

Disability & Health Disparities in Washington State

INJURY & VIOLENCE

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Firearms

The presence of unlocked firearms in the home has been linked to firearm injuries. In 2003, people with disabilities were at high risk for this kind of injury. They were more likely to have guns around their home (35% vs. 32%), to keep them loaded (8% vs. 6%), and to have loaded guns unlocked (6% vs. 4%) than were people without disabilities.

Falls

Persons with disabilities age 45 years and older were more likely than those without disabilities to have fallen in the three months prior to the survey. Those with disabilities who fell were more likely to be injured in the fall.

Violence

People with disabilities were more vulnerable to violence than were those without disabilities. Men and women with disabilities were more likely to report that as children they:

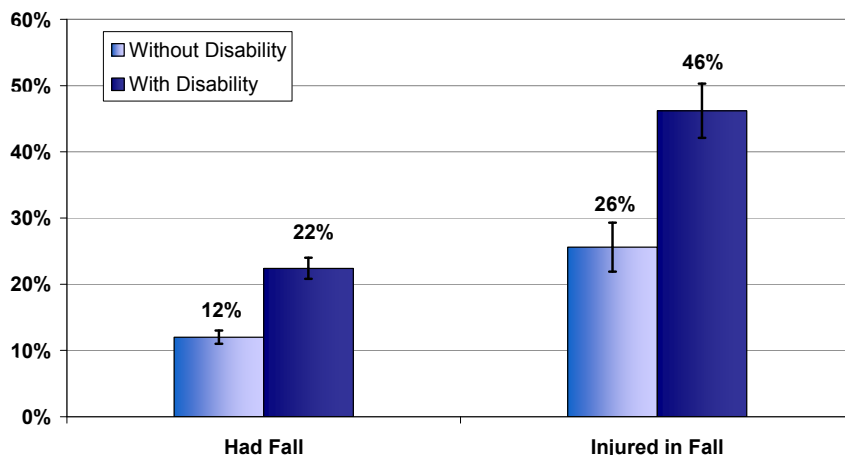
- Had been touched or made to touch others in a sexual place when they did not want to.
- Received substantial physical punishment.
- Had witnessed physical abuse of a parent or guardian by that person's spouse or partner.

Disability was associated with vulnerability to adult abuse as well. People with disabilities were more likely to say that:

- They had ever been forced to have sex.
- They had been physically abused by an intimate partner in the past year.
- An intimate partner had limited their activities, threatened them or made them feel unsafe in the past year.

All statistical comparisons discussed herein were significantly different at $p < .05$. Figures show the 95% confidence intervals around sample estimates.

Falls by Disability, 2003



Definition of Disability

A person with a disability is defined in BRFSS as someone who reported:

- Being limited in any way in any activities because of physical, mental, or emotional problems, or
- Having health problems that require them to use special equipment.

Family and Partner Violence by Disability, 2004

