

**95%** of new sex offenses are committed by someone **NOT** on a sex offender registry.

—Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2006

### Treatment Works...

Available research indicates that quality treatment can reduce recidivism by more than one-third.

There is no downside to treatment.

—National Center  
on Institutions and Alternatives, Inc., 2006



Registered sex offenders have the **lowest recidivism rates**

when compared to assault, DUI, robbery, theft, drug offenses, battery, and domestic violence. The only crime with a lower recidivism rate is murder.

—Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2006

### Lower Than...

Domestic Violence  
Battery  
Drug Offenses  
Theft  
Robbery  
DUI  
Assault

In **93%** of child sexual abuse cases, the child **knows the person** who commits the abuse. Only **7%** are **strangers** and as many as **47%** are **family** or extended family.

—National Sex Offender Public Website,  
US Department of Justice

**5**

The number of states that provide enough information on online registries for the public to be able to interpret the charge and the age of both the registrant and the victim.

—Justice Policy Institute

**25%** Increase in the likelihood a sex offender will re-offend each time they are forced to move.

—GA Board of Pardons & Paroles, 2003

There is **no evidence** that restricting where sex offenders **live will prevent** repeat sexual offending against children. In fact, **residence restrictions could not have prevented the murder** of Chelsea King.

—California's Sex Offenders Management Board

### Adam Walsh Act Fact:

Reclassification of sex offenders is based solely on the offense of conviction. One's likelihood to re-offend will no longer be considered. In Ohio, highest-risk offenders went from **18% to 54%**, increasing the Sheriff's workload by **60%**.

—Ohio Public Defender's Office

## Residency Restriction Laws for 37 States:

**8** have **no restrictions** as to where RSOs can live.

**9** have **no statewide laws** but allow for local ordinances.

**17** have **restrictions** that apply only to **offenders on parole, probation, supervision**, those who have committed certain types of crimes or are deemed **high risk**, or have been court ordered.

Of the states with residency restrictions, **3** do not force offenders to **move** if a school, daycare, park, etc. opens after establishing residence.

### Sex Offender Solutions & Education Network

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

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What  
You  
Don't  
Know  
About

Sex  
Offenders,  
But **Should!**



**SOSEN EDUCATIONAL SERIES**



**Research shows** the best way to [change antisocial behavior] is to **normalize life**. Offender websites and community notification, coupled with requirements to report their every move to the police, do the opposite. You ban somebody from the community, he has no friends, he feels bad about himself, and **you reinforce the very problems** that contribute to the sex abuse behavior in the first place. You make him a better sex offender.”

—Eric Lotke, former research and policy director of the Justice Policy Institute

I’m worried that we’re **focusing** so much energy in **naming and shaming** convicted sex offenders that we’re **not doing as much as we should** to **protect our children** from other real threats.”

—Patty Wetterling, mother of Jacob Wetterling

[Sex offenders] **need to have a place to live**, they need to be able to **get jobs**. They need to be able to **support themselves and their families**. And without those things, they’re going to be more likely to resume a life of crime. That’s not a debate, that’s a fact.

—Dr. Jill S. Levenson, Lynn University

The **system is broken**. It’s **overwhelmed** and I think the public is starting to realize that.

You **can’t paint sex offenders** with a **broad brush**.

—John Walsh, father of Adam Walsh

## Rethinking Sex Offender Laws:

Many states have realized that the current trend in sex offender **laws do nothing to protect society**, increase the risk of recidivism, and **violate** both the US and State **Constitutions**. Many states have taken measures to address these difficult issues by adopting a more-sensible approach, based on research, to their laws, registries, and residency restrictions.

## Collateral Damage to the Children of Registered Sex Offenders:

The majority of sex offenders date, get married, and have families who depend on them. Every law that is passed also impacts those families, especially their children, as found in this study by Dr. Jill Leveson and Dr. Richard Tewksbury. Children of sex offenders reported that they have experienced the following due to a parent being on a public database:

### Are we concerned about all children? What about these children?

Harassed by others.....	47%	Depression.....	77%
Ridiculed by others .....	59%	Anxiety .....	73%
Teased by others .....	52%	Fear.....	63%
Fighting instigated by others...	22%	Anger.....	80%
Left out with other children ....	65%	Suicidal tendencies.....	13%

### Who Poses the Greatest Danger to Our Children?

Sex offender laws that are passed each year in response to the horrific stories we hear on the news and in the media, are supposed to keep our children safer, but **are they doing their job?** These laws are said to be designed to keep our children safe by limiting the actions and making public the residences of registered sex offenders. **Do these costly laws protect children from the greatest threat to their safety?**

In a report by the U.S. Department of Justice, National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runway, and Throwaway Children, an estimated **1,325,600 children went missing in 2002**. Of those children, **115** were **stereotypically kidnapped** and **41 were killed or were still missing** at the time of the study.

### What are the chances a child will die by means other than being abducted and killed by a sex offender?

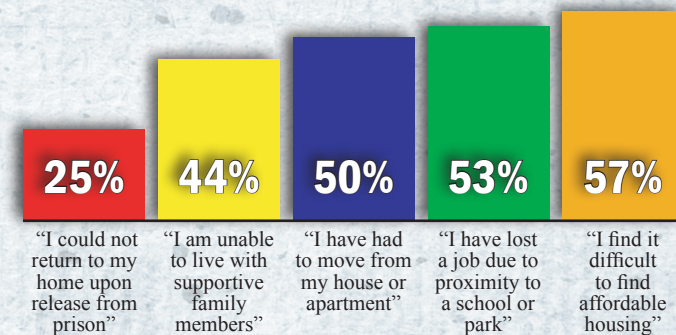
1400% more likely to hang themselves  
 1500% more likely to shoot themselves  
 3200% more likely to be murdered by a firearm  
 4000% more likely to be stabbed, strangled, burned alive, or poisoned  
 15,300% more likely to be killed in an auto accident\* than to be abducted and killed by a sex offender.

\* Of the children killed in auto accidents, 68% were riding in a vehicle driven by a drunk driver. Over 50% of those drunk drivers were a parent of the child.

More likely to be struck by lightning!

### Collateral Damage of Residency Restrictions

—“The Impact of Sex Offender Residency Restrictions,” 2005



**Do sex offenders really pose the greatest danger to our children?  
 Isn’t it time lawmakers consider the statistics and listen to the experts?**