An Exploration of the Offending Behavior or Sex Offenders: Summary of Findings

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Sample Characteristics

- 244 Registered Sex Offenders - Phoenix
- Predominantly White (64.3%)
- Predominantly Male (98.8%)
- 57% Level II Offenders
- 43% Level III Offenders
- 62.3% on Probation
- Average Age of First Arrest for Any Offense = 26.27
Offending Prior to Registration

- Average lapse of 4.03 years between first arrest and registration arrest
- Average lapse of 6.76 years between registration arrest and actual registration
- Average lapse of 6.03 between conviction of original registration offense and registration
Offense Type: Prior to Registration

- “Other” (non-sex offense) most common arrest offense followed by property offenses and child sex offenses.
- Least common charges were for violent, sexual assault, and drug offenses.
- Lease common Departmental Record (DR) offense types were sexual assault, other sex offenses, and drug offenses.
Offense Type: Leading to Registration

- Most common: sexual assault/rape, child molestation, sexual conduct with a minor
- Least common: commercial exploitation of a minor, sexual assault of a spouse, public sex/indecency
Offense Type: After Registration

- **Most Common (Charge and DR):**
  - "other," property offenses
  - Other sexual offenses was third most common when measured by "charge"
  - Violent offenses was third when measured by "DR"

- **Least Frequent (Charge and DR):**
  - sexual assault and child sexual offenses
  - Drug offenses was third when measured by "DR"
  - Violent offenses was third when measured by "charge"
Post Registration Arrests

- 114 out of 244 offenders were arrested at least once after registration and produced 463 arrests.
- The average number of arrests was 1.90 and the median was 0.
- The average was 4.06 when only those with at least one arrest are considered.
Post Registration Charges

- Re-offender accounted for 775 charges
- 48% felony charges and 52% misdemeanor charges
- About 20% had sex offense charges after initial registration
Post Registration Departmental Reports (DRs)

- 104 offenders had post-registration DRs and accounted for 399 DRs
- Just over 11% had a sex offense-related DR after registration
Re-offending Rates

- Arrest rate after = # of arrests registration to end of data collection/time of registration to end of data collection
- Overall rate is .35 offenses per year
- Sex offenses re-offending is low ranging from .01 (child sex) to .06 (other sex offense) per year
- Age at first arrest, age at conviction, and # of arrests are strongest predictors of re-offending.
- However, offense history, offender demographics, and case processing information are poor predictors of sex offending recidivism