

# CaIVEX 2025: Understanding the Impact of Violence and Opportunities for Prevention in California

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Thursday, April 30, 2026  
11 am - 12:30 pm Pacific Time

VALORUS 

# Meet Your Facilitators



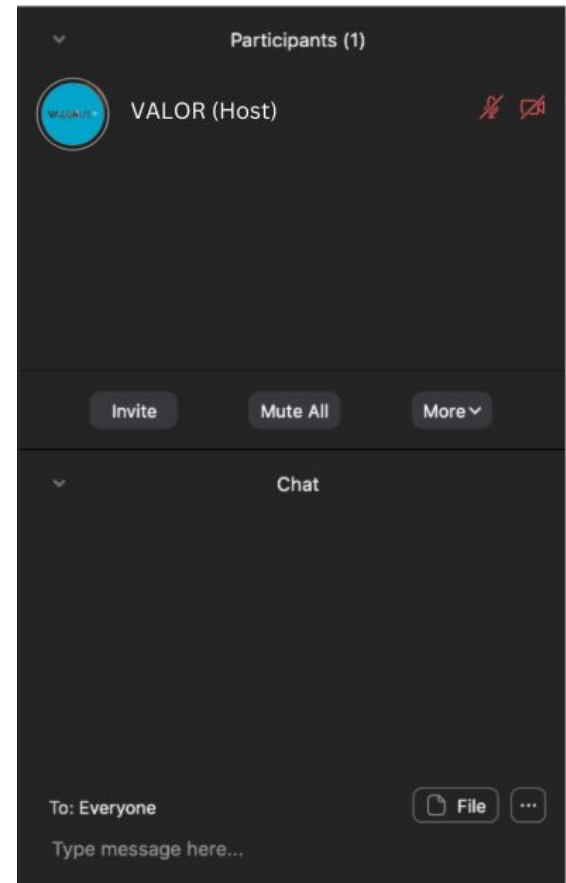
**Ashleigh Klein-Jimenez**  
Director of Prevention, VALOR



**David Lee**  
Deputy Director, VALOR

# HOW TO USE ZOOM

- ›Text chat
- ›Breakout rooms
- ›Phone
- ›Live captioning
- ›Recording & slides



# Learning Objectives

- Describe key findings from the latest 2025 CalVEX data
- Explain how CalVEX's population-based, behaviorally specific approach provides a more complete understanding of violence than traditional data sources
- Identify ways to use CalVEX findings to inform prevention strategies, cross-sector partnerships, and systems-level approaches in California

Use the Text Chat feature  
to answer the question.

What insights does public  
health data give us that  
aren't reflected in  
crime data?



Chat

From Me to **Everyone**:

Use this text chat box to respond to our questions, ask  
your own, and connect with others!

# Meet Our Guests



**Jakana Thomas, PhD**

MacArthur Foundation Chair in International  
Justice  
and Human Rights  
Professor, School of Global Policy and Strategy  
Department of Political Science  
University of California San Diego



**Anita Raj, MS, PhD**

Executive Director, Newcomb Institute  
Nancy Reeves Dreux Endowed Chair  
Professor, Tulane School of Public Health  
and Tropical Medicine  
Tulane University

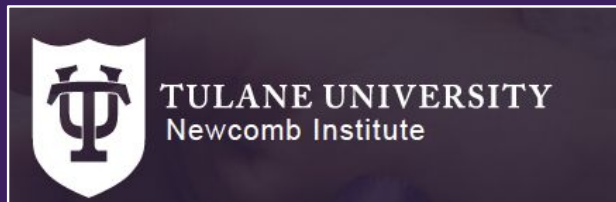


FINDINGS FROM

# 2025 California Violence Experiences Survey (CalVEX)

*A state-representative study of 4,007 California adults*

**UC San Diego**  
SCHOOL OF GLOBAL POLICY AND STRATEGY



# About the study

The California Violence Experiences Survey (CalVEX) provides population-based estimates of physical violence, sexual violence, intimate partner violence, discrimination, economic shocks, firearm attitudes, and mental health

CalVEX 2025 is the fifth survey in the series. It captures lifetime and past-year experiences across gender, race and ethnicity, and conditions that shape risk and resilience.

4,007

California adults surveyed

May–June  
2025

Fielding period

blue CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION

Generous funder and supporter

English  
& Spanish

Languages offered

VALORUS

# About the study

- NORC at the University of Chicago was commissioned to conduct an online survey of California adults (18+)
  - Primarily AmeriSpeak® probability-based panel designed to reflect U.S. household population
  - Supplemented w/ data from non-probability, opt-in panels w/calibration
- **Ethical Considerations:**
  - Informed consent
  - Verification of safe space for responding
  - Clarity on types of questions asked
  - Ability for non-response without penalty
  - Resources/referrals for all participants
  - IRB approval from NORC & UC San Diego

**Ages 18+**

California adults surveyed

**15 min**

Intended length

**24.6%**

Survey Completion Rate

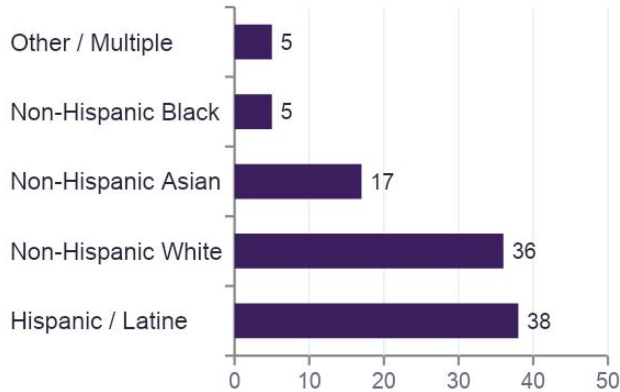
**±2.25%**

Margin of error

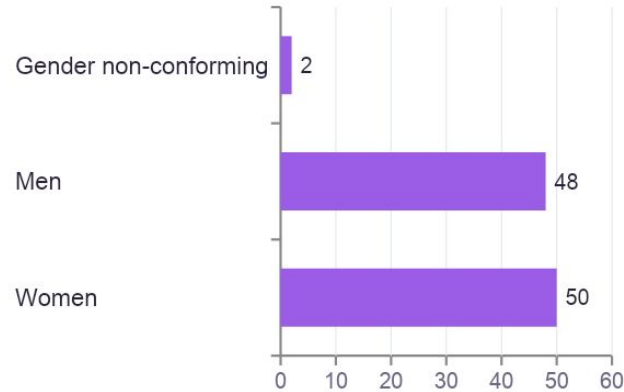
## SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS

# Who we surveyed

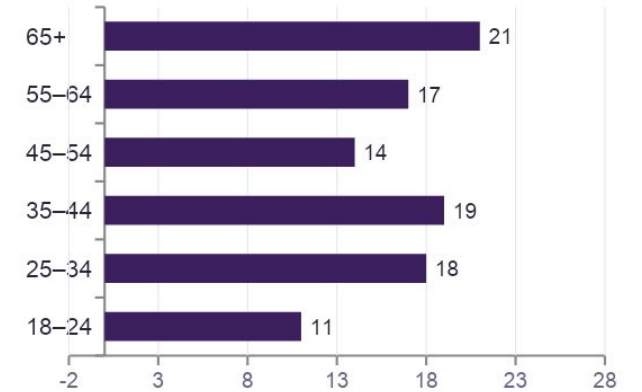
### Race & ethnicity



### Gender identity



### Age distribution



*N = 4,007 California adults. Weighted sample broadly representative of California's adult population per U.S. Census data.*

**3%**

Lived experience as transgender

**12%**

Identify as LGB+

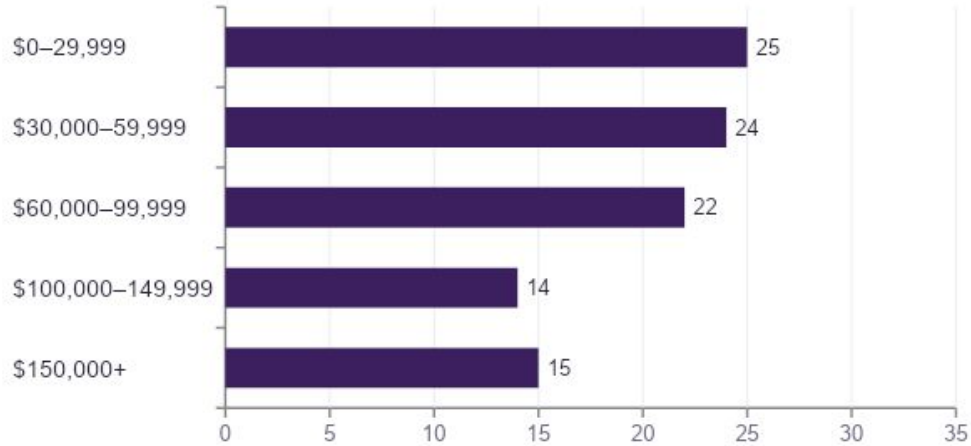
**97%**

Cisgender respondents

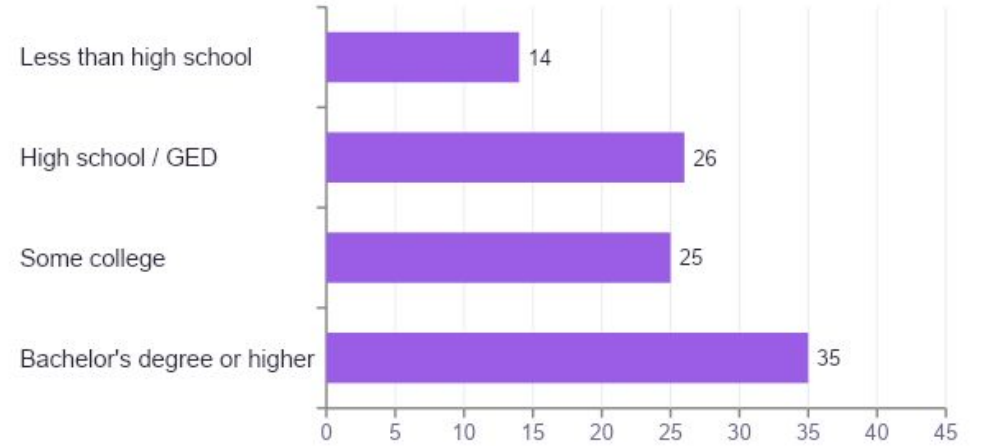
## SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS

# Who we surveyed

### Household income



### Education



**61%**

Employed full- or part-time

**\$60–75K**

Median household income  
(categorical)

**98%**

Live in metropolitan areas

**85%**

U.S.-born

**17%**

Report a disability

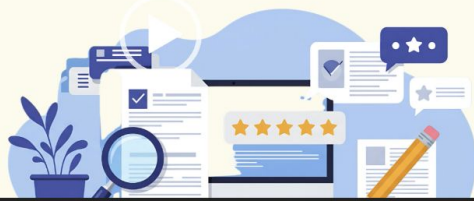
**15%**

Foreign-born

# National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS)

## From Data to Action:

NISVS's 2023/2024  
Intimate Partner Violence Data Briefs



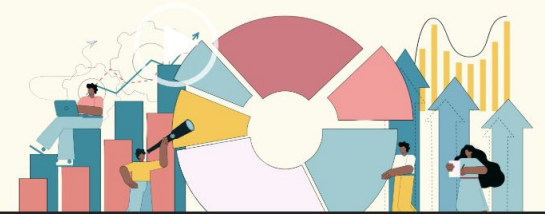
## From Data to Action:

NISVS's 2023/2024 Stalking Data Briefs



## From Data to Action:

NISVS's 2023/2024 Sexual Violence Data Brief



# Differences and similarities in sampling

## NISVS

*2023–2024*

- National address-based probability sample (ABS)
- USPS delivery file (near full coverage)
- Stratified by state and women/men (50 states + DC)
- Random selection of one adult per household
- Weighted to U.S. population

## CalVEX

*2025*

- California-focused sample (state-level)
- Hybrid design: probability (NORC AmeriSpeak) + non-probability
- Stratified by gender
- Oversample of Black/African American residents
- Weighted to California population

*NISVS prioritizes representativeness. CalVEX prioritizes efficiency to achieve population estimates.*

# Differences and similarities in procedure

## NISVS

*2023–2024*

- Multi-mode: web, phone, mail
- Two-stage design (household screener → adult survey)
- ~12-month field period
- Survey length: 18 min on web, 34 min on phone
- Two-phase follow-up with increased incentives
  - Up to \$15 for screening, \$15 for survey, \$40 to obtain surveys from initial nonrespondents

## CalVEX

*2025*

- Web-only survey
- English and Spanish
- ~5-week field period
- Panel-based recruitment (email/SMS)
- Shorter survey (~15 minutes)
- \$4 incentive payment

*NISVS maximizes coverage and rigor. CalVEX maximizes speed and feasibility.*

# Differences and similarities in survey content

## NISVS

2023–2024

- **Violence**
  - Sexual violence
  - Intimate partner violence
  - Stalking
- Victimization only (no perpetration)
- Reported for women and men
- Strong for national prevalence and comparability

## CalVEX

2025

- **Violence**
  - Sexual violence and harassment
  - Intimate partner violence
  - Family and community violence
  - Gun violence, policing violence, discrimination
- Includes victimization + perpetration
- Covers violence across the lifespan
- Broader array of social and economic correlates

*NISVS measures prevalence. CalVEX captures context, disparities, and lived experience.*

# Sexual Violence and Intimate Partner Violence prevalence in California

## NISVS California

*n* ≈ 400

### Attempted or completed rape

Group	Prevalence
Women	19%
Men	Too small to yield estimates
GNC	Unavailable

### Intimate partner violence (physical and/or sexual)

Group	Prevalence
Women	30%
Men	17%
GNC	Unavailable

## CalVEX 2025

*N* = 4,000+

### Forced sex

Group	Prevalence
Women	20%
Men	5%
GNC	19%

### Intimate partner violence (physical and/or sexual)\*

Group	Prevalence
Women	41%
Men	25%
GNC	32%

*\*included threats of physical harm*

*NISVS and CalVEX yield fairly comparable prevalence outputs for variables that can be compared, suggesting cross-validity.*

# The scale of violence in California

51%

have experienced  
physical violence  
in their lifetime

*~16 million Californians*

52%

have experienced  
sexual violence  
in their lifetime

*~16 million Californians*

52%

have experienced  
intimate partner  
violence in their lifetime

*~16 million Californians*

23%

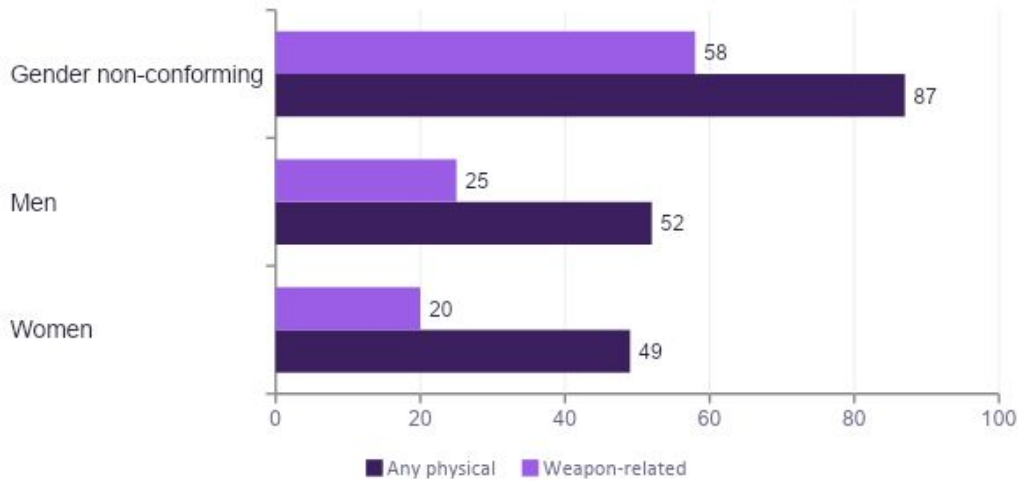
have experienced lifetime  
knife- or gun-related  
physical violence

*~7 million Californians*

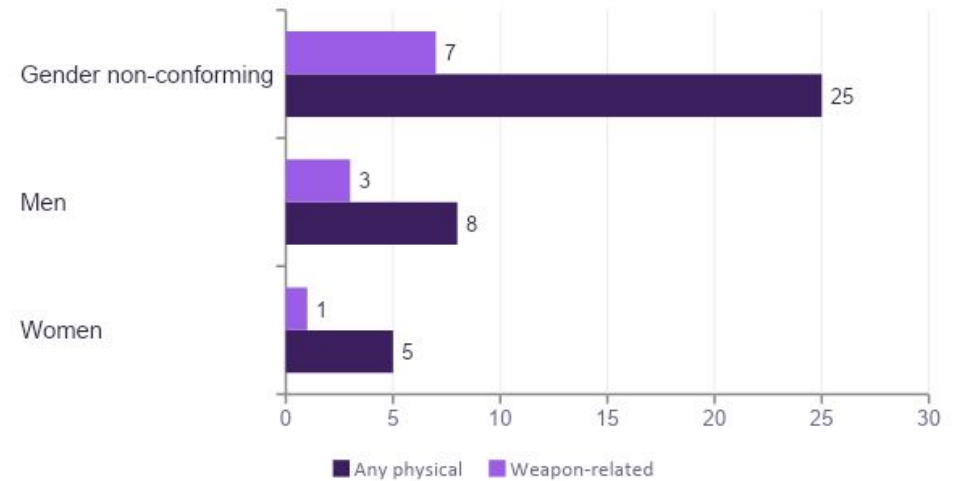
## PHYSICAL VIOLENCE EXPERIENCE

# Lifetime and past-year physical violence experiences

Lifetime prevalence by gender



Past-year prevalence by gender

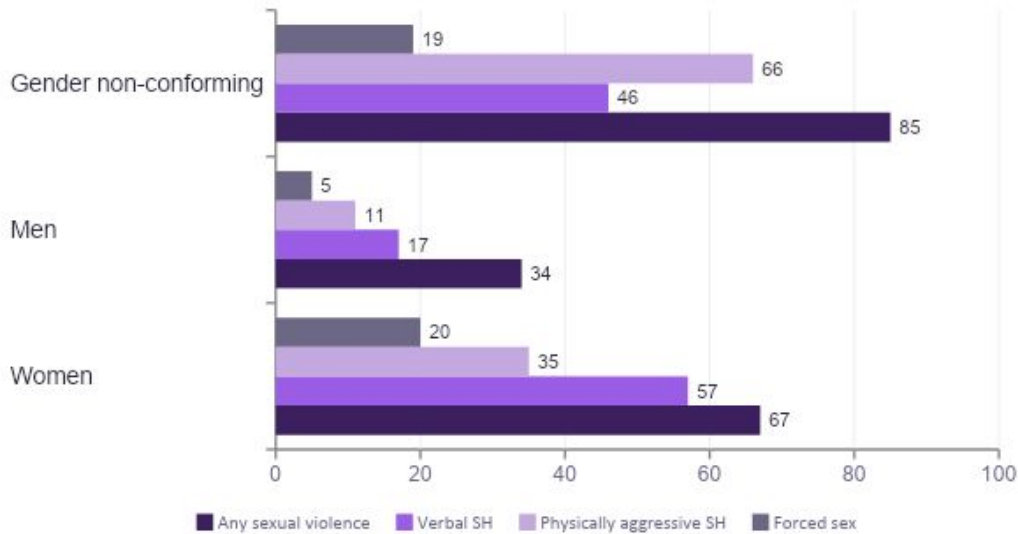


~16 million Californians have experienced physical violence in their lifetime (51%).

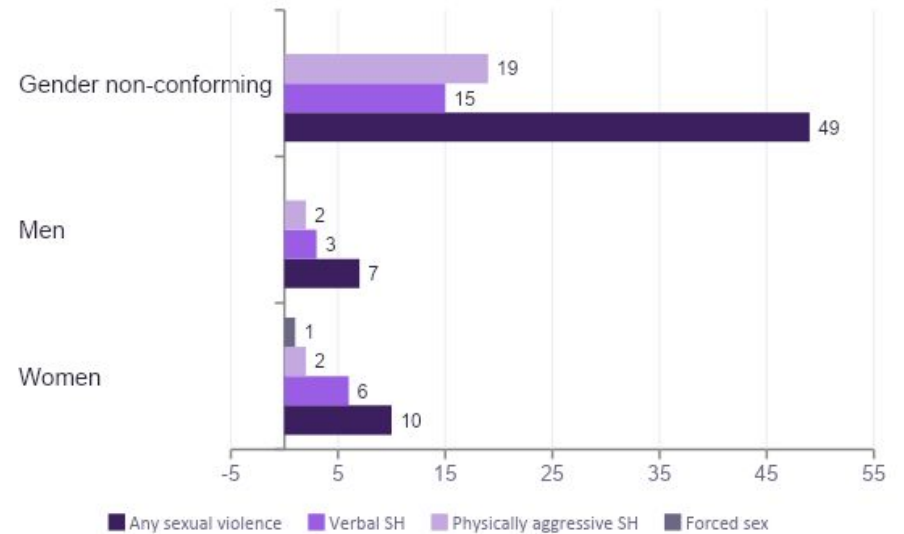
~2 million Californians experienced physical violence in the past year (7%), a return to pandemic-era levels.

# Lifetime and past-year sexual violence experiences

Lifetime prevalence by gender



Past-year prevalence by gender

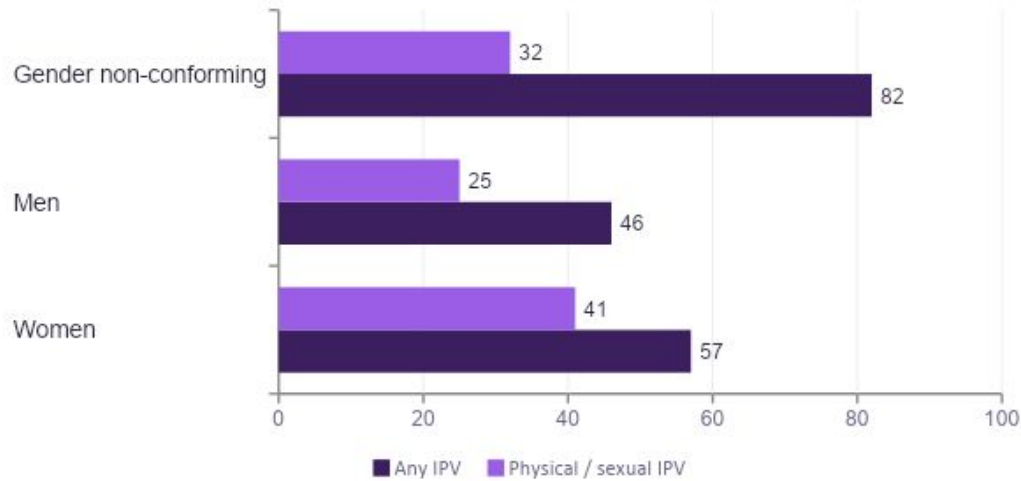


~16 million Californians have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime (52%).  
 ~2 million Californians experienced sexual violence in the past year (9%).

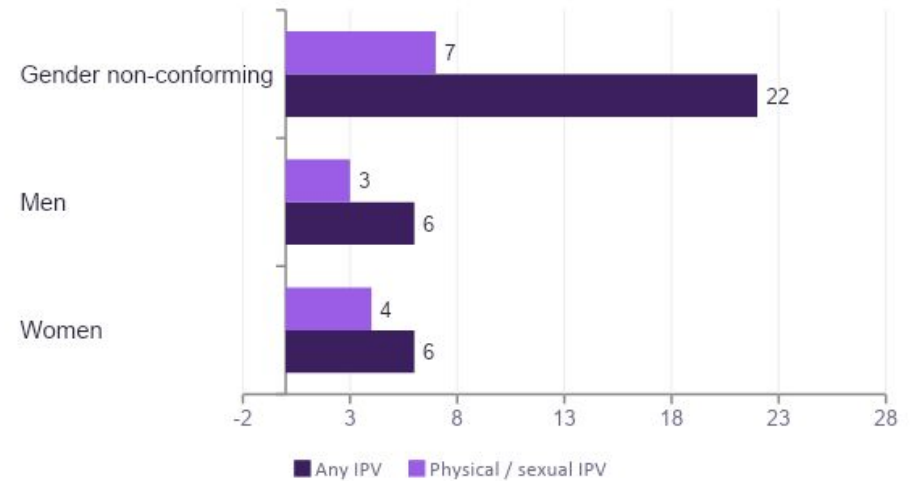
## INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE EXPERIENCE

# Lifetime and past-year IPV experiences

Lifetime IPV prevalence by gender



Past-year IPV prevalence by gender



~16 million Californians have experienced IPV in their lifetime (52%).  
~2 million Californians experienced IPV it in the past year (6%).

Use the Text Chat feature  
to answer the question.

What additional data  
would be helpful in your  
work?



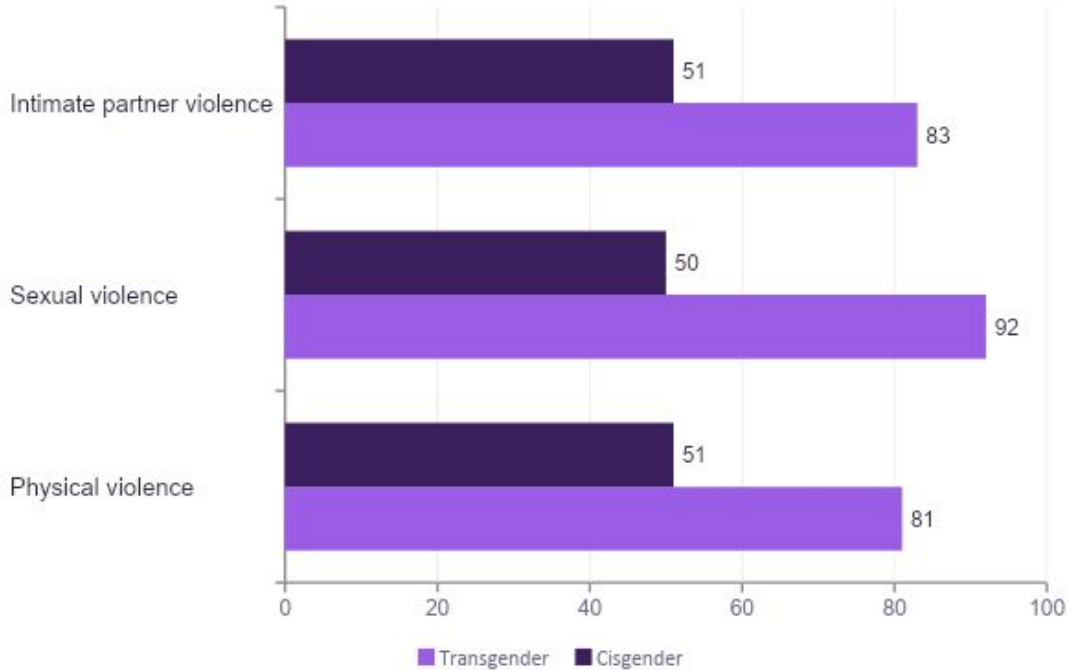
Chat

From Me to **Everyone**:

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your own, and connect with others!

# Transgender Californians face profound disparities

Lifetime prevalence (%)



## What the gap means

*Violence disproportionate across every category*

Gender non-conforming adults also reported the highest past-year violence:

- 25% physical
- 49% sexual
- 22% IPV

# Violence experiences across California regions

Lifetime physical violence prevalence by region

Region	Women	Men	Avg
Northern	59%	61%	60%
Central Valley	56%	56%	56%
Mountain Valley	53%	53%	53%
Bay Region	45%	54%	50%
Southern	48%	50%	49%

Lifetime sexual violence prevalence by region

Region	Women	Men	Avg
Northern	82%	39%	61%
Central Valley	64%	45%	55%
Bay Region	68%	36%	52%
Mountain Valley	70%	29%	50%
Southern	66%	33%	50%

Lifetime intimate partner violence prevalence by region

Region	Women	Men	Avg
Northern	63%	53%	58%
Central Valley	61%	52%	57%
Mountain Valley	60%	52%	56%
Southern	57%	45%	51%
Bay Region	55%	43%	49%

## Key patterns

**Northern California** has the highest average prevalence across all three violence types.

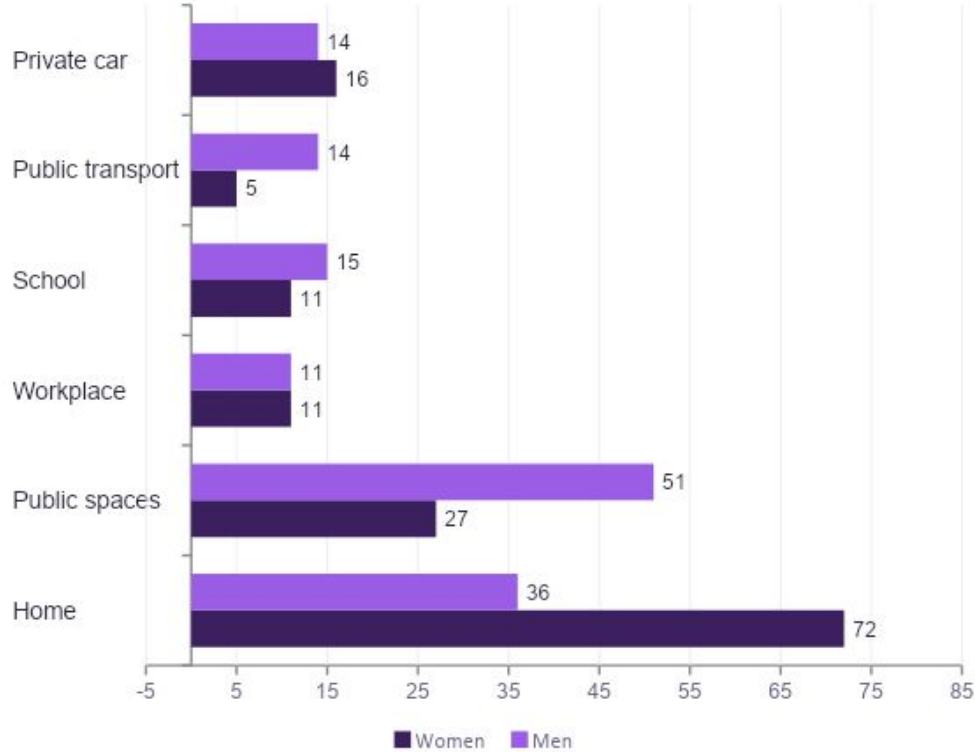
**Central Valley** ranks second-highest across all three types, with men's sexual violence rates notably higher than in other regions (45%).

*"Avg" = average of women's and men's rates, used for ranking. Regions ordered highest to lowest.*

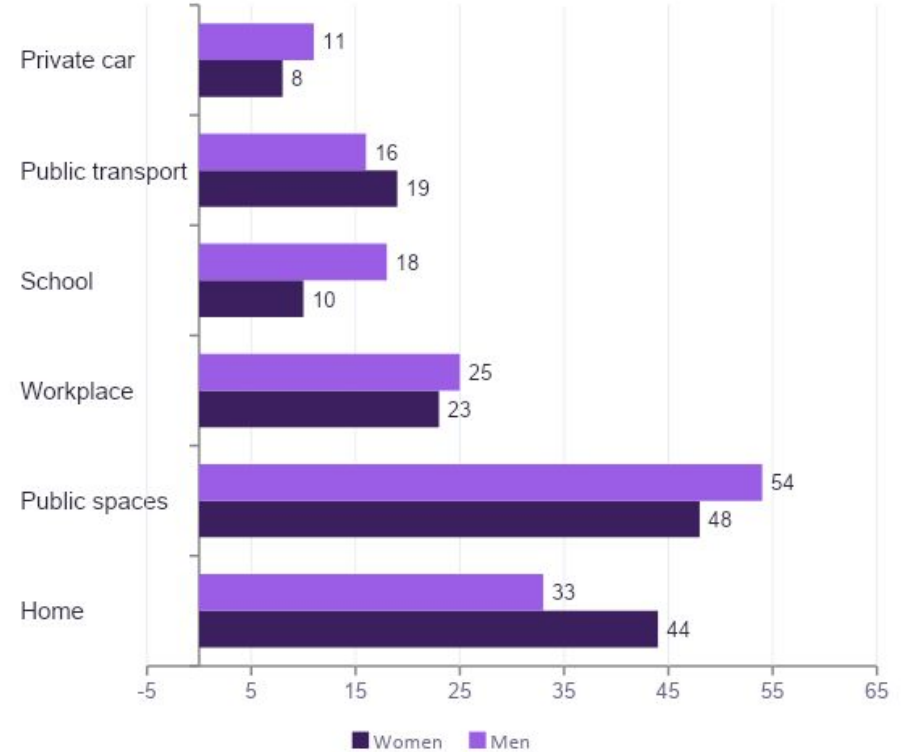
## LOCATION

# Where violence occurs (top locations)

Past-year physical violence (% of incidents)



Past-year sexual violence (% of incidents)

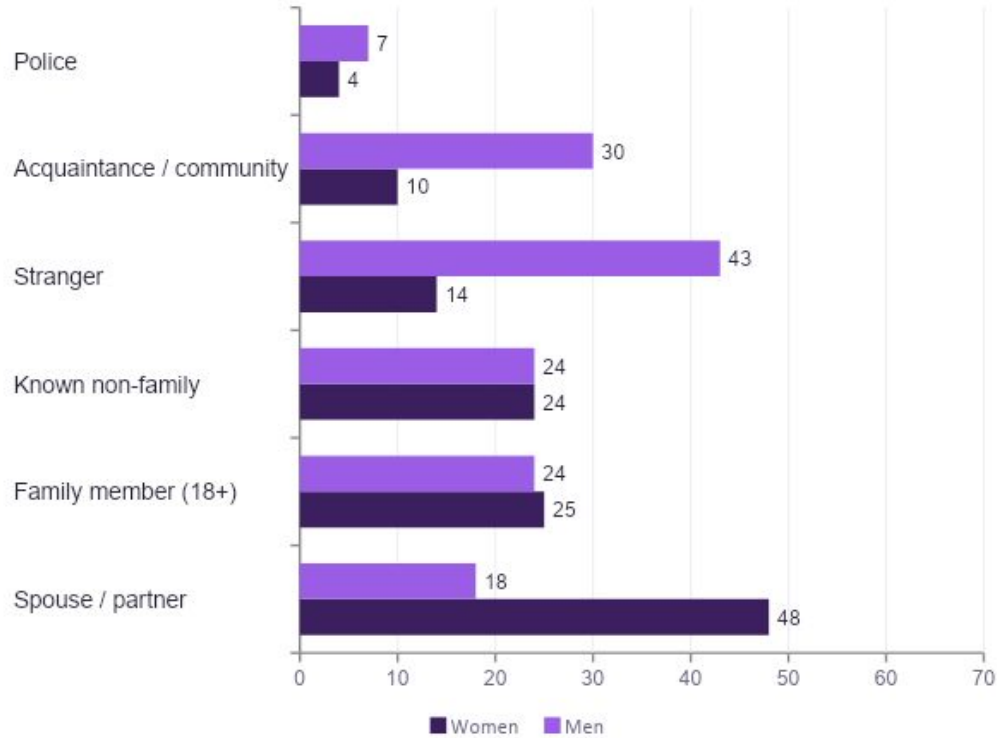


*Women are twice as likely to be harmed physically at home; men are twice as likely in public spaces. Sexual violence spans public and private spaces alike.*

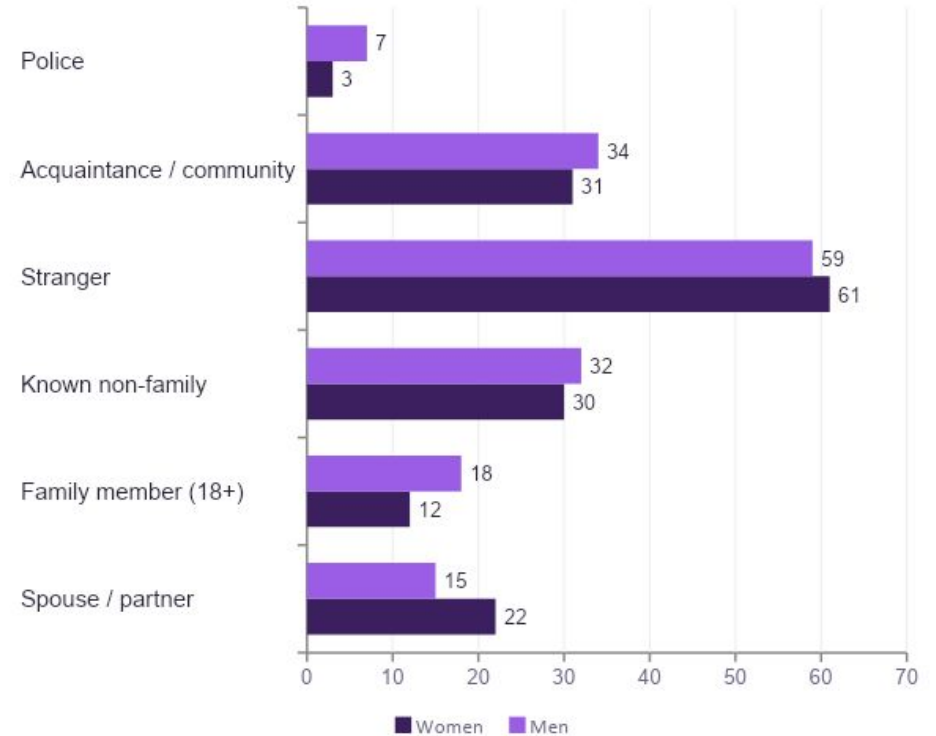
## PERPETRATORS

# Who causes harm (selected)

Past-year physical violence



Past-year sexual violence

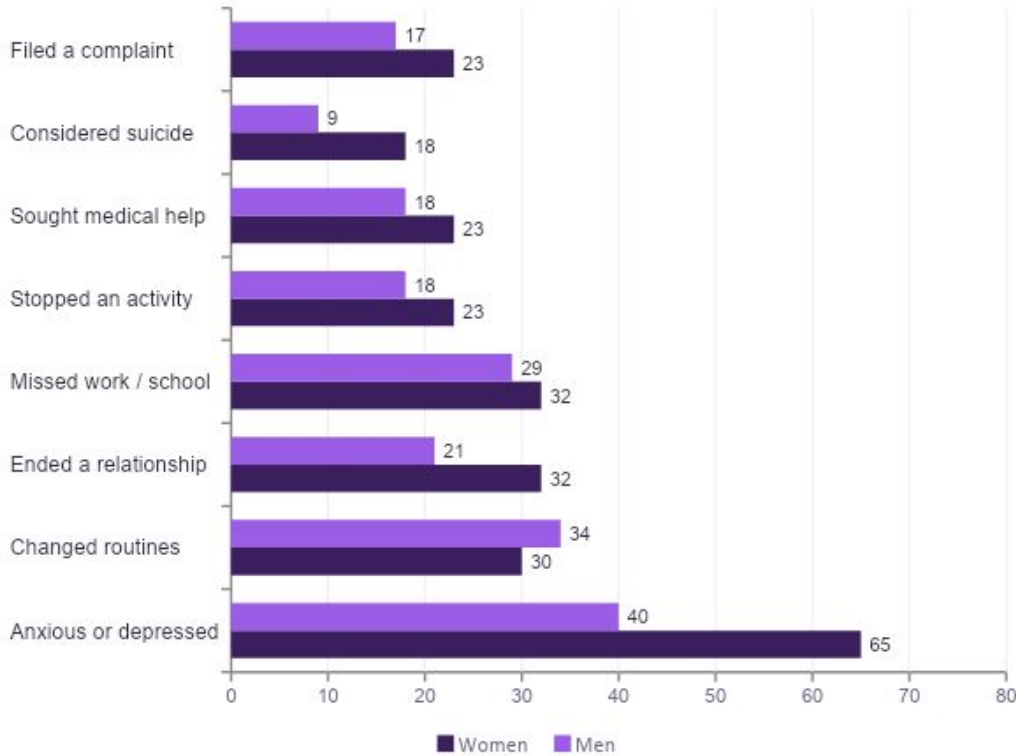


*Physical violence is gendered: women by partners, men by strangers. For sexual violence, strangers are the most common perpetrator for both genders.*

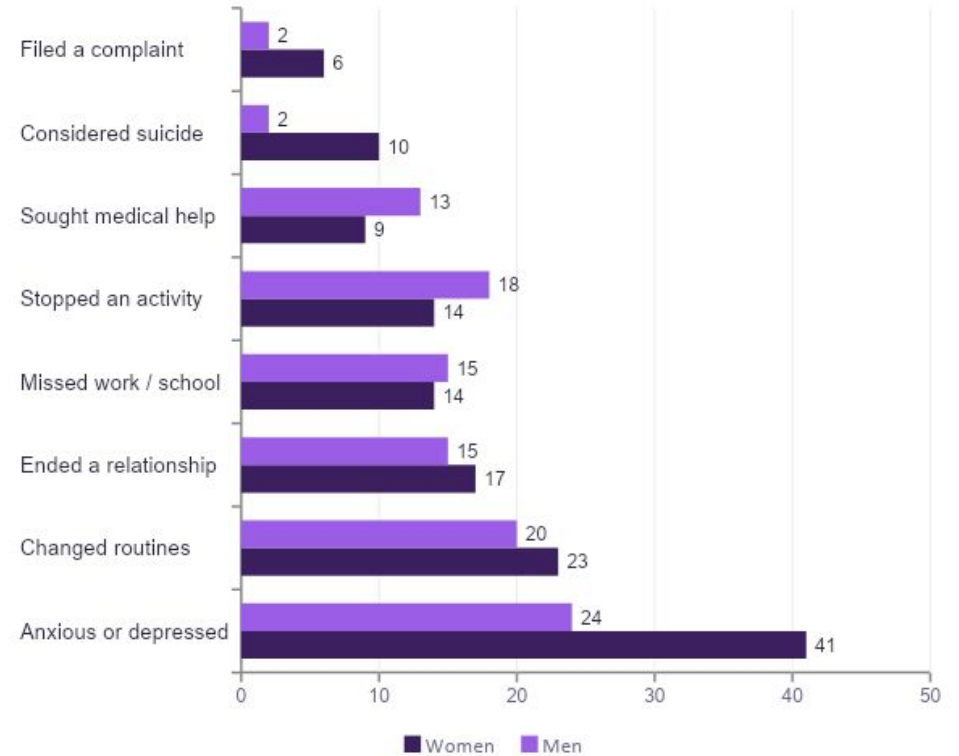
CONSEQUENCES

# Consequences of violence for survivors

Physical violence consequences (% of survivors)



Sexual violence consequences (% of survivors)

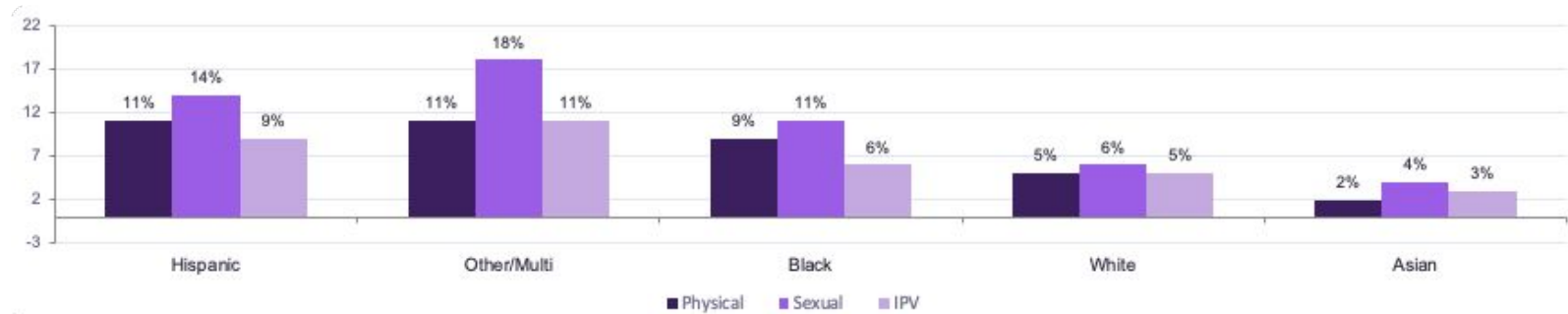


35% of women and 23% of men reported no consequence from sexual violence. Only 4% formally reported. Physical violence consequences are more severe across most categories.

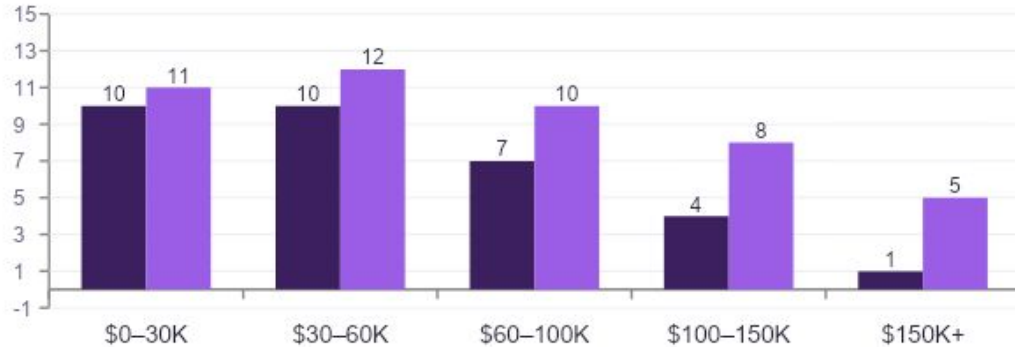


# Violence prevalence across demographic groups

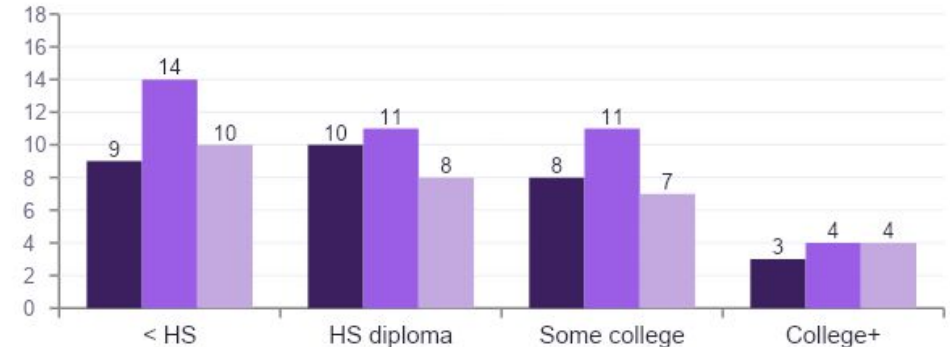
Past-year violence by race & ethnicity (% of adults)



By household income (Physical & Sexual only — IPV not significant)

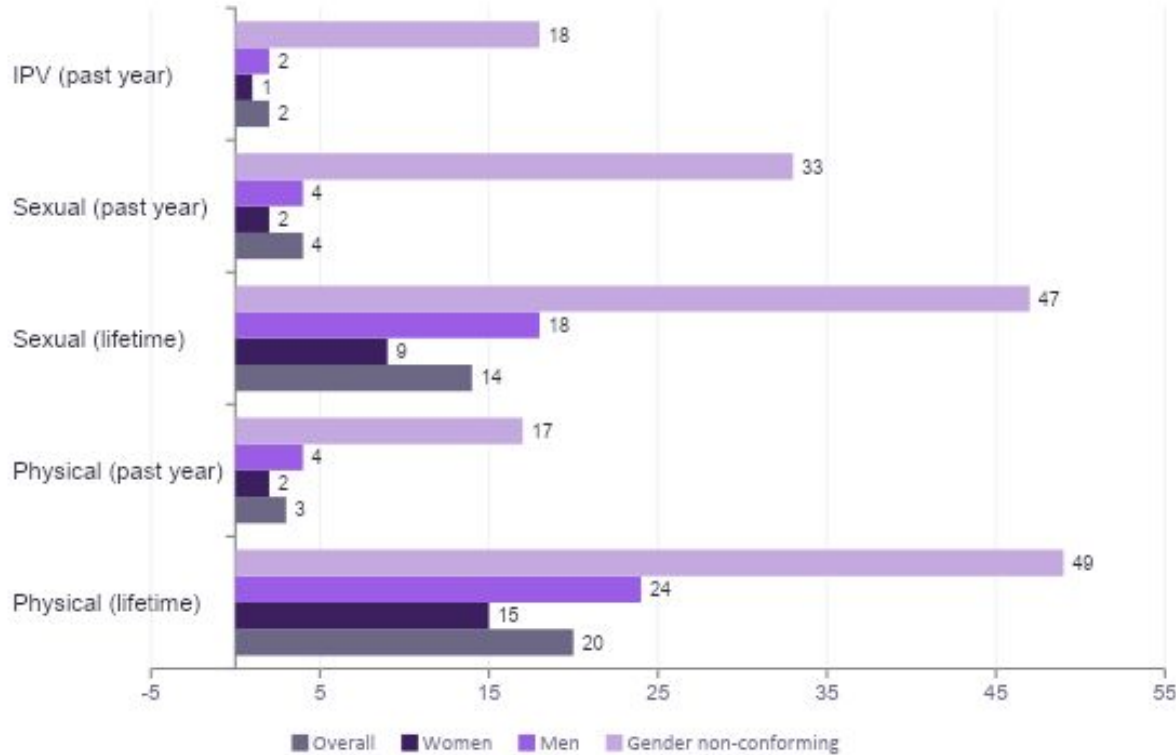


By education



# Self-reported perpetration of violence

Perpetration prevalence by gender (%)



## Key findings

### Last year, approximately

0.56 million Californians perpetrated intimate partner violence

1.18 million Californians perpetrated sexual violence

0.96 million Californians perpetrated physical violence

### Victimization is linked to perpetration:

**28x** more likely to perpetrate physical violence in the past year if also a victim.

**10x** more likely for sexual violence.

**14x** more likely for IPV.

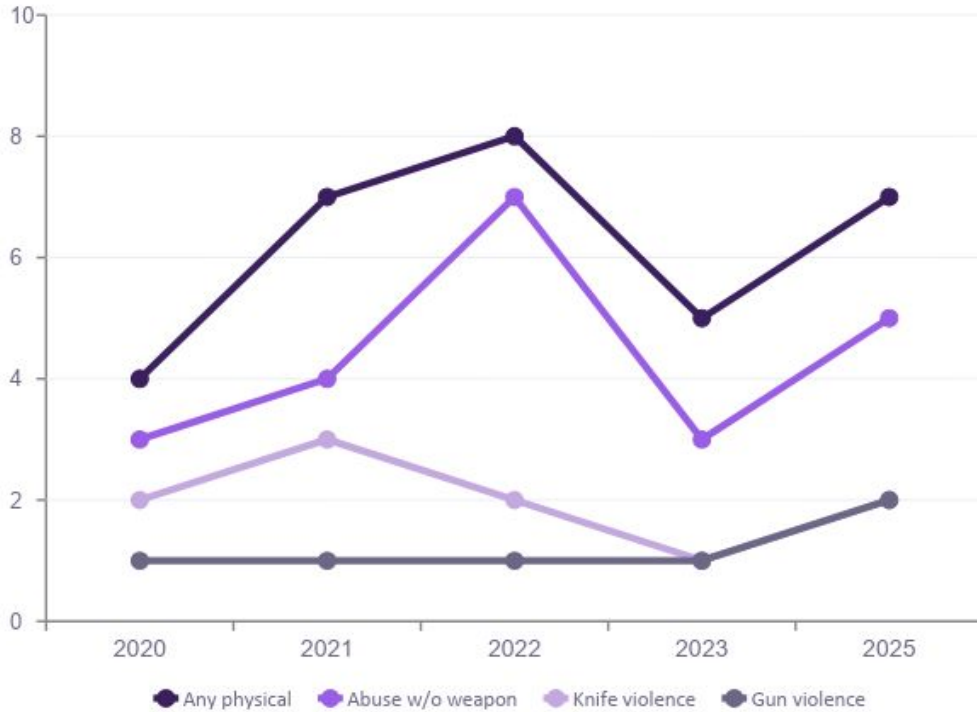
### Limited accountability:

52% of physical violence perpetrators and 46% of sexual violence perpetrators reported no consequences.

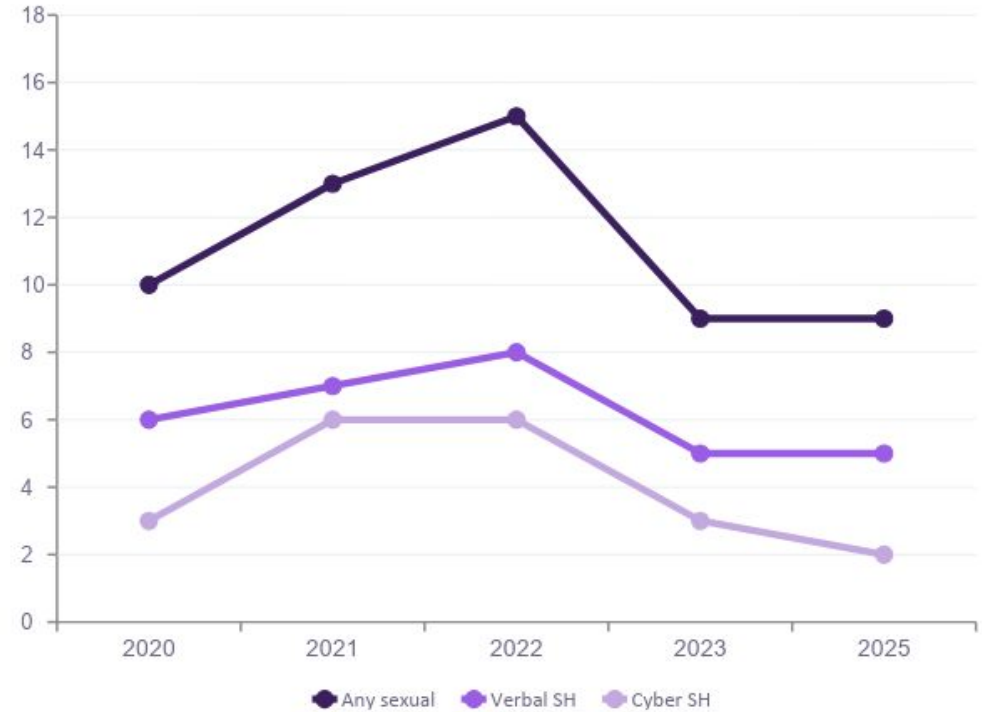
Only 11% of physical and 6% of sexual violence perpetrators were arrested.

# Violence has not returned to pre-pandemic levels

Past-year physical violence over time (% of adults)



Past-year sexual violence over time (% of adults)



Physical violence rose significantly from 2023 to 2025. Sexual violence did not change significantly but shows a decline since the pandemic peak. Data from Figures 13 & 14.

Use the Text Chat feature  
to answer the question.

## social contexts



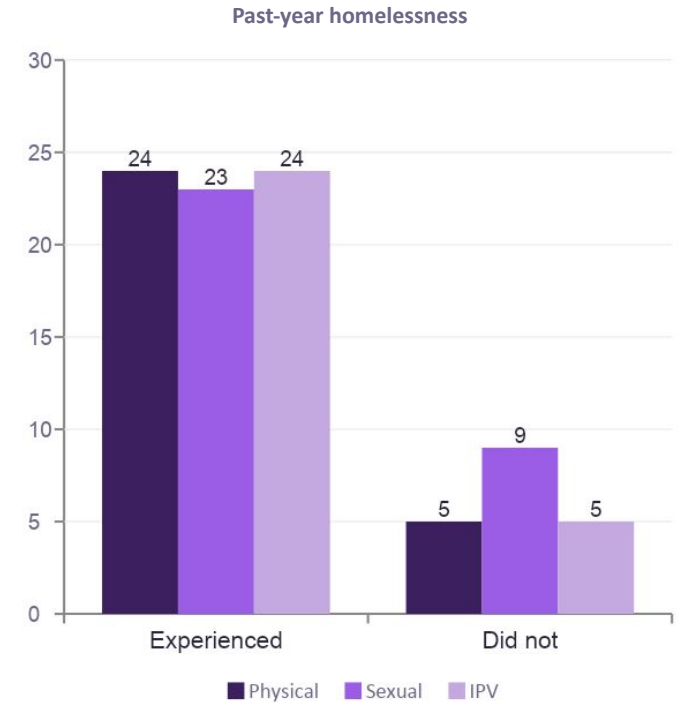
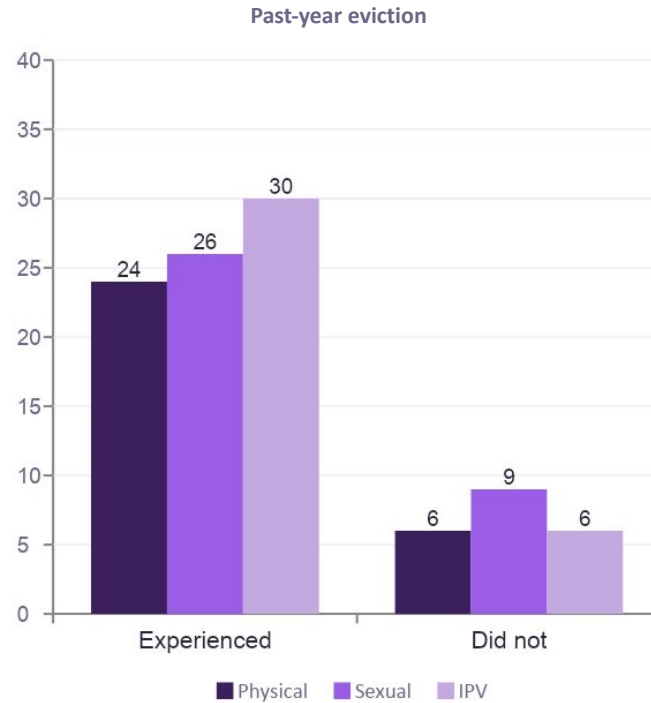
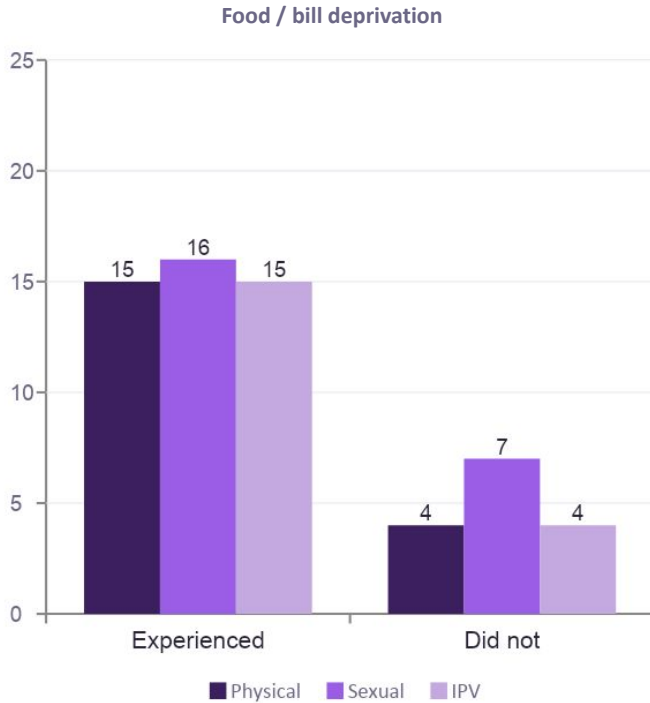
Chat

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your own, and connect with others!

# Economic instability sharply increases risk

Past-year violence among those who experienced an economic shock vs. those who did not



Adults experiencing food insecurity, eviction, or homelessness report 3–5× the rate of past-year physical, sexual, and intimate partner violence compared with those who did not. Job loss (not shown) was significantly associated with physical and sexual violence but not IPV.

# Discrimination, neighborhood safety, and policing

3-5×

Those experiencing **everyday discrimination** experience more past-year violence:

- physical violence (>5x)
- sexual violence (>4x)
- IPV (>3x)

3×

Those reporting **institutional discrimination** face ~3× the rate of past-year violence:

- physical violence (~3x)
- sexual (> 3x)
- IPV (~3x)

2-3×

People who report recent **police mistreatment** likelier to experience violence:

- physical (3x)
- sexual violence (2x)
- IPV (~ 2x)

2-2.5  
×

Adults who see their **neighborhood as unsafe** experience greater past-year violence:

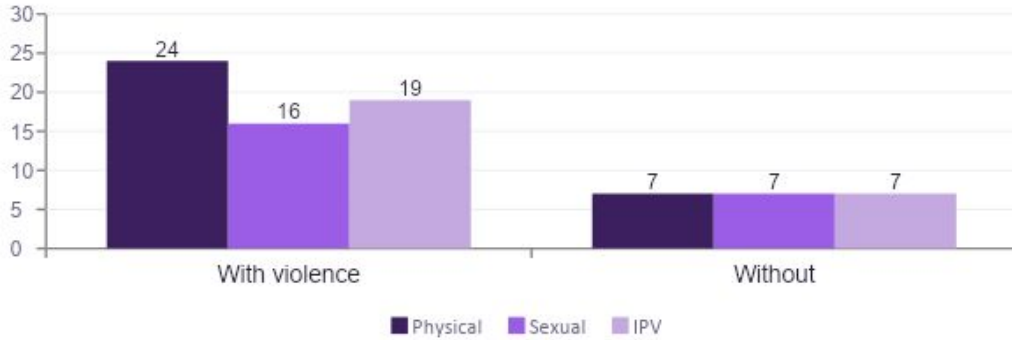
- physical (2.5x)
- sexual violence (2x)
- IPV (~ 2x)

## CONSEQUENCES

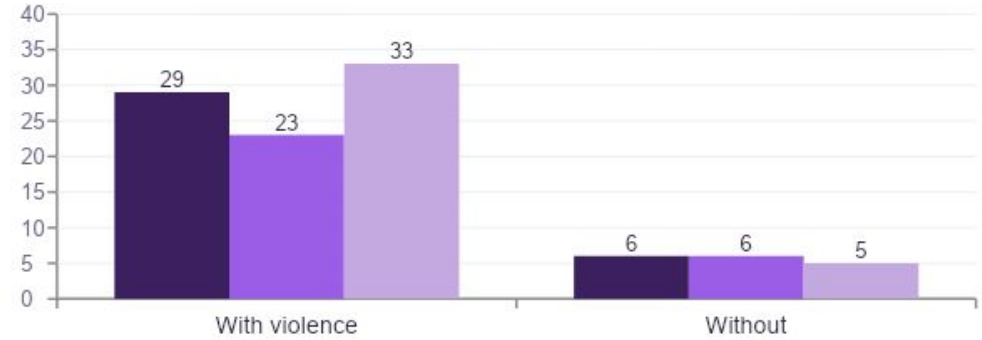
# Violence leaves deep marks on mental and behavioral health

Rates among those with vs. without past-year violence (%)

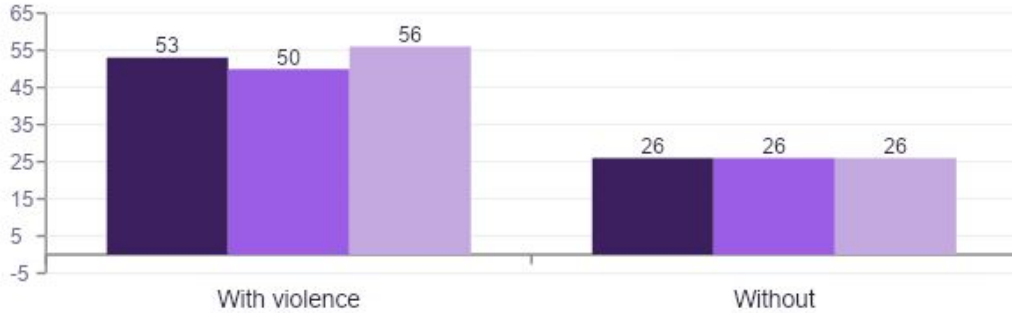
Severe depression / anxiety (PHQ-4)



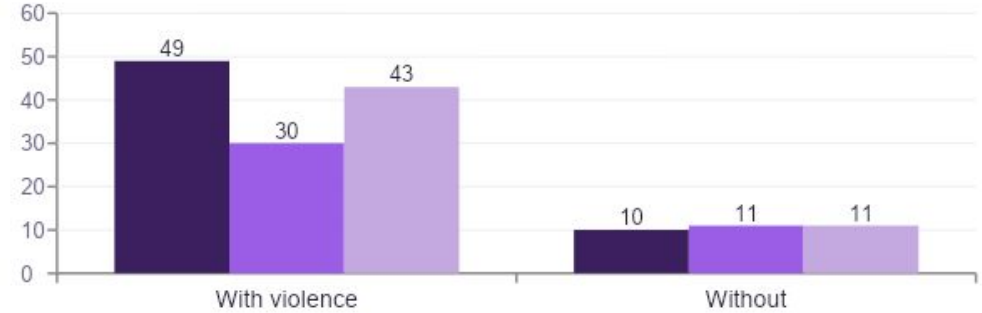
Seriously considered suicide (past year)



Binge alcohol use (past 30 days)



Illicit drug use (past 30 days)



# Ownership, attitudes, and exposure

**22%**

**Firearm owners**

*46% among gender  
non-conforming adults*

**6%**

**Acquired new firearm**

*Those with recent gun-violence  
exposure >4x more likely*

**19%**

**Received firearm training**

*Fewer than own firearms*

**61%**

**Say they would not keep a  
firearm at home**

*Broad preference against ownership*

Use the Text Chat feature  
to answer the question.

What recommendations  
or implications do these  
data suggest to you?



Chat

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# Violence is not inevitable.

1

## **Sustain state funding for prevention and survivor support**

Stable investment is critical as federal cuts threaten VOCA, Medicaid, and hospital-based intervention programs.

2

## **Reduce violence and discrimination against LGBTQ+ communities**

Prioritize school-based anti-bullying policies, crisis hotlines, and affirming supports for transgender and gender non-conforming youth.

3

## **Center economic stability in violence prevention**

Tackle housing, food, energy, and childcare costs; support economic independence for people at high risk.

4

## **Address discriminatory and abusive policing**

Invest in non-carceral responses — social workers, health educators, and victim services — to rebuild trust and reach.

5

## **Continue strengthening firearm safety**

Expand training, safe-storage education, and risk-reduction tools such as DVROs and GVROs.

# Thank you.

Download the 2025 CalVEX report here:

[vexdata.org](https://vexdata.org)



Add us on Linked-In for updates!



Use the Text Chat feature  
to answer the question.

# How would you use this data to support your work?



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