

How well does the health care system in South Dakota work for people of different racial and ethnic groups?

In South Dakota, **White people** experienced the **highest health system performance**, scoring in the 76th percentile among all population groups nationally.

AIAN people experienced the **lowest health system performance** in the state, scoring in the 1st percentile.

Compared to other states in the Plains region, South Dakota has more severe racial and ethnic health disparities.

Health System Performance by Race/Ethnicity



Each column is a racial/ethnic group, and each point represents a state. Performance represented as percentiles (1–100). South Dakota performance percentile highlighted. No highlighted dot indicates overall performance data not available for that group.

Population by race/ethnicity (2022)

	South Dakota	Plains	United States
Total	889,022	21,358,018	328,403,052
AANHPI	13,603 (2%)	678,323 (3%)	19,862,655 (6%)
AIAN	63,774 (7%)	170,947 (<1%)	1,688,543 (<1%)
Black	17,015 (2%)	1,372,841 (6%)	38,460,950 (12%)
Hispanic	41,050 (5%)	1,523,355 (7%)	62,818,758 (19%)
White	713,629 (80%)	16,508,579 (77%)	189,511,136 (58%)

Notes: AANHPI = Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander. AIAN = American Indian and Alaska Native. “—” means data not available. Plains states include IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD. Source: David C. Radley et al., Advancing Racial Equity in U.S. Health Care: The Commonwealth Fund 2024 State Health Disparities Report (Commonwealth Fund, Apr. 2024).

How well does the health system in South Dakota work for people from different racial and ethnic groups, and across different dimensions of care?

AANHPI

An overall ranking for AANHPI people in South Dakota is not available because of insufficient data.

Health outcomes ranking:	insufficient data
Health care access ranking:	insufficient data
Health care quality ranking:	insufficient data

AIAN

South Dakota ranks 10th of 10 states where calculation was possible, indicating health system performance for AIAN people in the state was among the worst compared to other states. Specifically:

Health outcomes ranking:	10 (of 10) is among the worst
Health care access ranking:	10 (of 11) is among the worst
Health care quality ranking:	10 (of 11) is among the worst

Black

An overall ranking for Black people in South Dakota is not available because of insufficient data.

Health outcomes ranking:	insufficient data
Health care access ranking:	insufficient data
Health care quality ranking:	insufficient data

Hispanic

An overall ranking for Hispanic people in South Dakota is not available because of insufficient data.

Health outcomes ranking:	insufficient data
Health care access ranking:	20 (of 48) is better than average
Health care quality ranking:	7 (of 48) is better than average

White

South Dakota ranks 27th of 51 states where calculation was possible, indicating health system performance for white people in the state was worse than average compared to other states. Specifically:

Health outcomes ranking:	20 (of 51) is better than average
Health care access ranking:	27 (of 51) is worse than average
Health care quality ranking:	28 (of 51) is worse than average

South Dakota Performance Data

	AIAN		AANHPI		Black		Hispanic		White	
	SD rate	US rate	SD rate	US rate	SD rate	US rate	SD rate	US rate	SD rate	US rate
Health Outcomes										
Deaths before age 75 from health care–treatable causes per 100,000 population	328	125	—	50	120	164	53	73	70	83
Deaths before age 75 from preventable causes per 100,000 population	1066	479	164	104	215	347	161	225	182	225
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	15	8	—	4	—	11	—	5	5	4
Breast cancer deaths (per 100,000 female population)	—	14	—	12	—	27	—	13	18	20
Colorectal cancer deaths (per 100,000 population)	32	13	—	9	—	17	—	11	13	13
Hospital 30-day readmission rate age 65 and older (per 1,000 beneficiaries)	—	—	—	—	—	44	—	—	19	26
Adults who smoke (%)	41	25	—	7	—	15	—	11	13	14
Adults who are obese (%)	49	41	—	14	29	44	42	37	38	34
Adults who have lost six or more teeth (%)	15	17	—	3	—	11	—	6	6	9
Health Care Access										
Uninsured adults (%)	40	22	—	7	—	12	23	23	8	8
Uninsured children (%)	15	12	—	4	—	4	—	8	5	4
Adults who went without care because of cost (%)	15	14	—	8	—	13	14	19	6	8
High out-of-pocket medical spending (%)	—	14	—	9	—	12	14	13	9	9
Adults with a usual source of care (%)	75	79	63	82	72	85	71	67	86	87
Health Care Quality										
Preventable hospitalizations age 65 and older (per 1,000 beneficiaries)	—	—	—	—	—	45	—	—	—	28
Potentially avoidable emergency department visits age 65 and older (per 1,000 beneficiaries)	—	—	—	—	—	206	—	—	121	140
Adult women who received a mammogram (%)	45	65	—	74	100	84	66	77	79	77
Adult women with a cervical cancer screening test (%)	91	82	100	87	—	90	95	87	86	84
Adults with a colon cancer screening test (%)	41	53	—	50	58	65	51	50	70	68
Adults with a recent flu shot (%)	43	39	48	50	37	38	37	34	51	50
Older adults who received the pneumonia vaccine (%)	57	63	—	62	52	62	75	55	72	73
Children with a medical and dental preventive care visit (%)	—	—	—	—	64	61	53	59	67	69
Children with all recommended vaccines (%)	—	—	—	—	—	65	—	71	66	74
Adults with a dental visit (%)	46	45	31	34	71	41	30	44	29	32
Primary care spending as share of total, age 65 and older (%)	—	—	—	—	6	5	—	—	4	5

Source: David C. Radley et al., *Advancing Racial Equity in U.S. Health Care: The Commonwealth Fund 2024 State Health Disparities Report* (Commonwealth Fund, Apr. 2024).