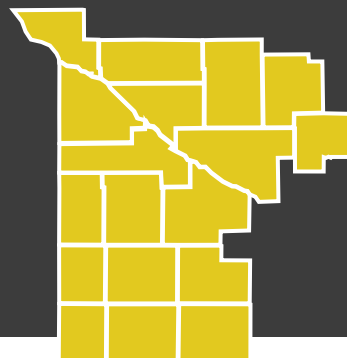




SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA

COMPASS POINTS 2026



An at-a-glance look at key measures in the region served by the Southwest Minnesota Initiative Foundation, which invests in people and communities to support a thriving southwest Minnesota.

Population at a Glance

	2020	2025		2020	2025
Overall population			Older adults (65+)		
Minnesota	5.7 million	5.8 million	Minnesota	948,000	1.1 million
Southwest Minnesota	280,000	280,000	Southwest Minnesota	58,000	64,000
Children and youth (0-17)			People of color		
Minnesota	1.3 million	1.3 million	Minnesota	1.3 million	1.5 million
Southwest Minnesota	68,000	66,000	Southwest Minnesota	45,000	55,000
Working-age residents (18-64)			Foreign-born residents		
Minnesota	3.4 million	3.4 million	Minnesota	473,000	498,000
Southwest Minnesota	155,000	150,000	Southwest Minnesota	16,000	17,000

Numbers may not add up to totals due to rounding.

Southwest Minnesota Dashboard

		HOW IS SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA DOING?		HOW DO WE COMPARE TO MINNESOTA?
		TREND ^a	CURRENT	MINNESOTA
ARTS & CULTURE	Students participating in artistic lessons at least 1x/week	-	11%	13%
CHILDREN & YOUTH	Students who are connected to a caring adult	BETTER	59%	65%
	Students participating in enrichment activities 3x/wk	-	56%	57%
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT	Voted in 2024 election (voting-eligible)	SAME	75%	76%

Want more data about southwest Minnesota? Visit mncompass.org/profiles/region/southwest

Southwest Minnesota Dashboard

		HOW IS SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA DOING?		HOW DO WE COMPARE TO MINNESOTA?
		TREND ^a	CURRENT	MINNESOTA
EARLY CHILDHOOD	Children screened before age 5	WORSE	73%	66%
	Low-weight births	WORSE	5%	6%
ECONOMY	Per-capita GDP	BETTER	\$61,000	\$68,000
	Number of available jobs	WORSE	120,000	2.9 million
	Median household income (2024 dollars)	WORSE	\$75,000	\$87,000
	Poverty rate	SAME	10%	9%
EDUCATION	3rd graders who are proficient in reading	WORSE	44%	46%
	8th graders who are proficient in math	WORSE	42%	42%
	Students who graduate high school on time	SAME	86%	85%
ENVIRONMENT	Days air quality was rated "good" (Lyon County)	WORSE	77%	55% (Twin Cities)
HEALTH	Residents under age 65 who are uninsured	WORSE	7%	6%
	Adults reporting good or excellent general health	WORSE	81%	85%
	Adults experiencing frequent mental distress	WORSE	15%	14%
	People delaying or postponing a healthcare visit	SAME	21%	21%
HOUSING	Households paying 30% or more of income for housing	BETTER	23%	27%
	Homeownership gap (white, of color)	SAME	27%	27%
PUBLIC SAFETY	Serious crimes committed per 1,000 residents	BETTER	6	17
	Students who feel safe at school	WORSE	88%	90%
	Adults who feel safe in their community	-	92%	85%
	Premature preventable deaths per 100,000 residents	WORSE	52	57
TRANSPORTATION	Traffic injuries and fatalities per 100,000 residents	BETTER	376	420
	Highway miles in poor condition (Southwest district)	SAME	1%	1%
WORKFORCE	Proportion of adults working	SAME	78%	78%
	Adults age 25+ with a bachelor's degree	BETTER	23%	39%
	Graduation rate at 4-year institutions (w/in 6 yrs)	SAME	43%	69%
	Graduation + xfer rate at 2-year institutions (w/in 3 yrs)	SAME	57%	59%

^aSouthwest Minnesota trend over 10-15 years.

Dashboard represents most recent data available as of September 2026.