Finger-Pointing in Russia

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Russian lawmakers do not have their fingers on the pulse of HIV prevention. A proposed bill requires all people living with the virus—including foreign visitors—to be fingerprinted for a national database. In fact, the bill requires all residents to be fingerprinted. Critics say it's unaffordable and unjustifiable. Meanwhile, a virulent strain of the virus is spreading in that country, where nearly 58 percent of the HIV population acquires it through injection drug use. However, Russian leaders distrust proven harm reduction tactics, which they associate with the West. As a result, they've banned methadone treatment for addicts and refused to fund needle exchange programs.

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