

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...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Totals
Person with a disability	14.1% (67)	14.1% (67)
Parent or family member of a person with a disability	19.8% (94)	19.8% (94)
Direct support worker	6.8% (32)	6.8% (32)
Administrator/manager of an organization providing services or supports to people with disabilities	10.3% (49)	10.3% (49)
Social Worker in the field of disabilities	7.0% (33)	7.0% (33)
Protective Services Professional (CPS or APS)	1.7% (8)	1.7% (8)
Mental Health Professional	100.0% (474)	100.0% (474)
Peace Officer	0.2% (1)	0.2% (1)
Court official (attorney, parole or probation worker, judge)	0.8% (4)	0.8% (4)
Policymaker (Legislator or works for one)	0.2% (1)	0.2% (1)
Public agency employee	4.9% (23)	4.9% (23)

Special Education teacher, aide or administrator	1.9% (9)	1.9% (9)
Teacher or administrator (but not in Special Education)	1.9% (9)	1.9% (9)
Advocate	18.8% (89)	18.8% (89)
Concerned Citizen	9.9% (47)	9.9% (47)
Other:	25 replies	25
answered question	474	474
	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...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Totals
A person who uses a wheelchair or has limited mobility	42.5% (139)	42.5% (139)
A person who is blind or has limited vision	1.2% (4)	1.2% (4)
A person who is deaf or is hard of hearing	0.9% (3)	0.9% (3)
A person with an intellectual or a developmental disability, e.g., diagnosis of Mental Retardation, Autism, or Cerebral Palsy	46.5% (152)	46.5% (152)
A person who has difficulty speaking clearly or being understood	0.6% (2)	0.6% (2)
A person who has mental health problems	8.3% (27)	8.3% (27)
Other (please specify)	146 replies	146
answered question	327	327
	skipped question	147

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...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Totals
A person who uses a wheelchair or has limited mobility	4.1% (18)	4.1% (18)
A person who is blind or has limited vision	1.8% (8)	1.8% (8)
A person who is deaf or hard of hearing	4.3% (19)	4.3% (19)
A person with an intellectual or a developmental disability, e.g., diagnosis of Mental Retardation, Autism, or Cerebral Palsy	54.1% (239)	54.1% (239)
A person who has difficulty speaking clearly or being understood	10.2% (45)	10.2% (45)
A person with mental health problems	14.7% (65)	14.7% (65)
All are abused at about the same rate	34.6% (153)	34.6% (153)
Other (please specify)	35 replies	35
answered question	442	442
	skipped question	32

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...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Totals
A stranger who a person with a disability encounters alone in a private or public place	2.4% (11)	2.4% (11)
Someone with whom he/she is somewhat familiar	22.4% (105)	22.4% (105)
A caregiver or family member	64.1% (300)	64.1% (300)
All of the above about the same	22.0% (103)	22.0% (103)
answered question	468	468
	skipped question	6

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...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Totals
Yes, I have a disability.	18.8% (89)	18.8% (89)
Yes, I have an immediate family member with a disability.	38.9% (184)	38.9% (184)
No, none of us has a disability.	48.0% (227)	48.0% (227)
answered question	473	473
	skipped question	1

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...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Totals
Use a wheelchair or have limited mobility	24.6% (51)	24.6% (51)
Blind or have limited vision	8.2% (17)	8.2% (17)
Deaf or Hard of Hearing	12.6% (26)	12.6% (26)
Autism	13.0% (27)	13.0% (27)
Intellectual or developmental disability other than Autism e.g., diagnosis of Mental Retardation, Cerebral Palsy or Epilepsy	28.0% (58)	28.0% (58)
Difficulty speaking clearly or being understood	11.1% (23)	11.1% (23)
Mental Health problems	47.3% (98)	47.3% (98)
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder	2.4% (5)	2.4% (5)
Other (please specify)	46 replies	46
answered question	207	207
	skipped question	267

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...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Totals
Yes	63.0% (145)	63.0% (145)
No	37.8% (87)	37.8% (87)
answered question	230	230
	skipped question	244

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...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Totals
Physical abuse (non-sexual)	36.8% (74)	36.8% (74)
Sexual abuse	28.4% (57)	28.4% (57)
Financial abuse	17.9% (36)	17.9% (36)
Verbal or Emotional abuse	58.7% (118)	58.7% (118)
Neglect	21.9% (44)	21.9% (44)
This question doesn't apply to me	28.4% (57)	28.4% (57)
Other (please specify and feel free to comment)	37 replies	37
answered question	201	201
	skipped question	273

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...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Totals
Yes	33.3% (58)	33.3% (58)
No	66.7% (116)	66.7% (116)
answered question	174	174
	skipped question	300

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

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Totals
Nothing	17.5% (25)	17.5% (25)
An investigation was done without delay	7.7% (11)	7.7% (11)
The person who committed the abuse was fired, quit, or was asked to avoid contact with me (my family member)	11.2% (16)	11.2% (16)
I believe an interview wasn't done or wasn't thorough because I (my family member) use an alternative way to communicate	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
I (my family member) was interviewed but was not believed	8.4% (12)	8.4% (12)
An investigation was done but I (my family member) was not interviewed	3.5% (5)	3.5% (5)
An investigation was done but too much time had passed and the investigation was compromised	3.5% (5)	3.5% (5)
An investigation was done but the investigator(s) was not thorough	7.0% (10)	7.0% (10)
The person who committed the abuse was arrested	4.2% (6)	4.2% (6)
The person who committed the abuse was charged with a crime	4.9% (7)	4.9% (7)
The person who committed the abuse was convicted of a crime	2.8% (4)	2.8% (4)
The person who committed the crime served time in prison or jail	0.7% (1)	0.7% (1)
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	2.8% (4)	2.8% (4)
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)	4.2% (6)	4.2% (6)
This question doesn't apply to me	55.2% (79)	55.2% (79)
Comment on your experience with abuse	27 replies	27
answered question	143	143
	skipped question	331

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...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Totals
Believed nothing would happen	18.2% (29)	18.2% (29)
Did not know how to report or who to report to	10.7% (17)	10.7% (17)
Was told not to say anything (threatened) or was too scared to do anything about the abuse	10.1% (16)	10.1% (16)
Was told not to report it even though I wanted to tell someone about the abuse	5.0% (8)	5.0% (8)
Wasn't able to report the abuse because of my injury	1.3% (2)	1.3% (2)
This question doesn't apply to me	61.0% (97)	61.0% (97)
Other (please specify)	44 replies	44
answered question	159	159
	skipped question	315

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...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Totals
One time	6.3% (13)	6.3% (13)
More than once but less than ten times	28.8% (59)	28.8% (59)
About ten times	3.9% (8)	3.9% (8)
Between 20-40 times	7.3% (15)	7.3% (15)
Too many to times to count	24.4% (50)	24.4% (50)
This question doesn't apply to me	30.2% (62)	30.2% (62)
Comment	27 replies	27
answered question	205	205
	skipped question	269

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...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Totals
Yes	62.3% (139)	62.3% (139)
No	37.7% (84)	37.7% (84)
answered question	223	223
	skipped question	251

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...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Totals
School	52.6% (101)	52.6% (101)
Sports team	4.2% (8)	4.2% (8)
Workplace	17.2% (33)	17.2% (33)
Neighborhood/home	24.5% (47)	24.5% (47)
Internet/Cyber space	3.6% (7)	3.6% (7)
Other	9.9% (19)	9.9% (19)
This question doesn't apply	27.6% (53)	27.6% (53)
If "other," describe the place where the bullying occurred	24 replies	24
answered question	192	192
	skipped question	282

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

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Totals
Once	5.1% (10)	5.1% (10)
Occasionally	31.8% (62)	31.8% (62)
Every day	13.3% (26)	13.3% (26)
Multiple times per day	8.7% (17)	8.7% (17)
It went on for years	19.5% (38)	19.5% (38)
This question doesn't apply	28.7% (56)	28.7% (56)
Please feel free to comment on your bullying experience	23 replies	23
answered question	195	195
	skipped question	279

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...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Totals
Yes	58.5% (113)	58.5% (113)
No	11.9% (23)	11.9% (23)
This question does not apply	29.5% (57)	29.5% (57)
Please feel free to explain.	22 replies	22
answered question	193	193
	skipped question	281

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...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Totals
Yes	26.6% (55)	26.6% (55)
No	49.8% (103)	49.8% (103)
This question doesn't apply to me	23.7% (49)	23.7% (49)
Please feel free to explain	33 replies	33
answered question	207	207
	skipped question	267

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...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Totals
Not helpful	3.4% (6)	3.4% (6)
Somewhat helpful	15.5% (27)	15.5% (27)
Very helpful	13.8% (24)	13.8% (24)
Extremely helpful	6.3% (11)	6.3% (11)
This question doesn't apply to me	60.9% (106)	60.9% (106)
Please feel free to describe this experience	8 replies	8
answered question	174	174
	skipped question	300

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...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Totals
Abuse against people with disabilities has been reported to me	45.2% (114)	45.2% (114)
I have investigated abuse as part of my job	20.2% (51)	20.2% (51)
I advocate for people with disabilities who have been abused or have had crimes committed against them	46.0% (116)	46.0% (116)
I have prosecuted people that have committed crimes against people with disabilities.	0.8% (2)	0.8% (2)
I provide some form of therapy or counseling to victims of abuse with disabilities	74.2% (187)	74.2% (187)
I have no personal or professional experience with abuse	9.1% (23)	9.1% (23)
Other	23 replies	23
answered question	252	252
	skipped question	222

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...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Totals
About the same	2.8% (7)	2.8% (7)
Slightly more prevalent than against people without disabilities	13.1% (33)	13.1% (33)
Many times more prevalent than abuse against people without disabilities at all ages	56.6% (142)	56.6% (142)
More prevalent against children	9.2% (23)	9.2% (23)
More prevalent against adults	4.0% (10)	4.0% (10)
More prevalent against elders	9.6% (24)	9.6% (24)
Not sure	14.7% (37)	14.7% (37)
Other (please specify)	4 replies	4
answered question	251	251
	skipped question	223

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...	
		Mental Health Professional	Response Totals
Reported to authorities	0	4.4% (11)	
	1	35.1% (87)	
	2	31.9% (79)	
	3	18.5% (46)	
	4	6.5% (16)	
	5	3.6% (9)	
	rating average		2.98 (248)
Authority receiving report takes action	0	2.9% (7)	
	1	20.2% (49)	
	2	33.3% (81)	
	3	22.6% (55)	
	4	14.8% (36)	
		6.2%	

	5	(15)	
	rating average	3.45 (243)	3.45 (243)
Authority receiving report promptly and thoroughly investigates	0	4.9% (12)	
	1	27.9% (69)	
	2	31.6% (78)	
	3	18.2% (45)	
	4	13.8% (34)	
	5	3.6% (9)	
	rating average	3.19 (247)	3.19 (247)
Victims with disabilities are believed	0	4.5% (11)	
	1	32.2% (79)	
	2	31.8% (78)	
	3	20.4% (50)	
	4	9.4% (23)	
	5	1.6% (4)	
	rating average	3.03 (245)	3.03 (245)
Those who abuse people with disabilities are fired	0	8.6% (21)	

	1	34.4% (84)	
	2	28.7% (70)	
	3	13.1% (32)	
	4	10.2% (25)	
	5	4.9% (12)	
rating average		2.97 (244)	2.97 (244)
Individuals who commit crimes against people with disabilities are arrested	0	6.1% (15)	
	1	48.2% (118)	
	2	23.7% (58)	
	3	16.7% (41)	
	4	2.9% (7)	
	5	2.4% (6)	
rating average		2.69 (245)	2.69 (245)
Individuals who commit crimes against people with disabilities are prosecuted	0	8.1% (20)	
	1	52.4% (129)	
	2	20.3% (50)	
	3	13.4% (33)	

	4	3.3% (8)	
	5	2.4% (6)	
	rating average	2.59 (246)	2.59 (246)
Individuals who commit crimes against people with disabilities are convicted	0	9.8% (24)	
	1	56.1% (137)	
	2	17.2% (42)	
	3	12.7% (31)	
	4	2.9% (7)	
	5	1.2% (3)	
	rating average	2.46 (244)	2.46 (244)
Individuals who commit crimes against people with disabilities go to prison or jail.	0	13.9% (34)	
	1	58.6% (143)	
	2	13.5% (33)	
	3	10.2% (25)	
	4	2.0% (5)	
	5	1.6% (4)	
	rating average	2.33	2.33

	(244)	(244)
Comment	23 replies	23
answered question	251	251
	skipped question	223

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...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Totals
Individuals with disabilities are not valued	28.9% (72)	28.9% (72)
Victims with disabilities are not believed to be reliable reporters or witnesses	45.0% (112)	45.0% (112)
Too much extra work to handle cases against victims with disabilities	20.9% (52)	20.9% (52)
Authorities lack adequate training to deal with these victims	51.8% (129)	51.8% (129)
Because incidents of abuse are rarely prosecuted such cases are not handled well	23.7% (59)	23.7% (59)
All of the above are factors in creating unequal justice for these victims	56.2% (140)	56.2% (140)
I do not believe that crime victims with disabilities experience unequal justice any more often than anyone else	4.0% (10)	4.0% (10)
Comment	22 replies	22
answered question	249	249
	skipped question	225

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...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Count
	72 replies	72
answered question	72	72
	skipped question	402

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...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Totals
Spend more time in jail when they commit crimes against people with disabilities?	39.5% (162)	39.5% (162)
Spend less time in jail when they commit crimes against people with disabilities?	1.0% (4)	1.0% (4)
Spend the same time in jail no matter whether the victim has a disability or not?	41.0% (168)	41.0% (168)
Not sure or don't know	19.5% (80)	19.5% (80)
Comment	68 replies	68
answered question	410	410
	skipped question	64

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...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Totals
Knowledge of and attitudes toward people with disabilities by all segments of society	39.6% (164)	39.6% (164)
More laws to force authorities to do the right things	3.4% (14)	3.4% (14)
More training about abuse reporting	3.9% (16)	3.9% (16)
More mandated training of police and abuse investigators	7.0% (29)	7.0% (29)
More mandated training of prosecutors	1.0% (4)	1.0% (4)
More mandated training of judges	2.7% (11)	2.7% (11)
Enhanced public awareness of abuse victims with disabilities	20.5% (85)	20.5% (85)
Better tracking of people known to abuse people with disabilities	2.9% (12)	2.9% (12)
More legal actions to force compliance with ADA and other Civil Rights legislation	5.1% (21)	5.1% (21)
I cannot decide which is most important or I do not have an opinion	14.0% (58)	14.0% (58)
Comment	65 replies	65
answered question	414	414
	skipped question	60

26. I am a

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Totals
Male	16.6% (70)	16.6% (70)
Female	83.4% (352)	83.4% (352)
answered question	422	422
	skipped question	52

27. My age group is:

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Totals
18 to 25	1.7% (7)	1.7% (7)
26 to 40	31.8% (135)	31.8% (135)
41 to 60	48.1% (204)	48.1% (204)
61 to 80	18.2% (77)	18.2% (77)
Over 80	0.5% (2)	0.5% (2)
answered question	424	424
	skipped question	50

28. What is your ethnic origin?

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Totals
Caucasian	82.4% (341)	82.4% (341)
African-American	4.8% (20)	4.8% (20)
Asian/Pacific Island	2.2% (9)	2.2% (9)
Latino	5.6% (23)	5.6% (23)
Multiracial	5.1% (21)	5.1% (21)
Other (please specify)	12 replies	12
answered question	414	414
	skipped question	60

29. In what state is your primary residence?

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Totals
Alabama	1.5% (6)	1.5% (6)
Alaska	0.5% (2)	0.5% (2)
Arizona	1.2% (5)	1.2% (5)
Arkansas	2.4% (10)	2.4% (10)
California	25.8% (106)	25.8% (106)
Colorado	1.7% (7)	1.7% (7)
Connecticut	1.5% (6)	1.5% (6)
Delaware	1.5% (6)	1.5% (6)
District of Columbia	0.2% (1)	0.2% (1)
Florida	1.9% (8)	1.9% (8)
Georgia	0.2% (1)	0.2% (1)
Hawaii	1.2% (5)	1.2% (5)
Idaho	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)

Illinois	3.9% (16)	3.9% (16)
Indiana	1.7% (7)	1.7% (7)
Iowa	0.7% (3)	0.7% (3)
Kansas	0.7% (3)	0.7% (3)
Kentucky	3.2% (13)	3.2% (13)
Louisiana	1.0% (4)	1.0% (4)
Maine	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
Maryland	2.7% (11)	2.7% (11)
Massachusetts	3.2% (13)	3.2% (13)
Michigan	2.4% (10)	2.4% (10)
Minnesota	0.7% (3)	0.7% (3)
Mississippi	0.5% (2)	0.5% (2)
Missouri	0.7% (3)	0.7% (3)
Montana	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
Nebraska	0.2% (1)	0.2% (1)
Nevada	0.7% (3)	0.7% (3)
New Hampshire	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)

New Jersey	4.4% (18)	4.4% (18)
New Mexico	1.0% (4)	1.0% (4)
New York	2.9% (12)	2.9% (12)
North Carolina	5.8% (24)	5.8% (24)
North Dakota	0.7% (3)	0.7% (3)
Ohio	2.2% (9)	2.2% (9)
Oklahoma	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
Oregon	3.4% (14)	3.4% (14)
Pennsylvania	5.1% (21)	5.1% (21)
Rhode Island	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
South Carolina	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
South Dakota	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
Tennessee	1.7% (7)	1.7% (7)
Texas	4.4% (18)	4.4% (18)
Utah	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
Vermont	0.2% (1)	0.2% (1)

Virginia	1.0% (4)	1.0% (4)
Washington	1.9% (8)	1.9% (8)
West Virginia	0.5% (2)	0.5% (2)
Wisconsin	2.4% (10)	2.4% (10)
Wyoming	0.2% (1)	0.2% (1)
If not a resident of the U.S., in what country do you reside?	19 replies	19
answered question	411	411
skipped question		63

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...	
	Mental Health Professional	Response Count
	188 replies	188
answered question	188	188
skipped question		286