Number	5,758.6	407.67	285.41	287.53	566.70	7,306
Percent	78.8	5.6	3.9	3.9	7.8	100

There are 62.2 FTE pre-Kindergarten special education teachers and 557.2 elementary and secondary special education teachers. The three districts employ 5,139.2 FTE regular teachers.<sup>97</sup>

**Table 35: Regular Teachers by District (FTE), 2024**

Regular Teachers by District (FTE), 2024					
	Pre-Kinder- garten	Kinder- garten	Elementary	Secondary	Total
Alpine District	10.4	170.2	1,472.1	1,474.0	3,126.7
Nebo District	7.0	96.9	550.4	750.6	1,404.9
Provo District	6.0	44.7	279.7	277.2	607.6
Total	23.4	311.8	2,302.2	2,501.8	5,139.2

<sup>97</sup> Ibid.

## 2.2.2.7 School and Student Performance

### 2.2.2.7.1 Early Literacy

Utah's public schools measure early literacy skill development three times throughout the

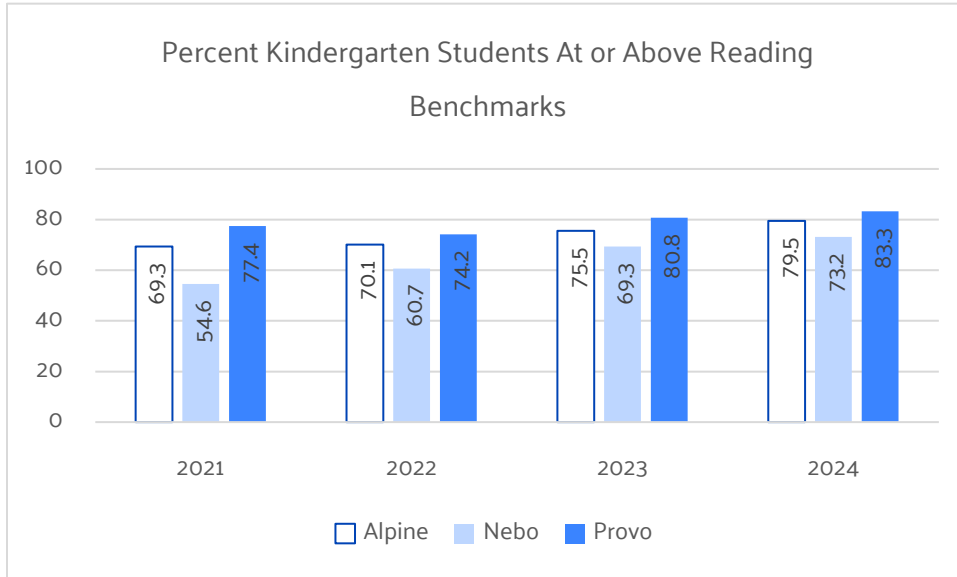


Figure 63: Percent Kindergarten Students At or Above Reading Benchmarks

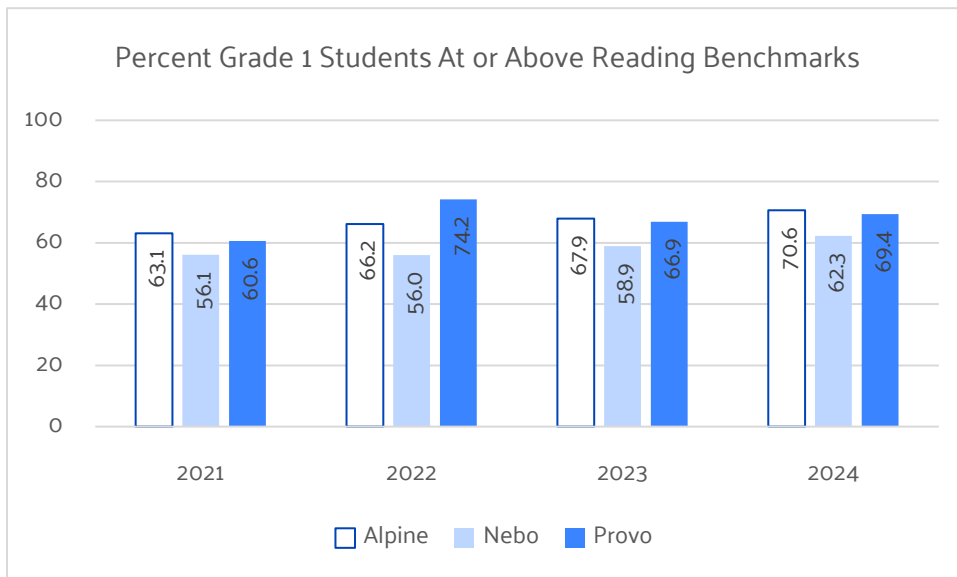


Figure 62: Percent Grade 1 Students At or Above Reading Benchmarks

school year. These assessments, known as DIBELS Next (previously called Acadience Reading) provide educators with needed data to engage in timely interventions. By the end of school year 2023-2024, 83.3 percent of Kindergarten students in Provo School District tested at or above reading benchmarks, compared to 79.5 percent in Alpine and 73.2 percent in Nebo.<sup>98</sup>

Just over 70 percent of Grade 1 students in Alpine

<sup>98</sup> Utah State Board of Education, Annual Early Literacy Reports

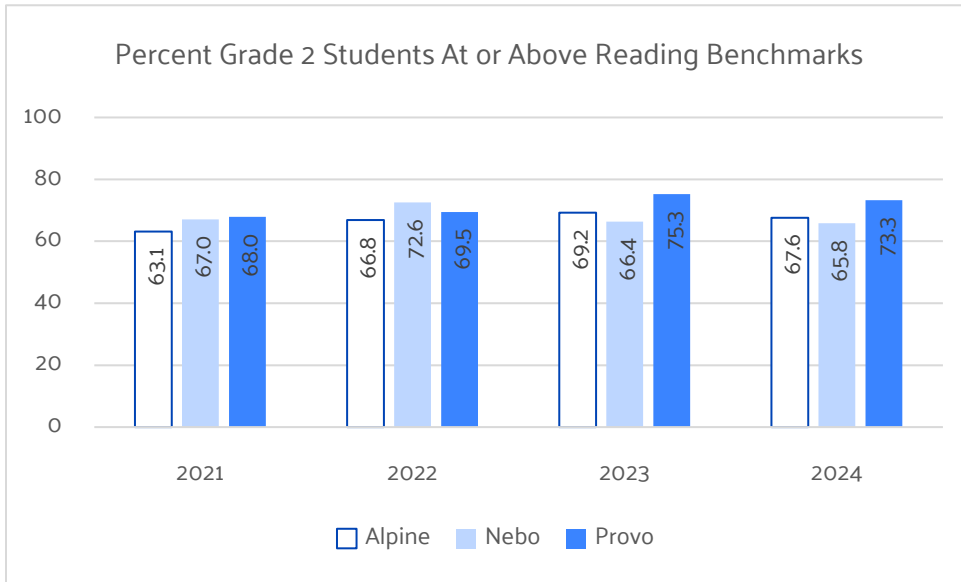


Figure 64: Percent Grade 2 Students At or Above Reading Benchmarks

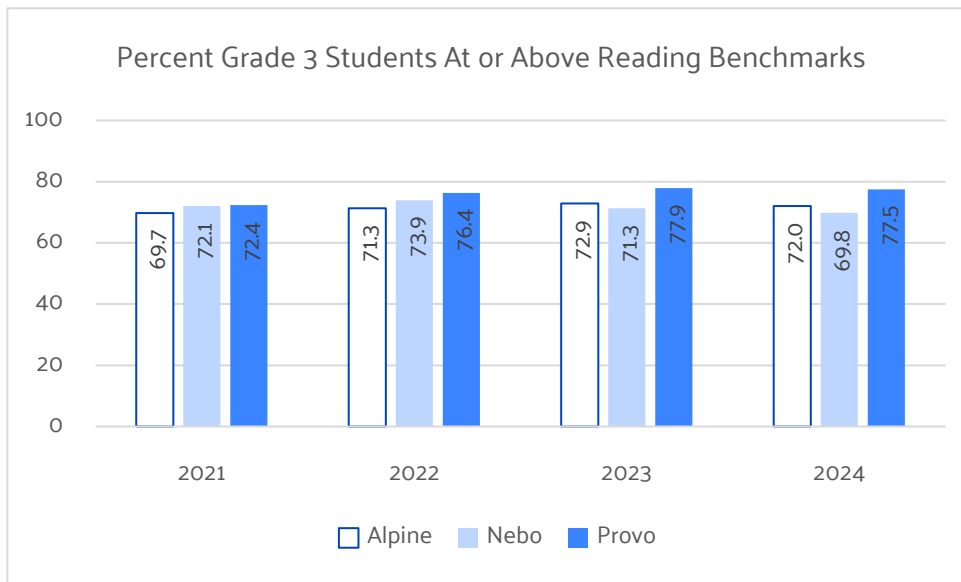


Figure 65: Percent Grade 3 Students At or Above Reading Benchmarks

were at or above benchmarks; 62.3 percent of Nebo and 69.4 percent of Provo students were at that level.<sup>99</sup>

Grade 2 students test around the same level. Provo’s 73.3 percent is highest, followed by Alpine’s 67.6 and Nebo’s 65.8.<sup>100</sup>

By Grade 3, students are generally doing much better. Provo continues to have the most students reaching benchmarks, with 77.5 percent. This is followed by Alpine’s 72.0 and Nebo’s 69.8.<sup>101</sup>

<sup>99</sup> Ibid.

<sup>100</sup> Ibid.

<sup>101</sup> Ibid.

### 2.2.2.7.2 RISE Performance

Utah’s Board of Education utilizes a multistage assessment system known as RISE: Readiness Improvement Success Empowerment. This system is a computer-aided assessment for English language arts, mathematics, science, and writing. It is administered to students in grades 3 through 8. Results are reported in the aggregate for school districts for each subject matter, as well as by grade level. Scores are also reported for various demographic groups, including race and ethnicity, low income, students with disabilities, and English language learners.

The following tables provide 2021 test scores for the three school districts in Utah County and for the state.

**Table 36: 3rd Grade Language Arts, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024**

3rd Grade Language Arts, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	50.5	53.0	52.6	53.7
Nebo	44.4	47.4	44.1	45.9
Provo	44.3	50.2	48.4	50.1
State	42.7	45.9	46.3	46.7

**Table 37: 3rd Grade Math, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024**

3rd Grade Math, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	50.1	55.2	54.5	55.0
Nebo	49.3	52.8	49.5	49.6
Provo	44.5	51.7	48.6	53.6
State	45.3	48.5	48.6	49.0

**Table 38: 4th Grade Language Arts, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024**

4th Grade Language Arts, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	46.9	51.1	52.9	50.9
Nebo	36.4	39.6	43.1	41.5
Provo	41.1	49.3	50.1	45.5
State	37.9	42.8	44.3	44.0

**Table 39: 4th Grade Math, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024**

4th Grade Math, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	54.7	57.0	58.4	56.7
Nebo	46.1	48.0	47.0	45.9
Provo	46.2	56.1	54.4	54.2
State	45.1	48.8	49.6	50.0

**Table 40: 4th Grade Science, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024**

4th Grade Science, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	51.9	54.8	57.0	56.9
Nebo	41.5	44.0	48.0	48.3
Provo	43.7	52.0	51.6	52.5
State	43.3	45.9	49.0	50.0

**Table 41: 5th Grade Language Arts, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024**

5th Grade Language Arts, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	53.7	58.0	58.9	56.4
Nebo	41.8	43.5	46.6	49.1
Provo	48.5	48.8	51.7	49.5
State	44.1	46.8	49.0	48.3

**Table 42: 5th Grade Math, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024**

5th Grade Math, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	49.5	53.1	53.2	52.6
Nebo	41.8	42.4	42.2	42.6
Provo	40.9	46.0	48.3	45.7
State	42.3	44.5	45	44.3

**Table 43: 5th Grade Science, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024**

5th Grade Science, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	52.1	57.6	58.1	58.1
Nebo	45.3	48.0	50.4	54.1
Provo	43.8	48.5	51.4	54.8
State	45.1	48.5	50.7	51.9

**Table 44: 6th Grade Language Arts, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024**

6th Grade Language Arts, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	53.6	56.5	54.9	55.6
Nebo	37.1	41.5	40.4	44.7
Provo	47.8	49.7	50.7	53.8
State	44.3	46.7	45.3	47.3

**Table 45: 6th Grade Math, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024**

6th Grade Math, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	44.1	48.7	47.8	47.2
Nebo	28.1	24.4	26.8	28.5
Provo	42.5	47.1	42.7	48.5
State	32.3	34.9	35.0	35.6

**Table 46: 6th Grade Science, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024**

6th Grade Science, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	61.6	62.4	63.7	62.9
Nebo	51.8	56.5	57.6	59.8
Provo	52.1	55.3	52.4	59.5
State	52.9	54.5	54.9	55.9

**Table 47: 7th Grade Language Arts, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024**

7th Grade Language Arts, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	47.3	49.2	50.8	50.1
Nebo	36.3	38.6	38.6	38.9
Provo	46.8	43.3	42.7	44.6
State	41.1	41.2	41.5	42.4

**Table 48: 7th Grade Math, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024**

7th Grade Math, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	46.1	51.9	53.9	52.8
Nebo	39.9	46.9	44.8	46.9
Provo	34.5	32.7	43.6	45.5
State	41.0	43.6	44.6	44.5

**Table 49: 7th Grade Science, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024**

7th Grade Science, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	48.0	51.5	52.1	52.8
Nebo	41.7	45.3	46	43.5
Provo	44.6	42.5	43.2	41.7
State	44.2	44.6	44.7	45.4

**Table 50: 8th Grade Language Arts, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024**

8th Grade Language Arts, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	48.1	47.3	47.9	47.2
Nebo	39.7	37.6	38.2	37.1
Provo	49.1	40.8	34.7	44.7
State	43.4	42.0	42.0	42.5

**Table 51: 8th Grade Math, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024**

8th Grade Math, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	37.9	42.3	45.0	47.1
Nebo	28.6	27.5	29.0	29.7
Provo	24.9	26.5	30.0	28.8
State	35.8	37.4	37.8	39.2

**Table 52: 8th Grade Science, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024**

8th Grade Science, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	54.1	55.0	53.8	54.4
Nebo	46.7	45.3	49.4	50.5
Provo	48.3	48.4	41.1	45.4
State	48.7	48.2	47.6	49.0

### 2.2.2.7.3 Utah Aspire Plus Performance

The Utah Aspire Plus assessment is a combination of the ACT Aspire and Utah Core test. It is administered to students at the end of grades 9 and 10, and measures competencies in reading, English, mathematics, and science; it also provides students with predicted ACT scores. The following are 2021 results for each of three Utah County districts and the state.<sup>102</sup>

**Table 53: 9th Grade Language Arts, Percent Proficient, 2022-2024**

9th Grade Language Arts, Percent Proficient, 2022-2024			
	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	45.7	48.5	42.7
Nebo	39.1	42.0	39.7
Provo	51.5	42.4	43.6
State	40.9	44.0	40.0

**Table 54: 9th Grade Math, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024**

9th Grade Math, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	45.4	45.9	36.8	41.1
Nebo	37.7	40.9	31.4	35.1
Provo	30.4	36.0	23.2	31.7
State	36.5	39.3	32.7	35.5

<sup>102</sup> Utah State Board of Education, Aspire Plus Dataset

**Table 55: 9th Grade Science, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024**

9th Grade Science, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	40.9	45.5	43.2	46.4
Nebo	34.7	41.5	39.7	44.5
Provo	26.4	38.4	29.6	33.5
State	35.2	39.6	38.0	41.9

**Table 56: 10th Grade Language Arts, Percent Proficient, 2022-2024**

10th Grade Language Arts, Percent Proficient, 2022-2024			
	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	46.8	49.4	49.5
Nebo	43.3	43.6	42.1
Provo	55.8	46.1	46.3
State	45.0	45.3	44.6

**Table 57: 10th Grade Math, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024**

10th Grade Math, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	33.3	30.1	29.7	28.5
Nebo	29.9	29.9	31.6	27.6
Provo	28.2	24.8	26.5	26.5
State	29.7	27.9	27.7	27.5

**Table 58: 10th Grade Science, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024**

10th Grade Science, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	40.6	35.7	37.5	39.0
Nebo	32.2	33.0	31.9	33.1
Provo	32.5	30.0	28.7	27.4
State	36.8	30.3	32.2	33.8

**Table 59: Secondary Math I, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024**

Secondary Math I, Percent Proficient, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	90.6	93.5	95.0	95.0
Nebo	91.8	89.0	95.0	95.0
Provo	69.5	69.6	60.9	74.5
State	87.3	87.7	87.3	89.8

#### **2.2.2.7.4 Grade 11 ACT Scores**

In Utah, the ACT (American College Test) is administered to all grade 11 students, except those who were absent, parentally excluded, refused to test, had an incomplete test, or in other extenuating circumstances. In general, the vast majority of students participate each year. The ACT is a standardized test that helps determine a high school student's preparedness for post-secondary education. It measures student knowledge and capacity in math, English, reading, writing, and science. Many colleges and universities consider ACT performance as a key factor in admissions.

In general, Utah County's students are on par with statewide students in each of the tested subjects. The following tables provide data for years 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024.

**Table 60: ACT Average Composite Score, 2021-2024**

ACT Average Composite Score, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	19.9	20.2	20.4	20.7
Nebo	20.1	19.7	20	19.9
Provo	20.8	20.5	20.7	20.5
State	19.6	19.8	19.8	19.8

**Table 61: ACT Average English Score, 2021-2024**

ACT Average English Score, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	18.7	18.7	19.7	20.2
Nebo	19.1	19.1	19.1	19.1
Provo	20	19.9	20.2	19.8
State	18.5	18.6	19	19.1

**Table 62: ACT Average Reading Score, 2021-2024**

ACT Average Reading Score, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	20.5	21.6	21.1	21.2
Nebo	20.5	20.3	20.5	20.3
Provo	21.6	21.2	21.4	21.4
State	20.2	20.7	20.4	20.4

**Table 63: ACT Average Math Score, 2021-2024**

ACT Average Math Score, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	19.7	19.7	19.6	20.2
Nebo	19.8	19.3	19.6	19.7
Provo	19.9	19.7	19.9	19.7
State	19.3	19.3	19.3	19.4

**Table 64: ACT Average Science Score, 2021-2024**

ACT Average Science Score, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	20.3	20.3	20.7	20.8
Nebo	20.2	19.8	20.1	19.9
Provo	21.2	20.6	20.9	20.6
State	19.9	19.9	20	20

**Table 65: ACT Percent With 18 or Higher Composite Score, 2021-2024**

ACT Percent With 18 or Higher Composite Score, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alpine	64.1	65.1	66.9	69.5
Nebo	65.6	63.2	64.1	62.6
Provo	67.6	66	65.1	64.3
State	61	61.3	61.5	61.4

### 2.2.2.7.5 Graduation, Dropout, Other Completer, and Continuing Student Rates

When measuring high school success, it is tempting to look only at graduation rates or only at dropout rates. While these rates are valuable to consider, one should also take into account the other completer rate and the continuing student rate. Other completers are those students who completed high school but did not follow a traditional path to graduation and diploma; these students may have obtained a graduate equivalency degree (GED), a certificate of completion, high school equivalent courses (HSE), or aged out of public education. Continuing students are those who are a retained seniors (aged out but have been authorized by the local school district to continue working toward graduation), have transferred to higher education, or have transferred to Utech (Utah’s technical college system). The following tables present data for state, Utah County, and each of the three public school districts in the County.

**Table 66: Cohort Graduation Rate, 2021-2024**

Cohort Graduation Rate, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
State	88.1	88.2	88.3	88.8
Utah County	91.8	90.9	91.1	91.7
Alpine	91.3	90.4	91	91.4
Nebo	93.6	92.7	92.5	94.3
Provo	90.9	90.5	88.1	87.1

**Table 67: Cohort Dropout Rate, 2021-2024**

Cohort Dropout Rate, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
State	10	9.9	9.8	9.4
Utah County	6.1	7.2	7	6.4
Alpine	6.4	7.8	6.5	6.4
Nebo	5	5.9	6.9	4.8
Provo	7.1	7.2	10	10.3

**Table 68: Cohort Other Completer Rate, 2021-2024**

Cohort Other Completer Rate, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
State	*	*	1.1	1.1
Utah County	*	*	1	1
Alpine	*	*	1.2	*
Nebo	*	*	*	*
Provo	1.7	1.8	1.4	2.3

\*Less than 1 percent

**Table 69: Cohort Continuing Student Rate, 2021-2024**

Cohort Continuing Student Rate, 2021-2024				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
State	1.2	*	*	*
Utah County	1.2	1	1	*
Alpine	1.5	1.1	1.2	1.2
Nebo	1.1	1	*	*
Provo	*	*	*	*

\*Less than 1 percent

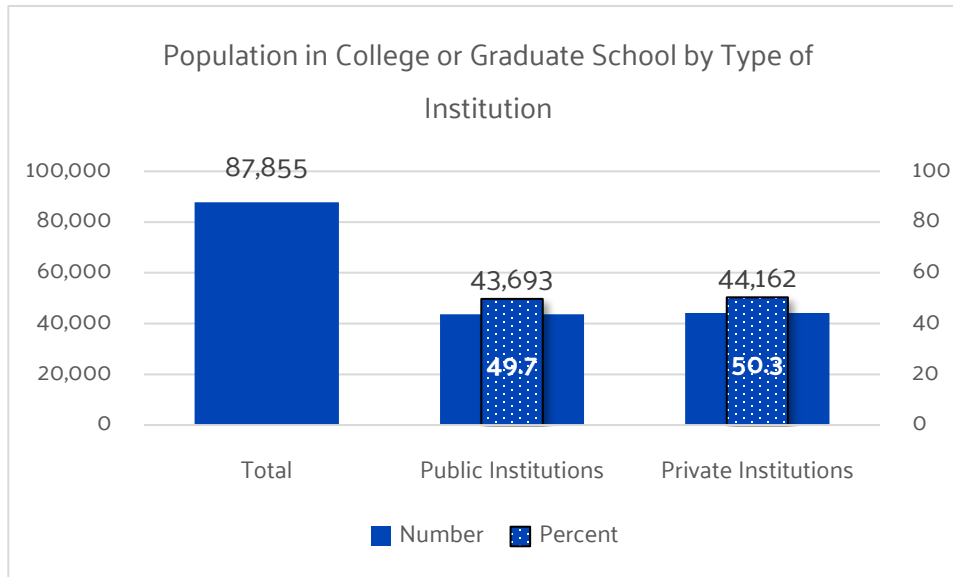
## 2.2.3 Post-Secondary Education

### 2.2.3.1 Number of Post-Secondary Institutions

Known in part for its high educational attainment, Utah County is home to many private technical academies, the state’s largest public university, and one of the nation’s largest private universities. But in addition to traditional post-secondary institutions, there are many others that offer trade, technical, and vocational post-secondary education opportunities. According to the Utah Department of Commerce, there are more than 20 post-secondary institutions based in Utah County and actively registered with the state. These include Utah Valley University (46,809 students) and Brigham Young University (35,743 students) as well as less-known schools such as Wasatch Trade Tech, which offers programs in HVAC and in appliance repair.<sup>103</sup>

### 2.2.3.2 College Enrollment

There are about 87,855 college or graduate school undergraduate students living in Utah County. These include those attending local institutions of higher learning as well as some who



may be attending colleges or universities online or in other counties in Utah. Of the nearly 88,000 students, about half—49.7 percent—attend public institutions.<sup>104</sup>

Most of these students are undergraduate

Figure 66: Population in College or Graduate School by Type of Institution

<sup>103</sup> Utah Department of Commerce, Division of Consumer Protection, Registered Entities Search. Search conducted May 2025 at <https://dcp.utah.gov/registered.html>.

<sup>104</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 ACS, Table S1401

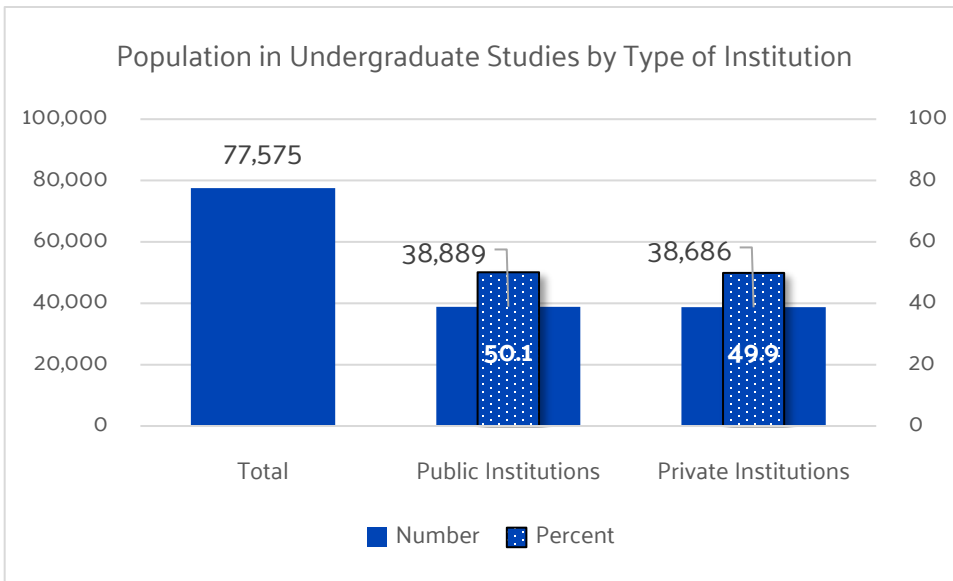


Figure 67: Population in Undergraduate Studies by Type of Institution

students (77,575). These undergrads are also evenly split, with 50.1 percent attending public institutions, and 49.9 percent attending private schools.<sup>105</sup>

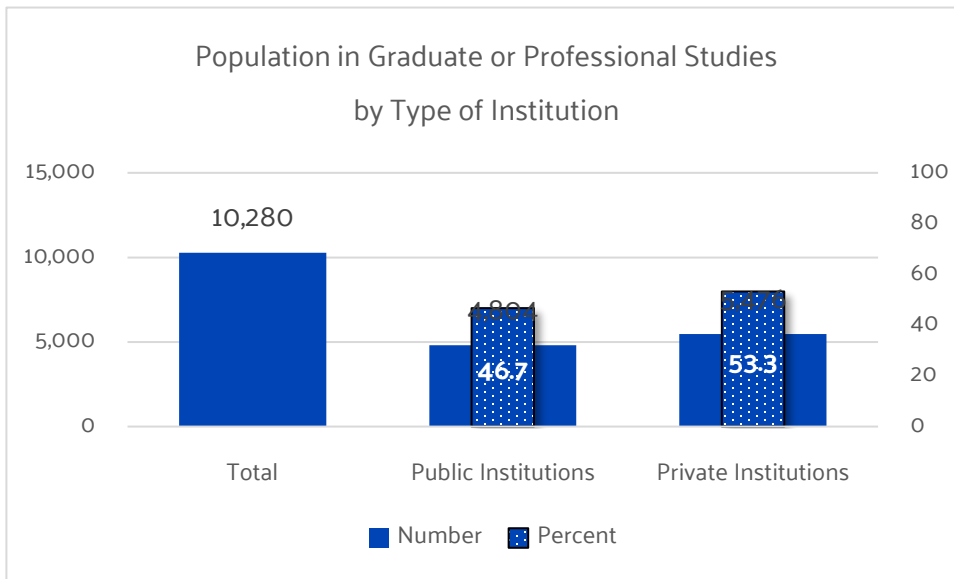


Figure 68: Population in Graduate or Professional Studies by Type of Institution

Among the 10,280 graduate or professional school students, 46.7 percent attend public institutions, and 53.3 percent study at private institutions.<sup>106</sup>

<sup>105</sup> Ibid.

<sup>106</sup> Ibid.

### 2.2.3.2.1 Current Enrollment in Post-Secondary Education by Sex

Of the approximately 87,855 students enrolled in college, graduate, or professional school,

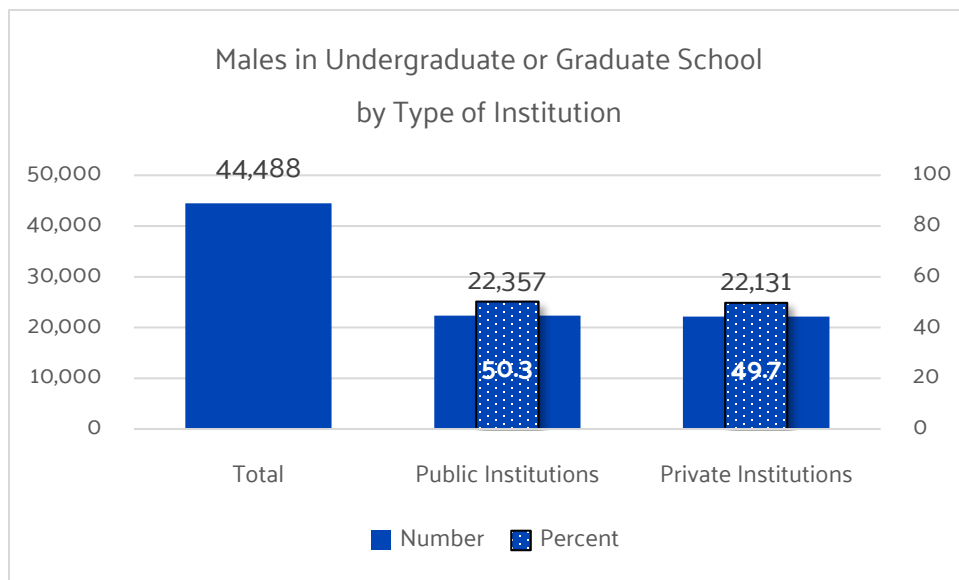


Figure 70: Males in Undergraduate or Graduate School by Type of Institution

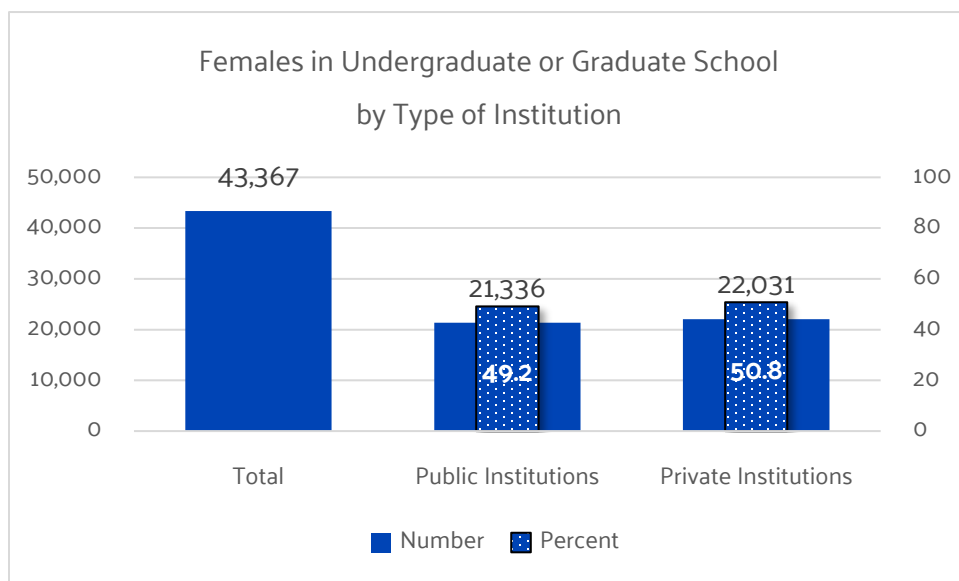


Figure 69: Females in Undergraduate or Graduate School

44,488—or 50.6 percent—are male and 43,367 (49.4 percent) are female. Students are evenly split not only between men and women, but also between public and private schools. Among male students, 22,357 attend public institutions; 21,336 females also attend public schools. Private schools are even more closely split, with 22,131 men and 22,031 women.<sup>107</sup>

<sup>107</sup> Ibid.



## 2.3 Income

### 2.3.1 Individual, Household and Family Income

#### 2.3.1.1 Individual Income

According to the latest full-year data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, the average annual wage of all Utah County employees age 16 or older in Utah County is \$57,732. This compares to \$62,808 statewide and \$66,912 nationally.<sup>108</sup>

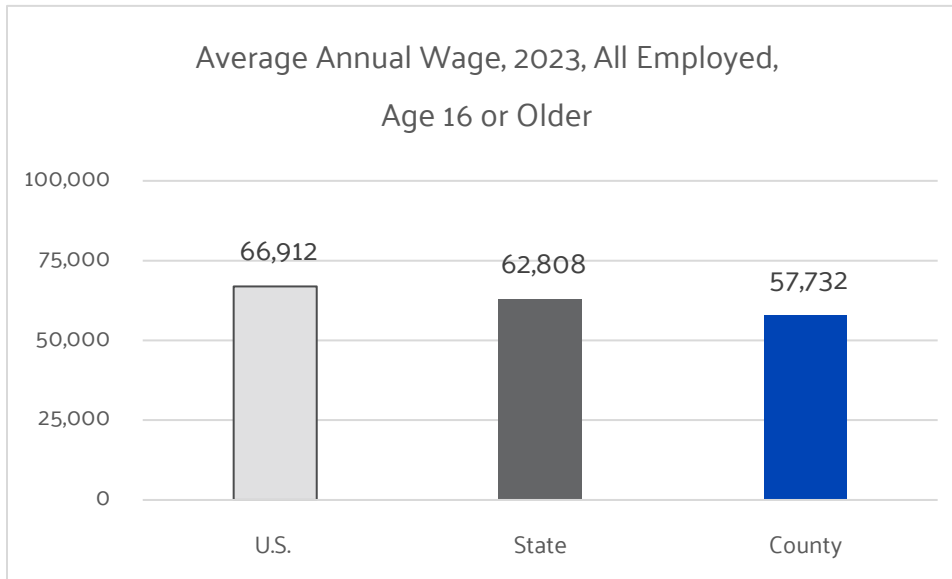


Figure 71: Average Annual Wage, 2023, All Employed Age 16 or Older

The time period included in these QCEW data was a time of continuing inflation, so this data should be viewed in its context. The remainder of this assessment, Census Bureau data is used for purposes of consistency across domains covered.

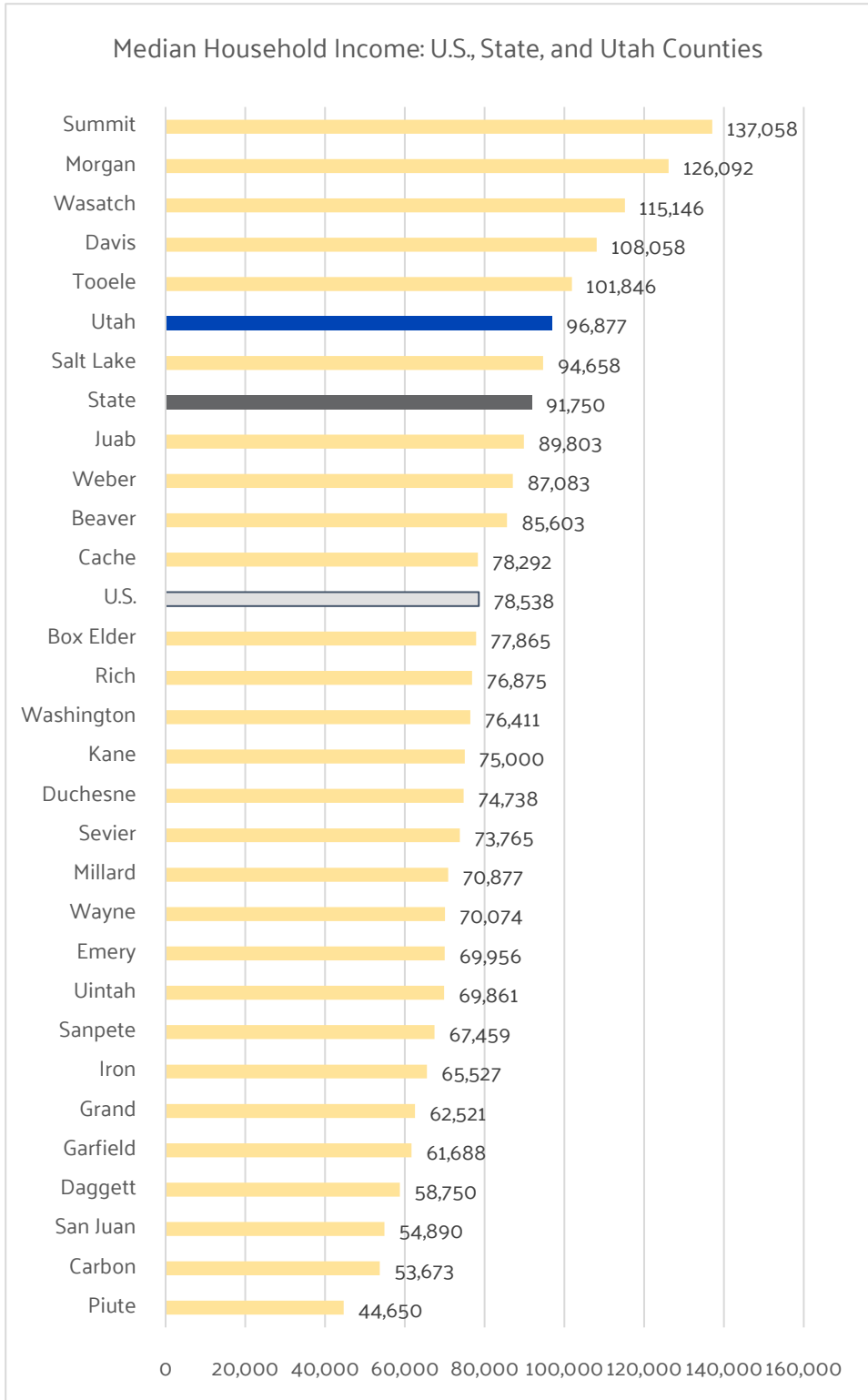
#### 2.3.1.2 Household Income

In 2023, the median household income in Utah County was \$96,877, compared to the state's \$91,750 and the nation's \$78,538.<sup>109</sup> The County's median household income has been gaining ground on Salt Lake County's over the past 15 years. In 2010, Utah County's median household income was \$56,927, compared to Salt Lake County's \$58,004. As of 2023, Utah County's median household income of \$96,877 exceeds Salt Lake County's \$94,658.<sup>110</sup>

<sup>108</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

<sup>109</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 ACS, Table S1901

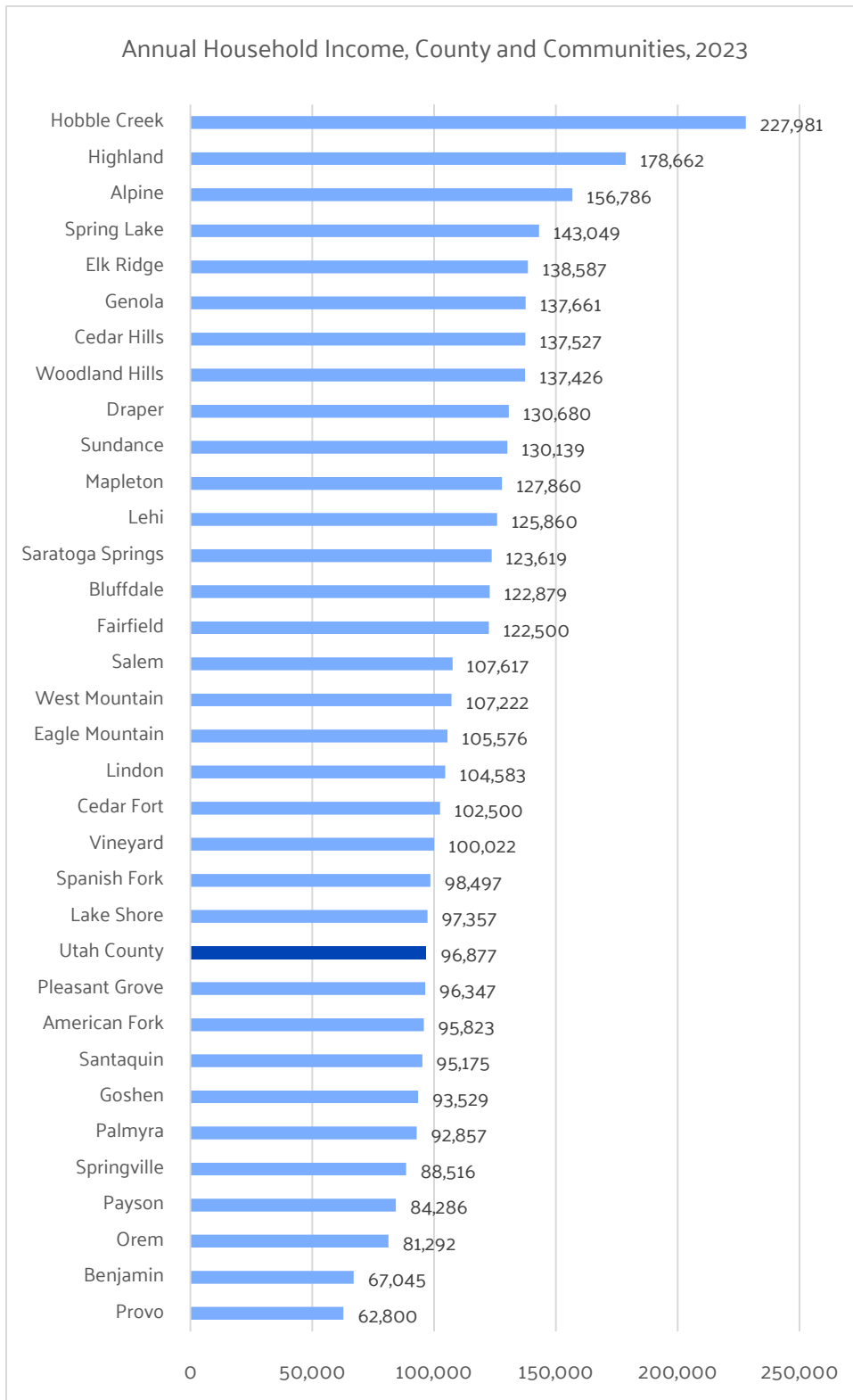
<sup>110</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 – 2020 ACS, Table S1901



The county with the highest median household income in the state is Summit County, at \$137,058, followed by Morgan (\$126,092), Wasatch (\$115,146), Davis (\$108,058), and Tooele (\$101,846). Utah County is next, followed by Salt Lake County. The statewide median household income is \$91,750; nationally, the figure is \$78,538. Piute County has the lowest, at \$44,650.<sup>111</sup>

Figure 72: Median Household Income: U.S., State, and Utah Counties

<sup>111</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2023 5-year averages, Table B19013



The community with the highest household income in the County is Hobble Creek, at \$227,981. Highland and Alpine are next, at \$178,662 and \$156,786, respectively. Provo has the lowest, at \$62,800. Note that Elberta is not included in this figure because there is insufficient data. figure because there is insufficient data.<sup>112</sup>

Figure 73: Annual Household Income, County and Communities, 2023

<sup>112</sup> Ibid.

### 2.3.1.2.1 Household Income by Age

Household income down is often separated into four age groups based on age of the householder: 15 to 24 years, 25 to 44 years, 45 to 64 years, and 65 years and over. In every age category, Utah County households earn more than the national average. Utah County households continue to earn more than the state average in every age category except the youngest.<sup>113</sup>

**Table 70: Median Household Income by Age of Householder**

Median Household Income by Age of Householder				
	15 to 24 years	25 to 44 years	45 to 64 years	65 years and over
U.S.	43,534	87,575	94,847	57,108
State	53,047	97,590	114,782	67,356
Utah County	50,487	101,019	128,847	76,685

### 2.3.1.2.2 Household Income by Race and Ethnicity of Householder

In Utah County, the households with the highest median income are those with a white householder (\$99,247), followed by householders of two or more races (\$88,038). Black or African American householders in Utah County have the lowest household income (\$74,722). Still, these households earn more than households with Black or African American householders nationally (\$53,444) and statewide (\$63,374).<sup>114</sup>

<sup>113</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 ACS, Table S1903

<sup>114</sup> Ibid.

**Table 71: Median Household Income by Race**

Median Household Income by Race							
	White	Black or African American	American Indian and Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	Some other race	Two or more races
U.S. State	83,784	53,444	59,393	113,106	78,640	65,558	73,412
Utah County	94,403	63,374	64,207	97,129	78,097	72,396	85,525
Utah County	99,247	74,722	77,115	76,953	73,466	82,799	88,038

Utah County’s households with a Hispanic or Latino householder fare better than state and national counterparts. Nationally, such households have a median household income of \$68,890. In Utah, households with Hispanic or Latino householders earn \$76,686; in Utah County, they earn \$81,669.<sup>115</sup>

**Table 72: Median Household Income by Hispanic or Latino Householder**

Median Household Income by Hispanic or Latino Householder		
	Hispanic or Latino origin	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino
U.S. State	68,890	84,745
Utah County	76,686	95,494
Utah County	81,669	100,721

<sup>115</sup> Ibid.

### 2.3.1.2.3 Household Income by Sex and Status of Living Alone

Non-family households in Utah County have a median income of \$53,087, compared with the state’s median of \$52,010 and the nation’s \$47,232. Male householders earn more, on average, than female households in all three geographies, with Utah County’s male non-family households having a median household income of \$61,405 compared to female non-family households’ \$47,883.<sup>116</sup>

Non-family households wherein the householder is not living alone earn more money than those who do live alone. In Utah County, non-family householders living alone earn virtually the same whether male (\$69,992) or female (\$69,622). However, both of these categories earn less than statewide and national counterparts.<sup>117</sup>

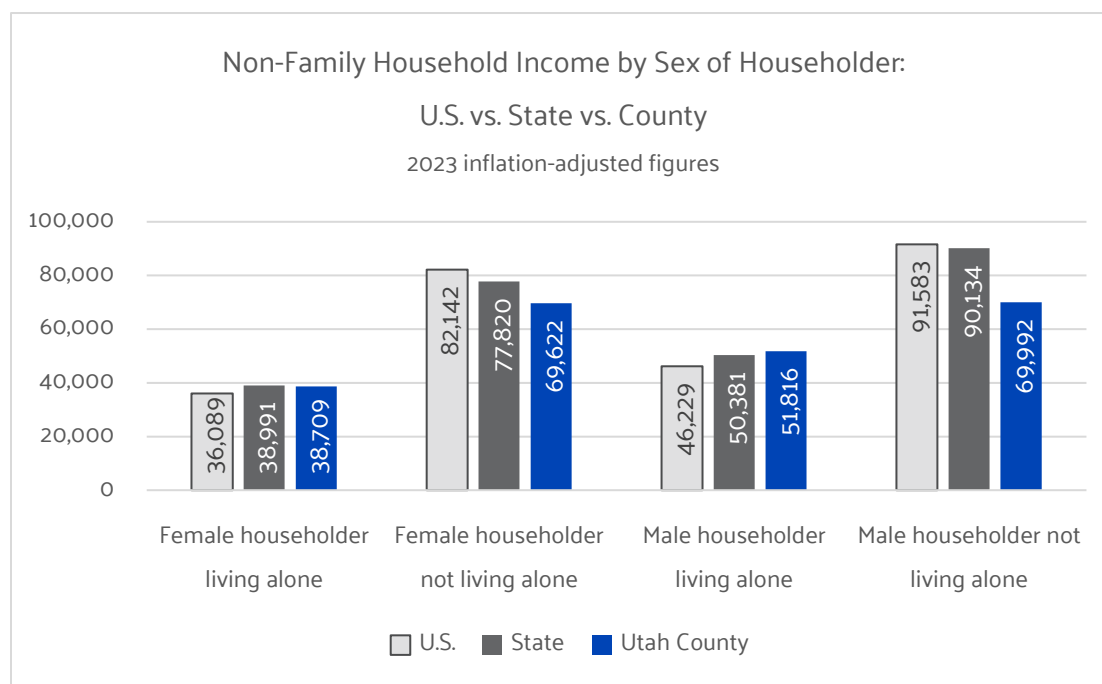


Figure 74: Non-Family Household Income by Sex of Householder:

### 2.3.1.3 Family Income

Median family income in Utah County is higher than state and national figures with one exception: families without children under age 18 in the home. Overall, the median family income in

<sup>116</sup> Ibid.

<sup>117</sup> Ibid.

Utah County is \$106,263, compared to \$105,513 statewide and \$96,922 nationally. For families with children under age 18 in the home, Utah County’s \$110,876 is higher than statewide (\$106,419) and national (\$95,154) numbers. For families without children under age 18, Utah County (\$100,273) falls behind the state (\$104,551) but is higher than national peers (\$98,066).<sup>118</sup> A family “consists of a householder and one or more other people living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. All people in a household who are related to the householder are regarded as members of his or her family. A family household may contain people not related to the householder, but those people are not included as part of the householder’s family in tabulations.”<sup>119</sup>

**Table 73: Median Household Income by Family Types, 2023**

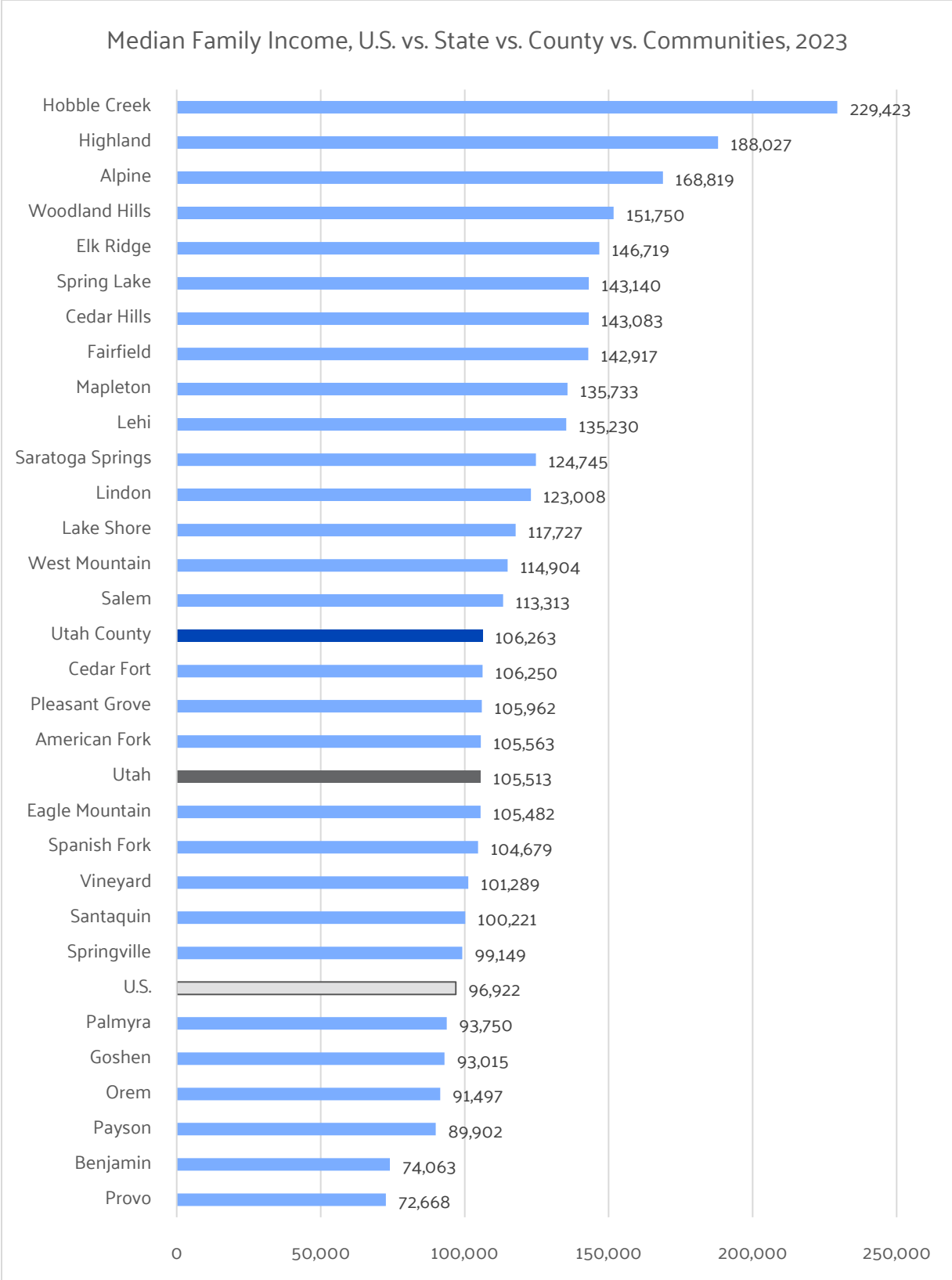
	Families	With own children under 18 years	With no own children under 18 years
U.S.	96,922	95,154	98,066
State	105,513	106,419	104,551
Utah County	106,263	110,876	100,273

Provo has the lowest median family income of any community in Utah County, at \$72,668. Benjamin (\$74,063), Payson (\$89,902), Orem (\$91,497) and Goshen (\$93,015) round out the lowest five communities. Hobbie Creek (\$229,423) has the highest median family income, followed by Highland (\$188,027), Alpine (\$168,819), Woodland Hills (\$151,750), and Elk Ridge (\$146,719).<sup>120</sup>

<sup>118</sup> Ibid.

<sup>119</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, *2023 Subject Definitions*, p. 88

<sup>120</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2023 5-year Averages, Table S1903



**Figure 75: Median Family Income, U.S. vs. State vs. County vs. Communities, 2023**

### 2.3.1.3.1 Family Income by Number of Earners

Of course, the more earners a family has, the greater will be the income. But comparing the increase in income among multiple-earner families in the County, the state, and the nation is informative. Families with one earner in Utah County makes, on average, \$88,693. Two earners make about \$103,623, and three-earner families make about \$152,939.<sup>121</sup>

**Table 74: Median Family Income by Number of Earners, 2023**

	No earners	1 earner	2 earners	3 or more earners
U.S.	51,987	66,863	122,806	151,409
State	62,068	78,835	113,686	153,821
Utah County	67,215	88,693	103,623	152,939

### 2.3.1.3.2 Family Income by Race and Ethnicity

When considering family income by race and ethnicity of the householder, it is important to remember the relatively few numbers of certain racial minorities. For example, fewer than 8,000 black or African American residents live in Utah County, and the same is true for Native American or Alaska Natives. While the numbers of some minority groups are small, the family income may be higher than those of the same race statewide or nationally. For example, in Utah County, the median family income of a family with a Black householder is \$74,375—nationally, it is only \$66,727; statewide, it is \$69,400.<sup>122</sup>

It is important to recognize that family and household income data by race or ethnicity in the U.S. are increasingly complex to interpret. This is due in part to changes in family structure, the presence of multiple earners, and the rise of multi-racial and bi-racial householders and households. Many researchers believe that traditional income statistics by race or ethnicity may no longer fully capture economic realities or disparities, as demographic and social shifts alter how income is

<sup>121</sup> Ibid.

<sup>122</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 ACS, Table B19113, with iterations

distributed and reported within families. For example, as more households experience multiple earners, and as more households include extended family members (particularly among some racial and ethnic groups), gains in family income tell a different story than in the past.<sup>123</sup> Some argue that increasing numbers of multi-racial and bi-racial marriages challenges the historical categorization of family income by a single race of the householder.<sup>124</sup>

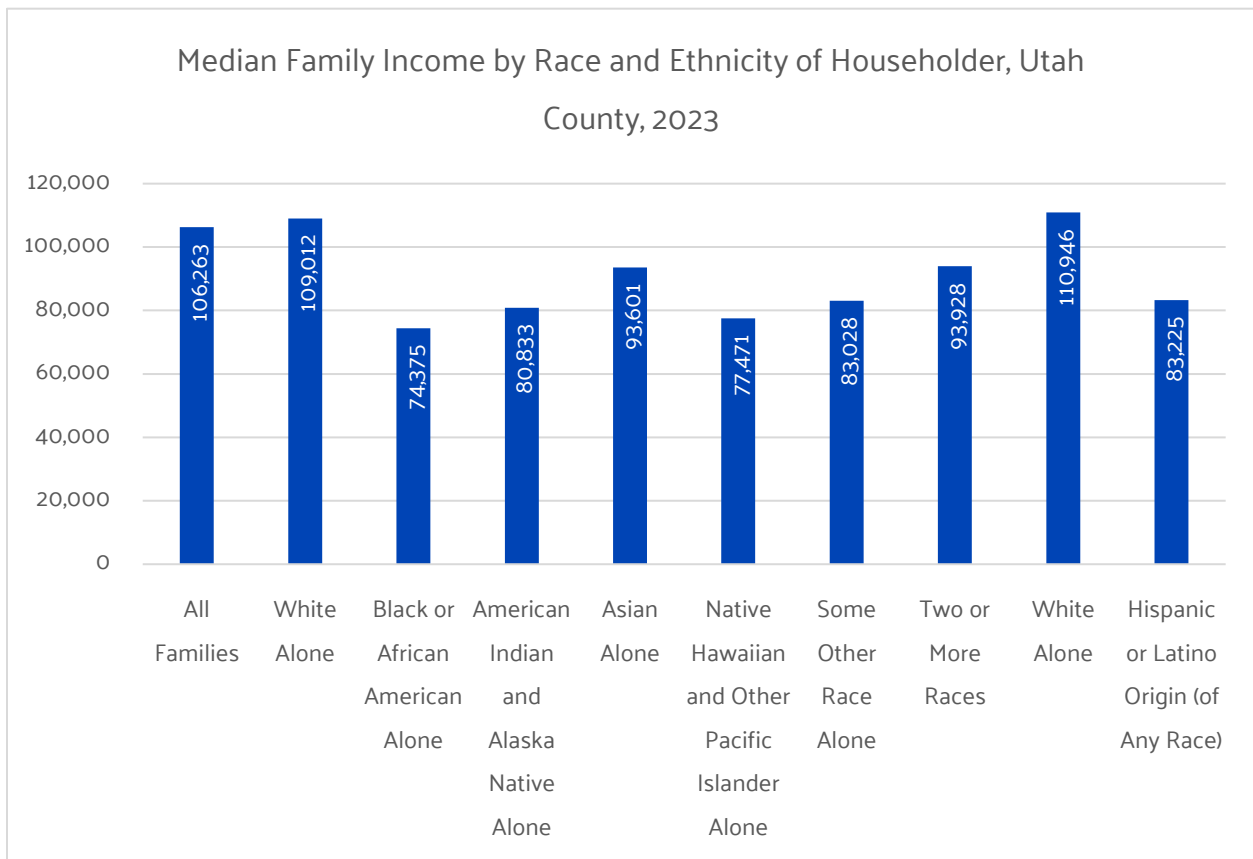
**Table 75: Median Family Income by Race and Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity of Householder, U.S. vs. State vs. County, 2023**

Median Family Income by Race and Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity of Householder, U.S. vs. State vs. County, 2023			
	U.S.	State	County
All Families	96,922	105,513	106,263
White Alone	105,270	109,284	109,012
Black or African American Alone	66,727	69,400	74,375
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	67,685	70,586	80,833
Asian Alone	130,300	109,520	93,601
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone	87,248	85,059	77,471
Some Other Race Alone	68,850	74,629	83,028
Two or More Races	82,964	93,403	93,928
White Alone	107,534	110,885	110,946
Hispanic or Latino Origin (of Any Race)	73,568	80,695	83,225

<sup>123</sup> Monnat, S., Raffalovich, L., & Tsao, H. (2012). Trends in the Family Income Distribution by Race/Ethnicity and Income Source, 1988-2009. *Population Review*, 51. <https://doi.org/10.1353/prv.2012.a479595>. See also Cross, C. (2018). Extended family households among children in the United States: Differences by race/ethnicity and socio-economic status. *Population Studies*, 72, 235 - 251. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00324728.2018.1468476>.

<sup>124</sup> Bloome, D. (2014). Racial Inequality Trends and the Intergenerational Persistence of Income and Family Structure. *American Sociological Review*, 79, 1196 - 1225. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0003122414554947>. See also Kamo, Y. (2000). Racial and Ethnic Differences in Extended Family Households. *Sociological Perspectives*, 43, 211 - 229. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1389794>.

Having recognized the increasing obscurity of categorizing family (and household) income by race, the table above and the figure below provide some insights into Utah County’s families. The fastest-growing minority in Utah County—Hispanic or Latino—has median family income of \$83,225, which is higher than Black or African American Alone (\$74,375), American Indian and Alaska Native Alone (\$80,833), Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone (\$77,471) and Some Other Race Alone (\$83,028).<sup>125</sup>



**Figure 76: Median Family Income by Race and Ethnicity of Householder, Utah County, 2023**

<sup>125</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 ACS, Table B19113, with iterations

### 2.3.1.3.3 Family Income and Family Type, Including Presence of Children

Family type has an impact on family income. Income is affected by presence of children under 18 years, female versus male householder, and family size. In Utah County, the median family income for all families is \$106,263. This compares to \$105,513 statewide and \$96,922 nationally. Married-couple families earn more than other family types (\$113,422 in Utah County); female householder families with no spouse present earn the least (\$54,997).<sup>126</sup>

**Table 76: Median Family Income by Family Type, 2023**

Median Family Income by Family Type, 2023				
	All Families	Married-couple families	Female householder, no spouse present	Male householder, no spouse present
U.S.	96,922	115,507	49,821	67,890
State	105,513	115,682	58,473	78,903
Utah County	106,263	113,422	54,997	78,585

When considering the presence of children, Utah County's income (\$110,876) is higher than the state's (\$106,419) and the nation's (\$95,154).<sup>127</sup>

**Table 77: Median Family Income by Presence of Children, 2023**

Median Family Income by Presence of Children, 2023			
	Families	With own children under 18 years	With no own children under 18 years
U.S.	96,922	95,154	98,066
State	105,513	106,419	104,551
Utah County	106,263	110,876	100,273

<sup>126</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 ACS, Table S1903

<sup>127</sup> Ibid.

Families in Utah County with male householders and no spouse present have a median family income of \$78,585; with children under the age of 18 living in the home, the income drops to \$73,075. Female householders without a spouse present earn much less--\$54,997; this drops to \$41,790 if children are present.<sup>128</sup> This topic is covered more fully in the poverty section of the assessment.

**Table 78: Median Family Income by Presence of Spouse and Children, 2023**

Median Family Income by Presence of Spouse and Children, 2023				
	Male householder, no spouse present	Male householder, present, with own children under 18 years	Female householder, no spouse present	Female householder, no spouse present, with own children under 18 years
U.S.	67,890	58,509	49,821	37,937
State	78,903	71,080	58,473	45,205
Utah County	78,585	73,075	54,997	41,790

#### 2.3.1.3.4 Family Income and Family Size

Family size and family income are associated. Two-person families in Utah County have a median family income of \$80,594; seven-or-more-person families are at \$146,604.<sup>129</sup>

**Table 79: Median Family Income by Family Size**

Median Family Income by Family Size						
	2-person families	3-person families	4-person families	5-person families	6-person families	7-or-more person families
U.S.	84,641	99,951	119,584	112,059	108,875	115,133
State	88,341	105,526	117,667	121,732	127,948	137,481
Utah County	80,594	102,050	112,736	128,658	133,369	146,604

<sup>128</sup> Ibid.

<sup>129</sup> Ibid.

## 2.3.2 Employment

### 2.3.2.1 Employed Labor Force

Out of the approximately 367,316 persons in Utah County’s labor force, 355,907 are employed, leaving about 12,000 persons looking for jobs.<sup>130</sup> Utah County has enjoyed high employment for many years. Since 2005, the employment rate in Utah County has exceeded national numbers and is often on par with state rates. The figure below depicts the County’s employed labor force versus total labor force over the past 20 years.

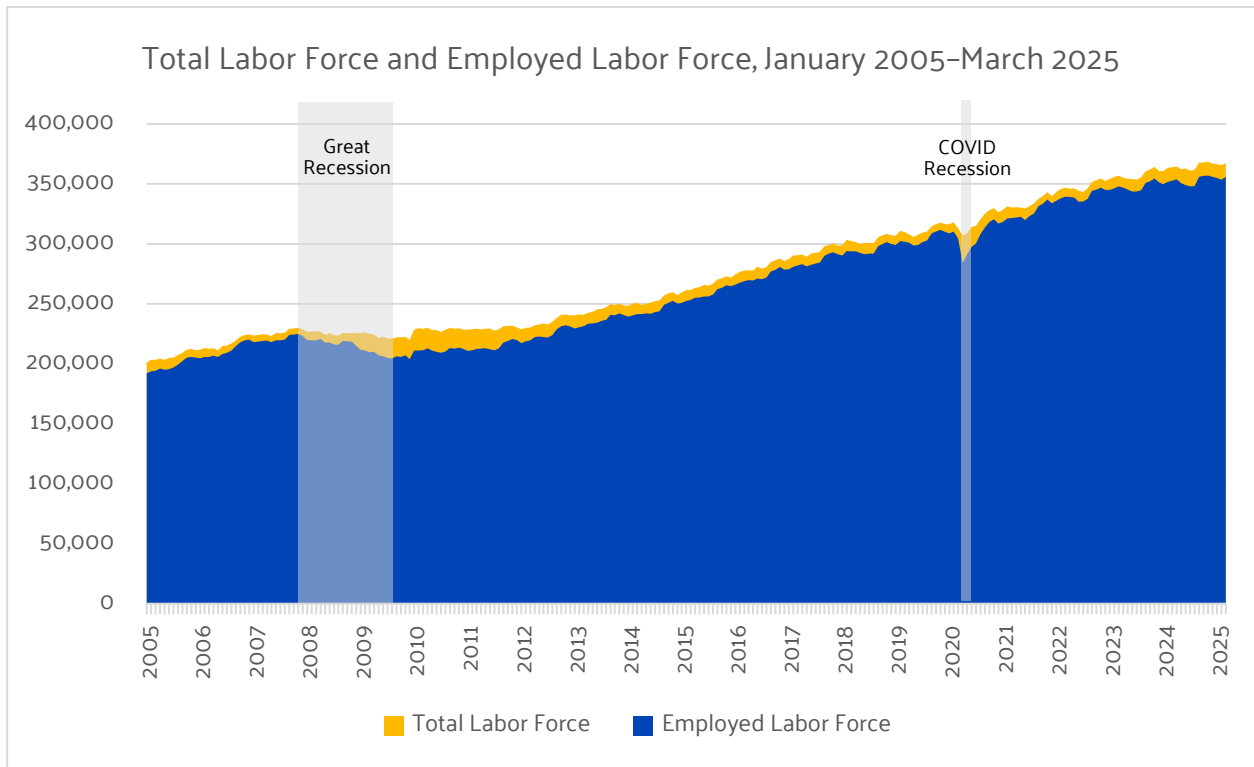


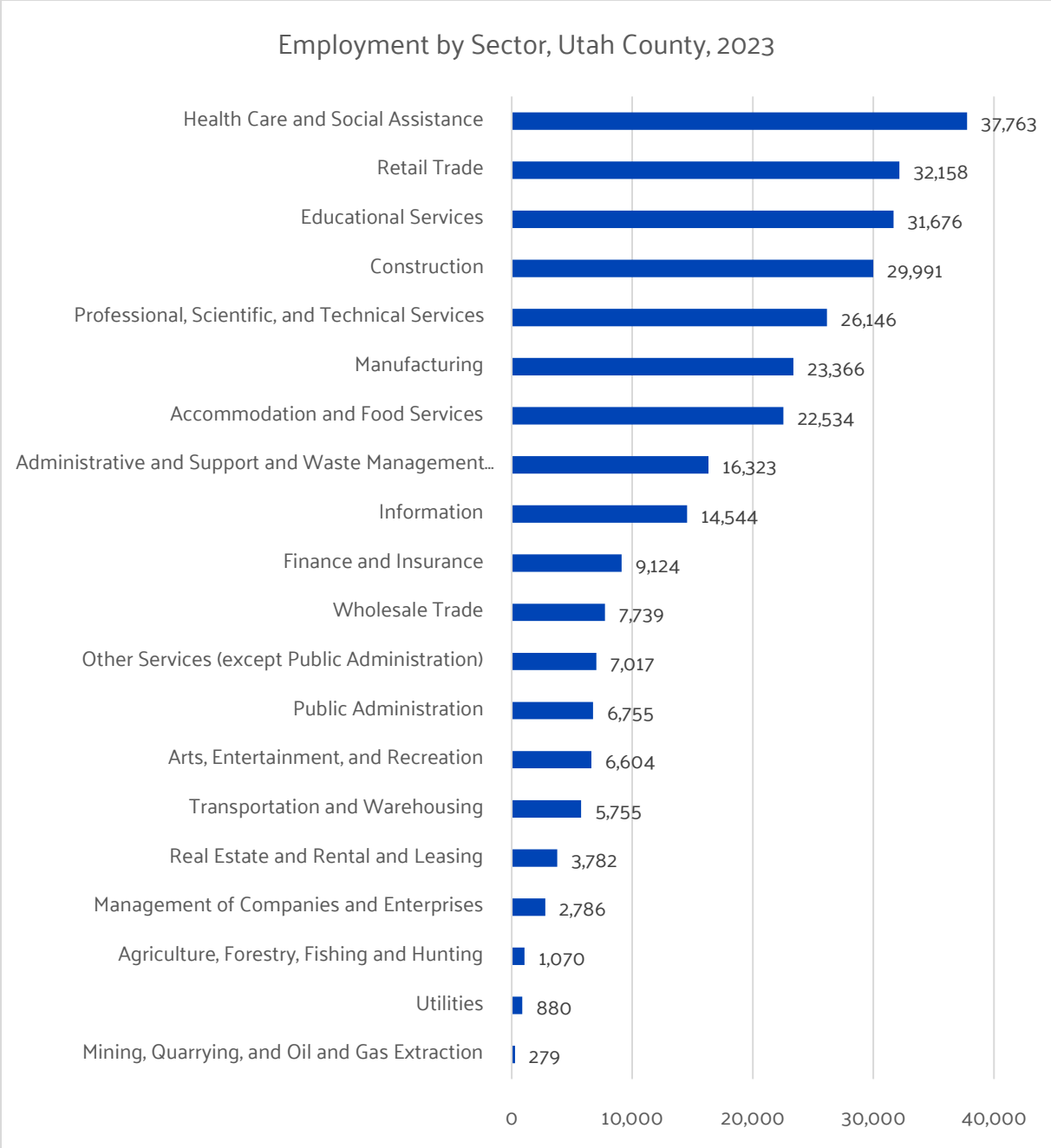
Figure 77: Total Labor Force and Employed Labor Force, January 2005–March 2025

#### 2.3.2.1.1 Industries of Employed Labor Force

As of 2023, the health care and social assistance sector employed nearly 38,000 persons, with retail trade (32,158), educational services (31,676), construction (29,991), and professional, scientific, and technical services (26,146) following. Manufacturing provides about 23,000 jobs.<sup>131</sup>

<sup>130</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Dataset. “Labor force” includes all civilian noninstitutional persons age 16 and older.

<sup>131</sup> Utah Department of Workforce Services, Utah County Dataset1



**Figure 78: Employment by Sector, Utah County, 2023**

More men are full-time employees in Utah County than women, with men comprising 66.4 percent of the workforce. It is not unusual, therefore, to see more men working in most industries than women.<sup>132</sup>

**Table 80: Industry by Sex for Full-time, Year-Round Employees, 2023**

Industry by Sex for Full-time, Year-Round Employees, 2023					
	Total	Male		Female	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	1,717	1,526	88.9	191	11.1
Construction	20,195	18,431	91.3	1,764	8.7
Manufacturing	23,793	17,441	73.3	6,352	26.7
Wholesale trade	5,753	4,652	80.9	1,101	19.1
Retail trade	21,275	13,098	61.6	8,177	38.4
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	7,092	5,675	80	1,417	20
Information	5,619	4,227	75.2	1,392	24.8
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	16,570	10,747	64.9	5,823	35.1
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	36,845	27,065	73.5	9,780	26.5
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	41,574	16,997	40.9	24,577	59.1
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	7,456	4,734	63.5	2,722	36.5
Other services, except public administration	7,933	5,229	65.9	2,704	34.1
Public administration	8,222	5,724	69.6	2,498	30.4

<sup>132</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 ACS 5-year averages, Table S2402

### 2.3.2.1.2 Occupations of Employed Labor Force

Even though men make up about two-thirds of the total labor force in Utah County, women do tend to dominate in certain occupations. Women are more prominent in community and social service occupations (59.5 percent), educational instruction and library occupations (60.7 percent), Health diagnosing and treating practitioners (57.2 percent), health technologists and technicians (63.5 percent), healthcare support (77.1 percent), personal care and service (63.6 percent), and office and administrative support (67.7 percent).<sup>133</sup>

**Table 81: Occupations by Sex, 2023**

Occupations by Sex, 2023					
	Total	Male		Female	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Full-time, year-round civilian employed population 16 years and over	204,044	135,546	66.4	68,498	33.6
Management, business, science, and arts occupations:	104,725	70,341	67.2	34,384	32.8
Management, business, and financial occupations:	48,340	34,803	72.0	13,537	28.0
Management occupations	33,413	25,188	75.4	8,225	24.6
Business and financial operations occupations	14,927	9,615	64.4	5,312	35.6
Computer, engineering, and science occupations:	24,631	21,515	87.3	3,116	12.7
Computer and mathematical occupations	17,153	15,208	88.7	1,945	11.3
Architecture and engineering occupations	5,856	5,152	88.0	704	12.0
Life, physical, and social science occupations	1,622	1,155	71.2	467	28.8

Continued next page

<sup>133</sup> Ibid.

Occupations by Sex, 2023, continued

		Male		Female	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Education, legal, community service, arts, and media occupations:	22,027	10,018	45.5	12,009	54.5
Community and social service occupations	3,430	1,390	40.5	2,040	59.5
Legal occupations	2,374	1,512	63.7	862	36.3
Educational instruction, and library occupations	11,765	4,623	39.3	7,142	60.7
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	4,458	2,493	55.9	1,965	44.1
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations:	9,727	4,005	41.2	5,722	58.8
Health diagnosing and treating practitioners and other technical occupations	7,177	3,073	42.8	4,104	57.2
Health technologists and technicians	2,550	932	36.5	1,618	63.5
Service occupations:	18,009	10,037	55.7	7,972	44.3
Healthcare support occupations	4,750	1,086	22.9	3,664	77.1
Protective service occupations:	3,617	3,211	88.8	406	11.2
Firefighting and prevention, and other protective service workers including supervisors	1,451	1,293	89.1	158	10.9

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Occupations by Sex, 2023, continued

		Male		Female	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Law enforcement					
workers including supervisors	2,166	1,918	88.6	248	11.4
Food preparation and					
serving related occupations	3,789	2,220	58.6	1,569	41.4
Building and grounds					
cleaning and maintenance					
occupations	3,783	2,767	73.1	1,016	26.9
Personal care and service					
occupations	2,070	753	36.4	1,317	63.6
Sales and office					
occupations:	40,493	20,387	50.3	20,106	49.7
Sales and related					
occupations	18,983	13,439	70.8	5,544	29.2
Office and administrative					
support occupations	21,510	6,948	32.3	14,562	67.7
Natural resources,					
construction, and					
maintenance occupations:	20,582	19,808	96.2	774	3.8
Farming, fishing, and					
forestry occupations	480	437	91.0	43	9.0
Construction and					
extraction occupations	12,988	12,692	97.7	296	2.3
Installation, maintenance,					
and repair occupations	7,114	6,679	93.9	435	6.1
Production, transportation,					
and material moving					
occupations:	20,235	14,973	74.0	5,262	26.0
Production occupations	10,600	7,472	70.5	3,128	29.5
Transportation					
occupations	4,166	3,707	89.0	459	11.0
Material moving					
occupations	5,469	3,794	69.4	1,675	30.6

### 2.3.2.1.3 Earnings

The occupation with the highest median earnings for full-time, year-round employees is legal occupations, at \$119,265. Computer and mathematical occupations are next, at \$105,532, followed by all computer, engineering, and science (\$100,616) and architecture and engineering (\$99,083).<sup>134</sup>

**Table 82: Median Annual Earnings by Occupation, 2023**

Median Annual Earnings by Occupation, 2023	
Management, business, science, and arts occupations:	81,007
Management, business, and financial occupations:	83,826
Management occupations	91,259
Business and financial operations occupations	71,756
Computer, engineering, and science occupations:	100,616
Computer and mathematical occupations	105,532
Architecture and engineering occupations	99,083
Life, physical, and social science occupations	66,780
Education, legal, community service, arts, and media occupations:	63,073
Community and social service occupations	57,786
Legal occupations	119,265
Educational instruction, and library occupations	62,588
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	62,869
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations:	72,369
Health diagnosing and treating practitioners and other technical occupations	83,462
Health technologists and technicians	43,280
Service occupations:	37,405
Healthcare support occupations	34,026
Protective service occupations:	67,862
Firefighting and prevention, and other protective service workers including supervisors	64,004
Law enforcement workers including supervisors	69,588

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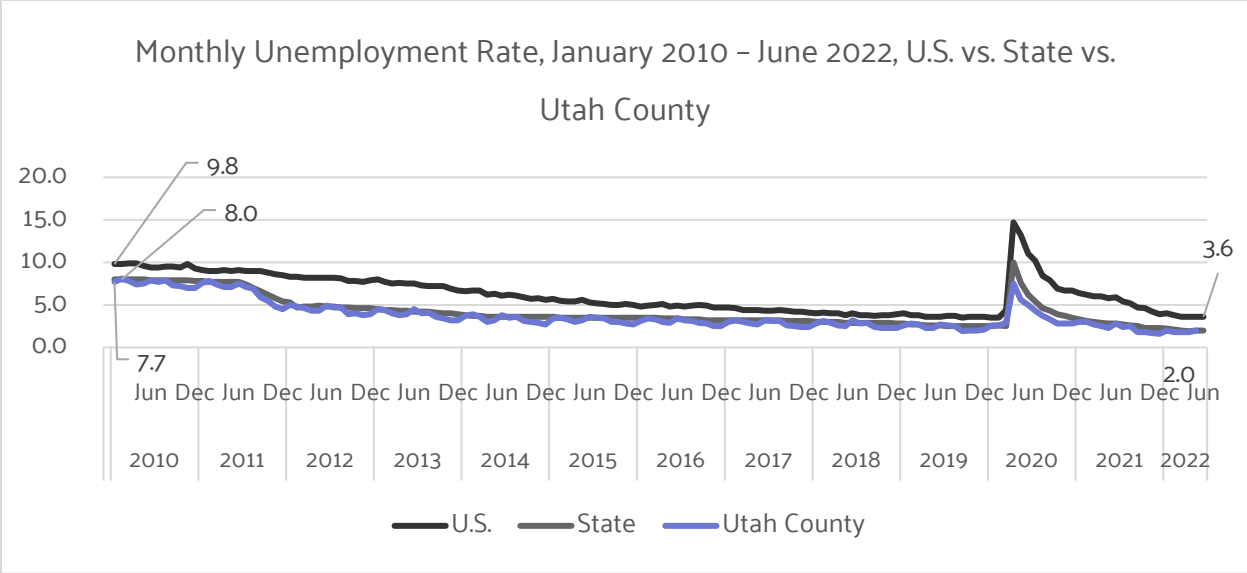
<sup>134</sup> Ibid., Table S2412

Median Annual Earnings by Occupation, 2023, continued	
Food preparation and serving related occupations	26,282
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	38,969
Personal care and service occupations	36,098
Sales and office occupations:	48,458
Sales and related occupations	64,243
Office and administrative support occupations	41,794
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations:	53,117
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	37,030
Construction and extraction occupations	53,261
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	54,656
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations:	42,630
Production occupations	44,524
Transportation occupations	54,382
Material moving occupations	35,150

### 2.3.2.2 Unemployed Labor Force

Unemployment in Utah County has consistently stayed below state and national levels for many years. As the nation emerged from the Great Recession, Utah County’s January 2010 unemployment rate was 7.7, compared to 8.0 statewide and 9.8 nationally. Since then, Utah County’s rate has remained below the national rate, and has regularly been just below the state rate. As the pandemic took hold, Utah County’s unemployment rate jumped to 7.5 percent in April 2020, far better than the state’s 10.0 and the nation’s 14.7. In May 2022, Utah County’s rate is 2.0—the same as the state rate, and below the nation’s 3.6 percent.<sup>135</sup>

<sup>135</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, Monthly Unemployment Dataset



**Figure 79: Monthly Unemployment Rate, January 2010 – June 2022, U.S. vs. State vs. Utah County**

## 2.3.3 Poverty

### 2.3.3.1 People in Poverty

Utah County's poverty rate continues to decline. In 2013, 14.0 percent of Utah County residents were living below federal poverty guidelines; currently, only 8.7 percent do. Statewide, the 2023 rate is 8.6 percent; nationally, it is 12.4 percent.<sup>136</sup>

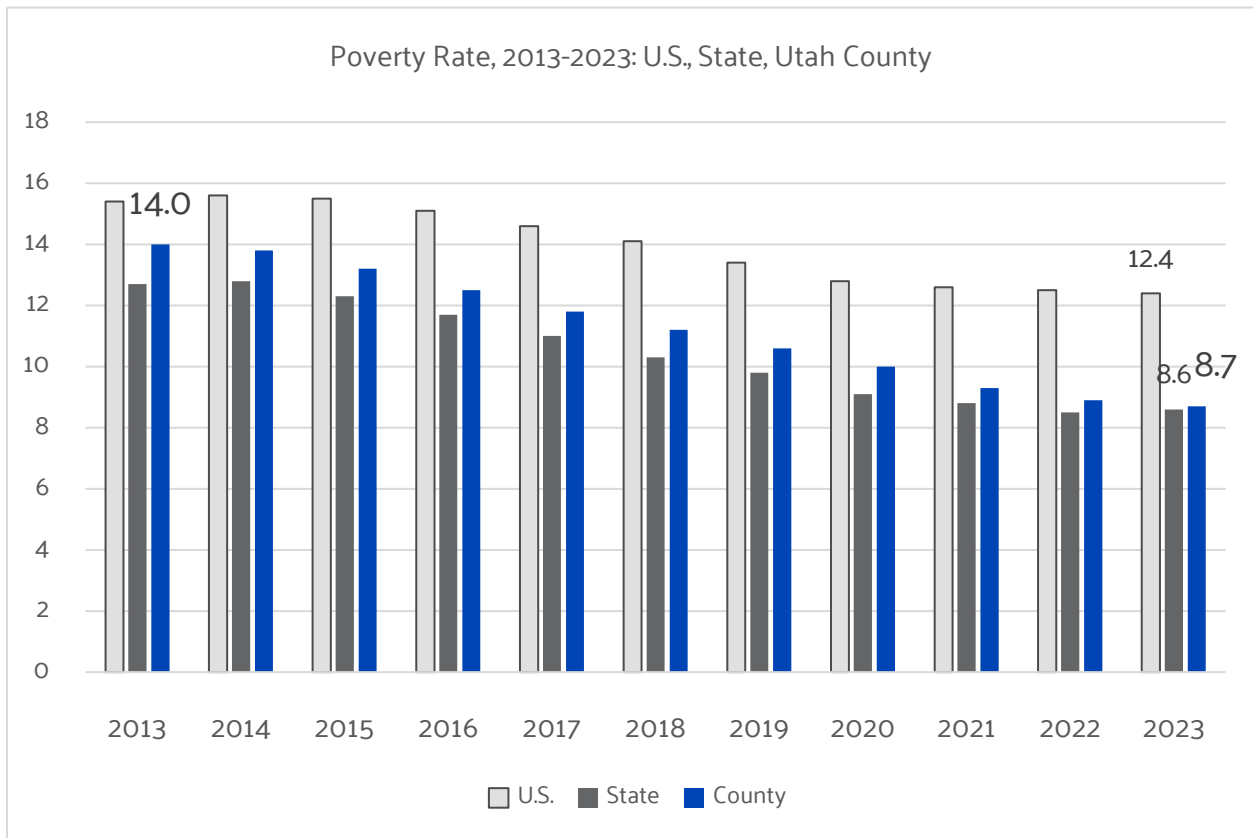


Figure 80: Poverty Rate, 2013-2023: U.S., State, Utah County

Breaking the number and percent of persons in poverty into age groups is instructive. Using standard U.S. Census Bureau age categories, those age 18 to 24 have the highest percentage in poverty in Utah County, at 25.4 percent; similarly, both the state (20.6 percent) and the nation (22.6 percent) see this age group as the most likely to be in poverty.<sup>137</sup> With Utah County's high levels of

<sup>136</sup> Ibid., Table S1701

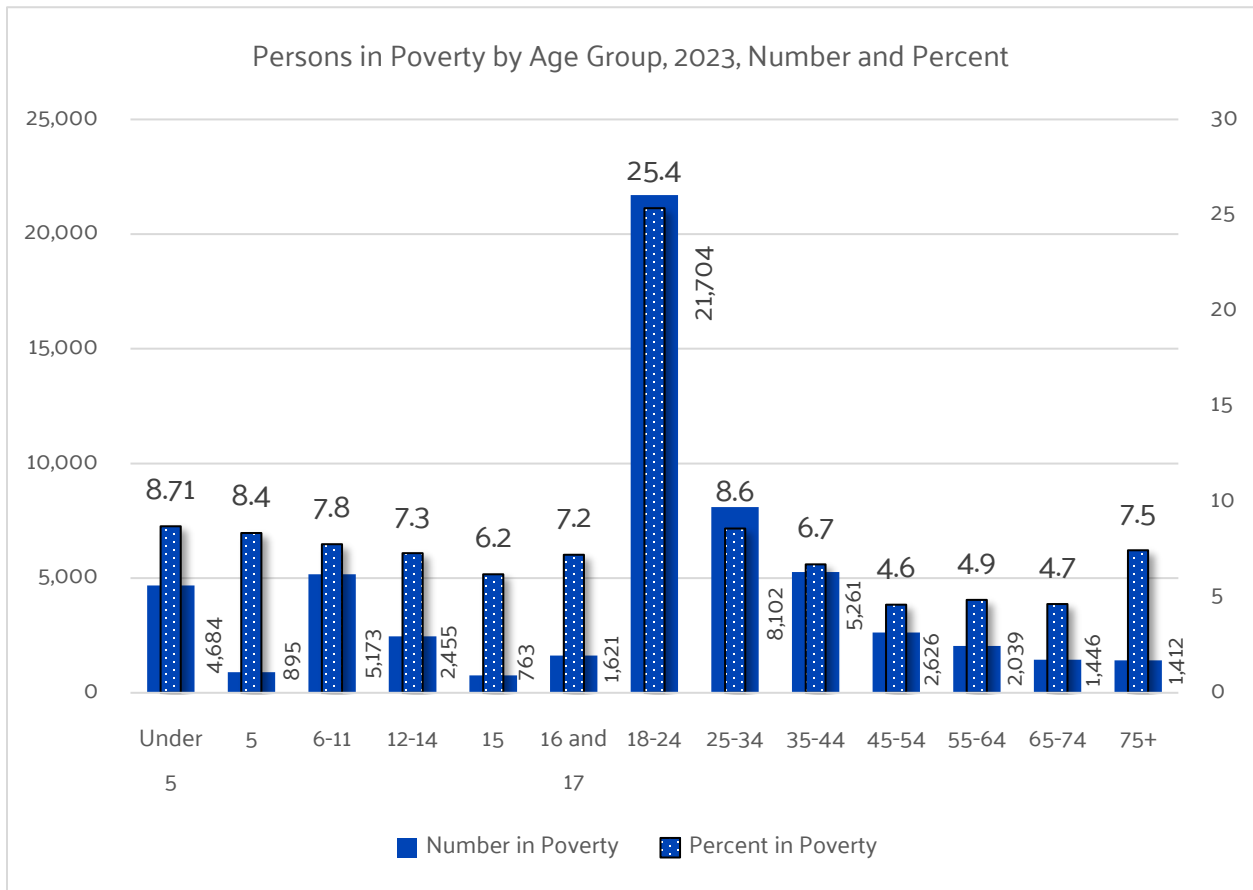
<sup>137</sup> Ibid., Table B17001

enrollment in post-secondary education (87,855), the effect of college enrollment in poverty calculations is significant. .

**Table 83: Percent of Persons in Poverty by Age, 2023: U.S., State, Utah County**

Percent of Persons in Poverty by Age, 2023: U.S., State, Utah County			
	U.S.	State	Utah County
Total Population	324,567,147	3,278,204	667,048
Under 5 years	20.8	10.6	8.7
5 years	20.5	10.4	8.4
6 to 11 years	19.7	9.9	7.8
12 to 14 years	18.2	8.6	7.3
15 years	18.3	9.3	6.2
16 and 17 years	17.2	9.3	7.2
18 to 24 years	22.6	20.6	25.4
25 to 34 years	13.1	8.8	8.6
35 to 44 years	11.5	7.4	6.7
45 to 54 years	9.9	6.0	4.6
55 to 64 years	11.6	6.3	4.9
65 to 74 years	10.5	7.0	4.7
75 years and over	12.6	8.7	7.5

The next most common age group to be in poverty in Utah County is under 5 years (8.7 percent), followed by 25 to 34 years (8.6), 5 years (8.4), and 6 to 11 years (7.8).<sup>138</sup>

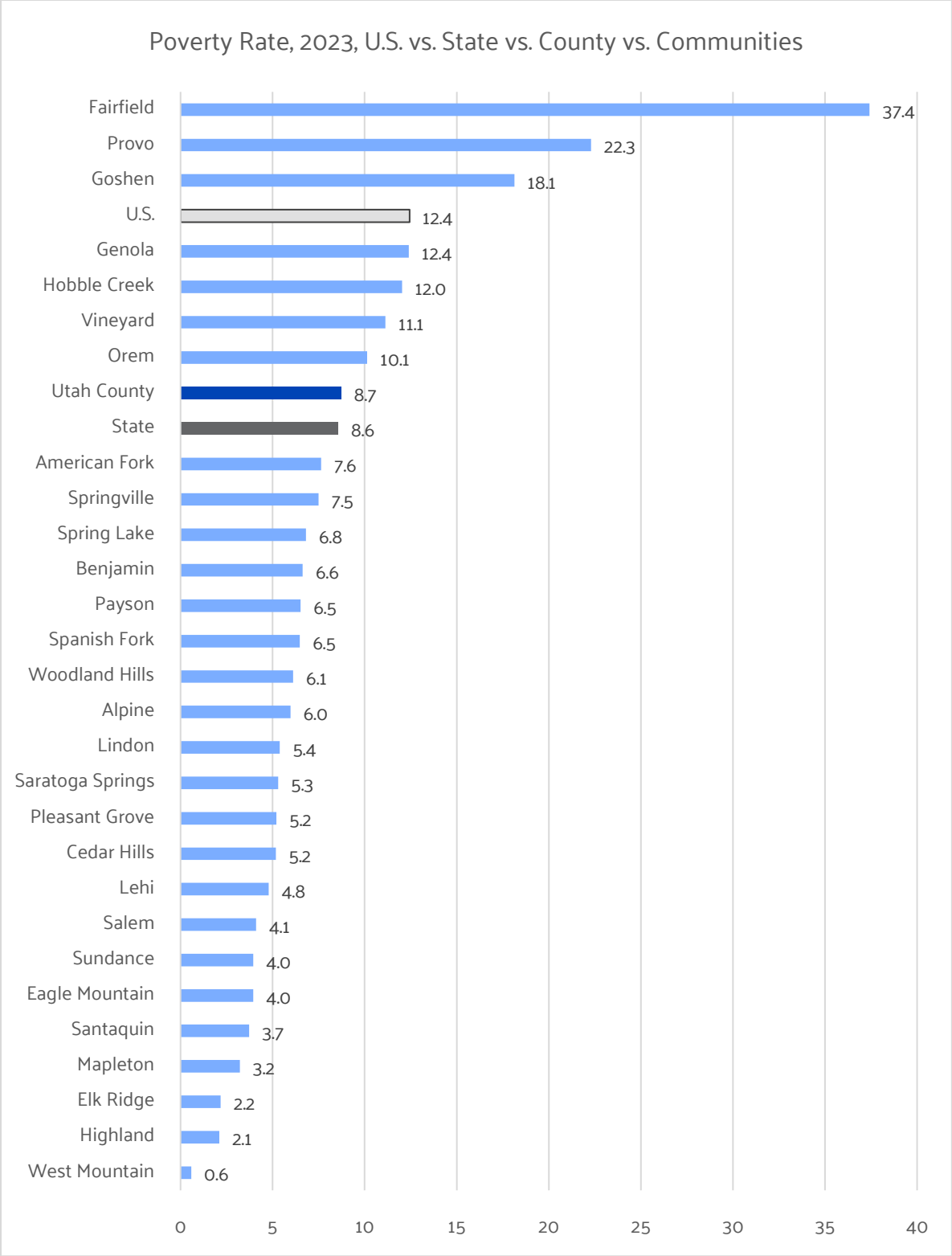


**Figure 81: Persons in Poverty by Age Group, 2023, Number and Percent**

The community in Utah County with the highest rate of poverty is Fairfield, at 37.4 percent. This is followed by Provo (22.3), Goshen (18.1), Genola (12.4), and Hobble Creek (12.0). The communities of Cedar Fort, Elberta, Lake Shore, and Palmyra have either no or so few persons in poverty that the rate cannot be calculated.<sup>139</sup>

<sup>138</sup> Ibid.

<sup>139</sup> Ibid.



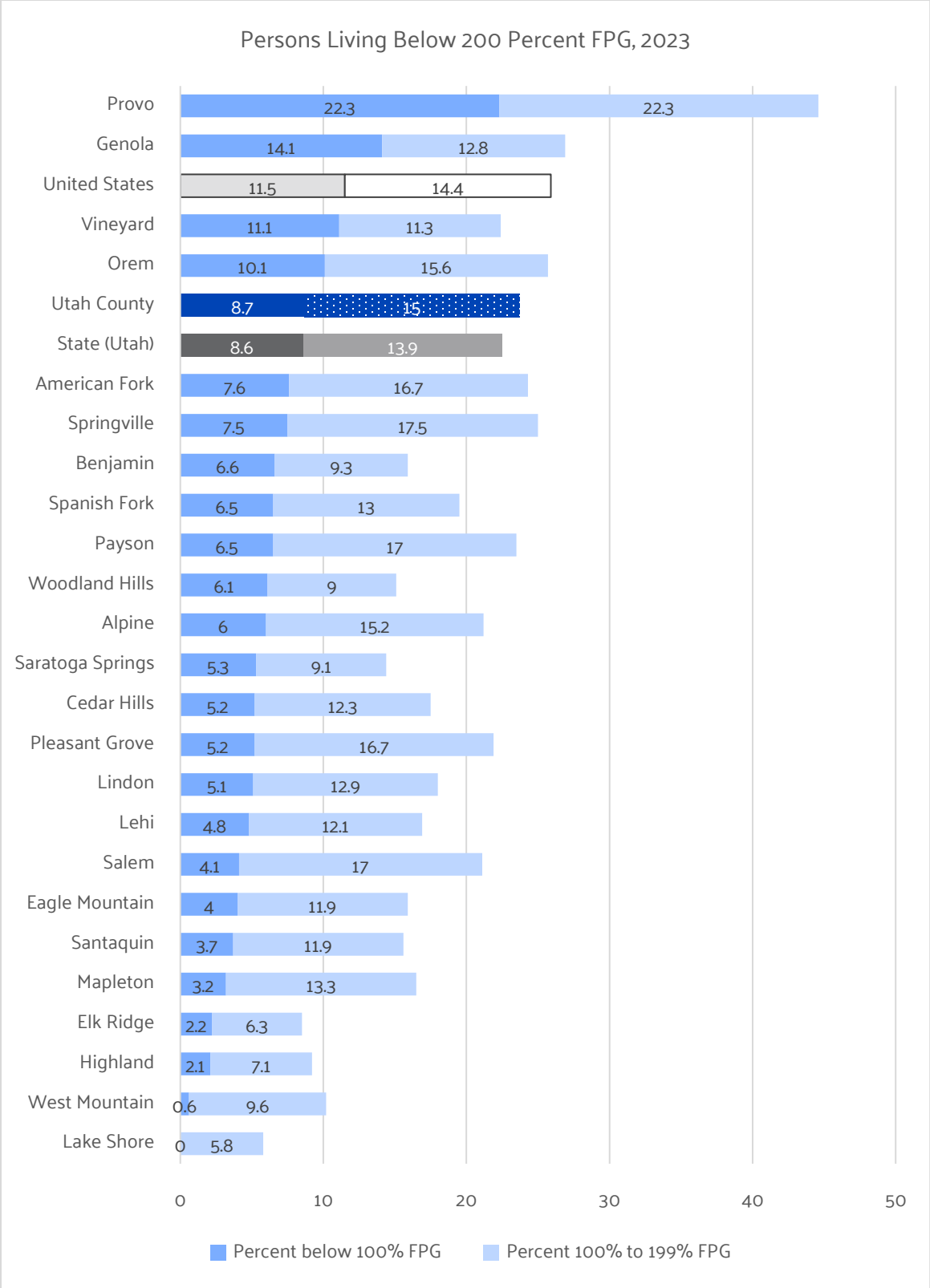
**Figure 82: Poverty Rate, 2023, U.S. vs. State vs. County vs. Communities**

The federal poverty guideline for a family of four is \$31,200.<sup>140</sup> Provo is the Utah County community with the highest percent (22.3) of persons living below FPG; the same percentage live between 100 percent and 199 percent of poverty. In the following chart, communities with less than 1,000 population are omitted (Benjamin, Cedar Fort, Elberta, Fairfield, Goshen, Hobble Creek, Palmyra, Spring Lake, Sundance) because the low figures can portray inaccurate assumptions.<sup>141</sup>

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<sup>140</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), "Poverty Guidelines," published January 15, 2025.

<sup>141</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 20019-2023 ACS, Table B17024



**Figure 83: Persons Living Below 200 Percent FPG, 2023**

### 2.3.3.2 Poverty and Household Type

Most people living in poverty live in family households; however, Provo is an exception. While 62.4 percent of all Utah County residents in poverty live in family households, only 42.6 percent of Provo’s persons in poverty are in family households.<sup>142</sup>

**Table 84: Persons in Poverty: Percent in Family Households vs. Non-Family Households, 2023**

	Family Households	Non-Family Households and Other Living Arrangements
United States	67.6	32.4
State	66.9	33.1
Utah County	62.4	37.6
Alpine	70.8	29.2
American Fork	75.5	24.5
Benjamin	24.4	75.6
Cedar Fort	N/A	N/A
Cedar Hills	93.6	6.4
Eagle Mountain	90.6	9.4
Elberta	N/A	N/A
Elk Ridge	96.2	3.8
Fairfield	96.4	3.6
Genola	97.3	2.7
Goshen	88.1	11.9
Highland	79.7	20.3
Hobble Creek	0	100
Lake Shore	N/A	N/A
Lehi	80.7	19.3
Lindon	71.9	28.1
Mapleton	73.4	26.6
Orem	60.3	39.7
Palmyra	N/A	N/A

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<sup>142</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS 5-year averages, Table B17021

Persons in Poverty: Percent in Family Households vs. Non-Family Households, 2023 (con't)

Payson	67.6	32.4
Pleasant Grove	79.2	20.8
Provo	42.6	57.4
Salem	72.2	27.8
Santaquin	88.5	11.5
Saratoga Springs	97.2	2.8
Spanish Fork	83	17
Spring Lake	100	0
Springville	78.7	21.3
Sundance	0	100
Vineyard	63.6	36.4
West Mountain	100	0
Woodland Hills	96.6	3.4

The unique attributes of Utah’s County’s population living in poverty are clear when comparing the County to state and national figures. About 39 percent of Utah County’s persons in poverty are living in married-couple families, compared to 36.2 percent statewide and 25.9 percent

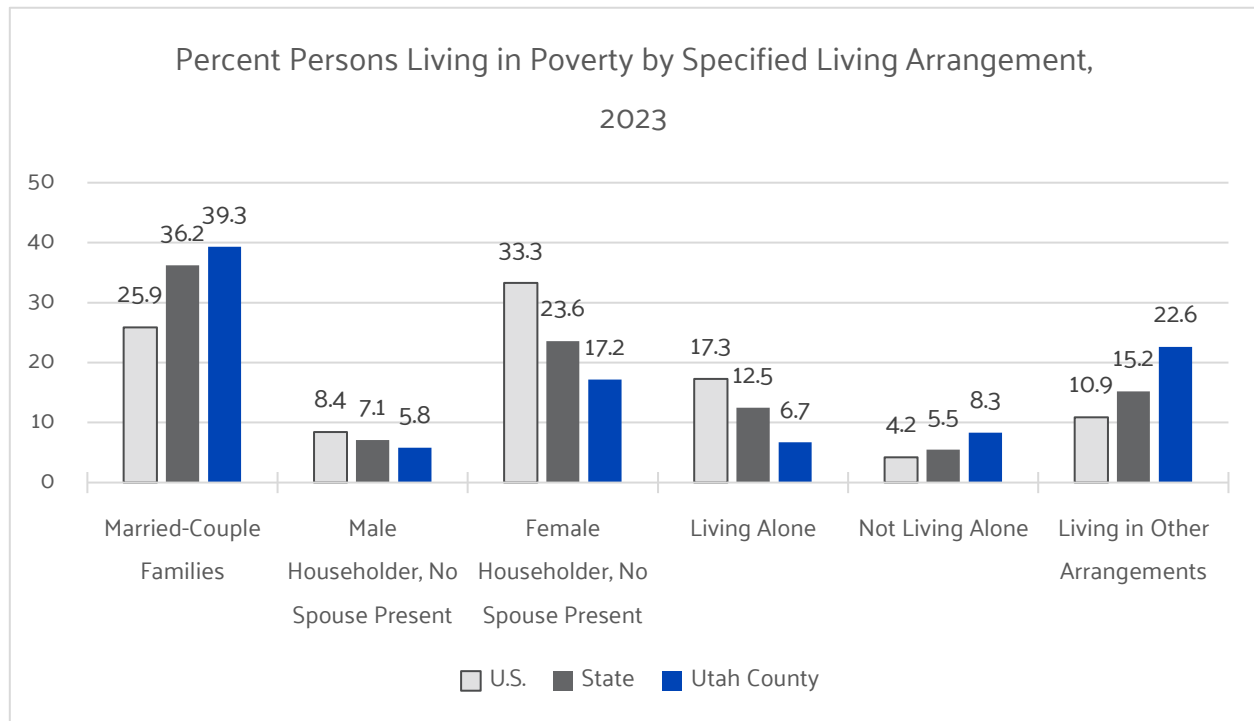


Figure 85: Percent Persons Living in Poverty by Specified Living Arrangement, 2023

nationally. Other significant differences are found among female householders with no spouse present, who make up a much smaller portion in Utah County (17.2 percent) than statewide (23.6) and nationally (33.3). The national percentage of persons in poverty who are living “in other arrangements”—such as multiple college students or working professionals living together—the figure (10.9) is about half of Utah County’s 22.6 percent.<sup>143</sup>

**Table 85: Percent Persons Living in Poverty by Specified Living Arrangement, 2023**

Percent Persons Living in Poverty by Specified Living Arrangement, 2023 <sup>144</sup>						
	Married- Couple Families	Male Householder, No Spouse Present	Female Householder, No Spouse Present	Living Alone	Not Living Alone	Living in Other Arrange- ments
United States	25.9	8.4	33.3	17.3	4.2	10.9
State	36.2	7.1	23.6	12.5	5.5	15.2
Utah County	39.3	5.8	17.2	6.7	8.3	22.6
Alpine	68.7	0	2.1	26.6	0	2.6
American Fork	39.7	5.8	30	4.3	6.2	14
Benjamin	24.4	0	0	0	75.6	0
Cedar Fort	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cedar Hills	39.4	0	54.2	3.9	0	2.5
Eagle Mountain	61.3	6.1	23.1	6.5	0.5	2.5
Elberta	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Elk Ridge	96.2	0	0	3.8	0	0
Fairfield	96.4	0	0	3.6	0	0
Genola	84.9	0.5	12.3	2.7	0	0
Goshen	65.6	0	22.5	5.3	0	6.6
Highland	51.1	0	28.6	9.9	1.7	10.4
Hobble Creek	0	0	0	47.4	47.4	5.3
Lake Shore	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lehi	48.9	4.8	26.9	7	2.6	12.3
Lindon	58.2	6.7	7.1	20.8	0	7.2

(continued next page)

<sup>143</sup> Ibid.

<sup>144</sup> Sums of rows may not equal 100 due to rounding and margins of error.

Percent Persons Living in Poverty by Specified Living Arrangement, 2023 (continued)

		Male	Female			Living in
	Married- Couple Families	Householder, No Spouse Present	Householder, No Spouse Present	Living Alone	Not Living Alone	Other Arrange- ments
Mapleton	40.5	0	32.9	9.6	0	16.9
Orem	41	4.8	14.5	14.9	8.5	16.3
Palmyra	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Payson	20.3	22.1	25.1	19.2	3.7	13.2
Pleasant Grove	46.8	4.8	27.6	12.1	2.8	5.9
Provo	26.9	6.2	9.5	6.2	14.1	37.1
Salem	46.1	0	26.1	13.5	1.2	3.4
Santaquin	41.8	0	46.7	8.4	0.9	3.1
Saratoga Springs	78.8	3.4	15	2.7	0	0
Spanish Fork	44.2	5.2	33.6	7.3	3.5	6.1
Spring Lake	100	0	0	0	0	0
Springville	58.3	4.8	15.5	12.9	5.3	3.1
Sundance	0	0	0	0	0	100
Vineyard	24.5	15	24.2	7.1	5.6	23.7
West Mountain	100	0	0	0	0	0
Woodland Hills	40.9	0	55.7	3.4	0	0

Of note, the percentage of persons in poverty living in other arrangements is statistically different than the national figure in most of Utah County’s communities; in fact, the state’s percentage of 15.2 is statistically different than the national 10.9 percent. The only communities in Utah County who are not statistically different than the national number are Goshen (6.6) and Highland (10.4) (z-statistic cannot be computed for communities with no persons in this category).

**2.3.3.3 Children in Poverty**

Childhood poverty is an especially concerning problem because it leads to many other problems later in life. In Utah County, about 7.2 percent of children younger than 18 years are living

in poverty (down from 8.5 in the 2022 assessment). This compares to 8.9 percent for the state (down from 9.9 in 2022) and 16.3 percent for the U.S. (a drop from 17.5 in 2022).<sup>145</sup>

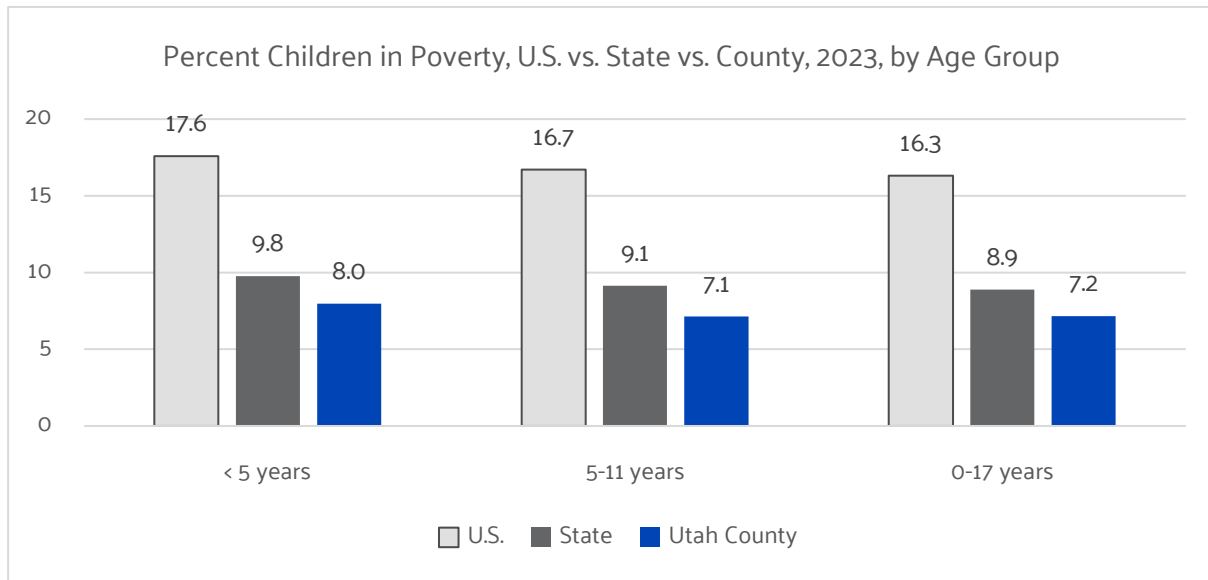


Figure 86: Percent Children in Poverty, U.S. vs. State vs. County, 2023, by Age Group

The bulk of the 15,591 Utah County children in poverty are younger than 12 years (10,752).

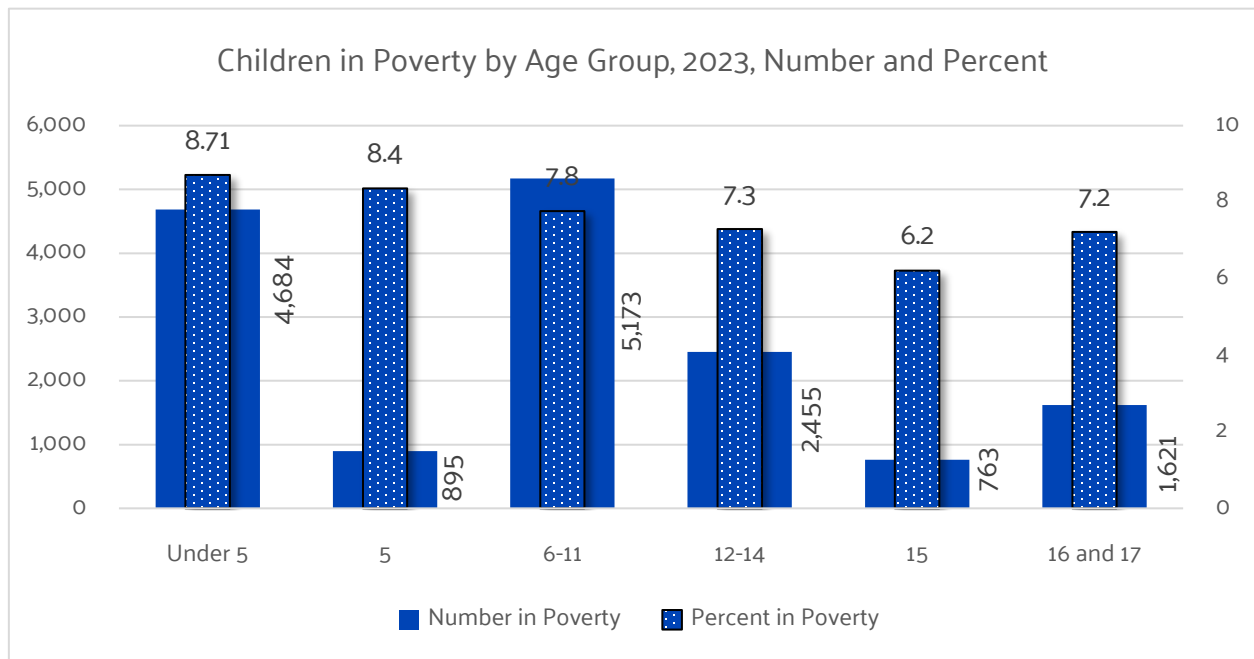
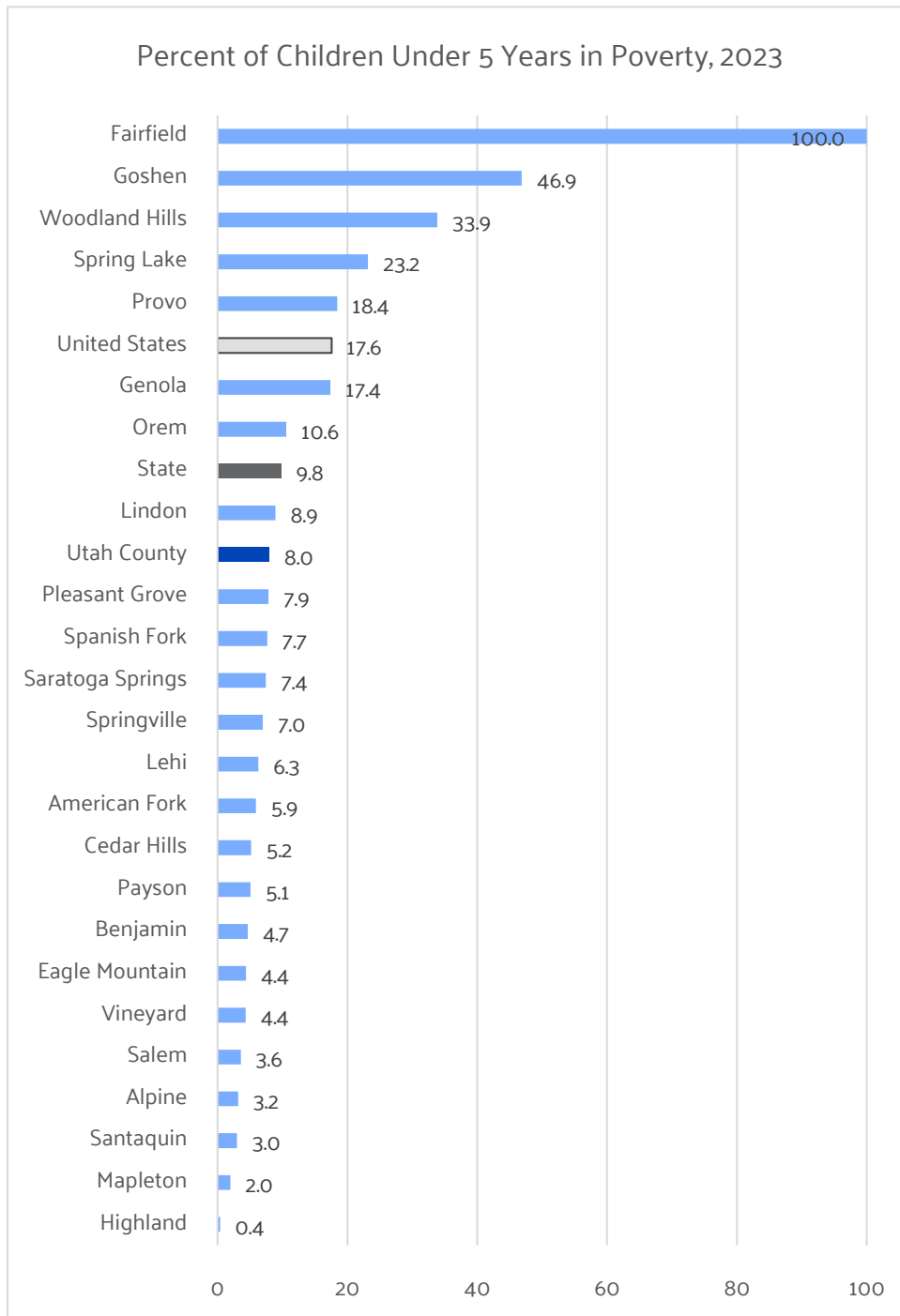


Figure 87: Children in Poverty by Age Group, 2023, Number and Percent

<sup>145</sup> Ibid., Table B17001

Keeping in mind that the small community of Fairfield has only 10 children under the age of 5, it has the highest rate of poverty among for this age group (100 percent). Goshen’s 30 young



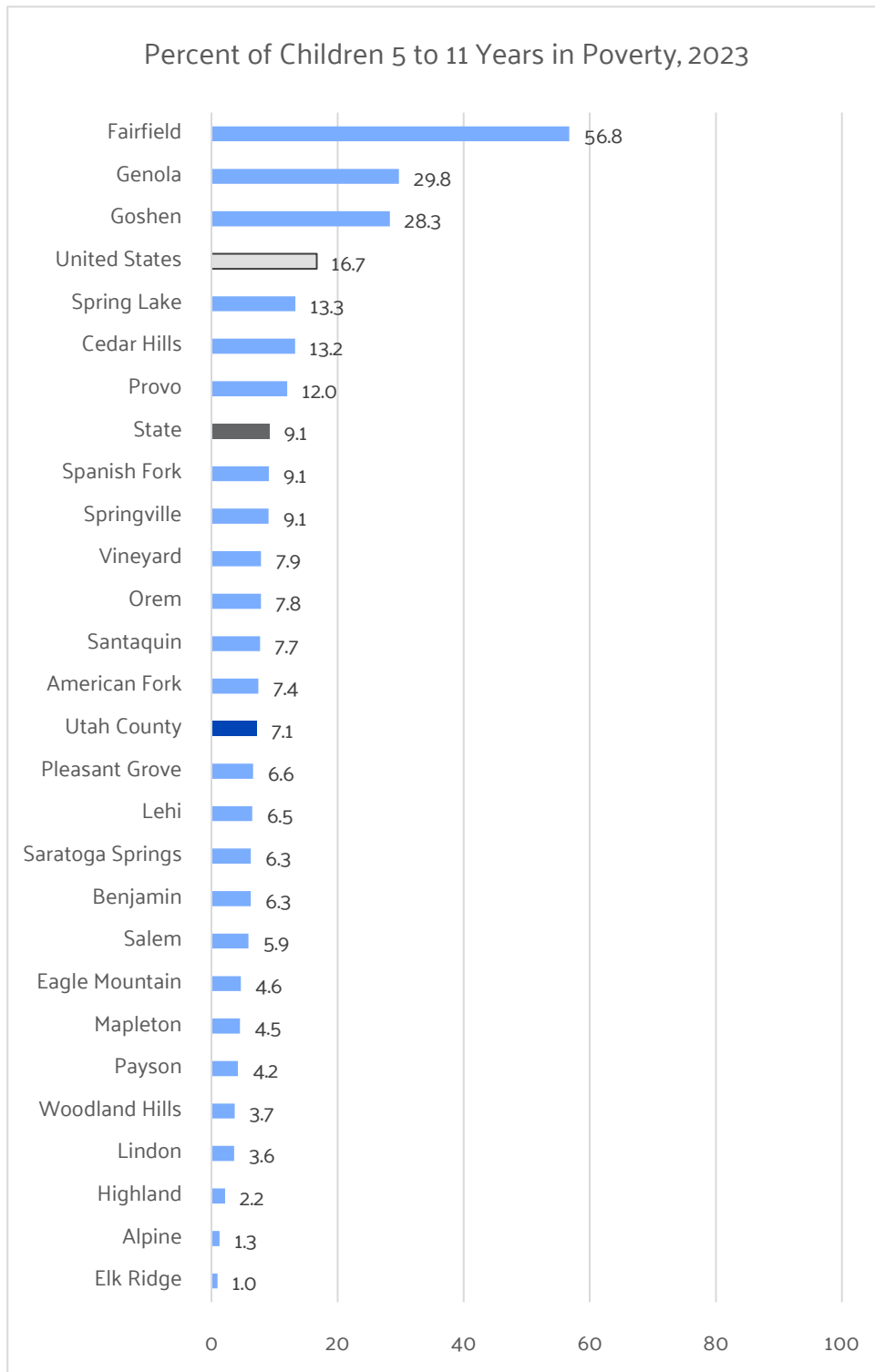
children in poverty represent 46.9 of this age group. Woodland Hills (33.9), Spring Lake (23.2), and Provo (18.4) finish out the list of five communities with the highest rate of young children in poverty. It is noteworthy that Provo’s poverty rate for this age group has declined from the 2022 assessment’s 24.2 percent. Highland (0.4), Mapleton (2.0), Santaquin (3.0), Alpine (3.2), and Salem (3.6) have the lowest poverty rates for young children.<sup>146</sup>

Cedar Fort, Elberta, Elk Ridge,

Figure 88: Percent of Children Under 5 Years in Poverty

<sup>146</sup> Ibid.

Hobble Creek, Lake Shore, Palmyra, and West Mountain have no children in this age group who are experiencing poverty. Sundance has no children in this age group.



Fairfield has the highest percentage of children age 5 to 11 living in poverty, at 56.8 percent. Genola (29.8), Goshen (28.3), Spring Lake (13.3), and Cedar Hills (9.1) follow. Provo’s 12.0 percent is next.

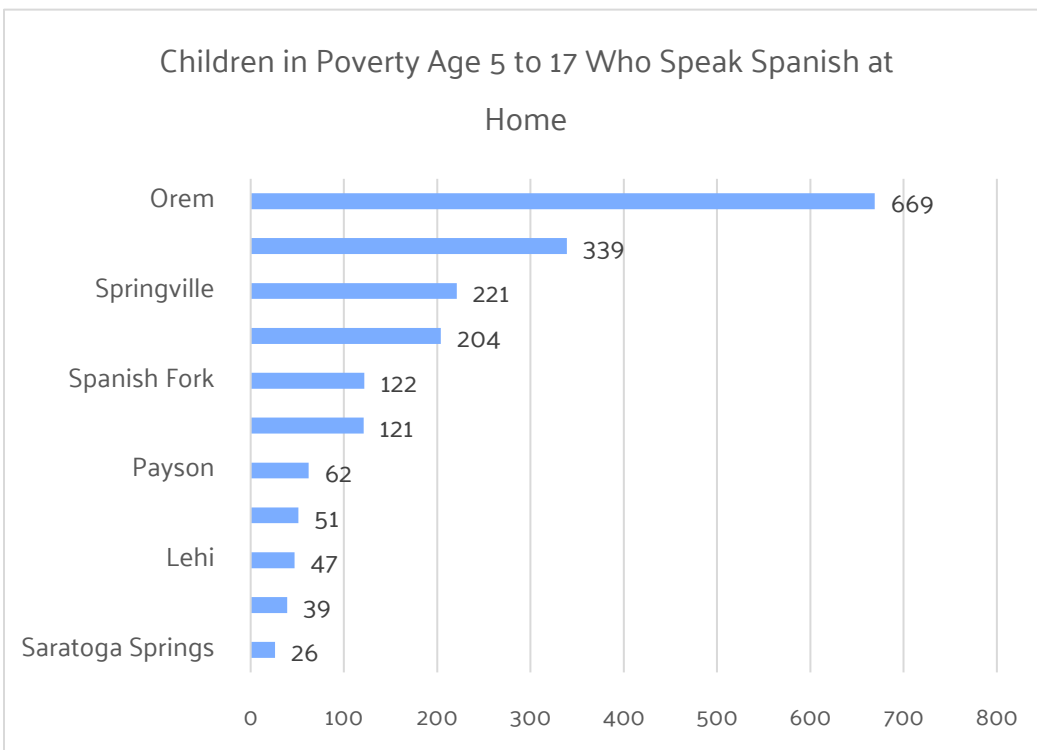
Elk Ridge (1.0), Alpine (1.3), Highland (2.2), Lindon (3.6), and Woodland Hills (3.7) have the lowest percentages—except for Cedar Fort, Elberta, Hobble Creek, Lake Shore, Palmyra, Sundance, and West Mountain, who have no children in this age group in poverty.<sup>147</sup>

<sup>147</sup> *ibid.*

While the overall rate of poverty in Utah County is 8.8 percent, the rate of 5- to 17-year olds in poverty is 6.9 percent. For those who speak Spanish at home, the rate is 13.3 percent.<sup>148</sup>

**Table 86: Language Spoken at Home for Children in Poverty, Percent, 2023**

Language Spoken at Home for Children in Poverty, Percent, 2023			
	U.S.	State	Utah County
Overall Poverty Rate	12.1	8.5	8.8
5 to 17 years, all languages	15.9	8.6	6.9
Speak only English	14.1	7.1	6.1
Speak Spanish	24.6	17.8	13.3
Speak other Indo-European languages	15.4	13.1	14.5
Speak Asian and Pacific Island languages	12.1	12.1	5.2
Speak other languages	29.1	41.6	0.0



Most children in poverty age 5 to 17 who speak Spanish at home live in Orem (669) and Provo (339).<sup>149</sup>

**Figure 89: Children in Poverty Age 5 to 17 Who Speak Spanish at Home**

<sup>148</sup> Ibid., Table 16009

<sup>149</sup> Ibid.

### 2.3.3.4 Families in Poverty

There are about 157,541 families in Utah County, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau; of these, 9,033—or 5.7 percent—are in poverty. This is the same rate of family poverty as the state, but is three percentage points lower than the national figure (8.7 percent). Although Utah County’s population and number of families has increased since the 2022 assessment, the number of families in poverty has declined—from 9,621 to 9,033.<sup>150</sup>

**Table 87: Families with Children in Poverty, Utah County, Number and Percent, 2023**

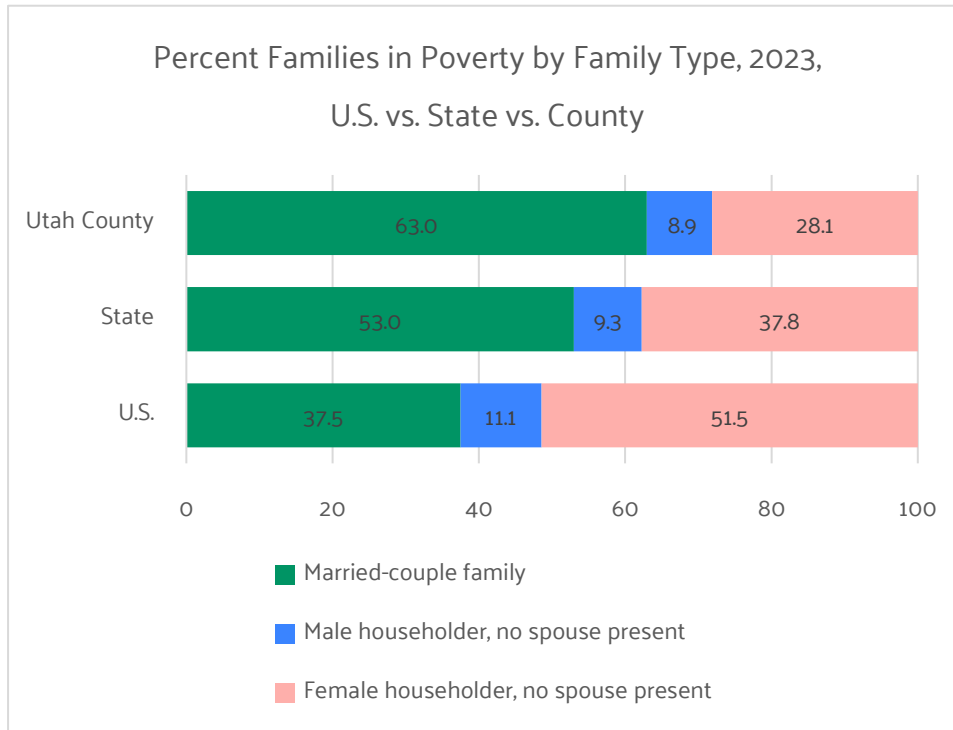
Families with Children in Poverty, Utah County, Number and Percent, 2023		
	Number	Percent of All Families with Children in Poverty
Children under 5 years only	1,348	23.1
Children under 5 years and 5 to 17 years	1,894	32.5
Children age 5 and older only	2,588	44.4

When considering poverty by family type, Utah County’s distinctiveness is apparent. While married-couple families make up only 37.5 percent of all families in poverty nationwide, they make up 63.0 percent in Utah County. And the family type with the greatest likelihood nationally to be in poverty is female householders with no spouse present, at 51.5 percent of all family types in poverty; in Utah County, the percentage is only 28.1 percent. One factor contributing to this anomaly is the low percentage of female householders with no spouse present in the County (9.1 percent) versus nationally (19.0 percent).<sup>151</sup>

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<sup>150</sup> Family: “a household maintained by a householder with one or more individuals related to them by birth, marriage, or adoption.” Data from U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 ACS 5-year averages and 2016-2020 ACS 5-year averages, Table B17010

<sup>151</sup> Ibid.



Most of the 9,033 families living in poverty in Utah (5,830, or 64.5 percent) have children. Nearly a third of families in poverty with children have children younger than 5 years and older than 5 years; 44.4 percent have only children older than 5<sup>152</sup>.

**Figure 90: Percent Families in Poverty by Family Type, 2023, U.S. vs. State vs. County**

There are 409 single-father families living in poverty in Utah County, compared to 2,124 single-mother families and 3,297 married-couple families.<sup>153</sup>

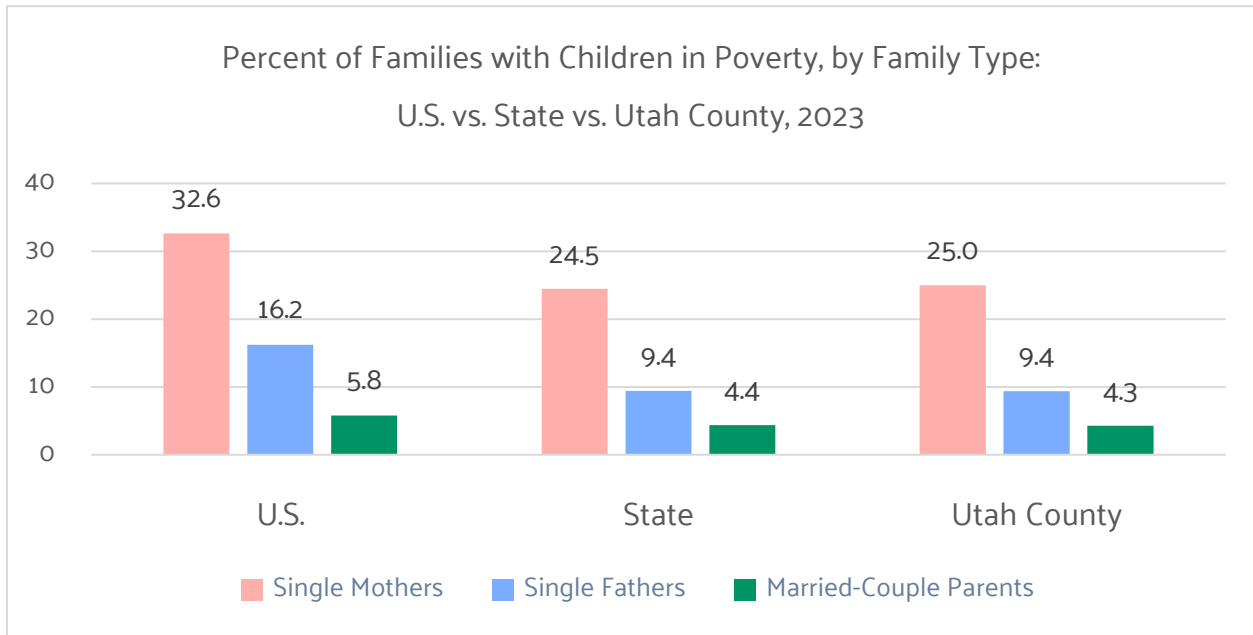
**Table 88: Families with Children in Poverty by Family Type and Age of Children, Utah County, 2023**

Families with Children in Poverty by Family Type and Age of Children, Utah County, 2023			
	Married Couple Families	Male Householder, No Spouse Present	Female Householder, No Spouse Present
Under 5 years only	782	136	430
Under 5 years and 5 to 17 years	1,312	47	535
5 to 17 years only	1,203	226	1,159
Total	3,297	409	2,124

<sup>152</sup> Ibid.

<sup>153</sup> Ibid.

Children growing up in single-parent homes are more likely to grow up in poverty. Nationally, 32.6 percent of all single-mother families are in poverty. In Utah County, one-fourth of single-mother families are in poverty. Single-father families fare better, with 9.4 percent of Utah County single-father families in poverty. Married-couple families are much less likely to have children in poverty.<sup>154</sup>

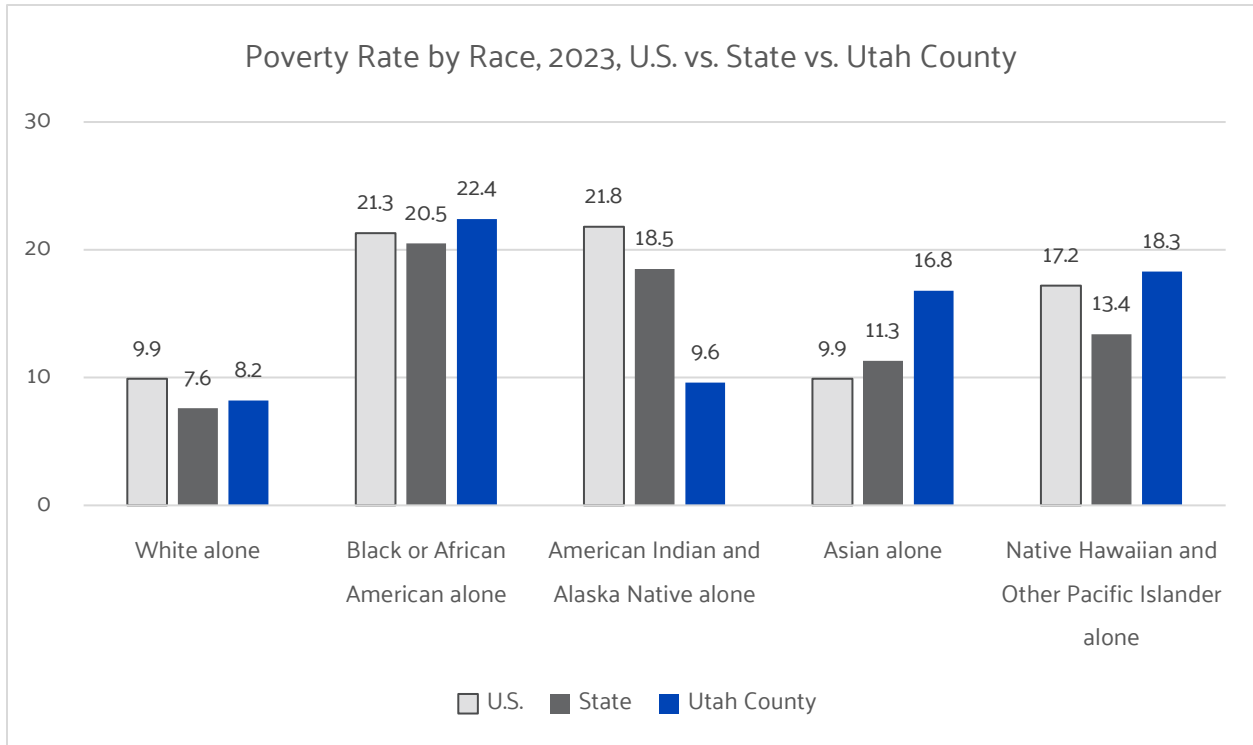


**Figure 91: Percent of Families with Children in Poverty, by Family Type:**

### 2.3.3.5 Poverty by Race and Ethnicity

In Utah County, black or African American persons continue to be the most likely to be in poverty of all races, with 22.4 percent; this compares to 20.5 percent for the state and 21.3 percent nationally. However, the relatively low number of persons in this category in Utah County makes it difficult to compare to other political units; the five-year averages data for poverty shows only 4,330 Black persons, with 972 of them in poverty. Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander are the next most likely to be in poverty, at 18.3 percent.

<sup>154</sup> Ibid.



**Figure 92: Poverty Rate by Race, 2023, U.S. vs. State vs. Utah County**

Utah’s County’s persons of some other race, and persons of two or more races, are less likely to be in poverty than state and national peers. Slightly more than 27,000 persons in Utah County identify as some race other than Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, or Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; 58,733 say they are of two or more races. Of the former, 14.9 percent are in poverty, compared to 13.7 percent statewide and 18.2 percent nationally. Of the latter, 8.0 percent are in poverty; this compares to 10.2 percent throughout Utah and 14.7 percent nationwide.<sup>155</sup>

Hispanic or Latino persons are less likely to be in poverty in Utah County (11.4 percent) than statewide (12.3 percent) or nationally (16.9 percent). For those who are White and not Hispanic or Latino, 7.9 percent are in poverty; statewide, the figure is 7.3 percent, and nationally it is 9.2 percent.<sup>156</sup>

<sup>155</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2019-2023 5-year averages, Table S1701

<sup>156</sup> Ibid.

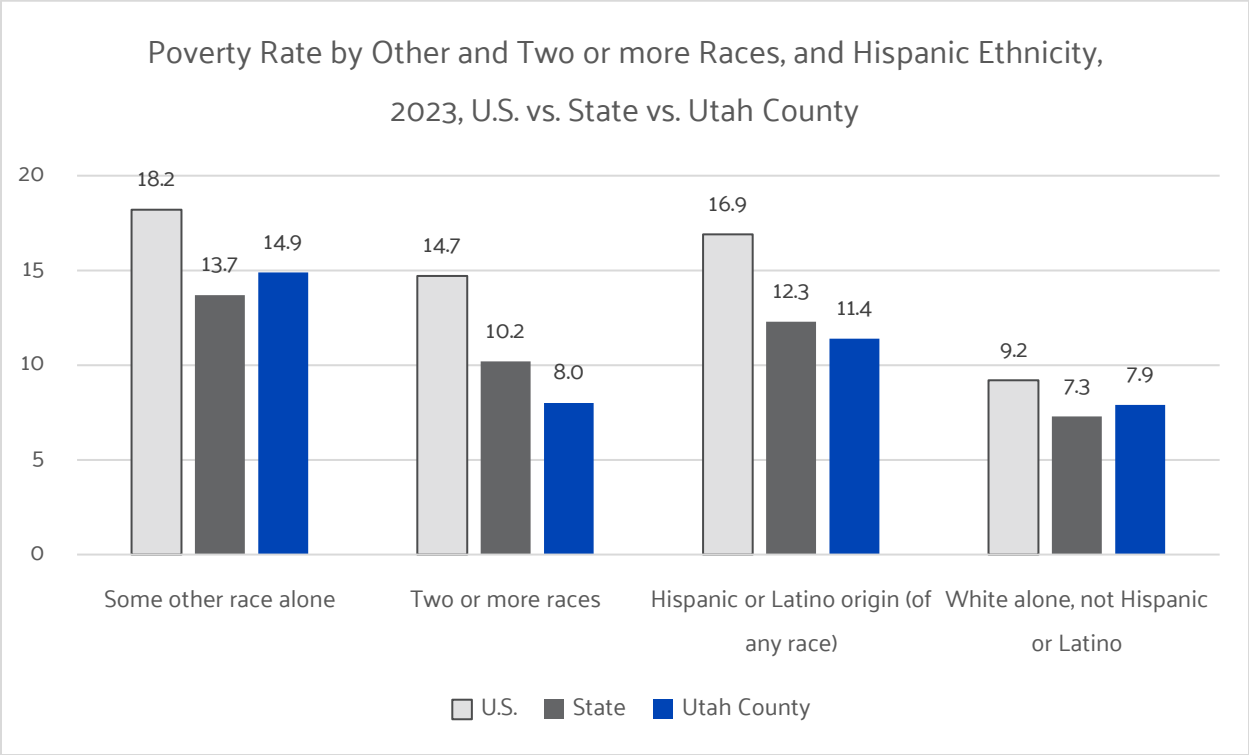


Figure 93: Poverty Rate by Other and Two or more Races, and Hispanic Ethnicity, 2023, U.S. vs. State vs. Utah County

**2.3.3.6 Poverty and Educational Attainment**

Educational attainment and poverty are strongly associated, and Utah County’s ratios mirror national and statewide figures. The more education one has achieved, the less likely one is to experience living in poverty. In Utah County, only 4.3 percent of persons age 25 and older with a bachelor’s degree or higher are in poverty. This compares to 11.7 percent of those who did not graduate from high school or achieve high school equivalency certification. Overall, 6.0 percent of persons in this age group are in poverty in Utah County; this compares to 6.8 percent statewide and 10.4 percent nationally.<sup>157</sup>

<sup>157</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 ACS, Table S1701

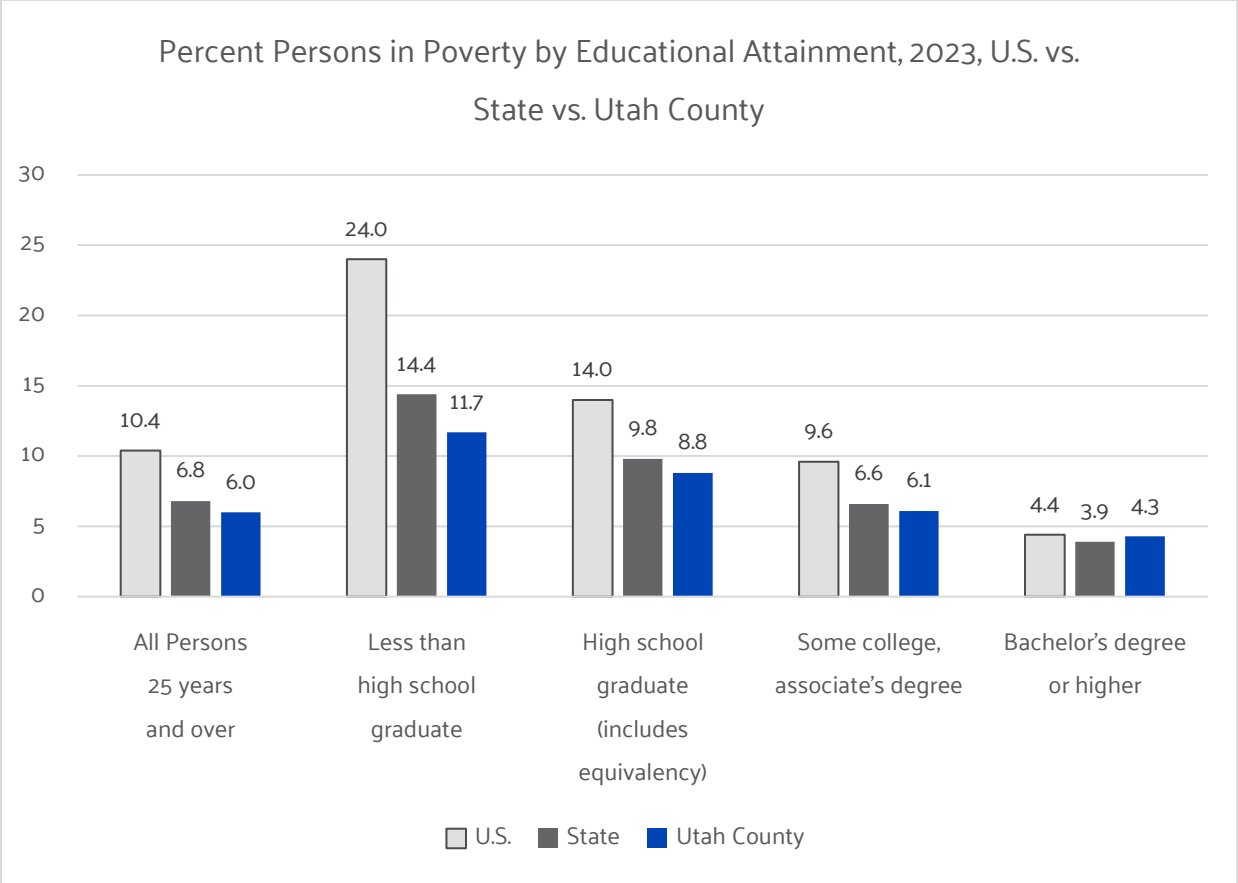


Figure 94: Percent Persons in Poverty by Educational Attainment, 2023, U.S. vs. State vs. Utah County

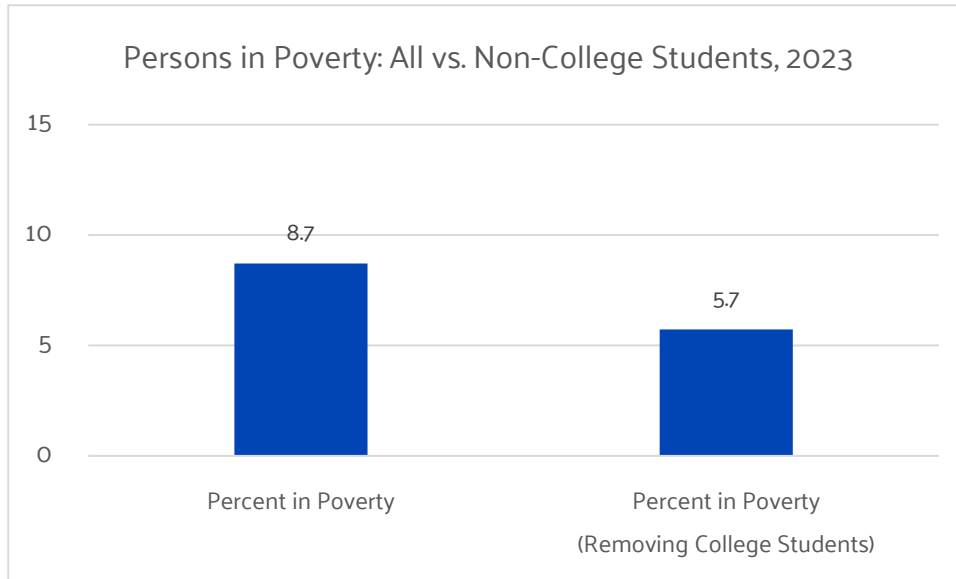
**2.3.3.7 Poverty and Educational Enrollment**

The high number of college students in Utah County (exceeding 87,000) skews the poverty rate, making services and public policies more complex. One of the unique characteristics of poverty in Utah County is the number of college students. Of the nearly 55,020 persons in poverty in Utah County, more than one-third—34.3 percent—are enrolled in college or graduate school. This compares to 18.1 percent statewide and 9.1 percent nationally.<sup>158</sup>

The Census Bureau does not provide data on part-time versus full-time student status and poverty. However, the two major universities indicate enrollment of 46,809 (UVU) and 35,743 (BYU), for a combined 82,552—most of whom are full-time students. Analysis of poverty by census tract

<sup>158</sup> Ibid., Table B14006

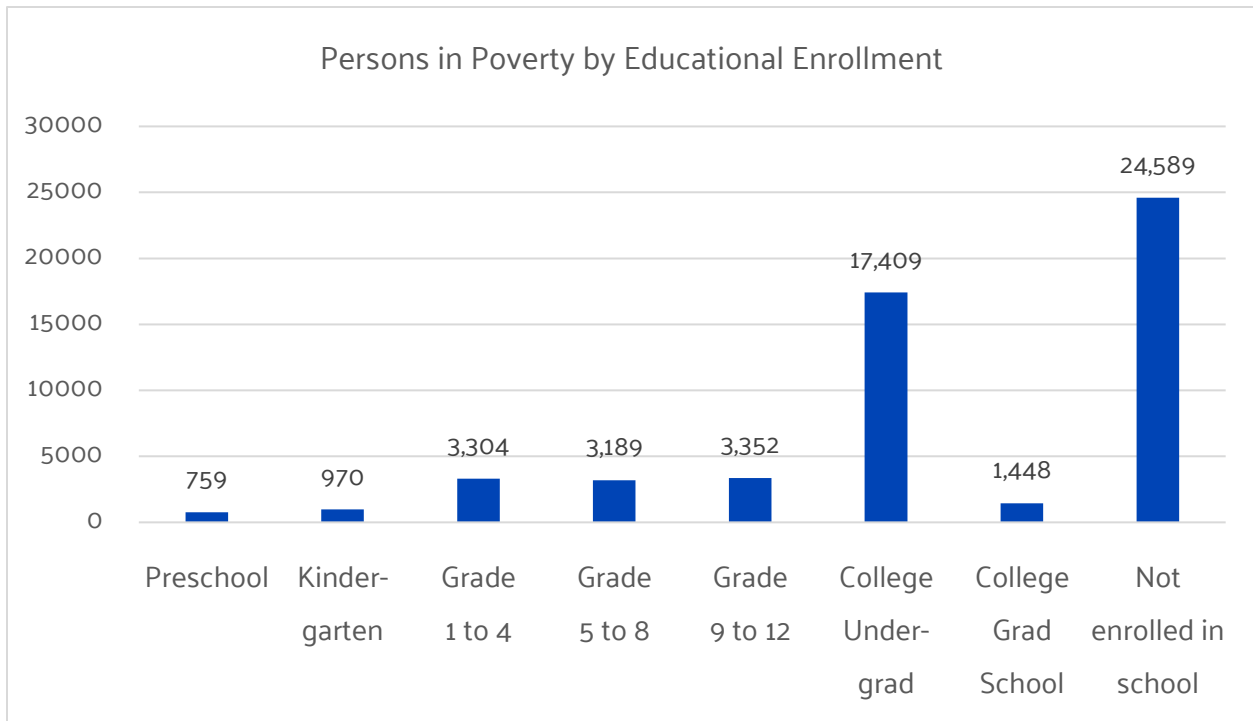
indicates high poverty in the areas closest to these two universities; it is likely that most of the students living in poverty are full-time students. Recognizing that these students are dealing with the effects of poverty, many of them have additional support systems that ease the impact of poverty.



After removing the number of college and graduate school enrollees, the percent of persons in poverty in Utah County is 5.7 percent.

**Figure 95: Persons in Poverty: All vs. Non-College Students, 2023**

With the emphasis on education found in Utah County, it is not surprising that most of those in poverty are enrolled in some level of education. Slightly more than 55 percent of persons in poverty are enrolled; most of these are in college undergraduate school.



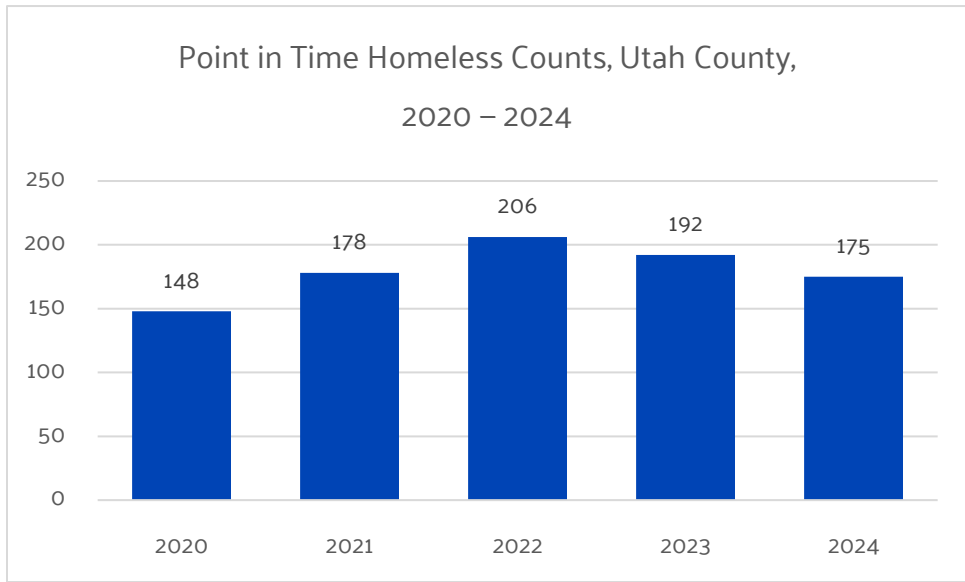
**Figure 96: Persons in Poverty by Educational Enrollment**

When looking at individual communities, Provo has, by far, the greatest percentage of its residents in poverty who are also enrolled in higher education (59.5 percent). Vineyard (28.4), Woodland Hills (26.9), American Fork (24.2), and Orem (24.1) round out the top five. Less than 1 percent of Santaquin’s population living in poverty are also enrolled in higher education.<sup>159</sup> Communities with no such students are removed from this figure.

<sup>159</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 ACS, Table B14006

### 2.3.3.8 Homelessness

The Utah Department of Workforce Service, in concert with county and local governments, associations of governments, and local nonprofit organizations, conducts an annual Point in Time Count to help better understand the nature of homelessness. Counts occur statewide over a given 24-hour period. Although this figure gives us some insights into the nature of homelessness, it does not provide a complete picture. The homeless population in Utah County has increased over the



last five years, going from 148 in 2020 to 175 in 2024. The peak for this five-year period is in 2022, when 206 homeless individuals were counted in the County.<sup>160</sup>

Figure 97: Point in Time Homeless Counts, Utah County, 2020 – 2024

Because the Point in Time County is a snapshot of homelessness, the Mountainland Association of Government’s Mountainland Continuum of Care has provided deduplicated counts of individuals entering the various homeless services over the course of each calendar year. This measurement “represents a deduplicated count of people enrolled in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing projects during the reporting period.”<sup>161</sup> This figure is for not only Utah County, but also Wasatch and Summit Counties. In 2023, 1,237 individuals accessed homeless services; this compares with 1,390 in 2022 and 913 in 2021.<sup>162</sup>

<sup>160</sup> Utah Department of Workforce Services, Homelessness Annual Report

<sup>161</sup> Ibid.

<sup>162</sup> Ibid.

**Table 89: Mountainland CoC Annual Count of Sheltered Homelessness**

Mountainland CoC Annual Count of Sheltered Homelessness			
	2021	2022	2023
Emergency Shelter	890	1369	1,216
Transitional Housing	76	81	83
Deduplicated Total	913	1,390	1,237

Most individuals who enter emergency shelters in the three-county Mountainland Continuum of Care area—68.5 percent—exit the shelter within seven days. Another 25.2 percent exit between 7 and 30 days, while 7.4 percent 6.1 percent exit between one and three months.<sup>163</sup>

**Table 90: Mountainland CoC Length of Time in Emergency Shelter, Percent of All Sheltered**

Mountainland CoC Length of Time in Emergency Shelter, Percent of All Sheltered							
	12 Months or More	9 To 12 Months	6 To 9 Months	3 To 6 Months	1 To 3 Months	7 Days To 30 Days	7 Days or Less
2021	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	7.4	10.8	81.3
2022	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4	5.8	22.1	71.5
2023	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	6.1	25.2	68.5

**Table 91: Mountainland CoC Returns to Homelessness**

Mountainland CoC Returns to Homelessness			
	Return within 6 months	Returns from 6 to 12 months	Returns 13 to 24 months
2021	9.5	1.2	5.0
2022	9.2	2.8	4.2
2023	11.5	5.7	6.8

To the extent possible, Mountainland Continuum of Care tracks reentry into homeless shelters. In 2023, about 17.2 percent return within one year, and another 6.8 percent return between one and two years.<sup>164</sup>

<sup>163</sup> Ibid.

<sup>164</sup> Ibid.

In the 2024 Point in Time Count, Utah’s County’s homeless population included 100 individuals with a mental illness, 79 chronically homeless persons, 54 survivors of domestic violence, and 50 persons with substance abuse disorders.<sup>165</sup>

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
Adults with HIV/AIDS	0	0	1	1	1	1
Adults with Mental Illness	33	22	67	78	100	100
Adults with Substance Abuse Disorders	20	15	30	35	50	50
Child of a Youth Parent	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chronically Homeless Persons in Households of Adults and Minors	5	0	0	5	5	5
Chronically Homeless Veterans	2	0	0	2	2	2
Survivors of Domestic Violence (Adults and Minors)	44	41	10	13	54	54
Survivors of Domestic Violence (Adults Only)	19	16	10	13	29	29
Total Chronically Homeless Persons	29	5	50	74	79	79
Unaccompanied Youth (< 25 Years)	6	7	5	4	11	11
Veterans	2	2	4	4	6	6
Youth Parent (< 25 Years)	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>165</sup> Ibid.

## 2.3.4 Housing

### 2.3.4.1 Housing Units

Housing costs and population growth in Utah County continue to be among the most top-of-mind issues among residents.

The U.S. Census Bureau tracks the number of housing units in communities. Of course, the number lags by one to two years and, even then, it is based on statistical estimates. Nonetheless, it is valuable to consider in looking at trends. From 2010 to 2023, Utah County added about 60,538 housing units—an increase of 42.4 percent. This rate exceeds the statewide rate of 25.3 percent over the same period.<sup>166</sup>

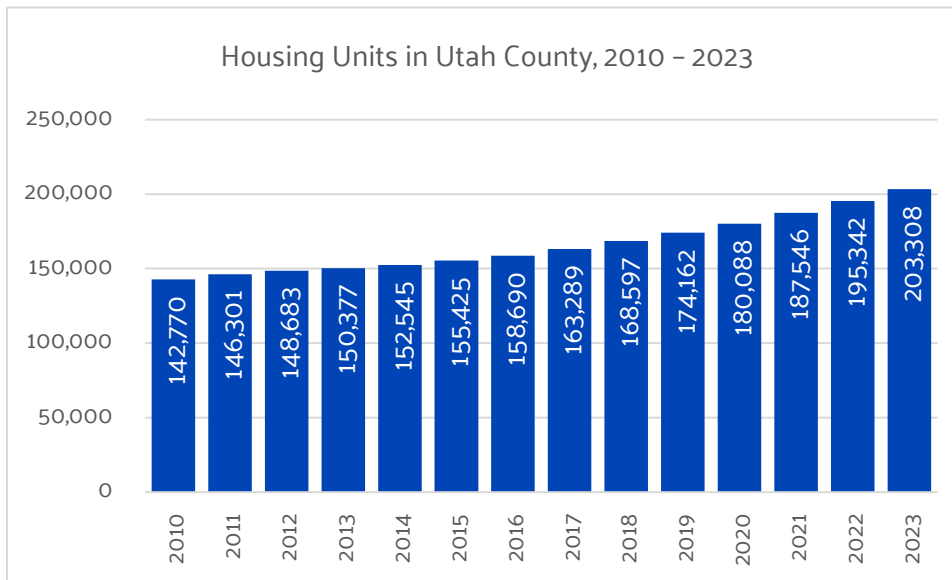


Figure 98: Housing Units in Utah County, 2010 - 2023

From 2011 to 2016, the year-over-year percent growth was between 1.1 and 2.5 percent. In 2017, the number of housing units increased at a faster pace: 2017 brought a 2.9 percent increase, followed by 3.3, 3.3, and 4.1 percent in 2018, 2019, and 2020,

respectively. This pace continued, with a 4.2 percent increase in 2022 and 4.1 percent in 2023.

<sup>166</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2019-2023 5-years averages, Table B25001

Utah County's housing construction industry took a major blow during the Great Recession of 2007-2009. The number of units issued permitted by the County for new construction dropped from 6,902 in 2006 to 1,415 in 2008. It was not until 2019 that the County reached the same number of units permitted in 2006.<sup>167</sup>

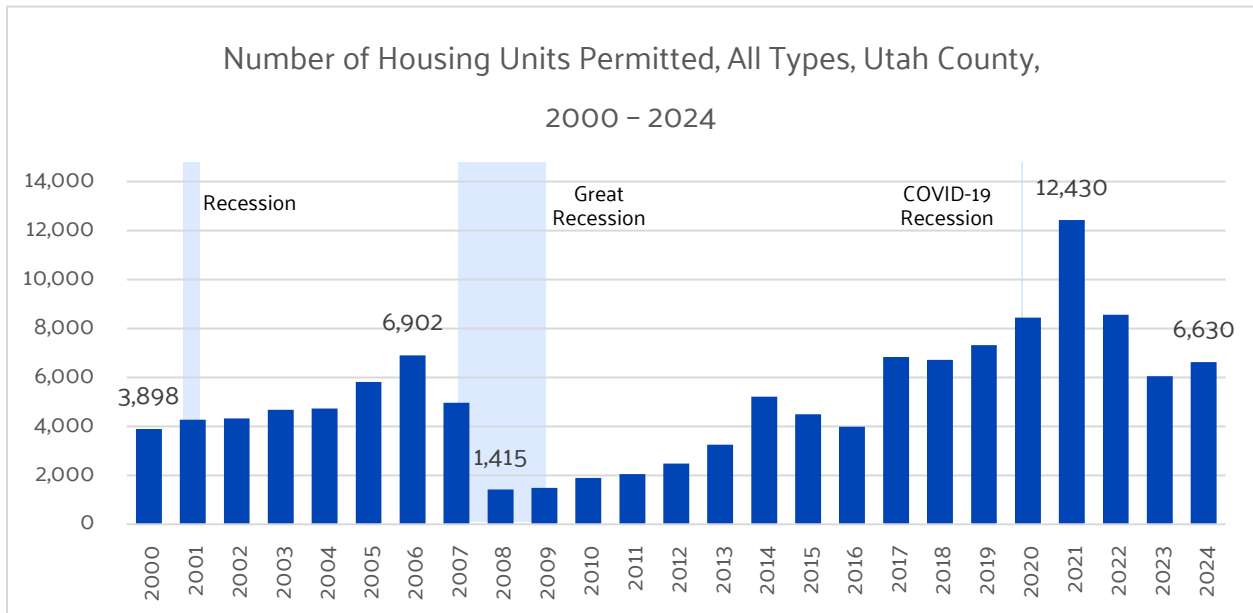
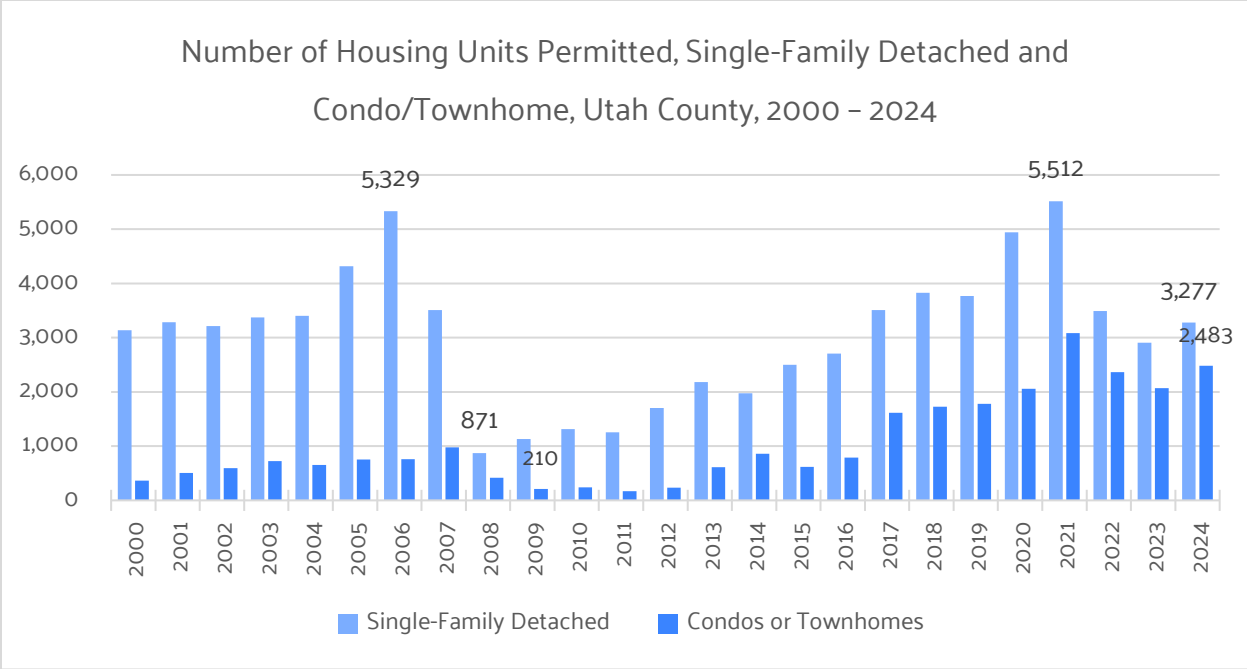


Figure 99: Number of Housing Units Permitted, All Types, Utah County, 2020 - 2024

For the first 16 years of this century, condominium and townhome construction was limited, particularly in comparison to single-family detached homes. Until then, the number of condos and townhomes permitted fluctuated between 11.5 percent and 24.7 percent of the number of single-family detached homes—a ratio of 8.7 single-family homes to 1 condo. Ratios started to decrease in 2007, but a lasting and more evident change began in 2017, when the ratio dropped to 2.2:1. This ratio has continued to narrow, with 2024 having the lowest ratio in the 2000s, at 1.3:1.<sup>168</sup>

<sup>167</sup> Ivory-Boyer Construction Database, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, University of Utah

<sup>168</sup> Derived from Ivory-Boyer Construction Database, *ibid.*

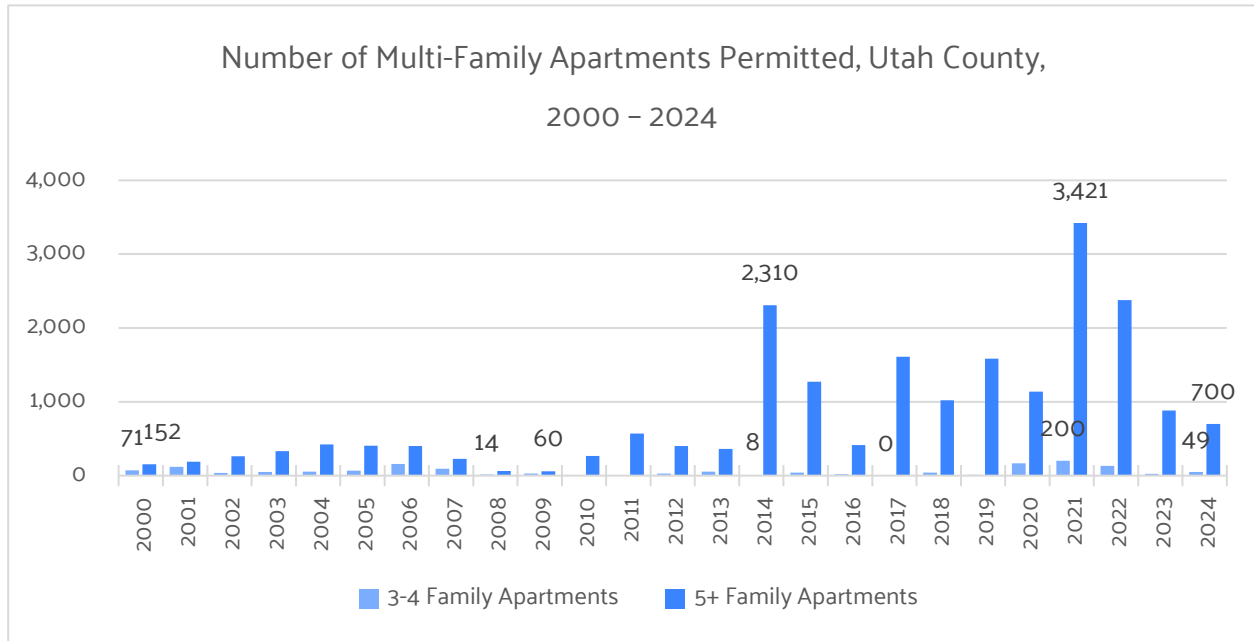


**Figure 100: Number of Housing Units Permitted, Single-Family Detached and Condo/Townhome, Utah County, 2020 - 2024**

**Table 92: Ratio of Single-Family Home Construction to Condo Construction, Utah County, 2000 - 2024**

Ratio of Single-Family Home Construction to Condo Construction, Utah County, 2000 - 2024					
Year	Ratio	Year	Ratio	Year	Ratio
2000	8.7:1	2009	5.4:1	2018	2.2:1
2001	6.5:1	2010	5.5:1	2019	2.1:1
2002	5.4:1	2011	7.3:1	2020	2.4:1
2003	4.7:1	2012	7.3:1	2021	1.8:1
2004	5.2:1	2013	3.6:1	2022	1.5:1
2005	5.7:1	2014	2.3:1	2023	1.4:1
2006	7.0:1	2015	4.1:1	2024	1.3:1
2007	3.6:1	2016	3.4:1		
2008	2.1:1	2017	2.2:1		

Multi-family units have experience three years wherein the number permitted exceeded 2,000: 2014, 2021, and 2022. The most units permitted in the 2000s was in 2021, when 3,421 were given the green light to proceed.<sup>169</sup>



**Figure 101: Number of Multi-Family Apartments Permitted, Utah County, 2000 - 2024**

The figure above further demonstrates the relatively small number of building permits that are issued for multi-family dwellings. Of the 6,641 residential building permits issued in Utah County in 2021, only 1,125 are for multi-family structures. Of these, 142 are for structures that hold 5 or more families.<sup>170</sup>

### 2.3.4.2 Housing Units and Tenure

Utah County has about 195,602 housing units, with about 68.1 percent of them occupied by owners. This compares to the state’s rate of 70.6 percent and the U.S. rate of 65.0 percent. Fairfield, Hobbie Creek, and Sundance are 100 percent owner-occupied, while Elk Ridge (99.6) and Salem (94.0) are not far behind. Genola (93.2), Highland (92.9), Woodland Hills (92.3), West Mountain (91.1), and Spring Lake (90.4) also have high owner-occupied rates.

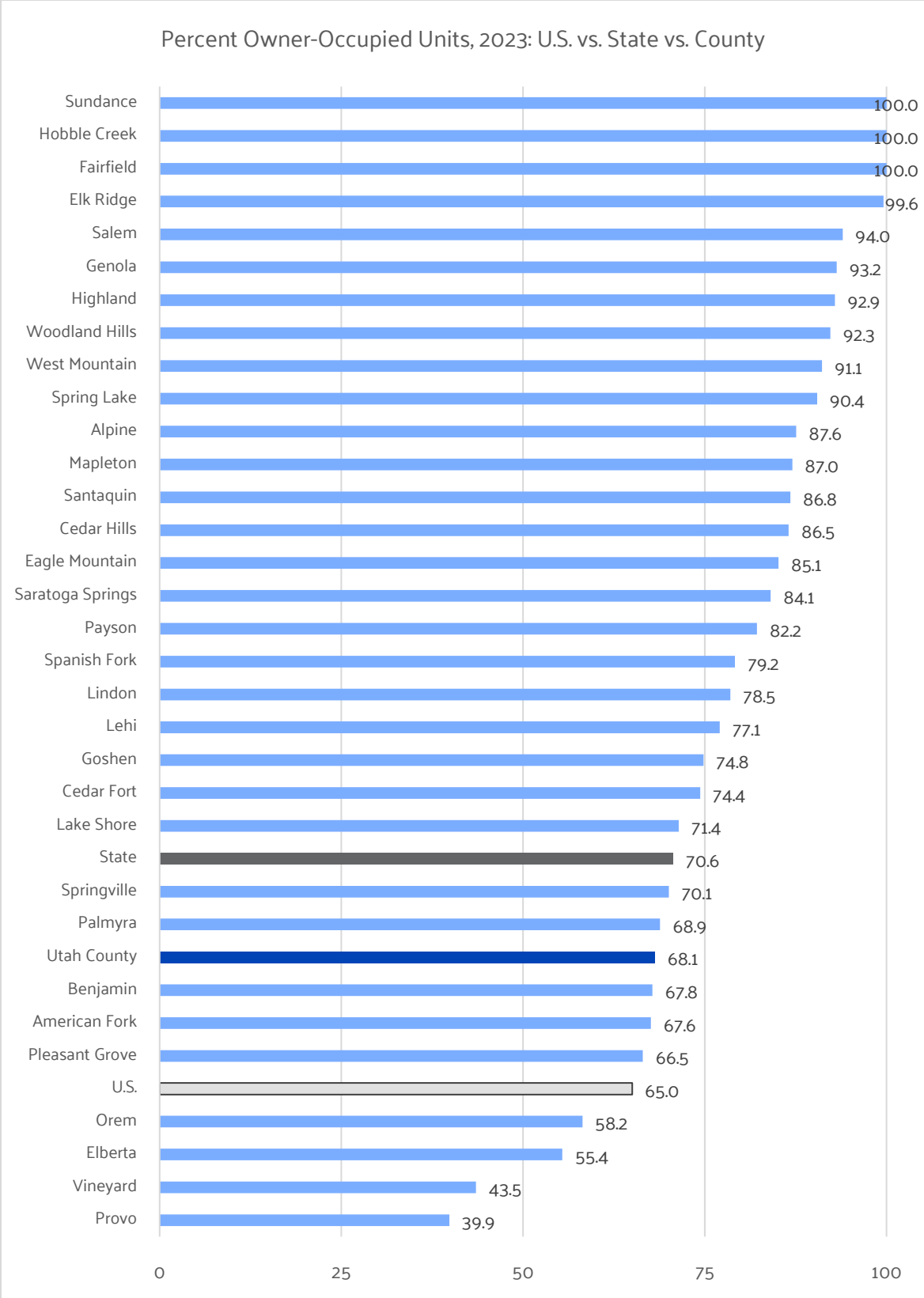
<sup>169</sup> Ivory-Boyer Construction Database, Kem C. Gardner Public Policy Institute, University of Utah

<sup>170</sup> Ibid.

With the high student population, it is not a surprise that Provo has the lowest owner-occupied housing rate, at 39.9. Vineyard has the next lowest, at 43.5, followed by Elberta (55.4) and Orem (58.2).<sup>171</sup>

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<sup>171</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2019-2023 5-year averages, Table B25003



**Figure 102: Percent Owner-Occupied Units, 2023: U.S. vs. State vs. County**

### 2.3.4.3 Housing Units and Unit Age

About one in every four housing units in Utah County was built in 2010 or later, and the same percentage (26.0) were built prior to 1980. The high percentage of units built in the past 14 years (26.0) compares to the state's 18.4 percent and the nation's 10.2 percent.<sup>172</sup>

Vineyard continues to be the community with the highest percentage of newer homes, with an astounding 96.1 percent of all occupied units having been constructed since 2010—and 10 percent of all homes were built in 2020 or later. Elk Ridge is a distant second in this category, with 54.1 percent; this is followed by Saratoga Springs (53.6), Eagle Mountain (50.6), and Fairfield (50.0); Santaquin is next, at 39.1 percent.<sup>173</sup>

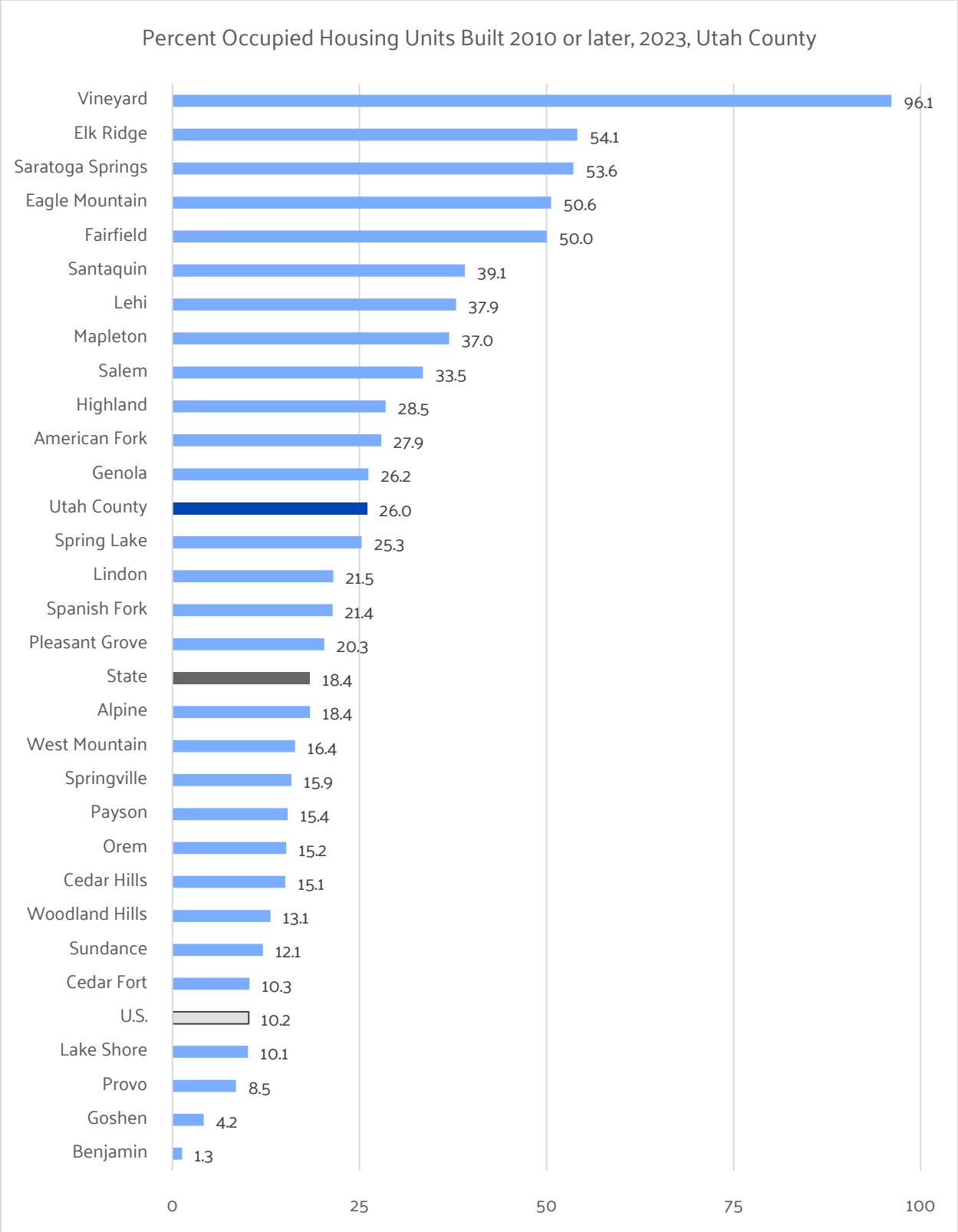
Benjamin has the fewest homes built since 2010, at 1.3 percent. This is followed by Goshen (4.2), Provo (8.5), Lake Shore (10.1), and Cedar Fort (10.3). According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the communities of Elbert, Hobble Creek, and Palmyra have no—or too few to calculate—residential units built since 2010.<sup>174</sup>

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<sup>172</sup> Ibid., Table S2504

<sup>173</sup> Ibid.

<sup>174</sup> Ibid.



**Figure 103: Percent Occupied Housing Units Built 2010 or later, 2023, Utah County**

### 2.3.4.4 Residential Sales

Utah County home prices have continued to climb. In January 2015, the median home sales price in Utah County was about \$235,000; in May 2025, the median is \$504,000—a 114.5 percent increase. Except for a significant price drop immediately after the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020, home prices increased from the beginning of 2015 until the summer of 2022, when the 12-week rolling median sales price reached \$605,000 in June. Since then, prices steadily declined through March 2023, when the median sales price was \$530,000. Another drop occurred in January 2025, decreasing from \$560,000 to \$495,000.<sup>175</sup>

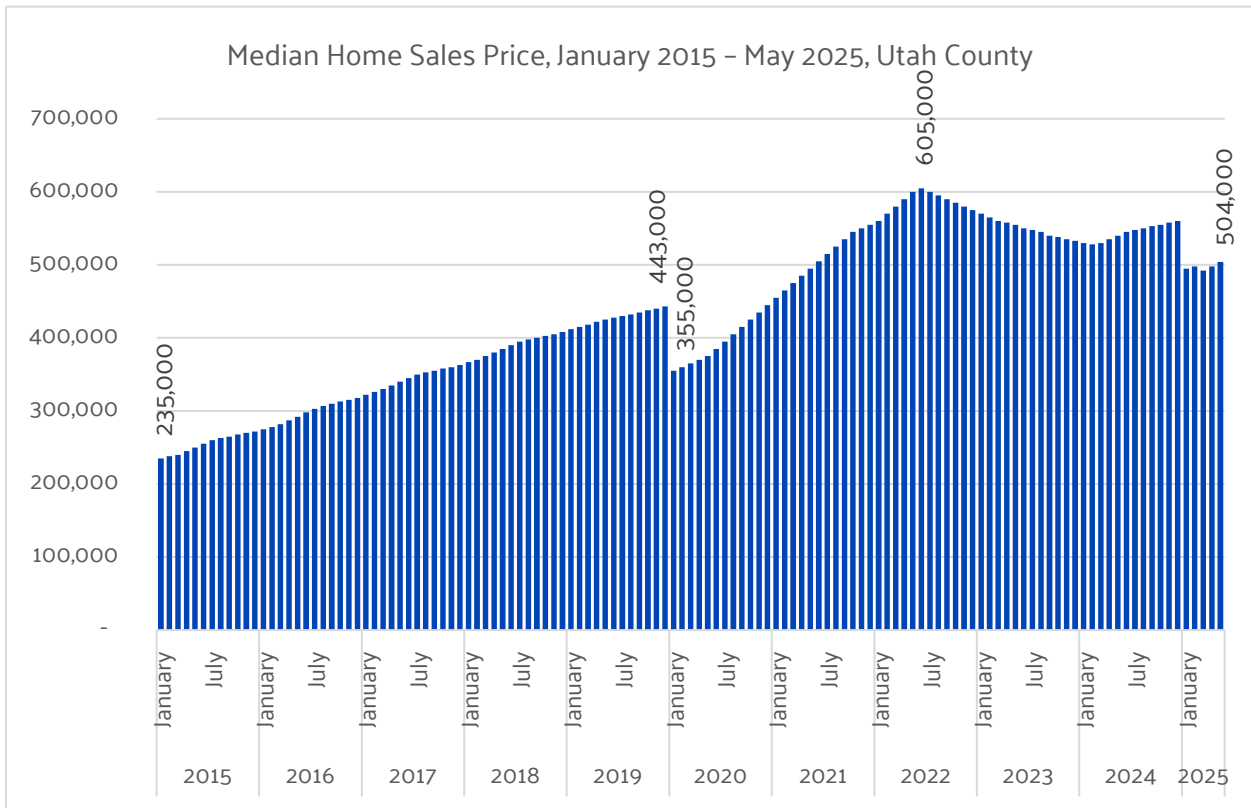


Figure 105: Median Home Sales Price, January 2015 - May 2025, Utah County

Average weeks of housing inventory supply is an indicator of market strength. It is defined as “the length of time it would take for the existing supply of homes for sale to be bought up at the market’s current pace of sales, assuming no new homes came on the market.”<sup>176</sup> Fewer weeks of

<sup>175</sup> Redfin Data Center, 12-week rolling average. Monthly number taken from last week of each month.

<sup>176</sup> Redfin Data Center

supply indicate a seller's market, while more weeks of supply are indicative of a buyer's market. As of May 2025, Utah County has 15.4 weeks' supply of homes available. This is about twice the number of April 2022's 7.4 weeks: at that time, median home sales prices were nearing the all-time high of \$605,000.<sup>177</sup>

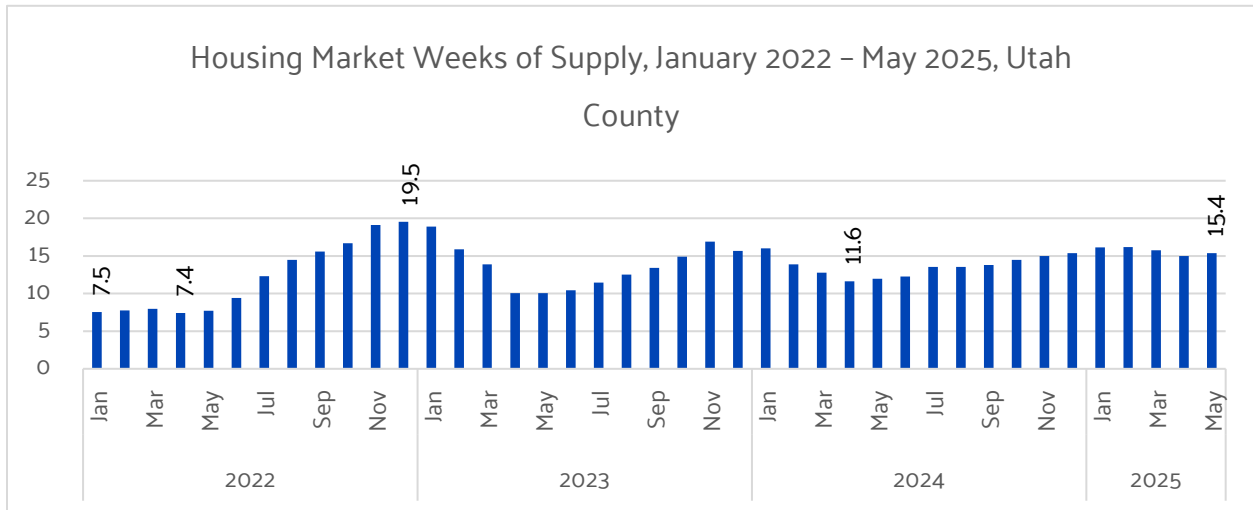
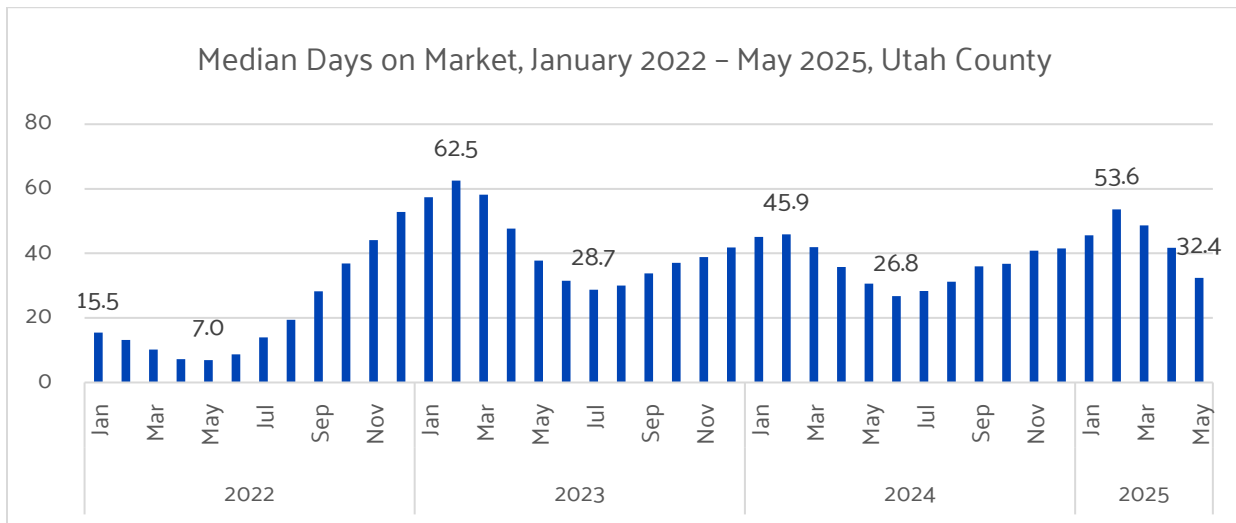


Figure 106: Housing Market Weeks of Supply, January 2022 - May 2025, Utah County

As of May 2025, the median number of days on the market was 32.4; this compares to May 2022's 7.0.<sup>178</sup>



<sup>177</sup> Redfin Data Center. 12-week rolling average. Monthly number taken from last week of each month.

<sup>178</sup> Ibid.

### 2.3.4.5 Rents

Since 2016, average rental rates in Utah County have increased by 50.9 percent. One-bedroom apartments rented for \$913 in 2016; in 2024, they rent for \$1,440—an increase of 57.7 percent. Average rent for two-bedroom units has increased even more dramatically, increasing from \$988 in 2016 to \$1,665 in 2024: an increase of 68.6 percent.<sup>179</sup>

**Table 93: Average Rental Rates, by Number of Bedrooms, Utah County, 2016-2024**

Average Rental Rates, by Number of Bedrooms, Utah County, 2016-2024							
	2016	2017	2019	2020	2021	2023	2024
Studio	n/a	n/a	\$982	\$1,009	\$1,218	\$1,266	\$1,370
1	\$913	\$979	\$1,010	\$1,006	\$1,216	\$1,375	\$1,440
2	\$988	\$1,095	\$1,160	\$1,218	\$1,412	\$1,561	\$1,665
3	\$1,300	\$1,409	\$1,491	\$1,502	\$1,821	\$2,029	\$1,963

The National Low-Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) publishes an annual report demonstrating the difficulty some households have in making ends meet. Using a calculation based on 5-year ACS estimates, inflation rates, exclusions of subsidized housing and substandard units, the American Housing Survey, and other data, the NLIHC publishes the rents at 40<sup>th</sup> percentile of gross units rents for standard units at the county, metropolitan area, and state levels. According to its calculations, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit in Utah County in 2023 was \$1,253;<sup>180</sup> the actual rent in 2023 was \$1,561.

**Table 94: Fair Market Rents by Number of Bedrooms, State vs. County, 2024**

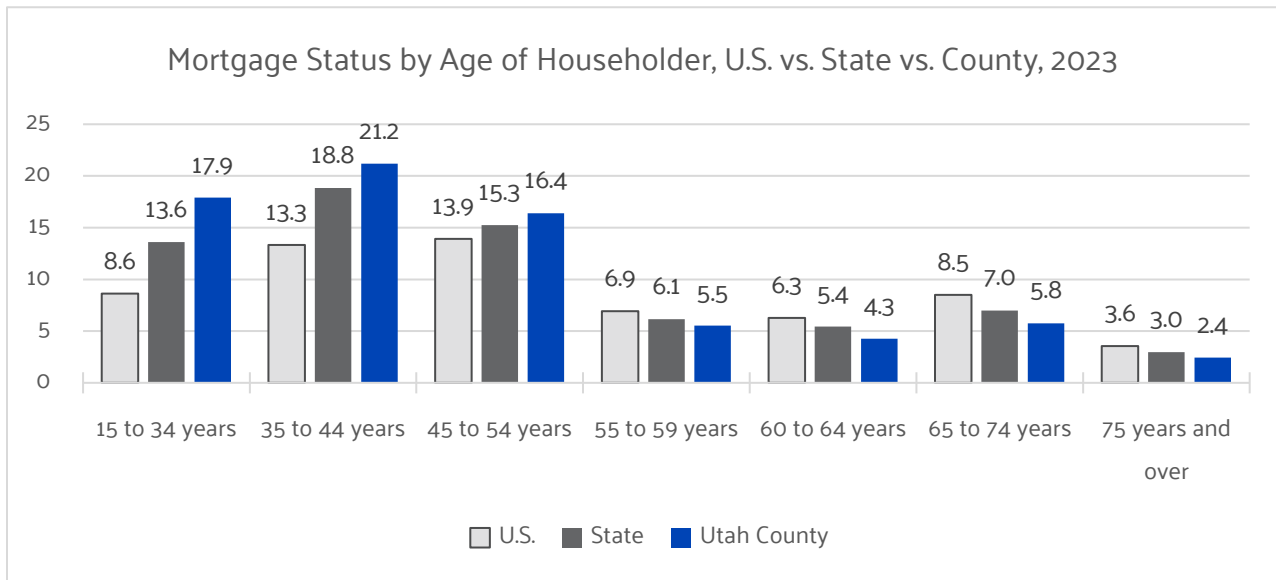
Fair Market Rents by Number of Bedrooms, State vs. County, 2023					
	No bedroom	One bedroom	Two bedroom	Three bedroom	Four bedroom
State	\$1,034	\$1,165	\$1,398	\$1,907	\$2,233
Utah County	\$1,086	\$1,093	\$1,253	\$1,766	\$2,126

<sup>179</sup> Cushman-Wakefield Market Reports 2016, 2017, 2023. Wadsworth Multifamily Utah Apartment Market Trends, Q2 2024. The Greater Salt Lake Area Multifamily Market Report: 2021 Review 2022 Outlook (2022). CBRE. Data for 2018 not available.

<sup>180</sup> Out of Reach Report 2024, National Low-Income Housing Coalition

### 2.3.4.6 Mortgage Status

Given the County’s young population, it is not surprising that 73.5 percent of all housing owned housing units are carrying a mortgage; this compares to 69.3 percent of owned units statewide and 61.2 percent nationally. The figure below illustrates the effects of a young population on homeownership and mortgage rates. In Utah County, 17.9 percent of all mortgages are held by householders age 15 to 34; statewide, this figure is 13.6 percent, and nationally it is only 8.6 percent—less than half the County’s rate.<sup>181</sup>



**Figure 107: Mortgage Status by Age of Householder, U.S. vs. State vs. County, 2023**

Vineyard is the community in Utah County with the most mortgaged homes, at 89.0 percent. Spring Lake (85.7), Saratoga Springs (85.5), Eagle Mountain (84.8) and Fairfield (84.2) round out the top five. The communities with the fewest mortgaged residences are Sundance (39.4), Goshen (41.6), Palmyra (51.2), Alpine (53.9), and Benjamin (60.6). Provo (64.6) and Orem (64.6)—the two most populated communities—follow Benjamin.<sup>182</sup>

<sup>181</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2019-2023 5-year averages, Table B25027

<sup>182</sup> Ibid.

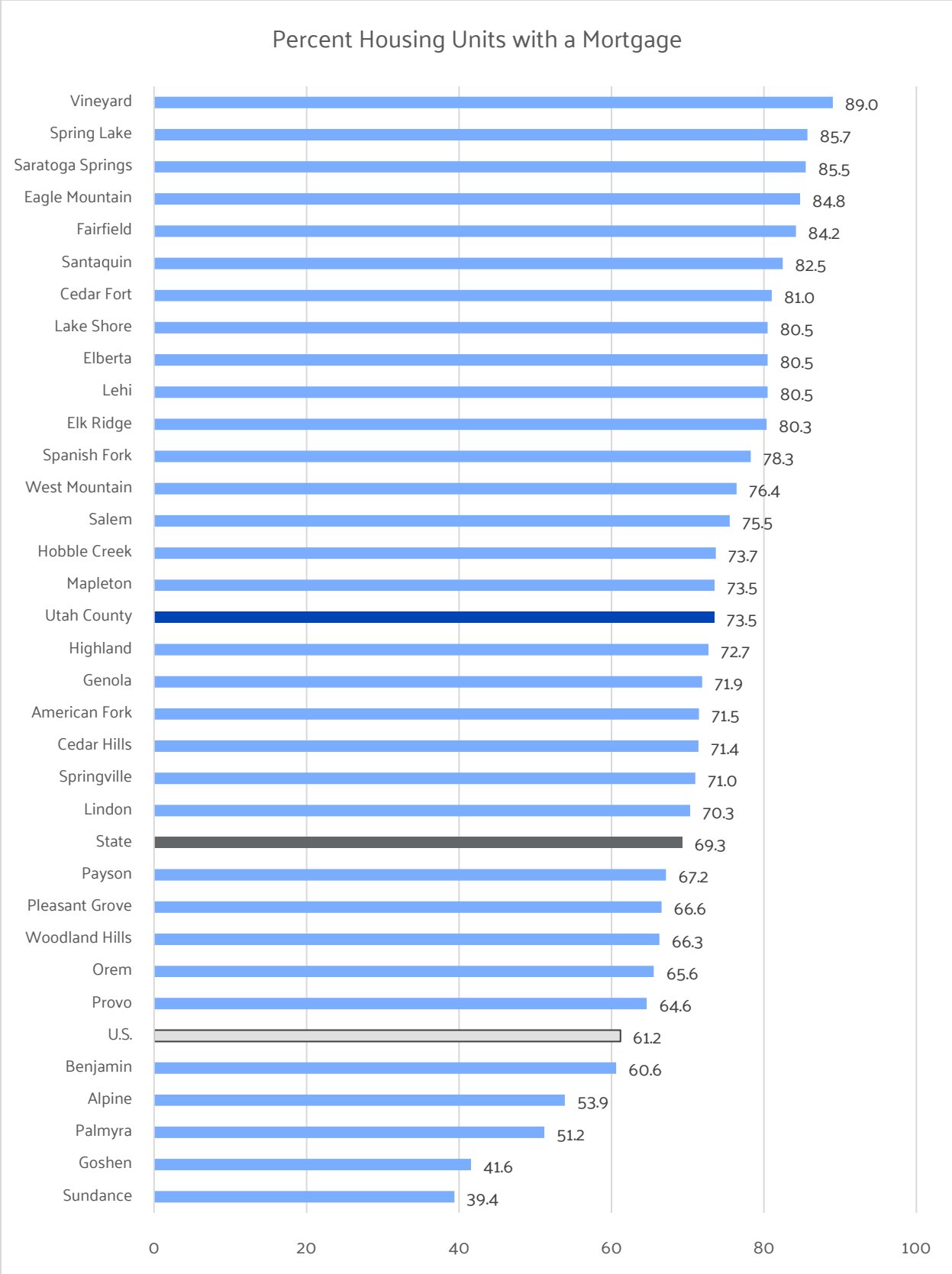
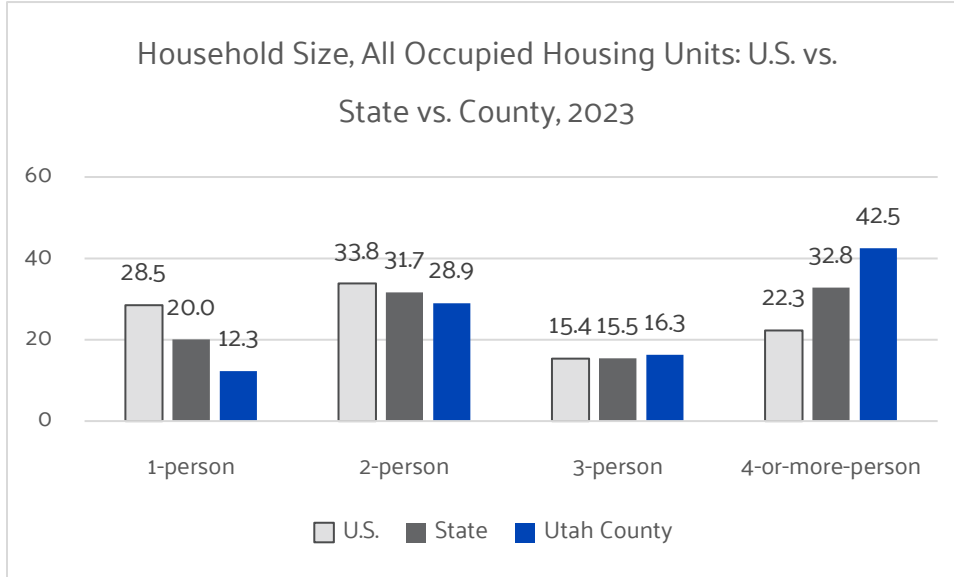


Figure 108: Percent Housing Units with a Mortgage

### 2.3.4.7 Household Size and Persons per Room

Utah County has large households—even when compared to the state. In the County, 42.5 percent of all occupied housing units have four or more persons; this compares to 32.8 percent



statewide and 22.3 percent nationally. On the other end of the spectrum, 12.3 percent of the County’s occupied units are one-person households, compared to 20.0 percent for the state and 28.5 percent nationally.<sup>183</sup>

Figure 109: Household Size, All Occupied Housing Units: U.S. vs. State vs. County, 2023

Overcrowding in housing units (more than 1.0 persons per room) has been shown to be

Table 95: Occupants per Room, All Occupied Housing Units: U.S. vs. State vs. County, 2023

	U.S.	State	Utah County
1.00 or less	96.6	96.9	96.1
1.01 to 1.50	2.2	2.3	3.1
1.51 or mor	1.2	0.8	0.7

negatively associated health and other socio-economic outcomes.<sup>184</sup> About 3.1 percent of Utah County’s households have 1.01 to 1.50 persons per room, and 0.7 have

<sup>183</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2019-2023 5-year averages, Table S2501

<sup>184</sup> As an example of such study results, see Liliana Aguayo et al. "Abstract P445: Associations of Homeownership and Overcrowding Conditions With Cardiovascular Health Among Diverse U.S. Children and Adults." *Circulation* (2024). [https://doi.org/10.1161/circ.149.suppl\\_1.p445](https://doi.org/10.1161/circ.149.suppl_1.p445).

more than 1.5 persons per room.<sup>185</sup>

### 2.3.4.8 Home Value to Household Income

When considering financial health of households and communities, the ratio of home value to household income for homes with a mortgage is helpful. The lower the ratio, the more financially secure a homeowner is. A ratio of less than 2.0—in other words, the value of the home is less than 200 percent of its value—indicates financial strength and ability to meet home mortgage payment. Of course, the amount owed on the mortgage is another consideration that is not included in this metric. A household with a high income-to-home-value ratio who is close to paying off the mortgage is in a much better financial position than one with 20 or more years remaining on the mortgage.

In Utah County, 8.8 percent of households with a mortgage have an income-to-value ratio of less than 2.0, compared to 28.7 percent nationally and 11.6 percent statewide. Nearly 51 percent have a ratio of 4.0 or more in Utah County, compared to 32 percent nationally and 47.5 percent statewide.<sup>186</sup>

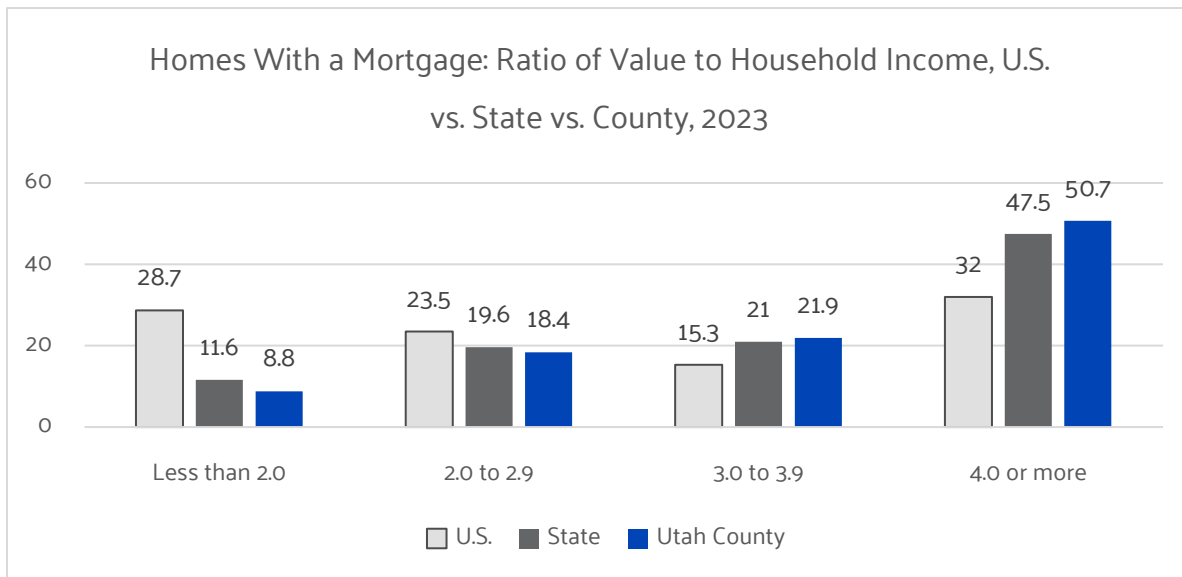
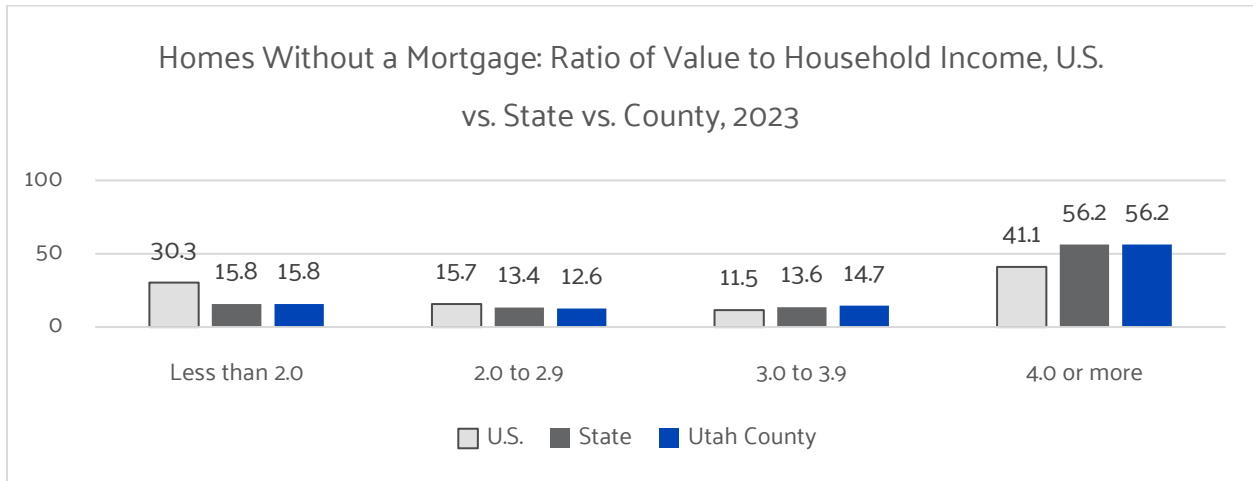


Figure 110: Homes With a Mortgage: Ratio of Value to Household Income, U.S. vs. State vs. County, 2023

<sup>185</sup> Ibid.

<sup>186</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2019-2023 5-year averages, Table S2506

With the rapid increase in home values over the past 10 years, 56.2 percent of owner households without a mortgage have a value-to-income ratio over 4.0; the state has the same percentage, and the nation's is 41.1 percent. Nearly 16 percent of County homeowner households without a mortgage have a ratio of less than 2.0.<sup>187</sup>



<sup>187</sup> Ibid.



## 2.4 Health

### 2.4.1 Self-Reported Health Status

Self-reported health status by county, local health district, and statewide categories based on the Utah Department of Health’s annual Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System surveys. Conducted by telephone (both landline and cell phone), these surveys present data in several domains, from health status to health habits to adverse childhood experiences and more. Data is presented in both crude rates and age-adjusted rates, along with confidence intervals for each datapoint.

Utah County residents report being in better health, generally speaking, than statewide residents. In 2023, 12.3 percent of County residents reported having “fair” or “poor” health, compared to 14.5 percent statewide. From 2009 to 2023, 11.5 percent of all County respondents indicated they have only fair or good health, compared to 13.5 percent statewide.<sup>188</sup>

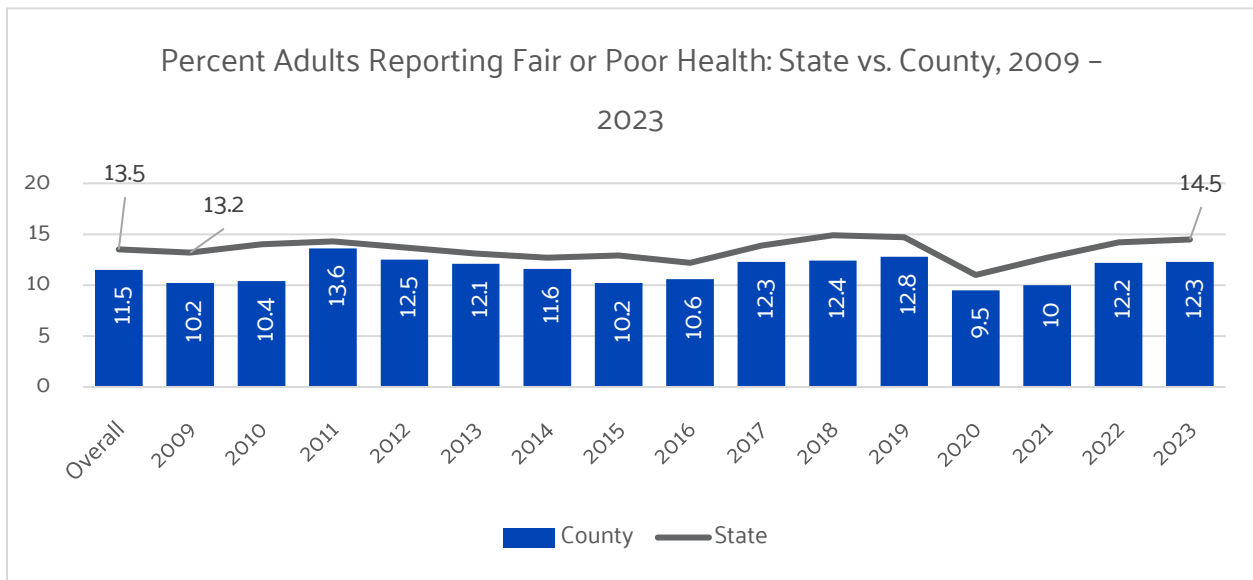


Figure 111: Percent Adults Reporting Fair or Poor Health: State vs. County, 2009 – 2023

Similarly, 16.3 percent of County residents reported that, over the past 30 days, their general health was “not good” for seven or more days. This compares to 17.6 percent statewide. Over the

<sup>188</sup> Data retrieved June 2025 from the Utah Department of Health: Indicator-Based Information System for Health web site: <http://ibis.health.utah.gov>. Age-adjusted rates are reported in this assessment.

period from 2009 to 2023, 14.2 percent of County residents, and 15.3 percent of all respondents statewide, reported this level of health.<sup>189</sup>

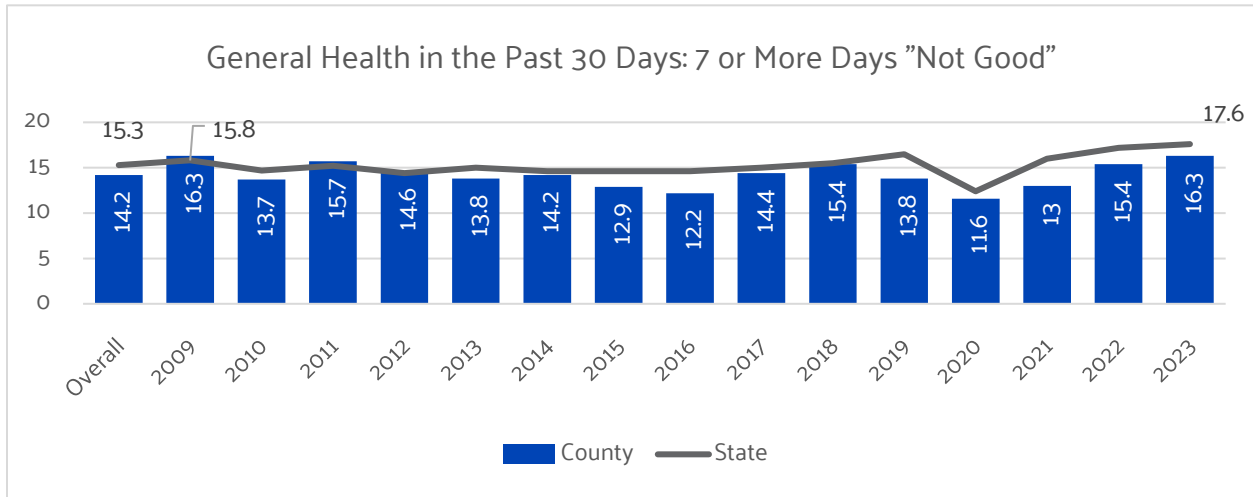
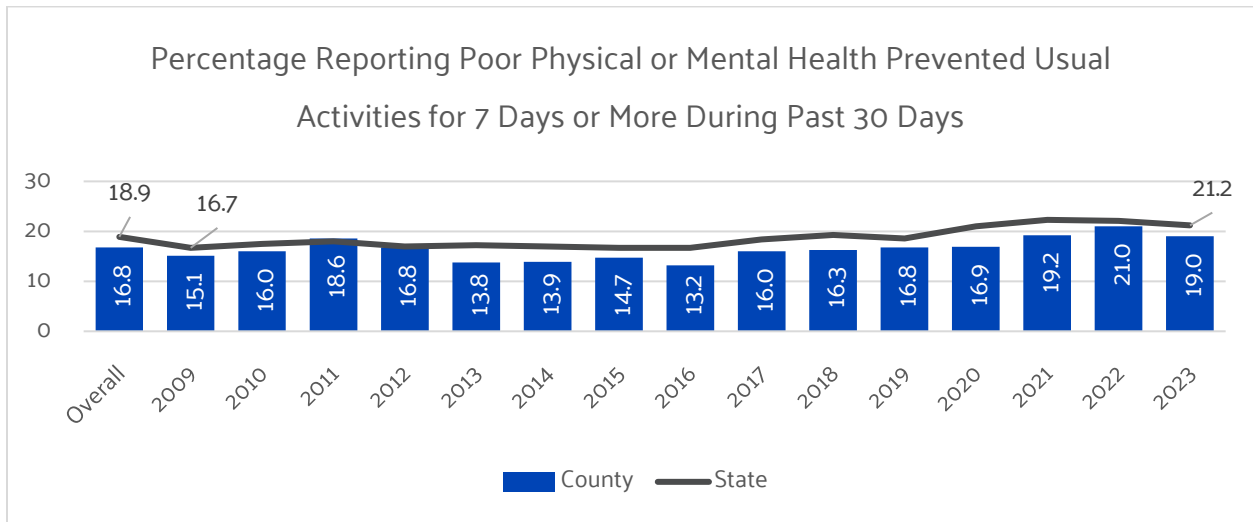


Figure 112: General Health in the Past 30 Days: 7 or More Days "Not Good"

When asked if poor physical or mental health prevented the respondent from performing usual activities for seven or more days over the past 30 days, 19.0 percent of County residents said, "yes." This compares to 21.2 percent statewide. For the period from 2009-2023, 16.8 percent of County respondents, and 18.9 percent of statewide respondents, indicated the same.<sup>190</sup>



<sup>189</sup> Ibid.

<sup>190</sup> Ibid.

## 2.4.2 Health Measures and Indicators

### 2.4.2.1 Physical Health and Safety

In recent years, the percentage of County residents who have not had a routine physical examination in the past year has steadily declined, dropping from 42.7 percent in 2016 to 28.0 percent in 2023. This percentage is the lowest it has been in the BRFSS survey starting in 2009; the combined rate for all years is 37.7 percent. Utah County's performance in this indicator has been close—but worse—than the statewide rate.<sup>191</sup>

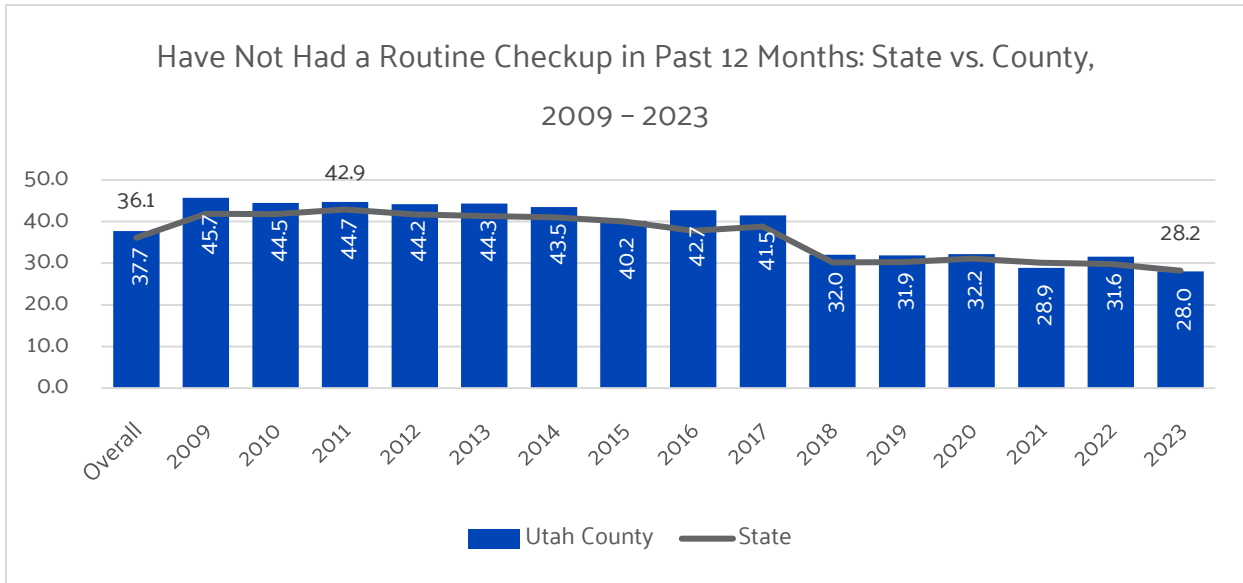


Figure 113: Have Not Had a Routine Checkup in Past 12 Months: State vs. County, 2009 - 2023

In 2023, the rate of Utah County respondents who indicate they have been unable to get medical care due to cost was at 9.3 percent—this compares to 11.5 percent statewide. Since 2009, the County reached a high of 17.8 percent in 2011; the best year was in 2021, at 7.5 percent. For the period from 2009 to 2023, the County's percentage is 11.9 percent, compared to the state's 13.2 percent.<sup>192</sup>

<sup>191</sup> Ibid.

<sup>192</sup> Ibid.

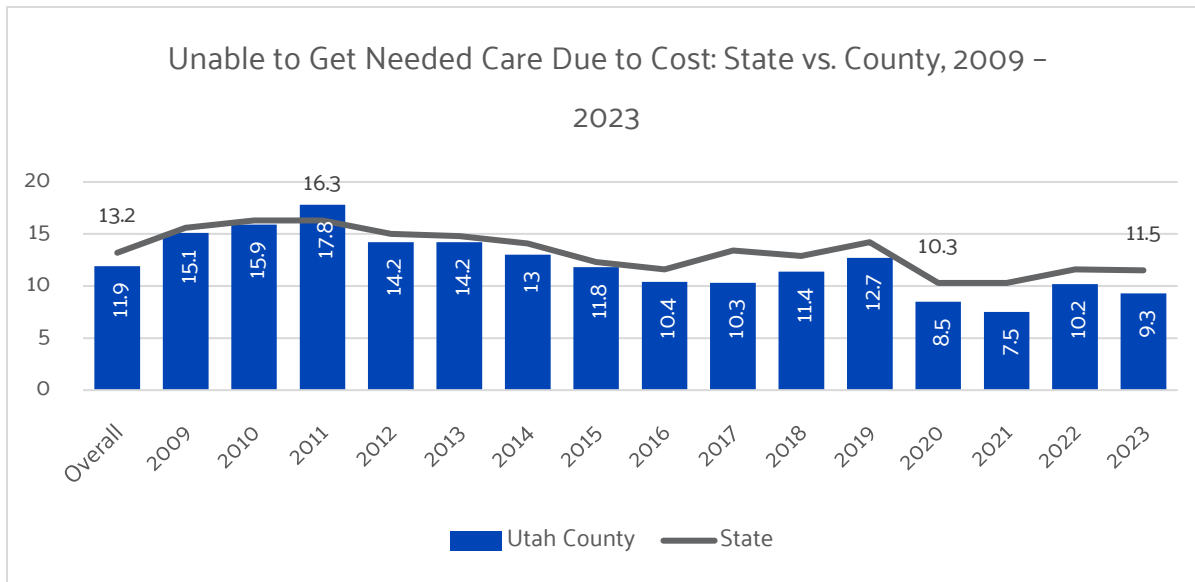


Figure 114: Unable to Get Needed Care Due to Cost: State vs. County, 2009 -2023

Unintentional falls are the leading cause of emergency room visits for Americans over the

Table 96: Unintentional Falls in Past Year (Age 45 and Older)

Unintentional Falls in Past Year (Age 45 and Older)		
	Utah County	State
Overall	25.9	27.1
2012	30.0	28.1
2014	29.6	27.2
2016	27.0	29.1
2018	25.3	26.4
2020	24.2	27.1
2023	21.6	25.0

age of 64—in fact, they are the leading cause of injury and injury death, according to a 2023 study by the CDC. The fall-related death rate nationwide for this age group is 78.0 deaths per 100,000; in Utah, the rate is for this age group is 112.1.<sup>193</sup>

In Utah County, 21.6 percent of adults age 45 or older reported an accidental fall in the past 12 months. This compares to 21.5 percent statewide.<sup>194</sup>

<sup>193</sup> Kakara, R., Bergen, G., Burns, E., & Stevens, M. (2023). Nonfatal and fatal falls among adults aged ≥65 years – United States, 2020–2021. *MMWR Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 72(35), 938–943.

<https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7235a1>

<sup>194</sup> Utah Department of Health, IBIS Database

### 2.4.2.1.1 Violence

For detailed data on crime—including crime against persons—see 2.1.5 Crime and Justice. This section reports domestic violence and child abuse and neglect.

#### 2.4.2.1.1.1 Domestic Violence

Utah County experienced a spike in domestic violence arrests in 2023—jumping from 2,132 in 2022 to 4,669 in 2023, then dropping to 2,602 in 2024.<sup>195</sup> Local service providers are aware of the 2023 anomaly but are uncertain what caused it.

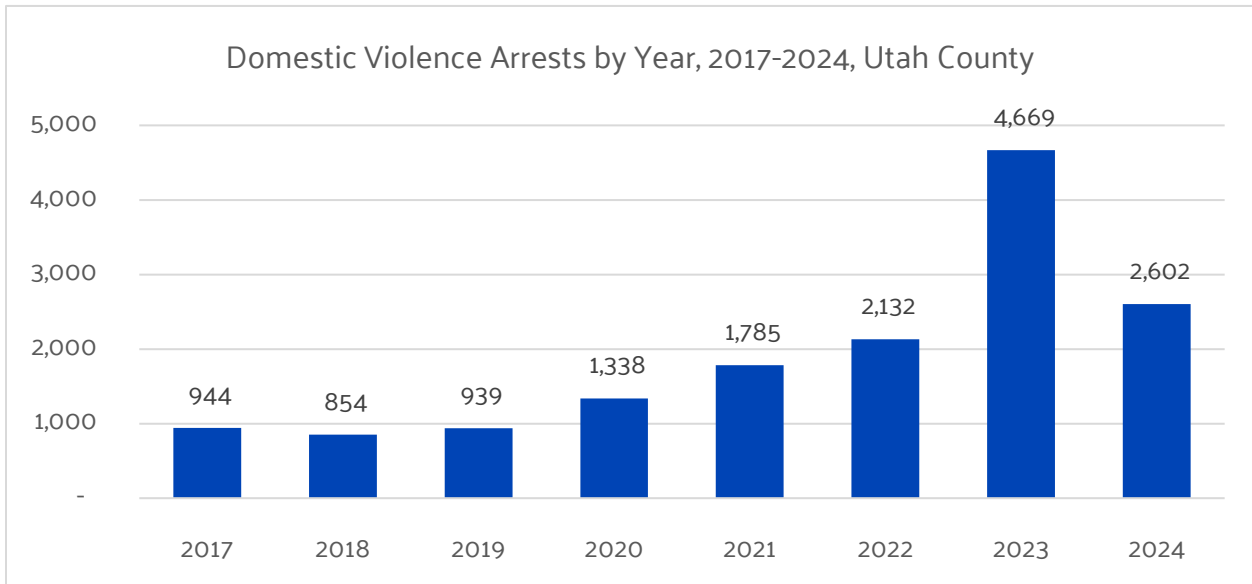
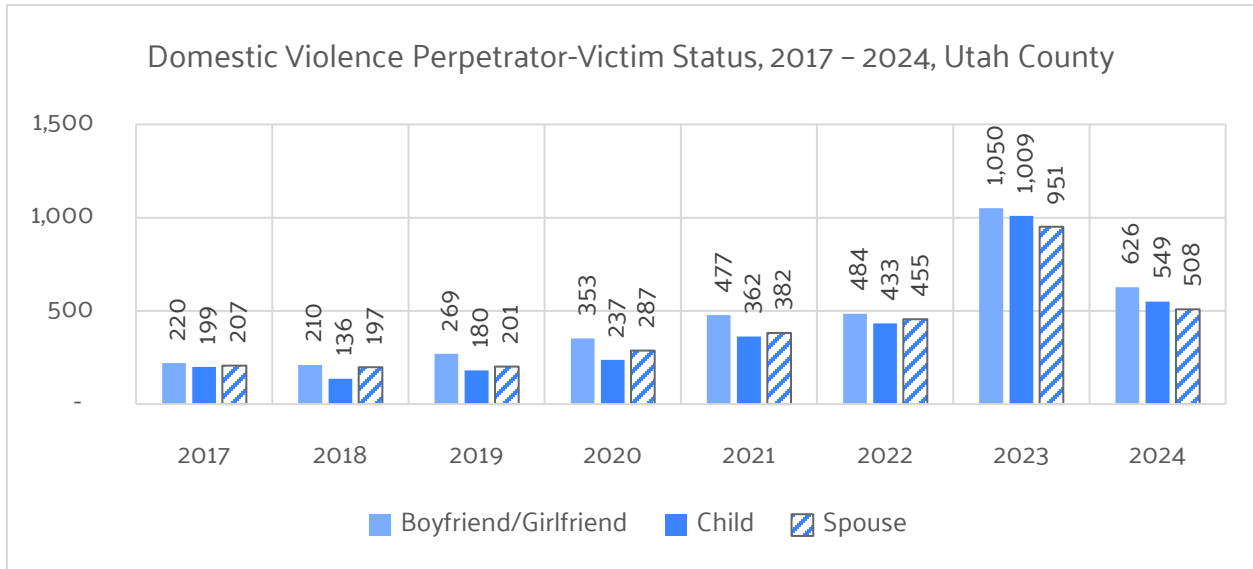


Figure 115: Domestic Violence Arrests by Year, 2017-2024, Utah County

The Refuge Utah (the County’s domestic violence and sexual assault shelter and service organization) participated, along with 13 other similar organizations throughout Utah, in the National Domestic Violence Counts Day held on 4 September 2024. Statewide, 1,009 victims were served; 654 were adults and children receiving shelter and 355 receiving non-residential supportive services such as transportation, counseling, and other services. The statewide number is up from 2021’s 916 service recipients. In the 24-hour period on 4 September 2024, 248 hotline calls were received in Utah—more than 10 per hour.

<sup>195</sup> Utah Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Identification Crime Dashboard

Victims of domestic violence are most commonly boyfriend or girlfriend of the perpetrator, followed closely by child or spouse. In 2024, 626 Utah County victims had a boyfriend or girlfriend relationship, 549 had a child relationship, and 605 were spouses.<sup>196</sup>



**Figure 116: Domestic Violence Perpetrator-Victim Status, 2017 - 2024, Utah County**

Domestic violence victims are not limited to boyfriend/girlfriend, child, or spouse. They could be children of a boyfriend, ex-spouses, parents, etc. Since 2017, there have been 15,263 separate domestic violence incidents in Utah County.<sup>197</sup>

<sup>196</sup> Ibid.

<sup>197</sup> Utah Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Identification Crime Dashboard

**Table 97: Domestic Violence Victim Relationship, Utah County, 2017 - 2024**

Domestic Violence Victim Relationship, Utah County, 2017 - 2024									
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Babysittee	3	2	2	3	3				13
Boyfriend/Girlfriend	220	210	269	353	477	484	1,050	626	3,689
Child	199	136	180	237	362	433	1,009	549	3,105
Child of Boyfriend/Girlfriend						24	54	28	106
Common-Law Spouse	1	1	1	6	15	16	25	18	83
Ex-Spouse	14	13	10	36	23	43	92	55	286
Grandchild	11	11	4	11	25	27	44	30	163
Grandparent	3	2	5	7	10	18	33	10	88
Homosexual Relationship	5	2	3						10
In-Law	13	15	6	10	17	21	52	31	165
Other Family Member	40	53	43	86	100	151	296	175	944
Parent	75	69	85	119	161	191	431	230	1,361
Sibling	110	113	100	145	157	178	454	248	1,505
Spouse	207	197	201	287	382	455	951	508	3,188
Stepchild	33	15	15	16	31	48	97	61	316
Stepparent	6	9	4	12	15	19	38	26	129
Stepsibling	4	6	11	10	7	24	43	7	112
Total	944	854	939	1,338	1,785	2,132	4,669	2,602	15,263

Note: "Homosexual relationship" no longer categorized separately beginning in 2020

From 2008 to 2022, six men and 20 women were victims of intimate partner homicide in Utah County; this compares to 54 men and 128 women during the same period statewide.<sup>198</sup>

**Table 98: Intimate Partner Homicides by Sex of Victim, State vs. County, 2005-2022**

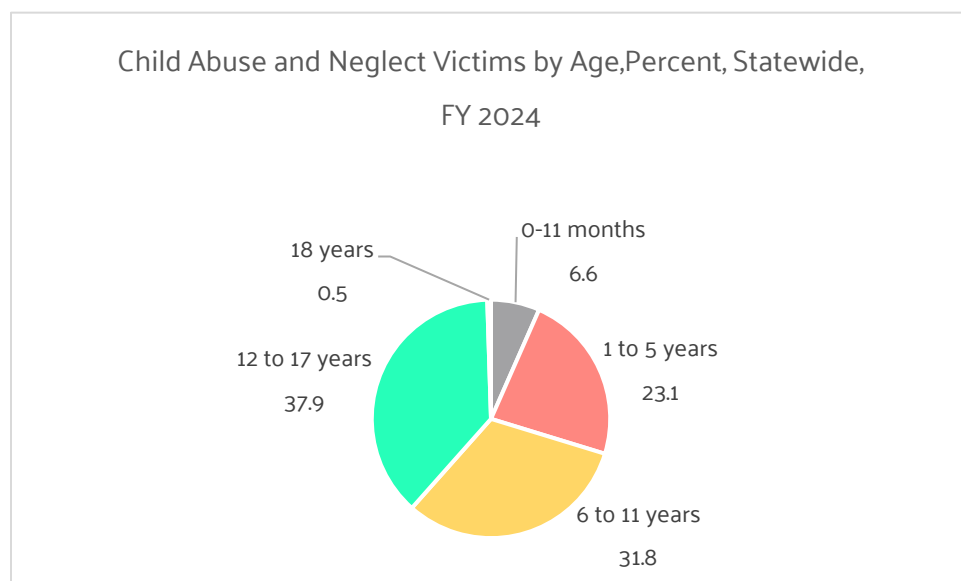
Intimate Partner Homicides by Sex of Victim, State vs. County, 2005-2022								
	2008-		2013-		2018-		Total	
	2012		2017		2022			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Utah County	6	7	0	6	0	7	6	20
State	16	44	24	44	14	40	54	128

<sup>198</sup> Utah Department of Health Indicator-Based Information System (IBIS)

### 2.4.2.1.1.2 Child Abuse and Neglect

In state fiscal year 2024 (June 2023-July 2024), there were 48,542 reports of child abuse or neglect throughout Utah; of these, 22,650 reports met the criteria necessary to open a formal investigation. There were 8,791 confirmed victims of child abuse or neglect; 70.2 percent of the alleged perpetrators were the victim's parents, and 16.2 percent were other relatives. About 18 percent of supported abuse or neglect cases also involved domestic violence.<sup>199</sup>

Of the 8,791 confirmed victims, 6,706 were deemed to be in situations wherein they could remain in the home, and 91.2 percent of confirmed victims did not experience repeat maltreatment within 12 months of state-provided services.<sup>200</sup>



Nearly 38 percent of victims in FY 2024 were from 12 to 17 years old, and 31.8 percent were 6 to 11 years. Less than 1 percent were 18 years, and 6.6 percent were younger than one year old.<sup>201</sup>

There were 11,946 children who received community-based child abuse prevention services; in addition, 10,092 adults received support and 7,893 families. In all, 22,038 individuals received assistance.<sup>202</sup>

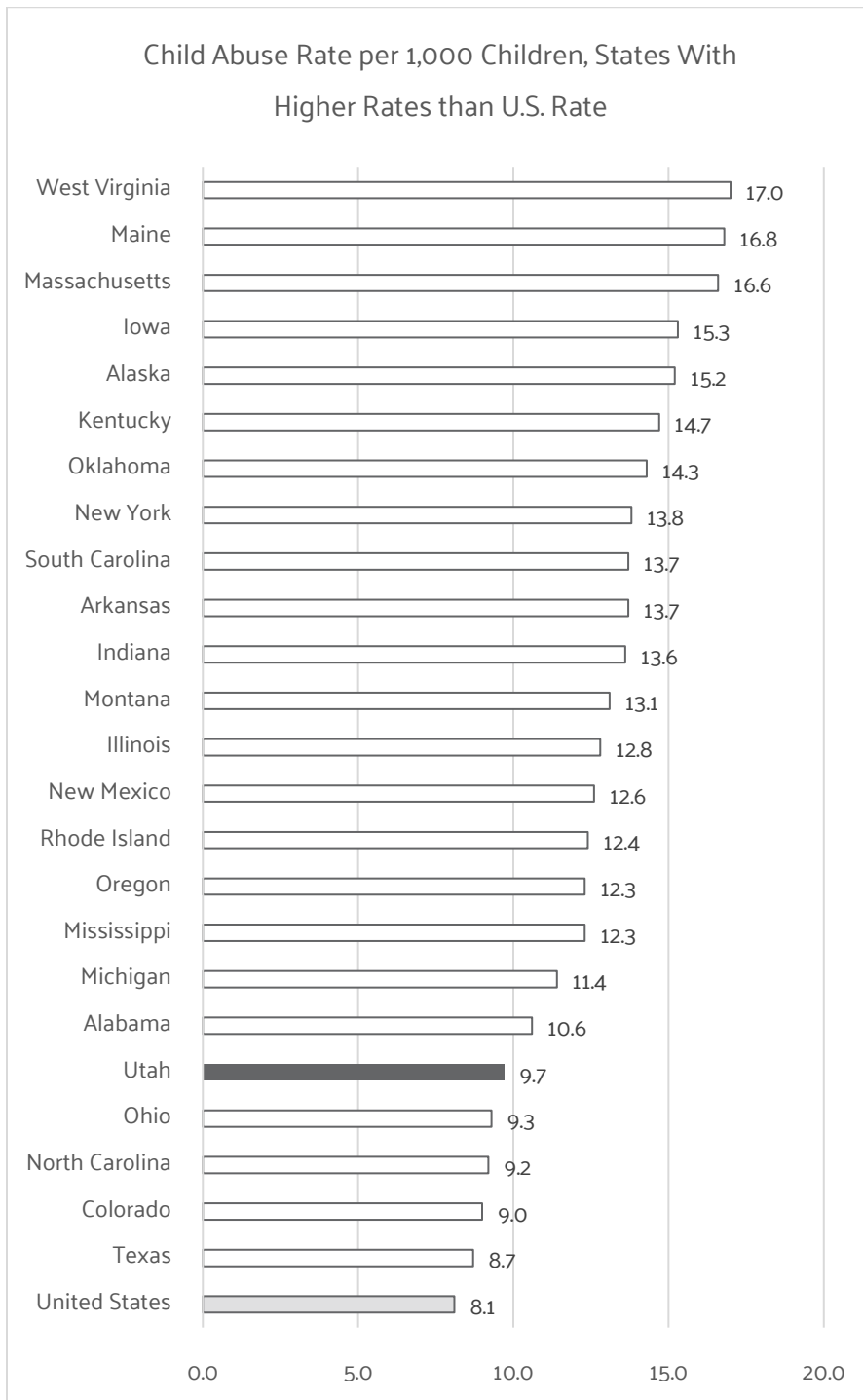
<sup>199</sup> "Utah Division of Child & Family Services 2024 Annual Report" (Salt Lake City, 2024).

<sup>200</sup> Ibid.

<sup>201</sup> Ibid.

<sup>202</sup> Ibid.

Utah, with its child abuse rate of 9.7 per 1,000 children, is one of 24 states whose rate of child abuse exceeds the national average of 8.1 per 1,000.<sup>203</sup>



<sup>203</sup> Child Maltreatment (per 1,000) 2023 - National Home Visiting Resource Center. (2023, September 18).

## 2.4.2.2 Vaccinations

### 2.4.2.2.1 Childhood Vaccinations

The Utah Department of Health and Human Services recommends that by age 24 months, children should receive the following vaccinations: 4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hep B, Hib full series, 1 Varicella, and 4 PCV).<sup>204</sup> The County has high coverage of these vaccinations by age 3 months.

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<sup>204</sup> Utah Department of Health and Human Services. IBIS-PH - PHOM Complete Indicator Profile - Immunizations: Recommended Immunizations by Age 24 Months. [ibis.utah.gov/ibisph-view/report/phom/complete/Imm4313314.html](https://ibis.utah.gov/ibisph-view/report/phom/complete/Imm4313314.html). DTaP: Diphtheria, Tetanus, and acellular Pertussis vaccine, prevents these serious bacterial diseases in early childhood. MMR: Measles, Mumps, and Rubella vaccine, safeguards against these highly contagious viral illnesses. Hep B: Hepatitis B vaccine, offers immunity against the liver infection caused by the hepatitis B virus. Haemophilus influenzae type b vaccine, provides additional protection against severe infections in young children. Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, prevents the itchy, contagious rash and potential complications of chickenpox. Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, protects against pneumococcal diseases like pneumonia and meningitis.

**Table 99: Vaccination Coverage, ≤ 3 Months, by Type, County vs. State, 2020-2024**

Vaccination Coverage, ≤ 3 Months, by Type, County vs. State, 2020-2024							
Year	Type	Utah		Year	Type	Utah	
		County	State			County	State
2020	≥1 DTaP	99.1	98.2	2020	≥1 Hep B	98.6	98.7
2021	≥1 DTaP	98.4	98.1	2021	≥1 Hep B	98.6	98.6
2022	≥1 DTaP	98.8	98.7	2022	≥1 Hep B	98.9	98.9
2023	≥1 DTaP	98.5	98.6	2023	≥1 Hep B	98.6	98.9
2024	≥1 DTaP	97.4	97.3	2024	≥1 Hep B	97.4	98.0
2020	≥1 IPV	98.3	97.5	2020	≥2 Hep B	74.7	75.7
2021	≥1 IPV	97.6	97.1	2021	≥2 Hep B	91.8	91.0
2022	≥1 IPV	98.2	97.9	2022	≥2 Hep B	89.7	91.0
2023	≥1 IPV	97.5	97.7	2023	≥2 Hep B	89.4	90.7
2024	≥1 IPV	96.2	95.9	2024	≥2 Hep B	84.2	87.2
2020	≥1 HIB	98.7	97.7	2020	≥1 PCV	98.3	97.5
2021	≥1 HIB	97.8	97.2	2021	≥1 PCV	97.5	97.0
2022	≥1 HIB	98.1	97.8	2022	≥1 PCV	97.5	97.3
2023	≥1 HIB	97.6	97.7	2023	≥1 PCV	97.4	97.5
2024	≥1 HIB	96.4	96.1	2024	≥1 PCV	95.0	95.4

Coverage of children age 24 months decreases at both the County and the State, with DTaP, MMR vaccinations, Varicella, and PCV vaccinations dropping significantly.<sup>205</sup>

<sup>205</sup> Ibid.

**Table 100: Vaccination Coverage, <24 Months, by Type, County vs. State, 2020-2024**

Vaccination Coverage, <24 Months, by Type, County vs. State, 2020-2024							
Year	Type	Utah		Year	Type	Utah	
		County	State			County	State
2020	≥3 DTaP	72	72.5	2020	≥1 HIB	99	99
2021	≥3 DTaP	73.4	73.1	2021	≥1 HIB	99.1	99
2022	≥3 DTaP	73.7	72.4	2022	≥1 HIB	98.9	98.9
2023	≥3 DTaP	73	72.8	2023	≥1 HIB	98.7	98.9
2024	≥3 DTaP	69.3	70.6	2024	≥1 HIB	97.7	98.2
2020	≥4 DTaP	26.4	27	2020	≥3 Hep B	68.1	73.7
2021	≥4 DTaP	27.3	28.1	2021	≥3 Hep B	71.2	75.7
2022	≥4 DTaP	26.6	26.5	2022	≥3 Hep B	74.9	77.6
2023	≥4 DTaP	27.4	27.5	2023	≥3 Hep B	76.2	78.6
2024	≥4 DTaP	26.6	26.9	2024	≥3 Hep B	73.8	77.7
2020	≥3 IPV	71.4	71.9	2020	1 Varicella	41	42.5
2021	≥3 IPV	72.9	72.4	2021	1 Varicella	42.3	43.6
2022	≥3 IPV	72.9	71.5	2022	1 Varicella	41.3	42.4
2023	≥3 IPV	72.1	72	2023	1 Varicella	41.2	43.4
2024	≥3 IPV	68.5	69.8	2024	1 Varicella	40.4	42.3
2020	≥1 MMR	42.7	44.4	2020	≥3 PCV	71.7	71.9
2021	≥1 MMR	43.3	45	2021	≥3 PCV	72.8	72.4
2022	≥1 MMR	42.6	43.7	2022	≥3 PCV	72.7	71.5
2023	≥1 MMR	42.3	44.7	2023	≥3 PCV	72.1	71.8
2024	≥1 MMR	41.7	43.6	2024	≥3 PCV	68.2	69
2020	≥3 HIB	69.7	67.4	2020	≥4 PCV	38.2	37.3
2021	≥3 HIB	71.5	68.4	2021	≥4 PCV	38.2	37.9
2022	≥3 HIB	71.6	67.8	2022	≥4 PCV	37.4	36.5
2023	≥3 HIB	71	68.5	2023	≥4 PCV	37.6	37.2
2024	≥3 HIB	67.5	66.3	2024	≥4 PCV	35.8	34.7

Rates improve for those age 24-36 months.

Vaccination Coverage, 24-35 Months, by Type, County vs. State, 2020-2024							
Year	Type	Utah		Year	Type	Utah	
		County	State			County	State
2020	≥3 DTaP	91	91.7	2020	≥1 HIB	98.5	98.7
2021	≥3 DTaP	91.4	92	2021	≥1 HIB	98.8	98.9
2022	≥3 DTaP	91.8	91.7	2022	≥1 HIB	99.2	98.9
2023	≥3 DTaP	92.3	91.9	2023	≥1 HIB	98.8	98.8
2024	≥3 DTaP	91.2	91.3	2024	≥1 HIB	98.3	98.7
2020	≥4 DTaP	78	79.2	2020	≥3 Hep B	85.6	88.8
2021	≥4 DTaP	78	79.5	2021	≥3 Hep B	87.8	90.7
2022	≥4 DTaP	78	78.5	2022	≥3 Hep B	88.7	90.7
2023	≥4 DTaP	79.1	79	2023	≥3 Hep B	89.8	91
2024	≥4 DTaP	78.7	78.4	2024	≥3 Hep B	90	91.3
2020	≥3 IPV	89.8	90.6	2020	1 Varicella	87.4	88.3
2021	≥3 IPV	90.3	91	2021	1 Varicella	86.4	87.4
2022	≥3 IPV	90.8	90.6	2022	1 Varicella	85.6	86.8
2023	≥3 IPV	91.3	90.8	2023	1 Varicella	86.1	87.1
2024	≥3 IPV	90	90.2	2024	1 Varicella	84.8	86.7
2020	≥1 MMR	88.4	89.5	2020	≥3 PCV	89.6	90.5
2021	≥1 MMR	87.7	88.5	2021	≥3 PCV	90.5	91.1
2022	≥1 MMR	86.3	87.5	2022	≥3 PCV	90.6	90.7
2023	≥1 MMR	86.8	87.7	2023	≥3 PCV	90.9	90.7
2024	≥1 MMR	85.5	87.3	2024	≥3 PCV	89.9	89.8
2020	≥3 HIB	89.8	89.7	2020	≥4 PCV	77.7	78.6
2021	≥3 HIB	90.3	90.1	2021	≥4 PCV	79.4	79.9
2022	≥3 HIB	90.6	89.9	2022	≥4 PCV	77.9	78.7
2023	≥3 HIB	91.1	90	2023	≥4 PCV	78.8	78.4
2024	≥3 HIB	90	89.4	2024	≥4 PCV	77.8	77.5

Public health policy makers use the designation “4:3:1:3:3:1:4” as shorthand to represent the vaccinations recommended by CDC for children by age 24 months.

- 4: ≥4 doses of Diphtheria, Tetanus, and acellular Pertussis (DTaP) vaccine.
- 3: ≥3 doses of Polio (Inactivated Polio Vaccine, IPV).
- 1: ≥1 dose of Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine.
- 3: ≥3 doses of Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccine.
- 3: ≥3 doses of Hepatitis B (Hep B) vaccine.
- 1: ≥1 dose of Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine.
- 4: ≥4 doses of Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV).

Utah County and the state have higher rates of coverage than the nation. For 2023 (the year for the latest national data available), Utah County has 73.1 percent of toddlers covered, compared to the state’s 72.8 and the nation’s 61.2.<sup>206</sup>

**Table 101: 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 Rates: U.S. vs. State vs. County, 2020 – 2024**

4:3:1:3:3:1:4 Rates: U.S. vs. State vs. County, 2020 – 2024			
	U.S.	State	County
2020	68.6	72.4	70.2
2021	65.5	74	71.8
2022	63.0	72.9	71.8
2023	61.2	72.8	73.1
2024	n/a	72	72.4

<sup>206</sup> Ibid.; Hill, H. A., Yankey, D., Elam-Evans, L. D., Chen, M., & Singleton, J. A. (2023). Vaccination coverage by age 24 months among children born in 2019 and 2020 – National Immunization Survey-Child, United States, 2020–2022. *MMWR Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 72(44), 1190–1196. Hill, Holly A., et al. “Decline in Vaccination Coverage by Age 24 Months and Vaccination Inequities Among Children Born in 2020 and 2021 – National Immunization Survey-Child, United States, 2021–2023.” *MMWR Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 73, no. 38, Sept. 2024, pp. 844–53.

<https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7338a3>.<https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7244a3>;

Historically, the state of Utah has been on par or slightly higher than U.S. numbers in childhood 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 coverage.<sup>207</sup>

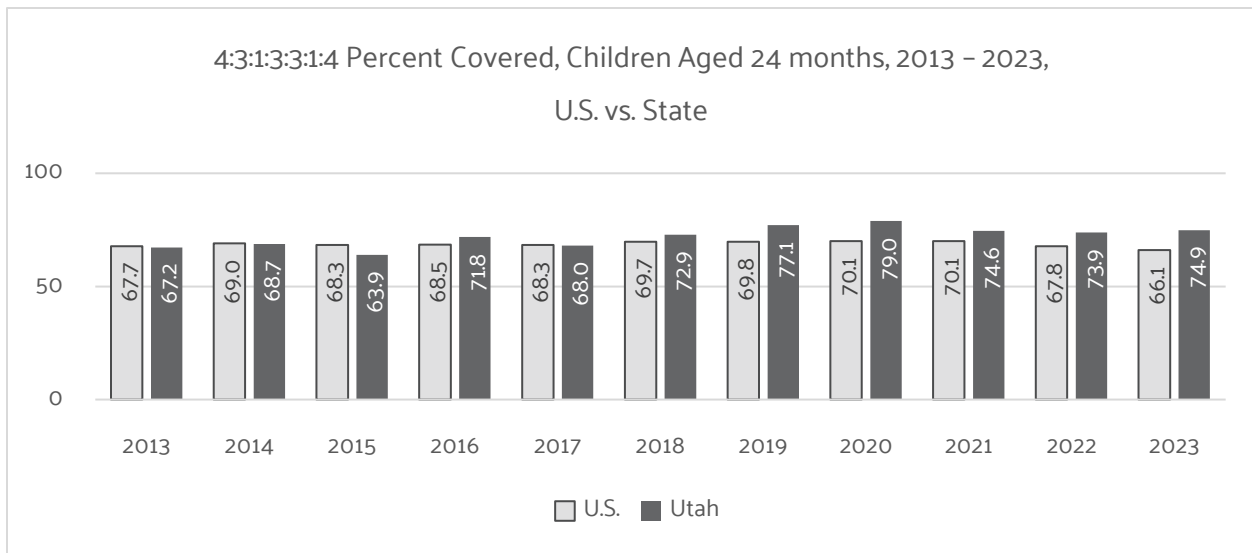


Figure 117: 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 Percent Covered, Children Aged 24 months, 2013 - 2023, U.S. vs. State

#### 2.4.2.2.2 Adult Vaccinations

Compared to national numbers, Utah County typically has higher rates of adults age 65 or older who have ever received an influenza vaccine. In 2024, 62.4 percent of this age group in Utah County report having received the flue vaccine, compared to 62.7 percent statewide and 59.0 percent nationally.<sup>208</sup>

Influenza Vaccine: Ever Received (age 65 and Older)

	U.S.	State	Utah County
2020	54.3	63.4	65.1
2021	55.8	60.7	61.4
2022	57.1	60.5	60.3
2023	58.4	61.8	61.6
2024	59.0	62.7	62.4

<sup>207</sup> Utah Department of Health and Human Services. IBIS-PH

<sup>208</sup>CDC. 2024 numbers are preliminary.

**Table 102: Influenza Vaccine: Received Past 12 Months (Age 65 and Older)**

Influenza Vaccine: Received Past 12 Months (Age 65 and Older)			
	U.S.	State	Utah County
2020	49.3	28.5	26.3
2021	51.8	28.3	25.8
2022	46.9	24.2	20.5
2023	44.5	22.3	19.2
2024	46.7	19.4	16.9

However, both the County and the state are lagging in percent of adults who have received the flu vaccine in the past 12 months. Although the national 2024 figure is preliminary, it is in line with historical numbers: 46.7 percent of adults in this age group have received the flu vaccine in the past 12 months, compared to 19.4 percent in Utah and 16.9 percent in the County.<sup>209</sup>

**Table 103: Pneumonia Vaccine: Ever Received (Age 19 and Older)**

Pneumonia Vaccine: Ever Received (Age 19 and Older)			
	U.S.	State	Utah County
2020	24.5	27.9	22.2
2021	25.2	27.9	22.2
2022	25.9	29.2	23.3
2023	26.7	31.9	25.6
2024	27.5	34.6	27.8

Utah County is on par with national numbers in the category of adults who have received the pneumonia vaccine, but lags behind the state. In 2024, 27.8 percent of County adults report having ever received this vaccine. This compares to 34.6 percent statewide and 17.5 percent nationally (preliminary figure).<sup>210</sup>

<sup>209</sup> Ibid.

<sup>210</sup> Ibid.

**Table 104: Ever Had Shingles or Zoster Vaccine, Age 50 or Older, U.S. vs. State vs. County, 2014, 2017, 2020, 2023**

	Utah		
	U.S.	State	County
2014	22.2	74.2	73.0
2017	27.9	68.2	66.6
2020	32.1	61.5	59.9
2023	38.5	50.5	48.7

Utah County adults age 50 or older are receiving shingles or zoster vaccines at a higher rate than their national peers. In 2023, 48.7 percent of Utah County, and 50.5 percent of state adults in this age category have received the vaccine at least once, compared to 38.5 percent nationally.<sup>211</sup>

**2.4.2.3 Health Risk Factors**

Many factors place individuals at risk for health problems, including lack of physical activity, obesity, and tobacco or alcohol usage.

**2.4.2.3.1 Physical Activity**

About 87 percent of Utah County adults engage in regular physical activity—be it running, golf, gardening, walking, or other activities. This compares to the statewide rate of 83.6.<sup>212</sup>

<sup>211</sup>Utah Department of Health and Human Services, IBIS data query

<sup>212</sup> Ibid.

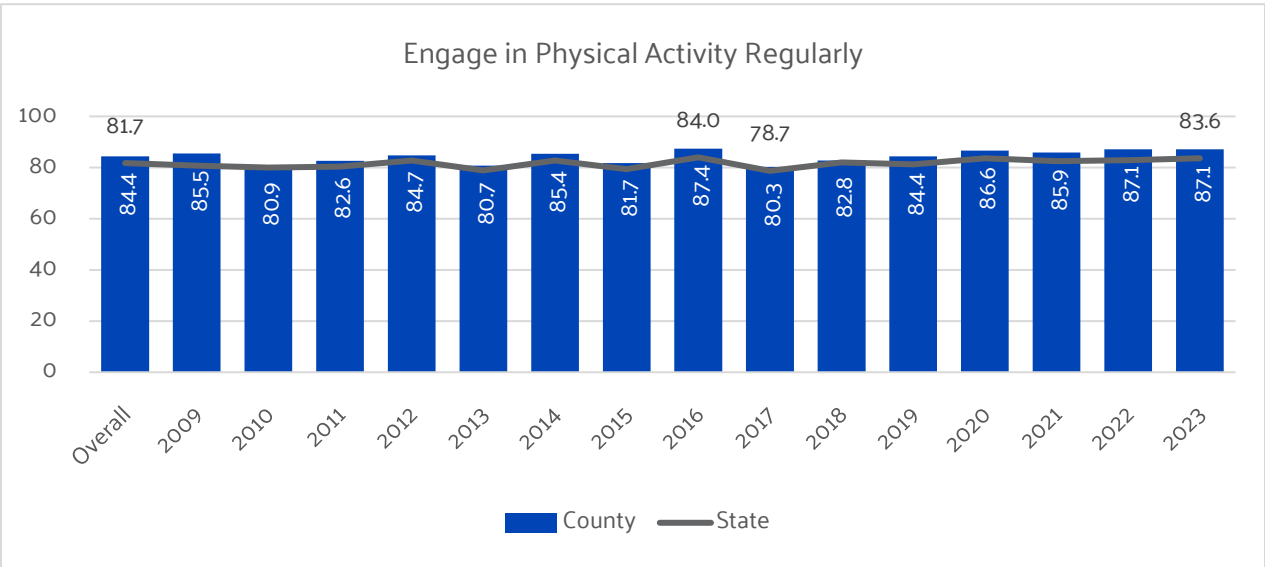


Figure 118: Engage in Physical Activity Regularly

2.4.2.3.2 Obesity

Although many Utah County adults engage in regular physical activity, overweight and obesity remains a problem. More than one in three residents are overweight (body mass index between 25 and 30).<sup>213</sup>

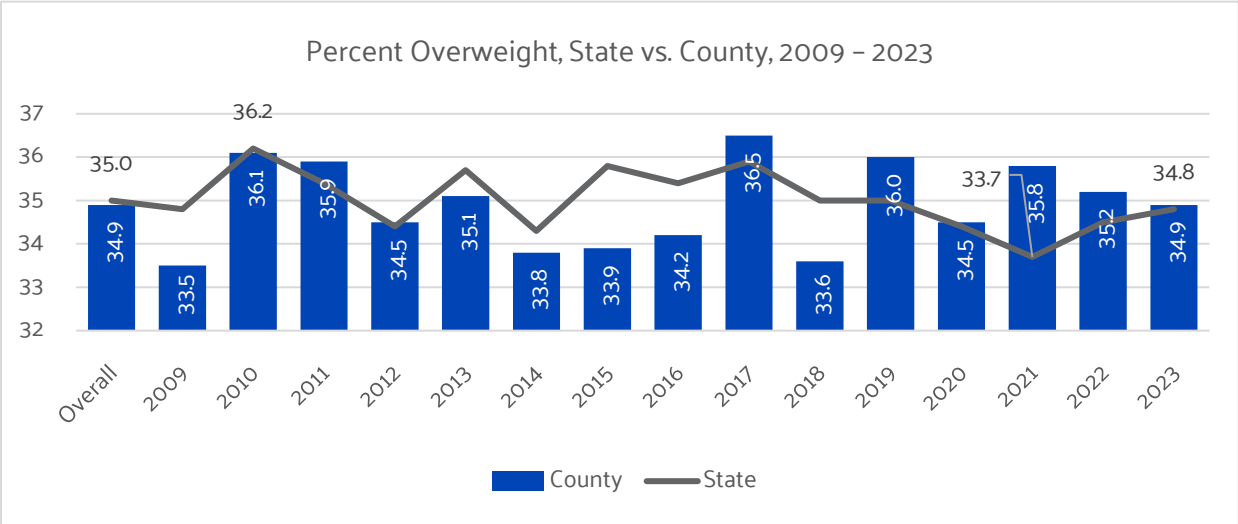


Figure 119: Percent Overweight, State vs. County, 2009 - 2023

<sup>213</sup> Ibid.

In addition, 31.3 percent of County adults are considered obese (BMI greater than 30). This compares to the statewide figure of 31.0.<sup>214</sup>

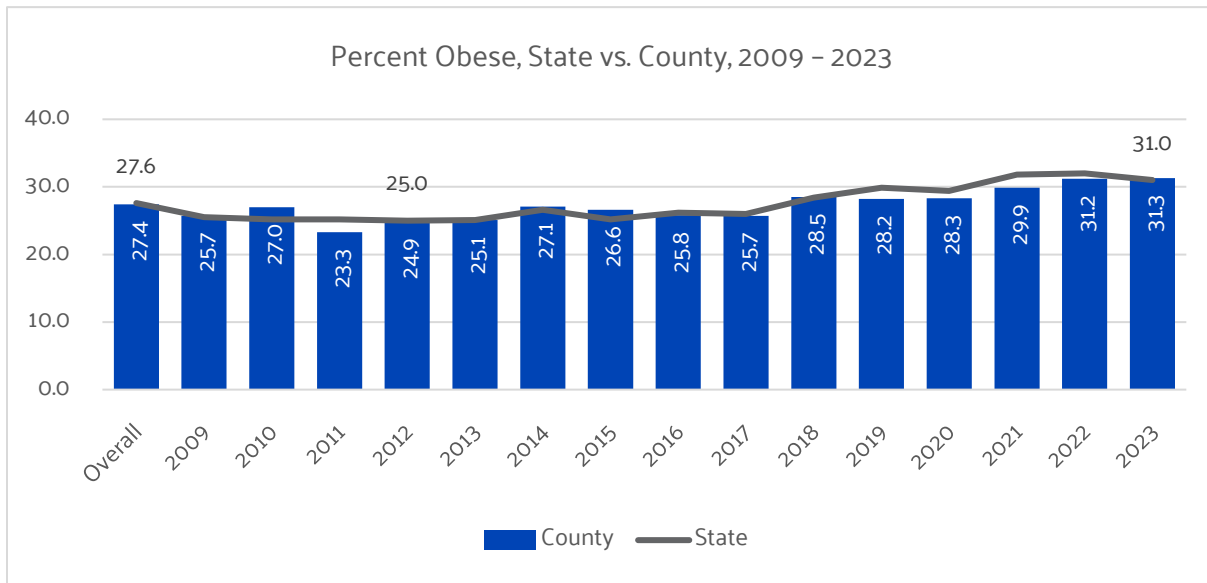


Figure 120: Percent Obese, State vs. County, 2009 - 2023

In total, about two in three adults—66.2 percent—are either overweight or obese. This figure has remained about the same since 2021.<sup>215</sup>

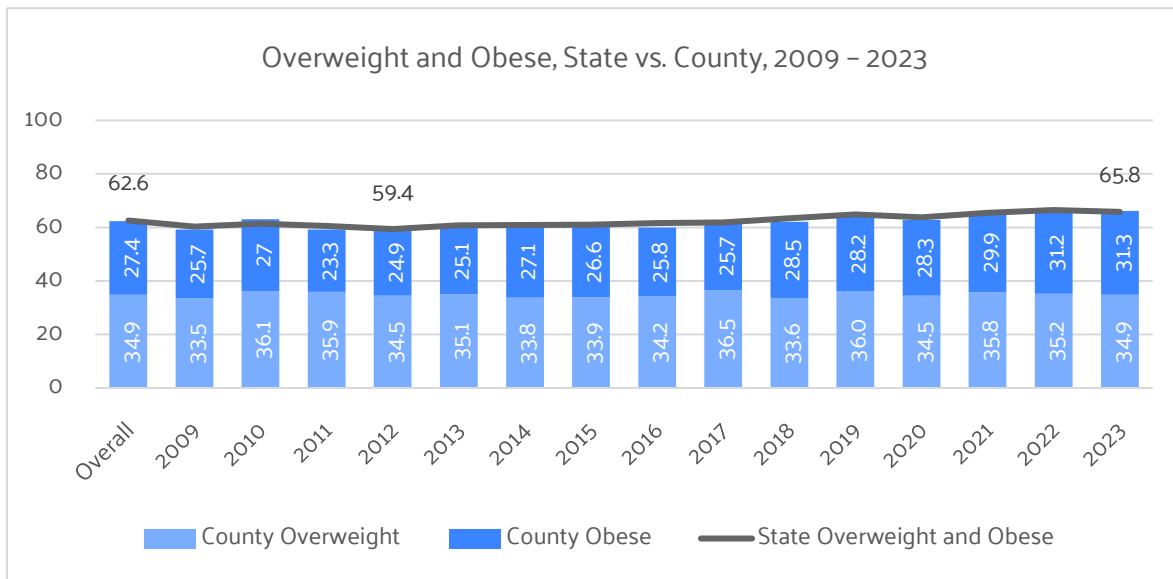


Figure 121: Overweight and Obese, State vs. County, 2009 - 2023

<sup>214</sup> Ibid.

<sup>215</sup> Ibid.

### 2.4.2.3.3 Tobacco Usage and E-Cigarettes

Utah County's current smoker rate is among the lowest in the nation, and is only about two-

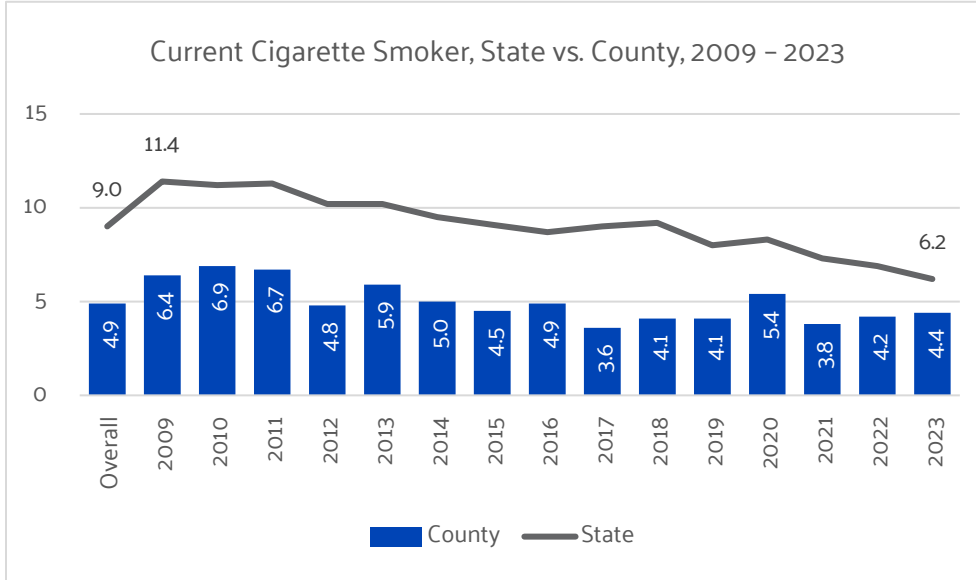


Figure 123: Current Cigarette Smoker, State vs. County, 2009 - 2023

thirds of the state figure of 6.2 percent. Since 2010, it has dropped from 6.9 to 4.4 percent. The current e-cigarette user rate is about the same, at 4.1 percent for the County and 6.5 percent statewide.<sup>216</sup>

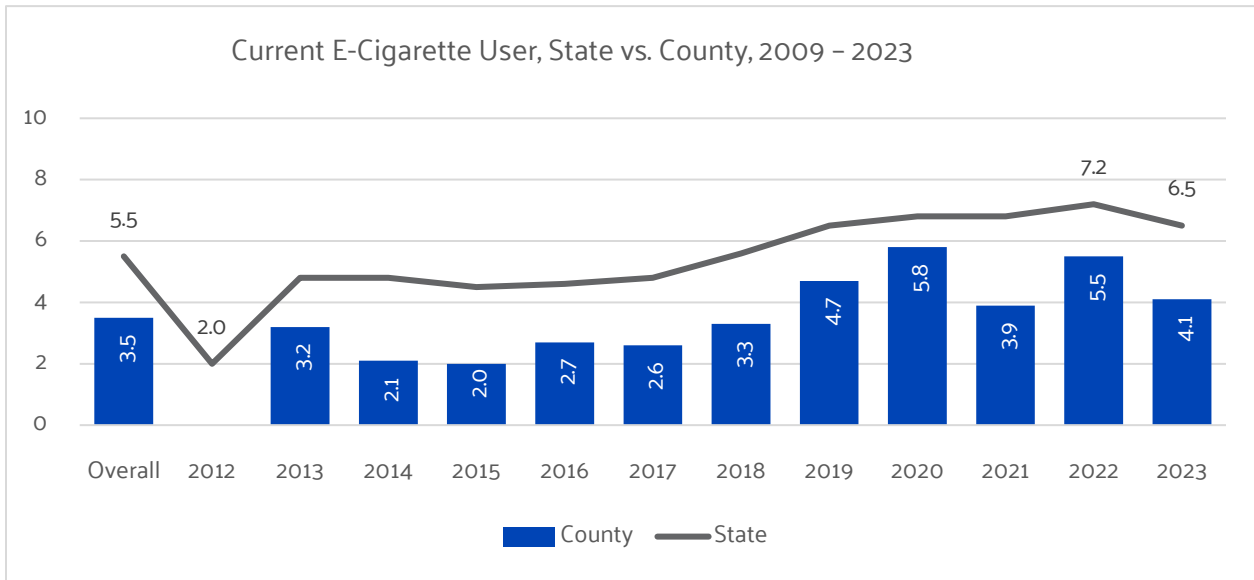
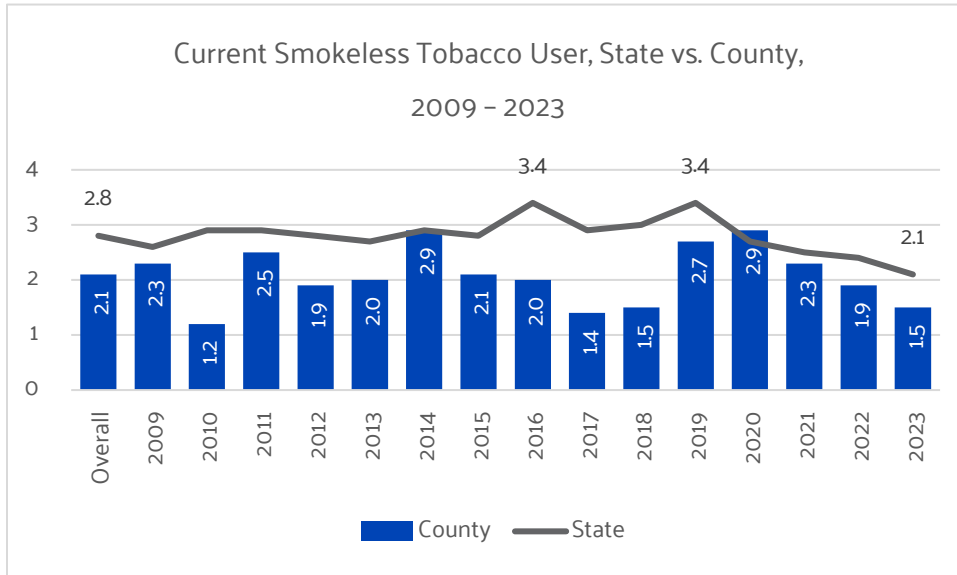


Figure 122: Current E-Cigarette User, State vs. County, 2009 - 2023

<sup>216</sup> Ibid.

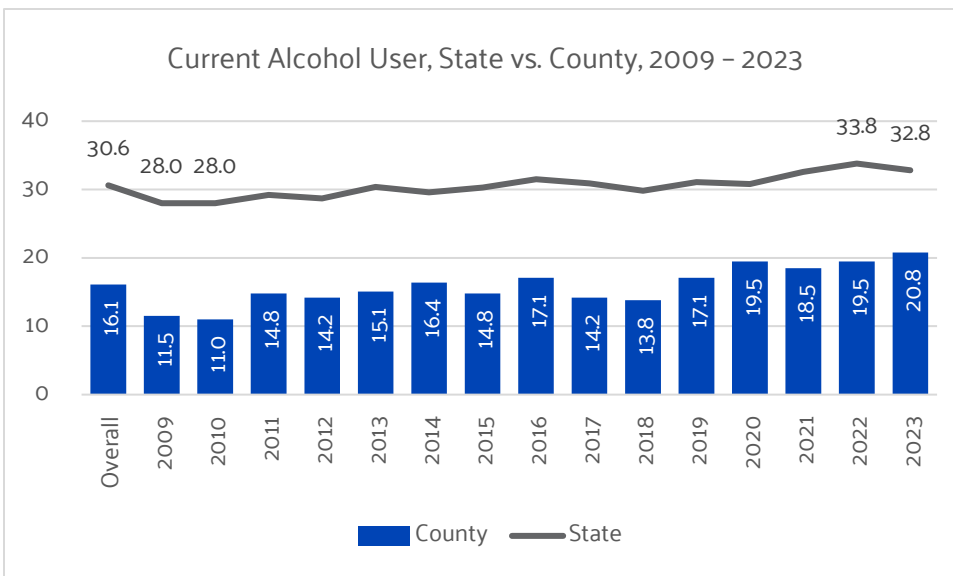


Smokeless tobacco user rates are at 1.5 percent in 2023, down from 2.9 percent in 2020. The state rate is 2.1 percent.<sup>217</sup>

Figure 124: Current Smokeless Tobacco User, State vs. County, 2009 - 2023

#### 2.4.2.3.4 Alcohol Usage

About one in five Utah County adults uses alcohol; this is up slightly significantly from



2018's figure of 13.8 percent, and even more so from 1010's 11.0 percent. Statewide, 32.8 percent of adults consume alcohol.<sup>218</sup>

About 2.4 percent of Utah County adults are considered heavy drinkers, consuming more

Figure 125: Current Alcohol User, State vs. County, 2009 - 2023

<sup>217</sup> Ibid.

<sup>218</sup> Ibid.

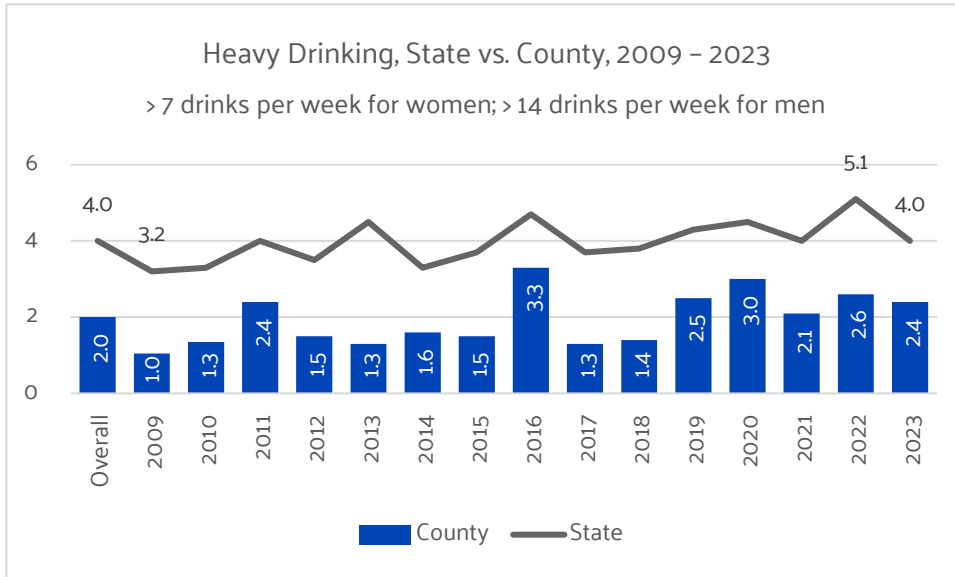


Figure 126: Heavy Drinking, State vs. County, 2009 - 2023

than seven drinks per week for women or 14 drinks per week for men. This compares with 4.0 percent statewide, and is up considerably since 2009 and 2010, when the response rate was so low that the Department of

Health issued a caution about using the data for comparison to others.<sup>219</sup>

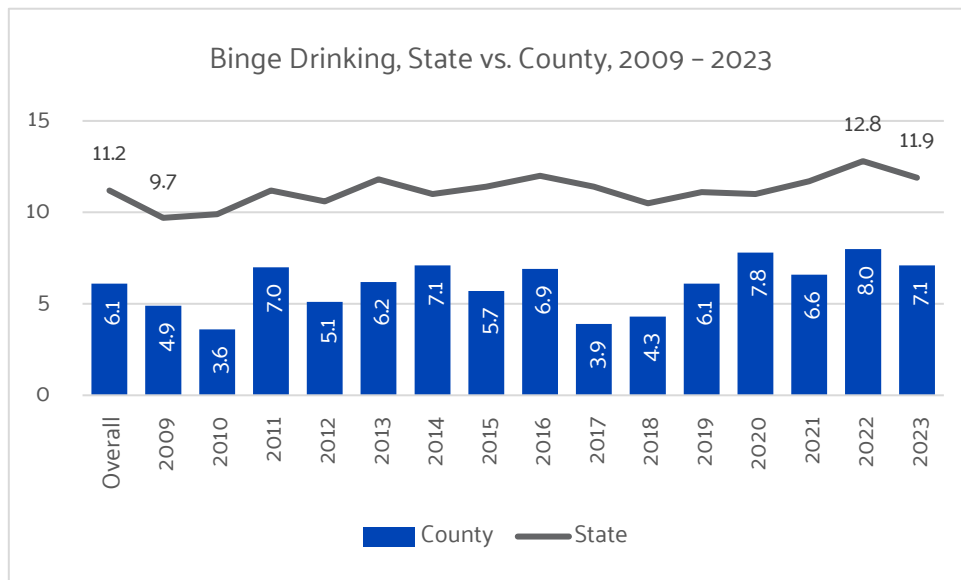


Figure 127: Binge Drinking, State vs. County, 2009 - 2023

Binge drinking—defined as five or more drinks for men and four or more drinks for women on one occasion has hovered around seven to eight percent annually since 2020. For the period of 2009 to

<sup>219</sup> Ibid. The caution for 2009 and 2010 reads, “Use caution in interpreting; the estimate has a coefficient of variation > 30% and is therefore deemed unreliable by Utah Department of Health and Human Services standards. Consider aggregating years to decrease the relative standard error and improve the reliability of the estimate.

2023, the overall rate in Utah County is 6.1 percent, compared to 11.2 percent statewide.<sup>220</sup>

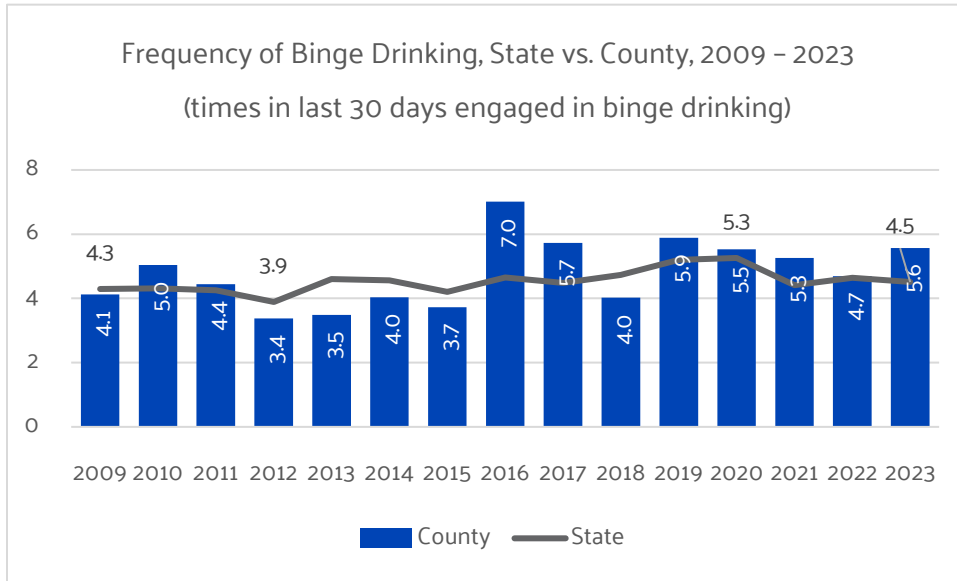


Figure 128: Frequency of Binge Drinking, State vs. County, 2009 - 2023

Those who engage in binge drinking in Utah County participate in it 5.6 times per month, on average. This compares to 4.5 times per month statewide.<sup>221</sup>

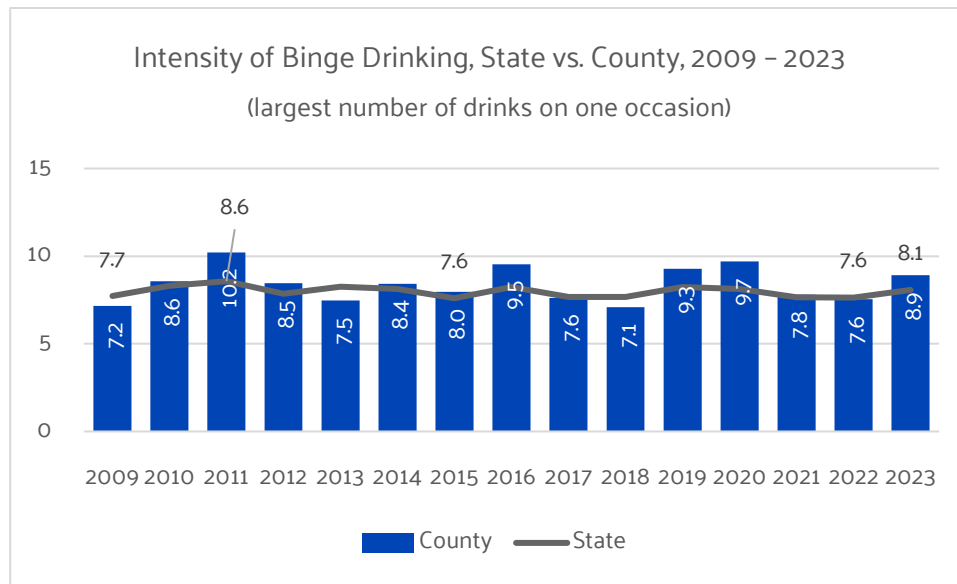


Figure 129: Intensity of Binge Drinking, State vs. County, 2009 - 2023

The intensity of binge drinking in Utah County is also higher than statewide figures. In 2023, the largest number of drinks consumed at one occasion was, on average, 8.9, compared to 8.1 statewide.<sup>222</sup>

<sup>220</sup> Utah Department of Health and Human Services, IBIS data query

<sup>221</sup> Ibid.

<sup>222</sup> Ibid.

#### 2.4.2.4 Health Care Access

Having healthcare insurance is becoming more ubiquitous among all age groups. In Utah County—with the high ratio of college enrollment—the growing post-secondary standard of requiring health insurance for all enrolled students, combined with the Affordable Care Act, is likely a contributor to the high rate of coverage.

Among all persons, Utah County has a higher percentage of insured than the state or the U.S. In the college-age group of 19 to 25 years, 90.4 percent of Utah County residents have health insurance, outperforming both the state (86.3) and the nation (84.3).<sup>223</sup>

**Table 105: Percent with Health Insurance, by Age Group: U.S. vs. State vs. Utah County, 2023**

Percent with Health Insurance, by Age Group: U.S. vs. State vs. Utah County, 2023			
	U.S.	State	Utah County
All persons	91.7	92.0	92.5
Under 6	95.6	93.9	95.2
6 to 18	94.2	92.3	93.0
19 to 25	84.3	86.3	90.4
26 to 34	82.4	85.5	87.2
35 to 44	85.3	88.0	89.9
45 to 54	88.1	88.7	89.3
55 to 64	91.5	92.7	93.2
65 to 74	99.0	98.9	98.9
75+ and Older	99.5	99.7	99.4

Utah County communities with lower rates of children under age 6 with health insurance include Elk Ridge (70.4), Genola (84.9), Provo (91.2), and Orem (92.2). Note that Elberta and Sundance have no children under age 6. All children under age 6 in several communities have health insurance.<sup>224</sup>

<sup>223</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2019-2023 5-year averages, Table B27001

<sup>224</sup> Ibid.

**Table 106: Percent Children with Health Insurance, by Age Group and Community, 2023**

Percent Children with Health Insurance, by Age Group and Community, 2023				
	Under 6 Years		6 to 18 Years	
Alpine	97.6		93.9	
American Fork	94.2		93.8	
Benjamin	100.0		100.0	
Cedar Fort	100.0		0.0	
Cedar Hills	97.5		93.5	
Eagle Mountain	95.7		89.3	
Elberta	0.0		100.0	
Elk Ridge	70.4		91.2	
Fairfield	100.0		100.0	
Genola	84.9		95.7	
Goshen	100.0		77.1	
Highland	98.5		95.2	
Hobble Creek	100.0		100.0	
Lake Shore	100.0		97.2	
Lehi	95.6		96.0	
Lindon	100.0		93.0	
Mapleton	100.0		97.1	
Orem	92.2		88.4	
Palmyra	100.0		100.0	
Payson	95.0		93.2	
Pleasant Grove	96.3		90.1	
Provo	91.2		89.7	
Salem	100.0		100.0	
Santaquin	95.5		92.8	
Saratoga Springs	98.4		97.3	
Spanish Fork	94.9		97.5	
Spring Lake	100.0		100.0	
Springville	97.8		95.0	
Sundance	0.0		100.0	
Vineyard	96.9		82.0	
West Mountain	100.0		89.9	
Woodland Hills	96.3		100.0	

### 2.4.2.5 Disease

Utah is a generally healthy state, and its health status is well recognized.<sup>225</sup> Of course, this does not mean the state—or the county—is free of disease. Utah has an overall communicable disease rate of 577.7 per 100,000 population in 2024, with chlamydia (282.6) having the highest rate by far. This is followed by gonorrhea (61.7), influenza (48.3), hepatitis C (27.9), and campylobacteriosis (a type of food poisoning) (23.5).<sup>226</sup>

**Table 107: Utah Communicable Disease Rate per 100,000 Population: 25 Most Common, 2024**

Utah Communicable Disease Rate per 100,000 Population: 25 Most Common, 2024		
	Rate	Number
Chlamydia	282.6	9,879
Gonorrhea	61.7	2,157
Influenza-associated hospitalization	48.3	1,690
Hepatitis C, chronic	27.9	974
Campylobacteriosis	23.5	823
Salmonellosis	12.6	440
Syphilis, late or unknown duration	12.1	422
Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC) infection	9.8	344
Pertussis	9.7	339
Hepatitis B, chronic	9.0	315
Streptococcal disease, invasive, Group A	8.6	300
Giardiasis	8.1	283
Syphilis, primary and secondary	7.4	257
Cryptosporidiosis	6.6	231
Streptococcal disease, invasive, Group B	6.6	229
Streptococcus pneumoniae, invasive disease	5.9	206

(continued next page)

<sup>225</sup> *Healthiest States 2025*. (n.d.). worldpopulationreview.com. <https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/healthiest-states>. See also *Overall by State | AHR*. (n.d.).

<https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/Overall>

<sup>226</sup> Utah Department of Health and Human Services, IBIS query

Utah Communicable Disease Rate per 100,000, continued

	Rate	Number
Shigellosis	5.2	181
Coccidioidomycosis	4.0	139
Hepatitis C, acute	3.9	136
Syphilis early non-secondary non-primary	3.7	130
Chickenpox (Varicella)	2.4	85
Haemophilus influenzae, invasive disease	2.0	71
Cyclosporiasis	1.4	50
Legionellosis	1.4	50
Tuberculosis, active	1.4	49

Non-injury emergency room encounters provide additional insights into the health of the County. In 2023, the leading cause of such encounters in Utah County, at 81.37 per 10,000. The table below is sorted by the County's highest rates.<sup>227</sup>

**Table 108: Leading Causes of Non-Injury Emergency Room Encounters, 2023, Rate per 10,000: State vs. County**

Leading Causes of Non-Injury Emergency Room Encounters, 2023, Rate per 10,000: State vs. County		
	State	Utah County
Diseases of heart	82.92	81.37
Septicemia	51.14	55.98
Influenza and pneumonia	46.44	42.44
Chronic lower respiratory diseases	36.56	25.39
Cholelithiasis and other disorders of gallbladder	23.2	23.43
Diabetes mellitus	26.11	19.74
Infections of kidney	18.17	19.41
Essential (primary) hypertension and hypertensive renal disease	19.6	18.68
Cerebrovascular diseases	16.09	17.49
Acute bronchitis and bronchiolitis	17.74	15.33

<sup>227</sup> Ibid.

Excluding pregnancy-related and “other” conditions, septicemia is the most common hospitalization causes based on routine discharges in 2023 (table provides age-adjusted rates).<sup>228</sup>

**Table 109: Top 25 Causes of Non-Injury Hospital Admissions, Rate and Number, Utah County, 2023**

Top 25 Causes of Non-Injury Hospital Admissions, Rate and Number, Utah County, 2023		
	Rate	
	per	
	10,000	Number
Septicemia	56.16	2,922
Diseases of heart	50.3	2,425
Cerebrovascular diseases	18.23	882
Malignant neoplasms (Cancers)	14.21	763
Influenza and pneumonia	11.38	640
Diabetes mellitus	9.28	572
Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	8.92	446
Cholelithiasis and other disorders of gallbladder	4.62	253
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	4.27	353
In situ & benign neoplasms/neoplasms. of uncertain or unknown behavior	3.78	213
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	3.62	325
Hernia	3.24	171
Chronic lower respiratory diseases	3.18	210
Diseases of appendix	3.05	217
Peptic ulcer	3.02	152
Anemias	2.36	135
Acute bronchitis and bronchiolitis	2.11	184
Infections of kidney	2.08	122
Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	2.03	113
Pneumonitis due to solids and liquids	1.98	97
Aortic aneurysm and dissection	1.09	54
Essential (primary) hypertension and hypertensive renal disease	0.7	36
Nutritional deficiencies	0.59	43
Atherosclerosis	0.45	22
Parkinson’s disease	0.42	21

<sup>228</sup> Ibid.

### 2.4.2.5.1 Cancer

The overall cancer rate in Utah County in 2022 was 412.98 per 100,000 population. Prostate is the most common location of cancer (69.95 per 100,000), followed by breast (64.16), skin (29.83), thyroid (27.35), and colon (24.49).<sup>229</sup> In the table below, cancer in the following are not listed because of the low incidence: anus, anal canal and anorectum; larynx; other urinary organs; cranial nerves and other nervous system; and other leukemia.

Leading Cancer Incidents, Rate per 100,000 and Number, Utah County, 2022

	Rate per 100,000	Number of Incidents
Overall	412.98	2,039
Prostate	69.95	338
Breast	64.16	311
Melanoma of the Skin	29.83	145
Thyroid	27.35	153
Colon (exluding Rectum)	24.49	120
Non-Hodgkins Lymphomas	18.47	90
Kidney and Renal Pelvis	17.20	82
Urinary Bladder	14.84	68
Lung and Bronchus	13.15	64
Pancreas	12.27	56
Corpus and Uterus	11.65	58
Rectum, Rectosigmoid Junction	11.54	56
Oral Cavity and Pharynx	10.40	51
Other sites/types (not specified above)	8.81	41
Brain	8.76	47
Myeloid Leukemia	7.00	32
Liver and Intrahepatic Bile Duct	6.27	29
Ovary	5.89	29
Lymphocytic Leukemia	5.64	30
Multiple Myeloma	5.46	27
Stomach	5.33	25
Testis	3.71	27

(continued next page)

<sup>229</sup> Ibid.

Leading Cancer Incidents, Rate per 100,000 and Number, Utah County, 2022, continued

	Rate per 100,000	Number of Incidents
Soft Tissues, including Heart	3.17	17
Small Intestine	3.08	16
Esophagus	2.70	12
Gallbladder and Biliary Ducts	2.56	11
Eye and Orbit	2.25	11
Cervix	2.16	11
Other Female Genital Organs	2.10	10
Other Digestive System	2.04	12
Other Endocrine including Thymus	2.01	10
Other Non-Epithelial Skin	1.85	9
Bones and Joints	1.43	10
Hodgkin's Lymphoma	1.18	10
Other Respiratory System	1.11	6

#### 2.4.2.5.2 Autism Spectrum Disorder

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental condition characterized by challenges with social communication, restricted or repetitive behaviors, and varying degrees of intellectual and functional abilities. Symptoms can be mild to severe, and it is typically diagnosed in early childhood. The cause or causes are not fully identified, but researchers believe it involves a combination of genetic and environmental factors.<sup>230</sup>

Estimating the number of persons experiencing ASD is difficult, even for the most seasoned medical professionals and researchers. As one study pointed out,

The absence of a medical test for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and reliance on behavioral observation for diagnosis contribute to frequent delays in identification, with

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<sup>230</sup> Jessica Bradshaw et al., "County-Level Prevalence Estimates of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Children in the United States," *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders* 54, no. 7 (2024): 2710–18, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-023-05920-z>.

many children not diagnosed until well after age 4 despite reliable diagnosis being possible by age 2. Low compliance with universal screening recommendations and limited training in the use of validated screening tools among primary care providers, coupled with low public awareness of early ASD signs, exacerbate delays in diagnosis and access to early intervention.<sup>231</sup>

The challenge of detection and diagnosis of ASD is a difficult one; some people with the condition are never diagnosed—or not diagnosed until well into adulthood. Reasons for this include “limited clinician awareness of adult ASD presentations and a historical focus on pediatric diagnostic criteria.” Persons with ASD who are not diagnosed until adulthood—if at all—likely have “subtler symptoms or strong compensatory strategies.”<sup>232</sup>

A 2020 study published in the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders* and produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates there are 9,968 adult females and 38,850 adult males in Utah living with ASD—a prevalence of 0.93 percent for women and 3.63 percent for men (a total prevalence of 2.28 percent).<sup>233</sup> Based on these figures, there are about 5,328 adult men and 2,219 adult women (7,467 total) with ASD in Utah County. Note that this is an estimate of adult persons with ADS—not adults with known diagnoses.

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<sup>231</sup> Bishop-Fitzpatrick, L., & Kind, A. J. H. (2020). Early detection and diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder: Why is it so difficult? *Seminars in Pediatric Neurology*, 34, 100804. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.spen.2020.100804>, (100804)

<sup>232</sup> Huang, Y., Arnold, S. R. C., Foley, K.-R., & Trollor, J. N. (2021). Underdiagnosis and referral bias of autism in adults. *Molecular Autism*, 12(1), 30. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13229-021-00437-0> (

<sup>233</sup> Dietz, P.M., Rose, C.E., McArthur, D. et al. National and State Estimates of Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders* 50, 4258–4266 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-020-04494-4>

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, through its Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network, found that “prevalence of ASD among children aged 8 years was higher in 2022 than previous years. ASD prevalence was higher among A/PI [Asian/Pacific Islander], Black, and Hispanic children aged 8 years than White children aged 8 years, continuing a pattern first observed in 2020. A/PI, Black, and Hispanic children aged 8 years with ASD were also more likely than White or multiracial children with ASD to have a co-occurring intellectual disability. Identification by age 48 months was higher among children born in 2018 compared with children born in 2014, suggesting increased early identification consistent with historical patterns.”<sup>234</sup>

Tracking by the Utah Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (UT-ADDM) Program—conducted in Salt Lake, Tooele, and Davis Counties—showed that known ASD prevalence in Utah is lower than national figures. ADDM estimates one in 40 8-year-old children in the three-county area have ASD, and 1.3 percent of four-year-old children do. It found that eight-year-old children living in lower-income neighborhoods have a higher rate of ASD than those in higher-income areas.<sup>235</sup>

The difficulty in determining the number of individuals with ASD is, in 2025, insurmountable. Using the figures from the Bradshaw, et. al. and Shaw, et. al. studies, it is estimated that around 4,510 children in Utah County have ASD.

In April 2025, the CDC released new national estimates of the ratio of children with ASD: one in 31.<sup>236</sup> This figure is based partially on the Bradshaw, et. al and Shaw, et. al studies. Using this figure, it is estimated that there are 7,095 Utah County children with ASD. However, local social service and healthcare professionals indicate this figure is woefully low.<sup>237</sup>

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<sup>234</sup> Kelly A Shaw et al., “Prevalence and Early Identification of Autism Spectrum Disorder Among Children Aged 4 and 8 Years – Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network , 16 Sites , United States , 2022,” vol. 74 (Washington, D.C., 2025).

<sup>235</sup> Ibid.

<sup>236</sup> Bohnsack, Chris. “CDC Releases New Autism Prevalence: 1 in 31 Children in the U.S. Identified With Autism.” Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center (SARRC), 16 Apr. 2025, [autismcenter.org/autismprevalence](https://autismcenter.org/autismprevalence). Retrieved 15 July 2025.

<sup>237</sup> Personal communication, 29 May 2025



**Table 110: Prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorder per 1,000 Children Aged 8 Years by Sex, Race, and Ethnicity: State vs. U.S. (Bradshaw, et. al., 2023)**

Prevalence by Sex (95% CI)		Prevalence Ratio (95% CI)		Prevalence by Race (95% CI)						Prevalence Ratio (95% CI)		
				Male	Female	Male to Female	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic			Multiracial
Utah	39.9 (36.6-43.5)	12.3 (10.5-14.5)	3.2 (2.7-3.9)**	27.4 (19.3-38.6)	45.7 (29.4-70.2)	28.5 (24.3-33.4)	12.4 (7.4-20.7)	25.4 (23.1-28.0)	1.1 (0.8-1.5)	1.8 (1.1-2.8)**	1.1 (0.9-1.4)	0.5 (0.3-0.8)**
Total	49.2 (48.1-50.3)	14.3 (13.7-15.0)	3.4 (3.3-3.6)**	38.2 (35.4-41.2)	36.6 (35.1-38.1)	33 (31.7-34.4)	31.9 (29.0-35.1)	27.7 (26.8-28.7)	1.4 (1.3-1.5)**	1.3 (1.3-1.4)**	1.2 (1.1-1.3)**	1.2 (1.0-1.3)**

\*\*Significant prevalence ratio

### 2.4.2.6 Suicide

General data on suicide is in section 2.1.8.2.7. From 1999 to 2023, Utah County lost 1,357 males and 359 females to suicide. The annual rate for males ranged from 14.61 per 100,000 (2010) to 29.8 (2022). For females, the range is from too small to publish to 10.46.<sup>238</sup>

Suicide by Sex, Utah County: Rate per 100,000 Population and Number, 1999 – 2023

	Male		Female	
	Rate per 100,000	Number	Rate per 100,000	Number
1999-2023	23.47	1,357	6.33	359
1999	20.47	30	**	**
2000	19.89	30	**	**
2001	21.14	36	**	**
2002	20.36	35	**	**
2003	19.64	32	**	**
2004	24.07	42	7.36	13
2005	24.50	47	**	**
2006	21.57	33	9.25	16
2007	17.15	33	**	**
2008	19.81	42	**	**
2009	21.01	47	7.48	13
2010	14.61	37	**	**
2011	26.21	60	4.78	12
2012	26.24	59	7.21	18
2013	29.02	68	5.09	15
2014	22.77	61	6.47	17
2015	28.00	70	9.74	23
2016	21.58	56	8.22	22
2017	23.16	65	10.41	25
2018	25.75	71	7.66	22
2019	26.62	83	7.53	22
2020	28.33	89	10.46	28
2021	20.33	64	4.83	15
2022	29.8.0	93	6.24	19
2023	22.95	74	8.36	27

<sup>238</sup> Utah Department of Health and Human Services, IBIS query

From 2019 to 2023, 477 individuals took their lives in Utah County; 376 were male and 101

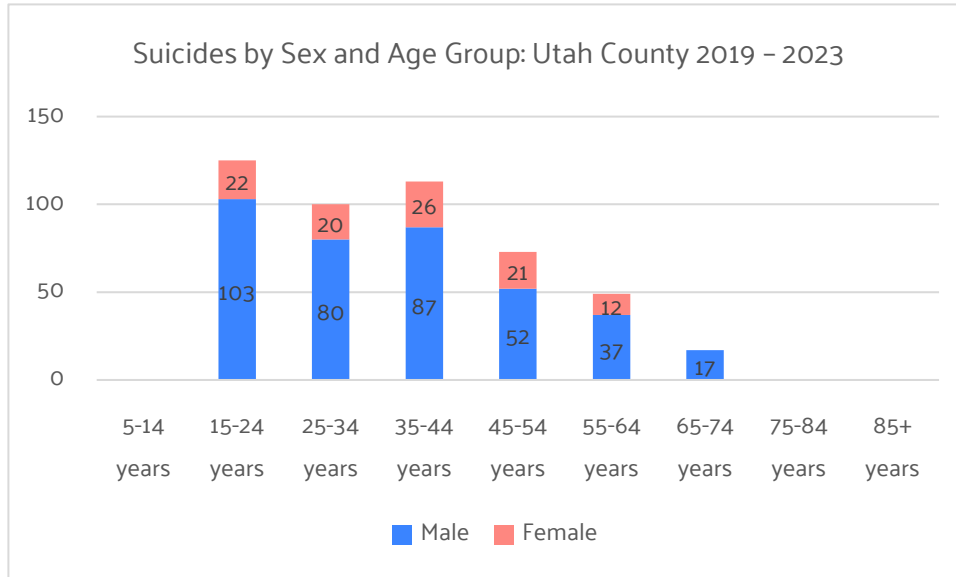


Figure 130: Suicides by Sex and Age Group: Utah County 2019 - 2023

were female. These include 103 males age 15 to 24 and 22 females of the same age group. There were either no suicides younger than 15 in the County during this time period, or the number is so small it is inappropriate to publish. During this same period, there

were 17 men age 65 to 74 who took their own lives; now women older than 64 did so.<sup>239</sup>

#### 2.4.2.6.1 Suicidal Ideation and Youth

Since 2003, the state has conducted a Student Health and Risk Prevention (SHARP) survey among adolescent students. The study, which is administered every two years, is intended to assess substance use, anti-social behavior, and risk and protective factors among students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12, and is conducted among most public and some charter schools. Because it is anonymous, it can provide confidential data to help parents, community leaders, and public policy makers build stronger individual, family, neighborhood, and community connections and outcomes.

Among the topics included in the SHARP survey are suicide ideation and concerns. The grade level of students who have consistently had the highest level of affirmative responses when asked whether they have seriously considered attempting suicide is grade 10. Since 2019, about one in five students of this age group say they have considered taking their own life; this is

<sup>239</sup> Ibid.

consistent among Utah County and statewide students. For all age groups, the percentage has increased from 15.2 percent in 2019 to 17.0 percent in 2023; the state rate for 2023 is 17.6 percent.<sup>240</sup>

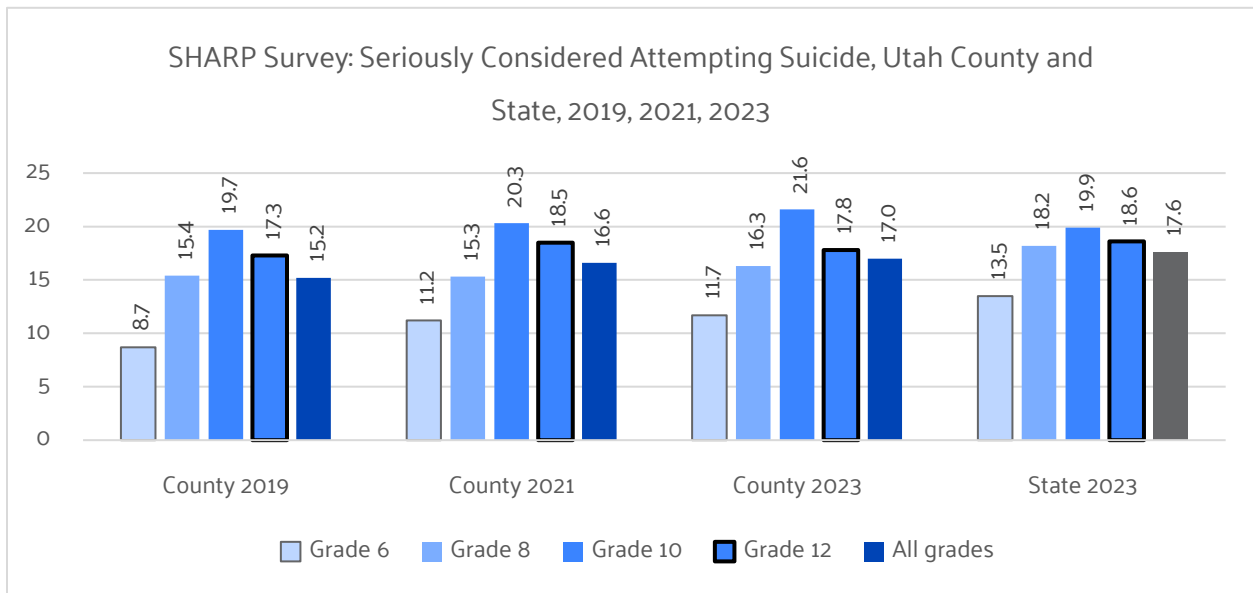


Figure 131: SHARP Survey: Seriously Considered Attempting Suicide, Utah County and State, 2019, 2021, 2023

The percentage of grade 6 students in Utah County who say they have made plans to commit suicide has increased from 5.8 percent to 9.4 percent from 2019 to 2023.<sup>241</sup>

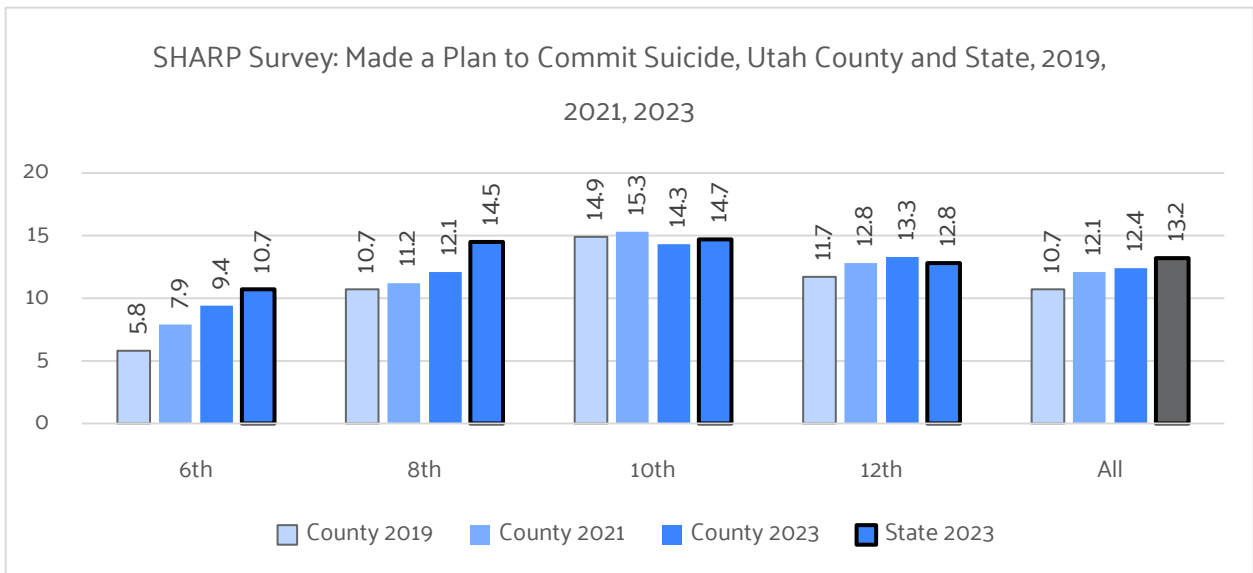


Figure 132: SHARP Survey: Made a Plan to Commit Suicide, Utah County and State, 2019, 2021, 2023

<sup>240</sup> 2023 Student Health and Risk Prevention Needs Assessment Survey Results for Utah County

<sup>241</sup> Ibid.

Nearly 6 percent of all County students indicate they have attempted suicide, compared to 7.3 percent statewide.<sup>242</sup>

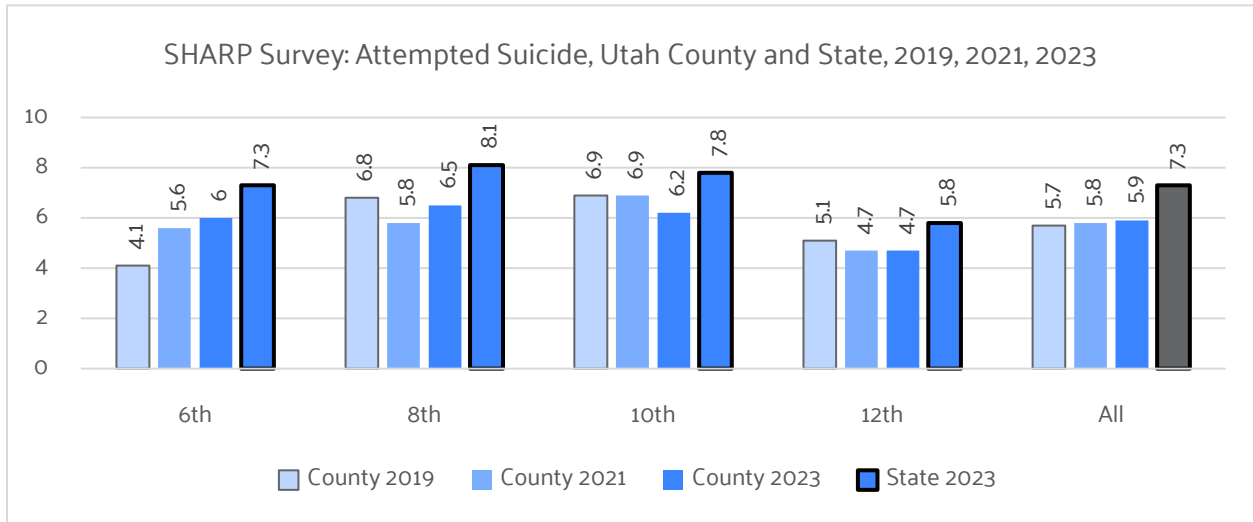


Figure 133: SHARP Survey: Attempted Suicide, Utah County and State, 2019, 2021, 2023

Since 2019, the percent of grade 12 students who have purposefully harmed themselves without the intention of committing suicide increased from 14.1 percent to 21.5 percent.<sup>243</sup>

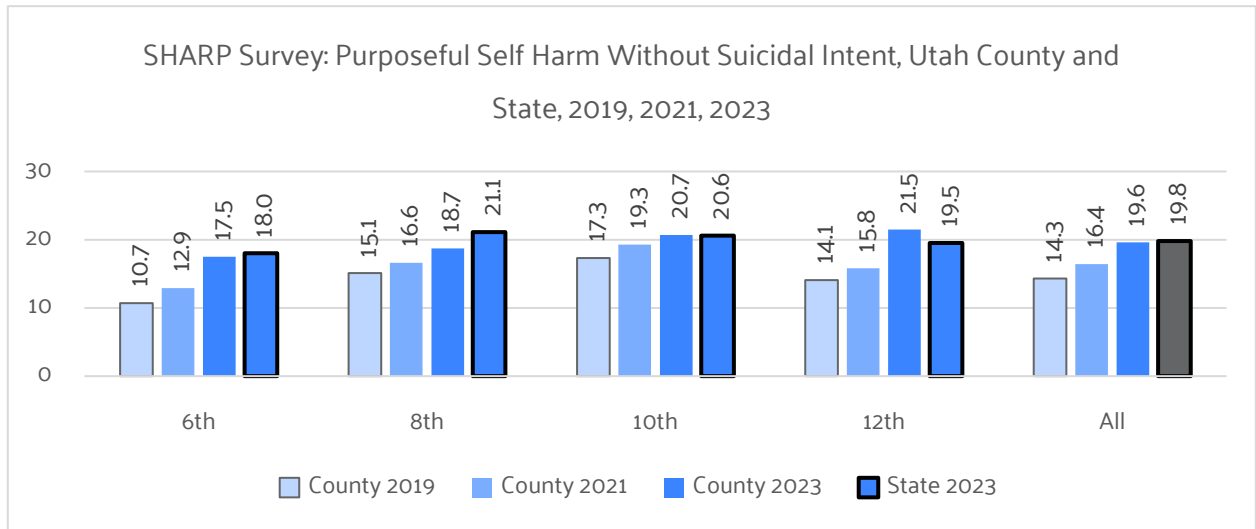
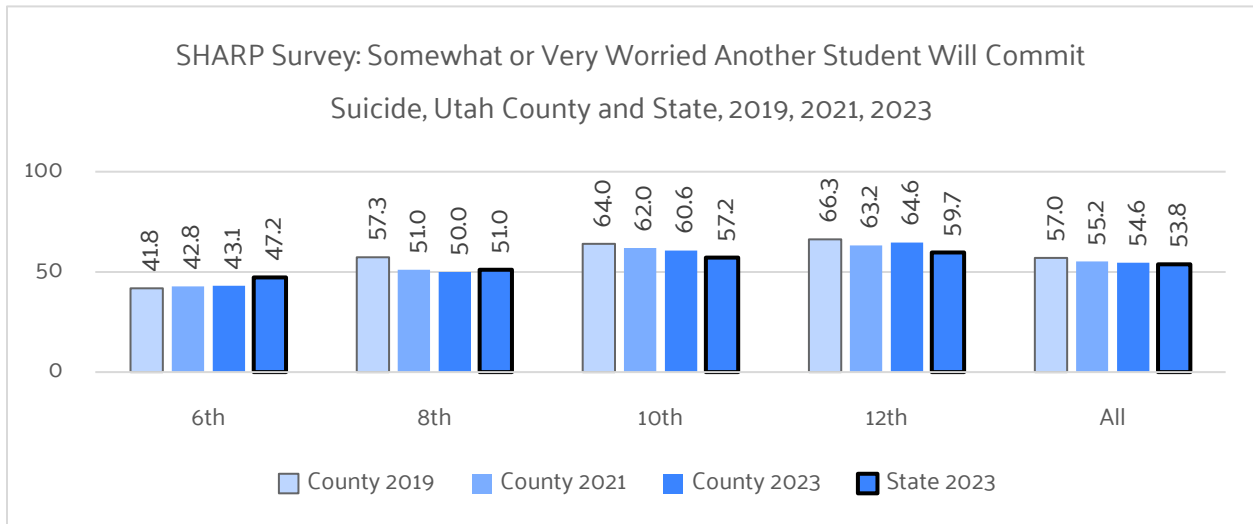


Figure 134: SHARP Survey: Purposeful Self Harm Without Suicidal Intent, Utah County and State, 2019, 2021, 2023

<sup>242</sup> Ibid.

<sup>243</sup> Ibid.

Adolescents are worried about suicide. among adolescents Although the percentage of students who say they are concerned that another student may take his own life has decreased from 57.0 percent to 54.6 percent from 2019 to 2023, the concern among grade 6 students his increased—rising from 41.8 percent to 43.1 percent.



**Figure 135: SHARP Survey: Somewhat or Very Worried Another Student Will Commit Suicide, Utah County and State, 2019, 2021, 2023**

#### 2.4.2.7 Adverse Childhood Experiences

In recent decades, the study of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and their effects on later life has brought new focus to child rearing. Medical and social scientists have learned of the association between childhood events—such as witnessing or being a victim of violence, having a family member die, living with someone who was incarcerated, had severe drinking or substance abuse problems, or suffered from significant mental health—and resiliency and success in adulthood.

Utah’s Department of Health and Human Services collects data as part of its Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). Respondents are asked the following questions about their childhoods.<sup>244</sup>

- Did you live with anyone who was depressed, mentally ill, or suicidal?

<sup>244</sup> Utah Department of Health and Human Services, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

- How often did anyone at least 5 years older than you or an adult, try to make you touch them sexually?
- How often did anyone at least 5 years or older than you or an adult, force you to have sex?
- Did you live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic?
- Did you live with anyone who used illegal street drugs or who abused prescription medication?
- Did you live with anyone who served time or was sentenced to serve time in a prison, jail, or other correctional facility?
- Were your parents separated or divorced?
- How often did your parents or adults in your home ever slap, hit, kick, punch or beat each other up?
- Before age 18, how often did a parent or adult in your home ever hit, beat, kick, or physically hurt you in any way? Do not include spanking.
- How often did a parent or adult in your home ever swear at you, insult you, or put you down?
- How often did anyone at least 5 years older than you or an adult ever touch you sexually?

Respondents who indicate four or more of these experiences are considered to be at risk of other challenges. For example such individuals are , 7.4 times more likely to suffer from alcoholism and 12.2 times more likely to attempt suicide.<sup>245</sup>

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<sup>245</sup> Felitti, V. J., Anda, R. F., Nordenberg, D., Williamson, D. F., Spitz, A. M., Edwards, V., Koss, M. P., & Marks, J. S. (1998). Relationship of childhood abuse and household dysfunction to many of the leading causes of death in adults: The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 14(4), 245-258. doi:10.1016/S0749-3797(98)00017-8

Adverse Childhood Experiences: 4 or More,  
State vs. County, 2013, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022

	State	Utah County
Overall	17.3	14.5
2013	14.1	9.4
2016	16.0	13.2
2018	15.8	13.3
2020	19.9	16.9
2022	20.7	18.8

Between 2013 and 2022, the percentage of respondents who reported four or more ACEs increased from 9.4 percent to 18.8 percent. This compares to a statewide increase from 14.1 percent to 20.7 percent over the same period. The overall County and State percentage for this period is 14.5 and 17.3, respectively.<sup>246</sup>

**2.4.2.8 Mental and Emotional Well-Being**

Mental health and well-being are critical aspect of overall health. The association between mental, emotional, and physical health are well documented; policymakers, employers, school and elected officials, and others are working to improve the quality of life in all these areas.

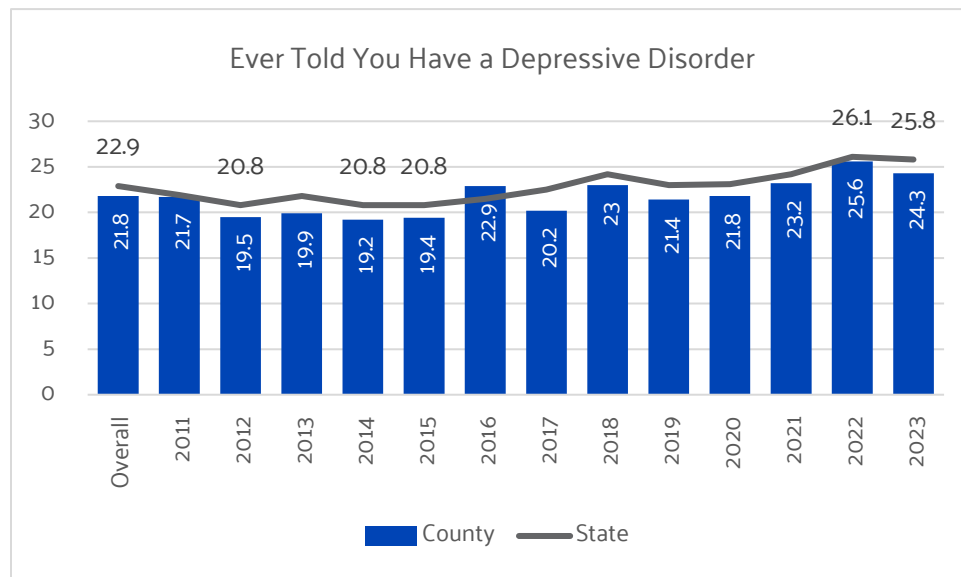


Figure 136: Ever Told You Have a Depressive Disorder

According to the latest data from the Utah Department of Health and Human Services, about one in four adults in Utah County have been told by a doctor they have a depressive disorder; this percentage has remained constant

<sup>246</sup> Ibid.

since 2011, when BRFSS began collecting this data in its annual survey. The lowest this percentage has been since then was in 2014, when 19.2 percent of respondents indicated affirmatively. The highest was in 2022, when 25.6 percent so indicated.<sup>247</sup>

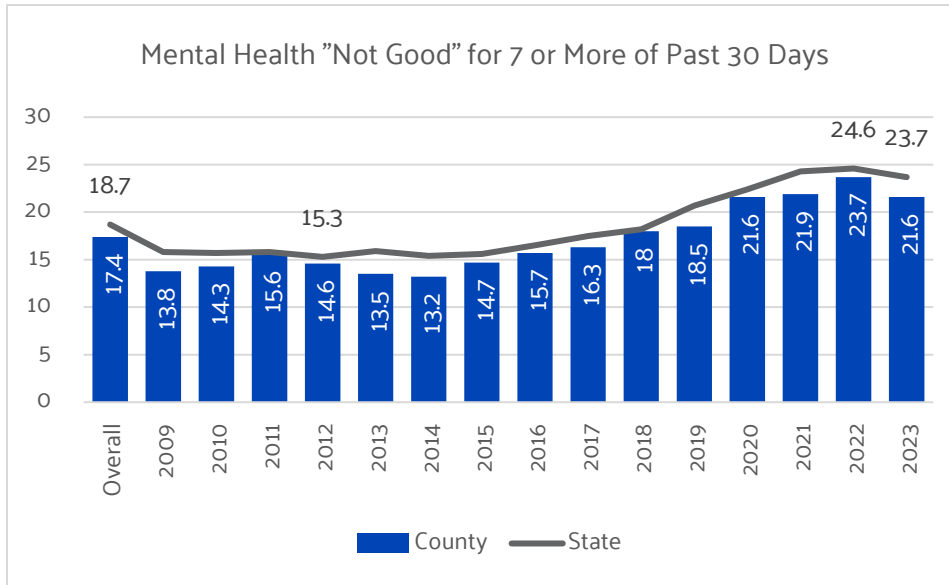


Figure 137: Mental Health "Not Good" for 7 or More of Past 30 Days

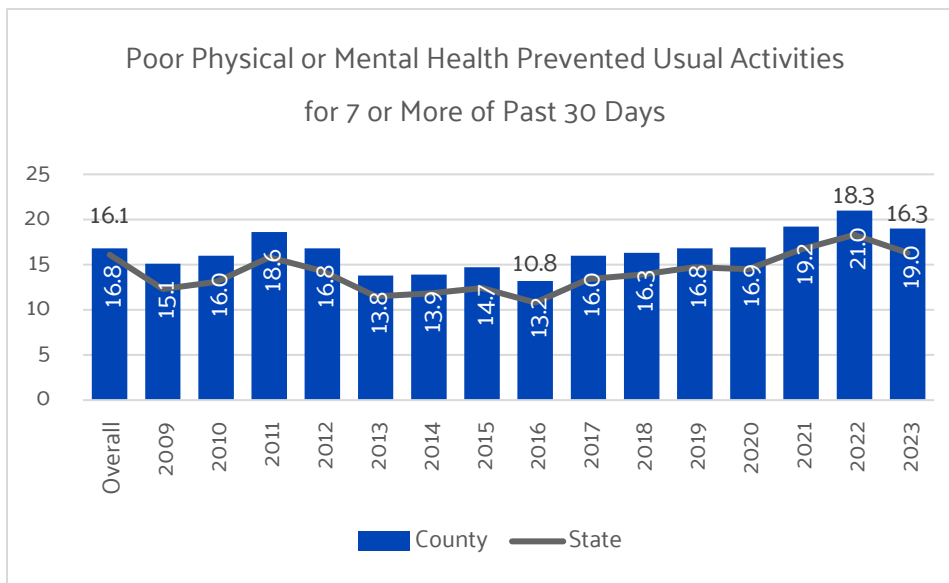


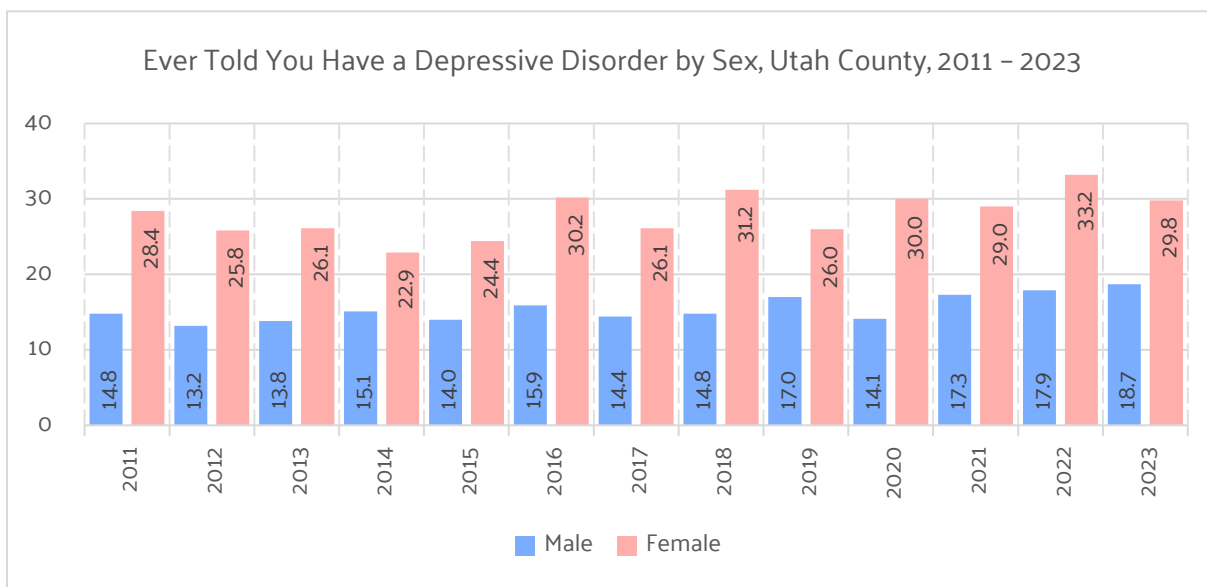
Figure 138: Poor Physical or Mental Health Prevented Usual Activities for 7 or More of Past 30 Days

A related item on the BRFSS survey is regarding general mental health: "Now thinking about your mental health, which includes stress, depression, and problems with emotions, for how many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good?" In 2023, 21.6 percent indicated it was "not good" for seven days or more—a decrease from 2022's 23.7 percent. In response to the question, "During the past 30

<sup>247</sup> Ibid.

days, for about how many days did poor physical or mental health keep you from doing your usual activities, such as self-care, work, or recreation?,” 19.0 percent indicated seven or more days. This is down from 2022’s 21.0 percent, but higher than the state rate of 16.3 percent.<sup>248</sup>

Women are more likely than men to be diagnosed with a depressive disorder. In 2023, 29.8 percent of BRFSS respondents indicated they have been told by a professional that they have a depressive disorder, compared to 18.7 percent of men. The variance between men and women has been present since data was collected in 2011.<sup>249</sup>



**Figure 139: Ever Told You Have a Depressive Disorder by Sex, Utah County, 2011 - 2023**

Household income is known to be negatively correlated to depressive disorder diagnosis; that is, the higher one’s income, the less likely one is to be diagnosed with depression.<sup>250</sup> Utah County’s figures seem to bear this out. In 2023, 30.6 percent of respondents to the BRFSS study whose household income is less than \$25,000 reported being diagnosed with a depressive

<sup>248</sup> Ibid.

<sup>249</sup> Ibid.

<sup>250</sup> Karolien E M Biesheuvel-Leliefeld et al. "Associations of financial strain and income with depressive and anxiety disorders." *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health*, 69 (2015): 660 - 665.

<https://doi.org/10.1136/jech-2014-205088>.

disorder, while 23.3 percent of those making \$75,000 or more so indicated. The variance seems to be present each year since 2011.<sup>251</sup>

**Table 111: Ever Told You Have a Depressive Disorder by Household Income, 2011-2023**

Ever Told You Have a Depressive Disorder by Household Income, 2011-2023				
	\$0-\$24,999	\$25,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$74,999	\$75,000 or more
2011	28.7	26.4	19.6	17.1
2012	29.4	20.0	15.1	16.2
2013	31.5	23.3	17.8	13.2
2014	29.1	21.8	19.4	16.0
2015	27.6	19.9	20.7	15.6
2016	40.0	19.5	21.0	22.0
2017	24.6	25.7	18.4	16.3
2018	33.6	21.9	26.6	19.8
2019	31.8	29.1	21.9	15.7
2020	31.5	31.2	18.9	17.9
2021	27.6	29.5	27.4	20.7
2022	39.8	26.9	33.9	23.5
2023	30.6	25.9	25.4	23.3

Many large-scale studies have demonstrated a correlation between educational attainment and depressive disorder diagnosis.<sup>252</sup> Utah County’s high educational attainment makes it difficult to distinguish between persons who have not finished high school and those who have; however, the variance in those with some post-secondary education and those with a college degree is seen in

<sup>251</sup> Utah Department of Health and Human Services, IBIS query

<sup>252</sup> A. Cohen et al. "Association of Adult Depression With Educational Attainment, Aspirations, and Expectations." *Preventing Chronic Disease*, 17 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.5888/pcd17.200098>. See also Lingli Li et al. "Associations between education levels and prevalence of depressive symptoms: NHANES (2005-2018)." *Journal of affective disorders* (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2022.01.010>.

the table below. In 2023, 29.2 percent of BRFSS respondents indicated they have been diagnosed with a depressive disorder, compared to 19.7 percent of respondents with a college degree.<sup>253</sup>

**Table 112: Ever Told You Have a Depressive Disorder by Household Educational Attainment, 2011-2023**

Ever Told You Have a Depressive Disorder by Household Educational Attainment, 2011-2023				
	< High School or GED	High School or GED	Some Post- Secondary	College Graduate
2011	27.4	25.5	24.9	15.0
2012	25.1	26.3	21.5	15.6
2013	31.8	15.6	22.5	14.5
2014	16.5	21.2	22.1	17.1
2015	16.5*	19.7	19.6	18.5
2016	25.6*	17.6	24.7	20.6
2017	18.7*	22.2	22.7	15.5
2018	25.2	19.7	26.1	19.1
2019	27.8	19.7	23.9	18.3
2020	14.3*	25.4	24.8	17.6
2021	26.3*	21.8	26.7	17.9
2022	24.8*	23.0	30.6	18.7
2023	18.1*	20.4	29.2	19.7

\*Use caution in interpreting; the estimate has a coefficient of variation > 30% and is therefore deemed unreliable by Utah Department of Health and Human Services standards. Consider aggregating years to decrease the relative standard error and improve the reliability of the estimate.

#### **2.4.2.8.1 Youth Mental and Emotional Well-Being**

The biennial SHARP study, cited earlier, measures several indicators of mental and emotional wellbeing. Bach Harrison, the firm that developed the SHARP study, explains the tool’s metric of high, moderate, and no depressive symptoms.

Depression-Related Indicators are divided into two sections. The first asks about depression in the past year: During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row

<sup>253</sup> Utah Department of Health and Human Services, IBIS query

that you stopped doing some usual activities? A second part, the depressive symptoms scale, is also reported. This part is calculated from student responses to the following statements: ◦ Sometimes I think that life is not worth it. ◦ At times I think I am no good at all. ◦ All in all, I am inclined to think that I am a failure. ◦ In the past year, have you felt depressed or sad MOST days, even if you felt OK sometimes? These four depressive symptoms questions were scored on a scale of 1 to 4 (NO!, no, yes, YES!). The survey respondents were divided into three groups. The first group was the High Depressive Symptoms group who scored at least a mean of 3.75 on the depressive symptoms. This meant that those individuals marked Definitely Yes to all four items or marked Somewhat Yes to one item and Definitely Yes to three. The second group was the No Depressive Symptoms group who marked Definitely No to all four of the items, and the third group was a middle group who comprised the remaining respondents (p. 7).<sup>254</sup>

In 2023, 9.3 percent of Utah County students exhibited high depressive symptoms; this compares to 9.9 percent of students statewide.<sup>255</sup>

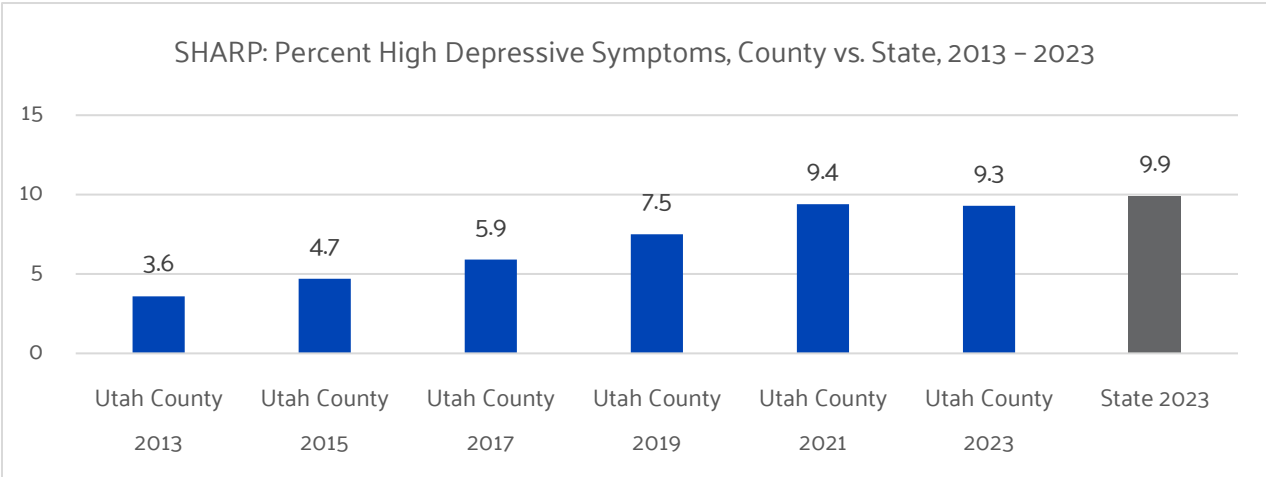


Figure 140: SHARP: Percent High Depressive Symptoms, County vs. State, 2013 - 2023

<sup>254</sup> Utah Department of Health and Human Services. “SHARP Survey: Results for Utah County LSAA” (Salt Lake City, 2023).

<sup>255</sup> Ibid.

The percent of students with high depressive symptoms in Utah County increased every survey until 2023, when the percent dropped from 9.4 in 2021 to 9.3.

The rate of high depressive symptoms has increased since 2019 for all grade levels. However, grade 6 students have increased the most: the change from 4.7 percent in 2019 to 7.1 percent in 2023 represents a 51.1 percent increase.<sup>256</sup>

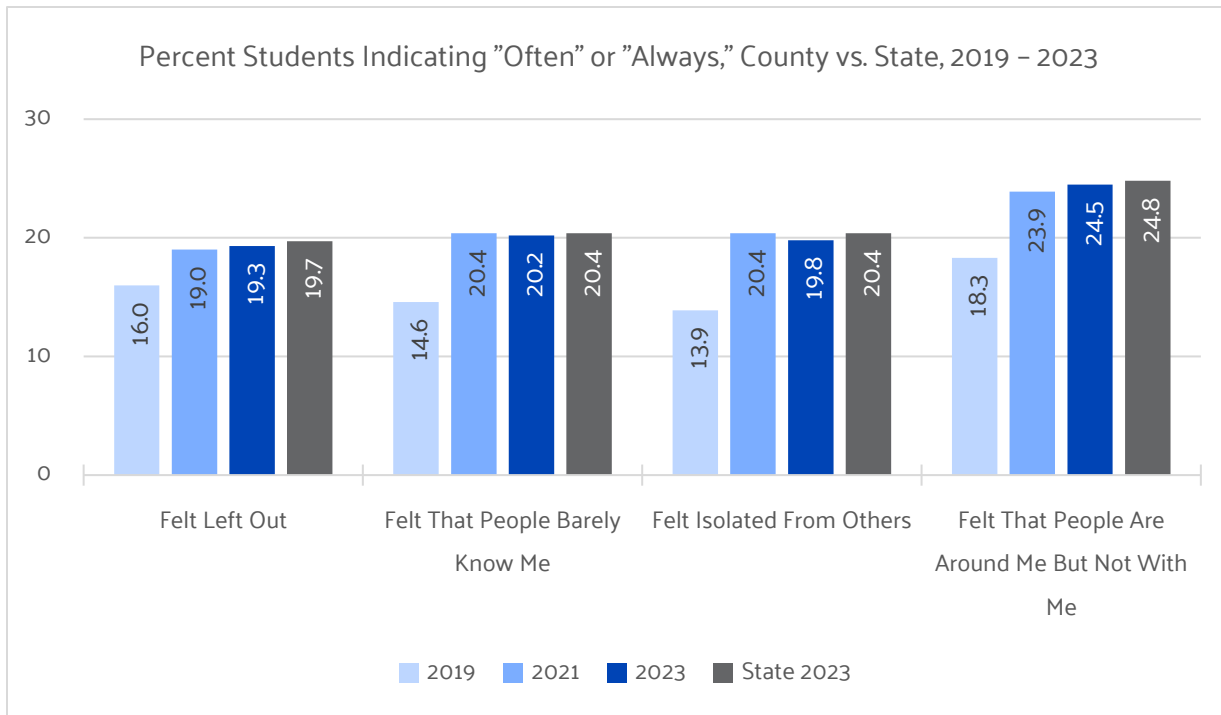
**Table 113: SHARP: High Depressive Symptoms, by Grade Level, County vs. State, 2019 – 2023**

SHARP: High Depressive Symptoms, by Grade Level, County vs. State, 2019 – 2023					
Grade Level	Utah County 2019	Utah County 2021	Utah County 2023	State 2023	
6	4.7	6.0	7.1	8.8	
8	7.5	8.5	8.9	10.4	
10	10.1	11.7	11.1	11.1	
12	7.9	10.9	10.1	9.4	
All	7.5	9.4	9.3	9.9	

About 20 percent of Utah County students say that in the past seven days, they “often” or “always” feel left out, feel that people “barely know me,” or feel isolated from others. Nearly 25 percent feel that “people are around me but not with me.” Statewide, students responded similarly in 2023<sup>257</sup>

<sup>256</sup> Ibid.

<sup>257</sup> Ibid.



**Figure 141: Percent Students Indicating "Often" or "Always," County vs. State, 2019 - 2023**

The percentage of students who indicate that in the past seven days they often or always feel left out has increased every year.<sup>258</sup>

**Table 114: In the Past 7 Days, Often or Always Felt Left Out**

In the Past 7 Days, Often or Always Felt Left Out				
Grade Level	Utah County 2019	Utah County 2021	Utah County 2023	State 2023
6	12.3	13.7	17.6	18.8
8	16.2	17.7	18.4	20.1
10	18.9	22.6	22.3	21.2
12	16.8	21.2	18.9	18.6
All	16.0	19.0	19.3	19.7

<sup>258</sup> Ibid.

The percentage of students who say that in the past seven days, they have often or always felt that people barely know them has increased from 14.6 to 20.2—only slightly below the state’s 20.4. Grade 6 students saw the smallest increase, going from 11.6 to 14.2 percent (an increase of about 22 percent); grade 12 students saw the largest, jumping from 18.0 percent to 23.9 percent. Statewide, grade 12 students are at 23.3 percent.<sup>259</sup>

**Table 115: In the Past 7 Days, Often or Always Felt People Barely Know Me**

In the Past 7 Days, Often or Always Felt People Barely Know Me				
Grade Level	Utah County 2019	Utah County 2021	Utah County 2023	State 2023
6	11.6	11.6	14.2	15.0
8	13.9	18.4	18.4	19.8
10	18.5	25.7	24.1	23.6
12	18.0	24.6	23.9	23.3
All	14.6	20.4	20.2	20.4

It is difficult to accept that the percentage of grade 6 students who say that in the past seven days, they often or always feel isolated from others almost doubled from 2019 to 2023—rising from 7.1 percent to 13.5 percent.<sup>260</sup>

**Table 116: In the Past 7 Days, Often or Always Felt Isolated from Others**

In the Past 7 Days, Often or Always Felt Isolated from Others				
Grade Level	Utah County 2019	Utah County 2021	Utah County 2023	State 2023
6	7.1	10.5	13.5	14.2
8	13.3	18.3	18.7	19.8
10	18.1	25.5	24.3	24.1
12	17.6	25.4	22.5	23.4
All	13.9	20.4	19.8	20.4

<sup>259</sup> Ibid.

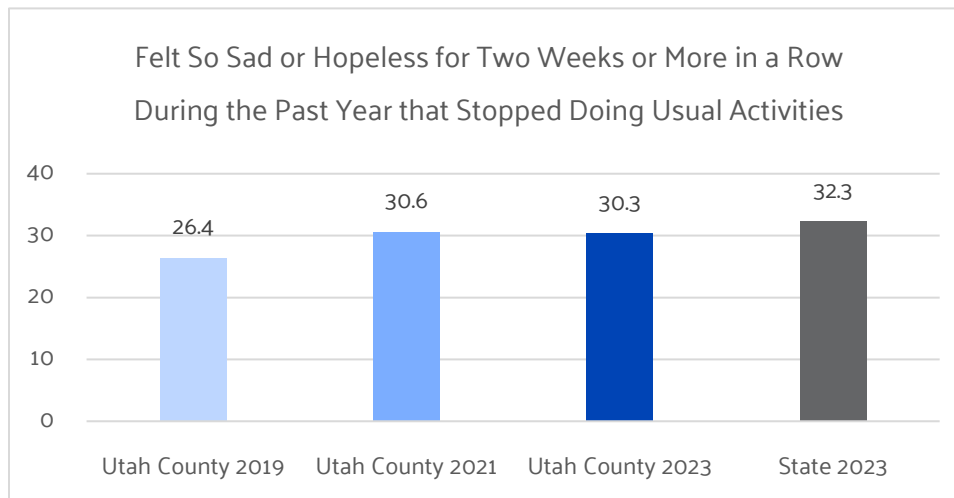
<sup>260</sup> Ibid.

More grade 6 students also indicate that in the past seven days, they often or always felt like “people are around me but not with me.” In 2019, 11.3 percent of these students so indicated; in 2023, 18.5 percent did. This is a 63.7 percent increase. Grade 6 students are approaching grade 8 students (22.1).<sup>261</sup>

**Table 117: In the Past 7 Days, Often or Always Felt People Are Around Me But Not With Me**

In the Past 7 Days, Often or Always Felt People Are Around Me But Not With Me				
Grade Level	Utah County 2019	Utah County 2021	Utah County 2023	State 2023
6	11.3	15.0	18.5	20.1
8	18.4	22.0	22.1	24.3
10	23.2	29.0	29.1	27.7
12	20.9	28.1	28.1	27.1
All	18.3	23.9	24.5	24.8

In response to the question, “During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual



activities?,” 30.3 percent of Utah County students said “yes.” This is lower than the state’s 32.3 percent, but higher than 2019’s 26.4 percent. It is virtually the same as 2021 (30.6).<sup>262</sup>

**Figure 142: Felt So Sad or Hopeless for Two Weeks or More in a Row During the Past Year that Stopped Doing Usual Activities**

<sup>261</sup> Ibid.

<sup>262</sup> Ibid.

Utah County students of all tested grades saw increases in response to this item in 2023, but—once again—grade 6 students saw the largest increase (34.5 percent), going from 17.4 percent in 2019 to 23.4 percent in 2023. Still, these students are below the state number of 26.9.<sup>263</sup>

**Table 118: Felt So Sad or Hopeless for Two Weeks or More in a Row During Past Year that Stopped Doing Usual Activities**

Felt So Sad or Hopeless for Two Weeks or More in a Row During the Past Year That Stopped Doing Usual Activities				
Grade Level	Utah County 2019	Utah County 2021	Utah County 2023	State 2023
6	17.4	21.3	23.4	26.9
8	24.5	25.3	27.6	31.2
10	33.4	36.5	34.7	34.6
12	30.8	37.1	35.3	36.7
All	26.4	30.6	30.3	32.3

#### 2.4.2.9 Disabilities

Obtaining valid data on the number of persons with disabilities is challenging due to a handful of reasons. There are variations in how “disability” is defined and measured across surveys, agencies, and self-reporting, which can lead to inconsistencies and underreporting. Additionally, data on children with disabilities is particularly difficult to find because many conditions may go undiagnosed or unreported in early years, and parents or guardians may not always disclose these issues due to stigma or lack of awareness. In addition, there is a lack of standardized screening processes, and participation in surveys is voluntary. For these reasons, this section is limited in its accuracy.

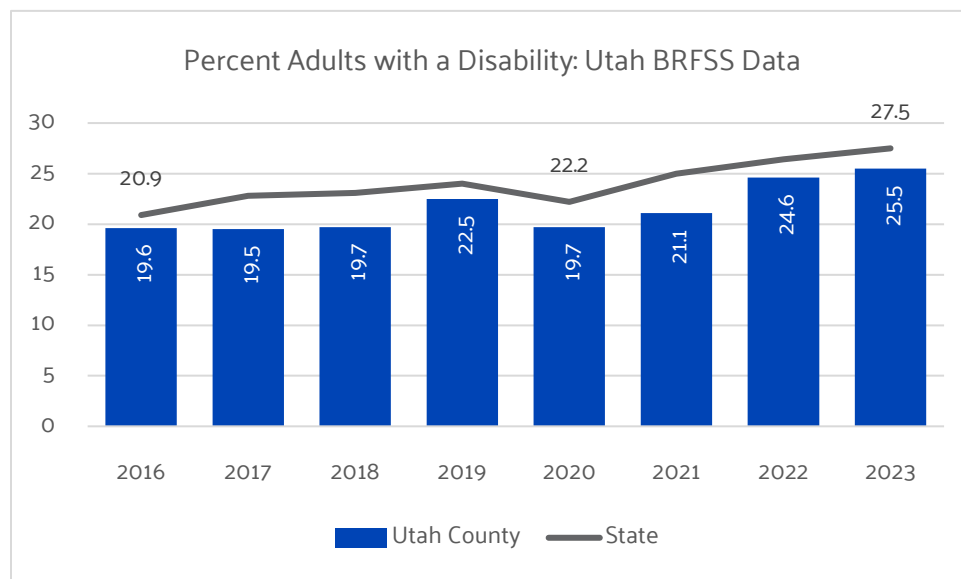
The Utah Department of Health, in its annual Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey, asks the following questions regarding disability status:

- Are you blind or do you have serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses?

<sup>263</sup> Ibid.

- Because of a physical, mental, or emotional problem, do you have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?
- Do you have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?
- Do you have difficulty dressing or bathing?
- Because of physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor’s office or shopping?
- Are you deaf or do you have serious difficulty hearing?

Those who answer in the affirmative to any of these questions are classified as having a disability. In 2023, 25.5 percent of adults have at least one type of disability. This is the highest it has been since 2016, when these items were included in BRFSS.<sup>264</sup>



**Figure 143: Percent Adults with a Disability: Utah BRFSS Data**

In addition to this local data, there is the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey that provides another perspective on persons with disabilities. Another source of data on frequency of disability status is the U.S. Census

Bureau. When using its data to report disability status, it is important to understand how disability status is determined. For sake of accuracy, this report includes the following multi-paragraph excerpt from *American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2020 Subject Definitions*:

Hearing difficulty was derived from question 17a, which asked respondents if they were “deaf or ... [had] serious difficulty hearing.” Vision difficulty was derived from question

<sup>264</sup> Utah Department of Health and Human Services, IBIS query. Results are adjusted for age.

17b, which asked respondents if they were “blind or ... [had] serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses.” Prior to the 2008 ACS, hearing and vision difficulty were asked in a single question under the label “Sensory disability.”

Cognitive difficulty was derived from question 18a, which asked respondents if due to physical, mental, or emotional condition, they had “serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions.” Prior to the 2008 ACS, the question on cognitive functioning asked about difficulty “learning, remembering, or concentrating” under the label “Mental disability.”

Ambulatory difficulty was derived from question 18b, which asked respondents if they had “serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs.” Prior to 2008, the ACS asked if respondents had “a condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying.” This measure was labeled “Physical difficulty” in ACS data products.

Self-care difficulty was derived from question 18c, which asked respondents if they had “difficulty dressing or bathing.” Difficulty with these activities are two of six specific Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) often used by health care providers to assess patients’ self-care needs. Prior to the 2008 ACS, the question on self-care limitations asked about difficulty “dressing, bathing, or getting around inside the home,” under the label “Self-care disability.”

Independent living difficulty was derived from question 19, which asked respondents if due to a physical, mental, or emotional condition, they had difficulty “doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor’s office or shopping.” Difficulty with this activity is one of several Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL) used by health care providers in making care decisions. Prior to the 2008 ACS, a similar measure on difficulty “going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor’s office” was asked under the label “Go-outside-home disability.”

Disability status is determined from the answers from these six types of difficulty. For children under 5 years old, hearing and vision difficulty are used to determine disability status. For children between the ages of 5 and 14, disability status is determined from

hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, and self-care difficulties. For people aged 15 years and older, they are considered to have a disability if they have difficulty with any one of the six difficulty types.<sup>265</sup>

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 8.1 percent of Utah County residents have some sort of disability. This compares to the state’s 9.7 percent and the country’s 12.7 percent. Those age 75 and older tend to have more disabilities, but this is true across geographies. In Utah County, 48.1 percent of those age 75 or older have disabilities. This is the same percentage as nationally and slightly above the state’s 46.4 percent.<sup>266</sup>

The older one becomes, the more likely one is to have a disability. In Utah County, only 0.3 percent of those under age 5 are classified by the U.S. Census Bureau as having a disability, although the number is likely higher than that. Five percent of those age 5 to 17 have disabilities, and 5.7 percent of those age 18 to 34. About 9.4 percent of those age 35 to 64 have disabilities, and 21.3 percent of those age 65 to 74. The following data are from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey, 2019-2023 5-year averages, Table S1810.<sup>267</sup>

**Table 119: Persons with Hearing Difficulty by Age: U.S., State, Utah County, 2023**

Persons with Hearing Difficulty by Age: U.S., State, Utah County, 2023				
	U.S.	State	Utah County	
All	3.6	3.0	2.1	
Under 18	0.5	0.5	0.4	
Under 5	0.5	0.3	0.1	
5 to 17	0.6	0.5	0.4	
18 to 64	2.0	1.8	1.3	
18 to 34	0.9	0.8	0.6	
35 to 64	2.6	2.6	2.1	
65 and over	13.5	15.0	15.1	
65 to 74	8.4	9.9	10.0	
75+	21.1	23.2	23.1	

<sup>265</sup> American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2020 Subject Definitions, pp. 63-64

<sup>266</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 ACS, Table S1810

<sup>267</sup> Ibid.

**Table 120: Persons with Vision Difficulty: U.S., State, Utah County, 2023**

Persons with Vision Difficulty: U.S., State, Utah County, 2023			
	U.S.	State	Utah County
All	2.4	1.7	1.2
Under 18	0.8	0.6	0.5
Under 5	0.4	0.2	0.1
5 to 17	1.0	0.7	0.6
18 to 64	2.0	1.5	1.2
18 to 34	1.4	1.3	1.0
35 to 64	2.4	1.8	1.4
65 and over	6.0	5.1	4.6
65 to 74	4.2	3.2	2.7
75+	8.6	8.3	7.8

**Table 121: Persons with Cognitive Difficulty: U.S., State, Utah County, 2023**

Persons with Cognitive Difficulty: U.S., State, Utah County, 2023			
	U.S.	State	Utah County
All	5.4	4.9	4.8
Under 18	4.7	4.0	4.2
18 to 64	4.9	4.9	4.6
18 to 34	5.1	5.5	5.2
35 to 64	4.8	4.4	4.0
65 and over	8.0	7.0	7.4
65 to 74	5.1	4.6	4.5
75+	12.3	10.9	12.0

**Table 122: Persons with Ambulatory Difficulty: U.S., State, Utah County, 2023**

Persons with Ambulatory Difficulty: U.S., State, Utah County, 2023			
	U.S.	State	Utah County
All	6.7	4.2	3.2
Under 18	0.6	0.5	0.5
18 to 64	4.5	3.0	2.1
18 to 34	1.2	1.0	0.7
35 to 64	6.4	4.5	3.7
65 and over	20.7	16.9	19.1
65 to 74	14.5	11.3	12.1
75+	30.1	26.0	30.2

**Table 123: Persons with Self-Care Difficulty: U.S., State, Utah County, 2023**

Persons with Self-Care Difficulty: U.S., State, Utah County, 2023			
	U.S.	State	Utah County
All	2.6	1.6	1.1
Under 18	1.1	0.8	0.8
18 to 64	1.7	1.1	0.7
18 to 34	0.9	0.7	0.5
35 to 64	2.2	1.5	0.9
65 and over	7.2	5.3	5.7
65 to 74	4.1	2.7	2.5
75+	11.9	9.5	10.6

**Table 124: Persons with Independent Living Difficulty: U.S., State, Utah County, 2023**

Persons with Independent Living Difficulty: U.S., State, Utah County, 2023			
	U.S.	State	Utah County
All	5.9	4.5	4.0
18 to 64	3.8	3.2	2.9
18 to 34	3.1	3.2	2.9
35 to 64	4.3	3.2	2.9
65 and over	13.3	10.7	12.3
65 to 74	7.3	5.5	5.8
75+	22.4	19.2	22.4

#### **2.4.2.10 Vital Statistics**

For Utah County's vital statistics, see section 2.1.8.



## **2.5 Attitudes and Concerns**

The community assessments completed in 2011, 2015, 2018, and 2022 included primary data about community values, opinions, and concerns. This year, the telephone survey was expanded to include a major sample of nearly 1,410 Utah County adults.

### **2.5.1 Methodology**

#### **2.5.1.1 Instrument**

To measure trends in Utah County, the base survey instrument that has been used for multiple Utah County community assessments over the years was replicated in 2025. Minor adjustments to the instrument have been made over the years; in 2025, seven additional items were added to the rating of community issues: poverty, food/hunger domestic violence/partner abuse/elder abuse/child abuse, racial equality/other race issues, LGBTQ equality, no sense of belonging in neighborhoods, and people dealing with long-term financial difficulties. Some of these items have been used in research instruments for other studies. A copy of the survey instrument is included in the appendix of this report.

#### **2.5.1.2 Sampling**

More than 1,400 adults in Utah County were interviewed in January and February 2025 by professional researchers. A stratified sample with oversampling was conducted to better understand any differences between communities that are newer—that is, homes built in the past 10 years—and those that are more established. Both cell phone and landline telephone numbers were used at a ratio of 73 percent cell phone and 27 percent landline. Area codes for cell phone numbers were not limited to 801 or 435 codes; all cell phone numbers in use in Utah County constituted the universe from which the sample was drawn. The margin of error for this sample size is approximately  $\pm 2.61$  percent.

#### **2.5.1.3 Method of Analysis**

Responses were recorded at the time of the interview. Responses to open-ended questions were coded both during the interview (for pre-identified possible responses) and after the interviews were completed.

Data from the oversampling was properly weighted and then analyzed using IBM SPSS, the industry standard in statistical analysis software. Frequency distributions, cross tabulations, tests of

association, prediction, and variance were conducted. With more than 100 variables in about 25 survey items, the data provides abundant opportunities for analysis. Only the summary analysis is presented in this report.

#### **2.5.1.4 Limitations**

As with any similar survey, analysis of sub-populations of the adult sample may not be possible due to an unacceptable margin of error. For example, if we were to analyze how men younger than 35 responded to various items, our sample size of 274 would result in a margin of error of  $\pm 5.92$  percent. A margin greater than 5 percent is inadequate for programming, strategy development, or trend analysis.

Despite any similarities the Utah County population may have with other counties or regions, this data is valid only for Utah County.

Although the margin of error for this study is the smallest ever achieved for this community assessment ( $\pm 2.61$  percent), there is still a chance that some data may not accurately reflect the true values, perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors of the adult population as a whole.

#### **2.5.2 Best and Worst Things About Utah County**

In each of the community assessment surveys, respondents are asked to identify the best things about living in Utah County. Respondents were probed for up to five answers. The most common response—provided by 52.4 percent of respondents, was overall quality of life. This was followed by family values or family-friendly environment (52.1 percent), recreation (51.6), the LDS church (46.8), and people, friends, or family in general (45.1).

**Table 125: What are the best things about living in Utah County?**

What are the best things about living in Utah County?		
	Frequency	Percent
Quality of life	738	52.4
Family values/family-friendly	735	52.1
Recreation	727	51.6
LDS Church	660	46.8
People/friends/family (in general)	641	45.5
Schools/education/universities	633	44.9
Mountains/other outdoor	570	40.5
Jobs/economy	544	38.6
Arts/culture	358	25.4
Climate	336	23.8
Shopping	269	19.1
Restaurants	246	17.5

Respondents were also asked to identify the most pressing issues in Utah County; this open-ended item was also coded with pre-populated options. Probing permitted up to five responses. Population growth continues to be the single most significant issue in the County, with 88.4 percent of respondents—compared to 71.0 percent in 2022. This is followed by traffic or congestion (81.2), housing costs and rental rates (65.7), air quality or air pollution (26.5), and LGBTQ issues (17.5).

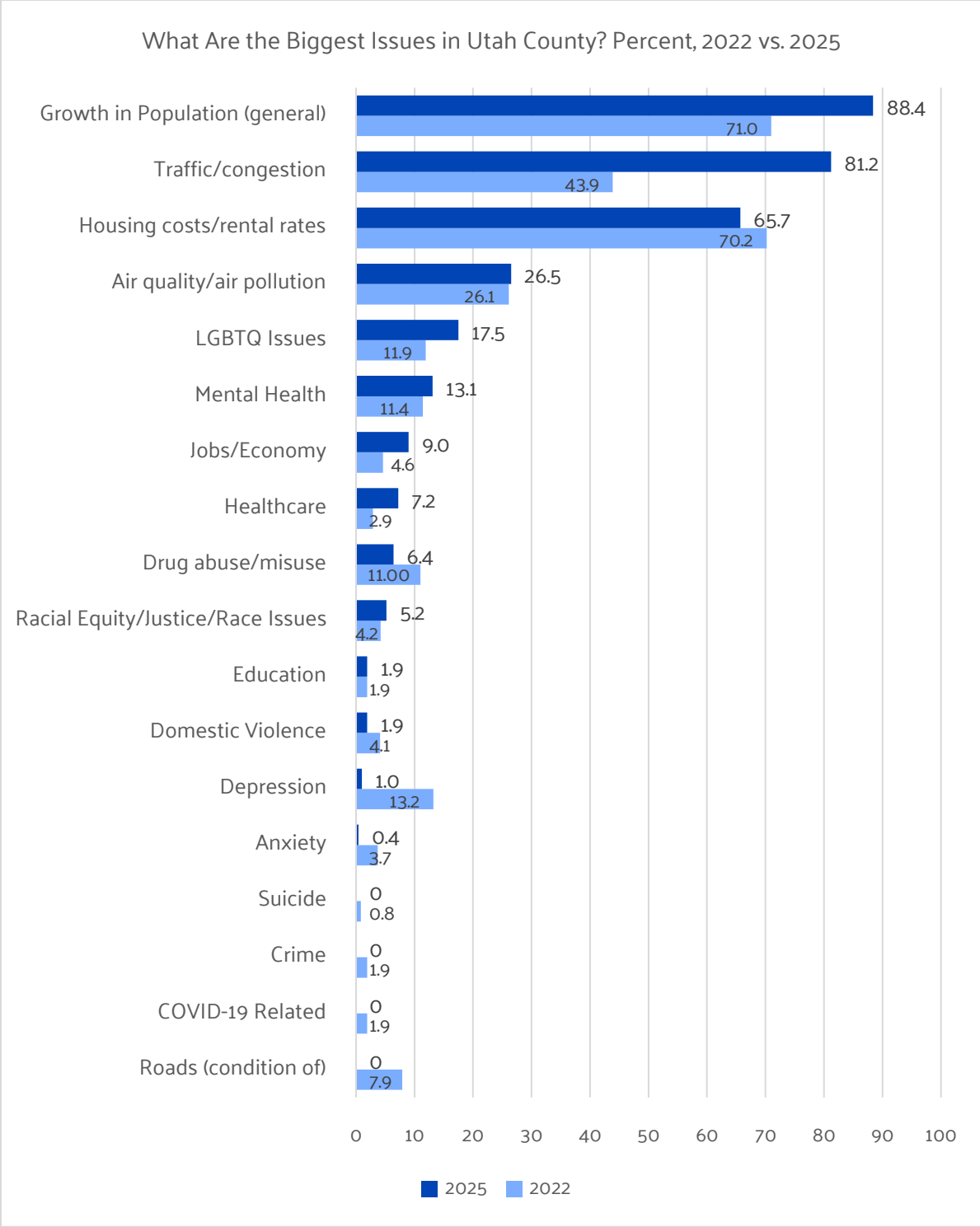
**Table 126: What are the biggest issues facing Utah County?**

What are the biggest issues facing Utah County?	Frequency	Percent
Growth in population (general)	1246	88.4
Traffic/congestion	1144	81.2
Housing costs/rental rates or related	926	65.7
Air quality/air pollution	373	26.5
LGBTQ issues	246	17.5
Mental health	184	13.1
Jobs/Economy	127	9.0
Healthcare (access to, quality of, or other related)	101	7.2
Drug abuse/misuse (over-the-counter, prescription, or illicit)	91	6.4
Racial equality/race issues	73	5.2
Domestic violence	27	1.9
Education	27	1.9
Depression	14	1.0
Anxiety	6	0.4

Comparing the concerns of 2022 to those of 2025 provides additional insight into the current issues. In particular, there were four items in 2025 that were not mentioned by any respondent:

- Roads (condition of) (7.9 in 2022)
- COVID-19 related (1.9 in 2022)
- Crime (1.9 in 2022)
- Suicide (0.8 in 2022)

A fifth item—*anxiety*—was mentioned by only 0.4 percent of respondents; in 2022, it was mentioned by 3.7 percent.



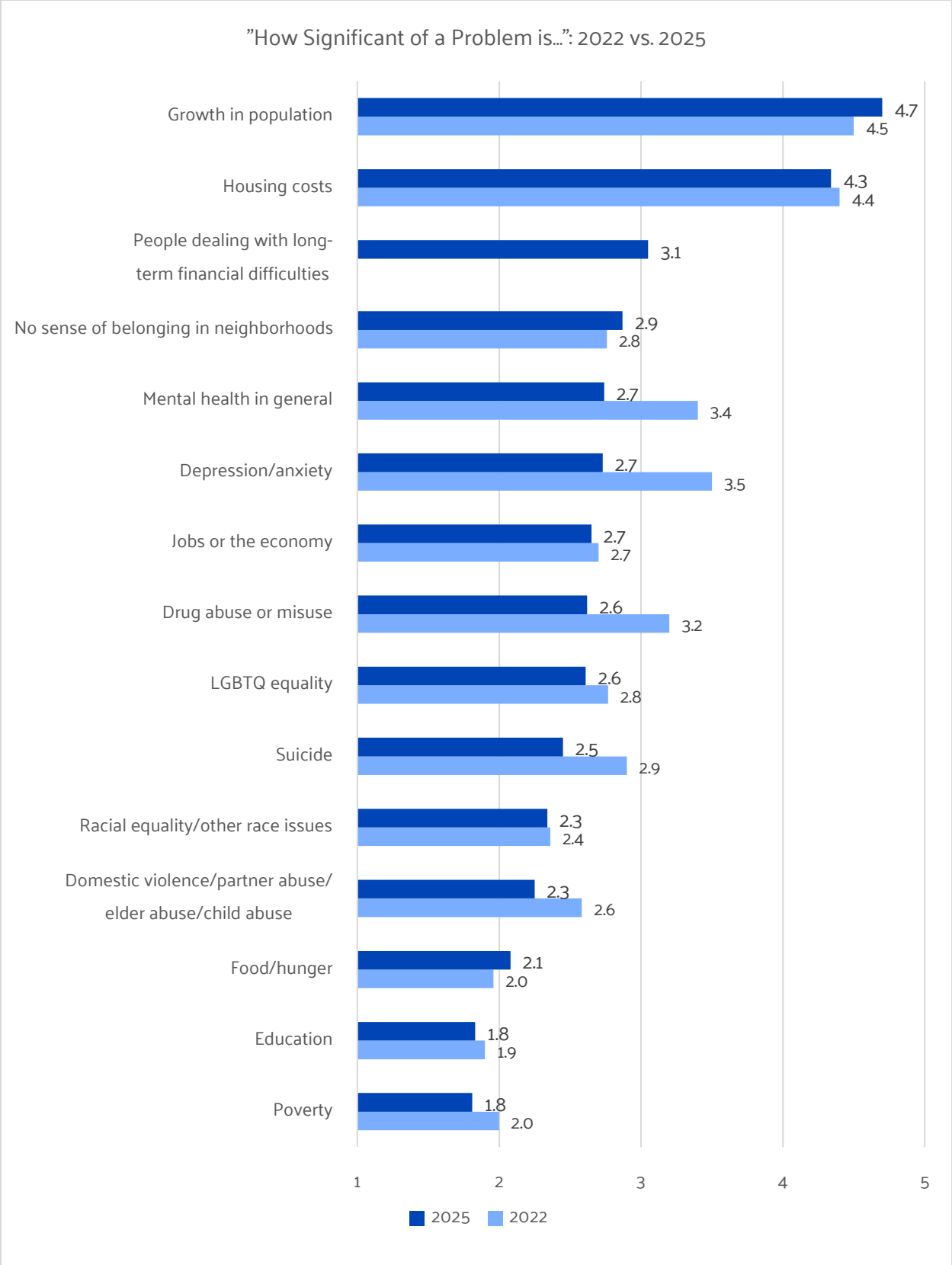
**Figure 144: What Are the Biggest Issues in Utah County? Percent, 2022 vs. 2025**

Of course, some of these issues can be grouped together—particularly mental and behavioral health issues—to understand better how the community is viewing larger concerns.

### **2.5.3 Rating of Specific Community Issues**

Respondents were also given 15 specific community issues and asked to rate how significant of a problem each is on a scale of one to five, where one means “a minor problem” and five means “a significant problem.” Mean scores help compare one issue against another. Individual scores for each help understand the intensity of concern about particular problems.

One item was added to the list of tested community issues in 2025: “people dealing with long-term financial difficulties.” This item was tested as an alternative to using the word “poverty” in human service work in the County; the phrase was developed as part of a messaging study conducted by Civicus Consulting Group on behalf of United Way of Utah County and a consortium of other human service agencies in 2024.



**Figure 145: "How Significant of a Problem is...": 2022 vs. 2025**

It is important to consider not only the median scores on these issues, but also the intensity of the responses. When this intensity is compared to 2022’s figures, even more insights can be gained.

County residents may be growing fatigued from the effects of depression and anxiety on the community. In 2022, 19.4 percent of respondents rated it a 5—or “a significant problem.” In 2025,

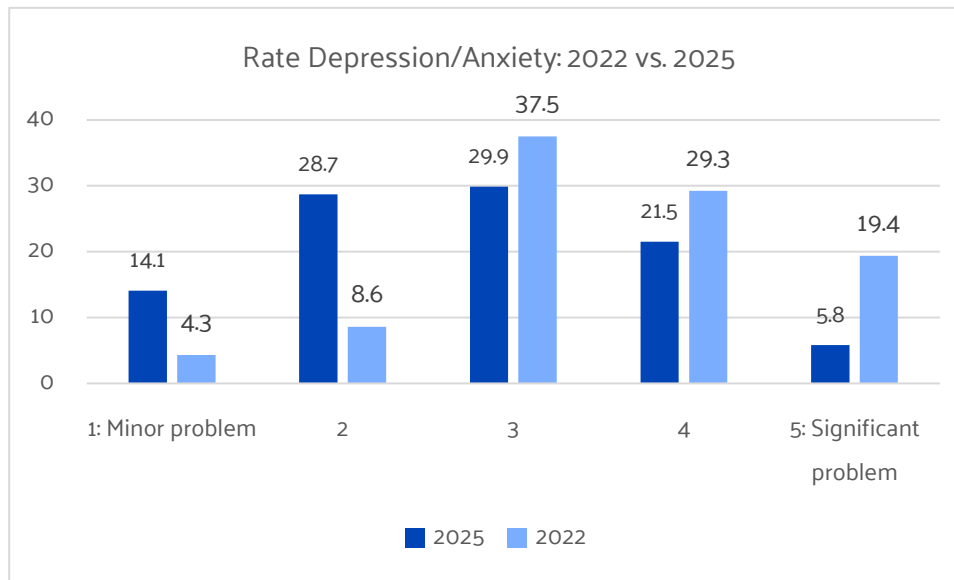


Figure 146: Rate Depression/Anxiety: 2022 vs. 2025

5.8 percent see it as such. Those who rated it a 4 have decreased as well, dropping from 29.3 percent in 2022 to 21.5 percent in 2025.

The issue of suicide has seen a similar pattern, with those rating it a 1 (“minor problem”) at 19.5 percent—up from 12.1 percent in 2022. Those who rated suicide a 2 increased from 22.6 percent in 2022 to 34.6 percent in 2025. Only 5.3 percent rated it as a significant problem in 2025.

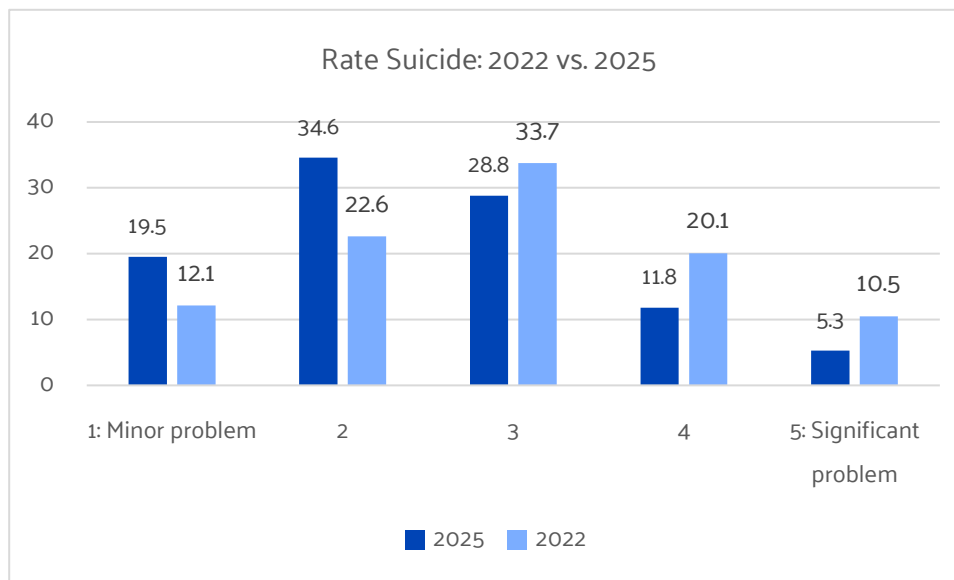


Figure 147: Rate Suicide: 2022 vs. 2025

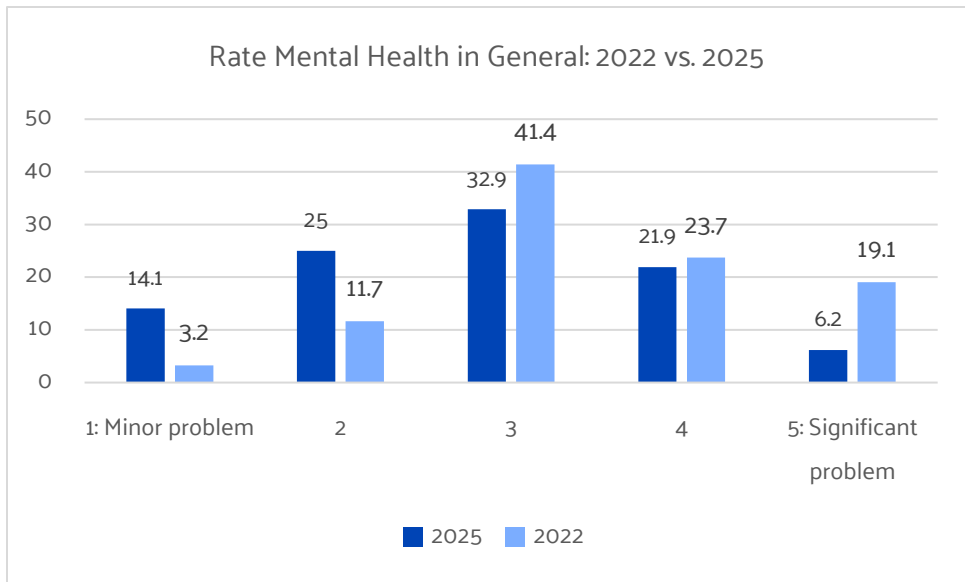


Figure 149: Rate Mental Health in General: 2022 vs. 2025

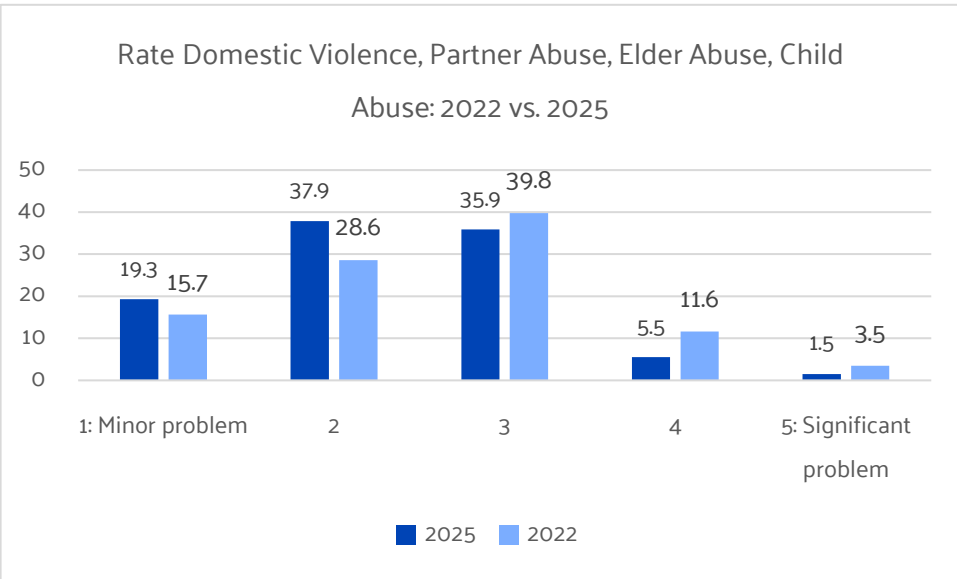


Figure 148: Rate Domestic Violence, Partner Abuse, Elder Abuse, Child Abuse: 2022 vs. 2025

Given the ratings of depression and anxiety and suicide, it is not surprising to see that the ratings for mental health in general have declined as well. In 2022, 19.1 percent of respondents rated it as a significant problem, and 3.2 percent rated it a minor problem. In 2025, the ratios have nearly reversed, with 6.2 percent giving it a 5 and 14.1 percent giving it a 1.

Domestic violence, partner abuse, elder abuse, and child abuse continue to be seen on the lower end of the community

problems scale. Fewer respondents rated it a 4 or 5 in 2025 than in 2022; more rated it a 1 or 2. The middle-of-the-road score of 3 dropped from 39.8 percent in 2022 to 35.9 percent in 2025.

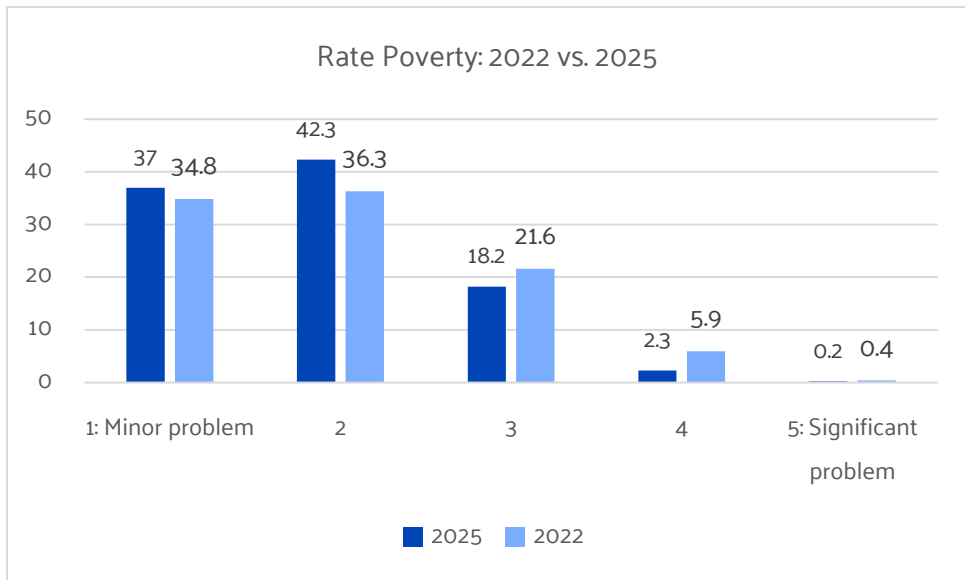


Figure 151: Rate Poverty: 2022 vs. 2025

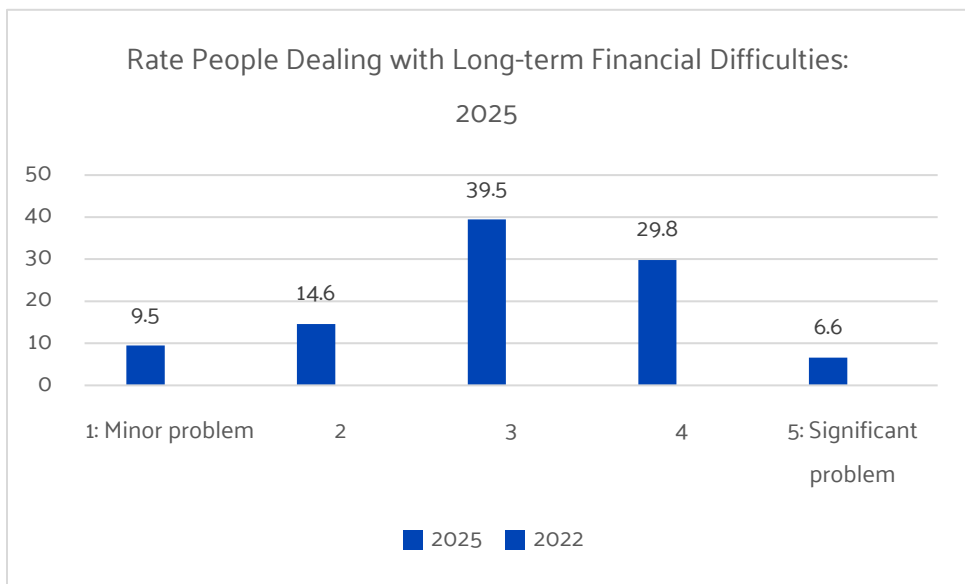


Figure 150: Rate People Dealing with Long-term Financial Difficulties: 2025

The issue of poverty in Utah County is one that is being addressed by several community organizations. Although there are many individuals and families living below federal poverty guidelines, the issue seems not to resonate with area residents. As part of a messaging study on a handful of topics in 2024, United Way recommended using the phrase “people dealing with long-term financial difficulties” instead of “poverty.” This phrase clearly resonated with

respondents to this survey. While only 2.5 percent of respondents rated “poverty” a 4 or 5, 36.4 percent rated “people dealing with long-term financial difficulties” at those levels. And although 37.0 percent said “poverty” is a minor problem in Utah County, only 9.5 percent said “people dealing with long-term financial difficulties” is.

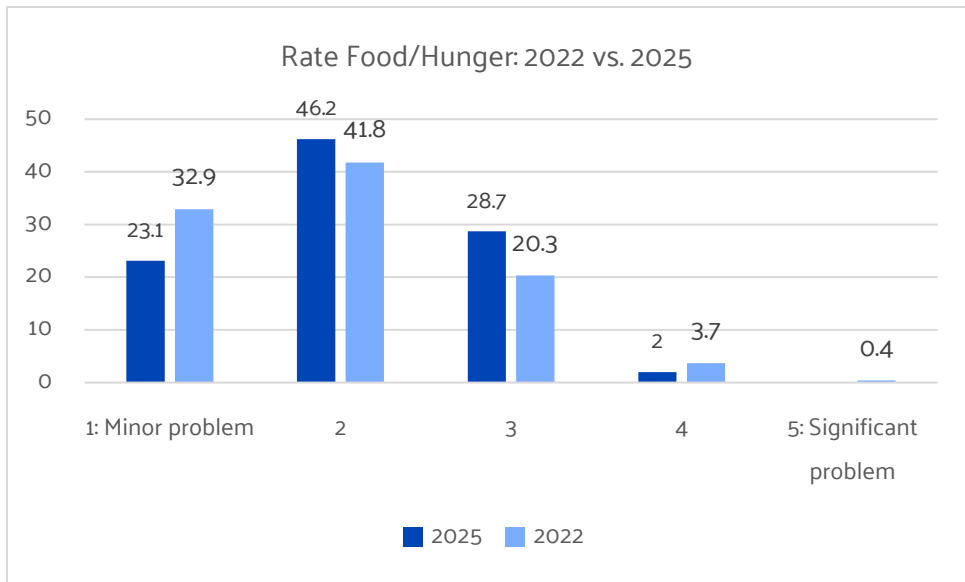


Figure 153: Rate Food/Hunger: 2022 vs. 2025

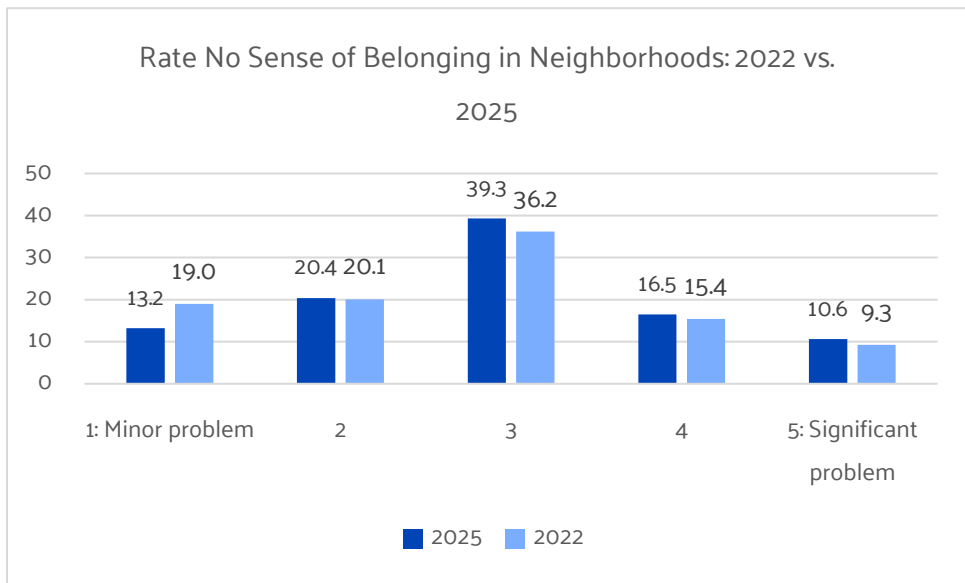


Figure 152: Rate No Sense of Belonging in Neighborhoods: 2022 vs. 2025

The issue of food and hunger may also be suffering from the lack of public understand that might be mitigated with proper messaging. Not a single respondent in the 2025 survey said it was a significant problem, and only 2.0 percent gave it a 4 on the five-point scale.

United Way of Utah County has been working more on neighborhood cohesion and loneliness in the past few years. One of the items that was added for rating in

the 2022 survey was “no sense of belonging in neighborhoods.” In general, the 2025 survey indicates respondents are a bit ambivalent toward this issue, with near-perfect bell curves in the five-point scale. In 2022, 36.2 percent gave it a 3; in 2025, 39.3 percent did.

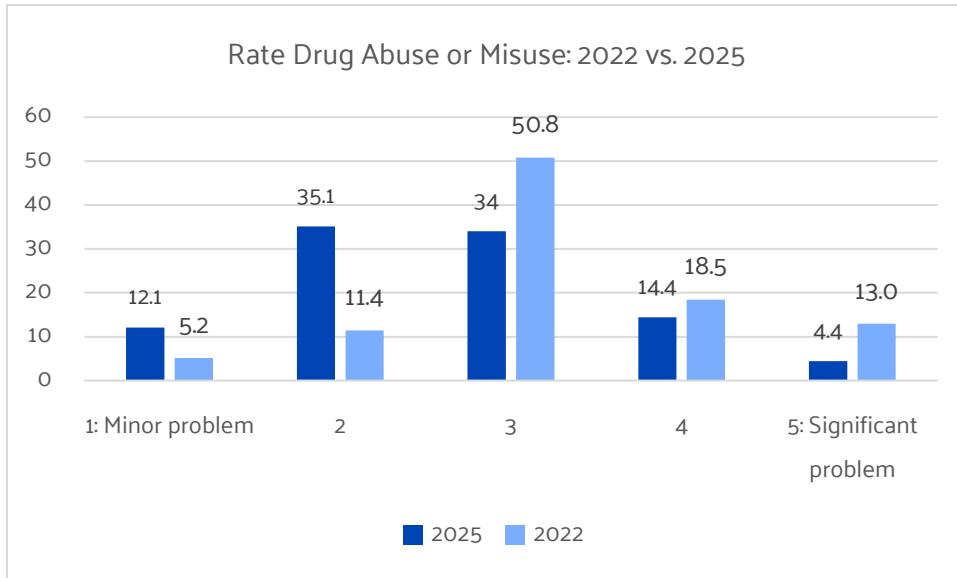


Figure 154: Rate Drug Abuse or Misuse: 2022 vs. 2025

For the most part, respondents do not see drug abuse or drug misuse as a problem in Utah County, with nearly half—47.2 percent—rating it a 1 or 2.

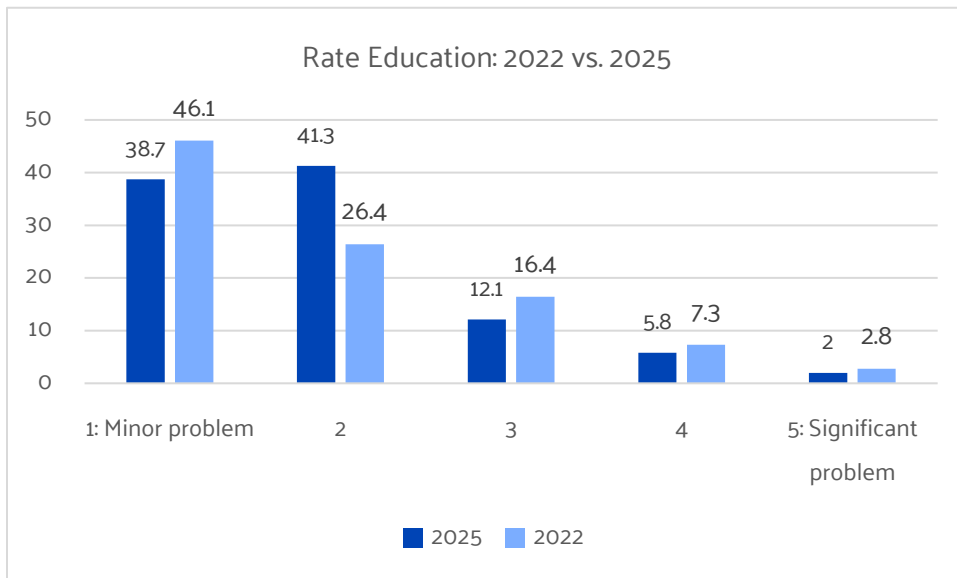


Figure 155: Rate Education: 2022 vs. 2025

Education is viewed as even less of a concern in Utah County than drugs. In 2025, 38.7 percent of respondents believe it is a minor problem, and 41.3 percent rated it 2 on the five-point scale. Only 7.8 percent gave it a 4 or 5, compared to 10.1 percent in 2022.

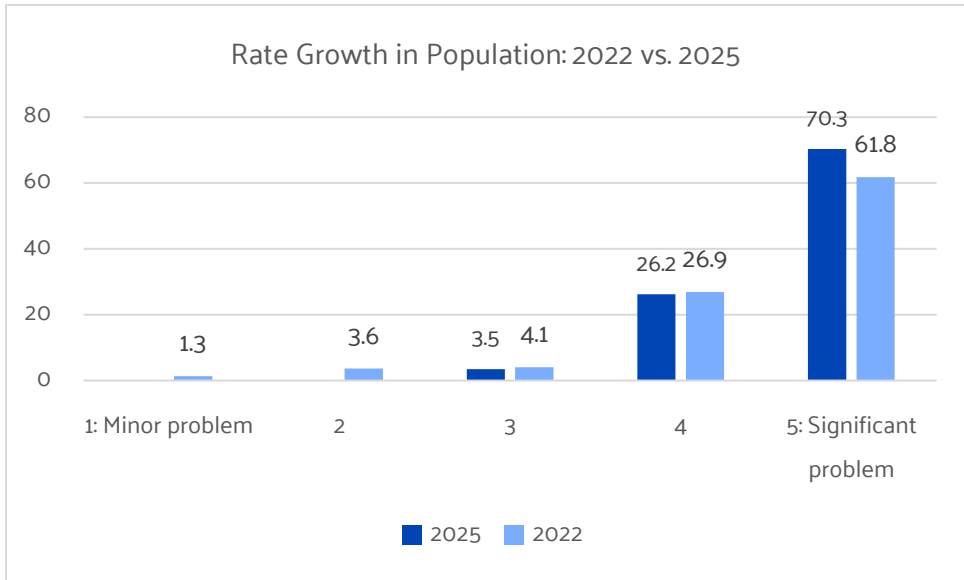


Figure 157: Rate Growth in Population: 2022 vs. 2025

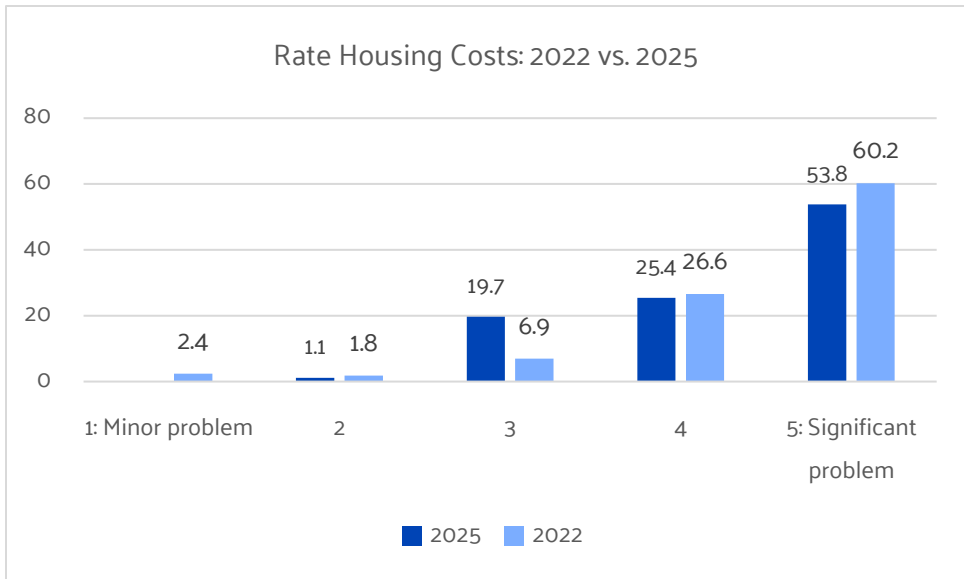
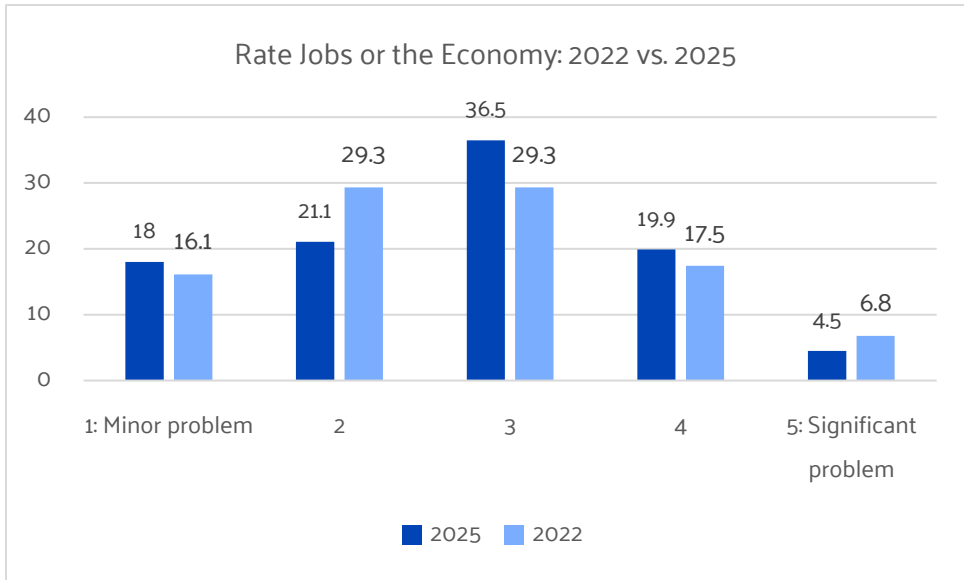


Figure 156: Rate Housing Costs: 2022 vs. 2025

Growth in the population and housing costs are the burning issues in Utah County, although there may be a bit of consumer acceptance of housing costs in recent years. In 2022, 61.8 percent of respondents said growth in population is a significant issue; this figure increased to 70.3 in 2025.

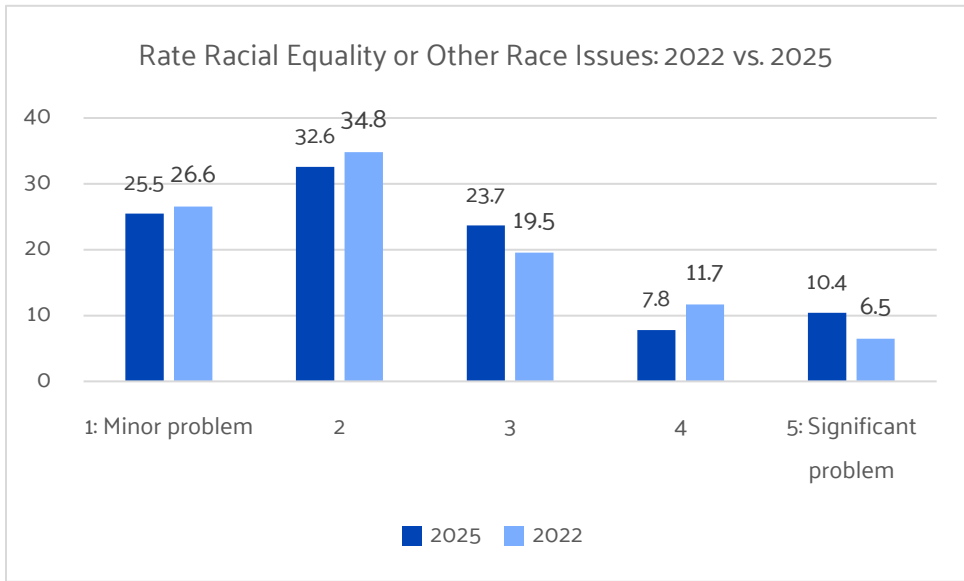
Although home sales prices and rents have increased since 2022, the number of respondents rating housing costs a 4 or 5 has decreased. In 2022, 60.2 percent indicated housing

costs was a significant problem; in 2025, this figure dropped to 53.8. Of note is that the percentage of respondents rating it at the midpoint on the five-point scale increased by about 13 percentage points—from 6.9 percent in 2022 to 19.7 percent in 2025.



Despite some recent softening of employment in Utah County, most residents see jobs or the economy as non-issues. Nearly 40 percent rated it a 1 or 2, and 36.5 percent gave it a 3.

Figure 158: Rate Jobs or the Economy: 2022 vs. 2025



Race issues are not perceived as being problems in Utah County. In 2022, 61.4 percent of respondents rated these as a 1 or two; in 2025, 58.1 percent did. These figures are within the margin of error for both studies.

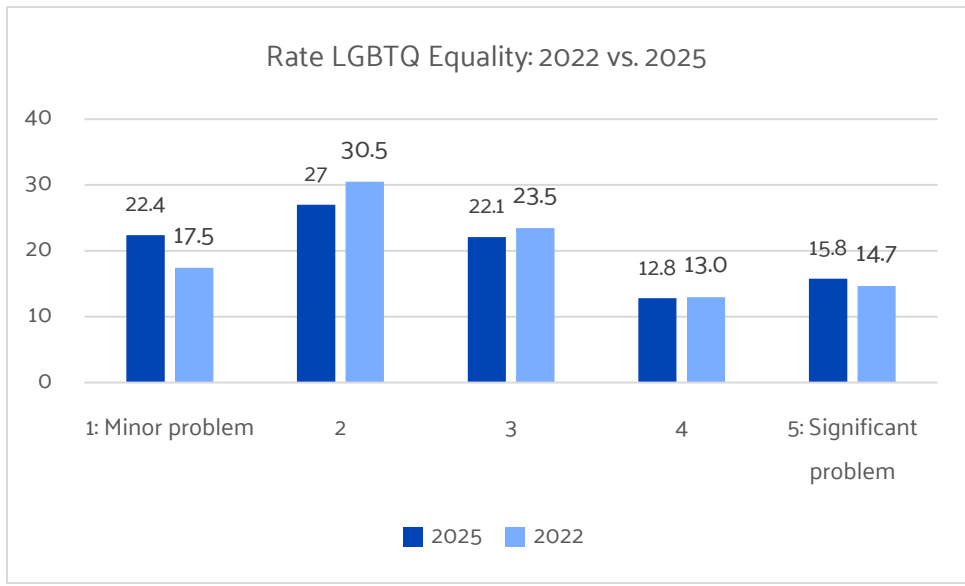


Figure 159: Rate LGBTQ Equality: 2022 vs. 2025

And although LGBTQ issues are top of mind (coming in as the fifth most-mentioned worst thing about Utah County), respondents so not seem to be extremely concerned about this topic. In fact, nearly half of respondents in 2022 (48.0) and in 2025

(49.4) rate it as a 1 or 2 on the scale of how serious of a problem it is. It is noted that in the top-of-mind test, although LGBTQ issues were the fifth most common response in 2025, it was mentioned by only 17.5 percent—behind air quality (26.5) and even farther behind other issues related to growth: housing costs (65.7), traffic or congestion (81.2), and population growth in general (88.4).

**2.5.4 Neighborhood Attachment**

**2.5.4.1 About Neighborhood Attachment and Why It Matters**

Neighborhood attachment is the emotional connection of individuals to their physical and social environments. Bonds created through neighborhood attachment are critical for emotional and physical wellbeing. Studies have shown that strong neighborhood attachment is associated with decreased crime, improved health outcomes, increased income, and improved life satisfaction.<sup>268</sup> For youth, relationships with neighborhood and other caring adults brings about

<sup>268</sup> Comstock, N., et. al. Neighborhood Attachment and Its Correlates: Exploring Neighborhood Conditions, Collective Efficacy, and Gardening, *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 30(4):435-442, December 2010.  
 Shaker, L. Community Attachment, *Oxford Bibliographies*, May 2019  
 D. Mark Austin & Yoko Baba (1990) Social determinants of neighborhood attachment, *Sociological Spectrum*, 10:1, 59-78, DOI: 10.1080/02732173.1990.9981912

improved emotional intelligence, increased sense of responsibility, improved academics, decreased incidents of risky sexual behavior, and more frequent pro-social behavior.<sup>269</sup>

#### **2.5.4.2 Status of Neighborhood Attachment in Utah County**

The 2022 community assessment survey polled Utah County This year’s community assessment marks the first time that neighborhood attachment in Utah County has been measured among a large population. Using survey items that have been demonstrated to be both reliable and valid—as well as two additional items of our own—we asked all 1,295 telephone survey respondents about their attachment to their own neighborhoods. As this is a baseline study, we have no comparative data to further analyze the data; perhaps additional studies will help track the strength of neighborhood attachment in Utah County.

In addition to our primary data, we also utilize secondary data from the state’s SHARP study, which includes items that measure adolescent neighborhood attachment.

The six items we utilize are based on Buckner’s Neighborhood Cohesion Scale.<sup>270</sup> This scale includes 18 items; its full implementation is beyond the resources of this assessment. However, by employing the six items in this survey, we are able to monitor changes in neighborhood attachment. The six items are below. Note that items 3 and 6 are reverse coded for analysis.

1. If I had to move, I would miss the neighborhood I now live in.
2. I like my neighborhood.
3. I’d like to get out of my neighborhood.
4. I know my neighbors well.
5. People in my neighborhood are available to help each other.
6. It’s difficult to find friends in this neighborhood.

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<sup>269</sup> Scales, P. C., Benson, P. L., & Roehlkepartain, E. C. (2011). Adolescent thriving: The role of sparks, relationships, and empowerment. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 40, 263-277. doi: 10.1007/s10964-010-9578-6

Hurd, N. M., (2010). Influences of Nonparental Adults on the Psychosocial Outcomes of At-Risk African American Adolescents, Doctoral Dissertation, University of Michigan.

<sup>270</sup> Buckner, John C. “The Development of an Instrument to Measure Neighborhood Cohesion.” *American Journal of Community Psychology*, vol. 16, no. 6, Dec. 1988, pp. 771-791. DOI: 10.1007/BF00930892.

Respondents were asked if they agree or disagree with various statements, and then whether they definitely agree or definitely disagree. In measuring neighborhood attachment, the distinction between “definitely agree” and “somewhat agree” (or disagree) is a critical one. Think of how a parent would respond to the statement, “I love my child.” A parent who says she “somewhat agrees” is clearly at a different place in her relationship with her child than the parent who responds she “definitely agrees.” So it is with our measures of neighborhood attachment. Although “somewhat agree” is better than disagreeing (or vice versa, as the case may be), the more meaningful data is found in the extremes.

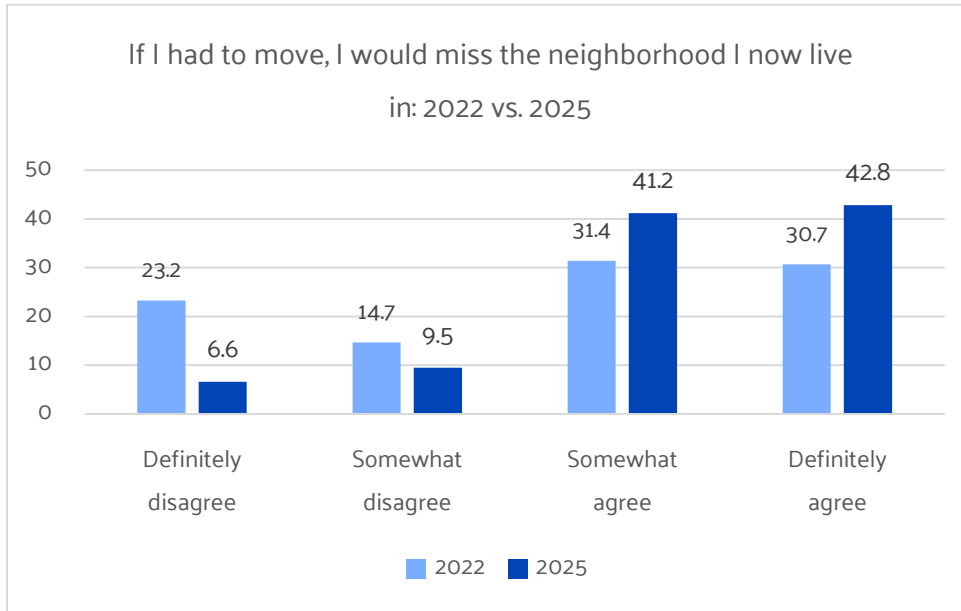
**Table 127: Neighborhood Attachment: Percent who Definitely Agree, 2022 vs. 2025**

Neighborhood Attachment: Percent who Definitely Agree, 2022 vs. 2025			
	2022	2025	Significant?
If I had to move, I would miss the neighborhood I now live in	30.7	42.8	Yes
I like my neighborhood	35.8	44.6	Yes
I'd like to get out of my neighborhood*	12.8	16.8	Yes
I know my neighbors well	20.0	36.2	Yes
People in my neighborhood are available to help each other	24.6	34.2	Yes
It's difficult to find friends in this neighborhood*	14.4	12.4	No

\*Percent definitely disagree

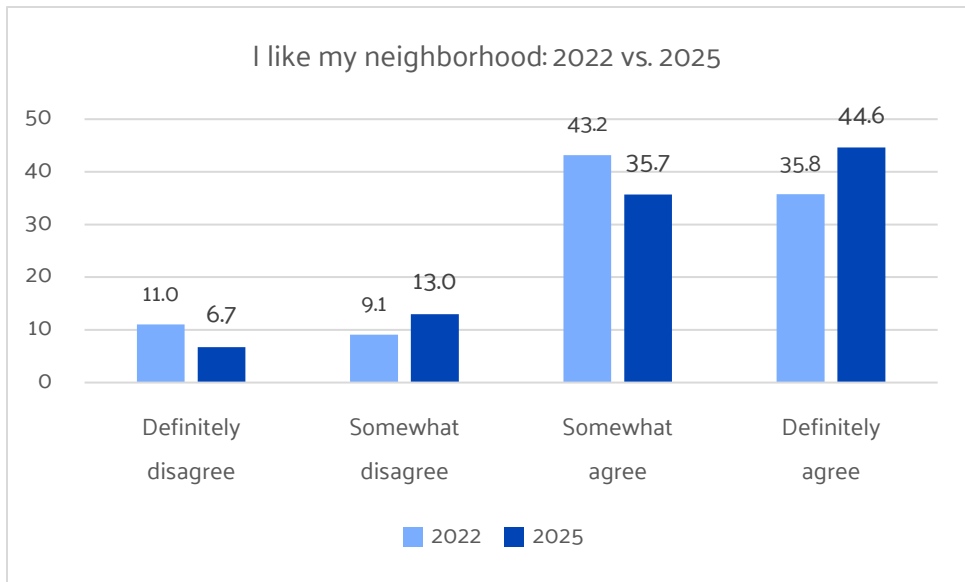
The 2025 scores vary from 2022 in the “definitely agree” responses. Nearly 43 percent of respondents definitely agreed they would miss their neighborhood if they had to move, a statistically significant increase of 12.1 percentage points from 30.7 percent in 2022 ( $p < 0.05$ ). The percentage of respondents who definitely liked their neighborhood rose significantly from 35.8 percent in 2022 to 44.6 percent in 2025—a difference of 8.8 percentage points ( $p < 0.05$ ). Those who definitely agreed they know their neighbors well increased from 20.0 percent to 36.2 percent, a statistically significant 16.2-point increase ( $p < 0.05$ ). There was a significant 9.6-point increase in those who believe neighbors are available to help each other (from 24.6 percent in 2022 to 34.2 percent in 2025 ( $p < 0.05$ ), and a 4.0-percentage point increase in those who would like to get out of their neighborhood (from 12.8 percent to 16.8 percent,  $p < 0.05$ ). The 2.0-point decrease in those finding it difficult to make friends (from 14.4 percent to 12.4 percent) was not statistically significant ( $p > 0.05$ ).

There are likely many factors contributing to the changes identified above. The nation's economy with its worst inflation in 40 years, the continued increase in home prices and rents in Utah County, the 2024 federal election, and the softening of Utah County's employment market, are likely elements of residents' lives that add to respondents' thoughts



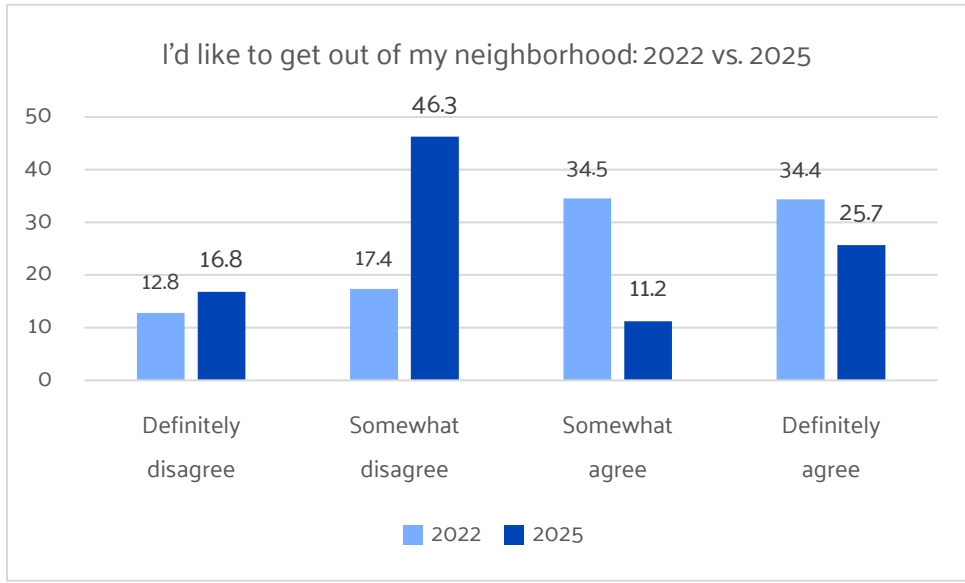
Respondents who agree or definitely agree they would miss their neighborhood increased in 2025—going from about 62 percent to 84.0 percent.

Figure 160: If I had to move, I would miss the neighborhood I now live in: 2022 vs. 2025



The percentage of respondents who somewhat or definitely agreed that they like their neighborhood increased from about 79 percent in 2022 to just over 80 percent in 2025.

Figure 161: I like my neighborhood: 2022 vs. 2025

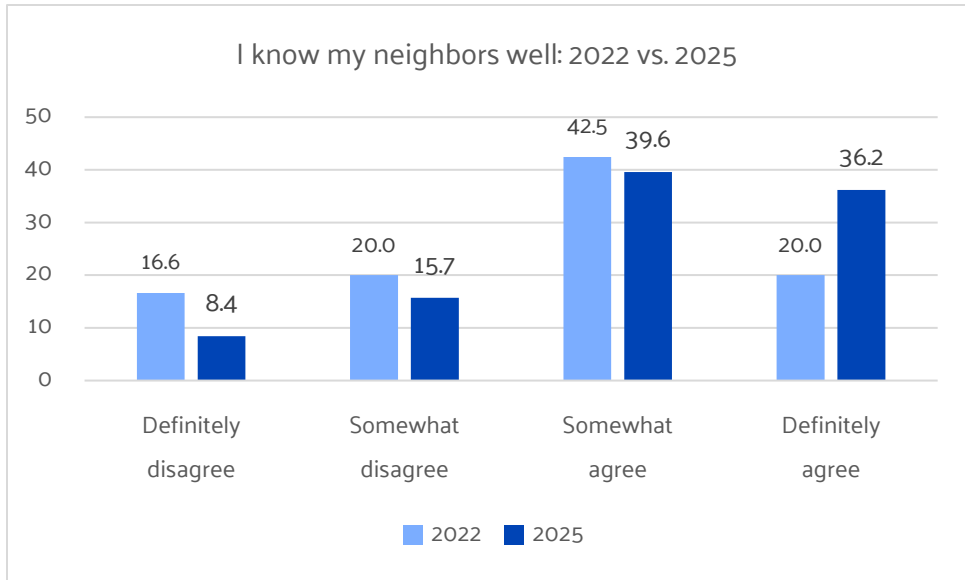


For the item, “I’d like to get out of my neighborhood,” we must look at those who somewhat or definitely disagree. In 2022, that percentage was 30.2 percent; in 2025, it was 62.1 percent.

Figure 162: I'd like to get out of my neighborhood: 2022 vs. 2025

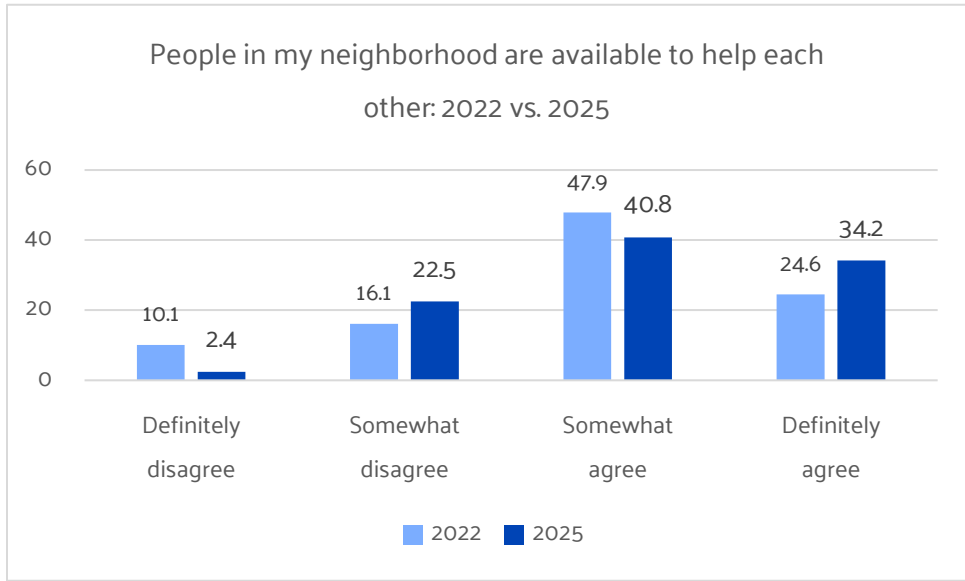
This item is a good example of how the

extremes are likely a better measure for consideration. The percent of persons who definitely disagree increased by only 4 percentage points—still, as was pointed out in the table above, a statistically significant difference—but the swing does not present as stark of a change as we otherwise might have concluded.



The increase in the percent of respondents who somewhat or definitely agree that they know their neighbors well increased from about 63 percent to about 76 percent between 2022 and 2025.

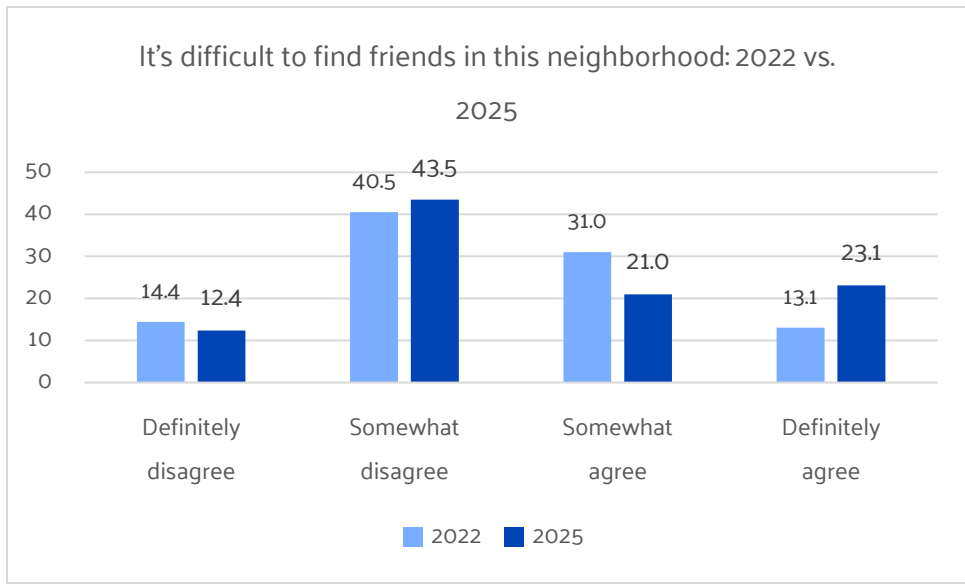
Figure 163: I know my neighbors well: 2022 vs. 2025



Respondents to the 2025 survey reported showed about a 10 percent increase in the definitely agree response for the item, “people in my neighborhood are available to help each other,” going from 24.6 percent to 34.2 percent. The

Figure 164: People in my neighborhood are available to help each other: 2022 vs. 2025

percentage of those who somewhat agree decreased from 47.9 percent to 40.8 percent.



**Figure 165: It's difficult to find friends in this neighborhood: 2022 vs. 2025**

The only item that did not experience a statistically significant change in the extremes is “it’s difficult to find friends in this neighborhood.” In 2022, 14.4 percent definitely disagreed; in 2025, that figure dropped to 12.4

percent. The change in somewhat disagree was similarly, increasing from 40.5 percent to 43.5 percent.

**2.5.4.2.1 Youth and Neighborhood Attachment**

The Student Health and Risk Prevention (SHARP) study measures neighborhood attachment among adolescents through several items in the assessment. Using the calculations, Bach Harrison (the firm that developed and conducts SHARP studies) reports the findings in conjunction with the BH Norm—a weighted score for all students who participated in the most recent SHARP studies nationwide.<sup>271</sup> In 2023, Utah County students fared better than state and national peers at all grade levels, with 30.7 percent of all students experiencing low neighborhood attachment. The state figure is 35.1, and the national number is 42.5.<sup>272</sup>

<sup>271</sup> The term “BH Norm” in this section refers to the Bach Harrison Norm, a national benchmark developed by Bach Harrison LLC. It is based on data collected from 11 statewide surveys, comprising approximately 657,000 students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12. The data are weighted to ensure proportional representation of each state’s population. It is updated approximately every two years; the next update is expected in 2025.

<sup>272</sup> Utah Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Substance Use and Mental Health, SHARP Survey Results for Utah County, 2023

**Table 128: Students with Low Neighborhood Attachment, National vs. State vs. County, 2019-2023**

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Students with Low Neighborhood Attachment, National vs. State vs. County,  
2019-2023

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	2019	2021	2023	State 2023	BH Norm
Grade 6	22.6	26.9	28.3	31.9	42.1
Grade 8	20.4	22.0	22.3	29.9	35.7
Grade 10	29.3	33.5	33.5	36.5	42.8
Grade 12	35.6	37.1	39.4	42.8	49.4
All Grades	26.9	30.0	30.7	35.1	42.5

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### **2.5.5 Happiness and Life Satisfaction**

This year’s community assessment telephone survey continued to include two items from the World Values Survey to measure overall happiness and life satisfaction.<sup>273</sup>

First, we asked, “All things considered, how satisfied are you with your life as a whole these days? One means you are ‘completely dissatisfied’ and 10 means you are ‘completely satisfied.’” The mean score for Utah County was 7.8, up from 7.3 in 2021. The latest data for the U.S.–which is from 2017–shows a mean score of 7.3.<sup>274</sup>

The other item was, “Taking all things together, would you say you are not at all happy, not very happy, somewhat happy, or very happy?” The percentage of Utah County respondents who are somewhat happy increased by 2.9 percentage points, and the percent who are very happy declined from 47.6 percent to 36.8.–a statistically significant difference. Still, the 2025 figure is better than the U.S. figure of 31.6 percent indicating they are very happy.

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<sup>273</sup> See <https://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/wvs.jsp>

<sup>274</sup> Ibid. Note that Wave 8 of the World Values Survey is currently underway, and is slated to be completed in 2026. Nearly 100 countries participate, covering more than 90 percent of the world’s population.

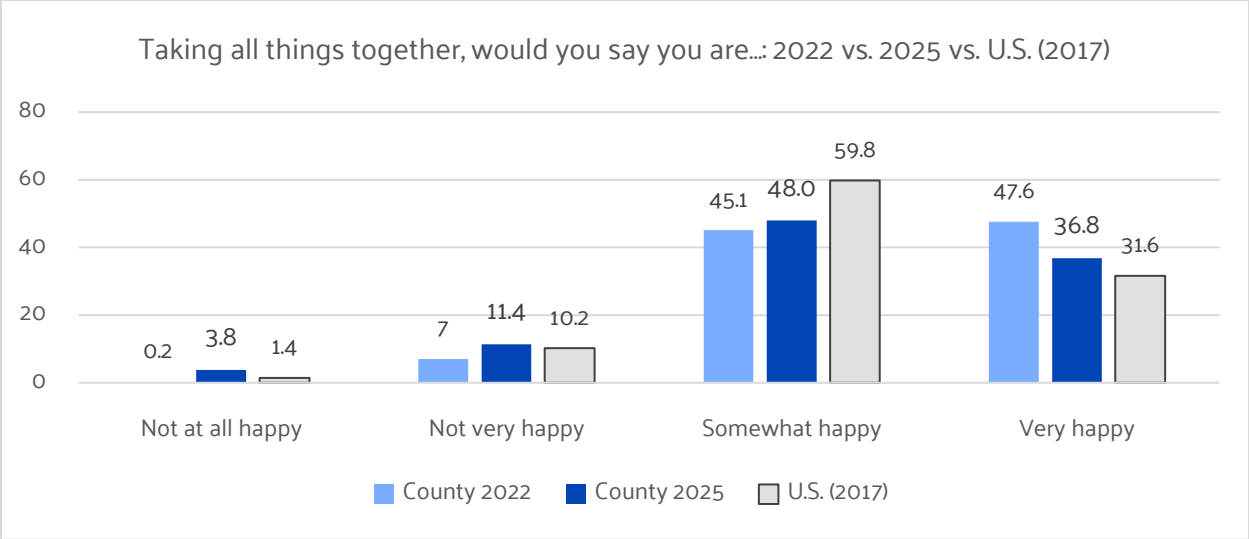


Figure 166: Taking all things together, would you say you are...: 2022 vs. 2025 vs. U.S. (2017)

**2.5.6 Loneliness and Social Isolation**

In 2023, the U.S. Surgeon General issued a report titled, “Our Epidemic and Loneliness and Isolation.”<sup>275</sup> United Way of Utah County recognized that social isolation and loneliness are inextricably connected to neighborhood attachment, and began assessing the degree of loneliness in the County to strategize whether and how United Way and its partners could help. Utilizing two scales, a survey was conducted among Utah County adults in May 2024. The first scale is the de Jong Gierveld Loneliness Scale for Emotional and Social Loneliness;<sup>276</sup> the second is the Three-Item Loneliness Scale (T-ILS), which was derived from the 20-item Revised UCLA Loneliness Scale (R-

<sup>275</sup> “Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation: The U.S. Surgeon General’s Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community,” *Office of the U.S. Surgeon General* (Washington, D.C., 2023), <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/surgeon-general-social-connection-advisory.pdf>.

<sup>276</sup> de Jong Gierveld, J., and F. H. Kamphuis. “The Development of a Rasch-Type Loneliness Scale.” *Psychological Reports*, vol. 57, no. 1, 1985, pp. 147-151.

UCLA).<sup>277</sup> The shorter version was developed with the expressed purpose to be more suitable for large-scale surveys, such as telephone interviews. Both scales have been shown to be both valid and reliable.

In the 2025 community assessment, we again used these two scales in our telephone survey to measure changes in social loneliness and emotional isolation. These scales do not measure social isolation, which is an objective measure of one’s contact with others (e.g., “How many relatives do you see or hear from at least once a month? How many friends do you see or hear from at least once a month?”).

The six items from the de Jong-Gierveld scale are below.

**Table 129: de Jong Gierveld Loneliness Scale Items**

de Jong Gierveld Loneliness Scale Items		
Dimension	Item	Explanation
Emotional Isolation	I experience a general sense of emptiness	Reflects a deep, personal feeling of lacking an intimate emotional bond
Emotional Isolation	I miss having people around me	Indicates a longing for close, personal companionship or presence
Emotional Isolation	I often feel rejected	Suggests a subjective sense of emotional disconnection or exclusion
Social Loneliness	There are plenty of people I can rely on when I have problems (reverse-coded)	Assesses the perceived availability of a supportive social network
Social Loneliness	There are many people I can trust completely (reverse-coded)	Evaluates the extent of trust and reliability within one’s social circle
Social Loneliness	There are enough people I feel close to (reverse-coded)	Measures the sense of belonging or closeness to a broader group

<sup>277</sup> Hughes, M. E., et al. “A Short Scale for Measuring Loneliness in Large Surveys: Results from Two Population-Based Studies.” *Research on Aging*, vol. 26, no. 6, 2004, pp. 655-672.

With only two years of data, it is impossible to determine whether trends are being developed. The percentage of respondents who indicated they feel a general sense of emptiness decreased from 40.7 percent to 33.2 percent; more respondents indicate they miss having people around them (50.9 percent to 59.2 percent); and about the same percentage of respondents—33.2 percent in 2024 and 31.6 percent in 2025—say they often feel rejected.

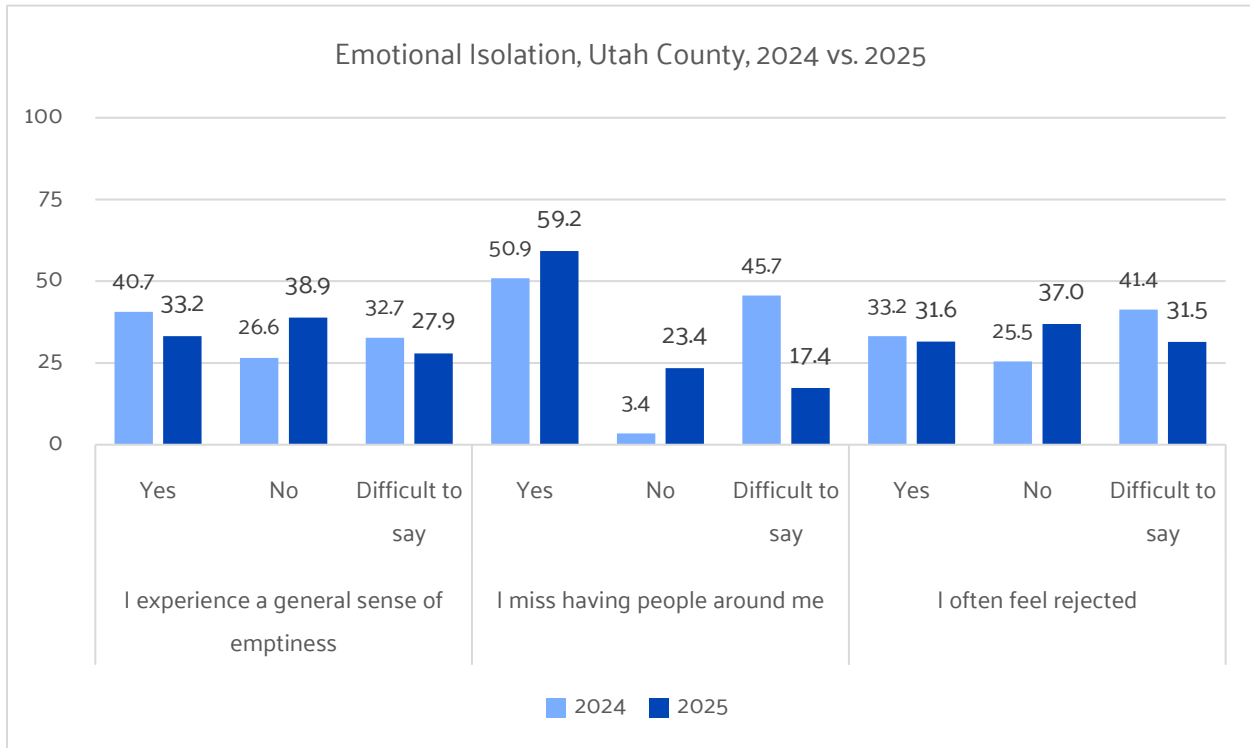


Figure 167: Emotional Isolation, Utah County, 2024 vs. 2025

Regarding social loneliness, the percentage of respondents who believe there are not plenty of people they can rely on increased from 14.8 percent to 21.7 percent. The percentage who do not believe there are many people they can trust completely increased from 18.9 percent in 2024 to 23.0 in 2025. And the percent of respondents who do not believe they have enough people they feel close to increased by 10 percentage points—from 12.0 to 22.0.

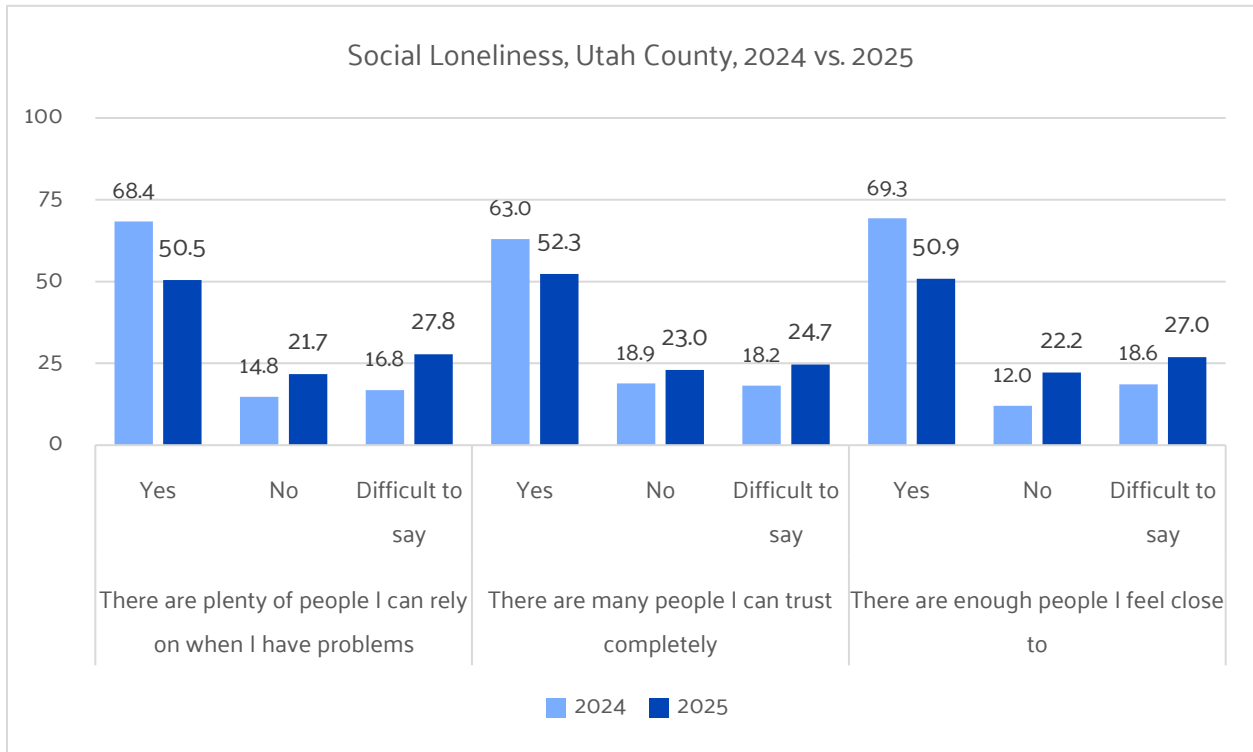


Figure 168: Social Loneliness, Utah County, 2024 vs. 2025

The Three-Item Loneliness Scale utilizes the following items.

Table 130: Three-Item Loneliness Scale Items

Three-Item Loneliness Scale Items		
Dimension	Item	Explanation
Loneliness	How often do you feel that you lack companionship?	Assesses the subjective experience of missing close social connections
Loneliness	How often do you feel left out?	Reflects a perceived exclusion from social interactions or groups
Loneliness	How often do you feel isolated from others?	Indicates a sense of emotional or social detachment from others

In 2025, the percentage of respondents who indicated they often feel that they lack companionship increased from 27.7 percent to 29.4 percent. However, the percentage of respondents who indicate they often feel left out decreased from 27.7 percent to 22.6; the number who often feel isolated from others decreased from 28.2 percent to 25.1 percent.

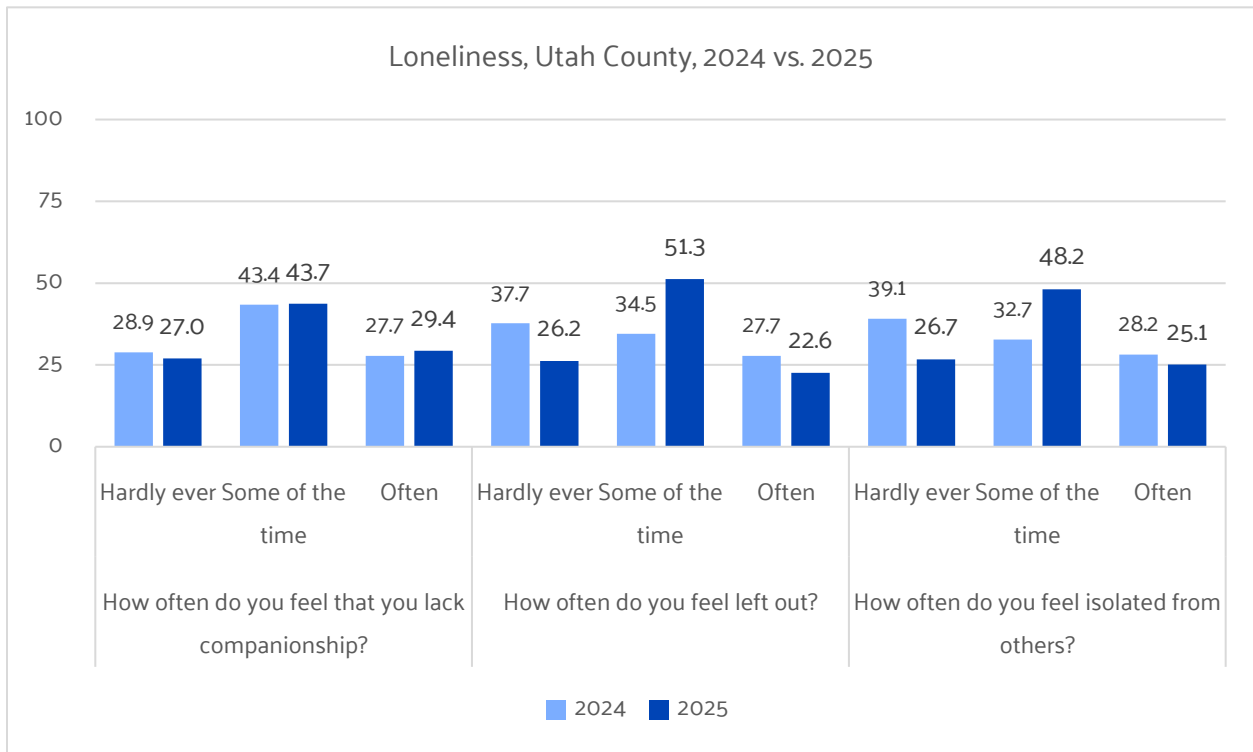


Figure 169: Loneliness, Utah County, 2024 vs. 2025





### 3 Appendix 1: Survey Instrument

## Telephone Survey Instrument

**Interviewer:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm calling from Civicus Consulting Group in Kansas City, Missouri. We are talking with adults in Utah County about some community issues of concern. We are not soliciting donations, nor are we selling anything, We are only inviting your voice to be heard so community leaders can know what is most important.

1. First, what would you say are the best things about living in Utah County? **[PROBE] Any others? [DO NOT READ LIST. ACCEPT UP TO 5 RESPONSES.]**
2. What would you say are the most pressing issues or problems facing residents of Utah County? **[PROBE] Any others? [DO NOT READ LIST. ACCEPT UP TO 5 RESPONSES.]**
3. The following are community issues that are important to some people. For each one, please indicate how big of a problem you believe the issue is in Utah County by using a scale of one to five—with one being “a minor problem” and five being “a significant problem.”
  - a. Depression or anxiety
  - b. Suicide
  - c. Mental health in general
  - d. Domestic violence/partner abuse/elder abuse/child abuse
  - e. Food or hunger
  - f. People dealing with long-term financial difficulties
  - g. No sense of belonging in neighborhoods
  - h. Drug abuse or misuse
  - i. Education
  - j. Growth in population
  - k. Housing costs
  - l. Jobs or the economy
  - m. Racial equality or other race issues
  - n. LGBTQ equality
  - o. Poverty

Now I'm going to read some statements about your neighborhood to you. Please indicate if you definitely agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or definitely disagree with each of them.

4. First, think about your current neighborhood as you respond to these statements.

If I had to move, I would miss the neighborhood I now live in.

5. I like my neighborhood.
  - a. Why do you agree or strongly agree that you like your neighborhood?
  - b. Why do you disagree or strongly disagree that you like your neighborhood?
6. I'd like to get out of my neighborhood.
7. I know my neighbors well.
8. People in my neighborhood are available to help each other.
9. It's difficult to find friends in this neighborhood.
10. One more question about this. Would you say the safety of your neighborhood is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?

Now a few questions about you. First, would you agree or disagree with the following statements?

11. I experience a general sense of emptiness
12. There are plenty of people I can rely on when I have problems
13. There are many people I can trust completely
14. I miss having people around me
15. There are enough people I feel close to
16. I often feel rejected

Now, please respond to the next three questions with "hardly ever," "some of the time," or "often."

17. How often do you feel that you lack companionship?
18. How often do you feel left out?
19. How often do you feel isolated from others?
20. Very good. Now, would you say that you typically volunteer at least 100 hours per year? That would be about 8 or 9 hours per month, on average.
21. What about providing help to family members or friends who don't live with you? Would you say that you regularly provide this sort of help?
22. All things considered, how satisfied are you with your life as a whole these days? Let's use a 10-point scale where 1 means you are "completely dissatisfied" and 10 means you are "completely satisfied." Where would you put your satisfaction with your life as a whole?
23. Great. Now, how optimistic are you about your long-term financial future? Are you...
  - a. Not at all optimistic
  - b. Not very optimistic
  - c. Neither optimistic nor pessimistic

- d. Optimistic
  - e. Very optimistic
24. Taking all things together, would you say you are...
- a. Very happy
  - b. Somewhat happy
  - c. Not very happy
  - d. Not at all happy
25. We're just about finished. Do you have any children living in your home with you?

**IF "YES," CONTINUE. IF "NO," GO TO QUESTION 28**

26. On average, how many days per week does your child engage in face-to-face interactions with peers outside of school hours? If you have more than one child, think of your children in general terms.
27. Finally, would you say you agree or disagree with the following statement? My child gets enough in-person social interaction.
- 28.** Great. Now we just have a few questions to see how people with similar characteristics responded to the earlier questions. All information is confidential. First, how old are you?  
**[Whole numbers only in number of years old]**
- 29.** How long have you lived in Utah County in years? **[Whole numbers only in number of years. Round to closest whole number: e.g., 5.5 years should round up to 6 years; 5.4 years should round down to 5 years.]**
30. What sort of housing dwelling do you live in? Is it a...
- a. Single-family home
  - b. Duplex
  - c. Townhome or condominium
  - d. Apartment
31. Do you own or rent your home?
32. What is your living status?
- a. Married but living alone
  - b. Married and living with spouse
  - c. Married and living with spouse and children
  - d. Single and living alone
  - e. Single and living with a partner or others of my age group

- f. Single and living with children
  - g. Refused
33. Are you or your spouse a full-time student?
34. Please indicate your household's total annual income before taxes.
35. And your sex?





# THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS ASSESSMENT

