

# 2015 North Carolina Disability Data Briefing Document

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This summary of data from the North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics' Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) and Child Health Assessment and Monitoring Program (CHAMP) data tables. Also included are BRFSS data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Disability and Health Data System's (DHDS) state profiles.

In the BRFSS, respondents were defined as having a disability if they answered "yes" to either of the two core questions, below. Respondents were defined as not having a disability if they answered "no" to both core questions.

- Are you limited in any way in any activities because of physical, mental or emotional problems?
- Do you now have any health problem that requires you to use special equipment, such as a cane, a wheelchair, a special bed or a special telephone?

BRFSS data includes those ages 18 and older. CHAMP questions are asked of the parent or caregiver of a minor ages 0-17. CHAMP does not define disability as BRFSS does. Instead, the CHAMP data includes 18 questions about "children with special health care needs."\*

\*The Maternal and Child Health Bureau defines children with special health care needs as "those who have or are at increased risk for a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional condition and who also require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally." (<http://mchb.hrsa.gov>) This definition is broad and includes children with disabilities as well as those with medical needs including allergies, asthma, Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder or depression/anxiety.

## 2013 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is a random telephone survey of state residents ages 18 and older in households with telephones. The North Carolina Division of Public Health has participated in the BRFSS since 1987. Through BRFSS, information is collected in a routine, standardized manner at the state level. BRFSS interviews are conducted monthly and data are analyzed annually. The disability questions are below:

A disability can be physical, mental, emotional or communication related. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?	N <sup>^</sup>	Yes, mild	Yes, moderate	Yes, severe	No
	7,754	4.9%	6.5%	7.5%	81.1%

	N <sup>^</sup>	Yes	No
Are you limited in any way in any activities because of physical, mental or emotional problems?	8,766	21.2%	78.8%
Do you now have any health problem that requires you to use special equipment such as a cane, a wheelchair, a special bed or a special telephone?	8,784	9.3%	90.7%
Has your disability lasted or is it expected to last 12 months or longer? (Asked only of those who considered themselves to have a disability.)	1,677	95.8%	4.2%
Are you blind or do you have serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses?*	8,765	5.0%	95.0%
Because of a physical, mental or emotional condition, do you have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering or making decisions?*	8,743	11.7%	88.3%
Do you have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?*	8,743	15.9%	84.1%
Do you have difficulty dressing or bathing?*	8,747	4.7%	95.3%
Because of a physical, mental or emotional condition, do you have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping?*	8,731	7.8%	92.2%
Disability Status**	8,742	23.4%	76.6%

\*These are new disability questions found in the demographic section of the Core questionnaire.

\*\*Disability status (Yes) is defined by an affirmative response to the need for special equipment and/or having an activity limitation due to physical, mental or emotional problems.

### North Carolina Counties and Regions by Disability Status

	N	Adults with disabilities	Adults without disabilities
North Carolina	8,742	23.4%	76.6%
<b>COUNTIES</b>			
Buncombe	283	31.0%	69.0%
Cumberland	381	28.2%	71.8%
Durham	344	17.5%	82.5%
Forsyth	348	21.4%	78.6%
Gaston	309	29.3%	70.7%

	N	Adults with disabilities	Adults without disabilities
<b>NC REGIONS</b>			
Eastern NC	2,653	24.9%	75.1%
Piedmont	5,096	21.0%	79.0%
Western NC	993	29.6%	70.4%

Reference: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Available from: <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/data/brfss/>.

## 2011 Child Health Assessment and Monitoring Program (CHAMP) - Summary

The Child Health Assessment and Monitoring Program (CHAMP) is a survey, conducted in English and Spanish, to measure the health characteristics of children ages 0 through 17. Eligible children for the CHAMP survey are drawn monthly from the NC BRFSS telephone survey of adults, ages 18 and older. All adult respondents with children living in their households are invited to participate in the CHAMP survey. One child is randomly selected from the household and the adult most knowledgeable about the health of the selected child is interviewed in a follow up survey.

### Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN)

	N <sup>^</sup>	Adults with disabilities	Adults without disabilities
Does (CHILD) currently need or use more medical care, mental health or educational services than is usual for most children of the same age?	1,382	11.9%	88.1%
Is (CHILD)'s need for medical care, mental health or educational services because of ANY medical, behavioral or other health condition?	155	80.0%	20.0%
Has (CHILD)'s need for medical care, mental health or educational services lasted or is it expected to last 12 months or longer?	154	87.1%	12.9%
Does (CHILD) currently need or use medicine prescribed by a doctor, other than vitamins?	1390	20.4%	79.6%
Is (CHILD)'s need for prescription medicine because of ANY medical, behavioral or other health condition?	316	88.9%	11.1%
Has (CHILD)'s need for prescription medication lasted or is it expected to last 12 months or longer?	309	82.0%	18.0%
Is (CHILD) limited or prevented in any way in his/her ability to do the things most children of the same age do?	1,387	5.3%	94.7%
Is the limitation in abilities because of ANY medical, behavioral or other health condition?	74	92.4%	7.6%
Has (CHILD)'s limitation in abilities lasted or is it expected to last 12 months or longer?	71	90.0%	10.0%
Does (CHILD) need or get special therapy, such as physical, occupational or speech therapy?	1,389	5.6%	94.4%
Is the need for special therapy because of ANY medical, behavioral or other health condition?	66	65.0%	35.0%
Has (CHILD)'s need for special therapy lasted or is it expected to last 12 months or longer?	61	88.5%	11.5%
Does (CHILD) have any kind of emotional, developmental or behavioral problem for which he/she needs treatment or counseling?	1,386	9.2%	90.8%
Has the emotional, developmental or behavioral problem lasted or is it expected to last 12 months or longer?	111	93.7%	6.3%
Has (CHILD)'s doctor or health care provider ever given you or your child a written plan to help them manage their condition as they become an adult?	196	37.7%	62.3%
Children with Special Health Care Needs based on ONE screening criteria	1,377	8.4%	91.6%
Children with Special Health Care Needs based on TWO screening criteria	1,377	17.8%	82.2%
Children with Special Health Care Needs based on FIVE screening criteria	1,376	20.4%	79.6%

<sup>^</sup>Percentages are weighted to population characteristics and therefore cannot be calculated exactly from the numbers in this table.

Reference: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics. Child Health Assessment and Monitoring Program. [updated December 2013; cited 2014 January]. Available from: <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/data/champ/>.

## The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Disability and Health Data System

Data in the Disability and Health Data System (DHDS) is derived from the BRFSS. Data is from the 2012 survey unless otherwise noted. The following tables provide health information for adults with and without disabilities as well as the disparity.

For example, for “obesity based on body mass index,” 40.3 percent of adults with disabilities were reported as obese, while 25.0 percent of adults without disabilities were reported as obese. Therefore, there was a statistically significant disparity of 15.3 percentage points.

### Disability Status

#### Disability status among age groups

	18-44 year olds	45-64 year olds	65+ year olds
Disability	11.5%	28.7%	35.4%
No disability	88.5%	71.3%	64.6%

#### Disability status among males and females

	Men	Women
Disability	20.2%	21.1%
No disability	79.8%	78.9%

#### Disability status among racial/ethnic groups

	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Other
Disability	21.1%	21.4%	11.7%	DS	DS	30.9%	28.4%
No disability	78.9%	78.6%	88.3%	91.3%	DS	69.1%	71.6%

#### Disability status among veterans and non-veterans

	Veterans	Non-veterans
Disability	26.2%	20.1%
No disability	73.8%	79.9%

## Demographics

		Adults with disabilities	Adults without disabilities	Disparity
Income level	<\$15,000	26.0%	10.7%	15.3
	\$15,000 to <\$25,000	26.9%	19.8%	7.1
	\$25,000 to <\$35,000	11.8%	12.8%	-1.0
	\$35,000 to <\$50,000	11.3%	15.0%	-3.7
	\$50,000+	24.0%	41.8%	-17.8
Education level	Finished some high school or less	22.3%	14.4%	7.9
	Graduated high school	62.1%	59.4%	2.7
	Graduated college	15.7%	26.2%	-10.5
Marital status	Married or a member of an unmarried couple	47.6%	57.3%	-9.7
	Divorced or separated	18.8%	11.6%	7.2
	Widowed	8.3%	5.7%	2.6
	Never married	25.3%	25.4%	-0.1
Employment Status	Employed	33.0%	61.2%	-28.2
	Out of work	12.1%	8.1%	4.0
	Unable to work	28.2%	1.7%	26.5
	Other	26.7%	28.9%	-2.3

## Health Overview

		Adults with disabilities	Adults without disabilities	Disparity
Health risks and behaviors	Drank alcohol in the past 30 days (2012)	37.3%	49.1%	-11.9
	Drove while alcohol-impaired in the past 30 days (2012)	1.4%	1.6%	-0.2
	Binge drank in the past 30 days (2012)	11.3%	14.5%	-3.1
	Always use a seatbelt (2012)	89.1%	90.6%	-1.4
	Ate fruit 1 or more times per day (2011)	57.1%	60.2%	-3.1
	Ate vegetables 1 or more times per day (2011)	75.5%	79.1%	-3.6
	Obese based on body mass index (2012)	40.6%	26.2%	14.4
	At risk for HIV (age 18-64) (2012)	9.2%	4.9%	4.3
	Tested for HIV (age 18-64) (2012)	61.1%	47.9%	13.2
	Sufficient aerobic physical activity (2011)	38.3%	50.2%	-11.9
	Meets both aerobic and muscle strengthening physical activity guidelines (2011)	15.6%	19.9%	-4.3
	Currently smoke cigarettes (2012)	28.8%	19.2%	9.6
	Smokers who attempted to quit in the past 12 months (2012)	59.0%	53.4%	5.7
	Use smokeless tobacco (2012)	5.6%	3.6%	2.0
Prevention and screenings	Clinical breast exam in the past 2 years (age 40+) (2012)	69.1%	81.5%	-12.3
	Mammogram in the past 2 years (age 50-74) (2012)	75.3%	82.7%	-7.4
	Pap test in the past 3 years (age 21-65) (2012)	79.5%	87.9%	-8.4
	Up-to-date with colorectal cancer screening (age 50-75) (2012)	68.6%	67.8%	0.8
	Cholesterol check in the past 5 years (age 20+) (2011)	80.1%	78.2%	1.9
	Routine check-up in the past year (2012)	75.4%	71.7%	3.7
	Teeth cleaned in the past year (2010)	55.1%	71.8%	-16.7
	Visited a dentist in the past year (2012)	56.6%	67.3%	-10.7
	Ever had a pneumonia vaccine (2012)	37.2%	24.2%	13.0
	Received a flu vaccine in the past 12 months (2012)	44.7%	39.6%	5.1
Clinical breast exam in the past 2 years (age 40+) (2012)	69.1%	81.5%	-12.3	

## Health Overview Continued

		Adults with disabilities	Adults without disabilities	Disparity
Barriers and costs of health care	Could not see a doctor due to cost in the past 12 months (2012)	33.9%	16.1%	17.9
	Do not have a personal doctor (2012)	23.0%	26.8%	-3.8
	Have health care coverage (2012)	77.8%	78.3%	-0.5
General health conditions	No days of not getting enough sleep in the past 30 days (2010)	24.5%	36.9%	-12.4
	Ever had a hysterectomy (2012)	28.2%	20.5%	7.7
	Fair or poor self-rated health (2012)	47.9%	10.5%	37.4
	No physically unhealthy days in the past 30 days (2012)	32.3%	76.2%	-44.0
	No activity limitation days in the past 30 days (2012)	47.3%	87.3%	-40.0
	Have heart disease (2012)	12.0%	4.5%	7.6
	Ever had high blood pressure (2011)	43.8%	27.1%	16.7
	Taking medicine for high blood pressure (2011)	81.8%	70.2%	11.6
	Ever had high cholesterol (age 20+) (2011)	47.3%	32.0%	15.2
	No teeth lost due to decay or disease (2012)	39.7%	56.8%	-17.1
Chronic conditions	Ever had arthritis (2012)	50.4%	17.3%	33.1
	Joint pain due to arthritis in the past 30 days (2011)	50.3%	20.0%	30.4
	Social activity limitation due to arthritis in the past 30 days (2011)	36.8%	7.6%	29.2
	Work limitation due to arthritis (age 18-64) (2011)	53.8%	25.1%	28.7
	Currently have asthma (2012)	14.5%	5.9%	8.6
	Ever had asthma (2012)	19.0%	9.9%	9.1
	Ever had cancer (excluding skin cancer) (2012)	10.1%	5.0%	5.2
	Ever had prostate cancer (age 40+) (2010)	5.1%	4.6%	0.5
	Ever had skin cancer (2012)	8.4%	5.9%	2.5
	Have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) (2012)	15.7%	3.7%	12.1
	Have diabetes (2012)	17.0%	7.3%	9.7
	Have kidney disease (2012)	6.3%	1.5%	4.8
	Ever had a stroke (2012)	7.0%	1.5%	5.5
Injuries	Fallen in the past 12 months (age 45+) (2012)	48.0%	17.8%	30.2
	Injury due to a fall in the past 12 months (age 45+) (2012)	44.4%	25.1%	19.3
Mental and emotional health	Ever had depression (2012)	42.3%	11.4%	31.0
	Always or usually get needed social and emotional support (2010)	68.2%	83.8%	-15.6
	Satisfied or very satisfied with life (2010)	83.9%	97.2%	-13.3
	No mentally unhealthy days in the past 30 days (2012)	44.7%	72.6%	-28.0

NA = Data not available.

DS = Data suppressed. Estimates were suppressed if the standard error was  $\geq 3\%$  of the estimate or if the unweighted total population was less than 50.

A p-value is a measure of statistical significance which tells if the probability of an event occurring is due to chance. Generally, a p-value  $< 0.05$  indicates the disparity is statistically significant.

Reference: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Disability and Health Data System (DHDS). [updated February 2013; cited 2014 January 24]. Available from: <http://dhds.cdc.gov>.