

# Crimes against Persons with Disabilities

People with **DISABILITIES** are victimized at much higher rates than the rest of the population, but they report crime less frequently.<sup>D</sup> Reporting rates may be lower because in many cases they know the perpetrator (e.g., an acquaintance, intimate partner, or other family member) or because of the nature of their disability (such as cognitive or physical disabilities or mental illness). Since people with disabilities are often targeted specifically because of their disability, crimes against them may also count as hate crimes (when the perpetrator is motivated by bias against a particular group of people—see the Hate Crimes Fact Sheet for more).

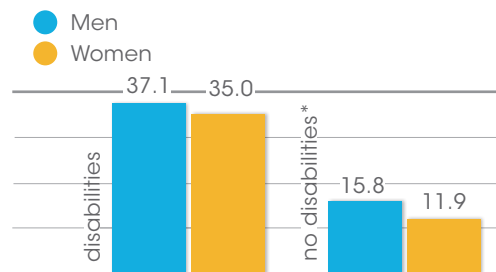
The rate of **violent victimization** against persons with disabilities is **36**/1,000 people with disabilities

vs

an age-adjusted\* rate of **13.7**/1,000 people without disabilities<sup>D</sup>

Persons with disabilities are **14.2%** of the population yet are victims of **violent crime**

**2X** as often as persons without disabilities, adjusted for age<sup>D\*</sup>



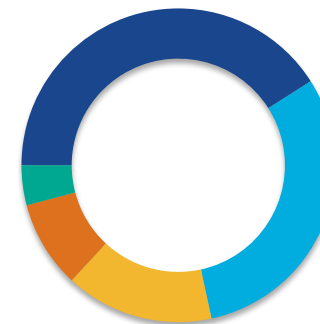
Rate of **violent victimization** for those with and without disabilities, per 1,000 people<sup>D</sup>

**50.5%** of all violence against persons with disabilities occurs against victims with **multiple disabilities**, including:<sup>D</sup>



- > **68.1%** of **rapes/sexual assaults**
- > **56.6%** of **aggravated assaults**
- > **50.3%** of **simple assaults**
- > **37.0%** of **robberies**

- > **Aggravated assault increased** from 3.8/1,000 people with disabilities in 2009 to **6.6**/1,000 in 2013<sup>D</sup>
- > **Rape/sexual assault held steady** from 1.3/1,000 people with disabilities in 2009 to **2**/1,000 in 2013<sup>D</sup>
- > **Simple assault is the most common** form of violence against persons with disabilities, at **22**/1,000 people with disabilities<sup>D</sup>



**Relationship to Offender:**<sup>D</sup>

- Acquaintance (41%)
- Stranger (30.6%)
- Intimate partner (15.3%)
- Other relative (9%)
- Unknown (4.1%)

vs

**Persons without Disabilities**<sup>D</sup>



- (35.1%)
- (38.8%)
- (11.2%)
- (5.6%)
- (9.3%)

More than **70%** of people with disabilities had been **abused**, in a 2012 survey<sup>A</sup>

**51.7%** of incidents were reported



**Type of Abuse:**<sup>A</sup>

- Verbal/emotional (87.2%)
- Physical (50.6%)
- Sexual (41.6%)
- Neglect (37.3%)
- Financial (31.5%)

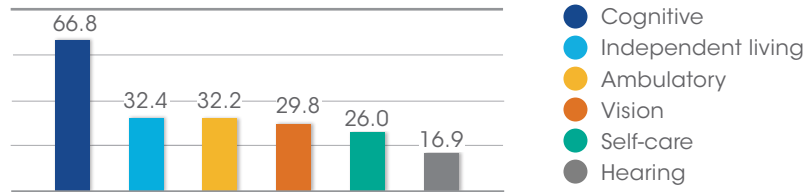
**NOTES:** See reverse for additional information on reporting limitations. Data from 2013 unless otherwise indicated. Hover for data hyperlinks to source material.

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# Crimes against Persons with Disabilities *continued*



Rate of violent victimization by **type of disability**, per 1,000 people with disabilities<sup>D</sup>

Persons with a **cognitive disability** had the highest rates of:<sup>D</sup>

- > **Overall violent crime:** 66.8/1,000 people with disabilities
- > **Serious violent crime:** 25.1/1,000 people with disabilities
- > **Simple assault:** 41.6/1,000 people with disabilities

**1.5%** of reported **hate crimes** were against people with disabilities in 2014:<sup>C</sup>

**26 hate crimes** were against persons with a **physical disability**:<sup>C</sup>

- **8** acts of intimidation
- **6** simple assaults
- **6** other crimes against property
- **3** larceny-thefts
- **2** aggravated assaults
- **1** act of vandalism

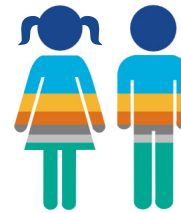


**70 hate crimes** were against persons with a **mental disability**:<sup>C</sup>

- **18** simple assaults
- **14** acts of intimidation
- **13** acts of vandalism/destruction of property
- **9** larceny-thefts
- **6** burglaries
- **3** aggravated assaults
- **3** other crimes against property
- **2** crimes against society
- **1** rape
- **1** robbery



**12.6%** of **child victims of abuse or neglect** also have a disability:<sup>B</sup>



- Behavioral problem (3.0%)
- Emotional disturbance (2.4%)
- Learning disability (1.1%)
- Visual or hearing impairment (0.8%)
- Physical disability (0.6%)
- Intellectual disability (0.5%)
- Other medical disability (4.1%)

About **1 in 4 children** with a disability will become a victim of **violence**<sup>E</sup>



Of those, **20.4%** will be victims of **physical violence** and **13.7%** will be victims of **sexual violence**

## SOURCES

- A** Nora J. Baladerian, Thomas F. Colemand, and Jim Stream, *Findings from the 2012 Survey on Abuse of People with Disabilities*, (Los Angeles: Spectrum Institute, 2013), <http://www.disabilityandabuse.org/survey/findings.pdf>. This national survey included 1,300 people with disabilities and their family members.
- B** *Child Maltreatment 2013*, (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services), <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2013.pdf>
- C** Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Hate Crime Statistics, 2014*, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 2015), <https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/hate-crime/2014/tables/table-1>
- D** Erika Harrell, *Crime Against Persons with Disabilities, 2009–2013 - Statistical Tables*, (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2015), <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/capd0913st.pdf>
- E** Lisa Jones et al., "Prevalence and Risk of Violence against Children with Disabilities: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Observational Studies," *Lancet* 380, no. 9845 (2012): 899

## NOTES

\*Data relies heavily on findings from the National Crime Victimization Survey, which only includes those 12 and older with disabilities living among the general population in household settings. **This limited respondent pool indicates an underestimation of violence** experienced by people with disabilities, as it does not take into account people living in institutions, people who are homeless, or children under 12. **Therefore, some rates for violent crime against people without disabilities have been age-adjusted** to standardize the rate of violence and allow a direct comparison between the two groups.

For more, see: Erika Harrell, *Crime Against Persons with Disabilities, 2009–2013 - Statistical Tables*.