Then There Were None

South Carolina ends HIV segregation in prison.

September 25, 2013 By Trent Straube

Good news: The South Carolina Department of Corrections announced in July that it will no longer segregate prisoners who have HIV. Until now, these inmates—currently including 600 men and 40 women—were forced to wear badges indicating their status; they also had to live in HIV-only dorms and were excluded from attaining work release programs and eating in dining halls with other prisoners. Last year, Margaret Winter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) won a lawsuit that terminated Alabama's prison segregation. She predicted that South Carolina, the only remaining state with such a policy, would voluntarily change course—and she was right. Ending segregation, writes Winter, "will have a powerful affirmative effect on the community as a whole, by breaking down deeply rooted HIV prejudice."

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