

CRIMES -
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Hotline of the Triad, Greensboro/Winston-Salem; and GROW Gay and Lesbian Switchboard, Wilmington) and four documentation projects (Southern Appalachian Lesbian and Gay Alliance, Asheville; First Tuesday Association for Lesbian and Gay Equality, Charlotte; Guilford Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Equality, Greensboro; and National Organization for Women, Winston-Salem). Other contributors were St. Mary's Metropolitan Community Church, Triad Health Project, White Rabbit Books, Friday Night Dinner Group for Youth, XTC Nightclub, and Encore, Greensboro; Carolina Gay and Lesbian Association, Chapel Hill; *The Front Page*, Raleigh; NC Senate Vote '90 and Lesbian and Gay Health Project, Durham; GROW AIDS Resources Project, Wilmington; *Q-Notes*, Charlotte; *Community Connections* and C.L.O.S.E.R., Asheville. Also helping in compiling and preparing the report were Jim Duley, Chapel Hill (NCCGLE Co-Chair); Chris Werte, Charlotte (First Tuesday); Leo Teachout, Wilmington (GROW); and Martha Copeland, Asheville (SALGA), as well as others.

"Homophobic violence, harassment and discrimination do not exist in a vacuum: they are products of the

A Statistical Overview

TOTAL INCIDENTS	1530
Harassment:	1191
•Teen/Youth	101
•Switchboards	751
•Work/School	89
•Religious	33
•Suicide attempts preceded by harassment	7
•Other	210
Threats	213
•Switchboards	204
•Other	9
Vandalism	8
Assault/Robbery	70
Homicides	2
Discrimination	46
•Employment/	
•School	13
•Housing	13
•Medical/Dental	9
•Public Accommodation	4
•Police	7
Family Violence against lesbian or gay children or parents (not included in above totals)	376

culture and the current events framework in which they occur."

That's how one section of this year's report begins. At the same time, that lesbians and gay men have made major strides toward gaining full civil and human rights in this country, greater visibility has made us more aware of the hostility and violence that our society harbors against those perceived to be different. That hostility is directed not only against lesbians and gay men, but also against other minority groups including Blacks, Hispanics, Southeast Asians, and Jews.

Gay and lesbian youth are not immune to our society's bigotry. One hundred and one calls were logged by the Greensboro Hotline from teenagers harassed by peers or in school because of their perceived sexual orientation.

The data show two "spikes" in the number of reported incidents--one in April/May and another from late September to early November. The sudden increase at those specific times correspond to the U.S. Senate primary and general election, pointing to a correlation between the attacks on minorities, including gay men and lesbians, by the victorious incumbent, Jesse Helms.

In regard to Hate Crimes, the FBI's uniform reporting guidelines note:

There are those who are victimized, sometimes subtly, and other times overtly, for no reason other than the

color of their skin, the religion they profess, the heritage of their parents, or their sexual orientation. It is most unsettling to the victims because there is nothing they can do to alter the situation, nor is there anything they should be expected to change. Not only is the individual who is personally touched by these offenses victimized, but the entire class of individuals residing in the community is affected.

Gay men and lesbians have in the past been voiceless and without an advocate. But that is no longer true. We have found our voices and we are beginning to speak for ourselves and educate the public about who we are.

We must continue to speak up and to speak out. When you experience harassment, discrimination, or violence because you are gay or lesbian, report it to the nearest documentation project and to the US Department of Justice hotline (see front page). Support and participate in your local gay and lesbian speakers' bureau. Support your area's documentation project, and help it to expand to the more rural areas. Make a financial commitment to your future, as well. Join the North Carolina Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality (NCCGLE), and the Southern Appalachian Lesbian and Gay Alliance (SALGA). Share in this valuable work. ▼

Are you HIV+ (HIV antibody positive)?

A Research Study is being conducted at UNC-Chapel Hill to examine the role of stress on the immune system for people at risk for getting AIDS.

Who Qualifies?

- Gay or Bisexual Men
- HIV+ or HIV-
- No symptoms related to HIV*
- Not on any antivirals (e.g., AZT)*
- 18 - 50 years old

Benefits:

- \$175.00 for 2 day/night visit
- Free medical exams
- Free blood tests (including T-4 cell)
- Access to all medical and lab results
- Referrals to resources

*upon entry into the study

All information kept strictly confidential. If you meet all of the criteria listed, you may be eligible for this research study. Call (919) 966-6001 or (919) 966-5478 collect for more information.

You can help make a difference in the fight against AIDS.