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FACTS AND STATISTICS ABOUT SEX OFFENDING

Reporting

- The majority of sexual offenses are not caught or detected.¹
- Research consistently reports that between 5 and 25% of rapes are reported to law enforcement.²
- According to one study, only 19.1% of the women and 12.9% of the men who were raped since their 18th birthday said their rape was reported to the police.³
- Among college women, about 12% of rapes were reported to law enforcement.⁴
- Young victims who know or are related to the perpetrator are least likely to report the crime to authorities.⁵
- From 2006 to 2010, the highest percentages of unreported violent crimes were rape or sexual assault (65%).⁶
- From 2006 to 2010, a greater percentage of victimizations perpetrated by someone the victim knew well (62%) went unreported to police, compared to victimizations committed by a stranger (51%). Additionally, 46% victimizations perpetrated by a relative or an intimate partner went unreported to law enforcement.⁷
- Research shows that most convicted sex offenders have committed many sexual offenses before they are caught.⁸

Crossover & Recidivism

- Many sex offenders have committed multiple types of sexual crimes.⁹
- Crime of conviction is only one indicator of risk. Risk assessment includes consideration of multiple factors.¹⁰
- A study conducted at the Colorado Department of Corrections on incarcerated sex offenders revealed the following:¹¹
 - 78% of the child molesters report that they also have sexually assaulted an adult.
 - 52% of the adult rapists report that they have also sexually molested children.
 - Approximately one-third (36%) of the sex offenders report assaulting both males and females. A study examining child pornography offenders found similar results (40%).¹²
 - 64% of the child molesters who victimized their own relatives also sexually molested children who were not related to them.
 - 53% of the child molesters who victimized children who were not related to them had also victimized children who were family members.
- Child pornography offenders may be likely to also commit hands on sexual offenses against children (even if they have not been caught).¹³
- Approximately 12 to 24% of sex offenders reoffend. When sex offenders commit another crime, it is usually not sexual or violent.¹⁴ (The figures may be lower because sex offenses are often not reported)

Victimization

- It is estimated that nearly 1 in 5 women (22 million) and approximately 1 in 71 men (1.6 million) in the United States have been raped during their lifetime.¹⁵
- Approximately 1.8 million adolescents in the United States have been the victims of sexual assault.¹⁶
- As many as 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 7 boys will be sexually abused at some point in their childhood.¹⁷
- Children ages 12–15 have the highest percentage of sexual abuse, among all types of abuse, for children under 18 years of age.¹⁸
- 1 in 4 college women will be raped during their collegiate career.¹⁹
- In 2006 alone, 300,000 college women (5.2%) were raped.²⁰



- In 2005-10, females who were age 34 or younger, who lived in lower income households, and who lived in rural areas experienced some of the highest rates of sexual violence.²¹
- In 2005-10, the offender was armed with a gun, knife, or other weapon in 11% of rape or sexual assault victimizations.²²
- From 1995 to 2010, the estimated annual rate of female rape or sexual assault victimizations declined 58%, from 5.0 victimizations per 1,000 females age 12 or older to 2.1 per 1,000.

Teens, Technology & Sexting

- Teens 16 to 19 years of age were 3 1/2 times more likely than the general population to be victims of rape, attempted rape, or sexual assault.²³
- Approximately 1 in 5 female high school students report being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner.²⁴
- 69% of the teen sexual assaults reported to law enforcement occurred in the residence of the victim, the offender, or another individual.²⁵
- Approximately 1 in 7 (13%) youth Internet users received unwanted sexual solicitations.²⁶
- 4% of youth Internet users received aggressive solicitations, in which solicitors made or attempted to make offline contact with youth.²⁷
- 9% of youth Internet users had been exposed to distressing sexual material while online.²⁸
- 1 in 25 youths received an online sexual solicitation in which the solicitor tried to make offline contact.²⁹
- In more than one-quarter (27%) of incidents, solicitors asked youths for sexual photographs of themselves.³⁰
- 15% of cell-owning teens (12–17) say they have received sexually suggestive nude/seminude images of someone they know via text.³¹
- 4% of cell-owning teens (12–17) say that they have sent sexually suggestive nude/seminude messages to others via text message.³²

A survey conducted in 2008 by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy found that:³³

- 38% of teen girls and 39% of teen boys say they have had sexually suggestive text messages or e-mails—originally meant for someone else—shared with them.
- 44% of both teen girls and teen boys say it is common for sexually suggestive text messages to get shared with people other than the intended recipient.
- 36% of teen girls and 39% of teen boys say it is common for nude or seminude photos to get shared with people other than the intended recipient.
- 51% of teen girls say pressure from a guy is a reason girls send sexy messages or images; only 18% of teen boys cited pressure from female counterparts as a reason.
- 15% of teens who have sent or posted nude/seminude images of themselves say they have done so to someone they knew only online.
- When stating the reasons why they sent/posted suggestive messages or nude/seminude pictures/videos, 44% said it was in response to one that was sent to them.
- Sending and posting nude or seminude photos or videos starts at a young age and becomes even more frequent as teens (ages 13 to 19) become young adults (ages 20 to 26).

The results of the survey describe characteristics of interactions between Internet predators and their juvenile victims. The survey found that:

- The majority of victims had met the predator willingly.
- Of the 129 victims identified, ages 17 and younger, the face-to-face meetings had occurred in 74% of the cases, and 93% of those encounters had included sexual contact.
- 75% of the victims were girls.
- The majority of victims (67%) were children between the ages of 12 and 15.



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- The most common first encounter of a predator with a victim took place in an online chat room (76%).
- In 47% of the cases, the predator offered gifts or money during the relationship-building phase.
- Predators used less deception to befriend their online victims than experts had thought. Only 5% of the predators told their victims that they were in the same age-group as the victims. Most offenders told the victims that they were older males seeking sexual relations.
- The victims who responded to this survey had willingly met and had sexual encounters with the predators. The authors concluded that vulnerable youth need further education regarding the negative effects of such relationships.

FACTS ABOUT SEX OFFENDERS IN COLORADO

- As of **June 13, 2017 there are approximately 18,564 sex offenders registered in the State of Colorado**. There are 250 registered in Arvada.
- The total number of SVPs at any given point in the community is available on the CBI website. Please note many of these offenders may have been deported or returned to custody. In addition, there are well over 400 SVPs in the Department of Corrections and many yet to be designated by the parole board.
- Each year in Colorado, approximately 60% of convicted sex offenders are placed on probation, parole, or community corrections, with the remainder being sentenced to incarceration at the Department of Corrections or the county jail.³⁴
- A 1998 study by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment found:
 - 1 in 150 women and 1 in 830 men in Colorado had experienced a completed or attempted sexual assault in the past 12 months;
 - 1 in 4 women and 1 in 17 men in Colorado had experienced a completed or attempted sexual assault in their lifetime. Approximately 16% of these assaults were reported to police.

SEX OFFENDER CHARACTERISTICS

- Sex offenders rarely commit just one type of offense.³⁵
- There is no such thing as a “typical” sexual offender; however, *many* tend to be manipulative, deceptive, and secretive. Sex offenders come from **all** backgrounds, ages, income levels, and professions.
- The majority of sex offenses, (80-95%) are committed by someone the victim knows.³⁶
 - More than half (51.1%) of female victims of rape reported being raped by an intimate partner and 40.8% by an acquaintance.³⁷
 - For male victims, more than half (52.4%) reported being raped by an acquaintance and 15.1% by a stranger.³⁸
 - In 93% of child sexual abuse cases, the child knows the person that commits the abuse.³⁹
 - Most perpetrators are acquaintances, but as many as 47% are family or extended family.⁴⁰
 - In 2005-10, 78% of sexual violence involved an offender who was a family member, intimate partner, friend, or acquaintance. From 1994 to 2010, the percentage of serious violent crime—rape or sexual assault, robbery, or aggravated assault—that was not reported to police declined from 50% to 42%.⁴¹
- Sex offenders do not usually commit their crimes impulsively. They usually employ careful planning and preliminary steps that, if interrupted, can prevent an actual crime.⁴²
- The vast majority of sex offenders are male; 1 - 20% of child sex offenses are committed by women.⁴³
- Male sex offenders who sexually molest boys are not necessarily homosexual.⁴⁴



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IMPACT ON VICTIMS OF SEX OFFENSES

- Overwhelming experiences such as sexual assault or abuse create significant stress responses.
 - There are many different responses to trauma that victims of sexual assault can exhibit. Numerous factors can influence an individual's response to and recovery from sexual assault. Some factors include: age and developmental maturity of victim; victim relationship to offender; social and familial support of victim; police, medical, and victim advocate response to victim; frequency, duration, and severity of the sexual assault(s); the environment in which the assault occurred; community attitudes and values regarding sexual assault; and the meaning attributed to the traumatic event by the sexual assault survivor.⁴⁵
 - Sexual trauma inflicted by a **known perpetrator** tends to create a more difficult recovery than sexual trauma inflicted by a stranger. The victim must also deal with betrayal by someone they have formerly trusted.⁴⁶
 - Sexual trauma can create **post-traumatic stress disorder** or other clinical reactions. Nearly 1/3 of all rape victims develop rape-related PTSD⁴⁷
 - **Long term damage** to the victim may take the form of some or all of the following symptoms: depression, chronic anxiety, feelings of dissociation (not feeling connected to oneself), flashbacks to the traumatic event, avoidance of anything that reminds them of the traumatic event, intrusive thoughts, relationship disruptions such as increased conflict or divorce, loss or diminishment of sexual interest or responsiveness, loss of concentration, heightened fears, chronic sleeping or eating problems, exaggerated startle response, irritability, suicidal thoughts, a diminished interest in living and an inability to enjoy previously enjoyed life activities.⁴⁸
 - Teen victims of sexual assault more likely: to engage in unprotected sex.⁴⁹
 - Teen victims of sexual assault are 3 times more likely to develop psychiatric disorders or to abuse alcohol.⁵⁰
 - Young male and female victims of sexual assault are at increased risk of eating disorder behaviors.⁵¹
 - The above mentioned responses are minimized and recovery is enhanced when a victim is **believed and supported** and has access to victim advocacy and treatment services.⁵²
- Most victims of sexual assault do not become sex offenders.⁵³

COMMUNITY SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT

- Most convicted sex offenders in Colorado are subject to the supervision of a criminal justice agency, either probation, parole or community corrections.
 - Of the 39% of rapes that are reported to police, there is **only a 16.3%** chance the rapist will end up in prison.⁵⁴
 - Factoring in unreported rapes, about 6% (1 out of 16) of rapists will ever spend a day in jail. Fifteen out of sixteen will walk free.⁵⁵
- The Sex Offender Management Board agrees that sex offenders are potentially dangerous and recognizes the harm they cause as well as their possible risk to re-offend (criminally and sexually).⁵⁶ According to the Sex Offender Management Board, community safety is paramount and comes before the needs of the offender. Community safety means that the primary goal is to prevent the offender from victimizing any other person⁵⁷
- While there is no way to know if a convicted sex offender will reoffend, the combination of comprehensive treatment and carefully structured and monitored behavioral supervision conditions may assist some sex offenders to develop internal controls for their behaviors.
- Colorado uses the Containment Approach to manage sex offenders who are placed in the community. In the interest of public safety, sex offenders are never managed by an individual person; rather they are managed by community supervision teams, consisting of supervising criminal justice officers (probation,



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parole or community corrections), polygraph examiners and specialized treatment providers. Supervising officers monitor conditions set by the Court/Parole Board for the offender and can impose sanctions for violations. Treatment providers gather information about the offender, assist with monitoring and administer a long-term comprehensive set of planned therapeutic interventions designed to change sexually abusive thoughts and behaviors. The polygraph examiner assists in gathering a full and accurate history of the offender's behavior and monitors current compliance with conditions and risk behaviors⁵⁸

Containment Approach

Sex offenders must waive confidentiality for evaluation, treatment, supervision and case management purposes. All members of the team managing and treating each offender must have access to the same relevant information. Since sex offenses are committed in secret, all forms of secrecy potentially undermine the rehabilitation of sex offenders and threaten public safety. This approach has been identified through research to be the best way to manage adult convicted sex offenders in the community⁵⁹

- Successful containment, treatment and management of sex offenders is enhanced by the involvement of family, friends, employers, and others who have positive influence in sex offenders' lives, when these people are willing to support the conditions and requirements of the criminal justice system.
- Assignment to community supervision is a privilege (alternative to incarceration), and sex offenders must be completely accountable for their behaviors. They must agree to intensive and sometimes intrusive accountability measures, which enable them to remain in the community rather than in prison. They must learn to be completely accountable to maintain the privilege of remaining under community supervision.



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