



Community Health Profile

ACCESS AND QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE

Ability to access health care is affected by insurance coverage, cost, language and cultural barriers, availability of providers, and transportation. People who are not able to access health care are at increased risk for serious medical problems, premature mortality and poor health outcomes. Inability to access health care often results in receiving medical treatment later in the course of illness and in more costly settings, which increases the financial burden on the health care system.

KEY FACTS

Many people who can't access health insurance through an employer are not able to afford the cost of health insurance available through the Affordable Care Act.

The COVID-19 pandemic placed a lot of stress on hospitals and the health care workforce, resulting in many health care professionals leaving the health care industry.

Elderly and disabled residents often do not access the services that are available to help them stay in their homes.

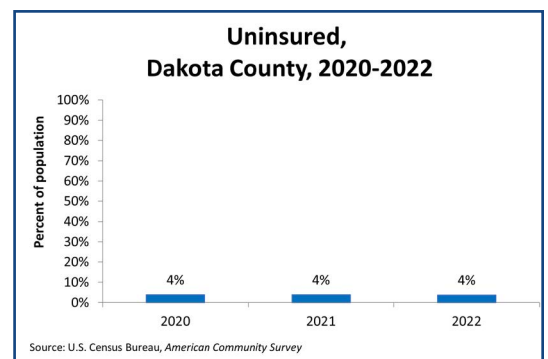
There are limited low-cost services for medical, dental, and mental health available in the county or within a reasonable distance for residents.

Dakota County health system

- There are three hospitals in Dakota County (Fairview Ridges, Regina Medical Center, Northfield Hospital), with a total of 244 beds. There were 14,063 acute inpatient admissions and 85,731 emergency room registrations at these hospitals in 2021.
- There are 33 primary care clinics in Dakota County. In 2022-23, there were an estimated 307 practicing primary care physicians.
- In 2022-23, an estimated 268 dentists were professionally active in Dakota County.

Health insurance coverage

- In 2022, an estimated four percent of Dakota County residents were uninsured, slightly below the state (five percent). This was similar to 2017.
- It is difficult to measure the number of state and county residents who are underinsured, but given the increase in high-deductible plans, use of health savings accounts and limited benefit plans, it is likely that an increasing percentage of people are underinsured.



Minnesota Health Care Programs

- In 2022, 93,930 Dakota County residents were ever eligible for one of the state's publicly-funded health care programs (Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare).
- In 2022, the payments through Minnesota Health Care Programs for care for Dakota County residents totaled \$1.2 billion, an increase from \$983.5 million in 2021.

Access to medical care

- Nineteen percent of Dakota County adults aged 25 and older who needed medical care delayed or did not get needed medical care in the previous 12 months in 2023, a decrease from 21 percent in 2014.
- Among those who delayed care, 37.5 percent said it was due to cost or lack of insurance, 38 percent because they could not find a provider or get an appointment, and 27 percent said they had work, family or other duties.
- Dakota County hospitals provided \$19.6 million in uncompensated care in 2021, a one percent decrease from 2020.

Long term care

- Licensed facilities in the county include 14 supervised living facilities with a total of 150 beds; 181 assisted living facilities, including 50 that provide dementia care; and nine nursing homes with 871 beds.
- In 2022, the average long-term services and support spending per person in Dakota County was: \$27,956 for older adults and \$45,023 per person for all people receiving long-term services and supports.



Dental Care

- Dakota County children ages 3-18 enrolled in Medical Assistance who had a preventive dental visit in 2020 included 29 percent of children ages 3-5, 37 percent of children ages 6-9, 37 percent of children ages 10-14, and 30 percent of adolescents ages 15-18.
- Many dentists in the county have waiting lists for new Medical Assistance patients.



Quality of care and patient safety

- From 2018-2022, there were 41 adverse events in Dakota County hospitals. 23 events caused serious injury or disability and none caused death.
- In 2022, 2 out of 3 Dakota County hospitals received a 4-star overall rating for patient experience, and one received a 3-star rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid.
- From 2019-2023, 144 substantiated complaints against 44 Dakota County long-term care facilities and home health providers were resolved.

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For more information:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov
- Minnesota Department of Health www.health.state.mn.us
- Minnesota Community Measurement www.mncom.org
- Minnesota Department of Human Services <https://mn.gov/dhs/>
- Kaiser Family Foundation www.kff.org

Emergency Medical Services

- In 2022, the Dakota Communications Center handled 297,156 calls - 174,400 were 911 calls.

The Dakota County Public Health Department is accredited by the national Public Health Accreditation Board.

For more information about the Dakota County community health assessment, email public.health@co.dakota.mn.us or call 651.554.6100.

