

Finding Common Ground: Juvenile Sex Offender Policy & Supporting Survivors in Ohio

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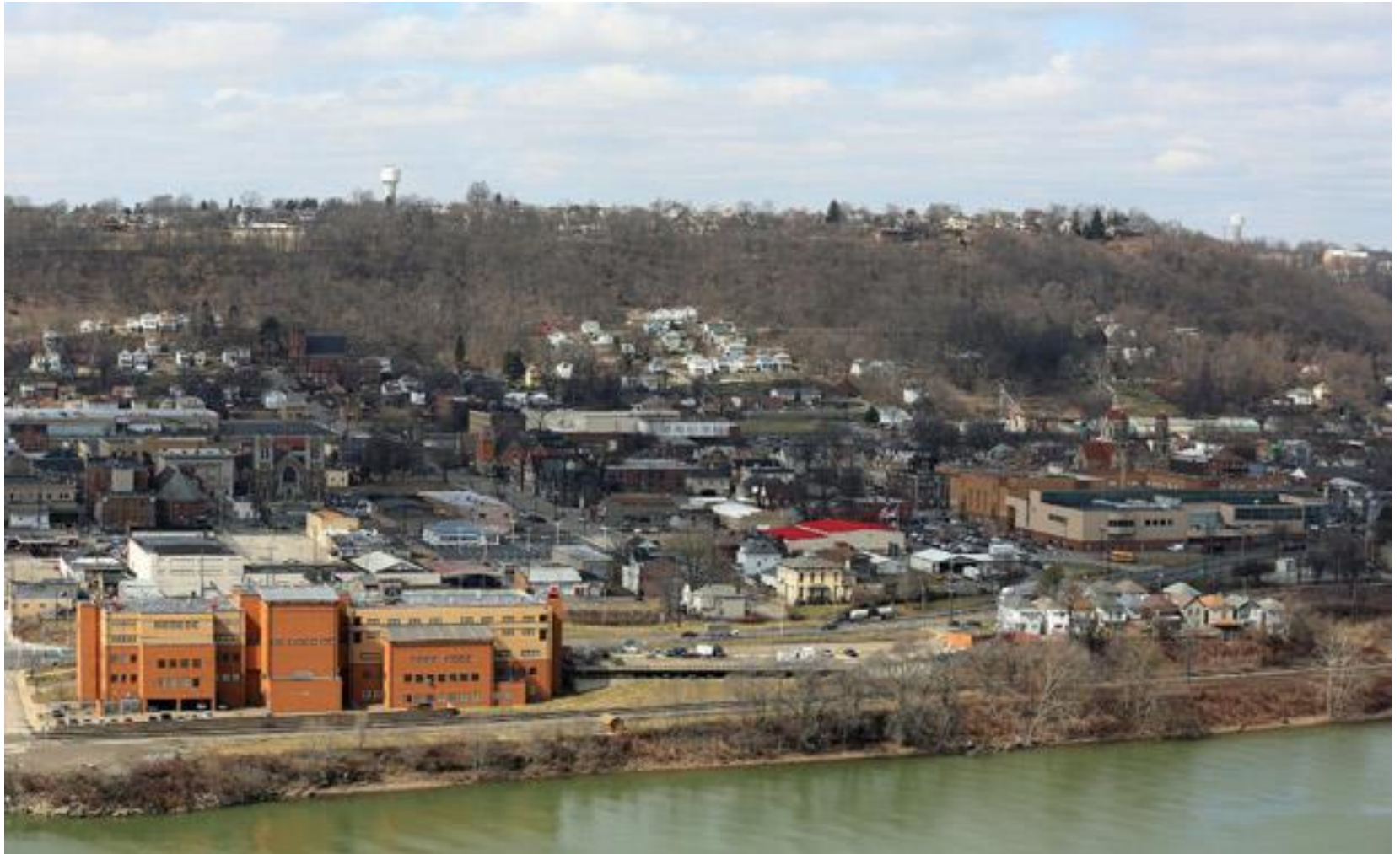
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End Sexual Violence

Workshop Objectives

- Learn about how OAESV and OPD identified common ground and brought together a group of unlikely allies to educate policymakers on child sexual assault.
- Learn about the Ohio policy resource guide and the importance of a review process and messaging strategy for successful roll-out
- Identify two lessons learned that they can apply to starting a similar workgroup in their state or local community

How Did We Get Here?



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<http://www.oaesv.org/standup/>

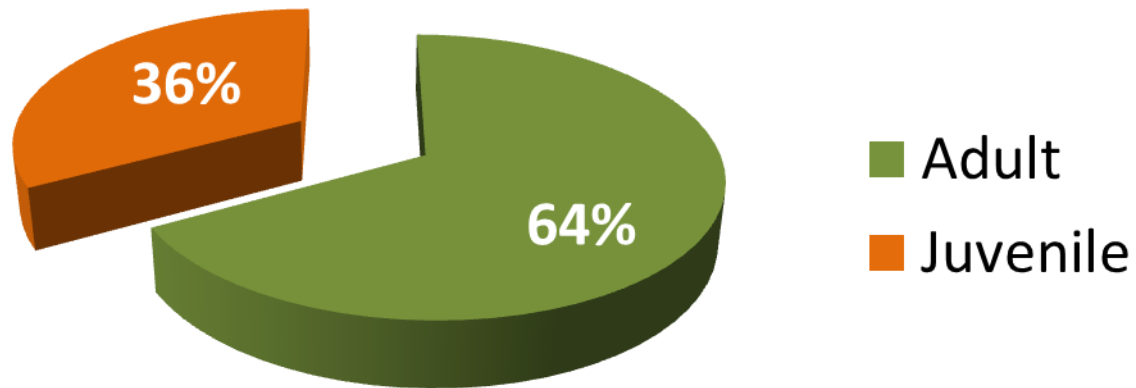


PRO-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

DOING SOMETHING GOOD FOR OTHER PEOPLE OR SOCIETY

Fact

Arrests for sexual offenses against minors



OJJDP '09

JSORN

- Adam Walsh Act
 - Signed in to law in July 2006
 - Replaced Jacob Wetterling Act
 - Ohio one of first to attempt to comply



**The Adam Walsh
Child Protection
and Safety Act**

Ohio Legislation

- Not based upon what we know about JSOs
 - Research on recidivism, treatment, protective factors
 - Impact of implementation on community safety, families, victims, offender
 - Did not recognize differences between juveniles and adults who sexually offend



The Basics

Who Must Register?

- All youth 16 or 17 at time of offense
- All youth 14-17 with a prior adjudication
- 14-17 year old serious youthful offenders who are found delinquent of one of six enumerated offenses

Who Might Register?

- First time 14 and 15 year old offenders
 - Court must consider factors in R.C. 2152.83(D) prior

Who Will Not Register?

- Youth who were under 14 at time of offense

What we know about registration

- Intent=public safety
- Research=does not reduce sexual recidivism
- Research=iatrogenic effect (more harm)

Familial impact

- Anecdotal
- Between 25-31% of victims are family members
- 56-64% are acquaintances *
- Appropriate treatment may not be given=no Sex offense =no registration=impact on treatment availability or motivation



Cases & Collaboration

- Child Protective Services
- Sexting
- Steubenville

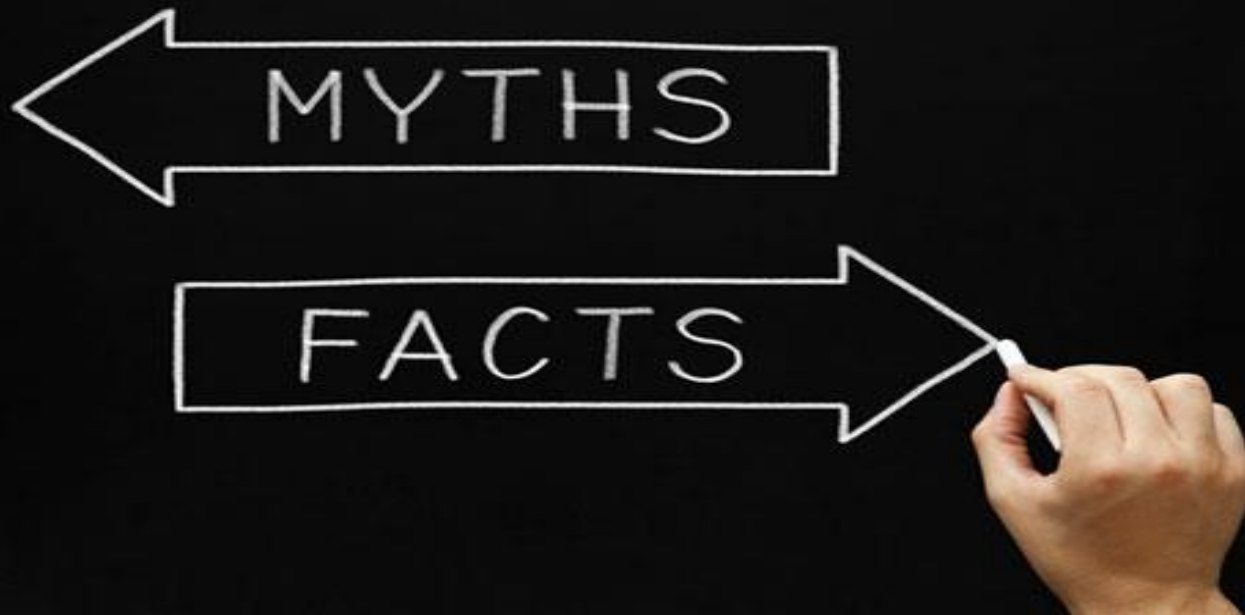


Who needs to be at the table

- Victim's advocates
- Prosecutors
- Public Defenders
- Expert in juvenile sexual offender research

Issues with collaboration

- Misconceptions about each entity's beliefs about juvenile sexual offender work



GOALS



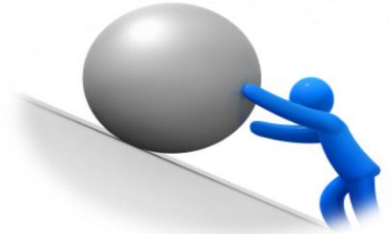
Reasoned approach to registration & legislation

Incorporate research in one place

Victim-centered language

Recognition of differences in offenders and offenses

Challenges

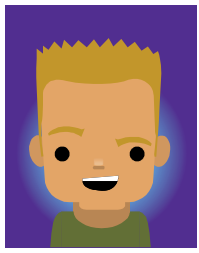


- Recognition of emotional response to sexual offending
- Not minimizing sexual offenses
- Replacing myths with facts
- Providing research in a way that is not overwhelming
- Case examples addressing diversity of juvenile sexual offending
- Suggestions in considering legislation without legislating
- Distribution of information

What to Include

Knowing this----what do you think would need to be included?





Differences between juveniles and adults with sexual aggression

- Patterns of sexual interest and arousal
- Perpetration behaviors are less consistent and sophisticated
- Situational and opportunity factors
- Adolescent sexual abusers who have themselves been the victims of sexual abuse are far closer in time to their own abuse



- Adolescents have less developed sexual knowledge.
- Adolescents live in a world with different values, beliefs and expectations.
- The role of the family is more critical
- Adolescents experience and expect a greater degree of external control over their behaviors/interactions.
- More open and used to education and the acquisition of new skills.
- Less research on juvenile offenders

Each Client Differs

In areas of risk and protective factors

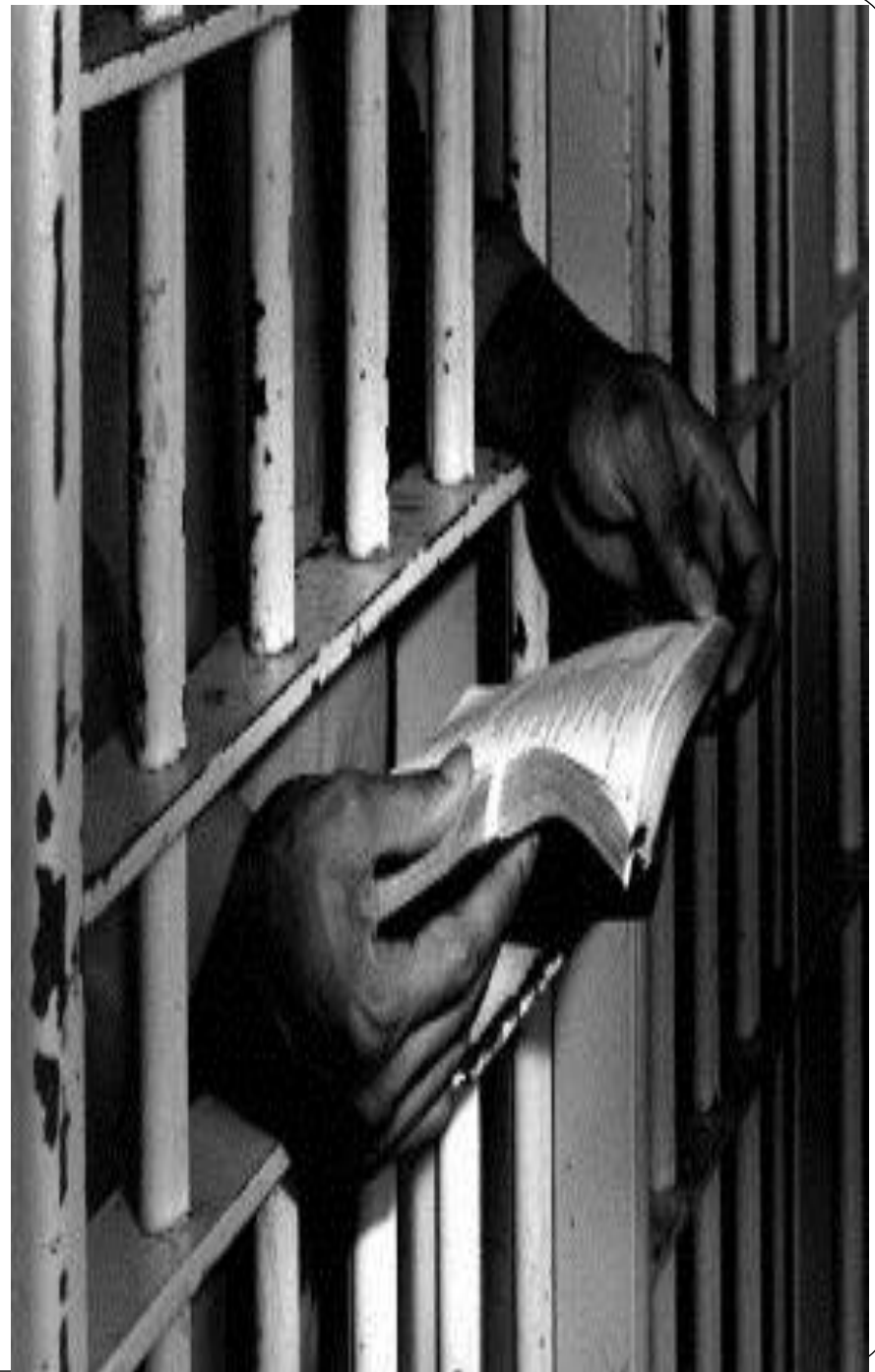
Reasons for behaviors

Family Response/Issues

Goals

Recidivism 5 year follow-up

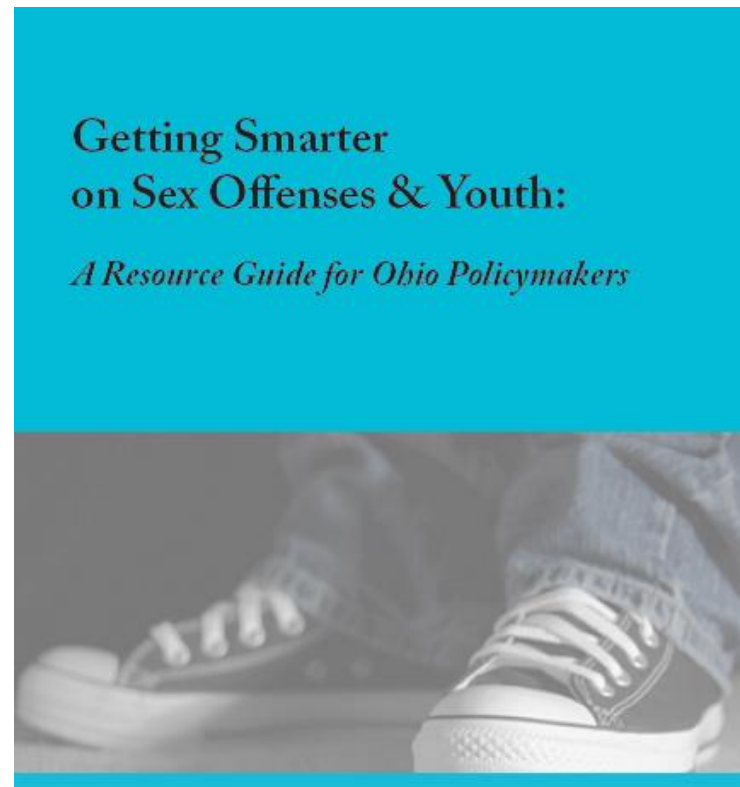
- 2.75-7%



20 year follow up (Treatment received)

- 9% sexual recidivism

Getting Smarter on Sex Offenses & Youth: A Resource Guide for Ohio Policy Makers



SCHUBERT CENTER
FOR CHILD STUDIES



Recommendations

- Recognize the individuality of both the victim and the offender, and **allow each to access the treatment and services** most likely to repair the harm suffered and prevent future abuse.
- **Decriminalize normative child and adolescent sexual behavior**, focusing instead on the assessment and treatment of problematic behaviors.
- Scale back Ohio's ineffective, costly juvenile sex offender registry and **redirect financial savings to creating a statewide network of research-supported education, prevention, and treatment services for victims and offenders.**

Recommendations

- Acknowledge that child sexual abuse affects more than just the offender and the victim, and **ensure access to developmentally appropriate and trauma-informed treatment, counseling, appropriate family reunification and supervision, and other supportive services** for each child's circumstances.
- Move away from Ohio's current focus on punitive responses to sexual offending after the fact and **dedicate resources to preventing sexual violence from ever occurring.**

Messaging & Roll-Out

- Discussions & input from rape crisis centers
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month & Forum
- Distributed to Ohio Policy Makers
- Focus on Prevention

Starting a workgroup in your community

- What challenges have you run into or do you anticipate?
- What successes can you share?



Questions?

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