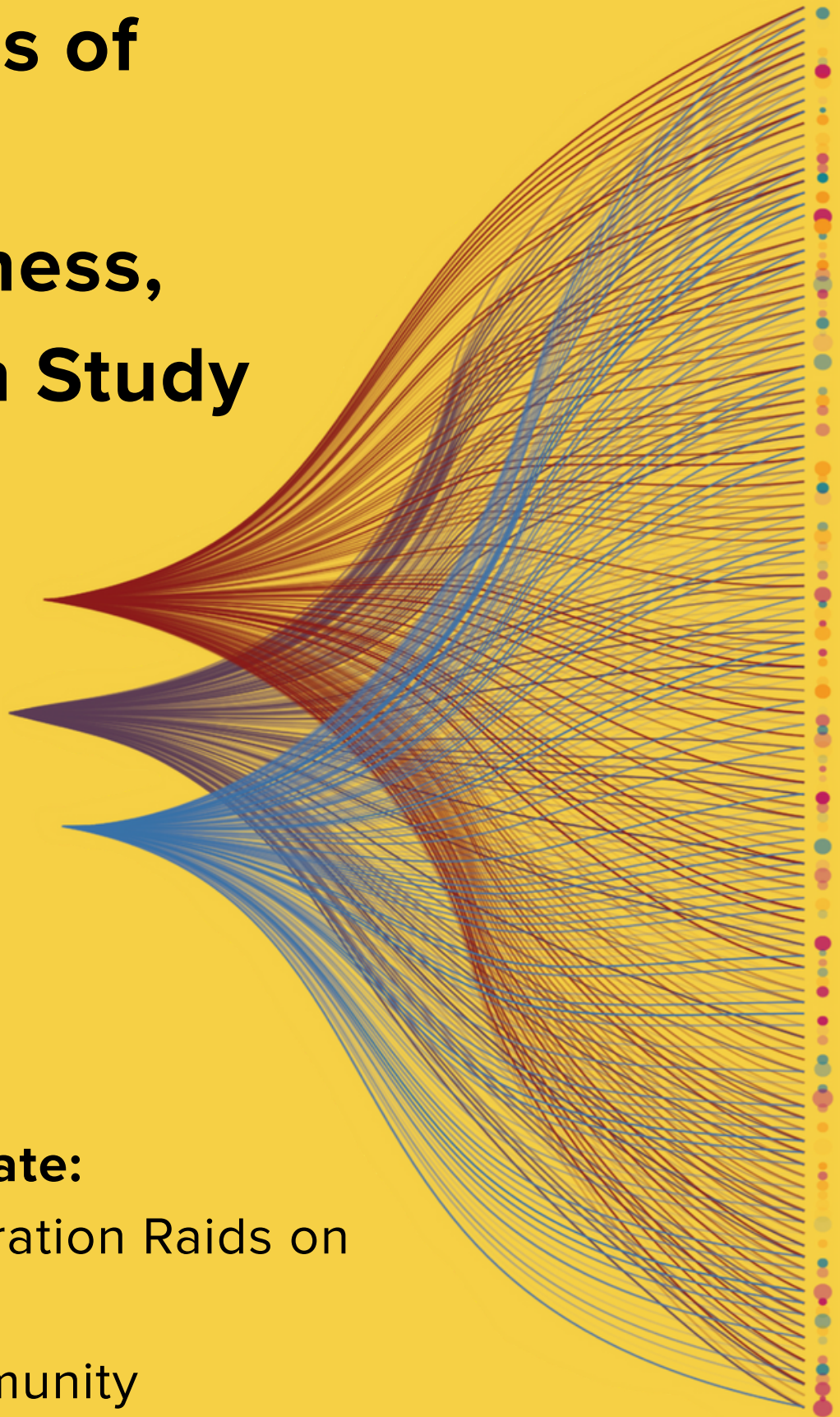


Periodic Assessment of Trajectories of Housing, Homelessness, and Health Study (PATHS)

June 2025 Update:

Impact of Immigration Raids on
Los Angeles'
Unhoused Community





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**Periodic Assessment of Trajectories of Housing,
Homelessness and Health Study (PATHS):**

June 2025 Update: The Impact of Immigration Raids on
Los Angeles' Unhoused Community

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INTRODUCTION

The recent wave of immigration enforcement raids sweeping across Los Angeles has severely undermined the safety and well-being of communities of color and other marginalized groups. Among those most vulnerable are our unhoused neighbors, who face intersecting and heightened risks. Already subjected to pervasive surveillance, criminalization, and systemic neglect, unhoused individuals in the county are now experiencing added layers of fear, displacement, and instability due to intensified immigration enforcement.

METHODS

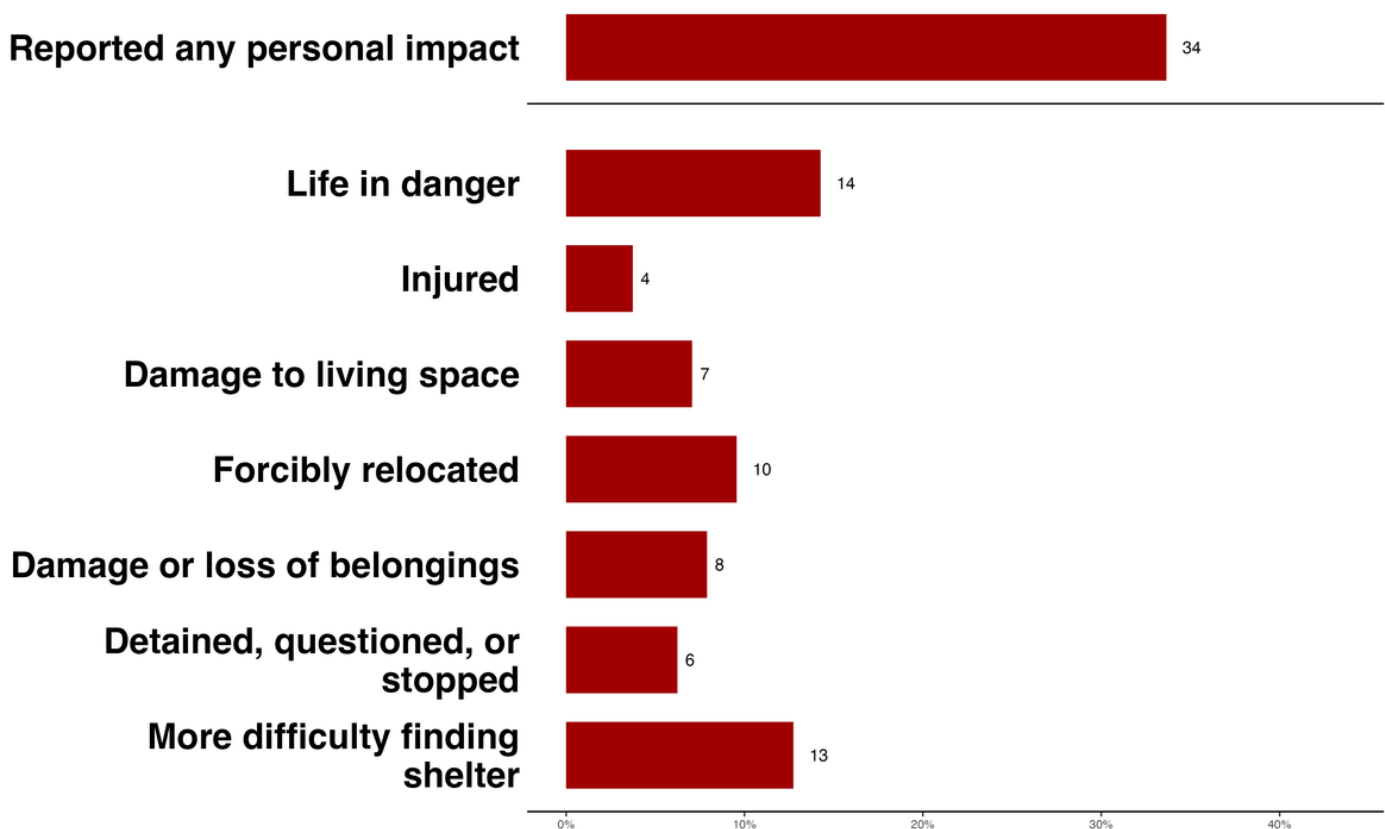
To better understand how these developments are affecting unhoused Angelenos, we analyzed data from the Periodic Assessment of Trajectories in Housing, Homelessness, and Health Study (PATHS). This ongoing longitudinal study, led by USC and UCLA, currently follows a cohort of approximately 800 unhoused individuals in Los Angeles County to provide timely insights into the evolving realities of homelessness. Participants respond to monthly brief surveys via text or email, reporting on their current housing situation, location, health status and well-being, socio-environmental exposures, and access to basic needs, social services, and healthcare.

In June 2025, the study added a new set of survey questions focused specifically on the impact of recent immigration raids, local curfews, and protest activity on participants' daily lives. A total of 722 individuals responded to these questions. We analyzed their responses by race, geographic location, and housing status over the past month, allowing us to examine how different subgroups within the unhoused community are experiencing and interpreting the current immigration enforcement climate. To learn more about the PATHS study design and to interact with the data, visit <http://paths.la>.

FINDINGS

The combined effects of ICE raids, curfews, and protests had a measurable and disruptive impact on our unhoused sample. A third (34%) of respondents reported some form of impact on their personal well-being. Most notably, 14% said their life was in danger, 10% were forced to move, and 13% faced increased difficulty finding shelter.

Figure 1. Self-reported impacts of immigration enforcement raids and related events among PATHS respondents

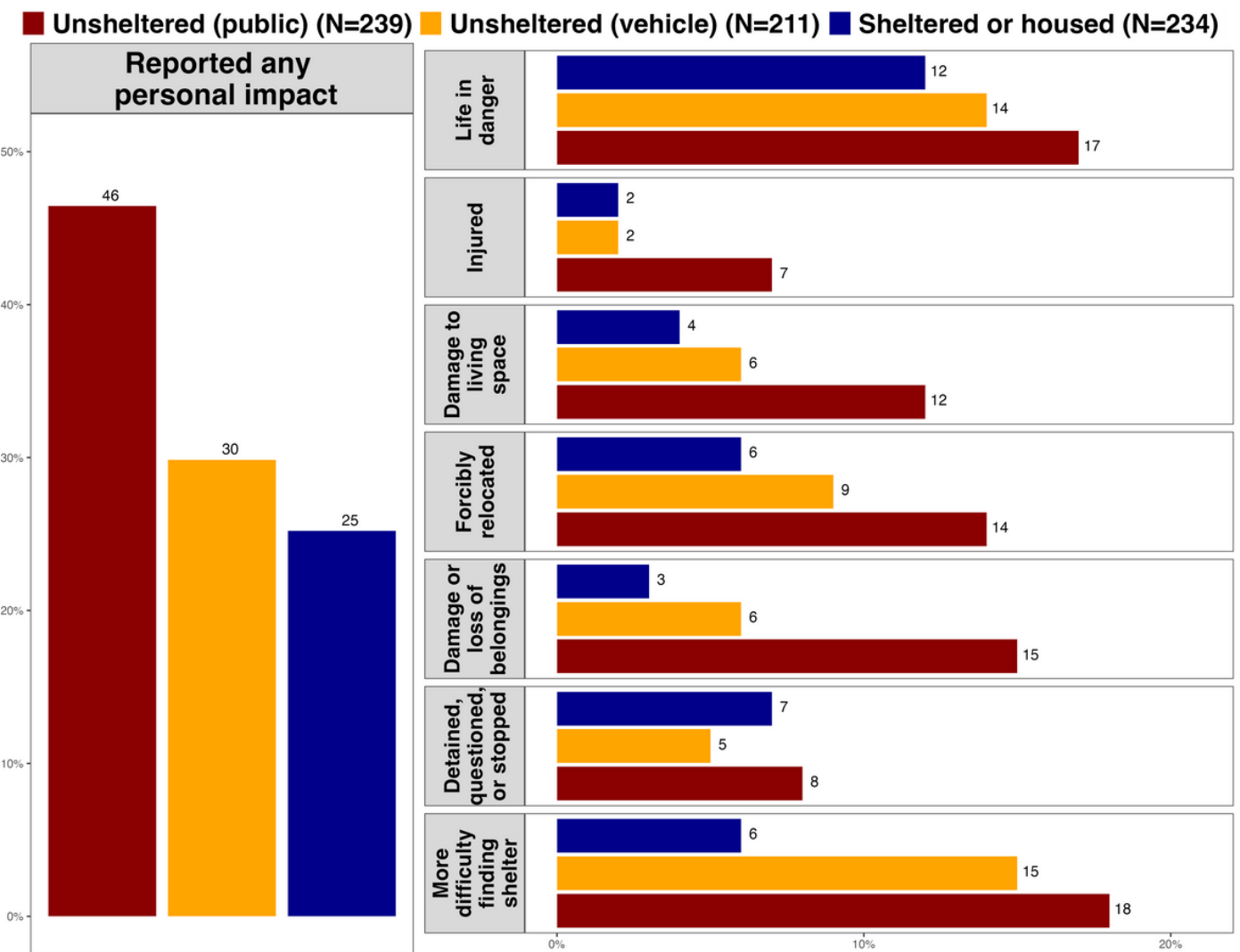


In open-ended responses, several participants expressed fear of being confronted by immigration and other law enforcement officers, which restricted their mobility and disrupted daily activities such as going to work. Many also reported limited access to essential resources due to the early closure of key service sites. Others described feeling racially targeted and shared a broader sense of unease, intimidation, and fear in response to the current political climate.

One respondent reported that their dogs had been taken to an animal shelter, depriving them of safety. One respondent wrote, “Them kidnapping ppl off the streets is really f***ing w my mental. Witnessing so much suffering and evil is making me have to turn back to drugs to cope.”

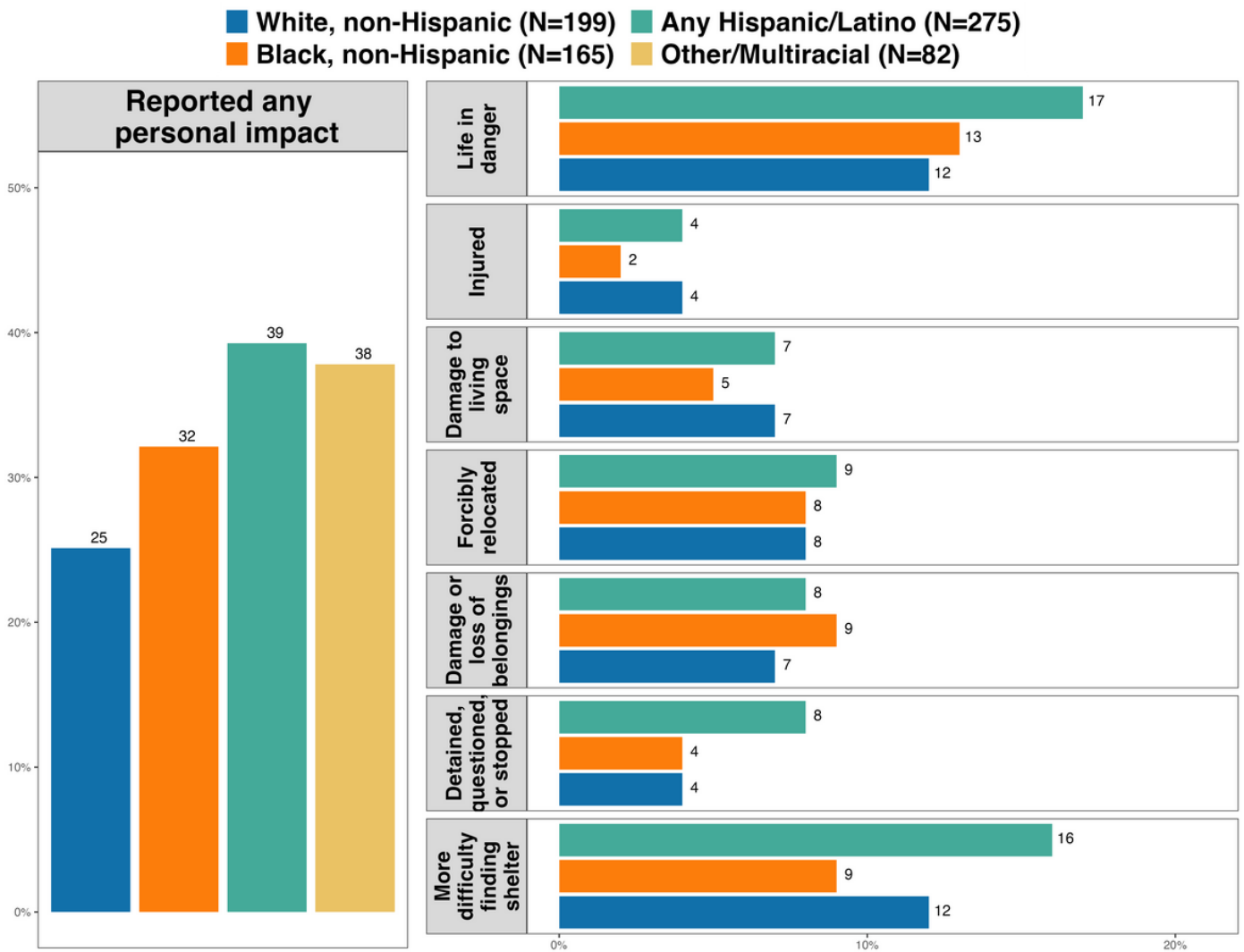
When broken down by housing status, publicly unsheltered individuals consistently experienced the most harm across all categories: 17% reported feeling their life was in danger, and they also experienced higher rates of injury, forced relocations, damage to belongings, and difficulty accessing shelter. Overall, publicly unsheltered respondents were nearly twice as likely to report any harm (46%) as those sleeping indoors (25%). Vehicle dwellers experienced moderately elevated risks (30% overall), primarily due to difficulty in finding shelter (15%).

Figure 2. Self-reported impacts, by most often housing status in the past month



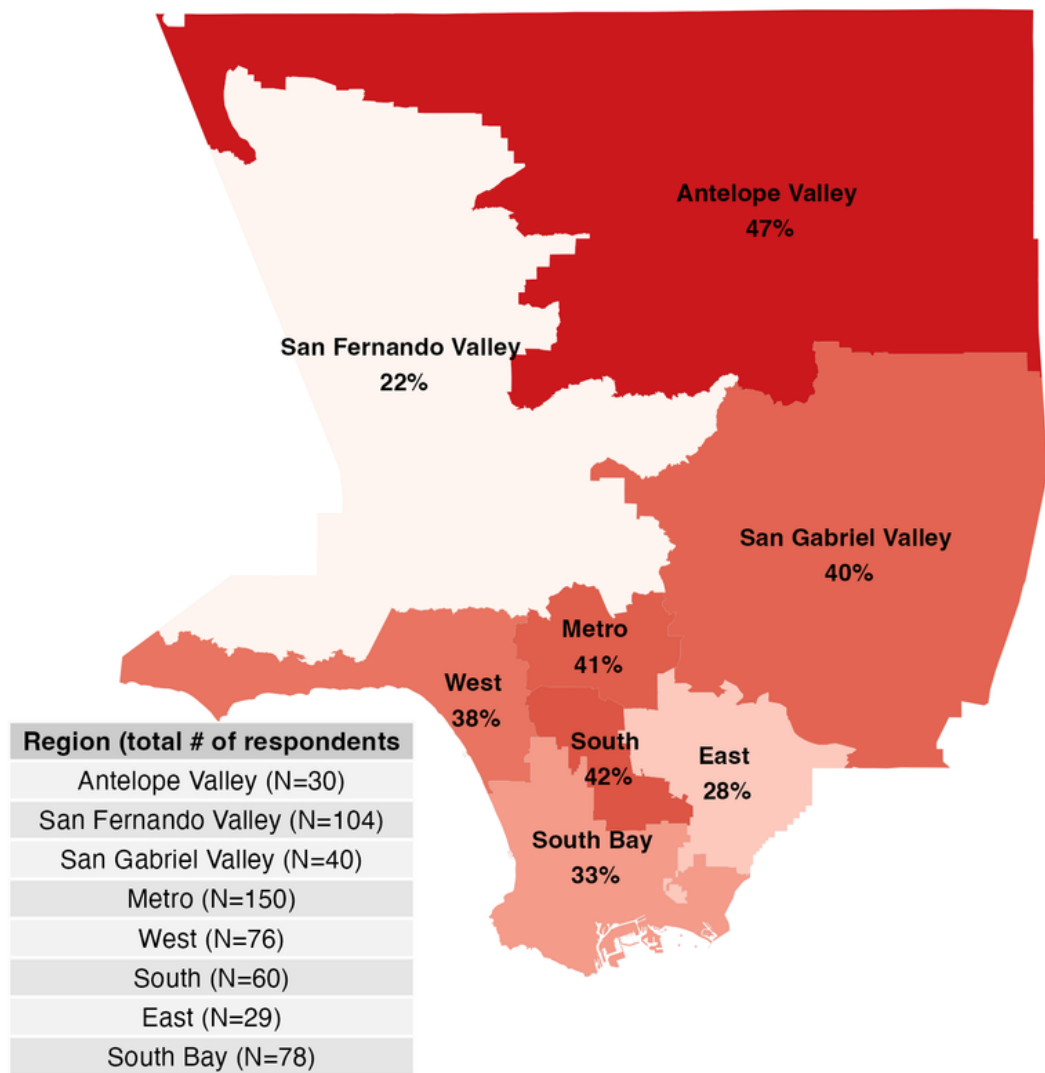
Rates of impact were high across all race/ethnic groups, but notable disparities were observed. Latino/Hispanic respondents reported the highest rates of overall impact (39%). Among multiracial or other race respondents (including those of Asian or American Indian descent), 38% reported some impact. Hispanic respondents reported the highest risk of feeling that their life was in danger or having difficulty finding shelter. Multiracial individuals experienced the highest levels of physical injury, damage to living spaces, and forced relocation. Both Multiracial and Latino/Hispanic respondents also reported elevated rates of being detained, questioned, or stopped by police. In contrast, Non-Hispanic Black respondents showed somewhat lower rates of injury and police contact, but experienced similar rates of property loss compared to other groups. Non-Hispanic White individuals generally reported the lowest overall harm, though the gap was smaller in certain categories, particularly damage to belongings.

Figure 3. Self-reported impacts, by race/ethnicity



Geographically, impacts were unevenly distributed across the public health Service Planning Areas (SPAs) of LA County, reflecting variations in enforcement activity, demographic and immigration status concentrations, and the presence of large-scale protests and curfews. Rates were elevated in Metro (downtown) and South LA, the areas hardest hit by raids, protests and curfews. Rates were highest in the Antelope Valley, though we note that the sample size was quite small (n=30). Rates were lower in the San Fernando Valley (22%) and East LA (28%).

Figure 4. Self-reported impacts, by region



*Regions refer to the Service Planning Areas (SPAs) of Los Angeles County

CONCLUSION

These findings underscore the compounded vulnerabilities experienced by unhoused individuals during periods of intensified state enforcement and civil unrest. Unhoused people are simply more exposed to these conditions because they have no choice but to spend more time in public spaces. Second, unhoused people are frequently criminalized and at risk of excessive policing. There is also considerable overlap between populations who are unhoused and those who work as day laborers and other precarious workers, and these populations also often congregate in similar spaces. For all these reasons, it should come as no surprise that our preliminary results point to heightened fear and significant disruptions to daily life, particularly among unsheltered individuals and people of color.

While further analysis is ongoing, these early insights highlight an urgent need for public officials, policymakers, and service providers to proactively address the layered risks facing unhoused populations during times of aggressive enforcement activity. In the aftermath of June's actions, unhoused Angelenos may need support in regaining access to property or service resources, along with support for physical and psychosocial injuries.

Going forward, housing agencies may want to consider providing emergency shelter or congregate services (especially food, sanitation and health care) during such emergencies, much as they would during a fire, flood or heat event. The effects of this emergency, as with so many previous emergencies, also points to the need for an emergency alert and outreach system that can send warning messages, inform people of resources, and even collect data. The high uptake of the PATHS survey itself demonstrates the power of mobile phones for engaging unhoused populations.

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