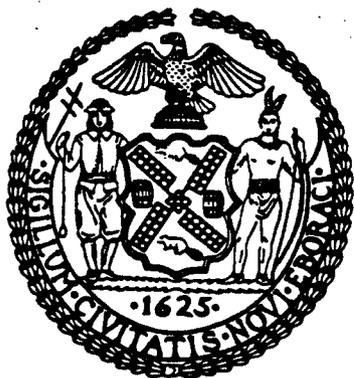


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STATS pg 6*



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**COMMISSION ON  
HUMAN RIGHTS**

**GAY and LESBIAN DISCRIMINATION  
DOCUMENTATION PROJECT**

**TWO YEAR REPORT ON COMPLAINTS OF  
SEXUAL ORIENTATION DISCRIMINATION**

**NOVEMBER 1983 - OCTOBER 1985**

**EDWARD I. KOCH  
MAYOR**

**MARCELLA MAXWELL  
CHAIRPERSON**

**ALBERTA B. FUENTES  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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New York City Commission on Human Rights

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## OVERVIEW OF THE 2ND REPORT OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN DISCRIMINATION DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

The attached volume combines both the first and second reports issued by the Gay and Lesbian Discrimination Documentation Project of the NYC Commission on Human Rights. It is a summary of the complaints of sexual orientation discrimination the Commission has received over the past two years.

The first report compiled by the Documentation Project covered the period from November 1983 to mid-November 1984, and included 154 complaints of discrimination based on sexual orientation. The second report, which contains 320 complaints, covers the period from mid-November 1984 through October 1985. (See Table 1) Thus, in the second year of the project, complaints of sexual orientation discrimination have more than doubled. This combined report summarizes all 474 complaints alleging sexual orientation discrimination received by the Commission during the first two years of the Documentation Project. (Note: the numbers assigned throughout the reports are simply case numbers which allow for easy reference. The total of 474 complaints cited here represents the number of actual people affected by these incidents.)

### BACKGROUND

In 1983 the Commission began receiving AIDS and AIDS-related complaints of discrimination. Along with this influx came an unprecedented number of complaints of discrimination based on sexual orientation. In November of 1983, the Commission launched the Gay and Lesbian Discrimination Documentation Project and began documenting these complaints.

In the first twelve and a half months of the Documentation Project, the Commission recorded 154 complaints of discrimination against lesbians and gay men. This is an average of 12.3 complaints per month, compared with 53.4 complaints per month received by the Commission during the same period for all other types of discrimination combined (i.e. race, sex, national origin, age, creed, disability, etc.). Stated another way: 18.7% of the total number of complaints brought to the Commission at that time were related to sexual orientation. (See Chart 2)

In the second year of the project, the Commission received an average of 27.9 complaints of sexual orientation discrimination per month, compared with 54.5 complaints per month based on all other protected classes combined. Sexual orientation complaints now comprise 32.8% of all discrimination reports received by the Commission. (See Chart 3) This means that sexual orientation discrimination is now the most common type of problem brought to the Commission by the public.

These figures become more impressive when one remembers that gay men and lesbians tend not to report discrimination. One obvious reason for this is that many gays and lesbians are aware that their civil rights are not protected. Therefore they do not even attempt to report discrimination. Moreover, in the absence of protective legislation, fear of revealing a non-heterosexual orientation acts as a strong deterrent to reporting - especially to a government agency and particularly when the complaint involves employment.

To date, including sexual orientation cases from November 1983 through October 1985, the Commission has received 474 reports of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The Commission also received 304 examples of death threats, bomb threats and hate mail directed at men and women working for gay and lesbian organizations and community groups. In the overwhelming majority of these cases, the victims of discrimination had no recourse, no means to obtain formal intervention, no way to seek relief or justice.

This report is a chronological compendium of "classic" discrimination: termination from jobs, denial of housing, lack of equal opportunity in education, denial of services, lack of access to public places, harassment, violence and even murder.

#### **MATTERS OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

1. The AIDS crisis appears to have highlighted the discrimination that gay men and lesbians have always experienced. As with other forms of discrimination, anti-gay discrimination tends to increase when people can point to an excuse or justification for discriminating. Other groups have experienced this phenomenon. For example, women and minorities experience increased employment discrimination when jobs appear to be scarce. AIDS provides an "excuse" for discriminating against lesbians and gay men: people use the existence of this disease to rationalize anti-gay or -lesbian bias. Additionally, when such people fire a gay employee or evict a gay tenant, there seems to be an implication that, regardless of the health status of the gay person affected, the threat of AIDS has somehow been stricken from the vicinity.
2. In those cases which are clearly related to an actual case of AIDS, it becomes obvious that the way people with AIDS are treated is often not separable from who they are - particularly if they are members of a generally despised minority. The perpetrator of the discriminatory act mingles the concept of AIDS with his or her pre-existing, biased attitudes toward gay men, black people, drug users, prostitutes, etc. Thus the discriminatory act involves interlocking bigoted motives.

3. Lesbians and gay men are underprotected in all areas of civil rights, and this fact is directly attributable to a lack of legislative protection against sexual orientation discrimination. In the absence of such protective legislation, lesbians and gays become subject to other types of discrimination. Homosexuals are often reluctant and unable to seek justice when they encounter some other type of discrimination or abuse, for example: racism or robbery, especially when it happens in a gay context (outside a gay bar, while at a gay event or even in a gay neighborhood, etc.).

4. One interesting note is the fact that, during the two year period covered by the two reports, the Commission received 24 complaints from heterosexuals who, because they were perceived to be gay, were subjected to the abusive treatment accorded lesbians and gay men. People tend to think of legislation outlawing discrimination based on sexual orientation as a "special interest" issue affecting only the 10% of the population who are gay. But because one's sexual orientation is not necessarily recognizable, anyone can be seen as gay. As one heterosexual woman who lost her job said: "It's very hard to prove you're not a lesbian."

#### **DIFFERENCES IN THE TWO REPORTS**

Certainly the most striking feature distinguishing the first report from the second is volume. There has been a 100% increase in the reporting of sexual orientation discrimination in the second year. (See Chart 1)

There are several factors which probably contributed to this increase. As mentioned, the Commission is certain that AIDS has provided the basis, the "permission" if you will, for increased discrimination against homosexuals. Fanning that fire, there was unprecedented publicity about AIDS in the past year. The media, prompted by the recognizable face which Rock Hudson's diagnosis and death placed on the spectre of AIDS, provided coverage on AIDS which at times displaced all other news. The effect this coverage had upon gay men and lesbians in New York City is verifiable by a glance at the increased statistics.

Beyond the numerical increase itself, there were further differences between the two reports. One of the most striking is the escalation in the level and scope of anti-gay and anti-lesbian violence. The rate at which gays are being attacked in this city is alarming. Reported instances of anti-gay bias and violence rose from the 30 incidents listed in the first year's report to 154 in the second. Whether or not this represents a large increase in the amount of violence directed at gay men and lesbians in the past is not known. The Commission hadn't recorded violence of this sort until the Documentation Project began. We can only state that violence against gays is occurring in the city right now. This is probably the clearest indicator of the anti-lesbian and anti-gay backlash being caused by the public's reaction to AIDS.

In the second report, we saw new forms of anti-gay discrimination. It is only in the last year that public attention has been focused on the existence of the ELISA and Western Blot blood tests, which determine exposure to the HTLV-III virus by testing for the existence of antibodies to the virus. Although a positive result indicates that one has been exposed, it is not yet known if a significant percentage of those who test positive will develop some form of the disease. Certainly a positive result does not mean that one has or could communicate AIDS. This latter distinction is unclear to the public and has allowed a general misconception to arise: that there is an "AIDS blood test." The Commission received numerous reports of abuse of this test and saw the adverse effect this abuse had on gay men. Most such incidents involved an employer who insisted that a gay male employee or job applicant "prove he doesn't have AIDS" by "taking the AIDS test."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A small number of the complaints included in this report are jurisdictional. That is, the Commission was able to formally accept and investigate those complaints. In such cases, this fact is mentioned at the end of the case summary. Usually these complaints involved employment discrimination and were filed in accordance with Executive Order Number 4, which was issued by Mayor Koch in 1978, and which banned sexual orientation discrimination by city agents and representatives. In such cases, the Commission can authoritatively state whether or not there was a factual basis for the complainant's charges.

In all other instances, however, the charges listed are only allegations, as are all charges when they are initially filed with a human rights agency. The Commission lacks the jurisdiction to launch investigations to determine the veracity of these charges, and so they remain allegations. In almost all instances, the Commission deleted any and all identifying information, whether it would lead one to knowledge of the complainant or the respondent. A generic statement of the charges, in most instances, sufficed to express the complainant's situation. However, in rare instances, we mentioned company names or industries because it was felt that, in those special cases, if we left this information out the charges would be unclear. Please remember: these are only allegations and the Commission has no knowledge as to the truth of the situations cited.

Some of the incidents we summarize in this volume were first reported to another organization. We have given credit to those organizations by appending their initials at the end of an entry. For instance, many reports of violence were submitted by the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project. Therefore, GLAVP appears at the end of those entries. Similarly, GLYNY indicates a group called Gay and Lesbian Youth of New York, and IPLGY is the Institute for the Protection of Lesbian and Gay Youth. The Commission is

grateful for the cooperation of these groups in its project. Special thanks must go to MACT (Men of All Colors Together) and SAGE (Senior Action in a Gay Environment), community groups which mounted significant campaigns toward their memberships, to engender interest in this project. We also extend thanks to both the National Gay Task Force and the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund for their cooperation and assistance.

Finally, the notation: "CDP" indicates that a report came as a result of the Commission's "Confidential Documentation Project." In response to the level of fear which inhibits many gay men and lesbians from reporting the discrimination to which they are subject as a result of their sexual orientation, the Commission obtained written reports and, in some cases, phone-in reports of sexual orientation discrimination. A guarantee of confidentiality was extended to these complainants. Many contributors to the project chose to submit anonymous, written reports of discrimination, given the risk such charges carry in a city with no legal protections for homosexuals. As a result, we could not contact these contributors to elicit information beyond that which they submitted. It was therefore sometimes impossible to state whether or not the issue presented was jurisdictional or exactly when it occurred. This is an unavoidable drawback in such a situation.

The Commission invites all interested parties to read this report. If the only result of such a reading is that one learns a bit more about the problems facing a large segment of our society, it will have been well worth the Commission's time and energy to have compiled this report.

**CONTACTS WITHIN THE GAY & LESBIAN DISCRIMINATION DOCUMENTATION PROJECT OF THE NYC COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS:**

<b>Keith O'Connor</b>	(212)	566-1826
<b>Katy Taylor</b>	(212)	566-5446 (This number is equipped with an answering machine for reception of after hours calls)
<b>Chas. Bennett Brack</b>	(212)	566-5506

Table 1

	BASIS FOR DISCRIMINATION:						CATEGORY OF DISCRIMINATION: *										
	Gay	Lesbian	(Lesb. & Gay) Systemic	Perceived Gay	Transvestite	Quarterly Totals	Employment	Housing	Public Accomod.	Bias/ Violence	Aids- Related	Insurance	School	Union	Other		
1st QTR. Nov83-Jan84	20	7	3			30	12	3	8	6	9	1		2	5		
2nd QTR. Feb84-Apr84	26	2	2	2		32	14	3	14		17		2	1	2		
3rd QTR. May84-Jul84	26	6		1		33	17	4	5	5	9	2	1		2		
4th QTR. Aug84-Oct84	28	5	7	1	3	44	13	6	10	13	12	3	2	2	1		
1st QTR. Nov84-Jan85	50	10	5	5	1	71	27	12	15	26	16	2			9		
2nd QTR. Feb85-Apr85	97	15	2	8		122	27	12	25	72	11	1	2		5		
3rd QTR. May85-Jul85	52	17	1		2	72	17	9	17	29	7	2	1		9		
4th QTR. Aug85-Oct85	46	11	6	7		70	16	3	25	36	23	1	2		2		
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>35</b>		

NEW YORK CITY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS GAY & LESBIAN DISCRIMINATION DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

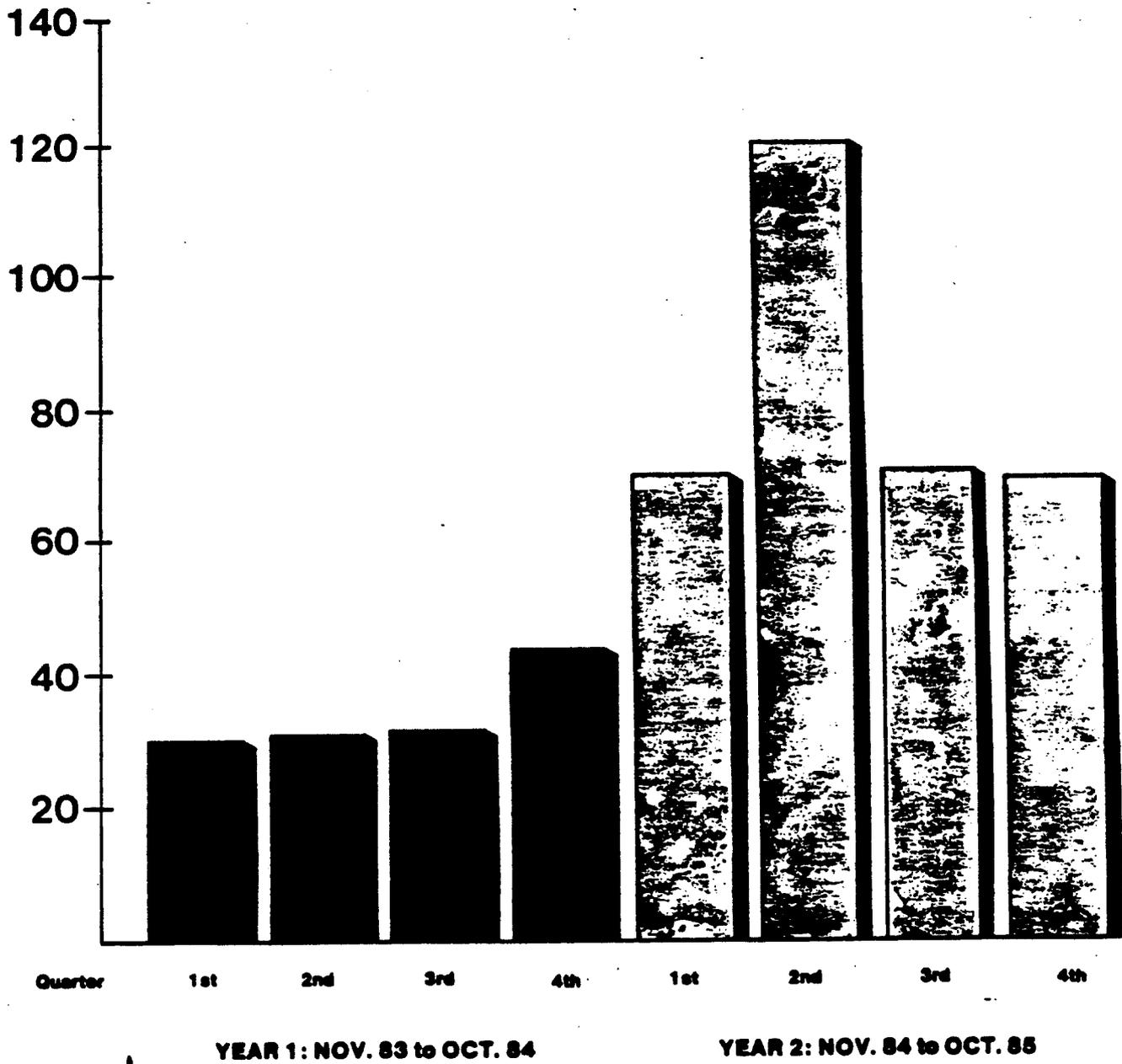
Statistics by quarter on reports of sexual orientation discrimination documented by the Commission from November 1983 through October 1985.

\* Individual cases may involve multiple issues and therefore be reflected in more than one category.

**CHART 1**

**QUARTERLY TOTALS OF THE NUMBER OF  
SEXUAL ORIENTATION DISCRIMINATION CASES  
REPORTED TO NEW YORK CITY COMMISSION ON  
HUMAN RIGHTS**

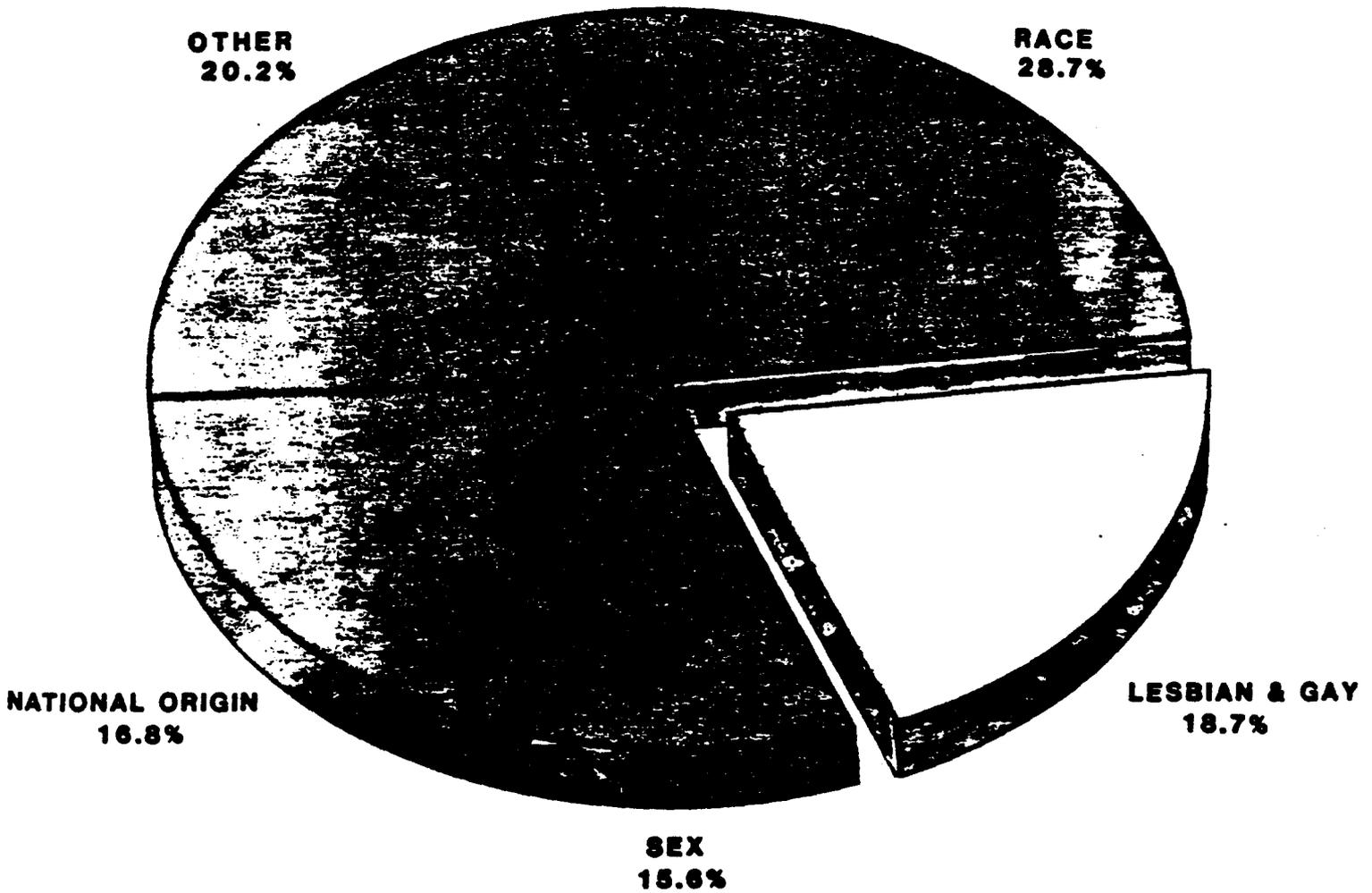
**NOVEMBER 1983 TO OCTOBER 1985**



**CHART 2**

**NEW YORK CITY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
GAY & LESBIAN DISCRIMINATION DOCUMENTATION PROJECT**

**In the first year of the Documentation Project  
(from Nov. 83-Oct. 84) sexual orientation discrimination  
complaints comprised 18.7% of the total number of  
complaints brought to the Commission**

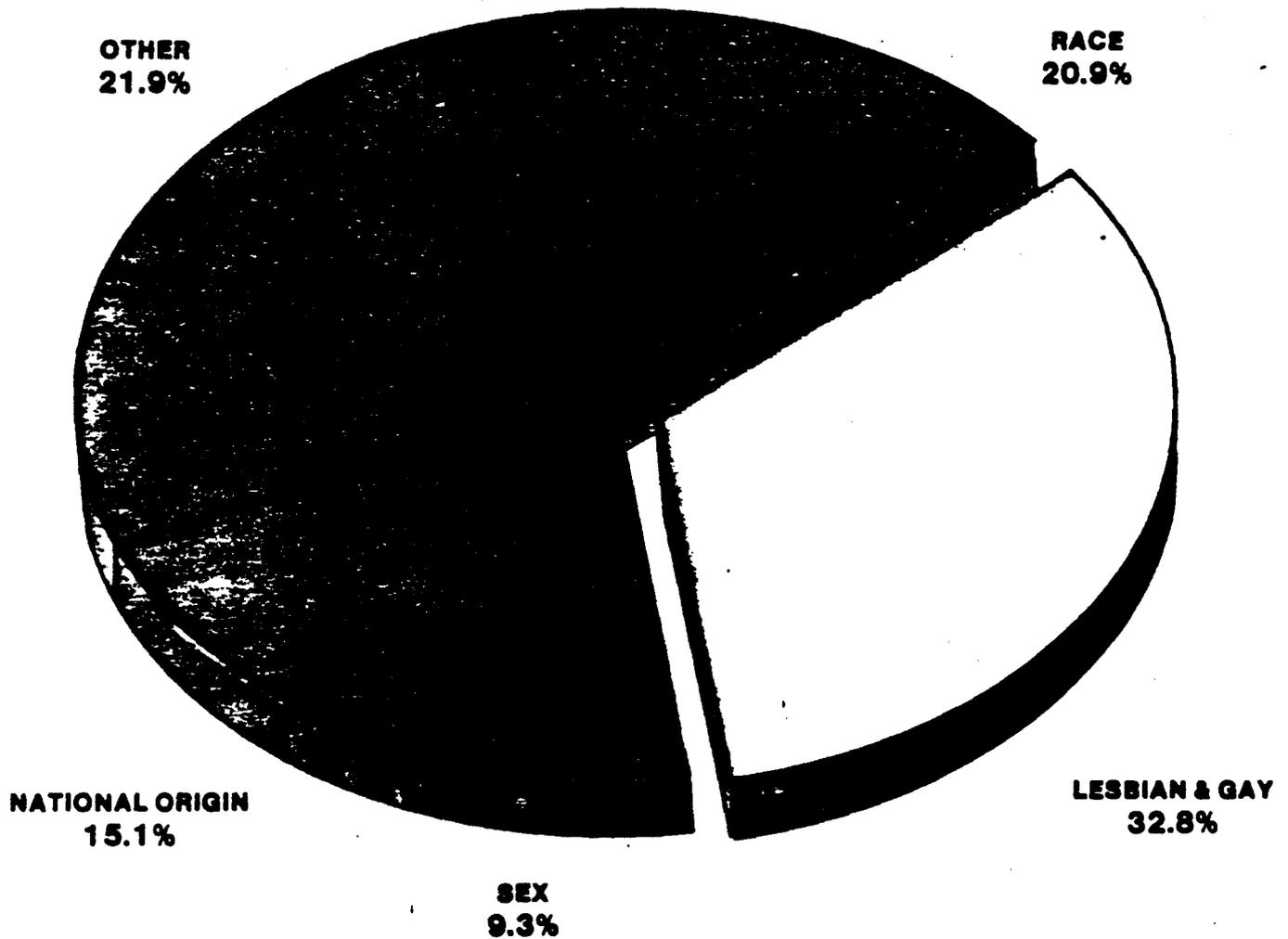


**YEAR 1 NOV. 83 - OCT. 84**

**CHART 3**

**NEW YORK CITY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
GAY & LESBIAN DISCRIMINATION DOCUMENTATION PROJECT**

**In the second year of the Documentation Project  
(from Nov. 84 — Oct. 85) sexual orientation discrimination  
complaints comprised 32.8% of the total number of  
complaints brought to the Commission**



**YEAR 2 NOV. 84 — OCT. 85**

## Notes on Table 1.

The statistics for this report are contained in Table 1. The first report of the Documentation Project covered a 12 1/2 month period from November, 1983 through mid November, 1984. Our second report summarized cases from mid November, 1984 through October, 1985, an 11 1/2 month period. For simplicity the statistics have been compiled quarterly by actual year of the Project. There are a few additional points to keep in mind when studying Table 1:

- As mentioned in the overview, the quarterly totals reflect the actual number of people affected by an incident. For example, if a gay man reported that he and another gay man were victims of an anti-gay attack while walking down the street together, the statistics note that 2 gay men were subjected to violence.

- Many cases involved multiple issues, therefore cases may be represented in more than one category. For example, a gay man might have been fired from his job because he was gay and also because he was suspected of having AIDS.

- We received a number of reports of systemic or system-wide discrimination. Thus, under the heading "Basis for Discrimination" there is a "systemic - lesbian and gay" discrimination category. This includes reports of blanket anti-homosexual policies or practices. (i.e. these policies affect any and all homosexuals with which they come in contact.)

- Gay men reported discrimination far more frequently than lesbians. This difference may be explained in part by the fact that gay men are more likely than lesbians to be seen as an AIDS risk and therefore gay men are singled out and targeted for AIDS-related, anti-gay discrimination much more often.

- The second quarter totals from the second year of the project (February, 1985 - April, 1985) are considerably higher than the rest of the quarterly totals. This is because the bulk of the results from the Confidential Documentation Project were received, tabulated and included in that quarter.

- Transvestitism is an issue of gender rather than sexual orientation. However, transvestites are generally perceived to be gay and so these cases have been included in this report.



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The following are excerpts from the Gay and Lesbian Discrimination Documentation Report. These reports were selected from the body of the report, because they are representative examples of the more serious and typical discriminatory incidents reported to the Commission by the gay and lesbian communities.

13. Nov. 83 LESBIAN/HOUSING

A Brooklyn lesbian finally found an affordable apartment for her family (her son and her lover) and signed the necessary papers and put down a full downpayment. All was in order and progressing smoothly until she returned with her lover. She was suddenly told that the apartment was no longer available and "We don't rent to your kind" and "We don't want lezzies". She stated that she couldn't risk making a formal complaint because they are the sole support for their son and fear retaliation on their jobs. No jurisdiction.

59. Mar 84 GAY/PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

A gay male called about being harassed at his city contracted health care job, due to his sexual orientation. The office is rampant with anti-gay remarks which are tolerated by management. His director "cross-examines" him about who he is dating and this man's unit was singled out for scrutiny and when he asked why, his director replied, "It's the only unit with homosexuals in it." The harassment escalated and became so intolerable that he was forced to resign. He couldn't consider a formal complaint because "I'd never be able to get another job if they knew I was gay."

62. Apr 84 LESBIAN/EMPLOYMENT

After four years on the job, a lesbian who had been her boss' "favorite" worker told him she is a lesbian. Although he had praised her work in the past, she was suddenly terminated for "poor performance". In total disregard for company policy, she was given no notice, no specific reasons for the termination, no severance pay. When she sent a letter of protest to this large publishing company, she got no response. There is no jurisdiction for such a situation; we provided her with legal referrals and possibilities that she might pursue on her own.

164 NOV 84 LESBIAN/EMPLOYMENT

A black lesbian reported that, with no prior warning, she was fired from her job as a welder in a Brooklyn shipyard. She was told, "You're a lesbian and the other women are complaining about working with you." The company then contested her unemployment claim, saying she was fired for misconduct. The caller knew of two other lesbians who were fired for this reason by the same company. No jurisdiction.

250 APR 85 GAY/HOUSING

An elderly gay man who lives in a cooperative apartment with his life partner of 25 years called to report ongoing harassment from a neighbor. The neighbor openly says that he "hates gays", calls them "fucking faggots" and threatens them with physical harm. The couple has reported the abuse to the co-op board and to the police and yet it continues. The caller was particularly concerned because his lover had recently had open heart surgery and the abuse seemed to exacerbate his angina. We informed the caller that there is no legal protection from anti-gay discrimination in private housing in NYC. We discussed alternate strategies he might pursue. No jurisdiction.

252 APR 85 GAY/BIAS/VIOLENCE

A gay man stated that a "gay-hating" neighbor came to the door of his Manhattan apartment and attacked him with a baseball bat for being a "faggot." This behavior recurred and went on for such a long time that the gay man eventually took the neighbor to court and obtained an injunction forbidding the man to approach within 100 feet of him. CDP

253 APR 85 GAY/VIOLENCE

A gay man reported that he was walking down the street in Manhattan in an unprovocative manner, when about six teenagers approached him and began beating him with a lead pipe, shouting

"Kill him" and "kill the faggot." They made no attempt to rob him. Realizing they were "fag-bashers," the gay man ran for a passing taxi. The taxi would not let him in but he hung onto the side until it reached a lighted area where he located a security guard who called the police. The gay man reported that he had received 42 stitches and suffered a double concussion from the attack. CDP

381 SEP 85 GAY/PERCEIVED AIDS/EMPLOYMENT

A healthy gay man, who works as a stock clerk for a large discount retail chain, called the Commission when he was laid off from his job. His supervisor told him that a "rumor" was circulating that he had AIDS and that he was being laid off without pay until he could "prove" that he didn't have it. Since he has been laid off, he has been receiving anti-gay and AIDS-oriented, abusive phone calls. Due to his concern about confidentiality, no complaint was filed. Jurisdictional

384 OCT 85 LESBIAN AND GAY/AIDS-RELATED/BIAS/SYSTEMIC

It was reported to the Commission that the Lesbian Gay Big Apple Corps, a popular lesbian/gay marching band, had been asked to perform for the second year in a row at a public festival in Queens. The year before, the band had been well received but this year their performance was disrupted by a group of young men who hurled eggs at them and shouted anti-gay and AIDS-related remarks. The incident was reported to the Bias Investigation Unit of the Police Department and they were involved in a full investigation. The incident was also reported to the Neighborhood Stabilization Program of the Commission for a bias investigation.

385 OCT 85 GAY/PERCEIVED AIDS/PUBLIC ACCOM/HOSPITAL/DEATH

A woman whose brother was gay called the Commission. She said her brother had been taken to a Brooklyn medical center the week before with pneumonia. During an intake interview, the family was asked if he was gay. When they confirmed that he was, the brother was put in isolation on the assumption that he might have AIDS. She stated that because the staff feared AIDS, the treatment he received was "grossly inadequate." Within a week he was bloated, yellow and parts of his body had become paralyzed. When the alarmed family confronted the doctor, they were told that he was "resisting treatment." The next day he died. He was 29 years old. The hospital ordered an autopsy and concluded that he died of a heart attack. The man had never been diagnosed as having AIDS. The sister felt he died as a result of neglect and malpractice because he was perceived to have AIDS. We advised her that the man's executor could file a complaint with the Commission with respect to poor treatment because of a perception

that the man had AIDS, and referred her to the State Investigation Unit which handles misconduct inquiries in hospitals. We also suggested that she consult an attorney if the family wanted to pursue a malpractice suit. Jurisdictional, but no complaint was filed.

**171 NOV 84 LESBIAN AND GAY/EMPLOYMENT/SYSTEMIC**

It was reported to the Confidential Documentation Project that a worker in the personnel department of a NYC firm was instructed to ascertain which job applicants were homosexual and place an identifying code on their files. Over the years that the caller worked there, this code system was operative and ensured that no gay men or lesbians would be hired. No jurisdiction.

**172 NOV 84 GAY/BIAS/BOMB THREATS**

A Brooklyn medical practice geared toward the needs of gay men received bomb threats by mail after they advertised their services in a local paper. The "warning notice" ordered the clinic, "get out of Brooklyn, you gay bastards! Death to lesbians and gays." It was signed by the anti-gay army of NY. The case was turned over to one of the Commission's field offices for a bias investigation. The clinic moved their operation to Manhattan shortly after this incident.

**181 NOV 84 GAY/BIAS/VIOLENCE**

The Commission was informed that, in late September of 1984, a fifteen year old boy who is gay was beaten by a 6'2" adult male. The man, a stranger to the boy, got out of a car wielding a baseball bat and shouted "I hate fucking faggots." The victim was hospitalized for three weeks due to internal injuries. GLAVP

**208 JAN 85 GAY/NATIONAL ORIGIN/HOUSING**

Two gay male lovers who had been living in a Brooklyn apartment for eight years said they were experiencing problems with their landlady. One of the lovers is Cuban and the other is Puerto Rican. Their landlady taped derogatory remarks to their mailbox (mentioning both their places of national origin and their sexual orientation) and called them "queers" and "faggots" to their faces. She refused to renew their lease, though they claim they are model tenants. When we contacted the landlady about the situation she asserted that she did not discriminate against homosexuals; she just "hates them and thinks they should all be burned." We advised them that if they felt their nationalities were part of the problem, they could file a housing complaint on that basis alone. However, the landlady's focus on their gayness almost guaranteed the failure of their complaint, since gay

housing issues are not jurisdictional. A phone call and follow up letter we wrote on their behalf seemed to resolve the problem.

**216 FEB 85 PERCEIVED GAY/BIAS/VIOLENCE**

A straight man was sitting on a west side pier (a known gay area) with a male friend when a car stopped near them and several men "piled out" and beat them up, making anti-gay remarks all the while. The straight man was shot by one of the assailants. GLAVP

**217 FEB 85 PERCEIVED AS GAY/BIAS/VIOLENCE**

A heterosexual man and wife, who were perceived to be a gay couple by a gang of "15-20 preppy white men" in Brooklyn, were severely beaten by the gang members. They brought the matter to the police after searching the neighborhood for months to determine the name of the ringleader. When the perpetrator was brought to trial, he appeared in a business suit, with his family members, looking "quite respectable." Despite identification by the couple, the perpetrator told the Assistant District Attorney that he was home at the time. When the couple tried to get an order of protection from the same ADA, they were told "You don't have anything to worry about because he doesn't seem to be that kind of a kid; it was just misjudgement on his part." They called the Lesbian & Gay Discrimination Project of the Commission in desperation. We spoke to the couple at length and provided appropriate referrals. They said that none of the victims' assistance groups had taken their plight seriously. They expressed profound shock at what gay men and lesbians have to put up with, both on the street and from "the system."

**270 APR 85 GAY/PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION/RESTAURANT**

A gay male couple reported that they attempted to enter a Manhattan restaurant in 1982 and the Maitre'd barred their way. He told them there was no room when clearly there was. Next he told them the kitchen was closed; it was only 2:00 p.m. The gay couple left and arranged for a heterosexual couple to come to the restaurant shortly thereafter to see if their experience would be different. They were immediately seated and served. CDP

**297 APR 85 GAY/BIAS/VIOLENCE**

A gay man called to report that a mugger was "working" the areas around gay bars in his neighborhood in Queens. The mugger preyed specifically upon gay men, threatening them with weapons and robbing them. The caller had himself been mugged by the man and had reported it to the police in Jackson Heights. He said the police were very helpful. They thanked him for coming forward

and said that they knew this was an ongoing problem. They expressed understanding of the fact that most gay men who were victimized wouldn't or couldn't report the crime because they would risk losing jobs, homes or families if it became known that they were in a gay bar. The police felt that the mugger preyed on gay men for this very reason. However, the mugger was not apprehended. These incidents occurred a few years ago; had the man contacted the Commission at the time, we would have referred him to the Human Rights Commission's field office in Jackson Heights, since that branch office investigates anti-gay bias incidents.