

Health Disparities among People with Disabilities: A Snapshot

Roughly **25.5% of adults in Michigan report being disabled**¹. People with disabilities in Michigan report higher rates of many chronic conditions and poorer health status, compared to people without disabilities. Following is a brief snapshot of these disparities, taken from the 2014 Michigan Behavioral Risk Factor Survey.

General health and health risk behaviors

- 42.7% of adults with disabilities report their health as fair or poor, compared to 7.8% of their non-disabled counterparts.
- 29.3% of adults with disabilities report having poor mental health, compared to 7.4% of their non-disabled counterparts.
- The rate of **obesity** among adults with disabilities is 43.4%, compared to 26.5% among people without disabilities
- 26.8% of adults with disabilities are current **smokers**, compared to 19.3% of people without disabilities.
- 39.3% of people with disabilities reported **not getting any leisure time physical activity**, compared to 20.5% of people without disabilities (2009).

Chronic conditions

- 54.9% of adults with disabilities reported having **high blood pressure**, compared to 27.9% of people without disabilities (2013).
- 20.2% of adults with disabilities reported having **diabetes**, compared with 7.1% of people without disabilities.
- 12.2% of adults with disabilities reported having **heart disease**, compared with 3.1% of people without disabilities.
- 63.1% of people with disabilities reported having **arthritis**, compared with 21.5% of people without disabilities.
- 23.4% of adults with disabilities reported having **asthma**, compared with 13.3% of people without disabilities.
- 42.5% of people with disabilities reported having **depression**, compared with 14.3% of people without disabilities.
- 20.5% of people with disabilities reported having **Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)**, compared to 4.9% of people without disabilities.
- 20.0% of people with disabilities reported having ever had **cancer**, compared to 9.7% among people without disabilities.
- 8.8% of people with disabilities reported having **kidney disease**, compared to 1.5% of people without disabilities.

Intimate Partner Violence

- Adults with disabilities in Michigan report experiencing **intimate partner violence** at a rate of 18.4%, compared to 7.9% in people without disabilities (2008).
- 8.8% of adults with disabilities in Michigan have experienced **non-consensual sex**, compared to 3.3% of adults without disabilities (2008).

Oral Health

- 28.1% of people with disabilities report having **lost six or more teeth**, compared to 10% of people without disabilities (2013).

¹ Disability is defined as “being limited in any activities because of physical, mental, or emotional problems or requiring the use of special equipment, such as a cane, a wheelchair, a special bed, or a special telephone due to a health problem” (p.3).