

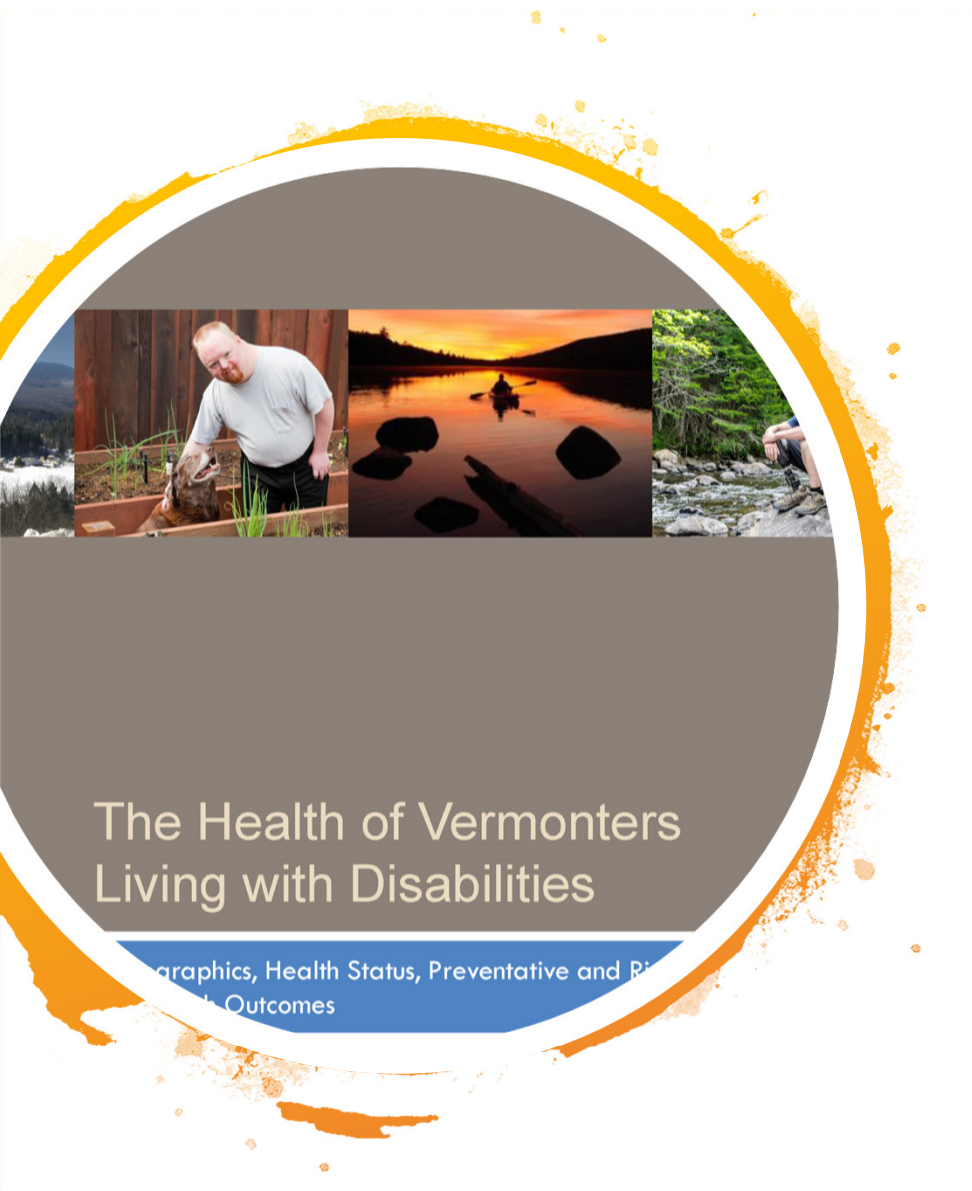
Health Disparities for Vermonters with Disabilities

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Presentation to the Vermont House Committee on Healthcare

February 10, 2021





Short background

- 2016 Inclusive Healthcare Partnership Project, "Removing the Barriers," DD Council & GMSA
- 2017 Core Competency Training for Care Coordinators
- 2017-21 CDC grant awarded to VDH
- 2018 The Health of Vermonters Living with Disabilities

Special Olympics (2015)

On a Team of 10 Athletes...



6 are obese or overweight



4 have obvious tooth decay and 1 needs and urgent referral to a dentist



3 fail a hearing test



4 need glasses and 2 have an eye disease



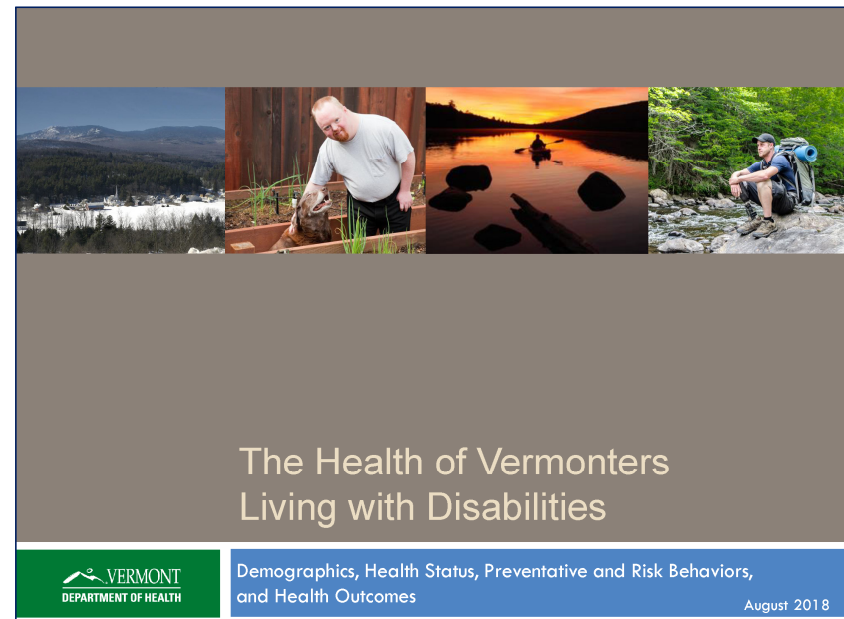
5 have a significant problem with flexibility; 4 with balance.



VT Developmental Disabilities Council

The Health of Vermonters Living with Disabilities

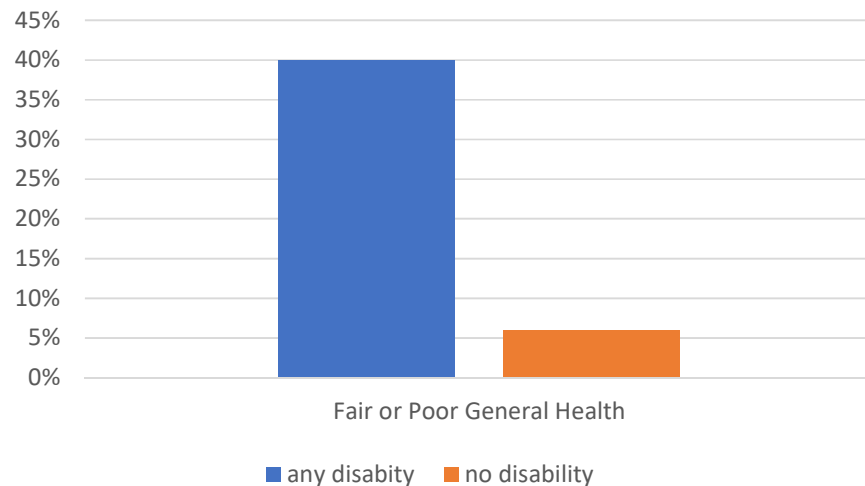
- Data is from the **Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS)**, a telephone survey done every year with 6,000 -7,000 Vermonters.
- “Health disparities” are differences in health-related status, outcomes, behaviors, access, and treatment that have as a root cause, an historic injustice.
- Functional and broad definition of “disability” -- difficulty seeing, hearing, walking, using stairs, getting dressed, focusing, or making choices due to physical, cognitive, or emotional condition.



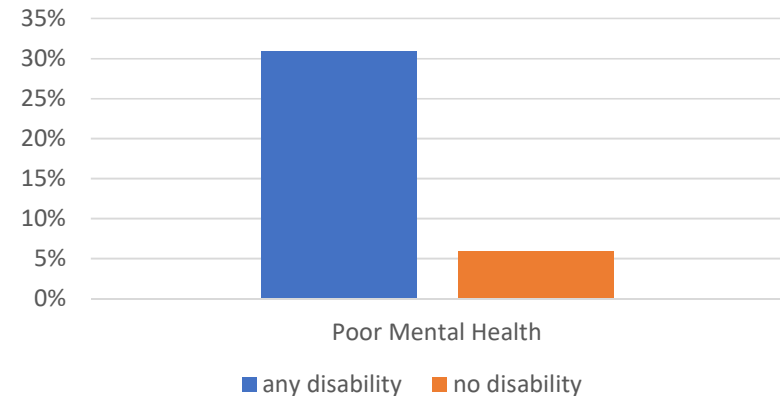
110,000 Vermonters (22% of adults in Vermont)

Key Findings, Health Status

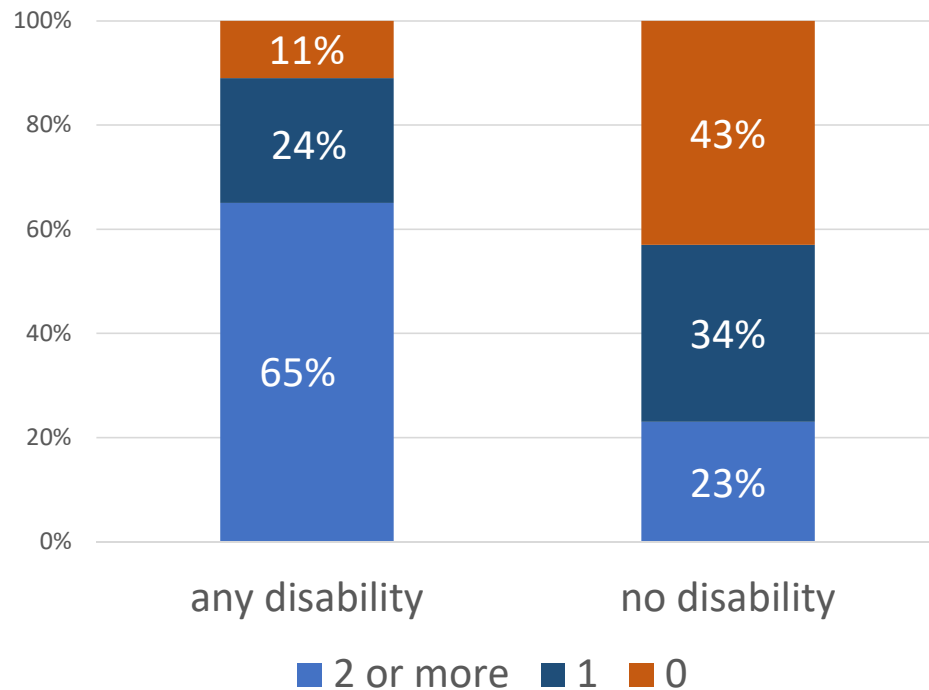
- 4 in 10 adults in Vermont with a disability have fair or poor general health. This is approximately 7x more than adults without a disability



- 1/3 of Vermonters with a report poor mental health.
- 1 in 5 adults with a disability do not get the emotional support they need. This is 3x more than adults without a disability.



Key Findings: Chronic Conditions



- 9 out of 10 adults with a disability have a chronic condition, compared to roughly 6 in 10 without a disability.
- 2 out of 3 adults with a disability have two or more chronic conditions.

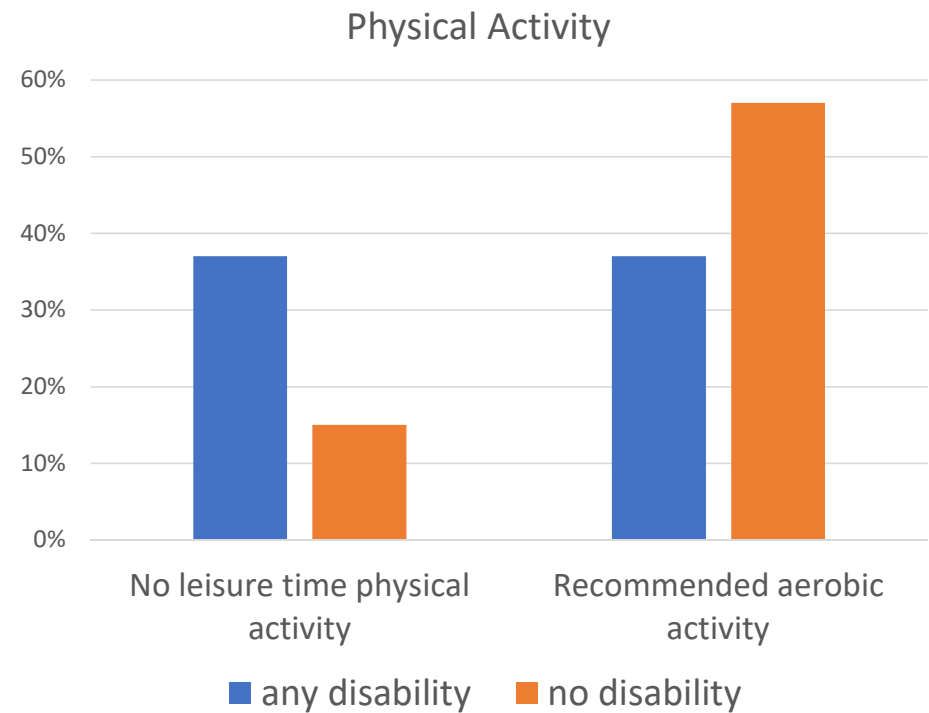
Key Findings: Chronic Conditions

For many chronic conditions, the rate of disease for Vermonters with a disability is approximately 3x that of Vermonters without a disability.

Chronic Disease	Any disability	No disability
Arthritis	53%	21%
Lung Disease (asthma, COPD)	26%	10%
Cancer (other than skin cancer)	15%	6%
Cardiovascular disease	19%	5%
Hypertension	48%	25%
Depressive Disorder	45%	16%
Diabetes	18%	6%
Obese & Overweight	69%	60%

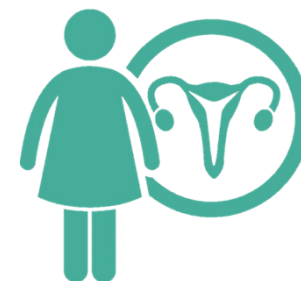
Key Findings, Prevention

- Adults with a disability are less likely to meet physical activity recommendations.



Key Findings, Prevention

- Three-quarters of women with a disability age 21 to 65 meet cervical cancer screening recommendations.
- Seven in ten (72%) women with a disability ages 50-74 are up-to-date on breast cancer screening.
- Two in three Vermont adults ages 50 to 75 with a disability are up-to-date on colorectal cancer screening recommendations.





Key Findings, Risk Factors

- Adults with a disability are 3x as likely to smoke cigarettes and 2x as likely to use marijuana than adults with no disability.

*Of all the
forms of
inequality,
injustice in
healthcare is
the most
shocking and
inhuman.*

-- Martin Luther King, Jr.

