1/3 of teens report experiencing abuse in their romantic relationships, including verbal and emotional abuse.¹
1/5 of teens report being physically or sexually abused by a boyfriend or girlfriend.²
40% of girls age 14-17 report knowing someone their age that has been beaten or physically hurt by a boyfriend.³
Girls and women between ages of 16-24 are the most vulnerable to domestic violence, experiencing the highest per capita rates of non-fatal intimate partner violence.⁴

Local Statistics

In 2007, there were 1,501 domestic violence related police reports filed in Oakland involving a youth between the ages of 12-24. This means that one third of the total dating and domestic violence calls in Oakland involved the city’s youth.⁵
In 2005, four of the seven domestic/dating violence-related deaths in Alameda County were teen victims.⁶
In Oakland Unified School District (OUSD), the number of middle and high school youth receiving teen dating violence prevention education has dramatically declined in recent years. In 2007, 4% of youth received 1 hour of dating violence prevention education, and 3% received 2-6 hours of prevention education. Over 90% of OUSD middle and high school students received no dating violence prevention education at all.⁷

Results of Internal Study Conducted by Task Force

A study of 232 youth ages 14-24 in Alameda County revealed that 43.5% of youth reported being intimidated, physically hurt, and/or emotionally abused by a boyfriend or girlfriend when specifically asked about an abusive behavior.⁸
Of these 43.5% only 23.7% of youth directly answered yes, to the question of whether or not they a boyfriend or girlfriend had ever been abusive towards them; demonstrating a lack of awareness of what abusive behaviors are.
Of the 43.5% of youth 22% reported being physically abused, 25% reported being intimidated, and 24% reported being threatened by a boyfriend or girlfriend.⁸

Additional Facts

Teens who are involved in abusive relationships are substantially more likely than their classmates to bring guns to school and three times as likely to be involved in a physical fight.⁹
Teen victims of relationship violence exhibit increased rates of eating disorders; high-risk sexual behaviors; and increased teen pregnancy and suicide rates.¹⁰

⁵ Study conducted by Family Violence Law Center. Based on internal data from the Family Violence Intervention Unit of the Oakland Police Department. 2007.
⁶ Data from Alameda County District Attorney’s Office. 2006.
⁷ Data from Alameda County Teen Dating Violence Task Force.2008.
⁸ Colon, Tatiana. Internal study on teen dating violence conducted by the Alameda County Teen Dating Violence Task Force. 2008.