

Oral Health and People with Disabilities

A Tip Sheet for Public Health Professionals

Did you know that people with disabilities were less likely than people without disabilities to have visited a dentist in the past year? 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 most states, there is a difference in dental visit rates by disability status, suggesting a disparity in access to this important preventive service. Interested in your state? Use the table below to determine the prevalence of having visited a dentist in the past year 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 a Dental Visit in the past year among Adults with and without Disabilities, BRFSS 2008.¹

State, Region 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	515,531	55.4	4.4	1,678,317	66.6	2.2	2,193,848	63.6	2.0	-11.2
Alaska	68,942	60.2	6.6	247,817	66.7	3.3	316,759	64.9	2.9	-6.5
Arizona	604,285	52.0	8.0	2,486,248	69.4	2.9	3,090,533	66.2	2.8	-17.4
Arkansas	296,849	50.9	4.8	1,001,145	65.1	2.2	1,297,994	61.5	2.0	-14.2
California	3,734,453	64.8	3.1	15,023,164	68.9	1.4	18,757,618	67.7	1.2	-4.1
Colorado	458,843	59.5	3.3	1,968,719	69.0	1.3	2,427,562	67.1	1.2	-9.5
Connecticut	391,259	68.7	4.8	1,686,649	79.8	1.8	2,077,908	78.0	1.7	-11.1
Delaware	97,096	65.3	6.4	394,867	77.5	2.4	491,962	75.1	2.3	-12.2
District of Columbia	57,970	66.0	5.1	261,598	72.0	2.1	319,568	70.5	1.9	-6.0
Florida	1,776,511	56.5	5.0	7,766,991	69.1	2.2	9,543,503	66.7	2.0	-12.6
Georgia	821,513	56.7	4.9	4,131,238	72.9	1.9	4,952,751	69.9	1.8	-16.2
Hawaii	124,333	65.8	4.4	602,093	74.6	1.8	726,426	73.0	1.6	-8.8
Idaho	153,516	58.0	4.8	576,355	70.8	2.0	729,871	67.9	1.9	-12.8
Illinois	1,155,446	59.0	5.1	5,337,548	69.3	2.1	6,492,994	67.5	1.9	-10.3
Indiana	574,719	59.1	5.4	2,516,354	68.9	2.3	3,091,073	66.5	2.1	-9.8
Iowa	277,510	64.3	5.0	1,376,018	74.2	1.8	1,653,528	72.3	1.6	-9.9
Kansas	290,941	62.1	3.7	1,157,106	72.6	1.5	1,448,047	70.4	1.4	-10.5
Kentucky	483,655	55.4	4.3	1,569,927	67.2	2.0	2,053,582	63.9	1.8	-11.8
Louisiana	408,467	56.2	4.3	1,784,872	71.1	1.8	2,193,339	67.9	1.7	-14.9
Maine	152,278	58.0	4.0	576,559	72.7	1.8	728,837	69.6	1.6	-14.7
Maryland	640,156	66.4	3.7	2,396,153	72.7	1.6	3,036,309	71.1	1.5	-6.3

State, Region 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	663,542	71.1	2.8	3,155,000	79.5	1.1	3,818,543	77.7	1.0	-8.4
Michigan	1,249,875	65.9	3.3	4,383,917	76.8	1.4	5,633,792	74.5	1.3	-10.9
Minnesota	617,467	68.1	4.9	2,327,221	75.8	2.0	2,944,688	74.3	1.8	-7.7
Mississippi	259,673	46.9	3.9	969,460	61.1	1.9	1,229,134	57.6	1.7	-14.2
Missouri	585,607	49.3	4.7	2,127,488	65.0	2.3	2,713,095	61.0	2.1	-15.7
Montana	104,144	56.0	4.6	365,594	66.8	2.1	469,737	64.3	1.9	-10.8
Nebraska	163,865	61.8	4.9	760,013	72.2	1.7	923,878	70.4	1.6	-10.4
Nevada	241,958	57.5	5.4	944,285	62.9	2.6	1,186,243	61.4	2.3	-5.4
New Hampshire	152,061	62.9	4.1	619,931	79.0	1.6	771,992	75.6	1.5	-16.1
New Jersey	835,466	67.3	3.5	3,993,960	75.4	1.4	4,829,426	73.6	1.3	-8.1
New Mexico	211,500	59.6	4.9	721,178	65.2	2.1	932,678	63.7	1.9	-5.6
New York	2,049,104	67.7	4.0	8,475,463	74.2	1.7	10,524,567	72.6	1.5	-6.5
North Carolina	920,441	59.0	3.0	3,631,246	69.7	1.3	4,551,687	67.1	1.2	-10.7
North Dakota	60,216	65.7	5.7	292,143	74.2	1.9	352,358	73.0	1.8	-8.5
Ohio	1,295,921	64.8	3.4	4,811,031	73.1	1.5	6,106,952	71.0	1.3	-8.3
Oklahoma	359,986	47.8	3.4	1,159,921	60.0	1.8	1,519,908	56.7	1.6	-12.2
Oregon	467,340	61.4	4.7	1,557,557	72.7	2.1	2,024,897	70.2	1.9	-11.3
Pennsylvania	1,317,501	59.1	3.7	5,350,410	72.9	1.6	6,667,910	70.0	1.5	-13.8
Rhode Island	123,867	74.5	4.4	509,107	78.6	2.0	632,973	77.4	1.9	-4.1
South Carolina	430,723	53.6	4.1	1,733,357	69.0	1.9	2,164,080	65.6	1.7	-15.4
South Dakota	82,063	69.1	4.4	340,318	73.3	1.8	422,381	72.2	1.7	-4.2
Tennessee	579,126	51.3	5.3	2,398,104	68.9	2.3	2,977,230	64.6	2.1	-17.6
Texas	1,870,891	50.6	4.1	8,344,712	62.4	1.8	10,215,603	59.7	1.6	-11.8
Utah	253,160	66.2	4.2	1,037,816	73.1	1.8	1,290,976	71.6	1.7	-6.9
Vermont	73,705	66.0	3.7	288,627	76.5	1.6	362,332	74.0	1.5	-10.5
Virginia	815,216	66.4	4.5	3,499,618	75.8	2.7	4,314,834	73.7	2.4	-9.4
Washington	841,247	65.8	2.1	2,717,602	74.5	1.0	3,558,849	72.2	0.9	-8.7
West Virginia	223,324	51.2	4.3	624,981	64.2	2.3	848,305	60.3	2.0	-13.0
Wisconsin	562,808	66.3	4.6	2,516,692	73.7	2.1	3,079,499	72.2	1.9	-7.4
Wyoming	53,475	61.6	3.7	208,338	67.9	1.6	261,813	66.4	1.5	-6.3
Guam	6,412	51.8	12.1	58,864	63.6	4.4	65,276	62.4	4.1	-11.8
Puerto Rico	413,425	72.2	4.3	1,632,475	73.6	1.9	2,045,899	72.9	1.7	-1.4
Virgin Islands	3,906	45.6	7.6	38,356	61.4	2.7	42,262	59.8	2.6	-15.8
Total	30,973,287	60.3	0.8	126,134,523	70.6	0.4	157,107,810	68.3	0.3	-10.3

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:

For more information please contact Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
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