

## Response to Questions on the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008

**Request By:** Chairman Connolly

**Question:** What are recidivism statistics on sex offenders (comparing youth and adults)?

**Response:** The following response was prepared by the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court (JDRC):

### **Juvenile Sex Offenders**

Statistics on juvenile offenders are fed into the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) database by all localities. Information on recidivism, trends and demographics of offenders is then fed back to the localities as general information. Specific data on recidivism of sex offenders placed on probation but not committed to DJJ is not reported. DJJ does keep data for youth committed to State Juvenile Correctional Facilities that are ordered into sex offender treatment. That data reflects 2 percent of youth who have received sex offender treatment and then were released back to the community (513 youth across the state, between FY 2001 and FY 2006) were convicted of new sex offenses, and the same population had approximately 50 percent recidivism on other criminal charges, after 36 months release from the correctional centers. Please note that youth committed to DJJ correctional facilities have committed multiple offenses, more serious crimes, and are committed when community services have been exhausted.

On a national basis, recidivism by juvenile sex offenders varies widely largely due to the treatment they receive and the scope of the research. Most data available on sex offenders is reported through various studies and research done by individual states and localities through grants. These studies show that individuals that receive treatment earlier in life are less prone to recidivist activities than those not receiving treatment.

The National Center on Sexual Behavior of Youth ([www.ncsby.org](http://www.ncsby.org)) is a national training and technical assistance center developed by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. The current research reflects that, nationally, youth who receive sex offender treatment have a recidivism rate of approximately 8-14 percent.

Youth convicted of sex offenses in Fairfax County are kept on probation supervision for much longer periods of time (1 to 2 years) than general probation for non sex offenders (1 year or less). Currently, approximately 50 youth are on probation supervision. For Fairfax youth convicted of sex offenses, the statistics on recidivism are very limited. The most recent review of recidivism does reflect that approximately 2 percent (one youth) has committed a new sex-related crime once released from supervision. Overall recidivism for all youth on probation is approximately 22 percent (youth convicted of sex offenses is included in this figure.)

In addition, it should be noted that since data on tracking community sex offender probation cases is not kept by DJJ, the County has just begun to track these youth locally and as numbers increase the data will be more significant.

### **Adult Sex Offenders**

The American Psychiatric Foundation is one of many associations that have published research articles on adult sex offender recidivism after treatment.

<http://psychservices.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/content/full/50/3/349>

Studies conducted over a period of years have come to differing conclusions on recidivism rates, based on the psychological profiles of adult offenders as well as the depth and scope of treatment received. However, there seems to be a general consensus that approximately 15-20 percent of adult sex offenders recidivate within a 5 to 10 year period and the longer the time frame the higher the recidivism.

It should be noted that the State Department of Criminal Justice Services does not track recidivism statistics on adult sex offenders once they leave supervision. Given the Board's interest in this issue, JDRC will attempt to track this data for those served locally.