



PARSOL

Fact Sheet: Ineffectiveness of Public Registration & Recidivism

Public Registries are Ineffective at Decreasing Sexual Re-offending:

- *While the intentions of Megan’s Law may have been noble, and there are a limited number of studies showing the potential positive impact of Megan’s Law, there is a distinct lack of evidence showing that the policy has been effective in reducing sex offending (Call, 2018, p. 214).*
- The registry produces no significant difference in sex crime recidivism (Agan, 2011; Levenson & Zgoba; 2016, Sandler, Freeman, & Socia, 2008).

Those Convicted of Sexual Offenses Have Low Rates of Recidivism:

- In 2008 the rate of sexual recidivism in Pennsylvania was 3.1%¹ (PA Department of Corrections, 2013).
- Nationally, the 3-year rate of sexual reoffending is consistently in the single digits. The U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics (2003) found the 3-year sexual re-offense rate to be 3.5 percent.
- The risk of sexual reoffending reduces with time offense-free in the community.

Static-99R Risk Level	Desistance Threshold Reached*
I	At time of release from prison
II	3 to 6 years
III	8 to 13 years
IVa	16 to 18 years
IVb	21 years

*Time offense-free in the community at which the individual poses no greater risk of sexually offending than those who have never committed a sexual offense.

¹ 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, ta

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- Hanson, R. K., Harris, A. J. R., Letourneau, E., Helmus, L. M., Thornton, D. (2018). Reductions in risk based on time offense-free in the community: Once a sexual offender, not always a sexual offender. *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 24(1), 48-63.
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