

EXPUNGEMENT INITIATIVE UPDATE

30 DAY REPORT
CAMPAIGN DATES SEPT 16 - OCT 15

Thank you for supporting our virtual initiative for Automatic Expungement in NY State. The purpose of this initiative was to discover how well informed NY residents are about automatic expungement and to provide resources to support expungement related questions. This report outlines our findings.

WHAT WE LEARNED

NYC Resident Knowledge

While the majority of respondent were NY State residents, only 35% of respondents were actually charged for cannabis related convictions in NY. Respondents were generally aware of automatic expungement, but unclear on what steps to take and how it would affect their respective charges. Our goal was to understand the needs for this community. Below are our findings and suggestions.

Issues Facing NY Residents

NY residents need broader access to expungement clinics. While expungement is automatic, there are still many unknowns. Covid may have contributed negatively to expungement clinic awareness and in-person efforts.

NY Residents Need Clarity

While NY residents represented the majority of respondents, there was a lack of clarity around expungement based on the state in which the offense occurred.

Reducing the Stigma

Educating people on how expungement works, providing visibility around timelines and the available resources may reduce the shame and uncertainty around expungement.

MOVING FORWARD

A more targeted effort is required to help NY residents understand automatic expungement. Our agency matched qualified individuals with firms and community organizations but the pipelines for resources are broken.

Digital efforts play an important role in educating the population on automatic expungement and additional resources. Ongoing initiatives are necessary to keep New Yorkers informed about the process and manage expectations.

BY THE NUMBERS

94%

of people surveyed believe they need help having a record expunged in New York State

80%

of respondents had not previously attended an expungement clinic

70%

of respondents had outstanding issues with an attempted expungement including:

- the expungement not being processed
- not qualifying for automatic expungement and
- an expunged conviction remaining on their record

80%

of respondents said they need financial assistance with expungement

40%

of convictions occurred in the last 10 years

30%

of respondent incurred an additional charge after their initial offense

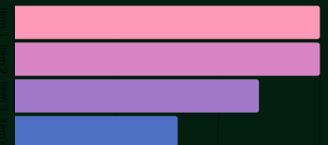
AGE DEMOGRAPHICS

30% of respondents were 25-34

30% were 35-44 years old

24% were over 55

16% were 45 - 54



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