Spring Raines

Sex Offenders and Recidivism

This week guest speaker Teri Flory had talked about the problems facing sex offenders upon release back into society and how their limitations and restrictions affect their entry back into society, this discussion sparked my interest in the topic. I was looking to find out what these restrictions are, and if they are actually helping society, or as Teri had stated just a “feel good law.” Do these laws actually protect the children from the offender and help the offender to desist from his deviant behaviors?

The peer reviewed article I have found talks about the staggering rates of recidivism among sex offenders. These offenders recommit their crimes because they have already established a repetitive pattern before they are first arrested. According to Furby, the only way to stop their recidivism is to establish an effective deterrent. Although there is no evidence that any one method of stopping sex offenders from persisting in their offenses, the area of mental health rehabilitation seems to be the direction that has shown the most positive results.

So do these laws actually stop the sex offender from reoffending? According to the peer reviewed article, and taking Teri Flory’s opinions into consideration, I think they do not. I agree with her that these laws herding all the sex offenders into one place only puts them in a tougher situation in having to resist peer pressure. These offenders need to have considerable treatment in order to successfully desist from their deviant behaviors, not be secluded into their own neighborhoods.