

# Sex Offender Residency Restrictions and Other Sex Offender Management Strategies: The Probation Officer Perspective in Florida

A. L. Datz

## *Abstract*

*Professional probation and parole practitioners have experienced a major increase in the workload associated with the supervision of sexual offenders. Public outcry and the sensationalism of media reporting result in annual legislative unfunded mandates that possibly deter from the true goal of containment, yet this group of experienced guardians are not representatively surveyed in regards to their experience and opinions regarding the efficacy of residency restrictions for sexual offenders. Input from this particular group within the literature on this subject has not been found therefore a statewide survey of Probation and Parole Officer's dedicated to the supervision of sexual offenders was conducted. Results indicate that these officers believe that these restrictions as applied in Florida, give the public a false sense of security and that other containment strategies should be explored.*

## Introduction

In 1989 Jacob Wetterling age 11, his brother Trevor, age 10, and friend Aaron, age 9, were riding their bicycles toward their home when a masked man suddenly appeared and questioned the boys about their age. The man chose Jacob to abduct and Jacob was never seen again. Jacob's parents subsequently learned there was a halfway house for sexual offenders close to their home. (National Conference on Sex Offender Registries, 1998)

In July 1994, 7-year-old Megan Kanka accepted an invitation from a neighbor to come and play with his new puppy. The neighbor was a twice-convicted pedophile who raped and killed her, leaving her body in a nearby park. Her family was unaware that there was a sexual predator in the neighborhood (Megan Kanka Foundation, n.d.)

These two examples illustrate the type of sensationalized events that have influenced and shaped legal policy towards convicted sex offenders nationwide, and particularly in Florida. A shocked and frightened public exposed to these types of stories has demanded a response from their elected officials, resulting in laws that are often impractical, overreaching and ineffective (Horowitz, 2007). These laws do not only impact sexual offenders, they change the duties and responsibilities of law enforcement and correction officials, increasing workload and create issues not anticipated when the laws were enacted (No Easy Answers, 2007).

Florida has been quick to adopt new legislation regarding sexual offenders and to increase the severity of existing laws. For example, Florida was the first state to provide sex offender information on the internet and to set up a 24-hour hotline. Many of these changes and new laws have been specifically directed towards sexual offenders under

the supervision of Probation and Parole Officers of the Florida Department of Corrections. The requirements for these offenders and thusly the responsibility and activities required for the monitoring and enforcement has increased annually, often without funding. Many of the restrictions and requirements for sexual offenders, although intended to protect the public, are not supported by empirical evidence and in fact may be counter productive (Levenson & D'Amora, 2007). Some of these restrictions may increase the risk factors associated with reoffending (Hepburn & Griffin, 2004).

One extremely problematic component of this changing legislation is housing. Restrictions regarding acceptable housing for convicted sex offenders have grown increasingly stringent over the past two decades. Probation officers in Florida have been required to spend an increasing amount of work, time, and effort attempting to locate suitable and approvable places for sexual offenders to live and work. In addition to being a requirement for the offender's, probation and parole officers note that without a stable home environment it is difficult to monitor their offenders, to ensure they receive treatment, and to see that they comply with the conditions of their supervision. Correction officials in Florida have recently said that finding suitable residences for sexual offenders is one of the greatest problems probation officers have to deal with at present (Florida Department of Corrections, 2008 November).

Law enforcement officials, treatment providers, and even sexual offenders have been surveyed about these and other issues. However, probation officers are rarely approached about sex offender management practices and public safety, even those who specialize in the community supervision of sexual offenders. This paper will seek their opinions and experiences regarding sexual offenders, particularly in regard to homeless and transient sex offenders and the efficacy of residency restrictions.

## Literature Review

### *History of Sex Offender Restrictions and Laws in Florida*

Florida first enacted legislation directed at sexual predators in 1993. The state strategy towards repeat sexual offenders sought to designate repeat offenders as sexual predators, mandating these repeat offenders have specialized parole/probation conditions in the community with conditions of supervision, required registration with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and community and public notification concerning their presence (Florida Department of Corrections, 2008 September).

Residency restrictions soon followed the registration laws in 1994 when the state enacted restrictions prohibiting sexual predators from living within 1000 feet of a school, park, playground or other place where children regularly congregate. In 1995 Florida enacted standard conditions of supervision that included the residency restrictions for certain sexual offenders who were not designated as sexual predators but whose victims were under the age of 18. In addition to this restriction, several others were added, including a 10PM – 6AM curfew, mandatory treatment, no contact with victim, no contact with children unless approved by the court, employment restrictions, prohibition on viewing obscene or pornographic material, DNA specimens, restitution for victim

counseling and Probation Officer searches of sexual offender's environment (Florida Department of Corrections, n.d.).

Florida policy increased in severity again when in 1997 the Public Safety Information Act was passed and additional mandatory conditions of supervision were established, including submission to a annual polygraph, prohibition against driving alone without the permission of the probation officer, maintenance of a driving log, no post office boxes, HIV test with results sent to victims, and electronic monitoring when recommended by the department. 1997 also brought the so-called Duty to Uphold Law (Florida Statute 775.24), which directed that the sentencing court could make no modifications to the registration and notification requirements for sexual offenders (Florida Department of Corrections, 2008 September).

In 1998 the Jimmy Ryce Civil Commitment Act was passed which declared that certain sexually violent predators are subject to civil commitment for the purpose of treatment once they have completed their term of criminal incarceration. Subsequently, in 2002, the Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act passed. This act requires registration and notification to school administration of certain sexual offenders who may be working at or attending any Florida educational institutions, both public and private. Two years later, the school bus stop provisions were added to existing sex offender restrictions, prohibiting certain sexual offenders on post prison release supervision from residing within 1000 feet of a designated school bus stop (Florida Department of Corrections, 2008 September).

In 2005, following the rape and murder of 9 year old Jessica Lunsford, an act named for her was passed by the Florida Legislature. In addition to enhanced penalties for sexual offenses and lifetime supervision following any prison release for certain sexual offenders, this act required certain sexual offenders to wear active electronic global positioning satellite units to monitor their whereabouts at all times. Further, 2005 also saw for the first time, local ordinances passed which restrict the places where certain sexual offenders are allowed to establish residence (Florida Department of Corrections, 2008 September).

Finally, 2006 and 2007 brought legislation that increased the registration requirements for those sexual offenders required to register, and changed the policy regarding offenders' potential release pending disposition for any new criminal arrests (Florida Department of Corrections, 2008 September). These statewide mandates do not include the many local ordinance restrictions enacted in cities and counties throughout Florida. For example, in some parts of this state, real estate developers and private communities are mandating background checks that will automatically exclude convicted sex offenders from being able to buy or rent property in these residential areas, regardless of the proximity to schools, day care centers, or bus stops (Levenson & D'Amora, 2007).

### *Current Residency Restrictions in Florida*

Presently, Florida Statute prohibits certain sexual offenders whose victims were under the age of 18 from living within 1000 feet of a school, day care center, park, or playground. Further, for certain sexual offenses committed on or after October 2005 where the victim was under the age of 18, a mandatory condition of supervision

prohibiting the offender from living within 1000 feet of a school, day care center, park or playground, or other place where children regularly congregate is imposed. In October 2005, school bus stops were added to the 1000 foot prohibitions for certain sexual offenders released on post prison conditional release supervision. Finally, in November 2008, the FDOC had a record on 135 ordinances (Florida Department of Corrections, 2008 November). This writer was advised that the current number of ordinances reported was up to 139 currently throughout the state that restrict residency options in a variety of ways and for a variety of offenders up to and including 3,000 feet from designated places. (Britton, S., personal correspondence April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

As of September, 2008 there were 7000 schools, 14000 registered daycares, 3600 parks and approximately 250,000 bus stops in Florida. The numbers of additional locations that are prohibited by the local ordinance restrictions are not delineated in any collective source to date but have included public libraries, churches, theatres and pools, etc. It is of further complication to all who are charged with enforcing these restrictions, that neither Florida Statute nor many of the local ordinances provide definitions for these places, causing the determination of what is an appropriate and legal residence for these offenders, increasingly confusing and difficult (Florida Department of Corrections, 2008 November).

Additionally, Florida residency restrictions are applied to either sexual predators or sexual offenders based on the age of the victim and not based on the risk they represent. Post prison conditionally released offenders under the purview of the Florida Parole Commission have historically been given the restrictions even though the victim was 18 years of age or older. It is further noted that some of the statutory restrictions only apply to certain sexual offenders while they are subject to supervision, and for a few of them the restriction no longer applies once they have completed their term of supervision (Florida Department of Corrections, 2008 September).

Residency restrictions become more complicated when the offender has any medical or special needs conditions that require any level of care. Nursing homes and assisted living facilities are becoming wary of accepting released offenders because they want to avoid having sexual offenders registered at their addresses (Florida Department of Corrections, 2008 November). This problem will worsen as prison sentences increase, resulting in older released offenders who are more likely to have deteriorating health conditions.

Further Florida-specific residency restrictions include banning sex offenders from public hurricane and homeless shelters (Levenson & D'Amora, 2007) and a prohibition in Hillsborough County against sex offenders from living together and from comprising more than ten percent of the residents of a mobile home park. It also dictates punishments for landlords who knowingly allow this law to be broken (Bay News Nine, 2008).

### *Sexual Offenders and Risk*

The onset of residency requirements appears to be based on the idea that strangers are abducting children in order to molest and murder them; that residency restrictions will stop this stranger abduction from happening, and that convicted sex offenders are extremely likely to commit another sexual crime. All three of these assumptions have

been shown by recent studies to be unsupported by empirical evidence (Levenson & D'Amora, 2007).

First, research indicates that the public has much more to fear from friends and family than they do from strangers. The Bureau of Justice Statistics reported that children were sexually victimized only 7% of the time by a stranger. Children were victimized by a family member in 34.2% of reported cases, and 58.7% were acquainted with the perpetrator. For victims 5 years of age or younger the likelihood that a family member of the victim was the perpetrator increases to 48.6% (Snyder, 2000). Although the numbers vary slightly from study to study, researchers conclusively state that the majority of child victims know their attacker (Snyder, 2000). A Minnesota study concluded that "Although it is possible that a residency restrictions law could avert a sex offender from recidivating sexually, the chances that it would have a deterrent effect are slim because the types of offenses it is designed to prevent are exceptionally rare and, in the case of Minnesota, "virtually non-existent over the last 16 years" (Minnesota Department of Corrections, 2007).

Second, there is no evidence to support a causal link between proximity of housing to locations where children congregate and the likelihood of a crime happening (Levenson et al, 2008).

In 2004 the Sex Offender Management Board in Colorado conducted a study to examine whether the living arrangements or location of sexual offenders in the community impacted public safety including those sex offenders in "shared living arrangements" (SLA) with other sexual offenders. The research caused the Board to conclude that residency restrictions may not serve as deterrence from re-offending and did not recommend that Colorado adopt such restrictions. This study also found that when looking at crimes that had already been committed, there was no link between the location of the perpetrator's home and it's proximity to any of the currently restricted areas in Florida (Colorado Department of Public Safety, 2004).

A second study contradicting the assumption that residency restrictions will protect children from molestation was conducted in 2007 by researchers in Minnesota, and examined residential proximity and recidivism of sexual offenders in that state. They concluded that of the 224 sexual offenses committed by released offenders, none would have been prevented by residency restrictions. They further concluded that over 50% of the recidivate offenders gained access to their victims due to "relationship proximity" by fostering a relationship with the mothers of their victims and not by random encounters due to the location of their residence. Another point discussed by these researchers was that many attackers find their victims on the internet, where residency restrictions are irrelevant (Minnesota Department of Corrections, 2007).

Finally, although sex offenders are thought by politicians and the public to have a high rate of recidivism, this has never been shown to be true. Levenson & D'Amora conclude that "their recidivism rates are much lower than commonly believed," (2007) and the research done by their peers agree. For instance, several studies of recidivism showed a lower rate of recidivism in the sexual offender population as compared to non-sexual offender populations (Meloy, 2005; Minnesota Department of Corrections, 2007).

## *Consequences of Residency Restrictions*

Residency restrictions seem to have unintended consequences that may make communities less safe rather than more safe, because a poor residential situation makes an offender more likely to re-offend (Florida Department of Corrections, n.d.; Willis & Grace, 2008). These restrictions make it more difficult to find housing for released offenders, resulting in increased risk factors for recidivism such as homelessness, transience, and instability. One study found that residency restrictions resulted in housing instability for offenders, decreased access to employment and social support, and separation from spouses, psychological problems and financial hardships. These restrictions can also lead to homelessness, making offenders much more difficult to monitor (Levenson & Hern, 2007)

Two other unforeseen consequences of these restrictions are time/resource misuse and fewer sexual offender convictions. Some studies have concluded that the time probation officers and other officials spend addressing residency issues takes time away from supervising high risk sex offenders or in preventing crimes that are more likely to occur or solving ones that have already taken place (Levenson et al, 2008). Further, research indicates that as a result of residence and other restrictions, there have been fewer plea agreements. This puts more of a burden on the judicial system because it increases the number of cases that must go to trial, and it likely results in erroneous acquittals or not guilty verdicts which may have otherwise been plea agreements (Levenson & D'Amora, 2007). These offenders' will not be held accountable for their crimes, nor will they be monitored or receive treatment.

## *Sex Offender Management Boards and Strategies*

In some states a management board is a collaborative board made up of all interests in the criminal justice system including but not limited to victim representatives, prosecutors, judges, law enforcement and corrections officials, treatment providers, child advocates, and polygraph experts who specialize in examining sexual offenders and others who have an interest in this public safety issue. Some boards also encourage cooperation and interaction between these entities, conduct research and are an effective means of assessing the actual problem and the most effective solutions, rather than reacting to public sentiment without reviewing the facts (Bumby, 2008).

An example of policies that are created and not based on evidence is a Commissioner in Tampa who spoke about a new policy banning sex offenders from living together and said, "It should give the sheriff's office, government officials, a better way of tracking and keeping tabs on their location and keeping them away from children" (Bay News Nine, 2008). Clearly, as indicated by other research and this study, residence restrictions do not make it easier to monitor sex offenders, but rather make it more difficult. A commissioner may not be qualified or informed enough to make policies about sexual offenders, but a management board would be better equipped to do so.

A management board needs to develop and implement evidence-driven policy because policy that is derived from public perception and media sensationalism does not work. For example, there has been a highly publicized story about released sex

offenders living under a bridge in Miami. When the story was originally published, there were 8 men living under the bridge (Stone, 2007). Recent follow-up reports have found the number of former offenders living there has increased to 54. Residence restrictions and the high cost of living in Miami-Dade County have made it impossible for the offenders to find affordable, acceptable housing, so they are living under the Julia Tuttle Causeway in squalor. At least one of the resident's is a wheelchair ridden paralyzed man in need of psychotropic medication, who is emptying the contents of his catheter bag into a plastic bottle (Grimm, 2009). This is the effect of policy that is not based on evidence: when implemented, it does not and cannot produce the desired results.

Risk assessment has progressed substantially in recent years, and has been shown to accomplish the goals of effective monitoring and increased public safety (Bumby, 2008). Although science cannot predict if a specific individual will re-offend, it can put highly accurate predictions in place that could drive a more effective and efficient sex offender policy. For example, rapists of adult women and molesters of young boys have the highest risk for re-offending, and these groups could be effectively supervised if placed in a risk-based tier system (Levenson & D'Amora, 2007).

Educational efforts should also be included in any sexual crime prevention strategy. Just as the media has brought attention and action on this issue by sensationalizing real cases, the media can also be used to disseminate actual facts about the rarity of stranger abduction, the warning signs of sexual abuse, the many faces of perpetrators and the actual recidivism rates for sexual offenders (Levenson & D'Amora, 2007). The Florida Department of Corrections also supports integration of education efforts into their sex offender policies. In a recent briefing paper, they write "One of the most challenging areas and the biggest obstacle we face is the public's perception of sex offenders" (Florida Department of Corrections, 2008 November).

Finally, the continued use of GPS and other electronic monitoring coupled with polygraphs, active treatment by those qualified to treat sexual offenders and close supervision and collaboration is another component to an efficient and effective sex offender policy. Through active and passive GPS, officers can track where offenders travel. While GPS will not be able to prevent the occurrence of sexual offenses, it is a good step towards controlling and managing offenders (Levenson & D'Amora, 2007).

### *Programming for Sexual Offenders*

There are two programs that incorporate components to create a more effective method of monitoring and treating released sex offenders: one in Iowa, and the other in Colorado. In Iowa they have established a dedicated program for the supervision, treatment, and accountability of sex offenders. The Sex Offender Treatment Program (SOTP) of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District in Iowa is a multifaceted operation, composed of sex offender officers, psychologists, and polygraph examiners, in addition to the other treatment facilitators. The in house psychologist and polygrapher help to facilitate the treatment and accountability of the offenders and the constant communication helps the parole officer determine risk for supervision purposes (Ryan, 2008).

The Iowa program also incorporates education, both of the offender's family and close associates and of the public as a whole. By involving the people close to the offenders, this Iowa program makes recidivism less likely. Through neighborhood

forums and victim-impact panels, staff of the SOTP program address issues such as “supervision of sex offenders, myths and facts related to sexual abuse, and the treatment format,” making the community aware of what is happening and less likely to believe the media sensationalism. Using empirical support and the experiences of the professionals involved with sex offenders, Iowa has created and implemented a progressive and effective sex offender policy (Ryan, 2008).

Similarly, in Colorado, the program for the treatment of sex offenders includes a Management Board that oversees the program and bases policy decisions on factual information rather than public perception. For example, when legislators and probation officials were considering the topic of shared living arrangements, a full study was conducted that showed that shared living arrangements are beneficial to sex offenders and decrease the likelihood of recidivism. This led to the rejection of any policy that would ban sex offender cohabitation. This same study showed that residence restrictions were an ineffective means of controlling or monitoring offenders, and accordingly Colorado does not have residence restrictions (Colorado Dept. of Public Safety, 2004).

Further, parole officers in Colorado are given leeway in deciding the particular arrangements for each offender based on the risks they assess as relevant, and supervision is based on assessed risk rather than on a one-size-fits-all policy such as the one that currently exists in Florida. This program incorporates education through their Community Notification requirements, which apply only to those offenders who are at high risk for recidivism and therefore must inform the community of their presence. These community sessions consist of an informational presentation before the actual Sexually Violent Predator notification. This ensures that the community is protected and informed. The Colorado officials also encourage the use of either electronic monitoring devices or global positioning satellite units for high-risk offenders (Colorado Dept. of Public Safety, 2004).

### *Purpose of Study*

Public perception and the increase of restrictions have led to a serious decrease in available housing for a large percentage of the sexual offender population, and since these restrictions now exist in over half of the United States, the problem is more pressing than ever (Bumby, 2008). This writer requested the results of a recent GIS analysis of available statewide property parcels with application of the restricted housing locations using only the 1000 foot statutory prohibition. The response provided by the FDOC Bureau of Probation and Parole Field Services developer of the GIS Sex Offender Residency Restrictions (SORR) application revealed that as much as fifty (50) percent of the state is off limits to sexual offenders (Sandell, K., personal communication April 6, 2009).

Law enforcement and corrections official cannot monitor sexual offenders if they do not know where they reside. There are 48,000 sexual offenders listed on the Florida Department of Law Enforcement’s registry and over 22,000 of these offenders are in Florida communities (OPPAGA, 2008). This writer requested the number of sex offenders released from prison over the course of a year and the data extracted from the Department of Corrections data base by the Bureau of Research and Data Analysis,

identified 2,155 sexual offenders (at least one sexual offense current or prior) due for release from Florida prisons into Florida Communities between May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 and April 30, 2010, (Gregory, T. personal communication April 3, 2009). This does not include those offenders sentenced directly to probation or due to be released from county jails. Florida can no longer afford a “lock ‘em up” philosophy as most offenders will ultimately be released into communities at some point. Approaches that are based on evidence, prevention, and the focus of resources to the highest risk offenders may serve the protection to Florida’s children more effectively. Probation officers have a unique perspective on this situation as they are responsible for actually enforcing the restrictions, yet little has been researched in regards to their opinions and experiences. This study seeks to assess the effectiveness of current approaches, particularly of current residency restrictions, and discusses ways to improve Florida’ sexual offender management policies.

## Methods

For this research project, a survey was created for Correctional Probation Specialists supervising sexual offenders in Florida. A request to complete the survey along with the web- based survey link was sent to all twenty circuit administrators in order to include all judicial circuits in Florida. These administrators were asked to provide the link only to the specialists who were available to take the survey during the survey period and to report back the number of officers who were provided with the link. A total of 333 officers were offered the opportunity to take part in the survey. Going through the supervisors avoided sending the link to those officers who may have been on extended sick leave; military leave, or etc. so that a true picture of the response rate could be obtained.

The survey link connected the responder to a live web-based survey where the participant was provided with the required introductory information and invited to participate in the survey. The survey was anonymous and voluntary. No identifying data was collected and neither the administrators nor this author were able to ascertain which Probation Specialists responded and which did not.

Problems associated with the survey were negligible. Those noted were due to the mislabeling of question # 27. The mislabeled question was corrected on the survey after the first eleven responses were collected. When these first eleven responses were compared to the subsequent ones, it appeared as though the mislabeling did not impact how the first eleven participants responded and was not a significant problem.

## Results

### *Demographics*

Of the 333 Correctional Probation Specialists who were asked to complete the survey, a total of 259 chose to take part in the survey resulting in a response rate of 77%. Not all participants answered every question on the survey. Response

percentages are reported based on the number of officers who responded to a particular question.

The survey contained questions regarding demographic information including race, gender, age, marital status, residential information, and whether or not they had minor children. There were no significant correlations between any of these demographic factors and how the respondents answered questions regarding the sexual offender assigned to them for supervision. The officers surveyed had significant experience within their field: 60.6 percent had 6 or more years of specialization in supervising sex offenders, including 32.6 percent who have more than 11 years of experience. Every judicial circuit in the state was represented in the group of respondents.

In response to questions about their working conditions, 71.7 percent of the respondents reported that they work in an area that has local residency restrictions for sexual offenders in addition to statutory restrictions. The average number of sex offenders per officer caseload was 18.9 offenders.

### *Regarding Homeless Offenders*

Surveyed officers reported 67 total homeless sex offenders as of January 12, 2009. When asked specifically about the homeless sex offenders they worked with, survey participants reported that the biggest reason sex offenders were unable to return to their homes where they lived prior to sentencing was that their residence was in violation of residence restrictions, either statutory (57.1 percent) or local ordinances (39.3 percent). They also reported that over twenty percent of them had a homeless sex offender who had absconded supervision.

Officers responded that 45.5 percent of their unemployed homeless sex offenders spent the majority of their time at the same residence where they are not allowed to live due to residency restrictions. There is nothing that prevents the offender from spending time at the location as long as they are not there during the sleeping hours, or outside of their curfew period. In regard to the transportation problems caused by residency restrictions, 63.6 percent of officer's responses indicated that their homeless sex offenders did not have access to transportation, and 24.4 percent reported that their homeless sex offenders utilized the public bus system.

Interestingly, 49.5 percent of the responses indicated that the officers had not filed a violation on a homeless sex offender, while 18.7 percent described having done so for an "other technical violation, and 10.7 percent for absconding supervision. Ninety-nine percent reported that when having to file a violation for a new arrest, it was not for a new sexual offense. Only 1 percent of responses (one total offense) reported violating a homeless sexual offender for a new sexual offense.

### *Regarding Stranger Abductions*

Ninety point five (90.5) percent of the officers reported that they did not supervise a sex offender who had abducted a child victim who was a stranger, while 65 percent reported that they did not supervise a sex offender who had molested a child victim who was a stranger to the offender. 80.8 percent of the officers reported that they did not supervise a sexual offender who gained access to their child victim (not necessarily a

stranger) at a school, park, playground, or other place where children regularly congregate.

### *Regarding Residency Restrictions*

Seventy-eight percent of officers surveyed cited Residency Restrictions as the “number one obstacle for supervised sex offenders,” and 77.4 percent believe that supervised housing would be an effective method to improve the success of sex offender re-entry into society. Over half (59.3 percent) of the respondents reported having sex offenders who live together (Shared Living Arrangements) or with one or more other sexual offenders and 70.4 percent reported having asked a supervised sexual offender if they would be willing to house or share rent with another sex offender in order to help a sex offender find a place to live.

When asked to respond on a scale from “Strongly Agree” to “Strongly Disagree,” the majority of respondents selected either Strongly Disagree or Disagree Somewhat for the following statements:

- Residency restrictions provide real protection to the public from sexual offenders, Sexual offenders should not be allowed to live together
- A homeless sex offender who had a child victim is less likely to molest another child because they are homeless
- All sex offenders present the same risk to the public and should be treated the same,
- Homeless sex offenders do not create a public risk.

In response to statements given with the same scale, a majority of respondents selected “Strongly Agree” or “Agree Somewhat” to the following statements:

- Residency restrictions give the public a false sense of security
- A sexual offender is more likely to be successful on supervision when allowed to live in a supportive home
- A tier system of risk should be developed in Florida for sexual offenders and restrictions should be imposed based on risk, not the current one size fits all approach
- Florida should have a Sex Offender Management Board to research and recommend sex offender policy and laws in this state (Appendix A, Table 1).

Officers were asked how many of their sex offenders were living next door to children and of the 231 officers responding to the question a total of 1,939 sex offenders (offender type not specified) were reported as living next door to children and finally, 234 officers reported that they have a total of 684 sex offenders (offender type not specified) on their caseload who reside in a home with children (Appendix A, Table 2).

### *Regarding Other Management Strategies*

Officers were asked to rank the effectiveness of certain sex offender management options with (1) indicating the most effective and (10) being the least effective management strategy. The top three rankings were electronic monitoring, restrictions and conditions based on sex offender risk, and public notification, as the most effective strategies. Chemical castration, lifetime supervision, and residency restrictions were listed among the least effective strategies.

## Discussion

The officers surveyed seem to find a link between residence restrictions and sex offender homelessness that is likely to lead to other negative consequences, including unemployment and violations. Further, they agree that residence restrictions are not a viable means of stopping sex offenders from re-offending. The conclusion drawn from this information is that residence restrictions are an effort to address the public's concern over sexual offense that is not supported by data or experience, and that it is ineffective in addressing this problem. This is in agreement with other research done on this topic. (Levenson & Hern, 2007; Colorado Dept. of Public Safety, 2004)

Those surveyed had positive feelings toward sex offender cohabitation, even though it has recently been outlawed in Hillsborough County (Bay News Nine, 2008). Shared Living Arrangements have been shown to deter recidivism in sex offenders, even those assessed to be at the highest risk of sexually re-offending. This, again, seems to say that experience and research contradict public perception of what is and is not effective for curbing the instances of sexual offenses. Shared Living Arrangements have been shown to deter rather than encourage former offenders from re-offending (Florida Dept. of Corrections, 2008; Colorado Dept. of Public Safety, 2004).

Officers also support a tier-system based on assess risk of sexual offenders rather than the current system, which treats all sexual offenders the same. Risk-assessed tier systems have been supported by empirical data in Iowa, Minnesota, and Colorado. Risk assessment of sexual offenders and the use of tiers is more cost-effective in that they direct the most resources to the offenders who need them, they are more effective at preventing re-offending by those under supervision and they allow for a more successful reintegration of offenders from all risk levels (Ryan, 2008; Colorado Dept. of Public Safety, 2004, Levenson & D'Amora, 2007, Minnesota Dept. of Corrections, 2007).

While there is no research directly in regards to the subject of probation and parole officers' opinions on sex offender restrictions (residence or otherwise), it is apparent that probation and parole officers who are supervising sex offenders do not demonstrate a

belief that residency restrictions are an effective sex offender management strategy and that they do give the public a false sense of security. Further, their experience corresponds with accepted statistics that strangers are not the most likely perpetrators of sexual offenses, particularly toward children.

## Recommendations

The current policies towards sex offenders in Florida are too broad and overreaching, which leaves them ineffective and under-funded. Florida citizens would be best served through a multi-tiered, multi-faceted approach towards released sex offenders that accounts for the differences in the sexual offenders themselves as well as the offenses committed. Components of the policy should include, based on this study and comparable programs in other states:

- creation of a sex offender management board to drive evidenced based policy
- management of sex offenders; risk assessment of sexual offenders used to determine individual restrictions and conditions
- public education for adults and children to increase prevention efforts
- the use of supervision polygraphs and electronic monitoring.

Florida needs to adopt sex offender management strategies and programs that work; that is, sex offender programs that produce the desired effects: safety for the community and rehabilitation for the offenders. Florida should seek to change the existing sex offender policy and emulate those programs existing in states such as Colorado and Iowa in order to make the public safer, maximize efficiencies, decrease costs, eliminate waste, and to have an effective means of treating, controlling, and monitoring sex offenders. Incorporating the four recommendations suggested in this paper would be the first step towards such a program.

Assistant Bureau Chief Amy L. Datz has been with the Florida Department of Corrections, Probation and Parole since 1985. Over the course of her career she has worked as an officer, supervisor, and senior supervisor in several different counties and has vast experience in the supervision and management of sexual offenders. Amy is currently the Assistant Chief of the statewide Bureau of Probation and Parole Field Services in the Office of Community Corrections. Amy has a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from the Florida State University.

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## Appendix A

Table 1: Probation Officer Opinions on Various Topics

22. Please select from the choices below what best represents your experience/opinion regarding the statements.							
	Strongly disagree	Disagree somewhat	Neither agree or disagree	Agree somewhat	Strongly agree	Rating Average	Response Count
Residency restrictions provide real protection to the public from sexual offenders.	<b>46.4% (110)</b>	27.0% (64)	8.4% (20)	12.2% (29)	5.9% (14)	2.04	237
Sexual offenders should not be allowed to live together.	<b>43.9% (104)</b>	29.1% (69)	13.5% (32)	7.6% (18)	5.9% (14)	2.03	237
A homeless sex offender who had a child victim is less likely to molest another child because they are homeless.	<b>53.8% (126)</b>	15.8% (37)	23.5% (55)	5.1% (12)	1.7% (4)	1.85	234
Residency restrictions give the public a false sense of security.	6.8% (16)	5.5% (13)	5.9% (14)	18.6% (44)	<b>63.1% (149)</b>	4.26	236
All sex offenders present the same risk to the public and should be treated the same.	<b>60.4% (142)</b>	22.1% (52)	4.7% (11)	7.7% (18)	5.1% (12)	1.75	235
A sexual offender is more likely to be successful on supervision when allowed to live in a supportive home.	4.3% (10)	3.8% (9)	9.8% (23)	37.9% (89)	<b>44.3% (104)</b>	4.14	235
Homeless sex offenders do not create a public safety risk.	<b>61.4% (145)</b>	26.3% (62)	7.2% (17)	0.8% (2)	4.2% (10)	1.60	236
Once a sex offender, always a sex offender.	11.8% (28)	17.3% (41)	23.2% (55)	<b>30.8% (73)</b>	16.9% (40)	3.24	237
A tier system of risk should be developed in Florida for sexual offenders and restrictions should only be imposed based on risk, not the current one size fits all approach	3.8% (9)	4.7% (11)	6.0% (14)	31.1% (73)	<b>54.5% (128)</b>	4.28	235
Florida should have a Sex Offender Management Board to research and recommend sex offender policy and law in this state.	5.9% (14)	5.1% (12)	16.9% (40)	26.2% (62)	<b>46.0% (109)</b>	4.01	237
	<i>answered question</i>						<b>237</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>						<b>22</b>

Table 2: Effectiveness of Containment/Management Strategies

27. Please rank the following sex offender restrictions starting with #1 for what you believe would be the most effective to #10, which you believe would be the least effective containment/management strategy for sexual offenders.												
	1 most	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 least	Rating Average	Response Count
Active electronic monitoring	<b>28.1% (59)</b>	16.7% (35)	11.4% (24)	7.6% (16)	10.5% (22)	6.7% (14)	6.2% (13)	5.7% (12)	5.7% (12)	1.4% (3)	3.73	210
Public notification	4.9% (10)	<b>18.2% (37)</b>	11.3% (23)	14.3% (29)	14.8% (30)	11.3% (23)	10.8% (22)	4.9% (10)	5.9% (12)	3.4% (7)	4.77	203
Residency restrictions	2.9% (6)	4.8% (10)	8.6% (18)	8.6% (18)	7.1% (15)	6.7% (14)	12.9% (27)	16.7% (35)	<b>18.1% (38)</b>	13.8% (29)	6.72	210
Lifetime supervision	4.8% (10)	7.2% (15)	3.4% (7)	11.5% (24)	7.2% (15)	8.2% (17)	9.6% (20)	17.3% (36)	<b>21.6% (45)</b>	9.1% (19)	6.52	208
Sex offender registration	12.7% (27)	13.6% (29)	<b>18.8% (40)</b>	15.5% (33)	11.7% (25)	10.8% (23)	8.0% (17)	5.2% (11)	2.3% (5)	1.4% (3)	4.14	213
Chemical castration	8.5% (18)	4.3% (9)	2.8% (6)	1.4% (3)	3.8% (8)	3.3% (7)	4.3% (9)	6.2% (13)	13.3% (28)	<b>52.1% (110)</b>	7.90	211
No loitering zones	3.8% (8)	13.7% (29)	12.3% (26)	11.3% (24)	13.7% (29)	9.9% (21)	<b>14.2% (30)</b>	8.5% (18)	7.1% (15)	5.7% (12)	5.28	212
Quarterly polygraphs	1.4% (3)	7.9% (17)	10.7% (23)	13.5% (29)	<b>17.7% (38)</b>	14.0% (30)	13.5% (29)	11.6% (25)	7.4% (16)	2.3% (5)	5.53	215
Lifetime treatment	1.8% (4)	5.5% (12)	11.8% (26)	8.2% (18)	7.7% (17)	15.5% (34)	14.1% (31)	<b>18.6% (41)</b>	12.3% (27)	4.5% (10)	6.16	220
Restrictions and conditions imposed based on a sex offender risk	<b>35.2% (80)</b>	10.1% (23)	10.6% (24)	8.4% (19)	7.9% (18)	9.3% (21)	4.8% (11)	4.8% (11)	2.6% (6)	6.2% (14)	3.74	227
	<i>answered question</i>											234
	<i>skipped question</i>											25

## Appendix B

My name is Amy Datz and I am a certified Correctional Probation Officer with over 23 years of experience in Probation and Parole. I am asking for your participation in a research project that in part, explores the opinions and experiences of CP Specialists supervising sexual offenders in Florida, and with regard to residency restrictions. The research project is being conducted by this writer independently and responsibility for the content rests with me.

This informed consent for participation as a research subject is required by, and in compliance with federal law.

Your participation is entirely voluntary. You can refuse to participate without any penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. Your individual answers will not be shared with anyone in the DC and the researcher will not know your identity

You must acknowledge that you are at least 18 years of age, and that you do not have medical problems or language or educational barriers that precludes understanding of explanations contained in this authorization for voluntary consent.

**PURPOSE OF THIS RESEARCH STUDY:** The study is about the potential impact of sex offender residency restrictions. Taking part in this study may provide data to inform the subject area and may help administrators and others to learn more about the efficacy of residency restrictions.

**PROCEDURES:** In this study, you will be asked to complete a on line, anonymous survey. A group of testers have been able to complete the survey in 10-15 minutes. You will be invited to complete the survey via a website link attached to an e-mail. The results are collected by the web-site and delivered to the researcher in an excel spreadsheet. NO IP addresses are collected by survey monkey.

**POSSIBLE RISKS OR DISCOMFORT:** This study involves minimal risk. The respondents work with this subject matter on a daily basis.

**POSSIBLE BENEFITS:** Knowledge may be gained which could help administrators, lawmakers and others learn more about the efficacy and potential impacts of these restrictions.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** There is no payment for nor cost to you as a result of your participation in this study. This survey is approved to be completed during work hours.

**CONFIDENTIALITY and ANONYMITY:** This study is confidential and anonymous. All answers will be used only for research, and you will not be asked for your name anywhere. Your identity will not be known. Survey Monkey uses Hypertext Transfer Protocol over Secure Socket Layer (HTTPS) to create a secure connection. It adds an additional layer to provide authentication and encrypted communication which is widely used on the World Wide Web for security-sensitive communication such as payment transactions. All information will be held in

strict confidence and will not be disclosed unless required by law or regulation. The answering of the survey is evidence of consent and your name is never linked to the research data. Anonymity means the researcher will collect NO identifying information from participants.

The results of this study may be published in scientific journals or presented at professional meetings. Your individual privacy will be maintained in all publications or presentations resulting from this study.

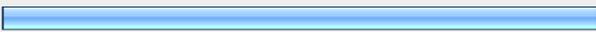
**RIGHT TO WITHDRAW:** You are free to choose whether or not to participate in this study. There will be no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled if you choose not to participate.

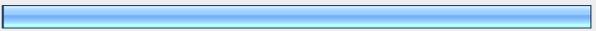
**CONTACTS FOR QUESTIONS/ACCESS TO CONSENT FORM:** Any further questions you have about this study or your participation in it, either now or any time in the future, will be answered by Amy Datz who may be reached at (850) 410-3655 or [datz.amy@mail.dc.state.fl.us](mailto:datz.amy@mail.dc.state.fl.us).

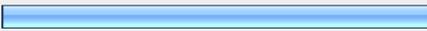
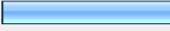
The individual answers provided in this study will not be shared with your supervisors or any others within the Department or elsewhere. The data will only be reported in a collective manner.

Appendix C

## Survey of Officers and Sex Offender Residency Restrictions

1. Are you a certified correctional probation officer currently assigned to the supervision of sex offenders?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		100.0%	259
No		0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>			259
<i>skipped question</i>			0

2. I agree to participate in the survey.			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		98.8%	256
No		1.2%	3
<i>answered question</i>			259
<i>skipped question</i>			0

3. Do you currently work in an area that has local ordinance residency restrictions for sexual offenders?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		71.7%	167
No		28.3%	66
<i>answered question</i>			233
<i>skipped question</i>			26

4. If Yes on question 3, please select county or counties where you work that have any county or municipal residency restrictions. Please select all that apply.

Counties														
	Alachua	Baker	Bay	Bradford	Brevard	Broward	Calhoun	Charlotte	Citrus	Clay	Collier	Columbia	Dade	De Soto
Counties	2.3% (4)	0.6% (1)	3.4% (6)	0.6% (1)	5.1% (9)	8.0% (14)	0.6% (1)	0.0% (0)	2.3% (4)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	1.1% (2)	8.6% (15)	1.1% (2)
Counties														
	Alachua	Baker	Bay	Bradford	Brevard	Broward	Calhoun	Charlotte	Citrus	Clay	Collier	Columbia	Dade	De Soto
Counties	0.0% (0)	6.7% (1)	6.7% (1)	6.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
Counties														
	Alachua	Baker	Bay	Bradford	Brevard	Broward	Calhoun	Charlotte	Citrus	Clay	Collier	Columbia	Dade	De Soto
Counties	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	20.0% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)

4. Continued

Counties													
	Dixie	Duval	Escambia	Flagler	Franklin	Gadsden	Gilchrist	Glades	Gulf	Hamilton	Hardee	Hendry	Hernando
Counties	0.0% (0)	9.7% (17)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.6% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.6% (1)	0.0% (0)
Counties													
	Dixie	Duval	Escambia	Flagler	Franklin	Gadsden	Gilchrist	Glades	Gulf	Hamilton	Hardee	Hendry	Hernando
Counties	0.0% (0)	6.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	13.3% (2)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
Counties													
	Dixie	Duval	Escambia	Flagler	Franklin	Gadsden	Gilchrist	Glades	Gulf	Hamilton	Hardee	Hendry	Hernando
Counties	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)

4. Continued

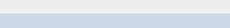
Counties														
	Highlands	Hillsborough	Holmes	Indian River	Jackson	Jefferson	Lafayette	Lake	Lee	Leon	Levy	Liberty	Madison	
Counties	0.0% (0)	10.9% (19)	0.0% (0)	1.1% (2)	0.6% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	1.1% (2)	0.6% (1)	1.7% (3)	1.1% (2)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	
Counties														
	Highlands	Hillsborough	Holmes	Indian River	Jackson	Jefferson	Lafayette	Lake	Lee	Leon	Levy	Liberty	Madison	
Counties	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	13.3% (2)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	
Counties														
	Highlands	Hillsborough	Holmes	Indian River	Jackson	Jefferson	Lafayette	Lake	Lee	Leon	Levy	Liberty	Madison	
Counties	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	

4. Continued														
Counties														
	Manatee	Marion	Martin	Monroe	Nassau	Okaloosa	Okeechobee	Orange	Osceloa	Palm Beach	Pasco	Pinellas	Polk	
Counties	0.6% (1)	2.9% (5)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	1.7% (3)	1.7% (3)	0.6% (1)	5.7% (10)	1.1% (2)	3.4% (6)	1.7% (3)	2.3% (4)	4.0% (7)	
Counties														
	Manatee	Marion	Martin	Monroe	Nassau	Okaloosa	Okeechobee	Orange	Osceloa	Palm Beach	Pasco	Pinellas	Polk	
Counties	6.7% (1)	6.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	6.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	6.7% (1)	
Counties														
	Manatee	Marion	Martin	Monroe	Nassau	Okaloosa	Okeechobee	Orange	Osceloa	Palm Beach	Pasco	Pinellas	Polk	
Counties	20.0% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	20.0% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	

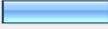
4. Continued																
Counties																
	Putnam	St. Johns	St. Lucie	Santa Rosa	Sarasota	Seminole	Sumter	Suwannee	Taylor	Union	Volusia	Wakulla	Walton	Washington	Response Count	
Counties	0.6% (1)	0.6% (1)	1.1% (2)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	2.9% (5)	0.6% (1)	1.1% (2)	0.6% (1)	0.0% (0)	5.1% (9)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	175	
Counties																
	Putnam	St. Johns	St. Lucie	Santa Rosa	Sarasota	Seminole	Sumter	Suwannee	Taylor	Union	Volusia	Wakulla	Walton	Washington	Response Count	
Counties	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	6.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	6.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	6.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	15	
Counties																
	Putnam	St. Johns	St. Lucie	Santa Rosa	Sarasota	Seminole	Sumter	Suwannee	Taylor	Union	Volusia	Wakulla	Walton	Washington	Response Count	
Counties	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	20.0% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	20.0% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	5	
															<i>answered question</i>	175
															<i>skipped question</i>	84

5. How many sex offenders do you currently have on your caseload?					
		Response Average	Response Total	Response Count	
	number	18.69	4,373	234	
				<i>answered question</i>	234
				<i>skipped question</i>	25

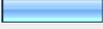
6. How many homeless sex offenders (living out of doors) do you currently have on your caseload? If zero, please input 0.				
		Response Average	Response Total	Response Count
Provide Number		0.29	67	235
	<i>answered question</i>			235
	<i>skipped question</i>			24

7. If you have had any homeless sex offenders in the past year, please check the locations where they lived. Please check as many locations that apply.				
		Response Percent	Response Count	
Woods		35.6%	47	
Underpass		19.7%	26	
Bridge		19.7%	26	
Camp		7.6%	10	
Abandoned Property		7.6%	10	
Car		21.2%	28	
Shopping Center		1.5%	2	
Probation Office Property		9.1%	12	
Other		37.9%	50	
	<i>answered question</i>			132
	<i>skipped question</i>			127

**8. Of the homeless sex offenders you have supervised in the past year, how many have absconded? Please select from the ranges below.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
0		79.9%	135
1-2		17.8%	30
3-4		1.8%	3
5-more		1.2%	2
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>169</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>90</b>

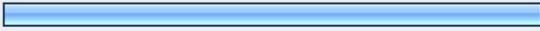
**9. In reference to homeless sex offenders, what is the longest period of time an offender you supervised was homeless? Please select from the ranges below.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Not applicable to this respondent		35.2%	68
1-7 days		20.7%	40
8-30 days		16.6%	32
31-90 days		10.9%	21
more than 90 days to 1 year		12.4%	24
more than 1 year		4.1%	8
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>193</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>66</b>

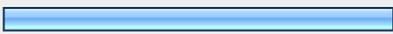
10. If you had any homeless sex offender(s) who had an established residence prior to sentencing that he/she could not return to, what was the most frequent reason that they could not return to their residence? Please rank the most often occurring reason from 1 to 5, with 1 being the least often occurring and 5 being the most often occurring reason.

	1 least	2	3	4	5 most	Rating Average	Response Count
Children living in the home	9.7% (9)	17.2% (16)	<b>30.1% (28)</b>	22.6% (21)	20.4% (19)	3.27	93
Family not wanting the offender to return	23.1% (18)	<b>37.2% (29)</b>	30.8% (24)	5.1% (4)	3.8% (3)	2.29	78
1,000 foot residency restrictions	2.7% (3)	5.4% (6)	7.1% (8)	27.7% (31)	<b>57.1% (64)</b>	4.31	112
Local ordinance residency restrictions	18.8% (22)	8.5% (10)	15.4% (18)	17.9% (21)	<b>39.3% (46)</b>	3.50	117
Community Harrassment	<b>62.8% (59)</b>	28.7% (27)	7.4% (7)	1.1% (1)	0.0% (0)	1.47	94
<i>answered question</i>							<b>152</b>
<i>skipped question</i>							<b>107</b>

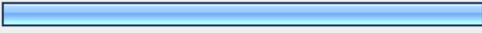
11. Do you currently supervise a sexual offender who abducted a child stranger victim? Please select the number below.

		Response Percent	Response Count
0		90.5%	209
1		7.4%	17
2		1.3%	3
3		0.0%	0
4 or more		0.9%	2
<i>answered question</i>			<b>231</b>
<i>skipped question</i>			<b>28</b>

**12. Do you currently supervise a sexual offender who molested a child stranger victim(s)? Please select the number below.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
0		65.2%	152
1		14.6%	34
2		7.7%	18
3		2.1%	5
4 or more		10.3%	24
<i>answered question</i>			233
<i>skipped question</i>			26

**13. How many sexual offenders do you currently supervise who gained access to the child victim at a school, playground, park, school bus-stop, or other place where children regularly congregate? Please select the number below.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
0		80.8%	189
1		11.1%	26
2		5.1%	12
3		1.3%	3
4 or more		1.7%	4
<i>answered question</i>			234
<i>skipped question</i>			25

14. If you answered yes to question # 13 above, what was the location			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Not applicable		74.9%	131
School		12.6%	22
Park		2.9%	5
Playground		0.6%	1
Daycare		0.0%	0
School bus-stop		0.6%	1
Other place where children regularly congregate		8.6%	15
<i>answered question</i>			175
<i>skipped question</i>			84

15. Do you currently supervise a sexual offender who lives in a "clustered" situation with one or more other sexual offenders? Please select the number below.			
		Response Percent	Response Count
0		40.7%	96
1-2		28.8%	68
3-5		15.3%	36
6-10		8.9%	21
11-19		3.4%	8
20 or more		3.0%	7
<i>answered question</i>			236
<i>skipped question</i>			23

16. How many homeless sex offenders that you currently supervise are employed? Please enter the number below. If zero, enter 0.				
		Response Average	Response Total	Response Count
Number		0.71	148	208
	<i>answered question</i>			208
	<i>skipped question</i>			51

17. If unemployed, where do your homeless sex offenders spend the majority of their time during the day, outside of the curfew period?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Not applicable to this respondent		72.9%	148
To a residence where the offender may not reside due to residency restriction		12.3%	25
Attends school		0.0%	0
To a park without a playground		1.0%	2
Does not spend significant time anywhere, in particular		7.9%	16
Probation office		4.4%	9
Drives around in vehicle all day		0.5%	1
Hangs out at shopping center		0.5%	1
Other		6.4%	13
	<i>answered question</i>		203
	<i>skipped question</i>		56

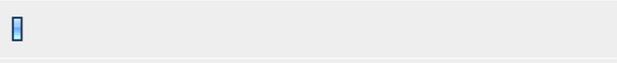
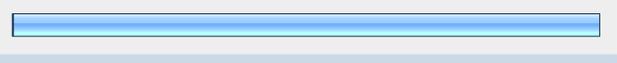
**18. If your homeless sex offenders have access to transportation, what are the 3 most often occurring modes of transportation utilized? Please select from the below. Please do not select more than 3**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Not applicable to this respondent		63.6%	133
Family		20.6%	43
Friends		18.2%	38
Owns a Car		7.2%	15
Employer		1.0%	2
Public Bus System		24.4%	51
Other		9.1%	19
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>209</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>50</b>

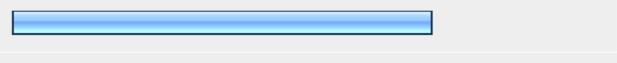
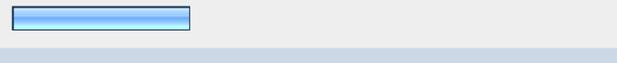
**19. If you have had to violate a homeless sex offender for a technical violation what was the most frequent or main reason for the violation? Select from the list below.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Not Applicable to this respondent		49.5%	106
Failure to move from a residence within a restricted area		4.2%	9
Contact with minors		0.9%	2
Contact with victim		0.0%	0
Failure to attend treatment		4.2%	9
Leaving the county without permission		0.9%	2
Absconding		10.7%	23
Drug or Alcohol use		2.3%	5
Curfew violation		8.4%	18
Other technical violation		18.7%	40
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>214</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>45</b>

20. If you have had to violate a homeless sex offender for a new arrest, what was the most frequent offense. Please select from the list below.

		Response Percent	Response Count
New sexual offense		1.0%	1
New non-sexual offense		99.0%	96
		<i>answered question</i>	97
		<i>skipped question</i>	162

21. Have you ever asked a supervised sexual offender if they would be willing to house or share rent with another sexual offender to help them find a place to live?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		70.4%	164
No		29.6%	69
		<i>answered question</i>	233
		<i>skipped question</i>	26

22. Please select from the choices below what best represents your experience/opinion regarding the statements.							
	Strongly disagree	Disagree somewhat	Neither agree or disagree	Agree somewhat	Strongly agree	Rating Average	Response Count
Residency restrictions provide real protection to the public from sexual offenders.	<b>46.4% (110)</b>	27.0% (64)	8.4% (20)	12.2% (29)	5.9% (14)	2.04	237
Sexual offenders should not be allowed to live together.	<b>43.9% (104)</b>	29.1% (69)	13.5% (32)	7.6% (18)	5.9% (14)	2.03	237
A homeless sex offender who had a child victim is less likely to molest another child because they are homeless.	<b>53.8% (126)</b>	15.8% (37)	23.5% (55)	5.1% (12)	1.7% (4)	1.85	234
Residency restrictions give the public a false sense of security.	6.8% (16)	5.5% (13)	5.9% (14)	18.6% (44)	<b>63.1% (149)</b>	4.26	236
All sex offenders present the same risk to the public and should be treated the same.	<b>60.4% (142)</b>	22.1% (52)	4.7% (11)	7.7% (18)	5.1% (12)	1.75	235
A sexual offender is more likely to be successful on supervision when allowed to live in a supportive home.	4.3% (10)	3.8% (9)	9.8% (23)	37.9% (89)	<b>44.3% (104)</b>	4.14	235
Homeless sex offenders do not create a public safety risk.	<b>61.4% (145)</b>	26.3% (62)	7.2% (17)	0.8% (2)	4.2% (10)	1.60	236
Once a sex offender, always a sex offender.	11.8% (28)	17.3% (41)	23.2% (55)	<b>30.8% (73)</b>	16.9% (40)	3.24	237
A tier system of risk should be developed in Florida for sexual offenders and restrictions should only be imposed based on risk, not the current one size fits all approach	3.8% (9)	4.7% (11)	6.0% (14)	31.1% (73)	<b>54.5% (128)</b>	4.28	235
Florida should have a Sex Offender Management Board to research and recommend sex offender policy and law in this state.	5.9% (14)	5.1% (12)	16.9% (40)	26.2% (62)	<b>46.0% (109)</b>	4.01	237
	<i>answered question</i>						<b>237</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>						<b>22</b>

**23. What would you say is the number one obstacle for supervised sex offenders? Please select an answer from below.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Registration		0.0%	0
Public Notification		1.3%	3
<b>Residency Restrictions</b>		<b>78.4%</b>	<b>185</b>
Employment		14.4%	34
Curfew		0.4%	1
Electronic Monitoring		1.3%	3
Monetary Obligations		4.2%	10
	<i>answered question</i>		<b>236</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>		<b>23</b>

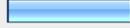
**24. Please select your top three from the list below that might improve successful re-entry of sex offenders into society, while still providing for public safety. Please do not check more than 3.**

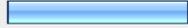
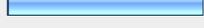
		Response Percent	Response Count
Eliminate Public Notification		0.4%	1
Eliminate Local Residency Ordinance Restrictions		67.5%	158
Eliminate All Residency Restrictions		22.6%	53
Impose Child Safety No Loitering Zones		54.7%	128
<b>Provide Supervised Housing</b>		<b>77.4%</b>	<b>181</b>
State Assistance For Costs Associated With Treatment and Polygraphs		52.6%	123
Registration With and for Law Enforcement Purposes Only- No Public Notification		7.3%	17
	<i>answered question</i>		<b>234</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>		<b>25</b>

25. How many sex offenders currently on your caseload are living with children? Please enter number below. If zero, enter 0.				
		Response Average	Response Total	Response Count
Number		2.92	684	234
	<i>answered question</i>			234
	<i>skipped question</i>			25

26. How many sex offenders currently on your caseload are living next door to children? Please enter number below. If zero, enter 0.				
		Response Average	Response Total	Response Count
Number		8.39	1,939	231
	<i>answered question</i>			231
	<i>skipped question</i>			28

27. Please rank the following sex offender restrictions starting with #1 for what you believe would be the most effective to #10, which you believe would be the least effective containment/management strategy for sexual offenders.												
	1 most	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 least	Rating Average	Response Count
Active electronic monitoring	28.1% (59)	16.7% (35)	11.4% (24)	7.6% (16)	10.5% (22)	6.7% (14)	6.2% (13)	5.7% (12)	5.7% (12)	1.4% (3)	3.73	210
Public notification	4.9% (10)	18.2% (37)	11.3% (23)	14.3% (29)	14.8% (30)	11.3% (23)	10.8% (22)	4.9% (10)	5.9% (12)	3.4% (7)	4.77	203
Residency restrictions	2.9% (6)	4.8% (10)	8.6% (18)	8.6% (18)	7.1% (15)	6.7% (14)	12.9% (27)	16.7% (35)	18.1% (38)	13.8% (29)	6.72	210
Lifetime supervision	4.8% (10)	7.2% (15)	3.4% (7)	11.5% (24)	7.2% (15)	8.2% (17)	9.6% (20)	17.3% (36)	21.6% (45)	9.1% (19)	6.52	208
Sex offender registration	12.7% (27)	13.6% (29)	18.8% (40)	15.5% (33)	11.7% (25)	10.8% (23)	8.0% (17)	5.2% (11)	2.3% (5)	1.4% (3)	4.14	213
Chemical castration	8.5% (18)	4.3% (9)	2.8% (6)	1.4% (3)	3.8% (8)	3.3% (7)	4.3% (9)	6.2% (13)	13.3% (28)	52.1% (110)	7.90	211
No loitering zones	3.8% (8)	13.7% (29)	12.3% (26)	11.3% (24)	13.7% (29)	9.9% (21)	14.2% (30)	8.5% (18)	7.1% (15)	5.7% (12)	5.28	212
Quarterly polygraphs	1.4% (3)	7.9% (17)	10.7% (23)	13.5% (29)	17.7% (38)	14.0% (30)	13.5% (29)	11.6% (25)	7.4% (16)	2.3% (5)	5.53	215
Lifetime treatment	1.8% (4)	5.5% (12)	11.8% (26)	8.2% (18)	7.7% (17)	15.5% (34)	14.1% (31)	18.6% (41)	12.3% (27)	4.5% (10)	6.16	220
Restrictions and conditions imposed based on a sex offender risk	35.2% (80)	10.1% (23)	10.6% (24)	8.4% (19)	7.9% (18)	9.3% (21)	4.8% (11)	4.8% (11)	2.6% (6)	6.2% (14)	3.74	227
	<i>answered question</i>											234
	<i>skipped question</i>											25

28. How many years of experience do you have in supervising criminal offenders?			Response Percent	Response Count
1-5 years			1.3%	3
6-10 years			7.6%	18
11-15 years			20.6%	49
16+ years			71.0%	169
			<i>answered question</i>	238
			<i>skipped question</i>	21

29. How many years of experience do you have in supervising sexual offenders?			Response Percent	Response Count
1-2 years			9.7%	23
3-5 years			30.1%	71
6-10 years			28.0%	66
11+ years			32.6%	77
			<i>answered question</i>	236
			<i>skipped question</i>	23

30. In which judicial circuit do you work?										
Judicial Circuit										
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10
Work location	4.7% (11)	4.7% (11)	2.6% (6)	9.4% (22)	6.4% (15)	8.9% (21)	6.8% (16)	3.4% (8)	6.0% (14)	3.8% (9)

30. Continued											
Judicial Circuit											
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Response Count
Work location	5.5% (13)	2.6% (6)	9.4% (22)	4.3% (10)	2.6% (6)	0.9% (2)	6.4% (15)	5.5% (13)	3.0% (7)	3.8% (9)	236
	<i>answered question</i>										235
	<i>skipped question</i>										24

31. Where do you live?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Urban Area		68.6%	162
Rural Area		31.8%	75
	<i>answered question</i>		236
	<i>skipped question</i>		23

32. Residential situation?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Rent		4.8%	11
Own		94.8%	218
Other		0.9%	2
	<i>answered question</i>		230
	<i>skipped question</i>		29

33. What is your gender?			Response Percent	Response Count
Male			58.4%	135
Female			42.0%	97
			<i>answered question</i>	231
			<i>skipped question</i>	28

34. Age in years?			Response Percent	Response Count
20-25			0.0%	0
26-31			0.4%	1
32-37			9.8%	23
38-43			20.9%	49
44-49			26.5%	62
50 or older			42.7%	100
			<i>answered question</i>	234
			<i>skipped question</i>	25

35. What is your marital status?			Response Percent	Response Count
Single			30.1%	69
Married			70.3%	161
			<i>answered question</i>	229
			<i>skipped question</i>	30

36. What is your race? (US Census Bureau descriptors)			
		Response Percent	Response Count
American Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.4%	1
Alaskan Native	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.4%	1
Asian	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.4%	1
Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.4%	1
Black	<input type="checkbox"/>	28.6%	66
White	<input type="checkbox"/>	70.1%	162
<i>answered question</i>			231
<i>skipped question</i>			28

37. What is your ethnicity? (US Census Bureau descriptors)			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Hispanic Origin	<input type="checkbox"/>	4.9%	11
Not Hispanic Origin	<input type="checkbox"/>	95.6%	216
<i>answered question</i>			226
<i>skipped question</i>			33

38. What is the highest level of education completed?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Bachelors	<input type="checkbox"/>	80.9%	191
Masters	<input type="checkbox"/>	18.6%	44
Ph.D.	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.8%	2
<i>answered question</i>			236
<i>skipped question</i>			23

39. Do you have any minor children?			Response Percent	Response Count
Yes			48.7%	114
No			51.7%	121
		<i>answered question</i>		234
		<i>skipped question</i>		25