

Results from a Survey of California Adults

# Experiences with COVID-19, Equity, and Domestic Violence

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CONDUCTED FOR BLUE SHIELD OF CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION  
PREPARED BY PERRYUNDEM

MARCH 24, 2021

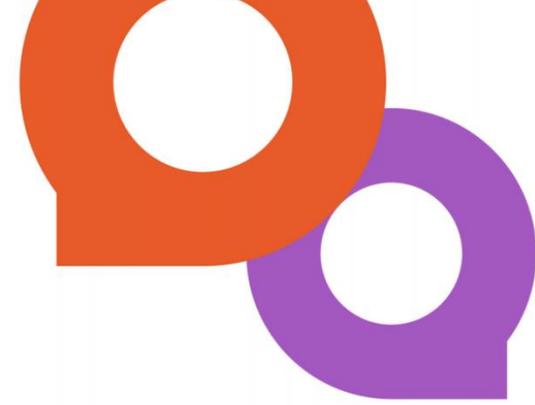
# Overview.

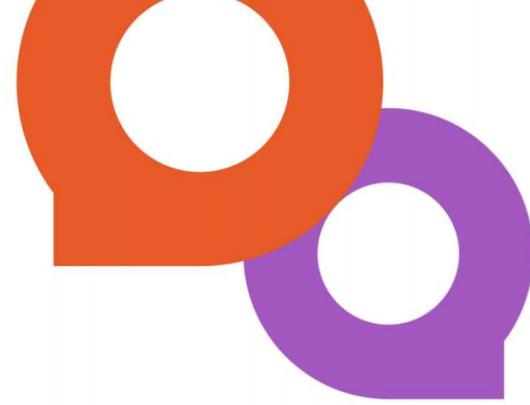
California is a place of enormous possibilities and shocking disparities. In 2020, that contradiction was laid bare in the face of the COVID-19 crisis and a new wave of activism for racial justice.

In the midst of these seismic events in our state, Blue Shield of California Foundation wanted to learn more about the experiences and perspectives of our fellow Californians.

We commissioned this survey to better understand the overall health and safety of Californians related to hardships under COVID-19; experiences with racism and inequity; gender, sexism, and violence in intimate relationships; and opportunities to make a positive difference.

The findings in this report depict vastly different experiences along lines of race, gender, and sexual orientation. But they also point to strong common ground when it comes to supporting high impact approaches to preventing and healing from domestic violence.





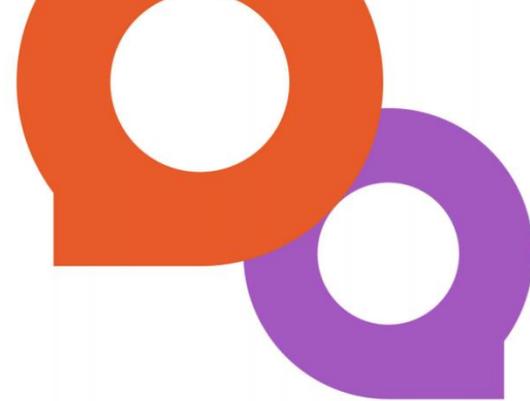
# About.

blue  of california  
foundation

Blue Shield of California Foundation is one of the state's largest and most trusted grantmaking organizations. Their mission is to improve the lives of all Californians, particularly the underserved, by making health care accessible, effective, and affordable, and by ending domestic violence.

**PERRY  
UNDEM**

PerryUndem is a non-partisan public opinion research firm. Their mission is to help create a world where everyone has a voice. Their practice focuses a wide array of social issues, from gender equity, racial justice, health care, food insecurity, and more.



# Methods.

Blue Shield of California Foundation sponsored this statewide survey of California adults 18 and older. PerryUndem developed and analyzed the survey and Ipsos fielded the survey online January 6 – 22, 2021.

In total, 1,918 interviews were completed; including the following oversamples:

- 428 Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Californians;
- 423 Black Californians;
- 401 Latinx Californians; and
- 293 LGBTQ Californians

The survey was offered in English, Chinese (simplified and traditional), Tagalog, and Spanish.

The margin of sampling error for total results is  $\pm 3.2$  percentage points.

# Demographics.



Respondent demographics	N=
Total	1918
AAPI	428
Black	423
Latinx	401
White	623
Other	43
Men	950
Women	962
Transgender	6

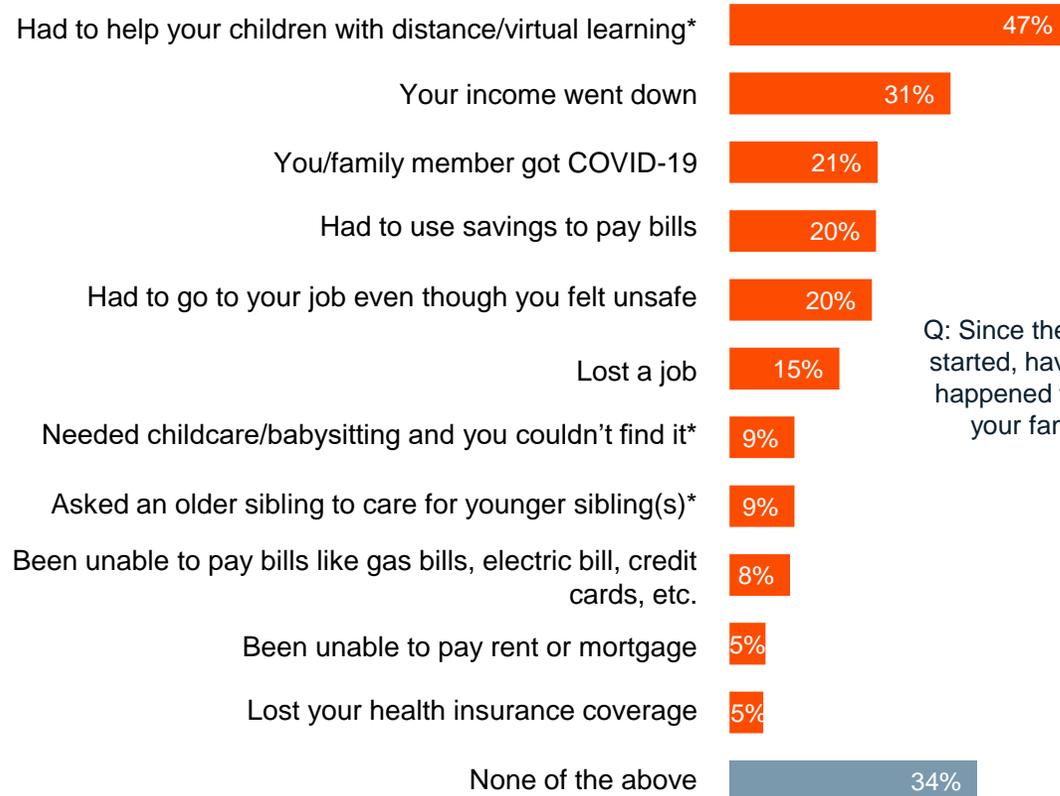
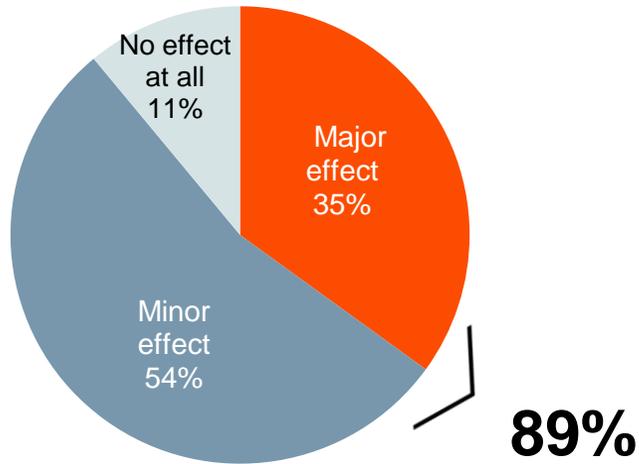
Respondent demographics	N=
Non-binary, self-describe	8
Lesbian	31
Gay	123
Bisexual	88
Queer	8
Heterosexual	1623
18-44 years old	687
45+ years old	1231

**COVID-19 Impacts.**

— COVID-19 Impacts

**Nearly 9 in 10 Californians say COVID-19 and the economic crisis have impacted them. The biggest impacts: having to help children with virtual learning and people seeing their incomes go down.**

Q: How much of an effect has the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis had on you and your family?



Q: Since the COVID-19 pandemic started, have any of the following happened to you or members of your family or household?

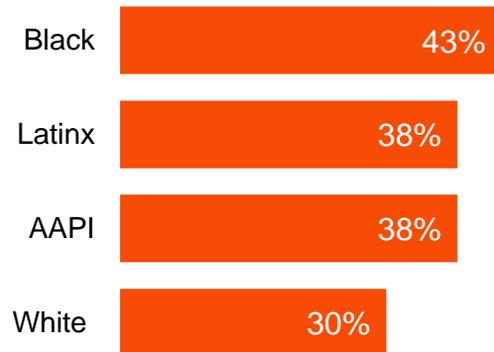
\* Only among parents: N = 481

— COVID-19 Impacts

## Californians of color are experiencing the greatest impacts from the pandemic, particularly Latinx adults.

Q: How much of an effect has the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis had on you and your family?

PERCENT WHO SAY "MAJOR EFFECT"



Q: Since the COVID-19 pandemic started, have any of the following happened to you or members of your family or household?

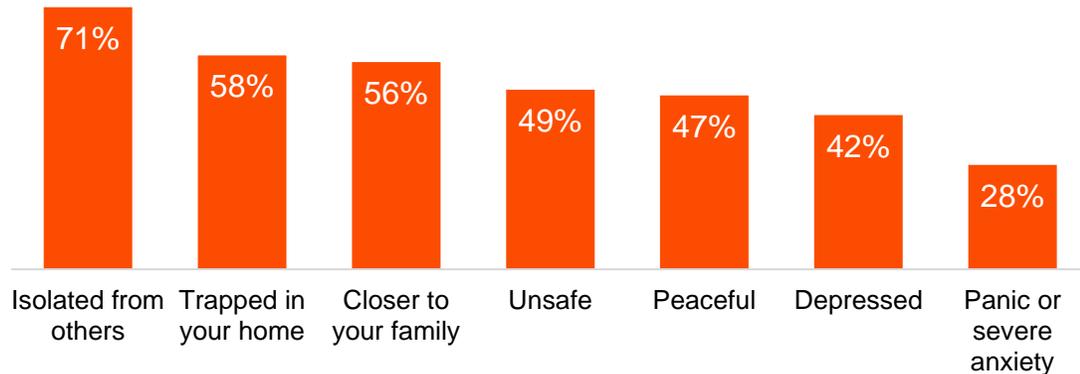
	AAPI	Black	Latinx	White
Your income went down	30%	30%	36%	25%
You or a family member got the COVID-19 virus	9%	18%	31%	17%
Had to use savings to pay bills	16%	22%	31%	12%
Had to go to your job even though you felt unsafe	13%	20%	27%	16%
Lost a job	13%	18%	19%	12%
Been unable to pay bills like gas bill, electric bill, credit cards, etc.	4%	14%	12%	6%
Been unable to pay rent or mortgage	3%	8%	9%	2%
Lost your health insurance coverage	3%	4%	10%	1%
None of the above	46%	36%	19%	43%

— COVID-19 Impacts

**7 in 10 Californians have felt isolated from others since the pandemic started. And despite feeling the deepest impacts, Latinx and Black adults are least likely to say they have felt isolated. Half of adults say they have felt unsafe.**

Q: Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, have you felt...

Percent “Yes”



**“Isolated from others”**

- 78% LGBTQ adults
- 75% White adults
- 72% AAPI adults
- 72% Women
- 70% Men
- 67% Latinx adults
- 66% Black adults

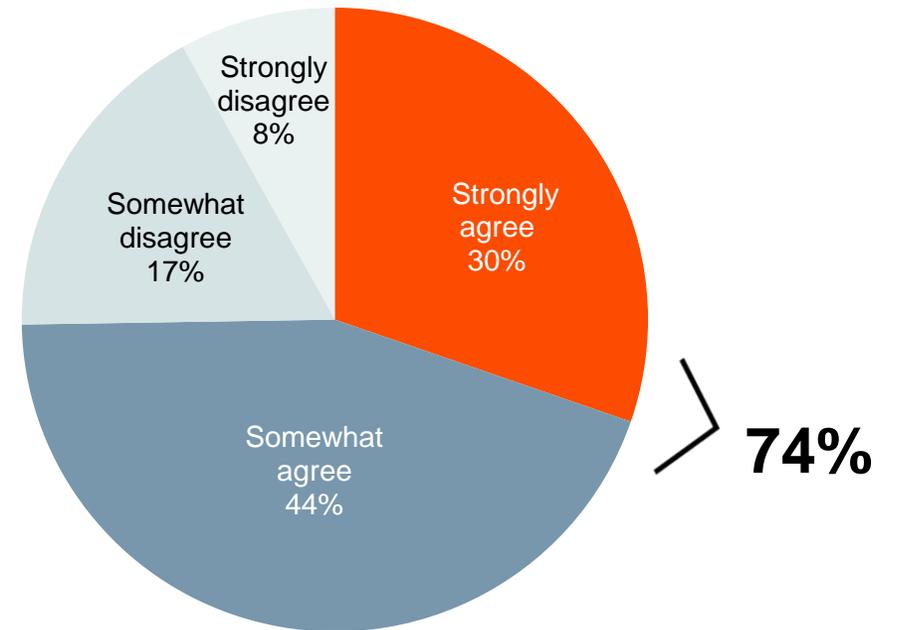
**“Unsafe”**

- 64% LGBTQ adults
- 55% AAPI adults
- 53% Latinx adults
- 52% Women
- 45% Men
- 43% White adults
- 42% Black adults

— COVID-19 Impacts

**Three-quarters of Californians feel women and girls have taken on a disproportionate share of household and caregiving responsibilities during the pandemic.**

Q: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "In general, women and girls have had to take on most of the responsibility for household chores and care of children, siblings, and other family during the COVID-19 pandemic."



— COVID-19 Impacts

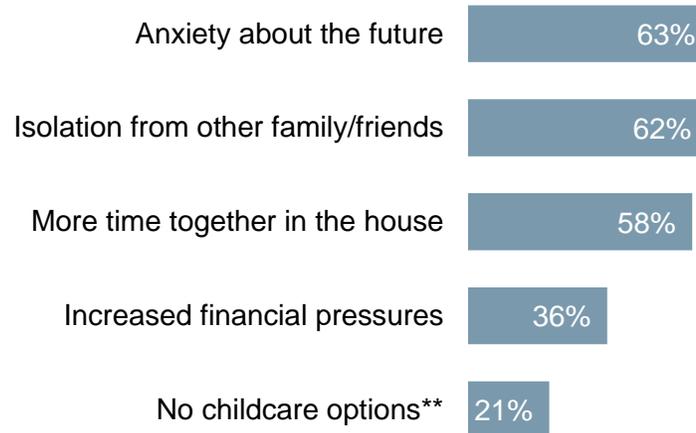
**3 in 10 Californians say there has been more tension in their romantic relationships since the beginning of the pandemic – and one-third of those say these tensions are becoming “unhealthy.”**

**29%**

Say there has been more tension in their relationship with their romantic partner or spouse since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q: Are the following causes of increased tension in your relationship?\*

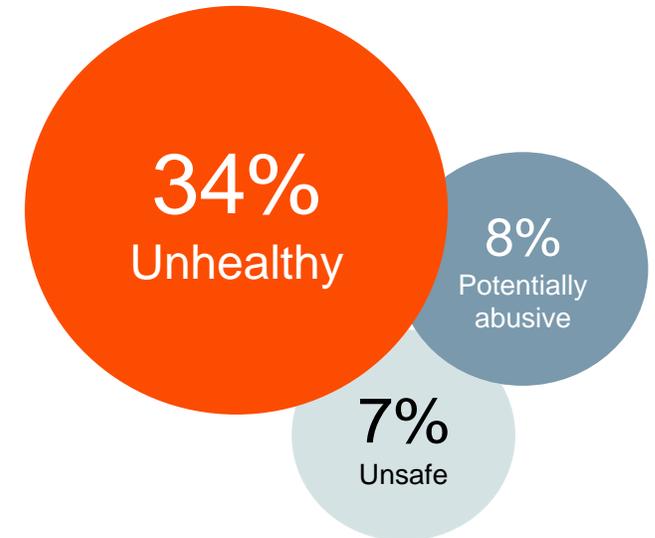
Percent “Yes”



\* If more tension: Total N = 340

\*\*Only among parents: N = 136

Q: Would you say the increased tension in your relationship is becoming...\*



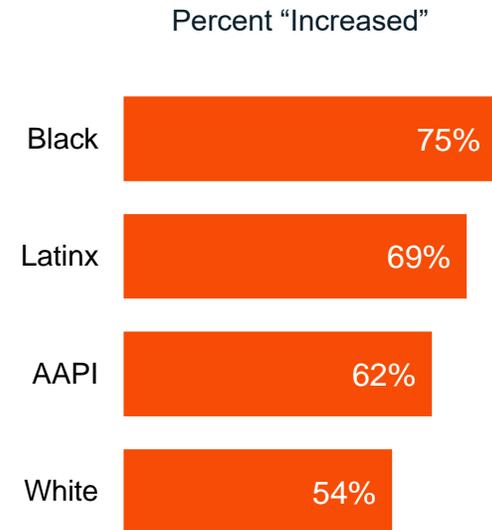
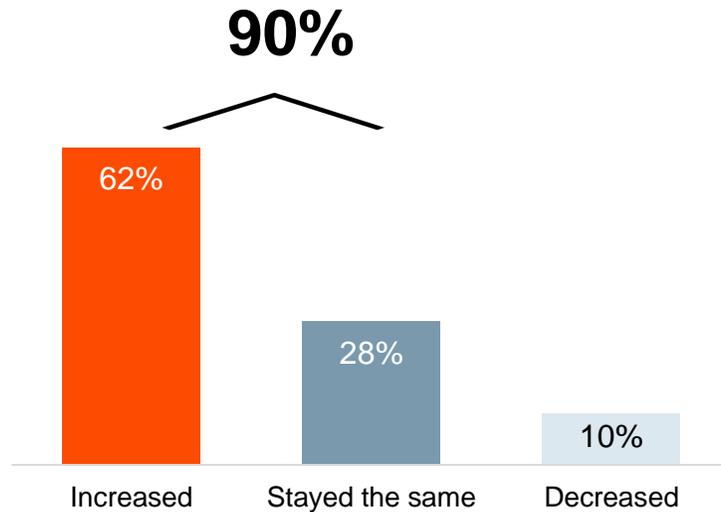
\* If more tension: Total N = 340

**Equity and Racism.**

— Equity & Racism

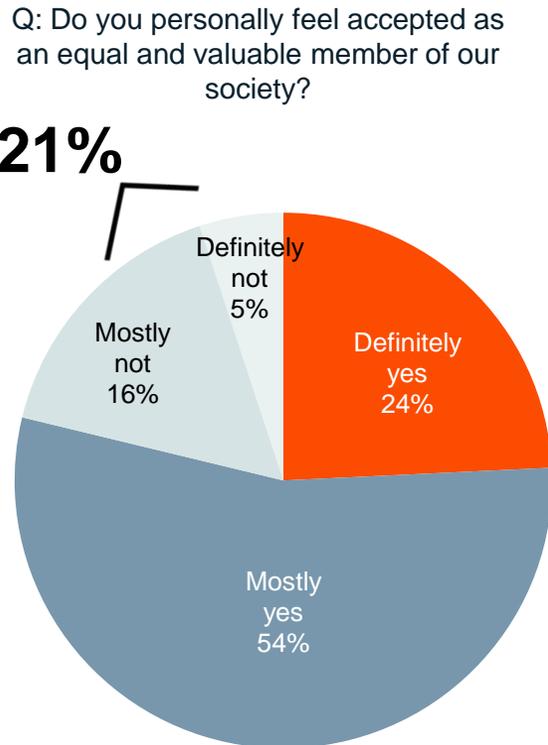
**Most Californians – including three-quarters of Black Californians – say racism has increased in the last few years. Only 1 in 10 think it has decreased.**

Q: In the last few years, do you think racism has...



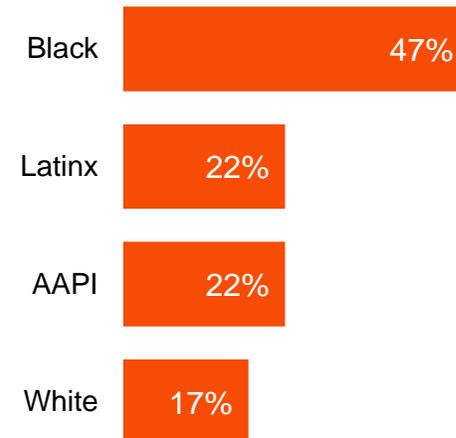
— Equity & Racism

**1 in 5 Californians do not feel accepted as equal and valuable members of society. But for Black Californians, almost half say they do not feel accepted as equal members of society.**



Q: Do you personally feel accepted as an equal and valuable member of our society?

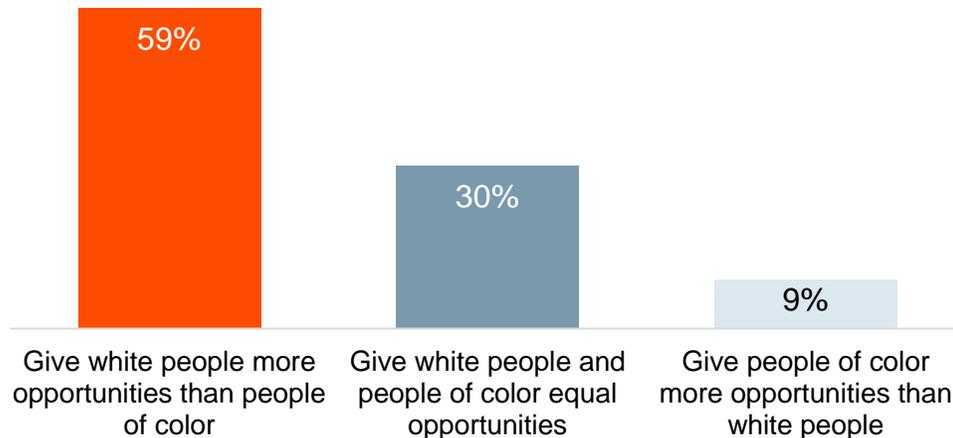
PERCENT WHO SAY "MOSTLY/DEFINITELY NOT"



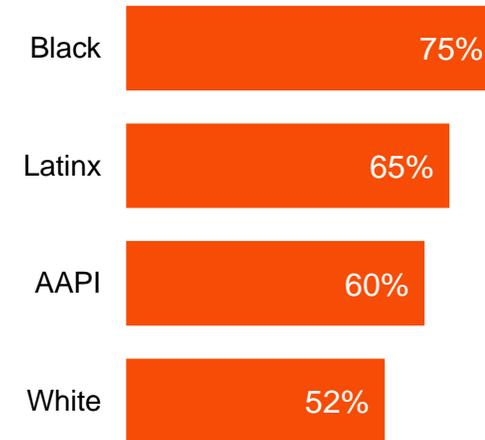
— Equity & Racism

**6 in 10 Californians believe that systems in our society are set up to give white people more opportunities than people of color. Californians of color are more likely to feel this way than white Californians.**

Q: Think about the systems in our society, such as housing, health care, business, banking, and the government. In general, do you think these systems are set up in ways that:



Percent who say systems “give white people more opportunities than people of color”

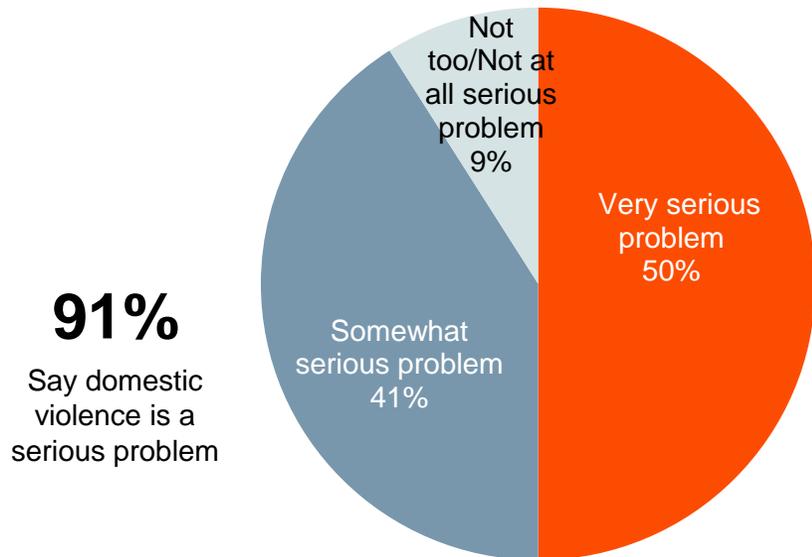


**Domestic Violence.**

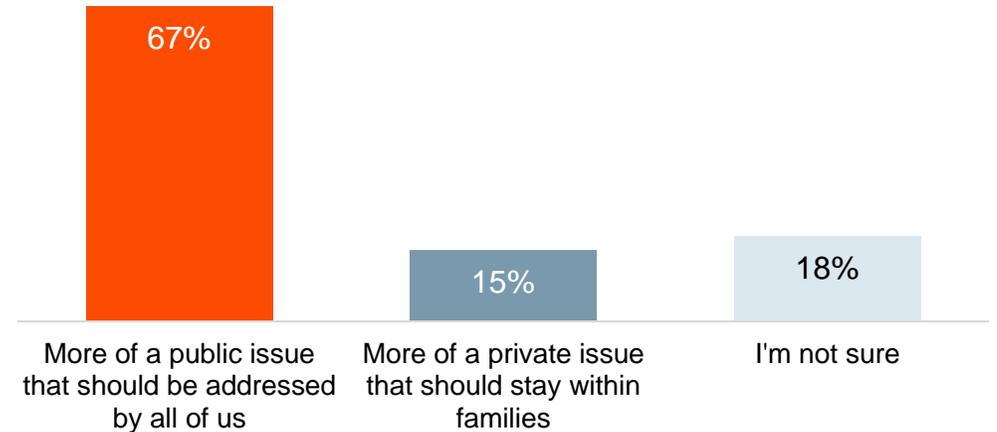
— Domestic Violence: Perceptions

**9 in 10 Californians feel domestic violence is a serious problem. Two-thirds consider domestic violence to be a public issue that should be addressed by all of us – but 33% either consider it a private issue (15%) or are unsure (18%).**

Q: In your opinion, is domestic violence a serious problem or not a serious problem in our society right now?



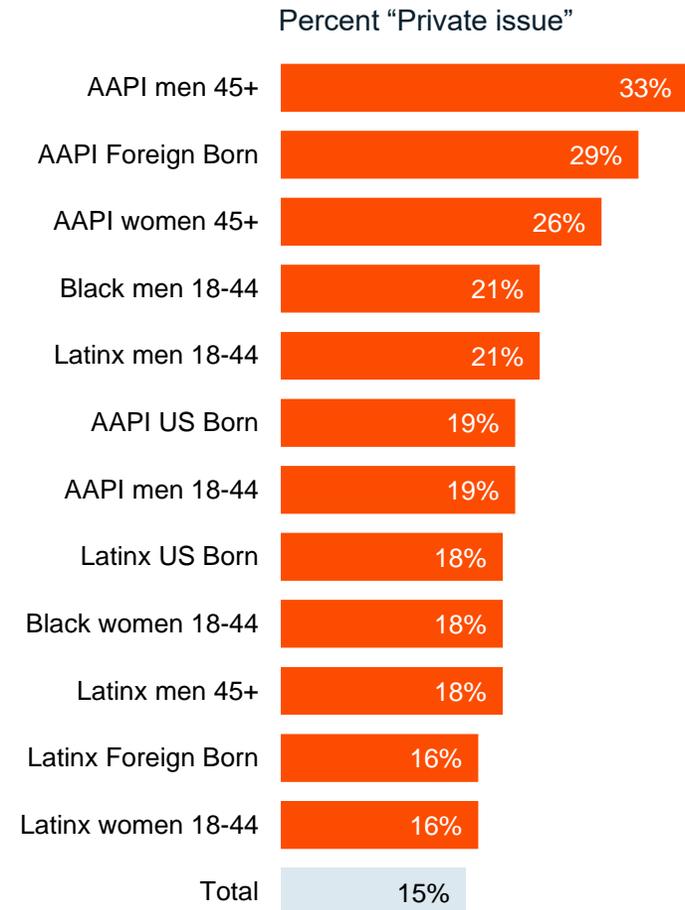
Q: In your opinion, is domestic violence more of a private issue that should stay within families or more of a public issue that should be addressed by all of us in society?



## — Domestic Violence: Perceptions

**Older AAPI adults and AAPI adults born outside the US are most likely to feel domestic violence is more of a private issue than a public one.**

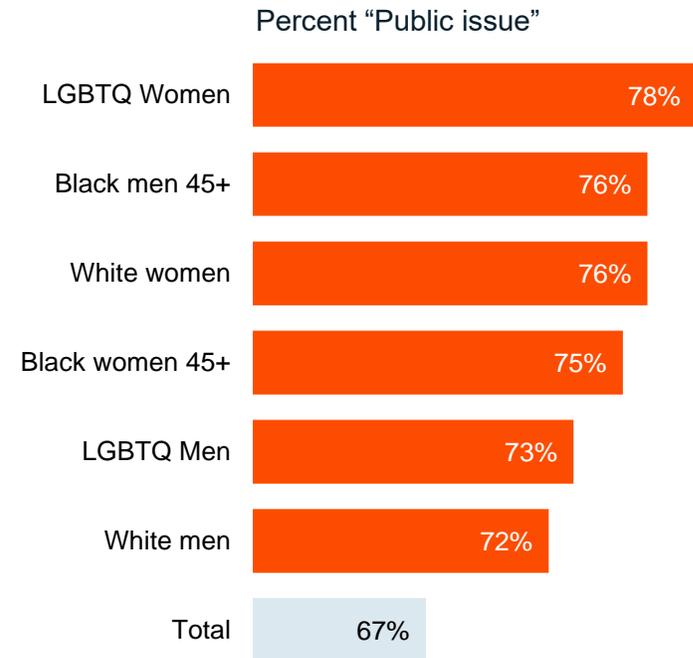
Q: In your opinion, is domestic violence more of a private issue that should stay within families or more of a public issue that should be addressed by all of us in society?



— Domestic Violence: Perceptions

**LGBTQ women, older Black adults and white women are most likely to feel domestic violence is more of a public issue that should be addressed by all of us in society.**

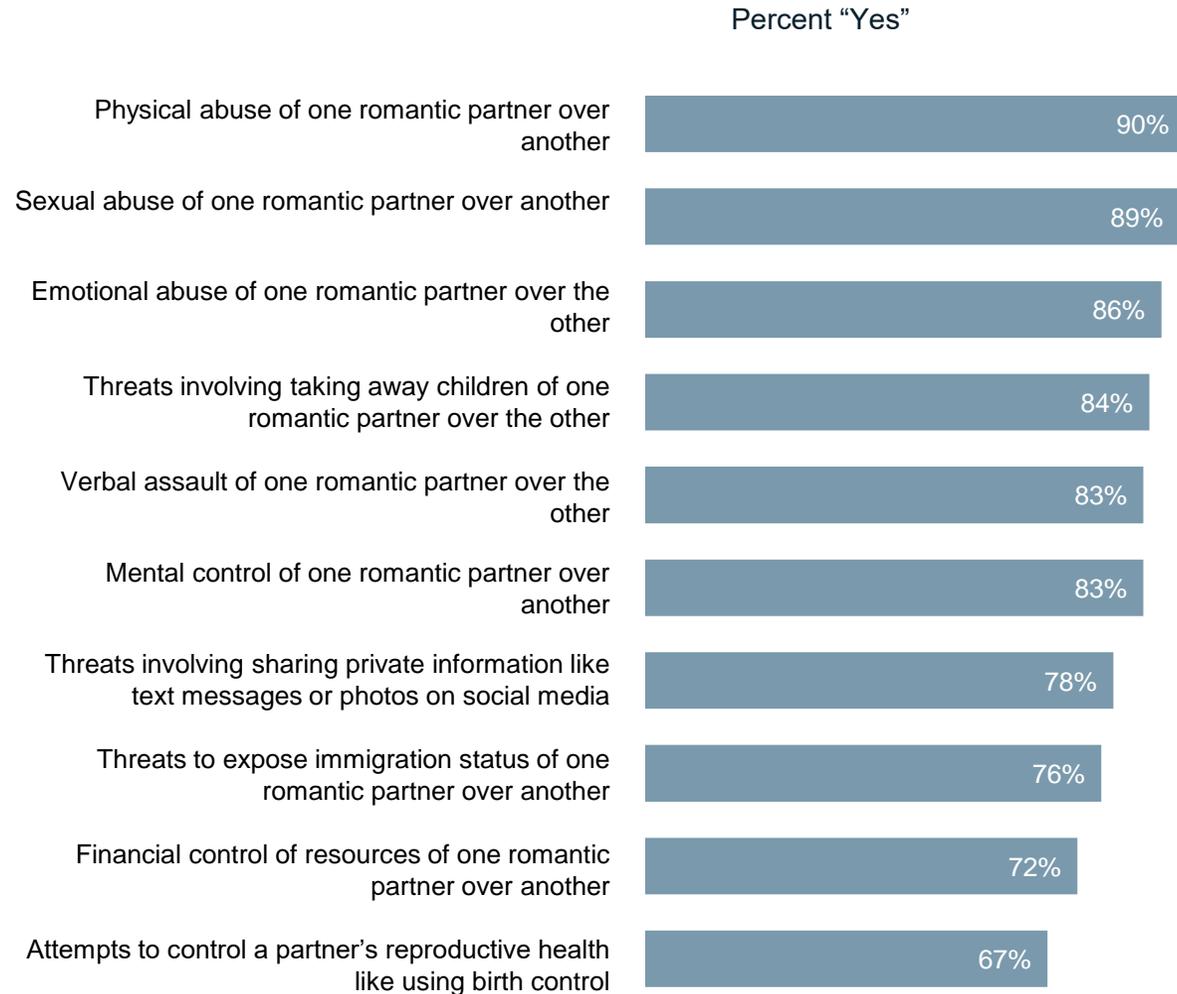
Q: In your opinion, is domestic violence more of a private issue that should stay within families or more of a public issue that should be addressed by all of us in society?



## — Domestic Violence: Perceptions

**Most Californians have a broad and inclusive understanding of domestic violence.**

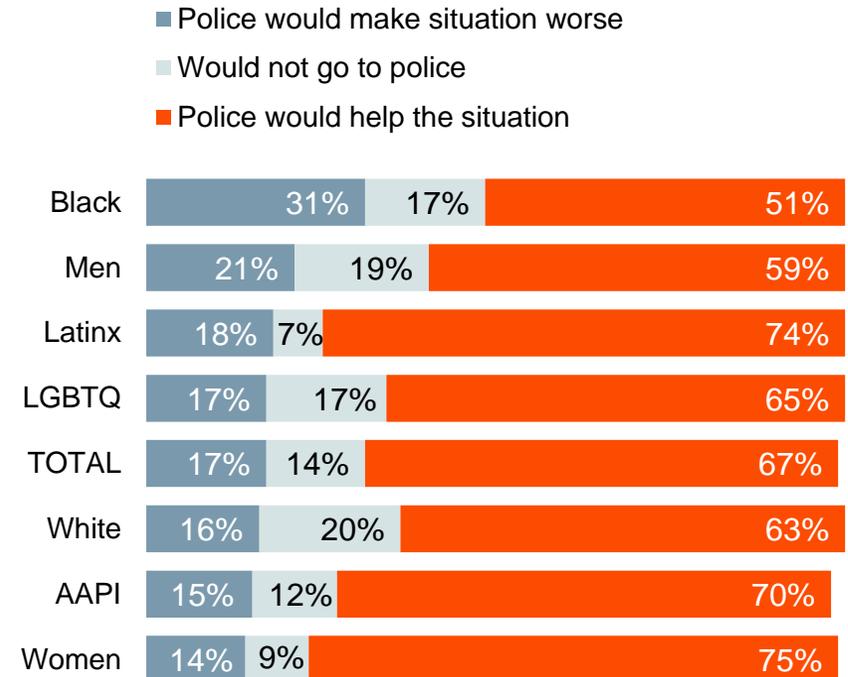
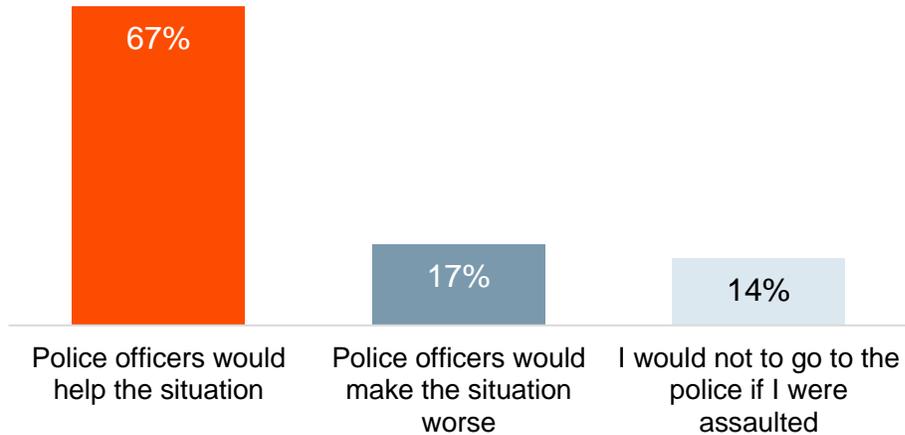
Q: Do you consider these as part of a definition of domestic violence?



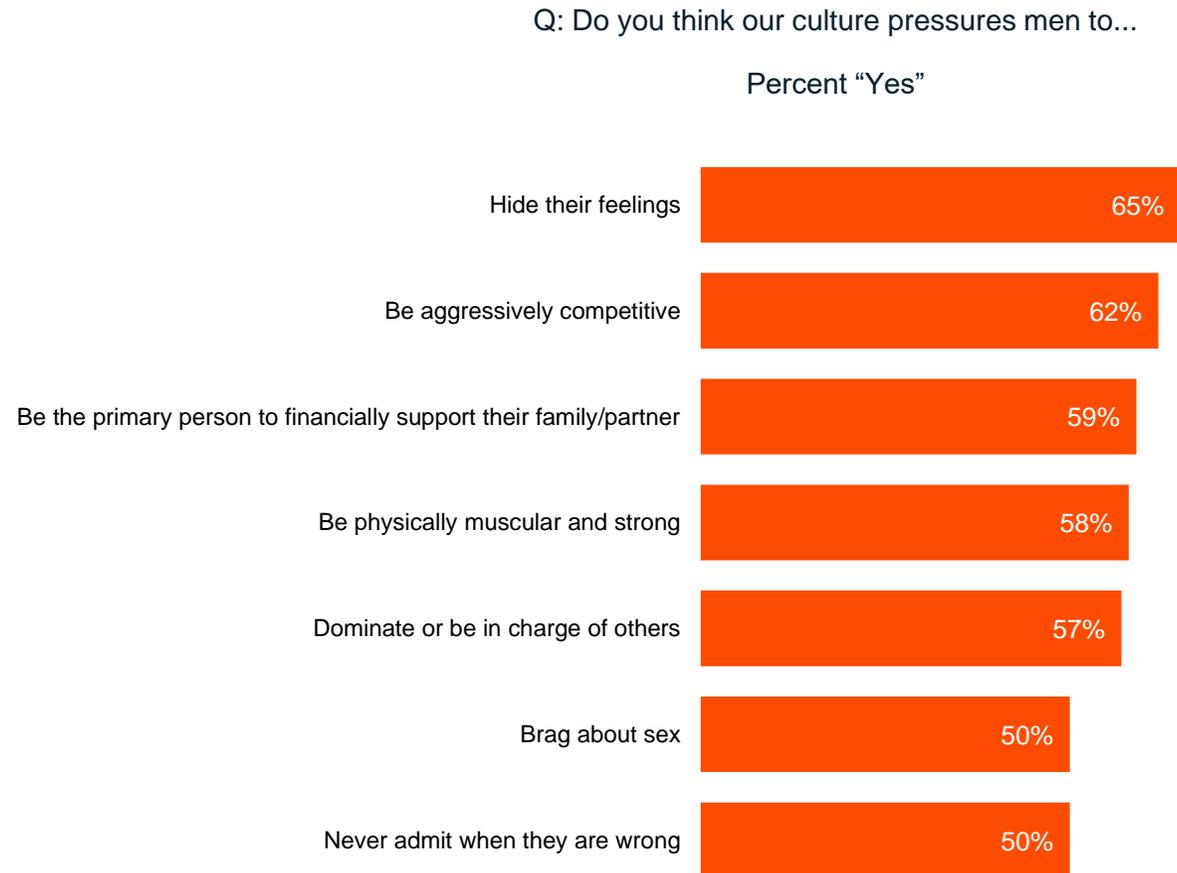
— Domestic Violence: Perceptions

**Two-thirds of Californians think if they were assaulted by a partner and called the police, they would help the situation. But many, especially Black Californians, say they would not go to the police if assaulted or feel the police would make the situation worse.**

Q: Let's say you were assaulted by a partner or spouse. If you called the police, do you think:



## — Domestic Violence: Perceptions of Gender Roles



**Majorities of Californians feel our culture pressures men to conform to gender norms such as hiding their feelings, being aggressively competitive, being the primary financial supporter, and dominating or being in charge of others.**

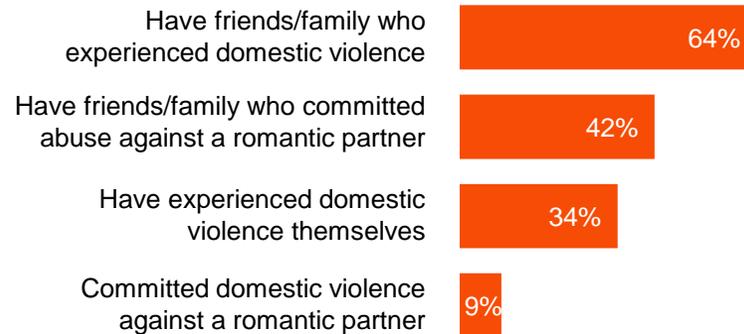
— Domestic Violence: Experiences

**Californians who have experienced abuse as a child or witnessed domestic violence as a child are more likely to experience domestic violence as an adult.**

**27%**

Of Californians say that as a child, they experienced abuse from a parent, adult caregiver, or sibling, or that they witnessed domestic violence in their household.

Californians who experienced/witnessed abuse as a child are more likely than others to be touched by domestic violence as an adult:\*



**71%**

Of Californians who experienced/witnessed abuse as a child said yes to at least one of the options we gave for personally experiencing domestic violence.

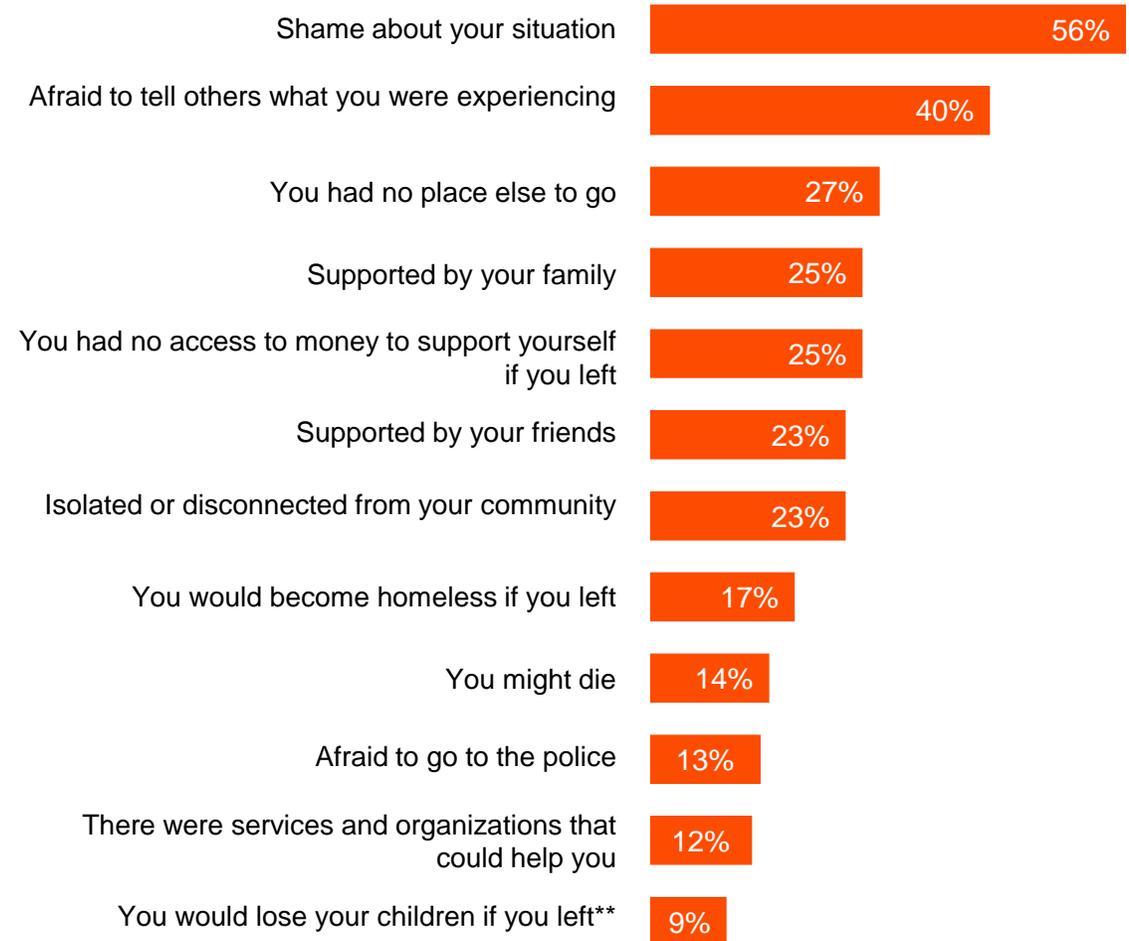
\* Experienced/witnessed abuse as a child: N = 582

## — Domestic Violence: Experiences

# 56%

of Californians who have experienced domestic violence say they have felt “shame” about their situation. Four in ten say they have felt afraid to tell others about their experience. Only 1 in 4 felt supported by friends or family.

Q: During the time period you experienced abuse – including up to the current time period – did you feel:\*



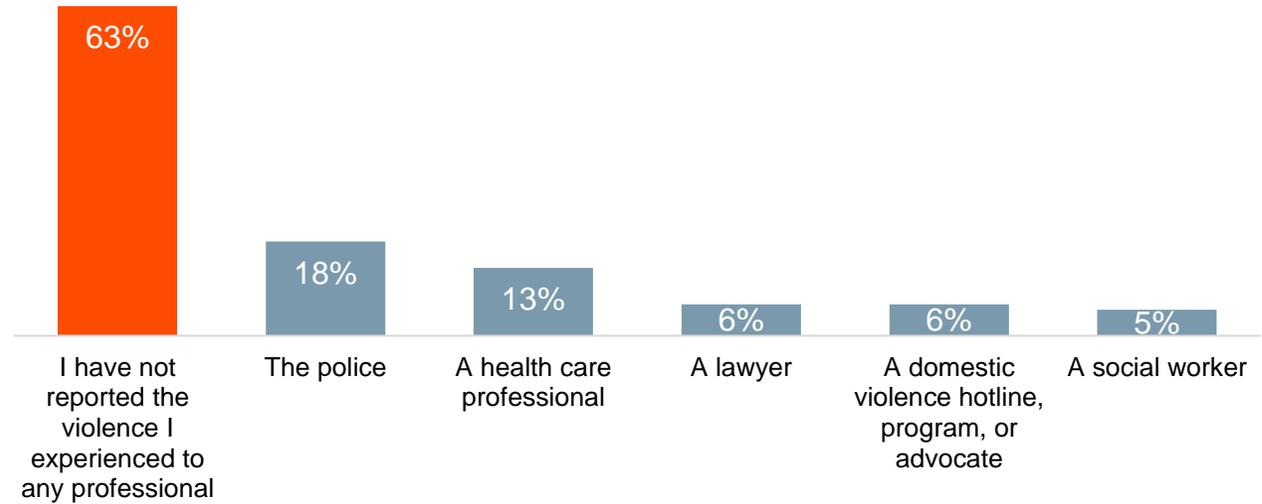
\* If experienced domestic violence: N = 364

\*\* Only among parents: N = 94

## — Domestic Violence: Experiences

**63%**  
of Californians who have experienced domestic violence say they have not reported it to a professional who could help them address it.

Q: Have you ever reported the violence you experienced to...



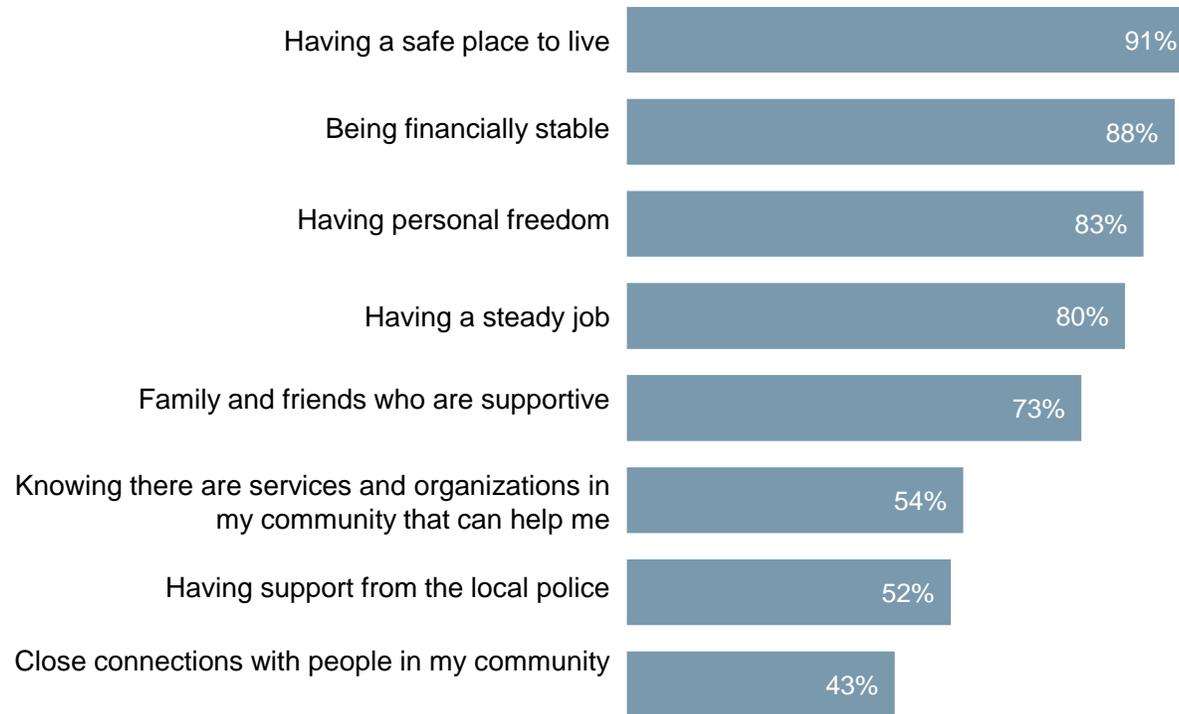
\* If experienced domestic violence: N = 364

**Directions for Change.**

## — Directions for Change

Q: How important is each of the following in helping you feel safe:

Percent “Very important” among survivors of domestic violence



# 9 in 10

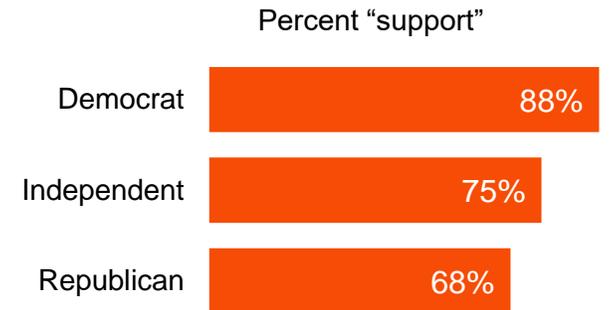
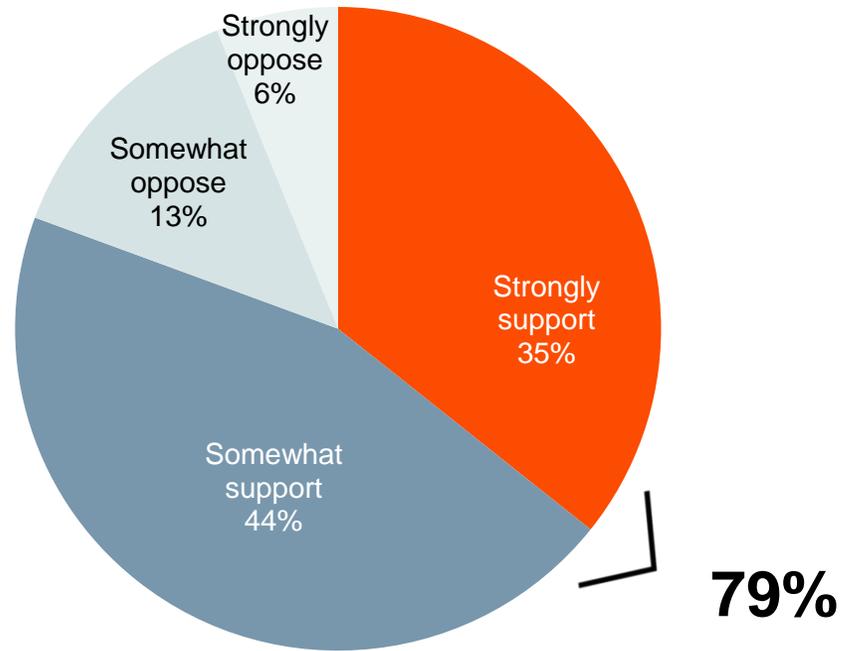
California survivors of domestic violence say having a safe place to live is “very” important in helping them feel safe. Other key factors are financial stability, personal freedom and having a steady job.

*\* If experienced domestic violence: N = 364*

— Directions for Change

**8 in 10 Californians support alternatives to jail for people who cause domestic violence. This idea has support across political party ideology.**

Q: Would you support or oppose alternatives to jail for people who cause domestic violence? This could be counseling, including substance abuse counseling, supervision by a social worker, or restitution to the person who experienced the violence (for example, paying for their therapy, medical expenses, or loss of employment).

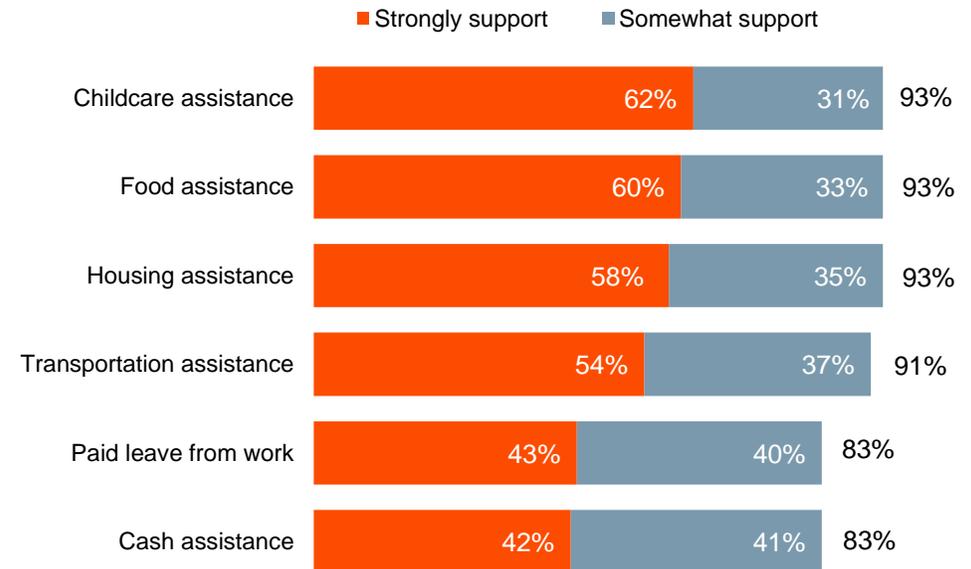


— Directions for Change

# 9 in 10

Californians support childcare, food, housing, and transportation assistance to help those who have experienced domestic violence. Another 8 in 10 support paid leave from work and cash assistance.

Q: Would you support or oppose the following ideas to help survivors of domestic violence:



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