Session Objectives

- Participants will have an understanding of the current sexual violent offender laws across states.
- Participants will discuss the efficacy of sexual offender laws in the deterrence of recidivism.
- Participants will address implications for health policy advocacy and research.

Clarification of Terminology

- Sexual Violent Offense
- Sexually Violent Predator
- Registration
- Risk Assessment
- Compliance
**Sexual Violent Offender Laws**

- Wetterling Crimes Against Children Act (1994)
- Pam Lyncher Sexual Offender Tracking and Identification Act (1996)

**Adam Walsh Protection Act [AWA] (2007)**

- Title I
  - Registration and community notification
- Title
  - Sex Crime Punishment/Sentencing Enhancements
- Title III
  - Civil Commitment
- Title IV
  - Immigration law reform

**Adam Walsh Protection Act [AWA] (2007)**

- Title V
  - Child Pornography Prevention
- Title VI
  - Children and Community Safety
- Title VII
  - Internet Safety
States With SVP Laws

“Bible Belt States”

Gaps/Deficits

- Public misperception
- Inconsistent risk assessments
- Reliable evidence-based statistics
- Reporting of compliance measures
- Others
Implementation Authority

- Varies among states
- Department of Public Safety
- Department of Justice
- State Law Enforcement Officials
- Local Law Enforcement Officials

Impact on Recidivism

- Risk Assessment
- Registration Requirements
- Duration of Registration
- Compliance Rates

Challenges/Controversies

- Public safety
- Accuracy
- Removal from registry
- Community notification
- Public Access to database
Sexual Violent Offender Laws: Are They Making A Difference?

Presenters: Dr. Barbara Johnson & Ms. Kina Johnson

Policy and Advocacy

• In-depth Analysis of Existing Legislation
• Public Awareness
• Human Rights Protection
• Funding Priorities and Accountability

Research Implications

• Sex Offender Treatment Programs
• Effectiveness of different strategies
• Funding of the Center for Sex Offender Management
• Community engagement and multidisciplinary collaboration

Selected References