

# THE MOMENTUM REPORT—2007 EDITION

*Executive Summary*



movement advancement project ▶

## Movement Advancement Project

The Movement Advancement Project (MAP) is an independent, intellectual resource for LGBT organization executives and donors, funded by a small number of committed, long-term donors to the LGBT civil rights movement. MAP's mission is to speed achievement of full social and political equality for LGBT people by providing donors and organizations with strategic information, insights and analyses to help them increase and align resources for highest impact. In sum, MAP's research is designed to stimulate additional contributions to the LGBT movement, as well as additional productivity from those contributions.

## The Momentum Report

*The Momentum Report* measures progress toward the LGBT movement's ideal end-state: securing equal opportunities, rights, and responsibilities for all people, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. This publication is the first edition of *The Momentum Report*; an updated edition will be released every two years, with the next edition slated for 2009. The opinions expressed in this report reflect the best judgment of MAP and are based on extensive research, including data gathering and analysis and media and web searches.

## Acknowledgements

Sean Cahill, the former director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Policy Institute, and Gary Gates, a senior research fellow at the UCLA School of Law's Williams Institute, reviewed an earlier draft of *The Momentum Report*. Both provided very helpful insights and comments. However, MAP is responsible for the contents of the final report.

---

## Contact Information

### LGBT Movement Advancement Project (MAP)

2215 Market Street  
Denver, CO 80205  
303-292-4455  
[www.lgbtmap.org](http://www.lgbtmap.org)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Movement Advancement Project’s *Momentum Report* organizes and analyzes indicators of the LGBT<sup>1</sup> movement’s success in securing political and social equality. Specifically, the report measures progress toward an ideal end-state for LGBT Americans: equal opportunities, rights, and responsibilities for all people, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

Most indicators reflect good news for the LGBT movement and people. The American public has become very supportive of our issues in recent years, state legislatures are more likely to pass pro-LGBT legislation than laws that harm us, the movement’s organizations are steadily increasing in financial size, and the number of donors—both small and large—to the movement is consistently growing.

As a result of these positive changes, nearly half of the US population now lives in a state that has nondiscrimination laws based on sexual orientation, and nearly one-third has access to a state nondiscrimination law based on gender identity or expression. Nearly one-third of all LGB adults in the US have access to a state-sanctioned relationship recognition law (and the rights, responsibilities, and benefits that these laws provide). And most states allow LGB adults to adopt and raise children.

Many of these achievements have been reached in just the past few years—decades of hard work are finally and quickly bearing fruit. The expansion of LGBT equality in recent years is nothing short of remarkable.

Of course, much more work still needs to be done and some setbacks have occurred. Many more people need access to relationship rights and nondiscrimination legal protections. A few states have recently cut back on LGB adoption rights. HIV/AIDS is once again spreading quickly among men who have sex with men, and the disease disproportionately impacts men of color. Gay men and lesbians are still barred from serving openly in the US military. And hate crimes, although beginning to decline, still terrorize too many of our people and communities.

The *Momentum Report* tracks all of these recent changes in detail over time through 23 different indicators, which are grouped into three categories: Cultural and Social; Political and Legal; and LGBT Movement Capacity. *Each category is summarized in the table on the right.*

In sum, the *Momentum Report* delivers mostly good news for the LGBT movement and the current state of LGBT equality. By most measures, the US public is becoming more supportive of LGBT equality and has increasingly favorable opinions about LGBT people. And despite the

### Indicators Summary

<b>CULTURAL AND SOCIAL INDICATORS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Over the past 25 years, public sentiment regarding gays and lesbians has become increasingly supportive, suggesting that a strong foundation exists for marshalling public will for federal and state laws supporting LGBT equality.</li> <li>▶ A few indicators point to erratic and possibly even waning public support for the LGBT community, which should prompt LGBT leaders to rethink the movement’s overall public messaging and relations strategy.</li> <li>▶ Anti-LGBT religious beliefs remain an obstacle to equality.</li> </ul>
<b>POLITICAL AND LEGAL INDICATORS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ A clear majority of LGB people still does not have access to formal relationship recognition laws, and most of the US population is not covered by state-level non-discrimination laws.</li> <li>▶ But the previous ten years have shown remarkable expansion in the percentage of the LGB and US population that is covered by such laws.</li> <li>▶ State legislatures are increasingly supportive of the LGBT community.</li> <li>▶ HIV/AIDS is once again on the rise for American men who have sex with men, as the federal government directs attention (and money) to combating the disease around the globe.</li> </ul>
<b>LGBT MOVEMENT CAPACITY INDICATORS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The total financial size of leading LGBT organizations has grown steadily in recent years.</li> <li>▶ The number of donors to the LGBT movement is also growing quickly.</li> <li>▶ New data collection efforts and other intellectual resources are expanding at unprecedented rates.</li> </ul>











generally anti-LGBT political climate in the US in recent years, LGBT equality has expanded rapidly in the previous decade. To be sure, many more changes must take place before equality for all LGBT people is secured, but it is undeniable that substantial progress has been made, thanks to the many local, state, and national organizations fighting for LGBT rights and the donors who support their efforts.

Many opportunities to advance and expand LGBT equality currently exist both in Washington, DC and state legislatures across the country. With continued growth in the movement’s donor base and the financial size and strength of its organizations, today’s opportunities will become tomorrow’s victories.

## INDICATORS QUICK VIEW



### Ten Cultural and Social Indicators











INDICATOR	CURRENT TREND/STATUS*	PAGE AND FIGURE NUMBER
Public Perceptions of Homosexuality as an Acceptable Lifestyle		Page 8, Figure 4
Public Perceptions of Homosexuality as an Innate Trait		Page 8, Figure 5
Public Attitude Toward Legality of Same-Sex Sexual Relations		Page 8, Figure 6
Public's General Acceptance of Homosexuality		Page 9, Figure 7
Public Support of Marriage Equality for Same-Sex Couples		Page 9, Figure 8
Public Support of Equal Employment Rights for Lesbians and Gay Men		Page 9, Figure 9
Public Support of Open Military Service by Lesbians and Gay Men		Page 9, Figure 10
Number of Hate Crimes Based on Sexual Orientation		Page 10, Figure 11
Hate Crimes Rates by Race, Religion, and Sexual Orientation		Page 10, Figure 12
Christian Denominations' Support of LGBT Americans, by Denomination Membership		Page 11, Figure 13

\*The weather symbols below represent MAP's overall qualitative judgment of recent progress for each indicator.

## INDICATORS QUICK VIEW CONTINUED






### Ten Legal and Political Indicators

INDICATOR	CURRENT TREND/STATUS	PAGE AND FIGURE NUMBER
Expansion of Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Coverage for Total US Population		Page 11, Figure 14
Expansion of Gender Identity Non-Discrimination Coverage for		Page 12, Figure 15
Access to Same-Sex Relationship Recognition for US LGB Popula-		Page 12, Figure 16
Expansion of Same-Sex Relationship Recognition for US LGB Population		Page 12, Figure 17
Access to Adoption for US LGB Population		Page 13, Figure 18
Access to Same-Sex Second-Parent Adoption for US LGB Popula- tion		Page 13, Figure 19
New HIV/AIDS Diagnoses for Men		Page 14, Figure 20
US Federal Government Spending on HIV/AIDS		Page 14, Figure 21
Number of Out LGBT Candidates for Public Office		Page 15, Figure 22
State Legislative Climate		Page 15, Figure 23

## INDICATORS QUICK VIEW CONTINUED



### Three Indicators of LGBT Movement Capacity

INDICATOR	CURRENT TREND/STATUS	PAGE AND FIGURE NUMBER
Total Revenue of 25 Leading LGBT Organizations		Page 16, Figure 24
Individual Donor Support for 25 Leading LGBT Organizations		Page 16, Figure 25
Number of Scholarly Reports on LGBT Topics and Issues		Page 16, Figure 26





movement advancement project ▶

2215 Market St. • Denver, CO 80205  
Fax: 303-292-2155 • [www.lgbtmap.org](http://www.lgbtmap.org)