

Vermont Disability and Public Health Data Brief

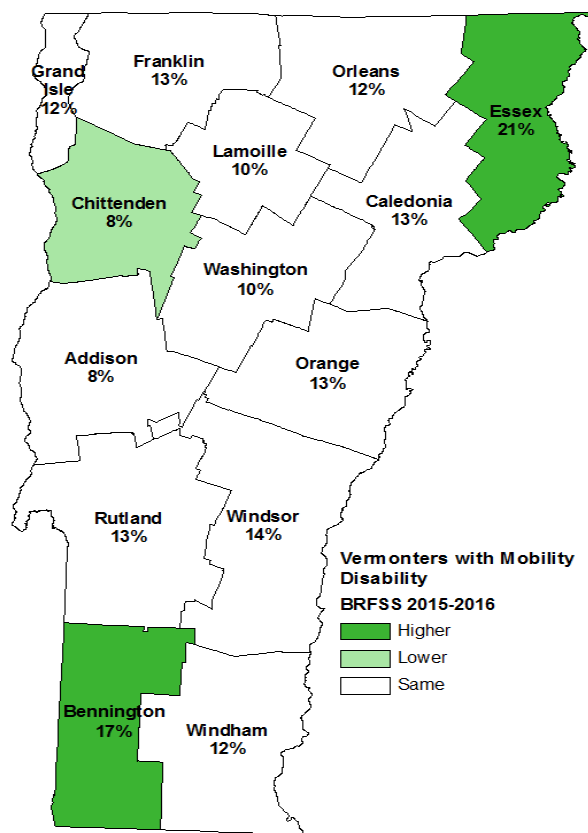
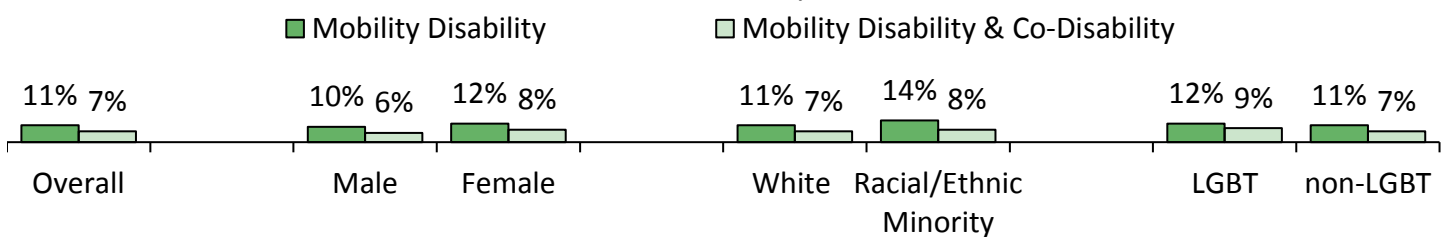
Demographics: Vermont Adults with Mobility Disability

Mobility disability is the leading type of disability¹ among Vermont adults. Eleven percent of the adult population report having serious trouble walking or climbing stairs, with seven percent having a mobility disability in addition to another disability (referred to as co-disability). On average, Vermonters with a mobility disability have less education, a lower annual income and a lower rate of employment. These indicators tend to be even worse for those with a cognitive disability and at least one co-disability

Mobility Disability Demographics

Women are more likely to report mobility disability (12%) than men (10%). All other comparisons by race and ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation and gender identity² are similar in reporting mobility disability and mobility disability with a co-disability.

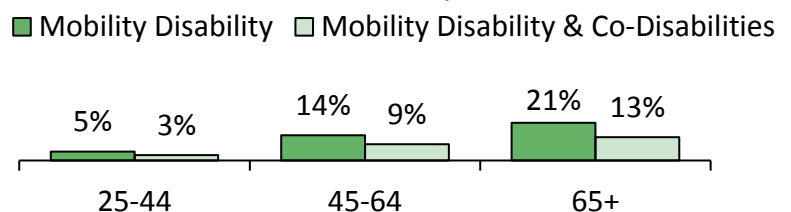
Prevalence of Mobility Disability by Demographic
Vermont BRFSS, 2016



Most counties have a similar prevalence of mobility disability. Exceptions are Chittenden (8%), Essex (21%) and Bennington (17%) counties.

Mobility disabilities in general and co-disabilities affect significantly more Vermont adults as they age. One in five (21%) adults ages 65 years and older report a mobility disability, compared to one in seven (14%) adults ages 45-64 and one in twenty (5%) adults ages 25-44.

Prevalence of Mobility Disability by Age
Vermont BRFSS, 2016



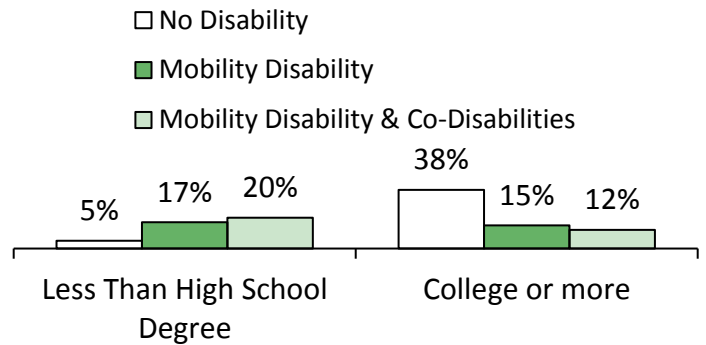
¹ The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) asks several questions to determine the individual's disability status. [Disabilities identified by the BRFSS include mobility, cognitive, visual, hearing, self-care and independent living.](#) The BRFSS does not include people living in institutions and group homes, who may be more likely to have a disability, and therefore may underestimate the prevalence of disability.

² Vermont adults who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or other sexual identity (LGBT) compared to non-LGBT adults.

Education

Vermonters with mobility disabilities in general and with a co-disability are significantly less likely than those without a disability to have completed college. Fifteen percent of adults with a mobility disability and 12% with a co-disability have a college degree or higher, compared to 38% of those without a disability. One in six (17%) adults with a mobility disability and 20% with a co-disability have not completed high school. In comparison, one in twenty (5%) adults without a disability did not complete high school.

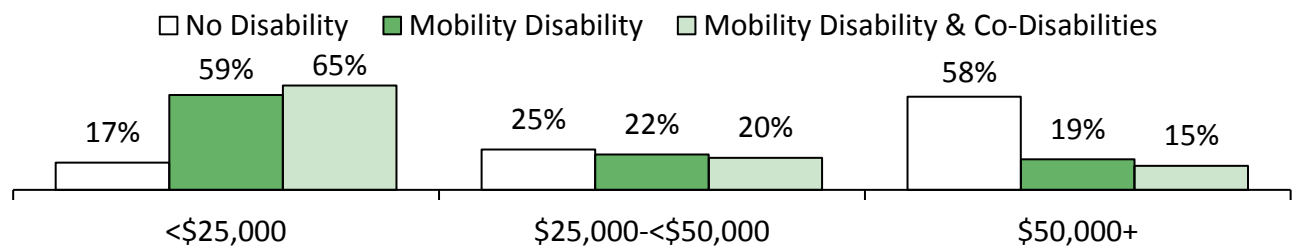
Highest Level of Education by Disability
Vermont BRFSS, 2016



Income

There are clear differences in income for Vermonters with and without mobility disabilities. Most adults with a mobility disability (59%) and with a co-disability (65%) have an income of less than \$25,000 a year, compared with 17% of Vermonters without a disability. Vermonters without a disability are three times more likely to make at least \$50,000 a year than Vermonters with a mobility disability or co-disability (58% vs. 19% and 15%).

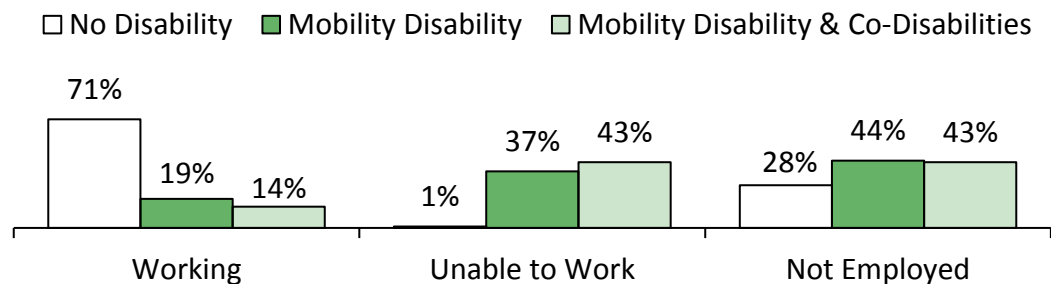
Annual Household Income by Disability
Vermont BRFSS, 2016



Employment

Vermonters with mobility disabilities (37%) and co-disabilities (43%) are significantly more likely to report that they are unable to work than Vermonters without disabilities (1%). Nineteen percent of Vermonters with mobility disabilities and 14% of those who also have a co-disability report currently working compared to 71% of Vermonters with no disability. These are statistically significant differences.

Employment Status by Disability
Vermont BRFSS, 2016



For questions about this data brief please contact Mallory Staskus (mallory.staskus@vermont.gov). For more information about the Health Department's Disability and Chronic Disease Prevention Program contact Allie Perline (allison.perline@vermont.gov).

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