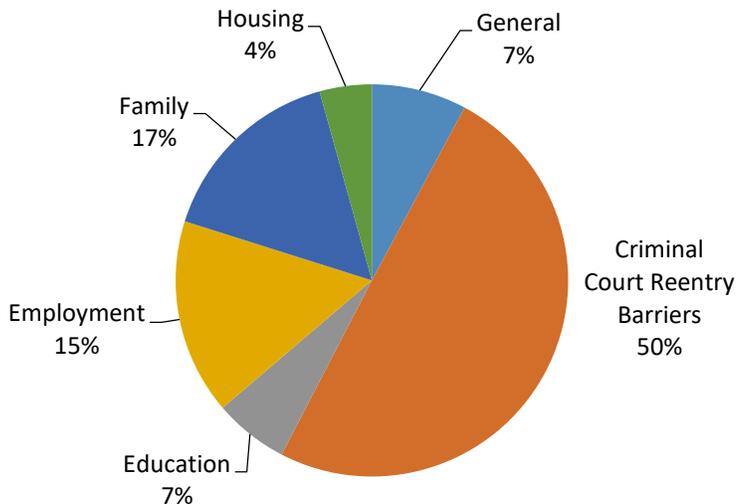


Our Work

Types of Legal Services



in 2016, youth represent . . .

- provided legal representation or advice to **1,216** youth.
- obtained **901** rap sheets to help youth understand their criminal records, and corrected **108** errors in those rap sheets.
- worked on **382** cases.
- taught **188** legal workshops to **2,120** youth, families and youth service providers.

A True Second Chance

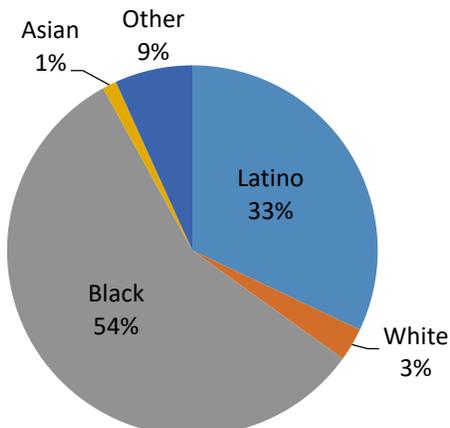
Barriers to successful reentry abound in New York in large part due to our state's stringent criminal justice laws: unlike other states, the possibility of expungement or sealing is virtually nonexistent, so once a young person gets convicted of a crime, they will likely be saddled with the stigma of a criminal record for the rest of their life. Compounding this problem is the fact New York automatically prosecutes—and convicts—16- and 17-year olds as adults.

"Eduardo" was one such young person, convicted of a drug offense when he was just 17. Once he left jail, he was determined to turn his life around. He graduated from college, got a Masters, and started a family. After a successful year interning at a NYC public high school, he applied for a full-time position as a physical education teacher. He was devastated when the Department of Education denied him the job solely because of his criminal record.

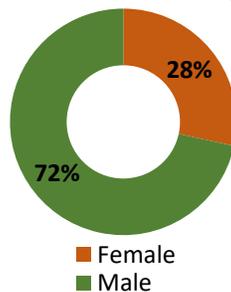
In 2016, the Governor's office announced a new avenue of hope for youth like Eduardo: an executive pardon. Youth Represent compiled an application on his behalf, and it was among the first granted in the state. Eduardo can now apply to jobs without being unfairly discriminated against because of a mistake he made more than ten years ago. "I tell myself, 'I am better than this,'" Eduardo says. "I am much better than what a piece of paper or what this judge has sentenced me. I know that this is not who I am."

Our Clients

Racial/Ethnic Identity



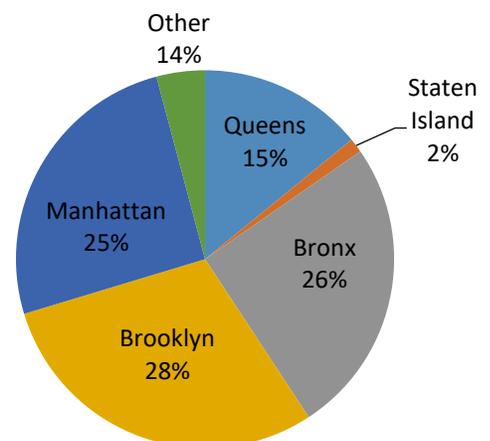
Gender Identity



21

Average Age

Borough of Residence



Year-End highlights: Our Impact

As the issue of mass criminalization is pushed to the forefront of our nation's and our city's consciousness, the need for Youth Represent's legal services has never been clearer. In 2016, our organization experienced tremendous growth, expanding our community-lawyering model like never before through the following initiatives:

Juvenile Reentry Assistance Program: Public Housing

Youth Represent, in partnership with the New York City Housing Authority, was awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) to expand our community-lawyering model to public housing. The project will offer the same combination of direct legal representation, Know Your Rights workshops, and capacity building that have become the hallmark of our successful community-lawyering model.

School Justice Project: NYC Public High Schools

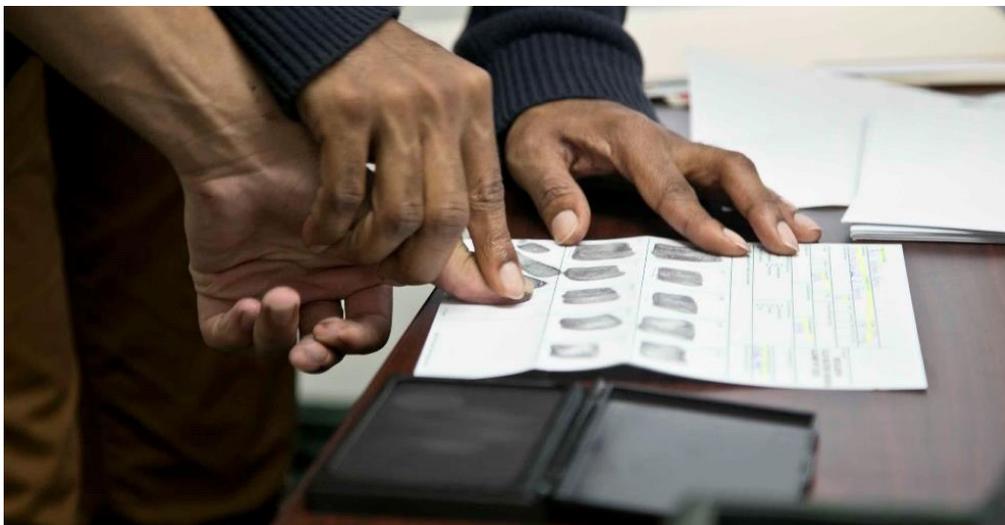
In response to the high number of criminal summonses students are given and how many turn into arrest warrants because students do not make their court dates, Youth Represent has been contracted to vacate these warrants and represent students in Summons Court. We have long recognized the public schools as an area of high need for our services, and so we will be providing the rest of our comprehensive legal representation—in employment, education, housing, and family law—to prove the necessity of our holistic approach.

Youth Reentry Network: Rikers Island

The Youth Reentry Network is a project spearheaded by Friends of Island Academy, a nonprofit dedicated to serving young people who are or who have been incarcerated on Rikers Island. Funded by the NYC Department of Correction, the Network will connect youth leaving Rikers with community-based organizations so they can successfully reenter society upon their release. The Network will also provide services on Rikers to assist youth who are detained pending trial.

National Replication Efforts

In keeping with our partnership model, we are exploring how we can replicate our community-lawyering approach beyond New York City by working closely with STRIVE International, a workforce development program with sites across the U.S. STRIVE selected us to serve as the technical assistance provider to connect their sites with local legal service providers, and train them on our unique positive youth development lawyering.



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