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# Prescription Pain Medication

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**Definition:** South Dakotans who have taken prescription pain medication in the past twelve months.

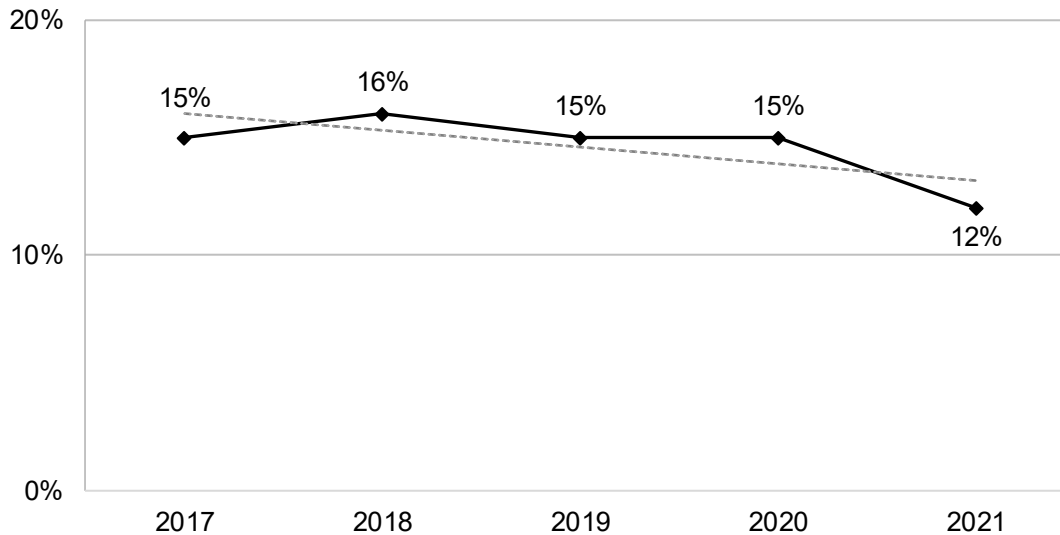
## Prevalence of Prescription Pain Medication

- South Dakota 12%
- There is no nationwide median for prescription pain medication

## Trend Analysis

Overall, the percent of South Dakotans who have taken prescription pain medication in the past twelve months has remained steady, however this percent fell from 15 percent in 2020 to 12 percent in 2021.

**Figure 64**  
**Percentage of South Dakotans Who Have Taken Prescription Pain Medication in the Last 12 Months, 2017-2021**



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

**Table 64**  
**South Dakotans Who Have Taken Prescription Pain Medication in the Last 12 Months, 2017-2021**

|                              |                                       | 2017-2021 | 95% Confidence Interval |       |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------|
|                              |                                       |           | Low                     | High  |
| <b>Gender</b>                | Male                                  | 13%       | 12.0%                   | 14.3% |
|                              | Female                                | 16%       | 14.5%                   | 16.7% |
| <b>Age</b>                   | 18-29                                 | 12%       | 10.1%                   | 14.5% |
|                              | 30-39                                 | 13%       | 10.6%                   | 15.3% |
|                              | 40-49                                 | 12%       | 10.3%                   | 14.0% |
|                              | 50-59                                 | 17%       | 15.1%                   | 18.9% |
|                              | 60-69                                 | 18%       | 16.1%                   | 19.6% |
|                              | 70-79                                 | 15%       | 13.7%                   | 17.4% |
|                              | 80+                                   | 12%       | 9.7%                    | 14.4% |
| <b>Race/Ethnicity</b>        | White, Non-Hispanic                   | 14%       | 13.4%                   | 15.1% |
|                              | American Indian, Non-Hispanic         | 15%       | 11.7%                   | 19.2% |
|                              | American Indian/White, Non-Hispanic   | 22%       | 13.8%                   | 32.5% |
|                              | Hispanic                              | 16%       | 11.5%                   | 22.8% |
| <b>Household Income</b>      | Less than \$35,000                    | 18%       | 15.9%                   | 19.6% |
|                              | \$35,000-\$74,999                     | 14%       | 13.0%                   | 15.8% |
|                              | \$75,000+                             | 13%       | 11.6%                   | 14.5% |
| <b>Education</b>             | Less than High School, G.E.D.         | 15%       | 11.8%                   | 18.7% |
|                              | High School, G.E.D.                   | 14%       | 12.1%                   | 15.1% |
|                              | Some Post-High School                 | 15%       | 13.7%                   | 16.4% |
|                              | College Graduate                      | 14%       | 13.1%                   | 15.8% |
| <b>Employment Status</b>     | Employed for Wages                    | 13%       | 11.8%                   | 14.0% |
|                              | Self-employed                         | 11%       | 8.8%                    | 12.7% |
|                              | Unemployed                            | 16%       | 11.9%                   | 20.0% |
|                              | Homemaker                             | 16%       | 9.9%                    | 23.5% |
|                              | Student                               | 12%       | 8.3%                    | 17.7% |
|                              | Retired                               | 16%       | 14.3%                   | 17.2% |
|                              | Unable to Work                        | 38%       | 32.7%                   | 42.6% |
| <b>Marital Status</b>        | Married/Unmarried Couple              | 14%       | 13.5%                   | 15.5% |
|                              | Divorced/Separated                    | 17%       | 14.9%                   | 19.4% |
|                              | Widowed                               | 15%       | 12.6%                   | 16.9% |
|                              | Never Married                         | 13%       | 10.8%                   | 14.7% |
| <b>Home Ownership Status</b> | Own Home                              | 14%       | 13.3%                   | 15.0% |
|                              | Rent Home                             | 15%       | 13.5%                   | 17.5% |
| <b>Children Status</b>       | Children in Household (Ages 18-44)    | 13%       | 11.2%                   | 15.3% |
|                              | No Children in Household (Ages 18-44) | 11%       | 9.6%                    | 13.4% |
| <b>Phone Status</b>          | Landline                              | 13%       | 12.3%                   | 14.5% |
|                              | Cell Phone                            | 15%       | 13.8%                   | 15.8% |
| <b>Pregnancy Status</b>      | Pregnant (Ages 18-44)                 | 6%        | 2.4%                    | 12.4% |
|                              | Not Pregnant (Ages 18-44)             | 14%       | 12.3%                   | 16.5% |
| <b>County</b>                | Minnehaha                             | 14%       | 12.1%                   | 15.9% |
|                              | Pennington                            | 17%       | 14.7%                   | 18.7% |
|                              | Lincoln                               | 15%       | 11.9%                   | 19.9% |
|                              | Brown                                 | 16%       | 13.4%                   | 18.7% |
|                              | Brookings                             | 12%       | 10.0%                   | 14.7% |
|                              | Codington                             | 12%       | 10.2%                   | 14.0% |
|                              | Meade                                 | 16%       | 13.1%                   | 19.6% |

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

## **Demographics**

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Gender</b>               | Females exhibit a significantly higher prevalence of taking prescription pain medication than males.   |
| <b>Age</b>                  | The prevalence of taking prescription pain medication does not seem to consistently change as age increases.   |
| <b>Race/<br/>Ethnicity</b>  | The prevalence of taking prescription pain medication does not seem to differ based on race/ethnicity.   |
| <b>Household<br/>Income</b> | The prevalence of taking prescription pain medication decreases as household income increases. This includes a significant decrease as the \$35,000-\$74,999 income group is reached.  |
| <b>Education</b>            | The prevalence of taking prescription pain medication does not seem to consistently change as education levels increase.   |
| <b>Employment</b>           | Those who are unable to work demonstrate a very high prevalence of taking prescription pain medication, while those who are employed for wages, self-employed, unemployed, a homemaker, or a student show a very low prevalence. |
| <b>Marital<br/>Status</b>   | Those who are divorced exhibit a very high prevalence of taking prescription pain medication, while those who have never been married show a very low prevalence.  |
| <b>Home<br/>Ownership</b>   | The prevalence of taking prescription pain medication does not seem to differ based on home ownership status.  |
| <b>Children<br/>Status</b>  | The prevalence of taking prescription pain medication does not seem to differ based on the presence of children in the household.  |
| <b>Phone Status</b>         | The prevalence of taking prescription pain medication does not seem to differ based on phone status.   |
| <b>County</b>               | Residents of Pennington county demonstrate a very high prevalence of taking prescription pain medication, while residents of Codrington county show a very low prevalence.   |