Each of us may experience a disability in our lifetime.

CDC’s National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities supports efforts to include adults with disabilities in disease prevention, health promotion, and emergency response activities, while working to remove barriers to health care and improve access to routine preventive services.

A Snapshot of Disability in California*

This fact sheet provides an overview of disability in California compared to national estimates. You can use this information to learn more about the percentages and characteristics of adults with disabilities in California.

Disability Costs in HEALTHCARE EXPENDITURES

$38.2 billion per year** in California

Despite progress, adults with disabilities in California and across the country continue to experience significant differences in health characteristics and behaviors compared to adults without disabilities.

Percentage of adults with select functional disability types*

MOBILITY: Serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs
COGNITION: Serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions
INDEPENDENT LIVING: Difficulty doing errands alone, such as visiting a doctor’s office or shopping
HEARING: Deafness or serious difficulty hearing
VISION: Blind or serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses
SELF-CARE: Difficulty dressing or bathing

* Data Source: 2017 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).
** Disability-associated healthcare expenditures are presented in 2006 dollars as reported in Anderson et al, 2010. This value represents approximately 24% of total healthcare expenditures for the state of California.

For more information go to www.cdc.gov/disabilities