

An Assessment of Current Management Practices of Adult Sex Offenders in California, January 2008

county. Consistency is needed to allow the information to be gathered and analyzed at a statewide level.

Section Three: Sex Offender Recidivism

Data at a Glance

- 3.55 percent of sex offenders on parole with CDCR had committed new sex offenses by the time the conclusion of their three-year parole period.
- A ten-year follow-up study of 879 sex offenders in the state of Ohio reported that when using sex offense conviction as the outcome measurement, of 34 percent of sex offenders who have re-offended, only 8 percent were re-committed for a new sex crime, plus 3 percent for a technical violation judged to be related to a potential new sex crime, while the other 22 percent re-offended for non-sexual offenses.

Summary of Strengths with Respect to Tracking Sex Offender Recidivism in California

- DOJ and CDCR maintain comprehensive databases on those sex offenders in California who are under their respective jurisdictions. DOJ maintains information on all PC 290 registered sex offenders while CDCR keeps records on prisoners and parolees. The institutional mechanisms and technical resources exist to effectively collect and further analyze information related to the state's registered sex offenders.

Summary of Gaps with Respect to Tracking Sex Offender Recidivism in California

- There is no broadly researched and replicated body of data about the recidivism of California sex offenders that would provide baseline measures to guide policy and evaluate the success of any new efforts to reduce recidivism.
- No information is available at this time regarding sexual recidivism for sex offenders on probation in California.
- Policy makers do not have sufficient resources for obtaining reliable information about recidivism nor do they have ready access to expert assistance in interpreting the complex recidivism data available from multiple sources.
- The operational definition of "sex offender recidivism" used in any future California recidivism studies needs to be standardized to improve the accuracy and comparability of the data.

Section Four: Investigation and Prosecution

Summary of California's Strengths in Investigation and Prosecution of Sex Offenders

Investigation:

- There is statutorily mandated training for Sexual Assault Investigators.
- California has a statutory mandate for convicted sex offenders to submit DNA.
- California has created and utilizes a DNA database.

Prosecution:

- California subscribes to the use of Vertical Prosecution which is the practice of assigning one deputy district attorney or city attorney to a case from its inception once it comes to the District Attorneys' or City Attorneys' Offices through conclusion.
- California has a statutorily mandated Victims Bill of Rights in Penal Code Section 679 et seq.

Summary of California's Gaps in Investigation and Supervision of Sex Offenders

- Lack of funding for Vertical Prosecution, specialized units, and training for prosecutors.
- Only a small number of communities that have developed collaborative teams.

Section Five: Supervision