MsVEX
MISSISSIPPI VIOLENCE EXPERIENCES SURVEY

2025 Key Findings
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV)

1 *in* 20 **Mississippi adults** (6%)—about 130,000 people—**experienced IPV in the past year.**

- ***1 in 33 Mississippi women****—35,000 women—****experienced potentially lethal forms of IPV in the past year.*** This could include use weapon, burning, choking/suffocation, and/or beating from a current or former partner.
- ***Past year IPV was strongly associated with:*** anxiety, depression, substance use, housing instability, and disruptions to employment and relationships.

1 *in* 2 **Mississippi adults**—about 700,000 women (59%) and 530,000 men (50%)—**have experienced IPV in their lifetime.**

- ***Threats to harm self or others*** was experienced by 21% of women and 12% of men in their lifetime.
- ***Choking/suffocation***, the most common form of potentially lethal IPV, was reported by 18% of women and 2% of men in their lifetime.
- ***Gun related IPV*** was reported by 3% of women and 1% of men in their lifetime.

ABOUT THE SURVEY The Mississippi Study on Violence Experiences across the Lifespan (MsVEX) survey is conducted with a statewide sample of Mississippi adults to provide population-level estimates of experiences of physical, sexual, and intimate partner violence (IPV) across the lifespan and within the past year. It also examines economic hardship, discrimination, policing experiences, and mental health outcomes linked to violence. Data were collected by NORC at the University of Chicago from approximately 1000 adults across the state from their existing panels. These data were then statistically weighted using NORC generated sampling weights to yield population estimates for the state as a whole.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

1 *in* 12 **Mississippi adults** (8%) —9% of women and 8% of men—**experienced sexual violence in the past year.**

Among Mississippi adults in 2025:

4% experienced *cyber sexual harassment*

1% of women experienced *sexual exploitation*

1% experienced *forced sex*

1 *in* 7 **Mississippi adults** (14%; 21% of women and 5% of men) **have experienced forced sex** in their lifetime.

1 *in* 17 **Mississippi adults** (6%; 8% of women and 4% of men) **have experienced sexual exploitation** in their lifetime.

1 *in* 10 Mississippi adults experienced sexual violence in childhood, and such exposure only increased in adolescence and into adulthood:

10% experienced *sexual violence in childhood* (age 0–12)

17% experienced *sexual violence in adolescence* (age 13–17)

24% experienced *sexual violence in young adulthood* (age 18–34)

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