

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

RESULTS FROM THE 2023 LOS ANGELES COUNTY HEALTH SURVEY (LACHS)¹ LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WHAT IS INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV)?

Physical and sexual violence are often the most recognized forms of **intimate partner violence (IPV)**, also known as domestic violence, yet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines IPV as any kind of **physical or sexual violence, stalking, verbal aggression or control enacted by a present or past romantic partner.** [2]

IPV is a significant public health issue that is linked to negative health outcomes such as depression, substance use, and in extreme cases, death. [3, 4] The 2023 Los Angeles County Health Survey (LACHS) included five questions assessing adults' experiences of physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, psychological or verbal aggression, and control by an intimate partner, with an intimate partner defined as someone the participant dated or was romantically or sexually involved with in adulthood (i.e., age 18 or older).

Stalking - Repeated and unwanted attention, harassment, or following (in-person or online) that makes a person feel afraid or unsafe.

Verbal aggression - using words or actions to threaten, belittle, humiliate, or emotionally harm a partner, such as yelling, insults, gaslighting, or manipulation.

Control - dominating a partner's actions, decisions, or relationships, often by limiting their freedom, isolating them, or making them feel dependent.

19%

of individuals residing in LA County reported ever experiencing some form of IPV.

Verbal aggression (14%) was the most common reported IPV type, followed by **Control (9%)** and **Physical Abuse (9%)**.

Importantly, reporting verbal aggression was associated with a higher likelihood of reporting additional IPV types.

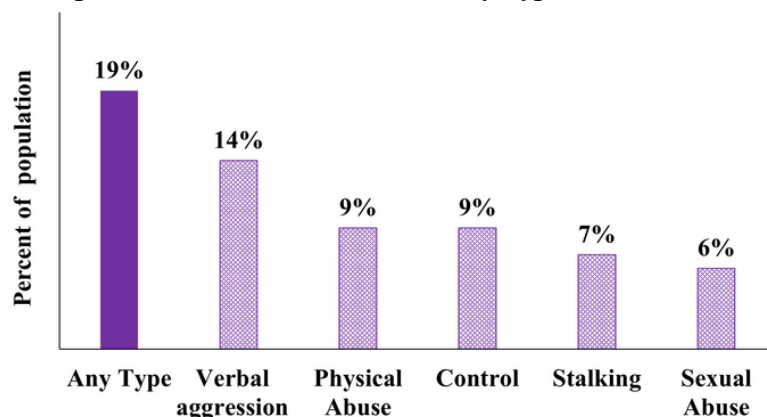
Compared to individuals who did not report verbal aggression, **individuals who reported experiencing verbal aggression by an intimate partner were:**

29x more likely to report stalking

23x more likely to report physical abuse

15x more likely to report sexual abuse

Reports of Intimate Partner Violence by Type, LACHS 2023



WHO IS MOST LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED?

Anyone can experience IPV, yet certain identities and demographic characteristics can increase one’s likelihood of experiencing and reporting IPV. In the sections below, we highlight how gender, sexual orientation, disability status, and being born in versus outside of the United States shape IPV risk in LA County. Importantly, the resources provided at the end of this report are for anyone looking for support.

Gender Identity

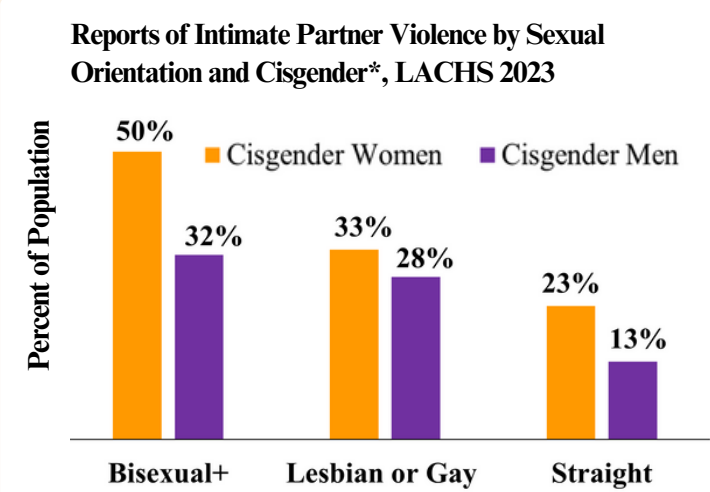
Gender identity plays a large role in whether one will experience IPV in their lifetime, with cisgender women and gender diverse individuals (i.e., trans-gender, gender non-binary, and non-conforming/queer, **TGN**) at higher risk of experiencing IPV compared to cisgender men. [5]

CISGENDER - a person whose gender identity corresponds with their sex assigned at birth.

Sexual Orientation

Across gender identity, both state and national data suggests rates of IPV are higher among lesbian, gay, and bisexual+ (LGB+) populations compared to straight, or heterosexual, populations. [6, 7]

Bisexual+ - includes individuals who identify as bisexual, queer, pansexual, sexually fluid, heteroflexible, or homoflexible.



*Estimates are not provided for TGN individuals due to small sample size.

In LA County, cisgender men generally reported lower rates of IPV compared to cisgender women, yet a) LGB+ cisgender men and women show similar rates of IPV, and b) Gay and Bisexual+ cisgender men reported higher rates of IPV than straight cisgender women in LA County.

Although TGN and LGB+ individuals experience higher rates of IPV than cisgender, heterosexual women, there is less research on the experiences of IPV among these individuals. Additionally, the relatively small sample size of TGN and non-heterosexual individuals in the LACHS limited our ability to reliably compare subgroups of these populations. For these reasons, we focused on cisgender women’s IPV data in the next sections of this report.

According to 2023 data for LA County



~1 in 7 Cisgender Men (14%)
Reported experiencing any form of IPV



~1 in 4 Cisgender Women (24%)
Reported experiencing any form of IPV

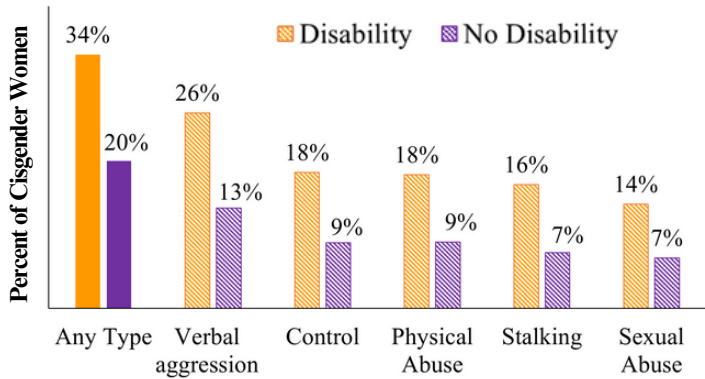


~1 in 2 TGN individuals (47%)
Reported experiencing any form of IPV

Disability Status

Nationally, women with disabilities are at a higher risk of multiple forms of violence compared to women without disabilities. Although not captured in the 2023 LACHS, other studies suggest financial abuse is most common. [8]

Cisgender Women’s Reports of Intimate Partner Violence by Disability, LACHS 2023

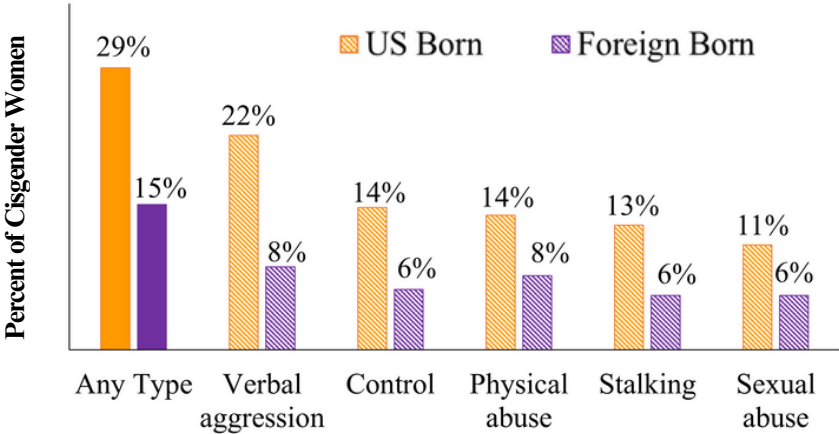


Women in LA County with disabilities were **1.7x** more likely to report experiencing any type of IPV compared to women without disabilities.

Nativity

The relationship between IPV and immigration is complex. Whereas some data sources suggest lower rates of IPV among foreign born women compared to US born women, other data sources suggest higher rates. [9, 10] Foreign born women are less likely to answer survey questions on domestic violence compared to US born women, [11] and foreign born women, particularly those who do not speak English, often find it difficult to seek out resources for IPV. [12] Cultural norms, language barriers, and fear of deportation can all play a role in lower reported rates of IPV among foreign born women. At the same time, recent research also suggests that the adoption of “sanctuary” policies that limit cooperation of local law enforcement with federal immigration authorities help to reduce IPV among foreign born women. [13] California has been a “sanctuary state” since 2018, and despite challenges at the federal level, LA County remains committed to equitably serving our immigrant communities. [14]

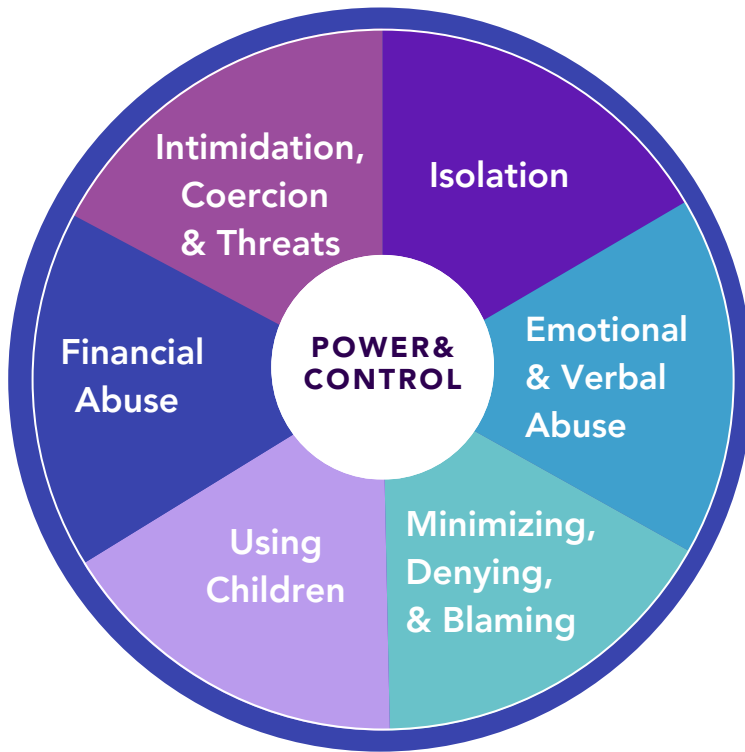
Cisgender Women’s Reports of Intimate Partner Violence by Nativity, LACHS 2023



Women in LA County who were born in United States were **1.9x** more likely to report experiencing any type of IPV compared to women who were born outside of United States.

KNOW THE SIGNS

EVEN JUST 1 OR 2 OF THESE BEHAVIORS CAN BE A RED FLAG THAT ABUSE MAY BE PRESENT



INTIMIDATION, COERCION, & THREATS

- Using looks, actions, gestures, size, or strength to cause fear or assert control
- Destroying property
- Abusing pets
- Displaying weapons

ISOLATION

- Discouraging and/or limiting contact with friends, family, coworkers
- Extreme jealousy of friends or time spent away from partner

EMOTIONAL & VERBAL ABUSE

- Putting down, humiliation
- Name calling
- Mind games
- Gaslighting (i.e., manipulation causing one to doubt their own feelings, memories, or perception of reality).

MINIMIZING, DENYING, BLAMING

- Dismissing hurtful behaviors as "not a big deal" or saying it was "just a joke"
- Refusing to acknowledge harmful behaviors
- Accusing partner of "making them angry" or "pushing their buttons"
- Blaming childhood trauma or past relationships for harmful behaviors

USING CHILDREN

- Telling children negative things to turn children against other parent
- Threatening to take the children away if partner tries to leave
- Undermining parental authority to make other parent seem or feel incompetent

FINANCIAL ABUSE

- Preventing discussions or independent decisions about working or attending school
- Controlling finances without discussion such as taking your money or refusing to provide money for necessary expenses

FINDING HELP FOR YOU OR A LOVED ONE

A resource guide with information for survivors, family, friends, and advocates of various forms of violence is provided in many different languages at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/owh/genderbasedviolence.htm>.

LA COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

Provides 24-hour assistance to domestic violence survivors by connecting to local shelters and other support resources.

(800) 978-3600

LA LGBT CENTER STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT

Offers services by LGBT-domestic violence specialists, including certified domestic violence counselors and mental health professionals and attorneys who have been trained in LGBT-domestic violence issues.

(323) 860-5806

<https://lalgbtcenter.org/services/survivor-services/domestic-violence-sexual-assault-and-stalking/>

LA RAPE AND BATTERING HOTLINE

This 24/7 confidential hotline is available to survivors of intimate partner violence, their friends and family, and for people who are (or feel they are in danger of) causing harm to their partner. The hotline can connect you to local services.

- **CENTRAL LOS ANGELES: (213) 626-3393**
- **SOUTH LOS ANGELES: (310) 392-8381**
- **WEST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY: (626) 793-3385**

- **AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE**

- **LA VIDEO PHONE: (213) 785-2684 OR (213) 785-2749**
- **PASADENA VIDEO PHONE: (626) 243-7972**

<https://www.peaceoverviolence.org/hotlines>

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

This 24/7 confidential hotline is available to survivors of intimate partner violence, their friends and family, and for people who are (or feel they are in danger of) causing harm to their partner. The hotline can connect you to local services.

(800) 799- SAFE (7233)

(800) 787- 3224

TEXT "START" TO 88788

<https://www.thehotline.org/>

LOVE IS RESPECT HOTLINE

Available 24/7 to offer education, support and advocacy to teens and young adults, as well as their concerned friends and family members, who have questions or concerns about their dating relationships.

(866) 331-9474

TEXT "LOVEIS" TO 22522

<https://www.thehotline.org/>

211 LOS ANGELES COUNTY

211 LA is the main source for providing information and referrals for all health and human services in LA County. Trained Community Resource Advisors are available 24 hours a day to offer help with any situation, any time.

2-1-1

<http://www.211la.org/>



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