



The Long Beach Police Department Wants You to Know the Facts About Sex Offenders



- Approximately 90% of child victims know the offender, who is a family member or family friend in at least half of all cases.
- Most sexual offenders of children establish a long-term relationship with their victims before exploiting them. Sometimes initial contact is made on the Internet.
- Although the majority of sex offenders are male, females also commit sex crimes.
- Only a small percentage of sex offenders are serial offenders and few are exclusively attracted to children. Most offenders are attracted to adults.
- The majority of registered sex offenders are not serial offenders.
- Studies suggest that most sex offenders are married or in consenting relationships.
- Some sex offenders prefer a specific victim type (e.g., preteen girls, post-pubescent boys, women, etc.), and some prey on other types. Never assume an offender's victim preference and take precaution regardless of the offender's previous crimes.
- While some offenders do seek sexual gratification from the act, power, control, and anger are more likely to be the primary motivators.
- In order to change their behavioral cycle, some offenders need a variety of treatment and corrective interventions. Lack of stability in their work, social life, and housing, can cause a feeling of loss of control for most offenders, increasing the chance they will offend again.
- Although drugs and alcohol are often involved in sexual assaults, they are not the cause for sexual offenses to occur but can greatly influence a potential victim's vulnerability.

This information was obtained from the Long Beach Police Department's Sex Crimes Detail, and the California Department of Justice's internet website, www.meganslaw.ca.gov, which lists the identities of registered sex offenders and offers additional information. When checking your area for registered sex offenders, keep in mind that the Megan's Law website only lists offenders who have been *caught and convicted*. A false sense of security and misguided information can put communities at risk. Neighborhood Watch increases the safety of your area by providing crime prevention information and encouraging neighbors to look out for one another. For more information on the Long Beach Police Department Neighborhood Watch program, call (562) 570-7229.