

## POSTER

### **Situational Aspects of Sexual Offending: Implications for Residency Restriction and GPS Monitoring Laws**

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Currently over 22 states, as well as many local governments, have enacted residency restriction laws which prohibit a sexual offender released into the community from residing within a certain proximity of places where children congregate (i.e. day cares, schools, parks, bus stops) (Durling, 2006; Nieto & Jung, 2006). In addition, GPS monitoring laws, which aim to monitor high risk offenders through the use of satellite positioning devices, have been passed in 20 states (Nieto & Jung, 2006). The current study will look to address one assumption that may lay at the foundation of these geographically restricting laws, which is that sex offenders are predatory in that they seek out their victims in areas where children congregate. To address this assumption, archival case files (n=400) of adult male sex offenders will be analyzed to determine situational aspects of the index sex offense. Specifically, the study will examine the location of where the offender met the victim and where the location of the index offense occurred. Chi-square analyses will be used to examine whether types of offenders (e.g., adult versus child offenders) differ with regard to where offenses occur, whether in a public (e.g. park), semi-public (e.g. hotel room), or private (e.g. offender's home) location. The implications that the findings have on sex offender legislation, specifically residency restriction and GPS monitoring laws, as well as the implications for situational crime prevention theory (Wortley & Smallbone, 2006), will be discussed.