



SEXUAL OFFENDERS

INFORMATIONAL FACT SHEET

SEPTEMBER 21, 2012

Who are sexual offenders?

- Sexual offenders include those convicted of rape, sexual assault, sexual crimes against children, and other offenses such as child pornography and non-contact offenses.
- Offenders come from every age, race, and social class, and are primarily men.
- Women commit a small number of sexual offenses, most often against children.
- Only 5% of sexual offenders suffer from a psychotic mental illness, and 34% were intoxicated at the time of their offense.
- 70% of sex offenders were not sexually assaulted as children.
- Juveniles commit 33% of rapes and sexual assaults.

Where do sex offenders live?

- 60% of sex offenders are currently in the community on probation or parole.
- The majority of imprisoned sex offenders are in state prisons.
 - Sex offenders comprise 10% of the state prison population, versus only 3.5% of the county jail population, and 1% of the federal prison population.
 - Of the total prison population in the United States, sex offenders constitute 4.7%.
- On average, sex offenders serve 45% of their prison sentence prior to release.
- Residency restrictions and difficulty finding housing sometimes result in clusters of sex offenders living in close proximity to one another, most often in low income areas.

What are the recidivism rates for sex offenders?

- A study of offenders in the United States, Canada, and England found a 14% rate of sexual re-offense within four years of release, and a 46% rate of re-arrest for non-sexual crimes.
- Rapists are somewhat more likely to be reconvicted for a new sex crime than child molesters; however, male offenders with non-familial, male, child victims were the most likely group to reoffend.
- Offenders with multiple victims are more likely to reoffend than first-time offenders.
- Sex offenders who target strangers are more likely to reoffend than those who target victims in their own family.

How does the Sex Offender Registry assist law enforcement?

- There are more than 700,000 registered sex offenders in the United States.
- 25% of those imprisoned for rape or sexual assault were on probation or parole at the time of their offense.
- Offenders subject to and complying with registration are identified and arrested more quickly than non-registered offenders when accused of a new sex crime.