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Special Sentence Revocations High

In addition to their original sentence, persons convicted of sexual abuse, incest or sexual exploitation of a minor also receive a “special sentence” of ten years, or in some cases, life. In its prison population forecast, the Iowa Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning noted “an unexpectedly high rate of revocation among those released to the special sentence, particularly given past research that has shown Iowa sex offenders having very low rates of re-arrest and/or return to prison.”

**Special Sentence Revocation Rates
By Field Supervision vs. Residential Facility Placement
1-Year Follow-Up**

Risk Category	N Offenders	N Revoked	First Year Revocation Rate
Field	78	18	23.1%
Residential	19	13	68.4%
Interstate Compact	9	0	0.0%
<i>Total Offenders</i>	106	31	29.2%

A Department study found that revoked offenders are younger, more likely to be single, and more likely to have previously been unsuccessfully terminated from the sex offender treatment program (SOTP), or to have had no previous treatment at all. Two-thirds of revoked offenders had also had one or more SOTP- or sex-related violations during their special sentence supervisions. The study also found that both the Static-99 and ISORA sex offender risk assessments appear to be generally useful in predicting the likelihood of revocation.

Finally, the research found relatively high rates of revocation for low- and low-moderate risk special sentence offenders living in correctional residential facilities. It should be noted that state residency restrictions have been lifted for certain sex offenders including all misdemeanants (which constitute the vast majority of special sentence offenders in this study), thus eliminating the need to place such offenders in residential facilities in order to resolve housing issues for those who could not otherwise find suitable places to live. Districts may wish to review the cases of low and low-moderate special sentence offenders currently in residential facilities to determine appropriateness of those placements or consider alternative living arrangements. The full report can be viewed under *Research in Brief* at <http://www.doc.state.ia.us/publications.asp>