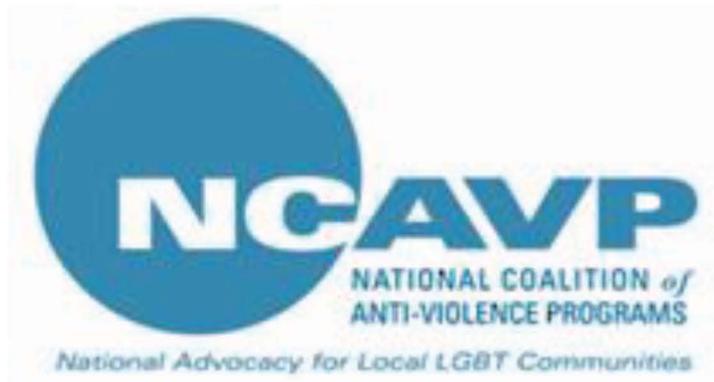


# Hate Violence against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People in the United States

2008



A Report by

## THE NATIONAL COALITION OF ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAMS

Inside

- *Statistics on violence against LGBT people*
- *Stories from survivors*
- *Local information*
- *Safety tips*
- *Where to get help*
- *Information on hate crime laws*

2009 Release Edition



*The production of this report was coordinated by the*  
**National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs**  
240 West 35th Street  
Suite 200  
New York, NY 10001  
Telephone: 212-714-1184  
[www.ncavp.org](http://www.ncavp.org)

*Written by*

Avy A. Skolnik, Statewide & National Projects Coordinator, New York City Anti-Violence Project  
Crystal Middlestadt, Colorado Anti-Violence Program  
Edward Cervantes, Just Detention International  
Jake Finney, L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center  
Jarad Ringer, New York City Anti-Violence Project  
Joseph Barretto, New York City Anti-Violence Project  
Julio Gonzalez, New York City Anti-Violence Project  
Kelly Costello, Colorado Anti-Violence Program  
Lindsey Moore, Kansas City Anti-Violence Project  
Melissa L. Pope, Triangle Foundation  
Michelle Kaufman, New York City Anti-Violence Project  
Patricia Duffett, New York City Anti-Violence Project  
Rebecca Waggoner Kloek, OutFront Minnesota, Anti-Violence Project  
Tina D'Elia, Community United Against Violence  
Victoria Cruz, New York City Anti-Violence Project

*Additional Support Provided by*

Michelle Kaufman, New York City Anti-Violence Project  
Riki Ann Wilchins, Gender Public Advocacy Coalition  
Steven K. Aurand, CEO Cap Index, Inc.

**2009 RELEASE EDITION**

Copyright © 2009 National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs  
All Rights Reserved.

Without prior permission from NCAVP.



## TABLE of CONTENTS

<b>Part 1. Executive Summary.....</b>	<b>1</b>
Introduction.....	3
Highlights of Findings.....	5
Victim and Survivor Information.....	6
Types of Incidents.....	9
Location of Incidents.....	12
Victim/Offender Relationship.....	12
Law Enforcement Response.....	13
Offender Information.....	14
Limitations of Findings .....	15
Reporting regions with maps.....	17
Recommendations.....	22
 <b>Part 2. Personal Narratives.....</b>	 <b>25</b>
Stories from Survivors.....	25
Bias-Motivated (Anti-LGBT) Murders.....	31
Murders of LGBT People.....	41
The Rape of LGBT Prisoners: A hidden hate crime, by JDI.....	42
 <b>Part 3: Regional Data and Summaries.....</b>	 <b>48</b>
Colorado.....	48
Los Angeles.....	50
Michigan.....	51
Minnesota.....	54
New York.....	56
San Francisco.....	59
Graphs from additional locations.....	61
Data tables from participating organizations.....	65
 <b>Part 4: Supplements.....</b>	 <b>73</b>
State-by-State Guide to Hate Crimes Legislation.....	74
NCAVP Q and A on Hate Crime Legislation.....	85
General and Online Safe Dating Tips.....	87
Acknowledgments.....	92

## INTRODUCTION

This report provides the most comprehensive data on anti-lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) violence in the United States. This report provides recommendations for ways to advance education and prevention of hate violence before it occurs and ways to hold public institutions more accountable to responding to violence when it occurs. It is written by a coalition of 35 LGBT anti-violence programs in 25 states across the country. This report is meant to draw attention to the incidents and trends it documents and to highlight the need for more comprehensive responses to bias violence.

Three well documented anniversaries in 2009 frame the writing of this report on the 2008 data collected by the National Coalition of Anti Violence Programs (NCAVP): the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in New York City, the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the White Night Riots in San Francisco, and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the nation-wide protests after the death of Matthew Shepard in Laramie, Wyoming. During these mass actions, protesters took to the streets, angry, frustrated and determined, with hundreds of LGBT people and their allies, to achieve equality dignity, respect and safety.

Over the last thirty years, LGBT people have created anti-violence organizations with the goal of ending violence in all its forms against LGBT communities and ensuring that services are available and accessible to LGBT victims and survivors of hate violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, police misconduct, and other forms of violence experienced by LGBT people. These organizations operate within a homophobic and transphobic social and political climate where violence continues unabated. The work of NCAVP is to challenge this pervasive hostility. Institutional and interpersonal homophobic and transphobic violence, like all violence stemming from bias, occurs along a continuum of escalation. One end of the spectrum includes isolation of LGBT people and a denial of the violence predicated on sexual orientation or gender identity and the other end includes more physically brutal violence and murder. In between, LGBT people experience increasingly harmful acts of violence, including discrimination, vandalism, slurs, threats and physical and sexual violence. Many attackers are never investigated or arrested and when they are, they often expect, and are too often granted, leniency in the criminal justice system which sanctions such theories as gay and transgender panic defenses. As many marginalized and historically disenfranchised communities can attest, systems of law enforcement and the courts perpetuate similar acts of violence through homophobic and transphobic responses or indifference. LGBT anti-violence programs continue to address these disparities, but there are too few programs and those programs that exist are too under-funded to fully address this work.

NCAVP focuses on addressing and eliminating violence in all its forms against LGBT individuals and communities by supporting the work of local organizations through education campaigns, direct services, quantitative and qualitative data collection and public policy work. NCAVP is a national coalition of member programs that combine their regional knowledge and strategies into one national voice reflecting the myriad tools and strategies that can be used on a local level. This local approach is imperative to addressing violence because community-based responses can be highly effective as they involve the local actors, networks, and cultures. This approach to addressing anti-LGBT violence fosters national strategies informed by the rich diversity of the LGBT communities throughout the United States and the ability to specifically meet the needs of local areas.

There are currently 35 NCAVP member organizations across the U.S. and Canada, many the sole LGBT anti-violence resource in their entire state. Survivors who access these services often note that they do so as an alternative to less aware and often more hostile mainstream systems. In areas without these organizations, victims and survivors of violence and their families often go without adequate support, resources and options. Mainstream services striving to increase competency to work with LGBT survivors rely on the expertise of the few LGBT anti-violence programs that exist to provide that technical assistance. Without LGBT specific anti-violence programs, LGBT survivors are forced to live without support and the violence they experience goes undocumented further perpetuating the isolation and denial of the violence.

Through collaborative work, NCAVP members have established a coalition that produces the most substantive and relevant data on anti-LGBT violence and is the most strategically positioned group to put forth policy recommendations to address this violence. To end violence against our communities, many strategies have been effective: public, educational, political and cultural anti-violence messages; protective and responsive legislation; community-based responses and solutions; enhanced rehabilitation for offenders; increasing the efficacy of law enforcement and first responders; continued research and consistent statistical reporting; and coalition work among allied groups and communities. NCAVP seeks to incorporate all of these strategies to address the needs of victims and survivors of violence and to eradicate homophobia and transphobia, as well as other forms of systemic discrimination, at their root.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Introduction

This is a report about bias-motivated incidents targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBT) individuals in the U.S. during the year 2008. It is a product of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), a network of over 35 anti-violence organizations that monitor, respond to, and work to end hate and domestic violence, HIV-related violence, pick-up crimes, rape, sexual assault, and other forms of violence affecting LGBT communities. This year, we have also included an extraordinarily important contribution by Just Detention International (JDI), which ensures government accountability for prisoner rape, transforms ill-informed public attitudes about sexual violence in detention and promotes access to resources for those who have survived this form of abuse. NCAVP member organizations stand in solidarity with JDI in advocating for prisoners' rights.

Thirteen NCAVP members collected detailed information about anti-LGBT incidents occurring in their regions throughout 2008 which is reflected in the report. This report is based upon the work of those thirteen member organizations, other members of the coalition and several ally organizations. The regions participating in this year's report are Chicago, IL; Colorado; Columbus, OH; Houston, TX; Kansas City, MO; Los Angeles, CA; Michigan; Milwaukee, WI; Minnesota; New York, NY; Pennsylvania; Rochester, NY; and San Francisco, CA. The reporting regions differ slightly from the previous year. In 2007, Vermont and Boston-area programs contributed data but were unable to do so for the 2008 report. Rochester, NY is the only new region contributing in 2008. The trends and charts that follow include all data contributed by NCAVP members in 2008.

**The total number of victims reporting anti-LGBT violence to NCAVP in 2008 was 2,424 which represent a 2% increase over the total number of victims reported in 2007 and a 26% increase over a two year period. Known anti-LGBT murders rose 28% from 2007 to 2008 and are at the highest level since 1999.**

Comparisons between 2007 and 2008 do not include data that was contributed in 2007 by the Vermont and Boston-area programs. Changes within categories are calculated based on absolute percentages to account for the 2% increase in overall reports.

There were six regions reporting increased numbers of victims in 2008 over 2007. They include Milwaukee (+64%), Minnesota (+48%), Chicago (+42%), Los Angeles (+9%), Colorado (+8%), Columbus (+2%). Six regions reported decreases in numbers of victims in 2008. They include Houston (-77%), Pennsylvania (-22%), New York City (-12%), Kansas City (-14%), Michigan (-14%), and San Francisco (-7%).

### NCAVP MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Full listings in bold are contributors to this year's report

ARIZONA  
**Wingspan Anti-Violence Project**  
 425 E. 7th Street  
 Tucson, AZ 85705  
 Phone: (520) 624-1779  
 Fax: (520) 624-0364  
[www.wingspan.org](http://www.wingspan.org)

ARKANSAS  
**Women's Project**  
 2224 Main Street  
 Little Rock, AR 72206  
 Phone: (501) 372-5113  
 Fax: (501) 372-0009  
[www.womens-project.org](http://www.womens-project.org)

CALIFORNIA  
**Community United Against Violence**  
**170 A Capp Street**  
**San Francisco, CA 94110-1210**  
**Phone: (415) 777-5500**  
**Fax: (415) 777-5565**  
[www.cuav.org](http://www.cuav.org)

L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center  
 1625 N. Schrader Blvd  
 Los Angeles, CA 90028  
**Phone (English):**  
**(800) 373-2227**  
**Phone (Spanish):**  
**(877) 963-4666**  
[www.lagaycenter.org](http://www.lagaycenter.org)

San Diego LGBT Community Center  
 2313 El Cajon Blvd.  
 San Diego, CA 92104  
 Phone: (619) 260-6380  
 Fax: (619) 718-644  
[www.thecentersd.org](http://www.thecentersd.org)

**NCAVP MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS  
(continued)**

COLORADO  
**Colorado Anti-Violence Program**  
 P.O. Box 181085  
 Denver, CO 80218  
 Phone: (303) 839-5204  
 Fax: (303) 839-5205  
 Website: [www.coavp.org](http://www.coavp.org)

CONNECTICUT  
**Connecticut Womens' Education and Legal Fund**  
 135 Broad Street  
 Hartford, CT 06105  
 Phone: (860) 247-6090, x16  
 Fax: (860) 524-0804  
 Website: [www.cwealf.org](http://www.cwealf.org)

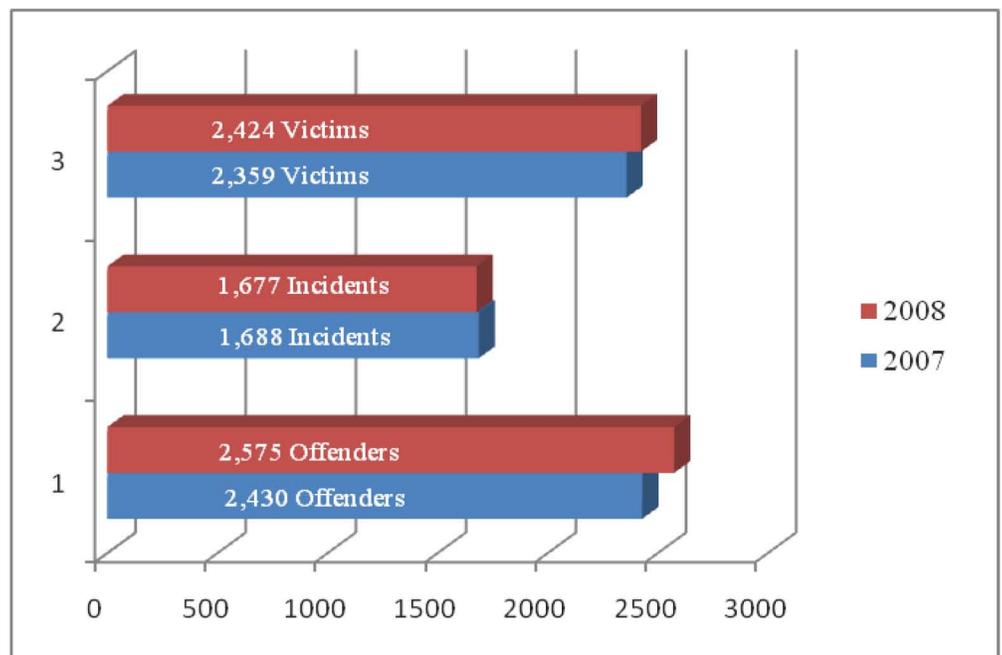
GEORGIA  
 United 4 Safety  
 PO Box 29458  
 Atlanta, GA 30359  
 Helpline: (404) 200-5957  
[www.united4safety.com](http://www.united4safety.com)

ILLINOIS  
**Center on Halsted Anti-Violence Project**  
 3656 N. Halsted  
 Chicago, IL 60614  
 Phone: (773) 472-6469  
 Fax: (773) 472-6643  
[www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org)

MASSACHUSETTS  
**Fenway Community Health Center, Violence Recovery Program**  
 7 Haviland Street  
 Boston, MA 02115  
 Phone: (617) 927-6250  
 Fax: (617) 536-7211  
[www.fenwayhealth.org](http://www.fenwayhealth.org)

The report is divided into six sections. Section I provides the national statistics on hate motivated violence recorded by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Project, giving an overview of the types, locations, and severity of violence as well as demographic analyses. Section II provides the regional data and summaries, highlighting the work of the individual contributing member organizations and the trends particular to their cities and regions. Section III offers personal narratives from survivors and the documentation of anti-LGBT hate-motivated murders. Section IV contains the list of recommendations based upon NCAVP's analyses of the issues and trends reflected in the data and in the overall work of the entire coalition. The final section of the report covers NCAVP's discussion of hate crimes legislation and offers strategies for safe dating both generally and online.

**Victims, Offenders, and Incidents 2007–2008**



## Highlights of Findings

NCAVP identified the following key findings and trends.

- 2008, with 29 total murders, has the highest number of deaths since 1999, and an increase of 28% from 2007.
- Of the total injuries reported in 2008, 216 (46%) were classified as “serious,” meaning that the injury required medical attention.
- Reports of abusive treatment by law enforcement increased significantly between 2007 and 2008:
  - Reports of physical abuse at the hands of law enforcement increased 150%, from 10 in 2007 to 25 in 2008.
  - One hundred forty-three cases (73%) of reports received bias classification by law enforcement - an increase over the 35% in 2007.
  - Fifty three cases (27%) were refused bias classification by law enforcement in 2008.
- Reports of sexual assault rose 48% (from 94 to 138), continuing a three year trend of marked increases in reports of hate-motivated sexual violence.
- Bias violence from strangers climbed 36%.
- Weapons use during the commission of a hate crime increased significantly; at least 382 out of the total 1,677 incidents (23%) involved weapons use in 2008. The biggest increases in weapons use occurred in the “other” category (+34%) and the “bottles/bricks/rocks” category (+49%).
- There was a significant increase in reports in the 15 - 18 year old category (+118%).
- Anti-transgender bias comprised 12% (206) of the total incidents reported in 2008.
- Anti-HIV related violence comprised 5% (88) of the total incidents reported in 2008.
- Out of the total 1,677 incidents, 472 (28%) were also reported to the police, consistent with the percentage of reports made to police last year (29%).
- Incidents occurring in or around private residences constituted the most frequent site of anti-LGBT bias (32%).

### **NCAVP MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS (continued)**

**The Network/La Red**  
 P.O. Box 6011  
 Boston, MA 02114  
 Phone: (617) 695-0877  
 Fax: (617) 423-5651  
[www.thenetworklared.org](http://www.thenetworklared.org)

MICHIGAN  
**Triangle Foundation**  
**19641 W. Seven Mile Rd**  
**Detroit, MI 48219**  
**Phone: (313) 537-7000**  
**Fax: (313) 537-3379**  
[www.tri.org](http://www.tri.org)

MINNESOTA  
**OutFront Minnesota**  
**310 East 38th Street, Suite 204**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55409**  
**Phone: (800) 800-0350**  
**Fax: (612) 822-8786**  
[www.outfront.org](http://www.outfront.org)

MISSOURI  
**Kansas City Anti-Violence Project**  
**P.O. Box 411211**  
**KC, MO 64141-1211**  
**Phone: (816) 561-0550**  
[www.kcavp.org](http://www.kcavp.org)

**St. Louis Anti-Violence Project**  
 PO Box 15067  
 St. Louis, MO 63110  
 Phone: (314) 503-2050  
[www.avap-stl.org](http://www.avap-stl.org)

MONTREAL  
**Centre De Solidarite Lesbienne**  
 4126, rue St-Denis, Bureau 301  
 Montréal, QC H2W 2M5  
 Canada  
 Phone: (514) 526-2452  
 Fax: (514) 526-3570  
[www.solidaritelesbienne.qc.ca](http://www.solidaritelesbienne.qc.ca)

**NCAVP MEMBER  
ORGANIZATIONS  
(continued)**

NEW YORK  
New York City Anti-Violence  
Project  
240 West 35th Street, Suite 200  
New York, NY 10001  
Phone: (212) 714-1184  
Fax: (212) 714-2627  
www.avp.org

In Our Own Voices, Inc.  
245 Lark Street  
Albany, NY 12210  
Phone: (518) 432-4188  
Fax: (518) 432-4123  
www.inourownvoices.org

Gay Alliance of the Genesee  
Valley Anti-Violence Program  
875 E. Main Street, Suite 500  
Rochester, NY 14605  
Phone: (585) 244-8640 x 17  
Fax: (585) 244-8246  
www.gayalliance.org

Long Island Gay and Lesbian  
Youth  
Anti-Violence Program  
34 Park Avenue  
Bayshore, NY 11706  
Phone: (631) 665-2300  
Fax: (631) 665-7874  
www.ligaly.org

OHIO  
Buckeye Region Anti-Violence  
Organization  
P.O. Box 82068  
Columbus, OH 43202  
Phone: (614) 294-7867  
Fax: (614) 294-3980  
www.bravo-ohio.org

- Workplace constituted the third most common site with (14%) and workplace incidents decreased 12% from 2007.
- Total number of offenders rose 5% over 2007, representing the most significant increase in terms of overall totals.
- Long-term data indicate that while hate violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people has fallen 4.7% over the last ten years, overall crime in country has declined 9.81%.

## REPORT FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

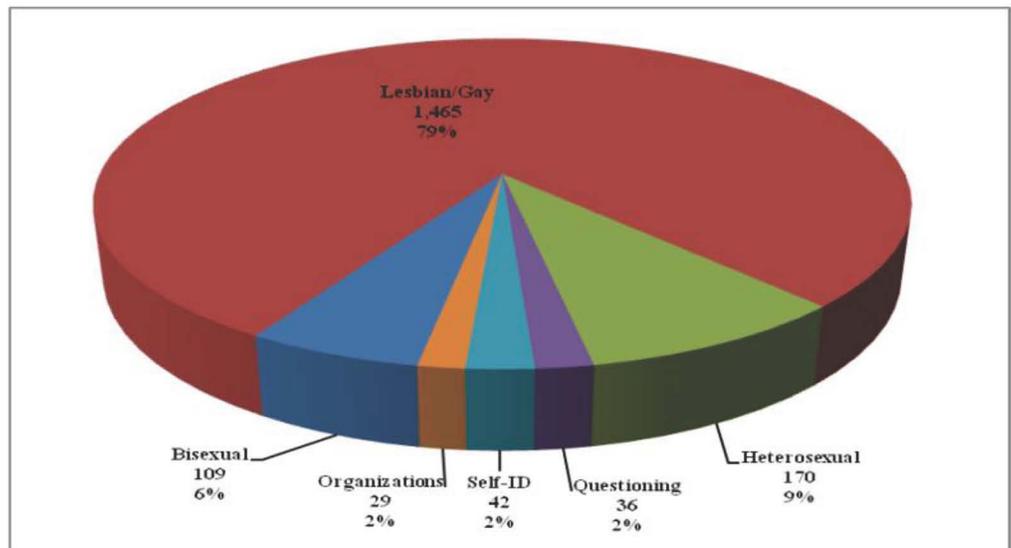
### Victims and Survivors of Bias-Motivated Violence

Lesbians and gay men represent the majority of those reporting incidents to participating programs. They represent 79% of all victims for whom sexual orientation was known. Bisexual-identified callers represented about 6% of reports. Those questioning their sexual orientation represent 2%. Two percent of victims provided a self-identifying label such as queer.

Those identifying as heterosexual made up 9% of victims, up slightly from the 6% who identified as such in 2007. Only a portion of these reports are from people of transgender experience who identify as heterosexual. Perpetrators seldom differentiate between sexual orientation and gender identity in the bias-motivation for their attacks.

### Sexual Orientation of Victims & Survivors in 2008

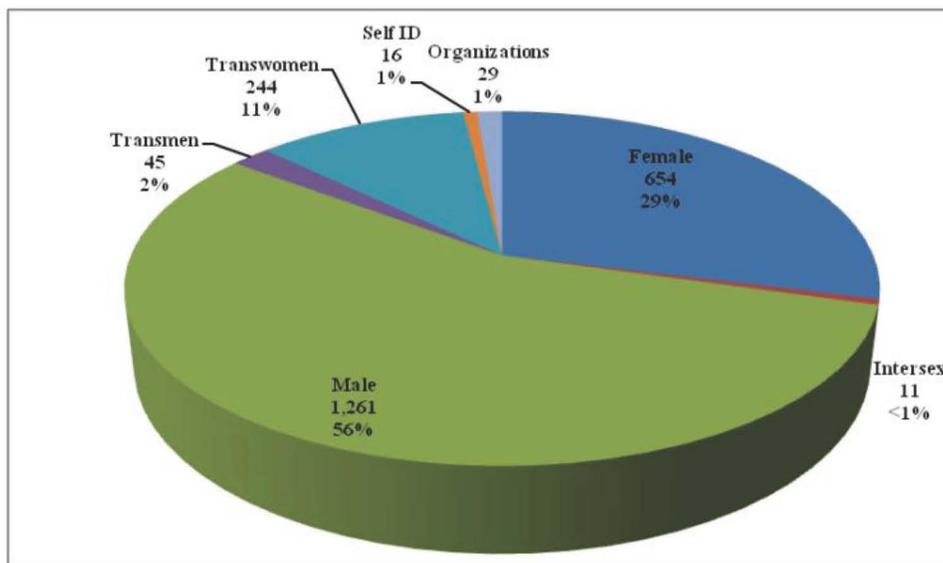
(n = 2,435, chart represents 1,851 callers whose sexual orientation was known)



There was an absolute increase of female-identified victims (6% over 2007), constituting 29% of total victims. And there was an absolute decrease in reports from male identified victims (-3%), who made up 56% of the total reports to NCAVP in 2008. Reports from transgender, gender self-identified and intersex people increased 12%.

### Gender Identity of Victims & Survivors in 2008

(n = 2,435, chart represents 2,260 callers whose gender identity was known)



People of color comprised 52% of callers for whom such data was known in 2008. Specifically, people of African descent made up 20% of victims, up 3% over the previous year. Latina/o victims comprised 23%, up 2% from the previous year. People of Arab/Middle Eastern descent made up about 3% of victims, as did those identifying as multi-racial. Native American/Indigenous people made up 2% and people of Asian descent comprised 1% of victims, down 2% from 2007. White callers comprised 48% of the total for whom race was known. The chart does not include the relatively large 26% of victims for whom race was unknown.

In addition to documenting race and ethnicity, NCAVP has been working on documenting country of origin and immigration status. Not enough member programs are currently documenting immigration status for us to have a real sense of numbers of LGBT immigrants who are targeted. Some organizations avoid asking immigration status in order to avoid putting survivors at risk for deportation even though survivor/victim information is confidential. Without comprehensive immigration reform, LGBT immigrant communities will continue to have less access to services of all kinds and be less accurately represented when they do seek services when they experience hate violence.

### NCAVP MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS (continued)

**The Lesbian & Gay Community Service Center of Cleveland**  
6600 Detroit Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44102  
Phone: (216) 651-5428  
Fax: (216) 651-6439  
[www.lgbtcleveland.org](http://www.lgbtcleveland.org)

ONTARIO  
**The 519 Anti-Violence Programme**  
519 Church Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
Canada M4Y 2C9  
Phone: (416) 392-6878  
Fax: (416) 392-0519  
[www.the519.org](http://www.the519.org)

PENNSYLVANIA  
**Equality Advocates Pennsylvania**  
1211 Chestnut Street Suite 605  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
Phone: (215) 731-1447  
Fax: (215) 731-1544  
[www.equalitypa.org](http://www.equalitypa.org)

TEXAS  
**Montrose Counseling Center**  
401 Branard Avenue, 2nd floor  
Houston, TX 77006  
Phone: (713) 529-0037  
Fax: (713) 526-4367  
[www.montrosecounselingcenter.org](http://www.montrosecounselingcenter.org)

**Project Get the Word Out**  
501 North Kansas  
Suite 203  
El Paso, TX 79901  
Phone: (915) 626-5292  
[www.freewebs.com/thewordout/](http://www.freewebs.com/thewordout/)

**NCAVP MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS (continued)**

**Resource Center of Dallas Family Violence Program**  
 PO Box 190869  
 Dallas, TX 75219  
 Phone: (214) 540-4455  
 Fax: (214) 522-4604  
 www.rcdallas.org

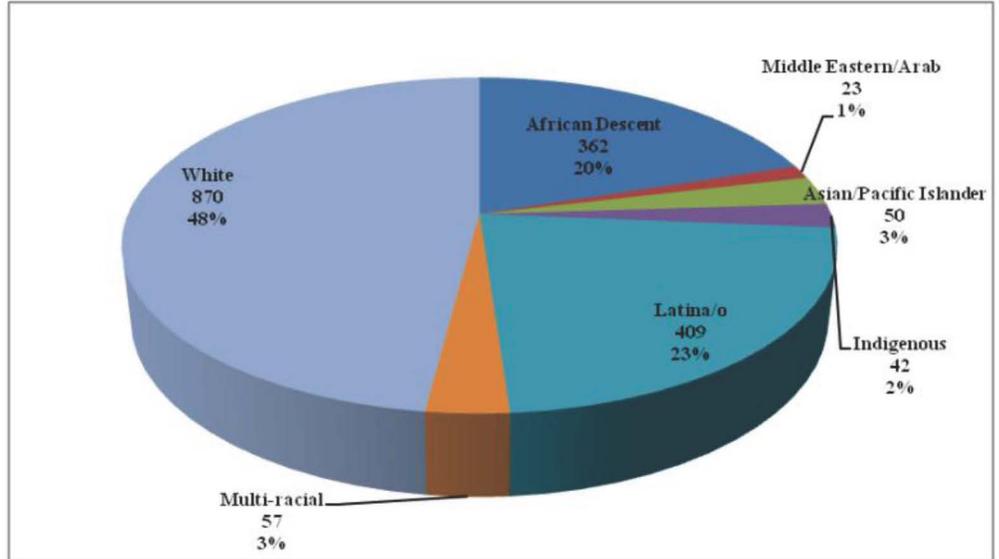
VERMONT  
**SafeSpace a Program of the RU 12? Community Center**  
 P.O. Box 5883  
 Burlington, VT 05402  
 Phone: (802) 863-0003  
 Fax: (802) 861-6487  
 www.ru12.org

VIRGINIA  
**Equality Virginia, Anti-Violence Project**  
 403 N. Robinson Street  
 Richmond, VA 23220  
 Phone: (804) 643-4816  
 www.equalityvirginia.org/avp

WISCONSIN  
**Milwaukee Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center**  
 315 West Court Street  
 Suite 101  
 Milwaukee, WI 53212  
 Phone: (414) 271-2656  
 Fax: (414) 271-2161  
 www.mkelgbt.org

**Race/Ethnicity of Victims & Survivors for 2008**

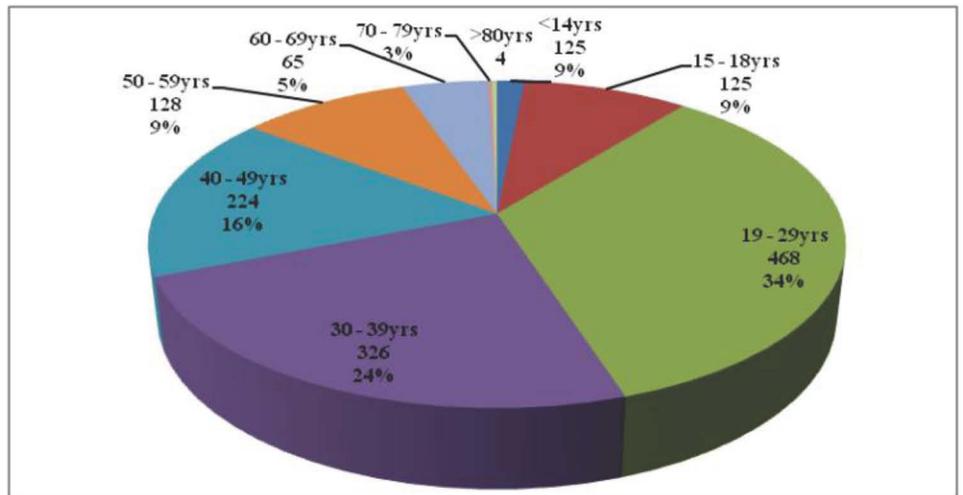
(n = 2,435, chart represents 1,813 callers whose race was known)



There were increases in nearly every single age category from 2007 to 2008. Documenting the ages of people seeking services and safety planning around hate violence continues to be challenging, as it is often the demographic information least likely to be disclosed on a hotline call. This year, 44% of all reporting victims' ages were unknown, though this is an improvement over last year, with almost 400 fewer unknowns than in 2007. Alarming, a significant increase in reports came from the 15- to 18-year-old category (+118%).

**Age of Victims & Survivors in 2008**

(n = 2,435, chart represents 1,469 callers whose age was known)



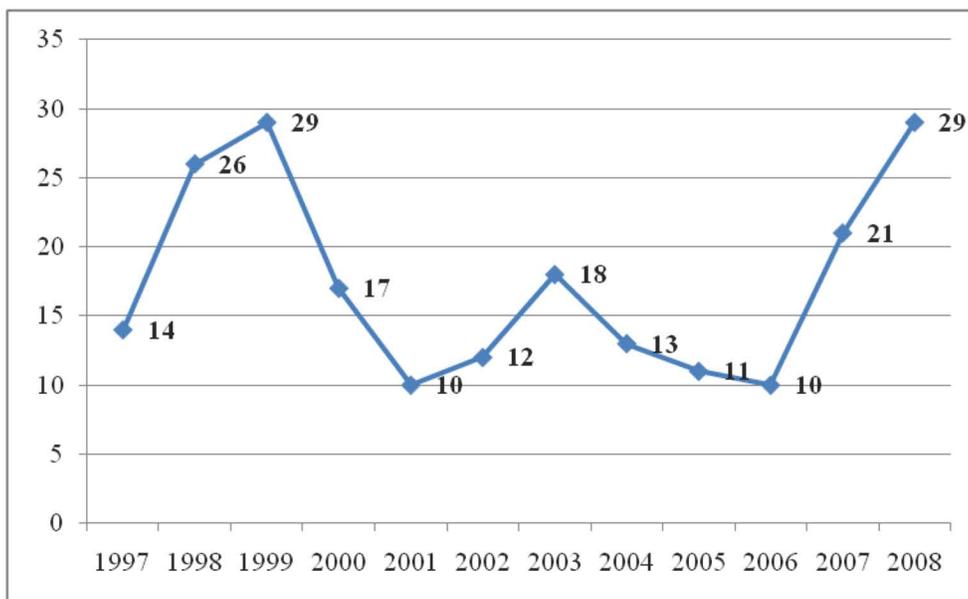
Reports from person's age 19 - 29 year olds increased 57% (from 295 to 468), reports from 30 - 29 year olds rose 71% (190 to 326) and reports from 60 - 69 year olds increased 261% (from 18 to 65). Smaller increases in reports occurred in the 14 and younger category (18 to 25, +17%); the 40 - 49 year old category (189 to 224, + 16%); and the 80 years and older category (from 1 to 4). Reports from 50 to 59 year olds stayed relatively the same and reports from 70 - 79 year olds fell slightly from 8 in 2007 to 3 in 2008.

### Types of Incidents

One of the most frightening aspects of hate violence is that it feels very personal and difficult to avoid. This means that LGBT people spend a significant amount of their energy negotiating the world to maximize their safety, knowing that this safety may at any time be compromised. Generally, hate violence against any marginalized community occurs along a spectrum of escalation. Therefore, verbal attacks cannot be considered mere isolated and inconsequential incidents. Perpetrators of such violence often feel they have broad support for their actions. At the very least, they often believe that they are attacking someone who is an easy target because they are gay, because they are a person of color, because they are an immigrant, a woman or a low-income person with little or no societal protection or support. For instance, a perpetrator may target someone they perceive as belonging to a particular immigrant community because they believe that someone from that community would not report such violence or that the police would not respond to such a report of violence.

### Anti-LGBT Murders since 1997

(Total = 210)



### NCAVP MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS (continued)

WASHINGTON  
**The Northwest Network**  
 PO Box 20398  
 Seattle, WA 98102  
 Phone: (206) 568-777  
[www.nwnetwork.org](http://www.nwnetwork.org)

WASHINGTON DC  
**WEAVE Inc, Anti-Violence Project**  
 111 16th Street NW  
 Suite 200  
 Washington, DC 20036  
[www.weaveincorp.org](http://www.weaveincorp.org)

NATIONAL  
**For Ourselves: Reworking Gender Expression, Survivor Project**  
 PO Box 1272  
 Milwaukee, WI 53201  
 Phone: (414) 559-2123  
[www.forge-forward.org](http://www.forge-forward.org)

**National Leather Association - International Domestic Violence Project**  
 P.O. Box 423  
 Blacklick, OH 43004-0423  
[www.nlaidvproject.us](http://www.nlaidvproject.us)

**CONTRIBUTING  
NON-MEMBER  
ORGANIZATIONS**

**Asian Women’s Shelter**  
3543 18th Street, Box 19  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
Phone: (415) 751-7110  
Fax: (415) 751-0806  
www.sfaws.org

**Madre Tierra**  
1208 Ellis Avenue Office 2  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401  
Phone: (202) 270-7326

**Just Detention International**  
3325 Wilshire Blvd. #340  
Los Angeles, CA 90010  
Phone: (213) 384-1400  
www.justdetention.org

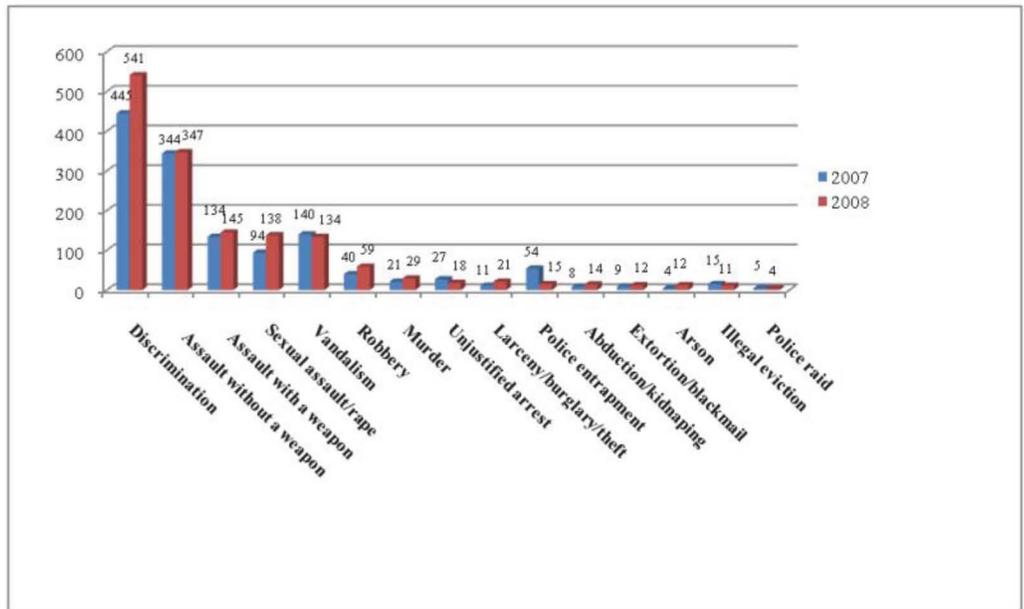
**Gender Public Advocacy  
Coalition**  
1731 Connecticut Ave NW, 4th  
Fl Washington, DC 20009  
Phone: (202) 462-6610  
www.gpac.org

Some perpetrators also regularly receive social affirmation for acting out biases such as when a politician calls a hate crime a hoax, when a faith leader condemns LGBT people as sinners in a public space, when political leaders stand in the way of civil rights progress or, on a more intimate level, when a friend laughs at a racist joke, when a man is perceived as more masculine for mistreating a woman, when a straight student moves up the social hierarchy at school by routinely harassing the gay student. The acceptance of these behaviors can provide a normalizing justification to escalate violence against LGBT people.

Reports to NCAVP member programs run the gamut from acts of vandalism, verbal abuse, threats, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and murder. Anti-LGBT motivated murders in 2008 (29) represent the highest ever in NCAVP’s reporting history. In 1998, the year of Matthew Shepard’s murder, NCAVP members documented a total of 26 anti-LGBT murders. Incidents peaked in 1999 at 29.

Reports of sexual assault rose 48% (from 94 to 138), continuing a three year trend of marked increases in reports of hate-motivated sexual violence. Stigma around sexuality, gender identity, and sexual assault is frequently utilized by perpetrators of hate violence to simultaneously harm and silence LGBT people.

**Crimes and Offenses 2007 - 2008**

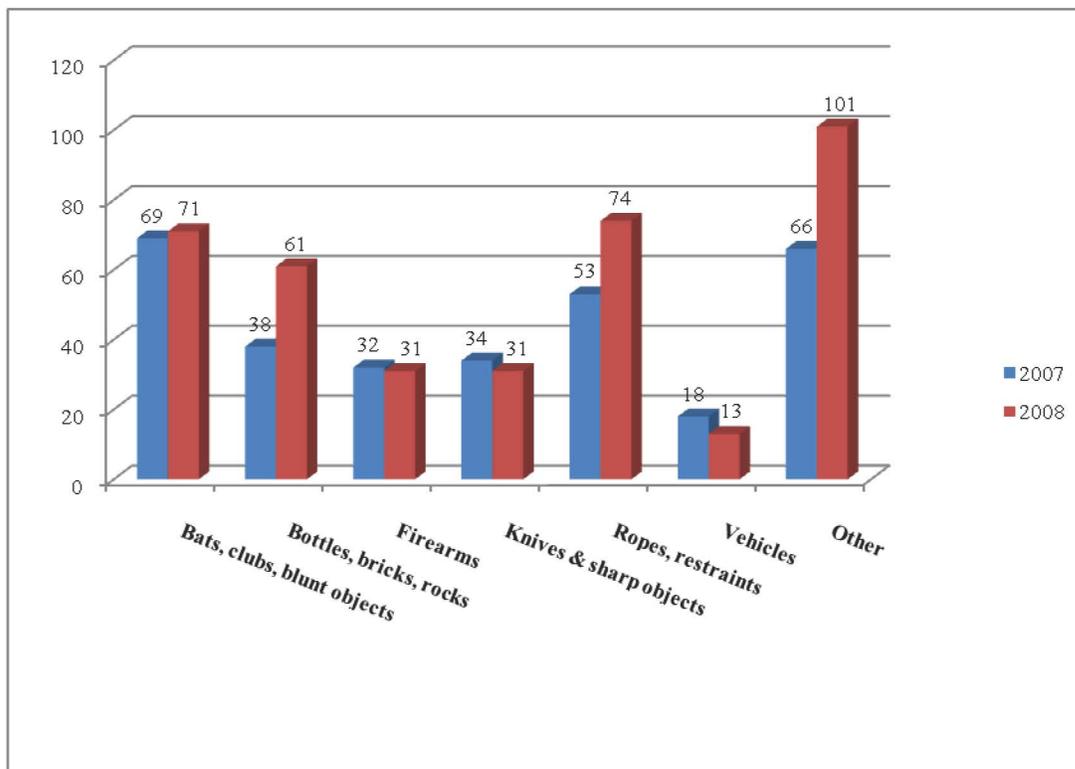


The chart above depicts all individual incidents reported by victims of anti-LGBT violence to NCAVP members in 2008, minus the category “harassment and intimidation.” There were 1,687 reports of acts of harassment and intimidation in 2008, down 5% from 2007. Overall anti-LGBT incidents stayed relatively the same (-1%) and use of weapons during an assault also stayed relatively consistent (from 195 to 199). The biggest increases in weapons use occurred in the “other” category (+34%) and the “bottles/bricks/rocks” category (+49%).

More investigation into the “other” category is needed, as it represents the largest of any weapons category in this survey. The high rate rates of weapons use and injury is also demonstrated by FBI data, the only other national report on this violence, which reports that from 2003 to 2007 murders, rapes and assaults – the most serious of all hate crimes – accounted for 52.3% of all anti-LGB crimes reported by the FBI, as compared to 38.2% of all reported hate crimes.<sup>1</sup> Of the total injuries reported in 2008, 216 (46%) were classified as “serious,” meaning that the injury required medical attention.

Crime against LGBT communities appears to be falling at a slower rate than overall crime in the United States. Seven anti-violence programs have submitted data for the last 10 consecutive years and those programs show an overall 4.7% decrease in incidents (1,375 incidents in 1999 vs. 1,311 in 2008). Overall crime in the nation during the last 10 years for which FBI data is available (1998-2007), however, has fallen at more than twice that rate, 9.8. In other words, hate violence remains a much more intractable problem than other forms of crime.<sup>2</sup> FBI statistics paint an even grimmer picture. For the last ten years for which data are available (1998-2007), total hate crime incidents reported by the FBI fell only 1.7% (from 7,755 in 1998 to 7,624 in 2007), and anti-LGB incidents fell even less: -0.4%.<sup>3</sup>

### Weapon Use 2007 - 2008



<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Hate Crimes Statistics (2003-2007)* (See Table 4 for each year). NCAVP's data is more inclusive and representative of the experiences of LGBT victims and survivors of violence but corresponds with the FBI's more limited data. The FBI only measures “crimes” and does not include data about crimes against transgender people.

<sup>2</sup> *United States Crime Rates 1960 – 2007*, <http://www.disastercenter.com/crime/uscrime.htm>.

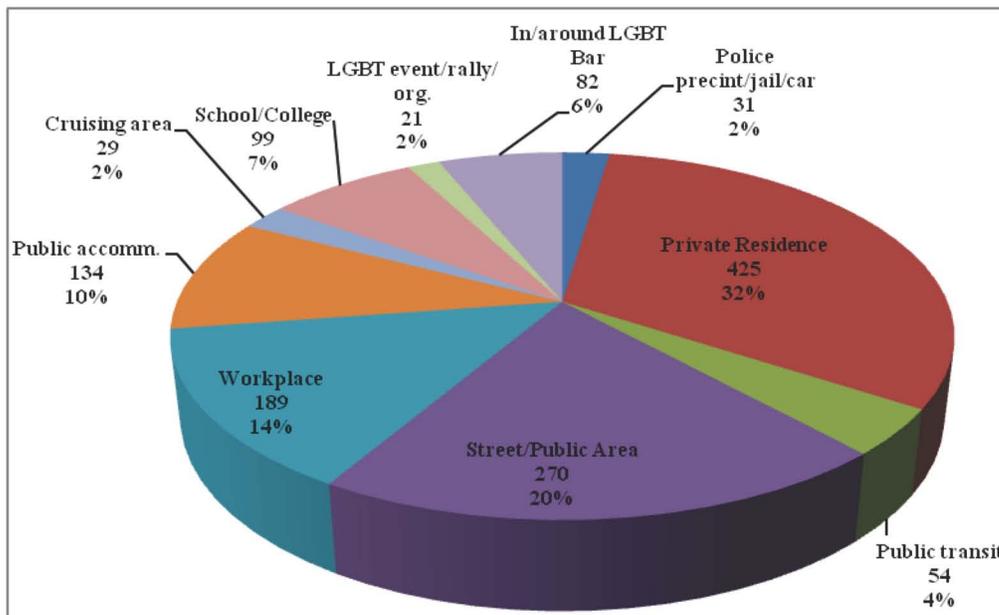
## Location of Incidents

Though overall reports of incidents in and around private residences fell slightly, nearly one third of all incidents where location was known took place in or near a private residence, a slight absolute increase over the previous year when such locations constituted about 30% of all sites. Street/public areas are still the second most common site with 20% of incidents perpetrated publicly, an absolute increase of 3% over the prior year.

Workplace is the third most common site for hate violence (14%), though reports of workplace incidents fell 12%. Public accommodation (10% of total known sites) primarily represents targeting of transgender and gender non-conforming people in restrooms, locker rooms, shelters, jails, and other gendered spaces. Incidents at areas of public accommodation increased 20% this year (from 112 to 134) and incidents on public transportation increased 46% (37 to 54).

### Sites of Anti-LGBT Incidents in 2008

(n = 1,557, chart depicts the 1,334 cases where site was known)

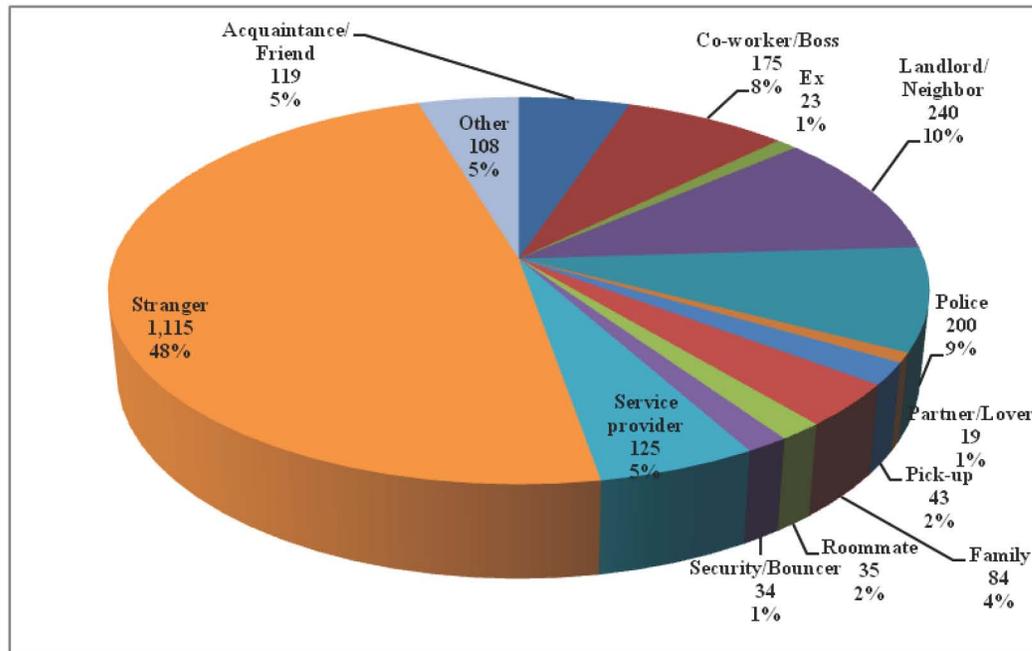


## Victim/Offender Relationship

Bias violence from strangers represented the largest increase in reports to NCAVP in 2008 increasing 36% over 2007, representing nearly half of all incidents. In 2007, strangers made up 37% of total offenders. In 5% of the incidents (269), the offender/victim relationship was not reported. Landlords and neighbors (recorded as one category) represented the second largest group of offenders in this year's report. As reflected in the numbers, anecdotally we know the harassment from neighbors is a very commonplace experience for LGBT people. Bias attacks and harassment occurring in and around one's home are particularly unsettling as the offender(s) know where the victim lives, and may live in the same building, increasing their access to the victims. Additionally, victims have a hard time finding safety when moving is presented as the only option (and a very unsettling one at that). Lease agreements are often not very easily broken, especially if landlords are unsympathetic to issues of bias.

## Relationship of Victims to Offenders in 2008

(n = 2,564, chart depicts the 2,329 cases where relationship was known)



## Law Enforcement Response

Police were known to have been called in 472 (28%) of the total cases reported to NCAVP in 2008. In 712 (43%) cases, the victim(s) did not report to police. And 47 (3%) of victims were weighing the possibility of reporting to police at the time they called an organization for help. Additionally, there were 59 (13%) cases where the victim attempted to report and the report was refused by the police. This

means there were about 446 (27%) cases where we are not certain if the survivor reported to the police. Arrests of offenders were made in 100 of cases reported to police (19%).

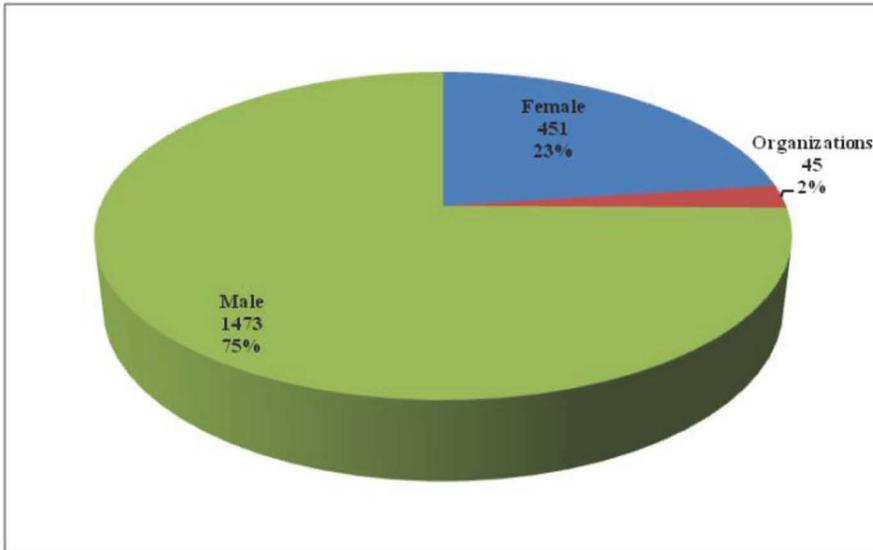
Reports of abusive treatment by law enforcement increased from 2007 to 2008. Law enforcement made up an overall 196 of the primary offenders, an increase of 11% in 2008. Reports of physical abuse went from 10-25 (150%). Reports of verbal abuse, including use of slurs, increased from 34 to 51 (50%). Thirty-two incidents took place in police custody - a precinct, jail, or car. In 38 cases (a 43% decrease from 2007), the individual identifying as the victim was arrested. Overall, reports of abusive treatment by law enforcement increased 58% during a year when overall reports to police rose only 12%. Reports of courteous treatment increased 12% and reports of indifferent treatment decreased 4% in 2008.

There were fluctuations in information relative to the disposition of reports made to law enforcement. One hundred forty-three cases (73%) of reports received bias classification by law enforcement - an increase over the 35% in 2007. Fifty three cases (27%) were refused bias classification in 2008.

## Offenders

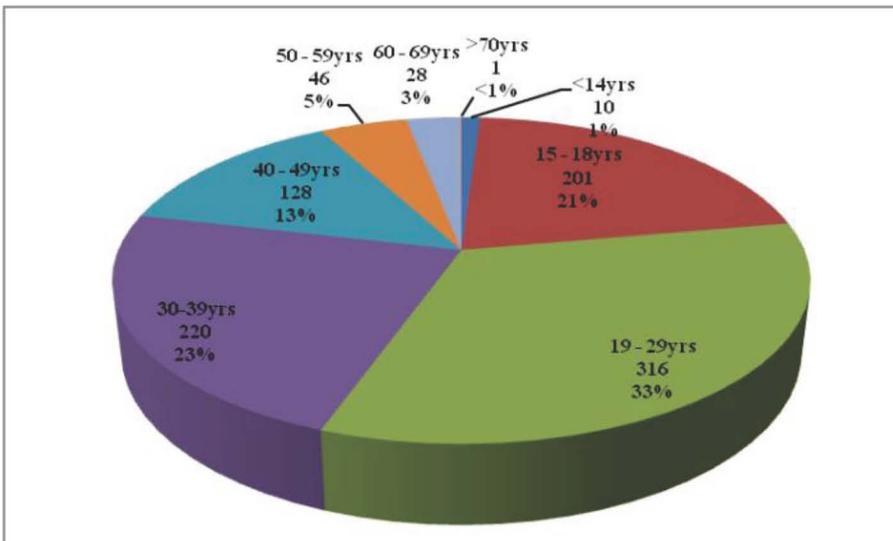
There was only a slight increase (5%) in offenders in 2008. Missing offender data from Los Angeles in both 2007 and 2008 gives an incomplete picture of total number of offenders. Los Angeles reported over 500 victims in 2008, which would likely bring the total number of offenders closer to 3,000.

A significant change that occurred in offender demographics this year was that 100 more reports of female offenders in 2008, resulting in a 29% increase over 2007. Male offenders made up 75% of the total where gender was known, about the same as the previous year.



**Gender Identity of Offenders in 2008**

(n = 2,583, chart depicts the 1,969 offenders where gender identity was known)

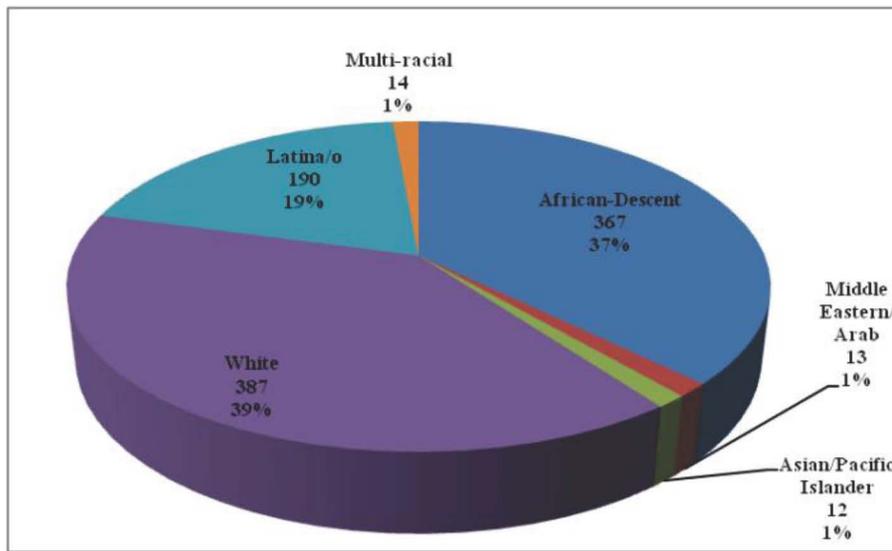


**Age of Offenders in 2008**

(n = 2,583, chart depicts the 950 offenders where age was known)

Every year, there is a substantial number of unknowns in the offender demographics, in part because cases of bias involving vandalism, mail/literature harassment, and other offenses where acts of bias are committed anonymously. Additionally, many victims of bias violence choose not to report information on offender demographics, either because they do not know, or because it simply is not the focus of the conversation when an individual is calling in crisis.

Law enforcement made up the third largest category of anti-LGBT bias offenders, accounting for 9% of all incidents in 2008, a slight decrease (-4%) from 2007. Some, cases involving law enforcement as offenders happened when an LGBT person has called the police after experiencing a hate incident involving a different perpetrator. Employers and co-workers made up the fourth largest category of offenders, though reports of these types of offenders fell 25%.



### Race/Ethnicity of Offenders in 2008

(n = 2,583, chart depicts the 983 offenders where age was known)

## LIMITATIONS OF THE REPORT

### Self-Selected Sample

The information contained in this report comes from people who experienced violence and who called or visited NCAVP member organizations for information, support, and/or services. There are a variety of factors that will impact the number of people that report to an organization. Factors such as outreach campaigns, changes in demographics within an area, and visibility of the local AVP can have an impact on reporting. When a particular region charts increases or decreases in reports, it may be unclear whether those numbers represent an actual change in incidents of hate violence occurring in that community or a change in reporting patterns. Much reporting is done through hotlines or other phone contact which may also decrease the information callers are willing to disclose over the telephone.

local or regional availability of the service, a victim's knowledge of the existence of these organizations and the desire to access their services (rather than report solely for statistical purposes). For this reason, NCAVP members engage in various kinds of education and outreach, designed to increase visibility of programs and awareness of services, which can strongly influence the number of reports they receive. Because anti-LGBT violence has historically been poorly addressed by law enforcement (and because law enforcement officials remain one of the prime categories of offenders documented by NCAVP each year), it is very often underreported to police even in jurisdictions where relationships between law enforcement and the LGBT population have improved.

### **Categories of “Unknowns”**

Much of the information in this report is gathered through calls to member organizations' hotlines for LGBT victims of violence. The primary purpose of a hotline call is to meet the caller's needs for self determination and safety. On a hotline call it is not always possible to record all data about the victim(s), the offender(s) or the incident(s) while ensuring victim safety. As well, many survivors prefer to remain anonymous and many prefer not to disclose any information beyond the recent incident they experienced. As a result, there is consistently a significant number of “unknowns” with regards to some specific demographic in annual NCAVP reports.

### **Geographical Gaps**

As the map below depicts, there are large areas of the country without an NCAVP member organization. Consequently, there are gaps in geographical areas and incidents occurring in those regions are missing from this report. Of the 35 programs, only 13 had the necessary staff, technology and funding to appropriately collect data that is contributed to this report for this year. Nonetheless, even with limited reporting the numbers reported in this, and past, annual Hate Violence Report consistently exceed those of national FBI statistics and those of local law enforcement.

### REGIONS REPRESENTED

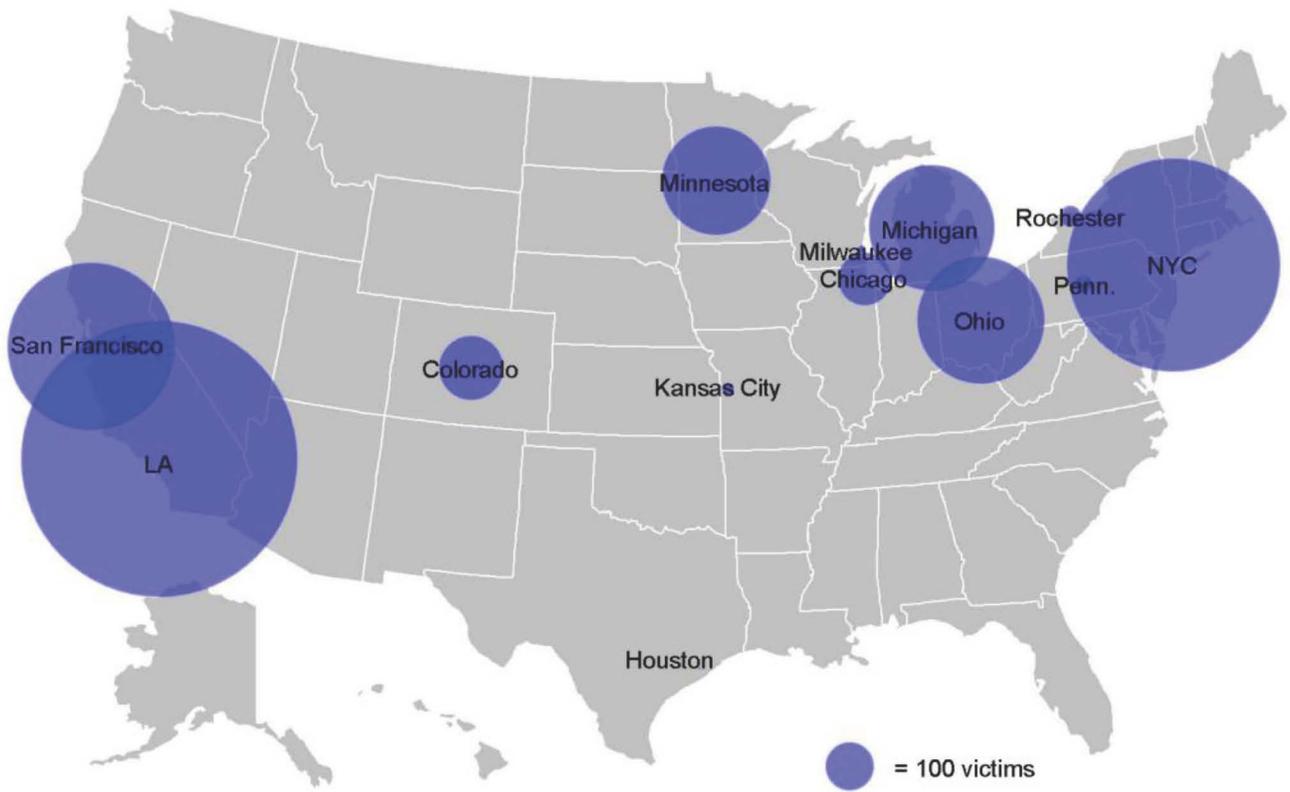


Figure 1. Number of victims of anti-LGBT violence reported in 2008

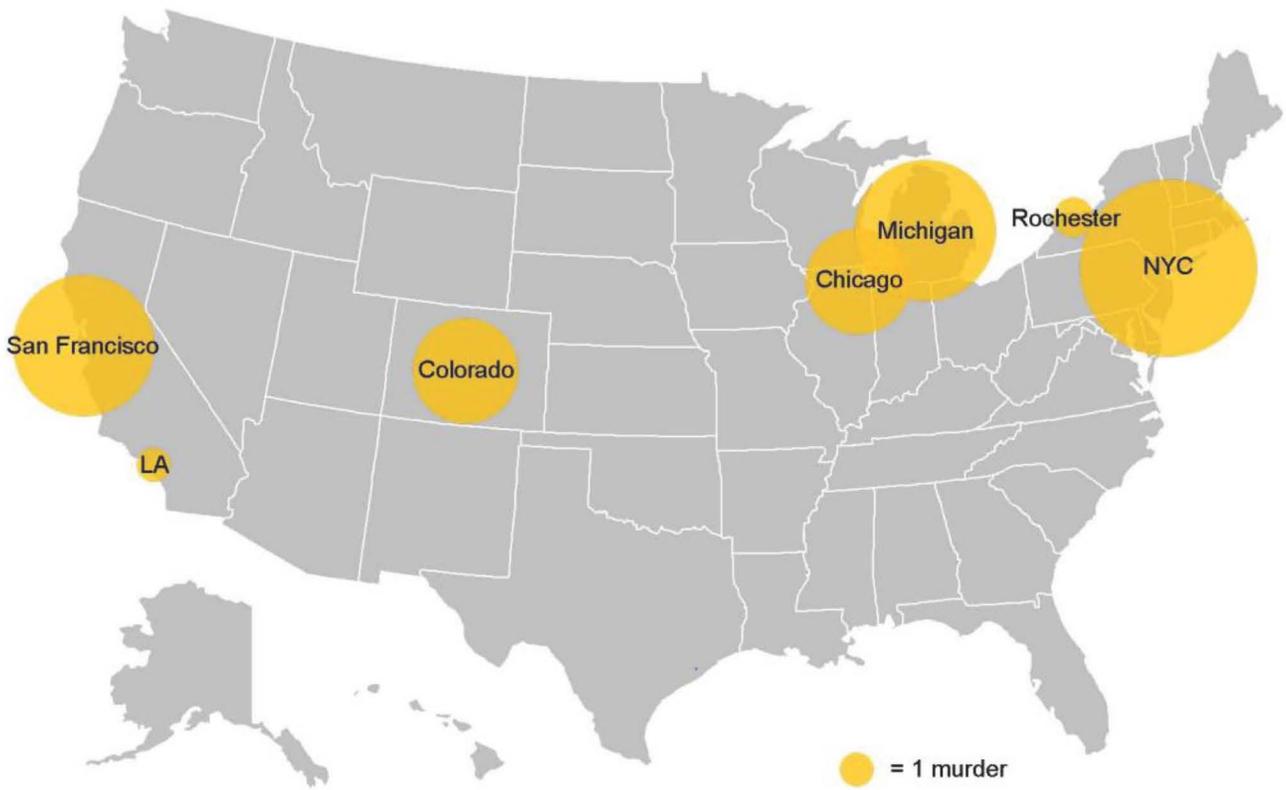


Figure 2. Number of anti-LGBT murders reported in 2008

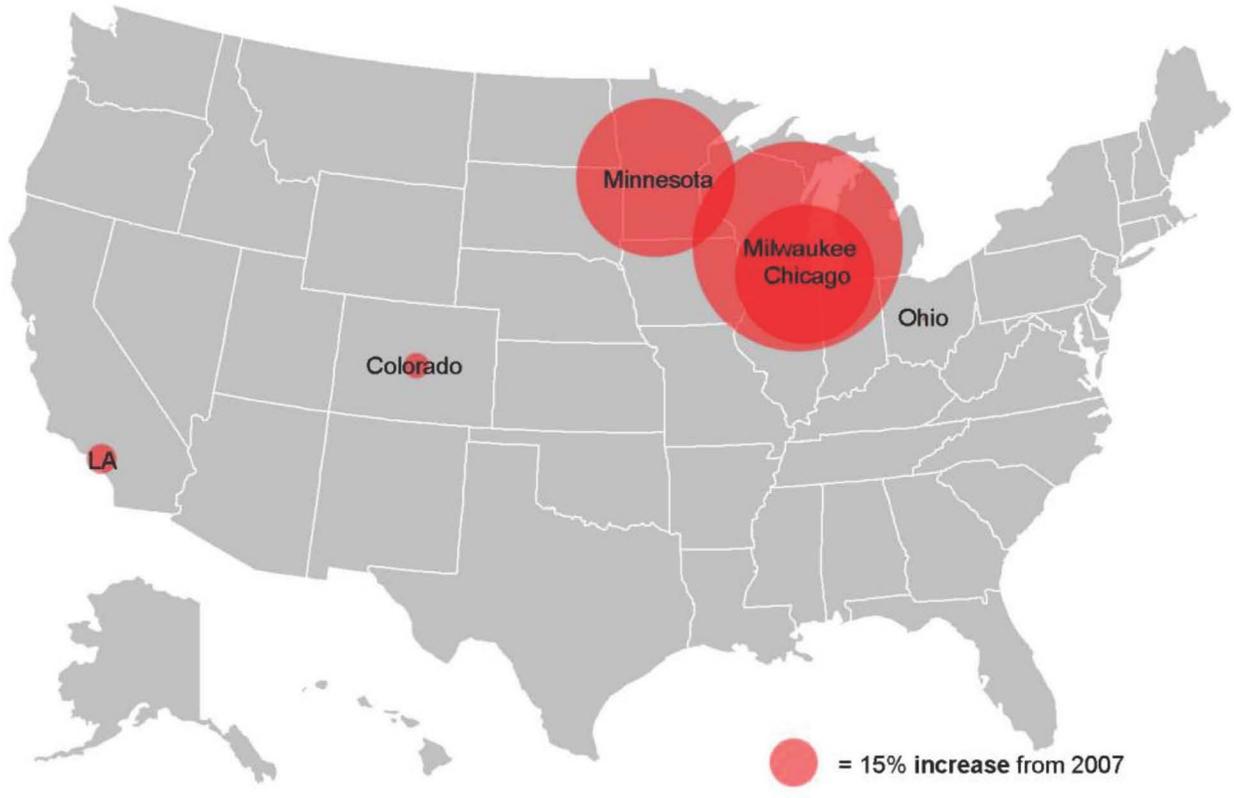


Figure 3. Percent increase in number of victims of anti-LGBT violence reported in 2008

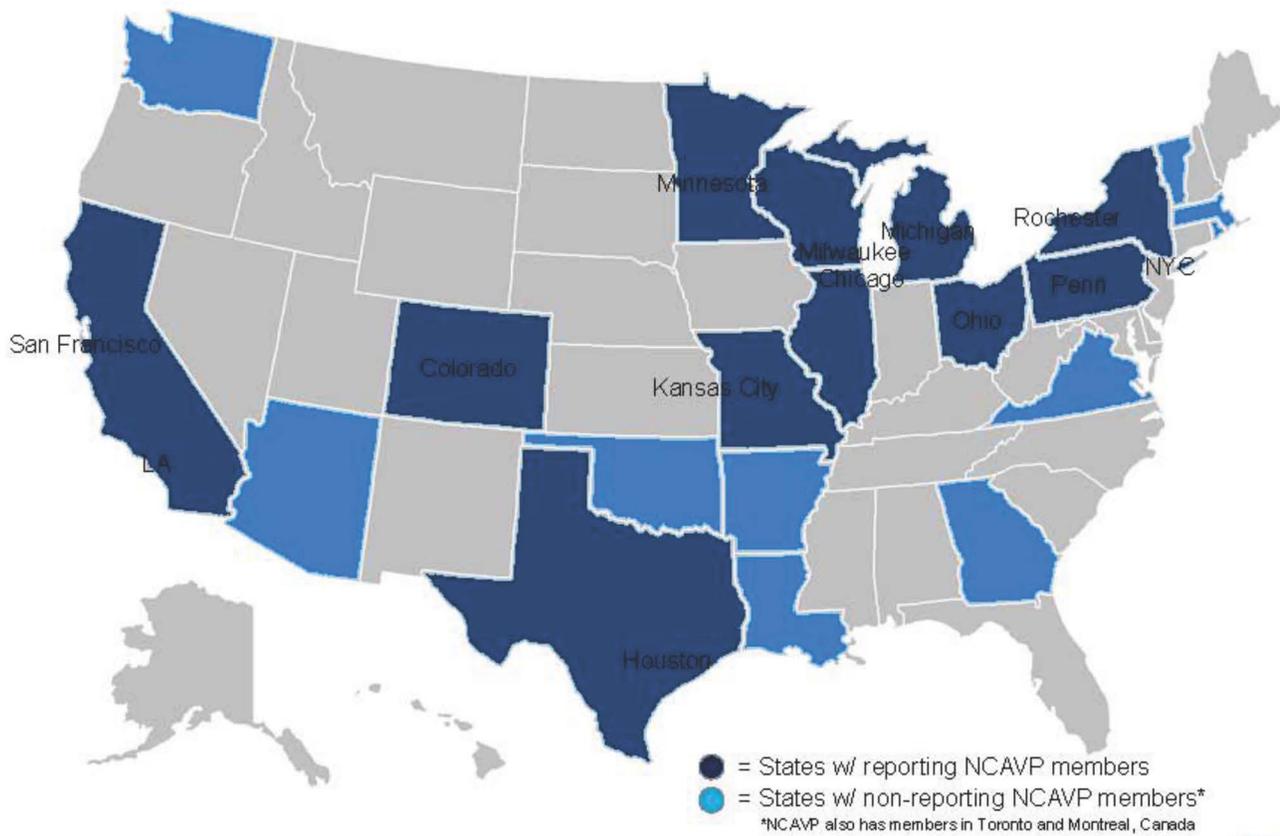


Figure 4. State-by-state distribution of NCAVP members and the 2008 Hate Violence Report



## RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of the above data, the data in past annual Hate Violence Reports and the work of the 35 NCAVP member organizations, NCAVP makes the following recommendations.

### **Recommendation 1: Create a Climate of Respect that Shuns Violence**

#### Foster Public Awareness

Foster public, educational, political and cultural messages at local, state and federal levels that make clear acts of hate violence and bias have no part in our communities. Political leaders of every party should speak out forcefully against anti- LGBT discrimination and violence and support genuine efforts to end them. Businesses should establish and enforce appropriate anti-discrimination standards for the workplace that are inclusive of sexual orientation and gender identity; religious leaders should make clear that no major religious tradition holds violence as an acceptable tenet. The media should explain and report anti-LGBT violence in its proper context, i.e., without placing blame on a victim's gender presentation, family status or occupation.

#### Support School Based LGBT Initiatives and LGBT Inclusive Curricula

Hate violence prevention begins in the playground and school yard. School districts should adopt violence prevention education curricula for youth, as well as develop protocols for protecting students who identify themselves as, or are perceived to be, LGBT. State and local legislatures should endorse such programs and allocate funds for their support.

### **Recommendation 2: Add Protected Communities to Anti-Violence Legislation and Expand Legislation Aimed at Ending Violence**

Pass new legislation at the federal and state levels expanding protected categories by adding sexual orientation and gender identity and expression to existing statutes. Ideal federal legislation would both authorize the U.S. Attorney General to investigate and prosecute bias motivated crimes, particularly those cases in which it is determined that local law enforcement does not have the adequate resources, mandate, or willingness to do so. A primary piece of any federal hate crimes legislation should provide additional resources for enhanced law enforcement agencies, criminal justice personnel and community education, training and assistance programs actively addressing hate crimes. Such resources should be the primary goal of hate crimes legislation rather than the emphasis on the element of penalty enhancements.

Further address violence motivated by homophobia and transphobia at the state level through legislation designed to heighten public awareness. This includes mandating safe schools and requiring state-sponsored anti-violence campaigns to specifically include sexual orientation and gender identity.

### **Recommendation 3: Increase Local, State and Federal Funding to Anti-Violence Work**

#### Support Community-Based Anti-Violence Solutions and Strategies

Make additional local, state and federal funding resources available to support the development of commu-

nity-based initiatives, responses and solutions to anti-LGBT violence, as well as hate-motivated violence targeting other marginalized communities. These resources should be provided to local organizations that work specifically on anti-violence initiatives such as anti-LGBT violence, racist violence, anti-immigrant violence and other identity-based violence. These organizations have developed competence and expertise in addressing violence that is premised on identity to leverage this expertise and provide training for other, less knowledgeable anti-violence programs. This funding will mitigate and prevent acts of violence against LGBT individuals, improve the lives of those who are victimized by them and build cooperative relationships between LGBT communities and a wider range of partners in both the public and private service sectors.

#### Include Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People in All Local, State and Federal Anti-Violence Funding Streams

Anti-violence work must be supported by local, state and federal governments. Local anti-violence programs that do exist do not receive adequate support to provide necessary services to address direct service needs or to do the necessary organizing and prevention work to end violence. Many states and localities have no anti-violence program at all. All local, state and federal entities that provide funding for anti-violence work should explicitly include work with lesbians, gay men, bisexual people and transgender people in funding priorities. Such agencies include local and national Health and Human Services and the Center for Disease Control in funding preventative and health-focused initiatives and the Department of Justice Office of Victims of Crime when funding crime victim service provision.

### **Recommendation 4:**

#### **Provide Rehabilitation & Alternatives to Incarceration**

Provide enhanced rehabilitation, education, and intervention for offenders to reduce recidivism and interrupt escalating cycles of abuse instead of advocating for hate crimes laws that provide only increased penalties. As organizations dedicated to eliminating anti-LGBT violence, NCAVP recognizes that increased penalties are part of legislative and criminal justice strategies to combat hate violence and believes that penalty enhancement cannot be the primary or sole method of addressing such violence. NCAVP recommends that rather than viewing hate violence as a criminal justice problem with social implications, hate violence must be viewed as a social and public health issue with criminal justice implications. This highlights the need for prevention, education and rehabilitation programs.

### **Recommendation 5:**

#### **Increase the Efficacy of Law Enforcement**

Increase Police Training for LGBT-Specific Violence; Create a No Tolerance Policy for Police Violence Against the LGBT Communities

Establish and promote anti-bias units or hate crimes task forces in every major metropolitan and state police force. Require law enforcement training and resources that specifically address anti-LGBT violence through training academies and regular trainings over the law enforcement career and institute effective use of evaluations of the implementation of training suggestions. Require, through law enforcement policy or local legislation, rigorous investigation and prosecution of acts of harassment, intimidation and abuse committed by police officers against LGBT individuals. Mandate monitoring of bias motivated police misconduct and immediate and effective response and reprisal when police misconduct is identified.

### Reform Sexual Assault Laws to End Silence and Stigma Around LGBT Sexual Assault

Reform sexual assault laws so that the legacy of sodomy laws does not continue to impact societal distinctions between sexual assault in heterosexual situations and same-sex situations, such as rape being defined as the penetration of a vagina by a penis. Provide resources for local LGBT anti-violence programs to develop adequately resourced sexual assault programs. Provide resources to train rape crisis centers to recognize the use of sexual assault in acts of hate violence against LGBT victims.

### Disallow the Gay and Trans Panic Defenses

Disqualify the so-called “gay panic defense” and the “trans panic defense” put forth by attackers to attempt to explain their violence as a response to learning the victim was gay or transgender, as legal resorts for those accused of committing hate-motivated acts against LGBT people. In the alternative, the burden of proof in such cases should be shifted onto defendants - similar to that required in many temporary insanity cases.

### Support Cooperative Projects Between Community Anti Violence Programs and Civil Courts

Fund research on and pilot programs for cooperative work between the civil court systems and LGBT anti-violence programs to do work with youthful offenders. Youth are reflected in statistics on anti-LGBT hate violence as both a growing target and as the largest age category of offenders. Youthful offender programs that are funded to educate these youth through highly monitored community service will reduce the likelihood of the youth re-offending.

## **Recommendation 6:**

### **Fund Research and Mandate Statistical Reporting of LGBT hate violence**

Fund comprehensive research involving surveys of LGBT people and their experiences of anti-LGBT violence throughout the United States. An accurate picture of the violence that LGBT people face can help put an end to the victim-blaming, minimizing, and denial of the violence and good documentation will provide a solid basis for effective prevention and intervention practice. Research should include qualitative and quantitative approaches to the prevalence of violence, origins, and impacts on physical, financial and social wellbeing and analysis of data from community organizations that investigate and address bias violence. Mandate and provide resources for participation in gathering and reporting data by every political jurisdiction, down to the county level, to measure violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The information gathered by such violence will provide an indication of the types of violence that occurs most frequently and in which geographic regions. It will also provide a better indication of what services may already exist in an area that we can partner with or provide technical assistance to and from whom we can receive technical assistance and information. The data will also help NCAVP members to focus our collective resources on helping the local residents of an underserved region until we are able to either establish a member program or help an already existing program in the area to increase its services and/or prevention work. Further, such data will enable NCAVP to concentrate our efforts on creating local AVPs in areas that show the highest prevalence of violence against LGBT communities and individuals. Additionally, it will help NCAVP to improve the types of technical assistance and trainings that we offer, particularly in areas that have no or little support to address anti-LGBT violence.

## Conclusion

The need for education and prevention measures has never been clearer.

Over a two year period NCAVP witnessed a 26% increase in reported incidents. And while the national average showed a slight increase in one year (2%) this by no means represents a plateau or lessening of hate violence. Several locations continue to see increases in hate violence. Minnesota, Michigan and Milwaukee, WI reported close to or over 50% increases in reported hate violence over an already escalating numbers in 2007. Others, including New York City, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, which represent some of the larger anti-violence programs, saw a decrease in reported incidents. The severity of hate crimes increased alarmingly, with a continuing escalation of murders and weapons use. Transgender people were the target of extreme acts of violence and police abuse has increased dramatically. The need for education and prevention measures has never been clearer.

Over the past decade and certainly in the past several years, LGBT visibility has increased. Nationally there have been several high profile legislative battles regarding civil rights, such as federal hate crimes laws (the Mathew Sheppard Act), an inclusive Employment Non-discrimination Act (ENDA) and consideration of repeal of the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy - all at the federal level. There are vigorous debates in the courts, legislatures, media and the public square about same-sex marriage, evidenced by Proposition 8 in California, and arguments in the courts and legislatures in at least 10 states including California, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Municipalities across the country have been giving consideration to anti-bullying laws, non discrimination laws and extending civil rights on the local level. There have been ever increasing public dialogue about the civil rights of LGBT people, immigrants, poor people and other marginalized citizens.

When visibility increases, LGBT communities are more able to publically call for equality, respect and dignity. As these arguments become a part of the public dialogue, those who would promote hate violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity are given a more visible platform upon which to do so as well. LGBT people must continue to seek civil rights and must be able to do so safely. Only a dedicated and consistent message of education and prevention can create a true counter balance to the hostile voices of opposition leaders - elected officials, clergy, and other community leaders who, through anti-LGBT rhetoric, condone and encourage hate violence.

Public awareness, education, documentation, and prevention efforts to end bias motivated violence against all historically marginalized communities are necessary to prevent more harm to LGBT people. Elected officials and community leaders must show their commitment to ending violence against LGBT people with resources, support and a willingness to speak out against this violence. LGBT communities have made great strides in LGBT civil rights since the Stonewall Rebellion, the White Night Riots and Matthew Shepard's death. But as this and past NCAVP Hate Violence Reports demonstrate, the world continues to be a dangerous place for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people. NCAVP presents this information as a call to action to end violence against LGBT communities and to see this work as integral to the struggle for civil rights and human rights for our communities.

## Stories from Survivors of Hate Violence in 2008

### CALIFORNIA

#### **Tom, 13, an African American gay youth**

experienced getting harassed at school and at home from a fellow-student who threatened to hurt him. He reported the incident to his school and is out to most students and teachers there. Tom has experienced homophobia from his mother who has used religion to alienate her son. He is getting care from other positive adult figures in his life.

#### **Lucha, 35, a Latina lesbian**

was attacked by two roommates who punched her in the face and ribs and yelled anti-butch and anti-gender-variant slurs at her. Lucha defended herself while another roommate watched and did not intervene. Lucha received help from a neighbor who brought her to the emergency room. The case is no longer being investigated and was not tracked as a bias-based attack.

#### **Alex, 50, a Native American Indian gay man**

was threatened with anti-gay threats and anti-HIV death threats in the form of a vandalism memorial of Alex. Alex's case was tracked as a hate crime by the police; however, the District Attorney is not prosecuting his case as a hate crime. Alex would like the defendant's anger management and anti-gay bias to be addressed in counseling.

#### **Sam Richards, 32, a white gay man**

was taking a walk, going to a gay bar in a well-known gay neighborhood. He started to walk home when he was approached near a park. A stranger approached Sam and asked him questions then threatened to rob him, then attempted to sexually assault him. Sam pled with the attacker to stop and the attacker did stop attacking him. Sam fled for his home. A similar attack was reported in the same area a week later. Sam received support from a neighbor, CUAV, and community members.

#### **Judy and Claire, a white lesbian couple**

experienced homophobia and transphobia when they stayed at each other's apartments. Claire, is a MTF with disabilities, and Judy, who identifies as butch would experience homophobic comments and harassment from the building management. Judy had also been called anti-lesbian slurs and was threatened with arrest on two occasions for visiting her Claire. CUAV arranged emergency housing for the couple because the threats had escalated and they were in fear for their lives.

### **Richmond Rape of a Lesbian Woman**

A 28-year-old out lesbian in Richmond, CA was attacked outside her residence by four males on December 13, 2008. The four males allegedly kidnapped and drove the survivor seven blocks from the location. They attacked her then gang raped the survivor, and said anti-lesbian epithets while they were perpetrating violence against her. The survivor, who lived in the neighborhood with her partner and child, also has a rainbow sticker on her license plate. The case is being investigated as a hate crime. Many communities in the Bay Area showed solidarity and support for the survivor and her family by holding peace rallies/vigils, fundraisers, and neighborhood door-to-door flyering regarding this case. Through the neighborhood flyering and media attention on this case, the suspects were brought forward. Two of the males were brought into to the police department by their families.

January 6, 2009, Humberto Hernandez Salvador, 31, and Josue Gonzalez, 21, were charged with kidnapping, carjacking, and several counts of forcible oral copulation, forcible rape, and sodomy. Salvador faces additional charges of forcible sexual penetration and a hate crime. Salvador was also charged with being armed with a gun. Bail was set at \$2.2 million for Salvador and \$1.9 million for Gonzalez and both men are being held at Contra Costa County jail. The suspects face the possibility of life in prison if convicted.

Darrell Hodges, 16, is being charged as an adult with similar offenses against the victim. A 15-year old Richmond boy, who allegedly participated in the assault and whose name hasn't been released by authorities, and Hodges are awaiting arraignment. The prosecutor is asking the court to prosecute the boys as adults. The youth are being held at a juvenile detention center.

### **“No on 8” Backlash**

“No on 8” backlash - CUAV tracked and received a high number of hate violence incidents of “anti-gay marriage” backlash. Extremely well-funded anti-gay legislation, combined with “Yes on 8” rallies and groups of people harassing LGBTQIQ communities leading up to election day and anti-gay hate violence harassment at the voting polls on November 4<sup>th</sup> increased CUAV's hate violence numbers tremendously. Incidents reported to CUAV ranged from LGBT folks and Heterosexual allies experienced being almost hit with cars by “Yes on 8” protestors, spit upon, yelled at with anti-gay epithets, death threats, bitten, struck several times with “Yes on 8” signs. Community United Against Violence (CUAV) worked collaboratively in an event for LBGTQQ/Same-Gender-Loving/Two Spirit people of color and their allies who were on the front-lines of the struggle against Prop 8, and also for those who feel marginalized by the white-washed marriage equality movement. Sessions focusing on mind-body-spirit healing of the individual and collective trauma and distress were offered. All of these creative partnerships and cross-community conversations were intended to help heal the pain that Prop 8 has inflicted on our diverse queer communities.

## COLORADO

### **Sean, a white gay male teenager (suburban)**

I'm a senior in high school and have been discriminated against by my principal because I want to wear more feminine clothes to school. I'm a gay man but feel more comfortable in women's clothes. These are the clothes I've been wearing at home for years and my mom supports me. My principal told me that I would be suspended if I wore women's clothes again. During Pride week at school, other guys came in wearing women's clothes and they didn't get into trouble. When I asked the principal, I was told it was because they didn't know the policy. At school, I'm called "faggot" on a regular basis and I used to report it, but I stopped when I realized that no one was doing anything. CAVP helped set up meetings with the superintendent and the school board. They also are working on helping us look into possible legal options. The school has agreed to get training on gender identity issues.

### **Meredith and Susan, lesbian mothers of six children in a rural area**

We've been dealing with hate violence for quite a while. Mostly, it's coming from harassment and intimidation by the local police department. We've both been charged, unreasonably, with domestic violence and police come by our house, shining lights in our windows. We've also been evicted multiple times because of our sexual orientation. We had been working with CAVP to create a plan to move to a new area where we would be out of the jurisdiction of the local police but still in the same school district for our kids. During this time, we came home one day to find rags on fire in the kitchen. We have the kind of stove where you have to light the burner with a match, so we know this was not an accident. We put out the fires and left home for about ten minutes to clear our heads and figure out what to do next. When we got back, the entire house was in flames. The police and fire department refused to investigate the fire, saying it was an electrical fire. With the some financial assistance, we were able to move and things have been calming down a little bit.

## MICHIGAN

### **Family with two moms, urban**

In January of 2008, a family suffered the pain of discrimination. An eight-year-old girl was told she was not welcome in her friend's home because her parents are lesbians. As news spread that this young girl had two moms, the parents were not allowed to coach an athletic sport team with them being told it was because they weren't members of the church. The couple tried to appeal the decision only to be met by bible verses condemning their sexual orientation.

### **14 year old female high school student, rural**

On June 10, 2008, as students throughout the country were looking forward to the beginning of their summer break, a fourteen-year-old girl was viciously attacked in the halls of Wayland Union High School by two classmates, Crystal VanderLaan and Syndee Longhurst. The assailants told police that they attacked the victim because she was a "gay advocate". The beating was videotaped and posted to the Internet, adding to the

humiliation of the attack. The Wayland Union Police Department was vigilant in their investigation, identifying the attack as anti-gay early on and demonstrating compassion publically for the victim. The assailants were charged in juvenile court. The Police requested prosecution of the girl who videotaped the attack, but charges were never issued. One assailant was expelled from the high school while the other moved out of the district. In an overwhelming show of support for the victim and the protection of all children from bullying, members of the Wayland Union community, including parents, educators, clergy and others, initiated a grassroots effort to address violence in the community. Triangle Foundation was honored to provide support to these courageous individuals as they began the process of challenging discrimination and prejudice in their community.

### **Lesbian couple, suburban**

Instead of compassionate medical treatment, a Grand Rapids lesbian couple received a "lifestyle" lecture from a Spectrum Hospital physician in March of 2008. When the couple, who had been married in Canada, went to Spectrum Health for treatment of one partner's lingering cold, the physician responded by asking the couple's opinion on "their" recent California Supreme Court marriage decision. He then told the couple that he was a Christian and there was no way that what they had could be called a marriage. In meetings both with Triangle Foundation as well as with the City of Grand Rapids Community Relations Commission, Spectrum Health reiterated its commitment to serving the needs of all families in the diverse Grand Rapids community and to specifically serving the needs of lesbian, gay bisexual, and transgender communities. Spectrum Health issued an apology to the couple and an assurance that the behavior of the offending doctor had "been addressed and that appropriate actions have been taken." A hospital spokesperson issued a statement to the press calling the incident a "teachable moment" for Spectrum Health.

### **Vandalism**

While Michigan saw a decrease in the number of anti-LGBT vandalism incidents from 21 in 2008 to 14 in 2008, the incidents that did occur were more publicly visible and more extreme in nature. For example, a lesbian couple left their home to start their day, finding their cars covered in salsa and sour cream. Their horror turned from anger to anguish as they saw "gay f---" written in lipstick on their car window. In another incident, a neighborhood in the state capital of Lansing known to be open to the LGBT community was vandalized with hate-filled messages like "Kill Gays" spray-painted throughout the neighborhood. The victims of this crime were not just members of the LGBT community, but also the businesses with owners, both LGBT and allies, who lost income because customers were afraid to enter their dangerous neighborhood. The Lansing community led a clean-up of the damage, telling the offenders that hate was not a neighborhood value, but the business owners are still suffering from the stigma of this bias crime and many residents are still fearful.

### **Gay, male high school student, rural**

A young gay man suffered constant, ongoing persecution at a Christian high school in west Michigan. The abuse he endured included everything from being called anti-gay slurs to being beaten with a ruler in the hallways to a dead cat and an obscene note being left on his car. Triangle Foundation and the American Civil Liberties Union provided support to the young man and his mother, while challenging the school to implement harassment policies that better protect students.

## MISSOURI

### **Michelle, 21, a white transgender woman who identifies as straight**

I was walking home from spending an evening with some friends when I was jumped by a group of men who began punching and kicking me and calling me names. I ended up making it home somehow and the next day I called KCAVP. I thought when I called they would pressure me to contact the police about what happened. The advocate instead listened to me and supported me in what I wanted to do. She provided me with referrals to a doctor where I could be checked out and she helped me to make a safety plan so I can feel a little bit safer in my neighborhood. It is good to know there is somewhere people in our community can turn to for help.

### **Michael, 18, a white male who identifies as gay**

During the summer I went to a birthday party of a friend of mine from work. Pretty much everyone there knew I was gay and were cool with it. Later in the night I was standing on the deck with some girls from work when this guy came up behind me, called me a “faggot,” and punched me in the back of the head. When I turned around he punched me in the face, breaking my nose and two teeth. My friends called the police and helped me out of the apartment. The police arrived quickly and arrested him. A few days later my friends gave me the number to KCAVP. I called and then met with an advocate who later attended all of my court dates with me and went with me to talk to the prosecutor. She also helped me apply for Crime Victim’s Compensation to pay for my medical bills. I didn’t really realize how long prosecution takes but my advocate has helped explain things to me and has been there through the whole court process.

## NEW YORK CITY

### **Joe, 40, urban, heterosexual**

My name is Joe Thomas. I’m from Brooklyn. I’m not gay but I know what gay-bashing is from my own experience. I was riding the subway from my home to work one night at about 10 PM and 2 young guys boarded the train. They looked around and started saying loudly, “There are faggots on this train and we hit faggots.” One of them came over to where I was sitting, and got in my face and called me a faggot. I stood up, and he punched me in the jaw. The two men ran off at the next stop, and I ended up with a swollen face and bruises. I reported it to the police, but the two men were never caught. I called AVP because, even though I am not gay, I figured they should know that this happened. My brother-in-law is gay and he told me about AVP. I was upset that the police couldn’t do much, but my counselor-advocate at AVP helped answer my questions and explain the law enforcement process.

**Kasey, 40, Dominican, AG**

I am a native New Yorker, Dominican, and 40 years old. As an aggressive lesbian I get comments from people every day. Stuff like, “You think you’re a man?” and “Lesbo” and much worse. About 10 years ago, my girlfriend and I were attacked by a group of men yelling anti-lesbian slurs. Then, last year, another incident: Two guys who were a little drunk began verbally harassing me, calling me anti-gay words in Spanish. One of them tried to touch me on the hip; he then punched me in the face and broke my glasses. I called the police, but they didn’t help. AVP had been there for me 10 years ago, so I called them. My counselor-advocate helped me file a police report after the fact, assisted me in filing the CVB application, and has provided me support and hope when I felt like no one else wanted to hear that I had been gay-bashed again.

**Brandon, 21, Latino, gay**

I was on my way to a popular club party and stopped to ask a group of guys where the club was located. One of them asked me if the club was a gay club, and another called me a “faggot,” as well as the club and the people who go there. I realized how unsafe this was and turned to walk away, when one of them ran up behind me and punched me in the side of my head. I remember falling. I remember the rest of the group punching and kicking me while I lay on the ground. When the violence finally stopped, someone had loaned me a cell phone so that I could call the police. While on the phone, one of them came back after he noticed me on the phone and came after me again. When the police arrived, I was only able to identify two of the men, who were arrested. I suffered bruises on my face and ribs, a sprained ankle and scrapes on my knees. I called AVP so that such incidents could be documented and to help other people see that such incidents are still happening.

**Melissa, 21, Latina lesbian**

I was living with her grandmother when my father came to visit. I had recently gotten a haircut and the style was very short. At the sight of my short hair, my father began yelling at me, hitting me, and calling me anti-gay names. He even tried to strangle me. I fought back but he didn’t stop. This eventually led to a dislocated knee. My brother came to my defense and tried to intervene and our father beat him up too. While my brother and I were being treated at the hospital, our father called the police stating he had been the victim of violence by his own children and we were arrested.



























































































































