

Enforcement disparately targets people who have historically been marginalized from HIV prevention and care services, especially people who are Black, brown, women, LGBTQ+, and working class. However, campaigns to decriminalize HIV have achieved recent success in the United States.



MOREOVER, PROGRESS HAS OCCURRED IN DIVERSE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SETTINGS, WITH ADVOCATES USING DISTINCT MESSAGING TO REACH DECISION-MAKERS AND THE PUBLIC.



Many of these efforts have relied on coordinated, long-term strategizing through coalitions, which bring together people with lived experience and clinicians, public health professionals, activists, and attorneys. These efforts have relied on multidisciplinary education and advocacy efforts, including support for people impacted and at risk of criminalization, public announcements, and legal interventions. These campaigns also push for decriminalization alongside expanded access to HIV prevention and treatment efforts, emphasizing the barriers to care posed by criminalization.

➡ **THESE CAMPAIGNS SHOW THAT DECRIMINALIZING HIV** broadens access to HIV prevention, care, and support, especially among marginalized communities.

➡ **CLINICIANS, PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, AND POLICYMAKERS**, should pursue HIV decriminalization as a way to reduce new HIV transmissions and improve the health and well-being of PLHIV.

Dispel myths and educate about modern HIV science



Build trust and credibility within community



Identify champions
and mobilize
communities to
contact legislators

RESEARCH SUGGESTS REDUCTIONS IN CRIMINAL LEGAL INVOLVEMENT of PLHIV and increased engagement in HIV services and care. For example, multifaceted efforts in California were associated with increased HIV testing engagement.



FINDINGS EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF CONNECTING HIV DECRIMINALIZATION TO IMPROVED PUBLIC HEALTH
and the possibilities for decriminalization within difficult political and social settings.



COALITIONS OFFER AN EFFECTIVE SPACE FOR ORGANIZING ADVOCATES with distinct backgrounds and leveraging collective power to sustain change efforts.

