



Where Are Leaders Learning About Leadership?

Best practices in the leadership and disability fields are constantly changing, so it's important that leaders of disability organizations stay up to date on the research and practical strategies needed to promote wellbeing for the people with IDD they support. We asked past participants of the Leadership Institute in our 2025 Annual Survey where they get their information about the leadership and disability fields and how informed they feel they are in both fields. On average, the 141 participants of the survey were more confident in being informed about the disability field (3.7 out of 5) than in the leadership field (3.4 out of 5), both rating between "I feel somewhat informed about developments in this field" and "I feel very informed about developments in this field." While participants did not often rate themselves a 5 out of 5, meaning "I am as informed as I can ever be about developments in this field," this is possibly because they know they can always learn more and that the fields are ever evolving.

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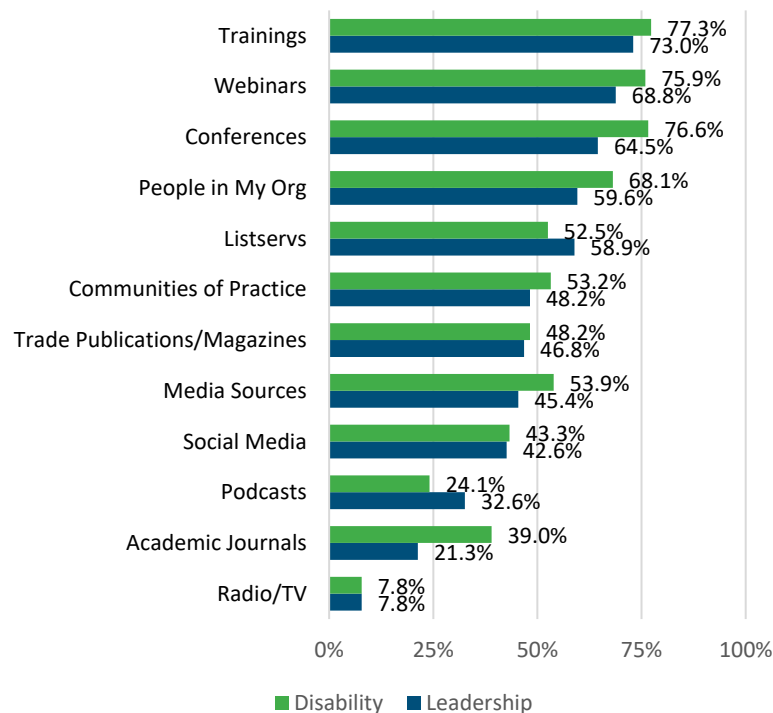
Questions? Comments? Contact Us!

For additional information about the National Leadership Consortium's programs and research, visit www.natleadership.org.

To learn more about upcoming Leadership Institutes or workshops, email Nicole Jones at njones@natleadership.org

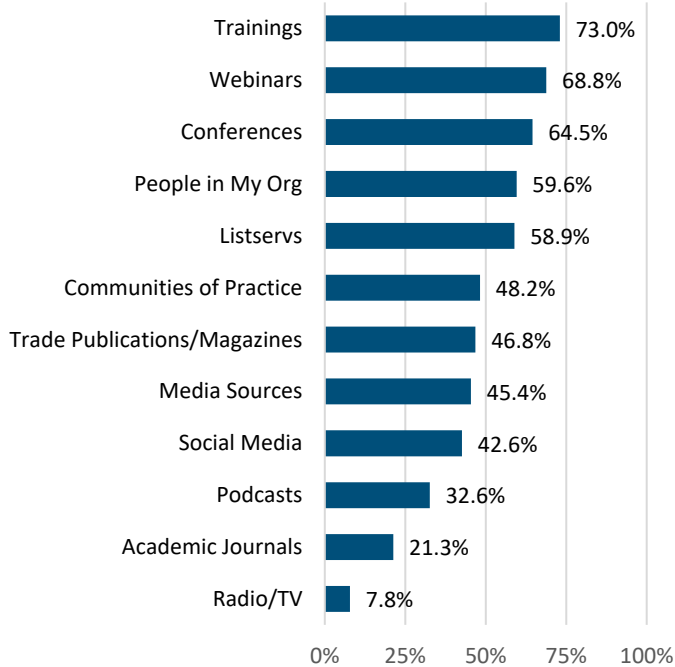
Contact Cory Gilden at cgilden@natleadership.org with questions related to our research.

Primary Sources Used to Learn about the *Leadership* and *Disability* Fields



Top sources of leadership and disability field information for disability leaders were 1) **Trainings**, 2) **Webinars**, and 3) **Conferences**. Differences in where leaders got their information for leadership versus the disability fields were seen in listsers and podcasts, with more leaders learning about the leadership field from these sources than the disability field.

Primary Sources Used to Learn about the *Leadership* Field



Primary Sources Used to Learn about the *Disability* Field



Why Does It Matter?

As a leader in the field, it may be helpful to know where other leaders are getting their information, so you can tap into those sources as well. It also seems like many leaders are getting their information from other people in their organizations, so sharing useful information and resources with your coworkers can be valuable, including links to join listservs, which was the fifth most popular way for leaders to learn about the leadership field and the seventh most popular way to learn about the disability field. Collaborating on communities of practice was also a popular way to keep up to date on leadership and disability information, with about 50% of people getting information from them. Less collaborative ways of receiving information were least popular ways to get information about the leadership and disability fields, including trade publications/magazines (46.9% and 48.2%), media sources like online, print media, and digests (45.4% and 53.9%), social media (42.6% and 43.4%), podcasts (32.6% and 24.1%), academic journals (21.3% and 39.0%), and radio/TV (both 7.8%).

As a trainer/educator in the field, it may be helpful to know where leaders get their information because it can help direct efforts to reach leaders through the most popular channels. For example, this data reports that only about 21.3% of leaders get information about the leadership field through academic journals, which is why the National Leadership Consortium created the Bulletin (www.natleadership.org/bulletin.html), a quarterly publication for leaders in the disability field that translates academic research from the leadership and disability fields into useful information and strategies for practitioners.