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

—Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2006

Treating 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

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, 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
PO box 235, Dixon, IL 61021
(800) 773-4319
www.sosen.org

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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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Harassed by others</th>
<th>47%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ridiculed by others</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teased by others</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fighting instigated by others</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left out with other children</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anger</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicidal tendencies</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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, Runaway, 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

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