

The Cost of Intimate Partner Violence in California

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Nearly half of all women in California have experienced intimate partner violence

(emotional, physical, or sexual violence from a current or former romantic or sexual partner) in their lifetime. One in three women—460,000 women in California—experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence (IPV) in 2023 alone. IPV increases risk for mental and physical health concerns, job loss, and housing instability.

We calculated the economic toll IPV takes on women and the state, using data from our 2023 CalVEX survey. We found that IPV costs **\$73.7 billion**—about \$88,000 per victim—for health care, lost productivity and income, and criminal justice and other response program spending in California. This is about 2 percent of the gross domestic product for the state.

To reduce IPV and the costs incurred by the state, we recommend the following:

1. Establish a consistent and sustainable funding stream on violence prevention and response in the state budget.
2. Tighten compliance with existing firearm legislation, especially among perpetrators of domestic violence.
3. Improve data, specifically on the consequences of intimate partner violence, to better understand the scope of the challenges and track changes over time.
4. Design intersectional IPV policies and practices that attend to the ways gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status produce both crosscutting and cumulative disadvantages.

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