



The rising STAR of Texas

**An international focus on sex offender recidivism: a review
of the evidence from various longitudinal studies and the
“effects” sex offender registration and notification (SORN)
policies**

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Outline of Presentation

- Brief Review of Literature on Sex Offender Continuity**
- Studies #1 & #2: Continuity Evidence from a Small Rural Town (Racine, Wisconsin, USA) and a Large Urban City (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA)**
- Study #3: Continuity Evidence from London (UK)**
- Study #4: Megan's Law (SORN) 20th Anniversary Study (New Jersey, USA)**
- Summarize the Findings from the Four Studies**
- Brief Discussion of the Policy Implications & Directions for Future Research**

Sex Offender Assumptions that are Inherent in Polices and Legislation (Particularly in the USA)

- Assumption #1: “Sex Offenders have High Rates of Recidivism”**
- Assumption #2: “Sex Offenders are Uniquely Dangerous”**
- Assumption #3: “Sex Offenders are Specialists”**

The Early Continuity Studies

- (1) Over half of adult sex offenders reported juvenile sex offending**
- (2) Sipe et al. (1988)—9.7% continuity**
- (3) Rubinstein et al. (1993)—37% continuity**
- (4) Vandiver (2006)—4.0% continuity**

Limitations of Earlier Sex Offender Research

- (1) highly select samples**
- (2) lacked a comparison group**
- (3) short follow-up periods**
- (4) retrospective**

Continuity Evidence from a Small Rural Town (Racine, Wisconsin, USA) and a Large Urban City (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA)

Jennings, W.G., Piquero, A.R., & Zimring, F.E., & Reingle, J. (2015). "Assessing the (dis)continuity of sex offending from adolescence through early adulthood: Evidence from two large birth cohort studies." In A. Blokland & P. Lussier (Eds.), *Sex offenders: A criminal career approach* (pp. 129-142). Wiley Publishing.

Zimring, F., Jennings, W.G., Piquero, A.R., & Hays, S. (2009). Investigating the continuity of sex offending? Evidence from the Second Philadelphia Birth Cohort. *Justice Quarterly*, 26, 58-76.

Zimring, F., Piquero, A.R., & Jennings, W.G. (2007). Sexual delinquency in Racine: Does early sex offending predict later sex offending in youth and young adulthood? *Criminology & Public Policy*, 6, 507-534.



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Racine, Wisconsin vs. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Racine, Wisconsin, USA (Small Rural Town)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA (Large Urban City)
1942, 1949, 1955 birth cohorts	1958 birth cohort
Small and rural Midwestern city	large metropolitan and urban city
Approximately 6,000 boys and girls	Approximately 27,000 boys and girls
low offending rates	high offending rates
racially homogenous (predominantly white)	racial heterogeneity (predominantly minorities)

Juvenile Sex Offending Prevalence and Sex Offending Recidivism in Adolescence

	Racine, Wisconsin, USA (Small Rural Town)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA (Large Urban City)
<u>Juvenile Sex Offending Prevalence</u>		
Males	<2%	<2%
Females	<1%	<1%
<u>Juvenile Sex Offending Recidivism</u>		
Males	<25%	<15%
Females	<5%	<15%

Adult Sex Offending Prevalence and Sex Offending Continuity

	Racine, Wisconsin, USA (Small Rural Town)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA (Large Urban City)
<u>Adult Sex Offending Prevalence</u>		
Males	3.2%	2.4%
Females	0.005%	0.03%
<u>Sex Offending Continuity</u>		
Males	8.5%	10%
Females	10.3%	0%

Continuity Evidence from London (UK)

Piquero, A.R., Farrington, D.P., Jennings, W.G., Diamond, B., & Craig, J. (2012). Sex offenders and sex offending in the Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development: Prevalence, frequency, specialization, recidivism, and (dis)continuity over the life-course. *Journal of Crime & Justice*, 35, 412-426.

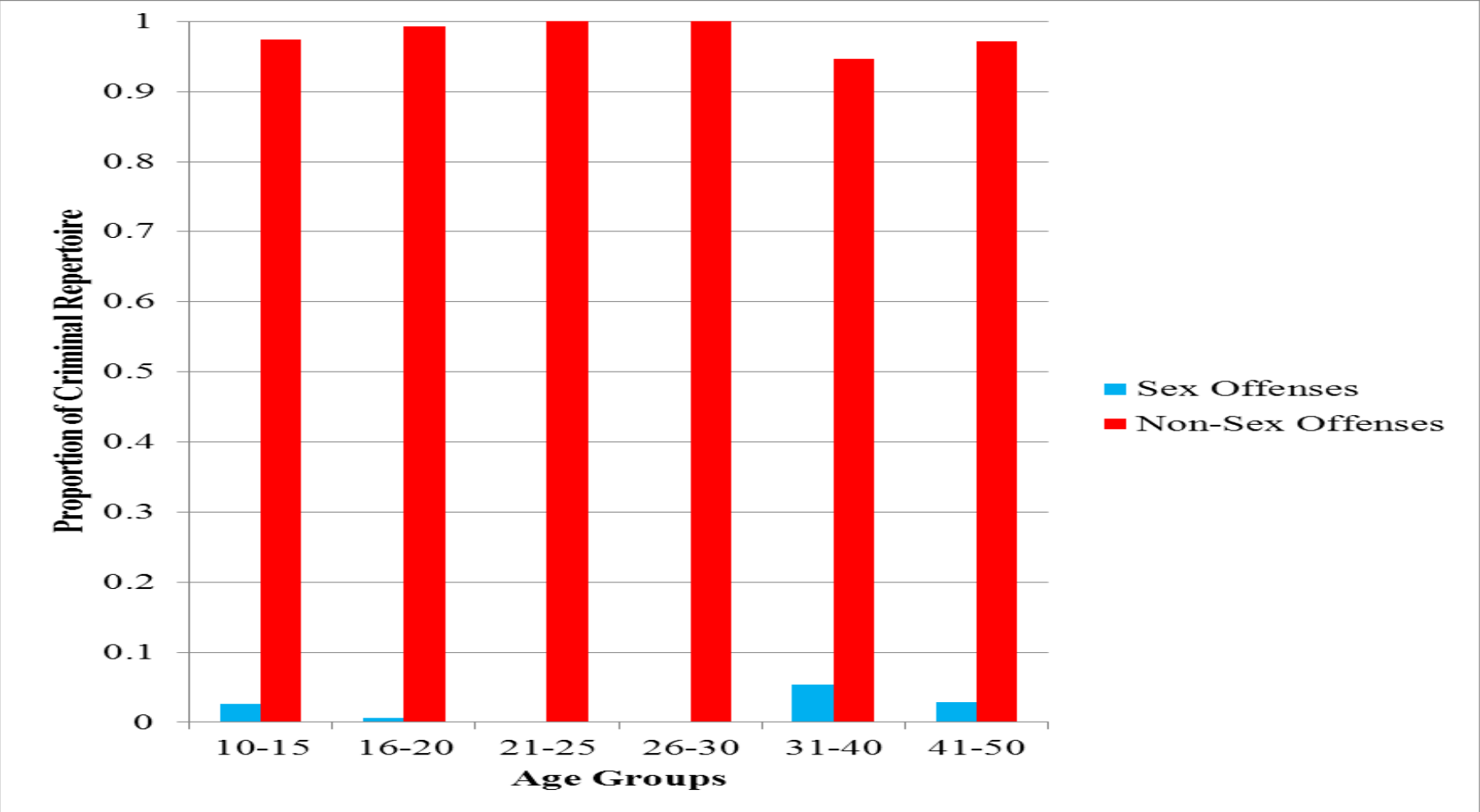


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Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development (CSDD) Data

- Prospective longitudinal survey**
- 411 South London males**
- First contacted in 1961/62 when aged 8-9**
- Most subjects were white (97%) and of British origin**

Proportion of Sex and Non-Sex Offense Convictions among CSDD Males



A Comparison of General and Sex Offending Criminal Career Information among CSDD Males

	General Offending Criminal Careers	Sex Offending Criminal Careers
Prevalence	41.0%	2.5%
Continuity (offense <17 and offense 18+)	42.5%	0.0%

Should We Require Juveniles to Register as Sex Offenders?

- (1) The prevalence of juvenile sex offending is VERY low**
- (2) The prevalence of sex recidivism among juvenile sex offenders is low (Racine, Wisconsin & Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)**
- (3) Sex offending continuity rates are VERY low (roughly 10% or less)**
- (4) More effective to register robbers and motor vehicle thieves**

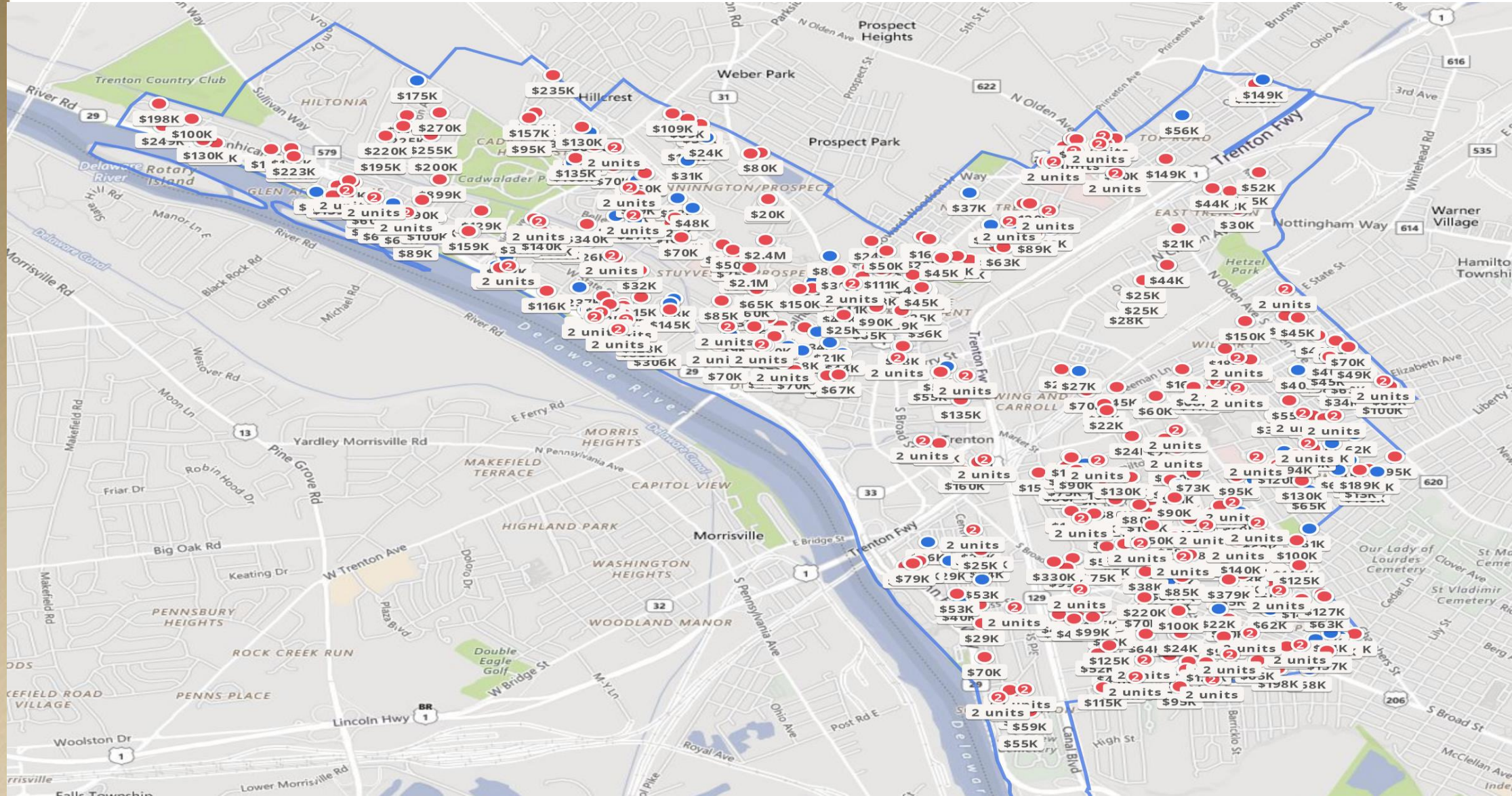
The Effects of Sex Offender Registration and Notification (SORN) Policies in the US: The New Jersey Experience

Zgoba, K., Jennings, W.G., & Salerno, L. (under review). Megan's Law twenty years later: An empirical analysis and policy review.



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Current Property for Sale in New Jersey (Zillow.com)



Sex Offender Registry in New Jersey



New Jersey
State Police
Acting Superintendent Colonel Patrick J. Callahan

Search for Offenders in your area

Register for Email Alerts

Safety Tips

Links

Contact

Offender Search

In your area

Name City Non-compliant Internet Names/Email

Use this search to view all published offenders within a specified radius of your home, business, school or other desired address. > [How searches work](#)

Address: *

City: *

State: *

Zip: *

Zip Plus:

Offender Address Type: Home Addresses

* Denotes required field

Other Search Options

- > [Click here](#) to list all published offenders registered with this agency.
- > [Click here](#) to list all incarcerated offenders registered with this agency.
- > [Click here](#) to search by name or other options.

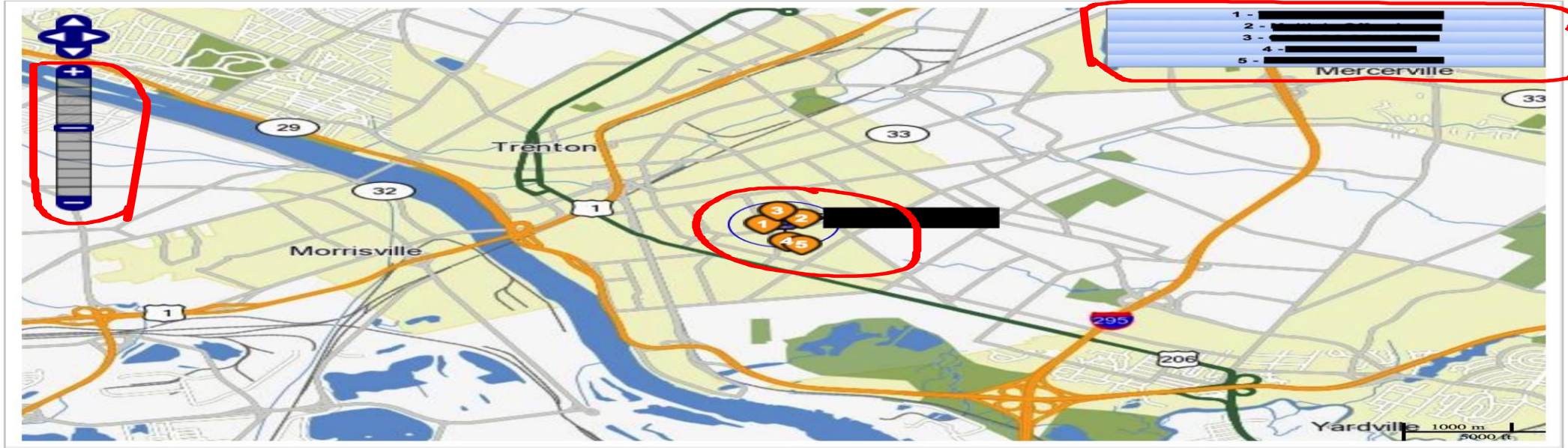
Receive Email Alerts

Click [here](#) to register to receive an email alert whenever a published offender registers within the selected radius of your desired addresses.

Experiencing Problems?

Click [here](#) if you are experiencing technical problems or need assistance using this site.

Sex Offender Registry in New Jersey



Found 6 offenders in 5 locations

Radius: 0.25 miles

Displaying: Home Addresses

	#	Alert	Name	Address	City	Zip	Type	View Details
	1		Level: Tier 2 - Moderate Risk	[Redacted]			Home Address	
	2		Level: Tier 2 - Moderate Risk	[Redacted]			Home Address	
	2		Level: Tier 2 - Moderate Risk	[Redacted]			Home Address	
	3		Level: Tier 2 - Moderate Risk	[Redacted]			Home Address	
	4		Level: Tier 2 - Moderate Risk	[Redacted]			Home Address	
	5		Level: Tier 2 - Moderate Risk	[Redacted]			Home Address	

Sex Offender Registry in New Jersey

Offender Search: Offender Details

[Details](#) [Vehicles](#)

Name: [REDACTED] **Registration #:** [REDACTED]

Level: Tier 2 - Moderate Risk

Status: Inactive-Incarcerated

Physical Description

• Age:	34 (DOB: 01/23/1984)	• Height:	5'10"
• Sex:	M	• Weight:	175lbs
• Race:	Black	• Eyes:	Brown
• Hair:	Black		
• Scars/Tattoos:	Tattoo on R_Shoulder - Front (HANDGUN)		

Address


[REDACTED] [View Map](#)

Offenses

- Description: 14-2 - AGGRAVATED SEXUAL ASSAULT
- Date Convicted: 04/08/2004
- Conviction State:
- Release Date:
- Details:
- County of Conviction:


Comments

Tell A Friend

I'm not a robot 

Share this information with a friend!

Your name Friend's email

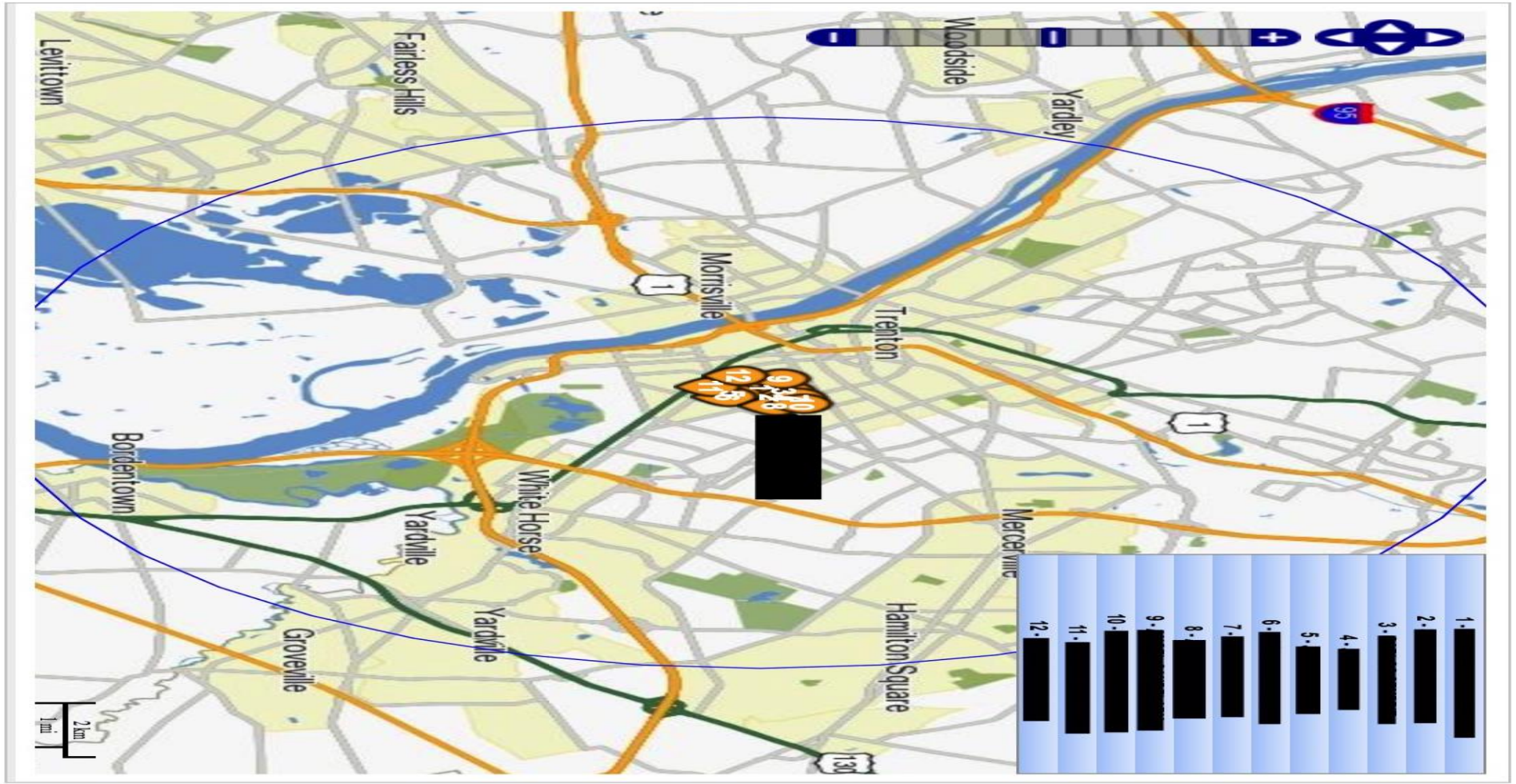


[Submit a tip or correction for this offender](#)

[Register to track this offender](#)

The individual named in this notification is a convicted sex offender. As required by New Jersey Megans Law, you have received this notification from law enforcement because this individual resides in your area. Use this information to assist you in protecting your family, employees, and those you supervise. This information is made available for the purpose of protecting the public. Anyone who uses this information to commit a criminal act against another person is subject to criminal prosecution. Additional information is available online at: www.njsp.org.

Sex Offender Registry in New Jersey



Found 187 offenders in 142 locations

Radius: 5 miles

Displaying: Home Addresses Update

Next

Found 187 offenders in 142 locations Search Address:

Radius: 5 miles

New Jersey Megan's Law 20th Anniversary Study

❖ Data

- Random Samples of Pre-SORN (n=275) and Post-SORN (n=275) Sex Offenders**
- Arrests Records**

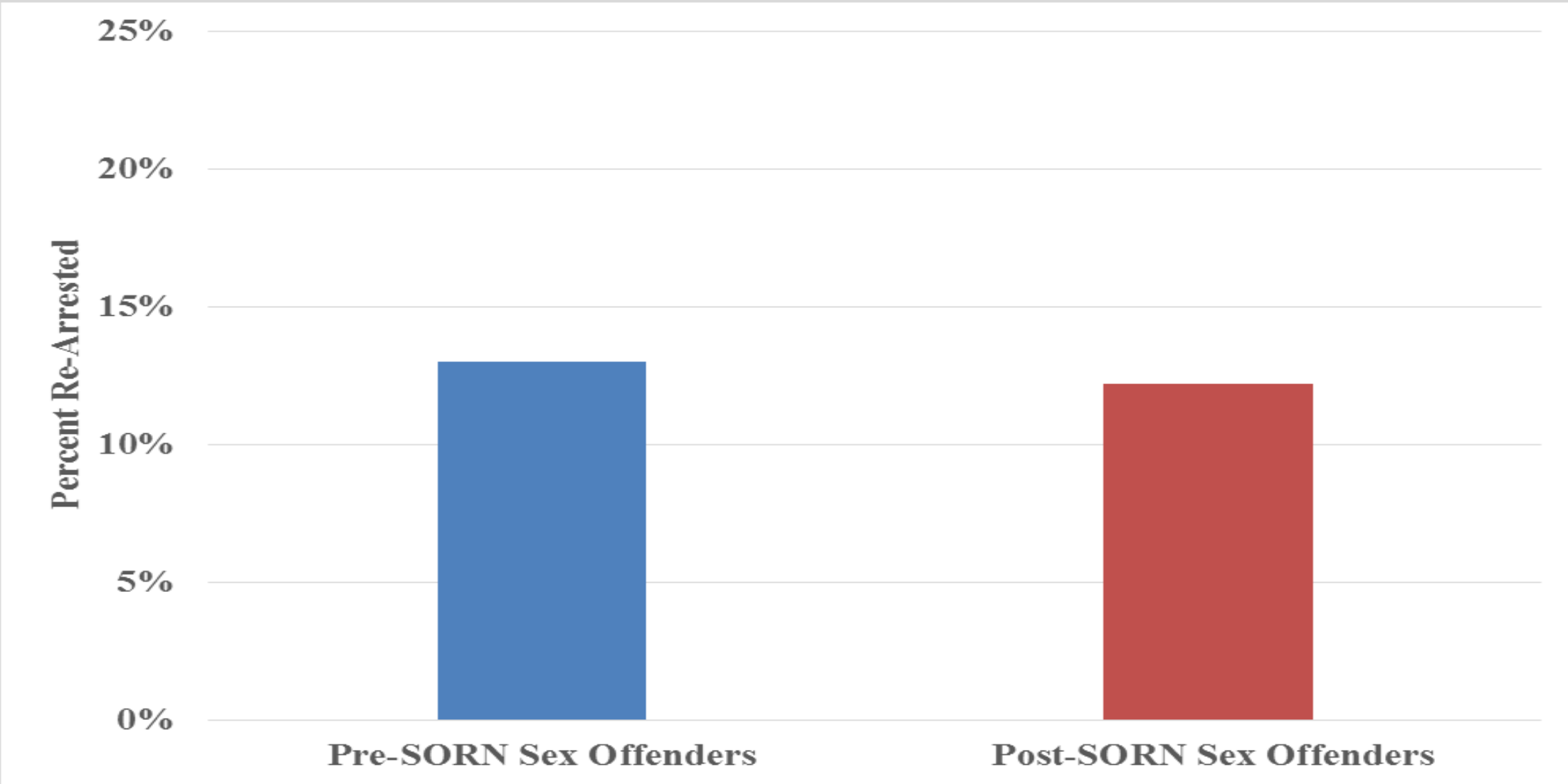
❖ Sample

- 50.5% White; Average Age was 38**

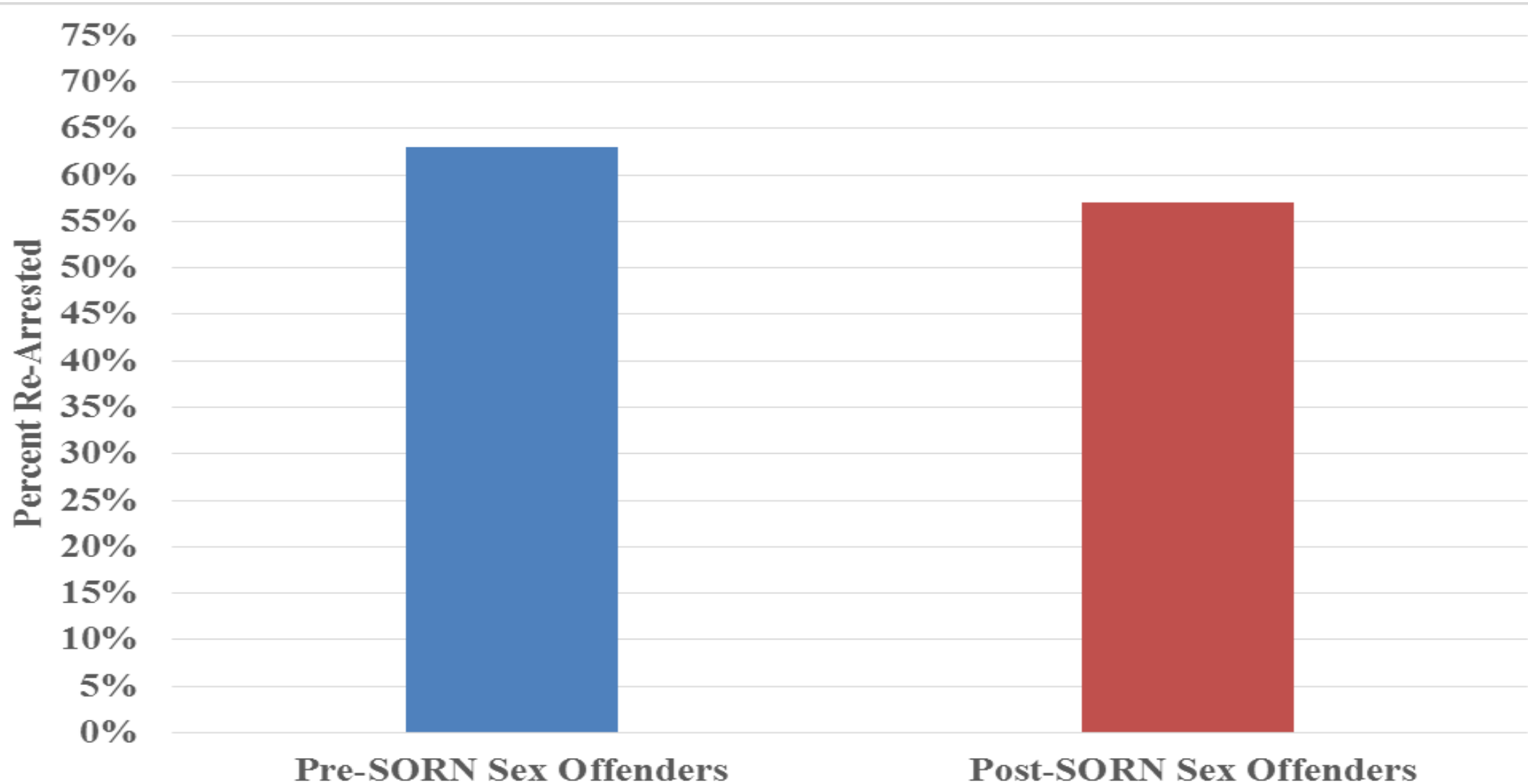
❖ Analysis Plan

- Sex Recidivism Comparisons**
- General Recidivism Comparisons**
- Multivariate Analysis of Risk Factors Associated with Sex and General Recidivism**

Bivariate Results: No Significant Difference in the Prevalence of Sex Recidivism



Bivariate Results: No Significant Difference in the Prevalence of General Recidivism



Multivariate Results: Variability in the Risk Factors associated with Recidivism; No SORN Effect

Predictors of Sexual Recidivism

**(1) Age:
(OR= 0.95, CI= [0.92-0.98], p< .001)**

**(2) Number of Sexual Victims:
(OR= 1.37, CI= [1.12-1.68], p< .01)**

**(3) Prior Sexual Offense
(OR= 2.29, CI= [1.28-4.09], p= .01)**

**SORN EFFECT:
(OR= 0.54, CI= [0.69-2.04], p= .54)**

Predictors of General Recidivism

**(1) African American
(OR= 2.94, CI= [1.53-5.63], p< .001)**

**(2) Drug Abuse Problems
(OR= 2.58, CI= [1.68-3.97], p< .001)**

**(3) Prior Non-Sexual Offense
(OR= 2.38, CI= [1.56-3.63], p< .001)**

**(4) Average Length of Follow-Up
(OR= 1.14, CI= [1.01-1.28], p= .04)**

**SORN EFFECT:
(OR= 1.88, CI= [0.85-4.14], p= .12)**

Summary of Results

-Sex Offending Continuity Prevalence

- Racine, Wisconsin, USA (STUDY #1)
 - MALES= 8.5%
 - FEMALES= 10.3%
- Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA (STUDY #2)
 - MALES= 8.3%
 - FEMALES= 0.0%
- London, UK (STUDY #3)
 - 0%

-SORN Effects on Sex Recidivism Prevalence (**NO SORN EFFECT**; New Jersey, USA; STUDY #4)

-SORN Effects on General Recidivism Prevalence (**NO SORN EFFECT**; New Jersey, USA; STUDY #4)

-Different Risk Factors Predict Sex and General Recidivism, USA; STUDY #4)

Policy Implications & Directions for Future Research

Policy Implications

- **Exclude juvenile sex offenders from the registries**
- **Opportunities for Removal from Registry (Time-Out)**
- **Re-Entry Assistance**

Directions for Future Research

- **Replicate**
- **Compare Results with Non-Sex Offenders on Parole/Probation**

Questions?

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