

Driver's License Suspension and Self-Sufficiency

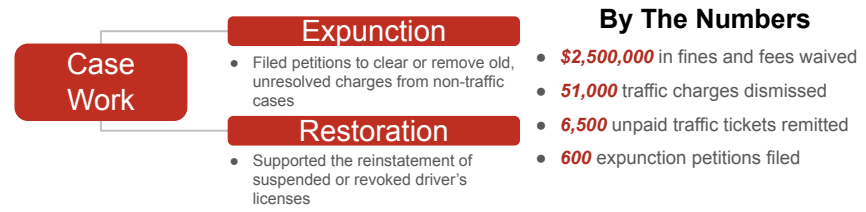
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Background

- Criminal debt from low-level traffic infractions is a large-scale issue in NC
- **1 in 12** NC residents currently has unpaid criminal court debt
 - **436,000+** NC drivers' licenses have been revoked for non-payment of fines as of 2017
 - **1 in 7** Durham County residents has had active suspensions from Failure To Comply (FTC) or Appear (FTA) since 1980
- License suspensions from FTCs disproportionately affect low-income communities of color
- **Racial Inequity:** In NC, Black people are nearly **2x** more likely than White people to have a license suspension
 - In Durham County, Black people made up approximately **70%** of FTCs despite comprising only **37%** of the total population
 - **Economic Inequity:** In NC, **55%** of license suspensions were from people with incomes in the bottom third of the state

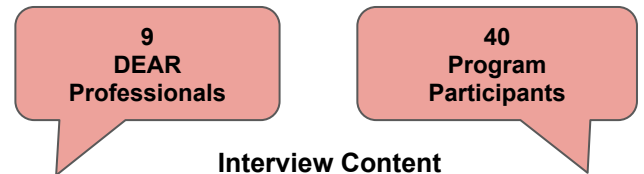
Research Question: How does Driver's License Suspension and Reinstatement Affect Life Outcomes for Durham Residents?

Durham Expunction and Restoration (DEAR) Program

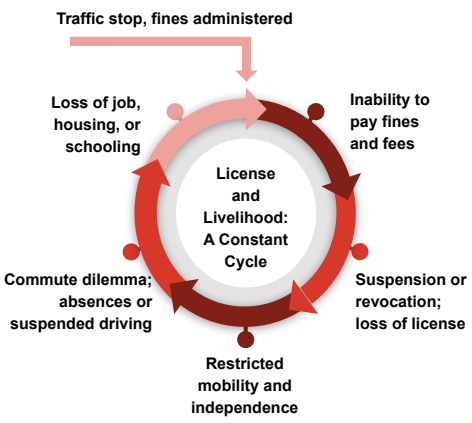
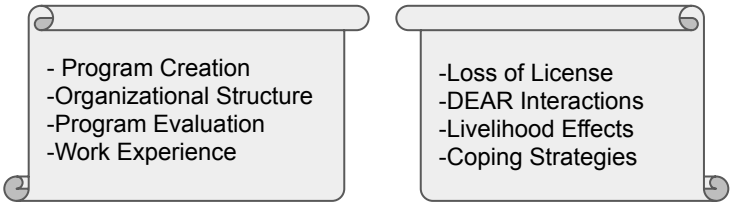


Methods: Qualitative Interviews

Interviewees



Interview Content



Findings

- 1 Excessive Punishments and Inequitable Outcomes
- 2 Confusion, Poor Communication, and Administrative Barriers
- 3 Small Number of Restored Licenses
- 4 Legal Issues Outside of Durham Present a Barrier to Restoration

Recommendations

- State Policy:**
- Eliminate license suspension/revocation due to failure to pay or appear in court
- County Policy:**
- Create an online portal informing participants of their progress with fines, expungement, or restoration
 - Increase funding and staffing for DEAR. Establish a fund for DMV-related fees
- State Policy:**
- Institute statewide expunction and restoration programs