

# source FOR SIOUXLAND

Empowering Our Community Through Comprehensive Strategies.



## THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS

### FOOD ENVIRONMENT INDEX In Siouxland



Woodbury County, Iowa, consistently improved from 7.9 in 2019 to 8.6 by 2022, maintaining that score in 2023. Similarly, Iowa's state average remained steady, slightly increasing from 8.2 to 8.6 over the same period. Dakota County, Nebraska, experienced a slight decline, with scores dropping from 8.5 in 2019 to 7.8 in 2023. The Nebraska state average mirrored this decline, decreasing from 8.1 to 7.8. Union County, South Dakota, exhibited strong performance, rising from 9.0 in 2019 to 9.2 in 2023. Conversely, South Dakota's state average increased modestly from 6.6 to 7.3 during this time. Overall, most counties in Siouxland saw either stable or improving access to healthy food, except for a decline in Dakota County and Nebraska.

The trends in the food environment index for Siouxland suggest that access to healthy food is improving or remaining stable for much of the region, which is a positive indicator for community health.

However, the decline in Dakota County and Nebraska's state averages raises concerns about potential barriers to healthy food in those areas. These disparities highlight the need for targeted interventions in communities experiencing declines, while continuing to support policies and programs that promote equitable food access across the region. Ensuring all residents have access to healthy food is essential for improving overall health outcomes and quality of life in Siouxland.

### COMMUNITY Impact



Information brought to you by the SFS Leadership Team:

Catholic Charities • Great Plains ToP • Growing Community Connections • Helios Foundation • One Siouxland • SHIP • Siouxland CARES • Siouxland Community Foundation • Siouxland District Health Department • United Way of Siouxland