

The Facts

1. 93% of sex offenses committed by someone not on the registry.
2. 90% of sex offenses are committed by family members or someone they know.
3. Recidivism rate in 3 years (D.O.C) without therapy is 5.3%, with therapy, the rate is 3.5%. Offender treatment works and is effective.
4. Support systems help to reduce recidivism. Anything that keeps offenders away from these support systems and accountability networks would be harmful.
5. Re-offense rate averages, for auto theft - 78.8%, possession/sale of stolen property - 77.4%, burglary -74%, robbery -70.2%, larcenist -74.6%, sex offenders - 3.5%.
6. Residency restrictions - Iowa law enforcement agrees that the residency restriction laws are ineffective and counterproductive. A state analyst told Iowa lawmakers there is no data to support the argument that Iowa's law barring sex offenders from living near schools or day cares reduces the number of crimes against children. Todd Dorman, Journal Des Moines Bureau. <http://goo.gl/xq6re>
7. Not everyone on the registry has committed a sexual crime. Public urination and streaking are crimes that are admissible on the registry.

More Facts at
www.sosen.org

Regarding Residency And Cluster Laws The Experts Have Spoken:

**Criminal Justice Resources:
Sex Offender Residency Restrictions**
by Ken Strutin. Published on July 20, 2008.
<http://goo.gl/WGLMM>

"They (residence restrictions) raise constitutional issues in addition to the practical problems created by shutting off access to family members, affordable housing, employment, therapeutic treatment and public services."

**Banishment By a Thousand Laws:
Residency Restrictions on Sex Offenders.**
<http://goo.gl/Sp1IU>

"Establishing the connection to banishment punishments helps to explain the unique legal, policy, and ethical problems these laws create for America. Ultimately, residency restrictions could fundamentally alter basic principles of the American criminal justice system. While those supporting these laws have the interests of children at heart, the policies they are promoting will be worse for children and society."

**Sex Offender Residence Restrictions:
Sensible Crime Policy Or Flawed Logic?**
<http://goo.gl/NakSt>

"There is a growing body of evidence, however, that residence restrictions have unintended consequences for sex offenders and communities. These adverse effects include homelessness for sex offenders; transience; lack of accessibility to social support, employment, and rehabilitative services; registry invalidity; and the clustering of sex offenders in poor, rural, or socially disorganized neighborhoods. Residence laws are often based on erroneous assumptions about sex-offender high reoffending rates and the belief that most sex offenders target strangers for victimization. In addition, they are rarely coupled with the administration of proven risk assessment instruments and procedures."

Sex Offender Solutions & Education Network
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**SEX
OFFENDERS**

**Clusters
And
Safety**



SOSEN EDUCATIONAL SERIES

Of all crimes, none bring feelings of anger and hatred to the forefront as much as sex offenses.

Sex offenses are seen as a violation at the most personal level. Also, there is a common misconception that former offenders cannot be rehabilitated and that they will reoffend.

Above all, fear and hatred play a profound role in how former offenders are treated. Communities are clamoring to force those people to move away.

For these reasons, cities and towns across the country have passed residency restrictions against people who have committed sex offenses.

What is the outcome of these residency laws?

Former offenders find it difficult to find housing just because they are on the national sex offender registry. With such supposed safety laws, it is nearly impossible for registered offenders to live anywhere.

So what many of these cities and towns are seeing is clusters of those people living in certain areas or together.

Soon communities are once again in an uproar, demanding that those people move further away.

Is that the case in your community? Is your community trying to drive those people out? This sounds like something from the dark ages. In the United States, this has happened before; The Salem Witch Hunt, the Native American Indian, the Japanese Americans during W.W.II and slavery.

**Did You Forget the
Fact That Former Offenders are
People,
Just Like You?**



The Cause of Clustering is Residency Restrictions

**Do residency restrictions
keep children or anyone safer?**

RESIDENCY RESTRICTION FACTS

by Sue Lindsay, Rocky Mountain News
Published July 23, 2007 at midnight
<http://goo.gl/Q1FdY>

“Colorado Division of Criminal Justice, conclude that restricting where offenders may live does not prevent repeat sex crimes.”

“The Colorado research, based on a 2004 survey of sex offenders, found that high-risk sex offenders living in shared living arrangements had significantly fewer probation and criminal violations than those living in other living arrangements.”

“Offenders hold each other accountable for their actions and responsibilities and notify the appropriate authorities when a roommate commits certain behavior, such as returning home late or having contact with children,” the 2004 Colorado report said.

“Veeder and English say restrictions like those that swept through the suburbs beginning in the late ‘90s work against public safety.” From a 2007 Minnesota Department of Corrections study: “It is unlikely that residency restrictions would have a deterrent effect because the types of offenses such a law is designed to prevent are exceptionally rare and, in the case of Minnesota, virtually nonexistent over the last 16 years,” the report said.

Residency Restriction and Clustering Laws

Hate based, Fear based or Fact based?

The number of studies showing that sex offender residency restrictions do not work are mounting and yet city by city, state by state, new residency laws are making their way across the country.

In many areas these laws are fanned by former victims and/or hate groups. While there must be concern for former victims, the laws they request are not fact based and are based only on fear. People who advocate for such laws are biased and uninformed. The laws are, in fact, HATE based, irrational, intolerant, prejudice!

United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Article 1. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 5. No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 9. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 17. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

**Sex offender laws violate all of these
human rights and more.**