

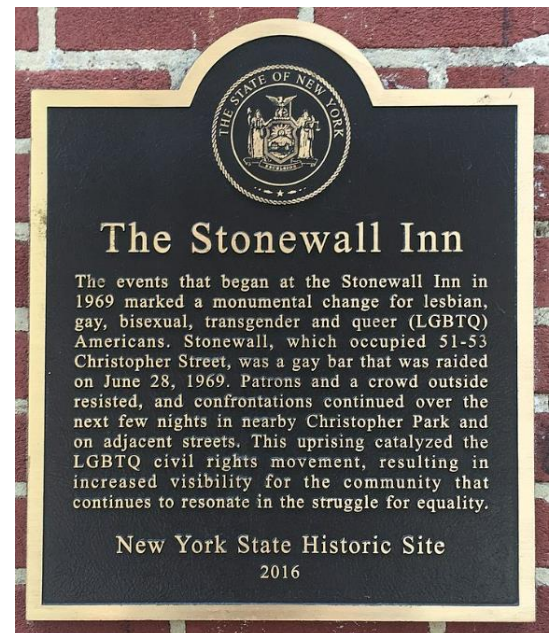
The Stonewall Uprising

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The Stonewall Uprising, which occurred on June 28, 1969, in New York City, represented the start of the modern LGBTQ rights movement. Previous gay and lesbian rights groups like the Mattachine Society and the Daughters of Bilitis had existed for decades; however, their membership remained very low and their activities, although highly visible, focused on showing that gays and lesbians could blend into society. The events at the Stonewall Inn represented both the physical and metaphorical coming out of the gay rights movement as the first mass LGBTQ demonstration to demand equality while simultaneously celebrating their unique and often repressed culture.

The Stonewall Inn, a dive bar on Christopher Street in Greenwich Village, was run by organized crime and catered to people who, in the 1960s, didn't have other places to meet. Most notably this group included people who lived life openly as members of the LGBTQ community or who wanted the equal opportunity to display same-sex affection in public settings. In the early morning hours of June 28, 1969, plainclothes police officers raided the establishment, which contained over 200 people. Some customers were tired with the watered down liquor and a police-raid that went against the assumed protection of the mafia bar owners, some customers feared the publicity that may have resulted from an arrest in a known gay hangout, and some just felt fed up of not being able to live their lives their way during a time in the United States when more and more people were standing up and demanding equal respect and rights. For whatever their individual reasons, customers refused to comply with police orders and began resisting when the police tried to arrest patrons.

As supporters gathered outside the bar, the situation soon turned violent, with police and protestors trading blows. As the night wore on, the Stonewall Inn was almost destroyed as the protesters and police chased each other through the streets. However by 4:00 am, the crowds dispersed, with 14 arrested and several injured. In the aftermath, the participants and supporters of LGBTQ rights gathered in the morning to discuss how they had come together, and the next night saw an even larger crowd gather in front of the Stonewall Inn, displaying affection and gay pride in public when only the night before such actions had been confined to the dingy bar. As protesters and police once again confronted each other into the early morning hours, a realization that something had changed began to permeate both New York City and the nation. In the following weeks and months, several new groups sprang up which proudly used previously "taboo" words like "gay" and "queer." On the first anniversary of the Stonewall Uprisings, New York, Los Angeles and Chicago all had parades, marking the first gay pride parades in the United States.



Throughout the 1970s, gay rights groups grew in both size and impact. Several future Census Bureau employees, like [Bill Camillo](#) and [Deborah Wiatt](#), participated in these groups, and would later bring their valuable viewpoints and experience to the Census Bureau. As lifestyles and attitudes changed, the Census Bureau added the option "partner or roommate" to classify the relationship of unmarried couples, both gay and straight in 1980, and, in 1990, added the option for "unmarried partner." This culminated with a [report for the 2000 Census](#) which counted 594,000 same-sex households, or 1-in-9 of the total count of unmarried partners. The Census Bureau has continued to refine methods for counting same-sex partnerships with the introduction of a similar question on the annual American Community Survey in 2005, offering a greater chance for communities to receive support and representation. Much of this progress can be attributed to the spontaneous protest that happened at the Stonewall Inn in 1969.