

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...

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Totals
Person with a disability	42.0% (338)	42.0% (338)
Parent or family member of a person with a disability	47.9% (385)	47.9% (385)
Direct support worker	6.5% (52)	6.5% (52)
Administrator/manager of an organization providing services or supports to people with disabilities	11.2% (90)	11.2% (90)
Social Worker in the field of disabilities	5.3% (43)	5.3% (43)
Protective Services Professional (CPS or APS)	1.0% (8)	1.0% (8)
Mental Health Professional	7.1% (57)	7.1% (57)
Peace Officer	0.5% (4)	0.5% (4)
Court official (attorney, parole or probation worker, judge)	0.9% (7)	0.9% (7)
Policymaker (Legislator or works for one)	0.1% (1)	0.1% (1)
Public agency employee	3.0% (24)	3.0% (24)

Special Education teacher, aide or administrator	3.1% (25)	3.1% (25)
Teacher or administrator (but not in Special Education)	1.2% (10)	1.2% (10)
Advocate	20.8% (167)	20.8% (167)
Concerned Citizen	8.5% (68)	8.5% (68)
Other:	68 replies	68
answered question	804	804
	skipped question	26

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

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Totals
A person who uses a wheelchair or has limited mobility	28.3% (144)	28.3% (144)
A person who is blind or has limited vision	1.6% (8)	1.6% (8)
A person who is deaf or is hard of hearing	2.0% (10)	2.0% (10)
A person with an intellectual or a developmental disability, e.g., diagnosis of Mental Retardation, Autism, or Cerebral Palsy	58.2% (296)	58.2% (296)
A person who has difficulty speaking clearly or being understood	1.0% (5)	1.0% (5)
A person who has mental health problems	9.0% (46)	9.0% (46)
Other (please specify)	328 replies	328
answered question	509	509
	skipped question	321

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

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Totals
A person who uses a wheelchair or has limited mobility	5.2% (41)	5.2% (41)
A person who is blind or has limited vision	2.7% (21)	2.7% (21)
A person who is deaf or hard of hearing	3.9% (31)	3.9% (31)
A person with an intellectual or a developmental disability, e.g., diagnosis of Mental Retardation, Autism, or Cerebral Palsy	54.1% (427)	54.1% (427)
A person who has difficulty speaking clearly or being understood	12.0% (95)	12.0% (95)
A person with mental health problems	18.7% (148)	18.7% (148)
All are abused at about the same rate	32.9% (260)	32.9% (260)
Other (please specify)	59 replies	59
answered question	790	790
	skipped question	40

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

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Totals
A stranger who a person with a disability encounters alone in a private or public place	4.6% (38)	4.6% (38)
Someone with whom he/she is somewhat familiar	25.2% (207)	25.2% (207)
A caregiver or family member	47.5% (390)	47.5% (390)
All of the above about the same	36.2% (297)	36.2% (297)
answered question	821	821
	skipped question	9

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

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Totals
Yes, I have a disability.	47.2% (390)	47.2% (390)
Yes, I have an immediate family member with a disability.	63.4% (524)	63.4% (524)
No, none of us has a disability.	0.1% (1)	0.1% (1)
answered question	827	827
	skipped question	3

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.)

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Totals
Use a wheelchair or have limited mobility	21.5% (168)	21.5% (168)
Blind or have limited vision	7.6% (59)	7.6% (59)
Deaf or Hard of Hearing	12.2% (95)	12.2% (95)
Autism	21.2% (165)	21.2% (165)
Intellectual or developmental disability other than Autism e.g., diagnosis of Mental Retardation, Cerebral Palsy or Epilepsy	40.3% (314)	40.3% (314)
Difficulty speaking clearly or being understood	12.6% (98)	12.6% (98)
Mental Health problems	44.6% (348)	44.6% (348)
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder	5.8% (45)	5.8% (45)
Other (please specify)	123 replies	123
answered question	780	780
	skipped question	50

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

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Totals
Yes	99.2% (819)	99.2% (819)
No	1.5% (12)	1.5% (12)
answered question	826	826
	skipped question	4

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

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Totals
Physical abuse (non-sexual)	59.2% (491)	59.2% (491)
Sexual abuse	100.0% (830)	100.0% (830)
Financial abuse	31.2% (259)	31.2% (259)
Verbal or Emotional abuse	73.5% (610)	73.5% (610)
Neglect	37.7% (313)	37.7% (313)
This question doesn't apply to me	0.5% (4)	0.5% (4)
Other (please specify and feel free to comment)	101 replies	101
answered question	830	830
	skipped question	0

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

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Totals
Yes	58.8% (479)	58.8% (479)
No	41.2% (336)	41.2% (336)
answered question	815	815
	skipped question	15

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

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Totals
Nothing	33.4% (195)	33.4% (195)
An investigation was done without delay	18.0% (105)	18.0% (105)
The person who committed the abuse was fired, quit, or was asked to avoid contact with me (my family member)	14.0% (82)	14.0% (82)
I believe an interview wasn't done or wasn't thorough because I (my family member) use an alternative way to communicate	6.0% (35)	6.0% (35)
I (my family member) was interviewed but was not believed	17.3% (101)	17.3% (101)
An investigation was done but I (my family member) was not interviewed	6.5% (38)	6.5% (38)
An investigation was done but too much time had passed and the investigation was compromised	8.4% (49)	8.4% (49)
An investigation was done but the investigator(s) was not thorough	13.5% (79)	13.5% (79)
The person who committed the abuse was arrested	11.8% (69)	11.8% (69)
The person who committed the abuse was charged with a crime	13.2% (77)	13.2% (77)
The person who committed the abuse was convicted of a crime	8.9% (52)	8.9% (52)
The person who committed the crime served time in prison or jail	8.2% (48)	8.2% (48)
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	7.4% (43)	7.4% (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)	5.8% (34)	5.8% (34)
This question doesn't apply to me	14.7% (86)	14.7% (86)
Comment on your experience with abuse	243 replies	243
answered question	584	584
	skipped question	246

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

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Totals
Believed nothing would happen	21.8% (124)	21.8% (124)
Did not know how to report or who to report to	17.6% (100)	17.6% (100)
Was told not to say anything (threatened) or was too scared to do anything about the abuse	28.8% (164)	28.8% (164)
Was told not to report it even though I wanted to tell someone about the abuse	8.8% (50)	8.8% (50)
Wasn't able to report the abuse because of my injury	1.8% (10)	1.8% (10)
This question doesn't apply to me	45.7% (260)	45.7% (260)
Other (please specify)	192 replies	192
answered question	569	569
	skipped question	261

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

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Totals
One time	11.0% (87)	11.0% (87)
More than once but less than ten times	34.4% (273)	34.4% (273)
About ten times	6.3% (50)	6.3% (50)
Between 20-40 times	9.8% (78)	9.8% (78)
Too many to times to count	38.5% (305)	38.5% (305)
This question doesn't apply to me	1.9% (15)	1.9% (15)
Comment	133 replies	133
answered question	793	793
	skipped question	37

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

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Totals
Yes	78.5% (638)	78.5% (638)
No	21.5% (175)	21.5% (175)
answered question	813	813
	skipped question	17

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

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Totals
School	65.8% (490)	65.8% (490)
Sports team	7.9% (59)	7.9% (59)
Workplace	28.3% (211)	28.3% (211)
Neighborhood/home	41.3% (308)	41.3% (308)
Internet/Cyber space	10.9% (81)	10.9% (81)
Other	11.4% (85)	11.4% (85)
This question doesn't apply	14.8% (110)	14.8% (110)
If "other," describe the place where the bullying occurred	104 replies	104
answered question	745	745
	skipped question	85

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

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Totals
Once	2.4% (18)	2.4% (18)
Occasionally	35.4% (264)	35.4% (264)
Every day	16.0% (119)	16.0% (119)
Multiple times per day	8.3% (62)	8.3% (62)
It went on for years	31.5% (235)	31.5% (235)
This question doesn't apply	14.9% (111)	14.9% (111)
Please feel free to comment on your bullying experience	115 replies	115
answered question	745	745
	skipped question	85

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

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Totals
Yes	73.7% (541)	73.7% (541)
No	10.1% (74)	10.1% (74)
This question does not apply	16.2% (119)	16.2% (119)
Please feel free to explain.	108 replies	108
answered question	734	734
	skipped question	96

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)?

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Totals
Yes	44.3% (353)	44.3% (353)
No	48.8% (389)	48.8% (389)
This question doesn't apply to me	6.9% (55)	6.9% (55)
Please feel free to explain	165 replies	165
answered question	797	797
	skipped question	33

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

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Totals
Not helpful	8.2% (56)	8.2% (56)
Somewhat helpful	29.1% (198)	29.1% (198)
Very helpful	13.2% (90)	13.2% (90)
Extremely helpful	9.3% (63)	9.3% (63)
This question doesn't apply to me	40.2% (274)	40.2% (274)
Please feel free to describe this experience	88 replies	88
answered question	681	681
	skipped question	149

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.)

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Totals
Abuse against people with disabilities has been reported to me	54.0% (27)	54.0% (27)
I have investigated abuse as part of my job	34.0% (17)	34.0% (17)
I advocate for people with disabilities who have been abused or have had crimes committed against them	74.0% (37)	74.0% (37)
I have prosecuted people that have committed crimes against people with disabilities.	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
I provide some form of therapy or counseling to victims of abuse with disabilities	18.0% (9)	18.0% (9)
I have no personal or professional experience with abuse	8.0% (4)	8.0% (4)
Other	18 replies	18
answered question	50	50
	skipped question	780

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

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Totals
About the same	0.8% (1)	0.8% (1)
Slightly more prevalent than against people without disabilities	5.5% (7)	5.5% (7)
Many times more prevalent than abuse against people without disabilities at all ages	76.6% (98)	76.6% (98)
More prevalent against children	11.7% (15)	11.7% (15)
More prevalent against adults	7.8% (10)	7.8% (10)
More prevalent against elders	7.0% (9)	7.0% (9)
Not sure	8.6% (11)	8.6% (11)
Other (please specify)	3 replies	3
answered question	128	128
	skipped question	702

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?)

		If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
		Sexual abuse	Response Totals
Reported to authorities	0	3.3% (4)	
	1	43.1% (53)	
	2	27.6% (34)	
	3	16.3% (20)	
	4	6.5% (8)	
	5	3.3% (4)	
	rating average		2.89 (123)
Authority receiving report takes action	0	8.1% (10)	
	1	34.1% (42)	
	2	25.2% (31)	
	3	19.5% (24)	
	4	12.2% (15)	
		0.8%	

	5	(1)	
	rating average	2.96 (123)	2.96 (123)
Authority receiving report promptly and thoroughly investigates	0	9.8% (12)	
	1	43.1% (53)	
	2	26.8% (33)	
	3	13.0% (16)	
	4	7.3% (9)	
	5	0.0% (0)	
	rating average	2.65 (123)	2.65 (123)
Victims with disabilities are believed	0	11.3% (14)	
	1	46.0% (57)	
	2	24.2% (30)	
	3	12.1% (15)	
	4	6.5% (8)	
	5	0.0% (0)	
	rating average	2.56 (124)	2.56 (124)
Those who abuse people with disabilities are fired	0	16.7% (20)	

	1	41.7% (50)	
	2	21.7% (26)	
	3	9.2% (11)	
	4	5.8% (7)	
	5	5.0% (6)	
rating average		2.61 (120)	2.61 (120)
Individuals who commit crimes against people with disabilities are arrested	0	18.7% (23)	
	1	52.0% (64)	
	2	18.7% (23)	
	3	5.7% (7)	
	4	3.3% (4)	
	5	1.6% (2)	
rating average		2.28 (123)	2.28 (123)
Individuals who commit crimes against people with disabilities are prosecuted	0	17.9% (22)	
	1	52.8% (65)	
	2	20.3% (25)	
	3	3.3% (4)	

	4	3.3% (4)	
	5	2.4% (3)	
	rating average	2.28 (123)	2.28 (123)
Individuals who commit crimes against people with disabilities are convicted	0	22.8% (28)	
	1	50.4% (62)	
	2	21.1% (26)	
	3	2.4% (3)	
	4	2.4% (3)	
	5	0.8% (1)	
	rating average	2.14 (123)	2.14 (123)
Individuals who commit crimes against people with disabilities go to prison or jail.	0	28.7% (35)	
	1	46.7% (57)	
	2	18.0% (22)	
	3	4.1% (5)	
	4	1.6% (2)	
	5	0.8% (1)	
	rating average	2.06	2.06

	(122)	(122)
Comment	22 replies	22
answered question	124	124
	skipped question	706

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)

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Totals
Individuals with disabilities are not valued	45.0% (58)	45.0% (58)
Victims with disabilities are not believed to be reliable reporters or witnesses	55.0% (71)	55.0% (71)
Too much extra work to handle cases against victims with disabilities	31.0% (40)	31.0% (40)
Authorities lack adequate training to deal with these victims	54.3% (70)	54.3% (70)
Because incidents of abuse are rarely prosecuted such cases are not handled well	39.5% (51)	39.5% (51)
All of the above are factors in creating unequal justice for these victims	68.2% (88)	68.2% (88)
I do not believe that crime victims with disabilities experience unequal justice any more often than anyone else	1.6% (2)	1.6% (2)
Comment	18 replies	18
answered question	129	129
	skipped question	701

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

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Count
	203 replies	203
answered question	203	203
	skipped question	627

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

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Totals
Spend more time in jail when they commit crimes against people with disabilities?	56.2% (436)	56.2% (436)
Spend less time in jail when they commit crimes against people with disabilities?	1.3% (10)	1.3% (10)
Spend the same time in jail no matter whether the victim has a disability or not?	32.2% (250)	32.2% (250)
Not sure or don't know	12.9% (100)	12.9% (100)
Comment	182 replies	182
answered question	776	776
	skipped question	54

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?

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Totals
Knowledge of and attitudes toward people with disabilities by all segments of society	35.4% (274)	35.4% (274)
More laws to force authorities to do the right things	6.1% (47)	6.1% (47)
More training about abuse reporting	4.3% (33)	4.3% (33)
More mandated training of police and abuse investigators	9.2% (71)	9.2% (71)
More mandated training of prosecutors	1.8% (14)	1.8% (14)
More mandated training of judges	1.6% (12)	1.6% (12)
Enhanced public awareness of abuse victims with disabilities	13.3% (103)	13.3% (103)
Better tracking of people known to abuse people with disabilities	4.5% (35)	4.5% (35)
More legal actions to force compliance with ADA and other Civil Rights legislation	7.6% (59)	7.6% (59)
I cannot decide which is most important or I do not have an opinion	16.2% (125)	16.2% (125)
Comment	186 replies	186
answered question	773	773
	skipped question	57

26. I am a

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Totals
Male	11.6% (92)	11.6% (92)
Female	88.7% (705)	88.7% (705)
answered question	795	795
	skipped question	35

27. My age group is:

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Totals
18 to 25	4.1% (33)	4.1% (33)
26 to 40	24.3% (194)	24.3% (194)
41 to 60	58.1% (464)	58.1% (464)
61 to 80	13.4% (107)	13.4% (107)
Over 80	0.3% (2)	0.3% (2)
answered question	798	798
	skipped question	32

28. What is your ethnic origin?

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Totals
Caucasian	83.5% (646)	83.5% (646)
African-American	4.4% (34)	4.4% (34)
Asian/Pacific Island	1.2% (9)	1.2% (9)
Latino	3.6% (28)	3.6% (28)
Multiracial	7.4% (57)	7.4% (57)
Other (please specify)	36 replies	36
answered question	774	774
	skipped question	56

29. In what state is your primary residence?

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Totals
Alabama	0.8% (6)	0.8% (6)
Alaska	1.1% (8)	1.1% (8)
Arizona	0.9% (7)	0.9% (7)
Arkansas	2.0% (15)	2.0% (15)
California	17.5% (133)	17.5% (133)
Colorado	1.4% (11)	1.4% (11)
Connecticut	0.3% (2)	0.3% (2)
Delaware	1.7% (13)	1.7% (13)
District of Columbia	1.8% (14)	1.8% (14)
Florida	2.8% (21)	2.8% (21)
Georgia	1.2% (9)	1.2% (9)
Hawaii	0.7% (5)	0.7% (5)
Idaho	0.7% (5)	0.7% (5)

Illinois	2.9% (22)	2.9% (22)
Indiana	2.0% (15)	2.0% (15)
Iowa	1.6% (12)	1.6% (12)
Kansas	0.9% (7)	0.9% (7)
Kentucky	0.8% (6)	0.8% (6)
Louisiana	1.4% (11)	1.4% (11)
Maine	0.4% (3)	0.4% (3)
Maryland	2.6% (20)	2.6% (20)
Massachusetts	4.2% (32)	4.2% (32)
Michigan	2.1% (16)	2.1% (16)
Minnesota	2.2% (17)	2.2% (17)
Mississippi	0.3% (2)	0.3% (2)
Missouri	2.2% (17)	2.2% (17)
Montana	0.4% (3)	0.4% (3)
Nebraska	0.9% (7)	0.9% (7)
Nevada	0.4% (3)	0.4% (3)
New Hampshire	0.4% (3)	0.4% (3)

New Jersey	2.4% (18)	2.4% (18)
New Mexico	1.1% (8)	1.1% (8)
New York	4.7% (36)	4.7% (36)
North Carolina	3.7% (28)	3.7% (28)
North Dakota	0.1% (1)	0.1% (1)
Ohio	3.3% (25)	3.3% (25)
Oklahoma	0.8% (6)	0.8% (6)
Oregon	5.0% (38)	5.0% (38)
Pennsylvania	2.4% (18)	2.4% (18)
Rhode Island	0.4% (3)	0.4% (3)
South Carolina	0.4% (3)	0.4% (3)
South Dakota	0.7% (5)	0.7% (5)
Tennessee	1.2% (9)	1.2% (9)
Texas	2.9% (22)	2.9% (22)
Utah	0.3% (2)	0.3% (2)
Vermont	0.5% (4)	0.5% (4)

Virginia	3.6% (27)	3.6% (27)
Washington	4.5% (34)	4.5% (34)
West Virginia	0.5% (4)	0.5% (4)
Wisconsin	2.8% (21)	2.8% (21)
Wyoming	0.4% (3)	0.4% (3)
If not a resident of the U.S., in what country do you reside?	63 replies	63
answered question	760	760
skipped question		70

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

	If yes, what type(s) of abuse have you or your family member experienced? (Check all that apply)	
	Sexual abuse	Response Count
	464 replies	464
answered question	464	464
skipped question		366