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# Vision Impairment

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**Definition:** South Dakotans who answered “yes” to the question: “Are you blind, or do you have serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses?”

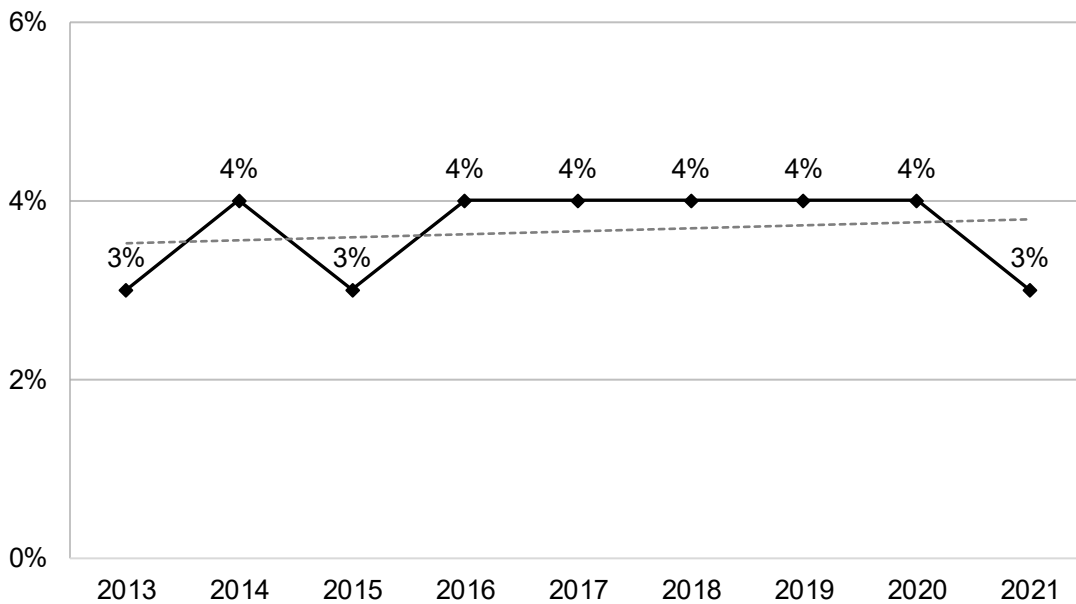
## Prevalence of Severe Vision Impairment

- South Dakota 3%
- Nationwide median 5%

## Trend Analysis

Overall, the percent of South Dakotans who have a severe vision impairment has remained steady since 2011, however, from 2020 to 2021 this went down from four percent to three percent. South Dakota is lower than the nationwide median of five percent with a vision impairment.

**Figure 37**  
**Percentage of South Dakotans Who Have a Severe Vision Impairment, 2013-2021**



Source: The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, South Dakota Department of Health, 2013-2021

**Table 34  
South Dakotans Who Have a Vision Impairment, 2017-2021**

|                              |                                       | 2017-2021 | 95% Confidence Interval |       |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------|
|                              |                                       |           | Low                     | High  |
| <b>Gender</b>                | Male                                  | 4%        | 3.2%                    | 4.7%  |
|                              | Female                                | 4%        | 3.3%                    | 4.3%  |
| <b>Age</b>                   | 18-29                                 | 3%        | 2.4%                    | 4.5%  |
|                              | 30-39                                 | 2%        | 1.3%                    | 4.4%  |
|                              | 40-49                                 | 4%        | 2.7%                    | 4.9%  |
|                              | 50-59                                 | 4%        | 3.1%                    | 4.9%  |
|                              | 60-69                                 | 4%        | 2.9%                    | 4.4%  |
|                              | 70-79                                 | 5%        | 3.8%                    | 5.7%  |
|                              | 80+                                   | 10%       | 8.1%                    | 12.7% |
| <b>Race/Ethnicity</b>        | White, Non-Hispanic                   | 3%        | 2.7%                    | 3.4%  |
|                              | American Indian, Non-Hispanic         | 11%       | 7.8%                    | 15.0% |
|                              | American Indian/White, Non-Hispanic   | 6%        | 2.6%                    | 11.2% |
|                              | Hispanic                              | 7%        | 3.5%                    | 12.5% |
| <b>Household Income</b>      | Less than \$35,000                    | 7%        | 6.2%                    | 8.7%  |
|                              | \$35,000-\$74,999                     | 3%        | 2.2%                    | 3.5%  |
|                              | \$75,000+                             | 1%        | 0.7%                    | 1.5%  |
| <b>Education</b>             | Less than High School, G.E.D.         | 9%        | 7.2%                    | 12.4% |
|                              | High School, G.E.D.                   | 5%        | 4.0%                    | 6.0%  |
|                              | Some Post-High School                 | 3%        | 2.4%                    | 3.6%  |
|                              | College Graduate                      | 2%        | 1.5%                    | 2.3%  |
| <b>Employment Status</b>     | Employed for Wages                    | 2%        | 1.9%                    | 2.9%  |
|                              | Self-employed                         | 2%        | 1.0%                    | 2.7%  |
|                              | Unemployed                            | 7%        | 4.7%                    | 10.4% |
|                              | Homemaker                             | 7%        | 3.4%                    | 15.1% |
|                              | Student                               | 2%        | 0.9%                    | 5.4%  |
|                              | Retired                               | 6%        | 4.9%                    | 6.7%  |
|                              | Unable to Work                        | 14%       | 11.6%                   | 17.9% |
| <b>Marital Status</b>        | Married/Unmarried Couple              | 3%        | 2.4%                    | 3.5%  |
|                              | Divorced/Separated                    | 5%        | 4.1%                    | 6.5%  |
|                              | Widowed                               | 9%        | 7.2%                    | 10.7% |
|                              | Never Married                         | 4%        | 3.0%                    | 5.1%  |
| <b>Home Ownership Status</b> | Own Home                              | 3%        | 2.7%                    | 3.5%  |
|                              | Rent Home                             | 6%        | 4.7%                    | 7.3%  |
| <b>Children Status</b>       | Children in Household (Ages 18-44)    | 3%        | 1.8%                    | 4.1%  |
|                              | No Children in Household (Ages 18-44) | 3%        | 1.9%                    | 3.9%  |
| <b>Phone Status</b>          | Landline                              | 5%        | 4.4%                    | 5.9%  |
|                              | Cell Phone                            | 3%        | 2.9%                    | 4.0%  |
| <b>Pregnancy Status</b>      | Pregnant (Ages 18-44)                 | 3%        | 0.8%                    | 11.0% |
|                              | Not Pregnant (Ages 18-44)             | 2%        | 1.6%                    | 3.2%  |
| <b>County</b>                | Minnehaha                             | 3%        | 2.5%                    | 4.5%  |
|                              | Pennington                            | 5%        | 3.6%                    | 5.8%  |
|                              | Lincoln                               | 3%        | 1.6%                    | 6.1%  |
|                              | Brown                                 | 4%        | 2.8%                    | 4.6%  |
|                              | Brookings                             | 3%        | 2.1%                    | 4.0%  |
|                              | Codington                             | 4%        | 3.4%                    | 5.4%  |
|                              | Meade                                 | 5%        | 3.4%                    | 6.6%  |

Source: The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, South Dakota Department of Health, 2017-2021

## **Demographics**

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Gender</b>               | The prevalence of severe vision impairment does not seem to differ by gender.   |
| <b>Age</b>                  | The prevalence of severe vision impairment generally increases as age increases including a significant increase as the 80s are reached.  |
| <b>Race/<br/>Ethnicity</b>  | American Indians and Hispanics exhibit a very high prevalence of severe vision impairment, while whites show a very low prevalence.   |
| <b>Household<br/>Income</b> | The prevalence of severe vision impairment decreases as household income increases with significant decreases as the \$35,000-\$74,999 and \$75,000+ income groups are reached.                             |
| <b>Education</b>            | The prevalence of severe vision impairment decreases as education levels increase with significant decreases as the high school and college graduate levels are reached.                                    |
| <b>Employment</b>           | Those who are a homemaker or unable to work demonstrate a very high prevalence of severe vision impairment, while those who are employed for wages, self-employed, or a student show a very low prevalence. |
| <b>Marital<br/>Status</b>   | Those who are widowed exhibit a very high prevalence of severe vision impairment, while those who are married or have never been married show a very low prevalence.  |
| <b>Home<br/>Ownership</b>   | Those who rent their home show a significantly higher prevalence of severe vision impairment than those who own their home.   |
| <b>Children<br/>Status</b>  | The prevalence of severe vision impairment in the adults does not seem to differ based on the presence of children in the household.  |
| <b>Phone Status</b>         | Those who primarily use a landline phone show a significantly higher prevalence of severe vision impairment than those who primarily use a cell phone.  |
| <b>Pregnancy<br/>Status</b> | The prevalence of severe vision impairment does not seem to differ based on pregnancy status.   |
| <b>County</b>               | The prevalence of severe vision impairment does not seem to differ among the available counties.  |