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Black and Blue: Media Attention in Red vs. Blue States, An Analysis of Violence Against LGBT Between 2004 and 2015

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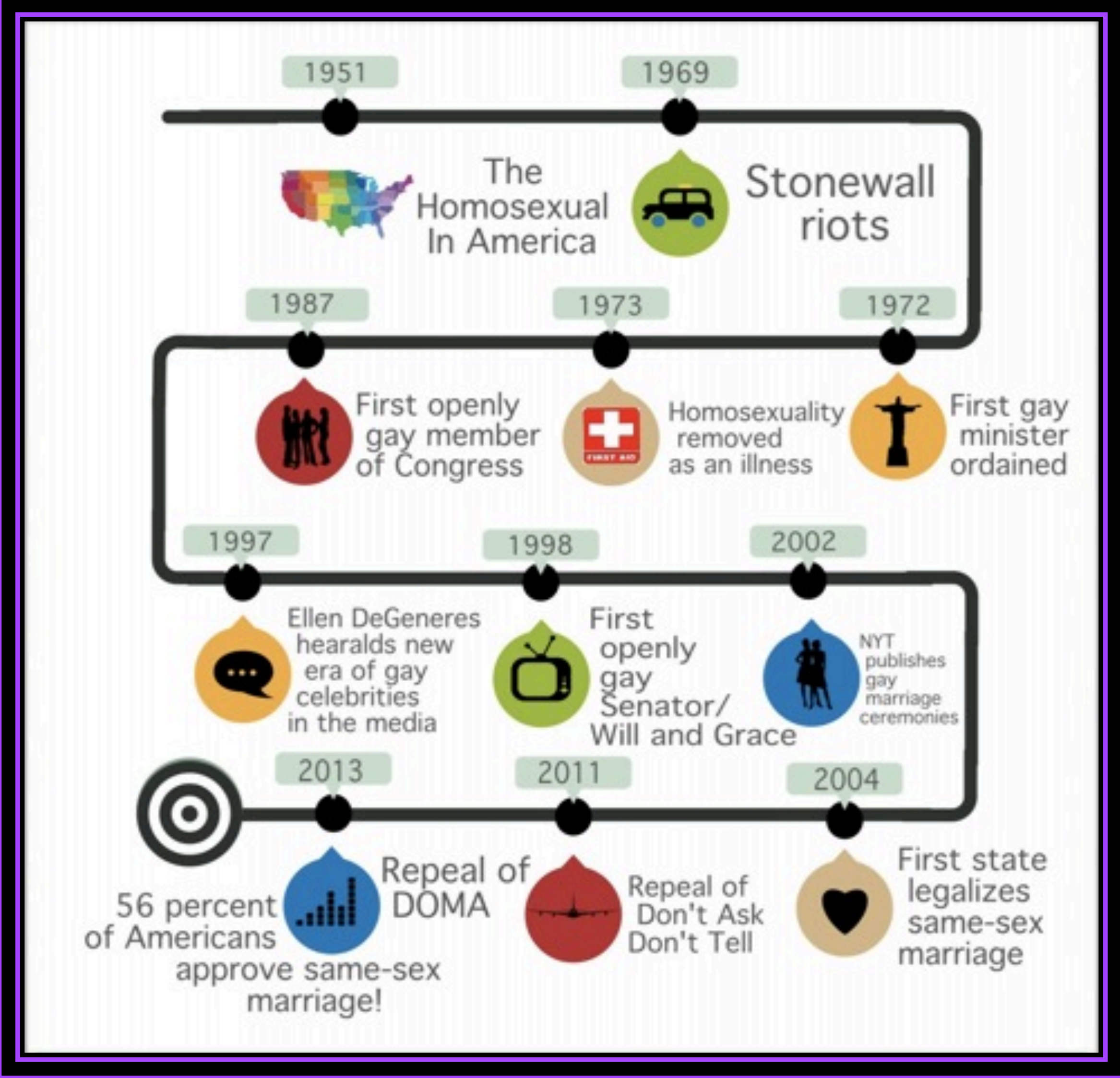
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BLACK and BLUE: MEDIA ATTENTION in RED vs. BLUE STATES

An Analysis of Violence against LGBT between 2004 and 2015

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BACKGROUND

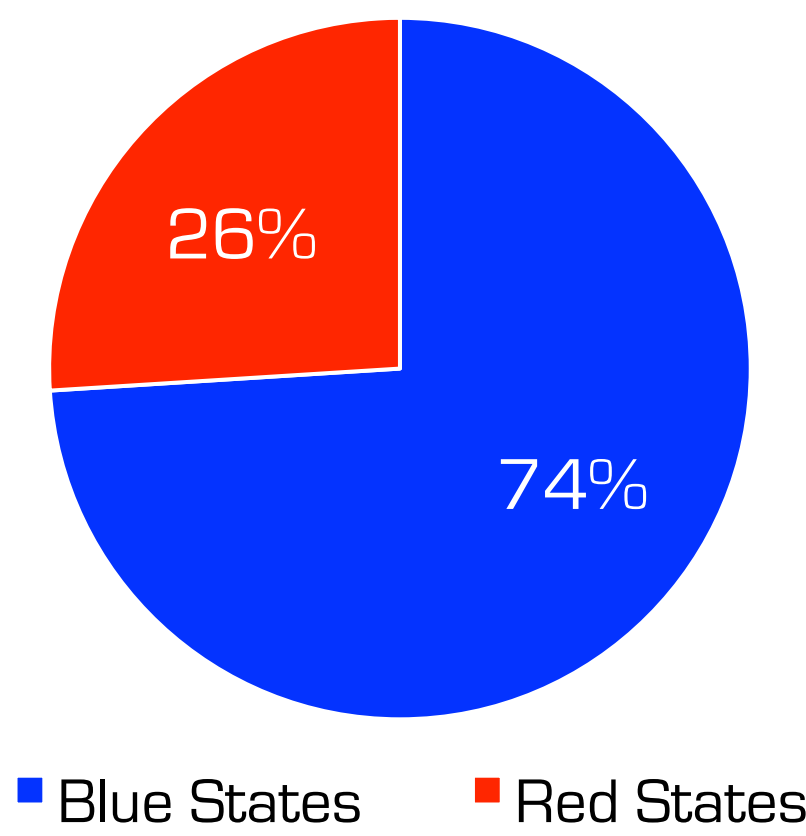
It is imperative to determine if there is in fact a relationship between the number of attacks against the LGBTQ community and the political standpoint of the state that the attacks are occurring in. The idea of comparing democratic and conservative states originated from the traditional political standpoints of these states regarding the acceptance and treatment of the LGBTQ community. Throughout the United States, **democratic states** are often referred to as **blue states**, whereas **conservative states** are often labelled as **red states**.

METHODOLOGY

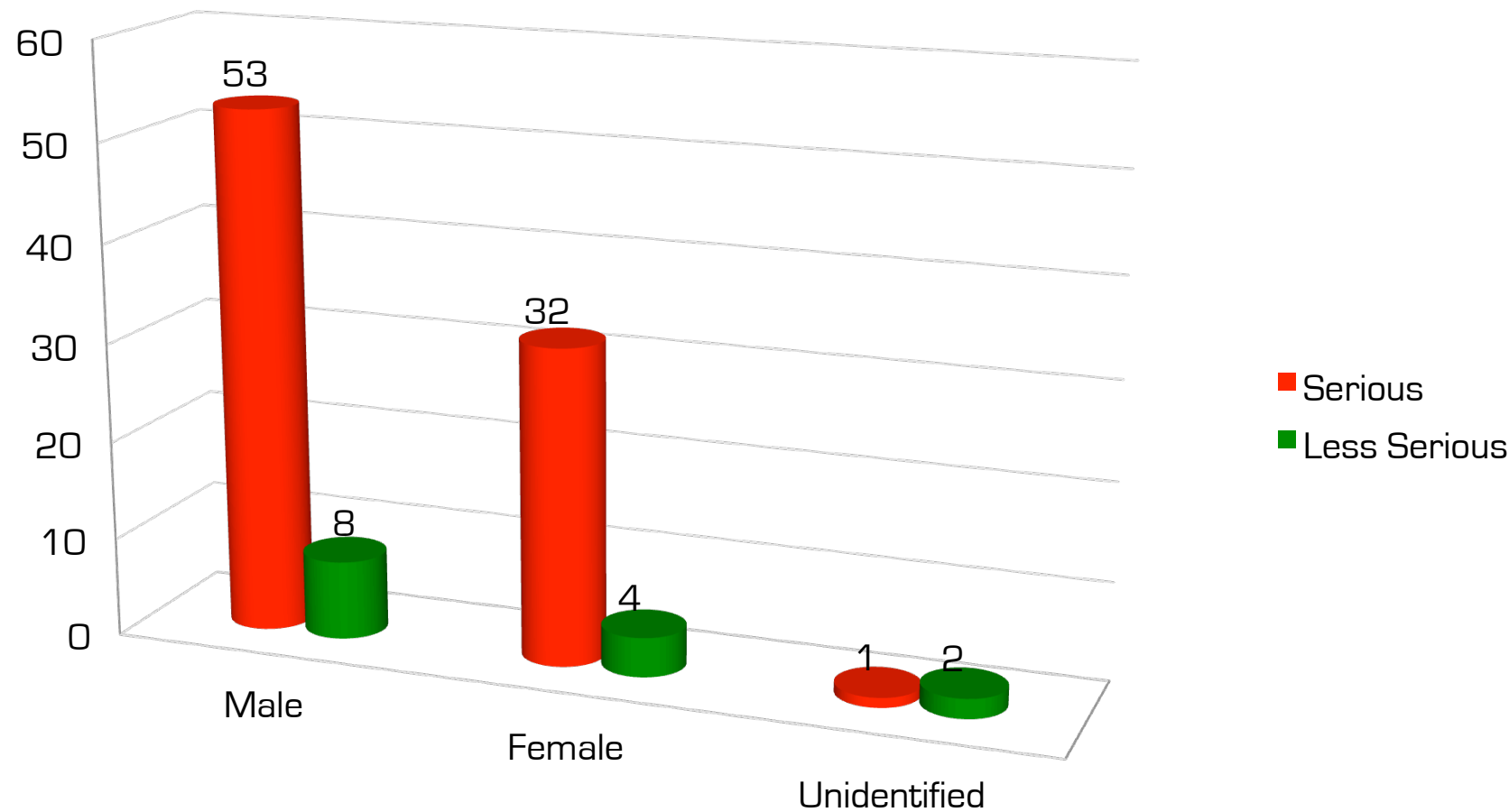
Using **media content analysis** as a data collection method, a dataset was formed on an excel spreadsheet from open sources. The timeline for the collection included the time same-sex marriage first became legalized in the United States in 2004 and the last day of 2015.

To increase the reliability of the data and generalization of our findings, we searched through individual articles in their entirety to see whether police were treating the incident as a hate crime. If the incident was being treated as a hate crime, we recorded this information as **reported**. If the police were not treating the incident as a hate crime, we recorded the information as **not reported**. Research on many incidents showed that police departments had not reached a decision regarding the reporting of a hate crime; this information was recorded as **unconfirmed**.

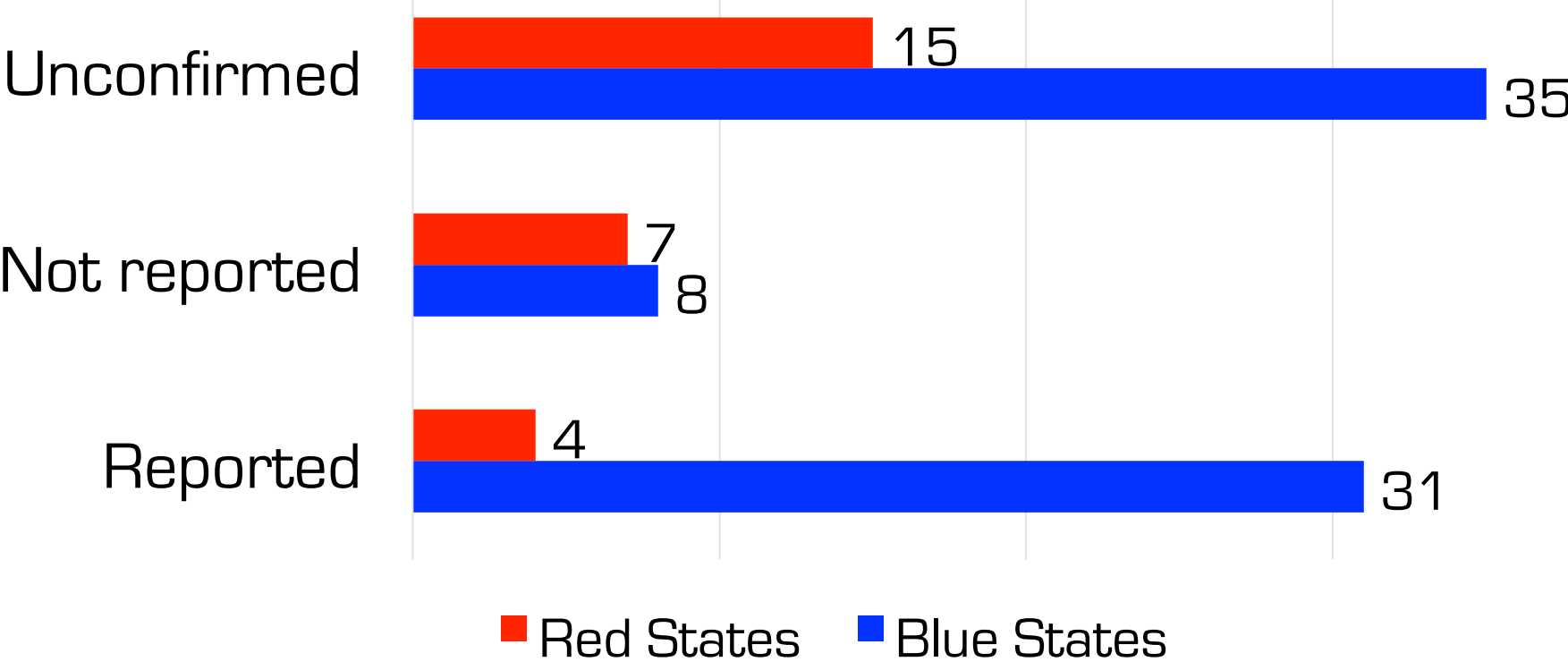
Attacks Occurring in Red and Blue States 2004-2015 (N=100)



Attacks by Degree of Seriousness against LGBT 2004-2015 (N=100)



Number of Hate Crimes against LGBT Reported by Police 2004-2015 (N=100)

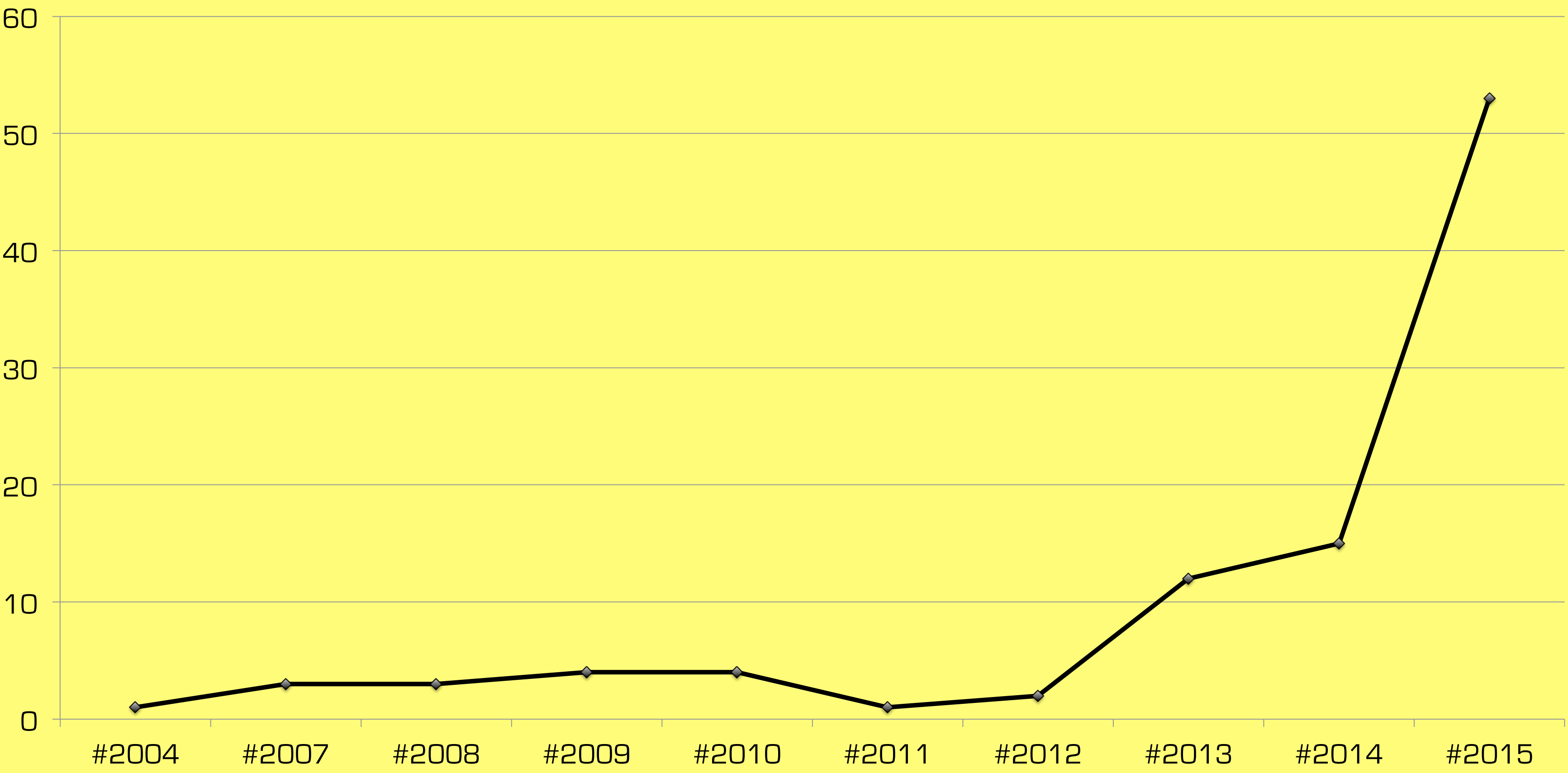


TYPES OF VIOLENCE

The violent incidents are categorized in two levels:

1. **SERIOUS ATTACKS: Assault** (armed attack & physical attack); **Arson** (immolation & property damage).
2. **LESS SERIOUS ATTACKS: Intimidation & Harassment** (ver-buse); **Vandalism** (property damage)

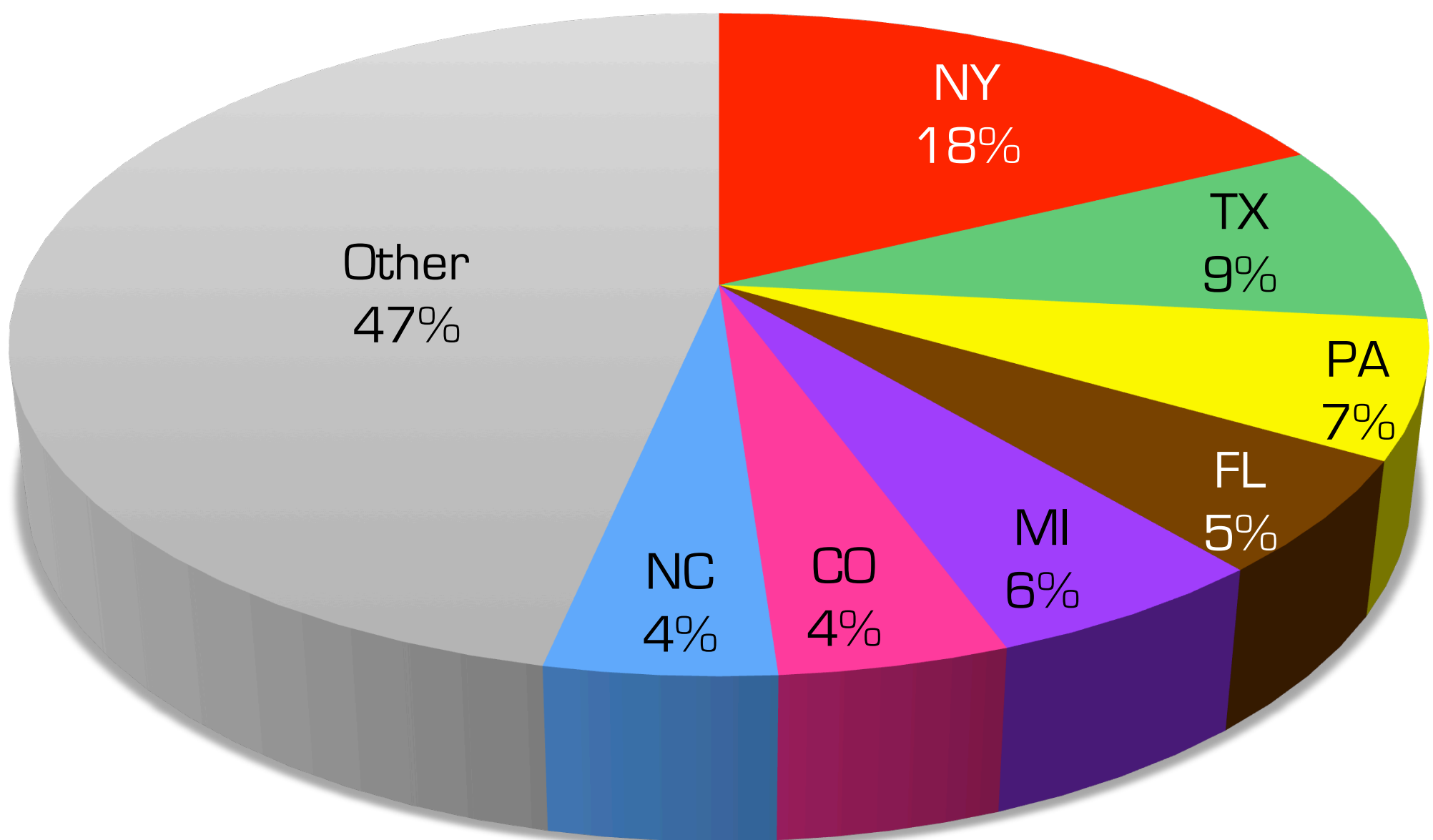
Attacks against LGBT between 2004 and 2015 (N=98)



FINDINGS

1. Although our findings suggest that there are a greater number of attacks occurring in democratic states, it is pleasing to see that **there are a greater number of attacks being reported as hate crimes in comparison to those not reported**. Evidently, fewer attacks occurred in conservative states.
2. The results illustrate that the attacks are not occurring more often on days where individuals are more likely to be intoxicated such as weekends; **they are occurring throughout the entire week during various different time periods**. Furthermore, many of the attacks happened in **residential neighborhoods** across the United States.
3. In the majority of these incidents, **Police are unable to locate the perpetrators**.
4. Although the **use of body is the weapon of choice** for the perpetrators, the number of firearms, bludgeoning weapons and bladed weapons used in these attacks is alarming.

Number of Attacks against LGBT per State 2004-2015 (N=100)



Location of Attacks against LGBT 2004-2015 (N=100)

