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## Hearing Difficulty

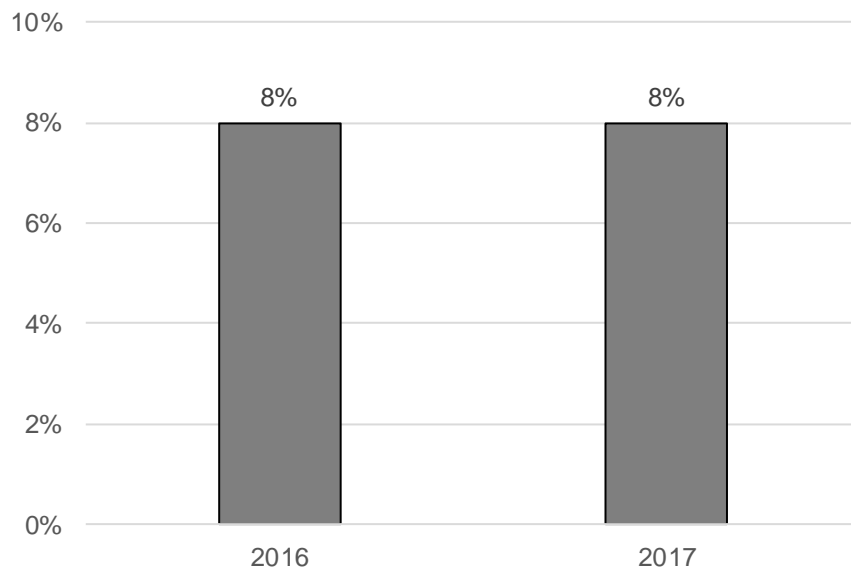
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**Definition:** South Dakotans that answered yes to the question: “Are you deaf or do you have serious difficulty hearing?”

### Prevalence of Hearing Difficulty

- South Dakota 8%
- Nationwide median 7%

**Figure 74**  
**Percentage of South Dakotans Who are Deaf or Have Serious Difficulty Hearing, 2016-2017**



Source: The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, South Dakota Department of Health, 2016-2017

<b>Table 62</b>				
<b>South Dakotans Who Are Deaf or Have Serious Difficulty Hearing, 2016-2017</b>				
		<b>2016-2017</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>	
			<b>Low</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>Gender</b>	Male	10%	9.2%	11.8%
	Female	5%	4.4%	6.0%
<b>Age</b>	18-29	3%	1.5%	4.6%
	30-39	3%	1.7%	4.1%
	40-49	5%	3.2%	6.7%
	50-59	7%	5.3%	8.7%
	60-69	10%	8.0%	11.6%
	70-79	19%	15.3%	22.4%
	80+	30%	25.2%	35.3%
<b>Race</b>	White	8%	6.9%	8.6%
	American Indian	10%	7.9%	13.7%
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Hispanic	7%	2.4%	16.9%
	Non-Hispanic	8%	7.1%	8.6%
<b>Household Income</b>	Less than \$35,000	10%	8.3%	11.6%
	\$35,000-\$74,999	7%	6.0%	8.6%
	\$75,000+	5%	3.8%	6.0%
<b>Education</b>	Less than High School, G.E.D.	12%	8.3%	16.2%
	High School, G.E.D.	9%	8.1%	11.1%
	Some Post-High School	7%	5.8%	8.2%
	College Graduate	5%	4.4%	6.4%
<b>Employment Status</b>	Employed for Wages	4%	3.5%	5.3%
	Self-employed	6%	4.2%	7.8%
	Unemployed	5%	2.7%	10.0%
	Homemaker	7%	4.0%	10.8%
	Student	1%	0.1%	2.7%
	Retired	19%	16.8%	21.7%
	Unable to Work	17%	12.6%	22.0%
<b>Marital Status</b>	Married/Unmarried Couple	7%	6.5%	8.5%
	Divorced/Separated	9%	7.2%	12.1%
	Widowed	22%	18.4%	26.8%
	Never Married	3%	2.4%	4.6%
<b>Home Ownership Status</b>	Own Home	9%	7.6%	9.5%
	Rent Home	6%	4.9%	7.7%
<b>Children Status</b>	Children in Household (Ages 18-44)	3%	1.8%	4.4%
	No Children in Household (Ages 18-44)	2%	1.5%	4.0%
<b>Phone Status</b>	Landline	12%	10.4%	13.8%
	Cell Phone	6%	5.5%	7.2%
<b>Pregnancy Status</b>	Pregnant (Ages 18-44)	*	*	*
	Not Pregnant (Ages 18-44)	2%	0.9%	3.1%
<b>County</b>	Minnehaha	6%	4.4%	7.8%
	Pennington	10%	8.3%	13.1%
	Lincoln	*	*	*
	Brown	*	*	*
	Brookings	*	*	*
	Codington	*	*	*
	Meade	*	*	*
	Lawrence	6%	4.6%	8.7%

Note: \*Results based on small sample sizes have been suppressed.

Source: The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, South Dakota Department of Health, 2016-2017

## **Demographics**

<b>Gender</b>	Males exhibit a significantly higher prevalence of hearing difficulty than females.
<b>Age</b>	The prevalence of hearing difficulty increases as age increases. This includes significant increases when people reach their 70s, and 80s.
<b>Race</b>	There seems to be no racial difference regarding hearing difficulty.
<b>Ethnicity</b>	There seems to be no Hispanic difference regarding hearing difficulty.
<b>Household Income</b>	The prevalence of hearing difficulty decreases as household income increases.
<b>Education</b>	The prevalence of hearing difficulty decreases as education increases.
<b>Employment</b>	Those who are retired or unable to work demonstrate a very high prevalence of hearing difficulty while those who are unemployed or a student show a very low prevalence.
<b>Marital Status</b>	Those who are widowed exhibit a very high prevalence of hearing difficulty, while those who have never been married show a very low prevalence.
<b>Home Ownership</b>	The prevalence of hearing difficulty does not seem to differ based on home ownership status.
<b>Children Status</b>	The prevalence of hearing difficulty does not seem to differ based on the presence of children in the household.
<b>Phone Status</b>	Those with a landline phone show a significantly higher prevalence of hearing difficulty than those with a cell phone.
<b>County</b>	Pennington county exhibits a very high prevalence of hearing difficulty, while those in Minnehaha county show a very low prevalence.