

Southeast Minnesota Disaster Health Coalition

REGIONAL PROFILE

Demographics

- 519,399 people live in the Southeast region, making up **9% of Minnesota** (MN State Demographic Center).
- 18% of residents are 65 or older. 23% are 18 or younger (U.S. Census Bureau, 2023). Among children 18 or younger, 18% live in single-parent households and 10% live in poverty.

Race/Ethnicity in Southeast region

Race/Ethnicity	N	%
American Indian or Alaska Native	1,135	0.2%
Asian	16,094	3%
Black or African American	19,434	4%
Hispanic (all races)	30,841	6%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	309 ¹	0.06%
White (Non-Hispanic)	433,700	84%
Another race (Non-Hispanic)	844	0.2%
Two or more races (Non-Hispanic)	13,196	3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023²

- An estimated 4.1% of Minnesotans (approximately 237,873 people statewide) identify as **LGBTQ+** (UCLA School of Law, 2023). 38% of LGBTQ+ Minnesotans (roughly 90,000 people) live in Greater Minnesota (Rainbow Health, 2023).

Tribal Nations

The state of Minnesota exists on the ancestral lands of the Dakota and Anishinaabe people and shares borders with 11 federally recognized Tribal Nations,

each with their own sovereign Tribal government. The Southeast region borders the Tribal territorial jurisdictions of the **Prairie Island Indian Community**. In addition, American Indian people and communities live throughout all parts of the Southeast region.

Disability

Statewide, over **1 million** adults (**23%**) not living in institutions³ are estimated to have a disability (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). This rate is higher among adults 65 and older (40%). Individuals may report having more than one disability so there may be overlap between categories.

Disability by type in the Southeast

Disability Type	%
Ambulatory difficulty	4.4%
Hearing difficulty	3.5%
Independent living difficulty	3.4%
Self-care difficulty	1.6%
Vision difficulty	1.6%
Cognitive difficulty	3.9%

More common among **adults 65+**

Ambulatory difficulty

Hearing difficulty

Independent living difficulty

More common among **people <65**

Self-care difficulty

Vision difficulty

Cognitive difficulty

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023⁴

In the Southeast region, **9,759** people (primarily people with disabilities and older adults) received **long-term services and supports**⁵ using Medical Assistance in January 2021 (Minnesota Department of Human Services, 2023). Of these, **1,205 people** received services in **institutional settings**⁶ and 8,554 received home and community-based services.

Among Southeast residents who are eligible

for home and community-based service waivers⁷, **3,831** (45%) receive services in **group home settings**; the remaining 4,663 receive services at home.

Limited data are available on the number of people who have difficulty leaving their homes.⁸

Immigrant/Refugee Status

- Approximately **34,903** Southeast region residents (7%) were **born outside of the United States** (U.S. Census Bureau, 2023).
- In 2017, there were an estimated **3,000+ migrant farm workers** present on approximately 400 farms across Minnesota (United States Department of Agriculture, 2019).

241 primary refugees⁹ arrived in the Southeast region from 2020-2022; most settled in Olmsted and Mower Counties (Minnesota Department of Health Refugee and International Health Program, 2023). 71 arrived from **Afghanistan** and 14 arrived from **Ukraine** from 2021-2022.¹⁰

Language

- Approximately **49,339** Southeast residents aged 5+ (10%) primarily speak a **language other than English** at home (U.S. Census Bureau, 2023).
- In the U.S., 24% of Deaf people and 2-4% of people with a little, moderate, or a lot of trouble hearing use **sign language** (Mitchell, R. E., & Young, T. A., 2023). This equates to an estimated **2,480** Southeast region residents.



Residence and Access

- **34%** of Southeast region residents live in a **rural** setting (U.S. Census Bureau, 2023).
- At least **1,344 people experienced homelessness** and received emergency shelter, street outreach, and transitional housing services in the Southeast region in 2022 (ICA Minnesota, 2023). This estimate does not include people who experienced homelessness and did not seek services.

13% of households have **no broadband internet access** (U.S. Census Bureau, 2023).

- **6%** of households have **no vehicle** (U.S. Census Bureau, 2023).



Health and Health Care

- **6%** of Southeast residents under age 65 (24,117 individuals) have **no health insurance**, which is similar to the statewide rate (5.9%) (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2023).
- **8.1%** of adults 20 or older have been diagnosed with **diabetes**, which is above the statewide average (7.8%) (U.S. Census Bureau, 2023).
- Among female Medicare enrollees ages 65-74, 51% received an **annual mammogram**, which is above the statewide rate (45%) (University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2023).
- Among fee-for-service (FFS) Medicare enrollees, 60% received an **annual flu vaccination**, which is above the statewide rate (57%) (University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2023).

In 2020, there were **2,414 preventable hospitable stays** per 100,000 Medicare enrollees for conditions usually treatable in outpatient settings, which is higher than the statewide average (2,323) (University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2023).

Health Care Providers

There are fewer health care providers available to residents in the **Southeast region** compared to the **statewide average** (University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2023). A green checkmark means there are **more providers available** to care for residents.

1 Primary Care Physician for every...	1,390 Southeast residents	1,110 Minnesota residents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1 Dentist for every...	1,600 Southeast residents	1,307 Minnesota residents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1 Mental Health Provider for every...	843 Southeast residents	322 Minnesota residents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Mower County has the fewest primary care physicians (1 for every 2,868 residents), Dodge County has the fewest dentists (1 for every 5,234 residents), and Wabasha County has the fewest mental health providers (1 for every 3,585 residents).

Health Facilities

Health care facilities may not meet the needs of everyone in the region equally depending on travel distance, income, or language or accessibility needs. Tribal Nations operate their own public health and health care systems, which should be taken into consideration during emergency planning.

The Southeast region includes:

-  **120** Assisted Living Facilities

-  **13** Community Mental Health Centers and **1** Psychiatric Hospital

-  **10** Hospitals

-  **2** Indian Health Service, Tribal, & Urban Indian Health Facilities

-  **3** Intermediate Care Facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities

-  **43** Nursing Homes/Skilled Nursing Facilities

Source: MDH Health Care Provider Director, 2022; Minnesota Department of Human Services, 2023; Indian Health Service, 2023

Minnesota Department of Health
 Division for Emergency Preparedness and Response
 625 Robert St. N
 PO Box 64975
 St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
 651-201-5700
health.epr@state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us

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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5700.

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¹ These figures are estimates based on small sample sizes and may not reflect the actual count in the population. They are meant to be used as rough guides to population proportions rather than precise estimates of counts.

² The U.S. Census Bureau asks individuals for their ethnicity (Hispanic or non-Hispanic) and race (American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, White, Some other race, or Two or more races). All individuals who selected Hispanic ethnicity are categorized as Hispanic regardless of the race they selected. Most people who identified as Hispanic ethnicity identified their race as White (42%), Some other race (32%), or Two or more races (21%). All other race categories in the chart above do not include people who identified as Hispanic.

³ These figures do not include individuals who are incarcerated or living in congregate care settings.

⁴ The labels in this column reflect the exact wording of the survey questions used to collect these data. However, members of the disability community may not prefer or feel represented by the term “difficulty”, which implies deficit; more descriptive and objective language (for example, “Blind or low vision” instead of “Vision difficulty”) is recommended for future data collection. Please refer to the Department’s updated data standards for more guidance.

⁵ Long-term supports and services are defined as services likely needed by a person on an ongoing or continuous basis. This includes the following

populations: people with non-developmental disabilities, including physical and psychiatric disabilities (48%), older adults (30%), and people with developmental disabilities (24%). Statewide, 123,158 received long-term supports and services using Medical Assistance in January 2021.

⁶ Institutional settings include nursing homes, intermediate-care facilities, regional treatment centers, and neurobehavioral hospitals.

⁷ Minnesotans are considered eligible for home and community-based waivers if they live with a disability, chronic illness, or are elderly and need a certain level of care. Statewide, 80% of individuals receiving long-term supports and services are waiver-eligible. [Waiver eligibility criteria \(https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/people-with-disabilities/services/home-community/programs-and-services/hcbs-waivers.jsp\)](https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/people-with-disabilities/services/home-community/programs-and-services/hcbs-waivers.jsp) varies by disability, illness, or age.

⁸ Data on people who have previously requested emergency services (i.e., calling 911) due to in-home care emergencies or inadequate care support may be available at the local level.

⁹ Primary refugees are people with refugee status who initially settled in Minnesota when they arrived in the US. This number includes Primary refugees, Asylees, Parolees, SIV’s, Amerasians, and Victims of Trafficking.

¹⁰ Estimate of Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHPs) does not reflect all 2022 UHP arrivals since there is no requirement to report to MDH.