



Poverty And Food Needs

Emmet County

Poverty

Poverty Thresholds

The U.S. Census Bureau determines the poverty status of the non-institutionalized population based on family size and income level. If a family's total annual income is below the threshold level appropriate for that family size, every member of the family is considered poor. At right are current federal poverty guidelines as published in the Federal Register, Volume 74, No. 14, January 23, 2009.

Federal Poverty Income Guidelines, 2009

Family Size	Family Income Thresholds (\$)		
	Percentage of Poverty Threshold		
	100%	130%	185%
1	10,830	14,079	20,036
2	14,570	18,941	26,955
3	18,310	23,803	33,874
4	22,050	28,665	40,793
5	25,790	33,527	47,712
6	29,530	38,389	54,631

Poverty Status

Poverty rates describe the percentage of the population with annual family income below the poverty threshold level or some percentage of the threshold level. Detailed poverty data from the *2000 Census*, U.S. Census Bureau are presented below. Recent poverty estimates from the *Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program*, U.S. Census Bureau are also provided. Due to differences in methodology, direct comparisons between 2000 to 2005 values are not advised.

Poverty Status in 2000

	Emmet County		State of Iowa	
	number	% rate	number	% rate
Total population for whom poverty status was determined.....	10,474		2,824,435	
Population with income at or below 100% of threshold.....	861	8.2	258,008	9.1
Children 4 or younger.....	47	8.2	24,705	13.4
Children 5 through 17.....	193	10.2	54,542	10.2
Persons 65 or older.....	173	9.1	31,118	7.7
Population with income between 100% - 129% of threshold.....	431	4.1	124,926	4.4
Children 4 or younger.....	30	5.2	11,163	6.0
Children 5 through 17.....	89	4.7	26,191	4.9
Persons 65 or older.....	119	6.2	25,761	6.4
Population with income between 130% - 184% of threshold.....	1,344	12.8	280,219	9.9
Children 4 or younger.....	144	25.1	24,862	13.5
Children 5 through 17.....	316	16.7	63,784	11.9
Persons 65 or older.....	226	11.8	52,376	13.0

Estimated Percentage in Poverty, 2005

	Emmet County			State of Iowa		
	low	estimate	high	low	estimate	high
All persons.....	8.0	10.1	12.2	10.5	10.8	11.1
Children under 18.....	11.1	14.5	17.9	13.2	13.9	14.7

* The confidence interval represents a range of values that is 90% likely to contain the actual poverty rate.

Economic Profile

Income Distribution

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2000 Census illustrate the distribution of household income in the county. The reported income categories cover pre-tax and include all sources of income (wages/salaries, Social Security, public assistance, etc.). Median household income is the level at which half of the households reported higher incomes and half reported less.

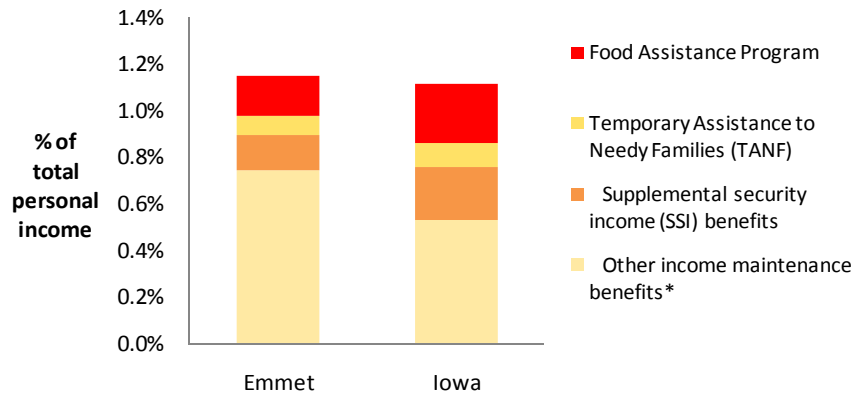
	Emmet County		State
	n	%	%
Total households.....	4,446	100.0	100.0%
Income less than \$15,000.....	691	15.5%	14.9%
Income \$15,000 - \$25,000.....	801	18.0%	14.4%
Income \$25,000 - \$35,000.....	830	18.7%	14.7%
Income \$35,000 - \$45,000.....	611	13.7%	13.3%
Income \$45,000 - \$60,000.....	680	15.3%	15.9%
Income \$60,000 - \$100,000.....	634	14.3%	19.6%
Income \$100,000 or greater.....	199	4.5%	7.3%
Median household income.....		\$ 33,305	\$ 39,469

Income Maintenance

Income maintenance refers to a collection of federal, state, and local assistance programs for low-income individuals and families. The fraction of total personal income in an area derived from these sources provides a measure of local need. Local and state dependence on income maintenance programs are illustrated at right.

**Includes earned income tax credits, energy assistance, foster care and adoption assistance, WIC vouchers, and general state and local assistance.*

Share of Local Personal Income from Income Maintenance Payments in 2006

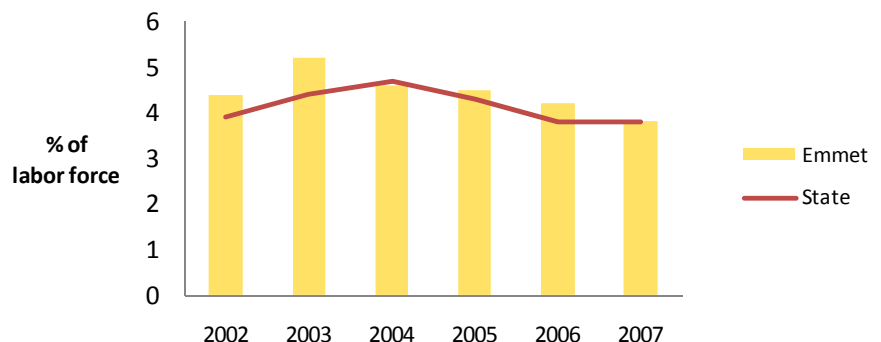


Unemployment

The unemployment rate is the percentage of the civilian labor force unemployed. The labor force in an area consists of all persons aged 16 or older who either are currently employed or actively seeking work.

Unemployment may contribute to individual and family economic stress. Annual average unemployment data are provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Average Annual Unemployment Rate



Food Accessibility

Grocery and Other Food Stores

Grocery stores are establishments that retail a general line of food, including fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh and prepared meats, fish and poultry, and frozen and canned goods. Convenience stores, some of which are connected to gasoline stations, offer a limited line of products that generally include milk, bread, soda and snacks. Specialty food stores include meat and fish markets, vegetable markets, and bakeries. The table below shows number of food retailing establishments with paid employees reported by the U.S. Census Bureau's *County Business Patterns, 2001 and 2006*.

Number of stores	Emmet County		State	
	2001	2006	2001	2006
Grocery stores.....	5	6	705	645
Convenience stores.....	6	6	1,703	1,747
Specialty food stores.....	0	0	243	231
Total food stores.....	11	12	2,651	2,623

Number of residents per store				
	Emmet County		State	
	2001	2006	2001	2006
Grocery stores.....	2,175	1,740	4,156	4,609
Convenience stores.....	1,812	1,740	1,721	1,702
Specialty food stores.....	0	0	12,058	12,868
Total food stores.....	989	870	1,105	1,133



Vehicle Accessibility

For those living in small towns and rural areas, public transportation is seldom available. While most rural residents have a personal car, those rural households lacking their own vehicle have limited access to grocery stores and other consumer goods. These data on the number of households with no vehicle available are taken from the U.S. Census Bureau's *2000 Census*.

	Emmet County	State
Total households.....	4,450	1,149,276
with no vehicle available.....	299	73,684
% of households.....	6.7	6.4

Farmers' Markets

Farmers' markets provide lowans opportunities for fresh produce that is locally grown. Seniors with limited incomes and families who participate in WIC are eligible to receive coupons to purchase fresh produce at authorized farmers' markets. Emmet County had 1 authorized market in 2008.

Food-Related Health Issues

Low household income can hinder one's access to nutritious foods which in turn, may result in health issues. These data on the percentage of the population considered overweight, obese, and diabetic are estimates based on the *2007 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)* calculated by the State Center for Health Statistics. Overweight is defined as Body Mass Index (BMI) ≥ 25.0 and < 30.0 . Obesity is defined as BMI ≥ 30.0 . The Body Mass Index is defined as a person's body weight in kilograms divided by his or her height in meters squared. Diabetic is defined as the percent of the population ever told by their doctor they are diabetic, excluding women told only during pregnancy.



Estimated Percentage of the Population	Emmet County	State
Overweight.....	37.3	37
Obese.....	27.2	27.7
Diabetic.....	7.6	7.1

Food and Family Assistance Programs

Program Eligibility

FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM The Food Assistance Program helps low-income people and families buy the food they need for good health. To receive Food Assistance, households must meet three financial criteria. 1) A household's gross income before taxes must be at or below 130 percent of the poverty line. Households that include someone who is disabled or age 60 or over are exempt from this test (although they must still pass the net income test). 2) A household's net monthly income that remains after deductions allowed by the Food Assistance Program must be at or below the poverty line. 3) A household's assets must be \$2,000 or less to qualify for the program (\$3,000 for households that include someone who is disabled or age 60 or over), excluding the value of one vehicle and the a home that the household lives in. Households participating in the Family Investment Program (FIP), or households where all members receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), are categorically eligible for food assistance and do not have to meet these three tests. For more information, go to http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/Consumers/Assistance_Programs/FoodAssistance/index.html

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, and CHILDREN (WIC) USDA provides federal grants to states to provide supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for individuals at nutritional risk. To be eligible for WIC in Iowa, individuals must live in the state and be included in one of the eligible participant categories: pregnant, breast-feeding (up to one year), postpartum (up to six months), or infants or children up to the age of five. Eligible participants must be in households that have income at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level. They also must have a medical or nutrition need as determined at the certification appointment. For more information, go to www.idph.state.ia.us/wic.

FAMILY INVESTMENT PROGRAM (FIP) Iowa's Family Investment Program provides cash assistance to needy families, as they become self-supporting so that children may be cared for in their own homes or the homes of relatives. Eligibility requirements are relatively complex and depend on a number of factors including income, assets (e.g., cash, bank accounts, etc.), and an agreement on how to become self-supporting. For more detailed information, see <http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/docs/FIPBrochure.pdf>.

SCHOOL MEALS Children in households with incomes at or below 130 percent of the poverty level are eligible for free lunches and breakfasts. Children in households with incomes between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-price lunches and breakfasts, for which no more than 40 cents may be charged. While virtually all schools offer lunch, many do not offer breakfast. For more information, go to <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/369/435/>.

Program Participation Levels

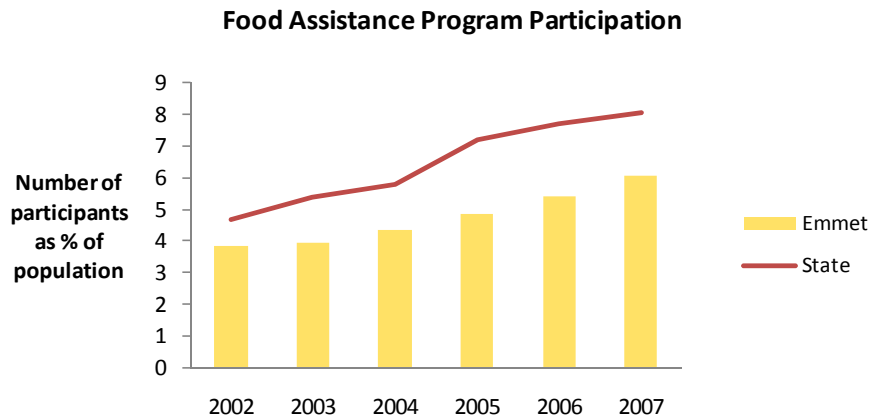
	<u>Emmet County</u>	<u>State of Iowa</u>
Food Assistance Program (fiscal year 2007).....		
Average number of participants per month.....	632	
Average payment per recipient (\$.).....	86	94
Recipients as a % of the total population.....	6.1%	8.1%
Family Investment Program (calendar year 2007).....		
Average number of participants per month.....	114	
Average payment per recipient (\$.).....	128	129
Recipients as a % of the total population.....	1.1%	1.4%
WIC (average for calendar years 2006-2007).....		
Unduplicated annual participation counts*.....	492	115,976
<i>Women</i>	149	34,801
<i>Children</i>	343	81,175
Free or Reduced School Lunch (academic year 2007-2008).....		
Number of students eligible.....	687	
<i>Free Lunch</i>	467	
<i>Reduced Price Lunch</i>	220	
Eligible students as a % of total enrollment.....	38.9%	33.4%

*Unduplicated counts of persons issued food benefits during the year, with each participant counted only once each year. These values were incorrectly converted to monthly averages in an earlier (September 2008) version of this report.

Food and Family Assistance Program Trends

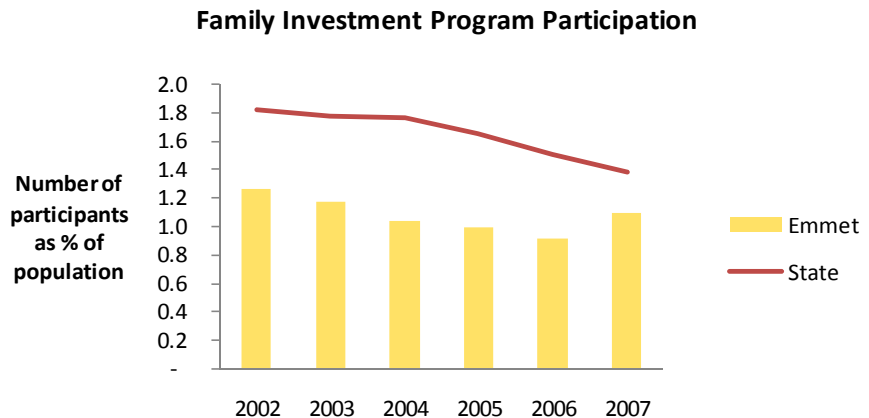
Food Assistance Program

The Iowa Department of Human Services provides data on the monthly average number of Food Assistance Program recipients. Recent participation levels are illustrated at right, with the average number of recipients expressed as a percentage of the total population for the fiscal years indicated.



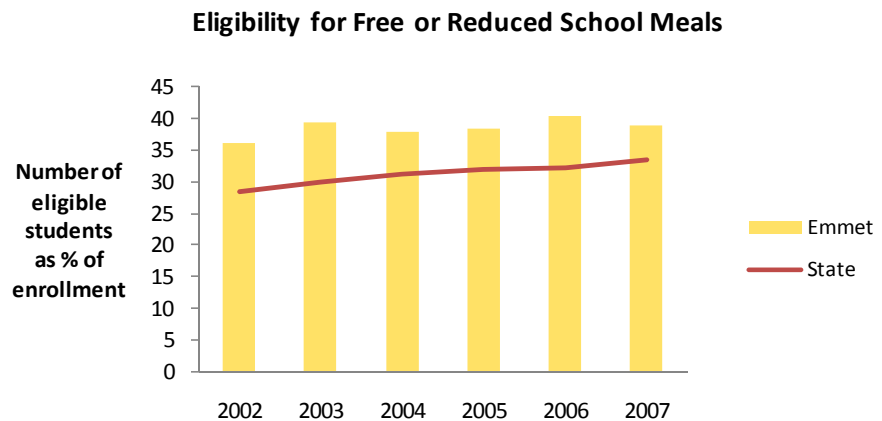
Family Investment Program

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Free or Reduced School Meals

The Iowa Department of Education provides data on school enrollment and the number of students eligible for free and reduced-price school meals. Recent eligibility levels are shown at right, with the number of students eligible expressed as a percentage of total enrollment for the academic years indicated (e.g., 2007 describes the 2007-2008 school year).



Demographic Profile

Age Distribution by Race and Ethnicity, 2007

Statistics on age, race and Hispanic origin are obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau *Population Estimates Program*. NOTE: The Census Bureau defines Hispanic as an ethnicity not a race; therefore individuals of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

<u>Population Group</u>	Emmet County Population Estimates by Age, Racial and Ethnic Groupings					Percentage of the Total Population by Race/Ethnicity	
	<u>All ages</u>	<u>Under 20 years</u>	<u>20 to 44 years</u>	<u>45 to 64 years</u>	<u>65 years or older</u>	<u>Emmet County</u>	<u>State of Iowa</u>
Total Population	10,414	2,746	2,911	2,775	1,982	100.0	100.0
White alone	10,245	2,675	2,839	2,759	1,972	98.4	94.4
Black alone	36	14	20	-	2	0.3	2.6
American Indian or Alaska Native alone	42	18	17	7	-	0.4	0.4
Asian alone	45	20	17	4	4	0.4	1.6
Any other race or combination	46	19	18	5	4	0.4	1.1
Hispanic (of any race)	629	300	232	85	12	6.0	4.0

Education

Educational attainment is reported for the adult aged population after their education is largely complete (25 years of age or older). These numbers are derived from the U.S. Census Bureau, *1990 Census* and *2000 Census*.

	<u>Emmet County</u>		<u>State</u>	
	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>
Population 25 years or older	7,442	7,265	1,776,798	1,895,856
<i>Percentage with...</i>				
Less than 12 years of school.....	21.7	17.8	19.9	13.9
High school diploma.....	39.7	36.0	38.5	36.1
Less than 4 years of college.....	27.6	33.1	24.7	28.8
4 or more years of college.....	11.0	13.0	16.9	21.2



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For more information on these and other topics, please visit the Iowa Food Insecurity Program Web site at

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/hunger>

For related data, visit the Web site of the Regional Capacity Analysis Program

<http://www.recap.iastate.edu>

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