

# Florida Disability Briefing Document 2014

In this report we review the demographic characteristics, health status, chronic illness prevalence, and barriers to health care for Florida residents with and without a disability using data from the 2012 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). The BRFSS is a random-digit dial telephone survey of non-institutionalized, community-dwelling, civilian adults aged 18 years and older.

This brief also presents data from the University of Florida Survey Research Center's 2012 People with Disability Survey (PWD) and data from the Florida Center for Medicaid and the Uninsured and their 2012 Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) which surveys Medicaid beneficiaries on their satisfaction with their healthcare. For a full report visit <http://fodh.php.ufl.edu/publications/>

## Population Demographics

In 2012, 23% of adults Floridians reported having a disability. The proportion of people with disability increases with age, and according to the 2012 BRFSS, one-fourth of people with a disability are between the ages of 55 and 64. Nearly one-third of people with a disability are over the age of 65. Among those with a disability, 54.5% are female and 45.6% are male. The majority (64.0%) of people with disability are White, 17.5% African American, 1.6% are Asian and 9.2% classified as Other.

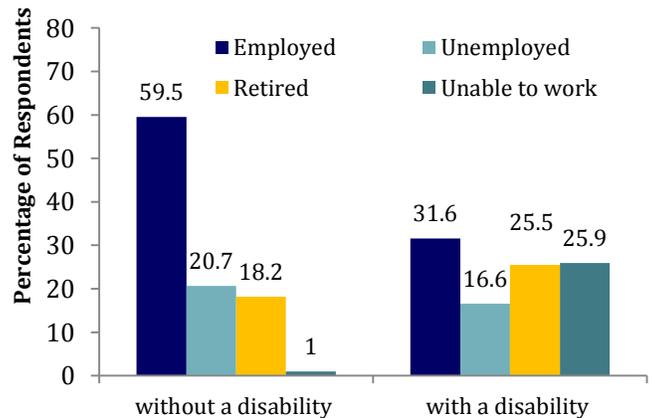
People with disability are more likely to be divorced, widowed, or separated compared to people without disability.

- 26.1% of people with disability report being divorced compared to 15.3% of people without disability, a significant increase from the 2011 BRFSS where 19.4% of people with disability reported divorce, compared to 13.5% without disability
- 11.2% of people with disability report being widowed compared to 6.2% of people without disability.
- A lower proportion of people with disability reported never having been married (14.8% compared to 23.4%, respectively).

People with a disability have disproportionately lower levels of income, education, and employment.

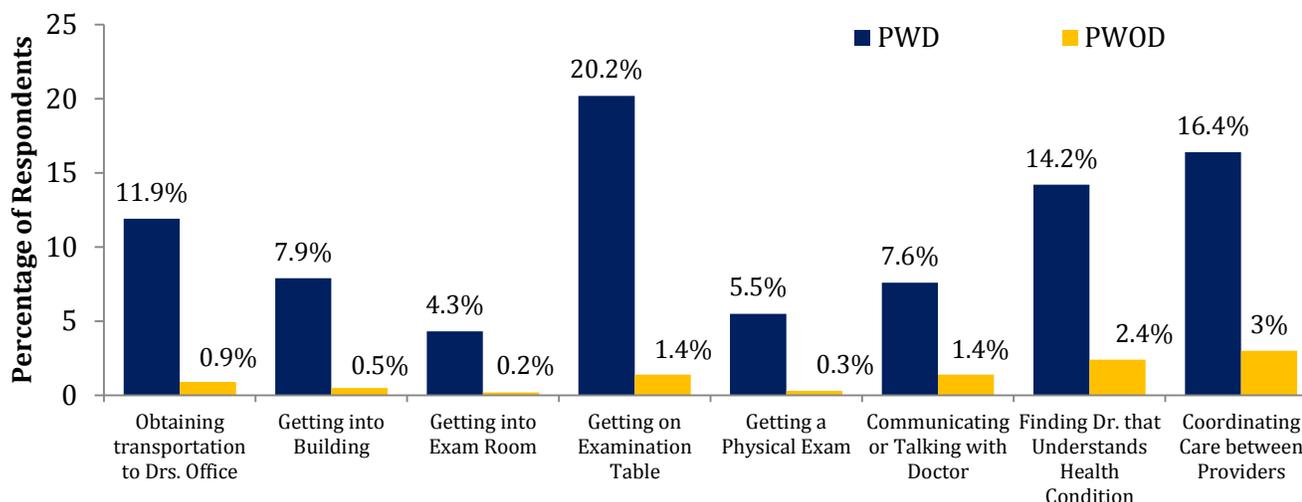
- 11.9% of people with disability make less than \$10,000 a year, compared to 4.7% of people without disability.
- Of those reporting a disability, 12.6% did not graduate high school compared to 7.3% of people without disability.
- Over a quarter (25.9%) of people with disability are unable to work compared to only 1% of people without disability. This represents an increase from the 2011 BRFSS where only 20% of people with disability were unable to work.
- Less than one-third (31.6%) of people with a disability are currently employed compared to over half of people without disability (59.5%).
- One quarter of people with a disability are retired (25.5%), compared to 18.2% of people without a disability. This could be attributed to the high proportion of people with disability who are over the age of 65.

**Disability Status by Employment Status in Florida, 2012 BRFSS**



## Health Care Access

### Barriers to Care by Disability Status in Florida, PWD Survey 2012



People with a disability disproportionately experience cost, physical access, and provider communication barriers to care.

- Nearly 40% of people with a disability experience an access to care barrier compared to only 20% of persons without a disability.\*\*
- CAHPS data also show a marked difference in access to care barriers among people with disabilities.
  - Among Medicaid beneficiaries, transportation to doctors' offices is a much larger barrier than in the population surveyed by the PWD survey, which tended to be older individuals in Florida.
- The BRFSS showed that one-third of people with disability report that they needed to see a doctor in the past 12 months, but were unable to because of cost—a figure almost double that of people without a disability (18% of people without disability reported not seeing a doctor because of cost)\*

**20% of people with disability have no health insurance.\***

People with a disability that have no health insurance face a significant barrier to consistent access to quality care and preventive services.

#### Access to Care Barriers among people with disability: A comparison of CAHPS and PWD survey data

Barriers to Care	CAHPS (%)	PWD (%)
Obtaining Transportation to Drs Office	7.2	4.6
Getting into building	1.3	2.9
Getting into Exam Room	1.2	1.5
Getting on Examination Table	3.5	7.6
Getting a Physical Exam	2.9	2.0
Communicating with Doctor	5.5	3.4
Finding Dr that Understands Condition	6.1	6.3
Coordinating Care	5.4	7.4

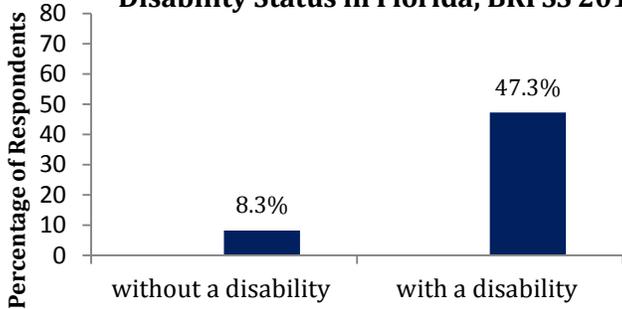
#### Health Status & Behaviors\*

People with a disability scored their general health significantly lower than people without a disability.

- Among those individuals reporting a disability, 47.3% rated their health as fair or poor compared to only 8.3% of people without a disability.
- Only 52.1% of people with a disability rated their health as excellent, very good or good compared to 91.2% of people without a disability.

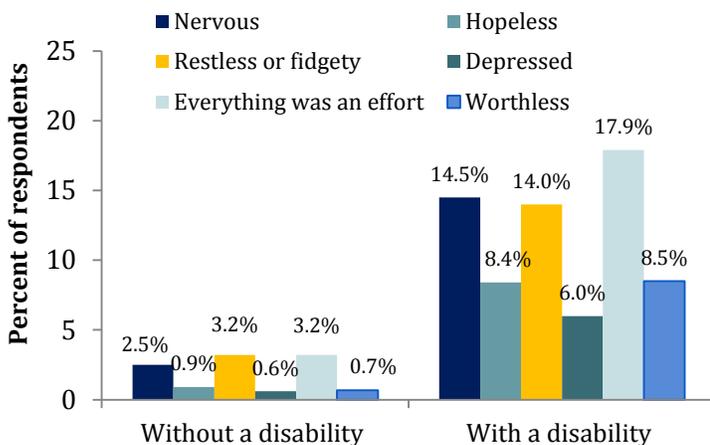
Sources: \*BRFSS 2012; \*\*PWD 2013

### Fair or Poor General Health by Disability Status in Florida, BRFSS 2012



Among respondents reporting having a disability higher rates of feeling nervous, restless, hopeless and worthless all or most of the time were experienced.

### Mental Health Feelings in the Past 30 Days by Disability Status in Florida, BRFSS 2012



High rates of falls were significantly more common among people with a disability than those without.

- 5.2% of people with disability sustained six or more falls compared to 0.4% of people without disability.

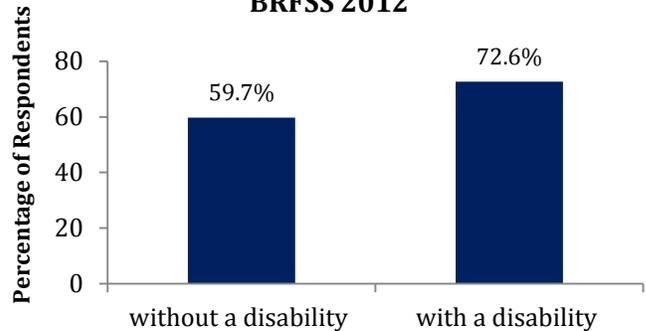
People with a disability reported higher levels of daily smoking compared to people without a disability (23.6% compared to 15%). Also, a greater proportion of disabled persons report having a smoking history.

- 34.9% of people with a disability were former smokers compared to 25.6% of people without a disability.

Among current smokers, a significantly higher proportion of people with a disability tried to quit smoking for one day or more during the past year.

- 72.6% of people with a disability stopped smoking for one day or longer in the past year, compared to 59.7% of people without a disability.

### Current Smokers who are trying to quit by disability status in Florida, BRFSS 2012



A significantly lower proportion of people with a disability reported engaging in physical activity compared to people without a disability.

- 38.1% of people with a disability reported being inactive compared to 15.9% of people without a disability.

A significantly higher proportion of people with a disability reported being overweight or obese, defined as a body mass index greater than 25.

- 34.1% of people with a disability are overweight or obese compared to 20.7% of people without disability.

Given that people with a disability engage in less physical activity and more likely to be overweight or obese indicates the need for targeted physical activity and nutrition programs for this population.

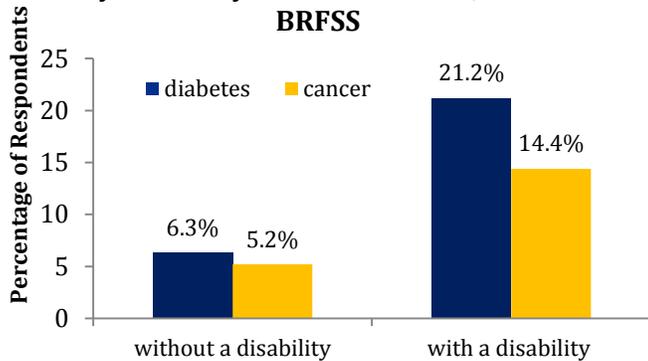
### Chronic Illness\*

People with a disability have higher rates of diabetes and cancer.

- 21.2% of people with a disability have diabetes compared to 6.3% of people without a disability.
- 14.4% of people with a disability have cancer compared to 5.2% of people without a disability.

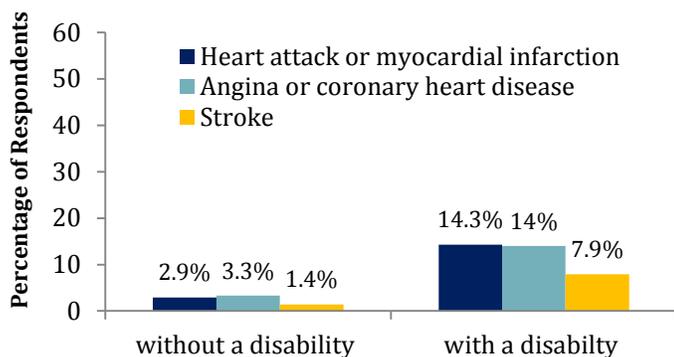
Sources: \*BRFSS 2012; \*\*PWD 2013

### Percent reporting diabetes and cancer by disability status in Florida, 2012



People with disability also reported higher rates of heart attack, heart disease and stroke

### Heart Attack, Heart Disease, and Stroke Prevalence by Disability Status in Florida, BRFSS 2012



### Preventative Health\*

Rates of preventative health care use differ among people with and without a disability.

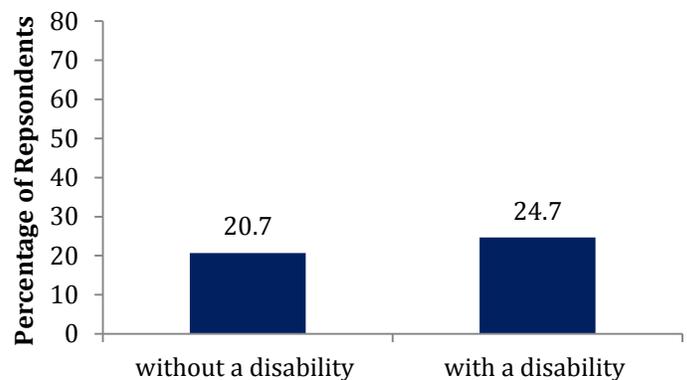
- 45.0% of people with a disability reported have not visited a dentist in the last year compared to 36.2% of people without a disability.
- People with disabilities were more likely to have received a seasonal flu vaccine (41.3%), than people without disability (28.8%).

People with a disability were less likely to have reported receiving a mammogram or Pap test, but were equally likely to have received a Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) test or colonoscopy.

- Of women over the age of 50 and living with a disability, 24.7% reported **not** having a mammogram in the past two years compared to 20.4% of women without a disability.

- 28.9% of women with a disability aged 18+ reported **not** having had a Pap test in the past three years compared to 20.4% of women without a disability.
- 47.3% of men with a disability aged 40+ reported **not** having a PSA test in the past two years compared to 47.6% of men without a disability.
- And 29.8% of respondents with a disability reported **not** having a sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy compared to 30.6% or respondents without a disability.

### Women aged 50+ who have **not** had a mammogram in the last two years by Disability Status in Florida, BRFSS 2012



### Future Implications

The data and information found in the Disability Data Report can help guide educational efforts about the health and access needs of people with a disability.

The findings also highlight the need to increase the participation of people with disability in health promotion programs and preventive health services. The higher rate of chronic illness among people with disability suggests that there is room for improvement in terms of accessibility and inclusion of people with disability in chronic disease management programs.

Additionally, the report aims to guide the development of an in-depth questionnaire designed to measure the accessibility of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in Florida. The higher rates of chronic illness and unfavorable health behaviors found in people with disabilities shows the need for in-depth qualitative review that can help uncover the barriers to care and preventative services among the disabled population.

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