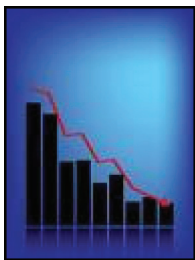


## SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE ADAM WALSH ACT

The price of Predator Panic extends the cost of the AWA beyond the direct costs. Below are a few unintended consequences of the Adam Walsh Act: vasectomy were ruled unconstitutional.



### PROPERTY VALUES

Studies have shown the fear of sex offenders even impact property values; the prices of properties surrounding the residence of a registrant reduced by as much as \$5000 within 1/10 of a mile.

### WELFARE DEPENDENCE

The AWA increased registration times for hundreds of thousands of registrants. Because high levels of registrants face denial of housing and employment opportunities, many registrants rely on the welfare system to support registrants and their families, at an average of \$10,000 just for a single registrant. Many registrants have dependents as well, and many will also need government assistance.



### VIGILANTE VIOLENCE



Studies have shown that around 40% of registrants and their loved ones have experienced harassment, property damage, or physical violence as a result of being on the registry. This adds to the overall crime rate and cost expenditure for an already taxed police force.

## A BETTER INVESTMENT

Treatment of sex offenders is found to be cost effective largely because treatment is an effective tool in reducing recidivism rates. Separate studies have found every dollar spent on treatment of sex offenders saves up to \$5.27 in victim and taxpayer benefits. A RAND Corporation study on youth crime also suggests certain intervention programs are far more efficient than many after-the-fact methods like mandatory minimums. The proof is in the pudding — rehabilitation and prevention programs work AND are cost effective.

Program	Yearly/ Per Item Cost
Incarceration	\$23,200
Civil Commitment	\$41,000-\$166,000
GPS	\$3,650
Community Notification	\$450+
Registration Costs	Est. \$400 per registrant
Court Costs/ Lawsuits	\$1000-\$5000 per case

In the past, there have been many barriers to instituting prevention, education, and rehabilitation strategies, but in this time of economic uncertainty, perhaps now we must finally take interest in promoting cost-effective strategies that actually work. Treatment and rehabilitation coupled with prevention and education programs are the only truly effective and cost efficient solution.

### TRUE COST OF THE ADAM WALSH ACT!

Sex Offender Solutions & Education Network

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[www.sosen.org](http://www.sosen.org)

References to all facts in this brochure can be found at:  
<http://www.oncefallen.com/budgetcrunch.html>  
And <http://www.oncefallen.com/AdamWalshAct.html>  
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## TRUE COST OF THE ADAM WALSH ACT!



*"Budget reform is not an option. It is an imperative. We cannot sustain a system that bleeds billions of taxpayer dollars on programs that have outlived their usefulness, or exist solely because of the power of a politician, lobbyist or interest group."*

— Barack Obama



**SOSEN EDUCATIONAL SERIES**

## *True Cost of the ADAM WALSH ACT*



In the midst of the worst recession in a quarter of a century, states are looking for ways to save money. Some states looked to cut the fat from big budget and popular projects targeting sex offenders. In March 2009, Florida threatened to abandon Amber Alerts and community notification, noting the general lack of interest in the latter program. New York looked to close down a civil commitment center to trim \$48 from its mental health budget. Iowa cited budget problems and ineffectiveness as its reason to abolish residency restrictions and most registrants, replacing them with anti-loitering “safety zones.” The Adam Walsh Act, the controversial bill passed in 2006 without debate, is a very costly measure. Many states are discovering that taking the 10% cut in Byrne/JAG funding would be far less costly than actually adopting and enforcing the Adam Walsh Act.

### **COST OF ADAM WALSH ACT PROVISIONS**

The national registry (“SORNA”) has received a great deal of attention, but the Adam Walsh Act contains many costly provisions. States have until July 2010 to comply with the requirements or take a 10% cut in federal Byrne/ JAG funding. However, there are so many provisions within the bill it will ultimately cost states millions more to implement than to reject. Below are some of the costly provisions of this bill, adding to the overall cost of the Adam Walsh Act.

1. **SORNA:** The national sex offender registry was supposed to make registration and classification equal across states, but instead has left a pile of confusion. SORNA classifies registrants based on offense type rather than risk; as a result, states like Ohio and Oklahoma have found the number of Tier 3 or lifetime registrants increased from around 30% to as high as 80% overnight simply because of different requirements. This is significant as many laws are written specifically for the highest-tiered registrants. The cost just to implement SORNA alone is enough to break any state budget. For example, New York determined it would cost around \$31 million to implement SORNA. In 2009 New York received \$26.9 in total Byrne/ JAG funding. If New York took the 10% cut, they would only stand to lose \$2.69 million. They could take that cut for nearly 12 years and not lose the amount of money it would cost to implement the law. This figure does not take into account other costs such as notification, manpower, enforcement, upkeep, and other expenses of the provisions. For example, one Ohio county reported the cost of notification postcards for 447 Tier 3 offenders cost the Sheriff’s Office
2. **Court Costs:** The few states that changed registration requirements were met with thousands of lawsuits related to classification changes. In Ohio, the state’s public defender handled many of these cases at around \$1000 to \$2000 per case.
3. **GPS:** The Walsh Act calls for GPS pilot programs. At an average of around \$10 per registrant per day, GPS is riddled with accuracy and false alarm issues that drive up costs. Also, unless the GPS satellites are replaced, GPS will lose even more accuracy by 2010.
4. **Mandatory Minimums:** Mandatory minimums not only abolish judicial discretion, they are costly to enforce. The US Bureau of Prisons estimate it costs roughly \$23,200 yearly to house inmates, with prison costs increasing dramatically. California saw an 80% increase in costs between 2005-06 and 2007-08.
5. **Civil Commitment:** Incarcerating people beyond their prison sentences has proven costly, as states that have civil commitment centers spend between 2 to 6 times as much to commit sex offenders than they spent incarcerating them.



**TRUE COST OF THE  
ADAM WALSH ACT!**