Disability and Health: Annual Program Brief 2016
Health Status and Healthcare Access for Persons with Disability in Florida

The Disability and Health Annual Program Brief, captures and describes the quality of life, general health status, and access to healthcare of Florida adult residents with and without disability, using data from the 2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

BRFSS respondents that answered yes to any of the following questions were classified as having disability: 1) Are you blind or have serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses, 2) Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions, 3) Do you have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs, 4) Do you have difficulty dressing or bathing, and 5) Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor’s office or shopping? In 2015, 23.8% of Florida adults had at least one disability.

Days of Poor Physical and Mental Health

Days During the Past 30 that Physical Health Was Not Good by Disability Status, FL Adults, BRFSS 2015

In addition, a larger percentage of persons with disability reported having two or more weeks with poor mental health in the last 30 days compared with persons without disability (32.2% vs. 7.3%).

Days During the Past 30 that Mental Health Was Not Good by Disability Status, FL Adults, BRFSS 2015
Prevention from Usual Activities
BRFSS 2015
Persons with disability reported more days of being prevented from doing their usual activities due to poor physical or mental health than persons without disability. In the past 30 days, 39.2% of persons with disability reported that poor physical or mental health prevented them from doing their usual activities (such as self-care, work or recreation) for two or more weeks, compared to 6.8% of persons without disability.

General Health Status
BRFSS 2015
A higher percentage of persons with disability rated their general health as being fair or poor than persons without disability. Among persons with disability, 52.7% reported being in excellent, very good, or good health, compared to 90.4% of persons without disability. 47.3% of persons with disability reported being in fair or poor health, compared to 9.6% of persons without disability.

Access to Healthcare
BRFSS 2015
Some persons with disability experience barriers to receiving healthcare. Overall, 41.0% of persons with disability report experiencing at least one barrier to healthcare. Specifically, 18.5% of persons with disability reported difficulty finding a doctor that understands his/her health condition, 20.0% reported difficulty getting on the examination table, and 9.9% reported difficulty communicating or talking with the doctor. Other barriers among persons with disability were difficulty obtaining transportation, difficulty getting into building, difficulty getting into exam room, and difficulty getting a physical exam.

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