

How well does the health care system in California

work for people of different racial and ethnic groups?

In California, **AANHPI people** experienced the **highest health system performance**, scoring in the 89th percentile among all population groups nationally.

AIAN people experienced the **lowest health system performance** in the state, scoring in the 17th percentile.

Compared to other states in the West region, California has more severe racial and ethnic health disparities.

Health System Performance by Race/Ethnicity



Each column is a racial/ethnic group, and each point represents a state. Performance represented as percentiles (1–100). California performance percentile highlighted. No highlighted dot indicates overall performance data not available for that group.

Population by race/ethnicity (2022)

	California	West	United States
Total	38,557,280	55,654,296	328,403,052
AANHPI	6,049,378 (16%)	8,040,349 (14%)	19,862,655 (6%)
AIAN	94,275 (<1%)	298,316 (<1%)	1,688,543 (<1%)
Black	1,952,578 (5%)	2,632,074 (5%)	38,460,950 (12%)
Hispanic	15,575,655 (40%)	18,411,141 (33%)	62,818,758 (19%)
White	12,985,946 (34%)	22,938,988 (41%)	189,511,136 (58%)

Notes: AANHPI = Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander. AIAN = American Indian and Alaska Native. “—” means data not available. West states include AK, CA, HI, NV, OR, WA. Source: David C. Radley et al., Advancing Racial Equity in U.S. Health Care: The Commonwealth Fund 2024 State Health Disparities Report (Commonwealth Fund, Apr. 2024).

How well does the health system in California work for people from different racial and ethnic groups, and across different dimensions of care?

AANHPI

California ranks 10th of 31 states where calculation was possible, indicating health system performance for AANHPI people in the state was better than average compared to other states. Specifically:

- Health outcomes ranking: **15** (of 33) is better than average
- Health care access ranking: **6** (of 34) is better than average
- Health care quality ranking: **19** (of 41) is better than average

AIAN

California ranks 3rd of 10 states where calculation was possible, indicating health system performance for AIAN people in the state was among the best compared to other states. Specifically:

- Health outcomes ranking: **1** (of 10) is among the best
- Health care access ranking: **1** (of 11) is among the best
- Health care quality ranking: **11** (of 11) is among the worst

Black

California ranks 14th of 39 states where calculation was possible, indicating health system performance for Black people in the state was better than average compared to other states. Specifically:

- Health outcomes ranking: **18** (of 40) is better than average
- Health care access ranking: **4** (of 40) is among the best
- Health care quality ranking: **29** (of 41) is worse than average

Hispanic

California ranks 12th of 47 states where calculation was possible, indicating health system performance for Hispanic people in the state was better than average compared to other states. Specifically:

- Health outcomes ranking: **25** (of 49) is worse than average
- Health care access ranking: **9** (of 48) is better than average
- Health care quality ranking: **33** (of 48) is worse than average

White

California ranks 14th of 51 states where calculation was possible, indicating health system performance for white people in the state was better than average compared to other states. Specifically:

- Health outcomes ranking: **7** (of 51) is better than average
- Health care access ranking: **14** (of 51) is better than average
- Health care quality ranking: **27** (of 51) is worse than average

California Performance Data

	AIAN		AANHPI		Black		Hispanic		White	
	CA rate	US rate	CA rate	US rate	CA rate	US rate	CA rate	US rate	CA rate	US rate
Health Outcomes										
Deaths before age 75 from health care–treatable causes per 100,000 population	112	125	52	50	164	164	75	73	73	83
Deaths before age 75 from preventable causes per 100,000 population	379	479	103	104	348	347	233	225	191	225
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	6	8	3	4	8	11	4	5	3	4
Breast cancer deaths (per 100,000 female population)	19	14	13	12	29	27	14	13	21	20
Colorectal cancer deaths (per 100,000 population)	13	13	10	9	17	17	11	11	13	13
Hospital 30-day readmission rate age 65 and older (per 1,000 beneficiaries)	—	—	—	—	46	44	—	—	23	26
Adults who smoke (%)	23	25	7	7	14	15	8	11	10	14
Adults who are obese (%)	43	41	12	14	42	44	36	37	27	34
Adults who have lost six or more teeth (%)	—	17	4	3	12	11	7	6	6	9
Health Care Access										
Uninsured adults (%)	14	22	5	7	7	12	15	23	5	8
Uninsured children (%)	11	12	2	4	3	4	4	8	3	4
Adults who went without care because of cost (%)	9	14	7	8	9	13	15	19	6	8
High out-of-pocket medical spending (%)	—	14	10	9	10	12	12	13	8	9
Adults with a usual source of care (%)	88	79	84	82	87	85	72	67	87	87
Health Care Quality										
Preventable hospitalizations age 65 and older (per 1,000 beneficiaries)	—	—	—	—	39	45	—	—	22	28
Potentially avoidable emergency department visits age 65 and older (per 1,000 beneficiaries)	—	—	—	—	222	206	—	—	127	140
Adult women who received a mammogram (%)	56	65	77	74	78	84	75	77	79	77
Adult women with a cervical cancer screening test (%)	88	82	88	87	90	90	88	87	86	84
Adults with a colon cancer screening test (%)	47	53	47	50	57	65	49	50	64	68
Adults with a recent flu shot (%)	37	39	50	50	38	38	35	34	53	50
Older adults who received the pneumonia vaccine (%)	44	63	61	62	58	62	54	55	71	73
Children with a medical and dental preventive care visit (%)	—	—	—	—	64	61	54	59	68	69
Children with all recommended vaccines (%)	—	—	—	—	—	65	70	71	65	74
Adults with a dental visit (%)	42	45	33	34	36	41	43	44	27	32
Primary care spending as share of total, age 65 and older (%)	—	—	—	—	3	5	—	—	4	5

Source: David C. Radley et al., *Advancing Racial Equity in U.S. Health Care: The Commonwealth Fund 2024 State Health Disparities Report* (Commonwealth Fund, Apr. 2024).