Teen Dating Violence – The Real Deal from a Youth Perspective

Research Conducted by the Rogers Park Young Women’s Action Team (October 2004)

In Spring 2004, we collected surveys from 296 youth ages 13 to 19. 82% of respondents were female and 18% were male. 56% of respondents were African-American, 16.4% were Latino, 11.5% were mixed race, 6.3% were White, 5.2% were Asian.

- 11.1% of teen respondents to our survey said that they have been/are in an abusive relationship. 4.8% said that they were not sure.
- 79% of our survey respondents said that they believed that “dating violence is a big issue among teens.”
- 62.1% of teens said they know other teens who are or have been in an abusive/violent relationship.
- 54% of teens believe that “if someone is being abused, it is not his/her fault.”
- Most teens identify “REAL” violence as physical violence as opposed to emotional abuse.
- A majority of teens (69%) said that they probably would or definitely would break up with their partner if he/she were ever to grab, shove, slap or punch them.
- 74% of our respondents said they would probably or definitely grab, slap, or punch the person back. 52% would get a family member to do this.
- 81% said that they probably or definitely would talk to a friend about the abuse.
- Only 39% of teens that we surveyed would talk to a family member about being abused.
- 19% would probably or definitely talk to a teacher, pastor, or counselor if they were being abused.
- Only 12% probably or definitely would call a dating/domestic violence hotline for advice.
- Most teens that we surveyed didn’t know of many places for teens who are in abusive relationships to get help.