



# **A CRISIS OF HATE**

**A REPORT ON LESBIAN, GAY,  
BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER  
AND QUEER HATE VIOLENCE  
HOMICIDES IN 2017**

**A report from the  
National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs**

# THIS REPORT WAS WRITTEN BY THE NATIONAL COALITION OF ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAMS

A program of the New York City Anti-Violence Project

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## **MISSION**

**The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) works to prevent, respond to, and end all forms of violence against and within lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) and HIV-affected communities.**

**NCAVP is a national coalition of local member programs and affiliate organizations who create systemic and social change. We strive to increase power, safety, and resources through data analysis, policy advocacy, education, and technical assistance.**

## INTRODUCTION

Since 1996, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) has released national research reports on the various ways that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) and HIV-affected communities experience hate violence. Within these reports, NCAVP shares information about anti-LGBTQ homicides for the previous year. However, in just August of 2017, NCAVP recorded the highest number of anti-LGBTQ homicides in our 20-year history of tracking this information, and decided to release a mid year report to raise awareness of this striking increase. Since the release of the Crisis of Hate report in August of 2017, the number of reported homicides continued to increase, **reaching a total of 52 reported anti-LGBTQ homicides in all of 2017.**

We are releasing this report during a time when our communities are witnessing the few civil rights protections and policies being rolled back and discrimination being instituted into law; when media organizations and organizations working with survivors are receiving an unprecedented number of stories of hate fueled attacks.

While much of this violence is not new, but rather amplified, this past year has sparked a national conversation about the escalation of hate violence against so many marginalized communities. NCAVP hopes that sharing this information now will encourage people to reject anti-LGBTQ bias whenever it occurs, and to resist any hateful rhetoric or policies put forward by this administration or by legislators.

For too long, legislators have not taken meaningful or effective steps to address the increase of hate violence in this country. We ask that people call their representatives and ask them what they will do right now to proactively address hate violence and ensure that their communities are safe and affirming for LGBTQ people.

**The time for addressing this crisis of violence is now.**

# KEY FINDINGS OF ANTI-LGBTQ HOMICIDES IN 2017

In 2017, NCAVP recorded reports of **52 hate violence related homicides** of LGBTQ people, the highest number ever recorded by NCAVP. This number represents an **86% increase** in single incident reports from 2016.

**In 2017, there was the equivalent of one homicide of an LGBTQ person in the U.S. each week.**

## ANTI-LGBTQ HOMICIDES SINCE 2012

Number of Individual Reports of Anti-LGBTQ Homicides

NCAVP



\*In 2016, the total number of reports of anti-LGBTQ homicides was 77, including the 49 lives taken during the shooting at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Florida. The second highest number of reports of individual homicides was 30 in 2011.



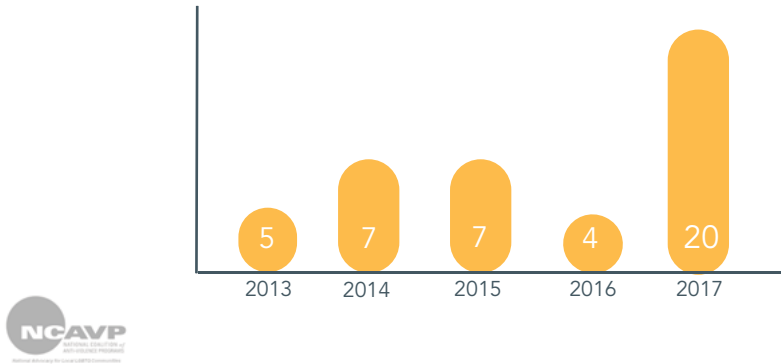
## KEY FINDINGS OF ANTI-LGBTQ HOMICIDES IN 2017, CONTINUED

- The victims of these hate violence related homicides have overwhelmingly been transgender women and queer, bi, or gay cisgender men.
- There was a significant increase of reports of homicides of queer, bi, or gay cisgender men, from 4 reports in 2016 to 20 reports in 2017.
- For the last five years, NCAVP has documented a consistent and steadily rising number of reports of homicides of transgender women of color, which continued into 2017.
- In 2017, NCAVP collected information on 27 hate-violence related homicides of transgender and gender non-conforming people this year, compared to 19 reports for 2016.
- 22 of these homicides were of transgender women of color.
- Of the total number of homicides in 2017, 71% (n=37) of the victims were people of color: 31 (60%) of the victims were Black, 4 (8%) were Latinx, 2 (4%) were Asian, and 1 (2%) was Native. Additionally, 12 (23%) of the victims were white and 2 victims' racial and ethnic identity is unknown to NCAVP at this time.
- 67% (n=35) of the victims were age 35 and under.
- Guns were used in 59% (n=28) of the total number of homicides thus far in 2017, including three people who were shot and killed by police.
- Over half of the homicides occurred in just five states. New York and Texas had the most anti-LGBTQ homicides, with 7 victims in Texas and 6 victims in New York. Georgia had 5 victims of anti-LGBTQ homicides, and Louisiana and Florida both had 4 victims of anti-LGBTQ homicides.

## YEAR BY YEAR: MOST IMPACTED COMMUNITIES

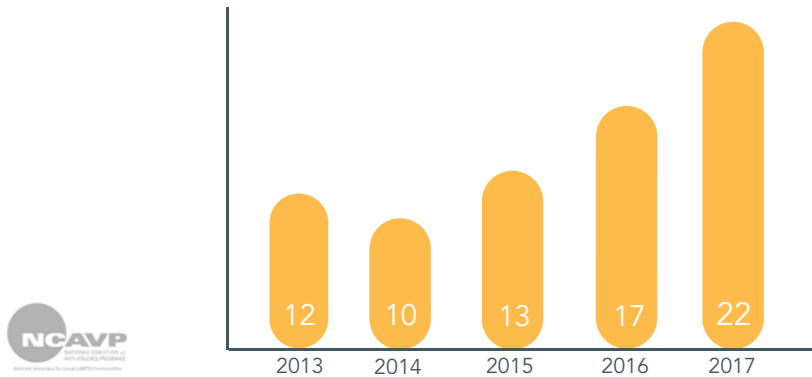
Number of Hate Violence Homicides of Cisgender Men  
Year by Year

NCAVP



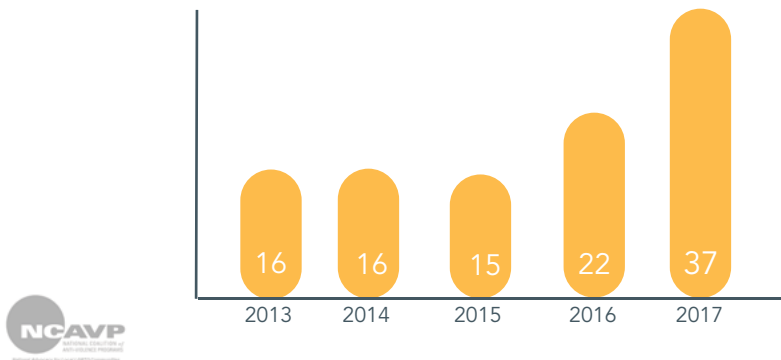
Number of Hate Violence Homicides of  
Transgender Women of Color, Year by Year

NCAVP



Number of Hate Violence Homicides of  
People of Color, Year by Year

NCAVP





## 2017 HATE VIOLENCE HOMICIDES

NCAVP collected information on **52 anti-LGBTQ homicides in 2017**. This is a 86% increase compared to the total number of individual reports of anti- LGBTQ homicides in all of 2016.

Of the total number of homicides in 2017, **71% of the victims were people of color**: 31 (60%) of the victims were Black, 4 (8%) were Latinx, 2 (4%) were Asian, and 1 (2%) was Native. Twelve (23%) of the victims were white and two victims' racial identity is unknown to NCAVP at this time.

### RACE AND ETHNICITY OF VICTIMS OF ANTI-LGBTQ HOMICIDES

Race and Ethnicity of Victims n=52

NCAVP



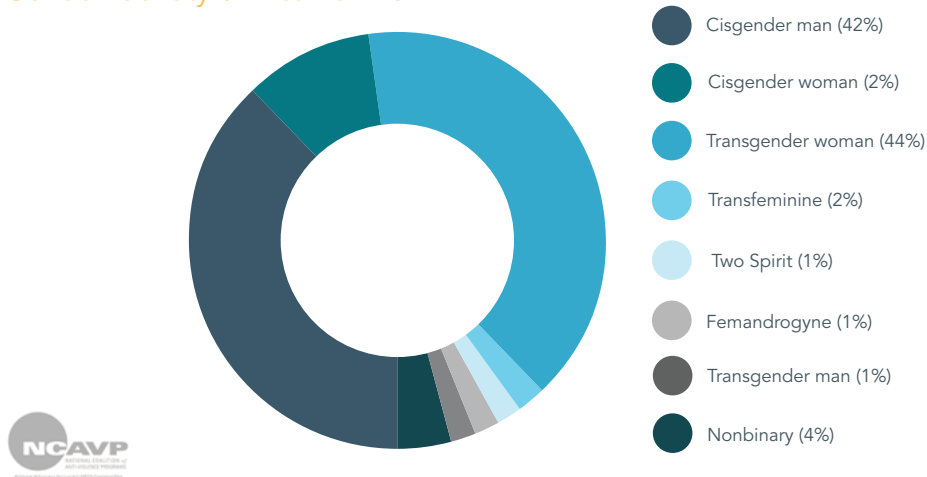
Over the last five years, NCAVP has reported a consistent if not steady rise of reports of homicides of transgender and gender non-conforming people. In 2017, NCAVP collected information on a total of **27 hate-violence related homicides of transgender and gender non-conforming people**, compared to 19 reports in 2016. Twenty-four victims in 2017 were transgender women or transfeminine people: 19 Black transgender women, 2 Latinx transgender women, 1 Native Two Spirit transgender woman, 1 white person who identified as femandrogynous, and 1 white transfeminine person.

In addition to this trend, there has been a **significant increase in reports of anti-LGBTQ homicides of queer, bi, and gay cisgender men** this year. NCAVP recorded 20 anti-LGBTQ homicides of cisgender men, compared to just 4 reports in all of 2016. Of the victims who were queer, bi, or gay cisgender men, 55% were men of color. The majority of the victims who were cisgender men of color were between the ages of 19 to 35 (82%), while nearly all cisgender men who were white were between the ages of 46 to 67 (86%).

## GENDER IDENTITY OF VICTIMS OF ANTI-LGBTQ HOMICIDES

Gender Identity of Victims n=52

NCAVP



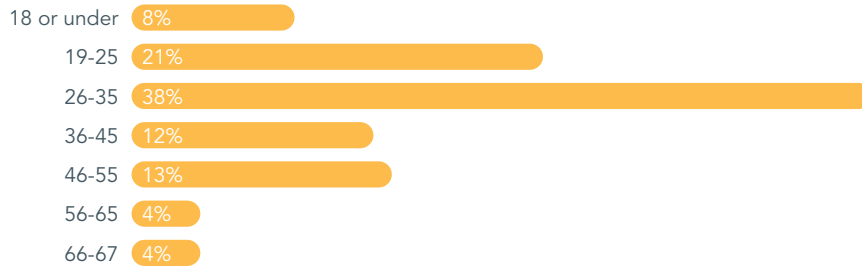
In 2017, 45% of the homicides of queer, bi, or gay cisgender men were related to **hook-up violence**, and most of these were related to hooking up online or through personal ads. There appears to be a trend of targeting queer, bi, or gay cisgender men for violence, robbery and homicides, and other cisgender men are using these sites to identify and harm them. Furthermore, there are ways that stigma, shame, and societal pressure may be contributing factors in hook up homicides where both individuals are queer, bi, or gay men.

NCAVP was able to collect information on victims' relationship to their alleged offender in 34 of the 52 total reports in 2017. Of the 34 homicides where information was available, 32% of the homicides were related to hook-up violence, 32% of the victims knew their offender and was non-hook up related, 26% were strangers and non-hook up related, and 10% were related to police violence. Of the 15 homicides of transgender and gender non-conforming people where information on alleged offenders was available, 5 knew the alleged offender, 6 was a stranger and non-hook up, 3 were police shootings and 1 was a stranger related to hook up situation. Guns were used in 59% of the total number of homicides where information about cause of death is known (n=47) thus far in 2017, including three shootings by police.

## AGE OF VICTIMS OF ANTI-LGBTQ HOMICIDES

Age of Victims of Anti-LGBTQ Homicides n=52

NCAVP



## RELATIONSHIP TO SUSPECTED OFFENDER

Relationship to Suspected Offender n=34

NCAVP



## CAUSE OF DEATH IN ANTI-LGBTQ HOMICIDES

Cause of Death in Anti-LGBTQ Homicides n=47

NCAVP



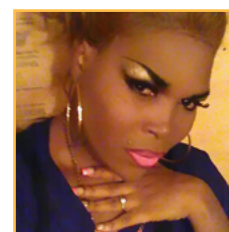
## NARRATIVES OF LIVES TAKEN BY HATE VIOLENCE IN 2017

We mourn those we have lost to violence, and hold their lives in our memory as we continue to work to end violence in our lives and in our communities. We mourn the lives that our communities have lost in 2017 and before, and send love and light to their friends and family. Below are the names and stories of the lives we have lost to fatal, anti-LGBTQ violence this year so far.

We write down these narratives to lift up the memory and experiences of those we have lost. However, we know it can be hard to read these reports of violence against our communities. If you need support in these difficult times, you can always reach out to your local [NCAVP member](#).

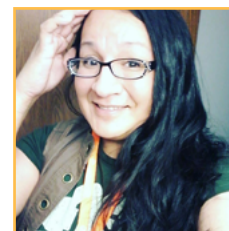
### **Mesha Caldwell, 41, Black transgender woman** Canton, MS

Mesha Caldwell was killed and her body was found along a rural roadside in Canton, Mississippi on January 4th, 2017. According to media reports, she was initially misgendered by local press. A family friend spoke lovingly of Mesha, and said she was a beautician and hairstylist. In the wake of her death, friends, family and loved ones flooded social media with messages of love for Mesha.



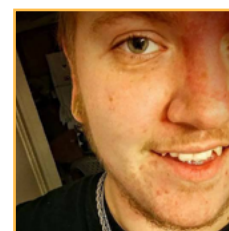
### **Jamie Lee Wounded Arrow, 28, Native transgender/Two Spirit woman** Sioux Falls, SD

Jamie Lee Wounded Arrow was found dead in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on January 6th, 2017. Jamie identified as Two Spirit, a Native American/First Nations term that has historically encompassed many mixed-gender roles; she also identified as a transgender woman. Following her death, friends and family expressed their love for Jamie online, describing her as, “originally from the Pine Ridge Indian reservation and a proud Oglala Lakota trans woman” and concluding, “our hearts are broken as we will miss her very much.”



### **Sean Ryan Hake, 23, White transgender man** Sharon, PA

Sean Ryan Hake was fatally shot by police responding to a call about a domestic incident at Hake’s home on January 6th, 2017. Hake, who according to the family’s lawyer had had a history of emotional and mental health issues, had threatened his mother and also threatened to self-inflict violence. Officers responded with deadly force, which Hake’s family has said they do not believe was warranted. A friend remembered Sean as a caring person, saying: “He had a genuinely good heart and he had struggled with his problems. But he always made sure that he was there for other people.”



### **Savyon Zabar, 54, cisgender man** New York, NY

Savyon Zabar was found strangled in his Upper West Side New York apartment on January 4th, 2017. An individual working as a massage therapist has been arrested and charged in connection with his death. According to media reports, Zabar was openly gay, was the former owner of the popular LGBTQ Latinx nightclub Escuelita, and was a well-known and liked figure in the LGBTQ club scene. Fernando Munizaga, a former employee of Zabar’s told the media: “He was a huge figure in the gay community. He gave us a voice. He gave us opportunity. He gave a platform to the gay Latin community.”



**Bill Denham, 53, White cisgender man**

Tampa, FL

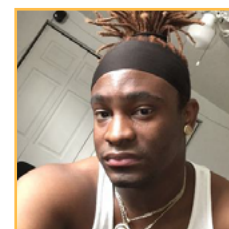
Bill Denham was beaten to death on January 14th, 2017 while he was out taking a walk in Tampa, Florida, where he lived. According to media reports, he had been brutally attacked by two men and a woman. Following his death, Denham's partner of 30 years, Dan Kane, spoke out lovingly about him, calling him a "ray of sunshine."



**Dontae Lampkins, 25, Black cisgender man**

Tampa, FL

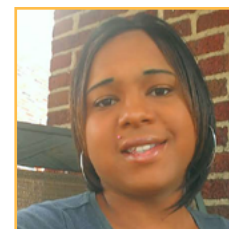
Dontae Lampkins was found dead in an alley in Tampa, Florida on January 26th, 2017. According to media reports, friends and family believe that his death was hate-motivated, and that he was murdered by someone who he met using a dating app. Lampkins' sister spoke lovingly of him as a "proud gay man," and remembered him, saying "He was him. He was himself. He was outspoken. His sexuality meant everything to him. It's either 'be who you are or don't be no one at all.'"



**JoJo Striker, 23, Black transgender woman**

Toledo, OH

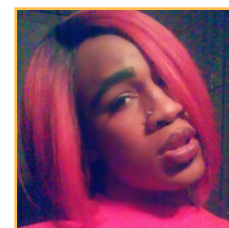
JoJo Striker was killed in Toledo, Ohio on February 8th, 2017. Initial media reports misgendered JoJo, but transgender activists and allies spoke out in support of JoJo as the news of her death has emerged, helping to correct her narrative. JoJo's mother spoke to press saying she believed her daughter's death was motivated by hate.



**Jaquarrius Holland, 18, Black transgender woman**

Monroe, LA

Jaquarrius Holland was killed in Monroe, Louisiana on February 19th, 2017, but her homicide came to light weeks later, due to local press misgendering her. According to media reports, Jacquarrius was shot during a verbal altercation with someone who then fled the scene. Friends shared memories and stories about Jacquarrius online, many using the hashtag #PrettyBrown, which she used to refer to herself.



**Keke Collier / Tiara Richmond, 24, Black transgender woman**

Chicago, IL

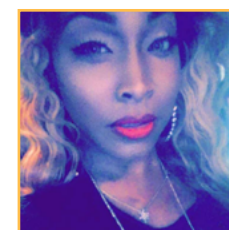
Keke Collier, also known to friends as Tiara Richmond, was killed in Chicago, Illinois on February 22nd, 2017. She was shot to death while walking near her home. Local media reports misgendered Tiara, but LGBTQ media sources correctly identified Tiara thanks to advocacy from her friends and local community activists.



**Chyna Gibson / Chyna Doll Dupree, 31, Black transgender woman**

New Orleans, LA

Chyna Gibson, also known by her performing name, Chyna Doll Dupree, was killed in New Orleans, Louisiana on February 25th, 2017. According to media reports, Chyna, a New Orleans native, was visiting for Mardi Gras and to see her family when she was shot and killed outside of a shopping center. Chyna was a well known and loved performer who toured the country. Following her death, there was an outpouring of support and memories of Chyna online. One friend said of Chyna: "My heart breaks as this community must find a way to honor you in death and begin to move forward. The stage will never be the same!"



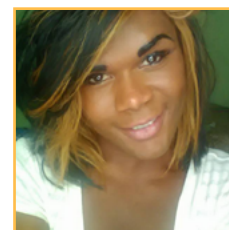
**Glenser Soliman, 44, Asian cisgender man**  
Harris, TX

Glenser Soliman was found dead on February 25th, 2017. According to media reports, it is believed that Soliman was lured to his death while using a dating or hook-up app. Two cousins, Brandon Alexander Lyons and Jerrett Jamal Allen, were identified as suspects and may be responsible for more deaths targeting gay men. Soliman was a nurse, and his colleagues at St. Luke's Hospital in Houston spoke out, expressing sadness at his death.



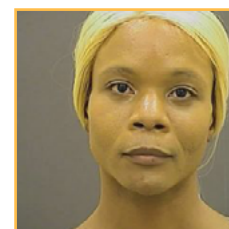
**Ciara McElveen, 25, Black transgender woman**  
New Orleans, LA

Ciara McElveen was killed in New Orleans, Louisiana on February 27th, 2017. According to media reports, Ciara was found stabbed to death in the 7th Ward. Local media reports originally misgendered Ciara, but local advocates and those who knew Ciara worked to correct press accounts.



**Alphonza Watson, 38, Black transgender woman**  
Baltimore, MD

Alphonza Watson was killed in Baltimore, Maryland on March 22nd, 2017. According to media reports, she was shot to death in the early morning hours and two men were witnessed fleeing the scene. Alphonza's mother, Peggy Watson, called her the "the sunshine of our family" and talked about her daughter's love of cooking and gardening. "She was a very caring, passionate, fun person to be around, always in a talkative and playful mood," her mother remembered.



**Andrew Nesbitt, 46, White cisgender man**  
Madison, WI

Andrew Nesbitt was found stabbed to death in his apartment in Madison, Wisconsin on March 27th, 2017. After celebrating his 46th birthday, Drew was followed back to his apartment by the man would later be charged for his murder. In the fall of 2017, the person who took Drew's life was found guilty of first degree intentional homicide and sentenced to life in prison. Drew was a survivor of a previous incident of hate violence 6 years before his tragic death. At that time, he worked closely with an anti-violence advocate who now works for Diverse & Resilient in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a member program of NCAVP. Drew continued to work with this advocate at Diverse & Resilient because he hoped his story would help other survivors know they were not alone. "Drew was full of laughter and love, and he lived his life authentically. As a survivor, he became an LGBTQ advocate and he was an inspiration to all who knew him," said Kathy Flores, LGBTQ Statewide Anti-Violence Manager for Diverse & Resilient.



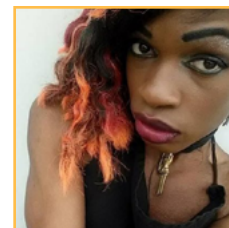
**An Vinh Nguyen, 26, Asian cisgender man**  
Harris County, TX

An Vinh Nguyen was last seen on March 31st, 2017 and is presumed dead. According to media reports, it is believed that Nguyen was lured to his death while using a dating or hook up app. Two cousins, Brandon Alexander Lyons and Jerrett Jamal Allen, were identified as suspects and may be responsible for more deaths targeting gay men. According to press, Nguyen was a University of Houston student, a member of Houston's LGBTQ community, and worked part time as an optician.



**Kenne McFadden, 27, Black transgender woman**  
San Antonio, TX

Kenne McFadden was killed in San Antonio, Texas on April 8th, 2017. She was originally misgendered and her death was mistakenly classified as a drowning. Her death has been reclassified as a homicide, and a person of interest has been identified by police. Kenne's friend April remembered her fondly, saying she "always kept us smiling and laughing."



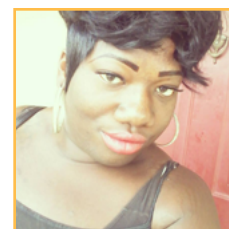
**Bruce Garnett, 67, White cisgender man**  
Chesterfield, VA

Bruce Garnett was found stabbed to death in his home on April 21st, 2017. According to media reports, he had been dead for several weeks before his body was found. Local NCAVP member organization the Virginia Anti-Violence Project drew attention to his death, as well as Garnett's history as an early LGBTQ rights advocate and activist in the state of Virginia, and the vulnerability to violence that our LGBTQ seniors experience.



**Chay Reed, 28, Black transgender woman**  
Miami, FL

Chay Reed was killed in Miami, Florida on April 21st, 2017. According to media reports, she was shot while running across the street, and her attacker fled the scene. Friends remembered Chay as a funny, caring friend who loved to dance and "was a light, always trying to make everyone around her happy."



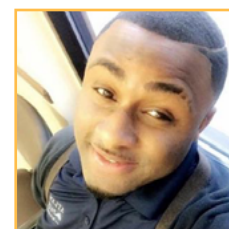
**Mx. Bostick, 59, Black transgender person**  
New York, NY

Mx. Bostick was found unconscious with head trauma on April 25th, 2017 on a street corner in Manhattan. They died from their injuries on May 4th, 2017. Local NCAVP member the New York City Anti-Violence Project learned that Mx Bostick identified as transgender, and used alternating names to identify themselves. To honor that, we use Mx, an honorific that does not connote gender. A widely attended vigil was held for Mx Bostick on the corner where they died, to bring attention to the crisis of violence that transgender people of color face.



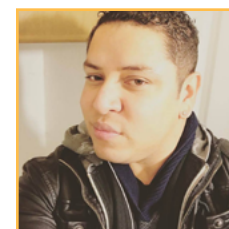
**Earl English, 28, Black cisgender man**  
DeKalb, GA

Earl English was found shot and killed inside his home in DeKalb, Georgia on May 16th, 2017. According to media accounts, English, who was openly gay and active in the community, was last seen at an LA Fitness with another man; however, little else is known about the circumstances of his death. English's mom was anguished over her son's death, saying: "That is my love. Whatever we do, we do it together. Now y'all took something from me."



**Imer Alvarado, 34, Latinx cisgender man**  
Fresno, CA

Imer Alvarado was killed on the night of May 16th, 2017 in Fresno, California. According to media reports, Imer was fatally shot multiple times following a dispute with another person. Though Imer was dressed in feminine-presenting clothing at the time of his death, friends remember him as being "a beautiful and loving spirit" who was part of the drag community, and say that he identified as a gay man. His life was memorialized in a vigil held by members of the LGBTQ and Deaf communities.



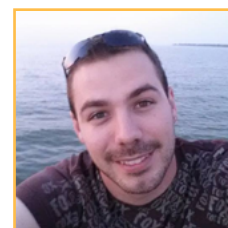
**Sherrell Faulkner, 46, Black transgender woman**  
Charlotte, NC

Sherrell Faulkner was killed in Charlotte, North Carolina. According to media reports, Sherrell was found beside a dumpster on November 30th, 2016 with trauma from an assault. She passed away from injuries related to that assault on May 16th, 2017. Sherrell's cousin took to Facebook to mourn the loss of her cousin and said she was an "angel."



**Kevin Wirth, 27, White cisgender man**  
Lansing, MI

Kevin Wirth was found beaten and stabbed to death inside his home in Lansing, Michigan on May 21st, 2017. According to media reports, he had gone home with a man whom he met at a local bar, and texted friends at points throughout the night expressing concerns about his safety. Larkin Henry Neely Jr., age 30, has been arrested in connection with Wirth's homicide. Wirth was remembered by his friends as fun, loving and the "life of the party."



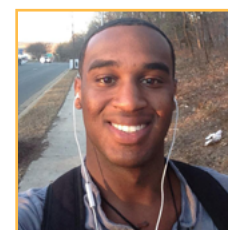
**David Swartley, 66, White cisgender man**  
Elkhart County, IN

David Swartley was killed on May 25th, 2017 in Elkhart County, Indiana by a person who responded to the personal ad he placed for "casual encounters." According to media reports, Cody Garman, age 22, has been arrested and charged with Swartley's homicide. Swartley had been a local politician in Indiana.



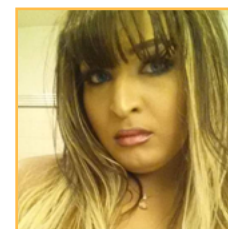
**Matthew Murrey, 26, Black cisgender man**  
Hyattsville, MD

Matthew Murrey was found was found stabbed to death in his Hyattsville apartment on May 30th, 2017. According to friends and media reports, Murrey was last seen on May 28th at some Washington, D.C. gay bars and had talked with friends about attending D.C.'s Black Pride celebration which occurred over that Memorial Day weekend. One of his friends remembered him as a "kind hearted, no-nonsense guy."



**Josie Berrios / Kendra Adams, 28, Latinx transgender woman**  
Ithaca, NY

Josie Berrios was killed in Ithaca, New York on June 13th, 2017. According to media reports, Josie was found dead at a building site that was under construction. Michael Davis, 45, was arrested and charged in connection with Josie's death and is alleged to have had a personal relationship with her. Josie, who also went by the name Kendra Marie Adams, and was a beloved drag performer who embraced her identity as a transgender woman of color, was remembered in an outpouring of love and grief by friends on social media.



**Neil Rodney Smith, 57, White cisgender man**  
Brooklyn, NY

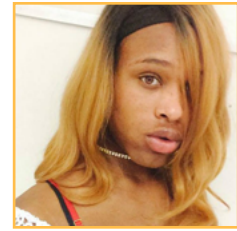
Neil Rodney Smith was found dead of apparent suffocation in his apartment on June 19th, 2017. A friend of his, who had been staying at Smith's apartment, reported that Smith had met a man online and the two had hooked up before Smith was found dead. There have been no charges yet in his death. Friends remembered Neil online as a "real kind good hearted person" and a "truly good man."





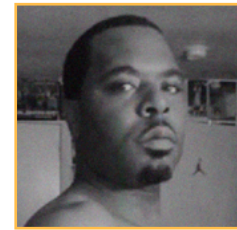
**Ava Le'Ray Barrin, 17, Black transgender woman**  
Athens, GA

Ava Le'Ray Barrin was killed in Athens, Georgia on June 25th, 2017. According to media reports, Ava was fatally shot after an argument with Jalen Brown, an acquaintance. Brown has been charged with her murder and aggravated assault. Friends and family came from as far as Chicago to mourn and remember her life at a vigil in Athens after her death.



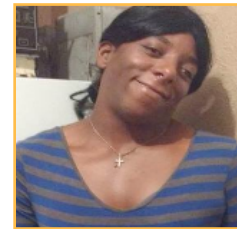
**Michael "Chris" Jones, Black cisgender man**  
Mount Vernon, NY

Michael Jones, known to friends and family as Chris, died after his head struck the pavement during a fight on June 27, 2017. Initial law enforcement treated his death as a hate crime that may have stemmed from a deeply personal conflict, but police later reversed their decision. Little is known about the motive or suspects in Jones's death, but police are still participating with NY state law enforcement and FBI.



**Ebony Morgan, 28, Black transgender woman**  
Lynchburg, VA

Ebony Morgan was killed in Lynchburg, Virginia on July 2nd, 2017. According to the Virginia Anti-Violence Project, she was shot and died early Sunday morning at Lynchburg General Hospital. Local media originally misnamed and misgendered Ebony. Memorializing Ebony in a blog post, an advocate in Pittsburgh wrote: "Rest in power, Ebony. You deserved so much better from all of us."



**Robert Lee Covington, 54, White cisgender man**  
Dallas, TX

Robert Lee Covington was found suffocated to death in his home in Dallas on July 7th, 2017. According to media reports, Yevin Rushing, age 22, met Covington on Craigslist and has been arrested and charged in connection with his homicide. Covington was executive assistant to the lead pastor at one of the nation's largest LGBT congregations, Cathedral of Hope. In a loving tribute online, Covington was remembered for his "impeccable appearance" and "signature smile."



**Rodriguez Montez Burks, 23, Black cisgender man**  
Munising, MI

Rodriguez Montez Burks was killed by a fellow inmate in his cell at the Alger County Correctional Facility on July 20th, 2017 in Munising, Michigan. According to media reports, prior to his death, prison staff ignored both Burks's and his cellmate's requests to be separated, the issue being Burks's sexual identity.



**TeeTee Dangerfield, 32, Black transgender woman**  
Atlanta, GA

TeeTee Dangerfield was fatally shot while parked in her vehicle on the morning of July 31, 2017 in Atlanta, Georgia. According to media reports, no suspect and no motive have been reported in her homicide, though College Park police are pursuing leads. TeeTee was a beloved union member of Local 23, and was remembered by many as being proud of her identity and a supportive friend: "She was a mother, a sister, an auntie to everybody," said a friend of TeeTee's. "She'd go to bat for you. She was very out and proud."



**John Jolly, 55, Black cisgender man**  
New York, NY

John Jolly was stabbed to death on a street corner in Manhattan on August 2nd, 2017. According to media reports, Nathaniel Glover, also known as Kidd Creole, allegedly killed Jolly because Jolly may have “made advances” and “hit on” Glover. Glover has been arrested and charged in connection with Jolly’s homicide.



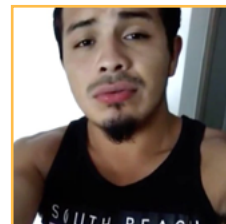
**Jaylow MC, 29, Black transgender woman**  
Alexandria, Louisiana

Jaylow MC was killed in a residence on August 4th, 2017 in Alexandria, Louisiana. Not much is yet known about this case, and local media and police are misgendering the victim. Desmond Harris, age 20, was arrested and charged with second degree murder. We will provide updates when available.



**Juan Javier Cruz, 22, Latinx cisgender man**  
Lake Worth, FL

Juan Javier Cruz was fatally shot after defending his group of friends against homophobic slurs on August 6th, 2017 in Lake Worth, Florida. According to media reports, Cruz and a group of friends were leaving a restaurant and were followed by Nelson Hernandez Mena, who called out the group homophobic slurs and threatened them with physical violence before shooting Cruz, who had defended his friends. Mena has been charged with Cruz’s murder.



**Gwynevere River Song, 26, White transgender person**  
Waxahachie, TX

Gwynevere River Song was fatally shot on August 12th, 2017, after an argument at home escalated into fatal violence. Some press are identifying Song’s father as being the person allegedly responsible for her homicide. According to media reports and social media, Song used “they” pronouns and identified as femandrogynous, while dating both men and women. A memorial vigil was planned for Gwynevere. Marcy Mosher, Song’s mother, spoke lovingly of Song online saying, “I love you so much, you are missed so much.”



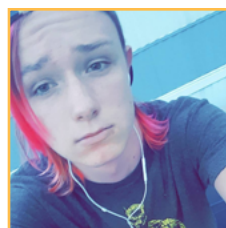
**Kiwi Herring, 30, Black transgender woman**  
St. Louis, MO

Kiwi Herring was killed in St. Louis, Missouri on August 22nd, 2017. According to media reports, Herring was experiencing escalating discrimination and harassment from neighbors. Police responding to the scene of the most recent disturbance shot and killed Herring, who may have cut or stabbed her neighbor. Some of Herring’s other neighbors held a candlelight vigil at the scene to protest this and other recent fatal shootings by St. Louis police. Vigil attendees questioned whether police had targeted the correct aggressor in the dispute. Herring was originally misgendered by police and press, and community advocates brought her homicide to the attention of NCAVP.



**Ally Lee Steinfeld, 17, White transgender woman**  
Texas County, Missouri

Ally Lee Steinfeld was killed in Texas County, Missouri, on September 5th, 2017. According to media reports, Ally was brutally assaulted and killed by four suspects, aged 18, 18, 24, and 25, who are all now in custody. Though details of the incident are still emerging, reports indicate that Ally had been in a relationship with one of the suspects, 24-year-old Briana Calderas. Ally, who had just come out as transgender earlier this year, was remembered in an outpouring of grief and support on social media. “We are here to support Ally’s family and will continue to lift Ally’s name in love and light,” said Melissa Brown of the Kansas City Anti-Violence Project.



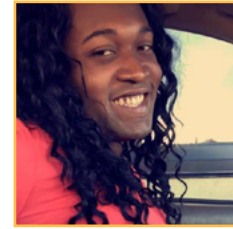
**Anthony Torres (Bubbles), 44, Cisgender man**  
San Francisco, California

Anthony Torres, also known as Bubbles, was fatally shot on the sidewalk in the Tenderloin neighborhood of San Francisco on September 10th, 2017. According to media reports, little is known about the motive of the shooting, and police are not currently investigating it as a hate crime. Many have remembered Bubbles fondly as an activist, artist, performer, and a vibrant member of a diverse and passionate music community whose gender non-conforming presentation was inspiring to others. Several publications, including music publications, wrote memorial posts in Bubbles' honor.



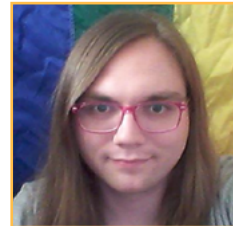
**Derricka Banner, 26, Black transgender woman**  
Charlotte, North Carolina

Derricka Banner was shot and killed in a vehicle on September 12th, 2017 in Charlotte, North Carolina. According to a statement by Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police, Montavious Sanchez Berry, age 18, has been arrested and charged with murder, armed robbery and shooting into an occupied vehicle. Following her death, friends described Banner as a playful spirit and a go-getter who enjoyed life.



**Scout Schultz, 21, White nonbinary and intersex person**  
Atlanta, Georgia

Scout Schultz was shot and killed on September 16th, 2017 by Georgia Tech Campus Police in Atlanta, Georgia. According to media reports, Schultz was in emotional distress when they walked toward police carrying a knife before they were shot. Protests were held on the Georgia Tech campus following Schultz's death. After their death, Schultz's family spoke out, sharing that they had a history of emotional and mental health issues and had attempted to self-harm in the past, and remembered their child as a "very loving and caring and empathetic person." Schultz, who was the president of Georgia Tech's Pride Alliance, was honored in a statement from the group: "They pushed us to do more events and a larger variety events, and we would not be the organization we are known as without their constant hard work and dedication. We love you Scout and we will continue to push for change."



**Elizabeth Stephanie Montez, 47, Latinx transgender woman**  
Robstown, Texas

Elizabeth Stephanie Montez was fatally shot on October 21st, 2017 near Robstown, Texas. Authorities and local media both misgendered Montez in initial reports. Police arrested and charged three suspects with her murder in early November. Montez was described by her sister as, "The sweetest, most kind, most courageous, most selfless person that would give the shirt off her back to anyone in need and most often she did."



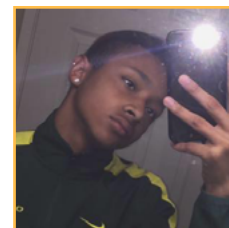
**Candace Towns, 30, Black transgender woman**  
Macon, Georgia

Candace Towns was fatally shot on October 31st, 2017 in Macon, Georgia. Media reports initially misgendered and dead-named Towns. "If I needed anything she would give it to me. She would give me the clothes off her back," said Malaysa Monroe, remembering Candace's kindness and generosity.



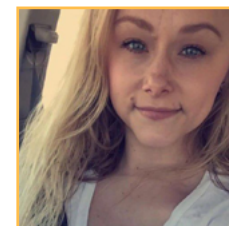
**Giovanni Melton, 14, Black cisgender man**  
Henderson, Nevada

Giovanni Melton was fatally shot by his father, Wendell Melton, on October 2nd, 2017. According to media reports, his father was upset by Giovanni's sexuality and the fact that Giovanni had a boyfriend. His former foster mother, Sonja Jones, said: "Giovanni was abused physically and mentally and spiritually for many, many years." His death spurred many advocates of LGBTQ youth to take action, especially around creating safer spaces for LGBTQ youth of color. Giovanni has been remembered by friends and loved ones as a selfless friend who brought joy to everyone he met.



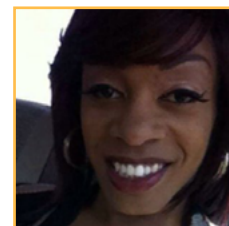
**Sydney Loofe, 24, White cisgender woman**  
Lincoln, Nebraska

Sydney Loofe was reported missing on November 16th, 2017 after meeting up with a woman she met on a dating app, Tinder. Her body was found on December 4th. Local law enforcement has two suspects in custody in relation to her death: Bailey Boswell, 23, who Loofe went on a date with prior to her disappearance, and Boswell's roommate and partner, Aubrey Trail, 51. Sydney Loofe was beloved in Lincoln and her disappearance set many volunteers into action. She was remembered by friends as a lover of animals and the outdoors, and as a deeply compassionate person. "She had a way of making everyone feel very comfortable around her," said a friend.



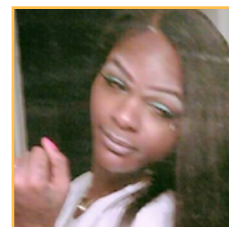
**Brooklyn BreYanna Stevenson, 31, Black transgender woman**  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Brooklyn BreYanna Stevenson was fatally shot on November 27th, 2017 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Oklahoma City police arrested and charged suspect, Brandon Michael Tyson, on December 20th, 2017 with murder in the first degree. Brooklyn was described by family members as "an amazing daughter, sister and friend with a giving and loving heart."



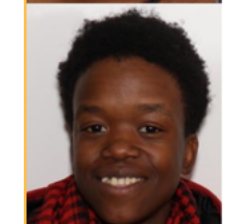
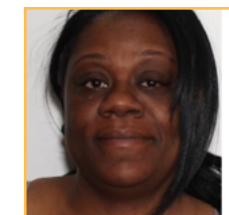
**Brandi Seals, 26, Black transgender woman**  
Houston, Texas

Brandi Seals was fatally shot on December 13th, 2017 in Houston, Texas. Police are investigating her death as a homicide, though the investigation is still in its early stages. Early media reports misgendered and mis-named Brandi, and she was correctly identified by local activist Atlantis Narcisse, founder of Save our Sisters, a local group for Black transgender women. Brandi was remembered by her aunt as a "loving, beautiful person."



**Shanta Myers, 36, Black cisgender woman**  
**Brandi Mells, 22, Black cisgender woman**  
Troy, New York

Shanta Myers and her two children, as well as her partner, Brandi Mells, were killed on December 26th, 2017, a brutal homicide that shook the LGBTQ community. Mells, Myers and her children **Jeremiah** (11) and **Shanise** (5) were bound before being killed. Isaiah Myers, 15, Shanta's oldest son, was out of town at the time and is the only surviving member of the family. Two people have been charged in this case, and there is some evidence that one of the suspects knew either Shanta or Brandi. The Myers-Mells family were remembered by many as loving, sweet, and good-natured.



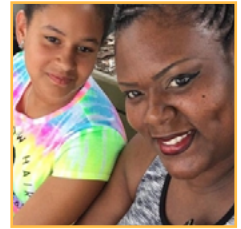
**Kerrice Lewis, 23, Black cisgender woman**  
Washington, D.C.

Kerrice Lewis was killed in Washington, D.C. on December 28th, 2017 after being shot and locked in the trunk of a car, which was then set on fire. Though police and medics were called, Lewis died at the scene. Later media reports indicate that her death may have been connected to others in the D.C. area. Kerrice was remembered by her grandfather as a “free spirit” who was “full of life” and that she would “light up a room, just talking and laughing.” Her best friend also spoke at length about Kerrice’s loving and caring nature.



**Kaladaa Crowell, 36, Black cisgender woman**  
West Palm Beach, FL

Kaladaa Crowell and her daughter, **Kyra Inglett**, were fatally shot on December 28th, 2017. According to media reports, Kaladaa and her 11-year-old daughter Kyra were shot by 26-year-old Marlin Joseph, the son of Crowell’s girlfriend, following an argument in their home. Joseph has been arrested and charged with the murders of Crowell and Inglett. At a vigil, a friend remembered Kaladaa as “a hard-working young lady who had a beautiful daughter.” Kyra was remembered for her artistic talent and her spunky personality.



NCAVP is aware of the homicides below, however, little information is known about the circumstances of these cases. NCAVP lists their names here in remembrance, and in the hope that their loved ones can find some peace.

**Alejandro Solarte**  
**Ariel Gonzalez**  
**Theodore Moore**  
**George Yurek**

## **HOW NCAVP COLLECTED THIS INFORMATION**

All homicides listed here were included in this report because there is information that indicates a strong likelihood that the motivations behind the violence were either primarily or partially related to anti-LGBTQ bias. NCAVP has provided all demographic information that has been shared either through media reports, police reports, or through our member programs.

However, this information is not exhaustive. NCAVP knows that the number of homicides is likely higher as some homicides of LGBTQ and HIV-affected people are not documented because of misidentification of victims' sexual orientation or gender identity in media and other reports. Additionally, motives related to anti-LGBTQ bias can be difficult to discern as media and law enforcement are often reluctant to say that a homicide is related to bias. This lack of information on identities and motivations makes it difficult to track hate violence homicides and to know exactly how many anti-LGBTQ homicides occur each year.

It is often difficult to assert victims' racial, ethnic, gender identity, or sexual orientation given the difficulty of finding accurate information in the media and other reports. NCAVP is cautious not to report information on identities that has not been confirmed so as not to misidentify victims.