

What is CASOM?

In 2005 the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department applied for, and was awarded in 2006 the Comprehensive Approaches to Sex Offender Management (CASOM) grant, through the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The purpose of this grant is to develop a more effective, system-wide approach to sex offender management for Kalamazoo County, in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Corrections.

The members of CASOM gathered to identify ways in which they could make Kalamazoo a **safer community by managing and supervising their sex offender population successfully**. To accomplish this, ten main issues will be addressed through this project.

Key Issues

1. Public education
2. Victim-centered approach
3. Specialized sex offender assessments
4. Use of polygraph
5. Specialized sex offender treatment
6. Electronic monitoring
7. Collaborative Case Management teams to supervise sex offenders in the community
8. Sex offender specific specialized training
9. Additional sex offender specific agents
10. Housing concerns

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WORKS!
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Kalamazoo County Michigan Sex Offender Project

CASOM

Comprehensive Approaches
to
Sex Offender Management

In collaboration with
Michigan Department of Corrections

Vision: All sex offenders are supervised and managed according to their assessed risk and needs, employing a collaborative network of resources to MAXIMIZE public safety.

Mission: To collaboratively plan and implement system-wide, comprehensive, evidence-based approaches to the management of sex offenders.

Visit the CASOM website at:
www.wmich.edu/psychology/kalamazoocasom

Sex Offender Statistics

- An average of 23 sex offenders a year was committed to MDOC from Kalamazoo County during the period 1996–2006.
- An average of 20 sex offenders a year was paroled to Kalamazoo County during the period of 1996–2006.
- An average of 10 sex offenders a year were committed to MDOC by Kalamazoo County and released without supervision after serving their maximum sentences during the period 1996–2006.
- Currently in 2007, a total of 48 sex offenders are on probation with Circuit Court in Kalamazoo County.
- Currently in 2007, a total of 74 sex offenders are supervised by parole agents in Kalamazoo County.

Sexual Assault Statistics

About 16% of victims of sexual assault ever report their victimization to law enforcement (*Rape In America*, 1992)

The 1998 National Violence Against Women Study (NVAW) showed that:

- 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men in the U.S. reported experiencing an attempted or completed rape sometime in their life.
- 302,100 women and 92,700 men are forcibly raped each year in the U.S.

Sexual assaults are often targeted against youth: 22% of female rape victims were assaulted before the age of 12 and 32% were between the ages of 12 and 17. (Tjaden & Thoennes, 1998)

Myths and Facts about Sex Offenders

Myth: Most sexual assaults are committed by strangers.

Fact: Most sexual assaults are committed by someone known to the victim or the victim's family, regardless of whether the victim is a child or an adult.

Myth: The majority of sexual offenders are caught, convicted, and in prison.

Fact: Only a fraction of those who commit sexual assaults are apprehended and convicted for their crimes. Most convicted sex offenders eventually are released to the community under probation or parole supervision.

Myth: Most sex offenders re-offend.

Fact: Reconviction data suggest that this is not the case. Further, re-offense rates vary among different types of sex offenders and are related to specific characteristics of the offender and the offense.

Myth: Sexual offense rates are higher than ever and continue to climb.

Fact: Despite the increase in publicity about sexual crimes, the actual rate of reported sexual assault has decreased slightly in recent years.

Myth: Treatment for sex offenders is ineffective.

Fact: Treatment programs can contribute to community safety because those who attend and cooperate with program conditions are less likely to re-offend than those who reject interventions.

Contact Information

If you believe you or someone you know has been a victim of a sexual assault please contact:

YWCA: 345-3036 (24-hour Crisis Line)

- 24-hour on-call sexual assault nurse examiner
- 24-hour counseling and shelter for domestic and sexual assault

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
kalamazoo

Elizabeth Upjohn Community Healing Center (child victims) : 343-1651

- Hours 9am-5pm
- Ask for Children's Advocacy Center

FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Borgess Medical Center: 226-4815

Bronson Methodist Hospital: 341-6386

FOR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

Kalamazoo County Sheriff: 383-8821+6

City Of Kalamazoo: 337-8120

Kalamazoo Township Police: 343-0568

City of Portage: 329-4552

Parchment: 342-1622

Galesburg: 911

Richland: 383-8821+6

Schoolcraft: 679-5600

Vicksburg: 383-8221+6

For more information on the management of sexual offenders in the community and information on sexual assault prevention, please visit:

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