

Comments by Survey Respondents

The following are some comments made by survey respondents. Many questions allowed for a narrative in addition to multiple choice answers.

* I experienced abuse both when I was a child, and after I got married. The abuse came from my parents when I was a child, and from my wife, my in-laws, my parents and my neighbors in recent years after my marriage.

* Not really sure since my son doesn't really speak out for fear of the person leaving or getting in trouble.

* Had a lot of caregivers initially because of abuse charges I insisted on and finally, I, REPEAT, I was the one who got kicked off the caregiver service and was without services for many years!!!!!!!!!!

* Rape: twice very bad but private, plus dozens of times forced to have sex with large child in the bed. Emotional and psychological abuse innumerable times.

* Bullying has occurred in the school environment, as well as neglect or teasing about his speech sounds sounding different.

* Physical abuse, forced drug overdose, isolation, medicine/food/water/bathroom deprivation

* Emotional/verbal abuse of me by parents and occasionally educators. Being made fun of for traits that are right on the DSM (for autistic disorder) while being told that Aspergers doesn't really exist.

* Major incidents like rape, physical beating,

severe psychological abuse probably in the 20-40 range. The other abusive things are relatively mild but not insignificant and caused ongoing stress from their cumulative effect. These things are primarily support staff, boyfriends who are at a minimum disrespectful and rude to her, treating her like a child and yelling at her and threatening punishment if she did not do as she was told (many rights violations), and things like that.

* Once by an adaptive p.e. teacher in middle school. The adaptive p.e. teacher was asked not to work with my son after this incident. The next year, I learned that she was employed to provide indirect services to him again, without my knowledge or consent. Once by a special ed teacher in high school.

* I don't know how to answer this. Does bullying count? If so, adding it all up amounts to too many times to count. If not, maybe a dozen times.

* When my 3 year old daughter with autism was screaming when she saw the school entrance, I knew. She was indifferent at first, but then, she became horrified by the presence of school building, personnel. Then, she locked herself in herself to crawl under the tight space to hide...

* My son was abused by his kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade teachers. I know of some specific incidents that would number more than 20 times but I don't know about others because he was not able to communicate a lot to me.

* Almost daily as a child. I used to pray nightly to God to help me learn to be "good" but it never worked. As an adult I realize the abuse was based on my mother's emotional state and not related to anything I had done. I was thirty six before I realized that I was not "bad."

How often have
you or a family
member
experienced
abuse or
bullying?

* 1. social abuse- ostracization, stereotyping, discrimination; denial of service 2. medical abuse, denial of or poor or inappropriate medical care due to attitudes, stereotyping, dislike of disabled (think we are faking disabilities); 3. abandonment by mother and siblings.

* Bullying. Instilling fear. Instilling intimidation. Threatening to and Turning off my oxygen machine while I'm sleeping. Threatening me. Threatening to "Open the front door so my Service Animals would run into the very very busy Blvd. we live on to get hit by a truck or not come back and maybe I would follow." Locking my 2 service animals outside w/out water on 90- 100* degree days while I was at a necessary medical appts. etc.

* Some strangers react negatively to our son's Down Syndrome and Autistic behaviors by pulling their children away or glaring at him. No physical or verbal abuse has occurred until now. I would characterize it as fear or neglect at most.

* My brother has developmental issues and cannot make good decisions for himself and we have seen so many times people take advantage or abuse him but it is their word against his.

* Persons in the school setting have verbally abused our son, an in home worker physically abused my son and also neglected him.

* Abuse by public school teachers, principal, speech therapist and others locking son in closet.

* We adopted our children from foster care and they had been abused in their birth home. One of them has since been abused in 2 different public schools.

* Forced through unnecessary medical/surgical and mental health treatment against my will by people who knew I did not consent to these things or who should've known they were wrong.

* Was placed in a school cafeteria's freezer for a good period of time because he was "aroused". He was in his teens at the time (normal to have these feelings but don't know how to handle them).

* My sister-in-law (age 55) has intellectual disabilities. She has been sexually abused by her father, raped by a neighbor, beat up by her brothers (twins ages 38). Raped her brothers friends, verbally abused by brothers, financially abused by her brother and mother. Neglected by her mother, her guardian and the list could go on.

* My daughter was put in a closet when she refused to eat her lunch. This happened in a public school setting. Another time she was left on the bus for over an hour in the winter.

* Peers without disabilities often tormented, pushed, or became aggressive with my brother who is deaf.

* My son is non verbal with autism he has been tied to a chair until his arms were bruised by a person with a Ph.D., knocked down and stepped on his face leaving a shoe print by a bus driver, nose broken by a different bus driver and a caregiver exposed him to sexual abuse hopefully I caught it in time before anything happened

* Possibly sexual abuse. A staff person who worked with my son was accused of sexually abusing another client but they could never determine if he abused my son. My son is non-verbal!

What types of abuse have you or your family member experienced?

Lack of Reporting – Why?

(statements from survey respondents)

- * There are too many in the service industry that cover each others back if they are from the same agency.
- * In some (less common) cases, I could not report emotional abuse because the authority to whom I would have reported, my teacher, was the abuser.
- * I believed that the repercussions would be more damaging than the abuses suffered.
- * It is too difficult. People have rights, but it takes forever and the system is reluctant to enforce it's own standards.
- * Could not safely file a report without placing myself in further danger, unless I waited until I reached the age of majority.
- * I reported the abuse repeatedly to my parents, who chose to do nothing.
- * Didn't think of it as abuse until being told it was later on.
- * I was told not to push it or they may put me in a "home" to shut me up.
- * Two principals were notified, but handled each complaint with their own investigation without contacting authorities.
- * My family was advised by our church to not report the incident.
- * The sexual and physical abusive episodes were not reported because of my family member's fear and being threatened.
- * Reported to school authorities, not police. Thought it was the right thing to do, didn't consider, nor did anyone suggest reporting to the police.
- * Didn't believe that the authorities would do anything. Told friends but they felt helpless to do anything but to try to support me.