

The Department of Information and Technology Services Research and Statistics 1001 Vandalay Drive Frankfort, KY 40601 (502) 573-2350

GRANTED AND DENIED EXPUNGEMENT APPLICATIONS/PETITIONS ENTERED CY 2017 – CY 2023 STATEWIDE

March 22, 2024

By

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Statistics Request Overall Description

On March 7, 2024, Research and Statistics received a request for a report on expungement cases statewide which had a granted petition/application entered calendar years 2017 through 2023.

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 January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2023 statewide. Those cases were then queried to check for an order granting/denying expungement documents (OFXG, OFXD, OEXG, OEXD, OG or OD) up until the date the report was generated, March 22, 2024. CourtNet was also queried for automatic expungement documents (OAE or DOE) entered January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2023 statewide.

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

Statistics Request Overall Description

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.

(OFXG) Order Felony Expungement Granted (OFXD) Order Felony Expungement Denied (OEX) Order for Expungement (OEXG) Order Granting Expungement
(OEXG) Order Granting Expungement
(OEXD) Order Denying Expungement

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

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

documents for prior calendar years.

Statistical Table (21_RS3010)

with prejudice.)

The statistical report provides a count of distinct cases per expungement process type based on the application/petition entered during each calendar year 2017 – 2023. 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 March 22, 2024.

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 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 counts of distinct cases expunged by the automatic expungement process 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 the last document type 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.

Statistical Table (21_RS3010)

- **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 <u>applications for felony expungements (AFEX)</u> per Supreme Court District.
- **Map 2:** Provides a map of Kentucky containing summary counts of Circuit Court *(CR)* cases having granted <u>applications for felony expungements (AFEX)</u> 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 <u>petitions for expungements of convictions (PEXC)</u> per county.
- **Map 5:** Provides a map of Kentucky containing summary counts of **(T, M & F)** cases having granted <u>petitions for expungements of convictions (PEXC)</u> sorted by each Supreme Court District.
- **Map 6:** Provides a map of Kentucky containing summary counts of **(T, M & F)** cases having granted <u>petitions for expungements of convictions (PEXC)</u> sorted by district and county.

- > The statistics presented in the attached tables are a snapshot in time, as of March 22, 2024.
- 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 Variables 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 petitions/applications for expungements during the timeframe of 1/1/2017 through 12/31/2023.								

Data Variables Requested	
Jurisdiction	The jurisdiction in which the case associated with a given document was entered (Circuit or District Court).
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, PEX), documents of expungement order granted (OFXG, OEXG, OAE, OEX), documents of expungement order denied (OFXD, OEXD) and objection to automatic expungement process (DOE).
Cases	The total number of distinct cases referenced in any of these documents.
County	The requested geographic area is based on the county in which each expungement was filed. Kentucky has 120 counties.
Supreme Court District	The requested geographic area is based on the Supreme Court District in which each expungement was filed. Kentucky is divided into seven (7) Supreme Court Districts defined within KRS 21A.010: https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=20527
Race	A value entered that indicates whether the respondent identifies that she/he is of a given descent: • White • Black • Indian/Asian/Unknown
Gender	A NCIC code that identifies the gender of the respondent.

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.



Orders Granting or Denying Expungement of Criminal Cases by Process Type

For Applications or Petitions filed from 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2023 which were Granted or Denied on or Before 3/22/2024

Table 1: Cases by Expungement Process

		Application to Vacate and Expunge Felony Conviction (AFEX)		Expunge Felony Conviction Petition For Expungement		Petition to Expunge Acquittal (PEXA)		Petition to Expunge (PEX)		Cases with Order Granted/Denied with No Application/Petition		Grand Total	
		Cases	% Cases	Cases	% Cases	Cases	% Cases	Cases	% Cases	Cases	% Cases	Cases	% Cases
CIRCUIT	Granted	4,888	86%	1,211	88%	5,851	92%	188	94%	1,540	93%	13,678	90%
	Denied	763	14%	162	12%	502	8%	13	6%	112	7%	1,552	10%
	Total	5,651	100%	1,373	100%	6,353	100%	201	100%	1,652	100%	15,230	100%
DISTRICT	Granted	106	87%	28,758	94%	40,812	91%	2,543	96%	27,550	98%	99,769	94%
	Denied	16	13%	1,705	6%	3,946	9%	101	4%	458	2%	6,226	6%
	Total	122	100%	30,463	100%	44,758	100%	2,644	100%	28,008	100%	105,995	100%
Grand Total		5,773	100%	31,836	100%	51,111	100%	2,845	100%	29,660	100%	121,225	100%



Table 2: Automatic Expungement Process

	Automatic Expungeme	ents (OAE)
	Cases	% Cases
CIRCUIT	7,892	18%
DISTRICT	35,376	82%
Grand Total	43,268	100%

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

	Cases with Order Granted/Denied with No Application/Petition							
	Granted	No Order Entered	Total					
CIRCUIT	1,540	112	1,652					
DISTRICT	27,550	458	28,008					
Grand Total	29,090	570	29,660					

^{*}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.

^{*}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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Orders Granting or Denying Expungement of Criminal Cases by Process Type For Applications or Petitions filed from 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2023 which were Granted or Denied on or Before 3/22/2024

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

	Application to Vacate and Expunge Felony Conviction (AFEX)		je Felony	Petition For Expungement of Convictions (PEXC)		Petition to Expunge Acquittal (PEXA)		Petition to Expunge (PEX)		Cases with Order Granted/Denied with No Application/Petition		Grand Total		
			Cases	% Cases	Cases	% Cases	Cases	% Cases	Cases	% Cases	Cases	% Cases	Cases	% Cases
CIRCUIT	2017	Granted	582	90%	168	88%	772	94%	38	100%	227	92%	1,787	92%
		Denied	68	10%	24	13%	48	6%			19	8%	159	8%
	2018	Granted	432	87%	149	87%	748	90%	18	90%	232	95%	1,579	89%
		Denied	66	13%	23	13%	86	10%	2	10%	13	5%	190	11%
	2019	Granted	620	89%	194	94%	971	95%	34	100%	166	93%	1,985	93%
		Denied	78	11%	13	6%	55	5%			13	7%	159	7%
	2020	Granted	886	89%	204	91%	987	95%	19	100%	180	89%	2,276	92%
		Denied	108	11%	21	9%	50	5%			22	11%	201	8%
	2021	Granted	735	89%	138	86%	819	93%	46	92%	237	98%	1,975	91%
		Denied	90	11%	22	14%	62	7%	4	8%	6	2%	184	9%
	2022	Granted	676	86%	163	94%	724	93%	23	82%	250	94%	1,836	91%
		Denied	106	14%	10	6%	51	7%	5	18%	16	6%	188	9%
	2023	Granted	957	79%	195	80%	830	85%	10	83%	248	92%	2,240	83%
		Denied	247	21%	49	20%	150	15%	2	17%	23	8%	471	17%
	Total		5,651	100%	1,373	100%	6,353	100%	201	100%	1,652	100%	15,230	100%
DISTRICT	2017	Granted	9	100%	3,757	94%	5,646	92%	568	94%	4,512	98%	14,492	95%
		Denied			227	6%	484	8%	36	6%	95	2%	842	5%
	2018	Granted	2	67%	3,696	93%	6,061	91%	439	97%	4,055	98%	14,253	94%
		Denied	1	33%	263	7%	597	9%	12	3%	68	2%	941	6%
	2019	Granted	14	93%	4,176	94%	7,480	92%	430	97%	3,391	98%	15,491	94%
		Denied	1	7%	274	6%	623	8%	12	3%	70	2%	980	6%
	2020	Granted	28	88%	4,098	95%	6,489	93%	396	97%	2,494	98%	13,505	94%
		Denied	4	13%	231	5%	513	7%	14	3%	38	2%	800	6%
	2021	Granted	21	81%	3,125	96%	4,556	95%	297	97%	3,958	98%	11,957	96%
		Denied	5	19%	129	4%	236	5%	10	3%	72	2%	452	4%
	2022	Granted	15	88%	4,392	96%	5,156	82%	229	96%	4,582	99%	14,374	91%
		Denied	2	12%	191	4%	1,121	18%	10	4%	67	1%	1,391	9%
	2023	Granted	17	85%	5,514	93%	5,424	94%	184	96%	4,558	99%	15,697	95%
		Denied	3	15%	390	7%	372	6%	7	4%	48	1%	820	5%
	Total		122	100%	30,463	100%	44,758	100%	2,644	100%	28,008	100%	105,995	100%
Grand To	tal		5,773	100%	31,836	100%	51,111	100%	2,845	100%	29,660	100%	121,225	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.

^{*}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.



Orders Granting or Denying Expungement of Criminal Cases by Process Type For Applications or Petitions filed from 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2023 which were Granted or Denied on or Before 3/22/2024

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

		Automatic Expungements (OAE)	
		Cases	% Cases
CIRCUIT	2020	73	0%
	2021	1,812	4%
	2022	2,201	5% 9%
	2023	3,806	9%
DISTRICT	2020	2,843	7%
	2021	9,804	23%
	2022	9,131	21%
	2023	13,598	31%
Grand Total		43,268	100%

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

		Cases with Order G	ranted/Denied with No A	pplication/Petition
		Granted	No Order Entered	Total
CIRCUIT	2017	227	19	246
	2018	232	13	245
	2019	166	13	179
	2020	180	22	202
	2021	237	6	243
	2022	250	16	266
	2023	248	23	271
	Total	1,540	112	1,652
DISTRICT	2017	4,512	95	4,607
	2018	4,055	68	4,123
	2019	3,391	70	3,461
	2020	2,494	38	2,532
	2021	3,958	72	4,030
	2022	4,582	67	4,649
	2023	4,558	48	4,606
	Total	27,550	458	28,008
Grand Total		29,090	570	29,660

^{*}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.

^{*}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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Orders Granting or Denying Expungement of Criminal Cases by Process Type For Applications or Petitions filed from 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2023 which were Granted or Denied on or Before 3/22/2024

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

				FEMALE			MALE		Unkn	own Gende	er	
					Asian / Indian / Unknown			Asian / Indian / Unknown			sian / Indian / Unknown	Grand Total
CIRCUIT	Granted	Application to Vacate and Expunge Felony Conviction (AFEX)	White 715	Black 320	Race 138	White 1,706	Black 613	Race 344	White 1	Black	1,051	4,888
CIRCUII	Granteu		278	46	70	543	94	106	4		399	1,540
		Cases with Order Granted/Denied with No Application/Petiti	187	107	45	358	182	76	4		256	1,340
		Petition For Expungement of Convictions (PEXC)	38	7	12	67	152	14			35	188
		Petition to Expunge (PEX)	1,087	429	261	1,640	747	331			1,356	5,851
		Petition to Expunge Acquittal (PEXA)	2,305	909	526	4,314	1,651	871	5		3,097	13,678
	Denied	Total	112	61	24	231	128	48	<u> </u>		159	763
	Derneu	Application to Vacate and Expunge Felony Conviction (AFEX)	112	2	1	47	13	10			20	112
		Cases with Order Granted/Denied with No Application/Petiti	24	7	4	53	31	15			28	162
		Petition For Expungement of Convictions (PEXC)	24	,	4	55 7	1	3			20	13
		Petition to Expunge (PEX)		37	10	149		-				
		Petition to Expunge Acquittal (PEXA)	57 212	107	18 47	487	94 267	29 105			118 327	502 1,552
	Total	Total	2,517	1,016	573	4,801	1,918	976	5			15,230
DISTRICT		A 1: 1: 1 // 1 15 5 6 1: (AFEV)	2,317	4	2	54	1,918	7	3		3,424	106
DISTRICT	Granteu	Application to Vacate and Expunge Felony Conviction (AFEX)	8,646	•	435	12,111		639	5	1	305	27,550
		Cases with Order Granted/Denied with No Application/Petiti	,	2,287		•	3,121	963		1 3	503	,
		Petition For Expungement of Convictions (PEXC)	6,572	3,195	546	12,654	4,312		10	3		28,758
		Petition to Expunge (PEX)	751	121	78	1,268	162	75	1	2	87	2,543
		Petition to Expunge Acquittal (PEXA)	10,394	5,002	658	16,472	6,715	946	9 25	3 7	613	40,812
	D : - J	Total	26,389	10,609	1,719	42,559	14,321	2,630	25		1,510	99,769
	Denied	Application to Vacate and Expunge Felony Conviction (AFEX)	105	1		9	1	1			4	16
		Cases with Order Granted/Denied with No Application/Petiti	105	36	8	230	60	15			4	458
		Petition For Expungement of Convictions (PEXC)	347	218	26	640	421	38			15	1,705
		Petition to Expunge (PEX)	30	7	1	49	10	3			1	101
		Petition to Expunge Acquittal (PEXA)	808	548	27	1,620	848	65	1		29	3,946
		Total	1,294	810	62	2,548	1,340	122	1		49	6,226
	Total		27,683	11,419	1,781	45,107	15,661	2,752	26	7	1,559	105,995
Grand To	tal		30,200	12,435	2,354	49,908	17,579	3,728	31	7	4,983	121,225

^{*}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.

^{*}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.



Orders Granting or Denying Expungement of Criminal Cases by Process Type

For Applications or Petitions filed from 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2023 which were Granted or Denied on or Before 3/22/2024

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

			Automatic Expungements (OAE)								
			FEMALE		MALE			Unl			
		White	Black	Asian / Indian / Unknown Race	White	Black	Asian / Indian / Unknown Race	White	Black	Asian / Indian / Unknown Race	Grand Total
CIRCUIT	Cases	1,664	345	277	2,540	782	352			1,932	7,892
	% of Cases	21%	4%	4%	32%	10%	4%			24%	100%
DISTRICT	Cases	10,200	3,244	482	15,470	4,870	784	7	1	318	35,376
	% of Cases	29%	9%	1%	44%	14%	2%	0%	0%	1%	100%
Grand	Cases	11,864	3,589	759	18,010	5,652	1,136	7	1	2,250	43,268
Total	% of Cases	27%	8%	2%	42%	13%	3%	0%	0%	5%	100%

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

		Cases with Order Granted/Denied with No Application/Petition			
		White	Black	Asian / Indian / Unknown Race	Total
CIRCUIT	Granted	825	140	575	1,540
	No Order Entered	66	15	31	112
	Total	891	155	606	1,652
DISTRICT	Granted	20,762	5,409	1,379	27,550
	No Order Entered	335	96	27	458
	Total	21,097	5,505	1,406	28,008
Grand Total		21,988	5,660	2,012	29,660

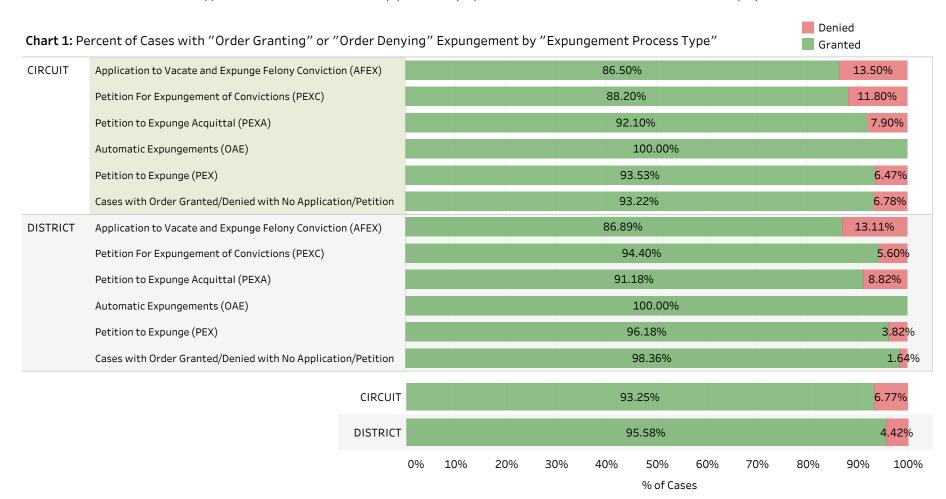
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^{*}The automatic expungement process does not require the filing of a petition and will not appear in the count of petition documents.

^{*}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.



Orders Granting or Denying Expungement of Criminal Cases by Process Type
For Applications or Petitions filed from 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2023 which were Granted or Denied on or Before 3/22/2024



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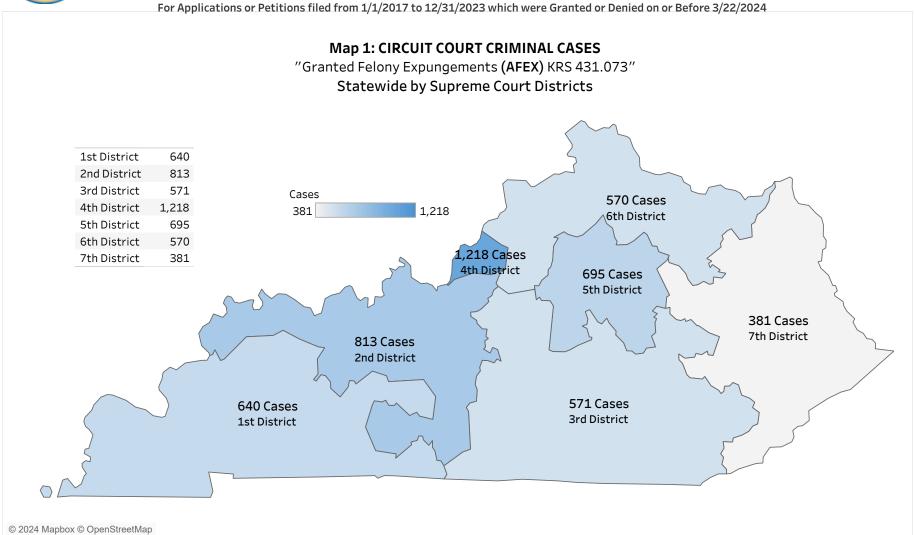
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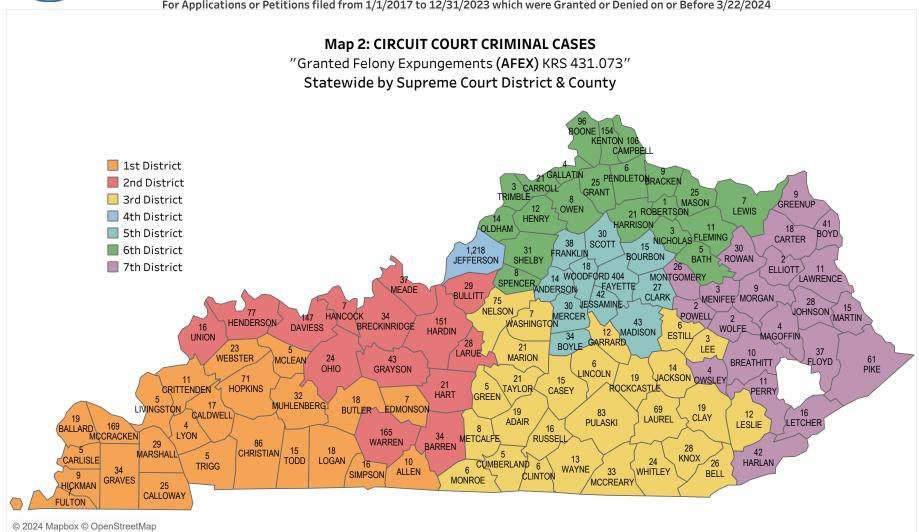
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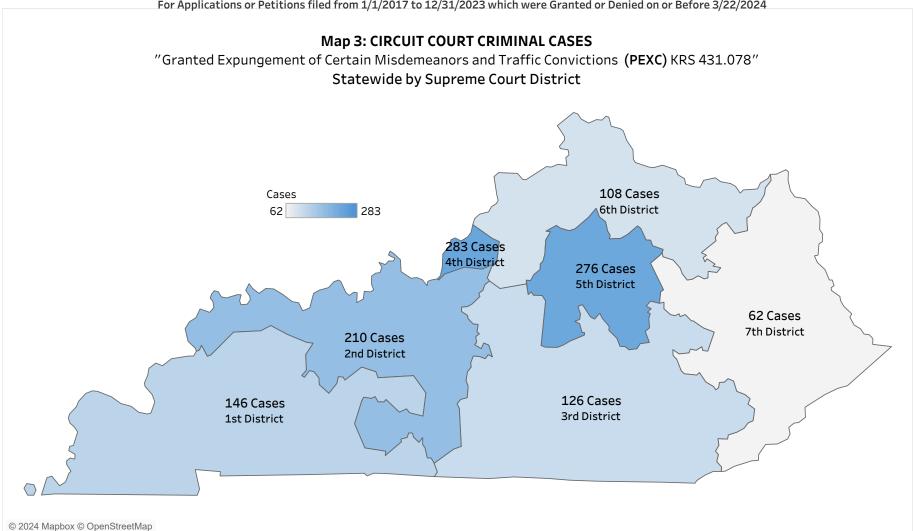
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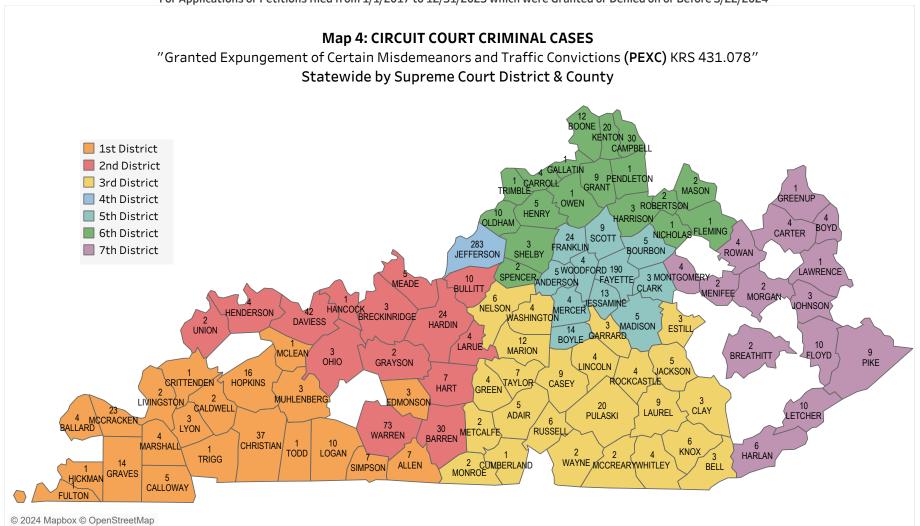
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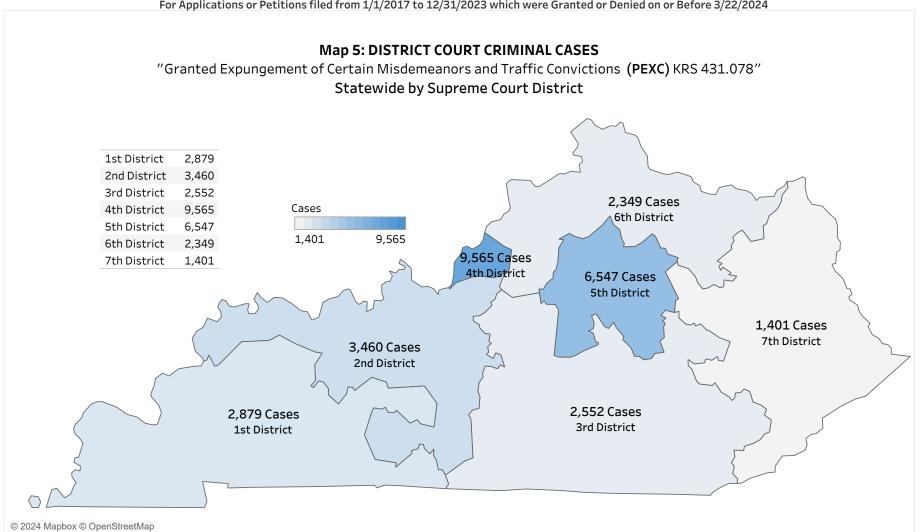
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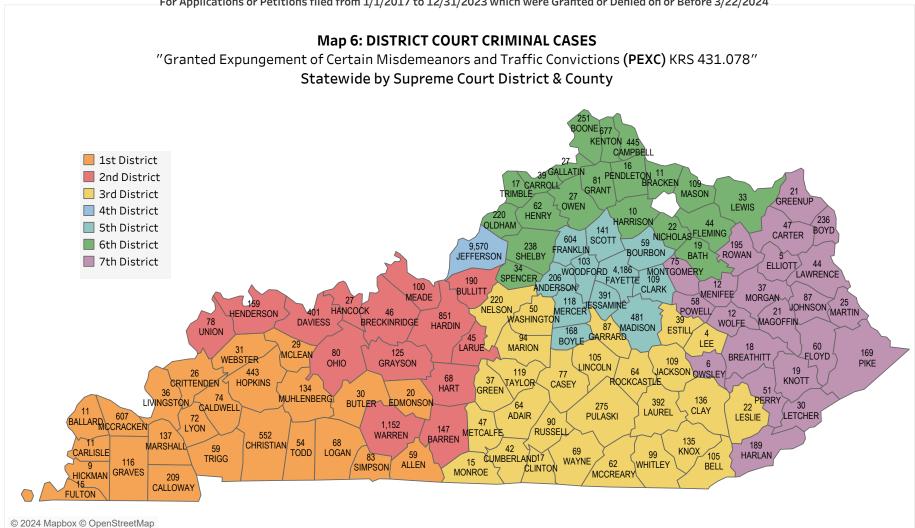
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