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March 2017

Fair Housing Update

Fair Housing By The Numbers

As Ben Carson settles into his new job as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), now would be a good time to look at some national statistics regarding Fair Housing claims.

The 2016 data is not yet available, but the records for 2014 and 2015 reveal much about the trends in complaints.

With just over 8,000 claims in both years, the number of investigations were relatively equal.

The Fair Housing Act contains seven protected classes. Of those, complaints for discrimination based upon disability make up more than half of the investigations (55%) HUD

undertakes. Racial discrimination claims account for about a quarter (27%).

Claims for discrimination based upon family status, sex, national origin and religion make up the remainder.

During these years, HUD has spent \$60 million annually to ensure housing providers are living up to their obligations under the Fair Housing Act.

Well written Fair Housing policies applied equally across the board, employee training and proper documentation of incidents are all important ways to ensure the next person knocking on your door isn't HUD.



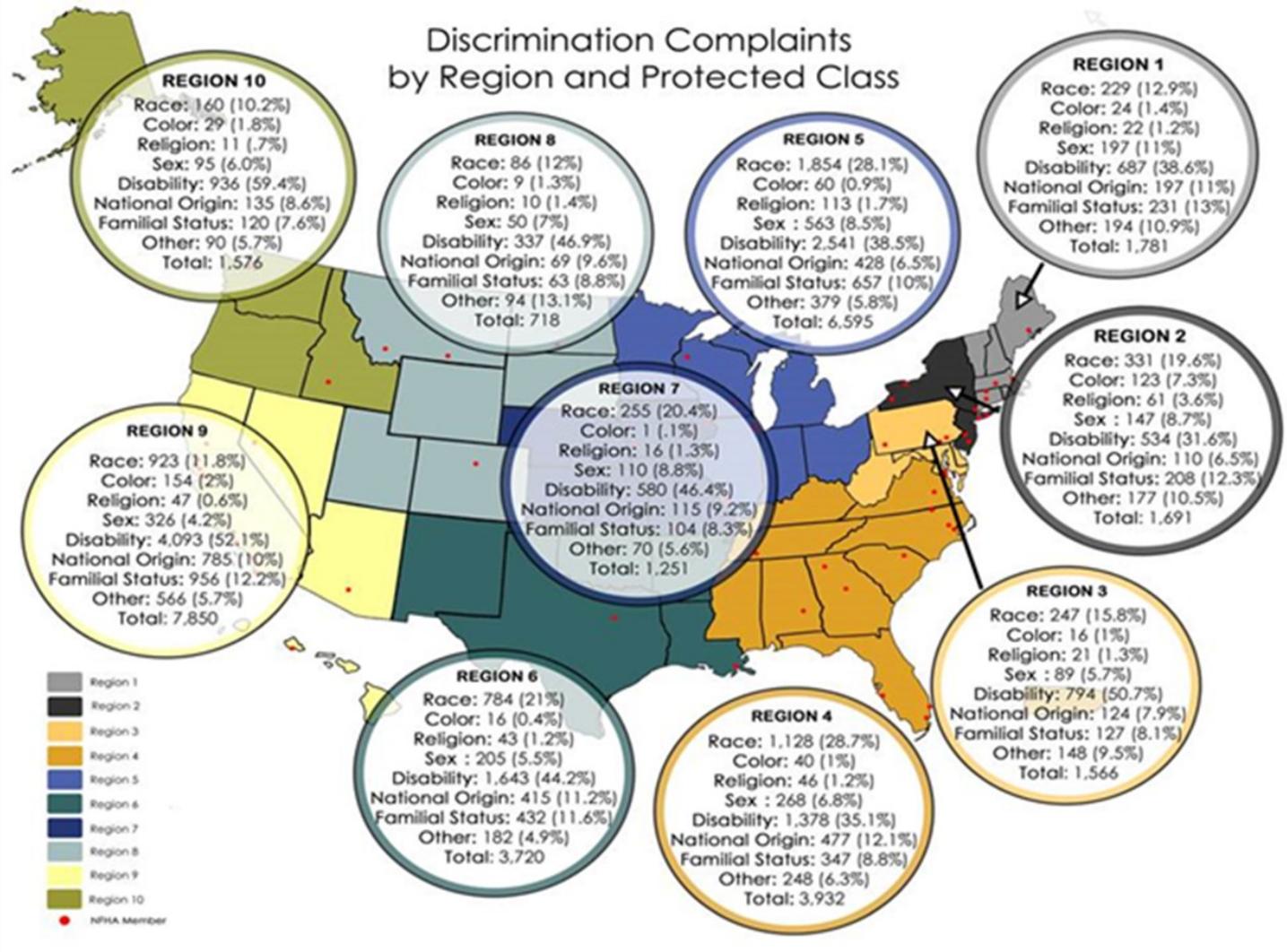
Disability Discrimination Suit filed in NY

The builder and architect of a new 55+ building in Mount Kisco, New York, are being sued by the US government for allegedly violating the Fair Housing Act.

In the suit filed earlier this month, the government alleged that the design and construction of a 47 unit condominium complex failed to meet standards making it accessible to persons with disabilities.

"The Fair Housing Act mandates accessibility in design and construction," said a representative from the Manhattan U.S. Attorney's office. "Through this lawsuit - like the many other similar suits brought by this Office - we intend to hold these defendants accountable for their failure to adhere to the laws that ensure equal access to housing for New Yorkers with disabilities."

Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 makes it illegal to discriminate in any type of housing based upon race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability or familial status.



For more information, questions, or to get copies of past Updates, contact MHI's General Counsel, Rick Robinson, at rrobinson@mfghome.org.

