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Source FOR SIOUXLAND

Empowering Our Community Through Comprehensive Strategies.

DATA FEATURE

Education: Educational Attainment (High School)

87.1% WOODBURY COUNTY

is the rate of those age 25+ with a high school diploma in Woodbury County.

- U.S. CENSUS, "QUICK FACTS", 2023

81.1% DAKOTA COUNTY

is the rate of those age 25+ with a high school diploma in Dakota County.

- U.S. CENSUS, "QUICK FACTS", 2023

94.9% UNION COUNTY

is the rate of those age 25+ with a high school diploma in Union County.

- U.S. CENSUS, "QUICK FACTS", 2023

IMPACTS OF HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA ATTAINMENT IN THE TRI-STATE AREA

Background

Securing a high school diploma by age 25 represents a critical threshold as it is often considered a baseline requirement for economic stability, a primary predictor of long-term physical health, and the primary gateway to meaningful civic participation. Without it, the barriers to stable housing, healthcare, and career advancement can become exponentially more difficult to overcome, especially as younger generations secure diplomas and become competitors in the job market.

High School Diploma Attainment in Siouxland

In the Siouxland Area, the contrast in attainment rates–from 94.9% in Union County to 87.1% in Woodbury and 81.1% in Dakota–highlights how a single credential can create different "floors" and "ceilings" for community stability. In these counties, the numbers reflect more than just school history; they show how much of the adult population has access to the basic requirements for modern economic and social life. In a place like Union County, where nearly everyone has reached this milestone, you are more likely to see a community with high resilience and lower demand on public assistance. Meanwhile, in Dakota County, where about one in five adults lacks this foundation, there is a much higher risk of local instability. This gap can be treated as a divider for the Siouxland region: the further a community's percentage drops, especially below that 95% mark, the more likely its residents are to face shorter lifespans, higher rates of chronic illness, and a cycle of financial struggle that affects the whole area's tax base and public services like schools, making it even harder to close the gap.

ABOUT US

Source For Siouxland is the region's central resource for trusted data, helping advance a healthy, safe, and vibrant community. We track key indicators across five focus areas—Economic Stability, Education, Health, Safety, and Quality of Life.

Through our annual Data Update and monthly Data Features, we collect and share local, regional, and national data to help community leaders, nonprofits, and funders make informed decisions.

INFORMATION BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE SFS LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Catholic Charities· Great Plains ToP· Growing Community Connections· Helios Foundation· One Siouxland· SHIP· Siouxland Community Foundation· Siouxland District Health Department· United Way of Siouxland

CCourtney@SiouxlandDistrictHealth.org
www.SourceForSiouxland.com