

# SOCIOEMOTIONAL EFFECTS OF VIOLENCE

Results from the 2018 California Safety and Wellbeing Survey (CSaWS)

Violence can have serious and lasting social and emotional impacts, even in the absence of physical injury.

These effects may be felt by the person who experiences violence directly and by people close to that individual.

Because firearms are so lethal, violence that involves them may be particularly detrimental to a person's wellbeing.

We asked California adults about their exposure to violence...

**4.1%**

or an estimated **1.2 million** California adults said they or a household member had experienced violence while living in their current neighborhood

## CHARACTERISTICS OF MOST RECENT VIOLENT EVENTS

### Exposure type



50% involved the respondent directly

Direct

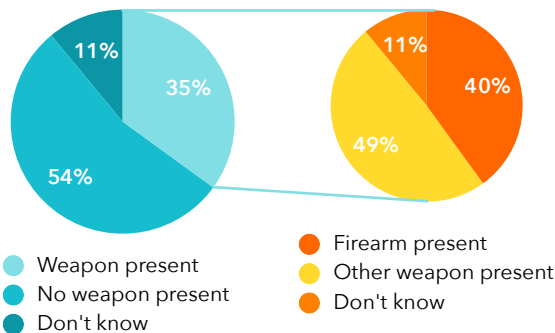
43% involved a household member



Indirect

7% didn't specify

### Weapon involvement



### Location of incident



41% home

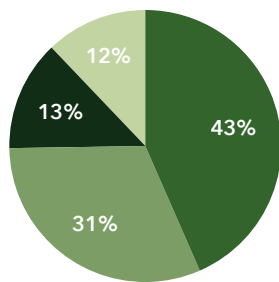


38% neighborhood



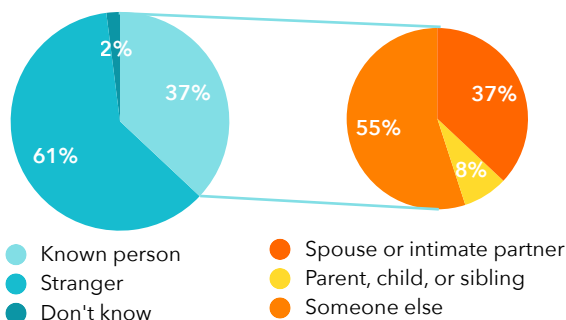
20% somewhere else

### Type of violence



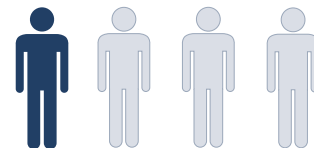
- Robbery
- Physical assault
- Rape or sexual assault
- Other

### Relationship to perpetrator\*



\*If the respondent reported indirect exposure, their relationship to the perpetrator (shown here) may not be the same as the direct victim's (i.e., household member's) relationship to the perpetrator.

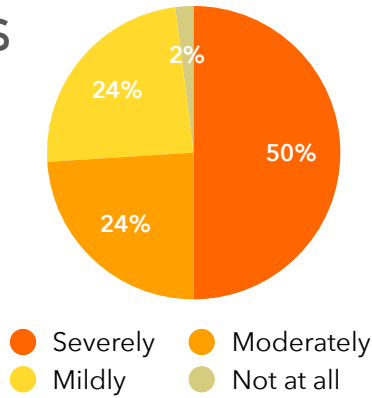
### Hate crime



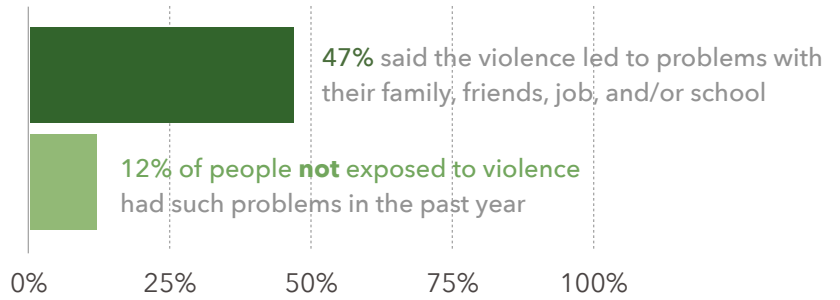
More than 1 in 4 people (29%) thought the violent event was a hate crime

## DISTRESS

50% of people exposed to violence felt the event was **severely** distressing



## SOCIAL FUNCTIONING PROBLEMS



### FIREARMS & OTHER WEAPONS WORSENEO OUTCOMES

When a weapon was present:

- Respondents who experienced **severe distress** were more likely to report that a **firearm** was involved.
- Respondents with **social functioning problems** were more likely to report that a **weapon other than a firearm** was involved.

## What we learned:

An estimated **1.2 million California adults** experienced violence while living in their current neighborhood, including 50% with **direct exposure** and 43% with **indirect exposure** via a household member.

Of adults exposed to violence, half experienced **severe distress** and nearly half (47%) experienced **social functioning problems**; only 12% of unexposed adults had such problems in the past year.

When a violent event involved a weapon, those who suffered **severe distress** were more likely to report that a **firearm** was involved.

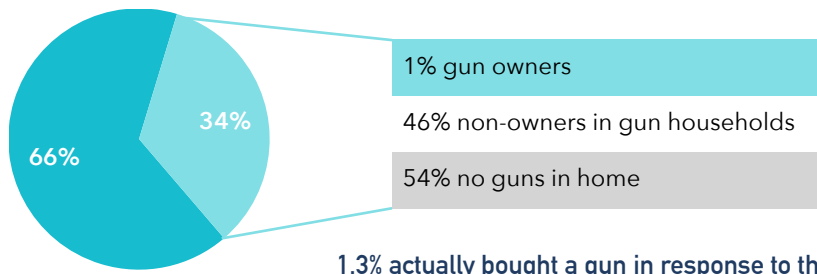
**One-third** of people exposed to violence said they **considered buying a firearm**. Many of them did not already own guns.

## GUN OWNERSHIP & PURCHASING



People living in homes with guns, but not gun owners themselves, were **more likely** to report exposure to violence

34% of people exposed to violence considered buying a gun in response to the violent event. **Only 1% of them already owned guns.**



1.3% actually bought a gun in response to the violent event



The California Safety and Wellbeing Survey (CSaWS) is a statewide, probability-based Internet survey developed by UCFC and administered by Ipsos Public Affairs, LLC in late 2018. CSaWS asked questions on a wide range of topics related to firearm ownership and exposure to violence and its consequences. More than 2,500 California adults completed CSaWS, and their answers are weighted to be statistically representative of the adult population of the state.

Funding for CSaWS comes from the State of California.