

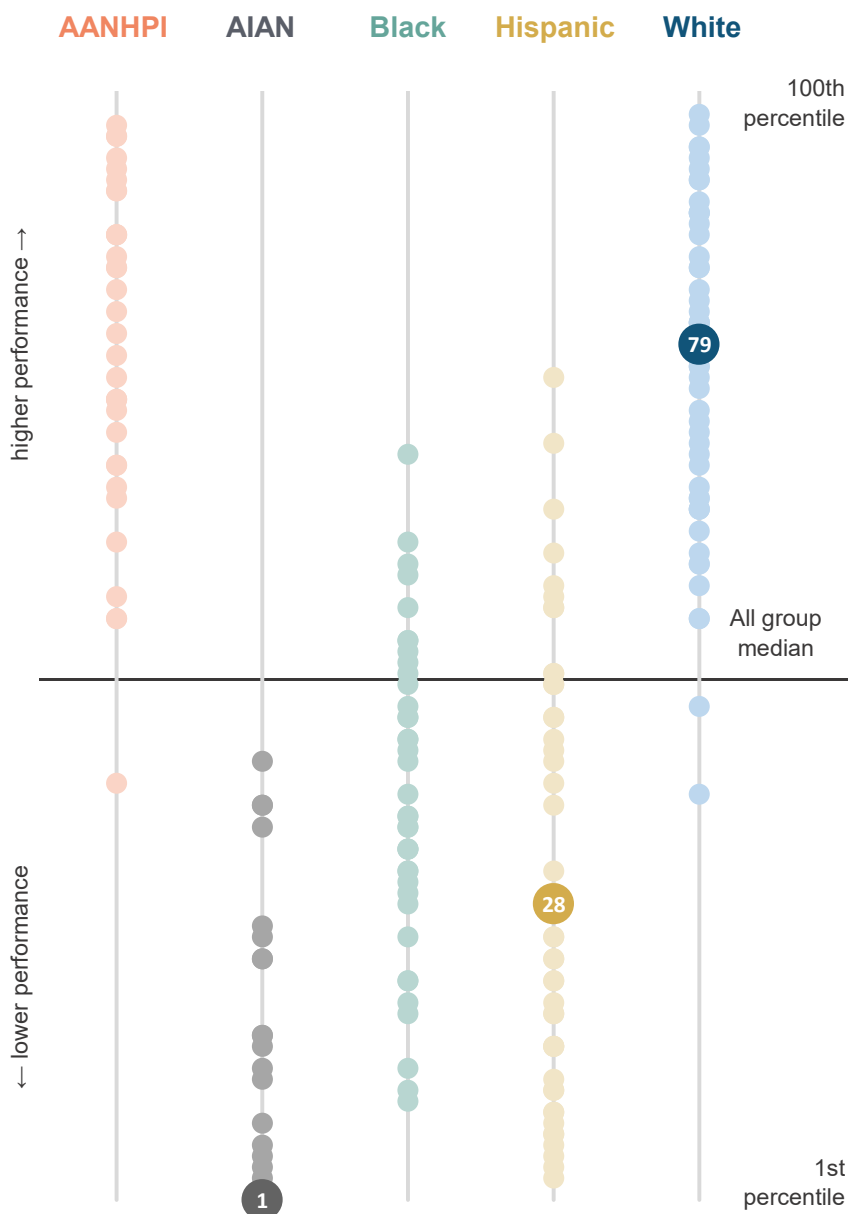
How well does the health care system in South Dakota work for people of different racial and ethnic groups?

In South Dakota, **White people** experienced the **best health care outcomes, access, and quality**, scoring in the 79th percentile among all population groups nationally.

AIAN people experienced the **worst health care outcomes, access, and quality** 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 (2024)

	South Dakota		Plains		United States	
Total	905,406		21,646,244		335,268,606	
AANHPI	15,516	2%	724,921	3%	21,483,845	6%
AIAN	64,392	7%	182,283	<1%	1,720,874	<1%
Black	19,987	2%	1,453,425	7%	38,820,084	12%
Hispanic	42,766	5%	1,741,470	8%	67,230,087	20%
White	718,556	79%	16,470,411	76%	188,863,832	56%

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: Jess Maksut et al., *The Commonwealth Fund 2026 State Health Disparities Report* (Commonwealth Fund, Apr. 2026).

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 21st among the 21 states we were able to rank. This indicates that the state's health system performance for AIAN people was among the worst compared to other states.

Health outcomes ranking:	23 (of 23) is among the worst
Health care access ranking:	21 (of 21) is among the worst
Health care quality ranking:	22 (of 25) 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

South Dakota ranks 22nd among the 49 states we were able to rank. This indicates that health system performance for Hispanic people was better than the average compared to other states.

Health outcomes ranking:	43 (of 50) is worse than the average
Health care access ranking:	32 (of 50) is worse than the average
Health care quality ranking:	9 (of 50) is better than the average

White

South Dakota ranks 25th among the 51 states we were able to rank. This indicates that the health system performance for white people was better than the average compared to other states.

Health outcomes ranking:	23 (of 51) is better than the average
Health care access ranking:	27 (of 51) is worse than the average
Health care quality ranking:	24 (of 51) is better than the average

Notes: Lower values indicate higher rank and better performance among each racial/ethnic group in South Dakota compared to other states. Performance data not available for all groups in every state.

Source: Jess Maksut et al., *The Commonwealth Fund 2026 State Health Disparities Report* (Commonwealth Fund, Apr. 2026).

South Dakota Performance Data

	AANHPI		AIAN		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	—	48	283	123	—	152	45	69	70	81
Deaths before age 75 from preventable causes per 100,000 population	119	77	806	380	153	273	113	145	155	197
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	—	3.7	15.9	9.1	15.6	10.9	6.4	5.0	5.5	4.5
Breast cancer deaths (per 100,000 female population)	—	12	26	13	—	26	—	13	16	19
Colorectal cancer deaths (per 100,000 population)	—	9	27	14	—	16	—	11	15	13
Hospital 30-day readmission rate age 65 and older (per 1,000 beneficiaries)	—	—	—	—	—	44	—	—	20	29
Adults age 18 and older who smoke (%)	—	6	36	22	—	12	13	10	12	12
Adults ages 18–64 who are obese (%)	—	15	46	41	—	43	40	36	37	34
Adults ages 18–64 who have lost six or more teeth (%)	—	3	24	16	—	10	—	6	7	9
Health Care Access										
Adults ages 19–64 uninsured (%)	—	7	38	21	—	12	26	23	8	8
Children ages 0–18 uninsured (%)	—	4	—	14	—	6	—	10	6	5
Adults age 18 and older who went without care because of cost (%)	—	8	14	17	—	13	25	21	8	9
Individuals under age 65 with high out-of-pocket medical costs (%)	—	8	22	13	—	11	13	12	7	8
Adults age 18 and older with a usual source of care (%)	73	83	77	80	70	86	65	67	86	88
Health Care Quality										
Preventable hospitalizations age 65 and older (per 1,000 beneficiaries)	—	—	—	—	—	44	—	—	22	30
Potentially avoidable emergency department visits age 65 and older (per 1,000 beneficiaries)	—	—	—	—	—	226	—	—	129	157
Adult women ages 50–74 who received a mammogram in the past two years (%)	—	76	42	65	100	84	82	76	76	78
Adults ages 45–75 with a recent colon cancer screening test (%)	—	53	37	56	—	66	55	51	69	69
Adults with a recent flu shot (%)	49	49	43	33	—	36	28	33	45	45
Adults age 65 and older who have ever gotten a pneumonia vaccine (%)	—	65	74	64	100	64	—	58	74	73
Children with age-appropriate medical and dental preventive care visits (%)	—	—	—	—	—	66	75	63	68	73
Children ages 19–35 months with all recommended vaccines (%)	—	—	—	—	—	67	—	67	77	72
Adults age 18 and older without a dental visit in the past year (%)	41	32	45	43	36	39	37	44	29	31
Primary care spending as share of total age 65 and older (%)	—	—	—	—	3.6	7.5	—	—	4.3	6.1

Notes: “—” means data not available.

Source: Jess Maksut et al., *The Commonwealth Fund 2026 State Health Disparities Report* (Commonwealth Fund, Apr. 2026).