

Community Treatment Issues

~ housing, employment and positive support systems

- Once convicted, offenders are often given Department of Corrections commitments and incarcerated. A number of those offenders (not placed on Intensive Supervision Program or on probation) are sent to the Missoula Assessment Sanction Center (MASC).
- At MASC, staff screen and assess offenders for possibility of a community placement. Options include (from most to least restrictive placements):
 - Transfer/Override to the Montana State Prison
 - Treasure State Correctional Training Center (TSCTC) or “Boot Camp”
 - Pre-release Centers (PRCs)
 - Intensive Supervision Program (ISP)
 - Conditional Release/Interstate Compacts
- For those who have to register as a sexual offender, who need chemical dependency treatment at an in-patient level of care, and who are incarcerated there is one in-patient chemical dependency program, outside of the prison, that takes a person convicted of a sexual offense.
- **Three (3)** out of the six pre-release centers in the state are willing to accept sexual offenders.
- Attempts to place an offender in the community once convicted, without a pre-release or a housing option, is extremely limited (e.g., limited housing options, often cannot return to living with family due to presence of children in the home). Most offenders have to find private landlords to rent to them, as the vast majority of rental companies deny them. A number of these landlords who rent to offenders often charge exorbitant rent. Sexual offenders cannot collect/live in federally subsidized housing, even if they have children.
- According to the Montana National Coalition for Homelessness & HUD, Montana’s Homeless Population for 2014 was less than 1%. During a conversation with staff at the SVOR on 11/23/15, a tally was taken of all current registered sexual offenders in the state (2449), of that approximately **19% were registered as transient** or “cannot offer a permanent address.”
- Often work low-wage jobs/having to start their careers over due to loss of trade because of offense. Offenders can also experience difficulties finding job due to geographic restrictions. Low wage jobs/underemployment + restrictive housing/distorted housing costs = risk for homelessness.
- Challenges of reintegrating back into society based on stigma and community perceptions (difficulty building positive support system). This is where on-going community education is critical.

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PLACEMENT STATISTICS

Missoula Assessment Sanction Center (MASC)

During the 2014 - 2015 FY, MASC accepted 22 (4.3%) offenders who received sexual offender services*. Of these offenders:

- 18.2% (4) released to Missoula Pre-release Center
- 9% (2) released to Billings Pre-release Center
- 4.5% (1) released to Connections Corrections with a PRC to follow
- 4.5% (1) discharged to balance suspended

A total of 36% of offenders were released to a “community placement.”

The remaining **64%** were transferred to the Montana State Prison.

* = All sexual offenders who enter the facility are screened by a MSOTA clinician.

Missoula Pre-release Center (MPRC)

MPRC HAS A LOCAL SCREENING COMMITTEE THAT INCLUDES LAW ENFORCEMENT. IT TAKES AN UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT FOR APPROVAL OF PLACEMENT FOR A SEX OFFENDER TO BE PLACED IN THEIR FACILITY. THEY ALSO DO NOT ACCEPT REPEAT SEX OFFENDERS. THEY OFTEN CONSULT WITH A SO PROVIDER AS WELL.

During the 2014 - 2015 FY, 7.9% (14/178) of offenders transferred into MPRC were individuals convicted of a sexual offense.

As of November 1, 2015, 12.4% (13/105) of the offenders in MPRC have to register as a sexual offender.

Billings Pre-release Center

BILLINGS PRC ALSO HAS A STRINGENT SCREENING PROCESS. ANY SEXUAL OFFENDER IS PRE-SCREENED BY A MSOTA CLINICIAN WHO MAKES A RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE OFFENDER. SEXUAL OFFENDERS ARE REQUIRED TO BE IN THE CENTER FOR ONE YEAR BEFORE BEING ALLOWED TO TRANSFER TO PROBATION & PAROLE SUPERVISION. THE CENTER, LIKE MPRC, HOLDS OFFENDERS TO A “HIGHER STANDARD.”

During the 2014 - 2015 FY, 8% of offenders transferred into Billings PRC were individuals convicted of a sexual offense.

65% of these offenders successfully complete the program. Of the 35% who do not complete successfully, none (0%) reoffended. Termination was the result of pre-release or technical rule violations.

Helena PRC respectfully declined to give statistics. Great Falls PRC reported taking 1 SO in the past year.

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PREVENTION EDUCATION

	Individual	Relationship	Community	Society
BEFORE	Integrate sexual health, healthy relationship information, and consent into all health and relationship programs	Assist existing bystander campaigns to include information on preventing the perpetration of sexual violence.	Establish new standards for youth serving organizations that focus on preventing perpetration of sexual abuse.	Promote public policies directed towards healthy sexual relationships. Promote laws requiring youth serving organizations that receive public funding, to establish safety policies.
AFTER	Provide effective treatment services for adults and adolescents who have sexually abused, including discussions on health sexuality and self-regulation.	Establish support groups for the families of adults and adolescents who have sexually abused.	Collaborate with victim advocacy programs to ensure adequate services as well a voice in sex offender management. Develop community engagement programs about healthy sexual relationships and how to prevent sexual offending	Promote empirically based public policies that have been shown to prevent further sexual abuse and to safely integrate sex offenders into the community.