

Snapshot of health system climate  
vulnerability and performance in...

# South Dakota

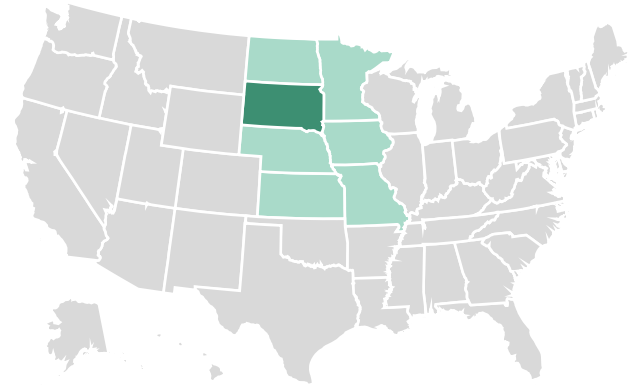


The  
Commonwealth  
Fund

South Dakota ranks #27 overall.

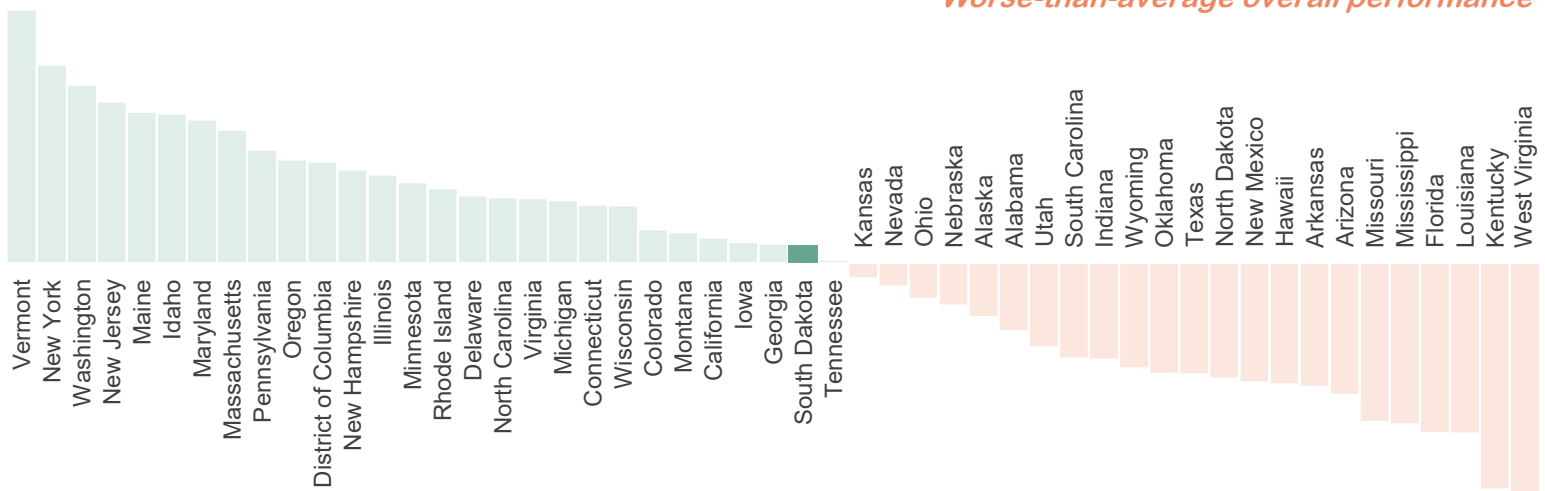
South Dakota ranks #3 in the Plains region.

	National Rank	Rank Among Plains States*
Average Annual Air Quality Index	19 of 51	4 of 7
Health Risk from Extreme Heat	9	1
Health Care Facility Risk from Natural Hazards	50	7
Health Care Facility Flood Risk	7	1
State Energy Efficiency Policy	46	6
State Electricity Emissions and Their Health Impact	4	1
Health Care Sector Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions	27	3
Health Care Worker Commuting Emissions	27	4



\*Note: Plains region includes IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD.

## How South Dakota Compares to All States



**Table 1. Indicators of State Health System Climate Vulnerability and Performance**

Indicator	Data year	State rate	U.S. average	State rank
<b>Average Annual Air Quality Index</b> Scale of 0–500, with values below 100 generally considered good/moderate air quality	2022	39	42	19
<b>Health Risk from Extreme Heat</b> CDC/ATSDR <sup>a</sup> Heat and Health Index (0–1), with 1 indicating greatest risk	2024	0.45	0.51	9
<b>Health Care Facility Risk from Natural Hazards</b> FEMA <sup>b</sup> National Risk Index (0–100), with 100 indicating greatest risk	2023	80	54	50
<b>Health Care Facility Flood Risk</b> Percent of inpatient facility beds in high-hazard flood zones	2023	0.4%	2.5%	7
<b>State Energy Efficiency Policy</b> ACEEE <sup>c</sup> Energy Efficiency Scorecard (0–50), with 50 indicating best performance	2022	3.5	17	46
<b>State Electricity Emissions and Their Health Impact</b> Health impact per unit of electricity generated, <sup>d</sup> where lower values indicate less health impact from emissions	2021	0.140	0.464	4
<b>Health Care Sector Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions</b> Kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent (kg CO <sub>2</sub> e) <sup>e</sup>	2020	1,307	1,362	27
<b>Health Care Worker Commuting Emissions</b> Transportation-related GHG emissions from health care facility employee commuting (kg CO <sub>2</sub> e per employee)	2022	2,140	2,169	27



**South Dakota ranked best on:**

**State Electricity Emissions and Their Health Impact**

In South Dakota, emissions from electricity generation result in fewer negative health impacts per unit of electricity than in other states. Negative health impacts are represented by years of healthy life lost, measured by disability-adjusted life year (DALYs).



**South Dakota ranked worst on:**

**Health Care Facility Risk from Natural Hazards**

On average, health care facilities in South Dakota are located in areas facing greater risk from natural hazards than facilities in other states.

**Notes:** (–) Indicates missing data. (a) Centers for Disease Control/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR). (b) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). (c) American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE). (d) Measured in Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) per gigawatt-hour (GWh) of electricity generated; DALYs are a common measure of the burden of disease, representing years of healthy life lost. (e) Kilograms of CO<sub>2</sub>e stands for “carbon dioxide equivalent,” a standard measure of the warming effect of greenhouse gases.