

See Us Now Idaho SUN! Idaho

“We actually know what we need.”

**Key Findings from the See Us Now! Idaho Strengths and Needs Assessment
Working at the Intersection of Intellectual and Developmental Disability & Violence**

People with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities in Idaho

“I want to be seen as a person and not as a disability.”

Persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities receive inadequate education and outreach on recognizing neglect, exploitation, abuse, and violence in their relationships.

Community experiences:

“You are unable to be as safe without having full and informed information”

“My education came from trial and error. In ways that could have gotten me into trouble.”

“Some see people with disabilities as innocent or asexual. As different. It drives me nuts that these certain folks don’t naturally realize we have urges and drives too. That others can fall in love with us.”

Takeaway: People with intellectual and developmental disabilities deserve reliable and relevant education on healthy relationships, boundaries, consent, and sexuality, along with an understanding of violence, abuse, and exploitation.

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities experience unique barriers in reporting acts of abuse, exploitation, and violence including a lack of safety and trust in victim-centered solutions.

Community experiences:

“...you are afraid of what they will say, or think, or be judged... unfortunately society is judgmental, we don’t listen...”

“If I turned them in, who would help me get up in the morning.”

“If there was a hotline that had people with adequate training to investigate, I could see a lot of people actually beginning to report.”

Takeaway: People with intellectual and developmental disabilities deserve meaningful access to violence intervention and reporting services, without fears or concerns for their well-being or retaliation.

Community experiences:

"Nothing happened." "They got away with it."

"...instead of treating it as a rape case, blamed me for allowing someone to get so close to me. 'I shouldn't be doing what I did'... I just wanted to get out of there."

Takeaway: People with intellectual and developmental disabilities experience regular re-traumatization through reporting processes and do not receive consistent solutions to violence, exploitation, and abuse when they do report to systems.

Service Providers and Systems Take Action!

"Someone that help[s] you no matter who you are...just for who you are."

- **Center, and invest in, the leadership of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.**

"We actually know what we need."

Current systems which shape the reporting processes and responses to neglect, exploitation, abuse, and violence do not have adequate representation of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, or have none at all.

We would be able to effectively meet the needs of survivors with intellectual and developmental disabilities if we included these voices in every level.

- **Build the capacity of intervention and response systems to include the specific needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.**

"Universal access doesn't hurt anybody."

Community members who report violence must feel confident that appropriate action will be taken through strategies that do not compromise their access to existing necessary supportive services. Clear solutions and reporting processes must be established based on the unique and critical needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Incorporating the needs of people with intellectual and developmental Disabilities into all responses to violence will benefit all survivors.

June 2024

A collaboration of the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities,
the Northwest ADA Center Idaho, and the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence