

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

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

VALORUS 

Meet Your Facilitators



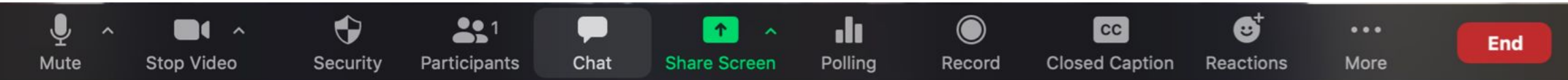
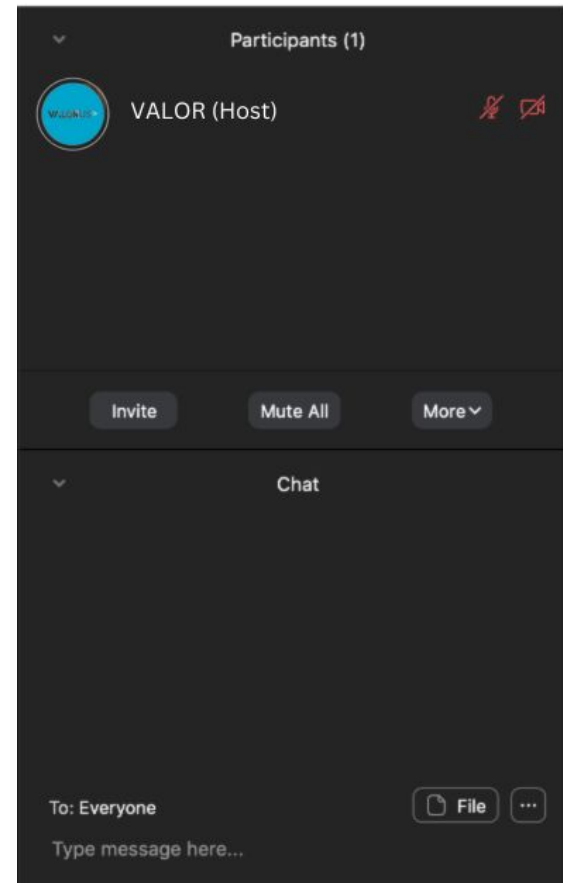
Ashleigh Klein-Jimenez
Director of Prevention, VALOR



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
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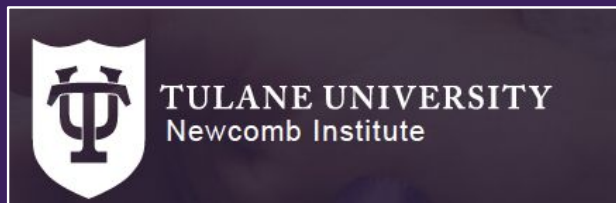


FINDINGS FROM

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

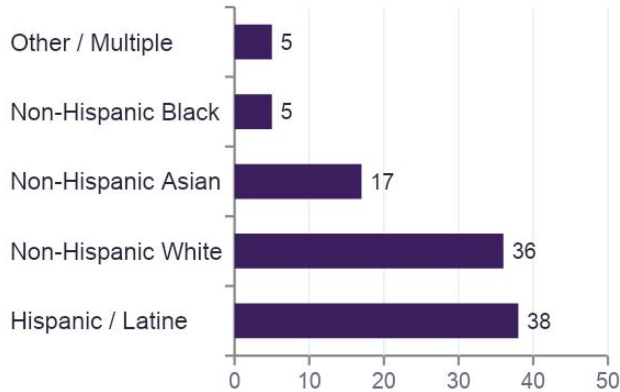
±2.25%

Margin of error

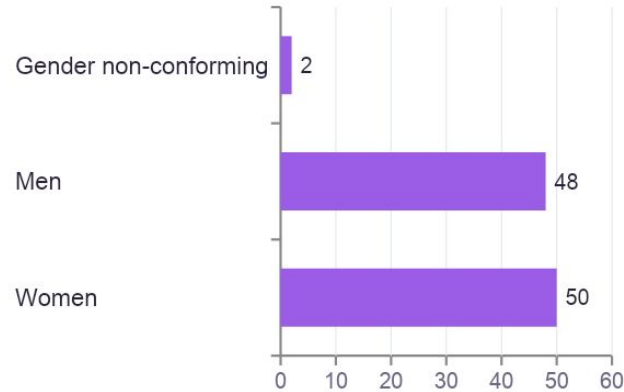
SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS

Who we surveyed

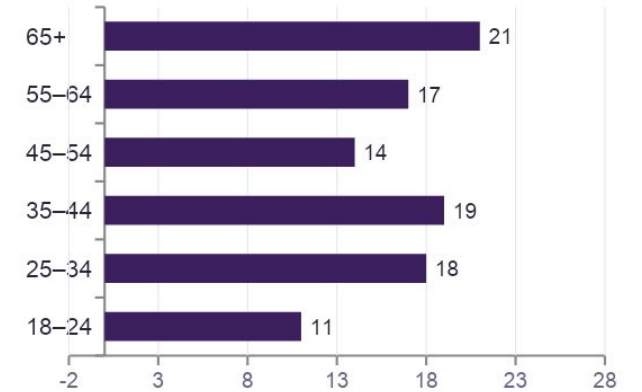
Race & ethnicity



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 LGBTQ+

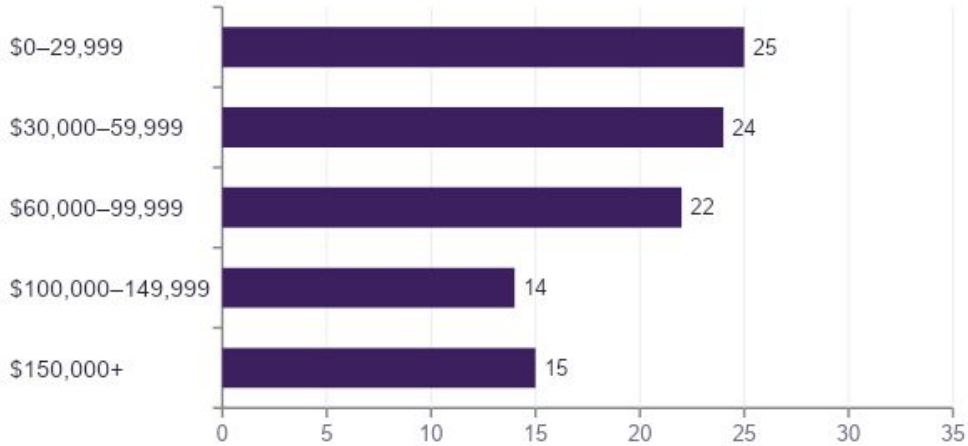
97%

Cisgender respondents

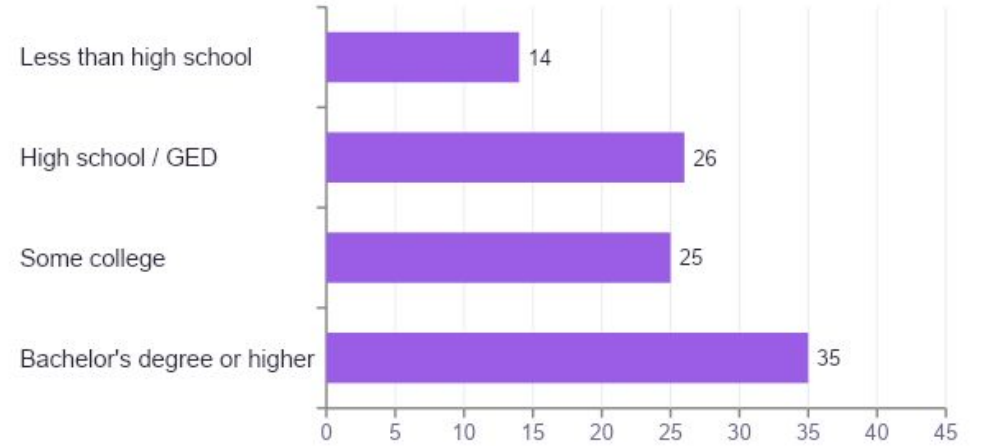
SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS

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)



<https://www.preventconnect.org/2026/02/from-data-to-action-applying-the-2023-2024-nisvs-findings-on-stalking-sexual-violence-and-intimate-partner-violence/>

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%

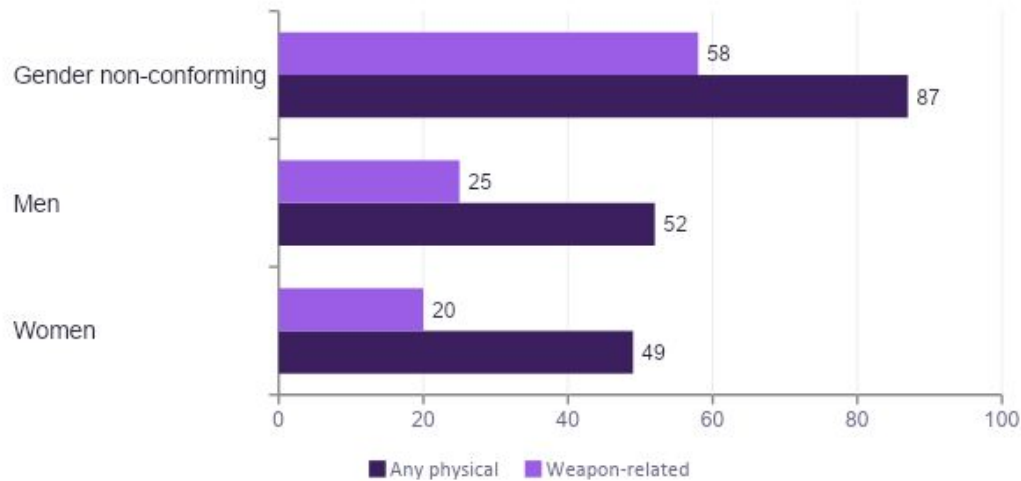
have experienced lifetime
knife- or gun-related
physical violence

~7 million Californians

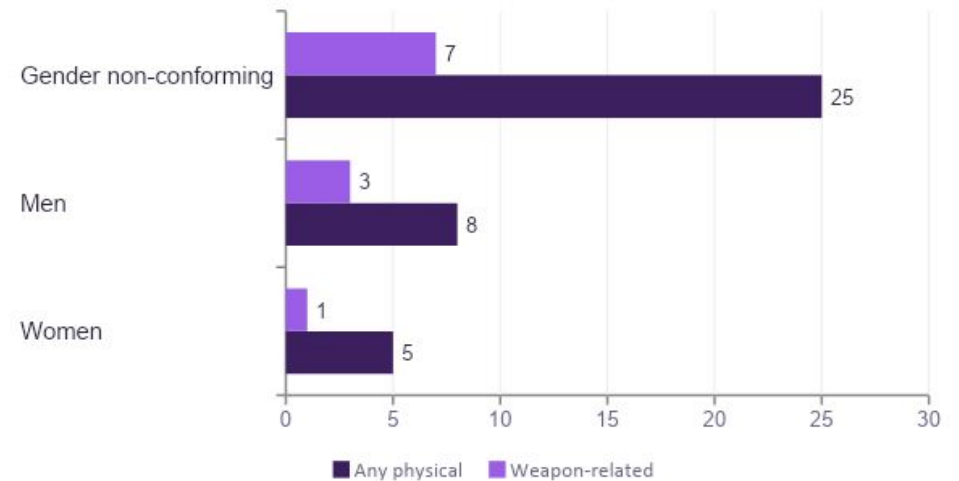
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE EXPERIENCE

Lifetime and past-year physical violence experiences

Lifetime prevalence by gender



Past-year prevalence by gender

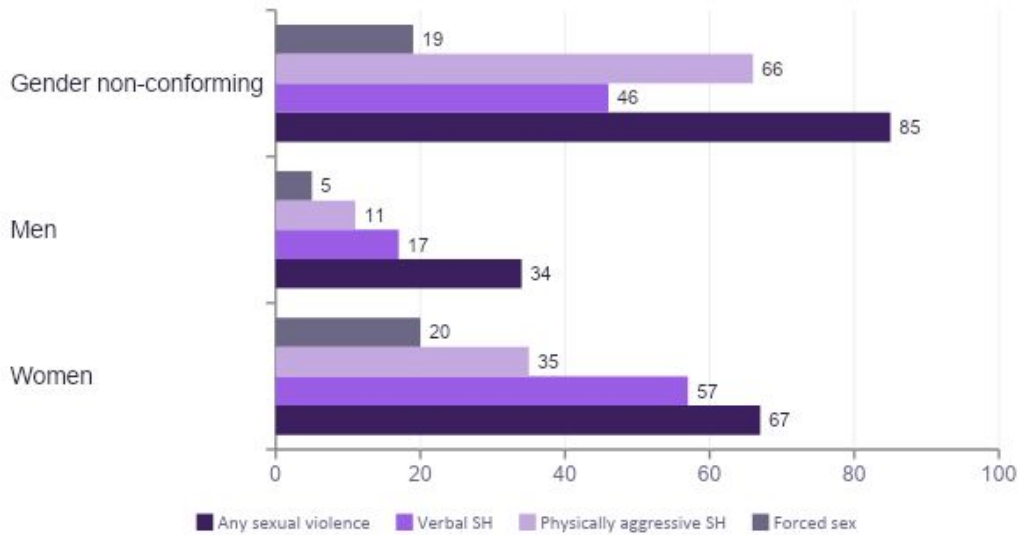


~16 million Californians have experienced physical violence in their lifetime (51%).

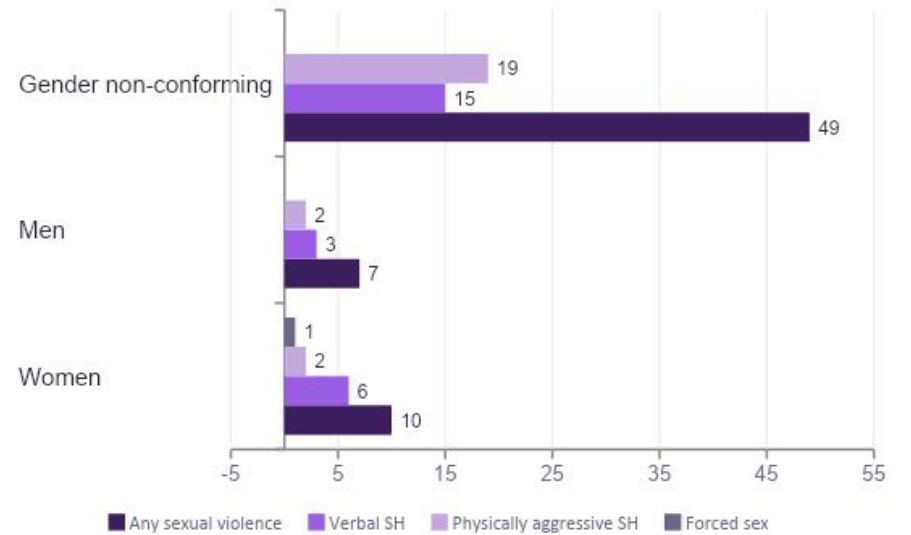
~2 million Californians experienced physical violence in the past year (7%), a return to pandemic-era levels.

Lifetime and past-year sexual violence experiences

Lifetime prevalence by gender



Past-year prevalence by gender

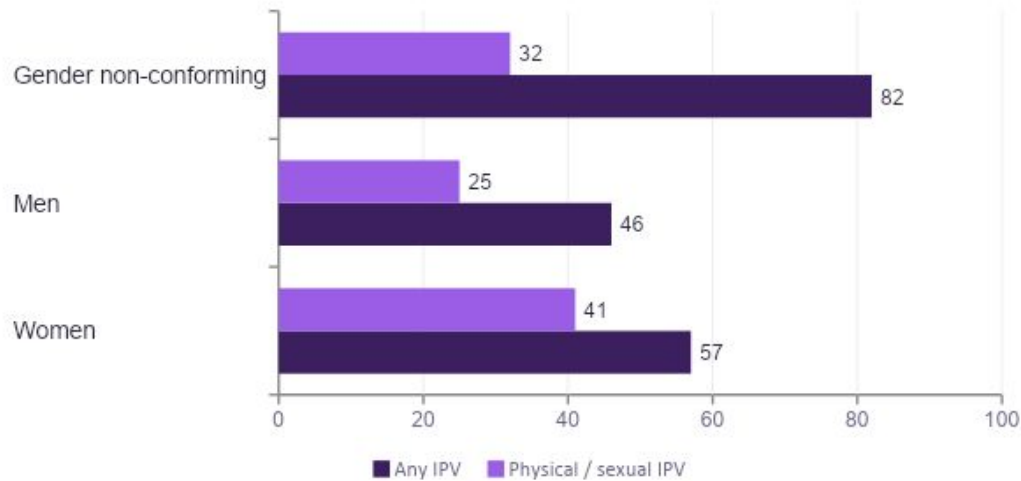


~16 million Californians have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime (52%).
~2 million Californians experienced sexual violence in the past year (9%).

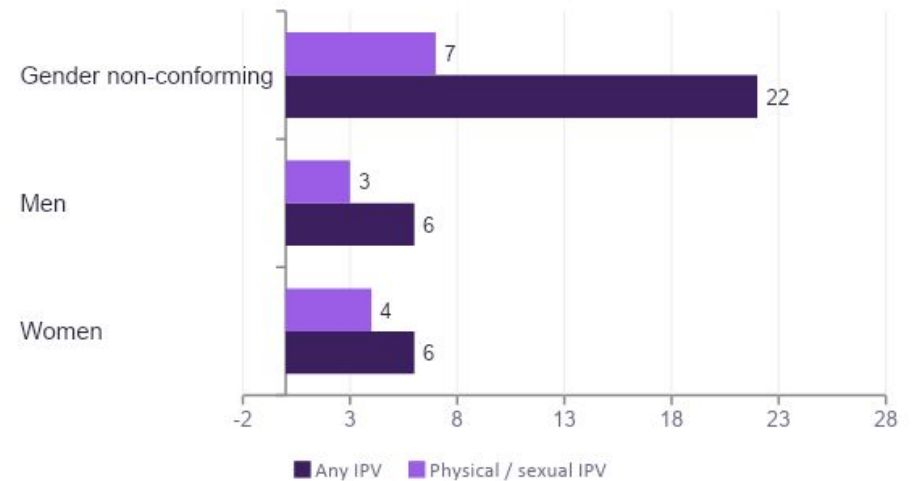
INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE EXPERIENCE

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?



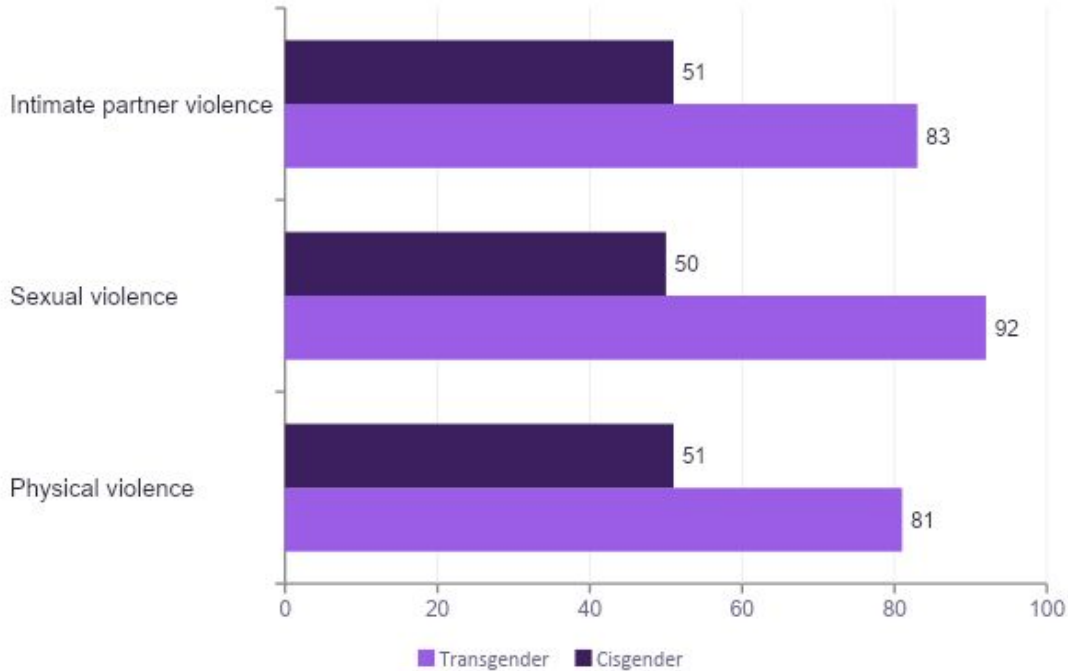
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your own, and connect with others!

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.

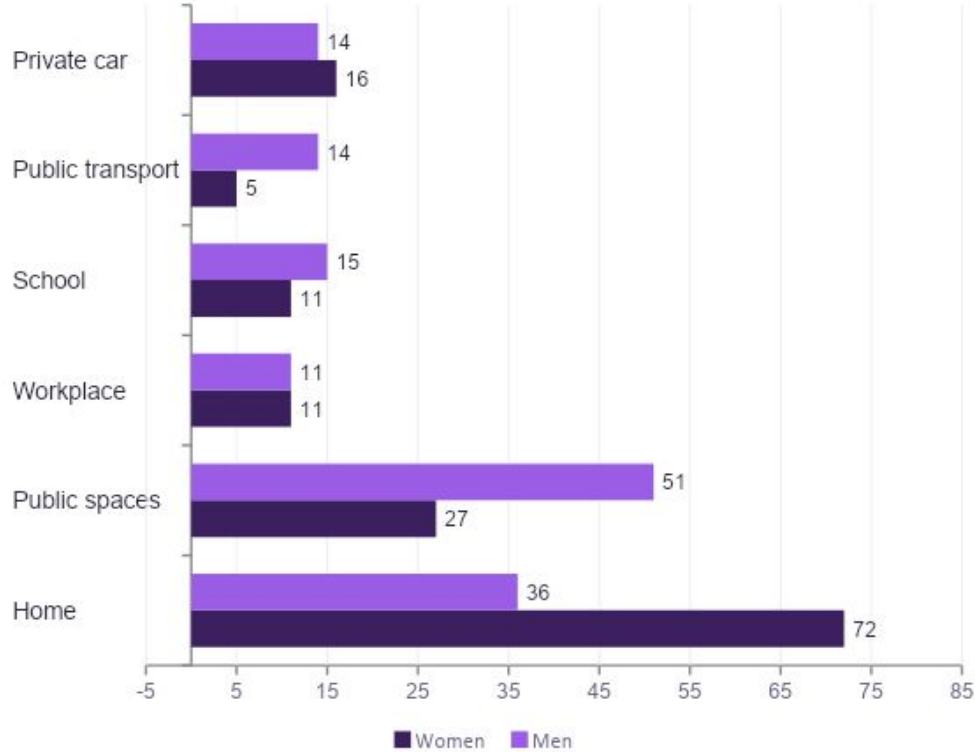
Central Valley ranks second-highest across all three types, with men's sexual violence rates notably higher than in other regions (45%).

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

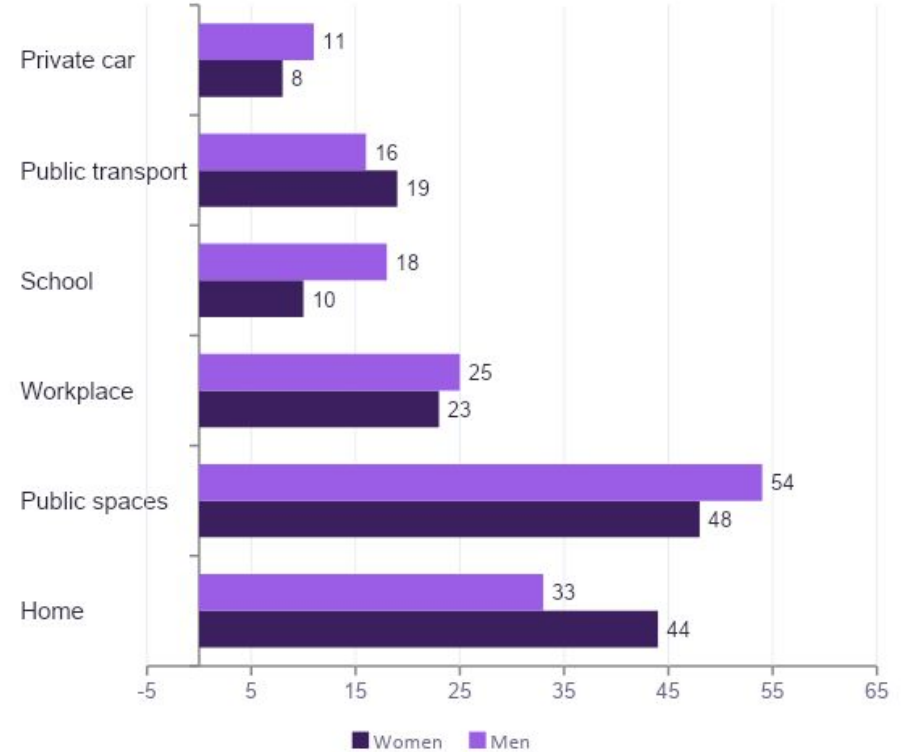
LOCATION

Where violence occurs (top locations)

Past-year physical violence (% of incidents)



Past-year sexual violence (% of incidents)

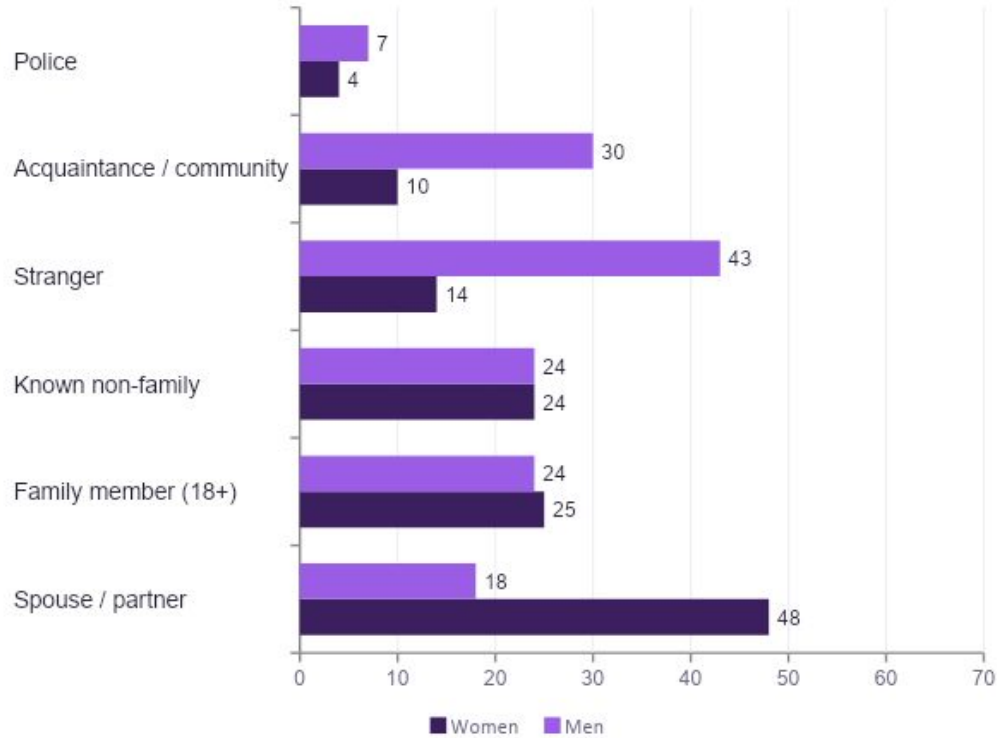


Women are twice as likely to be harmed physically at home; men are twice as likely in public spaces. Sexual violence spans public and private spaces alike.

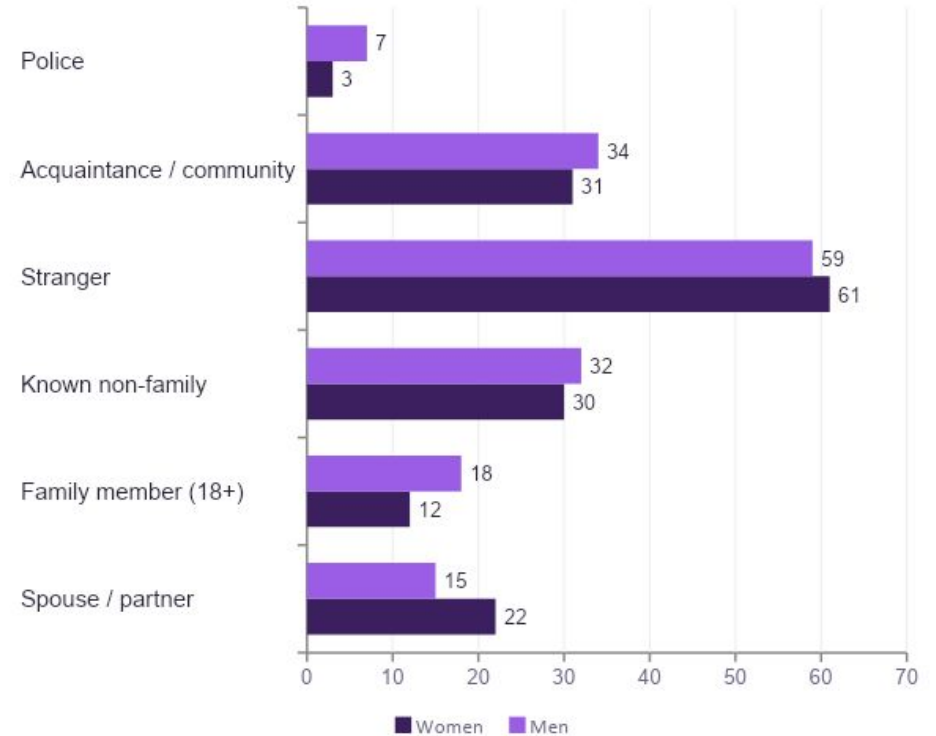
PERPETRATORS

Who causes harm (selected)

Past-year physical violence



Past-year sexual violence

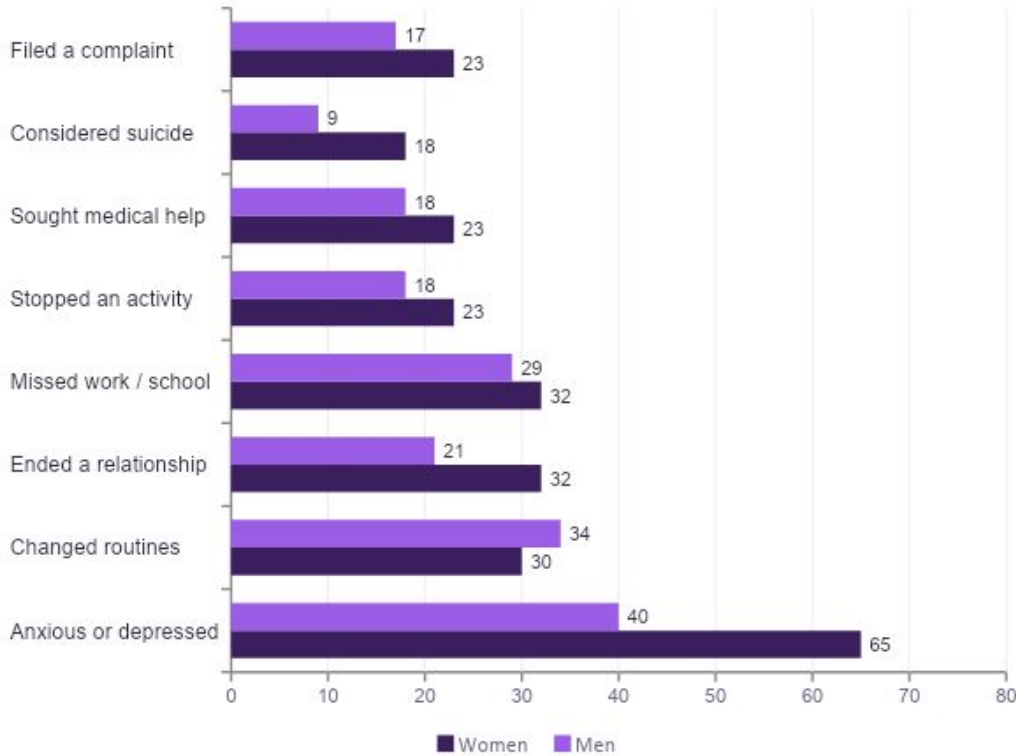


Physical violence is gendered: women by partners, men by strangers. For sexual violence, strangers are the most common perpetrator for both genders.

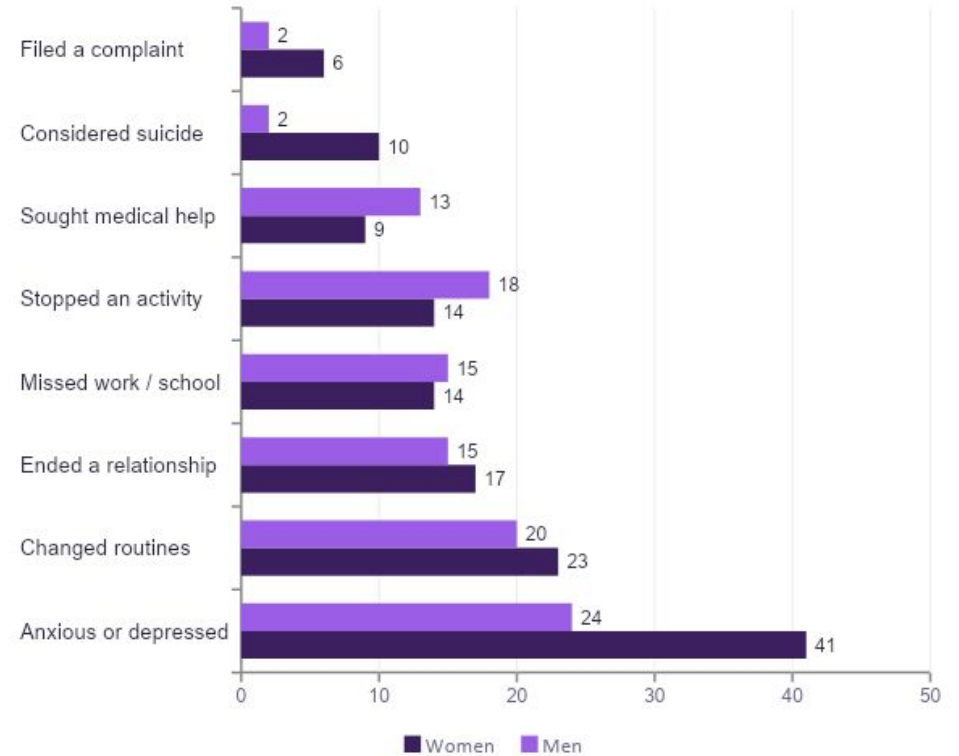
CONSEQUENCES

Consequences of violence for survivors

Physical violence consequences (% of survivors)



Sexual violence consequences (% of survivors)

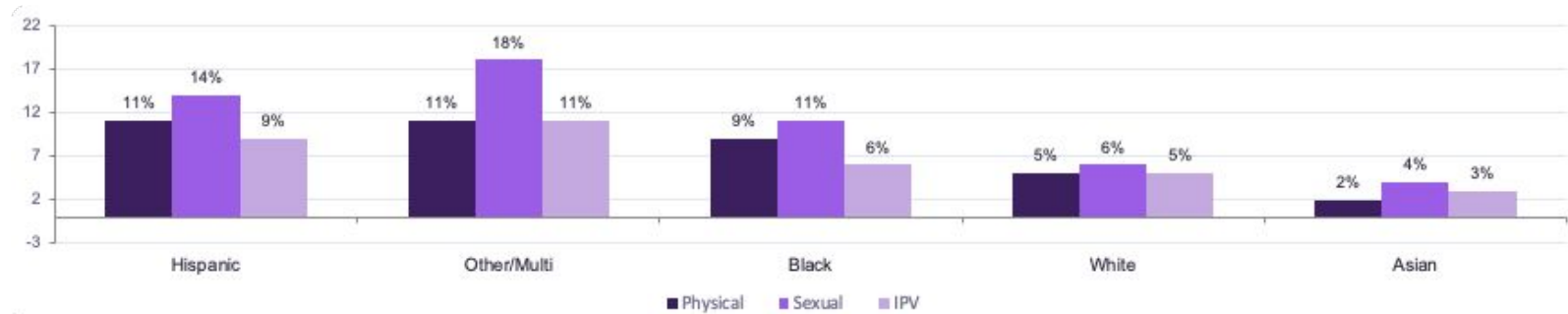


35% of women and 23% of men reported no consequence from sexual violence. Only 4% formally reported. Physical violence consequences are more severe across most categories.

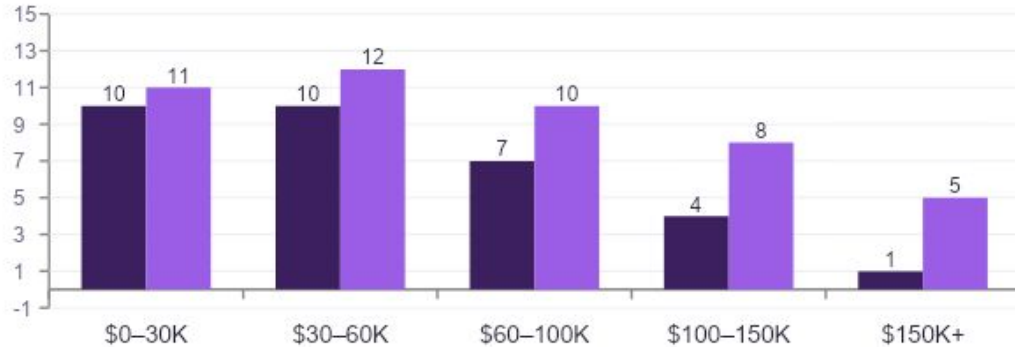


Violence prevalence across demographic groups

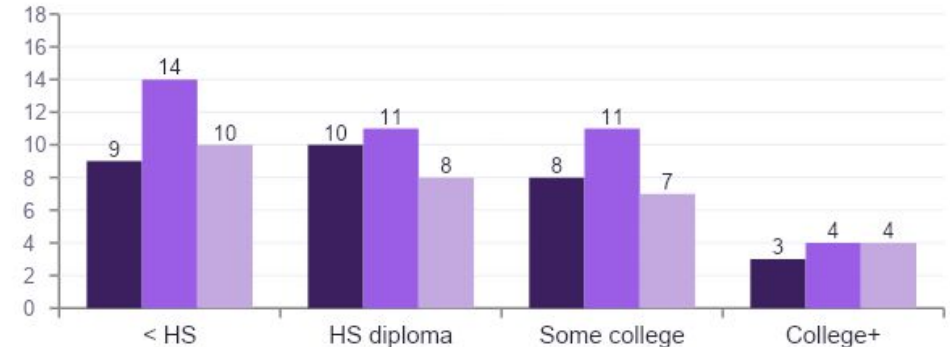
Past-year violence by race & ethnicity (% of adults)



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

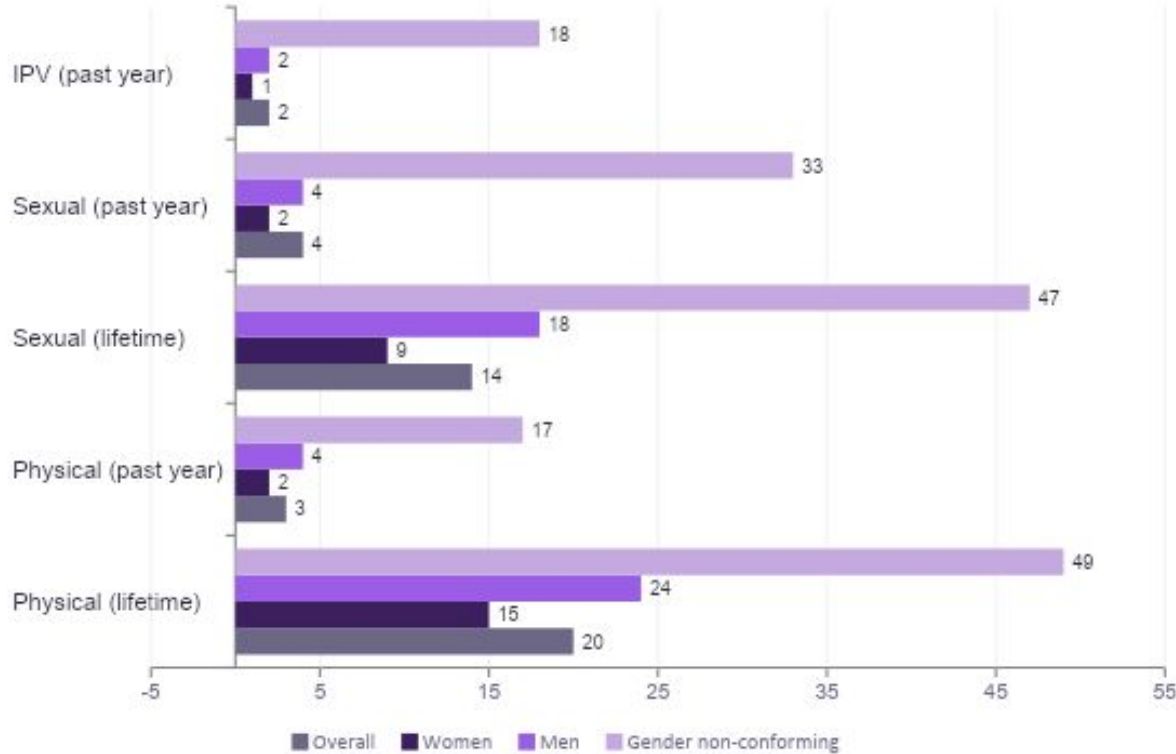


By education



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.

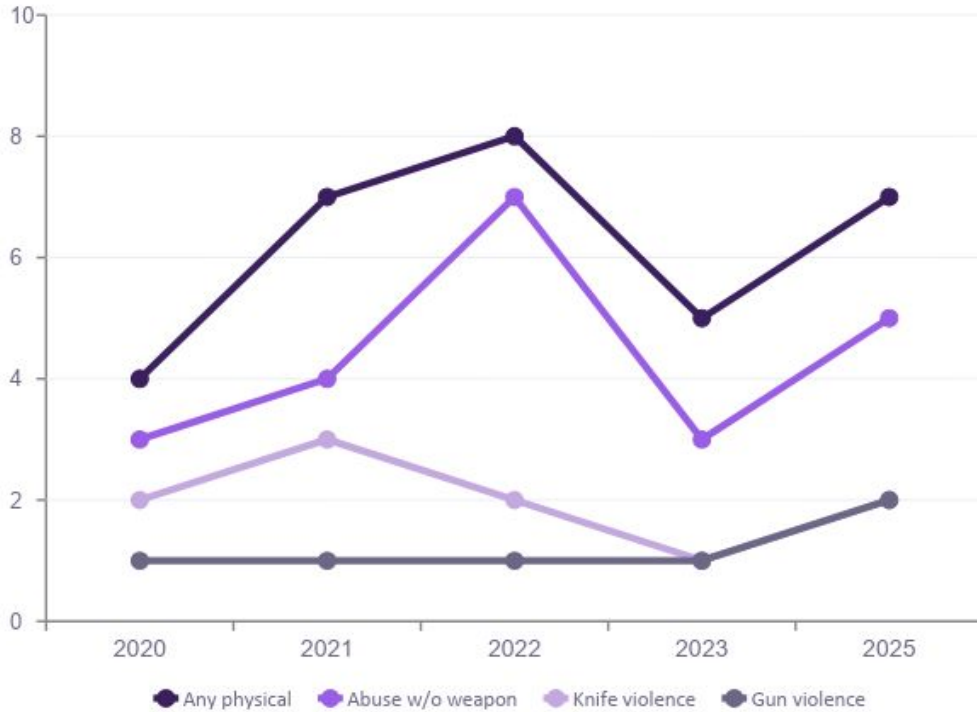
Limited accountability:

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

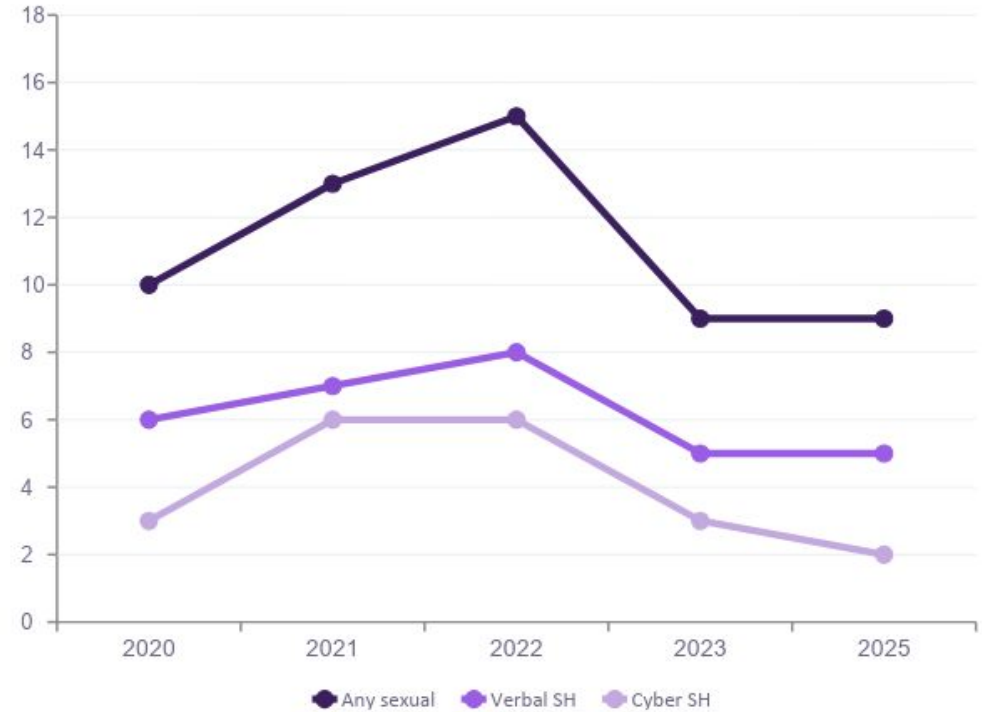
Only 11% of physical and 6% of sexual violence perpetrators were arrested.

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.

In your experience, what
is happening around
people that might
increase the risk for
violence?



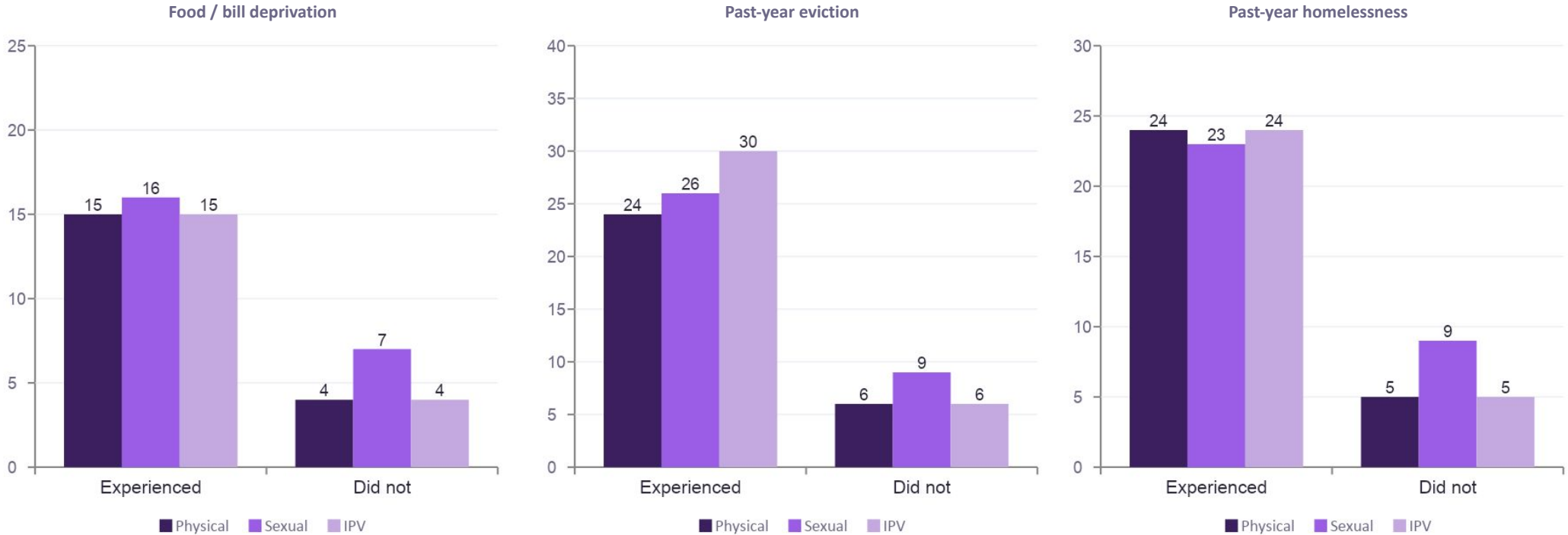
Chat

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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:

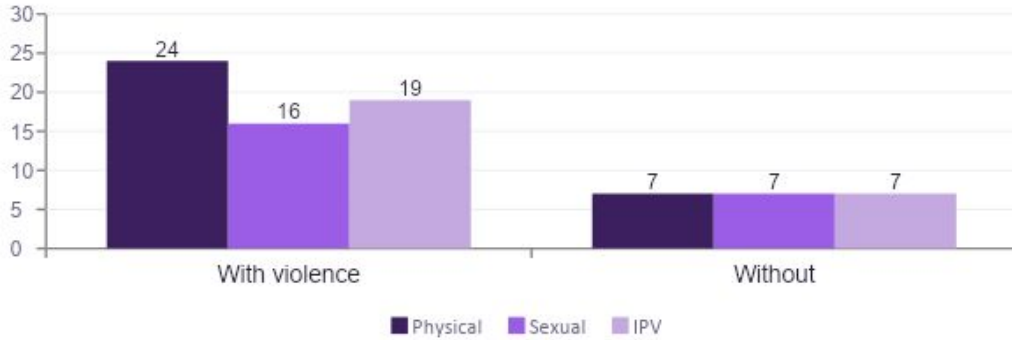
- physical (2.5x)
- sexual violence (2x)
- IPV (~ 2x)

CONSEQUENCES

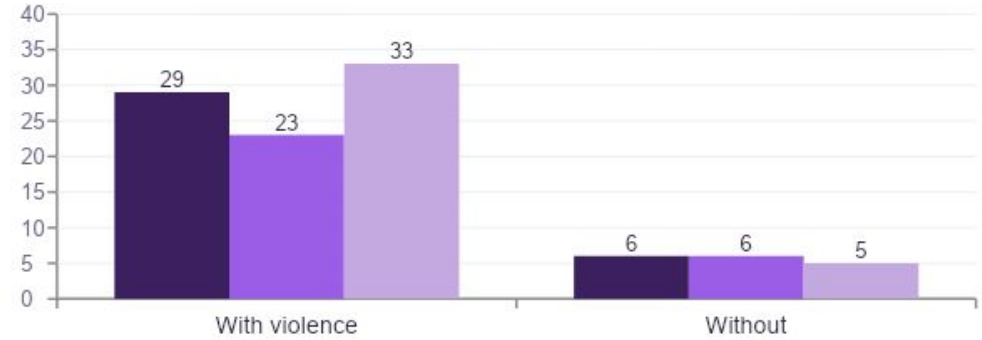
Violence leaves deep marks on mental and behavioral health

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

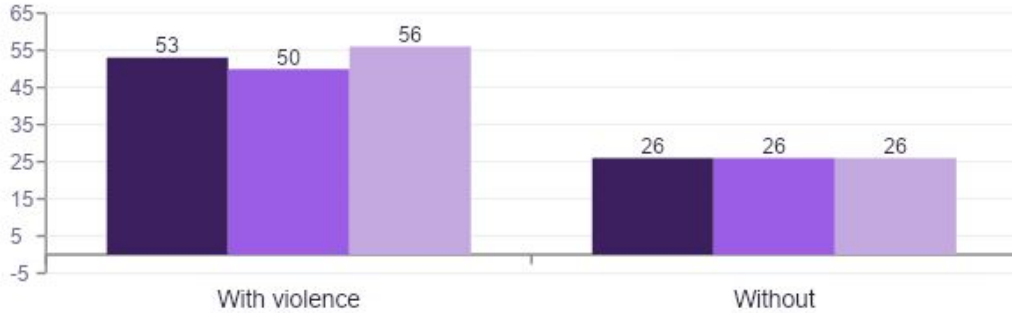
Severe depression / anxiety (PHQ-4)



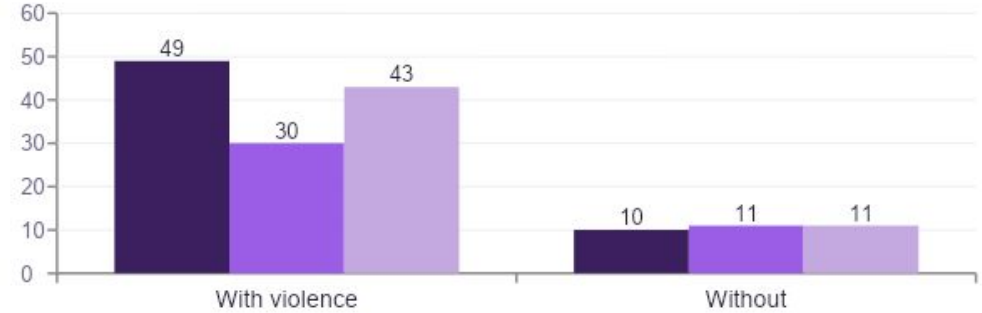
Seriously considered suicide (past year)



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.



CalVEX
CALIFORNIA VIOLENCE
EXPERIENCES SURVEY

2025 Key Findings GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV)

1 in 17 Californians (6%)—approximately **2 million people**—experienced IPV in the past year.

- Gender non-conforming adults faced the greatest burden, with more than 1 in 5 (22%) reporting past year IPV in 2025.
- Past year IPV was strongly associated with: anxiety, depression, substance use, housing instability, and disruptions to employment and relationships—underscoring its profound health and social consequences.

1 in 2 California adults (52%)—around **16 million people**—have experienced IPV in their lifetime.

- Threats to harm self or others was experienced by 21% of women, 11% of men, and 22% of gender non-conforming people.
- Choking/suffocation, the most common form of potentially lethal IPV, was reported by 10% of women, 2% of men, and 5% of gender non-conforming people.
- Gun related IPV was reported by 2% of women, 1% of men, and 2% of gender non-conforming people.



ABOUT THE SURVEY The California Violence Experiences Survey (CalVEX) 2025 provides population-based estimates of physical violence, sexual violence, intimate partner violence (IPV), discrimination, economic shocks, firearm-related attitudes, and mental and behavioral health outcomes among adults aged 18 years and older in California. Fielded in May–June 2025 with 4,007 respondents, CalVEX 2025 offers a comprehensive picture of violence as it is experienced across the lifespan and across social contexts, extending beyond what is captured in crime or administrative data systems. The California Violence Experiences Survey is generously funded by the Blue Shield of California Foundation.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

1 in 11 California adults (9%)—roughly **2 million people**—experienced sexual violence in the past year, with gender non-conforming people (49%) at greater risk than women (10%) and men (7%).

- Among California adults in 2025:**
- 5% experienced verbal sexual harassment
 - 3% experienced homophobic or transphobic comments
 - 2% experienced cyber sexual harassment
 - 2% experienced physically aggressive sexual harassment
 - 1% experienced quid pro quo sexual harassment (sexual exploitation)
 - 1% experienced forced sex



About 1 in 8 Californians (13%) have experienced forced sex in their lifetime.



More than 1 in 17 Californians (6%) have experienced quid pro quo sexual harassment in their lifetime.

1 in 8 Californians experienced sexual violence in childhood, and such exposure only increased in adolescence and into adulthood:

- 13% experienced sexual violence in childhood (age 0–12)
- 28% experienced sexual violence in adolescence (age 13–17)
- 32% experienced sexual violence in young adulthood (age 18–34)



CalVEX
CALIFORNIA VIOLENCE
EXPERIENCES SURVEY

2025 Key Findings FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH VIOLENCE

VICTIMIZATION AND PERPETRATION

Those who experienced physical violence in the past year were **28x more likely to report perpetrating physical violence** in the past year.

Those who had experienced sexual violence in the past year were **10x more likely to have perpetrated sexual violence** in the past year.

Those who had experienced IPV in the past year were **14x more likely to have perpetrated IPV** in the past year.

VICTIMIZATION AND FIREARM ACQUISITION

Californians who have experienced gun violence in the past year are almost **5x more likely to have purchased a gun** in the past year.

PAST YEAR VIOLENCE AND SUICIDALITY

Those who experienced past year physical violence were **5x more likely** than those without these experiences to be suicidal in the past year.

Those who experienced past year sexual violence were almost **4x more likely** than those without these experiences to be suicidal in the past year.

Those who experienced past year intimate partner violence (IPV) were **6x more likely** than those without these experiences to be suicidal in the past year.



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ECONOMIC SHOCKS & PAST YEAR VIOLENCE

1 in 4 California women (27%) and men (26%), and **2 in 3** gender non-conforming people (65%) **lacked sufficient money for food and other basic needs** in the past year. Those who experienced this economic insecurity in the past year were:

- 4x** more likely to have experienced past year physical violence
- 2x** more likely to have experienced past year sexual violence
- 4x** more likely to have experienced past year IPV

1 in 25 California women (4%), **1 in 33** men (3%), and **1 in 25** gender non-conforming people (4%) **experienced eviction** in the past year. Those who were evicted in the past year were:

- 4x** more likely to have experienced past year physical violence
- 3x** more likely to have experienced past year sexual violence
- 5x** more likely to have experienced past year IPV

More than 1 in **16** California women (6%), **1 in 14** men (7%), and **1 in 4** gender non-conforming people (25%) **reported experiencing homelessness** in the past year. Those reporting homelessness in the past year were:

- 5x** more likely to have experienced past year physical violence
- 2x** more likely to have experienced past year sexual violence
- 5x** more likely to have experienced past year IPV

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https://www.vexdata.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/CalVEX_2025_brief_factors_R3.pdf

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