**Disability and Justice**

**Disabled people more likely to be victims of crime**Age-standardised victimisation rate (percent), by disability status

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Disabled | Non-disabled |
| 2018 | 39 percent | 29 percent |
| 2019 | 44 percent | 30 percent |
| 2020 | 42 percent | 29 percent |
| 2021 | 38 percent | 29 percent |
| 2022 | 36 percent | 30 percent |
| 2023 | 37 percent | 31 percent |
| 2024 | 40 percent | 29 percent |

Source: New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey, cycle 1-7

**Disabled LGBT+ people most likely to experience crime**Age-standardised victimisation rate (percent), by group and disability status

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Non-disabled | Disabled |
| NZ population | 30 percent | 39 percent |
| Female | 31 percent | 41 percent |
| Male | 29 percent | 37 percent |
| LGBT+ | 41 percent | 65 percent |
| Asian | 27 percent | 21 percent |
| European | 31 percent | 41 percent |
| Māori | 35 percent | 53 percent |
| Pacific peoples | 28 percent | 40 percent |

Source: New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey, cycle 1-6 pooled

**Lifetime sexual assault experience**Percent of people with lifetime sexual assault experience, by disability status

* Disabled: 42 percent
* Non-disabled: 24 percent

Source: New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey, cycle 1-7 pooled

**Lifetime partner assault experience**  
Percent of people with lifetime partner assault experience, by disability status

* Disabled: 33 percent
* Non-disabled: 16 percent

Source: New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey, cycle 1-7 pooled

**Disabled young people more likely to have been hit by an adult in their home**  
Percent of students in secondary schools who were physically hurt by an adult in the places they usually live (in past 12 months), by group

* Disabled: 18 percent
* Overall population: 10 percent

Source: Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey 2021

**Disabled young people feel less safe**Students in secondary schools mean rating of feeling of safety (0-10 scale), by location and group

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Disabled | Overall Population |
| At work | 7.5 | 8.1 |
| At school | 6.7 | 7.7 |
| Where I usually live | 7.9 | 8.8 |
| In the community where I live | 7.0 | 7.9 |

Source: Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey 2021

**Young people more likely to experience crime**Age standardised victimisation rate (percent), by age group and disability status

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Non-disabled | Disabled |
| 15-25 years | 35 percent | 57 percent |
| 26-64 years | 32 percent | 40 percent |
| 65 years and over | 19 percent | 24 percent |

Source: New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey, cycle 1-6 pooled

**Disabled young people more likely to experience unwanted sexual touches**  
Percent of students in secondary schools who have experienced unwanted sexual contact, by group

* Disabled: 32 percent
* Overall population: 19 percent

Source: Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey 2021

**Disabled adults less likely to feel safe**  
Percent of people (ages 15-64) who felt safe, by activity and disability status (\* indicates a statistically significant difference between disabled people and non-disabled people)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Non-disabled | Disabled |
| At home by yourself at night\* | 80.5 percent | 70.2 percent |
| Using the internet for online transactions\* | 68.1 percent | 55.4 percent |
| Walking alone in the neighbourhood after dark\* | 56.4 percent | 44.4 percent |
| Using/waiting for public transport at night\* | 43.4 percent | 34.3 percent |

Source: General Social Survey 2023 (WGSS)

**Disabled people more worried about some crimes**Percent of people (ages 15-64) who were felt worried, by source of worry and disability status (\* denotes a statistically significant difference between disabled people and non-disabled people)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Non-disabled | Disabled |
| Being assaulted by people you know | 14.6 percent | 19.6 percent |
| Being robbed or assaulted by strangers\* | 37.8 percent | 47.0 percent |
| Having your home broken into and something stolen | 49.4 percent | 54.3 percent |
| Having your car stolen, deliberately damaged, or broken into | 51.0 percent | 54.9 percent |
| Someone getting your credit card details and misusing them | 54.6 percent | 57.7 percent |
| Being in a traffic accident caused by a drunk driver\* | 48.3 percent | 59.9 percent |

Source: General Social Survey 2023 (WGSS)

**Fear of crime effect on life**  
Percent of people (ages 15-64), by level of fear of crime effect on life (0-10 scale) and group

Tāngata whaikaha Māori:

* Low effect (0-4): 57 percent
* Medium effect (5-6): 18 percent
* High effect (7-10): 26 percent

Disabled:

* Low effect (0-4): 55 percent
* Medium effect (5-6): 18 percent
* High effect (7-10): 27 percent

Non-disabled:

* Low effect (0-4): 58 percent
* Medium effect (5-6): 19 percent
* High effect (7-10): 23 percent

Source: General Social Survey 2023 (WGSS)

* The data shows that disabled people feel less safe than non-disabled people and are more likely to be worried about some crimes.
* However, there is no statistically significant difference between disabled people and non-disabled people for the effect that fear of crime has on life

**Disabled people have less trust for courts**  
Percent of people (ages 15-64), by level of trust in courts (0-10 scale) and group

Tāngata whaikaha Māori

* Low trust (0-4): 37 percent
* Medium trust (5-6): 38 percent
* High trust (7-10): 25 percent

Disabled:

* Low trust (0-4): 33 percent
* Medium trust (5-6): 28 percent
* High trust (7-10): 39 percent

Non-disabled:

* Low trust (0-4): 17 percent
* Medium trust (5-6): 27 percent
* High trust (7-10): 56 percent

Source: General Social Survey 2023 (WGSS)

**Disabled people have less trust for police**  
Percent of people (ages 15-64), by level of trust in police (0-10 scale) and group

Tāngata whaikaha Māori:

* Low trust (0-4): 38 percent
* Medium trust (5-6): 15 percent
* High trust (7-10): 47 percent

Disabled:

* Low trust (0-4): 23 percent
* Medium trust (5-6): 19 percent
* High trust (7-10): 58 percent

Non-disabled:

* Low trust (0-4): 10 percent
* Medium trust (5-6): 17 percent
* High trust (7-10): 73 percent

Source: General Social Survey 2023 (WGSS)

* Disabled people have expressed concerns about accessibility, affordability, disability awareness and responsiveness within the civil justice system.
* However, we have limited quantitative data about disabled people’s interactions with the justice system, and in particular the prevalence and experiences of disabled people in custody.
* The data we do have shows that disabled people have less trust for police and courts. This may be an indication of poor experiences for disabled people in the justice system.