

Myths and Facts

Myth

All sex offenses are the same.

Fact

Individuals who have committed sex offenses differ in many ways. Sex offenses include a wide variety of behaviors, from public urination to child sexual abuse and violent rape. Oregon's registry is based on risk levels, placing people at low, moderate or high risk.

Myth

All persons convicted of a sex offense will commit more sex crimes.

Fact

A 2017 Oregon study found that just 1.8% of people emerging from prison after serving time for a sex crime reoffended in 3 years. A 2019 Bureau of Justice study found that 7.7% of people with a new sex crime were rearrested with a new sex crime in 9 years.

Myth

All persons who committed sex offenses in the past will always be dangerous.

Fact

A recent leading study shows that risk for all previous offenders declines predictably with time spent offense-free in the community. Studies also show that 30-50% of child sex abuse is committed by other juveniles, and 93% of child sexual abuse is committed by persons known to the victim.

Myth

The greatest threat of sex crimes comes from people on the sex offender registry.

Fact

Studies have shown that about 95% of new sex crimes are committed by individuals who are not on the registry

Myth

A public sex offender registry is an important tool in protecting society.

Fact

Studies looking at public safety before and after registration and notification (SORN) laws were adopted showed no decline in the number of sex crimes or victims.

Visit www.oregonvoices.org to find detailed information about the various studies relating to recidivism rates and the sex offense registry.

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OREGON VOICES

Committed to Justice and Reason in Sex Offense Laws

"The great enemy of the truth is very often not the lie – deliberate, contrived and dishonest – but the myth – persistent, persuasive and unrealistic."

~John F. Kennedy



Oregon Voices provides support through research and education

We provide information, emotional support, and advocacy for individuals, their friends, and families caught up in the nightmare of sex crime prosecution and its aftermath.

We research all aspects of sex crimes and society's responses to them in order to discover evidence-based practices that promote public safety, rehabilitation, and successful re-entry into the community.

We seek to educate families and individuals about how to survive the current system while working for responsible change in the future.

We work to educate the public about the cost of an unsustainable trajectory traced by an exploding sex offender registry which does not work to prevent sex abuse.

We share the best current research about what actually works in addressing sex offenses.



Oregon Voices Believes

No sexual abuse or sexual assault is ever acceptable. All victims of abuse have the right to seek justice in a system that is objective and supportive.

The current legal classification of "sex offender" creates a one-size-fits-all enforcement system, wasting taxpayer dollars, diluting the supervision of dangerous offenders, and reducing public safety.

Mandatory sentencing laws prevent judges from determining appropriate punishments.

The registry does not protect children from abuse; it *does* undermine the safety and stability of families of registrants.

Money spent on punitive measures, including the registry, would be better spent on education, healing and rehabilitation.

***We must counter unsupported myths
about sex offenses with facts that are
supported by evidence.***



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You Can Help!

- ◆ Become informed about criminal justice policy for sex-based offenses.
- ◆ Speak out about abuses. If you know of unjust behavior in the court system, persecution in jails and prisons, unfair and impossible supervisory conditions, do not remain silent.
- ◆ Participate in meetings and activities to assist individuals and families trapped in the maze of the current system.
- ◆ Invite an Oregon Voices speaker to your next group gathering to talk about the myths and facts of sex-based offenses.
- ◆ Give your time, talents, or funds to provide support for people whom society is pushing into the shadows.
- ◆ Refer people to our website at:

www.oregonvoices.org

or call
971-317-6868