

The 2012 National Survey on Abuse of People with SurveyMonkey Disabilities

1. Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Totals
Person with a disability	22.8% (281)	22.8% (281)
Parent or family member of a person with a disability	32.0% (395)	32.0% (395)
Direct support worker	10.0% (123)	10.0% (123)
Administrator/manager of an organization providing services or supports to people with disabilities	12.2% (151)	12.2% (151)
Social Worker in the field of disabilities	6.9% (85)	6.9% (85)
Protective Services Professional (CPS or APS)	1.1% (14)	1.1% (14)
Mental Health Professional	7.2% (89)	7.2% (89)
Peace Officer	0.3% (4)	0.3% (4)
Court official (attorney, parole or probation worker, judge)	1.4% (17)	1.4% (17)
Policymaker (Legislator or works for one)	0.6% (7)	0.6% (7)
Public agency employee	5.8% (71)	5.8% (71)

Special Education teacher, aide or administrator	4.1% (50)	4.1% (50)
Teacher or administrator (but not in Special Education)	2.0% (25)	2.0% (25)
Advocate	100.0% (1,234)	100.0% (1,234)
Concerned Citizen	20.8% (257)	20.8% (257)
Other:	85 replies	85
answered question	1,234	1,234
	skipped question	0

2. What image first comes to your mind when you hear the word "disability?"

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Totals
A person who uses a wheelchair or has limited mobility	35.7% (267)	35.7% (267)
A person who is blind or has limited vision	1.2% (9)	1.2% (9)
A person who is deaf or is hard of hearing	1.2% (9)	1.2% (9)
A person with an intellectual or a developmental disability, e.g., diagnosis of Mental Retardation, Autism, or Cerebral Palsy	52.3% (391)	52.3% (391)
A person who has difficulty speaking clearly or being understood	1.7% (13)	1.7% (13)
A person who has mental health problems	7.9% (59)	7.9% (59)
Other (please specify)	513 replies	513
answered question	748	748
	skipped question	486

3. Individuals of which disability group do you believe are most abused?

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Totals
A person who uses a wheelchair or has limited mobility	5.5% (65)	5.5% (65)
A person who is blind or has limited vision	3.1% (36)	3.1% (36)
A person who is deaf or hard of hearing	4.0% (47)	4.0% (47)
A person with an intellectual or a developmental disability, e.g., diagnosis of Mental Retardation, Autism, or Cerebral Palsy	54.1% (636)	54.1% (636)
A person who has difficulty speaking clearly or being understood	14.5% (170)	14.5% (170)
A person with mental health problems	20.7% (244)	20.7% (244)
All are abused at about the same rate	35.5% (417)	35.5% (417)
Other (please specify)	92 replies	92
answered question	1,176	1,176
	skipped question	58

4. Who do you believe is the most likely person to abuse people with disabilities?

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Totals
A stranger who a person with a disability encounters alone in a private or public place	4.4% (54)	4.4% (54)
Someone with whom he/she is somewhat familiar	24.5% (300)	24.5% (300)
A caregiver or family member	55.5% (679)	55.5% (679)
All of the above about the same	31.3% (383)	31.3% (383)
answered question	1,223	1,223
	skipped question	11

5. Do you or an immediate family member have a disability? (Note: If both apply, choose one and complete the survey accordingly.)

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Totals
Yes, I have a disability.	27.1% (334)	27.1% (334)
Yes, I have an immediate family member with a disability.	45.8% (564)	45.8% (564)
No, none of us has a disability.	35.8% (441)	35.8% (441)
answered question	1,231	1,231
	skipped question	3

6. What is your disability, or that of your family member? There are many types of disabilities. We list only the ones that are the most prevalent. (Check all that apply.)

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Totals
Use a wheelchair or have limited mobility	27.0% (181)	27.0% (181)
Blind or have limited vision	7.5% (50)	7.5% (50)
Deaf or Hard of Hearing	11.3% (76)	11.3% (76)
Autism	21.8% (146)	21.8% (146)
Intellectual or developmental disability other than Autism e.g., diagnosis of Mental Retardation, Cerebral Palsy or Epilepsy	37.0% (248)	37.0% (248)
Difficulty speaking clearly or being understood	16.7% (112)	16.7% (112)
Mental Health problems	34.7% (233)	34.7% (233)
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder	1.5% (10)	1.5% (10)
Other (please specify)	168 replies	168
answered question	671	671
	skipped question	563

7. Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced abuse?

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Totals
Yes	66.2% (493)	66.2% (493)
No	35.2% (262)	35.2% (262)
answered question	745	745
	skipped question	489

8. If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Totals
Physical abuse (non-sexual)	37.5% (244)	37.5% (244)
Sexual abuse	25.7% (167)	25.7% (167)
Financial abuse	20.5% (133)	20.5% (133)
Verbal or Emotional abuse	60.2% (391)	60.2% (391)
Neglect	24.0% (156)	24.0% (156)
This question doesn't apply to me	26.2% (170)	26.2% (170)
Other (please specify and feel free to comment)	131 replies	131
answered question	650	650
	skipped question	584

9. Did you or your family member report the abuse to the proper authorities (police or protective services)?

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Totals
Yes	43.0% (247)	43.0% (247)
No	57.0% (327)	57.0% (327)
answered question	574	574
	skipped question	660

10. If yes, what happened? (check all that apply)

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Totals
Nothing	26.0% (122)	26.0% (122)
An investigation was done without delay	9.6% (45)	9.6% (45)
The person who committed the abuse was fired, quit, or was asked to avoid contact with me (my family member)	9.1% (43)	9.1% (43)
I believe an interview wasn't done or wasn't thorough because I (my family member) use an alternative way to communicate	2.1% (10)	2.1% (10)
I (my family member) was interviewed but was not believed	9.6% (45)	9.6% (45)
An investigation was done but I (my family member) was not interviewed	5.5% (26)	5.5% (26)
An investigation was done but too much time had passed and the investigation was compromised	5.5% (26)	5.5% (26)
An investigation was done but the investigator(s) was not thorough	9.8% (46)	9.8% (46)
The person who committed the abuse was arrested	4.5% (21)	4.5% (21)
The person who committed the abuse was charged with a crime	5.1% (24)	5.1% (24)
The person who committed the abuse was convicted of a crime	4.0% (19)	4.0% (19)
The person who committed the crime served time in prison or jail	3.0% (14)	3.0% (14)
The abuse was acknowledged by the criminal justice		

system and I (My family member) was able to benefit from the Crime Victim-Witness Assistance Program	2.6% (12)	2.6% (12)
The abuse was acknowledged by the criminal justice system and the Crime Victim-Witness Assistance Program was not mentioned or made available to me (my family member)	2.3% (11)	2.3% (11)
This question doesn't apply to me	44.9% (211)	44.9% (211)
Comment on your experience with abuse	140 replies	140
answered question	470	470
	skipped question	764

11. If you didn't report the abuse to the authorities why didn't you (or why didn't your family member)?

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Totals
Believed nothing would happen	22.7% (111)	22.7% (111)
Did not know how to report or who to report to	13.7% (67)	13.7% (67)
Was told not to say anything (threatened) or was too scared to do anything about the abuse	12.0% (59)	12.0% (59)
Was told not to report it even though I wanted to tell someone about the abuse	4.5% (22)	4.5% (22)
Wasn't able to report the abuse because of my injury	1.2% (6)	1.2% (6)
This question doesn't apply to me	61.2% (300)	61.2% (300)
Other (please specify)	138 replies	138
answered question	490	490
	skipped question	744

12. How often have you or a family member with a disability experienced abuse?

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Totals
One time	6.7% (42)	6.7% (42)
More than once but less than ten times	30.6% (192)	30.6% (192)
About ten times	3.7% (23)	3.7% (23)
Between 20-40 times	7.2% (45)	7.2% (45)
Too many to times to count	24.9% (156)	24.9% (156)
This question doesn't apply to me	27.9% (175)	27.9% (175)
Comment	97 replies	97
answered question	627	627
	skipped question	607

13. Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Totals
Yes	72.5% (518)	72.5% (518)
No	27.5% (196)	27.5% (196)
answered question	714	714
	skipped question	520

14. If yes, where did the bullying occur? (Check all that apply)

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Totals
School	60.5% (394)	60.5% (394)
Sports team	7.2% (47)	7.2% (47)
Workplace	19.4% (126)	19.4% (126)
Neighborhood/home	33.6% (219)	33.6% (219)
Internet/Cyber space	6.3% (41)	6.3% (41)
Other	10.9% (71)	10.9% (71)
This question doesn't apply	20.3% (132)	20.3% (132)
If "other," describe the place where the bullying occurred	85 replies	85
answered question	651	651
	skipped question	583

15. If yes, how often did the bullying occur?

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Totals
Once	3.0% (20)	3.0% (20)
Occasionally	39.2% (257)	39.2% (257)
Every day	15.1% (99)	15.1% (99)
Multiple times per day	7.0% (46)	7.0% (46)
It went on for years	21.6% (142)	21.6% (142)
This question doesn't apply	21.2% (139)	21.2% (139)
Please feel free to comment on your bullying experience	98 replies	98
answered question	656	656
	skipped question	578

16. If yes, did other people (bystanders) observe the bullying?

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Totals
Yes	67.0% (431)	67.0% (431)
No	10.4% (67)	10.4% (67)
This question does not apply	22.6% (145)	22.6% (145)
Please feel free to explain.	102 replies	102
answered question	643	643
	skipped question	591

17. Were you or your family member with a disability provided any form of therapy or counseling because of trauma experienced after the abuse (or bullying) incident(s)?

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Totals
Yes	24.7% (170)	24.7% (170)
No	54.0% (372)	54.0% (372)
This question doesn't apply to me	21.3% (147)	21.3% (147)
Please feel free to explain	109 replies	109
answered question	689	689
	skipped question	545

18. If yes, how would you describe the effectiveness of the therapy or counseling that was received?

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Totals
Not helpful	5.3% (30)	5.3% (30)
Somewhat helpful	16.3% (92)	16.3% (92)
Very helpful	8.0% (45)	8.0% (45)
Extremely helpful	5.7% (32)	5.7% (32)
This question doesn't apply to me	64.8% (366)	64.8% (366)
Please feel free to describe this experience	59 replies	59
answered question	565	565
	skipped question	669

19. If you are not a family member or a person with a disability, what experiences have you had with abuse of, or crimes against, people with disabilities? (Check all that apply.)

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Totals
Abuse against people with disabilities has been reported to me	48.1% (253)	48.1% (253)
I have investigated abuse as part of my job	20.9% (110)	20.9% (110)
I advocate for people with disabilities who have been abused or have had crimes committed against them	80.4% (423)	80.4% (423)
I have prosecuted people that have committed crimes against people with disabilities.	1.7% (9)	1.7% (9)
I provide some form of therapy or counseling to victims of abuse with disabilities	20.7% (109)	20.7% (109)
I have no personal or professional experience with abuse	8.7% (46)	8.7% (46)
Other	54 replies	54
answered question	526	526
	skipped question	708

20. Based on your observations or experiences, how prevalent is abuse against people with disabilities compared to people without disabilities?

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Totals
About the same	6.4% (36)	6.4% (36)
Slightly more prevalent than against people without disabilities	14.4% (81)	14.4% (81)
Many times more prevalent than abuse against people without disabilities at all ages	57.4% (322)	57.4% (322)
More prevalent against children	6.4% (36)	6.4% (36)
More prevalent against adults	4.1% (23)	4.1% (23)
More prevalent against elders	10.7% (60)	10.7% (60)
Not sure	13.7% (77)	13.7% (77)
Other (please specify)	24 replies	24
answered question	561	561
	skipped question	673

21. How would you characterize the outcomes of most reports of abuse against people with disabilities. (To answer this, use this scale of 0 to 5, with 0 indicating that a listed outcome never happens and 5 indicating that an outcome very frequently happens?)

		Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
		Advocate	Response Totals
Reported to authorities	0	3.8% (21)	
	1	42.5% (238)	
	2	28.8% (161)	
	3	19.1% (107)	
	4	4.6% (26)	
	5	1.3% (7)	
	rating average		2.82 (560)
Authority receiving report takes action	0	3.4% (19)	
	1	25.2% (140)	
	2	29.1% (162)	
	3	22.8% (127)	
	4	14.0% (78)	
		5.4%	

	5	(30)	
	rating average	3.35 (556)	3.35 (556)
Authority receiving report promptly and thoroughly investigates	0	3.9% (22)	
	1	31.4% (176)	
	2	28.6% (160)	
	3	19.8% (111)	
	4	12.9% (72)	
	5	3.4% (19)	
	rating average	3.16 (560)	3.16 (560)
Victims with disabilities are believed	0	3.9% (22)	
	1	32.1% (179)	
	2	31.4% (175)	
	3	20.1% (112)	
	4	9.5% (53)	
	5	3.0% (17)	
	rating average	3.08 (558)	3.08 (558)
Those who abuse people with disabilities are fired	0	9.5% (52)	

	1	34.7% (189)	
	2	26.1% (142)	
	3	16.9% (92)	
	4	8.6% (47)	
	5	4.2% (23)	
rating average		2.93 (545)	2.93 (545)
Individuals who commit crimes against people with disabilities are arrested	0	7.9% (44)	
	1	42.2% (236)	
	2	28.6% (160)	
	3	13.6% (76)	
	4	5.7% (32)	
	5	2.0% (11)	
rating average		2.73 (559)	2.73 (559)
Individuals who commit crimes against people with disabilities are prosecuted	0	8.1% (45)	
	1	46.2% (256)	
	2	25.3% (140)	
	3	14.4% (80)	

	4	4.2% (23)	
	5	1.8% (10)	
	rating average	2.66 (554)	2.66 (554)
Individuals who commit crimes against people with disabilities are convicted	0	10.3% (57)	
	1	49.1% (272)	
	2	21.3% (118)	
	3	13.4% (74)	
	4	4.2% (23)	
	5	1.8% (10)	
	rating average	2.57 (554)	2.57 (554)
Individuals who commit crimes against people with disabilities go to prison or jail.	0	13.2% (73)	
	1	52.9% (292)	
	2	19.4% (107)	
	3	10.3% (57)	
	4	2.5% (14)	
	5	1.6% (9)	
	rating average	2.41	2.41

	(552)	(552)
Comment	66 replies	66
answered question	563	563
	skipped question	671

22. If you believe that crimes/abuse against people with disabilities are inadequately handled, why do you think this is so? (Check all that apply)

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Totals
Individuals with disabilities are not valued	31.9% (179)	31.9% (179)
Victims with disabilities are not believed to be reliable reporters or witnesses	49.4% (277)	49.4% (277)
Too much extra work to handle cases against victims with disabilities	26.6% (149)	26.6% (149)
Authorities lack adequate training to deal with these victims	51.5% (289)	51.5% (289)
Because incidents of abuse are rarely prosecuted such cases are not handled well	31.0% (174)	31.0% (174)
All of the above are factors in creating unequal justice for these victims	59.0% (331)	59.0% (331)
I do not believe that crime victims with disabilities experience unequal justice any more often than anyone else	5.5% (31)	5.5% (31)
Comment	54 replies	54
answered question	561	561
	skipped question	673

23. Please feel free to comment on any experience you have had with crime victims with disabilities.

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Count
	238 replies	238
answered question	238	238
	skipped question	996

24. Do you believe that people who are convicted of felonies against people with disabilities should...

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Totals
Spend more time in jail when they commit crimes against people with disabilities?	50.8% (560)	50.8% (560)
Spend less time in jail when they commit crimes against people with disabilities?	1.2% (13)	1.2% (13)
Spend the same time in jail no matter whether the victim has a disability or not?	37.1% (409)	37.1% (409)
Not sure or don't know	12.9% (142)	12.9% (142)
Comment	210 replies	210
answered question	1,102	1,102
	skipped question	132

25. In your opinion, what is the single most important thing that needs to be changed in order for crime victims with disabilities to receive equal justice?

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Totals
Knowledge of and attitudes toward people with disabilities by all segments of society	38.7% (426)	38.7% (426)
More laws to force authorities to do the right things	5.2% (57)	5.2% (57)
More training about abuse reporting	5.4% (60)	5.4% (60)
More mandated training of police and abuse investigators	8.8% (97)	8.8% (97)
More mandated training of prosecutors	1.6% (18)	1.6% (18)
More mandated training of judges	1.5% (17)	1.5% (17)
Enhanced public awareness of abuse victims with disabilities	12.8% (141)	12.8% (141)
Better tracking of people known to abuse people with disabilities	4.2% (46)	4.2% (46)
More legal actions to force compliance with ADA and other Civil Rights legislation	9.6% (106)	9.6% (106)
I cannot decide which is most important or I do not have an opinion	12.2% (134)	12.2% (134)
Comment	219 replies	219
answered question	1,102	1,102
	skipped question	132

26. I am a

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Totals
Male	14.9% (167)	14.9% (167)
Female	85.3% (958)	85.3% (958)
answered question	1,123	1,123
	skipped question	111

27. My age group is:

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Totals
18 to 25	3.2% (36)	3.2% (36)
26 to 40	25.8% (291)	25.8% (291)
41 to 60	55.0% (621)	55.0% (621)
61 to 80	15.6% (176)	15.6% (176)
Over 80	0.6% (7)	0.6% (7)
answered question	1,129	1,129
	skipped question	105

28. What is your ethnic origin?

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Totals
Caucasian	80.7% (879)	80.7% (879)
African-American	7.4% (81)	7.4% (81)
Asian/Pacific Island	1.3% (14)	1.3% (14)
Latino	5.8% (63)	5.8% (63)
Multiracial	4.8% (52)	4.8% (52)
Other (please specify)	44 replies	44
answered question	1,089	1,089
	skipped question	145

29. In what state is your primary residence?

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Totals
Alabama	1.5% (17)	1.5% (17)
Alaska	0.8% (9)	0.8% (9)
Arizona	1.1% (12)	1.1% (12)
Arkansas	5.0% (55)	5.0% (55)
California	13.2% (146)	13.2% (146)
Colorado	1.7% (19)	1.7% (19)
Connecticut	0.2% (2)	0.2% (2)
Delaware	1.7% (19)	1.7% (19)
District of Columbia	0.9% (10)	0.9% (10)
Florida	2.3% (26)	2.3% (26)
Georgia	1.3% (14)	1.3% (14)
Hawaii	0.6% (7)	0.6% (7)
Idaho	0.8% (9)	0.8% (9)

Illinois	2.4% (27)	2.4% (27)
Indiana	1.7% (19)	1.7% (19)
Iowa	2.2% (24)	2.2% (24)
Kansas	0.3% (3)	0.3% (3)
Kentucky	2.1% (23)	2.1% (23)
Louisiana	1.8% (20)	1.8% (20)
Maine	0.2% (2)	0.2% (2)
Maryland	1.4% (16)	1.4% (16)
Massachusetts	2.3% (26)	2.3% (26)
Michigan	2.2% (24)	2.2% (24)
Minnesota	2.8% (31)	2.8% (31)
Mississippi	0.4% (4)	0.4% (4)
Missouri	1.0% (11)	1.0% (11)
Montana	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
Nebraska	0.6% (7)	0.6% (7)
Nevada	0.9% (10)	0.9% (10)
New Hampshire	0.6% (7)	0.6% (7)

New Jersey	2.6% (29)	2.6% (29)
New Mexico	1.1% (12)	1.1% (12)
New York	7.1% (79)	7.1% (79)
North Carolina	4.7% (52)	4.7% (52)
North Dakota	0.3% (3)	0.3% (3)
Ohio	2.3% (26)	2.3% (26)
Oklahoma	1.3% (14)	1.3% (14)
Oregon	3.1% (34)	3.1% (34)
Pennsylvania	4.1% (45)	4.1% (45)
Rhode Island	0.7% (8)	0.7% (8)
South Carolina	1.2% (13)	1.2% (13)
South Dakota	0.8% (9)	0.8% (9)
Tennessee	1.4% (16)	1.4% (16)
Texas	3.8% (42)	3.8% (42)
Utah	0.2% (2)	0.2% (2)
Vermont	1.1% (12)	1.1% (12)

Virginia	2.0% (22)	2.0% (22)
Washington	3.7% (41)	3.7% (41)
West Virginia	0.9% (10)	0.9% (10)
Wisconsin	3.4% (38)	3.4% (38)
Wyoming	0.3% (3)	0.3% (3)
If not a resident of the U.S., in what country do you reside?	43 replies	43
answered question	1,109	1,109
skipped question		125

30. Please feel free to give us your email address so we can provide you with the results of this survey (optional).

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Advocate	Response Count
	611 replies	611
answered question	611	611
skipped question		623