A lighthouse with a black lantern room and a white base, situated on a rocky cliff overlooking the ocean. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds from a sunset or sunrise, with the sun low on the horizon. The water is dark blue with some whitecaps.

# **Community Notification and Education Meeting**

*Mendota Heights Police Department*

***Brad VanderVegt***  
***Risk Assessment/Community Notification Unit***

***March 31, 2016***

# Agenda

- Background
- Minnesota's Risk Management System
- Research
- Safety Tips and Resources
- Offender Information
- Questions



# Offenders Among Us

- Predatory offenders have always lived in the community
- It's likely that at least one lives in every community in Minnesota



# Risk Management System

- Enhanced sentencing
- Treatment
- Intensive supervision
- Registration
- Community notification
- Civil commitment



# Intensive Supervised Release

- Established by the legislature in 1990
- Program components:
  - 15 offenders per agent
  - 24/7/365 supervision
  - Highest level of supervision



# Registration

- Established July 1, 1991
- Administered by the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
- Contents of registration:
  - Addresses
  - Employment
  - School/vocation
  - Vehicles



# Registration

- As of January 1, 2016, there were approximately 17,500 predatory offenders registered in Minnesota
  - 530 registered offenders in Dakota County
    - 7 in Mendota Heights
  - 2,558 registered offenders in Hennepin County
  - 1,258 registered offenders in Ramsey County
  - 272 registered offenders in Washington County



# Community Notification

- Established January 1, 1997
- Minn. Stat. § 244.052
- Based on idea that a well informed community is a safer community



# Community Notification

## Applies to:

- Predatory offenders released from prison
- Predatory offenders from other states or federal jurisdiction who were released from prison (including military)
- Civilly committed offenders

## Does not apply to:

- Juvenile offenders (unless certified as an adult)
- Offenders sentenced to probation

# Community Notification

## Department of Corrections

- Responsible for assessing risk and assigning risk levels

## Law Enforcement

- Responsible for community notification
- Scope of notification based on assigned risk level

# Assigning Risk Levels

- End-of-Confinement Review Committee (ECRC)
- Meets 90 days prior to offender's release
- Committee members include:
  - Chairperson
  - Law enforcement officer
  - Sex offender treatment professional
  - Caseworker
  - Victim services representative



# Risk Factors

- Predatory offense sentences
- Felony sentences
- Harassment/stalking/order for protection violations
- Recent disorderly conduct
- Age at release
- Unsupervised release
- Completion of chemical dependency *and* sex offender treatment
- Sentences with male victims
- Offense committed in a public place



# Risk Levels

- Level 1—Lower Risk
  - Law enforcement may notify other law enforcement agencies
  - Law enforcement shall notify victims and witnesses of the offense
  - Household members



# Risk Levels

- Level 2—Moderate Risk
  - In addition to Level 1 notifications, law enforcement may notify individuals or organizations likely to be victimized based on the offender’s particular offense pattern



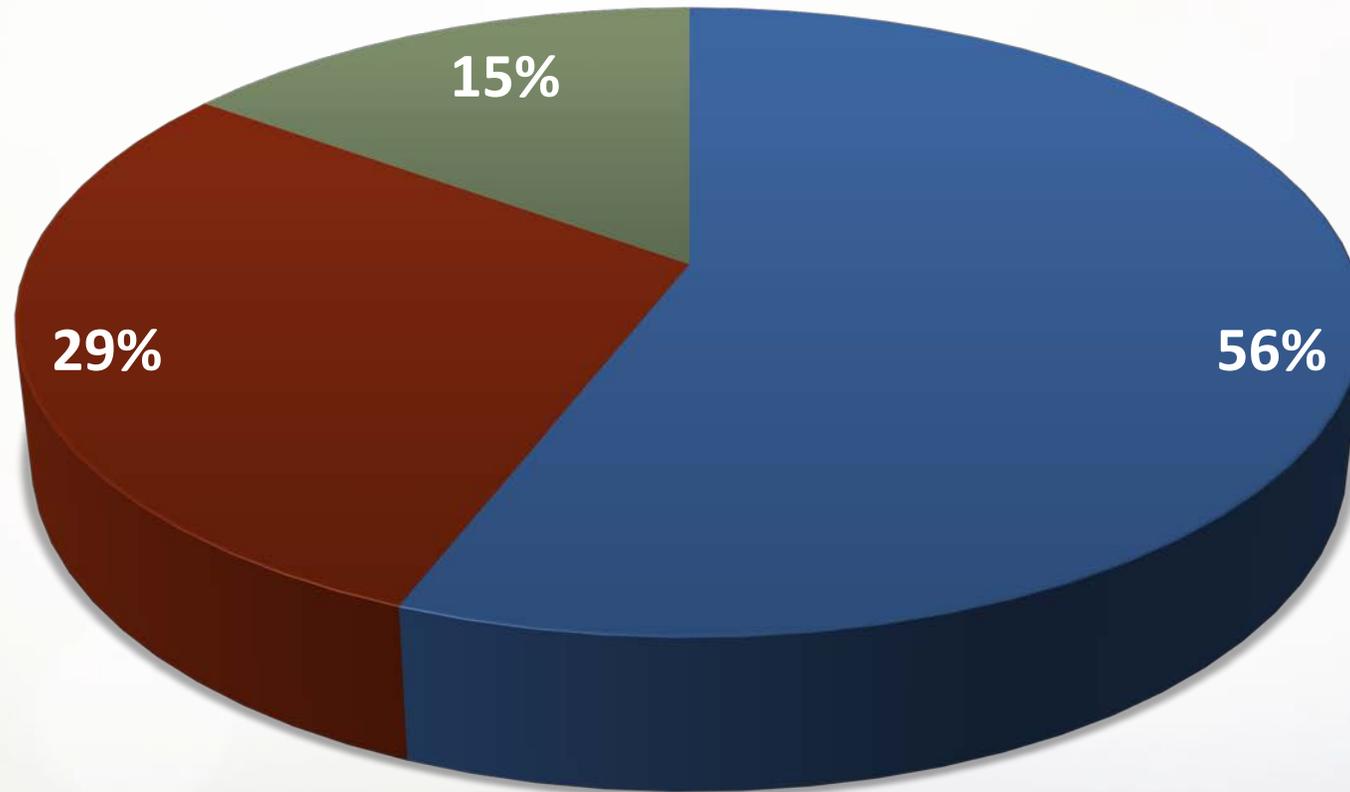
# Risk Levels

- Level 3—Higher Risk
  - Broad public notification
    - DOC Level 3 public website
    - Public community notification meeting
    - Media (newspaper, radio, television, etc.)
    - Agency website
    - Social media
    - Door-to-door flyers



# Current Risk Levels

As of January 1, 2016



- Level 1
- Level 2
- Level 3

**Level 1:**  
5,298

**Level 2:**  
2,751

**Level 3:**  
1,424

**Total:**  
9,473



# Level 3 Offenders

- As of March 28, 2016, there were **356** Level 3 predatory offenders residing in Minnesota communities



# How is the System Working?



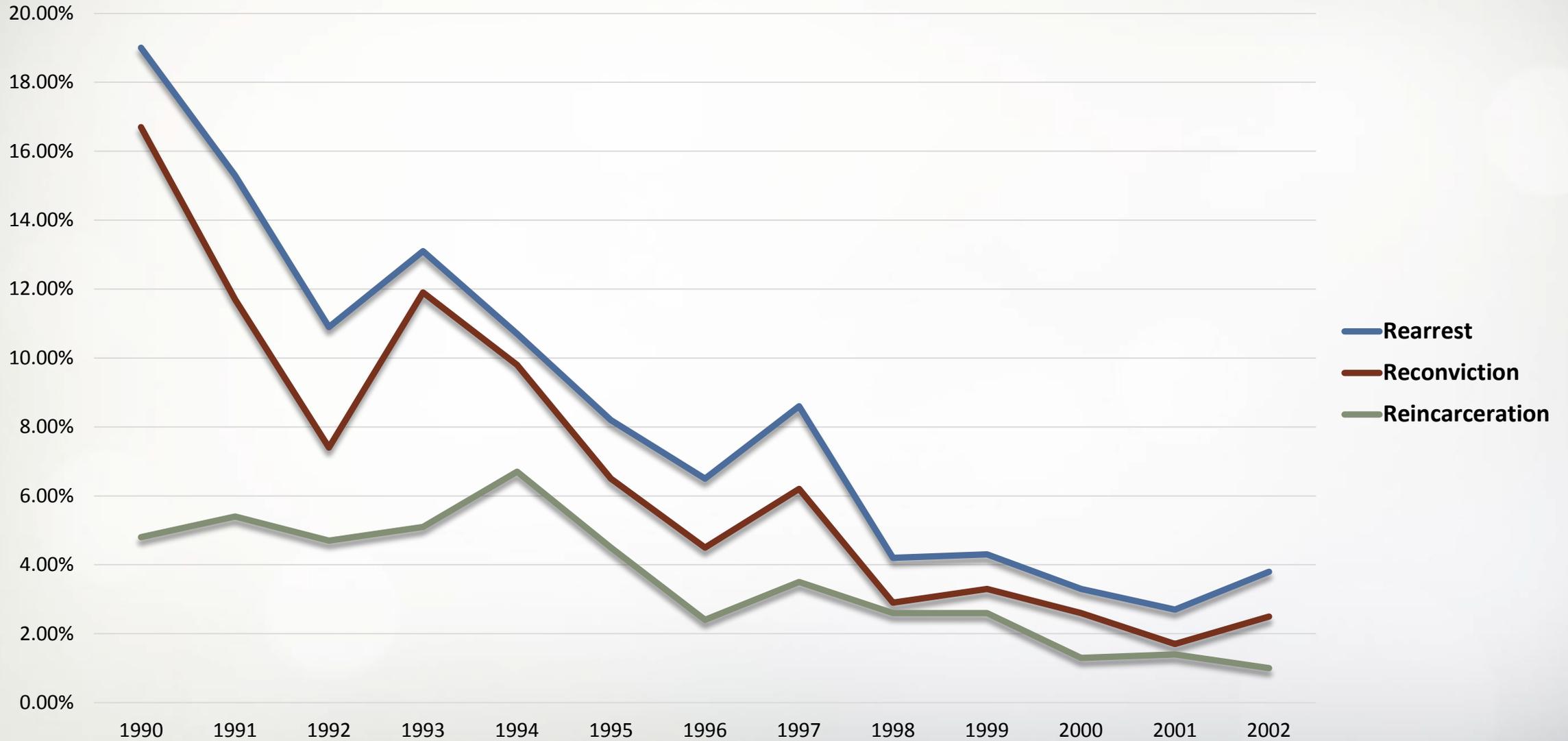
# Recidivism Study (2007)

- 3,166 offenders released from 1990 to 2002
- On average, each offender was in community for 8.4 years post-release
  - 10% sexual reconviction rate

Minnesota Department of Corrections (2007, April). Sex offender recidivism in Minnesota. Retrieved from <http://www.doc.state.mn.us/PAGES/files/large-files/Publications/04-07SexOffenderReport-Recidivism.pdf>



# 3-Year Sexual Recidivism



# Recidivism Study (2012)

- 2,535 sex offenders released between 2003 and 2006
- 4-year look back
- Sexual reconviction rate was 3.3%

Duwe, G. & Freske, P. (2012). Using logistic regression modeling to predict sex offense recidivism: The Minnesota Sex Offender Screening Tool-3 (MnSOST-3). *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 24(4), 350-377.



# Residency Restriction Study (2007)

- 3,166 offenders released between 1990 and 2002
- 224 sexual reoffenses
- Not likely that one reoffense would have been deterred by residency restrictions

Minnesota Department of Corrections. (2007, April). *Residential proximity and sex offense recidivism in Minnesota*. Retrieved from <http://www.doc.state.mn.us/PAGES/files/large-files/Publications/04-07SexOffenderReport-Proximity.pdf>



# Residency Restriction Study (2007)

- More than 10,600 sex offense convictions in Minnesota from 1990-2005
- The 224 sex offenses committed by known sex offenders accounted for **2%** of all sex offense convictions in Minnesota

Minnesota Department of Corrections. (2007, April). *Residential proximity and sex offense recidivism in Minnesota*. Retrieved from <http://www.doc.state.mn.us/PAGES/files/large-files/Publications/04-07SexOffenderReport-Proximity.pdf>



# Reality

## **Prison for Minn. man who made porn using kids in his home for day care**

Star Tribune

April 26, 2015

## **St. Paul teacher charged with criminal sexual conduct after allegedly groping student**

Star Tribune

June 1, 2015

## **Former Stewartville teacher loses appeal on child sex abuse**

KIMT.com

August 31, 2015

## **Fourth victim comes forward in case against Iron Range priest**

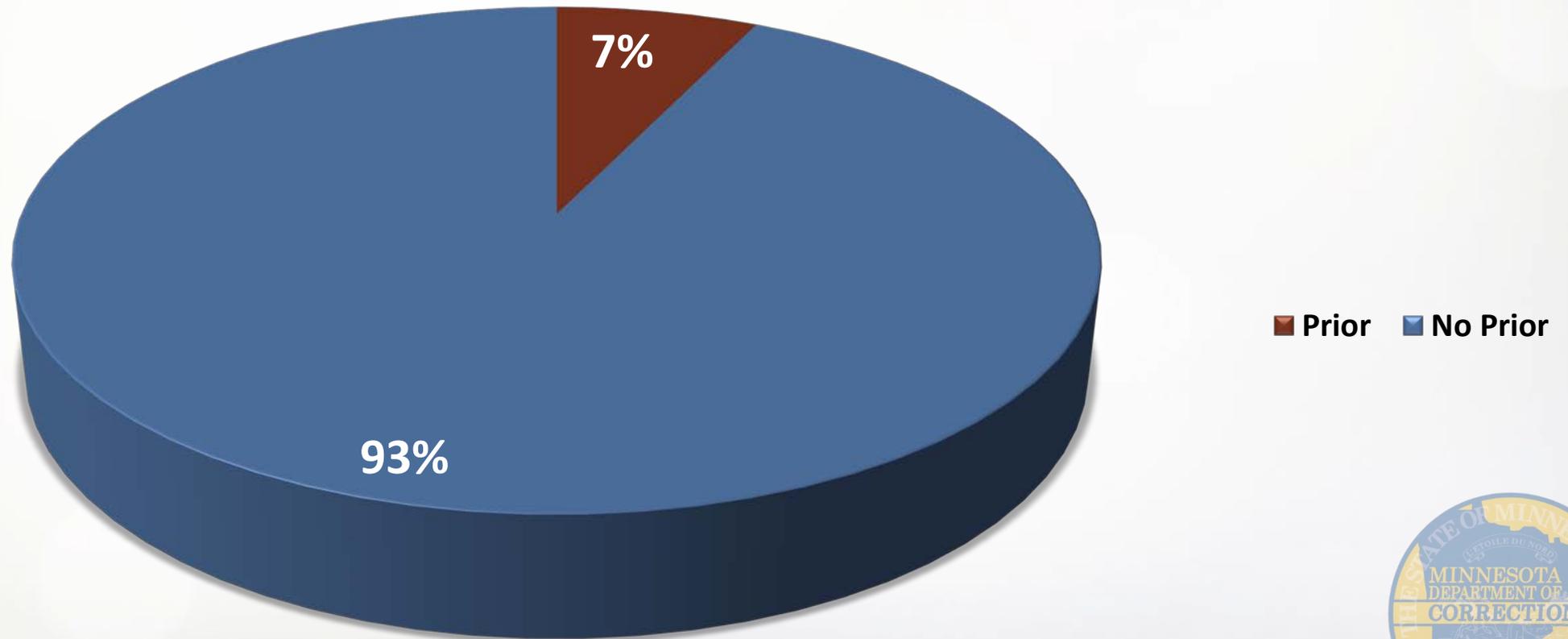
Northland's News Center

August 27, 2015



# Who's More Likely to Offend Next?

## Criminal Sexual Conduct Convictions in Minnesota 2000-2014



**No Prior Conviction: 7,852**

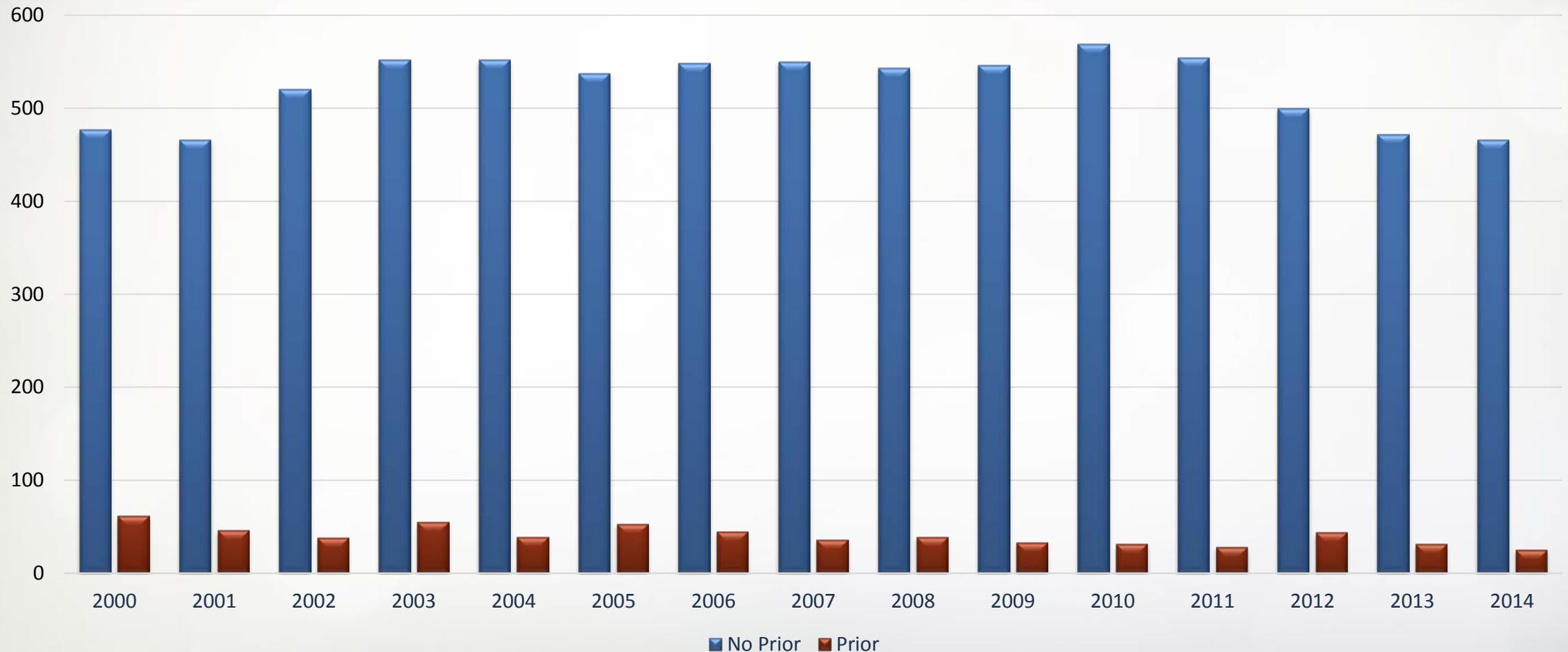
**Prior Conviction: 605**

(Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission, 2015)



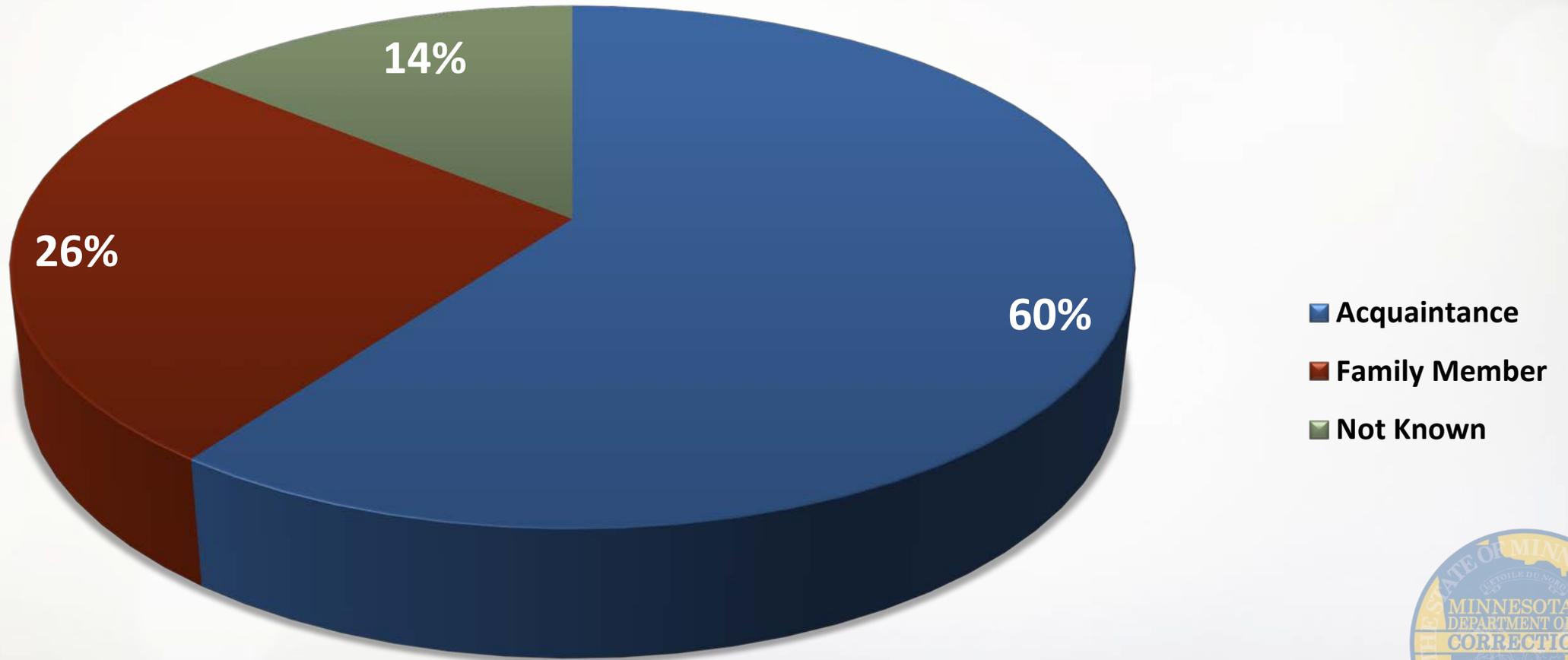
# Who's More Likely to Offend Next?

## Criminal Sexual Conduct: Prior Sex Offense Convictions



(Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission, 2015)

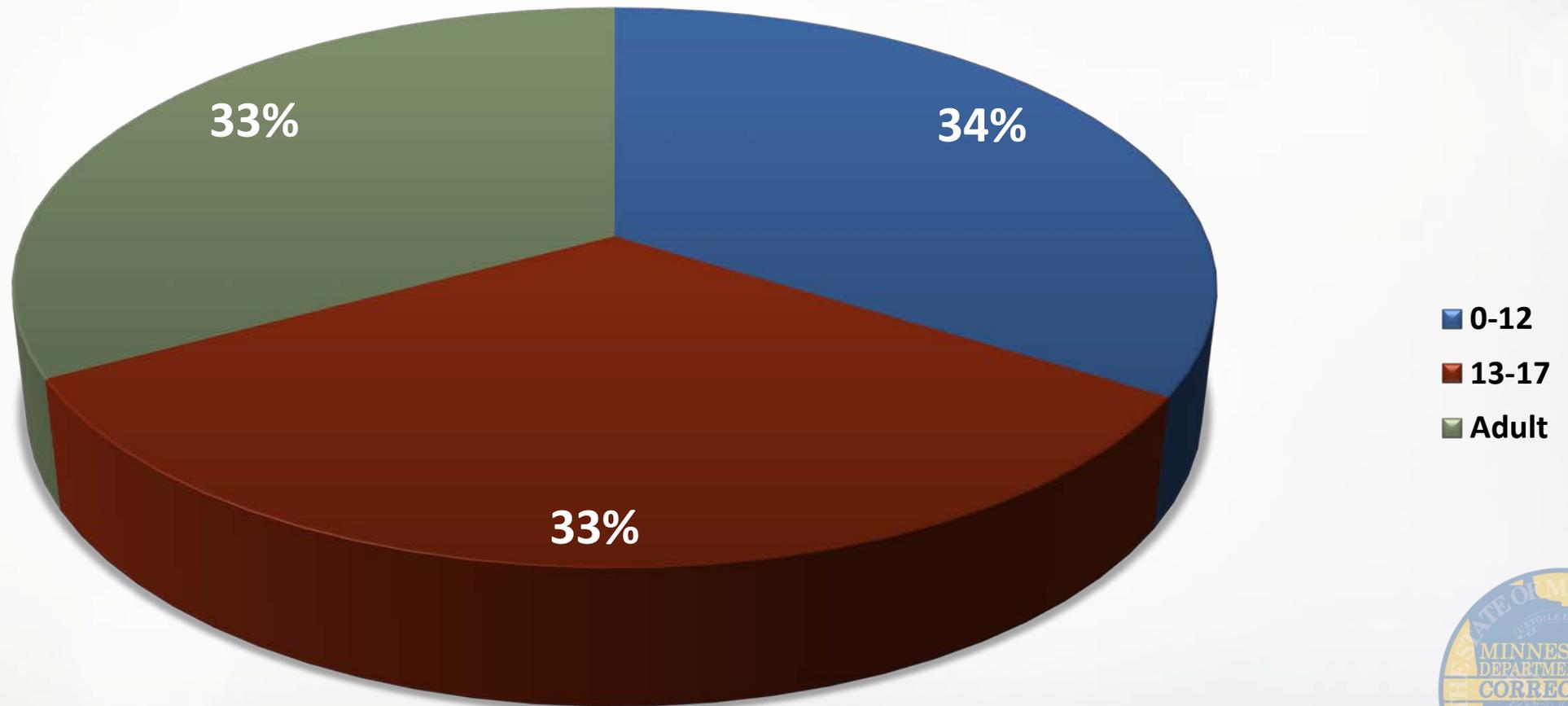
# Victim/Offender Relationship



(Minnesota Department of Corrections, 2012)



# Age of Victims



(Minnesota Department of Corrections, 2012)



# Sexual Violence Prevention

- The Three 90's
  - 90% do not reoffend
  - 90% known to victim
  - 90% not previously convicted
- And the Two R's
  - It's about ***relationship*** not ***residence***
    - Social proximity is more important than geographic proximity



# Resources

## **Stop it Now! MN**

(888) PREVENT

[www.stopitnow.org/mn](http://www.stopitnow.org/mn)

## **Jacob Wetterling Resource Center**

(800) 325-HOPE

[www.jwrc.org](http://www.jwrc.org)

## **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children**

(800) 843-5678

[www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com)

## **MN Coalition Against Sexual Assault**

(651) 209-9993

[www.mncasa.org](http://www.mncasa.org)

## **MDH Sexual Violence Prevention**

[www.health.state.mn.us/svprevent](http://www.health.state.mn.us/svprevent)

## **Office of Justice Programs Crime Victim Services**

(888) 622-8799

[www.ojp.state.mn.us](http://www.ojp.state.mn.us)



# Local Victim Services Provider

## **360 Communities**

501 East Highway 13, Suite 102

Burnsville, MN 55337

Main: (952) 985-5300

<https://www.360communities.org>

24 hour crisis line/sexual assault services: (651) 405-1500

<https://www.360communities.org/violence-prevention-intervention/sexual-assault-services/>



# Resources

- Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
  - [www.bca.state.mn.us/bca.asp](http://www.bca.state.mn.us/bca.asp)
- Minnesota Department of Corrections
  - [www.doc.state.mn.us](http://www.doc.state.mn.us)
    - Research and publications
    - Offender locator
    - Level 3 predatory offender search



# Jason Aaron Nelsen



# Jason Aaron Nelsen

Date of Birth: 07/25/1972 (43)

Height: 6' 7"

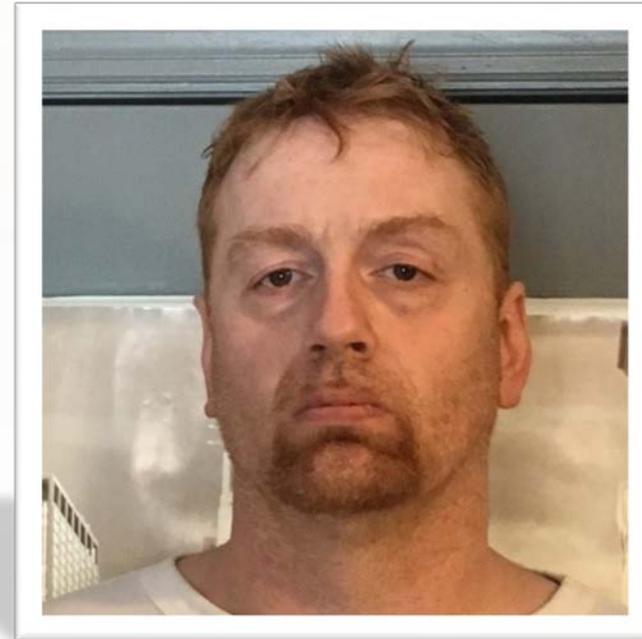
Weight: 312 lbs.

Eyes: Hazel

Hair: Red

Residence location:

**Vicinity of Victoria Road South and  
Eagle Ridge Drive, Mendota Heights**



# Jason Aaron Nelsen

## History:

- At age 17, offender engaged in sexual conduct with female victim (age 12)
- Offender was previously known to the victim
- Extensive subsequent criminal history
- History of supervision failures
- History of substance abuse
- No history of further sex offenses



# Jason Aaron Nelsen

## 1990, Ramsey County

- Second-Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct
  - Offender, at age 17, engaged in sexual conduct with juvenile female victim (age 12)
  - Offender was previously known to victim
- Disposition
  - Placed on juvenile probation



# Jason Aaron Nelsen

- Nelsen is currently required to register as a predatory offender until 12/23/2025
- Nelsen is under correctional supervision until 09/12/2016



# Supervision Team

**Dakota County ISR Supervisor**

**Ron Wells**

(651) 554-6671



# Intensive Supervised Release

- Conditions of release:
  - Required treatment
  - No sexually explicit material
  - No alcohol/illicit substances
  - Obtain and maintain fulltime schedule
  - No use of internet
  - No direct/indirect contact with minors



# Intensive Supervised Release

- Conditions of release:
  - GPS Monitoring
  - Must not purchase or operate a motor vehicle without written approval of agent/designee. A valid driver's license and proof of insurance coverage required for approval.
  - Must follow agent/designee's directive regarding vehicle use.
  - Comply with anger management per agent.
  - Comply with chemical dependency (CD) programming as directed.



# Suspicious Behavior

Dial **911** to report suspicious behavior

General inquiries:

***Mendota Heights Police Department***

(651) 452-1366



# Questions

- Please be respectful
- One speaker at a time as recognized by facilitator
- One question or comment until everyone has an opportunity
- Please limit questions to this issue





# Thank You

Brad VanderVegt

*Management Analyst III*

Risk Assessment/Community Notification Unit

[brad.vandervegt@state.mn.us](mailto:brad.vandervegt@state.mn.us)

(651) 361-7351