



New York State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Brief

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is an annual statewide telephone survey of adults developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention conducted in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and several United States Territories. The New York Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System is administered by the New York State Department of Health 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, 2022



Introduction

In the United States, one in four adults has some type of disability.¹ Disability encompasses three dimensions: impairment to body structure, or cognitive 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

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System has collected data on disability since 2001. However, in 2010 the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System was updated to align with the Affordable Care Act guidance on data collection, capturing data on disability 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

Health Equity

Disparities highlighted by BRFSS data illustrate the structural inequities across the social determinants of health experienced by people with disabilities. Some primary root causes include unequal allocation of power and resources driven by interpersonal and systemic discrimination, misconception, and stigma. These factors collude to create barriers for employment, equitable education, access to accessible housing, healthcare, healthy foods, and physical activity. To reduce health inequities experienced by people with disabilities, 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. Strengthening policies, programs, and environments to enhance the full participation, independence, inclusion, and equitable opportunities for people living with disabilities can help improve health outcomes.⁵

Key Findings

- In New York State, approximately 4.0 million adults live with disability (28.3%).
- Females and those 65 years and older are more likely to report living with a disability.
- Disability prevalence is significantly higher among Hispanic (37.3%) and Black, non-Hispanic (30.3%) adults compared to adults who are White, non-Hispanic (24.6%).
- More than half of adults reporting an annual income of less than \$15,000 (58.8%) report living with disability.
- Almost half of adults who did not graduate from high school (47.1%) report living with disability.
- More than one in three adults with obesity (34.7%) live with disability.
- Almost forty-five percent (44.9%) of adults reporting no leisure-time physical activity live with disability.
- Over one third (38.6%) of adults who currently smoke report living with disability.
- More than half (62.8%) of adults reporting multiple chronic conditions live with disability.

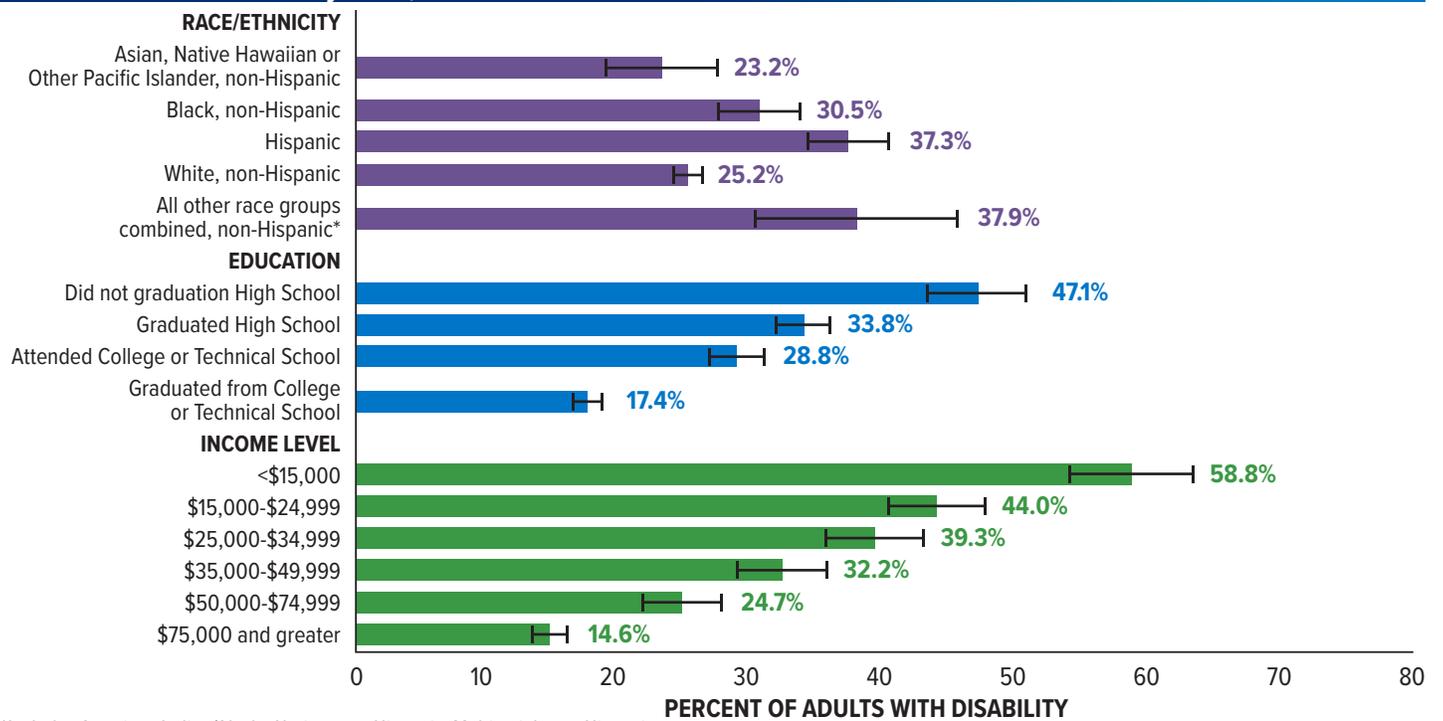


Figure 1. New York State Adults Reporting Disability, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2022

| | % | 95% CI |
|-------------------------------|------|-------------|
| One or more disability | 28.3 | (27.3-29.4) |
| Disability Type | | |
| Cognitive disability | 11.5 | (10.8-12.2) |
| Mobility disability | 13.8 | (13.1-14.6) |
| Vision disability | 6.0 | (5.4-6.5) |
| Hearing disability | 5.9 | (5.3-6.4) |
| Self-care disability | 3.8 | (3.3-4.3) |
| Independent living disability | 7.6 | (7.1-8.4) |

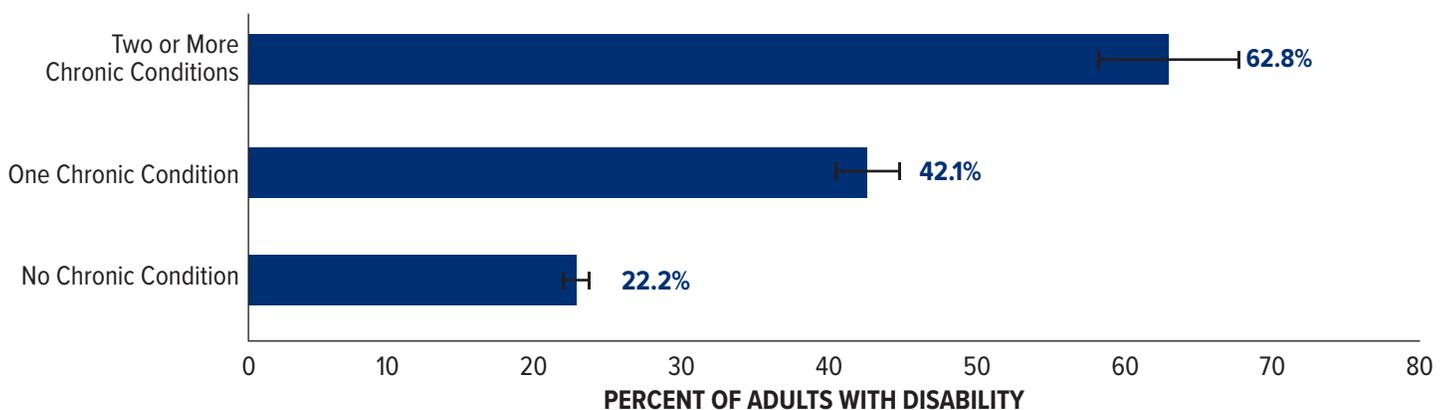
The 2022 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey included six nationally recognized disability status questions. Respondents who answered “yes” to one or more questions about cognitive, mobility, independent living, vision, hearing and/or self-care were classified as having a disability. Respondents who answer “no” to all six questions were classified as not having a disability.

Figure 2. Disparities in Disability Prevalence Among Adult New Yorkers, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2022



*Includes American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic, Multiracial, non-Hispanic.

Figure 3. Percent of Adults with Chronic Conditions* Living with Disability, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2022



Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

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

Table 1. Disability Status, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2022

| | Disability ^a | |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------|
| | % | 95% CI ^b |
| New York State [n=17,800] | 28.3 | 27.3-29.4 |
| Sex^c | | |
| Male | 25.7 | 24.3-27.2 |
| Female | 30.7 | 29.2-32.2 |
| Age (Years) | | |
| 18-44 | 22.1 | 20.5-23.6 |
| 45-64 | 27.9 | 26.1-29.6 |
| 65+ | 42.0 | 39.8-44.1 |
| Race/Ethnicity | | |
| Asian/Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic | 23.2 | 19.0-27.4 |
| Black, non-Hispanic | 30.5 | 27.5-33.6 |
| Hispanic | 37.3 | 34.8-39.7 |
| White, non-Hispanic | 25.2 | 24.0-26.4 |
| All other race groups combined, non-Hispanic ^d | 37.9 | 30.4-45.4 |
| Annual household income | | |
| <\$15,000 | 58.8 | 54.1-63.6 |
| \$15,000-\$24,999 | 44.0 | 40.3-47.8 |
| \$25,000-\$34,999 | 39.3 | 35.4-43.1 |
| \$35,000-\$49,999 | 32.2 | 28.7-35.7 |
| \$50,000-\$74,999 | 24.7 | 21.8-27.6 |
| \$75,000 and greater | 14.6 | 13.3-16.0 |
| Missing ^e | 30.5 | 28.2-32.7 |
| Region | | |
| New York State excluding New York City | 26.7 | 25.4-28.0 |
| New York City | 30.6 | 28.9-32.2 |
| Educational attainment | | |
| Did Not Graduate High School | 47.1 | 43.3-50.8 |
| Graduated High School | 33.8 | 31.6-36.0 |
| Attended College or Technical School | 28.8 | 26.7-30.8 |
| Graduated from College or Technical School | 17.4 | 16.1-18.6 |
| Health Care Coverage Type^f | | |
| Private | 16.7 | 15.4-18.0 |
| Medicare | 42.5 | 40.2-44.9 |
| Medicaid | 38.4 | 35.1-41.6 |
| Other insurance | 30.2 | 25.1-35.4 |
| Not insured | 31.1 | 26.7-35.5 |

Table 1. Disability Status, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2022

| Selected risk factors | Disability ^a | |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------|
| | % | 95% CI ^b |
| Body Mass Index category | | |
| Neither overweight nor obese | 23.4 | 21.6-25.3 |
| Overweight | 26.8 | 25.0-28.5 |
| Obese ^g | 34.7 | 32.8-36.7 |
| Leisure-time physical activity^h | | |
| No Leisure-time physical activity | 44.9 | 42.6-47.1 |
| Yes Leisure-time physical activity | 22.5 | 21.4-23.6 |
| Current Smokeⁱ | | |
| Yes | 38.6 | 35.1-42.0 |
| No | 26.7 | 25.6-27.8 |
| Chronic Conditions^j | | |
| No chronic condition | 22.2 | 21.1-23.3 |
| One chronic condition | 42.1 | 39.7-44.6 |
| Two or more chronic conditions | 62.8 | 58.0-67.0 |

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). ^bWhen comparing estimates, the 95% confidence interval (95% CI) provides the statistical range containing the true population percentage with a 95% probability. The width of the confidence interval is influenced by the number of residents surveyed. Although a 95% confidence interval is not a test of statistical significance, estimates whose 95% confidence intervals do not overlap can be considered significantly different. ^cBased on the respondent's sex at birth. If sex at birth is missing, then the respondent's sex is based on gender identity at time of the interview. ^dAll Other Race Groups Combined, non-Hispanic includes American Indian or Alaskan Native, multiracial. ^e"Missing" category included because more than 10% of the sample did not report income. ^fTRICARE (formerly CHAMPUS) VA or Military, Alaska Native, Indian Health Service, Tribal Health Services or some other source. ^gObesity is defined as a body mass index of 30.0 or higher. ^hAny leisure-time physical activity during the past month. ⁱRespondents who reported having smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and currently smoke. ^jChronic conditions include diabetes, history of cancer, heart disease, stroke, asthma or arthritis.



References

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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>.

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System 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. Are you deaf or do you have serious difficulty hearing, even when wearing aids?
7. 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?
8. Any physical activity in the past 30 days other than regular job?

Suggested Citation



Rohenaz, S., Austin, R., Madewell, S., Rosenberg, R., Disability Status, New York State Adults, 2022. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Brief, No 2024-17. Albany, New York: New York State Department of Health, Division of Chronic Disease Prevention, Bureau of Chronic Disease Evaluation and Research, June, 2024.

Program Contributions



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