

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...

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Person with a disability	31.3% (835)	31.3% (835)
Parent or family member of a person with a disability	55.9% (1,490)	55.9% (1,490)
Direct support worker	6.0% (161)	6.0% (161)
Administrator/manager of an organization providing services or supports to people with disabilities	10.7% (286)	10.7% (286)
Social Worker in the field of disabilities	4.4% (118)	4.4% (118)
Protective Services Professional (CPS or APS)	1.4% (36)	1.4% (36)
Mental Health Professional	5.2% (139)	5.2% (139)
Peace Officer	0.6% (17)	0.6% (17)
Court official (attorney, parole or probation worker, judge)	0.7% (19)	0.7% (19)
Policymaker (Legislator or works for one)	0.1% (2)	0.1% (2)
Public agency employee	3.3% (88)	3.3% (88)

Special Education teacher, aide or administrator	3.7% (99)	3.7% (99)
Teacher or administrator (but not in Special Education)	1.4% (38)	1.4% (38)
Advocate	19.4% (518)	19.4% (518)
Concerned Citizen	8.0% (214)	8.0% (214)
Other:	158 replies	158
answered question	2,664	2,664
	skipped question	66

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

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	
	Yes	Response Totals
A person who uses a wheelchair or has limited mobility	31.3% (549)	31.3% (549)
A person who is blind or has limited vision	1.0% (18)	1.0% (18)
A person who is deaf or is hard of hearing	1.4% (25)	1.4% (25)
A person with an intellectual or a developmental disability, e.g., diagnosis of Mental Retardation, Autism, or Cerebral Palsy	59.1% (1,037)	59.1% (1,037)
A person who has difficulty speaking clearly or being understood	1.4% (24)	1.4% (24)
A person who has mental health problems	5.8% (102)	5.8% (102)
Other (please specify)	997 replies	997
answered question	1,755	1,755
	skipped question	975

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

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	
	Yes	Response Totals
A person who uses a wheelchair or has limited mobility	4.2% (110)	4.2% (110)
A person who is blind or has limited vision	2.2% (58)	2.2% (58)
A person who is deaf or hard of hearing	3.2% (84)	3.2% (84)
A person with an intellectual or a developmental disability, e.g., diagnosis of Mental Retardation, Autism, or Cerebral Palsy	55.6% (1,446)	55.6% (1,446)
A person who has difficulty speaking clearly or being understood	12.0% (312)	12.0% (312)
A person with mental health problems	16.7% (435)	16.7% (435)
All are abused at about the same rate	33.3% (865)	33.3% (865)
Other (please specify)	193 replies	193
answered question	2,601	2,601
	skipped question	129

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

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	
	Yes	Response Totals
A stranger who a person with a disability encounters alone in a private or public place	7.3% (197)	7.3% (197)
Someone with whom he/she is somewhat familiar	26.4% (716)	26.4% (716)
A caregiver or family member	38.9% (1,053)	38.9% (1,053)
All of the above about the same	39.6% (1,072)	39.6% (1,072)
answered question	2,710	2,710
	skipped question	20

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

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Yes, I have a disability.	35.7% (972)	35.7% (972)
Yes, I have an immediate family member with a disability.	71.8% (1,954)	71.8% (1,954)
No, none of us has a disability.	0.1% (3)	0.1% (3)
answered question	2,720	2,720
	skipped question	10

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.)

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Use a wheelchair or have limited mobility	21.0% (522)	21.0% (522)
Blind or have limited vision	6.6% (163)	6.6% (163)
Deaf or Hard of Hearing	9.9% (247)	9.9% (247)
Autism	31.7% (788)	31.7% (788)
Intellectual or developmental disability other than Autism e.g., diagnosis of Mental Retardation, Cerebral Palsy or Epilepsy	38.2% (948)	38.2% (948)
Difficulty speaking clearly or being understood	16.1% (401)	16.1% (401)
Mental Health problems	29.2% (725)	29.2% (725)
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder	4.1% (103)	4.1% (103)
Other (please specify)	458 replies	458
answered question	2,484	2,484
	skipped question	246

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

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Yes	74.3% (2,017)	74.3% (2,017)
No	27.0% (732)	27.0% (732)
answered question	2,713	2,713
	skipped question	17

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

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Physical abuse (non-sexual)	40.7% (993)	40.7% (993)
Sexual abuse	26.2% (638)	26.2% (638)
Financial abuse	19.5% (475)	19.5% (475)
Verbal or Emotional abuse	68.6% (1,673)	68.6% (1,673)
Neglect	28.5% (696)	28.5% (696)
This question doesn't apply to me	19.8% (484)	19.8% (484)
Other (please specify and feel free to comment)	441 replies	441
answered question	2,439	2,439
	skipped question	291

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

Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?		
	Yes	Response Totals
Yes	48.6% (1,083)	48.6% (1,083)
No	51.4% (1,146)	51.4% (1,146)
answered question	2,229	2,229
	skipped question	501

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

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Nothing	27.9% (506)	27.9% (506)
An investigation was done without delay	11.9% (217)	11.9% (217)
The person who committed the abuse was fired, quit, or was asked to avoid contact with me (my family member)	10.7% (194)	10.7% (194)
I believe an interview wasn't done or wasn't thorough because I (my family member) use an alternative way to communicate	3.3% (60)	3.3% (60)
I (my family member) was interviewed but was not believed	10.0% (181)	10.0% (181)
An investigation was done but I (my family member) was not interviewed	4.5% (82)	4.5% (82)
An investigation was done but too much time had passed and the investigation was compromised	4.6% (83)	4.6% (83)
An investigation was done but the investigator(s) was not thorough	10.2% (186)	10.2% (186)
The person who committed the abuse was arrested	4.1% (74)	4.1% (74)
The person who committed the abuse was charged with a crime	5.0% (91)	5.0% (91)
The person who committed the abuse was convicted of a crime	3.0% (54)	3.0% (54)
The person who committed the crime served time in prison or jail	2.5% (45)	2.5% (45)
The abuse was acknowledged by the criminal justice system and I (My family member) was able to	2.5%	2.5%

benefit from the Crime Victim-Witness Assistance Program	(46)	(46)
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)	2.9% (53)	2.9% (53)
This question doesn't apply to me	39.2% (711)	39.2% (711)
Comment on your experience with abuse	576 replies	576
answered question	1,816	1,816
	skipped question	914

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

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Believed nothing would happen	22.3% (413)	22.3% (413)
Did not know how to report or who to report to	13.9% (257)	13.9% (257)
Was told not to say anything (threatened) or was too scared to do anything about the abuse	12.5% (231)	12.5% (231)
Was told not to report it even though I wanted to tell someone about the abuse	4.4% (81)	4.4% (81)
Wasn't able to report the abuse because of my injury	1.2% (22)	1.2% (22)
This question doesn't apply to me	59.9% (1,107)	59.9% (1,107)
Other (please specify)	486 replies	486
answered question	1,848	1,848
	skipped question	882

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

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	
	Yes	Response Totals
One time	5.8% (142)	5.8% (142)
More than once but less than ten times	33.5% (818)	33.5% (818)
About ten times	4.8% (116)	4.8% (116)
Between 20-40 times	7.0% (171)	7.0% (171)
Too many to times to count	27.8% (678)	27.8% (678)
This question doesn't apply to me	22.1% (540)	22.1% (540)
Comment	370 replies	370
answered question	2,439	2,439
	skipped question	291

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

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Yes	100.0% (2,730)	100.0% (2,730)
No	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
answered question	2,730	2,730
	skipped question	0

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

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	
	Yes	Response Totals
School	76.9% (2,058)	76.9% (2,058)
Sports team	8.5% (228)	8.5% (228)
Workplace	21.8% (584)	21.8% (584)
Neighborhood/home	37.6% (1,006)	37.6% (1,006)
Internet/Cyber space	8.4% (225)	8.4% (225)
Other	13.0% (348)	13.0% (348)
This question doesn't apply	0.5% (13)	0.5% (13)
If "other," describe the place where the bullying occurred	426 replies	426
answered question	2,677	2,677
	skipped question	53

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

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Once	5.0% (133)	5.0% (133)
Occasionally	50.8% (1,348)	50.8% (1,348)
Every day	16.8% (445)	16.8% (445)
Multiple times per day	7.8% (208)	7.8% (208)
It went on for years	25.7% (682)	25.7% (682)
This question doesn't apply	0.8% (20)	0.8% (20)
Please feel free to comment on your bullying experience	463 replies	463
answered question	2,655	2,655
	skipped question	75

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

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Yes	84.1% (2,203)	84.1% (2,203)
No	12.7% (333)	12.7% (333)
This question does not apply	3.2% (85)	3.2% (85)
Please feel free to explain.	475 replies	475
answered question	2,621	2,621
	skipped question	109

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)?

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Yes	26.3% (708)	26.3% (708)
No	68.0% (1,833)	68.0% (1,833)
This question doesn't apply to me	5.8% (156)	5.8% (156)
Please feel free to explain	436 replies	436
answered question	2,697	2,697
	skipped question	33

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

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Not helpful	6.8% (146)	6.8% (146)
Somewhat helpful	18.7% (402)	18.7% (402)
Very helpful	8.3% (177)	8.3% (177)
Extremely helpful	5.4% (115)	5.4% (115)
This question doesn't apply to me	60.8% (1,305)	60.8% (1,305)
Please feel free to describe this experience	207 replies	207
answered question	2,145	2,145
	skipped question	585

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.)

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Abuse against people with disabilities has been reported to me	42.9% (88)	42.9% (88)
I have investigated abuse as part of my job	26.8% (55)	26.8% (55)
I advocate for people with disabilities who have been abused or have had crimes committed against them	62.9% (129)	62.9% (129)
I have prosecuted people that have committed crimes against people with disabilities.	1.5% (3)	1.5% (3)
I provide some form of therapy or counseling to victims of abuse with disabilities	18.5% (38)	18.5% (38)
I have no personal or professional experience with abuse	18.5% (38)	18.5% (38)
Other	35 replies	35
answered question	205	205
	skipped question	2,525

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

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	
	Yes	Response Totals
About the same	2.8% (14)	2.8% (14)
Slightly more prevalent than against people without disabilities	11.9% (60)	11.9% (60)
Many times more prevalent than abuse against people without disabilities at all ages	68.4% (346)	68.4% (346)
More prevalent against children	10.1% (51)	10.1% (51)
More prevalent against adults	4.5% (23)	4.5% (23)
More prevalent against elders	7.7% (39)	7.7% (39)
Not sure	7.9% (40)	7.9% (40)
Other (please specify)	12 replies	12
answered question	506	506
	skipped question	2,224

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?)

		Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	
		Yes	Response Totals
Reported to authorities	0	10.5% (51)	
	1	42.7% (208)	
	2	26.5% (129)	
	3	13.1% (64)	
	4	5.7% (28)	
	5	1.4% (7)	
	rating average		2.65 (487)
Authority receiving report takes action	0	11.7% (57)	
	1	34.4% (167)	
	2	25.3% (123)	
	3	18.1% (88)	
	4	7.8% (38)	
	5	2.7% (13)	

rating average		2.84 (486)	2.84 (486)
Authority receiving report promptly and thoroughly investigates	0	14.5% (70)	
	1	39.0% (188)	
	2	25.3% (122)	
	3	12.7% (61)	
	4	7.5% (36)	
	5	1.0% (5)	
rating average		2.63 (482)	2.63 (482)
Victims with disabilities are believed	0	13.0% (63)	
	1	44.2% (214)	
	2	24.4% (118)	
	3	11.4% (55)	
	4	5.6% (27)	
	5	1.4% (7)	
rating average		2.57 (484)	2.57 (484)
Those who abuse people with disabilities are fired	0	23.9% (115)	

	1	39.1% (188)	
	2	18.5% (89)	
	3	10.4% (50)	
	4	4.4% (21)	
	5	3.7% (18)	
rating average		2.43 (481)	2.43 (481)
Individuals who commit crimes against people with disabilities are arrested	0	20.2% (98)	
	1	49.2% (239)	
	2	16.7% (81)	
	3	8.4% (41)	
	4	3.3% (16)	
	5	2.3% (11)	
rating average		2.32 (486)	2.32 (486)
Individuals who commit crimes against people with disabilities are prosecuted	0	22.1% (108)	
	1	48.7% (238)	
	2	16.4% (80)	
	3	7.2% (35)	

	4	3.7% (18)	
	5	2.0% (10)	
	rating average	2.28 (489)	2.28 (489)
Individuals who commit crimes against people with disabilities are convicted	0	25.3% (122)	
	1	48.8% (235)	
	2	15.4% (74)	
	3	5.6% (27)	
	4	3.5% (17)	
	5	1.5% (7)	
	rating average	2.18 (482)	2.18 (482)
Individuals who commit crimes against people with disabilities go to prison or jail.	0	30.9% (150)	
	1	47.2% (229)	
	2	12.8% (62)	
	3	4.9% (24)	
	4	2.7% (13)	
	5	1.4% (7)	
	rating average	2.06	2.06

	(485)	(485)
Comment	80 replies	80
answered question	495	495
	skipped question	2,235

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)

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Individuals with disabilities are not valued	45.5% (228)	45.5% (228)
Victims with disabilities are not believed to be reliable reporters or witnesses	54.5% (273)	54.5% (273)
Too much extra work to handle cases against victims with disabilities	34.3% (172)	34.3% (172)
Authorities lack adequate training to deal with these victims	53.5% (268)	53.5% (268)
Because incidents of abuse are rarely prosecuted such cases are not handled well	35.9% (180)	35.9% (180)
All of the above are factors in creating unequal justice for these victims	62.9% (315)	62.9% (315)
I do not believe that crime victims with disabilities experience unequal justice any more often than anyone else	3.4% (17)	3.4% (17)
Comment	50 replies	50
answered question	501	501
	skipped question	2,229

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

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	
	Yes	Response Count
	520 replies	520
answered question	520	520
skipped question		2,210

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

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Spend more time in jail when they commit crimes against people with disabilities?	53.1% (1,354)	53.1% (1,354)
Spend less time in jail when they commit crimes against people with disabilities?	1.1% (28)	1.1% (28)
Spend the same time in jail no matter whether the victim has a disability or not?	33.5% (853)	33.5% (853)
Not sure or don't know	14.5% (370)	14.5% (370)
Comment	503 replies	503
answered question	2,548	2,548
skipped question		182

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?

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Knowledge of and attitudes toward people with disabilities by all segments of society	38.5% (980)	38.5% (980)
More laws to force authorities to do the right things	6.0% (154)	6.0% (154)
More training about abuse reporting	3.8% (96)	3.8% (96)
More mandated training of police and abuse investigators	8.2% (210)	8.2% (210)
More mandated training of prosecutors	1.2% (30)	1.2% (30)
More mandated training of judges	1.2% (31)	1.2% (31)
Enhanced public awareness of abuse victims with disabilities	13.3% (339)	13.3% (339)
Better tracking of people known to abuse people with disabilities	3.9% (99)	3.9% (99)
More legal actions to force compliance with ADA and other Civil Rights legislation	10.4% (265)	10.4% (265)
I cannot decide which is most important or I do not have an opinion	13.5% (344)	13.5% (344)
Comment	556 replies	556
answered question	2,548	2,548
	skipped question	182

26. I am a

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Male	14.9% (386)	14.9% (386)
Female	85.3% (2,212)	85.3% (2,212)
answered question	2,593	2,593
	skipped question	137

27. My age group is:

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	
	Yes	Response Totals
18 to 25	4.4% (114)	4.4% (114)
26 to 40	23.9% (624)	23.9% (624)
41 to 60	60.3% (1,574)	60.3% (1,574)
61 to 80	11.6% (304)	11.6% (304)
Over 80	0.3% (7)	0.3% (7)
answered question	2,611	2,611
	skipped question	119

28. What is your ethnic origin?

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Caucasian	84.2% (2,131)	84.2% (2,131)
African-American	4.0% (102)	4.0% (102)
Asian/Pacific Island	2.0% (50)	2.0% (50)
Latino	5.0% (127)	5.0% (127)
Multiracial	4.8% (122)	4.8% (122)
Other (please specify)	97 replies	97
answered question	2,532	2,532
	skipped question	198

29. In what state is your primary residence?

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	Response Totals
	Yes	
Alabama	0.8% (19)	0.8% (19)
Alaska	0.8% (21)	0.8% (21)
Arizona	1.0% (25)	1.0% (25)
Arkansas	1.9% (48)	1.9% (48)
California	16.9% (423)	16.9% (423)
Colorado	1.1% (28)	1.1% (28)
Connecticut	0.7% (17)	0.7% (17)
Delaware	1.6% (39)	1.6% (39)
District of Columbia	1.2% (31)	1.2% (31)
Florida	3.6% (91)	3.6% (91)
Georgia	1.3% (32)	1.3% (32)
Hawaii	0.7% (17)	0.7% (17)
Idaho	0.5% (13)	0.5% (13)

Illinois	2.7% (68)	2.7% (68)
Indiana	2.0% (51)	2.0% (51)
Iowa	0.8% (20)	0.8% (20)
Kansas	0.6% (15)	0.6% (15)
Kentucky	1.1% (27)	1.1% (27)
Louisiana	1.0% (25)	1.0% (25)
Maine	0.2% (5)	0.2% (5)
Maryland	1.4% (35)	1.4% (35)
Massachusetts	4.0% (101)	4.0% (101)
Michigan	3.0% (74)	3.0% (74)
Minnesota	1.8% (46)	1.8% (46)
Mississippi	0.4% (11)	0.4% (11)
Missouri	1.8% (46)	1.8% (46)
Montana	0.1% (3)	0.1% (3)
Nebraska	0.9% (23)	0.9% (23)
Nevada	0.5% (12)	0.5% (12)
New Hampshire	0.7% (18)	0.7% (18)

New Jersey	2.3% (58)	2.3% (58)
New Mexico	1.6% (39)	1.6% (39)
New York	5.0% (125)	5.0% (125)
North Carolina	4.3% (107)	4.3% (107)
North Dakota	0.2% (6)	0.2% (6)
Ohio	2.8% (70)	2.8% (70)
Oklahoma	0.9% (22)	0.9% (22)
Oregon	3.4% (84)	3.4% (84)
Pennsylvania	3.2% (81)	3.2% (81)
Rhode Island	0.4% (9)	0.4% (9)
South Carolina	0.8% (20)	0.8% (20)
South Dakota	1.5% (37)	1.5% (37)
Tennessee	1.2% (30)	1.2% (30)
Texas	4.5% (113)	4.5% (113)
Utah	0.2% (6)	0.2% (6)
Vermont	0.4% (10)	0.4% (10)

Virginia	3.4% (86)	3.4% (86)
Washington	4.0% (100)	4.0% (100)
West Virginia	0.8% (21)	0.8% (21)
Wisconsin	3.4% (84)	3.4% (84)
Wyoming	0.2% (6)	0.2% (6)
If not a resident of the U.S., in what country do you reside?	179 replies	179
answered question	2,498	2,498
skipped question		232

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

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced bullying?	
	Yes	Response Count
	1,382 replies	1,382
answered question	1,382	1,382
skipped question		1,348