

# 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://hivlawandpolicy.org)

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

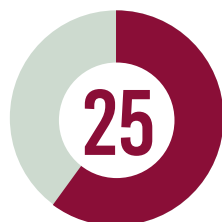
  
**12 STATES HAVE  
REFORMED OR REPEALED**  
one or more parts of their  
HIV-specific criminal laws



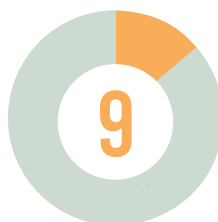
**30**

**STATES HAVE  
HIV-SPECIFIC  
CRIMINAL LAWS  
AND/OR SENTENCE  
ENHANCEMENTS  
APPLICABLE TO PLHIV**

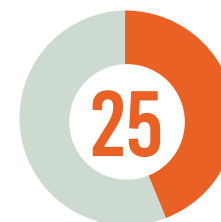
(Note: Total reflects overlap among the 25 states with HIV-specific laws and the 9 with sentence enhancements.)



**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.