

Abbreviated Timeline of LGBT History in America

1903 - On Feb. 21, New York police conduct the first recorded raid on a gay bathhouse.

1924 - The Society for Human Rights in Chicago becomes the country's earliest known gay rights organization.

1948 - Alfred Kinsey publishes *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*, a groundbreaking study which broaches topics of homosexuality and bisexuality previously undiscussed.

1951 - The Mattachine Society is formed by Harry Hay, and becomes the country's first national gay rights organization.

1956 - National lesbian group The Daughters of Bilitis is formed.

1962 - Illinois becomes the first state in the U.S. to decriminalize private consensual homosexual acts between adults.

1965 - The first gay rights protests occur in Washington, DC and in front of Philadelphia's Independence Hall.

1969 - The Stonewall Riots begin on June 27 for three days, launching the previously quiet gay rights movement into a massive period of social change, with members increasing from hundreds into the thousands in less than a year.

1971-73 - The Gay Raiders, a gay militant group, campaign against television networks to feature and discuss gay people on the air. They disrupt various programs including the CBS Evening News.

1973 - The American Psychiatric Association removes homosexuality from its official list of mental disorders.

1975 - Governor Milton Shapp of Pennsylvania creates the first committee to research and report on discrimination against sexual minorities. One year later, Governor Shapp issues an executive order outlawing discrimination against sexual minorities in employment, housing and public accommodation.

1981 - The first cases of AIDS are found in homosexual men in New York and Los Angeles.

Abbreviated Timeline of LGBT History in America (con't)

1982 - Wisconsin becomes the first state legislature to outlaw discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

1982 - The first Gay Games takes place in San Francisco, drawing over 1,350 athletes.

1985 - A spokesperson for actor Rock Hudson acknowledges the star has AIDS, bringing the disease to the media forefront for the first time.

1993 - The "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy is instituted for the U.S. military, permitting gays to serve in the military but banning homosexual activity. Thousands of gay and lesbian persons are relieved of their positions.

1996 - The Supreme Court strikes down Colorado's Amendment 2, which denied gays and lesbians protections against discrimination,

1997 - Ellen Degeneres' character Ellen Morgan comes out as a lesbian on the popular sit-com Ellen, drawing 36 million viewers.

1998 - University of Wyoming student, Matthew Shepard, is murdered because of his homosexuality.

2000 - Vermont becomes the first state in the country to legally recognize civil unions between gay or lesbian couples.

2003 - The Supreme Court rules in Lawrence v. Texas that laws prohibiting sodomy are unconstitutional.

2004 - On May 17, same-sex marriages become legal in Massachusetts.

2005 - Civil unions become legal in Connecticut in Oct. 2005.

2007 - Gay domestic partnerships are legalized in Washington state on July 22. Oregon, Colorado, Ohio, and Iowa ban discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in the private sector. On August 9, Logo hosts the first presidential forum in the United States focusing specifically on LGBT issues. Six Democratic Party candidates participate in the event, including Democratic nominee Barack Obama.

Abbreviated Timeline of LGBT History in America (con't)

2008 - The civil union law goes into effect in New Hampshire on Jan. 1. Domestic partnership legislation in Oregon becomes effective Feb. 4. On May 15, the California State Supreme Court rules it unconstitutional to deny same-sex couples equal marriage rights, making California the second state to legalize same-sex marriage.

2009 – President Obama signs Matthew Shepard Act, which expands federal hate-crime law. Some states legalize same-sex marriage. More states begin to adopt ‘everything but marriage’ domestic partnership laws. The California Supreme Court upholds Proposition 8 and bans same sex marriages.

2010 – On August 4, Proposition 8 in California (which banned same sex marriage) was overturned. “Don’t ask, don’t tell” law ruled unconstitutional by a federal judge.

***Sources:** <http://www.365gay.com/uncategorized/an-american-gay-history-timeline-1903-2008/> and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009_in_LGBT_rights