



# SOUTH CAROLINA

## STATE HEALTH PROFILE



Overall America's Health Ranking: **37**

United Health Foundation. (2024 Annual Report). America's Health Rankings.  
[www.americashealthrankings.org](http://www.americashealthrankings.org)

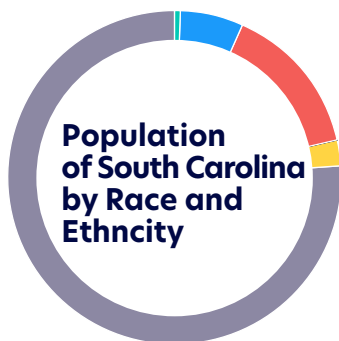


Source: National Commission on Certification of PAs. (2023). Statistical Profile of Board Certified PAs by State

**Total Population of PAs in SC: 2,730**  
**PAs Practicing in a Rural Area: 2.3%**

- 0.2% – American Indian/Alaskan Native
- 2.7% – Asian
- 3.9% – Black/African American
- 1.4% – Multi-race
- 0.2% – Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- 0.8% – Other
- 87.3% – White
- 3.5% – Prefer not to answer

**3.6% – Percentage of PAs by Hispanic, Latino(a), or Spanish origin**



Source: United States Census Bureau accessible at [Census.gov/quickfacts](http://Census.gov/quickfacts)

**Total Population: ~5.5 Million**

- 0.6% – American Indian/Alaskan Native
- 2.0% – Asian
- 26.0% – Black/African American
- 0.1% – Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- 2.3% – Two or More Races
- 69.0% – White

**7.5% – Hispanic/Latino**  
**62.9% – White Alone, Not Hispanic or Latino**

## Populations At Risk for Health Disparities


Source: United States Census Bureau accessible at [Census.gov/quickfacts](http://Census.gov/quickfacts)

 **Veterans**  
**344,530**


 **Language Other than English Spoken at Home**  
**8.2%**

 **People Living with a Disability Under Age 65**  
**10.1%**

 **People without Health Insurance Under 65**  
**11.1%**

 **Medicaid/CHIP Enrollment**  
**19.5%**

Kaiser Family Foundation, Medicaid State Fact Sheets 2022

 **Medicare Beneficiaries**  
**22%**  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation, State Health Facts 2021

 **Poverty**  
**13.9%**

 **2020 Rural Population**  
**32.1%**

 **Persons with Less Than High School Education**  
**11.9%**

# Top Ten Drivers of Poor Health Rankings

**1 Premature Death**

Years of potential life lost before age 75 per 100,000 population (1-year estimate)

**2 Multiple Chronic Conditions**

Percentage of adults who had three or more of the following chronic health conditions: arthritis, asthma, chronic kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cardiovascular disease (heart disease, heart attack or stroke), cancer (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer), depression, or diabetes

**3 Chlamydia**

Number of new cases of chlamydia per 100,000 population

**4 Occupational Fatalities**

Number of fatal occupational injuries in construction, manufacturing, trade, transportation, and utility industries as well as professional and business services per 100,000 workers (3-year estimate)

**5 Homicide**

Number of deaths due to injuries inflicted by another person with intent to injure or kill per 100,000 population

**6 Low Birth Weight**

Percentage of infants weighing less than 2,500 grams (5 pounds, 8 ounces) at birth

**7 Food Insecurity**

Percentage of households unable to provide adequate food for one or more household members due to lack of resources

**8 Economic Hardship Index**

Index of state economic conditions based on crowded housing, dependency, education, income, poverty, and unemployment

**9 Frequent Physical Distress**

Percentage of adults who reported their physical health was not good 14 or more days in the past 30 days

**10 Teen Births**

Births per 1,000 females ages 15-19

Source: United Health Foundation. Americas Health Rankings. [www.americashealthrankings.org](http://www.americashealthrankings.org)

## 1 Premature Death

- Collaborate with state and local health departments to understand causes of premature death and consider increased health risk screenings, increasing vaccine rates, and increasing access to care for underserved populations

## 2 Multiple Chronic Conditions

- Encourage patients to reduce their risk of developing chronic diseases, including eating healthy, not smoking, getting enough regular physical activity, and avoiding excessive drinking
- Explore County Health Rankings & Roadmaps and the U.S. Community Preventive Services Task Force resources to help support individuals with multiple chronic conditions such as comprehensive telehealth interventions to improve diet and text messaging interventions for medication adherence

## 3 Chlamydia

- Educate patients on abstinence, having a single sexual partner, reducing the number of sexual partners, and making sure to use latex condoms and/or dental dams properly during sex
- Integrate screening for chlamydia and other STIs into regular medical care based on CDC recommendations

## 4 Occupational Fatalities

- Take an occupational history, and if specific hazardous exposures are suspected, gather more information and review health effects of identified exposures, recommend ways to reduce or eliminate exposure to hazards, refer patients to an occupational medicine specialist for more detailed assessment and management or other specialist(s), discuss safe return to work, and educate patients about the NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluation Program where employers, workers, or their representative can request a free evaluation of potential workplace hazard

## 5 Homicide

- Explore CDC Prevention Resources for Action and Violence Prevention in Practice resources

## 6 Low Birth Weight

- Focus on women's long-term health before and beyond prenatal care (e.g., expanding women's access to medical and dental services)
- Promote smoking prevention and cessation programs
- Ensure that women are able to obtain adequate nutrition before and during pregnancy
- Address factors related to demographic, social, and environmental risks

## **7 Food Insecurity**

- Screen, assess, and refer patients to programs that have been effective at reducing food insecurity including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Women Infants and Children (WIC), the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP)
- Partner with local food banks to help patients get access to free food

## **8 Economic Hardship Index**

- Screen, assess, and refer to resources that address education, housing, and poverty

## **9 Frequent Physical Distress**

- Explore strategies to reduce the prevalence of frequent physical distress include reducing the risk of developing chronic conditions such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, obesity, and arthritis. This may be done by focusing on evidence-based interventions that curb smoking, increase physical activity, and promote healthy eating.

## **10 Teen Births**

- Advocate for federal and state policies to increase access to family planning services and comprehensive risk-reduction sex education
- Encourage abstinence
- Educate patients on contraceptive use using ACOG and AAP resource

## Prevalence of Top 10 Chronic Conditions

CHRONIC CONDITION	RATES (age-adjusted prevalence)
Hypertension among adults	54.4%
Obesity among adults	35.5%
High cholesterol among adults who have been screened	32%
Diabetes among adults	11.1%
Depression among adults	20.6%
Asthma among adults	8.8%
COPD among adults	6.8%
Cancer: Invasive cancer (all sites combined)	430.8 age-adjusted rate (cases per 100,000)
Chronic kidney disease: Incidence of treated end-stage kidney disease	2418 (cases per 1 million population)
Coronary heart disease: Mortality among all people, underlying cause	89.1 age-adjusted rate (cases per 100,000)

Source: CDC Chronic Disease Indicators accessible at <https://www.cdc.gov/cdi/>

## Top 10 Causes of Death

LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH	DEATHS (per 100,000 population)
1. Heart disease	177.7
2. Cancer	153.2
3. Accidents	88.2
4. COVID	51
5. Stroke	45.6
6. Drug overdose	44.7
7. Chronic lower respiratory illness	39.7
8. Alzheimer's disease	37.4
9. Diabetes	25.8
10. Firearms	20.8

Source: CDC National Center for Health Statistics Stats of the States [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/stats\\_of\\_the\\_states.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/stats_of_the_states.htm)