

CLEAN SLATE INITIATIVE DATA DASHBOARD: USER GUIDE

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INTRODUCTION

The Clean Slate Initiative launched an interactive data dashboard that provides, for the first time, 50 state estimates of the total population with a conviction or non-conviction record by race/sex and the impact various Clean Slate laws can have in providing communities with the record relief.

We've outlined the following instructions for using this data dashboard to support Clean Slate campaigns in your state. For more information about our approach and data sources, read our full [methodology](#) and visit the [Research and Data](#) page on The Clean Slate Initiative's website.

Our aim is for the dashboard to be a pivotal resource in the collective effort to reduce barriers for people with records, thereby enhancing public safety, boosting economic productivity, and promoting equality and justice.

GETTING STARTED

Navigation Overview

The dashboard is divided into three main sections:

1. CSI Estimates
2. Clean Slate Policy Impacts, and
3. Calculating Waiting Periods.

The dropdown menu in the first section lets you view CSI estimates of the number of people with records by type of records, race, and sex. The interactive dropdown menu lets you select "nationwide" or one or more states to view or compare.

When you select a state, the Data Snapshot and Population with a Record by Sex subsections and the Clean Slate Policy Impacts and Calculating Waiting Periods sections automatically update to reflect our estimates in your selected state or states.

The following sections detail exactly how to use the interactive features of our dashboard.

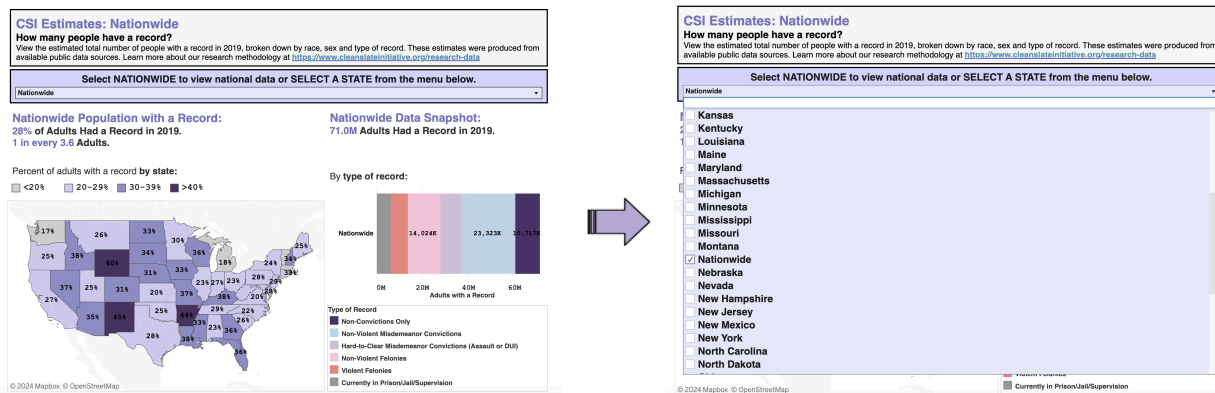
Viewing Data for One or More States

Our dashboard's default setting is the "Nationwide" setting, which shows the combined total population with a record across all 50 states + DC. However, you can use the dashboard to find

data for a particular state or even compare different states with one another. There are two ways to select particular states using the dashboard:

Selecting One or More States using the Drop-Down Menu

- Click the purple drop-down menu, uncheck the “Nationwide” option, and select one or more states.
- If more than one state is selected, the dashboard will display data from each state separately to permit comparisons between them.¹
- Selecting one or more states will update the entire dashboard and all charts within it to display data for those states specifically, including data on the population's demographics with a record, impact estimates for Clean Slate laws, and waiting periods.
- Remember to select only the Nationwide option in the dropdown menu to return to the default nationwide view.



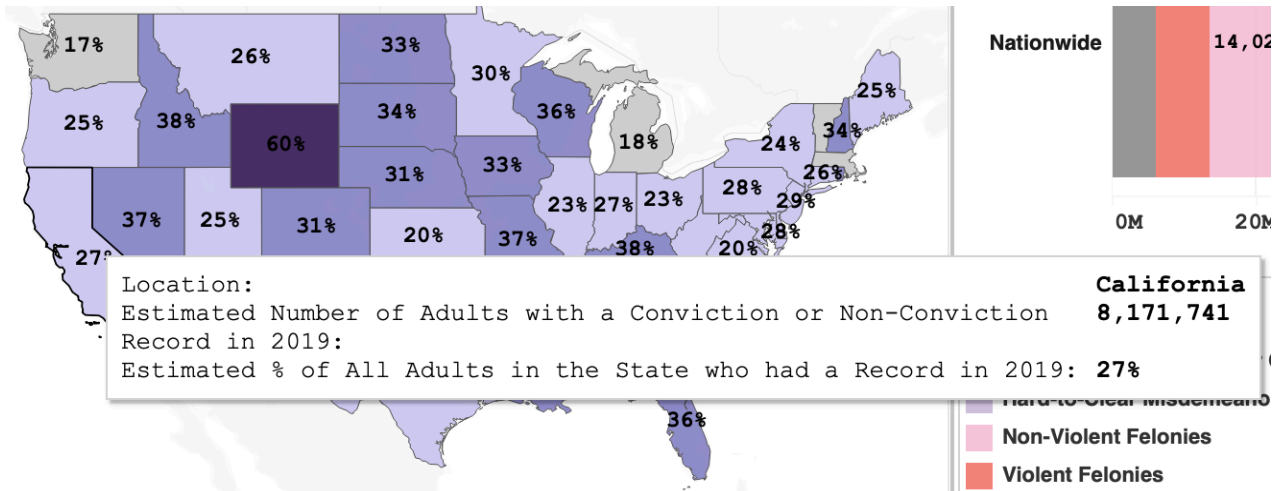
Selecting a State Using the Map

- The map displays the percentage of adults in each state with a conviction or non-conviction record, color-coded so that the darker purple states have a larger proportion of adults with a record.
- You can also use the map to select and display data throughout the dashboard for one particular state. However, once a state is selected via the map, you must refresh the browser to return to the default nationwide view.
- To compare two or more states with one another, use the drop-down menu as instructed above.

¹ Due to smaller screen-sizes the compare state feature is currently only available on the desktop version of the dashboard.

Viewing Additional Details

Hover over any charts in our data dashboard, including the map, to show additional details. Click the charts and map to isolate, remove, and/or zoom into particular features displayed by each chart. Refresh your browser to return to the default setting for all charts.

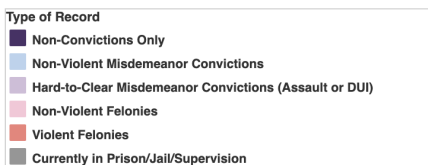
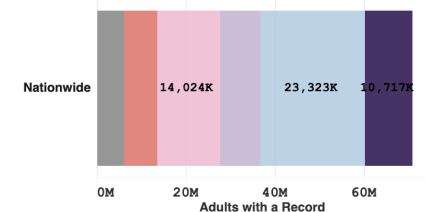


USING THE DATA SNAPSHOT CHART

Use the Data Snapshot chart to find how many people have a record in each state and what types of records they have. The total population with a record refers to the number of people with either a conviction or non-conviction record (for example, an arrest with the charges dismissed would be a non-conviction record).

Nationwide Data Snapshot:
 71.0M Adults Had a Record in 2019.

By type of record:



We've broken down this chart according to the most serious type of record the person has, so an individual with a violent felony conviction and a non-violent misdemeanor would be grouped in the violent felony conviction category.

We used the following categories for type of record:

- **Currently in Prison/Jail/State Supervision:**
 The population serving a sentence as of 2019. These individuals are generally not eligible for record clearance under Clean Slate laws.

- **Violent Felonies:** The population with one or more violent felony convictions. Violent felonies include convictions for homicide, rape/sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault/simple assault, and other violent offenses if they lead to a felony probation sentence or incarceration in state prison for more than one year.
- **Non-Violent Felonies:** The population with one or more felony convictions but no violent felony convictions on their record. This includes people who have been to prison and those who have been on felony probation. These individuals may have one or more misdemeanors or non-convictions on their record in addition to felonies.
- **Hard-to-Clear Misdemeanor Convictions:** The population with misdemeanor convictions including at least one conviction for assault or DUI on their record, but no felony convictions.
- **Non-Violent Misdemeanor Convictions:** The population with misdemeanor convictions but no felony convictions or misdemeanor convictions for assault or DUI on their record.
- **Non-Convictions Only:** The population with a prior arrest but no convictions. This includes people who were arrested but never charged, those who had their cases dismissed, and those who were tried and not convicted.

The data from this chart shows that there are many more people who have non-convictions and non-violent convictions on their record than have violent convictions, especially the most serious convictions - violent felonies.

DETERMINING WHICH GROUPS ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY A RECORD

The *Population with a Record by Race/Sex* chart displays the proportion of all Black, white (non-Hispanic), Latino, Native American, and female adults who have a record, broken down by type of record according to the categories delineated above.

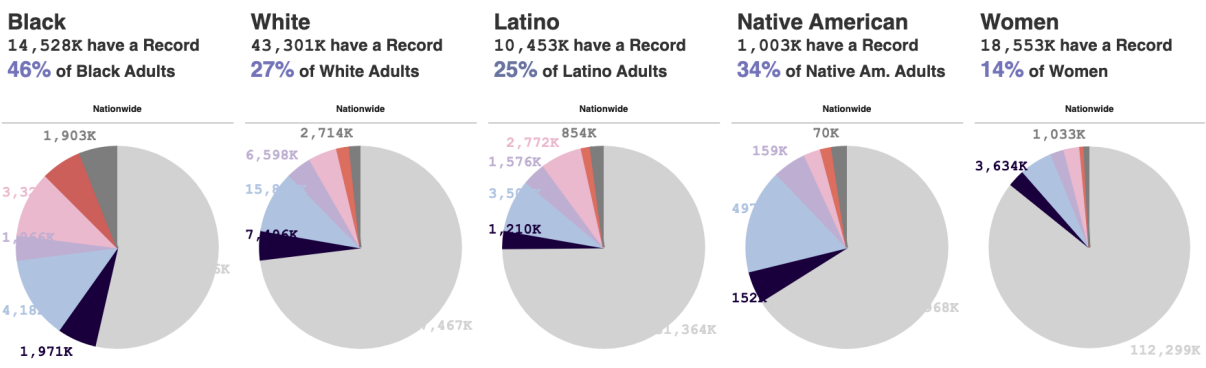
Use this chart to show which groups are more likely to have a record - groups who could benefit more from Clean Slate record clearance laws. For example, nationwide, our model estimates that 46% of all Black adults and 34% of Native American adults have a record compared to 27% of white adults, suggesting that a larger percentage of Black and Native American adults need record relief.

Note that the data presented in this section is produced from official state and federal data sources that are known to underreport Latinos and Native Americans in the criminal legal system. As such, interpret estimates for these populations cautiously as they likely underestimate the population with a record among these groups.

To account for this underreporting, we note with a “Likely Underreported” flag the states where using this official data resulted in a proportion of Latinos or Native Americans with a record that was less than half of the estimated proportion of Non-Hispanic white people with a record.

Moreover, due to limitations in how official federal and state data sources report information on race and sex, we are not yet able to provide breakdowns by sex within race (for example, estimating the population of Black women or men specifically with a record in a given state).

Nationwide Population with a Record by Race/Sex:



ASSESSING THE IMPACTS OF CLEAN SLATE LAWS

Use the *Clean Slate Policy Impacts* chart to assess how various types of Clean Slate laws could provide record relief to groups with a record nationwide and within each state.

This section outlines five potential Clean Slate laws that provide varying degrees of record relief - from clearing only non-conviction records to clearing all non-violent misdemeanor and felony records. We chose these five potential Clean Slate laws because they represent the breadth of Clean Slate laws passed to date.

Next to this chart, on the right, is a breakdown of how many Black, Latino, and non-Hispanic white people with a record would be eligible to clear their full record under each Clean Slate law.

Since Black people tend to be convicted at higher rates and given more severe sentences for the same offenses, Clean Slate laws that exclude more serious types of records (for example, people with felonies or multiple convictions) disproportionately exclude Black communities from eligibility for record clearance.

For example, only 22% of Black people with a record would be eligible for full record clearance nationwide compared to 33% of white people with a record under a policy that clears non-convictions and one non-violent misdemeanor - a much larger gap in who benefits from record clearance than would be the case if a more expansive policy was implemented that clears all non-violent misdemeanor and felony convictions in addition to non-convictions (63% vs 70%).

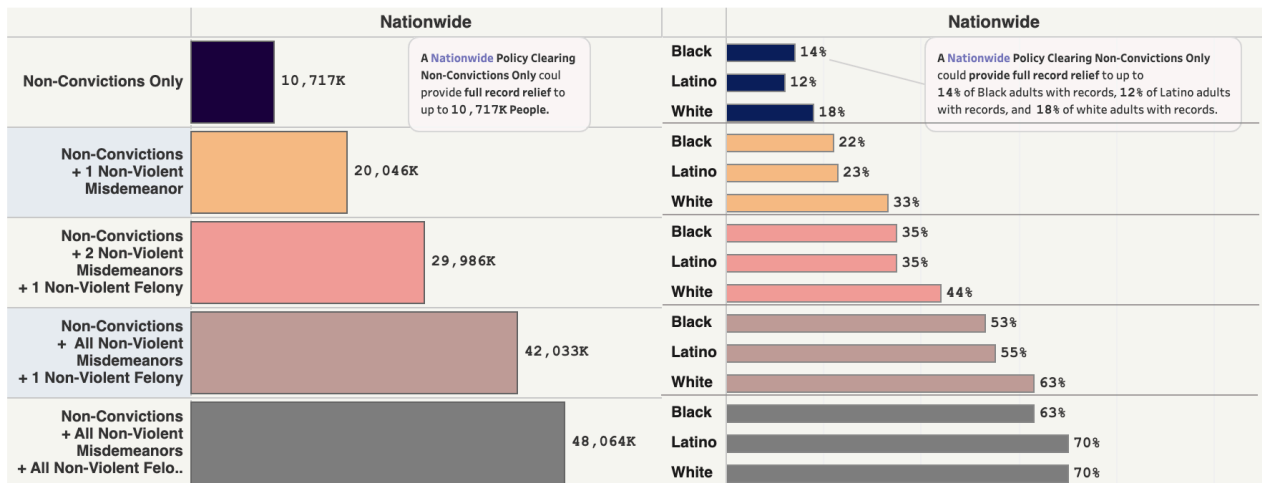
This chart shows that more expansive eligibility guidelines can deliver more equitable outcomes across communities that need record relief.

Clean Slate Policy Impacts: How Many People Would Benefit from Clean Slate Policies?

Policies with less expansive eligibility guidelines are more likely to **increase racial disparities** in the population with a record.

of Adults Eligible for Full Record Relief by Each Clean Slate Policy

% of Adults with a Record Eligible for Full Record Relief



DETERMINING THE IMPACT OF WAITING PERIODS

Clean Slate laws establish a waiting period where individuals must remain crime-free before they are eligible to have their records cleared.

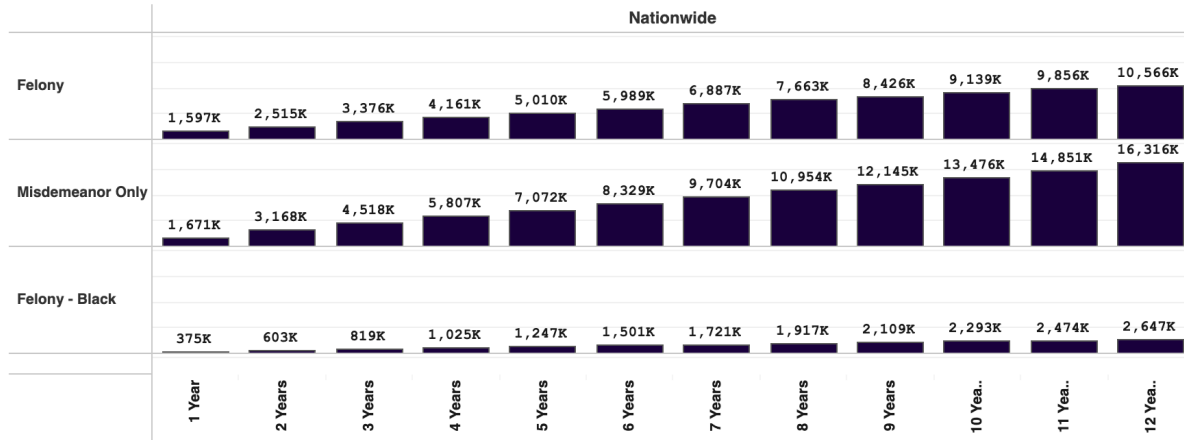
Most states that have passed Clean Slate laws have established waiting periods of 10 or fewer years for felony convictions and 7 or fewer years for misdemeanor convictions.

Use the Calculating Waiting Periods chart to determine how many people would be excluded from eligibility due to a waiting period, including how this breaks down by race/ethnicity and sex. **Generally, the longer the waiting period - the more people will be excluded from record relief.**

These categories are additive - the total number of people excluded due to the waiting period is the sum of the people excluded due to the misdemeanor waiting periods and those excluded due to felony waiting periods.

Calculating Waiting Periods: How Many People Would Be Excluded by Waiting Periods?

Longer waiting periods mean more people will be excluded from eligibility for record clearance.



TROUBLESHOOTING AND SUPPORT

While navigating The Clean Slate Initiative Data Dashboard, you may occasionally encounter issues like charts not loading or updates not reflecting immediately. Here are some steps to help you resolve common problems and where to find further assistance.

- **Refresh your browser:** If you find yourself stuck or notice that a chart isn't updating as expected, the first step is to try refreshing your browser. This can often resolve minor glitches and ensure the latest data is displayed.
- **Consult our FAQ:** Please refer to our [FAQ webpage](#) for answers to frequently asked questions about using the dashboard, interpreting data, or understanding The Clean Slate Initiative's methodology. This resource is designed to provide quick solutions to common queries and enhance your experience with the dashboard.
- **Contact us for support:** Should you have further questions or require personalized support, our team is here to help. Please reach out to us via email at data@cleanslateinitiative.org. Whether you need assistance navigating the dashboard, have inquiries about the data, or are seeking to support Clean Slate campaigns with data, we're committed to providing the guidance you need.