

Moving Toward Rational Sexual Offense Laws

1. There is no significant difference in sexual re-offending before and after public registries were initiated (Levenson & Zgoba, 2016; Sandler, Freeman, & Socia, 2008; Tewksbury & Jennings, 2010).
2. Over 95% of sexual offenses committed before and after public registry requirements were committed by first time offenders (Sandler, et al., 2008).
3. Re-offense rates are low. The 2008 re-offense rate in PA = 3.1%*. The 7-year re-offense rate in the U.S. = 7.7% (U.S. Department of Justice, 2019).
4. "Stranger danger" is a myth. 93% of victims of sexual assault know their attacker prior to the assault (U.S. Department of Justice, 2000).
5. Prevention of sexual abuse is possible if regulatory laws are based on scientific research that demonstrates a high burden of proof and approached from a comprehensive and systematic public health perspective (Janus; 2018, Letourneau, Eaton, Bass, Berlin, & Moore, 2014).

*3.1% calculated using PA DOC 2013 Recidivism Report data of 0.6% forcible rapes, 0% statutory rapes, and 2.5% other sexual offenses, p. 22, table 14.

P.O. Box 399, New Freedom, PA 17349
(717)820-2237 • PARSOL.org



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