

Persons with Disabilities in Delaware



Adults with Disability

In 2022, **1 in 4 Delaware adults reported having at least one disability**** on the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). Cognitive and mobility disabilities were the most common types.



Aging and Disability

The American Community Survey estimates that more than **1 in 5 Delawareans aged 65-74** has a disability. This rate almost doubles to **42.8% among people aged 75 and over** (2018-2022).



Disability and Mental Health

In 2023, Delaware **8th graders with a disability** reported approximately **3x the rate of recent feelings of anxiety (43%)** compared to students without a disability. More than **1 in 3 students with a disability** reported recent feelings of depression.

***Disability in the DSS refers to serious difficulty hearing or seeing, walking or climbing stairs, or having difficulty concentrating, remembering, making decisions, or doing things because of a physical, emotional, or learning disability. This 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.**

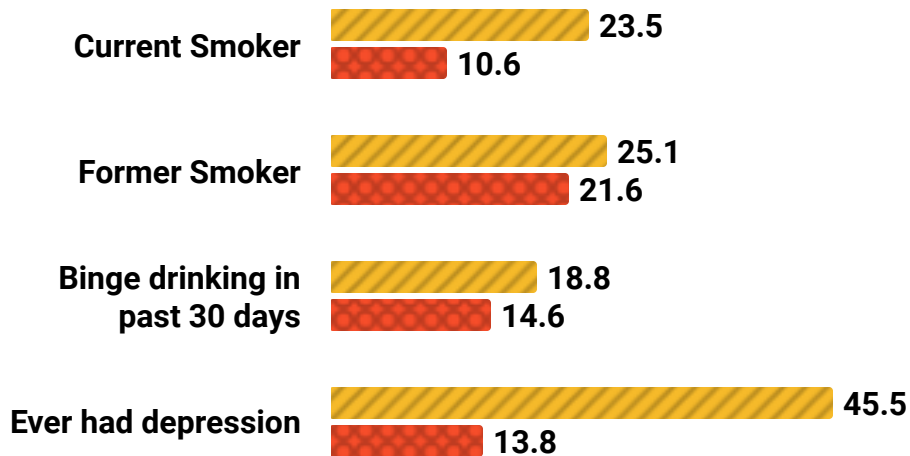
Past Year Alcohol Use among Youth (%)



● 8th grade ● 11th grade

In 2023, **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 Disability ● Adults without Disability

In 2022, adults with disabilities have **higher rates of smoking, binge drinking, and depression** than adults without reported disabilities.

This infographic references data reported in the Persons with Disabilities Module of the 2024 Delaware Epidemiological Profile, which is accessible online from the [Epidemiological Reports and Products](#) page and draws upon the following sources: the [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#), the [American Community Survey](#), and the [Delaware School Surveys](#).

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