



Coimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta
an Duine agus Comhionannas
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

IHREC Annual Poll 2022: Disability Data

Introduction

The annual IHREC Human Rights and Equality Annual Poll aims to capture and track the following key objectives:

1. To measure **public awareness** of and support for IHREC in its work;
2. To measure support for key **human rights** issues;
3. To measure support for key **equality and discrimination** issues;
4. To capture attitudes towards key **strategic priorities and themes** under IHREC's function and priorities.

The annual poll is a cross-sectional survey design with some questions repeated annually over three years (2020-2023). The unit of analysis is the individual respondent and the sample is designed to be representative of the entire population. The data for 2022 was collected by Amárach Research via an online poll between 10-21st November 2022, administered to 1200 participants aged 18 or over. The poll includes a number of questions on disability and disabled people. Preliminary findings were made available to IHREC on 19 November and headline data is presented here. The final dataset will include more detailed demographic breakdowns of responses.

Discrimination and Disability

Poll participants were asked whether they have **witnessed** discrimination due to a disability in the past 12 months. Of the 1,200 respondents, 25% indicated they had witnessed discrimination due a disability, with 70% indicating they had not. A further 5% responded 'don't know' (see Figure 1 below).

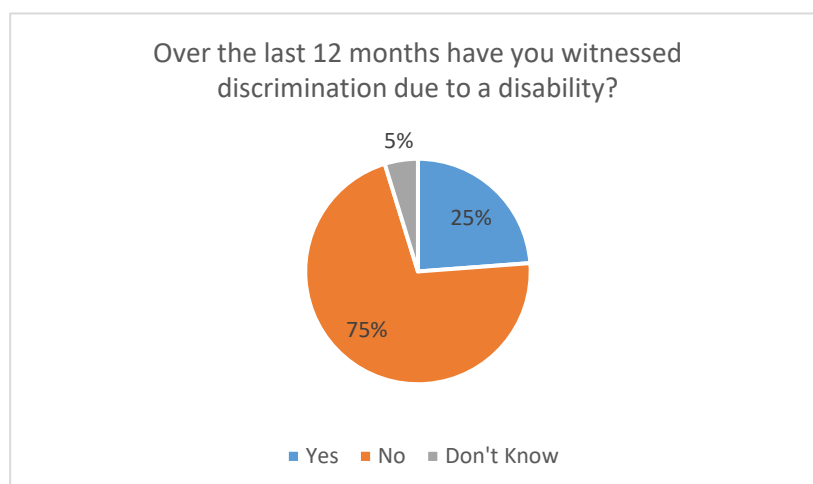


Figure 1: Witnessing Discrimination

Poll participants were asked whether they have **experienced** discrimination due to a disability in the past 12 months. Of the 1,200 respondents, 11% indicated they had witnessed discrimination due a disability, with 86% indicating they had not. A further '2%' responded 'don't know' (see Figure 2 below). Given that census data indicates that 13.5% of the population state they have a disability¹, our data suggests that the majority are experiencing discrimination on the grounds of disability (See Figure 2).

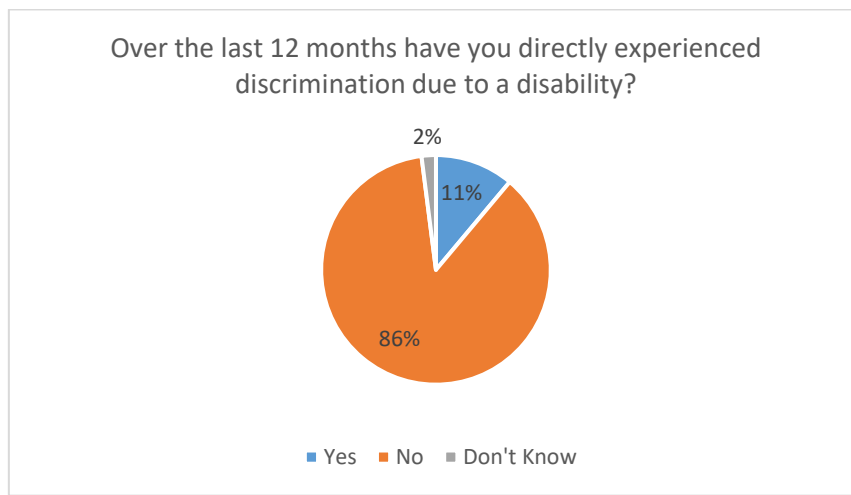


Figure 2: Directly Experiencing Discrimination

Fair Treatment

Respondents were asked whether they believe disabled people are treated fairly in Irish society. Responses were mixed; 35% strongly agreed or agreed that disabled people are treated fairly in Irish society, while 38% strongly disagreed or disagreed (See Figure 3). These findings are in line with the 2021 poll, when 29% strongly agreed or agreed, and 41% strongly disagreed or disagreed.

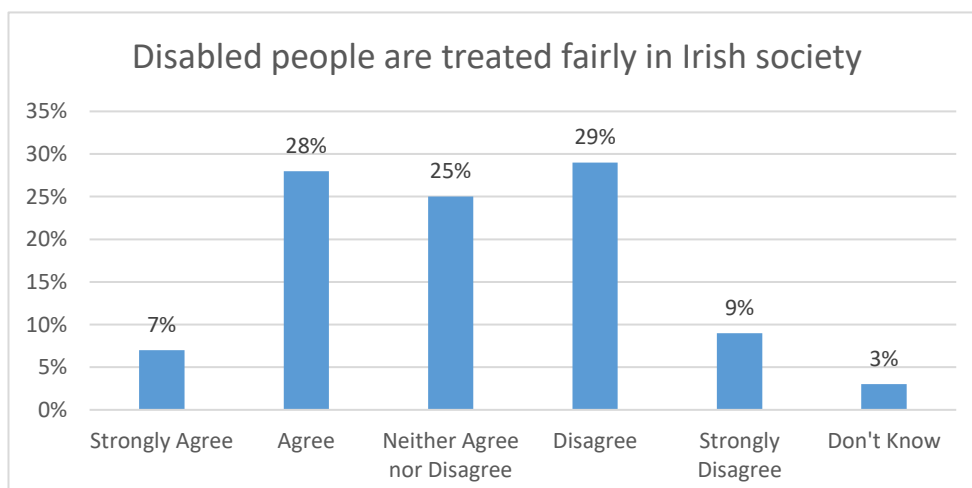


Figure 3: Fair Treatment

¹ Central Statistics Office, [Census of Population 2016 – Profile 9 Health, Disability and Carers](#), (2017).

Access to Services

Respondents were asked whether disabled people are able to access the services they need. 42% of participants strongly disagreed or disagreed that disabled people are able to access the services they need. In contrast, 27% strongly agreed or agreed with the statement (See Figure 4).

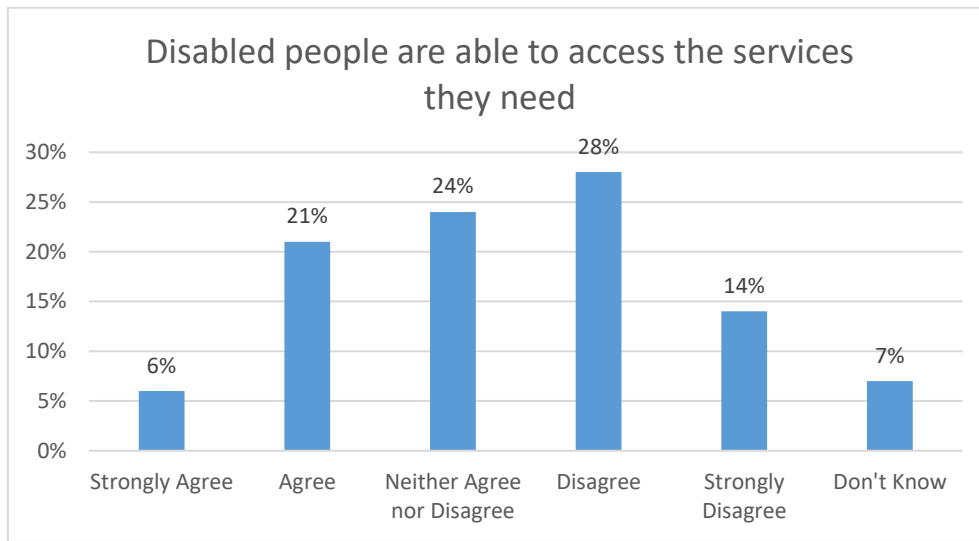


Figure 4: Access to Services

Participation in Society

Poll respondents were also asked whether disabled people face barriers in participating fully in Irish society. The response was unequivocal; 83% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that disabled people face barriers in participating fully in Irish society, down slightly from 87% in 2021. In contrast, just 5% of those polled strongly disagreed or disagreed. (See Figure 5).

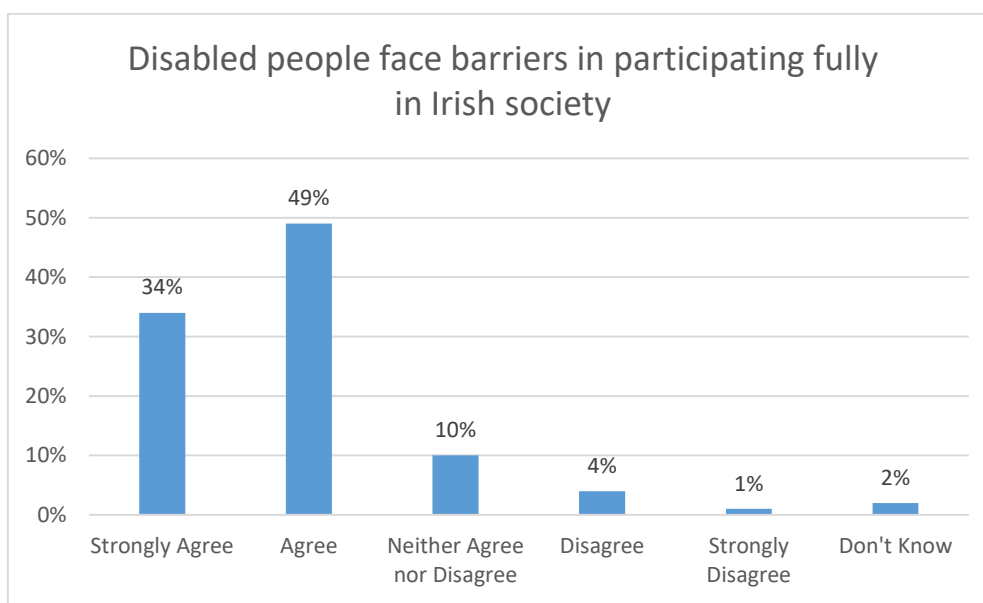


Figure 5: Participation in Society

Opportunities for Education

Participants were also asked whether disabled people receive equal opportunities in terms of education. Responses were mixed, with 42% either strongly agreeing or agreeing, and 38% strongly disagreeing or disagreeing (see Figure 6).

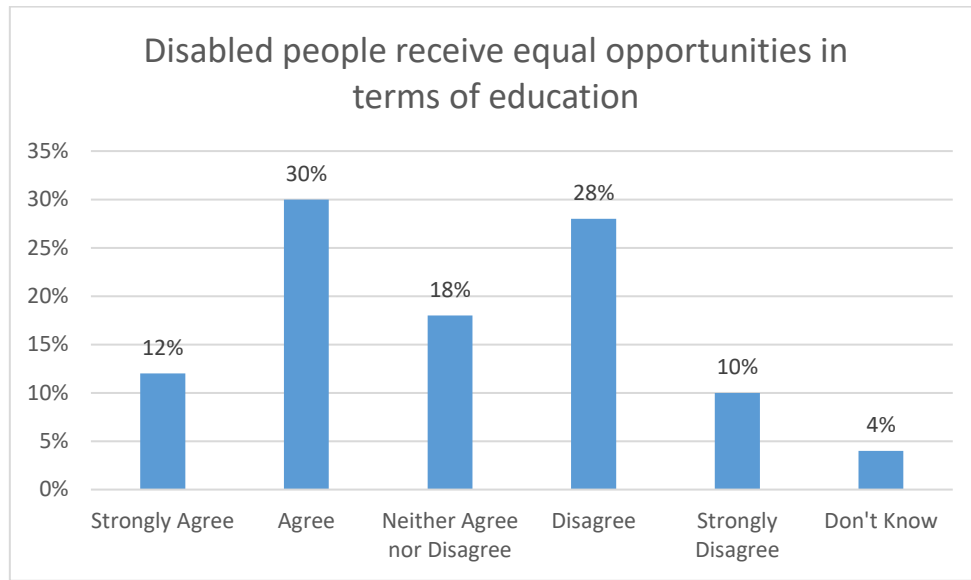


Figure 6: Opportunities for Education

Opportunities for Employment

Participants were also asked whether disabled people receive equal opportunities in terms of employment. In contrast to education above, just 21% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed, while 54% of respondents strongly disagreed or disagreed. It follows that over half of the general population do not believe that disabled people receive equal opportunities in terms of employment.

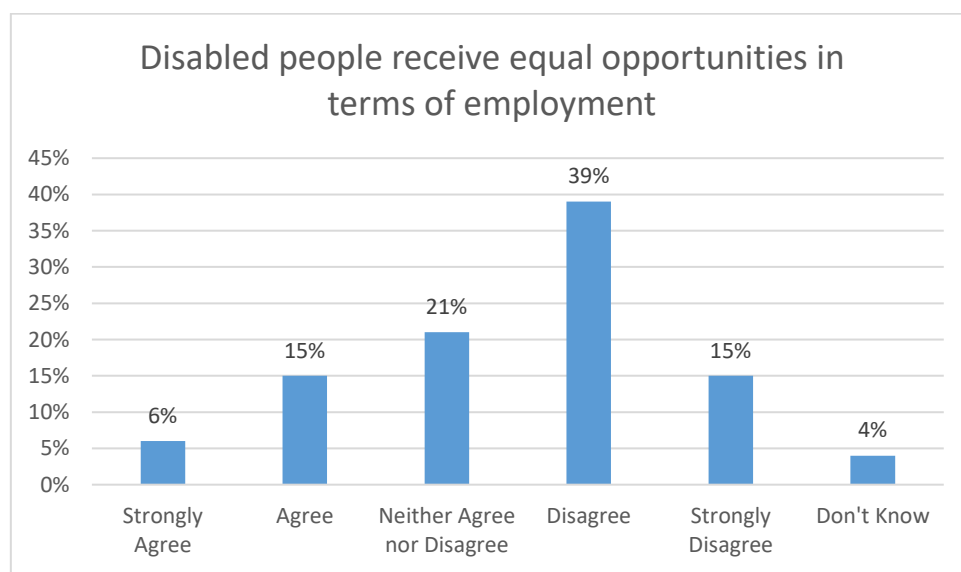


Figure 7: Opportunities for Employment

Accommodation by Employers

Respondents were asked whether more should be done by employers to accommodate employees with disabilities. In this case, 86% strongly agreed or agreed with this statement, while just 2% disagreed, a particularly strong message. This reflects a similar rate as 2021, when 89% strongly agreed or agreed (See Figure 8).

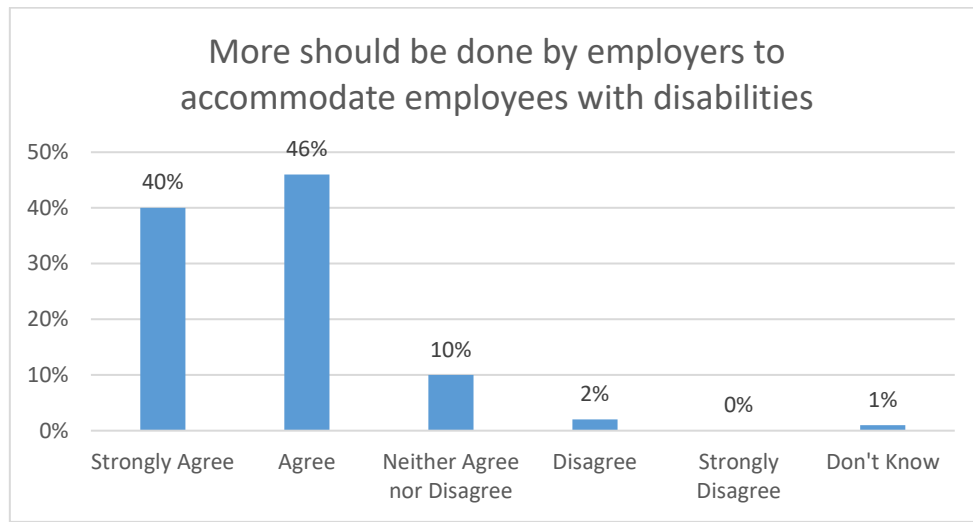


Figure 8: Accommodation by Employers

Community

Respondents were asked whether they consider disabled people to be part of their community. 88% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that disabled people are part of their community. Just 2% disagreed (see Figure 9).

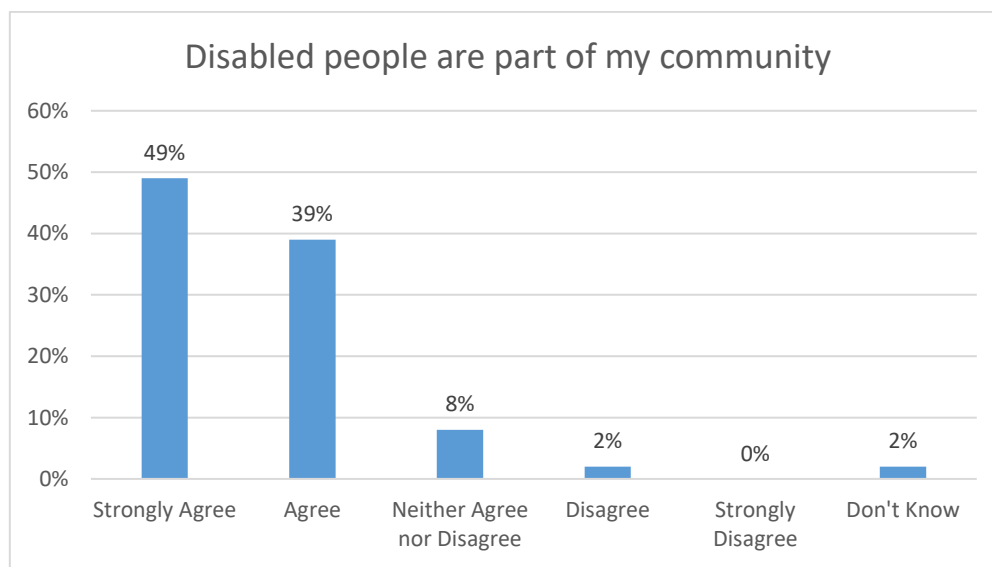


Figure 9: Community

Knowledge of discrimination laws

Participants were asked whether they had heard of the The Employment Equality Acts 1998-2015, or The Equal Status Acts 2000-2018. While 78% had heard of the The Employment Equality Acts 1998-2015, a smaller 52% had heard of the The Equal Status Acts 2000-2018.

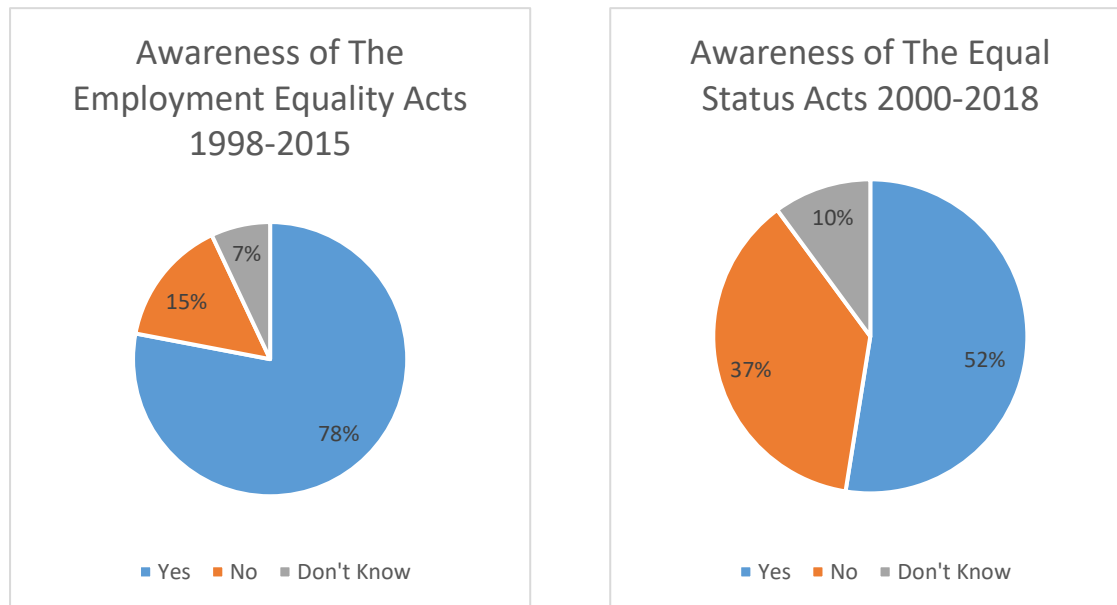


Figure 10: Awareness of Acts

Efforts to Fight Discrimination

Participants were also asked whether efforts made in Ireland to fight all forms of discrimination are effective. 53% of participants indicated that efforts were either very effective or quite effective, with 36% indicating they are not at all effective to not really effective (See Figure 11).

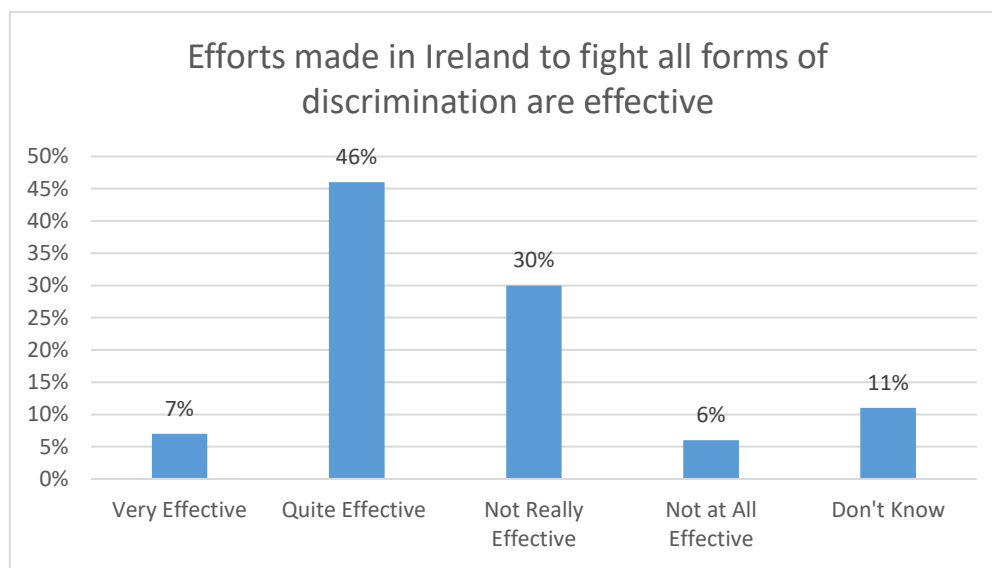


Figure 11: Effectiveness of Efforts