

## BACKGROUND

- In 2017, 37 states had laws penalizing persons with HIV (PWH) for sexual or no-risk behavior (e.g., spitting)
- HIV laws are unrelated to reductions in HIV diagnoses or risk behaviors; most citizens are unaware of them
- Such laws may mirror stigmatizing community attitudes, interfering with effective HIV prevention strategies
- Black men are disproportionately arrested under HIV laws

## OBJECTIVE

To assess the relationship between state HIV laws and how men who have sex with men (MSM) think their community views people with HIV, stratified by race/ethnicity

## METHODS

- National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) used venue-based sampling to survey MSM in 23 U.S. cities in 2017
- States' law status was defined as having any HIV criminalization law as of June 2017
- Data weighted to account for sampling biases
- State HIV law status compared to demographic & stigma using Rao-Scott chi-square tests
- Multivariate models compared stigma between MSM in states with vs. without laws to obtain adjusted prevalence ratios (aPR) and 95% CI, stratified by race/ethnicity
  - Adjusted for age, education, HIV status, past incarceration, & community's intolerance of gay/bisexual men

## COMMUNITY STIGMA

"People in my community would..."

- Discriminate against people with HIV
- Not support the rights of people with HIV
- Not be friends with people with HIV
- Believe people with HIV 'got what they deserved'

1 (strongly disagree) – 5 (strongly agree)

## RESULTS

- 68.6% of Black MSM live in a state with HIV laws, more than any other racial/ethnic group
  - Overall N=10,098
- Black MSM reported higher stigma than white MSM
- Black MSM in states with HIV laws more likely to say their community would **discriminate against PWH** and believe that **HIV was deserved punishment**
  - Compared to Black MSM in states without HIV laws

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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# 2 in 3 Black MSM live in a state with HIV criminalization laws.



# Laws are associated with HIV stigma for Black MSM.

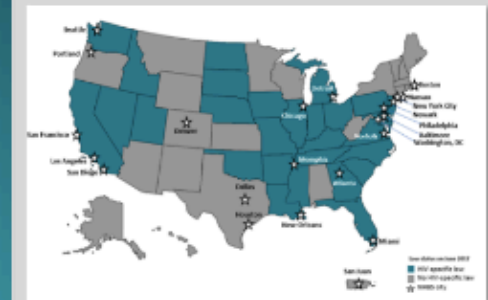
# States may consider reforming/repealing laws...



# ...and focus on evidence-based prevention strategies.



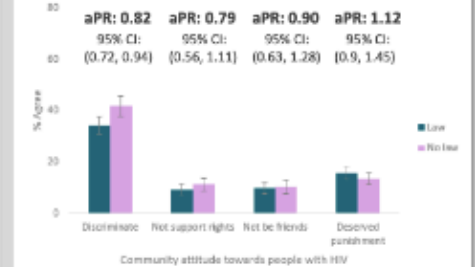
## WHICH STATES HAD HIV LAWS?



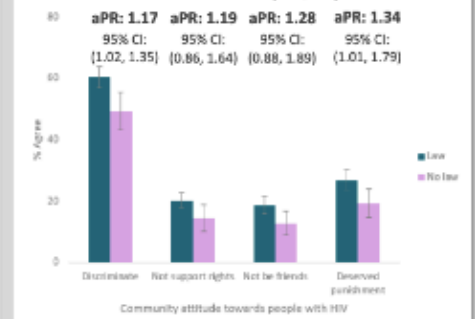
Source: The Center for HIV Law & Policy. Current as of June 2017

## STIGMA, LAWS, & RACE

White MSM report similar stigma in states with vs. without HIV laws (n=3,548)



Black MSM report higher stigma in states with vs. without HIV laws (n=3,021)



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