

Disability & Health Disparities in Washington State

CANCER RISKS & SCREENING

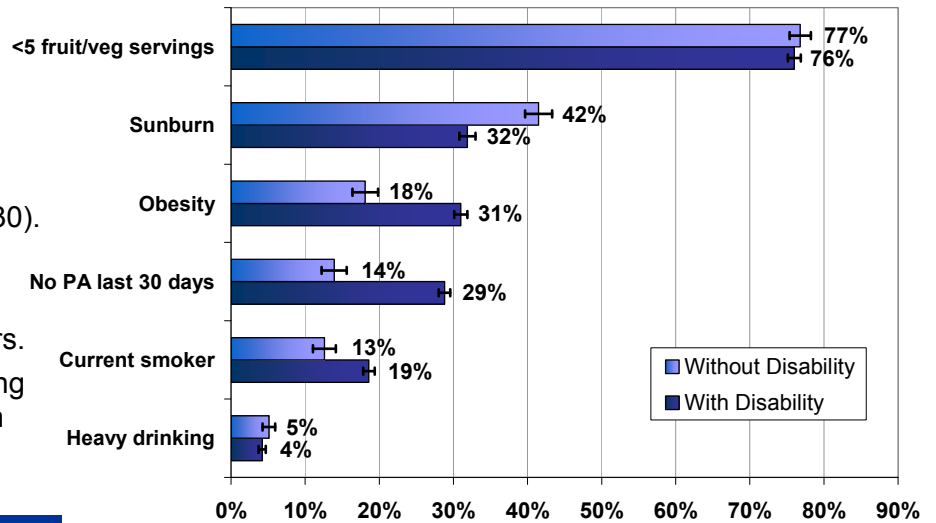
Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Cancer Health Behaviors

Compared to adults without disabilities, people with disabilities:

- Were equally likely to eat five daily servings of fruits and vegetables.
- Were less likely to report sunburn in the past 12 months.
- Were more likely to be obese (BMI \geq 30).
- Were less likely to report any physical activity.
- Were more likely to be current smokers.
- Were less likely to drink alcohol. Among people who drank alcohol, people with and without disabilities were equally likely to drink heavily.

Cancer Risk Factors by Disability, 2004 & 2005



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.

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

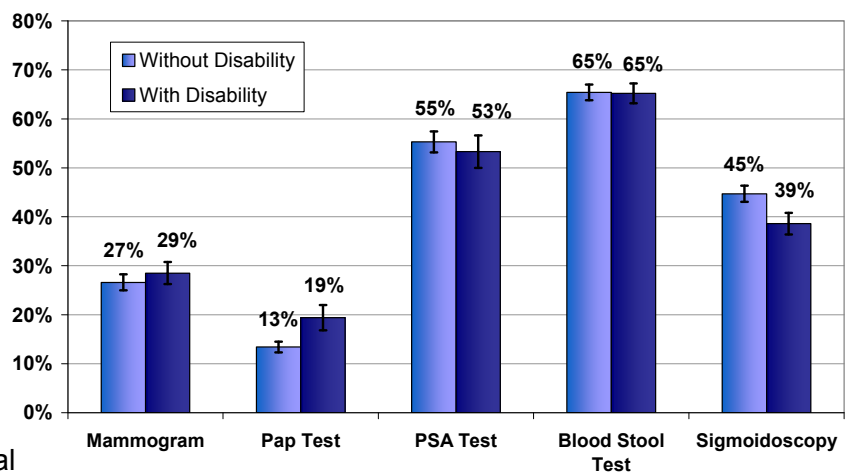
Who Uses Cancer Screening?

Compared to those without disabilities:

- Women with disabilities were less likely to have had a Pap test in past 3 years.
- People with disabilities age 50 years and older were more likely ever to have had a sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy.

However, people with disabilities had similar rates of age-appropriate screening for most cancers. There were no disability-related differences in the rates of mammography, PSA testing, or blood stool testing for colorectal cancer.

Cancer Screening by Disability, 2003 & 2004



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For more information, contact the Washington State Department of Health, Genetic Services Section at: genetics.support@doh.wa.gov

