

# Who Are People with Disabilities?



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CDC

Accessible version: <https://youtu.be/ZFveIRhEZs8>



U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

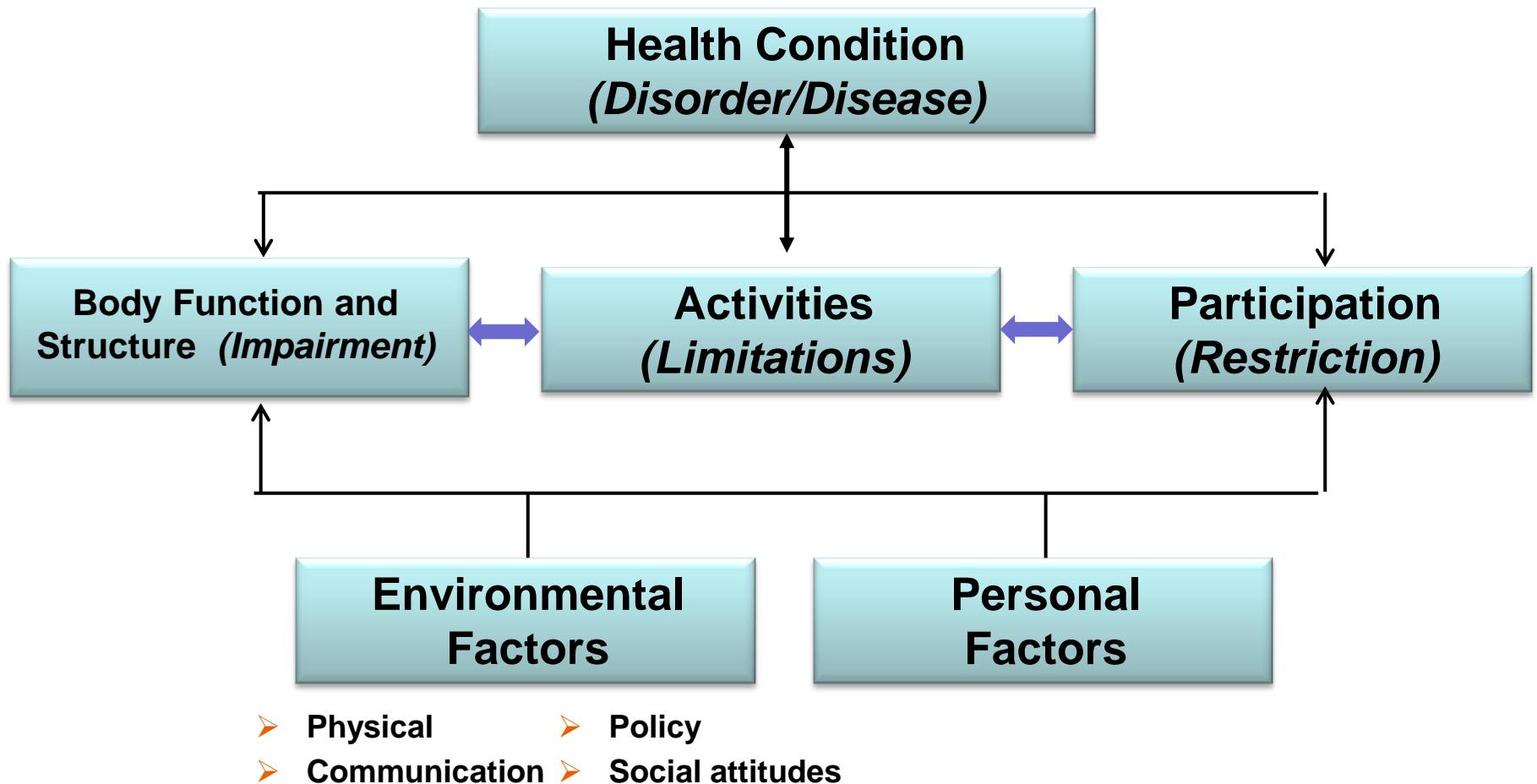
# Who Are People with Disabilities?



# What Is Disability?

- **Impairment in body function or structure**
  - E.g., retinal detachment, missing limb
- **Limitation in activity**
  - E.g., difficulty seeing, hearing, walking, or problem-solving
- **Restriction in participation in daily and societal activities**
  - E.g., cooking a meal, driving an automobile

# International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health



# Disability and Society

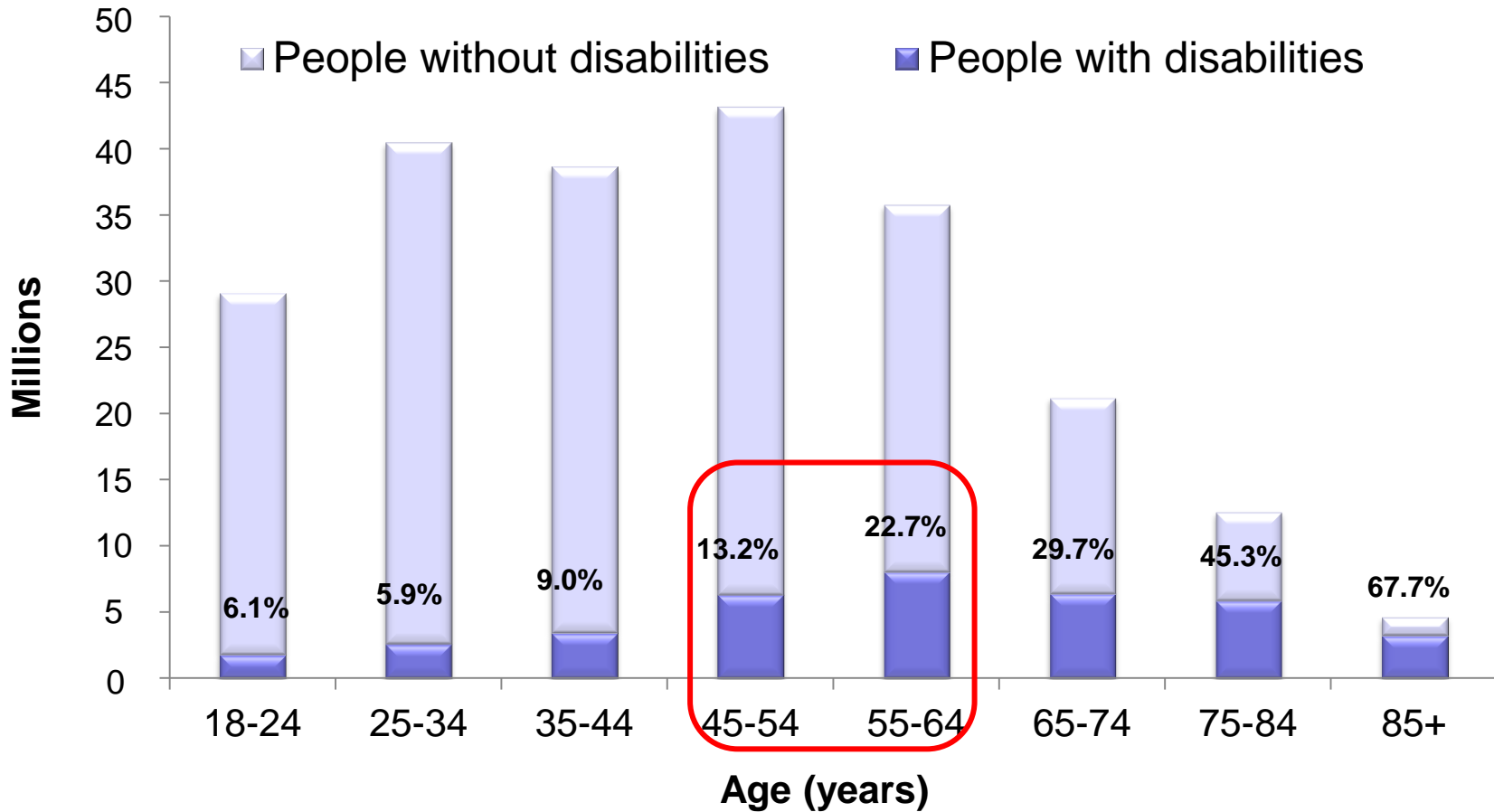
- ❑ **Disability is not viewed as the health condition of a person**
- ❑ **It is the limitation experienced in the context of the community and society in which the individual lives**

**Societal and environmental accommodations are critical for people with disabilities to engage in various daily activities**

# Disability in the United States

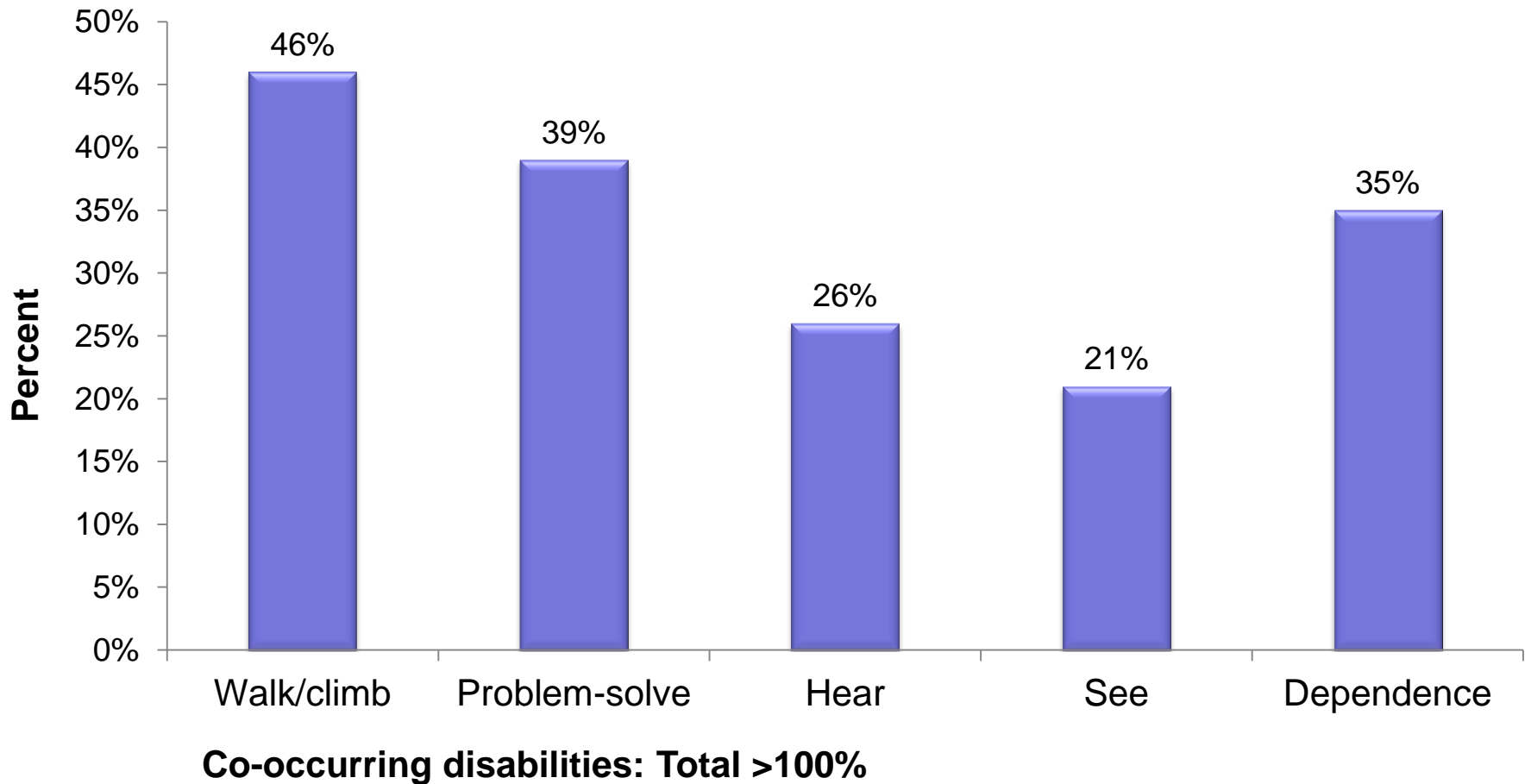
- ❑ **1 in 6 people (37.5 M adults or 16% U.S. population) report serious limitations in functioning**
- ❑ **Health cares costs associated with disability are estimated at about \$400 billion/year**
  - >¼ quarter of all health expenditures
  - Medicaid and Medicare programs incur about 70% of these costs

# Adults with and without Disabilities by Age Group United States, 2010 (Weighted Population Estimates)



National Health Interview Survey, 2010, [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/about\\_nhis.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/about_nhis.htm)

# Prevalence of Disability Types among Adults with Co-occurring Disabilities

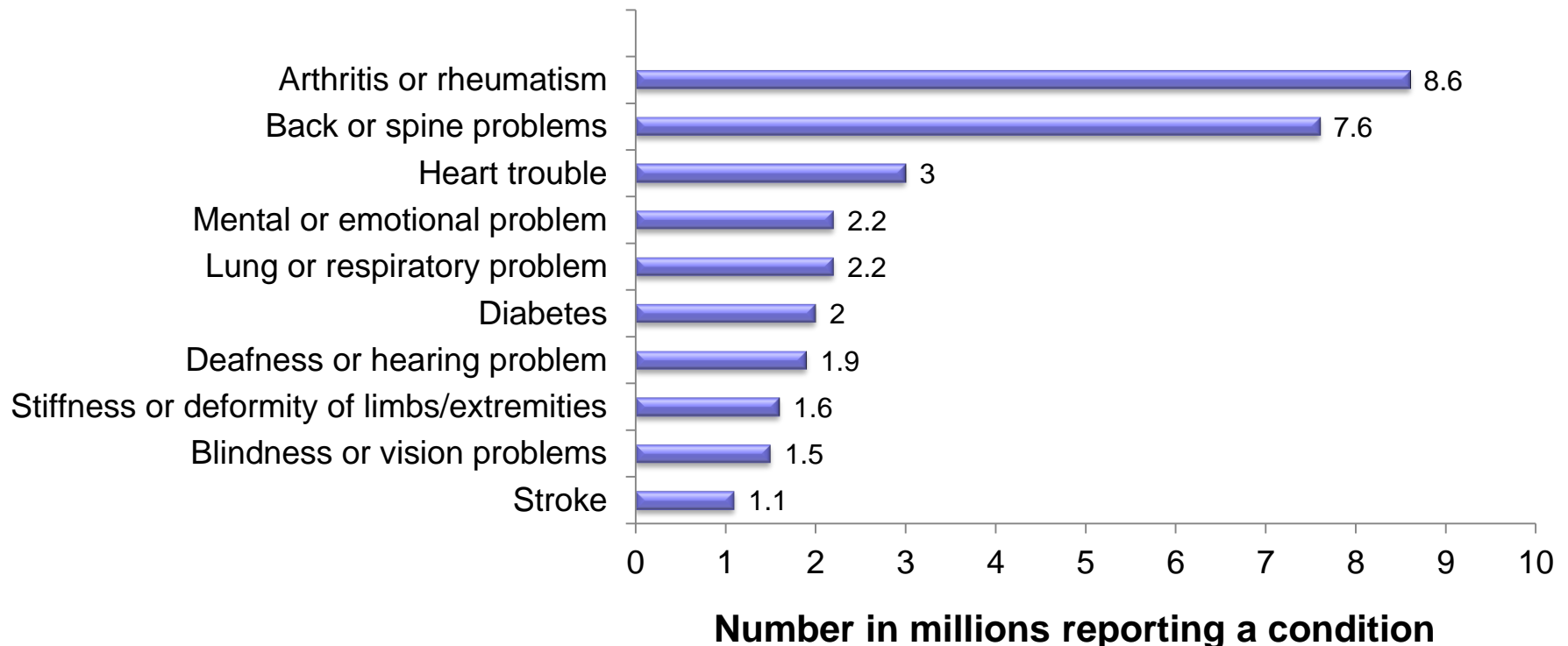


National Health Interview Survey, 2010–2011



# Arthritis is the Most Common Cause of Disability in the United States

## Most Common Causes of Disability in the United States



CDC, MMWR 2009;58(16):421-6

CDC, MMWR 2001;50(7):120-5

Data source: Survey of Income and Program Participation, <http://www.census.gov/sipp>

# Health Disparities in People with Disabilities

- ❑ **People with disabilities continue to experience significant disparities in their health and health care**
  - 4 times more likely to report their health to be fair/poor
  - 2.5 times more likely to report unmet health care needs
  - A narrower margin of health because of
    - Poverty and other social determinants
    - Secondary health conditions such as pressure sores or urinary tract infections
    - Difficulty accessing mainstream health and public health programs

# The Role of Public Health to Improve Health of People with Disabilities

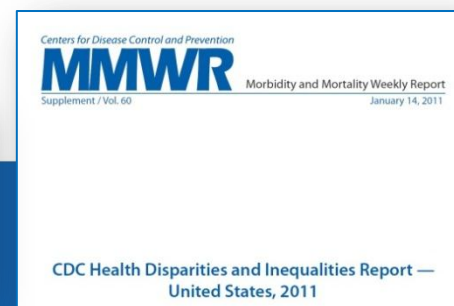
- Prevent disabilities when possible**
- Improve data on people with disabilities**
- Improve health of people with disabilities**
- Reduce health disparities among people with disabilities**

# CDC Strategy: Make the Broadest Impact

- ❑ Include people with disabilities in mainstream programs and services wherever possible**
- ❑ Use cross-disability approaches where necessary to address unique health needs of people with disabilities**
- ❑ Use condition-specific focus where essential**

# CDC Strategy: Specific Actions

- ❑ **Promote inclusion of people with disabilities in CDC surveys, programs, policies and communications**
  - People with disabilities included in CDC surveys and reports
  - Standard disability identifiers in all HHS surveys
  - Enhanced accessibility of ~90 interventions in the Community Guide
- ❑ **Fund a network of 18 state Disability and Health Programs**
  - Health care access
  - Health promotion
  - Emergency preparedness
- ❑ **Fund a network of Public Health Practice and Resource Centers to reach key populations**



# Disparities in Health among People with Disabilities in Massachusetts



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Disability, Health and Employment Policy Unit

Center for Health Policy and Research

University of Massachusetts Medical School

# Background

- ❑ **1990: The Americans with Disabilities Act was passed**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> comprehensive civil rights law addressing the needs of people with disabilities
- ❑ **Both *Healthy People 2010* and *Healthy People 2020* have focused on the health and well-being of people with disabilities**
- ❑ **However, people with disabilities continue to experience significant disparities in their health and health care**

# National and State-level Data about People with Disabilities

## ❑ Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

- Random-digit-dialed telephone health survey of adults in the US
- Conducted in all 50 states in collaboration with the CDC
- Primary source of state-based information on risk behaviors and health status of adults
- Includes questions identifying disability in all 50 states

## ❑ Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)

- CDC-funded survey on maternal attitudes and experiences before, during, and shortly after pregnancy
- Survey participants sampled from eligible birth certificates including all live births to state residents
- Only 2 states include disability identifiers (MA and RI)



# Outline

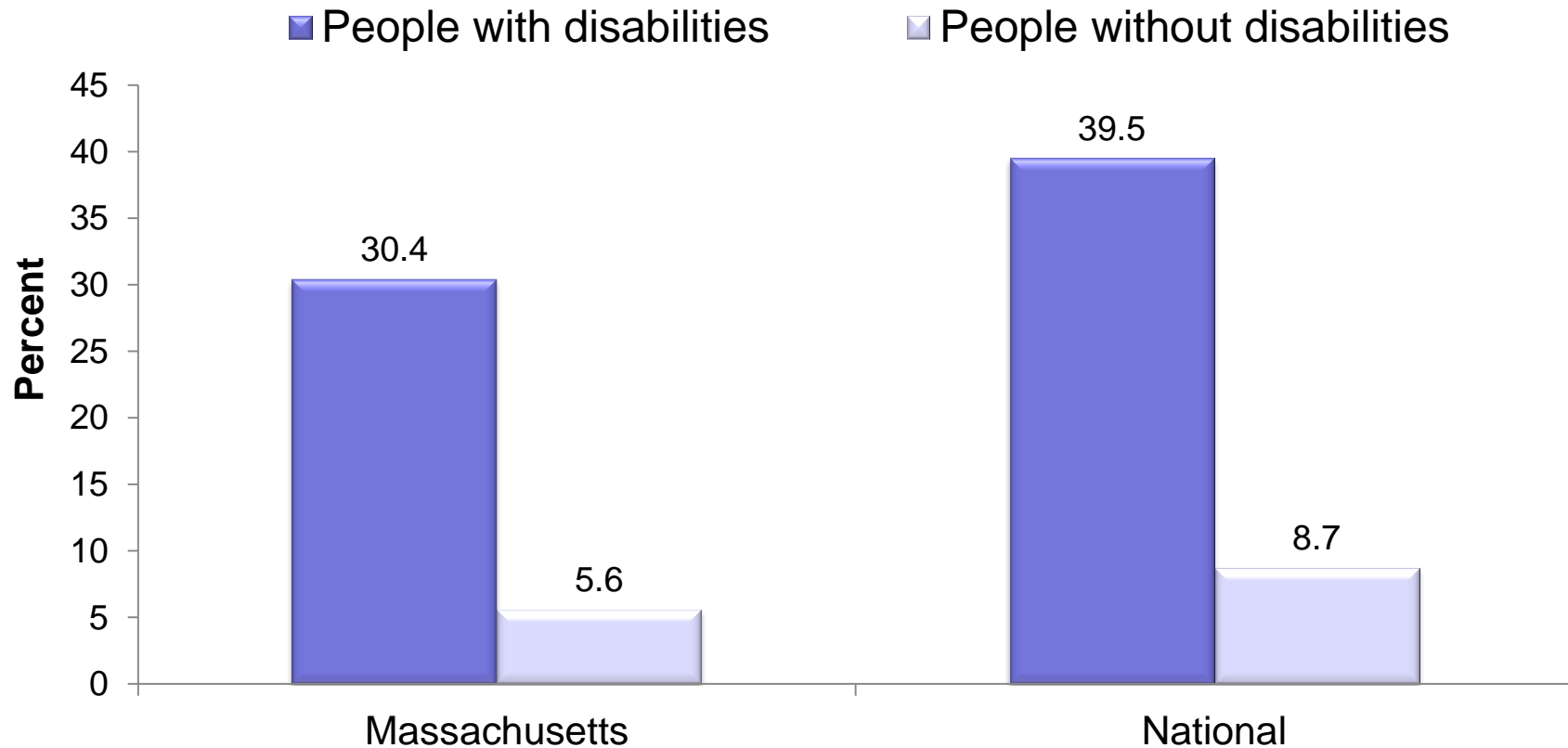
## **Health status**

- People with disabilities more likely to report poor general and poor mental health
- These disparities remain after stratifying by education

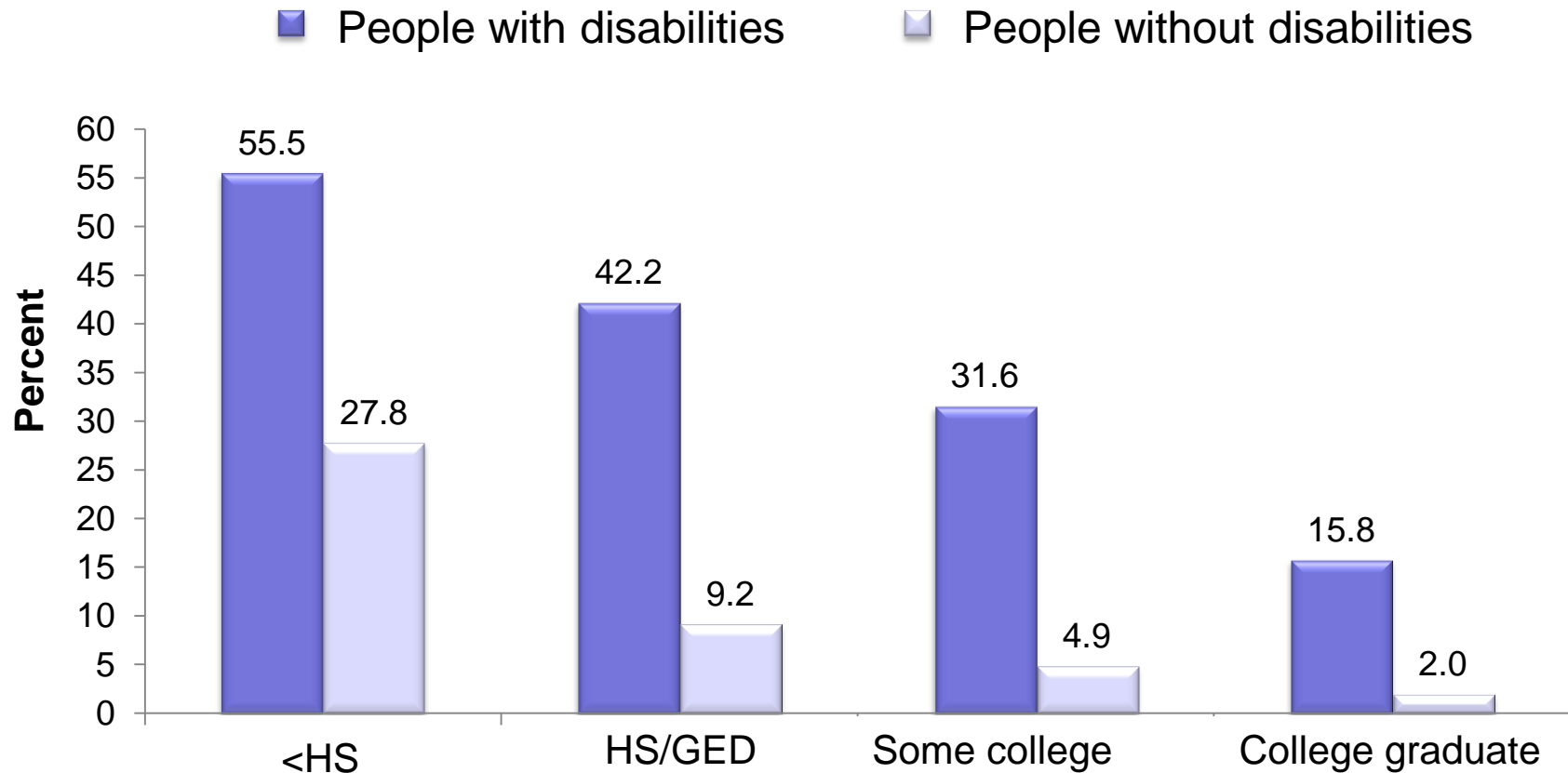
## **Risk factors and preventive behaviors**

## **Health care access**

# Self-Reported Fair to Poor Health by Disability Status, MA and United States, 2010



# Self-Reported Fair to Poor Health by Disability Status and Education, MA, 2010

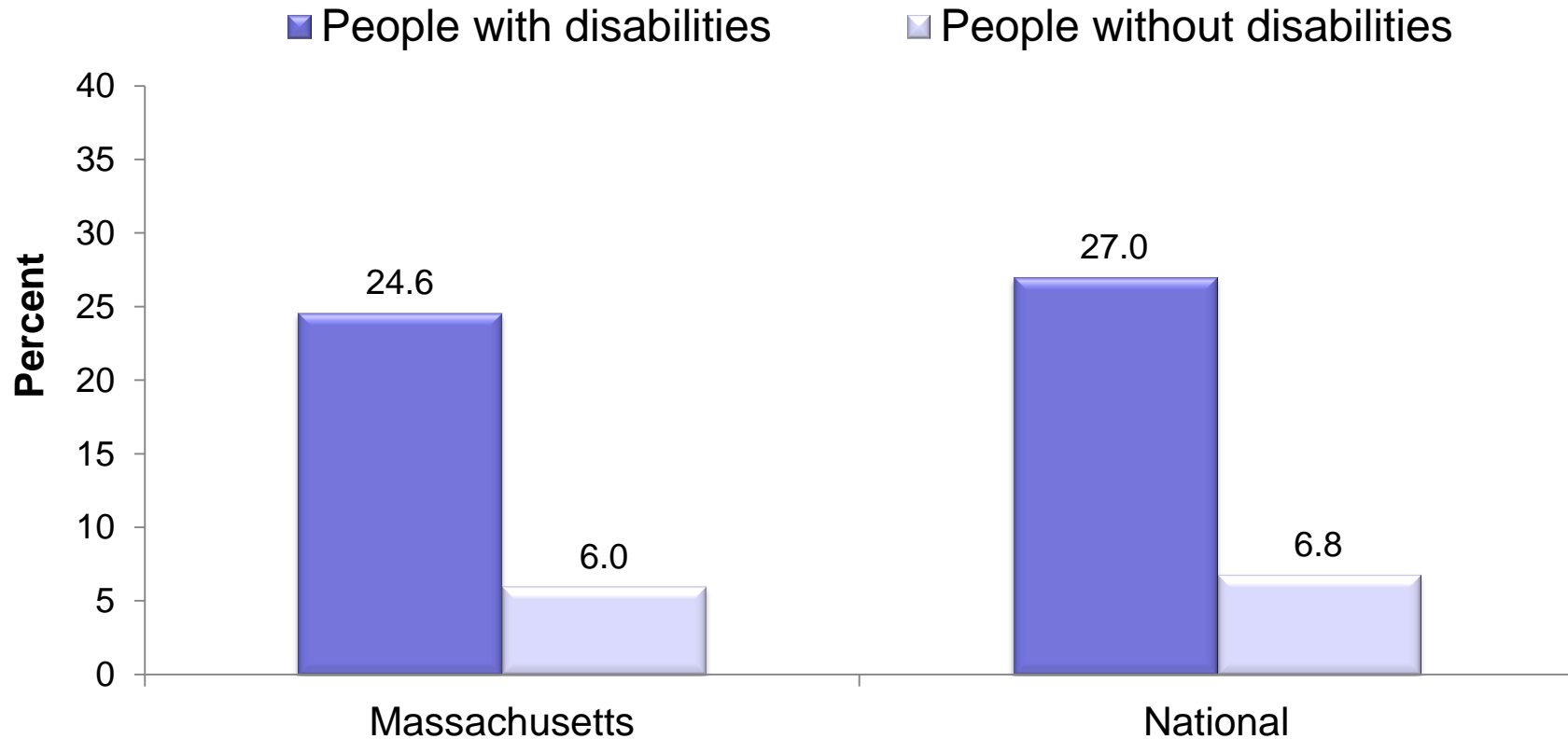


MA Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2010

HS, High school

GED, General Education Development tests

# ≥14 Days of Poor Mental Health in Past Month by Disability Status, MA and United States, 2010



# Outline

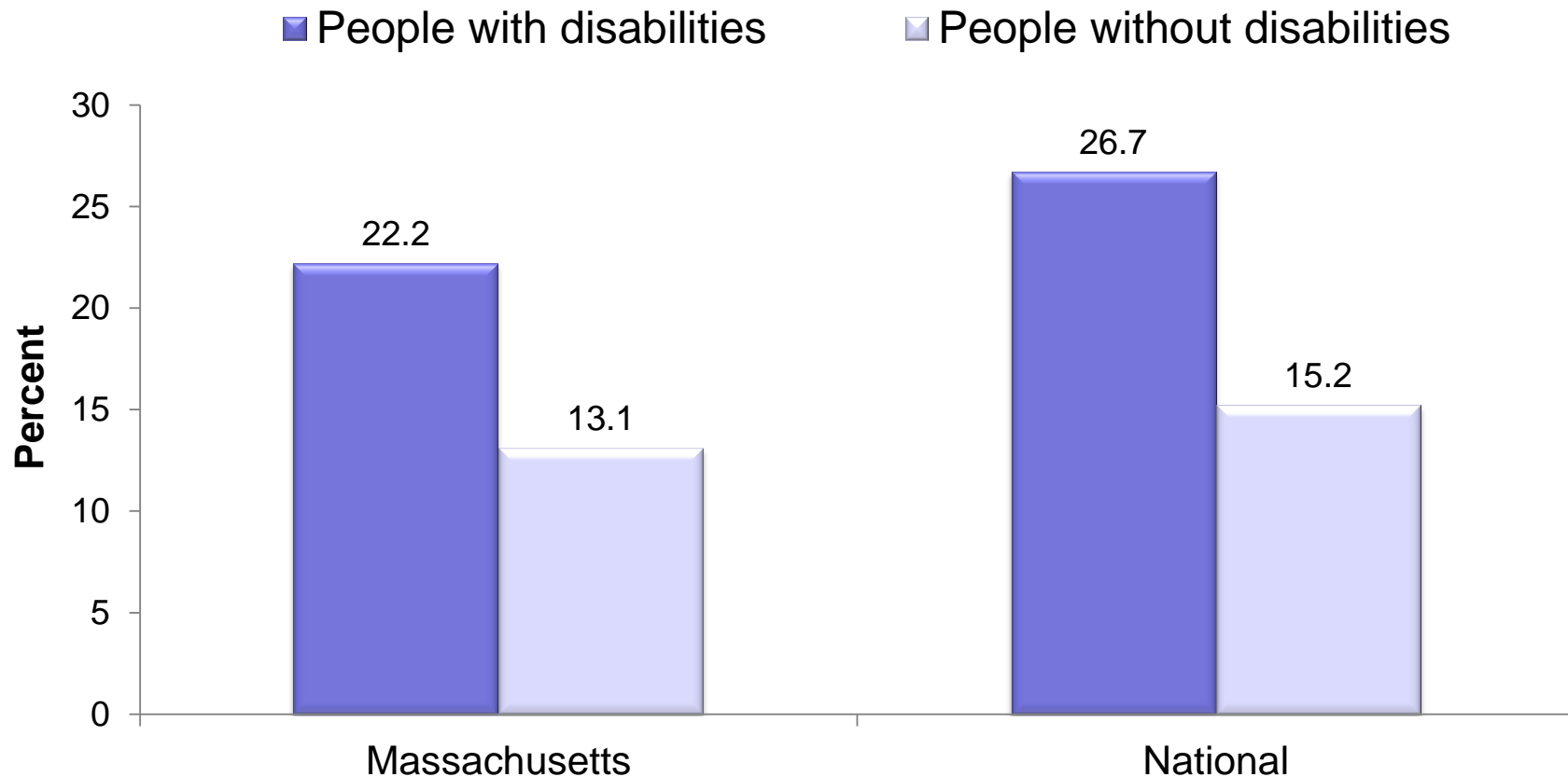
## ❑ Health status

## ❑ Risk factors and preventive behaviors

- There are significant differences in risk factors and preventive behaviors by disability status
- Differences include
  - Smoking
  - Obesity and physical inactivity
  - Injury by sexual and physical violence

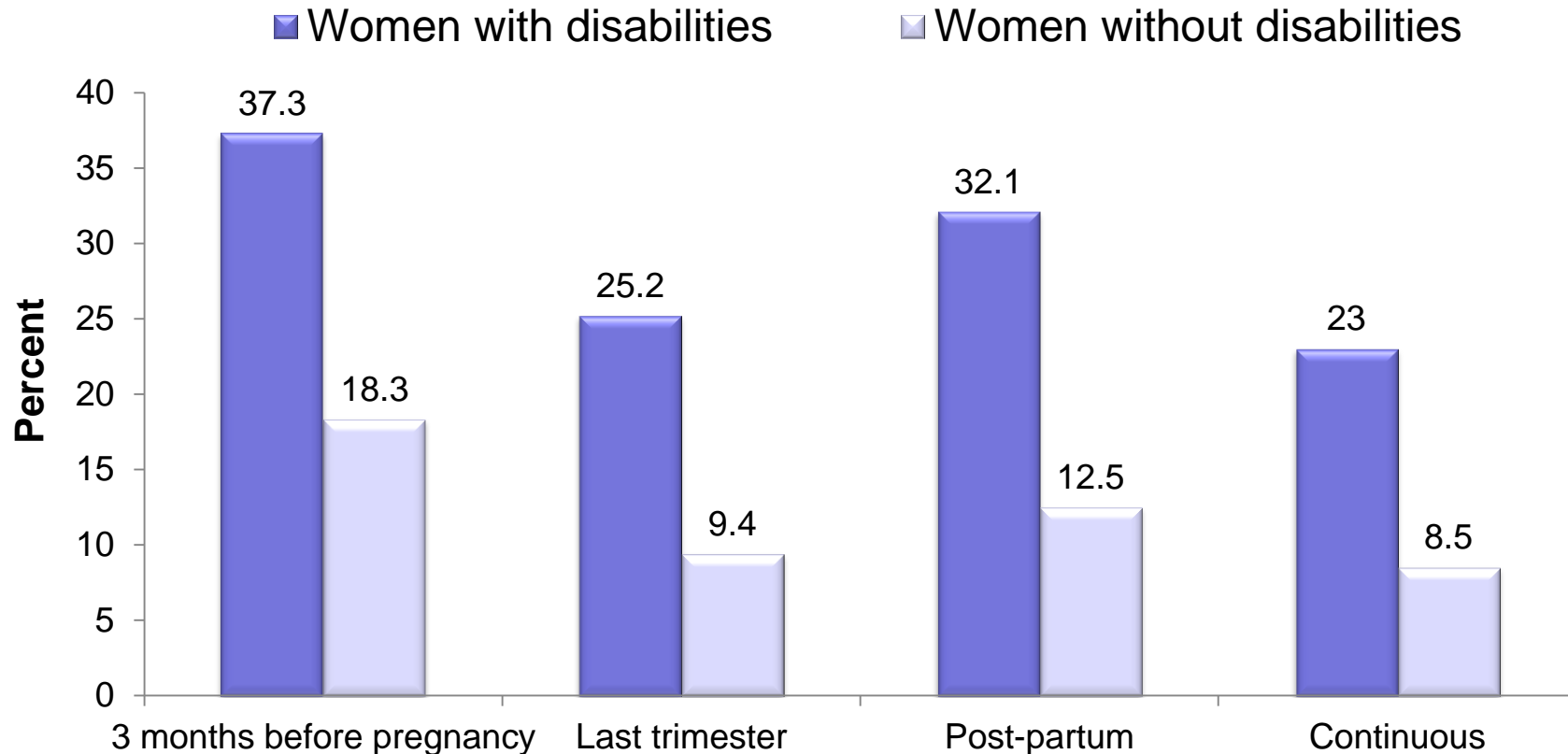
## ❑ Healthcare access

# Current Smoking by Disability Status, MA and United States, 2010

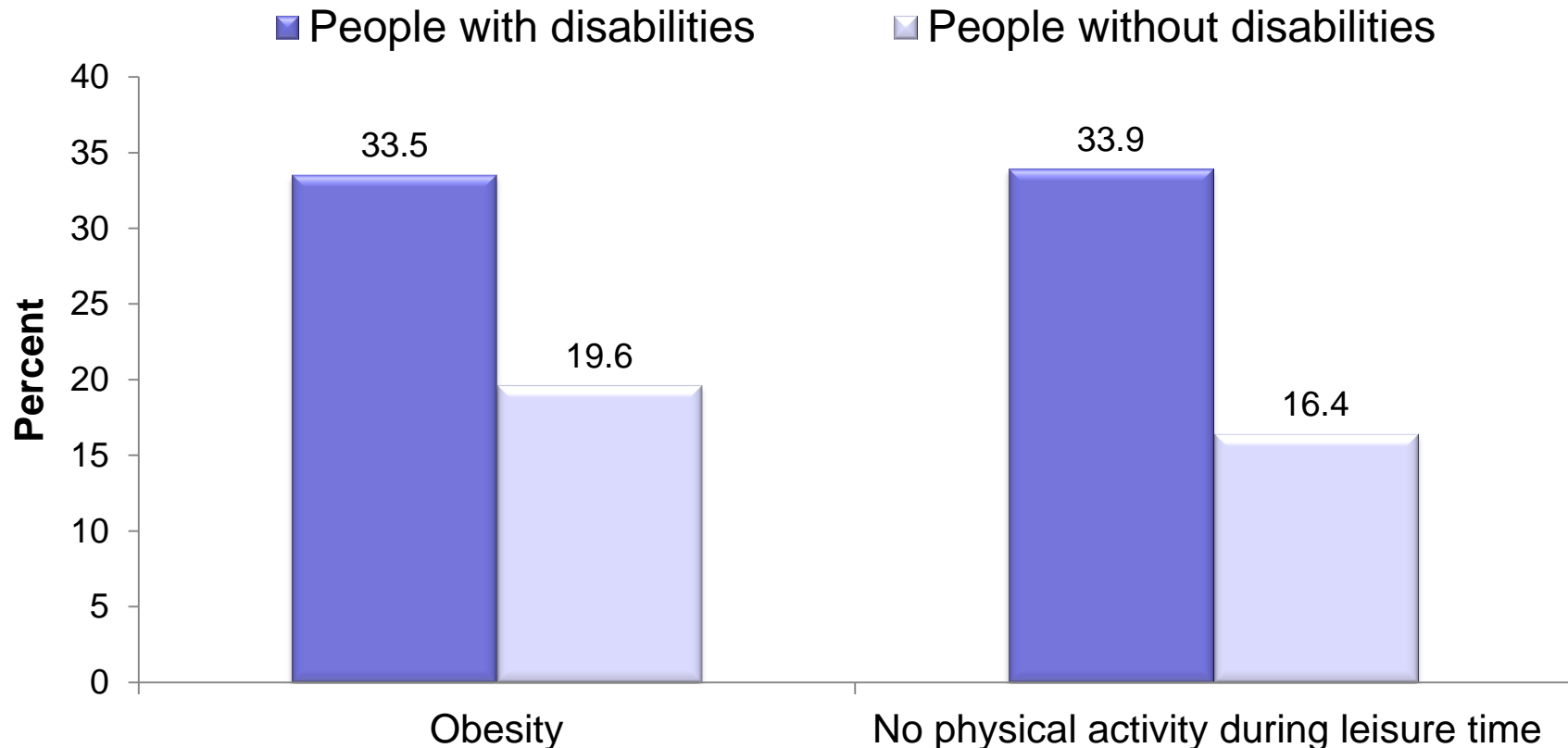


MA and National Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2010

# Cigarette Smoking Before, During, and After Pregnancy among Women with Live Births MA, 2007–2009

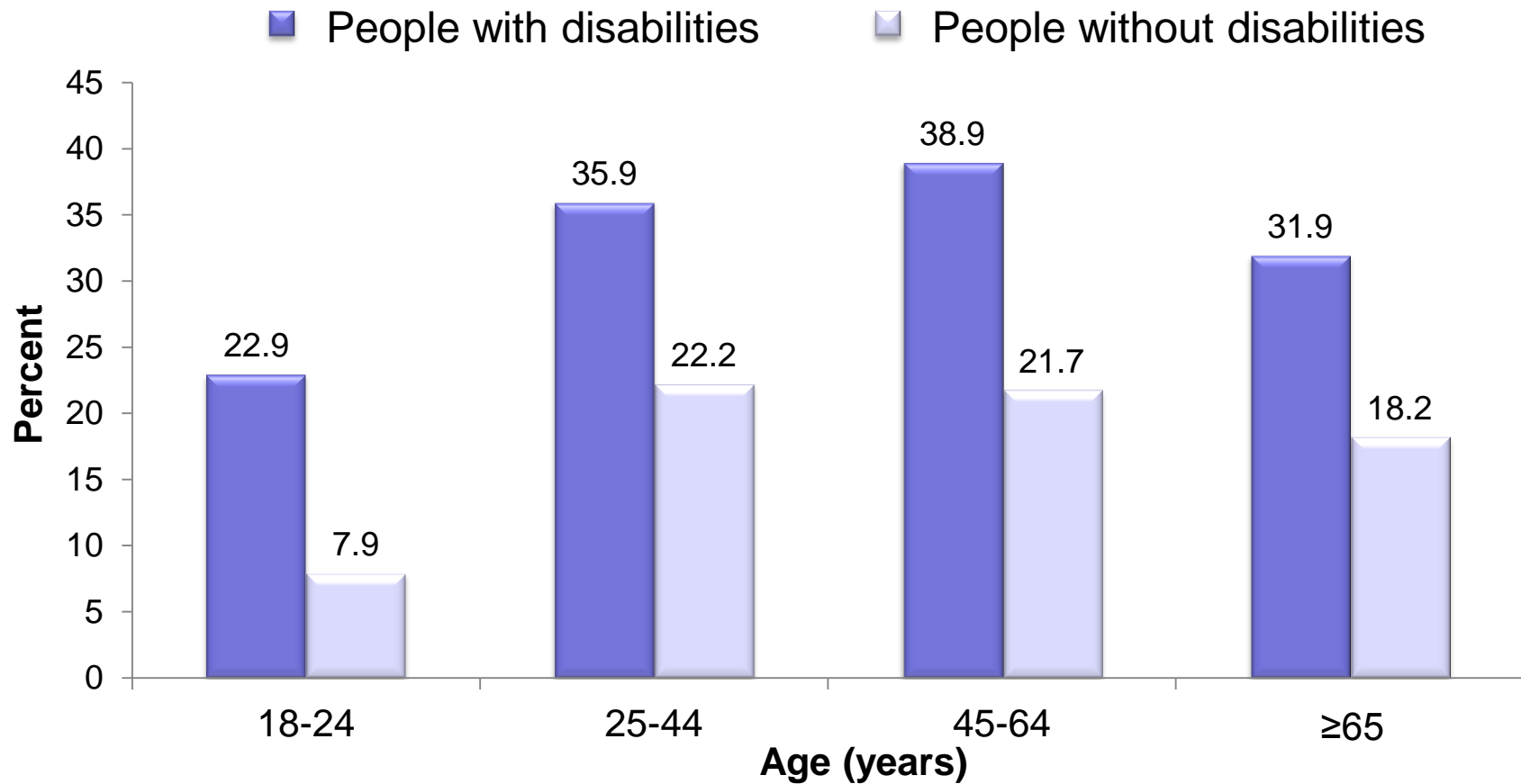


# Prevalence of Obesity and Physical Inactivity by Disability Status, MA, 2010

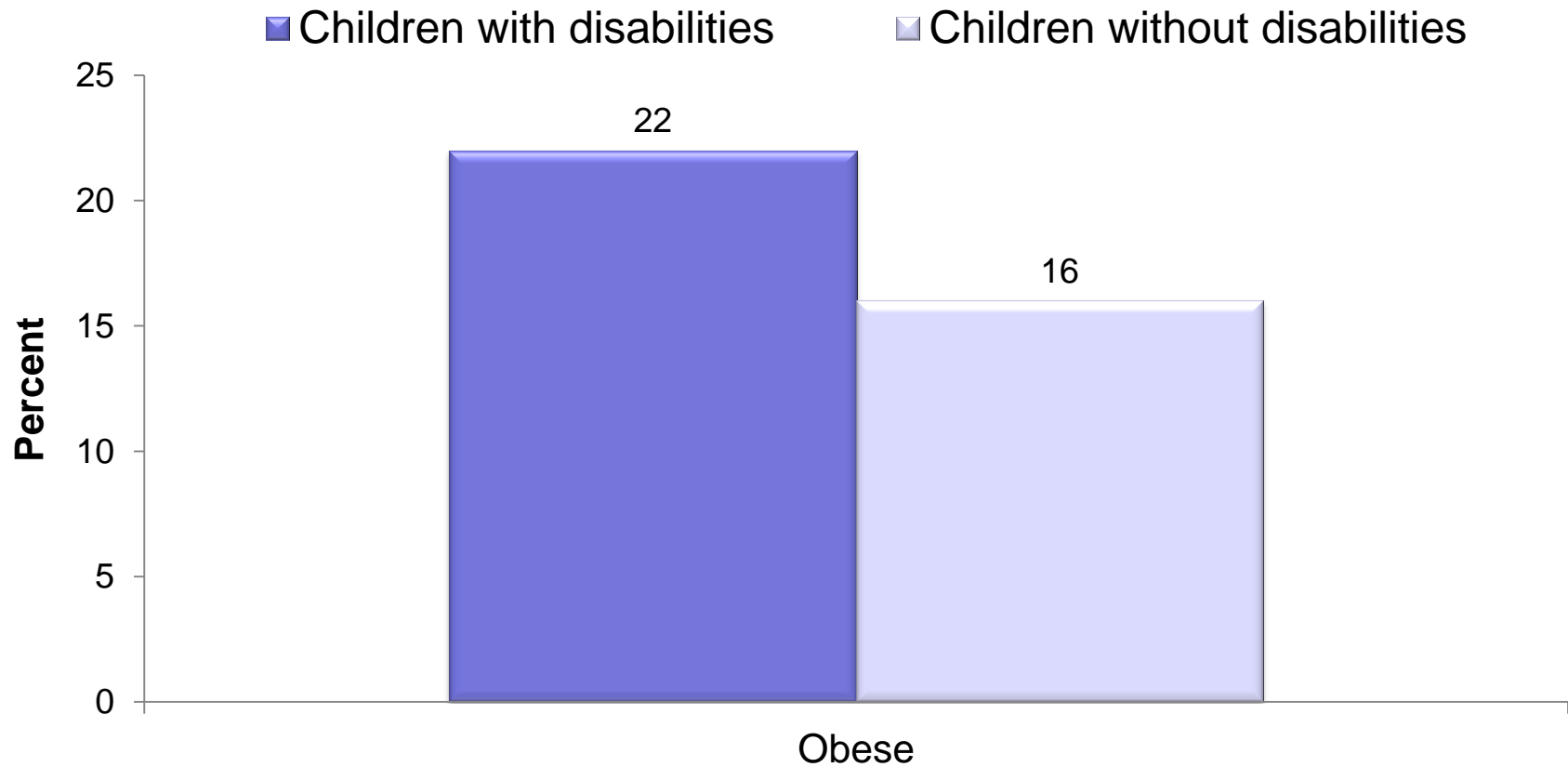




# Obesity by Disability Status and Age MA, 2010

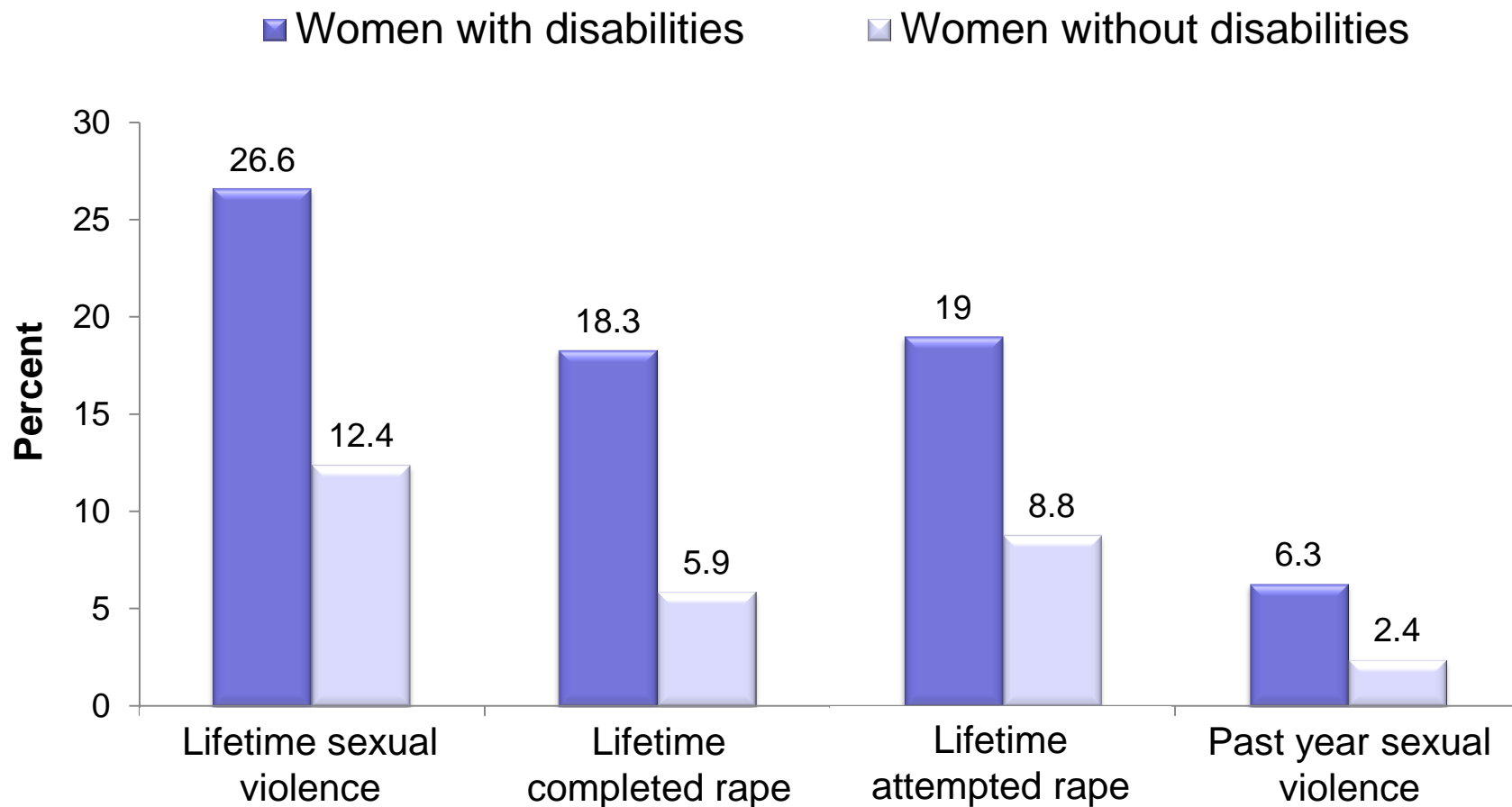


# Obesity among Children 2–17 Years, by Disability Status, United States



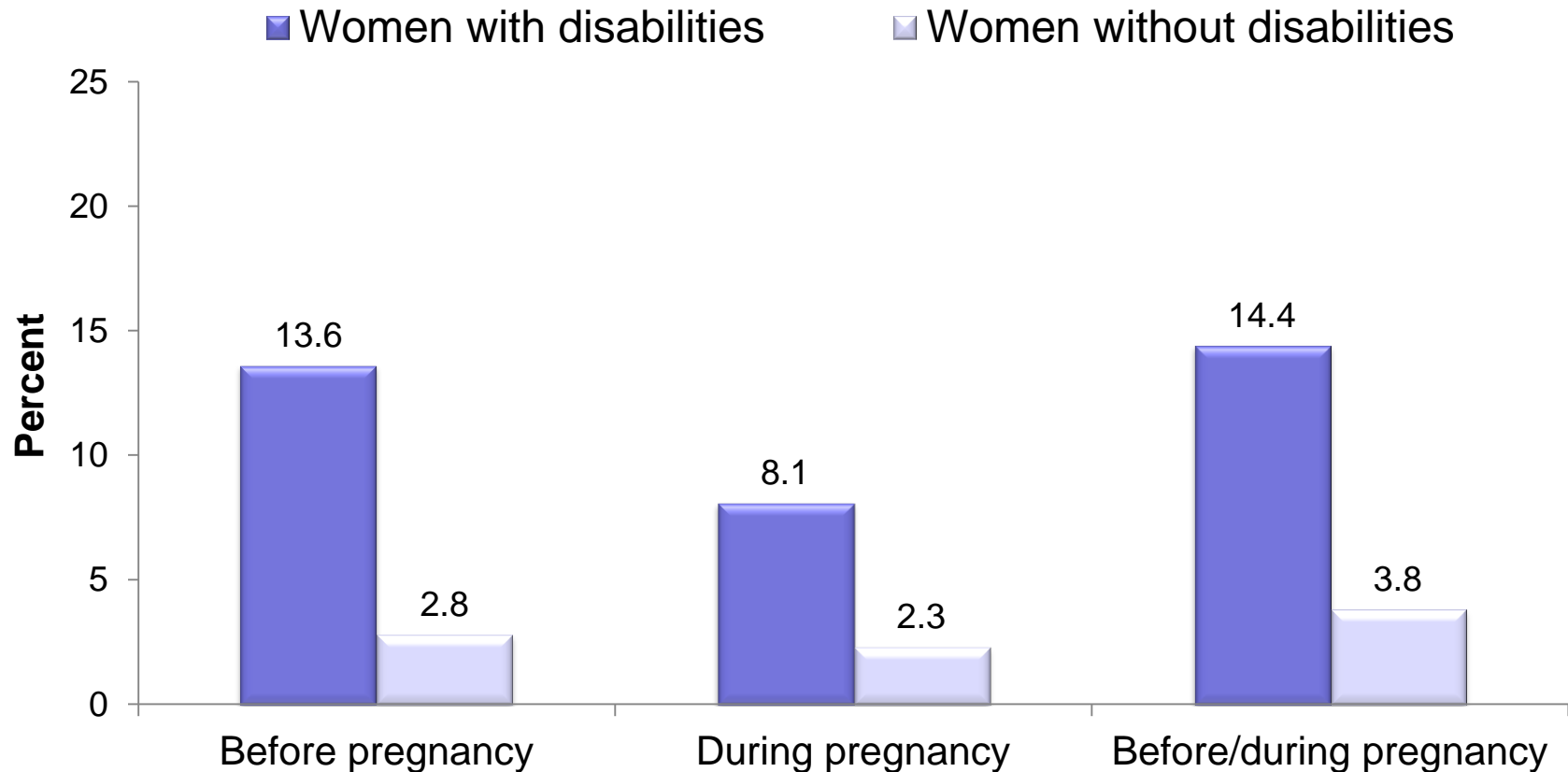
2003-2008 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)

# Sexual Violence Victimization against Women by Disability Status, MA, 2005–09



MA Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2005–09  
Mitra M, et al. Am J Prev Med 2011;41(5) 494–7

# Physical Abuse Around the Time of Pregnancy Among Women with Live Births, MA, 2007–08



# Outline

❑ **Health status**

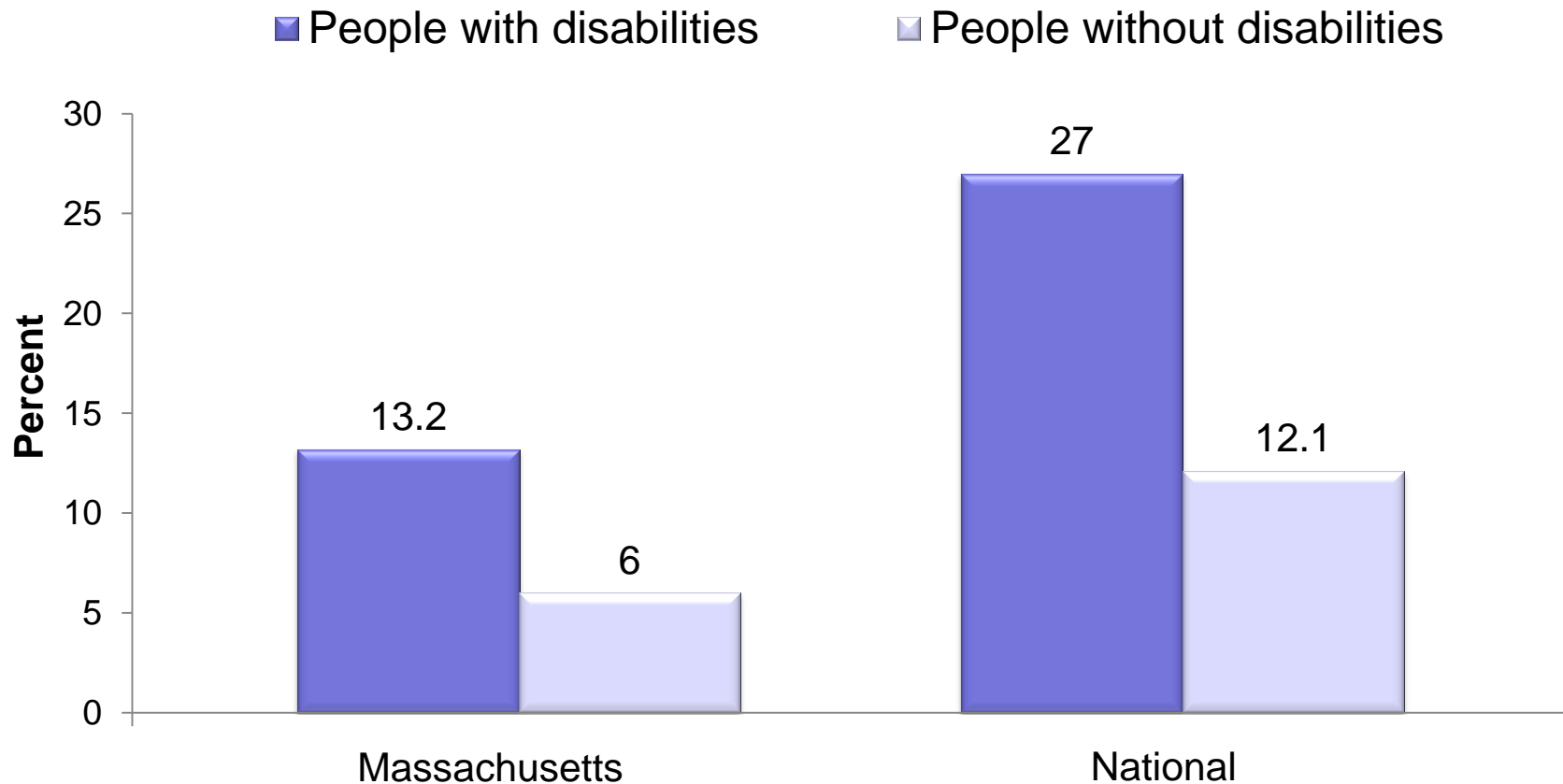
❑ **Risk factors and preventive behaviors**

❑ **Health care access**

➤ People with disabilities

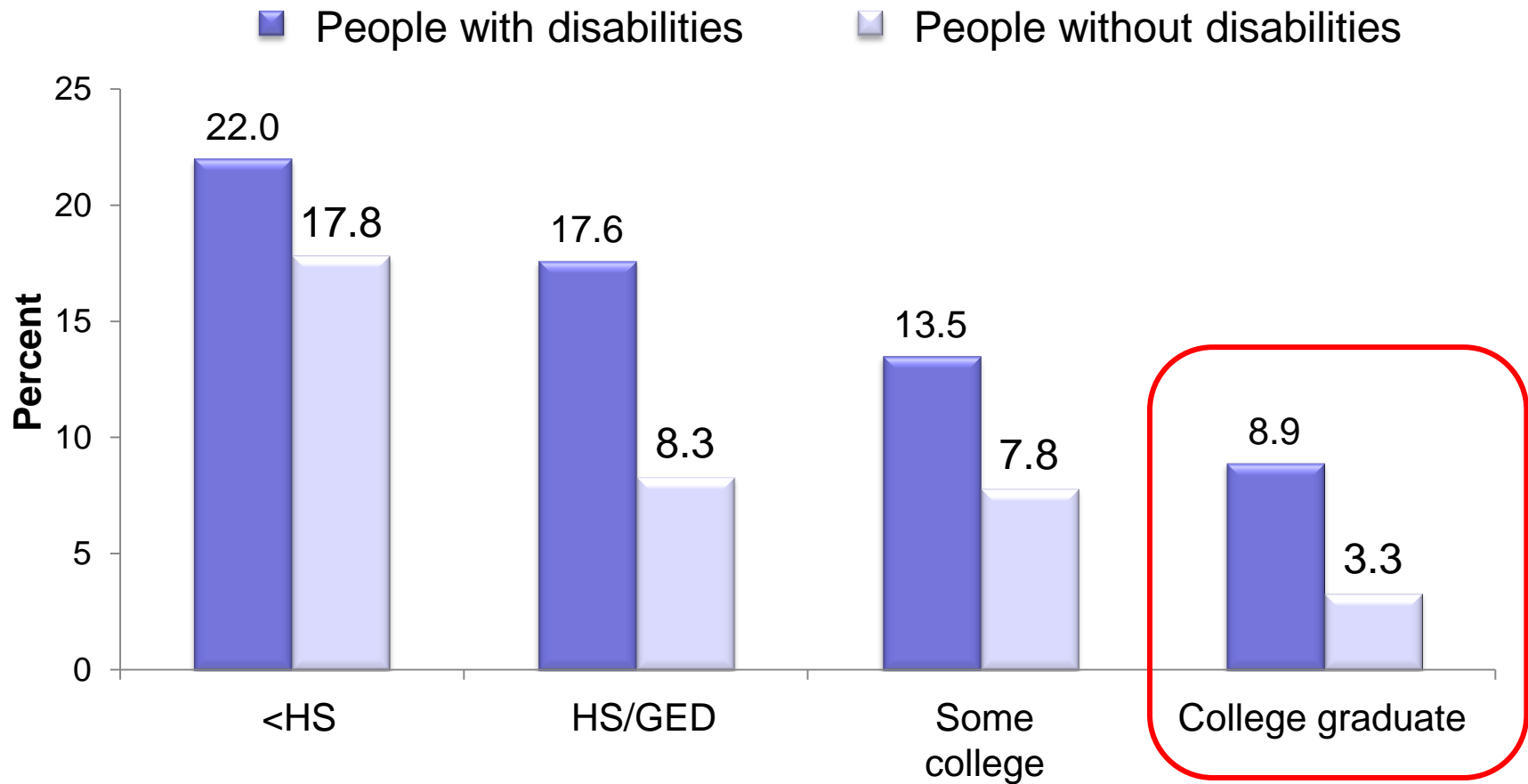
- Experience lower rates of preventive screenings
- Have more difficulty accessing health care services

# Cost as a Barrier to Seeking Health Care by Disability Status, MA and United States, 2010



National and MA Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2010

# Cost as a Barrier to Seeking Health Care by Disability Status and Education, MA, 2010

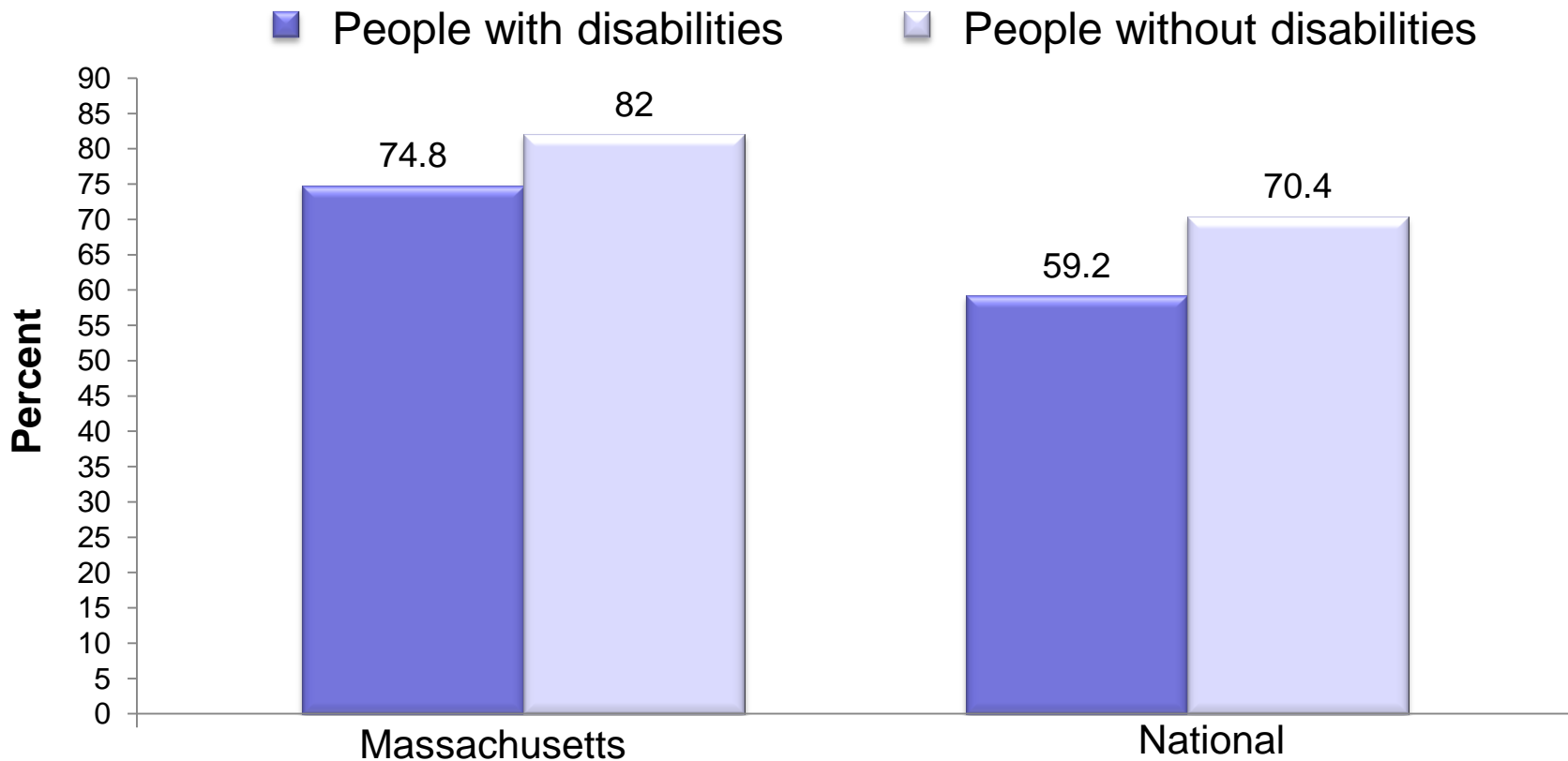


MA Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2010

HS, High school

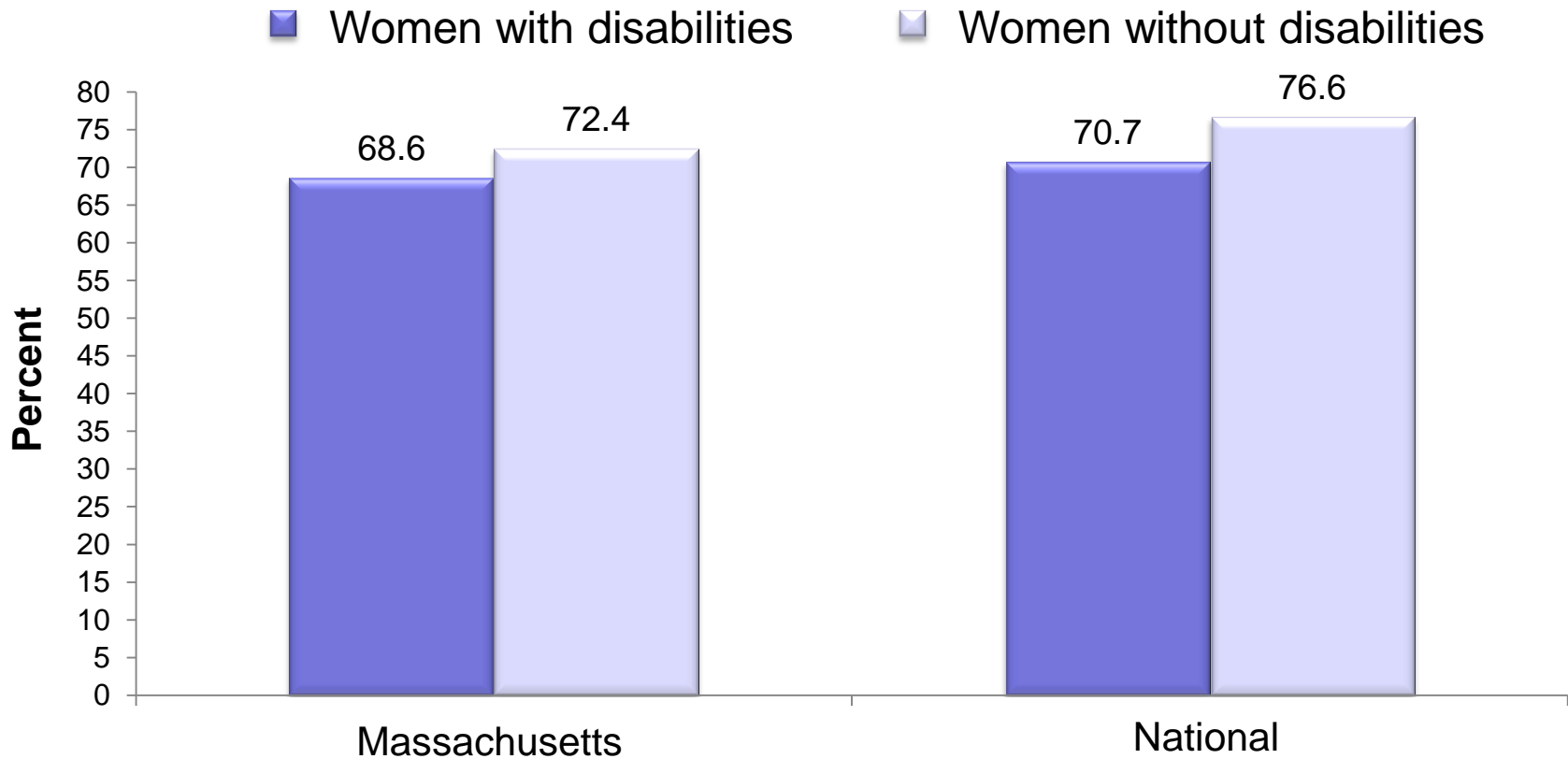
GED, General Education Development tests

# Dental Visit within Past Year by Disability Status, MA and United States, 2010





# Mammogram in Past Year among Women Aged $\geq 40$ Years by Disability Status MA and United States, 2010



National and MA Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2010

# Summary

- ❑ **There are significant disparities in health and health care access among people with disabilities in the United States and MA**
- ❑ **Elimination of health disparities among people with disabilities should be a **critical public health priority****
- ❑ **Structural and environmental barriers to health care services and programs need to be addressed through a multi-stakeholder approach involving**
  - The federal government
  - State and local health care professionals
  - People with disabilities and their families

# Strategies to Eliminate Health Disparities

- ❑ Improve disability **data collection** through the inclusion of standardized disability identifiers
- ❑ Advance health and disability **research**
- ❑ **Train** health care and public health professionals about the needs of people with disabilities
- ❑ Create **barrier-free environments**
- ❑ **People with disabilities: “Nothing about us without us”**
  - **Educate and empower** people about their health care rights
  - Improve **access** to health care services and support
  - **Include** development and implementation of public health programs and interventions

# Expanding Reach of Evidenced-based Health Promotion Programs



**Jennifer M. Hootman PhD, ATC, FACSM, FNATA**

*Epidemiologist, Arthritis Program*

Division of Population Health

National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion  
CDC



U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

# Arthritis in the United States Is Very Common

## ❑ **Presently: 50 million adults and 300,000 children**

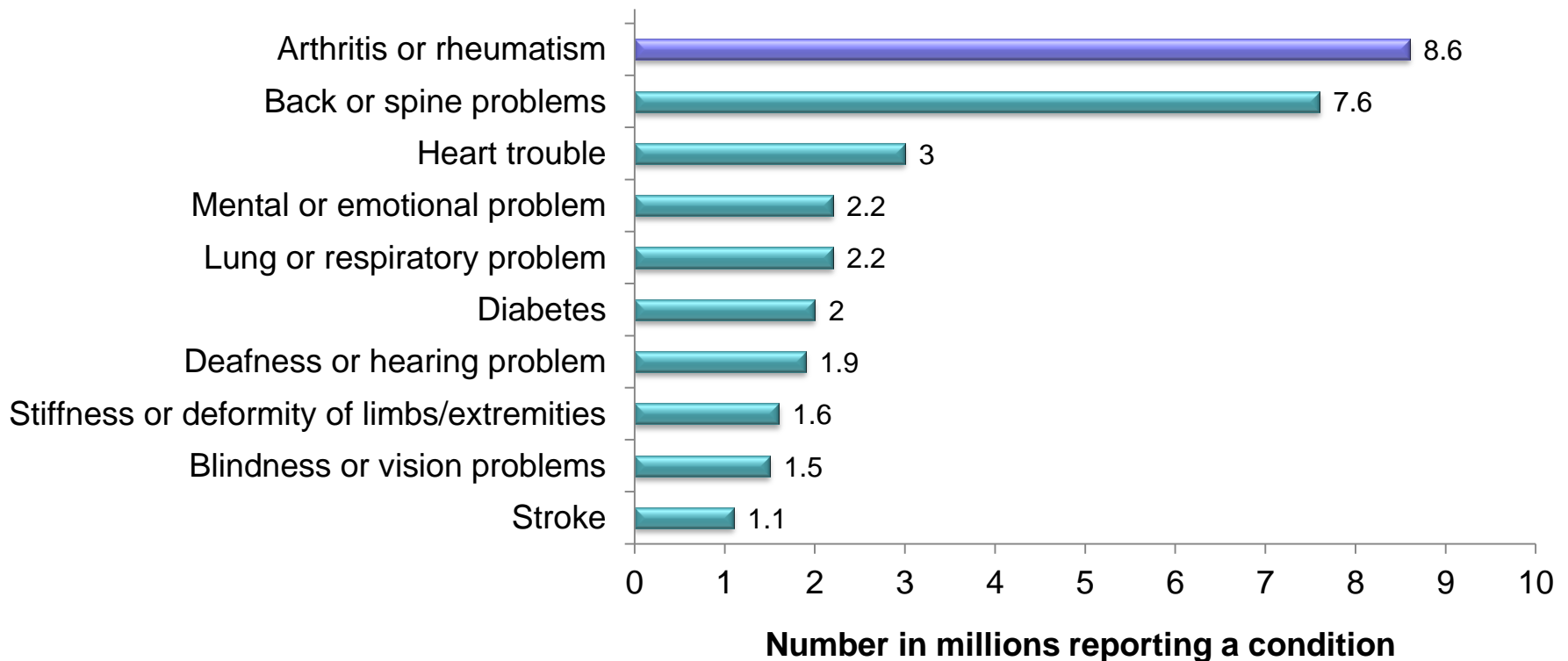
- 40% (20 million) are limited in usual, daily activities
- 33% report severe pain
- 11% are restricted in valued social activities
- These factors lead to poor quality of life

## ❑ **By 2030: 67 million adults will have arthritis**

- 37% (25 million) will be limited in their usual activities
- Based on aging of the population only

# Arthritis is the Most Common Cause of Disability in the United States

## Top 10 Causes of Disability Among US Adults

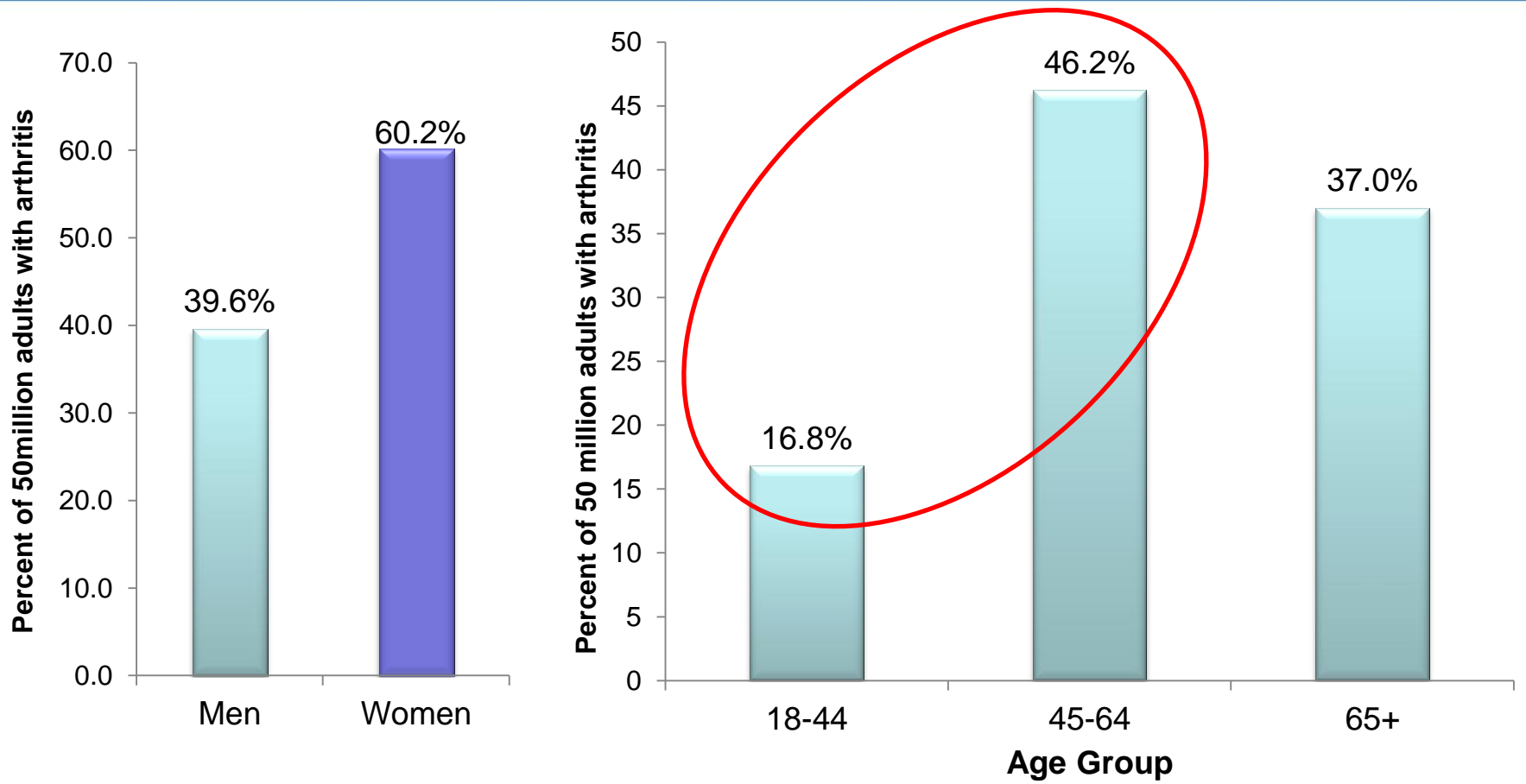


MMWR 2009;58(16):421-6

MMWR 2001;50(7):120-5

Data source: Survey of Income and Program Participation, <http://www.census.gov/sipp>

# Arthritis in the United States



MMWR 2010;59(39):1261–1265. Data source: National Health Interview Survey.

# Preventing Arthritis-related Disability

- ❑ **Secondary prevention: Preventing the progression of arthritis that results in**
  - Worsening of symptoms and loss of function
- ❑ **Physical activity: Key approach to prevention**
  - Regular physical activity decreases age-related functional decline by 32%
  - Aerobic and resistance exercise reduced incident activity of daily living disability by 43% over 18 months



# What is CDC Doing?

## ❑ Funding 12 states to implement arthritis management programs

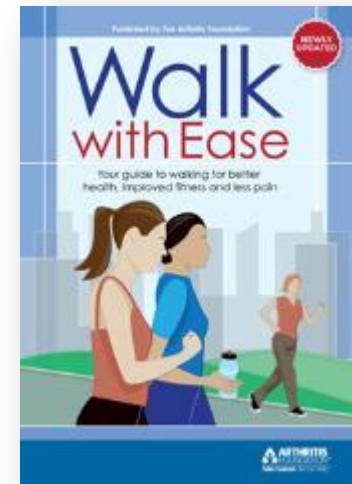
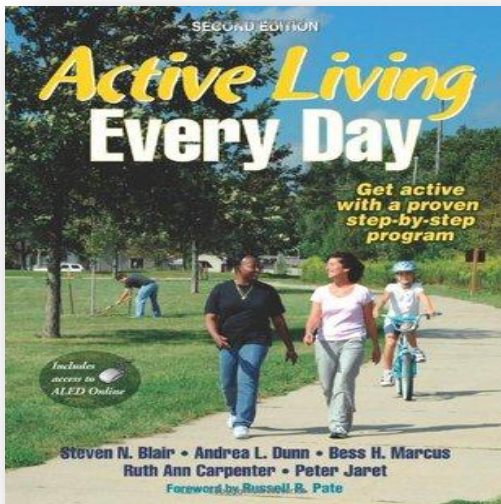
- Physical activity
- Self-management education
- Health communications

## ❑ Implement proven evidence-based programs to increase physical activity

- Accommodate persons with various functional levels
- Improve arthritis symptoms and function
- Easily implemented in community settings

# Approved Evidence-Based Physical Activity Programs

**Arthritis Foundation Aquatics Program**  
**Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program**  
**Walk with Ease**  
**Active Living Every Day**  
**Enhance Fitness**  
**Fit and Strong!**

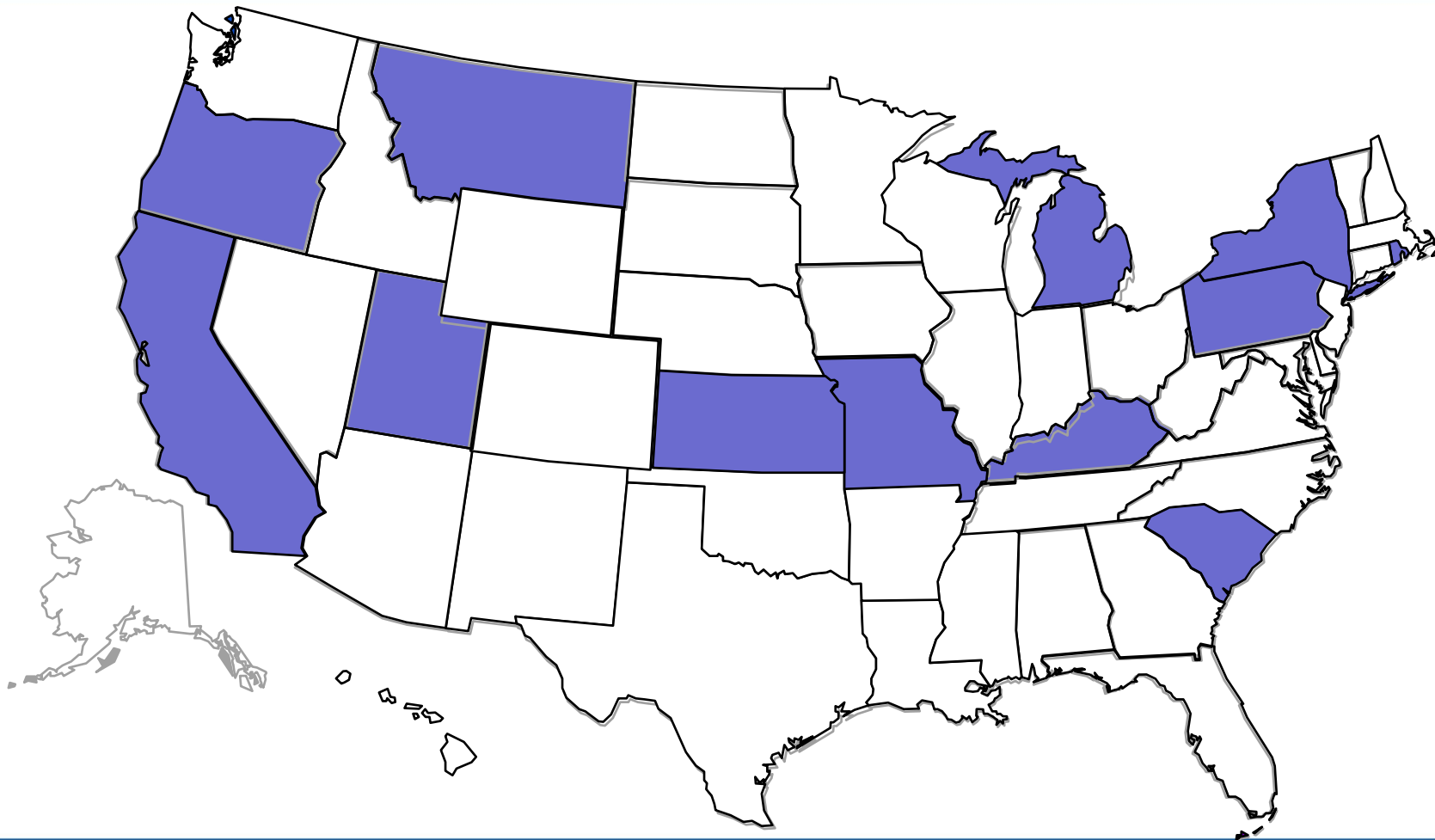


<http://www.cdc.gov/arthritis/interventions.htm>  
<http://www.arthritis.org/program-list.php>

# Results from the 2008–2012 Funding Cycle

- ❑ **In the first 3 years, all 12 states increased their reach and some doubled their reach of evidence-based programs for adults with arthritis**
  - Total reach over 4 years: 132,443 people
- ❑ **CDC conducted a 3-year cluster evaluation of state arthritis programs**
  - Factors significantly correlated with higher reach included
    - Work with existing delivery systems that have multiple sites
    - Prioritization of the expansion of program reach

# CDC-funded State Arthritis Programs 2012–2017



Average award: \$427,000/year

# Required Activities for the CDC-funded State Arthritis Programs, 2012–2017

- ❑ **Increase awareness of the importance of physical activity through health communications campaigns**
- ❑ **Identify and embed physical activity programs into delivery systems**
  - Delivery systems: Organizations with 3 or more delivery sites
  - Embed: Offering programs is part of daily operations
- ❑ **Report to CDC every 6 months**
  - Reach: Number of new people with arthritis enrolling in evidence-based programs
  - Capacity: Number of systems, sites, classes, leaders, etc.

# Scaling-up!

## 5-Year Goals for 12 States

- ❑ Reach 5% of the state's arthritis population (range of 12,500-50,000 per state)
- ❑ Total reach will be 457,800 **new individuals** with arthritis
- ❑ Decrease by 5% the proportion of adults with arthritis who report no physical activity during leisure time
  - Almost 300,00 fewer inactive adults with arthritis in these 12 states

# Conclusions

- ❑ Arthritis is one of the most common chronic diseases in the United States and is the most common cause of disability
- ❑ Physical activity improves pain and function and help maintain independence
- ❑ There are evidence-based physical activity programs that can be further **scaled up**

## Success ingredients

- Increasing awareness of the importance of physical activity through health communications campaigns
- Embedding physical activity programs into existing delivery systems

# Health and Wellness in People with Disabilities Progress in South Carolina



**Catherine Leigh Graham, MEBME**

*Rehabilitation Engineer/Project Manager*

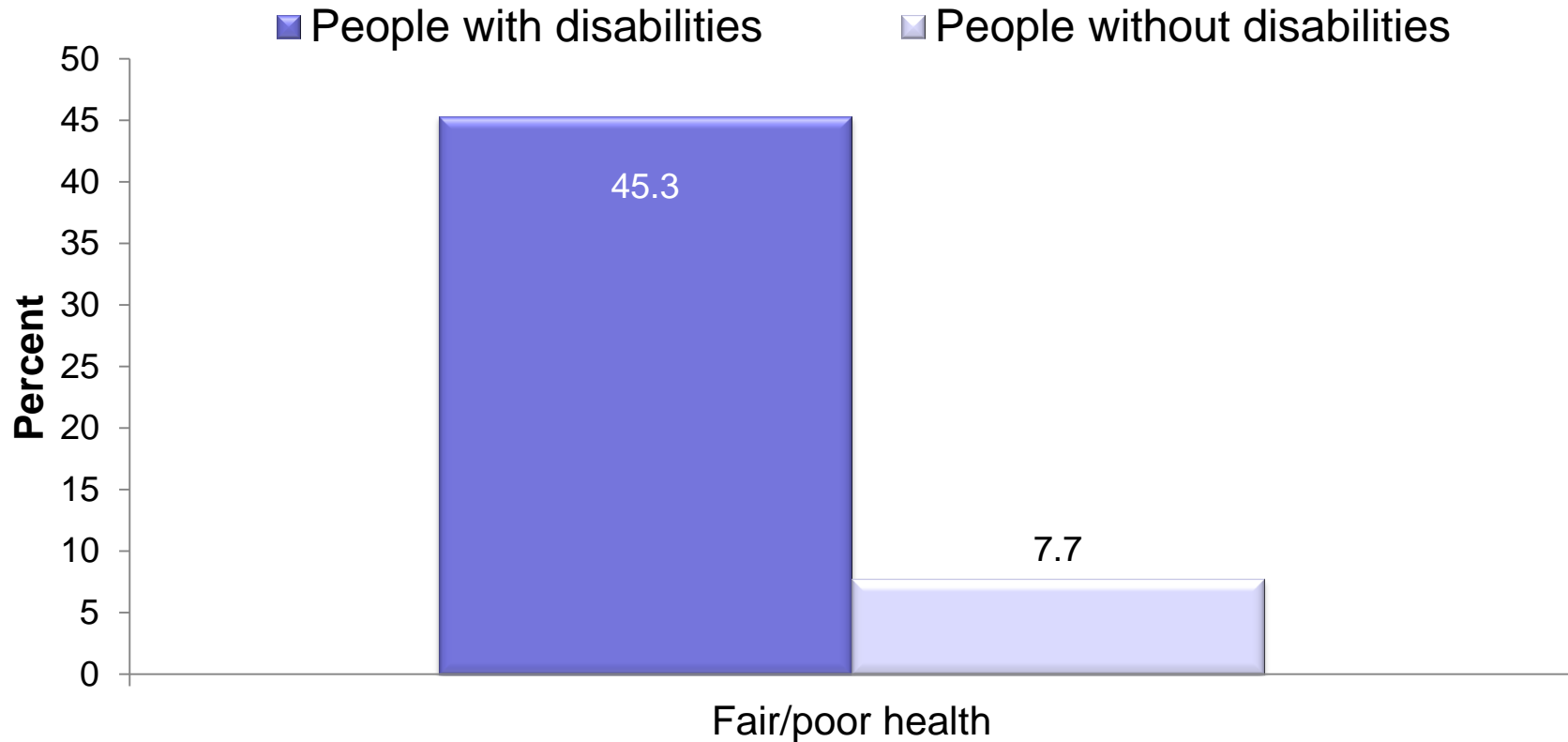
University of South Carolina School of Medicine

Interagency Office of Disability and Health



# Health Status of South Carolinians with Disabilities

## Self-Reported Fair to Poor Health Among Adults by Disability Status



# Critical Role of Partnerships in Improving the Health of People with Disabilities in SC

## ❑ Key Partnerships established in 1997

- University of South Carolina
- SC Health Department
- Disability Service Agency
- Developmental Disabilities Council

## ❑ **Common Goal:** Improve the health and well-being of people with disabilities in South Carolina

## ❑ **SC Disability and Health Project:** [www.sciodh.com](http://www.sciodh.com)



# Progress in SC in Three Major Areas

- Access to health care
- Health promotion
- Emergency preparedness



# Physical Accessibility

- ❑ Issue: Physical access to primary care is critical to health of people with disabilities
- ❑ Goal: Assess/improve accessibility of primary care sites
- ❑ Partners
  - Health Department-Best Chance Network
  - Office of Rural Health
  - SC Blue Cross/Blue Shield



# Physical Accessibility

## □ Results

- Assessed 150 primary care sites with patient load of >750,000
- Changes made at 1/3 of practices
- Expanded to internal medicine, OB/BGN, pediatric, and dental care sites in 2012



**BEFORE:** No accessible parking



**AFTER:** Accessible parking with signage and easy slope to the ramp

# Equipment Accessibility

- ❑ **Issue: People with disabilities are not able to get on/off high exam tables and therefore do not receive proper physical exams**
- ❑ **Goal: Assess/increase number of providers with height-adjustable exam tables**
- ❑ **Partners**
  - Health Department-Best Chance Network
  - Office of Rural Health
  - SC Blue Cross/Blue Shield



# Equipment Accessibility

## □ Results

- 34% of practices assessed had height-adjustable exam tables
- Subsequent to the assessment, 2 sites purchased a height -adjustable exam table
- Best Chance Network intake form now includes a disability screener question so a patient can be referred to accessible location



**BEFORE:** Standard 36"-high exam table



**AFTER:** Height adjustable exam table lowered to 19" high

# Equipment Accessibility

- ❑ **Issue: Weight can only be managed if it can be tracked. Yet, people with mobility disabilities are unable to weigh**
- ❑ **Goal: Assess/improve access to scales**
- ❑ **Partners**
  - Health Department-Best Chance Network
  - Office of Rural Health
  - SC Blue Cross/Blue Shield





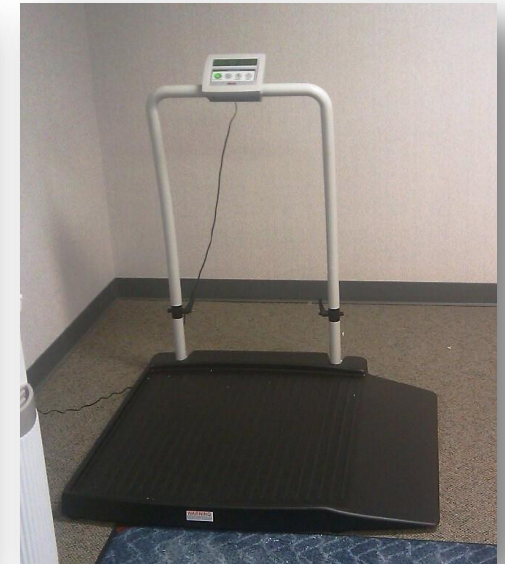
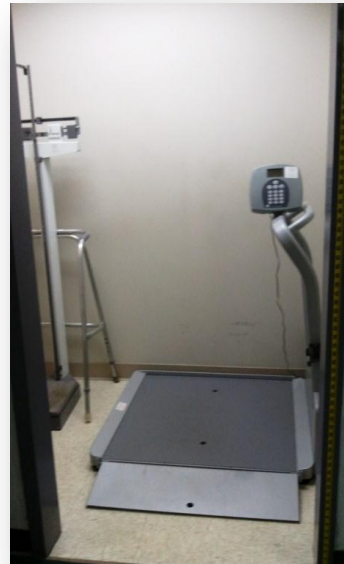
# Equipment Accessibility

## □ Results

- <2% of practices have accessible scales
- 11 sites purchased new scales



**BEFORE:** Old style scales that most places have that are not wheelchair accessible or accessible to anyone with a mobility issue such as balance



**AFTER:** New scales at primary care sites in SC

# Progress in SC in Three Major Areas

**Health care access**

**Health promotion**

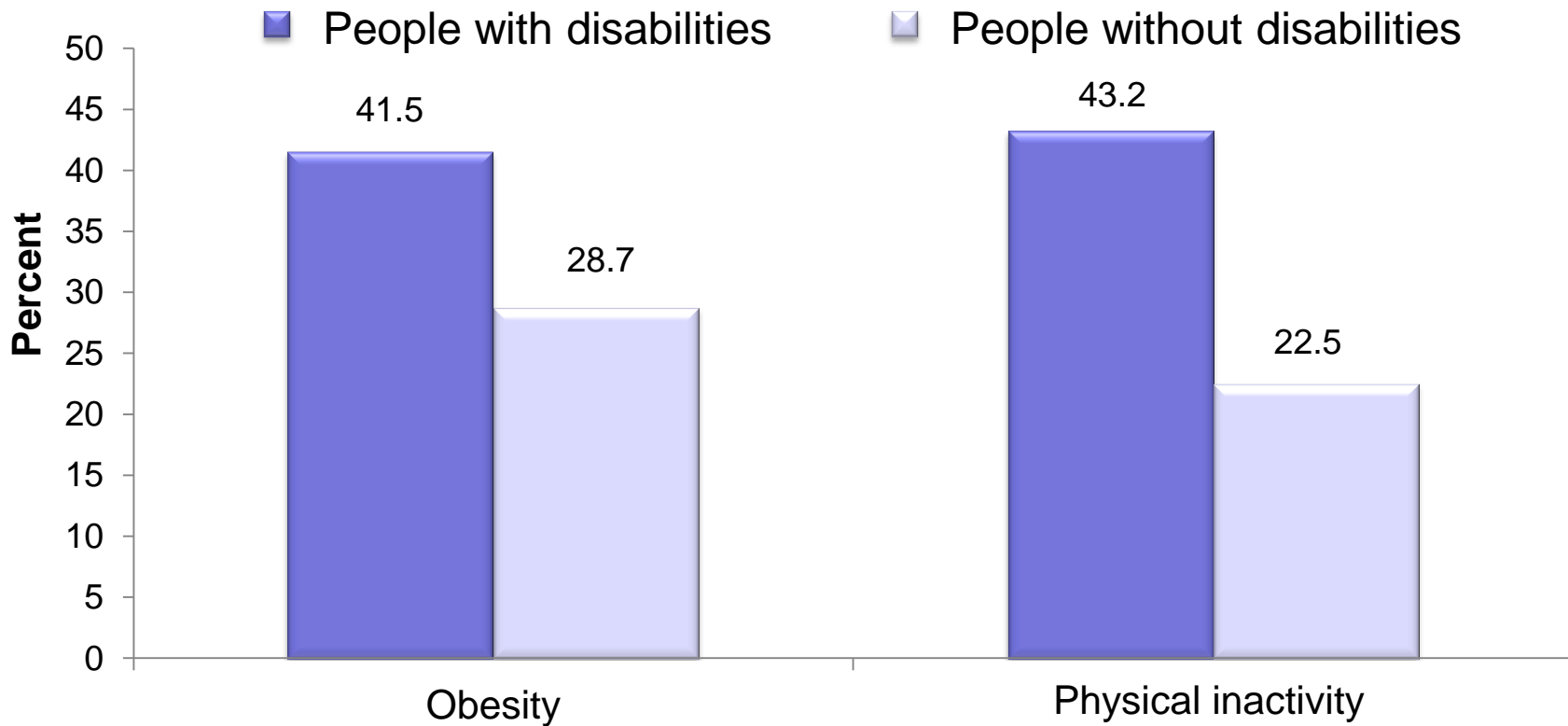
- Obesity prevention
- Weight management
- Physical activity

**Emergency preparedness**

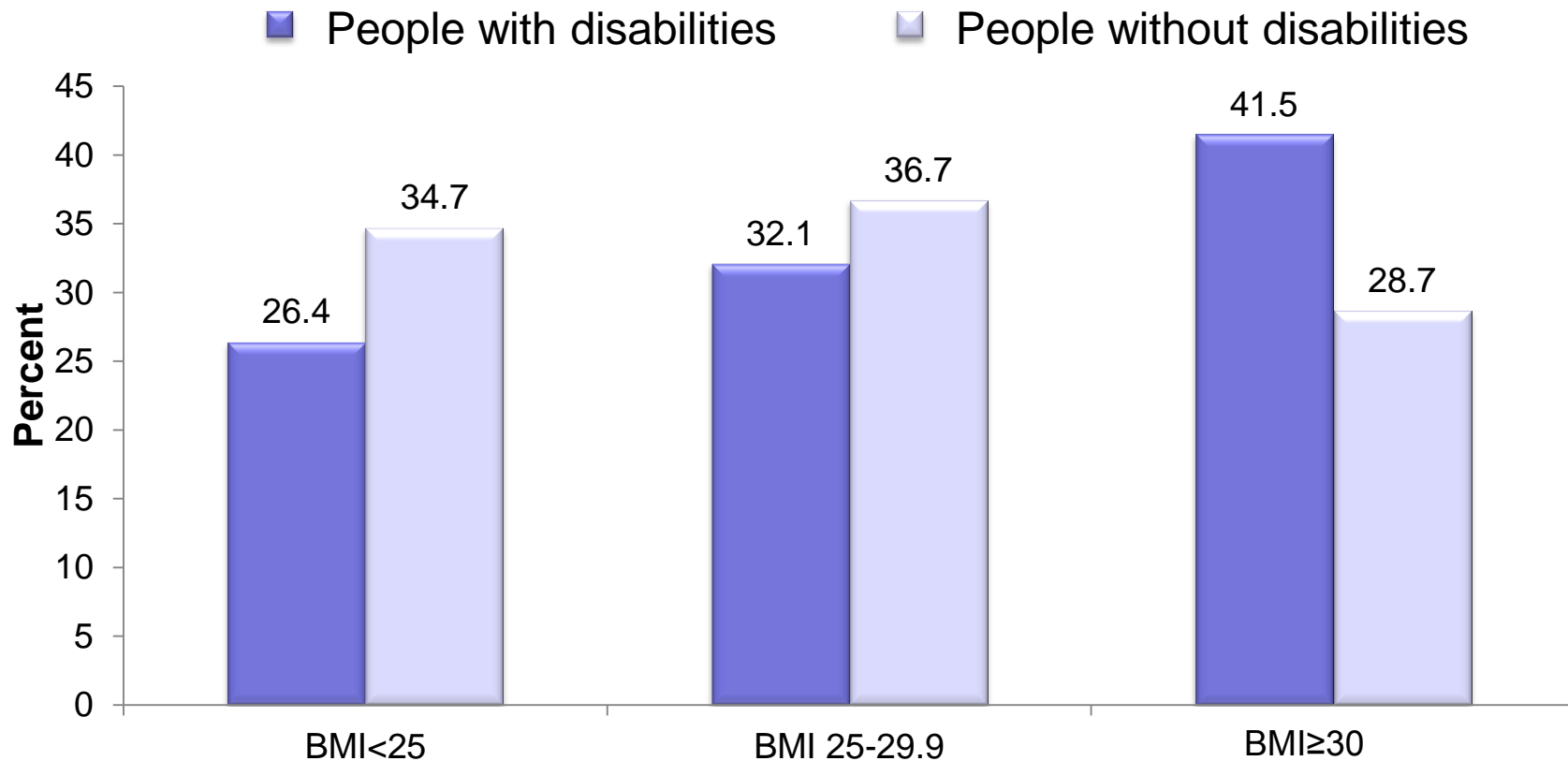


# South Carolinians with Disabilities Status: Obesity and Physical Inactivity

## Prevalence of Obesity and Physical Inactivity Among Adults by Disability Status



# Self-Reported Body Mass Index (BMI) Among Adults by Disability Status, SC, 2010



# Obesity Prevention

## □ Health promotion program for people with disabilities

### ➤ Steps to Your Health

- 8-week participatory program covering healthy eating and physical activity
- >1,300 participants
- Train-the-trainer model

### ➤ Results

- Weight loss of  $\geq 5$  pounds during the efficacy program
- Knowledge of healthy food choices increased

# Obesity Prevention

## □ Health promotion program for people with and without disabilities

- Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program
  - 8-week participatory program
  - Train the trainer model
  - Efficacy in people with disabilities

# Weight Management

- ❑ **Results:** Instructed >700 medical students and health professionals about care for people with disabilities including weight management, proper nutrition, not smoking, physical activity
- ❑ **Future Goals:** Expand into other specialties and professions such as health care paraprofessionals through technical colleges

Weight

- When to Document?
- How?
  - ✓ Wheelchair accessible scale
  - ✓ Weigh w/c without bags
- Why?
  - ✓ Can't see small changes
  - ✓ Hard to gain/lose
  - ✓ Impacts medication dosage



**SR755-L  
Wheelchair Scale**

### Group Risk for Developing Obesity

| Groups                   | Number      | Prevalence  | Hazard Ratio* | P-value |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------|
| Autism                   | 54          | 40.7        | 2.27          | 0.001   |
| Cerebral Palsy           | 150         | 20.9        | 0.77          | 0.024   |
| Down syndrome            | 47          | 62.1        | 1.63          | 0.001   |
| ID & Psychiatric Illness | 117         | 46.1        | 1.18          | 0.081   |
| ID Alone                 | 223         | 42.7        | 0.98          | 0.793   |
| Spinal Cord Injury       | 38          | 42.1        | 0.88          | 0.687   |
| Traumatic Brain Injury   | 149         | 45.4        | 1.08          | 0.342   |
| <b>Comparison</b>        | <b>1809</b> | <b>46.1</b> |               |         |

\* HR= effect of an explanatory variable on the hazard (risk) of an event

# Physical Activity

## ❑ In-person training of staff of federal, state and local parks and recreation/gyms/YMCAs and the health Departments

- Communication with people with disabilities
- Modifications of policy, procedure, service, building and equipment to include people with disabilities

### Accommodations for people with Sensory Disabilities

- Offer assistance - wait until accepted
- Identify yourself - when speaking to someone who is blind.
- Never pet a guide dog.
- Speak to the person, not to a companion or interpreter.
- To get the attention of a person who is deaf, tap them on the shoulder/wave your hand.
- Written notes can facilitate communication



Proper communication  
for people who are blind  
or deaf

Wheelchair-accessible  
mat from the walkway  
across soft sand

Adaptation of fitness  
equipment for people  
with disabilities



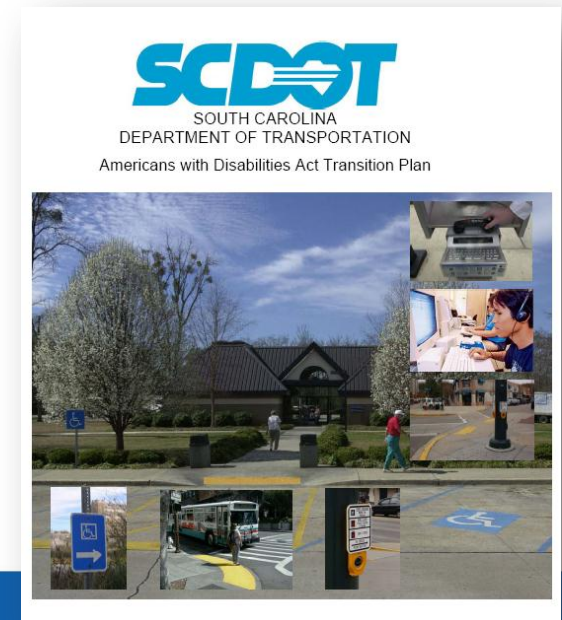
# Physical Activity

## ❑ Collaborated with SCDOT to update their Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan for inclusive

- Policies/drawings, communication, meetings, planning, etc.

## ❑ Results

- DOT's new ADA transition plan calls for wheelchair accessible sidewalks, curb cuts, pedestrian crossing signals, etc.



# Physical Activity

- ❑ **Trained 95% of SCDOT planners and engineers on accessibility in new construction and for modifications (lecture and hands-on experience)**



Manage encroachments.  
*Whether they are big...*



Light pole in middle of sidewalk.

Light pole next to sidewalk.



# Progress in SC in Three Major Areas

- Health care access
- Health promotion
- Emergency preparedness



# Emergency Preparedness

## ❑ **SC Issues/needs**

- Coastal, hurricane prone, rural state
- High level of poverty

## ❑ **Emergency Planning Committee for People with Functional Needs**

- Emergency Management Department
- Health and Mass-Care Service Organizations
- Disability Service/Advocacy Organizations
- Faith-Based Organizations

# Shelter Accessibility

## ❑ Collaborated with Red Cross to assess shelters

- Red Cross assesses each hurricane shelter in SC
- Planning Committee assists with accessibility portion of assessment (e.g., parking, ramps, entrances, restrooms, showers, conclusion)

Measuring height of dispenser in restroom



Measuring slope of curb cut from parking area to facility entrance



### Assessment

Relevant areas of the facility are accessible to people with disabilities without adjustments.

Yes  No

Facility has at least one accessible entrance and one accessible restroom, and otherwise is capable of being made accessible during a disaster with minor adjustments.

Yes  No

Facility would require extensive adjustments to be accessible during a disaster.

Yes  No

**Adjustments for Accessibility** (Identify any adjustments or enhancements that should be made to make the relevant areas of the facility accessible during a disaster) \_\_\_\_\_

# Shelter Information

## ❑ Collaborated to create emergency shelter “Welcome to the Shelter” DVD

- Looped on portable DVD at hurricane shelters
- Can be seen at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDnf7QdDiGw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDnf7QdDiGw)
- Includes sign language/words and pictograms



# Use of Assistive Technology in Shelters

## □ Results

- Assistive Technology Definitions Sheet in each Shelter Kit
- Assistive Technology Kit in each Shelter Kit
  - Magnifier
  - Communication Sheet
  - Washcloths and rubber bands

### Assistive Technology in Emergency Shelters

Dear Shelter Manager/Shelter Staff:

An assistive technology device is any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially, modified or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

In an emergency shelter, you may encounter a person who uses assistive technology. Below is a list and description of some common assistive technologies, including the items in your ToGo Kit.

**Aids for Daily Living:** Devices that help in daily living and independence.

The ToGo Kit contains a washcloth that can be wrapped around an eating utensil, toothbrush, pencil or other thin handle and secured with elastic bands to make it easier for a person with poor hand function to hold the item.



**Adapted cots:** Specialized raised cots allow a person who uses a wheelchair to transfer more easily.

**Communication Aids:** Devices that help persons with speech and/or hearing disabilities

communicate. These may include electronic communication devices, that need to be charged. There is a basic picture-alphabet board in your ToGo Kit.



**Mobility Aids:** Devices that help people move within their environments: power or manual wheelchairs, scooters, crutches, canes, and walkers. Power wheelchairs will need electricity for charging batteries.

**Restroom Modifications:** Structural adaptations that reduce physical barriers: ramps and expanded doorways. People who use wheelchairs at the shelter may need to be housed in an area with access to an accessible restroom. An accessible restroom would have wider doorways and grab bars near the toilet.



**Vision/Hearing Aids:**

Aids such as magnifiers and hearing aids. Your ToGo Kit contains a small handheld magnifier.

9/20/12

# Successes

- ❑ Adding 2 questions to the SC Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) beginning in 2013 to determine **preparedness of people with disabilities**

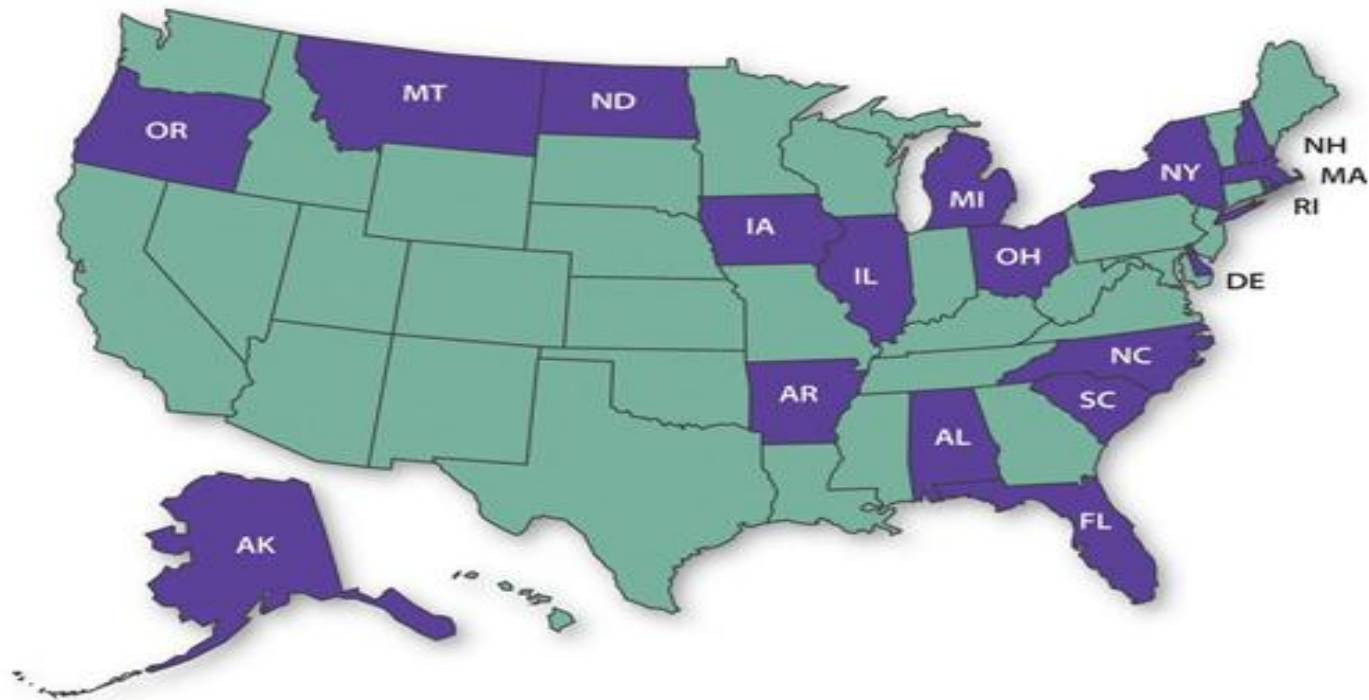
**In the event of a large-scale disaster or emergency, which of the following do you have in place?**

**Please answer yes or no to each option.**

- 1. Emergency supply kit (including items such as water, flashlight, and batteries)**
- 2. Disaster evacuation plan (including how to get out of your house, or town, and where you would go)**



# Potential for Expanding Programs Nationally



CDC supports 18 state-based programs to promote equity in health, prevent chronic disease, and increase the quality of life for people with disabilities. Each program customizes its activities to meet its state's needs.

# Lessons Learned for Scaling Up!

## ❑ Collaborators

- Requires time and sustained effort
- Identify collaborators that function at a high level
- Identify common goals

## ❑ Public health's role

- Implementation of Healthy People 2020
- Integration of people with disabilities

## ❑ CDC's role

- Sustained support
- Data/surveillance

# Strengthening Accessibility in Public Health



**Georges C. Benjamin**  
**MD, FACP, FACEP(E), FNAPA, Hon FRSPH**  
*Executive Director, American Public Health Association*

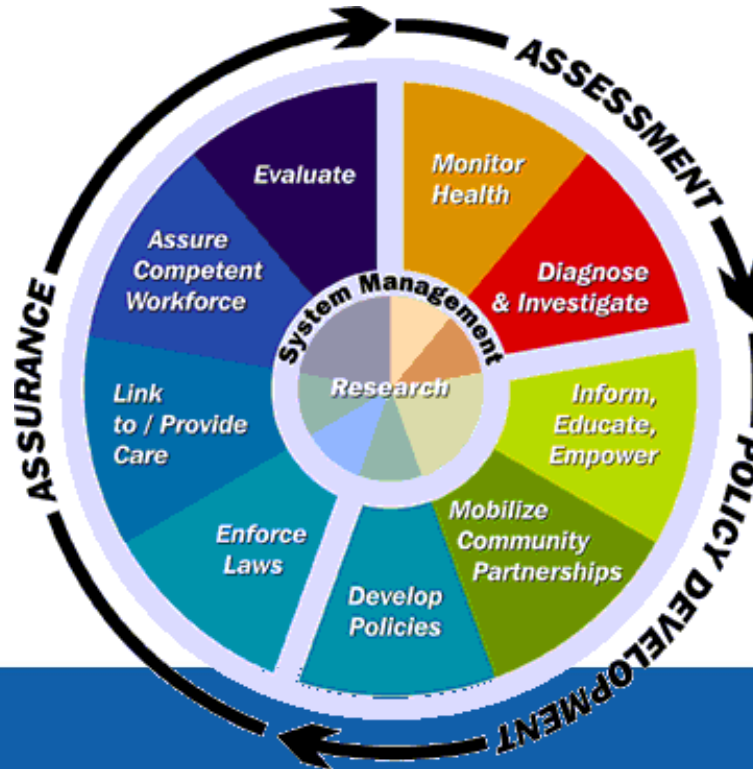
# The American Public Health Association (APHA) Founded on April 18, 1872

- ❑ The oldest and largest organization of public health practitioners
- ❑ Nonpartisan 501C(3)
- ❑ 50,000 individual and affiliate members
- ❑ Multiple sections, special interest, and affiliated caucuses
- ❑ Major programs
  - Professional education
    - Annual scientific meeting
    - Books
    - Briefs and distance learning
  - Health policy advocacy
  - Health communication



# Three Strategic Priorities

- ❑ Build public health infrastructure and capacity
- ❑ Create health equity
- ❑ Ensure the right to health and health care



# A Health Sector Leader in Disabilities for Many Years

## ❑ A model employer for many years

- Supports an accessible workplace
- Nondiscrimination of workers with disabilities
- Provides universal health coverage to employees

## ❑ Strong support for people with disabilities in APHA programming

- Annual meeting
- Access to educational materials

## ❑ Active Disabilities Section

- Subject matter experts on public health and disabilities
- Supports APHA advocacy agenda on disabilities



# APHA Annual Meeting State-of-the-Art Programming

- ❑ **Use of accessible facilities**
  - **Hotels and convention center**
- ❑ **Web page dedicated to accessibility resources, and services**
- ❑ **Sign language interpreters, housing, and transportation**
- ❑ **ADA training for hotel staff and vendors**
- ❑ **Accessibility Desk in convention center**
- ❑ **Dedicated accessibility Web page**



# APHA Annual Meeting

## State of the Art Programming

- ❑ **Accessibility Guide to convention city**
- ❑ **On-call accessible shuttle van and regular shuttle buses with lifts**
- ❑ **Reimbursement for taxi service for registrants with mobility issues**
- ❑ **Assistive listening devices**
- ❑ **Accessibility surveys of all hotel properties**
- ❑ **Scientific programming on the public health aspects of disability issues**





# Educational Content Delivery


- ❑ **Online educational tools**
  - Webinars
  - Podcasts
- ❑ **Closed captioning of videos and support-assistive technology**
- ❑ **Engaging the public with disabilities through public messaging**
  - National Public Health Week



# National Public Health Week 2012



A healthier America begins with  
mental and emotional well-being



**THIS PERSON  
BELIEVES A  
HEALTHIER AMERICA  
BEGINS TODAY.**

Celebrate **National Public Health Week**  
[www.nphw.org](http://www.nphw.org)

# Advocacy Efforts

## ❑ **Transportation and health**

- Led the health effort for reauthorization of the federal transportation bill

## ❑ **Reduction disabling conditions**

- Policy on addressing musculoskeletal conditions

## ❑ **Injury reduction**

- Occupational safety

## ❑ **Access to health care for all**

- Supported the Affordable Care Act
- Fought for mental health parity



# APHA Is Looking To Strengthen Its Capacity To Address Disabilities

- ❑ **Need to “walk the talk”**
- ❑ **APHA can and needs to do more**
- ❑ **Not a one-time fix**
- ❑ **Must change its way of thinking as an association so that ensuring accessibility is engrained in all that APHA does**



# APHA Vision of APHA's Future

- ❑ Move from being **a model employer** to..... becoming **the model** employer
- ❑ Move from **being an industry leader** to..... **becoming the association to emulate** for health, disability, and accessibility issues



# The APHA Approach to Ensuring Accessibility in Its Work

- ❑ Do an accessibility evaluation of programs and business practices
- ❑ Do a periodic review of Web and communication tools
- ❑ Use APHA's accessibility team as advisers to help us improve our performance in ensuring accessibility



# The APHA Approach to Ensuring Accessibility In Its Work

- ❑ **Train staff in diversity and health inequities**
- ❑ **Develop a written plan based, in part, on a comprehensive external review**
  - Programs, facilities and work practices
- ❑ **Implement the plan and track progress**
  - Milestones and timelines based on external review and association priorities
- ❑ **Ensure success**
  - Resolve workplace issues
  - Achieve a culturally competent staff and membership on accessibility issues



# Failure Is Not an Option

❑ **This will not be easy**

❑ **Price of failure is high**

- Inadequate access to knowledge for APHA members and the profession
- Higher cost of health care for preventable disabilities APHA could have influenced
- Poorer quality of health care and health outcomes for the public
- Lower quality of life for the public and APHA employees

