

August 1998

Sex Offenses in Washington State: 1998 Update OVERVIEW

Key findings from this 1998 update reveal the following:

Arrests and Case Reports

- Arrest rates for both juvenile and adult sex offenders continue to *decline*. The rate change for adults is modest, but the decline in juvenile rates has been dramatic, particularly for sex offenses other than rape.
- The number of cases accepted for investigation by Child Protective Services for suspicion of sexual abuse have remained *stable* since 1995.

Sentencing

- The *majority* of adult sex offenders receive prison sentences.
- Median sentence length for offenders convicted of serious sex offenses has *doubled* since passage of the Community Protection Act of 1990.

Community Treatment for Sex Offenders

- The caseload for juveniles receiving sex offender outpatient treatment sentences (SSODA) has *declined* steadily since 1994.
- The number of adult sex offenders sentenced to a community treatment option (SSOSA) continues to gradually *decline*.

Persistent Offenders

- 32 offenders have been convicted under the “Three Strikes” law for sex offenses; 2 sex offenders have been convicted under the “Two Strikes” law.

Sexually Violent Predators

- Persons designated as sexually violent predators through the civil commitment process represent *less than one percent* of the state’s released sex offenders.

The chart on the following page provides an overview of criminal justice activity related to sex offenders.