



Effectively Serving Survivors with Disabilities

END ABUSE
of **PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

The movement starts here

Incidence and Prevalence

- Women who have experienced intimate partner violence are more than twice as likely to also report a disability.
- 14% of men with disabilities reported experiencing sexual violence at some point in their life time compared to 4% of men without disabilities.
- 49% of people with developmental disabilities were assaulted 10 or more times.
- 20% of Deaf adults have experienced physical abuse by an intimate partner. 15% have experienced forced sex in an intimate partner relationship.

Unique Dynamics

- Taking advantage of denial of sexual education or knowledge
- Targeting them for perceived vulnerabilities
- Becoming a relied-upon, or primary, caregiver before beginning the abuse
- Giving her drugs without her knowledge, forcing her to take drugs or medication, or giving her more than was prescribed
- Threatening, injuring or scaring away service animal
- Using transportation options for stalking route
- Hiding mobility devices or putting them right out of her reach
- Attacking before she can sense what is coming

Barriers

- Services are housed in inaccessible locations
- Services are primarily first accessed through telephone
- Service providers may lack knowledge of disability in general
- Policies in place may prevent survivors with disabilities from using the services
- Services may isolate survivors with disabilities and Deaf survivors

Strategies for Change

- Promote equality and create inclusion
- Build partnerships
- Raise awareness and foster accountability
- Strengthen prevention
- Increase research and evaluation
- Enhance Services

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Promote Equality and Inclusion

- Ensure your trainings and outreach are inclusive of people with disabilities
 - Resource: Access Training
 - <https://www.endabusepwd.org/tools-and-training/courses/>
- Identify existing gaps in your services
 - Resource: Performance Indicators
 - <https://www.endabusepwd.org/tools-and-training/assessment/>

Build Partnerships

- Identify disability service providers and self advocate groups in your community
 - Resource: Supporting Crime Victims with Disabilities from Crisis to Healing
 - <https://www.endabusepwd.org/resource/supporting-crime-victims-with-disabilities-online-training-toolkit/>
- Develop collaborations
 - Resource: Forging New Collaborations
 - <https://www.endabusepwd.org/resource/forging-new-collaborations/>

Raise Awareness and Foster Accountability

- Advocate for accommodations in the system
 - Resource: Just ASK toolkit
 - <https://www.endabusepwd.org/resource/just-ask-a-toolkit-to-help-law-enforcement-personnel-meet-the-needs-of-crime-victims-with-disabilities/>
- Attend dedicated training on violence against people with disabilities
 - Resource: End Abuse of People with Disabilities Webinar Series
 - <https://www.endabusepwd.org/events/category/live-sessions/>

Enhance Services

- Provide training to your staff members on survivors with disabilities
 - Resource: Training for Direct Service Providers (coming soon!)



Building Accessible Services through Policies and Procedures

In this course you will learn about key ingredients to include in policies and procedures to account for survivor safety and accessibility. You will also learn some of the key policies and procedures that should be in place within victim services programs and disability programs



Assessing for Physical Access and Safety

In this course, you will learn the importance of conducting regular safety and accessibility reviews within victim service programs and disability programs. You will learn how to choose the right tool for your program and how to build your team's capacity to conduct reviews.



Accounting for Access in Program Materials

In this course, you will learn how to make your intake materials, outreach materials, and other program materials accessible to survivors with disabilities. You will learn the importance of font choice, color contrast, and plain language. Additionally, we will review how to build electronic materials accessibly.

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Contact Us!

- We provide direct technical assistance.
 - If you have a question or are experiencing a challenge, you can request assistance at:
 - cvs@vera.org (Until June 30th)
- After June 30th...

Meet Activating Change

hello@activatingchange.org

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Questions



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Disclaimers

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