

The First Report:
Victims and Families Speak Out

National Center for Victims of Crime
Phoenix – September 9, 2013

Background on the Survey

- ***The need for the survey***
- ***Developing questions***
- ***Distribution throughout the nation***
- ***Feedback from our consultants during the analysis phase***

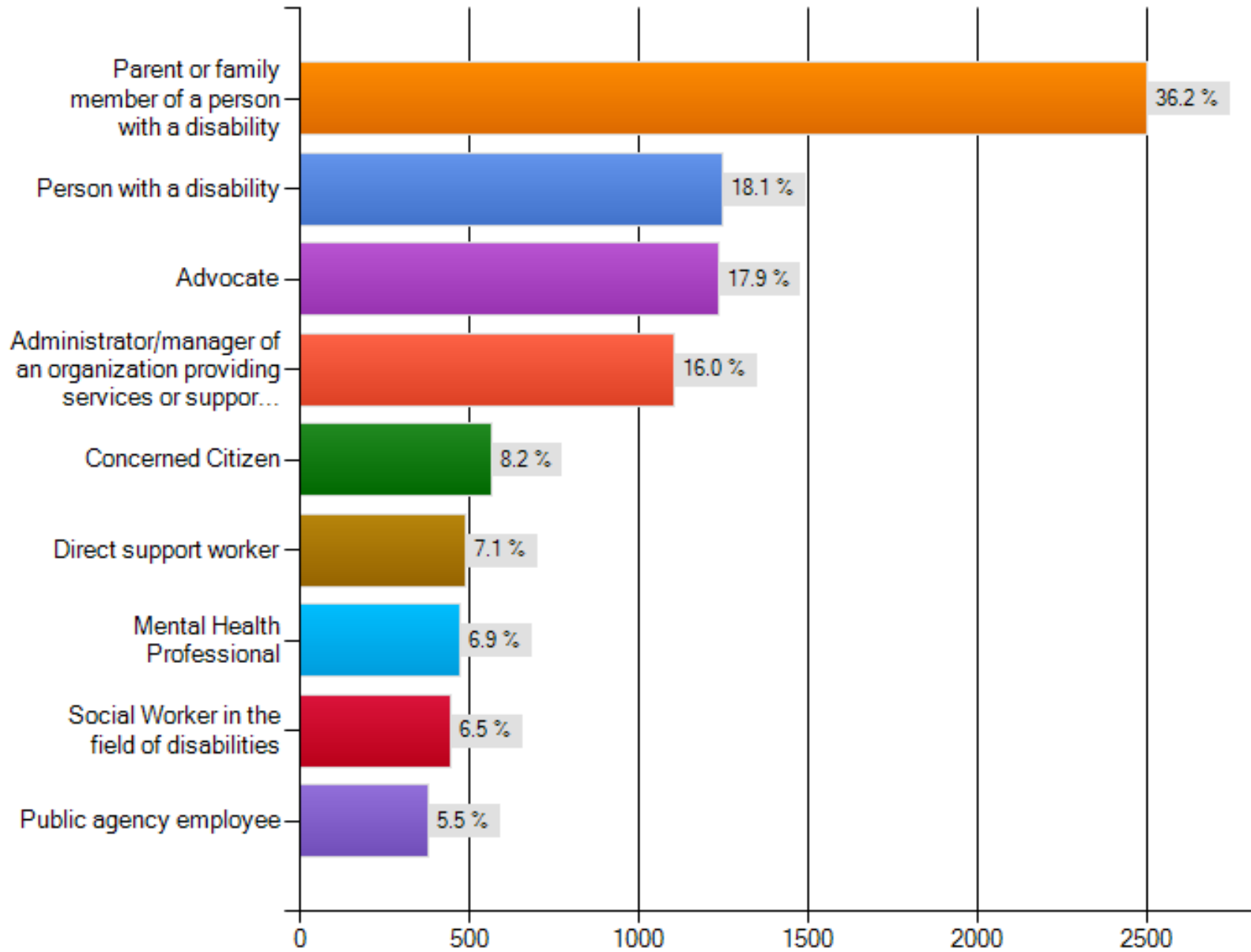
What We Knew Prior to the Survey

- ***Abuse of PWD is an epidemic***
- ***PWD are much more likely to be victims***
- ***Cases of abuse are under-reported***
- ***Victims are not getting:***
 - ***equal justice***
 - ***equal services***

***This survey
elicited responses
from 7,289 people.***

***A wide variety of
people took the survey.***

Types of People Who Responded



***This “First Report”
primarily focuses on
2,560 responses
of victims and
their families.***

Overview of Key Findings



Abuse is prevalent and pervasive

- ***Over 70% of respondents with disabilities were victims of abuse.***
- ***63% of parents/family said their loved one was abused.***



It happens in many ways

- *87% emotional and verbal abuse*
- *51% physical abuse*
- *42% sexual abuse*
- *32% financial abuse*



It happens frequently

- *90% of victims suffered abuse on multiple occasions*
- *57% more than 20 times*
- *46% too many times to count*



Failure to report abuse

- ***Nearly half of victims did not report abuse to authorities.***
- ***Most thought it would be futile to do so.***



Inadequate Response

- ***54% of those who did report, said nothing happened.***
- ***In fewer than 10% of reported cases were perpetrators arrested.***



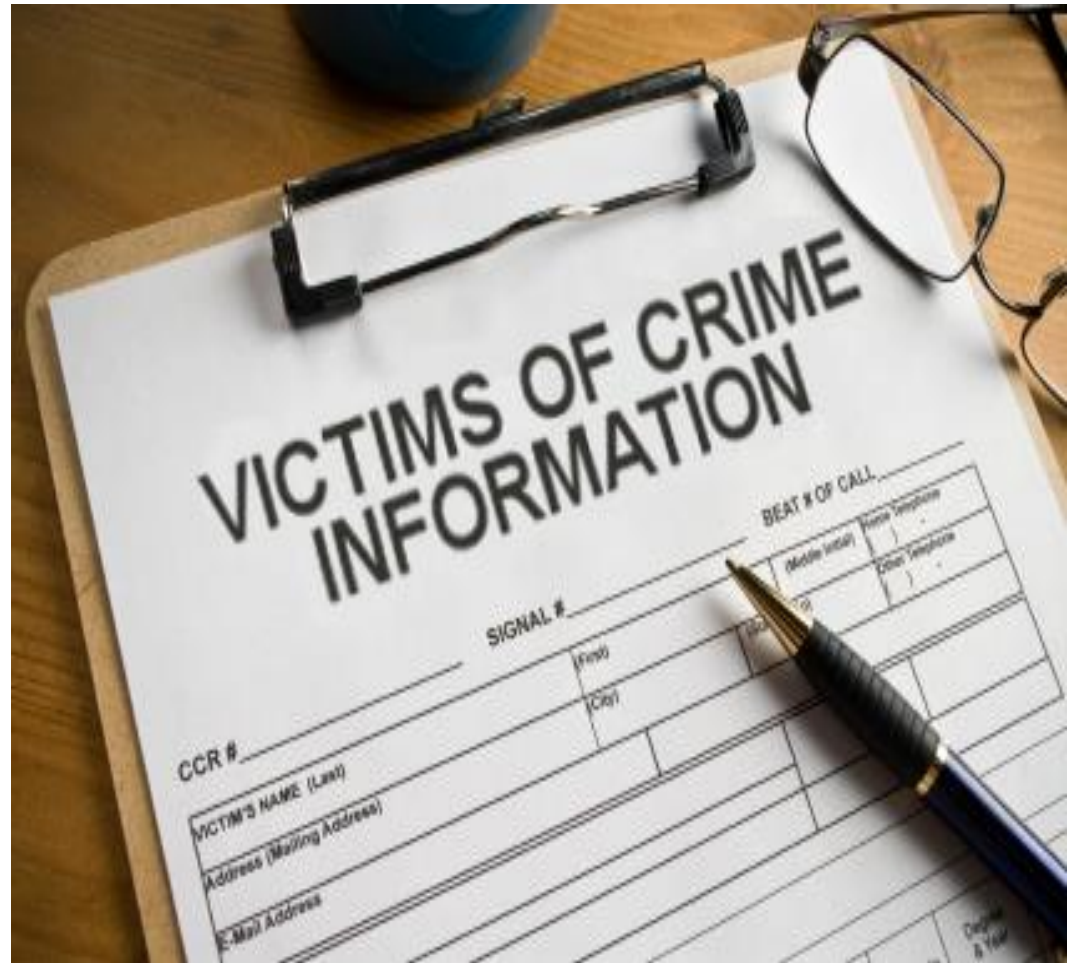
**83% of victims
who got therapy
said it was
helpful.**

But . . .

**66% of victims
were not referred
to a therapist.**



Fewer than 10% of victims of sexual or physical abuse received benefits from a crime victim program.



Recommendations

Reduce Risk

Improve Reporting

Improve Prosecution

Improve Therapy for Victims

Improve Victim Compensation

Reduce Risk

Step 1:

Admit that abuse occurs

Step 2:

Know who likely offenders are

Step 3:

Create a risk reduction plan

Improve Prosecution

***First Responders and Investigators:
Need special training***

***Prosecutors:
Learn “best practices” of other agencies***

APS/CPS

***Send personnel to conferences with
workshops on abuse and disability***

Improve Therapy for Victims

Need more trauma therapists with skills in treating victims with disabilities

Need better referral systems by professional associations

Need better coordination between VOC programs and professional association referral systems

Improve Victim Compensation

Improve rate of reporting to police

***Train police to refer victims
to VOC programs***

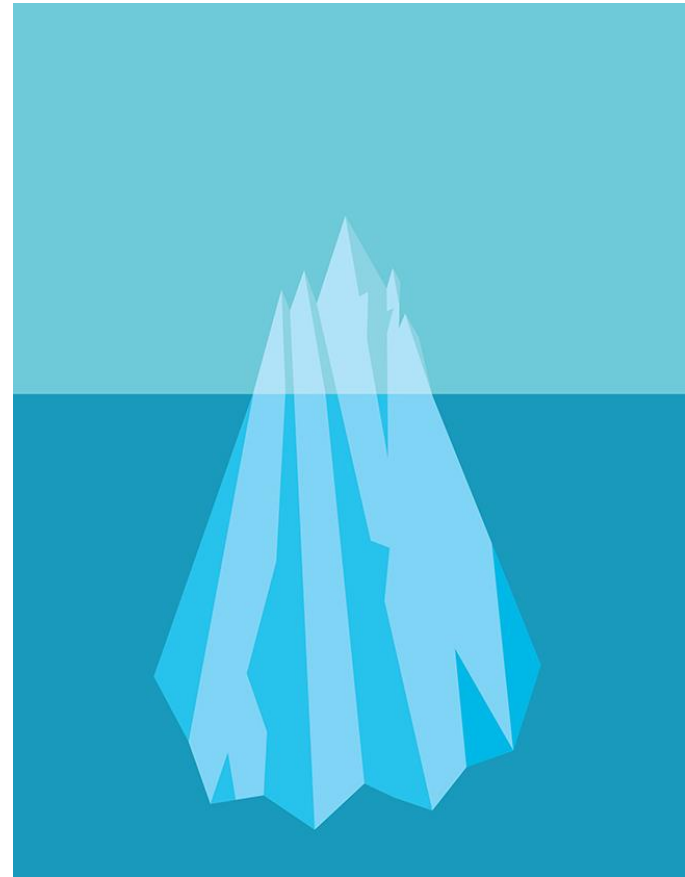
***Service providers should tell abuse
victims about the right to
compensation if they report the abuse***

***This is
just the tip
of the iceberg***

Learn More

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Take Action



spectruminstitute.org