**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**
  - Weapon present: 54%
  - No weapon present: 35%
  - Other weapon present: 49%
  - Don’t know: 40%

- **Location of incident**
  - 41% home
  - 38% neighborhood
  - 20% somewhere else

- **Type of violence**
  - Robbery: 13%
  - Physical assault: 31%
  - Rape or sexual assault: 43%

- **Relationship to perpetrator**
  - Known person: 61%
  - Stranger: 37%
  - Don’t know: 55%
  - Spouse or intimate partner: 37%
  - Parent, child, or sibling: 8%
  - Someone else: 8%

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

*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.*

**Read the full study**

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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.

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.

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