Montana Disability and Health Data Resource Guide

Contents

Purpose

The purpose of the Montana Disability & Health (MTDH) Data Resource Guide is to provide public health professionals in Montana with a resource to strengthen disability representation in their perspective data and media efforts.

Resource Audience

The MTDH Data Resource Guide provides insights to help inform the healthcare needs of Montanans with disabilities. The goal is to build data capacity among valuable partners to help turn data into action.

Perspectives & Prioritizing:
Knowledge and expertise for public health professionals to better serve all people with disability.

Decision Makers:
Resources to help inform decision-makers.

Media & Communication:
Resources to empower community voices to improve communication and representation.

Data Policy

Improving Disability Representation in Data

Expanding and improving the collection, reporting and analysis of standardized disability data across health systems is vital to understand and improve the current health status and outcomes of people with disabilities. Data itself is critical for public health planning and equitable allocation of resources.

- Data should be able to be disaggregated by disability, just like age, gender, ethnicity, etc.
- Diverse data sources are important to look at intersectional disparities for people with disabilities.
- Funding mechanisms for disability data collection for deeper understanding of needs around disability data and how to best measure disability disparities based on input from community experts and people with lived experiences.

Source: [Improved State-Level Disability Data Are Necessary For Advancing Health Equity | Health Affairs](#)

Additional information: [Better Defining Disability Will Make Data More Inclusive and Usable | ASTHO](#)

Data Collection Standards

American Community Survey (ACS) has six Yes or No questions that assess functioning, called ACS-6.   A "yes" response to any of these questions indicates a disability for the purposes of the ACS. The ACS-6 is used to assess disability as a core demographic.

1. Are you deaf, or do you have serious difficulty hearing?

2. Are you blind, or do you have serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses?

3. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions? (5 years old or older)

4. Do you have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs? (5 years old or older)

5. Do you have difficulty dressing or bathing? (5 years old or older)

6. Because of a physical, mental or emotional condition, do you have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping? (15 years old or older)

[Disability | American Community Survey | U.S. Census Bureau](#)

DPHHS Programs Amplifying Disability Representation in Data

- The Montana Diabetes Prevention Program uses the ACS-6 in their intake process.
- The Montana Cardiovascular Health Program requested data from MTDH on adults with disability for program planning activities.
- The Montana Tobacco Use Prevention Program uses the ACS-6 questions in the Quit Now Montana intake process.

Data Sources

Primary Data

- **Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey:** The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) survey collects prevalence data regarding health-related risk behaviors, chronic health conditions, and the use of preventive services. Includes ACS-6 questions. (**State, County Level**)
    - Montana Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
    - Montana BRFSS Surveillance Reports
    - BRFSS Data Users Guide on Disability Questions: https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/data_documentation/pdf/BRFSS_Data_Users_Guide_on_Disability_Questions_2018-508.pdf
- **U.S. Census Bureau - American Community Survey (ACS):** Includes ACS-6 questions. (**State, County, City Level**)
    - S1810: Disability Characteristics - Census Bureau Table
    - Guidance for Disability Data Users
    - Montana - Census Bureau Search
    - Disability - Census Bureau Search
- **National Core Indicators - Intellectual and Development Disabilities:** The NCI-IDD In-Person Survey is completed with adults with IDD age 18 and older receiving at least one paid service (in addition to case management) from the state DD service system. (**State Level**)
    - NCI-IDD - National Core Indicators People Driven Data
    - How To Use Data - NCI-IDD
    - Montana 2022-2023 Report: MT-22-23-NCI-IDD-State-Report.pdf
    - Adult Family Survey (AFS) 2023-24 Montana Report
- **Vital Statistics:** Consists of six vital events that are required to be reported and maintained by law; live births, deaths, fetal deaths, induced abortions, marriages, and divorces. Includes: births and disability, and do parents have disability vs. does the child have disability. Vital Statistics Unit (**State Level**)

Montana Dashboards

Montana Community Health Insights: Disability among adults, 2023, by County, under Social Determinants of Health button. Community Health Insights

Montana State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System: SUDORS-Dashboard

Montana Medicaid Enrollment Dashboard: Categories included are blind and disabled adults, blind and disabled children, and all blind and disabled total. Montana Medicaid Enrollment Dashboard

Disability Data Resources

Disability and Health Data System (DHDS): is an online source of state-level data on adults with disabilities. Users can access information on six functional disability types, and more than 30 health topics among adults with or without disabilities, including smoking, obesity, heart disease, and diabetes. Users can customize data maps, charts, and tables, to see information about their state or region. They can identify health differences between adults with and without disabilities overall, and by age, sex, and race/ethnicity. Disability and Health Data System (DHDS) | Disability and Health Data System (DHDS) | CDC

University of Montana Disability Counts - Data Lookup Tool: County level disability estimates from the American Community Survey (ACS) and institutional population counts from the 2020 Decennial Census. The data provided in this lookup is from the 2018-2022 5-year American Community Survey, the 2020 Decennial Census, and the 2020 OMB Metropolitan-Micropolitan Statistical Areas delineation files. Disability Counts - An RTC: Rural Product

PLACES Local Data for Better Health: PLACES Online Data Tools | PLACES | CDC

Disability Statistics: Create and save maps, charts, and tables of national, state, and local disability statistics. Disability Statistics | Northeast ADA Center

National Center for Health Statistics*:* Includes disability and risk factors. FastStats - Homepage

Disability and Health Data Now: Disability and Health Data Now | Disability and Health | CDC

National Survey on Health and Disability (NSHD): NSHD | Institute for Health and Disability Policy Studies

Tobacco Control Resource Library – Disability Section: Disability – Tobacco Resources

CDC WONDER: CDC WONDER

Kaiser Family Foundation: State Health Facts: Indicator categories include ACA, COVID-19, demographics and economy, providers, Medicaid, health status, health costs, and more. Under health status, indicators include disability among total population and among working adults. State Health Facts | KFF

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps: Annual data of how health is influenced by where we live, learn, work, and play. Health Data | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

Secondary Data

- Kids Count: Montana: Fourth grade public school students who scored below the proficient level in reading, as measured and defined by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), by students' disability status.
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: Labor market information for the nation with disability as a demographic. Disability as a demographic is not included in state level labor market information.
- National Center for Education Statistics: Students ages 3-21 with disability.
- Montana Healthcare Foundation Medicaid in Montana Report: 2024-Medicaid-in-Montana-Annual-Report_FINAL-2.pdf
- Local and regional media reports that have stories that impact your communities
- Regional and county level data at local libraries or chambers of commerce

Community Health Assessments

People with disability have representation in State and County health assessments and health improvement plans as a priority population.

- **Montana Local Plans Database - Identifying health concerns within each jurisdiction:** MT DPHHS - Dashboard
- **2024 Montana State Health Assessment:** A Healthier Montana

County Engagement

- **University of Montana Rural Institute County Profiles (Outdated):** Created to help counties plan for emergency preparedness. Montana County Profiles – Montana Disability and Health Program
- County Profiles available on request. Contact Us

Disability Definitions

Disability and Health Overview: [Disability and Health Overview | Disability and Health | CDC](#)

Health Definitions: Functional limitations can be used in lieu of disability. [Sources and Definitions - Health, United States](#)

Disability Defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act: [How is Disability Defined in the Americans With Disabilities Act? | ADA National Network](#)

Representation of People with Disabilities in Media

Media Resources

- U.S. Census: America Counts: America Counts: Stories About Disability
- Plain Language Resources: Plain Language Materials & Resources | Health Literacy | CDC
- Center for Disability Rights: Disability Writing & Journalism Guidelines – Center for Disability Rights
- All I Want is Better Disability Representation: All I Want is Better Disability Representation | Easterseals Disability & Community Services
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Disabled sportsmen images for use.

DPHHS Programs Amplifying Disability Representation in Media

- The Montana Nutrition and Physical Activity Program (NAPA) uses social media with representation of people with disabilities.
- The Montana Tobacco Use Prevention Program (MTUPP) aired an ad featuring a Montana woman with a hearing impairment who shared her positive experience quitting smoking through Quit Now Montana. The ad was aired on TV and Facebook. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_jwjAj8Ol20

Key Findings

MTDH Disability & Health Data Website

- [Disability & Health Data](#)

MTDH Program

- Disability and Health Among Montana Adults: [MT-Disability-and-Health-Fact-Sheet-01.2023.pdf](#)

MTDH with the Rocky Mountain Tribal Epidemiology Center

- [Disability and Health Factsheet: American Indian Adults in Montana, 2016-2020](#)

MTDH with Montana Falls Prevention Program

- Falls Among Montanans with Disabilities: [Fall Prevention](#)
- Falls Among Montanans with Chronic Conditions and Disabilities: [Falls Prevention](#)
- Falls Among Montanans with Disabilities Infographic: [Falls Prevention: Montanans with a Disability](#)

From Montana Diabetes Program

- [Diabetes in Montana among people living with disabilities](#)

From Montana BRFFS

- [Changes in Severe Psychological Distress (SPD) Among Montana Adults From 2012-2021](#)

From Montana Cancer Control Program

- Montana Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan, 2022 – 2026: Cancer among people with disabilities on Pages 19-21. [Montana Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan 2022-2026, Public Health in the 406, Montana Cancer Control Programs](#)

Contact Information

Dyani Bingham, Program Evaluator

Montana Disability and Health Program

dyani.bingham@mt.gov