

Cost as a Barrier to Care for People with Disabilities

A Tip Sheet for Public Health Professionals

Did you know that people with disabilities were more likely to report needing to see a doctor but could not because the costs of doing so were prohibitive? You can help improve the health and wellness of people with disabilities by requesting that your state's public health surveillance activities include disability as a demographic (similar to age, sex, race, etc.) and that health promotion activities include people with disabilities.

In all states, people with disabilities are more likely to report costs being a barrier to care compared to people without disabilities. Interested in your state? Use the table below to determine how costs might limit access to health care among people with disabilities compared to those without.

Encourage your state to:

- Include disability in public health surveillance activities
- Include people with disabilities in health promotion activities

The Prevalence of Costs Prohibiting Care in Adults with and without Disabilities, BRFSS 2009.¹

State, District or Territory	Disability			No Disability			Total			Difference
	Weighted Population	Percent ²	95% CI ³ (±)	Weighted Population	Percent	95% CI (±)	Weighted Population	Percent	95% CI (±)	Percentage Points
Alabama	194,360	25.5	3.9	357,695	14.0	1.7	552,055	16.6	1.6	11.5
Alaska	26,027	24.8	7.5	45,968	11.1	2.2	71,996	13.9	2.3	13.7
Arizona	174,879	20.2	5.2	501,199	12.8	2.2	676,078	14.4	2.1	7.4
Arkansas	137,293	32.7	5.9	236,672	14.8	2.2	373,965	18.4	2.2	17.9
California	1,145,799	27.9	3.0	3,316,243	14.9	0.9	4,462,043	16.9	0.9	13.0
Colorado	149,610	25.7	3.4	354,805	12.1	1.2	504,415	14.4	1.1	13.6
Connecticut	82,705	22.6	4.6	164,026	7.6	1.2	246,731	9.6	1.2	15.0
Delaware	20,716	17.1	4.9	51,367	9.7	1.8	72,083	11.0	1.7	7.4
District of Columbia	14,356	19.6	5.1	31,631	8.3	1.4	45,988	9.9	1.4	11.3
Florida	852,257	32.5	4.9	1,694,910	16.1	1.9	2,547,167	19.2	1.8	16.4
Georgia	337,303	33.7	6.0	927,678	15.2	1.9	1,264,981	17.8	1.8	18.5
Hawaii	20,449	14.3	3.4	52,212	6.3	1.0	72,660	7.5	1.0	8.0
Idaho	51,568	26.5	4.6	103,529	11.5	1.4	155,097	14.1	1.4	15.0
Illinois	351,089	25.7	5.1	933,011	11.5	1.5	1,284,101	13.5	1.4	14.2
Indiana	243,430	28.0	3.8	533,210	14.3	1.4	776,641	16.9	1.3	13.7
Iowa	62,667	20.6	4.5	112,667	6.2	1.1	175,334	8.1	1.1	14.4
Kansas	75,105	21.9	2.6	154,105	9.2	0.7	229,210	11.3	0.7	12.7
Kentucky	244,898	34.2	4.3	329,713	14.0	1.6	574,610	18.5	1.6	20.2
Louisiana	199,737	33.3	4.1	371,295	13.9	1.3	571,032	17.3	1.3	19.4
Maine	33,951	17.6	3.6	64,281	8.3	1.1	98,233	10.1	1.1	9.3
Maryland	160,992	22.2	4.0	377,833	11.1	1.4	538,825	13.0	1.3	11.1



State, District or Territory	Disability			No Disability			Total			Difference
	Weighted Population	Percent	95% CI (±)	Weighted Population	Percent	95% CI (±)	Weighted Population	Percent	95% CI (±)	Percentage Points
Massachusetts	105,406	13.3	2.5	222,497	5.9	0.9	327,903	7.1	0.8	7.4
Michigan	373,003	28.0	3.8	664,606	11.2	1.2	1,037,609	14.1	1.2	16.8
Minnesota	112,366	16.8	3.8	294,044	9.0	1.6	406,410	10.4	1.5	7.8
Mississippi	165,222	35.4	3.7	254,026	15.6	1.3	419,248	19.9	1.3	19.8
Missouri	261,092	30.0	5.4	356,490	10.5	1.6	617,582	14.3	1.6	19.5
Montana	35,977	27.8	4.5	63,942	11.0	1.4	99,919	13.9	1.4	16.8
Nebraska	48,253	24.5	5.0	98,729	9.2	1.3	146,982	11.5	1.3	15.3
Nevada	98,314	31.8	6.7	240,923	14.9	2.6	339,237	17.6	2.4	16.9
New Hampshire	37,063	22.9	5.4	72,961	9.1	1.4	110,024	11.3	1.5	13.8
New Jersey	198,935	21.8	3.3	597,258	11.3	1.1	796,193	12.8	1.0	10.5
New Mexico	77,066	27.8	4.3	147,478	12.7	1.3	224,543	15.5	1.3	15.1
New York	580,186	22.4	4.0	1,321,925	11.3	1.4	1,902,112	13.4	1.3	11.1
North Carolina	381,620	29.4	3.8	799,437	14.4	1.3	1,181,057	17.2	1.3	15.0
North Dakota	10,860	14.4	4.4	18,795	4.7	1.0	29,655	6.2	1.0	9.7
Ohio	431,559	26.6	4.1	653,337	9.8	1.1	1,084,896	12.9	1.2	16.8
Oklahoma	205,199	34.6	3.6	291,303	14.2	1.4	496,503	18.7	1.3	20.4
Oregon	164,179	31.5	5.5	230,771	10.5	1.8	394,950	14.4	1.8	21.0
Pennsylvania	374,613	24.0	4.3	679,770	9.4	1.3	1,054,383	11.9	1.3	14.6
Rhode Island	34,025	28.7	5.0	64,818	9.9	1.4	98,843	12.6	1.4	18.8
South Carolina	198,122	29.0	4.2	333,628	12.9	1.5	531,750	16.1	1.4	16.1
South Dakota	17,970	24.1	5.7	31,799	6.4	1.1	49,769	8.5	1.2	17.7
Tennessee	290,302	31.3	4.8	531,534	14.7	1.9	821,836	17.9	1.8	16.6
Texas	910,908	32.1	4.2	2,519,058	16.9	1.5	3,429,966	19.3	1.4	15.2
Utah	85,910	26.6	3.5	166,280	10.2	1.0	252,190	12.9	1.0	16.4
Vermont	16,476	21.2	4.2	35,281	9.5	1.3	51,757	11.5	1.3	11.7
Virginia	265,292	30.0	8.1	487,659	10.2	1.9	752,952	13.3	2.0	19.8
Washington	252,512	25.5	2.4	405,228	10.5	0.8	657,741	13.5	0.8	15.0
West Virginia	108,439	33.4	4.0	148,130	15.0	1.7	256,569	19.4	1.6	18.4
Wisconsin	148,594	23.0	6.5	264,859	7.9	1.6	413,453	10.1	1.6	15.1
Wyoming	18,612	30.5	5.5	30,620	9.6	1.3	49,232	12.7	1.4	20.9
Guam	3,837	29.0	9.1	15,301	16.7	2.6	19,138	18.8	2.5	12.3
Puerto Rico	132,355	27.9	5.5	315,949	13.5	1.6	448,304	15.8	1.5	14.4
Virgin Islands	2,472	27.9	7.1	11,058	17.1	2.2	13,530	18.6	2.1	10.8
Total	10,725,931	27.4	0.8	23,083,546	12.5	0.3	33,809,476	15.1	0.3	14.9

Notes:

1. BRFSS refers to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.
2. Estimates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population.
3. CI denotes confidence interval.

NCBDDD Atlanta:

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