



Arkansas Department of Correction

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Governor Mike Beebe
Arkansas State Capitol
Little Rock, AR 72201

Senator Henry Wilkins
Arkansas State Capitol
Little Rock, AR 72201

Representative Allen Maxwell
Arkansas State Capitol
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: Sex Offender Assessment Committee

Dear Governor and Chairmen:

Pursuant to state law, the Sex Offender Assessment Committee is to report to the Governor and Legislative Council each year a summary of the proceedings of the committee and any additionally requested information. I am enclosing a report on Sex Offender Screening and Risk Assessments for the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2009.

If you wish to have someone present at the next Legislative Council meeting to answer any questions concerning the report and/or the guidelines, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Wendy Kelley,
Deputy Director for Health
& Correctional Programs

cc: FILE

Encl.

SEX OFFENDER SCREENING AND RISK ASSESSMENT

FY 2009 Legislative Update

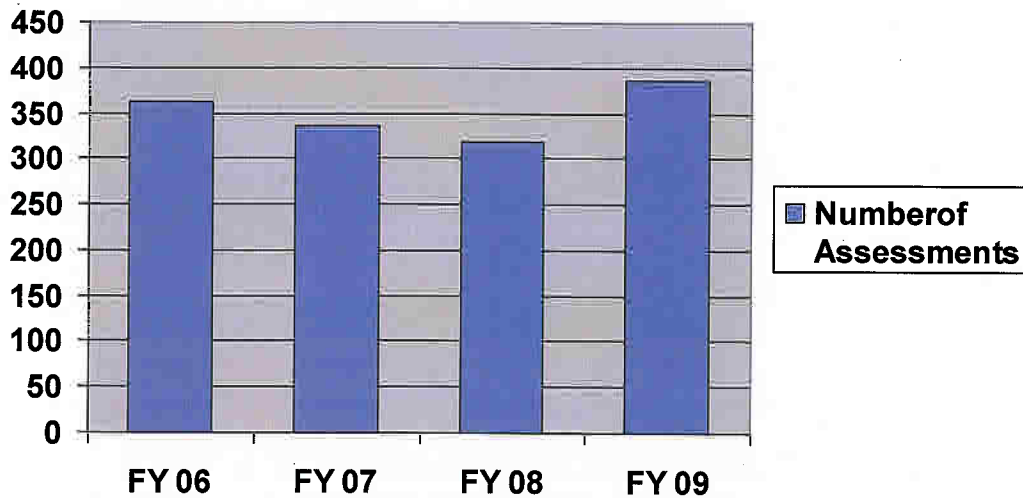
- The Sex Offender Screening & Risk Assessment Program (SOSRA), part of the Arkansas Department of Correction, began conducting assessments of sex offenders required to register in Arkansas in September 1999. At that time, there were approximately 1,800 registered sex offenders in Arkansas, and it was expected that registration rates would reach approximately five hundred (500) new sex offenders each year. In 1999, SOSRA had ten (10) employees, three (3) of whom interviewed sex offenders. Currently, SOSRA has twenty-five (25) employees, seven (7) of whom interview sex offenders.
- During October 2008, SOSRA began using the electronic Sex Offender Management System (eSOMA) for assessments. While this system is part of the existing Electronic Offender Management Information System (eOMIS) already in use by the Departments of Community Correction, and Correction, it had not previously been used for sex offender management. Through SMART and SAVIN federal grants, eSOMA was developed and is now available to local law enforcement agencies, ACIC, as well as the Parole Board, and the Departments of Correction to register, assess, and track sex offenders across the state. While this change is exciting and has already made a difference in the community, there have been a few bugs to work out that caused the number of assessments to go down while staff adjusted to scanning in documents, and creating their documents in the system, etc. Staff has adjusted and the bugs have been worked out and they are able to speed up the process although there is a backlog for the first time in recent years of approximately one hundred twenty (120). As you can see from the graph below, staff has worked hard to begin catching up now that the system has become more user-friendly. As the graph below indicates, the number of assessments completed in FY 08 was 862, which while lower was still higher than the number completed in FY 06 of 770 prior to changes to speed up process.

	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	Total
FY 06	59	65	66	62	27	43	39	55	89	98	87	80	770
FY 07	94	112	121	74	103	135	168	103	87	112	137	158	1440
FY 08	75	80	66	78	56	93	108	79	104	104	108	51	1002
FY 09	76	99	91	54	42	104	60	44	73	60	56	103	862

- One of the most obvious benefits of electronic assessment records is that for the first time, assessment information is immediately available to local law enforcement agencies supervising sex offenders, as well as, DCC, ACIC, ADC management team, and the Arkansas Parole Board.

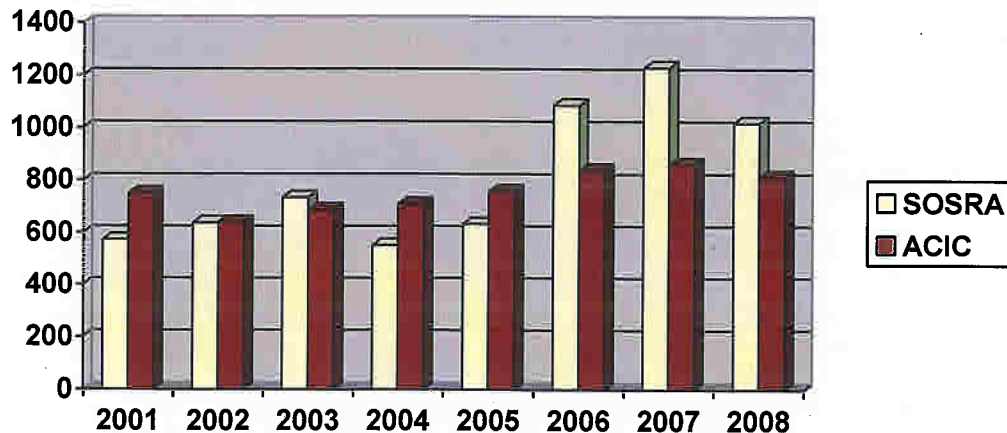
- SOSRA has made an effort to increase the number of assessments conducted on inmates each year, while maintaining the number of assessment of sex offenders living in communities. The following includes information on the number of assessments completed on ADC inmates for the last four (4) fiscal years.

Fiscal Year	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09
ADC Assessments	363	335	318	386



- The following indicates the number of sex offenders added to the ACIC registry and the number of assessments completed by SOSRA, per year, beginning with 2001 data and ending with 2008. The number of assessments and registrations clearly exceed the predicted five hundred (500) per year.

Calendar Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
SOSRA	572	637	734	551	633	1087	1231	1020
ACIC	751	639	687	709	758	839	862	814



- SOSRA continues to build relationships with local police, sheriff departments, prosecutors and the DCC, ACIC, APB, institutional parole officers, and treatment providers. SOSRA firmly believes that the best approach to sex offender management is a containment approach, involving all entities involved in the registration, supervision, treatment and management of sex offenders. Cooperation and coordination and sharing of information between the DCC sex offender staff and SOSRA continues to be at an all time high. Cooperation with SOSRA, DCC, local law enforcement agencies and treatment providers has greatly improved sex offender management in Arkansas.
- The SOSRA Administrator and ADC Deputy Director continued to participate in monthly task force meetings held by Rep. Dawn Creekmore on sex offender legislation.
- The SOSRA Administrator and psychologist participate in regional and statewide training with prosecutors, probation/parole officers, judges, juvenile officials and local law enforcement agencies in an effort to build relationships and inform these agencies of the assessment process.
- SOSRA psychologists continue to inform themselves of the most recent assessment research, procedures, and instruments; and make any necessary adjustments to the Arkansas process and provide training to SOSRA staff. Additionally, SOSRA staff, led by J. Michael Wood, Jr., Ph.D., presented at the 2007 Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers international conference. Dr. Wood is working closely with an internationally renowned researcher in the field to conduct research that will again be presented at the ATSA Conference in October 2009. SOSRA continues to work to improve and better understand those that sexually offend.
- As of June 30, 2009, SOSRA has twenty-five (25) positions: one (1) Psychologist Supervisor; one (1) Psychologist, one (1) Administrator; two (2) Psychological examiners; and (2) Rehabilitation Facility Supervisors who supervise interviewers, conduct interviews, handle routine correspondence from offenders, handle routine phone calls from offenders and acts as Administrator in the absence of the Administrator. One (1) Management Project Analyst II that supervises the secretarial and other support staff, completes fact sheets, reviews files for accuracy, trouble shoots when problems arise, coordinates with local law enforcement, APB, and prosecutors. One (1) Social Worker II that supervises the information gatherers, conducts interviews, gathers information and helps with other administrative duties; seven (7) Interviewers, with one (1) vacancy; four (4) Information Gatherers, two (2) Management Project Analysts I, that complete fact sheets; and one that maintains the master list of assessments as they move through the process, runs criminal histories, collect the data that begins the assessment process, and three (3) Secretaries.

Further information is available from Sheri Flynn, Administrator, at 870-850-8433, or Wendy Kelley, Deputy Director for Health and Programs, at 870-267-6360 or 870-550-7307.