

# **2008 Teen Dating Violence Fact Sheet**

*Developed by the Alameda County Teen Dating Violence Task Force*

## **National Statistics**

- 1/3 teens report experiencing abuse in their romantic relationships, including verbal and emotional abuse.<sup>1</sup>
- 1/5 teens report being physically or sexually abused a boyfriend or girlfriend<sup>2</sup>
- 40% of girls age 14-17 report knowing someone their age that has been beaten or physically hurt by a boyfriend<sup>3</sup>
- 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.<sup>4</sup>

## **Local Statistics**

- Last year there were 1,501 domestic violence related calls reported to the Oakland Police Department 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.<sup>5</sup>
- In 2006, four of the seven domestic violence-related deaths in Alameda County were teen victims.<sup>6</sup>

## **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.<sup>7</sup>
- 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.<sup>7</sup>

## **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.<sup>8</sup>
- Teen victims of relationship violence exhibit increased rates of eating disorders; high-risk sexual behaviors; and increased teen pregnancy and suicide rates.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Carolyn Tucker Halpern, et al., "Partner Violence Among Adolescents in Opposite-Sex Romantic Relationships: Findings From the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health." *American Journal of Public Health* 91 (2001).

<sup>2</sup> Jay G. Silverman, et al., "Dating Violence Against Adolescent Girls and Associated Substance Use, Unhealthy Weight Control, Sexual Risk Behavior, Pregnancy, and Suicidality." *Journal of the American Medical Association* 286 (October 2001) 572.

<sup>3</sup>. As cited by Family Violence Prevention Fund from Children Now/Kaiser Permanente Poll, December 1995.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Intimate Partner Violence and Age of Victim, 1993-1999." October 2001.

<sup>5</sup>. Study conducted by Family Violence Law Center. Based on internal data from the Family Violence Intervention Unit of the Oakland Police Department. 2007.

<sup>6</sup>. Data from Alameda County District Attorney's Office. 2006.

<sup>7</sup>. Colon, Tatiana. Internal study on teen dating violence conducted by the Alameda County Teen Dating Violence Task Force. 2008.

<sup>8</sup>. Schoen, C., Davis, K., Collins, K., Greenberg, L., Des Roches, C., Abrams, M. 1997. The Commonwealth Fund Survey of the Health of Adolescent Girls. The Commonwealth Fund. New York, NY

<sup>9</sup>. Jay G. Silverman, et al., "Dating Violence Against Adolescent Girls and Associated Substance Use, Unhealthy Weight Control, Sexual Risk Behavior, Pregnancy, and Suicidality." *Journal of the American Medical Association* 286 (October 2001) 572.

