

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...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Totals
Person with a disability	8.9% (223)	8.9% (223)
Parent or family member of a person with a disability	100.0% (2,501)	100.0% (2,501)
Direct support worker	5.2% (131)	5.2% (131)
Administrator/manager of an organization providing services or supports to people with disabilities	7.4% (184)	7.4% (184)
Social Worker in the field of disabilities	3.3% (83)	3.3% (83)
Protective Services Professional (CPS or APS)	0.9% (22)	0.9% (22)
Mental Health Professional	3.8% (94)	3.8% (94)
Peace Officer	0.5% (13)	0.5% (13)
Court official (attorney, parole or probation worker, judge)	0.7% (18)	0.7% (18)
Policymaker (Legislator or works for one)	0.2% (4)	0.2% (4)
Public agency employee	2.7% (67)	2.7% (67)

Special Education teacher, aide or administrator	3.2% (81)	3.2% (81)
Teacher or administrator (but not in Special Education)	1.0% (26)	1.0% (26)
Advocate	15.8% (395)	15.8% (395)
Concerned Citizen	8.7% (217)	8.7% (217)
Other:	106 replies	106
answered question	2,501	2,501
	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...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Totals
A person who uses a wheelchair or has limited mobility	26.8% (469)	26.8% (469)
A person who is blind or has limited vision	0.6% (10)	0.6% (10)
A person who is deaf or is hard of hearing	0.3% (5)	0.3% (5)
A person with an intellectual or a developmental disability, e.g., diagnosis of Mental Retardation, Autism, or Cerebral Palsy	67.4% (1,180)	67.4% (1,180)
A person who has difficulty speaking clearly or being understood	1.5% (26)	1.5% (26)
A person who has mental health problems	3.4% (60)	3.4% (60)
Other (please specify)	786 replies	786
answered question	1,750	1,750
	skipped question	751

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...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Totals
A person who uses a wheelchair or has limited mobility	3.5% (84)	3.5% (84)
A person who is blind or has limited vision	1.8% (42)	1.8% (42)
A person who is deaf or hard of hearing	2.6% (61)	2.6% (61)
A person with an intellectual or a developmental disability, e.g., diagnosis of Mental Retardation, Autism, or Cerebral Palsy	63.6% (1,514)	63.6% (1,514)
A person who has difficulty speaking clearly or being understood	14.7% (349)	14.7% (349)
A person with mental health problems	14.6% (347)	14.6% (347)
All are abused at about the same rate	28.0% (666)	28.0% (666)
Other (please specify)	168 replies	168
answered question	2,382	2,382
	skipped question	119

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...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Totals
A stranger who a person with a disability encounters alone in a private or public place	8.5% (210)	8.5% (210)
Someone with whom he/she is somewhat familiar	30.3% (749)	30.3% (749)
A caregiver or family member	33.9% (839)	33.9% (839)
All of the above about the same	39.5% (978)	39.5% (978)
answered question	2,475	2,475
	skipped question	26

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...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Totals
Yes, I have a disability.	9.6% (238)	9.6% (238)
Yes, I have an immediate family member with a disability.	94.1% (2,344)	94.1% (2,344)
No, none of us has a disability.	2.8% (70)	2.8% (70)
answered question	2,490	2,490
	skipped question	11

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...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Totals
Use a wheelchair or have limited mobility	19.0% (406)	19.0% (406)
Blind or have limited vision	5.8% (123)	5.8% (123)
Deaf or Hard of Hearing	6.1% (129)	6.1% (129)
Autism	39.2% (836)	39.2% (836)
Intellectual or developmental disability other than Autism e.g., diagnosis of Mental Retardation, Cerebral Palsy or Epilepsy	50.8% (1,083)	50.8% (1,083)
Difficulty speaking clearly or being understood	21.2% (452)	21.2% (452)
Mental Health problems	18.0% (383)	18.0% (383)
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder	4.6% (98)	4.6% (98)
Other (please specify)	324 replies	324
answered question	2,132	2,132
	skipped question	369

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...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Totals
Yes	63.6% (1,431)	63.6% (1,431)
No	37.7% (848)	37.7% (848)
answered question	2,249	2,249
	skipped question	252

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...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Totals
Physical abuse (non-sexual)	37.1% (718)	37.1% (718)
Sexual abuse	19.9% (385)	19.9% (385)
Financial abuse	13.4% (259)	13.4% (259)
Verbal or Emotional abuse	54.5% (1,054)	54.5% (1,054)
Neglect	25.8% (499)	25.8% (499)
This question doesn't apply to me	29.2% (564)	29.2% (564)
Other (please specify and feel free to comment)	357 replies	357
answered question	1,933	1,933
	skipped question	568

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...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Totals
Yes	53.9% (878)	53.9% (878)
No	46.1% (750)	46.1% (750)
answered question	1,628	1,628
	skipped question	873

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

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Totals
Nothing	23.5% (352)	23.5% (352)
An investigation was done without delay	12.6% (189)	12.6% (189)
The person who committed the abuse was fired, quit, or was asked to avoid contact with me (my family member)	11.9% (178)	11.9% (178)
I believe an interview wasn't done or wasn't thorough because I (my family member) use an alternative way to communicate	4.1% (62)	4.1% (62)
I (my family member) was interviewed but was not believed	8.6% (128)	8.6% (128)
An investigation was done but I (my family member) was not interviewed	4.8% (72)	4.8% (72)
An investigation was done but too much time had passed and the investigation was compromised	3.7% (56)	3.7% (56)
An investigation was done but the investigator(s) was not thorough	10.2% (152)	10.2% (152)
The person who committed the abuse was arrested	3.7% (56)	3.7% (56)
The person who committed the abuse was charged with a crime	4.9% (74)	4.9% (74)
The person who committed the abuse was convicted of a crime	3.1% (46)	3.1% (46)
The person who committed the crime served time in prison or jail	2.4% (36)	2.4% (36)
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	2.9% (43)	2.9% (43)
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)	2.1% (32)	2.1% (32)
This question doesn't apply to me	42.4% (634)	42.4% (634)
Comment on your experience with abuse	483 replies	483
answered question	1,497	1,497
	skipped question	1,004

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...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Totals
Believed nothing would happen	14.5% (205)	14.5% (205)
Did not know how to report or who to report to	9.0% (127)	9.0% (127)
Was told not to say anything (threatened) or was too scared to do anything about the abuse	5.9% (84)	5.9% (84)
Was told not to report it even though I wanted to tell someone about the abuse	2.3% (33)	2.3% (33)
Wasn't able to report the abuse because of my injury	0.8% (12)	0.8% (12)
This question doesn't apply to me	74.0% (1,046)	74.0% (1,046)
Other (please specify)	351 replies	351
answered question	1,413	1,413
	skipped question	1,088

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...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Totals
One time	8.5% (163)	8.5% (163)
More than once but less than ten times	34.4% (662)	34.4% (662)
About ten times	3.8% (74)	3.8% (74)
Between 20-40 times	5.2% (100)	5.2% (100)
Too many to times to count	17.9% (344)	17.9% (344)
This question doesn't apply to me	31.3% (603)	31.3% (603)
Comment	300 replies	300
answered question	1,926	1,926
	skipped question	575

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...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Totals
Yes	68.0% (1,490)	68.0% (1,490)
No	32.0% (700)	32.0% (700)
answered question	2,190	2,190
	skipped question	311

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...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Totals
School	62.3% (1,211)	62.3% (1,211)
Sports team	6.9% (135)	6.9% (135)
Workplace	10.3% (200)	10.3% (200)
Neighborhood/home	26.8% (522)	26.8% (522)
Internet/Cyber space	4.6% (89)	4.6% (89)
Other	10.4% (202)	10.4% (202)
This question doesn't apply	24.5% (476)	24.5% (476)
If "other," describe the place where the bullying occurred	281 replies	281
answered question	1,945	1,945
	skipped question	556

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

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Totals
Once	4.5% (88)	4.5% (88)
Occasionally	40.3% (783)	40.3% (783)
Every day	12.8% (248)	12.8% (248)
Multiple times per day	6.2% (121)	6.2% (121)
It went on for years	16.2% (314)	16.2% (314)
This question doesn't apply	25.4% (494)	25.4% (494)
Please feel free to comment on your bullying experience	291 replies	291
answered question	1,944	1,944
	skipped question	557

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...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Totals
Yes	65.0% (1,250)	65.0% (1,250)
No	7.2% (139)	7.2% (139)
This question does not apply	27.8% (534)	27.8% (534)
Please feel free to explain.	298 replies	298
answered question	1,923	1,923
	skipped question	578

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...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Totals
Yes	18.5% (383)	18.5% (383)
No	56.8% (1,175)	56.8% (1,175)
This question doesn't apply to me	24.7% (512)	24.7% (512)
Please feel free to explain	269 replies	269
answered question	2,070	2,070
	skipped question	431

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...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Totals
Not helpful	4.7% (79)	4.7% (79)
Somewhat helpful	14.2% (240)	14.2% (240)
Very helpful	5.7% (97)	5.7% (97)
Extremely helpful	2.8% (47)	2.8% (47)
This question doesn't apply to me	72.6% (1,226)	72.6% (1,226)
Please feel free to describe this experience	111 replies	111
answered question	1,689	1,689
	skipped question	812

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...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Totals
Abuse against people with disabilities has been reported to me	41.1% (92)	41.1% (92)
I have investigated abuse as part of my job	21.0% (47)	21.0% (47)
I advocate for people with disabilities who have been abused or have had crimes committed against them	47.3% (106)	47.3% (106)
I have prosecuted people that have committed crimes against people with disabilities.	1.3% (3)	1.3% (3)
I provide some form of therapy or counseling to victims of abuse with disabilities	15.2% (34)	15.2% (34)
I have no personal or professional experience with abuse	31.7% (71)	31.7% (71)
Other	39 replies	39
answered question	224	224
	skipped question	2,277

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...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Totals
About the same	2.6% (14)	2.6% (14)
Slightly more prevalent than against people without disabilities	10.9% (59)	10.9% (59)
Many times more prevalent than abuse against people without disabilities at all ages	64.6% (348)	64.6% (348)
More prevalent against children	8.9% (48)	8.9% (48)
More prevalent against adults	4.8% (26)	4.8% (26)
More prevalent against elders	7.6% (41)	7.6% (41)
Not sure	13.4% (72)	13.4% (72)
Other (please specify)	18 replies	18
answered question	539	539
	skipped question	1,962

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...	
		Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Totals
Reported to authorities	0	8.5% (41)	
	1	41.9% (203)	
	2	28.1% (136)	
	3	14.5% (70)	
	4	5.6% (27)	
	5	1.4% (7)	
	rating average	2.71 (484)	2.71 (484)
Authority receiving report takes action	0	7.9% (38)	
	1	34.2% (164)	
	2	26.7% (128)	
	3	20.5% (98)	
	4	7.7% (37)	
		2.9%	

	5	(14)	
	rating average	2.95 (479)	2.95 (479)
Authority receiving report promptly and thoroughly investigates	0	9.6% (46)	
	1	39.9% (191)	
	2	26.9% (129)	
	3	15.0% (72)	
	4	6.7% (32)	
	5	1.9% (9)	
	rating average	2.75 (479)	2.75 (479)
Victims with disabilities are believed	0	11.1% (53)	
	1	43.7% (209)	
	2	24.5% (117)	
	3	13.4% (64)	
	4	6.1% (29)	
	5	1.3% (6)	
	rating average	2.63 (478)	2.63 (478)
Those who abuse people with disabilities are fired	0	21.3% (100)	

	1	41.7% (196)	
	2	17.4% (82)	
	3	10.9% (51)	
	4	5.5% (26)	
	5	3.2% (15)	
rating average		2.47 (470)	2.47 (470)
Individuals who commit crimes against people with disabilities are arrested	0	19.9% (96)	
	1	48.3% (233)	
	2	17.4% (84)	
	3	8.7% (42)	
	4	3.9% (19)	
	5	1.7% (8)	
rating average		2.33 (482)	2.33 (482)
Individuals who commit crimes against people with disabilities are prosecuted	0	19.8% (95)	
	1	51.4% (247)	
	2	15.4% (74)	
	3	8.9% (43)	

	4	3.7% (18)	
	5	0.8% (4)	
	rating average	2.28 (481)	2.28 (481)
Individuals who commit crimes against people with disabilities are convicted	0	22.2% (105)	
	1	50.6% (240)	
	2	14.6% (69)	
	3	8.2% (39)	
	4	3.8% (18)	
	5	0.6% (3)	
	rating average	2.23 (474)	2.23 (474)
Individuals who commit crimes against people with disabilities go to prison or jail.	0	28.0% (134)	
	1	49.2% (235)	
	2	13.2% (63)	
	3	6.7% (32)	
	4	2.3% (11)	
	5	0.6% (3)	
	rating average	2.08	2.08

	(478)	(478)
Comment	81 replies	81
answered question	492	492
	skipped question	2,009

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...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Totals
Individuals with disabilities are not valued	41.2% (216)	41.2% (216)
Victims with disabilities are not believed to be reliable reporters or witnesses	52.7% (276)	52.7% (276)
Too much extra work to handle cases against victims with disabilities	32.3% (169)	32.3% (169)
Authorities lack adequate training to deal with these victims	51.3% (269)	51.3% (269)
Because incidents of abuse are rarely prosecuted such cases are not handled well	31.3% (164)	31.3% (164)
All of the above are factors in creating unequal justice for these victims	59.0% (309)	59.0% (309)
I do not believe that crime victims with disabilities experience unequal justice any more often than anyone else	3.8% (20)	3.8% (20)
Comment	44 replies	44
answered question	524	524
	skipped question	1,977

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...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Count
	398 replies	398
answered question	398	398
	skipped question	2,103

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...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Totals
Spend more time in jail when they commit crimes against people with disabilities?	55.6% (1,196)	55.6% (1,196)
Spend less time in jail when they commit crimes against people with disabilities?	0.8% (18)	0.8% (18)
Spend the same time in jail no matter whether the victim has a disability or not?	33.6% (723)	33.6% (723)
Not sure or don't know	12.1% (261)	12.1% (261)
Comment	379 replies	379
answered question	2,152	2,152
	skipped question	349

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...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Totals
Knowledge of and attitudes toward people with disabilities by all segments of society	37.0% (792)	37.0% (792)
More laws to force authorities to do the right things	7.2% (155)	7.2% (155)
More training about abuse reporting	3.6% (78)	3.6% (78)
More mandated training of police and abuse investigators	8.1% (173)	8.1% (173)
More mandated training of prosecutors	0.9% (19)	0.9% (19)
More mandated training of judges	1.5% (32)	1.5% (32)
Enhanced public awareness of abuse victims with disabilities	13.3% (285)	13.3% (285)
Better tracking of people known to abuse people with disabilities	5.1% (110)	5.1% (110)
More legal actions to force compliance with ADA and other Civil Rights legislation	9.1% (194)	9.1% (194)
I cannot decide which is most important or I do not have an opinion	14.1% (302)	14.1% (302)
Comment	459 replies	459
answered question	2,140	2,140
	skipped question	361

26. I am a

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Totals
Male	10.7% (234)	10.7% (234)
Female	89.3% (1,946)	89.3% (1,946)
answered question	2,178	2,178
	skipped question	323

27. My age group is:

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Totals
18 to 25	2.3% (50)	2.3% (50)
26 to 40	21.2% (463)	21.2% (463)
41 to 60	61.3% (1,341)	61.3% (1,341)
61 to 80	15.3% (335)	15.3% (335)
Over 80	0.4% (9)	0.4% (9)
answered question	2,188	2,188
	skipped question	313

28. What is your ethnic origin?

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Totals
Caucasian	83.0% (1,763)	83.0% (1,763)
African-American	4.5% (96)	4.5% (96)
Asian/Pacific Island	2.2% (46)	2.2% (46)
Latino	6.1% (130)	6.1% (130)
Multiracial	4.2% (89)	4.2% (89)
Other (please specify)	85 replies	85
answered question	2,124	2,124
	skipped question	377

29. In what state is your primary residence?

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Totals
Alabama	0.6% (13)	0.6% (13)
Alaska	0.4% (9)	0.4% (9)
Arizona	0.9% (20)	0.9% (20)
Arkansas	2.3% (49)	2.3% (49)
California	20.0% (425)	20.0% (425)
Colorado	1.2% (26)	1.2% (26)
Connecticut	0.6% (12)	0.6% (12)
Delaware	1.3% (27)	1.3% (27)
District of Columbia	0.5% (10)	0.5% (10)
Florida	3.6% (76)	3.6% (76)
Georgia	1.0% (22)	1.0% (22)
Hawaii	0.8% (16)	0.8% (16)
Idaho	0.4% (9)	0.4% (9)

Illinois	2.2% (46)	2.2% (46)
Indiana	1.5% (32)	1.5% (32)
Iowa	0.5% (11)	0.5% (11)
Kansas	0.3% (7)	0.3% (7)
Kentucky	0.8% (18)	0.8% (18)
Louisiana	1.1% (24)	1.1% (24)
Maine	0.2% (5)	0.2% (5)
Maryland	1.8% (39)	1.8% (39)
Massachusetts	4.4% (94)	4.4% (94)
Michigan	3.2% (69)	3.2% (69)
Minnesota	1.8% (38)	1.8% (38)
Mississippi	0.5% (10)	0.5% (10)
Missouri	1.8% (38)	1.8% (38)
Montana	0.1% (2)	0.1% (2)
Nebraska	1.2% (26)	1.2% (26)
Nevada	0.6% (12)	0.6% (12)
New Hampshire	0.4% (9)	0.4% (9)

New Jersey	2.5% (53)	2.5% (53)
New Mexico	2.2% (46)	2.2% (46)
New York	3.8% (81)	3.8% (81)
North Carolina	4.9% (105)	4.9% (105)
North Dakota	0.2% (5)	0.2% (5)
Ohio	2.5% (53)	2.5% (53)
Oklahoma	0.6% (12)	0.6% (12)
Oregon	2.1% (44)	2.1% (44)
Pennsylvania	3.2% (68)	3.2% (68)
Rhode Island	0.4% (9)	0.4% (9)
South Carolina	1.4% (30)	1.4% (30)
South Dakota	1.3% (28)	1.3% (28)
Tennessee	1.2% (26)	1.2% (26)
Texas	5.3% (113)	5.3% (113)
Utah	0.2% (5)	0.2% (5)
Vermont	0.3% (6)	0.3% (6)

Virginia	3.4% (72)	3.4% (72)
Washington	3.6% (76)	3.6% (76)
West Virginia	1.3% (27)	1.3% (27)
Wisconsin	3.4% (72)	3.4% (72)
Wyoming	0.1% (3)	0.1% (3)
If not a resident of the U.S., in what country do you reside?	139 replies	139
answered question	2,128	2,128
skipped question		373

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...	
	Parent or family member of a person with a disability	Response Count
	1,104 replies	1,104
answered question	1,104	1,104
skipped question		1,397