

**INTENTIONAL INJURIES**  
**A Public Health Analysis of Berkeley Police Department Data Including:**  
***Reported Domestic Violence and Family Violence***

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

*Domestic Violence:* Abuse committed against an adult or minor who is a spouse, former spouse, cohabitant or person with whom the aggressor has a child or is involved in a current or previous dating or engagement relationship. (Not included in this definition are emotional, psychological and other coercive tactics used by one partner to control the other.)

During 1997-1998, 1830 domestic violence (physical assaults) and domestic incidents (threatened physical violence, restraining order violations, harassment, property damage) were reported to the Domestic Violence Prevention Unit (DVPU). Approximately 50% (907) of these reports were physical assaults and 50% (923) were non-physical domestic violence. Data from 1997 and 1998 was aggregated here to improve statistical significance and to reflect the combination of tactics used by an abusive partner in domestic violence.

**Reported Domestic Violence by Gender**

- 84% of victims were women: 98% (1,496) were victimized by a male partner and 2% (37) were victimized by a female partner.
- 16% of victims were men: 90% of these men were victimized by a female partner (267) and 10% (30) were victimized by a male partner.

**Ages of Victims and Perpetrators of Reported Domestic Violence**

- Victims of partner violence reported during 1997-1998 ranged from 15-85 years: 5% of cases (88) were under 20 years; 66% of cases (1192) involved victims between 20-40 years; and 8% (142) of reported cases involved victims over 50 years (23 of these were over 65 years).
- Perpetrators ranged in age from 17-81 years old: 2% (35) were less than 20 years; 69% (1204) were between 20-40 years; and 29% (512) of perpetrators of abuse were over 50 years old.

**Type of Relationship**

- Reported domestic violence involved spouses in 22% of cases (410); 21% (378) were between cohabitants; 19% (378) occurred between former dating partners; 18% (323) reported a child in common as the defining relationship; 13% (243) of took place in a current dating relationship and 4% (78) occurred between former spouses.

**Substance Use**

- Drug or alcohol use by either victim or perpetrator was reported in 23% (426) of cases: 88% (375) involved alcohol and 12% (51) involved other drugs. The aggressor was 60% more likely to use physical violence against his/her partner if drugs or alcohol were involved.

### **Weapons Use**

- 54% of cases reported weapon use: 86% (838) of weapons were hands/feet, 4% (36) involved a knife, 2% (16) reported use of a firearm, and 9% (89) were other weapon.

### **Emergency Protective Orders (EPOs)**

- 293 EPOs were requested by the victim: 284 were issued, 9 were denied and 35 EPOs were issued even though the victim did not request a protective order.

### **Arrests**

- The domestic violence perpetrator was arrested in 29% (530) of all domestic violence and domestic incident cases during 1997-1998: 49% (449) of the aggressors in domestic violence cases were arrested and 9% (81) of the aggressors in domestic incident cases were arrested.

### **Repeat Offenses/Recidivism**

- In 1997-1998, 51% (933) of combined domestic violence and domestic incident reports showed between 2-15 reports filed at the same street address.

### **Children Witnessing Domestic Violence**

- Children were reported present in 25% (463) of 1830 domestic violence and domestic incidents and the perpetrator was 85% more likely to be arrested if children were present during the incident.
- An EPO was issued in 26% of cases where children were present and in 15% of cases where children were not present.

## **FAMILY VIOLENCE**

*Family Violence:* Assault or other form of abuse by one family member related by blood to another family member.

This is a relatively new area of law being reported to the DVPU. If one or more of the individuals involved in the incident was under 18, the report may have been routed to Youth Services and is not reported here. In 1997-1998, 74 cases of family violence were reported to the DVPU.

- Women and girls were reported as victims in 82% (61) of cases.
- The aggressor was male in 60% (44) of cases and female in 40% (30) of cases.
- Children were reported present during 20% (15) of family violence incidents.
- The age of victims ranged from 8-77 years: 40% of victims were under 20 years or over 50 years old.
- The age of perpetrators ranged from 14-72 years: 74% were between 20-50 years and 15% were under 15 years old.
- Drug and/or alcohol use was reported in 22% of family violence cases.
- Use of a weapon was reported in 65% of family violence: 57% involved hands/feet, 3% involved a knife or firearm and 5% was another weapon.
- The aggressor was arrested in 30% (22) of cases and EPOs were issued in 14% (10) of cases.