

2012 National Survey on Abuse Against People with Disabilities Findings Spectrum Institute National Disability and Abuse Project

(This is the first ever national survey of this kind. 7289 responses received, from all 50 states and the District of Columbia)

A FEW OF THE FINDINGS RELEVANT TO PREPONDERANCE

- 2/3 of all people with intellectual/developmental disabilities have been victims of abuse
- 8 out of 10 of these people were verbally/emotionally abused
- More than half were physically abused
- Over a third were sexually abused more than once
- 9 out of 10 who were abused were abused multiple times in multiple ways
- **Only one third reported it**

Reasons for not reporting

- 58% believed that nothing would happen
- 38% had been threatened or were afraid
- 33% did not know how or where to report
- Nearly half did not even recognize they were experiencing abuse because it was such a common occurrence in their lives

What happened to those who did report?

- Nothing, for nearly 53%, who said that their reports were screened out at the local or state level
- Arrests of the alleged perpetrators happened in less than a tenth of the reports rising to criminal level
- Only half of these were successfully prosecuted

More than 70% of abuse is perpetrated by someone known to the victim

Only 1/3 receive any kind of therapy following abuse