

From: HIV Modernization Movement - Indiana info@hivmodernizationmovement.org
Subject: HMM Digest: June Update - HMM Cohort 2, HINAC 5 and more!
Date: June 21, 2023 at 8:00 AM
To: todd@ctoddcreations.com



June Digest

Change Requires Action

Hi Todd,

Power is in numbers! We need to know how many members we have in each legislative district, especially for Indiana Senators. If you haven't already, [please take a minute and click here to update your contact and provide your residential street address](#). This helps us identify who we have in which districts, which will help our power mapping to key legislators based on where our members reside.

HIV Is Not A Crime HINAC 5

HMM was able to send a delegation of 15 HIV advocates and allies to HIV Is Not A Crime HINAC 5 in Virginia. The group spent time learning more about HIV criminalization reform, networking and becoming stronger advocates. The gathering brought together 250 advocates from the US, Canada, and Central America.

Workshops covered topics like molecular HIV surveillance, decriminalizing the trans experience, powerful storytelling and racial justice.



Our advocates also spent time together as a state delegation strategizing for the future and discussing ways to better engage our legislators.

Dr. Carrie and Mark presented a session on *"Building PLHIV Leadership Capacity to Modernize HIV Criminal Laws."*

This trip along with our delegation to [AIDS Watch](#) was made possible by a grant from [AIDS United](#).



HMM Across the State

If you know of events in your area where we should be, please [contact us](#).

- June 23 - Panel Discussion representing HIV Criminalization, as part of the [26th Annual International Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed Conference](#)
- July 8-16 - [Indiana Black Expo](#) (tabling)
- July 22 - [Ft. Wayne Pride](#) (tabling)
- July 30 - Elkhart Pride (Tentative Tabling)
- Aug 19 - Outfest Lafayette (Tabling)
- Aug 27 - [Bloomington Pridefest](#) (Tabling)
- Aug 16 [Terre Haute Pride](#) (Tabling)
- Aug 17 [Indiana AIDS Walk](#) (Join our team! And Tabling)
- Aug 18-19 Unity HIV/STD/Viral Hepatitis Indiana Conference (Tabling)
- Aug 22-23 [Latin Expo](#) (Tabling)

Member Spotlight

Join us in celebrating Nick Atkinson, one of our newly trained HMM advocates. Nick has been living with HIV for 2 years. Soon after his college graduation, Nick learned his status had changed, and with it, so would his future. Getting involved with HMM has



helped to educate him about HIV and helped him to find purpose in his lived experiences. He hopes to continue working to make the voices of youth affected by HIV a larger part of the discussion by leading the +Positive Youth Action program at the Damien Center.

Nick reflects on his service: *"HMM has been my greatest resource in forming a community of support. Many of these advocates were in the room the first day I spoke up. They've been here each step of my journey since. They've inspired me to be the next set of hands lifting someone up."*



HMM Advocates Cohort 2

In May, we wrapped up a second HMM Advocacy training session, which was supported by [The Sero Project](#). Eleven individuals, both HIV-positive and allies of our cause from around the state, went through the training to become HMM-advocates in their area. A number of them are currently HMM Ambassadors to their area's ZIP Coalition. We now have 27 trained HMM advocates from eight counties in Indiana who are able to participate in events, talk about HIV criminalization reform, and advocate with their legislators.

Where has HMM been this month so far?

We are tabling 7 different events across the state, including Pride in Indianapolis, South Bend and Michigan City. Through events like these we are able to educate the public about HIV criminalization reform while growing our network of activists and allies around the state.

Meet some of the HMM Indiana advocates working Indy Pride.

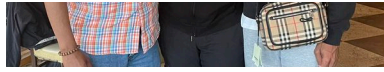


Meet advocates Mark Hughes, Carrie Foote and Glover Terrell Geneco who tabled at South Bend Pride.



Meet our northwest advocates Greg Coulter and Marcel Webb who worked at Michigan City Pride building relationships with [State Rep. Pat Boy](#) and others in the region.





New Infograph: Criminalization of Viral Hepatitis in Indiana

Did you know that 3 out of 4 of Indiana's HIV criminal laws ALSO criminalize people living with viral hepatitis. [Click here for our new infograph](#) on the criminalization of people living with viral hepatitis in Indiana.

Indiana is only 1 of 9 US states with laws that criminalize people based on Viral Hepatitis status. All 9 states also criminalize people living with HIV, adding to the stigma of both illnesses. Law modernization is needed.

Criminalization of Viral Hepatitis in Indiana

82 Viral Hepatitis criminal cases from 2015-2022, involving 80 individuals living with Viral Hepatitis.¹

100% were charged with a FELONY enhancement for Hepatitis exposure under Indiana's BATTERY BY BOOILY FLUIDS law.^{6,7}

73% of cases were for SPITTING, posing ZERO risk of transmission.²

A NATIONAL OUTLIER
Indiana is only 1 of 9 US states with laws that criminalize people based on Viral Hepatitis status. All 9 states also criminalize HIV, adding to the stigma of both health conditions.²

Most people charged were living with Hepatitis C (HCV).²

Hepatitis A	76%
Hepatitis B	16%
Hepatitis C	7%
Hepatitis*	1%

*Type of Hepatitis unspecified

Hepatitis C (HCV) is primarily transmitted through sharing syringes and injection equipment.

HCV IS ON THE RISE
Indiana ranked 1st in the US in the rate of acute cases of HCV in 2019. Timely access to treatment helps save lives by halting the progression of liver failure and preventing ongoing spread of HCV.^{4,5}

MORE SSPs ARE NEEDED
People who inject drugs are at elevated risk for HIV & HCV. Indiana currently has SSPs in only 8 counties. Requiring municipal approval for SSPs limits access to sterile injection equipment where it's most needed.⁴

HEPATITIS C HAS A CURE
People can't be charged if they've been cured. Adopting a test-and-treat model for HCV will help end criminalization.

Indiana's restrictive SSP and felony syringe possession laws makes sterile injection equipment less accessible to people who inject drugs (PWID). This makes PWID more likely to engage in unsafe injection practices that put them at higher risk of HCV & HBV.

These laws also make PWID more likely to have contact with law enforcement, increasing their likelihood of experiencing criminalization.

Where are Cases Occurring?

Number of criminal cases: 1 2 3 4 5 6

References

- <https://www.hhs.gov/ia/ia-civil-justice/viral-hepatitis-national-strategic-plan-2021-2025.pdf>
- <https://www.hivandhepatitis.org/resources/publications-and-reports/public-health-strategy-for-prevention-of-viral-hepatitis-exposure-in-indiana/>
- <https://www.hivandhepatitis.org/resources/newsroom/states-criminalizing-viral-hepatitis-when-updated-may-2022>
- https://actionnetwork.org/user_files/user_files/000/076/555/original/ISMA_HCV_Resolution_Final_8-8-2022.pdf
- <https://www.in.gov/indiana/> (Indiana's plan to eliminate viral hepatitis C)
- <https://www.in.gov/health/prevention/protection/liverdisease/surveillance/indiana/>
- U.S. & UCLA Williams Law Institute Research Study - 10 IRB #4029

*One person was also charged under the Malicious Mischief law. There were zero cases under the Failure to Inform law.

Contact:
Dr. Carrie Foote, foote@iuc.edu
Authors: P. Scheibbecker and Dr. Foote | Last updated: 5.123

Scan to join the movement. Learn more and stay involved with updates on how to take action.

Tennessee HIV Criminalization Reform Success!

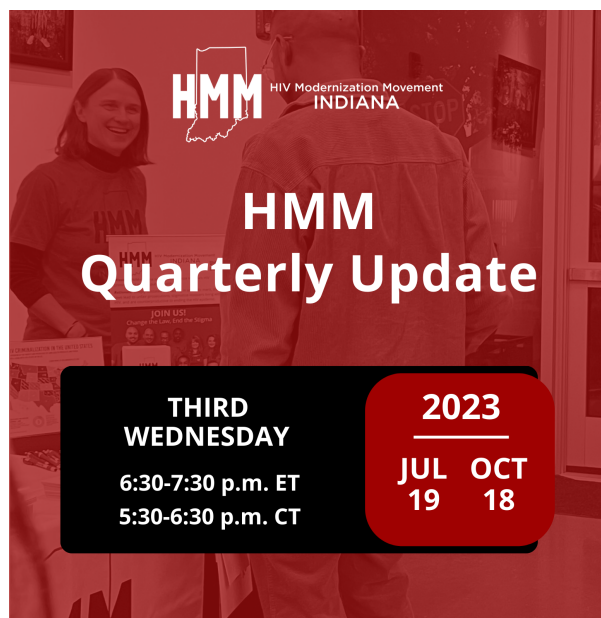
Dozens of people now have a chance of being removed from the Tennessee Sex Offender Registry after Governor Bill Lee recently signed a bill that gets rid of part of a decades-old law regarding HIV exposure. [Click here to read more...](#)

*Note: Tennessee was one of 6 states that may require registration as a sex offender as part of the punishment under HIV criminal laws. Indiana does **not** require registration as a sex offender under current HIV criminal laws.*

2023 HMM Quaterly Updates

For the remainder of 2023, we will move to quarterly advocacy meetings instead of bi-monthly. **Please note the new dates.**

- When? Quarterly 3rd Wed of the Month: 6:30-7:30p ET/5:30-6:30p CT
- Remaining 2023 Dates: Jul 19, Oct 18
- Where? Zoom:
<https://iu.zoom.us/j/85825317208> | no passcode required.



JOIN US!
Change the Law, End the Stigma
Zoom: <https://iu.zoom.us/j/85825317208>



What action can you take to help?

- Join our quarterly [HMM Advocacy Meetings](#)
- Inform others about HMM by placing our brochure at your organization, place of worship, or favorite coffee spot! [Click here to print copies and/or request paper copies](#) for distribution (English and español available).
- Provide us with more information *including your full street address*. This information will

... provides us with more information including your full street address. This information will help us identify which State Legislative districts HMM members live in, which will allow us to target our emails to residents in key districts around the State. **Click the button below** to [take action](#) now if you haven't already! 😊

Take Action

Other Opportunities & Resources

- [Read past HMM digests](#) under Newsletter tab.
- For larger discussions on national news related to HIV criminalization, join email lists from [The Sero Project](#) and the [Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation](#).
- For extensive resources on the topic, visit the [Center for HIV Law and Policy](#).
- [Find your Indiana state and federal legislators here](#)
- [Register to vote or check your voting status!](#)

Thank you!

HIV Modernization Movement is a grassroots advocacy organization. Our work is made possible by contributions from many donors, including major support from the [Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation](#).

We are now able to accept charitable contributions. [Please click here to donate!](#)

We have [HIV Modernization Movement merchandise for sale](#) on our website. Proceeds are invested back into our grassroots advocacy efforts.

Donate

Connect with Us!

