

URBAN CITIZENSHIP: New York City ID

Citizenship

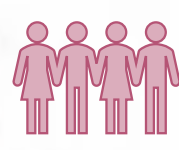
- A)** On the one hand, a **state authority grants** certain **rights** and **privileges** to its citizens. In return, citizens are expected to obey their country's laws (allegiance & taxes).
- B)** On the other hand, Citizenship as a **collective and affirmative practice** through which people actively struggle for and appropriate rights.

[1]

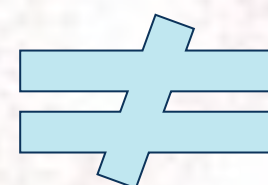
Urban Citizenship



Right to the city, **independent** of citizenship and legal status. Affiliation through one's place of **residence**. Collective practise in execution in many cities.



De Facto



De Jure

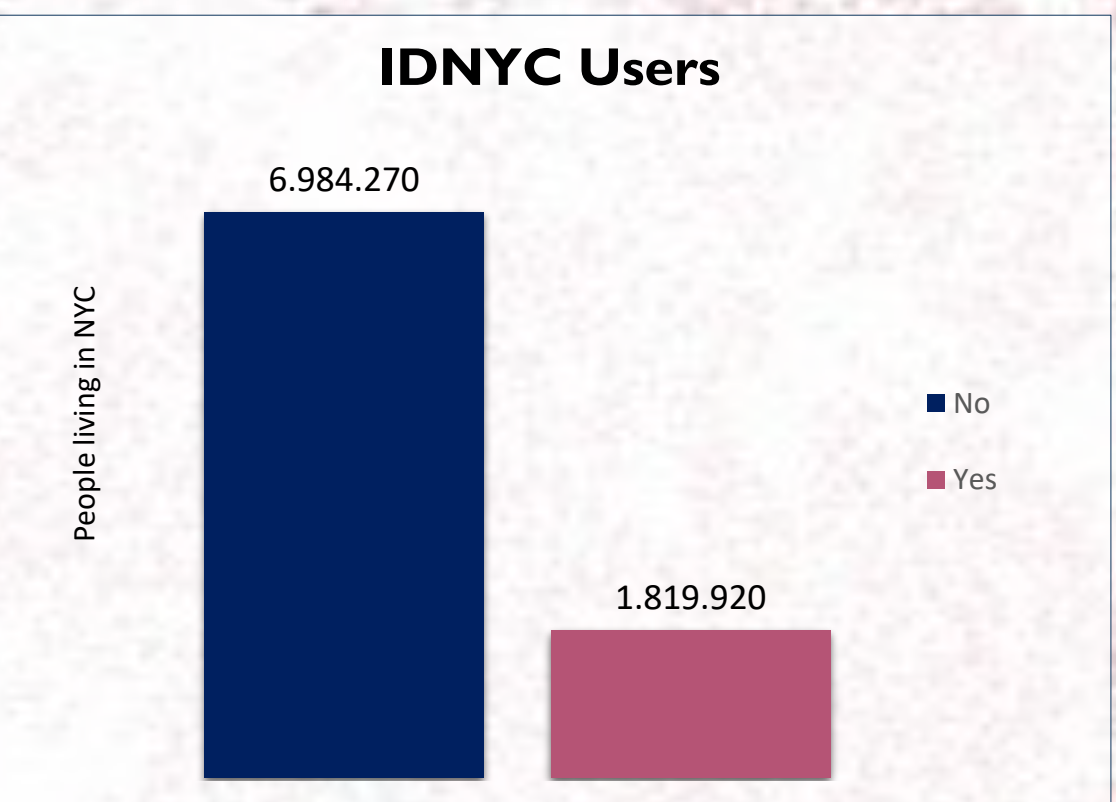


The “New York City ID” as a tool for practiced Urban Citizenship



Free identification card, which works as a document for Urban Citizenship for people living in New York, age 10+, regardless of citizenship or immigration-/ legal status. Largest municipal ID programm in the U.S., launched in 2015. Developed from an ID with the purpose to **benefit undocumented** and other vulnerable groups to cope with everyday struggles like official visits, registration, bank, contact with police, ... Implementation with community based organisations for advertising and enrollment. Nowadays the ID programm has 1.819.920 users and growing.

[1, 2, 7]



1.819.920 cardholders New York City ID

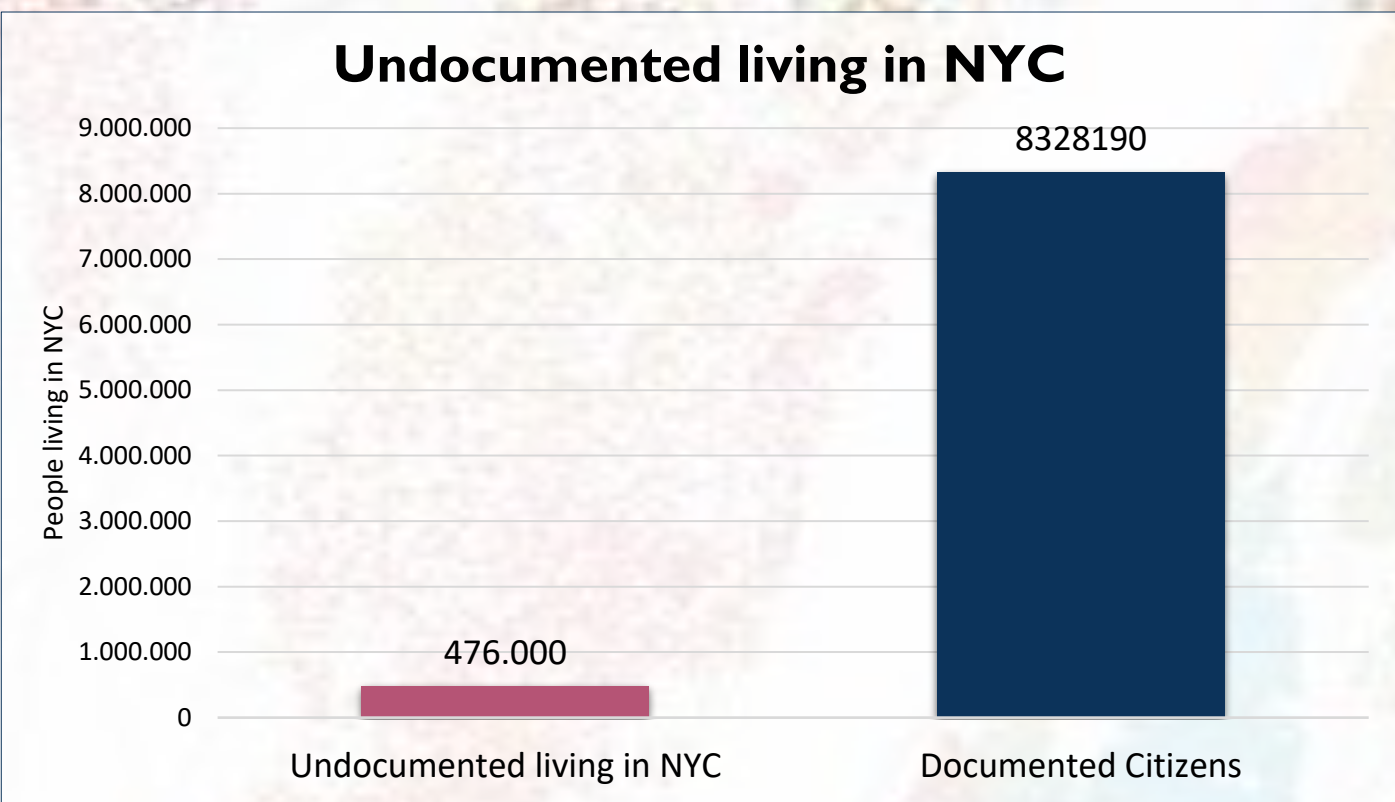
⇒ **20,67% IDNYC users**

[2]

Regarding MOAI 2020 there are 476.000 undocumented living in New York City. Total city population is 8.804.190 people.

⇒ **5,4 % undocumented**

[3, 5]



Own representation according to Mayor's Office Immigrant Affairs MOIA Annual Report 2020 [3]

New York City = city with the highest rate of immigrants in the U.S. (**36%**) and **5,4%** have no legal status

[4]

... is it a problem? When is it a problem?

Undocumented = Illegal?

Creates problems for:

- 1)** the people migrating to New York City **2)** the authorities having loads of work **3)** the police would have to pursue every immigrant Those problems can be solved, as the stakeholders (Police, Authorities, Immigrants) agree on a local ID card as a **valid legal document**.

Services of the IDNYC [6] „More than just an ID card“



Future Outlook



“Adapting the papers to reality and not reality to the papers“ (Schilling 2018: 29).

⇒ Idea of municipal ID programmes growing: New Haven, San Francisco, Oakland, Los Angeles, New Jersey, Bern, Zürich, ...

“Recognize migration as a fact of life and no longer as a dividing line“ (ibid.: 32).

⇒ Citizenship Studies & Postmigrant Society

⇒ underlying problems, such as racism, classism, queerphobia, can be addressed more clearly

⇒ Electoral Rights: Right to vote in the place of residence



[8]

Further issues around the IDNYC



In **New York City** as an **Immigrant City** where the concept of **urban citizenship** definitely makes sense. The most common form of **identification** is the driver's license, there is no such thing as standardized ID in the U.S. compared to Germany. People migrating to New York all have and use different forms of identification. The approach of **one card for all** New Yorkers creates a **sense of unity** and works as a tool **against inequality**.



Theoretical debates around citizenship often **stress differences in people's status**, if one is granted citizenship by birth or if one must gain it in a new place. **Belonging** or **separation** is manifested through **borders** and their significance.

Contrary, local IDs and the social demands behind them are formative, they **give freedom** (*Stadtluft macht frei*) and change the way we value the concept of citizenship.



Community based organizations (CBO) like Make the road and the New York Immigration Coalition who are starting campaigns like the IDNYC **shape society** and **life of immigrants in New York City**. Hand in hand with concepts of Solidarity Cities and Sanctuary Cities, the borders of citizenship are dissolving more and more, literally...

[11]



Background Map
"Race and ethnicity:
New York City"
by Eric Fischer [13]