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**Empowering Our Community Through Comprehensive Strategies.** 



## THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: INCOME EQUALITY

## **INCOME** INEQUALITY In Siouxland

Income inequality is often measured by decile ratios of household income, with a lower score indicating less inequality. The indicators used by the County Health Rankings measure income at the 80th percentile vs. income at the 20th percentile. In Woodbury County, there has been an upward trajectory in income inequality from 4.1 in 2018 to 4.5 in 2023. This indicates a widening gap between higher and lower-income households. Conversely, Dakota County displays a declining trend in income inequality, dropping from 4.2 in 2018 to 3.6 in 2023, falling as low as 3.5 in 2022.

As income inequality grows in Woodbury County, this disparity can hinder social mobility, perpetuate cycles of poverty, and undermine economic growth by limiting the purchasing power of lower-income individuals and reducing overall consumer demand. Addressing this disparity through policies promoting fair wages, increased opportunities for career-focused education across the lifespan, and enhanced workforce development could help mitigate economic inequality in Siouxland.

