

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/writing-for-digital-news-about-hiv-criminalization-in-canada/>

This video discusses the issue of HIV criminalization in Canada, highlighting that the country is a leader in prosecuting individuals living with HIV for non-disclosure, an approach that is deemed harmful to human rights and public health. Activists, particularly from African, Caribbean, and Black communities, have raised concerns about the stigmatizing representation of HIV in mainstream media. A project initiated in 2017 sought to analyze news articles from 1989 to 2017 about this issue, revealing discriminatory portrayals and over-representation of marginalized communities as public health threats.

The project aimed to engage journalists and understand how narratives around HIV criminalization are constructed in newsrooms, focusing on how media reporting often relies on police communications, thus perpetuating harmful stereotypes and limiting nuanced understanding. Although challenges exist in changing the dominant crime narrative, activists are developing strategies to create counter-discourses and build solidarity across various movements advocating for more accurate media representation.

The findings emphasize the detrimental impact of reduced resources in journalism, which compromises the quality of news and its role in addressing public health and social issues. Ensuring sound, in-depth reporting is critical for informed responses to current crises.