In South Dakota, 6.0 percent of those aged 45 and over report they are experiencing confusion or memory loss that is happening more often or is getting worse (“subjective cognitive decline”).

More than half of them have not talked to a health care professional about it.

For those with worsening memory problems, 44.8 percent say it has created “functional difficulties” – that is, caused them to give up day-to-day activities and/or interfered with work or social activities.

Percent with memory problems who have not talked to a health care provider

56.7%

Percent with memory problems who say it created difficulties and burden

30.6% 38.3% 30.3%

Interfered with Work/Social Activities  Gave Up Day-to-Day Activities  Needed Assistance with Day-to-Day Activities

Percent with memory problems who live alone

19.7%

Percent with memory problems who have at least one other chronic condition*

78.9%

*Defined as arthritis, asthma, COPD, cancer, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes