



Do Participants Have Disabilities?

How can I use an evaluation to find out if there are program participants who, because of some disability, are not receiving all the benefits of an extension program?

The Americans with Disabilities Act requires educators to be cognizant of accommodating program participants with disabilities. You may wish to consider doing this at the beginning of a program series or when working with a new target audience. Here are a few tips:

- Whether you as an instructor use a telephone survey, focus group, personal interview, or some form of written feedback, inquire directly about accommodating a disability. You can adapt either of the following questions to the former data collection techniques.

1. If you are a person with a disability, are there any program logistics that interfered with your ability to learn? (circle number)

- 1 NO
- 2 YES
- 3 NOT A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY
(please explain)

(how could we assist you?)

2. If you are a person with a disability, are there any technical parts to the program that interfered with your ability to get information? (circle number)

- 1 NO
- 2 YES
- 3 NOT A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY
(please explain)

(how could we assist you?)

- If you are conducting a telephone survey, your interviewers can save time by using a screen question first, such as:

3. Do you have a disability that could interfere with your ability to learn in a workshop setting? (circle number)

- 1 NO
- 2 YES (If yes) Insert here the core section of either question above.

- If you are conducting a satellite conference, you will find it useful to ask everyone in an evaluation about interference in learning (see question below). To find out the perspective of those with disabilities, also include the opening part of question #3.

4. Were there any audio, visual, or other technical problems at your satellite site that you found a barrier to learning? (circle number)

- 1 NO
- 2 YES

If yes, (circle all that apply)

- 1 SCREEN SIZE
- 2 POOR SOUND DURING PRESENTATION
- 3 POOR SOUND DURING QUESTION PERIOD
- 4 POOR PICTURE QUALITY DURING PRESENTATION
- 5 TELEPHONE (explain)
- 6 OTHER (specify)

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