Abstract

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The United States of America has one of the highest rates of incarceration when compared to other countries around the world. In 2016, 10.6 million inmates spent time in United States jails, while 600,000 inmates are released from prison each year, (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2018b, Ross & Richards, 2009). The stigma associated with incarceration affects those reentering society abilities to find sustainable housing, attain reliable transportation, affordable healthcare, and adequate employment, record clearing technique such as expungement and record sealing are means of alleviating the stigma of a criminal record or RAP sheet (Arditti & Parkman, 2011). The proposed three studies paper will analyze the relationship between record clearing efforts such as criminal record expungement/ sealing and socioeconomic demographics express through employment income.

The first study will consist of the researcher conducting interviews with ex-offenders who have undergone the criminal record clearing procedure of criminal record sealing in New York State. Through the process of phenomenological reflection and interviews, former offenders will share their stories and memories of social and economic exclusion as a result of their criminal record and the experience after a clean record.

The second study will be quantitative research conducted utilizing Geographic Information Systems Methods. This researcher will use GIS to create a visual story of the attributes of socioeconomic status, arrest rate, employment status, and record sealing rate tell regarding the access to record clearing interventions in different geographic areas of New York State.

The final study will also be quantitative research using a multivariate statistical test such as multiple linear regression analysis. This predictive model will study the relationship between attaining record clearing, and socioeconomic status explained through income and employment.

Keywords: Criminal Record, Record Sealing, Record Clearing