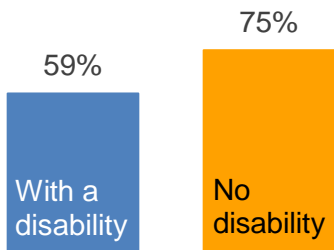


Oral Health Among Vermonters with Disabilities

Vermont's 2019 5-year State Health Improvement Plan identifies oral health as an area of focus and Vermonters with disabilities as a priority population.

Adults with a disability are less likely to go to the dentist than adults with no disability.



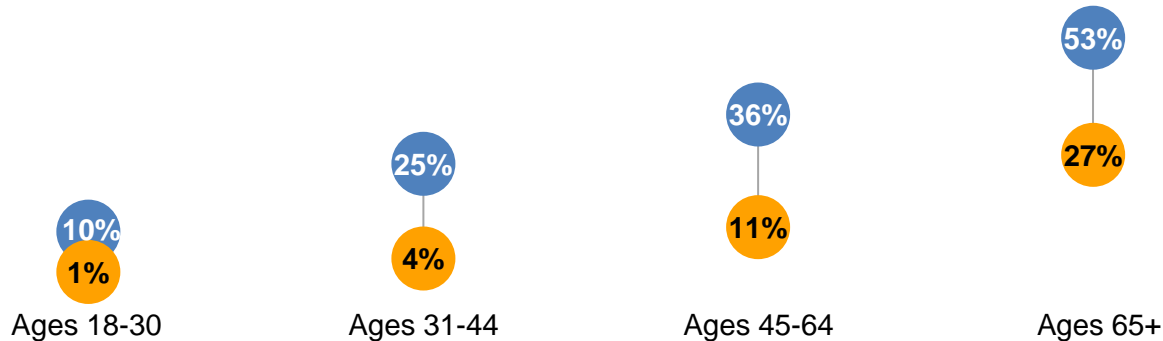
Vermont adults with a disability are less likely to report visiting the dentist in the last year by all age categories except young adults (18-30 years of age).

Adults with all disability types are less likely to visit the dentist. Just half of adults with a mobility disability (50%) or hearing disability (47%) went to the dentist last year.

Adults with a disability are more likely to have six or more teeth removed than adults with no disability.

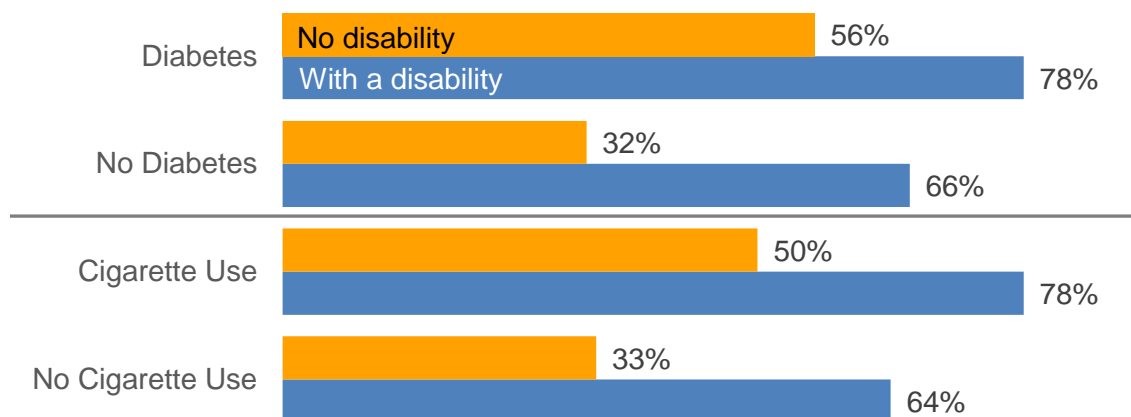
Vermonters with a disability are at least twice as likely to have had six or more teeth removed for all ages.

Six or more teeth extracted



Even with risk factors like diabetes or cigarette use present, adults with no disability are still less likely to have had any teeth extracted compared to adults with a disability.

One or more tooth extraction among adults



Source: 2016 VT Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System;
All differences between adults with a disability and no disability are statistically significant

Disability in Vermont

1 in 4

Vermont adults has a disability

Adults who report difficulty with one or more of the following are included as having a disability:

- Walking or climbing stairs
- Concentrating, remembering or making decisions
- Hearing or deafness
- Doing errands alone
- Seeing even with glasses or blindness
- Dressing or bathing

About the same amount of adult men and women report having a disability:

24% of males

vs.

26% of females

Here are a few steps your dental office can take to help serve Vermonters with disabilities:

- **Accessibility assessment:** Conduct an accessibility assessment of your office. ADA checklists can be found at:
https://www.ada.gov/medicare_mobility_ta/medicare_ta.htm

- **Professional Development, free CEU credits:**

- National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, serving children with special health care needs:

<https://www.mchoralhealth.org/SpecialCare/>



- National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research: Care for People with Developmental Disabilities:

<https://www.nidcr.nih.gov/health-info/developmental-disabilities/more-info>

- **Providing care to patients with disabilities:** Resources are available at National Institute of Dental Craniofacial Research, <https://www.nidcr.nih.gov/health-info/developmental-disabilities> and Special Care Dentistry Association, <http://www.scdonline.org/>

- **Dental Lifeline Network:** Volunteer dentists and specialists needed - To give back to your community or gain experience providing care to patients with disabilities, visit <https://dentallifeline.org/vermont/>.

"Finding ways to make dental services more accessible will greatly improve oral health of Vermonters with disabilities. Helping this vulnerable population is something we should all be striving for."

- Dr. Cassandra Coakley, President of the Vermont State Dental Society

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