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# Vision Impairment

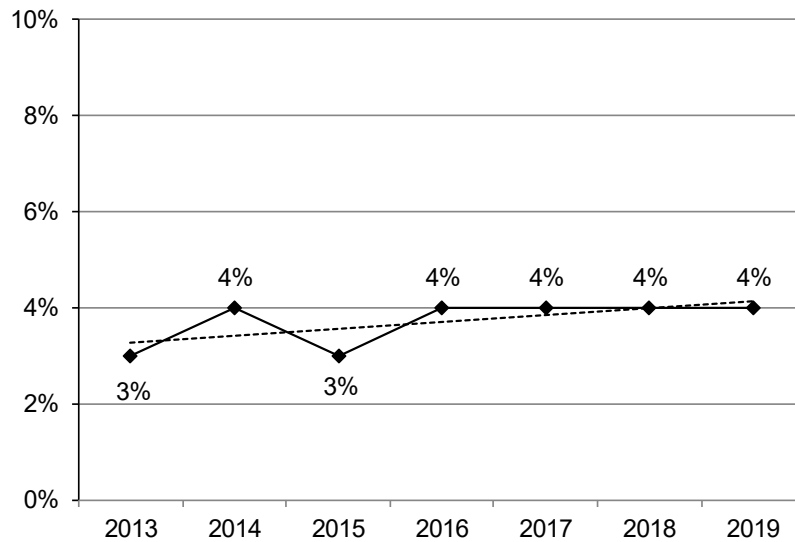
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**Definition:** South Dakotans who answered “yes” to the question: “Are you blind or do you have serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses?”

## Prevalence of Vision Impairment

- South Dakota 4%
- There is no nationwide median for vision impairment

**Figure 45**  
**Percentage of South Dakotans Who Have a Vision Impairment, 2013-2019**



Source: The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, South Dakota Department of Health, 2013-2019

**Table 42**  
**South Dakotans Who Have a Vision Impairment, 2015-2019**

		2015-2019	95% Confidence Interval	
			Low	High
<b>Gender</b>	Male	4%	3.1%	4.3%
	Female	4%	3.4%	4.3%
<b>Age</b>	18-29	3%	2.0%	4.1%
	30-39	1%	1.0%	2.2%
	40-49	3%	2.6%	4.7%
	50-59	4%	3.3%	5.0%
	60-69	4%	3.2%	4.6%
	70-79	6%	4.5%	7.2%
	80+	11%	8.8%	13.0%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	White, Non-Hispanic	3%	2.9%	3.6%
	American Indian, Non-Hispanic	9%	7.2%	11.5%
	American Indian/White, Non-Hispanic	9%	4.9%	15.2%
	Hispanic	6%	2.8%	11.3%
<b>Household Income</b>	Less than \$35,000	7%	5.8%	7.6%
	\$35,000-\$74,999	2%	2.0%	3.1%
	\$75,000+	1%	0.9%	1.8%
<b>Education</b>	Less than High School, G.E.D.	9%	7.2%	11.6%
	High School, G.E.D.	4%	3.9%	5.2%
	Some Post-High School	3%	2.4%	3.6%
	College Graduate	2%	1.5%	2.3%
<b>Employment Status</b>	Employed for Wages	2%	1.7%	2.7%
	Self-employed	2%	1.2%	3.2%
	Unemployed	6%	3.8%	8.4%
	Homemaker	5%	3.5%	7.9%
	Student	2%	0.5%	4.7%
	Retired	6%	5.4%	7.2%
	Unable to Work	16%	13.1%	19.2%
<b>Marital Status</b>	Married/Unmarried Couple	3%	2.3%	3.1%
	Divorced/Separated	5%	4.0%	6.2%
	Widowed	10%	8.0%	11.7%
	Never Married	4%	3.0%	5.1%
<b>Home Ownership Status</b>	Own Home	3%	2.8%	3.7%
	Rent Home	5%	4.4%	6.3%
<b>Children Status</b>	Children in Household (Ages 18-44)	2%	1.5%	2.8%
	No Children in Household (Ages 18-44)	3%	1.7%	3.7%
<b>Phone Status</b>	Landline	5%	4.5%	6.0%
	Cell Phone	3%	2.7%	3.6%
<b>Pregnancy Status</b>	Pregnant (Ages 18-44)	3%	0.7%	9.8%
	Not Pregnant (Ages 18-44)	2%	1.3%	2.7%
<b>County</b>	Minnehaha	3%	2.5%	4.3%
	Pennington	4%	3.3%	5.2%
	Lincoln	3%	1.2%	6.0%
	Brown	4%	2.6%	4.8%
	Brookings	3%	2.3%	4.7%
	Codington	4%	3.2%	5.6%
	Meade	5%	3.7%	7.7%
	Lawrence	3%	1.8%	3.6%

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

Source: The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, South Dakota Department of Health, 2015-2019

## **Demographics**

<b>Gender</b>	The prevalence of severe vision impairment does not seem to differ by gender.
<b>Age</b>	The prevalence of severe vision impairment generally increases as age increases including significant increases as the 40s and 80s are reached.
<b>Race/ Ethnicity</b>	American Indians and American Indian/whites exhibit a very high prevalence of severe vision impairment, while whites show a very low prevalence.
<b>Household Income</b>	The prevalence of severe vision impairment decreases as household income increases with significant decreases as the \$35,000-\$74,999 and \$75,000+ income groups are reached.
<b>Education</b>	The prevalence of severe vision impairment decreases as education levels increase with significant decreases at every level.
<b>Employment</b>	Those who are unable to work demonstrate a very high prevalence of severe vision impairment, while those who are employed for wages, self-employed, or a student show a very low prevalence.
<b>Marital Status</b>	Those who are widowed exhibit a very high prevalence of severe vision impairment, while those who are married or have never been married show a very low prevalence.
<b>Home Ownership</b>	Those who rent their home show a significantly higher prevalence of severe vision impairment than those who own their home.
<b>Children Status</b>	The prevalence of severe vision impairment in the adults 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 severe vision impairment than those who primarily use a cell phone.
<b>Pregnancy Status</b>	The prevalence of severe vision impairment does not seem to change based on pregnancy status.
<b>County</b>	Residents of Meade county demonstrate a very high prevalence of severe vision impairment, while residents of Lawrence county show a very low prevalence.