Black Americans make up 13% of the population, 40% of people living with HIV, and 33% of people incarcerated in jails and prisons.

In 2019, 32 states had laws that criminalize HIV. HIV criminalization refers to laws that criminalize otherwise legal conduct or that increase punishments based solely on a person’s HIV-positive status. Many laws do not require transmission and may even criminalize conduct that could never lead to transmission.
Black Americans are more likely to be **arrested** for HIV-related offenses.

Black people make up nearly \(\frac{3}{4}\) of HIV-related convictions in Georgia.

Black Americans are also more likely to be **convicted** of HIV-related crimes.
Many state HIV criminalization laws target **sex workers**, contributing to a disproportionate impact on **Black women**.

In Missouri, one Black man has been arrested for an HIV-related offense for every 43 Black men living with HIV.

**Black men** confront **over-policing** and high rates of HIV-related arrests.
The effects of HIV criminalization can last a lifetime.

In many states, HIV crimes turn misdemeanors into felonies with prison sentences. Felony convictions impact a person’s ability to vote and find a job. In some states, HIV crimes also require sex offender registration, including public notification about their HIV status.