

# Disability Among Mississippi Adults in 2020

The Mississippi Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is conducted annually to monitor the prevalence of behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of morbidity and mortality among adults in our state. The 2020 Mississippi BRFSS was completed by 6,479 Mississippians aged 18 years or older.

## About Disability

- Among adults in the United States, the age-adjusted prevalence of having **any disability** was **24.8%** in 2020.<sup>1</sup>
- The most commonly reported disabilities among adults in the U.S. are **mobility** (11.1%) and **cognitive** disabilities (10.9%).<sup>1</sup>
- Individuals with a disability have a **higher rate of not being able to see a doctor** in the past 12 months due to cost (21.6%) compared to adults without disability (8.2%).<sup>1</sup>

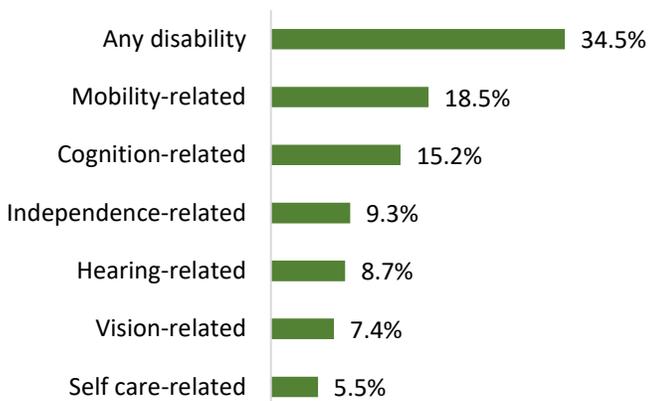
## Disability in Mississippi in 2020

- Approximately 1 in 3 adults (**34.5%**) had a disability.<sup>2</sup> (Figure 1)
- The percentage of having a disability was **higher among female respondents** (36.1%) compared to male respondents (32.7%), though the difference was not statistically significant.<sup>2</sup> (Figure 2)
- The percentage of having a disability was **higher among White respondents** (35.6%) compared to Black (33.0%) and Other race (32.7%) respondents, although the difference was not statistically significant.<sup>2</sup> (Figure 3)
- The percentage of having a disability was **highest among White females** (37.5%) and **Other race males** (36.0%\*); however, there were no statistically significant differences among the race/gender groups.<sup>2</sup> (Figure 4)

## Definitions

- A respondent is considered to have a **disability** if they answered “yes” to any of six (6) questions related to hearing, vision, cognition, mobility, self-care, and independent living.<sup>2,3</sup>
- In this report, “**Other Race**” refers to adults who reported their race/ethnicity as anything other than White or Black Non-Hispanic or any race and Hispanic.
- The difference between two estimates is considered **statistically significant** (also stated as “significantly higher/lower” or “significant” in this fact sheet) if the 95% confidence intervals do not overlap.

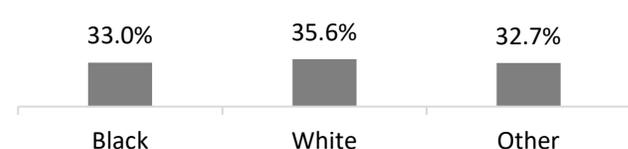
**Figure 1. Percent of Respondents Who Reported Each Disability Category, MS, 2020**



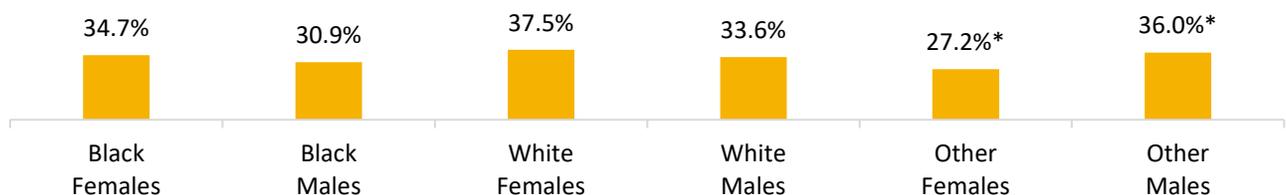
**Figure 2. Percent of Respondents with a Disability by Gender, MS, 2020**



**Figure 3. Percent of Respondents with a Disability by Race, MS, 2020**



**Figure 4. Percent of Respondents with a Disability by Race & Gender, 2020**



**Note:** In the 2020 MS BRFSS, the numbers of responses for individual races and ethnicities contained in the “Other Races” demographic group were too low to allow for meaningful estimates. To request additional race/ethnicity data, please [submit a data request using MSDH's online form](#).

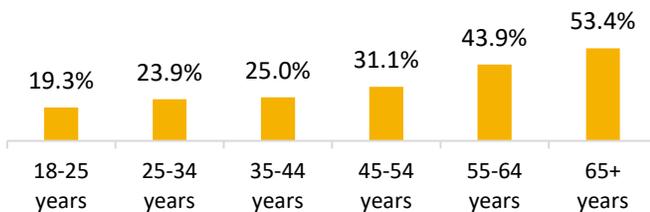
\*This estimate is based on a cell size of less than 50. Use caution when interpreting and comparing this estimate.

# Disability Among Mississippi Adults in 2020

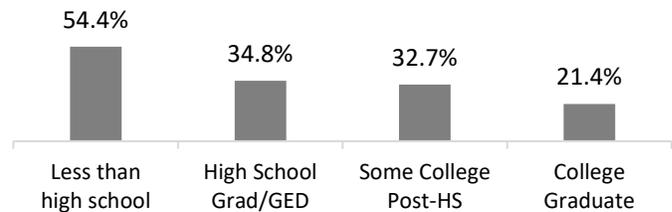
## Disability in Mississippi in 2020 (continued)

- The percentage of having a disability increased with age and was significantly **higher** among respondents **aged 65 years and older** (53.4%) compared to respondents in all younger age groups.<sup>2</sup> (Figure 5)
- The percentage of having a disability increased as education level decreased. Disability was significantly **higher** among adults who have **not completed a high school education** (54.4%) compared to respondents with higher levels of educational attainment.<sup>2</sup> (Figure 6)
- The percentage of having a disability increased as annual household income decreased. Disability was significantly **higher** among adults with an annual household **income of less than \$15,000** (62.4%) compared to respondents with higher annual household incomes.<sup>2</sup> (Figure 7)

**Figure 5. Percent of Respondents with a Disability by Age, MS, 2020**



**Figure 6. Percent of Respondents with a Disability by Education, MS, 2020**



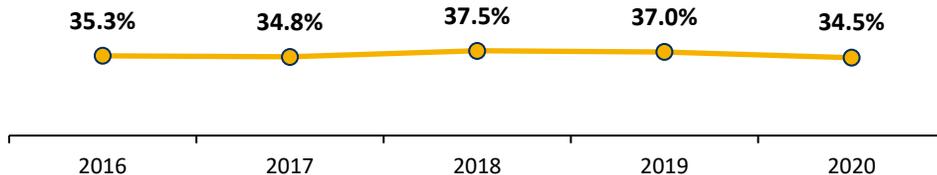
**Figure 7. Percent of Respondents with a Disability by Annual Household Income, MS, 2020**



## Disability Trends in Mississippi

- There was **no significant change** in the percentage of adults who had a disability in 2016 (35.3%) compared to 2020 (34.5%).<sup>2</sup> (Figure 8)

**Figure 8. 2016-2020 Trend of Disability Among Adults in Mississippi**



### Note

Disability data were collected in the BRFSS prior to 2016, but data did not include all 6 disability questions that were included from 2016 to 2020.<sup>3</sup>

### References

- 1) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (n.d.). *Disability and Health Data System (DHDS)*. Retrieved 8-9-2022, from <https://dhds.cdc.gov/>
- 2) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2022, May 4). *Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System*. Retrieved 5-12-2022, from <https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/index.html>
- 3) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2018, July). *A data user's guide to the disability questions included in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System*. Retrieved 7-19-2022, from [https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/data\\_documentation/pdf/BRFSS\\_Data\\_Users\\_Guide\\_on\\_Disability\\_Questions\\_2018-508.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/data_documentation/pdf/BRFSS_Data_Users_Guide_on_Disability_Questions_2018-508.pdf)

### For More Information, Contact:

Mississippi State Department of Health  
Office of Health Data and Research: (601) 576-8165