

Hearing Difficulty

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

Prevalence of Hearing Difficulty

- South Dakota 8%
- There is no nationwide median for hearing difficulty

Table 66				
Respondents Who Are Deaf or Have Serious Difficulty Hearing, 2016				
			95% Confidence Interval	
		2016	Low	High
Gender	Male	10%	8.6%	12.4%
	Female	5%	4.0%	6.2%
Age	18-29	2%	1.1%	5.4%
	30-39	3%	1.3%	4.8%
	40-49	4%	2.3%	6.3%
	50-59	6%	4.2%	8.6%
	60-69	9%	6.9%	11.7%
	70-79	21%	15.6%	27.6%
Race	80+	31%	23.8%	38.2%
	White	7%	6.4%	8.7%
Ethnicity	American Indian	11%	7.2%	16.7%
	Hispanic	*	*	*
Household Income	Non-Hispanic	8%	6.7%	9.0%
	Less than \$35,000	11%	8.3%	13.7%
	\$35,000-\$74,999	7%	5.1%	8.5%
Education	\$75,000+	4%	3.2%	6.2%
	Less than High School, G.E.D.	13%	8.0%	20.0%
	High School, G.E.D.	10%	7.7%	11.8%
	Some Post-High School	6%	4.9%	8.3%
Employment Status	College Graduate	5%	3.7%	6.4%
	Employed for Wages	4%	3.0%	5.4%
	Self-employed	5%	3.3%	7.8%
	Unemployed	4%	1.5%	8.6%
	Homemaker	9%	4.6%	15.6%
	Student	1%	0.1%	6.2%
Marital Status	Retired	20%	16.4%	24.2%
	Unable to Work	18%	12.5%	25.5%
	Married/Unmarried Couple	7%	5.5%	8.1%
	Divorced/Separated	11%	7.5%	16.1%
Home Ownership Status	Widowed	24%	17.7%	30.8%
	Never Married	3%	2.1%	5.1%
Children Status	Own Home	8%	6.9%	9.6%
	Rent Home	7%	4.8%	9.1%
Phone Status	Children in Household (Ages 18-44)	2%	1.1%	4.4%
	No Children in Household (Ages 18-44)	3%	1.4%	5.0%
Phone Status	Landline	13%	10.6%	16.2%
	Cell Phone	6%	4.8%	7.0%

Table 66 (continued)				
Respondents Who Are Deaf or Have Serious Difficulty Hearing, 2016				
			95% Confidence Interval	
		2016	Low	High
Pregnancy Status	Pregnant (Ages 18-44)	*	*	*
	Not Pregnant (Ages 18-44)	1%	0.6%	2.4%
County	Minnehaha	5%	3.2%	7.7%
	Pennington	11%	8.3%	15.4%
	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

Demographics

Gender Males exhibit a significantly higher prevalence of serious hearing difficulty than females.

Age The prevalence of serious hearing difficulty increases as age increases. This includes a significant increase as the 70s are reached.

Race There seems to be no racial difference with regard to the prevalence of serious hearing difficulty.

Household Income The prevalence of serious hearing difficulty decreases as household income increases.

Education The prevalence of serious hearing difficulty decreases as education levels increase.

Employment Those who are retired or unable to work demonstrate a very high prevalence of serious hearing difficulty, while those who are employed for wages, self-employed, unemployed, a homemaker, or a student show a very low prevalence.

Marital Status Those who are widowed exhibit a very high prevalence of serious hearing difficulty, while those who have never been married show a very low prevalence.

Home Ownership Home ownership does not seem to affect the prevalence of serious hearing difficulty.

Children Status Children in the household do not seem to affect the prevalence of serious hearing difficulty in the adults.

Phone Status Those with a landline phone show a significantly higher prevalence of serious hearing difficulty than those with a cell phone.

County Pennington county demonstrates a very high prevalence of serious hearing difficulty, while Minnehaha county shows a very low prevalence.