



Facts on Kids in South Dakota

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Photo courtesy of South Dakota Department of Tourism <https://www.travelsouthdakota.com/>



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As we enter a new decade there's still a lot to do to guarantee all children and youth in South Dakota can be healthy, educated and grow up in safe environments.

Addressing Racial and Economic Disparities

Why is it important? Race/ethnic disparities are not only the absence of discrimination and disparities, but the presence of deliberate systems and supports to achieve and sustain race/ethnic equity through proactive and preventative measures.

Recommendations:

Commitment to achieving equality for all South Dakota children. Native American children comprise 13% of all children in South Dakota. The Annie E. Casey Foundation Race for Results 2017 policy report stated, "American Indian Children in South Dakota are further away from opportunity than any racial group in any state."¹

Equality = sameness



Equity = fairness



Early Childhood/ Early Education

Why is it important? High-quality prekindergarten programs for 3- and 4-year-olds can improve school readiness, especially for the highest-risk children. Head Start and the expansion of state-funded programs since the 1990s have greatly increased access to preschool. But many children, especially 3-year-olds, continue to be left out, exacerbating socioeconomic differences in educational achievement.

Recommendations:

Read the *Our Children, our legacy* publication, which describes what early childhood care and education looked like in South Dakota in 2004 and what it looks like today (2019).

<https://www.sdaeyc.org/our-children-our-legacy>.

Support establishment of a state early learning advisory council to coordinate initiatives across South Dakota that address children not yet of school age, their learning and those activities that affect their learning.

Support publicly funded early childhood education that targets children from low-income families and is a cooperative effort between the public and private sectors, and voluntary for families.



¹The Annie E. Casey Foundation. Race for Results 2017 Policy Report. Baltimore, MD: Author.

Afterschool Programming

Why is it important? Afterschool programs in South Dakota keep kids safe, inspire learning, and give working parents peace of mind. Kids discover who they are and what they love to do, how to make smart choices, and avoid risky behaviors.²

Recommendations:

Support establishment of policies and financial support for afterschool programs to ensure availability of high quality, sustainable services.

Child Maltreatment

Why is it important? Child maltreatment causes suffering to children and families and can have long-term consequences. It also causes stress associated with disruption in early brain development.³

Recommendations:

Support the Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment in their efforts to:



Know

Implement evidence-based best practices.



Respond

Support early intervention and healing.



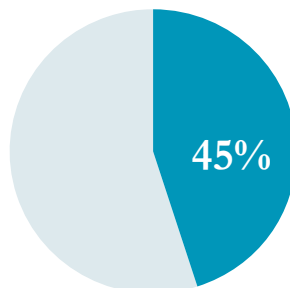
Prevent

Create trauma-informed communities.

Safe Teen Driving

Unintentional injury is the leading cause of death in people ages 1-44 in South Dakota. 45% of deaths in the 15-24 age groups are the result of traffic crashes. (WISQARS 2010-2017 data)

South Dakota

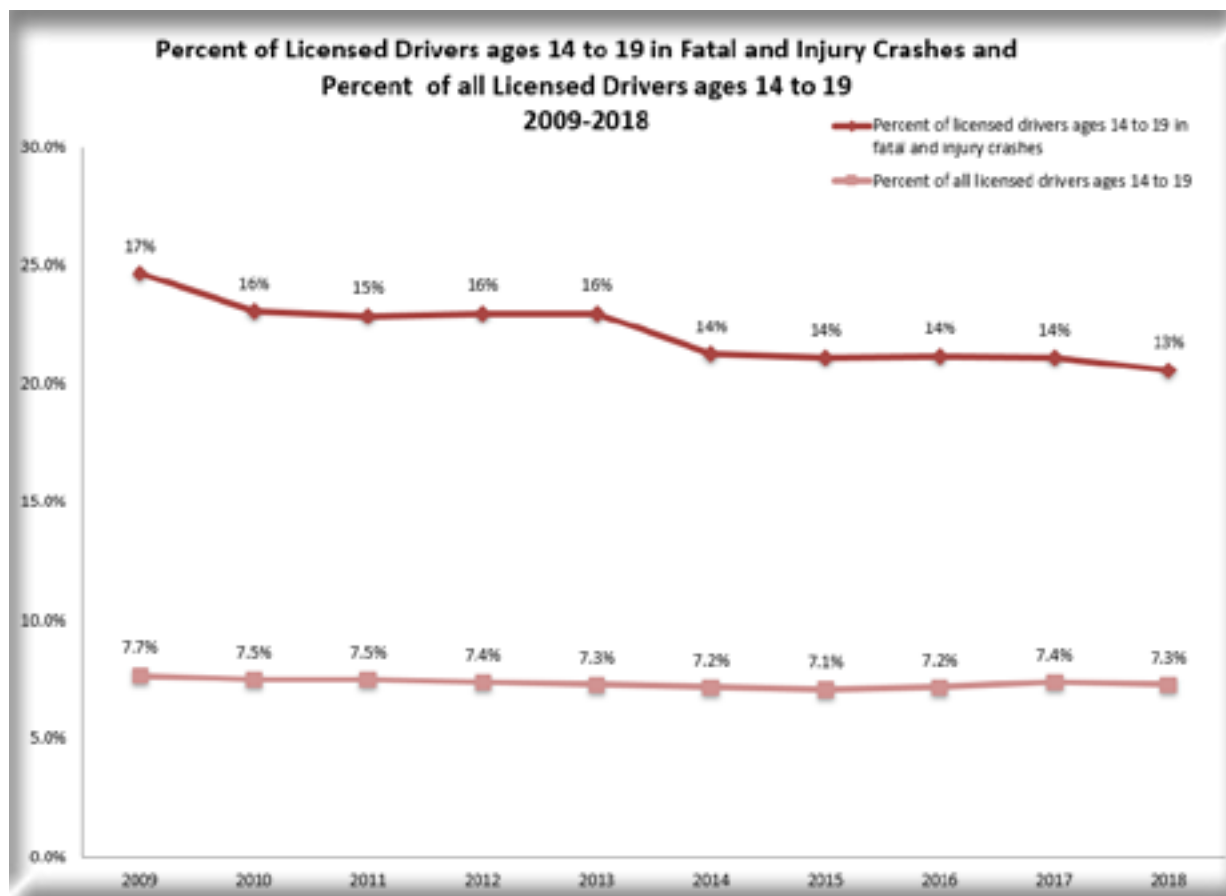


²Afterschool Alliance. Afterschool in South Dakota. <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/policyStateFacts.cfm?state=SD>

³World Health Organization. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/child-maltreatment>

Safe Teen Driving Continued

The annual South Dakota Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash Summary reports that in 2018, 12% of motor vehicle fatalities and 13% of injuries were to youth. That age group represents less than 8% of licensed drivers in the state.



Recommendations:

Support efforts to assist in safe teen driving including, but not limited to, primary enforcement seat belt laws and prohibition of texting while driving.

Support efforts for the safe transport of children, including use of car seats for the very young, booster seats, and seat belts.

General Recommendations

Support systematic collection of census data so advocacy and policy decisions are based on reliable information.

Support enactment of measures that would create a more equitable tax system in South Dakota. This could include, but not be limited to, removing the sales tax on food and instituting an Earned Income Tax Credit for those with low incomes.

Oppose legislation that would require benefit recipients to submit to a drug test, randomly or otherwise.

Continue support to require the compulsory school attendance age to 18.

Support needs-based grants for post-secondary students.