

# How well does the health care system in Arkansas work for people of different racial and ethnic groups?

In Arkansas, **White people** experienced the **best health care outcomes, access, and quality**, scoring in the 54th percentile among all population groups nationally.

**Hispanic people** experienced the **worst health care outcomes, access, and quality** in the state, scoring in the 3rd percentile.

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

## Population by race/ethnicity (2024)

	Arkansas		Southeast		United States	
Total	3,033,087		87,720,193		335,268,606	
AANHPI	65,883	2%	2,899,464	3%	21,483,845	6%
AIAN	13,383	<1%	216,853	<1%	1,720,874	<1%
Black	415,085	14%	16,903,076	19%	38,820,084	12%
Hispanic	291,784	10%	12,540,079	14%	67,230,087	20%
White	2,022,899	67%	50,802,002	58%	188,863,832	56%

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: Jess Maksut et al., *The Commonwealth Fund 2026 State Health Disparities Report* (Commonwealth Fund, Apr. 2026).

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

## AANHPI

An overall ranking for AANHPI 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:	<b>15</b> (of 45) is better than the 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 29th among the 39 states we were able to rank. This indicates that the state's health system performance for Black people was worse than the average compared to other states.

Health outcomes ranking:	<b>40</b> (of 41) is among the worst
Health care access ranking:	<b>16</b> (of 41) is better than the average
Health care quality ranking:	<b>16</b> (of 45) is better than the average

## Hispanic

Arkansas ranks 49th among the 49 states we were able to rank. This indicates that health system performance for Hispanic people was among the worst compared to other states.

Health outcomes ranking:	<b>6</b> (of 50) is better than the average
Health care access ranking:	<b>49</b> (of 50) is among the worst
Health care quality ranking:	<b>50</b> (of 50) is among the worst

## White

Arkansas ranks 48th among the 51 states we were able to rank. This indicates that the health system performance for white people was among the worst compared to other states.

Health outcomes ranking:	<b>49</b> (of 51) is among the worst
Health care access ranking:	<b>40</b> (of 51) is worse than the average
Health care quality ranking:	<b>44</b> (of 51) is worse than the average

Notes: Lower values indicate higher rank and better performance among each racial/ethnic group in Arkansas compared to other states. Performance data not available for all groups in every state.

Source: Jess Maksut et al., *The Commonwealth Fund 2026 State Health Disparities Report* (Commonwealth Fund, Apr. 2026).

## Arkansas Performance Data

	AANHPI		AIAN		Black		Hispanic		White	
	AR rate	US rate	AR rate	US rate	AR rate	US rate	AR rate	US rate	AR rate	US rate
<b>Health Outcomes</b>										
Deaths before age 75 from health care–treatable causes per 100,000 population	95	48	—	123	214	152	63	69	127	81
Deaths before age 75 from preventable causes per 100,000 population	127	77	—	380	323	273	111	145	266	197
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	7.5	3.7	—	9.1	13.8	10.9	5.4	5.0	6.8	4.5
Breast cancer deaths (per 100,000 female population)	—	12	—	13	28	26	8	13	19	19
Colorectal cancer deaths (per 100,000 population)	—	9	—	14	18	16	7	11	17	13
Hospital 30-day readmission rate age 65 and older (per 1,000 beneficiaries)	—	—	—	—	39	44	—	—	30	29
Adults age 18 and older who smoke (%)	—	6	—	22	17	12	8	10	16	12
Adults ages 18–64 who are obese (%)	—	15	—	41	50	43	39	36	41	34
Adults ages 18–64 who have lost six or more teeth (%)	—	3	—	16	14	10	5	6	16	9
<b>Health Care Access</b>										
Adults ages 19–64 uninsured (%)	15	7	—	21	13	12	35	23	10	8
Children ages 0–18 uninsured (%)	—	4	—	14	7	6	14	10	5	5
Adults age 18 and older who went without care because of cost (%)	—	8	—	17	15	13	28	21	13	9
Individuals under age 65 with high out-of-pocket medical costs (%)	—	8	—	13	9	11	23	12	11	8
Adults age 18 and older with a usual source of care (%)	78	83	—	80	90	86	59	67	89	88
<b>Health Care Quality</b>										
Preventable hospitalizations age 65 and older (per 1,000 beneficiaries)	—	—	—	—	33	44	—	—	33	30
Potentially avoidable emergency department visits age 65 and older (per 1,000 beneficiaries)	—	—	—	—	186	226	—	—	153	157
Adult women ages 50–74 who received a mammogram in the past two years (%)	80	76	—	65	83	84	58	76	74	78
Adults ages 45–75 with a recent colon cancer screening test (%)	—	53	—	56	62	66	34	51	65	69
Adults with a recent flu shot (%)	39	49	—	33	38	36	31	33	41	45
Adults age 65 and older who have ever gotten a pneumonia vaccine (%)	—	65	—	64	64	64	53	58	73	73
Children with age-appropriate medical and dental preventive care visits (%)	—	—	—	—	68	66	51	63	67	73
Children ages 19–35 months with all recommended vaccines (%)	—	—	—	—	80	67	58	67	71	72
Adults age 18 and older without a dental visit in the past year (%)	35	32	—	43	42	39	48	44	42	31
Primary care spending as share of total age 65 and older (%)	—	—	—	—	4.4	7.5	—	—	5.9	6.1

Notes: “—” means data not available.

Source: Jess Maksut et al., *The Commonwealth Fund 2026 State Health Disparities Report* (Commonwealth Fund, Apr. 2026).