

# HIV CRIMINALIZATION IN THE UNITED STATES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE VARIETY AND PREVALENCE OF LAWS USED TO PROSECUTE AND PUNISH PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV (PLHIV) IN THE US.

LEARN MORE AT [HIVLAWANDPOLICY.ORG](https://www.hivlawandpolicy.org)



**6 STATES MAY REQUIRE REGISTRATION AS A SEX OFFENDER** as part of the punishment under HIV-specific laws

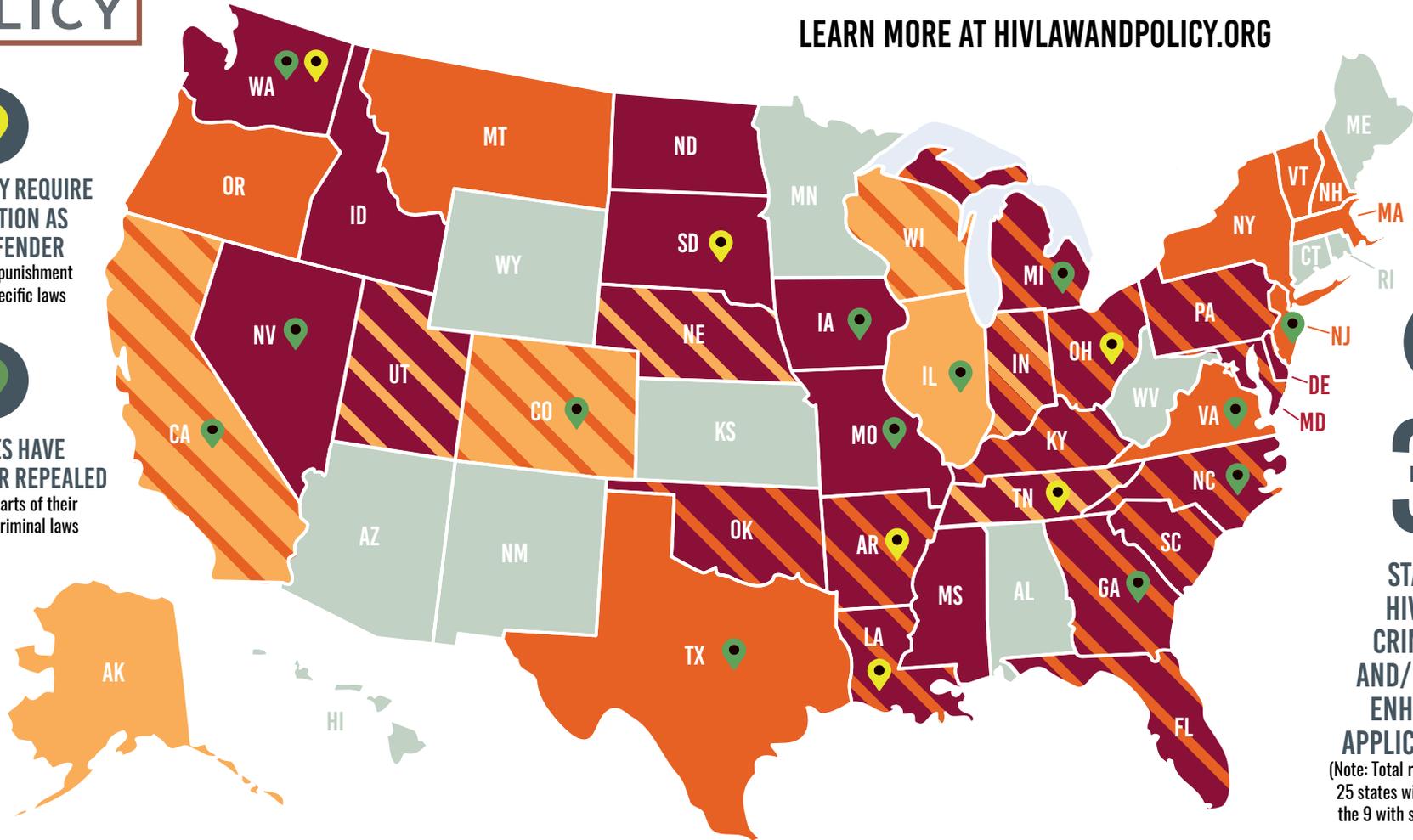


**13 STATES HAVE REFORMED OR REPEALED** one or more parts of their HIV-specific criminal laws



**30**

**STATES HAVE HIV-SPECIFIC CRIMINAL LAWS AND/OR SENTENCE ENHANCEMENTS APPLICABLE TO PLHIV**  
(Note: Total reflects overlap among the 25 states with HIV-specific laws and the 9 with sentence enhancements.)



**STATES WITH HIV-SPECIFIC CRIMINAL LAWS**  
including laws targeting sex/non-disclosure, exposure to bodily fluids, needle-sharing, sex work, and blood/organ/semen donation



**STATES WITH SENTENCING ENHANCEMENTS**  
applicable to PLHIV who commit an underlying sexual assault crime.



**STATES THAT HAVE PROSECUTED PLHIV UNDER NON-HIV-SPECIFIC, GENERAL CRIMINAL LAWS**  
This number represents states with reported charges and/or convictions for non-HIV-specific offenses, where positive HIV status was relevant in establishing a (non-HIV-specific) element of the offense.