



# The State Bar of California

## California Justice Gap Study

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# The California Justice Gap Study Components

- **Survey** of 3,885 adult Californians to understand the civil legal problems they faced and what they did to resolve them
- **Intake Census** of direct legal service providers funded by the State Bar
- **Recruitment and Retention Report on Legal Aid Organizations** and legal aid attorneys from the Legal Aid Association of California
- **Law Student Survey** on the impact of the cost of legal education and the effect on career choices and access to justice

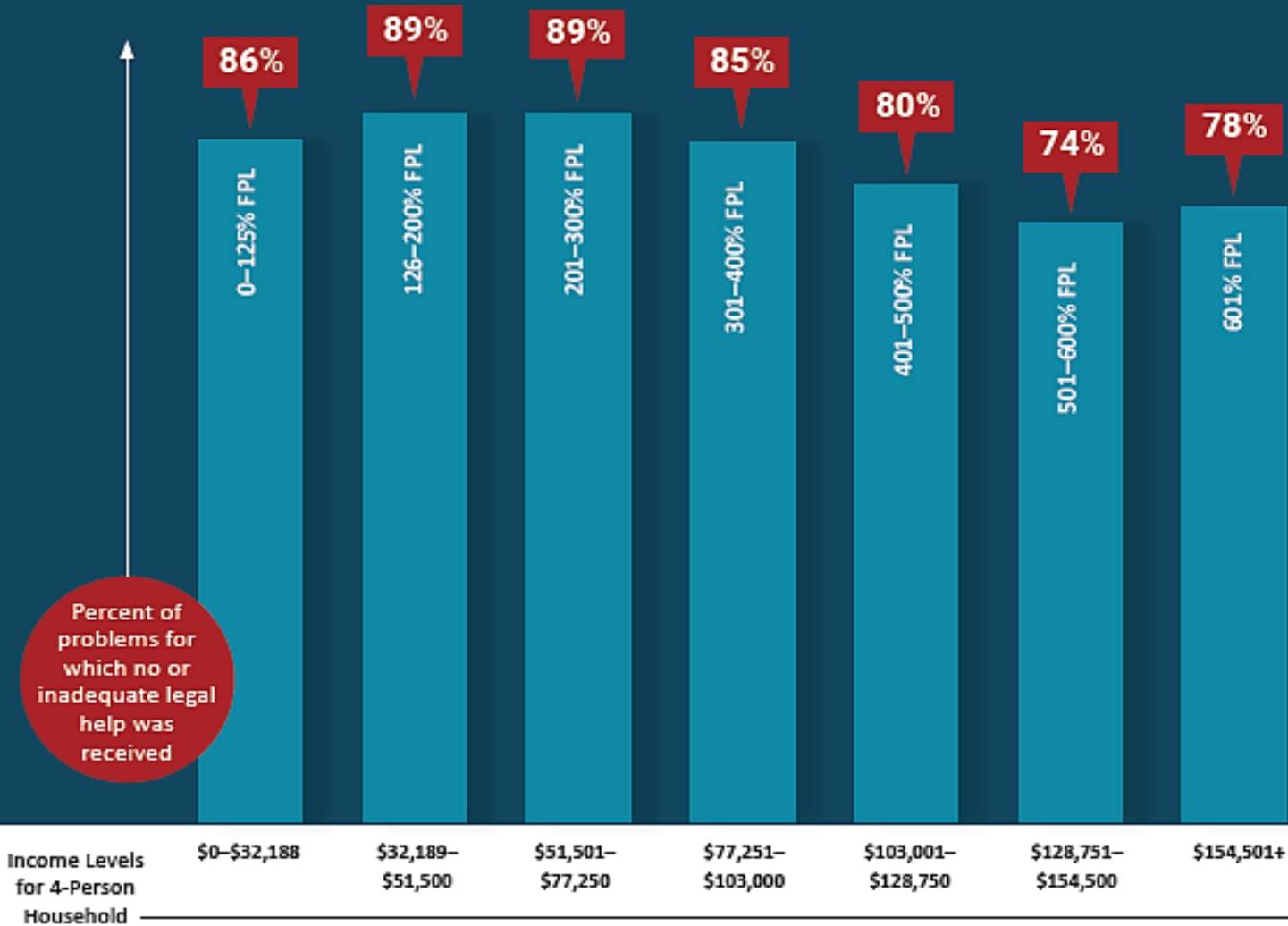


## California Justice Gap Study Key Findings

- 55% of Californian's experienced at least one civil legal issue;
  - 13% of Californians experienced 6 or more problems
- Health, Finance, and Employment were the main legal problem types faced by Californians, regardless of income
- Fewer than 1 in 3 Californians sought legal help
  - Highlights a **knowledge gap** about legal issues
  - Legal aid can only fully resolving one-third of the problems presented by low-income Californians highlighting one area of the **service gap**
- One-third of legal aid attorneys leave organizations within 2 years
- \$147,000 is the expected median law school debt for 80% of Californian ABA law students

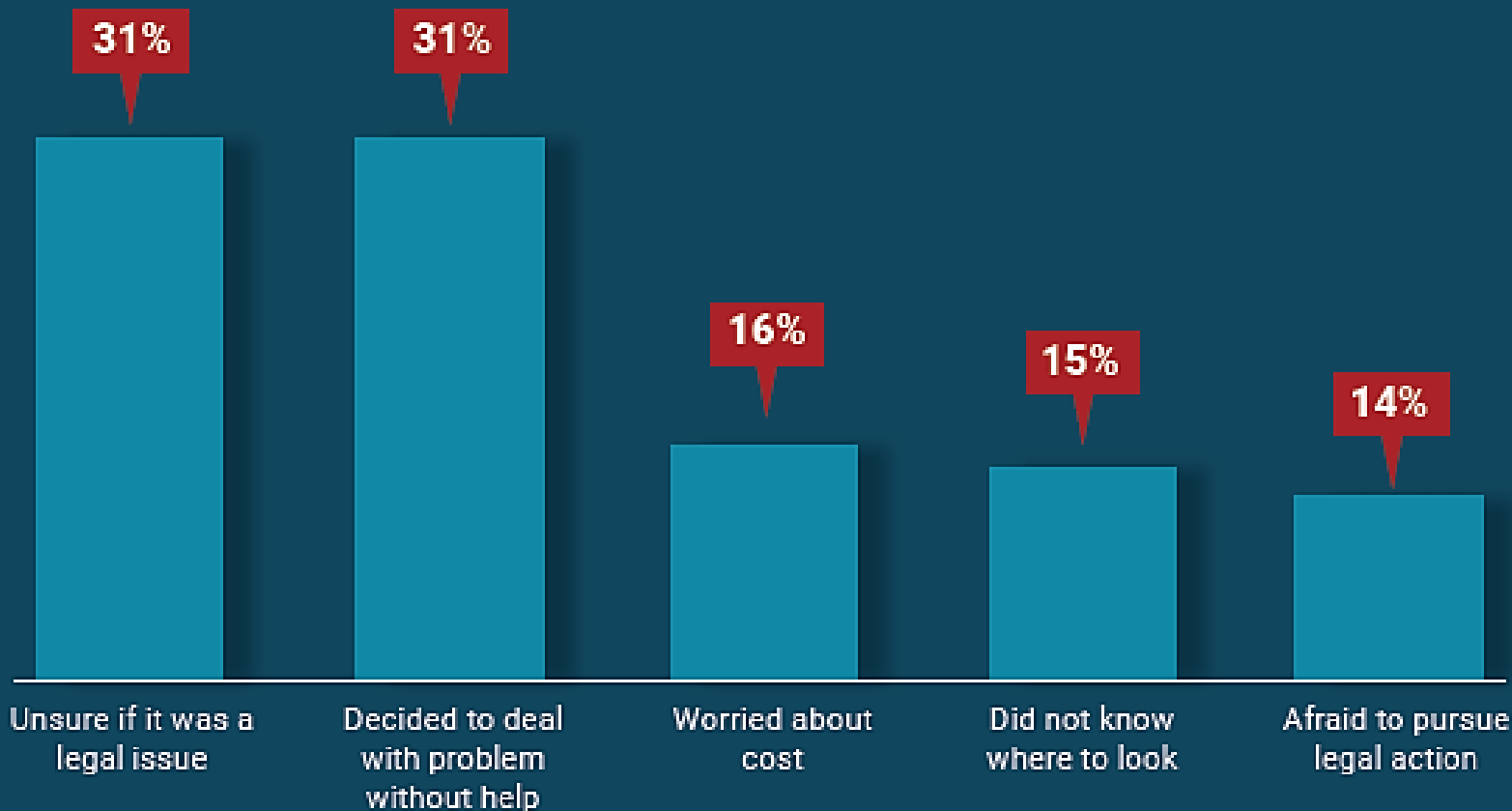


### THE JUSTICE GAP EXISTS AT ALL INCOME LEVELS





## TOP REASONS FOR NOT SEEKING LEGAL HELP





## TYPE OF LEGAL HELP CALIFORNIANS RECEIVED FOR THEIR PROBLEMS



### OFFLINE

49%

Legal advice

34%

Filling out documents or forms

23%

Legal professional helped negotiate with other parties

14%

Referral to legal information online

12%

Represented by a legal professional in court



### ONLINE

41%

Info about procedures used to solve similar issues

36%

The rights people have and what the law says

22%

Information on how to get legal help

12%

Looked for a lawyer



# TOP PROBLEM TYPES FOR WHICH CALIFORNIANS SOUGHT AND RECEIVED LEGAL HELP

## All Californians



**73%**  
Wills & Estates



**61%**  
Custody



**58%**  
Family

## Californians at or below 125% FPL



**54%**  
Custody



**50%**  
Home-ownership



**47%**  
Immigration

## Californians above 125% FPL



**77%**  
Wills & Estates



**67%**  
Family



**54%**  
Custody



# Sources of Offline Legal Help for Californians

**49%** Paid private attorney

**31%** Legal aid

**12%** Social or human services organizations

**10%** Self-help centers at court



**10%** Volunteer attorneys

**6%** Legal hotlines

**3%** Disability service providers

**3%** Notary public