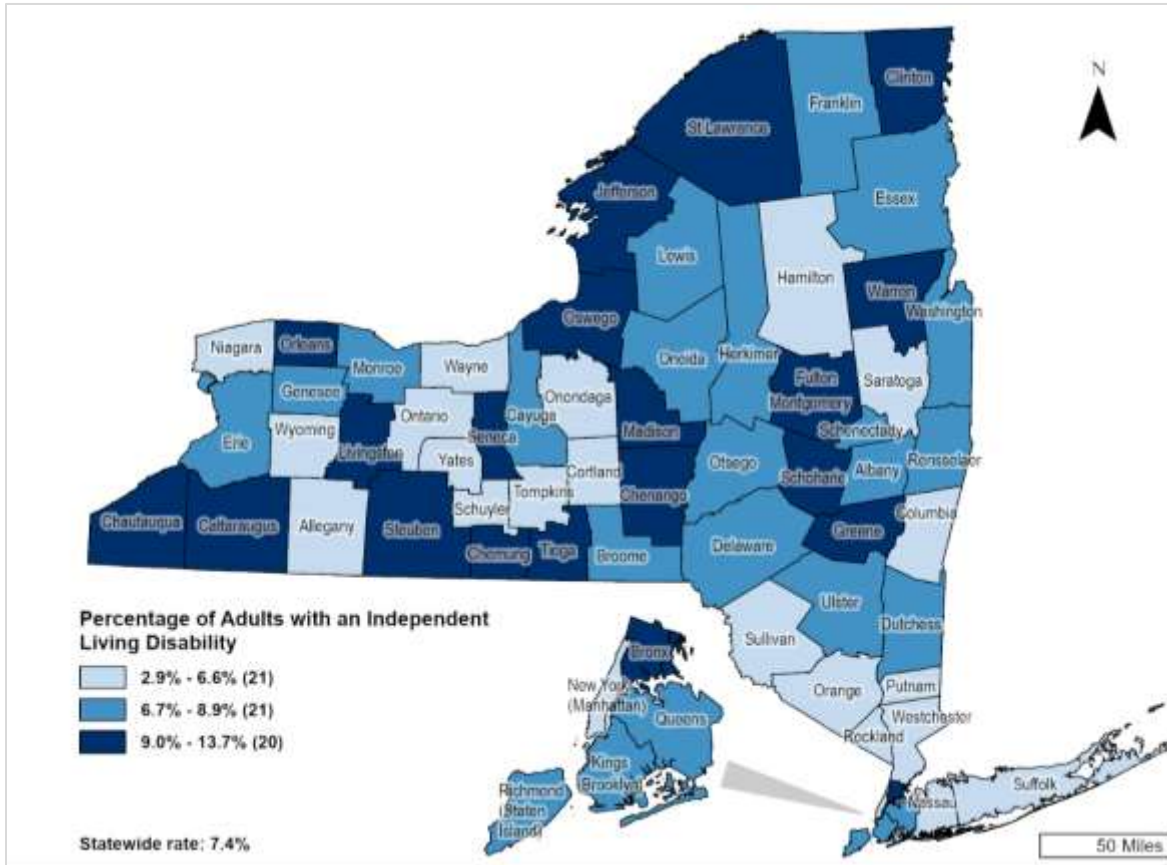


Percentage of Adults with an Independent Living Disability in New York State, by County, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2021

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. Independent living 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 difficulty doing errands alone, such as visiting a doctor’s office or shopping?”

In New York State, 7.4% of adults have an independent living disability. The percentage varies across counties from 2.9% to 13.7%. 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 with living 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 an Independent Living Disability in New York State, by County

County	Crude Rate	[95%CI]*	County	Crude Rate	[95%CI]*
Albany	7.2	[5.0 - 9.4]	Niagara	5.2	[3.0 - 7.3]
Allegany	6.0	[3.0 - 8.9]	Oneida	8.6	[5.8 - 11.5]
Bronx	10.2	[8.2 - 12.2]	Onondaga	5.6	[3.9 - 7.3]
Broome	8.5	[5.9 - 11.1]	Ontario	5.4	[3.3 - 7.4]
Cattaraugus	10.5	[5.8 - 15.1]	Orange	6.3	[3.7 - 8.8]
Cayuga	8.7	[4.3 - 13.0]	Orleans	10.8	[6.7 - 14.9]
Chautauqua	9.5	[5.8 - 13.2]	Oswego	9.4	[5.6 - 13.1]
Chemung	10.0	[5.6 - 14.3]	Otsego	6.8	[3.5 - 10.1]
Chenango	9.6	[5.0 - 14.2]	Putnam	6.5	[3.3 - 9.6]
Clinton	9.4	[4.8 - 13.9]	Queens	7.2	[5.7 - 8.7]
Columbia	2.9	[1.4 - 4.3]	Rensselaer	7.5	[3.8 - 11.1]
Cortland	5.3	[2.5 - 8.1]	Richmond	6.7	[3.8 - 9.5]
Delaware	7.2	[4.4 - 9.9]	Rockland	3.3	[1.5 - 5.1]
Dutchess	6.8	[3.6 - 10.0]	Saratoga	4.2	[1.6 - 6.7]
Erie	8.8	[6.8 - 10.7]	Schenectady	7.2	[4.0 - 10.4]
Essex	8.1	[4.5 - 11.8]	Schoharie	9.2	[5.0 - 13.4]
Franklin	6.7	[4.1 - 9.3]	Schuyler	6.5	[3.2 - 9.9]
Fulton	9.3	[6.3 - 12.4]	Seneca	9.4	[5.4 - 13.4]
Genesee	8.3	[4.3 - 12.3]	St. Lawrence	13.7	[7.9 - 19.5]
Greene	9.6	[1.3 - 17.9]	Steuben	9.8	[5.8 - 13.8]
Hamilton	4.5	[2.1 - 6.8]	Suffolk	6.1	[4.7 - 7.6]
Herkimer	8.3	[5.2 - 11.4]	Sullivan	6.3	[3.8 - 8.8]
Jefferson	9.1	[6.4 - 11.9]	Tioga	10.3	[4.2 - 16.3]
Kings	7.4	[6.0 - 8.8]	Tompkins	3.4	[1.9 - 4.9]
Lewis	8.1	[4.2 - 12.1]	Ulster	8.9	[5.0 - 12.8]
Livingston	13.2	[5.3 - 21.2]	Warren	11.6	[7.2 - 16.0]
Madison	10.5	[5.2 - 15.7]	Washington	7.4	[4.1 - 10.8]
Monroe	7.9	[6.1 - 9.6]	Wayne	6.6	[4.5 - 8.7]
Montgomery	11.6	[6.2 - 16.9]	Westchester	5.5	[3.6 - 7.3]
Nassau	4.7	[3.4 - 6.1]	Wyoming	5.3	[2.7 - 8.0]
New York	5.7	[4.4 - 7.0]	Yates	5.4	[1.9 - 9.0]

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 2024-14 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