

Vermont Disability and Public Health Data Brief

Demographics: Vermont Adults with a Disability

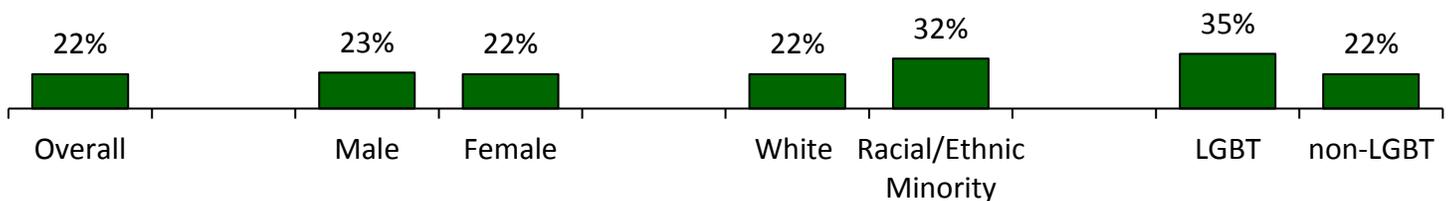
The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) asks several questions to determine the participant's disability status. Disabilities identified by the BRFSS include mobility, cognitive, hearing, visual, self-care and independent living. More than one in five (22%) Vermont adults have at least one of these disabilities¹ and one in ten (10%) report having multiple disabilities. Mobility and cognitive disabilities affect the largest number of Vermonters with 11% of Vermonters indicating they have serious trouble walking or climbing stairs and 9% of Vermonters saying they have serious difficulty concentrating or making decisions due to a physical, mental or emotional condition. This is significantly higher than Vermonters affected by hearing (6%), independent living (6%), visual (3%), and self-care (3%) 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

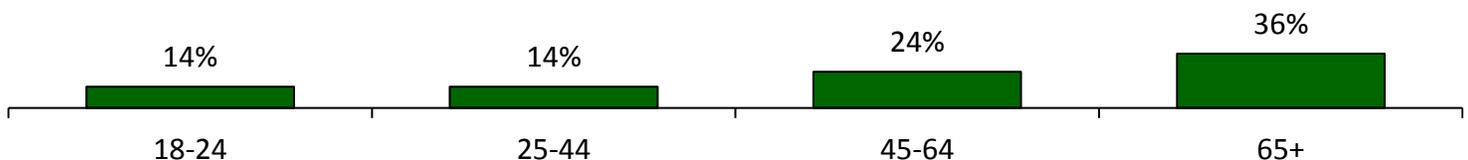
Vermont adults who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or other sexual identity (LGBT) have a significantly higher rate of any disability (35%), when compared to non-LGBT Vermonters (22%). Vermont adults who are a racial or ethnic minority have a significantly higher rate of any disability (32%) when compared to white, non-Hispanic individuals (22%). Vermont men and women report similar rates of disability and cognitive disability.

Prevalence of Disability by Demographic
Vermont BRFSS, 2016



Vermonters reporting any disability significantly increases with age for adults 45 and older. Mobility and hearing disabilities are the main contributors to this increase in disability with age, as well as an increase in those reporting a visual disability between Vermonters ages 25-44 and Vermonters ages 45-64.

Prevalence of Disability by Age
Vermont BRFSS, 2016

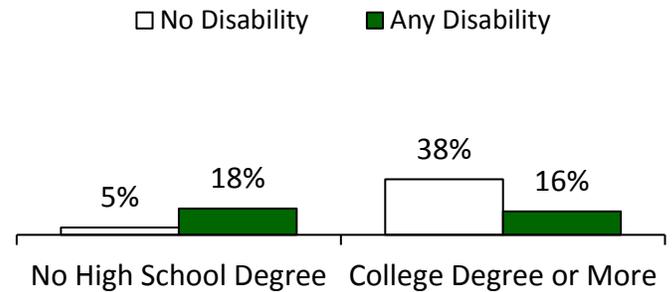


¹ The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) asks several questions to determine the individual's disability status. [Disabilities identified by the BRFSS include mobility, cognitive, visual, hearing, self-care and independent living.](#) The BRFSS does not include people living in institutions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

Education

Vermonters with disabilities are significantly less likely to have completed college compared to Vermonters without a disability. Sixteen percent of adults with a disability have at least a college education compared to 38% of those without a disability. One in five (18%) adults with a disability have not completed high school compared to one in twenty (5%) adults without a disability.

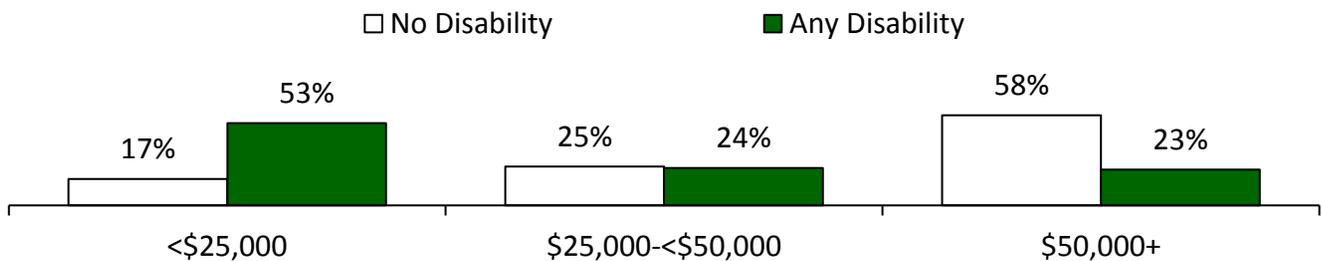
Highest Level of Education by Disability
Vermont BRFSS, 2016



Income

There are clear differences in income for Vermonters with and without disabilities. Fifty-three percent of adults with a disability make less than \$25,000 a year compared to 17% of those without a disability. Nearly six in ten (58%) of those without a disability make \$50,000 or more a year. Twenty-three percent of adults with a disability make \$50,000 or more.

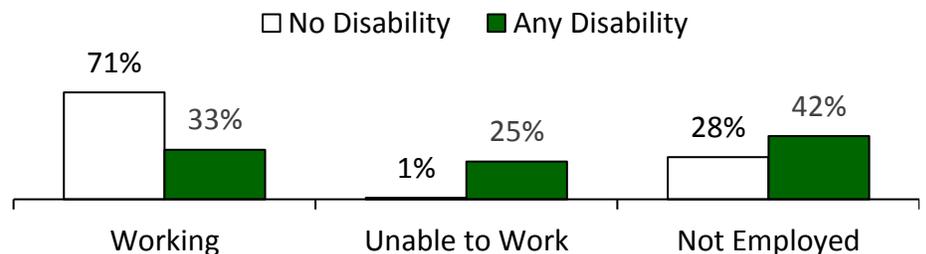
Annual Household Income by Disability
Vermont BRFSS, 2016



Employment

Vermonters with disabilities are significantly more likely to be unable to work (25%) than Vermonters with no disability (1%). Seventy-one percent of those with no disability are employed, significantly more than the one in three (33%) adults with disabilities that are employed.

Employment Status by Disability
Vermont BRFSS, 2016



For questions about this data brief please contact Mallory Staskus (mallory.staskus@vermont.gov). For more information about the Health Department's Disability and Chronic Disease Prevention Program contact Allie Perline (allison.perline@vermont.gov).

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