

# Public Opinion on Non-Police Alternative Emergency Responses in Los Angeles

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## Background

Through the murders of numerous Black people over countless years, we have seen that all too often, when people call the police, these police calls end in unnecessary Black death and are ultimately a catalyst for modern day slavery through the carceral state.

## Research Question

Are Angelenos who have had personal experiences with the police more likely to support alternative emergency responses than those who have not? Does this differ by race and gender?

## Methodology

The data used is from the Study of Los Angeles (Study LA) 2020 Police and Community Relations Survey. 1,753 adult Angelenos were surveyed through mixed-mode public opinion (phone, online, and face-to-face interviews) survey research from October to November 2020. The aim was to see Angelenos' opinions of the police and their role in the community; Angelenos of different backgrounds were represented in the survey. The margin of error for this survey is  $\pm 2.5\%$  and a test of significance was performed. The data were analyzed by race and gender. For my specific research question I utilized survey questions 10 and 14 and analyzed responses by race and gender.

### How would you like the city to address the following types of emergency calls?

	only with LAPD officers	with teams of LAPD officers and non-police alternatives	only with non-police alternatives
Calls about mental health crises	16.6%	52.5%	30.8%
Calls about substance abuse	26.4%	51.2%	22.4%
Calls about domestic violence	40.6%	50.7%	8.7%
Calls about suicide prevention	21.1%	49.6%	29.2%
Calls about sexual assault	43.3%	48.6%	8.2%
Calls about neighbor disputes	37.7%	46.4%	15.9%
Calls about people experiencing homelessness	21.1%	45.9%	33.1%

### Calls regarding domestic violence

	MALE RESPONDENTS	FEMALE RESPONDENTS
only with LAPD officers	39.7%	41.6%
with teams of LAPD officers and non-police alternatives	51.2%	50.2%
only with non-police alternatives	9.1%	8.2%

### Calls regarding sexual assault

	MALE RESPONDENTS	FEMALE RESPONDENTS
only with LAPD officers	44.1%	42.6%
with teams of LAPD officers and non-police alternatives	47.9%	49.4%
only with non-police alternatives	8%	8%

### How would you describe your experiences with LAPD officers?

MOSTLY POSITIVE	MOSTLY NEGATIVE	I HAVEN'T HAD ANY
46.5%	19.8%	33.8%

## Results

Black and Latino/a Angelenos are **less likely** than their white & Asian counterparts to elect teams of only LAPD officers to respond to emergency calls.

Second-most preferred option for emergency calls pertaining to mental health crises, homelessness, and suicide prevention was **non-police alternative responses**. When asked about how emergency calls regarding homelessness should be addressed, **Black residents mostly preferred only non-police alternatives**.

Men and women held similar attitudes towards calls regarding domestic violence and sexual assault.

## Conclusion

**Yes**, Angelenos with personal experiences are **more likely to support alternative emergency responses**. Ultimately, these responses go back to the idea of *reimagining public safety*.

## References

Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles. (2020). *2020 Police and Community Relations Survey*. Loyola Marymount University.

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