

“Residency restrictions for sex offenders popular, but ineffective.” Sunday.
October 26, 2008 Paula Reed Ward.
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

“Banishment of Sex Offenders is Unfair and Ineffective” Humanevents.com
Jacob Sullum
11/28/2007

“Sex-offender laws called ineffective: Study: No evidence monitoring works.”
Chicago Tribune (Chicago, IL) | September 13, 2007

“Megan's Law ineffective, study says”
Philadelphia Inquirer. Sat, Feb. 7, 2009

“The study, released Thursday, concludes that there is little evidence, despite the popularity of the sex-offender notification laws, *that they are effective....* On the one hand, some people may take better precautions to protect their children if they know there is a sex offender in the neighborhood. On the other hand, such laws can *stigmatize sex offenders, placing them under greater stress, which can contribute to repeat offenses...* The study estimated the cost of implementing Megan's Law in 15 counties that responded to a survey to be *\$3.97 million per year*, mostly attributed to additional staffing costs. Recent studies on sexual offender notification laws in New York and Arkansas reached similar conclusions.”

Mission Statement

SOSEN upholds fair and just laws that are evidence based, are effective, and that protect the Constitutional rights of *ALL* citizens.

The mission of SOSEN is to educate the public, the media, law-enforcement, and legislators regarding the **facts**, based on current research, of sexual abuse. We are striving to incorporate **fact** based solutions thus helping to change the laws that affect former offenders, their loved ones, victims and the communities where they live.

We also seek to provide support for victims, former offenders and their families.

SOSEN

Leading the Way!

SOSEN
Sex Offender Solutions & Education Network

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*Regarding
Sex Offender
Issues.*

Presented by

SOSEN

THE SEX OFFENDER
SOLUTIONS and
EDUCATION NETWORK

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In today's political and media environment, sex offender issues receive a great deal of attention. The majority of this attention is biased in some form or another. The most detrimental to everyone involved is that of misinformation that is being spread by well meaning people and hate groups that are profiting from the national registry.

Within this small pamphlet we will present *reliable facts* that have been compiled from many major studies in the field of Sex Offender Issues.

The Facts.

1. 93% of sex offenses committed by someone not on the registry (USDOJ). *Therefore, the Registry is at least 93% ineffective.*
2. 90% of sex offenses are committed by family members or someone already known to the child (USDOJ). *This illustrates that "stranger danger" is greatly overblown.*
3. Even when the charges are more serious, prosecutors often can still bluff defense attorneys and their clients into pleading guilty to a lesser offense. *As a result, people who might have been acquitted because of lack of evidence, and who may, in fact, be truly innocent, will often plead guilty to the charge* (<http://bit.ly/8ohVwq>).
4. The recidivism rate in 3 years without therapy is 5.3%, with therapy it's 3.5% (DOC). *Offender treatment works and is effective.*
5. Future recidivism risks can be reliably assessed using validated former offender risk assessment tools such as the Static 99 (when used appropriately) in combination with other diagnostic tools.
6. Longer sentencing and punishment-driven strategies are unlikely to reduce recidivism. However, the cost to house these prisoners is tremendous (USDOJ).
7. Support systems help to reduce recidivism-anything that keeps offenders away from these

support systems and accountability networks is harmful. *Former offenders and their families need a stable home and work environment* (USDOJ).

8. Re-offense rate averages: auto theft 78.8%, possession/sale of stolen property 77.4%, burglary 74%, robbery 70.2%, larceny 74.6%, **sex offenders 3.5%** (USDOJ).

9. Residency restrictions are not the answer. Iowa Law Enforcement agrees that these laws are ineffective and counterproductive. "A state analyst told Iowa lawmakers Monday there is no data to support the argument that Iowa's law barring sex offenders from living near schools or day cares is reducing the number of crimes against children." (Todd Dorman Journal Des Moines Bureau)

10. Sex offenders are a heterogeneous group - not all sex offenders are the same (http://www.wnd.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=45104). *Yet the media and politicians continue to use words like pedophile, pervert and predator to describe all sex offenders.*

11. *Double standard*; A child is considered someone under the age of consent, unless they are being prosecuted (<http://www.solresearch.org>).

12. Juveniles should be able to have records expunged and only in extreme cases be placed on the registry. The registry is punishment that in many cases never ends (Human Rights Watch report). *A lifetime on the registry gives little hope for someone so young!*

13. 1/3 to 1/2 of all child molestation is committed by children themselves. The United States Department of Justice finds the age with the greatest number of offenders is 14.6 years old. 80% of youths report having had sex by the age of 16 (USDOJ). *Do you want to see your child on the national registry?*

14. Adults pretending to be teenagers account for 3% of internet crime, 75% of child victims meet these adults more than once, and most victims meet with adults expecting to have sex. *Stalking and abduction are very rare* (<http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/>).

15. Although extensive media attention is paid to child abductions, such cases occur relatively rarely, and less than 1% of sex crimes involve murder (<http://bit.ly/8lTmRm>).

16. Not everyone on the registry has committed a sexual crime (<http://bit.ly/5GLm7B>). *Public urination and streaking are crimes that are admissible on the registry in some states.*

17. There is no rise in sex crimes during Halloween; kids more at risk to get hit by car (<http://bit.ly/Gjeig>).

18. Laws that are passed after conviction or ex post facto are unconstitutional on both the federal and state levels, according to the U.S. Constitution. *Today, countless laws are being passed that are unconstitutional. Many of these laws focus only on former offenders, but many people believe that these same laws will soon affect you...*

19. United States has 5% of the world population but has 25% of the world's prison population.

20. These ineffective laws are creating a false sense of security among parents and costing Law Enforcement valuable time, money and resources.

Today the national sex offender registry lists more than 680,000 names, addresses and much more information about people who have only a 3.5% chance of re-offending. The cost of the registry and the myriad of other laws targeting these former offenders, reaches into the billion\$. Yes, Sex Offender laws are a treasure trove for special interest groups. But more than that, these laws are setting precedents that are most dangerous to freedom and liberty. Whose freedom and liberty? *Everyone's!*

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