

MYTH 3
working with this population automatically makes me liable for what they might do

- disclaimer: this is not legal advice - talk over your individual situation with a lawyer

General rule: you are not liable for acts another person commits against a third party

Exception: when a special relationship exists between you and the third party

Example: landlord duty to other tenants

negligence standard: "knew or should have known" based upon details of prior offenses: recency, location, clear patterns of behavior

+ mental health workers: if you have the ability to control the person you may have a duty toward "foreseeable victims"

MYTH 4
we are pretty good at judging/sorting people

PREDICTIVE ACCURACY

Low risk: weak association w/ good & bad outcomes

Moderate Risk Assessment (MARA) (NATC-100)

High risk: strong association w/ good & bad outcomes

Factors associated with low risk:

- stable mental illness
- powerful victim support
- lack of motivation for treatment

Factors associated with moderate risk:

- recent incarceration
- lifestyle impairing
- operational coping
- structural congruence with children
- history of violence
- negative social influences
- lack of immediately intimate relationships with adults

Factors associated with high risk:

- history of violence
- history of sexual offenses
- history of sexual offenses
- history of sexual offenses

Stability and Decision

Stability and Decision

Practical Advice...

unless you consumed a sex offense

RAISE AWARENESS

Adopt a Multi-disciplinary Approach With Partners

SEX OFFENDERS

Be Mindful of Your Language

Deviance vs. Recidivism

Stability and Decision

Stability and Decision

MYTH 1
It's Just A Matter of Time Before They Do It Again

Percentage of sex offenders who re-offend within 10 years

Percentage of sex offenders who do not re-offend within 10 years

Stability and Decision

Stability and Decision

Stability and Decision

Stability and Decision

Stability and Decision

Stability and Decision

Myths and Practical Tips About Working With Persons with Sex Offense History

MYTH 1

It's Just A Matter of Time Before They Do It Again

US DOJ (SMART Office):

Wide majority are never rearrested for a sex offense (76% not rearrested for sex offense after 15 years)

<https://ojp.gov/smart/SMART/SMART/SMART.html>

"Low risk" are just as likely to be arrested for a sex offense as anyone else with criminal history (1-3%)

Hanson, Harris, Helmus, Thornton 2013. *High Risk Sex Offenders May Not Be High Risk Forever*

Even within the STATIC-99R "high risk/need" comparison sample, no score has a predicted recidivism rate over 50%

"High risk" do not remain "high risk" forever...risk is cut in half for every 5 years crime-free.

Hanson, Harris, Helmus, Thornton 2013. *High Risk Sex Offenders May Not Be High Risk Forever*

100
87.5
75
62.5
50
37.5
25
12.5
0



Bureau of Justice Statistics: 3 year follow-up

- sex offense re-arrest
- property crime re-arrest
- drug crime re-arrest

US DOJ (SMART Office):

Wide majority are never rearrested for a sex offense (76% not rearrested for sex offense after 15 years)

https://ojp.gov/smart/SOMAPI/exec_summ.html

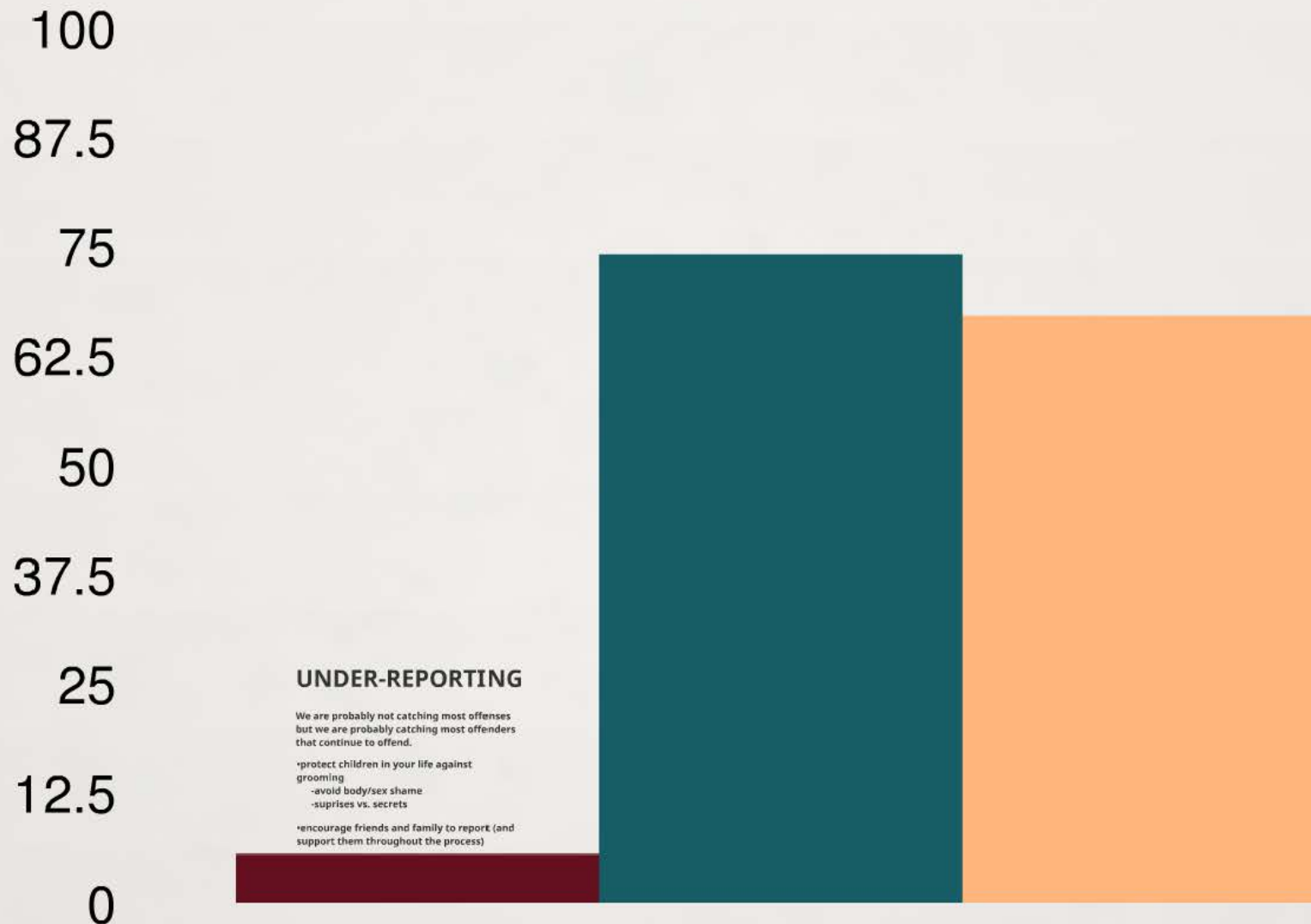
**"Low risk" are just as likely
to be arrested for a sex
offense as anyone else
with criminal history (1-3%)**

**Hanson, Harris, Helmus, Thornton 2013. *High
Risk Sex Offenders May Not Be High Risk Forever***

**Even within the STATIC-99R
"high risk/need" comparison
sample, no score has a
predicted recidivism rate
over 50%**

**"High risk" do not remain
"high risk" forever...risk is
cut in half for every 5 years
crime-free.**

Hanson, Harris, Helmus, Thornton 2013. *High Risk Sex Offenders May Not Be High Risk Forever*



Bureau of Justice Statistics: 3 year follow-up

- sex offense re-arrest
- property crime re-arrest
- drug crime re-arrest

UNDER-REPORTING

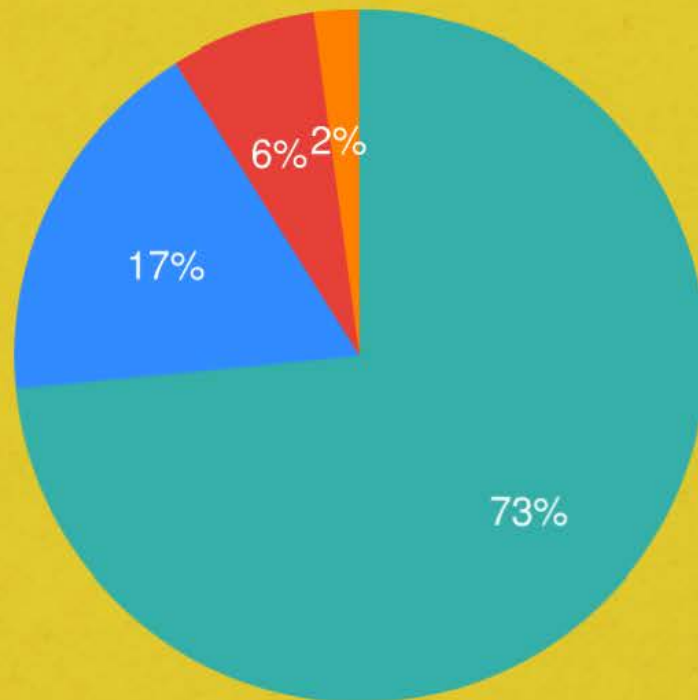
We are probably not catching most offenses but we are probably catching most offenders that continue to offend.

- **protect children in your life against grooming**
 - **avoid body/sex shame**
 - **surprises vs. secrets**
- **encourage friends and family to report (and support them throughout the process)**

MYTH 2

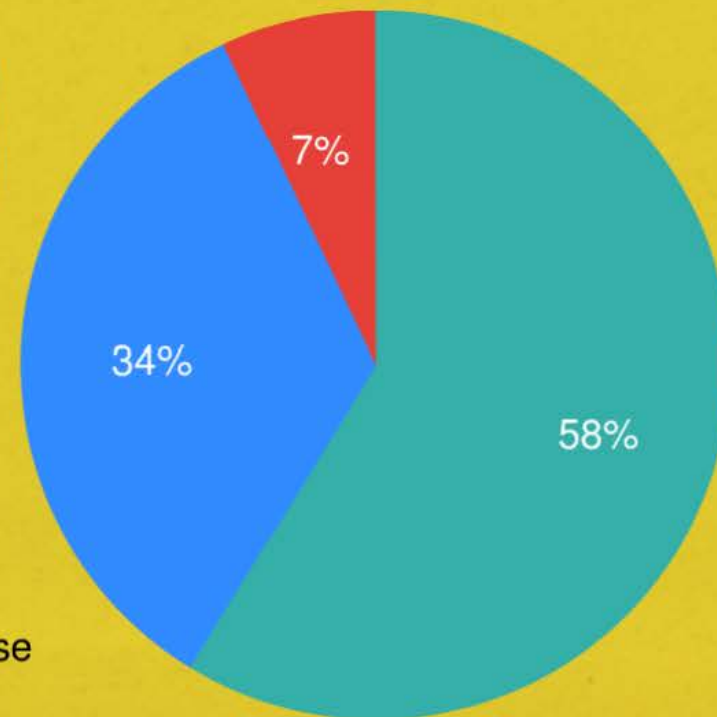
offenses are usually committed by strangers lurking in the shadows

Offenses Against Adults



- non-stranger first arrest
- stranger first offense
- stranger re-offense
- non-stranger re-offense

Offenses Against Minors



- acquaintance
- family member
- stranger

MYTH 3

working with this population automatically makes me liable for what they might do

**- disclaimer: this is not legal advice -
talk over your individual situation with a lawyer**

General rule: you are not liable for acts another person commits against a third-party

Exception: when a special relationship exists between you and the third-party

Example: landlord duty to *other tenants*

negligence standard: "knew or should have known" based upon details of prior offense(s): recency, location, clear patterns of behavior

*** mental health workers:** if you have the ability to control the person you may have a duty toward "foreseeable victims" *

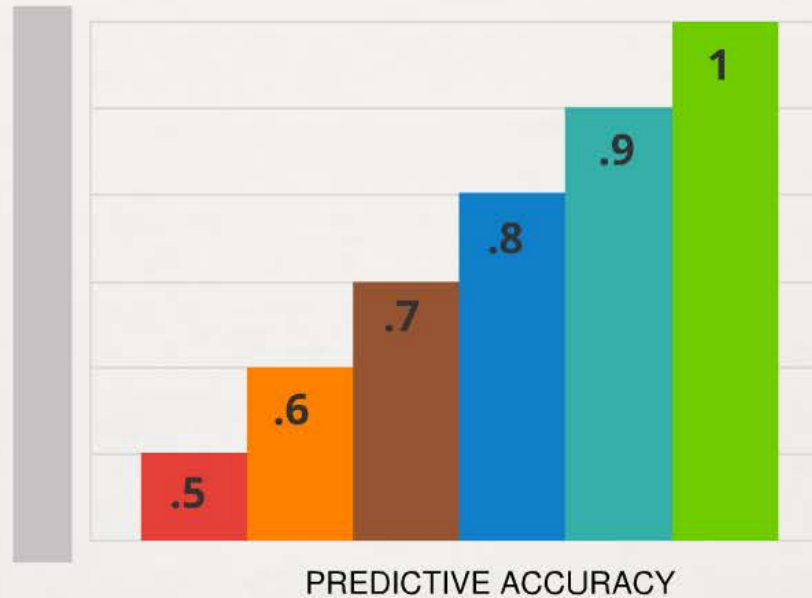


none
denial
major mental i
poor victim emp
lack of motivati
weak/moderate
sexual preoccupa
lifestyle impulsiv
dysfunctional cop
emotional congru
hostility towards v
negative social infl
lack of emotionally

[Mann, Hanson, Thornt
Some Proposals on the N

MYTH 4

we are pretty good at judging/sorting people



none

denial

major mental illness

poor victim empathy

lack of motivation for treatment

weak/moderate

sexual preoccupation

lifestyle impulsivity

dysfunctional coping

emotional congruence with children

hostility towards women

negative social influences

lack of emotionally intimate relationships with adults

● none ● weak ● moderate ● good ● strong ● perfect

moderate

Risk Assessment

Instruments

(STATIC-99R)

[Mann, Hanson, Thornton 2010. *Assessing Risk for Sexual Recidivism: Some Proposals on the Nature of Psychologically Meaningful Risk Factors*]

MYTH 5

I protect my family and community by making people with sex offense history pariahs



housing



community



education/up-skilling



employment



emotional intimacy

Stability and Desistance

Practical Advice...



* unless you committed a sex offense



Be Mindful of Your Language

Desistance vs Recidivism



Adopt a Multi-disciplinary Approach
With Partners



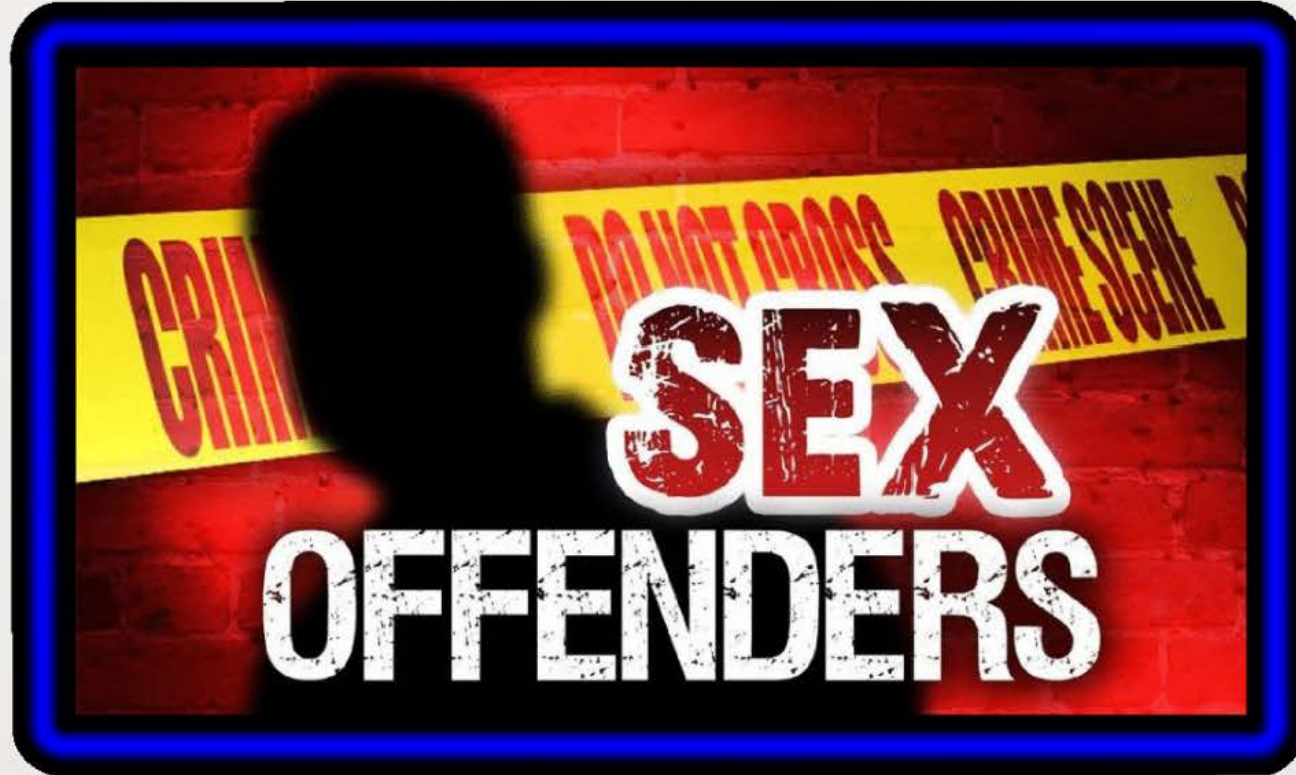
*** unless you committed a sex offense**



Defense



**Adopt a Multi-disciplinary Approach
With Partners**



Be Mindful of Your Language

Desistance vs Recidivism

Personal Safety



- **Be informed**
- **Demand transparency from referring partners**
- **Practice good client safety skills**

Change the Dialogue: Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA)



CoSAs show the greatest promise in effectively managing individuals deemed "high risk."

**Help Redirect Public Energies Toward
Meaningful, Positive Solutions**

Andrew Morrison

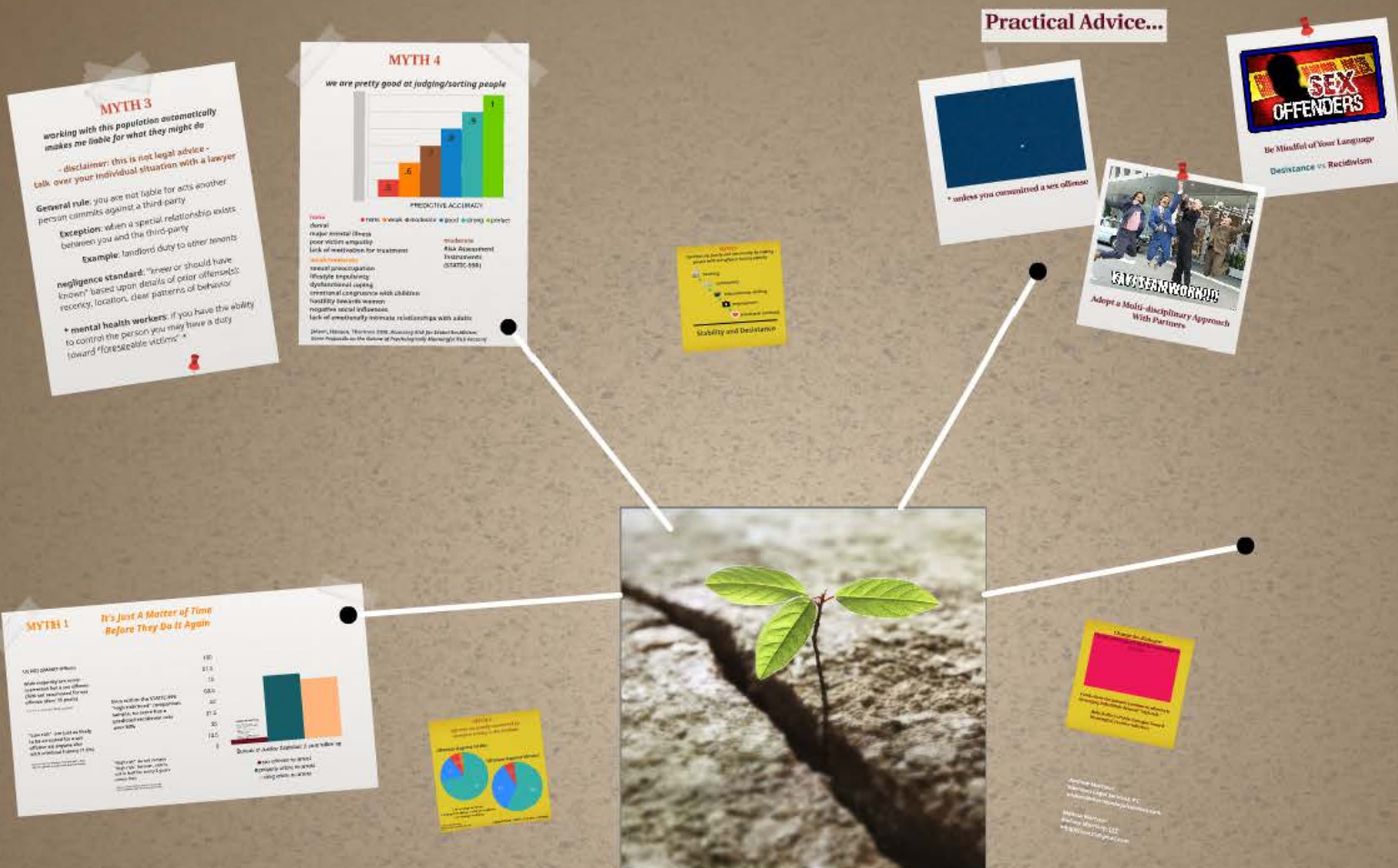
Morrison Legal Services, P.C.

andrew@morrisonlegalservices.com

Melissa Morrison

Melissa Morrison, LLC

mlmorrison25@gmail.com



Myths and Practical Tips About Working With Persons with Sex Offense History