

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

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Council of State Governments Justice Center

- 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 National Reentry Resource Center

- 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.

<http://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/>



- ✓ 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!

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

Presenters:



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

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



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

SMART

Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring,
Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking

CSOM

Center for Sex Offender Management

Enhancing public safety by preventing further victimization through
improving the management of adult and juvenile sex offenders

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

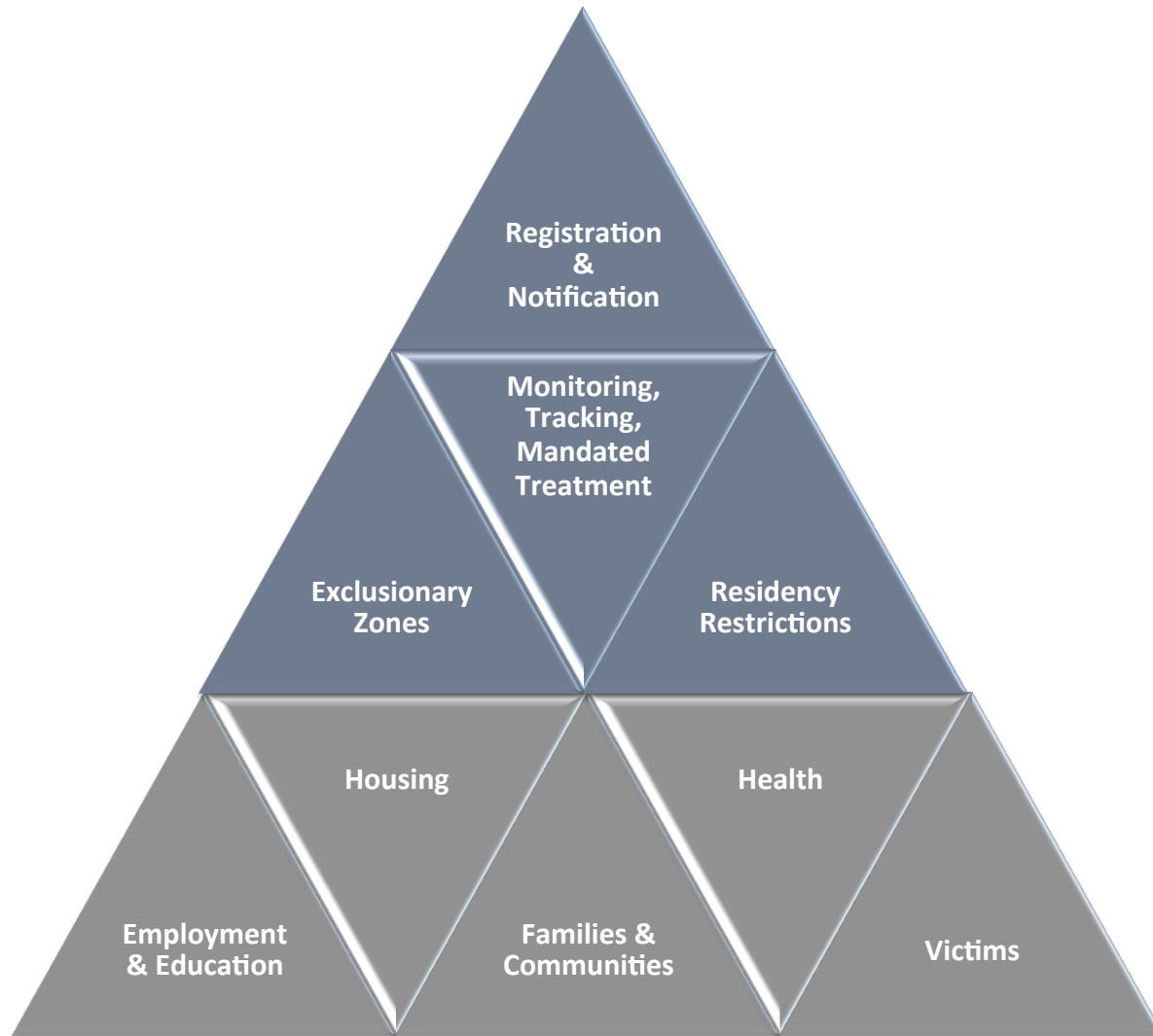
Pre-Release
Planning

Release
Decision

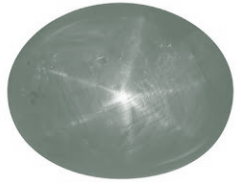
Reintegration

Management

Reentry



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



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:

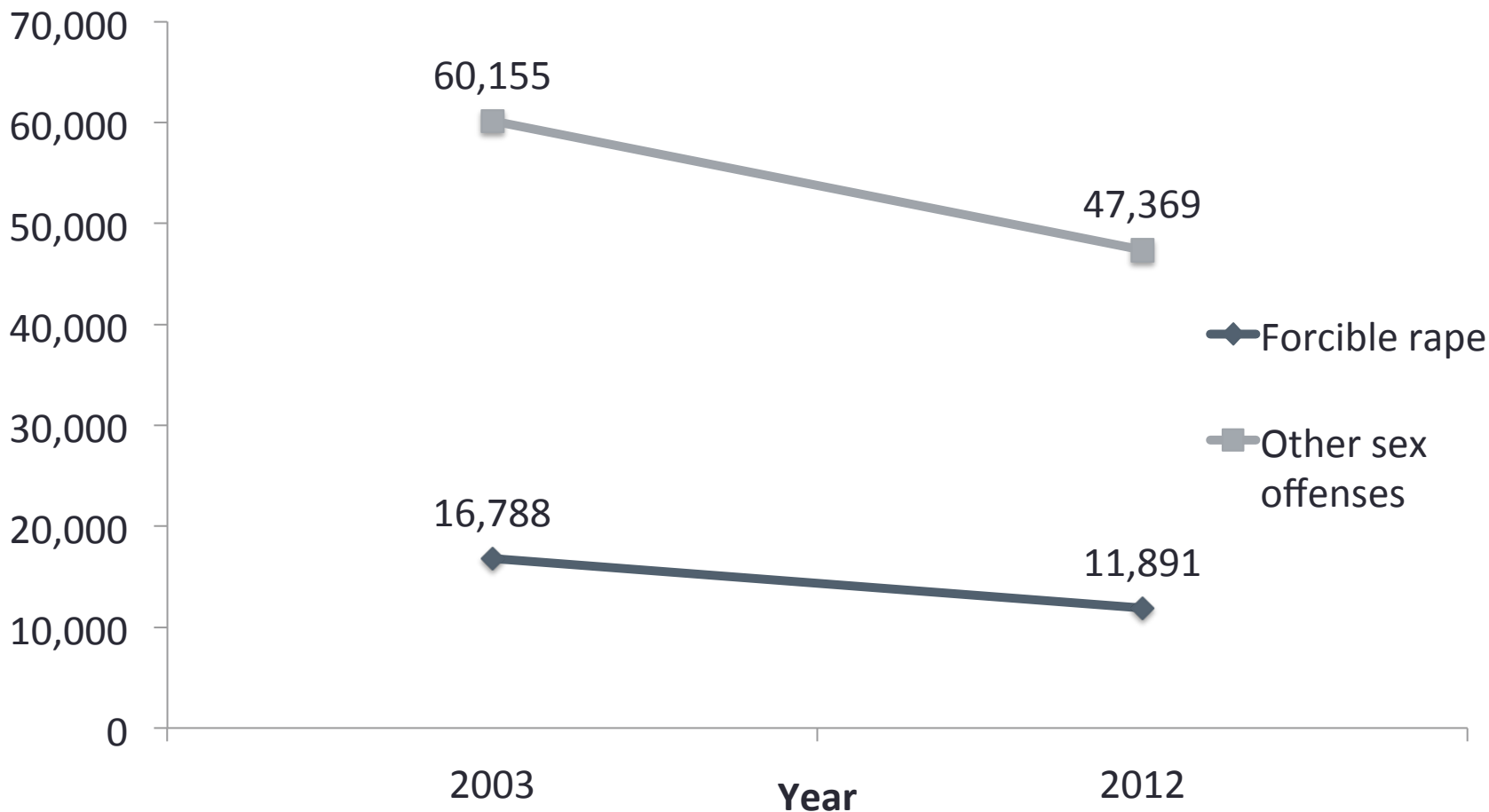
- Hands-on
- Hands-off
- Internet or technology-based



Our focus today is on adults with hands-on offenses.

Sex Offender Arrest Trends

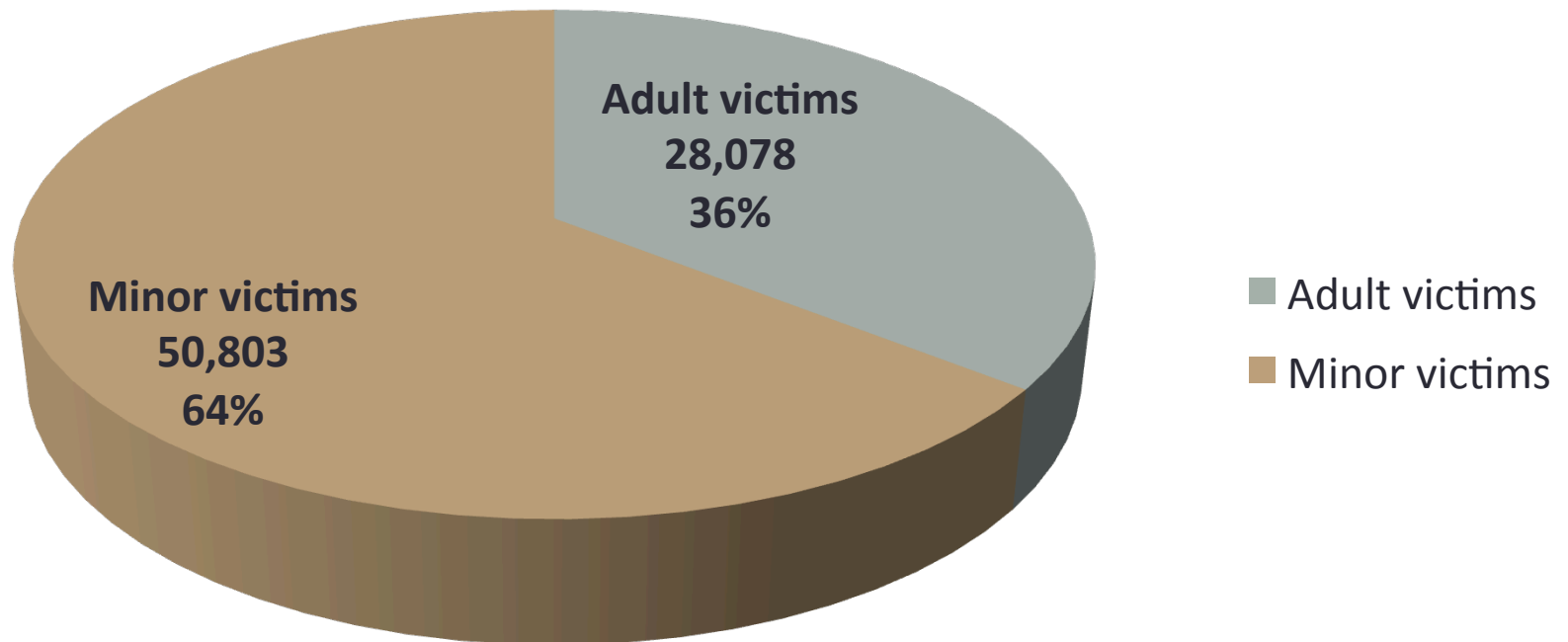
Arrests for Sex Offenses: Ten Year Trends



(UCR, Crime in the United States, FBI, 2013)

Victims of Reported Sex Offenses

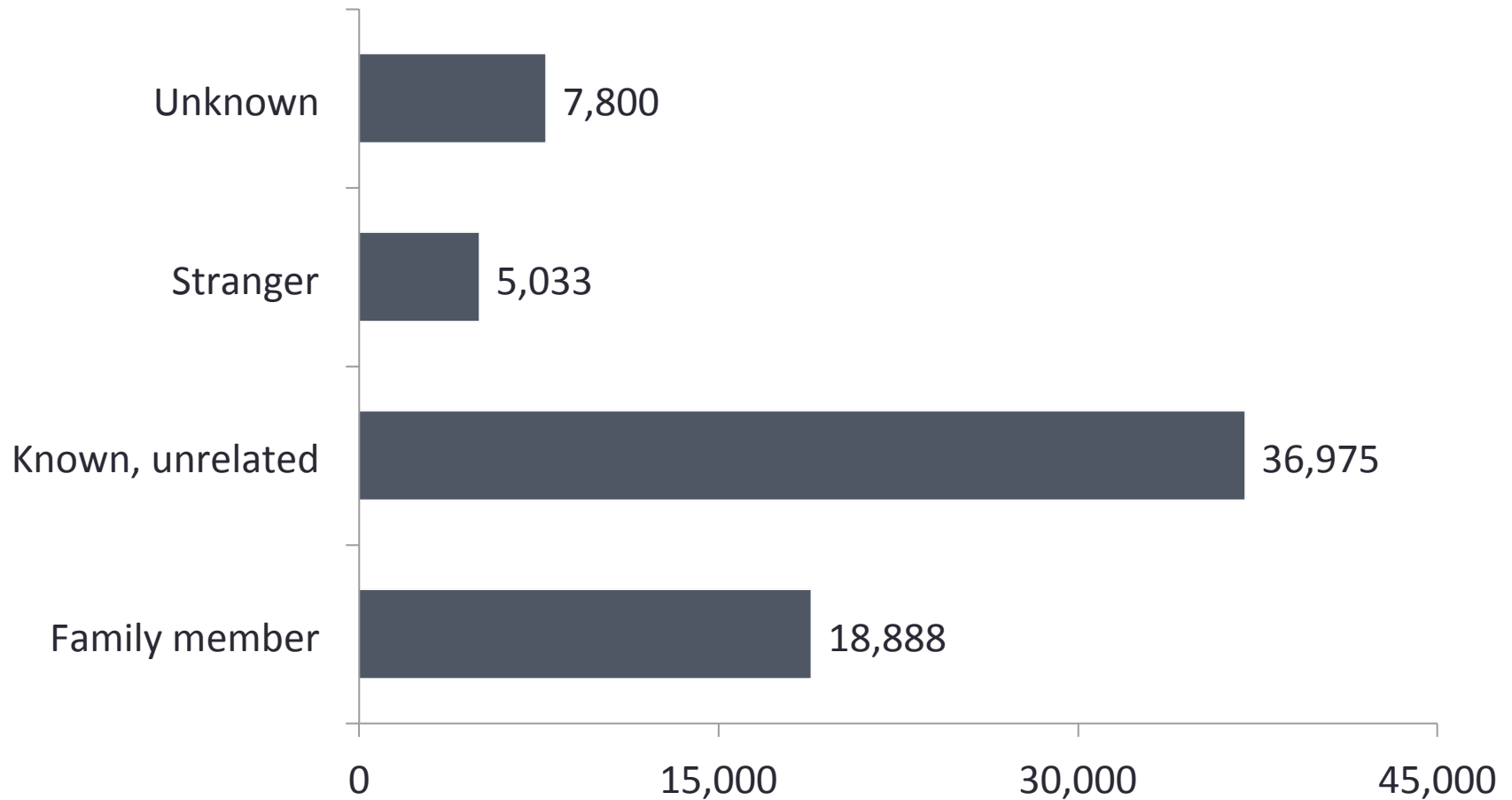
Victims of Reported Sex Offenses, 2012



(National Incident Based Reporting System, FBI, 2013)

Relationship of Victims to Offenders

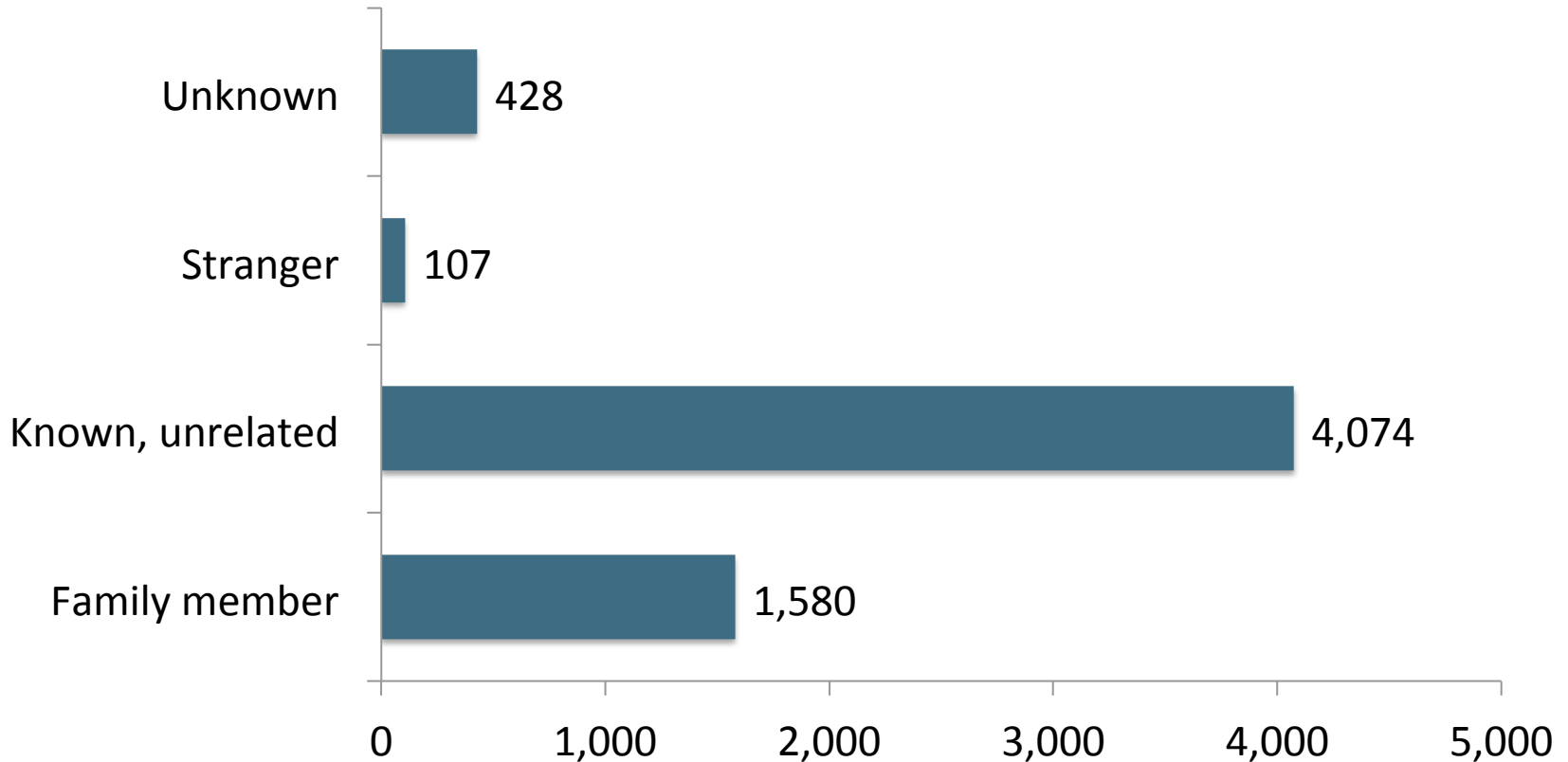
Forcible Sex Offenses



(National Incident Based Reporting System, FBI, 2013)

Relationship of Victims to Offenders

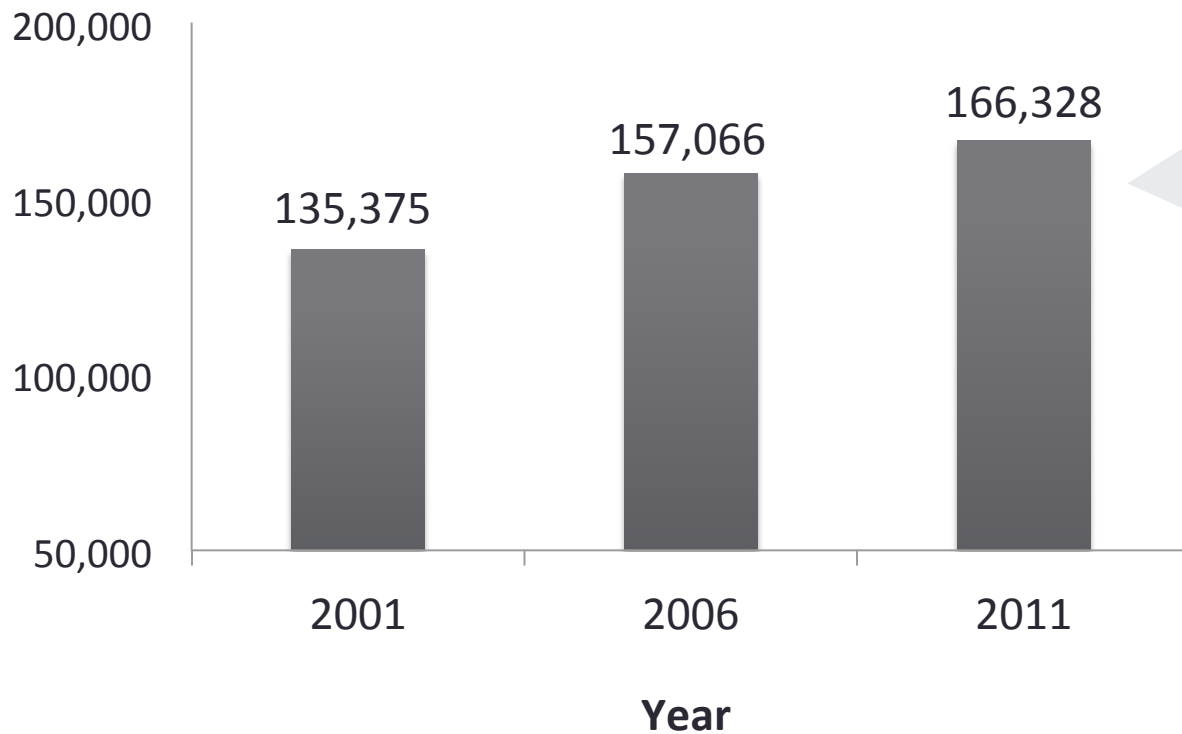
Non Forcible Sex Offenses



(National Incident Based Reporting System, FBI, 2013)

Incarcerated Sex Offenders

Offenders in Prison for Rape and Sexual Assault

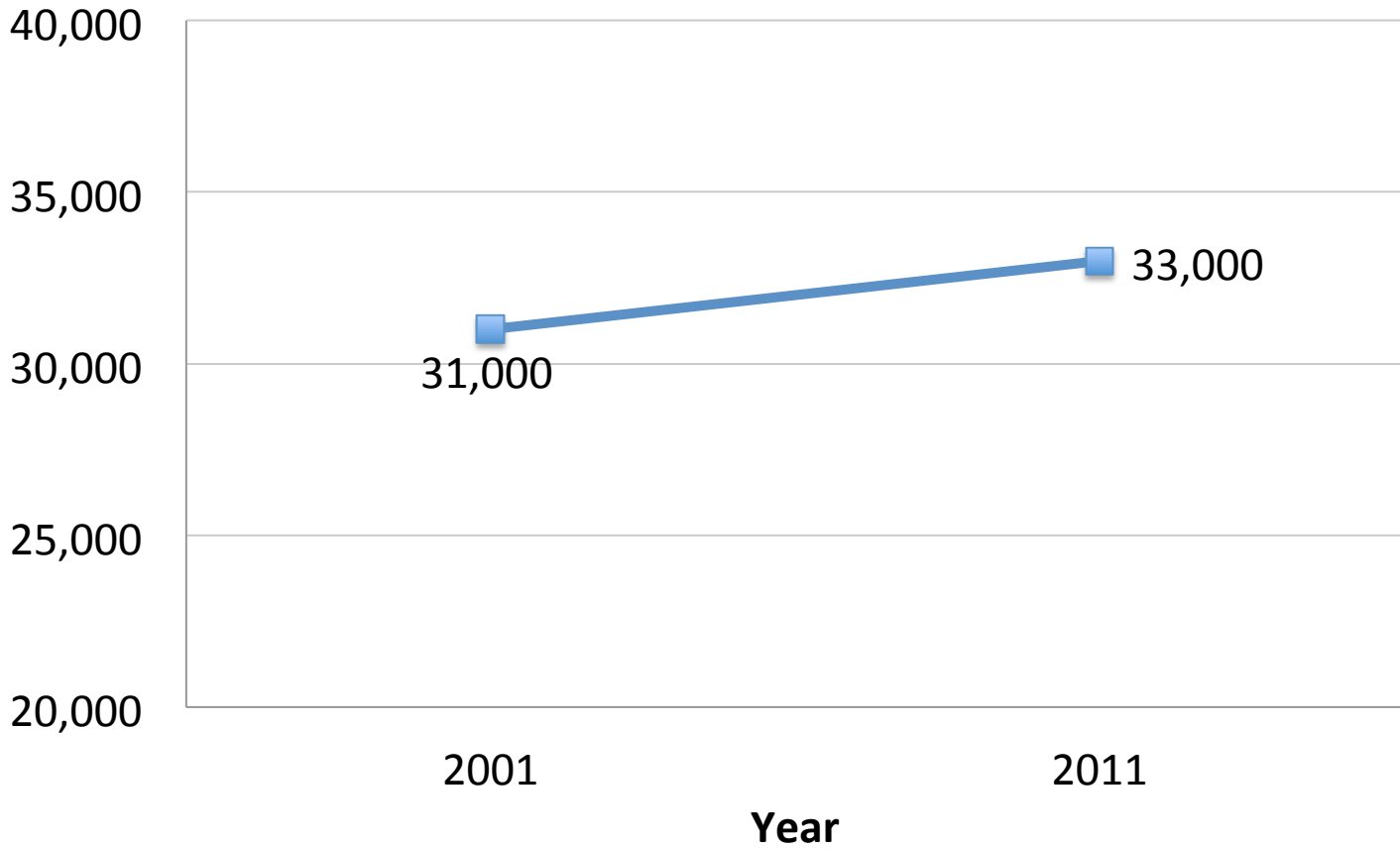


Sex offenders represent 12% of state prison populations.

(Carson & Golinelli, 2013)

Sex Offenders Entering State Prisons

Prison Admissions of Sex Offenders

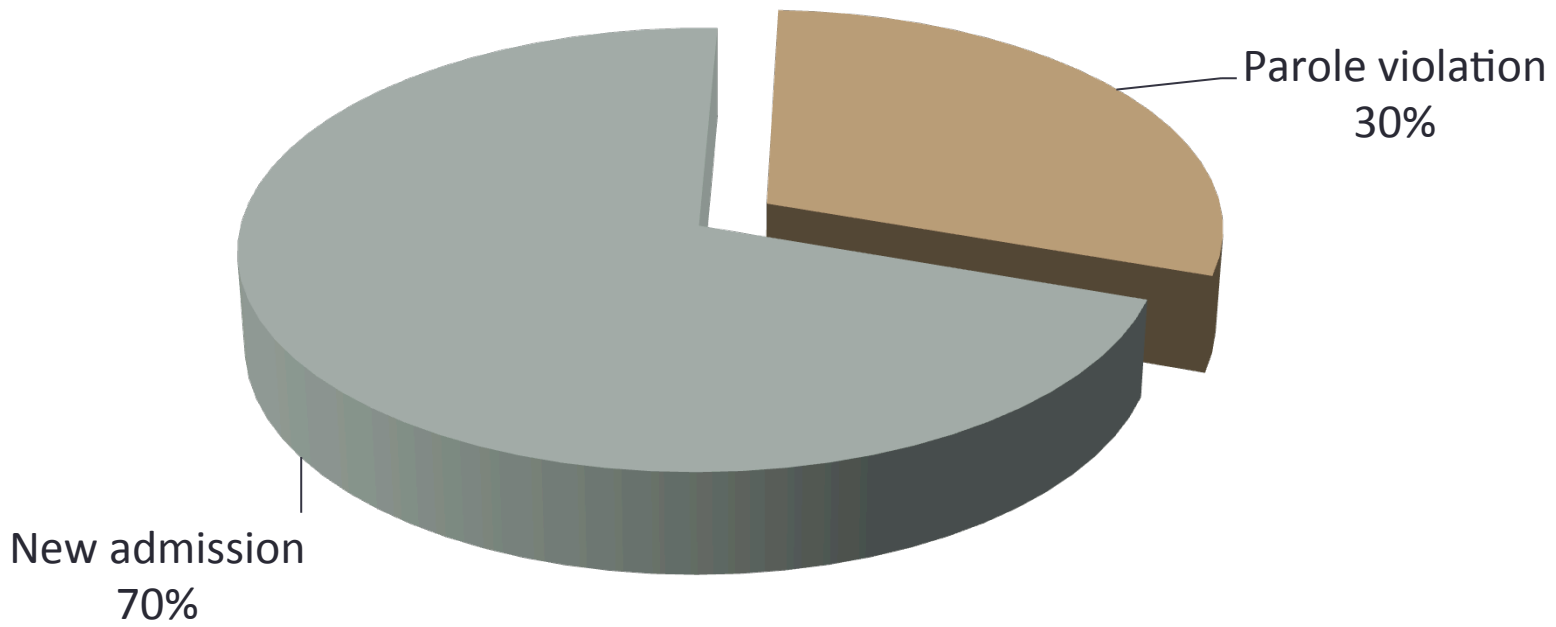


(Carson & Golinelli, 2013)

Sex Offenders Entering State Prisons

2011

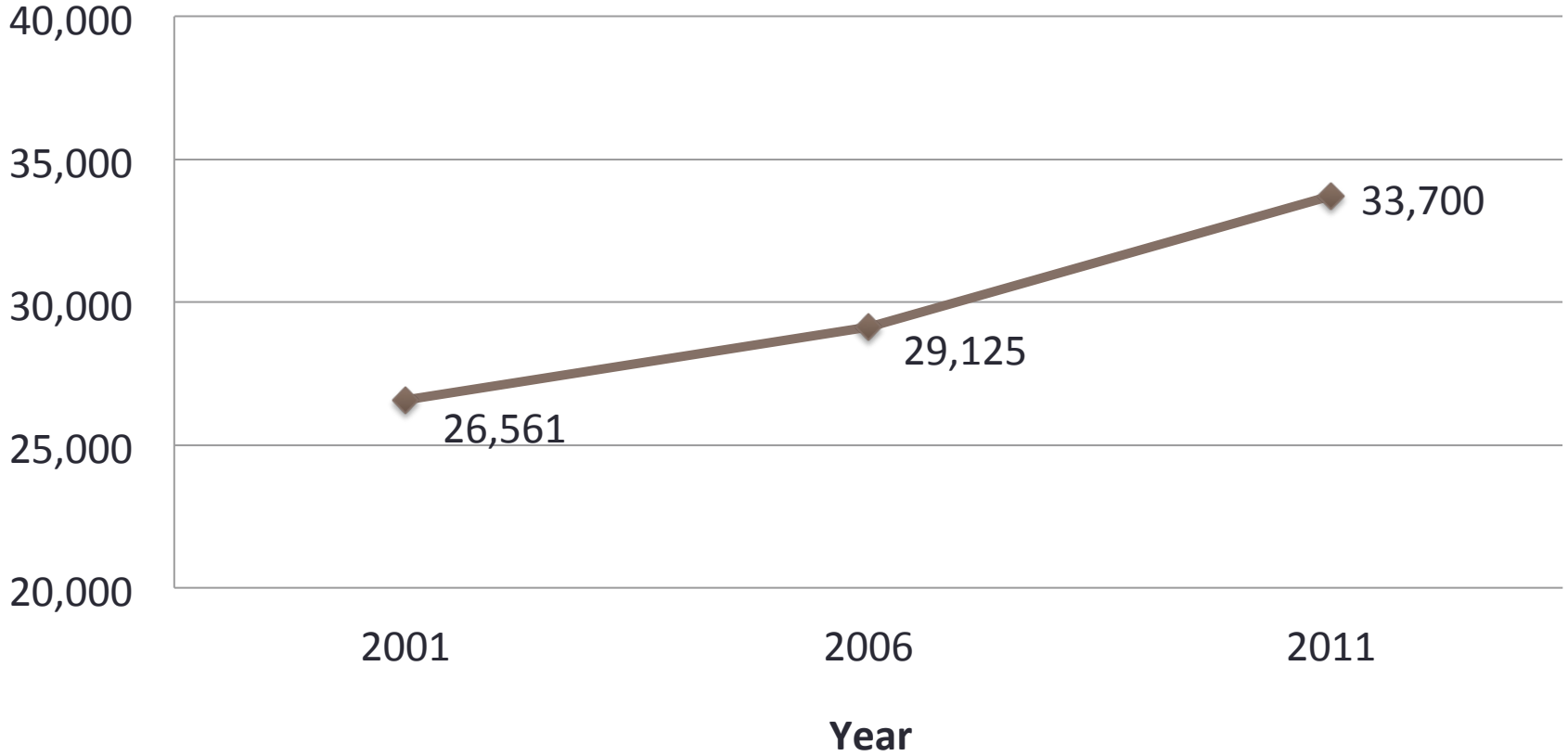
Sex Offender Admissions, by Type



(Carson & Golinelli, 2013)

Sex Offenders Exiting Prisons

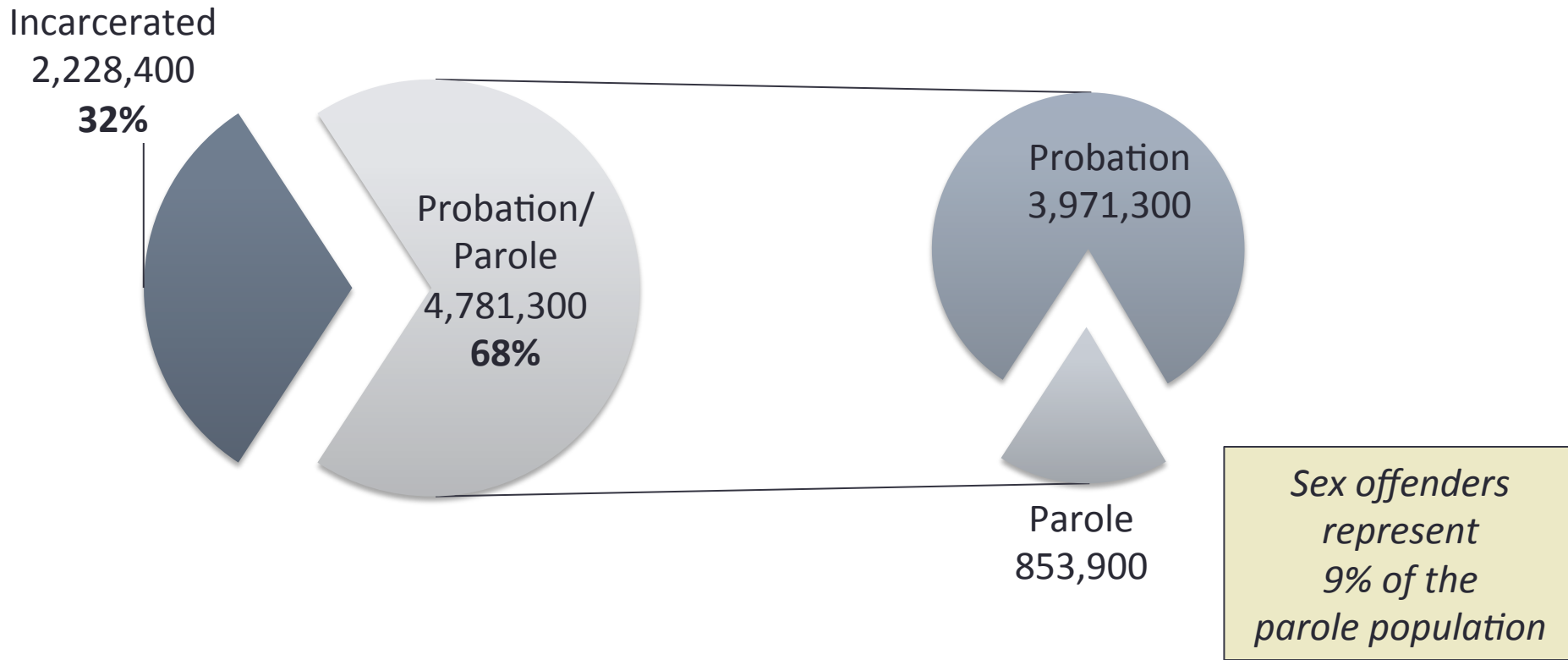
Sex Offenders Released



(Carson & Golinelli, 2013)

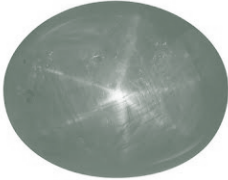
Correctional Status: Overall Offender Population

Offender Population: Incarcerated and Under Community Supervision, 2012



(Glaze & Herberman, 2013; Maruschak & Bonczar, 2013)

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

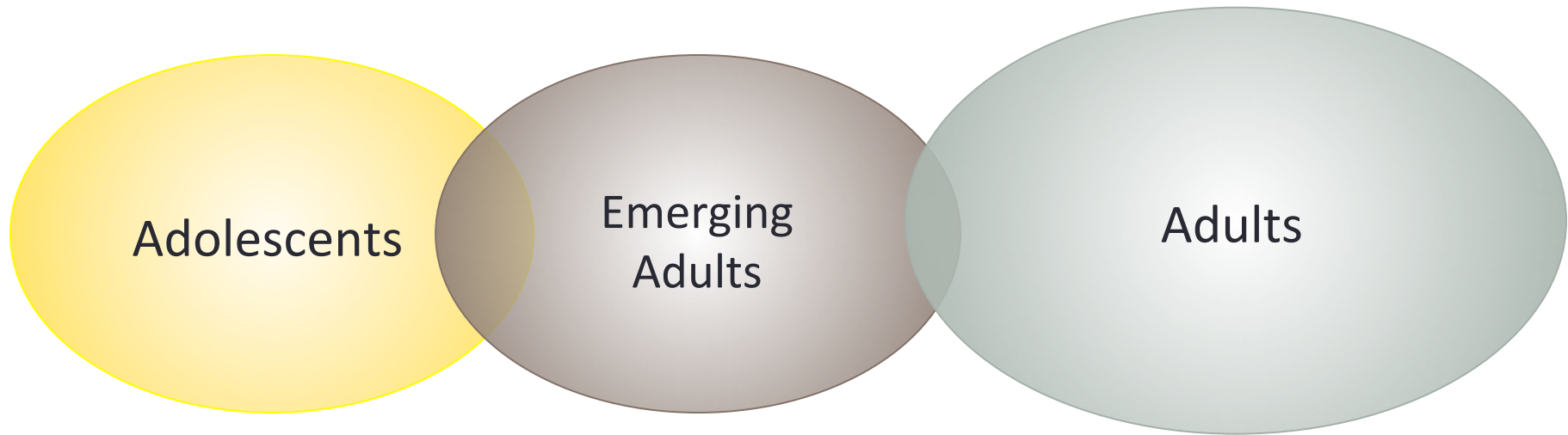


Key Statistics of the Sex Offender
Population

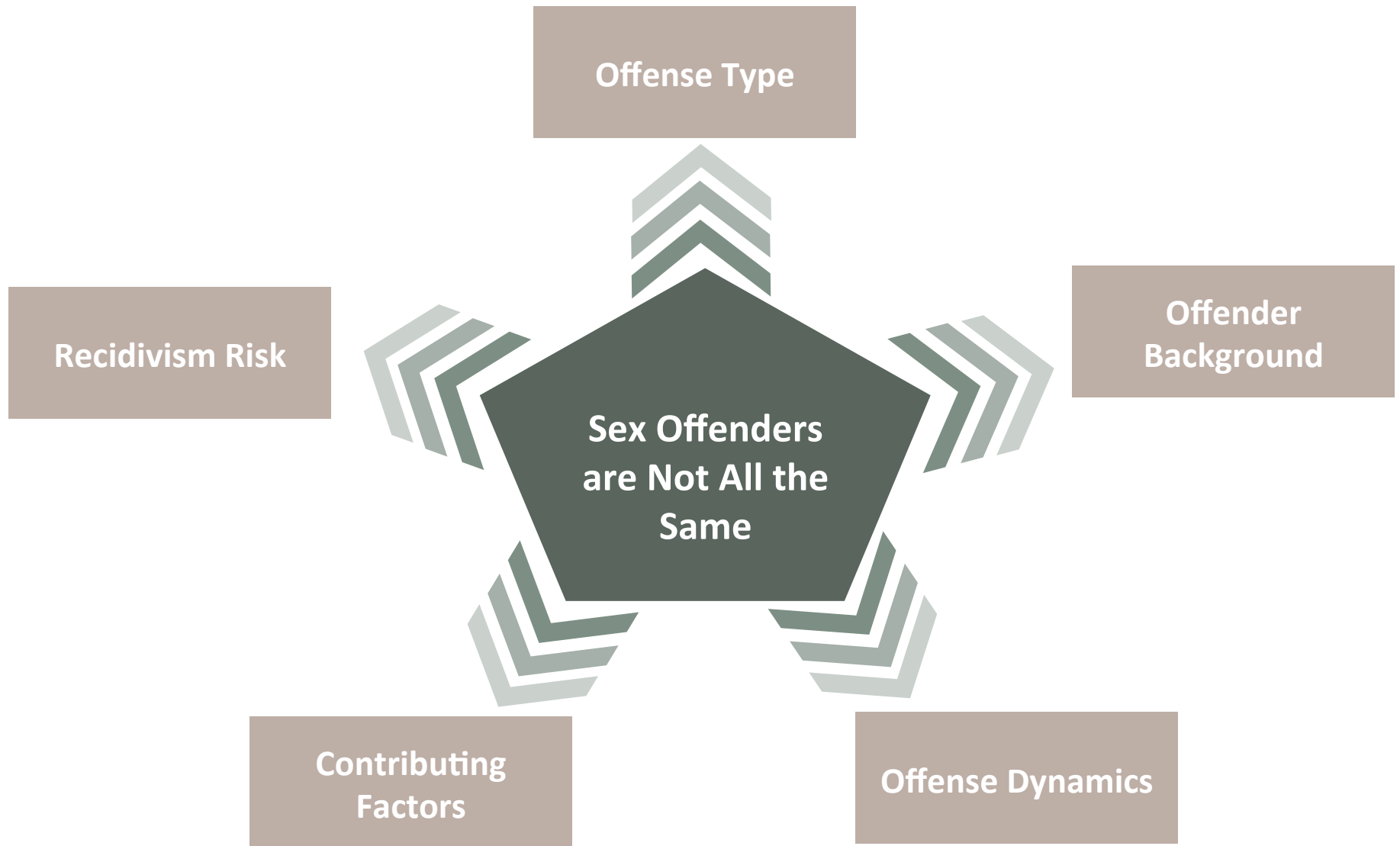
Understanding Sex Offenders

Managing Sex Offenders and Promoting
Successful Reentry

Persons Who Sexually Offend



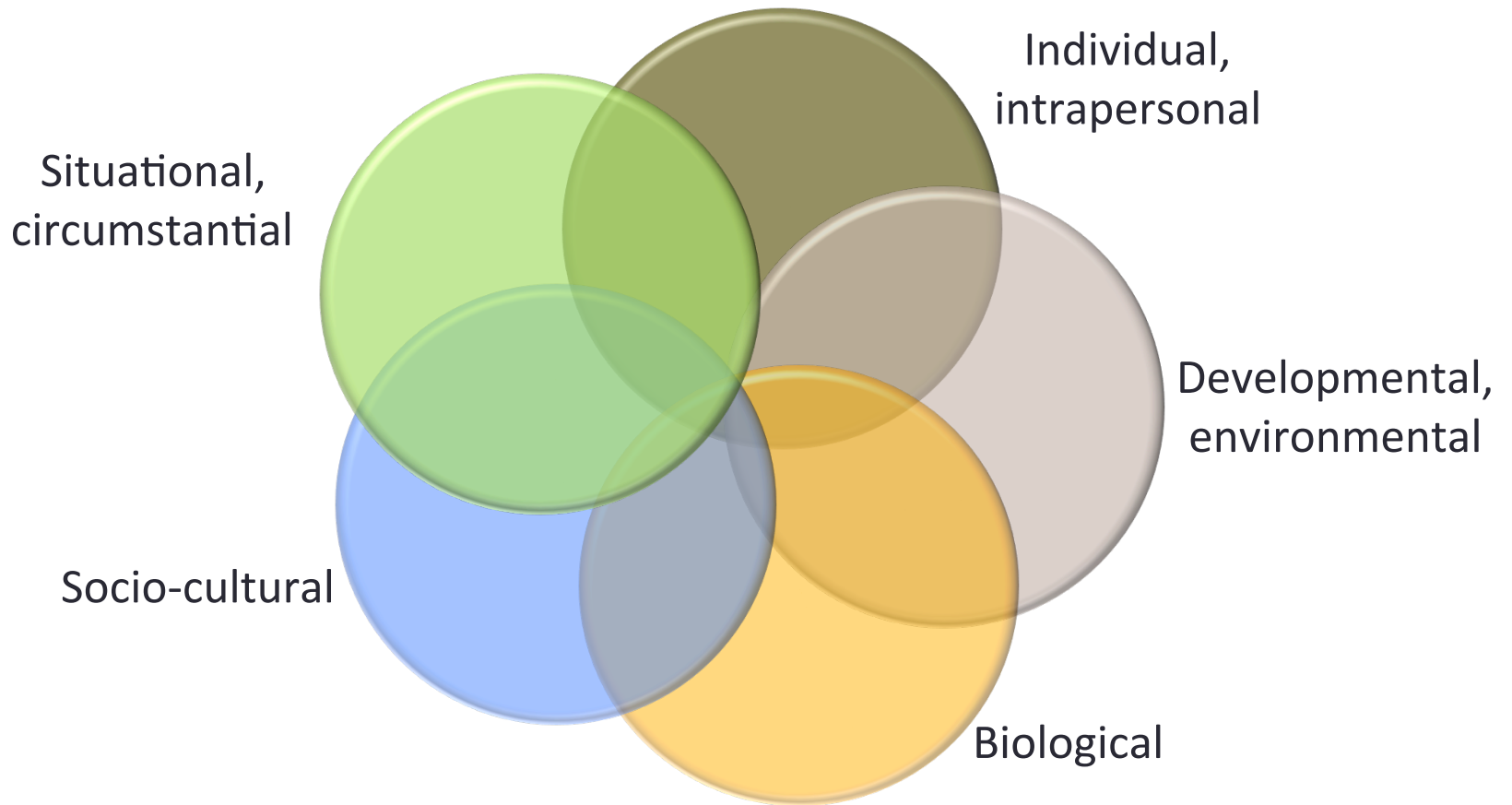
Diversity in Sex Offenders and Offenses



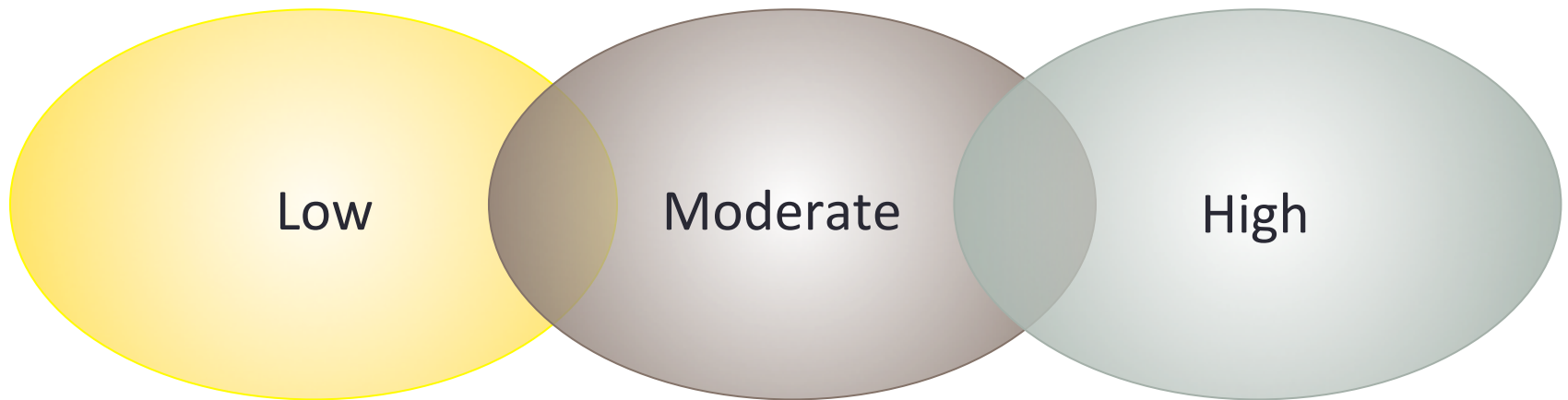
Variations among Sex Offenders

- ❑ 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

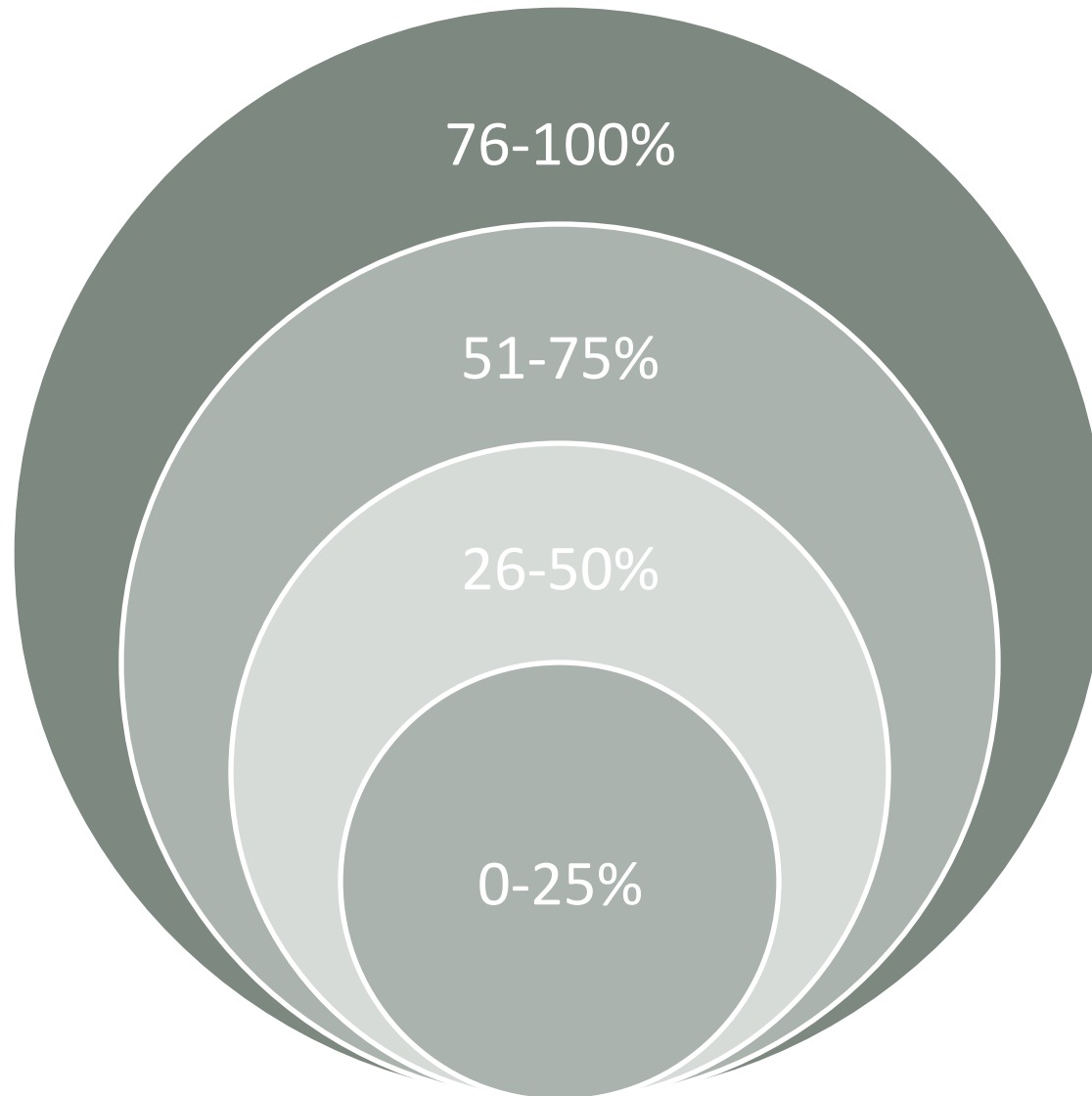
Varied Contributing Factors



Differences in Recidivism Risk: Sexual and Non-sexual

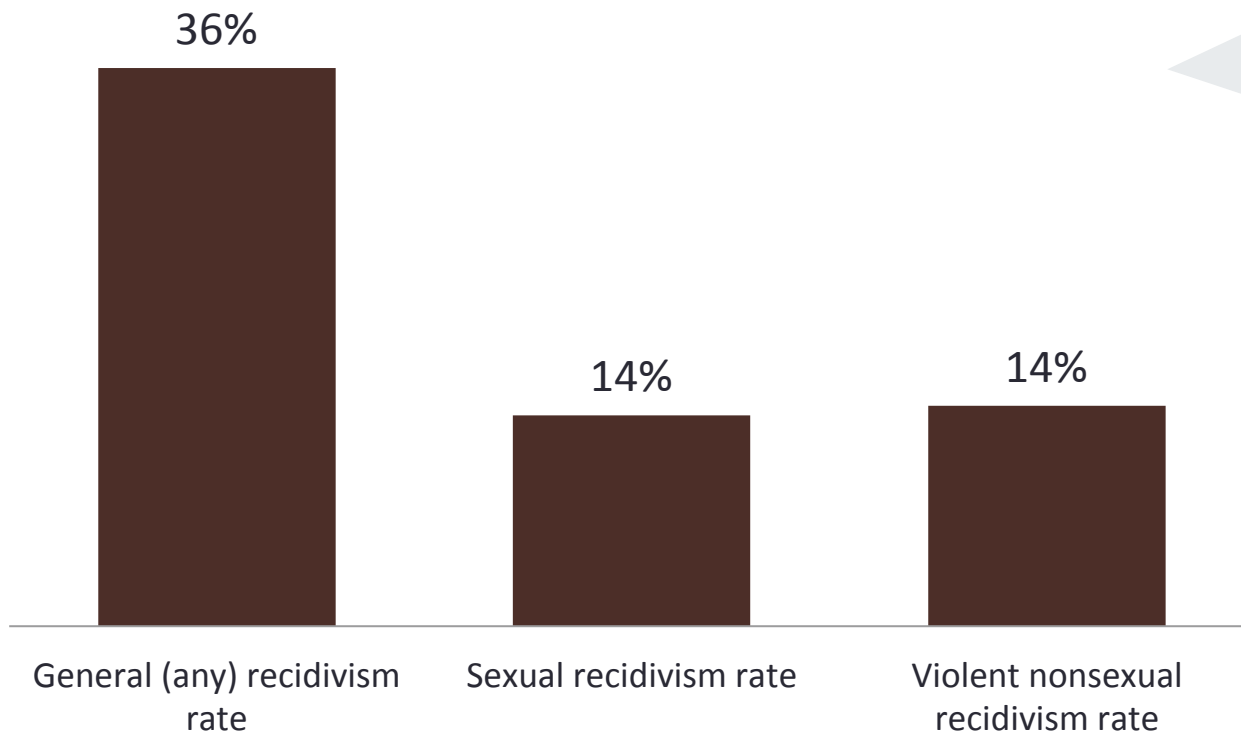


Polling Question: What percentage of sex offenders is known to commit new sex crimes after 5 years of follow-up?



Recidivism of Sexual Offenders

A Meta-Analysis of Sex Offender Recidivism

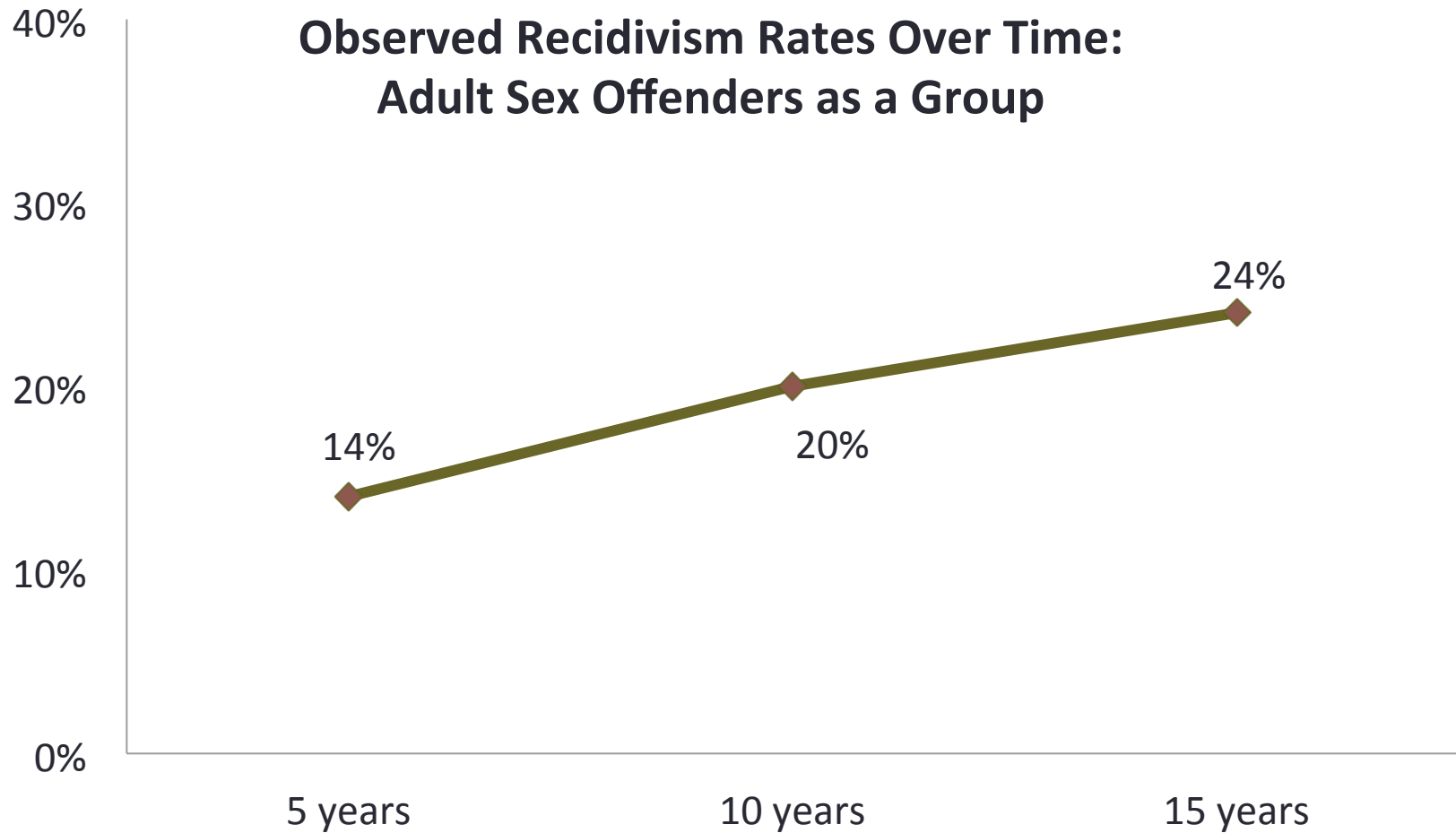


Sex offenders are more likely to be general recidivists

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

(Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2005)

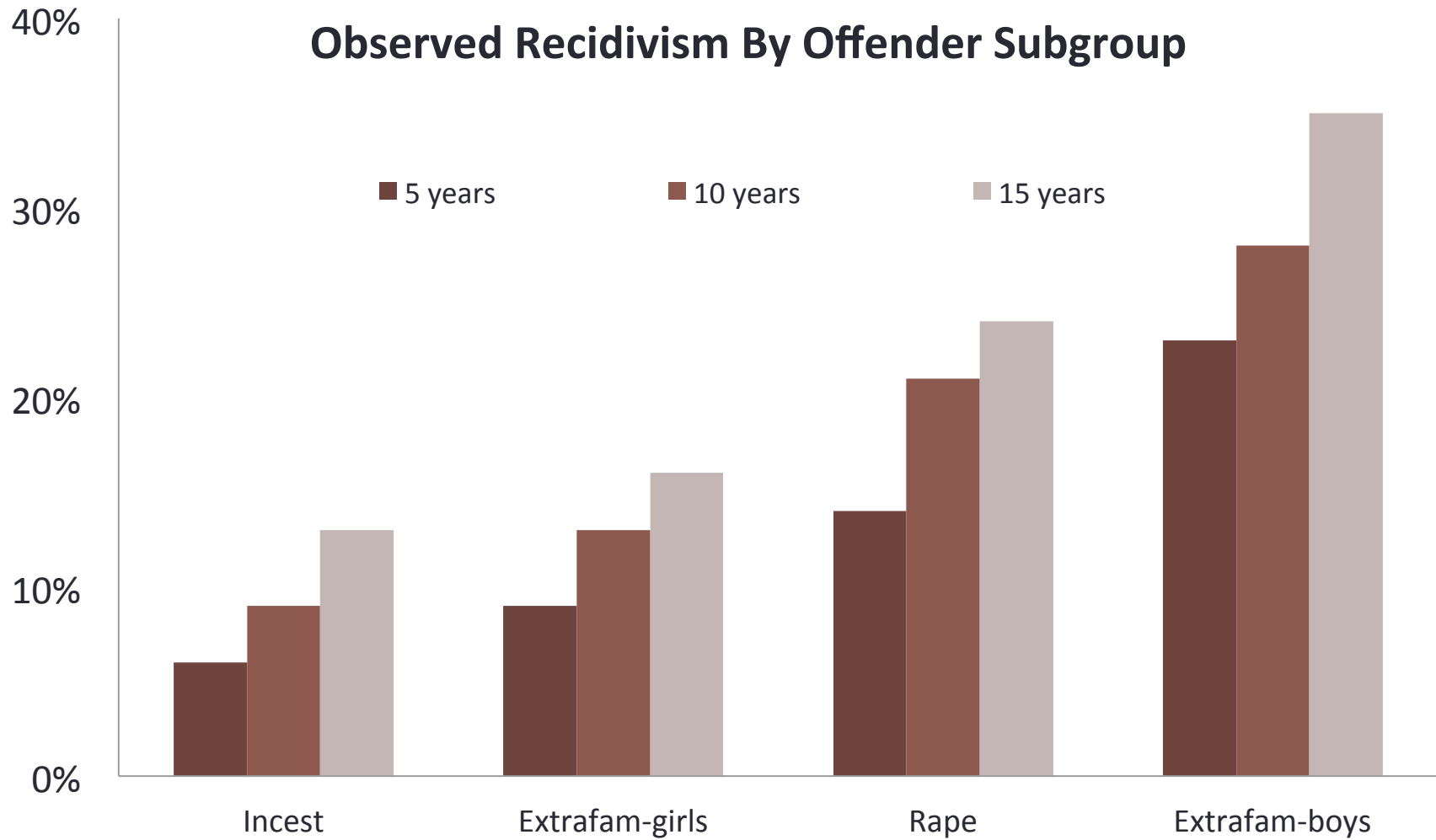
Recidivism Rates of Sex Offenders



N = 4,724

(Harris & Hanson, 2004)

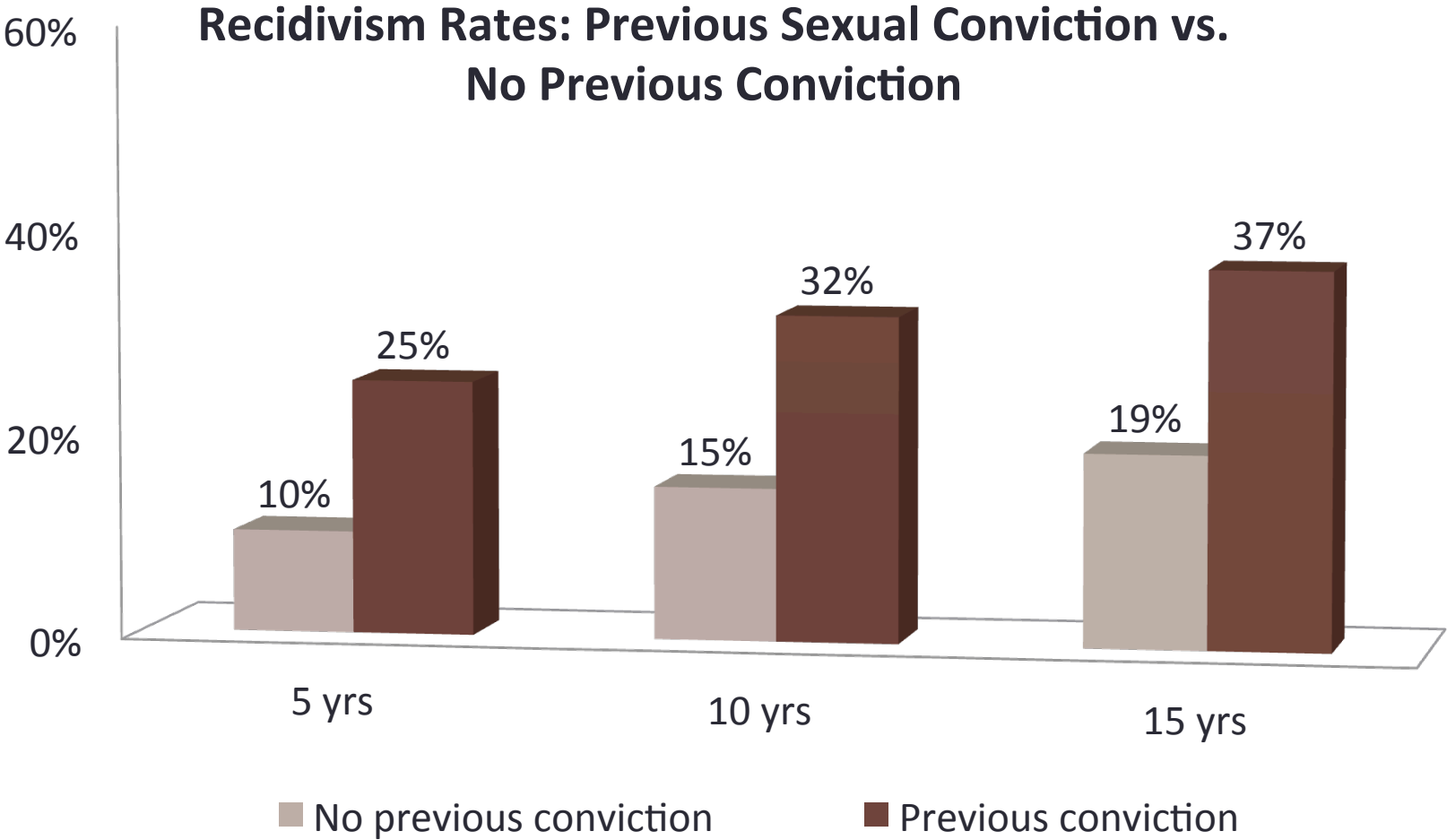
Recidivism Rates of Sex Offenders



N = 4,724

(Harris & Hanson, 2004)

Recidivism Rates of Sex Offenders



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

Risk Factors

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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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

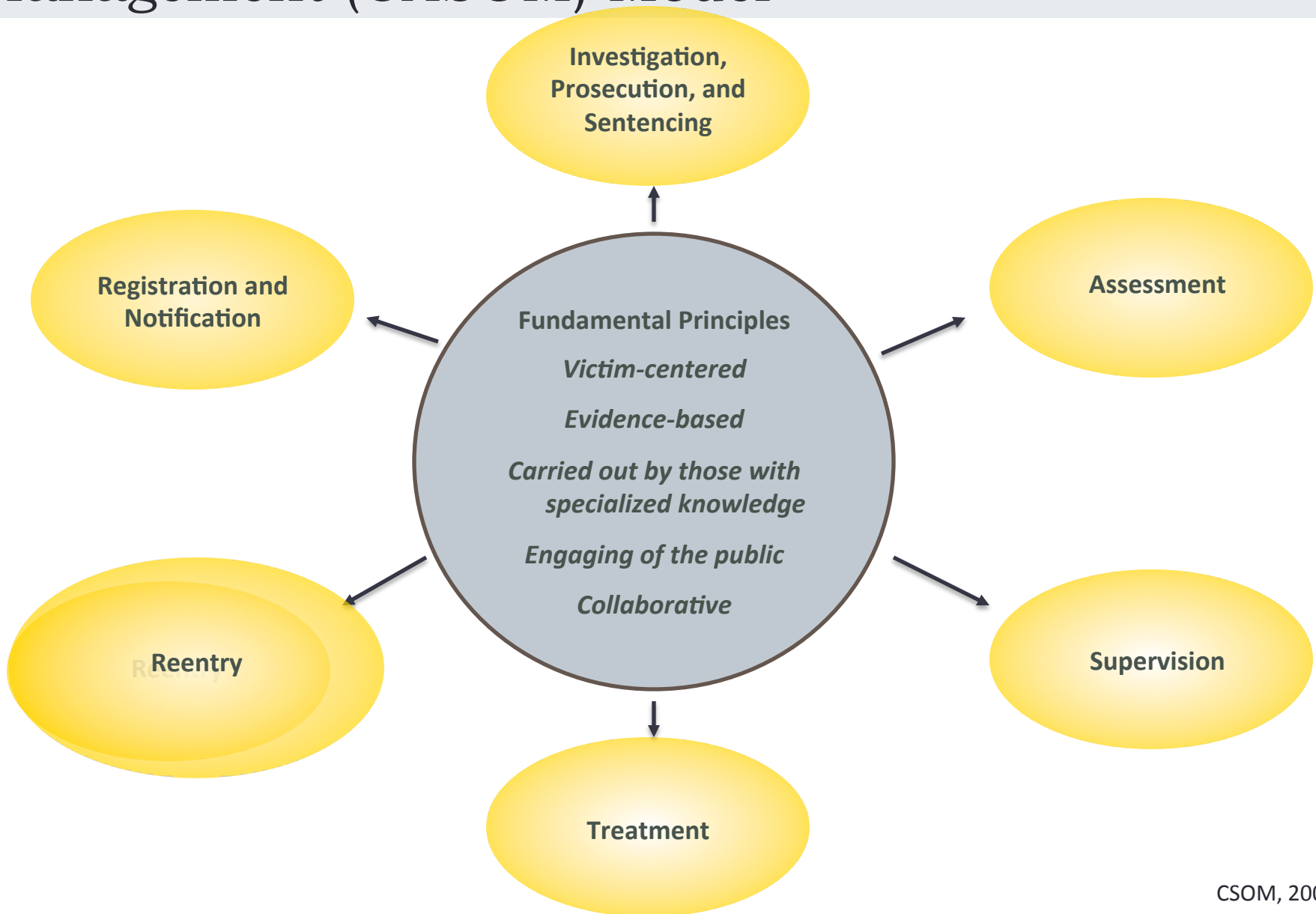
Enhanced Assessment Strategies

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



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

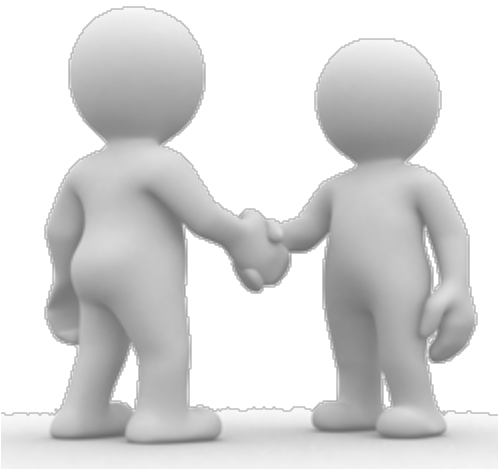
- ❑ Legislative
- ❑ Agency policy
- ❑ Case management
- ❑ Public education, engagement

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

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)

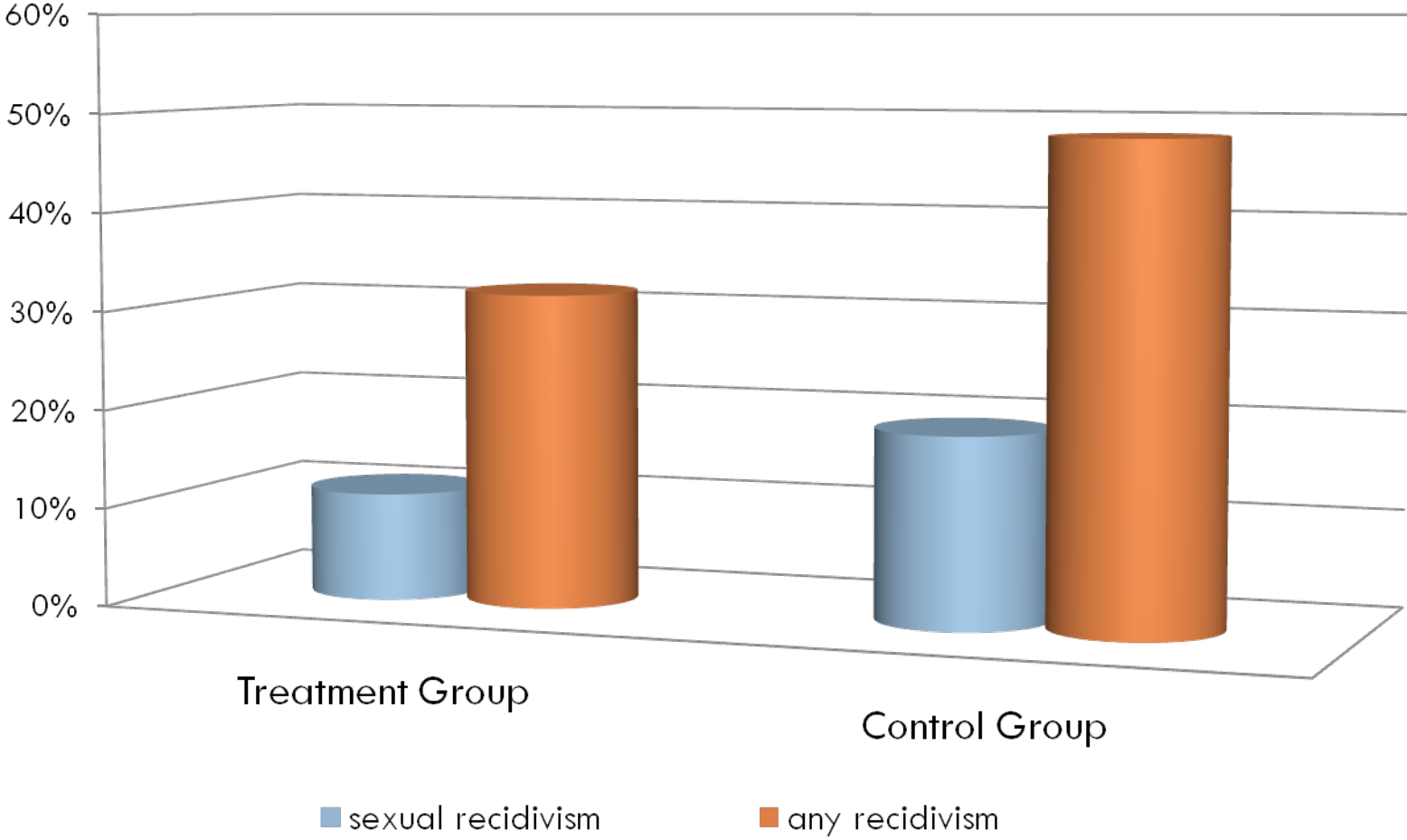
2. Manage sex offenders in prison with an eye toward release

- ❑ 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



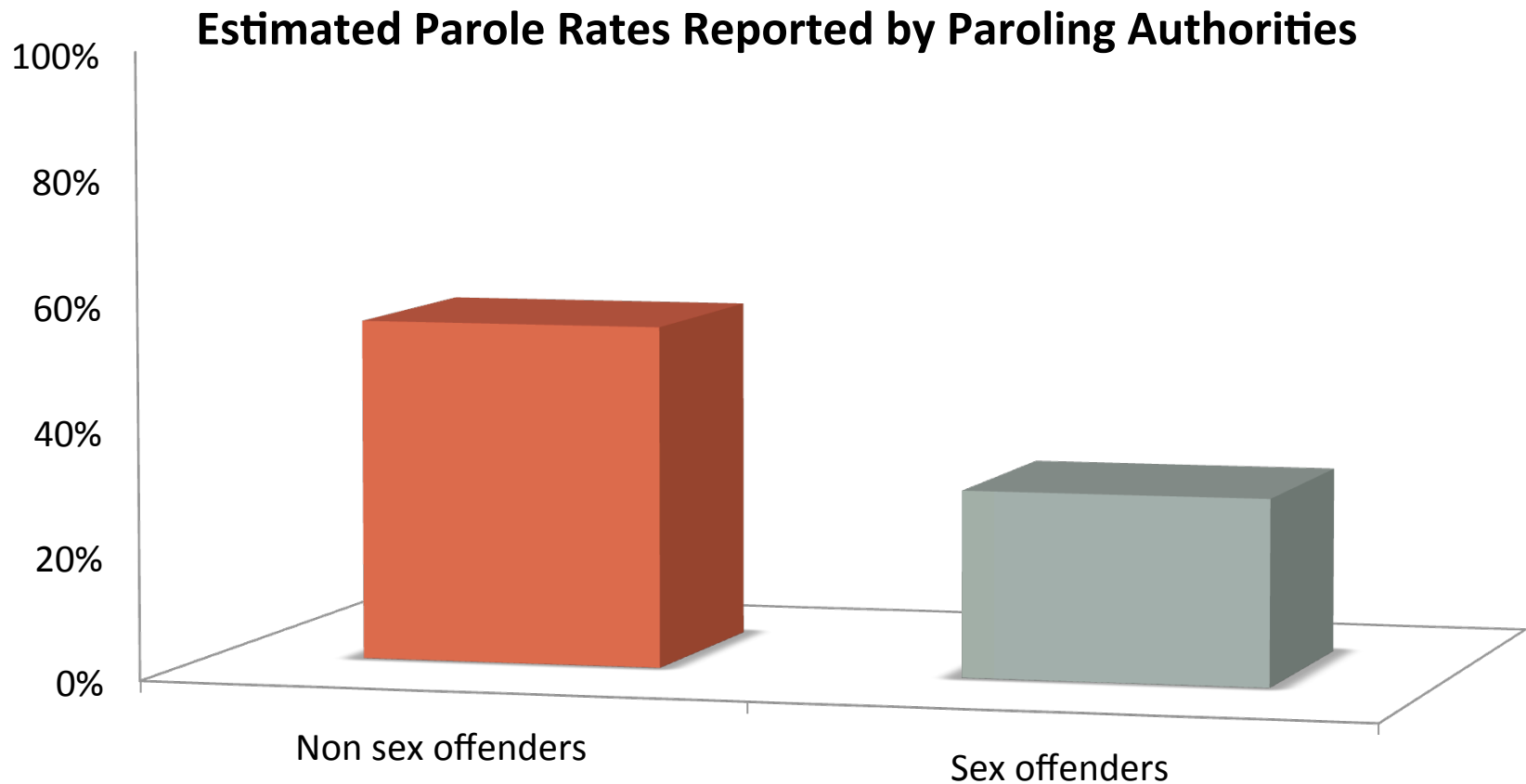
3. Recognize the value of discretionary release decision-making

- 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?



(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
- ❑ Uncertainty 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

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

- ❑ Punishment and surveillance models alone do not reduce recidivism
- ❑ Such approaches may potentially increase recidivism
- ❑ 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



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

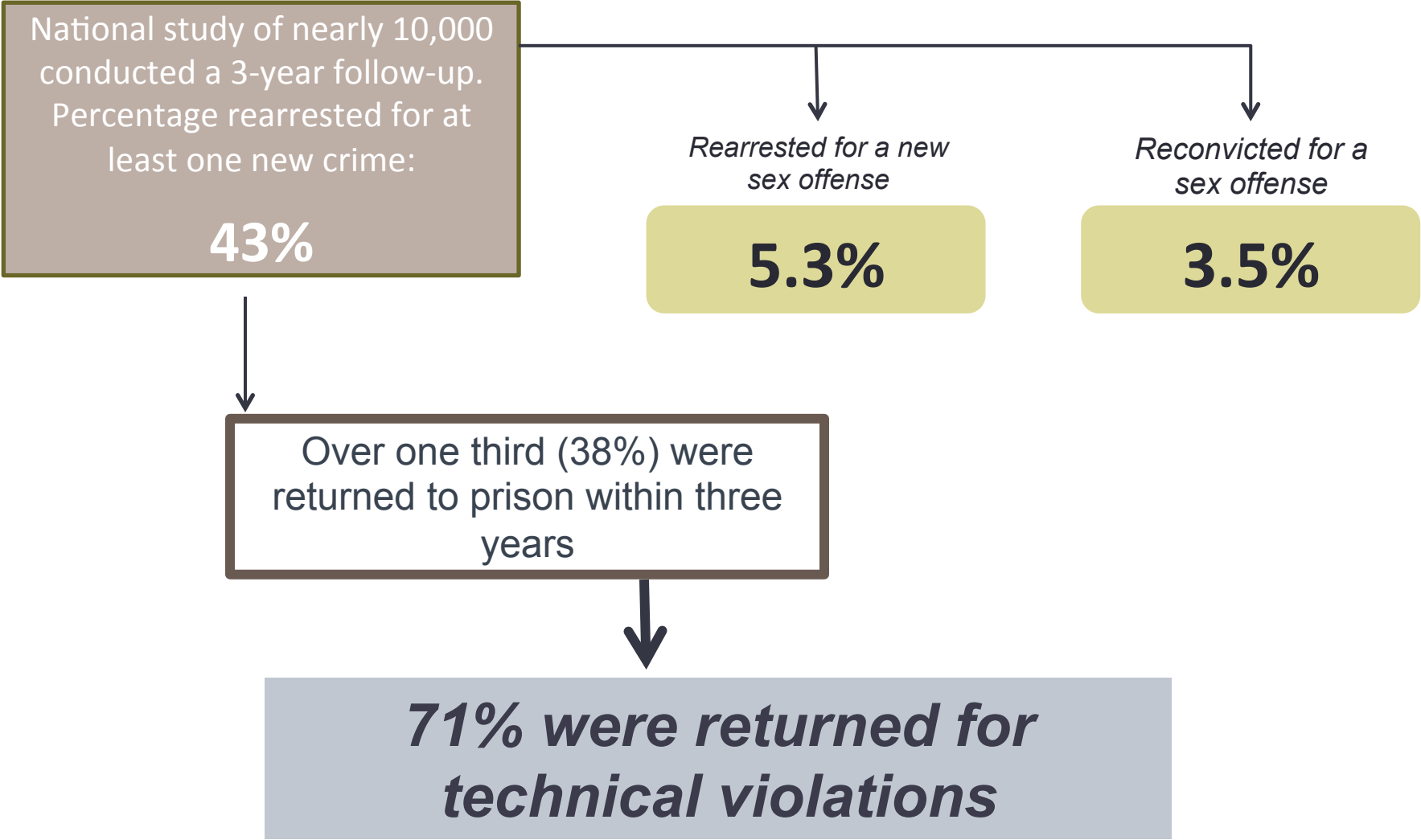
- ❑ Specialized caseloads, officers
- ❑ Specialized technology
- ❑ Specialized conditions
 - Selective application
 - Avoid condition overload

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



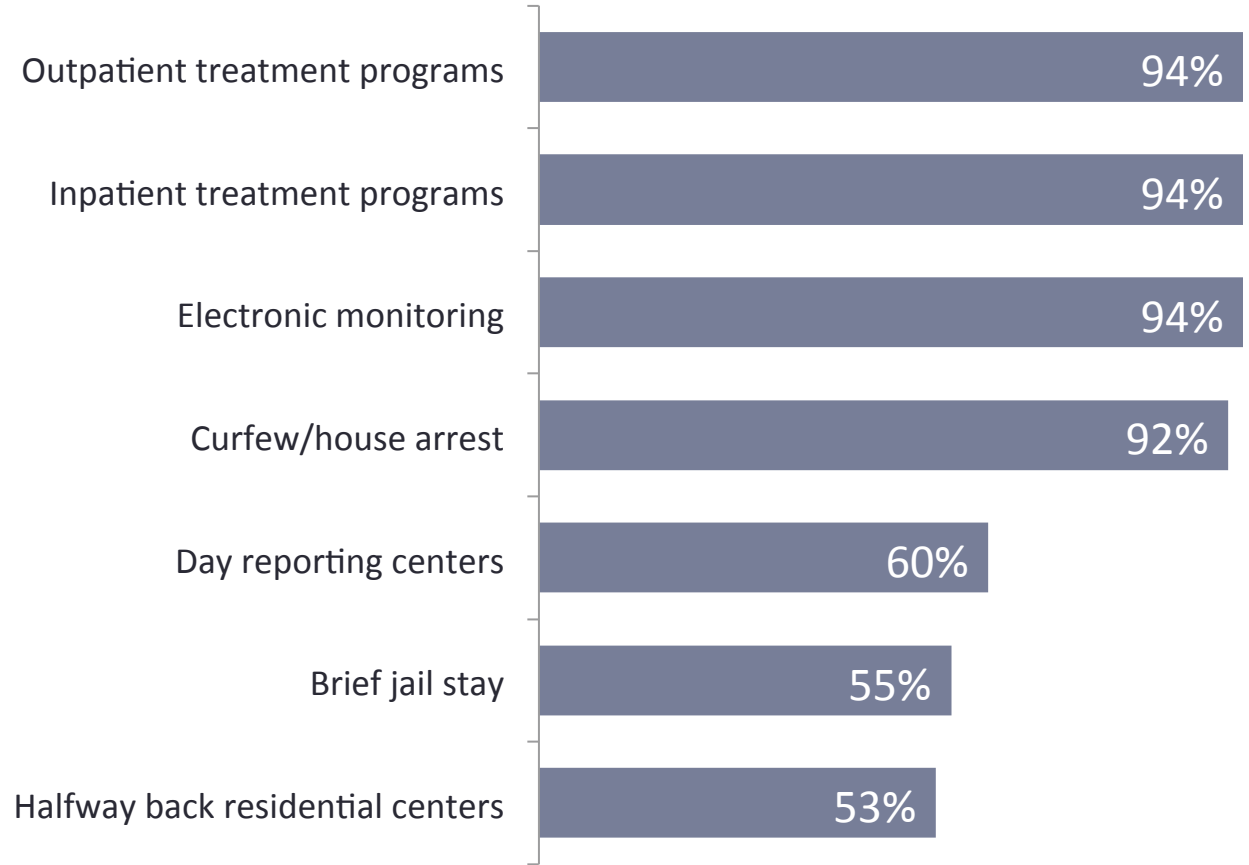
(Adapted from Langan et al., 2003)

Responses to Violations of Conditions

Responses should be:

- Timely
- Proportional
- Well-informed

A range of responses should be available.



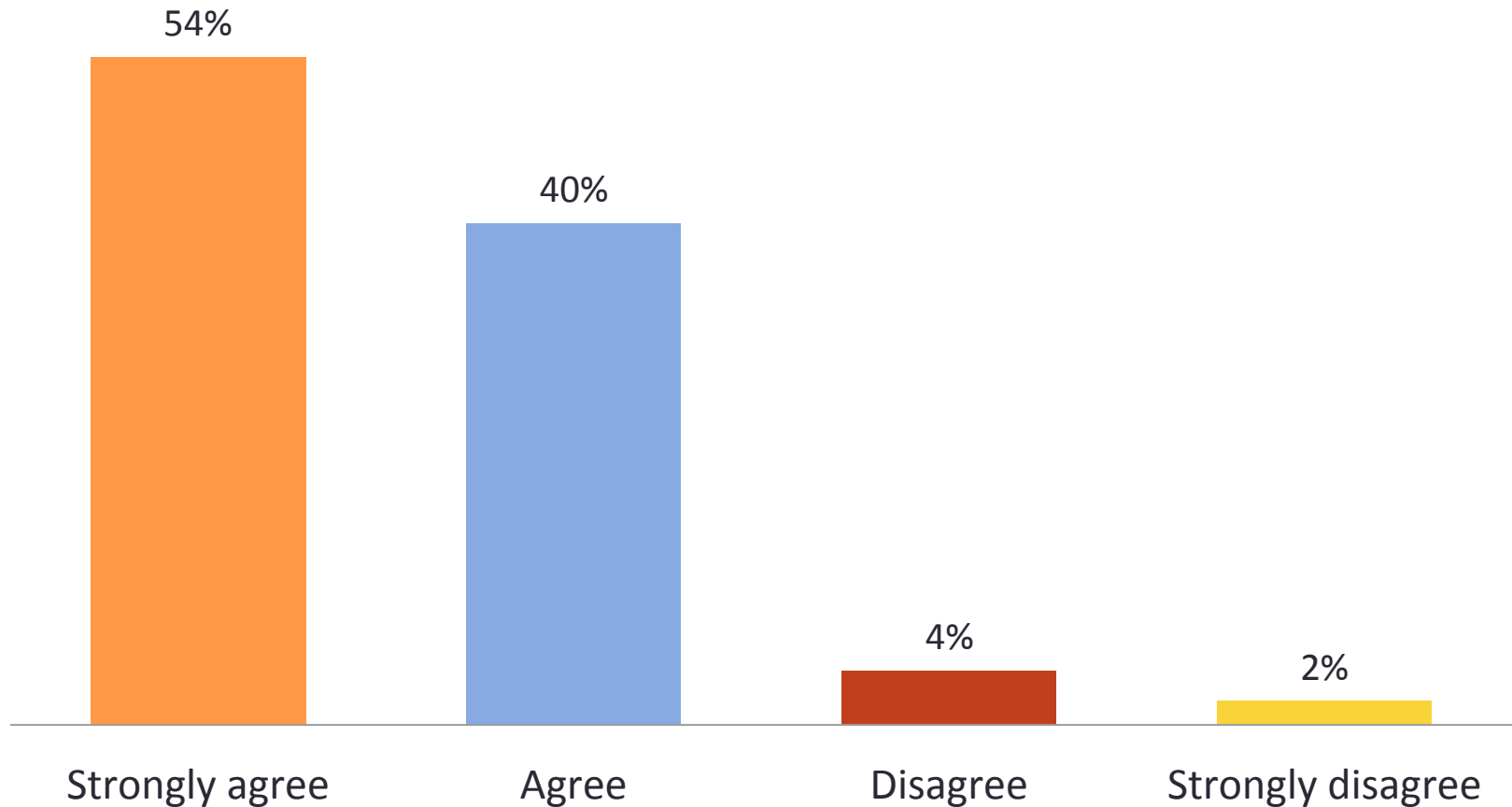
Findings from the APAI International Survey of Releasing Authorities (Kinnevy & Caplan, 2008)

6. Promote informed sex offender management policy

*Some things work,
some things don't*

- ❑ 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

Public Opinion: How much do you agree that sex crimes should be a top priority for state and federal policy makers?



Mears et al. (2008)

Multiple Goals, Expectations of Stakeholders for Sex Offender Policy

Deterrence

Punishment

Incapacitation

Risk management

Risk reduction, rehabilitation

Prevention

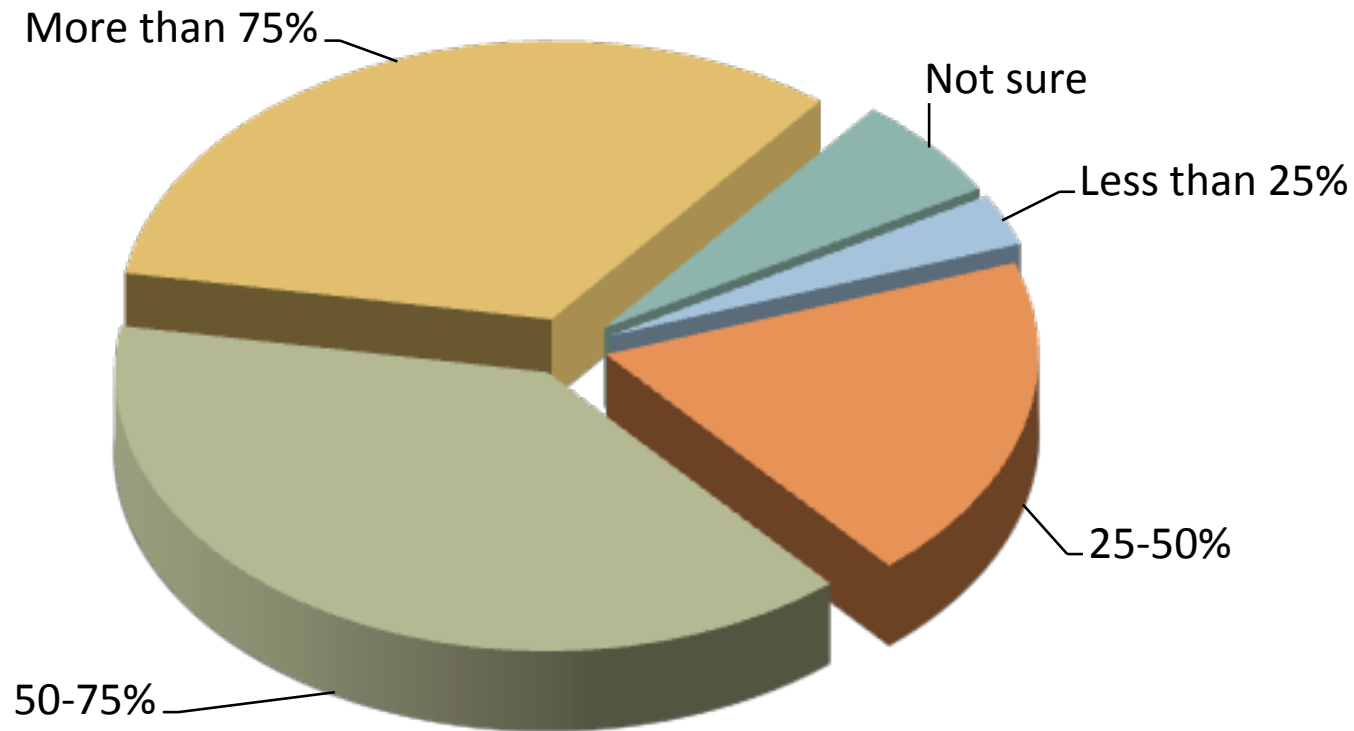


Public Perceptions about Sex Offending



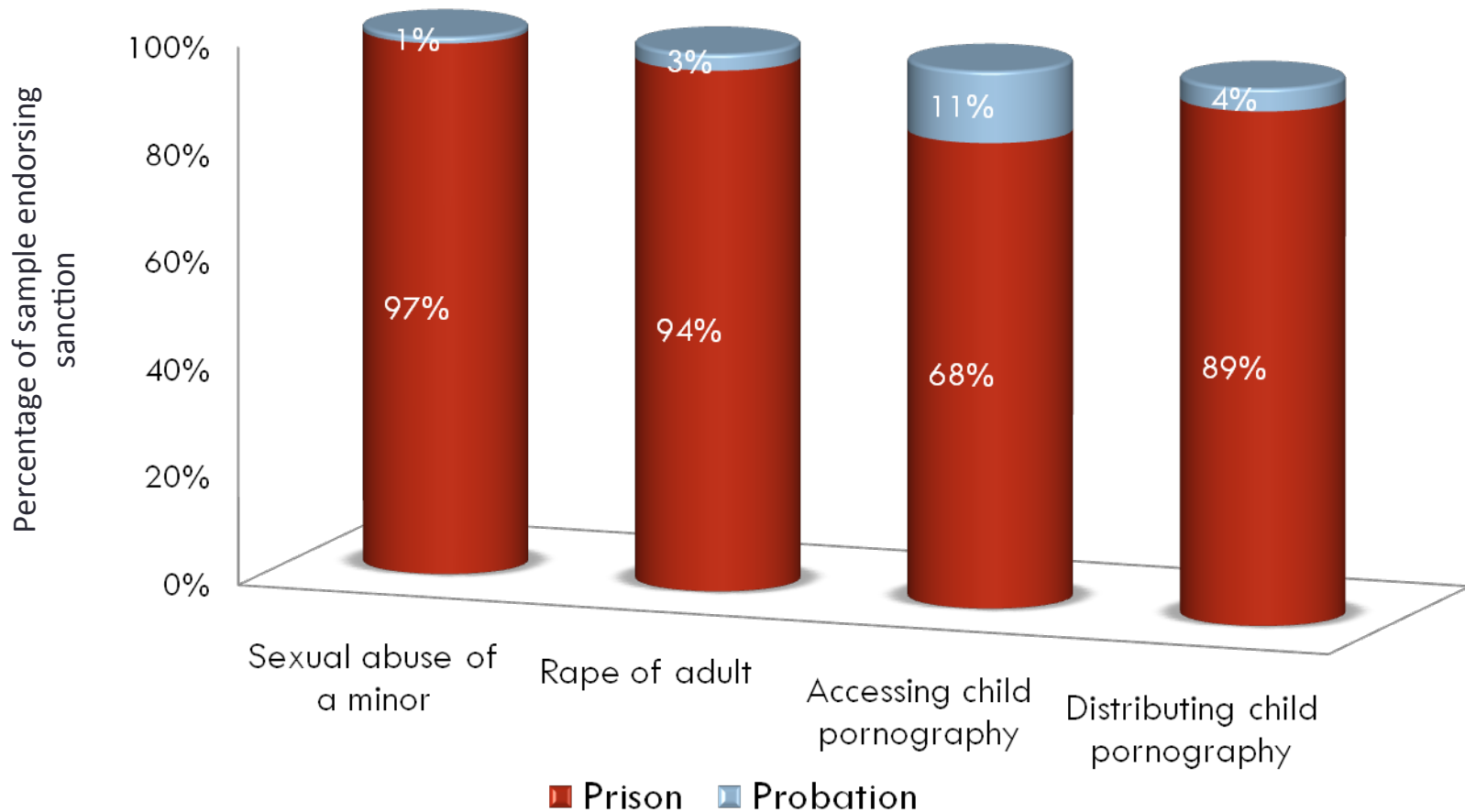
(Levenson et al., 2007)

Public Opinion: What percentage of sex offenders repeats their crimes?



(CSOM, 2010)

Public Opinion: Most Appropriate Punishment for Sex Crimes



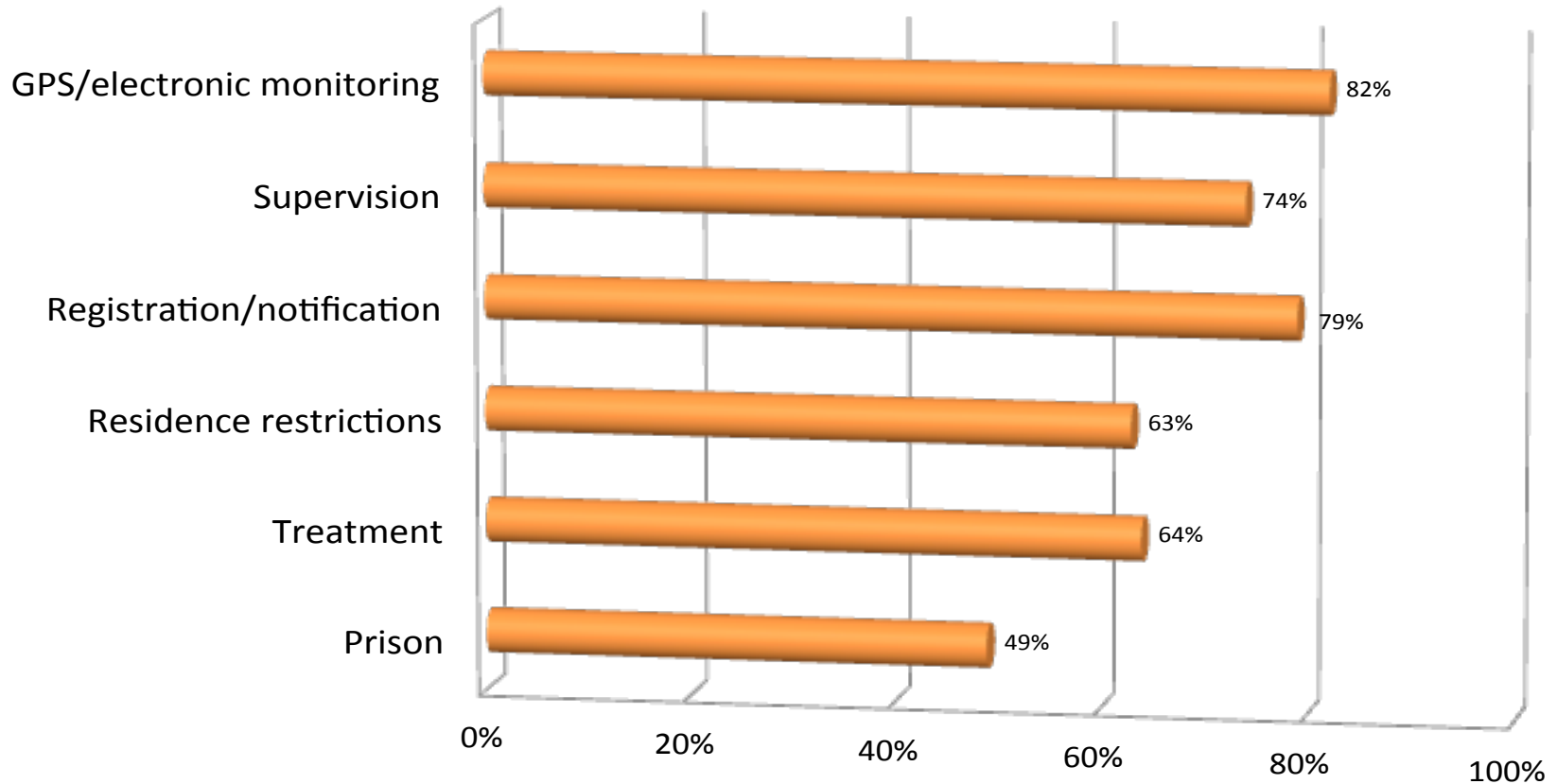
(Mears et al., 2008)

Policy Trends for Sex Offender Management

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

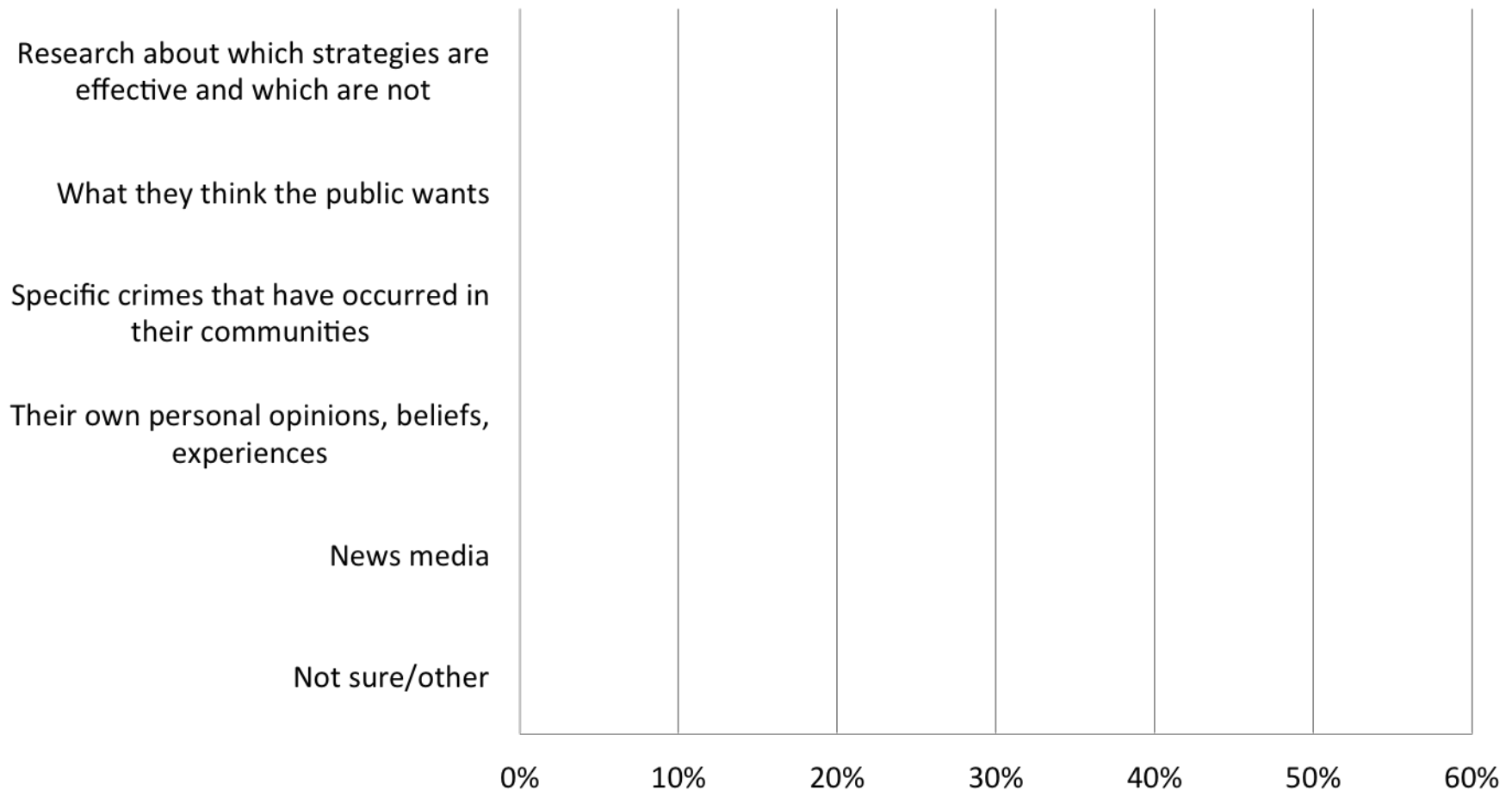
Some approaches reduce recidivism, others do not, and still others have unintended consequences.

Public Perceptions about Effectiveness of Sex Offender Management Strategies



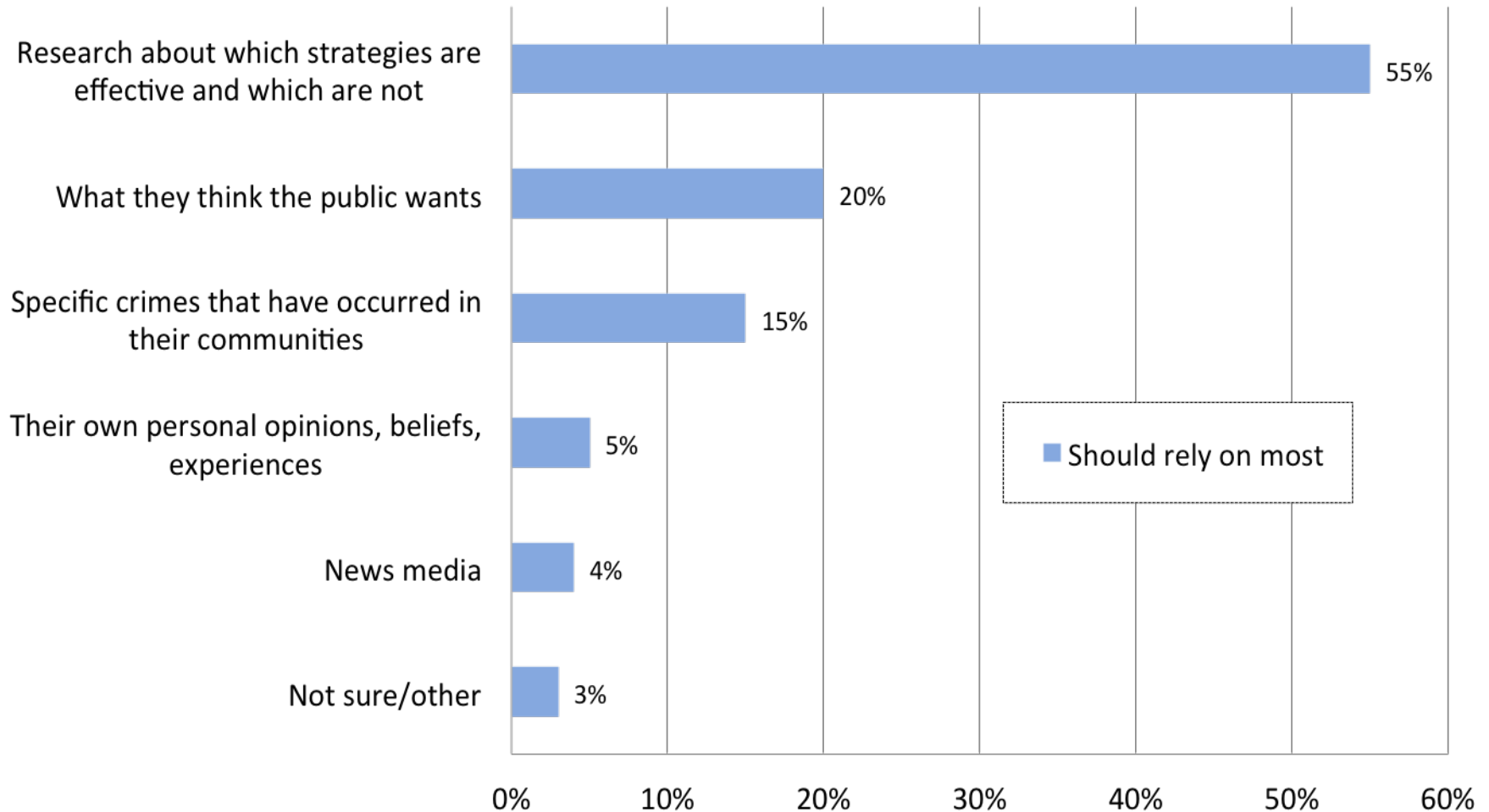
(CSOM, 2010)

Polling Question: What single factor SHOULD lawmakers rely on most when making decisions about sex offender management?



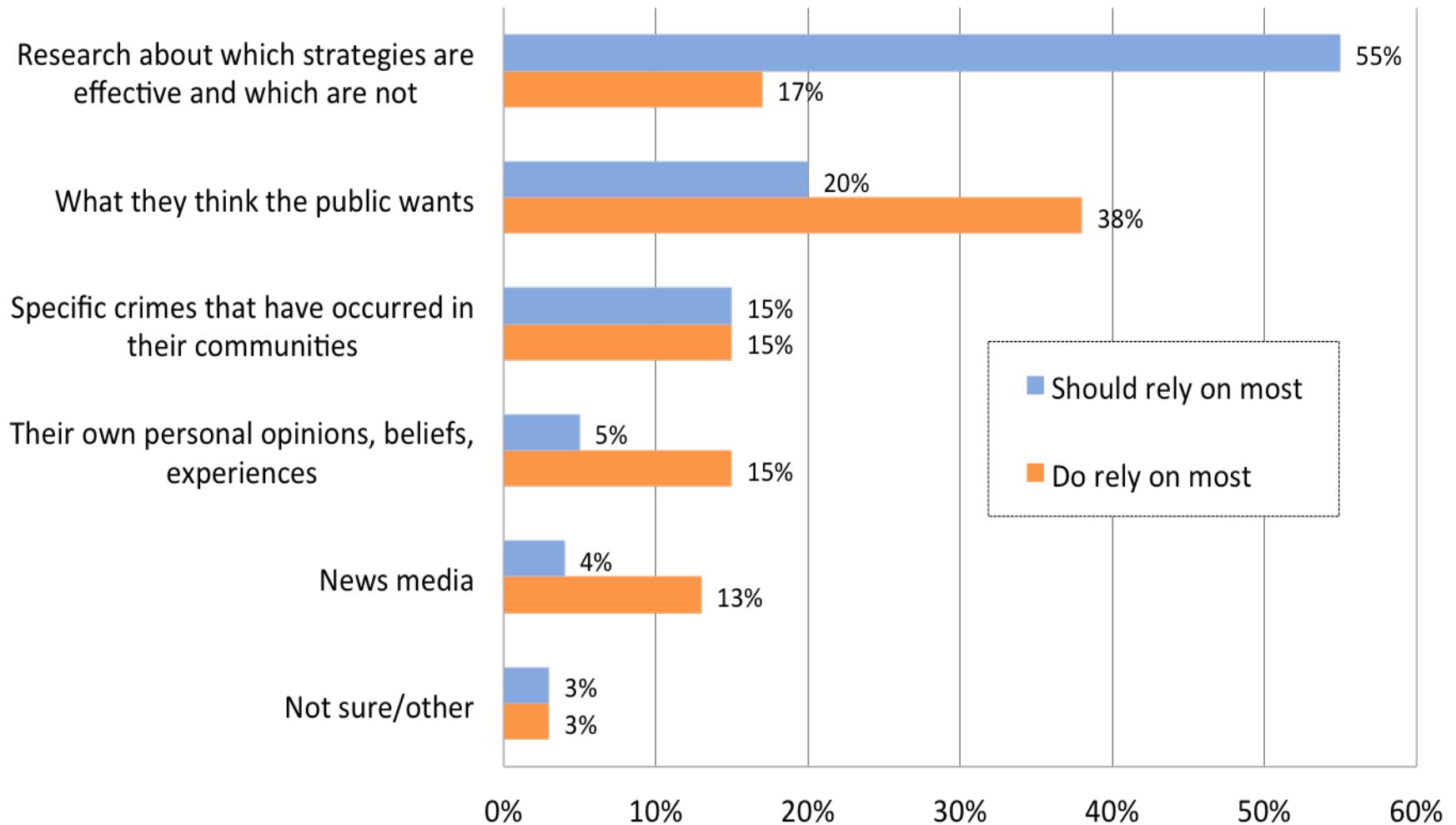
(CSOM, 2010)

What single factor SHOULD lawmakers rely on most when making decisions about sex offender management?



(CSOM, 2010)

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



(CSOM, 2010)

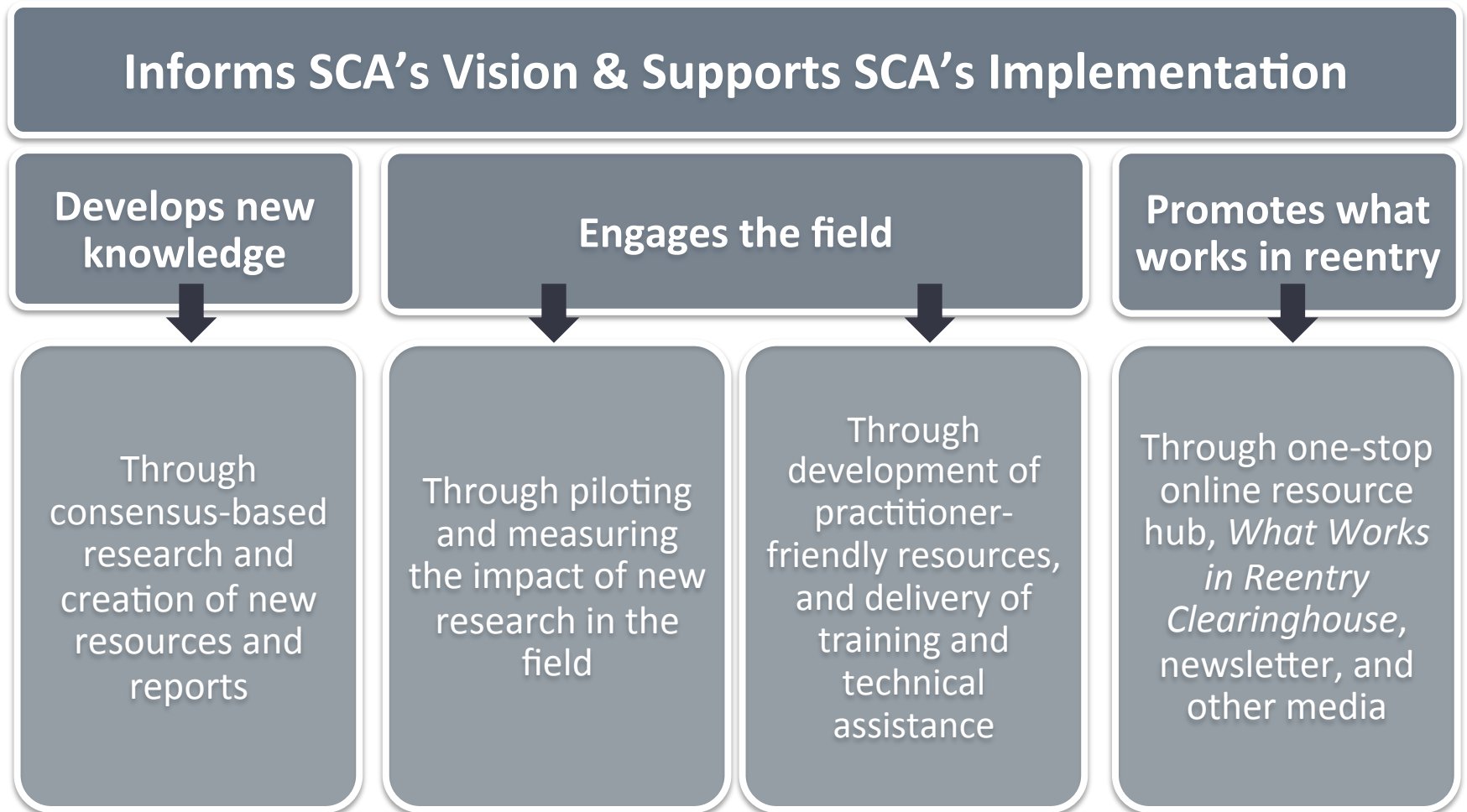
Facilitate Education and Awareness

- ❑ Legislators, lawmakers
 - State
 - Local (e.g., city councils)
- ❑ Agency policymakers
- ❑ Potential “non traditional” partners
 - Public
 - Housing officials
 - Community volunteer/action groups
 - Faith community

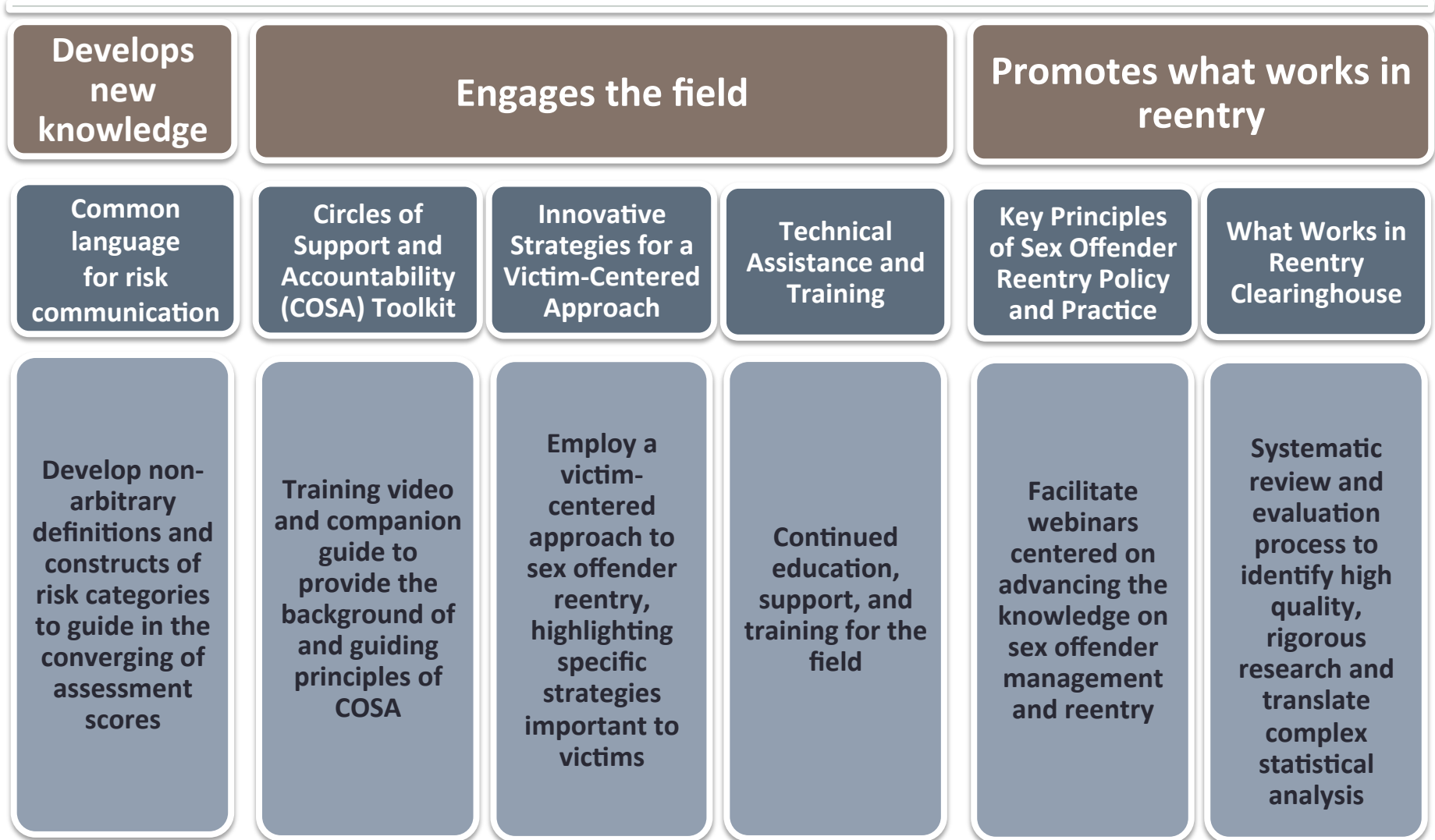
Summary

- ❑ 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

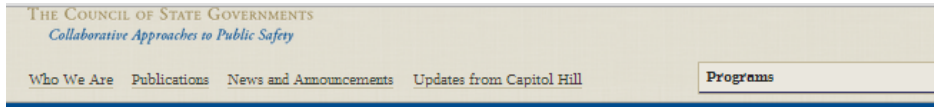


Moving the Field Forward: The National Reentry Resource Center



What Works in Reentry Clearinghouse

<http://whatworks.csgjusticecenter.org>



What Works in Reentry Clearinghouse

The *What Works in Reentry Clearinghouse* offers easy access to important research on the effectiveness of a wide variety of reentry programs and practices. It provides a user-friendly, one-stop shop for practitioners and service providers seeking guidance on evidence-based reentry interventions, as well as a useful resource for researchers and others interested in reentry. To get started, click the button below for additional information about this project or how to use this site; or, click on a focus area topic on the left to begin exploring. You can also conduct a customized search by clicking the advanced search link on the right.

[Click here for more information about the *What Works in Reentry Clearinghouse* and information on how to use this site](#)

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Coming Soon

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Ratings Key	
High Rigor	Basic Rigor
	Strong evidence of a beneficial effect
	Modest evidence of a beneficial effect
	No statistically significant findings
	Modest evidence of a harmful effect
	Strong evidence of a harmful effect

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



Needs Assessment Survey on the Field's Understanding of Sex Offender Reentry

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 within a week.

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