

FINDINGS FROM THE MARCH 2022 SURVEY

California Study on Violence Experiences Across the Lifespan (CalVEX)



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DEFINITIONS FOR THE REPORT

In this report we assess both experiences with victimization from violence, as well as committing violence against others, using the following definitions.

| Definitions of Violence, as used in the CalVEX 2020, 2021, and 2022 surveys | |
|---|--|
| Physical violence | Physical violence includes physical abuse and threat of use of a weapon. Physical abuse can include being hit, slapped, punched, shoved, choked, kicked, shaken or otherwise physically hurt. Weapon use was specific to knife or gun. |
| Verbal sexual harassment | This can include someone whistling, leering or staring at you, or calling out to you in ways that make you feel disrespected or unsafe; someone talking about your body parts (such as your butt or breasts) inappropriately or offensively or saying sexually explicit comments or questions (“I want to do BLANK to you”); and someone repeatedly asking you for a date or your phone number when you’ve said no. |
| Homophobic or transphobic comments | This can include someone misgendering you or calling you a homophobic or transphobic slur, like “Fag,” “Dyke,” or “Tranny.” |
| Cyber sexual harassment | This can include someone electronically sending you or showing you sexual content without your permission, such as over e-mail, snapchat or Facebook or on their phone or computer. This can also include someone taking and/or sharing sexual pictures or videos of you without your permission. |
| Physically aggressive sexual harassment | This can include someone flashing or exposing their genitals to you without your permission. This can also include someone purposely touching you or brushing up against you in an unwelcome, sexual way. |
| Quid pro quo sexual harassment or coercion | This can include someone forcing or pressuring you to do a sexual act in exchange for something (such as a good grade, a promotion, a job, drugs, food, money, or something similar) or instead of something (like paying rent or a citation, etc.) |
| Forced sex | This can include someone forcing you to do a sexual act without your permission or explicit agreement (including while you are under the influence of alcohol or drugs). |
| Sexual violence | Sexual violence includes any of the above six forms of violence: verbal sexual harassment, homophobic or transphobic comments, cyber sexual harassment, physically aggressive sexual harassment, quid pro quo sexual harassment or coercion, or forced sex. |
| Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) | For those reporting victimization from any of the above acts of physical or sexual violence, we asked about the relationships with those who engaged in the above acts. For those reporting perpetration of any of the above acts of physical or sexual violence, we asked about the relationships with those against whom they committed these acts. Those responding that this individual was a spouse or romantic partner were categorized as IPV victims or perpetrators, correspondingly. |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Reports of violence have increased in California over the past several years, but our reliance on criminal justice data to examine the state of violence fails to capture the breadth of abuses experienced or committed by Californians. The California Study on Violence Experiences across the Lifespan (CalVEX) survey offers insight into these experiences as reported by a state-representative sample of CA adults. This survey is unique in its ability to provide population-level estimates on physical violence, inclusive of experiences of weapon use, as well as a range of sexual violence experiences, inclusive of harassment, coercion, and forced sex. We also provide data on intimate partner violence (IPV). This is the only survey providing these data at the state level, and California is the only state collecting these data for tracking over time. In this report, we examine past year experiences of violence among Californians using CalVEX 2022 data from 2,285 adult (age 18+) respondents surveyed in March 2022. Comparable samples and measures on past year violence were used in CalVEX 2020 and 2021, allowing for comparisons over time. Results show:

Past year Experiences of Physical Violence

- One in twelve adults in California (8%) experienced physical violence within the past year; males were more likely than females to report physical violence victimization in the past year (11% vs. 5%).
 - One in 50 people reported violence involving a knife; one in 100 reported a gun. Men most often reported a stranger as the perpetrator of weapon-related violence, women reported a partner.
 - Among those reporting past year physical violence, most reported negative consequences of these experiences including: depression or anxiety (41% of females and 25% of males) suicidality (11% females, 6% males), and missing work or school (32% females, 16% males).
- Most who experienced past year physical violence never reported it (93% of females, 87% of males).
- Victimization from physical violence has increased during the pandemic. Past year physical violence reported by Californians increased from 4% in 2020 to 7% in 2021 and 8% in 2022.

Past Year Experiences of Sexual Violence

- One in seven adults in California (15%) experienced sexual violence within the past year, most often in the form of sexual harassment (verbal: 8%; cyber: 6%; transphobic/homophobic: 4%).
 - Among those reporting past year sexual violence, most reported negative consequences of these experiences including: depression or anxiety (53% of females and 38% of males), suicidality (7% females, 6% males), and changing their route or routine (33% females, 21% of males).
- Most who experienced past year sexual violence did not report it (94% of females, 94% of males).
- Victimization from sexual violence has increased during the pandemic. Past year sexual violence reported by Californians increased from 10% in 2020 to 13% in 2021 and 15% in 2022.

Past Year Experiences of Intimate Partner Violence [IPV]

- One in 25 California adults (4%) reported past year physical or sexual IPV in 2022, a slightly lower prevalence than that seen in prior data using a more comprehensive measure of IPV.³
- Victimization from IPV has remained level since 2021. We did not assess this in 2020, but past year IPV was reported by 3% of Californians in 2021 and 4% in 2022, a non-significant difference.

Co-Occurrence of Physical and Sexual Violence Experiences

More than one in six Californians (18%) experienced physical and/or sexual violence in the past year, but these often co-occurred, with those who experienced past year physical violence 5x more likely to have also experienced past year sexual violence (57% vs. 11%).

Socially and Economically Vulnerable Populations Face More Violence

- Past year physical violence, sexual violence, and IPV were more likely among gay, lesbian and bisexual people, people with disability, people with a history of homelessness or incarceration, and those who faced past year eviction or financial distress.

Neighborhood Safety, Discrimination, and Experiences of Violence

- Female respondents living in self-described unsafe neighborhoods were 5x more likely to report past year physical violence than those in safe neighborhoods (19% vs 4%). This was not seen for men. Unsafe neighborhood residence was not associated with sexual violence.
- Respondents who reported experiences of everyday discrimination (i.e., microaggressions) in a typical week were 6x more likely to report past year physical violence (18% vs 3%) and 3x more likely to report sexual violence (28% vs 9%), as compared with respondents who did not report discrimination.

Violence and Health: Mental Health, Suicidality, Substance Misuse, and COVID-19 Infection

- Those reporting severe depression and/or anxiety symptoms were 5x more likely than those with normal symptomology to report past year physical violence (19% vs 4%) and past year sexual violence (35% vs 7%).
- Those reporting serious consideration of suicide in the past year were 7x more likely to report past year physical violence (37% vs 5%) and 5x more likely to report past year sexual violence (53% vs 11%).
- Those reporting past 30 day substance misuse were 6x more likely to report past year physical violence (18% vs 3%) and 2.5x as likely to report past year sexual violence (25% vs 10%) than those with no misuse.
- Those who reported COVID-19 infection were twice as likely to report past year physical violence (12% vs 6%) and past year sexual violence (21% vs 12%) compared to those who reported not having had COVID-19.

Reports of Violence Perpetration

- 3% of adults report that they perpetrated physical violence in the past year, 5% of males and 2% of females. 5% of adults report perpetration of sexual violence in the past year, including 8% of males and 3% of females
- Perpetration is more likely among those who had also been victimized. Among past year victims of physical violence, 30% reported past year physical violence perpetration. Among past year victims of sexual violence, 27% reported sexual violence perpetration.

Findings from this state-wide survey on past year experiences of violence confirm that Californians are experiencing violence at epidemic proportions, and that experiences of physical and sexual violence have increased over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. Groups marginalized by economic vulnerabilities and social discrimination bear a greater burden of violence, and multiple forms of violence typically intersect to compound this burden. The majority of victims never formally report these abuses, suggesting that criminal justice responses to perpetration may not be very useful as a means of addressing violence. Health and social welfare services may be a better means of serving and preventing perpetration, given the vulnerabilities faced by victims and given that most perpetrators are victims as well. Findings have important implications for state programs and policies.

INTRODUCTION

Evidence indicates that violence at the national level has increased since 2019,⁴ and data from California show that homicides increased in this same period,⁵ suggesting the pandemic may have resulted in an escalation of violence. Unfortunately, the lack of publicly-available crime or clinical data beyond 2020 precludes a timely examination of crime and violent injury under the COVID-19 pandemic. Even more importantly, data from incidents reported to judicial and health systems reflect only a small fraction of actual incidents, and fail to capture the full range of experiences and consequences of violence. To address these limitations and gain greater insight into current realities, California conducts an annual population-representative survey on experiences of violence, the California Study on Violence Experiences across the Lifespan (CalVEX) survey. CalVEX data is available from 2020 to 2022, enabling timely reporting of levels and trends of violence in the state.

In this report, we present CalVEX 2022 survey findings, which offer population-level estimates of past year physical violence inclusive of experiences of violence with a weapon (gun or knife), past year sexual violence inclusive of experiences of sexual harassment and coercion as well as forced sex, and past year intimate partner violence (IPV). We also expanded the report this year to include neighborhood safety and experiences of everyday discrimination (including discriminatory microaggressions), which we view as socio-structural violence. We present trends in these experiences over the past three years, reflecting one year prior to the pandemic and two years under the pandemic. These are the most comprehensive available data on state-wide trends of violence experiences at the population level, and can provide insight into the intersections of interpersonal and socio-structural violence in the state.

We present data for all Californians, but also disaggregate findings by gender throughout, recognizing that experiences of violence differ by gender; in particular, we find that men face more physical violence and women are more affected by sexual and intimate partner violence. We recognize that experiences of violence are also unequally distributed across identities, characteristics, and experiences such as sexual identity, race/ethnicity, disability, housing security, and financial distress, with socially marginalized groups bearing the greater burden of interpersonal violence experiences.⁷ We thus present rates of violence and related findings by these dimensions. We also consider intersections of interpersonal violence experiences with socio-structural violence in the forms of neighborhood safety and discriminatory microaggressions, given national data showing elevation in neighborhood violence and discriminatory hate crimes from 2019 to 2020^{4,8} and prior research documenting the role of violence in erosion of security.⁷ Finally, we document the associations between physical and sexual violence exposures and health, including physical and mental health, substance use, and suicidality, which have been shown in prior research,⁹ and with COVID infection, which has not previously been examined. Data offer insight into potential impacts of violence at a state level.

This report offers the timeliest data available on experiences of violence, who is affected and to what degree, potential negative impacts and intersections of these experiences of violence, and the needs of Californians during the pandemic. These data clarify the scope and scale of violence, including gender-based violence, experienced and committed by Californians. These findings can help guide violence prevention and service programs and policies for the state, but also offer insight into the role of economic and welfare policies in addressing violence to better meet the needs of those affected by violence, and support post-pandemic rebuilding in ways that can improve our resilience in the face of future health and other crises that affect the state.

METHODOLOGY

Since 2020, the Center on Gender Equity and Health (GEH) at the University of California San Diego has led the California Study on Violence Experiences across the Lifespan (CalVEX) survey, which has been conducted annually with a state representative sample of California residents ages 18 and older and assesses experiences of physical violence (including threats with or use of a weapon), sexual violence (including sexual harassment, coercion, and rape), and experiences of physical and mental health. In our 2021 and 2022 surveys, we additionally collected data on COVID-19 exposures and pandemic-related economic impacts, as well as experiences with social discrimination. We commissioned the independent research institution, National Opinion Research Center (NORC), to conduct the CalVEX survey in March of 2020, 2021, and 2022, using their online panels, with further details provided below.

SURVEY TOOL DEVELOPMENT

The CalVEX 2022 survey builds upon the CalVEX 2020 and CalVEX 2021 surveys, which used validated measures described previously.¹⁰ In 2022, we included for the first time open-ended items for participants to describe experiences of violence, allowing for richer insight into how our survey measures are interpreted with regard to understanding violence. As done in our prior rounds of CalVEX survey development, upon creation of the 2022 survey, we requested feedback and input over the period of 2019 to 2021 from Advisory Board members, a group comprised of leaders in the areas of advocacy, policy, and research on violence in California. The survey content was finalized and then reviewed by the NORC team to ensure clarity and flow of items as well as variable construction. GEH then finalized the survey based on this input. The survey was constructed in English and then back-translated into Spanish.

Subsequently, in early March, NORC pretested the survey with n=27 English speaking participants to ensure it was easily understood and implemented with the online panel sample, and kept to the 15-minute timeframe. Pretest findings shared by NORC indicated there were no issues identified in the items as far as difficulty in comprehension of items by panel respondents. As such, no changes were made before fielding the main survey.

ETHICS APPROVAL

Panelists were offered the cash equivalent of USD \$4 for completing this survey. Survey participation was completely voluntary. Respondents who did choose to voluntarily complete the survey were able to skip any question (except for required demographic information) or to stop the survey at any time. In addition, the following text was included in the footer of all survey pages: “If you are experiencing distress or discomfort, see these websites for services in the state <https://www.cpedv.org/domestic-violence-organizations-california> or <https://www.mentalhealthca.org/resources>”. Respondents were also able to provide feedback (whether positive or negative, and available only to NORC staff) at the end of the survey. A review of these comments by NORC staff indicated no major identifiable concerns with the questions from the survey. All research procedures were approved by both NORC/University of Chicago and the University of California, San Diego Institutional Review Board (IRB) (Project #802146).

SAMPLING

The sample was generated from a general population sample of California adults aged 18 and older selected from NORC’s AmeriSpeak Panel, the most representative online probability panel available in the U.S. AmeriSpeak® is a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population and is funded and operated by NORC at the University of Chicago. Randomly selected U.S. households are sampled using area probability and address-based sampling, with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame. These sampled households are then

contacted by U.S. mail, telephone, and field interviewers (face to face). The panel provides sample coverage of approximately 97% of the U.S. household population. Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box-only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings. While most AmeriSpeak households participate in surveys by web, non-internet households can participate in AmeriSpeak surveys by telephone. Households without conventional internet access but having web access via smartphones are allowed to participate in AmeriSpeak surveys by web. AmeriSpeak panelists participate in NORC studies or studies conducted by NORC on behalf of governmental agencies, academic researchers, and media and commercial organizations. For more information, email AmeriSpeak-BD@norc.org or visit AmeriSpeak.norc.org.

The AmeriSpeak panel sample was additionally supplemented with respondents from the Dynata and Lucid nonprobability online opt-in panels. TrueNorth statistical calibration was conducted by NORC to combine these probability and non-probability samples (more information on data processing, weighting, and TrueNorth Calibration is provided in Appendix A). The study design effect was 2.11, with a study margin of error of +/- 3.21%.

DATA COLLECTION

All data were collected online from March 16th to 31st, 2022. To encourage study participation, NORC sent email reminders on March 21st, 24th, and 28th to the panelists. The response rate reporting for the AmeriSpeak sample was as follows:

- Weighted AAPOR RR3 Recruitment rate: 17.1%
- Weighted Household retention rate: 75.6%
- Survey completion rate: 27.3%
- Weighted AAPOR RR3 cumulative response rate: 3.5%

DATA ANALYSIS

Analyses presented in this report were weighted using NORC-provided survey weights to provide state-representative prevalence estimates. Bivariate analyses were conducted to assess significant associations (at $p < 0.05$) between violence experiences and key demographics, when the sample size allowed. When an item was skipped, the observation was dropped from the corresponding analysis (e.g. treated as missing). The sample size for transgender, non-binary, and other gender identity respondents is $n=17$. As a result, we cannot accurately represent the experience of these populations. All findings are based on the responses of respondents identifying as male or female, unless otherwise noted.

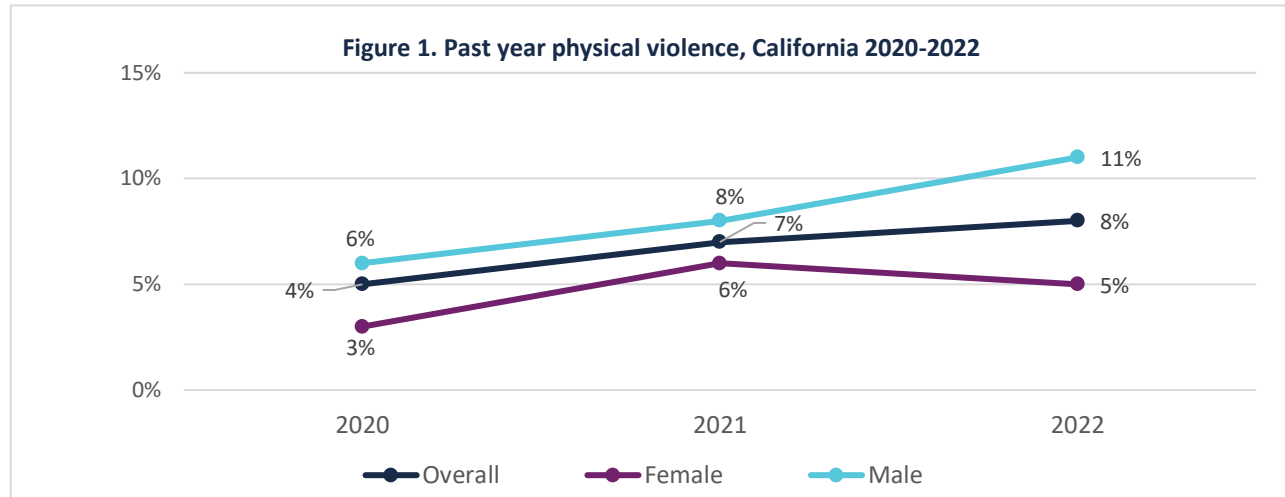
SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS

The CalVEX study was designed to be representative of the California population ages 18 years and older. The final sample included 2,285 respondents (cisgender female, $n=1,254$; cisgender male, $n=1,014$; transgender, non-binary, or other gender identity, $n=17$). [We will use the term “female” for cisgender female and “male” for cisgender male.] To confirm that this sample is representative of the State of California general population ages 18 years and older, we compared the *weighted* sample data against several key socio-demographic variables from California census data and projections. These are:

- Gender: The weighted sample was 51% female, 49% male, and 0.4% transgender. Census data indicate that Californians are 50% female.¹¹
- Race/Ethnicity: The weighted sample was mostly non-Hispanic white (41%) or Hispanic/Latinx (35%); an additional 6% were non-Hispanic Black, 12% were non-Hispanic Asian, and 6% were other or multiple races. This is comparable to the California population as a whole, which is 35% non-Hispanic white, 40% Hispanic, 7% non-Hispanic Black, and 16% non-Hispanic Asian.¹¹
- Education: Most of the weighted sample had completed at least high school or a GED (88%), and one-third had a bachelor's degree or higher (34%). Among Californian adults as a whole, an estimated 84% hold at least a high school degree or GED, and 35% have a bachelor's degree or higher.¹¹
- Employment: Most of the weighted sample (60%) were employed full- or part-time; California census data suggest 63% employment in 2021.¹¹
- Income: Median household income for the weighted sample was \$60,000-\$74,999 [income was assessed categorically]; this is slightly lower than California's 2020 median household income of \$78,672,¹¹ which may be a consequent of a change attributable to pandemic job losses in 2020-21.
- Age distribution: The age distribution among the weighted sample was as follows: 10% aged 18-24 years; 20% aged 25-34 years; 17% aged 35-44 years; 16% aged 45-54 years; 18% aged 55-64 years; and 19% aged 65 years and older. This age distribution of respondents approximately matches the California census age distribution.¹¹
- Sexual identity: 11% of the weighted sample identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or other sexual identity. This is similar to Census Pulse Survey estimates that suggest 9% of adult Californians identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual.¹²
- Foreign-born and citizenship: The majority of the weighted sample were born in the U.S. (84%). This is higher than the state estimated 73% born in the U.S.¹¹ Similarly, almost all respondents were U.S. citizens (96%), which is higher than 2019 census estimates which suggest 88% of adult Californians were citizens.¹¹
- Disability: A third of the weighted sample (30%) reported some form of a disability. This proportion matches CDC estimates that suggest 23% of adult Californians have a disability.¹³

As seen above, the study sample is generally representative of the adult California population with respect to gender, race/ethnicity, education level, employment status, age, and disability status. Our sample may slightly underrepresent non-citizen residents; however, these differences from state-wide figures are not substantial. We included additional single item economic indicators known to have been affected by the pandemic: eviction, economic deprivation, and job loss. We found that 4% of the weighted sample reported that they were evicted from their home in the past year, 20% reported that they lacked money for food or other basic needs in the past year, and 4% reported job loss in the past year. These rates are comparable to what we saw in 2021, when 4% of the weighted sample reported that they were evicted from their home in the past year and 22% reported that they lacked money for food or other basic needs in the past year. One notable difference is that half as many people (4%) reported job loss in the past year in 2022 compared to 2021 (8%).

SURVEY FINDINGS



PAST YEAR EXPERIENCES OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Prevalence of physical violence experiences in the past year, trends from 2020-2022

One in twelve adults (8%) have experienced physical violence within the past year. (See Figure 1.)

- One in 50 (2%) were threatened with a knife.
- One in 100 (1%) were threatened with a gun in the past year.

Males were 2x as likely as females to have experienced physical violence in the past year (11% vs 5%).

Past year physical violence increased from 4% in 2020 to 7% in 2021 and 8% in 2022.

- For females, past year physical violence increased from 2020 (3%) to 2021 (6%) and 2022 (5%).
- For males, past year physical violence increased from 2020 (6%) to 2021 (8%) to 2022 (11%).

Physical violence has increased in California, almost doubling for men from 2020 to 2022.

Respondents most often reported that the physical violence they experienced in the past year was perpetrated by someone they knew (84%), including family, friends, partners, known authority figures, and acquaintances. This held true for both females and males (91% and 80%, respectively; see Table 1).

- For females, a spouse or romantic partner was the most commonly reported perpetrator of past year physical violence, and more likely to be reported for females compared with males (61% vs. 22% of males reporting this), suggesting that physical violence against women is often IPV.
- For males, a stranger was the most commonly reported perpetrator of past year physical violence (38% vs. 21% of females reporting this). This was true for all forms of physical violence.

Table 1. Relationship to the person causing past year physical violence.

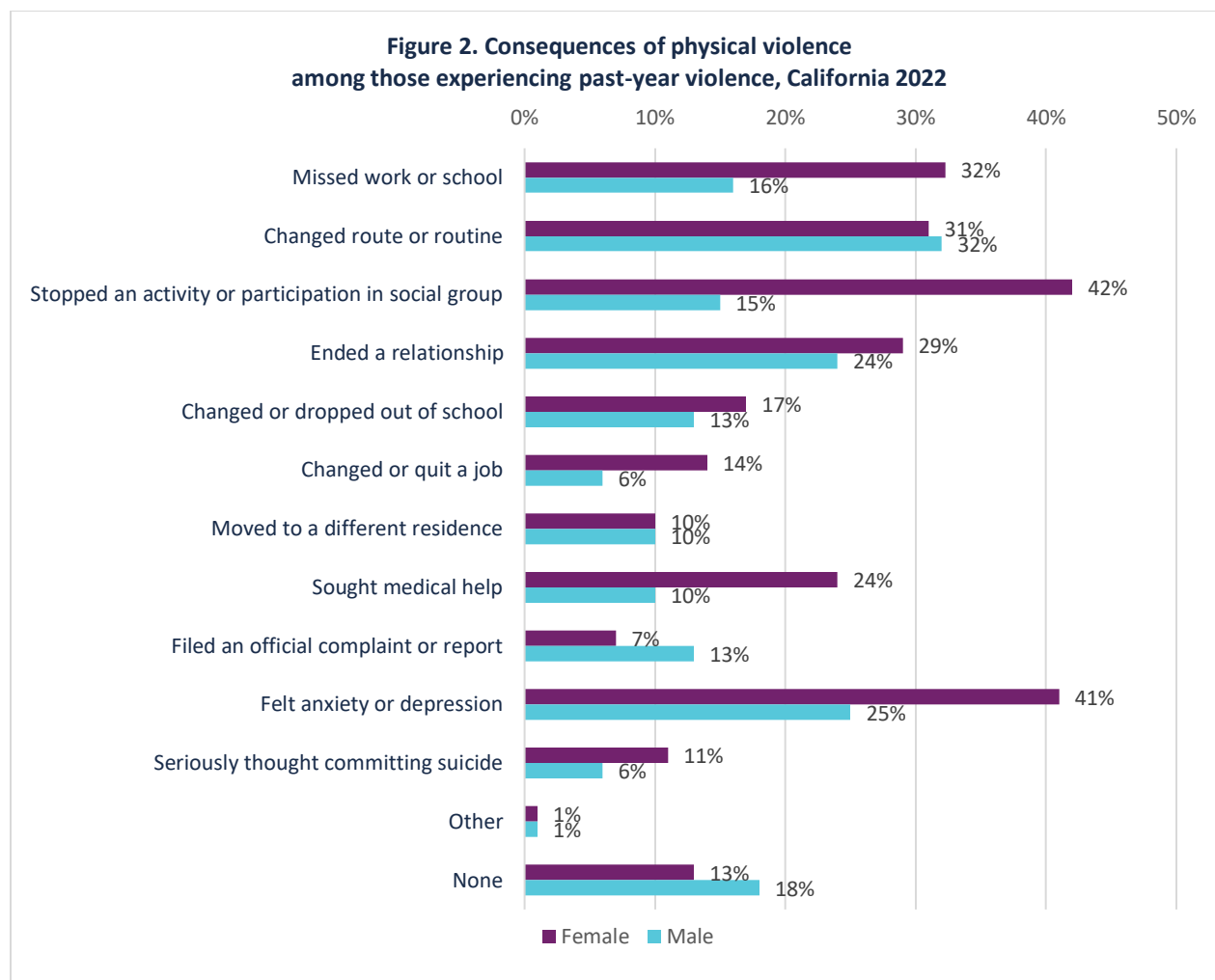
| | Any form of physical violence | | Physical abuse | | Threat with knife | | Threat with gun | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------|----------------|------|-------------------|------|-----------------|------|
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male |
| Family Member 18+ | 28% | 23% | 29% | 21% | 18% | 20% | 10% | 26% |
| Family Member < 18 | 4% | 17% | 1% | 18% | 19% | 11% | 6% | 0% |
| Spouse/Partner | 61% | 22% | 60% | 19% | 49% | 19% | 64% | 20% |
| Known Non-Family | 11% | 32% | 11% | 29% | 7% | 36% | 0% | 34% |
| Acquaintance or Community Member | 14% | 16% | 13% | 13% | 31% | 19% | 14% | 34% |
| Stranger | 21% | 38% | 23% | 29% | 4% | 51% | 12% | 83% |
| Teacher/Coach/ Adult Authority | 0% | 5% | 0% | 4% | 0% | 6% | 0% | 4% |
| Police | 1% | 5% | 1% | 5% | 0% | 1% | 0% | 7% |
| Boss/Employer | 0% | 6% | 0% | 7% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Other | 6% | 2% | 6% | 1% | 0% | 4% | 0% | 7% |

Consequences of past year physical violence experiences

Most respondents reported negative consequences resulting from past year experiences of physical violence, including mental health effects and life changes to manage their risk. (See Figure 2.)

- One-third of those who experienced physical violence in the past year (30%) reported feeling anxiety or depression as a result of the violence. This was a common consequence reported by both females (41%) and males (25%). One in twelve respondents (8%) reported considering suicide due to their experiences of past year physical violence (11% of females and 6% of males).
- For females, stopping an activity of participation in a social group was also a commonly reported response to past year physical violence (42% of females and 15% of males).
- Though 61% of females who experienced past year physical violence reported that the perpetrator was a spouse or romantic partner, 29% of females (and 24% of males) reporting ending a relationship.
- Females and males reported life disruptions due to past year physical violence: missing work or school (32% of females, 16% of males), changing their route or routine (31% of females, 32% of males), changing or dropping out of school (17% of females, 13% of males), changing or quitting a job (14% of females, 6% of males), and relocating (10% of females, 10% of males).
- Few who experienced past year physical violence filed a formal report (7% of females, 13% of males); about one quarter (25% of females and 28% of males) told no one.

One in 12 people who experienced physical violence report that it resulted in feelings of suicidality.



Qualitative reports of past year physical violence

To assess the nature and scope of physical violence experienced or witnessed by respondents, we asked all respondents to describe an incident of physical violence that they or someone from their community had experienced in the past year, including the perpetrator(s) and other circumstances. We had 189 responses from females and 150 from males. Most (60%) described an incident that they experienced; 40% narrated an event of physical violence that occurred to someone they knew.

We conducted word clouds on responses for females and males. Females were likely to use words indicative of relationship or family violence. Males were more likely to use words indicating an attack or fight and reported police involvement. (See Figure 3.)

We also coded responses thematically, resulting in themes outlined in Table 2.

Figure 3. Word Cloud: Physical Violence Experiences

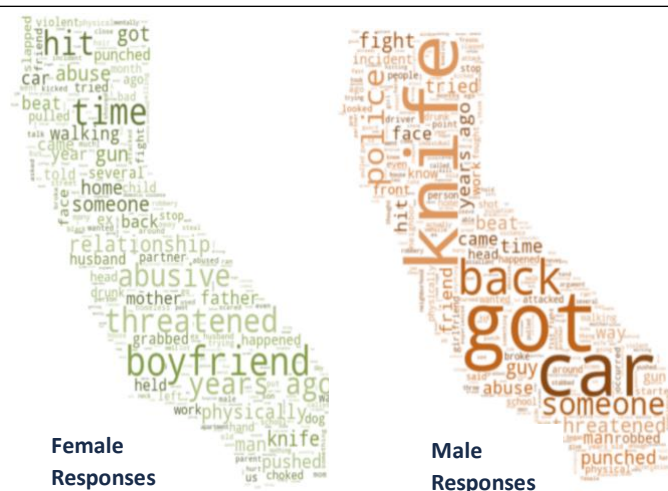
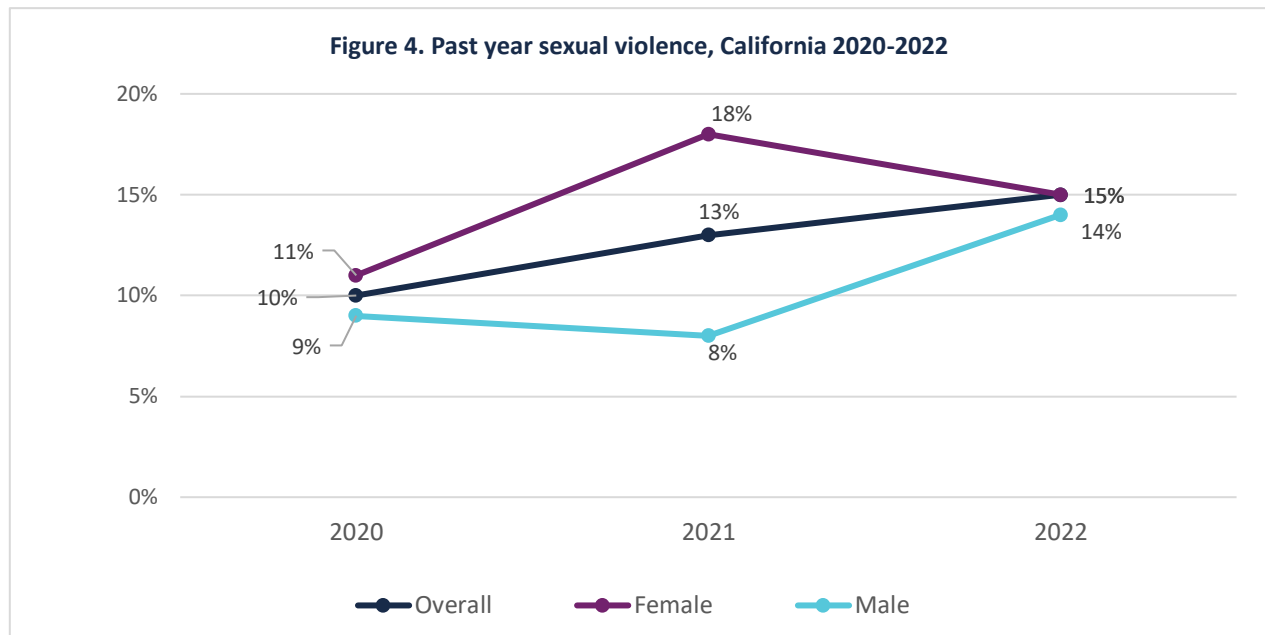


Table 2. Themes and quotes from analysis of open-ended question on past year physical violence

| EMERGENT THEMES | EXAMPLE QUOTES CORRESPONDING TO THE THEME |
|--|--|
| Physical violence from partner | <p><i>"My ex-partner had threatened to burn my house down with me in it if I left him. This happened multiple times along with extreme mental abuse."</i> - 35 years, Female, White</p> <p><i>"It happen about 8 months ago when our financial conditions were bad at the moment and my husband did physically harassing myself because of some misunderstanding information about our spending."</i> - 28 years, Female, White</p> <p><i>"I was punched repeatedly in my face by my husband."</i> - 36 years, Female, Hispanic</p> |
| Community physical violence | <p><i>"Beat up by a neighborhood kid, police did not respond to a physical assault complaint."</i> - 66 years, Male, White</p> <p><i>"It was a home invasion by 2 individuals who grabbed me and dragged me and held a gun to my head while the other looked for cash and anything they can steal throughout my home."</i> - 31 years, Female, Hispanic</p> <p><i>"Robberies and disagreements happen around the community but only once in the past year, I was passing by a house and hearing a couple arguing, running past and then throwing things at each other. The police was called but I didn't stay around. High stress locations like stores are where verbal altercations can escalate."</i> - 27 years, Female, Hispanic</p> |
| Physical violence from family | <p><i>"I was at my house when my brother came and attacked me with a knife. He held it to my throat and told me that he should gut me like a pig."</i> - 34 years, Female, Hispanic</p> <p><i>"I was drinking and being disrespectful, so my old lady punched me in the face/head a few times. She actually broke her hand."</i> - 45 years, Male, Hispanic</p> |
| Identity motivated physical violence | <p><i>"I helped defend a member of my neighborhood it was a racially motivated incident my neighbor was attacked and I came to their defense which I had to get physical with the assailant."</i> - 50 years, Male, Hispanic</p> <p><i>"Gay couple holding hands was assaulted while walking down the street."</i> - 59 years, Male, White</p> |
| Physical violence due to substance use or mental health issues | <p><i>"When I was on my way home and someone drunk and stare at me so bad and he run over at me and pointed me a knife."</i> - 28 years, Female, Asian</p> <p><i>"A person came up to me out of nowhere on drugs and wanted to attack me."</i> - 39 years, Male, White</p> <p><i>"My neighbor. He came home drunk and then he tried to attack me with a knife."</i> - 30 years, Male, White</p> |
| Physical violence against people experiencing homelessness | <p><i>"I volunteer to assist homeless people in our community. One of the women I had been working with was assaulted, her tools from the car she lived in taken and she needed medical help"</i> – 84 years, Female, White</p> <p><i>"Just down the street, a homeless person was struck by a car, killed, and the driver drove off. I don't think they ever caught the driver."</i> - 46 years, Male, White</p> |
| Physical violence from people experiencing homelessness | <p><i>"I was attacked by a homeless woman while walking my dog."</i> - 32 years, Female, Black</p> <p><i>"My partner was attacked by a homeless man in a park. He threw rocks at him and then jumped on top of him and hit him."</i> - 47 years, Male, Asian</p> |
| Physical violence co-occurrence with sexual harassment | <p><i>"I have been physically threatened on the street after ignoring cat-calls from a man that was behind me. I continued to ignore him and went inside a coffee shop to hide."</i> - 26 years, Female, White</p> <p><i>"When I was age 2-7 yrs old and it was my biological father whom sexual molested me along with physical abuse."</i> – 37 years, Female, Black</p> <p><i>"I was held down with my arms above my head against my will while someone tried to take my clothes off and I kept yelling no and help."</i> - 41 years, Female, White</p> |

PAST YEAR EXPERIENCES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE



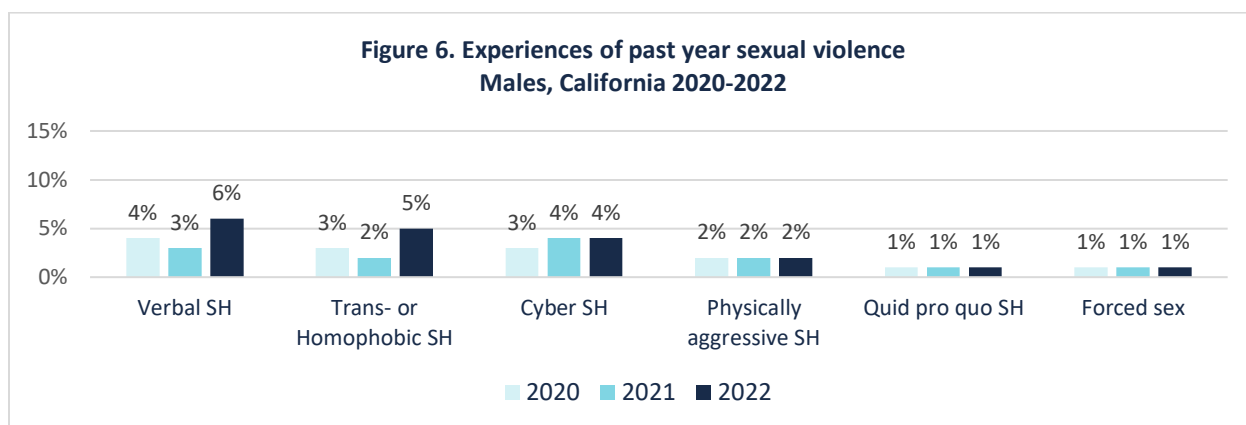
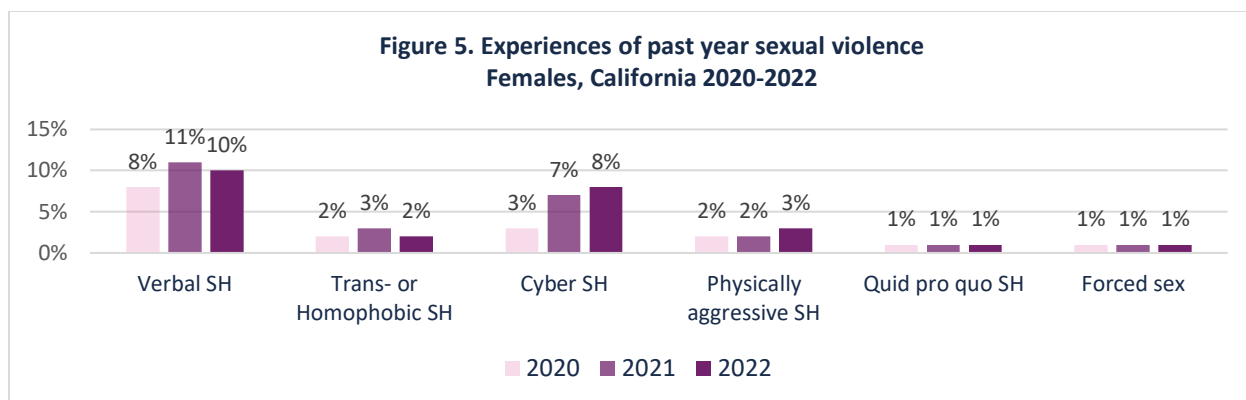
Prevalence of sexual violence experiences in the past year, trends from 2020-2022

More than 1 in 7 adults in California (15%) experienced past year sexual violence; these reports were comparable for females (15%) and males (14%). (See Figure 4.)

- Most of this past year sexual violence took the form of verbal and cyber sexual harassment (8% and 6%, respectively).
- Physically aggressive sexual harassment, quid pro quo/coercive sexual harassment, or forced sex (i.e., more physical contact focused sexual violence) in the past year was reported by 3% of participants.

Importantly, this prevalence indicates a significant increase in sexual violence from 2020 (10%) to 2021 (13%), an increase that was sustained in 2022 (15%). (See Figures 5 and 6.)

- For females, past year sexual violence rose from 2020 (11%) to 2021 (18%) and 2022 (15%). Cyber sexual harassment was the only specific form of sexual violence to increase significantly.
- For males, past year sexual violence remained steady from 2020 (9%) to 2021 (8%) and then rose in 2022 (14%). Verbal and homo-/trans-phobic sexual harassment were the only specific forms of sexual violence to increase significantly.



Most people reporting past year sexual violence (70%) reported that (at least one of) the perpetrator(s) was someone known to the victim, including family, friends, romantic partners, known authority figures, or acquaintances; 67% of females and 73% of males who experienced some form of sexual violence in the past year knew (at least one of) the perpetrator(s). (See Table 3.)

- For females reporting past year verbal, cyber, or homo/transphobic harassment (and not more aggressive forms of sexual harassment or coercive or forced sex) we find that strangers were the most common perpetrators (72%), but for those reporting more contact-focused physically aggressive, coercive, or forced sexual behavior (with or without other forms of sexual harassment), perpetrators were most often someone known to the woman - an acquaintance (40%) or a partner (33%).
- Males were most likely to report that a stranger was the perpetrator of past year sexual violence (41%), followed by well-known unrelated person (28%) and acquaintance or community member (26%). These held true for the more and less contact focused forms of sexual violence.

Victimization from sexual violence has increased in California, for women and men. In 2022, >2.3 million women and >2.1 million men were victims of sexual violence.

Table 3. Relationship to the person causing past year sexual violence against the respondent.

| | Any Sexual Violence | | Verbal Harassment, Cyber Harassment, Homo-/Trans-phobic Harassment | | Physically Aggressive, Coercive, or Forced Sexual Behavior | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|------|--|------|--|------|
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male |
| Adult Family Member | 8% | 17% | 8% | 15% | 4% | 23% |
| Family Member Under Age 18 | 4% | 9% | 4% | 9% | 1% | 18% |
| Spouse/Partner | 8% | 16% | 4% | 15% | 33% | 19% |
| Well-Known Unrelated Person | 26% | 28% | 24% | 27% | 22% | 30% |
| Acquaintance or Community Member | 49% | 26% | 45% | 27% | 40% | 28% |
| Stranger | 70% | 41% | 72% | 42% | 21% | 37% |
| Teacher/Coach/ Other Adult Authority | 1% | 4% | 1% | 3% | 0% | 8% |
| Police | 2% | 4% | 2% | 5% | <1% | 4% |
| Boss/Employer | 3% | 5% | 2% | 6% | 4% | 5% |
| Other | 2% | 3% | 2% | 3% | <1% | 0% |

Consequences of sexual violence experiences in the past year

The most common consequence of sexual violence reported by those who experienced it in the past year was feelings of anxiety or depression (39%, 53% of females and 38% of males). (See Figure 7.)

- Additional common responses were changing a route/routine (37%), ending a friendship/relationship (26%), stopping a hobby/activity (17%), and changing/dropping out of school (10%).
- One in four (27%) of those reporting past year sexual violence reported no consequences of the abuse.
- Very few people who experienced sexual violence filed an official complaint or report (6%).
- Almost half of those with these experiences told no one (48% of females and 47% of males).

More physically aggressive, coercive, or forced sexual behavior may elicit different responses than would be seen for verbal, cyber or homo/transphobic sexual harassment, which are more likely to occur without physical contact. Hence, we conducted subsample analysis of those reporting more contact focused types of sexual violence and found gender differences in reported consequences*:

- Among females, the most commonly reported consequences were: resultant anxiety/depression (82%), ending a relationship (28%), and use of medical assistance (14%).
- Among males, the most commonly reported consequences were: changing a route/routine (44%), ending a relationship (37%), changing/dropping out of school (20%), and filing a complaint (14%).

*Data not shown in tables or figures.

A horizontal bar chart comparing the percentage of females and males who have taken various actions since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The x-axis represents the percentage, ranging from 0% to 60% in 10% increments. The y-axis lists 12 categories of actions. For each category, there are two bars: a dark blue bar for females and a teal bar for males. The exact percentage for each bar is labeled at its end.

| Action | Female (%) | Male (%) |
|--|------------|----------|
| Missed work or school | 7% | 11% |
| Changed route or routine | 33% | 21% |
| Stopped an activity or participation in social group | 15% | 19% |
| Ended a relationship | 16% | 16% |
| Changed or dropped out of school | 8% | 12% |
| Changed or quit a job | 1% | 13% |
| Moved to a different residence | 5% | 8% |
| Sought medical help | 5% | 7% |
| Filed an official complaint or report | 6% | 6% |
| Felt anxiety or depression | 53% | 22% |
| Seriously thought committing suicide | 7% | 6% |
| Other | 5% | 1% |
| None | 28% | 25% |

As with physical violence, we asked participants to describe an incident of sexual violence that they or someone from their community had experienced in the past year. Most (89%) described their own experience.

We also coded responses thematically, resulting in themes outlined in Table 4.

Female Responses

Male Responses

Table 4. Themes and quotes from analysis of open-ended question on past year sexual violence

| Emergent Themes | Example Quotes Corresponding to the Theme |
|--|--|
| Workplace Sexual Harassment | <p><i>"Very aggressive verbal suggestions at work for sex, comments about my body and what they would do to it if they weren't married."</i> - 41 years, Female, White</p> <p><i>"My boss warned me to wear pants to work instead of a skirt on a day that we were entertaining a wealthy donor that had a history of verbally harassing staff. He still made inappropriate comments about my body."</i> - 33 years, Female, White</p> <p><i>"Went on a job in my neighborhood and was groped by an older man."</i> - 31 years, Male, Hispanic</p> |
| Street Sexual Harassment | <p><i>"A case where I experienced sexual harassment is on public transportation. Whenever I am out in public, I feel an increase amount of stares, getting close, and even harassing me for information. One specific time, this man followed me home, continuously asking me where I lived and my phone number."</i> – 18 years, Female, Black</p> <p><i>"I was shopping at target. A man approached me I the parking lot and started commenting on my body. Then he flashed a picture of his genitalia."</i> - 51 years, Female, White</p> <p><i>"Unwanted hellos, looks and comments. Felt so gross and disgusted and degraded. Made me angry I can't even walk in my own street."</i> - 33 years, Female, Hispanic</p> |
| Cyber Sexual Harassment | <p><i>"I have been messaged and looked for consistently in a non-requested, neither permitted, sexual manner without being able to stop this."</i> - 22 years, Female, Hispanic</p> <p><i>"I got an unsolicited picture on Facebook message of a man's privates. I don't know who the guy was and I deleted and blocked and reported the person."</i> - 42 years, Female, White</p> <p><i>"Someone threatened to blackmail me with nude pictures."</i> - 59 years, Male, White</p> |
| Homophobic Harassment | <p><i>"Giggles and snickers and muttering of f**/f****t in a public place"</i> - 54 years, Male, Black</p> <p><i>"I was called a lesbian in a derogatory manner"</i> - 36 years, Female, Hispanic</p> |
| Intimate Partner Sexual Violence | <p><i>"My soon to be ex husband keeps and holds money that belongs to me knowing how hard I'm struggling to live and will only give me 40.00 at the most for gas to get home but I have to have sex with him first before he will give it to me."</i> - 58 years, Female, White</p> <p><i>"My ex partner would use sex as a punishment if I did something to upset him. He would continuously harass me for nude photos and to give him sex even after me telling him no. This was in person and text."</i> - 35 years, Female, White</p> |
| Child/Adolescent Sexual Abuse from Family | <p><i>"My so-called 'father' sexually molested me as a child for years until I was old enough to know what he was doing to me (junior high school age)."</i> – 59 years, Female, Asian</p> <p><i>"My uncle, technically raped me when I was in high school my junior and senior years but I was a child I didn't know any better."</i> – 22 years, Female, Hispanic</p> <p><i>"I was sexually assaulted by a family member when I was a child."</i> – 64 years, Female, White</p> <p><i>"Someone I didn't know tried to force me to have sex as well as a family member when I was little" – 31 years, Female, Black</i></p> |

ANY OCCURRENCE AND CO-OCCURRENCE OF PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE EXPERIENCES

- More than one in six Californians (18%) experienced physical and/or sexual violence in the past year.
- *Physical and sexual violence victimization often are co-occurring.* Those who experienced past year physical violence were 5x as likely to have experienced past year sexual violence (57% vs. 11%).

PAST YEAR EXPERIENCES OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV), PHYSICAL AND/OR SEXUAL Prevalence of IPV experiences in the past year, trends from 2020-2022

As we assessed relationship to the perpetrator for those reporting past year experiences of physical violence and sexual violence, we were able to create a variable on IPV prevalence in the past year (including both physical and/or sexual violence committed by a spouse or romantic partner) for the years 2021 and 2022. For females, IPV was reported by 2% in 2021 and 4% in 2022, and for males, IPV was reported by 3% in 2021 and 4% in 2022. These rates were not significantly different over time. Nonetheless, these findings show that 1 in 25 men and women experienced IPV in the past year.

1 in 25 women and men in California – more than 1.1 million Californians – were physically or sexually assaulted by their intimate partner in the past year.

This is a conservative estimate of IPV, given known under-reporting of the problem.

SOCIODEMOGRAPHICS AND PAST YEAR EXPERIENCES OF VIOLENCE

Sociodemographic characteristics associated with past year physical violence

- Californians aged 35-44 years were most likely to report past year physical violence (18%), followed by adults aged 18-34 (12%); <1% of those 65 and older reported past year physical violence.
- Californians identifying as Latinx and Black individuals were more likely to report past year physical violence (10% and 9%, respectively), relative to Asian individuals (4%); 7% of white respondents reported past year physical violence.
- Those identifying as bisexual or 'other' sexual identity were more likely to report past year physical violence (19%), relative to heterosexual and gay/lesbian respondents (7%, respectively).
- Those with a disability were 2x as likely as those without to report past year physical violence (13% vs. 6%).
- Californians with a history of homelessness had a 5-fold greater risk of past year physical violence compared to those with no such history (25% vs. 5%).
- Californians with a history of incarceration were 4x as likely as those with no such history to report past year physical violence (24% vs. 6%).

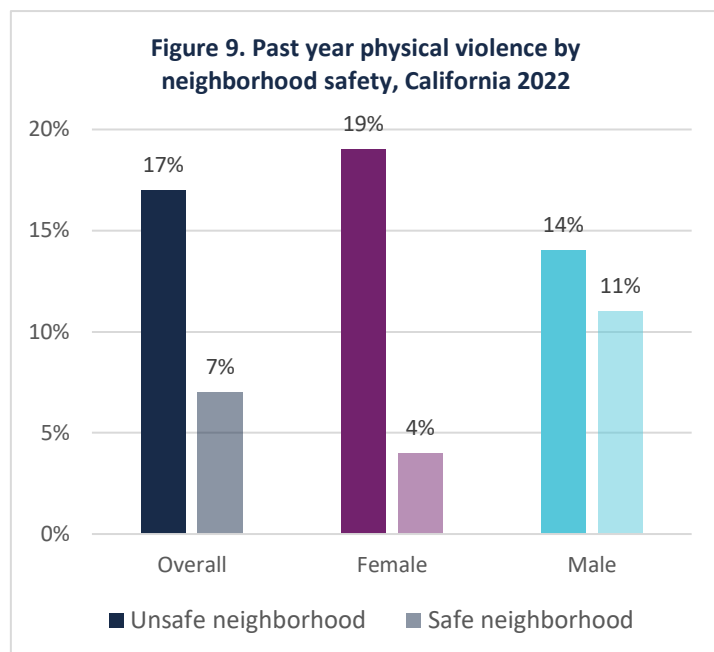
Sociodemographic characteristics associated with past year sexual violence

- Young adult Californians (aged 18-24 years) were most likely to report past year sexual violence (30%); rates declined steadily with age, with 4% of those 65 years and older reporting sexual violence.
- Latinx individuals were significantly more likely to report past year sexual violence (19%), relative to white (13%), Black (10%), and Asian individuals (8%).
- Gay and lesbian respondents (28%), as well as bisexual and 'other' sexual identity respondents (38%) were more likely to report past year sexual violence compared to heterosexual respondents (12%).
- Californians with a disability were 2.5x as likely as those without to report past year sexual violence (26% vs 10%).

- Californians with a history of homelessness were more than twice as likely as those without to report past year sexual violence (29% vs 12%).
- Californians with a history of incarceration were 2.5x as likely as those without this history to report past year sexual violence (30% vs 12%).

Sociodemographic characteristics associated with past year intimate partner violence

- Californians aged 35-44 years were most likely to report past year IPV (9%), followed by adults aged 25-34 (6%), and adults aged 18-24 (4%).
- Latinx individuals were slightly, though not statistically significantly, more likely to report past year IPV (6%), relative to white (3%), Black (3%), and Asian individuals (1%).
- Californians who identify as bisexual and “other” sexual identity respondents (12%) were more likely to report past year IPV than those identifying as gay or lesbian (5%) or heterosexual (3%).
- Californians with a disability were 2x as likely as those without to report past year IPV (6% vs 3%).
- Californians with a history of homelessness were 6x as likely compared to those without this history to report past year IPV (13% vs 2%).
- Californians with a history of incarceration were 4x as likely as those without this history to report past year IPV (12% vs 3%).



Socially and economically vulnerable Californians – including LGBTQ+ communities, people with a history of homelessness or incarceration, and people living with a disability – face disproportionate levels of physical violence, sexual violence and IPV.

SOCIOSTRUCTURAL VIOLENCE AND ITS INTERSECTIONS WITH PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Perceptions of neighborhood violence/safety in the past year, trends from 2020-2022

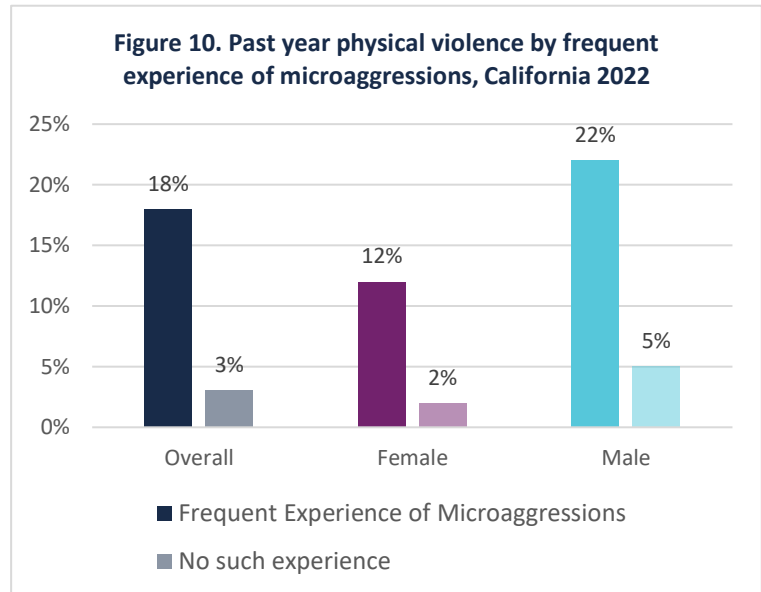
When asking about neighborhood safety, most respondents report that their neighborhood is ‘extremely safe’ (18%) or ‘quite safe’ (52%), while 24% think their neighborhood is only ‘slightly safe’ and 7% consider their neighborhood ‘not at all safe’. These reports are comparable for males and females.

- Those in unsafe neighborhoods were more than 2x as likely to report past year physical violence (17% vs. 7%). (See Figure 9.) For females, those in unsafe neighborhood were 5x as likely to report past year physical violence (19% vs. 4%), a significant difference. For males, this difference was not significant (14% vs 11%).
- There was no significant difference in experiences of sexual violence by neighborhood safety.
- Time trends in perceptions of neighborhood safety from 2020 to 2022 show an increase in perceptions of their neighborhood being unsafe, *from 4-5% in 2020-2021 to 7% in 2022*. This trend was stronger for females, from 3% in 2020 to 6% in 2021 to 7% in 2022.

Experiences of everyday discrimination (“microaggressions”)

Nearly one-third of respondents (31%, 28% females and 33% males) report that they experience at least one of five assessed forms of every day discrimination or microaggressions in a typical week.

- The most commonly reported forms of microaggressions were ‘people treat me like they are better than me’ (15%), ‘people treat me as if I am not intelligent’ (13%), and ‘I receive poorer service in restaurants or stores compared to the service other people receive’ (10%).
- Respondents most often reported that race/ethnicity was the primary reason for this mistreatment (38%), followed by their physical appearance (18%), and their age (10%). Females were more likely than males to report gender as the primary reason for their experience of microaggressions (14% vs. 5%).
- Those reporting microaggression experiences were 6x as likely to report past year physical violence (18% vs 3%) and 3x as likely to report sexual violence (28% vs 9%), as compared with respondents who did not report microaggression experiences. (See Figure 10.)
 - Findings on microaggressions and violence held true for females (physical violence: 12% vs 2%; sexual violence: 28% vs 10%) and males (physical violence: 22% vs 5%; sexual violence: 29% vs 6%).
- We examined time trends in microaggressions from 2021 to 2022 (no data for 2020) and found an increase in reports of microaggressions in a typical week, *from 26% in 2021 to 31% in 2022*.
 - The increase was significant for males (24% 2021 to 33% 2022), not females (28% 2021 and 2022).



Approximately 1 in 3 Californians is regularly exposed to discrimination in the form of microaggressions and this type of discrimination is increasing, especially among men.

Further, those regularly experiencing microaggressions were 6x as likely to have experienced physical violence and 3x as likely to have experienced sexual violence in the past year.

PAST YEAR FINANCIAL DISTRESS AND VIOLENCE EXPERIENCES

We assessed associations between past year physical violence and sexual violence and neighborhood safety with past year eviction, economic deprivation, and job loss, indicators of the economic downturn arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

- For those evicted in the past year, compared to those not evicted:
 - Past year physical violence was 7x more likely (42% vs 6%), past year sexual violence was 4x more likely (51% vs 13%), past year IPV was 8x more likely (25% vs 3%), and residence in an unsafe neighborhood was 3x more likely (21% vs 6%).
- For those who lacked money for food or other basic needs in the past year compared to those who did not report this deprivation:

- Past year physical violence was over 5x more likely (22% vs 4%), past year sexual violence was 2x more likely (28% vs 11%), past year IPV was 5x more likely (11% vs 2%), and residence in an unsafe neighborhood was 2x more likely (13% vs 5%).
- For those who lost a job in the past year, compared to those not reporting job loss:
 - Past year sexual violence was 2x more likely (26% vs 14%), and residence in an unsafe neighborhood was 4x more likely (25% vs 6%).

Experiences of financial distress in the past year – eviction and food or housing insecurity - are associated with a 2 to 8-fold risk for physical violence, sexual violence, and IPV in California

ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN EXPERIENCES OF VIOLENCE AND HEALTH OUTCOMES

Violence and Physical Health

Those with ‘excellent’ self-reported physical health were, surprisingly, significantly *more* likely to have reported past year physical violence (16% among those with excellent health vs 7% with health rated good to poor) and past year sexual violence (23% with among those with excellent health vs 14% with health rated good to poor).

- For females, this difference was not meaningful – 6% reporting excellent physical health reported past year physical violence, compared to 5% who reported good to poor health. This difference was slightly greater, though not significant, for sexual violence (23% vs 15%).
- For males, those with excellent physical health were more likely to report past year physical violence (24% vs 9%) and past year sexual violence (23% vs 12%).

Violence and Mental Health

Those reporting anxiety and/or depression symptoms were more likely to report both past year physical violence and past year sexual violence. Those reporting severe symptoms were 5x more likely than those with normal symptomology to report past year physical violence (19% vs 4%) and past year sexual violence (35% vs 7%), respectively.

- For females, those with severe anxiety and/or depression symptoms were 4x more likely to report past year physical violence (11% vs 3%) and past year sexual violence (36% vs 9%). (See Figure 11.)
- For males, those with severe anxiety and/or depression symptoms were 7x more likely to report past year physical violence (28% vs 4%) and past year sexual violence (33% vs 5%). (See Figure 12.)

Figure 11. Past year physical violence by anxiety and depression symptoms, California 2022

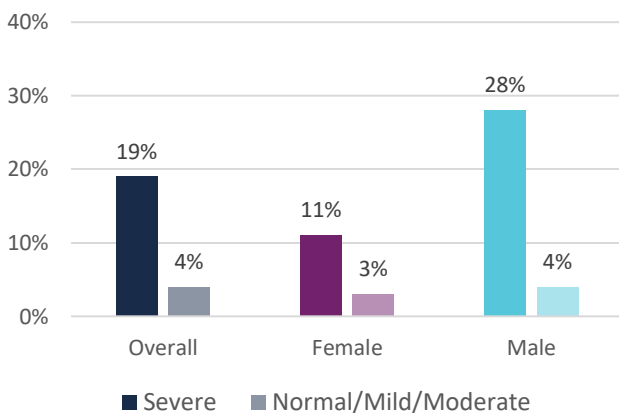
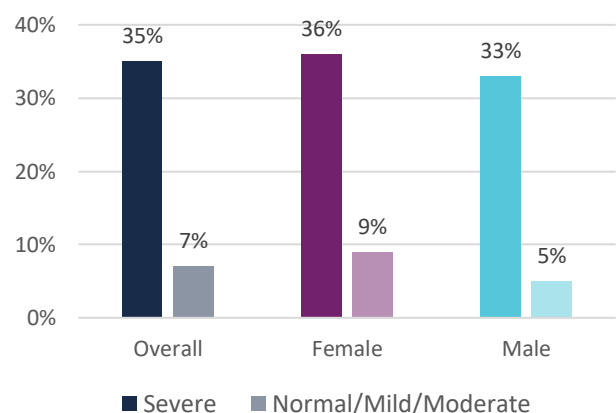


Figure 12. Past year sexual violence by anxiety and depression symptoms, California 2022



Violence and Suicidality

Those reporting suicidality (serious consideration of suicide) in the past year were 7x more likely to report past year physical violence (37% vs 5%) and 5x more likely to report past year sexual violence (53% vs 11%), compared to those who reported no suicidality in the past year.

- For females, those reporting suicidality were 8x more likely to report past year physical violence (24% vs 3%) and past year sexual violence (46% vs 12%), respectively.
- For males, those reporting suicidality are 7x as likely to report past year physical violence (47% vs 7%) and 6x as likely to report past year sexual violence (60% vs 9%).

Violence and Substance Misuse

We defined substance misuse as binge alcohol use (5+ drinks in one sitting for males/4+ drinks in one sitting for females) or use of illicit drugs (including prescription drugs which were not prescribed to the respondent) within the past 30 days. We found that those reporting past 30 day substance misuse were 6x more likely to report past year physical violence (18% vs 3%) and 2.5x as likely to report past year sexual violence (25% vs 10%) than those with no misuse.

- Female respondents reporting recent substance misuse were, respectively, 4x and 2x as likely to report past year physical violence (12% vs 3%) and past year sexual violence (24% vs 12%).
- Males reporting recent substance misuse were even more likely to report past year physical violence (22% vs 4%) and past year sexual violence (26% vs 7%).

Violence and COVID-19 Infection

About one-third (30%) of respondents reported that they had been infected with COVID-19 at some point during the pandemic. Violence and COVID-19 infection were related: those who reported COVID-19 infection were twice as likely to report past year physical violence (12% vs 6%) and past year sexual violence (21% vs 12%), respectively, compared to those who reported not having had COVID-19.

- Females reporting COVID-19 infection were more likely to report sexual violence (20% vs 13%), but not physical violence (7% vs 4%). (See Figure 13.)
- Males reporting COVID-19 infection were more likely to report both past year physical violence (18% vs 7%), as well as past year sexual violence (22% vs 10%). (See Figure 14.)

Figure 13. Past year physical violence by COVID-19 infection, California 2022

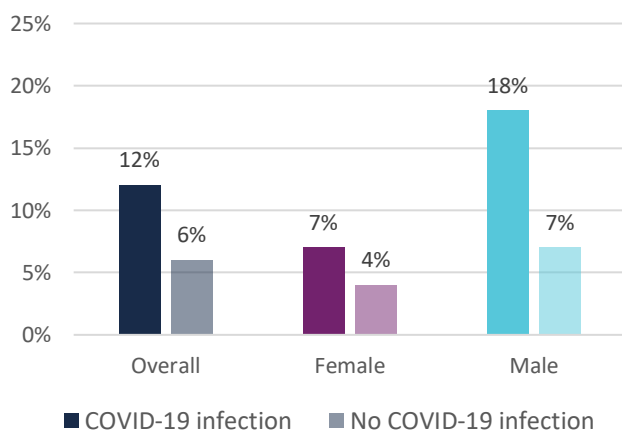
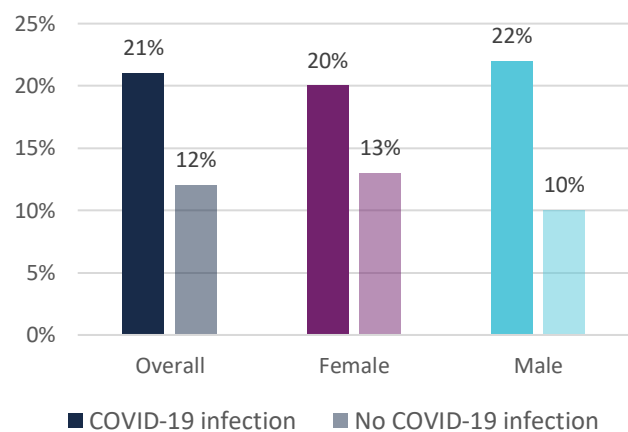


Figure 14. Past year sexual violence by COVID-19 infection, California 2022



SELF-REPORTED PERPETRATION OF VIOLENCE

In addition to experiences of violence victimization, the CalVEX survey asks respondents about whether they have committed any of the assessed forms of physical and sexual violence against someone else.

Prevalence and consequences of self-reported perpetration of physical violence

One in seven adults in California (15%) have perpetrated some form of physical violence in their lifetime, with males more likely than females to report these behaviors (19% vs. 11%).

- In the past year, 3% of adults report physical violence perpetration, 5% of males and 2% of females.
- Those who had experienced physical violence were more likely to perpetrate physical violence. 30% of those who had experienced physical violence in the past year reported perpetration in the past year, compared to 1% of those who had not experienced physical violence.
- Most people who reported perpetrating physical violence in the past year reported that the victim was angry but that no official/formal complaint was filed (49%)
 - Only 4% of females and 30% of males indicated that a formal complaint was filed, and 12% of females and 11% of males were arrested as a result of their past year physical violence perpetration.

Prevalence and consequences of self-reported perpetration of sexual violence

One in eight adults in California (12%) have perpetrated some form of sexual violence in their lifetime.

- Approximately one in 15 (7%) of females and nearly one in five (18%) males report that they have perpetrated sexual violence. Only 1% of males and 1% of females reported forcing sex.
- In the past year, 5% of adults report perpetration of sexual violence, including 8% of males and 3% of females.
- Those who had experienced sexual violence were much more likely to report perpetration of sexual violence. 27% of those who had experienced sexual violence in the past year reported perpetration in the past year, compared to only 1% who had not experienced sexual violence.
- Half of respondents who reported perpetrating sexual violence indicated that there were no consequences (49%).
 - 24% of females and 51% of males reported that they were confronted by the person they abused, but no formal complaint was filed. Only 13% of females and 19% of males indicated that a formal complaint was filed, and 14% of females and 15% of males were arrested as a result of the sexual violence.

Prevalence of self-reported perpetration of intimate partner violence

One in 50 California adults reported perpetrating some form of physical or sexual IPV within the past year in 2022 (2%). This is equivalent to the rate reported in 2021 (2%). For females, 1% reported perpetrating IPV in 2022, equivalent to 2021 reports (2%). For males, 3% reported perpetrating IPV in 2022, equivalent to 2021 reports (3%). Data were not collected on consequences specifically for IPV, but the data on physical and sexual violence perpetration indicate that many faced no consequences.

More than 1.5 million adults in California admit to committing acts of sexual violence in the past year.

Almost 600,000 California adults admit to committing physical or sexual IPV in the past year.

Men are more than 2x as likely as women to report sexual violence and IPV perpetration.

CONCLUSION

The CalVEX survey is the nation's only statewide assessment of violence experiences, offering California a unique opportunity to understand, track, and reduce incidents of physical and sexual violence, including intimate partner violence, discriminatory violence, and gun-related violence. The need for this work cannot be understated given findings from this year's report documenting that one in five Californians (18%) experienced physical violence or sexual violence in the past year, and one in every 25 Californians report physical or sexual violence from a partner (IPV) in the past year.

Much of this violence is gendered in nature, affecting men and women differently. Where women are more likely than men to have experienced many forms of sexual violence – verbal and cyber sexual harassment and forced sex – men are more likely than women to have faced physical violence. Sexual minorities also face higher rates of both physical and sexual violence, as well as IPV, relative to heterosexual respondents. These findings highlight that experiences of violence are at epidemic proportions in California, disproportionately burdening sexual minorities and affecting men and women differentially, with sexual violations more likely for women and physical attacks more likely for men. Such findings call for gender and sexual identity tailored responses from violence prevention programs.

Further disconcerting is that this violence has increased under the pandemic; we find significant increases from 2020 to 2022 in terms of both past year physical violence and past year sexual violence. Elevation in violence is linked to the pandemic impacts of increased economic insecurity and poorer health in the state. Early-stage efforts to support economic recovery under the pandemic have proven inadequate for those who were already on the economic margins, and ultimately may have contributed to a larger economic downturn as the pandemic continues with new variants and outbreaks. Furthermore, negative economic outcomes from the pandemic are also linked to increased risk for violence, with those evicted in the past year reporting a 7x higher physical violence prevalence and 4x higher sexual violence rate, compared to those who did not experience eviction. Similarly, those reporting severe economic insecurity (i.e., insufficient money for food or other basic needs) reported a 5-fold greater risk for physical violence and two-fold greater risk for sexual violence, relative to those not facing this level of economic insecurity.

Negative health impacts of the pandemic, including worsening mental health and substance use as well as COVID-19 infection, are also associated with increased risk for past year violence in our study. We find that those reporting severe depression and/or anxiety symptoms and suicidality reported 5-7x the risk for physical and sexual violence, compared to those not reporting these mental health concerns, and those reporting substance misuse reported 2.5x and 6x the risk for sexual violence and partner violence, respectively. We also found that those with a history of COVID infection were twice as likely to have experienced past year violence. Overall, findings demonstrate a web of social, economic, and behavioral risks connecting the COVID pandemic to the violence epidemic we have in the state, suggesting the need for an integrated response to COVID management that includes violence prevention.¹⁴ Likely, these concerns are greater for young families, and our future work should include more focus on measurement of family dynamics and violence to elucidate these issues for better policy guidance.

A climate of social insecurity and increased discrimination has also taken root in the United States, and in California specifically. The increase in hate crimes corresponds with the increase in violent crimes,⁴ which can normalize and escalate acts of interpersonal violence. Perceptions of neighborhood violence

show minimal change over time, but for women in neighborhoods they perceive as unsafe for them, we find that they are almost 5x more likely to have experienced physical violence. For both women and men who report experiencing acts of everyday discrimination (microaggressions) typically in a given week, experiences of physical and sexual violence are more likely. Importantly, these experiences of discrimination can be quite overt, such as being followed in a store or treated as if one is less intelligent for reasons attached to one's social identity or characteristics, and were reported by one in three Californians (28% of females and 33% of males). Most commonly, people attributed these experiences to racial/ethnic discrimination, but one in seven women (14%) reported discrimination due to gender. Importantly, those who experience everyday discrimination or microaggressions were 6x more likely to report past year physical violence experience, and 3x more likely to report sexual violence experience.

Findings regarding the association between structural and interpersonal violence correspond with other research indicating that socio-structural forms of violence, including community or neighborhood violence and discriminatory climates, contribute to normalization of interpersonal violence and acts of violence based on gender and racial/ethnic identities.¹⁵⁻¹⁷ Xenophobic violence may also be a piece of this, but under-representation of foreign born and non-English speaking Californians likely impeded our ability to further examine this information. These results highlight the need for strengthening the social fabric and altering the social climate of the state toward a safer and more respectful environment, in conjunction with building state and institutional policies supportive of socio-economic welfare, health, and violence prevention services for communities and families.

Our findings show that more than one in seven Californians admit to perpetrating physical violence, and almost one in eight admit to perpetrating sexual violence in their lifetime. Importantly, those who have experienced violence are more likely to perpetrate it, demonstrating that reliance on criminally punitive approaches to violence can only create more harm for victims of violence. We found that 30% of those who experienced physical violence in the past year report past year perpetration, compared to only 1% of those who did not experience physical violence. Similarly, 27% of those who experienced sexual violence in the past year report perpetration, compared to only 1% who did not experience sexual violence. The majority of Californian adults who experienced violence did not report it to the authorities, and the majority of those who perpetrated violence indicate that they did not have a formal complaint against them as a result. Among those who experienced some form of physical violence in the past year, only 7% of females and 13% of males indicated that they filed a formal complaint. For those experiencing sexual violence, 6% of females and 6% of males indicated that they filed a formal complaint. These findings are consistent with research that shows severe under-reporting of violence, particularly sexual violence.

In sum, violence and its negative impacts have increased under the pandemic and manifest in ways that heighten gender and other social inequities in California. Current violence prevention efforts are clearly woefully inadequate and often ignore the gendered nature of violence, its intersections with other socio-economic vulnerabilities, and its disproportionate effects on marginalized populations. Multi-level approaches inclusive of social and normative shifts regarding human dignity and rights, improvements to the policy environment to strengthen social and economic safety nets, and improvements to policy and programs in violence prevention and mental health services are needed. These approaches must be implemented at the community level as well as in diverse and multi-sectoral key institutions, such as schools and health care systems, to address the violence crisis in California and improve the state's COVID-19 rebuilding and health equity efforts more broadly.

STUDY LIMITATIONS

1. *Sampling and generalizability:* Because of the relatively small sample size, some groups, like transgender individuals and Indigenous people, were too small in number to allow for findings specific to these populations. Also, this survey excluded people without mailing addresses, such as currently homeless individuals and institutionalized populations (e.g., in prison or jail, residential treatment). Finally, we may have underrepresentation of foreign-born residents and certain racial/ethnic groups due to the availability of the survey only in English and Spanish, and because those without documentation and those who are migratory are less likely to be available to panel studies.
2. *Age exclusion of minors:* Due to the added expense and challenge of gaining parental consent for this topic, the sample is limited to those aged 18 and older.
3. *Survey length:* To ensure response to the full survey and adherence to survey administration organization standards, the survey was limited to take approximately 15 minutes and is therefore rather short. Consequently, we are limited in the correlates of violence that can be explored, though we did include key demographics and health outcomes. We hope the information collected and presented here will be explored in greater detail in future surveys and research.
4. *Reliance on self-report measures:* Physical and sexual violence measures rely on retrospective self-reports by those who have experienced and committed violence. Self-reported data collection can generate underreporting if victims or perpetrators conceal victimization or perpetration, misunderstand questions, or forget about violent occurrences.¹⁸ We therefore are likely underestimating the actual rates of experiences of violence in the state.
5. *Challenges in measuring violence:* Prior research, including our own, has identified that inclusion of more items to assess experiences of violence elicits higher prevalence reports of violence experiences, because disclosure is more likely. Given the brevity of our survey, we had to limit the number of items included to assess each form of violence, likely yielding underestimates. We know from our prior research on sexual violence that including a more comprehensive set of items results in a prevalence of approximately 86% among females, where we find this to be 62% in our study, with a more limited set of items.¹⁹ Underreporting is likely an even greater concern when assessing perpetration behaviors, given both the greater social stigma and criminality of these behaviors. Lower rates of reported experiences of violence as compared to rates of committing violence against others are thus expected, but this differential may also support the conclusion that people who commit violence against others may have multiple victims. In this survey, for the first time, we included an open-ended measure for physical and sexual violence experiences, respectively, to help elucidate quantitative findings and offer more insight into experiences of violence faced in the state.

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APPENDIX A. Past year violence rates and state estimates for California adults age 18+

| | Total | | Female | | Male | |
|---|------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|
| | % | n* | % | n* | % | n* |
| Total | 100 | 30,488,560 | 100 | 15,224,280 | 100 | 15,224,280 |
| EXPERIENCES OF VIOLENCE | | | | | | |
| Physical violence | 7.8% | 2,383,901 | 5.0% | 768,369 | 10.7% | 1,633,565 |
| Physical Abuse | 6.7% | 2,038,465 | 4.5% | 688,290 | 9.0% | 1,363,030 |
| Threat with or use of Knife | 1.8% | 562,819 | 0.9% | 135,192 | 2.9% | 434,349 |
| Threat with or use of Gun | 1.0% | 298,788 | 0.4% | 57,091 | 1.6% | 245,872 |
| Sexual Violence | 14.6% | 4,464,440 | 15.4% | 2,341,799 | 13.9% | 2,110,999 |
| Verbal sexual harassment | 7.8% | 2,383,291 | 10.0% | 1,518,926 | 5.6% | 844,948 |
| Homophobic or transphobic comments | 3.8% | 1,153,382 | 2.2% | 337,522 | 5.4% | 826,526 |
| Cyber sexual harassment | 5.9% | 1,807,362 | 7.6% | 1,156,741 | 4.2% | 635,005 |
| Physically aggressive sexual harassment | 2.3% | 715,871 | 2.8% | 430,390 | 1.8% | 280,888 |
| Quid pro quo sexual harassment/coercion | 1.2% | 369,826 | 1.0% | 149,350 | 1.5% | 221,818 |
| Forced sex | 0.3% | 82,929 | 0.4% | 53,589 | 0.2% | 28,622 |
| Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) | 3.8% | 1,171,675 | 3.9% | 595,726 | 3.8% | 573,955 |
| VIOLENCE PERPETRATION | | | | | | |
| Physical violence | 3.4% | 1,043,623 | 1.5% | 231,257 | 5.4% | 825,613 |
| Physical Abuse | 2.2% | 679,895 | 0.8% | 123,469 | 3.7% | 565,886 |
| Threat with or use of Knife | 1.4% | 414,340 | 0.7% | 109,463 | 2.0% | 309,205 |
| Threat with or use of Gun | 0.3% | 96,649 | 0.1% | 16,290 | 0.5% | 81,907 |
| Sexual Violence | 5.0% | 1,535,099 | 2.7% | 405,423 | 7.5% | 1,145,779 |
| Verbal sexual harassment | 2.8% | 839,350 | 1.3% | 190,760 | 4.3% | 658,298 |
| Homophobic or transphobic comments | 1.6% | 473,792 | 0.7% | 112,812 | 2.4% | 366,753 |
| Cyber sexual harassment | 1.0% | 305,800 | 0.5% | 71,402 | 1.6% | 238,108 |
| Physically aggressive sexual harassment | 0.7% | 225,310 | 0.4% | 57,396 | 1.1% | 170,360 |
| Quid pro quo sexual harassment or coercion | 0.2% | 58,538 | 0.1% | 8,221 | 0.3% | 51,154 |
| Forced sex | 0.2% | 47,257 | 0.1% | 10,048 | 0.2% | 37,756 |
| Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) | 1.9% | 591,173 | 1.2% | 188,020 | 2.7% | 407,706 |
| <i>*Population estimates from July 2021 Census estimates: https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/CA</i> | | | | | | |

APPENDIX B. Data Processing and Weighting Procedures

DATA PROCESSING

NORC prepared a fully labeled data file of respondent survey and demographic data. NORC applied the following cleaning rules to the survey data for quality control: respondents that finished the survey in less than a third of the median duration and/or skipped over fifty percent of the questions shown to them were removed from the data set.

WEIGHTING

NORC calculated panel weights for the completed AmeriSpeak Panel and nonprobability online interviews, as described below. First, we describe the calculation of the weights for the AmeriSpeak sample, and then describe the statistical corrections made to the non-probability sample via NORC's TrueNorthTM calibration weighting service.

AmeriSpeak Sample

Generally speaking, the steps for calculating the weights for the AmeriSpeak Panel interviews involves the following sequential steps: incorporating the appropriate probability of selection, and then incorporating nonresponse and raking ratio adjustments (to population benchmarks). For the AmeriSpeak Panel interviews, study-specific base weights are derived from the final panel weight and the probability of selection from the panel under the study sample design. Since not all sampled panel members responded to the interview, an adjustment is needed to compensate for survey non-respondents. This adjustment decreases potential nonresponse bias associated with sampled panel members who did not respond to the interview for the study. A weighting class approach is used to adjust the weights for survey respondents to represent non-respondents. At this stage of weighting, any extreme weights were trimmed using a power transformation to minimize the mean squared error, and then, weights were re-raked to the same population totals.

TrueNorth Calibration for Nonprobability Sample

In order to incorporate the nonprobability sample, NORC used TrueNorth calibration services, an innovative hybrid calibration approach developed at NORC based on small area estimation methods in order to explicitly account for potential bias associated with the nonprobability sample.^{20,21} The purpose of TrueNorth calibration is to adjust the weights for the nonprobability sample so as to bring weighted distributions of the nonprobability sample in line with the population distribution for characteristics correlated with the survey variables. Such calibration adjustments help to reduce potential bias, yielding more accurate population estimates.

The weighted AmeriSpeak sample and the TrueNorth calibrated nonprobability sample were used to develop a small area model to support domain-level estimates, where the domains were defined by race/ethnicity, age, and gender. The dependent variables for the models were key survey variables. The model included covariates, domain-level random effects, and sampling errors. The covariates were external data available from other national surveys such as health insurance, internet access, voting

behavior, and housing type from the American Community Survey (ACS) or the Current Population Survey (CPS).

Finally, the combined AmeriSpeak and nonprobability sample weights were derived such that for the combined sample, the weighted estimate reproduced the small domain estimates (derived using the small area model) for key survey variables.

The study design effect was 2.11, with a study margin of error of $\pm 3.21\%$. Under TrueNorth, the margins of error were estimated from the root mean squared error associated with the small area model, along with other statistical adjustments. A TrueNorth estimate of margin of error is a measure of uncertainty that accounts for the variability associated with the probability sample as well as the potential bias associated with the nonprobability sample.

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