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## Hearing Difficulty

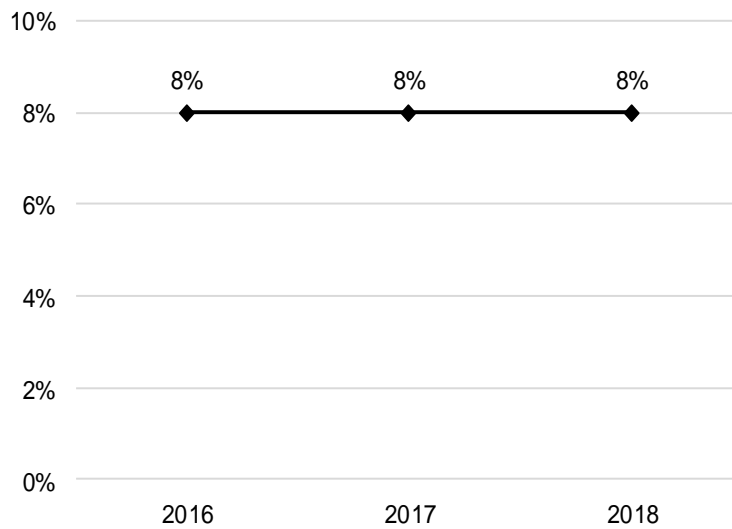
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**Definition:** South Dakotans that answered yes to the question: “Are you deaf or do you have serious difficulty hearing?”

### Prevalence of Hearing Difficulty

- South Dakota 8%
- Nationwide median 7%

**Figure 76**  
**Percentage of South Dakotans Who are Deaf or Have Serious Difficulty Hearing, 2016-2018**



Source: The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, South Dakota Department of Health, 2016-2018

<b>Table 61</b>				
<b>South Dakotans Who Are Deaf or Have Serious Difficulty Hearing, 2016-2018</b>				
		<b>2016-2018</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>	
			<b>Low</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>Gender</b>	Male	10%	9.2%	11.3%
	Female	5%	4.6%	5.9%
<b>Age</b>	18-29	2%	1.5%	4.0%
	30-39	3%	2.1%	4.3%
	40-49	4%	2.9%	5.4%
	50-59	7%	5.6%	8.4%
	60-69	10%	8.5%	11.4%
	70-79	19%	16.0%	21.5%
	80+	29%	25.1%	33.1%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	White	8%	6.9%	8.2%
	American Indian, Non-Hispanic	10%	7.7%	12.4%
	Hispanic	7%	3.3%	13.9%
<b>Household Income</b>	Less than \$35,000	10%	8.3%	10.9%
	\$35,000-\$74,999	7%	6.2%	8.3%
	\$75,000+	5%	3.8%	5.4%
<b>Education</b>	Less than High School, G.E.D.	11%	8.5%	14.9%
	High School, G.E.D.	9%	8.2%	10.6%
	Some Post-High School	7%	6.1%	8.0%
	College Graduate	5%	4.5%	6.0%
<b>Employment Status</b>	Employed for Wages	4%	3.6%	5.0%
	Self-employed	6%	4.6%	7.4%
	Unemployed	5%	3.4%	8.2%
	Homemaker	7%	4.8%	10.9%
	Student	1%	0.2%	1.8%
	Retired	18%	16.4%	20.0%
	Unable to Work	17%	13.4%	21.8%
<b>Marital Status</b>	Married/Unmarried Couple	7%	6.6%	8.2%
	Divorced/Separated	9%	7.5%	11.5%
	Widowed	21%	18.2%	24.6%
	Never Married	3%	2.5%	4.5%
<b>Home Ownership Status</b>	Own Home	8%	7.6%	9.1%
	Rent Home	6%	5.2%	7.7%
<b>Children Status</b>	Children in Household (Ages 18-44)	3%	2.1%	4.2%
	No Children in Household (Ages 18-44)	2%	1.6%	3.8%
<b>Phone Status</b>	Landline	12%	10.3%	12.9%
	Cell Phone	6%	5.6%	7.0%
<b>Pregnancy Status</b>	Pregnant (Ages 18-44)	3%	0.4%	14.9%
	Not Pregnant (Ages 18-44)	1%	0.8%	2.4%
<b>County</b>	Minnehaha	6%	4.9%	7.8%
	Pennington	10%	7.9%	11.6%
	Lincoln	3%	1.8%	6.7%
	Brown	10%	7.1%	13.7%
	Brookings	4%	2.9%	5.8%
	Codington	12%	8.9%	15.7%
	Meade	8%	5.0%	11.4%
	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, 2016-2018

## **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 50s, 60s, 70s, and 80s.
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	There seems to be no racial/ethnic difference regarding hearing difficulty.
<b>Household Income</b>	The prevalence of hearing difficulty decreases as household income increases. This includes a significant decrease as the \$75,000+ household income group is reached.
<b>Education</b>	The prevalence of hearing difficulty decreases as education increases. This includes significant decreases as some post-high school and college graduate levels are reached.
<b>Employment</b>	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.
<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 change based on home ownership status.
<b>Children Status</b>	The prevalence of hearing difficulty does not seem to change 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 hearing difficulty than those who primarily use a cell phone.
<b>County</b>	Pennington, Brown, and Codrington counties exhibit a very high prevalence of hearing difficulty, while those in Minnehaha, Lincoln, and Brookings counties show a very low prevalence.