

RECOMMENDATIONS

Use a registry that takes risk into account

Research indicates that an effective “tiering” or “level” system should be used which:

- ✓ recognizes that not all sex offenders are the same.
- ✓ provides meaningful distinctions between different types of offenders.
- ✓ requires registration at varying levels and for various periods of time that depend on risk level and seriousness of the offense.

Opportunities for housing, employment, and services

While it may seem counterintuitive, having opportunities for housing, employment and services such as monitoring and treatment actually decrease a sexual offender’s risk of reoffending. Creating barriers or preventing offenders from obtaining housing, employment and services actually increase the risk of reoffending.

Policies should consider survivors’ health and well being

Including victim/survivor advocacy perspectives in legislation and shifting ineffective use of resources can have better impacts for offenders and the health and well being of survivors.

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WHAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT

CALIFORNIA'S SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE



WHAT IS A SEXUAL OFFENDER?

Despite what we typically see in popular media, individuals convicted of sexual crimes are an extremely diverse group. What we know about individuals convicted of sexual crimes:

- ✓ Most registered sex offenders are at low risk to commit a new sexual offense.
- ✓ Only about 10% are high risk.
- ✓ Most sexual assaults are not committed by strangers, but by someone known to the victim.
- ✓ Most individuals convicted of sexual crimes, once caught, do not commit another sexual crime.
- ✓ There are effective ways to identify and categorize individuals convicted of sexual crimes into risk levels.

- ✓ Research shows registration systems do not reduce recidivism or prevent new sex crimes.
- ✓ Registration and community notification often have the unintended consequence of identifying the victim, especially when the victim is a family member.
- ✓ California is one of only four states (along with South Carolina, Alabama, and Florida) to require registration for life regardless of risk level, with no path off the registry for lower risk offenders.
- ✓ Such laws only tell us where sex offenders live, which does nothing to prevent offenders at risk from visiting child-oriented venues during the day.

WHY DO WE HAVE REGISTRATION?

WHAT'S THE IMPACT TO OUR COMMUNITIES?

Education and effective laws are essential to the prevention of sexual abuse – and for the safety of our communities.

- ✓ Currently, there are over 104,000 registered sexual offenders in California and no way for the public to know who presents a higher risk to their communities.
- ✓ Creating barriers or lack of access to housing, employment and services actually increases the risk of reoffense.
- ✓ Effective ways to identify and categorize individuals convicted of sexual crimes into risk levels can focus attention and resources on offenders who present a higher threat.