Violence in California is epidemic, and negatively impacts Californians’ mental health and their ability to participate fully and safely in society. Experiences of physical and sexual violence are common and have increased over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, affecting men and women differentially, and disproportionately burdening sexual minorities and groups marginalized by economic vulnerabilities and social discrimination.

Reducing violence will require a focus on human dignity and rights, including policies to strengthen social and economic safety nets, programs in violence prevention, and mental health services. These approaches must be implemented at the community level as well as in key institutions, such as schools and health care systems, to address the violence crisis in California and improve the state's COVID-19 rebuilding and health equity efforts more broadly.

**CALIFORNIANS HAVE EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE AT EPIDEMIC PROPORTIONS IN THE PAST YEAR**

- More than 1.1 million California adults (1 in 25 people) were physically or sexually assaulted by their intimate partner in the past year.
- More than 1.5 million California adults admit to committing acts of sexual violence in the past year.
- Almost 600,000 California adults admit to committing physical or sexual intimate partner violence (IPV) in the past year.
- 1 in 12 adults in California (8%) experienced physical violence.
- 1 in 7 adults in California (15%) experienced sexual violence.
- Men were more than 2X as likely as women to report that they perpetrated sexual violence and IPV in the past year.
- More than 1.1 million California adults (1 in 25 people) were physically or sexually assaulted by their intimate partner in the past year.

**REPORTS OF VIOLENCE INCREASED FROM 2020 TO 2022**

- Physical violence has increased in California, almost doubling for men from 2020 to 2022.
- Victimization from sexual violence has increased in California, for both women and men. In 2022, more than 2.3 million women and 2.1 million men were victims of sexual violence.
The California Study on Violence Experiences across the Lifespan (CalVEX) survey is the nation’s only multi-year statewide assessment of violence experiences. The survey provides population-based estimates on physical violence, including experiences of weapon use, as well as a range of sexual violence experiences, including harassment, coercion, and forced sex. Data were collected in March 2022 from 2,285 adult respondents. See full report for more information.

Women reported past year physical violence were twice as likely as men to miss work or school as well as change or quit a job.

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

1 in 14 people who experienced sexual violence report that it resulted in feelings of suicidality.

WOMEN REPORTED GREATER MENTAL HEALTH IMPACTS AND LIFE DISRUPTIONS

82% of women reported anxiety or depression as a result of physically aggressive, coercive, or forced sexual behavior.

Lesbian, gay, and bisexual Californians were more likely to have experienced sexual violence in the past year. This was true for all forms of sexual violence, including coercive, exploitative, and forced sex.

Californians with a disability were more than 2x as likely to have experienced violence in the past year.

Experiences of financial distress in the past year—eviction and food or housing insecurity—are associated with a 2–8x increase in risk of physical violence, sexual violence, and IPV in California.

The California Study on Violence Experiences across the Lifespan (CalVEX) survey is the nation’s only multi-year statewide assessment of violence experiences. The survey provides population-based estimates on physical violence, including experiences of weapon use, as well as a range of sexual violence experiences, including harassment, coercion, and forced sex. Data were collected in March 2022 from 2,285 adult respondents. See full report for more information.