

COUNTY PROFILE

BECKER County



Demographics

- Becker County has a population of 35,738, making up **0.62% of Minnesota** (MN State Demographic Center, 2023). 21.9% of residents are 65 or older (U.S. Census Bureau, 2023). 24% are 18 or younger. Among children 18 or younger, 17.1% live in single-parent households and 15.2% live in poverty.

Race/Ethnicity in Becker County

Race/Ethnicity	N	%
American Indian or Alaska Native	2,032	5.7%
Asian	243	0.7%
Black or African American	199	0.6%
Hispanic (all races)	803	2.2%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	5*	0.01%
White (Non-Hispanic)	29,921	83.7%
Some other race (Non-Hispanic)	101	0.03%
Two or more races (Non-Hispanic)	1,691	4.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023¹

- 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. Becker County borders the

Tribal territorial jurisdictions of the **White Earth Nation**. American Indian people and communities live throughout Becker County.



Disability

Statewide, over **1 million** adults (**23%**) not living in institutions² 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 Becker County

Disability Type	%
Ambulatory difficulty	6.7%
Hearing difficulty	4.7%
Independent living difficulty	5.3%
Self-care difficulty	2.3%
Vision difficulty	1.7%
Cognitive difficulty	6.6%

More common among adults 65+

More common among people <65

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023³

In Becker County, **688** people (primarily people with disabilities and older adults) received **long-term services and supports**⁴ using Medical Assistance in January 2021 (Minnesota Department of Human Services, 2023). Of these, **93 people** received services in **institutional settings**⁵ and 595 received home and community-based services.

Among Becker County residents who are eligible for home and community-based service waivers⁶, **223** received services in **group home settings** and 317 received services at home.

Limited data are available on the number of people who have difficulty leaving their homes.⁷



Immigrant/Refugee Status

- An estimated **468** Becker County residents (1.3%) 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).

1 primary refugees⁸ arrived from 2020-2022 (Minnesota Department of Health Refugee and International Health Program, 2023). 1 arrived from **Afghanistan** from 2021-2022 and 0 arrived from **Ukraine** in 2022.⁹

Language

- Approximately **1,014** Becker County residents (3.1%) 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 169 Becker County residents.

Residence and Access

- **75.5%** of Becker County residents live in a **rural** setting (U.S. Census Bureau, 2023).
- 5% of households have **no vehicle** (U.S. Census Bureau, 2023).

14.7% of households have **no broadband internet access** (U.S. Census Bureau, 2023).

- At least **86 people experienced homelessness** and received emergency

shelter, street outreach, and/or transitional housing services in Becker County in 2022 (ICA Minnesota, 2023). This estimate does not include people who experienced homelessness and did not seek services.



Health and Health Care

- **8.4%** of Becker County residents under age 65 (2,236 individuals) have **no health insurance**, which is above the statewide rate (5.9%) (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2023).

8.5% 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, 53% received an **annual mammogram** (University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2023).
- Among fee-for-service (FFS) Medicare enrollees, 59% received an **annual flu vaccination**, which is above the statewide rate (57%) (University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2023).
- In 2020, there were **2,100 preventable hospital stays** per 100,000 Medicare enrollees for conditions usually treatable in outpatient settings, which is below the statewide average (2,323) (University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2023).



Health Care Providers

Some counties have a higher ratio of health care providers to residents, meaning there are more providers available to meet residents’ needs. The table below lists the number of people every provider would need to serve to reach everyone Becker County. If the Becker **County** number is higher than the **statewide average**, that means there are fewer health care providers available in Becker County.

1 Primary Care Physician for every...	1,231 Becker County residents	1,110 Minnesota residents
1 Dentist for every...	1,677 Becker County residents	1,307 Minnesota residents
1 Mental Health Provider for every...	430 Becker County residents	322 Minnesota residents

Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2023



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.

Becker County includes:

-  6 Assisted Living Facilities

-  1 Community Mental Health Centers and 0 Psychiatric Hospitals

-  1 Hospitals

-  3 Indian Health Service, Tribal, & Urban Indian Health Facilities

-  0 Intermediate Care Facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities

-  4 Nursing Homes/Skilled Nursing Facilities

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

Version Date: December 2024

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*These figures are estimates based on a sample of the population. They may not reflect the exact count in the population and are meant to give a sense of population proportions rather than precise counts. Estimates under 100 should be interpreted with caution.

¹ 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.

² These figures do not include individuals who are incarcerated or living in congregate care settings.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Institutional settings include nursing homes, intermediate-care facilities, regional treatment centers, and neurobehavioral hospitals.

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.

⁸ 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.

⁹ Estimate of Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHPs) does not reflect all 2022 UHP arrivals since there is no requirement to report to MDH.