

How well does the health care system in Arkansas

work for people of different racial and ethnic groups?

In Arkansas, **White people** experienced the **highest health system performance**, scoring in the 47th percentile among all population groups nationally.

Hispanic people experienced the **lowest health system performance** in the state, scoring in the 7th percentile.

Compared to other states in the Southeast region, Arkansas has less 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). Arkansas performance percentile highlighted. No highlighted dot indicates overall performance data not available for that group.

Population by race/ethnicity (2022)

	Arkansas	Southeast	United States
Total	2,992,394	85,235,479	328,403,052
AANHPI	59,025 (2%)	2,600,554 (3%)	19,862,655 (6%)
AIAN	12,164 (<1%)	208,655 (<1%)	1,688,543 (<1%)
Black	424,236 (14%)	16,911,627 (20%)	38,460,950 (12%)
Hispanic	252,651 (8%)	10,891,118 (13%)	62,818,758 (19%)
White	2,022,957 (68%)	50,687,529 (60%)	189,511,136 (58%)

Notes: AANHPI = Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander. AIAN = American Indian and Alaska Native. “—” means data not available. Southeast states include AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV. 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 Arkansas work for people from different racial and ethnic groups, and across different dimensions of care?

AANHPI

Arkansas ranks 30th of 31 states where calculation was possible, indicating health system performance for AANHPI people in the state was among the worst compared to other states. Specifically:

- Health outcomes ranking: **33** (of 33) is among the worst
- Health care access ranking: **33** (of 34) is among the worst
- Health care quality ranking: **13** (of 41) is better than average

AIAN

An overall ranking for AIAN people in Arkansas is not available because of insufficient data.

- Health outcomes ranking: insufficient data
- Health care access ranking: insufficient data
- Health care quality ranking: insufficient data

Black

Arkansas ranks 35th of 39 states where calculation was possible, indicating health system performance for Black people in the state was among the worst compared to other states. Specifically:

- Health outcomes ranking: **37** (of 40) is among the worst
- Health care access ranking: **26** (of 40) is worse than average
- Health care quality ranking: **31** (of 41) is worse than average

Hispanic

Arkansas ranks 43rd of 47 states where calculation was possible, indicating health system performance for Hispanic people in the state was among the worst compared to other states. Specifically:

- Health outcomes ranking: **18** (of 49) is better than average
- Health care access ranking: **43** (of 48) is among the worst
- Health care quality ranking: **49** (of 48) is among the worst

White

Arkansas ranks 48th of 51 states where calculation was possible, indicating health system performance for white people in the state was among the worst compared to other states. Specifically:

- Health outcomes ranking: **50** (of 51) is among the worst
- Health care access ranking: **44** (of 51) is worse than average
- Health care quality ranking: **46** (of 51) is among the worst

Arkansas Performance Data

	AIAN		AANHPI		Black		Hispanic		White	
	AR rate	US rate	AR rate	US rate	AR rate	US rate	AR rate	US rate	AR rate	US rate
Health Outcomes										
Deaths before age 75 from health care–treatable causes per 100,000 population	55	125	93	50	220	164	62	73	127	83
Deaths before age 75 from preventable causes per 100,000 population	118	479	224	104	405	347	203	225	315	225
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	—	8	6	4	13	11	5	5	7	4
Breast cancer deaths (per 100,000 female population)	—	14	—	12	29	27	—	13	20	20
Colorectal cancer deaths (per 100,000 population)	—	13	—	9	19	17	—	11	15	13
Hospital 30-day readmission rate age 65 and older (per 1,000 beneficiaries)	—	—	—	—	28	44	—	—	27	26
Adults who smoke (%)	38	25	—	7	21	15	10	11	20	14
Adults who are obese (%)	31	41	34	14	49	44	33	37	39	34
Adults who have lost six or more teeth (%)	24	17	—	3	14	11	6	6	17	9
Health Care Access										
Uninsured adults (%)	16	22	15	7	10	12	31	23	9	8
Uninsured children (%)	—	12	—	4	6	4	16	8	4	4
Adults who went without care because of cost (%)	19	14	21	8	14	13	24	19	11	8
High out-of-pocket medical spending (%)	—	14	21	9	14	12	15	13	14	9
Adults with a usual source of care (%)	72	79	76	82	86	85	65	67	88	87
Health Care Quality										
Preventable hospitalizations age 65 and older (per 1,000 beneficiaries)	—	—	—	—	39	45	—	—	34	28
Potentially avoidable emergency department visits age 65 and older (per 1,000 beneficiaries)	—	—	—	—	182	206	—	—	141	140
Adult women who received a mammogram (%)	59	65	—	74	81	84	61	77	74	77
Adult women with a cervical cancer screening test (%)	96	82	93	87	90	90	86	87	82	84
Adults with a colon cancer screening test (%)	45	53	—	50	62	65	37	50	64	68
Adults with a recent flu shot (%)	41	39	42	50	38	38	34	34	45	50
Older adults who received the pneumonia vaccine (%)	62	63	—	62	58	62	—	55	73	73
Children with a medical and dental preventive care visit (%)	—	—	—	—	51	61	50	59	66	69
Children with all recommended vaccines (%)	—	—	—	—	68	65	71	71	67	74
Adults with a dental visit (%)	53	45	39	34	42	41	45	44	43	32
Primary care spending as share of total, age 65 and older (%)	—	—	—	—	4	5	—	—	5	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).