

VLGR Discrimination and Violence Results

Following are the results of the survey sponsored by Vermonters for Lesbian and Gay Rights (VLGR). The data were gathered from 123 respondents from November 1, 1986 through February 1, 1987 by means of a pre-coded quantitative questionnaire disseminated across Vermont via this newspaper. As the results show, most of Vermont's homosexual population remains hidden. This is not a random sampling as it is not possible to obtain one from a hidden population.

These results were presented to legislators as evidence to support the need for H.247.

ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST LESBIANS AND GAY MEN

Physical Violence because of their sexual orientation:

80% experienced some kind of harassment or violence while 96% reported concealing their sexual orientation to avoid intimidation, harassment or violence. 79% believed anti-lesbian/gay violence was prevalent enough to cause them to fear for their safety. 76% expected to be assaulted or threatened at some time in the future due to their sexual orientation. And 89% knew people who were victims of violence.

Acts of violence experienced by respondents included:

32% had been chased or followed.

21% had objects thrown at them.

19% had property vandalized or destroyed by fire.

16% were punched, hit, kicked, or beaten.

14% were sexually assaulted.

5% were assaulted or wounded with an object or weapon.

Verbal abuse because of their sexual orientation:

81% of the respondents had been called anti-lesbian/gay names.

36% were threatened with physical violence.

41% had been verbally abused by relatives.

POLICE

37% of those reporting violence and harassment because of their sexual orientation had reported at least one incident to the police. 17% of those had found the police encouraging in the pursuit of this matter. 35% had found the police to be discouraging in pursuit of the matter. And 48% had found the police to be neutral. In addition, 8% reported having been victimized by police in such ways as being called anti-lesbian/gay names or by acts of violence.

EMPLOYMENT

44% had experienced some type of employment discrimination (e.g., not being hired, denied promotions, raises, or benefits, demoted, etc.). In addition, 82% have concealed their sexual orientation to avoid employment discrimination.

31% had been questioned about their sexual orientation.

18% were not hired because of their sexual orientation.

13% were fired or pressured to resign.

10% were denied promotions, raises, or benefits.

9% were threatened because they reported discrimination.

4% were denied apprenticeship or equal membership rights in labor organizations.

2% were demoted.

PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION

76% reported concealing their sexual orientation to avoid discrimination in public places.

MEDICAL

24% had been intimidated or treated with less than professional conduct by doctors, nurses or other health professionals while 41% reported concealing their sexual orientation in order to avoid medical discrimination. In addition, 31% reported concealing their sexual orientation because of AIDS related issues.

HOUSING

19% had experienced some type of housing discrimination (e.g. being denied purchase, denied leasing or rental, evicted, etc.) while 54% had concealed their sexual orientation to avoid this discrimination.

13% had been denied leasing or rental because of their sexual orientation.

6% had been evicted.

EDUCATION

7% had been discriminated against in the pursuit of educational goals (i.e. admission, financial assistance, equal opportunity).

38% reported concealing their sexual orientation while in school.

CREDIT

36% reported concealing their sexual orientation to avoid discrimination in matters relating to applying for credit.

CHILD CUSTODY

Of the respondents who reported having mothered/fathered children, 27% concealed their sexual orientation to avoid denial of custody/visitation rights.

RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

The respondent population consisted of 64% (75) females and 36% (58) males ranging in age from 19-58 with the mean age of 33. The respondents represented 11 of Vermont's 13 counties. 80% are employed, 5% are unemployed.

RELIGIOUS UPBRINGING

41% Protestant
45% Catholic
5% Jewish

RESIDENCY

21% Native
26% 10 + years
22% 5-9 years
23% 1-4 years

EDUCATION

45% College Graduates
31% Masters & above
16% Some College & 2-year Degrees
7% High School

ECONOMIC STATUS

36% Earn less than \$10,000/year
30% Earn \$10,000 - \$20,000/year
23% Earn \$20,000 - \$30,000/year
11% Earn \$30,000/year +



Celebrating an Anniversary?

Send us your anniversaries! We want not only to keep us all informed of lesbian and gay news, we want to note our personal and communal celebrations. If you have ever wanted to publicly proclaim your anniversary (for example), this is your chance.

To have your anniversary published, we need to receive the following information by the 15th of the month preceeding publication.

Please send the full names of both partners, number of years as a couple and anniversary date. Please specify if you want only your first names published. Send to

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