

From: HIV Modernization Movement - Indiana info@hivmodernizationmovement.org
Subject: AIDS Watch, Molecular HIV Surveillance and more!
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March Digest

Change Requires Action

2024 AIDSWatch

Each year **AIDSWatch** brings together hundreds of people living with HIV and their allies in Washington, D.C., to learn about the latest policy issues, messaging strategy and advocacy tactics. This year, Indiana sent a delegation of 20 people, nearly all whom were from our core HMM advocates. We held constructive meetings with our Indiana Congressional leaders about federal policy that impacts Hoosiers living with and affected by HIV, including the need to modernize HIV criminal laws.





From AIDS United, **AIDSWatch sponsors:**
"As we look toward the upcoming election cycle, we continue this advocacy work, prioritizing policies related to quality of life, health care access, civil rights, aging with HIV, HIV decriminalization and federal funding. [Learn more about AIDSWatch 2024 policy agenda.](#)" Also in Spanish [Políticas públicas - AIDSWatch 2024](#) and [click here for the specific legislations and asks](#) related HIV.



HMM Scott County Lead, Cole Boyt, spoke about stigma, harm reduction, safe syringe access and intersections with Criminalization and HIV on a panel about structural interventions necessary to end the HIV epidemic.



Epidemic

Member Spotlight

Join us in celebrating Jasmine Bell. Jasmine has been living with HIV for 7 years. Her hobbies include reading, journaling, meditation, and spending time with her family and friends. She is a member of HMM and also advocates in the community, sharing information and education about HIV.

HIV criminalization is important to Jasmine not only because she is a survivor of HIV criminalization, but the laws are extremely outdated, unjust, and unfair to those of us who live with HIV. *"That needs to change indefinitely and I want to do my part to change that!,"* says Jasmine.

Jasmine has a multitude of quotes that she loves but her favorite when it comes to HIV is *"Be the change you wish to see in the world."* Jasmine adds *"I can't save everyone but if I just touch one person and can help change their mindset on living with HIV, then I would be the happiest person in the world!"*



HMM Across the State

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

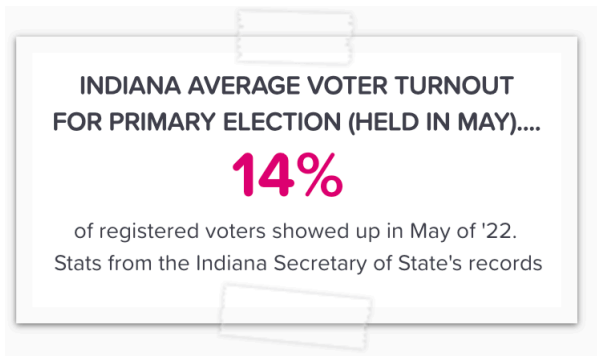
- Apr 10 - [LGBTQ Health Conference](#) Kick-off (tabling)
- Apr 17 - [Quarterly HMM Update](#)
- Apr 18 - HMM Update for the IDOH HIV/Hepatitis Council Quarterly Meetings
- May 7 - Non-Medical Case Manager Training with IDOH
- May 15 - HIV Disclosure 201 Lunch & Learn (registration link forthcoming)

- May 13 - HIV Disclosure 201 Lunch & Learn (registration link forthcoming)
- June 1 - Greenwood, [Evansville](#) & [Jeffersonville](#) Pride (tabling)
- June 5 - HIV Long Term Survivor Day - Indianapolis (presentation, tabling)
- June 8 - [Indy Pride](#) (tabling)
- June 15 - [South Bend Pride](#) (tabling)
- June 20-30 - [Black Expo](#) (tabling)
- June 2025 - [The Sero Project's](#) HINAC Conference

Upcoming Voting Deadlines: GET OUT AND VOTE!

Indiana's primary election is taking place on May 7, 2024. The deadline to register to vote is April 8, 2024. Vote by Mail Application Deadline is April 25, 2024.

Let's do better than 14%, the average voter turnout for the last primary election in May of 2022. Let's TRIPLE THAT! **Grab two friends and get out to vote!**



The following positions are part of Indiana's upcoming primary election: Governor of Indiana, 2 US Senators, 9 US Representatives and 150 State Legislators - plus local officials which varies by municipality.

Voting in primary elections is crucial because it allows you to choose the candidates who will represent your political party in the general election. These candidates will shape policies and decisions that directly impact your community and the country as a whole. Your participation helps ensure that your voice is heard and that the candidates who align with your values have a chance to advance.

To register to vote in Indiana, an individual must be a U.S. citizen who has resided in the precinct in which the individual will be voting for at least 30 days preceding the next election. The individual must be at least 18 years old by the time of the next general or municipal election.

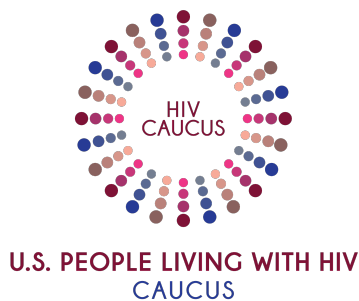
Here are some helpful resources:

- [Indiana Voter Portal](#) - The Indiana Voter Portal has information about voter registration, polling locations, voting options and more.
- [Indiana election dates and deadlines](#) - Important dates for local, state and federal elections.
- [Indiana Secretary of State](#) - Further information about candidates, campaigns and the election.

- [Voter Resources from Mad Voters](#) - Know your rights, show up informed, check your registration.

"The most civil way to have your opinion heard? Vote." - Mad Voters

US People Living with HIV Caucus issues statement on molecular HIV surveillance (MHS)

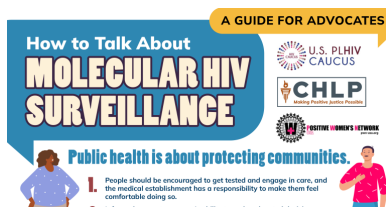


On February 28th, the US People Living with HIV Caucus commemorated the Global HIV Is Not A Crime (HINAC) Awareness Day:

"In reflecting on this year's theme – 'You care about ending HIV criminalization, you just don't know it yet' – we are reminded that the surveillance, policing and criminalization of HIV in the U.S. are not neutral practices. They are rooted in racist, xenophobic, misogynistic, and anti-LGBTQ ideologies that harm the health and wellbeing of our communities."

For more information, [read the full press release here.](#)

How to Talk About Molecular HIV Surveillance



[This guide](#) for advocates was a collaboration between the U.S. People Living with HIV Caucus, CHLP, and Positive Women's Network-USA. It serves as a roadmap for people living with HIV (PLHIV) and other advocates to navigate the serious issues with molecular HIV surveillance (MHS). It also provides a series of questions for people to ask while engaging with their state and local health departments, federal stakeholders, local elected officials, and community members. [Click here for the PDF guide.](#)

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 Spanish available)

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- Provide us with more information *including your residential 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

- For help for people living with HIV who are threatened with, or are facing, criminal prosecution for HIV nondisclosure or exposure [click here for our Get Help page](#).
- [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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