

**From:** HIV Modernization Movement - Indiana info@hivmodernizationmovement.org  
**Subject:** Stand With Jeanne-White, Get Involved as HMM +Advocate, 10 Year Anniversary Highlights!  
**Date:** February 26, 2026 at 8:01 AM  
**To:** todd@ctoddcreations.com



# 10 HMM YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Est. 2016

## February Digest

### *Change Requires Action*

#### I Stand With Jeanne-White-Ginder



**February 28** is HIV Is Not a Crime Awareness Day. Indiana has a choice.

We can keep outdated HIV laws rooted in stigma. Or we can insist on reform grounded in science and public health.

**We need you to act today and email your legislators.**

It takes two minutes to act

It takes two minutes to do.

[Click here to use our simple form](#) to send a message directly to your Indiana Senator and Representative. A draft is provided. You can personalize it. The system sends it for you.

Please send your message by February 28.

Stand with science. Stand for reform.

[Click Here to Email Your Legislators](#)



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## Living with HIV in Indiana and ready to make change?

The HIV Modernization Movement is now accepting applications for our **Virtual +Advocates Training**, led by and for people living with HIV and focused on ending HIV criminalization in Indiana.

- Saturdays in April (11, 18, 25) | 10am to 3pm ET
- Virtual
- Stipend available

- Open to PLHIV in Indiana, especially Regions 3, 5, 6, and 8 (see map on graphic)

Build your advocacy skills, learn how unjust HIV laws impact our communities, and help create real policy change.

Apply by March 6. [Click here to apply](#)

Apply Today!



## 2026 VIRTUAL +ADVOCATES TRAINING

- ✓ Learn about HIV criminalization and how to end it.
- ✓ For people living with HIV, led by people living with HIV.
- ✓ Earn up to \$250.
- ✓ Applications Due March 6; trainees notified March 12.
- ✓ Questions? Email foote@iu.edu

**APPLY NOW!**



<https://tinyurl.com/HMMtraining26>

### ELIGIBILITY/REQUIREMENTS

- Indiana resident living with HIV.
- Reside in ZIP-IN Regions 3, 5, 6, or 8 – See County Maps below.
- Available Saturdays April 11, 18, 25 from 10 am-3 pm ET.
- Reliable internet access & able to use Zoom and appear on camera.

### TOPICS INCLUDE:

- HIV Criminalization 101
- Advocacy for Beginners
- Changing the Law
- Building PLHIV Power





Supported by a grant from ViiV Healthcare.  
ViiV Healthcare has had no input into the development or execution of this project.

Apply Today!

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## Celebrating A Win! SB 180 Passes: Repeals HIV Donation Crime in Health Code

**Senate Bill 180 (Author: Senator Brown)** successfully repealed a duplicate HIV-related felony statute in Indiana's Health Code (IC 16-41-14-17). The governing criminal provision remains in place under the Criminal Code (IC 35-45-21-1) but **hasn't been enforced since 2018**. This improves clarity and consistency in Indiana law and ensures felony crimes don't appear in health code, which also makes it easier for advocacy efforts moving forward. [Click here](#) to learn more about the repeal.



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## Indiana House Advances Syringe Exchange Program with Senate Bill 91

The Indiana House of Representatives approved a revised version of [Senate Bill 91](#) to extend Indiana's syringe service programs for five years, sending the measure back to the Indiana Senate with amendments after a 70-22 vote.

The Indiana House approved an amended version of Senate Bill 91 to extend counties' authority to run syringe service programs for five years, avoiding a June 30 expiration but falling short of the original 10-year plan. Supporters said the programs do more than provide sterile syringes; they connect people to testing, treatment referrals, and other health services while letting local communities decide what works. The bill now returns to the Senate to accept the changes or go to conference committee before potentially reaching the governor.

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## When Indiana's Duty to Inform Law Changed: What Public

## Defenders & Defense Attorneys Need to Know

In 2020, Indiana amended its HIV disclosure statute to narrow criminal liability by tying it to CDC-defined “significant risk” activity. Our recent article and [companion video](#) for the Indiana Public Defender Council (IPDC) examine how that change is being applied in practice. A review of publicly available court records since 2020 shows that cases have largely resolved through plea agreements, with limited litigation around what qualifies as CDC-defined significant risk in the era of U=U and modern prevention.

The implications are significant. The law now hinges on CDC-defined significant risk, not HIV status alone. That shift places renewed importance on scientific literacy in the courtroom. Public defenders play a central role in prompting courts to examine whether the State can meet its burden under the revised statute and in ensuring that current HIV science, including the realities of treatment and prevention, is accurately understood. As the research suggests, the statute has changed. Courtroom practice must continue to align with that change.

We have also been invited to present an IPDC Continuing Legal Education (CLE) training for public defenders on April 24, 2026, titled *Science, Stigma, and Statutes: Defending HIV-Related Charges in Indiana*. [IPDC members are encouraged to register](#).



[www.hivmodernizationmovement.org](http://www.hivmodernizationmovement.org)



### When Indiana's Duty to Inform Law Changed: *What Public Defenders Need to Know*



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- Network Building Lead, HMM-Indiana
- HIV+ since 2012

Sub-authors / Data Contributors

Dr. Carrie Foote & Phoenix Schlebecker

- Indiana University-Indianapolis
- Preliminary data on enforcement of Indiana's HIV Duty to Inform Law*

Click on the thumbnail to view the video or [click here](#)

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## 10 Year Anniversary Ally Spotlight: Dennis Stover & Jeremy Turner

When Dennis Stover rejoined IDOH as the HIV/STD/Viral Hepatitis division director in 2016 (after serving in the late 80s), things began to change from nonsupport to support, first by inviting Dr. Foote to present on the issue for the statewide division council. By the time he left the division, he



statewide division council. By the time he left the division, he had begun efforts to modernize division policies linked to the HIV criminal laws, most importantly by stopping the policy allowing division staff to file police reports linked to HIV criminal laws. Following Dennis's leadership, support continued and expanded under the leadership of Jeremy Turner who made HIV law modernization a priority in the [ZERO Is Possible – Indiana's plan to End the HIV/HCV Epidemics 2021-2030](#) (see pages 19-20). He also ensured division policy modernization continued over the years. Since then, the division remains a strong ally partner with HMM's efforts to end HIV criminalization.



IDOH HIV/STD/Hepatitis Division Directors  
Dennis Stover 2016-2018      Jeremy Turner 2018—Present

We are deeply grateful. **Thank you, Dennis and Jeremy**

## 10 Year Anniversary: Seeds of Advocacy in Indiana

This History Walk traces the evolution and impact of the HIV Modernization Movement—Indiana (HMM). Each month during our 10 year anniversary, we'll be sharing one panel from the History Walk. We'll have the entire History Walk on display at our Zero HIV Stigma Day Event on July 21.

Between 2003 and 2015, the foundation for HIV criminal law reform in Indiana began to take shape.

By 2013, public education efforts intensified. Dr. Carrie Foote delivered her first major presentation on the criminal treatment of people living with HIV at an IUPUI World AIDS Day event.

Momentum continued in 2015 as advocates hosted one of the first large-scale provider education events on Indiana's HIV criminal laws, drawing strong participation and sparking deeper engagement across the state.

These early years planted the seeds of today's modernization movement shifting

### 2003-2015

- 2003-2005.** IDOH and HIV service providers began using stigmatizing, legally inaccurate "Duty to Warn" forms to inform PLHIV about Indiana's HIV criminal laws. Decades later, research revealed these forms were used to incriminate PLHIV under these laws.
- 2003-2012.** After nearly a decade of advocacy and research on the reproductive rights of PLHIV, Dr. Carrie learns about the criminalization of HIV in cases involving pregnancy and breastfeeding. This discovery leads her to uncover broader issues within Indiana's legal framework and motivates her to begin advocating on the issue.
- Nov 21, 2013.** Dr. Carrie's inaugural presentation, titled "When Sex is a Crime and Spit A Deadly Weapon: the Criminal Treatment of PLHIV" at IUPUI World AIDS Day Event hosted by the IUPUI Office of Student Involvement and Center for Service Learning.
- Sep 2014** First presentation to a community group takes place -- the CAG (Community Action HIV Groups).
- 2013-2014.** HEA 1006 Overhauls the HIV criminal Code, decriminalizing some penalties and relocation of some of the HIV criminal laws to a new section, *Crimes Against Public Health*.
- Dec 3, 2015.** The Damien Center, led by Tom Bartenbach and Dr. Carrie, hosted its inaugural Lunch and Learn on Indiana HIV criminal laws with speakers Sean Strub and Scott Schottes, drawing over 30 providers. While IDOH HIV leadership barred staff from attending, they sent their Legislative Manager to represent the division. That evening, Dr. Carrie's AIDS and Society class hosted a World AIDS presentation on campus featuring Sean Strub.



HMM History Walk: Seeds of Advocacy: Dr. Carrie Foote Exposes HIV Criminalization and Launches Indiana reform efforts with education around the issue.

Click on the thumbnail to see the poster

today's modernization movement, shifting the conversation from stigma and misinformation toward research, education, and reform.

Click on the thumbnail to enlarge the poster or [click here](#).

We are running a **10 Year Anniversary Fundraising Campaign** to raise **\$10,000**. We now offer a monthly subscription option, and invite you to consider making a regular contribution of \$10, \$25 or whatever you can afford. [Click here to make a contribution today](#)

Donate to HMM Today!

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## To Be Free: World Premiere



In recognition of the fifth annual HIV Is Not A Crime Awareness Day, the Sero Project announces the premiere of **To Be Free**, a new documentary produced with funding from Gilead Sciences.

The 35-minute film premiered on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, followed by a 25-minute talk-back discussion featuring Lashanda Salinas of Hartsville, Michelle Anderson of Memphis, and Nathan Cisneros of the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law.

[Watch here!](#)

Watch Here!

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## Williams Institute Report: Racial Disparities in HIV Criminalization

A [new Williams Institute brief](#) highlights how HIV criminalization sits at the intersection of two overlapping crises in the United States: **the HIV epidemic and mass incarceration**. Both

disproportionately impact Black Americans, compounding the risk of criminalization for Black people living with HIV.

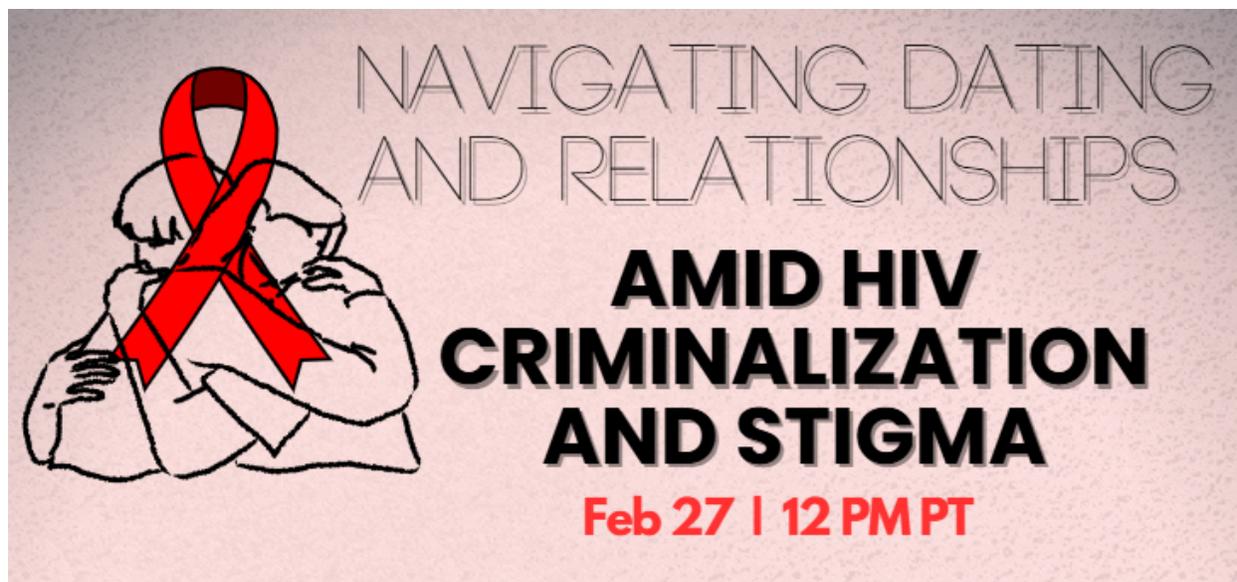
Black Americans make up about 12 percent of the U.S. population but account for roughly 38 percent of new HIV diagnoses and 39 percent of people living with HIV. They are less likely to be linked to care, virally suppressed, or able to access PrEP and health insurance. At the same time, Black communities face higher rates of police stops, arrests, harsher sentences, and incarceration.

As of the end of 2025, 32 states still criminalize people living with HIV, often without requiring intent or actual transmission. In an analysis of 16 states, **Black Americans were arrested and convicted for HIV-related allegations at rates** higher than their share of the population and, in most states, higher than their share of people living with HIV. They were also more likely to face severe post-conviction penalties, including sex offender registration.

The brief concludes that HIV criminalization reinforces existing racial inequities in health care and the legal system and calls for reforms grounded in public health rather than punishment.

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## Navigating Dating & Relationships Amid HIV Criminalization and Stigma



To transform the AIDS response, stigma related to laws impacting individuals living with HIV needs a response. **Stigma's negative impact on individuals and communities related to HIV disclosure, HIV criminalization, HIV treatment and prevention efforts and HIV research run deep.** As part of HIV is Not a Crime Awareness Day 2026, the Office of HIV/AIDS Network Coordination is hosting the [second webinar in a series featuring the voices of individuals who have been impacted by HIV-related stigma.](#)

Join DeKeitra Griffin, Jahn Jaramillo and Vanessa Leja on February 27, 2026, as part of a moderated webinar where they will share their insights on HIV criminalization laws, disclosure, the impact of stigma and how we can individually and collectively transform the AIDS response.

Register

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## HMM Out and About

HMM was at the Love Yourself Testing and Resource Fair, hosted by Damien Center Underground. We also tabled at the LGBTQ+ day at the Statehouse.



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## Where will HMM be?

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

- Feb 27 Muncie PLHIV Social (Presenting)
  - Feb 26 Health+ Board, South Bend (Presenting)
  - Feb 28 [HIV Is Not A Crime Day](#)
  - Mar 6 NAMI Criminal Justice Summit (Tabling)
  - Mar 11 Damien Center Staff (Presenting)
  - Mar 16-18 [AIDS Watch 2026](#)
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## What action can you take to help?

- [Join our Pull Quote Campaign](#) to give your voice to our ongoing media campaign (social media and printed media) to help bring awareness of our goal to modernize Indiana's HIV criminal laws. As an important voice in our community, we would like to include you in our campaign. We have an easy template - [click here to check it out](#).
- 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).
- **Sign on to our General Petition.** Click the button below to [take action](#) now if you haven't already! 😊

Take Action

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## Online Learning about HIV Criminalization Reform

- [HIV Disclosure 201](#) - best practises for disclosure in light of our Duty To Inform Laws
- [Indiana Research on Bodily Fluid/Waste Laws](#) - Dr. Carrie summarizes key findings from the Enforcement of Indiana's Body Fluid/Waste Enhancement Laws report
- [Duty to Inform - What Public Defenders Need to Know](#): Indiana revised its HIV disclosure law in 2020 to limit criminal liability to situations involving CDC-defined "significant risk" activity. The video looks at early research on how this updated standard is working in real-world cases.

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## 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!](#)
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## 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 running a **10 Year Anniversary Fundraising Campaign** to raise **\$10,000**. We now offer a monthly subscription option, and invite you to consider making a regular contribution of \$10, \$25 or whatever you can afford. [Click here to make a contribution today](#) or scan the QR code below. Funding is critical to sustain our movement and helps:

- Support modest stipends for People living with HIV HMM leaders and advocates
- Funds education, outreach, and statewide advocacy events
- Covers essential tools like outreach materials and website management

Thank you! Every little bit helps.

Donate



**HMM-Indiana** is a network led by people living with HIV, working to **modernize Indiana's HIV criminal laws and related health codes.** Your donation directly supports advocacy, education, and community leadership. **Every contribution helps strengthen the movement.**



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## Connect with Us!



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Sent via [ActionNetwork.org](https://ActionNetwork.org). To update your email address, change your name or address, or to stop receiving emails from HIV Modernization Movement - Indiana, please [click here](#).