

LOVE & JUSTICE
COMMUNITY UNITED AGAINST VIOLENCE (CUAV)

**2005-06 YOUTH RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE
SURVEY FINDINGS**

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Report Distribution

While CUAV wants this information to be broadly distributed and used by the community, it is always helpful to return to the source for follow up and technical assistance. Whenever this report or sections of it are used, please contact Community United Against Violence and the Love & Justice Project. Additional copies of the report may be obtained by request.

2005-06 Youth Relationship Violence Survey Findings, Love & Justice Project of Community United Against Violence (CUAV), August 2006.

I. OVERVIEW & METHODS

The Community United Against Violence (CUAV) Love & Justice program focuses on awareness of LGBTQ relationship violence in an effort to promote healthy self-esteem and relationships free of violence. This peer-based, peer-run program provides survival, organizing, educational, and job skills training to LGBTQ youth ages 13-24. Youth interns have conducted outreach and advocated for a number of issues impacting queer youth.

In 2000, Community United Against Violence (CUAV) and Lavender Youth Recreation & Information Center (LYRIC) conducted a needs assessment study about LGBTQ youth in the San Francisco Bay Area. The findings of this study informed Love & Justice program planning and community education during the past five years.

In 2005, the CUAV Love & Justice Project designed and conducted a survey to revisit some of the findings of the previous assessment and add to available information about the youth it reaches. The results of the 2005-06 Relationship Violence Survey are presented in this report.

Methods

In collaboration with Rachel Lanzerotti Consulting, CUAV developed a four-page survey instrument that included some questions from the 2000 survey, as well as new questions that reflect changes in Love & Justice programs. Love & Justice youth organizers reviewed a pilot version of the survey before distribution. The final survey instrument is included in the Appendices to this report.

From September to December 2005, CUAV distributed surveys to various venues, including the following organizations and events:

- Avenues to Independence
- California Youth Connection
- CUAV Speakers Bureau
- Guerrero House
- Huckleberry House
- June Jordan High School
- Larkin Street Youth Services
- Lavender Youth Recreation & Information Center
- Love & Justice
- Out Home Youth Advocacy Council
- SMAAC (Sexual Minority Alliance of Alameda County)
- Women's Building
- YES Conference (GSA Network)
- Youth Leadership Institute

Youth organizers and the Love & Justice Coordinator distributed the surveys at these events, as well as via email, and at the CUAV office. They offered each respondent the incentive of a bath and body product, in appreciation for their time and effort for completing the survey.

One hundred eight (108) young people completed the self-administered survey. Love & Justice staff estimated that about 250 relationship violence surveys were distributed, which would suggest a response rate of about 43%.

We entered survey data into a database in the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software. Data were cleaned and recoded as necessary for analysis. We ran frequencies of response to each item and analyzed open-ended responses for thematic content.

Limitations & Strengths

Relationship violence survey respondents do not represent a random sample. Rather, they are youth within the reach of CUAV and other community-based organizations. Therefore they may represent youth who already are connected to community support, and findings about their experiences may not be generalized to those of other San Francisco Bay Area youth.

The survey instrument was developed and tested with youth organizers at CUAV. Youth organizers also distributed the survey during their outreach efforts, potentially reaching respondents who otherwise might be reluctant to complete a survey about their experiences with relationship violence.

The relationship violence survey was developed and distributed at the same time as a Love & Justice survey focused on hate violence, and many respondents completed both surveys. Some confusion about the similarities and differences between the two surveys may have impacted respondents' answers and therefore biased the findings. A recommendation for the future is to combine the surveys or stagger their distribution so as to eliminate confusion and "survey burn-out."

Whenever possible, we offer a comparison of the results of the 2005 and 2000 surveys. However, the original data set for the 2000 survey was not available. Thus comparisons are based on findings as reported in "Queer Youth Relationship Violence: A Needs Assessment Report," and are not based on reanalysis of previous data.

A largely quantitative survey cannot fully capture the depth and texture of respondents' experiences. Complementary qualitative methods, such as focus groups or case studies, are recommended for the future, in order to round out the findings presented in this report.

II. YOUTH CHARACTERISTICS

Respondents reflect a diversity and complexity of identities. The survey design itself mirrored this complexity in presenting multiple response options for characteristics such as ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation.

- The age range for respondents was 14 to 25 years old, with an average age of 20 years. Slightly less than thirty percent (28%) are under eighteen.
- Over forty percent (42%) of respondents identified as multiracial and/or selected multiple options for their racial or ethnic background. Over one-third (35%) is African American/Black, just under one-third (32%) is Caucasian/White, and one-quarter (25%) is Latino/a.
- Over half (52%) of respondents are female, while over one-third (34%) is male. Five percent (5%) are FTM and four percent (4%) are MTF. Three percent (3%) are genderqueer, two percent (2%) identify as transgender, two percent (2%) identify as transsexual, and two percent (2%) are questioning. These are not mutually exclusive identities, and respondents could select multiple options.
- About one-third (32%) of respondents identify as bisexual. Eighteen percent (18%) identify as queer. Another eighteen percent (18%) are lesbian, seventeen percent (17%) are heterosexual, and sixteen percent (16%) are gay. These are not mutually exclusive identities, and respondents could select multiple options.
- One-third of respondents (33%), have completed high school or a GED. Thirty-five percent (35%) have completed some high school, and another thirty-five percent (35%) have completed some college or are college graduates. Education is largely a proxy for the age of youth respondents, meaning these are the current grade levels completed rather than suggesting a terminal grade level.
- Survey respondents live in many different cities around the Bay Area, representing 43 zip codes. Fifty-four percent (54%) reside in San Francisco.
- Forty-six percent (46%) of respondents currently are living with family. Sixteen percent (16%) are living with friends, and eleven percent (11%) of respondents live alone. Seven percent (7%) live with a partner.

A “typical” young person who completed the survey would be a 20 year-old, multi-racial person who identifies as female and bisexual. Most likely, she has completed high school or some college and lives with family in San Francisco.

Table 1 below presents a summary of the characteristics of respondents to the 2005-06 survey.

Table 1: Characteristics of Respondents

| Age (n=107) | Average = 20 years Range = 14 to 25 years | |
|--|--|-----|
| Gender Identification * (n=108) | Female | 52% |
| | Male | 34% |
| | FTM | 5% |
| | MTF | 4% |
| | Genderqueer | 3% |
| | Transgender | 2% |
| | Transsexual | 2% |
| | Questioning | 2% |
| | Intersex | 0% |
| | Other | 4% |
| Racial/Ethnic Background * (n=108) | Multi-Racial | 42% |
| | African American/Black | 35% |
| | Caucasian/White | 32% |
| | Latino/a | 25% |
| | Asian | 13% |
| | American Indian/Native American | 12% |
| | Pacific Islander | 5% |
| | African/Afro-Caribbean | 3% |
| | Arab/Middle Eastern | 1% |
| | Other | 7% |
| Sexual Identification * (n=108) | Bisexual | 32% |
| | Queer | 18% |
| | Lesbian | 18% |
| | Heterosexual | 17% |
| | Gay | 16% |
| | Questioning | 7% |
| | On the DL | 4% |
| | Pansexual | 3% |
| | Other | 2% |
| Education (n=103) | 8 th grade | 2% |
| | 9 th grade | 11% |
| | 10 th grade | 10% |
| | 11 th grade | 14% |
| | 12 grade, high school or GED | 33% |
| | Some college | 17% |
| | College graduate | 18% |
| Living Situation (n=108) | Family | 46% |
| | Friends | 16% |
| | Alone | 11% |
| | Partner | 7% |
| | Foster care | 3% |
| | Homeless | 3% |
| | Shelter | 3% |
| | Other (primarily transitional housing) | 11% |

* Because respondents could select multiple response options, percentages add up to greater than 100%.

Comparison of 2000 and 2005 Survey Respondents

The following table presents a comparison of characteristics of the respondents in 2000 and 2005. It is notable that in 2005, more of the respondents are female and transgender than in 2000. The proportions of people who are multi-racial, African American/Black, Latino/a, and/or Native American have increased greatly. A greater proportion identified as bisexual in 2005 than in 2000, and a smaller proportion identified as gay. This could reflect a change in who is being reached by Love & Justice due to program and outreach strategies, and it also could be related to sample selection.

Table 2: Comparison of 2000 and 2005 Survey Respondents' Characteristics

| Category | 2000 Survey | 2005 Survey | Comparison |
|---------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Age | Mean age 19 Range 14 to 24 years | Mean age 20 Range 14 to 25 years | The median age and age range of respondents were very similar in 2000 and 2005. |
| Gender Identification | Male 48%; Female 37%; Transgender 9% (FTM: 5%; MTF 3%); Questioning 6% | Female 52%; Male 34%; FTM 5%; MTF 4%; Genderqueer 3%; Transgender 12%; Transsexual 2%; Questioning 2%; Intersex 0%; Other 4% | In 2005 more respondents chose "Female" as their gender identity, compared to "Male." This is reversed from 2000. A greater proportion (12%) identify as "Transgender." A smaller proportion identify as "Questioning." |
| Racial/Ethnic Background | Multiracial/Biracial 28%; Caucasian/White 21%; African American/Black 17%; Latino/a 15%; Asian/Pacific Islander 13%; American Indian/Native American 3%; Other 4% | Multiracial 42%; African American/Black 35%; Caucasian/White 32%; Latino/a 25%; Asian 13%; American Indian/Native American 12%; Pacific Islander 5%; African/Afro-Caribbean 3%; Arab/Middle Eastern 1%; Other 7% | The proportions of "Multiracial," "African American/Black," "Latino/a," and "Native American" increased greatly in 2005. (Multiracial was recoded to include both those who selected this response and those who chose multiple response options.) |
| Sexual Identification | Gay/Homosexual 30%; Lesbian 21%; Bisexual 25%; Queer 17%; Heterosexual 3%; Other 3% | Bisexual 32%; Queer 18%; Lesbian 18%; Heterosexual 17%; Gay 16%; Questioning 7%; On the DL 4%; Pansexual 3%; Other 2% | Close to one-third identified as "Bisexual" in 2005, as compared to one-quarter in 2000. Many fewer respondents identified as "Gay" in 2005. A much higher proportion of the respondents identified as "Heterosexual" in 2005 than in 2000. |
| Education | Some college 39%; 9 th to 11 th 27%; High School/GED 24%; College Graduate 6%; 6 th 8 th 3%; Trade/Vocational 1% | 8 th 2%; 9 th to 11 th 35%; High School/GED 33%; Some College 17%; College graduate 18% | A smaller proportion of respondents in 2005 than in 2000 had completed "Some College." However, a greater proportion of respondents in 2005 than 2000 were "College Graduates." |
| Living Situation | Family 54%; Friends 21%; Alone 12%; Partner 6%; Shelter 3%; Foster care 3%; Homeless 2% | Family 46%; Friends 16%; Alone 11%; Partner 7%; Foster Care 3%; Homeless 3%; Shelter 3%; Other 11% | The distribution of respondents across types of living situation remained very similar from 2000 to 2005, with slightly smaller proportions living with family and friends in 2005. |

Dating & Romantic Partners

Almost half (47%) of respondents have been involved in casual dating in the past two years, while one-third (33%) have had one steady partner, and over one-quarter (26%) have had no relationships, as shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3:
Types of Relationships in Last Two Years
(n=78)

| Type of Relationship | % |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Casual dating | 47% |
| One steady partner | 33% |
| No relationships | 26% |
| Multiple partners over time | 21% |
| One time sexual encounters | 15% |
| Multiple partners at a time | 11% |
| Relationships with persons over 30 | 8% |
| Sex work | 7% |
| Pick-ups | 7% |

* Because respondents could select multiple response options, percentages add up to greater than 100%.

Respondents' relationship experiences differ by age. Among respondents under age 18 years, the greatest proportions report "casual dating" (37%), "no relationships" (30%), and "one steady partner" (27%) in the last two years. None of these respondents under 18 have had "relationships with persons over 30," "sex work," or "pick-ups" in the last two years. (n=30)

Among respondents who have a current relationship, Table 4 below presents the genders and sexual identifications of partners/hooks-ups.

**Table 4:
Current Partners'/Hook-ups' Gender & Sexual Identification**

| | | |
|--|---------------------|-----|
| Gender Identification of Current Partners'/Hook-ups (n=72) | Female | 63% |
| | Male | 44% |
| | Questioning | 4% |
| | Genderqueer | 4% |
| | FTM | 3% |
| | MTF | 3% |
| | Transgender | 3% |
| | Transsexual | 1% |
| | Intersex | 1% |
| | Other | 1% |
| Sexual Identification of Current Partners'/Hook-ups | Lesbian (n=70) | 40% |
| | Heterosexual (n=71) | 31% |
| | Bisexual (n=71) | 27% |
| | Gay (n=71) | 23% |
| | Queer (n=70) | 14% |
| | On the DL (n=70) | 6% |
| | Questioning (n=70) | 4% |
| | Pansexual (n=70) | 3% |
| | Other (n=70) | 1% |

* Because respondents could select multiple response options, percentages add up to greater than 100%.

- As shown in the table above, current partners/hook-ups of respondents are two-thirds (63%) female and forty-four percent (44%) male.
- Forty percent (40%) of current partners/hook-ups of respondents are lesbian, while just over thirty percent (31%) are heterosexual. Twenty-seven percent (27%) are bisexual, and twenty-three percent (23%) are gay. Fourteen percent (14%) are queer.
- About one-third of survey respondents reported that they have “no current partner/hook-up.”

Comparison of 2000 and 2005 Partner/Hook-Up Characteristics

Respondents to the 2005 survey reported a greater proportion of female than male partners, a reversal from 2000 responses. In addition, the greatest proportions of partners in 2005 were lesbian or heterosexual, as compared to over one-third with gay partners in 2000. This comparison is detailed in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Comparison of 2000 and 2005 Partner/Hook-Up Characteristics

| Category | 2000 Survey | 2005 Survey | Comparison |
|----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Partner Gender Identification | Male 54%; Female 34%; Transgender 5% | Female 63%; Male 44%; Questioning 4%; Genderqueer 4%; FTM 3%; MTF 3%; Transgender 3%; Transsexual 1%; Intersex 1%; Other 1% | In 2005 more of respondents' partners are "Female" than "Male." This is reversed from 2000. Transgender identities are broken out more in 2005 responses. |
| Partner Sexuality Identification | Gay (36%); Lesbian (24%); Bisexual (24%); Heterosexual (9%) | Lesbian 40%; Heterosexual 31%; Bisexual 27%; Gay 23%; Queer 14%; On the DL 6%; Questioning 4%; Pansexual 3%; Other 1% | In 2005 more of respondents' partners are "Lesbian." A much greater proportion are "Heterosexual" in 2005 than in 2000. (Note that a greater proportion of respondents are heterosexual as well.) |

Note that the 2000 survey did not ask about types of relationships but rather about time span in relationships and relationship frequency.

This comparison is interesting in Love & Justice prevention and outreach messages can draw on understanding respondents' relationship types and their partners' identities.

III. COMING OUT & COMMUNITY ISSUES

In the 2005-06 survey, Love & Justice asked respondents, “How ‘out’ do you consider yourself,” with regards to both sexual identity and gender identity. The addition of gender identity in 2005-06 was a new feature of the survey, reflecting changes in the past five years in the articulation of gender diversity and, in particular, transgender visibility and activism. Table 6 below summarizes responses to a variety of statements about coming out.

Table 6: “How ‘out’ do you consider yourself?”
(n=98)

| How ‘out’ do you consider yourself? | Sexual Identity | Gender Identity |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| No one knows | 4% | 1% |
| I’m still figuring things out | 31% | 25% |
| I’ve told my family | 35% | 20% |
| I’ve told my friends | 34% | 12% |
| I’m out at my workplace | 21% | 8% |
| I’m out at school | 19% | 6% |
| Everyone knows | 27% | 26% |
| I’m an out and proud activist! | 33% | 22% |

* Because respondents could select multiple response options, percentages add up to greater than 100%.

- In 2005-06, one-third (33%) of respondents said, “I’m an out and proud activist!” about sexual identity. This is the same proportion that reported they were “out and proud” in 2000.
- Nearly the same percentages of respondents said, “everyone knows” about their sexual identity in 2005-06 and in 2000 (27% and 28%, respectively).
- The 2000 survey found that a majority of respondents were not out to family, friends, at school, nor at work. In 2005-06, just over one-third have told family (35%) and about one-third have told friends (34%) about their sexual identity. About one-fifth are out at work (21%) or out at school (19%) about sexual identity.
- In 2005-06, just over thirty percent (31%) said “I’m still figuring things out” about sexual identity, and four percent (4%) said “no one knows.”

These findings suggest a split among respondents, between those who are “out and proud” and those for whom sexual identity is not revealed in all contexts.

New in the 2005-06 survey is the inclusion of questions about how “out” respondents consider themselves about gender identity.

- Over one-fifth (22%) of respondents said, “I’m an out and proud activist!” about gender identity.

- Twenty-six percent (26%) of respondents said, “everyone knows” about their gender identity.
- One-quarter (25%) said, “I’m still figuring things out,” about gender identity. Interestingly, this is a smaller proportion than those who said they are figuring out their sexual identity.

Community Issues

From a list of ten issues, we asked respondents to rank the community issues of greatest importance to them. Table 7 below shows the ranking, with **community safety** (56%), **HIV/STIs** (41%), **family issues** (38%), and **drug and alcohol use/abuse** (38%) at the top of the list of concerns.

Table 7: Issues of Most Importance
(n=108)

| Community Issue | % |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Community safety | 56% |
| HIV/STIs | 41% |
| Family issues | 38% |
| Drug and alcohol use/abuse | 38% |
| Community space/resources | 33% |
| Racism | 31% |
| Homelessness | 25% |
| School issues | 16% |
| Religion | 9% |
| Police abuse | 5% |
| Other | 7% |

Respondents who wrote in other issues listed gay rights, homophobia, transphobia, “queer discrimination,” sexual violence, and foster care. We explored whether there was a relationship between respondents’ gender and sexual identity and the community issues they selected as priorities. No clear patterns emerged from this analysis, suggesting that prioritization of community issues does not differ by youths’ gender and sexual identity.

IV. PREVALENCE OF RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE

One challenge of asking queer youth about their experiences of relationship violence is determining how to ask questions about a sensitive topic. The 2005-06 survey approached this in several ways, including: (1) asking directly, “Have you ever felt abused in a relationship with a partner/hook-up?” (2) listing specific violent behaviors that respondents may have experienced and/or witnessed; and (3) providing opt-out response options to questions, i.e. “I have not witnessed or experienced relationship violence.”

- Among all respondents, thirty percent (30%) of respondents have experienced one or more forms of abuse. Sixteen percent (16%) have experienced two or more forms of abuse. (n=108)
- Among all respondents, sixteen percent (16%) reported that they “don’t know” whether they have ever felt abused in a relationship with a partner/hook-up. (n=108)

Table 8 below shows types of abuse reported, among those who said they have felt abused in a relationship.

Table 8:
Types of Abuse Experienced
Among Those Who Have Felt Abused in a Relationship
(n=30)

| Type of abuse | % | # |
|-----------------|-----|----|
| Verbal abuse | 87% | 28 |
| Physical abuse | 43% | 13 |
| Financial abuse | 30% | 9 |
| Sexual abuse | 27% | 8 |

- Among those who have felt abused in a relationship, most (87%) have experienced verbal abuse, 43% have experienced physical abuse, 30% have experienced financial abuse, and 27% have experienced sexual abuse. (n=30)
- Among respondents who have felt abused in a relationship, over half (53%) have experienced two or more forms of abuse. (n=32)

In comparison, according to the 2000 survey report, 49% of respondents “indicated they have felt abuse in their relationship(s).”

We also asked respondents about specific behaviors that they may have witnessed or experienced in the past two years in their relationships, in order to deepen findings about the prevalence of abusive behavior. Tables 9 and 10 below summarize responses to questions about whether respondents have seen and/or been the target of specific behaviors.

- Based on responses to the these questions, fifty-six percent (56%) of respondents have witnessed or experienced relationship violence, and thirty-eight percent (38%) have both witnessed and experienced relationship violence. (n=108)
- The greatest proportions of respondents have seen and/or been the target of the following behaviors: name calling or put-downs; pushing, shoving and/or slapping; and throwing objects.

Table 9 shows proportions of respondents who report being the target of violent behaviors in their relationships in the past two years.

**Table 9:
“Have You Seen This”
in Respondents’ Relationships in the Past Two Years**

| Have you seen this? | % | # |
|---|-----|----|
| Name calling or put-downs (n=104) | 41% | 43 |
| Pushing, shoving and/or slapping (n=104) | 33% | 34 |
| Throwing objects (n=104) | 31% | 32 |
| Monitoring someone’s mail, email, and phone calls (n=104) | 23% | 24 |
| Destroying someone’s belongings (n=103) | 20% | 21 |
| Threatening to do something drastic if we broke up (n=104) | 18% | 19 |
| Stealing money (n=104) | 17% | 18 |
| Threatening to harm someone or their loved ones (n=104) | 17% | 18 |
| Contacting or following someone when they don’t want to be (n=103) | 16% | 16 |
| Manipulating someone to have sex (n=103) | 16% | 16 |
| Making it difficult for someone to see their friends/family (n=104) | 15% | 16 |

- Forty-one percent (41%) have seen name calling or put-downs in their relationships in the past two years.
- One-third (33%) have seen pushing, shoving and/or slapping in their relationships in the past two years.
- Over thirty percent (31%) have seen throwing objects in their relationships in the past two years.

In comparison, in 2000 the greatest proportions had witnessed: name calling or put-downs (48%); objects being thrown (48%); yelling/shouting (46%); and pushing/shoving (44%).

Table 10 shows proportions of respondents who report being the target of violent behaviors in their relationships in the past two years.

**Table 10:
“Have You Been the Target of This”
in Respondents’ Relationships in the Past Two Years**

| Have you been the target of this? | % | # |
|---|-----|----|
| Name calling or put-downs (n=104) | 37% | 38 |
| Pushing, shoving and/or slapping (n=104) | 23% | 24 |
| Throwing objects (n=104) | 15% | 16 |
| Destroying someone’s belongings (n=103) | 14% | 15 |
| Manipulating someone to have sex (n=103) | 14% | 14 |
| Contacting or following someone when they don’t want to be (n=104) | 13% | 13 |
| Monitoring someone’s mail, email, and phone calls (n=104) | 12% | 12 |
| Threatening to do something drastic if we broke up (n=104) | 11% | 11 |
| Threatening to harm someone or their loved ones (n=104) | 11% | 11 |
| Stealing money (n=103) | 10% | 10 |
| Making it difficult for someone to see their friends/family (n=103) | 9% | 9 |

- Thirty-seven percent (37%) of respondents have been the target of name calling or put-downs in their relationships in the past two years.
- Twenty-three percent (23%) have been the target of pushing, shoving and/or slapping in their relationships in the past two years.

In comparison, in 2000, the greatest proportions of respondents reported they had experienced: name calling/put downs (50%) and yelling/shouting.

Analysis did not yield significant differences in types of violent behavior experienced related to gender or sexual identification.

Note that throughout the 2005-06 data, there are inconsistencies in the proportions of respondents who report abuse, based on the questions they are answering. It is difficult to interpret how much variation is due to “measurement error” because the questions are worded differently. It may be that phrasing of the questions—asking whether respondents “felt abused,” “experienced” abuse, and/or “witnessed” abuse—triggered different responses. It also may be that respondents are more likely to report specific behaviors than to report that they “felt abused.”

Lastly, the survey itself may have been an intervention, in that respondents may have increased their understanding of what constitutes relationship violence while completing the survey, with later questions suggesting a trend towards lower proportions of respondents reporting no abuse as they completed the survey.

Table 11 presents locations where respondents experienced or witnessed relationship violence.

Table 11:
Where have you experienced or witnessed relationship violence?
 (n=73)

| Location | % |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Street or public area | 67% |
| Private home or apartment | 55% |
| Public transportation | 33% |
| School or college | 29% |
| Store, restaurant or business | 26% |
| Police or jail | 8% |
| GLBT event | 4% |
| Service provider or program | 4% |
| Other place | 5% |

* Because respondents could select multiple response options, percentages add up to greater than 100%.

- Respondents are most likely to have experienced or witnessed relationship violence in a street or public area (67%), private home or apartment (55%) or public transportation (33%).

The 2005-06 survey also asked respondents to report consequences for their well-being as a result of relationship violence. Table 12 summarizes the findings below.

Table 12:
Consequences of Experiencing Relationship Violence
 (n=65)

| Consequence | % |
|--|-----|
| Trouble sleeping | 37% |
| Drug use/abuse | 35% |
| Alcohol use/abuse | 29% |
| <i>A stronger commitment to my own personal safety</i> | 26% |
| Thoughts of suicide | 22% |
| <i>A stronger commitment to improve my community</i> | 20% |
| Drop in grades | 20% |
| Trouble making friends | 14% |
| <i>A stronger commitment to LGBTQQ rights</i> | 11% |
| A perception that the world is out to get me | 9% |
| Trouble with the law | 8% |
| Other | 6% |

Some respondents reacted to relationships violence with resiliency and increased commitments to personal safety and improving their community. Some reported that they have faced difficulties with sleeping and drug and alcohol use/abuse as a result of experiencing relationship violence.

- Over one-quarter (26%) reported that, as a result of experiencing relationship violence, they have “a stronger commitment to my own personal safety.” One-fifth (20%) of these respondents have “a stronger commitment to improve my community.” Another eleven percent (11%) of these respondents have “a stronger commitment to LGBTQQ rights.”
- On the other hand, thirty-seven percent (37%) report that they have “trouble sleeping,” while thirty-five percent (35%) have experienced “drug use/abuse” and almost thirty percent (29%) have experienced “alcohol use/abuse” as a result of relationship violence they have experienced.
- Twenty-two percent (22%) of respondents have “thoughts of suicide” as a result of relationship violence they have experienced.

These personal experiences with the consequences of relationship violence also echo the top three issues ranked by respondents, which included community safety and drug and alcohol use/abuse.

V. SEEKING HELP FOR RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE

The 2005-06 Love & Justice Relationship Violence Survey asked queer youth about where they looked for help regarding relationship violence and asked them to assess the helpfulness of these potential sources of support. Respondents may have looked for help from various sources at different times in their lives or regarding different incidents.

Among respondents who experienced relationship violence, Table 13 presents responses to the question, “Where did you go for help regarding relationship violence?”

Table 13:
Sources of Help Sought
Regarding Relationship Violence
(n=65)

| Source of Help | % |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Friends | 49% |
| Family | 31% |
| Nobody | 28% |
| Therapist | 15% |
| Youth Agency | 11% |
| Police | 11% |
| Queer Youth | 9% |
| LGBT Domestic Violence Program | 5% |
| Battered Women’s Service | 3% |
| Religious Advisor | 3% |
| Talk line/Hotline | 3% |
| Medical Provider | 2% |
| Teacher/School Counselor | 2% |


- Almost half (49%) of respondents who experienced relationship violence have sought help from friends regarding relationship violence.
- Over thirty percent (31%) of respondents who experienced relationship violence have sought help from family regarding relationship violence.
- Just under thirty percent (28%) of respondents sought help from “nobody” regarding relationship violence.
- Five percent (5%) of respondents who experienced relationship violence sought help from a “LGBT Domestic Violence Program.”

Analysis did not yield significant differences in where respondents sought support related to their gender identity or sexual identity.

We asked respondents to rate the helpfulness of the response they received when they asked for help regarding relationship violence. On a scale of 1 to 4, with 1 = made things worse and 4 = extremely helpful, Table 14 presents their mean (or average) helpfulness scores.

**Table 14:
How helpful was the response?**

| Where did you go for help? | Mean (1-4) |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Friends (n=42) | 3.3 |
| Family (n=29) | 3.1 |
| Youth Agency (n=9) | 3.1 |
| Queer Youth (n=9) | 3.1 |
| Therapist (n=12) | 2.8 |
| LGBT Domestic Violence Program (n=5) | 2.8 |
| Religious Advisor (n=5) | 2.8 |
| Talk line/Hotline (n=4) | 2.8 |
| Teacher/School Counselor (n=4) | 2.8 |
| Medical Provider (n=3) | 2.3 |
| Battered Women's Service (n=4) | 2.0 |
| Police (n=10) | 1.8 |



- “Friends” and “Family” were rated the most helpful.
- “Battered Women’s Service,” and “Police” were rated the least helpful.

As another measure of helpfulness of sources of support, the survey asked respondents where they would go in the future for help regarding relationship violence. Table 15 presents a comparison of responses from those who previously sought help from a specific source with all respondents.

No significant patterns were found when we conducted further analysis to determine if youths’ help-seeking behavior was correlated with their gender and sexual identities.

**Table 15:
Sources of Future Help
Among Respondents Who Sought Past Help and Among All Respondents**

| If you needed help in the future regarding relationship violence, would you go to... | Those who sought past help from this source | All respondents (n=106) |
|--|---|-------------------------|
| Friends | 81% (n=43) | 68% |
| Youth Agency | 80% (n=10) | 20% |
| Talk line/hotline | 75% (n=4) | 13% |
| Family | 73% (n=30) | 57% |
| Therapist | 67% (n=12) | 25% |
| Queer Youth | 44% (n=9) | 18% |
| LGBT Domestic Violence Program | 40% (n=5) | 39% |
| Religious Advisor | 40% (n=5) | 68% |
| Medical Provider | 33% (n=3) | 57% |
| Nobody | 27% (n=22) | 10% |
| Battered Women's Service | 25% (n=4) | 21% |
| Teacher/School Counselor | 25% (n=4) | 9% |
| Police | 20% (n=10) | 22% |

Greater proportions of respondents who sought previous help from a particular source said that they would seek help from that source again in the future, as compared to all respondents. The notable exceptions are among those who sought help from a religious advisor, medical provider, or police. As compared to all respondents, smaller proportions of those who previously sought help from these sources said they would seek help from them in the future.

- The greatest proportions of both those who sought past help from friends (81%) and of all respondents (68%) would go to friends if they needed help in the future regarding relationship violence.
- Among those who sought help from a youth agency in the past, eighty percent (80%) would do so again in the future. In comparison, just one-fifth (20%) of all respondents reported that they would seek help from a youth agency should they need help in the future regarding relationship violence.
- Among those who sought help from a LGBT domestic violence program in the past, forty percent (40%) would do so again in the future. This is comparable to the thirty-nine percent (39%) of all respondents who said they would seek help from an LGBT domestic violence program in the future.
- Among those who sought help from family in the past in the past, seventy-five percent (75%) would do so again in the future. This compares to fifty-seven percent (57%) of all respondents who said they would seek help from family in the future regarding relationship violence.
- Only one-fifth (20%) of those who sought help from police in the past would do so again in the future. This compares with twenty-two percent (22%) of all respondents.

VI. SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

The 2005-06 Relationship Violence Survey offers a snapshot of the diversity of San Francisco Bay Area young people who are within the reach of Love & Justice and potentially could hear and benefit from its educational messages and activities. It also gives information about their experiences of relationship violence, where they go for help and support regarding relationship violence, and what issues are most important to them.

The survey describes a vibrant, active community of LGBTQ youth, two-thirds of whom already are active in dating in romantic relationships. The complexity of this community is strong; multi-racial identities, bisexual/queer identities, and gender fluidity must be represented in all staffing, materials, and messages intended to reach this community. Programming also will need to take into consideration vulnerable characteristics of this community: almost ten percent of the young people surveyed are living in foster care, homeless, or in shelters.

The elasticity of the community underlines the need for widely broadcast messages about healthy LGBTQ relationships and violence prevention. This includes outreach to LGBTQ-specific events and venues. It also includes finding opportunities to reach a broad cross-section of youth at venues where “out” youth are not present. As findings reveal, this is not a community separate from the heterosexual community: almost one-third of those surveyed have heterosexual partners and almost one-fifth identify as heterosexual. About five percent of those surveyed and their partners are “on the DL.”

The young people who responded to the survey, who are all under age 25, reported both witnessing and experiencing many types of violent behaviors within relationships. Thirty percent of respondents have experienced one or more of the forms of relationship abuse addressed in the survey. The need for more education about what behaviors constitute relationship violence also is clear, since almost one-fifth reported that they “don’t know” whether they have felt abused in a relationship.

Survey results reveal that the greatest proportions of these young people have sought help from friends and family, which they also described as the most helpful sources of support and where they would go for help in the future. This suggests the importance of developing educational materials to assist peers and family members in successfully supporting young people who experience relationship violence, in order to help them recognize the violence and act as a bridge to further help, when needed.

Teachers and school counselors, along with medical providers, are the least likely places for youth to seek help. However, youth who previously sought help at school were significantly more likely to seek help from schools again, compared to their peers. Battered women’s agencies and police scored most poorly on how helpful they were when asked for help.

There are many areas for improvement across all potential sources of help for young people. Exploration of what specific factors would increase helpfulness of the response when youth seek support is an area for further investigation.

Some of the consequences of the abuse reported by these respondents include sleep disturbances and drug and alcohol abuse. Drug use as a response to violence is even more prevalent than alcohol use. Over one-fifth of those who have experienced relationship violence have had thoughts of suicide as a result. High risk of drug use, alcohol use, and suicide illustrate the serious, even deadly, consequences of relationship violence.

At the same time, this population shows resiliency, reporting that they have a stronger commitment to their own personal safety and to improving their communities. Issues of the highest importance to respondents include: community safety, addressing HIV/STIs, family issues, and drug and alcohol abuse. These are issues that programming may want to highlight in order to speak to both the personal and community issues of importance to these young people.

☆ LOVE & JUSTICE COMMUNITY SURVEY ☆

Thank you for participating in our survey. Love & Justice is a program of Community United Against Violence (CUAV), an organization that works within the diverse lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQQ) communities.

Your answers to this survey will help us design our work with and for LGBTQQ young people. Please be as honest as possible. There are no right or wrong answers and this survey is anonymous.

1. What is your age? _____

2. What is the zip code where you live?

3. Where are you currently living?

- Living with family
- In foster care
- Homeless
- Staying at a shelter
- Living with friends
- Living with partner
- Living alone
- Other: _____

4. What is the highest grade you have completed?

5. What would you say best describes your racial or ethnic background?

(Check all that apply.)

- African American/Black
- African/Afro-Caribbean
- American Indian/Native American
- Arab/Middle Eastern
- Asian
- Pacific Islander
- Caucasian/White
- Latino/a
- Biracial/Multiracial: _____
- Other: _____

6. What would you say best describes your gender identity?

(Check all that apply.)

- Female
- FTM
- Genderqueer
- Intersex
- Male
- MTF
- Questioning
- Transgender
- Transsexual
- Other: _____

7. What would you say best describes your sexual identity? *(Check all that apply.)*

- Bisexual
- Gay
- Heterosexual
- Lesbian
- On the DL
- Pansexual
- Queer
- Questioning
- Other: _____

8. How "out" do you consider yourself?
(Check all that apply.)

| | Sexual Identity | Gender Identity |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| No one knows | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I'm still figuring things out | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I've told my family | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I've told my friends | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I'm out at my workplace | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I'm out at school | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Everyone knows | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I'm an out and proud activist! | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

9. During the last two years, what types of relationships/dating have you been involved in? (Check all that apply.)

- No relationships
- Casual dating
- Multiple partners over time
- Multiple partners at a time
- One steady partner
- One time sexual encounters
- Sex work
- Pick-ups
- Relationships with persons over 30

10. What would you say best describes your current partners'/hook-ups' gender identity? (Check all that apply.)

- No current partner/hook-up
- Female
- FTM
- Genderqueer
- Intersex
- Male
- MTF
- Questioning
- Transgender
- Transsexual
- Other: _____

11. What would you say best describes your current partners'/hook-ups' sexual identity? (Check all that apply.)

- No current partner/hook-up
- Bisexual
- Gay
- Heterosexual
- Lesbian
- On the DL
- Pansexual
- Queer
- Questioning
- Other: _____

12. Please check off the top three issues from the following list that are most important to you:

- ___ Community safety
- ___ Community space/resources
- ___ Drug and alcohol use/abuse
- ___ Family issues
- ___ HIV/STI's
- ___ Homelessness
- ___ Police abuse
- ___ Racism
- ___ Religion
- ___ Schools issues
- ___ Other _____

13. Have you ever felt abused in a relationship with a partner/hook-up? (Check all that apply.)

- Yes, financial abuse
- Yes, physical abuse
- Yes, sexual abuse
- Yes, verbal abuse
- Don't Know
- No

14. In the past two years within your relationship(s), have you witnessed or experienced the following behaviors?

| In the past two years, within your relationships... | Have you <u>seen</u> this? | Have you been the <u>target</u> of this? |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| a. Throwing objects | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| b. Pushing, shoving and/or slapping | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| c. Name calling and/or put-downs | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| d. Threatening to harm someone or their loved ones | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| e. Manipulating someone to have sex | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| f. Destroying someone's belongings | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| g. Contacting or following someone when they don't want to be | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| h. Making it difficult for someone to see their friends/family | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| i. Monitoring someone's mail, email, and phone calls | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| j. Stealing money | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| k. Threatening to do something drastic if we broke up | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |

15. Where have you experienced or witnessed relationship violence?

(Check all that apply.)

- I have not witnessed or experienced relationship violence
- GLBT Event
- Police or Jail
- Private Home or Apartment
- Public Transportation
- School or College
- Service Provider or Program
- Store, Restaurant or Business
- Street or Public Area
- Other _____

16. Where did you go for help regarding relationship violence? Please check all that apply. Then rate their helpfulness on a scale of 1 to 4, with 1 = made things worse and 4 = extremely helpful.

| Where did you go to for help? | Made things worse | Not Helpful | Somewhat helpful | Extremely helpful |
|---|-------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nobody | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Battered Women's Service | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LGBT Domestic Violence Program | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Provider | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Police | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Queer Youth | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Advisor | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Talk line/Hotline | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher/School Counselor | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Therapist | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Agency | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

17. As a result of any relationship violence, which of the following have you experienced? (Check all that apply.)

- I have not experienced or witnessed relationship violence
- Trouble sleeping
- Drop in grades
- Thoughts of suicide
- Trouble with the law
- Drug use/abuse
- Alcohol use/abuse
- A perception that the world is out to get me
- Trouble making friends
- A stronger commitment to improve my community
- A stronger commitment to LGBTQQ rights
- A stronger commitment to my own personal safety
- Other _____

18. Which of the following people or places would you go to if you needed help in the future regarding relationship violence? (Check all that apply.)

- Nobody
- Battered Women's Service
- Family
- Friends
- LGBT Domestic Violence Program
- Medical Provider
- Police
- Queer Youth
- Religious Advisor
- Talk line/Hotline
- Teacher/School Counselor
- Therapist
- Youth Agency

☆ THANK YOU! → LOVE & JUSTICE