MARYLAND LEGAL AID | Advancing Human Rights and Justice for All

2018 International Forum on Legal Aid:

Identifying and targeting people in need

(Topic 1)

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MARYLAND LEGAL AID

Advancing Human Rights and Justice for All

Presentation Overview

- Introduction
- Data analysis at Maryland Legal Aid
- Use of data to inform Community Lawyering Initiative practice
- Outreach to potential clients in need
- Service delivery to remote areas
- Use of Innovative Technology to Provide Services
- Result: Power of Partnerships

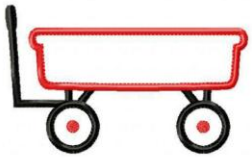
Baltimore, Spring 2015

Unrest after Freddie Gray's death in police custody

Baltimore, Spring 2015
First site of Maryland Legal Aid's Community Lawyering Initiative
1531
Pennsylvania Avenue Branch
SPEED LIMIT 30

Data Analysis at MLA

- ExpungeItMD data dashboard: as staff attorneys and pro bono volunteers complete expungement cases, data automatically generates on the dashboard
- Used for: funders, future grant applications, to judge efficacy of current efforts, decisions on where to place clinics
- Images here capture time period from July 2016-September 10, 2018

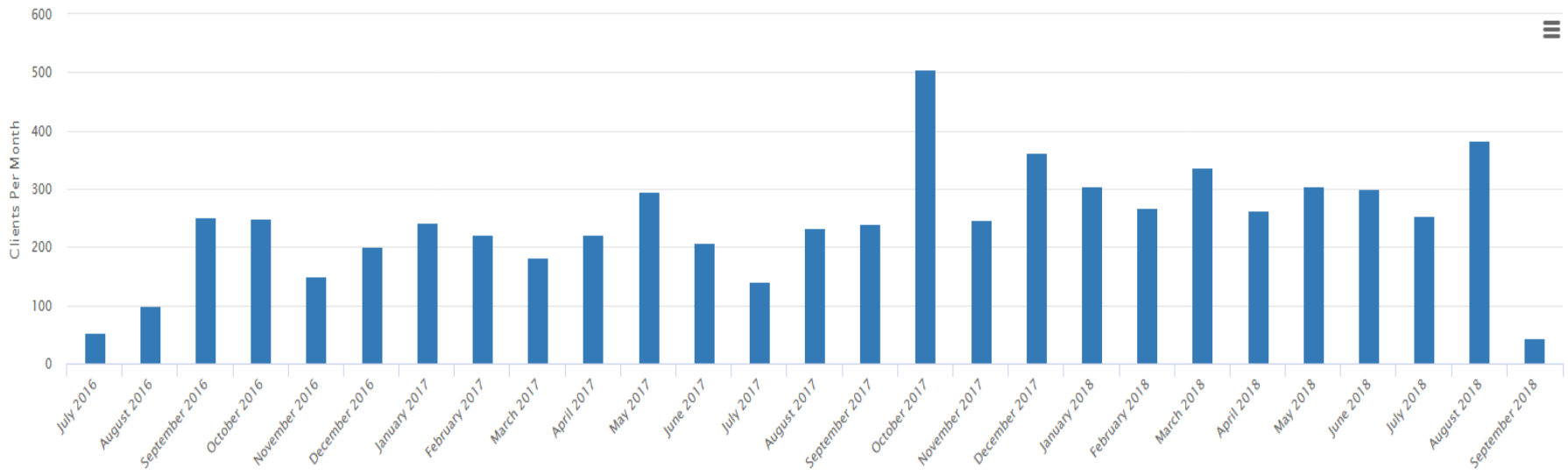


Data Analysis at MLA: Expungement petitions per month

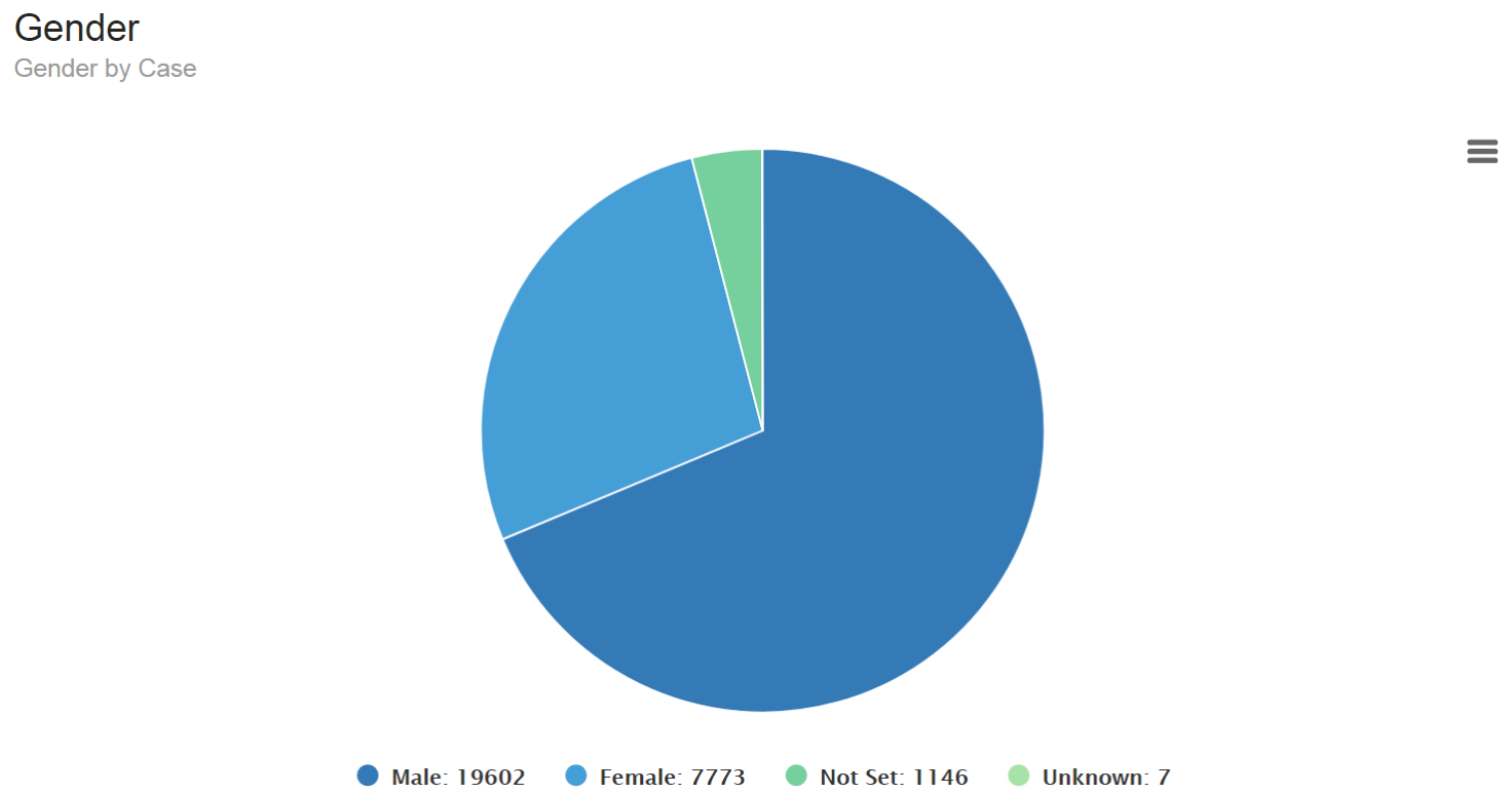
Clients	Cases	Average	Fees Waived
6,561	28,358	4.32	850,770
Total Number of Clients	Total Number of Cases	Average Case Count per Client	Total Number of Fees Waived

Monthly Client Overview

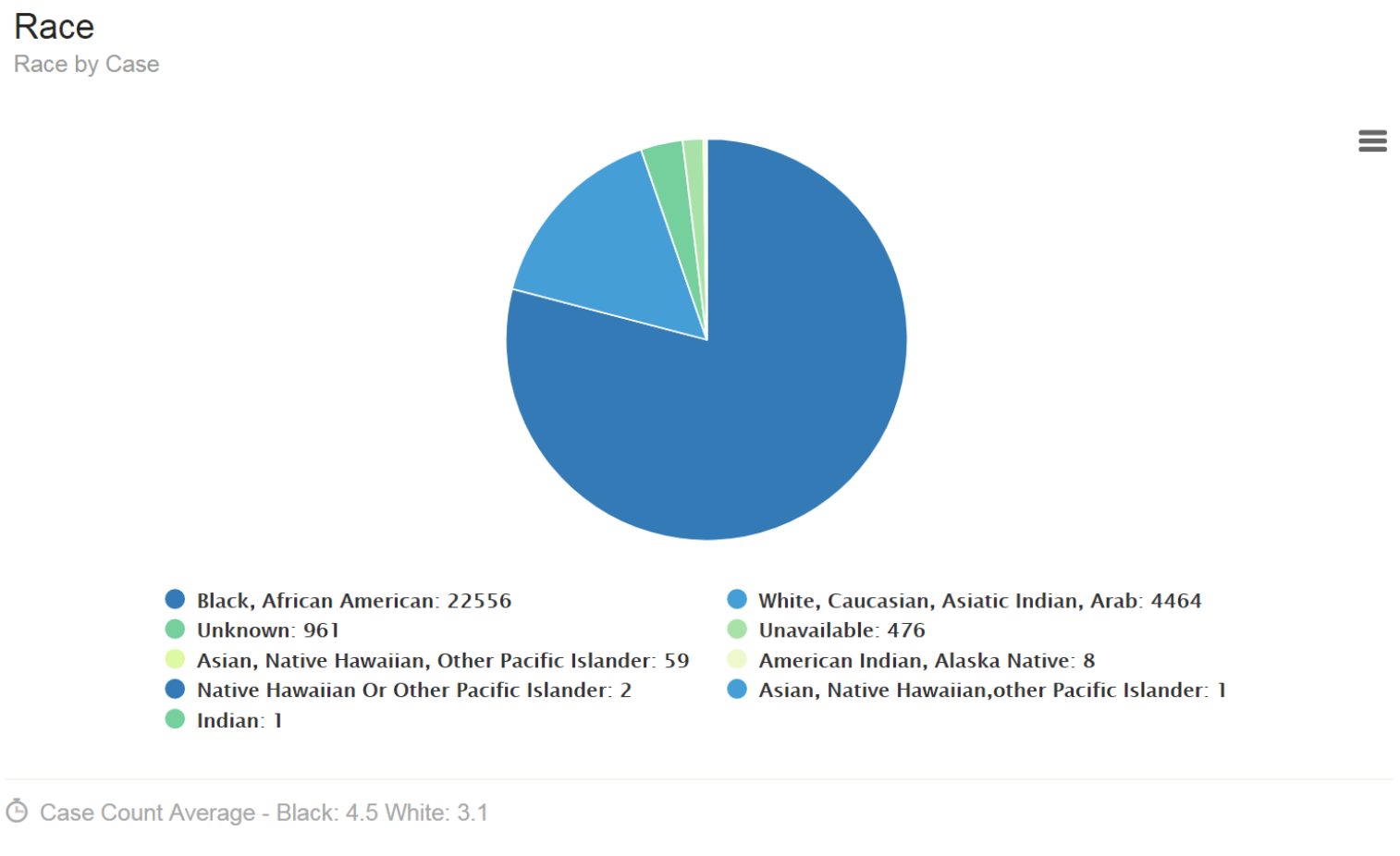
The number of clients served each month



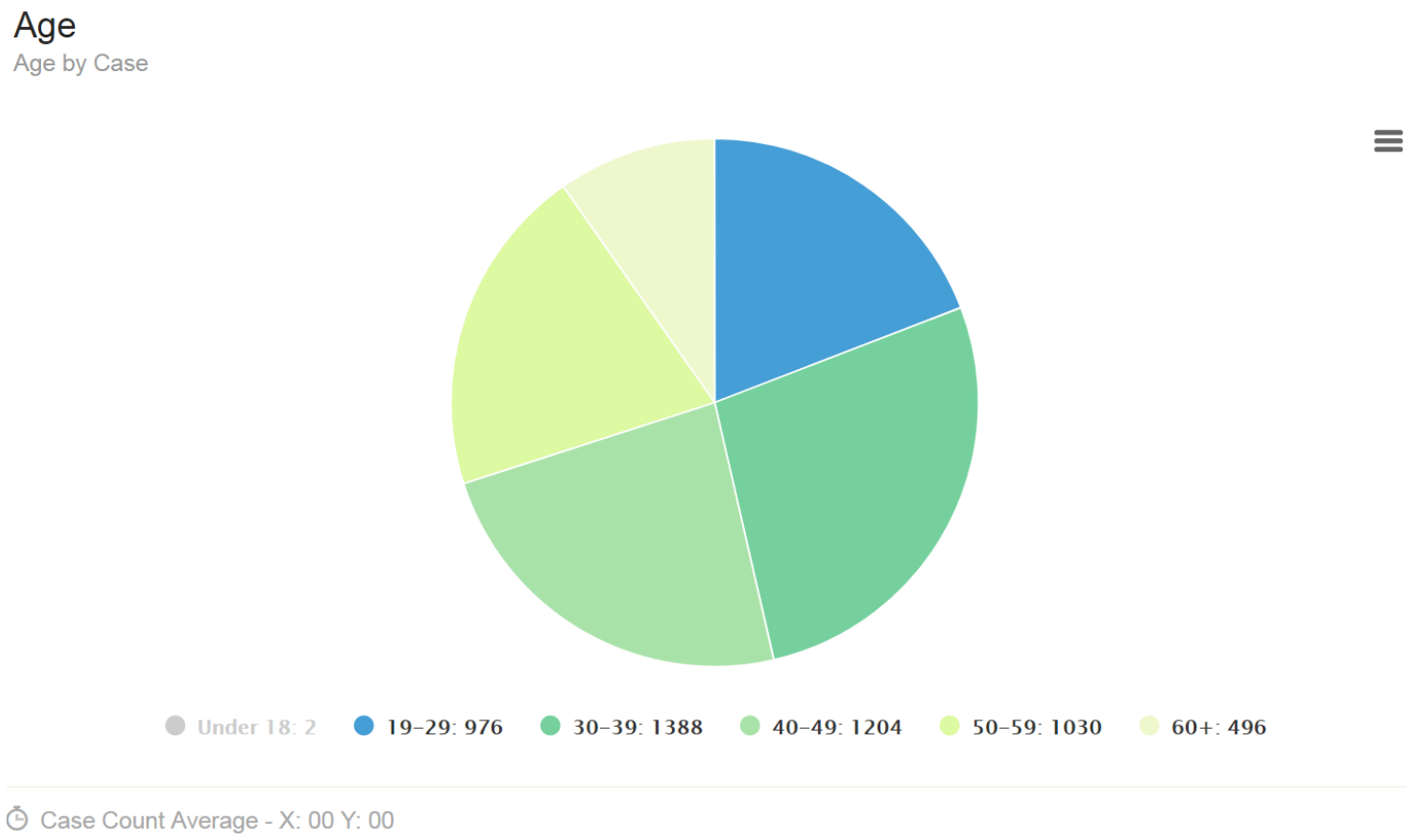
Data Analysis at MLA: Expungement clients by gender



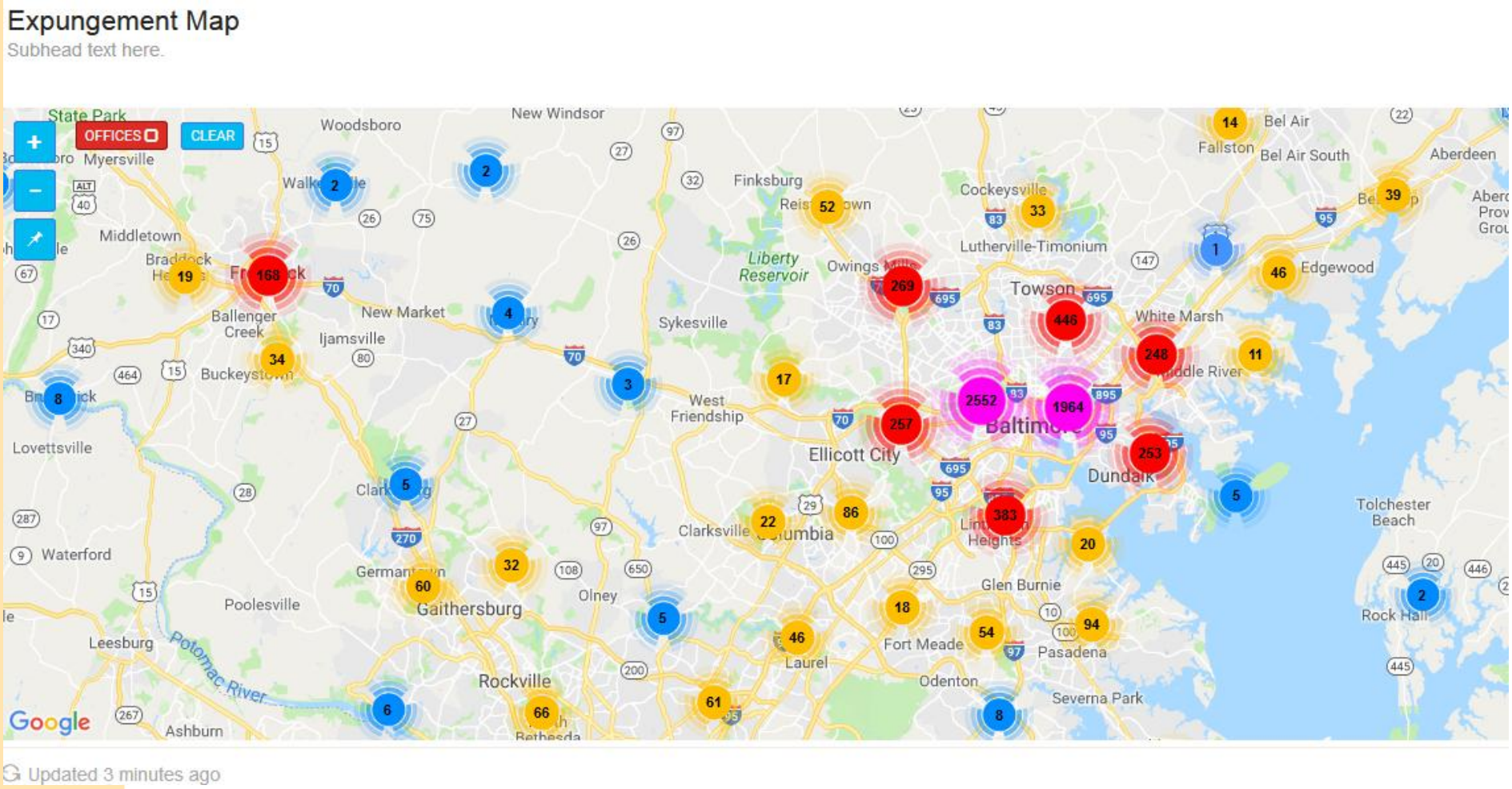
Data Analysis at MLA: Expungement clients by race



Data Analysis at MLA: Expungement clients by age



Data Analysis at MLA: Heat Map of zip codes with greatest number of petitions



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Data Analysis: Top 20 most commonly filed petitions for expungement

Top 20 Charges

3709: ASSAULT-SEC DEGREE
1107: CDS:POSSESS-NOT MARIHUANA
1029: CDS: POSSESSION-MARIHUANA
657: THEFT:LESS $300 VALUE
623: THEFT LESS THAN $100.00
517: CDS:POSSESSION
513: BATTERY
495: ASSAULT-FIRST DEGREE
424: THEFT:LESS $500 VALUE
413: THEFT: LESS $1,000 VALUE
400: CDS-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION ETC
394: TRESPASS-POSTED PROPERTY
360: PERSON DRIVING MOTOR VEHICLE ON HIGHWAY OR PUBLIC USE PROPERTY ON SUSPENDED LICENSE AND PRIVILEGE
347: DISORDERLY CONDUCT
337: PERSON DRIVING MOTOR VEH. ON (HWY., PUBLIC USE PROPERTY) ON SUSPENDED LIC. & PRIVILEGE
319: CDS:POSS PARAPHERNALIA
264: Trespass: Private Property
258: CDS: POSS W/INT MANF/DISTR/DISP
246: CDS:POSSESS-NOT MARIJUANA
234: THEFT: $500 PLUS VALUE

Data is used to inform Community Lawyering practice

- Initially, Maryland Legal Aid used publically accessible judiciary case search data to generate heat maps of zip codes with the highest number of charges eligible for expungement
- Clinics were placed in libraries, churches and community centers where zip codes revealed hundreds of thousands of eligible clients
- Now, data from the 28,000 petitions completed across the state continues to inform the process of selecting clinic locations, potential funders and partners

Outreach to potential clients in need

- Legal Aid staff place flyers door-to-door in neighborhoods
- Utilize trusted and valued community partners to carry your message, do the outreach for you
- Provide value for clients, and then empower clients to spread the word about services
- Be consistent
- Never hold a clinic just one time in one place, promise to return and always keep that promise
- Meet with partners for advice on working in each community, and listen to suggestions provided

Service Delivery to Remote Areas

- Determine ways by which rural communities congregate (ex: festivals, at firehalls, etc.), and advertise and hold clinics in those areas
- Libraries are a perfect location for partnerships: publically accessible even in remote areas, sources of information, trusted longtime community icons

Use of Innovative Technology to Provide Services

- It is essential to bring technology staff to the location of an outreach or clinic, to allow observation, feedback, understanding, and ideas for improvement
- Empower community lawyers to use technology efficiently, troubleshoot problems without tech professionals, and approach technology challenges with informed confidence
- When hiring staff, seek employees who feel comfortable being trained in advanced tech support at outreach clinics

Power of Partnerships

- At Maryland Legal Aid, since July 2015, there are now:
  - At least 250 new community partners
  - Over 150 new pro bono volunteers
  - 7 added attorney and paralegal positions in the Community Lawyering Initiative
  - 5 added attorney positions in Workforce Development
  - Lawyers in public libraries in 15 of 24 Maryland counties and Baltimore City

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COMMUNITY
LAWYERING
INITIATIVE

HYATT
REGENCY