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Subject: New National Poll on HIV Criminalization; 2024 Indiana Legislative Session
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To: todd@ctoddcreations.com



December Digest

Change Requires Action

Hi Todd,

As we head into a new year and a new legislative session at the statehouse, we're excited for some newly released national and regional polling research on what Americans think about HIV criminalization. Check out the midwest data insights below!

Change the Law, End the Stigma!

2024 Legislative Session: Ready, Set...

The 2024 Indiana Legislative Short Session starts January 8 and must end by March 14. New this session: Legislators are limited with the number of bills they can introduce and committee time has been reduced. As such we only expect to advocate for a few modernization changes -- keeping it simple as the session will go lighting fast! Be sure to tune in and follow our emails for the next two months to learn how best to support our efforts this session! All Indiana bills [will appear here](#) and be populated through January 11.



National Polling Results: HIV Is NOT A Crime!

The [Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation](#) conducted a national poll on HIV criminalization in collaboration with Susquehanna Polling and Research.

Here's what Americans in the Midwest said about HIV laws:

70% believe current HIV laws should be modernized and updated to take into account current scientific knowledge about transmission. It's true - *our laws are based on 30 year old science.*

83% believe current HIV laws should be modernized and updated to incentivize testing and treatment. It's true - *our laws discourage people from getting tested.*

HIV modernization is bipartisan. In states where laws have been modernized, *87-97% of Republican lawmakers supported the bill.*

[Click here to download a PDF summary](#) for the midwest region. [Click here for poll results](#)



... and an overwhelming majority of Americans in the Midwest agree!

ABOUT HIV CRIMINALIZATION IN INDIANA

HIV criminalization is the **prosecution and imprisonment** of people living with HIV for things that are perfectly legal or only minor crimes for people who have not tested positive. HIV criminal laws are **out of date** with current science surrounding transmission and have had **zero impact on rates of HIV diagnosis**.

In collaboration with Susquehanna Polling and Research, we asked Americans living in the Midwest about HIV laws. Here's what they said:

70% believe current HIV laws should be modernized and updated to take into account current scientific knowledge about transmission.

83% believe current HIV laws should be modernized and updated to incentivize testing and treatment.

80% believe people living with HIV should receive the health and treatment they need, rather than face criminal charges that discriminate and discourage proper testing, treatment, and disclosure.

HIV Modernization is Bipartisan

Since 2021, states like Missouri, Georgia, Kentucky, and Tennessee have passed bills that modernize HIV criminalization laws.

In these states, between 87% - 97% of Republican lawmakers supported the bill.

Additionally, without support from Republicans in Illinois, Nevada, New Jersey, and Virginia, HIV modernization bills would not have passed.

Sign up to stay connected with the HIV Modernization Movement



Read more about HIV decriminalization at <https://www.hivisnotacrime-etbf.org/>. Polling conducted by Susquehanna Polling and Research from October 12-27, 2023. Surveyed 1,000 nationwide registered voters ages 18+. The margin of error for a sample size of 1,000 is +/-3.2% at the 95% confidence level. See <https://bit.ly/3u3SEU2> for poll results and <https://bit.ly/35wZJdk> for cross tabs. For questions email afawal@nabgroup.com.

Click the thumbnail to download PDF

HMM Across the State

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

- HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024
- Jan 8 - Mar 14 - Indiana Legislative Session (*active advocacy & lobbying*)
- Jan 11 - Indianapolis TGA Ryan White Planning Council (Presentation)
- Jan 17 - Quarterly HMM update
- Jan 22 - HMM-Indiana Advocacy Day at the Indiana State House (Tabling)
- Feb 7 - IDOH Non-Medical Case Manager Training (Presentation)
- Feb 10 - Peer-Led Town Hall Event: The Past, Present & Future of HIV - (Tabling)
- Feb 28 - [ETAF's](#) National HIV Is Not A Crime (HINAC) Awareness Day
- Feb 28 - HIV Disclosure 201 (*online webinar co-hosted by HMM - details TBA*)
- Mar 17-19 - [AIDS Watch 2024](#)

- June 2025 - [The Sero Project's](#) HINAC Conference

Member Spotlight

Join us in celebrating Phoenix Schlebecker (they/them). Since coming out as transgender at 17, Phoenix has been passionate about advocating for the trans community. They met Dr Carrie as a student in her AIDS and Society course. After becoming more familiar with the stigma and other challenges that the HIV community faces, Phoenix was chosen as a member of the Human Rights Campaign's GENERATE Cohort—a national fellowship of LGBTQ+ youth of color focused on reducing HIV stigma through advocacy and education. Since 2022, Phoenix has been an invaluable asset to the movement as the HMM program and research assistant.



Where else has HMM been this month?

Dr. Carrie Foote was recognized this year with the Advocacy Award at the Urban League's World AIDS Day event, for her tireless work on HIV modernization in Indiana. Three other HMM cohort members were also recognized with awards for their contributions to the HIV field.

Congratulations to Dr. Carrie Foote, Tony Gillespie, Tony Pastrick, & Nick Atkinson.

HMM made presentations about HMM and HIV modernization in the community at Central Christian Church and the Damien Center. We also co-hosted a statewide training on HIV Criminalization Legal and Policy Assessment, in partnership with CDC, ChangeLab Solutions, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials



(ASTHO), and the Network for Public Health Law (NPHL).

HMM was featured in the quarterly newsletter for the Division of HIV/STI and Viral Hepatitis of the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH).

What's Inside?

- Medical Monitoring Project Program
- The STI Surveillance Special Projects Crew
- HMM: Who we are and how to join
- National HIV & Hepatitis Technical Assistance Meeting
- December is AIDS Awareness Month—Open House at Positive Resource Connection
- Successes and Experiences from Aspire, ILS, & PRC
- Happy Holidays!

END OF YEAR GIVING TO HMM



We are #thankful for our community and your continued support. Please consider making a year-end gift to #HMMIndiana. [A tax-deductible contribution can be made here.](#)

DONATE!

Thank you for your continued support.

DOJ Issues Verdict on HIV Criminals Laws

Game-Changer from DOJ: HIV Criminal Laws Violate the Americans with



The [U.S. Department of Justice \(DOJ\)](#) has responded to complaints filed by the Center for HIV Law and Policy (CHLP) by determining that Tennessee's enforcement of its aggravated prostitution statute against individuals living with HIV violates the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This marks the first use of the ADA to challenge HIV criminal laws based on federal laws against disability-based discrimination.

"The implications of the DOJ's findings are far-reaching. This not only puts the state of Tennessee on notice that this is a serious issue, but it also serves as notice to other states with similar HIV criminal statutes," said S. Mandisa Moore-O'Neal, CHLP Executive Director. *"This is also an opportunity for other state coalitions organizing and educating around HIV criminalization to leverage these findings with lawmakers. In a moment where many state budgets are already tight, the possibility of new and often costly litigation may be the impetus to change these laws,"* she continued. [Read more here...](#)

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 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

Online Learning about HIV Criminalization Reform

- [HIV Modernization Movement Indiana](#) - hosted by the Indiana State Bar Association. This is an approved Continuing Legal Education (CLE) course.
- [The HIV Criminalization Online Course](#) - hosted by the HIV Justice Academy

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

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