



King County
Sexual Assault
Resource Center

END THE SILENCE



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THE TEAM APPROACH

**COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION IN COLLABORATION WITH
LAW ENFORCEMENT & VICTIM SERVICES**

AGENDA

- Introduction
- SMART and Comprehensive Approaches to Sex Offender Management
- General Format of Community Notification Meetings
- Differences between Community Notification and Community Education
- Resources
- Next Steps

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM

“A group of community members from various specialties and backgrounds, working together toward a common goal.”

CSOM identifies nine disciplines:

- Law enforcement
- Community corrections
- Institutional corrections
- Parole
- Defense
- Prosecution
- Courts
- Sex offender treatment providers
- Victim advocacy

A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO USING AN MDT MODEL

The responsibility for sex offender management cannot rest solely on a single agency or discipline. Collaborative relationships are imperative to an efficient and effective sex offender management system.

You are a key partner in this effort.

ROLE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law enforcement officers have a leading role in responding to and investigating sex crimes, and remain actively involved in partnerships through the system as a means for ongoing management and prevention efforts.

A COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION MDT MODEL





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WHAT IS THE “INTENT” OF A COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION MEETING:

**LET’S MAKE A QUICK LIST OF YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS
QUESTION**

COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION LEGISLATIVE INTENT

RCW 4.24.550

“Public agencies are authorized to release information to the public regarding sex offenders and kidnapping offenders when the agency determines that disclosure of the information is relevant and necessary to protect the public and counteract the danger created by the particular offender.”

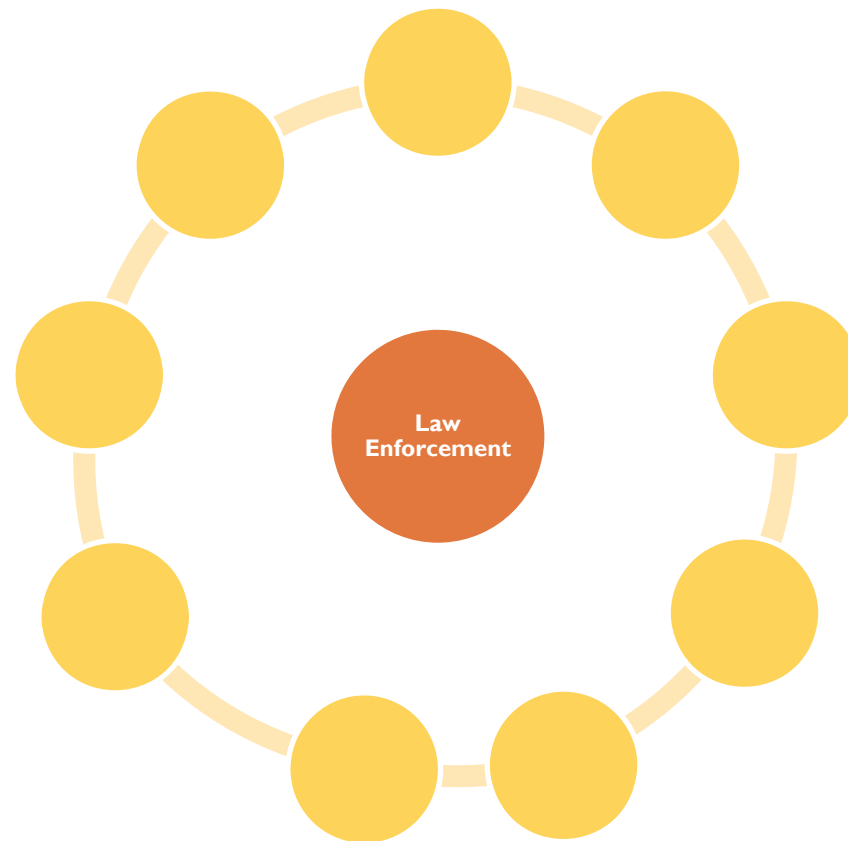
CONDUCTING A COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION MEETING

- Identify your MDT to help prepare and present
- Essential meeting outline, step-by-step tasks contained within WASPC Model Policy p22-30
- Identify specific sex offender information relevant and necessary to protect the public...
- Anticipate Community Concerns and Questions

STRENGTH OF MDT

- MDT members, when all present or in coordination with partners, can handle the difficult questions and concerns voiced by the community
- Anticipate questions of community:
 - Location? Supervision? Crime committed? Treatment? Risk to Reoffend?
- Opportunity to enhance a community notification meeting with aspects of community education utilizing an MDT approach

YOUR MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM?



WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION MEETINGS?

IT COMES DOWN TO JUST TWO THINGS:

1. Emotions
2. Connection

THE EMOTIONS IN THE ROOM

- It is the “elephant in the room” that isn’t talked about but it is present.
- Knowledge does not change emotions.
- Some of the reasons why fear and anger are in the room.

SOME SIMPLE IDEAS:

Things to not say:

- “I hate sex offenders, too.”
- “If it were up to me _____.”
- “I know how you feel.”
- “Yes, even sex offenders have rights.”

Things to say:

- “If you see something suspicious, call.”
- “This does not have to be the end of the conversation. Here is my card.”
- “I hear your frustration.”

LET'S TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE DIFFERENCES:

– Community Notification

- Information about a specific offender in a community forum format
- Community notification is limited in scope and presenters but burden is put upon law enforcement to “know it all”

– Community Education

- Prevention approach to sexual assault using an MDT approach
- Multiple MDT members present to address immediate questions and concerns of community.
- Ability to address myth and to refer to appropriate services or follow-up.

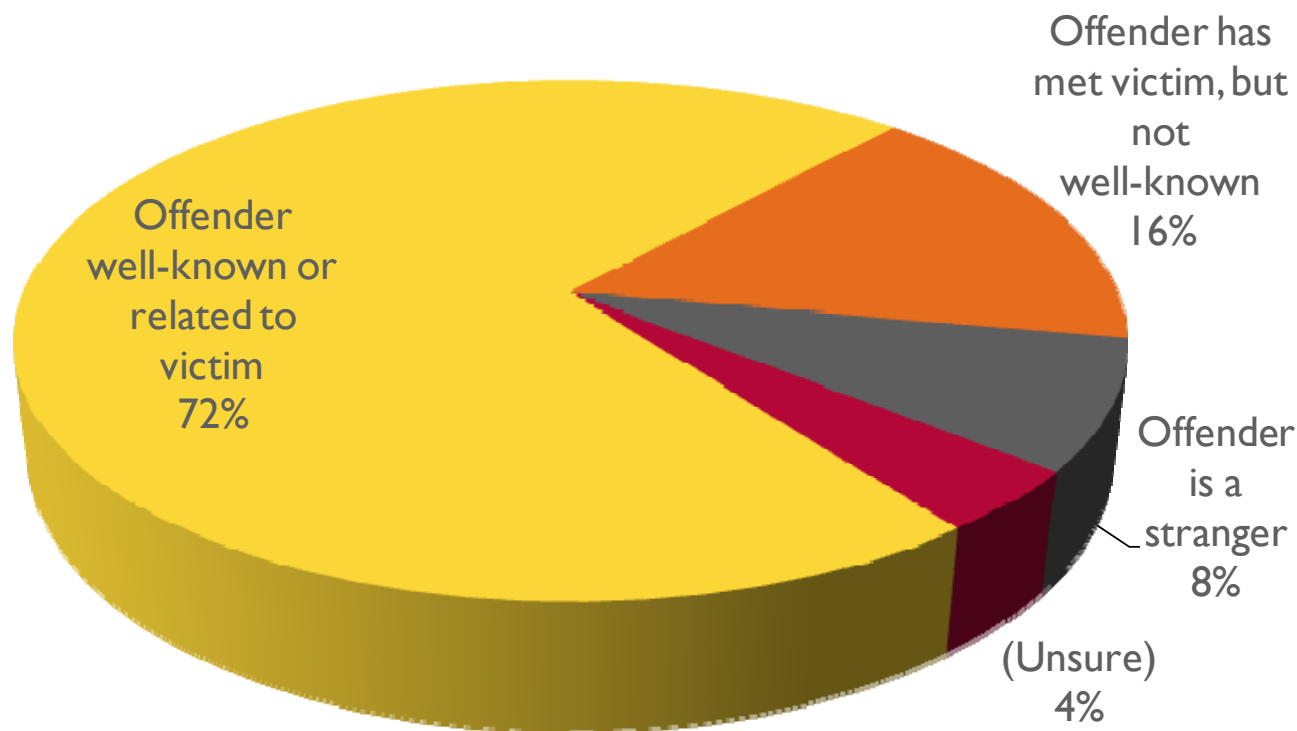


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SOME INTERESTING FACTS:

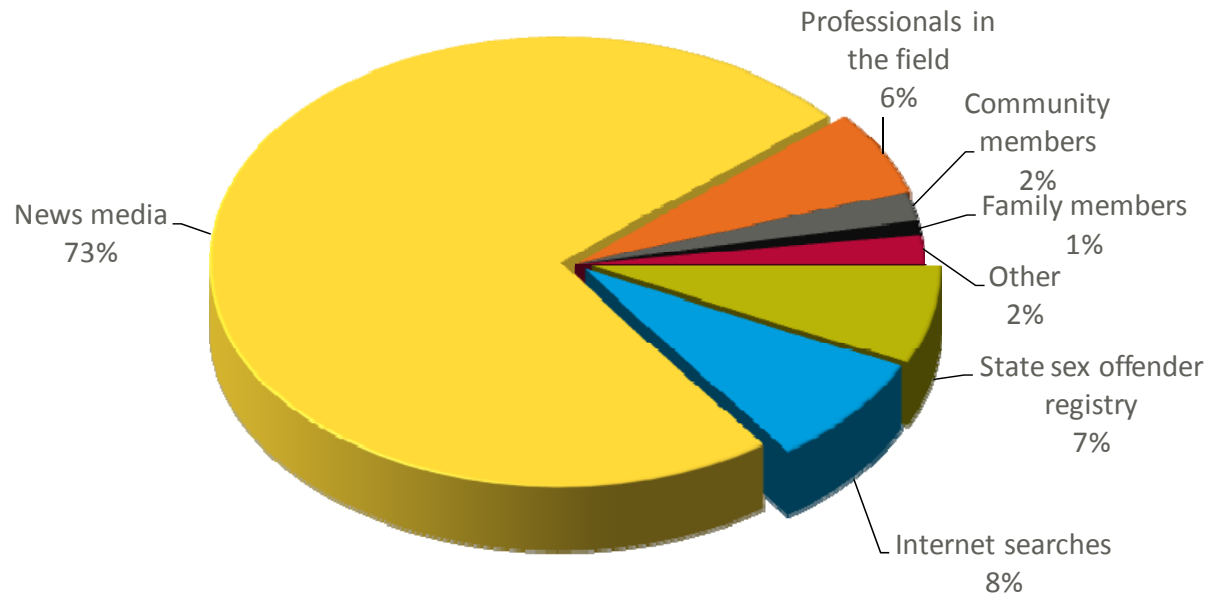
**RESULTS FROM THE PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY BY THE
CENTER FOR SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT (CSOM)**

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ABOUT SEX OFFENDERS WHO VICTIMIZE CHILDREN DO YOU THINK IS MOST TRUE?

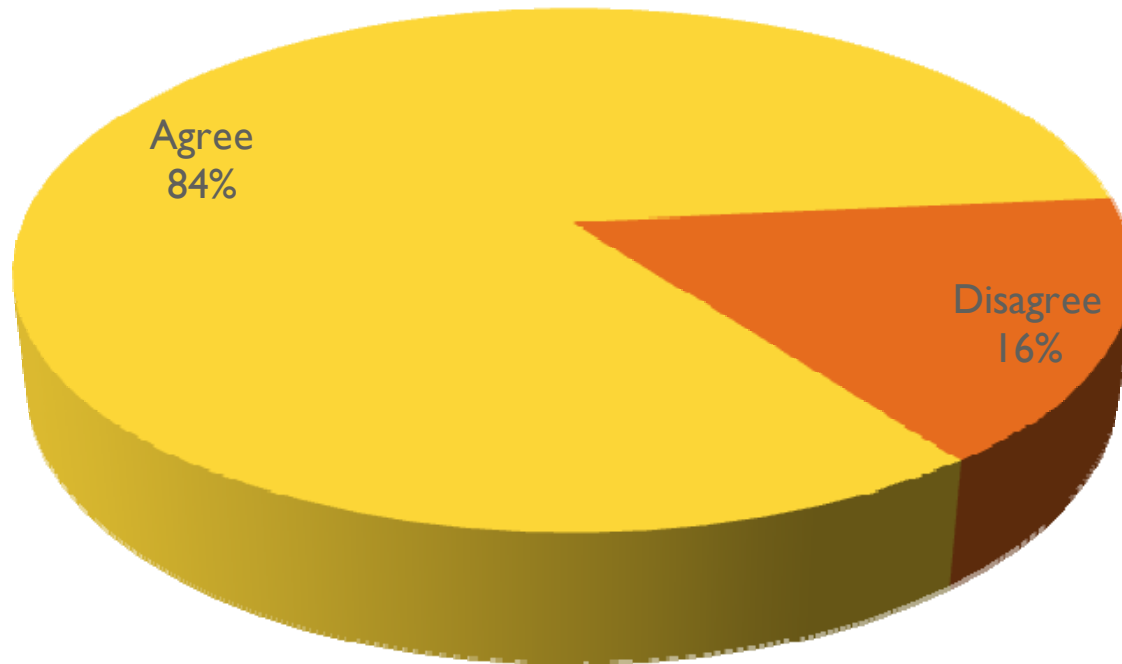


(CSOM, 2010)

FROM WHAT SOURCE HAVE YOU RECEIVED MOST OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT SEX OFFENDERS?



I WANT MORE INFORMATION THAN I HAVE NOW ABOUT THE WAYS THAT SEX OFFENDING CAN BE PREVENTED IN MY OWN COMMUNITY



(CSOM, 2010)



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COMMUNITY EDUCATION MEETING

**SOME UNIQUE IDEAS THAT WE HAVE FOUND ARE
EFFECTIVE**

MOST IMPORTANTLY.....

Share information that helps to dispel myths about sex offenders and about victimization

Spend a short time talking about the complexity of the issue of victimization and sex offender management.

- There is no one solution to this social problem.
- There is no way we can have no more victims without the involvement from everyone.
- Laws and incarceration will not stop this social issue. We also need to find ways to prevent and that is where the community has a role as well as the members of the MDT.



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FACTS ON SEX OFFENDERS

**SOME INFORMATION THAT HELPS TO ADDRESS THE SEX
OFFENDER MYTH THAT ALL SEX OFFENDERS ARE THE
SAME**

SEX OFFENDERS ARE A DIVERSE POPULATION

- What they “look like” varies
- What they “do” varies
- Who they target varies
- Why they do it varies
- Their risk to recidivate varies



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FACTS ON VICTIMS

**SOME INFORMATION ON THE COMPLEX ISSUE OF
VICTIMIZATION TO ADDRESS THE COMMON MYTH;
“IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN TO ME OR MY FAMILY BECAUSE I DON’T
ASSOCIATE WITH SEX OFFENDERS.”**

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT VICTIMIZATION

- 44% of victims are under the age 18.
- Sixty percent of rapes go unreported.
- More than 50% of all rape/sexual assault incidents reported by victims have occurred within a one-mile radius of their home or in their home.
- Approximately 2/3 of assaults are committed by someone known to the victim.

RESOURCES FOR YOU

– SMART and SAFE Action Awareness Team

- Presentations/trainings
- Consultations
- Information
- Website

MY CONTACT INFORMATION

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Q AND A

- **Please ask me questions...**
- **Some questions to you:**
 - From your perspective, what in the sex offender management system needs changing?
 - What are some shortcomings of the sex offender management system that you see from your role/position?