Here are homicide victims in Oakland from the last several years, who were young and tragically lost their lives in a retribution scenario or being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Oakland slaying victims getting younger

The percentage of homicide victims in Oakland who are young adults, teenagers or young children increased in recent years, police say, partly as a result of gangs and street-corner drug dealing.

Homicides in Oakland

Number of homicides by age, 2006:

- 2003: 33%
- 2004: 43.2%
- 2005: 37.2%
- 2006: 48%

17 yr. olds: 10

Total victims = 148

* One homicide victim was a 16-week-old fetus

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On August 4th, 2000, Khadafy Washington, who previously graduated from McClymonds High School, was planning to start junior college in a few weeks, was shot and killed while riding his bicycle on 26th and Filbert Street.

He was 18 years old.

Khadafy was a phenomenal football player. He played McClymonds High School varsity football for 3 years as a running back and defensive back, gaining 597 yards on 108 carries and 8 touchdowns. The year before in 1999, he was named Athlete of the Week by the Oakland Tribune. He was 5'9”, had a tremendous heart, drive and great work ethic.
Khadafy was the son of Marilyn Washington Harris, a long time resident of the Acorn community in West Oakland.

Police found no motive and no suspect in Khadafy’s murder. He was Oakland’s 50th homicide victim of 2000.

After her son’s death, Marilyn turned her grief into determination to call a halt to the cycle of violence, and established the Khadafy Foundation for Non-Violence. The motto of the foundation is summed up in the acronym for her son’s name: Stop Killing, Hurting, And Destroying All Families and Youth.
15-year-old Tamellia Cobbs, a sophomore at Castlemont High School in East Oakland, was hanging out with her friends in front of her aunt's house on 89th Avenue at 11am in the morning on November 11th, 2002, when she was shot in a drive-by.

2 teenage boys standing near her were wounded.

News reports said that other children as young as 9 years old were at the scene. They ran for cover when the shooting started.

Tamellia died in a hail of gunshots from a passing car and, became Oakland’s 97th and youngest homicide of 2002.
2 people were arrested for Tamellia’s murder. One person was 28-year-old Eric Maurice Williams, a.k.a. One Eye E, resident of Oakland, who is a convicted bank robber who had “beef” with Tamellia’s family. Eric Williams turned himself in later that day. The other person was 24-year-old Keddrick Darrough, who was also charged with murder.
In 2005, Eric Williams was on a retrial for Tamellia’s murder. His first trial ended when the jury was deadlocked. According to the trial testimony, 3 teenage sons of Doris Rogers and Tamellia’s aunt identified Eric Williams as Tamellia’s killer. Eric was acquitted on 5 counts, including murder and attempted murder by an Alameda County jury. Prosecutors believed Eric Williams shot Tamellia in retaliation for being shot at previously while trying to buy marijuana. Tamellia was never known to be a troublemaker, let alone a drug dealer. Eric Williams is expected to be released from Santa Rita Jail.
Betty McCollough (left), and Roneisha Tillman (Tamellia’s cousin, right) grieve near candles set out for Tamellia.
On February 1st, 2004, 18-year-old Stephanie Franklin, was shot and killed in her friend’s car on International Boulevard in East Oakland coming from a birthday party.

Stephanie graduated with honors from Oakland Tech High School the previous summer and was attending Merritt College as a nursing student.
Stephanie’s friend, Siara Spriggs, was driving Stephanie home with two young men in a car about 1am. One of the men asked to stop at Quarter Pound Giant Burgers on International Blvd. While waiting for his food, one of the young men flirted with a girl while in line and her boyfriend got angry and shouted threats towards him. The young man jumped in Siara’s car and they drove off. The angry boyfriend followed them, pulled up on Siara’s car and fired more than 10 rounds at her car with a shotgun. Stephanie died from a gunshot wound. Siara was struck 6 times and was in critical condition for a day.

Teachers, students, and counselors at Oakland Tech were shocked at the news of Stephanie’s death.
On January 31st, 2007, a third person was convicted in the murder of Stephanie Franklin. However, Beverly Franklin, Stephanie’s mother, said “It's sad all the way around” because her daughter is still dead and the three men who are responsible are “the walking dead” because they will spend the rest of their lives in prison.

Stephanie’s sister, Sanisha Mortis, 23, said “My baby sister is about the nicest person in the world, carefree, never angry, never jealous, always trying to the right thing. All of a sudden, she’s dead for no reason.”
On September 23rd, 2004, 16-year-old Greshanda Williams, and her friends were outside her home on 25th Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Way at about 9pm, when someone in a white SUV fired an assault rifle, riddling nearby buildings with bullets. Greshanda was mortally wounded, gunned down within sight of the apartment where her mother and grandmother stayed. A neighbor, Del Morgan, heard 7 or 8 shots and saw Greshanda lying on the sidewalk. He ran across the street from his home and tried to help her, who appeared to be breathing. That night at 11:50pm, she died at Highland Hospital.
Greshanda Williams was a student at McClymonds High School, where she maintained a 3.3 GPA and had hopes for becoming a writer after attending college. Before she was shot, Greshanda had just received her driver’s permit. No arrest was made for the murder. She was Oakland’s 68th homicide victim of 2004.
On Wednesday, September 22\textsuperscript{nd}, 2004, the Alameda County Coroner’s Bureau identified a murder victim as 14-year-old Da’Von Levingston, a West Oakland resident. That previous Monday night, he and two others were convinced by 28-year-old Terry “Rank” Simms to go “make some money.” After a verbal dispute between Levingston and Simms, Levingston was shot by Simms. He was taken to Oakland Children’s Hospital where he died from wounds.
18-year-old Marcellus Haley was gunned down in February in a fight over a girl. Marcellus got a teenage girl pregnant and then fell in love with another one, whose boyfriend then threatened to kill him if didn’t leave. Haley ignored the threat as trash talk and kept visiting the girl at her parent’s home in West Oakland.

On February 16th, 2006, Marcellus stood talking to some friends outside his aunt’s apartment, when somebody with a gun walked up to him and shot Marcellus several times. Investigators believe the boyfriend was responsible. But authorities have not arrested him because everyone is scared to testify.
Khadijah Wheatfall, Marcellus’s mother, holds Marcellus’ 7-month-old daughter, Marionna, at their home.
On March 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2006, Frederick “Mar” Layne was shot and killed nearby Sycamore Street in West Oakland about an hour after midnight. Months before his death, Layne had taken unprecedented steps to change his life and leave the streets behind. Yet when he was shot, he was on his old turf, apparently back to his old activities, which the police suspected to be drug dealing.

Frederick Layne is survived by a son his girlfriend gave birth to. Shivawn Layne, Frederick’s 26-year-old sister, faced the reality that he would get killed sooner or later. His homicide remains unsolved today.
On July 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2006, 14-year-old Jaee Logan was killed at 8:30pm in the 800 block of 45\textsuperscript{th} Street. His dad had dropped him off at 45\textsuperscript{th} and Market 3 hours earlier at 5:30pm to meet with a friend and go to a barbeque. He was an outstanding football player at Carter Middle School. He lived with his father, sister, and grandmother in North Oakland. He had just graduated from middle school and was 23 days away from his 15\textsuperscript{th} birthday.

Jaee Logan was the 68\textsuperscript{th} Oakland homicide of 2006.
His father, Jay Logan, wasn’t sure why his son was shot, but believes “he was at the wrong place at the wrong time.” He said, “We need to get the community together because when everybody knows each other, they don’t shoot each other.”

Oakland homicide detective Sgt. Lou Cruz said, “It was a horrible event for the father to experience. One minute he drops his son off and then later he is told he is dead on the street. I don’t think there can be anything more painful for a parent. In my career, I have never seen a greater grief than a parent who has lost a child.”

Jae’s grandmother, Dorothy Thompson said, “He was a lovable person, smart and intelligent.”
On August 19th, 2006, 16-year-old Andrew Porter, Oakland High School student and the school’s football team’s starting outside linebacker, who also played defensive end and some tight end, was walking that Saturday night with his friends, on their way to a party. A police car cruised by slowly as they arrived at the bus stop, saw nothing and drove away. Just a couple of minutes later, as they were walking down 81st and Birch in East Oakland, someone appeared and started shooting. Andrew was hit.
A police officer heard the gunshots, sped back to the scene and found Andrew, but the shooters fled. Andrew’s older brother, Michael Porter, warned him not to go to the party. Michael was still recovering from a bullet wound in his leg he suffered in a drive-by shooting on 23rd Avenue back in April of 2006. Andrew’s 19-year-old sister, Charlene Porter, is worried that she’ll lose all of her brothers before she is 21.
On October 6\textsuperscript{th}, 2006, 26-year-old Ronald Mack, Jr. was shot to death on 68\textsuperscript{th} Avenue and MacArthur Boulevard. His body was riddled with bullets and the right side of his face was blown away.
Ronald Mack’s mother, 45-year-old Sherry Smith, was held back by a friend when arriving to 68th and MacArthur where her son was killed. She went past the yellow police tape and darted past police officers in a futile effort to hug her son’s body.
Sherry Smith was heartbroken when talked about her son’s death.

When Sherry Smith found out that her son was killed, she felt as if she died herself.
LaJazz Harper, a student of Castlemont High School, has attended 15 funerals in recent years, all for friends and relatives who were killed. Most of the funerals were for young men.
Eric’s 2 brothers, Kendric West (left) was killed in 1996, Deric West in 1999.
Their parents, Coynell West and her husband, George West, have lost 3 sons in separate homicides. “Parents aren't supposed to bury their kids,” Coynell West said.
On October 13th, 2007, 17-year-old Greg Ballard, Jr., a San Leandro High School football player, was shot and killed about 8pm on the 9200 block of Sunnyside Street in East Oakland. The motive of his murder is unknown. His killer was Oakland resident 19-year-old Dwayne Stancill, a member of the “Hyfee Boyz” East Oakland street gang. San Leandro High School head football coach Brad Bowers, said Ballard was trying to change his life after having run-ins with the law, “hanging with the wrong people,” and serving time in Juvenile Hall.
It’s sad when....

... you pick up a newspaper and see young people from our community who were shot or killed. Whether they were an intended target or an innocent bystander. Especially, if they had dreams of becoming someone some day, like Greshanda. She wanted to pursue a career in journalism but was struck dead by a bullet that was not meant for her.
This is an article from a McClymonds High School newspaper that includes statements of students on how they feel about the drugs and murders that go on in their community. They also offered their personal perspective of West Oakland.
“Not Just A Number”

1984, 115 homicides
1985, 95 homicides
1986, 129 homicides
1987, 114 homicides
1988, 112 homicides
1989, 129 homicides

1990, 146 homicides
1991, 149 homicides
1992, 165 homicides
1993, 154 homicides
1994, 140 homicides
1995, 153 homicides
1996, 93 homicides
1997, 99 homicides
1998, 72 homicides
1999, 60 homicides

2000, 80 homicides
2001, 84 homicides
2002, 108 homicides
2003, 114 homicides
2004, 88 homicides
2005, 94 homicides
2006, 148 homicides
2007, 126 homicides