

Information for Action # 2015-06

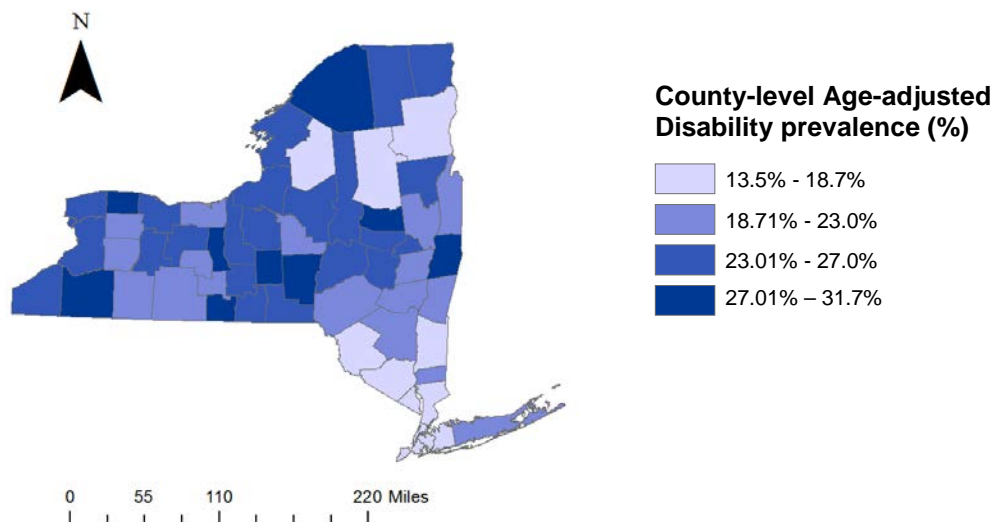
Persons with disability are an important demographic group in New York State (NYS)

Persons with disability experience significant limitations in hearing, vision, mobility, or cognition that may impede their ability to participate in major life roles or activities of daily living. These limitations may also influence their participation in health promoting behaviors and access to health care. According to the 2013-2014 NYS Expanded Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (eBRFSS):

- The percent of adults who have a disability^a varies widely across counties in NYS, from 13.5% (Rockland) to 31.7% (Chemung), with a statewide rate of 19.9%.
- The five counties with the highest prevalence are: Chemung (31.7%), Seneca (30.8%), Cattaraugus (30.7%), Orleans (30.7%), and Cortland (29.8%).
- The five counties with the lowest prevalence are: Rockland (13.5%), Dutchess (16.3%), Nassau (16.5%), Lewis (16.6%), and Westchester (16.6%).^b

Additional local-level data on disability prevalence is available from the United States Census Bureau's American Community Survey at www.factfinder.census.gov

Figure 1. County-level age-adjusted prevalence of disability^a among NY adults, 2013-2014 eBRFSS



Data Source: 2013-2014 NYS Expanded Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (available from <https://health.data.ny.gov/>)

^aDisability is defined as answering “yes” to one of the following questions, “Are you limited in any way in any activities because of physical, mental, or emotional problems?” OR “Do you now have any health problem that requires you to use special equipment, such as a cane, a wheelchair, a special bed, or a special telephone?”

^b Even though the prevalence rates are low, these counties still have a significant number of adults with disability due to their large population size.

PUBLIC HEALTH OPPORTUNITY

The NYS Department of Health Prevention Agenda mobilizes local public health practitioners, health departments, and hospitals to improve community health. Persons with disability comprise a significant, yet often overlooked, demographic group known to experience health disparities. Localities should be aware of the prevalence of disability and ensure public health programs are reaching this important demographic group.

Contact: For more information about the data included and their specific implications for action, please send an e-mail to DCDIPIFA@health.ny.gov with IFA # 2015-06 in the subject line.



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