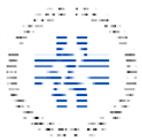


# Disability and Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults 18-64 Years of Age in 2008



Rhode Island Department of Health  
Center for Health Data and Analysis & Office of Special Healthcare Needs  
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## 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 2008 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 2008 BRFSS:** From January through December 2008, the Rhode Island BRFSS conducted random-digit dialed telephone interviews with 4,786 RI non-institutionalized adults 18 and older. Among them, 3,297 were 18-64 years of age. The interviews were conducted by a professional survey organization under contract to the Rhode Island Department of Health.

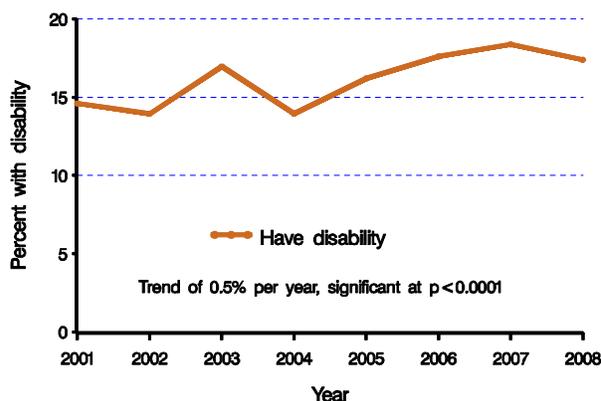
**In this Report:** Respondents were defined as having a disability if they answered "yes" to either one or both of the following two questions: "Are you limited in any way in any activities because of physical, mental, or emotional problems?" and "Do you now have any health problem that requires you 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.

**Acknowledgements:** The RI BRFSS is funded in part by the Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Programs Cooperative Agreement #U58/CCU122791 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**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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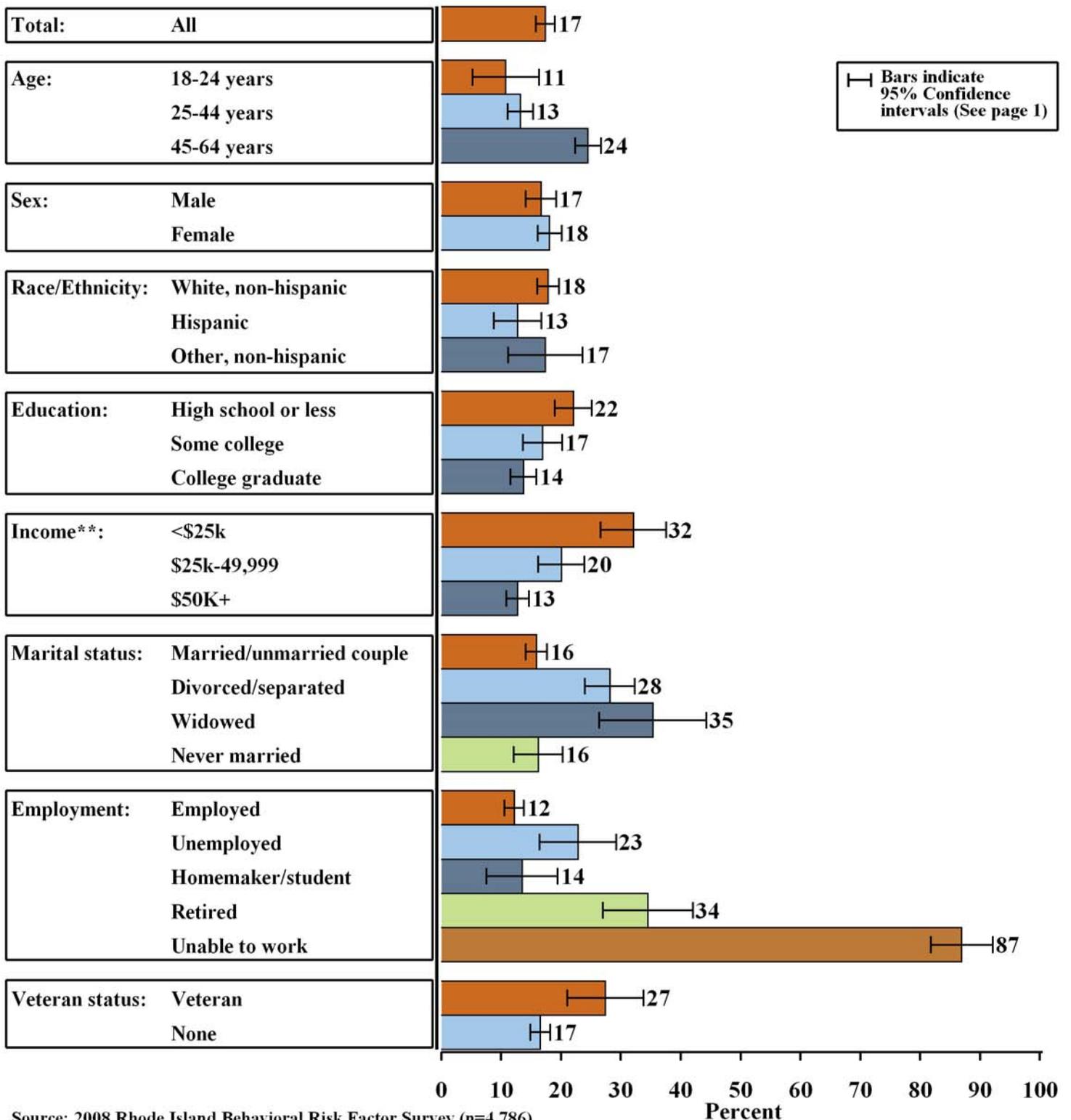
## Highlights



- ❖ Over one in six (17%) Rhode Island adults 18-64 years of age had a disability in 2008. The prevalence of disability increased with age, ranging from 11% for young adults aged 18-24 to 24% for those aged 45-64. The disability rate was also higher among: adults with high school or less education (22%), those in households with annual incomes less than \$25K (32%), those who were widowed (35%), those who reported they were unable to work (87%), and veterans (27%). (Fig. 1)
- ❖ Rhode Island adults with disabilities, compared with those without disabilities, were just as likely to have health insurance, receive routine health and dental checkups, and participate in preventative medicine (i.e., mammograms, pap smears, colorectal screening and flu shots). They were, however, more likely to have diabetes, asthma, coronary heart disease, untreated dental decay, and not to see a doctor due to the cost. (Fig. 2)
- ❖ Adults with disabilities were more likely than adults without disabilities to be in poor health status, mentally and physically unhealthy, have insufficient support, and report dissatisfaction with life. They were more likely to be obese, smoking, sedentary, and unemployed. (Fig. 3)

# Figure 1

## Disability\* Among Rhode Island Adults (Ages 18 - 64) within demographic subgroups -- 2008



Source: 2008 Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (n=4,786)

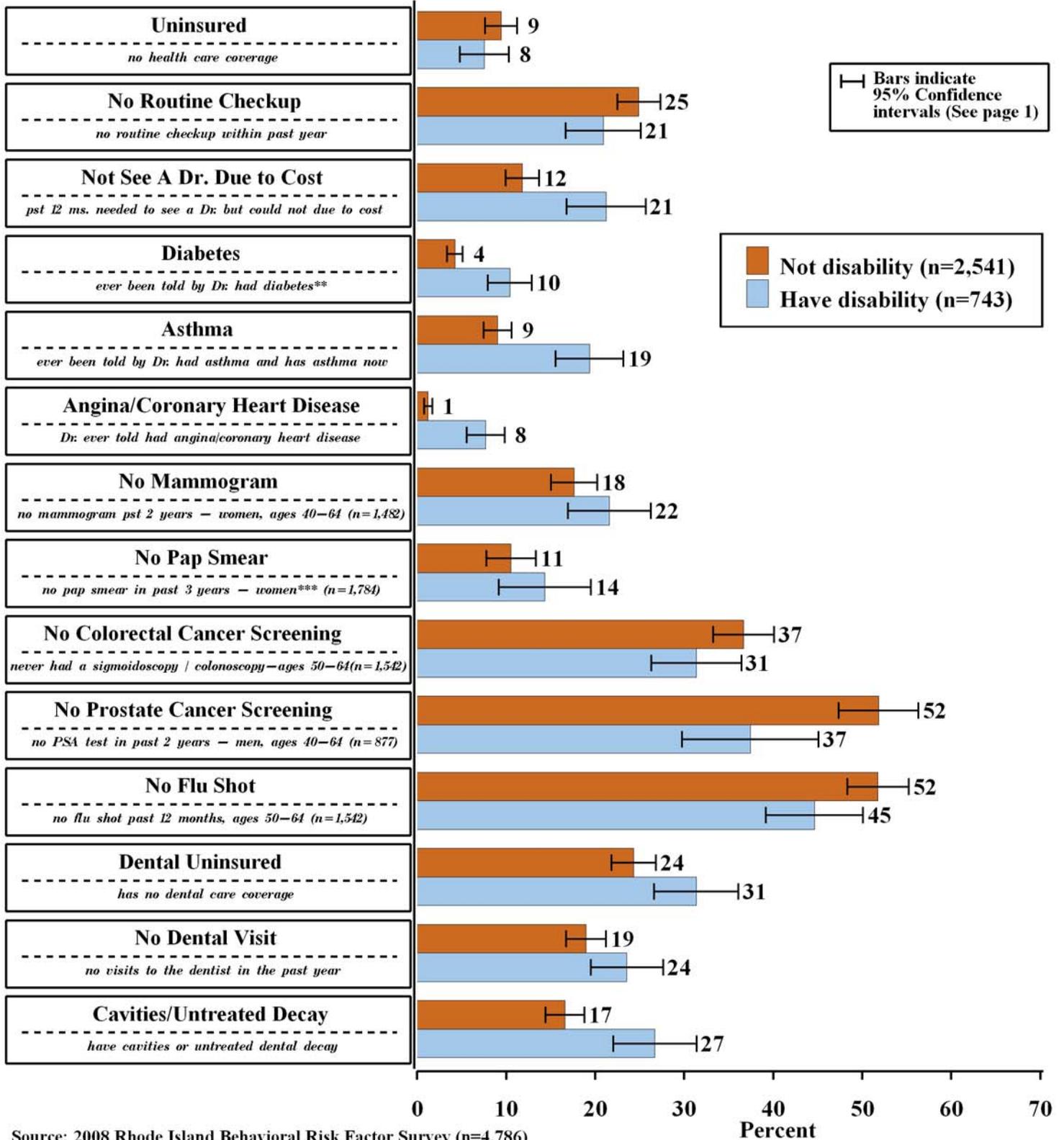
\* Disability: limited in any way in any activity or using special equipment

\*\* Annual household

## Figure 2

# Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults

### (Ages 18 - 64) by disability\* -- 2008



Source: 2008 Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (n=4,786)

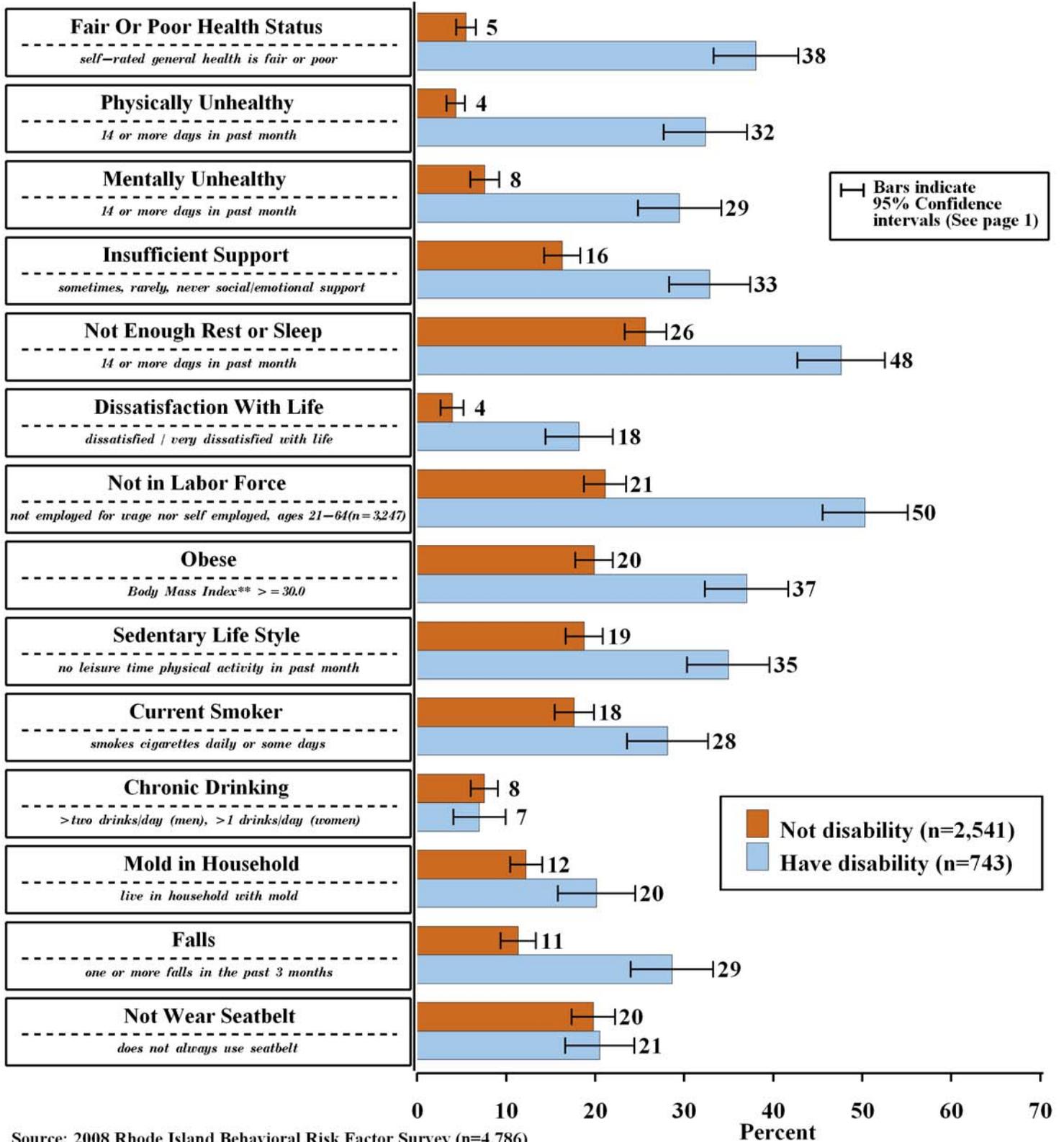
\* Disability: limited in any way in any activity or using special equipment

\*\* Other than during pregnancy

\*\*\* Excludes women who have had a hysterectomy

# Figure 3

## Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults (Ages 18 - 64) by disability\* -- 2008



Source: 2008 Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (n=4,786)

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

\*\* Body Mass Index = weight in kilograms / (height in meters)<sup>2</sup>