Adults with Disability

In 2021, 1 in 4 Delaware adults reported having at least one disability** on the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). Mobility and cognitive disabilities were the most common types.

Aging and Disability

The American Community Survey (ACS) estimates that more than 1 in 5 Delawareans aged 65-74 report having a disability. This rate doubles to 43.1% among people aged 75 and over.

Disability and Mental Health

In 2022, Delaware 8th graders with a disability reported approximately 3x the rate of recent anxiety (49%) compared to students without a disability. More than 1 in 3 students with a disability reported recent symptoms of depression.

Past Year Alcohol Use among Youth (%)

In 2022, 8th and 11th grade students with a disability* were more likely to report using alcohol in the past year compared to students without disabilities.

Behavioral Health and Disability Status: Adults (%)

Adults with disabilities have higher rates of smoking and depression than adults without reported disabilities.

*Disability in the DSS refers to difficulty hearing or seeing, walking or climbing stairs, or having a serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, making decisions, or doing things because of a physical, emotional, or learning disability, and includes both self-identified and medical-professional identified.

**Adults with disabilities are defined by the ACS and BRFSS as experiencing functional difficulty in at least one of six areas: hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, or independent living.

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