

Sex Offender 101: What You Should Know

Michele Reynolds, M.A.

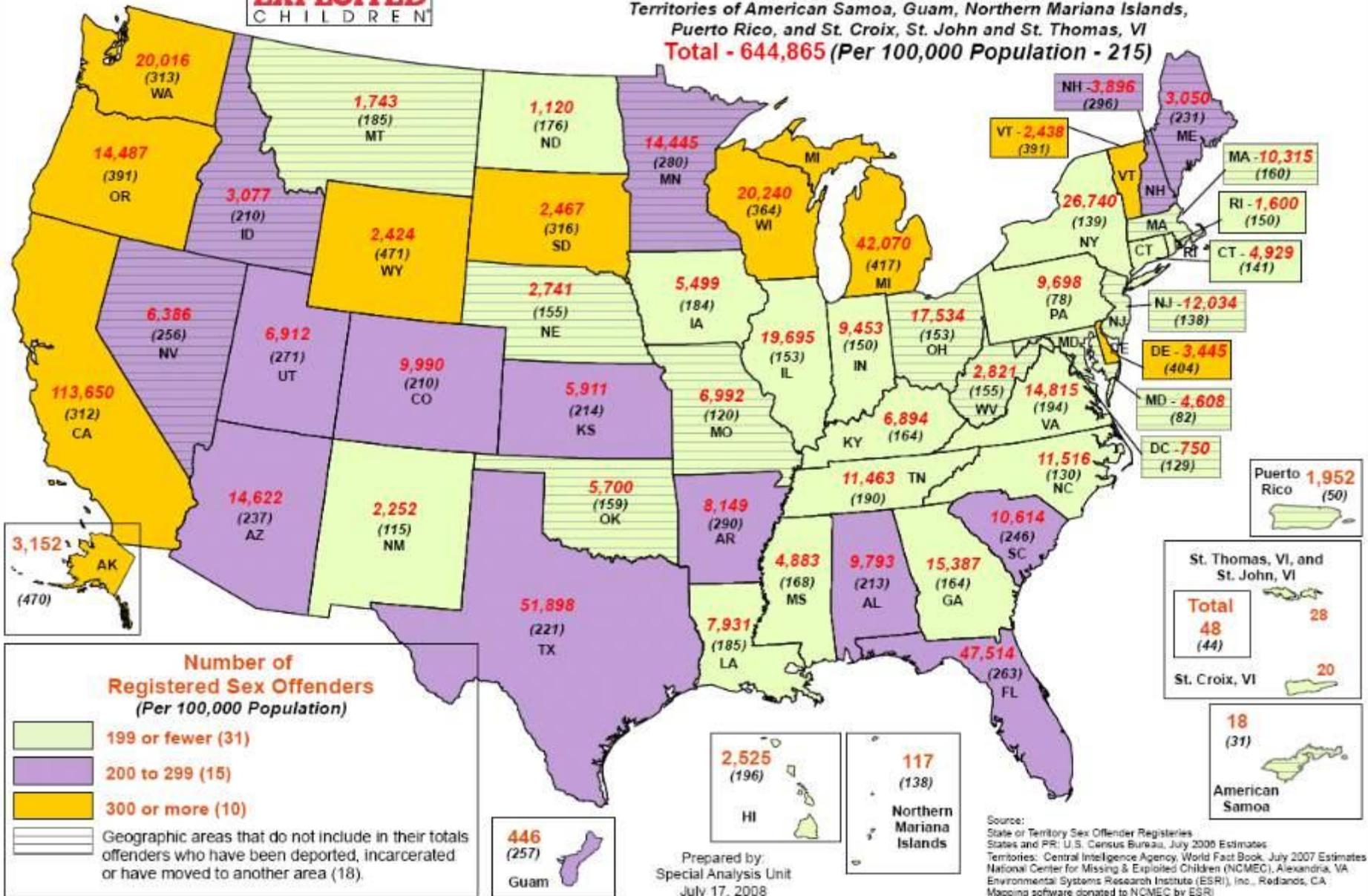
Part 1: Sex Offender Registration and Community Notification



REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS IN THE UNITED STATES PER 100,000 POPULATION

Including the District of Columbia and
Territories of American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands,
Puerto Rico, and St. Croix, St. John and St. Thomas, VI

Total - 644,865 (Per 100,000 Population - 215)



Number of Registered Sex Offenders (Per 100,000 Population)

- 199 or fewer (31)
- 200 to 299 (15)
- 300 or more (10)

Geographic areas that do not include in their totals offenders who have been deported, incarcerated or have moved to another area (18).

Source:
State or Territory Sex Offender Registries
States and PR: U.S. Census Bureau, July 2006 Estimates
Territories: Central Intelligence Agency, World Fact Book, July 2007 Estimates
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), Alexandria, VA
Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), Inc., Redlands, CA
Mapping software donated to NCMEC by ESRI

Prepared by:
Special Analysis Unit
July 17, 2008

Adam Walsh Act: SORNA

- Divides sex offenders into three tiers based solely on crime of conviction
 - Tier 1: Misdemeanor sexual offenses
 - Tier 2: Less severe felony sexual offenses (e.g., use of minor in sexual performance, criminal sexual act, production or distribution of child pornography)
 - Tier 3: More severe felony sexual offenses (e.g., persistent sexual abuse, predatory sexual assault, aggravated sexual abuse)

Adam Walsh Act: SORNA

- Tier level determines length of registration and extent of community notification
 - Tier 1 = 15 years
 - Tier 2 = 25 years
 - Tier 3 = life
- Expands in person verification requirements and enhances public access to information



Part 2: Sex Offender Residency Restrictions

Brief History

- Began in the mid-1990s: Delaware and Florida
- Usually restrict sex offenders from residing within 1,000 to 2,500 feet of schools, playgrounds, daycare centers, and other places where children congregate
- Ohio has statewide residency restriction law of 1,000 feet, as well as other numerous township, city, and county laws

Intent and Basis

- Attempt to protect children from sexual abuse committed by previously convicted sex offenders
- Based on several assumptions related to sexual offending:
 - Sexual recidivism accounts for many, if not most, instances of child sexual abuse
 - The majority of child sexual abuse is perpetrated by strangers
 - Residential proximity to areas where children congregate is related to offending

Research on the Impact: Unintended Consequences

- An increase in sex offenders registered as homeless in Ohio by up to 40%.
- Offenders report increased:
 - Financial and emotional hardships
 - Difficulty obtaining employment, finding affordable housing, and sustaining relationships with pro-social support networks

Research on the Impact: Unintended Consequences

- Force sex offenders to cluster in urban or rural areas where there are few employment, treatment, and educational opportunities.

Summary:

Residency Restrictions

- No research to show they have an impact on sexual offending
- No research to show sex offenders (specifically child molesters) choose to live close to schools, parks, and the like
- Found to aggravate certain risk factors for sexual recidivism:
 - Increased homelessness/transience
 - Increased financial and emotional hardships
 - Decreased community reintegration

Selected References: Residency Restrictions

- Chajewski, M., & Mercado, C. C. (2009). An evaluation of sex offender residency restriction functioning in town, county, and city-wide jurisdictions. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 20, 44-61.
- Colorado Department of Public Safety. (2004). *Report on safety issues raised by living arrangements for and location of sex offenders in the community*. Denver, CO: Author.
- Duwe, G., Donnay, W., & Tewksbury, R. (2008). Does residential proximity matter: A geographic analysis of sex offense recidivism. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 35, 484-504.
- Levenson, J. S., & Cotter, L. P. (2005). The impact of sex offender residence restrictions: 1,000 feet from danger or one step from absurd? *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 49, 168-178.
- Minnesota Department of Corrections. (2003). *Level three sex offenders residential placement issues*. St. Paul, MN: Author.
- Zgoba, K. M., Levenson, J., & McKee, T. (2009) Examining the impact of sex offender residence restrictions on housing availability. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 20, 91-110.

Part 3.

Housing Solutions



Securing safe, decent affordable housing is a major challenge for people exiting prison, particularly adult offenders with mental illness, sex offender convictions, and those with other chronic health conditions

(Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, 2010)

Need/Extent of the Problem

National

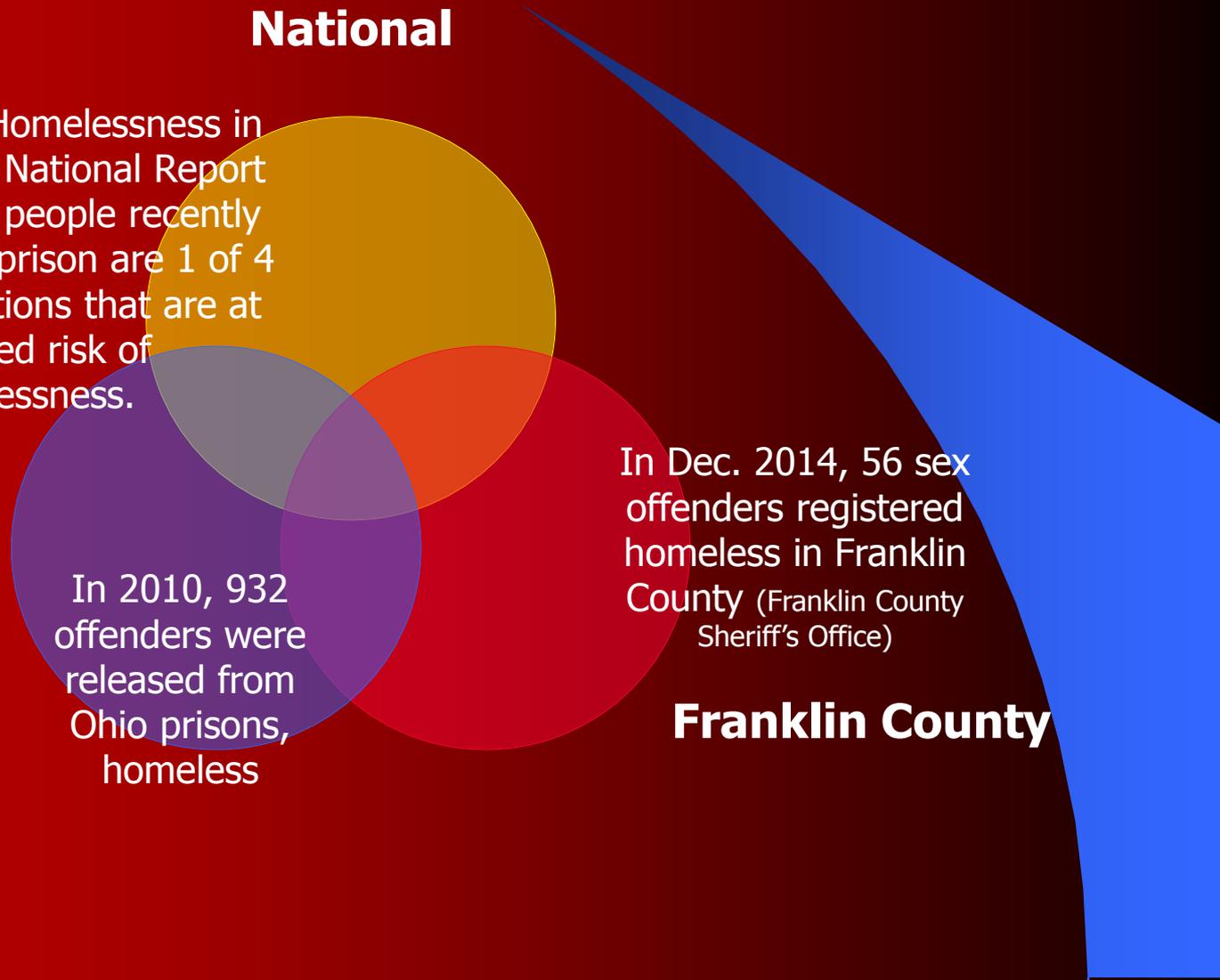
The State of Homelessness in America 2012 National Report indicates that people recently released from prison are 1 of 4 target populations that are at increased risk of homelessness.

In 2010, 932 offenders were released from Ohio prisons, homeless

In Dec. 2014, 56 sex offenders registered homeless in Franklin County (Franklin County Sheriff's Office)

State of Ohio

Franklin County



Our Solution...



Community Residential Centers

Columbus * Akron * Chillicothe * Mansfield * Cincinnati

Michele Reynolds, Founder & CEO



The EXIT Program is a transitional housing program that helps homeless ex-offenders in Ohio make a successful transition to the community upon release from prison or jail. The EXIT Program is operated and managed by Nothing Into Something Real Estate, Inc. (NISRE)—a faith based, nonprofit organization that has been successfully serving the community with the re-integration of offenders from prison since 2002.

- Licensed Community Residential Center by ODRC
- Certified Sex Offender Program by ODRC
- Contracted by HUD ODRC, ODYS, ODJFS, and U.S. District Courts
- Operates in 5 counties: Hamilton, Franklin, Summit, Ross, Richland
- Accepts Men, Women and Youth
- Private housing (115 beds statewide)

Features of the EXIT Program

- 90 days of transitional housing for homeless low to moderate risk offenders; including sex offenders
- Assessment and individualized case plans
- In-house support services and community linkage
- Supportive Staff – 80% restored citizens
- Weekly Case Management
- Security and Monitoring
- AOD, CBT and Life Skills Groups
- Job/Life Coach
- Stepper Housing

The EXIT Program Structure

Based on Evidence Based Practices,
The EXIT Program provides:

1. Assessment of risk/needs using the ORAS and other tools
2. Transitional housing as an alternative community based setting for low to moderate risk offenders
3. Services based on individualized need
4. Treatment using cognitive based strategies such as CBT and AOD
5. Offenders with opportunities to serve the community and reintegrate back into society

The EXIT Program Structure

Inclusive of Best Practices,
The EXIT Program offers:

1. Accountability provided by empathetic and supportive staff members who are also ex-offenders
2. Additional supervision in the community for sex offenders

QUARTER 1 OUTCOMES

ODRC 1st Quarter 2014 Highlights (July – September 2013)

Location	Beds	Admissions	Avg. Length of Stay	Terminations	Successful Housing
Akron	10	17	70	16	56%
Chillicothe	20	8	108	13	77%
Cincinnati	23	9	121	12	92%
Columbus	20	15	14	10	80%
Mansfield	20	7	100	3	67%
Total	93	56	82.6	54	74.4%

YEAR TO DATE OUTCOMES

Agency Y-T-D Highlights (January – September 2013)

Location	Admissions	Placed in Jobs	Graduates	Step Over Housing	Community Svc. Hours
Akron	37	42	25	N/A	50
Chillicothe	40	33	28	3	48
Cincinnati	33	26	34	13	173
Columbus	44	30	41	11	300
Mansfield	13	13	14	N/A	126
Total	167	144	142	27	697

Thank You

For Housing/ Referral Information:

Contact Us @

The EXIT Program

info@theexitprogram.com

www.theexitprogram.com

Ph. 614-253-8969