2023
California Violence Experiences Survey
(CalVEX)



CENTER ON GENDER EQUITY AND HEALTH

UC San Diego
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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Content Warning: This work includes sensitive information on various types of violence, including, but not limited to physical, emotional, domestic, and sexual. If you need support for any of these concerns, please contact:

- California Mental Health, Suicide, and Crisis 24-hour Hotline: 988
- The National Domestic Violence 24-hour Hotline: 1.800.799.7233
- California domestic violence organizations throughout the state: https://www.cpedv.org/domestic-violence-organizations-california
- California sexual violence resources by county: https://www.valor.us/get-help/get-help-california/

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The California Violence Experiences Survey (CalVEX) offers insight into experiences of physical violence (inclusive of gun violence), sexual violence (harassment and assault), and intimate partner violence among California adults. This year, for the first time, we include a category for non-binary/gender-queer/gender fluid identification (which we term as non-binary). We also for the first time present comparisons between transgender and cisgender Californians.* Our sample includes 3,560 adult (age 18+) state resident respondents surveyed from March to May 2023.

Physical Violence *Inclusive of physical abuse and knife and gun violence*

- One in 20 CA adults (5%) experienced physical violence in the past year
  - Physical violence rates fell from 2022 (8%) to 2023 (5%), driven by a reduction in past year physical violence experiences for men (6% 2022 vs 11% 2023)
- Gender and racial/ethnic inequalities in physical violence persist
  - Non-binary respondents are more likely to have experienced physical violence (14%) compared with both women (4%) and men (6%)**
  - Transgender adults are 7x more likely to report past year physical violence than cisgender adults (27% vs 4%)
  - Latinx and Black residents are more likely to report past year violence (7%, respectively) than White and Asian residents (3%, respectively)
- Most past year physical violence (63%) was committed by someone known to the victim
  - Women most frequently report a spouse/romantic partner as the perpetrator of past year physical violence (31%), while men most often report that the perpetrator was a stranger (50%)
- Among those reporting past year physical violence, most say they experienced negative health or social consequences
  - The most common negative consequences reported are feelings of anxiety or depression (41% of women, 19% of men), changing a route or routine (32% of women, 19% of men), and ending a friendship or relationship (31% of women, 18% of men)
  - Most people who experienced physical violence did not report it (80%)

Sexual Violence *Inclusive of five forms of sexual harassment and sexual assault*

- One in 11 CA adults (9%) experienced sexual harassment or assault in the past year.
  - Sexual violence rates fell from 2022 (15%) to 2023 (9%), driven by lower verbal and cyber sexual harassment for both women and men
  - Verbal and cyber sexual harassment are the most commonly reported forms of sexual violence (5% and 3%, respectively)
- Gender and racial/ethnic inequalities in sexual violence persist
  - Non-binary people are more than 5x as likely to report past year sexual harassment or assault (56%) compared with women (10%) and men (6%)
  - Transgender adults are 5x more likely to report past year sexual harassment or assault than cisgender adults (40% vs 8%)
  - Latinx residents are most likely to report past year sexual harassment or assault (12%) followed by Black (9%), White (7%) and Asian (6%) residents
- Among those reporting past year sexual violence, most say they experienced negative health or social consequences
  - The most commonly reported negative consequences are feelings of anxiety or depression (28% of women, 26% of men), changing a route or routine (23% of women, 17% of men), and ending a relationship or friendship (18% of women, 16% of men)
  - Most who experienced past year sexual violence did not report it (95%)

* Cisgender, or cis, means that the gender you identify with matches the sex assigned to you at birth. Transgender is when your gender identity differs from the sex assigned at birth.

** Difference not statistically significant

Intimate partner violence (IPV) *Inclusive of physical, sexual, economic, and emotionally controlling IPV, as well as threats of violence against self or a pet, from a current or former romantic or sexual partner*

- Nearly half (46%) of Californians reported a lifetime history of IPV, with higher rates seen for non-binary people (76%) and women (54%) compared with men (38%)
  - One-quarter of CA adults (28%) reported physical and/or sexual IPV in their lifetime; again, with rates higher for non-binary people (37%) and women (37%) compared with men (21%)
  - Transgender adults are twice as likely as cisgender adults to report a history of physical or sexual IPV (56% vs 28%)
- One in 30 CA adults (3%) experienced physical and/or sexual IPV in the past year

Discrimination and violence

- Nearly one-quarter of CA adults (23%) regularly experience discrimination
- Those who report discrimination experiences are 7x more likely to report past year physical violence (14% vs 2%) and 3x more likely to report past year sexual harassment or assault (20% vs 6%)
- Reports of regular discrimination have decreased in the past year (23% 2023 vs 31% 2022)

Violence and health

- Those reporting past year violence were 2x more likely to report severe depression and/or anxiety symptoms (14% vs 6% for physical violence, 14% vs 6% for sexual harassment or assault), compared to those who did not experience violence in the past year
- Those reporting past year violence were 4x more likely to report serious consideration of suicide in the past year (25% vs 6% for physical violence, 22% vs 5% for sexual harassment or assault)
- Those reporting past year violence were 2x more likely to report recent substance misuse (67% vs 28% for physical violence, 51% vs 28% for sexual harassment or assault)

Socially and economically marginalized people face more violence

- Past year physical violence, sexual harassment or assault, and physical or sexual IPV are reported more frequently by lesbian, gay, bisexual, or other self-described sexual identity respondents, people with disabilities, and people with a history of homelessness or incarceration
- Those who reported past year eviction or financial insecurity are 3x–8x more likely to have experienced physical or sexual violence in the past year

Reports of violence perpetration

- 2–3% of adults report past year perpetration of physical or sexual assault or sexual harassment
- Perpetration of violence is more than 20x more likely among those who were also victims of violence

Findings from this state-wide survey confirm that Californians regularly experience violence and discrimination. Groups facing economic vulnerability and social discrimination bear a greater burden of violence, and multiple forms of violence typically intersect to compound this burden. Most victims never formally report the abuse, suggesting that criminal justice responses to perpetration may not be useful means of addressing violence. Health and social welfare services such as conflict-resolution training and support services for families and youth may be a better means of serving victims and preventing perpetration, given the vulnerabilities faced by victims and that most perpetrators are victims as well. Findings have important implications for state programs and policies.

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 in the CalVEX 2023 survey	
Physical abuse	Physical abuse includes being hit, slapped, punched, shoved, choked, kicked, shaken, or otherwise physically hurt through violent or abusive behavior.
Knife violence	Knife violence includes being threatened with or hurt with a knife.
Gun violence	Gun violence includes being threatened with or hurt with a gun.
Physical violence	Physical violence includes any of the above three forms of violence: physical abuse or threat or use of a weapon (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. In some cultures, this is also known as 'eve teasing'.
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, social media, 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	Inclusive of physical, sexual, economic, and emotionally controlling IPV, as well as threats of violence against self or a pet, from a current or former romantic or sexual partner.

INTRODUCTION

Violence, including gender-based violence [partner violence, sexual harassment and assault, exploitation], community violence and policing, and gun-related violence, is at epidemic proportions in the U.S. The California Violence Experiences Survey (CalVEX) offers its fourth annual report on experiences of violence among Californian residents, examining gender differences, for the first time inclusive of non-binary Californians, and intersections with discrimination and economic distress.

Violence is a public health crisis for California and the United States as a whole.[1] CalVEX, our statewide survey on violence in California, shows an escalation of violence under the pandemic, affecting all populations and communities. However, risk for violence is unequal and is affected by a range of individual characteristics, particularly gender and race/ethnicity.

We know from prior rounds of CalVEX that women face more violence from partners and more sexual harassment and assault, as compared with men, but men face more physical violence overall and especially from strangers.[2, 3, 4, 5] Further studies also document that LGBTQI+ communities face increased physical and sexual violence, though we have stronger data demonstrating this based on sexual identity rather than gender identity[4, 5, 6]. Inadequate data on gender diversity affects consideration of this issue in state and national surveys, but data that do exist highlight that transgender individuals face some of the most frequent and severe violence of all gender groups[7]. Much less is known about experiences of violence among non-binary individuals.

We also know that these risks of violence vary by race/ethnicity as well as gender. Nationally, more than half of U.S. adults report experiencing gun violence, with Black and Latinx communities, especially men, reporting more exposure to threats and injury involving guns.[8] Black and Latinx adults, again, particularly men, in the U.S. also experience policing violence at higher rates, with such exposure linked to significant negative health outcomes.[9] Historically, Asian Americans were assumed to face lesser violence, but recent incidents of mass violence targeting Asian Americans indicate this assumption to be inaccurate. Recent national data document that one in five Asian Americans in the U.S. report experiences of violence or discrimination.[10] Our report brings to light the realities of these groups' experiences at the level of the state, offering an opportunity for California-based policy-makers to understand more deeply the lived experiences of their residents.

The impacts of violence are far reaching. Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a leading cause of maternal mortality, nationally.[11] Homicide, predominantly as gun violence, is the leading cause of death for Black and Hispanic males aged 0–19 and Black males aged 20–44, and is the second leading cause of death for Hispanic men aged 20–44.[12] In California, despite comparatively strict gun laws, gun violence remains a concern, with more than 3,500 gun violence deaths in 2021 alone (the most recent year of available data).[13] National data also details the negative mental health outcomes associated with violence, most commonly depression and anxiety, but also suicidality and substance abuse disorders.[14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20] Recent research shows that increases in violence and discrimination against Asian American adults are associated with a rise in substance misuse in this population, as well.[21] Violence additionally compromises economic security, housing and employment stability, and freedom of movement for individuals and communities.[4, 5, 22, 23]

As we move to a period of post-pandemic rebuilding and face new economic and environmental vulnerabilities in the state, we will need to continue to track and monitor violence in order to rapidly address and prevent it. CalVEX aims to aid California by providing these data to guide violence prevention programming and policy development, recognizing the gendered risk and racial/ethnic disparities in experiences of violence, and the contribution of violence and discrimination to ongoing economic and health concerns in the state.

METHODOLOGY

From March to May 2023, we carried out CalVEX 2023, a population-based survey research study to examine experiences of violence with a state-representative sample of adults aged 18 and older in California. We have conducted CalVEX—the California Violence Experiences Survey (CalVEX)—annually since 2020 to assess and track experiences of physical violence (including threats with or use of a gun or knife), sexual violence (including sexual harassment, coercion, and rape), discrimination, and experiences of physical and mental health. As with our prior rounds of CalVEX, we commissioned the independent research institution NORC at the University of Chicago to conduct the survey with their online survey panels. Further detail on survey methodology is provided below.

SURVEY TOOL DEVELOPMENT

The CalVEX 2023 survey builds upon the CalVEX 2020, 2021, and 2022 surveys, which used validated measures described previously.[4,5] In 2023, we included additional detail regarding experiences of intimate partner violence, perceived motivations for violence, and childcare. Survey content was reviewed and revised by partner stakeholders to ensure relevance and appropriateness of items, and by the NORC team to ensure clarity and flow of items as well as variable construction.

In late March 2023, NORC conducted a two-week soft launch of the survey with frequent data review to ensure it was easily understood and implemented with the online panel sample and kept to the 15-minute timeframe. Soft launch findings shared by NORC indicated there were no issues identified in the items as far as difficulty in comprehension of items by panel respondents. Thus, the survey was implemented as-is for the full sample in the field.

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, https://www.mentalhealthca.org/resources, or https://www.valor.us/get-help/get-help-california/". 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 #806718).

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 B**). The study design effect was 2.39, with a study margin of error of +/- 2.73%.

DATA COLLECTION

All data were collected online from March 27th to May 29th, 2023. To encourage study participation, NORC sent email reminders to the panelists every five days throughout the fielding period. The response rate reporting for the AmeriSpeak sample was as follows:

- Weighted AAPOR RR3 Recruitment rate: 20.6%
- Weighted Household retention rate: 79.9%
- Survey completion rate: 32.9%
- Weighted AAPOR RR3 cumulative response rate: 5.4%

ASSESSING GENDER IDENTITY AND TRANSGENDER IDENTITY

For the first time, we included two new items to assess gender identity and transgender identity. First, respondents were asked 'What is your gender identity?' with options 'Woman, Man, Non-binary/ Genderqueer/Gender fluid person, Prefer to self describe [open text]'. Using participant responses to this item, we define gender identity as woman, man, or non-binary, with the latter based on our grouping together non-binary, genderqueer, gender fluid, and other self-described gender respondents (collectively termed 'non-binary people' throughout the report).

Separately, respondents were asked 'Do you have lived experience as a trans person?' with options 'Yes, No'. This was included over other measures of identifying transgender identity (e.g., by including transwoman, transmen, etc as response options or applying the two-step measure of asking about sex assigned at birth and current gender identity) as this has been a preferred approach by trans communities.[24] Transgender is when your gender identity differs from the sex assigned at birth. Cisgender means that the gender you identify with matches the sex assigned to you at birth. Throughout the report, we separately report comparisons between women, men and non-binary people and between transgender and cisgender individuals.

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 2023 CalVEX survey is unique in its reporting of non-binary, genderqueer, gender fluid, and other self-described gender respondents (n=64) as well as transgender respondents (n=109). Wherever possible, findings from these groups are reported. However, findings are suppressed when the denominator is less than 50 (for example, fewer than 50 non-binary people reported past year physical violence, and therefore perpetrators of, locations of, and responses to past year physical violence will not include this gender category) to ensure all reported numbers are representative and to ensure anonymity.

We also included two open-ended questions on participants' experiences of physical and sexual violence. We include example quotes from these questions to offer insight into participants' experiences of violence that corresponded to quantitative findings.

SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS

The CalVEX survey was designed to be representative of the California population ages 18 years and older and ultimately included 3,560 respondents. To confirm that this sample is representative of the 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 identity: The weighted sample was 49% women, 49% men, and 2% non-binary, genderqueer, gender fluid, or other self-described

gender identity. Census data indicate that adult Californians are 50% women; census data on non-binary gender identity is not available.[25]

- Transgender identity: The weighted sample was 2% transgender and 98% cisgender. This is higher than a recent estimate from UCLA's Williams Institute which suggests that 0.5% of California adults are transgender.[26]
- Race/Ethnicity: The weighted sample was mostly non-Hispanic white (37%) or Hispanic/Latinx (37%); an additional 5% were non-Hispanic Black, 17% were non-Hispanic Asian, and 4% were other or multiple races. This is comparable to the California population as a whole, which is 35% non-Hispanic white, 40% Hispanic/Latinx, 6% non-Hispanic Black, and 16% non-Hispanic Asian.[25]
- Education: Most of the weighted sample had completed at least high school or a GED (89%), and over one-third had a bachelor's degree or higher (37%). Among California 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.[25]
- Employment: Most of the weighted sample (64%) were employed full- or part-time; California census data similarly suggest 63% employment.[25]
- Income: Median household income for the weighted sample was $60,000–$74,999 [income was assessed categorically]; this is slightly lower than California's 2021 median household income of $84,097.[25]
- Age distribution: The age distribution among the weighted sample was as follows: 10% aged 18–24 years; 18% aged 25–34 years; 21% aged 35–44 years; 15% aged 45–54 years; 16% aged 55–64 years; and 20% aged 65 years and older. This age distribution of respondents approximately matches the California census age distribution.[27] While age distributions are nearly identical for women and men, non-binary respondents trended younger—43% of the non-binary weighted sample is age 18–24, compared to 9% of women and men.
- Sexual identity: 12% of the weighted sample identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or other sexual identity. This is slightly higher than 2021 Census Pulse Survey estimates that suggest 9.2% of adult Californians identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual.[28]
- Foreign-born and citizenship: The majority of the weighted sample were born in the U.S. (85%). This is slightly higher than the state estimated 74% born in the U.S.[25] The vast majority of respondents were U.S. citizens (95%), which is higher than 2021 ACS estimates which suggest 85% of adult Californians were citizens.[29]
- Disability: Over a quarter of the weighted sample (26%) reported some form of disability. This proportion matches CDC estimates that suggest 25% of adult Californians have a disability.[30]

As seen above, the weighted study sample is generally representative of the adult California population with respect to gender, race/ethnicity, education, employment status, age, and disability status. Our weighted sample may slightly under-represent foreign-born and non-citizen Californians, and have slightly lower than state median household income; however, these differences from state-wide figures are not substantial.

How is gender defined in this report?

Respondents answered 2 questions about their gender:

1. What is your gender identity?

Woman
Man
Non-binary
Genderqueer
Gender fluid person
Prefer to self describe _____

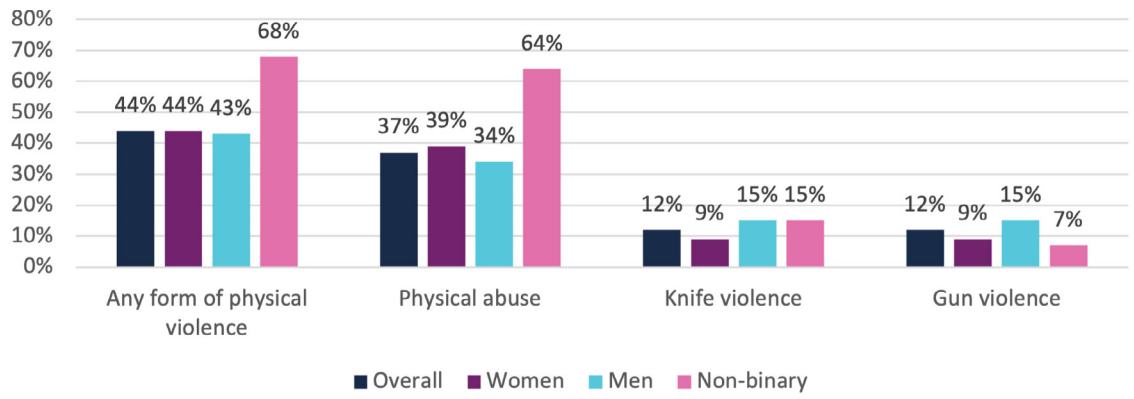
This item is used to define **gender identity** as presented throughout the report. We report on women, men, and group non-binary, genderqueer, gender fluid, and other self-described gender respondents, collectively termed 'non-binary people'.

2. Do you have lived experience as a trans person?

Yes
No

This item is used define **transgender identity** as presented throughout the report. We report comparisons between transgender and cisgender individuals. Cisgender means that the gender you identify with matches the sex assigned to you at birth. Transgender is when your gender identity differs from the sex assigned at birth.

Figure 1. Lifetime experience of physical violence by type of violence, California 2023



LIFETIME EXPERIENCES OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Nearly half of adults in California—44%—have experienced physical violence in their lifetime (**Figure 1**).

- One in eight (12%) have been threatened or harmed with a gun.
- Non-binary people , compared to women or men, were most likely to report physical violence (68%), particularly in the form of physical abuse (64%).
- Experiences of physical abuse were similar for men and women, but men were more likely than women to report weapon-related violence (15% vs 9% for both knife & gun violence, respectively).

Nearly half of adults in California have experienced physical violence in their lifetime

Physical violence experiences were common across the lifespan.

- One in six (17%) Californians experienced physical violence in childhood (age 0–12).
- One in five (19%) experienced physical violence in adolescence (age 13–17).
- One in five (20%) experienced physical violence in young adulthood (age 18–24).
- One in six (17%) experienced physical violence in adulthood (age 25+).

Many Californians experience violence directly, but nearly everyone has been affected by violence among friends, family, or in their community

"I have had family and friends who were killed due to gun violence. Some were gang violence or victims of robbery."
– 36 year old woman

"I live in a bad street and seeing things late at night isn't uncommon. I just saw something go down yesterday night."
– 20 year old man

"In nearby Monterey Park/Alhambra, there was a shooting that killed 10 people for no good reason, focusing on the need for gun control."
– 60 year old man

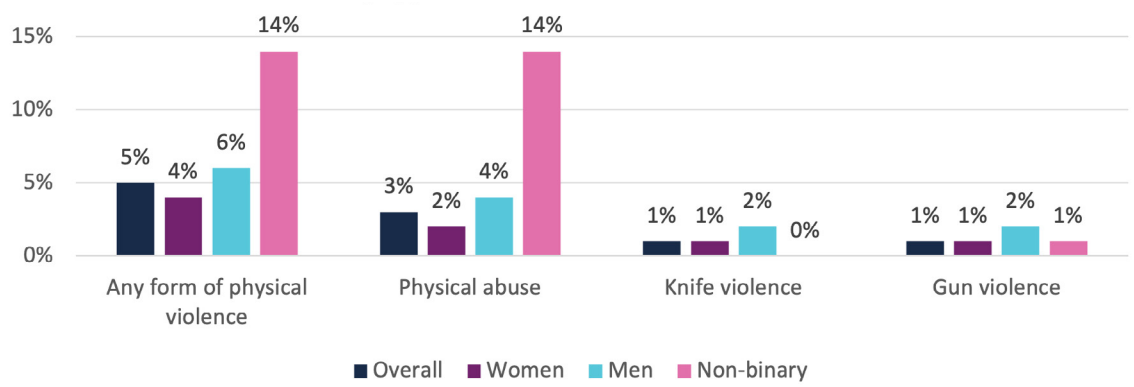
PAST YEAR EXPERIENCES OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Prevalence of physical violence experiences in the past year

One in 20 adults (5%) have experienced physical violence within the past year (**Figure 2**).

- One in 100 (1%) were threatened or harmed with a knife in the past year.

Figure 2. Past year experience of physical violence by type of violence, California 2023



- One in 100 (1%) were threatened or harmed with a gun in the past year.
- Non-binary people were most likely to report past year violence (14%), though differences from men & women were not statistically significant. Men were more likely than women to have experienced physical violence in the past year (6% vs 4%).

In 2023, more than 550,000 women and 900,000 men in California were victims of physical violence

Note: Due to small absolute numbers of non-binary respondents who experienced violence in the past year, subsequent information about perpetrators, locations, and consequences of past year violence will not be reported for this group.

Relationship to person(s) causing physical violence in the past year

Respondents most often reported that the physical violence they experienced in the past year was perpetrated by someone they knew (63%), including family, friends, partners, known authority figures, and acquaintances. This held true for both women and men (71% and 58%, respectively; **Table 1**).

- For women, a spouse or romantic partner was the most commonly reported perpetrator of past year physical violence (31%). Women were about as likely as men to report that a partner was the perpetrator of physical violence (31% for women vs 35% for men).
- For men, a stranger was the most commonly reported perpetrator of past year physical violence (50%), and men were more likely than women to report that a stranger was the perpetrator of physical violence (50% for men vs. 30% for women).
- Both women and men were most likely to report that a stranger was the perpetrator of past year weapon-related violence (63% for women, 70% for men).

Many Californians experienced physical violence in childhood from family members

"My brother growing up used to hit me, slapped, pushing, kicking and shoving me into walls."
– 60 year old woman

"A parent was physically abusive growing up, consisting of being slapped, punched, and even used objects to cause pain. All this was done simply because I did not get the right grades or not being more outgoing/obedient as other children"
– 27 year old woman

*"My father was super drunk and hitting my mom and I called police on him, he proceeded to threaten to 'f*** me up' if I was calling the police and threw a TV at me."*
– 18 year old man

Table 1. Relationship to the person(s) causing past year physical violence, California 2023

	Any form of physical violence		Physical abuse		Threat with knife or gun	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Family Member 18+	20%	20%	28%	29%	5%	9%
Family Member < 18	8%	12%	11%	11%	2%	14%
Spouse/Partner	31%	35%	45%	30%	8%	37%
Known Non-Family	27%	19%	21%	14%	33%	23%
Acquaintance or Community Member	3%	15%	2%	15%	5%	19%
Stranger	30%	50%	13%	33%	63%	70%
Teacher/Coach/ Adult Authority	2%	6%	2%	5%	0%	9%
Police	2%	3%	3%	1%	1%	6%
Boss/Employer	0%	3%	0%	5%	0%	0%
Other	7%	14%	10%	14%	2%	11%

Women often described experiences of physical violence occurring at the hands of a partner

"I was in a fight with my boyfriend over money, I had taken his keys so he wouldn't leave and he pulled me by the hair, pushed me and threw me several times."
– 31 year old woman

"My ex husband used to physically abuse me using his fist. Sometimes he will get mad if he didn't like what I did. And very controlling. That's why I decided to file a divorce."
– 46 year old woman

"I had a knife held to my throat by my ex, and then he threaten to kill himself."
– 31 year old woman

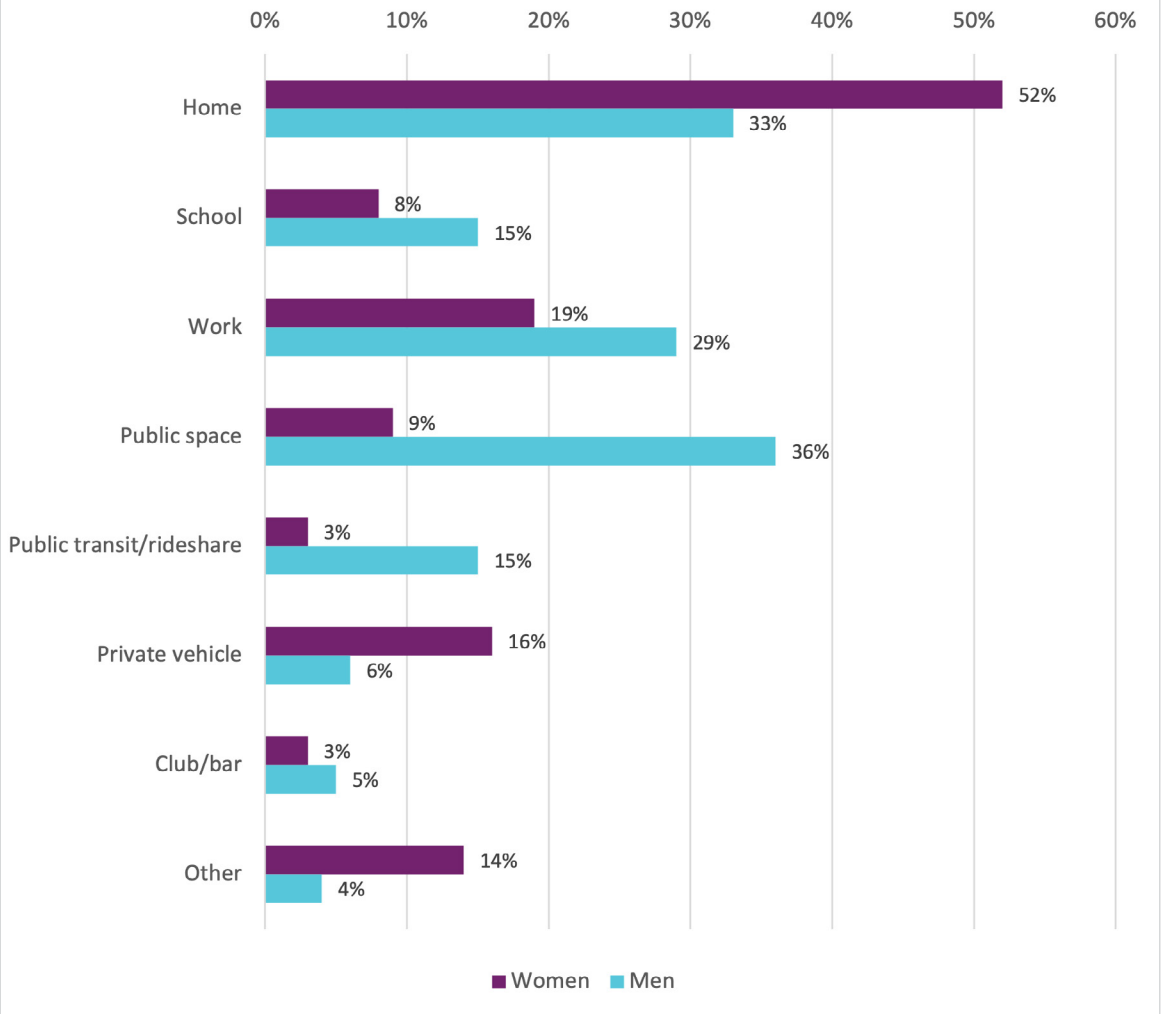
Men often described experiences of physical violence perpetrated by strangers in public spaces

"I don't know the person but I was sideblind punched and had my jaw broken in 3 places which I had to have my jaw wired shut for a month."
– 32 year old man

"I was simply walking home from work late night when a car with four people pulled up in there confronting me demanding money or risk being harmed. Luckily I ran off in the other direction."
– 23 year old man

"Beaten on the way home from dinner with friends."
– 29 year old man

Figure 3. Locations of physical violence among those experiencing past-year violence, California 2023



Locations of physical violence experiences in the past year

Respondents most often reported that physical violence in the past year occurred at home (their own home or the home of someone known to them) or in a public space such as a neighborhood, park, or on the street (**Figure 3**).

- Women were most likely to report a home as the location of past year physical violence (52%).
- Men were most likely to report a public space as the location of past year physical violence, and were 4x more likely than women to report this as the location of violence (36% vs 9%).

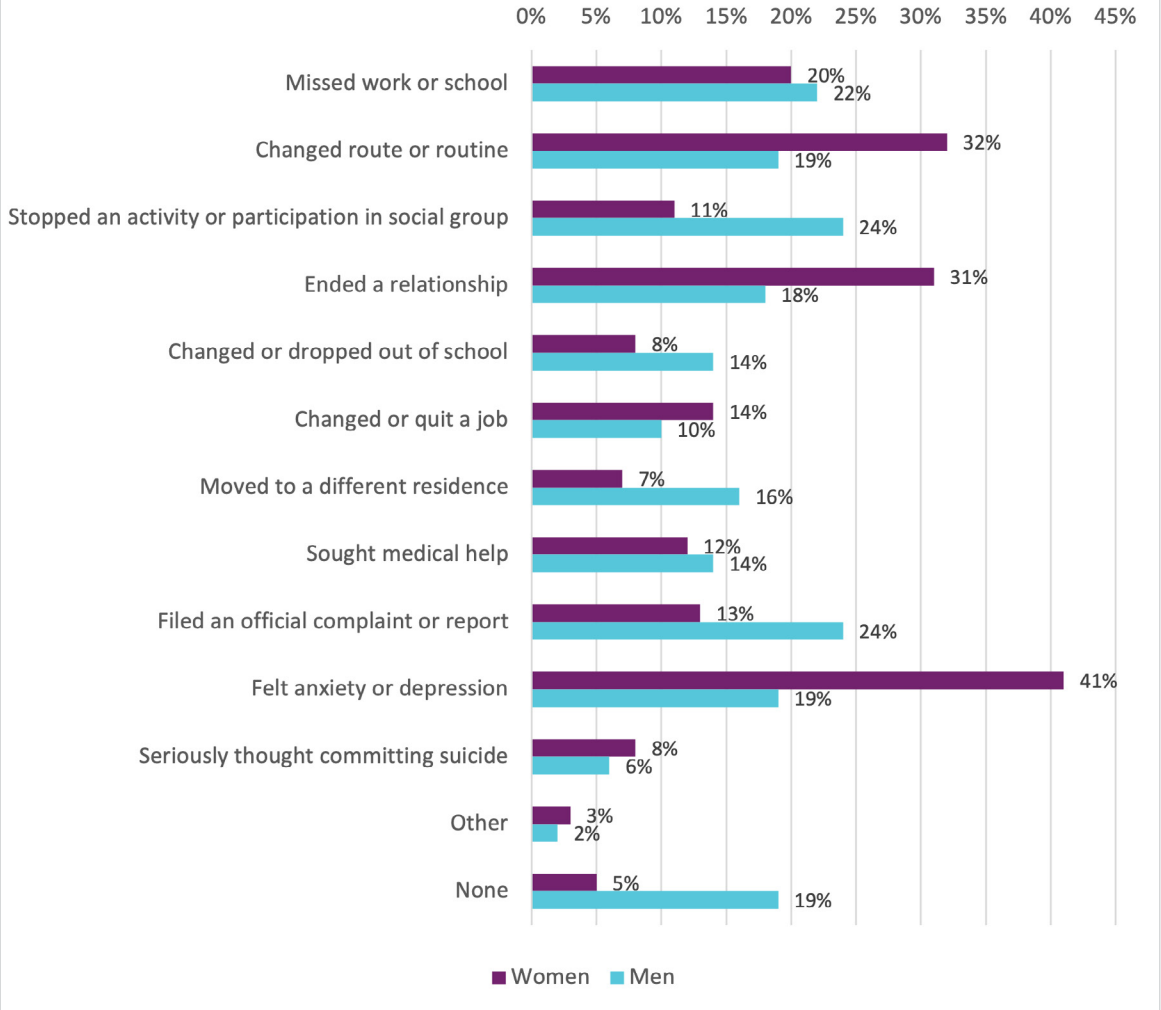
Californians are experiencing physical violence in the workplace

"I was at work and was assaulted by a patient. I was assisting security with a combative patient and got kicked in the face and body and injured my wrist."
– 44 year old man

"Someone threatened to kill me for an article written in the newspaper's op-Ed section."
– 53 year old man

"When working at a restaurant a cook push me on the ground then I left and made him do all the dishes."
– 45 year old man

Figure 4. Consequences of physical violence among those experiencing past-year violence, California 2023



Consequences of physical violence experiences in the past year

Most respondents reported negative consequences resulting from past year experiences of physical violence, including mental health effects and life changes to manage their risk (**Figure 4**).

- One quarter of those who experienced physical violence in the past year (27%) reported feeling anxiety or depression as a result of the violence. This was the most common consequence reported by women (41%) and the fourth most common consequence reported by men (19%). One in 14 respondents (7%) reported considering suicide due to their experiences of past year physical violence (8% of women and 6% of men).
- For both women and men, missing work or school was a commonly reported response to past year physical violence (21%; 20% of women and 22% of men). Ending a friendship or romantic relationship as a result of violence was also commonly reported by both women and men (23%; 31% of women and 18% of men).

One in 14 people who experienced physical violence report that it resulted in feelings of suicidality. One in 5 told no one about these experiences

- Other life disruptions due to past year physical violence were also reported: changing their route or routine (24%; 32% of women, 19% of men),

Figure 5a. Physical violence experiences by women



Figure 5b. Physical violence experiences by men



stopping an activity or participation in a social group (19%; 11% of women, 24% of men), changing or dropping out of school (12%; 8% of women, 14% of men), changing or quitting a job (11%; 14% of women, 10% of men), and relocating (13%; 7% of women, 16% of men).

- Few who experienced past year physical violence filed a formal report (20%; 13% of women, 24% of men); similarly few (22%; 17% of women and 24% of men) told no one at all about the experience.

We asked respondents to describe an incident of physical violence that had happened to them or to someone they knew. **Figure 5** summarizes commonly mentioned words in these open-ended responses.

Half of adults in California have experienced sexual harassment or assault in their lifetime

LIFETIME EXPERIENCES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Half of adults in California—48%—have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime (**Figure 6**).

- One in three (35%) have been verbally sexually harassed.
- One in eight (12%) have experienced sexual assault.
- All forms of sexual violence were reported most frequently by non-binary people.
- All forms of sexual violence were reported more frequently by women than by men, with the exception of homophobic or transphobic sexual harassment.

Verbal sexual harassment is commonly occurring in public spaces, particularly for women

"I was having breakfast with my husband and mother-in-law when a man walked up to me and commented on the size of my breasts"
– 65 year old woman

"One day I was walking out of the mall, 2 males made comments about my physical [appearance] and clothing."
– 44 year old woman

"Verbal sexual harassment from a man at a home improvement store. Made comments about my body and the project I was working on."
– 29 year old woman

Sexual violence experiences were most common in adolescence and adulthood.

- One in eight (13%) Californians experienced sexual violence in childhood (age 0–12).
- One in four (23%) experienced sexual violence in adolescence (age 13–17).

Figure 6. Lifetime experience of sexual violence by type of violence, California 2023

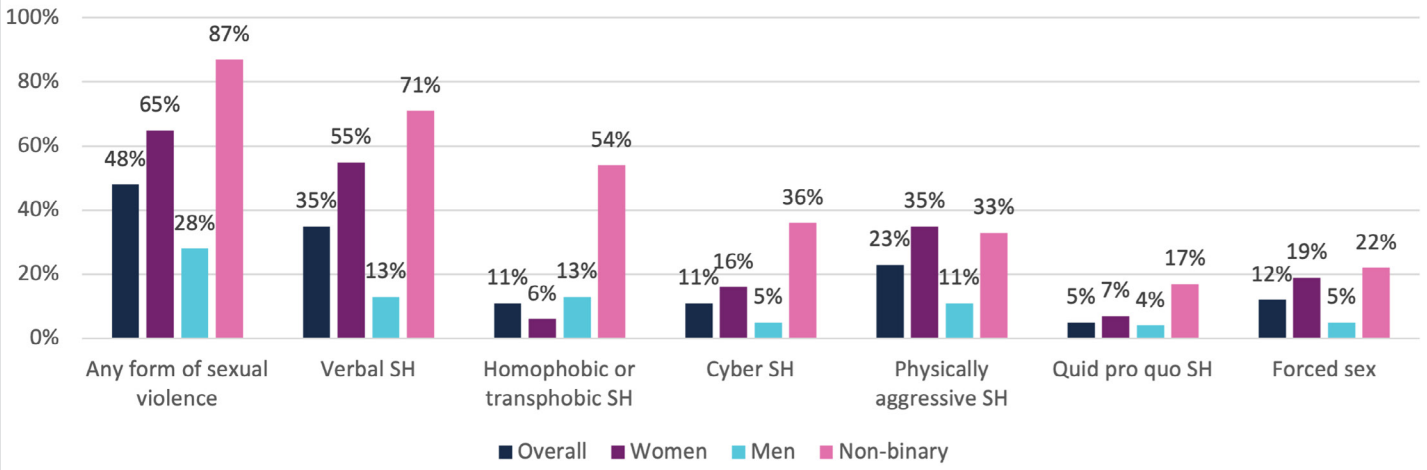
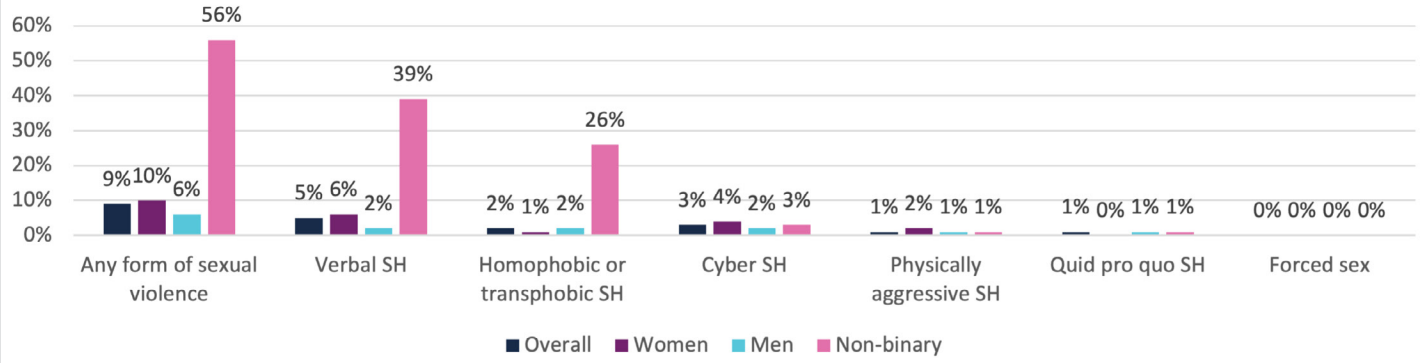


Figure 7. Past year experience of sexual violence by type of violence, California 2023



- One in three (30%) experienced sexual violence in young adulthood (age 18–24).
- One in four (25%) experienced sexual violence in adulthood (age 25+).

PAST YEAR EXPERIENCES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Prevalence of sexual violence experiences in the past year

One in 11 adults in California (9%) experienced past year sexual violence; these reports were markedly higher for non-binary individuals (56%) compared to women (10%) and men (6%) (**Figure 7**)

- Most of this past year sexual violence took the form of verbal and cyber sexual harassment (5% and 3%, 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 2% of participants—2% of women, 2% of men, and 3% of non-binary people.

Note: Due to small absolute numbers of non-binary respondents who experienced violence in the past year, subsequent information about perpetrators, locations, and consequences of past year violence will not be reported for this group.

In 2023, more than 1.5 million women and 900,000 men in California were victims of sexual violence

Table 2. Relationship to the person(s) causing past year sexual violence, California 2023

	Any form of sexual violence		Verbal, cyber, or homophobic/ transphobic sexual harassment		Physically aggressive, coercive, or forced sexual behavior	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Family Member 18+	4%	28%	4%	18%	2%	44%
Family Member < 18	2%	8%	1%	6%	4%	9%
Spouse/Partner	14%	15%	11%	14%	29%	29%
Known Non-Family	28%	27%	30%	22%	14%	38%
Acquaintance or Community Member	27%	26%	26%	28%	26%	25%
Stranger	74%	60%	80%	63%	32%	59%
Teacher/Coach/ Adult Authority	1%	8%	1%	8%	0%	13%
Police	3%	9%	2%	11%	5%	8%
Boss/Employer	3%	4%	4%	1%	0%	8%
Other	6%	8%	5%	9%	8%	0%

Relationship to person(s) causing sexual violence in the past year

Most people reporting past year sexual violence (69%) reported that at least one of the perpetrators was a stranger. The majority (58%) also reported that at least one of the perpetrators was someone known to the victim, including family, friends, romantic partners, known authority figures, or acquaintances; 57% of women and 61% of men who experienced some form of sexual violence in the past year knew at least one of the perpetrators (**Table 2**).

- For both women and men reporting past year verbal, cyber, or trans/homophobic harassment, as well as those reporting more contact-focused physically aggressive, coercive, or forced sexual behavior, a stranger was the most frequently reported perpetrator.
- These 2023 findings contrast with prior CalVEX findings which suggested that someone known to the victim, including a spouse, romantic partner, friend, or acquaintance, was most commonly the perpetrator of more contact-focused sexual violence.

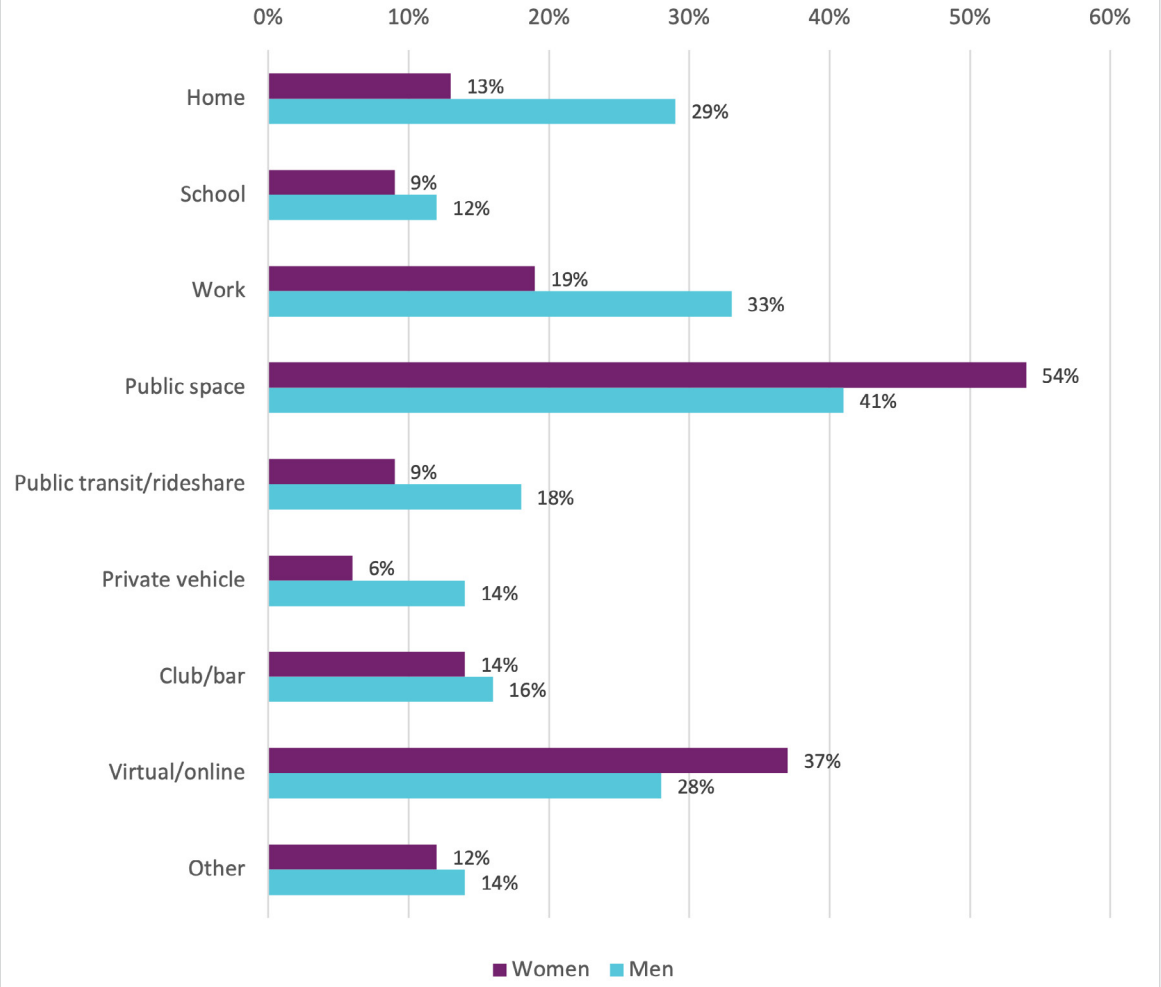
Homophobic and transphobic harassment was frequently reported by men and non-binary Californians

*"I was called a f**ing f**, and a mistake and that I should kill myself"*
– 34 year old non-binary respondent

*"Over a parking space dispute, asked a neighbor to move a few feet to allow another car space and was verbally told to f** off and as I walked away was called a f**."*
– 52 year old man

*"People constantly misgender me, but it's only horrible when they do it on purpose and add words like c*** to it."*
– 39 year old non-binary respondent

Figure 8. Locations of sexual violence among those experiencing past-year violence, California 2023



Locations of sexual violence experiences in the past year

Respondents most often reported that sexual violence in the past year occurred in a public space (such as a neighborhood, park, or on the street), online/virtually, or at home (their own home or the home of someone known to them) (**Figure 8**).

- Physically aggressive, coercive, or forced sexual behavior occurred most frequently in a home (31%) or a public space (30%) for women, and at a workplace for men (47%) [*Results not shown*].

Many Californians report sexual harassment at their workplace

"My boss sexually harasses me at work but I am afraid to say anything for fear of retaliation."
– 39 year old man

"A co-worker pushed and cornered me against the wall and tried to kiss and touch me."
– 55 year old woman

"A patient attempted to grab and grope me, and said highly inappropriate things to me, and continued to do so every day that I worked there."
– 30 year old woman

Figure 9. Consequences of sexual violence among those experiencing past-year violence, California 2023

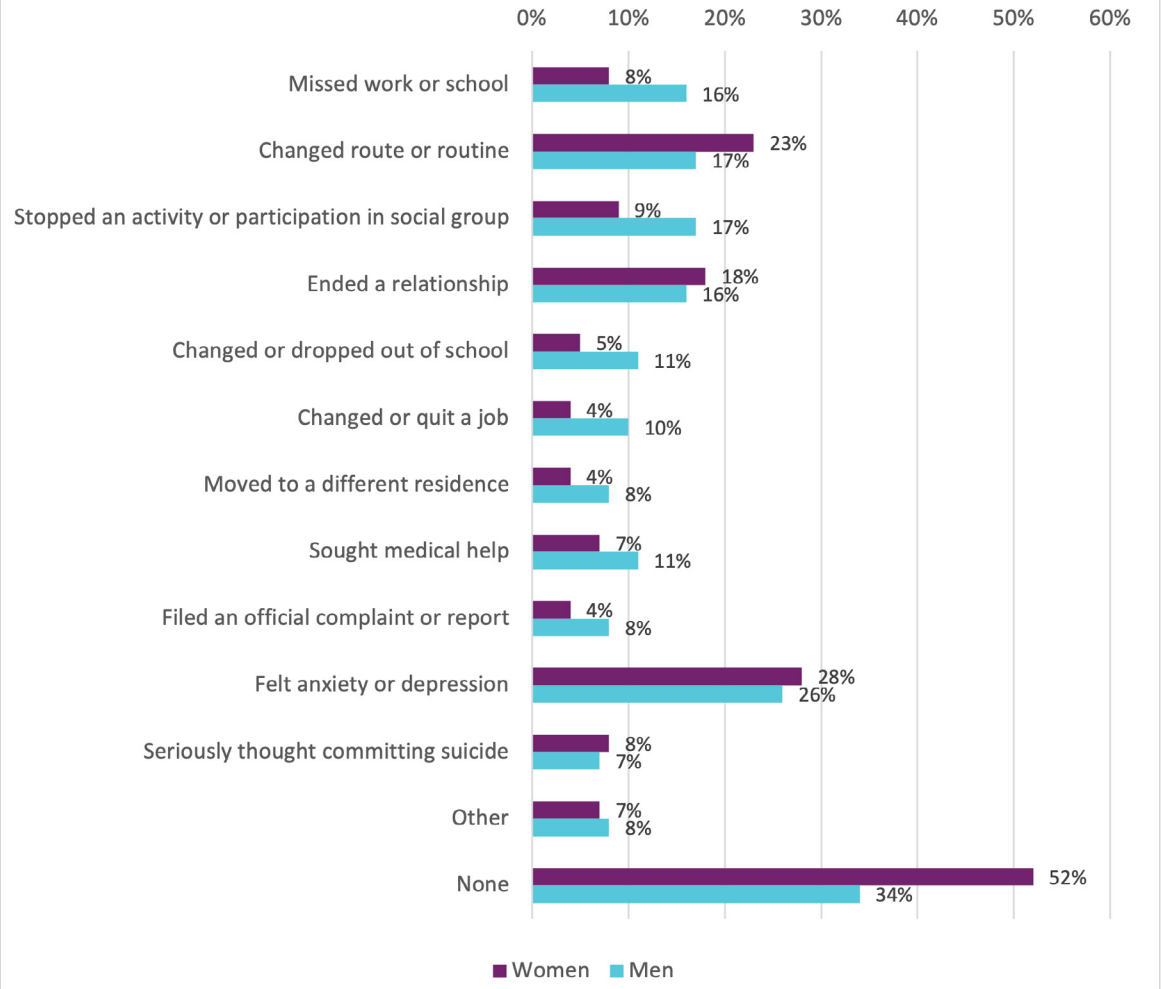


Figure 10a.
Sexual violence experiences reported by women



Figure 10b.
Sexual violence experiences reported by men



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 (28%; 28% of women and 26% of men) (**Figure 9**).

- Additional common responses were changing a route/routine (21%), ending a friendship/relationship (17%), stopping a hobby/activity (12%), and missing work or school (11%).
- Nearly half (45%) of those reporting past year sexual violence indicated no consequences of the abuse.
- Few people who experienced sexual violence filed an official complaint or report (5%).
- Almost half of those with these experiences told no one (48% of women and 36% of men).

We asked respondents to describe an incident of sexual violence that had happened to them or to someone they knew. **Figure 10** summarizes commonly mentioned words in these open-ended responses.

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

- One in eight Californians (12%) experienced physical and/or sexual violence in the past year.
- Physical and sexual violence victimization are often co-occurring. Those who experienced past year physical violence were 6x as likely to have experienced past year sexual violence (43% vs. 7%).

TIME TRENDS IN PAST YEAR PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE OVER TIME—2020 to 2023

Trends over time in physical violence

Physical violence reports declined from 2022 (8%) to 2023 (5%) (**Figure 11**).

- Physical violence rates were equivalent for women (5% 2022 vs 4% 2023), but lower for men (11% vs 6%) [*Results not shown*]
- These lower rates are driven by lower rates of experience of physical abuse among men—there was no difference in reports of weapon-related violence.

2023 past year physical violence rates were equivalent to 2020 past year physical violence rates, suggesting that physical violence has returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Trends over time in sexual violence

Sexual violence reports declined from 2022 (15%) to 2023 (9%) (**Figure 12**).

- Sexual violence rates fell for women (15% 2022 vs 10% 2023) as well as for men (14% 2022 to 6% 2023) *[Results not shown]*.
- These lower rates are driven by lower rates of experience of verbal and cyber sexual harassment by both men and women.

2023 past year sexual violence rates were equivalent to 2020 past year sexual violence rates, suggesting that sexual violence has returned to lower pre-pandemic levels.

Figure 11. Past year experience of physical violence over time, California 2020–2023

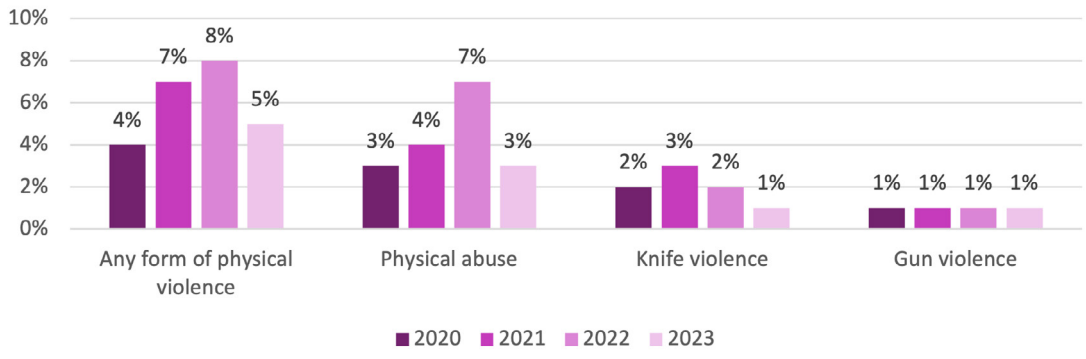
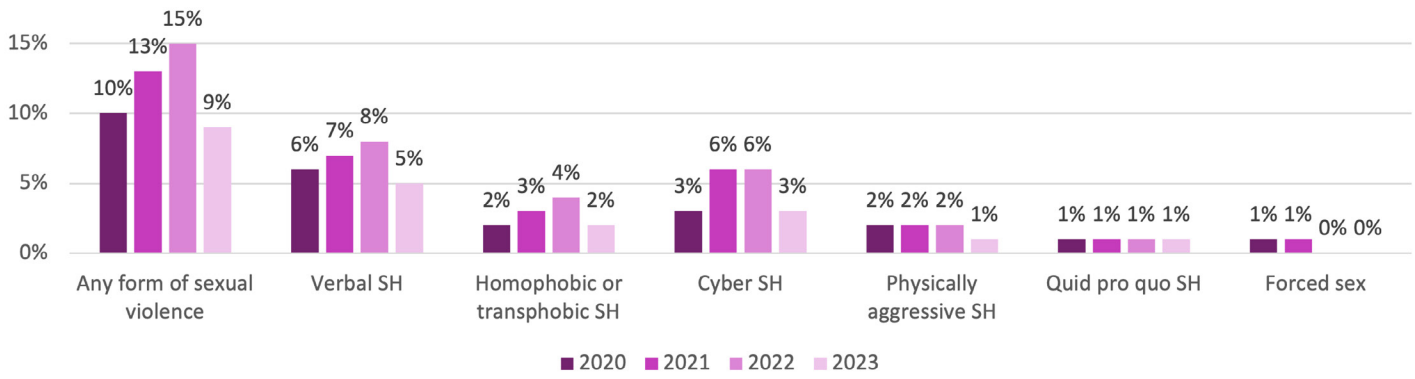


Figure 12. Past year experience of sexual violence over time, California 2023



LIFETIME EXPERIENCES OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV)

We assessed lifetime experience of 22 forms of violence from a current or former romantic or sexual partner. Nearly half (46%) of respondents reported experiencing at least one of these forms of violence, including 54% of women, 38% of men, and 76% of non-binary people (**Table 3**).

- The most common type of violence reported was that a partner had "Insulted, humiliated, or made fun of you in front of others". One-third of women (33%), one-sixth of men (17%), and one-third of non-binary people (33%) report that an intimate partner has done this to them.
- IPV is often only measured as physical or sexual violence from a partner. If we examine only these forms of violence, nearly one-third (29%) of Californians have experienced physical or sexual IPV. Women and non-binary people are more likely to report a history of physical or sexual IPV than men (37% of women, 37% of non-binary people, and 21% of men).
- Among those who have experienced any of the 22 assessed forms of IPV, one in five (20%) are still in a relationship with a partner who perpetrated this violence (15% of women experiencing IPV, 27% of men experiencing IPV, and 33% of non-binary people experiencing IPV).
  - This rate is similar for those who have experienced physical or sexual IPV—12% of women, 29% of men, and 4% of non-binary people who have experienced physical or sexual IPV report that they are still in a relationship with the person who committed these acts.
- Half of people who experienced any of the 22 assessed forms of IPV reported that it took place during young adulthood (age 18–24, 53%) or adulthood (age 25–54, 51%). One in six report that they experienced IPV in adolescence (age 13–17, 18%), while one in eight respondents over 55 report that the IPV experience occurred as an older adult (age 55+, 13%).
  - Age of experience was similar for those experiencing physical or sexual IPV.
- We also asked respondents whether they witnessed IPV towards a parent or caregiver when they were children. 18% of California adults report having witnessed IPV as a child.

Nearly half of adults in California have experienced some form of violence—emotional, controlling, threatening harm to self or others, physical, or sexual violence—from a romantic or sexual partner in their lifetime

Table 3. Experiences of violence from a romantic or sexual partner, California 2023

	Experienced ever			Experienced within past year		
	Women	Men	Non-binary	Women	Men	Non-binary
Any of 22 items	***53.6%***	***37.9%***	***76.4%***	***5.5%***	***6.3%***	***15.7%***
Emotional						
Any emotional item	*40.7%*	*23.6%*	*35.7%*	*4.0%*	*2.7%*	*2.4%*
Insulted, humiliated, or made fun of you in front of others	32.6%	16.8%	33.0%	3.5%	1.7%	2.4%
Destroyed something that was important to you	19.2%	9.1%	12.3%	1.7%	0.8%	0.1%
Harassed you by phone, text, email or using social media	18.7%	7.8%	18.6%	1.3%	1.0%	1.4%
Control						
Any control item	*34.2%*	*22.7%*	*50.7%*	*3.3%*	*4.7%*	*13.2%*
Kept you from having your own money	9.9%	4.5%	17.8%	1.1%	1.7%	0.1%
Tried to keep you from seeing or talking to your family or friends	19.8%	10.8%	26.9%	2.0%	2.1%	12.6%
Kept track of you by demanding to know where you were and what you were doing	23.8%	13.1%	28.4%	2.3%	2.2%	2.1%
Made decisions for you that should have been yours to make	14.9%	7.6%	10.1%	1.3%	1.3%	0.7%
Threats to harm self or others						
Any threat item	*17.7%*	*10.4%*	*14.8%*	*1.8%*	*1.7%*	*1.5%*
Made threats to harm someone close to you	5.5%	2.5%	2.7%	0.5%	0.5%	0.2%
Threatened to hurt themselves or commit suicide because they were upset with you	12.6%	8.2%	13.3%	1.2%	1.2%	1.4%
Intentionally hurt or threatened to use violence against your pet(s)	5.8%	1.0%	3.8%	0.7%	0.2%	0.1%
Physical						
Any physical item	*32.7%*	*19.7%*	*23.1%*	*2.9%*	*3.1%*	*3.5%*
Made threats to physically harm you	16.0%	4.7%	6.0%	1.7%	0.8%	1.4%
Slapped you	15.8%	9.7%	15.9%	1.4%	1.4%	2.8%
Pushed or shoved you	24.2%	12.2%	14.4%	2.0%	1.7%	1.4%
Hit you with a fist or something hard	11.1%	6.0%	2.7%	0.8%	1.0%	<0.1%
Hurt you by pulling your hair	9.6%	1.7%	6.6%	0.6%	0.6%	2.1%
Slammed you against something	14.8%	2.3%	3.8%	1.4%	0.4%	0.2%
Tried to hurt you by choking or suffocating you	11.7%	0.7%	2.5%	1.4%	0.1%	0.1%
Beaten you	7.2%	2.4%	4.1%	0.3%	0.8%	<0.1%
Burned you on purpose	1.1%	0.4%	0.9%	0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Used a knife on you	1.2%	0.9%	1.8%	0.1%	0.2%	<0.1%
Used a gun on you	1.8%	0.4%	1.6%	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Sexual						
Any sexual item	*13.4%*	*2.6%*	*22.0%*	*0.4%*	*0.6%*	*0.1%*
Forced or tried to force you to have sex, or made you perform sexual acts that you did not want to perform	13.4%	2.6%	22.0%	0.4%	0.6%	0.1%
Physical or sexual						
Any physical or sexual item	*36.5%*	*20.7%*	*37.3%*	*3.0%*	*3.4%*	*3.6%*

PAST YEAR EXPERIENCES OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV)

One in 16 (6%) respondents reported that they experienced at least one of 22 forms of IPV in the past year. This number was similar for women (6%) and men (6%) but higher for non-binary people (16%), though not statistically significantly so.

- The most commonly reported form of past year IPV for women was that a partner '*Insulted, humiliated, or made fun of you in front of others*' (3%); for men, the most common item was that a partner '*Kept track of you by demanding to know where you were and what you were doing*' (2%); and for non-binary people, the most common item—and the only item reported significantly more frequently than by women or men—was that a partner '*Tried to keep you from seeing or talking to your family or friends*' (13%).
- Examining only physical and sexual forms of violence from an intimate partner, 3% of Californians report past year physical or sexual IPV (3% of women, 3% of men, and 4% of non-binary people).
- There was no change in rates of past year physical or sexual IPV from 2022 to 2023.

1 in 30 adults in California—more than 950,000 Californians—experienced physical or sexual violence from their intimate partner in the past year

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

EXPERIENCES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST TRANSGENDER CALIFORNIANS

Though we report rates of violence and discrimination by gender identity above, we also assessed participant's transgender vs cisgender identity. We assessed transgender identity separately from the three gender categories presented throughout the report (women, men, and non-binary people), as a specific assessment of transgender identity has been a preferred approach by trans communities.[24] We found that transgender Californians are markedly more likely to experience all forms of violence compared to cisgender Californians.

- Lifetime experiences of violence are pervasive for transgender Californians.
  - 72% of transgender adults have experienced physical violence, compared to 43% of cisgender adults.
  - 75% of transgender adults have experienced sexual harassment, compared to 45% of cisgender adults.
  - 25% of transgender adults have experienced sexual assault, compared to 12% of cisgender adults.
  - 56% of transgender adults have experienced physical or sexual IPV, compared to 28% of cisgender adults.
- Past year experiences of violence are also 5–7x more common for transgender compared to cisgender Californians.
  - 27% of transgender adults experienced physical violence in the past year, compared to 4% of cisgender adults.
  - 40% of transgender adults experienced sexual violence (inclusive of harassment or assault) in the past year, compared to 8% of cisgender adults.
  - 19% of transgender adults experienced physical or sexual IPV in the past year, compared to 3% of cisgender adults.

SOCIOSTRUCTURAL VIOLENCE AND ITS INTERSECTIONS WITH PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Perceptions of neighborhood violence/safety in the past year

When asking about neighborhood safety, most respondents report that their neighborhood is 'extremely safe' (19%) or 'quite safe' (51%), while 24% think their neighborhood is only 'slightly safe' and 6% consider their neighborhood 'not at all safe'. These reports are comparable for men and women.

- There was no significant difference in experiences of physical or sexual violence by self-reported neighborhood safety.

Experiences of discrimination

Nearly one-quarter of respondents (23%; 22% women, 23% men, 60% non-binary people) report that they experience at least one of following five assessed forms of 'everyday' discrimination (or 'microaggressions') in a typical week:

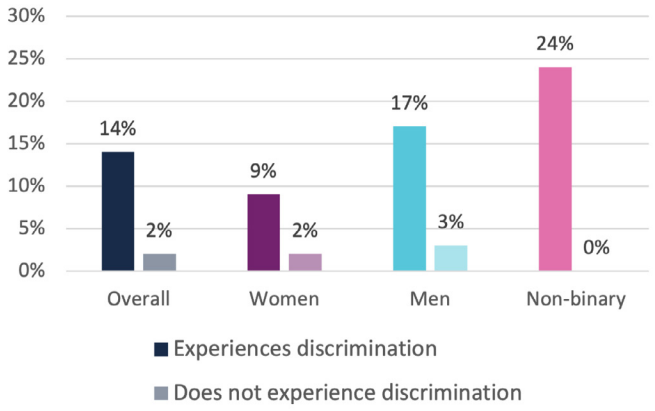
- "I receive poorer service in restaurants or stores compared to the service other people receive" (7%); "People treat me as if I am not intelligent" (8%); "People act afraid of me" (6%); "People treat me like am I dishonest" (4%); "People treat me like they are better than me" (12%).

Approximately 1 in 4 Californians experiences discrimination in a typical week.

Those regularly experiencing discrimination are 7x more likely to have experienced physical violence and 3x more likely to have experienced sexual violence in the past year.

- Transgender adults were 3x more likely to report discrimination in a typical week compared to cisgender adults (65% vs 22%).
- Respondents most often reported that race/ethnicity was the primary reason for this discrimination (35%), followed by their physical appearance (19%), and their age (12%). Women were more likely than men and non-binary people to report gender as the primary reason for their experiences of discrimination in a typical week (15% vs. 5% vs. 6%); transgender respondents were also more likely to report gender as the primary reason for this discrimination (12%).
- Those reporting at least one of five assessed forms of discrimination in a typical week were 7x more likely to report past year physical violence (14% vs 2%) and 3x more likely to report sexual violence (20% vs 6%), as compared with respondents who did not report these typical discrimination experiences. (**Figure 13**).
  - This relationship was present for women (physical violence: 9% vs 2%; sexual violence: 19% vs 8%), men (physical violence: 17% vs 3%; sexual violence: 17% vs 3%), and non-binary people (physical violence: 24% vs 0%; sexual violence: 73% vs 33%).
  - Reports of everyday discrimination decreased from 31% 2022 vs 23% 2023. This decrease was present for both women and men.

Figure 13. Past year physical violence by experiences of discrimination in a typical week, California 2023



We also assessed experiences of institutional discrimination over the lifetime. 31% of CA adults (29% of women, 32% of men, and 57% of non-binary people) reported that they have experienced at least one of the following seven forms of discrimination in their lifetime:

- "I was unfairly fired or denied a promotion" (14%); "I was unfairly not hired for a job" (10%); I was unfairly stopped, searched, questioned, physically threatened or abused by the police" (8%); "I was unfairly discouraged by a teacher or advisor from continuing my education" (8%); I was unfairly prevented from moving into a neighborhood because the landlord or a realtor refused to rent or sell me a house or apartment" (3%); "I moved into a neighborhood where neighbors made life difficult for me and my family" (5%); "I have had difficulty getting a mortgage or loan from a bank" (4%).
- Transgender adults were 2x more likely to report an experience of institutional discrimination compared to cisgender adults (67% vs 30%).

- Respondents most often reported that race/ethnicity was the primary reason for this discrimination (27%), followed by their age (15%). Women were more likely than men and non-binary people to report gender as the primary reason for this discrimination (18% vs 5% vs 8%); transgender respondents were also more likely to report gender as the reason for discrimination (18%).
- Those reporting experience of at least one of the seven assessed forms of institutional discrimination in their lifetime were more likely to report past year physical violence (11% vs 2%) and more likely to report sexual violence (17% vs 5%) than those with no such discrimination experiences.

POLICING VIOLENCE

Examining reported perpetrators of past year physical and sexual violence, we found that one in 200 Californians (0.5%) experienced physical and/or sexual policing violence in the past year. Given that only 12% report contact with the police in the past year, at least one in 25 people (4%) who have police contact experience policing violence.

Violence is not the only form of police mistreatment. We asked Californians about their most recent experience of being approached or stopped by the police.

- One in eight (12%) were treated somewhat or very badly at their most recent incident with the police, 11% of women and 13% of men.
- Those reporting police mistreatment at their most recent incident with the police were more likely to report past year physical violence (13% vs 4%) and more likely to report past year sexual violence (20% vs 8%) than those who did not report this police mistreatment.
- Given concerns regarding differential treatment by police based on demographic profile, we also looked to see if policing mistreatment differed by race/ethnicity or age and found that Black and Latinx Californians were more likely report mistreatment relative to white and Asian respondents—22% of Black, 16% of Latinx, 12% of Asian and 8% of white respondents reported mistreatment the most recent time they were stopped or approached by police.
- Young people (18–24), people with less than a high school degree/GED, people with a disability, and people in the lowest income quintile were more likely to report police mistreatment relative to their demographic counterparts.

Victims of violence may be less inclined to engage with police around victimization from violence if they are also victims of violence or mistreatment from police.

GUN VIOLENCE, FIREARM OWNERSHIP, AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS FIREARMS

Prevalence of gun violence experiences

One in eight (12%) Californians have been threatened or hurt with a gun in their lifetime. One in 11 women (9%) one in seven men (15%) and one in 14 non-binary people (7%) have experienced gun violence. More than one in six transgender Californians (18%) has experienced gun violence.

- 1% of Californians (1% of women, 2% of men, and 1% of non-binary people) have experienced gun violence in the past year. 6% of transgender Californians experienced gun violence in the past year.

Many Californians report gun violence affecting their friends, family, and communities

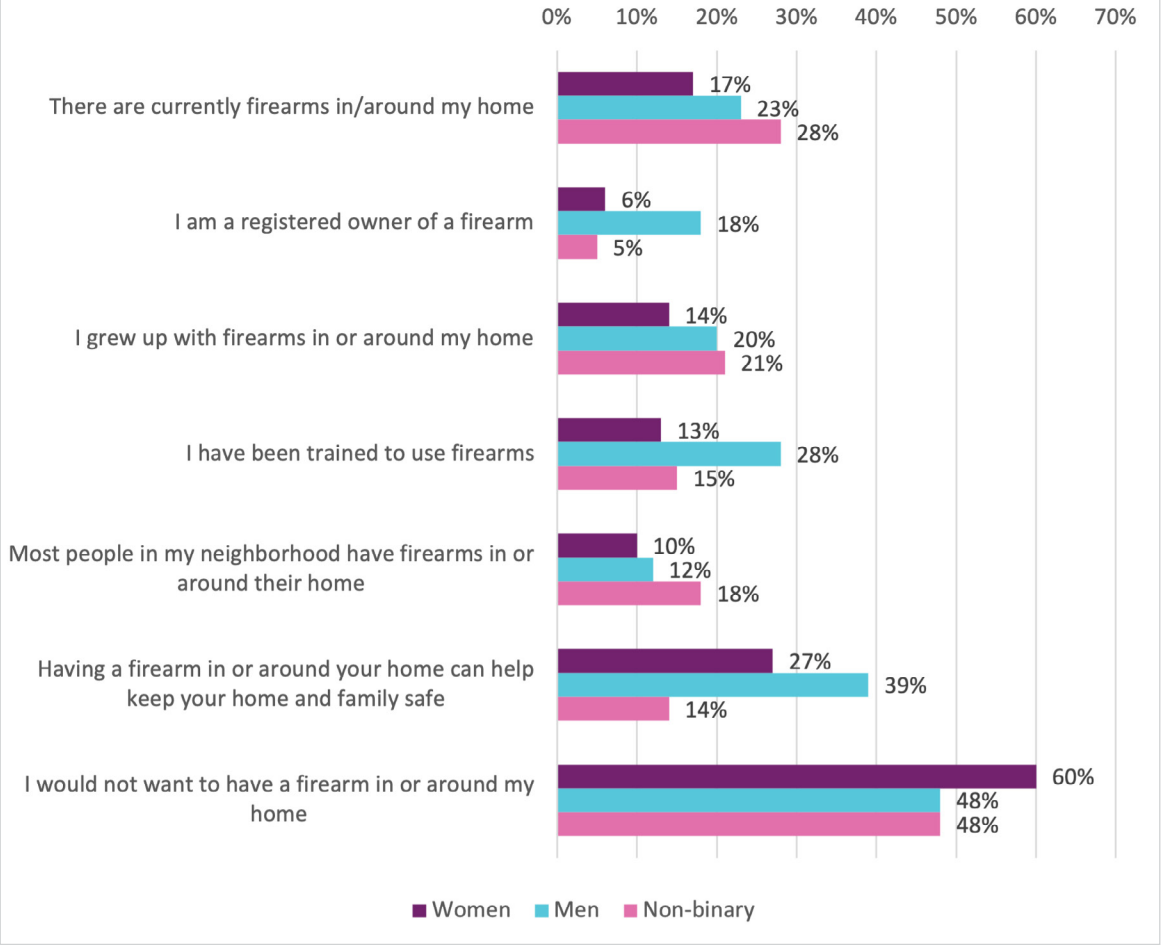
"In my community a 13 year old just died from getting shot."
–20 year old woman

"A few of my friends got shot at a party we had."
– 30 year old man

"A young man was shot and killed in his front yard with his young child and girlfriend present."
– 46 year old woman

"Husband of brother-in-law's cousin shot at school shooting and eventually died from his injuries."
– 58 year old woman

Figure 14. Attitudes towards firearms, California 2023



Firearm ownership and purchase

About one-fifth (21%) of adults in California own a firearm. 15% of women, 27% of men, and 32% of non-binary people report owning a firearm.

- Californians who have experienced gun violence are more likely to own a firearm—30% of people who have experienced gun violence in their lifetime own a firearm, compared to 20% who have never experienced gun violence.
- One in 20 Californians (5%) have purchased a firearm in the past year—2% of women, 8% of men, and 4% of non-binary people
- Firearm purchase in the past year and experience of gun violence in the past year are strongly related—21% of people who experienced gun violence in the past year purchased a firearm in the same time frame, compared to 5% among people who did not experience gun violence.

Attitudes towards firearm use and ownership

We asked respondents a series of seven questions regarding firearm use and attitudes towards firearm ownership. The most frequently endorsed item (54%) was 'I would not want to have a firearm in or around my home' (54%) (**Figure 14**).

PAST YEAR FINANCIAL DISTRESS AND VIOLENCE EXPERIENCES

We assessed associations between past year physical violence, sexual violence, and IPV with past year eviction, economic deprivation, and job loss. All noted differences are statistically significant.

- For those evicted in the past year, compared to those not evicted:
  - Past year physical violence was 8x more likely (33% vs 4%), past year sexual violence was 4x more likely (38% vs 8%), and past year physical or sexual IPV was 5x more likely (16% vs 3%).

- 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 4x more likely (13% vs 3%), past year sexual violence was 3x more likely (21% vs 7%), and past year physical or sexual IPV was 4x more likely (8% vs 2%).
- For those who lost a job in the past year, compared to those not reporting job loss:
  - Past year physical violence was 2x more likely (11% vs 5%) and past year sexual violence was 3x more likely (27% vs 9%). Physical or sexual IPV experiences did not differ by job loss status.
- Experiences of past-year financial distress—eviction, lacking money for food or other basic needs, and job loss—differed by gender.
  - Men (3%) and non-binary people (11%) were more likely to report eviction than women (2%).
  - Women (20%) and non-binary people (38%) were more likely to report lacking money for food or other basic needs than men (16%).
  - Job loss did not differ by gender, with 2% of women, men, and non-binary people reporting this, respectively.
- Experiences of financial distress all decreased significantly from 2022 to 2023.
  - All of these financial distress indicators decreased for men—eviction fell from 6% to 3%, lacking money for food or other basic needs fell from 21% to 16%, and job loss fell from 5% to 2%.
  - There was no change in financial distress indicators for women, however.

SOCIODEMOGRAPHICS AND PAST YEAR EXPERIENCES OF VIOLENCE

We assessed the association between past year physical violence, past year sexual violence, and past year intimate partner violence (IPV) with a number of demographic factors including age, race/ethnicity, sexual identity, income, education, metropolitan/non-metropolitan area of residence, disability status, history of homelessness, and history of incarceration. Any differences noted below are statistically significant.

Sociodemographic characteristics associated with past year physical violence

- Young adult Californians (aged 18–24 years) were most likely to report past year physical violence (10%). Violence was reported by 5% of 25–34 year olds, 9% of 35–44 year olds, 6% of 45–54 year olds, 1% of 55–64 year olds, and 2% of those aged 65+.
- Latinx and Black Californians were more likely to report past year physical violence (7% for both) compared to 3% of white and 3% of Asian Californians reporting past year physical violence.
- Californians identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or other self-described sexual identity were more likely to report past year physical violence (11%), relative to straight respondents (4%).
- Physical violence rates were similar across household income—7% among the lowest quintile ($0–$29,999), 7% among the second lowest ($30,000–$59,999), 4% among the middle ($60,000–$99,999), 3% among the second highest ($100,000–$149,999), and 4% among the highest quintile ($150,000 or more).
- Physical violence rates were highest among those with less than a high school diploma (12%), 5% among those with a high school diploma or GED, 3% among those who attended college, and 4% among those with a graduate degree.

Experiences of financial distress in the past year—particularly eviction and food or housing insecurity—were associated with 2x to 8x greater risk for physical violence, sexual violence, and IPV

- There was no difference in reported physical violence rates by metropolitan vs non-metropolitan area of residence (5% for both).
- Californians with a disability were 4x more likely to report past year physical violence as those without a disability (11% vs 3%).
- Californians with a history of homelessness were 5x more likely to report past year physical violence compared to those with no such history (15% vs 3%).
- Californians with an incarceration history were 4x more likely to report past year physical violence as those with no history of incarceration (18% vs 4%).

Sociodemographic characteristics associated with past year sexual violence

- Young adult Californians (aged 18–24 years) were most likely to report past year sexual violence (25%); rates declined steadily with age, with 3% of those 65 years and older reporting sexual violence.
- Past year sexual violence was reported most frequently by Latinx Californians (12%), and at similar rates by Black (9%), white (7%), and Asian (6%) Californians.
- Californians identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or other self-described sexual identity were more than 3x more likely to report past year sexual violence (26%), relative to straight respondents (7%).

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

- Sexual violence rates were similar across household income quintiles 1–4 and lower for the highest: 11% among the lowest quintile ($0–$29,999), 10% among the second lowest ($30,000–$59,999), 10% among the middle ($60,000–$99,999, 9% among the second highest ($100,000–$149,999), and 5% among the highest quintile ($150,000 or more).
- Sexual violence rates were highest among those with less than a high school diploma (18%), 8% among those with a high school diploma or GED, 8% among those who attended college, and 7% among those with a graduate degree.
- There was no difference in reported sexual violence rates by metropolitan vs non-metropolitan area of residence (13% metropolitan vs 9% non-metropolitan).
- Californians with a disability were 2x more likely as those without to report past year sexual violence (16% vs 7%).
- Californians with a history of homelessness were 3x more likely as those without to report a history of past year sexual violence (20% vs 7%).
- Californians with a history of incarceration were 2x more likely as those without this history to report past year sexual violence (20% vs 8%).

Sociodemographic characteristics associated with past year physical or sexual intimate partner violence

- Young adult Californians (aged 18–24 years) were most likely to report past year IPV (6%); rates declined steadily with age, with <1% of those 65 years and older reporting IPV.
- Past year IPV was reported most frequently by Latinx Californians (4%), and at similar rates by Black (2%), white (2%) and Asian (2%) Californians.
- Californians identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or other self-described sexual identity were twice as likely to report past year IPV (7%) relative to straight respondents (3%).
- IPV rates were similar across household income—5% among the lowest quintile ($0–$29,999), 2% among the second lowest ($30,000–$59,999), 3% among the middle ($60,000–$99,999), 2% among the second highest ($100,000–$149,999), and 3% among the highest quintile ($150,000 or more).
- IPV rates were highest among those with less than a high school diploma (7%), 3% among those with a high school diploma or GED, 2% among those who attended college, and 2% among those with a graduate degree.
- There was no difference in reported IPV rates by metropolitan vs non-metropolitan area of residence (3% for both).
- Californians with a disability were 3x more likely as those without to report past year IPV (7% vs 2%).
- Californians with a history of homelessness were 4x more likely compared to those without this history to report a history of past year IPV (9% vs 2%).
- Californians with a history of incarceration were 5x more likely as those without this history to report past year IPV (11% vs 2%).

ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN EXPERIENCES OF VIOLENCE AND HEALTH OUTCOMES

Violence and Physical Health

There were no significant differences in self-rated physical health status rates among those who did or did not experience past year physical or sexual violence.

Violence and Mental Health

Those reporting past year physical violence or past year sexual violence were more likely to report anxiety and/or depression symptoms.

- Those reporting past year physical violence were more likely to report severe symptoms: the distribution of symptoms was 29% normal, 26% mild, 31% moderate, and 14% severe among those who experienced violence, compared to 59% normal, 24% mild, 10% moderate, and 6% severe among those who did not.
- Those reporting past year sexual violence were also more likely to report severe symptoms: the distribution of symptoms was 30% normal, 31% mild, 24% moderate, and 14% severe among those who experienced violence, compared to 60% normal, 24% mild, 10% moderate, and 6% severe among those who did not.
- Both women and men were more likely to report severe anxiety and/or depression symptoms if they experienced violence.

Violence and Suicidality

Those who reported past year violence were 4x more likely to report suicidality (serious consideration of suicide) in the past year. This was true for both past year physical violence (25% vs 6%) and past year sexual violence (22% vs 5%) (**Figure 15**, **Figure 16**).

- Both women and men were more likely to report suicidality if they experienced violence.

Violence and Substance Misuse

We defined substance misuse as binge alcohol use (5+ drinks in one sitting for men/4+ drinks in one sitting for women) 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 year violence were twice as likely to report past 30-day substance misuse. This was true for both past year physical violence (67% vs 28%) and past year sexual violence (51% vs 28%).

- Both women and men were more likely to report substance misuse if they experienced violence.

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 eight adults in California (13%) have perpetrated some form of physical violence in their lifetime.

- Non-binary people were most likely to report these behaviors (39%), and men were more likely than women to report perpetration (16% vs. 9%).

Figure 15. Past year suicidality by past year physical violence experience, California 2023

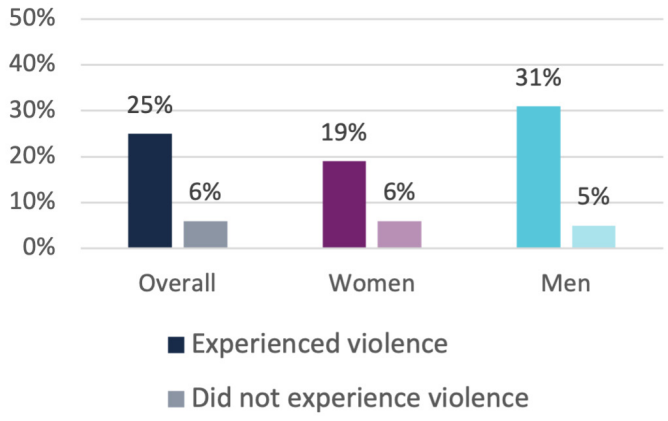
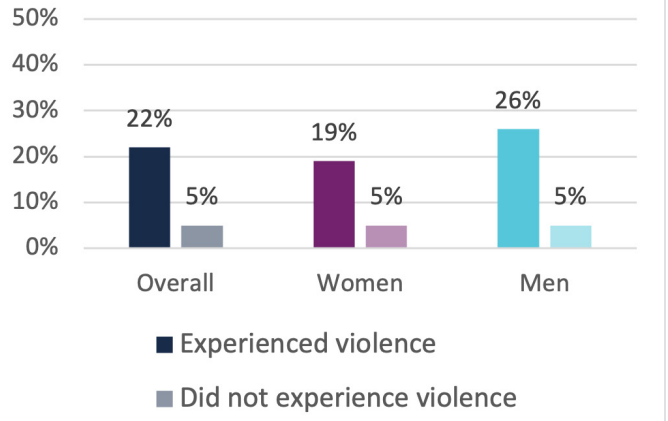


Figure 16. Past year suicidality by past year sexual violence experience, California 2023



- In the past year, 2% of adults report physical violence perpetration: 2% of women, 3% of men, and 3% of non-binary people.
- Those who had experienced physical violence were much more likely to perpetrate physical violence. 23% 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 indicated that there were no consequences (59%).
    - One-fifth (21%) indicated that a formal complaint was filed, while only 8% of women, 10% of men, and <1% of non-binary people were arrested as a result of their past year physical violence perpetration.

Prevalence and consequences of self-reported perpetration of sexual violence

One in 11 adults in California (9%) have perpetrated some form of sexual violence in their lifetime.

- 6% of women, 11% of men, and 41% of non-binary people report that they have perpetrated sexual violence. Only 1% of CA adults reported perpetration of sexual assault.
- In the past year, 3% of adults report perpetration of sexual violence, including 2% of women, 3% of men, and 14% of non-binary people.
- Those who had experienced sexual violence were much more likely to report perpetration of sexual violence. 21% of those who had experienced sexual violence in the past year reported perpetration in the past year, compared to 1% who had not experienced sexual violence.
- Most respondents who reported perpetrating sexual violence indicated that there were no consequences (59%).
    - One-quarter (25%) indicated that a formal complaint was filed, while only 1% of women, 13% of men, and <1% of non-binary people were arrested as a result of the sexual violence.

Prevalence of self-reported perpetration of intimate partner violence

One in 100 California adults reported perpetrating some form of physical or sexual IPV within the past year in 2023 (1%). Rates were similar for women (1%), men (1%) and non-binary people (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.

STUDY LIMITATIONS

1. *Sampling and generalizability*: Because of the relatively small sample size, some groups were too small in number to allow for findings specific to these populations, such as Native or Indigenous people. 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 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.[31] 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 lifetime prevalence of approximately 86% among women, where we find this to be 65% in our study, with a more limited set of items.[3] 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 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.

6. *Challenges in measuring gender identity:* We have worked to include gender identity measures that were aligned with inputs from non-binary and transgender community members and those working to serve these communities. The measures do not allow for us to include both groups in the same item, and we do see age-related differences in likelihood of identifying as non-binary and as transgender. Further, our non-binary categorization includes multiple self-identifying categories from participants, and there may be differences for these subgroups. However, small cell sizes necessitated a lumped categorization to allow for analyses beyond women and men alone.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This statewide study highlights Californians routinely experience physical and sexual violence and discrimination. Our population-based survey of adult Californians between March and May 2023 suggests approximately 1.5 million of 30.5 million Californian adults were physically assaulted in the past year. During that same period, more than 2.8 million adult Californians faced sexual harassment or sexual violence. Identity characteristics, such as gender identity, sexual orientation, race/ethnicity, age, and socioeconomic and disability statuses appear to shape adults' experiences with violence in California. While these findings are sobering, past year levels of violence have declined relative to that seen in the pandemic period. During the pandemic, California committed $15 million to violence prevention,[32] and the state remains at the forefront of key violence prevention and violent fatality efforts in the U.S. via their prioritization of gun control policies and social and economic welfare programs.[33, 34, 35, 36] While these improvements and investments are promising, vigilance is needed. We recommend the following additional practical and policy recommendations emerge from our findings:

1. **Violence prevention should be a sustained priority in the state budget.**

   Violence prevention funding will end in April 2024.[32] At the same time, factors associated with violence escalation, such as the frequency of severe climate events (e.g. drought, flooding, freezes, wildfires, severe storms, and tropical cyclones), are increasing in the state.[37] Sustained violence prevention funding is needed. Given findings showing associations between violence and discrimination, as well as between violence and mental health issues, we also need more funding for prevention of discrimination and support for trauma-informed programs that can effectively reach those at risk for violence and harassment.

   Additionally, while California has extensive gun control policies and a lower mass shooting rate than the national average,[38] gun violence remains common, with one in eight Californians reporting personally experiencing gun violence in their lifetime. Prevention efforts must include gun control, not just via policy efforts, but also in terms of affecting gun-related ideologies linked to masculinity and dominance.

2. **Policies must work to reduce violence and discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community.**

   Moving beyond the gender binary reveals that individuals identifying as non-binary and transgender are significantly and severely more likely to experience violence. CalVEX 2023 findings also show greater risk for all forms of violence for lesbian, gay and bisexual people compared with heterosexual people. While disheartening, these findings are not surprising. Previous data collection efforts have found that LGBTQAI+ people are at outsized risk of hate crimes, physical abuse, street harassment and state violence.[7, 39, 40] IPV is used as a means of power and control over a partner,[41] and for LGBTQIA+ community members, perpetrators may also weaponize "outing" of these individuals to maintain their control over the individual and keep them in the abusive relationship. Indeed, our data indicate that non-binary respondents appear more likely to stay in abusive relationships than men or women. Reducing the social stigma and vulnerability experienced by members of the LGBTQIA+ community is key to violence prevention for this subset of Californians. California must continue to pursue policies that remedy discrimination and eradicate social norms that contribute to LGBTQIA+ individuals' marginalization and victimization.

   Moreover, our findings indicate that Californians of all genders frequently experience physical violence and abuse as children. Recent challenges to inclusive curricula, restrictions on bathroom and sports team access for transgender individuals, and attempts to limit or eradicate gender-affirming care for youth all place a spotlight on LGBTQIA+ children in particular. This negative attention heightens their vulnerability and makes them more susceptible to violence and exploitation. Violence prevention efforts must offer social support to LGBTQIA+ youth. Efforts may focus on building resilience to pressure, stress and trauma that these youth experience. Indeed,

LGBTQIA+ youth that garner support from their homes or schools are more resilient than those lacking such support systems, and less likely to report depression, anxiety, or suicidality.[42]

3. **Violence prevention efforts should prioritize women's financial independence and economic well-being.**

   Approximately 975,000 experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence in the last year, while almost half of all adults in the state have experienced such violence at any point during their lifetimes. Although transgender and non-binary individuals reported the highest rates of IPV, and men reported experiencing similar rates of IPV as women over the past year, Californian women are still exposed to substantial rates of IPV. Estimates suggest that more than half of all Californian women experience violence at the hands of a romantic partner during their lifetimes. Women report the highest incidence of emotional IPV, including humiliation, property destruction and cyber harassment, compared to both men and non-binary respondents. Women are also most likely to report being physically assaulted, threatened and disempowered in decision-making. Women are also five times more likely than men to report being forced by a partner to have sex.

   Violence against women has significant consequences for victims and society at large. Women who are physically victimized have lower rates of educational attainment, are vulnerable to unemployment and housing instability, make lower wages and have increased debt.[43] Reproductive coercion worsens health outcomes for women and girls.[44] Violence against women in its various forms taxes the healthcare and criminal justice systems, making it an expensive social-ill for all Californians. Estimates suggest violence against women yields a $1.5 trillion reduction in annual global gross domestic product,[45] with possible losses of $140 billion in California alone.[46]

   Violence prevention efforts must engage both the economic justice and health equity movements, supporting inclusive community mobilization efforts to ensure economic security, freedom from discrimination, and equal protection from violence. Efforts that promote and ensure women's economic viability and independence help guard against intimate partner violence. Poverty and abuse are interdependent; economic vulnerability fosters dependence that helps abusers cement their power over intimate partners.[47] The 2023 CalVEX data show a strong relationship between financial distress and violence for both men and women; those experiencing housing and food insecurity were substantially more likely to report experiencing sexual, physical and intimate partner violence over the last year. Policies, therefore, must address the structural conditions that threaten women's financial fortitude. Enforcing wage and labor parity, supporting women's financial literacy and inclusion, and providing access to funding for female entrepreneurship are ways to break cycles of poverty and dependence.

4. **Greater efforts must be taken to ensure women and minorities are not left behind in post-COVID rebuilding.**

   Our survey data showed some promising trends in California. While still high, rates of violence in California have fallen from their peaks during the COVID-19 pandemic. Only 5% of Californians reported experiencing violence during this past year, which is a 3-percentage point reduction in violent experiences reported by adult Californians since the prior CalVEX survey. Experiences of sexual violence have also become less frequent than last year; in 2023, 9% of Californian adults reported sexual violence, a 6-percentage point reduction since the 2022 CalVEX survey. Sexual and cyber harassment have abated, as have reports of discrimination.

   Some of the declining violence rates can be attributed to reductions in men's experiences with violence. Comparing the 2022 and 2023 CalVEX survey waves demonstrates that men faced less physical violence over the last year, while women's experiences with physical violence have remained the same. While sexual violence decreased between 2022 and 2023, men saw a more drastic easing than did women. Intimate partner violence, which inordinately affects women, did not improve. In this respect, the end

of the pandemic may have produced offsetting effects. The end of COVID-era lockdowns and social isolation, which kept many abuse victims confined with their abusers, may explain part of these declining trends. At the same time, the end of COVID-19 relief and resilience funds, some of which were earmarked for domestic violence prevention, has severely limited the amount of support to, and advocacy for, victims of abuse. Drastically increasing the amount of funding available for domestic violence prevention is key. In 2020, California received upwards of $30 million from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women to address violence against women in California.[48] While such grants are welcome, more than half of the funds were directed toward shoring up the criminal justice system, rather than the provision of services directly to victims of domestic violence or funding organizations that advocate for violence prevention. Support for victims should be a priority for future resource allocations.

Notably, women did not experience the same post-pandemic financial bounce-back as men. Although men saw some financial relief in 2023 relative to 2022, women's financial recovery stagnated. This points to economic support for women in the form of basic need assistance as a potentially important tool in combating domestic violence.

Race and ethnicity affect financial stability, violence rates and experiences with the pandemic. Black and Latinx Californians faced the greatest rates of physical violence. These adults also faced the greatest financial hardship and adverse health effects during the pandemic.[49] Policies to address and prevent violence must be intersectional, considering how gender, race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status intersect to produce crosscutting and cumulative disadvantage.

5. **Discrimination and abusive policing practices must be tackled, as these undermine the effectiveness of violence prevention efforts**

Relatedly, many Californians faced discrimination over the past year, despite a sizable decline from 2022 numbers. Around one-quarter of our survey respondents reported experiencing regular discrimination. Thirty percent recall having experienced institutional discrimination during their lifetimes. Those exposed to routine discrimination experience both physical and sexual violence at much higher rates than other Californian adults. Non-binary individuals, followed by men, are more likely to experience discrimination. Californians in our sample most frequently attribute discrimination to their race and ethnicity. Women were more likely to perceive gender as the primary cause of bias.

A small subset of Californians was subjected to police violence over the past year. When we account for opportunity, we observe that police mistreatment affects a nontrivial proportion of adults that encounter the police. Black and Latinx adults reported negative interactions with the police at the highest rates. Adults that reported mistreatment at the hands of police were also likely to be victims of violence, namely sexual and physical violence. Perceptions of police bias and mistreatment are likely to complicate intervention and prevention efforts, especially those that rely on the criminal justice and law enforcement.

Studies show that perceptions of over-policing and of police misconduct fuel underreporting of crimes and overall skepticism among members of the LGBTQ+ community[50] and Black women[51] who are victims of crime. Recent high-profile incidents of excessive force by California police further undermine trust in law enforcement, limiting the effectiveness of policies and practices that address violence through the criminal justice system. Given victims' reluctance to engage with authorities, criminal justice system responses as the mainstay of violence prevention and intervention are insufficient and can further harm those already victimized. Non-carceral options, such as engagement of social workers rather than police for interventions with victims, health educator-driven prevention programming, and victim services are likely to produce better outcomes.

Conclusion

Violence reduction is possible. In fact, California has made great strides in decreasing violence levels over the past year. Findings from this report suggest that sustaining the State's investment in prevention could be a key to maintaining these reductions in violence. Further improvements will require attention to systemic issues such as poverty, inequity, and discrimination on the basis of race, ability, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

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

	Total		Women		Men		Non-Binary**
	%	n*	%	n*	%	n*	%
Total	*100*	*30,468,057*	*100*	*15,341,602*	*100*	*15,126,455*	*100*
EXPERIENCES OF VIOLENCE							
Physical violence	**5.0%**	**1,523,403**	**3.7%**	**567,639**	**6.0%**	**907,587**	**14.4%**
Physical abuse	3.3%	1,005,446	2.5%	383,540	3.7%	559,679	13.6%
Threat with or use of knife	1.2%	365,617	0.7%	107,391	1.7%	257,150	0.1%
Threat with or use of gun	1.2%	365,617	0.8%	122,733	1.6%	242,023	1.0%
Sexual violence	**9.2%**	**2,803,061**	**10.4%**	**1,595,527**	**6.1%**	**922,714**	**55.7%**
Verbal sexual harassment	4.7%	1,431,999	6.0%	920,496	2.1%	317,656	39.2%
Homophobic or transphobic comments	2.1%	639,829	1.4%	214,782	2.1%	317,656	25.9%
Cyber sexual harassment	2.8%	853,106	3.9%	598,322	1.7%	257,150	2.8%
Physically aggressive sexual harassment	1.5%	457,021	1.5%	230,124	1.4%	211,770	1.5%
Quid pro quo sexual harassment/coercion	0.6%	182,808	0.3%	46,025	0.8%	121,012	1.5%
Forced sex	0.3%	91,404	0.3%	46,025	0.4%	60,506	0.0%
Physical or sexual intimate partner violence (IPV)	**3.2%**	**974,978**	**3.0%**	**460,248**	**3.4%**	**514,299**	**3.6%**
VIOLENCE PERPETRATION							
Physical violence	2.4%	731,233	1.8%	276,149	3.1%	468,920	3.5%
Sexual violence	2.8%	853,106	1.8%	276,149	3.3%	499,173	14.3%
Physical or sexual intimate partner violence (IPV)	1.2%	365,617	1.0%	153,416	1.2%	181,517	2.8%

**Population estimates from Census ACS 2021 estimates, table S0101: https://data.census.gov/*

***Census population estimates not available for non-binary Californians*

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).[52] 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.[53] 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 2.39, with a study margin of error of +/- 2.73%. 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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