
Hearing Difficulty

Definition: South Dakotans who answered yes to the question: “Are you deaf or do you have serious difficulty hearing?”

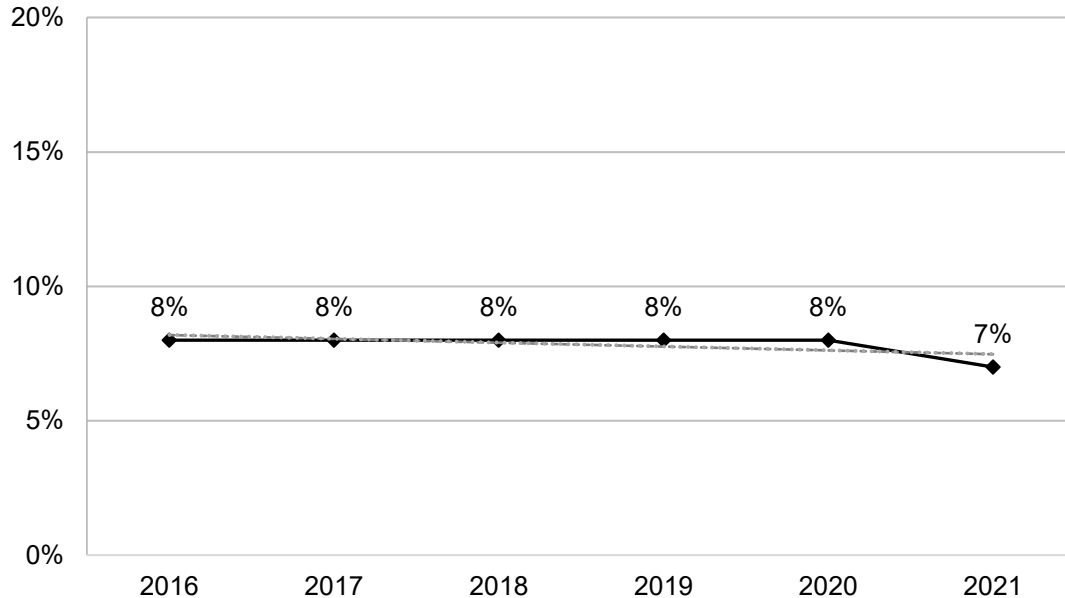
Prevalence of Hearing Difficulty

- South Dakota 7%
- Nationwide median 7%

Trend Analysis

Overall, the percent of South Dakotans who are deaf or have serious difficulty hearing had remained the same since 2016 until 2021 when the percent of those with hearing difficulties decreased from eight percent to seven percent. South Dakota is the same as the nationwide median of seven percent with a hearing difficulty.

Figure 54
Percentage of South Dakotans Who Are Deaf or Have Serious Difficulty Hearing, 2016-2021



Source: The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, South Dakota Department of Health, 2016-2021

| Table 51 | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| South Dakotans Who Are Deaf or Have Serious Difficulty Hearing, 2017-2021 | | | | |
| | | 2017-2021 | 95% Confidence Interval | |
| | | | Low | High |
| Gender | Male | 10% | 9.3% | 11.1% |
| | Female | 5% | 4.6% | 5.7% |
| Age | 18-29 | 2% | 1.3% | 3.0% |
| | 30-39 | 4% | 2.7% | 5.0% |
| | 40-49 | 4% | 2.6% | 4.9% |
| | 50-59 | 7% | 5.9% | 8.4% |
| | 60-69 | 10% | 8.7% | 11.4% |
| | 70-79 | 18% | 16.2% | 20.2% |
| | 80+ | 28% | 24.5% | 31.4% |
| Race/Ethnicity | White, Non-Hispanic | 8% | 7.2% | 8.3% |
| | American Indian, Non-Hispanic | 9% | 7.3% | 11.8% |
| | American Indian/White, Non-Hispanic | 10% | 4.6% | 19.8% |
| | Hispanic | 5% | 3.0% | 8.9% |
| Household Income | Less than \$35,000 | 10% | 8.7% | 11.0% |
| | \$35,000-\$74,999 | 7% | 6.5% | 8.4% |
| | \$75,000+ | 5% | 4.2% | 5.9% |
| Education | Less than High School, G.E.D. | 10% | 8.2% | 13.2% |
| | High School, G.E.D. | 9% | 7.9% | 10.0% |
| | Some Post-High School | 7% | 6.5% | 8.2% |
| | College Graduate | 6% | 4.9% | 6.2% |
| Employment Status | Employed for Wages | 4% | 3.5% | 4.8% |
| | Self-employed | 7% | 5.5% | 8.7% |
| | Unemployed | 9% | 6.3% | 12.6% |
| | Homemaker | 6% | 3.9% | 8.4% |
| | Student | 1% | 0.4% | 2.6% |
| | Retired | 17% | 16.1% | 19.0% |
| | Unable to Work | 15% | 11.6% | 18.1% |
| Marital Status | Married/Unmarried Couple | 8% | 7.3% | 8.7% |
| | Divorced/Separated | 9% | 7.3% | 10.4% |
| | Widowed | 18% | 15.9% | 20.4% |
| | Never Married | 3% | 2.6% | 4.3% |
| Home Ownership Status | Own Home | 8% | 7.7% | 9.0% |
| | Rent Home | 6% | 5.3% | 7.4% |
| Children Status | Children in Household (Ages 18-44) | 3% | 2.5% | 4.4% |
| | No Children in Household (Ages 18-44) | 2% | 1.2% | 2.8% |
| Phone Status | Landline | 12% | 10.6% | 12.7% |
| | Cell Phone | 6% | 5.7% | 6.9% |
| Pregnancy Status | Pregnant (Ages 18-44) | 2% | 0.3% | 9.5% |
| | Not Pregnant (Ages 18-44) | 2% | 1.1% | 2.6% |
| County | Minnehaha | 6% | 5.5% | 7.7% |
| | Pennington | 8% | 6.5% | 9.0% |
| | Lincoln | 4% | 3.1% | 6.2% |
| | Brown | 8% | 6.8% | 9.5% |
| | Brookings | 5% | 3.8% | 5.5% |
| | Codington | 9% | 7.8% | 10.5% |
| | Meade | 9% | 7.3% | 11.1% |

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

Demographics

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|-----------------------------|---|
| Gender | Males exhibit a significantly higher prevalence of hearing difficulty than females. |
| Age | The prevalence of hearing difficulty increases as age increases. This includes significant increases when people reach their 50s, 60s, 70s, and 80s. |
| Race/ Ethnicity | The prevalence of hearing difficulty does not seem to differ by race/ethnicity. |
| Household Income | The prevalence of hearing difficulty decreases as household income increases. This includes significant decreases as the \$35,000-\$74,999 and \$75,000+ household income groups are reached. |
| Education | The prevalence of hearing difficulty decreases as education levels increase. This includes a significant decrease as the college graduate level is reached. |
| Employment | Those who are retired or unable to work demonstrate a very high prevalence of hearing difficulty, while those who are a student show a very low prevalence. |
| Marital Status | Those who are widowed exhibit a very high prevalence of hearing difficulty, while those who have never been married show a very low prevalence. |
| Home Ownership | Those who own their home show a significantly higher prevalence of hearing difficulty than those who rent their home. |
| Children Status | The prevalence of hearing difficulty does not seem to differ based on the presence of children in the household. |
| Phone Status | Those who primarily use a landline phone show a significantly higher prevalence of hearing difficulty than those who primarily use a cell phone. |
| Pregnancy Status | The prevalence of hearing difficulty does not seem to differ based on pregnancy status. |
| County | Pennington, Brown, Codrington, and Meade counties all exhibit a very high prevalence of hearing difficulty, while those in Minnehaha, Lincoln, and Brookings counties show a very low prevalence. |