

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

In California, **AANHPI people** experienced the **best health care outcomes, access, and quality**, scoring in the 95th percentile among all population groups nationally.

AIAN people experienced the **worst health care outcomes, access, and quality** in the state, scoring in the 35th 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 (2024)

	California		West		United States	
Total	38,992,178		56,390,390		335,268,606	
AANHPI	6,354,753	16%	8,485,098	15%	21,483,845	6%
AIAN	101,145	<1%	302,236	<1%	1,720,874	<1%
Black	1,938,496	5%	2,636,472	5%	38,820,084	12%
Hispanic	15,922,273	41%	18,932,453	34%	67,230,087	20%
White	12,680,161	33%	22,534,209	40%	188,863,832	56%

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

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 5th among the 33 states we were able to rank. This indicates that the state's health system performance for AANHPI people was among the best compared to other states.

- Health outcomes ranking: **20** (of 36) is worse than the average
- Health care access ranking: **9** (of 36) is better than the average
- Health care quality ranking: **12** (of 45) is better than the average

AIAN

California ranks 4th among the 21 states we were able to rank. This indicates that the state's health system performance for AIAN people was among the best compared to other states.

- Health outcomes ranking: **11** (of 23) is better than the average
- Health care access ranking: **2** (of 21) is among the best
- Health care quality ranking: **14** (of 25) is worse than the average

Black

California ranks 12th among the 39 states we were able to rank. This indicates that the state's health system performance for Black people was better than the average compared to other states.

- Health outcomes ranking: **17** (of 41) is better than the average
- Health care access ranking: **4** (of 41) is among the best
- Health care quality ranking: **32** (of 45) is worse than the average

Hispanic

California ranks 11th among the 49 states we were able to rank. This indicates that health system performance for Hispanic people was better than the average compared to other states.

- Health outcomes ranking: **29** (of 50) is worse than the average
- Health care access ranking: **5** (of 50) is among the best
- Health care quality ranking: **30** (of 50) is worse than the average

White

California ranks 14th among the 51 states we were able to rank. This indicates that the health system performance for white people was better than the average compared to other states.

- Health outcomes ranking: **11** (of 51) is better than the average
- Health care access ranking: **13** (of 51) is better than the average
- Health care quality ranking: **19** (of 51) is better than the average

Notes: Lower values indicate higher rank and better performance among each racial/ethnic group in California 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).

California Performance Data

	AANHPI		AIAN		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	51	48	119	123	154	152	72	69	72	81
Deaths before age 75 from preventable causes per 100,000 population	81	77	310	380	291	273	152	145	177	197
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	3.0	3.7	8.5	9.1	8.8	10.9	4.2	5.0	2.9	4.5
Breast cancer deaths (per 100,000 female population)	13	12	16	13	29	26	15	13	21	19
Colorectal cancer deaths (per 100,000 population)	10	9	17	14	17	16	11	11	13	13
Hospital 30-day readmission rate age 65 and older (per 1,000 beneficiaries)	—	—	—	—	56	44	—	—	28	29
Adults age 18 and older who smoke (%)	6	6	15	22	10	12	8	10	9	12
Adults ages 18–64 who are obese (%)	15	15	44	41	38	43	38	36	27	34
Adults ages 18–64 who have lost six or more teeth (%)	4	3	18	16	9	10	7	6	6	9
Health Care Access										
Adults ages 19–64 uninsured (%)	4	7	10	21	7	12	13	23	4	8
Children ages 0–18 uninsured (%)	2	4	5	14	4	6	4	10	2	5
Adults age 18 and older who went without care because of cost (%)	7	8	—	17	10	13	16	21	8	9
Individuals under age 65 with high out-of-pocket medical costs (%)	9	8	—	13	9	11	10	12	8	8
Adults age 18 and older with a usual source of care (%)	84	83	81	80	87	86	72	67	88	88
Health Care Quality										
Preventable hospitalizations age 65 and older (per 1,000 beneficiaries)	—	—	—	—	50	44	—	—	26	30
Potentially avoidable emergency department visits age 65 and older (per 1,000 beneficiaries)	—	—	—	—	267	226	—	—	155	157
Adult women ages 50–74 who received a mammogram in the past two years (%)	77	76	61	65	79	84	75	76	80	78
Adults ages 45–75 with a recent colon cancer screening test (%)	55	53	47	56	61	66	49	51	68	69
Adults with a recent flu shot (%)	53	49	40	33	39	36	36	33	48	45
Adults age 65 and older who have ever gotten a pneumonia vaccine (%)	68	65	64	64	64	64	60	58	72	73
Children with age-appropriate medical and dental preventive care visits (%)	—	—	—	—	64	66	63	63	76	73
Children ages 19–35 months with all recommended vaccines (%)	—	—	—	—	—	67	61	67	67	72
Adults age 18 and older without a dental visit in the past year (%)	28	32	34	43	34	39	40	44	27	31
Primary care spending as share of total age 65 and older (%)	—	—	—	—	5.4	7.5	—	—	5.8	6.1

Notes: “—” means data not available.

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