

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 abuse?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Person with a disability	32.7% (838)	32.7% (838)
Parent or family member of a person with a disability	55.9% (1,431)	55.9% (1,431)
Direct support worker	5.5% (141)	5.5% (141)
Administrator/manager of an organization providing services or supports to people with disabilities	9.4% (240)	9.4% (240)
Social Worker in the field of disabilities	4.2% (107)	4.2% (107)
Protective Services Professional (CPS or APS)	1.5% (39)	1.5% (39)
Mental Health Professional	5.7% (145)	5.7% (145)
Peace Officer	0.7% (18)	0.7% (18)
Court official (attorney, parole or probation worker, judge)	0.7% (17)	0.7% (17)
Policymaker (Legislator or works for one)	0.2% (4)	0.2% (4)
Public agency employee	3.6% (91)	3.6% (91)

Special Education teacher, aide or administrator	3.1% (80)	3.1% (80)
Teacher or administrator (but not in Special Education)	1.5% (38)	1.5% (38)
Advocate	19.3% (493)	19.3% (493)
Concerned Citizen	8.1% (207)	8.1% (207)
Other:	166 replies	166
answered question	2,560	2,560
	skipped question	58

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 abuse?	
	Yes	Response Totals
A person who uses a wheelchair or has limited mobility	31.4% (519)	31.4% (519)
A person who is blind or has limited vision	1.3% (22)	1.3% (22)
A person who is deaf or is hard of hearing	1.5% (25)	1.5% (25)
A person with an intellectual or a developmental disability, e.g., diagnosis of Mental Retardation, Autism, or Cerebral Palsy	57.3% (947)	57.3% (947)
A person who has difficulty speaking clearly or being understood	1.8% (30)	1.8% (30)
A person who has mental health problems	6.6% (109)	6.6% (109)
Other (please specify)	1,014 replies	1,014
answered question	1,652	1,652
	skipped question	966

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

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced abuse?	
	Yes	Response Totals
A person who uses a wheelchair or has limited mobility	4.2% (105)	4.2% (105)
A person who is blind or has limited vision	2.4% (59)	2.4% (59)
A person who is deaf or hard of hearing	3.6% (90)	3.6% (90)
A person with an intellectual or a developmental disability, e.g., diagnosis of Mental Retardation, Autism, or Cerebral Palsy	55.0% (1,365)	55.0% (1,365)
A person who has difficulty speaking clearly or being understood	12.5% (309)	12.5% (309)
A person with mental health problems	16.7% (414)	16.7% (414)
All are abused at about the same rate	33.4% (828)	33.4% (828)
Other (please specify)	207 replies	207
answered question	2,481	2,481
	skipped question	137

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 abuse?	
	Yes	Response Totals
A stranger who a person with a disability encounters alone in a private or public place	7.3% (190)	7.3% (190)
Someone with whom he/she is somewhat familiar	25.7% (666)	25.7% (666)
A caregiver or family member	39.3% (1,019)	39.3% (1,019)
All of the above about the same	39.4% (1,021)	39.4% (1,021)
answered question	2,594	2,594
	skipped question	24

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 abuse?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Yes, I have a disability.	36.7% (958)	36.7% (958)
Yes, I have an immediate family member with a disability.	71.1% (1,856)	71.1% (1,856)
No, none of us has a disability.	0.1% (3)	0.1% (3)
answered question	2,610	2,610
	skipped question	8

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 abuse?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Use a wheelchair or have limited mobility	22.6% (544)	22.6% (544)
Blind or have limited vision	7.2% (173)	7.2% (173)
Deaf or Hard of Hearing	10.3% (248)	10.3% (248)
Autism	28.8% (691)	28.8% (691)
Intellectual or developmental disability other than Autism e.g., diagnosis of Mental Retardation, Cerebral Palsy or Epilepsy	39.4% (946)	39.4% (946)
Difficulty speaking clearly or being understood	16.9% (407)	16.9% (407)
Mental Health problems	30.5% (733)	30.5% (733)
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder	4.4% (106)	4.4% (106)
Other (please specify)	456 replies	456
answered question	2,402	2,402
	skipped question	216

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

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced abuse?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Yes	100.0% (2,618)	100.0% (2,618)
No	1.9% (49)	1.9% (49)
answered question	2,618	2,618
	skipped question	0

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 abuse?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Physical abuse (non-sexual)	48.4% (1,224)	48.4% (1,224)
Sexual abuse	32.4% (819)	32.4% (819)
Financial abuse	22.5% (569)	22.5% (569)
Verbal or Emotional abuse	78.2% (1,978)	78.2% (1,978)
Neglect	33.9% (856)	33.9% (856)
This question doesn't apply to me	1.8% (46)	1.8% (46)
Other (please specify and feel free to comment)	517 replies	517
answered question	2,528	2,528
	skipped question	90

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 abuse?		
	Yes	Response Totals
Yes	51.7% (1,330)	51.7% (1,330)
No	48.3% (1,242)	48.3% (1,242)
answered question	2,572	2,572
	skipped question	46

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

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced abuse?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Nothing	32.8% (577)	32.8% (577)
An investigation was done without delay	16.0% (281)	16.0% (281)
The person who committed the abuse was fired, quit, or was asked to avoid contact with me (my family member)	14.0% (247)	14.0% (247)
I believe an interview wasn't done or wasn't thorough because I (my family member) use an alternative way to communicate	4.3% (76)	4.3% (76)
I (my family member) was interviewed but was not believed	11.5% (202)	11.5% (202)
An investigation was done but I (my family member) was not interviewed	5.7% (101)	5.7% (101)
An investigation was done but too much time had passed and the investigation was compromised	5.1% (90)	5.1% (90)
An investigation was done but the investigator(s) was not thorough	12.3% (217)	12.3% (217)
The person who committed the abuse was arrested	6.0% (105)	6.0% (105)
The person who committed the abuse was charged with a crime	7.3% (128)	7.3% (128)
The person who committed the abuse was convicted of a crime	4.7% (83)	4.7% (83)
The person who committed the crime served time in prison or jail	3.6% (64)	3.6% (64)
The abuse was acknowledged by the criminal justice system and I (My family member) was able to	3.4%	3.4%

benefit from the Crime Victim-Witness Assistance Program	(59)	(59)
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)	3.6% (64)	3.6% (64)
This question doesn't apply to me	23.4% (412)	23.4% (412)
Comment on your experience with abuse	712 replies	712
answered question	1,760	1,760
	skipped question	858

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 abuse?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Believed nothing would happen	27.9% (496)	27.9% (496)
Did not know how to report or who to report to	17.4% (308)	17.4% (308)
Was told not to say anything (threatened) or was too scared to do anything about the abuse	15.0% (266)	15.0% (266)
Was told not to report it even though I wanted to tell someone about the abuse	5.3% (94)	5.3% (94)
Wasn't able to report the abuse because of my injury	1.4% (25)	1.4% (25)
This question doesn't apply to me	49.1% (871)	49.1% (871)
Other (please specify)	635 replies	635
answered question	1,775	1,775
	skipped question	843

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 abuse?	
	Yes	Response Totals
One time	10.0% (247)	10.0% (247)
More than once but less than ten times	41.9% (1,039)	41.9% (1,039)
About ten times	5.8% (143)	5.8% (143)
Between 20-40 times	8.2% (204)	8.2% (204)
Too many to times to count	31.0% (767)	31.0% (767)
This question doesn't apply to me	4.4% (108)	4.4% (108)
Comment	466 replies	466
answered question	2,478	2,478
	skipped question	140

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

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced abuse?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Yes	78.5% (2,017)	78.5% (2,017)
No	21.5% (553)	21.5% (553)
answered question	2,570	2,570
	skipped question	48

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

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced abuse?	
	Yes	Response Totals
School	64.2% (1,506)	64.2% (1,506)
Sports team	7.7% (180)	7.7% (180)
Workplace	20.9% (490)	20.9% (490)
Neighborhood/home	35.9% (842)	35.9% (842)
Internet/Cyber space	8.4% (196)	8.4% (196)
Other	12.8% (300)	12.8% (300)
This question doesn't apply	14.8% (346)	14.8% (346)
If "other," describe the place where the bullying occurred	390 replies	390
answered question	2,344	2,344
	skipped question	274

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

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced abuse?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Once	2.9% (69)	2.9% (69)
Occasionally	39.4% (923)	39.4% (923)
Every day	15.6% (365)	15.6% (365)
Multiple times per day	7.8% (182)	7.8% (182)
It went on for years	25.8% (605)	25.8% (605)
This question doesn't apply	15.5% (363)	15.5% (363)
Please feel free to comment on your bullying experience	381 replies	381
answered question	2,342	2,342
	skipped question	276

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

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced abuse?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Yes	71.7% (1,666)	71.7% (1,666)
No	10.8% (250)	10.8% (250)
This question does not apply	17.5% (406)	17.5% (406)
Please feel free to explain.	402 replies	402
answered question	2,322	2,322
	skipped question	296

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 abuse?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Yes	29.0% (730)	29.0% (730)
No	59.7% (1,501)	59.7% (1,501)
This question doesn't apply to me	11.3% (283)	11.3% (283)
Please feel free to explain	427 replies	427
answered question	2,514	2,514
	skipped question	104

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 abuse?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Not helpful	6.8% (139)	6.8% (139)
Somewhat helpful	19.4% (397)	19.4% (397)
Very helpful	9.4% (193)	9.4% (193)
Extremely helpful	6.0% (123)	6.0% (123)
This question doesn't apply to me	58.4% (1,196)	58.4% (1,196)
Please feel free to describe this experience	220 replies	220
answered question	2,048	2,048
	skipped question	570

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 abuse?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Abuse against people with disabilities has been reported to me	50.5% (95)	50.5% (95)
I have investigated abuse as part of my job	29.8% (56)	29.8% (56)
I advocate for people with disabilities who have been abused or have had crimes committed against them	67.0% (126)	67.0% (126)
I have prosecuted people that have committed crimes against people with disabilities.	1.6% (3)	1.6% (3)
I provide some form of therapy or counseling to victims of abuse with disabilities	21.8% (41)	21.8% (41)
I have no personal or professional experience with abuse	12.2% (23)	12.2% (23)
Other	39 replies	39
answered question	188	188
	skipped question	2,430

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 abuse?	
	Yes	Response Totals
About the same	2.2% (11)	2.2% (11)
Slightly more prevalent than against people without disabilities	10.2% (50)	10.2% (50)
Many times more prevalent than abuse against people without disabilities at all ages	67.7% (333)	67.7% (333)
More prevalent against children	10.0% (49)	10.0% (49)
More prevalent against adults	5.3% (26)	5.3% (26)
More prevalent against elders	8.1% (40)	8.1% (40)
Not sure	9.3% (46)	9.3% (46)
Other (please specify)	12 replies	12
answered question	492	492
	skipped question	2,126

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 abuse?	
		Yes	Response Totals
Reported to authorities	0	10.8% (51)	
	1	40.8% (192)	
	2	28.5% (134)	
	3	12.3% (58)	
	4	6.2% (29)	
	5	1.5% (7)	
	rating average		2.67 (471)
Authority receiving report takes action	0	11.8% (55)	
	1	34.3% (160)	
	2	25.3% (118)	
	3	17.4% (81)	
	4	8.8% (41)	
	5	2.4% (11)	

rating average		2.84 (466)	2.84 (466)
Authority receiving report promptly and thoroughly investigates	0	14.6% (68)	
	1	39.3% (183)	
	2	25.3% (118)	
	3	11.6% (54)	
	4	7.7% (36)	
	5	1.5% (7)	
rating average		2.63 (466)	2.63 (466)
Victims with disabilities are believed	0	13.1% (61)	
	1	44.0% (205)	
	2	23.4% (109)	
	3	11.6% (54)	
	4	5.8% (27)	
	5	2.1% (10)	
rating average		2.59 (466)	2.59 (466)
Those who abuse people with disabilities are fired	0	24.6% (114)	

	1	37.1% (172)	
	2	18.4% (85)	
	3	10.2% (47)	
	4	5.8% (27)	
	5	3.9% (18)	
rating average		2.47 (463)	2.47 (463)
Individuals who commit crimes against people with disabilities are arrested	0	22.6% (106)	
	1	47.2% (222)	
	2	16.0% (75)	
	3	8.5% (40)	
	4	3.4% (16)	
	5	2.3% (11)	
rating average		2.30 (470)	2.30 (470)
Individuals who commit crimes against people with disabilities are prosecuted	0	23.7% (112)	
	1	48.1% (227)	
	2	15.5% (73)	
	3	6.8% (32)	

	4	4.0% (19)	
	5	1.9% (9)	
	rating average	2.25 (472)	2.25 (472)
Individuals who commit crimes against people with disabilities are convicted	0	26.3% (122)	
	1	48.3% (224)	
	2	14.9% (69)	
	3	6.0% (28)	
	4	3.2% (15)	
	5	1.3% (6)	
	rating average	2.16 (464)	2.16 (464)
Individuals who commit crimes against people with disabilities go to prison or jail.	0	32.5% (152)	
	1	46.0% (215)	
	2	12.8% (60)	
	3	4.3% (20)	
	4	3.0% (14)	
	5	1.3% (6)	
	rating average	2.03	2.03

	(467)	(467)
Comment	82 replies	82
answered question	478	478
	skipped question	2,140

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 abuse?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Individuals with disabilities are not valued	42.7% (209)	42.7% (209)
Victims with disabilities are not believed to be reliable reporters or witnesses	52.9% (259)	52.9% (259)
Too much extra work to handle cases against victims with disabilities	31.4% (154)	31.4% (154)
Authorities lack adequate training to deal with these victims	53.3% (261)	53.3% (261)
Because incidents of abuse are rarely prosecuted such cases are not handled well	34.3% (168)	34.3% (168)
All of the above are factors in creating unequal justice for these victims	61.6% (302)	61.6% (302)
I do not believe that crime victims with disabilities experience unequal justice any more often than anyone else	3.5% (17)	3.5% (17)
Comment	48 replies	48
answered question	490	490
	skipped question	2,128

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 abuse?	
	Yes	Response Count
	549 replies	549
answered question	549	549
	skipped question	2,069

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 abuse?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Spend more time in jail when they commit crimes against people with disabilities?	53.8% (1,315)	53.8% (1,315)
Spend less time in jail when they commit crimes against people with disabilities?	1.2% (29)	1.2% (29)
Spend the same time in jail no matter whether the victim has a disability or not?	32.7% (798)	32.7% (798)
Not sure or don't know	14.8% (362)	14.8% (362)
Comment	518 replies	518
answered question	2,443	2,443
	skipped question	175

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 abuse?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Knowledge of and attitudes toward people with disabilities by all segments of society	36.6% (894)	36.6% (894)
More laws to force authorities to do the right things	6.9% (169)	6.9% (169)
More training about abuse reporting	4.0% (98)	4.0% (98)
More mandated training of police and abuse investigators	8.0% (196)	8.0% (196)
More mandated training of prosecutors	1.1% (27)	1.1% (27)
More mandated training of judges	1.6% (40)	1.6% (40)
Enhanced public awareness of abuse victims with disabilities	12.6% (307)	12.6% (307)
Better tracking of people known to abuse people with disabilities	4.3% (106)	4.3% (106)
More legal actions to force compliance with ADA and other Civil Rights legislation	10.3% (251)	10.3% (251)
I cannot decide which is most important or I do not have an opinion	14.4% (352)	14.4% (352)
Comment	572 replies	572
answered question	2,440	2,440
	skipped question	178

26. I am a

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced abuse?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Male	15.3% (381)	15.3% (381)
Female	84.9% (2,121)	84.9% (2,121)
answered question	2,497	2,497
	skipped question	121

27. My age group is:

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced abuse?	
	Yes	Response Totals
18 to 25	3.8% (95)	3.8% (95)
26 to 40	21.4% (536)	21.4% (536)
41 to 60	60.2% (1,507)	60.2% (1,507)
61 to 80	14.8% (371)	14.8% (371)
Over 80	0.3% (7)	0.3% (7)
answered question	2,504	2,504
	skipped question	114

28. What is your ethnic origin?

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced abuse?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Caucasian	83.3% (2,019)	83.3% (2,019)
African-American	4.4% (107)	4.4% (107)
Asian/Pacific Island	2.2% (53)	2.2% (53)
Latino	4.9% (119)	4.9% (119)
Multiracial	5.2% (127)	5.2% (127)
Other (please specify)	111 replies	111
answered question	2,425	2,425
	skipped question	193

29. In what state is your primary residence?

	Have you or your family member with a disability ever experienced abuse?	
	Yes	Response Totals
Alabama	0.7% (16)	0.7% (16)
Alaska	0.8% (19)	0.8% (19)
Arizona	0.9% (22)	0.9% (22)
Arkansas	2.0% (49)	2.0% (49)
California	16.7% (400)	16.7% (400)
Colorado	1.4% (33)	1.4% (33)
Connecticut	0.5% (13)	0.5% (13)
Delaware	1.6% (39)	1.6% (39)
District of Columbia	1.4% (33)	1.4% (33)
Florida	4.0% (95)	4.0% (95)
Georgia	1.1% (26)	1.1% (26)
Hawaii	0.7% (17)	0.7% (17)
Idaho	0.7% (16)	0.7% (16)

Illinois	2.5% (61)	2.5% (61)
Indiana	2.1% (51)	2.1% (51)
Iowa	1.0% (24)	1.0% (24)
Kansas	0.7% (16)	0.7% (16)
Kentucky	0.9% (21)	0.9% (21)
Louisiana	1.0% (25)	1.0% (25)
Maine	0.2% (5)	0.2% (5)
Maryland	2.0% (47)	2.0% (47)
Massachusetts	4.1% (99)	4.1% (99)
Michigan	2.8% (66)	2.8% (66)
Minnesota	2.0% (47)	2.0% (47)
Mississippi	0.6% (14)	0.6% (14)
Missouri	1.8% (42)	1.8% (42)
Montana	0.2% (5)	0.2% (5)
Nebraska	0.8% (18)	0.8% (18)
Nevada	0.5% (12)	0.5% (12)
New Hampshire	0.5% (13)	0.5% (13)

New Jersey	2.2% (52)	2.2% (52)
New Mexico	1.6% (39)	1.6% (39)
New York	4.8% (114)	4.8% (114)
North Carolina	4.2% (100)	4.2% (100)
North Dakota	0.2% (4)	0.2% (4)
Ohio	2.9% (69)	2.9% (69)
Oklahoma	1.0% (24)	1.0% (24)
Oregon	3.6% (87)	3.6% (87)
Pennsylvania	3.5% (83)	3.5% (83)
Rhode Island	0.3% (6)	0.3% (6)
South Carolina	0.9% (21)	0.9% (21)
South Dakota	1.1% (26)	1.1% (26)
Tennessee	1.3% (30)	1.3% (30)
Texas	4.5% (109)	4.5% (109)
Utah	0.3% (6)	0.3% (6)
Vermont	0.3% (8)	0.3% (8)

Virginia	3.3% (79)	3.3% (79)
Washington	3.6% (86)	3.6% (86)
West Virginia	0.8% (19)	0.8% (19)
Wisconsin	3.5% (85)	3.5% (85)
Wyoming	0.3% (6)	0.3% (6)
If not a resident of the U.S., in what country do you reside?	186 replies	186
answered question	2,397	2,397
	skipped question	221

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 abuse?	
	Yes	Response Count
	1,389 replies	1,389
answered question	1,389	1,389
	skipped question	1,229