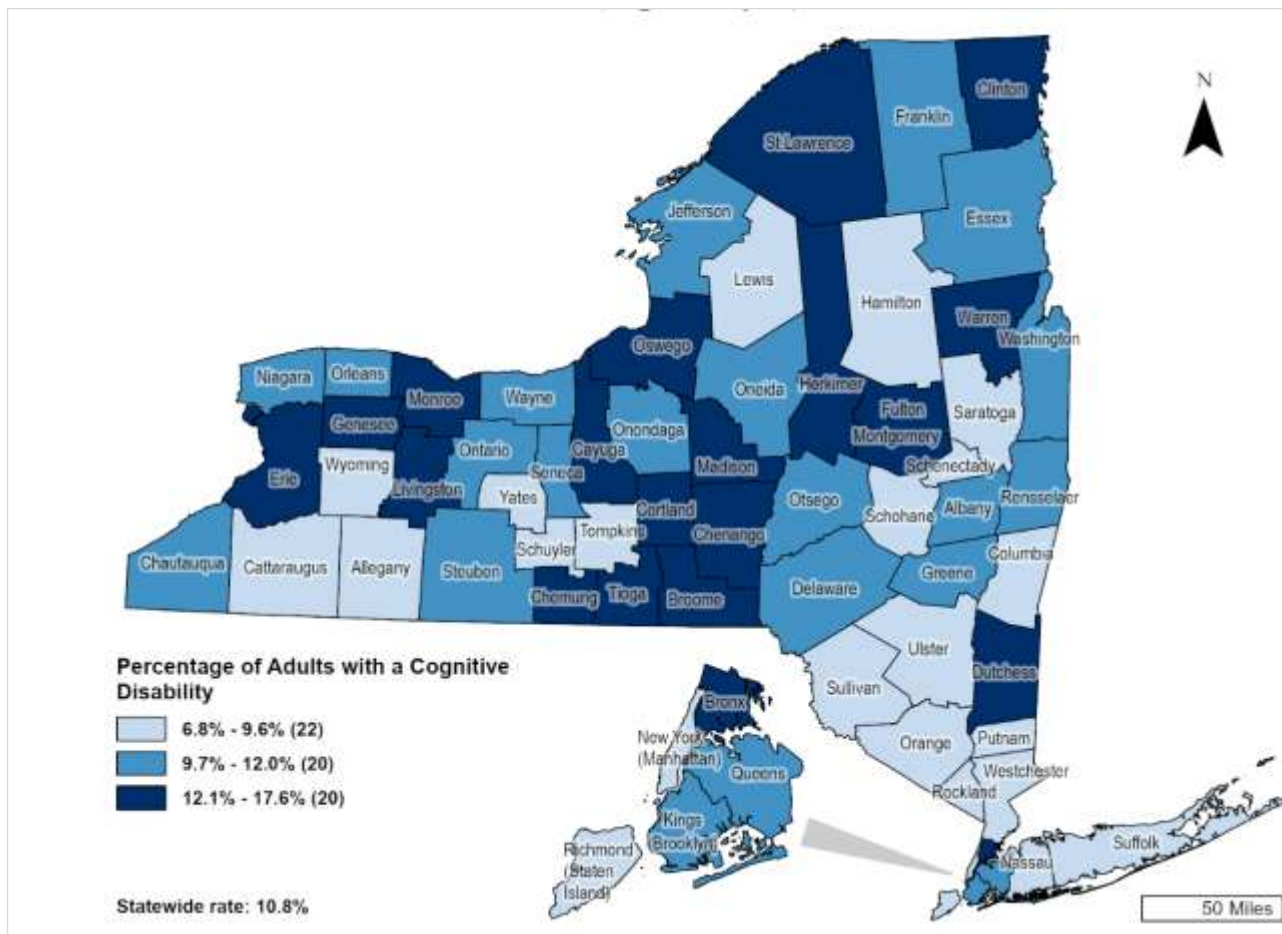


Percentage of Adults with a Cognitive Disability in New York State, by County, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2021

A disability is any condition of the body or mind that makes it more difficult for the person with the condition to do certain activities and interact with the world around them. The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System captures disability status through a series of six questions. Cognitive disability is defined in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System as answering “yes” to the question “Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?”

In New York State, 10.8% of adults live with cognitive disability. The percentage varies across counties from 6.8% to 17.6%. The three levels of shading in the map below are based on the rank order (tertiles) of the estimated percentage of adults living with disability in each county and do not represent statistical differences between counties.



Public Health Opportunity

Adults living with disability face substantial inequities in many health-related social needs, including a lack of accessible housing, transportation, and employment opportunities. Society, culture, and environment can create additional barriers for people living with disability that limit access to health care, often resulting in significant health disparities. These barriers need to be identified and eliminated if persons living with disability are to participate in public health programs that promote healthy living. Despite the Americans with Disabilities Act being passed over 30 years ago, additional changes are still needed to ensure that adults living with disability have equal access, opportunities, and rights. It is imperative that public entities serving New York State residents ensure equity when designing and implementing their services, to eliminate health disparities and improve health outcomes for people living with disability. Public health organizations can take positive steps through policy initiatives aimed at improving the disability-related knowledge and skills of health care workers, and implementing sustainable 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 Cognitive Disability in New York State, by County

County	Crude Rate	[95%CI]*	County	Crude Rate	[95%CI]*
Albany	10.0	[6.1 - 13.8]	Niagara	10.8	[6.7 - 14.9]
Allegany	9.2	[4.6 - 13.7]	Oneida	11.9	[8.5 - 15.3]
Bronx	16.1	[13.5 - 18.8]	Onondaga	11.7	[9.0 - 14.5]
Broome	12.5	[8.8 - 16.1]	Ontario	10.8	[6.6 - 15.1]
Cattaraugus	9.5	[6.5 - 12.5]	Orange	8.6	[5.7 - 11.5]
Cayuga	12.9	[8.5 - 17.2]	Orleans	11.3	[7.4 - 15.2]
Chautauqua	11.8	[8.0 - 15.6]	Oswego	12.6	[8.1 - 17.1]
Chemung	14.9	[9.7 - 20.0]	Otsego	9.9	[5.7 - 14.0]
Chenango	13.4	[8.0 - 18.8]	Putnam	8.3	[4.6 - 11.9]
Clinton	17.6	[11.6 - 23.7]	Queens	10.6	[8.8 - 12.3]
Columbia	9.6	[5.1 - 14.1]	Rensselaer	10.3	[5.6 - 15.0]
Cortland	13.4	[5.6 - 21.2]	Richmond	7.7	[4.8 - 10.7]
Delaware	10.3	[6.4 - 14.2]	Rockland	7.0	[3.2 - 10.9]
Dutchess	13.4	[8.4 - 18.4]	Saratoga	9.2	[5.1 - 13.3]
Erie	13.5	[11.1 - 15.9]	Schenectady	8.6	[4.9 - 12.3]
Essex	11.7	[7.2 - 16.1]	Schoharie	8.4	[4.1 - 12.7]
Franklin	10.2	[6.2 - 14.2]	Schuyler	6.8	[3.6 - 10.0]
Fulton	13.9	[9.9 - 18.0]	Seneca	10.7	[6.4 - 15.0]
Genesee	13.2	[7.7 - 18.8]	St. Lawrence	16.2	[10.1 - 22.2]
Greene	11.7	[3.7 - 19.6]	Steuben	12.0	[8.1 - 15.9]
Hamilton	9.2	[2.7 - 15.7]	Suffolk	9.6	[7.8 - 11.4]
Herkimer	12.1	[7.7 - 16.4]	Sullivan	7.1	[4.8 - 9.5]
Jefferson	10.8	[8.4 - 13.1]	Tioga	16.6	[8.0 - 25.2]
Kings	10.2	[8.6 - 11.8]	Tompkins	9.4	[3.4 - 15.4]
Lewis	8.6	[4.3 - 12.8]	Ulster	9.5	[5.0 - 14.1]
Livingston	14.6	[6.6 - 22.5]	Warren	15.2	[10.6 - 19.8]
Madison	15.5	[9.7 - 21.4]	Washington	11.9	[7.5 - 16.3]
Monroe	12.2	[9.8 - 14.5]	Wayne	11.4	[7.7 - 15.2]
Montgomery	13.4	[8.6 - 18.2]	Westchester	8.4	[6.0 - 10.8]
Nassau	7.1	[5.4 - 8.8]	Wyoming	9.0	[5.2 - 12.9]
New York	8.7	[7.1 - 10.4]	Yates	7.0	[3.1 - 10.8]

Notes:

*When 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.

County estimates in this report are crude percentages. Age-adjusted data are available on Health Data New York at: [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Health Indicators by County and Region | State of New York \(ny.gov\)](https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/prevention/injury_prevention/information_for_action/index.htm)
 Estimates are deemed unstable when a confidence interval has a half-width greater than 10, use caution when interpreting.

Contact: For more information about the data included and their specific implications for action, please send an e-mail to BCDER@health.ny.gov with IFA 2024-11 in the subject line.

Below is the link to the New York State Disability and Health 2021 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Brief: [Disability Status, New York State Adults, 2021](https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/prevention/injury_prevention/information_for_action/index.htm)

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