

Sex Offender Recidivism in Minnesota – April 2007

- Compared to other offenders, sex offenders are less likely to recidivate in general.
- This study analyzed the impact of treatment and post-release supervision by studying 3,166 sex offenders released from a MCF between 1990 and 2002. The average follow-up period was 8.4 years, with a minimum of three and a maximum of 16. Measured three different ways (rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration for a new crime) and distinguished by the type of reoffense (sex offense, non-sex offense, any offense).
- After three years, seven percent of the 3,166 offenders had been rearrested for a sex offense, six percent reconvicted, and three percent reincarcerated.
- By the end of the follow-up period (an average of 8.4 years for all 3,166 offenders), 12 percent had been rearrested for a sex offense, 10 percent reconvicted, and seven percent reincarcerated.
- Since 1990, the sexual recidivism rate in Minnesota has dropped precipitously, as the three-year sexual reconviction rate for 2002 releasees was 3 percent compared to 17 percent for the 1990 releasees.
- First, the longer offenders are in the community, the more likely they are to remain crime-free. Second, supervision intensity did not have a strong impact on non-sexual reoffending, which constitutes roughly three-fourths of the reoffenses for sex offenders who recidivate. Finally, due to the dramatic decrease in sexual recidivism since the early 1990s, recent sexual reoffense rates have been very low, thus significantly limiting the extent to which sexual reoffending can be further reduced.
- Contrary to popular opinion, sex offenders do not always recidivate. In fact, research has consistently shown that recidivism rates are relatively low for sex offenders. Moreover, when sex offenders recidivate, they are more likely to reoffend with a non-sexual crime.

- Conversely, the risk of reoffense is significantly greater for those who do not complete sex offender treatment (Seager, Jellicoe, and Dhaliwal, 2004).
- Of the offenders who recidivated sexually, most reoffended within the first five years.
- Non-recidivists, on the other hand, were more likely to have completed sex offender treatment.