

# How many people have disabilities?

## A Tip Sheet for Public Health Professionals

Did you know that disability is one of the nation's most important public health issues? 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.

Approximately 20% of U.S. adults have a disability. Interested in your state? Use the table below to determine the prevalence of disability by age group.

**Encourage your state to:**

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

**The Prevalence of Disability in Adults by Age Group, BRFSS 2009.<sup>1</sup>**

State, District or Territory	Age 18-44 years			Age 45-64 years			Age 65+ years		
	Weighted Population	Percent	95% CI <sup>2</sup> (±)	Weighted Population	Percent	95% CI (±)	Weighted Population	Percent	95% CI (±)
Alabama	241,607	15.4	2.2	403,244	32.9	2.6	260,785	37.3	2.9
Alaska	40,616	15.3	3.9	49,349	27.6	3.7	22,197	43.1	7.3
Arizona	269,135	11.1	2.7	377,163	25.3	3.0	299,399	35.0	3.2
Arkansas	160,638	16.0	3.2	214,638	30.2	2.7	151,725	37.5	3.0
California	1,423,055	10.4	1.1	2,039,285	24.1	1.3	1,366,114	35.5	1.8
Colorado	220,614	12.4	1.6	279,951	23.4	1.4	172,052	35.2	2.0
Connecticut	125,022	10.3	1.8	187,062	20.0	2.1	157,231	32.7	2.4
Delaware	48,389	15.3	2.9	47,064	20.9	2.4	37,837	30.6	2.9
District of Columbia	24,626	9.5	2.1	33,419	25.2	2.5	27,279	38.8	3.3
Florida	1,041,627	16.4	2.7	1,170,835	25.1	2.0	1,007,557	32.3	2.1
Georgia	319,159	8.6	1.8	538,784	23.2	2.0	371,379	37.7	2.8
Hawaii	47,215	10.0	1.8	61,945	18.8	1.8	55,589	29.7	2.6
Idaho	74,818	13.4	2.3	95,230	25.9	2.2	64,544	35.7	2.7
Illinois	503,314	10.5	1.8	661,611	20.6	2.0	538,408	34.0	2.6
Indiana	344,597	15.0	2.0	410,437	25.6	1.7	288,526	35.9	2.2
Iowa	104,235	10.0	1.8	161,612	21.2	1.9	141,888	32.1	2.3
Kansas	124,599	12.4	1.2	162,240	23.1	1.0	137,769	37.5	1.3
Kentucky	283,034	18.5	2.6	355,200	32.4	2.2	219,908	39.2	2.7
Louisiana	208,635	12.7	1.8	305,905	27.3	1.8	215,257	38.9	2.2
Maine	61,967	14.1	1.9	105,155	27.1	1.6	71,216	35.6	2.2
Maryland	260,759	12.7	2.0	318,832	22.0	1.7	238,403	35.2	2.6

State, District or Territory	Age 18-44 years			Age 45-64 years			Age 65+ years		
	Weighted Population	Percent	95% CI (±)	Weighted Population	Percent	95% CI (±)	Weighted Population	Percent	95% CI (±)
Massachusetts	291,242	12.9	1.6	355,452	21.8	1.4	282,243	33.4	1.9
Michigan	468,658	13.0	1.7	720,033	27.4	1.6	446,498	34.6	2.0
Minnesota	225,126	11.7	2.2	306,500	22.0	1.8	240,549	36.6	2.4
Mississippi	163,791	15.9	1.9	234,855	31.8	1.7	153,326	41.3	1.9
Missouri	321,199	15.3	2.8	442,828	29.4	2.8	297,322	36.3	2.9
Montana	40,483	12.4	2.0	73,223	26.6	1.9	50,553	36.4	2.3
Nebraska	73,456	11.5	2.0	100,242	22.7	1.8	85,333	35.9	2.0
Nevada	109,767	11.1	2.6	169,477	26.1	3.3	113,107	37.2	3.9
New Hampshire	58,719	12.7	2.6	85,400	22.4	2.0	58,696	34.0	2.6
New Jersey	279,899	9.4	1.3	434,348	19.6	1.4	329,409	29.5	2.0
New Mexico	99,526	13.9	2.0	135,885	27.6	1.7	96,448	37.5	2.2
New York	931,474	13.2	2.0	1,164,013	24.0	2.0	922,963	35.8	2.6
North Carolina	453,141	13.3	1.8	640,961	27.3	1.9	436,567	37.7	2.3
North Dakota	27,143	11.5	2.5	32,678	20.5	1.9	31,598	33.7	2.7
Ohio	607,956	15.1	2.1	776,020	25.9	1.6	559,080	36.0	2.1
Oklahoma	213,253	16.4	1.9	309,307	33.1	1.9	203,266	41.4	2.2
Oregon	207,316	15.5	2.8	268,779	27.0	2.4	178,817	35.8	2.6
Pennsylvania	587,163	13.7	2.0	801,810	24.3	1.8	615,504	32.5	2.1
Rhode Island	48,075	12.4	2.1	60,574	22.0	1.8	47,350	32.1	2.5
South Carolina	239,590	15.0	2.2	335,175	29.1	2.2	230,013	38.7	2.4
South Dakota	23,034	8.3	1.7	42,915	21.0	1.8	45,661	39.4	2.4
Tennessee	353,414	15.7	2.6	463,058	28.8	2.5	283,557	35.2	2.7
Texas	1,094,579	11.7	1.7	1,277,130	22.7	1.7	905,329	36.1	2.5
Utah	141,599	12.8	1.5	138,503	26.1	1.7	94,964	38.9	2.3
Vermont	30,898	14.6	2.2	41,731	22.5	1.6	28,654	33.2	2.3
Virginia	332,522	11.6	3.2	441,734	22.6	2.3	312,400	33.8	3.1
Washington	370,426	15.3	1.3	516,694	29.8	1.2	306,813	39.0	1.5
West Virginia	124,647	19.9	2.6	167,597	33.1	2.3	114,794	39.7	2.7
Wisconsin	234,317	11.9	3.0	330,952	22.6	2.5	244,503	33.3	3.6
Wyoming	23,556	12.5	2.3	35,091	24.3	1.8	22,525	34.0	2.3
Guam	4,268	6.4	2.2	5,211	18.2	3.9	3,285	33.4	8.5
Puerto Rico	141,150	9.5	1.9	242,995	27.8	2.5	169,609	35.8	2.7
Virgin Islands	2,479	6.7	2.1	3,654	14.3	2.5	1,845	20.9	4.1
Total	14,251,529	12.7	0.4	19,133,784	24.9	0.4	13,757,645	35.3	0.5

**Notes:**

1. BRFSS refers to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.
2. CI denotes confidence interval.

**NCBDDD Atlanta:**

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