ATTITUDES OF THE GEORGIAN POPULATION TOWARDS PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

ANALYTICAL REPORT

2020

UN for Persons with Disabilities in Georgia

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INTRODUCTION

People with disabilities are one of the most invisible and vulnerable groups in society. There are still various challenges faced by people with disabilities in terms of education, health, political and social participation, access to labor, employment and other basic rights.

According to official statistics of the Social Service Agency of the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, as of December 2019, 126,002 persons[1] with disabilities are registered as recipients of a social assistance package in Georgia comprising about 3% of the total population. This number is much lower than the World Health Organization estimates according to which around 15% of the world's population has some type of disability.[2]

This difference between the number of people with disabilities worldwide and the number in Georgia is primarily related to the medical model of disability assessment that Georgia is still using. According to the medical model, the granting of a disability status to a person is related to having a specific diagnosis which is included in the list of nosologies approved by a statutory act. In these conditions, it is not possible to properly assess the degree of disability and individual needs. The medical model also reinforces the stigma in society as identifying disability is explicitly linked to a 'disease' and not social factors and environmental barriers. In addition, the difference between the statistics provided may be due to the fact that persons with disabilities and their relatives still self-stigmatize and avoid having this status. Accordingly, it is possible that the numbers of formally registered people and those with actual disabilities do not coincide.

As noted, disability in Georgia (as in other societies) is often seen as an "illness" rather than a social challenge. As a rule, such an assessment and situation are caused by public attitudes. Often, individuals with disabilities remain unnoticed by public policy as well. Inappropriate views and attitudes of the public feed and define actions against people with disabilities which are often discriminatory and in conflict with fundamental human rights.

Persons with disabilities face obstacles to the full enjoyment of their rights, on the one hand, due to the existing stigmas and stereotypes in society and, on the other hand, improperly planned and inconsistent policies by the state prevent the proper analysis of the situation and the removing of stereotypes in society. The goal of the aforementioned public opinion survey is to identify such attitudes, prejudices and stereotypes. It also serves to clarify the degree of the public's awareness and information as it is precisely such attitudes and a low level of awareness that lead to wrong perceptions, translating into discriminatory attitudes and practices.

[1]Number of social package recipients according to groups, http://ssa.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=&sec_id=1445
[2]World Health Organization (WHO), Disability and Health: Factsheet (Nov. 2016)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Georgia is currently in the early stages of transitioning from a medical model for people with disabilities to a social model which should be reflected primarily in changing public awareness and attitudes. This study examines the attitudes towards people with disabilities in society in terms of alternative - social and medical - models.

The study covered topics such as: public awareness of the rights and needs of people with disabilities, studying the population's attitudes towards them, assessment of state policy towards people with disabilities, the experience of the relationship of other members of society with people with disabilities and others.

The results of the study show that most of the respondents have had contact with people with disabilities (have a disabled family member, relative, friend, neighbor, acquaintance, etc.). This indicates that people with disabilities are gradually becoming more "visible" in society, the tendency of their isolation from society is weakening and citizens start to see these "different" people and become used to being around them.

In addition to contact with persons with disabilities, most of the respondents believe that they are aware of the rights and needs of persons with disabilities. Besides subjective perceptions of self-awareness, it is interesting to note that the majority of respondents showed correct approaches to the test questions. It should be noted that there is a correlation between the level of education of the respondents and the degree of awareness about people with disabilities - the higher the level of the respondents' education, the more they are informed about people with disabilities and better understand issues related to them. Also, the awareness of people with disabilities is higher among people who are in direct contact with them.

The survey shows that the main source of information about people with disabilities is television while more than one-fifth of the respondents say they have seen TV stories about human rights abuses of people with disabilities. This indicates a positive development in the media coverage of human rights abuses against persons with disabilities. However, the still fragmented interest of the media should be strengthened and deepened which in turn will help increase the acceptance of people with disabilities in society. It is important that stories prepared about people with disabilities or other types of information materials are based on the respect for their diversity and personal autonomy and do not reinforce a charitable approach.

Interestingly, the majority of the respondents believe that people with disabilities make up 10% of the population. This idea among the respondents is closer to the statistics declared by the World Health Organization (15%) than to the official data available in Georgia (3%). This is also an indirect indication that the respondents do not perceive the social space in Georgia as "empty" of people with disabilities (the perception that probably existed before).

The so-called positive discrimination can be seen among the attitudes of the respondents when asked about people with disabilities. This refers to the fact that their opinions show that people with disabilities should receive increased social assistance and enjoy a variety of benefits. Such a practice has been introduced in many countries, including Georgia, and serves to achieve the factual equality of rights of persons with disabilities and is not considered to be a form of discrimination.

It should be noted that the majority of respondents oppose and do not share the provisions encouraging discrimination against persons with disabilities. The respondents also do not support the fact that a mother should abort a fetus if she learns that she will have a child with intellectual disabilities. Additionally, the majority of respondents support the involvement of

people with disabilities in government structures. However, it is noteworthy that there are kinds of "white spots" in the respondents' attitudes which are related to the violation of the rights of persons with disabilities. For example, 43% of the respondents consider caring for these vulnerable groups to be the good will of the government and not an obligation. Also, the consent of the respondents vis-à-vis the protection of a special etiquette of relationship with persons with disabilities is low (only 37.5% agree that it is necessary to observe a special etiquette when communicating with persons with disabilities).

The survey showed the following conflict: on the one hand, the majority of the respondents admitted that they would feel comfortable in various empirical situations (in transport, at work, at the table, on a trip) with people with disabilities; however, the majority of the respondents also think that "others;" that is, other members of society, do not have the same willingness. Such a gap between the respondents' own attitudes and the assessments of the readiness of others raises the suspicion that the respondents are less sincere and play the role of socially desirable actors in face-to-face interviews in order to present themselves positively. This, in turn, indicates that society is still not ready to coexist with people with disabilities (especially when it comes to long-term relationships such as those at work or on a trip). However, on the other hand, a large part of the respondents themselves are aware of their own "failures." In particular, every second respondent admits that he or she does not fully understand issues related to the violation of the rights of persons with disabilities. It seems that there are still many barriers vis-à-vis establishing adequate attitudes.

Overall, the study shows that the respondents have an **inconsistent** attitude towards people with disabilities. In this regard, the respondents show opportunistic aspirations; that is, their attitudes in one direction are adequate and in another direction (in the context of the rights of persons with disabilities) - less adequate / inadequate. In particular, the majority of the respondents are tolerant of individuals with physical and sensory limitations (agreeing to their being an MP, a neighbor, a co-worker, a parent, etc.) but when it comes to intellectual or mental disabilities, there is a significant increase in resistance among the respondents towards people having these disabilities. It can be said that intellectual and mental disabilities are **stigmas** for the population which in turn leads to the marginalization of people with these disabilities and to the increase of social distance from them. It is noteworthy that even the majority of respondents who have direct contact with people with intellectual and mental disabilities (the experience of relationships) still have negative attitudes towards them.

Although legislation on inclusive education has been in place since 2006, approximately a quarter of the respondents do not support inclusive education. Also, almost half of the respondents believe that hiring a person with a disability requires additional expenses and, therefore, is a problem for the employer. In addition, a large part of the respondents look at the accessibility to medical as well as generally public and private services by people with disabilities through “rose-colored glasses” and believe that the accessibility to these services is equal for people with and without disabilities. All of this allows us to think that society lacks information and understanding about the needs and challenges that people with disabilities face.

The majority of the respondents (57%) names the social environment as a major factor hindering the integration of people with disabilities. However, when asked about the basic needs of people with disabilities (first, second and third category needs), the respondents pointed out medical care (first category need), provision with medication (second category need) and material assistance (third category need). This indicates that the medical model of people with disabilities is still rooted in society as this group is still considered in the medical context and perceived as an object of material assistance.

METHODOLOGY

The goal of the research was to study the awareness and attitudes of the Georgian population towards people with disabilities.

To achieve this, we used a quantitative research method; namely, a survey. The study was conducted across 11 regions of Georgia. The respondents were selected by a random sampling. A total of 5,000 interviews were conducted as part of the survey which was distributed according to the regions of Georgia (see Table).

TABLE #1

TARGET REGIONS	NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS	SAMPLING ERROR (95% RELIABILITY)
Tbilisi	700	3.7%
Adjara	450	4.6%
Guria	380	5.0%
Imereti	600	4.0%
Kakheti	450	4.6%
Mtskheta-Mtianeti	380	5.0%
Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti	380	5.0%
Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti	450	4.6%
Samtskhe-Javakheti	380	5.0%
Kvemo Kartli	400	4.9%
Shida Kartli	430	4.7%
TOTAL	**5000**	**1.4%**

SAMPLING MECHANISM

The sampling **design** was multi-stage stratified (clustered) sampling;

At the initial stage, a sampling unit (5,000 respondents) was distributed in the regions of Georgia in proportion to their share of voters (adult citizens).

Further stratification was carried out in accordance with territorial units such as:
A) Urban settlement
B) Rural settlement

Therefore, the **strata** in this selection were urban and rural settlements.

As for **clusters**, they were residential districts designated for both cities/municipal centers (for urban territorial units) and villages (the village itself is a polling station consisting of residential districts).

In the clustering process, the primary, secondary and final sampling units are defined:

- **Primary sampling unit:** Polling stations in urban and rural areas
- **Secondary sampling unit:** Household (family)
- **Final sampling unit:** Individuals aged 18 years and older

As for the selection of families directly at the sampling points, this process was carried out by the "random walk" method. Each interviewer was given a geographic/spatial area (boundaries) of a sampling point where specific streets and addresses were indicated. In addition, each of them specified a **starting address**. The approach eliminated the possibility of repeated visits to the same sampling point.

Families participating in the study were identified by using an interval (step) which is defined differently:

- For multi-floor buildings (every 7th family in blocks of up to five floors, every 9th family in blocks of 6-11 floors or every 11th family in blocks of at least 12 floors). However, no more than three families were interviewed in one building.
- For private settlements and so-called "Italian yards" (every 5th family).
- There was also a household gap of five for villages.

The purpose and goal of the interval protection were to ensure a maximum spatial scattering of the households and to conduct fieldwork throughout the polling station.

A sampling of the respondents in families was carried out randomly; in particular, according to their last birthday. The process involved the following steps: first, the interviewer compiled a list of adult family members through the family contact person and then asked if it was possible to interview the family member with the last birthday.

Within the study, a family member was identified as a person who may not be a direct relative of the head of the family (son, grandchild, parent, spouse, sibling) although living in this household for at least 182 days (for at least six months).

If the respondent selected by the last birthday principle was not at home but could be contacted during the fieldwork, the interviewer would make a repeated visit to the family. If for any reason (rejection, sickness, absence, etc.) it was not possible to interview the selected respondent, the interviewer would be prohibited from interviewing another family member and move to a new family keeping the relevant interval.

RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

A questionnaire consisting of several blocks was developed in order to study the awareness and the attitudes about people with disabilities. In order to develop a comprehensive questionnaire, focus groups were organized in four regions of Georgia (Tbilisi, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Imereti, Adjara) with PwDs. This approach made it possible for the questionnaire to cover as much information as possible about the persons with disabilities in terms of both awareness and attitudes.

INTERVIEWER/ SUPERVISOR TRAINING AND FIELDWORK

Special training for supervisors and interviewers was conducted by the study's analyst to teach questionnaire and sampling design.

Eleven field supervisors and about 110 interviewers participated in the fieldwork. Coverage zones were evenly distributed - one supervisor oversaw one area's fieldwork. In order to obtain the data by electronic means, the questionnaire was integrated into an electronic questionnaire, the so-called ODK system.

The fieldwork covered the period from January 23 to December 5.

In order for the data obtained from the study to be complete, the fieldwork was monitored in parallel. Field control was performed on 10% of the sampling unit (500 interviews). Field control covered two main aspects: whether the interviewer correctly selected the family and the respondent and if he/she followed the instructions to fill out the questionnaire and adequately discussed the content of the questions with the respondents.

STATISTICAL ORDERING AND DATA ANALYSIS

During the fieldwork, the study's statistician created a data matrix using the SPSS data analysis software. The answers to each of the open and semi-closed questions in the questionnaire were coded, cleaned and weighed.

In order to identify different aspects of the research and links between the two issues, the data were analyzed using different methods: the one-dimensional frequency distribution, cross-tabulations, correlation, regression and factor analysis methods. Accordingly, univariate, bivariate and multivariate methods of data analysis were used at the analysis stage.

MAIN FINDINGS

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

The majority of the respondents - 58.5% - personally know at least one person with disabilities. Almost every third respondent (30.7%) knows one person with disabilities, 21.7% - two-to-three persons and 6% - more than four persons. The study showed that 40.5% of the respondents do not know a person with disabilities.

The share of families which have a member with disabilities is 5.6%. About one-third (30.5%) of the respondents have a neighbor with a disability. The study showed that 18% have a relative with disabilities while 10.6% of the respondents indicate that they have a friend who is a person with a disability. Only 2.7% of the respondents have a co-worker with disabilities indicating that the share of persons with disabilities in the labor market is low.

Almost half of the people with disabilities with whom the respondents have contact through some status (family member, relative, neighbor, friend, etc.) has physical disabilities (percentages range from 42% to 48%). In the second place are those with sensory disabilities (16-24%), in the third place - persons with intellectual disabilities (14-23%) and in the fourth place - persons with mental health problems (10-15%).

AWARENESS ABOUT PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

More than half (51.2%) of the respondents consider themselves to be **aware** of the rights and needs of persons with disabilities. It is also noteworthy that 60.4% of the respondents with a higher education are aware (more or strongly) while 43.7% share a similar position among those with incomplete secondary/ secondary education. As it turned out, 56.4% of the respondents who have direct contact experience with persons with disabilities consider themselves to be informed.

As for the **source of information**, 48.2% of the respondents name television. The role of social networks is also important (22.4%).

The study showed that 25.4% of the respondents indicate that they **received information about persons with disabilities** in the last month. Updating information is becoming increasingly common among the respondents with direct experience in dealing with people with disabilities. The study showed that 29.2% of the respondents indicated that they received information about persons with disabilities within the last week prior to the interview.

The information obtained through the study is diverse. A total of 28.5% of the respondents indicated that the information they received was related to the social situation/problems of persons with disabilities while 22.6% of the respondents estimated that the information, they received was about the violation of their rights.

The respondents generally correctly assessed what constitutes a **person with disabilities.** The overwhelming majority (94.1%) indicates that a person with a physical disability who is wheelchair-bound is a person with a disability. Also, deaf (69.2%) and blind (77.1%) people, those with Down Syndrome (67.3%) and persons with mental health problems (55.8%) also constitute a person with disabilities. However, 52.6% of the respondents believes that a person with autism spectrum is also a person with disabilities which is not true.

The majority of the respondents have the correct **information** about the characteristics of persons with disabilities. Therefore, the respondents indicate the following provisions as incorrect:

- Disabilities are only visible (74.8%)
- People with disabilities usually cannot work (66%)
- Words such as "invalid" and "Down (Syndrome) person," etc., are acceptable words (81.9%)
- A deaf person will understand better if you speak loudly (73.5%)
- People with disabilities are always less intellectually developed (61.4%)

ATTITUDES TOWARDS PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The study showed that 43.8% of the respondents indicate that **prejudices** against people with disabilities are widespread in Georgia. A total of 49.1% of the respondents who have direct experience with people with disabilities share this view.

As for the estimation of **the number** of persons

with disabilities, 58.9% of the respondents say that between zero and ten out of every 100 people in Georgia have disabilities. Among the numbers named by the respondents, the Mode is five.

The attitudes of the respondents towards persons with disabilities were reflected in the degree of their agreement with the following:

- Most of the respondents (63.7%) believe that the parents of children with disabilities **should be less strict** than other parents.
- A total of 67.2% of the respondents believe that people with physical disabilities can achieve as much **success** in learning as other members of society.
- A total of 70% of the respondents agree that people with disabilities can be as **happy** as other members of society.
- A total of 70.5% believe that the state should develop **mechanisms for equal opportunities** for people with disabilities.

At the same time, there were some provisions with which most of the respondents disagreed; namely:

- A total of 76.8% of the respondents disagree that PwDs do not need **education**.
- A total of 69.9% disagree that it would be better if **people with disabilities lived in separate places/institutions** specifically for them.
- A total of 61.9% of the respondents think that it will not be better if people with disabilities worked separately in protected workplaces (where only people with disabilities work).
- A total of 76.3% of the respondents disagree with the statement that the majority of people with disabilities are a **burden** to society.

The views of the respondents vis-à-vis some of the provisions were scattered among the assessments; namely:

- According to 43.1% of the respondents, caring for people with disabilities is the goodwill of the government. A total of 40.1% disagree with this opinion.
- A total of 37.5% of the respondents agree and 31.9% disagree with the statement that it is necessary to adhere to the rules of special conduct in dealing with persons with disabilities.

In different contexts, the respondents show the following attitudes towards persons with disabilities:

- A total of 53.6% of the respondents agree with the statement that **excessive care** should be given to people with disabilities in society.
- A total of 46.4% of the respondents believe that **hiring** people with disabilities is unprofitable as they require a special infrastructure.
- A total of 44.4% of the respondents believe that **violating the rights of persons with disabilities** is a particular problem in Georgia.

The attitudes of the respondents towards coexistence with persons with disabilities were as follows:

- The study showed that 67.3% of the respondents indicated that they would feel comfortable/more or less comfortable with PwDs **in public transport.** However, when the focus is shifted how other people would feel in the same situation, 41.1% of the respondents state the positive position.
- The study showed that 63.8% of the respondents report they would feel/feel comfortable/more or less comfortable with the PwDs **at the workplace.** However, less share of the respondents (37.9%)think that other people would feel the same .

The respondents assessed the acceptability of people with disabilities vis-à-vis their status in society - formal and informal. The data obtained in the case of different disabilities were distributed as follows:

- **Member of Parliament of Georgia** (MP): The study showed that 45.2% of the respondents would agree if an MP had any sensory limitation. A total of 70% of the respondents share a similar position in the case of physical disabilities while 74.1% of the respondents disapprove of an MP with mental health problems and 65.7% disapprove of an MP with intellectual disabilities.
- **Next-door neighbor:** The study showed that 77.8% of the respondents would have a next-door neighbor with sensory disabilities while 79.8% of the respondents report the same position regarding physical disabilities. In the case of intellectual disabilities, this figure equals 58.4% with a similar attitude towards mental health problems - 39%.

According to the majority of the respondents, **the use of abusive terms against people with disabilities** would be unacceptable: A total of 77.7% deem abusive terms unacceptable in stores, 80.9% within circles of friends, 79.9% in the workplace and 78.9% at the gym.

The respondents reported feeling comfortable if their **co-worker** had sensory (68.4%), intellectual (41.3%) or physical (72.8%) disabilities. Negative responses were reported in the context of collaboration with a person with a mental health problem (46.6%).

According to the majority of the respondents, people with disabilities should **benefit** from a variety of situations as compared to other members of society: 89.3% while waiting for services, 90% waiting for a doctor in the hospital, 90% receiving more benefits and 92.5% receiving increased social benefits. The study showed that 90.8% of the respondents who have experience dealing with people with disabilities indicate that they should have priority when waiting for a doctor.

The majority of the respondents in the case of adults with physical disabilities (72%) and those with sensory disabilities (57%) think that they should have **the right to have a child** if they wish. The rate of such a position is much lower in the cases of intellectual disabilities (36.3%) and individuals with mental health problems (20.9%). It is noteworthy that the respondents with direct contact experience with PwDs have similar views and believe that a person with mental health problems (52.9%) and a person with intellectual disabilities (39.5%) should not have a child.

The study showed that 39.4% of the respondents said that a pregnant woman who learns she will have a child with intellectual disabilities is better off deciding on **fetal preservation**. A gender analysis of this situation revealed that 41.8% of women and 36.6% of men share the same position.

As for **the general education of children with disabilities,** 42% of the respondents think that they should study with children who are not developmentally challenged. The number of the respondents sharing this opinion increases with a higher education level – 50.2%. The study showed that 51.3% opposed children without developmental challenges studying with children with disabilities (31.2% favored specialized schooling, 19.4% favored integrated class education and 0.7% highlighted home schooling).

ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE POLICY TOWARDS PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The study showed that 32.5% of the respondents assessed **the overall situation of persons with disabilities** in Georgia as neutral. A total of 31.6% evaluated the overall situation as positive (only 6.3% rated the overall situation as very positive). The percentage of those who rated the general condition of persons with disabilities as very

negative does not exceed 6.4%. In each region, there is less than 15% of the respondents who very positively assessed the overall situation of persons with disabilities. According to the respondents, people with disabilities are most vulnerable in the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region and in Tbilisi.

The basic needs of people with disabilities were divided into three categories. Of these, 41.4% of the respondents cited medical care as the first need. More than a fifth (22.5%) of the respondents mentioned the need to provide medicine. A total of 16.7% of the respondents think that providing material assistance to people with disabilities is the third most important need. The study showed that 45.6% of the respondents in Tbilisi consider medical care as the most important service. In addition, representatives from other regions also believe that medical care is the most important need for people with disabilities.

A total of 57.8% of the respondents named the social environment as a factor impeding the **full integration of persons with disabilities into society.** The highest number of the respondents supporting this opinion was in Tbilisi (73%) and the lowest was in Samtskhe-Javakheti (38.5%). Of the total number of the respondents, 33.4% think that the integration of people with disabilities is hampered by their health. According to the opinions in the regions, 46.8% of the respondents in Samtskhe-Javakheti and 41.6% in Guria make this assessment. In other regions, the percentage of respondents who support this view varies from 23% to 38%.

The study showed that 43.9% of the respondents think that people with disabilities and other members of society have equal opportunities **in terms of education.** A total of 43.6% think that people with disabilities are particularly vulnerable and their abilities are unequal while 44.1% of the respondents who have relatives with disabilities are of the same opinion. The highest proportion of the respondents speaking about equal opportunities for education is in the Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region (55.6%) while the lowest number is in Mtskheta-Mtianeti (32.4%). The highest number of the respondents who believe that persons with disabilities have unequal access to education is in Imereti (56.8%).

When discussing employment opportunities, 63.8% of the respondents stated that people with disabilities find themselves in conditions of unequal competition in the labor market. Less than a quarter (23.9%) of the respondents think that their employment opportunities are equal. The study showed that 61.1% of those who do not have a relative with a disability and 66.2% of those who have a family member/relative/friend/employee/neighbor with a disability report that people with disabilities have unequal employment opportunities. The majority of respondents in each region believes that employment opportunities are equal (the number of the respondents ranges from 50% to 75%).

A total of 61.9% of the respondents think that people with disabilities have equal opportunities **in terms of access to healthcare.** The highest proportion (73%) of those with this opinion was in the Racha-Lechkhumi region and the lowest was in Imereti (36.6%). More than a fifth (26.2%) of the total number of the respondents think that the opportunities for this service are different for persons with disabilities and without. More than half (50.8%) of the respondents in Imereti share this idea.

According to the majority of the respondents, **opportunities to receive public and private services** for persons with disabilities and without are equal. In the case of public services, 56.1% of the respondents think that the opportunities are equal. This number is 53.3% in the case of the private sector. In Tbilisi, 72.3% of the respondents believe that equal opportunities exist. The study showed that 66.4% of the respondents think that these opportunities are equal in the case of private services.

A total of 70% of the respondents indicated that the state should promote the inclusive education of people with disabilities at all levels - general, vocational or higher. Less than a quarter (23.8%) of the respondents think that the state should open more specialized educational institutions where people with disabilities receive separate education. More than half of the respondents in the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region believe that it is better for people with disabilities to have specialized educational institutions while more than 70% of them favor inclusive education in the rest of the regions.

The study showed that 71.2% of the respondents support **increasing the representation of people with disabilities at all levels of government.** A total of 15.2% of the respondents believe that the presence of persons with disabilities in government should be limited. The largest proportion of the respondents who favored increasing the representation of persons with disabilities in government was in Shida Kartli - 90.6%. The lowest was in Imereti - 49.7%. The number of the respondents supporting limiting the representation of persons with disabilities in government is less than 20% in each region.

The overwhelming majority of the respondents - 85.1% - say that the local authorities should take care of the **environmental infrastructure** for the PwDs. A total of 8.1% believe that infrastructure for the PwDs should not be a priority issue for the authorities. The number of the respondents favoring the care of infrastructure by local authorities, is over 80% in the case of those who have or do not have relatives with disabilities. In all 11 regions, at least 73% of those surveyed believe that the **local authorities should take care of the environmental infrastructure for people with disabilities.** The number of the respondents who oppose is less than 20% in each region.

The study showed that 81.6% of the respondents think that the state should increase **social assistance** for persons with disabilities as a first step. A total of 9.6% believe it is unfair to increase social assistance for persons with disabilities earlier than other vulnerable groups.

The study showed that 87.2% of the respondents said that the state should ensure **the integration of people with disabilities into public life.** The highest number of respondents supporting this opinion is in Kakheti - 97.1% and the lowest is in Samtskhe-Javakheti - 75.9%. The number of the respondents who do not agree with this opinion is the highest in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti - 9.3%.

The majority of the respondents (69.2%) think that the central government of Georgia is **primarily responsible for improving access for people with disabilities to public spaces.** Taking into account the general identifiers of actors responsible for the social integration of persons with disabilities (the structures responsible for in the first, second and third places), the respondents name three main factors that are responsible for the integration of persons with disabilities: 1. the Government of Georgia, 2. local self-government and 3. regional authorities.

The study showed that 61.1% of the respondents agree (30.1% of them fully agree) with **setting quotas for the employment of people with disabilities in public organizations.** Less than 10% of those who put their position in the negative field of the assessment indicated that they did not agree with this view. A total of 60.4% of the respondents (28.7% of them fully agree) agree to set quotas for the employment of persons with disabilities in private organizations. Less than 10% of the respondents considered this provision as negative in their evaluation.

The study showed that 34.1% of the respondents strongly agree that private organizations **should be provided with tax benefits in the case of**

employment of persons with disabilities. A total of 5.5% disagree with this opinion. Further, 32.8% of the respondents who fully agree with the opinion that private organizations should be provided with tax benefits when employing persons with disabilities have no family member or relative/friend/co-worker/neighbor with disabilities. A total of 35.4% of those who have a person with disabilities in their social circle fully agree with this opinion.

DEMOGRAPHIC BLOCK

A total of 5,000 respondents participated in the survey of whom 53.5% were female and 46.5% were male.

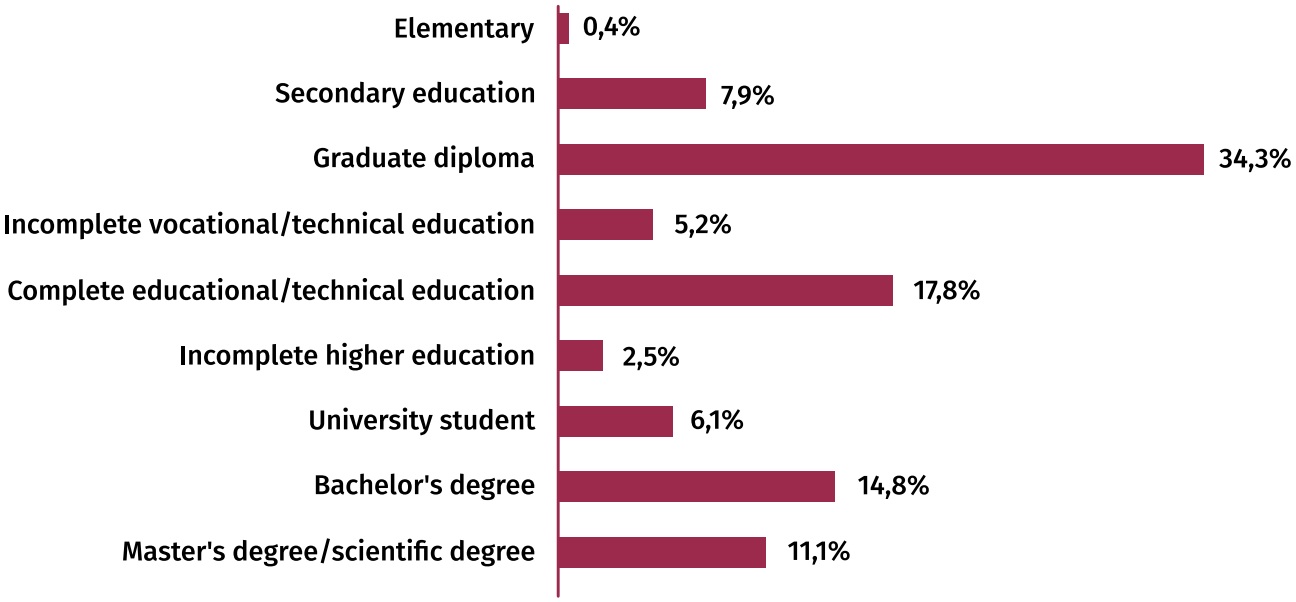
At the data processing stage, the **age** variable was grouped into six categories among which the percentages of the respondents were distributed as follows: up to 24 years - 12.4% of the respondents, between 24-34 years - 18.5%, between 35-44 years - 16.8%,between 45-54 years - 17.4%, between 55-64 years - 15.6% and 65 years and over - 19.3%.

As for **marital status,** the majority of the respondents (59.4%) are married while 22.7% are single. Widows and widowers comprised 13.3% of the respondents while 4.2% of the respondents are divorced. The smallest category comprised those living with a partner (0.3%).

The study of the **education level** of the respondents revealed that a large proportion (34.3%) had a high school diploma, 17.8% had completed vocational/technical education and 14.8% of the respondents have a bachelor's degree (see Chart A).

CHART #A

Achieved Level of Education (N=5000)

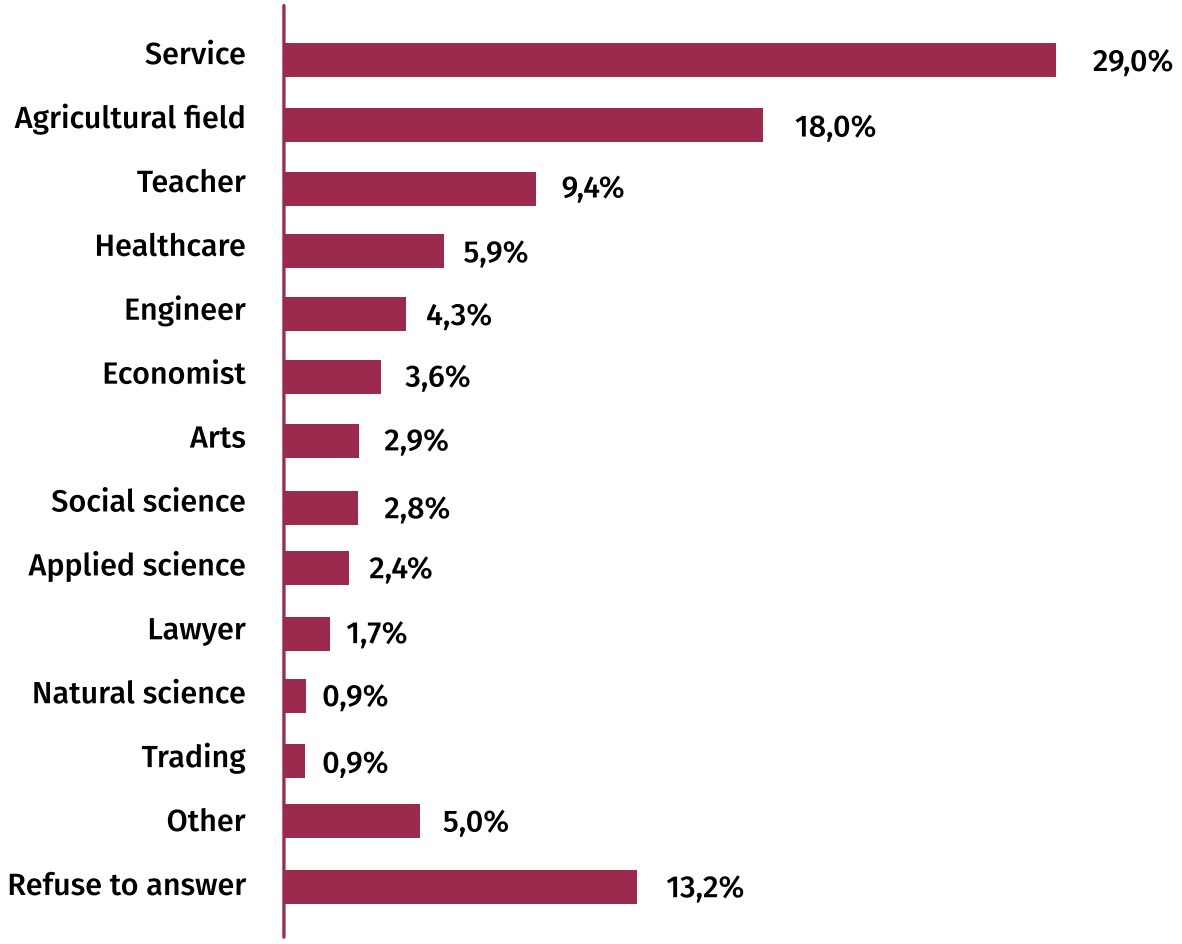


Regarding the **employment status** of the respondents, the bigger part of them (29.5%) are unemployed while 26.3% are out of work non-job seekers (retired, students, unemployed women, etc.). A total of 15.9% of the respondents indicated that they are employed in the private sector and 11.5% are employed in the public sector. The study showed that 7.4% of the respondents are engaged in agricultural activities and 3.9% are sole proprietors. Only 2.7% of the respondents are employed in the informal sector which comprises a minimal indicator. The rest (2.8%) rated their employment status as "other."

The study also identified **the field of activity** in which the respondents are currently employed (the field of activity question referred to the part of the sampling for those who indicated that they were employed and comprising 44.25). Most of the respondents who indicated that they are employed are engaged in the service sector at 29.0% while 18.2% are engaged in the agricultural sector. Minimum indicators were found in the natural sciences (0.9%) and in trade (0.9%). It is noteworthy that 13.2% of the respondents refused to name their field of activity (see Chart B).

CHART #B

Field of Activity on Which You are Currently Employed (N=2230)

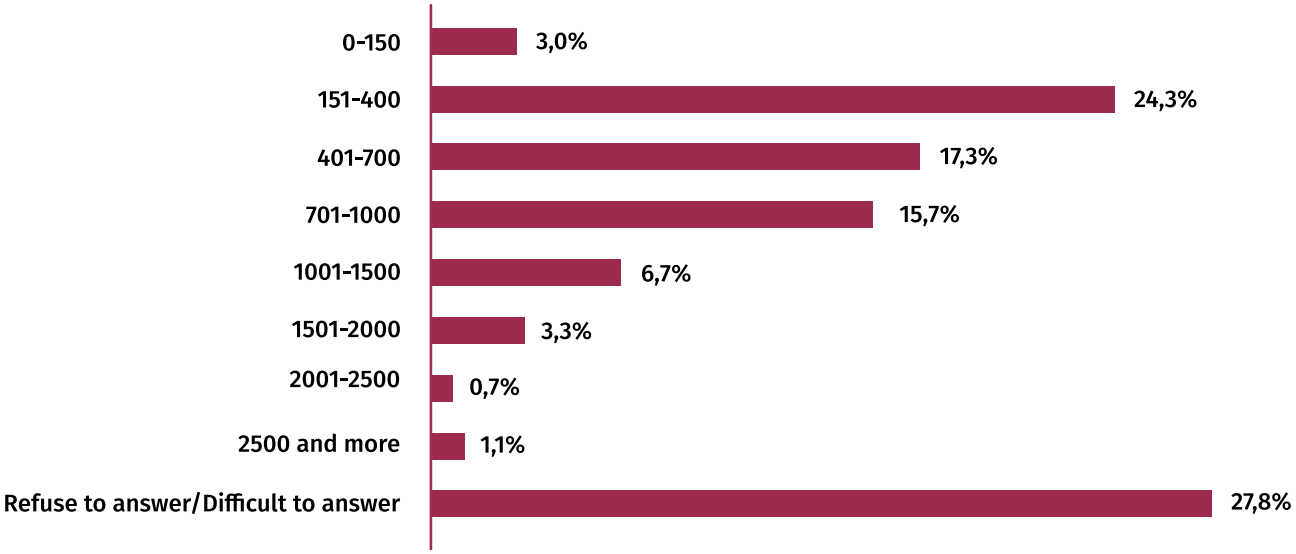


The **ethnicity** of the respondents was divided as follows: the majority of the respondents (91.8%) identify themselves as Georgian, 3.9% identify themselves as Armenians and 3% identify themselves as Azerbaijanis. Only 1.3% of the respondents identify themselves as 'other.'

The **average monthly income** of the respondents' families was analyzed to include all income including salary, cash income, gifts, remittances and income from the sale of agricultural products, etc. The majority of the respondents (27.8%) declined or indicated that it was difficult to answer the question about their income. The responses received were grouped into eight categories: 24.3% of the respondents reported that their monthly income is in the GEL 151-400 range while 17.3% reported this number to be in the GEL 401-700 range. According to the data, 0.7% of the respondents reported an income within the GEL 2001-2500 range (see Chart C):

CHART #C

Average Monthly Income of Your Family in GEL (N=5000)



The **material status** of the respondents' families was also identified (evaluations not expressed in numbers). The study showed that 95% of the respondents rated their status from very low to average with the following percentages: low: We do not have enough income to eat - 25%; Low: Income barely enough for food and clothing - 30.3% and Average: We meet the basic needs of the family - 39.9%. Only 2.3% say that their family's financial status is High (2.1%) or Very High (0.2%). A total of 2.6% of the respondents were categorized as "Refuse to answer/Difficult to answer".

The survey revealed that **the majority of the respondents - 58.5% - personally know at least one person with disabilities.** Almost every third respondent (30.7%) knows one person with disabilities, 21.7% knows two-to-three persons and 6% knows four or more. A total of 40.5% of the respondents do not know a person with disabilities.

Approximately one-third (30.5%) of the respondents have a neighbor with a disability.

As for **a family member with disabilities, the share of such families is 5.6%.** The number of people having a relative with disabilities (18%) is even higher. A total of 10.6% of the respondents indicate that they have a friend who is a person with a disability. The survey also shows that only 2.7% of the respondents have employees with disabilities (indicating that the share of people with disabilities is very low in the labor market).

When asked about the **kind of disabilities your family members/relatives/neighbors/co-workers and friends have,** almost half of all the respondents listed physical disabilities (the percentages range from 42% to 48%). Those indicating sensory disabilities came in second place (16-24%) while those citing persons with intellectual disabilities appeared in the third place (14% - 23%) and persons with mental health problems came in the fourth place (10-15%). See Table A.

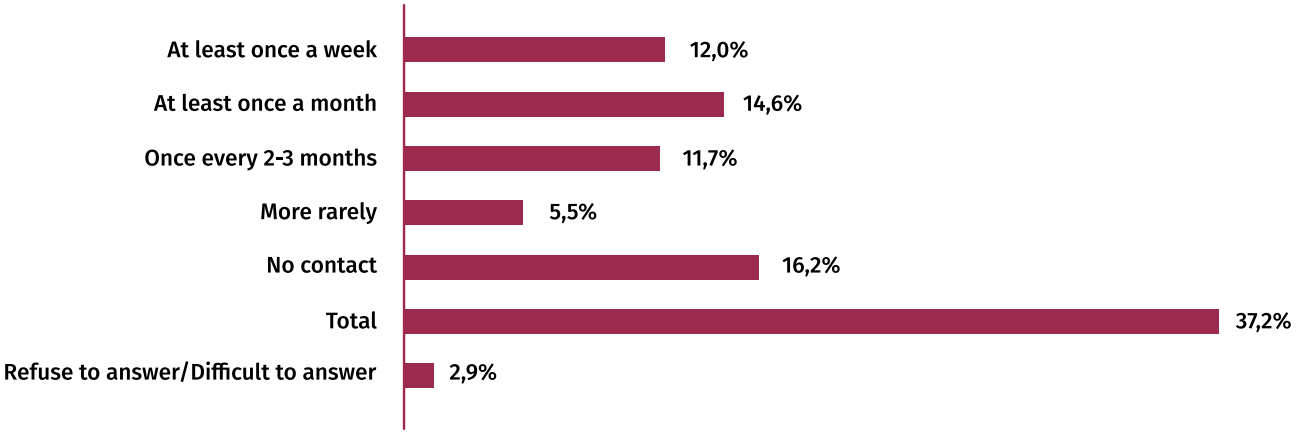
TABLE #A

	FAMILY MEMBER (%)	RELATIVE (%)	FRIEND (%)	CO-WORKER (%)	NEIGHBOR (%)
Physical Disabilities (Wheelchair-bound, Mobility, etc.)	46.9	44.3	48.6	45.2	42.7
Intellectual Disability (Down Syndrome, etc.)	14.0	22.9	18.9	18.1	23.3
Mental Health Problems (depression, schizophrenia, etc.)	10.1	9.8	6.0	5.8	14.7
Sensory Impairment (deaf, hearing impaired, blind, visually impaired, a person with hearing and visual impairment, etc.)	22.2	19.7	23.6	22.4	16.3
Refuse to answer	3.8	0.6	1.5	5.9	0.6

Regarding the frequency of contact with persons with disabilities, the survey shows that of the respondents who personally know persons with disabilities, 37.2% have no contact with persons with disabilities, 12% have daily contact, 14.6% have contact at least once a week, 11.7% have contact at least once a month, 5.5% have contact once every two-to-three months and 16.2% have contact more rarely (see Chart D).

CHART #D

Frequency of Contact with Persons with Disabilities (N=5000)

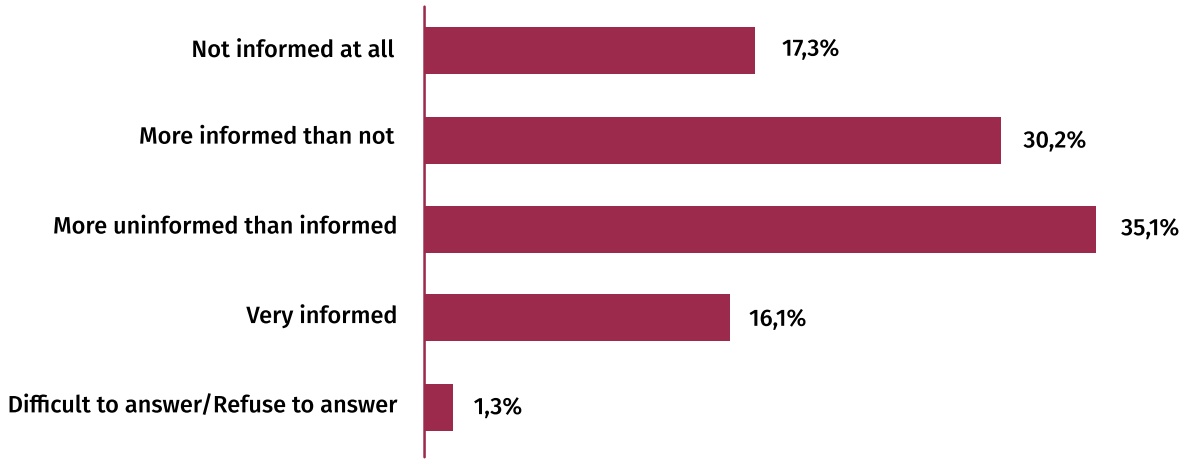


CHAPTER ONE:
AWARENESS ABOUT PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The total sample of the respondents is divided into two parts when assessing their level of awareness about people with disabilities: one half (47.5%) are self-critical and consider themselves more uninformed or completely uninformed. The slightly larger second half (51.2%) rate their awareness positively (more informed or fully informed). See Chart 1.

CHART #1

How informed are you about the rights and needs of people with disabilities? (N=5000)



The assessment of **the level of awareness** of the rights and needs of persons with disabilities is statistically reliable correlated with characteristics such as the experience of a direct relationship with persons with disabilities, region, gender and age, in particular:

- The majority of the respondents (56.4%) who have related experience with people with disabilities consider themselves to be informed (more informed or fully informed) while the lower share (45.6%) of respondents having no experience with persons with disabilities, consider themselves as informed. who express their positive self-esteem among those who do not have experience with persons with disabilities is relatively low (45.6%). The majority (53%) of the latter group consider

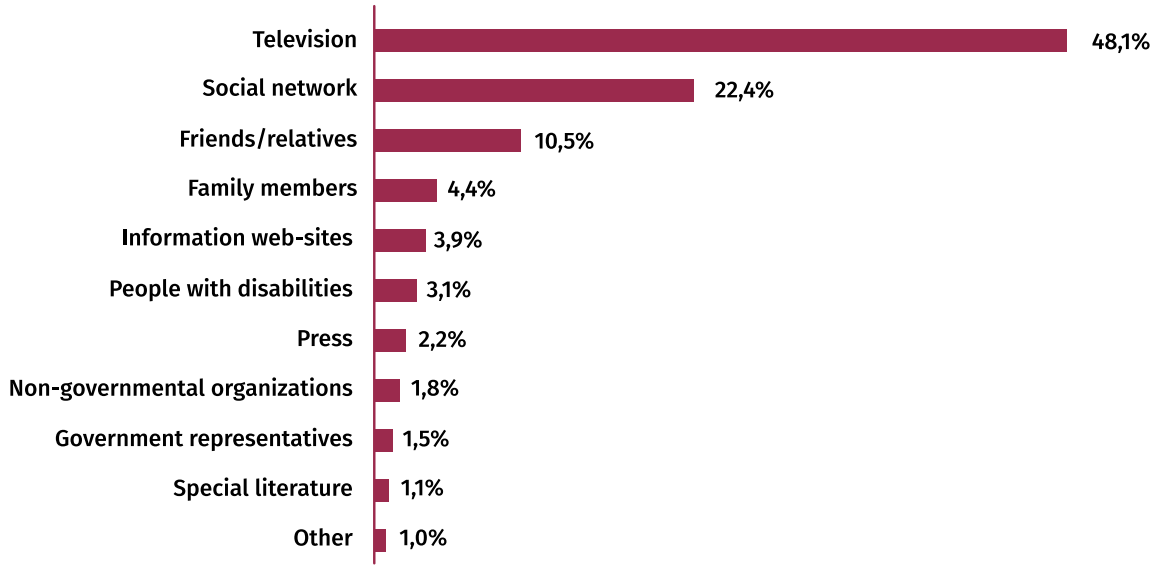
themselves uninformed.

- Citizens of Samtskhe-Javakheti (68.9%), Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti (72.2%), Mtskheta-Mtianeti (56.4%) and Tbilisi (53.4%) evaluate their awareness about persons with disabilities the most critically (uninformed or more uninformed).
- Data show that the respondents' education level affects their self-awareness about people with disabilities. The majority (60.4%) of the respondents with higher education say they are (more or fully) informed while 43.7% of those with incomplete secondary or secondary education say the same.
- Men were found to be more uninformed (more or generally uninformed) (52.5%) than women (43.2%).

Television is cited as the most popular of the **sources of information** on persons with disabilities. Virtually every second respondent (48.2%) highlights this source. The role of social networks is also important (22.4%). It is noteworthy that about 8% of the respondents refer to informal sources such as family members and friends/relatives[3] as other sources of information (see Chart 2).

CHART #2

Sources of Information on Persons with Disabilities (N=4146)



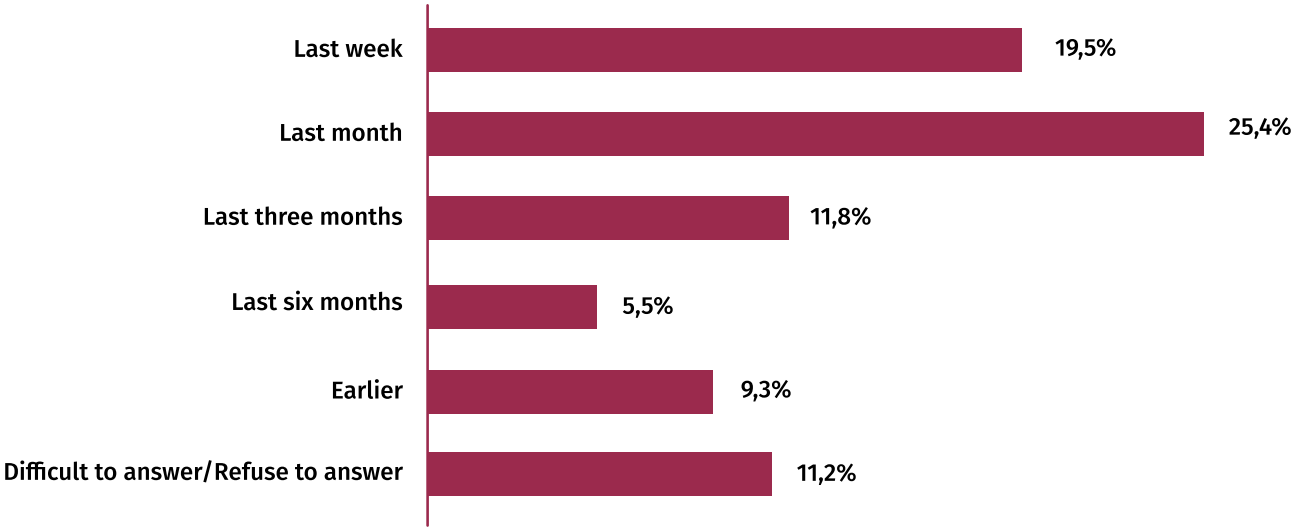
[3]The question about the sources of information about persons with disabilities was not answered by the respondents who mentioned that they were not informed at all.

The survey shows that information on people with disabilities is updated more or less quickly. A fifth (19.5%) of the respondents said that they received information about people with disabilities in the last week while a quarter (25.4%) mentioned that they received information last month. There is a small number (9.3%) of those who received information about persons with disabilities later than six months[4] (see Chart 3).

It is logical that the respondents who have direct experience with persons with disabilities are more likely updated about persons with disabilities than people who lack such experience. In particular, 29.2% of those having direct experience and 16.8% of those without such experience received information during the last week.

CHART #3

When did you last get information on people with disabilities? (N=4146)



The information received by the respondents about persons with disabilities was quite varied. In particular, this information primarily concerned:

- Social status/problems of persons with disabilities- 28.5%
- Violation of the rights of persons with disabilities- 22.6%
- Providing services to persons with disabilities- 13.6%
- The life of persons with disabilities - 12.2%
- Achievements of persons with disabilities - 9.3%
- Events with the participation of persons with disabilities - 6.9%

In addition to a subjective self-assessment of the level of awareness about persons with disabilities, the study included so-called

[4]The respondents who mentioned that they were not informed at all did not respond to the question about updating information on people with disabilities.

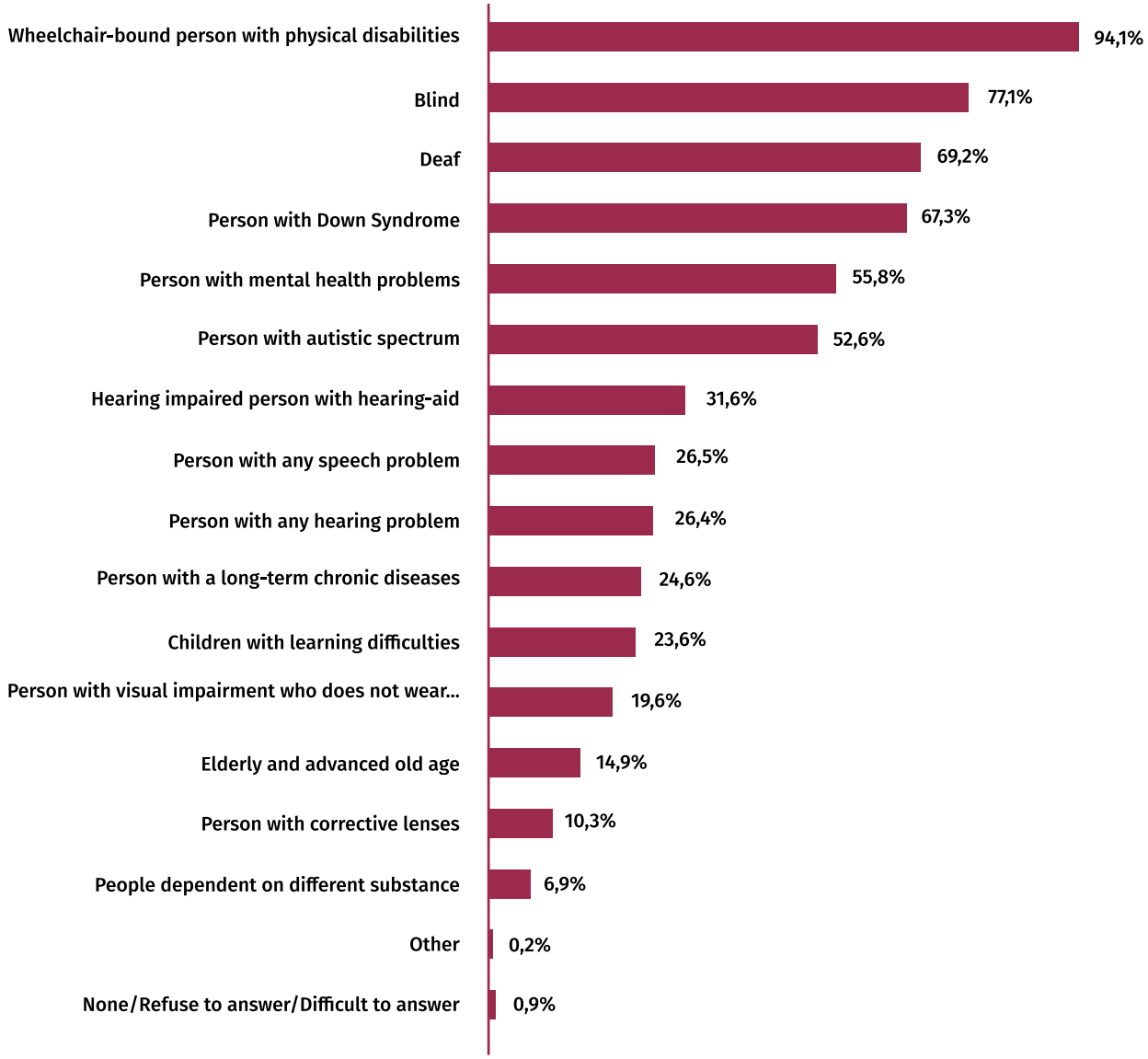
test questions in the **questionnaire in order to objectively assess the awareness of the respondents.** Specifically, the respondents were asked a question about who constituted a person with disabilities and were offered a list of possible answers. Some of the options provided were correct and some were incorrect. The survey shows that the respondents mostly answered the question correctly and chose the answers that are adequate for identifying and defining a disability. In particular, the respondents in most cases correctly attributed disabilities to:

- A person with physical disabilities who is wheelchair-bound
- A deaf person
- A blind person
- A person with Down Syndrome
- A person with mental health problems

Notwithstanding the above, a significant number of the respondents shows a low level of inconsistent awareness. This is especially true for people with **the autistic spectrum.** The majority of the answers - 52.6% of the cases - wrongly classify any person with the autistic spectrum as a person with disabilities. Also, in a third of the cases (31.6%), a hearing-impaired person who needs a hearing-aid is considered as a person with disabilities, 26.4% of the respondents identified a person with any hearing problem as a person with disabilities, 26.5% of the respondents cited a person with any speaking problems as a person with disabilities and 24.6% indicated that a person with a long-term chronic disease is also a person with disabilities (See Chart 4).

CHART #4

Who do you think is "a person with a disability?" (N=5000)



The survey shows that the overwhelming majority of the respondents are correctly informed about the characteristics of persons with disabilities. Specifically respondents think that following are wrong:

- Disabilities are only visible (74.8%)
- People with disabilities usually cannot work (66%)
- Words such as “invalid” and “Down (Syndrome),” etc., are acceptable words (81.9%)
- A deaf person will understand better if you speak loudly (73.5%)
- People with disabilities are always less intellectually developed (61.4%)

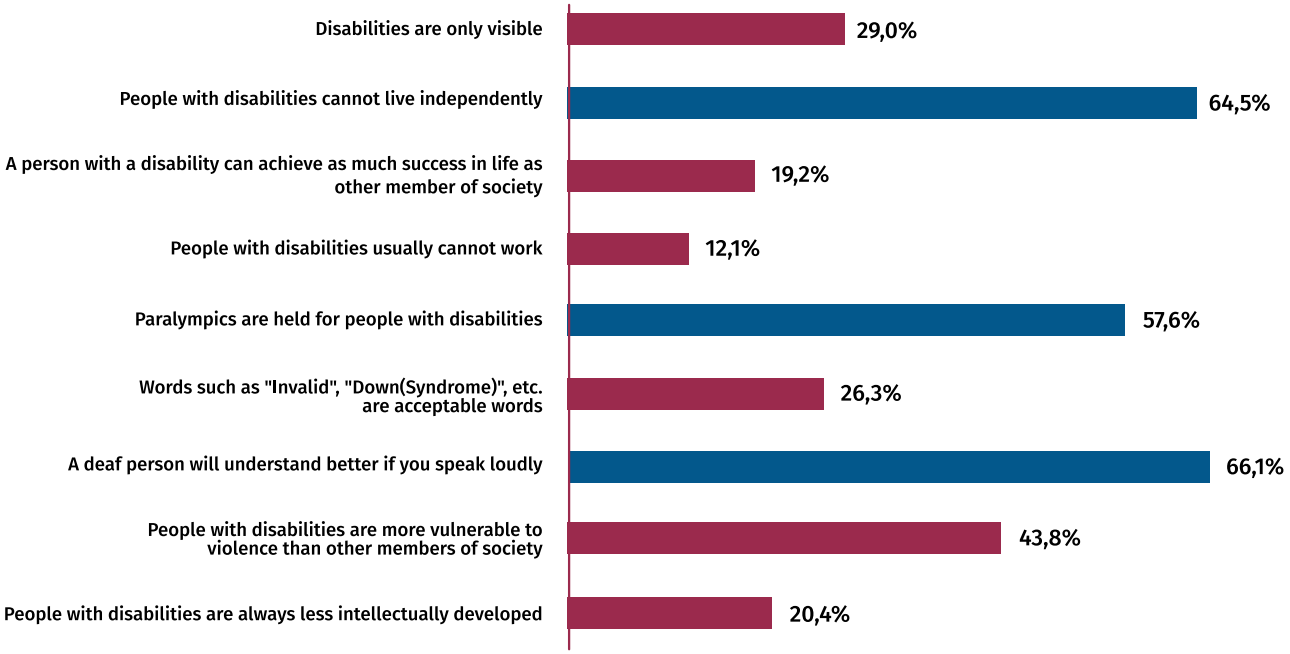
Also, most of the respondents **correctly** believe that:

- A person with a disability can achieve as much success in life as other members of society (66.1%)
- Paralympics are held for people with disabilities (57.6%)
- People with disabilities are more vulnerable to violence than other members of society (64.5%)

The only provision for which the views of the respondents on correctness/severity are divided are as follows: “People with disabilities cannot live independently” (“Correct” - 43.8%, “Wrong” - 49.4%, “No response” - 0.3%, “Difficult to answer”- 6.5%). It is important to emphasize that this provision is not true; that is, people with disabilities can live independently. However, according to the available data, we may assume that some respondents who chose the wrong answer to this question (specifically that people with disabilities cannot live independently) based their choices on severe cases of disabilities that do not allow individuals to live independently. On the other hand, such attitudes on the part of the respondents are uninformed as, according to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, anyone with a disability can live independently with adequate support (assistive technologies and facilities, accessible environments and services, etc.). See Chart 5.

CHART #5

Which of the following statements about persons with disabilities is correct? (N=5000)



CHAPTER TWO:
ATTITUDES TOWARDS PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The next block of the questionnaire addressed the attitudes towards people with disabilities which were assessed on the basis of different contexts and beliefs.

2.1. PREJUDICES AGAINST PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

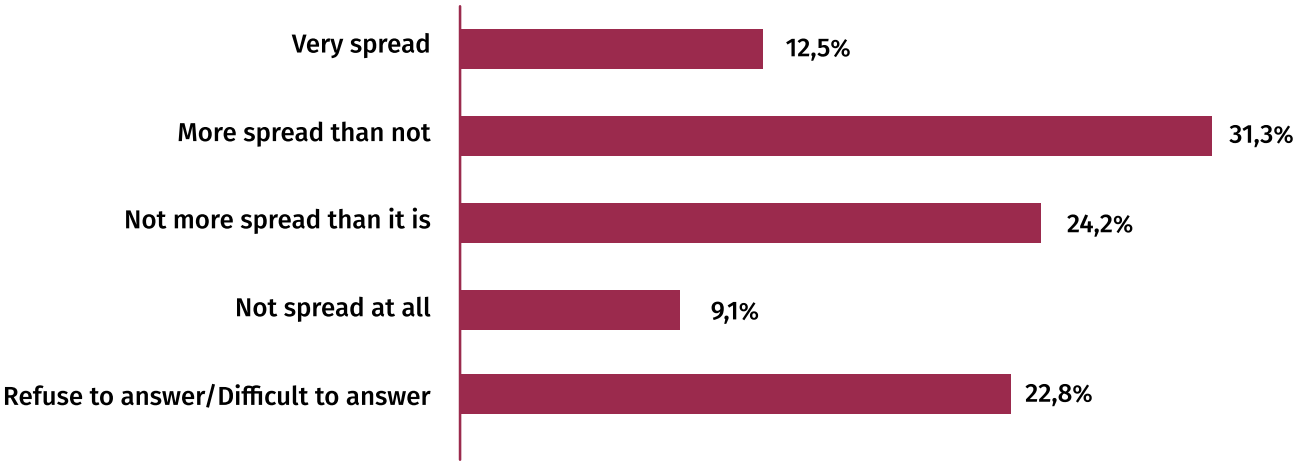
The issue of **prejudices** against persons with disabilities was initially analyzed.

When asked about the prevalence of prejudices against persons with disabilities in Georgia, the majority of respondents - about a third - stated that it is more widespread than not (31%). The answer: "mostly not spread than spread" (24.2%) follows in terms of the percentage distribution.

It should be noted that more than one-fifth of the respondents (21.6%) find it difficult to answer this question. A relatively small proportion of the respondents were inclined to respond with any radical response (12.5% is spread and 9.1% is not spread). Thus, most of the respondents give an intermediate estimate of the prevalence of prejudice (see Chart 6).

CHART #6

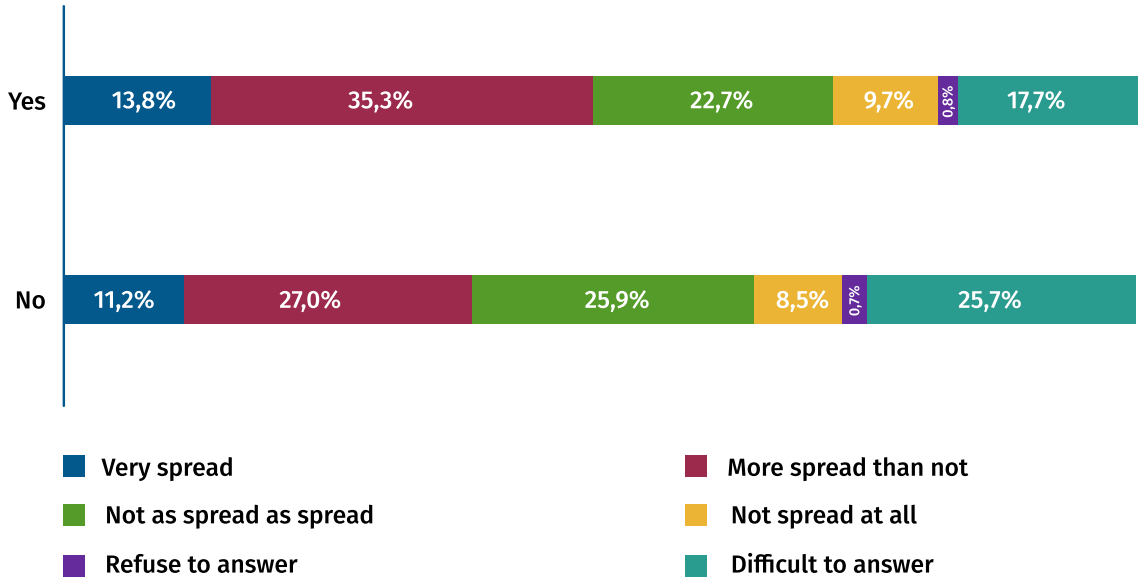
How spread are prejudices against persons with disabilities in Georgia? (prejudices/false expectations/stereotypes) (N=5000)



The question of prejudices related to persons with disabilities (as a dependent variable) is statistically reliable correlated with the experience of having a direct relationship with persons with disabilities. The respondents who have similar experience indicate that prejudices against persons with disabilities are widespread in Georgia. In particular, almost every second respondent confirms the existence of prejudices (the correlation is statistically significant: (x2 (5) = 87.048, p <0.01). See Chart 7.

CHART #7

How much are prejudices spread against persons with disabilities in Georgia? Do you have a family member/relative/ friend/co-worker/neighbor with a disability? (N=5000)

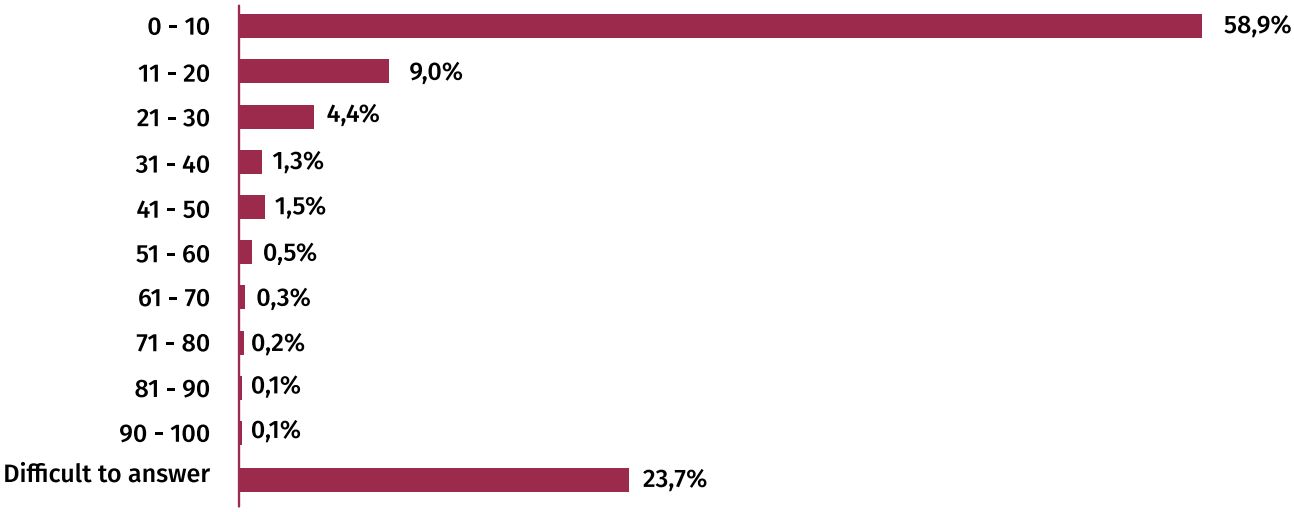


2.2. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The following question was related to the estimation of **the number of persons with disabilities** by the respondents: "How many persons out of every 100 people living in Georgia do you think are persons with disabilities?" The respondents were able to name a number from 0 to 100. The MODE of the numbers named by the respondents is 5 (12.5%) which means that the majority of the respondents believe that five out of every 100 people in Georgia have a disability. Of note is that that one-fifth of the respondents (20.1%) refrain from answering the question (see Chart 8).

CHART #8

How many out of every 100 people living in Georgia have a disability? (N=5000)



2.3. ATTITUDES TOWARDS PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The respondents were provided with several statements on persons with disabilities. **The statements measured their attitudes about persons with disabilities.** On a 5-point scale, the respondents were asked to rate their acceptance of these statements with 1 indicating "strongly disagree" and 5 indicating "strongly agree:"

A) The majority of the respondents strongly agree (44.9%) with the statement that parents of children with disabilities should be less strict than other parents. The next most frequently cited answer is "I agree more than I disagree" (18.8%). Therefore, the majority of the respondents tended to support the statement (63.7% in total). In addition, the mean score (MEAN) is 3.81 which also confirms that the respondents largely agree with the provision. Only a small portion (2.3%) declined to answer this question, indicating that the respondents have a clear attitude towards the issue.

B) Regarding the provision that people with physical disabilities can achieve as much success in learning as other members of society - there is a growing trend from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree." Overall, the overwhelming majority of the respondents (67.2%) agrees with this statement (46.8% of them strongly agree). However, the mean score on the consent scale is 4 which confirms that

the responses of the respondents mainly fall into the positive evaluation field.

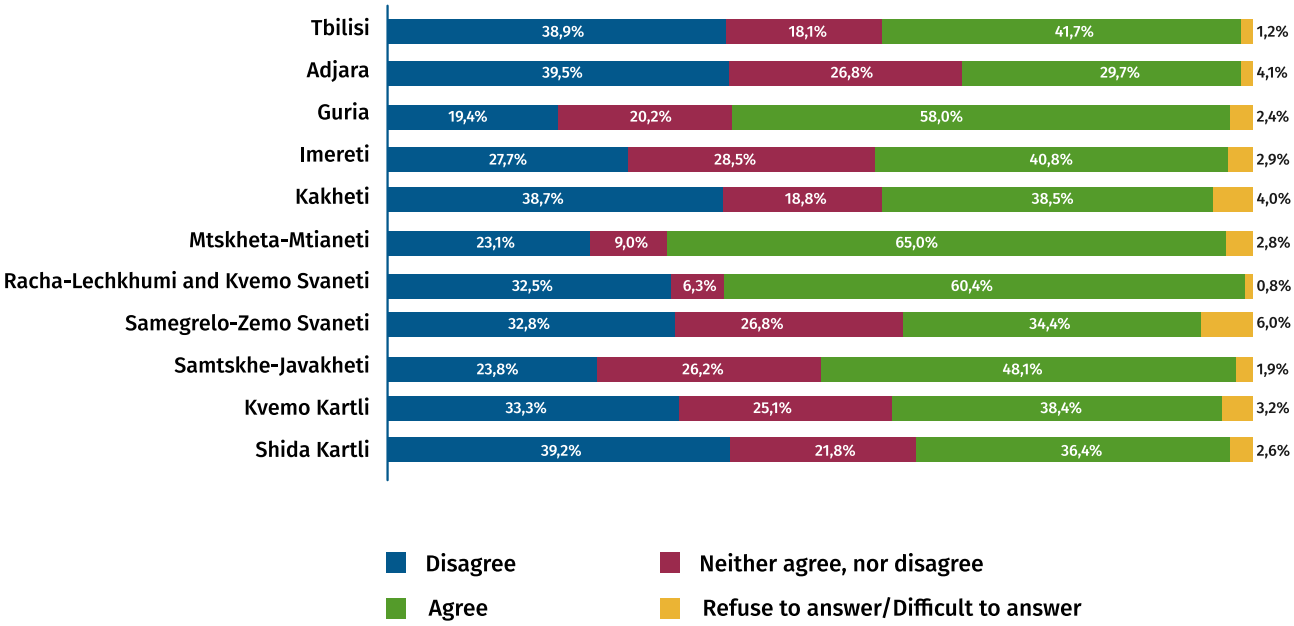
C) As for communication with persons with disabilities, more than a quarter (26.3%) of the respondents "Agree as much as disagree" that they need to contact their accompanying person (s). More than a fifth (21.6%) of the respondents strongly disagree with this provision. In total, 32.7% of respondents are inclined to consent with the provision. There is no significant difference between the data and, therefore, the views of the respondents on this provision are dispersed. The mean score on the consent scale (MEAN) is 2.91 which means that the ratings of the respondents fall into the negative field of disagreement (MEAN <3). However, this average is very close to the neutral point (score 3) which is more indicative of the division of the positions of the respondents.

D) Almost a quarter (23.1%) of the survey's respondents strongly agree that the majority of people with disabilities are pitiable. 20.7% of respondents also agree ("I agree more than not"). 21% agree as much as disagree with this provision. Therefore, the majority of the respondents (43.8%) think that people with disabilities are pitiable. However, on the other hand, this tendency is weakly expressed. This is also confirmed by the fact that the scaled mean equals 3.15.

A statistical analysis of the data shows that this issue is correlated with the **regional distribution** of respondents. Specifically, in the Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Racha-Lechkhumi/Kvemo Svaneti and Guria regions, unlike other regions, the majority of the respondents consider people with disabilities as pitiable (see Chart 9).

CHART #9

Most people with Disabilities are Subject to Pity (N=5000)

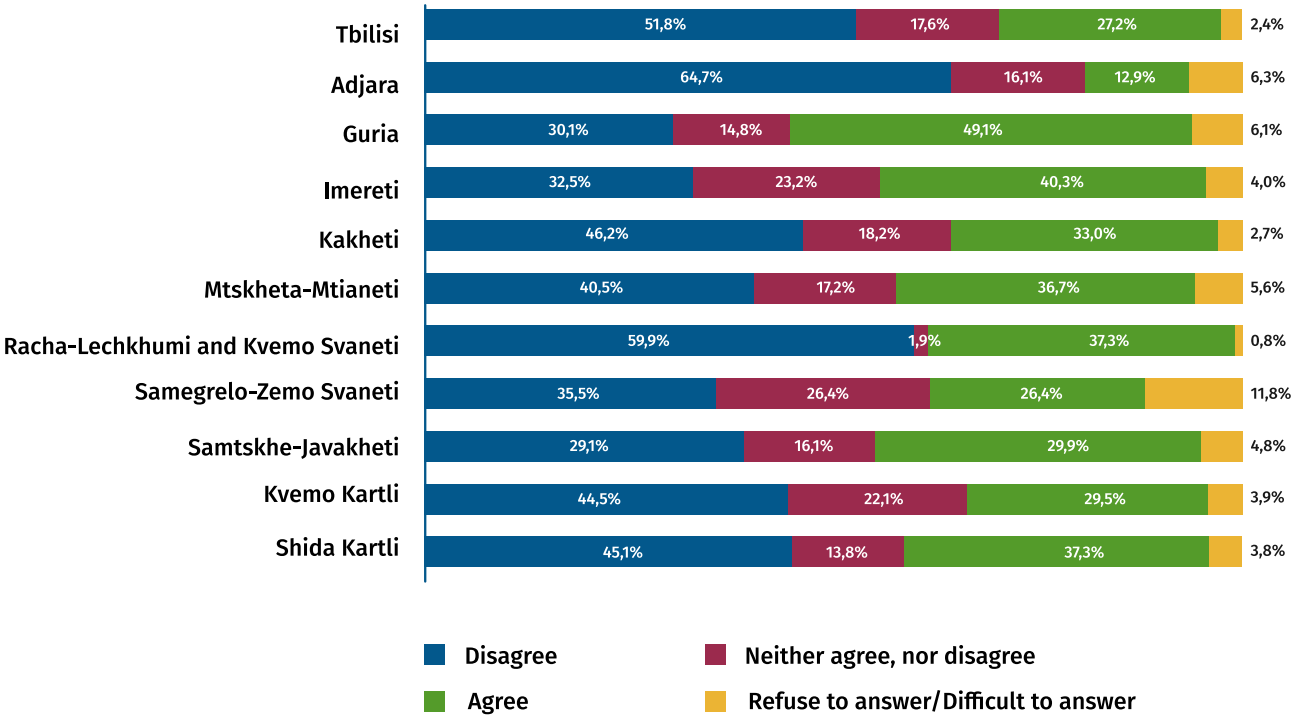


E) The vast majority of the respondents (44.9%) disagrees with the statement that children with disabilities should study only in special schools (almost a third - 31.3% - strongly disagrees). A total of 37.6% support special education for children with disabilities. However, 17.5% answered "I agree as much as disagree".

A discussion of the **regional** responses to this provision revealed that the issue that children with disabilities should study in a special institution is in contrast to the majority of the opinions of the respondents in Tbilisi and the Adjara and Racha-Lechkhumi/Kvemo Svaneti regions which are distinguished from other regions in terms of this issue. As for the opposite answers ("I strongly agree" and "I agree more"), they have the highest rate in Guria (49.1%). (Data were statistically significant at the regional level: $x2 (60) = 769.565$; $p < 0.01$). See Chart 10.

CHART #10

Children with Disabilities Should Only Study in Special Schools (N=5000)



F) Most of the respondents (62.7%) strongly disagree with the opinion that people with disabilities do not need an education. Also, 14.1% tend to reject the provision and state that they disagree more than agree.

G) The majority of respondents at 56.3% strongly disagree that it would be better if people with disabilities lived separately. In addition, 13.6% have a negative attitude towards this provision ("I disagree more than I agree").

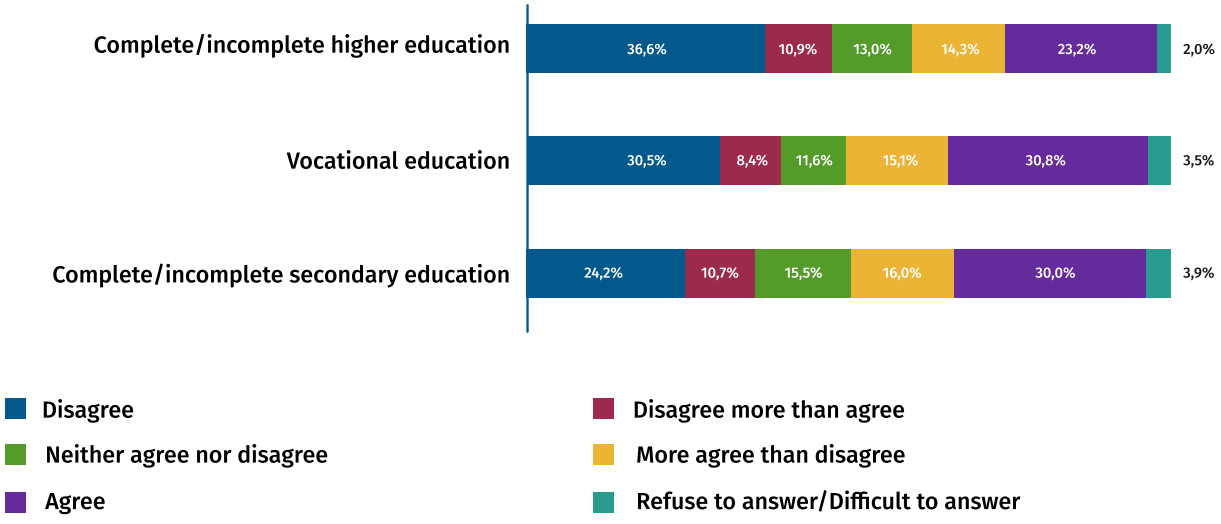
H) Opinions are again divided when it comes to the context of government care for people with disabilities (caring for people with disabilities is the goodwill of the government). One part (40.1%) of the respondents disagree (29.9% of them strongly disagree) with this opinion and the other 43.1% agree (27.9% of them strongly agree).

In terms of discussing responses to the given statement about **education level,** it was found that among the respondents with a higher education (incomplete/complete) the percentage of respondents (36.6%) who completely disagree that caring for people with disabilities is the goodwill of the government is higher. This is the lowest (24.2%) among those with an incomplete secondary/secondary education. (In terms of education the data is statistically significant: x2(12)=95.312.p<0.01) (see Chart 11).

[9]განათლების ჭრილში მონაცემები სტატისტიკურად მნიშვნელოვანია: x2(12)=95.312. p<0.01

CHART #11

Caring for People with Disabilities is the Good Will of the Government - In terms of Education Level (N=5000)



I) At 40.1%, a larger proportion of the respondents disagrees with the next statement that women with disabilities are socially more vulnerable than men with disabilities (26.9% of them strongly disagree). A quarter (25.2%) of the respondents agree with this provision and almost as many are in a neutral position ("I agree or disagree").

J) The majority of the respondents disagrees that people with disabilities should work separately in the workplace. The statement that it would be better if the PwDs work separately - almost half of the respondents (47.5%) disagree while 14.9% disagree more than agree.

K) The majority of the respondents (58.3%) disagree with the statement that persons with disabilities should not work at all.

L) Also, the overwhelming majority (62.2%) strongly disagrees with the statement that the majority of people with disabilities are a burden to society.

M) The question about whether PwDs should meet the same requirements as other members of society was evaluated differently. The answers are basically opposite: 24.8% strongly agree with this statement and 22.3% strongly disagree.

N) The respondents anequivocally agree that persons with disabilities may be as happy as other members of society (49.7% strongly agree and 20.3% agree more than disagree) (see Table).

O) The respondents disagree on what to expect from people with disabilities. The majority (38.6%) disagree with the opinion that we should have fewer expectations from people with disabilities than from other people. Approximately one-third (31.4%) share this opinion.

P) The vast majority of the respondents (41.7%) disagree with the statement that people with disabilities feel more comfortable alone than in society. About a quarter of the respondents (24.1%) share this opinion. In addition, about one-fifth (22.6%) do not have a clear opinion on this provision and say that they do not agree or disagree with it.

Q) It is noteworthy that the majority of the respondents agree with the statement that persons with disabilities are more easily irritated than other people. A quarter (24.9%) of respondents "strongly agree" and 20% agree more than disagree with the provision. A total of 23% of the respondents hold the opposite position.

R) Strong support was found to suggest that a person with a disability who is active in public life is a real hero. A total of 45.2% of the respondents strongly agree with this provision. Also, 20.5% tend to agree (I agree more than not).

S) The overwhelming majority of the population (70.5%) also agree that the state should develop equal opportunities for people with disabilities. Half of the respondents (50.2%) strongly agree with the statement while 20.3% agree more than disagree.

T) The views of the respondents that special treatment is necessary when dealing with persons with disabilities are scattered. A total of 37.2% of the respondents tend to agree (strongly agree or agree more) and about a third (32%) are in the opposite position. In addition, almost a quarter (23.9%) choose a neutral position (both agree or disagree).

U) The majority of the respondents (56.2%) do not share the opinion that people with disabilities often try to arouse pity for them. The number of supporters is much lower - 17.3%. About one-fifth (19.6%) have a neutral position - agree or disagree.

V) The majority of the respondents - 61.4% - think that people with disabilities are more kind and considerate (36.9% strongly agree and 24.5% strongly disagree). One-fifth of the respondents (21.5%) do not agree or disagree. The minority (11.5%) was negative in regard to this opinion.

The statistical indicators describing the aforementioned attitudes of the respondents are given in Table 1.

TABLE #1

N=5000	I TOTALLY DISAGREE	I DISAGREE MORE THAN I AGREE	I NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	I AGREE MORE THAN DISAGREE	I TOTALLY AGREE	REFUSE TO ANSWER/ DIFFICULT TO ANSWER
Parents of children with disabilities should be less strict than other parents	10.1%	9.3%	14.6%	18.8%	44.9%	2.2%
People with physical disabilities can achieve as much success in learning as other members of society	4.7%	7.9%	17.1%	20.4%	46.8%	3.1%
When communicating with people with disabilities, it is best to refer to the person(s) accompanying them	21.6%	14.6%	26.3%	16.7%	16%	4.8%
Most people with disabilities are pitiable	19.7%	12.7%	21%	20.7%	23.1%	2.9%
Children with disabilities should study only in special schools	31.3%	13.6%	17.5%	12.8%	20.2%	4.6%
People with disabilities do not need an education	62.7%	14.1%	10%	4.6%	5.9%	2.7%
It would be better if people with disabilities live separately, especially in the places/institutions assigned to them	56.3%	13.6%	13.8%	6.1%	6%	4.2%

N=5000	I TOTALLY DISAGREE	I DISAGREE MORE THAN I AGREE	I NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	I AGREE MORE THAN DISAGREE	I TOTALLY AGREE	REFUSE TO ANSWER/ DIFFICULT TO ANSWER
It would be better if people with disabilities work separately, only in protected workshops (where only people with disabilities work)	47.5%	14%	15.9%	8.3%	9.8%	4.6%
People with disabilities should not work at all	58.3%	14.9%	13.2%	4.9%	5.8%	2.9%
Most people with disabilities are a burden to society	62.2%	14.1%	11.5%	4.5%	3.3%	4.4%
Persons with disabilities are not obliged to comply with the same requirements as other members of society (e.g., in a store, paying various taxes, etc.)	22.3%	13.6%	19.9%	14.9%	24.8%	4.5%
People with disabilities can be just as happy as other members of society	5.7%	7.4%	14%	20.3%	49.7%	2.9%
Caring for people with disabilities is the goodwill of the government	29.9%	10.2%	13.7%	15.2%	27.9%	3%
Women with disabilities are more vulnerable than men with disabilities	26.9%	13.1%	22.8%	11.3%	13.9%	12%

N=5000	I TOTALLY DISAGREE	I DISAGREE MORE THAN I AGREE	I NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	I AGREE MORE THAN DISAGREE	I TOTALLY AGREE	REFUSE TO ANSWER/ DIFFICULT TO ANSWER
We should have fewer expectations from people with disabilities than from other people	23%	15.5%	23.1%	16.1%	15.3%	7%
People with disabilities feel more comfortable being alone than in society	27%	14.7%	22.6%	12.9%	11.2%	11.7%
People with disabilities are more easily irritated than other people	12.3%	10.7%	23.5%	20%	24.9%	8.6%
The person with a disability who is active in public life is a true hero	6.7%	7.7%	15.5%	20.5%	45.2%	4.4%
For people with disabilities, the state should develop mechanisms for equal opportunities	4%	6.1%	14.6%	20.3%	50.2%	4.7%
When dealing with persons with disabilities, it is necessary to adhere to special rules of conduct	19.3%	12.6%	23.9%	17.5%	20%	6.7%
People with disabilities often try to arouse pity	38.8%	17.4%	19.6%	10.2%	7.1%	7%
People with disabilities are more kind and considerate	3.5%	8%	21.5%	24.5%	36.9%	5.6%

In order to study the attitudes of the respondents towards persons with disabilities, several provisions were suggested to them. This time, survey respondents were asked to answer "yes" or "no" instead of evaluating opinions on a 5-point scale.

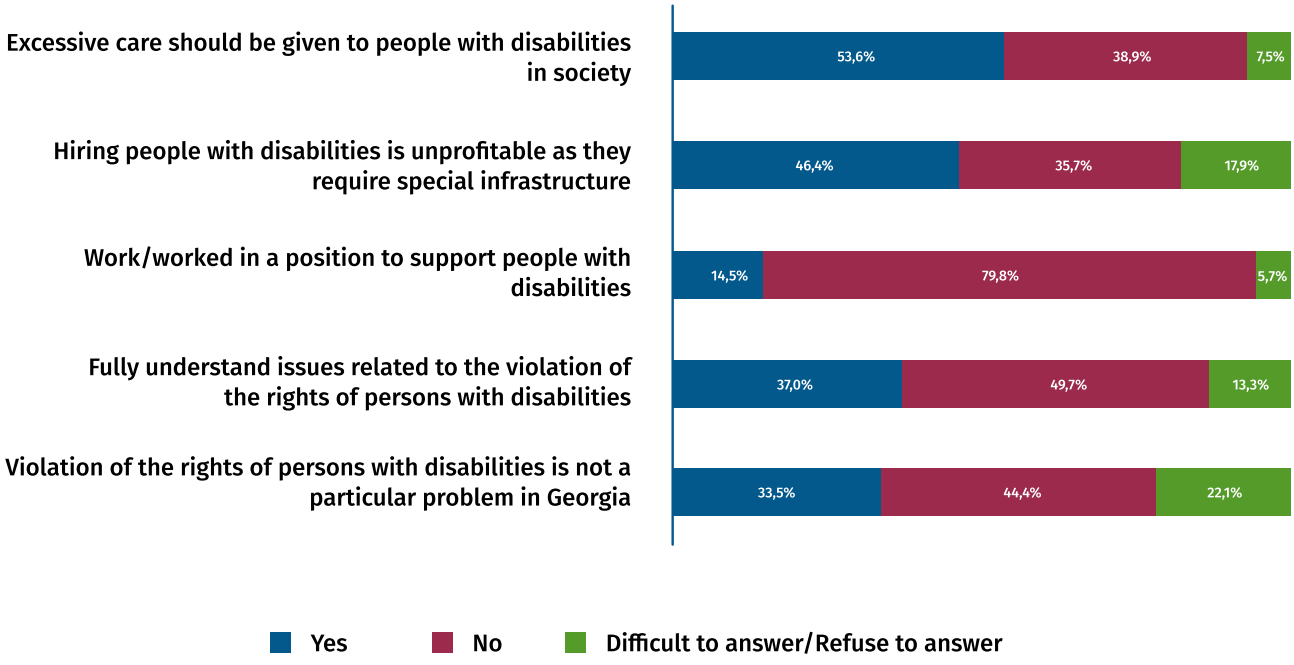
The survey shows the following:

- More than half (53.6%) of the respondents agree with the statement that excessive care should be given to people with disabilities in society.
- A larger proportion of the respondents (46.4%) believe that hiring people with disabilities is unprofitable as they require a special infrastructure.
- Only 14.5% of those surveyed are those who work or are in a position to support people with disabilities. The overwhelming majority of respondents - 79.8% - report that they neither have ever worked nor work in such a position.
- Every second respondent (49.7%) says they do not fully understand issues related to the violation of the rights of persons with disabilities. At the same time, however, the number of respondents who give the opposite answer is also significant (37%).
- The majority of the respondents (44.4%) think that violating the rights of persons with disabilities is a particular problem in Georgia. A third does not think so (33.55%).

See results in detail in Chart 12.

CHART #12

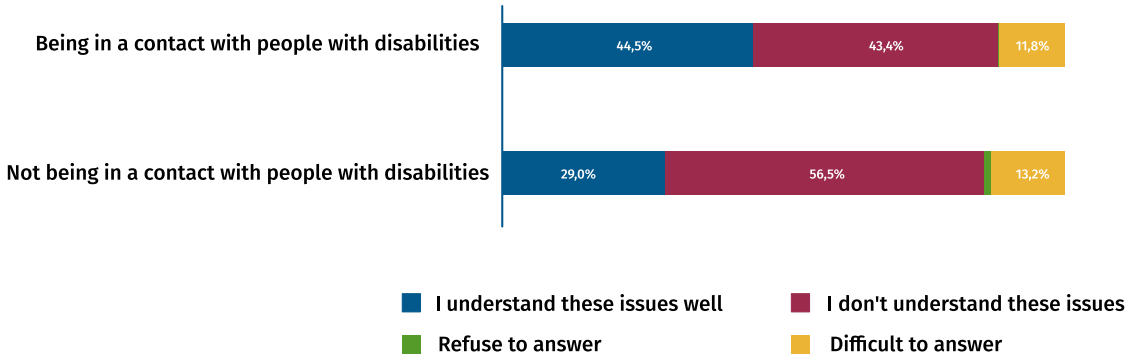
Please give "yes" or "no" answers to the following statements (N=5000)



The survey shows a reliable statistical **correlation** between two variables: 1. Knowledge of issues related to the violation of the rights of persons with disabilities (dependent variable) and 2. Have a relationship/ relationship experience with a person with a disability (independent variable). Specifically, the respondents who have any kind of contact with persons with disabilities are more likely to report (44.5%) that they know about the issues related to the violation of the rights of persons with disabilities. On the contrary, the majority of the respondents (56.5%) who have no experience in dealing with persons with disabilities do not know about the issues related to the violation of the rights of persons with disabilities (the correlation is statistically significant: ((x2 (3) = 143.760, p <0.01). See Chart 13.

CHART #13

1. Knowledge of Violation Issues of the Rights of People with Disabilities (Dependent Variable)
2. Being in Contact with People with Disabilities (Independent Variable)
(N=5000)

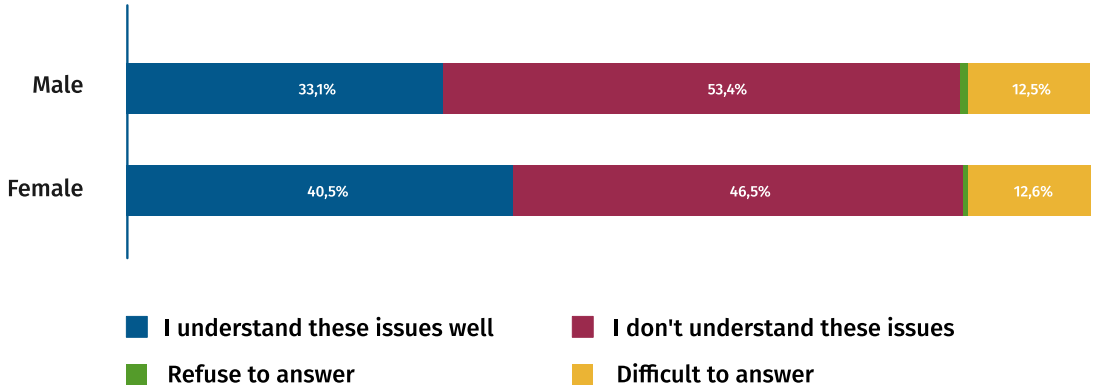


The survey shows a reliable statistical **correlation** between two variables: 1. Knowledge of issues related to the violation of the rights of persons with disabilities (dependent variable) and 2. Gender of the respondent (independent variable). Specifically, the female respondents consider themselves more informed than men about violations of the rights of persons with disabilities (data statistically significant (x2 (3) = 34.652, p <0.01). See Chart 14.

[10]კორელაცია სტატისტიკურად მნიშვნელოვანია: x2(3)=143.760, p<0.01

CHART #14

1. Knowledge of Issues Related to the Violation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Dependent Variable)
2. Gender of the Respondent (Independent Variable) (N=5000)



2.4. COEXISTENCE IN ONE SPACE WITH PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The respondents were asked **how they feel or would feel if they are/were in the same space with people with disabilities in different situations.** The respondents rated their attitudes on a 5-point scale with 5 points indicating a very positive attitude and 1 point indicating a very negative attitude.

The survey shows that **the majority of the respondents are not resistant to coexistence (in different situations) with people with disabilities. On the contrary, most of them said that they would feel comfortable. On the other hand, when the respondents speak about the attitudes of others such as members of the public (i.e., projective techniques are included in the survey), the positive attitudes are significantly reduced. Such a separation between themselves and others suggests that some respondents play a role which is socially desirable.**

More specifically, the survey data are as follow:

- A significant majority of the respondents (67.6%) reported feeling comfortable or more comfortable with a PwD person at **the table.** On the other hand, when talking about the attitudes of others (third parties) in a similar situation, the indicators of being comfortable are significantly reduced and go down to 42%.
- As for **transport,** the majority of the respondents (67.3%) also reported that they feel/would feel comfortable/more or less comfortable with persons with disabilities using transport. However, when the focus is shifted to others, the share of positive evaluations declines to 41.1%.
- A similar trend is observed in the case of **work:** the majority of respondents (63.8%) say that they feel comfortable/more or less comfortable at work with people with disabilities. However, the respondents do

not think so when it comes to the attitudes of others (37.9%).

- The same goes for **traveling** with a PwD person: 61.7% of the respondents confirm that they feel comfortable/more or less comfortable in this situation. However, they do not think that others would feel comfortable (35.8%).

The results of the survey on assessing one's own attitudes and those of others are given in Charts 15 and 16.

CHART #15

How would/do you feel if you were/are in the same space with a person with disability? (N=5000)

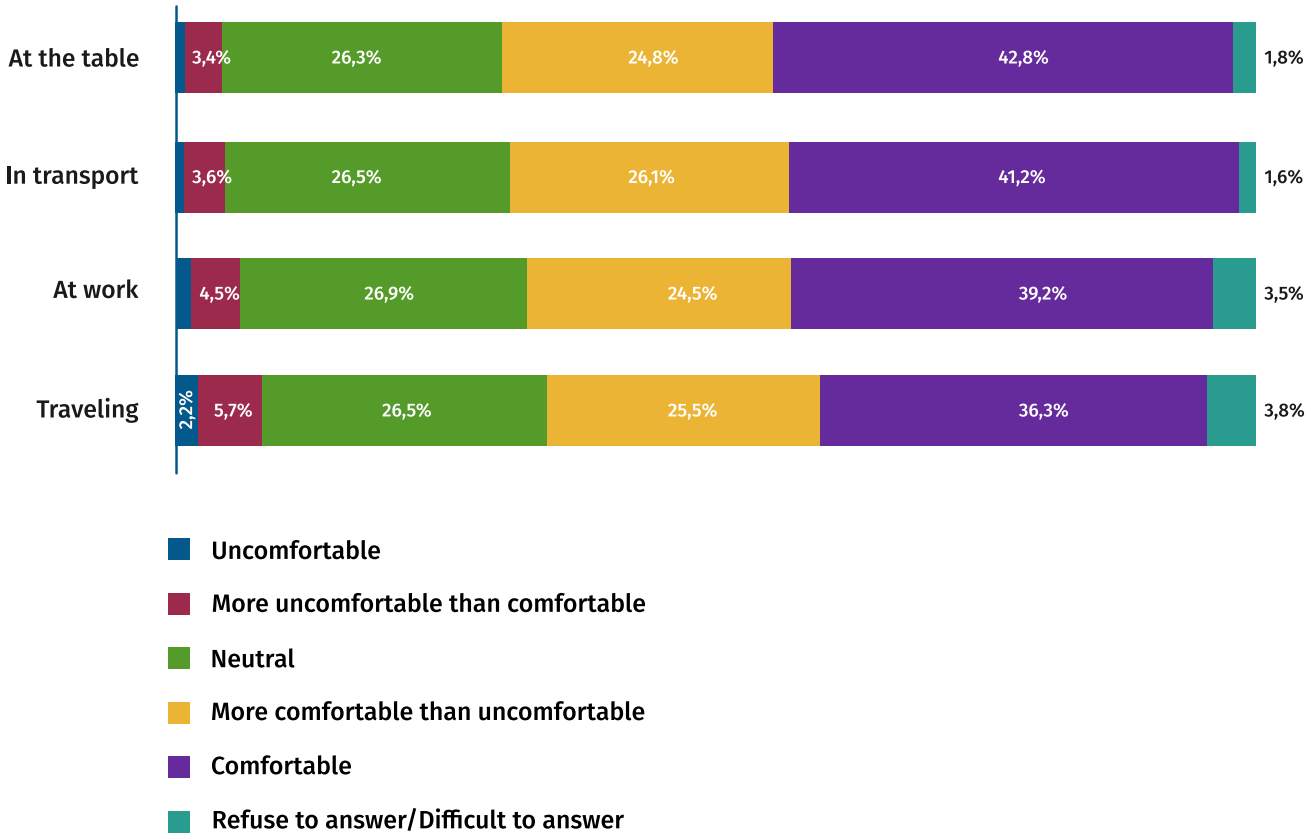
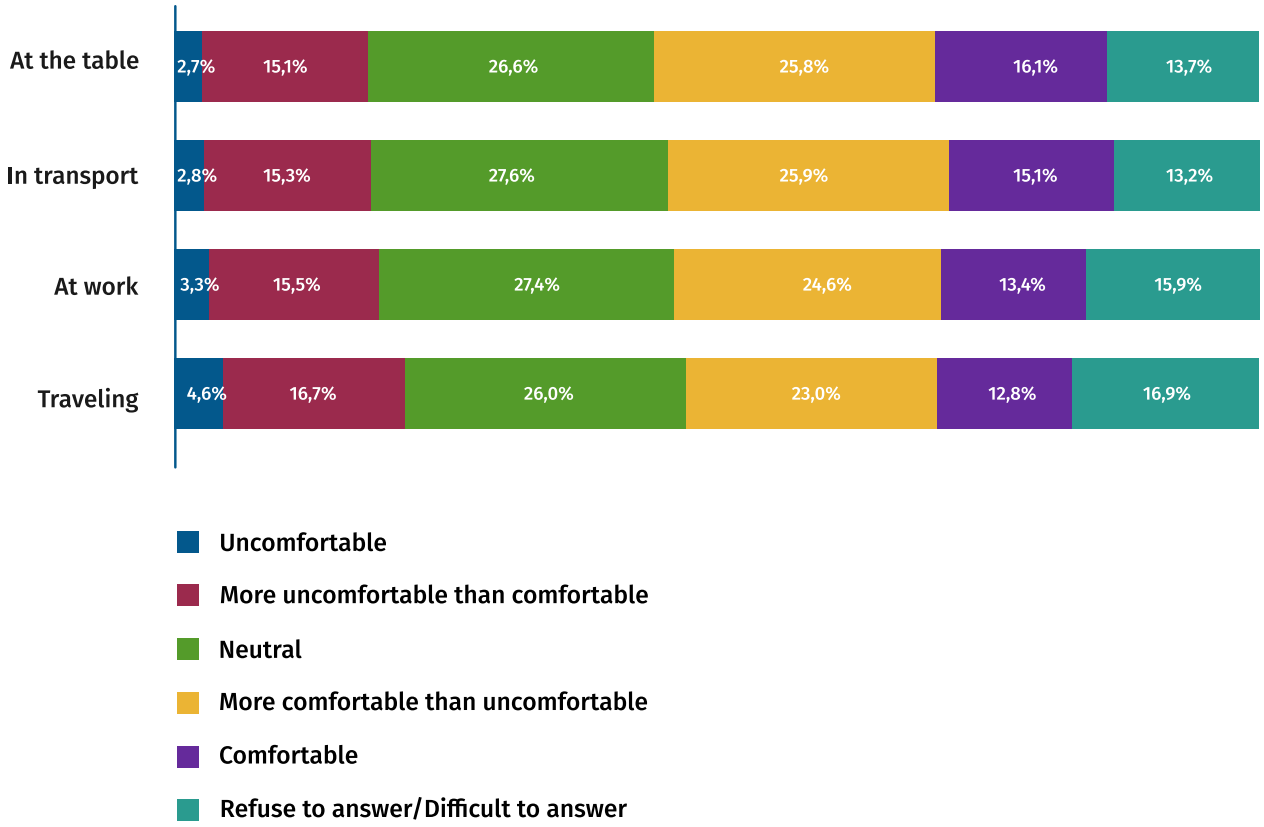


CHART #16

In your observation, how do people feel when they are in the same space with people with disabilities? (N=5000)



It is noteworthy that the issue of coexistence with people with disabilities in different situations was found to have **a statistically reliable correlation** with socio-demographic characteristics such as respondents' education level and their relationship with persons with disabilities:

A) The respondents with an incomplete/full higher education most rarely report feeling discomfort when being in the same space with people with disabilities. This refers to both the "feel uncomfortable" as well as the "feel more uncomfortable" answer. See Table 2.

TABLE #2

N=5000 How would you feel if you were in the same space with a person with disability in different circumstances?		Achieved Level of Education			Statistical significance
		Incomplete secondary/ secondary education	Vocational education	Incomplete/ complete higher education	
At the table	uncomfortable	5.8%	3.7%	2.6%	$x^2(12)=45.595$; $p<0.01$
	more uncomfortable than comfortable				
In transport	uncomfortable	6.4%	4.1%	2.6	$x^2(12)=52.947$; $p<0.01$
	more uncomfortable than comfortable				
At work	uncomfortable	7.5%	5.8%	3.8%	$x^2(12)=58.517$; $p<0.01$
	more uncomfortable than comfortable				
Travel	uncomfortable	9.6%	8.1%	5.8%	$x^2(12)=47.130$; $p<0.01$
	more uncomfortable than comfortable				

B) The survey showed that the respondents who have some kind of relationship with people with disabilities in their environment report that they would feel comfortable with people with disabilities in different situations (data are also statistically significant in this case). See Table 3.

TABLE #3

N=5000 How would you feel if you were in the same space with a person with disability in different circumstances?		Do you have a family member/ relative/friend/co-worker/neighbor with a disability?		Statistical significance
		No	Yes	
At the table	more or less comfortable	64.4%	70.7%	$x^2(12)=45.595$; $p<0.01$
	comfortable			
In transport	more or less comfortable	63.9%	70.5%	$x^2 12)=52.947$; $p<0.01$
	comfortable			
At work	more or less comfortable	60.6%	66.8%	$x^2(12)=58.517$; $p<0.01$
	comfortable			
Travel	more or less comfortable	58.3%	64.9%	$x^2(12)=47.130$; $p<0.01$
	comfortable			

2.5. ACCEPTANCE OF PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT STATUS AS PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The respondents expressed **their acceptance of PwDs with different formal or informal status.** Specifically, they assessed parliamentarians, next-door neighbors, classmates of their own family/relative's children as having a disability. The respondents were asked to use a 5-point scale with 1 indicating the person with disabilities "would be perfectly acceptable" and 5 indicating the person with disabilities "would be completely unacceptable."

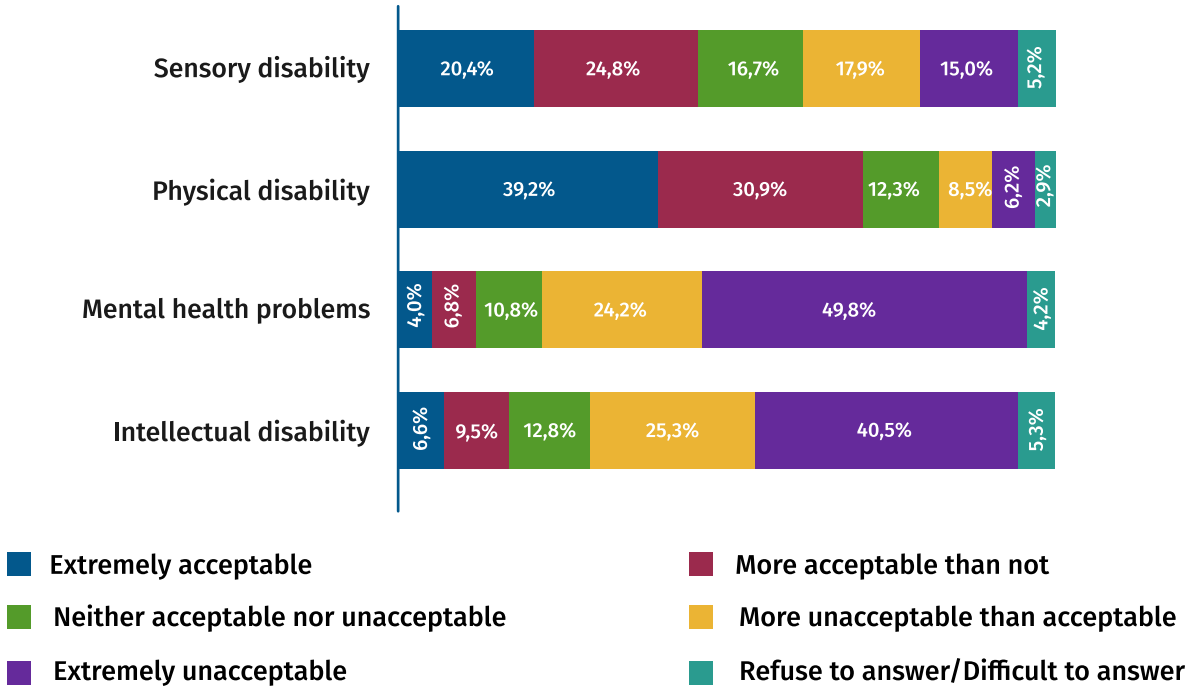
The survey showed the following results:

2.5.1. For the majority of the respondents (45.2%), it is acceptable (quite or more acceptable) **if a member of parliament** had any sensory impairment (visual impairment/blind or hearing impairment/deaf). The degree of acceptance of a member of parliament would increase if he or she had a physical disability (70% said it would be perfectly acceptable or more acceptable).

Thea attitudes of the respondents drastically change when it comes to the acceptance of the member of parliament if he or she had some kind of mental health problems or an intellectual disability: the clear majority of the respondents in both cases (especially in the context of mental health problems) indicate that the member of parliament would be unacceptable for them (74.1% indicate that a member of parliament with mental health problems is unacceptable while 65.7% believe that a member of parliament with an intellectual disability is unacceptable). See Chart 19.

CHART #17

What would be your attitude be if a member of parliament had...? (N=5000)



It was found that the level of acceptance of members of parliament with disabilities (as a dependent variable) is influenced by characteristics such as the **level of education** of the respondents and **their relationship with persons with disabilities:**

- Three out of the four components (with the exception of mental health problems) have the highest share in the higher education (incomplete/complete) category (these data are statistically significant) (see Table 4).
- Despite the fact that each of the restrictions in relation to the overall trend does not change (the respondents accept physical and sensory types of disabilities; however, they do not accept a member of parliament with mental disabilities). The respondents who have connection with persons with disabilities are more inclined to welcome any type of PwDs as a member of parliament (see Table 5).

TABLE #4

N=5000 What would your attitude be if a member of parliament had ...?		Achieved Level of Education			Statistical significance
		Incomplete secondary/ secondary education	Vocational education	Incomplete/ complete higher education	
Sensory disability	quite acceptable	41.4%	44.1%	50.7%	$x^2(12)=53.935$; $p<0.01$
	more acceptable than unacceptable				
Physical disabilities	quite acceptable	63.8%	73%	75.9%	$x^2(12)=113,759$; $p<0.01$
	more acceptable than unacceptable				
Mental health problems	quite acceptable	11%	11%	10.6%	$x^2(12)=24,15$; $p=0.016$
	more acceptable than unacceptable				
Intellectual disabilities	quite acceptable	73.6%	79.3%	82.2%	$x^2(12)=58.610$; $p<0.01$
	more acceptable than unacceptable				

TABLE #5

N=5000 What would your attitude be if a member of parliament had ...?		Do you have a family member/ relative/friend/co-worker/neighbor with a disability?		Statistical significance
		No	Yes	
Sensory disability	quite acceptable	42.5%	47.8%	$x^2(12)=53.935$; $p<0.01$
	more acceptable than unacceptable			
Physical disabilities	quite acceptable	65.1%	74.7%	$x^2(12)=113,759$; $p<0.01$
	more acceptable than unacceptable			
Mental health problems	quite acceptable	10.8%	10.9%	$x^2(12)=24,15$; $p=0.016$
	more acceptable than unacceptable			
Intellectual disabilities	quite acceptable	16.3%	16%	$x^2(12)=58.610$; $p<0.01$
	more acceptable than unacceptable			

2.5.2. The attitudes of the respondents become somewhat more loyal (that is, the degree of acceptance increases) when asking about their **next-door neighbor** if he or she becomes a person with disabilities.

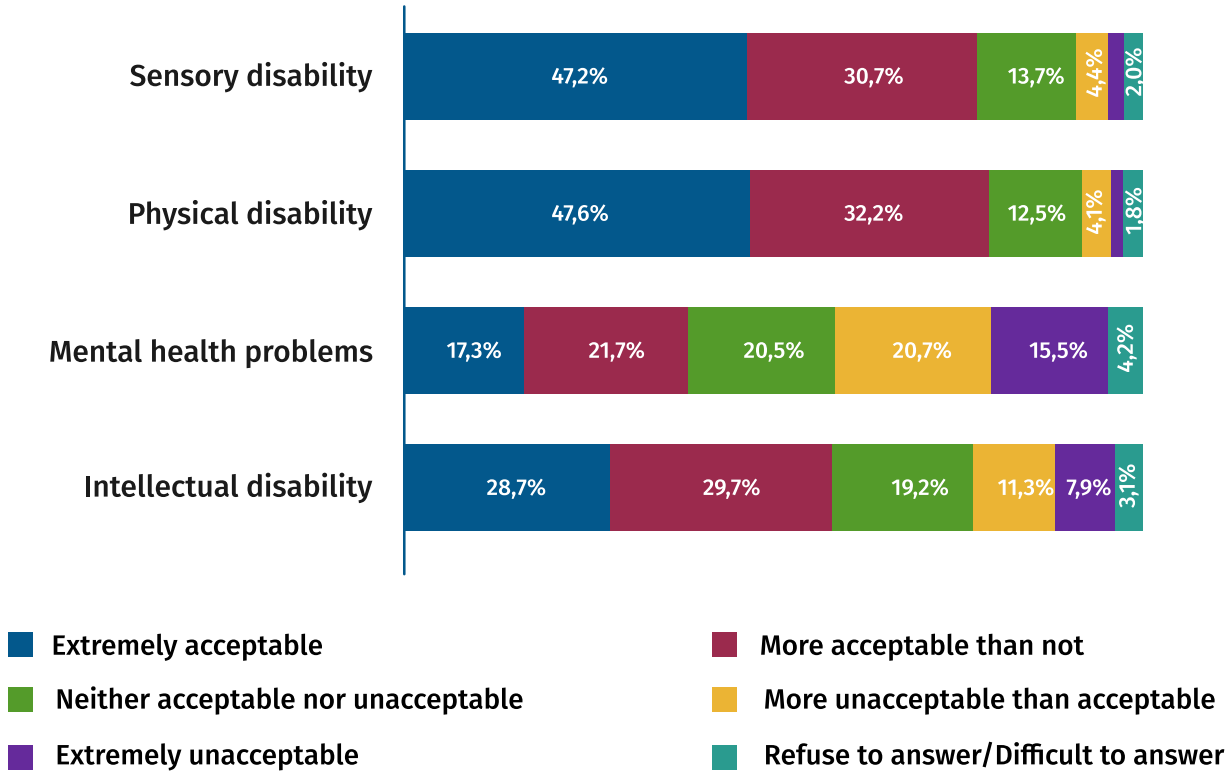
The majority (77.8%) of the respondents when asked about a neighbor with sensory impairment stated that this would be quite or more acceptable for them. The attitude of the respondents towards physical disabilities is also positive (79.8% express acceptance).

In the case of mental health problems, attitudes change as compared to the previous situations. The respondents are divided - for one part (39%), the next-door neighbor with these problems is acceptable and for the other part (36.3%), the next-door neighbor is not acceptable.

In the case of a neighbor with intellectual disabilities, the majority of the respondents (58.4%) express acceptance (see Chart 18).

CHART #18

What is your attitude if your next-door neighbor has...? (N=5000)



This dependent variable (the acceptance of the next-door neighbor with different disabilities) was again correlated with the education level of the respondents and their relationship with persons with disabilities:

- Persons with a higher education (incomplete/complete) are more likely to show their acceptance regarding this environment than respondents with different education levels.
- The respondents who have contact with people with disabilities show a higher level of acceptance.

In both cases the data are statistically significant (see Tables 6 and 7).

TABLE #6

N=5000 What is your attitude if your next-door neighbor has...?		Achieved Level of Education			Statistical significance
		Incomplete secondary/ secondary education	Vocational education	Incomplete/ complete higher education	
Sensory disability	quite acceptable	36.8%	40.3%	41.1%	$x^2(12)=58.610$; $p<0.01$
	more acceptable than unacceptable				
Physical disabilities	quite acceptable	53.6%	59.8%	63.5%	$x^2(12)=55.168$, $p<0.01$
	more acceptable than unacceptable				
Mental health problems	quite acceptable	72.3%	76%	79.4%	$x^2(12)=21.452$; $p=0.044$
	more acceptable than unacceptable				
Intellectual disabilities	quite acceptable	53.6%	59.8%	63.5%	$x^2(12)=53.706$; $p<0.01$
	more acceptable than unacceptable				

TABLE #7

N=5000 What is your attitude if your next-door neighbor has...?		Do you have a family member/ relative/friend/co-worker/neighbor with a disability?		Statistical significance
		No	Yes	
Sensory disability	quite acceptable more acceptable than unacceptable	74.8%	80.5%	$x^2(6) = 61.025$; $p<0.01$
Physical disabilities	quite acceptable more acceptable than unacceptable	76%	83.3%	$x^2(6) = 81.305$; $p<0.01$
Mental health problems	quite acceptable more acceptable than unacceptable	37.3%	40.7%	$x^2(6) = 39.247$; $p<0.01$
Intellectual disabilities	quite acceptable more acceptable than unacceptable	55.6%	61.1%	$x^2(6) = 71.658$; $p<0.01$

2.5.3. As mentioned above, we asked the respondents to rate their attitudes if a **classmate** of theirs or of a family member/ relative's school-aged child is a person with a disability.

In the case of children with sensory disabilities, the majority of the respondents (75.5%) have a positive attitude: this situation would be quite acceptable for 43% and is more acceptable than unacceptable for 32.5%.

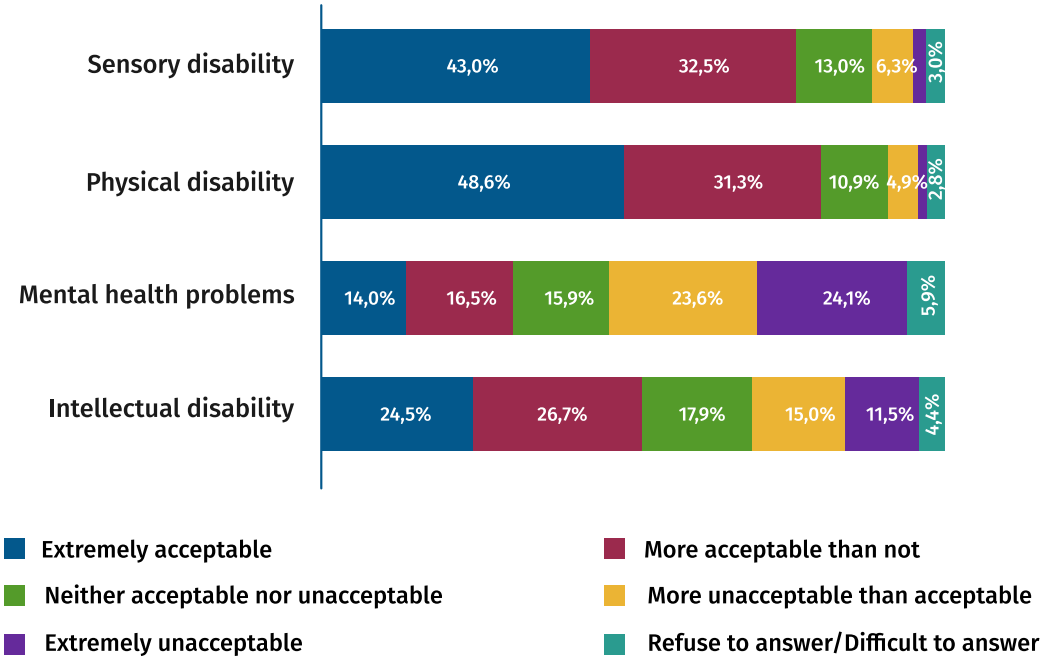
The loyalty of the respondents to a child with physical disabilities (such as a classmate of their family member/ relative's) is even higher. For almost half of the respondents (48.6%), such a situation would be completely acceptable and more acceptable than unacceptable for 31.3%.

Attitudes towards a child's classmate with a mental health problem are still different and tend to be in a negative context. A total of 24.1% of the respondents believe that it would be totally unacceptable for such a child to be a classmate of their or a family member/ relative's school-age child. For 23.6% of the respondents, it would be more unacceptable than acceptable.

Considering a child with an intellectual disability as a classmate, attitudes tend to be largely positive: 26.7% of the respondents would find this situation more acceptable than unacceptable and 24.5% would consider this quite acceptable (see Chart 19).

CHART #19

What is your attitude towards a person with a disability becoming a classmate of your or your family member/relative's child? (N=5000)



This variable has been **positively correlated** with the education level of the respondents and their contacts with people with disabilities: Persons with a higher education (incomplete/complete) have more acceptance of the above circumstances than respondents with another educational background.

The respondents who already have some kind of relationship with persons with disabilities still show more acceptance towards their/their family member's child's classmate (if he or she is a person with a disability).

The data are statistically significant (see Tables 8 and 9).

TABLE #8

N=5000 What is your attitude if a classmate of your/your family member/relative's school-aged child had...?		Achieved Level of Education			Statistical significance
		Incomplete secondary/ secondary education	Vocational education	Incomplete/ complete higher education	
Sensory disability	quite acceptable more acceptable than unacceptable	72.3%	76%	79.4%	$x^2(12)=44.654$; $p<0.01$
Physical disabilities	quite acceptable more acceptable than unacceptable	75.9%	81.3%	84%	$x^2(12)=64.297$; $p<0.01$
Mental health problems	quite acceptable more acceptable than unacceptable	28.9%	29.3%	33.2%	$x^2(12)=27.276$; $p=0.07$
Intellectual disabilities	quite acceptable more acceptable than unacceptable	48%	49.4%	56.2%	$x^2(12)=40.459$; $p<0.01$

TABLE #9

N=5000 What would be your attitude if a classmate of your/ your family member/relative's school-aged child had...?		N=5000 What would be your attitude if a classmate of your/your family member/relative's school-aged child had...?		Statistical significance
		No	Yes	
Sensory disability	quite acceptable more acceptable than unacceptable	73.1%	77.8%	$x^2(6)=57.367$; $p<0.01$
Physical disabilities	quite acceptable more acceptable than unacceptable	77%	82.6%	$x^2(6)=70.811$; $p<0.01$
Mental health problems	quite acceptable more acceptable than unacceptable	30%	30.9%	$x^2(6)=49.986$; $p<0.01$
Intellectual disabilities	quite acceptable more acceptable than unacceptable	48.2%	54%	$x^2(6)=82.175$; $p<0.01$

2.6. ASSESSMENT OF SOCIETY'S (SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT) REACTION TO THE HUMILIATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The respondents were asked to express their **personal opinion regarding the potential reaction of society and its members to the use of humiliating language in relation to persons with disabilities by any person and in different places.** For this purpose, the respondents used a 5-point scale where 1 indicated "Will be acceptable for the majority" and 5 indicated "Will be unacceptable for the majority."

The survey shows that it is the opinion of the **respondents that society will negatively react to the humiliation of persons with disabilities in any situation, be it in a store, within a circle of friends, at work or at a gym.**

In particular, 50.5% believe that most people witnessing the above behavior in a store will find the use of humiliating words in relation to a person with disabilities as unacceptable. A total of 27.2% believe that a similar case would be "More unacceptable than acceptable."

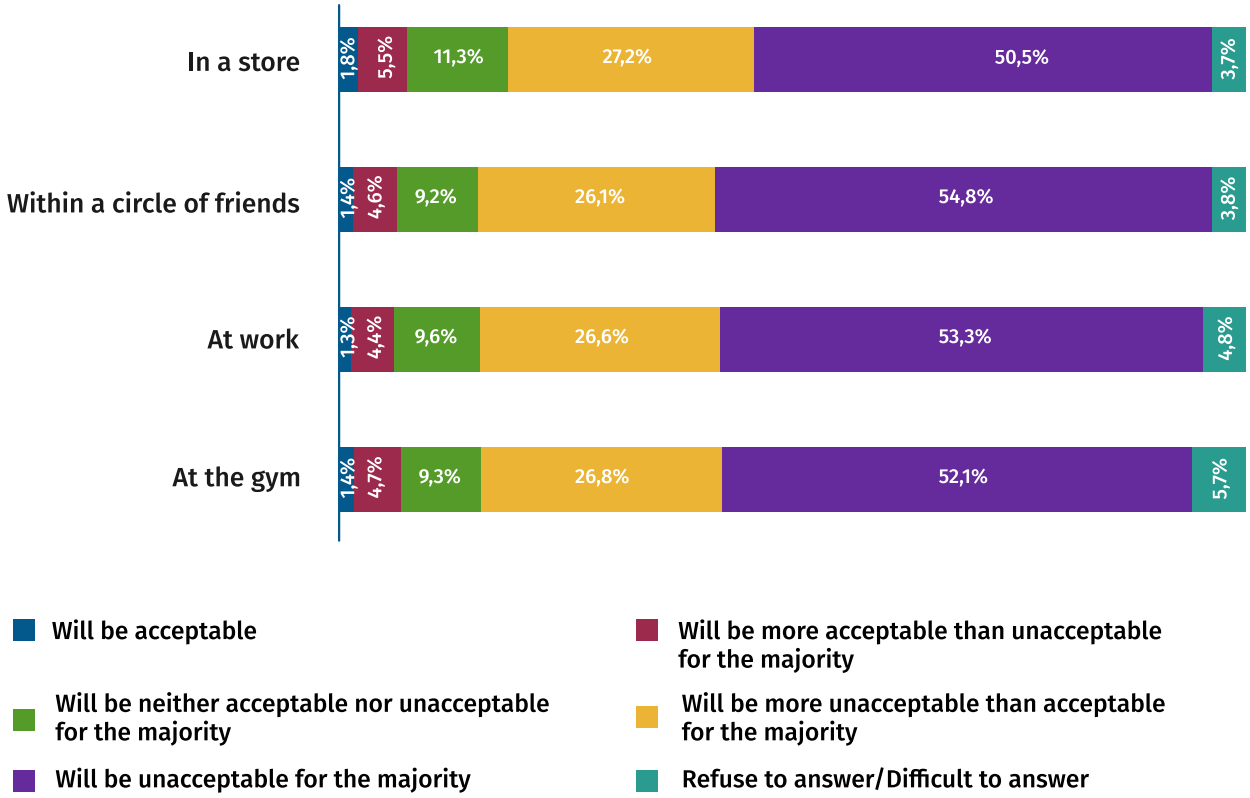
Over half of the respondents (54.8%) thinks that the majority will find it unacceptable if their friends use degrading language in relation to a person with disabilities. A significant share of the respondents (one-fourth of the respondents - 26.1%) thinks that the use of like language will be "More unacceptable for the majority of surrounding people than acceptable."

Almost identical results were obtained for the use of degrading language in relation to a person with disabilities at work. Over half of the respondents (53.3%) thinks that most people will find this unacceptable (53.3%) and over one-fourth of the respondents (26.6%) selects "More unacceptable than acceptable" which corresponds to score of 4 on the 5-point scale. Expectations are the same regarding people's reactions at a gym. The respondents believe that people at the gym will have a negative reaction. In particular, 52.1% think that this will be perceived as absolutely unacceptable by the majority and 26.8% believe that the reaction will be more unacceptable than acceptable.

Detailed results are given in Chart 20.

CHART #20

In your opinion, how will a witnesses react of degrading language is used in relation to a person with disabilities in different places; in particular...? (N=5000)



2.7. ACCEPTANCE OF A PERSON WITH DISABILITIES AS A CO-WORKER

At the next stage, the respondents were **asked how comfortable they would feel if their co-worker had a disability.** For this purpose, we used a 5-point scale where 5 corresponded to a maximally positive attitude and 1 was a maximally negative attitude.[5]

See the survey results below:

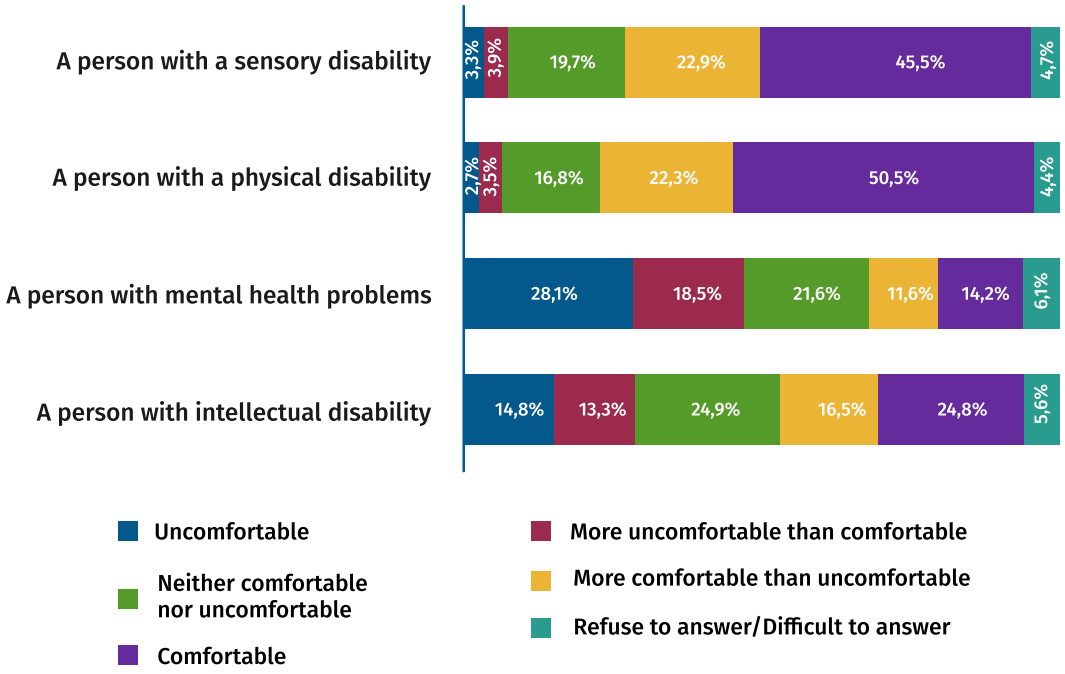
- The clear majority of the respondents (68.4%) would feel comfortable or more comfortable in the case of working with a person with a sensory disability.
- A similar opinion was recorded for persons with physical disabilities (72.8% of the respondents).
- It should be noted that the opinions of the respondents are radically different when it comes to co-workers with mental disabilities. A larger share of the respondents (46.5%) feels "uncomfortable" or "more uncomfortable" when working with people who have mental health problems.
- As for co-workers with intellectual disabilities, a larger part of the respondents (41.3%) finds it more or less comfortable. However, the share of people who think that it would make them feel uncomfortable is quite large (28.2%).

See Chart 21 for more detail.

[5]The points on the scale had the following meanings: 1. Uncomfortable, 2. More uncomfortable than comfortable, 3. Neither comfortable nor uncomfortable, 4. More comfortable than uncomfortable and 5. Comfortable.

CHART #21

How Comfortable would You Feel if You had to Work with a Person with a Disability? (N=5000)



The above attitudes are clearly reflected in the **Measures of Central Tendency:** the mode, median and mean values (see Table 10).

- In the case of sensory and physical disabilities, the most frequently named point (i.e., MODE) is '5' (Comfortable). Moreover, the mean values fall within the positive latitude (MEAN>3) and the MEDIAN equals 5 which means that over half of the respondents uses the maximum point ('5').
- In the case of mental health problems, the most frequently named point (MODE) is 1 (Uncomfortable). At the same time, the mean value falls within the negative latitude (MEAN<3).
- In the case of an intellectual disability, the most frequently named point (i.e., MODE) is '3' (Neither comfortable nor uncomfortable). Also, even though the mean values (MEAN) fall within the positive latitude (MEAN>3), they are very close to the neutral point '3.'

TABLE #10

How comfortable would you feel if you had to work with a person with a disability?	Mean	Median	Mode	Std. Deviation
A person with a sensory disability	4,08	4,00	5	1,074
A person with a physical disability	4,20	5,00	5	1,021
A person with mental health problems	2,63	3,00	1	1,409
A person with an intellectual disability	3,24	3,00	3	1,391

Note: The neutral point on the 5-point scale is 3. The negative latitude is below 3 whereas the positive latitude is above 3.

2.8. RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The attitudes towards persons with disabilities were analyzed in terms of the opinions of the respondents **about giving privileges to them in different situations.** The respondents were given three statements with two potential answers (Yes/No).

In particular, the respondents had to answer the following question: **Should persons with disabilities enjoy privileges as compared to other members of society in the following situations:**

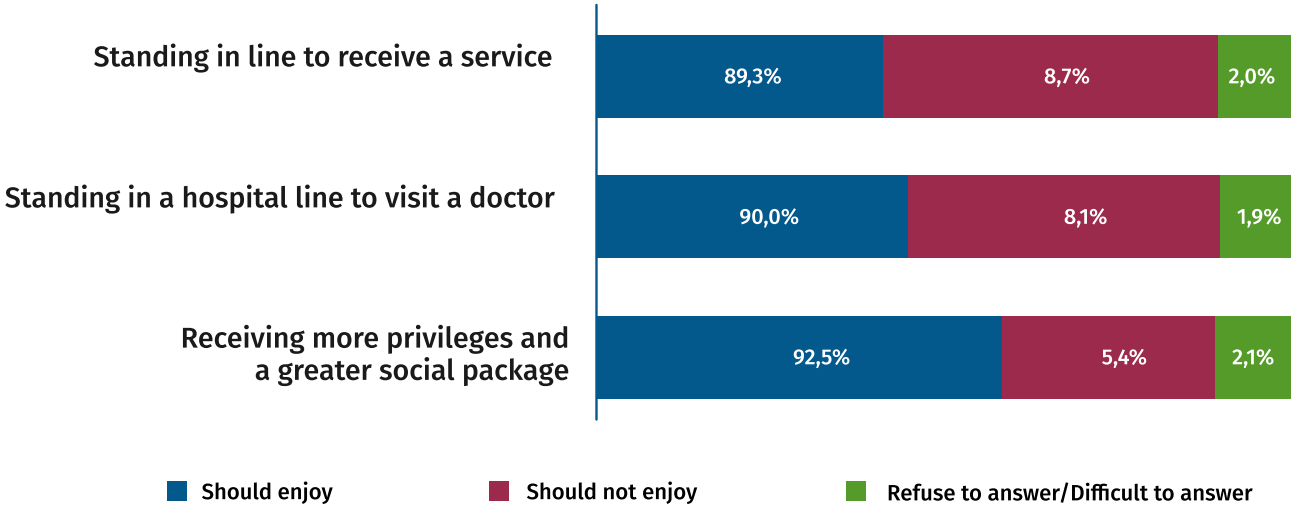
- Standing in line to receive a service.
- Standing in a hospital line to visit a doctor.
- Receiving more privileges and a greater social package.

According to the results, most of the respondents believe that persons with disabilities should enjoy privileges in all the three of the aforementioned cases. The percentage of positive responses by statements is presented in Chart 22.

- Standing in line to receive a service - 89.3%
- Standing in a hospital line to visit a doctor - 90%
- Receive more privileges and a greater social package - 92.5%

CHART #22

Should persons with disabilities enjoy privileges in certain situations as compares to other members of society? (N=5000)



At the next stage of the survey, we assessed the opinion of the respondents about the **right of adults with disabilities to have a child.** This was done using relevant statements related to the following four cases: physical, intellectual and sensory disabilities, and mental health problems.

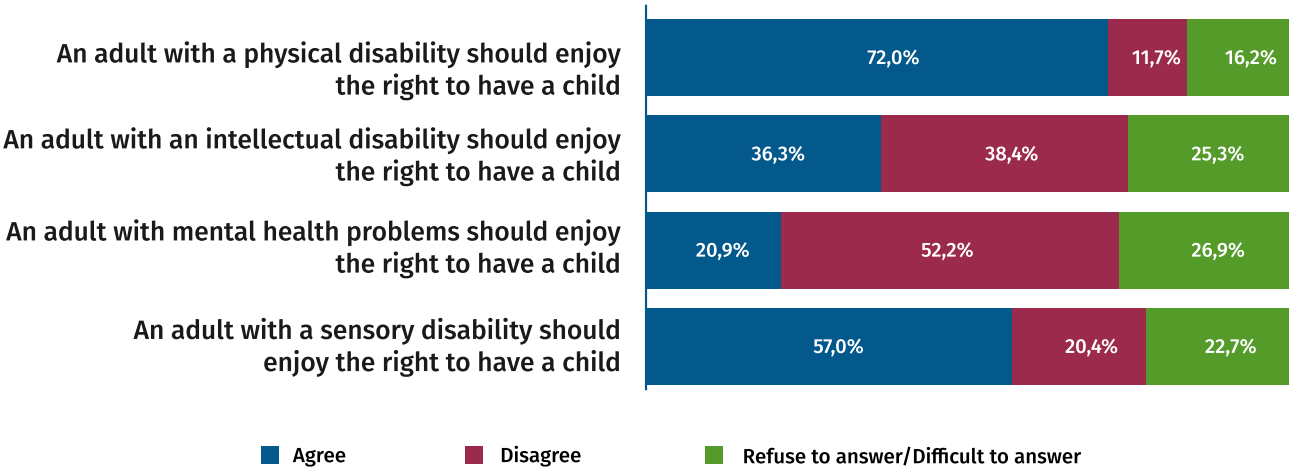
According to the results, a clear majority (86%) believes that persons with physical disabilities

have the right to have a child if they wish. The answer was also positive for people with sensory disabilities (73.7%). The results were different for the other two disabilities: over 52.2% do not agree that people with mental health problems enjoy the right to have a child.

As for people with intellectual disabilities, one part of the respondents (36,3%) thinks that they should enjoy this right and the other part (38.4%) disagrees with the statement (see Chart 23).

CHART #23

Right of Adults with Disabilities to Have a Child if They so Desire (N=5000)



A correlation analysis shows that the **level of education** positively correlates with the belief that an adult with a sensory disability should enjoy the right to have a child if he or she so desires. Positive responses showed the following distribution by completed levels of education: secondary incomplete/secondary education - 52.4%, professional education - 56.4% and incomplete/complete higher education - 63.1%. All of the results were statistically significant ($x2(6)=51.217$, $p<0.01$).

A correlation analysis shows a significant correlation between the right of a person with disabilities to have a child and the respondents' direct contact with persons with disabilities. In particular, those respondents who are in **direct contact with persons with disabilities** more readily agree with the statement that people with different disabilities should enjoy the right to have a child. The only exception has been made for people with mental health problems (see Table 11).

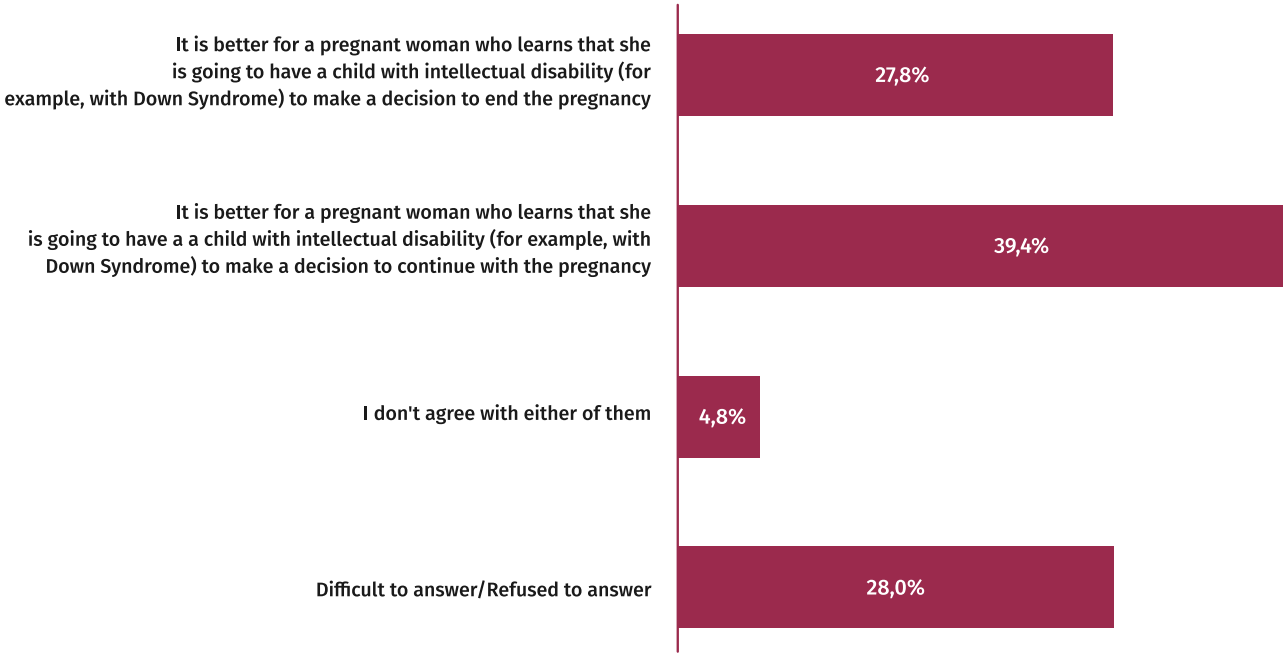
TABLE #11

N=5000		Do you have a family member/ relative/friend/co-worker/ neighbor who is a person with disabilities?		Statistical significance
		No, I don't	Yes, I do	
An adult with a physical disability should enjoy the right to have a child if he or she so desires	Agree	68%	75.8%	$x^2(3)=50.294$; $p<0.01$
	Disagree	12.8%	10.7%	
	Refused to answer/Difficult to answer	19.2%	13.5%	
An adult with an intellectual disability (mental retardation) should enjoy the right to have a child if he or she so desires	Agree	35.2%	37.3%	$x^2(3)=25.333$; $p<0.01$
	Disagree	37.1%	39.5%	
	Refused to answer/Difficult to answer	27.7%	23.1%	
An adult with mental health problems should enjoy the right to have a child if he or she so desires	Agree	19.7%	21.9%	$x^2(3)=13.081$; $p=0.04$
	Disagree	51.5%	52.9%	
	Refused to answer/Difficult to answer	28.8%	25.1%	
An adult with a sensory disability should enjoy the right to have a child if he or she so desires	Agree	52.8%	60.9%	$x^2(3)=40.876$; $p<0.01$
	Disagree	21.6%	19.1%	
	Refused to answer/Difficult to answer	25.5%	19.9%	

At the next stage, the respondents were given two alternative statements about **how a pregnant woman should behave if she learns that she is going to have a baby with an intellectual disability.** The first statement said that it would be better to decide to end the pregnancy whereas the other statement said that she should continue with the pregnancy. A total of 28% of the respondents found it difficult to choose a statement. However, a larger share agreed with the second statement favoring the continuation of the pregnancy (39.4%) (see Chart 24).

CHART #24

Which Statement Do You Agree With? (N=5000)



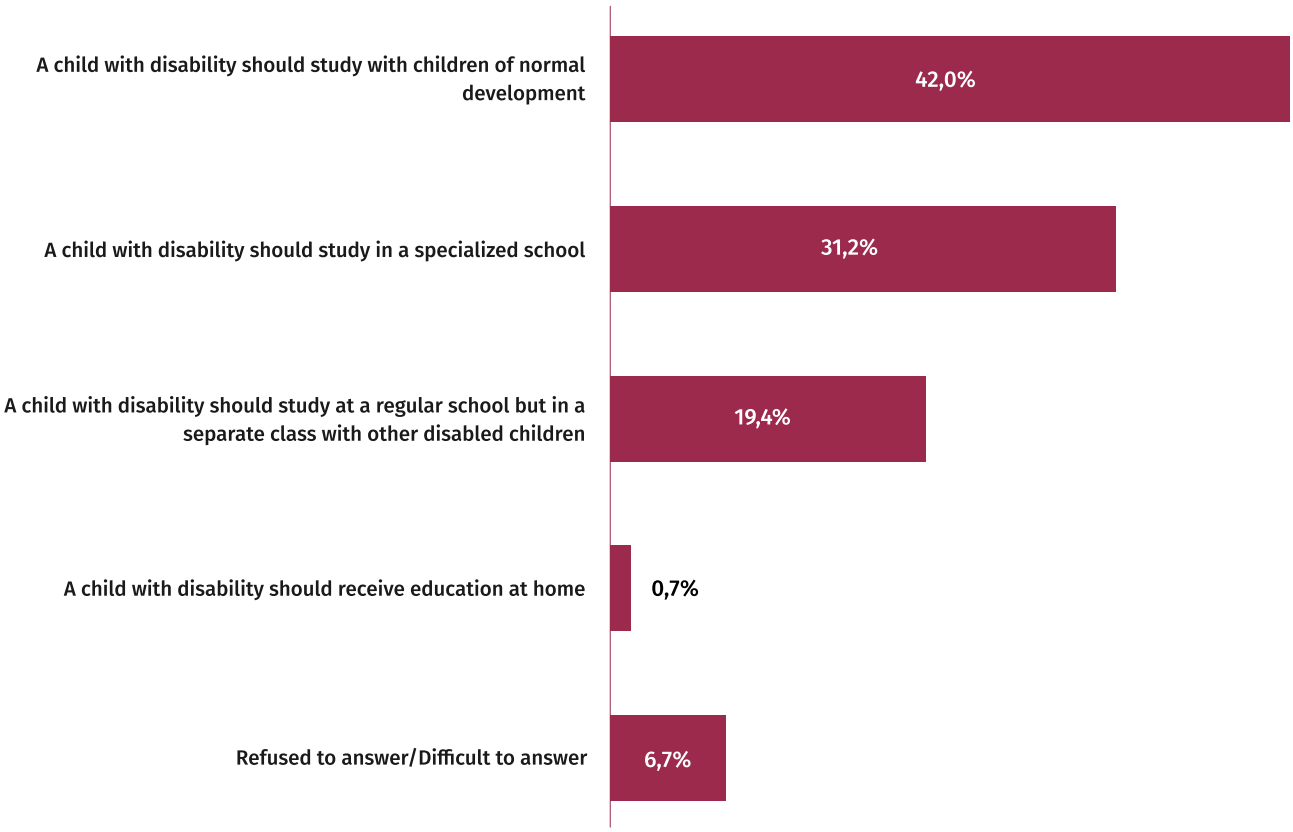
A statistical analysis shows that the respondents' answers correlate with their **gender** (independent variable). In particular, as compared to male respondents (36.6%), more female respondents (41.8%) agree that a pregnant woman should continue with the pregnancy if she expects to have with intelectual disability. Also, there are more male respondents who find it difficult to choose the statement with which they would agree (29.6% of men against 24.5% of women). These gender differences proved to be statistically significant ($x2(4)=37.039$, $p<0.01$).

The above correlates with the variable describing the **direct contact of the respondents with persons with disabilities.** A total of 43.4% of the respondents who are in direct contact with persons with disabilities are in favor of the decision about the continuation of the pregnancy. On the other hand, this position is shared with fewer respondents who are not in touch with persons with disabilities (35.1%). The above results are statistically significant ($x2(4)=37.039$), $p<0.01$).

At the end, the respondents assessed the **statements about children with disabilities receiving general education.** Out of the provided statements, the respondents agree most with the following: "A child with disabilities should study with children without disabilities. This opinion is shared by 42% whereas 31.2% believe that children with disabilities should study in specialized schools (see Chart 25).

CHART #25

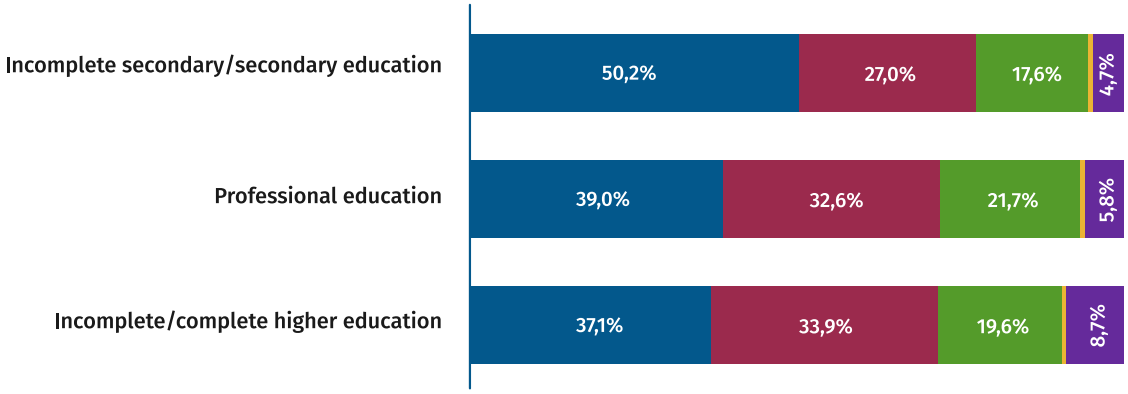
The statements below are about receiving general education by disabled children. Which statement do you agree with? (N=5000)



After being analyzed from the **education level** perspective, the data showed that a large share of the respondents within each category of the completed level of education should study with children without disabilities. Also, the higher the level of education of the respondents, the more they believe that a child with disabilities should study with children without disabilities (incomplete secondary/secondary education [37.1%], professional education [39%], incomplete/complete higher education - 50.2%.) The correlation is statistically significant ($x2(10)=92.713$, $p<0.01$). See Chart 28.

CHART #26

The Statements below are about a child with disabilities receiving general education. With Which statements do you agree? (Educational perspective) (N=5000)



- A disabled child should study with children of normal development
- A disabled child should study in a specialized school
- A disabled child should study at a regular school but in a separate class with other disabled children
- A disabled child should receive general education at home
- Refused to answer/Difficult to answer

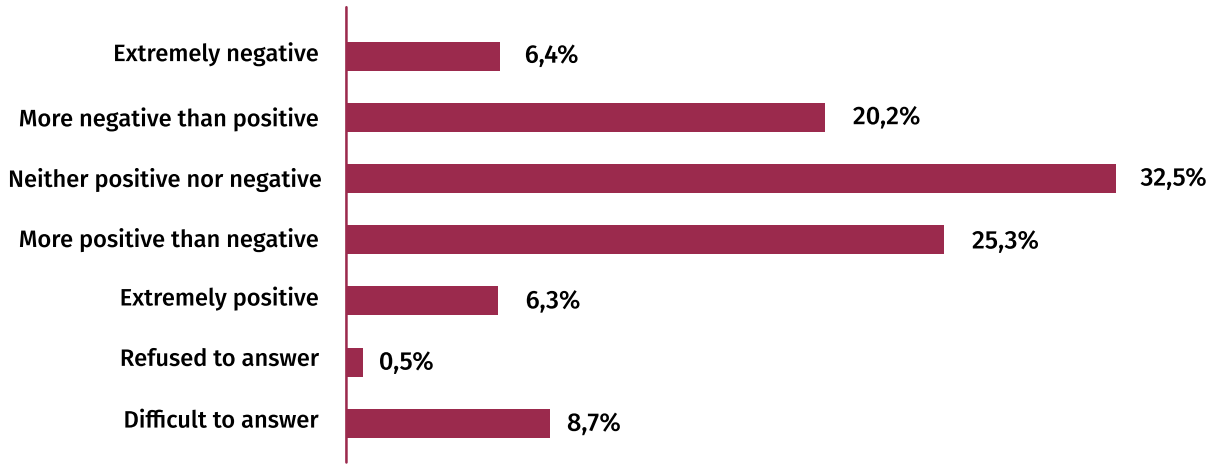
CHAPTER THREE:
ASSESSING THE STATE POLICY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

3.1. ASSESSMENT OF THE GENERAL SITUATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE COUNTRY

The respondents assessed the **general situation of persons with disabilities living in the country** using a 5-point scale where 1 indicated a maximally negative assessment and 5 indicated a maximally positive assessment. The assessments of the respondents show a high level of dispersion: 32.5% express a neutral position and say that the situation vis-à-vis persons with disabilities is neither positive nor negative and one-fourth of the respondents (25.3%) thinks that the existing situation is more positive than negative. The share of the respondents choosing the polar points of the scale is almost identical: 6.4% assess the situation vis-à-vis persons with disabilities as extremely negative and 6.3% give an assessment as extremely positive (see Chart 27).

CHART #27

Assessment of the General Situation of Persons with Disabilities (N=5000)



A total of 4.8% of the respondents who have no PwD family members/co-workers/friends/ relatives/ neighbors extremely negatively evaluate the situation vis-à-vis persons with disabilities living in Georgia. A total of 32.8% (almost one-third of the respondents) describe the situation surrounding persons with disabilities as neutral. The share of the respondents who assessed the current situation vis-à-vis persons with disabilities as extremely positive makes up 6.5%. As for those respondents who have PwD family members/ co-workers/friends/relatives/neighbors, 7.9% assess the situation as extremely negative, 32.2% have a neutral position and 6.2% give an extremely positive evaluation of their situation.

A **correlation** analysis shows that there is a statistically significant correlation between the assessment of the general situation vis-à-vis persons with disabilities (dependent variable) and contact with persons with disabilities (independent variable). Specifically, those respondents who have had direct contact with persons with disabilities give a more negative assessment of their situation (30.8% in total) than those respondents who have not had direct contact with persons with disabilities (23.4%). The correlation between these two variables is statistically significant ($X2(6) = 71,466$, $p<0.05$). See Table 12.

TABLE #12

Assess the present general situation vis-à-vis persons with disabilities.	Do you have PwD family members/co-workers/ friends/relatives/neighbors?	
	No	Yes
Extremely negative	4.8%	7.9%
More negative than positive	18.6%	21.9%
Neither positive nor negative	32.8%	32.2%
More positive than negative	25.1%	25.4%
Extremely positive	6.5%	6.2%
Refused to answer	0.8%	0.3%
Difficult to answer	11.4%	6.2%

The assessment of the general situation vis-à-vis persons with disabilities is affected by the region where the respondents live. Assessments differ by the regional of residence of the respondents. A data analysis from the regional perspective results in the following picture:

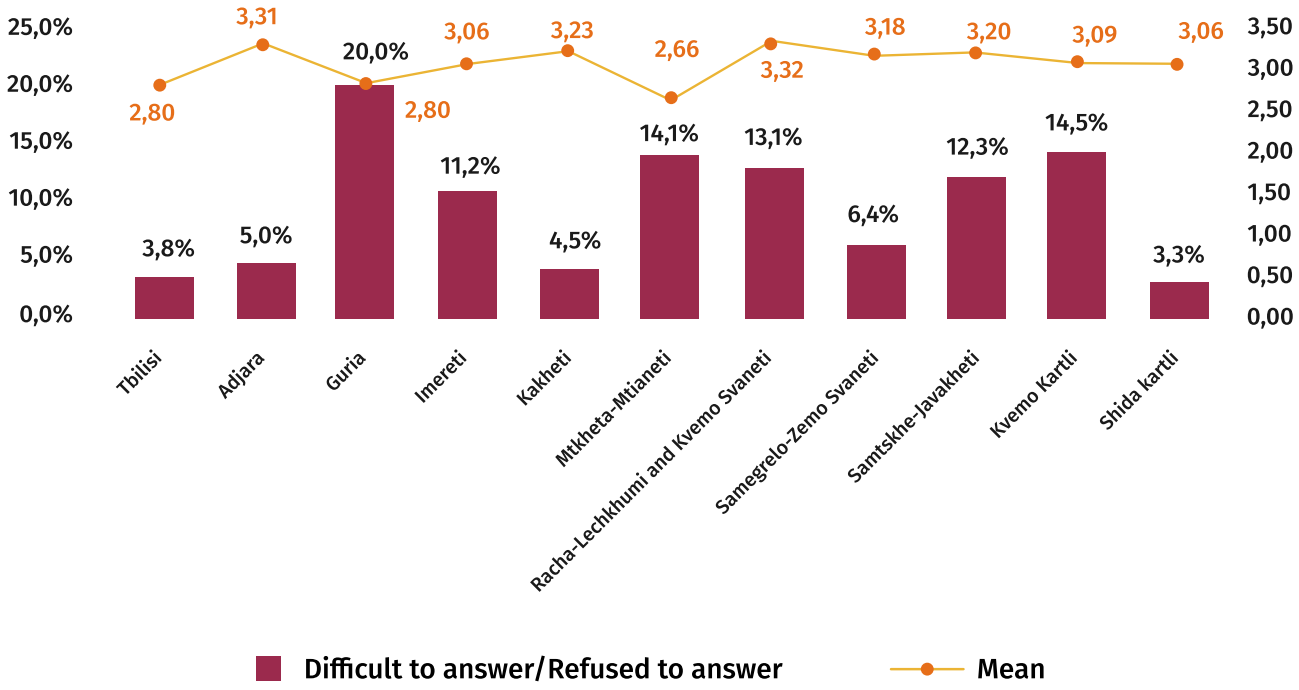
- As compared to the other regions, the share of those respondents who negatively evaluate the situation of persons with disabilities is higher in Tbilisi and Mtskheta-Mtianeti (Tbilisi - 38.7%, Mtskheta-Mtianeti - 40.6%).
- As compared to other regions, the share of those respondents who positively evaluate the situation of persons with disabilities is higher in Adjara and Racha-Lechkhumi (44% of respondents in each region).

- The share of a neutral assessment (neither positive nor negative) is the highest in Kakheti and Shida Kartli (Kakheti- 38.6%, Shida Kartli - 42.5%).

The correlation between the assessments of the respondents and their place of residence is statistically significant (x2(60)= 655,239, p<0.05) (see Chart 28).

CHART #28

Assessing the general situation of PWD by regions (N=5000)



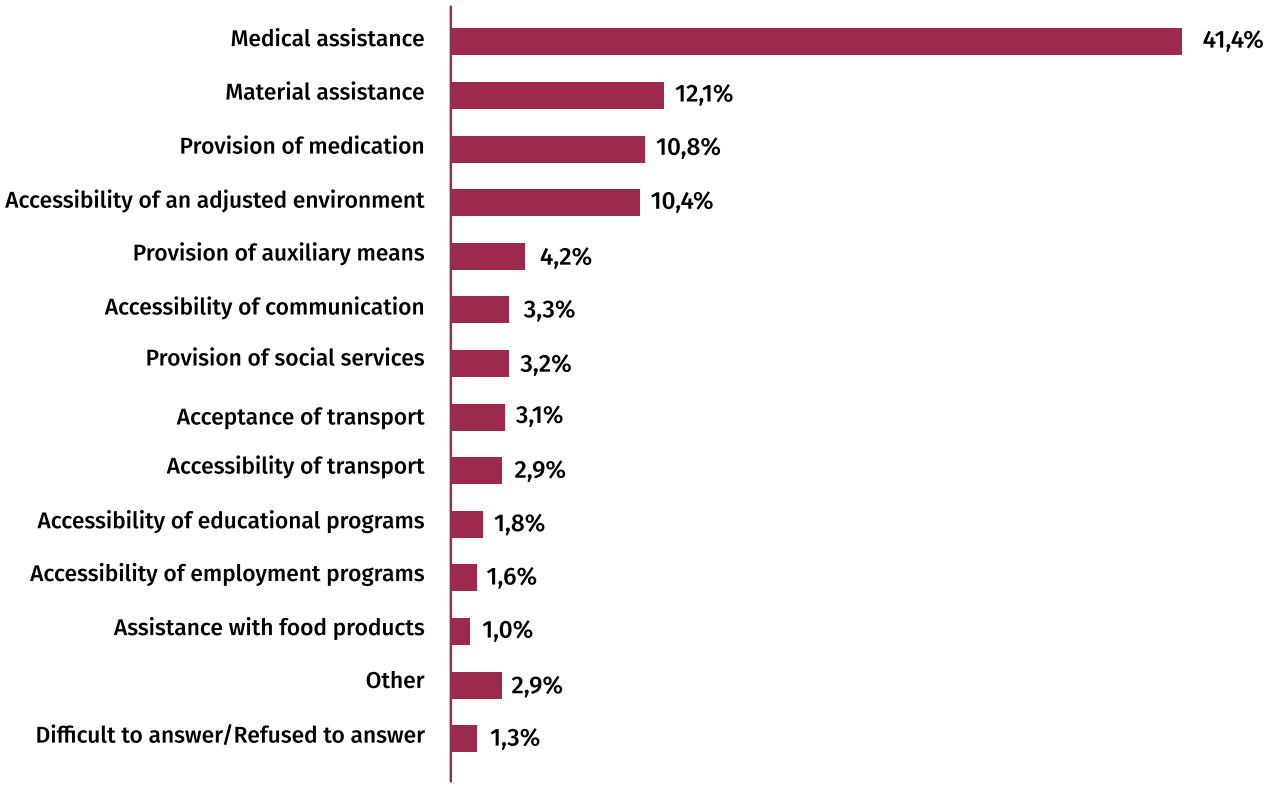
3.2. BASIC NEEDS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The study **identified the basic needs of persons with disabilities in today's Georgia.** The needs were differentiated into first, second and third order priority needs. The respondents were given a card with a list of 18 needs and were asked to single out the most important three needs. They were also allowed to add some other needs if it was found appropriate. The list of needs included medical assistance, the provision of medication, the accessibility of the environment (lifts, ramps, toilets and bathrooms, etc.), material assistance, the accessibility of communication and information (sign language in the media, the Braille system, etc.), the accessibility of transport, material assistance, the accessibility of different programs, etc.

A large share of the respondents (41.4%) named medical assistance as a **first order need.** A much smaller percentage of the respondents (12.1%) named material assistance as a first order need. This was followed by the provision of medication (10.8%) and the accessibility of an adjusted environment (10.4%). Less than 5% of the respondents named the accessibility of communication (3.3%), the accessibility of transport (2.9%), assistance with food products (1%) and hygiene products (0.2%), the provision of a personal assistant (0.6%), auxiliary means (4.2%) and social services (3.2%) as well as the accessibility of educational programs (1.8%) as first order needs (see Chart 29).

CHART #29

First order needs of PWD (N=5000)



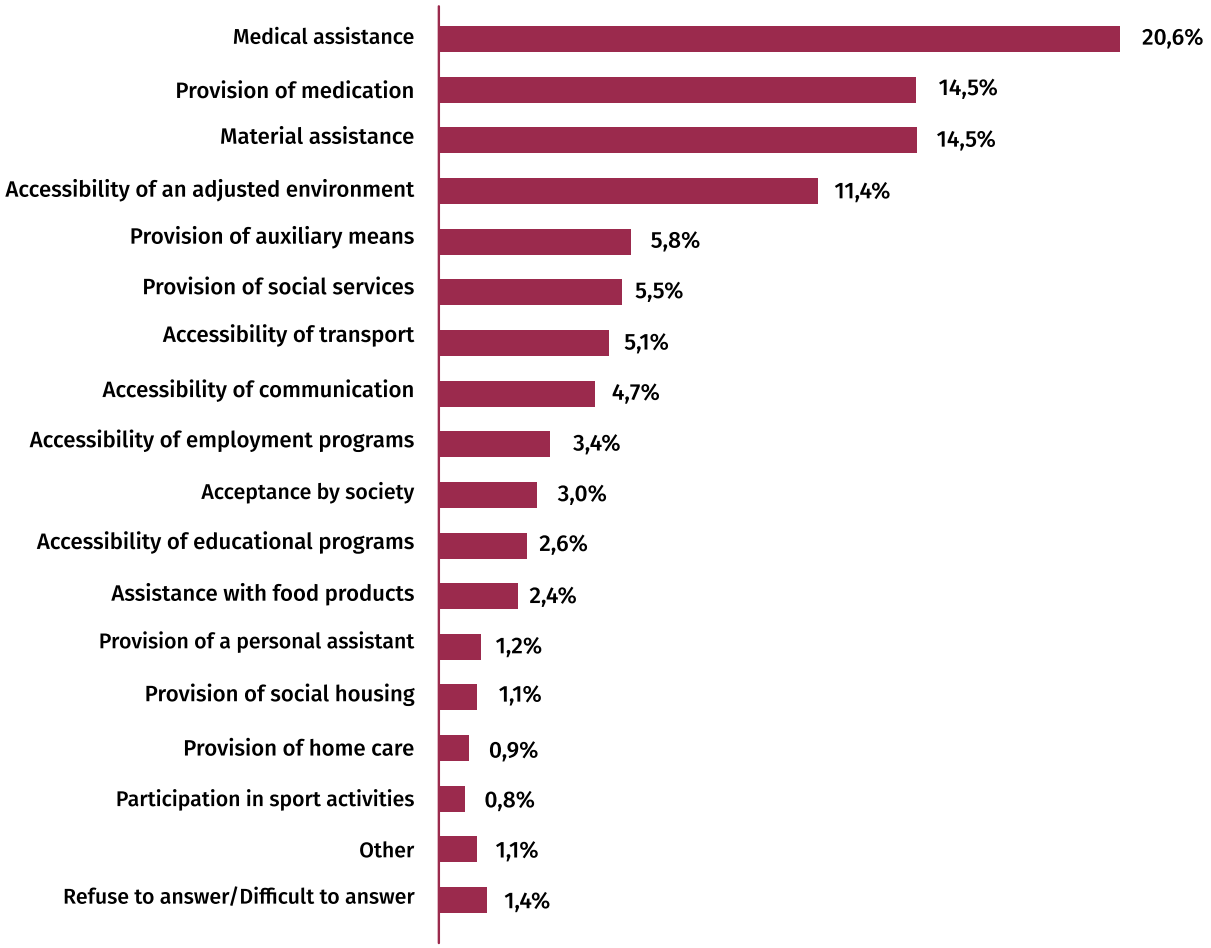
As for the **second order** priority **needs**, over one-fifth of the respondents (22.5%) named the provision of medication and 14.5% named material assistance. In fact, the same percentage named medical assistance (11.4%) and environment accessibility (11.7%) as second order needs. The percentage of those respondents who named communication and transport accessibility as well as the provision of auxiliary means ranges from 5% to 7%.

A total of 16.7% of the respondents think that the provision of material assistance is a **third order need** while 12.2% consider the accessibility of the environment a third order need. From 5% to 10% of the respondents believe that the provision of medication and medical assistance, the accessibility of transport, the provision of auxiliary means, the provision of social services and employment accessibility belong to the third order needs.

If the first, second and third order priority needs are presented in the form of a comparable ranking as shown in the table below, we arrive at the following priorities: 1. medical assistance, 2. the provision of medication, 3. material assistance and 4. accessibility of an adjusted environment (see Chart 30).

CHART #30

What are the needs of persons with disabilities in today's Georgia?



Note: The percentage of answers in the chart exceeds 100% because it shows the distribution of cases and not respondents.

It should be noted that there is a statically significant correlation between the assessments of the respondents vis-à-vis the needs of persons with disabilities and the **region** of the residence of the respondents. In particular:

- Over half of the respondents from Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Kartli named medical assistance as a first order need of PwDs.
- As compared to the other regions, the respondents from Tbilisi, Shida Kartli and Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti mostly named the accessibility of an adjusted environment as a first order need (Tbilisi - 15.4%, Shida Kartli - 15.8%, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti - 13.8%).
- The provision of medication is named as a first order need in the Shida Kartli (16.8%) and Imereti (15.4%) regions.
- Material assistance as a first order need is mostly emphasized by Kvemo Kartli (30.2%) and Mtskheta-Mtianeti (19.9%) residents.

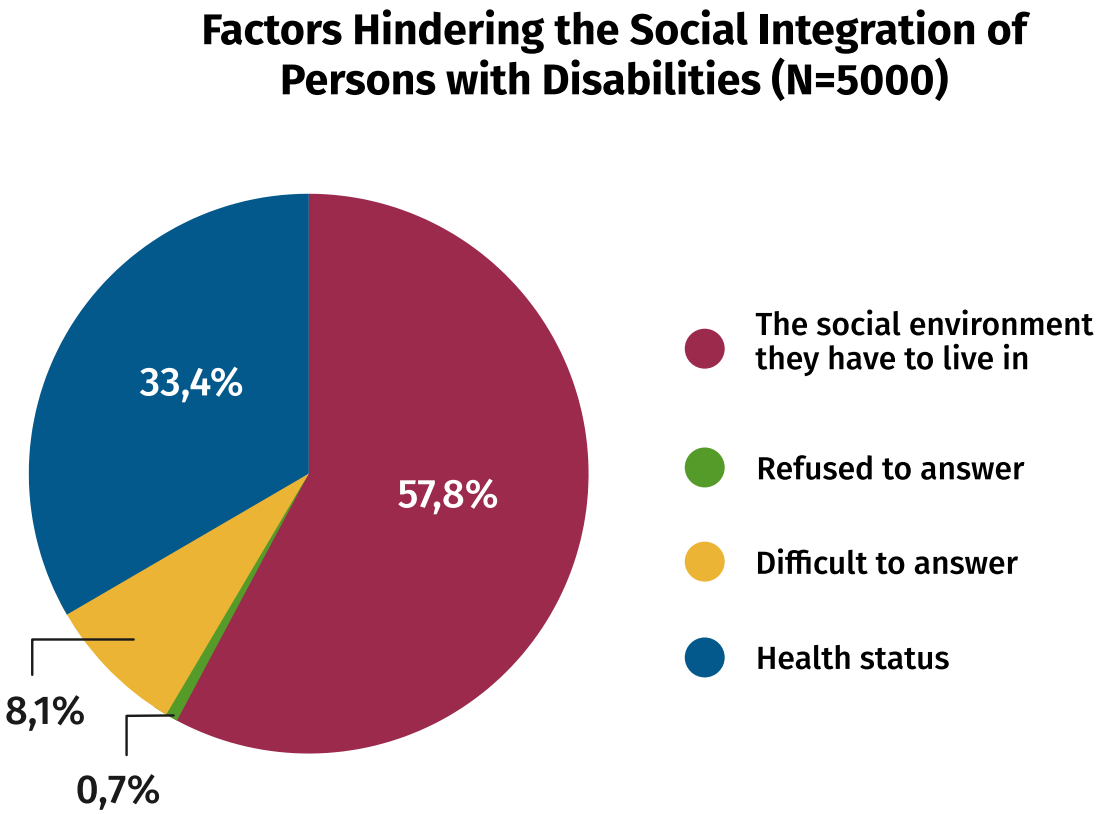
There is a statistically significant correlation between the respondents' place of residence and their assessment of first order needs ($x^2(190)=1090.123$, $p<0.05$).

3.3. LEVEL OF SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The respondents first had to identify the **factors that hinder the full social integration of persons with disabilities: a) the social environment in which they have to live or b) the health condition of persons with disabilities.**

The majority of the respondents (57.8%) thinks that full social integration is first of all hindered by the **social** environment in which persons with disabilities have to live. A total of 33.4% think that the reason is their health status while 8.1% found it difficult to name the factor hindering social integration (see Chart 31).

CHART #31

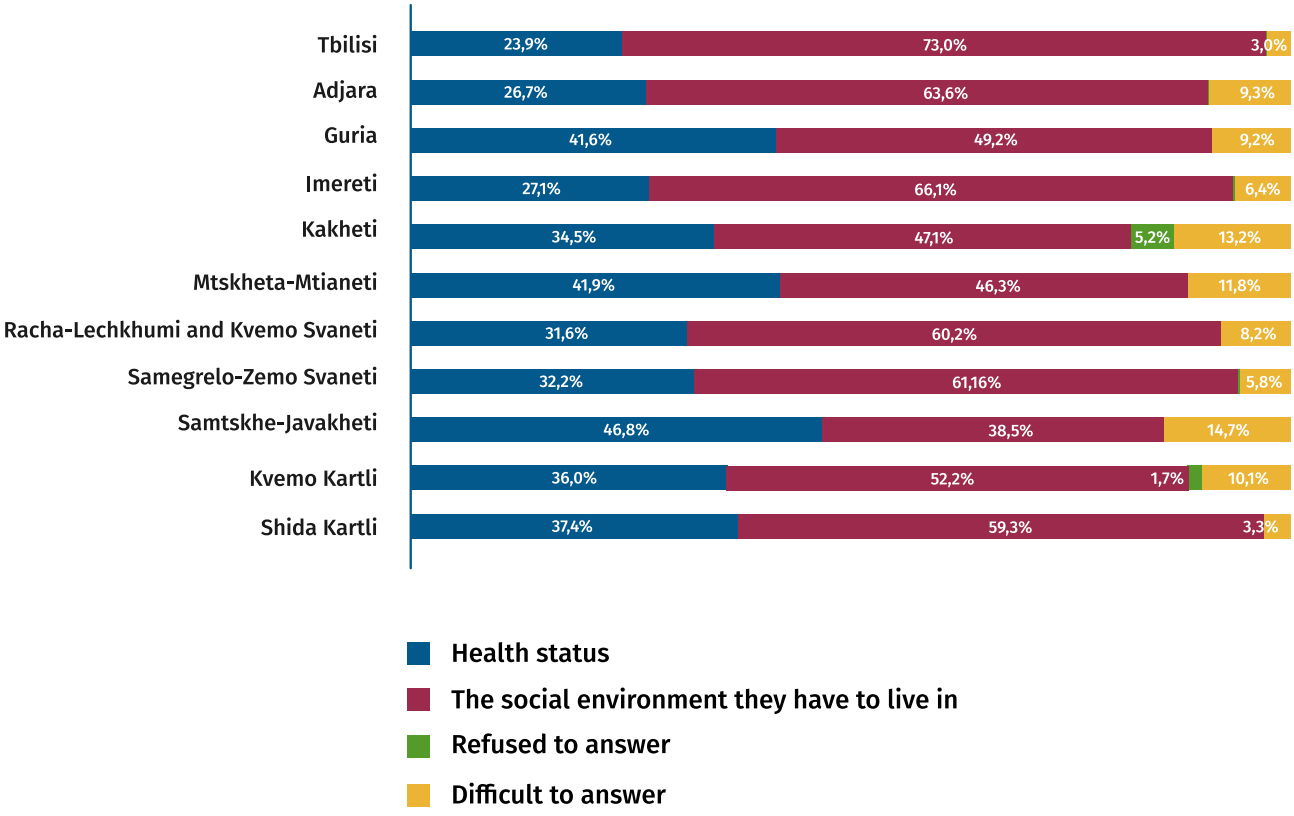


If we look at the obtained responses from the **regional perspective,** we will see that in certain regions the social environment is not considered to be the major factor hindering the social integration of persons with disabilities (the respondents from Samtskhe-Javakheti - 38.5%, Mtskheta-Mtianeti - 46.3%, Kakheti - 47.1 and Guria - 49.2%). In the rest of the regions, the share of those respondents who names the social environment as the major factor ranges between 52% and 73%. Consequently, the health status as a hindering factor to social integration is considered more important in Samtskhe-Javakheti (46.8%), Mtskheta-Mtianeti (41.9%) and Guria (41.6%).

There is a statistically significant correlation between the evaluation of the factors hindering the social integration of persons with disabilities and the respondents' place of residence ($X2(30)=391.971$, $p<0.05$). See Chart 32.

CHART #32

Factors Hindering the Social Integration of Persons with Disabilities From the Regional Perspective (N=5000)

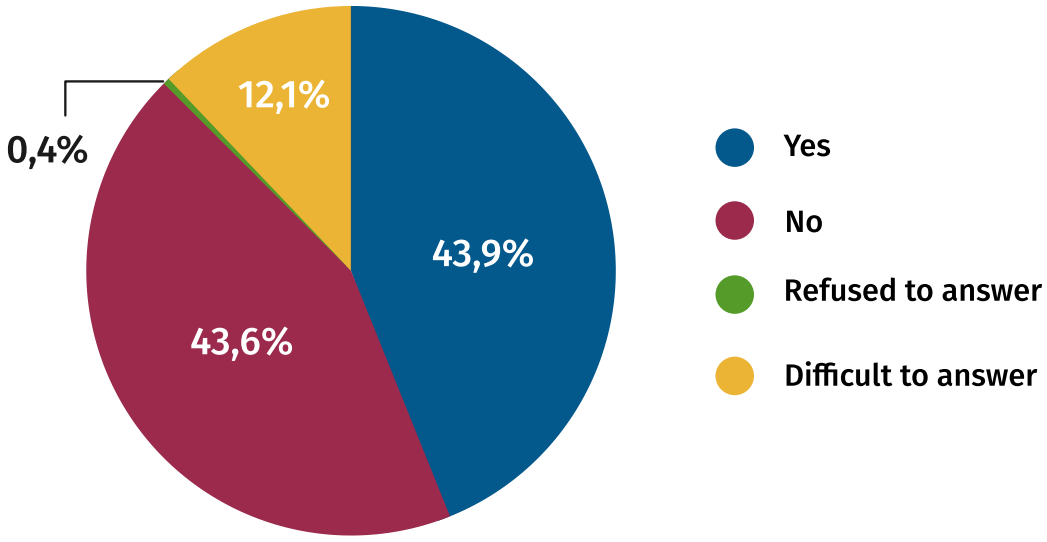


At the next stage, the respondents were asked **about the extent to which persons with disabilities enjoy equal opportunities** in different spheres (education, employment, medical services, public and private services such as bank services, food and accommodation, etc.).

a) As for **educational** opportunities, part of the respondents believes that persons with disabilities and other members of society enjoy equal opportunities (43.9%) whereas the rest of the respondents thinks that persons with disabilities are vulnerable in terms of receiving education and do not have the same opportunities as other members of society (43.6%). A total of 12.1% of the respondents found it difficult to answer the question (see Chart 33).

CHART #33

Do persons with Disabilities Enjoy Equal Educational Opportunities? (N=5000)

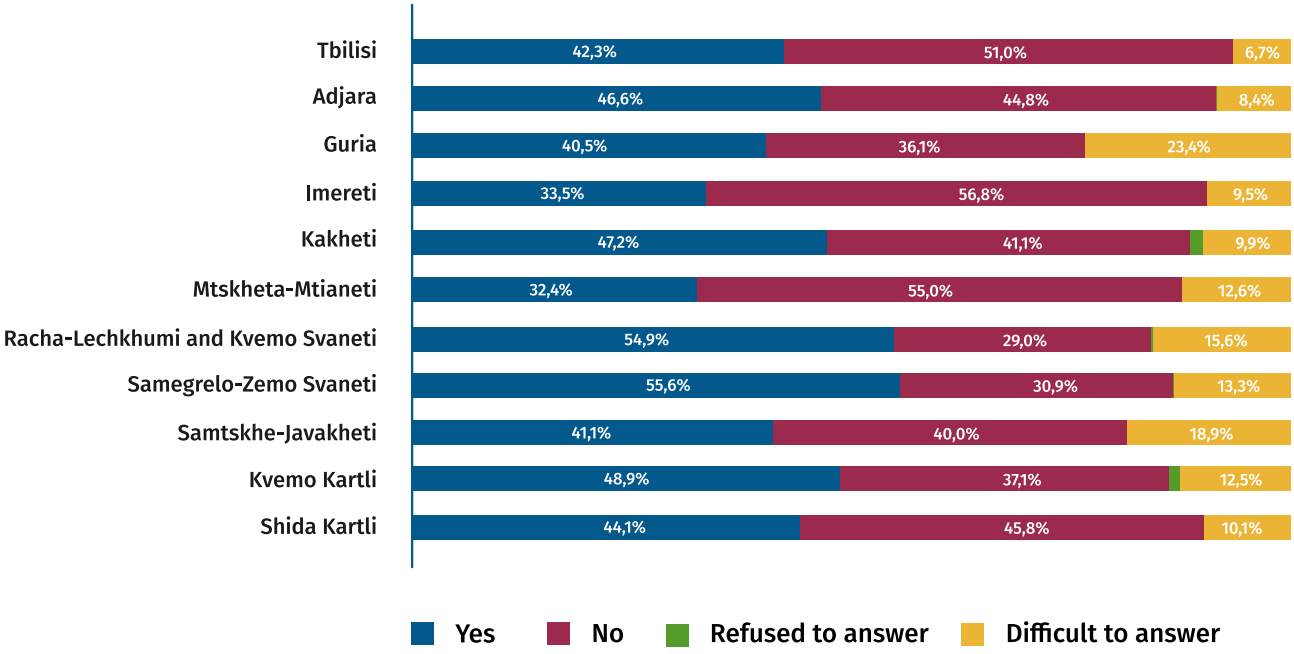


A statistically significant correlation is observed between the assessment of equal educational opportunities and the respondents' **place of residence (regions)** ($X^2(30)=281.517$, $p<0.05$). In particular:

- Differently from the other regions, the majority of the respondents (51%-56%) from Tbilisi, Imereti and Mtskheta-Mtianeti believes that persons with disabilities do not enjoy equal opportunities as compared to other members of society.
- Those respondents who believe that persons with disabilities have equal educational opportunities are from Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti (55.6%) and Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti (54.9%) (see Chart 34).

CHART #34

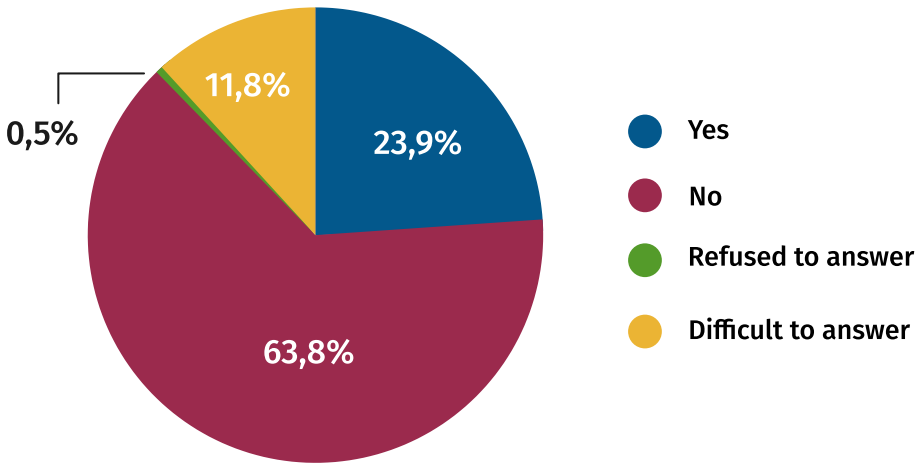
Do persons with disabilities enjoy equal educational opportunities? (by regions)(N=5000)



b) A total of 63.8% stated that persons with disabilities do not enjoy equal **employment** opportunities. Less than one-fourth of the respondents (23.9%) thinks that persons with disabilities and those without enjoy equal employment opportunities (see Chart 35).

CHART #35

Do persons with disabilities enjoy equal employment opportunities? (N=5000)



A statistical analysis shows that that the abovementioned issue correlates with the **respondents' direct contact with persons with disabilities.** Those respondents who have persons with disabilities among their family members/friends/relatives/co-workers/ neighbors hold a stronger belief that their employment opportunities are not equal (66.2%) than those respondents who have never been in direct contact with persons with disabilities (61.1%). The correlation between the two variables is statistically significant ($x2(3) = 40.610$, $p<0.05$). See Table 13.

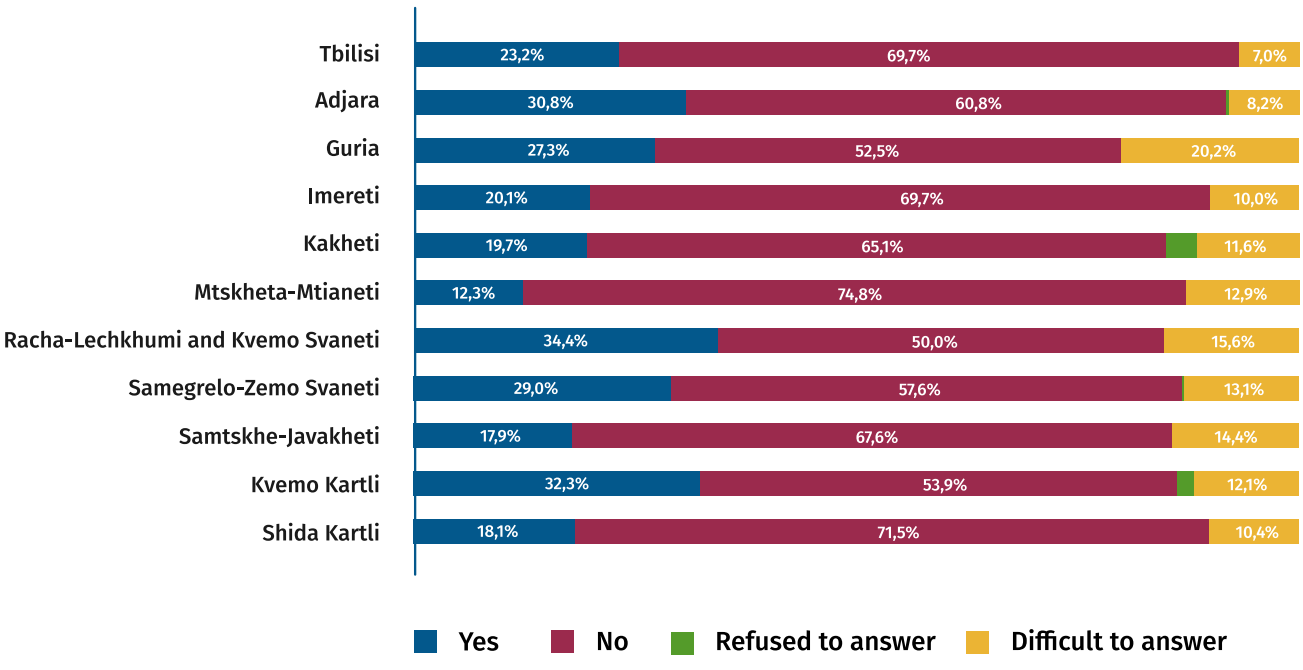
TABLE #13

Do persons with disabilities enjoy equal employment opportunities?	Do you have persons with disabilities among family members/relatives/friends/co-workers/ neighbors?	
	No	Yes
Yes	23.6%	24.3%
No	61.1%	66.2%
Refused to answer	0.5%	0.5%
No	14.7%	9%

In addition to the above said, the respondents' assessments of employment opportunities for persons with disabilities differ by **regions**. The respondents from Shida Kartli and Mtskheta -Mtianeti hold the strongest beliefs that persons with disabilities do not enjoy equal employment opportunities (71.5% and 74.8%, respectively). See Chart 36.

TABLE #36

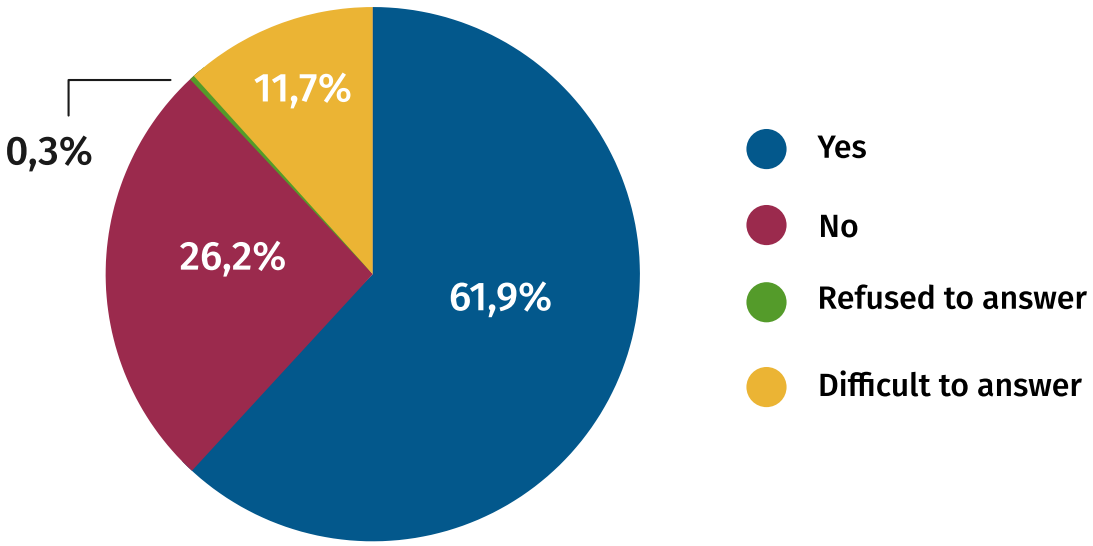
Do persons with disabilities enjoy equal employment opportunities? (by regions)(N=5000)



c) The majority of the respondents (61.9%) believes that persons with disabilities and those without enjoy equal opportunities in terms of the accessibility of **medical services.** About one-fourth of the respondents (26.2%) states that these two groups are not provided with equal opportunities (see Chart 37).

CHART #37

Equal Accessibility to Medical Services (N=5000)



The correction between the assessment of the accessibility of medical services and the respondents' direct contact with persons with disabilities is statistically significant ($x2(3) = 35.376$, $p<0.05$). It is interesting to note that the respondents who have persons with disabilities among family members/relatives/friends/co-workers/neighbors are more inclined to believe that persons with disabilities have equal accessibility to medical services (65.6%) than those respondents who are not in contact with persons with disabilities (57.9%) (see Table 14).

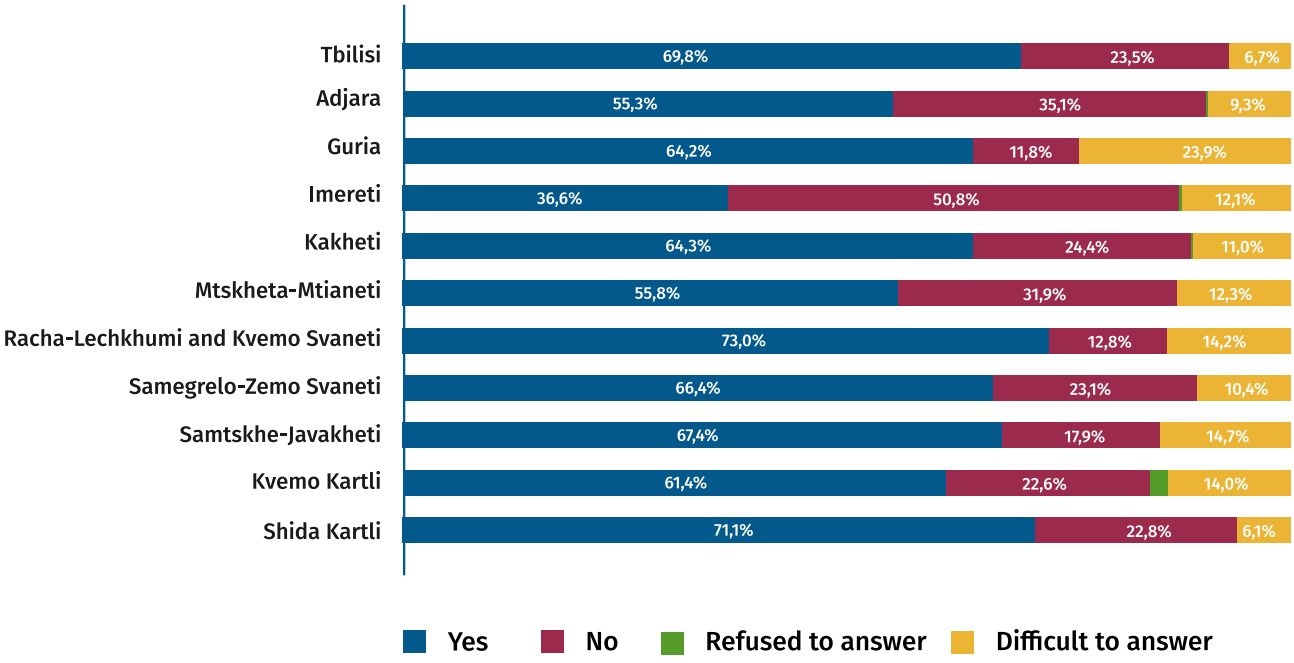
TABLE #14

Do persons with disabilities have equal accessibility to medical services?	Do you have persons with disabilities among family members/relatives/friends/co-workers/ neighbors?	
	Yes	No
Yes	57.9%	65.6%
No	28.1%	24.3%
Refused to answer	0.3%	0.2%
Don't know	13.7%	9.8%

As for the assessment of the accessibility of medical services from the **regional** perspective, the respondents who think that persons with disabilities have equal access to medical services mostly reside in the Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti (73%) and Shida Kartli (71.1%) regions. The smallest percentage of the respondents holding the same belief is found in Imereti (36.6%). Moreover, every second respondent from Imereti (50.8%) believes that persons with disabilities do not have equal access to medical services. The data analyzed by regions are statistically significant ($x2(30) = 455.220$, $p<0.05$). See Chart 38.

CHART #38

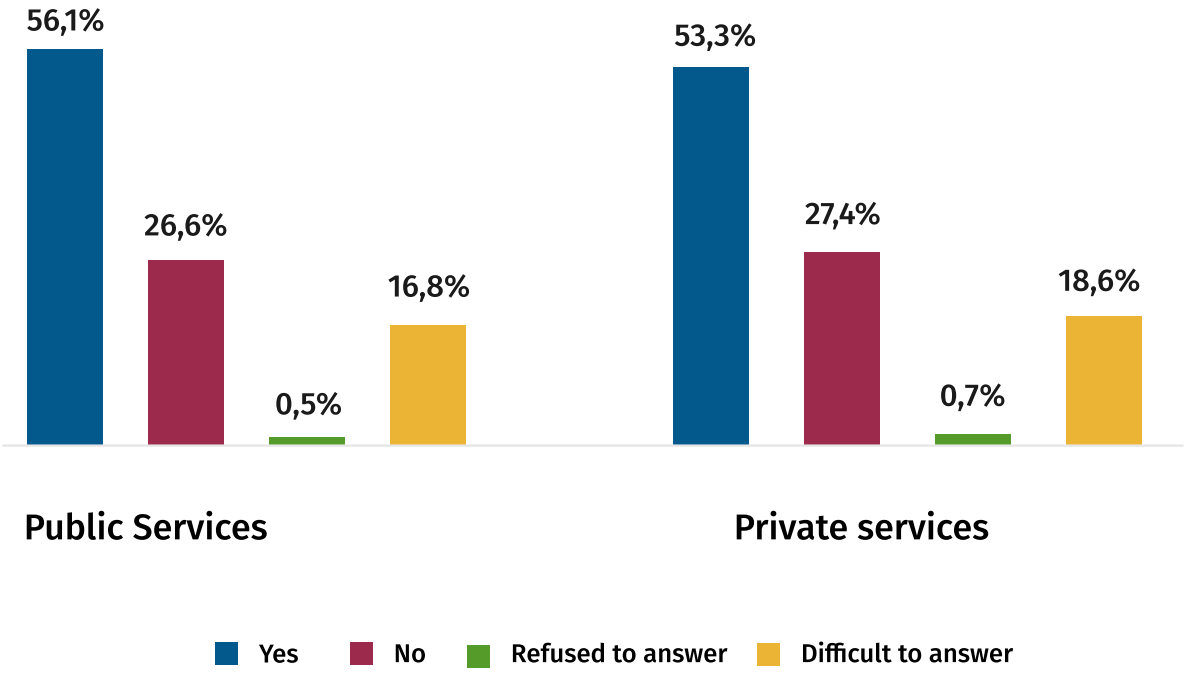
Do persons with disabilities have equal access to medical services? (N=5000)



d) A total of 56.1% of the respondents think that persons with disabilities and those without enjoy equal **access to public services** (Public Registry, Revenue service, etc.). In the case of private services (bank services, accommodation and food, etc.), 53.3% of the respondents believe that persons with disabilities enjoy equal opportunities. The percentage of those respondents who think that neither public nor private services are equally accessible for persons with disabilities and those without does not exceed 28% (see Chart 39).

CHART #39

Do persons with disabilities enjoy equal access to public and private services? (N=5000)



The respondents' assessment of the accessibility of public and private services differs by **regions**. Residents of Tbilisi (72.3%), Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti (65.8%) and Shida Kartli (64.2%) are more convinced that persons with disabilities and those without have equal accessibility to public services whereas the majority of the respondents from Imereti points to inequality in terms of the accessibility of public services (56%.) Regional data are statistically significant (x2(30) =552.273, p<0.05). (See Table 15).

TABLE #15

Do persons with disabilities have equal access to public services? (%)	Regions										
	Tbilisi	Adjara	Guria	Imereti	Kakheti	Mtskheta-Mtianeti	Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti	Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti	Samtskhe-Javakheti	Kvemo Kartli	Shida Kartli
Yes	72.3%	54.6%	53.7%	29.9%	52.2%	53.3%	65.8%	53.3%	59.1%	58.1%	64.2%
No	19.8%	31.3%	12.4%	56.0%	29.4%	29.7%	15.8%	25.3%	20.6%	18.5%	23.8%
Refused to answer	0.1%	0.5%		0.7%	0.2%	0.3%	0.5%	0.9%		2.2%	
Don't know	7.8%	13.6%	33.9%	13.5%	18.2%	16.7%	17.8%	20.4%	20.3%	21.2%	12.0%

We see the same trends in relation to the accessibility of private sector services when analyzing the data from the **regional** perspective. Residents of Tbilisi (66.4%), Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti (62.7%) and Shida Kartli (63.5%) are more convinced that persons with disabilities and those without have equal accessibility to private services whereas the majority of respondents from Imereti (54.4%) does not believe that persons with disabilities enjoy equal accessibility to private sector services. Also, one-third of the respondents from Kakheti and Mtskheta-Mtianeti points to inequality in terms of access to private sector services. Regional data are statistically significant ($x2(30) = 552.273$, $p<0.05$). (See Table 16).

TABLE #16

Do persons with disabilities have equal access to public services? (%)	Regions										
	Tbilisi	Adjara	Guria	Imereti	Kakheti	Mtskheta-Mtianeti	Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti	Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti	Samtskhe-Javakheti	Kvemo Kartli	Shida Kartli
Yes	66.4%	53.5%	50.5%	28.8%	48.5%	49.1%	62.7%	48.7%	60.2%	55.2%	63.5%
No	23.0%	30.2%	13.9%	54.4%	33.3%	32.4%	16.1%	24.9%	19.8%	18.7%	24.2%
Refused to answer		0.9%		0.9%	0.7%		0.8%	2.7%		2.0%	
Don't know	10.6%	15.4%	35.5%	15.9%	17.4%	18.5%	20.4%	23.8%	20.1%	24.1%	12.2%

A statistical analysis shows that the assessment of the accessibility of public or private services also depends on whether a respondent **has/ does not have a person with disabilities** among his or her close group of people (family, neighbors, friends, etc.) The majority of those respondents who have persons with disabilities among their close group of people state that the opportunities for persons with disabilities and those without are equal in terms of the accessibility of public and private services. In particular, 60.1% think that persons with disabilities and those without have equal access to public services and 56.7% believe that their opportunities are also equal in the case of accessibility of private services. See Tables 17 and 18.

TABLE #17

Do persons with disabilities have equal access to public services?	Do you have persons with disabilities among your family members/ relatives/friends/co-workers/neighbors?	
	Yes	No
Yes	51.9%	60.1%
No	28.2%	25.0%
Refused to answer	0.6%	0.3%
Don't know	19.3%	14.5%
		$x^2(3) = 38.308$, $p<0.05$

TABLE #18

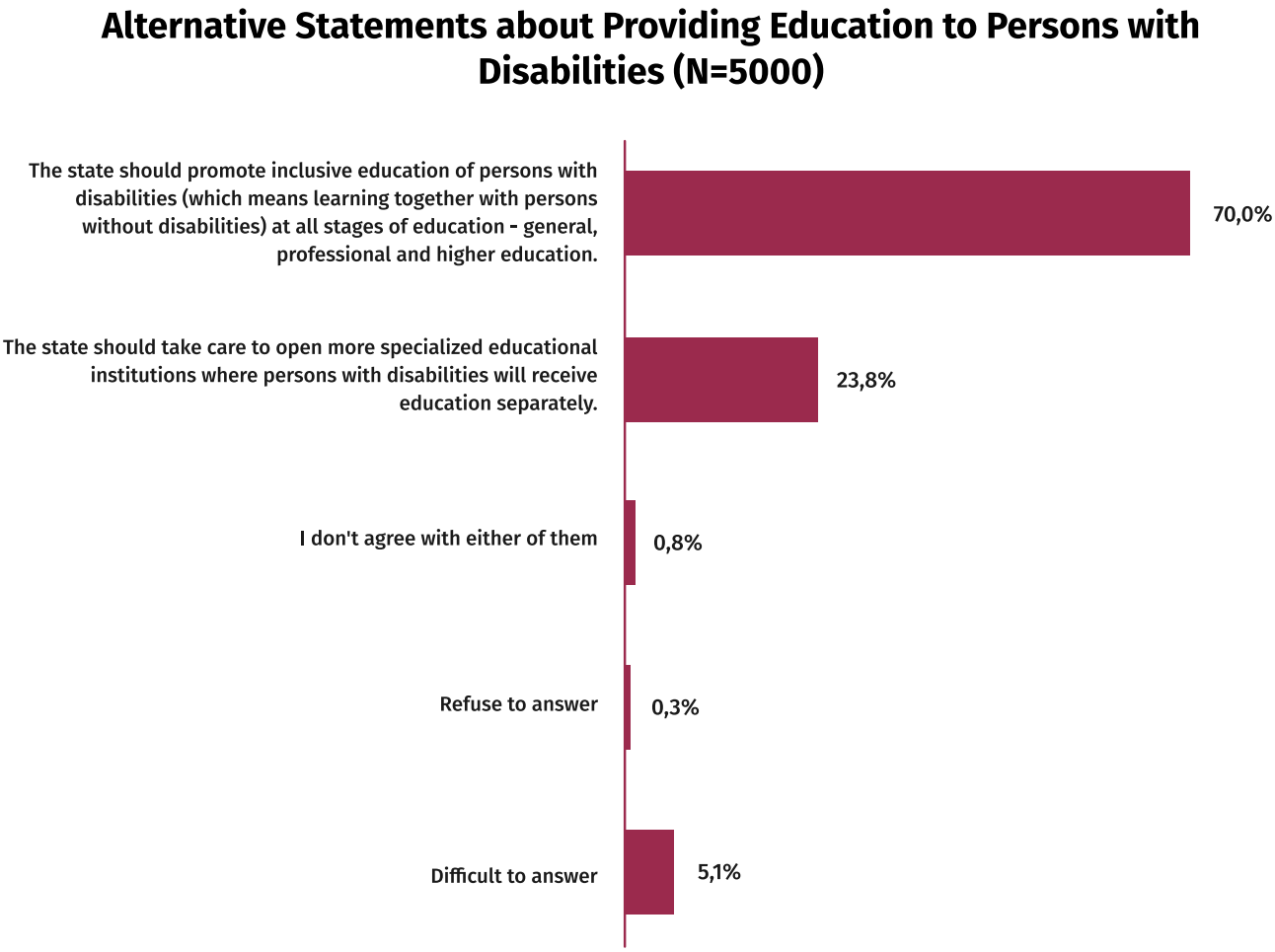
Do persons with disabilities have equal access to private services?	Do you have persons with disabilities among your family members/ relatives/friends/co-workers/neighbors?	
	Yes	No
Yes	49.7%	56.7%
No	28.2%	26.7%
Refused to answer	1.1%	0.3%
Don't know	21.0%	16.4%
		$x^2(3) = 40.263$, $p<0.05$

3.4. STATE POLICY ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The respondents were given several pairs of alternative statements related to the current state policy on persons with disabilities. The respondents had to choose one out from two alternative statements which they agreed to (completely or more or less).

1. The first pair of statements was about the state policy on **providing education opportunities for persons with disabilities.** The vast majority of the respondents (70%) stated that in their opinion the state should support the inclusive education of persons with disabilities at all stages – be it general education, professional or higher education. About one-quarter of those interviewed thinks (23.8%) that the state should not promote inclusive education but open more specialized educational institutions where persons with disabilities will receive education separately. The survey showed that 0.8 % of the respondents mentions that they do not agree with either of the statements. (See Chart 40).

CHART #40



45.2% of the 70% of those interviewed agree with the statement regarding a state policy on inclusive education while 24.8% agree completely.

A **correlative analysis** showed one interesting result: among the respondents who have direct contact with persons with disabilities, more of the respondents support the opening of specialized educational institutions for persons with disabilities (25.5%) than among those who do not have direct contact with them (22%) (also, it is noteworthy that this difference between the opinions of these two groups is statistically significant; $x2(4)=17.797$, $p<0.05$) (see Table 19). We can assume that the position of a certain part of the respondents in direct contact with persons with disabilities is determined by the difficulties and obstacles related to the practice of inclusive education which affects children with disabilities the most.

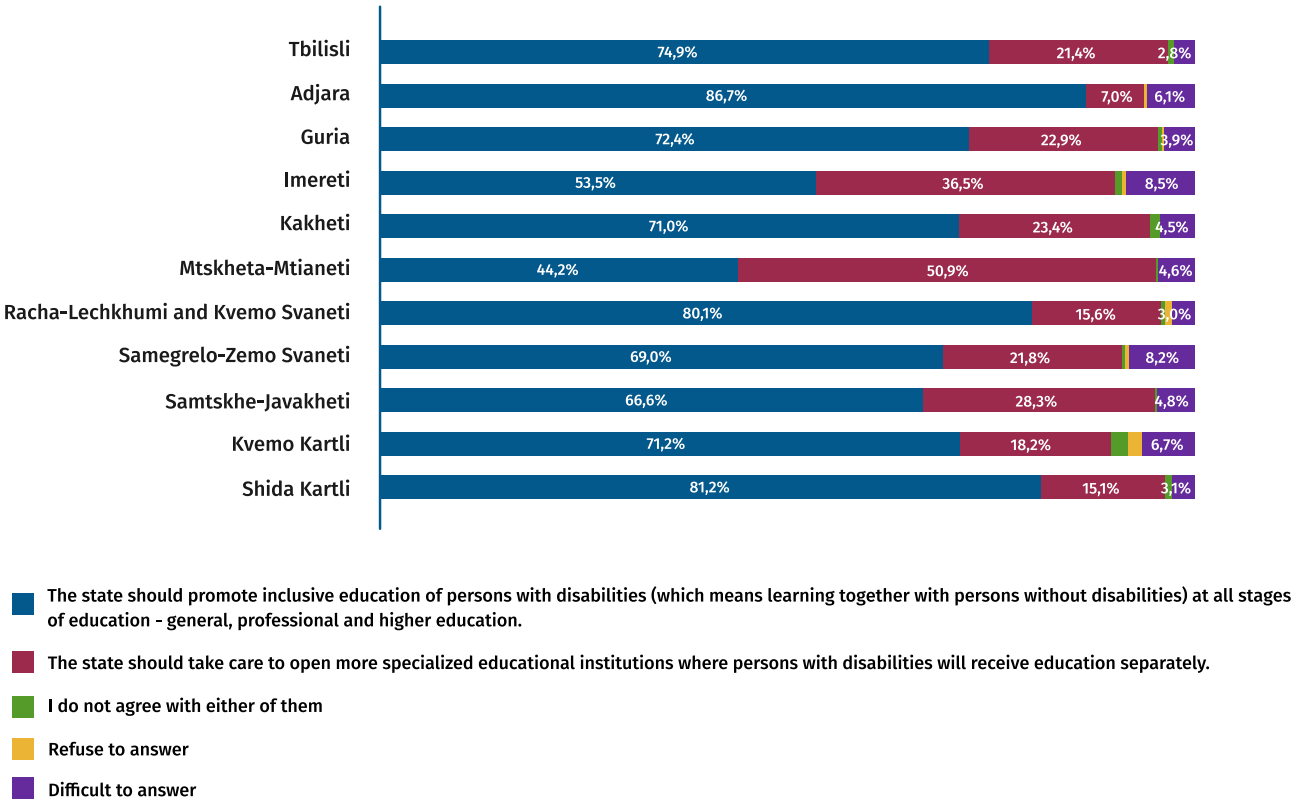
TABLE #19

Which of these two statements do you agree with?	Do you have a family member/relative/friend/ colleague/neighbor with a disability?	
	No	Yes
The state should promote the inclusive education of persons with disabilities.	70.7%	69.3%
The state should open specialized educational institutions for persons with disabilities.	22.0%	25.5%
I don't agree with either of them	1.0%	0.6%
Refuse to answer	0.5%	0.2%
Difficult to answer	5.9%	4.4%

The respondents' opinions about the state policy on providing education to persons with disabilities proved statistically reliable according to residential regions. In Adjara, the part of the respondents who think that the state should support inclusive education is the highest (86.7%). Unlike these data, every second respondent in Mtskheta-Mtianeti thinks (50.9%) that it is better for persons with disabilities to have specialized educational institutions (the data are statistically reliable according to the regions: $x2(40)=436.547$, $p<0.05$) (see Chart 41).

CHART #41

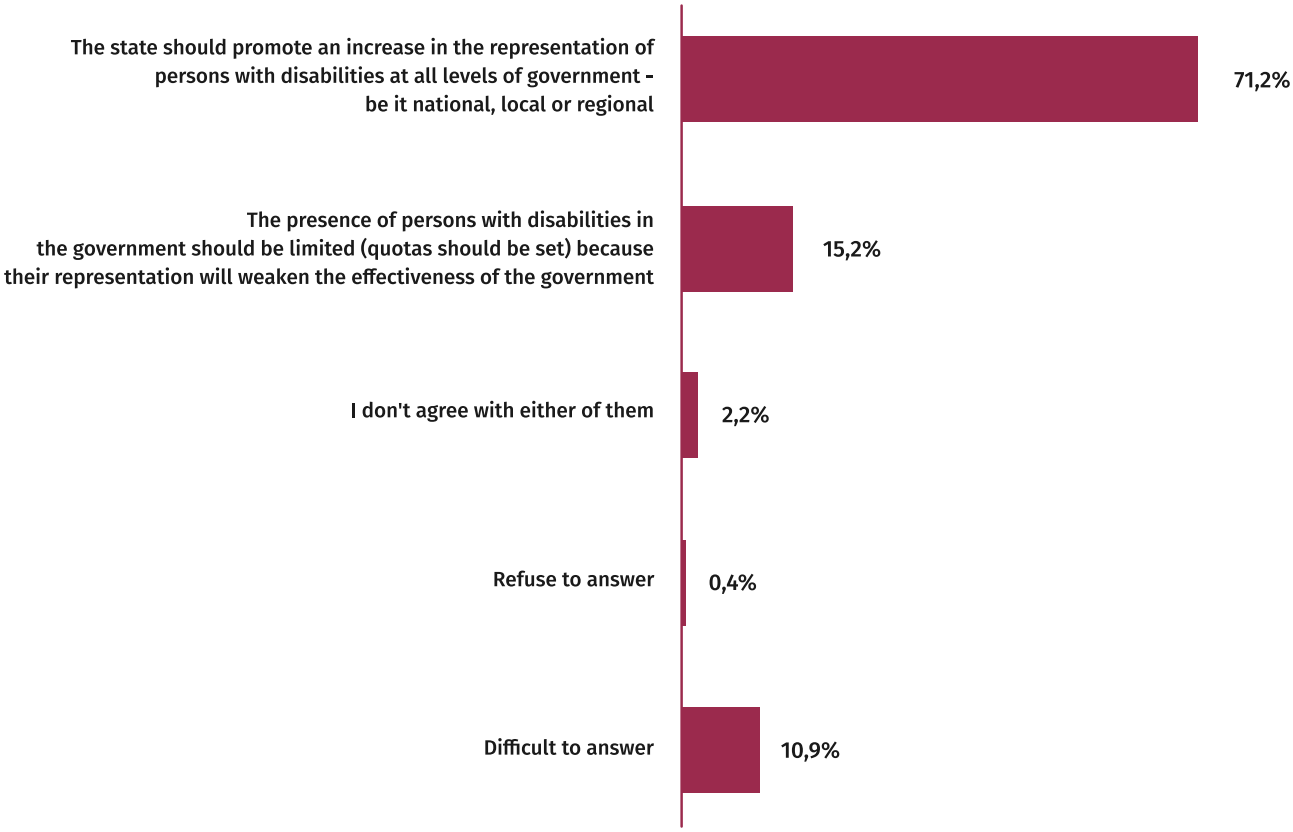
Alternative Statements about Providing Education to Persons with Disabilities (regions)(N=5000)



2. the second pair of statements referred to **the issue of the representation of persons with disabilities in government.** According to 72% of the interviewed, the state should promote an increase in the representation of persons with disabilities at all levels of government – be it national, local or regional. According to 15.2 % of respondents, the presence of persons with disabilities in the government should be limited (quotas should be set) because their representation in large numbers will weaken the effectiveness of the government. A total of 2.2% do not agree with either of the statements. Those who had difficulty to choose or refused to answer ranged from 10% to 12% (see Chart 42).

CHART #42

Alternative Statements about the Representation of Persons with Disabilities in Government (N=5000)



Of the 71.2% that supports the increase of persons with disabilities at all levels of government, 23.9% completely agree and 47.3% tend to agree more.

It is noteworthy that the issue of the representation of persons with disabilities in government is in a statistically reliable correlation with two independent variables: a) direct contact of the respondents with persons with disabilities and b) a regional distribution. Specifically:

- Among those who are in direct contact with persons with disabilities, the support for an increase of representation in government is higher (72.7%) than among those who are not in direct contact with them (69.7%).
- Most of the supporters of an increase of the representation of persons with disabilities in government are in Shida Kartli (90.6%), Adjara (82.8%) and Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti (82.5%). In other regions this percentage index varies from 49% to 80%.

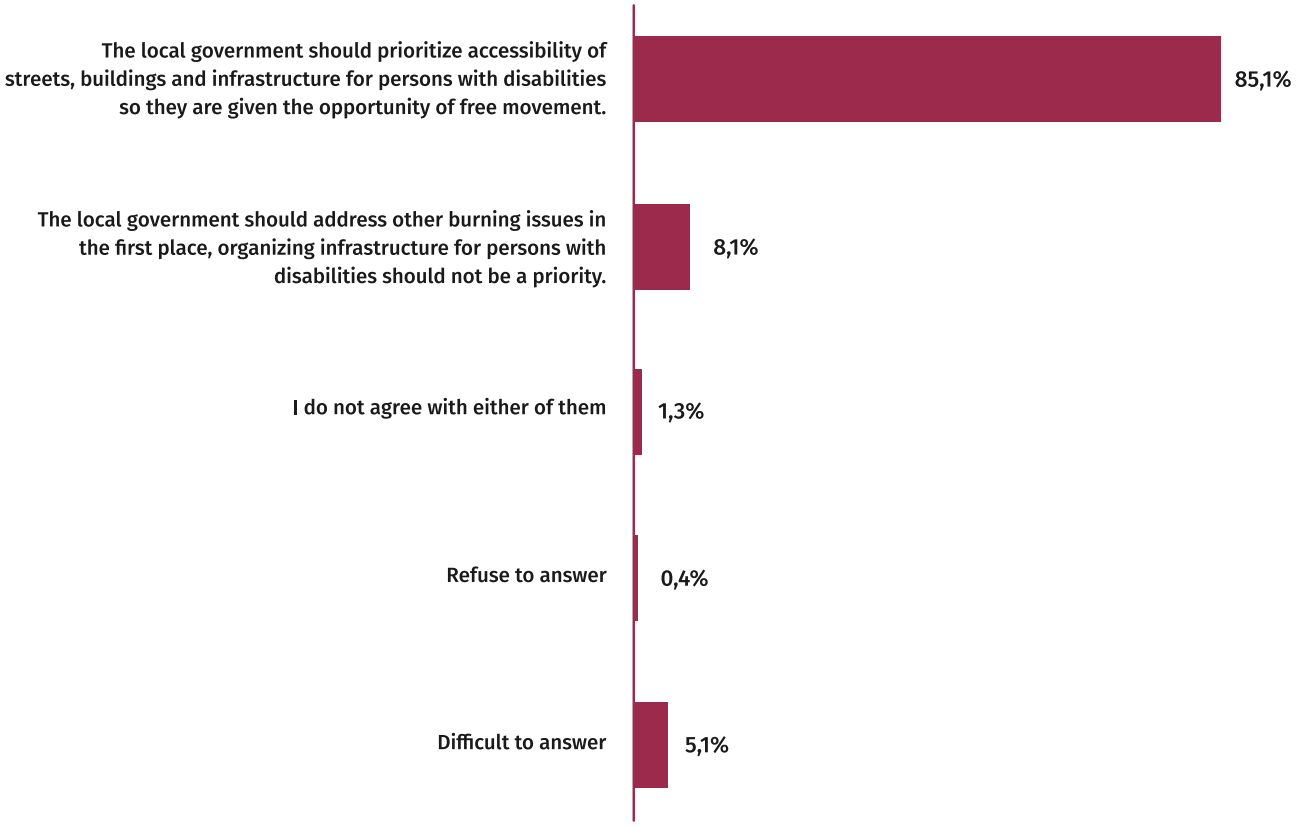
The data presented according to contact with persons with a disability and by regions are statistically reliable (consequently, $x2(4)=13.982$, $p<0.05$ and $x2(40)=514.738$, $p<0.05$).

3. The third pair of alternative statements referred to the creation of **infrastructure and the creation of an adapted social environment for persons with disabilities.** The vast majority of the respondents thinks that (85.1%) local government should create the infrastructure for persons with disabilities (ramps, adapted

toilets etc.) because this is important for their free movement and opportunities of an independent life. A total of 8.1% think that that creating the infrastructure for persons with disabilities should not be a priority issue for the government and other burning issues should be taken care of first. A total of 1.3% of the respondents do not agree with either of the statements (see Chart 43).

CHART #43

Alternative Statements about Creating Infrastructure for Persons with Disabilities (N=5000)



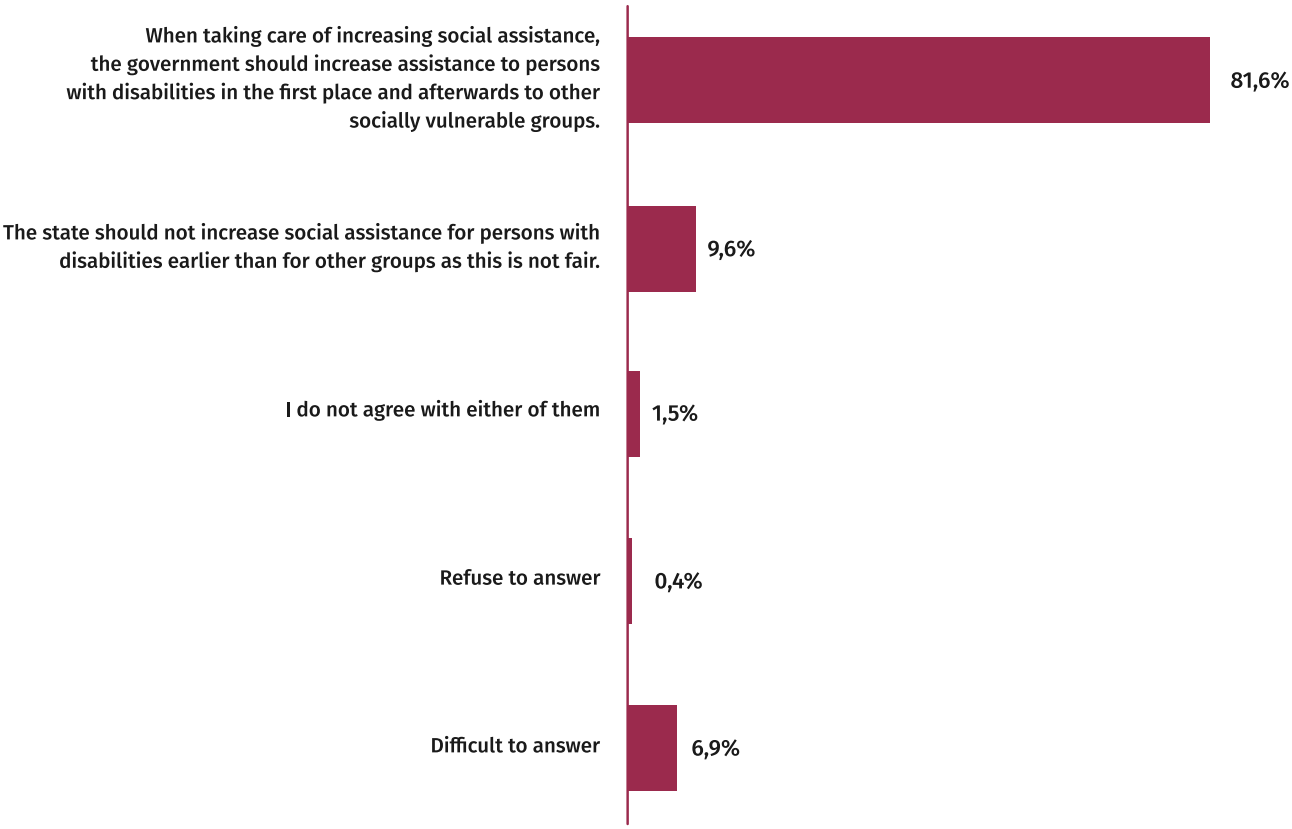
Of the supporters of creating an infrastructure for persons with disabilities (85.1%), 37.4% completely agree and 47.6% tend to agree more.

The issue of creating an infrastructure for persons with disabilities is in statistically reliable correlation ($x2(40)=308.101$, $p<0.05$) with an independent variable – the **regional distribution** of the respondents; specifically, the idea that local government should take care of the infrastructural accessibility for persons with disabilities is most supported in Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti (92.1%) and Adjara (90.7%).

4. The next pair of statements referred to the issue of the **increase of social assistance to persons with disabilities.** The vast majority of the interviewed (81.6%) supports the idea that the state should increase assistance to persons with disabilities in the first place and afterwards think about other socially vulnerable groups. A total of 9.6% of the respondents thinks that it is unfair to raise social assistance for persons with disabilities before other socially vulnerable groups. A total of 1.5 % did not agree with either of the statements. Those that had difficulty to answer the question or who refused to answer range from 6% to 8% (see Chart 44).

CHART #44

Alternative Statements about Increasing Social Assistance for Persons with Disabilities (N=5000)

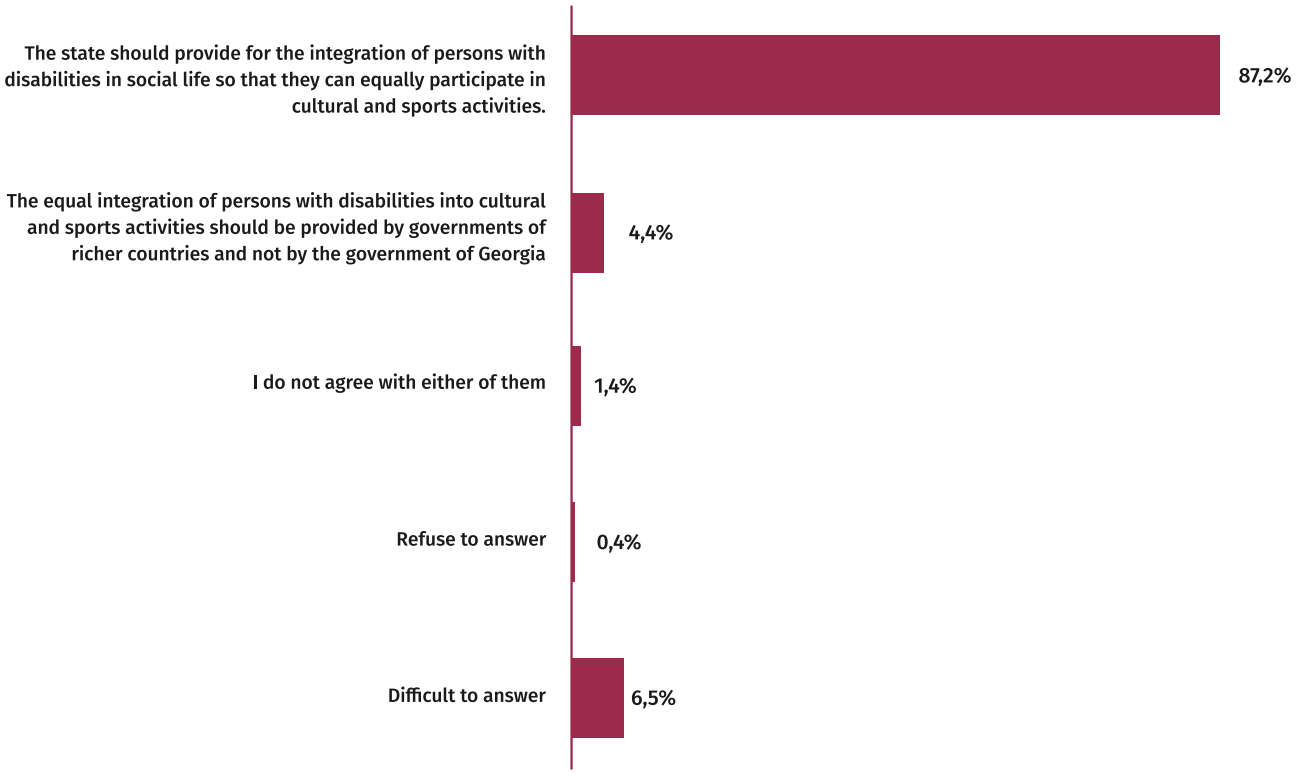


Of the respondents who supported the increase of social assistance for persons with disabilities earlier than for other groups (81.6%), 33.6% completely agree and 48% tend to agree more. The issue of the increase of social assistance for persons with disabilities is in correlation to the residential region of the respondents; specifically, against the backdrop of general support, the increase of social assistance for persons with disabilities is supported the most in Guria (90.8%), Adjara (86.9%) and Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti (88.3%) (the data according to regions are statistically reliable $x2(40)=278.315$, $p<0.05$).

5. One of the statement pairs was about the issue of the **integration of persons with disabilities into society.** The vast majority of the respondents (87.2%) reported that the state should provide for the integration of persons with disabilities into society and their inclusion in cultural and sports activities. Of these respondents, 37.6% completely agree with this idea and 49.5% mention that they tend to agree more. A total of 4.4% of the respondents mention that the inclusion of persons with disabilities in cultural and sports activities where persons without disabilities are engaged is only the privilege of richer countries (see Chart 45).

CHART #45

Alternative Statements about the conclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Cultural and Sports Activities (N=5000)



The issue of the inclusion of persons with disabilities in social (specifically in cultural and sports) life **correlates** with two independent variables: a) direct contact of the respondents with persons with disabilities and b) regional distribution. Specifically:

- In the group of respondents that do not have a person with a disability around them, 85.6% support the idea that the state should provide for the equal participation of persons with disabilities in cultural and sports activities. However, this support increases (88.5%) in respondents who are in direct contact with persons with disabilities.
- The respondents interviewed in Kakheti (97.1%), Shida Kartli (95.1%), Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti (90.7%) and Guria (90.5%) are very strong supporters of the inclusion of persons with disabilities in social (specifically in cultural and sports) life.

The data according to having/not having contact with persons with disabilities and the data according to the regions are statistically reliable (consequently $x2(4)=20.160$, $p<0.05$ and $x2(40)=514.738$, $p<0.05$).

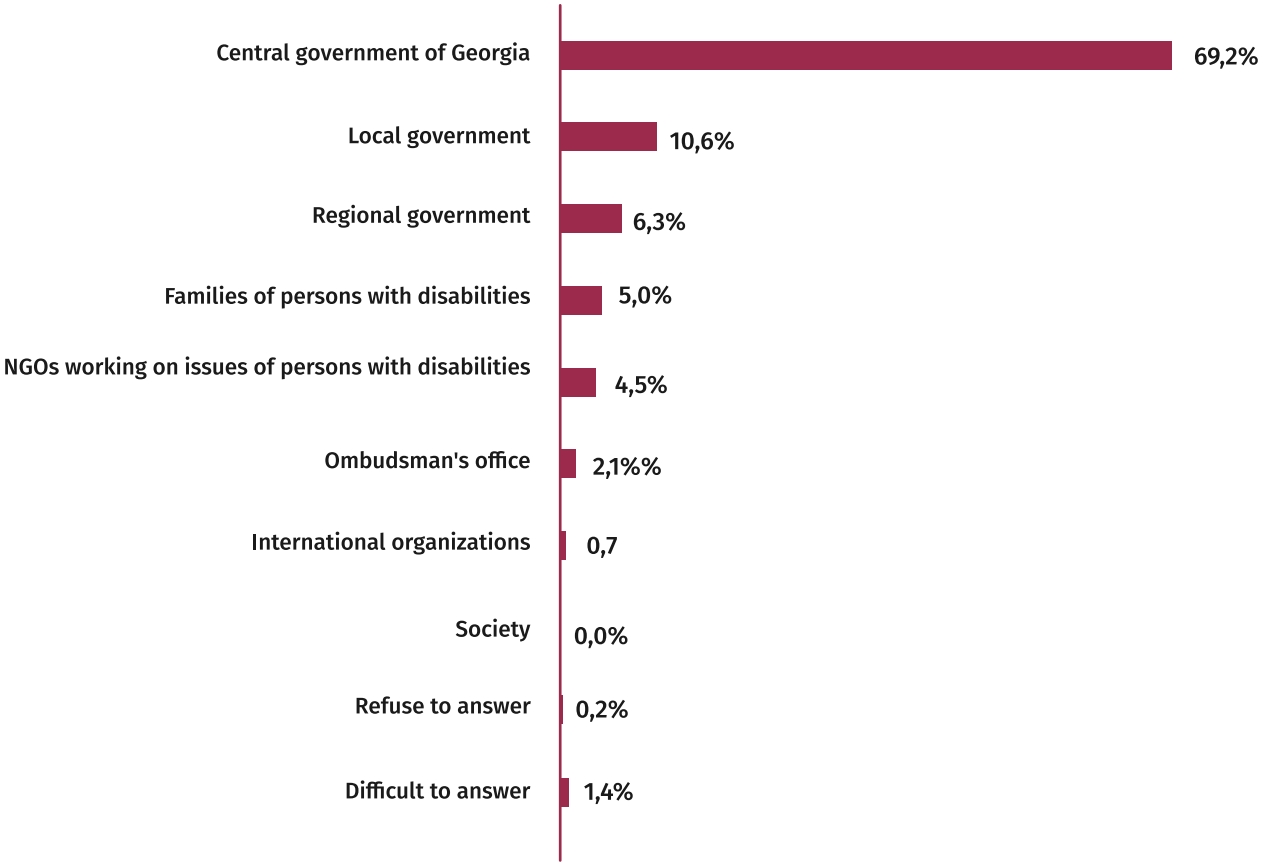
In order to assess the current state policy on persons with disabilities, the respondents

named those **agencies, structures, organizations and institutions that are responsible for the improvement of the accessibility of public places for persons with disabilities.** Additionally, the respondents ranked these agencies, structures organizations and institutions according to their degree of responsibility in relation to this issue.

The majority of the interviewed thinks (69.2%) that the central government of Georgia is responsible for this issue in the first place. A total of 10.6% place this responsibility on local governments while 6.3 % indicate that regional governments are the first line of responsibility followed by the Public Defender's Office (2.1%), NGOs working on issues of persons with disabilities (0.7%) and families of persons with disabilities (0.7%) (see Chart 46).

CHART #46

Agencies Having First Line Responsibility for the Improvement of Accessibility to Public Places for Persons with Disabilities (N=5000)



The data analysis showed that there is a statistically reliable relation between the assessment of first line responsible agencies for the improvement of the accessibility of public places for persons with disabilities and the respondent's residential place ($x2(90)=458.041$, $p<0.05$). According to the regions, the percentage indices of respondents who mentioned that the central government has the first line responsibility to improve service accessibility in public places for persons with disabilities varies from 54% to 78%. In this regard, the highest percentage is in the regions of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti (77.3 %), Imereti (76.3%), Kakheti (74%) and Guria (73.8%). The lowest percentage is shown in Samtskhe-Javakheti (54.4%). Also, it is noteworthy that 23.2% of the respondents in Racha-Lechkhumi place the first line responsibility on the local government and in Adjara, as compared to other regions, the respondents see this issue as the regional government's responsibility (12.2%) (see Table 20).

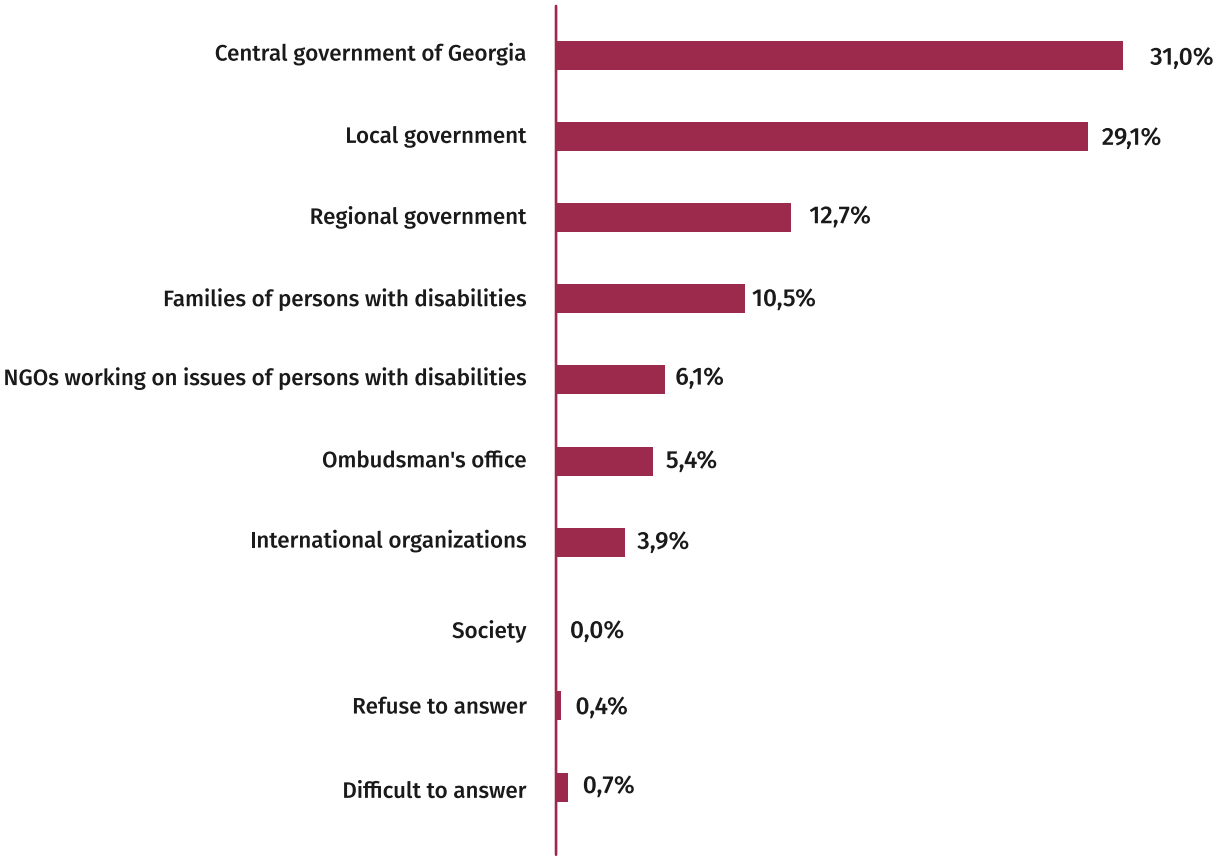
TABLE #20

Agencies having first line responsibility for improving accessibility to public places for persons with disabilities	Region										
	Tbilisi	Adjara	Guria	Imereti	Kakheti	Mtskheta-Mtianeti	Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti	Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti	Samtskhe-Javakheti	Kvemo Kartli	Shida Kartli
Central government of Georgia	68.8%	66.7%	73.8%	76.3%	74.0%	57.9%	59.8%	77.3%	54.5%	69.9%	76.2%
Regional government	5.2%	12.2%	2.1%	7.8%	2.0%	8.2%	7.1%	5.3%	6.4%	7.4%	5.4%
Local government	10.6%	7.2%	13.1%	5.4%	7.0%	15.4%	23.2%	6.4%	15.8%	8.9%	9.2%
Ombudsman's office	2.7%	1.6%	2.4%	1.2%	1.3%	4.1%	1.4%	1.3%	2.9%	2.7%	1.4%
NGOs working on issues of persons with disabilities	5.8%	4.3%	1.8%	2.4%	3.6%	5.9%	6.3%	7.8%	5.6%	1.7%	3.5%
International organizations	0.9%	0.7%	1.3%	0.2%	0.7%	0.5%		0.4%	1.1%	1.5%	0.2%
Families of persons with disabilities	5.7%	4.3%	4.7%	3.5%	11.2%	6.2%	0.5%	0.2%	11.8%	4.2%	3.8%
Society	0.1%									0.2%	
Refuse to answer				0.9%			0.5%	0.2%		0.2%	
Difficult to answer	0.1%	2.9%	0.8%	2.4%	0.2%	1.8%	1.1%	0.9%	1.9%	3.2%	0.2%

According to the respondents, the **second** line responsibility for the increase and improvement of accessibility to public places for persons with disabilities should be placed on regional government (31%) and local government (29.1%). A total of 12.7% indicate that NGOs working on issues of persons with disabilities are the institutions having the second line responsibility (see Chart 47).

CHART #47

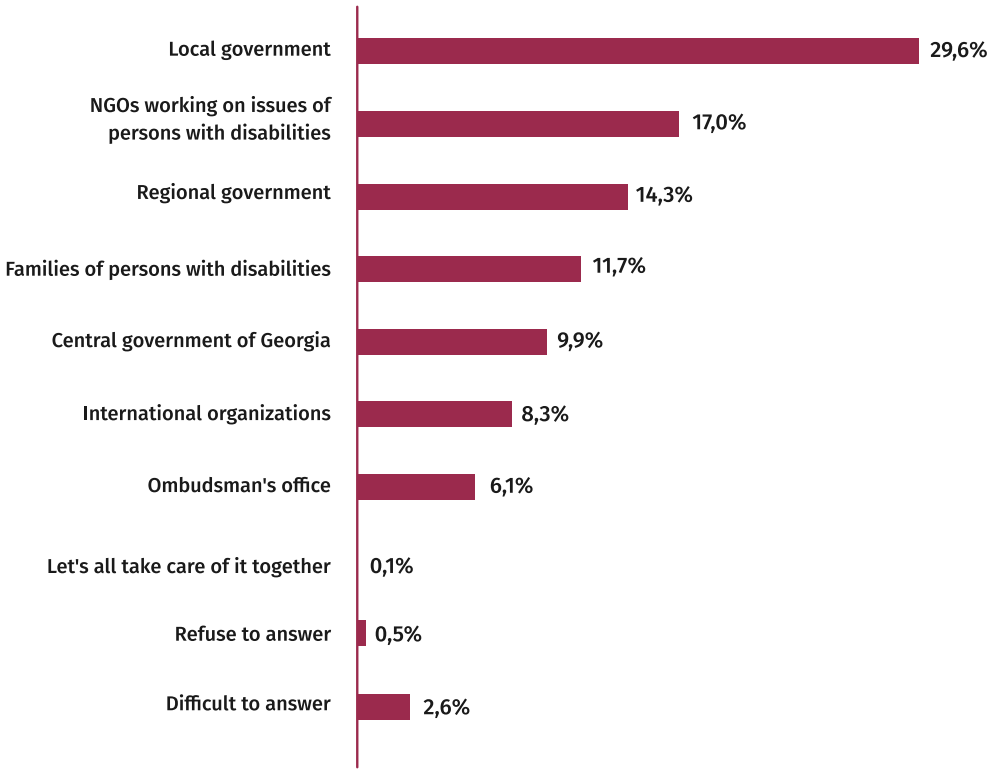
Agencies Having Second Line Responsibility for the Improvement of Accessibility to Public Places for Persons with Disabilities (N=5000)



The number of the respondents talking about agencies and institutions having the **third** line of responsibility was distributed in the following order. According to 29.6% of the interviewed, the local government is the body that should be given the third line responsibility to improve integration opportunities in public places for persons with disabilities. A total of 17% of the respondents mention that the role of NGOs working on issues of persons with disabilities is important. Further, 14.3% place the third line responsibility on regional government and 11.7% on the families of persons with disabilities (see Chart 48).

CHART #48

Agencies Having Third Line Responsibility for the Improvement of Accessibility to Public Places for Persons with Disabilities (N=5000)

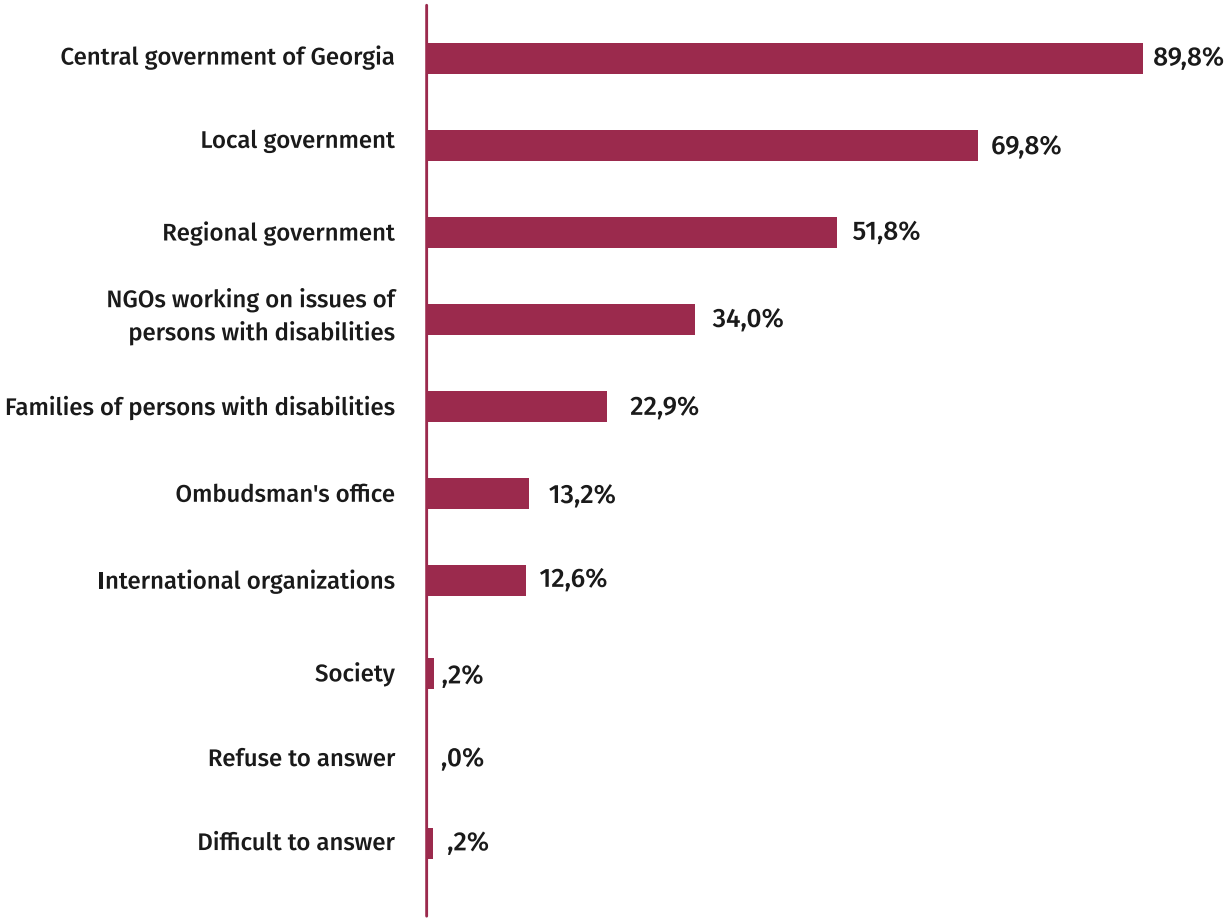


It is noteworthy that a very small part of the respondents identify the role of the society and the need for society's participation in order to improve accessibility to public places for persons with disabilities. This group of the respondents indicates that society has the third line responsibility to this end.

We present the positions of the respondents vis-à-vis the first, second- and third-line responsible actors together. We see that the respondents place the main responsibility for the integration of persons with disabilities on three actors: **1. Georgian government 2. local government and 3. regional government** (see Chart 49).

CHART #49

Agencies Having Responsibility for the integration of persons with Disabilities (N=5000)



Note: The sum of the answers exceeds 100% in the chart. The figures comprise the number of cases mentioned and not the number of the respondents.

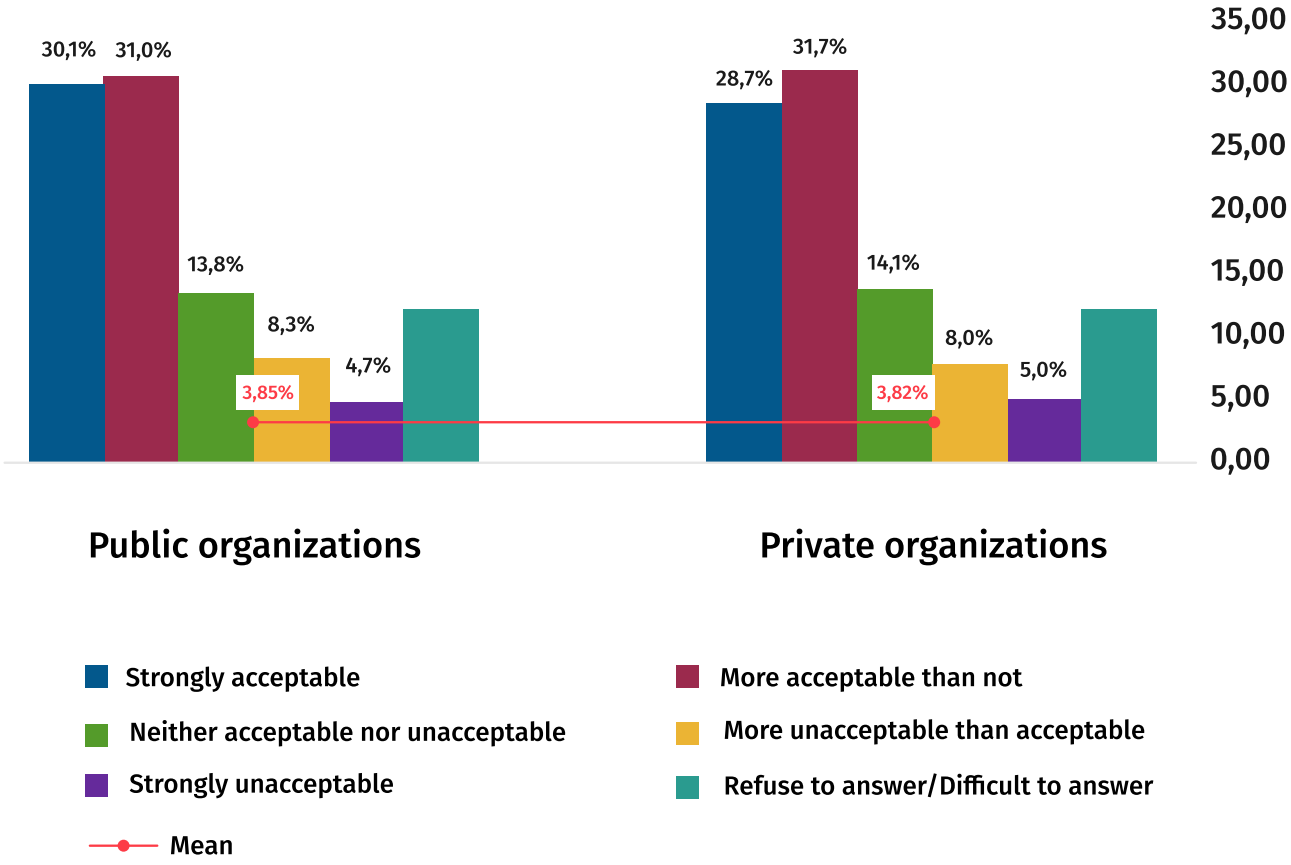
The respondents used a 5-point scale to assess the degree to which they agree with setting quotas for the employment of persons with disabilities in public and private organizations (1 meaning "completely disagree" and 5 meaning "completely agree"). The respondents' opinions about this issue are positive: 30.1% completely agree with the idea of setting quotas for the employment of persons with disabilities in public organizations, 31% tend to agree more and 13.8% mention that they are neutral about this issue. The number of the respondents that indicated that they completely disagree (4.7%) with this idea or they tend to disagree more (8.3%) is less than 10%.

As for setting quotas in **private** organizations, the majority of the respondents has positive assessments in this section as well. One-quarter of those interviewed indicate that they completely agree (28.7%) or tend to agree more (31.7%) with this idea while 14% has a neutral position. The number of the respondents who assessed this issue in a negative context and indicated that they completely disagree with setting quotas for the employment of persons with disabilities, or tend to disagree more, is less than 10%.

See detailed data in Chart 50.

CHART #50

Quotas Should be Set for the Employment of Persons with Disabilities (N=5000)



Note: The chart also shows the mean scores which in both cases fell within the positive assessment field. (Mean > 3).

The research showed that the respondents' assessments are affected by whether or not they have a person with a disability in their circle. Specifically, 63% of the respondents who have contact with persons with disabilities supported the idea that public organizations should set quotas for employing persons with disabilities. The degree of support is lower among the respondents who do not have a person with disability in their circle (59%) (the correlation is statistically significant $x2(6)=36.661$, $p<0.05$) (see Table 21).

TABLE #21

Public organizations should set quotas to employ persons with disabilities.	Do you have a family member/relative/friend/ colleague/neighbor person with a disability?	
	No	Yes
I completely agree	30.4%	29.9%
I agree more than I do not agree	28.6%	33.2%
I agree and I do not agree	14.7%	13.0%
I disagree more than I agree	7.7%	8.8%
I completely disagree	4.3%	5.1%
Refuse to answer	1.1%	0.4%
Difficult to answer	13.2%	9.7%

The research shows similar data when it comes to setting quotas in private organizations: this idea has more supporters among the respondents who have contact with persons with disabilities than among the respondents who do not have direct experience with persons with disabilities (58.8%) (in this case the correlation is statistically significant as well $x2(6)=30.474$, $p<0.05$) (see Table 22).

TABLE #22

Private organizations should set quotas to employ persons with disabilities.	Do you have a family member/relative/friend/ colleague/neighbor person with a disability?	
	No	Yes
I completely agree	28.8%	28.7%
I agree more than I do not agree	30.0%	33.2%
I agree and I do not agree	14.6%	13.7%
I disagree more than I agree	7.2%	8.7%
I completely disagree	4.7%	5.3%
Refuse to answer	1.1%	0.4%
Difficult to answer	13.5%	10.0%

The data according to regions show that this section (regions) has significant impact on the respondents' assessment – should private and public organizations set quotas for the employment of persons with disabilities or not. Specifically, in terms of general support, the respondents interviewed in Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Adjara, Imereti and Shida Kartli are more positive about the issue of quotas (both in the private and public sectors) (the data according to the regions are statistically significant $x2(60)=686.099$, $p<0.05$ and $x2(4)=675.283$, $p<0.05$) (see Charts 51 and 52).

CHART #51

Public Organizations Should Set Quotas for he Employment of Persons with disabilities (N=5000)

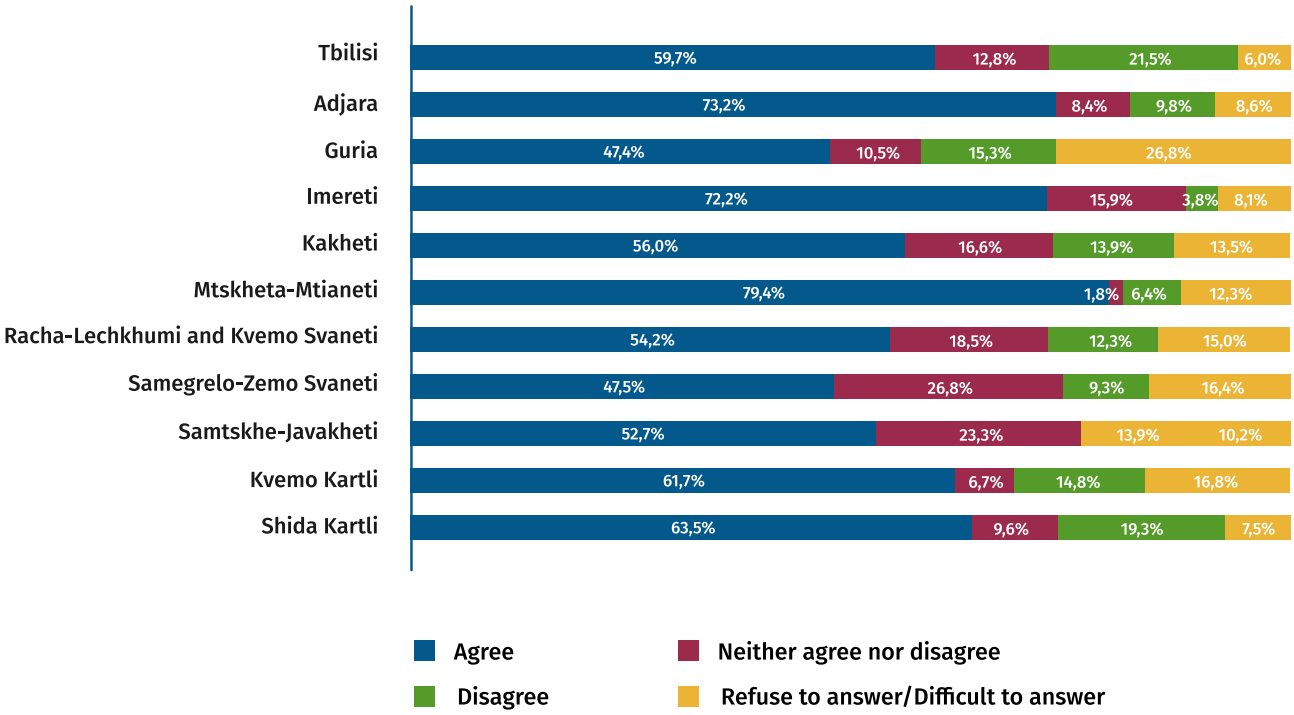
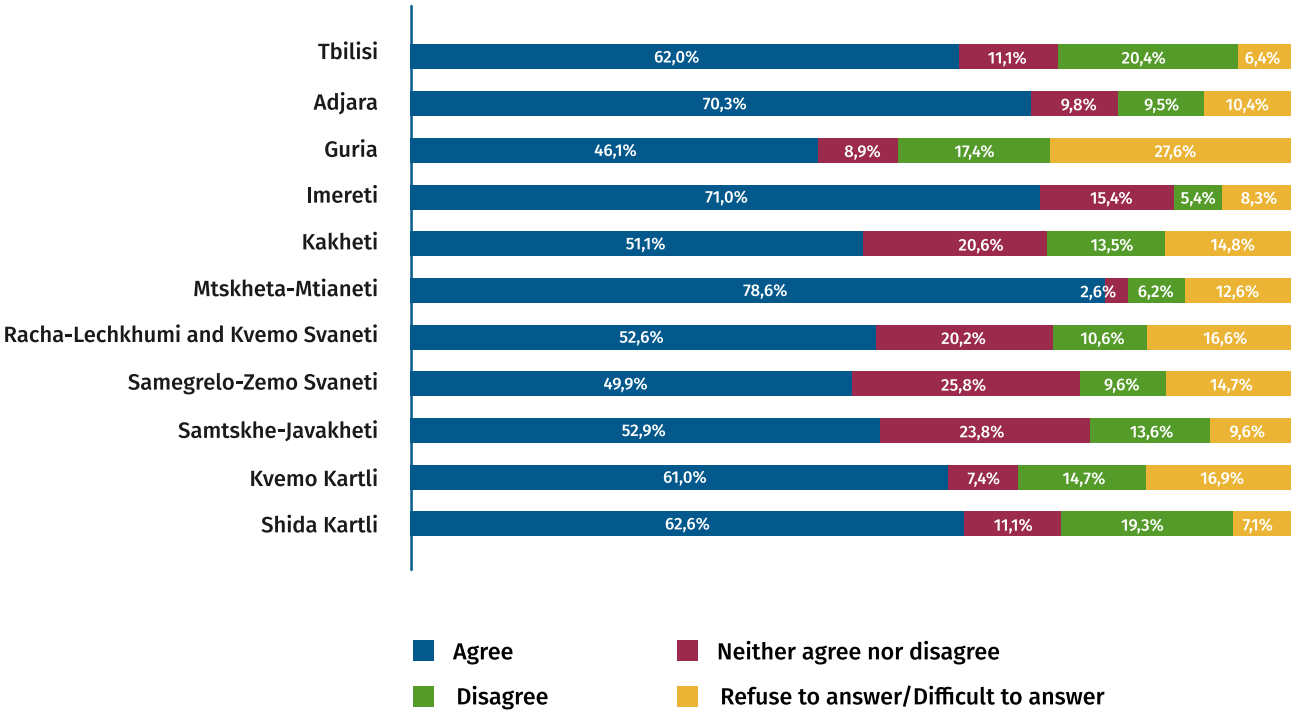


CHART #52

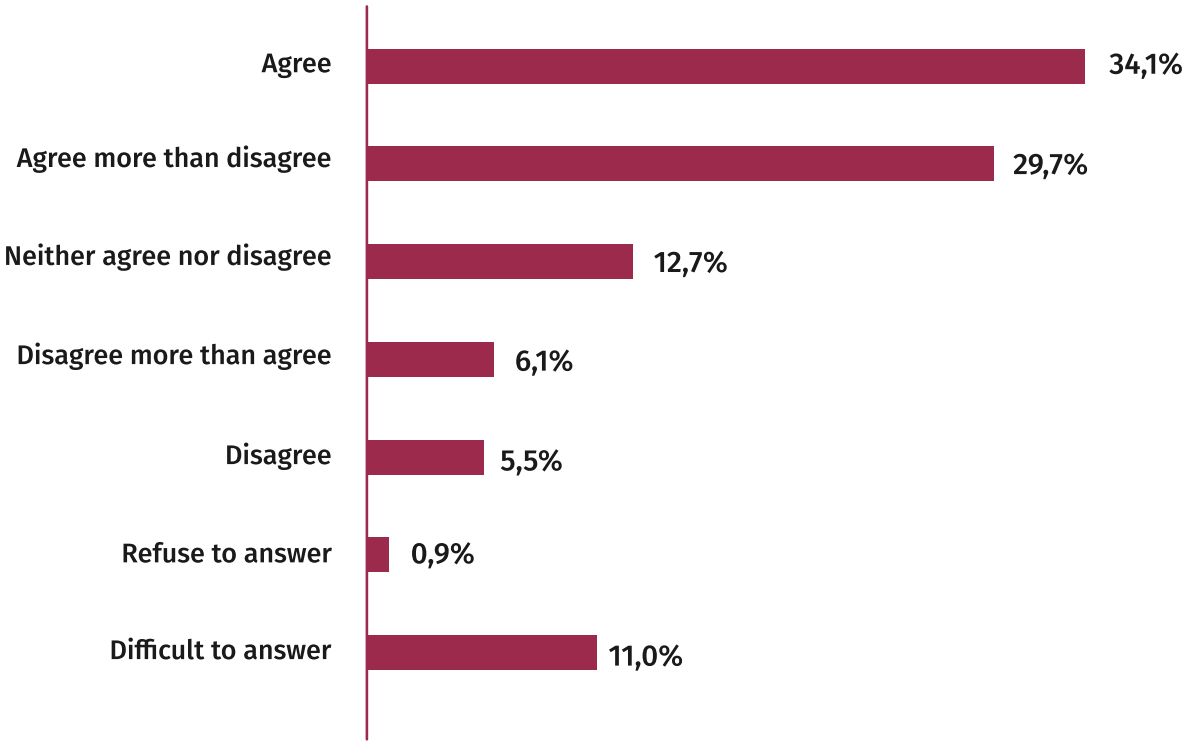
Private Organizations Should Set Quotas for the Employment of Persons with Disabilities (N=5000)



The respondents also answered the question whether or not **private organizations employing persons with disabilities should receive tax benefits.** The majority of the respondents agrees with this initiative (63.8%) (34.1% completely agrees while a significantly smaller number (5.5%) is categorically resistant completely disagrees. See Chart 53.

CHART #53

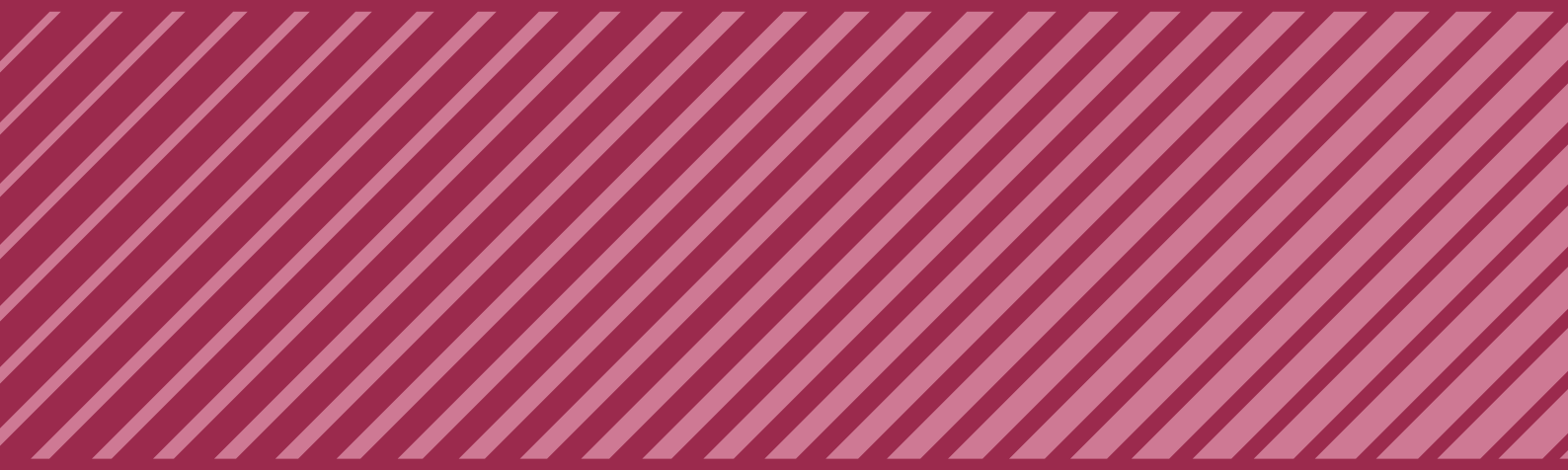
private organizations employing persons with disabilities should receive tax benefits (N=5000)



A correlative analysis shows that the respondents who have direct contact with persons with disabilities are more likely to support setting tax benefits for private organizations (this relation is statistically reliable $x2(6)=41.755$, $p<0.05$) (see Table 23).

TABLE #23

If private organizations employ persons with disabilities, they should receive tax benefits/concessions?	Do you have a family member/relative/friend/ colleague/neighbor person with a disability?	
	No	Yes
I completely agree	32.8%	35.4%
I agree more than I do not agree	29.4%	30.0%
I agree and I do not agree	13.1%	12.3%
I disagree more than I agree	5.7%	6.5%
I completely disagree	4.6%	6.4%
Refuse to answer	1.3%	0.5%
Difficult to answer	13.1%	9.0%



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