

# Chronic Conditions among Adults with Disability in South Carolina 2019

## Adults with Disability in South Carolina

People with disability are identified as a possible health disparity group; therefore, to reduce these disparities, it is important to understand the health status of those with and without disability. The data presented here are from the 2017 South Carolina (SC) Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). More details about SC BRFSS data and the definition of disability can be found on the back under 'Data Details.'

A table comparing the demographics of adults with and without disability in SC is given below.

**Table 1. Demographic differences between adults in SC with and without disability (2017 SC BRFSS); % ± 95% confidence limit**

	WITH DISABILITY	WITHOUT DISABILITY
Prevalence	28.0 ± 1.1	72.0 ± 1.1
<b>Age</b>		
<65	<b>65.7 ± 1.9</b>	<b>82.4 ± 0.9</b>
65+	<b>34.3 ± 1.9</b>	<b>17.6 ± 0.9</b>
<b>Race/ethnicity*</b>		
NHW	66.1 ± 2.3	67.1 ± 1.6
NHB	26.6 ± 2.1	24.3 ± 1.4
Hispanic	3.7 ± 1.1	5.5 ± 0.9
NHO	3.6 ± 0.8	3.1 ± 0.5
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	<b>45.0 ± 2.3</b>	<b>49.1 ± 1.6</b>
Female	<b>55.0 ± 2.3</b>	<b>50.9 ± 1.6</b>
<b>Educational attainment</b>		
≤High school	<b>56.2 ± 2.3</b>	<b>39.3 ± 1.6</b>
>High school	<b>43.8 ± 2.3</b>	<b>60.7 ± 1.6</b>
<b>Annual household income</b>		
<\$50K	<b>77.6 ± 2.1</b>	<b>48.3 ± 1.8</b>
\$50K+	<b>22.4 ± 2.1</b>	<b>51.7 ± 1.8</b>

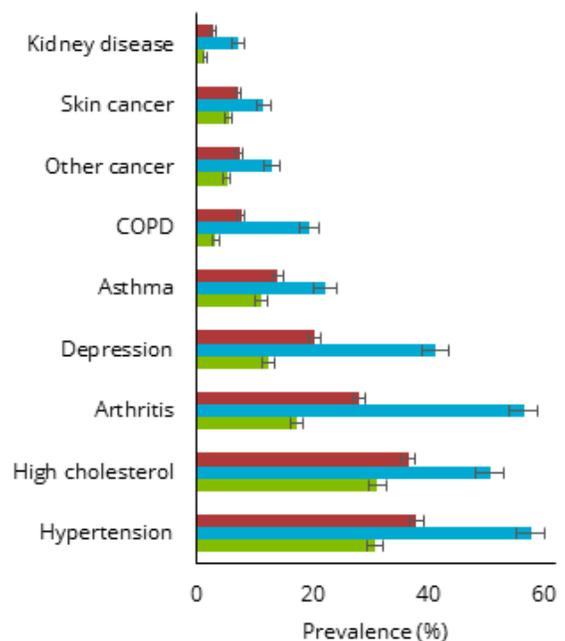
Bold: significantly different; \*NHW: Non-Hispanic White; NHB: Non-Hispanic Black; NHO: Non-Hispanic Other, includes multi-racial

Among adults with disability in SC in 2017, there was a significantly higher prevalence of older adults, females, those with low educational attainment, and those with low annual household income, when compared to those without disability (Table 1).

## Chronic Conditions and Disability in South Carolina

Chronic conditions, like cancer and heart disease, are the leading causes of disability and mortality in the nation, and they affect almost two-thirds of Americans.<sup>1</sup> Figure 1 shows the prevalence in diagnoses of various chronic conditions among those with and without disability in SC. These data are limited, because we do not know which came first, the disability or the chronic condition. Additionally, these data are self-reported, so there could be additional people who have these conditions but not know it, which would underestimate the prevalence results. Finally, the groups are not mutually exclusive because an individual may have more than one of these chronic conditions.

**Figure 1. The prevalence of chronic conditions among all adults and those with or without disability in SC (error bar: 95% confidence limit; COPD: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)**



In SC, compared to those without disability, those with disability had a significantly higher prevalence of having ever been diagnosed with kidney disease, skin cancer, other cancer, asthma, depression, arthritis, high cholesterol, and hypertension in 2017 (Figure 1).

After accounting for the demographic differences listed in Table 1, significant differences remained between the odds of people with and without disability of having ever been diagnosed with these chronic conditions. Compared to those without disability, those with disability had:

- 280% higher odds of having ever been diagnosed with kidney disease.
- 60% higher odds of having ever been diagnosed with skin cancer.
- 80% higher odds of having ever been diagnosed with a cancer other than skin cancer.
- 310% higher odds of having ever been diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.
- 140% higher odds of having ever been diagnosed with asthma.
- 410% higher odds of having ever been diagnosed with depression.
- 340% higher odds of having ever been diagnosed with arthritis.
- 60% higher odds of having ever been diagnosed with high cholesterol.

## Managing Chronic Conditions

Chronic conditions can be successfully managed through medication and/or maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides information about how to manage chronic conditions via self-management education programs. For more information, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/learnmorefeelbetter/programs/general.htm>. Consult with your healthcare provider about what is right for you and your condition(s).



## Data Details

The SC BRFSS is administered by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. It is a random digit-dialing, telephone-based survey of non-institutionalized adults (ages 18+) in the state. It is funded through a cooperative agreement with CDC. For more information, visit [cdc.gov/brfss](http://cdc.gov/brfss).

The 2017 SC BRFSS survey includes six questions relating to disability:

- Are you deaf or do you have serious difficulty hearing?
- Are you blind or do you have serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses?
- Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?
- Do you have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?
- Do you have difficulty dressing or bathing?
- Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping?

For this report, the criteria to determine disability status is as follows:

- Individual with disability: They answered "Yes" to any one of the six questions.
- Individual without disability: They answered "No" to 4 questions and had 2 missing responses; "No" to 5 questions and had 1 missing response; or "No" to all 6 questions.
- Individual excluded from analysis, disability status undetermined: 3 or more questions were missing a response.

## References

1. National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. CDC. Accessed 25 Jun 2019. [URL: <https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/index.htm>].

## For more information about SC BRFSS

visit <https://scdhec.gov/health/sc-public-health-statistics-maps/behavioral-risk-factor-surveys>