

# 2017 Minnesota General Population Survey of Attitudes Towards People with Developmental Disabilities

**MN Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities**

Quantitative Research Study #2373

**Presentation**

April 5, 2017



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# R E S E A R C H O V E R V I E W

An original attitudinal survey regarding people with developmental disabilities was conducted by the state of Minnesota in 1962; the survey was repeated in 2007 and then again in 2012, 50 years after the original benchmark study. Some of the original questions were retained in each survey; new questions were added for the 2017 study to reflect 21<sup>st</sup> century issues and concerns.

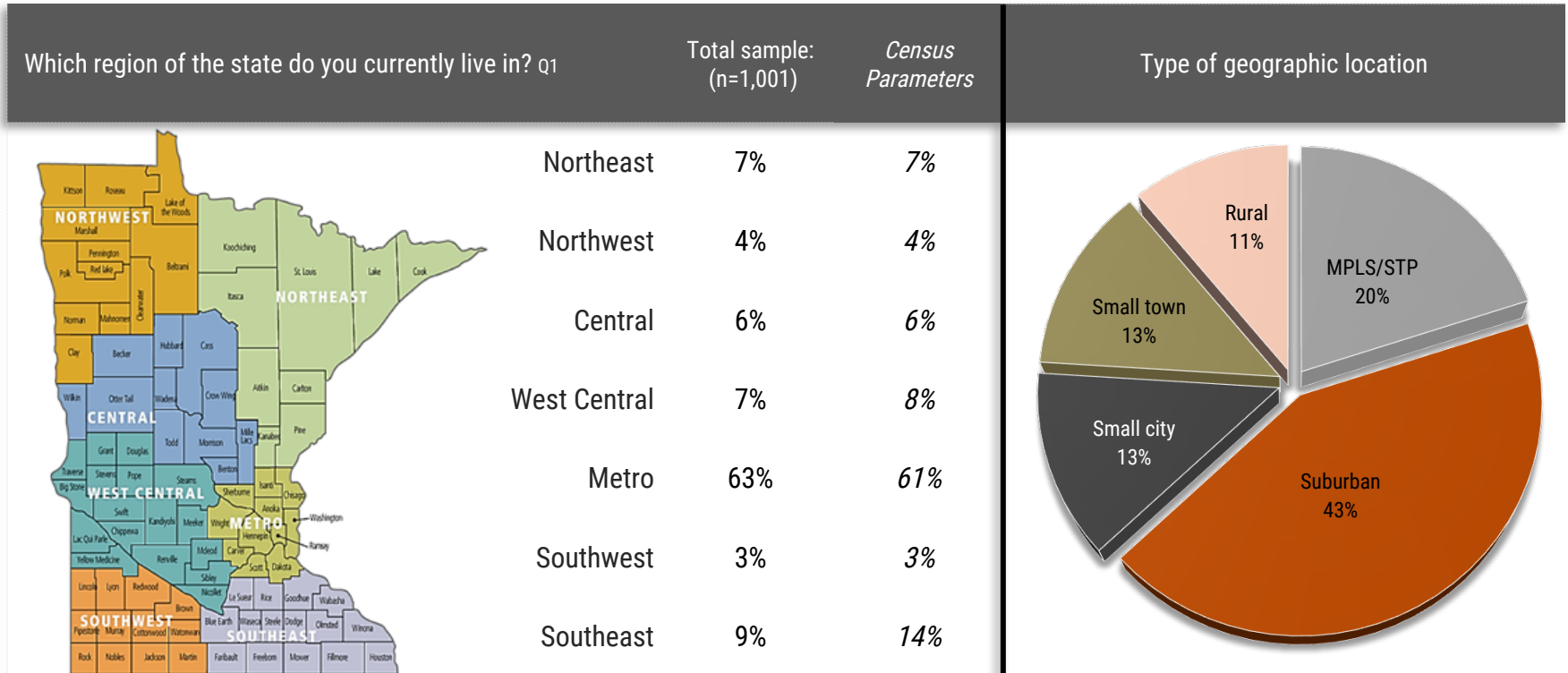
The Five Year State Plan for FFYs 2017-2021 is clear in stating that all goals must be aligned with the Olmstead Plan; delivery systems must work towards offering services in “the most integrated setting” – where individuals with disabilities live, work, are educated, receive health care services and participate in community life. In March of 2017, the survey was repeated, with the Olmstead Plan as the driving force. The survey included questions designed to capture the Minnesota general public’s perspectives regarding equality, equity, diversity and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities.

Prior to launching this survey, MarketResponse conducted 11 qualitative in-depth interviews among 6 industry experts who work in state government or advocacy groups, and 5 Partners in Policymaking<sup>®</sup> graduates. The purpose of these interviews was to uncover relevant issues of today in order to update the survey instrument, as well as gain qualitative insights which will be summarized in a separate report.



## RESPONDENT PROFILE: RESPONDENTS' LOCATION

The geographic dispersion of respondents of the survey closely matched that of the general population of Minnesota.

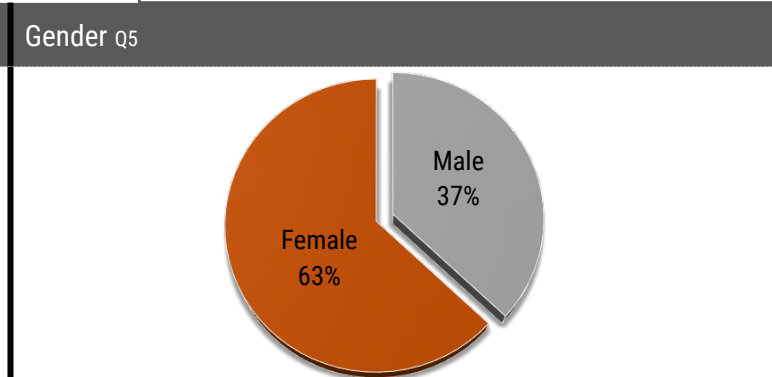
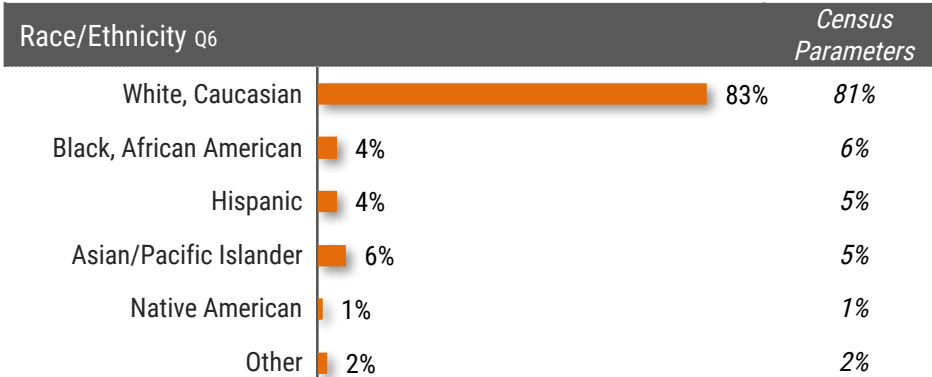
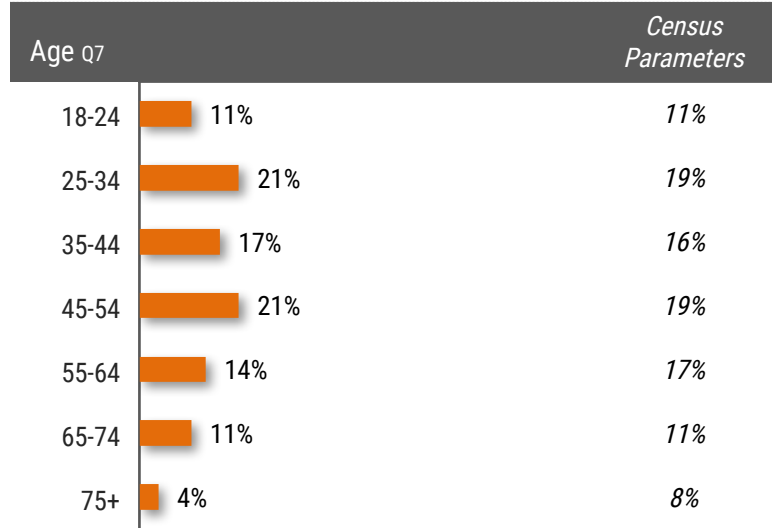




## RESPONDENT PROFILE: GENDER, RACE/ETHNICITY, AGE

**Although females are represented more than males, the survey sample closely matches the age and ethnic diversity of the Minnesota adult population.**

**Additional efforts are underway to administer this survey among larger sample sizes of racial/ethnic communities in Minnesota before the end of June 2017.**





## D E T A I L E D F I N D I N G S

- Awareness and Attitudes Towards People with Developmental Disabilities

## **2017 Survey Introduction to all respondents:**

As you may know, one current issue in Minnesota concerns services for people with developmental disabilities. This term refers to approximately 1 – 2 percent of the Minnesota population.

Developmental disabilities refer to individuals with a severe, chronic disability from birth; manifested before age 22; attributable to a mental or physical impairment or a combination of mental and physical impairments; need for services, supports or assistance of lifelong or extended duration.

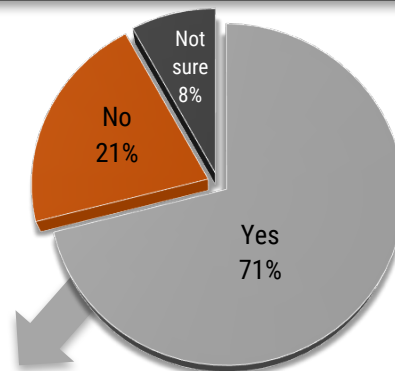




## FAMILIARITY WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

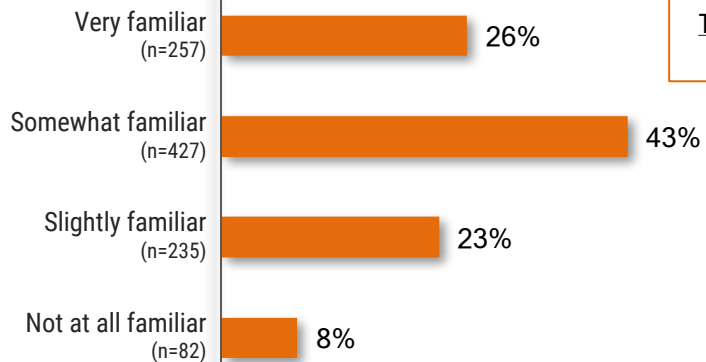
**While 7 out of 10 respondents (71%) said they knew someone who was thought to have a developmental disability, only 1 out of 4 (26%) believed that they were *very familiar* with developmental disabilities.**

Have you, yourself, ever known of a person who was thought to have developmental disabilities? Q9



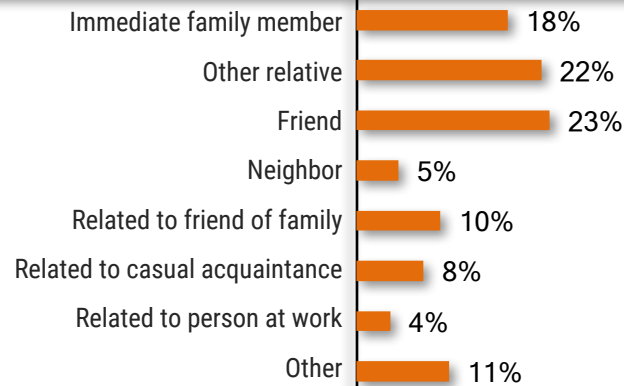
Total sample  
n=1,001

How familiar are you with developmental disabilities?  
Would you say you are....? Q8



Total sample  
n=1,001

How would you characterize your relationship with this person?



n=706

Respondents rated the extent to which they *agreed* or *disagreed* (using the scale shown below) with several statements related to people with developmental disabilities and selected quality of life issues, including:

- Integration & Inclusion
- Productivity
- Self Determination
- Independence
- Help/Assistance

Disagree Strongly	Disagree Somewhat	Neither	Agree Somewhat	Agree Strongly
1	2	3	4	5

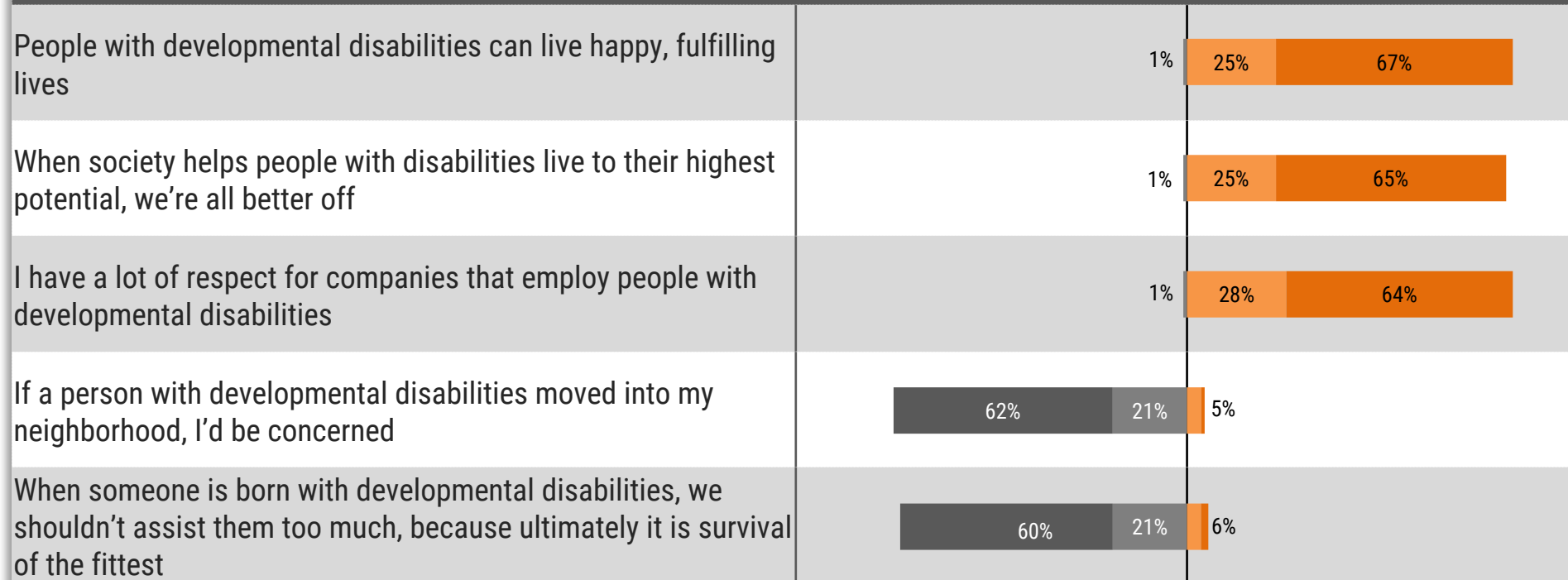


## ATTITUDES: MINNESOTANS AGREE ON

Disagree Strongly	Disagree Somewhat	Neither	Agree Somewhat	Agree Strongly
1	2	3	4	5

More than 6 out of 10 Minnesotans, expressed strong favorable opinions on the 5 attitudes shown below regarding people with developmental disabilities.

### Statements



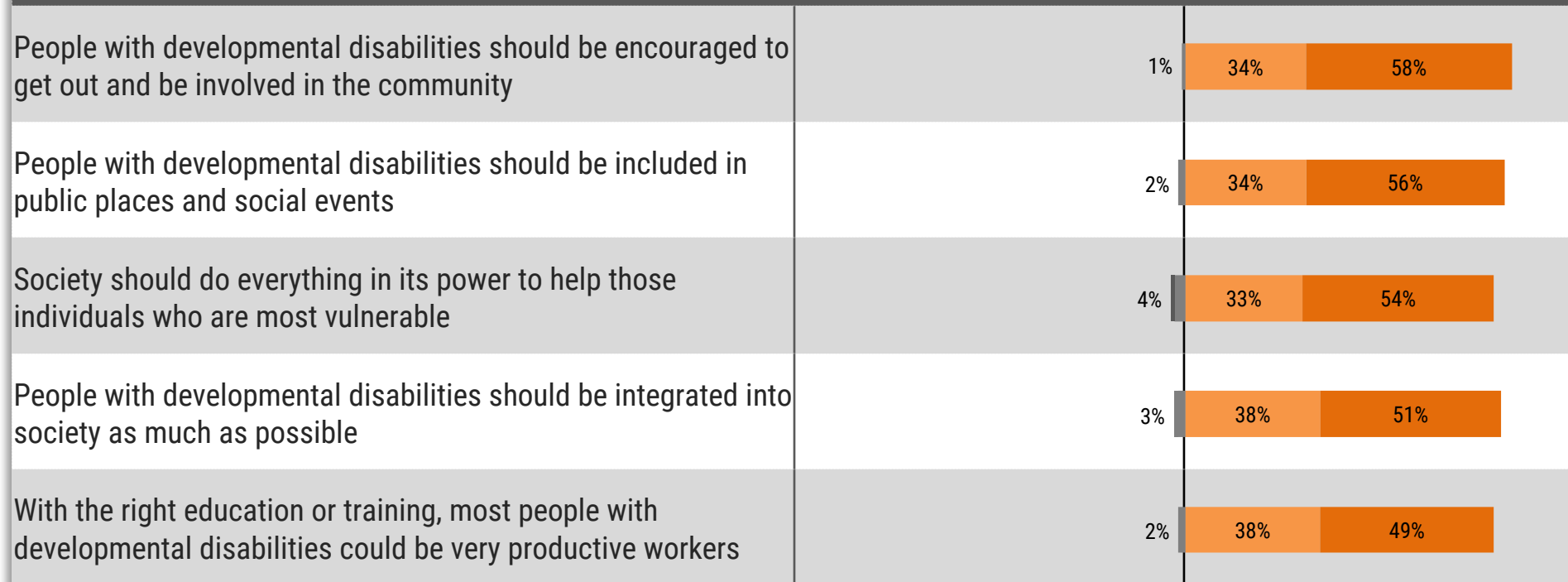


## ATTITUDES: MINNESOTANS AGREE ON

Disagree Strongly	Disagree Somewhat	Neither	Agree Somewhat	Agree Strongly
1	2	3	4	5

**Approximately 9 out of 10 Minnesotans agreed with the following 5 statements regarding integration, inclusion and productivity about people with developmental disabilities.**

### Statements





## ATTITUDES: MINNESOTANS' DIFFERING OPINIONS

Disagree Strongly	Disagree Somewhat	Neither	Agree Somewhat	Agree Strongly
1	2	3	4	5

While there is general disagreement with these negative IPSII statements, there are some who agree, and others who neither agree nor disagree, which suggests that their opinions could be more easily influenced, one way or the other.

### Statements

Neither

It's OK to exclude people with developmental disabilities from many public situations. They cannot be expected to fit in

50% 26% 6% 2%

14%

If someone has a child with developmental disabilities that's their problem. There's really no reason why the rest of us should have to pay any of the extra costs

41% 30% 9% 3%

17%

Most people with developmental disabilities should not have the opportunity of making major life decisions: where they live, where they work, with whom they associate, etc.

31% 37% 8% 1%

23%

People with developmental disabilities should not be allowed to live on their own. They need to be closely supervised

21% 40% 12% 3%

23%



## ATTITUDES: MINNESOTANS' DIFFERING OPINIONS

Disagree Strongly	Disagree Somewhat	Neither	Agree Somewhat	Agree Strongly
1	2	3	4	5

There is a fair amount of attitudinal tension revealed with these statements, as there are relatively low percents of those who *agree strongly* with any statement, and relatively high percents of those who neither agree nor disagree.

### Statements

Neither

Parents of children with developmental disabilities cannot be expected to provide all necessary services themselves

3% 8% 43% 26% 20%

People with developmental disabilities should be allowed to vote

3% 9% 34% 27% 26%

People with developmental disabilities should be able to drink alcohol

9% 13% 27% 11% 41%

Everyone would be better off if school-aged children with developmental disabilities were taught together in the same classrooms as other children, as much as possible

6% 18% 33% 15% 27%

People with developmental disabilities should be allowed to have children, just like everyone else

4% 12% 31% 19% 34%



## ATTITUDES: MINNESOTANS' DIFFERING OPINIONS

Disagree Strongly	Disagree Somewhat	Neither	Agree Somewhat	Agree Strongly
1	2	3	4	5

There is a lack of strong disagreement with these negative statements regarding the ADA and societal support for people with developmental disabilities.

### Statements

Neither

Many of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are excessive and too costly for a lot of businesses to comply with

21% 24% 19% 5%

31%

Society shouldn't give preferential treatment to people with developmental disabilities when there are so many other people who are still unemployed

22% 25% 13% 4%

36%

Too much taxpayer money is being spent on people with developmental disabilities

36% 26% 8% 2%

28%



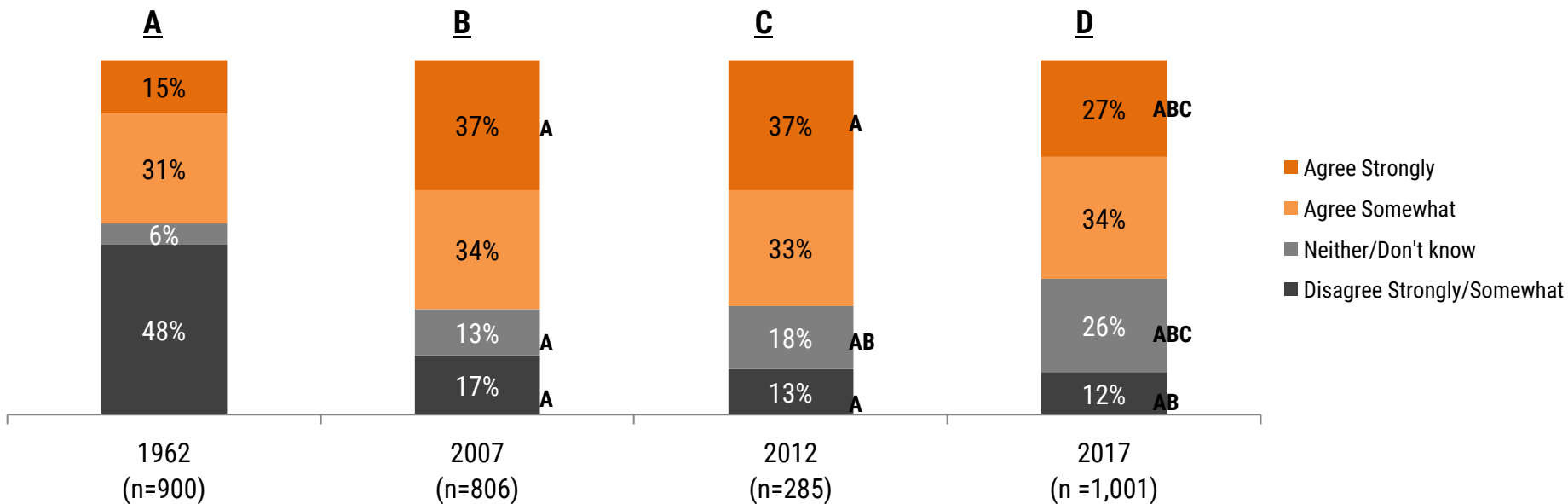
## D E T A I L E D F I N D I N G S

- Awareness and Attitudes Towards People with Developmental Disabilities
- Trends: Changes in Attitudes Over Time



While a majority of Minnesotans (61%) believe that people with developmental disabilities should be allowed to vote, the 2017 survey shows a statistically significant decrease in the percent of Minnesotans who *agree strongly* with that opinion.

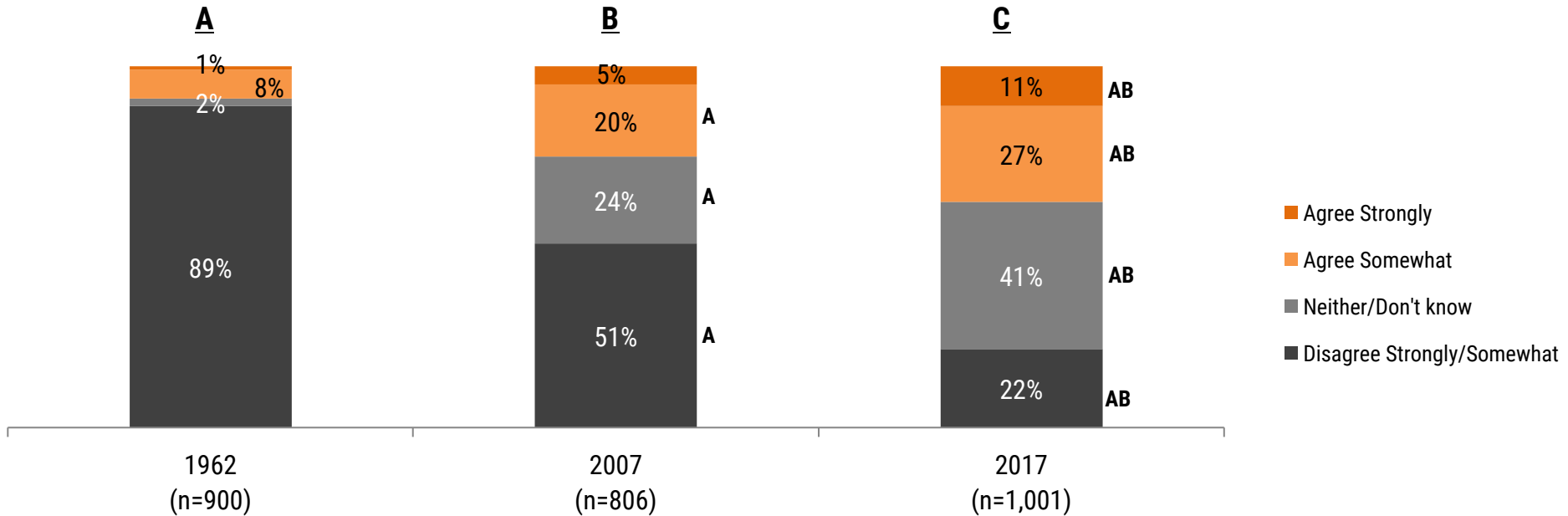
*People with developmental disabilities should be allowed to vote:*



ABC Indicates statistically significant differences between populations at the 95% confidence level.

Over the last 10 years attitudes have softened regarding people with developmental disabilities being allowed to drink alcohol.

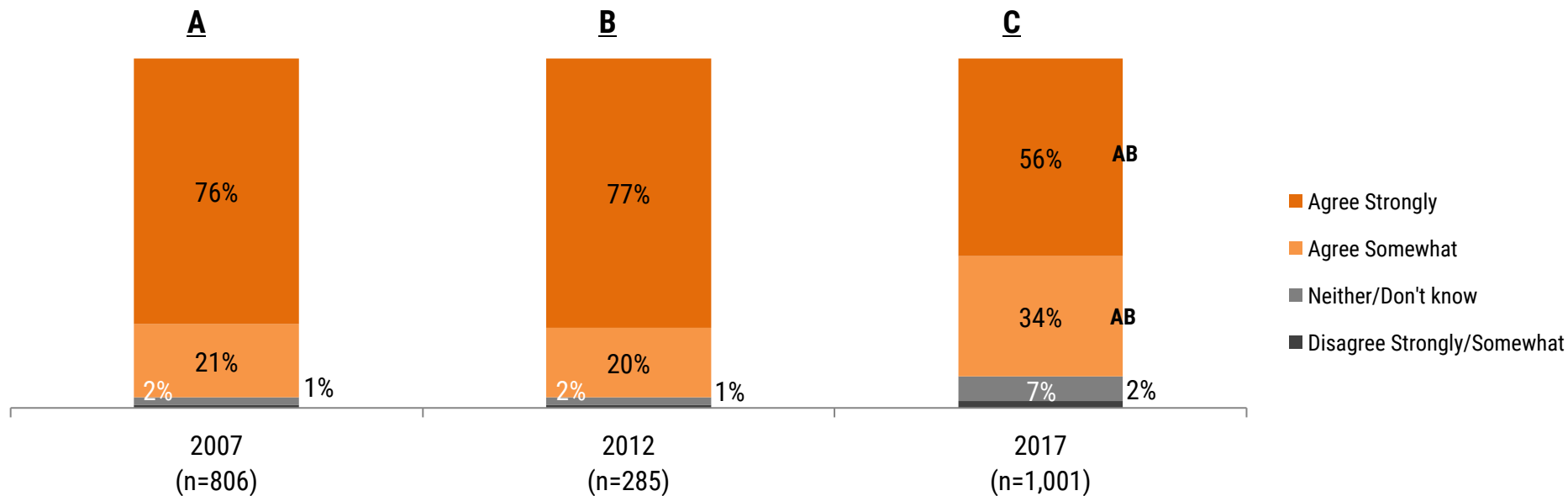
*People with developmental disabilities should be allowed to drink alcohol*



ABC Indicates statistically significant differences between populations at the 95% confidence level.

Although there is still general agreement among Minnesotans that people with developmental disabilities should be *included* as much as possible, there appears to be less certainty in that belief in 2017, compared to 2012 and 2007.

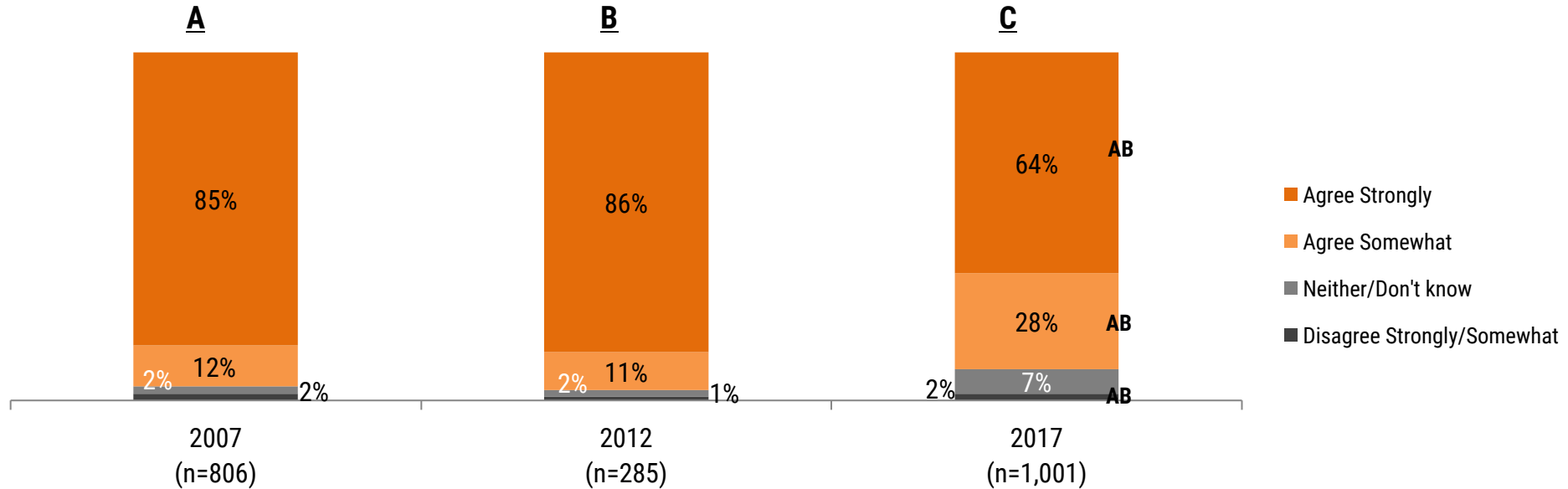
*People with developmental disabilities should be included in public places and social events*



ABC Indicates statistically significant differences between populations at the 95% confidence level.

Although 92% of Minnesotans have a lot of respect for companies that employ people with developmental disabilities, the level of strong agreement with this statement has decreased between 2012 and 2017.

*I have a lot of respect for companies that employ people with developmental disabilities*



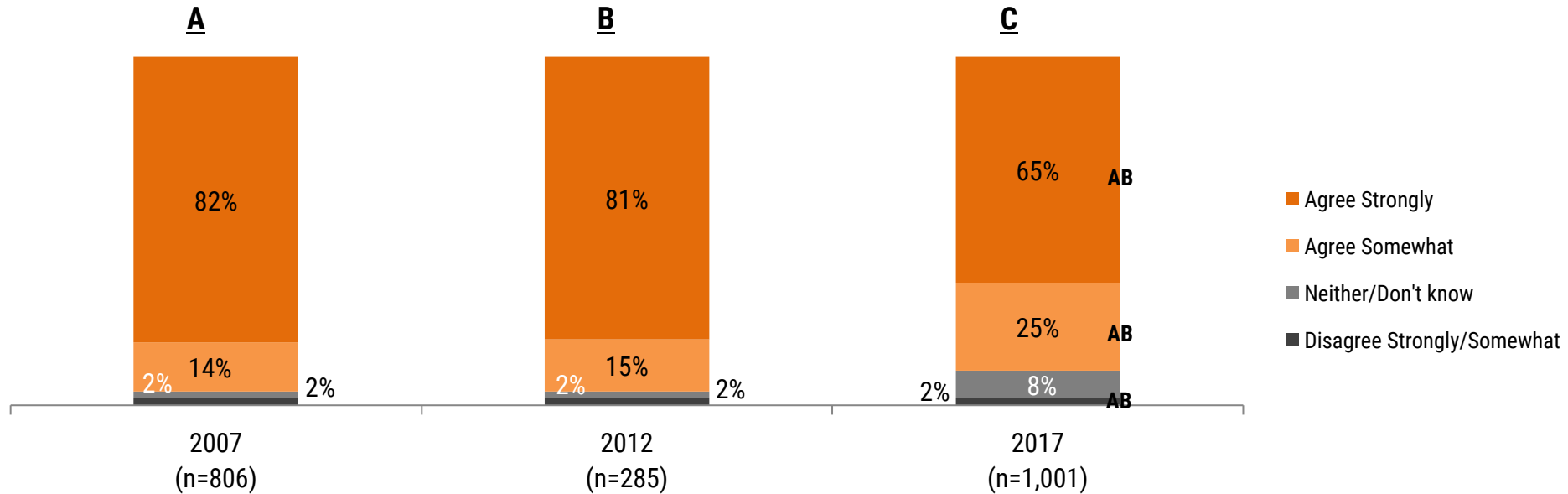
ABC Indicates statistically significant differences between populations at the 95% confidence level.



## TRENDS: SUPPORT TO HIGHEST POTENTIAL

Although 90% of Minnesotans agree with this statement, that percent is lower than it was in previous years (96%), as is the strength of conviction in this belief.

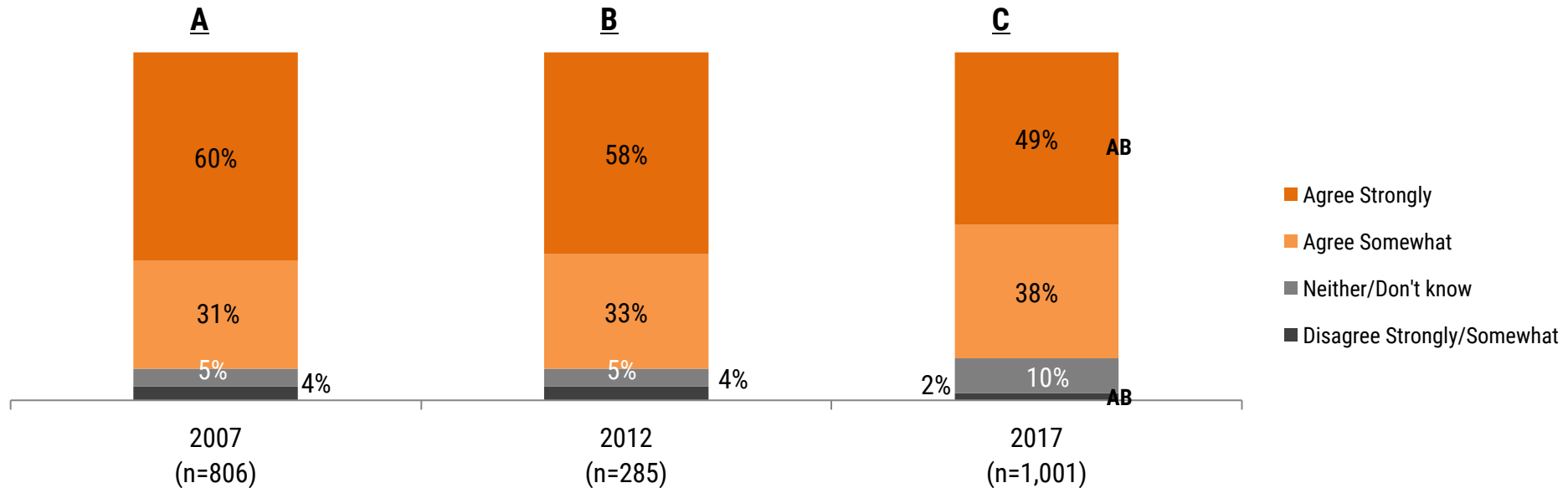
*When society helps people with disabilities live to their highest potential, we're all better off*



ABC Indicates statistically significant differences between populations at the 95% confidence level.

Though general agreement with this statement remains high, the percent who *agree strongly* has decreased somewhat in 2017, as compared to 2012 and 2007

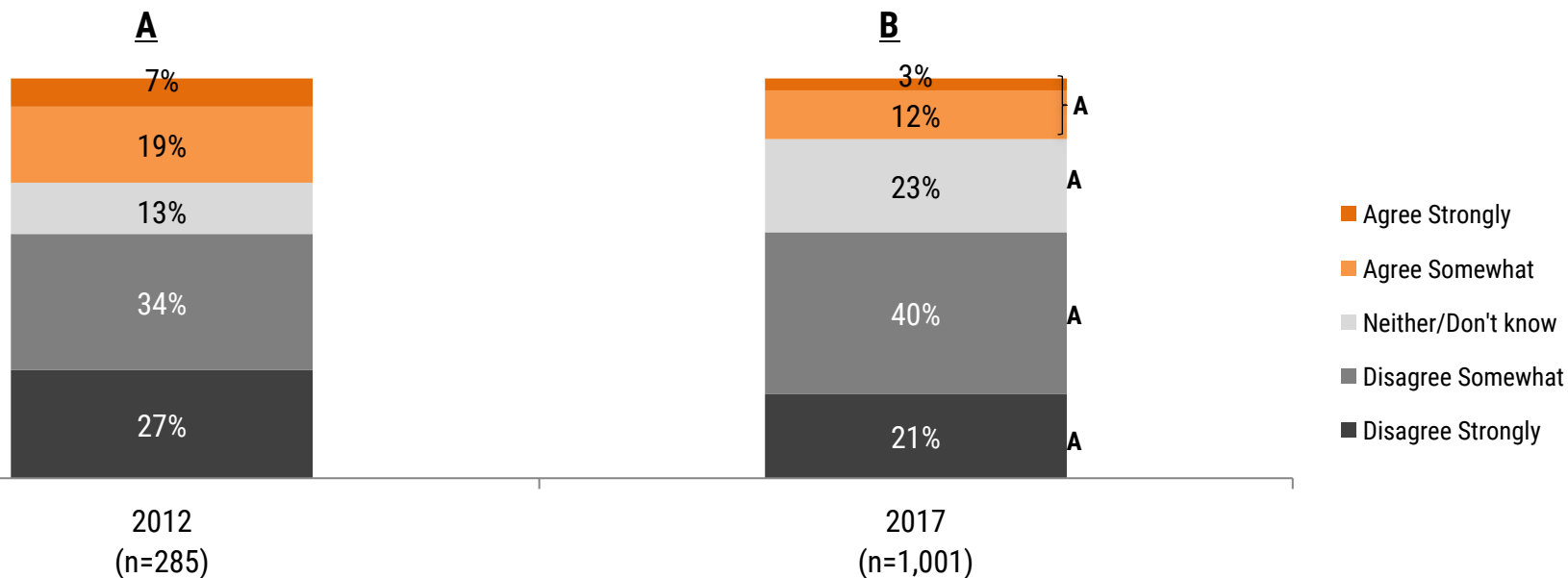
*With the right education or training, most people with developmental disabilities could be very productive workers*



ABC Indicates statistically significant differences between populations at the 95% confidence level.

In 2017 there was greater uncertainty and diversity of opinion among Minnesotans regarding the belief that people with developmental disabilities should not be allowed to live on their own.

*People with developmental disabilities should not be allowed to live on their own; they need to be closely supervised*



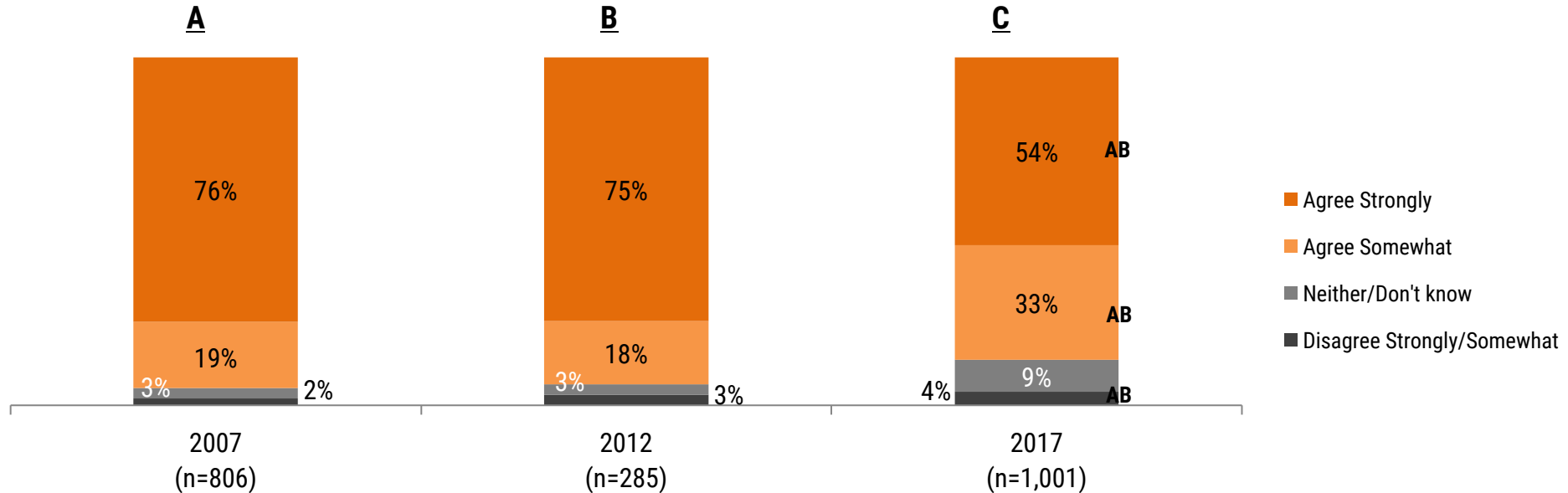
AB Indicates statistically significant differences between populations at the 95% confidence level.



## TRENDS: HELPING THOSE MOST VULNERABLE

In 2017 there was a significant decrease in the strength of conviction in the belief that society should do everything possible to help those who are most vulnerable

*Society should do everything in its power to help those individuals who are most vulnerable*



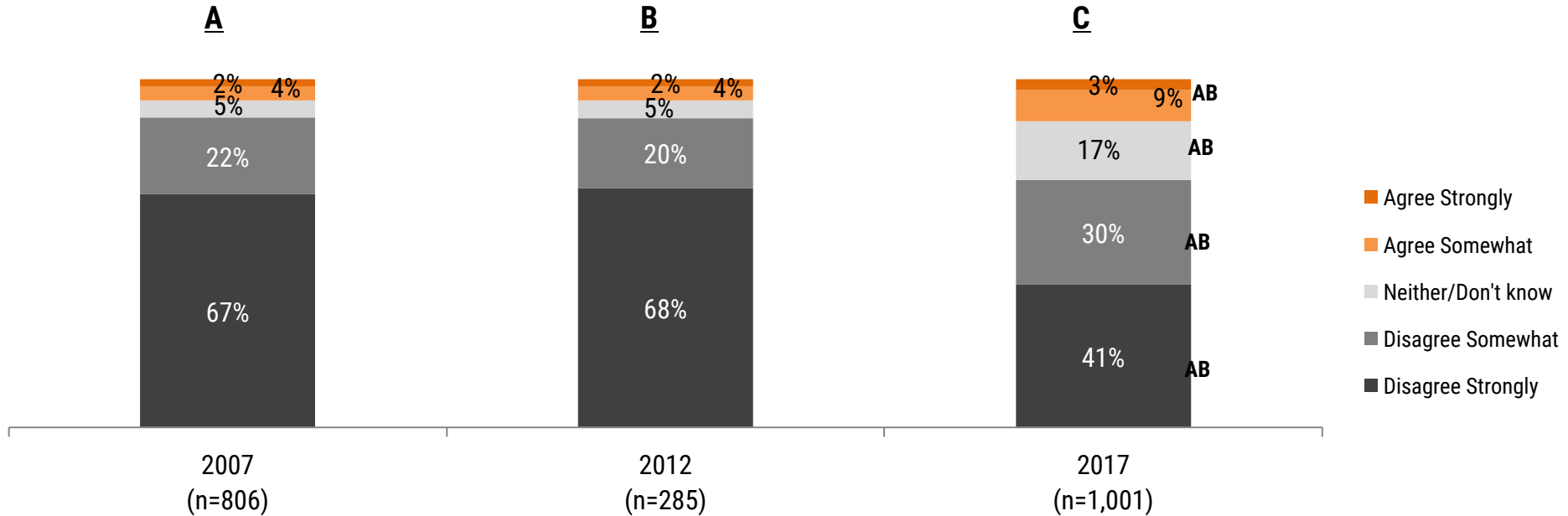
ABC Indicates statistically significant differences between populations at the 95% confidence level.



## MR TRENDS: SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

While the majority of Minnesotans continue to disagree with this statement, in 2017 there were fewer who *disagreed strongly*, and an alarming growth in the number who *agree* and the number who have *no opinion* either way.

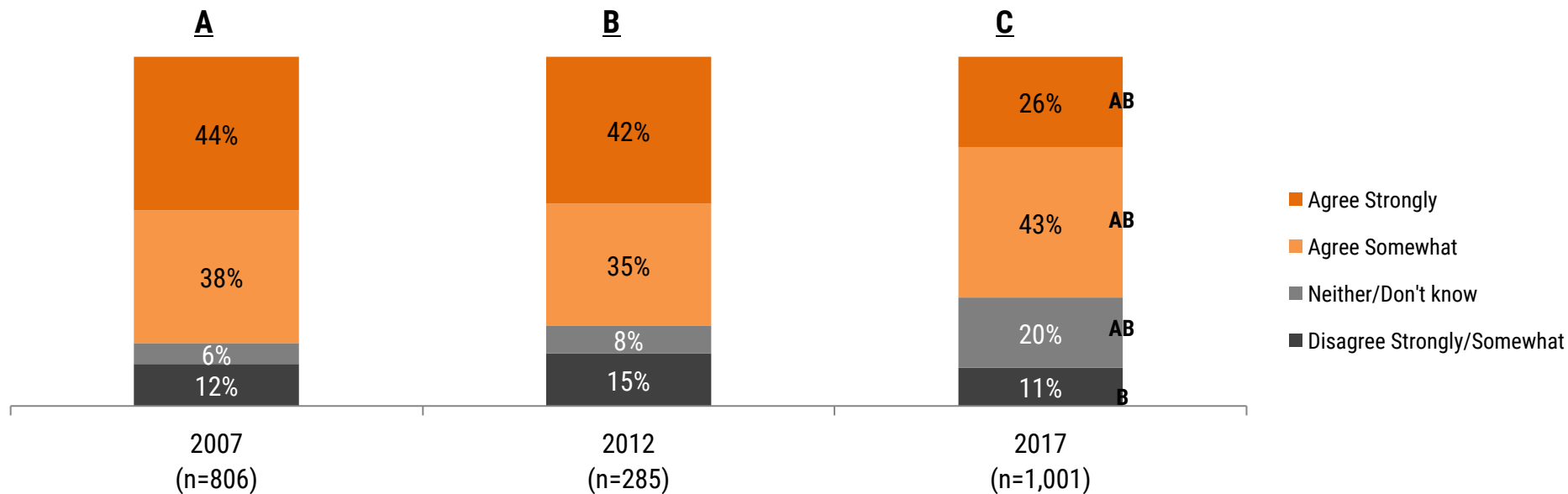
*If someone has a child with developmental disabilities that's their problem. There's really no reason why the rest of us should have to pay any of the extra costs of raising that child*



ABC Indicates statistically significant differences between populations at the 95% confidence level.

There was a significant decrease in 2017 in the number of Minnesotans who *agreed strongly* with this statement, and an increase in the number of those who have *no opinion*.

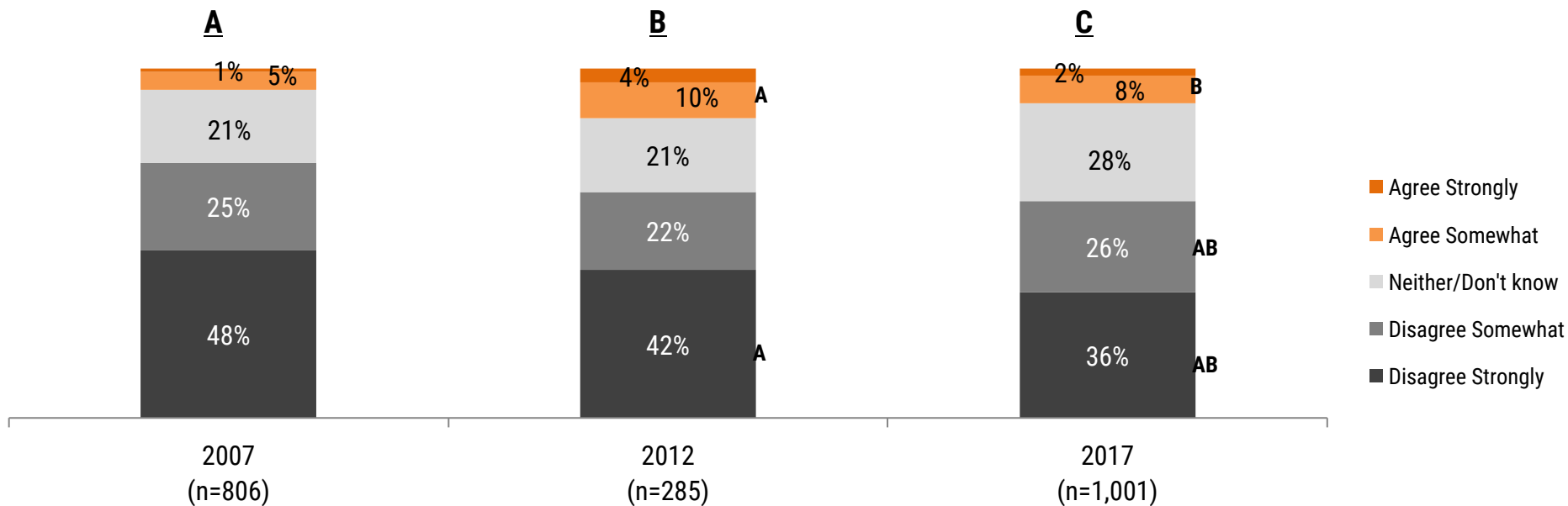
*Parents of children with developmental disabilities cannot be expected to provide all necessary services themselves*



ABC Indicates statistically significant differences between populations at the 95% confidence level.

There was a slight decrease in 2017 in the number of Minnesotans who *agreed* with this statement (from 14% in 2012 to 10% in 2017). There was also a slight decrease over the years in the number who *disagreed strongly* (from 48% in 2007, to 42% in 2012, to 36% in 2017).

*Too much taxpayer money is being spent on people with developmental disabilities*





## D E T A I L E D F I N D I N G S

- Awareness and Attitudes Towards People with Developmental Disabilities
- Trends: Changes in Attitudes Over Time
- Importance of Government Services

Respondents rated the importance of spending taxpayer's money (using the scale below) on government services for people with developmental disabilities, related to the following subject areas:

- Housing/Living
- Education
- Employment
- and other Services/Programs

Not at all important		Somewhat important		Very important
1	2	3	4	5



## IMPORTANCE OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES: TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING, CARE

Not at all important		Somewhat important		Very important
1	2	3	4	5

To varying degrees, the majority of Minnesotans believe it's more than *somewhat important* for government to use tax payers' money to provide these various services related to transportation, housing and personal care. Those who are more familiar with developmental disabilities are more likely to attach higher levels of importance for all of these services and supports.

Services	Top 2-Box Importance Ratings			Familiarity w/ Developmental Disabilities		
	Total Sample (n=1,001)		Top 2-Box	A Very (n=257)	B Somewhat (n=427)	C Slightly/Not (n=317)
Transportation services, to enable people w/ developmental disabilities, who are unable to drive, get to work, doctors appointments, grocery stores & other places they need or want to go	29%	45%	74%	89% BC	72% A	66% A
Housing assistance, foster care, or group homes for people with developmental disabilities	32%	36%	68%	83% BC	67% AC	58% AB
Foster care homes for <u>children</u> with developmental disabilities	31%	35%	66%	80% BC	64% AC	56% AB
Provision of personal assistants, who assist people with developmental disabilities, to enable them to live more independently, or as they choose	31%	34%	65%	81% BC	63% AC	55% AB
Subsidies to families to pay for extra costs of caring for children with developmental disabilities	28%	25%	52%	71% BC	49% AC	42% AB
Subsidies to enable adults with developmental disabilities to rent or purchase their own homes	29%	22%	51%	68% BC	49% AC	41% AB

ABC Indicates statistically significant differences between populations at the 95% confidence level.



## IMPORTANCE OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES: EDUCATION

Not at all important		Somewhat important		Very important
1	2	3	4	5

**Most Minnesotans believe in the importance of education services for children and young adults with developmental disabilities. Again, greater familiarity with developmental disabilities is correlated with higher importance ratings.**

Services	Top 2-Box Importance Ratings			Familiarity w/ Developmental Disabilities		
	Total Sample (n=1,001)		Top 2-Box TOTAL	A Very (n=257)	B Somewhat (n=427)	C Slightly/Not (n=317)
Early childhood special education services (Pre-Kindergarten, birth to age 5) to help children with developmental disabilities prepare for school	24%	54%	79%	88% BC	81% AC	68% AB
Special education services for students with developmental disabilities	26%	53%	79%	91% BC	81% AC	67% AB
Services to help students with developmental disabilities transition from high school, to college or gainful employment	31%	46%	76%	86% BC	77% AC	67% AB
Individual teaching assistants who enable children with developmental disabilities to attend regular public school classes	28%	40%	69%	79% BC	71% AC	58% AB
Better access to post-secondary education opportunities (college, trade schools)	29%	37%	67%	81% BC	68% AC	54% AB

ABC Indicates statistically significant differences between populations at the 95% confidence level.



## IMPORTANCE OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES: EMPLOYMENT

Not at all important		Somewhat important		Very important
1	2	3	4	5

**Most Minnesotans believe in the importance of employment services and supports for people with developmental disabilities; and again, as with other services/supports, greater familiarity is correlated with higher importance ratings.**

Services	Top 2-Box Importance Ratings		Top 2-Box TOTAL	Familiarity w/ Developmental Disabilities		
	Total Sample (n=1,001)			A Very (n=257)	B Somewhat (n=427)	C Slightly/Not (n=317)
Employment services so that people with developmental disabilities can learn job skills	30%	47%	77%	87% BC	81% AC	65% AB
Employment services that help people with developmental disabilities get placed in jobs that reflect their interests & skills	31%	43%	74%	86% BC	76% AC	62% AB
Training services for employers to learn how to provide a welcoming work environment for people with developmental disabilities	32%	40%	73%	84% BC	75% AC	60% AB
Internships, apprenticeships or other employment opportunities designed specifically for people with developmental disabilities	31%	38%	68%	81% BC	69% AC	57% AB
On the job assistance, so people with developmental disabilities can work in regular businesses	32%	37%	69%	84% BC	71% AC	56% AB
Vocational counseling to individuals with developmental disabilities who earn less than minimum wage, to help them get a better paying job	31%	37%	69%	80% BC	70% AC	57% AB

ABC Indicates statistically significant differences between populations at the 95% confidence level.





## IMPORTANCE OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES: OTHER

Not at all important		Somewhat important		Very important
1	2	3	4	5

**Minnesotans generally believe that the most important services that government and taxpayers can provide to people with developmental disabilities are: access to quality healthcare and protection to prevent abuse.**

Services	Top 2-Box Importance Ratings			Familiarity w/ Developmental Disabilities		
	Total Sample (n=1,001)		Top 2-Box TOTAL	A Very (n=257)	B Somewhat (n=427)	C Slightly/Not (n=317)
Access to quality, coordinated healthcare services	27%	54%	81%	91% BC	81% AC	72% AB
Protection services to prevent abuse of people with developmental disabilities	23%	56%	79%	91% BC	81% AC	67% AB
Training and counseling services for parents of people with developmental disabilities	32%	42%	74%	87% BC	73% A	66% A
Research to learn about the causes of autism and other developmental disabilities	28%	45%	74%	82% BC	74% AC	67% AB
Training for people with developmental disabilities, and/or their advocates, on how to exercise rights & speak up for themselves	29%	43%	72%	86% BC	73% AC	60% AB
Legal advice and representation for people with developmental disabilities	28%	38%	66%	80% BC	66% AC	54% AB
Programs that connect a parent with a child with developmental disabilities with another parent of a child with developmental disabilities for counseling and support	29%	36%	64%	75% BC	64% AC	55% AB

ABC Indicates statistically significant differences between populations at the 95% confidence level.

## OVERALL IMPORTANCE OF THE STATE IN PROVIDING SERVICES TO PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

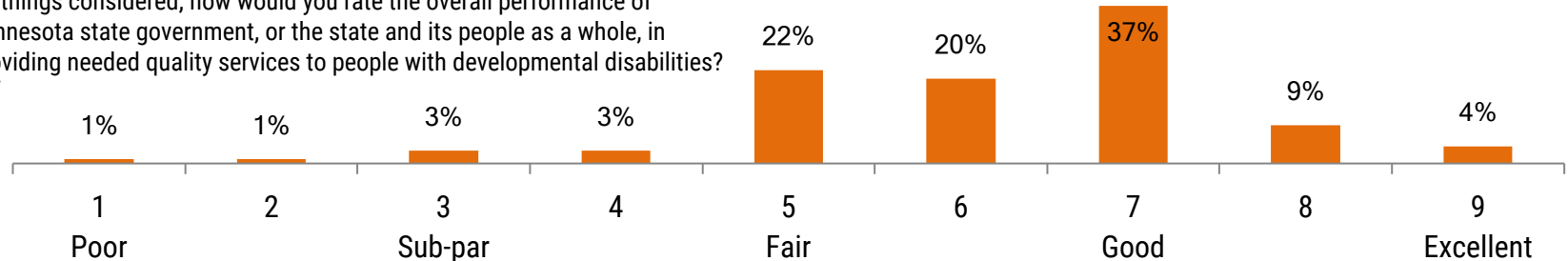
**Most Minnesotans (79%) believe that the state performs *fair to good* in providing needed quality of services to people with developmental disabilities. Thirteen percent rate the state's performance as better than *good*.**

**From conversations with Partners in Policymaking graduates and experts who work with and advocate for people with developmental disabilities, it appears that those who receive government services and their advocates would give a lower performance rating than the majority of Minnesotans overall.**

*I give it a three because we are failing in so many ways. We are failing at getting the early intervention services. We are failing at getting enough people with disabilities employed. We are failing at getting them housing that they like. We're failing at getting them jobs that they like and will be successful at. There's such a tricky thing too where people with disabilities, if they make too much money, they lose the services they need. Why would we take that away from people? Why wouldn't we want them to be successful and more productive in society where if they do too well then they lose the services that are helping them survive in the first place? - Partners in Policymaking Graduate*

*Government needs to do better at providing services. The overall benefit is young people with disabilities ending up with careers and pathways that contribute to a quality of life for themselves as well as being contributing members of society in a variety of different ways and feeling like they belong and are included and welcomed. - Industry expert*

All things considered, how would you rate the overall performance of Minnesota state government, or the state and its people as a whole, in providing needed quality services to people with developmental disabilities?  
Q17






## The respondents were shown the following statement regarding housing supports for people with developmental disabilities:

The State of Minnesota currently places over 14,000 people with developmental disabilities in 4 person corporate foster care facilities. The cost is over \$1 billion per year. Other states provide housing supports directly to people with disabilities so they can live in their own homes and choose their own providers.

Some people believe the State of Minnesota should begin to shift from the 4-person corporate foster care model, to the more independent living approach, citing research showing that people with disabilities thrive better in homes of their own with only one or two roommates (usually 3 or fewer people).

Others believe the State of Minnesota should stay with corporate foster care, saying they can provide a safer, more secure environment; and changing to the more independent living approach would be too disruptive to the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

What is your opinion on this issue? Q18	Total Sample (n=1,001)	Familiarity w/ Developmental Disabilities		
		Very (n=257)	Somewhat (n=427)	Slightly/Not (n=317)
Minnesota should provide housing supports directly to people with developmental disabilities, giving them more involvement in decisions regarding where they live, who they live with and who their care providers are.	 51%	<b>70%</b> BC	<b>52%</b> AC	<b>34%</b> AB
Minnesota should stay with the corporate foster care facilities, because they provide more stable and secure living environments for people with developmental disabilities.	 17%	<b>14%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>16%</b>
I don't know, I don't have an opinion either way	 33%	<b>16%</b> BC	<b>30%</b> AC	<b>50%</b> AB

ABC Indicates statistically significant differences between populations at the 95% confidence level.



## REASONS FOR DIRECT HOUSING SUPPORTS OR CORPORATE FOSTER CARE FACILITIES

The most often mentioned reasons for preferring direct housing supports over the current corporate foster care approach, were all related to self determination, independence, productivity and overall quality of life for people with developmental disabilities.

Why do you think Minnesota should provide housing supports directly to people with developmental disabilities?	Total Sample (n=507)
They should have the right, freedom to choose	33%
Best for individual/better quality of life	26%
They will be more independent, productive, opportunities	22%
Costs are too high for families to afford	6%
Many are high functioning	4%
Distrust the 4 person corporate foster care system/abuse	4%
Should have the same access to housing supports as others who receive housing supports	4%

Why do you think Minnesota should stay with the corporate foster care facilities?	Total Sample (n=166)
Too vulnerable, don't have the capacity to live on their own/safety/need supervision	23%
More social, communal environment, better living	22%
Don't fix what is not currently broken	18%
Less expensive	12%
They can still be independent and learn skills in group home setting	8%
There are more important programs for government to spend money on	4%
Cruel to disrupt their current situation	4%
If living on own, greater chance of sexual, verbal, financial, emotional abuse	4%
Too much government involvement is not good	4%

## MR REPORTED ABUSE INCIDENTS

The respondents were shown the following statement regarding investigations of abuse of people with developmental disabilities:

There are many forms of abuse: physical, verbal, sexual, financial etc.; and unfortunately, abuse can happen to anyone, anywhere, and at any age. In the past year there were 52,000 reports of abuse across all vulnerable populations in Minnesota. Of the 52,000 reports, only 1,046 reports were referred for investigation. And of those 1,046 reports, there were 789 investigations completed.

Thinking again in terms of spending taxpayer's money, how important do you believe it is for government to investigate all reports of abuse of people with developmental disabilities? Q20

Total Sample (n=1,001)		Familiarity w/ Developmental Disabilities		
		A Very (n=257)	B Somewhat (n=427)	C Slightly/Not (n=317)
Very important 5	54%	69% BC	54% AC	43% AB
4	25%	21% B	28% A	26%
Somewhat important 3	18%	9% BC	17% AC	27% AB
2	2%	2%	1%	4%
Not at all important 1				

ABC Indicates statistically significant differences between populations at the 95% confidence level.

# MR PROPOSED ENHANCEMENT OF HOME HEALTHCARE PROGRAM

## The respondents were shown the following statement regarding compensation of home health workers who care for people with developmental disabilities:

The State of Minnesota currently provides a home health program for people with disabilities, which in 2015 served 40,600 Minnesotans in their homes at an annual cost of \$832 million. Currently the personal care assistants who provide care under the program are all paid the same rate (\$10 to \$12 an hour), regardless of the level of care needed. As a result, it is believed that caregivers are switching to clients who require less-demanding care.

It has been proposed that home-care aides should get a 20 percent wage increase, amounting to \$2 to \$4 an hour, if they care for people with the more complex health needs, who are currently being underserved. About 3,000 people statewide would qualify for the new, enhanced level of care, according to state estimates.

What is your opinion on this issue? Q20b	Total Sample (n=1,001)	Familiarity w/ Developmental Disabilities		
		A Very (n=257)	B Somewhat (n=427)	C Slightly/Not (n=317)
I <u>strongly believe</u> the home healthcare program should be enhanced as proposed	36%	53% BC	35% AC	24% AB
I would <u>tend to support</u> the enhancement of the home healthcare program, if it's truly needed by those with the most severe disabilities	48%	38% BC	52% A	50% A
I would <u>tend to reject the idea</u> that more taxpayers' money needs to be spent on providing in-home care services for people with disabilities	7%	5%	7%	8%
I don't know, I don't have an opinion either way	9%	4%	6%	19%

ABC Indicates statistically significant differences between populations at the 95% confidence level.



## S U M M A R Y   C O N C L U S I O N S

## Attitudes towards people with developmental disabilities are generally positive

Although there may have been some erosion in the strength of conviction in some of these beliefs, Minnesotans generally hold positive attitudes regarding all aspects of independence, productivity, self determination, integration and inclusion for people with developmental disabilities.

However, on the following issues there was less certainty and agreement:

- Should students with developmental disabilities be taught in the same classroom as other students?
- Should most people with developmental disabilities be able to make major life decisions?
- Should people with developmental disabilities be allowed to . . .
  - Live on their own
  - Have children
  - Drink alcohol
  - Vote
- Are ADA requirements too excessive and costly for many businesses?
- Is too much tax payer money being spent on people with developmental disabilities?



# Thank you

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