

HIV CRIMINALIZATION IN OHIO



UNJUST

In Ohio, a person living with HIV can go to prison for 8 years for not disclosing their status before engaging in sexual conduct, even when they did not intend to harm anyone and no harm resulted. This is more severe punishment than for reckless homicide, sexual battery or arson.



UNPRODUCTIVE

There is no evidence that HIV criminal laws promote public health by increasing disclosure, HIV testing, or safer sex. At the same time, by singling out one disease, Ohio's law stigmatizes and marginalizes people living with HIV, which undercuts an effective response to the epidemic.



UNSCIENTIFIC



Ohio's laws punish behavior that poses no or negligible risk of HIV transmission, such as oral sex, spitting, and sex with condoms or while on effective treatment. The laws incorrectly assume an HIV diagnosis is a "death sentence," when in reality, it is a manageable medical condition. A person in treatment can have a near normal life expectancy.

UNSUPPORTED



Ohio's HIV laws are opposed by public health and criminal justice experts, such as the ACLU of Ohio, the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD), and the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

GET INVOLVED

If you'd like to find out more or want to get involved with Ohio advocates who are working to change the law visit www.OHmodernizenow.org.



The Ohio Health Modernization Movement (OHMM) is a coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to ending the criminalization of HIV in Ohio.

Our mission is to mobilize a broad coalition, including individuals and communities who are disproportionately impacted by HIV, to replace fear-based, stigmatizing laws that criminalize HIV-status with evidence-based, nondiscriminatory laws that protect public health.



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