

Gay101 - stuff you need to know, now

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BANNED
by some Pride
committees

Your Job

20% of Fortune 500 Companies still **allow discrimination** against Gay people. Only **50%** of Fortune 500 Companies offer **same-sex** partner **benefits**. **Government Employees** receive **no protection**, and **no benefits**. **Don't Ask, Don't Tell** military discharges rose by **11%** in 2005.

Fight back: Seek work from Gay-positive companies (gay101.org/link/201), and don't buy from companies that discriminate against us (gay101.org/link/202)

You can still be **fired** for being **Gay** in **36** States. You can still be **fired** for having the wrong **Gender Identity** in **46** States. A law to stop this was introduced **20 years** ago. Congress still hasn't passed it.

Fight back: Contact your Representatives (gay101.org/link/203)

Your Safety

20 States do not classify **Homophobic** attacks as **hate crimes**. **7** States **don't recognize** hate crime at all. Because of this, **levels** of hate crime are **under-estimated**. Hate crime victims suffer **3 times more symptoms** than victims of other crimes. In Colorado assaults have **dropped 60%** since hate crime laws were passed 1 year ago.

Fight back: Report all hate crime, no matter how small the incident (gay101.org/link/204)

Your Relationships

Same Sex **Domestic Partnerships** are legal in just **8** States. Same Sex **Marriage** is **illegal** in **all** States except Massachusetts. Married couples get **1100** rights and protections. Domestic partners get **100**. Thanks to hard lobbying, the **Federal Marriage Amendment** failed to pass. Meanwhile, only **10** States allow lesbian and gay couples to **adopt**.

Fight back: Most people who personally know someone Gay support marriage equality. So come out to friends, family and co-workers and explain why we need their support. (gay101.org/link/205). Also, make sure you, your friends+family sign the HRC 'Million for Marriage' petition (gay101.org/link/207).

Your Health

25 years on... 1.2 million Americans are living with HIV – an all-time high. **66%** of new **HIV** infections are from **men having sex with men**. HIV infection rates are **8.4** times higher among blacks than whites. **11%** of HIV-positive Gay men are choosing abstinence. HIV **testing** of Gay men is now a federal priority: now all **names** must be reported to the **CDC**. Bush's fall budget will cut or kill **141** government-funded programs: in particular, **Abstinence**, not safer sex, will be taught. And our **AIDS Quilt** now has 'museum' status, and is stored in a warehouse.

Fight back: Always use a Condom. Get tested regularly. Spread the Word (gay101.org/link/206)

Your Pride

Pride = remembrance + thanks + hope + community + visibility + not-going-back + fun

Not **just** a fancy parade... We wish you a safe and happy Pride month.

Gay101 is not affiliated with any of the organizations mentioned or linked – we're just a bunch o' Gay guys publishing and distributing a clear, concise summary of issues that we believe all Gay men in the US need to be aware of. We aim to publish an update every month. If you like what we're doing please help us spread the word: copy or print this page and distribute it in Bars, Clubs, Stores, Community Centers, and e-mail the PDF version, or a link to gay101.org, to your family, friends, podcasters, bloggers and anyone else who needs to know. This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 2.5 License: creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5/