



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs releases report: *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Domestic Violence in the United States in 2008***

Los Angeles— The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) today released its report on domestic violence within lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) communities in the United States during the year 2008. The **total number of cases reported to NCAVP members was 3,419. Los Angeles**, with increased monitoring capacity, **reported close to 1,500 incidents.** Major findings of the report reflected that the number of reported **DV-related fatalities increased** and the number of cases with **reported police misconduct in 2008 increased by 93%**. In 2008, incidents of police misconduct, reported by 2.3% of all callers to NCAVP organizations, nearly doubled compared to those reported in 2007.

“This report is the definitive resource on LGBTQ domestic violence in the US. However, it is certain that incidents of LGBTQ domestic violence are under-reported and under-addressed due to systemic anti-LGBTQ bias and discrimination. The reported trends demand an increased response to issues of and support for LGBTQ domestic violence services,” said Sharon Stapel, Executive Director of the New York City Anti-Violence Project.

Other major findings of the 2008 report included **increases in reports along many race and ethnicity categories**, notably people identifying as Latina/o (100%), Multi-racial (91%), and African Descent (50%). Striking increases were seen in a relatively new category of **immigration**, especially people with recent visas (1700%), refugees and asylees (900%), and people who are undocumented (250%). Additionally, reports of domestic violence against **people living with disabilities** increased by almost 50%.

According to Kaitlin Nichols, Director of Organizing & Education for The Network/LaRed, “Increased violence at the hands of intimate partners and of the police, and increasingly diverse communities seeking services, shows that strengthened cultural competency in mainstream institutions and the continued presence of LGBTQ-specific anti-violence programs are needed now more than ever.”

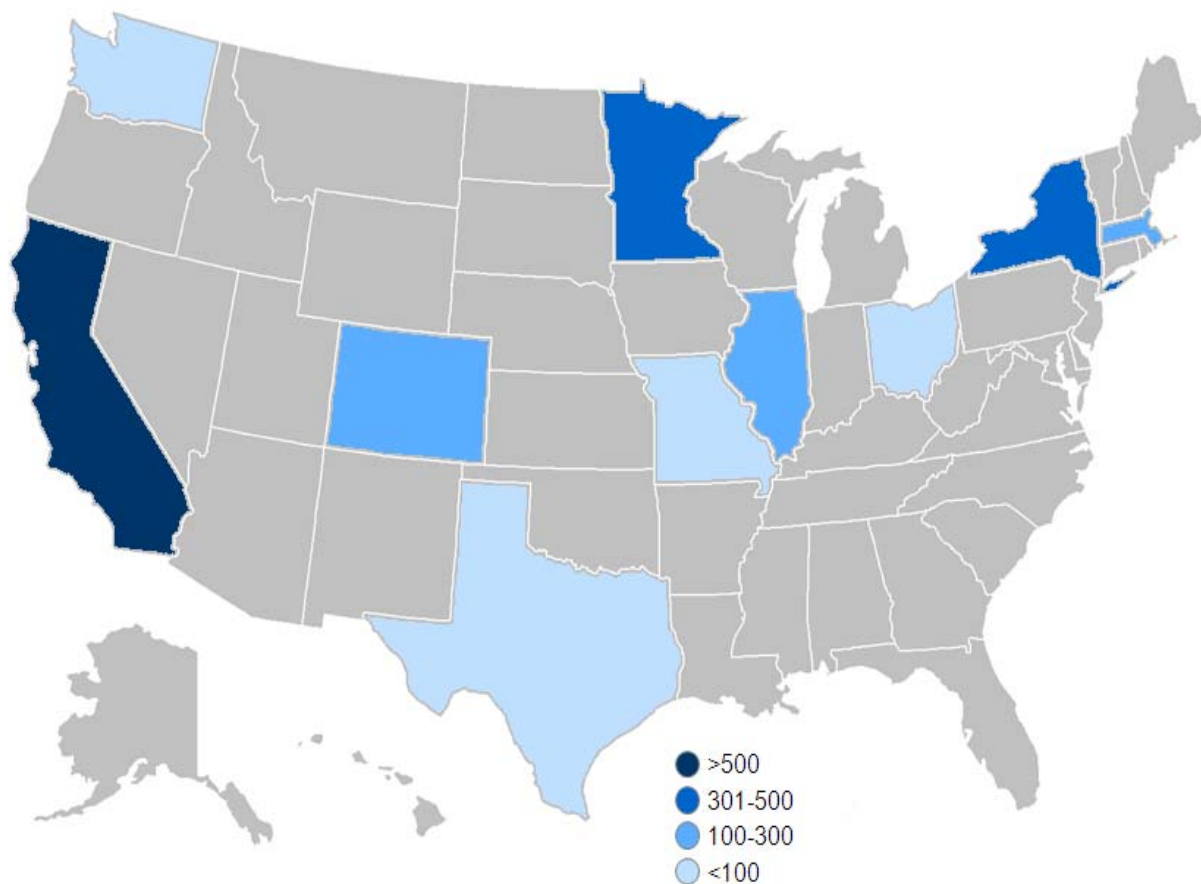
**NCAVP makes several key recommendations in the 2008 report**, including the need for local state and federal governments to: increase funding to LGBTQ domestic violence programs, extend support to community and non-profit based prevention initiatives, and improve the efficacy of law enforcement’s response to LGBTQ domestic violence.

“Despite a troubled economy, NCAVP calls upon elected officials and community leaders to show their commitment to fighting domestic violence within the LGBTQ communities with resources, support and a willingness to speak out against this violence. The need for safe and effective services and public awareness has never been greater” said Terra Slavin, Lead Staff Attorney for the Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy Project at the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center.

This report 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 and other forms of violence affecting LGBTQ communities. Fifteen NCAVP member organizations from the Pacific Coast, the West, the Midwest and the Northeast collected data for this report. No programs reported from the Southeast or the South, due to a highly limited number of programs and resources. NCAVP member organizations are found in 20 states throughout the country and many are the single resource in their entire state.

"More than half of the country is without a local or state-wide LGBTQ anti-violence program," said Kristin Tucker of the Northwest Network of Bisexual, Trans, Lesbian and Gay Survivors of Abuse, "There is no question that we have made great strides in increasing the innovative, critical programs available to LGBTQ survivors of domestic violence, but we know that community-based services continue to be under-resourced. The government, the public and members of LGBTQ communities across the country must work in collaboration to bring this issue forward and to address the needs of LGBTQ survivors of domestic violence."

To download a complete version of the report, visit: [www.avp.org](http://www.avp.org)



2008 DV incident reports, by state

## **\*Contributing Members and Regional Media Contacts**

### **Pacific Coast**

#### **WASHINGTON**

Northwest Network of Bisexual, Trans, Lesbian and Gay Survivors of Abuse  
PO Box 20398, Seattle, WA 98102  
Contact: Kristin Tucker, (206)-427-9494  
[www.nwnetwork.org](http://www.nwnetwork.org)

#### **CALIFORNIA**

Community United Against Violence  
170 A Capp Street, San Francisco, CA 94110  
Contact: Shawna Virago, (415) 777-5500  
[www.cuav.org](http://www.cuav.org)

L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center  
1625 N. Schrader Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 94110  
Contact: Terra Slavin, Esq., (323) 993-7651  
[www.lagaycenter.org](http://www.lagaycenter.org)

### **West**

#### **COLORADO**

Colorado Anti-Violence Program  
P.O. Box 181085, Denver, CO 80218  
Contact: Kelly Costello, (303) 839-5204  
[www.coavp.org](http://www.coavp.org)

#### **TEXAS**

Montrose Counseling Center  
401 Branard Avenue, 2nd floor, Houston, TX 77006  
Contact: Sally A. Huffer, (713) 529-0037  
[www.montrosecounselingcenter.org](http://www.montrosecounselingcenter.org)

### **Midwest**

#### **MINNESOTA**

OutFront Minnesota  
310 East 38th Street, Ste 204, Minneapolis, MN 55409  
Contact: Rebecca Waggoner-Kloek, (612) 384-1355  
[www.outfront.org](http://www.outfront.org)

#### **WISCONSIN**

Anti-Violence Project at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center  
315 West Court Street, Suite 101, Milwaukee, WI 53212  
Contact: Jacqueline Lindo, (414) 271-2656  
[www.mkelgbt.org](http://www.mkelgbt.org)

## OHIO

Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization  
P.O. Box 82068, Columbus, OH 43202  
Contact: Gary Heath, (614) 294-7867  
[www.bravo-ohio.org](http://www.bravo-ohio.org)

## MISSOURI

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

## ILLINOIS

Center on Halsted Anti-Violence Project  
3656 N. Halsted, Chicago, IL 60614  
Contact: Lisa Gilmore, (773) 661-0734  
[www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org)

## **Northeast**

### MASSACHUSETTS

Fenway Community Health Center, Violence Recovery Program  
7 Haviland Street, Boston, MA 02115  
Contact: Kelcie Cook, (617) 927-6266  
[www.fenwayhealth.org](http://www.fenwayhealth.org)

### The Network/La Red

P.O. Box 6011, Boston, MA 02114  
Contact: Kaitlin Nichols, (617) 695-0877  
[www.thenetworklared.org](http://www.thenetworklared.org)

## NEW YORK

New York City Anti-Violence Project  
240 West 35th Street, Suite 200, New York, NY 10001  
Contact: Sharon Stapel, (917) 704-6358  
[www.avp.org](http://www.avp.org)

Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, Anti-Violence Program  
875 E. Main Street, Suite 500 Rochester, NY 14605  
Contact: Kelly Clark, (585) 244-8640 x19  
[www.gayalliance.org](http://www.gayalliance.org)

## VERMONT

SafeSpace, a Program of the RU 12? Community Center  
P.O. Box 5883, Burlington, VT 05402  
Contact: Ann Robinson, (802) 863-0003  
[www.ru12.org](http://www.ru12.org)

*The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) supports local LGBTQ organizations in their work to end violence in all its forms against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people and communities. [www.ncavp.org](http://www.ncavp.org).*