

Victim Impact: Lifetime Supervision

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KCSARC



Our mission is to give voice to victims, their families, and the community; create change in beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors about violence; and instill courage for people to speak out about sexual assaults.



Our vision is a community free of sexual assault.





In 2023, KCSARC assisted 4,805 survivors and their family members, each with their own story to tell, each with unique and individual needs.



24-hour Resource Line

3,035 callers last year accessed information, crisis support and connection to services by dialing 1.888.99.VOICE.



Trauma-Specific Therapy

Last year, 408 children, teens and adults participated in trauma-specific, evidence-based therapy at KCSARC.



Family Services

Parents of 195 children receiving KCSARC services to help them recover from the trauma of sexual assault learned how to better facilitate their child's healing.



Dando Voz (*Giving Voice*)

608 Spanish-speaking clients accessed culturally relevant therapy, legal advocacy, family education and referrals in 2023.



Legal Advocacy

Our legal advocacy team supported and empowered 2,349 survivors to make decisions right for them as they navigated the complex and challenging legal system.



Client Advocacy Support

Last year, our team of client care specialists responded to and connected 2,198 survivors and their families to specific services to meet their individual needs.

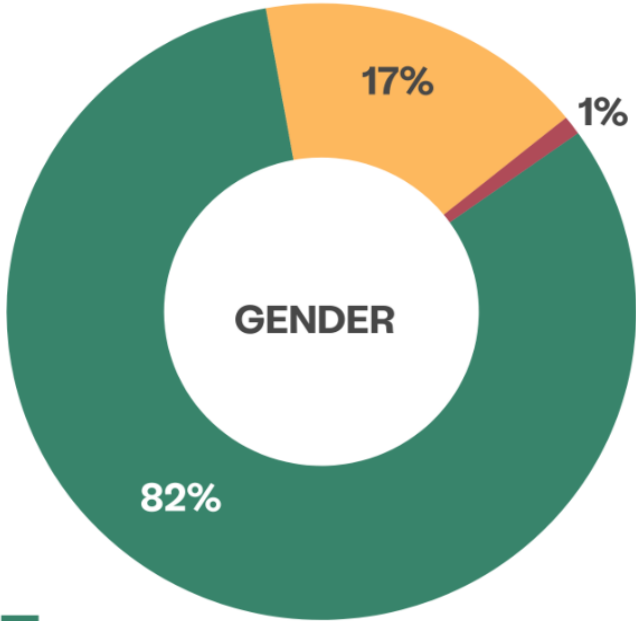


Prevention Education & Outreach

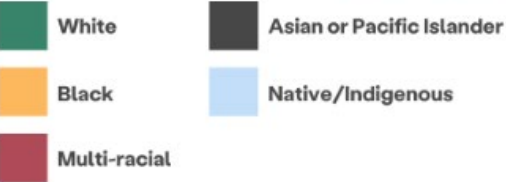
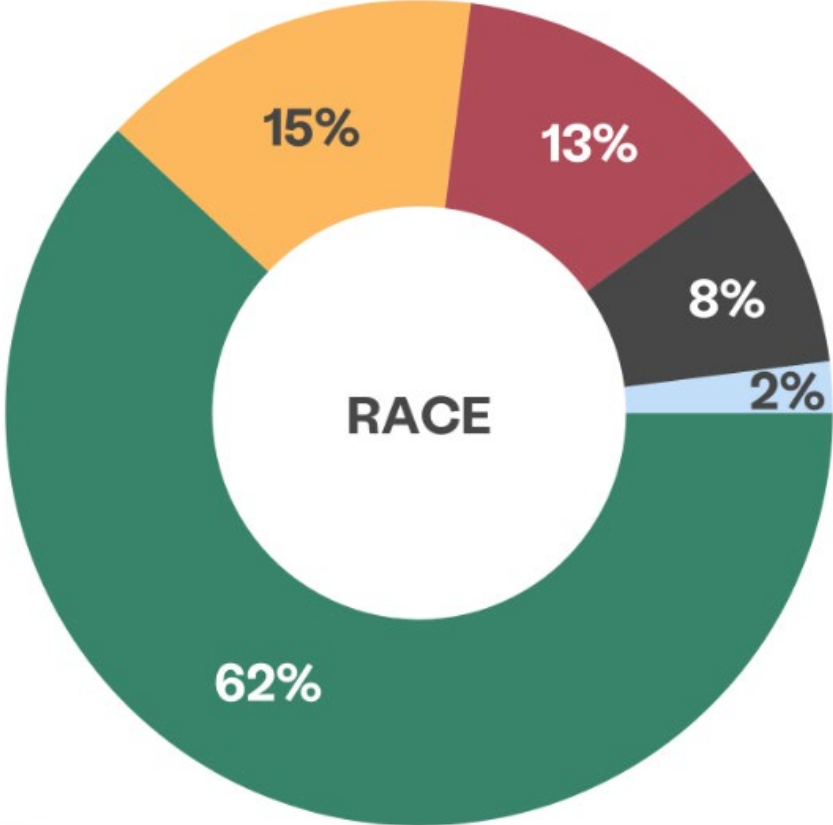
Individuals trained: 5,463
Total reached via digital platforms: 53,176
With every conversation, we're actively ending sexual violence.

Gender and Race

CLIENT GENDER: Most survivors seeking help at KCSARC identify as female, but males and trans/non-binary survivors comprise 18% of clients.



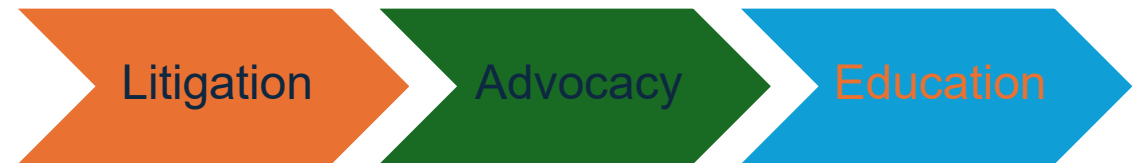
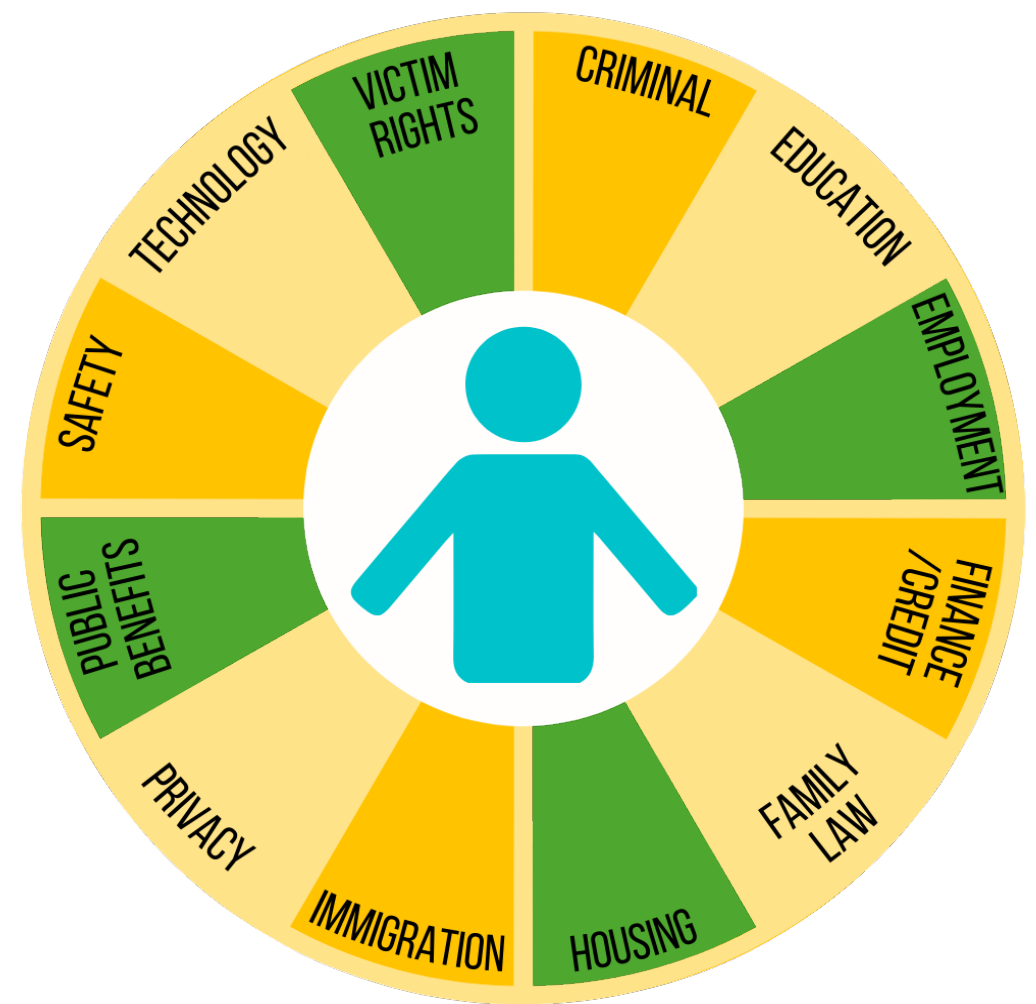
CLIENT RACE





Sexual Violence Law Center

- **Nonprofit Law Firm**
- **Statewide**
- **Legal Representation & Assistance**
- **All ages, All genders**
- **Holistic model**



Sexual Violence
LAW CENTER

- **Statewide Nonprofit Law Firm**
- **All ages, All genders**
- **Holistic model**

Survivor demographics

67% BIPOC

23% LEP

48% Identified disability

Legal Assistance

18-19 legal issues

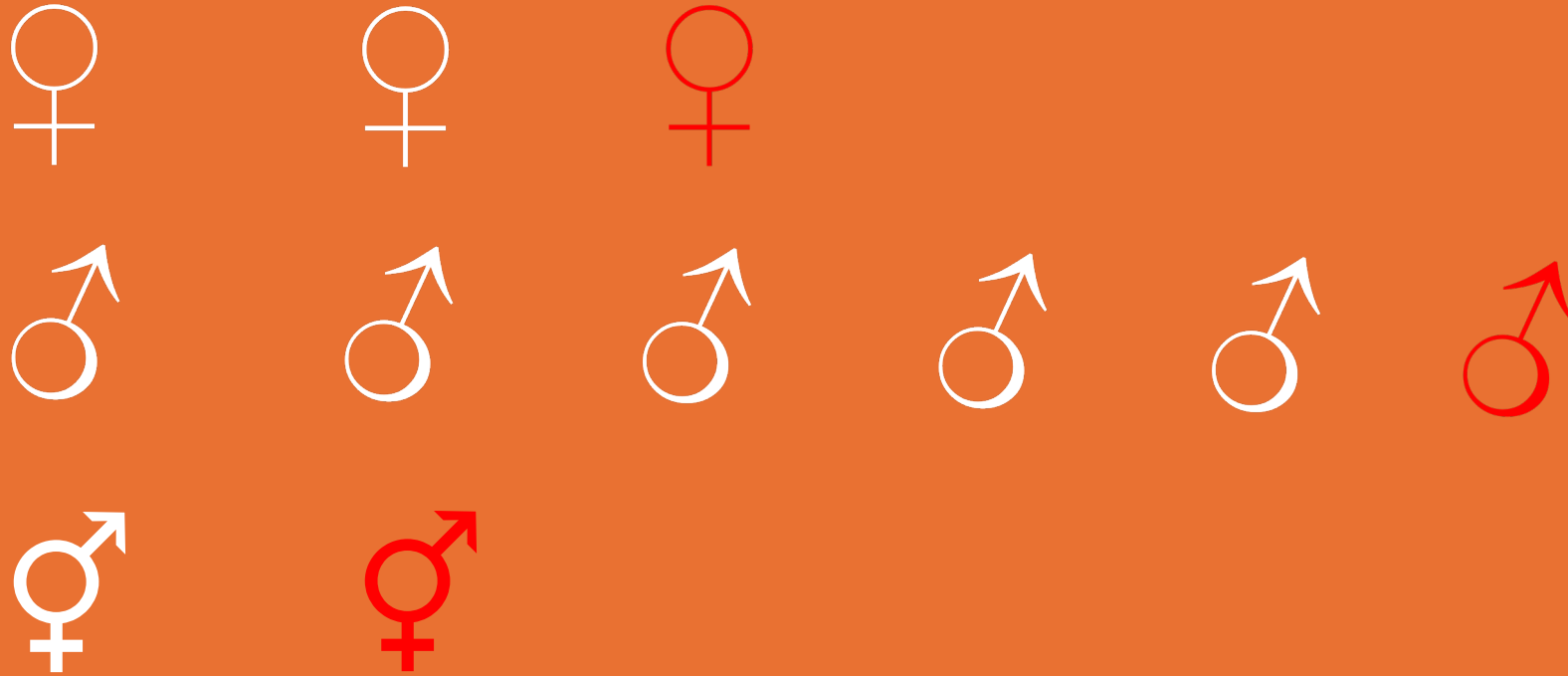
21% criminal case is primary issue

72% criminal case in top 3 issues

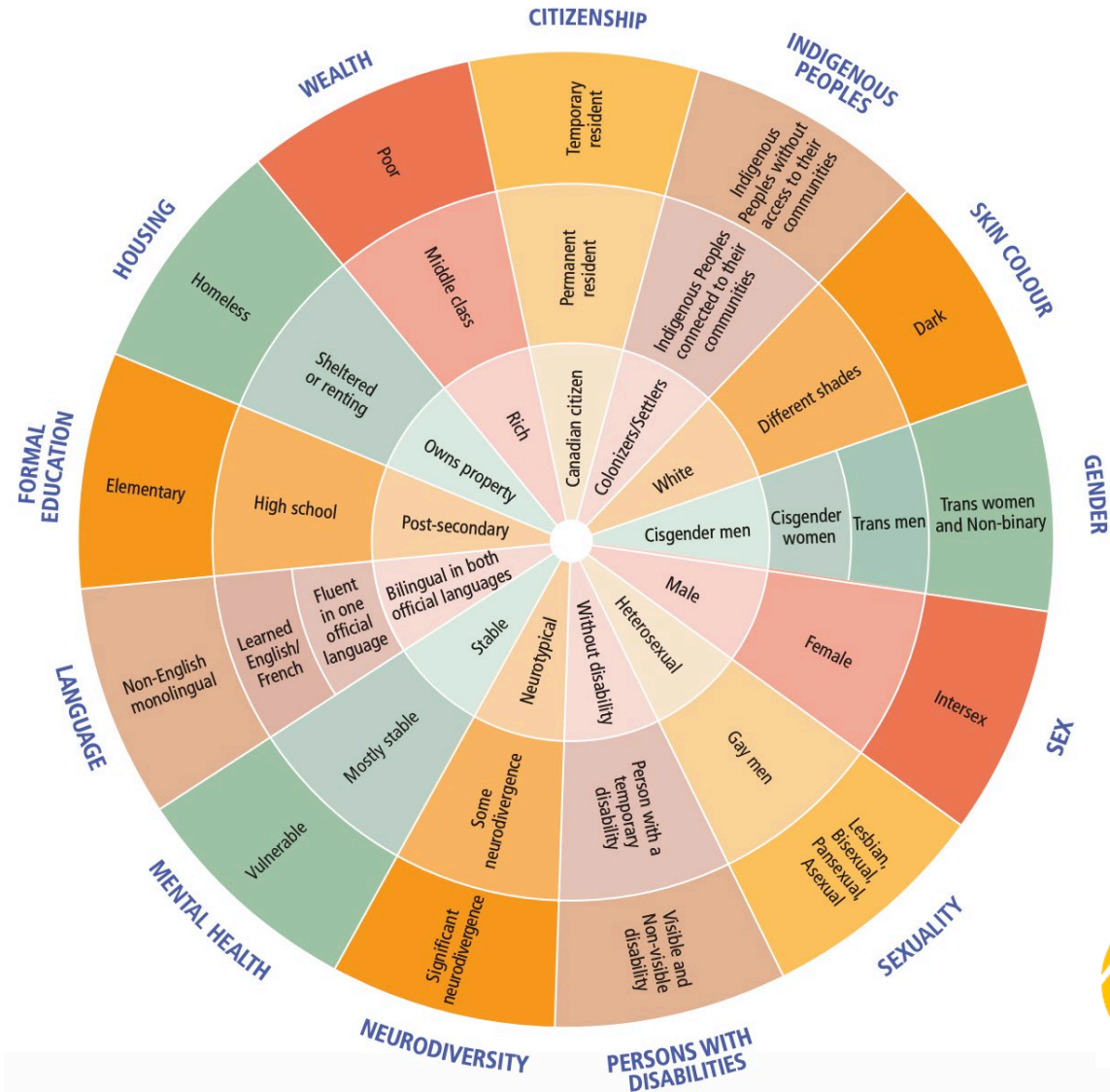


Sexual Violence
LAW CENTER

SURVIVORS AMONG US



Offender Privilege & Survivor Vulnerabilities



Sexual Violence
LAW CENTER

Impact of Trauma

"We have learned that trauma is not just an event that took place sometime in the past; it is also the imprint left by that experience on mind, brain and body. This imprint has ongoing consequences for how the human organism manages to survive the present. Trauma results in a fundamental reorganization of the way mind and brain manage perceptions. It changes not only how we think and what we think about, but also our very capacity to think."

Van der Kolk B. 2014. *The Body Keeps The Score: Brain, Mind and Body in the Healing of Trauma*.

Seriousness of Sexual Violence

WA Legislature has declared:

"Sexual assault is the most heinous crime against another person short of murder. Sexual assault inflicts humiliation, degradation, and terror on victims.....

....Experiencing a sexual assault is itself a reasonable basis for ongoing fear"

RCW 7.105.900(3)(b)

The Vast Majority of Perpetrators Will not Go to Jail or Prison

- Less 1% end in Felony offenses
- 2 out of 3 sexual assaults go unreported

• RAINN

OUT OF EVERY 1,000 SEXUAL ASSAULTS, 975 PERPETRATORS WILL WALK FREE

310 are reported to policeⁱ



50 reports lead to arrestⁱⁱ



28 cases will lead to a felony convictionⁱⁱⁱ



25 perpetrators will be incarceratedⁱⁱⁱ



RAINN

National Sexual Assault Hotline | 800.656.HOPE | online.rainn.org

Please visit rainn.org/statistics/scope-problem for full citation.¹

Victims Who
Seek Justice
Through
the Legal
System Want:

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

ACCOUNTABILITY

MEANINGFUL INTERVENTIONS

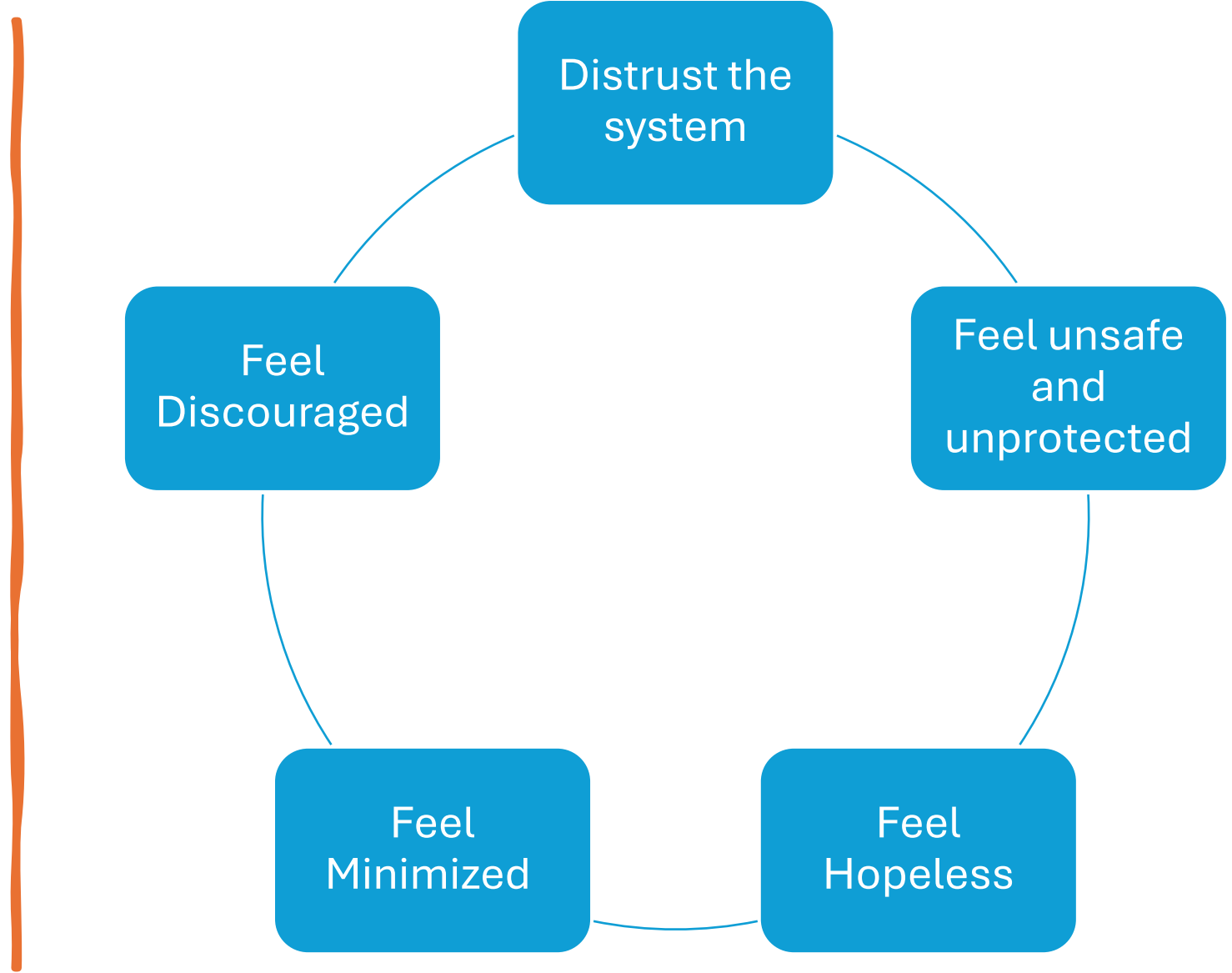
SAFETY AND PROTECTION

PREVENT FUTURE HARM

Trustworthiness of the Legal System

- Justice reform that denies victims involvement erodes trust in the system.
- Law changes that do not include victim input and are dismissive of victim and community need for safety may further impact reporting of sexual violence.

Inequitable
Processes
Cause
Victims to:



Recidivism: What Do We Really Know?

- Most sexual assaults are never reported
- When reported, delayed reporting is the norm
- Most perpetrators are never detected
- The studies rely heavily on information that focuses on a small portion of convicted offenders
- Short term recidivism studies of 3-5 years duration are misleading

Proceed with Caution

- These are Class A Sex Offenses
 - Rape 1, Rape 2, Rape of a Child 1, Rape of a Child 2, Child Molestation 1, and Indecent Liberties with Force
- Many offenders have multiple victims
- Sexual abuse of victims is often not a singular event
- Evaluations often identify many uncharged victims and offenses
- Convictions rarely reflect the seriousness or extent of the sexual offending behavior

Victim to Survivor

Video – see recording

Addressing Unmet Justice Needs

Automated relief denies victim opportunity to have input and ignores the unique impacts of sexual violence and the covert nature of sexual offending

Current ISRB process acknowledges notification process and victim engagement is minimal

Current ISRB Process for release from prison is unclear how victim input is considered in decision making.

HB 2178 - decision to relieve offenders from lifetime supervision does not currently include victim input, nor community or prosecution input in that decision.

Recommendations

- Decision for relief from Lifetime Supervision should go back to the judge like a request for relief of registration.
- Allow victims to be included in every step of the process

Priorities

Victim input should be "greatly weighed"

Recent Risk Assessment and Evaluation

Successful completion of Sex Offender Tx and other court ordered treatment

SSOSA

Sex offenders who have been granted a SSOSA alternative and complete SSOSA successfully have shown lowest rates of observed recidivism.



Allowing for SSOSA defendants to request relief of lifetime supervision after at a **minimum 10yrs**, allows the defendant to show rehabilitation not only while in structured treatment and supervision, but also an additional time post treatment to exhibit their ability to manage and maintain in the community offense free.

Additional Recommendations:

Level 1 offenders are considered lower risk and may be appropriate to petition for relief of supervision if they have remained offense free for 10yrs AND offenders are able to show they have met clearly defined criteria.



Level 2 offenders may be appropriate for a 'Step down model' after 10yrs to allow defendants to show continued compliance and desistance with less structured support.



Level 3 sex offenders pose the highest risk for re-offense and lifetime supervision is necessary and important in ensuring community safety.

Want Restorative Practices?

- **EXPAND CAPACITY** for full treatment to individuals in prison who score a one or higher on the Static 99 at intake.
- “ Stakeholders, including courts, prosecutors, and defense attorneys, should be provided with education regarding the **potential reductions in recidivism that may be jeopardized if treatment is not received in prison.**” *Sex Offender Supervision in Washington State and Areas for Improvement- Washington State Statistical Analysis Center 2020*
- **Allow Victims to be involved every step of the process**

Survivor Testimony

- Senate Law and Justice Hearing
“Lynne”



Betrayal

- Victims experience betrayal by the offenders who rape, molest and harm them.
- Many have also been betrayed by their communities who often have not believed them, or minimized or enabled the abuse they experienced.

If victims cannot trust the decisions in the legal system to have finality, where changes are made without their input, where the experience of sexual violence is minimized by the individuals entrusted to protect them; victims increasingly ask **why bother?**

“Survivors tell us what they want.
We should listen.”

–Alexandra Brodsky, *Sexual Justice*
