

# California Study on Violence Experiences Across the Lifespan (CalVEX)

**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.

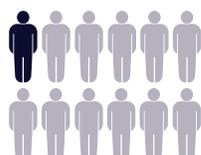
Reducing violence will require a focus on human dignity and rights, including policies to strengthen social and economic safety nets, programs in violence prevention, and mental health services. These approaches must be implemented at the community level as well as in key institutions, such as schools 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 in 6** Californians (18%) experienced some form of **violence**.



**1 in 12** adults in California (8%) experienced **physical violence**.



**1 in 7** adults in California (15%) experienced **sexual violence**.

## 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.



## 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.



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

## EXPERIENCES OF VIOLENCE CAN LEAD TO SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF SUICIDE



**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**.

## MARGINALIZED AND VULNERABLE CALIFORNIANS FACE INCREASED RISKS

**Latinx and Black Californians** were more likely to have experienced physical violence in the past year, while Latinx Californians were more likely to have experienced sexual violence.

**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 history of homelessness** were more than 2x as likely to have experienced violence in the past year.

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



**1 in 3 Californians** regularly experience discrimination. Those who do were 6x as likely to have experienced physical violence and 3x as likely to have experienced sexual violence.

**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 (CaIVEX)** 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.