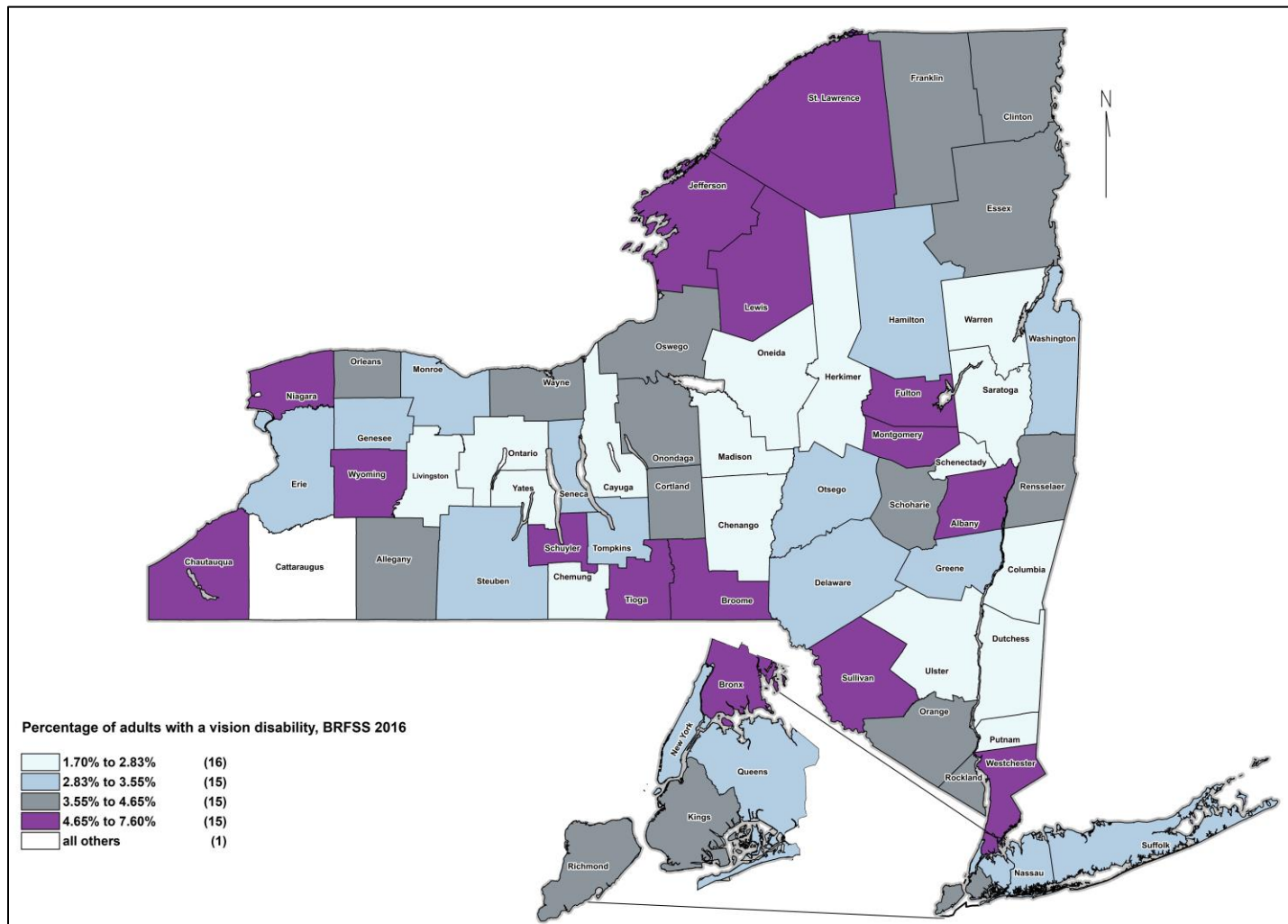


Percentage of Adults with a Vision Disability in New York State, by County, BRFSS 2016

A disability is any condition of the body or mind that makes it more difficult for the person with the condition to do certain activities and interact with the world around them. The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) captures disability status through a series of six questions. Vision disability is defined in the BRFSS as answering “yes” to the question “Are you blind or do you have serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses?”

In NYS, 3.7% of adults have a vision disability. The percentage varies across counties from 1.7% in Ontario and Yates to 7.6% in Cattaraugus.



Public Health Opportunity

Adults with a disability have a higher rate of chronic conditions such as obesity, heart disease, and diabetes. Society, culture and environment can create barriers for people with disability that limit full participation in activities. These barriers need to be identified and eliminated if persons with disability are to participate in public health programs that promote healthy living. To reduce health disparities between people with and without disability, the New York State Department of Health works to improve inclusion and accessibility of health promotion programs; increase awareness of health-related disability policy initiatives; and improve sustainability of policy, system, and environmental changes that benefit the health of people with disability.

County level estimates can be used to identify areas of concern, inform program planning, and evaluate the effectiveness of programs and policies. Public health organizations and programs can also use this information to educate local decision-makers and increase community engagement.

Percentage of Adults with a Vision Disability in New York State, by County

County	Percentage of adults with a vision disability	95% CI	County	Percentage of adults with a vision disability	95% CI
Albany	4.8	[2.6 – 6.9]	Niagara	5.6	[1.8 – 9.3]
Allegany	4.5	[1.5 – 7.5]	Oneida	2.7	[1.1 – 4.3]
Bronx	6.3	[4.2 – 8.4]	Onondaga	3.6	[1.9 – 5.2]
Broome	5.0	[2.8 – 7.1]	Ontario	1.7	[0.5 – 2.9]
Cattaraugus	7.6	[4.3 – 10.8]	Orange	4.1	[2.1 – 6.0]
Cayuga	2.8	[1.4 – 4.3]	Orleans	3.9	[1.8 – 5.9]
Chautauqua	5.4	[3.7 – 7.2]	Oswego	3.9	[1.8 – 6.0]
Chemung	2.5	[1.1 – 3.9]	Otsego	3.5	[1.1 – 5.8]
Chenango	2.2	[0.6 – 3.9]	Putnam	1.8	[0.5 – 3.2]
Clinton	4.2	[2.0 – 6.3]	Queens	2.9	[1.8 – 4.0]
Columbia	1.9	[0.4 – 3.3]	Rensselaer	4.1	[1.0 – 7.2]
Cortland	4.3	[2.0 – 6.5]	Richmond	3.8	[1.4 – 6.2]
Delaware	3.5	[1.6 – 5.4]	Rockland	3.6	[1.4 – 5.7]
Dutchess	2.1	[1.0 – 3.3]	Saratoga	2.5	[1.1 – 3.9]
Erie	2.9	[1.7 – 4.2]	Schenectady	2.7	[0.7 – 4.7]
Essex	3.7	[0.8 – 6.6]	Schoharie	3.7	[1.8 – 5.6]
Franklin	4.3	[2.2 – 6.4]	Schuyler	6.2	[1.3 – 11.1]
Fulton	5.3	[2.7 -7.9]	Seneca	3.2	[1.3 – 5.1]
Genesee	3.3	[1.5 – 5.0]	St. Lawrence	5.5	[2.9 – 8.2]
Greene	3.3	[1.2 – 5.4]	Steuben	3.5	[1.6 – 5.4]
Hamilton	3.3	[0.0 – 7.1]	Suffolk	3.0	[1.3 – 4.7]
Herkimer	2.7	[0.9 – 4.5]	Sullivan	6.2	[2.9 – 9.6]
Jefferson	5.2	[2.3 – 8.1]	Tioga	4.9	[1.0 – 8.8]
Kings	3.9	[2.7 – 5.1]	Tompkins	3.2	[0.7 – 5.6]
Lewis	6.9	[2.0 – 11.8]	Ulster	2.7	[1.2 – 4.3]
Livingston	2.2	[0.7 – 3.7]	Warren	2.2	[1.1 – 3.4]
Madison	2.0	[0.7 – 3.2]	Washington	2.9	[1.4 – 4.5]
Monroe	3.3	[1.6 – 5.0]	Wayne	4.4	[2.3 – 6.4]
Montgomery	4.7	[0.2 – 9.2]	Westchester	5.3	[3.1 – 7.5]
Nassau	3.5	[1.8 – 5.2]	Wyoming	5.7	[2.3 – 9.0]
New York	3.5	[2.3 – 4.8]	Yates	1.7	[0.5 – 3.0]

Notes. County estimates are not age-adjusted. Map categories do not represent statistically significant difference. Vision disability includes respondents that responded 'Yes' to the question: Are you blind or do you have serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses?

Contact: For more information about the data included and their specific implications for action, please send an e-mail to BCDER@health.ny.gov with IFA # 2019-09 in the subject line.

To access other Information for Action reports, visit the NYSDOH public website:

http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/prevention/injury_prevention/information_for_action/index.htm