

Health drivers

🍃 25% of Vermonters **have some type of disability**.

🍃 About half of Vermont residents with a disability have **multiple disabilities**.

🍃 People with disabilities are:

- Less likely to use **preventative healthcare** services.
- More likely to **struggle finding jobs** and attending school.
- Faced with more **difficulties getting around** in their community.

🍃 Vermont has an increase in **unhoused residents** with disabilities in recent years.

“A lot of people can't afford healthcare or have a ton of medical debt, so they're avoiding going to the doctor because they literally can't afford it. I have Medicare and Medicaid, and on disability income. I'm not making ends meet.”

Median earnings in 2021

With a disability	\$24,088
Without	\$41,073

🍃 **High school students of color** are more likely than White, Non-Hispanic students to have a disability or long-term health problem.

🍃 **LGBTQ+ high school students** are more likely than heterosexual, cisgendered students to have a disability or long-term health problem.

🍃 Healthcare providers are often unable to offer **accessible offices and services**.

🍃 Treatment for disabilities account for 36% of Vermont's **health care costs**.

“Our community mental health system is like, ‘That's the other side of the house. You have an intellectual disability. I don't want to hear about your depression’...there is a real difficulty in accessing good mental healthcare for people who also happen to have developmental disabilities and are very stressed and lonely people because they're not getting any services right now.”

Health drivers

- ▮ **Long wait times and long travel times** to meet with healthcare specialists cause many Vermonters with disabilities to not get timely, high-quality care.
- ▮ 33% of Vermonters with disabilities report **poor mental health**, twice that of non-disabled Vermonters.
- ▮ Vermonters with disabilities are more likely to experience **physical violence** from an intimate partner (24% to 15%) and to be made to engage in **non-consensual sex** (23% to 16%).
- ▮ The **lack of affordable housing** that affects most Vermonters is a particular concern for people with disabilities due to income challenges and unique accessibility needs.
- ▮ People with disabilities are **twice as likely to smoke** as all US residents.

Health status	Fair or poor health	Health care access delays due to cost	Arthritis	Obesity	Depressive disorder
All US	16%	10%	25%	34%	19%
All VT	12%	6%	29%	30%	24%
VT: with disabilities	34%	12%	48%	41%	43%

“The doctors don't speak in plain language. You don't understand how to sign up for the appointment...Do you think somebody with an IQ of 70 is managing that effectively? Not so much. There's still a lack of disability etiquette. You're an adult. You come in with your mom...and the doctor talks to your mom”.