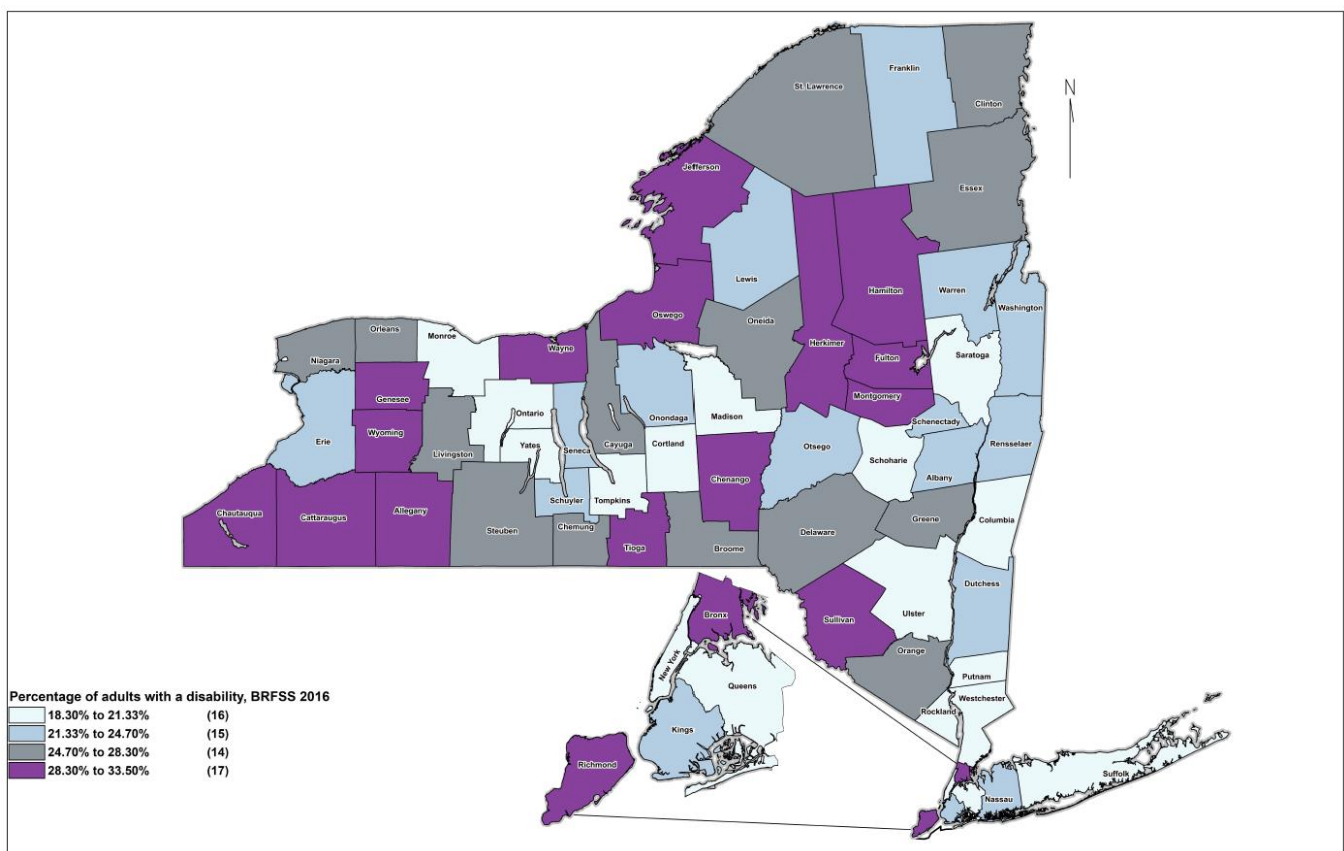


## Percentage of Adults with a Disability in New York State, by County, BRFSS 2016

Almost one in four adults, or more than 3.3 million people, in NYS have a disability. According to the World Health Organization, disability has three dimensions: 1) impairment to body structure or mental functioning; 2) activity limitation, such as difficulty hearing, moving, or problem-solving; and 3) participation restrictions in daily activities, such as working, engaging in social/recreational activities, or obtaining health care or preventive services.<sup>1</sup> The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) captures these dimensions through a series of six questions including: vision, hearing, mobility, cognition, self-care, and independent living. Persons who responded “yes” to at least one of these six questions were identified as having any disability.

In NYS, 22.9% of adults have a disability. The percentage varies across counties from 18.3% in Rockland to 33.5% in Cattaraugus.



### Public Health Opportunity

Adults with a disability have a higher rate of chronic conditions such as obesity, heart disease, and diabetes. Society, culture and environment can create barriers for people with disability that limit full participation in activities. These barriers need to be identified and eliminated if persons with disability are to participate in public health programs that promote healthy living. 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 awareness of health-related disability policy initiatives; and improve sustainability of policy, system, and environmental changes that benefit the health of people with disability.

County level estimates can be used to identify areas of concern, inform program planning, and evaluate the effectiveness of programs and policies. Public health organizations and programs can also use this information to educate local decision-makers and increase community engagement.

**Percentage of Adults with a Disability in New York State, by County**

County	Percentage of adults with a disability	95% CI	County	Percentage of adults with a disability	95% CI
Albany	21.8	[17.6 - 26.1]	Niagara	26.4	[20.4 - 32.4]
Allegany	29.6	[23.5 - 35.7]	Oneida	24.9	[19.9 - 29.9]
Bronx	30.3	[25.8 - 34.8]	Onondaga	23.0	[19.4 - 26.7]
Broome	25.8	[20.5 - 31.0]	Ontario	18.8	[13.8 - 23.8]
Cattaraugus	33.5	[28.4 - 38.6]	Orange	25.9	[21.2 - 30.6]
Cayuga	25.5	[20.9 - 30.1]	Orleans	26.3	[20.2 - 32.4]
Chautauqua	30.0	[26.0 - 34.0]	Oswego	29.6	[23.5 - 35.7]
Chemung	25.1	[19.9 - 30.3]	Otsego	22.0	[16.6 - 27.5]
Chenango	28.3	[22.0 - 34.6]	Putnam	19.9	[14.4 - 25.4]
Clinton	25.7	[21.3 - 30.1]	Queens	19.9	[16.5 - 23.3]
Columbia	18.4	[13.9 - 22.9]	Rensselaer	23.3	[18.3 - 28.3]
Cortland	18.7	[14.3 - 23.1]	Richmond	28.3	[22.2 - 34.4]
Delaware	25.8	[19.6 - 31.9]	Rockland	18.3	[13.8 - 22.8]
Dutchess	22.3	[17.7 - 26.8]	Saratoga	20.3	[16.6 - 24.0]
Erie	22.9	[19.0 - 26.8]	Schenectady	24.5	[19.4 - 29.6]
Essex	26.8	[20.1 - 33.5]	Schoharie	21.1	[15.7 - 26.5]
Franklin	24.5	[18.9 - 30.2]	Schuyler	23.0	[16.3 - 29.7]
Fulton	30.8	[24.7 - 36.9]	Seneca	22.6	[17.4 - 27.7]
Genesee	28.5	[23.4 - 33.6]	St. Lawrence	26.0	[20.5 - 31.5]
Greene	26.2	[20.4 - 32.0]	Steuben	26.0	[20.9 - 31.1]
Hamilton	29.3	[21.9 - 36.6]	Suffolk	21.0	[16.5 - 25.6]
Herkimer	30.4	[24.5 - 36.3]	Sullivan	29.4	[23.4 - 35.3]
Jefferson	32.7	[25.6 - 39.8]	Tioga	31.5	[24.7 - 38.3]
Kings	23.6	[20.5 - 26.8]	Tompkins	21.2	[15.4 - 27.1]
Lewis	21.8	[14.6 - 29.0]	Ulster	20.7	[16.4 - 25.0]
Livingston	25.3	[18.3 - 32.3]	Warren	23.0	[18.3 - 27.8]
Madison	19.6	[13.8 - 25.4]	Washington	24.0	[19.1 - 29.0]
Monroe	20.2	[16.3 - 24.0]	Wayne	29.1	[24.0 - 34.1]
Montgomery	29.7	[22.2 - 37.2]	Westchester	20.0	[15.9 - 24.0]
Nassau	21.7	[17.6 - 25.8]	Wyoming	32.7	[26.3 - 39.1]
New York	19.9	[16.7 - 23.0]	Yates	19.9	[14.1 - 25.6]

**Notes.** County estimates are not age-adjusted. Map categories do not represent a statistically significant difference. Disability includes all respondents who responded “yes” to at least one of the following questions: Are you deaf, or do you have serious difficulty hearing; Are you blind, or do you have serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses; Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions; Do you have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs; Do you have difficulty dressing or bathing; Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor’s office or shopping? **References.** <sup>1</sup> World Health Organization, Health Topics, Disabilities. Accessed on October 31, 2018 <http://www.who.int/topics/disabilities/en/>

**Contact:** For more information about the data included and their specific implications for action, please send an e-mail to [BCDER@health.ny.gov](mailto:BCDER@health.ny.gov) with IFA # 2019-06 in the subject line.

To access other Information for Action reports, visit the NYSDOH public website:

[http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/prevention/injury\\_prevention/information\\_for\\_action/index.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/prevention/injury_prevention/information_for_action/index.htm)