

MEDIA RELEASE



National Advocacy
for Local LGBTQH Communities

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National Report on Hate Violence Against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and HIV-Affected Communities Released Today

[To download the full report please visit NCAVP online](#)

- In 2015 there were 24 reported hate violence homicides, a 20% increase from 2014.
- Transgender and gender-nonconforming people of color made up the majority of homicides.
- People of color and undocumented survivors were more likely to experience physically violent forms of hate violence.
- Despite common perceptions, hate violence doesn't always come from strangers: 62% of survivors knew the person who committed the hate violence against them.
- Of survivors who reported hate violence to police, 80% said police were indifferent or hostile.

NATIONAL—Today the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) released its annual report *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and HIV-Affected Hate Violence in 2015*. For this report - the most comprehensive of its kind - **NCAVP collected data on 1,253 incidents of hate violence against LGBTQ and HIV-affected people from 13 local NCAVP member organizations in 11 states.** States reporting were: Texas, Colorado, Vermont, Minnesota, Missouri, Massachusetts, Michigan, California, New York, Ohio, and Arizona.

Report Overview

For nearly twenty years, NCAVP has released reports on the pervasive and sometimes deadly hate violence perpetrated against LGBTQ and HIV-affected communities. The *NCAVP LGBTQ and HIV-Affected Hate Violence in 2015* report is being released at a time when sweeping anti-LGBTQ legislation is advancing in the United States and existing protections are being rolled back, leaving already vulnerable communities even more susceptible to violence. NCAVP has compiled this report to address the nature and frequency of this violence and who it affects. “Hate violence, including bias, discrimination, criminalization of our communities, and the presumption that violence against LGBTQ people is somehow permissible, is being written into our laws at an alarming rate,” said Beverly Tillery at the New York City Anti-Violence Project. “Now is the time to hold our institutions and policy makers accountable. We cannot allow the codifying of violence against our communities through harmful legislation.”

Hate violence can be deadly

The year 2015 was once again a deadly year for LGBTQ and HIV-affected communities. There were **24 reported hate violence homicides of LGBTQ people, a 20% increase from the 20 reported anti-LGBTQ homicides in 2014.** Continuing an alarming multiyear trend, people of color and transgender and gender nonconforming people made up the majority of victims of hate violence. **Of the 24 reported homicides, 62% were people of color,** including twelve people who were black and three Latin@. **Sixteen (67%) of the 24 reported homicides were transgender and gender non-conforming people. Of the total number of homicides, thirteen (54%) were transgender women of color.** In 2015, NCAVP responded to the homicides of 22 transgender and gender nonconforming people in total, the additional six of which were intimate partner violence homicides (IPV) and will be included in NCAVP’s 2015 IPV Report to be released in October 2016. “An overwhelming majority of the community members

we lost to violence this year were LGBTQ people of color, especially transgender and gender-nonconforming people of color,” said Leah Taraskiewicz at Equality Michigan. “We are clearly in a state of emergency. None of us are immune to this crisis of brutality and violence that’s rooted in racism, homophobia, and transphobia.”

Hate violence doesn’t look the same for everyone

This year’s report again shows that the majority of survivors identified as gay, youth and young adults, or people of color, and that the risk of hate violence often increases for those who hold multiple marginalized identities. Anti-LGBTQ hate violence can no longer be viewed in isolation from other forms of bias-motivated violence that our community members are experiencing based on their identities.

The report found that experiences of hate violence survivors differ greatly based on their identities. **For example, people of color and undocumented survivors were more likely to experience physically violent forms of hate violence.** The 2015 report found that survivors of color, who made up 60% of self-reported survivors, were two times more likely to experience physical violence compared to white survivors. Similarly, undocumented survivors, who represented 17% of all survivors compared to 6% in 2014, were four times more likely than documented survivors to experience physical violence. Survivors who were lesbian were two times more likely to experience verbal harassment compared to survivors who did not identify as lesbian. “There is no single narrative of an LGBTQ hate violence survivor. We need a full picture of what hate violence looks like for our communities if we are going to effectively address it,” said Essex Lordes at Communities United Against Violence in San Francisco. “And we need to start talking about not only the physical impacts of hate violence, but the persistent and often devastating emotional, financial and social impacts of hate violence as well.”

Hate violence doesn’t always come from strangers

NCAVP found that the majority of survivors reporting hate violence to NCAVP member programs experienced violence by someone who was known to them, with the most common relationships being landlords, neighbors, employers, and family members. Of the 1,024 survivors who reported information about their relationship to their offenders, **62% of survivors knew the person who committed the hate violence against them. Similarly, nearly half of survivors reported experiencing violence in either a private residence or a workplace.** “We have a collective perception of hate violence as something that happens randomly, shockingly, and is perpetrated by strangers in public spaces, but that’s not the whole story. Hate violence for LGBTQ people is a day-to-day reality, perpetrated by people we know in places where we spend most of our time – homes, schools and workplaces,” said Eva Wood at OutFront Minnesota. “It can take unexpected forms like verbal or online harassment, workplace discrimination, and bullying in schools. Furthermore, recent anti-LGBTQ legislation in states across the country target our communities in the very places where our communities report experiencing violence, such as in schools and in workplaces. As a society, we need to expand our definition of what hate violence looks like and where it happens.”

Once again, the 2015 report found that the experience of hate violence survivors differed greatly based on the identities of the survivors. Transgender survivors were two times more likely to report knowing their offender compared to survivors who did not identify as transgender. Survivors who were between the ages of 14-24 were three times more likely to experience hate violence from a relative and three times more likely to experience violence by an acquaintance, compared to those who were 24 years old or older. Survivors who identified as gay were two and a half times more likely to experience hate violence by a landlord than those survivors who did not identify as gay. And Black survivors were two times more likely to experience hate violence by their landlords than those who did not identify as Black. “Knowing the reality of when and where LGBTQ survivors are experiencing hate violence will allow us to find nuanced and customized solutions to end this violence,” said Justin Shaw at the Kansas City Anti-Violence Project. “LGBTQ youth and young adults, for example, clearly need safe spaces where they can be their full selves, outside of the places they are most likely to interact with relatives who may not be accepting of their identities.”

Hate violence isn’t always reported to the police

In 2015 there was a significant decrease in the percentage of LGBTQ and HIV affected survivors reporting their experience of hate violence to police, from 54% in 2014 to 41% in 2015. **Of those who did report violence to police, 80% of survivors said that the police were indifferent or hostile.** And of the 126 survivors who reported more detailed information on negative police behavior, 33% experienced verbal abuse, 16% experienced physical violence, 8% experienced the police using slurs or biased language against them, and 3% experienced sexual violence. “LGBTQ people experience transphobia and homophobia in interactions with the police and criminal legal system, which may deter them from reporting the violence they experience. We know this is especially true for LGBTQ people of color and undocumented LGBTQ people, who also experience racism and discrimination when interacting with the police and criminal legal system,” said Lynne Sprague at Survivors Organizing for Liberation out of Denver. “We must continue to work towards reforming policing practices towards LGBTQ communities, while also pursuing other accountability mechanisms, such as community accountability models, so that survivors who are reluctant to interact with the criminal legal system are able to access support and justice.”

Recommendations

“We need to shift our cultural understanding of hate violence away from thinking that it’s random and rare, and recognize that violence against LGBTQ and HIV-affected communities is a consequence of homophobia, transphobia, and biphobia that permeates our everyday environments and relationships,” said Emily Waters at the New York City Anti-Violence Project. “NCAVP’s report underscores the need for comprehensive policies that protect all LGBTQ and HIV-affected people in their schools, workplaces, and houses and challenges the beliefs and norms that perpetuate hate violence.” NCAVP’s 2015 recommendations, expanded upon within the report, include:

- Build up systems of social and community support for LGBTQ and HIV-affected communities and increase programming that directly addresses homophobic, biphobic, and transphobic beliefs and behaviors.
- Address key factors that increase LGBTQ and HIV-affected communities’ risk of experiencing hate violence including poverty, unemployment, lack of safe housing, and lack of non-discrimination policies and protections.
- Decrease police violence and over policing of LGBTQ and HIV-affected communities. Increase support for alternative community accountability models to ensure all survivors have access to justice that is safe and appropriate for their unique experiences.
- Increase information on how LGBTQ and HIV-affected communities experience violence and increase resources for documenting and evaluating effective LGBTQ and HIV-affected hate violence prevention strategies and models

***NCAVP** works to prevent, respond to, and end all forms of violence against and within lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) and HIV-affected communities. NCAVP is a national coalition of over 50 local member programs and affiliate organizations in 24 states, Canada, and Washington DC, who create systemic and social change. We strive to increase power, safety, and resources through data analysis, policy advocacy, education, and technical assistance.*

NCAVP is coordinated by the [New York City Anti-Violence Project](#)

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