



WASHINGTON STATE

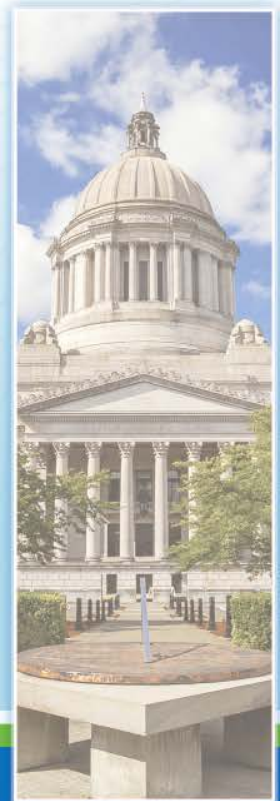
Statistical Analysis Center

Informing a data-driven justice system

Sex Offender Supervision in Washington State

Areas for Improvement and
Recommendations

May 10, 2019



Project Background

- This project was funded by the 2017 SORNA Reallocation Grant awarded to the State by the Department of Justice.
- The purpose of the project was to evaluate Washington's sex offender supervision system and determine areas for improvement.
 - In addition, the group was asked to, where applicable, provide recommendations for improvement.
 - A literature review was also conducted so recommendations would have empirical support.

Areas for Improvement

- How did we define “areas for improvement”?
 - When determining a part of the current system could potentially be improved upon, there needs to be a flaw in the system that:
 - Is costly AND ineffective in promoting public safety and reducing recidivism; or
 - Is ineffective in promoting public safety and reducing recidivism; or
 - If improved upon, could further promote public safety or reduce recidivism.

Project Participants

- Project participants were selected based on their expertise and knowledge of sex offender supervision in Washington State.
 - **Elyse Balmert**
Board Member, ISRB
 - **Jacob Bezanson**
Correctional Program Manager, DOC
 - **Julia Crabbe**
Community Programs Administrator, DSHS
 - **Cathi Harris**
SOTAP Director, DOC
 - **Corey McNally**
SOTAP Quality Assurance Specialist, DOC
 - **Jeff Patnode**
Board Member, ISRB
 - **Mac Pevey**
Assistant Secretary, DOC
 - **Minna Swartz**
SOTAP Community Program Manager, DOC
 - **Hilary Williams**
Community Corrections Specialist, DOC

Presentence Investigations (PSIs)

- Issue:
 - Currently PSIs are underutilized and their value is not always understood. In addition, there is not standardization in PSIs.
- Recommendations:
 - Provide additional training and education both to those completing PSIs and the Courts.
 - Training for those completing PSIs should aid in standardization.
 - If the victim does not participate in the PSI, note the reasoning (could not be reached, did not want to participate, etc.).

Conditions of Supervision

- Issue:
 - Currently, some conditions of supervision are included in the PSI and are seen as “boiler plate” conditions that may not fit every offender, their crime or risk level.
- Recommendation:
 - Conditions of supervision should be based on an offender’s individual risk and needs.

Access to the Odyssey Database

- Issue:
 - There is currently not a universal login for the Odyssey Database, making it difficult for Department of Corrections (DOC) staff to get the documents and information they need.
- Recommendation:
 - Universal logins should be created for appropriate staff.

The Static-99R

- Primary Purpose:
 - to “estimate the relative risk of sexual recidivism based on commonly available demographic and criminal history information” (Hanson, et al., 2016)
- The Static-99R is empirically validated, and the most widely used tool for sex offender recidivism in the world.
 - Empirically validated and approved for use on adult male sex offenders.
 - There is consensus in the field that structured risk assessments are more accurate than “unstructured professional opinion” (Babchishin, Hanson, & Helmus, 2011)

SOTAP Prioritization and Capacity

- Issue:
 - Currently, SOTAP only has the capacity to treat those who score a 3 and higher (above average risk) on the Static-99R.
- Recommendation:
 - Additional treatment provider and resource capacity should be considered for both in-custody offenders and those in the community to treat average risk as well.

Forensic Psychological Evaluations (FPE)

- Issue:
 - The End of Sentence Review Committee (ESRC) may begin the process for release and complete a FPE. If the offender is found to possibly meet 71.09 criteria, they may sit until their Max Date, which may be several years requiring a new FPE.
- Recommendation:
 - There is currently no corresponding recommendation for this area.

Least Restrictive Alternatives (LRA) and Secure Community Transition Facilities (SCTF)

- Issue:
 - When residents release from Pierce County SCTF, there are a few that do not release to step down LRAs. While at SCTF Supervision time runs concurrently with the original cause. This means that some residents are leaving the SCTF with little to no standard supervision time, which could be a concern. In addition, contact standards for residents at the PCSCTF could be reduced even though they are classified “high violent” due to the level of residential supervision they receive and their limited access to the community.
- Recommendation:
 - Work with the SCC to standardize policy relating to step down LRAs, and reduce contact standards for residents placed at the PCSCTF.

Cost of Community Care

- Issue:
 - Some offenders are required to continue treatment once they release to the community. If not in DOC community treatment while in prison, individuals must seek a certified community SOTP to fulfill their Judgement and Sentence. Due to cost to the client, this may not be attainable and cause revocation adjusting the cost back to the state of jail and/or re-incarceration.
 - Some providers also keep their clients longer than empirically based dosage data recommends.
- Recommendation:
 - Consider providing SOTP stipends similar to DOSA.
 - Community providers should be a given a guideline for treatment dosage based on risk score/ notification level.

Community Custody Board Offenders

- Issue:
 - Most CCB offenders who release from prison with serious mental health concerns are not eligible for the ORCS program even though they are unable to function independently in the community. This often leads to a “revolving door” or revocation processes which is costly to the state.
- Recommendation:
 - There is currently no corresponding recommendation for this area.