

Medical Student Attitudes Toward Persons with Disabilities

Demographics: Age: _____ Gender: _____

I. Please circle the correct response.

1. Have you had any structured experiences working with people with disabilities (i.e., volunteering at a group home, teaching) aside from medical school?
 YES NO

2. Do you have a friend or relative with a disability who you see at least occasionally?
 YES NO

II. Please circle the appropriate number which best corresponds with how you feel about the statement. Choose only ONE response for each question.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
3. Most people with disabilities feel sorry for themselves.	1	2	3	4
4. I am comfortable being around a person who has an intellectual disability (i.e. mental retardation, autism).	1	2	3	4
5. People with disabilities are as happy as people without disabilities.	1	2	3	4
6. I would be comfortable interacting with a person with an intellectual disability who was in the community on his or her own (i.e., without staff members or caretakers).	1	2	3	4
7. I would be comfortable being around a person who uses a wheelchair.	1	2	3	4
8. Most people with disabilities resent people without disabilities.	1	2	3	4
9. I would be comfortable being around a person who is deaf.	1	2	3	4
10. I am only comfortable around people with intellectual disabilities if they are well-behaved.	1	2	3	4
11. Most people with disabilities expect special treatment.	1	2	3	4
12. I would be comfortable working with a person with an intellectual disability who had someone assigned to supervise and train her.	1	2	3	4
13. Most people with disabilities are not ashamed of their disability.	1	2	3	4
14. If I were visited by a person who is blind, I would be comfortable helping him or her navigate the environment.	1	2	3	4
15. I am more comfortable around people with intellectual disabilities when they have someone who is not disabled to help them.	1	2	3	4
16. If I introduced a person with disabilities to my friends, I think they would feel uneasy.	1	2	3	4
17. People with disabilities should be cared for in any primary care office as opposed to a specialty clinic.	1	2	3	4
18. I would feel comfortable living next door to a person with an intellectual disability that lives by himself.	1	2	3	4
19. I would be comfortable living in a neighborhood where there is a group home for people with various developmental disabilities (e.g., Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation, etc.).	1	2	3	4
20. I would feel comfortable being around a person with an intellectual disability in public even though his behavior might be a bit bizarre (e.g., rocking back and forth, talking loud, etc.).	1	2	3	4

III. Please review the following 2 scenarios (A and B) and answer the questions regarding the scenarios. Please circle the appropriate number which best corresponds with how you feel about the statement.

Scenario A:

You enter the exam room. A middle-aged man and women are there. He tells you he is experiencing chronic abdominal pain.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
21. I have had experiences similar to scenario A.	1	2	3	4
22. In scenario A, I would be comfortable determining the role of the man vs. the woman in providing the history of the complaint.	1	2	3	4
23. In scenario A, I would be comfortable performing a physical exam on the patient.	1	2	3	4
24. In scenario A, I would be comfortable establishing a differential diagnosis for the abdominal pain.	1	2	3	4

Scenario B:

You enter the exam room. A middle-aged man is seated in a wheel chair. Standing behind him is a woman of about the same age. The patient in the wheel chair appears to have spasticity in all 4 limbs. He greets you by saying “hello”. His speech is somewhat garbled, though intelligible. The woman tells you that the patient is here because he is experiencing chronic abdominal pain.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
25. I have had experiences similar to scenario B.	1	2	3	4
26. In scenario B, I would be comfortable determining the role of the man vs. the woman in providing the history of the complaint.	1	2	3	4
27. In scenario B, I would be comfortable performing a physical exam on the patient.	1	2	3	4
28. In scenario B, I would be comfortable establishing a differential diagnosis for the abdominal pain.	1	2	3	4

29. Consider scenarios A and B. Are there elements in either scenario which would make you uncomfortable in the clinical encounter? If so, please describe briefly.