An Overview of Sex Offender Reentry: Building a Foundation for Professionals

April 23, 2014

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- National non-profit, non-partisan membership association of state government officials
- Engages members of all three branches of state government
- Justice Center provides practical, nonpartisan advice informed by the best available evidence
The NRRC is a project of the CSG Justice Center and is supported by the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

NRRC staff have worked with nearly 600 SCA grantees, including 40 state corrections agencies.

The NRRC provides individualized, intensive, and targeted technical assistance training and distance learning to support SCA grantees.

Please register for the monthly NRRC newsletter at: http://csgjusticecenter.org/subscribe/

Please share this link with others in your networks that are interested in reentry!

http://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/
An Overview of Sex Offender Reentry: Building a Foundation for Professionals

Presenters:

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Justice Center *Sex Offender Reentry Project* designed to –

- Increase knowledge about sex offender reentry
- Educate professionals on evidence-based practices
- Engage and support research centered on issues related to sex offender assessment, treatment, management and reentry
Reentry Matters

**Public safety:**
Reducing recidivism results in fewer victims of crime and decreases reincarceration, and improves public safety

**Stronger communities and families:**
Reentry can promote family reunification, pro-social relationships, improved economic outcomes, and healthier communities

**Smarter use of taxpayer dollars:**
Reincarceration is costly and diverts public resources away from other public priorities, such as education and social supports
Reentry: An Integrated Approach

General Offenders

Sex Offenders

Screening & Assessment
Pre-Release Planning
Release Decision
Reintegration
Management

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Key Statistics of the Sex Offender Population

Understanding Sex Offenders

Managing Sex Offenders and Promoting Successful Reentry
Sex Offender Populations

Age groups:
- Adults
- Emerging Adults
- Adolescents

Offense types:
- Hands-on
- Hands-off
- Internet or technology-based

Our focus today is on adults with hands-on offenses.
Sex Offender Arrest Trends

Arrests for Sex Offenses: Ten Year Trends

- Forcible rape
- Other sex offenses

2003: 60,155
2012: 47,369

UCR, Crime in the United States, FBI, 2013

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Victims of Reported Sex Offenses, 2012

- Adult victims: 28,078 (36%)
- Minor victims: 50,803 (64%)

Source: National Incident Based Reporting System, FBI, 2013
Relationship of Victims to Offenders

Forcible Sex Offenses

- Unknown: 7,800
- Stranger: 5,033
- Known, unrelated: 36,975
- Family member: 18,888

(National Incident Based Reporting System, FBI, 2013)
Relationship of Victims to Offenders

Non Forcible Sex Offenses

- Unknown: 428
- Stranger: 107
- Known, unrelated: 4,074
- Family member: 1,580

(National Incident Based Reporting System, FBI, 2013)
Incarcerated Sex Offenders

Sex offenders represent 12% of state prison populations.

(Carson & Golinelli, 2013)
Sex Offenders Entering State Prisons

Prison Admissions of Sex Offenders

(31,000, 2001) → (33,000, 2011)

(Carson & Golinelli, 2013)
Sex Offenders Entering State Prisons

Sex Offender Admissions, by Type

2011

New admission: 70%
Parole violation: 30%

(Carson & Golinelli, 2013)
Sex Offenders Exiting Prisons

Sex Offenders Released

Year

2001 2006 2011

26,561 29,125 33,700

(Carson & Golinelli, 2013)
**Correctional Status: Overall Offender Population**

**Offender Population: Incarcerated and Under Community Supervision, 2012**

- Incarcerated: 2,228,400 (32%)
- Probation/Parole: 4,781,300 (68%)
- Probation: 3,971,300
- Parole: 853,900

**Sex offenders represent 9% of the parole population**

*(Glaze & Herberman, 2013; Maruschak & Bonczar, 2013)*
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Persons Who Sexually Offend

Adolescents

Emerging Adults

Adults
Diversity in Sex Offenders and Offenses

Sex Offenders are Not All the Same

Offense Type

Recidivism Risk

Offender Background

Contributing Factors

Offense Dynamics
Variations among Sex Offenders

- Basic demographics
- Developmental
- Interpersonal, social
- Mental, behavioral health
- Criminal history
- Psychosexual

- Risk factors
- Protective factors
- Intervention needs
- Amenability
- Short, long term recidivism risk
  - Sexual, non sexual
Varied Contributing Factors

- Biological
- Developmental, environmental
- Individual, intrapersonal
- Socio-cultural
- Situational, circumstantial

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Differences in Recidivism Risk: Sexual and Non-sexual

Low  Moderate  High
Polling Question: What percentage of sex offenders is known to commit new sex crimes after 5 years of follow-up?

- 76-100%
- 51-75%
- 26-50%
- 0-25%
Recidivism of Sexual Offenders

A Meta-Analysis of Sex Offender Recidivism

- General (any) recidivism rate: 36%
- Sexual recidivism rate: 14%
- Violent nonsexual recidivism rate: 14%

Sex offenders are more likely to be general recidivists

N = 29,450 sex offenders
Sample: 82 studies
Follow up: Approx. 5-6 yrs.

(Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2005)
Recidivism Rates of Sex Offenders

Observed Recidivism Rates Over Time:
Adult Sex Offenders as a Group

- 5 years: 14%
- 10 years: 20%
- 15 years: 24%

N = 4,724

(Harris & Hanson, 2004)
Recidivism Rates of Sex Offenders

Observed Recidivism By Offender Subgroup

- Incest
- Extrafam-girls
- Rape
- Extrafam-boys

- 5 years
- 10 years
- 15 years

N = 4,724

(Harris & Hanson, 2004)
Recidivism Rates: Previous Sexual Conviction vs. No Previous Conviction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>No previous conviction</th>
<th>Previous conviction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 yrs</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 yrs</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 yrs</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N = 4,724

(Harris & Hanson, 2004)
What impacts recidivism findings?

- Recidivism measure
  - Re-arrest, re-conviction, technical violation
- Duration of follow-up
- Sample characteristics
  - Offender type
  - Risk level
  - Treatment, no treatment
Factors affecting recidivism risk include STATIC, historical characteristics, and DYNAMIC, changeable factors.

### Examples of Static Risk Factors
- Prior sex offenses
- Prior non-sex offenses
- Non-related victims
- Stranger victims
- Young male victims
- Younger age

### Examples of Dynamic Risk Factors
- Sexual deviancy
- Antisocial orientation, psychopathy
- Intimacy deficits, conflicts
- Hostility
- Self-regulation deficits
- Employment instability

(Hanson & Bussiere, 1998; Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2005)
Implications of the Diversity of Sex Offenders

- Legislative
- Agency policy
- Case management
  - Sentencing
  - Treatment, supervision
  - Release decisionmaking
  - Reentry
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Key Statistics of the Sex Offender Population

Understanding Sex Offenders

Managing Sex Offenders and Promoting Successful Reentry
Advances in the Sex Offender Management Field

Theoretical Development
- Development of multifactor theories to understand, explain sex offending behavior

Emphasis on Risk Reduction and EBPs
- Shift from primarily risk management to including risk reduction
- Application of evidence-based correctional principles

Understanding Risk Factors
- From identifying static risk factors to understanding dynamic risk factors

Enhanced Assessment Strategies
- Acknowledgment that “one size fits all” is not effective, shift toward assessment-driven strategies

Agency Collaborations
- Increased shared responsibility, multidisciplinary approaches to sex offender management
The Comprehensive Approach to Sex Offender Management (CASOM) Model

Fundamental Principles
- Victim-centered
- Evidence-based
- Carried out by those with specialized knowledge
- Engaging of the public
- Collaborative

- Investigation, Prosecution, and Sentencing
- Registration and Notification
- Assessment
- Supervision
- Treatment
- Reentry

CSOM, 2004
Barriers to Sex Offender Reentry

- Myths about sex offenders
- Lack of information about “what works”
- Heightened media attention
- Negative public sentiment
- Further restricted employment and housing opportunities
- Some sex offender-specific policy trends
- Access to treatment
- Longer prison sentences
Consider Sex Offender Reentry from Various Perspectives

- Legislative
- Agency policy
- Case management
- Public education, engagement
Key Elements of a Sex Offender Reentry Strategy

1. Collaborate to achieve an “in to out” approach
2. Manage sex offenders in prison with an eye toward release
3. Recognize the value of discretionary release decision-making
4. Ensure victim-centeredness during reentry processes
5. Adopt a success-oriented approach to post-release supervision
6. Promote informed sex offender management policy

(CSOM, 2007)
1. Collaborate to achieve an “in to out” approach

- Internal
- External
- Internal and external

- Reach out, reach in
- Promote seamless continuity of care
- Establish community supports
- Engage post-release supervision officers, case managers
- Information sharing is key
  - Risk assessment
  - Updated psychosexual evaluations
  - Participation, progress in prison-based sex offender services, other programs
  - Ongoing intervention needs to support risk reduction, risk management, success post-release
Top Factors Delaying Parole Release: Offenders Overall

Delays in program completion: 43%

Offenders unavailable for interview: 23%

Reports not completed on time: 21%

Victim input: 21%

Assessments not completed in time for parole decisions: 19%

Findings from the APAI International Survey of Releasing Authorities (Kinnevy & Caplan, 2008)
2. Manage sex offenders in prison with an eye toward release

- Assess
- Anticipate
- Address

- Assess early and triage
- Clarify release-ready expectations
- Engage offenders to identify, needs for pre- and post-release success
- Develop a comprehensive reentry roadmap and case management plan
- Provide programs and services
  - Cognitive skills
  - Substance abuse
  - Vocational
  - Educational
  - Mental health
  - Sex offense-specific
Sex Offender Treatment Effects

2009 Meta-Analysis

(Hanson, Bourgon, Helmus, & Hodgson, 2009)
Additional Reentry Case Management Planning

- Survival needs, skills
- Housing
- Employment
- Post-release supervision expectations, conditions
- Community sentiment
- Human capital
3. Recognize the value of discretionary release decision-making

- Potential pitfalls of mandatory, automatic release
  - Releases regardless of risk level
  - Little incentive to participate in prison-based programs, services
  - Little incentive to develop comprehensive release plans
  - Little or no post-release supervision period
3. Recognize the value of discretionary release decision-making

- Benefits of discretionary release include:
  - Controlled releases informed by risk level
  - Provide incentive/leverage to sex offenders to participate in prison-based programs, services
  - Require comprehensive release plans that address risk, needs, victim safety
  - Ensure post-release supervision periods to support risk reduction, risk management
To Parole or Not To Parole?

Estimated Parole Rates Reported by Paroling Authorities

Non sex offenders: 60%
Sex offenders: 30%

(Bumby, 2005)
Concerns of Parole Boards

- Cases reported as more difficult than others
- Nature of the crimes
- High profile population, heightened attention
- Questions about adequacy of programs, services
- Uncertainly about offenders’ risk levels
- Recidivism, victim/community safety
Releasing Authorities’ Use of Risk Assessments

86% use a risk assessment instrument to inform decisionmaking

Over 50% reported using Static-99 for decisionmaking with sex offenders

- To inform supervision conditions
- To inform level of supervision for sex offenders
- As part of decision matrix for revocations

Findings from the APAI International Survey of Releasing Authorities (Kinnevy & Caplan, 2008)
4. Ensure victim-centeredness during reentry processes

- Keep in mind rights, needs, interests of victims

- Victims have an important stake in the reentry process

- Hearing notifications, victim input
- Release notifications
- Special conditions for housing, employment
- No contact orders
- Family reunification
- Safety planning for victims
- Point of contacts for questions, concerns
5. Adopt a success-oriented approach to post-release supervision

- Balanced approach
- Success orientation vs. failure expectancy
- Professional alliance
- Role of officers as change agents
- Approach vs. avoidance-only conditions
- Application of evidence-based principles

- Punishment and surveillance models alone do not reduce recidivism

- Such approaches may potentially increase recidivism
Surveillance-Oriented Supervision Approach

- Officers are viewed as enforcers of release conditions
- Monitoring occurs primarily to identify compliance and need for sanctions
- Contacts are driven by adherence to policies and standards
- Emphasis is on sanctions/punishment for non-compliance and problem behaviors
- Referrals to programs and services are ancillary/secondary
- Officers react after problems arise

Balanced, Success-Oriented Supervision Approach

- Officers are viewed as agents of change
- Monitoring occurs to assess progress, goal attainment, and compliance
- Contacts are driven by problem-solving and change-promoting interests
- Emphasis is on reinforcers to promote positive behavioral change, sanctioning when warranted
- Advocacy and brokerage for programs and services are central
- Needs are anticipated in advance and officers intervene proactively
Specialized Supervision

- Specialized caseloads, officers
- Specialized technology
- Specialized conditions
  - Selective application
  - Avoid condition overload
Polling Question:

What percentage of released sex offenders return to prison within 3 years of release?

a. 10 – 15%
b. 20 – 25%
c. 35 – 40%
d. 60 – 65%
Post-Release Outcomes for Sex Offenders

National study of nearly 10,000 conducted a 3-year follow-up. Percentage rearrested for at least one new crime:

\[43\%\]

Rearrested for a new sex offense

\[5.3\%\]

Reconvicted for a sex offense

\[3.5\%\]

Over one third (38%) were returned to prison within three years

\[71\%\] were returned for technical violations

(Adapted from Langan et al., 2003)
Reponses to Violations of Conditions

Responses should be:
• Timely
• Proportional
• Well-informed

A range of responses should be available.

Findings from the APAI International Survey of Releasing Authorities (Kinnevy & Caplan, 2008)
6. Promote informed sex offender management policy

- Recognize shared public safety goal
- Address perceptions, expectations vs. reality
- Use myth busting, “what works” literature
- Provide overview of current practices
- Highlight effectiveness of sex offender management strategies, policies
  - Costs vs. benefits
  - Unintended, collateral consequences

Some things work, some things don’t
Public Opinion: How much do you agree that sex crimes should be a top priority for state and federal policy makers?

- **54%** Strongly agree
- **40%** Agree
- **4%** Disagree
- **2%** Strongly disagree

Mears et al. (2008)
Multiple Goals, Expectations of Stakeholders for Sex Offender Policy

- Deterrence
- Punishment
- Incapacitation
- Risk management
- Risk reduction, rehabilitation
- Prevention
Public Perceptions about Sex Offending

- Sex offense rates are on the rise: 77%
- Sex offenders reoffend at much higher rates than other criminals: 68%

(Levenson et al., 2007)
Public Opinion: What percentage of sex offenders repeats their crimes?

- Less than 25%
- 25-50%
- 50-75%
- More than 75%
- Not sure

(CSOM, 2010)
Public Opinion: Most Appropriate Punishment for Sex Crimes

(Mears et al., 2008)
Policy Trends for Sex Offender Management

- Increased minimum mandatory sentences
- Civil commitment
- GPS, electronic monitoring
- Residence restrictions
- Registration, notification

Some approaches reduce recidivism, others do not, and still others have unintended consequences.
Public Perceptions about Effectiveness of Sex Offender Management Strategies

- GPS/electronic monitoring: 82%
- Supervision: 74%
- Registration/notification: 79%
- Residence restrictions: 63%
- Treatment: 64%
- Prison: 49%

(CSOM, 2010)
Polling Question: What single factor SHOULD lawmakers rely on most when making decisions about sex offender management?

- Research about which strategies are effective and which are not
- What they think the public wants
- Specific crimes that have occurred in their communities
- Their own personal opinions, beliefs, experiences
- News media
- Not sure/other

(CSOM, 2010)
What single factor SHOULD lawmakers rely on most when making decisions about sex offender management?

- Research about which strategies are effective and which are not: 55%
- What they think the public wants: 20%
- Specific crimes that have occurred in their communities: 15%
- Their own personal opinions, beliefs, experiences: 5%
- News media: 4%
- Not sure/other: 3%

(CSOM, 2010)
What single factor SHOULD lawmakers rely on most when making decisions about sex offender management? (vs DO rely on most)

- Research about which strategies are effective and which are not: 55% should, 17% do
- What they think the public wants: 20% should, 38% do
- Specific crimes that have occurred in their communities: 15% should, 15% do
- Their own personal opinions, beliefs, experiences: 5% should, 15% do
- News media: 4% should, 13% do
- Not sure/other: 3% should, 3% do

(CSOM, 2010)
Facilitate Education and Awareness

- Legislators, lawmakers
  - State
  - Local (e.g., city councils)
- Agency policymakers
- Potential “non traditional” partners
  - Public
  - Housing officials
  - Community volunteer/action groups
  - Faith community
Sex offenders are a diverse population
Increasing number of sex offenders released to community
Reentry is a key component of a comprehensive approach
Sex offender reentry has unique challenges
Multiple elements to sex offender reentry strategies
Moving the Field Forward: The National Reentry Resource Center

Informs SCA’s Vision & Supports SCA’s Implementation

Develops new knowledge
- Through consensus-based research and creation of new resources and reports

Engages the field
- Through piloting and measuring the impact of new research in the field

Promotes what works in reentry
- Through one-stop online resource hub, What Works in Reentry Clearinghouse, newsletter, and other media

Council of State Governments Justice Center
### Moving the Field Forward: The National Reentry Resource Center

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<tr>
<td>Common language for risk communication</td>
<td>Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA) Toolkit</td>
<td>Key Principles of Sex Offender Reentry Policy and Practice</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Innovative Strategies for a Victim-Centered Approach</td>
<td>What Works in Reentry Clearinghouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop non-arbitrary definitions and constructs of risk categories to guide in the converging of assessment scores</td>
<td>Training video and companion guide to provide the background of and guiding principles of COSA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Employ a victim-centered approach to sex offender reentry, highlighting specific strategies important to victims</td>
<td>Facilitate webinars centered on advancing the knowledge on sex offender management and reentry</td>
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<td>Continued education, support, and training for the field</td>
<td>Systematic review and evaluation process to identify high quality, rigorous research and translate complex statistical analysis</td>
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### Key Principles of Sex Offender Reentry Policy and Practice

- Continued education, support, and training for the field
- Facilitate webinars centered on advancing the knowledge on sex offender management and reentry
- Systematic review and evaluation process to identify high quality, rigorous research and translate complex statistical analysis
What Works in Reentry Clearinghouse


New section on responses to Sexual Offending section coming soon!

➤ Easy to access summary of complex, high quality research

➤ Useful for policy, program, and service delivery decisions
Moving the Field Forward: Identifying Needs and Gaps in the Field

Funded by the Second Chance Act of 2008, and launched by the Council of State Governments Justice Center in 2009, the National Reentry Resource Center (NRRC) provides education, training, and technical assistance to states, tribes, territories, local governments, service providers, non-profit organizations, and corrections institutions working on prisoner reentry. The objectives of NRRC include the following:

- Provide a one-stop, interactive source of current, user-friendly reentry information
- Identify, document, and promote evidence-based practices
- Advance the reentry field through training, distance learning, and knowledge development
- Deliver individualized, targeted technical assistance to the Second Chance Act grantees

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/F25HJXH
Questions & Answers
Thank You!

The webinar recording and PowerPoint presentation will be available on [www.csgjusticecenter.org](http://www.csgjusticecenter.org) within a week.

*This material was developed by the presenters for this webinar. Presentations are not externally reviewed for form or content and as such, the statements within reflect the views of the authors and should not be considered the official position of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Justice Center, the members of the Council of State Governments, or funding agencies supporting the work.*

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