

# CONCERNS ABOUT VIOLENCE WITHIN SOCIAL NETWORKS

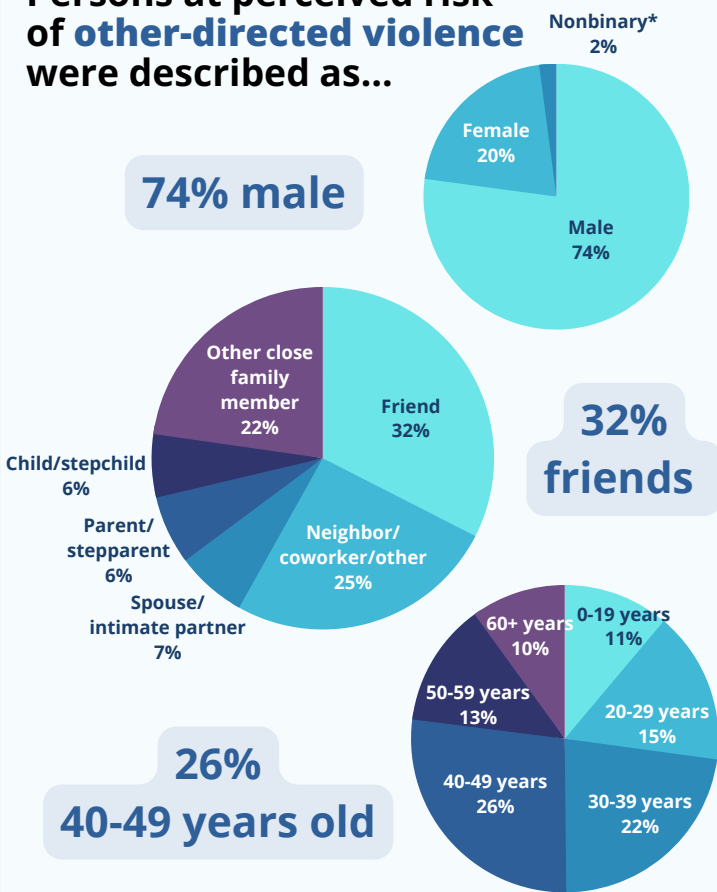
Results from the 2020 California Safety and Wellbeing Survey (CSaWS)

We asked California adults, "Are you concerned that anyone you know might physically hurt [another person/themselves] on purpose?"

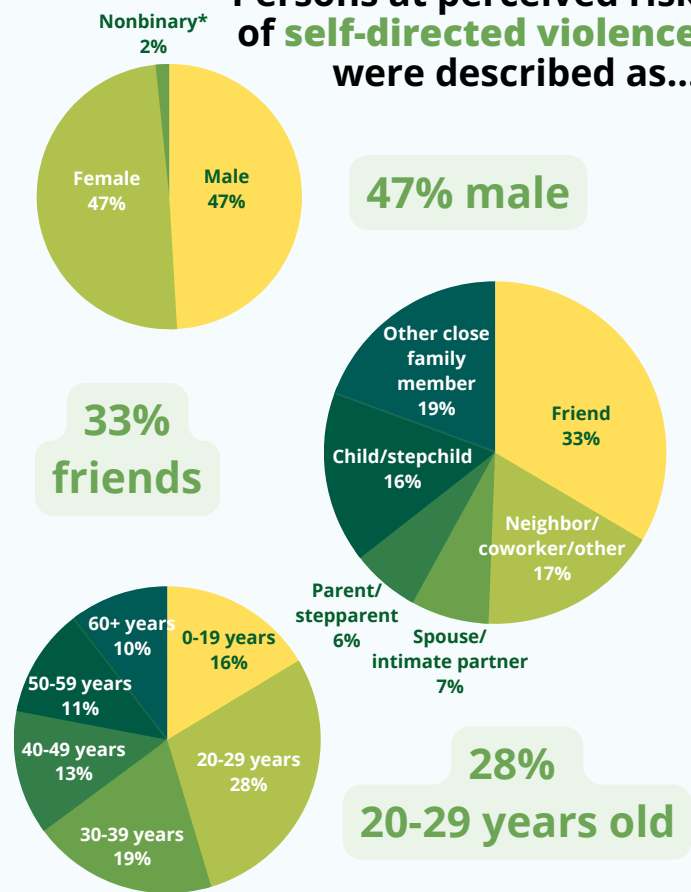
**1 in 5** 

respondents (22%) reported knowing someone at perceived risk of hurting **others** or **themselves**

## Persons at perceived risk of **other-directed violence** were described as...



## Persons at perceived risk of **self-directed violence** were described as...



\*Nonbinary includes any gender other than "male" or "female."

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding and non-responses.

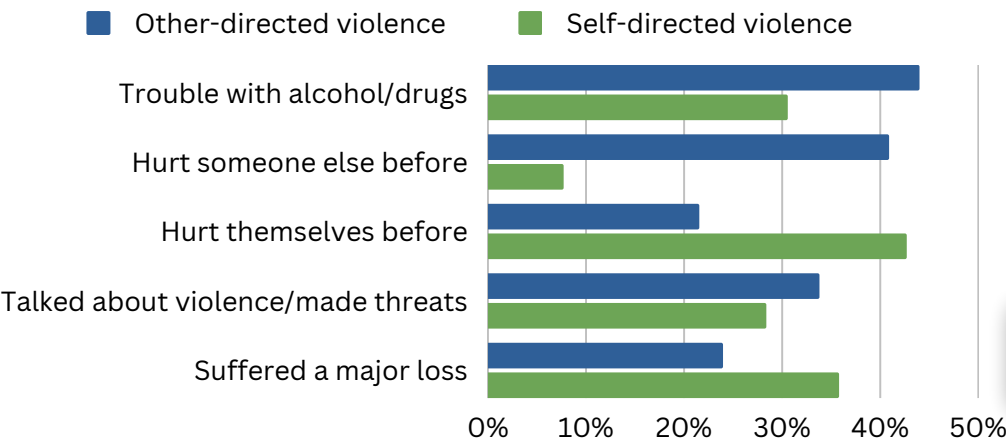
**27%** of respondents said it was likely or very likely the person will **hurt another person** in the next year



**22%** of respondents said it was likely or very likely the person will **hurt themselves** in the next year

[Read the full study](#)

## Respondents were concerned about violence because the person has...



**1 in 5** persons at perceived risk to **others** and **1 in 10** persons at perceived risk to **themselves** have access to firearms

## What we learned:

An estimated 6.5 million Californians—**1 in 5 adults**—are concerned someone they know, usually a friend or family member, is at risk of violence to others or themselves.

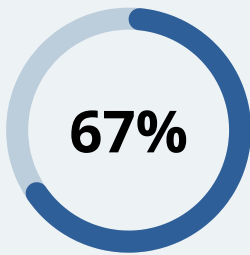
The ability to identify when someone is behaving dangerously or exhibiting **warning signs** is an important component of violence prevention efforts.

**Access to firearms** is common among persons at perceived risk of violence, though taking action to reduce this access was rare.

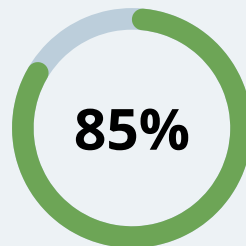
Continued efforts to **empower the public**, especially those close to people at elevated risk, to act on their knowledge about risk factors for violence are needed.

### Recommended Citation:

Aubel AJ, Wintemute GJ, Kravitz-Wirtz N. Anticipatory concerns about violence within social networks: prevalence and implications for prevention. *Prev. Med.* 2023;167: 107421.

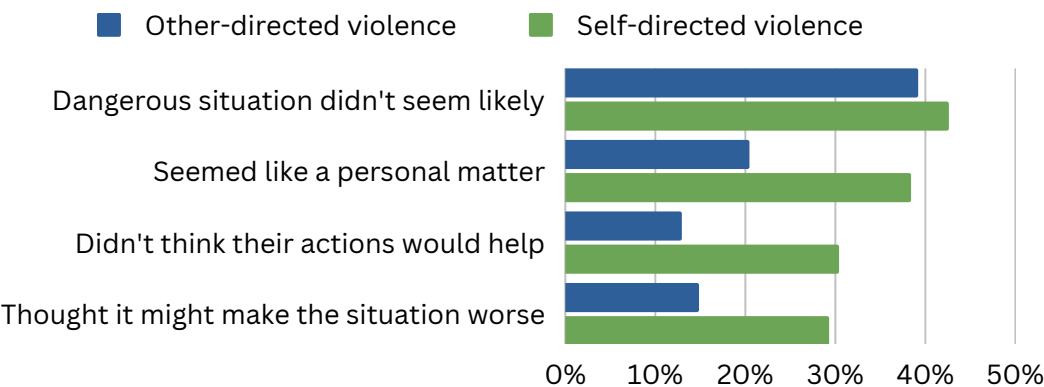


of respondents who knew someone at perceived risk of **other-directed violence** took 1+ action to reduce their own risk of being hurt by the person.



of respondents who knew someone at perceived risk of **self-directed violence** took 1+ action to reduce the risk of the person hurting themselves.

## Some respondents didn't take action because...



The California Safety and Wellbeing Survey (CSaWS) is an ongoing, statewide, probability-based Internet survey developed by the California Firearm Violence Research Center and administered by the research firm Ipsos. CSaWS asks questions on a wide range of topics related to firearm ownership and exposure to violence and its consequences. More than 2,500 California adults participate in CSaWS at each wave, and their answers are weighted to be statistically representative of the adult population of the state. The 2020 wave of CSaWS was administered from July 14-27, 2020, with funding from the State of California.