

## Legislative Brief Dissemination and Survey Write Up

One of many of the Florida Disability and Health Program’s (DHP) goals is to educate key policymakers on health related disability policy needs and initiatives by disseminating key program and education information. In order to achieve this goal, the DHP created a policy brief about the needs of people with disability (PWD) which was sent to state legislators along with a self-assessment survey.

The policy brief, entitled “Health Status and Healthcare Access for People with Disabilities in Florida,” discussed demographics, access to health care, health status, and chronic illness for PWDs and gave recommendations on how to further improve their health-related disability needs. The 5-question survey was sent to over 200 House of Representatives legislators and legislative aides. A total of 16 responses were received, completed, and used for analysis.

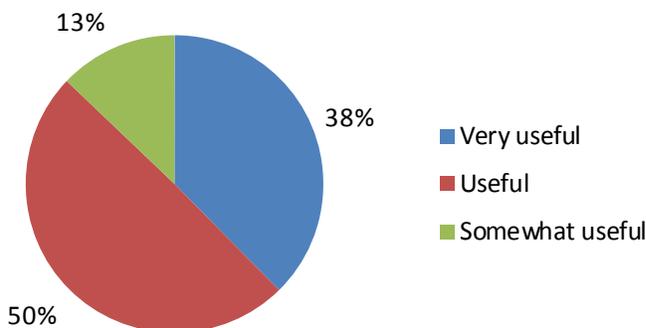
### Results

Legislators were asked whether their knowledge about the needs of PWDs increased after reading the brief. A 100% of respondents reported that they felt more knowledgeable on the topic. Similarly, 100% of respondents also reported that they believed they had greater awareness especially of health related disability needs of PWDs in Florida.

Representatives were also asked to assess whether the information about PWDs in the brief was useful. Results were positive, with a 100% of respondents reporting that the information presented was at least somewhat useful. According to survey results:

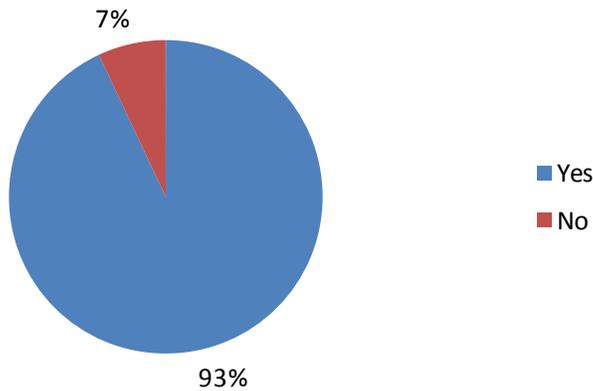
- 38% of respondents found the brief very useful
- 50% of respondents found the brief useful
- 13% of respondents found the brief somewhat useful
- No respondents found the brief useless or very useless

**Proportion of legislators who found the disability brief useful**



When asked whether they would use the information about people with disability in the brief for future policy decisions, 93% of respondents reported that yes, they would use the information in the future.<sup>1</sup> Only 7% of respondents reported that they would not use this information for future policy decisions.

### Proportion of legislators who indicated they would use information from the brief



Finally, when asked whether they now knew where to go to find more information and resources on people with disability, 100% of respondents reported that yes, they did now know where to go for such information.

At the conclusion of the dissemination effort, a two page communication tip sheet “Tips for Communicating with People with Disability” was disseminated among all state representatives and legislative aides.



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The brief “Health Status and Healthcare Access for People with Disabilities in Florida” can be found on the DHP website: <http://fodh.php.ufl.edu/publications/>

The communication tip sheet “Tips for Communicating with People with Disability” can also be found on the DHP website: <http://fodh.php.ufl.edu/training-resources/>

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<sup>1</sup> Only 15 of the 16 respondents completed this question.