

Sex Offender Residency Restrictions: Protecting One Neighborhood at the Expense of Yours

Out of a population of 42,378, there are 106 registered offenders in Concord—this is a ratio of **1 in 400**.
Out of a population of 109,497, there are 233 registered offenders in Manchester—this is a ratio of **1 in 470**.
(source: <http://www.citypopulation.de/USA-NewHampshire.html>, New Hampshire Department of Safety)

We have fewer sex offenders per capita in Manchester than they have in Concord—and if Concord doesn't need residency restrictions, why do we?

THE BEST METHOD FOR PREVENTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IS YOU

Being aware and educating yourself about offenders in the neighborhood, and the signs of abuse, are your first and best lines of defense! There is no law or ordinance known to man that can stop an offender from finding a victim, but **YOU** can—by being vigilant and educating yourself, your neighbors, and others around you.

According to a comprehensive 1994 Department of Justice study on sex offenders:—

- Of the 9,691 male sex offenders released from prisons in fifteen states in 1994, **5.3% were rearrested for a new sex crime within 3 years of release.**
- Of released sex offenders who allegedly committed another sex crime, **40%** perpetrated the new offense within a year or less from their prison discharge.
- Approximately 4,300 child molesters were released from prisons in 15 states in 1994. **An estimated 3.3% of these 4,300 were rearrested for another sex crime against a child within 3 years of release from prison.**

In 1994, released prisoners with the highest rearrest rates were robbers (70.2%), burglars (74.0%), larcenists (74.6%), motor vehicle thieves (78.8%), those in prison for possessing or selling stolen property (77.4%), and those in prison for possessing, using, or selling illegal weapons (70.2%).

70% of adult victims say they were abused by someone they know.

90% of child victims say they were abused by someone they know. (source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2000)

75% of sex offenses occur in the victim's own home. (source: Snyder & Sickmund, 2006)

How would residency restrictions stop abuse before it happens... if it is happening within the home?

After the state of Iowa enacted a 2,000-foot residency restriction statewide in 2006 (with numerous cities and towns enacting their own ordinances that went farther than the state law) the *New York Times* reported:—

Of the more than 6,000 people on Iowa's registry of sex offenders, **400** are now listed as "whereabouts unconfirmed" or living in "non-structure locations" (like tents, parking lots, or rest areas). Last summer [2005], the number was **140**.

Residency restrictions will drive more sex offenders underground, where they cannot be tracked.

(source: <http://travel.nytimes.com/2006/03/15/national/15offenders.html>)

Studies for the Colorado Department of Public Safety in 2004 and the Minnesota Department of Corrections in 2003 have suggested that **where an offender lives appears to have no bearing on whether he commits another sex crime against a child.** The Minnesota study also found that **a sex offender was more likely to travel to another neighborhood to seek victims without being recognized.**

Ask yourself: Do you want to create any more undesirable sections of Manchester, than those that already exist?

Ask yourself: How are those that will be living in the proposed "sex offender-safe zones" any better-equipped to deal with sex offenders in their midst than the "off-limits" zones?

...Do you know where your neighborhood falls within the proposed areas?