

ABSTRACT

MEGAN'S LAW AND THE SPATIAL PATTERNS OF SEX OFFENDERS

The geographic location of sex offender residences has been associated with the distance an offender will travel to commit a crime. The demographic characteristics of sex offenders have also been linked to the types of sexual crimes an offender is likely to commit. In hopes of decreasing the chances of victimization and reducing recidivism, the California Department of Justice has established a publicly accessible on-line database of sex offenders. Though this statewide directory provides profiles of offenders in specific areas, the site fails to connect demographic information with the residential location of the offender. The aim of this study is to show the importance of including such information on the website.

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