

BAD

Young Women's
Empowerment Project

ENCOUNTER

LINE

ZINE

#1

The Bad Encounter Line (BEL) is conducted and created by the Young Womens Empowerment Project.

The BEL is for youth involved in trading sex for money, gifts, drugs, or survival needs, like food or a place to stay for the night. Some examples are exotic dancing, escorting, or street based sex trade. The sex trade can also mean that someone is forced into it. Some examples are trafficking, or being forced by parents or pimps.

A bad encounter is a negative experience with institution or system, such as DCFS, health care, police, hospitals, schools, or any other institution.

Violence can look like verbal, physical harm, emotional harm, or threats- or just being told that they "cant help you" because you are homeless, trading sex for money, lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender- or another reason.

The Bad encounter Line is a way to warn youth about the bad encounter you experienced. It can also be a way to tell other youth how to fight back and have successful experiences with service providers.

Talking about how you fought back is important, it shows that youth in the sex trade can and do fight back! It also gives other youth ideas on how to fight back. We are our own best resources.

The Bad Encounter Line is ANONYMOUS! The information is published in a zine 4 times per year.

SHELTERS

At a shelter on the north side asked for residents to deposit money from their paychecks to save up for future apartments. Later when the residents tried to move and asked for their money back, we found out that the money was never deposited and was being embezzled by the caseworker.

CTA

I was attacked by a woman on the CTA bus and the bus driver didn't stop the bus, try to stop the fight, or call the police. I fought back by biting the girl and jumping off the bus and made a police report at a nearby family dollar. The driver of the CTA bus starred at me as I got on the bus and said "hey fat mama, you're looking good."

PIMPS

I met a man on the south side of Chicago that was having a party and asked for me to strip and later offered me a place to stay if I had sex with men and gave him the cut of the money, I did, but he lied and I never received my cut of the money.

My pimp came home drunk and on drugs and would talk smack so I talked back and wouldn't stop and he would start beating me.

SCHOOLS

At a Chicago University when I was trying to get into a work study position, the people I spoke with did not respect my gender identity as a trans woman and would call me a man, even though I clearly stated that I was a woman. There were two different reports of this.

At a Chicago University I was denied a position on an overseas trip to Egypt because the woman who ran the program told me that I would not be safe in Egypt because I am trans and would make a fool out of myself.

POLICE

I was threaten on my front porch in Englewood by a boy that said he was going to stab me, I called the police and when they came, after asking what happened, he left without helping and when I asked for his badge number he refused. On Belmont the police attacked me for not having an ID.

The states attorney in Chicago refused to let me press charges against my rapist because my rape kit showed ecstasy in my blood.

A police officer was going to arrest me in exchange for not being arrested, he asked for oral sex. I did, but after he arrested me anyway for prostitution.

I was set up to meet my new john, when it turned out to be a sting by the cops. He got violent with me, handcuffed me, and then raped me. He cleaned me up for the police station, and I got sentence to 4 months in jail for prostitution.

In Englewood, a cop made a group of us give him our information for no reason and said it was for a survey. We later found out he put us in the system for being a gang when we were really on our way to graduation rehearsal. This event came up twice.

A man outside a police station raped me because I denied him sex for money. I reported it and the police arrested me for prostitution.

My boyfriend and I got in a fight and the police were called. When they

tried to break us up, we wouldn't let go of each other and the cop kicked me in the stomach and because of this, it caused me to lose my baby.

After receiving a rape kit, a detective tried questioning me and my rape victim advocate and I chose not to talk to them. Because of this, the detective got furious and screamed and threatened both me and my advocate that we could go to jail for withholding information on a crime. She also physically grabbed me so I couldn't leave the room.

When being held in protective custody by the F.B.I. they started withholding my sheets, then towels, then pillows and food because they thought I wasn't telling them everything I could, when in fact I was. They also took my IDs and paperwork that I deserved.

I slept with a cop for money; two other cops set me up and then still took me in.

HOSPITALS

I don't have insurance, and I went to the hospital to have my baby.

They ended up taking my baby because they assumed I was on drugs, when I wasn't and called DCFS. I'm still fighting for my child.

I went to a healthcare clinic to get STD testing. The doctor asked me how many partners I had, and that she needed to know. When I told her I had multiple, she said she could not help me because of that reason. I called her supervisor and explained how I was denied help and she was later fired.

I am transgender and went to a doctor in Chicago who was willing to let me pay less for implants because of my budget. After surgery I had horrible scars and was forced to leave the hospital before having time to recover from the operation. I later got horrible, expensive infections and the scars never got better.

I went to a small office clinic in the loop for medical help. They were not trauma friendly. He said that because of all my medical problems I was a mess and wouldn't know where to start. He asked me personal questions and did not pertain to the medical help I needed and told me and if some

one ever tried to abuse him he simply would not let that happen and how it was my fault for letting myself get hurt by not fighting back good enough.

I went to the hospital for a rape kit with my mom. When the cop asked to talk to my mom out in the hall, I heard the officer tell her that I asked for it. And that I probably just got mad at him and that it wasn't rape.

I was brought to the hospital because someone thought I was ODing when I was actually just really high. They restrained me and had the cops come when I was still messed up and claimed that I had done more than I really did. They made me sign forms that I didn't know what they were for.

I was brought to the hospital by the loop for a stab wound. They knocked me out because I didn't want care, and found a lot of scars which lead them to believe I was being abused. I woke up to them doing a rape kit on me. They sent me to psych ward for not wanting help.

When I woke up at the hospital after having my baby, I called the nurse for pain medicine and she told me I had to wait, and I tried to explain to her that I hadn't had any and she smirked at me. When she had to draw blood for a test, I believe she missed the vein on purpose.

After having my baby at the hospital, the man who gave me stitches came into my room and started feeling between my legs. He didn't explain what he was doing or why and then left the room while I was half asleep.

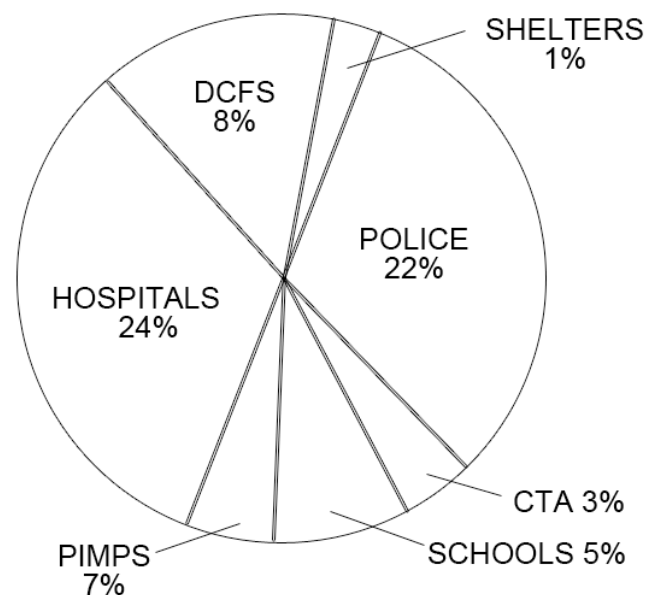
DCFS

A woman from DCFS came to my home to confront my family about abuse. I didn't want to report it so I lied to her, and she later told my parents behind my back that I was a compulsive liar and I was telling people I was being abused, when in fact I was making it up for attention. I actually was being beat, and got in huge trouble because of what she said.

I was in a residence program and a ward of the state. They put me in a boy's home, even though I identified as a woman. They knew I was part of

the sex trade because I would run away and come back with lots of money and female gear. I saw a man in the home jacking off one day and started saying shit to me, he fought me and sat on my face and made me suck his dick and flipped me over and finished from behind.

NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS



This pie chart shows the amount of reports collected on these institutions. There was 57 reports in total.

This directory is a short list of services available in the Chicago area. This list is no way meant to be a list of ALL services, just the one's girls ask for the most.

Legal Information

- First Defense Legal Aid - 1-800-LAW REP 4
Free 24 hour legal help for people who are arrested or detained at Chicago police stations (just numbers 1-800-529-7374)
- Public Defenders Office 312-603-0600
- Orders of protection 1847-249-5147
- Inspector General 1-800-722-9124
DCFS wards call to report your case worker for not doing a good job.

School Information

- Alternative School Network 773-728-4030
Find out where to finish high school at a smaller and cooler school or get a GED or job training instead.
- GED Hotline 1-800-729-4384
Find classes and test sites around the Chicagoland area.

Child Care

- Child Care Action for Children 773-687-4000
Provides resources for free or low cost day care to parents of all ages.

Shelter and info for street youth

- The Open Door Shelter 1-877-286-2523
24 hour info about housing for homeless youth. Of they have space and you are under 22 they will let you come and stay there at night.
- National runaway switchboard 1-800-621-4000
free, confidential 24 hour crisis line for youth who are homeless and want help with options.
- Broadway youth center 773-935-3151
this is a drop on run by Howard Brown and the Night Ministry located on Broadway and Belmont.
- The Harbour 847-297-8540
Emergency shelter in the north suburbs for girls. Transitional living group homes too.

Drug and Alcohol Help

- Chicago recovery alliance 773-818-8512
Provides needle exchange, safer piercing kits & harm reduction information for drug users. They deliver needles to anyone who needs it. You can also get HIV & Hep C testing and vaccines for Hep A&B for free.

- Crisis line and drug abuse helpline 773-769-0205
This is a 24 hour help line you can call for information about not using drugs, suicide intervention, depression or other crisis.

Domestic Violence, Rape Crisis and Abuse

- Chicago rape crisis hotline 1-888-293-2080
free confidential service 24 hours a day, English and Spanish.
- Domestic violence hotline 1-877-863-6338 (to end DV)
Free 24 hour hotline that will connect you to the closest and best domestic violence shelter. Information on orders of protection. This is not for counseling- information only English, Spanish and any language.
- Domestic violence, rape and abuse cont'd
- Child abuse hotline 1-800-252-2873
- Call this number to report child abuse to DCFS

Gay & lesbian information

- Gay/ lesbian support 1800-246-pride
- TYRA 773-935-3151
This support group is for transgender and gender queer youth. They meet at the Broadway Youth center on Wednesday nights and eat and talk about information.

Sexual/health clinics & information

- Planned Parenthood facts of life line (1312) 592-6880
24 information line with phone numbers for p.p. Services and info about sexual health care, pregnancy options, sexual abuse
- Chicago Women's Health Center 773-935-6126
Free and low cost OB/GYN care from trained women not doctors. Excellent treatment and will refer you to a doctor if you need it.
- Howard Brown Health Center 773-388-1600
Free and low cost clinics for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender health. They have a youth program and also offer services to all women and girls.

If you have Bad Encounters that you would like to report to us, you can call us at 773.728.0127 ext. 2 . You can also leave a detailed message describing the event as best you can, or you can leave your number and we will contact you. We also have forms available to fill out through our outreach workers or YWEP staff. You can also fill out an online form that can be found on our website at youarepriceless.org or ywep.org

Things you want to try hard to describe might be the name of the institution, when it happened and where and any other details you can remember. Don't forget to tell us how you fought back also!

THESE BAD ENCOUNTERS WERE COLLECTED
FROM SEPT. 2009 - FEB. 2010

THE NEXT UPDATED B.E.L. WILL BE MAY
18TH

If your interested in fighting back against these institutions, YWEP has started a Chicago Task Force for homefree and homeless youth. To find out more about attending these meetings or how to get involved, you can contact Dominique at 777.728.0127 ext.7

For more information on us, check out our website

YOUAREPRICELESS.ORG



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POLICE

I was walking to the bus when a police officer called out and said, "Hey you come here girl with all of that ass." I ignored the comment unaware of where it was coming from until he pulled up on the curb to block my path in his undercover cop car. He jumps out and yells didn't you hear me calling you girl? I replied by simply saying no, my name isn't aye girl with all that ass. He got really mad and slapped me saying that I was very disrespectful and do I know who is and what he can do to me? I told him I know that he is a detective and works on Belmont because I have an aunt who is also a detective there and while visiting her I saw him there. He got really worried when I told him that, and said that it was just a joke and I better not tell her about this or he'll have her head and if I cared about myself or her life I should keep quiet because he has rank and can and will do damage physical as well as career wise for my aunt, I began to fear him so I slowly backed away and he ran up and choked slammed me saying I insulted a officer and was under arrest, when

people started to come and look he handcuffed me, placed me in the back seat, and drove away. When he stopped at an alley I realized he wasn't taking me in I was grateful thought maybe he was trying to pretend he was taking me in so the crowd wouldn't get nosy and call back up. Then as soon as I thought that it went out the window, he got out the car and came to where I was and tried to rape me luckily my phone was in my pocket and while he tried to undress me I speed dialed my aunt. What happened was recorded on her voicemail, I went to the station to speak to my aunt and low and behold I saw him already talking to her. Unaware of what had just transpired I ran over and hit him, yelling and screaming that he had just raped me and that's when I was apprehended and told to shut up and sit down by cops along with my aunt who had a disturbing look on her face. Later I found out that he told her I managed to slip out of handcuffs to dial her number and started yelling rape and what not and he was simply trying to calm me down and take the phone which is when I attacked him and took off my clothes she didn't believe me and now he has gotten away

with it saying no need to do a rape kit and they took his word and locked me up for force against a cop and false rape accusations.

Two male cops pulled up on me and started to ask me questions about where I was going and said I should be in school. I told them no I was out of school and on my way to work. They asked what I did I said I worked for a non-profit org, they asked which one and I told them. They started saying bad shit about the org and I just walked away, but they kept saying shit like I ain't nothing and ain't never gone be nothing, and that I could go on head, but they know where I work at it's with hoes.

Police officers came up to a homeless young woman and started harassing her saying things like "don't you know there are older women out here being raped and murdered and you're walking around this late violating curfew?" She told them she was over 18, not a child and that she didn't have a place to go and were they gonna find her one? They didn't reply so she kept walking.

A youth was harassed by the cops for working for a non-profit that works with girls in the sex trade. (This came up several times)

I was walking to the train station when a cop pulled up in a suv and asked me about working in the body shop/car shop. He accused me of lying about it. Then carding me and accusing me of stealing my own laptop. He was medium height, slim, and white with a crew cut and brown hair.

HOSPITALS

I was seen for having a urinary tract infection that was left untreated by a family doctor, so I went to the hospital for a second opinion because I felt that it hadn't went away completely. The doctor seemed ok until he started asking me very personal sexual questions, such as my sexually partners, and why I had got an infection, and I told him it was because of the soap or just bacteria, and he started to say well, how is your sex life am I using protection, and I said that's personal, and he told me in order to be seen I had to tell what was going on so I did I said I had a girlfriend not a boyfriend he got sort of mad, and it went downhill from there. He then said well what can you do with a

woman do you use toy's and put condoms on them, and I said yes, and he said why are you gay? When was the first time you found out? And have you ever been involved with a man? I felt very uncomfortable then and he told me that my medicine was 12 bucks for everything. I said I have insurance and told me it wouldn't work for what I had. I started to get really mad and went to pay for medication instead of hollering at him, and arguing more because I am a minor and didn't want to get in trouble or force him to contact my parents who had no idea my situation. Once I went to pay for the medicine they told me it was 30 bucks, and he knew I was a minor with no money because I still relied on my parents and because he was disappointed that I couldn't sleep with him because I was gay he made it impossible to pay for medicine, which left my UTI untreated. I had to tell my parents and they were very mad.

A youth had a horrible experience at a west loop hospital, but did not go into specifics.

A girl was at the hospital in labor

giving birth. The young women did not have no name to put down as father or no male there to sign, they assumed she was in the sextrade. They ran test on her and the baby and found heroin in the babies system and put her under dcfs "care". She is fighting to get her baby back.

A boy needed medical help and when brought to the er they decided to move him to the psych ward. He said he didn't want to be moved there but they didn't listen to him at all or hear his reasoning's.

DCFS

I was being moved to a new foster home because I was having too much truancy from school, and in the process of all that the caseworker was very ignorant toward me and rude. She would say things like I'm just a stupid girl whose parents didn't want and that's why I'm a truant and there's a place for people like me who don't want to cooperate with society. She then began to say slurring comments to me and very provocative words, and she dropped me off to the family and told them if

they had to use excessive force on me to go right ahead because I am going to be a smart mouthed bitch to put up with, and that they'd be back very soon to move me again because they have no use or hope for a black girl with no guidance, but to be a stupid school ditching whore and they all laughed in my face and since I've been here I have been being assaulted, and touched in ways I shouldn't and they haven't come back for me yet. I fought back by calling the DCFS main's office and tried to report what was going on and that my case worker had abandoned me and not checked up on me and has come over yet.

SCHOOLS

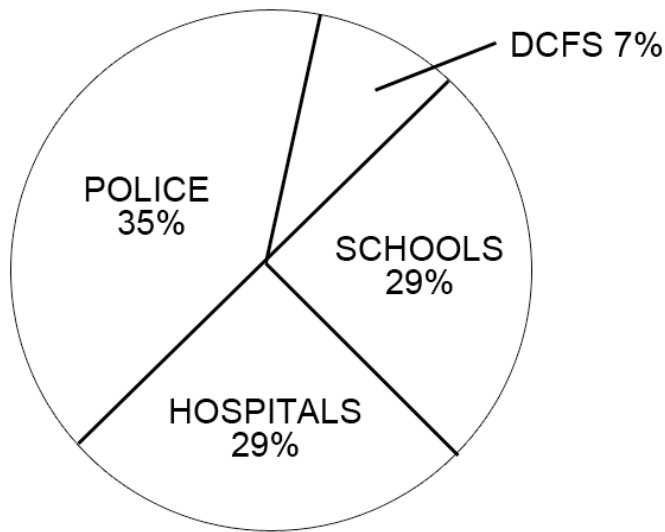
A girl was in her community college class talking to her professor about other ways she can take a certain class because she is less fortunate and is homeless and cannot afford to take a class at this time, and the professor looks at her with this sort of smug look as if to look on her and say's " If you cannot afford school fees then don't take the class".

I was in school and I was suspended for having graphics in my head, but the white boy's that went to my school weren't and they all had mohawks, yet they didn't get in trouble and I did just because mine had color, which was not gang colors.

A trans woman from my school couldn't use the unisex bathroom, and they tried to arrest her and because of the incident she had to dropout.

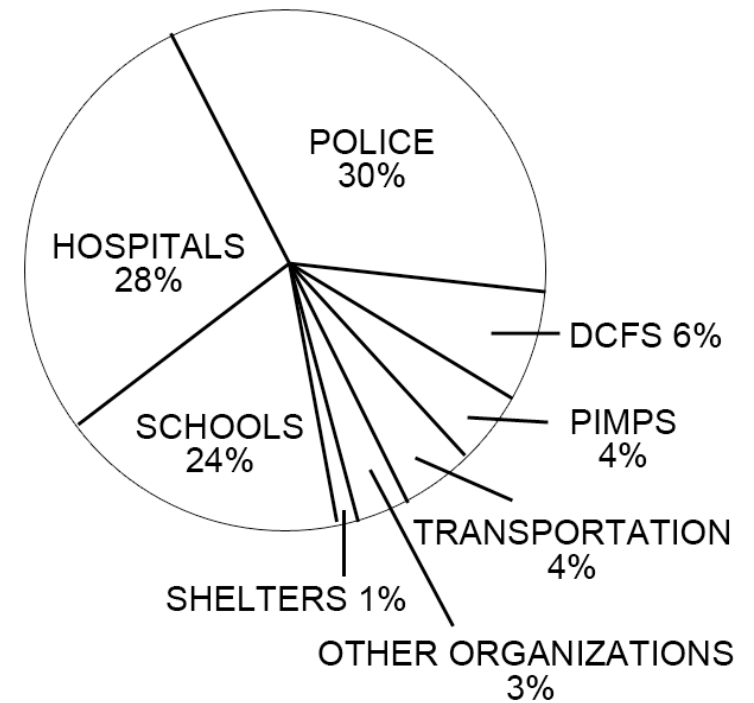
When trying to buy supplies for a class, I was treated badly by my teacher when I complained about the unfair cost and she stated that I shouldn't take the class if I could not afford it.

NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS



This pie chart shows the amount of reports collected on these institutions. There was 46 reports in total.

NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS IN TOTAL FOR ALL 3 ZINES



This pie chart shows the amount of reports collected on these institutions. There was 127 reports in total.

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Things you want to try hard to describe might be the name of the institution, when it happened and where and any other details you can remember. Don't forget to tell us how you fought back also!

THESE BAD ENCOUNTERS WERE COLLECTED
FROM MARCH.2011-APRIL.2011

THE NEXT UPDATED B.E.L. WILL BE
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If your interested in fighting back against these institutions, YWEP has started a Chicago Task Force for homefree and homeless youth. To find out more about attending these meetings or how to get involved, you can contact Dominique at 777.728.0127 ext.7

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