Sexual Violent Offender Laws: Are They Making A Difference?

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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
- Predator
- Sexually Violent Predator
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sexual Violent Offender Legislation</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Wetterling Crimes Against Children Act (1994)</td>
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  - Pam Lyncher Sexual Offender Tracking and Identification Act (1996) |
Adam Walsh Protection Act [AWA] (2007)

- Title I (SORNA)
  - Registration and community notification
  - Greater offender accountability
  - Increased sanctions for noncompliance
  - Failure to implement → loss of JAG funds
Adam Walsh Protection Act [AWA] (2007)

- **Title II**
  - 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
“Bible Belt States”

Southern Bible Belt States
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
Gaps/Deficits

- Public misperception
- Inconsistent risk assessments
- Reliable evidence-based statistics
- Reporting of compliance measures
- Others
Challenges/Controversies

• Public safety
• Accuracy
• Removal from registry
• Community notification
• Public Access to database
## 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


