



CHRISTIANITY TODAY

INTERNATIONAL

**Sex Offenders in the Church Survey**  
**Executive Report**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Background</b>	3
<b>Executive Summary</b>	4
<b>Respondents' Position in the Church</b>	7
<b>Respondents' Opinions About the Issue</b>	
Sex Offenders in the Church	8
Factors Influencing Opinions on Sex Offenders	10
Decision to Allow Offender in the Church	11
Problem with Sex Offender in the Church	11
Who Needs to be Notified	12
Responding to the Ex-Offender's Desire to Serve	13
Risk for Becoming Abusers	13
Questions Regarding History of Past Abuse	14
Response Strategies for Higher Risk Individuals	14
Response Strategies for Offenders	15
Ex-offender in a Position of Leadership in the Church	16
Can Sex Offenders be Rehabilitated?	17
<b>Realities in Church</b>	
Determining Sex Offenders in the Church	18
Number of Attenders, Members, Leaders with Criminal Records	19
How the Person's Sex Offense Record Became Known	20
Church Attender with Sex Offender in Family	20
Juvenile Offenders in the Church – Extent of Problem	21

Presence of Juvenile Sex Offenders in the Church	21
Discovering Juvenile's Sex Offense Record	22
<b>Church Response</b>	
Church Action	23
Steps Taken	23
Providing Ministries to People with Sexual Addictions	25
<b>Church Profile</b>	
Church Size	26
Church Setting	26
Denominational Affiliation	27

## BACKGROUND

### Purpose

The primary purpose of this research is to explore the attitudes and beliefs among church leaders regarding integrating sex offenders into the faith community. Likewise, it seeks to compile practices churches are using to both extend compassion to offenders and maintain the safety of all church members, especially children.

In addition, this research shows the differences in attitudes among pastoral leaders, church staff, and lay leaders.

### Methodology

All responses were gathered in an online survey. Invitations to participate in the survey were sent to CTI e-newsletter subscribers of BuildingChurchLeaders.com, Your Church, Leadership Journal, BuildingforMinistry.com, Church Law & Tax Update, Church Finance Update, ChurchSafety.com, Church Office Today Update, Richard Hammar’s Essential Reminder, CT Connection, Books & Culture, and Entertainment. Invitations were sent out in the form of e-newsletters, Twitter mentions, and editors’ personal networking efforts.

Upon completion of the survey, all respondents were offered a free download called “Child Sexual Abuse Response Plan” from YourChurchResources.com.

### Sample

Number of respondents	3825
Number of blank responses (deleted from analyzed results)	961
Number of completed responses	2864

### Timing

Survey field dates	April 9-May 3, 2010
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### Limitations

At 95 percent confidence, margin of error are as follows:

	Number of respondents	Margin of error +/-
Total Responses	2864	1.83
Pastoral Leaders	923	3.23
Non-Pastoral Leaders	566	4.12
Lay Leaders/Members	1227	2.80

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Respondent and Church Profile

- One-third of respondents are pastors, one-fifth are non-pastoral leaders, and 43 percent are lay leaders, members or attendees.
- The average church size of respondents is 620, with a median of 274. Nearly one-fourth (23 percent) come from a church of less than 100 in worship attendance; 32 percent have an average worship attendance of 500 or more, and the rest (46 percent) belong to a church with an average of 100-499 in worship attendance.
- Respondents primarily reside in a suburb of a larger city, or a small town or rural area. Very few come from a farming area.
- Two in ten respondents describe their denominational affiliation as Baptist (22 percent) or Independent/Interdenominational/Nondenominational (21 percent).

### Respondents' Opinions About the Issue

- Eight in ten respondents think convicted sex offenders belong in a church as attenders, under continuous supervision, and subject to appropriate limitations. In contrast, five percent say they belong in church as attenders, with no limitations and no supervisions required.
- While three percent of the respondents think convicted sex offenders do not belong in a church, five percent say they belong in church as leaders.
- Three percent think the known offender should be completely excluded. Three times as many (9 percent) say the known offender should be embraced without qualifications.
- The majority of respondents are influenced by the seriousness of the sex offender's crime in their decision to allow an offender to integrate into the faith community. For 52 percent of the respondents, standards for participation are determined in part by the seriousness of the sex offense committed.
- Respondents feel that finding out about the presence of a registered sex offender in the church is a bigger problem for their church than it is to them personally.
- When the presence of a registered sex offender becomes known, nearly all (99 percent) respondents think someone needs to be notified. Of the specific people to inform first, church staff get the highest percentage at 90 percent, followed by elders at 78 percent.
- When asked how they would respond if a known offender expressed a desire to serve in a ministry at church, almost half say they would be opposed (choosing 1 or 2 on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is opposed and 5 is not at all concerned).
- Nearly two-thirds of respondents believe that people who were sexually abused as children are at a greater risk for becoming abusers as adults.
  - The majority (56 percent) of those who believe this think that it should be a standard policy to question all adults about any history of past abuse before they are allowed to serve in a ministry at church.
  - One-fourth (23 percent) think questioning all adults about this is an invasion of privacy.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Respondents' Opinions About the Issue (continued)

- Two-thirds of respondents think the strategies for managing risks associated with sex offenders in church depend on the circumstances of each case. However, more than half of respondents advocate for church leaders using the following strategies when they become aware that *someone in church might be at a higher risk of committing sexual offense*:
  - Talk to the individual (81 percent)
  - Offer counseling at church or provide a referral for professional counseling (65 percent)
  - Talk to elders (61 percent)
  - Talk to staff (60 percent)
- More than half of respondents think church leaders should take the following steps when they become aware that *someone in church is an offender*.
  - Pray about it (82 percent)
  - Talk to elders (76 percent)
  - Talk to staff (76 percent)
  - Talk to their probation officer (57 percent)
  - Draft conditional attendance agreement (i.e., covenant agreement, accountability agreement, etc.) (57 percent)
- One-fourth (26 percent) of respondents think a known ex-offender should be allowed to serve in a leadership position in church. One and a half times more respondents (38 percent) think they should not be allowed to lead.
- Nearly 4 in 10 respondents think sex offenders can be completely rehabilitated to the point where they no longer pose a threat to others (37 percent). A nearly equal number (38 percent), are not sure whether an offender can be rehabilitated, or they are not sure about it. One-fourth does not believe they can be completely rehabilitated.

### Realities in the Church

- More than half of respondents are aware that their church actively attempts to determine if there are sex offenders in the church. 39 percent are aware of these attempts occurring only when an individual is being considered for a position of leadership, teaching or working with children or other vulnerable individuals.
  - Background screening is the most common process among those who are aware that this is being done.
- In most cases, respondents say a person's sex offense record is known when the offender informs the pastor or a church leader.
- 18 percent of respondents are aware of someone who attends their church that is a spouse or family member of a known sex offender.

- Four percent of respondents think juveniles sexually abusing other minors is happening or has happened to their church. Eight times as many (32 percent) report that it is not a threat in their church.
- Six percent of respondents are aware of juvenile sex offenders attending their church.
  - In most cases, the sex offense record became known to the church when the offender's parents or legal guardians informed the pastor.

### Church Response

- 37 percent report that when their church discovers that a sex offender is attending their church, they conditionally include the offender. Two percent report that their church completely excludes the offender.
- The top three *steps taken* by churches when they learn an attender or member from church is an offender are the same top three steps respondents think church leaders *should take* (see Respondents' Opinions about the Issue).
  - Pray about it (43 percent)
  - Talk to elders(39 percent)
  - Talk to staff (39 percent)
- Nearly three-fourths (73 percent) of respondents' churches do not have their own recovery ministries to minister to people with sexual addictions. Of these churches:
  - 24 percent do nothing
  - 49 percent do not provide recovery ministries but provide referrals to other ministries/organizations that can help.

***Please note: Responses that do not add up to 100 percent are due to multiple responses, rounding of numbers, or cases where respondent refused to answer.***

## RESPONDENTS' POSITION IN THE CHURCH

### Q: What is your position in your church?

- One-third (32 percent) of respondents are Pastoral Leaders, one-fifth are Non-Pastoral Leaders/Staff, and 43 percent are Lay Leaders/Members/Attendees.
- Looking at the positions individually, the highest percentages of respondents are Senior Pastor/Minister and Lay Leader/Volunteer, at 15 percent each.

Originally, 42 percent of respondents selected “other” (from the list provided) to describe their position in church. Responses of those who provided their position were coded and new categories were created as indicated by asterisks (\*) below.

Number of Respondents	2864
	%
<b>Pastoral Leaders</b>	<b>32</b>
Senior Pastor/Minister	15
Children's Pastor/Minister/Director	4
Executive Pastor	3
Youth Pastor/ Minister/Director	3
Other Pastor	7
<b>Non-Pastoral Leaders/Staff</b>	<b>20</b>
Elder	8
Administrator/Board Member/Other Church Leader*	6
Paid Staff*	6
<b>Lay Leaders/Members/Attendees</b>	<b>43</b>
None	20
Lay Leader/Volunteer*	15
Member/Attendee*	8
<b>Other</b>	<b>5</b>

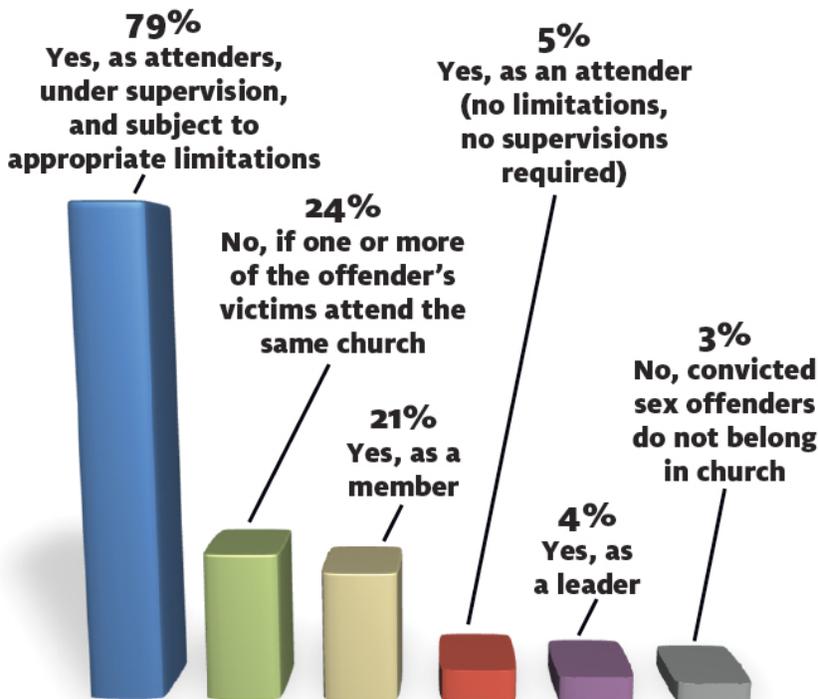
## RESPONDENTS' OPINIONS ABOUT THE ISSUE

### Sex Offenders in the Church

**Q:** In *your opinion*, do convicted sex offenders, who have been released from prison, belong in a church? (Choose ALL that apply)

*For this question and the rest of this survey, we define sex offender as one who has committed a sex crime that involves any illegal or coerced sexual activity, such as sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual abuse, rape, statutory rape, date rape, prostitution, as well as indecent exposure, and lewd acts, whether against a child or adult.*

- 8 in 10 respondents think convicted sex offenders who have been released from prison belong in a church as attenders, under continuous supervision, and are subject to appropriate limitations.
- More than 2 in 10 respondents think convicted sex offenders belong in a church as members (21 percent). An almost similar percentage (24 percent) think they do not belong in a church if one or more of the offender's victims attend the same church.
- While three percent of the respondents think convicted sex offenders do not belong in a church, four percent think they can be leaders in the church, and five percent think they belong as attenders with no limitations or supervisions required.



**Sex Offenders in the Church** (continued)

Number of Respondents	2845
	%
Yes, as attenders, under continuous supervision, and subject to appropriate limitations	79
No, if one or more of the offender's victims attend the same church	24
Yes, as member	21
Yes, as attenders (no limitations, no supervisions required)	5
Yes, as leader	4
No, convicted sex offenders do not belong in a church	3

**Significant differences:**

- Pastors are more likely than members to say that convicted sex offenders belong in a church under continuous supervision, and are subject to appropriate limitations (83 percent vs. 76 percent).
- Pastors are also more likely to say that convicted sex offenders belong in a church as a member (25 percent vs. 19 percent and 20 percent for Leaders and Members, respectively).
- Members are more likely than all the other groups to say convicted sex offenders belong to a church as attenders with no limitations and no supervisions required. (6 percent vs. 4 percent each for Pastors and Leaders)
- Respondents from small towns are more likely than those from farming areas or metropolitan cities to say that convicted sex offenders belong in a church as attenders, under continuous supervision, and are subject to appropriate limitations (83 percent vs. 74 percent and 75 percent respectively).

## Factors Influencing Opinions about Sex Offenders

**Q: What factors influence your opinions on whether or not sex offenders should be allowed to participate in church? (Choose ALL that apply).**

- Repentant attitude of offender is the number one factor that influences respondent’s opinion on whether or not sex offenders should be allowed to participate in church.

### Top Ten Factors

What influences your opinion on whether former sex offenders should be allowed to participate in church?



Number of Respondents	2836
	%
Repentant attitude of offender	83
Do one or more of the offender's victims attend the church	66
Type of offense	61
Terms of the offender's probation (if any)	61
Years since offense occurred	51
Number of offenses	47
Offender's reconciliation with victims	46
Risk of legal liability for the church or board	42
Level of awareness in congregation of offender's attendance	38
Statistics on recidivism rate of offenders (i.e. likelihood they will offend again)	37
Insurance company guidelines	31
Other (verbatim responses available)	17

## Decision to Allow Offender in the Church

**Q: To what extent does the seriousness of a sex offender’s crime influence your decision to allow him or her to integrate into your faith community (i.e. sex offense against a child vs. statutory rape)? (Choose ONE)**

- For the majority of respondents (52 percent), standards for participation [of a sex offender] are determined in part by the seriousness of the sex offense committed. The rest of the respondents are evenly split among those who say the same standard for participation should be applied to anyone convicted of a sex offense and those who say all are welcome at their church regardless of their sinful past.

Number of Respondents	2827
	%
Standards for participation are determined in part by the seriousness of the sex offense(s) committed.	52
The same standards for participation should be applied to anyone convicted of a sex offense, regardless of the seriousness of their crime(s).	24
All are welcome at our church, regardless of their sinful past.	24

## Problem with Sex Offender in the Church

**Q: If you were to find out that your church has a registered sex offender who is a member or attender, how big of a problem do you feel this is for you and your church? (Please choose a number on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is not a problem and 5 is a big problem.)**

- Respondents feel the presence of a registered sex offender in the church is more of a problem for their church than to them personally. 45 percent rank this as a big problem (responding with either a “4” or a “5”) for their church, while 29 percent rank this (using the same scale) as a big problem for them personally.

		Not a problem	2	3	4	Big problem	Mean
	# of Respondents	%	%	%	%	%	#
For my church	2836	8	14	33	28	17	3.3
For me personally	2830	18	23	30	17	12	2.8

## Who Needs to be Notified

**Q: When the presence of a registered sex offender at church becomes known, who do you think needs to be notified? (Choose ALL that apply.)**

- Nearly all (99 percent) respondents think there should be a notification to various leaders/sectors of the congregation when the presence of a registered sex offender who is a member or attender at church becomes known.
  - 90 percent think the staff needs to be notified, 78 percent say elders should know, and 62 percent think the board should be notified.
  - Very few (18 percent) think the entire congregation needs to be notified.
- Of all the varied written responses for “other” who needs to be notified, Pastors were mentioned the most.

Number of Respondents	2846
	%
Staff (youth/children's ministry directors, etc.)	90
Elders	78
The offender's probation officer (if applicable)	64
Board	62
Church attorney	42
Insurance company	26
Entire congregation	18
Other (verbatim responses available)	15
None	1

### Significant differences:

- Members are more likely than all the other groups to say the entire congregation needs to be notified (22 percent vs. 13 percent and 15 percent for Pastors and Leaders, respectively).
- Looking at more detailed church positions, the following were observed:
  - Elders are more likely to say elders need to be notified (87 percent).
  - Children’s Pastor/Minister/Director are more likely to say staff (youth/children’s ministry directors, etc.) need to be notified (98 percent).

## Responding to the Ex-offender’s Desire to Serve

**Q: If you knew a member or attender in your congregation had a previous sex offense on their record, how would you respond to his or her desire to serve in a ministry at church?**  
 (Respondents were shown a scale where 1 is “*completely opposed*” and 5 is “*not at all concerned.*”)

- With a mean of 2.5, and 40 percent who chose the midpoint value (3), most respondents have a neutral response on an ex-offender’s desire to serve in a ministry at church.
- Looking at the top and bottom numbers, there are nearly five times more respondents who say they are completely opposed (14 percent) than those who say they are not at all concerned (3 percent).

Number of Respondents	2848
	%
Opposed (Values 1 and 2 combined)	46
3	40
Not Concerned (Values 4 and 5 combined)	14
<i>Mean</i>	2.5

## Risk for Becoming Abusers

**Q: Do you believe that people who were sexually abused as children are at greater risk for becoming abusers as adults?**

- Nearly two-thirds (63 percent) of respondents believe that people who were sexually abused as children are at a greater risk for becoming abusers as adults.

Number of Respondents	2864
	%
Yes	63
No	10
Not sure	26

## Questions Regarding History of Past Abuse

**Q: Should all adults be questioned about any history of past abuse before they are allowed to serve in a ministry at church? (Choose ONE)**

- The majority (56 percent) of respondents who believe that people who were sexually abused as children are at greater risk for becoming abusers as adults think all adults should be questioned about history of past abuse as a standard policy before they are allowed to serve in a ministry at church. Less than half of this number (23 percent) thinks this is an invasion of privacy.

Number of Respondents who said “yes” to previous question: <b>Do you believe that people who were sexually abused as children are at greater risk for becoming abusers as adults?</b>	1805
	%
Yes, this should be a standard policy	56
No, this is an invasion of privacy	23
Not sure	20

## Response Strategies for Higher Risk Individuals

**Q: What response strategies do you think church leaders should take when they become aware that someone in church *might be at a higher risk of committing a sexual offense?* (Choose ALL that apply)**

- The number one strategy respondents think church leaders should employ when they become aware that someone in their church might be at a higher risk of committing a sexual offense is to talk to the individual (81 percent).
- Two-thirds think the response strategy depends on the circumstance for each case (68 percent), or a similar percentage suggests the strategy should be to offer counseling at the church or provide a referral for professional counseling (65 percent)..
- One percent thinks nothing needs to be done at all.

Number of Respondents	2850
	%
Talk to the individual	81
Depends on the circumstances of each case	68
Offer counseling at church or provide a referral for professional counseling	65
Talk to elders	61
Talk to staff	60
Remove (at least temporarily) from leadership	46
Talk to attorney	27
Contact insurance company	14
Contact your denomination (if applicable)	14
Talk to congregation	8
Other (verbatim responses available)	9
Don't know/not sure	1
Nothing needs to be done	1

## Response Strategies for Offenders

**Q: What response strategies do you *think* church leaders should take when they become aware that someone from church (an attender or member) *is a former sex offender?* (Choose ALL that apply)**

- The top three response strategies picked by more than three-quarters of respondents are to pray about it, talk to elders, and talk to staff.

Number of Respondents	2847
	%
Pray about it	82
Talk to elders	76
Talk to staff	76
Contact their probation officer	57
Draft conditional attendance agreement (i.e. chaperone agreement, accountability agreement, etc.)	57
Talk to attorney	38
Discuss with the police	29
Contact insurance company	23
Contact your denomination (if applicable)	20
Talk to congregation	16
Other (verbatim responses available)	13
Don't know/not sure	1
None	< 1/2

## Response Strategies for Offenders (continued)

### Significant differences

Respondents from large churches are *less* likely to do the following compared to medium and small churches when they become aware that someone from church is an offender:

- Talk to elders (73 percent vs. 80 percent for small, 77 percent for medium)
  - Talk to congregation (13 percent vs. 19 percent small, 16 percent medium)
- Contact denomination if applicable (16 percent vs. 24 percent small, 22 percent medium).

- Respondents from small churches are *less* likely to do the following compared to medium and large churches when they become aware that someone from church is an offender:
  - Talk to staff (69 percent vs. 79 percent for large, 77 percent for medium)

## Ex-offender in a Position of Leadership at Church

**Q: Should a known ex-offender ever be allowed to serve in a position of leadership in the church?**

- One-fourth (26 percent) of the respondents think a known ex-offender should be allowed to serve in leadership position at church.
- Nearly 4 in 10 think a known sex offender should not be allowed to serve in a leadership position at church.

Number of Respondents	2834
	%
Yes	26
No	38
Not sure	36

### Significant differences:

- Pastors are more likely than Leaders and Members to answer yes, ex-offenders should be allowed to serve in a position of leadership in the church (31 percent vs. 24 percent and 23 percent, respectively).

## Can Sex Offenders be Rehabilitated?

**Q: In your opinion, can sex offenders be completely rehabilitated to the point where they no longer pose a threat to others?**

- Nearly 4 in 10 respondents believe sex offenders can be completely rehabilitated to the point where they no longer pose a threat to others (38 percent) while another 37 percent are not sure.
- One-fourth of the respondents believe they cannot be completely rehabilitated.

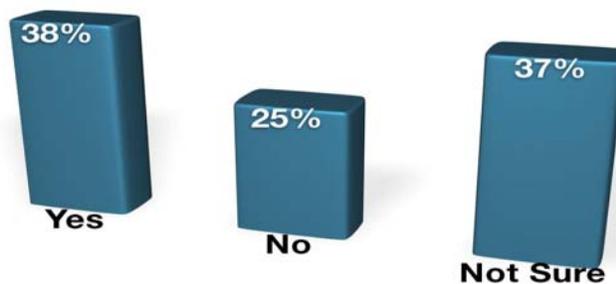
Number of Respondents	2841
	%
Yes	38
No	25
Not sure	37

### Significant differences:

- Pastors are more likely than Leaders and Members to say ex-offenders can be completely rehabilitated (43 percent vs. 35 percent and 36 percent respectively).
- Likewise, respondents from smaller churches are more likely than those from larger churches to say ex-offenders can be completely rehabilitated (45 percent vs. 37 percent for those from medium and 33 percent from large churches).
- Respondents from farming areas (51 percent) and metropolitan cities (43 percent) are more likely than respondents from small towns (36 percent) or the suburbs (35 percent) to say yes when asked if sex offenders can be completely rehabilitated.

### Prospects for Rehab

Can sex offenders be completely rehabilitated to the point where they no longer pose a threat to others?



## REALITIES IN CHURCH

### Determining Sex Offenders in the Church

**Q: To your knowledge, is your church actively attempting to determine if there are sex offenders in your church? (Choose ONE)**

- More than half of the respondents are aware that their church is actively attempting to determine if there are sex offenders in the church. 39 percent are aware of this being done only when an individual is being considered for position of leadership, teaching or working with children and other vulnerable individuals.

Number of Respondents	2864
	%
Yes	12
Yes, but only when being considered for position of leadership, teaching, or working with children and other vulnerable individuals at church	39
No	24
Don't know	25

#### Significant differences

- Pastors and Leaders are more likely to know about their church's attempts to determine the presence of sex offenders in their church, while Members are more likely to say they do not know.
- Respondents from smaller churches are more likely to say their churches are not actively attempting to determine if there are sex offenders in their churches (39 percent vs. 25 percent for medium and 13 percent for large).
- Respondents from churches in farming areas (38 percent) are more likely to say their church is not actively attempting to determine the presence of sex offenders in their church vs. 24 percent in metropolitan cities, 26 percent in small towns, and 21 percent in the suburbs.
- Among those who know their church actively attempts to determine if there are sex offenders in the church (1,446 respondents), background screening is the most common process used to determine if there are sex offenders in the church (83 percent).
- Pastors are more likely than Leaders or Members to say their church uses sex offender registries (63 percent vs. 57 percent and 41 percent respectively).

Respondents who are knowledgeable that their church are actively determining presence of sex offenders in church	1446
	%
Background screenings	83
Sex offender registries	55
Other	14
Don't know	7

## Number of Attenders, Members, Leaders with Criminal Records

**Q: To your knowledge, how many attenders, members, or leaders in your church have a criminal record based on a sex offense?**

- While about half of the respondents are not aware of individuals with criminal records in their church, about 2 in 10 say they know of an attender or member who has a criminal record based on sex offense(s). Three percent are aware of church leaders who have criminal records based on sex offense.

	Attenders	Members	Leaders
Number of Respondents	2783	2744	2675
None	25	32	56
1-5	18	17	3
6-10	1	1	0
More than 10	1	< ½	< ½
Don't know	56	51	41

### Significant differences:

- Pastors and Leaders are more knowledgeable of this type of information than Members.
- In general, respondents from small and medium churches are more likely than those from large churches to say they have no knowledge of attenders, members, and leaders who have a criminal record based on sex offense(s).
- In contrast, respondents from large churches are more likely than all others to know more cases of attenders and members with criminal records based on a sex offense.
- Respondents from large churches are also more likely to say they do not know the number of attenders, members, or leaders who have criminal sex offense records.
- Respondents from churches set in farming areas and small towns are more likely than churches from metropolitan cities or suburban areas to say they have no knowledge of attenders, members, and leaders with criminal records based on a sex offense.

## How the Person’s Sex Offense Record Became Known

**Q: How did you find out about the person’s sex offense record? (Choose ALL that apply)**

- In most cases, churches learn of an offender’s criminal record when this individual self-discloses about his or her past to the pastor or a church leader.
- In addition to the offender telling the pastor of his or her sex offense record, the two other most common ways of learning about this information are by someone from the congregation telling the church leadership, as well as searching through sex offender registries.

Number of Respondents	794
	%
The offender told the pastor or a church leader	55
Someone from the congregation told us (church leadership) and we investigated	34
Through sex offender registries	33
Through background screening	21
Someone from outside the church told us (church leadership) and we investigated	17
Other	20
Don't remember	4

## Church Attender with Sex Offender in Family

**Q: Are you aware of anyone who attends your church that is a spouse or family member of a known sex offender? (Thus, that offender, though not a church attender, may pick up kids occasionally, or attend Christmas Eve service, etc.)**

- About 2 in 10 (18 percent) respondents are aware of someone attending their church that is a spouse or family member of a known sex offender.

Number of Respondents	2840
	%
Yes	18
No	82

### Significant differences:

- Pastors and Leaders are more likely than Members to be aware of attenders who have a spouse or family member that is a known sex offender (23 percent Pastors and 22 percent Leaders vs. 13 percent Members).
- Taking a closer look at those in pastoral positions, children’s pastor/minister/director are more likely than all other positions to be aware of this information.

## Juvenile Offenders in the Church – Extent of Problem

**Q: To what extent do you think juveniles sexually abusing other minors is a problem in your church?**

- Four percent of respondents think that juveniles sexually abusing other minors is happening or has happened in their church.
- Nearly one-third (32 percent) report that it is not a threat at all in their church.

Number of Respondents	2819
	%
1 Not a threat at all	32
2	34
3	25
4	6
5 This is happening/has happened in our church	4

**Significant differences:**

- Respondents from small churches are more likely than those from medium and large churches to say that a juvenile sexually abusing another minor is not a threat at all in their church (50 percent vs. 32 percent and 20 percent, respectively).

## Presence of Juvenile Sex Offenders in the Church

**Q: Are you aware of any juvenile sex offenders (minors, according to your state law, who have committed a sex crime) attending your church?**

- Six percent of respondents are aware of juvenile sex offenders attending their church. This type of information is something that Pastors are more likely to be aware of than Leaders and Members.

Number of Respondents	2864
	%
Yes	6
No	94

**Significant differences:**

- Respondents from large churches are more likely than those from small and medium churches to be aware of juvenile sex offenders attending their church (8 percent vs. 3 percent and 6 percent respectively).

## Discovering Juvenile’s Sex Offense Record

**Q: How did you find out about the juvenile’s sex offense record? (Choose ALL that apply)**

- In most cases, the juvenile’s sex offense record became known to the church when the offender’s parents or legal guardians informed the pastor.

Those who are aware of juvenile sex offenders attending their church	167
	%
The offender's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) informed the pastor or a church leader.	49
Someone from the congregation informed church leadership, and we investigated	32
The offender told the pastor or a church leader	27
Someone from outside the church informed church leadership, and we investigated	13
Other (verbatim responses available)	20
Don't know	7

## CHURCH RESPONSE

### Church Actions

**Q: When you discover that a sex offender is attending your church, which of the following actions does your church take? (Choose ALL that apply)**

- Nearly half (46 percent) of the respondents have not encountered a known offender in their church.
- By a wide margin, the most common action churches take when they discover that a sex offender is attending their church is to conditionally include the offender (with chaperones and an attendance agreement).

Number of Respondents	2864
	%
Have not encountered a known offender in our church	46
Conditionally include the offender (with chaperones, attendance agreement)	37
Completely exclude the offender	2
Nothing yet, but we intend to welcome sex offenders into our faith community without qualifications	3
Nothing yet, and we don't plan to do anything about this	2
Other (verbatim responses available)	14

### Steps Taken

In the following bar chart, we compared what steps respondents *think* a church should take when they become aware of an offender in their church versus what steps they *do* take.

#### Opinion:

**Q: What response strategies do you think church leaders should take when they become aware that someone from church (an attender or member) *is an offender*? (Choose ALL that apply)**

- Almost all respondents think one or more strategies should be taken by church leaders when they become aware that someone from church is an offender.
- The top three response strategies picked by more than three-quarters of respondents are to pray about it, talk to elders, and talk to staff.

#### Reality:

**Q: When you learn an attender or member from your church is an offender, which of the following steps do you take? (Choose ALL that apply)**

- The top three steps churches take when they learn an attender or member of their church is an offender are: pray about it, talk to elders, and talk to staff.

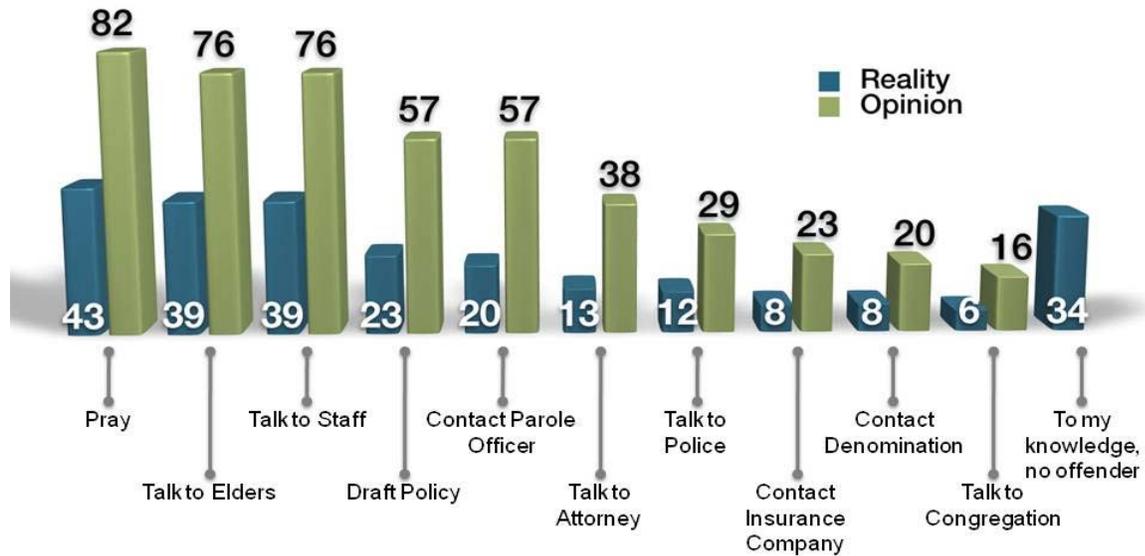
- The rankings for the actual steps taken are mostly the same as compared to a previous question on what actions they *think* church leaders should take, although the percentages for steps taken are lower.
- One-third (34 percent) of the respondents reported that they are not aware of any sex offender who attends their church.

**Significant differences:**

- Respondents from small churches are more likely than medium and large churches to talk to the congregation when they learn that an attender or member of the church is an offender (9 percent vs. 6 percent and 3 percent, respectively).

## Steps Taken

When you learn an attender or member from your church is an offender, which of the following steps do you take?



## Providing Ministries to People with Sexual Addictions

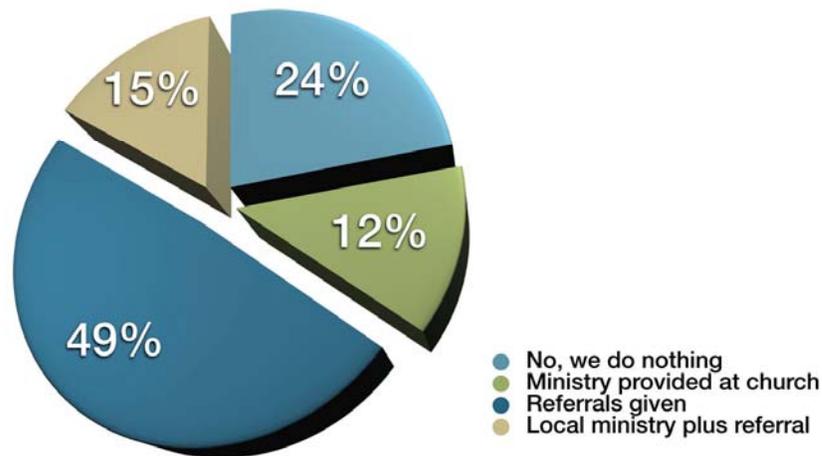
**Q: Does your church provide recovery ministry(ies) to people with sexual addictions, including cyberporn addiction, as well as other sex-related issues or problems? (Choose ONE)**

- Nearly three-fourths (73 percent) of the respondents' churches do not have their own recovery ministries to minister to people with sexual addictions.
  - 24 percent do nothing
  - 49 percent do not provide recovery ministries but provide referrals to other ministries/organizations that can help.

Number of Respondents	2783
	%
Yes, we have ministries in the church	12
No, but we provide referrals to other ministries/organizations that can help	49
Yes, we have ministries in the church and we provide referrals to other ministries/organizations	15
No, we do nothing	24

### Ministry to People with Sexual Addictions

Does your church provide recovery ministry to people with sexual addictions including cyberporn addiction as well as sex-related issues or problems?



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## CHURCH PROFILE

### Church Size

**Q: What is the size of your church? (Average total worship attendance including children)**

- The average church size for the respondents is 620. About one-fourth of the respondents are from small churches (less than 100 average total worship attendance).
- 46 percent of the respondents are from churches with an average worship attendance of 100 to under 500.
- About one-third of the respondents are from churches with an average worship attendance of 500 or more.

Number of Respondents	2847
	%
Less than 100	23
100-199	21
200-299	11
300-499	14
500-999	13
1,000-1,999	8
2,000 or more	11
<i>Mean</i>	620
<i>Median</i>	274

### Church Setting

**Q: In which setting is your church located?**

- The largest group of respondents is from a suburb of a larger city, followed closely by those who are from a small town or rural city.

Number of Respondents	2845
	%
Suburb of a larger city	37
Small town or rural city	34
Metropolitan city	23
Farming area	6

## Denominational Affiliation

**Q: What is the denominational affiliation of your church?**

Number of Respondents	2734
	%
Baptist	22
Independent/Interdenominational/ Nondenominational	21
Assemblies of God/Pentecostal/Charismatic	11
Presbyterian	7
Methodist	6
Christian Church/Disciples of Christ/ Church of Christ	4
Lutheran	4
Brethren/Mennonite	2
Other	22