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EXPUNGEMENT DOCUMENTS ENTERED 7/1/2016 – 12/31/2022 STATEWIDE

January 26, 2023

Statistics Request Overall Description

On December 15, 2022, the League of Women Voters requested a report on expungements entered since July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2022 for the annual report. An additional request on January 20, 2023 was made for the report to be limited to only Circuit Court Criminal Cases (CR).

CourtNet, which provides a summary of Kentucky court cases statewide, was queried for the specific document codes for the petitions and applications for expungement documents (PEXC, AFEX, PEXA, OAE, or PEX) which were entered within criminal cases July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2022 statewide. Those cases were then queried to see if an order to grant or deny expungement exists, documents (OFXG, OFXD, OEXG, OEXD, OG or OD), through the date this report was generated, January 19, 2022. CourtNet was also queried for automatic expungement documents (OAE or DOE) entered statewide for the same timeframe. The additional query was made to limit the report down to only Circuit Criminal Cases (CR) (pages 19-28 of PDF report).

1. Expungement for Felony Conviction

Expungement for class D felony convictions and executive pardons in KRS 431.0731

The felony conviction expungement law (2016 HB40), which came into effect on July 15, 2016, created a process for the expungement of class D felony convictions and for offenses that receive executive pardons.

The felony conviction expungement process has three court documents:

- AFEX is used for the application for such expungements of felony convictions.
- **OFXG** is used when such expungements are granted
- **OFXD** is used when such expungements are denied

2. Expungement

Expungement of convictions for misdemeanor, violation and traffic infraction KRS 431.078² Expungement of charges acquitted or dismissed without prejudice 431.076(1)(b) and Expungement of felony charges in District Court not resulting in indictment 431.076 (1)(c)³

¹ See KRS 431.073 (2016 HB 40) at https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=49358

² See KRS 431.078 at https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=45221

³ See KRS 431.076 (1)(b) & (c) https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=50191

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The process that allows petition for the expungement of conviction for certain misdemeanors or traffic violations and infractions (including dismissed or amended charges), for the expungement of criminal offense charges acquitted or dismissed *without prejudice*, and for the expungement of felony charges in District Court not resulting in indictment.

- **PEXA** document applies to the expungement of a criminal charge that was not disposed as a conviction including felony charges in district court not resulting in indictment.
- **PEXC** pertains to expungement of a convicted misdemeanor, violation, or infraction.
- **PEX** prior code to PEXA and PEXC, may currently still be used erroneously.
- **OEXG/OEX** document is used to indicate the granting of either expungement petition.
- **OEXD** document is used to indicate the denial of either expungement petition.

3. Automatic Expungement

Automatic expungement process in KRS 431.076 (1)(a)⁴

The automatic expungement law (2020 HB 327), which came into effect on July 15, 2020, requires an automatic expungement of records upon the expiration of thirty (30 days) days after a court enters an order of acquittal of criminal charges against a person or enters an order dismissing with prejudice all criminal charges in a case against a person (not in exchange for a guilty plea to another charge), unless the person objects to the expungement. Traffic infractions not otherwise classified as a misdemeanor are not eligible for automatic expungement. A petition is not required by the person.

- OAE document is used when a charge is automatically expunged under KRS 431.076(1)(a).
- DOE document When a person objects to the automatic expungement process.

Expungement Process	Petition/Application Document Codes	Grant/Deny/Objection Document Codes
Expungement for Felony Convictions KRS 431.073	(AFEX) Application to Vacate and Expunge Felony Conviction	(OFXG) Order Felony Expungement Granted (OFXD) Order Felony Expungement Denied
Expungement for Convictions for misdemeanor, violation and traffic infraction KRS 431.078, Charges acquitted or dismissed without prejudice KRS 431.076 (1)(b), and	(PEXA) Petition to Expunge Acquittal (applies to charges acquitted, dismissed without prejudice, and felony charges in District Court not resulting in indictment).	(OEX) Order for Expungement (OEXG) Order Granting Expungement (OEXD) Order Denying Expungement
Felony charges in District Court not resulting in indictment KRS 431.076(1)(c)	(PEXC) Petition for Expungement of Conviction (Misdemeanor, Violation, or Traffic Infraction). (PEX) Petition for Expungement prior code to PEXA and PEXC, may currently still be used erroneously.	

⁴ See KRS 431.076 (1)(a) (2020 HB 327) at https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=50191

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Statistics Request Overall Description										
Automatic Expungement	No petition/application needs to be filed.	(OAE) Order Granting of Automatic								
KRS 431.076(1)(a)		Expungement								
(applies to cases with all	Note: This process began in CY 2020 and	(DOE) Order of Defendant's Objection to								
charges acquitted or dismissed	will not appear in the count of petition	Expungement								
with prejudice.)	documents for prior calendar years.									

Statistical Table (22_RS3007)

The statistical report provides a count of distinct cases per expungement process type based on the application/petition entered during each calendar year 2016 - 2022 (7/1/2016 - 12/31/202). The cases are then checked for an order granting/denying occurring after the application/petition date. The order may occur within the same year or a different calendar year than the application/petition date up until the date the report was generated as of January 19, 2023.

Pages 1-12 provides statewide expungement information:

Table 1: Provides statewide distinct case counts sorted by jurisdiction, by application/petition type and whether the case has an order to "grant or deny" the expungement. The application/petition type is based on the last entered application/petition document code entered within the case as of the report generation date. The order granting/denying is pulled by looking for the first order document occurring after the date of the last application/petition date. Currently there is no link between the application/petition document to the order granting/denying. The last column contains cases with no application/petition document. Without knowing the application/petition type, these cases cannot be sorted by expungement process type (see Table 3).

Table 2: Provides statewide distinct case of automatic expungements counts sorted by jurisdiction; no petition/application needs to be filed. Note: This process began in CY 2020 and will not appear in the count of cases for prior calendar years.

Table 3: provides those cases from the last column (**Table 1**) further sorted by jurisdiction, case category and by the last document type code for the order granting/denying within the case.

- A large portion of these cases may be part of diversion agreements which may not have required a petition.
- A single expungement order of a felony conviction may apply to both a Circuit Criminal case and a District Felony case pertaining to the same defendant and incident.

 Table 4: Same as described in Table 1, additionally sorted by each calendar year.

Table 5: Same as described in Table 2, additionally sorted by each calendar year.

Table 6: Same as described in Table 3, additionally sorted by each calendar year.

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Statistical Table (22 RS3007)

Table 7: Same as described in Table 1, additionally sorted by each defendant's gender and race.

Table 8: Same as described in Table 2, additionally sorted by each defendant's gender and race.

Table 9: Same as described in Table 3, additionally sorted by each defendant's gender and race.

Chart 1: Provides the percentage of cases with "granted" and "denied" expungements sorted by jurisdiction and expungement application/petition type.

Map 1: Provides a map of Kentucky containing summary counts of Circuit Court "CR" cases having granted applications for felony expungements (AFEX) per Supreme Court District.

Map 2: Provides a map of Kentucky containing summary counts of Circuit Court "CR" cases having granted applications for felony expungements (AFEX) per county.

Map 3: Provides a map of Kentucky containing summary counts of Circuit Court "CR" cases having granted petitions for expungements of convictions (PEXC) per Supreme Court District.

Map 4: Provides a map of Kentucky containing summary counts of Circuit Court "CR" cases having granted petitions for expungements of convictions (PEXC) per county.

Map 5: Provides a map of Kentucky containing summary counts of "T, M & F" cases having granted petitions for expungements of convictions (PEXC) sorted by each Supreme Court District.

Map 6: Provides a map of Kentucky containing summary counts of "T, M & F" cases having granted petitions for expungements of convictions (PEXC) sorted by district and county.

Statistical Analysis Considerations:

- ➤ The statistics presented in the attached tables are a snapshot in time, as of January 26, 2022.
- Order denying (OD) and Order Granting (OG) document codes may currently still be used erroneously.
- > Some instances of cases have a petition/application to expunge but do not have an order granting or denying. If the case appears as an "EX" case type, then the case is counted in the orders "granted" category. Cases which show no indication of being expunged are included in the "denied" category.

Data Vari	ables Requested	
Database	Data Variable	Description
CourtNet	Calendar Year (CY)	The calendar year (January 1 through December 31) in which each document was entered. This report is for the timeframe of 7/1/2016 through 12/31/2022.
	Jurisdiction	The jurisdiction in which the case associated with a given document was entered (Circuit or District Court).
	Case Category	A sorting hierarchy used to sort cases at a high level. The case category is defined by a one- or two-letter code within the case

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Data Variables Requested	
	number along with the case type. The second report is limited to only Circuit Court CR cases.
Document Type	The type of document counted, indicated by code (see document type code descriptions above).
Expungement Process	Distinguishes documents related to the various expungement processes available in Kentucky:
	 Expungement for Felony Conviction Expungement for class D felony convictions and executive pardons in KRS 431.073 Expungement Expungement of convictions for misdemeanor, violation and traffic infraction KRS 431.078
	 Expungement of charges acquitted or dismissed without prejudice 431.076(1)(b) and Expungement of felony charges in District Court not resulting in indictment 431.076 (1)(c) Automatic Expungement Automatic expungement process in KRS 431.076 (1)(a)
Document Group	Distinguishes petition documents (AFEX, PEXA, PEXC), documents of expungement order granted (OFXG, OEXG, OAE), documents of expungement order denied (OFXD, OEXD) and objection to automatic expungement process (DOE).
Documents Cases	A count of the total number of documents entered. The total number of distinct cases referenced in any of these documents.

Disclaimer Associated with KCOJ/AOC Database(s) and Element(s)

RESEARCH AND STATISTICS DISCLAIMER

Information received from KYCourts/CourtNet is subject to change(s), reprogramming, modification(s) of format and availability at the direction of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), and may not at any particular moment reflect the true status of court cases due to ordinary limitation(s), delay(s) or error(s) in the system's operation. The KYCourts/CourtNet database is not a real-time system. All datasets are a snapshot of case data at the time a query is run. Case counts are not counts of individuals as some persons may have multiple cases.

The AOC disclaims any warranties as to the validity of the information obtained from KYCourts/CourtNet. The recipient is solely responsible for verifying information received from KYCourtS/CourtNet through the cross-referencing of official court records. The AOC shall not be liable to the recipient, or to any third party using the system or information obtained therefrom, for any damages whatsoever arising out of the use of KYCourtS/CourtNet.

Table 1: Cases by Expungement Process

		Application to Vacate and Expunge Felony Conviction (AFEX)		Expunge Felony Conviction Petition For Expungement Petition to Expunge		Petition to Exp	ounge (PEX)	Cases with Order Grant/Deny with No Application/Petition		Grand Total			
		Cases	% Cases	Cases	% Cases	Cases	% Cases	Cases	% Cases	Cases	% Cases	Cases	% Cases
CIRCUIT	Granted	3,793	85%	991	87%	4,956	91%	174	93%	1,343	97%	11,257	89%
	Denied	685	15%	142	13%	463	9%	14	7%	41	3%	1,345	11%
	Total	4,478	100%	1,133	100%	5,419	100%	188	100%	1,384	100%	12,602	100%
DISTRICT	Granted	85	84%	22,840	93%	34,994	90%	2,349	96%	23,294	100%	83,562	93%
	Denied	16	16%	1,788	7%	4,034	10%	103	4%	109	0%	6,050	7%
	Total	101	100%	24,628	100%	39,028	100%	2,452	100%	23,403	100%	89,612	100%
Grand Tot	tal	4,579	100%	25,761	100%	44,447	100%	2,640	100%	24,787	100%	102,214	100%

Table 2: Automatic Expungement Process

	Automatic Expungements (OAE)						
	Cases	% Cases					
CIRCUIT	4,099	16%					
DISTRICT	21,845	84%					
Grand Total	25,944	100%					

 Table 3: Cases with Order to Grant/Deny Expungement with No Application/Petition

		Case	s with Orde	r Grant/Deny v	with No App	lication/Peti	tion			
		Granted			Denied					
	OEXG &							Total		
	OEX	OFXG	Total	DOE	OEXD	OFXD	Total			
CIRCUIT	1,034	309	1,343		22	19	41	1,384		
DISTRICT	22,569	725	23,294	1	105	3	109	23,403		
Grand Total	23,603	1,034	24,637	1	127	22	150	24,787		

^{*}Data is provided from the CourtNet database.

^{*}The automatic expungement process does not require the filing of a petition and will not appear in the count of petition documents.

^{*} Orders granting/denying expungements through 1/19/2023.

^{*} Some instances of cases have a petition/application to expunge but do not have an order granting or denying. If the case appears as an "EX" case type, then the case is counted in the orders "granted" category. Cases which show no indication of being expunged are included in the "denied" category.

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Table 4: Cases by Expungement Process per CY (last petition/order date within each case)

			Application and Expund	ge Felony	Expunger	Convictions (PEXC)		Petition to Expunge Acquittal (PEXA)		Petition to Expunge (PEX)		h Order with No Petition	Grand Total	
			Cases	% Cases	Cases	% Cases	Cases	% Cases	Cases	% Cases	Cases	% Cases	Cases	% Cases
CIRCUIT	2017	Granted	583	89%	169	88%	774	94%	38	100%	235	96%	1,799	92%
		Denied	75	11%	24	12%	50	6%			11	4%	160	8%
	2018	Granted	433	87%	149	86%	751	89%	18	90%	239	97%	1,590	89%
		Denied	67	13%	24	14%	91	11%	2	10%	7	3%	191	11%
	2019	Granted	620	88%	194	93%	971	94%	34	100%	172	97%	1,991	93%
		Denied	81	12%	14	7%	58	6%			6	3%	159	7%
	2020	Granted	888	89%	204	90%	986	95%	19	100%	192	96%	2,289	92%
		Denied	112	11%	22	10%	52	5%			9	4%	195	8%
	2021	Granted	731	88%	138	86%	819	92%	46	92%	241	100%	1,975	91%
		Denied	99	12%	22	14%	67	8%	4	8%	1	0%	193	9%
	2022	Granted	538	68%	137	79%	655	82%	19	70%	264	97%	1,613	78%
		Denied	251	32%	36	21%	145	18%	8	30%	7	3%	447	22%
	Total		4,478	100%	1,133	100%	5,419	100%	188	100%	1,384	100%	12,602	100%
DISTRICT	2017	Granted	9	100%	3,772	94%	5,651	92%	568	94%	4,580	99%	14,580	95%
		Denied			239	6%	490	8%	36	6%	25	1%	790	5%
	2018	Granted	2	67%	3,702	93%	6,067	91%	439	97%	4,106	100%	14,316	94%
		Denied	1	33%	275	7%	601	9%	12	3%	17	0%	906	6%
	2019	Granted	14	93%	4,174	94%	7,478	92%	431	97%	3,429	99%	15,526	94%
		Denied	1	7%	290	6%	644	8%	12	3%	20	1%	967	6%
	2020	Granted	28	88%	4,101	94%	6,489	92%	395	96%	2,521	100%	13,534	94%
		Denied	4	13%	250	6%	528	8%	15	4%	9	0%	806	6%
	2021	Granted	21	81%	3,133	96%	4,557	95%	294	96%	4,005	99%	12,010	97%
		Denied	5	19%	133	4%	258	5%	13	4%	26	1%	435	3%
	2022	Granted	11	69%	3,958	87%	4,752	76%	222	94%	4,653	100%	13,596	86%
		Denied	5	31%	601	13%	1,513	24%	15	6%	12	0%	2,146	14%
	Total		101	100%	24,628	100%	39,028	100%	2,452	100%	23,403	100%	89,612	100%
Grand To	tal		4,579	100%	25,761	100%	44,447	100%	2,640	100%	24,787	100%	102,214	100%

^{*}Data is provided from the CourtNet database.

^{*}The automatic expungement process does not require the filing of a petition and will not appear in the count of petition documents.

^{*} Orders granting/denying expungements through 1/19/2023.

^{*} Some instances of cases have a petition/application to expunge but do not have an order granting or denying. If the case appears as an "EX" case type, then the case is counted in the orders "granted" category. Cases which show no indication of being expunged are included in the "denied" category.



Table 5: Automatic Expungement Process per CY (OAE date within the case)

		Automatic Expungements (OAE)	
		Cases	% Cases
CIRCUIT	2020	73	0%
	2021	1,812	7%
	2022	2,214	9%
DISTRICT	2020	2,843	11%
	2021	9,802	38%
	2022	9,200	35%
Grand Total		25,944	100%

Table 6: Cases with Order to Grant/Deny Expungement with No Application/Petition by CY (last order date within case)

				Cases with Ord	er Grant/Deny with I	No Application/Petit	ion		
			Granted			Denied			Total
		OEXG & OEX	OFXG	Total	DOE	OEXD	OFXD	Total	TOLAT
CIRCUIT	2017	176	59	235		4	7	11	246
	2018	178	61	239		3	4	7	246
	2019	132	40	172		3	3	6	178
	2020	141	51	192		5	4	9	201
	2021	188	53	241		1		1	242
	2022	219	45	264		6	1	7	271
	Total	1,034	309	1,343		22	19	41	1,384
DISTRICT	2017	4,523	57	4,580		25		25	4,605
	2018	4,015	91	4,106		15	2	17	4,123
	2019	3,330	99	3,429		20		20	3,449
	2020	2,372	149	2,521		9		9	2,530
	2021	3,837	168	4,005		26		26	4,031
	2022	4,492	161	4,653	1	10	1	12	4,665
	Total	22,569	725	23,294	1	105	3	109	23,403
Grand Total		23,603	1,034	24,637	1	127	22	150	24,787

^{*}Data is provided from the CourtNet database.

^{*}The automatic expungement process does not require the filing of a petition and will not appear in the count of petition documents.

^{*} Orders granting/denying expungements through 1/19/2023.

^{*}Some instances of cases have a petition/application to expunge but do not have an order granting or denying. If the case appears as an "EX" case type, then the case is counted in the orders "granted" category. Cases which show no indication of being expunged are included in the "denied" category.



Table 7: Cases by Expungement Process, Defendant's Gender and Race

				FEMALE			MALE		Unkn	G.,,,,,,,,		
			\A/I=:4-		Asian / Indian / Unknown Race	\A/I=:4-		Asian / Indian / Unknown Race	\M\\-'\-		sian / Indian / Unknown Race	Grand Total
CIRCUIT	Granted	Petition to Expunge Acquittal (PEXA)	White 920	Black 358	212	White 1,411	Black 638	286	White	Black	1,131	4,956
CITCOTT	Grancea	Application to Vacate and Expunge Felony Conviction (AFEX)	536	227	109	1,361	432	258	1		869	3,793
		Cases with Order Grant/Deny with No Application/Petition	234	43	62	470	84	96	4		350	1,343
		Petition For Expungement of Convictions (PEXC)	154	83	36	298	129	66			225	991
		Petition to Expunge (PEX)	34	6	12	63	14	12			33	174
		Total	1,878	717	431	3,603	1,297	718	5		2,608	11,257
	Denied	Application to Vacate and Expunge Felony Conviction (AFEX)	95	53	18	203	121	48			147	685
		Petition to Expunge Acquittal (PEXA)	63	39	20	144	71	24			102	463
		Petition For Expungement of Convictions (PEXC)	19	9	4	54	26	11			19	142
		Cases with Order Grant/Deny with No Application/Petition	8	1		15	4	4			9	41
		Petition to Expunge (PEX)	1			7	1	3			2	14
		Total	186	102	42	423	223	90			279	1,345
	Total		2,064	819	473	4,026	1,520	808	5		2,887	12,602
DISTRICT	Granted	Petition to Expunge Acquittal (PEXA)	8,680	4,380	570	14,192	5,804	787	9	3	569	34,994
		Cases with Order Grant/Deny with No Application/Petition	7,263	1,992	356	10,173	2,692	506	5	1	306	23,294
		Petition For Expungement of Convictions (PEXC)	4,966	2,460	448	10,109	3,385	781	5	1	685	22,840
		Petition to Expunge (PEX)	683	115	76	1,166	151	72	1		85	2,349
		Application to Vacate and Expunge Felony Conviction (AFEX)	18	2	1	47	9	6			2	85
		Total	21,610	8,949	1,451	35,687	12,041	2,152	20	5	1,647	83,562
	Denied	Petition to Expunge Acquittal (PEXA)	821	553	33	1,669	866	65	1		26	4,034
		Petition For Expungement of Convictions (PEXC)	374	234	27	679	420	29		1	24	1,788
		Petition to Expunge (PEX)	27	10	1	54	8	3				103
		Cases with Order Grant/Deny with No Application/Petition	22	20	2	36	23	4			2	109
		Application to Vacate and Expunge Felony Conviction (AFEX)	4	1		10	1					16
		Total	1,248	818	63	2,448	1,318	101	1	1	52	6,050
	Total		22,858	9,767	1,514	38,135	13,359	2,253	21	6	1,699	89,612
Grand To	tal		24,922	10,586	1,987	42,161	14,879	3,061	26	6	4,586	102,214

^{*}Data is provided from the CourtNet database.

^{*}The automatic expungement process does not require the filing of a petition and will not appear in the count of petition documents.

^{*} Orders granting/denying expungements through 1/19/2023.

^{*} Some instances of cases have a petition/application to expunge but do not have an order granting or denying. If the case appears as an "EX" case type, then the case is counted in the orders "granted" category. Cases which show no indication of being expunged are included in the "denied" category.

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Table 8: Automatic Expungement Process by Defendant's Race & Gender

					Automatic Expur	gements (OAE)				
			FEMALE			MALE		Unknown	Gender	
		White	Black	Asian / Indian / Unknown Race	White	Black	Asian / Indian / Unknown Race	White	Asian / Indian / Unknown Race	Grand Total
CIRCUIT	Cases	869	139	146	1,342	340	171		1,092	4,099
	% of Cases	21%	3%	4%	33%	8%	4%		27%	100%
DISTRICT	Cases	6,244	1,992	273	9,505	3,170	499	3	159	21,845
	% of Cases	29%	9%	1%	44%	15%	2%	0%	1%	100%
Grand	Cases	7,113	2,131	419	10,847	3,510	670	3	1,251	25,944
Total	% of Cases	27%	8%	2%	42%	14%	3%	0%	5%	100%

Table 9: Cases with Order to Grant/Deny Expungement with No Application/Petition by Defendant's Race & Gender

			Cases with Order Grant/Deny with No Application/Petition			
			White	Black	Asian / Indian / Unknown Race	Total
CIRCUIT	Granted	OEXG & OEX	542	109	383	1,034
		OFXG	166	18	125	309
		Total	708	127	508	1,343
	Denied	OEXD	13	2	7	22
		OFXD	10	3	6	19
		Total	23	5	13	41
	Total		731	132	521	1,384
DISTRICT	Granted	OEXG & OEX	16,905	4,555	1,109	22,569
		OFXG	536	130	59	725
		Total	17,441	4,685	1,168	23,294
	Denied	DOE	1			1
		OEXD	54	43	8	105
		OFXD	3			3
		Total	58	43	8	109
	Total		17,499	4,728	1,176	23,403
Grand Total			18,230	4,860	1,697	24,787

^{*}Data is provided from the CourtNet database.

^{*}The automatic expungement process does not require the filing of a petition and will not appear in the count of petition documents.

^{*} Orders granting/denying expungements through 1/19/2023.

^{*} Some instances of cases have a petition/application to expunge but do not have an order granting or denying. If the case appears as an "EX" case type, then the case is counted in the orders "granted" category. Cases which show no indication of being expunged are included in the "denied" category.

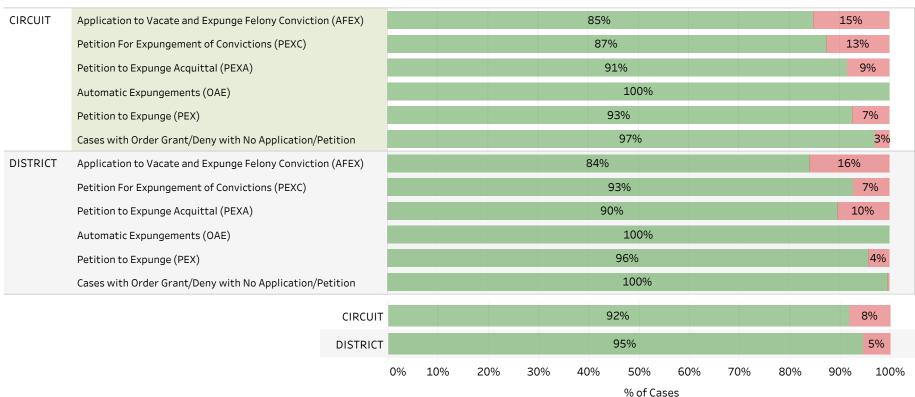
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Expungement of Criminal Cases by Process Type Calendar Years 1/1/2017 - 12/31/2022

Denied
Granted

Chart 1: Percent of Cases with "Order Granting" or "Order Denying" Expungement by "Expungement Process Type"



^{*}Data is provided from the CourtNet database.

^{*}The automatic expungement process does not require the filing of a petition and will not appear in the count of petition documents.

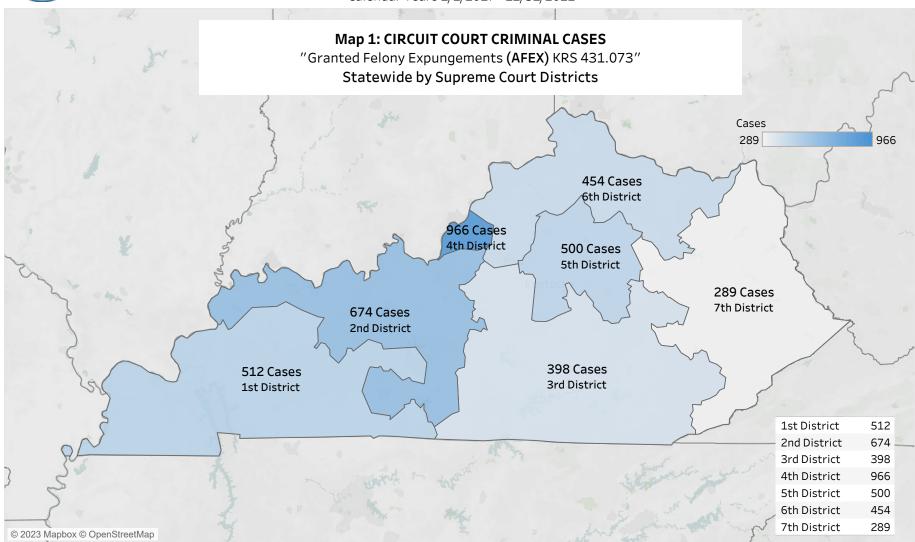
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Expungement of Criminal Cases by Process Type Calendar Years 1/1/2017 - 12/31/2022



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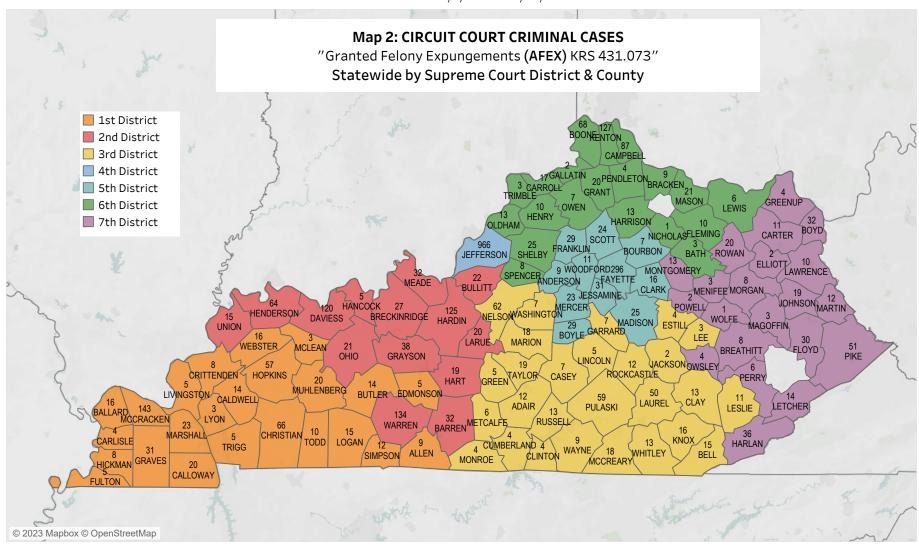
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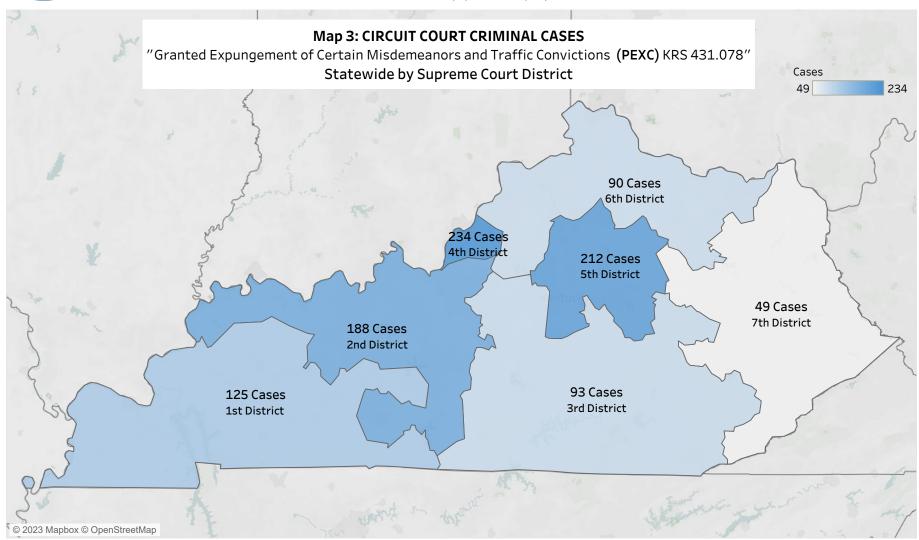
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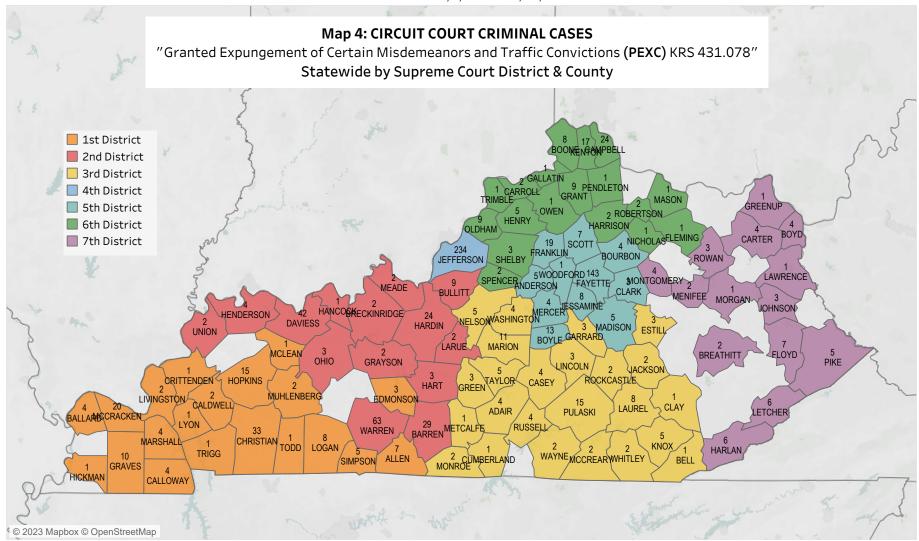
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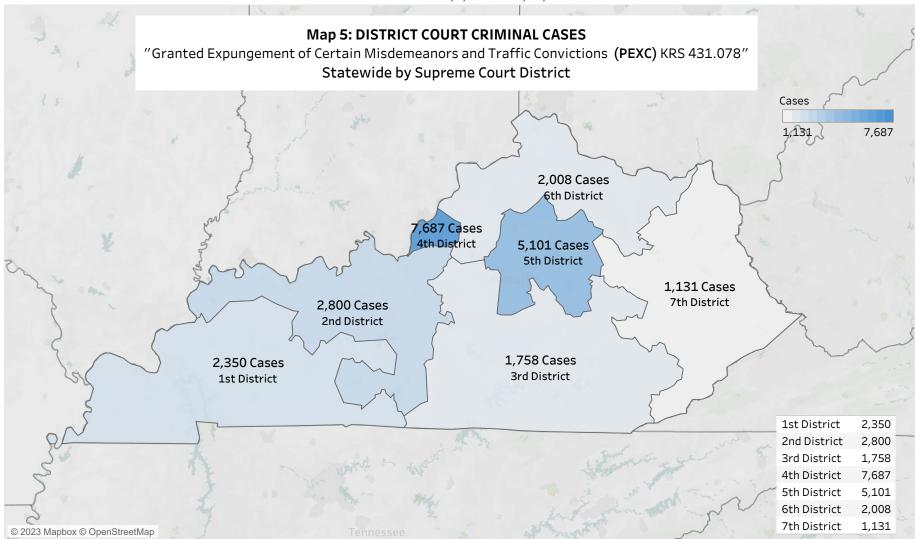
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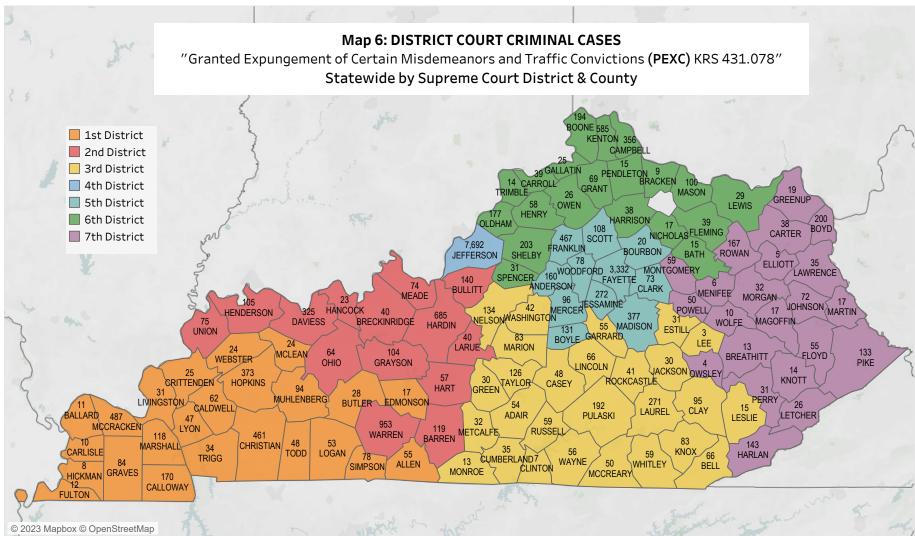
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