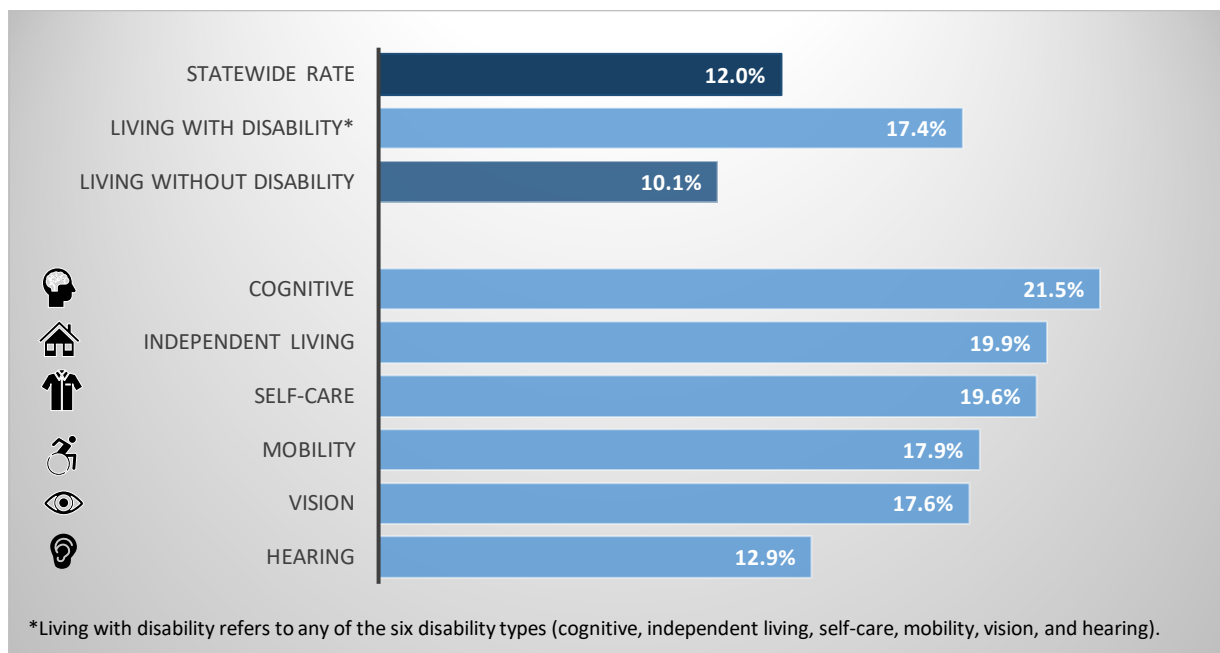


## Smoking Rates: Disparities Among People Living with Disability

There are approximately 3.9 million adults aged 18 years and older in New York State (NYS) who live with disability.<sup>1</sup> Disability encompasses three dimensions: impairment to body structure or mental functioning; activity limitation, such as difficulty hearing, moving, or problem solving; and participation restrictions in daily activities, such as working, engaging in social/recreational activities, or obtaining health care or preventive services.<sup>2</sup> Data collection and reporting systems define disability through a series of six questions including: vision impairment, hearing impairment, mobility limitations, cognitive limitations, and difficulty with independent living or difficulty caring for oneself.<sup>3</sup>

In 2021, 17.4% of NYS adults living with disability smoked cigarettes compared to 10.1% of adults living without disability. While this is lower than the 21.9% national smoking prevalence for those living with disability,<sup>4</sup> still about two out of every five adults who currently smoke in NYS are living with disability.<sup>1</sup> It is crucial to understand the challenges people living with disability face to participate in programs and activities that promote health. Developing targeted and inclusive public health interventions can reduce disparities between persons living with and without disability. The New York State Department of Health is committed to reducing the burden of tobacco and addressing tobacco-related health disparities among those living with disability through evidence-based, policy-driven, and cost-effective approaches to decrease tobacco initiation, encourage use of cessation resources, and eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke.

### Prevalence of Current Smoking among Adults by Disability Type, NYS BRFSS 2021



1. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Health Indicators by County and Region. Open NY—Department of Health: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Health Indicators by County and Region; 2014. <https://health.data.ny.gov/Health/Behavioral-Risk-Factor-Surveillance-System-BRFSS-H/jsy7-eb4n>. Updated February 9, 2023. Accessed July 12, 2023.

2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Disability Overview. <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/disability.html>.

3. U.S Department of Health and Human Services HHS Implementation Guidance on Data Collection Standards for Race, Ethnicity, Sex, Primary Language, and Disability Status. <https://aspe.hhs.gov/basic-report/hhs-implementation-guidance-data-collection-standards-race-ethnicity-sex-primary-language-and-disability-status>.

4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Disability Impacts All of Us. <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/infographic-disability-impacts-all.html>.