

Disability and Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults 18-64 Years of Age in 2006



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Center for Health Data and Analysis
Office of Special Healthcare Needs

Introduction

This report presents data on the demographics, health status, health risk behaviors, and health care access and utilization among Rhode Island adults with and without disabilities. It is based on data from Rhode Island's 2006 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

About the BRFSS: The BRFSS is a telephone survey administered in all 50 states and 4 U.S. territories with funding and specifications from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The BRFSS monitors behavioral health risks that contribute to the leading causes of disease and death among adults 18 years and older in the United States. It also monitors access to health care and certain health conditions. Rhode Island has participated in the BRFSS since 1984.

Rhode Island's 2006 BRFSS: From January through December 2006, the Rhode Island BRFSS conducted random-digit dialed telephone interviews with 4,515 RI non-institutionalized adults 18 and older. Among them, 3,204 were 18-64 years of age. The interviews were conducted by a professional survey organization under contract to the Rhode Island Department of Health.

In this Report: Respondents were defined as having a disability if they answered "yes" to either one or both of the following two questions: "Are you limited in any way in any activities because of physical, mental, or emotional problems?" and "Do you now have any health problem that requires you to use special equipment?" This report presents disability rates by demographic subgroups (Figure 1) and data for 28 health indicators by disability status (Figures 2 and 3) among RI adults 18-64 years of age. "Error" bars represent the 95% confidence limits around the values calculated from the sample data.

Highlights

- ❖ Nearly one in five (18%) Rhode Island adults 18-64 years of age had a disability in 2006. The prevalence of disability increased with age, ranging from 10% for young adults aged 18-24 to 26% for those aged 45-64. The disability rate was also higher among: adults with high school or less education (22%), in households with annual incomes less than \$25K (37%), those who were widowed (35%), and those who reported they were unable to work (86%). (Fig. 1)
- ❖ Rhode Island adults with disabilities, compared with those without disabilities, much more often reported poor or fair general health (37% vs. 6%), poor physical health (33% vs. 4%), poor mental health (29% vs. 7%), an anxiety disorder (33% v. 10%), a depressive disorder (44% vs. 13%), diabetes (13% vs. 4%), and asthma (22% vs. 9%). They also more often reported insufficient social or emotional support (33% vs. 16%) and dissatisfaction with life (18% vs. 3%). (Fig. 2)
- ❖ Adults with disabilities were more likely than adults without disabilities to be obese (32% vs. 19%), to be sedentary (37% vs. 19%), to be a current smoker (29% vs. 20%), to not wear a seatbelt when driving or riding in a car (28% vs. 22%), and to not be in the labor force (45% vs. 17%). (Fig. 3)
- ❖ Although uninsured rates are similar for adults with and without disabilities (11% vs. 10%), adults with disabilities were much more likely to report they could not see a doctor when they needed to due to cost (23% vs. 9%). They were also more likely to report not having had a dentist visit in the past year (28% vs. 18%). (Fig. 3)

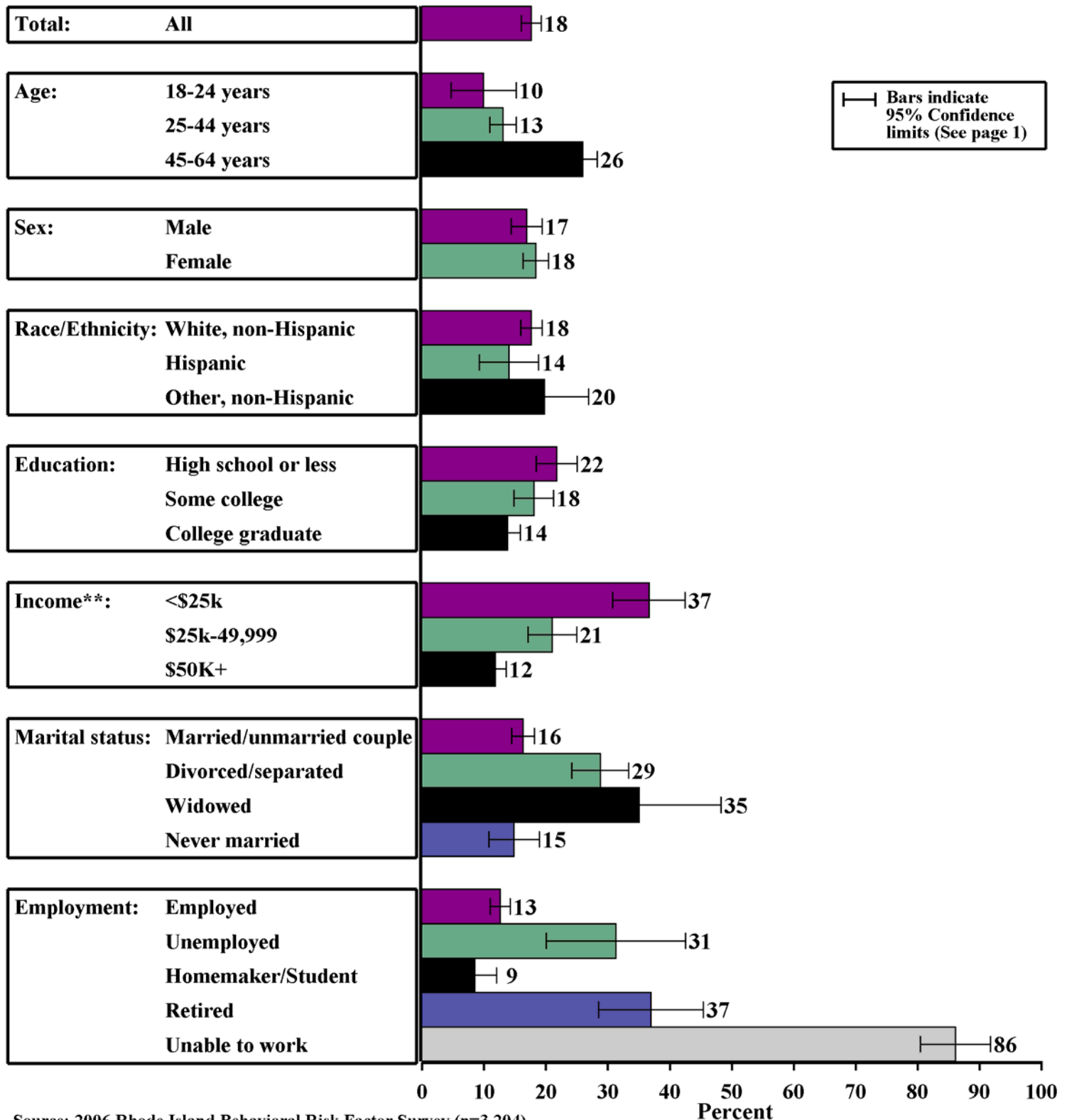
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For further information: For the Office of Special Healthcare Needs go to <http://www.health.ri.gov/family/specialneeds/index.php>; for the BRFSS go to <http://www.health.ri.gov/chic/statistics/brfss.php>, <http://www.health.ri.gov/webquery/index.html>, <http://www.cdc.gov/brfss>, or contact the Center for Health Data and Analysis, RI Department of Health (401-222-2550).

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Figure 1

Disability* Among Rhode Island Adults (Ages 18 - 64) within demographic subgroups -- 2006



Source: 2006 Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (n=3,204)

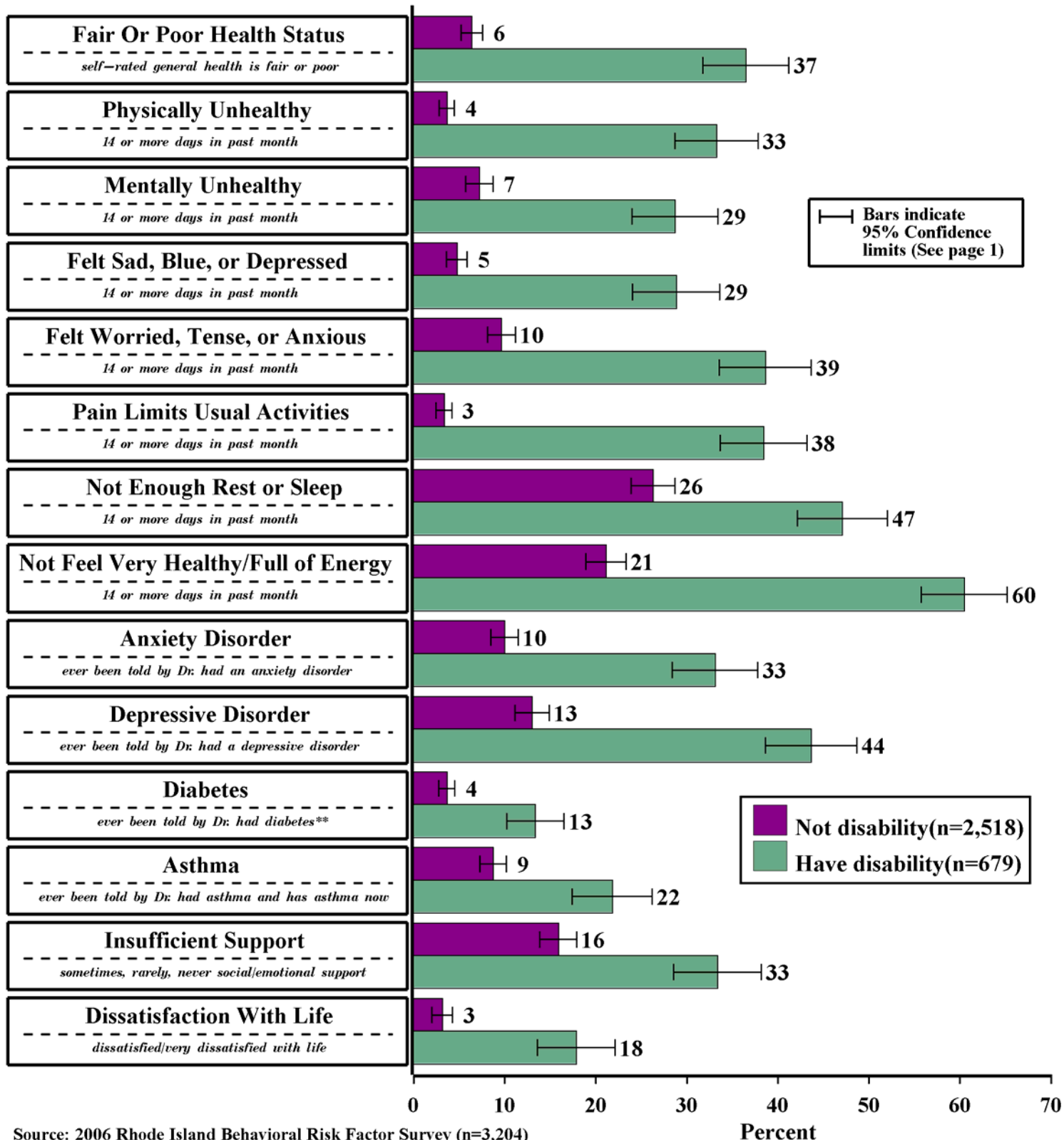
* Disability: limited in any way in any activity or using special equipment

** Annual household

Figure 2

Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults

(Ages 18 - 64) by disability* -- 2006



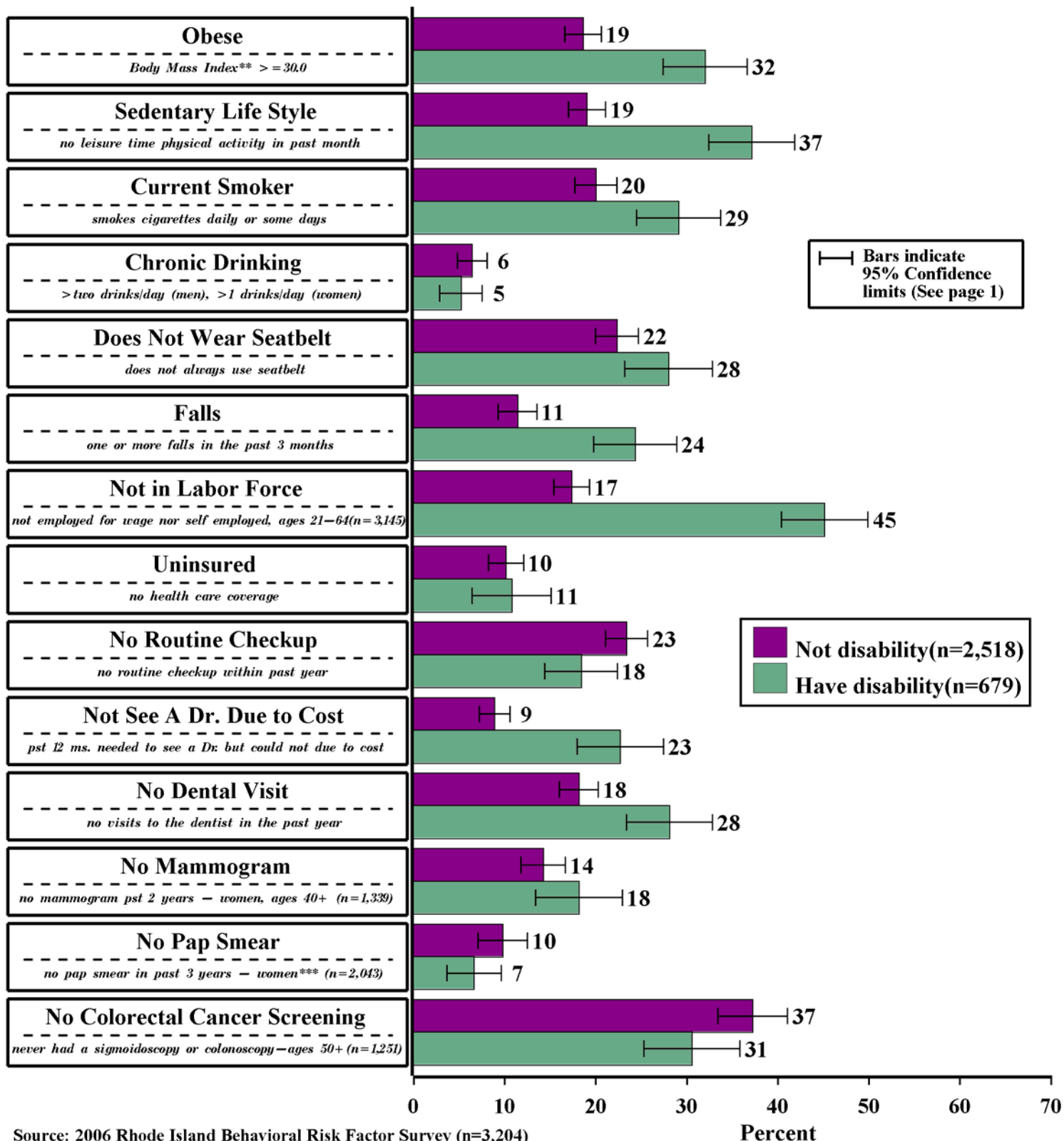
Source: 2006 Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (n=3,204)

* Disability: limited in any way in any activity or using special equipment

** Other than during pregnancy

Figure 3

Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults (Ages 18 - 64) by disability* -- 2006



Source: 2006 Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (n=3,204)
 * Disability: limited in any way in any activity or using special equipment
 ** Body Mass Index = weight in kilograms / (height in meters)²
 *** Excludes women who have had a hysterectomy