

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SEXUAL ASSAULT COUNCIL (LAC SAC) SEXUAL ASSAULT: LIVED EXPERIENCE SURVEY RESULTS



LA County Department of Public Health's Office of Violence Prevention created a short, anonymous survey to understand the needs of people who have experienced sexual assault.

The results will be used by the LA County Sexual Assault Council (LAC SAC) to guide system improvements that strengthen services and supports for victims and survivors of sexual assault across LA County.

Survey Timeline



This data brief includes responses from
October 9, 2025 to February 28, 2026.



The survey was shared through **emails, flyers, and word of mouth.**



Any adults 18+ could complete the survey.



110* people filled out the online survey.
Most respondents were people who experienced sexual assault.

*Two respondents who did not complete the survey were excluded from analyses.

As part of the survey, we asked if there was anything else participants wanted to share about sexual assault and support services in LA County.

Below are a few quotes from the survey.

“ Sexual assault is a serious issue that affects people of all ages, genders, and backgrounds. Access to timely, trauma-informed, and confidential support services is essential for survivors to feel safe and empowered. Awareness of resources such as hotlines, counseling services, medical care, and advocacy programs can make a significant difference. Los Angeles County needs to continue expanding services, ensuring accessibility, and providing education about consent and safety, so that survivors know they are not alone and that help is available. ”

“ Thank you for putting attention to this important issue. ”

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In the survey, we define **sexual assault** as any unwanted sexual contact.



This can include attempted or completed sexual acts when:

- Someone used force, threats, pressure, or authority
- You did not or could not give permission

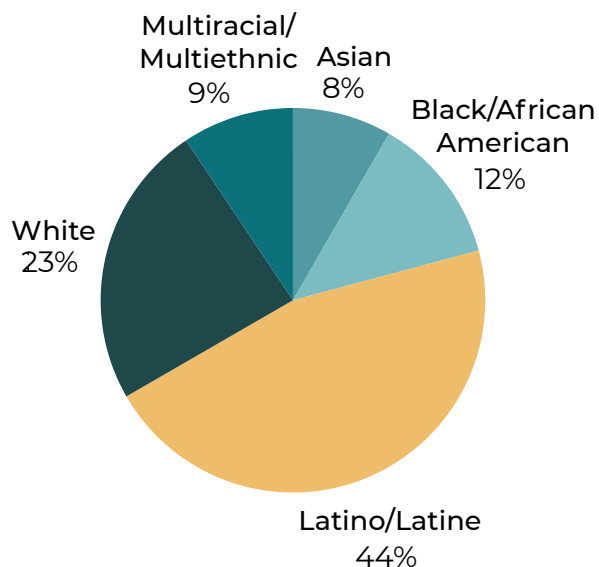
Of respondents who completed the survey

1 in 4 
were between 25 and 34 years old

86% Ever experienced
Sexual Assault

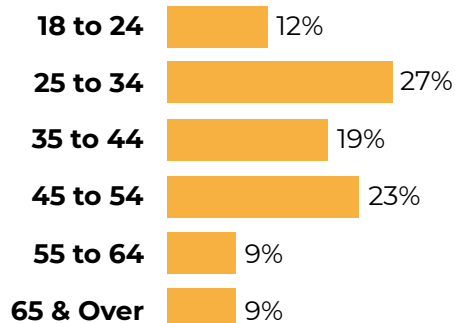
Demographics of Respondents Who Experienced Sexual Assault

Race and Ethnicity

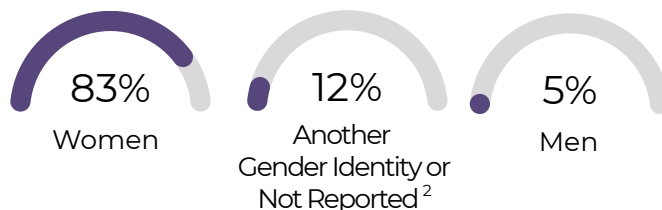


*AIAN, NHPI, Some Other Race, Not Reported¹

Age



Gender



¹ AIAN stands for American Indian, Alaska Native; NHPI stands for Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander.

² We asked about Transgender Women/Trans Woman and Transgender Man/Trans Man gender identities, but we don't have enough data to report about them. Some people also chose not to share their gender identity.

*For purposes of confidentiality, results with cell sizes less than 5 are not reported.

Of respondents who reported experiencing sexual assault...

About

50%



experienced an assault
before turning
10 years old.

...and

77%

experienced an assault
before turning
18 years old.

53% reported **MULTIPLE**
sexual assaults.

Of those who experienced sexual assault multiple times
and shared the number on the survey, the average was...

4

Sexual Assaults
in their lifetime*.

Research and our survey data show that sexual assault
is common. It occurs early, and people often experience
multiple assaults across their lifetime.

*The average excludes 6 outliers.

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Seeking Help in Los Angeles County

ONLY 1 IN 4



talked to someone, received services,
or received support in LA County
after the sexual assault(s).

“

*Sexual assault and rape were
not common topics talked
about when I was younger.*

”

In the survey, we asked respondents
why they didn't tell anyone about
their sexual assault.

The **top 3 reasons*** they did not
tell anyone are:

'I felt embarrassed, ashamed, like
it was my fault, or like I would be
blamed for the assault...'

'I did not realize or think it was
a sexual assault at the time.'

'I did not want to deal with the stress
or trouble of telling someone.'

**We asked respondents who shared their sexual assault with family or friends to
rate how much they agreed with three positive and three negative statements**



Most agreed or strongly agreed
that they were happy they told
someone and felt believed.
One-third received help finding
resources and support.

I was happy
I told someone.

81%

I felt believed.

71%

I was helped in
finding resources
and supports.

33%



However, some still agreed
or strongly agreed that they
experienced blame, shame,
or judgement from family or
friends after their experience(s).

I was blamed for
the assault(s) or
told it was my fault.

29%

I was told not to tell
anyone about the assault
or told to keep it a secret.

29%

I felt judged.

24%

*Respondents could select multiple reasons from a list.

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Getting Support and Services in Los Angeles County

In the survey, we asked respondents about their interactions with organizations when they were receiving services and support after a sexual assault.

Support services, groups, and organizations we asked about include*:

- Law Enforcement
- Healthcare or Mental Health Provider
- Sexual Assault or Domestic Violence Support Program
- Work Supervisor or Human Resource Staff
- Legal Services or Community Legal Aid Organization
- Campus or School Staff
- Faith Leader, Spiritual Advisor, or Someone at their Place of Worship

Of those who reported receiving services in LA County, they received services from **an average of 4 types of organizations.**

I didn't know I could get support services, and I was underage.

75%

of those who received services stated that **at least one** of the organizations was **culturally sensitive.**



I didn't think I would be helped or someone would believe me. I was also too scared to realize what was happening to me and did not know any resources about sexual assault support services.

Top three support services that were most used by respondents include*:

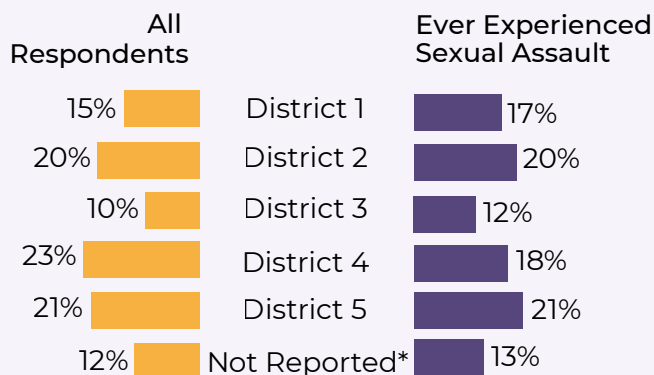
- Healthcare or Mental Health Provider
- Sexual Assault or Domestic Violence Support Program
- Law Enforcement

*Respondents could select multiple support or services from a list.

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Geographic Distribution of Respondents Who Experienced Sexual Assault

By Supervisorial Districts

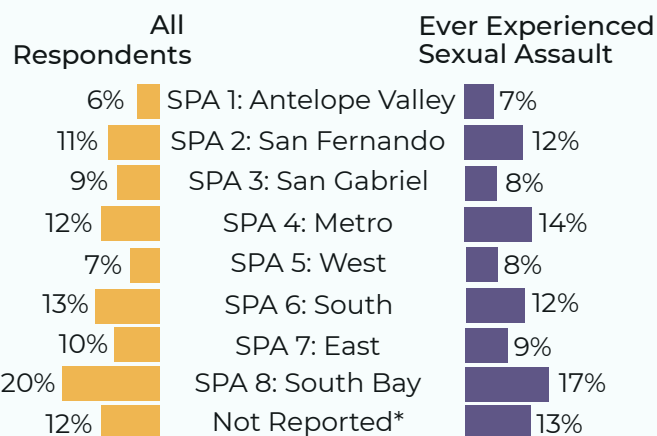


Respondents in LA County who reported experiencing sexual assault currently live in these communities.

These percentages do not show how often sexual assaults occur within the areas listed above. They simply show where respondents who reported experiencing sexual assault live.

Given the long-term impacts of sexual assault, services are needed not only where assaults occur, but also where people currently live.

By Service Planning Area (SPA)



Supervisorial Districts and Service Planning Area maps can be found at <https://lacounty.gov/government/about-la-county/maps-and-geography/>.

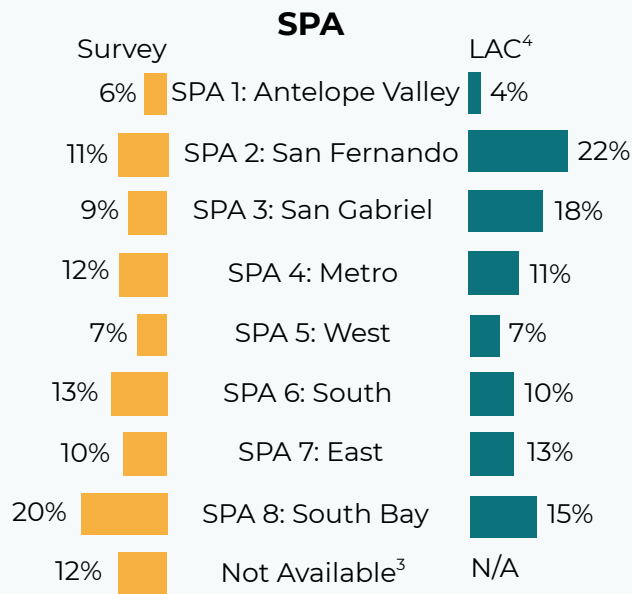
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When comparing those who filled out the survey to the LAC population Service Planning Area (SPA)...

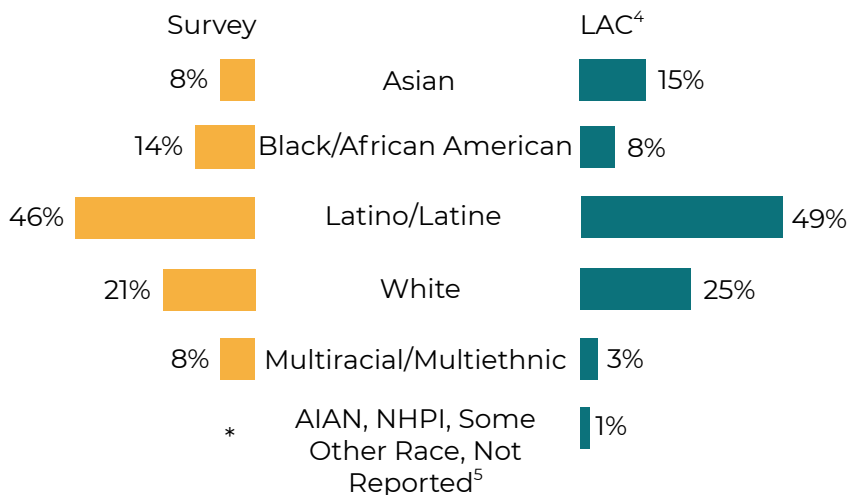


► **Fewer** responses came from **SPAs 2, 3, & 7**. The widest differences are from SPAs 2 & 3.

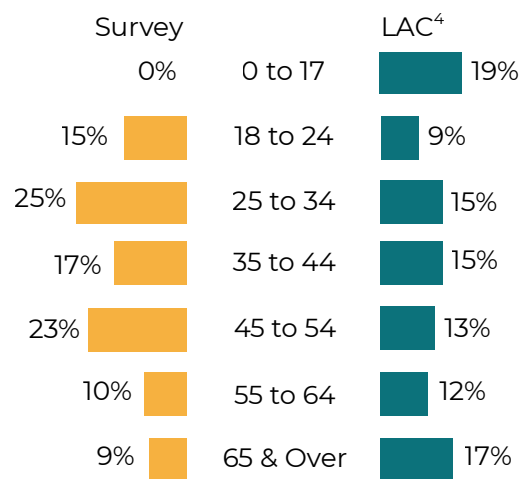


Demographics of survey respondents compared to LA County population include...

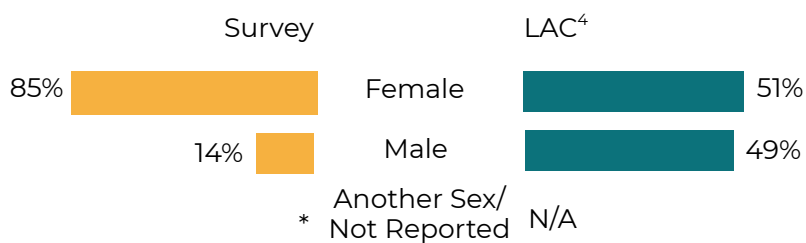
Race and Ethnicity



Age



Sex



³ 12% of survey respondents did not provide zip code information or provided zip code information out of jurisdiction.

⁴ County of Los Angeles, Internal Services Department, Information Technology Services, Geographic Information Systems Section. July 1, 2024
Population Estimates for Los Angeles County Tract-City and Countywide Statistical Area Splits by Age, Sex, and Race/Ethnicity. Prepared by Hedderson Demographic Services. Los Angeles, California. March 2025.

⁵ AIAN stands for American Indian, Alaska Native; NHPI stands for Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander.

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Resources for Sexual Assault Nationwide

- **RAINN National 24/7 Sexual Assault Hotline:**
 - 800-656-HOPE (4673)
 - <https://rainn.org/help-and-healing/hotline/>
- **988 Crisis Line: Text or call 988**
 - Free, confidential support available 24 hours a day
 - <https://988lifeline.org>
- **Teen Line:**
 - **Phone:** 800-852-8336 (6:00-10:00 PM PST)
 - **Chat:** Text TEEN to 839863 (6:00-9:00 PM PST)
 - <https://didihirsch.org/teenline/>
- **Trevor Project:**
 - 1-877-987-6568 Support for LGBTQ+ Youth
 - <https://www.thetrevorproject.org>

Los Angeles County Sexual Assault Council

Mission

The Los Angeles County Sexual Assault Council (LAC SAC) leads and coordinates countywide efforts to address sexual violence across Los Angeles County's culturally diverse communities. The Council convenes partners to advance prevention, strengthen training and practice, and improve system responses so survivors receive safe, respectful care and communities have the tools to reduce harm.

Vision

Empowering Communities. Supporting Survivors. A future free from sexual violence.

Values

- Victim-Survivor Centered & Trauma-Informed Care
- Integrity, Accountability & Transparency
- Equity, Inclusion & Belonging
- Collaborative Partnership
- Excellence & Leadership with Compassion



Scan the QR code to learn more about [LAC SAC](#) or visit Los Angeles County Sexual Assault Council at www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ovp/SAC.htm

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Resources for Sexual Assault in Los Angeles County

CENTER FOR THE PACIFIC ASIAN FAMILY, INC.

24-Hour Hotline

800-339-3940

- Emergency and transitional shelters
- Specialty in Asian or Pacific Islander (API) clients
- Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, Thai, Vietnamese languages available and more

cpaf.ngo

EAST LOS ANGELES WOMEN'S CENTER

24-Hour Hotline

- English | Spanish available:
800-585-6231
- East Los Angeles
323-526-5819
- LAC+USC Wellness Center
213-481-6030

elawc.org

PEACE OVER VIOLENCE

24-Hour Hotline

- Los Angeles (Spanish available)**213-626-3393**
- West Los Angeles
310-392-8381
- San Gabriel Valley
626-793-3385

peaceoverview.org

PROJECT SISTER FAMILY SERVICES

24-Hour Hotline

**Pomona Valley
& San Gabriel Valley**

- English | Spanish available:
909-626-4357
- Child Abuse Hotline:
626-966-4155

projectsister.org

UCLA RAPE TREATMENT CENTER

24-Hour Hotline

**Santa Monica-
UCLA Medical Center**

- English | Spanish available:
424-259-7208

[uclahealth.org/
medical-services/rtc](http://uclahealth.org/medical-services rtc)

STRENGTH UNITED

24-Hour Hotline

- English | Spanish available:
818-787-9700
- San Fernando Valley
818-886-0453
- Santa Clarita Valley
661-253-0258

[csun.edu/eisner-
education/strength-united](http://csun.edu/eisner-education/strength-united)

VALLEY OASIS

24-Hour Hotline

- Antelope Valley
661-723-RAPE (7273)

**Sexual Assault
Resonse Services (SARS)**

- Monday-Friday | 8 AM - 5PM
661-949-6143

valleyoasis.org/contact/

VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM

24-Hour Hotline

- Mental Health Center
323-221-4134
- Child Abuse Assessment Clinic
323-409-5086
- Sexual Assault Center
323-409-3800
- Elder Abuse Forensic Center
323-226-1470

violenceinterventionprogram.org

YWCA GREATER LOS ANGELES SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS SERVICES

24-Hour Hotline

- English | Spanish available:
877-Y-HELPS-U (943-5778)

[ywcagla.org/survivor-
empowerment](http://ywcagla.org/survivor-empowerment)

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Los Angeles County Sexual Assault Council (LAC SAC) Lived Experience Survey

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



Click [HERE](https://shorturl.at/tGjEG) to access the survey
or use the QR code.

<https://shorturl.at/tGjEG>

Encuesta de Experiencia Viva del
Consejo de Agresión Sexual
del Condado de Los Ángeles

洛杉磯縣反性侵委員會 (LAC SAC)
親身經歷調查

สภาการล่วงละเมิดทางเพศแห่งประเทศไทย
ลอสแอนเจลิส (LAC SAC) แบบสำรวจ
ประสบการณ์ชีวิตจริง

洛杉矶县反性侵委员会 (LAC SAC)
亲身经历调查

로스앤젤레스 카운티 성폭력 협의회(LAC SAC)
피해자 설문조사

ロサンゼルス郡性的暴行評議会 (LAC SAC)
実体験アンケート