

# NCAVP ALERT



National Advocacy  
for Local LGBTQH Communities

## NCAVP Monthly Update

This month the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs ([NCAVP](#)) brings a special update. This update focuses on both the FBI's recent release of their 2010 hate crime statistics and violence impacting LGBTQH communities that NCAVP has responded to in the past month. NCAVP brings these two updates together to show that despite the undercounting of anti-LGBTQH violence by the FBI, this violence continues to affect LGBTQH communities in critical ways.

### **FBI's *Hate Crimes Statistics 2010* appears to under-report anti-LGBTQ Hate Crimes**

NCAVP is concerned by what appears to be an under-reporting of hate crimes against LGBTQH communities documented by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI). The FBI's recent [release](#) of *Hate Crimes Statistics 2010* on November 14, 2011 has almost 1,000 fewer incidents than hate violence reported to NCAVP in the same year.

The FBI report collected data from 14,977 law enforcement agencies nationwide. This report documents that only 1,528 people (18.6% of total bias crime reports) were victims of hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation bias in 2010. In stark contrast, in the [report](#) *Hate Violence Against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and HIV-Affected Communities in the United States in 2010*, NCAVP collected data from 17 participating anti-violence programs in 15 states and documented 2,503 reports of anti-LGBTQH violence. Some of this difference could be attributed to the difference in data collection methods between NCAVP and the FBI. NCAVP's report collected data on survivors of hate violence who contacted the reporting organizations in 2010 and/or reports of anti-LGBTQH violence in the media, regardless of whether or not the survivor(s) contacted law enforcement. In order for a report of hate violence to be included in the FBI's statistics, it had to be reported to law enforcement and classified as a bias crime by responding officers. Despite this difference in collection methods, NCAVP feels this data does not represent the full scope of anti-LGBTQH hate violence. Although the FBI's 2010 data collection effort included the largest number of police agencies ever since the enactment of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act in 1990, of these participating agencies, **87% (13,028) did not report a single hate crime to the FBI**. Only (1,949) 13% agencies reported one or more hate crimes to the FBI.

The disparity between NCAVP's 2010 hate violence data as compared to the FBI's 2010 hate crimes data suggests that **local precincts may not be investigating hate crimes and/or categorizing bias-related crimes as hate crimes**. Law enforcement may not classify anti-

LGBTQH violence as bias crimes due to lack of training and knowledge on what constitutes bias crimes and/or their own personal bias against LGBTQH people. This disparity also suggests that anti-LGBTQH violence **remains extremely under-reported to law enforcement**. This violence is under reported for a variety of reasons including distrust of law enforcement within LGBTQH communities, negative past experiences with the police, and historic experiences of anti-LGBTQH discrimination and police misconduct.

Another source of this disparity may be that the FBI does not currently collect and report on bias crimes against transgender and gender non-conforming communities. NCAVP does collect information on violence against transgender and gender non-conforming people. NCAVP's report shows that transgender and gender non-conforming people were some of the most impacted communities by anti-LGBTQH hate violence in 2010. Transgender women made up 44% of the 27 reported hate murders in 2010, while representing only 11% of total survivors and victims. Transgender people were also more likely to have injuries as a result of attacks and less likely to receive medical care. NCAVP is encouraged that data on violence against transgender and gender non-conforming people will be collected by the federal government as a result of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. NCAVP calls for the accountability of every local law enforcement agency to accurately categorize and report hate crimes as they occur to create national data that documents the true nature of anti-LGBTQH violence. Until anti-LGBTQH hate violence is recognized as a prevalent concern in our communities, it will not receive the critical resources and attention necessary to reduce and end this violence. NCAVP calls on policy makers, funders, and community members to increase accurate data collection on anti-LGBTQH hate violence through the below action steps.

### **Recent incidents of violence within and against LGBTQH communities**

NCAVP is also concerned by incidents of violence impacting LGBTQH communities across the United States since our last monthly statement. **Ten reported incidents of violence have occurred in Puerto Rico, Illinois, Texas, Michigan, California, Washington, DC, and New Hampshire.** NCAVP is providing all information available regarding these reports and is not responsible for the complete accuracy of the specific details pertinent to allegations, police investigations, and criminal trials. These incidents come from media reports of LGBTQH violence and not direct service provision from NCAVP member programs. NCAVP has reached out to local organizations in these areas and is offering assistance to support their efforts.

October 26, 2011: José Jiménez Santiago, 55, was [found dead](#) in **Corozal, Puerto Rico**. Investigators have said that Jiménez was gay, though his family members did not disclose information about his sexual orientation. Local law enforcement do not suspect that the murder was motivated by anti-gay bias, however [the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force](#) is urging that local authorities investigate whether Jiménez' murder was a hate crime.

October 30, 2011: Darius Chambers was [beaten to death](#) by a young man at a bus stop in **Chicago, Illinois** at 3:00 am, after his friend declined to allow the young man to use their cellphone. Chambers was a well-known LGBT advocate in Cincinnati, Ohio, and had recently moved to Chicago to work with an organization focused on HIV/AIDS among men of color. Two suspects have been arrested for the crime. The [Truth and Destiny United Church of Christ](#) in Cincinnati has established a fund for the Chambers' expenses.

October 31, 2011: Kristen Cooper, a gay-identified student, was [beaten](#) and dragged into a truck by two men after a Halloween party in **San Antonio, Texas**. Cooper suffered a concussion, whiplash, and bruising as a result of the attack. The men knew that Cooper was gay and called her anti-gay slurs as they beat her. Cooper is advocating for her case to be classified as a hate crime.

October 31, 2011: A 44-year-old man was [severely beaten](#) by Alesandro Signorelli, 38 in **Ferndale, Michigan** in the man's home. Signorelli then attempted to strangle the man with a shower curtain, threatened him with a knife, and forced him to give him prescription drugs, money, and several of his possessions. The two men met at a gay bar two nights earlier, and Signorelli had stayed overnight with the survivor twice before the incident. Signorelli was recently released from serving a prison sentence for armed robbery in 2002. Police are seeking information about the perpetrator, who fled the scene in an identified truck.

October 31, 2011: A transgender woman, 43, was [threatened to be killed](#), called a "faggot," and struck in the forehead with a cooler by Ricky Hodge, 38 in **San Francisco, California**. The woman sustained a head injury and Hodge has been arrested as a result of the attack. The survivor has been misidentified as male in some media reports of the incident, and the [Transgender Law Center](#) has taken action to correct those reports and issue guidelines regarding correct pronoun usage.

November 6, 2011: An unknown suspect or suspects wrote [anti-LGBTQH messages](#) including, "fags," "b---h," and "yes means anal," on the windows of a residence hall at Dartmouth College in **Hanover, New Hampshire**. Dean of the College Charlotte Johnson [responded](#) by holding a meeting with the residents of the hall and sending an e-mail to the college community stating, "Dartmouth will never stand for bullying, discrimination, or hateful acts of any kind." Some students have expressed dissatisfaction with the administration's response. The act is being [investigated](#) by Safety and Security officers, who say they have a number of leads.

November 10, 2011: The dead, burnt body of [Shelley Hilliard](#), a 19-year old transgender woman, was found after Hilliard had been missing since October 23<sup>rd</sup> in **Detroit, Michigan**. Investigators suspect that Hilliard was killed in retaliatory violence and police are investigating her death as a homicide. NCAVP member program, [Equality Michigan](#), responded by saying they are working with community leaders to develop local strategies to keep transgender people safe in their own communities. Multiple vigils, memorials, and benefits took place to commemorate Hilliard's life. Hilliard's mother, Lyniece Nelson, spoke at Detroit's annual Transgender Day of Remembrance in honor of Hilliard.

November 15, 2011: Danny Vega, an out gay, Filipino man, was [attacked from behind](#), robbed, and beaten unconscious by three people while taking an evening walk in **Seattle, Washington**. Vega was put on life support with severe injuries to his kidneys, liver and brain. He died on November 27<sup>th</sup> as a result of the attack. Vega's family believes he was attacked because he was gay, although the incident is not being investigated as a hate crime. This incident marks the 10<sup>th</sup> attack in a series of violent street robberies in Seattle. [the Northwest Network](#) of Bisexual, Trans, Lesbian and Gay Survivors of Abuse, in partnership with the [Asian Pacific Islander Women and Family Safety Center](#), [Chaya](#) and the Capacity Project, hosted a community gathering and potluck on December 4<sup>th</sup> to mourn Vega's death, respond to

community requests for strategies to increase safety and strengthen support networks, and to trace the connections between social service cuts, health care terminations, foreclosures, job losses and the increased visibility of street violence in Southeast Seattle.

November 17, 2011: Cassidy Vickers, a transgender woman, was [shot in the chest and killed](#) in **Hollywood, California** by an unknown suspect. A memorial is being held to honor Vickers' life on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at Lexington and Gower in Hollywood, the location where Vickers was killed. Vickers' family, who at this time cannot afford funeral expenses, has established a donation fund to help with these costs.

November 26, 2011: A 19 year old transgender woman, whose name has not been released, was [sexually assaulted](#) by James Cottom, 19, at Saga Adventures, a group home for youth in **Washington, DC**. Cottom is being charged with first degree sexual abuse, and has been transferred to another youth shelter in the area while he awaits trial. Transgender Health Empowerment, a local Washington, DC organization, has expressed concern about abuse and violence that transgender youth placed in local shelters experience from other residents and has called on the city to protect transgender residents of shelters and group homes.

## CALL TO ACTION

**Increase Data Collection:** NCAVP and the FBI are the only sources of national data on LGBTQH hate violence. The federal government, particularly the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the National Institute of Justice, state and local governments, schools, universities, police departments, and community organizations should collect and analyze data on LGBTQH hate violence survivors and victims whenever demographic information is requested.

**Eliminate Reporting Barriers:** Federal, state, and local governments should create laws and policies to reduce barriers to accessing law enforcement for LGBTQH survivors of violence including comprehensive LGBTQH competency training for law enforcement and training on how to identify and classify bias crimes.

**Support Research:** NCAVP calls on private and public funders to increase funding to expand research and data collection on anti-LGBTQH hate violence, access to services, and violence prevention initiatives.

**Support Violence Response Outside the Criminal Legal System:** NCAVP continues to track and respond to violence impacting LGBTQH communities, yet some community members do not report this violence to law enforcement and is sometimes not taken seriously by law enforcement. NCAVP calls on community members and organizations to continue to support and develop strategies to respond to violence without relying in the criminal legal system.

**Report Violence:** NCAVP encourages anyone who has experienced violence to contact a local anti-violence program and encourages all LGBTQH and anti-violence organizations to contribute data to NCAVP's annual national reports.

**Get Involved:** Join NCAVP in our efforts to prevent and respond to LGBTQH violence. To learn more about our national advocacy, receive technical assistance and support, or locate an anti-violence program in your area, [contact us](#).

*NCAVP works to prevent, respond to, and end all forms of violence against and within lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and HIV-affected (LGBTQH) communities. NCAVP is a national coalition of local member programs, affiliate organizations and individuals who create systemic and social change. NCAVP is a program of the New York City Anti-Violence Project.*

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