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**REGISTERED PEDOPHILES' THOUGHTS ON THE EFFICACY,
JUSTIFICATION, AND PSYCHOSOCIAL IMPACT OF SORNA (SEX
OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION ACT) AND THEIR
SENSITIVITY TO SEXUAL AND NON-SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

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REGISTERED PEDOPHILES' THOUGHTS ON THE EFFICACY,
JUSTIFICATION, AND PSYCHOSOCIAL IMPACT OF SORNA (SEX
OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION ACT) AND THEIR
SENSITIVITY TO SEXUAL AND NON-SEXUAL VIOLENCE

BY

AVIVA N. MOSTER

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF
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IN
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DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DISSERTATION
OF
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ABSTRACT

This study investigated registered pedophiles' (N = 121) thoughts on the efficacy, justification, and psychosocial impact of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) as well as examined these offenders' views on sexual and non-sexual violence.

One thousand male pedophiles identified as medium (Tier II) or severe (Tier III) sex offenders were identified via the Internet through national public online sex offender registration databases. They were randomly selected from nine states around the country. The number of pedophiles chosen from each state was proportionate to the total number of sex offenders registered within those states.

A questionnaire was mailed to participants containing three sections: (i) demographic information questions, (ii) scales created to identify pedophiles' thoughts on the efficacy and justification of SORNA, and the perceived social and psychological effects of the law on their own lives, and (iii) a scale based on the one used by Collyer et al. (2007) and Collyer et al. (2011) measuring sensitivity to sexual and non-sexual violence as well as participants' own definitions of sexual and non-sexual violence.

Approximately half of the sample identified as Tier II (medium risk) offenders (n = 63) and the remainder have been classified as Tier III (high risk) offenders (n = 58). Confirmatory factor analysis, chi-square tests of independence, t-tests, and sign tests were used to analyze the data. Results indicated that over half of participants believed that sex offender registries should be legal, and that the creation of sex

offender registries is justified. Approximately 80% of participants rated “SORNA as a whole” as ineffective or very ineffective, with Tier III offenders finding the law significantly less effective than Tier II offenders.

Eighty-five percent of participants responded that the types of identifying information included on Internet sex offender registries is unjustified or very unjustified, with Tier III offenders finding the inclusion of identifying information to be significantly more unjustified than Tier II offenders.

Results for both groups indicate that they find the inclusion of qualifying offenses under SORNA to be somewhat justified. However, approximately 90% of the sample identified SORNA as negatively or very negatively impacting their psychosocial functioning.

Tier level predicted sensitivity to violence, with Tier III offenders exhibiting lower violence sensitivity scores than Tier II offenders. More Tier III offenders identified definitions of violence based solely on physical contact than Tier II offenders. Analyses also confirmed that Tier III pedophiles have lower sensitivity to sexual and non-sexual violence than do Tier II pedophiles.

The results of this study have ramifications for future legislation and ways sex offenders are dealt with through the criminal justice system. The negative impact of laws such as SORNA needs to be lessened in order for pedophiles to view them as justified. Research has shown that offenders who feel their punishments are fair are less likely to recidivate in the future (Tewksbury & Lees, 2007). Therefore, in order for future legislation to prove effective, it must convince sex offenders themselves that the laws are effective and justified.

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I would like to express my gratitude to my major Professor, Charles Collyer, Ph.D. Not only has he been a source of support and knowledge during this process, he has inspired me to view research and data analyses in a deeper and more complex manner than I had ever done before. I also want to thank Dr. Collyer for his willingness to work with a student from a different program who wanted to study a topic unfamiliar to him. His trust in my judgment concerning my topic choice and research design and willingness to learn about sexual offending alongside me were integral to this project.

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STATEMENT OF INTEREST

I first became interested in the topic of sex offending while obtaining my Master's Degree in Forensic Psychology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. My interest in conducting forensic research led me to join a research lab studying different aspects of sex offending, including public perceptions of offenders, issues related to sexual recidivism, and the effects of federal legislation on these offenders.

Whenever friends, family, or fellow students asked me why I would “ever want to work with those monsters,” I came to realize that my view of sex offenders and the crimes they commit are different than most other people.

I believe that those who commit sex offenses are not monsters, but people like you or me. I believe they are individuals who are good in nature but have made bad choices that have severely harmed others. This population often has many psychological issues that are related to their offending, and as a mental health professional I feel that it is my responsibility to help treat these problems.

When conducting research on sex offending or providing treatment to these offenders, my goals are always two-fold; to keep the community safe, and to help offenders understand their choices, ameliorate their mental health symptoms, improve their quality of life, and stop them from harming others again.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Sex offenses have a large impact on community emotions, due to their violent nature and the helplessness of the victims, especially when the victims are children (McGuickin & Brown, 2001). This may be the reason why sex offenders are perceived to be particularly dangerous (Prentky et al., 1997). As a result, anti-sex offender legislation may sometimes be based more on a reflexive community response to violent or vicious sex crimes than on dispassionate legal logic or empirical evidence (Simon, 1998; Wright, 2009).

Bias against post-incarcerated sex offenders is a potential consequence of community fears. Offenders are discriminated against not only by the population at large once they are released into the community but also, according to some advocates, re-penalized and restricted by legislation such as Megan's Law, the Jacob Wetterling Act, and the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA).

The following conjecture guides this research study: Sex offender laws serve to create a false sense of security within the community at large, allaying irrational fears while failing to address offender needs or provide real protection from further offenses. Further, these laws may possibly be harmful to the well being of people forced to list themselves on a state registry, who otherwise would be capable of higher and more normal functioning.

There has been very little research in the sex offending literature examining sex offenders' perceptions of their post-incarceration obligations, such as online registration and community notification (Tewksbury & Lees, 2007). Knowing what

sex offenders think about the efficacy and impact of sex offender registration and notification laws is an important topic of study, first, because legislation cannot be effective if it is not understood or followed by the offenders it is regulating, and second, because deficiencies in the present law may be illuminated by what we can learn from the offenders themselves.

The most direct way to understand the efficacy and impact of sex offender legislation is to ask sex offenders about how these laws are affecting their lives. Unless we ask the offenders themselves, we do not know whether they are aware of all of the laws affecting them, whether they understand them, and whether they follow them. Questioning offenders about these laws can inform us about their perspective on which parts are harmful, which are helpful, and which are simply ineffective. Information on sex offender perceptions can help steer legislation toward more effective regulation.

The Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA, 2006) imposes strict rules intended to keep sex offenders from recidivating. If sex offenders view SORNA as unfair or overly harsh, they may not follow the law and so possibly recidivate, endangering the community at large. Research has found that when offenders feel that their punishments are fair and appropriate, they believe they are less likely to recidivate in the future, even if they perceive the punishment as severe (Tewksbury & Lees, 2007). Understanding the impact of SORNA on sex offenders, and pedophiles in particular, can teach us what is necessary to ensure effective legislation that reduces recidivism without being overly punitive. With this knowledge

there is hope for more moderate and research-based sex offender legislation in the future.

The aims of this study were to determine pedophiles' thoughts on the efficacy, justification, and psychosocial impact of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act and to examine how these views relate to the offenders' views on sexual and non-sexual violence.

CHAPTER 2

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Sex Offender Demographics

Sex offenders are demographically diverse. Although most sex offenders are male, there is a small contingent of female offenders as well (Johansson-Love & Fremouw, 2009). Sexual orientation and age do not limit sex offending because there are both heterosexual and homosexual offenders as well as juvenile, middle-aged, and geriatric offenders (Rice et al., 2008).

The race and ethnicity of pedophiles and sex offenders in general is not a subject well represented in the sex offending literature. However, one landmark descriptive study in 2011 examined the demographic characteristics of 445,127 registered sex offenders in the United States (Ackerman, Harris, Levenson, & Zgoba, 2011). The authors found that approximately two thirds of the sample was White with the last third containing mostly Black offenders as well as other groups of color such as Hispanic, Native American, and Asian. The racial distribution reflected national demographics for the most part, with considerable variation in race among different states. The study sample consisted of twenty two percent identified as Black. However, eight states had over 30% Black registered sex offenders and twelve states had below five percent Black offenders on their registry. The study concludes that there appears to be an over-representation of Black people in United States sex offender registries, particularly in New York, New Jersey, Delaware, North Carolina,

and Minnesota (Ackerman, Harris, Levenson, & Zgoba, 2011) (see Appendix III for Diversity Statement).

Pedophilia as a Mental Disorder

According to the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (4th ed., text revision; *DSM-IV-TR*; American Psychiatric Association, 2000) pedophilia (a sexual preference for prepubescent children) manifests itself as sexual arousal, fantasies, urges, persistent and recurrent thoughts, or behaviors. In 2013, the 5th edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (5th ed.; American Psychiatric Association, 2013) changed the official name of the disorder from Pedophilia to Pedophilic Disorder, but all of the diagnostic criteria have stayed the same as in previous editions. Pedophilia is one of the paraphilias, a group of sexual syndromes defined by deviant, and often illegal, sexual behaviors. Pedophilia can be considered a stable sexual preference and can be likened to heterosexual and homosexual orientation because it is so impervious to change, no matter what the treatment (Seto, 2008).

However, there are many different definitions of pedophilia throughout the literature. Ames & Houston (1990) believe that pedophilia must be further defined as either a biological illness of “true pedophilia” or a violation of the sociolegal norms of our times. According to the DSM-IV (American Psychiatric Association, 1994), most pedophiles are men and are usually friends, neighbors, and relatives of the victims (Murray, 2000). The DSM-5 reports that the prevalence of Pedophilic Disorder in males is approximately three to five percent. At the current time, the prevalence of

females with Pedophilic Disorder is unknown (American Psychiatric Association, 2013).

Pedophilic Typology

It can be said that there are many different types of people who offend against children, but the most commonly known ones are pedophiles. Because pedophilia applies only to a sexual attraction to prepubescent children, there are other specific terms as well. Hebephilia is the term coined to describe a sexual preference for pubescent children who show some signs of secondary sexual characteristics (Seto, 2008). There are also groups of people who have sexual preferences for infants but these men are usually grouped with pedophiles.

The majority of the public has a negative view of pedophilia. In a study by Rosenmerkel in 2001, college students ranked the wrongfulness of felony homicide lower than sex offending. However, not everyone agrees. There are small groups of people and advocacy organizations, such as the North American Man-Boy Love Association (NAMBLA), Girlchat, and Boychat, who believe that children are competent to consent to sex. These groups also believe that by outlawing adult-child sex, the rights of both the child and the pedophile are being repressed (Seto, 2008).

Notification and Registration Laws Governing Sex Offenders

Over the past two decades, American sex crime policies have evolved in response to communal fear of “recidivistic sexual violence” (Zgoba et al., 2008). These policies include the creation of sex offender registries, community notification of the presence of sexual offenders, mandatory minimum sentencing, electronic monitoring, and civil commitment (Zgoba et al., 2008).

There is a dearth of literature on sex offender registries and the research that does exist has studied the accuracy of information within online sex offender registries, risk assessment of people on the registries, and profiles of registered offenders. Almost no studies have looked at offenders' reactions to and experiences of being listed on public sex offender registries (Tewksbury, 2005).

While sex offender registries exist in all 50 states today, they are a fairly recent phenomenon. First initiated by the 1994 Jacob Wetterling Act, the creation of a centralized database of sexual offenders was put into place. However, it was not until 1996, when Megan's Law was passed, that this information was made public (Tewksbury, 2005). Megan's Law was originally passed in New Jersey in 1996 as a response to the rape and murder of seven-year-old Megan Kanka in 1994. The rapist/murderer was a sex offender with two prior convictions living across the street from the Kankas, who were unaware of his presence (Megan's Law (1996); Petrosino & Petrosino, 1999).

The series of bills that would later be incorporated into Megan's Law were passed by the New Jersey Public Assembly within one month of Kanka's death in 1994. They were voted on without the customary hearings and some were still incomplete at the time of passage. These seven bills allowed New Jersey to register and track sex offenders, as well as notify residents when a convicted sex offender moves to their neighborhood.

One of the bills called for lifetime imprisonment without parole for offenders who commit a second sexual crime. Wayne Bryant, a member of the New Jersey Public Assembly, was quoted in a New York Times article saying "there is no rational

reason for us to be considering any of these bills without public hearings,” and “I am appalled that as an elected body we are caught up in emotion. We are rushing to judgment” (McLarin, 1994, August 30).

The hasty passing of the bills that later shaped Megan’s Law in New Jersey and in the other states that followed suggests that the mandatory registration of sex offenders may have been overly influenced by community concern, and correspondingly less influenced by scientific evidence, due to the short time span in which they were passed. It has been suggested that “policy making on ‘sex offending’ has a more emotionally based underside” than do other public-policy issues (Lynch, 2002, p.530). As a consequence of the public outcry against sex offenders, there are parts of sex offender laws that “are largely immune from constitutional limits established by judicial review” (Simon, 1998, p.452). In a 2002 article, Lynch addressed the disparities of reasoning between the passing of criminal justice policies regarding sex offenders as opposed to other types of offenders. She found that those pertaining to sex offenders were more emotionally motivated and warned of the “dangers of emotional lawmaking” (p.555). Unfortunately, she also reported that so far, legal “discourse that sought to rein in the emotional pitch underlying the lawmaking and reassert both ‘rationality’ and constitutionality into the process” (Lynch, 2002, p.545) has been unproductive.

In 2006, President George W. Bush signed the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act into law. This legislation created the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA), which updated all previous federal legislation on sex offenders and required mandatory basic registration guidelines for all 50 states with

complete cooperation mandated by July 27th, 2009 (Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act (2006); Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (2006)). SORNA created the Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART) Office, which is now the main source of federal sex offender legislation information, and the Dru Sjojin National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW), created earlier in 2005 (SMART, 2010; Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (2006)). This website is a database linked to every state sex offender registry as well as those of Guam, Puerto Rico, and several confederated Indian tribes. Before 2005, there were only 40 states with online registries (Tewksbury & Lees, 2006).

SORNA also mandates that all states have a three tier system of sex offender categorization requiring Tier III offenders (deemed the most dangerous) to update the courts every three months of their whereabouts, Tier II offenders to update the courts every six months, and Tier I offenders to update the courts once per year (Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act (2006); Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (2006); SMART, 2010).

Efficacy of Sex Offender Registration and Notification Laws

Too little research has been done to truly determine the utility of registration and notification laws in reducing recidivism and protecting children (Welchans, 2005). Of the studies published on the efficacy of these laws, most found no significant difference in recidivism due to notification (Levenson, D'Amora, & Hern, 2007). Lynch (2002) stated, "despite the historical failure of aggressive law enforcement and

incapacitative strategies directed at offenders to reduce the harms of their acts, all the provisions in these various bills called for more of the same” (Lynch, 2002, p.555).

However, since 2004, men and women have been required to designate themselves as sex offenders without much research regarding whether these registries promote community safety or children’s well being (Simon, 1998). In fact, Wright (2009) finds that there is an “enormous disconnect between public policy and sexual assault research” (p.7).

Sex offender registries were created to keep the community safe and reduce recidivism within this group of offenders. Many sex offender laws, including SORNA, create risk categories based on the crime committed in order to classify registrants as being at a higher or lower risk of recidivating. However, research has shown that the type of sex crime committed is not a good indicator of sex offender recidivism (Sandler & Freeman, 2009). Gender is not accounted for when laws like SORNA label offenders as high, medium, or low risk on public registries, even though studies have shown that male and female recidivism rates vary greatly, with approximately 10-15% of males reoffending within five years (Hanson & Bussière, 1998) and less than three percent of females reoffending within a similar time frame (Cortoni, Hanson & Coache, 2010). Not only are there different demographic variables that apply to sex differences when recidivating, such as reasons for offending, but certain ones have an opposite relationship between male and female offenders. There are three typologies of female sex offenders concerning reasons for offending: teacher/lover, predisposed, and male coerced, which are not applicable to most male sexual offenders. Sandler and Freeman (2009) found an opposite relationship for male and female offenders

concerning age and likelihood of sex offense recidivism, with the likelihood of sexual recidivism decreasing with age for males and increasing with age for females.

Previously, a correlation has been found between a history of violent crime and the likelihood of recidivism for male sex offenders (Hanson & Bussière, 1998) but the Sandler and Freeman study did not find any significant relationship between the two when studying female recidivism.

Housing restriction laws are often passed in order to keep sex offenders away from schools, churches, and daycare centers. Residency restrictions have been associated with the interference of sex offender reintegration into society. These laws often make it very hard for sex offenders to find housing, even though a study in Minnesota found that restricting sex offenders from living in certain places would not have prevented a single sex offender from reoffending (Duwe, Donnay, & Tewksbury, 2008). These housing laws have been found to encourage transience, homelessness, and the deprivation of access to social services and familial support systems (Dodenhoff, 2009). The fact that research shows that these laws may not be effective does not seem to sway public perceptions of housing restrictions. Dodenhoff (2009) writes that “sex offender residency restrictions continue to...appeal to the general public, who don’t seem to care whether the restrictions are good public policy” (p.12). If current sex offender laws are not based on sound empirical evidence or legal procedure (Simon, 1998), then it is possible that sex offender registries create greater harm than necessary.

High recidivism rates of sex offenders are often quoted in support of sex offender legislation (Sample & Bray, 2003, 2006) but the rates are lower than often

presented. Hanson & Bussière, (1998) completed a meta-analysis of 61 sexual offense recidivism studies containing 23,393 participants and found an average five-year recidivism rate of 13.4%. In a study of 1,466 female offenders the five-year recidivism rate was only 1.8% (Sandler & Freeman, 2009). U.S. Department of Justice only found a 5.3% recidivism rate among over 9,000 sex offenders within three years after their prison release (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2003). In fact, sex offenders are often found to be in the group of criminals who are the least likely to be rearrested for new crimes (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2003; Sample & Bray, 2003, 2006).

In addition, no significant differences were found between recidivism rates of registered and non-registered sex offenders in Iowa (Adkins, Huff, & Stageberg, 2000), which may indicate that the registration of sex offenders does not hinder reoffenses; the precise reason registries were created in the first place. Similarly in Washington State, researchers found no significant difference between the recidivism rates of sex offenders who were governed by community notification laws and sex offenders who were not (Schram and Milloy, 1995). According to Tewksbury and Lees (2007), “based on the available research, it does not appear that sex offender registries and community notification in their current forms have a significant effect on sex offense recidivism rates” (p.384)

Some researchers have suggested that registration and notification laws work against their ultimate goal of community safety because they can magnify the stressors that sex offenders deal with, such as shame, isolation, anxiety, depression, and lack of social support which can then lead to offender recidivism (Edwards & Hensley, 2001; Freeman-Longo, 1996).

Impact of Registration and Notification Laws on Sex Offenders

Before accessing any federal, state, or territory sex offender registry, one is required to read and agree to a disclaimer that the information on the registry is to be used appropriately. Before entering Pennsylvania's sex offender registry one must read and agree to the following statement: "Any person who uses the information contained herein to threaten, intimidate, or harass the registrant or their family, or who otherwise misuses this information, may be subject to criminal prosecution or civil liability." (Pennsylvania State Police Megan's Law Website, 2010). However, these disclaimers do not always work. In Massachusetts, evidence was found of misuse of the registry and there has been anecdotal evidence of vigilantism following community notifications (Petrosino & Petrosino, 1999). Vigilantism against registered male sex offenders in Florida has been reported as well (Levenson & Cotter, 2005).

Tewksbury found in a 2005 study of 795 registered offenders in Kentucky that registrants had many problems due to their registration, such as finding employment and housing, being harassed, losing friends, being treated rudely in public, and feeling ostracized by people within the community who knew of their status. The offenders also reported that being listed on the public sex offender registry has caused emotional strife for their families. These issues may lead to offender stigmatization, isolation, and anger - all of which may encourage sexual recidivism.

In one study by Levenson and colleagues (2007), 239 registered sex offenders in Connecticut and Indiana were surveyed about the impact of Megan's Law and community notification on their lives. Twenty-one percent of participants reported losing a job because a boss or co-worker found out about them through notification

and 10% had to move out of an apartment because a landlord found out. Twenty-one percent of participants were threatened or harassed by neighbors, 18% had their property damaged, and 10% had been physically assaulted or injured (Levenson, D'Amora, & Hern, 2007).

Within the same study, the authors found that when they asked the offenders about the psychosocial impact of Megan's Law, they found an even greater effect. Fifty-four percent of participants agreed or strongly agreed with the statement "I feel alone and isolated because of Megan's Law" and 58% agreed or strongly agreed that "shame and embarrassment due to Megan's Law" keeps them from engaging in activities. Fifty percent endorsed that they "have lost friends or close relationships because of Megan's Law," and perhaps most importantly, 62% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that "Megan's Law makes my recovery more difficult by causing stress in my life" (Levenson, D'Amora, & Hern, 2007). If that is the case, sex offender registration and notification laws may be more harmful than anticipated for offenders. In a 2009 study of 584 family members of sex offenders, 62% reported experiencing stress very frequently due to their family member being listed on the registry. Over 50% of the family members said that they very often or fairly often felt alone and isolated, having shame or embarrassment limit their involvement in community activities, and had lost a friend or relationship due to the registry. Almost 50% also feared for their safety because their family member was listed on the registry (Tewksbury & Levenson, 2009).

The Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act of 2006 not only required the creation of a three tier system and mandatory court appearances, but severe

registration time limits as well. Tier I offenders must remain on the registry for 15 years, Tier II offenders for 25 years, and Tier III offenders for life (Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (2006)).

For those on a sex offender registry there is little privacy. SORNA requires all states, territories, the District of Columbia, and many Indian tribes to include the following information in their registries: name, date of birth, photograph, physical description, address or temporary lodging information, phone number, social security number, vehicle information (make, model, and license plate number), employment and school information, criminal history, fingerprints, palm prints, DNA sample, driver's license/ID, passport and immigration documents, internet names/identifiers, and some form of text identifying the registration offense (Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (2006)). Before the passage of SORNA in 2006, the registries that did exist varied widely in the amount of information they contained, having anywhere from two to 18 pieces of information per registered offender (Tewksbury & Lees, 2006).

In the past, registration and notification laws have been studied for four reasons: to obtain a profile of registered offenders, to assess the verity of registry information, to evaluate recidivism, and to examine the consequences of registration on the offenders (Tewksbury & Lees, 2006). Unfortunately with respect to the fourth reason, there is a dearth of information in the literature about the impact of registration on the offenders themselves (Tewksbury & Lees, 2006). Therefore, the goal of this study was to determine pedophiles' thoughts on the efficacy, justification, and

psychosocial impact of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act and to examine offenders' views on sexual and non-sexual violence.

The following outcomes were predicted:

1. Registered Pedophiles' Opinions on the Efficacy of SORNA at Reducing Recidivism:

- I. Registered pedophiles will identify SORNA as being ineffective at reducing recidivism and maintaining public safety.
- II. Tier III offenders will perceive SORNA as being more ineffective at reducing recidivism and maintaining public safety than Tier II offenders.

2. Registered Pedophiles' Opinions on the Justifiability of SORNA-mandated Internet Sex Offender Registries:

- I. Registered pedophiles will report that it is unjustified to include self-identifying items posted on Internet sex offender registries.
- II. Tier III offenders will find the inclusion of identifying information on SORNA-mandated registries to be more unjustified than Tier II offenders.

3. Registered Pedophiles' Opinions on the Justifiability of Requiring Sex Offender Registration Based on SORNA-Mandated Offenses:

- I. Registered pedophiles will report that it is unjustified to require sex offender registration as a consequence of the conviction of the majority of offenses included in SORNA.

- II. Tier III offenders will report that the requirement of sex offender registration for the offenses included in SORNA is more unjustified than Tier II offenders.

4. Registered Pedophiles' Opinions on the Psychosocial Impact of Being a Registered Sex Offender Under SORNA Guidelines:

- I. Registered pedophiles will report that being a registered sex offender under SORNA guidelines is psychologically and socially harmful.
- II. Tier III offenders will report that being a registered sex offender under SORNA guidelines is more psychologically and socially harmful to themselves than Tier II offenders.

5. Registered Pedophiles' Sensitivity to Sexual and Non-Sexual Violence:

- I. Tier level will predict sensitivity to violence, including both sexual and non-sexual violence, with Tier III offenders exhibiting lower sensitivity scores than Tier II offenders.
- II. Tier level will predict definitions of violence, including both sexual and non-sexual violence, with Tier III offenders exhibiting more definitions based solely on physical contact than Tier II offenders.

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY

This study was reviewed and approved by the University of Rhode Island Institutional Review Board (IRB) on June 24, 2013, reference number HU1213-047.

Participants

One thousand male pedophiles identified via the Internet through national public online sex offender registration databases were randomly selected from nine states around the country. Only males registered for committing sex crimes against minors when the offender was above the age of 18 and who are not residing within a jail or prison were considered for participation. The number of pedophiles chosen from each state was in proportion to the total number of registered offenders in that state.

When a Tier level was indicated, only pedophiles identified as moderate (Tier II) and severe (Tier III) sex offenders were chosen. This is because some state databases do not list Tier I offenders who have been convicted of relatively minor crimes. Tier II and Tier III offenders were contacted for this study in the relative frequency with which they exist within the state registries, totaling 1,000 offenders.

Although the participants sought for this study are specifically males who committed crimes against children when they themselves were adults, for simplicity's sake the percentage formula took into account all offenders in an area (male and female, above and below the age of 18) who have committed any registerable act.

Diagnostic Requirements for Participation

The first criterion for a psychiatric diagnosis of Pedophilic Disorder is “recurrent, intense sexually arousing fantasies, sexual urges, or behaviors involving sexual activity with a prepubescent child” (American Psychiatric Association, 2013, p. 697). Although someone may have sexual fantasies about children, if they have not acted on or experienced distress due to these urges, it is difficult to diagnose someone with the disorder. However, if someone has an identifiable prepubescent victim, diagnosing someone with Paraphilic Disorder is often standard practice. Therefore, only males who are registered for a contact (physical) offense were chosen to participate. People whose offenses have to do with the possession, creation, dissemination, or pandering of child pornography were not included, due to the possibility that on closer examination, these offenders would not meet criteria for a diagnosis of Pedophilic Disorder. Men who have convictions for attempted offenses, such as attempted rape or attempted unlawful conduct with a minor, were excluded for the same reason. In order for inclusion in the sample, a participant must have at least one conviction for a sex crime against a child fifteen or younger. Although Pedophilic Disorder specifies that sexual activity is with a prepubescent child who is generally aged thirteen and under (American Psychiatric Association, 2013); when diagnosing this disorder, the main factor is the pubertal stage the child is in, not his or her chronological age. In addition, not all state registries list the exact age of sex offense victims. Therefore, when exact age was not specified, the highest victim age category acceptable for inclusion in the study was thirteen to fifteen years of age. Many sex offenses are designated as being perpetrated against someone “below age sixteen.” Men with these offenses were not chosen, due to the likelihood that their victims were

post pubescent. Finally, only offenders with convictions exclusively against minors were considered for participation. Even though most pedophiles are nonexclusive in their age range of sexual attraction, this criterion for inclusion helps ensure that participants are preferential offenders who are sexually attracted to children, as opposed to opportunistic offenders who victimize children for reasons other than sexual arousal.

The following nine states' sex offender registries were accessed using the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW) through the SMART Office webpage: Delaware, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Nevada, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Wyoming. All nine states are considered by the SMART Office to have substantially implemented the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act requirements. The following is the proportional breakdown of the number of surveys sent to each state: Delaware = 41, Louisiana = 129, Maryland = 60, Michigan = 343, Nevada = 151, Ohio = 161, South Carolina = 75, South Dakota = 26, and Wyoming = 14.

Measures

The questionnaire mailed to participants contained three sections.

1. Demographics:

The first section was a demographic questionnaire that asked offenders about their age, race/ethnicity, and geographic location.

2. Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) Opinion Questionnaire:

This measure contains both quantitative and qualitative components and was created for this dissertation. It asks pedophiles to indicate their thoughts on the

efficacy of SORNA, the justification of several features of the law, and the perceived social and psychological effects of the law on their own lives. It contains three types of questions: open-ended, forced-choice, and Likert-scaled.

Components of this measure were taken from surveys previously used by Levenson, & Cotter (2005), Levenson, Brannon, Fortney, & Baker (2007), Levenson, D'Amora, & Hern (2007), and Mercado, Alvarez, & Levenson (2008). Some of these items have been modified to fit the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Law as well as to address opinions of pedophiles specifically instead of sex offenders in general (see Appendix II for questionnaire).

3. Sensitivity to Sexual and Non-Sexual Violence Scale:

This scale is based on the one used by Collyer, Gallo, Corey, Waters, & Boney-McCoy in 2007. Collyer and colleagues have measured sensitivity to violence by having people rate the severity of violence of several behaviors using closed-ended Likert scales (Collyer, et al., 2007; Collyer, et al., 2010).

The quantitative assessment of sensitivity is based on the severity-of-violence rating task of Collyer et al. (2007), and asks participants to rate different violent behaviors on a 7-point Likert scale of 1 (not violent) to 7 (very violent). Different types of sexual violence have been added to the measure in order to compare them to the non-sexual violence items from the original study. The qualitative section, based on a study by Collyer, Brell, Moster, and Furey (2011), contains open-ended questions such as “what is your own definition of violence?” and “what is your own definition of sexual violence?” (See Appendix II for scale).

Research Design and Procedures

The 1,000 identified pedophiles were mailed a packet through the United States Postal Service including an introduction letter, a letter explaining the study and including a request to participate by taking the survey, a paper copy of the questionnaire, a pre-stamped and labeled return envelope, and an Internet link to use if they wished to take the survey online instead. The survey included an informed consent question, the three questionnaire sections described above, and an option for entering a phone number or email if the participant wanted to enter into a monetary raffle. No names were assigned to the surveys and any contact information given by participants in order to enter the raffle was not linked to their survey results.

Analyses

Descriptive analyses, including means, standard deviations, skewness, and kurtosis were conducted on data collected and preliminary analyses were performed to test the assumptions of normality. The following hypotheses were tested. For questions where no prior expectations existed, exploratory analyses were used.

Hypothesis 1: Re: Effectiveness of SORNA

- I. Registered pedophiles will identify SORNA as being ineffective at reducing recidivism and maintaining public safety. (“Ineffective” is operationally defined as having a mean below 3.0 on a five-point Likert scale).
- II. Tier III offenders will perceive SORNA as being more ineffective at reducing recidivism and maintaining public safety than Tier II offenders.

Hypothesis 2: Re: Being Identified on Sex Offender Registries

- I. Registered pedophiles will find the identifying items included on sex offender registries to be unjustified. (“Unjustified” is operationally defined as having a mean below 3.0 on a five-point Likert scale).
- II. Tier III offenders will find the identifying items included on sex offender registries to be more unjustified than Tier II offenders.

Hypothesis 3: Re: Opinion of Crimes Mandated by SORNA

- I. Registered pedophiles will find the crimes mandated by SORNA as registerable offenses to be unjustified. (“Unjustified” is operationally defined as having a mean below 3.0 on a five-point Likert scale).
- II. Tier III offenders will find the crimes mandated by SORNA as registerable offenses to be more unjustified than Tier II offenders.

Hypothesis 4: Re: Harm Caused by SORNA

- I. Registered pedophiles will identify SORNA as being psychologically and socially harmful. (“Psychosocial Harm” is operationally defined as having a mean below 3.0 on a five-point Likert scale).
- II. Tier III offenders will perceive SORNA as being more socially and psychologically harmful than Tier II offenders.

Hypothesis 5: Re: Sensitivity to and Understanding of Violence

- I. Tier level will predict sensitivity to violence, including both sexual and non-sexual violence, with Tier III offenders exhibiting lower sensitivity scores than Tier II offenders.

- II. Tier level will predict definitions of violence, including both sexual and non-sexual violence, with Tier III offenders exhibiting more definitions based solely on physical contact than Tier II offenders.

CHAPTER 4

RESULTS

Assumptions of Normality

Preliminary analyses were conducted to check for the violation of statistical assumptions of normality within the dataset. Analyses revealed that the levels of skewness and kurtosis for several of the variables within the data were not within acceptable limits, due to having a skewness absolute value greater than one or a kurtosis absolute value greater than two (Harlow, 2005). Skewness refers to the asymmetry of the data set being observed. When assumptions of normality are met, the skewness is equal to zero, indicating that there are an equal number of data points above and below the middle, as well as tails that are approximately equal. A data set with zero skewness resembles a bell curve (Rovai, Baker, & Ponton, 2014). Among the nine variables, only the Impact and Justified Offenses have a skewness score greater than one, indicating violation of the assumption of normality.

Kurtosis is a measure of the heaviness of the tails of a data set relative to the center of its distribution. A heavy-tailed distribution has more values in the tails than those of a normal distribution, and has a negative value of kurtosis (Rovai, Baker, & Ponton, 2014). All of the variables have kurtosis values within normal limits except Impact and Nonphysical Contact.

Although some assumptions of normality were violated within the data set, the study sample was large enough that these violations did not affect the statistical analyses used (Leech, Barrett, & Morgan, 2011). For example, “t procedures can be

used for clearly skewed distributions when the sample is large enough, roughly $n \geq 40$.” (Moore & McCabe, 2003, p. 505). The sample size for this study was 121 participants.

Confirmatory Factor Analyses

Confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) is a statistical method used to verify whether a number of variables load together on factors established by predetermined theory (Rovai, Baker, and Ponton, 2014). Analyses of factor structures are relevant in order to ensure that a scale or group of variables actually measure the constructs they were ostensibly created to measure (in this case, Efficacy, Justification, and Psychosocial Impact.)

When creating the SORNA questionnaire, it was theorized that questions include about the efficacy of SORNA measured the construct of “efficacy,” the questions about justification of registry items and SORNA-mandated offenses measured the construct of “justification,” and the questions about the psychological and social impact of SORNA measured the construct of “psychosocial impact.” Confirmatory factor analyses were used to ensure that the questions included in the SORNA questionnaire sent to participants truly reflected the constructs they were meant to measure. When the results of a CFA indicate that all items measuring a specific construct load onto one factor, this signifies that the questions being asked of participants truly reflect their intended purpose or construct, such as efficacy, justification, and psychosocial impact.

Related Samples Sign Tests

A related samples sign test is a nonparametric statistic used to examine the median differences between nominal variables and does not require assumptions of normality (Rovai, Baker, and Ponton, 2014). A related samples sign test is a method used to assess whether there are significant differences between Tier II and Tier III pedophiles by examining frequency data. It counts the median number of responses above and below the neutral value of 3 used for the Efficacy, Psychosocial Impact, and two Justification scales.

T-Tests

A one-sample t-test is an inferential statistic utilized to compare a sample mean to the mean of a known population (Rovai, Baker, & Ponton, 2014), in this case, registered pedophiles. Independent samples t-tests is an additional parametric analysis used to assess whether the means of two independent groups, Tier II and Tier III pedophiles, are significantly different from each other.

Chi-Square Tests of Independence

Chi-square (χ^2) tests for independence are nonparametric procedures used to analyze associations between categorical variables. This type of statistic can only be used when analyzing data for more than one population, in this case Tier II and Tier III participant populations (Rovai, Baker, & Ponton, 2014). Chi-square tests are appropriate for use with nominal variables, such as those containing Likert scale values. The first four hypotheses are based on questionnaire items scored with five point Likert scales.

Nine variables were created using the means of relevant questions to test the hypotheses using one sample and independent sample t-tests: Efficacy, Registry Item

Justification, Offense Justification, Impact, Sensitivity to Violence, Physical Violence, Non-Physical Violence, Sexual Violence, and Non-sexual Violence.

Descriptive Statistics

One thousand registered pedophiles were mailed a survey and one hundred and twenty one men responded. One hundred and ten of the participants (90.9%) participated by mailing in a paper copy of the questionnaire and eleven participants (9.1%) participated by completing the questionnaire online. When broken down by tier, 52.1% (n = 63) of the sample identified as Tier II offenders and 47.9% (n = 58) identified as Tier III offenders.

Participants ranged in age from eighteen to sixty-five years of age. Eight point three percent (n = 10) of the participants were 18 to 29 years old, 32.2% (n = 39) were 30 to 44 years old, 47.1% (n = 57) of participants were 45 to 60 years old, and 11.6% (n = 14) were 61 to 65 years old. One participant (0.8% of sample) did not identify an age range (see Figure 1).

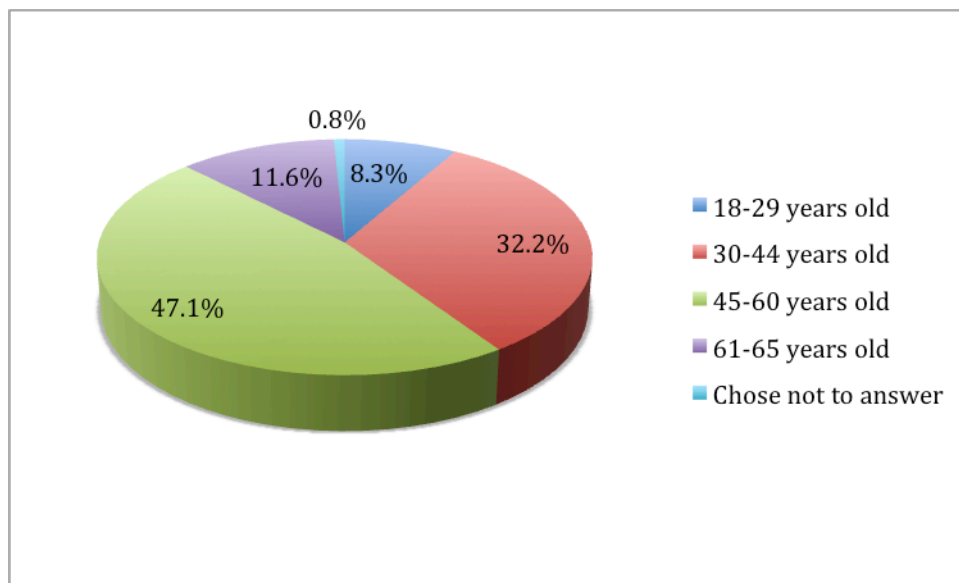


Figure 1. Age Range of Participants

The majority of the participants (81.0%, n = 98) identified as White/Caucasian, 12.4% (n = 15) as Black/African American, 2.5% (n = 3) as Latino/Hispanic, 1.7% (n = 2) as Biracial/Multiracial, 1.7% (n = 2) as Other: Caucasian/Native American, and 0.8% (n = 1) as Other: Black/Native American. None of the participants identified as Asian/Pacific Islander or Native American/American Indian (see Figure 2).

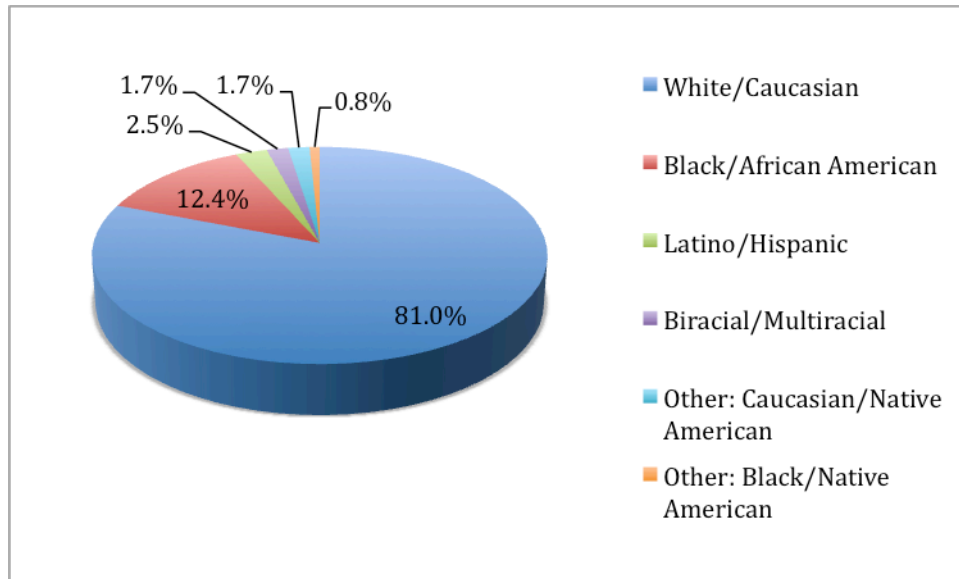


Figure 2. Racial/Ethnic Background of Participants

Participants resided in nine states, with the largest number of offenders living in Michigan (34.7%, n = 42). Sixteen point five percent (n = 20) of participants resided in Nevada, 12.4% (n = 15) lived in Louisiana, and 11.6% (n = 14) resided in Ohio. Of the remaining states, 9.1% (n = 11) of the sample resided in South Carolina, 5.8% (n = 7) lived in Delaware, and 5.0% (n = 6) resided in Maryland. Residents of both South Dakota and Wyoming each represented 2.5% (n = 3) of the sample (see figure 3). (See Table 1 for additional descriptive statistics).

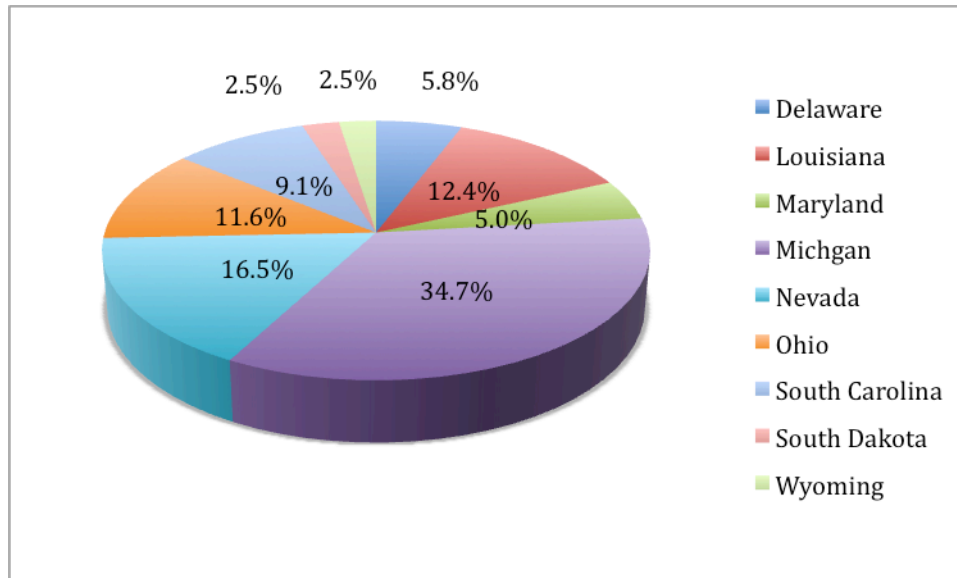


Figure 3. State Residence of Participants

Descriptive Categories	Tier II		Tier III	
	%	(n)	%	(n)
Age:				
18-44	38.1	(24)	44.8	(26)
45-65	61.9	(39)	55.2	(32)
Race/Ethnicity:				
White/Caucasian	76.2	(48)	86.2	(50)
People of Color	23.9	(15)	13.7	(8)
State Residence:				
Delaware	9.5	(6)	1.7	(1)
Louisiana	11.1	(7)	13.8	(8)
Maryland	1.6	(1)	8.6	(5)
Michigan	19.0	(12)	51.7	(30)
Nevada	27.0	(17)	5.2	(3)
Ohio	20.6	(13)	1.7	(1)
South Carolina	6.3	(4)	12.1	(7)
South Dakota	3.2	(2)	1.7	(1)
Wyoming	1.6	(1)	3.4	(2)
Registration Requirements:				
10 Years	14.3	(9)	5.2	(3)
15 Years	3.2	(2)	1.7	(1)
20 Years	1.6	(1)	0.0	(0)
25 Years	41.3	(26)	1.7	(1)
Life	28.6	(18)	87.9	(51)
Unknown	11.1	(7)	3.4	(2)

Descriptive Categories	Tier II		Tier III	
	%	(n)	%	(n)
Chance of Early Release from Registration:				
Yes	17.5	(11)	5.2	(3)
No	69.8	(44)	87.9	(51)
Unknown	12.7	(8)	6.9	(4)

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics Separated by Tier Level

Knowledge and Opinions Concerning SORNA and Sex Offender Registration

Although all 121 of the participants live in states that have implemented SORNA, only 73.0% (n = 46) of Tier II participants and 63.8% (n = 37) of Tier III participants have heard of the law. No significant differences were found between the two tiers ($\chi^2 = 1.19, p = .26$). Even fewer participants were aware of how often they are required to register in order to comply with SORNA (Tier II = 35.6%, n = 21; Tier III = 36.8%, n = 21). Almost half of Tier II offenders must be registered for 25 years (41.3%, n = 26) and the majority of Tier III offenders will be listed on their state registries for life (87.9%, n = 51). Of all participants, only 17.5% (n = 11) of Tier II and 5.2% (n = 3) of Tier III respondents reported the chance of being removed early from their registries.

Of the total participants, 58.5% (n = 69) reported that it should be legal to have a sex offender registry and 59.6% (n = 68) reported that it is justified to have a sex offender registry. No significant differences were detected between the two tier levels on the question of legality ($\chi^2 = 3.2, p = .08$). However, the difference between the two tiers approached significance regarding participants' perception of the justification of having a sex offender registry ($\chi^2 = 3.7, p = .054$), with two thirds of Tier II offenders reporting that the creation of a sex offender registry is justified. There was a

significant difference between Tier II and Tier III offenders regarding their opinion on which tier levels should be visible to the public ($\chi^2 = 34.1, p = .00$); two thirds of Tier II participants responded that only Tier III offenders should be visible (66.7%, $n = 42$), but only 17.5% ($n = 10$) of Tier III participants agreed.

Hypothesis 1. Efficacy of SORNA

A confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) with no rotation was conducted to assess how fifteen variables measuring the perceived efficacy of SORNA clustered. After the initial CFA, an examination of the scree plot showed a clear break between the eigenvalues of the first and second factors. While two factors had eigenvalues greater than 1.0, the total variance explained by the first factor was 67.3%, and the total variance explained by the second factor was only 9.5%. The sample size for the CFA consisted of 116 participants. Cronbach's Alpha = 0.96, indicating that the one factor model for Efficacy is reliable (see Appendix I for the Efficacy CFA component matrix).

Total Variance Explained						
Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	10.094	67.293	67.293	10.094	67.293	67.293
2	1.418	9.453	76.746	1.418	9.453	76.746
3	.631	4.204	80.949			
4	.525	3.498	84.447			
5	.437	2.911	87.357			
6	.396	2.640	89.998			
7	.370	2.464	92.461			
8	.291	1.939	94.400			
9	.243	1.617	96.017			
10	.180	1.198	97.215			

Total Variance Explained						
Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
11	.147	.980	98.195			
12	.116	.772	98.967			
13	.075	.500	99.467			
14	.045	.301	99.768			
15	.035	.232	100.000			

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Table 2. Variance Explained for Efficacy Variables

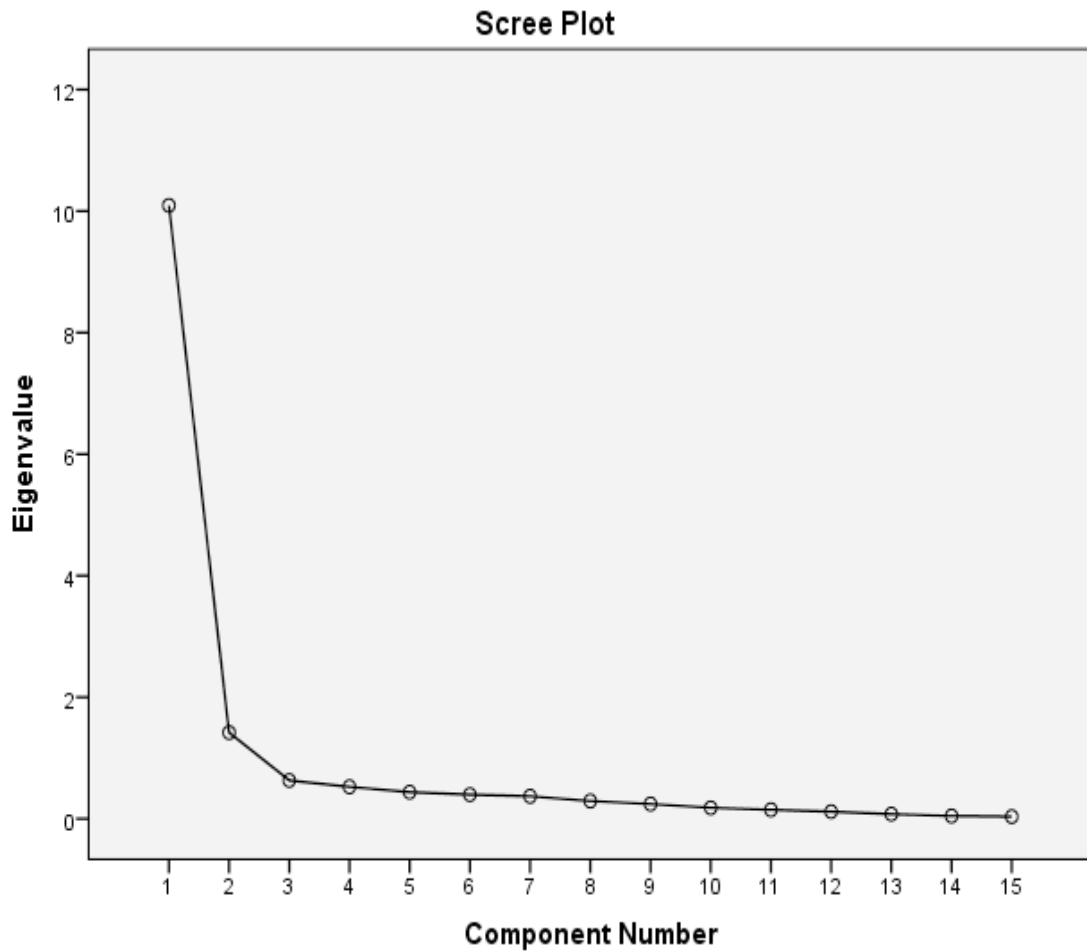


Figure 4. Scree Plot for Efficacy Variable Factors

Once the factor structure of the efficacy variables was confirmed, the fifteen items were averaged to create one Efficacy score for each participant (see Table 3 for

percentages of the original efficacy items broken down by tier). A Shapiro-Wilk test was used to check the normality of the Efficacy variable. The test yielded a statistic of 0.86, $p = .00$, indicating that the variable is not normally distributed, being positively skewed (see Appendix II for the normality assumption plot and histogram of the Efficacy variable).

SORNA Efficacy Items: How Effective Is...	Total Percentage Answering <i>Very Ineffective</i> or <i>Ineffective</i>	Percentage of Tier II Answering <i>Very Ineffective</i> or <i>Ineffective</i>	Percentage of Tier III Answering <i>Very Ineffective</i> or <i>Ineffective</i>
Creating a national sex offender registry database?	64.9%	56.5%	74.6%
Categorizing sex offenders into three risk categories?	59.3%	51.6%	67.8%
Making Tier I offenders remain on the registry for 15 years?	67.2%	59.6%	75.5%
Making Tier II offenders remain on the registry for 25 years?	66.4%	58.1%	75.4%
Making Tier III offenders remain on the registry for life?	58.5%	44.3%	73.7% *
Listing a sex offender's home address on the internet registry?	70.5%	62.9%	78.9%
Listing a sex offender's work address on the internet registry?	81.5%	79.0%	84.2%
Listing a sex offender's school address on the internet registry?	78.2%	72.6%	84.2%
Listing a sex offender's telephone number on the internet registry?	81.5%	77.4%	85.9%

SORNA Efficacy Items: How Effective Is...	Total Percentage Answering <i>Very Ineffective</i> or <i>Ineffective</i>	Percentage of Tier II Answering <i>Very Ineffective</i> or <i>Ineffective</i>	Percentage of Tier III Answering <i>Very Ineffective</i> or <i>Ineffective</i>
Posting a sex offender's picture on the internet registry?	67.2%	59.7%	75.4%
Giving a physical description of a sex offender on the internet registry?	63.0%	54.9%	71.9%
Listing a sex offender's car make and model on the internet registry?	72.2%	66.1%	79.0%
Listing a sex offender's license plate number on the internet registry?	74.8%	67.8%	82.5%
Listing a sex offender's crime(s) on the internet registry?	63.8%	54.8%	73.7% *
SORNA as a whole?	70.6%	61.3%	80.7% *

* Significant difference between tier levels using Pearson Chi Square Test at $p < .05$

Table 3. Percentages of Respondents Identifying Original Efficacy Items as Very Ineffective or Ineffective, Separated by Tier Level

A related samples sign test indicates that out of 119 participants, 78.2% (n = 93) reported a score below 3, indicating that a significant majority of respondents felt that the SORNA is ineffective.

Sign test of median = 3.000 versus \neq 3.000							
	N	N*	Below	Equal	Above	P	Median
Efficacy	119	2	93	5	21	0.0000	1.800

Table 4. Related Samples Sign Test for Median of Efficacy Variable

A one-sample t-test was conducted to evaluate the hypothesis that a large proportion of registered pedophiles would identify SORNA as being ineffective at

reducing recidivism and maintaining public safety. The one sample t-test showed that the sample mean ($M = 2.0$, $SD = 1.1$) was significantly lower than 3.0, the value for “Neutral” on the five-point Likert scale of Efficacy, $t(118) = 9.4$, $p = .00$. This analysis confirms the hypothesis, indicating that participants rated the efficacy of SORNA as either ineffective or very ineffective.

An independent samples t-test was conducted to evaluate the second portion of the hypothesis, that Tier III offenders will perceive SORNA as being more ineffective at reducing recidivism and maintaining public safety than Tier II offenders. The independent samples t-test indicated a significant difference between the means of Tier II offenders ($M = 2.3$, $SD = 1.2$) and Tier III offenders ($M = 1.8$, $SD = 0.9$), $t(117) = 2.7$, $p = .00$, confirming the hypothesis.

Hypothesis 2. Being Identified on Sex Offender Registries

A CFA with no rotation was conducted to assess how sixteen variables measuring the perceived justification of items listed on sex offender registries clustered. After the initial CFA, an examination of the scree plot showed a clear break between the eigenvalues of the first and second factors. While two factors had eigenvalues greater than 1.0, the total variance explained by the first factor was 60.5%, and the total variance explained by the second factor was only 12.0%. The sample size for the CFA consisted of 112 participants. Cronbach’s Alpha = 0.95, indicating that the one factor model for Registry Item Justification is reliable (see Appendix I for the Registry Item Justification CFA component matrix).

Total Variance Explained

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	9.674	60.462	60.462	9.674	60.462	60.462
2	1.924	12.026	72.488	1.924	12.026	72.488
3	.745	4.654	77.141			
4	.655	4.091	81.232			
5	.543	3.396	84.628			
6	.447	2.796	87.424			
7	.404	2.524	89.948			
8	.351	2.195	92.143			
9	.299	1.867	94.010			
10	.225	1.407	95.417			
11	.196	1.226	96.642			
12	.172	1.078	97.720			
13	.143	.893	98.613			
14	.094	.587	99.200			
15	.076	.472	99.673			
16	.052	.327	100.000			
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.						

Table 5. Variance Explained for Registry Item Justification Variables

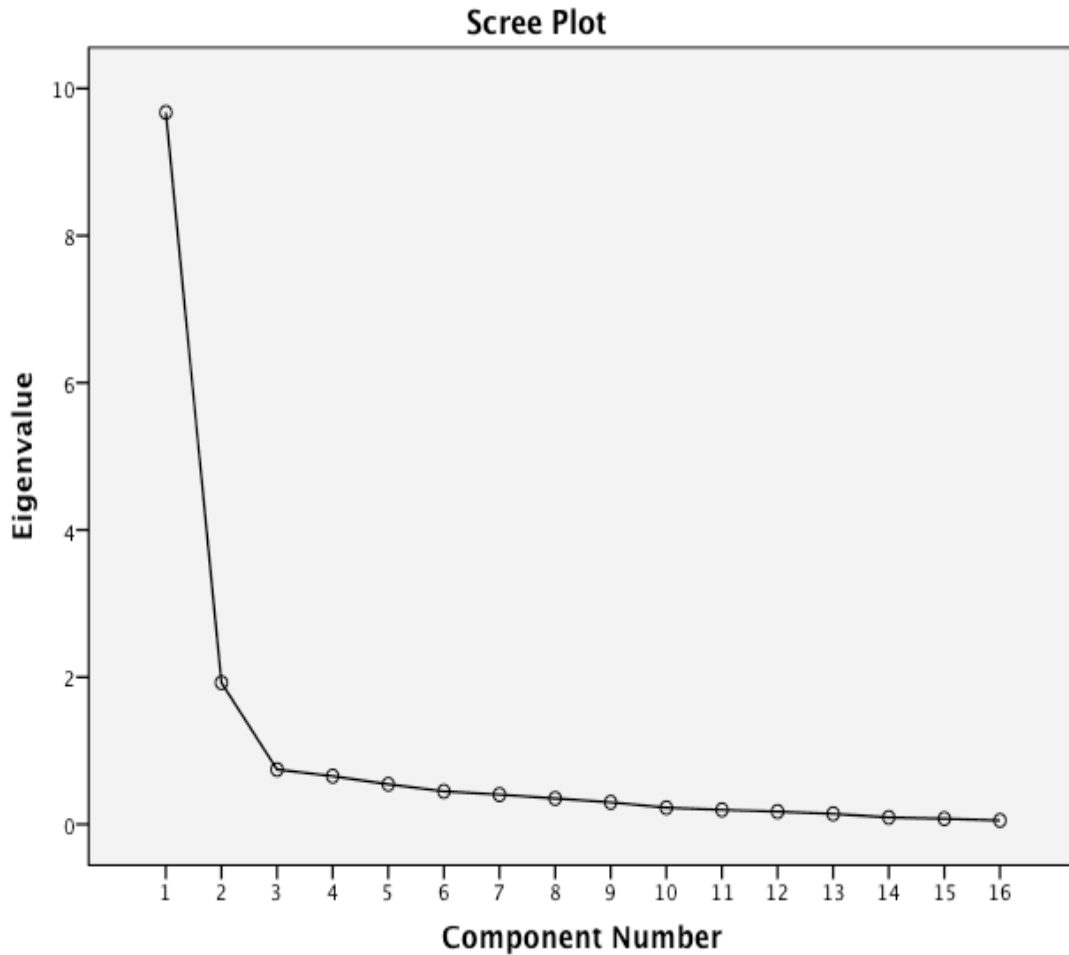


Figure 5. Scree Plot for Registry Item Justification Variable Factors

Once the factor structure of the registry item variables was confirmed, the sixteen items were averaged to create one Registry Item Justification score for each participant (see Table 6 for percentages of the original registry justification items broken down by tier). A Shapiro-Wilk test was used to check the normality of the Registry Item Justification variable. The test yielded a statistic of 0.91, $p = .000$, indicating that the variable is not normally distributed, being positively skewed (see Appendix II for the normality assumption plot and histogram of the Registry Item Justification variable).

How Justified Is It to Require...	Total Percentage Answering <i>Very Unjustified</i> or <i>Unjustified</i>	Percentage of Tier II Answering <i>Very Unjustified</i> or <i>Unjustified</i>	Percentage of Tier III Answering <i>Very Unjustified</i> or <i>Unjustified</i>
An Offender's Name To Be Put On The Public Internet Sex Offender Registry?	44.1%	41.0%	47.3%
An Offender's Date Of Birth To Be Put On The Public Internet Sex Offender Registry?	52.6%	47.5%	57.9%
An Offender's Home Address To Be Put On The Public Internet Sex Offender Registry?	66.6%	60.0%	73.7%
An Offender's Employer Name And Address To Be Put On The Public Internet Sex Offender Registry?	85.6%	85.3%	86.0%
An Offender's School Name And Address To Be Put On The Public Internet Sex Offender Registry?	80.3%	83.3%	77.2%
An Offender's Telephone Numbers (Cell Phones & Land Lines) To Be Put On The Public Internet Sex Offender Registry?	90.5%	86.5%	94.7%
An Offender's Internet Identifiers, Email Addresses, Screen Names, And Handles To Be Put On The Public Internet Sex Offender Registry?	72.6%	68.9%	76.8%
An Offender's Photograph To Be Put On The Public Internet Sex Offender Registry?	56.8%	49.2%	64.9%

How Justified Is It to Require...	Total Percentage Answering <i>Very Unjustified</i> or <i>Unjustified</i>	Percentage of Tier II Answering <i>Very Unjustified</i> or <i>Unjustified</i>	Percentage of Tier III Answering <i>Very Unjustified</i> or <i>Unjustified</i>
An Offender's Physical Description To Be Put On The Public Internet Sex Offender Registry?	50.8%	44.3%	57.9%
An Offender's Driver's License or Identification Card To Be Put On The Public Internet Sex Offender Registry?	79.4%	81.7%	77.2%
An Offender's Vehicle Description To Be Put On The Public Internet Sex Offender Registry?	73.7%	72.2%	75.4%
An Offender's License Plate Number To Be Put On The Public Internet Sex Offender Registry?	79.6%	80.3%	78.9%
An Offender's Temporary Lodging Information To Be Put On The Public Internet Sex Offender Registry?	83.7%	80.4%	87.5%
An Offender's Criminal History To Be Put On The Public Internet Sex Offender Registry?	54.7%	49.2%	60.7%
A Description Of An Offender's Sex Crime(s) To Be Put On The Public Internet Sex Offender Registry?	58.6%	51.6%	66.1%
The Age and Sex Of An Offender's Victim(s) To Be Put On The Public Internet Sex Offender Registry?	61.9%	54.1%	70.1%

Table 6. Percentages of Respondents Identifying Original Registry Justification Items as Very Unjustified or Unjustified, Separated by Tier Level

A related samples sign test indicates that out of 118 participants, 84.7% (n = 100) reported a score below 3, indicating that a significant majority of respondents felt that the identifying items included on sex offender registries are unjustified.

Sign test of median = 3.000 versus \neq 3.000							
	N	N*	Below	Equal	Above	P	Median
Registry Item Justification	118	3	100	0	18	0.0000	2.000

Table 7. Related Samples Sign Test for Median of Registry Item Justification Variable

A one-sample t-test was conducted to evaluate the hypothesis that a large proportion of registered pedophiles will find a majority of the identifying items included on sex offender registries to be unjustified. The one sample t-test showed that the sample mean (M = 2.1, SD = 1.0) was significantly lower than 3.0, the value for “Neutral” on the five-point Likert scale of Registry Item Justification, $t(117) = 10.5, p = .00$. This analysis confirms the hypothesis, indicating that a majority of participants reported that items placed on the registry were unjustified or very unjustified.

An independent samples t-test was conducted to evaluate the second portion of the hypothesis, that Tier III offenders will find the identifying items included on sex offender registries to be more unjustified than Tier II offenders. The independent samples t-test indicated a significant difference between the mean of Tier II offenders (M = 2.2, SD = 1.0) and that of Tier III offenders (M = 1.9, SD = 0.9), $t(116) = 2.0, p = .05$, confirming the hypothesis.

Hypothesis 3. Opinion of Registerable Offenses Mandated by SORNA

A CFA with no rotation was conducted to assess how nineteen variables measuring the perceived justification of registerable offenses mandated by SORNA clustered. After the initial CFA, an examination of the scree plot showed a clear break between the eigenvalues of the first and second factors. While two factors had eigenvalues greater than 1.0, the total variance explained by the first factor was 71.1%, and the total variance explained by the second factor was only 7.4%. The sample size for the CFA consisted of 110 participants. Cronbach's Alpha = 0.98, indicating that the one factor model for Offense Justification is reliable (see Appendix I for the Offense Justification CFA component matrix).

Total Variance Explained						
Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	13.508	71.097	71.097	13.508	71.097	71.097
2	1.405	7.393	78.490	1.405	7.393	78.490
3	.751	3.955	82.445			
4	.616	3.243	85.688			
5	.491	2.584	88.271			
6	.423	2.228	90.500			
7	.326	1.715	92.215			
8	.297	1.563	93.778			
9	.244	1.284	95.061			
10	.182	.959	96.020			
11	.161	.849	96.869			
12	.132	.695	97.564			
13	.123	.647	98.211			
14	.099	.522	98.732			
15	.085	.447	99.179			
16	.059	.311	99.490			
17	.037	.194	99.684			
18	.031	.162	99.846			

Total Variance Explained						
Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
19	.029	.154	100.000			

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Table 8. Variance Explained for Offense Justification Variables

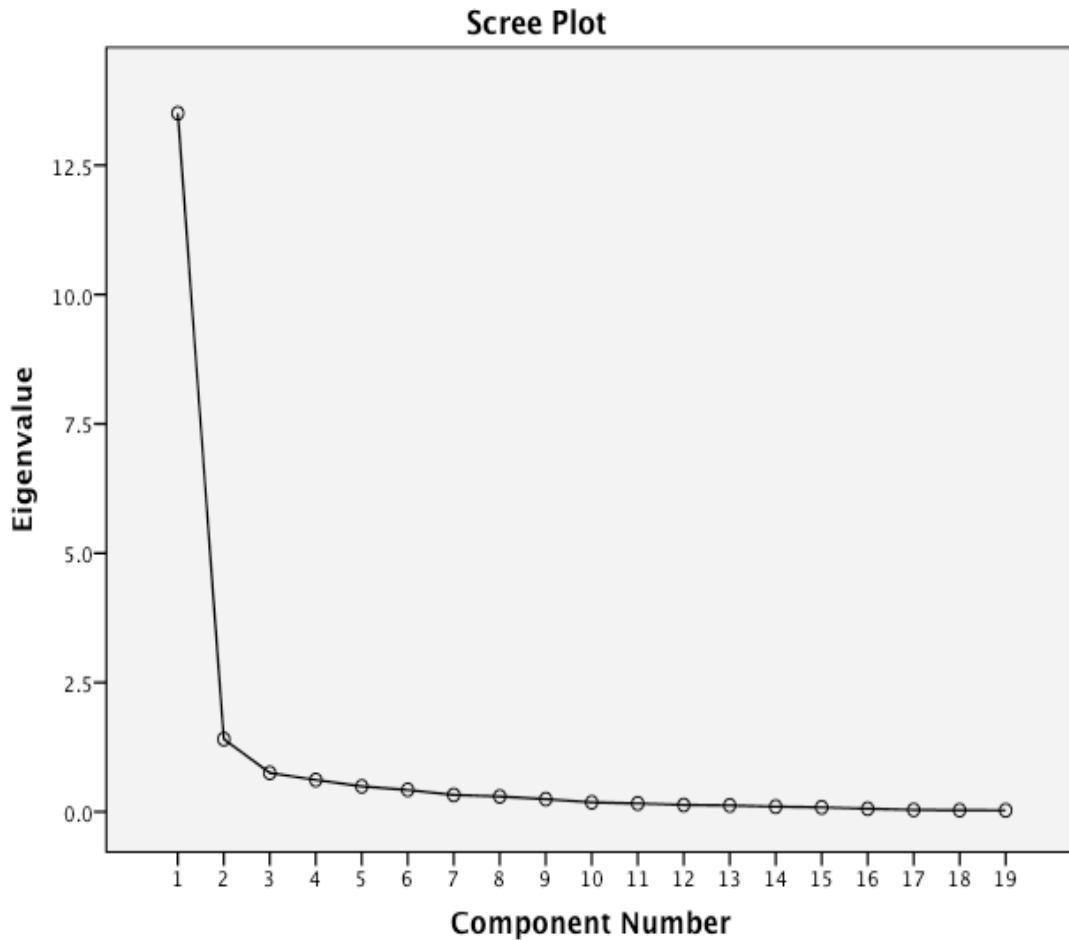


Figure 6. Scree Plot for Offense Justification Variable Factors

Once the factor structure of the offense justification variables was confirmed, the nineteen items were averaged to create one Offense Justification score for each participant (see Table 9 for percentages of the original offense justification items broken down by tier). A Shapiro-Wilk test was used to check the normality of the

Offense Justification variable. The test yielded a statistic of 0.83, $p = .00$, indicating that the variable is not normally distributed, being positively skewed (see Appendix II for the normality assumption plot and histogram of the Offense Justification variable).

How Justified Is It to Require Offenders to Register for the Offense of...	Total Percentage Answering <i>Very Unjustified</i> or <i>Unjustified</i>	Percentage of Tier II Answering <i>Very Unjustified</i> or <i>Unjustified</i>	Percentage of Tier III Answering <i>Very Unjustified</i> or <i>Unjustified</i>
Rape of An Adult?	18.0%	14.5%	21.8%
Rape of A Minor?	15.5%	9.7%	22.2%
Sexual Abuse of A Minor?	18.1%	12.9%	24.1%
Possession of Child Pornography?	28.2%	24.2%	32.7%
Production of Child Pornography?	14.6%	9.7%	20.0%
Distribution of Child Pornography?	18.1%	14.6%	22.2%
Non-Parental Kidnapping of a Minor?	33.6%	27.4%	40.7%
Non-Parental False Imprisonment of a Minor?	32.5%	27.5%	38.2%
Solicitation of a Minor to Practice Prostitution?	17.1%	12.9%	21.9%
Use of A Minor In a Sexual Performance?	14.6%	11.3%	18.1%
Video Voyeurism Involving a Minor?	13.7%	9.7%	18.1%
Criminal Sexual Conduct Involving a Minor?	15.5%	13.2%	18.1%
Use of the Internet to Attempt Criminal Sexual Conduct With a Minor?	16.3%	14.5%	18.1%

How Justified Is It to Require Offenders to Register for the Offense of...	Total Percentage Answering <i>Very Unjustified</i> or <i>Unjustified</i>	Percentage of Tier II Answering <i>Very Unjustified</i> or <i>Unjustified</i>	Percentage of Tier III Answering <i>Very Unjustified</i> or <i>Unjustified</i>
Sex Trafficking of Children?	12.7%	12.9%	12.5%*
Aggravated Sexual Abuse?	11.9%	9.7%	14.3%*
Using Misleading Domain Names on the Internet?	22.2%	16.1%	29.1%
Using Misleading Words or Obscene Digital Images on the Internet?	22.2%	17.8%	27.3%
(Non-Sexual) Selling or Buying Children?	20.5%	14.5%	27.3%
Offenses Resulting in Death?	25.0%	19.7%	30.9%

* Significant difference between tier levels using Pearson Chi Square Test at $p < .05$

Table 9. Percentages of Respondents Identifying Original Registerable Offense Items as Very Unjustified or Unjustified, Separated by Tier Level

A related samples sign test indicates that out of 118 participants, only 18.6% (n = 22) reported a score below 3, indicating that a significant majority of respondents felt that the offenses listed on the sex offender registry are justified.

Sign test of median = 3.000 versus \neq 3.000							
	N	N*	Below	Equal	Above	P	Median
Offense Justification	118	3	22	1	95	0.0000	4.185

Table 10. Related Samples Sign Test for Median of Offense Justification Variable

A one-sample t-test was conducted to evaluate the hypothesis that a large proportion of registered pedophiles will find a majority of the crimes mandated by SORNA as registerable offenses to be unjustified. The one sample t-test showed that

the sample mean ($M = 3.8$, $SD = 1.2$) was significantly higher than 3.0, the value for “Neutral” on the five-point Likert scale of Registerable Offense Justification, $t(117) = 7.8$, $p = .00$. This analysis does not confirm the hypothesis, rather indicating that a majority of participants reported that the offenses that cause someone to have to register as a sex offender under SORNA are neutral, justifiable, or very justifiable.

An independent samples t-test was conducted to evaluate the second portion of the hypothesis, that Tier III offenders will find the crimes mandated by SORNA as registerable offenses to be more unjustified than Tier II offenders. The independent samples t-test indicated that the difference between the mean of Tier II offenders ($M = 4.0$, $SD = 1.0$) and that of Tier III offenders ($M = 3.6$, $SD = 1.2$), approached significance, $t(116) = 1.9$, $p = .06$. However, even though Tier III offenders have a lower mean score than Tier II offenders, the means of both groups indicate that they find the offenses under SORNA to be somewhat justified.

Hypothesis 4. Psychological and Social Harm Caused by SORNA

A CFA with no rotation was conducted to assess how sixteen variables measuring the perceived psychosocial impact of SORNA clustered. After the initial CFA, an examination of the scree plot showed a clear break between the eigenvalues of the first and second factors. While four factors had eigenvalues greater than 1.0, the total variance explained by the first factor was 52.4%, and the total variance explained by the second, third, and fourth factors were only 9.6%, 8.0%, and 6.9% respectively. The sample size for the CFA consisted of 113 participants. Cronbach’s Alpha = 0.94, indicating that the one factor model for Impact is reliable (see Appendix I for the Impact CFA component matrix).

Total Variance Explained						
Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	8.379	52.371	52.371	8.379	52.371	52.371
2	1.534	9.585	61.956	1.534	9.585	61.956
3	1.285	8.028	69.985	1.285	8.028	69.985
4	1.099	6.866	76.851	1.099	6.866	76.851
5	.761	4.754	81.605			
6	.478	2.987	84.592			
7	.446	2.789	87.381			
8	.380	2.372	89.753			
9	.317	1.982	91.735			
10	.271	1.693	93.428			
11	.235	1.469	94.897			
12	.215	1.345	96.242			
13	.195	1.216	97.458			
14	.179	1.118	98.576			
15	.125	.783	99.360			
16	.102	.640	100.000			
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.						

Table 11. Variance Explained for Impact Variables

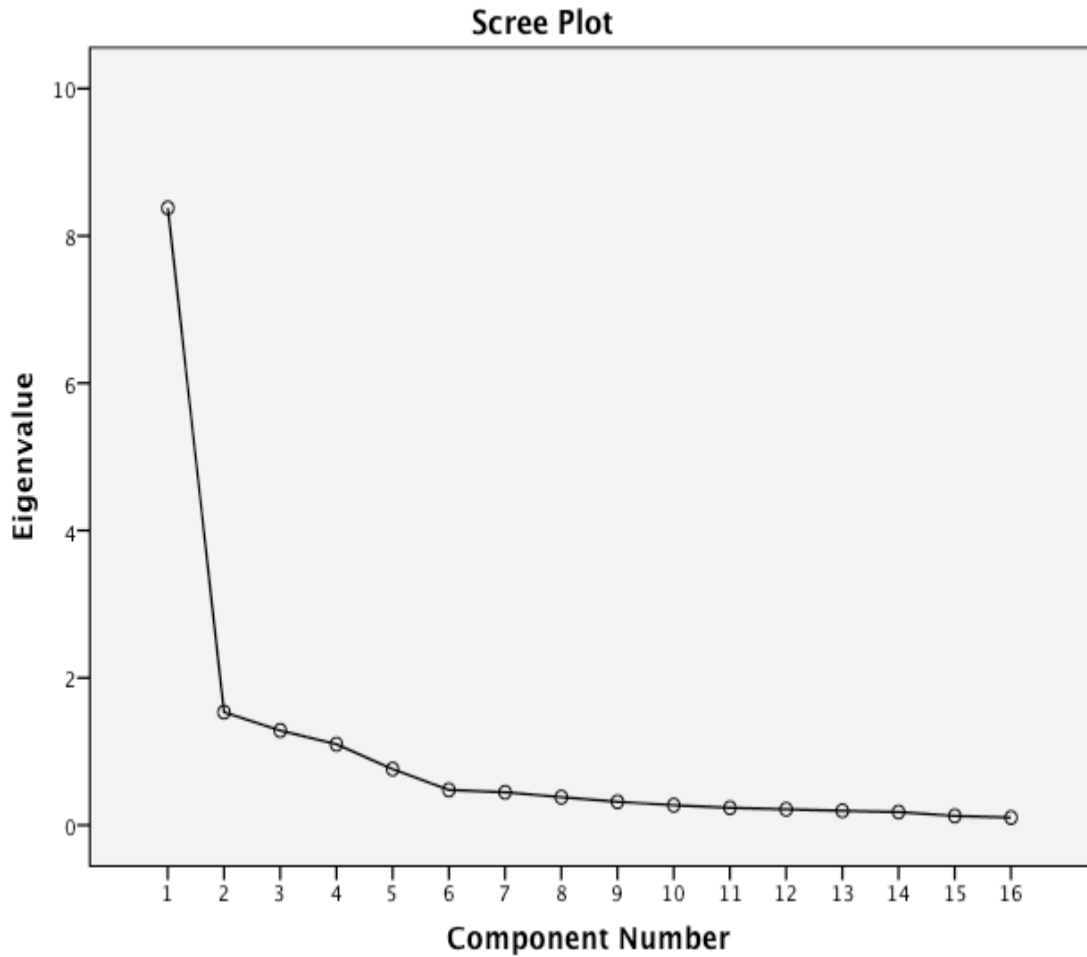


Figure 7. Scree Plot for Impact Variable Factors

Once the factor structure of the psychosocial impact variables was confirmed, the sixteen items were averaged to create one Impact score for each participant (see Table 12 for percentages of the original psychosocial impact items broken down by tier). A Shapiro-Wilk test was used to check the normality of the Impact variable. The test yielded a statistic of 0.89, $p = .00$, indicating that the variable is not normally distributed, being positively skewed (see Appendix II for the normality assumption plot and histogram of the Impact variable).

What is SORNA's Impact on...	Total Percentage Answering <i>Very Negative</i> or <i>Negative</i>	Percentage of Tier II Answering <i>Very Negative</i> or <i>Negative</i>	Percentage of Tier III Answering <i>Very Negative</i> or <i>Negative</i>
Your Housing?	77.3%	75.8%	79.0%
Your Employment?	80.7%	75.8%	86.0%
Your Schooling?	66.9%	63.9%	70.2%
Your Friendships?	60.5%	58.0%	63.2%
Your Family Relationships?	45.3%	43.6%	47.4%
Your Romantic Relationships?	61.4%	62.9%	59.7%
Your Civil Rights and Liberties?	80.5%	77.1%	84.2%
Your Participation in Community Events and Activities?	85.7%	80.7%	91.2%
Your Community Support and Reintegration?	84.0%	82.3%	86.0%
Your Access to Community Services?	79.0%	74.2%	84.2%
Your Personal Safety?	68.6%	66.1%	71.4%
The Safety of Your Friends and Family?	57.3%	59.7%	54.6%
Your Physical Health?	55.6%	53.2%	58.1%
Your Access to Health Services?	39.7%	45.2%	33.3%
Your Mental Health?	57.3%	58.0%	56.4%
Your Access to Mental Health Services?	35.6%	35.5%	35.8%

Table 12. Percentages of Respondents Identifying Original Psychosocial Impact Items as Very Negative or Negative, Separated by Tier Level

A related samples sign test indicates that out of 119 participants, 89.1% (n = 106) reported a score below 3, indicating that a significant majority of respondents felt that SORNA has a negative impact on their psychological and social functioning.

Sign test of median = 3.000 versus \neq 3.000							
	N	N*	Below	Equal	Above	P	Median
Impact	119	2	106	3	10	0.0000	2.000

Table 13. Related Samples Sign Test for Median of Impact Variable

A one-sample t-test was conducted to evaluate the hypothesis that a large proportion of registered pedophiles will identify SORNA as being psychologically and socially harmful to themselves and their families. The one sample t-test showed that the sample mean ($M = 2.0$, $SD = 0.8$) was significantly lower than 3.0, the value for “Neutral” on the five-point Likert scale of Impact, $t(118) = 13.8$, $p = .00$. This analysis confirms the hypothesis, indicating that a majority of participants reported that SORNA has negatively or very negatively impacted their psychosocial functioning.

An independent samples t-test was conducted to evaluate the second portion the hypothesis, that Tier III offenders will perceive SORNA as being more socially and psychologically harmful to themselves and their families than Tier II offenders. The independent samples t-test indicated no significant difference between the mean of Tier II offenders ($M = 2.1$, $SD = 0.9$) and that of Tier III offenders ($M = 1.9$, $SD = 0.6$), $t(116) = 2.0$, $p = .14$, thus disconfirming the hypothesis.

Hypothesis 5. Sensitivity to and Understanding of Violence

Twenty-six items were included in the violence sensitivity questionnaire, including sexual, non-sexual, contact, and non-contact violence items. All twenty-six

items were averaged to create one Sensitivity to Violence score for each participant (see Table 14 for percentages of violence items broken down by tier.)

Four additional scores were created for each participant by averaging subsets of the violence items. The Physical Violence score was created from the following items: slapping, hitting, rape, fighting, pushing, shoving, and fondling. The Non-physical Violence score was created from the following items: flashing, screaming, creating adult pornography, watching adult pornography, home burglary, creating child pornography, watching child pornography, sexual coercion, robbery, competition, voyeurism, stealing, verbal abuse, vandalism, cursing, stalking, sexual harassment, staring, and gossip.

The Sexual Violence score was created by averaging the scores of the twelve sexual items: flashing, creating adult pornography, watching adult pornography, rape, sexual coercion, creating child pornography, watching child pornography, sexual harassment, stalking, staring, voyeurism, and fondling. The Non-Sexual Violence score was created by averaging the scores of the remaining fourteen non-sexual items.

How Violent Is...	Total Percentage Answering 5, 6, or 7	Percentage of Tier II Answering 5, 6, or 7	Percentage of Tier III Answering 5, 6, or 7
Slapping	46.1%	58.3%	33.3%
Flashing (exposing yourself)	44.0%	49.1%	38.9%
Screaming	24.8%	31.0%	10.8%*
Watching Adult Pornography	10.2%	13.1%	7.1%
Burglary	64.7%	74.2%	54.4%

How Violent Is...	Total Percentage Answering 5, 6, or 7	Percentage of Tier II Answering 5, 6, or 7	Percentage of Tier III Answering 5, 6, or 7
Hitting	81.6%	90.4%	71.9%
Rape	96.7%	98.4%	94.7%
Fighting	81.4%	88.7%	73.2%
Creating Child Pornography	81.4%	85.6%	76.7%
Sexual Coercion	71.3%	68.9%	74.0%
Pushing	37.8%	48.4%	26.3%
Robbery	76.4%	78.5%	63.2%*
Competition	14.7%	18.1%	10.9%
Stealing	46.6%	59.0%	33.3%
Verbal Abuse	52.9%	59.7%	45.6%
Vandalism	57.3%	62.3%	51.8%*
Creating Adult Pornography	24.5%	26.2%	22.9%
Gossip	23.8%	29.5%	17.6%
Voyeurism (Peeping Tom)	46.7%	52.5%	40.3%
Cursing	21.0%	25.8%	15.8%
Stalking	60.5%	72.5%	47.3%*
Sexual Harassment	65.5%	67.7%	63.2%
Shoving	46.2%	54.9%	36.9%

How Violent Is...	Total Percentage Answering 5, 6, or 7	Percentage of Tier II Answering 5, 6, or 7	Percentage of Tier III Answering 5, 6, or 7
Fondling	56.9%	56.5%	57.4%
Staring	17.8%	27.9%	7.1%
Watching Child Pornography	63.6%	67.7%	58.9%*

* Significant difference between tier levels using Pearson Chi Square Test at $p < .05$

Table 14. Percentages of Respondents Identifying Items as 5, 6, or 7 on a 7-point Likert Scale Measuring Violence

Independent samples t-tests were conducted to evaluate the hypothesis that Tier level will predict sensitivity to sexual and non-sexual violence, with Tier III offenders exhibiting lower sensitivity. Results indicated that Tier III offenders exhibit lower sensitivity than Tier II offenders to all types of violence studied.

The first independent samples t-test indicated a significant difference between the mean of Sensitivity to Violence scores for Tier II offenders ($M = 4.7$, $SD = 1.2$) and Tier III offenders ($M = 4.0$, $SD = 1.1$), $t(117) = 3.2$, $p = .00$. This confirms that Tier III offenders have lower sensitivity to violence in general than do Tier II offenders.

The second independent samples t-test indicated a significant difference between the mean of Sexual Violence scores for Tier II offenders ($M = 4.8$, $SD = 1.4$) and Tier III offenders ($M = 4.2$, $SD = 1.2$), $t(117) = 2.2$, $p = .03$. This confirms that Tier III sex offenders have lower sensitivity to sexual violence than do Tier II offenders.

The third independent samples t-test indicated a significant difference between the mean of Non-Sexual Violence scores for Tier II offenders ($M = 4.7$, $SD = 1.2$) and

Tier III offenders ($M = 3.9$, $SD = 1.2$), $t(117) = 3.7$, $p = .00$. This confirms that Tier III sex offenders have lower sensitivity to non-sexual violence than do Tier II offenders.

Chi-square tests of independence were conducted to evaluate the hypothesis that Tier level will predict definitions of violence, including both sexual and non-sexual violence, with Tier III offenders exhibiting more definitions based solely on physical contact than Tier II offenders. No significant differences were detected between the two tier levels on the types of definition for non-sexual violence ($\chi^2 = 5.7$, $p = .13$). Forty-one percent of Tier II offenders ($n = 25$) and 47.2% of Tier III offenders ($n = 25$) defined non-sexual violence in purely physical terms.

Similar results were found when examining sexual violence definitions; no significant differences were detected between the tiers ($\chi^2 = 1.4$, $p = .70$). Sixty point seven percent of Tier II offenders ($n = 37$) and 67.9% of Tier III offenders ($n = 36$) defined sexual violence in a strictly physical manner.

CHAPTER 5

DISCUSSION

Results of the study indicated that less than 75% of participants have heard of SORNA, even though they reside in a SORNA-compliant state. Only one third of offenders were aware of the specific aspects of the law, such as how often they are required to register. Approximately 60% of pedophiles believed that sex offender registries should be legal, with no significant difference between the tiers. Approximately 60% of participants also believe that sex offender registries are justified. However, the types of information listed on most sex offender registries are believed to be unjustified by the majority of Tier II and Tier III pedophiles.

Not surprisingly, two thirds of Tier II participants responded that only Tier III offenders should be visible on the sex offender registry while less than 20% of Tier III participants agreed.

Opinions on the Efficacy of SORNA at Reducing Recidivism

The hypothesis that pedophiles would find SORNA to be ineffective was confirmed, indicating that participants rated the efficacy of SORNA as either ineffective or very ineffective. Of the entire sample, approximately 78% of participants rated “SORNA as a whole” as ineffective or very ineffective.

There was a significant difference between the two tiers, with Tier III offenders finding the law less effective than Tier II offenders. This may be due to the fact that a Tier III designation is used for offenders believed to be at a higher risk

to recidivate that Tier II offenders. Those offenders who are believed to be at a higher risk for recidivism are in theory reoffending more often than those who are at a lower risk. If pedophiles do not believe that a law is effective at reducing their recidivism, those who offend more often would view the law as less effective due to their higher rate of reoffending.

Opinions on the Justification of Identifying Information Listed on Registries

Analyses confirmed the hypothesis that a majority of participants will report self-identifying items placed on the registry as unjustified, with 85% of pedophiles responding that information included on sex offender registries is unjustified or very unjustified.

Tier III offenders found the inclusion of identifying information on SORNA-mandated registries to be significantly more unjustified than Tier II offenders. This may be because most Tier III offenders remain on sex offender registries for life, so their personal information is available to the public for a longer period of time than that of Tier II offenders. It is also possible that Tier III offenders find the inclusion of identifying information on Internet registries to be more unjustified because of the nature of their crimes. Tier III pedophiles have often been convicted of offenses viewed by the public as more severe or heinous than Tier II pedophiles. The severity of Tier III offenses likely leads to a higher level of vigilantism against these offenders than those whose crimes are viewed as less harmful or severe.

The items listed as being most unjustified by respondents were having their employer name and address, school name and address, and telephone numbers listed on the Internet registries. The listing of employers and schools may hinder pedophiles

from being hired or admitted because of the stigma associated with the registry. Having telephone numbers listed is believed to be very unjustified because offenders can presumably be more easily harassed by community members via the telephone than in person.

Opinions on the Justification of Registerable Offenses Mandated by SORNA

Interestingly, the hypothesis that a large proportion of pedophiles will report that it is unjustified to require registration for the offenses included in SORNA was disconfirmed. Analyses indicated that a majority of offenders reported that the registerable offenses mandated by SORNA are neutral, justifiable, or very justifiable. This may be related to the fact that approximately 60% of the sample viewed the creation of a sex offender registry as justifiable.

Although Tier III offenders had lower scores than Tier II offenders, no significant differences were found at the $p = < .05$ level. Results for both groups indicate that they find the offenses under SORNA to be somewhat justified. This is contrary to the hypothesis that Tier III offenders would report offense registration requirements as more unjustified than Tier II offenders because their registration requirements are more numerous and severe.

Opinions on the Psychological and Social Impact Caused by SORNA

Analyses confirmed the hypothesis that a majority of participants will report that being registered under SORNA guidelines is psychologically and socially harmful to themselves and their families. Approximately 90% of the sample identified SORNA as negatively or very negatively impacting their psychosocial functioning.

However, the hypothesis that Tier III offenders will report that SORNA guidelines are more psychologically and socially harmful to themselves and their families than Tier II offenders was disconfirmed. It was hypothesized that the negative impact on Tier III offenders would be greater due to their life-long registration requirements, their identification as sexual predators in certain states, and a greater risk of vigilantism, but the results did not support this hypothesis.

The areas identified by pedophiles as having the greatest negative impact due to SORNA are employment, civil rights and liberties, participation in community events and activities, community support and reintegration, and access to community services.

Sensitivity to and Understanding of Violence

The hypothesis that tier level will predict sensitivity to violence, with Tier III offenders exhibiting lower sensitivity scores than Tier II offenders, was confirmed, with Tier III offenders consistently reporting lower sensitivity to all types of violence. Analyses indicated that Tier III offenders have lower sensitivity to violence in general than do Tier II offenders, possibly because their crimes are more severe in nature. This may suggest that Tier III offenders are more accepting of violence or do not perceive their crimes as being as violent as others do. Tier III pedophiles' view that SORNA is unjustified may be tied to the fact that these participants do not view their offenses as severely as the community or the criminal justice system view them. Analyses also confirmed that Tier III pedophiles have lower sensitivity to sexual and non-sexual violence than do Tier II pedophiles.

The hypothesis that tier level will predict definitions of violence, with Tier III offenders exhibiting more definitions based solely on physical contact than Tier II offenders, was disconfirmed. Chi-square tests of independence found no significant differences between the two tier levels on the types of definition for non-sexual violence. Approximately 40% of Tier II offenders and 47% of Tier III offenders defined non-sexual violence in purely physical terms. Similarly, no significant differences were found between tiers levels when defining sexual violence. Approximately 60% of Tier II pedophiles and 68% of Tier III pedophiles defined sexual violence in a strictly physical manner.

The difference in definitions of types of violence in physical terms may relate to the way pedophiles view their offending behaviors. While non-sexual violence is viewed as both physical and non-physical, sexual violence is seen as a physical phenomenon. That would mean that many sexual offenses, such as coercion, sexual harassment, stalking, exhibitionism, and voyeurism, are not viewed as violent by two-thirds of the offenders in the study sample.

Limitations of the Study

There are several limitations of this study. A small number of offenders participated using an online survey while the majority of pedophiles sent in their surveys via postal mail. One of the reasons why someone might participate via paper and pencil questionnaire is a lack of access to the Internet, either due to financial limitations or their terms of probation. Either way, the small subset of offenders who participated using the Internet survey may differ in some way from the rest of the sample.

Over one third of the sample resides in Michigan, even though participants were recruited from nine states. Some states also have a much larger number of Tier II offenders, such as Ohio or Nevada, and others have the majority of their offenders registered as Tier III offenders, such as Michigan and Maryland. This uneven breakdown underscores the fact that although SORNA designates which sex offenses are registerable, the law does not give clear instructions on which crimes fall into different tier levels. In theory, tier level is supposed to reflect risk level and possibility of reoffending. However, risk level is an ambiguous concept when used in sex offender sentencing and many other factors come into play when someone is labeled as a Tier II or Tier III offender by the courts. The state one lives in, their age, the number of prior or concurrent charges, and the perceived harm of one's crime may all play a part in tier determination, regardless of whether these factors correlate with risk level. Even though the sample was approximately half Tier II offenders and half Tier III offenders, there is no way of knowing the offenses that differentiate the tiers.

Another limitation of the study design is its lack of global validity. There are thousands of sex offenders registered in the United States, not all of which meet the criteria for a diagnosis of Pedophilic Disorder. The participants who were chosen for this study had contact offenses with minors fifteen years of age or younger, but the average sex offender may not reflect this victim profile. Many registered offenders have both contact and non-contact offenses, as well as offenses against minors above and below fifteen years old. Even when comparing the sample to other registered offenders who meet criteria for Pedophilic Disorder, such as those with non-contact

offenses like possession or dissemination of child pornography, there is a chance that the results may not generalize to this group.

Even though all pedophiles who participated in the study were convicted of contact offenses against prepubescent children, the nature of sex offenses can be very diverse. There is a chance that those convicted of rape or sexual assault in some way differ from participants who offend in a less physically violent manner, such as using coercion, grooming, or authority to sexually offend.

The criteria used to identify pedophilic offenders may not match public perception of pedophiles. There is a possibility that community members view all registered offenders with victims under age eighteen as pedophiles, even though some of these offenders do not meet criteria for Pedophilic Disorder.

Additionally, there may be a significant difference between the pedophiles who chose to respond to the survey and those who did not. Over eight hundred people did not participate in the study, and it is unknown whether this group may have different views on the efficacy, justification, and psychosocial impact of SORNA on their lives.

The low response rate for this study may be viewed as a limitation as well. Although research on sex offenders usually garners fewer responses due to the sensitivity of the topic, a 12.1% response rate is considered low for psychological research in general.

Finally, a limitation of this study, and much sex offender research in general, is the fact that recidivism is a measure of re-arrest or reconviction, not reoffending. Many sex offenders who reoffend may never be caught again and therefore the use of recidivism as a measure of sex offending may be artificially low.

Topics for Future Study

There are many topics related to this study's subject matter that have yet to be explored. Further study must be conducted to identify ways of helping pedophiles view SORNA and other sex offender legislation as beneficial. It is imperative that social and political scientists discover new methods of educating offenders about SORNA and explaining why it may be more justified than the offenders initially believe it to be. This could ensure more faith in the efficacy of the law by sex offenders as well as higher rates of compliance with legislation.

The study of definitions of sexual vs. non-sexual violence is one that can be very fruitful when attempting to understand the motivations behind sexual offending. It would be interesting to explore how the definitions of sexual vs. non-sexual violence differ for pedophiles with non-contact offenses, such as those having to do with child pornography. It could also be useful to study the correlation between recidivism and sensitivity to sexual violence.

It may be valuable to research how sex offender treatment changes a pedophile's views of the efficacy and justification of sex offender legislation. Exploring the mitigating effect that sex offender treatment may have on the negative psychological and social impact of SORNA on offenders may also be illuminating. If sex offender treatment can lessen the negative impact of sex offender legislation on registered pedophiles, it is possible that these offenders can view the laws as more useful and less punitive.

Conclusion

The results of this study have ramifications for future legislation and ways sex offenders are dealt with by the criminal justice system. In order to reduce recidivism and increase pedophiles' compliance with sex offender legislation, these laws must be based on research and not public opinion. Historically, community views of sex offender registries have not led to the creation of effective legislation. In order for future legislation to prove effective, it must convince offenders themselves that the laws are effective and justified. The negative impact of laws such as SORNA needs to be lessened in order for sex offenders to view them as justified.

There are many benefits to be gained by sex offenders feeling that they are being treated fairly by the community and criminal justice system. They are less likely to view the registry as punishment and may be more likely to comply with sex offender legislation restrictions. If offenders believe that registries are truly a tool for community safety and not a source of post-incarceration punishment, their views on efficacy, justification, and perceived harm may be altered.

One way of changing these perceptions may be by restricting access to registry information to law enforcement only. The use of sex offender registries as crime fighting tools and not as security blankets for the community may be more effective at reducing recidivism. If registries were not made public, there would be less negative impact on sex offenders and the inclusion of personal information on the registries would be viewed as more justified by offenders.

There are also implications for treatment when sex offenders view the laws governing them as ineffective, harmful, and unjustified. In order for offenders to engage and "buy-in" to treatment, they must feel as though they are not being

punished but rather supported by the criminal justice system and by extension their treatment providers. Sex offender treatment cannot be effective at reducing recidivism if offenders do not truly engage and work toward changing their behavior.

If future sex offender legislation is to be effective, it is imperative that there is a balance between the effects of the laws on offenders and the benefits to the community.

APPENDIX I

Component Matrixes for Confirmatory Factor Analyses

Component Matrix for a One-Factor Efficacy Model

Component Matrix ^a		
EFFICACY CONSTRUCT	Component	
	1	2
HOW EFFECTIVE IS CREATING A NATIONAL SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY DATABASE?	.728	.405
HOW EFFECTIVE IS CATEGORIZING SEX OFFENDERS INTO THREE RISK CATEGORIES?	.747	.236
HOW EFFECTIVE IS MAKING TIER I OFFENDERS REMAIN ON THE REGISTRY FOR 15 YEARS?	.843	.169
HOW EFFECTIVE IS MAKING TIER II OFFENDERS REMAIN ON THE REGISTRY FOR 25 YEARS?	.837	.303
HOW EFFECTIVE IS MAKING TIER III OFFENDERS REMAIN ON THE REGISTRY FOR LIFE?	.752	.473

Component Matrix^a		
EFFICACY CONSTRUCT	Component	
	1	2
HOW EFFECTIVE IS LISTING A SEX OFFENDER'S HOME ADDRESS ON THE INTERNET REGISTRY?	.830	-.227
HOW EFFECTIVE IS LISTING A SEX OFFENDER'S WORK ADDRESS ON THE INTERNET REGISTRY?	.812	-.488
HOW EFFECTIVE IS LISTING A SEX OFFENDER'S SCHOOL ADDRESS ON THE INTERNET REGISTRY?	.839	-.388
HOW EFFECTIVE IS LISTING A SEX OFFENDER'S TELEPHONE NUMBER ON THE INTERNET REGISTRY?	.798	-.468
HOW EFFECTIVE IS POSTING A SEX OFFENDER'S PICTURE ON THE INTERNET REGISTRY?	.850	-.028
HOW EFFECTIVE IS GIVING A PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF A SEX OFFENDER ON THE INTERNET REGISTRY?	.879	.106

Component Matrix^a		
EFFICACY CONSTRUCT	Component	
	1	2
HOW EFFECTIVE IS LISTING A SEX OFFENDER'S CAR MAKE AND MODEL ON THE INTERNET REGISTRY?	.885	-.211
HOW EFFECTIVE IS LISTING A SEX OFFENDER'S LICENSE PLATE NUMBER ON THE INTERNET REGISTRY?	.879	-.191
HOW EFFECTIVE IS LISTING A SEX OFFENDER'S CRIME(S) ON THE INTERNET REGISTRY?	.789	.141
HOW EFFECTIVE IS SORNA AS A WHOLE?	.818	.286
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.		
a. 2 components extracted.		

Component Matrix for a One-Factor Registry Item Justification Model

Component Matrix^a		
REGISTRY ITEM JUSTIFICATION CONSTRUCT	Component	
	1	2
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE AN OFFENDER'S NAME TO BE PUT ON THE PUBLIC INTERNET SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY?	.758	.444

Component Matrix^a		
REGISTRY ITEM JUSTIFICATION CONSTRUCT	Component	
	1	2
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE AN OFFENDER'S DATE OF BIRTH TO BE PUT ON THE PUBLIC INTERNET SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY?	.761	.504
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE AN OFFENDER'S HOME ADDRESS TO BE PUT ON THE PUBLIC INTERNET SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY?	.746	.263
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE AN OFFENDER'S EMPLOYER NAME AND ADDRESS TO BE PUT ON THE PUBLIC INTERNET SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY?	.791	-.419
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE AN OFFENDER'S SCHOOL NAME AND ADDRESS TO BE PUT ON THE PUBLIC INTERNET SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY?	.798	-.324

Component Matrix^a		
REGISTRY ITEM JUSTIFICATION CONSTRUCT	Component	
	1	2
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE AN OFFENDER'S TELEPHONE NUMBERS (CELL PHONES & LAND LINES) TO BE PUT ON THE PUBLIC INTERNET SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY?	.695	-.377
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE AN OFFENDER'S INTERNET IDENTIFIERS, EMAIL ADDRESSES, SCREEN NAMES, AND HANDLES TO BE PUT ON THE PUBLIC INTERNET SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY?	.760	-.167
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE AN OFFENDER'S PHOTOGRAPH TO BE PUT ON THE PUBLIC INTERNET SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY?	.797	.257
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE AN OFFENDER'S PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION TO BE PUT ON THE PUBLIC INTERNET SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY?	.809	.269

Component Matrix^a		
REGISTRY ITEM JUSTIFICATION CONSTRUCT	Component	
	1	2
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE AN OFFENDER'S DRIVER'S LICENSE OR IDENTIFICATION CARD TO BE PUT ON THE PUBLIC INTERNET SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY?	.747	-.345
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE AN OFFENDER'S VEHICLE DESCRIPTION TO BE PUT ON THE PUBLIC INTERNET SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY?	.849	-.287
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE AN OFFENDER'S LICENSE PLATE NUMBER TO BE PUT ON THE PUBLIC INTERNET SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY?	.834	-.377
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE AN OFFENDER'S TEMPORARY LODGING INFORMATION TO BE PUT ON THE PUBLIC INTERNET SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY?	.804	-.372

Component Matrix^a		
REGISTRY ITEM JUSTIFICATION CONSTRUCT	Component	
	1	2
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE AN OFFENDER'S CRIMINAL HISTORY TO BE PUT ON THE PUBLIC INTERNET SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY?	.752	.299
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE A DESCRIPTION OF AN OFFENDER'S SEX CRIMES TO BE PUT ON THE PUBLIC INTERNET SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY?	.752	.374
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE THE AGE AND SEX OF AN OFFENDER'S VICTIM(S) TO BE PUT ON THE PUBLIC INTERNET SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY?	.775	.322
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.		
a. 2 components extracted.		

Component Matrix for a One-Factor Registerable Offense Justification Model

Component Matrix^a		
REGISTERABLE OFFENSE JUSTIFICATION CONSTRUCT	Component	
	1	2

Component Matrix^a		
REGISTERABLE OFFENSE JUSTIFICATION CONSTRUCT	Component	
	1	2
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE OFFENDERS TO REGISTER FOR THE OFFENSE OF RAPE OF AN ADULT?	.837	-.152
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE OFFENDERS TO REGISTER FOR THE OFFENSE OF RAPE OF A MINOR?	.858	-.198
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE OFFENDERS TO REGISTER FOR THE OFFENSE OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR?	.875	-.279
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE OFFENDERS TO REGISTER FOR THE OFFENSE OF POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY?	.804	-.097
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE OFFENDERS TO REGISTER FOR THE OFFENSE OF PRODUCTION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY?	.925	-.245

Component Matrix^a		
REGISTERABLE OFFENSE JUSTIFICATION CONSTRUCT	Component	
	1	2
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE OFFENDERS TO REGISTER FOR THE OFFENSE OF DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY?	.932	-.087
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE OFFENDERS TO REGISTER FOR THE OFFENSE OF NON- PARENTAL KIDNAPPING OF A MINOR?	.720	.490
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE OFFENDERS TO REGISTER FOR THE OFFENSE OF NON- PARENTAL FALSE IMPRISONMENT OF A MINOR?	.707	.516
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE OFFENDERS TO REGISTER FOR THE OFFENSE OF SOLICITATION OF A MINOR TO PRACTICE PROSTITUTION?	.902	-.027

Component Matrix^a		
REGISTERABLE OFFENSE JUSTIFICATION CONSTRUCT	Component	
	1	2
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE OFFENDERS TO REGISTER FOR THE OFFENSE OF USE OF A MINOR IN A SEXUAL PERFORMANCE?	.938	-.122
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE OFFENDERS TO REGISTER FOR THE OFFENSE OF VIDEO VOYUERISM INVOLVING A MINOR?	.939	-.206
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE OFFENDERS TO REGISTER FOR THE OFFENSE OF CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT INVOLVING A MINOR?	.854	-.162
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE OFFENDERS TO REGISTER FOR THE OFFENSE OF USE OF THE INTERNET TO ATTEMPT CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT WITH A MINOR?	.869	-.201

Component Matrix^a		
REGISTERABLE OFFENSE JUSTIFICATION CONSTRUCT	Component	
	1	2
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE OFFENDERS TO REGISTER FOR THE OFFENSE OF SEX TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN?	.887	-.063
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE OFFENDERS TO REGISTER FOR THE OFFENSE OF AGGRAVATED SEXUAL ABUSE?	.873	-.136
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE OFFENDERS TO REGISTER FOR THE OFFENSE OF USING MISLEADING DOMAIN NAMES ON THE INTERNET?	.809	.293
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE OFFENDERS TO REGISTER FOR THE OFFENSE OF USING MISLEADING WORDS OR OBSCENE DIGITAL IMAGES ON THE INTERNET?	.820	.261

Component Matrix ^a		
REGISTERABLE OFFENSE JUSTIFICATION CONSTRUCT	Component	
	1	2
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE OFFENDERS TO REGISTER FOR THE OFFENSE OF (NON-SEXUAL) SELLING OR BUYING CHILDREN?	.751	.316
HOW JUSTIFIED IS IT TO REQUIRE OFFENDERS TO REGISTER FOR OFFENSES RESULTING IN DEATH?	.644	.529
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.		
a. 2 components extracted.		

Component Matrix for a One-Factor Impact Model

Component Matrix ^a				
PSYCHOSOCIAL IMPACT CONSTRUCT	Component			
	1	2	3	4
WHAT IS SORNA'S IMPACT ON YOUR HOUSING?	.677	-.175	.176	.490
WHAT IS SORNA'S IMPACT ON YOUR EMPLOYMENT?	.762	-.213	.121	.297
WHAT IS SORNA'S IMPACT ON YOUR SCHOOLING?	.742	-.182	-.118	.320

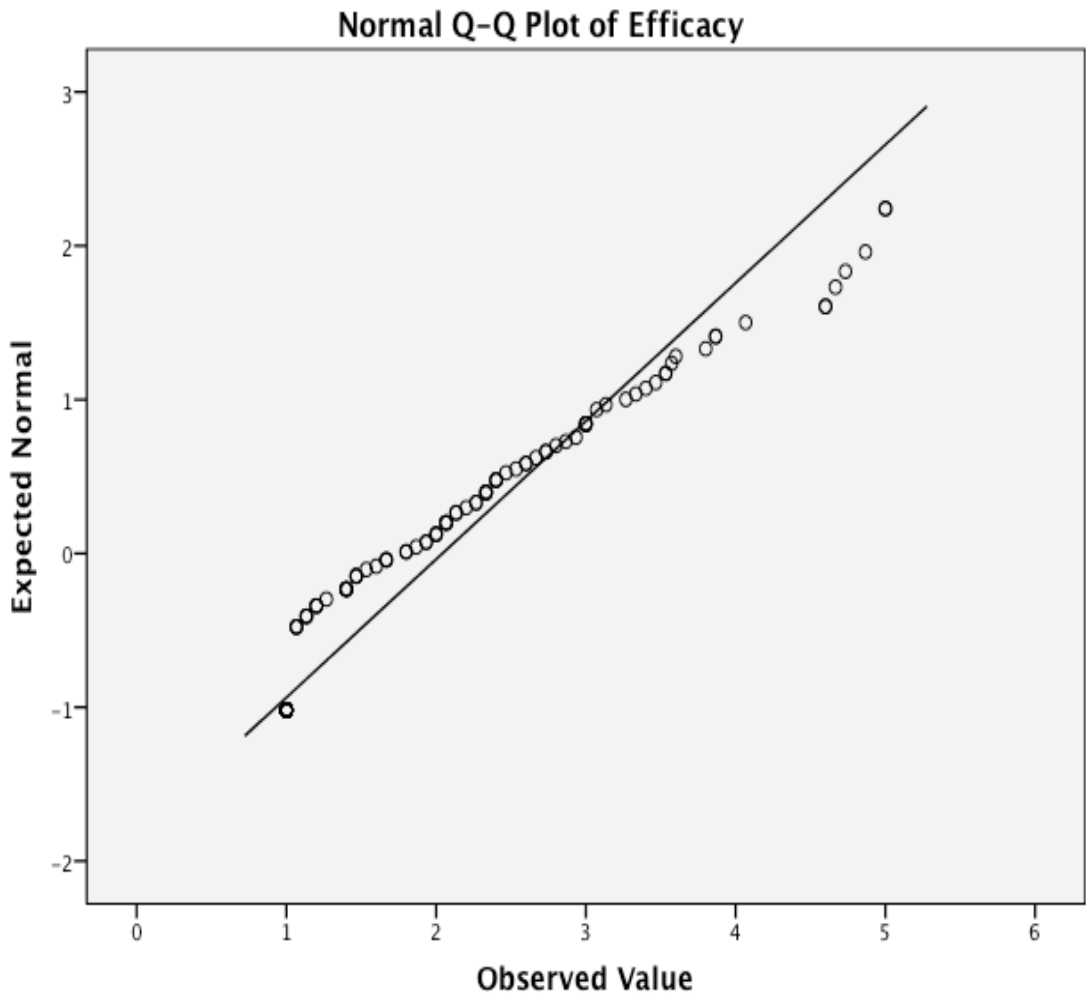
Component Matrix^a				
PSYCHOSOCIAL IMPACT CONSTRUCT	Component			
	1	2	3	4
WHAT IS SORNA'S IMPACT ON YOUR FRIENDSHIPS?	.665	.366	.363	.288
WHAT IS SORNA'S IMPACT ON YOUR FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS?	.657	.532	.174	-.103
WHAT IS SORNA'S IMPACT ON YOUR ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS?	.656	.421	.370	.203
WHAT IS SORNA'S IMPACT ON YOUR CIVIL RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES?	.767	-.227	.231	-.088
WHAT IS SORNA'S IMPACT ON YOUR PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES?	.765	-.188	.272	-.376
WHAT IS SORNA'S IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND REINTEGRATION?	.712	-.228	.273	-.440

Component Matrix^a				
PSYCHOSOCIAL IMPACT CONSTRUCT	Component			
	1	2	3	4
WHAT IS SORNA'S IMPACT ON YOUR ACCESS TO COMMUNITY SERVICES?	.729	-.203	.187	-.350
WHAT IS SORNA'S IMPACT ON YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY?	.651	-.491	-.088	.079
WHAT IS SORNA'S IMPACT ON THE SAFETY OF YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY?	.698	-.343	-.434	.120
WHAT IS SORNA'S IMPACT ON YOUR PHYSICAL HEALTH?	.815	.060	-.384	.007
WHAT IS SORNA'S IMPACT ON YOUR ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES?	.783	.333	-.343	-.078
WHAT IS SORNA'S IMPACT ON YOUR MENTAL HEALTH?	.743	.218	-.328	-.124

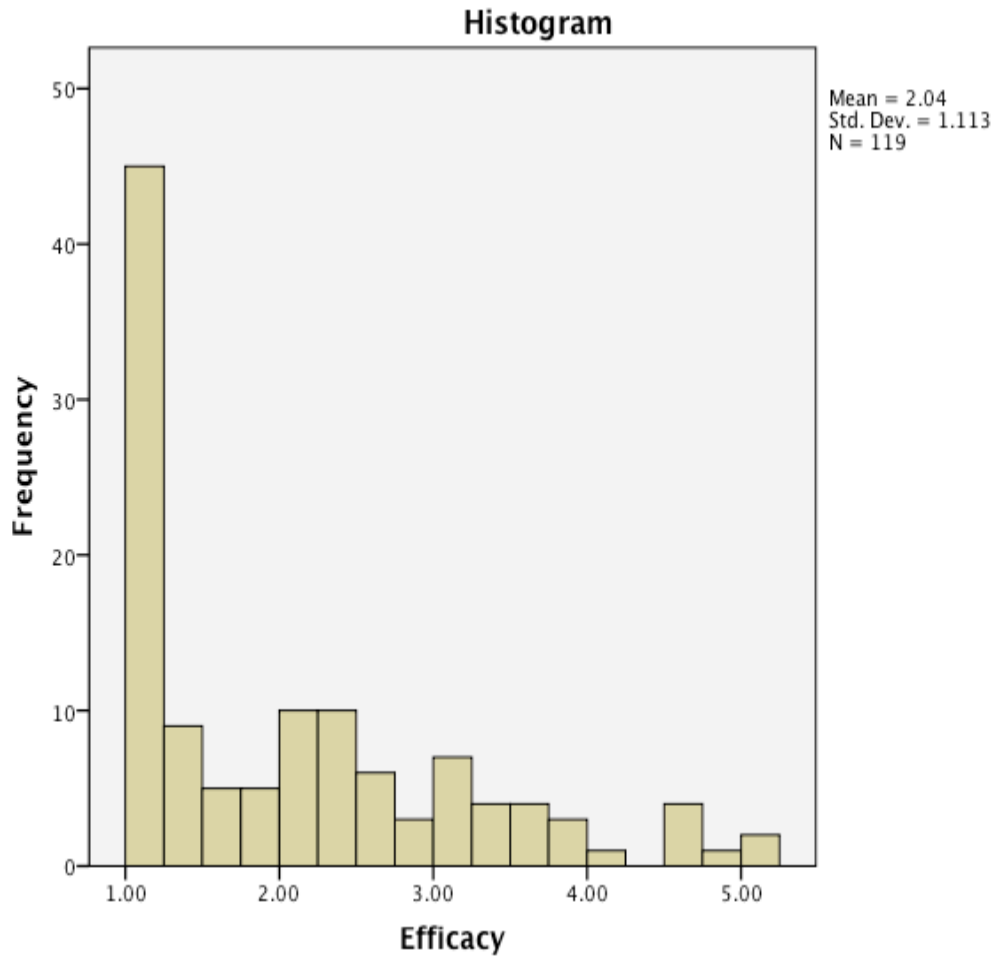
Component Matrix^a				
PSYCHOSOCIAL IMPACT CONSTRUCT	Component			
	1	2	3	4
WHAT IS SORNA'S IMPACT ON YOUR ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES?	.730	.360	-.348	-.160
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.				
a. 4 components extracted.				

APPENDIX II

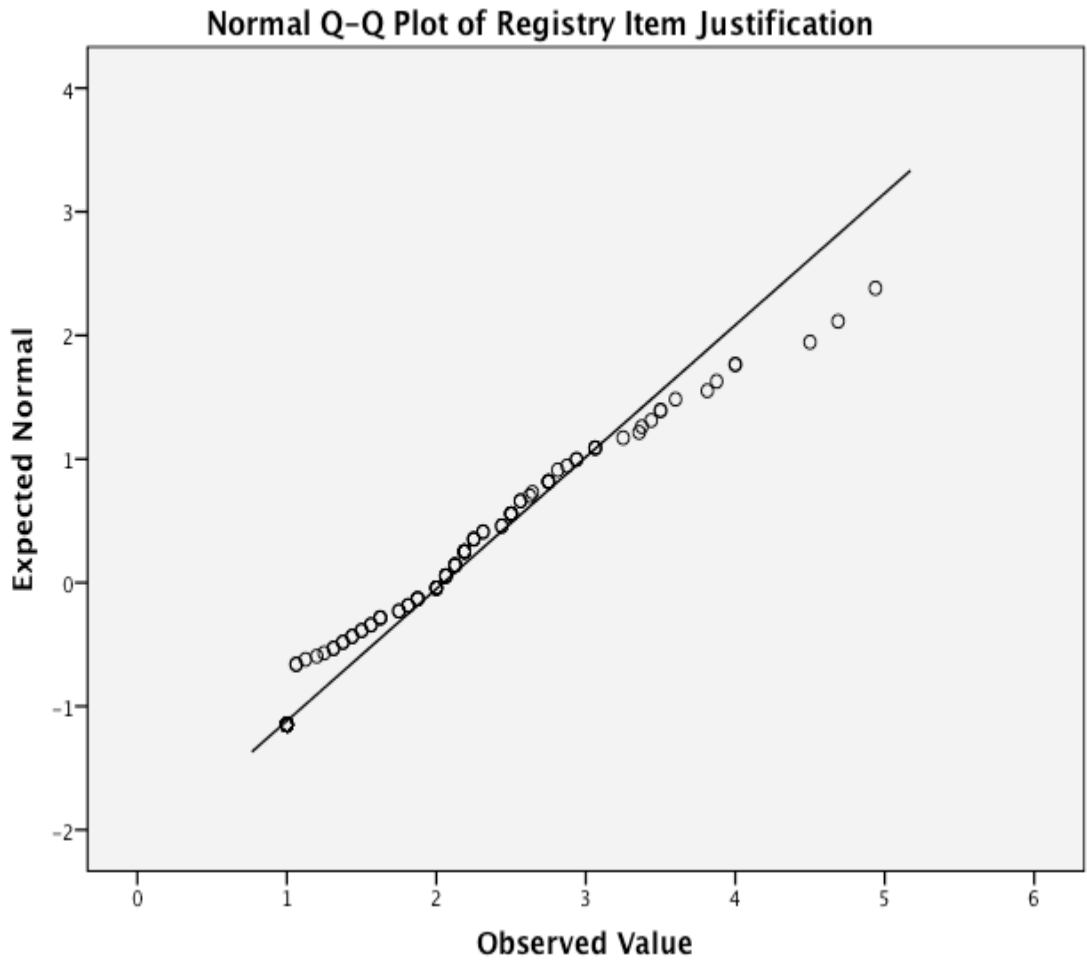
Normality Assumption Plots for Efficacy, Registry Item Justification, Registerable
Offense Justification, and Impact Variables



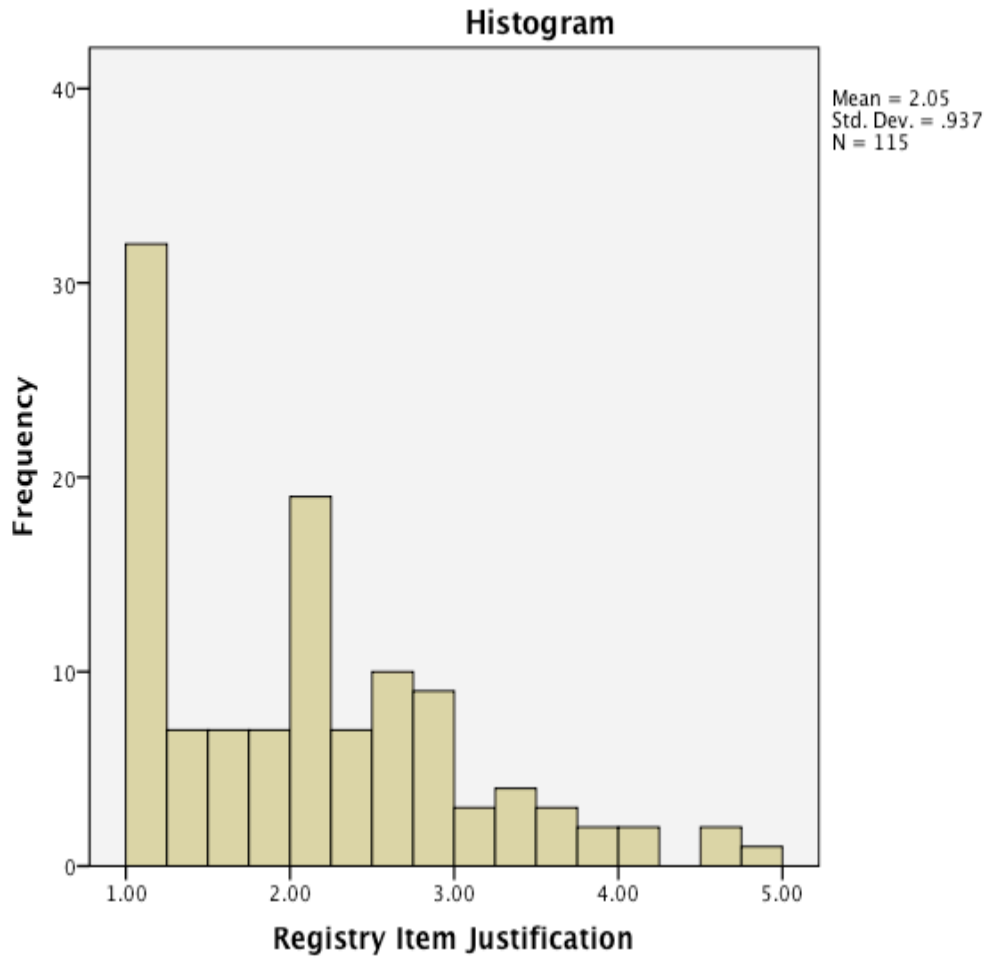
Q-Q Plot Indicating Violation of Normality for the Efficacy Variable



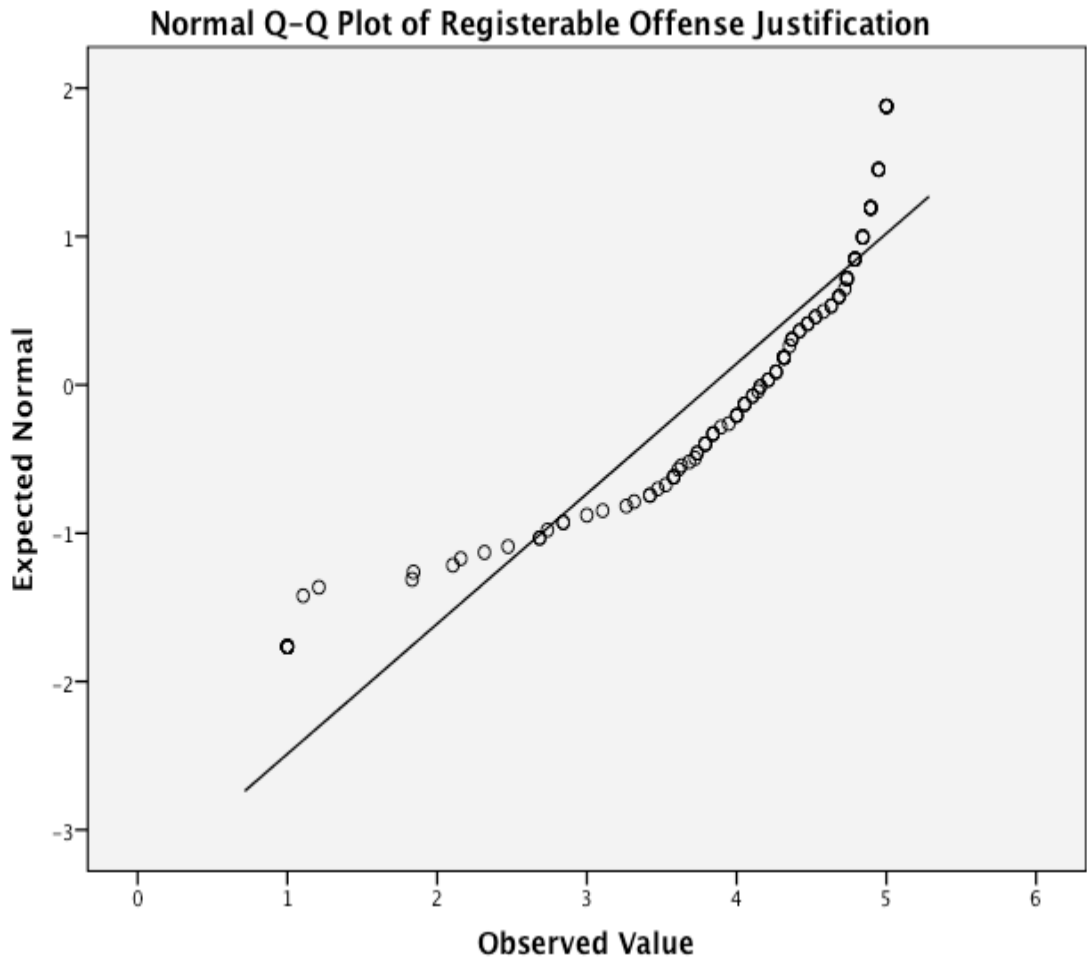
Histogram Indicating the Positive Skew of the Efficacy Variable



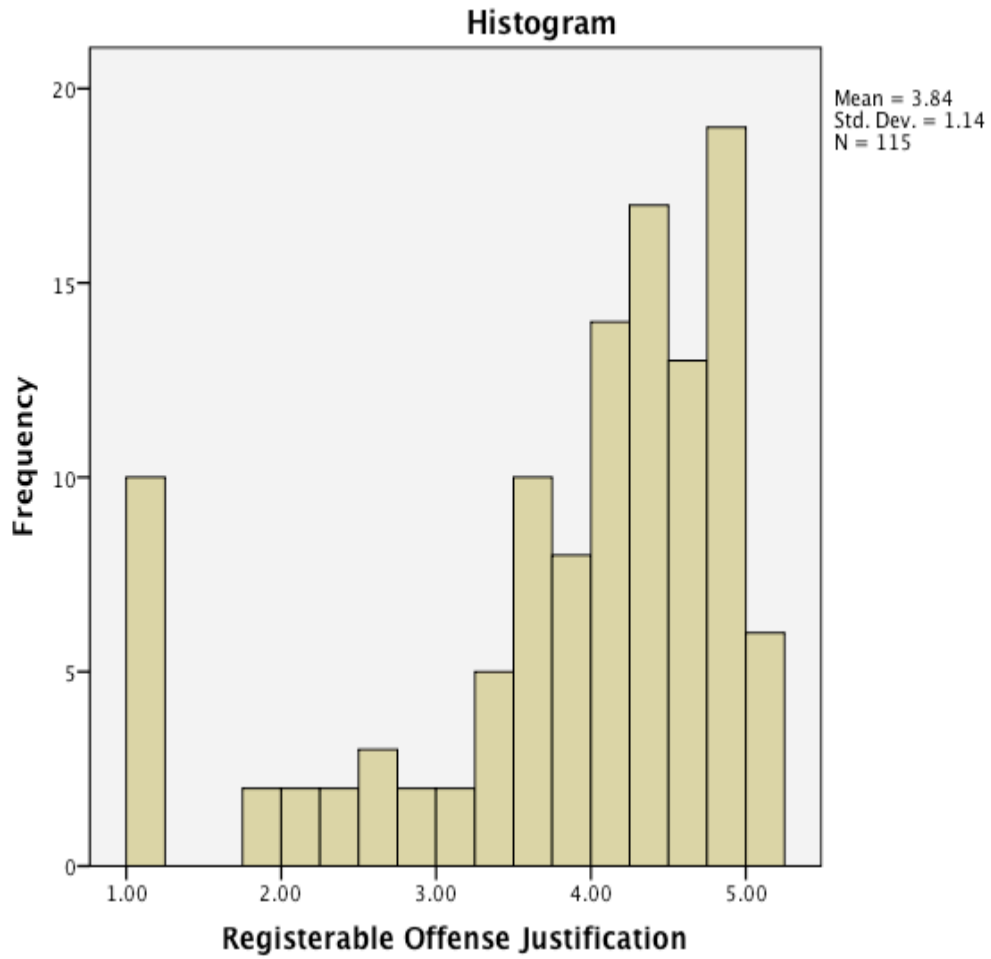
Q-Q Plot Indicating Violation of Normality for the Registry Item Justification Variable



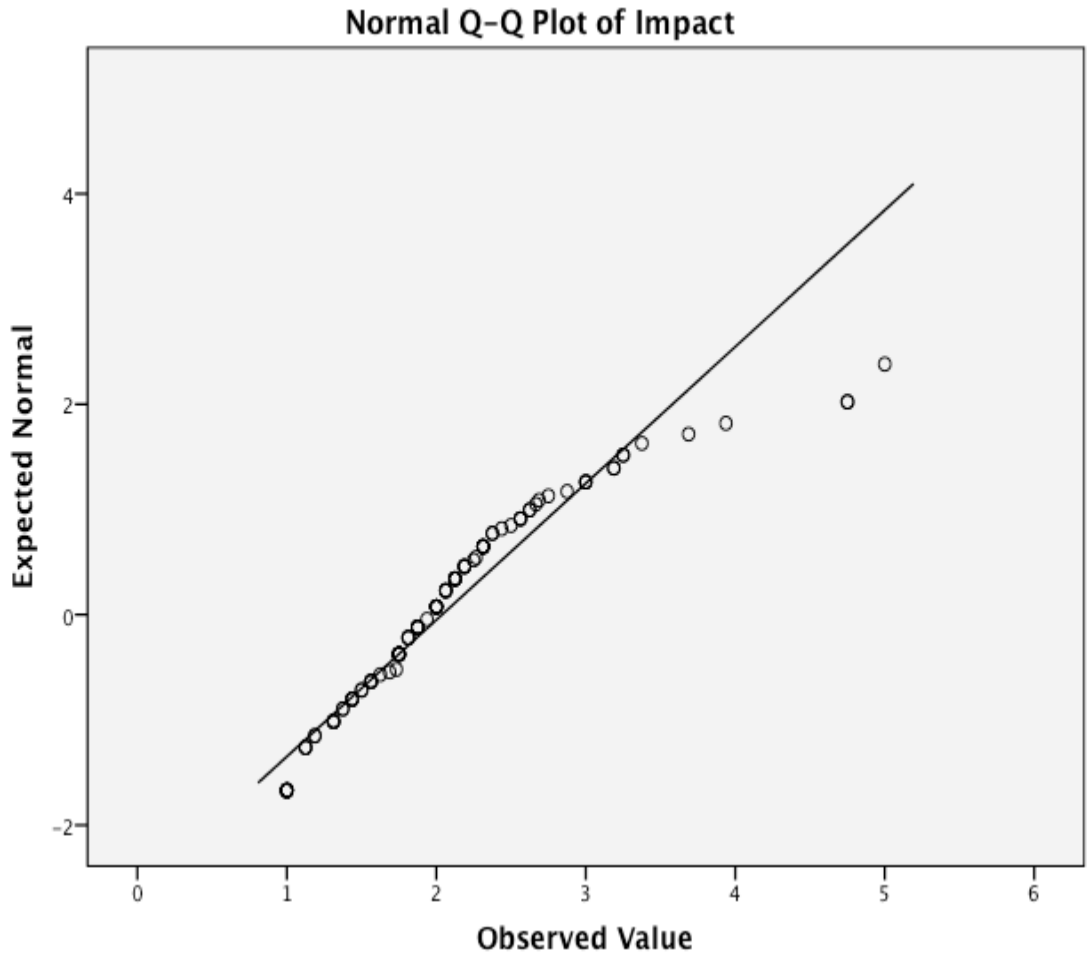
Histogram Indicating the Positive Skew of the Registry Item Justification Variable



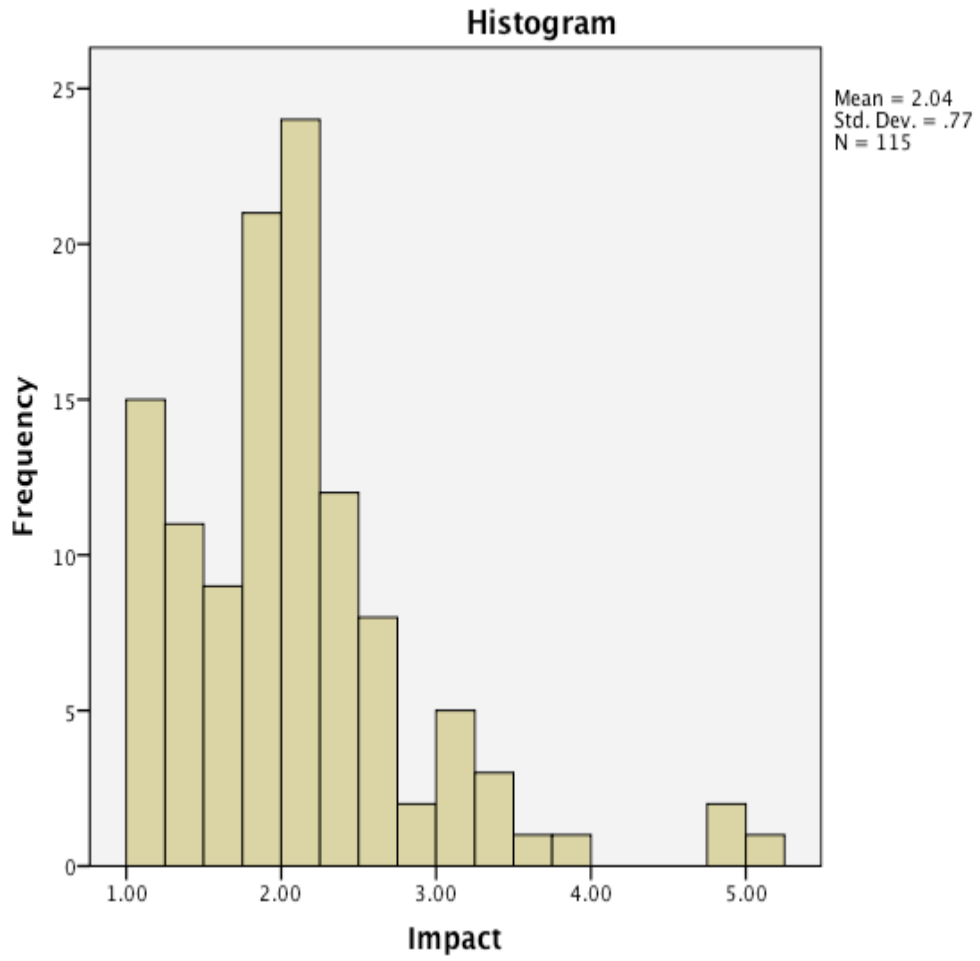
Q-Q Plot Indicating Violation of Normality for the Registerable Offense Justification Variable



Histogram Indicating the Negative Skew of the Registerable Justification Variable



Q-Q Plot Indicating Violation of Normality for the Impact Variable



Histogram Indicating the Positive Skew of the Impact Variable

APPENDIX III

Diversity Statement

Due to the high specificity of the offenders targeted in this study, there was little diversity in the sample. Only males were contacted because men are sexually interested in children in much greater frequency than women (Seto, 2008) and no one under the age of 18 was included. Of the men listed on sex offender registries, many are either on parole or under some form of probation. This is similar to many other types of offenders within the criminal justice system; at the end of 2008, almost 5.1 million were under parole or probation (Glaze & Bonzcar, 2009).

Although the nine states used in this study have populations predominantly made up of White or Caucasian people of European descent (United States Census 2010 Website, 2010), this is not necessarily represented on the states' sex offender registries. It is possible that the percentage of people of color on the registry is higher than that of the general population because there are a disproportionate number of people of color involved in the prison system (West, Sabol, & Greenman, 2010). In 2010, black people represented 12.6% of the United States population (Humes, Jones, & Ramirez, 2011) but made up approximately 38% of adults in state and federal prisons and jails as of December 31st, 2009 (West, Sabol, & Greenman, 2010). Similarly, Latinos made up 16.3% of the United States population (Humes, Jones, & Ramirez, 2011) but accounted for approximately 21% of adults in the state and federal prison and jail systems as of December 31st, 2009 (West, Sabol, & Greenman, 2010).

APPENDIX IV

Questionnaire Mailed to Participants

I consent to participate in this study: Yes No

Age: 18 – 29 30 – 44 45 – 60 60 +

What is your race and/or ethnicity?

White/Caucasian Black/African American Latino/Hispanic

Asian/Pacific Islander Native American/American Indian

Biracial/Multiracial Other _____

What state do you live in? _____

Have you heard of SORNA (Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act)?
YES NO

If YES, what are the requirements of SORNA (Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act)?

What Tier Level are you registered as?

Tier II: Tier III: Sexually Violent Predator/Recidivist: Other:

If other, please describe:

For how many years are you required to be listed on your state’s registry? _____

Do you have a chance of getting paroled or being removed from the registered early?

YES NO

If yes, how many years early might you be removed from the registry? _____

Information About The Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA)

What is SORNA?

* The Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act of 2006 (SORNA) was passed to create a set of minimum standards for sex offender registration and notification in the United States.

* SORNA updated all previous federal legislation on sex offenders and required that all states have mandatory basic registration guidelines for sex offenders.

* SORNA affects the 50 States, Washington, DC, the principal U.S. territories, and Indian tribal governments.

* SORNA required the creation of a three-tier system where sex offenders are labeled as either Tier I (low risk of reoffending), Tier II (medium risk of reoffending), and Tier III (high risk of reoffending).

*SORNA has also created time limits for which people must be registered. Tier I offenders must remain on the registry for 15 years, Tier II offenders for 25 years, and Tier III offenders for life.

*SORNA does not give the states any tools or guidelines to determine who should be put into which tier. Some states list all three tiers of sex offenders on their internet databases, and others only list Tier II and Tier III offenders.

1. Do you think it should be legal to have a sex offender registry? YES NO

2. Do you think it is justified to have a sex offender registry? YES NO

3. In your opinion, how many years should a person be required to be registered? _____

4. Which sex offenders should have to be registered?

- No sex offenders
- High risk sex offenders
- Medium and high risk sex offenders
- All sex offenders (low, medium, and high risk sex offenders)

5. Do you think there are any offenders who should be required to be registered for their whole lives? YES NO

If YES, Who are these offenders? _____

How effective do you think the following things will be at stopping sex offenders from re-offending?						
<p style="text-align: center;"> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> 1 = Very Ineffective 2 = Ineffective 3 = Not At All 4 = Effective 5 = Very Effective </p>						
		Please Circle ONE				
A.	Creating a national sex offender registry database	1	2	3	4	5
B.	Categorizing sex offenders into three risk categories	1	2	3	4	5
C.	Making Tier I (low risk) offenders remain on the registry for 15 years	1	2	3	4	5
D.	Making Tier II (medium risk) offenders remain on the registry for 25 years	1	2	3	4	5
E.	Making Tier III (high risk) offenders remain on the registry for life	1	2	3	4	5
F.	Listing a sex offender's home address on the internet registry	1	2	3	4	5
G.	Listing a sex offender's work address on the internet registry	1	2	3	4	5
H.	Listing a sex offender's school address on the internet registry	1	2	3	4	5
I.	Listing a sex offender's telephone number on the internet registry	1	2	3	4	5
J.	Posting a sex offender's picture on the internet registry	1	2	3	4	5
K.	Giving a physical description of an offender on the internet registry	1	2	3	4	5
L.	Listing a sex offender's car make and model on the internet registry	1	2	3	4	5

M.	Listing a sex offender's license plate number on the internet registry	1	2	3	4	5
N.	Listing a sex offender's crime(s) on the internet registry	1	2	3	4	5
O.	The Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) as a whole	1	2	3	4	5

6. Which Tiers of sex offenders should be visible to the community on the registry?

- All Tiers
- Tier II (medium risk offenders) and Tier III (high risk offenders)
- Only Tier III (high risk offenders)
- None

The following questions ask for your opinion about the effectiveness of various SORNA notification and registration requirements at stopping sex offenders from re-offending.

<p>What is (or will be) the impact of SORNA's rules on you in the following areas of your life?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> 1 = Very Negative 2 = Negative 3 = Neutral 4 = Positive 5 = Very Positive </p>						
		Please Circle ONE				
A.	Housing	1	2	3	4	5
B.	Employment	1	2	3	4	5
C.	Schooling	1	2	3	4	5
D.	Friendships	1	2	3	4	5
E.	Family relationships	1	2	3	4	5
F.	Romantic relationships	1	2	3	4	5
G.	Civil rights and liberties	1	2	3	4	5
H.	Participation in community events & activities	1	2	3	4	5
I.	Community support & reintegration	1	2	3	4	5
J.	Access to Community services	1	2	3	4	5
K.	Personal Safety	1	2	3	4	5

F.	All telephone numbers including both land lines and cell phone numbers	1	2	3	4	5
G.	All internet identifiers and addresses (e-mail addresses and instant messaging names or handles)	1	2	3	4	5
H.	Photographs of the offender	1	2	3	4	5
I.	Physical description of the offender	1	2	3	4	5
J.	Driver's license or identification card	1	2	3	4	5
K.	Vehicle description	1	2	3	4	5
L.	License plate number	1	2	3	4	5
M.	Temporary lodging information about any place the sex offender is staying (visiting a friend or vacation)	1	2	3	4	5
N.	Criminal history and other criminal justice information	1	2	3	4	5
O.	Description of sex crimes	1	2	3	4	5
P.	Age and sex of victim(s)	1	2	3	4	5

*SORNA requires people to register as sex offenders for many different kinds of offenses, some of which are not sexual in nature. Under SORNA, people who commit non-sexual offenses against a minor (a person under 18) must register as sex offenders.

The following questions ask for your opinion about how justified it is to require people to register as a sex offender for various offenses.

How justified is it to require people to register as a sex offender for the following offenses?						
<u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u>						
1 = Very Unjustified 2 = Unjustified 3 = Neutral 4 = Justified 5 = Very Justified						
		Please Circle ONE				
A.	Rape of an Adult (Someone OVER the age of 18)	1	2	3	4	5
B.	Rape of a Minor (someone UNDER the age of 18)	1	2	3	4	5
C.	Sexual Abuse of a Minor	1	2	3	4	5
D.	Possession of Child Pornography	1	2	3	4	5
E.	Production of Child Pornography	1	2	3	4	5
F.	Distribution of Child Pornography	1	2	3	4	5
G.	Non-Parental Kidnapping of a Minor. NOTE: This is not necessarily a sexual offense but is included in SORNA because it involves a child.	1	2	3	4	5
H.	Non-Parental False Imprisonment of a Minor. NOTE: This is not necessarily a sexual offense but is included in SORNA because it involves a child.	1	2	3	4	5
I.	Solicitation (the request, enticement, or persuasion) of a Minor to	1	2	3	4	5

Do you believe verbal abuse can be just as harmful as physical abuse? Yes No

Please explain briefly.

Do you see physical violence as acceptable under certain circumstances? Yes No

Please explain briefly.

What is the most severe act of violence you would be willing to commit, and under what conditions?

Do you see yourself as someone sensitive to violence (violence-sensitive) or as someone who sees violence as somewhat acceptable (violence-tolerant)?

Violence-sensitive

Violence-tolerant

Thank you for participating! We greatly value your opinion.

If you would like to enter the raffle for a chance to win one of two \$250 gift cards please send an email to Sorna06@gmail.com with "Raffle" in the subject line. In the body of the email please provide an email OR telephone number where you can be reached if you win. No other information needs to be provided in order to enter.

If you have any questions regarding this survey you should write or call Aviva Moster, MA or her Faculty Advisor, Charles Collyer, PhD at the University of Rhode Island at (401) 874-2193.

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