

Disability & Health Disparities in Washington State

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Who Uses Health Care?

Compared to adults without disabilities, adults with disabilities were more likely to:

- Report a routine checkup with a doctor in the past year (73% vs. 82%, respectively).
- Have one or more personal health care providers (76% vs. 85%, respectively).
- Have some kind of health care insurance (84% vs. 87%, respectively).

Definition of Disability

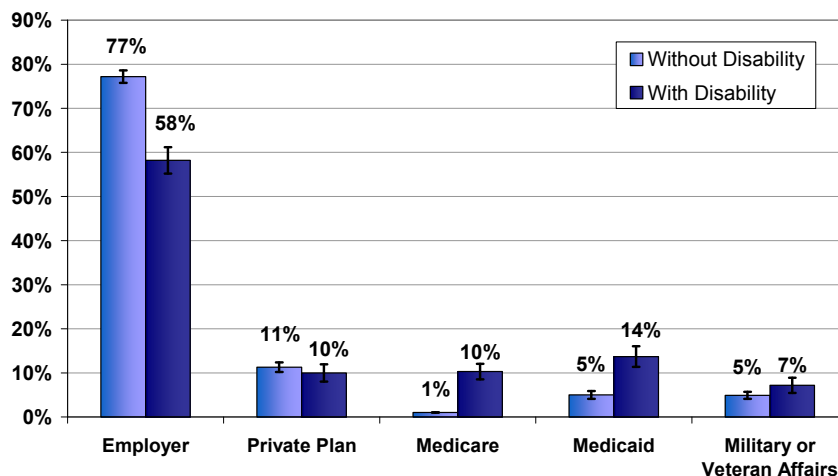
A person with a disability was defined in BRFSS as someone who reported:

- 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.

Insurance Coverage

There were significant differences in the kind of insurance coverage for working-age people with and without disabilities. People with disabilities ages 18-64 years were less likely to have insurance through an employer, and more likely to be covered by Medicare or Medicaid. Coverage among people older than 65 years did not differ by disability.

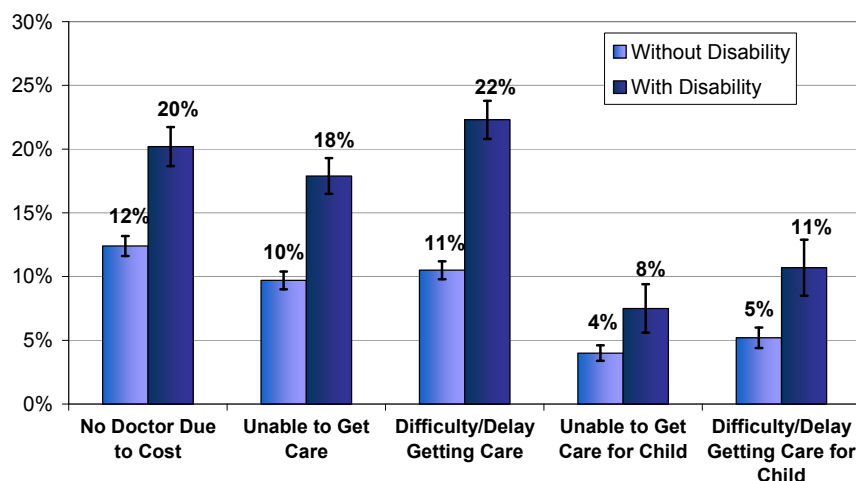
Health Insurance Coverage Ages 18-64 by Disability, 2004



Health Care Access

Having insurance did not necessarily mean that someone had access to care. People with disabilities were more likely to say that they had been unable to see a doctor due to cost. They also reported that they or another adult or child in their household had been unable to or had difficulty in getting needed care in the past year.

Health Care Access by Disability, 2003 & 2004



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



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