

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...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Totals
Person with a disability	9.2% (41)	9.2% (41)
Parent or family member of a person with a disability	18.6% (83)	18.6% (83)
Direct support worker	6.7% (30)	6.7% (30)
Administrator/manager of an organization providing services or supports to people with disabilities	8.1% (36)	8.1% (36)
Social Worker in the field of disabilities	100.0% (446)	100.0% (446)
Protective Services Professional (CPS or APS)	4.3% (19)	4.3% (19)
Mental Health Professional	7.4% (33)	7.4% (33)
Peace Officer	0.4% (2)	0.4% (2)
Court official (attorney, parole or probation worker, judge)	0.7% (3)	0.7% (3)
Policymaker (Legislator or works for one)	0.4% (2)	0.4% (2)
Public agency employee	5.4% (24)	5.4% (24)

Special Education teacher, aide or administrator	0.9% (4)	0.9% (4)
Teacher or administrator (but not in Special Education)	1.1% (5)	1.1% (5)
Advocate	19.1% (85)	19.1% (85)
Concerned Citizen	10.3% (46)	10.3% (46)
Other:	15 replies	15
answered question	446	446
	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...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Totals
A person who uses a wheelchair or has limited mobility	20.8% (63)	20.8% (63)
A person who is blind or has limited vision	0.7% (2)	0.7% (2)
A person who is deaf or is hard of hearing	0.3% (1)	0.3% (1)
A person with an intellectual or a developmental disability, e.g., diagnosis of Mental Retardation, Autism, or Cerebral Palsy	73.6% (223)	73.6% (223)
A person who has difficulty speaking clearly or being understood	0.3% (1)	0.3% (1)
A person who has mental health problems	4.3% (13)	4.3% (13)
Other (please specify)	150 replies	150
answered question	303	303
	skipped question	143

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...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Totals
A person who uses a wheelchair or has limited mobility	4.2% (18)	4.2% (18)
A person who is blind or has limited vision	2.6% (11)	2.6% (11)
A person who is deaf or hard of hearing	2.8% (12)	2.8% (12)
A person with an intellectual or a developmental disability, e.g., diagnosis of Mental Retardation, Autism, or Cerebral Palsy	57.4% (245)	57.4% (245)
A person who has difficulty speaking clearly or being understood	13.6% (58)	13.6% (58)
A person with mental health problems	13.6% (58)	13.6% (58)
All are abused at about the same rate	34.0% (145)	34.0% (145)
Other (please specify)	24 replies	24
answered question	427	427
	skipped question	19

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...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Totals
A stranger who a person with a disability encounters alone in a private or public place	2.9% (13)	2.9% (13)
Someone with whom he/she is somewhat familiar	22.9% (101)	22.9% (101)
A caregiver or family member	58.8% (260)	58.8% (260)
All of the above about the same	26.9% (119)	26.9% (119)
answered question	442	442
	skipped question	4

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...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Totals
Yes, I have a disability.	12.9% (57)	12.9% (57)
Yes, I have an immediate family member with a disability.	37.4% (165)	37.4% (165)
No, none of us has a disability.	54.0% (238)	54.0% (238)
answered question	441	441
	skipped question	5

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...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Totals
Use a wheelchair or have limited mobility	27.7% (48)	27.7% (48)
Blind or have limited vision	3.5% (6)	3.5% (6)
Deaf or Hard of Hearing	9.2% (16)	9.2% (16)
Autism	22.0% (38)	22.0% (38)
Intellectual or developmental disability other than Autism e.g., diagnosis of Mental Retardation, Cerebral Palsy or Epilepsy	38.2% (66)	38.2% (66)
Difficulty speaking clearly or being understood	13.9% (24)	13.9% (24)
Mental Health problems	33.5% (58)	33.5% (58)
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder	2.9% (5)	2.9% (5)
Other (please specify)	31 replies	31
answered question	173	173
	skipped question	273

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...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Totals
Yes	56.3% (107)	56.3% (107)
No	43.7% (83)	43.7% (83)
answered question	190	190
	skipped question	256

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...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Totals
Physical abuse (non-sexual)	30.9% (51)	30.9% (51)
Sexual abuse	26.1% (43)	26.1% (43)
Financial abuse	14.5% (24)	14.5% (24)
Verbal or Emotional abuse	47.9% (79)	47.9% (79)
Neglect	20.6% (34)	20.6% (34)
This question doesn't apply to me	36.4% (60)	36.4% (60)
Other (please specify and feel free to comment)	27 replies	27
answered question	165	165
	skipped question	281

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...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Totals
Yes	38.2% (52)	38.2% (52)
No	61.8% (84)	61.8% (84)
answered question	136	136
	skipped question	310

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

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Totals
Nothing	16.9% (21)	16.9% (21)
An investigation was done without delay	7.3% (9)	7.3% (9)
The person who committed the abuse was fired, quit, or was asked to avoid contact with me (my family member)	8.1% (10)	8.1% (10)
I believe an interview wasn't done or wasn't thorough because I (my family member) use an alternative way to communicate	3.2% (4)	3.2% (4)
I (my family member) was interviewed but was not believed	2.4% (3)	2.4% (3)
An investigation was done but I (my family member) was not interviewed	5.6% (7)	5.6% (7)
An investigation was done but too much time had passed and the investigation was compromised	2.4% (3)	2.4% (3)
An investigation was done but the investigator(s) was not thorough	9.7% (12)	9.7% (12)
The person who committed the abuse was arrested	4.8% (6)	4.8% (6)
The person who committed the abuse was charged with a crime	3.2% (4)	3.2% (4)
The person who committed the abuse was convicted of a crime	3.2% (4)	3.2% (4)
The person who committed the crime served time in prison or jail	2.4% (3)	2.4% (3)
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	2.4% (3)	2.4% (3)
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)	1.6% (2)	1.6% (2)
This question doesn't apply to me	52.4% (65)	52.4% (65)
Comment on your experience with abuse	23 replies	23
answered question	124	124
	skipped question	322

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...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Totals
Believed nothing would happen	16.4% (22)	16.4% (22)
Did not know how to report or who to report to	13.4% (18)	13.4% (18)
Was told not to say anything (threatened) or was too scared to do anything about the abuse	9.7% (13)	9.7% (13)
Was told not to report it even though I wanted to tell someone about the abuse	3.0% (4)	3.0% (4)
Wasn't able to report the abuse because of my injury	0.7% (1)	0.7% (1)
This question doesn't apply to me	67.9% (91)	67.9% (91)
Other (please specify)	27 replies	27
answered question	134	134
	skipped question	312

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...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Totals
One time	8.2% (13)	8.2% (13)
More than once but less than ten times	21.5% (34)	21.5% (34)
About ten times	6.3% (10)	6.3% (10)
Between 20-40 times	7.0% (11)	7.0% (11)
Too many to times to count	20.9% (33)	20.9% (33)
This question doesn't apply to me	38.0% (60)	38.0% (60)
Comment	23 replies	23
answered question	158	158
	skipped question	288

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...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Totals
Yes	64.1% (118)	64.1% (118)
No	35.9% (66)	35.9% (66)
answered question	184	184
	skipped question	262

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...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Totals
School	52.1% (87)	52.1% (87)
Sports team	3.6% (6)	3.6% (6)
Workplace	20.4% (34)	20.4% (34)
Neighborhood/home	31.1% (52)	31.1% (52)
Internet/Cyber space	3.6% (6)	3.6% (6)
Other	9.6% (16)	9.6% (16)
This question doesn't apply	29.9% (50)	29.9% (50)
If "other," describe the place where the bullying occurred	17 replies	17
answered question	167	167
	skipped question	279

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

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Totals
Once	3.6% (6)	3.6% (6)
Occasionally	34.9% (59)	34.9% (59)
Every day	11.8% (20)	11.8% (20)
Multiple times per day	5.9% (10)	5.9% (10)
It went on for years	18.3% (31)	18.3% (31)
This question doesn't apply	30.2% (51)	30.2% (51)
Please feel free to comment on your bullying experience	21 replies	21
answered question	169	169
	skipped question	277

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...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Totals
Yes	58.5% (96)	58.5% (96)
No	9.1% (15)	9.1% (15)
This question does not apply	32.3% (53)	32.3% (53)
Please feel free to explain.	22 replies	22
answered question	164	164
	skipped question	282

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...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Totals
Yes	19.9% (34)	19.9% (34)
No	55.0% (94)	55.0% (94)
This question doesn't apply to me	25.1% (43)	25.1% (43)
Please feel free to explain	21 replies	21
answered question	171	171
	skipped question	275

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...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Totals
Not helpful	2.7% (4)	2.7% (4)
Somewhat helpful	16.9% (25)	16.9% (25)
Very helpful	4.1% (6)	4.1% (6)
Extremely helpful	3.4% (5)	3.4% (5)
This question doesn't apply to me	73.0% (108)	73.0% (108)
Please feel free to describe this experience	9 replies	9
answered question	148	148
	skipped question	298

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...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Totals
Abuse against people with disabilities has been reported to me	66.5% (175)	66.5% (175)
I have investigated abuse as part of my job	48.3% (127)	48.3% (127)
I advocate for people with disabilities who have been abused or have had crimes committed against them	62.7% (165)	62.7% (165)
I have prosecuted people that have committed crimes against people with disabilities.	1.9% (5)	1.9% (5)
I provide some form of therapy or counseling to victims of abuse with disabilities	24.7% (65)	24.7% (65)
I have no personal or professional experience with abuse	5.7% (15)	5.7% (15)
Other	12 replies	12
answered question	263	263
	skipped question	183

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...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Totals
About the same	4.0% (10)	4.0% (10)
Slightly more prevalent than against people without disabilities	12.5% (31)	12.5% (31)
Many times more prevalent than abuse against people without disabilities at all ages	60.5% (150)	60.5% (150)
More prevalent against children	4.4% (11)	4.4% (11)
More prevalent against adults	3.6% (9)	3.6% (9)
More prevalent against elders	7.7% (19)	7.7% (19)
Not sure	14.9% (37)	14.9% (37)
Other (please specify)	6 replies	6
answered question	248	248
	skipped question	198

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...	
		Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Totals
Reported to authorities	0	2.5% (6)	
	1	25.4% (62)	
	2	32.4% (79)	
	3	24.6% (60)	
	4	11.5% (28)	
	5	3.7% (9)	
	rating average	3.28 (244)	3.28 (244)
Authority receiving report takes action	0	2.1% (5)	
	1	19.6% (47)	
	2	25.4% (61)	
	3	25.8% (62)	
	4	19.6% (47)	
		7.5%	

	5	(18)	
	rating average	3.64 (240)	3.64 (240)
Authority receiving report promptly and thoroughly investigates	0	3.7% (9)	
	1	24.1% (58)	
	2	27.0% (65)	
	3	24.9% (60)	
	4	14.9% (36)	
	5	5.4% (13)	
	rating average	3.39 (241)	3.39 (241)
Victims with disabilities are believed	0	3.7% (9)	
	1	28.9% (71)	
	2	25.6% (63)	
	3	25.2% (62)	
	4	13.0% (32)	
	5	3.7% (9)	
	rating average	3.26 (246)	3.26 (246)
Those who abuse people with disabilities are fired	0	6.7% (16)	

	1	23.4% (56)	
	2	24.3% (58)	
	3	24.7% (59)	
	4	11.7% (28)	
	5	9.2% (22)	
rating average		3.39 (239)	3.39 (239)
Individuals who commit crimes against people with disabilities are arrested	0	9.1% (22)	
	1	41.2% (100)	
	2	22.6% (55)	
	3	16.5% (40)	
	4	8.2% (20)	
	5	2.5% (6)	
rating average		2.81 (243)	2.81 (243)
Individuals who commit crimes against people with disabilities are prosecuted	0	10.7% (26)	
	1	45.5% (110)	
	2	23.1% (56)	
	3	12.4% (30)	

	4	5.8% (14)	
	5	2.5% (6)	
	rating average	2.64 (242)	2.64 (242)
Individuals who commit crimes against people with disabilities are convicted	0	13.7% (33)	
	1	45.2% (109)	
	2	22.4% (54)	
	3	11.6% (28)	
	4	5.4% (13)	
	5	1.7% (4)	
	rating average	2.55 (241)	2.55 (241)
Individuals who commit crimes against people with disabilities go to prison or jail.	0	17.5% (42)	
	1	48.3% (116)	
	2	17.9% (43)	
	3	12.5% (30)	
	4	2.1% (5)	
	5	1.7% (4)	
	rating average	2.38	2.38

	(240)	(240)
Comment	26 replies	26
answered question	246	246
	skipped question	200

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...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Totals
Individuals with disabilities are not valued	27.6% (66)	27.6% (66)
Victims with disabilities are not believed to be reliable reporters or witnesses	52.7% (126)	52.7% (126)
Too much extra work to handle cases against victims with disabilities	25.1% (60)	25.1% (60)
Authorities lack adequate training to deal with these victims	54.8% (131)	54.8% (131)
Because incidents of abuse are rarely prosecuted such cases are not handled well	29.7% (71)	29.7% (71)
All of the above are factors in creating unequal justice for these victims	51.0% (122)	51.0% (122)
I do not believe that crime victims with disabilities experience unequal justice any more often than anyone else	2.9% (7)	2.9% (7)
Comment	24 replies	24
answered question	239	239
	skipped question	207

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...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Count
	86 replies	86
answered question	86	86
	skipped question	360

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...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Totals
Spend more time in jail when they commit crimes against people with disabilities?	40.8% (160)	40.8% (160)
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?	44.1% (173)	44.1% (173)
Not sure or don't know	15.6% (61)	15.6% (61)
Comment	47 replies	47
answered question	392	392
	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?

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Totals
Knowledge of and attitudes toward people with disabilities by all segments of society	36.1% (139)	36.1% (139)
More laws to force authorities to do the right things	7.5% (29)	7.5% (29)
More training about abuse reporting	2.6% (10)	2.6% (10)
More mandated training of police and abuse investigators	12.5% (48)	12.5% (48)
More mandated training of prosecutors	0.8% (3)	0.8% (3)
More mandated training of judges	1.3% (5)	1.3% (5)
Enhanced public awareness of abuse victims with disabilities	15.6% (60)	15.6% (60)
Better tracking of people known to abuse people with disabilities	3.1% (12)	3.1% (12)
More legal actions to force compliance with ADA and other Civil Rights legislation	5.5% (21)	5.5% (21)
I cannot decide which is most important or I do not have an opinion	15.1% (58)	15.1% (58)
Comment	65 replies	65
answered question	385	385
	skipped question	61

26. I am a

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Totals
Male	16.5% (65)	16.5% (65)
Female	84.1% (332)	84.1% (332)
answered question	395	395
	skipped question	51

27. My age group is:

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Totals
18 to 25	3.0% (12)	3.0% (12)
26 to 40	35.1% (139)	35.1% (139)
41 to 60	50.0% (198)	50.0% (198)
61 to 80	11.4% (45)	11.4% (45)
Over 80	0.5% (2)	0.5% (2)
answered question	396	396
	skipped question	50

28. What is your ethnic origin?

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Totals
Caucasian	79.7% (303)	79.7% (303)
African-American	5.5% (21)	5.5% (21)
Asian/Pacific Island	3.7% (14)	3.7% (14)
Latino	6.8% (26)	6.8% (26)
Multiracial	4.2% (16)	4.2% (16)
Other (please specify)	17 replies	17
answered question	380	380
	skipped question	66

29. In what state is your primary residence?

	Which of the following best describes your relationship with people with disabilities? I am a...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Totals
Alabama	0.3% (1)	0.3% (1)
Alaska	0.5% (2)	0.5% (2)
Arizona	0.5% (2)	0.5% (2)
Arkansas	0.8% (3)	0.8% (3)
California	17.8% (69)	17.8% (69)
Colorado	1.8% (7)	1.8% (7)
Connecticut	0.5% (2)	0.5% (2)
Delaware	3.6% (14)	3.6% (14)
District of Columbia	0.3% (1)	0.3% (1)
Florida	1.0% (4)	1.0% (4)
Georgia	0.3% (1)	0.3% (1)
Hawaii	2.1% (8)	2.1% (8)
Idaho	0.5% (2)	0.5% (2)

Illinois	1.8% (7)	1.8% (7)
Indiana	2.3% (9)	2.3% (9)
Iowa	0.8% (3)	0.8% (3)
Kansas	0.3% (1)	0.3% (1)
Kentucky	2.8% (11)	2.8% (11)
Louisiana	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
Maine	0.3% (1)	0.3% (1)
Maryland	1.6% (6)	1.6% (6)
Massachusetts	1.3% (5)	1.3% (5)
Michigan	2.8% (11)	2.8% (11)
Minnesota	3.1% (12)	3.1% (12)
Mississippi	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
Missouri	1.8% (7)	1.8% (7)
Montana	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
Nebraska	0.5% (2)	0.5% (2)
Nevada	0.5% (2)	0.5% (2)
New Hampshire	1.3% (5)	1.3% (5)

New Jersey	2.1% (8)	2.1% (8)
New Mexico	0.8% (3)	0.8% (3)
New York	4.7% (18)	4.7% (18)
North Carolina	3.6% (14)	3.6% (14)
North Dakota	0.5% (2)	0.5% (2)
Ohio	4.1% (16)	4.1% (16)
Oklahoma	1.3% (5)	1.3% (5)
Oregon	7.5% (29)	7.5% (29)
Pennsylvania	3.1% (12)	3.1% (12)
Rhode Island	0.3% (1)	0.3% (1)
South Carolina	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
South Dakota	0.8% (3)	0.8% (3)
Tennessee	0.8% (3)	0.8% (3)
Texas	5.2% (20)	5.2% (20)
Utah	0.3% (1)	0.3% (1)
Vermont	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)

Virginia	2.6% (10)	2.6% (10)
Washington	7.8% (30)	7.8% (30)
West Virginia	1.6% (6)	1.6% (6)
Wisconsin	2.1% (8)	2.1% (8)
Wyoming	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
If not a resident of the U.S., in what country do you reside?	15 replies	15
answered question	387	387
skipped question		59

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...	
	Social Worker in the field of disabilities	Response Count
	184 replies	184
answered question	184	184
skipped question		262