

Nearly one in four (24%) Vermont adults have at least one disability and one in nine (11%) report having multiple disabilities. The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) identifies mobility, cognitive, hearing, visual, self-care and independent living disabilities.¹ Mobility and cognitive disabilities affect the largest number of Vermonters with 11% having serious trouble walking or climbing stairs and 9% having serious difficulty concentrating or making decisions due to a physical, mental or emotional condition. This is significantly higher than Vermonters affected by hearing (7%), independent living (7%), visual (4%), and self-care (2%) disabilities.

24% of Vermont adults have at least one disability.

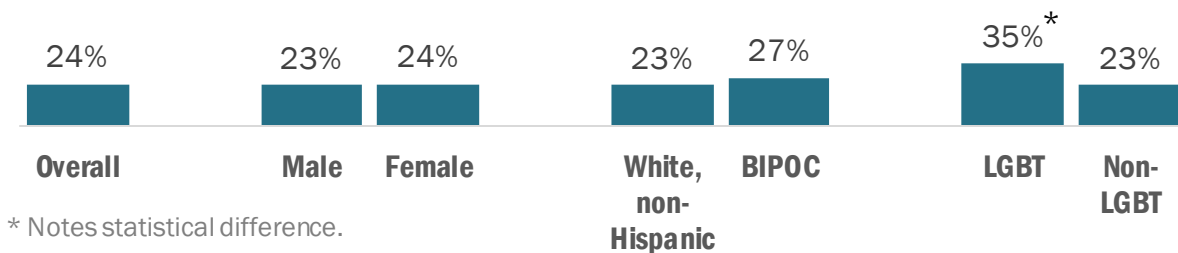
11% of Vermont adults have multiple disabilities.

There are clear differences in socioeconomic status of Vermonters with a disability compared to Vermonters without a disability. On average, Vermonters with a disability have less education, a lower annual income and a lower rate of employment.

Disability Demographics

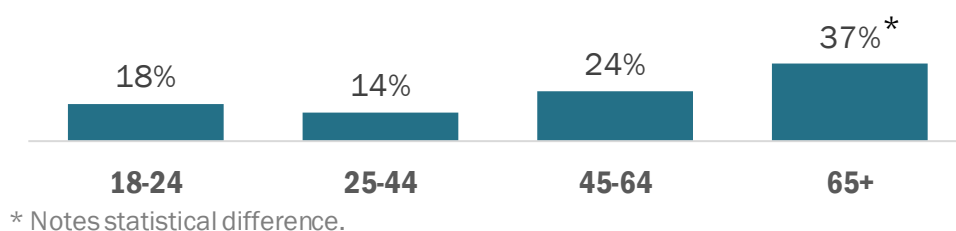
Vermont adults who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or other sexual identity (LGBT) have a significantly higher rate of any disability (35%), when compared to non-LGBT Vermonters (23%). Overall rates of any disability are similar by sex and race/ethnicity. However, disparities exist among specific disabilities. Male Vermonters have a significantly higher rate of hearing disabilities and significantly lower rate of self-care disabilities, compared to female Vermonters. Black, Indigenous and people of color in Vermont have significantly higher rates of self-care and independent living disabilities than white, non-Hispanic Vermonters.

Prevalence of Disability by Demographic, 2019



Vermonters reporting any disability significantly increases with age for adults 65 and older. Mobility, hearing and visual disabilities are the main contributors to this increase in disability with age. In contrast, cognitive disabilities are significantly higher among adults 18 to 24 years of age.

Prevalence of Disability by Age, 2019



Demographics: Vermont Adults with a Disability

Education

One in five (18%) adults with a disability have not completed high school compared to one in twenty (5%) adults without a disability.

Seventeen percent of Vermont adults with a disability have a college education or more, significantly lower than the 40% among those without a disability.

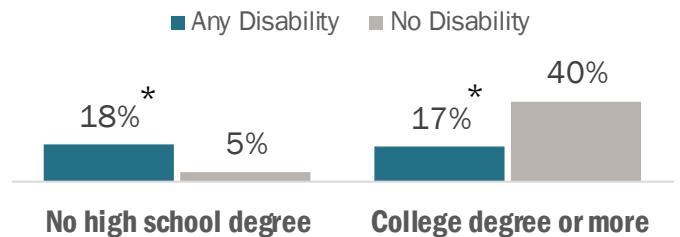
Income

There are clear differences in income for Vermonters with and without disabilities. Forty-three percent of adults with a disability make less than \$25,000 per year compared to 15% of those without a disability. Thirty-one percent of adults with a disability make \$50,000 or more, while 61% of those without a disability report the same. Both differences are statistically significant.

Employment

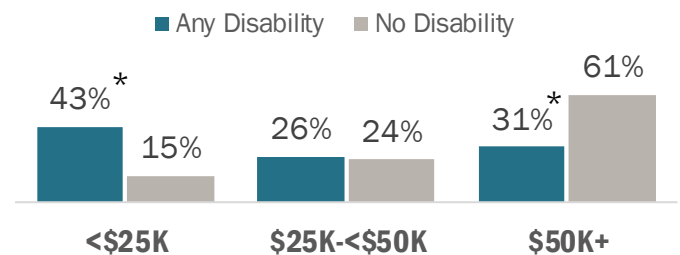
Over one in three (34%) Vermonters with disabilities are employed, significantly less than those without disabilities (67%). Adults with disabilities are significantly more likely to be unable to work (24%) than those without disabilities (2%). Similarly, 42% of adults with disabilities are not employed compared with 31% of adults without disabilities, a significant difference.

Highest Level of Education by Disability, 2019



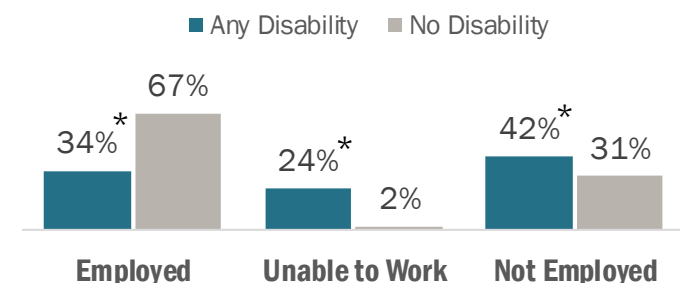
* Notes statistical difference.

Annual Household Income by Disability, 2019



* Notes statistical difference.

Employment Status by Disability, 2019



* Notes statistical difference.

Vermonters with disabilities experience unequal access to economic opportunities leading to poorer health outcomes, compared to Vermonters without disabilities.

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¹ The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) asks [several questions to determine the individual's disability status](#). The BRFSS does not include people living in institutions and group homes, who may be more likely to have a disability, and therefore may underestimate the prevalence of disability.