

The following survey about early life experiences is part of a broader research project on men and trauma. Over a period of 12 months, 193 formerly incarcerated men who had been convicted of a violent offense serious enough to result in a lengthy prison sentence completed the survey online. Aggregate results are presented below. To learn more about the research, findings and implications, visit menandtrauma.org.

Please think about the community (or communities) you grew up in.

While you were growing up, that is during your first 18 years of life ...

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Never	Don't Know
1. Did you feel safe in the neighborhood(s) you grew up in?	17.4%	17.9%	40.2%	23.4%	1.1%
2. Did you feel that people in your neighborhood(s) stood up to each other and could be trusted?	14.1%	22.8%	45.7%	16.3%	1.1%
3. How often were you bullied by a peer or classmate in school?	12.6%	26.8%	39.3%	21.3%	0%

4. How often, if ever, did you see or hear someone being beaten up, stabbed, or shot in real life? Would you say...

Never	Once	A Few Times	Many Times
5.5%	9.8%	33.9%	50.8%

Now please think about your childhood in general, not just your neighborhood or community.

While you were growing up, during your first 18 years of life ...

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Never	Don't Know
5. There was someone in your life who helped you feel important or special.	18.5%	20.1%	43.5%	16.8%	1.1%
6. Your family sometimes cut the size of meals or skipped meals because there was not enough money.	6.6%	29.5%	35.5%	25.7%	2.7%

Sometimes people are treated badly, not given respect, or are considered inferior because of the color of their skin, because they speak a different language or have an accent, or because they come from a different country or culture.

While you were growing up, during your first 18 years of life ...

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Never	Don't Know
7. How often did you feel that you were treated badly or unfairly because of your race or ethnicity?	14%	30%	33.7%	13.5%	4.7%

8. How often were you afraid that you yourself or someone you lived with would be deported?	7.3%	14%	13%	57%	2.6%
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The next questions refer to the time period while you were growing up in your first 18 years of life.

While you were growing up, during your first 18 years of life ...

	Yes	No	Don't Know	Did Not Respond
9. Did you live with anyone who was depressed or mentally ill?	52.8%	33.2%	8.8%	5.2%
10. Did you live with anyone who was suicidal?	26.9%	54.9%	13%	5.2%
11. Did you live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic?	61.1%	30.6%	2.6%	5.7%
12. Did you live with anyone who abused drugs or medicine (illegal street drugs or prescription)?	46.1%	43%	5.2%	5.7%
13. Did you live with anyone who served time in prison, jail, or another correctional facility?	50.8%	40.4%	3.6%	5.2%

Sometimes physical fights happen between parents or other adults in the house.

While you were growing up, that is during your first 18 years of life, did you see or hear your caregiver (e.g., parent, step-parent, or other adult who was helping to raise you) do the following ...

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Never	Don't Know	Did Not Respond
14. Being yelled at, screamed at, sworn at, insulted, or humiliated?	21%	27.5%	32.6%	13.5%	0.5%	5.2%
15. Being slapped, kicked, or punched?	13%	23.8%	34.2%	21.8%	2.1%	5.2%
16. Being hit or cut with an object, such as a stick or cane, bottle, club, knife, or gun?	10.9%	11.9%	27.5%	43%	1.6%	5.2%

Sometimes parents or other adults hurt children.

While you were growing up, that is during your first 18 years of life, did you see or hear your caregiver (e.g., parent, step-parent, or other adult who was helping to raise you) do the following ...

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Never	Don't Know	Did Not Respond
17. Swear at you, insult you, or put you down?	12.4%	28%	40.4%	10.4%	2.1%	6.7%
18. Push, grab, shove, or slap you?	10.9%	22.3%	38.3%	19.2%	1.6%	7.8%
19. Hit you so hard that you had marks or were injured?	8.8%	17.1%	36.3%	28.5%	2.6%	6.7%
20. Act in a way that made you afraid that you would be physically hurt?	11.4%	23.8%	36.8%	19.7%	1.6%	6.7%

Some people, while growing up in their first 18 years of life, had a sexual experience with an adult or someone at least 5 years older than themselves. These experiences may have involved a relative, family friend, or stranger.

During the first 18 years of life, did an adult or older relative, family friend, or stranger who was at least 5 years older than yourself ever...

	Yes	No	Don't Know	Did Not Respond
21. Touch or fondle you in a sexual way or have you touch their body in a sexual way?	36.3%	53.9%	0%	9.8%
22. Have (or attempted to have) any type of sexual intercourse (oral, anal, or vaginal) with you?	30.1%	61.1%	2.1%	6.7%

Now, a few questions about various personal health behaviors.

During the first 18 years of your life, did you...

	Yes	No	Don't Know	Did Not Respond
23. Use or inject any illegal drugs, besides marijuana (for example cocaine, crack, hallucinogens, inhalants, heroin, or prescription drugs that were not prescribed for you, including OxyContin, Xanax, or Adderall)?	48.7%	44%	1%	6.3%
24. Did you have 2 or more weeks of being in a depressed mood? That is, feeling down, depressed, or hopeless, or had little interest in doing things?	61.7%	28%	3.6%	6.7%
25. Attempt suicide?	29.5%	59.6%	4.1%	6.7%

26. Age of Respondents		
Under 18		0.5%
18-24		5.2%
25-34		11.4%
35-44		9.8%
45-54		21.2%
55-64		10.9%
65+		4.7%
No answer*		36.3%
27. Prior to the age of 18, what was your immigration status? (please check all that apply)		
Born a US Citizen		76.2%
Documented Immigrant		5.7%
Undocumented Immigrant		3.1%
Refugee		5.2%
Asylee		0.5%
Became a Naturalized Citizen		0%
Prefer not to say		3.1%
Did not respond		6.2%
28. What is your sexual orientation? (please check all that apply)		
Straight		83.4%
Gay		4.7%
Bisexual		3.1%
Queer		1.6%
Something Else		0.5%
Prefer not to say		1%
Did not Respond		5.6%
29. What is your race or ethnicity? (please check all that apply)		
Latino/Chicano/Hispanic		30.1%
African American/Black		40.4%
Indigenous/Native American/First Nation		1.6%
White		19.2%
East Asian		30.1%
South Asian		2.1%
Pacific Islander		1.6%
Something Else		0.5%
Prefer not to say		0.5%
Did not respond		6.7%
28. Where do you live?		
California		62.2%
Other location (responses included 23 other states)		25.9%
Did not respond		11.9%