

# Dick Sobsey Joins National Survey Team

The Disability and Abuse Project is pleased to announce that Professor Richard (Dick) Sobsey has joined its National Survey Team. Professor Sobsey, currently a consultant to the Project, will now serve as the Principal Survey Analyst for the National Survey.

The National Survey on People with Disabilities was released to the public on May 1, 2012. It is the first survey of its kind to collect data from people with disabilities, their families, and professionals working with them, about incidents and awareness of abuse of adults and children with disabilities, and system response to such abuse.

In the first three weeks since its release, more than 2,500 people have taken the survey.

"We are thrilled that someone of Dick Sobsey's caliber, competence, and dedication has joined our National Survey Team," said Dr. Nora J. Baladerian. Dr. Baladerian is the Director of the Disability and Abuse Project.

"Dick Sobsey not only has an excellent reputation in academia, he has a personal commitment to the issues being addressed by our Project," added Jim Stream. Jim is the Principal Consultant to the Project and Executive Director of The Arc of Riverside County.

Jim Stream and Dr. Nora Baladerian developed the National Survey.

Dick Sobsey will assist the Project in interpreting the results of the survey. He and other members of the National Survey Team will collaborate together to identify ways to use the results in a variety of educational, policy, and advocacy efforts.

## About Dick Sobsey

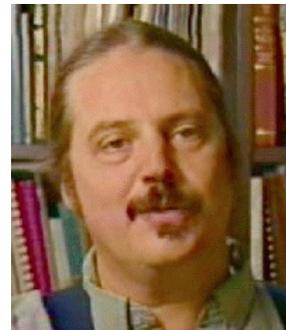
Dick Sobsey is a Professor Emeritus of Educational Psychology at the University of Alberta in Edmonton Canada. He currently serves as Director of the JP Das Developmental Disabilities Centre and Director of the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre.

He has worked with children and adults with developmental disabilities since 1968 as nurse, teacher, and transdisciplinary team leader as well as a researcher and advocate. He is the author of more than 200 books, articles, and commentaries related to health, educational, and social aspects of disability.

Since 1986, Dick Sobsey has devoted much of his research to understanding and preventing violence and abuse of people with disabilities. His 1991 article, with coauthor Tanis Doe, was influential in bringing scholarly attention to the problem of violence against people with disabilities. His 1994 text, *"Violence and Abuse in the Lives of People with Disabilities: The end of silent acceptance,"* synthesized a variety of theoretical constructs into a practical model for understanding and controlling violence against people with disabilities. This multifactorial or integrated ecological model of violence against people with disabilities continues to be used by contemporary professionals, researchers, and advocates.

Although Dick Sobsey is best known for his work on violence and abuse, he also carries out research on healthy families of children with disabilities. He strongly believes that supporting and strengthening healthy families and communities is the best long-term intervention for preventing violence. Violence prevention must focus as much on facilitating good interactions as on attempting to control and eliminate bad ones. His work on family transformation has made a significant contribution to understanding positive growth in families of children with disabilities.

Dick's academic work includes research on homicide victims with developmental disabilities, sexual offenses committed by paratransit providers, and historical research on eugenic family studies.



Professor Dick Sobsey

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