

**LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: 2003 SUPPLEMENT**

**An Update from the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs**

**Release Edition**



*National Advocacy for Local LGBT Communities*

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**RELEASE EDITION**

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## INTRODUCTION

### What is this document?

This document summarizes information about incidents of domestic violence reported in 2003 by members and affiliates of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), a network of twenty-four lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community-based anti-violence organizations and programs in cities and regions across the U.S. and Toronto, Canada.

Specifically, this document reports about the number of new domestic violence incident reports recorded in 2003 by twelve participating NCAVP member agencies and several affiliates, including organizations serving LGBT domestic violence victims in **Tucson, AZ; San Francisco, CA** (incorporating combined reports from one NCAVP member and one affiliate); **Los Angeles, CA** (incorporating combined reports from one NCAVP member and several affiliates); **Denver, CO; Chicago, IL; Philadelphia, PA; Boston, MA** (including separate reports from two NCAVP members); **New York, NY; Columbus, OH; Burlington, VT; and Toronto, ON**. This document also offers demographic information about the victim(s) of domestic violence documented in each incident report, along with more general local organizational summaries and survivor narratives that help illustrate the diverse nature of domestic violence and its impacts on LGBT people and communities.

This document does *not* present a comprehensive survey of LGBT domestic violence in the U.S., nor even in the specific cities or regions where NCAVP has members. NCAVP members participating in this report have very different organization and program capacities, which greatly affect both the number and types of domestic violence cases reaching them. For example, larger NCAVP agencies in the most visible centers of LGBT community life often (but not always) have more service capacity and resources than programs at smaller organizations in other cities and regions.

Also important is the extent of more general local support for the provision of LGBT-specific domestic violence services, including recognition for the legal standing of victims and resources contributed by LGBT community members. One of the best examples of how these influences can act to *increase* the number of case reports in any given locale is provided by NCAVP's member agency in Los Angeles, CA. That organization's collaboration with local law enforcement agencies and a domestic violence service network has helped it document roughly ten times the number of LGBT domestic violence cases reported anywhere else.

## NCAVP MISSION STATEMENT

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) addresses the pervasive problem of violence committed against and within the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) and HIV-positive communities.

NCAVP is a coalition of programs that document and advocate for victims of anti-LGBT and anti-HIV/AIDS violence/harassment, domestic violence, sexual assault, police misconduct and other forms of victimization.

NCAVP is dedicated to creating a national response to the violence plaguing these communities. Further, NCAVP supports existing anti-violence organizations and emerging local programs in their efforts to document and prevent such violence.

## NCAVP MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Organizations whose names are in bold type contributed numerical data, case narratives and/or local summaries to this report.

### ARIZONA

#### **Wingspan Anti-Violence Project**

300 East 6th Street  
Tucson, AZ 85705  
Office (520) 624-1779  
Hotline (800) 553-9387  
Hotline (520) 624-0348  
[www.wingspan.org](http://www.wingspan.org)

### ARKANSAS

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

### CALIFORNIA

#### **Community United Against Violence**

160 14th Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
Hotline (415) 333-HELP  
Phone (415) 777-5500  
[www.cuav.org](http://www.cuav.org)

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

### **CALIFORNIA (cont)**

LA Gay & Lesbian Center  
Anti-Violence Project  
1625 North Schrader Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90028  
Hotline (800) 373-2227  
(victims' line—southern California only)  
Phone (323) 993-7677  
www.laglc.org

**LA Gay & Lesbian Center  
STOP Partner Abuse/DV Program**  
1625 North Schrader Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90028  
Phone (323) 860-5806 (clients)  
www.laglc.org/domesticviolence

San Diego LGBT Community Center  
2313 El Cajon Boulevard  
San Diego, CA 92104  
Hotline (619) 260-6380  
x.105 or x.107  
Phone (619) 260-6380  
www.thecentersd.org

### **COLORADO**

**Colorado Anti-Violence Program**  
P.O. Box 181085  
Denver, CO 80218  
Hotline (888) 557-4441  
Phone (303) 839-5204  
www.coavp.org

### **CONNECTICUT**

Connecticut Women's  
Education and Legal Fund  
135 Broad Street  
Hartford, CT 06105  
Phone: (860) 247-6090  
www.cwealf.org

An additional complicating factor this year is that the instruments employed by NCAVP's member agencies to collect and report domestic violence case data during 2003 were in the process of undergoing significant reform. While these changes should help NCAVP develop more comprehensive and reliable data for inclusion in future domestic violence reports, not all NCAVP member agencies have been able to implement them.

For example, modifications to the categories used to classify the ages of victims were adopted in some NCAVP programs in 2003, while others continued to employ an older set. The net effect is a loss of precision in several age categories, since it is not practical to determine how many victims reported by one agency in the 30-44 years old category should be grouped with those reported by another agency using the newer 30-39 and 40-49 years old categories, respectively.

Despite these limitations, NCAVP hopes this document will provide the following services to its readers: (a) demonstrate beyond any doubt that recognizable domestic violence occurs in LGBT and other relationship contexts that are not heterosexual; (b) illustrate many of the real-world considerations and challenges that arise in association with LGBT domestic violence; and (c) highlight the difficult and often heroic work of NCAVP's member agencies as they try to protect and assist the victims. In particular, through the inclusion of case narratives, NCAVP hopes that this update will at the least bring to life the very real suffering of thousands of LGBT domestic violence victims whose situations and needs still only receive scant attention from many domestic violence researchers, advocates, policymakers, service providers, law enforcement personnel and the LGBT community as a whole.

#### **Differences between this and past annual editions**

In recent years, NCAVP's domestic violence annual report has included presentations of more general definitions, policies, theories, research and interventions applicable to LGBT domestic violence in the U.S. The 2001 and 2002 editions both included an extended discussion of all of these topics, along with a specific analysis of the availability of civil court protective orders to LGBT domestic violence victims throughout the U.S.

As of October 2004, nothing appreciable about this information had changed. Primarily for this reason, but also because of the transitional limitations on 2003 data collection and reporting just noted, this document is being presented as an update to the larger editions published in recent years. Readers are urged to obtain and read both the 2001 and 2002 editions, which are available in electronic form from NCAVP's Internet web site at <http://www.ncavp.org>, as well as from the web sites of many of NCAVP's members.

Similarly, this update will not devote as much attention as NCAVP's prior reports to changes or apparent trends in the number or character of domestic violence incidents reported by NCAVP's members in 2003, relative to those reported in 2002. As noted above, such trends, when they seem evident, are usually revelatory of changes to the reporting agency's outreach and service capacities—not actual patterns of LGBT domestic violence occurring in any city or region.

Finally, one longtime contributor to NCAVP's domestic violence reports, Out Front Minnesota, was unable to participate this year, while another, the Toronto, Ontario-based 519 Anti-Violence Programme, is contributing data for publication for the first time (prior to contributing to its survey reports, NCAVP members must complete a two year pilot period of NCAVP internal data collection and reporting). Also in this year's edition, two additional NCAVP members in Kansas City, MO, and Providence, RI, have provided local summaries and/or case narratives, and both plan to contribute numerical service data for NCAVP's domestic violence report in future years.

## YEAR 2003 STATISTICS

### Number of cases

In 2003, twelve NCAVP member organizations, along with several affiliated programs, documented a record 6,523 LGBT domestic violence incidents reported in eleven distinct cities and regions across the U.S. and in Toronto, Ontario. This total represents an *increase* of 13% over the 5,718 cases reported by the same agencies in 2002, and includes six reported domestic violence-related deaths (for more information on DV-related deaths, see the section that follows).

As has been true in past NCAVP reports, a large majority (4,964 or 76%) of new incidents (albeit none of the new deaths) were reported in a single U.S. city, Los Angeles. Los Angeles could also be said to account for almost all (93%) of the net growth in LGBT domestic violence cases reported nationally in 2003. Both disproportions are attributable to several local factors in that city, including the presence of a large and capable NCAVP member, the availability of equal legal standing and remedies for LGBT domestic violence victims, and unparalleled support for data collection and reporting by a network of affiliated domestic violence law enforcement and service providers, including police and county sheriff's departments. For more information, including a complete list of these other agencies, please see the Los Angeles local summary included later in this report.

More typical of the experiences of NCAVP's larger members in 2003 are the totals from Boston (290 cases documented by two agencies,

## NCAVP MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS (continued)

### ILLINOIS

**Center on Halsted/  
Horizons Anti-Violence Project**  
961 W. Montana  
Chicago, IL 60614  
Hotline (773) 871-CARE  
Phone (773) 472-6469  
[www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org)

### LOUISIANA

Hate Crimes Project / Lesbian & Gay  
Community Center of New Orleans  
2114 Decatur Street  
New Orleans, LA 70116  
Hotline (504) 944-HEAL  
Phone (504) 945-1103  
[www.lgccno.net](http://www.lgccno.net)

### MASSACHUSETTS

**Fenway Community Health Center  
Violence Recovery Program**  
7 Haviland Street  
Boston, MA 02115  
Hotline (800) 834-3242  
Phone (617) 927-6269  
[www.fchc.org](http://www.fchc.org)

### **The Network/La Red:**

*Ending abuse in lesbian, bisexual, women's  
and transgender communities*  
P.O. Box 6011  
Boston, MA 02114  
Hotline (617) 423-7233  
Phone (617) 695-0877  
[www.thenetworklared.org](http://www.thenetworklared.org)

### MICHIGAN

Triangle Foundation  
19641 West Seven Mile Road  
Detroit, MI 48219  
Hotline (877) 7TRIANGLE  
Phone (313) 537-3323  
[www.tri.org](http://www.tri.org)

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

### MINNESOTA

Out Front Minnesota  
310 East 38th Street  
Suite 204  
Minneapolis, MN 55409  
Hotline (612) 824-8434  
Phone (800) 800-0350

### MISSOURI

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

St. Louis Anti-Violence Project  
(ACLU of Eastern Missouri)  
4557 Laclede Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63108  
Phone (314) 361-2111, x27

### NEW YORK

**New York City Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project (AVP)**  
240 West 35th Street, Suite 200  
New York, NY 10001  
Hotline (212) 714-1141  
TTY (212) 714-1134  
Phone (212) 714-1184  
[www.avp.org](http://www.avp.org)

### OHIO

**Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization (BRAVO)**  
P.O. Box 82068  
Columbus, OH 43202  
Hotline (866) 86-BRAVO  
Phone (614) 268-9622  
[www.bravo-ohio.org](http://www.bravo-ohio.org)

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

+11%); New York City (501 cases, +16.5%); and San Francisco (388 cases, +8.4%), all of which showed meaningful growth. But for most of NCAVP's smaller members, especially those serving non-coastal regions, 2003 case numbers declined or changed hardly at all. Examples include Colorado (139 cases, -2.8%); Chicago (65 cases, -12.2%); Columbus (46 cases, -28.1%); Pennsylvania (19 cases, -42.4%); and Burlington (21 cases, +24%). NCAVP's newest domestic violence report contributor, Toronto, recorded 26 cases, one more than the 25 it reported internally to NCAVP last year. A special case is Tucson, AZ. It reported 64 cases in 2003, representing a drop of 33% relative to its domestic violence caseload in 2002, but the NCAVP member there has also noted that its 2003 case data is incomplete.

Excluding Los Angeles, the mean rate of change in the number of new domestic violence incidents reported by individual NCAVP members in 2003 was nearly zero. In other words, increases in the number of cases at some agencies were almost perfectly balanced by reductions in the number of cases at others, so that NCAVP members' total service capacity outside Los Angeles could be said to have remained the same in both years. While the local summaries included later in this report should be relied upon to provide more specific information, one concern echoed in discussions with NCAVP's members is that the current political and social climate has made it more difficult for all of them—but especially those outside the most visible centers of LGBT community and culture—to sustain needed growth in their program efforts.

For example, one recent trend noted by NCAVP is that increased public attention to the LGBT community, especially in connection with the debate over same-gender marriage, appears to have spurred increases in the amount of bias and hate-motivated violence targeting LGBT people. Most of the agencies represented in this report also help victims of bias violence and hate crimes, so that nearly all have found it necessary to accommodate growth in services for these individuals. But at least some of this growth may have precluded comparable new investments in domestic violence services, especially outreach and public education campaigns needed to encourage victims to seek help. Of course, the debate over gay marriage (and especially the threat of a Constitutional amendment banning any civil recognition for LGBT unions) has consumed the resources and attention of the LGBT community, its organizations, their leaders and supporters, in many other ways.

NCAVP is also concerned that one side effect of the marriage debate may be that it inhibits some LGBT individuals from reporting their experience of domestic violence. In the future, an increasing number of LGBT domestic violence victims may decide to endure a partner's abuse for the sake of a marriage proposal, or even an actual mar-

riage. Others may be more hesitant to come forward because they feel that being the victim of domestic violence will somehow harm their community's struggle for advancement. It is already a tiresome response to this report by some cultural warriors and political pundits to cite it as reason to *restrict* the civil rights and liberties of LGBT people. Of course, there is no evidence that LGBT domestic violence occurs with any more frequency, or has any worse outcomes, than domestic violence between heterosexuals.

### Murders and DV-related deaths

NCAVP documented six murders and/or other deaths of individuals in the context of actual or suspected LGBT domestic violence in 2003, or two more than in 2002. Just two cities and regions reported murders in 2003: Arizona, with one (none in 2002), and New York City with *five* (compared with just two in 2002). In addition, the local NCAVP member in Kansas City, MO, documented a seventh murder attributable to LGBT domestic violence in 2003. This murder has not been included in the official national total only because NCAVP's Kansas City affiliate is not yet a full contributor to this report.

Narratives describing all seven murders, including the one from Kansas City, appear below.

ARIZONA—A community in rural Arizona was shaken by the attempted murder of one woman by her roommate, who was then shot and killed by police as she fled the scene. The victim was left in serious condition with multiple gunshot wounds. She managed to call 911 before lapsing into a coma. Her assailant drove from the home she shared with the victim, and was pursued by sheriff's deputies. When they stopped her, she raised her weapon and was shot by a deputy in response. The perpetrator had previously spoken about the victim as her girlfriend and told acquaintances that they were in a relationship. When the victim regained consciousness, she denied there had been any romantic involvement between them. NCAVP may never know the true nature of the relationship between the victim and perpetrator, but their cohabitation and the lack of other apparent motives for the shooting are suggestive.

KANSAS CITY—Anthony L. Jackson, 28, was charged in Jackson County, MO, with second-degree murder and armed criminal action in the death of Rahmaan K. Belton, 22. According to the May 6, 2003, edition of the *Kansas City Star*, Belton's mother told police that Jackson had threatened to kill Belton if Belton ended their relationship. On April 25, Belton rejected a marriage proposal from Jackson. The following day a neighbor saw a moving truck parked in front of Jackson's apart-

## NCAVP MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS (continued)

### ONTARIO

#### The 519 Anti-Violence Programme

519 Church Street  
Toronto, ON Canada M4Y 2C9  
Hotline (416) 392-6877  
Phone (416) 392-6878  
[www.the519.org](http://www.the519.org)

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### The Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights

1211 Chestnut Street, 6th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
Hotline (215) 731-1447, x.15  
Phone (215) 731-1447  
[www.center4civilrights.org](http://www.center4civilrights.org)

### RHODE ISLAND

#### Sojourner House

386 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02908  
Hotline/TTY (401) 658-4334  
Phone (401) 861-6191  
[www.sojourner-house.org](http://www.sojourner-house.org)

### TEXAS

Montrose Counseling Center  
701 Richmond Avenue  
Houston, TX 77006  
Phone (713) 529-0037  
[www.montrosecounselingcenter.org](http://www.montrosecounselingcenter.org)

### VERMONT

#### SafeSpace

PO Box 158  
Burlington, VT 05402  
Hotline (866) 869-7341  
Phone/TTY (802) 863-0003  
[www.safespacevt.org](http://www.safespacevt.org)

### WISCONSIN

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center  
315 West Court Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
Phone (414) 271-2656  
[www.mkelgbt.org](http://www.mkelgbt.org)

## **NCAVP AFFILIATES**

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One organization in San Francisco, The **Asian Women's Shelter**, is a longtime affiliate contributor to this report, working in collaboration with NCAVP member Community United Against Violence.

Several organizations in Los Angeles work with the LA Gay and Lesbian Center/STOP Domestic Violence Program, and through that program, contributed data to this report. For identification purposes, these organizations include:

**Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Greater Long Beach**

**Los Angeles Police Department**

**L.A. County Sheriff's Department - West Hollywood Station**

**Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles - Family Violence Project**

**Sojourn Services for Battered Women & Their Children**

**Su Casa Family Crisis & Support Center**

**W.A.V.E. (Women Advancing the Valley through Education, Economics & Empowerment)**

ment, and Jackson apparently moved a few days later. On May 1, relatives reported Belton missing. An unidentified witness reported seeing Belton's car early Sunday, and police found his body in the car's trunk. Police searched Jackson's empty apartment May 4 and found evidence of blood in the main room and a blood trail leading out the apartment to the parking lot. Blood was also found on Jackson's shoes Sunday night when police arrested him in Kansas City. When asked who else had access to his apartment, Jackson told police he was the only one with keys.

NEW YORK—John Dingle, a 38-year-old male, was convicted of second-degree manslaughter and sentenced to 22 years to life in jail for fatally beating and stabbing his lover, Clifford Clark, age 32, during an argument in their home. Dingle claimed that Clark was killed accidentally; however, medical examiners testified that Clarke died from multiple skull fractures from a baseball bat and seventeen stab wounds to the chest. While Clark was murdered in September 2001, Dingle was convicted in June 2003.

NEW YORK—In April 2003, Ian Bishop, a 15-year-old male, beat his 18-year-old brother Adam in the head with a claw hammer approximately 18 times in the family's Pittsburgh area home and dumped the body into a bathtub. Ian then phoned a friend, who came to the home and found the body. Ian and another friend, Robert Laskowski, who was present during the assault, left the home while Adam was being rushed to the hospital. Adam died at the hospital due to severe head injuries. Ian reportedly met friends at an area mall and bragged about attacking his brother, referring to him as a "faggot." Ian also reportedly told friends that he wanted to kill his brother because he was gay and that he also wanted to kill his family. Ian was convicted of both murder and conspiracy to commit murder. Robert Laskowski was also convicted of first-degree murder.

NEW YORK—Walter Witherspoon, an 88-year-old African-American male, was slashed across his neck in his Nyack, NY home in May 2003 while he was eating dinner. A neighbor found him dead in his apartment. Witherspoon's wallet was missing, but detectives found no evidence of a break-in. They did find photographs of nude men whom Witherspoon had paid to pose for him. Angel Rivera, 29, was the last to be photographed. Rivera admitted to having had an ongoing and intimate relationship with Witherspoon after he posed nude for him in September 2002. Rivera confessed to killing Witherspoon and pled guilty to second-degree murder. Robbery,

not domestic violence, was officially cited as the motivation for the murder:

NEWYORK—During an argument in the apartment that they shared in Harlem, Jorge Rendall, 44, hit Frank Sokolowski, 65, over the head with a glass beer stein in September 2003. Rendall was initially charged with assault, but prosecutors began pursuing additional charges after Sokolowski was pronounced dead the next morning. Media accounts of the incident refer to the men as “longtime roommates,” and “close friends,” and cite neighbors who noted that Rendall took care of Sokolowski. Neighbors also noted that the Rendall and Sokolowski had been arguing lately. Media accounts additionally noted that Sokolowski had once owned several properties including a Greenwich Village restaurant and gay nightclub.

NEWYORK—In July 2003, Oscar Herrera, 53, died of a heart attack in a Queens, NY hospital four days after his roommate, Hector Castillo, 51, gouged out his eyes with his fingernails during a physical argument in the Queens home that they shared. Herrera and Castillo were reportedly arguing over a broken television antenna. Police arrived and arrested Castillo for assault. It is unclear whether the medical examiners linked Herrera’s death to the assault. The two men are referred to only as longtime roommates in media accounts.

### Gender of Victims

Of the total 6,523 domestic violence incidents reported by NCAVP’s members in 2003, the victims in 3,344 cases, or 44%, were identified as men, while those in 2,357 cases, or 36%, were identified as women. The next largest group (623 or 9.0%) represents incidents in which information about the victims’ genders was not recorded. This is followed by the smaller group of incidents (161 or 2.0%) in which the victims were identified as transgender: either male to female (M-F), or female to male (F-M). A considerably larger number of victims were transgender M-F individuals (161) than F-M (31).

Relative to the comparable figures for 2002, the numbers in nearly all these categories show growth, some of it attributable to a compensating reduction (-27.3%) in the number of 2003 victims whose gender was reported unknown, especially in Los Angeles. Los Angeles also accounted for the bulk of growth reported nationally in the number of incidents involving victims who were male (+26% overall) and transgender (+33% overall). Within the transgender category, however, considerably higher growth was seen both in Los Angeles and nationally in the number of cases involving those who identified themselves as female (+44%) versus those who identified as male (+16%). However, this unequal growth alone cannot account for all

## SURVIVOR NARRATIVES

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Several of the reporting organizations submitted individual survivor narratives along with aggregate incident data. These narratives are reproduced on the succeeding pages to provide a better sense of the scope and diversity of LGBT domestic violence, as well as its effects on victims. The name of the region at the beginning of each narrative indicates the location of the NCAVP member or affiliate that reported it. Names of persons have been changed as well as some other identifying details.

### ARIZONA

#### Alice, 44

I recently separated from my partner of 11 years. We have a joint bank account and a house together, and I have co-parented my partner’s son. What brought things to a head was when my partner forced me to have sex and I was injured during the assault. Over time I have suffered a head injury from being hit with a 2 x 4, numerous other physical and sexual assaults, emotional abuse, isolation and control. I am bi-polar and have attempted suicide a few times. I have been hospitalized. My partner leaves notes on my car and at my house, comes to my house whenever she wants, and talks to mutual friends about me. I feel she is stalking me. She had the gas turned off at my new place. She got the key to my new place when I gave a copy to our son. Now I’ve changed the locks. I’m in the process of separating our finances and I wonder what “winning” means in this situation. Maybe

I win if I give her everything and get to move on with my life. I'm on disability so my resources aren't that great. Right now I see a doctor, go to support group, and see a therapist, but it's a daily struggle to not hurt myself and to keep my resolve to sever my relationship.

### **Alan, 39**

I still care deeply for the man who has been abusing me for the past two years. I don't know how much more I can take. I have constant pain from nerve damage in my back and am on crutches. My partner is HIV+, a drug addict, and has another boyfriend. He really only gets abusive when he is using drugs; then it's unbearable. I'm very confused because we rely on each other when one of us gets sick and my partner stays with me at times when he loses his housing. I called the police the last time things got rough and now he has assault charges pending against him. I really don't want him to get into trouble and he is also pressuring me to drop the charges. I also took out an order of protection against him and he retaliated by taking out an injunction against harassment against me. We talk on the phone everyday and we've decided to go to the judge and ask him to dismiss both orders. I'm hoping we can work it out between us. In the meantime, I am facing back surgery and will need help. I feel suicidal everyday and don't know if it's worth going on. I need him to help me after the surgery and he needs a place to stay. He says horrible

of the continuing difference in size between the transgender M-F and F-M victim populations.

Accordingly, while women made up a smaller overall proportion of domestic violence victims documented by NCAVP in 2003 than in 2002, little should be drawn from that fact. Among the other NCAVP agencies reporting *increases* in the number of domestic violence incidents in 2003, the tendency for most was to serve *relatively higher* proportions of women (and especially transgender M-F individuals) than in 2002. A significant exception was San Francisco, which reported a modest reduction in incidents involving women as victims (from 165 to 154) and significant growth among those involving men (from 168 to 196, +16.7%). However, San Francisco also reported a 50% increase (from 18 to 27) in the number of *transgender* M-F victims between the two years.

By contrast, at almost all of the agencies reporting a *decrease* in the number of incidents, reductions involving women as victims were steeper than those involving men. This fact suggests that women may be more sensitive to limitations or constraints in LGBT domestic violence services, at least at these agencies. Another reason could be that some lesbian and bisexual women victimized by domestic violence find ways to obtain services from mainstream domestic violence organizations. The question, like most others relating to LGBT domestic violence, begs further research.

### **Sexual Orientation of Victims**

As in past years, the great majority (5,374 or 82%) of domestic violence incidents reported to NCAVP in 2003 involved victims who identified themselves as lesbian or gay. The next largest category (575 or 9.0%) included cases in which a victim declined to specify a sexual orientation, or it wasn't recorded.

In 263 further instances (4%), the victims identified themselves as bisexual, while in an additional 44 cases (0.6%), they said they questioned their sexual orientation or weren't sure. Self-identified heterosexuals (a category that may include transgender individuals) were the victims in 263 cases (4%), coincidentally the same number as were reported bisexual.

These figures encompass some curious changes with respect to the ones reported by NCAVP in 2002, but the significance of these changes is questionable. First, the proportion of incidents involving victims who identified themselves as lesbian or gay appeared to grow last year, by six percentage points relative to 2002. Further, this trend was one of the few encountered by an actual majority of NCAVP members, including groups both large and small, contributing to this report. While some of the increase appears attributable

to a decline in incidents involving victims whose sexual orientation was unknown, it cannot be fully accounted for in this way.

The range of possible explanations for this shift, however, is extremely large. Some of these explanations may appear positive: growing awareness of the problem of domestic violence among lesbians and gay men, for example, or an increased willingness to self-identify as such. But it is also possible that the explanation is negative. Perhaps the higher concentration of self-identified LGBT clients encountered by NCAVP member agencies in 2003 means they are doing less well serving people and groups who may be at higher risk to experience domestic violence. These may include those who hide their sexual orientation, question it (including people who are older or younger) or who otherwise do not identify themselves in this way. Again, significant research is needed to shed light on all these possible explanations.

### Ages of Victims

In 2003, NCAVP began to implement several long-planned changes to the common instrument that its members use to compile and summarize incident data for inclusion in its annual survey reports. One immediate challenge posed by these reforms is that for several reasons (including their implications for separate grant management and reporting), not all of NCAVP's member agencies have been able to implement them at the same time. As a result, reporting of the age categories of domestic violence victims in 2003 has become especially problematic.

In 2002, most NCAVP member agencies used an instrument in which victims' ages were reported in several discrete categories: <18, 18-22, 23-29, 20-44, 45-64 and 65 and over. In 2003, several (but not all) of NCAVP's members switched to a new instrument with a different set of age categories: <14, 15-18, 19-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, and 80 and over.

This and other complications make it difficult to describe any but the most general trends in the age distribution of victims in 2003. In fact, the only valid way to compare age information using both sets of categories is to divide all the reported victims into just two age groups: those under 30, and those who are older.

But within these two categories, there appears to have been an unusually large change in 2003: the number of victims whose ages were under 30 grew to 1,472 from 954 in 2002 (+54%), while the number of those thirty and over increased by just one fifth that rate (and less than the rate of growth in new cases overall), from 1,845 to 2,040. Further, this trend was general, experienced by all but four

things to me which make me feel terrible. I was going to the support group for LGBT victims of domestic violence but after I told him where we met I was asked to leave the group. He never would have come and bothered anybody but I guess a rule is a rule. Now I just want to die. There doesn't seem to be any end in sight.

### CALIFORNIA (LOS ANGELES)

#### Steven, 24

I am a student at USC and when I came to the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center's STOP Program, I had just returned to Los Angeles from Mexico. I met Francisco on-line and fell for him. The first time he visited, we had a wonderful time together. I visited him a couple of weeks later and was shocked by the way he treated me. He tried to control everything I did and even took my passport, money, clothes, and cell phone. I was his hostage and he beat, raped, and humiliated me. After several weeks, I managed to contact the US embassy, acquire another passport, and return to Los Angeles. Once I arrived home, Francisco terrorized me by phone and sent emails threatening me and my family if I didn't return to him. I went to the police with copies of the emails and phone messages but the desk sergeant said that there was nothing he could do since Francisco was in Mexico. With the help of counseling at the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center, I have managed to stay safe.

## Greg, 44

I met Derek at a coffee shop when he asked if he could sit next to me. He was charming, handsome, and intelligent. As we talked, I discovered that he was homeless and looking for work. I have always been one to offer help to those who need it so I invited him to stay with me. He took me up on my offer and, within a month, we were a couple. I was happy to have someone in my life who wasn't afraid of my positive status. The abuse started within a week of our becoming intimate. Derek began questioning my whereabouts, reading my mail and screening my calls. That escalated to pushing, slapping and hitting. I tried to defend myself but he called the police on me and I was arrested. I spent 3 horrible days in jail where I felt like a pariah because I was separated from the rest of the population because of my HIV status. After my arrest, my health declined and I was too weak to do much but I managed to call the STOP Program at the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center. I have a counselor there and support from group members that have had similar experiences to mine.

## CALIFORNIA (SAN FRANCISCO)

## Ranier, 47

I met Roger at a dinner party. We had a couple of dates and I thought that we weren't a good match and told him we need to stop seeing each other. That night I had ten messages from Roger on my answering machine, plus five more on my cell phone. He

of the agencies reporting data this year (and in all but one of those agencies, the 2003 decline in younger victims was very modest).

It should be noted that there remain a very large number of cases, nearly half of those reported in both years, in which the ages of victims were not recorded. But because most of these cases are from a single city, Los Angeles, and because their number did not change significantly in 2003 (and actually declined as a percentage of the whole) it appears that a majority of NCAVP members are providing more domestic violence interventions for LGBT and questioning youth and young adults. In fact, many of NCAVP's member organizations and affiliated programs have endeavored to develop services more appropriate for younger people over the past several years, and the figures in this report are the best indication yet of their success.

### Race and Ethnicity of Victims

NCAVP member agencies also attempt to record the race and ethnicity of victims of domestic violence incidents. They do this partly to measure how well their programs are providing accessible, sensitive services for all members of the LGBT community, but also because, in some instances, a victim's racial or ethnic identity may become a weapon in the hands of abusers. However, as with other demographic questions, not all victims will answer queries regarding their race or ethnicity, nor are these questions always appropriate to ask.

NCAVP agencies reported the race/ethnicity of domestic violence victims in just 42% of all the incidents recorded in 2003. Of the victims for whom this information was known, 1,211 or 44% were white, 684 or 25.0% were Latino; 413 or 15% were people of African descent; 153 or 5% were Asian/Pacific Islander; and 125 or 4% were reported as multiracial. Just 36 (< 0.01%), by contrast, were Indigenous/First People, about the same number as were Arab/Middle Easterners, Jewish or "Other." *Note: NCAVP's past usage of a category to report Jewish victims reflects their vulnerability to bias violence, the subject of an additional report issued by NCAVP each year. This category has been eliminated from NCAVP's newer survey instrument because (a) it is not appropriate to view one's Jewish religious and/or secular cultural identity, practices or heritage as constituting a race or ethnicity; and (b) most victims who are Jewish do not identify their own race/ethnicity exclusively in this way. NCAVP will continue employ other methods to track incidents in which a person's religion is a factor in their abuse.*

The proportions just cited differ to some extent with those reported in 2002. The number of known Asian/Pacific Islander victims grew by 104%, for example, but virtually all of this increase occurred in Los Angeles. The number of known white victims declined by 11%, and the number of Latinos by 10%, but in these instances, too, most

of the change was restricted to Los Angeles, and the experience of many of NCAVP's members was the reverse. For example, in San Francisco, Chicago, Boston, New York and Toronto, the number of victims who were white increased slightly (albeit not necessarily as fast as increases in cases overall), and San Francisco, Colorado, Chicago, and New York reported increases in the number of Latin/o clients as well.

### Other Information Collected

In 2003, NCAVP's members continues to document considerable additional data about LGBT domestic violence incidents and service experiences, including information about the perpetrators, crimes committed and immediate outcomes. While much of this data is not routinely reported to NCAVP, some of it appears in the local summaries that follow. Readers are encouraged to contact NCAVP members directly with requests for more specific incident data and service information.

One other notable category of data reported to NCAVP in 2003 was the relative distribution throughout the year of domestic violence incidents recorded by its members. This data suggest that such incidents continued to peak at three points throughout the course of the year: during May and June, when many are preparing to participate in annual LGBT pride celebrations around the country and LGBT organizational and program outreach reaches a peak; again in October during the observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month; and once more with the new year.

The remainder of this update offers more specific information about LGBT domestic violence, presented in three forms: local summaries written by the participating agencies (including two agencies, Kansas City, MO, and Rhode Island, RI, that did not contribute numerical data), case narratives of actual survivors of LGBT domestic violence, and the raw numerical data that has just been summarized. Future NCAVP updates and reports will continue to provide this information, along with examinations of various issues related to LGBT domestic violence, the interventions being developed or utilized in response, and other emerging focus areas, issues and questions.

was saying he had to see me. I thought it was a little weird but I wasn't too worried about it. The next day he did the same thing. On one of these messages he said, "I see your lights are on." I found this creepy but I still wasn't too alarmed. Shortly after this the doorbell started ringing and ringing. I told him to please leave me alone. The next morning I had two flat tires.

Roger continued calling me. "You never return my calls!" he would say. After a few days of this, I did finally answer my phone. "I do not want to talk to you!" I told him. This did not deter him and the calls kept coming, including calling me at the hair salon I work at. "Let's get on with our lives," I offered but it did no good, in fact Roger got more controlling, even more angry. This forced me to keep my ringer off. One time I had thirty-two calls on my machine.

One afternoon I was at the hair salon when he stormed in. "You think you can avoid me," he screamed, adding, "Payback is a bitch!" Then he started punching me in my head and back. My co-workers came back from lunch and were startled to see this man attacking me. Roger ran out. "This is just a beginning," he yelled from the doorway. I was extremely shaken up and the back of my head and neck hurt terribly. I called the Police and got a report. No arrest was made.

For the next several weeks Roger continued harassing me and threatening me with calls. One message he left was, "You should put your

phone on vibrate and shove it up your ass.” I was becoming a nervous wreck. I kept waiting and hoping he would just tire of his abuse and stop. When he didn’t I finally got new phone numbers. I couldn’t believe this was happening. I barely knew this guy! One morning I was leaving my house for work when he accosted me in front of my building. He grabbed me and said, “I want you to feel the pain you’ve put me through!” He pushed against the entry of my building and hit me in the side of my head. He tried to force a kiss. I pushed him off me and told him I was calling the cops and pursuing legal action. This time when the Police came out they issued me an Emergency Protective Order, and recommended I go to CUAV. My CUAV advocate helped me to get a three-year Restraining Order. I’ve since moved to another apartment, and knock on wood, I haven’t heard from the defendant. I hope it stays that way.

### **Lisa, 35**

I am a 35 year-old heterosexual transgender woman. I have been with my boyfriend Ian for almost 10 years. I am currently in a residential addiction facility trying to overcome a drug addiction. We were both addicts and I’m not sure what I’ll do when I finish my program, whether I’ll see him or not. I still care for him so much, even though he’s done so much to hurt me. The last time I saw him he hurt me, hitting and slapping my face.

We were using drugs and alcohol practically the entire

## 2003 LOCAL SUMMARY REPORTS

The following local summaries have been furnished by the organizations that contributed data to this report. They are reproduced for the benefit of readers interested in learning more about LGBT domestic violence service experience and resources in particular NCAVP cities or regions. The contributing organizations, not NCAVP, are responsible for their contents, and readers are encouraged to contact them directly with requests for additional information.

### Tucson, AZ

#### **Wingspan Anti-Violence Project**

In October 2003 the Wingspan Domestic Violence Project expanded to the Anti-Violence Project, broadening the scope of our services and activities. This expansion has led to our working with more clients on an on-going basis and broadened the content of our community education programs.

The WAVP provides 24-hour crisis intervention, advocacy, and support services geared to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) victim/survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, hate crimes, harassment and discrimination throughout Southern Arizona. Additionally, the program continues to provide dynamic and interactive presentations to local LGBT community groups, youth, social service agencies, therapists, judges, lawyers, as well as university and community college students. The WAVP utilized the skills of student interns from local universities, and will continue as a field placement site.

Through community collaborations, the WAVP operates several satellite offices throughout Southern Arizona, including the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) and the El Pueblo Neighborhood Center through the Brewster Center office, a mainstream domestic violence service provider. We also have increased our outreach to LGBT Spanish-speakers through the work of Puertas Abiertas, a social group with an educational component.

The WAVP provided services to 64 victim/survivors of domestic violence in 2003, a decrease in the number (96) reported in 2002. The WAVP is a program of Wingspan, Southern Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center.

time we were together. He controlled all the money and he pushed me into prostitution. He would get pissed for no reason and just hit me, hit me all over. If he thought I had money and I was holding out on him he would hit me. He would also call me names all the time and threaten to hurt me.

Once he tried to kill me by pushing me off a second floor roof. After this, like most of the times he hurt me, he came asking me to forgive him. I always did. I was scared most of the time. Finally I began to defend myself after years of him hitting me. Once, after hitting me I hit him back. I said that would be the last time he would hurt me. It wasn't. But I did get away to this program. I don't know what I'll do when I'm finished. I still miss him so much.

#### **Gerardo, 29**

I am a 29-year-old HIV positive gay man. I am also an immigrant. For seven months I was in an abusive relationship with a man named Jim. He was much bigger than me and he knew how to hit. I was often at the receiving end of his fists against my face and body. He also knew how to use his tongue by calling me degrading names. He would get pissed off at anything, like if I came home a few minutes later from work or school, or if I had homework to do, or for a million reasons. From the beginning he pressured me to move in with him even though it was something that I didn't want to do. He also pressured me to start a busi-

ness together, again something I did not want to do. After we started the business he controlled all the money and refused to pay me, saying that I have all I need: food, house, and clothes.

During the seven months of the relationship, Jim often hid my passport and immigration papers and my cell phone from me. If I asked him to return them he would get pissed off. One day he chased me in his car, trying to run me down. When that failed, he pulled over, got out and kicked me into the street. He then took my passport. I begged him to give it back to me. It was the only ID I had. Instead, he tore it to pieces and flung it in my face.

I tried to leave him on several occasions but he asked me for another chance, saying he was sorry. He would apologize but also still blame me for his rage and aggression. I did finally leave him, moving to another city, and started a new life. Months later I got a letter from a collection agency demanding I pay a huge credit card bill. Jim had opened a credit card in my name to damage my credit.

## COLORADO

### **Brad, 28**

I have been dating my boyfriend for about 4 months. When he drinks, he frequently becomes rageful and violent, and apologetic later. The most recent incident, he became physically violent for the first time. He shoved and hit me and then also hit my truck with a baseball bat, causing \$3000 worth of damage. This time, neigh-

## San Francisco, CA

### **Asian Women's Shelter Community United Against Violence**

San Francisco documented 388 cases of LGBT domestic violence in 2003. The findings were compiled through collaboration between two agencies, Queer Asian Women's Services (QAWS) of the Asian Women's Shelter and Community United Against Violence (CUAV). QAWS focuses on women survivors and CUAV serves all genders. Female survivors accounted for 154 cases and CUAV documented 196 incidents from male survivors. Transgender identified survivors comprised 35 cases. In 2002 QAWS and CUAV accounted for 358 out of 521 cases. Of special note: In last year's report, there were three collaborating agencies, QAWS, CUAV and W.O.M.A.N. Inc. These agencies reported 521 cases of LGBT domestic violence. Due to budget challenges W.O.M.A.N. Inc. has not been able to sustain its LBT Women's domestic violence program. Nonetheless, they remain a vital ally in San Francisco's domestic violence community.

Domestic violence is defined as a set of behaviors used by one person in a relationship to control the other, and can include extreme violence, emotional cruelty, and even death.

Even in San Francisco, survivors may be cautious about accessing services and fearful of receiving a homophobic, transphobic, or heterosexist response from service providers. Often times domestic violence survivors languish in isolation and unsure of where to turn for help. QAWS and CUAV attempted to address this problem by outreaching to underserved communities and expanding their services. To this end, QAWS continued to provide advocacy and support to underserved groups not likely to access crisis lines, including immigrant communities, by hosting dinner parties to bring together friends to dialogue about domestic violence and receive training to provide peer support in their communities around this issue. In 2003 QAWS also co-hosted an event with the Family Peace Center (from Hawaii) which brought together LGBT AP/I community members and service providers to share experiences around domestic violence and to discuss the best community practices to address this issue.

CUAV, which is committed to an anti-oppression vision of service, situated domestic violence with other struggles and looked for ways to make linkages to marginalized communities through outreach and trainings in women of color and transgender communities. CUAV increased its technical assistance by providing more awareness trainings to other service providers, medical personnel, law enforcement and community centers. CUAV also committed to expand and make available its DV services to the LGBT community by planning to host mixed-gender support groups in early 2004. These groups will

break from the traditional domestic violence framework, which believes that having woman only groups is enough to provide community safety. CUAV's youth-led youth of color program, The Love and Justice Project, conducted trainings teaching queer youth about dating violence and also what constitutes healthy dating dynamics. The Love and Justice Project also published a youth friendly zine on these same topics. In 2003 CUAV continued to access the Asian Women's Shelter citywide multi-lingual access model, which provides multi-lingual advocates and translators to monolingual speakers.

The majority of cases, 294 out of 388, came from individuals identifying as gay or lesbian. There were 7 reports from bisexual identified survivors and 26 from heterosexuals.

There were 328 cases where the race/ethnicity of the survivor was known (out of 388 cases total), and San Francisco documented a majority of reports from survivors of color (170 out of 328), who accounted for 52% of the total (this includes Latina/o survivors who accounted for 21% of the total of known cases; Asian/Pacific Islander survivors accounted for 13%; African-American survivors accounted for 12 % and Multi-racial survivors accounted for 3.6%). White survivors accounted for 48% of the cases (158 out of 388).

QAWS and CUAV were assisted in their work by other San Francisco based agencies, who, while not contributing findings to this report, were invaluable allies throughout 2003; these allies include W.O.M.A.N., Inc., La Casa de Las Madres, the Riley Center, LYRIC, the Family Violence Project, Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida, and the San Francisco Domestic Violence Consortium.

## Los Angeles, CA

### **LA Gay & Lesbian Center STOP Partner Abuse/DV Program**

The L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center's STOP Partner Abuse/Domestic Violence Program (Support, Treatment/Intervention, Outreach/Education, Prevention) provides intervention and prevention services that address the unique needs of youth and adults in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) and closely aligned communities in Los Angeles County as well as in neighboring Orange, Ventura, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. Services of the STOP Program include survivors' groups; a court-approved batterers' intervention program; crisis intervention; short-term and on-going individual counseling; prevention groups for at-risk youth and adults; criminal justice advocacy; specialized assessment; LGBT domestic violence training, education and consultation; and a multi-faceted

bors called police. He was arrested and he will soon have a preliminary hearing. There is a possibility that domestic violence could be named in the public record. I am in the Army and it seems like this case could out me, if they don't charge a simple assault. If there is a chance of being outed, I would rather drop the charges. I have ended the relationship and that's enough for me but I don't think I get to decide if the charges are dropped. Its kind of unfair that I may be outed without my consent because of someone else's violence. I guess I have to wait and see what the deputy DA will do.

### **William, 28**

My partner, who I have been living with for a number of years, has been abusive on and off for much of that time. Most recently, he stabbed me several times. I dialed 911 and was hospitalized. He was arrested and is in jail and I have an automatic restraining order against him, which is good. But now, I am homeless because we were on a month-to-month lease and have now been kicked out. I have a congenital lung condition and so I receive SSI benefits but I cannot pull together deposit and first months rent from it. Even though I am a victim of partner abuse, I can't get into any of the local domestic violence shelters because I am male. I will be able to get some motel vouchers but I am not sure if it will be enough time for me to save up my SSI.

## ILLINOIS

### Lynn, 46

My name is Lynn. I am a white lesbian. I am a doctor. I was the victim of domestic abuse at the hands of my partner. During that incident we were driving on the north side of Chicago after work and were stopped at a light. My partner and I were arguing and it escalated. She stopped the car, struck me across my face, and scratched me in the process. What happened was quick and left me with bumps, bruises and scratches about my face and upper body. She took the keys from the ignition and the cell phone. She ran down the street and left me in the car.

Cars were not able to get around me and the honking was non-stop. Thankfully someone phoned the police, and an officer quickly arrived. As I was describing what happened to the officer, to my surprise an additional squad car pulled up, with an officer dangling my keys from his hand. The officers advised me that my partner had reached them already, returning my keys. The response from the police I got was that I had to move my car. Shocked, I repeated, "I was assaulted by my partner." His response to me was again "move your car."

I drove straight home. When I arrived, two officers were ringing my doorbell. My partner was with them. She was there to gather her belongings. I pleaded with an officer to help me too, showing the officer my injuries. The two officers informed me that my

prevention program. Facets of the program are included in 50 Strategies to Prevent Violent Domestic Crimes published by the National Crime Prevention Council.

Los Angeles County is one of the nation's largest and most diverse counties with 4,081 square miles and an 81-mile long coastline. It has the largest population of any county in the United States (9,871,506 million in 2003) and approximately 29% of California's residents live within it. To increase effectiveness in reaching as many members of the highly diverse LGBT community in the vast Southern California region, the STOP Program maintains strong collaborative relationships with other domestic violence organizations including the Statewide California Coalition for Battered Women, the Mid-Wilshire Domestic Violence Prevention Collaborative, the L.A. County Domestic Violence Council, the Partner Abuse Education Task Force of the City of West Hollywood, the Westside Domestic Violence Network, the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Greater Long Beach, and numerous other organizations devoted to intervening with and preventing domestic violence in California.

Reported cases of domestic violence in greater Los Angeles increased from 4,218 in 2002 to 4,964 in 2003. While the overwhelming majority of these cases were either reported to, or assessed by, the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center, the L.A. County Sheriff's Department-West Hollywood Station, and the Los Angeles Police Department, other contributors included Su Casa Family Crisis and Support Center, W.A.V.E. (Women Advancing the Valley through Education, Economics and Empowerment), Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles-Family Violence Project, Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Greater Long Beach, and Sojourn Services for Battered Women and their Children.

Females accounted for 1619 of the total of reported cases while males accounted for 2682 of the total. There were 73 documented M - F transgender cases and 11 cases involving F - M transgender individuals. Gender identity was undisclosed for the remainder of the reported total.

The majority of reports (4281) came from individuals who identified as gay or lesbian. 210 individuals identified as bisexual while individuals identifying as heterosexual accounted for 81 cases. Sexual orientation was not reported for 363 of the documented cases. Of those cases in which the ethnicity of the individual was known (1518), 142 identified as African American, 389 identified as Latino/a, and 685 identified as Caucasian. Of those cases in which the age of the individual was known (2367), 1103 were between the ages of 30 - 44, 669 were in the 23 - 29 age range, and 198 were between age 45 - 64.

Since 1996, the STOP Program has seen a consistent increase in the number of LGBT persons who report domestic violence, or are assessed to be experiencing it. The increases are attributable to progressively expanded domestic violence programming by the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center, funding from the Violence Against Women Office as well as the California Department of Health Services, and an increase in the ability of law enforcement in Los Angeles to document LGBT cases of domestic violence.

In an ongoing attempt to assess community need and awareness of domestic violence, STOP distributes LGBT domestic violence surveys at community events and pride festivals throughout the year. 883 surveys were completed by LGBT community members during 2003 at Long Beach Pride and Los Angeles Pride, two of the largest LGBT pride celebrations in the nation. 23.3% of the survey respondents identified as male and 34.5% identified as female. 1% identified as transgender. 37% were between age 26 – 39. 41% identified their ethnicity/cultural identity as Caucasian, 28% as Hispanic/Latino(a), 8.3% as multi-ethnic, 8% as African-American, and 7.4% as Asian-Pacific Islanders.

60% of the pride respondents indicated that they believed that domestic violence in the LGBT community is a serious problem and a slightly lower percentage (50.2%) indicated that they had personally experienced domestic violence while 53% had a LGBT friend or family member who had experienced it.

When asked what remedies would be most helpful for LGBT persons who are being abused by their partners, respondents identified the following in descending order of importance: support groups, talking to friends, individual counseling, couple counseling, talking to family members, law enforcement intervention, legal remedies, and talking to clergy. When asked what remedies would be most helpful for LGBT persons who are abusing their partners, respondents identified the following in descending order of importance: group counseling, talking to friends, individual counseling, legal remedies, law enforcement intervention, talking to family members, couples counseling, and talking to clergy.

In June of 2003, STOP hosted a LGBT Domestic Violence Roundtable – a follow-up event to the successful Tools for Change conference held in 2002 by the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center. Designed to further the development and inclusion of culturally appropriate and effective interventions by service providers, the roundtable included panel discussions about batterers' intervention programs, criminal justice and law enforcement response, and the ability of mainstream shelters to address the needs of LGBT victims of domestic violence. Consisting of representatives from mainstream domestic violence

partner called first and that there was nothing they could do. They left shortly after.

I continued my efforts to contact someone at the police department that could explain to me why I was not being helped. I finally drove to the precinct to request assistance. I was told by the front desk officer, and confirmed it with a sergeant that I was not helped because my partner filed a complaint against me.

I wrote down the officer's names and left. I will hope to seek a remedy in this mayhem, so as not to be re-victimized.

#### **Ted, 47**

I'm Ted. I am an African American gay man. I have been the victim in an abusive relationship for over 20 years. Problems had surfaced more so in the past year. There were accusations of infidelity, along with ghosts of the past making their way into our present. He would call me out for being verbally abusive and harassing, but his response was to hit me in his rage.

One evening after coming home from work, we began arguing. He grabbed the phone to call the police while in a rage, when I was calm and wanting to talk things out. I went over to him and he punched me in the mouth and choked me. The police arrived and I downplayed the event, stating it was only a verbal spat. Since that incident, the atmosphere is tense, and I find myself feeling isolated and depressed, but more so, fearful.

I have been attending therapy sessions, and recently he has wanted to come along, where as before he would become defensive at the idea, and simply made excuses. I feel uncomfortable with this because the last time he came along he just yelled and shouted for an hour. I have recently made mention of us separating and he argues that I am hurting him with my confrontations, but he is the one who has hurt me psychologically and physically with his intimidations and threats. I don't know what to do, I'm embarrassed by this.

## MASSACHUSETTS

### Linda, mid-30s

When I was living in my home country, I would work during the week in one city and would travel home on the weekends to be with my child and lesbian partner. At times my partner would travel out to the city where she was working to visit me. On one visit she found poems written by me that were submissions for a book – but my partner ripped my room apart, accused me of cheating on her and destroyed the room looking for more evidence. I tried to explain that this was a poem for a book but my partner continued ransacking my room. This went on for over 9 hours.

During the next six months, my partner convinced me to leave my job, which I loved, so that I could focus on my art. This meant that I would have to live with her. I quit my job to be with her. Later she had trouble finding work herself and convinced me

shelters, the shelter panel identified the following as their biggest obstacles impeding effective response:

- Insufficient training of shelter staff.
- Lack of staff knowledge about diversity in the LGBT community and the subsequent inability of shelters to provide effective outreach.
- Lack of sufficient funding for LGBT specific programming.
- Utilization of a one-size-fits-all approach and lack of understanding of, and sensitivity to the differences between heterosexual and same-gender battering.
- The common misconception that LGBT sensitive programming is equivalent to programming that is LGBT specific.

While our collaborations with law enforcement continued to grow in strength during the reporting period, criminal justice response in LGBT domestic violence cases continued to be problematic in 2003 - 2004 with improper assessment being commonly evident. As in 2000 - 2002, a consistently high number of primary LGBT victims were mandated to attend batterers' treatment. As in previous years, the STOP Program saw an increase in the number of LGBT persons referred into treatment by the courts but, because of the unavailability of LGBT specific batterers' intervention programs and the acute need for them, STOP continued to have one of the largest batterers' intervention programs in Los Angeles County in 2003 where there are nearly 150 other court-approved programs designed primarily for heterosexual abusers.

## Colorado

### Colorado Anti-Violence Program

The Colorado Anti-Violence Program (CAVP) reported 139 new domestic violence cases in 2003, a slight decrease over the total (143) reported in 2002. This interrupts a six-year trend of steady increases in reporting to the agency. These figures are representative only of domestic violence incidents reported to or brought to the attention of the CAVP. While we do encourage other service providers, as well as our community, to report incidents to us, we know that we only manage to reach a fraction of all LGBT cases in Colorado.

In 2003, (90) 65% of victims identified as female and (39) 28% identified as male, as compared to (42) 42% and (58) 58% in 2001. The number of female identified victims increased a significant 73% and the number of male identified victims decreased 63%. It is unclear

whether this increase can be attributed to actual increases in the community or simply more comprehensive outreach resulting in more people knowing about us and thus seeking services. The number of transgender MtF identified victims increased 100% (from 4 to 8). CAVP documented no reports from transgender FtM victims and 2 victims whose gender identity is unknown to us

CAVP documented a slight increase in reporting levels from African Americans (20 to 23), Latino/as (21 to 28), Native American (0 to 2) and multi-racial (2 to 3). There was also an increase in reporting from whites (48-58) and there were 25 victims whose racial/ethnic identity were unknown to us. These documented increases seem unlikely to represent an increase of domestic violence in LGBTQ communities of color. Rather, the increase in documentation speaks to an increase in perceived accessibility and cultural competency of CAVP services to communities of color. The communities where we lack increases (Arab/Middle Eastern, Asian/Pacific Islander and South Asian) still make us aware that we have a ways to go before we are adequately serving all of the diverse LGBTQ community.

Some trends were also recorded in reported age categories. Reports from victims 18 to 22 increased 44% (from 9 to 16). All other age groups stayed reasonably the same, with a significant drop (from 94 - 34) in the number of reports where the age of the victim is unknown.

## Chicago, IL

### **Center on Halsted/Horizons Anti-Violence Project**

During 2003 65 survivors of domestic violence accessed services at Center on Halsted (formerly known as Horizons Community Services) Anti-Violence Project. This is a 12% decrease from 2002 when we served 74 survivors.

Of the 65 domestic violence survivors women made up 39% in 2003 compared to 45% in 2002. Men made up 55% in 2003 compared to 49% in 2002. Our transgender survivors made up 5% in 2003 compared to 1% in 2002.

In terms of sexual orientation those who identified as lesbian/gay made up 75% in 2003 compared to 76% in 2002. Those who identified as bisexual made up 2% in 2003 compared to 5% in 2002. Heterosexual reports increased slightly to 11% in 2003 compared to 8% in 2002. This may be explained by our increase in services to the transgender community this year some of who identified as heterosexual. In addition heterosexual men who are survivors of domestic violence are referred to the Anti-Violence Project because there is

that we should move to the U.S. since we were having to deal with homophobia anyhow. I hadn't experienced the homophobia my partner was talking about. In fact, I felt very safe and welcomed in my community and that welcome extended to my partner. I was also not aware at the time that my partner was having such trouble finding employment, since she had been working for the year that I was there. Ultimately, I didn't want my partner to be uncomfortable, so I moved to the U.S. with my child.

Since being in the U.S., I have experienced isolation, verbal, mental, and physical abuse from my partner. My child was also adversely affected by being subjected to my partner's temper. I was unable to eat, or sleep, I was vomiting from nerves, and suffered from severe anxiety. I felt like I being monitored at every turn and felt so displaced in this country. When I was at my job, those 8 hours away from my partner, I felt such a sense of relief.

During my final months here in the U.S. I worked diligently to undo the damage my partner had done to my child – emotional and verbal abuse were common. I began planning for my departure with the help of The Network/La Red and created a support system for when I would arrive home. I took great pains to create a very separate and secret life from my partner and started to feel stronger and was able to see how the abuse manifested itself. With the help of The Network/La Red I was able

to leave for my home country with my child.

## MISSOURI

### **Bennie, 35**

I called KCAVP after my partner Clay attacked me twice. I had only known Clay for two months when his behavior became very erratic. He attacked me and broke several bones including my collar bone. When I called the police, they said it was a sex thing and laughed at me. They wouldn't arrest Clay even though I had to go to the emergency room for my injuries. I didn't have anywhere to stay and KCAVP told me it wasn't my fault and helped me get the resources I needed to leave including working with other service providers to ensure I was treated with respect and dignity.

### **Glenn, 39**

I spoke with a KCAVP staff member whom I met because I had just moved to Kansas City from Oregon and needed someone to talk to. I chose to move away from Oregon to get away from my ex-partner, Max. As I talked about my move and why I chose to move, I realized that I had been abused. My "friend" Joe in Oregon gave him my phone number here in Kansas City, and Max began to call me 10 times a day. I had to change my number, and now I have to decide whether I can be friends with Joe because I can't trust him. I don't understand how this could happen to me...I'm a counselor by trade so I should have seen it

lack of services for them in the traditional and mainstream domestic violence providers.

Of the 65 domestic violence survivors 15% were African American compared to 16% in 2002, 15% were Latino compared to 10% in 2002, 31% were white compared to 35% in 2002, no-one identified as Multi-Racial or Asian in 2003 whereas in 2002 together they accounted for 3%. 39% were unidentified in 2003 compared to 36% in 2002.

Regarding age of the domestic violence survivors those under 18 made up 3% in 2003 compared to 5% in 2002. Ages 18-23 made up 5% in 2003 compared to 7% in 2002. Ages 23-29 made up 15% in 2003 compared to 20% in 2002. Ages 30-44 made up 17% in 2003 compared to 26% in 2002. Ages 45-64 made up 6% in 2003 compared to 4% in 2002. 55% were unidentified in 2003 compared to 38% in 2002.

It is possible that the decreases that we see in the numbers may be from staffing issues due to funding shortages in 2003. The part-time therapy position was replaced in August, 2003, by the psychotherapy department at the Center on Halsted who began to intentionally integrate domestic violence therapy into their program. The goal of this transition was to better integrate our services and programs, to encourage cross program collaboration and to ultimately increase our capacity to serve domestic violence survivors and decrease staff burnout from compassion fatigue which can more readily happen when one person is carrying a full case load of domestic violence clients. This was an adjustment for the Anti-Violence Program, but we believe that we will see the benefits from this collaboration in 2004. In addition from April to December in 2003 the Director of the Anti-Violence Project took on additional responsibilities in the agency as interim Director of Programs. This left the Victim Advocacy Coordinator as the only full time staff in the Anti-Violence Project from April through to the end of the year.

By the end of 2003 we had our first Anti-Violence Project brochures and posters. They have been a great outreach tool for our program. In addition a previous media campaign that we created specifically targeting the African American men and women's community and the Latino/communities was placed for a month on public transportation throughout the city of Chicago. This may possibly explain the 43% increase in the Latina/o survivors that were reported in 2003.

Most people who access our services for domestic violence services are reporting intimate partner violence, rather than care giver, room mate abuse, elderly abuse or child/family abuse. Better outreach in communities impacted by other forms of domestic violence is needed and we will be evaluating our outreach tools in 2004.

## Boston, MA

### **Fenway Community Health Center The Network/La Red**

There were two reporting programs in Massachusetts for 2003: the Violence Recovery Program (VRP) at Fenway Community Health and The Network/La Red: Ending abuse in lesbian, bisexual women's, and transgender communities. The majority of the reported cases came from The Network/La Red. The VRP reported 75 new cases. The Network/La Red reported 215 new cases. The combined total of new cases from both reporting agencies was 290. This number represents an increase in new reported cases from 2002 with 261 reports and in the three years prior, with 289 reports in 1999, 397 reports in 2000, and 329 reports in 2001.

The increase in total reported new lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) domestic violence cases can be explained by the fact that The Network/La Red did have a large general visibility campaign and launched S/M vs. Abuse campaign in 2003. The general visibility campaign included 225 subway signs, public service announcement on jumbo tron at Boston Pride, and logo and website listed on 5000 pride event cards handed out across the state. The Network/La Red also had media coverage with 14 print articles and 2 radio interviews up from 2002 with only 2 print articles.

The VRP at Fenway saw 75 new cases in 2003, which represents a slight decrease over the previous year. This is largely due to the fact that in 2002 there was a large increase in numbers as new outreach was conducted by the program. As those numbers evened out in 2003, the program still saw a significant increase over previous years (64 cases in 2001 and 62 cases in 2000). One of the reasons that Fenway is seeing more cases overall than in previous years has to do with a collaborative model developed between the VRP and the Mental Health Department at Fenway.

In the past year, the VRP has developed a collaborative assessment model with Fenway's mental health department, whereby couples who present to the therapy department for couples counseling are assessed first by VRP to determine if a pattern of abuse is present. When a couple is assessed to have a presence of domestic violence, the victim is referred to VRP and the batterer is referred to batterer's intervention (if no domestic violence is present, then the couple is referred back to the therapy department for couples counseling.) Because of this collaboration, the VRP has received many more referrals from other departments at Fenway, and we have done more batterer assessments in 2003. Furthermore, because many new clients are being referred to the VRP after initially seeking different

and done something to stop it. I feel so angry now that I feel free, but I'm not sure I am free.

## NEW YORK

### **Clarisse, 30**

I am a 30-year-old legal immigrant from Guyana and I am the mother of an 11-year-old daughter. I am heterosexual and HIV positive. On May 5, 2004, I called AVP to report that I was being harassed and threatened by members of my own family because of my HIV status. My mother told other members of my family about my HIV status, and since then my brother has been harassing and threatening me physically. When I filed a police report against him things only got worse, and I worried for my daughter who was having trouble in school because she was so worried about me. I dropped the charges against my brother in order to keep peace in the family, but this did not change anything. The ongoing stress of the situation began to affect my T-cell count and viral load to the point that I got really sick.

I came to AVP for help in getting the HIV/AIDS Service Administration (H.A.S.A.) services I needed to get my daughter and myself to a safer place, and to get counseling help about the abuse from my family. AVP advocated with my HASA caseworker to speed up my housing application, and provided me with weekly supportive counseling. Three months later, my daughter and I were able to move into our own home, and my health has recovered enough

for me to begin a new job as a health aid worker. My daughter is doing better in school again, and we both feel more hopeful about the future.

### **Stanley, 46**

I am 46-year-old African American gay male survivor of domestic violence. I am also a survivor of childhood sexual abuse.

My partner of four years would often get drunk and beat or berate me. He isolated me from friends and threatened to hurt me if I reported him to the police. The last incident occurred when I put on a pair of socks that my partner did not like. My partner put a gun to my head and threatened to shoot me if I didn't follow his orders. I complied with him and called AVP as soon as it was safe.

I set up an appointment to meet with a counselor the next morning. I was unable to leave the apartment safely arrived late with a garbage bag containing my belongings.

I had been diagnosed with major depression and post-traumatic stress disorder and had been receiving a monthly SSI benefit check and on-going psychotherapy. After I left my partner, I was afraid to go back to psychotherapy because of its proximity to the apartment. I was also afraid to be placed in a men's shelter for fear that I would be further victimized for being gay.

AVP placed me in a safe shelter space designated for

services, the program is beginning to see more clients that are in earlier stages of the cycle of violence, resulting in earlier intervention to enable clients to seek safety and move on with their lives before violence spirals out of control.

Both VRP and The Network/La Red continued to provide training and outreach to criminal justice professionals, college groups, mainstream domestic violence programs, and GLBT social groups. The Network/La Red provided also provided training at national domestic violence and sexual assault conferences and national LGBT conferences.

The gender identity breakdown continued to be overwhelmingly female not because of greater frequency of domestic violence in woman to woman relationships, but because The Network/La Red's primary outreach is to lesbian, bisexual women, and transgender communities, while the VRP targets outreach to female as well as male and transgender individuals.

The cases reported here are only representative of those individuals who have spoken to either the VRP or The Network/La Red. The actual number of LGBT victims of domestic violence is most likely much higher than what has been reported to our programs. This assertion stems from our belief that many LGBT victims of domestic violence do not report abuse, do not seek services or have received services from other domestic violence programs not represented in this report.

### **New York, NY**

#### **New York City Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project (AVP)**

In 2003, the New York City AVP opened 423 new domestic violence cases, a 14% rise, and served 501 new victims constituting a 16% increase in victims from 2002 (cases often involve more than one victim). AVP continued to serve 94 on-going domestic violence victims who had come to the agency for services prior to 2003.

Statistics in all categories continue to see dramatic fluctuations in 2003; such fluctuations have been seen since 2001.

By categories, reports of domestic violence by female victims rose 22%, while reports by male victims rose 7%. Reports from those under 18 rose 6%, and for those 18-22 reports rose by 23%. For those 30-44, traditionally the largest age group reporting, this year saw a 4% decline. Reports by those 23-29 on the other hand rose 29% and reports by those 45-64 rose by an overwhelming 49%.

Reports by African Americans accounted for 28% of all reports, a 39% increase from 2002. Reports by Asian/Pacific Islanders rose by 38% while reports by Latina(o)s rose by 8% and accounted for 29% of total reports. Reports by Whites accounted for 24%, consistent with the previous year. Reports by Native Americans dropped by 33% and reports by Arab/Middle-Easterners fell by 67%. Reports by those identified as multi-racial also fell 30%.

Incidents reported in the five boroughs of New York City included a significant 188% rise in reports from Queens to account for 11% of all reports. Reports from Staten Island in contrast dropped by 77% and accounted for 2% of reports. For the remaining boroughs Bronx accounted for 13%, Brooklyn 18%, Manhattan 31%, while reports from outer counties, upper New York State and other areas beyond New York accounted for 21%. Reports from New Jersey accounted for another 4%.

Victims reporting domestic violence accounted for 80% of reported incidents, while incidents reported by batterers accounted for 7%. Reports from service providers also accounted for 7%. There was a 30% rise in assaults involving a weapon and an 8% rise in assaults without a weapon. Incidents involving the use of blunt objects increased 50%. Reports of rape increased by a distressing 100% and reports of sexual assault rose 36%. Similarly, sexual harassment saw an increase of 50%. Harassment by mail rose 78% this year while telephone harassment decreased by 23%. Incidents of illegal eviction rose significantly by 333%.

There were five reported domestic violence related murders/deaths that included the intra-familial murder of an 18-year-old boy by his 16-year-old brother in the family home. In 2003, intra-familial domestic violence increased 17% and often included anti-LGBT bias and hate-motivated violence. Abusive partners injured a third of their victims and 74% of those injured required medical attention. More specifically, there was an alarming 1100% increase in victims requiring hospital/inpatient medical care. Previous incidents of abuse were reported by 88%, a 10% increase from 2002, with 50% experiencing at least ten or more incidents prior to seeking help.

Police reports were made or taken in 22% of previous incidents, a 23% increase from 2002. 36% of all incidents were reported to police, a 37% increase from 2002. In cases where victims did make reports, only 8% of offenders were arrested while 17% of victims were prevented from access to an order of protection because no arrest was made. 4% of victims were arrested, a 64% increase from 2002. After contact with AVP only an additional 5% of victims stated their intent to report the current incident to the police, down 12% from 2002 and down 26% from 2001 representing a further decrease in

LGBT domestic violence victims that they maintain in partnership with Safe Horizon. AVP gave me emergency funds for travel and food and advised me to apply for Medicaid, food stamps and picture ID. I advised SSI to deposit my monthly check directly into my bank account in order to limit my contact with my partner. AVP referred me to St. Vincent's walk-in psychiatric, as well as to Gay Men of African Descent (GMAD) and Black Men Exchange (BMX) for support.

I now attend weekly counseling sessions at AVP. The shelter has granted me two extensions of stay while I apply for public housing and AVP has connected me with Community Voicemail services so that I can receive telephone messages regarding housing and employment. I am beginning to heal from this relationship and am actively looking for housing and employment for myself.

## OHIO

### **Kathy, 36**

Nicole, my partner of three years, I and my sixteen month-old daughter moved in with Nicole's mother. We have had some financial difficulties and her mother agreed to help us out until we get back on our feet. After several months of this living situation I noticed that Nicole had bruises and welts on her body. When I questioned her she said that her mom would hit her when I am at work.

Her mom yells at us about our situation and no longer

helps us financially. She makes comments about my eighteen year old daughter, which makes me think that she may be in danger too when I am not around. We feel completely isolated with no place to turn. We do not yet have the financial resources to leave and have no friends in the area. We called the local domestic violence shelter and they offered no help and hung up on us. We need to get away right away. It is winter and so we cannot live in our car. Our only hope at this point may be to go to a homeless shelter.

### **Rob, 37**

Peter my boyfriend has been stealing my HIV medications. Last week he got drunk and beat me up. The police were called and the report was filed against me. The police made fun of our situation and commented on our belongings. The one officer made a comment about the “tootsie roll” music we were playing and turned it off without our permission. Peter manipulated them into thinking I started the fight. He is not on the lease, but gets mail here so was not removed from the house. I realized I was much angrier about how the police treated us than by being beaten up. Last night we got into another argument and it got pretty violent. I did not call the police. I think my hand may be broken.

I need to get Peter out, but am in Section 8 housing. My landlord says that if they start eviction proceedings that we will both be thrown out. I don't feel safe. Peter has

confidence in the police. Victims who did interact with the police reported that police attitude was courteous in only 30% of instances, a 15% decrease from 2002. Police attitude was indicated as indifferent by 36% of victims, while 1% reported experiencing verbal abuse with anti-LGBT bias/hate slurs.

### **Columbus, OH**

#### **Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization (BRAVO)**

Columbus reported 46 incidents of domestic violence in 2003, a 25% decrease from the 64 reports collected in 2002. Twenty-two reports came from females, 23 came from males, and there was 1 report of domestic violence by a Transgender person. Thirty-seven reports came from people who identify as Lesbian, Gay, or Bisexual and heterosexual people made 5 reports. People who were questioning/unsure made 1 report and 3 survivors did not identify their sexual identities.

Forty-three percent of people reporting were between 18 and 29 years of age and 43% were between 30 and 49 years of age. One person reporting was between the age of 15 and 18 years. Again in 2003, 0 reports were made by people aged 65 and above.

In 2003, there was a decrease in the racial diversity of those who reported domestic violence. Of those whose race was known, 80% were white (up from 61% in 2002) and 17% were African-American, (down from 29% in 2002). In addition, 1 survivor identified as Latina/o. BRAVO continues to take reports from heterosexual callers, which were 12% of callers, (down from 16% in 2002), even if they were ultimately referred elsewhere for service.

The number of reports made to BRAVO continues to be much lower than in previous years, with the exception of 2001, when only 44 reports were made. Because domestic violence among LGBT people continues to be significantly underreported among all age and race groups, this annual report can only be viewed as one small snapshot of domestic violence in Central Ohio.

Locally, more resources are needed specifically for LGBT survivors of domestic violence that are sensitive and culturally specific. On a positive note, the Office of the Columbus City Attorney is both sensitive and effective in assisting LGBT survivors. As a result, LGBT survivors may not feel the need to report to BRAVO. More collaborations of this nature will enable us to more effectively assist LGBT survivors of domestic violence in Central Ohio.

## Pennsylvania

### **The Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights**

The Pennsylvania Anti-Violence Project at the Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights is a newer member of NCAVP. The Center provides a wide range of legal services to LGBT Pennsylvanians, including representation of domestic violence victims in obtaining protection orders and related legal matters. The Center also provides referrals to local, culturally sensitive service providers.

In 2003, the Center served 19 victims of same-sex domestic violence, a substantial decrease from 33 victims in 2002. In 2003, 47% of victims identified as female and 53% identified as male. We served no transgender domestic violence victims in 2003. In terms of ethnic makeup of victims, 10.5% identified as African-American, 10.5% as Latino/a, 5% as multiracial, and 58% as white. 16% of victims' ethnicity was unknown.

The decrease in reporting of new cases is likely due to a less intensive education and outreach effort undertaken by the Center in 2003. In 2002, since the AVP had just been launched, the Center distributed thousands of pieces of outreach material and went into local courthouses in an effort to publicize our new initiative. Unfortunately, as is often the case with nonprofits, we were not able to keep up that level of visibility for the project due to funding and staffing constraints.

However, the Center was recently awarded a two-year federal grant to coordinate outreach and client services for LGBT domestic violence victims with two Philadelphia-area social service providers. With increased resources, we can begin to increase our visibility and provide more and better services to the community.

## Toronto, ON

### **The 519 Anti-Violence Programme**

The 519 Anti-Violence Programme (AVP) runs out of The 519 Church Street Community Centre in downtown Toronto. The catchment area of The 519 includes The (Church-Wellesley) Village, which is home to Canada's largest LGBT community. The 519 AVP was founded in 1991 as a community response to the dramatic rise in the number of bashings that had occurred that year. Since 1994 The 519 AVP has been assisting and advocating for queer people who have experienced domestic violence. The 519 AVP has one full-time staff person. Individuals can report incidents of domestic violence to the AVP Reporting Line (416-392-6877), or by simply coming down to the Community Centre.

started to carry a gun around and is waving it at the dogs. I talked to BRAVO about going to the emergency room for my hand, a safety plan, and getting a restraining order. I think the dogs and I can stay with a friend until I figure out what to do.

## VERMONT

### **Julianna, 29**

I had been living with my girlfriend Miriam for 2 years and was not on the lease but paying all the bills and rent on top of supporting us both and her child. I was extremely isolated and didn't have friends or know of any supports or transgender community groups. I was providing so much for my girlfriend but not getting anything in return. Being stuck in the position of being the sole financial support for three of us was really tough. Even when the abuse didn't seem that bad I was working long hours to make enough money for us. But of course the abuse got worse. And I have continual concern for her child's wellbeing. She locked me out of the house on numerous occasions; after a few hours she'd let me back in. Miriam was verbally and emotionally abusive, very transphobic and hateful. Eventually Miriam kicked me out for good and I didn't have any place to go.

In the local homeless shelter I was put on the "male" side and was very uncomfortable. The shelter wasn't supportive or accommodating and definitely not safe. I only stayed there one night. That was the first time she kicked me out. The second

time it was during the winter months. I couldn't go back to that shelter because it's not safe for trans women and the only other option was to stay the night in my car. That was the month the temperature didn't climb above freezing at all.

During 2003 The 519 Anti-Violence Programme received reports of 26 cases of domestic violence. This figure was up slightly from the reports received in 2002. People who are gay or lesbian accounted for 92% of the cases reported, and 8% were from people who are bisexual. The majority of these cases were reported by men (20 of the 26 cases) and the remaining reports (6 of the 26 cases) were from women. During 2003 there were no reports of domestic violence from Transsexual/Transgendered individuals. These disproportions resulted in increased outreach by The 519 AVP to the Lesbian and Trans communities in 2004.

In cases where race was noted (24 of the 26 cases), 46% of the cases reported were by whites (down 1.5% from 2002), 33% were from Caribbean and Aboriginal Canadians (up 1.8% from 2002), and 21% self-identified as being multi-racial.

While The 519 AVP assists individuals in reporting domestic assaults to the police, in obtaining peace bonds, safety planning, and crisis counselling, the emphasis in 2003 remained in assisting individuals obtain safe, affordable housing. The continuing crisis caused by the lack of affordable housing in Toronto has resulted in a ten-year waiting list for individuals who are seeking subsidized housing. Individuals can apply for priority status, if they have experienced domestic violence, and during 2003 AVP assisted eight clients in receiving priority standing for subsidized housing. This resulted in a dramatic reduction in waiting time to an average of three weeks.

In conjunction with GPAP (The Gay Partner Abuse Project) The 519 AVP was invited to present seminars on same-sex domestic violence to officers transferring into the Domestic Violence Unit of Toronto Police Services. During 2003 five of these seminars were presented to over 100 officers. The 519 AVP also continued to provide seminars on domestic violence in LGBT relationships to Social Work students at the University of Toronto, Ryerson University and George Brown College.

One problematic trend noted during the year was with regard to response from the police. In many instances, when police attended the scene, if the victim had defended themselves, the police would curtail questioning and charge both individuals with assault, even if they had already attended the couple's home in the past. The 519 AVP and other mainstream domestic violence groups have expressed our concerns to police and hope that this trend will cease in 2003.

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**SafeSpace**

SafeSpace is a social change, social service organization that serves lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGBTQQ) survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, hate crimes and discrimination, and their loved ones. SafeSpace offers a broad range of services including advocacy, a support-line, survivor's groups, emotional support, incident documentation, and education and outreach in the wider community.

This year SafeSpace served 21 survivors of domestic violence, up 31% from 2002. The majority of these survivors reported multiple concerns, such as sexual assault or discrimination that were separate from or linked to domestic abuse. Over a quarter (28%) of the survivors that SafeSpace helped in 2003 self-identified as having a disability.

57% of SafeSpace service users were female identified. This includes 14% of service users who were male-to-female identified. During this service year, SafeSpace did not have any female-to-male transgendered domestic violence cases. Rather than signifying a lack of need, SafeSpace believes that this is a reflection of the additional barriers in place for transgendered survivors of violence combined with the stigma attached to masculinity and violence.

It is also worthwhile to note that over one-third of SafeSpace service users were between the ages of 19 and 29. This group also experienced an increased risk of homelessness and financial concerns.

In addition to providing direct services, SafeSpace is also committed to enacting social change in Vermont and surrounding rural communities. By participating in community collaboration around domestic violence organizing and engaging other anti-violence agencies in the area, SafeSpace was not only able to expand its own network of connections, but also provide training in order to help better prepare other domestic violence agencies to handle LGBTQQ concerns.

**Additional Local Summary Reports**

Two additional NCAVP member organizations in Kansas City, MO and Rhode Island provided the following written local summaries of their domestic violence work in 2002. Both agencies plan to report numerical case data for inclusion in future reports and updates by NCAVP.

## **Kansas City Anti-Violence Project**

The Kansas City Anti-Violence Project (KCAVP) was founded in 2002 and began helping LGBT victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in April 2003. KCAVP documented one murder and 10 cases of LGBT domestic violence and sexual assault in 2003. In the inaugural year of KCAVP, all of the victims were helped by volunteers who had no office space, who used only a mobile phone, and ran on limited community financial and in-kind donations.

Because 2003 was the first year KCAVP assisted clients, a comparison cannot be made to previous years. However, KCAVP participated in The Pulse, an LGBT community health assessment conducted by the Kansas City, Missouri Health Department and the Lesbian and Gay Community Center of Kansas City. KCAVP entered questions on The Pulse about domestic violence, sexual assault, bias crimes, and police harassment. The results stated that 15 percent of lesbians and 11 percent of gay men reported being a victim of domestic violence in the past three years. Furthermore, 11 percent of respondents stated that they had been a victim of a hate crime in the past three years, and a dramatic 61 percent of respondents stated they had been a victim of rape or sexual assault within the past three years. KCAVP acknowledges that these numbers are lower than national statistics, but these results specifically apply to the Kansas City area and tend to be lower because of how the survey was administered. The Pulse was a convenience survey rather than a statistically designed research survey. An example of this is that an abuser could have been standing next to a victim when he or she was completing the Pulse and to prevent abuse, the victim would mark no. Even though these statistics are lower than national averages, KCAVP uses the Pulse results as a baseline of what is happening in the Kansas City LGBT community, and why KCAVP needs to educate the community on what domestic violence, sexual assault, and bias crimes are and how to prevent them.

The board of directors and executive director forecasted that KCAVP would help 40 victims of violence in 2004, and that goal was met in September 2004. The projected goal for 2004 is now 60 clients for the year—an increase of 600 percent from the number of clients served in 2003. We do not believe that there are more victims of domestic violence (or sexual assault or hate crimes for that matter), but rather more incidents are being reported now that there is a place for LGBT people to receive appropriate services and referrals.

The main goal of KCAVP in 2003 was for the founder and initial board of directors to create a sustainable organization. This included incorporating the organization in the state of Missouri in April and

receiving tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service in October. KCAVP volunteers and board members also started outreach efforts through Pride celebrations and holding two special events. The board of directors voted to add bias crimes as part of the mission of KCAVP in December to fight all types of violence not only in the LGBT community but against it.

In 2004, KCAVP has received funding for office space and to hire a full-time victim advocate to address the increase in victims who need service. Additionally, KCAVP added emergency housing in August 2004 for victims who need a safe haven from domestic violence or other violent situations furthering our commitment to end LGBT violence in the metropolitan Kansas City area as well as western Missouri and eastern Kansas.

## Rhode Island

### **Sojourner House**

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2003 was a busy and productive year for Sojourner House. We relocated our main office to a larger space that includes a drop-in center that is open to the public. In May of 2003 Sojourner House added a male part-time Coordinator of Gay Advocacy, making it the first agency in RI to specifically address the needs and barriers that gay men encounter when they are victims of domestic violence. Sojourner House has had a Lesbian Advocacy part-time staff for 9 years making it the only RI agency to specifically address this population's needs and barriers. These population-specific programs are a helpful complement to others that address the needs of Latina women, women at risk of both domestic violence and HIV, rural victims, teenagers, and others. Later in 2003, Sojourner House applied for membership in NCAVP as a way to stay connected with and learn from others doing similar work across the country.

Sojourner House staff were also instrumental in helping to form the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Committee of the larger statewide Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The LGBTQ Committee is made up of LGBTQ-identified staff, volunteers, and board members from the 5 domestic violence organizations that make up the statewide RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The Committee has charged itself with helping to address the needs of LGBTQ victims of domestic violence in RI and with supporting LGBTQ people that work in the movement.



## **APPENDIX: NUMERICAL DATA**

On the following pages are reproduced all the numerical case data summarized in this update, for 2003 and (for comparison purposes) 2002. The final columns on the last page show the totals and the percentage increase/decrease in each line item.

NATIONAL COALITION OF ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAMS

	Wingspan - Tucson AZ		LA Gay & Lesbian Center		CUAV, AWS - San Francisco, CA		Colorado A-V Program	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
<b>Total New Cases</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>4218</b>	<b>4964</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
Female	56	34	1356	1619	165	154	66	90
Intersex	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Male	37	29	1981	2682	168	196	61	39
Transgender F-M	0	0	7	11	7	8	4	0
Transgender M-F	2	0	49	73	18	27	0	8
Self- Identified/ Other	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Unknown	1	1	825	579	0	1	12	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>4218</b>	<b>4964</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>								
Bisexual	5	2	169	210	18	7	87	12
Lesbian/Gay	63	45	3537	4281	249	294	1	80
Heterosexual	17	10	113	81	60	26	20	29
Questioning/Unsure	8	0	24	29	2	2	0	5
Self-Identified/ Other	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Unknown	3	7	375	363	29	56	35	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>4218</b>	<b>4964</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Age (all categories)</b>								
<14	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	7
15-18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
<i>Under 18</i>	4	0	39	72	11	0	15	0
18 -22	8	0	197	305	6	6	9	0
19-29	0	6	0	0	0	34	0	38
23 - 29	21	0	350	669	44	25	7	0
30-39	0	5	0	0	0	106	0	35
30 -44	28	0	962	1103	139	33	15	0
40-49	0	2	0	0	0	69	0	11
50-59	0	1	0	0	0	20	0	4
45 -64	18	0	242	198	48	15	2	0
60-69	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1
70-79	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
>80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and Over	3	0	5	20	3	0	1	0
Unknown	14	50	2423	2597	107	73	94	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>4218</b>	<b>4964</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>								
African-Descent	2	2	194	142	47	40	20	23
Arab/Middle-Eastern	0	0	5	14	3	2	0	0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	1	27	94	37	44	0	0
Indigenous/First People	4	1	17	25	6	2	0	2
Latina/o	27	10	486	389	55	69	21	28
Multi-racial	9	1	74	82	18	12	2	3
White	40	30	863	685	133	158	48	58
Jewish	0	0	61	14	1	0	0	0
Other	3	0	29	73	1	1	0	0
Unknown	11	19	2462	3446	57	60	52	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>4218</b>	<b>4964</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>DV-related deaths</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Cases by month</b>								
January		8		421		33		14
February		7		277		25		4
March		13		167		31		18
April		13		147		37		8
May		0		1251		28		12
June		0		964		34		14
July		0		383		24		9
August		3		198		32		11
September		3		221		41		17
October		4		514		42		7
November		6		195		28		7
December		7		226		33		18
<b>Total</b>		<b>64</b>		<b>4964</b>		<b>388</b>		<b>139</b>

NATIONAL COALITION OF ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAMS

	Center on Halsted/ Horizons - Chicago, IL		The Network/La Red - Boston, MA		Fenway Community Health - Boston, MA		Boston Totals	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
<b>Total New Cases</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>290</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
Female	33	25	139	154	29	30	168	184
Intersex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male	36	36	7	7	44	39	51	46
Transgender F-M	0	0	7	12	0	1	7	13
Transgender M-F	1	3	19	14	1	3	20	17
Self- Identified/ Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	4	1	8	28	7	2	15	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>290</b>
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>								
Bisexual	4	1	5	5	2	5	7	10
Lesbian/Gay	56	49	72	135	50	56	122	191
Heterosexual	6	7	24	42	9	4	33	46
Questioning/Unsure	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	2
Self-Identified/ Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	7	8	79	33	19	8	98	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>290</b>
<b>Age (all categories)</b>								
<14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Under 18</i>	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
18 -22	5	3	6	1	3	0	9	1
19-29	0	0	0	47	0	22	0	69
23 - 29	15	10	16	0	9	0	25	0
30-39	0	0	0	28	0	25	0	53
30 -44	19	11	16	0	35	0	51	0
40-49	0	0	0	16	0	13	0	29
50-59	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
45 -64	3	4	5	0	7	0	12	0
60-69	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
70-79	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
>80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and Over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	28	35	137	123	27	10	164	133
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>290</b>
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>								
African-Descent	12	10	10	36	2	14	12	50
Arab/Middle-Eastern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	2
Indigenous/First People	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Latina/o	7	10	16	23	14	7	30	30
Multi-racial	1	0	3	4	2	1	5	5
White	26	20	43	47	36	39	79	86
Jewish	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Other	0	0	0	22	0	1	0	23
Unknown	27	25	107	81	26	11	133	92
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>290</b>
<b>DV-related deaths</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Cases by month</b>								
January		4		16		9		25
February		8		12		6		18
March		3		20		7		27
April		4		27		8		35
May		3		19		11		30
June		11		26		9		35
July		5		18		6		24
August		7		10		5		15
September		7		20		4		24
October		3		19		5		24
November		4		15		2		17
December		6		13		3		16
<b>Total</b>		<b>65</b>		<b>215</b>		<b>75</b>		<b>290</b>

NATIONAL COALITION OF ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAMS

	NYC Gay & Lesbian AVP		Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization - Columbus, OH		519 Anti-Violence Programme - Toronto, ONT		The Center for Civil Rights - PA	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
<b>Total New Cases</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
Female	171	205	40	22	6	6	15	9
Intersex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male	235	254	23	23	18	20	17	10
Transgender F-M	4	3	1	1	0	0	0	0
Transgender M-F	20	30	0	0	1	0	0	0
Self- Identified/ Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Unknown	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>								
Bisexual	17	13	0	3	3	2	1	2
Lesbian/Gay	304	347	49	34	21	24	19	14
Heterosexual	39	58	10	5	1	0	2	1
Questioning/Unsure	6	3	3	1	0	0	0	0
Self-Identified/ Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	64	80	2	3	0	0	11	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Age (all categories)</b>								
<14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-18	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
<i>Under 18</i>	53	56	1	0	0	0	0	0
18 -22	34	43	5	1	1	2	1	0
19-29	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0
23 - 29	72	90	10	1	4	3	1	1
30-39	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
30 -44	185	183	17	3	11	14	9	11
40-49	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
50-59	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
45 -64	43	64	5	1	6	5	1	1
60-69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
70-79	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
>80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and Over	4	11	0	0	1	0	0	0
Unknown	39	54	26	23	2	2	21	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>								
African-Descent	99	139	12	5	0	0	7	2
Arab/Middle-Eastern	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Asian/Pacific Islander	8	11	0	0	0	1	0	0
Indigenous/First People	3	2	1	0	1	2	0	0
Latina/o	132	143	2	1	1	1	2	2
Multi-racial	25	16	0	0	6	5	1	1
White	116	119	25	24	9	11	12	11
Jewish	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	0
Other	8	11	0	0	3	4	0	0
Unknown	35	54	23	16	4	1	11	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>DV-related deaths</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Cases by month</b>								
January		37		2		3		3
February		39		9		3		1
March		34		2		3		2
April		41		3		3		2
May		48		3		2		0
June		51		3		2		3
July		49		8		5		3
August		39		2		2		0
September		38		3		1		2
October		47		5		1		2
November		43		4		0		1
December		35		2		1		0
<b>Total</b>		<b>501</b>		<b>46</b>		<b>26</b>		<b>19</b>

NATIONAL COALITION OF ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAMS

	SafeSpace - Burlington, VT		TOTALS		
	2002	2003	2002	2003	CHANGE
<b>Total New Cases</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5718</b>	<b>6523</b>	<b>14.1%</b>
<b>Gender</b>					
Female	6	9	2082	2357	13.2%
Intersex	0	0	0	1	NA
Male	8	9	2635	3344	26.9%
Transgender F-M	1	0	31	36	16.1%
Transgender M-F	1	3	112	161	43.8%
Self- Identified/ Other	0	0	1	1	0.0%
Unknown	0	0	857	623	-27.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5718</b>	<b>6523</b>	<b>14.1%</b>
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>					
Bisexual	1	1	312	263	-15.7%
Lesbian/Gay	13	15	4434	5374	21.2%
Heterosexual	1	0	302	263	-12.9%
Questioning/Unsure	0	2	45	44	-2.2%
Self-Identified/ Other	0	1	0	4	NA
Unknown	1	2	625	575	-8.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5718</b>	<b>6523</b>	<b>14.1%</b>
<b>Age (all categories)</b>					
<14	0	0	0	10	NA
15-18	0	0	0	10	NA
<i>Under 18</i>	1	0	128	130	1.6%
18 -22	1	0	276	361	30.8%
19-29	0	7	0	162	NA
23 - 29	1	0	550	799	45.3%
30-39	0	3	0	207	NA
30 -44	9	0	1445	1358	-6.0%
40-49	0	4	0	117	NA
50-59	0	3	0	33	NA
45 -64	3	0	383	288	-24.8%
60-69	0	0	0	6	NA
70-79	0	0	0	0	NA
>80	0	0	0	0	NA
65 and Over	0	0	17	31	82.4%
Unknown	1	4	2919	3011	3.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5718</b>	<b>6523</b>	<b>14.1%</b>
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>					
African-Descent	1	0	406	413	1.7%
Arab/Middle-Eastern	0	0	12	18	50.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	0	75	153	104.0%
Indigenous/First People	1	1	34	36	5.9%
Latina/o	0	1	763	684	-10.4%
Multi-racial	1	0	142	125	-12.0%
White	5	9	1356	1211	-10.7%
Jewish	0	0	64	20	-68.8%
Other	0	0	44	112	154.5%
Unknown	7	10	2822	3751	32.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5718</b>	<b>6523</b>	<b>14.1%</b>
<b>DV-related deaths</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>50.0%</b>
<b>Cases by month</b>					
January		2		552	NA
February		1		392	NA
March		2		302	NA
April		1		294	NA
May		1		1378	NA
June		1		1118	NA
July		2		512	NA
August		1		310	NA
September		2		359	NA
October		2		651	NA
November		6		311	NA
December		0		344	NA
<b>Total</b>		<b>21</b>		<b>6523</b>	<b>NA</b>