

# A Brief Overview of Sex Offender Management

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Symposium on Alternatives to Incarceration

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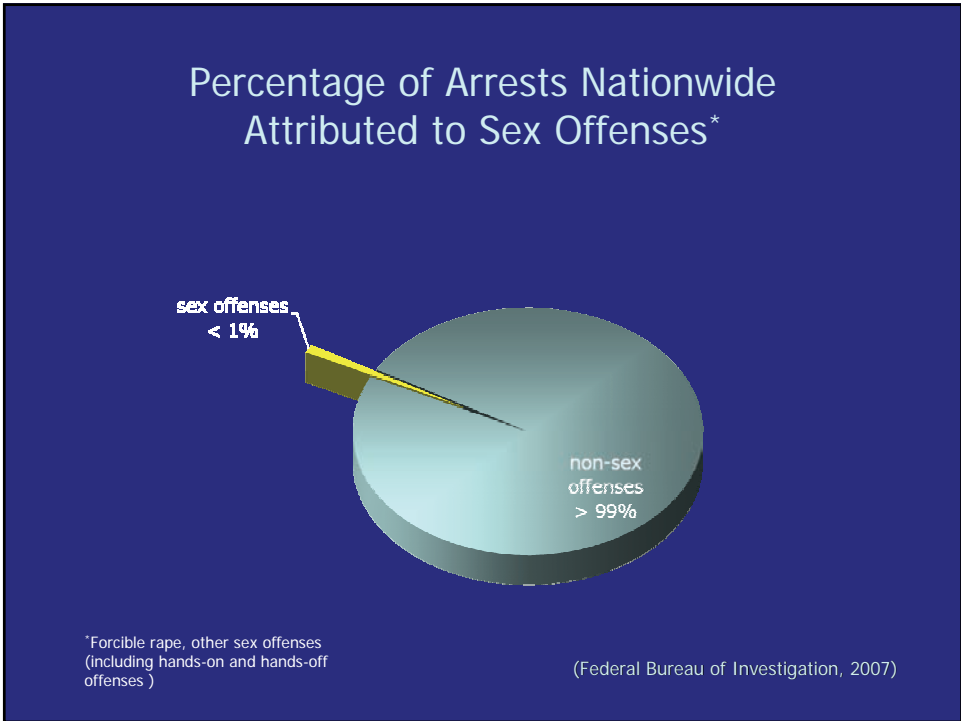
Washington, DC

## Top 10 Policy Issue Forecast for State Legislatures for 2007

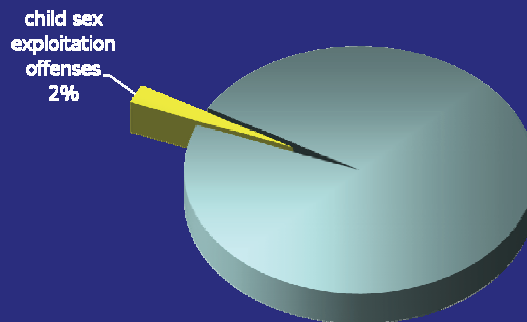
1. Immigration
2. Real ID Act for Homeland security
3. Budget pressures
4. Health insurance
5. Sex offenders and predators
6. Energy and environment
7. Minimum wage
8. Higher education reform
9. Privacy
10. Obesity

(NCSL, 2007)

National Trends in Sex Offender Management	
Arrests for sex offenses (state level)	↓
Arrests/prosecutions for sex crimes (Federal level)	↑
Sex offenders incarcerated in state and Federal prisons	↑
Sex offenders placed on public registries	↑
Sex offenders requiring monitoring and/or supervision by law enforcement and/or probation/parole officials	↑
Sex offender-specific legislation introduced and enacted	↑



## Percentage of Federal Prosecutions Attributed to Child Sex Exploitation Offenses\*



\*Child pornography, transportation for illegal sexual activity, sex abuse

(Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2007)

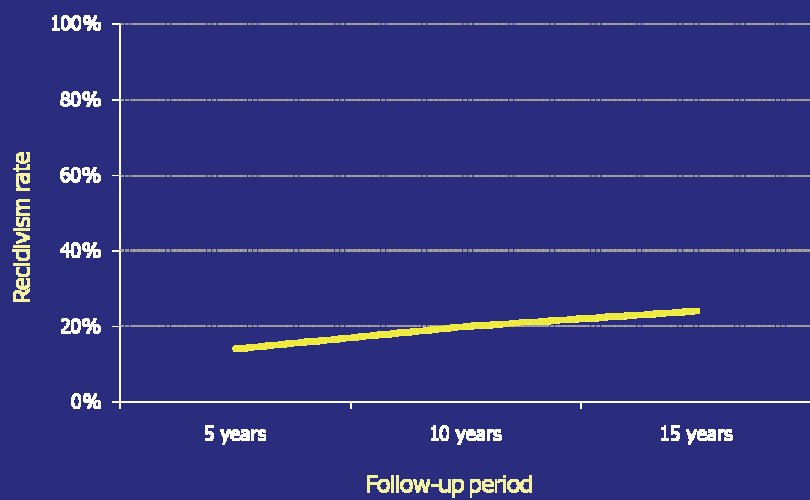
## Unique Challenges of Sex Offender Management

- Under-reporting, under-detection
- Heightened attention, scrutiny
- Widespread myths, misinformation
- Negative public sentiment
- Exacerbated housing and employment challenges
- Unknown impact, collateral consequences of sex offender-specific policy trends

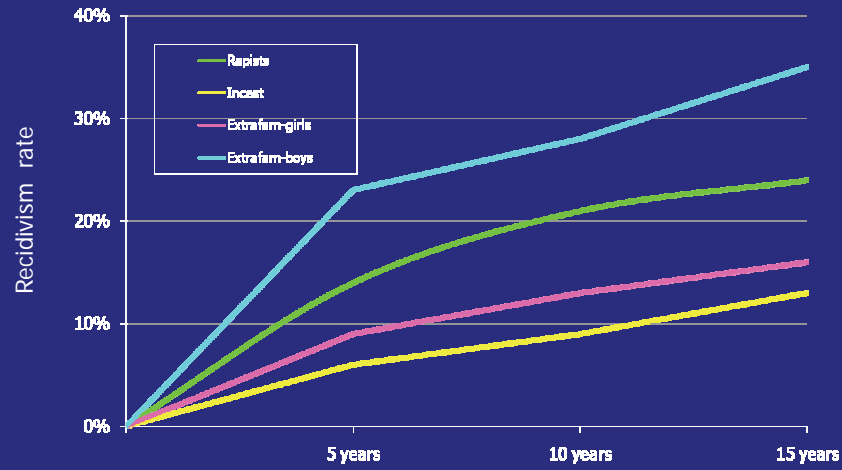
## Key Challenge: Diversity of Sex Offenders

- Label implies homogeneity
  - Research and practice reveal heterogeneity
  - Differences between adult and juvenile offenders
- Key variations
  - Initiation and maintenance factors
  - Targets, behaviors
  - Intervention needs
  - Recidivism

## Observed Sexual Recidivism Rates Over Time: Adult Sex Offenders as a Homogenous Group



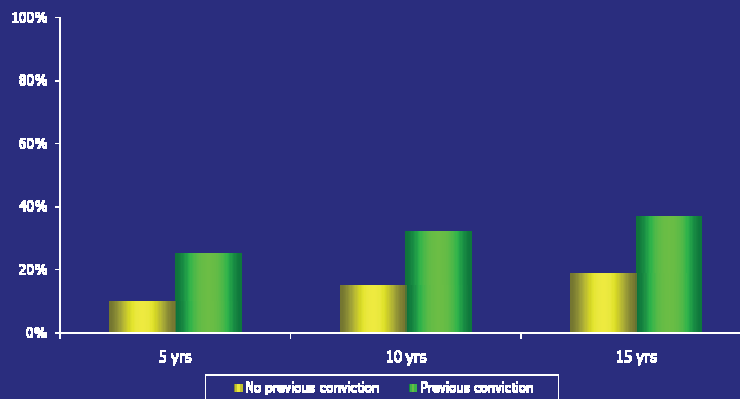
## Observed Sexual Recidivism Rates of Adult Sex Offenders Over Time By Subgroup



N = 4,724

(Harris & Hanson, 2004)

## Sexual Recidivism Rates: Previous Conviction vs. No Previous Conviction



N = 4,724

(Harris & Hanson, 2004)

## Static Risk Factors Associated with Sexual Recidivism Among Adult Sex Offenders

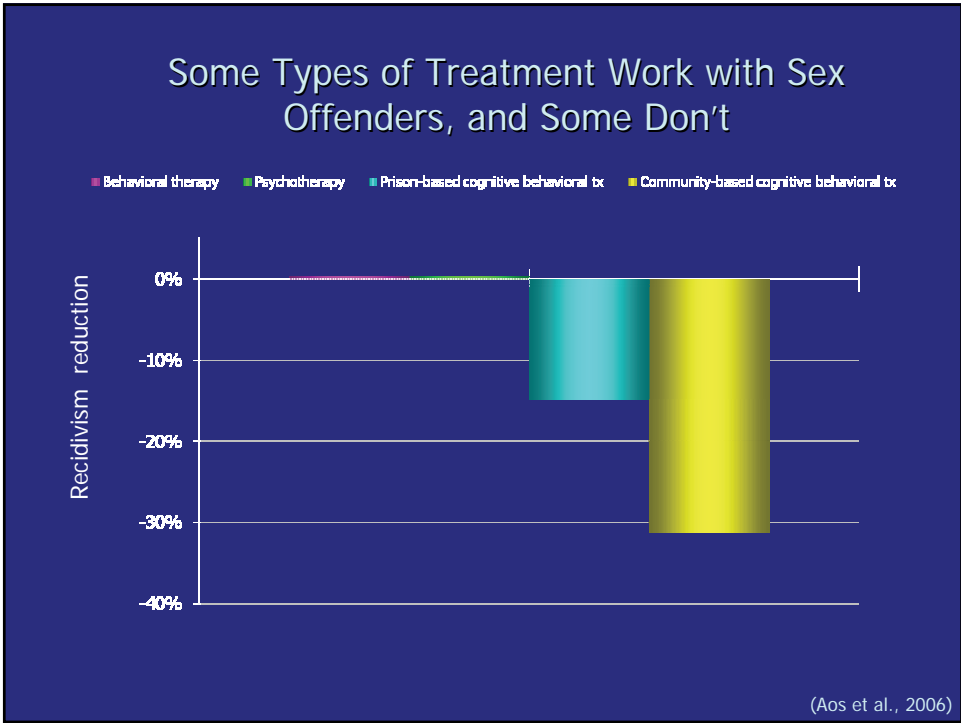
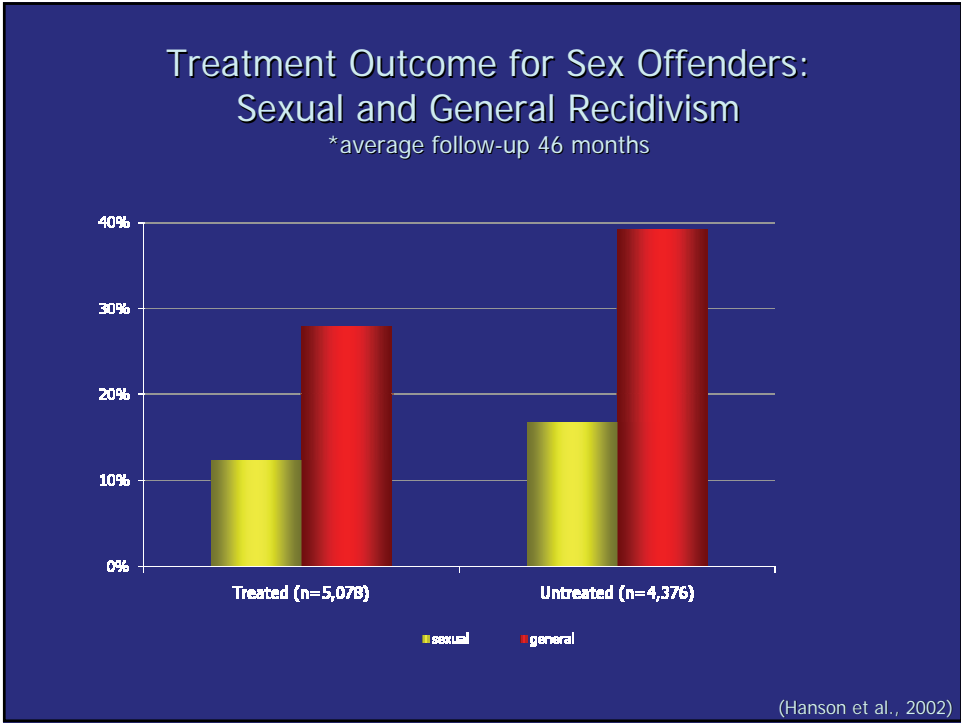
- Prior sex offenses
- Prior non-sex offenses
- Prior non-contact sex offenses
- Unrelated victims
- Stranger victims
- Male victims

(Hanson & Bussiere, 1998; Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2005)

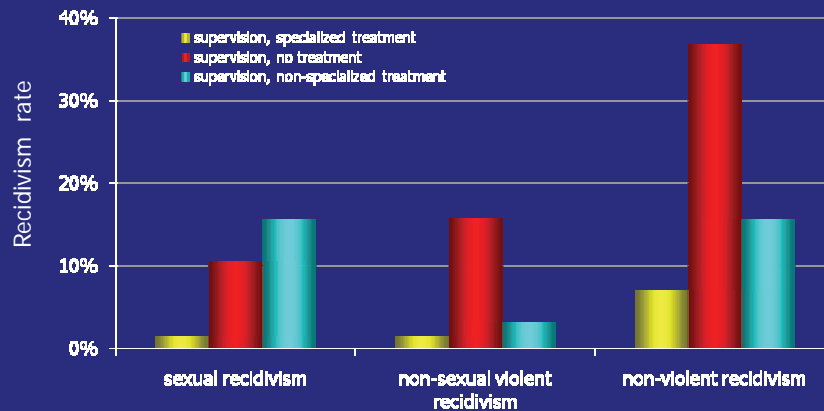
## Dynamic Risk Factors Associated with Sexual Recidivism Among Adult Sex Offenders

- Victim access
- Deviant sexual interests
- Attitudes supportive of offending
- Intimacy deficits, conflicts in intimate relationships
- Impulsivity
- Substance abuse
- Supervision compliance
- Collapse of social supports
  - Family
  - Residence
  - Work

(Hanson & Bussiere, 1998; Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2005)



## Adult Sex Offenders: Specialized Supervision Outcomes



(McGrath, Hoke, & Vojtisek, 1998)

## Recidivism Findings

- View through the under-reporting lens
- Detected sexual recidivism rates relatively low
  - More likely to be non-sexual
- Rates differ by subgroups
- Impacted by interventions (what and how)
  - Some seem to work, some do not
  - Others remain unknown



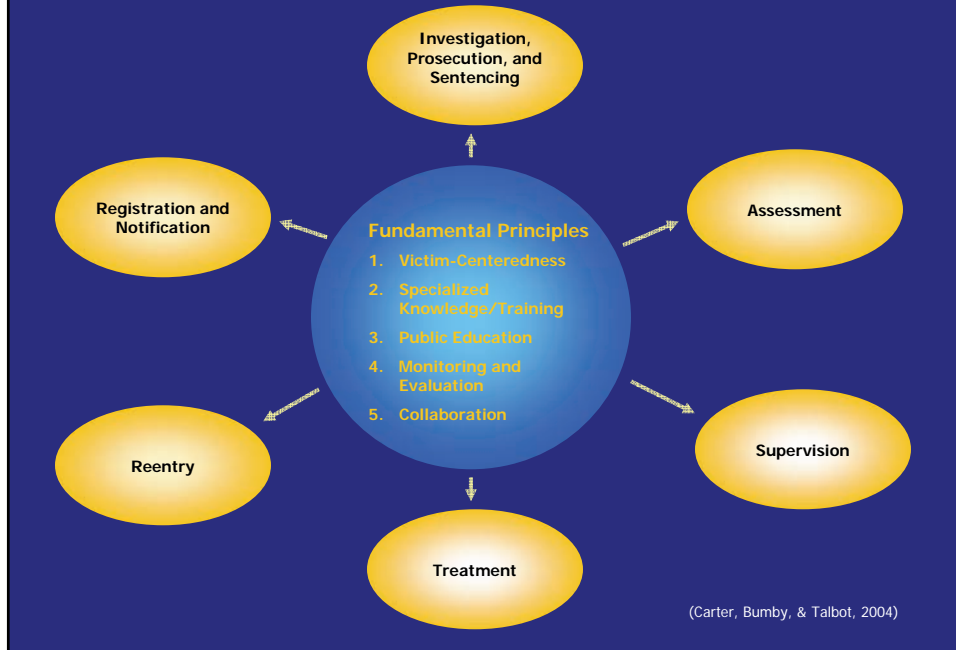
## Implications of Diversity

- Policies, legislation
- Prosecution, sentencing
- Probation/parole supervision
- Treatment interventions
- Release, reentry
- Victim needs and interests

## Implications of Diversity (cont.)

- Sex offender management is complex
- One size cannot fit all
- Multidisciplinary collaboration is vital

## The Comprehensive Approach to Sex Offender Management



## Ongoing Needs

- Impact of multidisciplinary, collaborative approaches
- Impact of policy trends
- Special populations
  - Women
  - Intellectually, cognitively impaired
  - Persistent mental health difficulties
  - Internet-specific

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