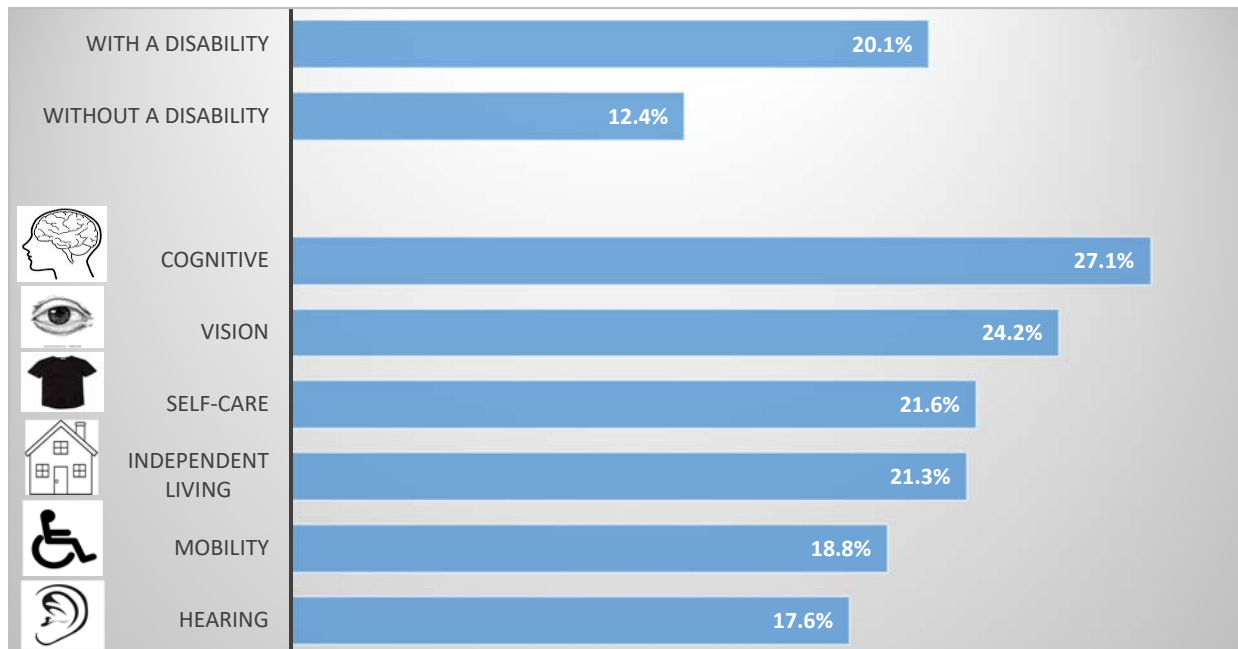


Rates of Smoking among Adults with Disability in New York State, 2016

There are approximately 3.3 million adults aged 18 years and older in New York State (NYS) who experience a disability. Disability encompasses three dimensions: impairment to body structure or mental functioning; activity limitation, such as difficulty hearing, moving, or problem solving; and participation restrictions in daily activities, such as working, engaging in social/recreational activities or obtaining health care or preventive services.¹ Data collection and reporting systems define disability through a series of six questions including: vision and hearing impairment, mobility and cognitive limitations, and difficulty with independent living or caring for oneself.²

Adults with a disability are disproportionately affected by tobacco use, smoking cigarettes at a rate 62% higher compared to adults without a disability, 20.1% versus 12.4% respectively in NYS. Adult smokers with a disability are a significant portion of all adult smokers in NYS comprising approximately 1/3 of the overall 2 million smokers. Understanding the challenges people with a disability face in order to participate in programs and activities that promote health is crucial. Developing targeted and inclusive public health interventions can reduce disparities between persons with and without disability.

Prevalence of Current Smoking among Adults by Disability Type, NYS BRFSS 2016



1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Disability Overview. <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/disability.html>.
 2. U.S Department of Health and Human Services HHS Implementation Guidance on Data Collection Standards For Race, Ethnicity, Sex, Primary Language, And Disability Status. <https://aspe.hhs.gov/basic-report/hhs-implementation-guidance-data-collection-standards-race-ethnicity-sex-primary-language-and-disability-status>.

Source: New York State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2016.

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Contact the Bureau of Chronic Disease Evaluation and Research, New York State Department of Health at (518) 473-0673 or send an e-mail to tcp@health.ny.gov. StatShots can be accessed online at: http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/tobacco_control/reports/statshots/