



NYS BRFSS Brief

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is an annual telephone survey of adults developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention conducted in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and several US Territories. The New York BRFSS is administered by the New York State (NYS) Department of Health (DOH) to provide statewide and regional information on behaviors, risk factors, and use of preventive health services related to the leading causes of chronic and infectious diseases, disability, injury, and death.

Disability Status

New York State Adults; 2021



Introduction

In the United States, one in four adults has some type of disability.¹ 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.² Since the enactment of the Affordable Care Act, data collection and reporting systems, such as the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), capture these dimensions through a series of six questions including: cognitive limitations, independent living disability, self-care disability, mobility limitations, vision impairment, and hearing impairment.³

Adults living with disability have a higher rate of chronic conditions such as obesity, heart disease, and diabetes.⁴ To reduce health disparities between people with and without disability, the New York State Department of Health works to improve inclusion and accessibility of health promotion programs; increase access to preventive health care; and improve sustainability of policy, system, and environmental changes that benefit the health of people with disability.

Health Equity

People living with a disability experience poor health outcomes compared to those who do not live with a disability. Strengthening policies, programs and environments to enhance the full participation, independence, inclusion and equal opportunities for people living with disabilities can help improve health outcomes.⁵



Key Findings

- In New York State, approximately 3.9 million adults live with disability (26.6%).
- Females and those 65 years and older are more likely to report living with a disability.
- Disability prevalence is significantly higher among Hispanic (34.5%) and Black, non-Hispanic (29.6%) adults compared to adults who are White, non-Hispanic (24.1%).
- More than half of adults reporting an annual income of less than \$15,000 (57.8%) report living with disability. Almost half of adults who did not graduate from high school (47.7%) report living with disability.
- More than one in three adults with obesity (34.9%) live with disability.
- Almost forty-three percent (42.6%) of adults reporting no leisure-time physical activity live with disability.
- Over one third (38.3%) of adults who currently smoke report living with disability.
- More than half (57.7%) of adults reporting multiple chronic conditions live with disability.



Department
of Health

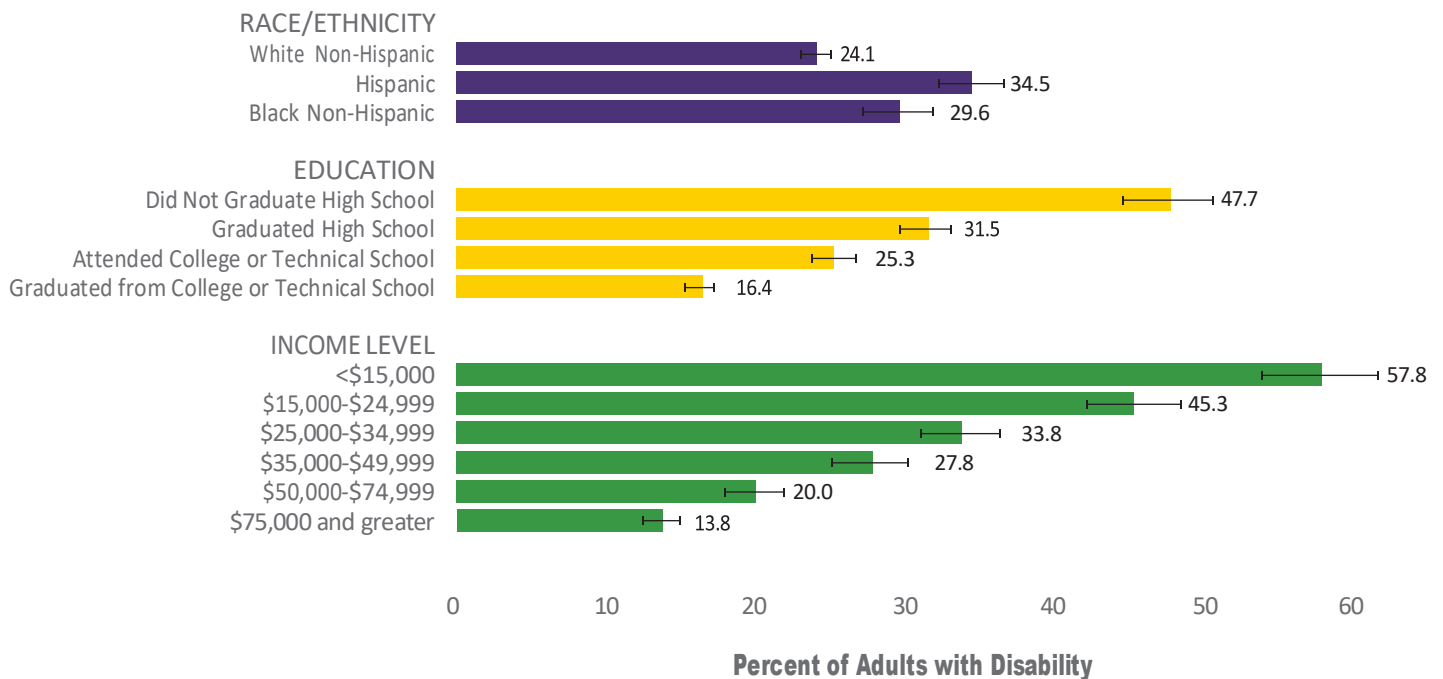


New York State adults reporting disability

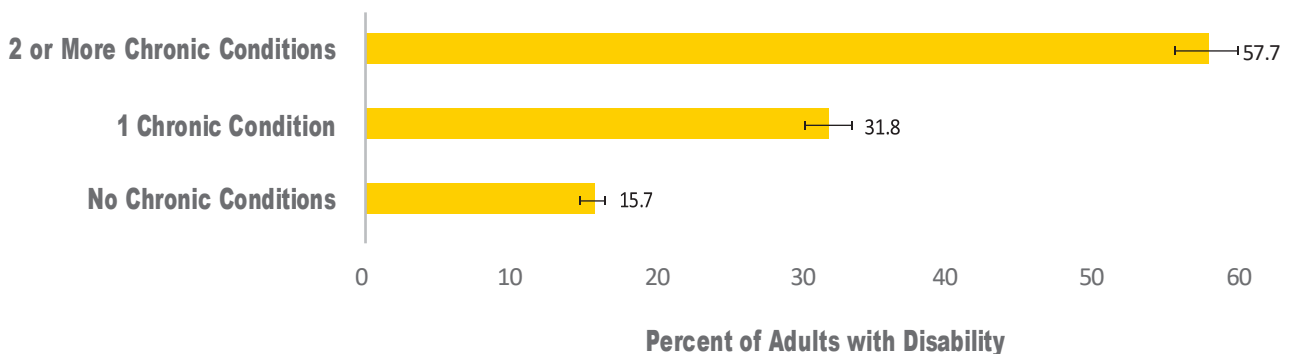
	%	95% CI
One or more disability	26.6	(24.8 - 27.4)
Disability Type		
Cognitive disability	10.8	(10.2 - 11.4)
Mobility disability	13.6	(13.0 - 14.2)
Vision disability	5.1	(4.8 - 5.6)
Hearing disability	5.6	(5.2 - 6.0)
Self-care disability	3.8	(3.5 - 4.2)
Independent living disability	7.4	(6.9 - 7.9)

The 2021 BRFSS survey included six nationally recognized disability status questions. Respondents who answered “yes” to one or more questions about cognitive, mobility, independent living, vision, hearing and/or self-care were classified as having a disability. Respondents who answer “no” to all six questions were classified as not having a disability.

Disparities in disability prevalence among adult New Yorkers



Percent of adults with chronic conditions* living with disability



Note: Error bars represent 95% of confidence intervals

*Chronic conditions include arthritis, diabetes, cancer, stroke, current asthma & heart disease.

	Disability ^a [n=39,095]	
	% ^c	95% CI ^c
New York State (NYS)	26.6	25.8 – 27.4
Sex		
Male	25.0	23.8-26.1
Female	28.2	27.0-29.3
Age (years)		
18-44	18.5	17.3-19.6
45-64	27.6	26.2-29.1
65-and older	42.0	40.2-43.7
Race/ Ethnicity		
White non-Hispanic	24.1	23.2-25.1
Black non-Hispanic	29.6	27.2-32.0
Hispanic	34.5	32.3-36.7
Other race or multiracial, non-Hispanic	23.1	20.0-26.3
Annual Household Income		
<\$15,000	57.8	53.9-61.7
\$15,000-\$24,999	45.3	42.2-48.5
\$25,000-\$34,999	33.8	31.1-36.4
\$35,000-\$49,999	27.8	25.2-30.3
\$50,000-\$74,999	20.0	18.0-22.0
\$75,000 and greater	13.8	12.6-15.0
Missing ^d	29.8	28.0-31.6
Region		
NYS excluding NYC	25.8	24.9-26.7
New York City	27.8	26.3-29.2
Educational attainment		
Did Not Graduate High School	47.7	44.6-50.7
Graduated High School	31.5	29.8-33.2
Attended College or Technical School	25.3	23.8-26.8
Graduated from College or Technical School	16.4	15.3-17.4
Health Care Coverage^e		
Private	15.1	14.1-16.1
Medicare	42.4	40.5-44.2
Medicaid	40.3	37.6-43.0
Other insurance	29.7	25.7-33.7
Not insured	23.9	20.5-27.2
Selected risk factors		
Body Mass Index (BMI) category		
Neither overweight nor obese	22.2	20.8-23.7
Overweight	24.5	23.1-25.9
Obese ^f	34.9	33.3-36.6
No Leisure-time physical activity^g		
No Leisure-time physical activity	42.6	40.8-44.5
Yes Leisure-time physical activity	20.9	20.0-21.8
Current Smoker^h		
Yes	38.3	35.9-40.7
No	24.8	23.9-25.7
Body Mass Index (BMI) category		
No chronic conditions	15.7	14.8-16.6
One chronic condition	31.8	30.2-33.4
Two or more chronic conditions	57.7	55.6-59.9

Notes: ^aAll respondents who report having at least one type of disability based on Department of Health and Human Services definition for data collection and reporting (self-care, independent living, cognitive, mobility, vision, hearing).

^bWeighted percentage.

^cCI = confidence interval.

^d"Missing" category included because more than 10% of the sample did not report income.

^eTRICARE (formerly CHAMPUS) VA or Military, Alaska Native, Indian Health Service, Tribal Health Services or some other source.

^fObesity is defined as a BMI of 30.0 or higher.

^g Any leisure-time physical activity during the past month.

^hRespondents who reported having smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and currently smoke.

ⁱ Chronic conditions include diabetes, history of cancer, heart disease, stroke, asthma or arthritis.

References



1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Disability Impacts all of Us. Retrieved on December 16, 2020 from <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/infographic-disability-impacts-all.html>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Disability Overview. Retrieved on December 16, 2020 from <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. Retrieved on December 16, 2020 from <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 and Health Promotion. Retrieved on August 26, 2021 from <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/relatedconditions.html>
5. Disability And Health. Weil, A. Health Affairs. Advancing Health Equity and Reducing Health Disparities for People with Disabilities in the United States. Retrieved on January 12, 2023 from <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/epdf/10.1377/hlthaff.2022.00499>



BRFSS questions

1. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?
2. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping?
3. Do you have difficulty dressing or bathing?
4. Do you have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?
5. Are you blind or do you have serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses?
6. Has a doctor, nurse, or other health professional ever told you that you had any of the following? Heart attack, angina or coronary heart disease, a stroke, asthma/do you still have asthma, cancer, diabetes, arthritis?
7. Any physical activity in the past 30 days other than regular job?

Suggested Citation



(Rohenaz, S., Austin, R., DiNoto, D., Teal, H., Rosenberg, R., Ferrari, C.).

Disability Status, New York State Adults, 2021. BRFSS Brief., No. 2023-02.

Albany, New York: New York State Department of Health, Division of Chronic Disease Prevention, Bureau of Chronic Disease Evaluation and Research, April, 2023.

Program Contributions



New York State Department of Health
Bureau of Chronic Disease Evaluation and Research

Bureau of Community Chronic Disease Prevention



Contact Information

Contact us by

phone (518) 473-0673

email BRFSS@health.ny.gov

Visit us at health.ny.gov



Department
of Health