



## Arkansas Department of Correction

Chief Deputy Director's Office  
P.O. Box 8707  
Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71611-8707  
Phone: (870) 267-6301  
Fax: (870) 267-6313  
[www.arkansas.gov/doc](http://www.arkansas.gov/doc)

7/24/2014

Governor Mike Beebe  
Arkansas State Capitol  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Senator Bill Sample, Chair  
Arkansas Legislative Council  
Arkansas State Capitol  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Representative John Charles Edwards, Chair  
Arkansas Legislative Council  
Arkansas State Capitol  
Little Rock, AR 72201

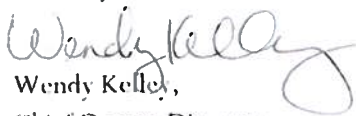
Re: Ark. Code Ann. Section 12-12-921 Report

Dear Governor Beebe and Chairpersons:

Pursuant to state law, the Sex Offender Assessment Committee is to report to the Governor and the Legislative Council each year a summary of the proceedings of the committee, a statement of revenue, expenditures and any additional information. I am enclosing a report on the Sex Offender Screening & Risk Assessment Program for the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2014. The committee has no revenue and their expenses are covered by the Arkansas Department of Correction.

Please feel free to contact me or the SOSRA Administrator, Sherri Flynn, should you have any questions or concerns about the report.

Sincerely,



Wendy Kelley,  
Chief Deputy Director

Cc: Sheri J. Flynn  
Legislative Council  
Enclosure

# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION



## Sex Offender Community Notification Assessment

### Legislative Update FY 2014

**Wendy L. Kelley, Chief Deputy Director & Sheri J Flynn, MS, LSW, SOCNA Administrator**  
**7/18/2014**

The Sex Offender Community Notification Assessment Program (SOCNA), formerly the Sex Offender Screening & Risk Assessment Program, under the auspices of the Arkansas Department of Correction has been conducting individualized community notification assessments since September 1999. SOCNA came into existence, in part, because of the need for consistency in the assessment process and because local law enforcement agencies did not have the time, resources or expertise to conduct individualized assessments. SOCNA continues to monitor and make changes in the process to comply with changes made by the General Assembly, to reduce the length of time for assessments, and to refine the individualized assessment process.

## **SOCNA & SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT**

SOCNA began conducting assessments in the fall of 1999. As of June 30, 2014, the program has conducted 12,243 assessments. Arkansas is committed to conducting an individualized community notification assessment which will provide local law enforcement agencies with accurate information to help community members protect themselves from future victimization. Ongoing research indicates individualized assessment is the appropriate mechanism for community notification and it assists others working in the field of sex offender management.

Arkansas continues to build a network of professionals who believe in the “containment” approach to sex offender management. The containment approach places a sex offender at the center of a system of professionals providing assessment, supervision and treatment of sex offenders. The idea is to *contain* the sex offender inside the network of professionals and closely monitor the offender’s behavior. SOCNA works tirelessly to train and share information with local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, judges, probation/parole officers, the Arkansas Parole Board, the Department of Human Services, treatment providers and other entities responsible for the management of sex offenders. SOCNA works daily to build positive working relationships with all entities working in the sex offender management field.

Assessment information is intended to help local law enforcement agencies determine the appropriate level of community notification; however, a number of other agencies use the information in making decisions regarding offenders. The Department of Community Correction assigns Level 3 and 4 parolees to an intensive after care program, and monitors offenders closely. State law also places restrictions on Level 3

and 4 sex offenders. The Arkansas Parole Board uses the information when making parole decisions and treatment recommendations. Treatment providers are given assessment information upon request. Local law enforcement agencies and prosecutors may use the information to help identify suspects when new sex crimes are reported and in making sentencing recommendations. Federal probation officers use the information to manage sex offenders. The Department of Human Services and Arkansas State Police can use the information in child maltreatment investigations and child custody decisions.

Successful sex offender management requires that each entity involved have access to the same information and maintain open communication with one another. SOCNA was involved in the development of an electronic sex offender management system (eSOMA) that provides immediate access to a wealth of information on sex offenders to law enforcement agencies using eSOMA. Officers may use the system to access other criminal history information on any sex offender ever incarcerated in the Arkansas Department of Correction or supervised by the Department of Community Correction. SOCNA continues to encourage sex offender management partners to use this system to instantly access the information on sex offenders assessed by SOCNA. The flow of information between SOCNA, Arkansas Community Correction, local law enforcement, federal probation, US Marshall's Service and other sex offender management entities continues to grow.

The Arkansas Crime Information Center (ACIC) developed an electronic registration system, CENSOR. CENSOR and eSOMA now share information electronically in an effort to ensure that ACIC and SOCNA receive registration and assessment information as quickly as possible.

## TIME FRAMES FOR ASSESSMENT

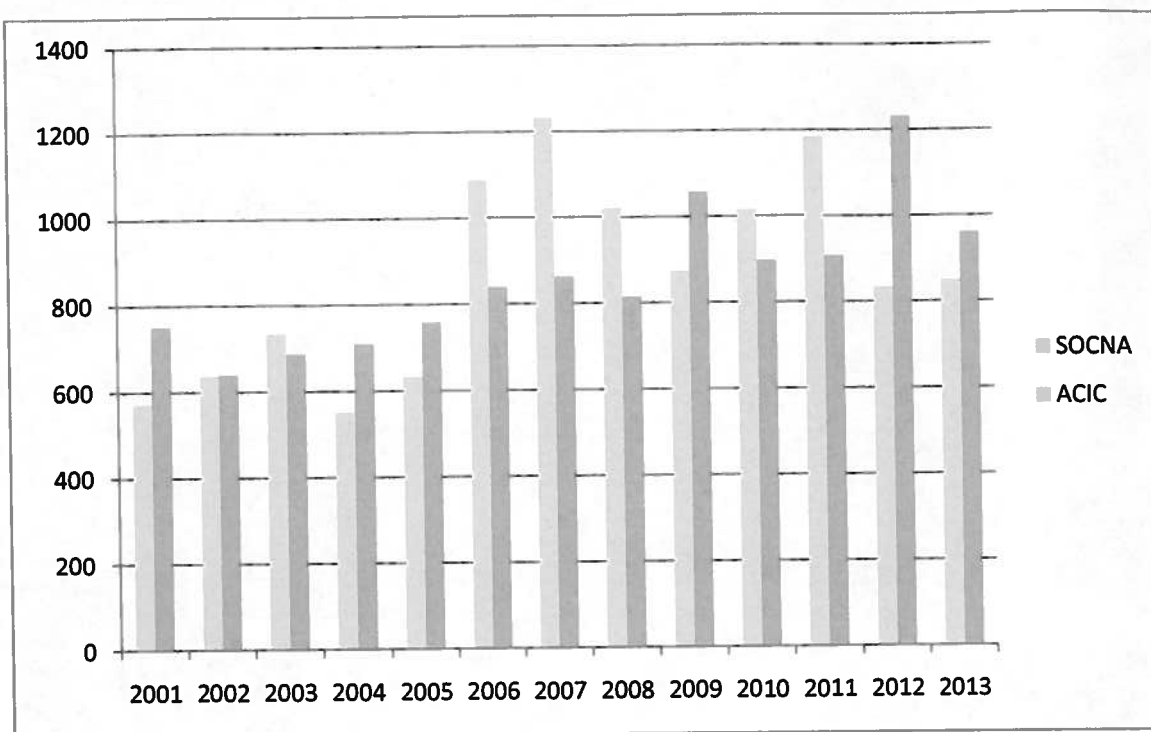
SOCNA continues to work to expedite the assessment process without sacrificing the integrity of the information provided to local law enforcement. The average amount of time per assessment in 2010 was 8.8 months. The average amount of time per assessment in 2011 was 4.7 months. The average amount of time per assessment was 4.5 months in 2012. Despite an almost complete turnover of interview staff in 2013, the average number of months per assessment was 5 months. (It should be mentioned that two cases from the random pull of cases in the audit took 9 months because the offenders were in jail when interview appointments were scheduled and they were given 3 chances to appear for interviews.) In the spring of 2014, SOCNA was able to upgrade their interviewer positions in hopes of attracting and retaining staff in a position that immerses staff in details of sexual assault 5 days a week, including interviewing the offenders.

## Assessments Per Calendar Year

Below is the number of assessments completed by SOCNA per *calendar year* versus the number of newly registered sex offenders documented by the Arkansas Crime Information Center (ACIC). \*

---

\* ADC began to register sex offenders as they entered ADC, in order to accurately reflect the location of all offenders increasing the number of offenders registered; however, there is no backlog of offenders as the inmates are being assessed prior to release.



## Community vs. ADC Assessments Per Fiscal Year

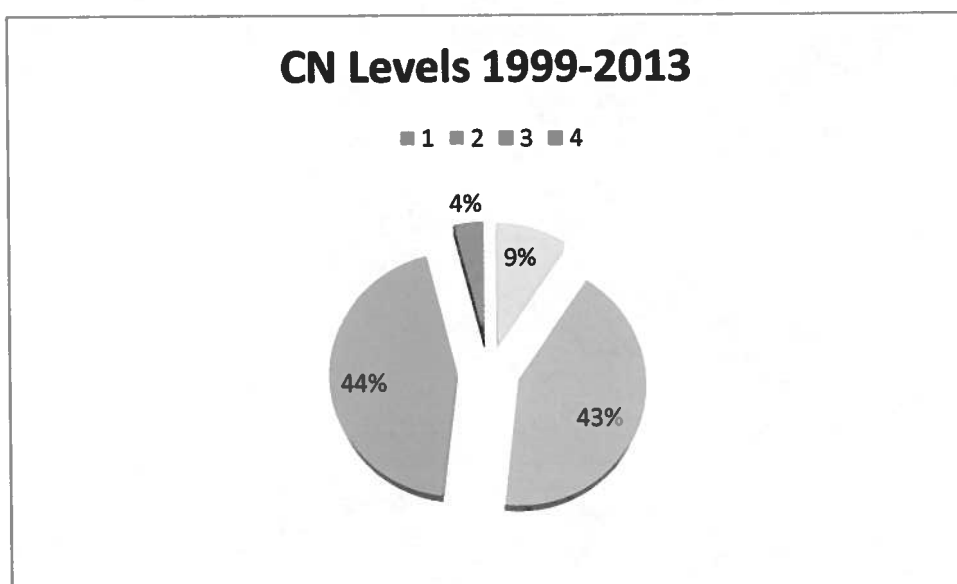
SOCNA must balance the number of assessments conducted on sex offenders currently living within communities, with the number of inmates about to be released from prison. SOCNA has made huge strides in making certain that inmates are assessed before the Board of Parole considers them for release to the community or they complete their sentence. The information listed below reflects the number of assessments completed each *fiscal* year and how many of those were inmate assessments. SOCNA continues to keep up with newly registered sex offender assessments and those offenders scheduled for release from ADC. It is rare that an assessment will not have been finalized prior to an inmate's release.

Fiscal Year	Total Assess.	ADC Assess.
FY 06	770	363
FY 07	1440	335
FY08	1002	429
FY09	862	234
FY10	962	439

FY 11	1235	459
FY 12	979	440
FY 13	833	410
FY 14	732	382

## Community Notifications Levels:

Below is a graph indicating the Community Notification Levels assigned by SOCNA through 2013. Please keep in mind that the number of Default Level 3's is included in the total number of Level 3's.



## Contact Information

Further information is available from:

Sheri Flynn, MS, LSW  
SOCNA Administrator  
Phone: 870-850-8433  
Email: [sheri.flynn@arkansas.gov](mailto:sheri.flynn@arkansas.gov)

Wendy L. Kelley, JD  
Chief Deputy Director  
Phone: 870-267-6300  
Cell: 870-550-7307  
Email: [wendy.kelley@arkansas.gov](mailto:wendy.kelley@arkansas.gov)