
Anti-Gay/Lesbian Victimization

a study by the
National Gay Task Force
in cooperation with
Gay and Lesbian Organizations in
Eight U.S. Cities

June 1984

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The National Gay Task Force wishes to thank all the organizations that participated in this study. In alphabetical order by city, they are: (Atlanta)-The Atlanta Gay Center, (Boston)-Watchline, (Dallas)-The Dallas Gay Alliance, (Denver)-The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Colorado, (Los Angeles)-The Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, (New York)-The New York City Gay/Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, (St. Louis)-The Celebration Committee, and (Seattle)-The Dorian Group.

Thanks also to John Olson, John Felix, and NGTF's army of volunteers for the hundreds of hours spent tabulating results and preparing this report.

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This report is a pilot, preliminary study. However it may fall short of a thorough and comprehensive analysis, this report is admirably cautious in the analysis of data and in the style of writing. There is no hyperbole. The report reads more like a peer-reviewed article in a professional journal than an adversary statement. The process of obtaining selective responses from group meetings is not uncommon and should be considered appropriate to the effort to get information. There are no national statistics on the amount and kind of violence that are suffered by homosexuals, for data like these are not normally collected. This study offers one of the first analyses of the problem of violence against this special group. I applaud the effort and encourage further research so that the dimensions of the problem may be known and efforts can be made to reduce the problem.

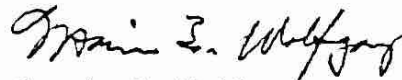

Marvin E. Wolfgang

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INTRODUCTION

After centuries of oppression, invisibility, and isolation, gay and lesbian people have claimed the right to participate fully in society and to enjoy the same rights and privileges accorded heterosexuals. In the ensuing struggle, ever greater numbers have "come out" and built new relationships, institutions and communities.

While greater visibility has helped to strengthen gay/lesbian self-respect and community, for many it has resulted in greater vulnerability to violence and crime. Now that lesbians and gay men have a higher profile, they are more readily identifiable to those who deliberately seek to victimize them because of their sexual orientation.* However, those who live covert lifestyles are by no means invulnerable to anti-gay/lesbian violence; indeed there is evidence to suggest that they too may be at risk for certain types of victimization—particularly homicide (Miller and Humphreys, 1980).

In recent years, a number of anti-gay/lesbian incidents have received particularly wide notice. For example, San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and Harvey Milk, a city supervisor and gay activist, were shot and killed by Dan White, another supervisor frustrated by the growing political strength of the local gay community. In November, 1980, a man with an automatic rifle sprayed the front of a New York bar with gunfire, killing two gay men and wounding six others. After his capture, he declared that he "hates faggots," and "wanted to kill them all." In 1981, an Ohio family hired "deprogrammers" to "rescue" their daughter from a life of lesbianism. The young woman was maced and taken by force from a sidewalk near her apartment, and held for a week in another state where she claims she was "mentally tortured" and repeatedly sexually assaulted. In September, 1982, more than twenty-five New York City police officers raided "Blues," a Manhattan bar frequented by black and Hispanic gay men. During that raid, patrons were locked inside the bar, lined up against the wall, beaten and kicked about the body with nightsticks, clubs, and boots, and subjected to racist and homophobic epithets.

Anti-gay/lesbian incidents frequently involve crimes against property as well as persons. For example, the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC), a Christian denomination oriented to the gay and lesbian community, reports that fourteen of its churches have been set on fire since 1973. The most recent incident of arson occurred in Jacksonville, Florida, in January, 1984. MCC also reports numerous acts of vandalism to its churches.

Although anti-gay/lesbian violence is not a recent phenomenon, the number of reported incidents has increased dramatically in recent years. This trend has been documented by NGTF, local violence projects, and by the gay media—which regularly report incidents involving verbal harassment, intimidation, physical assault, vandalism, arson, rape, murder and/or police abuse.

In some communities where violence has reached epidemic proportions, local groups have responded vigorously by recording and publicizing incidents and assisting victims. Since 1980, the New York City Gay/Lesbian Anti-Violence Project (NYCGLAVP) has documented more than 1,500 anti-gay/lesbian crimes. In 1981 alone, nearly 600 such incidents were reported to San Francisco's Community United Against Violence (CUAV). Both organizations assert that only a fraction of the total number of anti-gay/lesbian incidents in their locales are ever reported to them or to the police.

*In Joseph Harry's 1982 study of gay male victimization in Chicago, one variable associated with greater likelihood of assault is residence in gay-identified areas.

In an effort to give a national perspective to the issue of anti-gay/lesbian violence, NGTF initiated its Violence Project, which during the first eight months of 1983 received 1,682 reports of harassment, intimidation and assault from across the country. These included episodes documented by the NGTF Crisisline (a national hotline for reports of anti-gay/lesbian incidents) and by twelve community-based anti-violence projects.

Also included were outbreaks of violence in several cities attributed to "AIDS backlash." In response to media reports of a new "gay plague" that threatened to spread to "mainstream" America, lone assailants and gangs harassed and attacked gay men whom they believed to be "disease-carrying queers." During this period, according to estimates by CUAV in San Francisco, fear and hatred associated with AIDS was a motivating factor in nearly 20% of all incidents reported to it; the Dorian Group in Seattle also attributed 22 brutal attacks against gay men to "AIDS backlash."

In addition to AIDS-related violence, there were many incidents involving lesbians. For example, in Northampton, Massachusetts, assailants harassed and assaulted members of the town's sizable lesbian community. According to Northampton's Gay and Lesbian Activists, several lesbians were singled out for sexual assaults or other physical attacks; lesbian-identified establishments were vandalized; and hundreds of phone threats and harassments were reported.

With nearly 1,700 incidents reported in just eight months, and with thousands more documented over the years by the gay and lesbian media and local groups, there can no longer be any question that acts of verbal and physical abuse against gay and lesbian people occur frequently in many U.S. communities. However, a great deal still remains unknown about the full extent of anti-gay/lesbian victimization nationwide. Since the incidents discussed above were documented by organizations in only twelve U.S. cities and by the NGTF Crisisline, they represent only a small fraction of the number that actually occurred. Most communities with sizable lesbian/gay populations still do not document acts of harassment or violence locally, or report them to NGTF; among those that do, none claim to know about all incidents in their areas. Additionally, the Crisisline, which opened in late 1982, still has not been publicized in many regions of the country, leaving large segments of the national gay and lesbian community uninformed about its function as a violence documentation/victim referral hotline.

In order to obtain additional information on anti-gay/lesbian violence, NGTF, in cooperation with gay and lesbian organizations in eight U.S. cities, surveyed people at Gay Pride events and gay institutions during June/July, 1983. The primary purpose of this study is to gain a greater understanding of the nature and extent of anti-gay/lesbian victimization, and further to examine whether this prevalence differs for the two sexes and across diverse geographic locations. In addition, we seek to explore some of the settings and contexts in which such victimization occurs, as well as the attitudes and behaviors of gay and lesbian people relating to this phenomenon.

METHODS

Because of increasing reports of violence against gay men and lesbians, NGTF and the NYCGLAVP jointly conducted a pilot survey in Manhattan in May, 1983. The results were deemed significant enough to warrant a more refined and comprehensive investigation of the problem; thus, in early June, NGTF asked gay and lesbian organizations in fifteen cities to conduct violence surveys during their Gay Pride Week celebrations. Several groups declined to participate due to lack of volunteers or because Gay Pride

Week is not celebrated in their communities. However, organizations in eight cities indicated that they had sufficient resources and volunteers to participate in the study, and agreed to do so.

In alphabetical order by city, the participating organizations are: (Atlanta)-Atlanta Gay Center; (Boston)-Watchline; (Dallas)-Dallas Gay Alliance; (Denver)-Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Colorado; (Los Angeles)-Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center; (New York)-New York City Gay/Lesbian Anti-Violence Project; (St. Louis)-Celebration Committee; and (Seattle)-The Dorian Group. Several of these organizations had assistance from other local gay and lesbian groups.

Organizations participating in the study were sent a questionnaire and were asked to make 500 copies for distribution during their Gay Pride Week marches, rallies, and street fairs. Participants were advised to bring clipboards, pens, and boxes (to store completed questionnaires) to the survey site. Once there, they were instructed to disperse among the crowd and distribute questionnaires, clipboards and pens to equal numbers of men and women who agreed to participate.

Remaining instructions were written as follows: "Volunteers should give out questionnaires as quickly as possible to equal numbers of men and women. All should introduce themselves in exactly the same way: '_____ and NGTF request that you fill out this confidential questionnaire on anti-gay/lesbian violence.' Volunteers should not comment further, or in any way try to influence the persons completing the questionnaires. If individuals say they have never been victimized, they should be encouraged to fill it out nonetheless."

In all cities except Denver, local groups distributed at least some questionnaires at Gay Pride rallies; groups in a few cities administered them in other settings as well. The Dallas Gay Alliance distributed half of its questionnaires at an entertainment event opening Gay Pride Week which was attended by thousands from the gay and lesbian community. Not enough volunteers were available in Los Angeles or Seattle to hand out a sufficient number of survey instruments at local rallies, so additional means were employed to reach members of the gay and lesbian community: in Los Angeles, visitors to the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center were asked to fill out questionnaires; in Seattle, approximately one-third of the questionnaires were handed out at meetings and workshops of local gay and lesbian groups. Due to inclement weather, the survey was not conducted at the Denver Gay Pride march and rally. Instead, questionnaires were distributed to visitors of the Gay and Lesbian Community Center, in local bars and at local AIDS forums and fund-raisers during July.

Since the focus of this survey is harassment/violence directed against gay males and lesbians, we restricted our analysis to those reporting that they are "predominantly/exclusively homosexual." A number of those sampled identified themselves as "equally homosexual and heterosexual" or "predominantly/exclusively heterosexual," and some of these individuals indicated that they had been harassed or assaulted because they were perceived to be gay or lesbian. Although this phenomenon merits investigation, our "equally homosexual and heterosexual" and "predominantly/exclusively heterosexual" sample sizes are too small to be analyzed.

QUESTIONNAIRE

The survey instrument is a two-sided questionnaire requesting some standard demographic information and asking thirteen questions related to anti-gay/lesbian harassment or violence (see Appendix D). Two participating organizations added questions, not included in this report, which related to local concerns.

Due to problems with the phrasing of question 5 (which explores respondents' attitudes and experiences concerning the police and the criminal justice system), many of those surveyed responded to it inconsistently. Consequently, the question was eliminated from consideration and will not be discussed further in this report.

All twelve questions to be examined involve nominal choices (i.e., "Yes" or "No"). Questions 1-4 and 6 further ask for ordinal responses (i.e., "Once," "More than once," or "Many times"). Questions 1-4, 6, and 8-10 ask whether respondents experienced some kind of harassment, threats, or attacks by "straight" people because of their sexual orientation. In particular, questions 1-4 and 6 look at types and frequencies of such victimization, while questions 8-10 explore some of the contexts and settings in which it occurs. Question 7 asks respondents if they know other people who have experienced anti-gay/lesbian harassment or attacks. Finally, questions 11-13 examine respondents' attitudes and behaviors related to anti-gay/lesbian victimization.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Gender Composition

Of the 2,074 respondents who identified themselves as "predominantly" or "exclusively homosexual," 1,420 are men and 654 are women. New York and Los Angeles have the highest rate of female participation, but even those samples do not have equal numbers of males and females as was requested (See Table 1). There are factors which may account for this imbalance: In most sites where sampling was done, more men than women were present and this distribution was reflected in the survey. Additionally, women may have declined to participate at a greater rate than men, a trend which was observed in the NGTF pilot violence survey last spring.

Racial/Ethnic Composition

1,759 (84.8%) of the 2,074 respondents are white, which reflects the greater presence of whites at Gay Pride events and gay/lesbian establishments and organizations. A breakdown of the racial/ethnic composition of the sample is provided in Table 3 below. A complete breakdown by city is provided in Appendix C.

Age Composition

The average age of those sampled is 30.3 for men and 27.7 for women, reflecting the greater participation of young people at the events and establishments where the survey was conducted. The age range is 16-66 for men and 17-75 for women.

Geographic Distribution

Due to a lack of volunteers and/or lead time to prepare for the survey, all of the organizations fell short of the requested sample size of 500. Nevertheless, all cities, except St. Louis (33 responses), obtained samples large enough for statistical analysis (see Table 1 below).

TABLE 1: GENDER COMPOSITION OF THE SAMPLE

CITY	MALES	(%)	FEMALES	(%)
Atlanta	235	83.0%	48	17.0%
Boston	122	69.3%	54	30.7%
Dallas	261	82.6%	55	17.4%
Denver	127	74.7%	43	25.3%
Los Angeles	113	58.2%	81	21.8%
New York	259	54.6%	215	45.4%
St. Louis	28	84.8%	5	15.2%
Seattle	275	64.2%	153	35.8%
TOTAL	1420	68.5%	654	31.5%

TABLE 2: GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF THE SAMPLE

CITY	NUMBER	% OF TOTAL
Atlanta	283	13.6%
Boston	176	8.5%
Dallas	316	15.2%
Denver	170	8.2%
Los Angeles	194	9.4%
New York	474	22.9%
St. Louis	33	1.6%
Seattle	428	20.6%
TOTAL	2074	100.0%

TABLE 3: RACIAL/ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF SAMPLE

RACE/ETHNICITY	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
Asian	5	3	8	0.4%
Black	46	28	74	3.6%
Hispanic	61	33	94	4.5%
Native American	22	7	29	1.4%
White	1212	547	1759	84.8%
Not Responding	74	36	110	5.3%
TOTAL	1420	654	2074	100.0%

SUMMARY OF RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

All the particulars of the statistical analysis are described and tabled in Appendix A. We summarize our findings below:

As stated in the introduction, the principal aim of this study is to investigate the prevalence of anti-gay/lesbian violence, and further to examine whether this prevalence differs for the two sexes or across diverse geographic locations. It must be stressed that the victimization dealt with here is solely that which relates to the sexual orientation of survey participants. It is unfortunately likely that many of these individuals are subjected to additional acts of harassment, intimidation, vandalism, and assault unrelated to their sexual orientation, simply because they are members of a society in which crime is widespread. These additional crimes aside, the anti-gay/lesbian victimization reported is of a surprising magnitude.

More than nine in ten respondents indicate that they experienced some type of victimization because of their sexual orientation, and more than eight in ten claim to know other gay or lesbian people who have been victimized as well. Greater than one-third report having been threatened with violence. More than one in five males, and nearly one in ten females say they were "punched, hit, kicked, or beaten," and approximately the same ratios suffered some form of police abuse. Assaults with weapons are reported by one in ten males and one in twenty females. Many of those who report having been harassed or assaulted further state that incidents occurred multiple times.

Subjects claim to have been victimized at home and school, as well as in other contexts. Approximately one-third report that they were verbally abused by relatives because of their sexual orientation, and more than one in fifteen were physically abused as well. One fifth of the females and nearly half of the males say they were harassed, threatened with violence, or physically assaulted in high school or junior high school because they were perceived to be lesbian or gay.

Anti-gay/lesbian violence clearly affects the attitudes and behaviors of those surveyed: more than four in five respondents believe they might be victimized at some time in the future because of their sexual orientation, and most agree that anti-gay/lesbian violence is prevalent enough to cause them to fear for their safety. Nearly half say they have modified their behavior because of anti-gay/lesbian violence.

Response patterns for most questions are shown below; complete results are presented in Tables A-P of Appendix A.

FIGURE 1. QUESTIONS 1-4 and 6 (Part A):
Percentage of Male and Female Respondents
Who Were Victimized

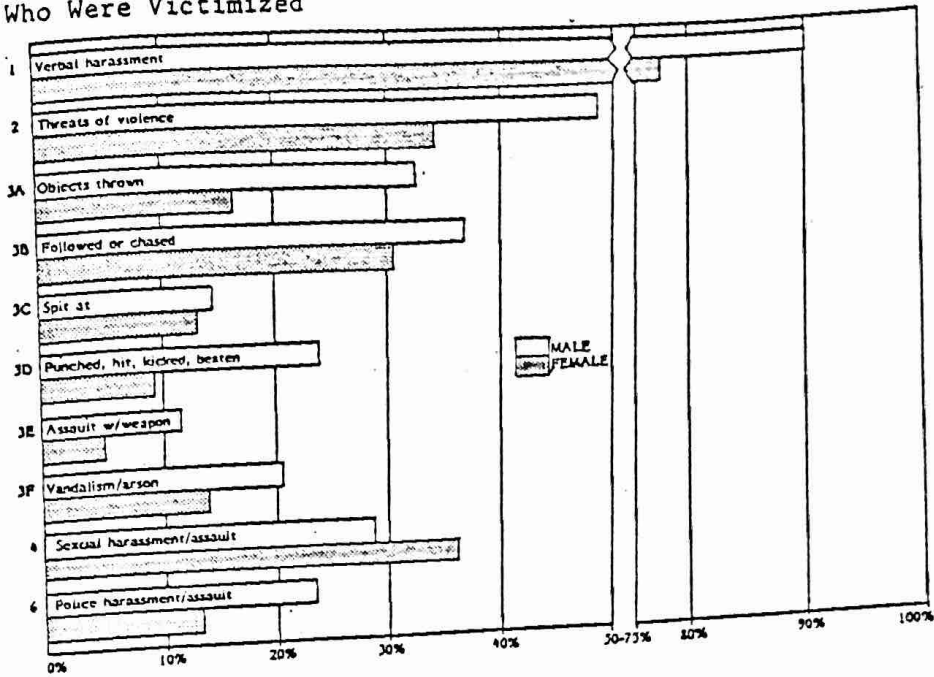


FIGURE 2. QUESTIONS 1-4 and 6 (Part B):
Percentage of Male and Female Victims Who
Experienced Multiple Victimizations

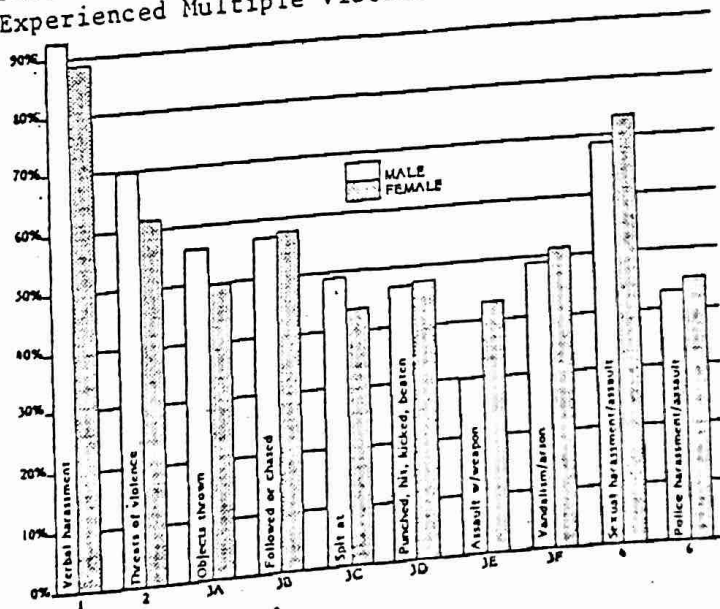


TABLE 4: OVERVIEW OF ANTI-GAY/LESBIAN VICTIMIZATION. Questions 1-4, 6, 8-10 (Percentage of respondents who experienced some type of victimization); Question 7 (Percentage of respondents who know others who have been victimized; Question 11 (Percentage of respondents who believe anti-gay/lesbian violence is prevalent enough for them to fear for their safety.

<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>
<u>experienced some type of victimization</u>	
95.6%	90.5%
<u>know others who have been victimized</u>	
84.0%	84.8%
<u>fear for their safety</u>	
58.4%	69.8%

FIGURE 3. QUESTION 8: Percentage of Male and Female Respondents Who Have Experienced Verbal Abuse by Family Members

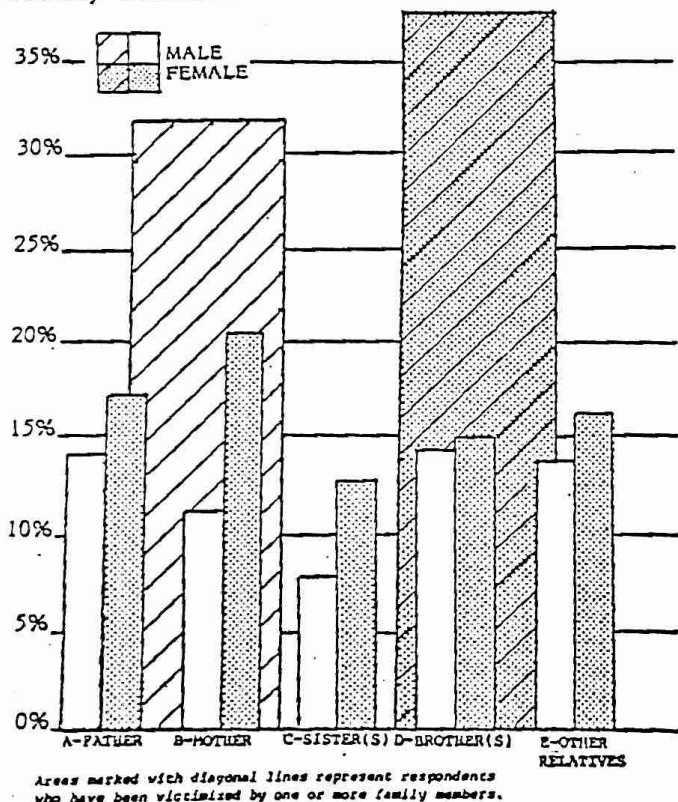


FIGURE 4. QUESTION 9: Percentage of Male and Female Respondents Who Have Experienced Physical Abuse by Family Members

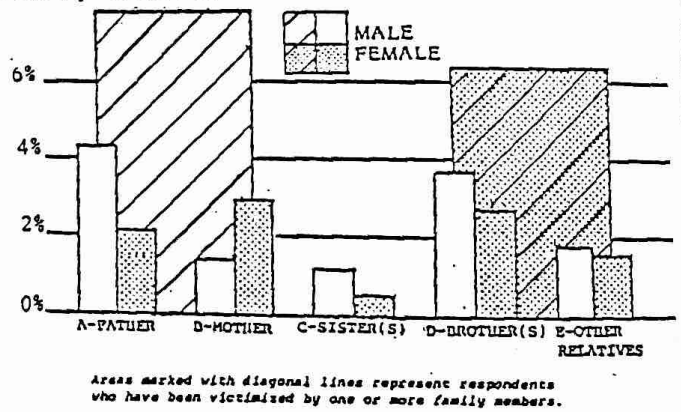
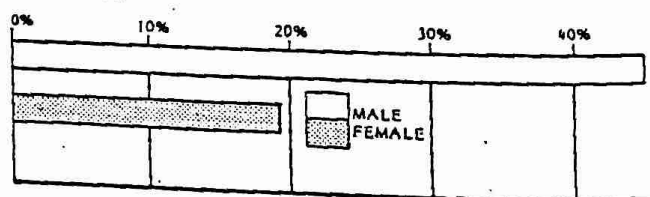


FIGURE 5. QUESTION 10: Percentage of Male and Female Respondent Who Have Experienced Victimization in School



Missing Data

Before discussing response patterns we should first consider missing data rates to ascertain that they are not the cause of response differences. Three systematic patterns of missing data were observed:

1) For questions 7 (knowledge of others who have been victimized), 8a-e (familial verbal abuse), 9a (paternal physical abuse), and 10 (victimization in school), a significantly higher percentage of females than males fail to respond.

2) A significantly higher percentage of Boston respondents fail to answer questions on the reverse side of the questionnaire (questions 6-13).

3) On questions 6 (police abuse) and 8-10, Dallas respondents as well as those in Boston fail to answer at a higher rate than those in other cities.

The higher missing data rates for items on the back of the questionnaire among Boston and Dallas respondents may be attributable to the fact that subjects in these two cities were surveyed as they were entering places where scheduled events were about to commence, or were already in progress (a religious service celebrating Gay Pride Day near the Boston march route, and an entertainment event sponsored by the Dallas Gay Alliance). Since these respondents had a destination to reach, some may have been inclined to complete the questionnaire more hastily than participants in other cities.

Whatever the reasons for these missing data differences, it does not appear that they biased the response rates for the groups in question. Rates of victimization for female participants and for Boston and Dallas respondents are not consistently higher or lower than the rates for their counterpart groups on these particular questions. Therefore, missing data differences do not appear to be a matter of concern in our analysis.

Response Patterns

Sex effects: There are consistent sex differences in rates of anti-gay/lesbian victimization. Males in the study report higher rates of verbal harassment (except at home), threats of violence, and most types of physical violence (objects thrown; punched, hit, kicked, beaten; assaults with weapons, etc.). They also report greater victimization by the police and in school. Females, on the other hand, show significantly greater rates of sexual harassment or assault, verbal abuse by family members and other relatives, and fear of violence.* In addition, a higher percentage of females report that they have modified their behavior to avoid violence, and a higher percentage believe it is possible they could be victimized because of their sexual orientation at some time in the future.

Males and females report comparable rates of physical violence by family members, although the rate of such abuse by fathers is slightly higher for males, and the rate of same by mothers is slightly higher for females.

*These differences by sex in rates of victimization and fear are paralleled in the U.S. population as a whole, without regard to sexual orientation. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics' Report to the Nation on Crime and Justice (1983), men are more often victims of violent crime (except rape) by strangers; females are more likely to be sexually assaulted, and generally express a greater fear of violence.

For the most part, males and females who report having experienced verbal harassment, threats of violence, or some kind of physical assault do not show significant differences in the frequency with which these incidents occur (once vs. multiple times).

Differing rates of victimization reported by gay males and lesbians in the sample may be associated with differences in visibility. In general, gay men are more visible than lesbians, and gay male establishments--such as bars, businesses, and clubs--are far more numerous. Media coverage of the gay/lesbian community usually focuses on men, reinforcing stereotypes in general and lesbian invisibility in particular. Certain "looks" (such as haircut and clothing styles, etc.) favored by some gay men are more widely known to the rest of the public and more readily identifiable by potential assailants.

Lifestyle may also be related to sex differences in rates of victimization. Gay men, like men in general, "go out" more often, are more likely to travel alone and to visit areas where the risk of crime is greater.* Significantly more females report that they fear anti-gay/lesbian violence and have modified their behavior to reduce the risk of an attack, and this may also contribute to the lower rates of certain types of violence that they experience. However, reducing risk often entails taking steps to reduce one's visibility as a gay/lesbian person, such as avoiding certain gay/lesbian-identified establishments and individuals. Such measures and the fear that motivates them can be viewed as yet another form of victimization.

Since it is the perpetrators who are responsible for violence and harassment, their motivations and behaviors play a major role in determining differences in the types and frequencies of victimization experienced by lesbians and gay men.** Because we could not collect data on perpetrators in the survey, these considerations are outside the scope of this report.

City effects: In nearly half the questions, there are no statistically significant differences between cities in rates of response. All eight cities are much alike in the rates at which assailants throw objects at respondents, vandalize or set fire to their property, sexually harass or assault them, and abuse them in school. Respondents in all survey locations also show similar rates of knowing others who have been victimized because of their sexual orientation.

Where there are significant city differences in response to questions, they vary much less consistently than differences by sex, and usually only one or two cities depart from the norm. Considering how greatly these eight cities differ in size, geographic location, and public attitudes towards gay/lesbian people, the overall consistency in rates of victimization is surprising. A discussion of the ways that respondents differ significantly from city to city is provided in Appendix B.

*Although some contend that certain gay people "ask for trouble" because of their lifestyle and visibility, victim advocates maintain that this argument displaces blame from the criminal to the victim.

**One theory states that assailants--most of whom are young and male--attack gay and lesbian people because they violate conventional gender roles that reinforce male power and dominance: Gay males are perceived by perpetrators as having abdicated male power and privilege for the weakness and inferiority traditionally attributed to women; on the other hand, lesbians--who do not define their sexuality in terms of males--are perceived as "overstepping" that same traditional female role. Thus anti-gay/lesbian harassment, threats and assaults are "punishment" for challenging conventional sex roles that reinforce gender inequality.

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Because city differences in rates of response do not follow a consistent pattern, they cannot be accounted for in this report. Although anecdotal information is available that might help to explain some local differences, this information has not been quantified and therefore cannot be used in statistical analyses in this report.

Other effects: Because results were manually tabulated, differences in rates of response to questions on the basis of race/ethnicity, age and other variables that may be associated with one's vulnerability to crime, have not been evaluated. Furthermore, lifestyle differences among respondents--such as the length of time and extent to which they have been visible as gay or lesbian--are not measured in this survey and thus cannot be examined in this report.

Qualifications and Recommendations for Research

This study, like all responsible investigations concerning the gay and lesbian community, does not claim universal applicability. The reasons for this limitation stem from the difficulties inherent in sampling a true cross section of Americans with a same-sex orientation. Many homosexuals, fearing hostility, discrimination, and even violence related to the disclosure of their sexual orientation, conceal this aspect of their identity and are thus inaccessible to survey research. Since this survey was conducted at Gay Pride Week events, or in other gay/lesbian-identified contexts, those people who avoid such places are, obviously, not included in our sample.

There are other factors that prevent us from universally applying these results to the national gay and lesbian community: Although gay and lesbian people are represented in every racial/ethnic group, age group and social class, our sample was mostly white (85%) and relatively young (average age, 30 for males, and 28 for females). While no information on personal income was requested, it is likely the sample was largely middle class. Although some participants were from rural or suburban communities, the survey was administered in cities, giving it an urban bias.

Despite these limitations, the consistently high rates of victimization in all survey locations, along with the considerable size and geographic diversity of the sample, strongly indicate the pervasiveness of anti-gay/lesbian incidents. Indeed, with rates of victimization approaching or exceeding 90% in every city surveyed, there can no longer remain any question that large numbers of lesbian and gay Americans have been subjected to acts of harassment, intimidation and violence because of their sexual orientation.

While the prevalence of anti-gay/lesbian victimization has been demonstrated, questions still remain: What are its causes, and why is it widespread? What has been the response to this problem by officials and agencies concerned with crime and its victims? In what respects are the experiences of lesbian and gay victims unique, and are their needs for support, assistance, and justice being met? In light of these questions, research is recommended in the following areas:

■ The relationship between public policy and anti-gay/lesbian violence. It is especially important to examine the ways in which legally sanctioned discrimination and laws proscribing homosexual behavior influence victims' decisions to report crimes to the police, press charges, and seek services available to victims.

■ The interaction of the lesbian/gay victim with the police, the criminal justice system, and social service agencies. Widespread complaints of official indifference or hostility towards those who do seek protection and assistance also deserve to be

investigated.* With nearly one in five respondents reporting abuse by the police because of their sexual orientation, further study of the scope, nature, and impact of police harassment and violence is recommended as well.

■ Victimization of lesbian and gay youth. Survey data suggest that there are few environments where lesbian and gay youth can feel protected and supported. A substantial number of respondents report having been victimized by others at school or by family members because of their perceived sexual orientation. Although familial abuse appears to occur less frequently than abuse by non-relatives, its impact is likely to be greater because of the victim's intimate relationship with the perpetrator. The nature and consequences of anti-gay/lesbian victimization in the home and at school merit further investigation, as does the response (if any) to this problem by youth and domestic violence agencies and the schools.

■ The nature and extent of anti-gay/lesbian homicide. Since this survey required the participation of those who have been victimized, it was obviously impossible to collect data on anti-gay/lesbian homicide. However, in the year that NGTF has been monitoring media accounts of violence against gay people, scores of murders—mostly of gay men—have come to its attention. In nearly all such incidents, the victims' sexual orientation appears to have been an important factor in their being singled out by assailants. It is likely that many more such homicides have occurred, but the nature of these incidents has not been publicized. Anti-gay/lesbian homicide is a problem of considerable magnitude which deserves more attention from both researchers and agencies concerned with crime and its victims.**

■ Motivations of assailants. A study of the motivations of assailants and the social attitudes that shape them would provide greater insight into the dynamics of homophobia and the violence that can result from it.

*Lesbian and gay victims who call the NGTF Crisisline frequently express the fear that they will be victimized a second time if they report incidents against them. Many anticipate indifference or hostility from the police and the criminal justice system, as well as discrimination, if their sexual orientation is revealed and publicized. Among those who have made reports, 47% describe police response as "indifferent" or "hostile."

While there are no studies that compare sentences of those who victimize gay people with sentences of those who victimize heterosexuals, some authorities contend that the former are generally less severe. For example, on the eve of Dan White's release from prison, Harvard Law School professor Alan Dershowitz commented on ABC Nightline, "If you kill a homosexual in this country...you are likely to get a lower punishment." (Dan White was released after serving only five years in prison for the murders of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and gay Supervisor Harvey Milk.)

**A 1980 study by Miller and Humphreys has identified some of the variables associated with gay male homicide. (See Bibliography.)

GENERAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of these findings, it is clear that anti-gay/lesbian victimization is widespread. While further research into its scope, nature and impact is recommended, the question that most needs to be asked is, "What can be done to curb homophobic incidents and to meet the needs of survivors?" Based on this survey and other information gathered by the NGTF Violence Project, we submit the following recommendations:

I) Guaranteed civil rights for all lesbian and gay people

As long as gay and lesbian Americans risk losing jobs, housing, child custody, and other civil rights by "coming out," large numbers will choose not to report acts of harassment, intimidation and violence directed against them. In failing to guarantee gay and lesbian civil rights, our government permits--indeed facilitates--violence against gay men and lesbians by inhibiting them from seeking redress through the criminal justice system.

II) Inclusive laws and adequate enforcement

In response to a disturbing increase in anti-religious and racially motivated crimes in recent years, sixteen states have passed legislation increasing penalties for crimes motivated by bigotry and/or enabling victims of such crimes to initiate civil suits against the perpetrators. Anti-gay/lesbian crimes are not qualitatively different from, nor less heinous than, crimes against other minority groups. Present and future legislation aimed at deterring bias incidents should be extended to specifically protect gay and lesbian people.

Tougher legislation will not succeed in deterring assailants if it and existing laws are not adequately enforced. Gay and lesbian people who do wish to report incidents often find that they are discouraged from doing so by the police. Those who persist may find that the district attorneys or judges do not consider homophobic incidents important enough to prosecute or punish.

Police, district attorneys, and judges must be made aware that failure to take seriously anti-gay/lesbian incidents encourages assailants to engage in such attacks and discourages victims from reporting them. The criminal justice system must send a clear message to potential and convicted offenders that crimes against members of the gay and lesbian community will be punished as severely as those against other citizens. When appropriate, sentences for convicted offenders should include education about gay and lesbian people and their communities.

III) Official monitoring of anti-gay/lesbian and other bias crimes

In its 1983 statement, Intimidation and Violence: Racial and Religious Bigotry in America, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights states that "precise measures of the extent of racial and religious violence and intimidation do not exist primarily because law enforcement agencies have not devised methods for reporting and compiling statistics on crimes that involve clear signs of racial and religious motivation.... Federal and state authorities should develop workable reporting systems that will produce an accurate and comprehensive measurement of the extent of criminal activity that is clearly based on racial and/or religious motivations... Such data are needed to measure trends, develop preventative programs, allocate resources and adjust public policy."

Adequate protection for lesbian and gay citizens also requires that law enforcement agencies be fully aware of the scope and nature of anti-gay/lesbian victimization. Only since gay organizations began documenting anti-gay/lesbian violence has it become clear that harassment, threats and attacks are not isolated, disconnected incidents, but rather part of a larger and continuing problem spanning this country.

NGTF agrees that law enforcement authorities should maintain separate statistics on bias crimes, including those directed against gay and lesbian people because of their sexual orientation. Although many--perhaps most--victims of anti-gay/lesbian attacks choose not to report them or decline to reveal their sexual orientation to the police, others want that information to be included in the police report. When that information is volunteered, it should be reflected in police statistics as well. Such data will help alert police to the nature and extent of crimes directed specifically against lesbians and gay men, and improve their ability to investigate and prevent them. Although police statistics will most likely never reflect the true prevalence of anti-gay/lesbian incidents, they will at least provide the official recognition of the problem that is necessary for an adequate official response.

The Commission also reports that a number of police departments have formed specialized units responsible for gathering intelligence, preventing illegal acts and conspiracies and swiftly apprehending persons who commit racially or religiously motivated crimes. NGTF recommends that police anti-bias units be charged with the responsibility of investigating anti-gay/lesbian incidents as well.

IV) Improved police/gay relations

Many gay and lesbian Americans view their local police with fear, mistrust, and even hostility. Such perceptions discourage some from reporting anti-gay/lesbian incidents which, in turn, makes the entire gay community more vulnerable to crime. Although most police officers act respectfully towards members of the minority communities they serve, reports of harassment, entrapment, unequal enforcement of the law, deliberate mishandling of cases involving lesbian/gay crime victims, verbal abuse, and physical assault still persist. Indeed, data collected by local groups and NGTF suggest that such incidents are not isolated: 18% of those surveyed reported experiencing some type of police abuse because of their sexual orientation. During the first eight months of 1983, more than 100 of the 1,682 anti-gay/lesbian incidents reported to NGTF involved the police as perpetrators.

The impact of police abuse is felt not only by those who directly experience it, but by the entire lesbian/gay community. Any act of hostility--even an epithet--serves to create a climate of fear and mistrust that makes dialogue and cooperation difficult, if not impossible.

In some communities across the U.S., police and gay organizations have recognized that better communication and mutual respect are in everybody's best interest. Among the measures that have been adopted to improve relations are: 1) regular contact between the gay/lesbian community and the police--on the precinct level, in committees and task forces, and in public forums; 2) appointment of official police liaisons to local gay/lesbian communities; 3) mandatory awareness training for police officers about gay and lesbian people and other minority communities; 4) hiring of openly gay and lesbian police officers; 5) departure from the use of entrapment as a means of curtailing illegal public sexual behavior; and 6) establishment of independent civilian complaint review boards to investigate reports of alleged police misconduct.

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NGTF recommends that such measures be implemented wherever there is a significant gay and lesbian population, especially if there is a history of homophobic harassment or violence by the police. Where such steps have been taken, they have benefited not only gay/lesbian victims and their communities, but the police as well.

V) Adequate services for gay and lesbian victims of crime and violence

Many gay and lesbian victims are reluctant to seek help from social service agencies because they fear they will be more harmed than helped if their sexual orientation is revealed. Some who do seek help find that the very people responsible for protecting and assisting them are unresponsive to their needs or are even overtly hostile.

In response to this problem, organizations in several U.S. communities have initiated projects to provide assistance and support for gay and lesbian victims. Some, like the New York City Gay/Lesbian Anti-Violence Project and the Community United Against Violence in San Francisco, have received government funding to assure their continued survival and growth. Project services include victim advocacy with district attorneys and the police; medical, legal, counseling and social service agency referrals; assistance in filing for victims' compensation; and short-term emergency loans. Project staff and volunteers also alert local police and the community to patterns of anti-gay/lesbian violence, monitor court cases of alleged assailants, distribute safety information, and conduct self-defense courses. These efforts need to be expanded and duplicated elsewhere and deserve more and continued financial support from public and private sources.

Victim service organizations, rape crisis centers, youth and domestic violence shelters and other agencies concerned with the welfare of crime victims can do more to address the needs of gay men and lesbians by: 1) publicizing their programs and services to the gay and lesbian community; 2) sensitizing staff counselors to the particular needs and concerns of lesbian and gay victims; 3) learning about and working with local gay support services; 4) creating a supportive environment for gay and lesbian employees, beginning with the adoption of an official policy prohibiting discrimination in employment and services on the basis of sexual orientation; and 5) cooperating with local, state, and national efforts to document anti-gay/lesbian incidents.

VI) Community educational programs

Like those who engage in racist and anti-religious crimes, perpetrators of anti-gay/lesbian incidents tend to be young--usually in their teens and twenties. Clearly, prejudices that lead to violence develop early in life and need to be confronted at that time.

Across the United States, forums and workshops involving youth, parents, teachers and clergy have been held in schools and churches to respond to local bias incidents and longstanding prejudices. Similar programs are needed to address the problem of anti-gay/lesbian incidents in the schools and in the wider community. All citizens, but young people especially, need to understand that victimizing gay males and lesbians, as well as members of other minority groups, is immoral, illegal, and not to be tolerated in our society.

Religious denominations, particularly those that condemn homosexuality, should consider how their teachings on the subject create a climate of fear and intolerance which, in effect, promotes anti-gay/lesbian violence. Regardless of whether clergy and laity approve of homosexual behavior, they should recognize their responsibility

for educating the public about anti-gay/lesbian violence, and take an active role in remedying the problem. History has shown that toleration of persecution can lead to the undermining of the rights and security of all people in a society.

REPORT SUMMARY

Survey results show rates of anti-gay/lesbian victimization approaching or exceeding 90% in all survey locations, with respondents reporting abuse at home and school, as well as in other contexts. Many of those who report having been harassed or assaulted indicate that such incidents occurred multiple times.

Most respondents agree that anti-gay/lesbian violence is prevalent enough to cause them to fear for their safety and believe they might be victimized at some time in the future because of their sexual orientation. Nearly half say they have modified their behavior because of anti-gay/lesbian violence.

Results show significant differences by sex in rates of victimization. Males are more likely to report having experienced verbal harassment (except at home), threats of violence, abuse in school and by the police, and most types of physical attacks. Females show higher rates of sexual harassment or assault, verbal abuse by family members, and fear of violence; they are also more likely to say that they have modified their behavior to avoid violence. Males and females who have been victimized show similarities in the frequency with which incidents occurred (once vs. multiple times). They also report similar rates of physical abuse by family members.

Cities show a surprising number of similarities in reported levels of victimization. Where city or sex by city differences exist, they do not appear to follow a consistent pattern.

Further research is recommended in the following areas: 1) the relationship between public policy and anti-gay/lesbian violence; 2) the interaction of the lesbian or gay victim with the police, the criminal justice system, and social service agencies; 3) victimization of lesbian and gay youth; 4) the nature and extent of anti-gay/lesbian homicide; and 5) the motivations of assailants.

General policy recommendations are: 1) passage of local, state, and federal legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, thus enabling more lesbian and gay victims to report crimes and seek legal redress; 2) inclusion of lesbian and gay people in laws aimed at deterring crimes motivated by bigotry, and more vigorous prosecution of assailants; 3) official monitoring of anti-gay/lesbian incidents and other bias crimes; 4) improved police/gay relations; 5) establishment of programs by victim service agencies and other community-based organizations to respond to the particular needs of lesbian and gay crime victims; and 6) educational forums in the schools, churches, and in the wider community to reduce the homophobia that breeds violence.

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- A bibliography of anti-gay/lesbian violence has been compiled and is available for \$2.00 from the National Gay Task Force, 80 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10011.

ANALYSIS OF MISSING DATA AND RESPONSES

APPENDIX A:

In the analyses that follow, questions are taken out of order and are examined in logical groupings. Few-word summaries are provided in tables to indicate the content of each question. The exact wording of each question may be found in Appendix D.

In all analyses, sex and city differences in responding are examined. Sex by city interactions are tested using log-linear modeling techniques implemented with the BMDP statistical package. Simple bivariate relationships are tested using chi-square and contingency coefficient statistics.

Sex breakdowns of responses are tabled in the results section for each question. City and sex by city breakdowns are provided only where consistent differences are found to be significant. Tables of complete city and sex by city responses may be obtained from NGTF.

Analysis of Missing Data

Before examining the responses to questions on the survey, we look at the patterns of missing data to determine whether there are differences by sex or city in the likelihood of responding to each question.

Questions 1-4 and 6 pertain to verbal harassment or physical violence by "straight" people. All of these questions have two parts: Part A asks for a nominal response ("yes/no") indicating whether the questionee ever experienced a specific type of victimization; those who state that they experienced previous victimization are then asked to provide an ordinal response in Part B indicating the frequency ("once/more than once/many times") with which it occurred.

The numbers of males and females who fail to respond to Part A of questions 1-4 and 6 are shown in Table A. Rates of missing data are included as well. These rates represent the percentage of survey participants (654 females, 1,420 males, and 2,074 total males and females) who fail to respond to each question.

TABLE A: QUESTIONS 1-4 AND 6 (PART A) -
MISSING DATA COUNTS AND PERCENTAGES FOR MALES AND FEMALES

Ques. No.	Question Content	Male (N=1420)	Female (N=654)	Total (N=2074)
1	Verbal harassment	NNR= 3 %NR= 0.2%	4 0.6%	7 0.3%
2	Threats of violence	NNR= 12 %NR= 0.8%	5 0.8%	17 0.8%
3A	Objects thrown	NNR= 12 %NR= 0.8%	7 1.1%	19 0.9%
3B	Followed or chased	NNR= 25 %NR= 1.8%	18 2.7%	43 2.1%
3C	Spit at	NNR= 32 %NR= 2.2%	14 2.1%	46 2.2%
3D	Punched, hit, kicked or beaten	NNR= 25 %NR= 1.8%	18 2.8%	43 2.1%
3E	Assaulted with weapon	NNR= 31 %NR= 2.2%	12 1.8%	43 2.1%
3F	Vandalism or arson	NNR= 35 %NR= 2.5%	9 1.4%	44 2.1%
4	Sexual harassment or assault	NNR= 20 %NR= 1.4%	10 1.5%	30 1.4%
6	Police harassment, threats of violence	NNR= 92 %NR= 6.5%	54 8.2%	146 7.0%

Percentage not responding (%NR) is the ratio of the number not responding (NNR) to the number of survey participants (N), multiplied by 100.

In Part A of questions 1-4 the number of people who fail to respond is too small to allow examination of city differences (more than 20% of the cells in the city by response contingency table have expected values of less than 5). In question 1 the number of people who fail to respond is also too small to allow an examination of sex differences. However, sample sizes are sufficient for an examination of sex differences in questions 2-4. None of these differences is significant, all $\chi^2_{[1]} < 2.57$, N.S.

The number of survey participants who fail to respond to Part A of question 6 (police harassment, threats of violence) is large enough to allow examination of both sex and city differences. There is no significant sex by city interaction in failure to respond, $\chi^2[7]=8.34$, N.S., and there is no sex difference, $\chi^2[1]=2.16$, N.S. However, there are differences by city, $\chi^2[7]=26.05$, $p<0.001$. Significantly more people in Boston (11.9%) and Dallas (11.1%) fail to respond, while significantly fewer people in Los Angeles (2.1%) fail to do so. In the remaining cities 6.2% of those surveyed fail to answer the question.

In Part B of questions 1-4 and 6, individuals are asked to indicate how frequently they experienced certain types of victimization. Only those who answer affirmatively in Part A of a given question are eligible to answer Part B of that question. For each question the numbers of males and females eligible to answer Part B, the numbers who fail to do so, and the missing data rates are tabled below. The missing data rates are the percentage of individuals eligible to answer Part B who fail to do so.

TABLE B: QUESTIONS 1-4 AND 6 (PART B) - MISSING DATA COUNTS AND PERCENTAGES FOR MALES AND FEMALES

Ques. No.	Question Content	Male	Female	Total
1	Verbal harassment	NNR= 37	9	46
		N= 1278	504	1782
		%NR= 2.9%	1.8%	2.6%
2	Threats of violence	NNR= 25	9	34
		N= 688	222	910
		%NR= 3.6%	4.0%	3.7%
3A	Objects thrown	NNR= 39	5	44
		N= 458	104	562
		%NR= 8.5%	4.8%	7.8%
3B	Followed or chased	NNR= 103	29	132
		N= 515	194	709
		%NR= 20.0%	14.9%	18.6%
3C	Spit at	NNR= 27	13	40
		N= 198	84	282
		%NR= 13.6%	15.5%	14.2%
3D	Punched, hit, kicked or beaten	NNR= 35	5	40
		N= 332	58	390
		%NR= 10.5%	8.6%	10.2%
3E	Assaulted with weapon	NNR= 8	4	12
		N= 158	32	190
		%NR= 5.1%	12.5%	6.3%
3F	Vandalism or arson	NNR= 28	11	39
		N= 282	93	375
		%NR= 9.9%	11.8%	10.4%
4	Sexual harassment or assault	NNR= 49	27	76
		N= 399	232	631
		%NR= 12.3%	11.6%	12.0%
6	Police harassment, threats of violence	NNR= 12	2	14
		N= 310	80	390
		%NR= 3.9%	2.5%	3.6%

Percentage not responding (%NR) is the ratio of the number not responding (NNR) to the number of eligible survey participants (N), multiplied by 100.

There are no significant sex differences in failure to respond to Part B of questions 1-4 and 6, $\chi^2[1]<2.38$, N.S. City differences and city by sex interactions are not significant in Part B of questions 3b and 3d, all $\chi^2[7]<5.19$, N.S. For question 4, there is also no city by sex interaction, $\chi^2[7]=10.25$, N.S.; however, differences by city in question 4 (sexual harassment or assault) are significant, $\chi^2[7]=68.10$, $p<0.001$. Dallas respondents fail to answer at a rate (39.2%) much higher than that of the remaining cities (8.2%). In Part B of the remaining questions, sample sizes are insufficient to test for city differences or city by sex interactions.

Questions 8-10 pertain to anti-gay/lesbian victimization in the family or in school. Table C lists the numbers of males and females who fail to respond to these questions. The table also includes missing data rates, which represent the percentages of survey participants (654 females, 1,420 males, 2,074 total males and females) who fail to respond to the questions.

TABLE I
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TABLE C: QUESTIONS 8-10 -
MISSING DATA COUNTS AND PERCENTAGES FOR MALES AND FEMALES

Ques. No.	Question Content	Male (N=1420)	Female (N=654)	Total (N=2074)
8A	Verbal abuse-Father	NNR= 123 %NR= 8.7%	104 15.9%	227 10.9%
8B	Verbal abuse-Mother	NNR= 144 %NR= 10.1%	94 14.4%	238 11.5%
8C	Verbal abuse-Sister(s)	NNR= 250 %NR= 17.6%	149 22.8%	399 19.2%
8D	Verbal abuse-Brother(s)	NNR= 236 %NR= 16.6%	132 20.2%	368 17.7%
8E	Verbal abuse-Other relative(s)	NNR= 253 %NR= 17.8%	157 24.0%	410 19.8%
9A	Physical abuse-Father	NNR= 112 %NR= 7.9%	78 11.9%	190 9.2%
9B	Physical abuse-Mother	NNR= 133 %NR= 9.4%	76 11.6%	209 10.1%
9C	Physical abuse-Sister(s)	NNR= 213 %NR= 15.0%	113 17.3%	326 15.7%
9D	Physical abuse-Brother(s)	NNR= 199 %NR= 14.0%	108 16.5%	307 14.8%
9E	Physical abuse-Other relative(s)	NNR= 218 %NR= 15.3%	106 16.2%	324 15.6%
10	Victimization in school	NNR= 52 %NR= 3.7%	38 5.8%	90 4.3%

Percentage not responding (%NR) is the ratio of the number not responding (NNR) to the number of survey participants (N), multiplied by 100.

In questions 8-10, sex by city interactions in failure to respond are nonsignificant, all χ^2 's[7]<9.00, N.S. However, there are consistent sex differences in all parts of question 8, question 9a, and question 10. In these instances a significantly higher percentage of females fail to respond, all χ^2 's[1]>3.90, all p's<0.05. Sex differences are not significant for questions 9b-9e, all χ^2 's[1]<2.52, N.S. It should be noted that while the sex difference for question 10 is statistically significant, it is actually small in magnitude. Its significance is probably an artifact of the hypersensitivity of the chi-square test to small differences at the extremes of the percentile distribution (i.e., when percentages are close to 100% or 0%).

City differences are highly significant in all parts of questions 8-10, all χ^2 's[7]>25.94, all p's<0.001. A consistently higher percentage of Boston and Dallas participants decline to respond to these questions. The numbers of those surveyed in Boston, Dallas, and all other cities combined who do not respond to questions 8-10 are tabled below along with the corresponding missing data rates. These rates are based on sample sizes of 176 for Boston, 316 for Dallas, and 1,582 for all other cities combined.

TABLE D: QUESTIONS 8-10 -
MISSING DATA COUNTS AND PERCENTAGES COMPARING BOSTON AND DALLAS
TO REMAINING CITIES

Ques. No.	Question Content	Boston (N=176)	Dallas (N=316)	Other cities (N=1582)
8A	Verbal abuse-Father	NNR= 40 %NR= 22.7%	46 14.5%	147 9.3%
8B	Verbal abuse-Mother	NNR= 36 %NR= 20.4%	54 17.1%	153 9.7%
8C	Verbal abuse-Sister(s)	NNR= 47 %NR= 26.7%	85 26.9%	280 17.7%
8D	Verbal abuse-Brother(s)	NNR= 39 %NR= 22.1%	91 28.8%	247 15.6%
8E	Verbal abuse-Other relative(s)	NNR= 51 %NR= 29.0%	114 36.1%	251 15.9%
9A	Physical abuse-Father	NNR= 28 %NR= 15.9%	46 14.5%	116 7.3%
9B	Physical abuse-Mother	NNR= 28 %NR= 15.9%	55 17.4%	126 8.0%
9C	Physical abuse-Sister(s)	NNR= 32 %NR= 18.2%	83 26.3%	211 13.3%
9D	Physical abuse-Brother(s)	NNR= 27 %NR= 15.3%	91 28.8%	189 11.9%
9E	Physical abuse-Other relative(s)	NNR= 31 %NR= 17.6%	111 35.1%	182 11.5%
10	Victimization in school	NNR= 19 %NR= 10.8%	12 3.8%*	59 3.7%

Percentage not responding (%NR) is the ratio of the number not responding (NNR) to the number of survey participants (N), multiplied by 100.

*Dallas does not differ significantly from "Other cities" on this question.

In order to establish what portion of the sample experienced any form of anti-gay/lesbian victimization, the results of questions 1-4, 6, and 8-10 were aggregated. Individuals are divided into three groups on the basis of their responses to these questions: 1) those who answer "yes" to at least one of the questions (i.e., they experienced at least one form of victimization), 2) those who answer "no" to all of the questions (i.e., they were never victimized in any way), and 3) those who do not answer "yes" to any question and fail to respond to at least one question (i.e., it cannot be determined whether they experienced some form of victimization). Table E shows missing data rates by sex for this summary index of victimization (i.e., it lists numbers and percentages of individuals in group 3). The missing data rates are based on the number of survey participants (1,420 males, 654 females, and 2,074 total males and females).

TABLE E: QUESTIONS 1-4, 6, AND 8-10-
SUMMARY OF MISSING DATA COUNTS AND
PERCENTAGES FOR MALES AND FEMALES

Male (N=1420)	Female (N=654)	Total (N=2074)
NNR= 7	NNR= 14	NNR= 21
%NR=0.5%	%NR=2.1%	%NR=1.0%

Percentage not responding (%NR) is the ratio of the number not responding (NNR) to the number of survey participants (N), multiplied by 100.

City differences cannot be examined since the numbers of individuals with missing data on the summary index are too low. There is a statistically significant sex difference in missing data rates $\chi^2[1]=12.13, p<0.001$. However, the difference is of small magnitude. Again, this is probably due to the hypersensitivity of the chi-square test when the percentages are close to 0%.

Question 7 asks whether respondents know others who experienced anti-gay/lesbian victimization. Questions 11-13 gauge attitudes and behaviors of survey participants in relation to the phenomenon of anti-gay/lesbian victimization. Table F shows numbers and percentages of males and females who fail to respond to these questions.

TABLE F: QUESTIONS 7 AND 11-13 - MISSING DATA COUNTS AND PERCENTAGES FOR MALES AND FEMALES

Ques. No.	Question Content	Male (N=1420)	Female (N=654)	Total (N=2074)
7	Victimization of acquaintance(s)	NNR= 80 %NR= 5.6%	56 8.6%	136 6.6%
11	Fear of victimization	NNR= 79 %NR= 5.6%	37 5.7%	116 5.6%
12	Modified behavior to avoid victimization	NNR= 61 %NR= 4.3%	32 4.9%	93 4.5%
13	Anticipation of victimization	NNR= 92 %NR= 6.5%	35 5.3%	127 6.1%

Percentage not responding (%NR) is the ratio of the number not responding (NNR) to the number of survey participants (N), multiplied by 100.

There are no significant sex by city interactions in failure to respond to questions 7 and 11-13, all $\chi^2_s[7]<11.81$, N.S. Questions 11-13 also show no significant sex differences, all $\chi^2_s[1]<1.00$, N.S., but question 7 does show a significant difference, $\chi^2[1]=6.27, p<0.025$. A somewhat higher percentage of females fail to respond to question 7.

All four questions show significant differences by city in rates of missing data, all $\chi^2_s[7]>20.09$, all $p's<0.01$. Those surveyed in Boston fail to respond to these questions at a consistently higher rate than individuals in other cities. The numbers of those surveyed in Boston and in all other cities combined who did not respond to questions 7 and 11-13 are tabled below along with the corresponding missing data rates. These rates are based on sample sizes of 176 for Boston and 1,898 for all other cities combined.

TABLE G: QUESTIONS 7 and 11-13 - MISSING DATA COUNTS AND PERCENTAGES FOR BOSTON AND FOR REMAINING CITIES COMBINED

Ques. No.	Question Content	Boston (N=176)	Remaining Cities (N=1898)
7	Victimization of acquaintance(s)	NNR= 25 %NR= 14.2%	111 5.8%
11	Fear of victimization	NNR= 20 %NR= 11.4%	96 5.0%
12	Modified behavior to avoid victimization	NNR= 19 %NR= 10.8%	74 3.9%
13	Anticipation of victimization	NNR= 24 %NR= 13.6%	103 5.4%

Percentage not responding (%NR) is the ratio of the number not responding (NNR) to the number of survey participants (N), multiplied by 100.

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ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES

While patterns of missing data were considered above, we now examine the data of individuals who did respond to the questions. Again, sex and city differences are considered in this examination.

Tables show results for males, females, and both sexes combined. Because the sample is more than two-thirds male, percentages calculated for total responses would be unduly biased toward male responses. Although NGTF recognizes that gay males and lesbians are not necessarily equally represented in the general population or in differing geographic locations, it was our initial intention to obtain a sample with an equal membership of both sexes. We have therefore added an average percentage (Avg. %Y) column to all pertinent tables to indicate victimization rates in a sample with equal male and female representation. Both sets of percentages are included in the text where appropriate. It should be noted, however, that statistical comparisons are based on actual, rather than average percentages.

As before, questions 1-4 and 6 are considered together. These questions pertain to anti-gay/lesbian harassment, threats of violence and specific violent behaviors (objects thrown, punching, attacks with weapons, etc.). Part A of these questions asks whether respondents ever experienced such victimization. Individuals who answered affirmatively are then asked to indicate in Part B of these questions how frequently the victimization occurred ("once/more than once/many times").

Table H shows the numbers of males and females who answer Part A of questions 1-4 and 6, along with the numbers and percentages of males and females who respond affirmatively to these questions.

TABLE H: QUESTIONS 1-4 AND 6 (PART A) - AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE COUNTS AND PERCENTAGES FOR MALES AND FEMALES

Ques. No.	Question Content	Male	Female	Total	Avg. %Y
		NY/NR %Y	NY/NR %Y	NY/NR %Y	
1	Verbal harassment	1278/1417 90.2%	504/650 77.5%	1782/2067 86.2%	83.8%
2	Threats of violence	688/1408 48.9%	222/649 34.2%	910/2057 44.2%	41.5%
3A	Objects thrown	458/1408 32.5%	104/647 16.1%	562/2055 27.3%	24.3%
3B	Followed or chased	515/1395 36.9%	194/636 30.5%	709/2031 34.9%	33.7%
3C	Spit at	198/1388 14.3%	84/640 13.1%	282/2028 13.9%	13.7%
3D	Punched, hit, kicked or beaten	332/1395 23.8%	58/636 9.1%	390/2031 19.2%	16.4%
3E	Assaulted with weapon	158/1389 11.4%	32/642 5.0%	190/2031 9.3%	8.2%
3F	Vandalism or arson	282/1385 20.4%	93/645 14.4%	375/2030 18.5%	17.4%
4	Sexual harassment or assault	399/1400 28.5%	232/644 36.0%	631/2044 30.9%	32.2%
6	Police harassment	310/1328 23.3%	80/600 13.3%	390/1928 20.2%	18.3%

Percentage of Yes responses (%Y) is the ratio of the number of Yes responses (NY) to the number of survey participants responding to the question (NR), multiplied by 100.

Average percent of Yes responses (Avg. %Y) is the average of male and female %Y. It represents the level of victimization that would be reported in this sample if it had equal male and female membership.

In Part A of all questions but 3c and 4 males report consistently higher rates of victimization than females, all χ^2 's [1] > 7.90, all p 's < 0.0005. Question 3c (spit at) shows no significant sex difference, χ^2 [1] = 0.48, N.S. Question 4 (sexual harassment or assault) does show a significant sex difference, χ^2 [1] = 11.70, p < 0.001; however, in this case females show greater levels of victimization.

In Part A of all questions but 3f there are no significant sex by city interactions, all χ^2 's [7] < 11.58, N.S. Question 3f (vandalism or arson) shows a marginally significant sex by city interaction, χ^2 [7] = 12.45, p < 0.10. Dallas and Boston females report lower rates of vandalism or arson than female respondents in other cities, and Denver and St. Louis males report higher rates of such victimization than other male respondents. Only 1.8% of the 55 Dallas female respondents and 3.8% of the 52 Boston female respondents claim to have been victims of vandalism or arson, as compared to 16.7% of the 53 female respondents in the remaining cities; 40.7% of the 27 St. Louis male respondents and 33.1% of the 124 Denver male respondents report such victimization, as compared to 18.6% of the 1,234 male respondents in the remaining cities.

City differences are not significant for Part A of questions 3a, 3c or 4, all χ^2 's [7] < 11.65, N.S. There is a statistically significant in Part A of the remaining questions, all χ^2 's [7] > 13.43, p < 0.10, and city differences are differences do not follow a consistent pattern.

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The marginal city effect found in question 1 (verbal harassment) is characterized by a somewhat lower rate of victimization among Dallas participants. Of the 316 Dallas respondents, 82.3% (Avg. 72.8%) report that they experienced verbal harassment, while 86.9% (Avg. 85.0%) of the 1,751 respondents in the remaining cities report such victimization.

In question 2 (threats of violence), Boston respondents report significantly lower levels of victimization than respondents in the remaining cities; only 34.3% (Avg. 32.6%) of the 172 Boston participants who answer question 2 claim that they experienced threats of violence, in comparison to 45.2% (Avg. 42.3%) of the 1,885 respondents in the seven other cities.

The city effect found in question 3b (followed or chased) involves a significantly lower rate of victimization among Dallas participants. Only 20.3% (Avg. 14.5%) of the 306 Dallas respondents indicate that they were followed or chased by "straight" people because of their sexual orientation, as compared to 37.5% (Avg. 36.3%) of the 1,725 respondents in the remaining cities.

In question 3d (punched, hit, kicked or beaten), the city effect is constituted by an unusually high rate of victimization in Denver; 30.9% (Avg. 25.4%) of the 165 Denver participants who answer the question claim that they were punched, hit, kicked or beaten because of their sexual orientation, while only 18.2% (Avg. 15.8%) of the 1,866 respondents in the seven other cities report such attacks.

In response to question 3e (assault with weapons), Seattle participants indicate significantly lower rates of victimization, while Denver participants report much higher rates. Only 5.9% (Avg. 5.8%) of the 428 Seattle respondents claim that they were assaulted by individuals with weapons, while 15.2% (Avg. 13.2%) of the 166 Denver respondents report such attacks. In the six other cities, 9.7% (Avg. 9.2%) of the 1,444 questionees state that they were attacked by individuals with weapons.

The city effect in question 6 (police harassment, threats of violence) is characterized by unusually low rates of victimization among New York and Seattle respondents and unusually high rates among Dallas and St. Louis respondents. Only 11.4% (Avg. 11.3%) of the 439 New York respondents and 15.2% (Avg. 14.5%) of the 402 Seattle respondents state that they experienced police abuse, in comparison to 32.0% (Avg. 29.4%) of the 281 Dallas respondents and 32.3% (Avg. 19.2%) of the 31 St. Louis respondents. In the remaining cities 23.1% (Avg. 20.3%) of the 775 respondents report such victimization.

We now turn to Part B of question 1-4 and 6. Respondents who indicate in Part A of these questions that they experienced particular types of anti-gay/lesbian victimization are asked in Part B to specify the frequency with which it occurred ("once/more than once/many times"). In most of these questions, few individuals indicate that they were victimized "many times." Consequently, the categories "more than once" and "many times" are combined here in order to allow for statistical analysis of the data. In these analyses we contrast those victimized once with those victimized multiple times. Table I shows the numbers of males and females who respond to Part B of questions 1-4 and 6, along with the numbers and percentages of males and females who indicate that they were victimized multiple times.

TABLE I: QUESTIONS 1-4 AND 6 (PART B) - COUNTS AND PERCENTAGES OF MULTIPLE VICTIMIZATIONS FOR MALES AND FEMALES

Ques. No.	Question content	Male	Female	Total	Avg. % Y
		NY/NR %Y	NY/NR %Y	NY/NR %Y	
1	Verbal harassment	1158/1241 93.3%	439/495 88.7%	1597/1736 92.0%	91.0%
2	Threats of violence	464/ 663 70.0%	131/213 61.5%	595/ 876 67.9%	65.7%
3A	Objects thrown	235/ 419 56.1%	49/ 99 49.5%	284/ 518 54.8%	52.8%
3B	Followed or chased	235/ 412 57.0%	95/165 57.6%	330/ 577 57.2%	57.3%
3C	Spit at	84/ 171 49.1%	31/ 71 43.7%	115/ 242 47.5%	46.4%
3D	Punched, hit, kicked or beaten	139/ 297 46.8%	25/ 53 47.2%	164/ 350 46.8%	47.0%
3E	Assaulted with weapon	45/ 150 30.0%	12/ 28 42.8%	57/ 178 32.0%	36.4%
3F	Vandalism or arson	124/ 254 48.8%	42/ 82 51.2%	166/ 336 49.4%	50.0%
4	Sexual harassment or assault	241/ 350 68.9%	151/205 73.6%	392/ 555 70.6%	71.3%
6	Police harassment	127/ 298 42.6%	35/ 78 44.9%	162/ 376 43.1%	43.7%

Percentage of Yes responses (%Y) is the ratio of the number of Yes responses (NY) to the number of eligible survey participants responding to the question (NR), multiplied by 100.

Average percent of Yes responses (Avg. %Y) is the average of male and female %Y. It represents the level of victimization that would be reported in this sample if it had equal male and female membership.

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