

**VICTIM-CENTERED  
SUPERVISION IN SEX  
OFFENDER MANAGEMENT:  
KEY PRINCIPLES, CURRENT  
TRENDS, AND EXISTING  
NEEDS**

An OVW-  
Supported  
initiative

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## “SPECIALIZED TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ENHANCE PROBATION RESPONSE TO SEXUAL ASSAULT”

CSOM



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## PROJECT GOAL AND DELIVERABLES

### Goal:

To promote well-informed, victim-sensitive probation responses to cases involving sexual assault by providing specialized assistance and support to probation agencies and officers responsible for supervising sex offenders.

### Deliverables:

- Conduct a needs assessment
- Create tools and resources: e-curriculum, resource package/toolkit
- Provide training and technical assistance to probation agencies and officers: on-site training, on- and off-site technical assistance, webinars

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## TODAY'S PRESENTERS



Mr. Carl Wicklund  
Executive Director, American Probation  
and Parole Association



Ms. Karen Baker  
Director, National Sexual Violence Resource Center



Dr. Kurt Bumby  
Director, Center for Sex Offender Management



Ms. Kimberly Maciel  
Sex Offender Unit Victim Advocate,  
Rhode Island Department of Corrections/Day One

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## SCOPE OF THE ISSUE

- Average of 237,868 rape and sexual assault victims (age 12 or older) each year
  - *Recognize under-reporting*
- In 2013, roughly 4,751,400 adults were under community supervision
- Approximately 125,000 (approximately 3%) of probation/parolees are sex offenders
- **819,218** sex offenders currently registered in the US

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## SYSTEM RESPONSES TO A COMPLEX ISSUE

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### COMPLEX PROBLEM, MULTIPLE GOALS

- **Create safe, healthy communities**
  - Reduce risk for reoffending among known offenders
  - Use our expertise to prevent first-time offenses
- **Create expectations of respect and safety**
- **Respond to needs and interests of survivors/victims through advocacy, supports, and services**
- **Hold perpetrators accountable**
- **Facilitate successful outcomes among probationers, parolees**
  - Their success = no additional victims

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## STRATEGIES USED TO MANAGE, REDUCE RISK

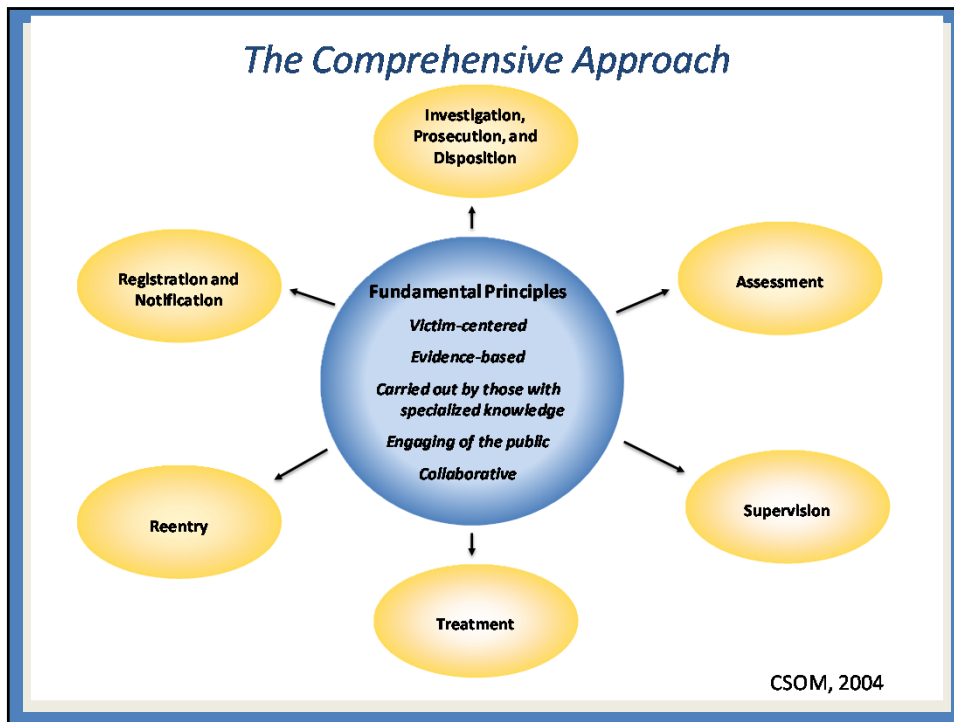
- Incarceration
- Probation, parole supervision
- Specialized conditions
- Sex offense-specific treatment
- GPS, electronic monitoring
- Residence restrictions
- Civil commitment
- Registration

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## LESSONS LEARNED ABOUT EARLIER SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT EFFORTS

- Limited coordination across agencies, disciplines
- Offender-focused, lacked victim-centeredness
- Lacked an integrated framework

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## VICTIM-CENTEREDNESS

- Placing high priority on victims' needs, interests
- Policy and practice implications system-wide
- Critical for probation/parole agencies, officers

## SUPERVISION OFFICERS HAVE PIVOTAL ROLES IN ENSURING VICTIM-CENTEREDNESS

- Reducing and managing risk of individuals convicted of sex offenses
- Helping support victims' rights, safety, and interests at multiple points
  - Assessing victim impact
  - Victim notification
  - Collecting restitution
  - Referrals to services
  - Specialized supervision conditions
  - Victim protection, safety in supervision plans
  - Increase awareness about supervision strategies

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## 5 KEY PRINCIPLES

1. A victim-centered supervision approach requires recognition of common goals.
2. Supervision officers should have a basic understanding of survivor-related issues.
3. The supervision process provides multiple opportunities to be victim-centered.
4. Collaboration between supervision officers and victim advocates is important.
5. A commitment to taking action is essential to advancing a victim-centered supervision approach.

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## EXPLORING PRINCIPLES IN PRACTICE: NEEDS ASSESSMENT PHASE

### National sample

- Victim advocates (N=323)
- Probation/parole representatives (N=166)
  - Specialized caseloads (58%)
  - Mixed caseloads (42%)

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**POLLING QUESTION:**  
DO YOU BELIEVE THAT VICTIM  
ADVOCATES AND SUPERVISION  
OFFICERS HAVE SHARED  
GOALS?

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**PRINCIPLE #1**  
**A VICTIM-CENTERED  
SUPERVISION APPROACH  
REQUIRES RECOGNITION OF  
COMMON GOALS**

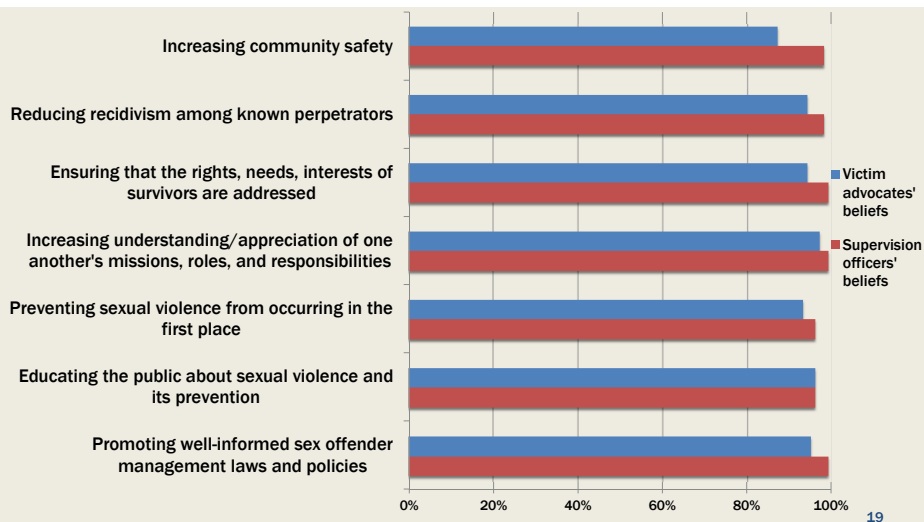
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**EXAMPLES OF POTENTIALLY SHARED  
GOALS**

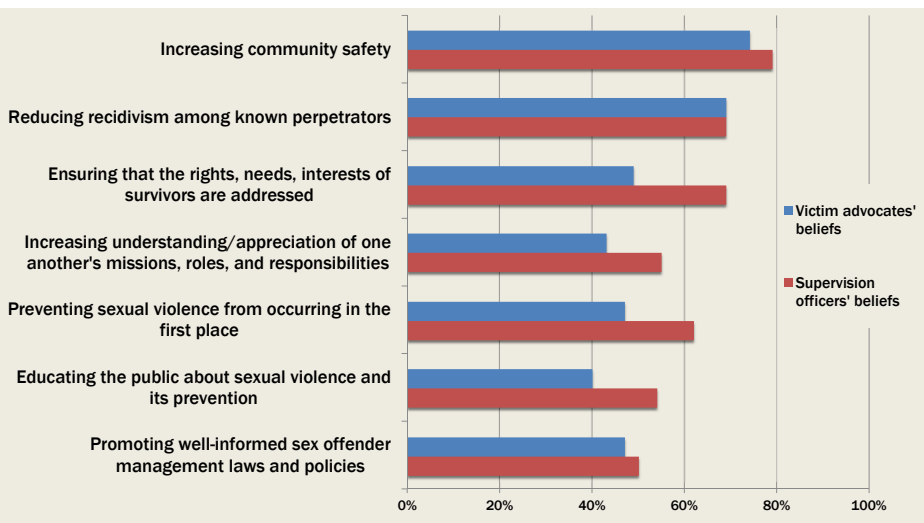
- Promoting community safety
- Reducing, preventing sexual violence
- Supporting, respecting victims' rights, needs, interests
- Promoting informed public policy
- Dispelling myths, educating the public and others
- Changing norms that support abusive behaviors
- Maximizing resources

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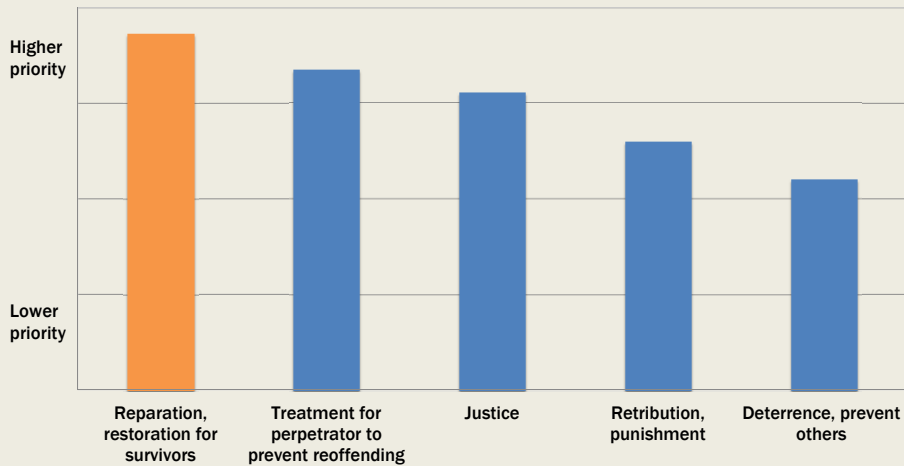
## BELIEFS ABOUT EXTENT TO WHICH VICTIM ADVOCATES AND SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS COULD SHARE VARIOUS GOALS



## BELIEFS ABOUT EXTENT TO WHICH VICTIM ADVOCATES AND SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS CURRENTLY SHARE VARIOUS GOALS



**SUPERVISION OFFICERS' RATINGS OF WHAT THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM'S PRIORITIES SHOULD BE IN SEX OFFENSE CASES**



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**PRINCIPLE #2**  
**SUPERVISION OFFICERS SHOULD HAVE A BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF SURVIVOR-RELATED ISSUES**

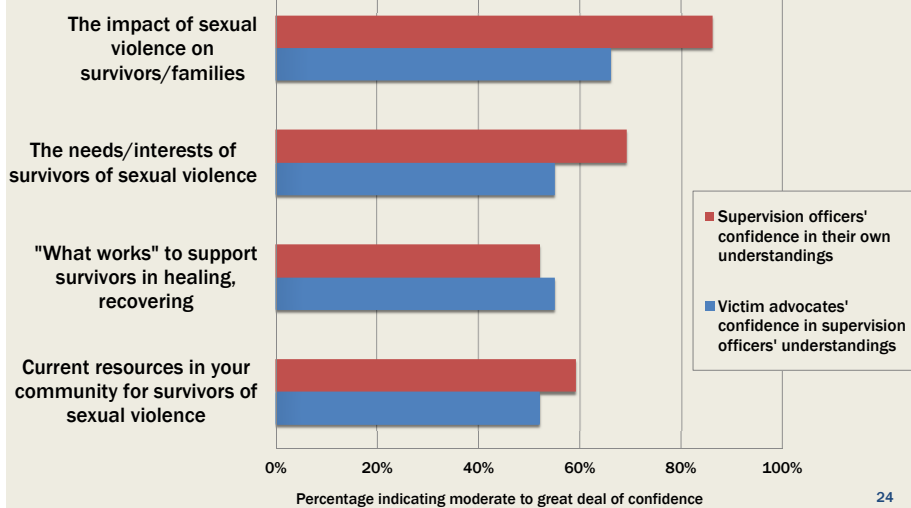
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## FUNDAMENTAL KNOWLEDGE, AWARENESS NEEDED ACROSS DISCIPLINES

- Need information about
  - Populations/clients respectively served
  - Missions, mandates, goals
  - Strategies, services used in the respective agencies, organizations
  - Respective roles and responsibilities

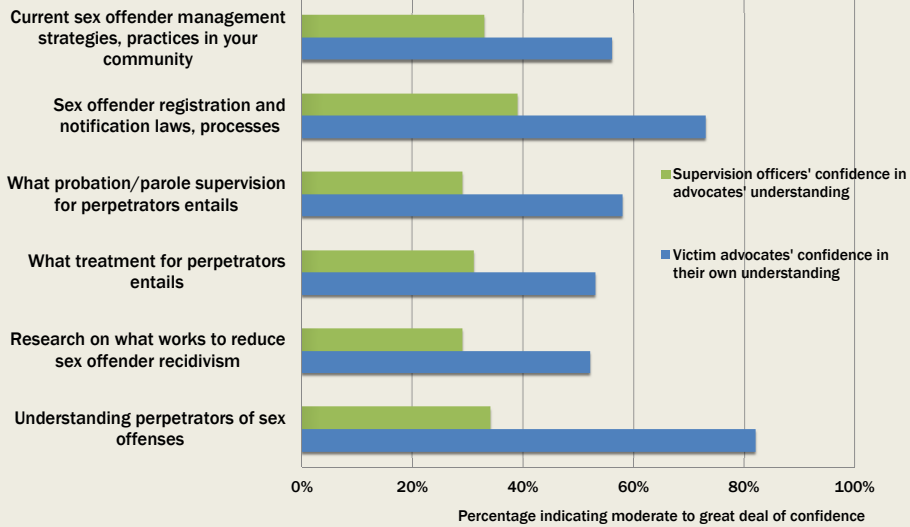
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## CONFIDENCE IN SUPERVISION OFFICERS' UNDERSTANDING OF KEY SURVIVOR-RELATED ISSUES

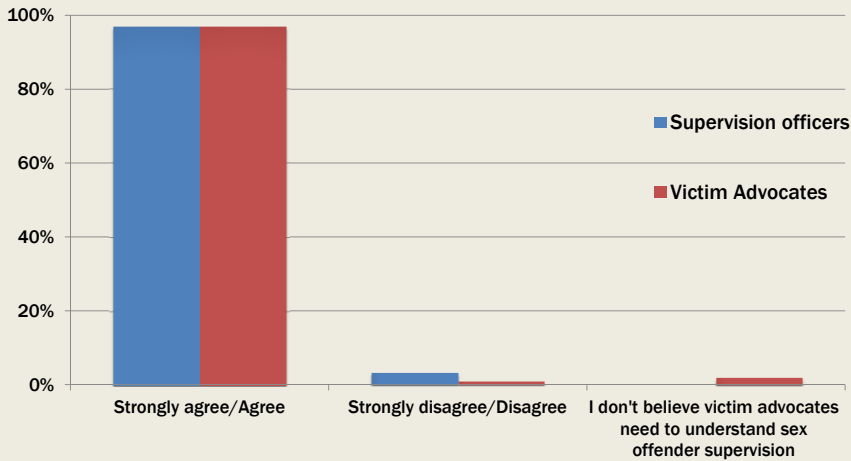


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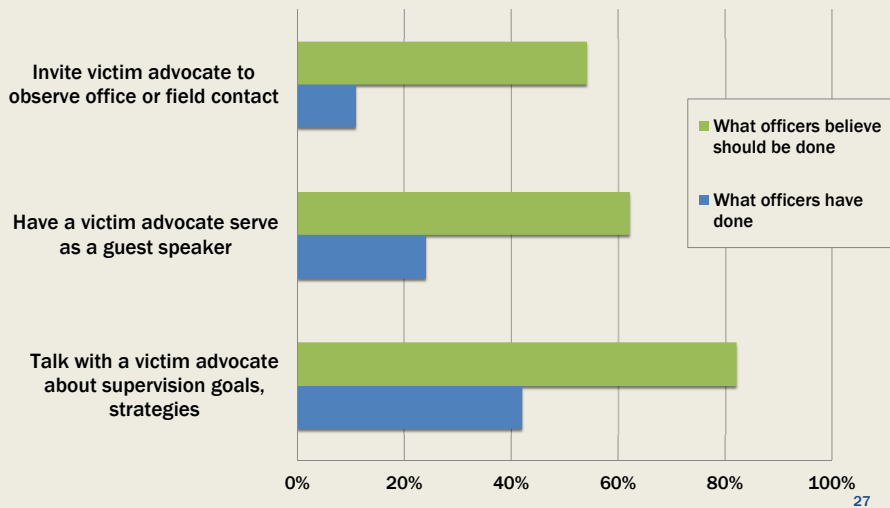
## CONFIDENCE IN VICTIM ADVOCATES' UNDERSTANDING OF SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT-RELATED ISSUES



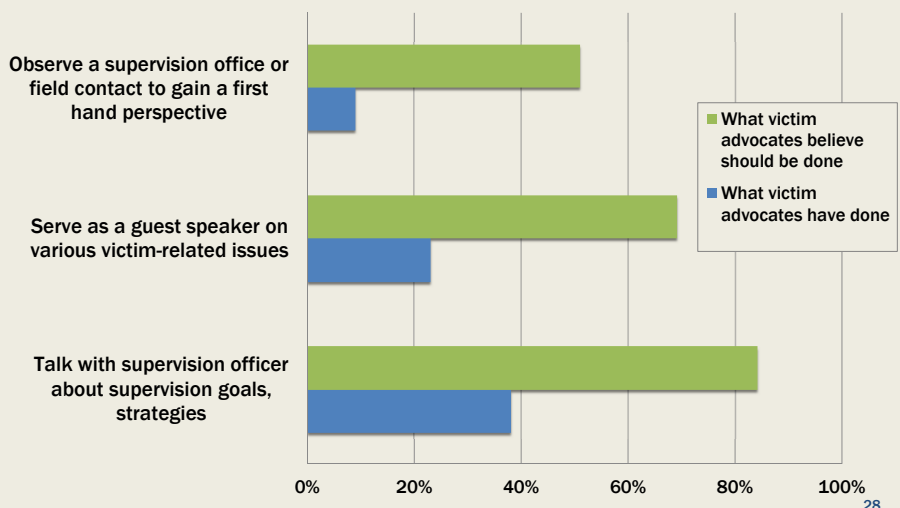
## VICTIM ADVOCATES SHOULD HAVE A GENERAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STRATEGIES FOR SUPERVISING SEX OFFENDERS



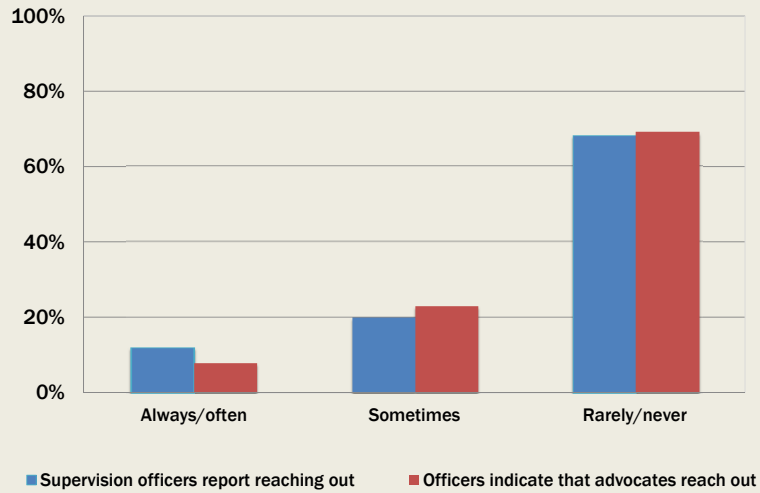
**POTENTIAL WAYS IN WHICH SUPERVISION OFFICERS CAN ENGAGE VICTIM ADVOCATES TO SUPPORT THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF SEX OFFENDER SUPERVISION**



**POTENTIAL WAYS IN WHICH VICTIM ADVOCATES CAN ENGAGE WITH SUPERVISION OFFICERS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND SEX OFFENDER SUPERVISION**

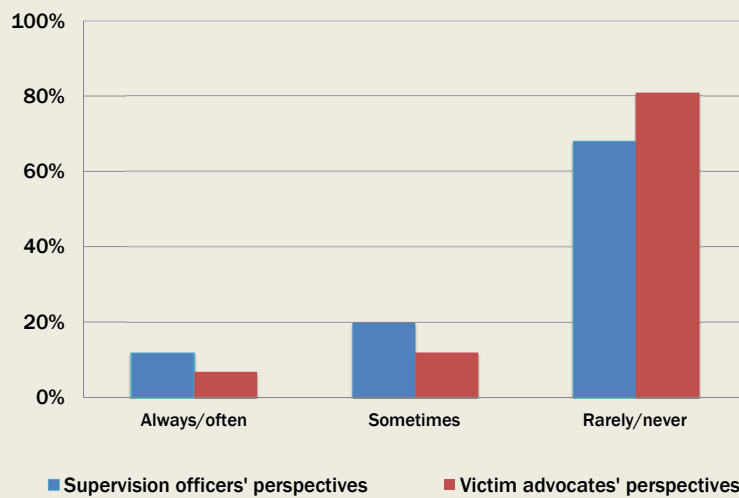


**OBTAINING SURVIVORS' INPUT ABOUT SUPERVISION STRATEGIES OR CONDITIONS FOR SEX OFFENDERS: SUPERVISION OFFICERS' PERSPECTIVES**



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**HOW OFTEN SUPERVISION OFFICERS REACH OUT TO VICTIM ADVOCATES TO GAIN INPUT ABOUT SUPERVISION STRATEGIES OR CONDITIONS FOR SEX OFFENDERS**



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**EXAMPLES OF WAYS TO INCREASE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDINGS OF ONE ANOTHER'S AREA OF WORK**

- Identify who the advocates/officers are – and reach out
- Call one another to ask questions or opinions about issues
- Advocate for inclusion of counterpart in multi-disciplinary meetings
- Invite one another to attend workshops, trainings in their respective lines of work
- Develop and/or participate in cross trainings
- Create opportunities to interact

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**PRINCIPLE #3**  
**THE SUPERVISION  
PROCESS PROVIDES MULTIPLE  
OPPORTUNITIES TO BE VICTIM-  
CENTERED**

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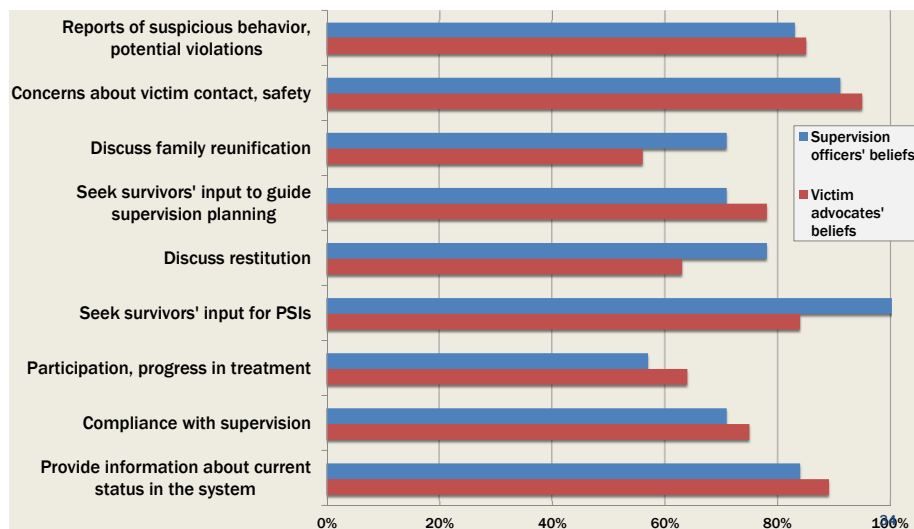


## OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUPERVISION OFFICERS TO ENSURE VICTIM-CENTEREDNESS

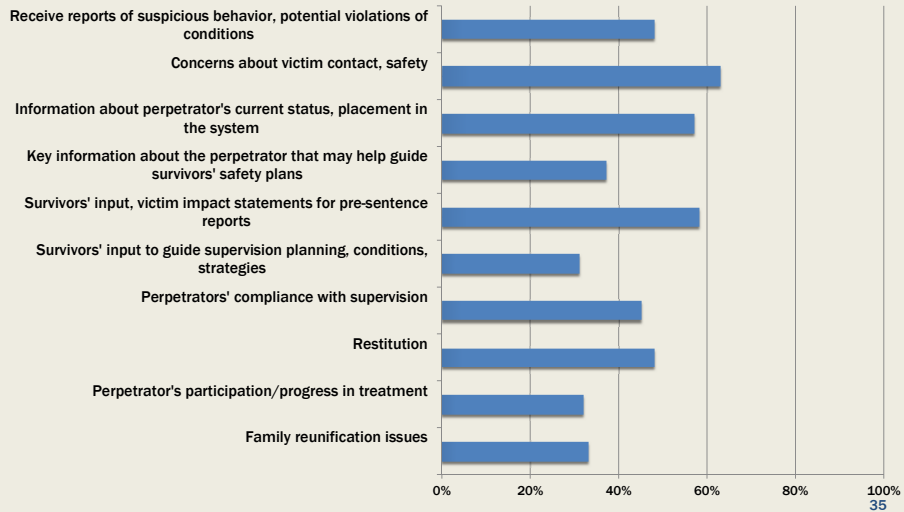
- Conducting pre-sentence investigations, victim impact statements
- Developing – and modifying – supervision case plans and conditions
- Responding to violations of conditions
- Victim notification
- Restitution

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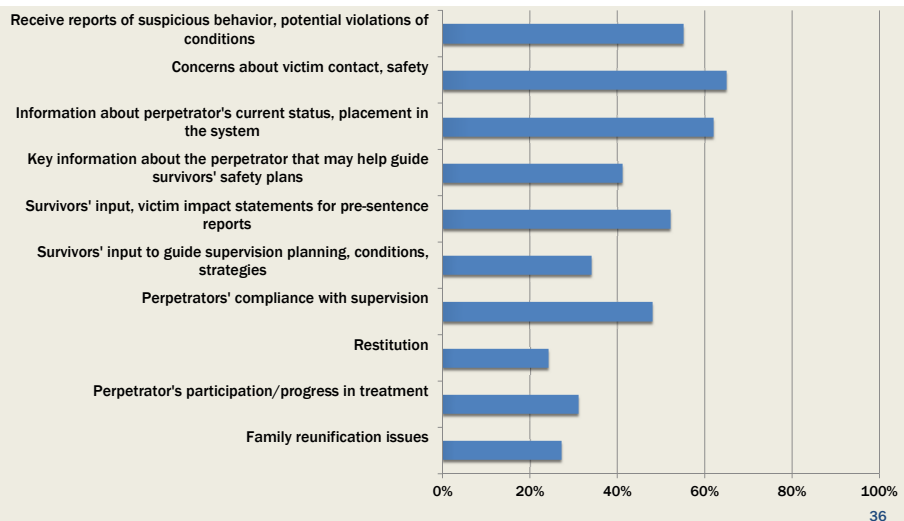
## ISSUES ABOUT WHICH SUPERVISION OFFICERS AND VICTIM ADVOCATES SHOULD COMMUNICATE



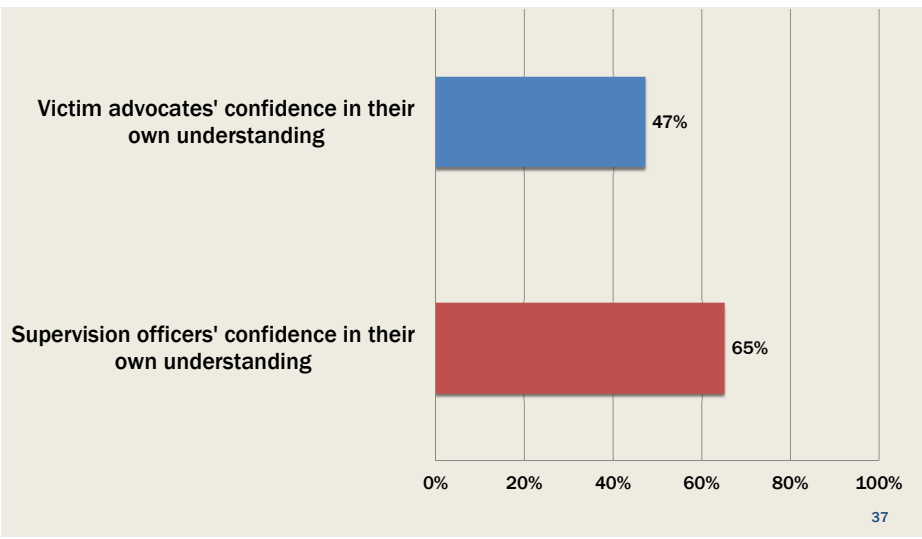
**PERCENTAGE OF SUPERVISION OFFICERS WHO REPORT THAT THEY DO COMMUNICATE WITH VICTIM ADVOCATES REGARDING VARIOUS CASE MANAGEMENT ISSUES**



**PERCENTAGE OF VICTIM ADVOCATES WHO REPORT THAT THEY DO COMMUNICATE WITH SUPERVISION OFFICERS REGARDING VARIOUS CASE MANAGEMENT ISSUES**



**UNDERSTANDING WAYS IN WHICH VICTIM ADVOCATES CAN  
INFORM, CONTRIBUTE TO SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT  
EFFORTS**



**POLLING QUESTION:**

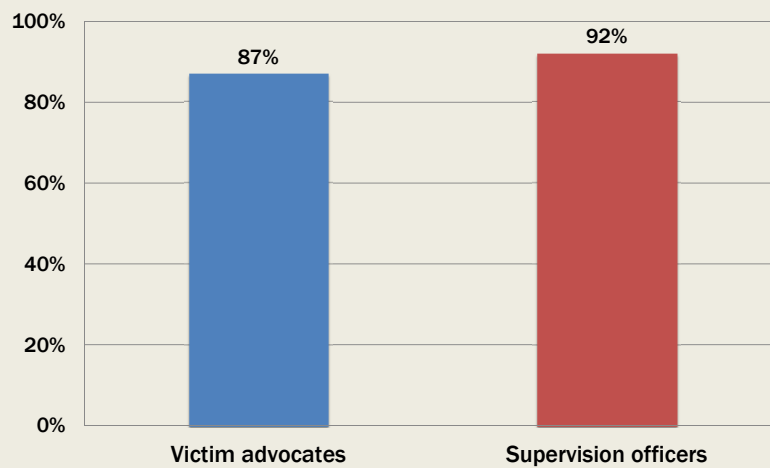
To what extent does collaboration occur between victim advocates and sex offender management professionals in your jurisdiction?

- Always/Often
- Sometimes
- Rarely/Never

**PRINCIPLE #4**  
COLLABORATION  
BETWEEN SUPERVISION OFFICERS  
AND VICTIM ADVOCATES IS  
IMPORTANT

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**BELIEF IN EFFECTIVENESS OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY  
COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES**



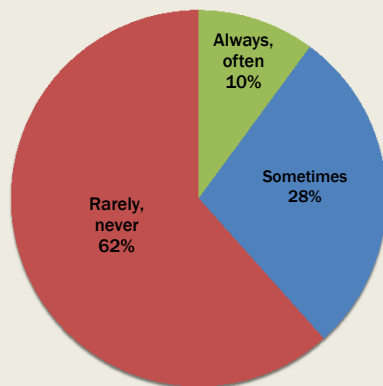
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# CURRENT EXTENT OF COLLABORATION

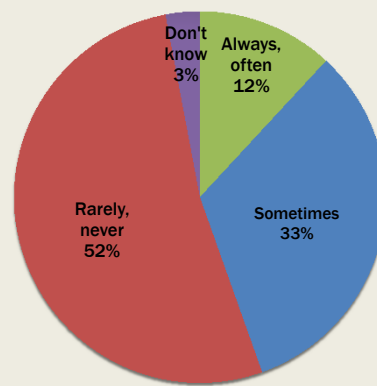
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## PERCEIVED EXTENT OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN VICTIM ADVOCATES AND SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT PRACTITIONERS

Victim advocates' perceptions

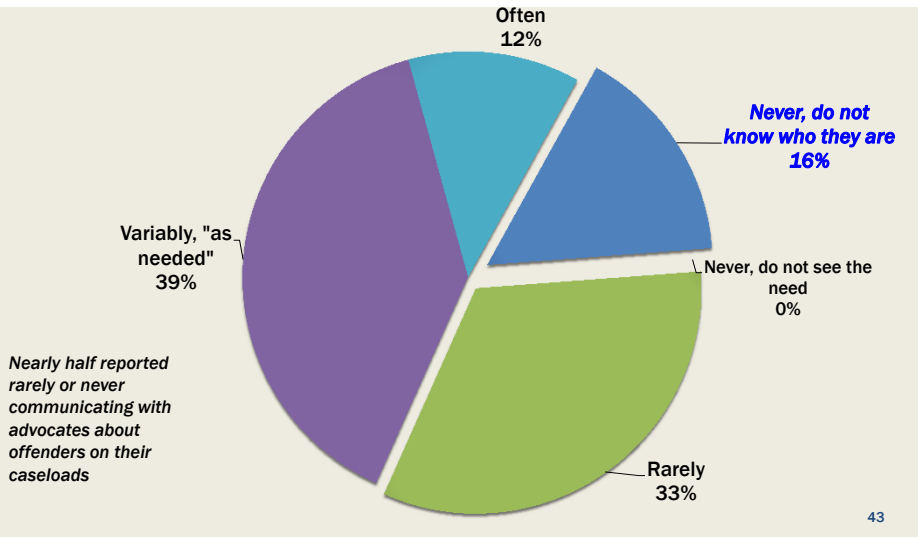


Supervision officers' perceptions

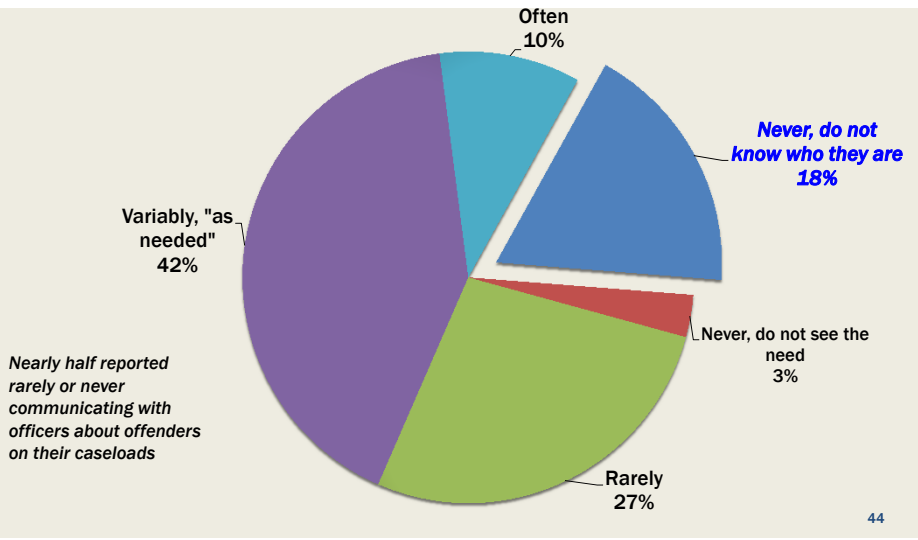


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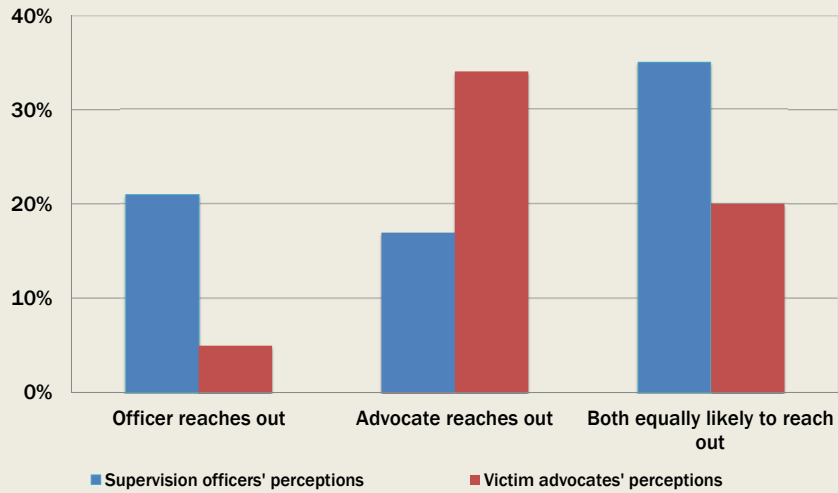
**HOW OFTEN COMMUNICATION OCCURS BETWEEN VICTIM ADVOCATES AND OFFICERS WHO SUPERVISE SEX OFFENDERS: SUPERVISION OFFICERS' BELIEFS**



**HOW OFTEN COMMUNICATION OCCURS BETWEEN VICTIM ADVOCATES AND OFFICERS WHO SUPERVISE SEX OFFENDERS: VICTIM ADVOCATES' BELIEFS**

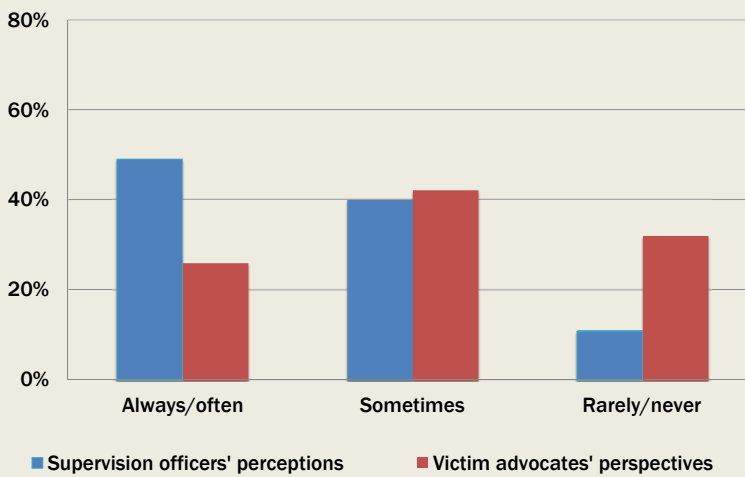


## WHO INITIATES CONTACT BETWEEN SEX OFFENDER SUPERVISION OFFICERS AND VICTIM ADVOCATES?



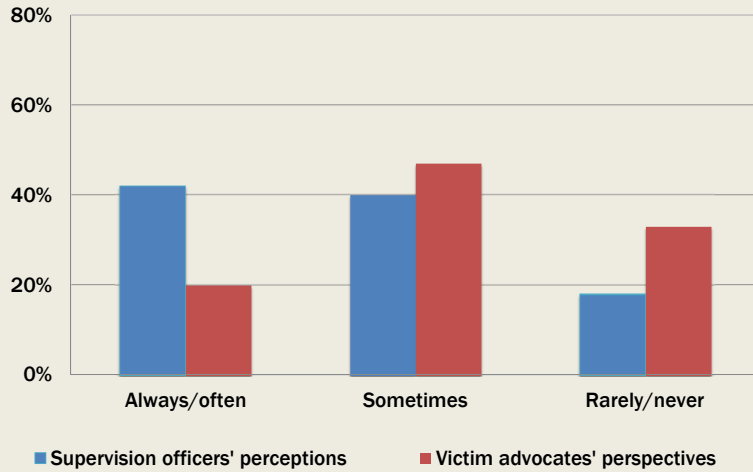
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## WHEN SUPERVISION OFFICERS COMMUNICATE WITH VICTIM ADVOCATES, TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU BELIEVE SURVIVORS' PERSPECTIVES ARE HEARD?



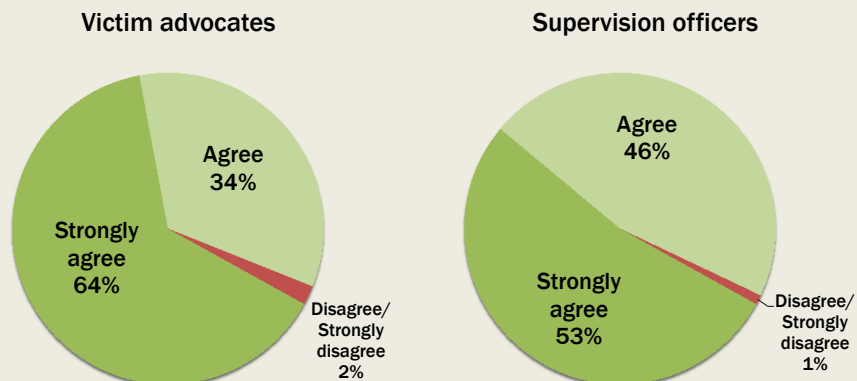
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**TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU BELIEVE THAT SEX OFFENDER SUPERVISION APPROACHES CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE RESPONSIVENESS TO SURVIVORS' RIGHTS, NEEDS, AND INTERESTS?**



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**VICTIM ADVOCATES AND SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS SHOULD COLLABORATE MORE TO ENHANCE VICTIM-CENTERED RESPONSES TO CASES INVOLVING SEXUAL VIOLENCE**



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## FACTORS INFLUENCING COLLABORATION

What is  
commonly  
cited?

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### BARRIERS MOST COMMONLY CITED BY SUPERVISION OFFICERS AND VICTIM ADVOCATES

- Lack of understanding of roles, responsibilities
- Limited opportunities to interact
- Demanding workloads
- Lack of cross-training opportunities
- Limited/no exposure to promising models
- Lack of written resources, guidance
- No written policies, MOUs

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## OTHER BARRIERS

- Lack of a common vision
- Professional mistrust
- Perceived competing interests
- Language/terminology barriers
- Competition for scarce resources

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## COLLABORATION-SUPPORTIVE FACTORS

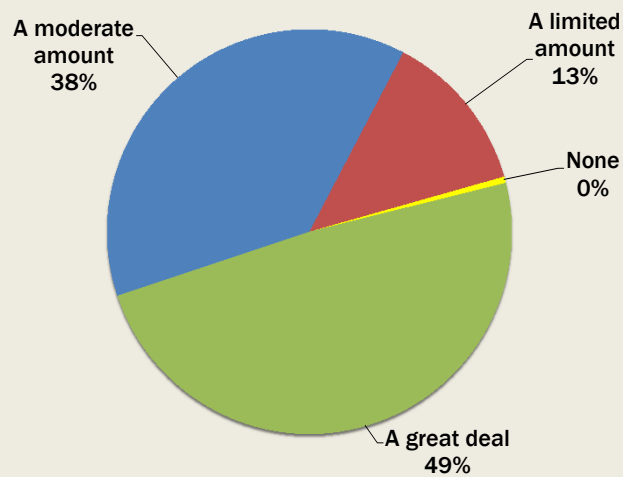
- We have a shared vision
- We respect one another's unique perspectives
- Clear understandings of our respective roles and responsibilities
- Identified ways in which their roles can be complementary
- Cross-training activities
- Meeting routinely
- Mutual trust
- Long history of collaboration
- We strive to address conflict, disagreement when it arises

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**PRINCIPLE #5**  
**A COMMITMENT TO TAKING  
ACTION IS ESSENTIAL TO  
ADVANCING A VICTIM-  
CENTERED SUPERVISION  
APPROACH**

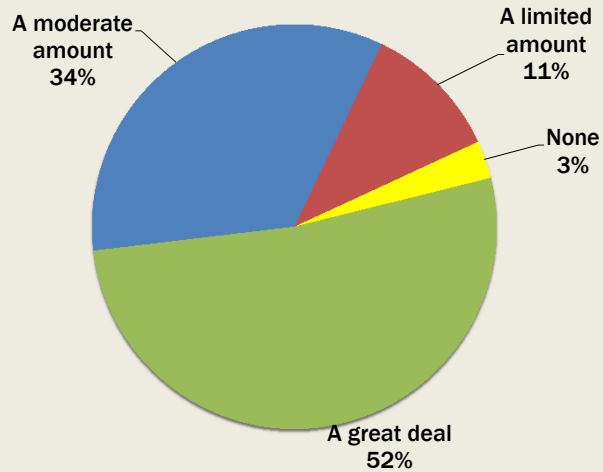
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**SUPERVISION OFFICERS' PERSPECTIVES:  
EXTENT TO WHICH SUPERVISION AGENCIES/OFFICERS CAN  
IMPROVE SEX OFFENDER SUPERVISION PRACTICES TO BE MORE  
VICTIM-CENTERED**



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**VICTIM ADVOCATES' PERSPECTIVES:  
EXTENT TO WHICH SUPERVISION AGENCIES/OFFICERS CAN  
IMPROVE SEX OFFENDER SUPERVISION PRACTICES TO BE MORE  
VICTIM-CENTERED**



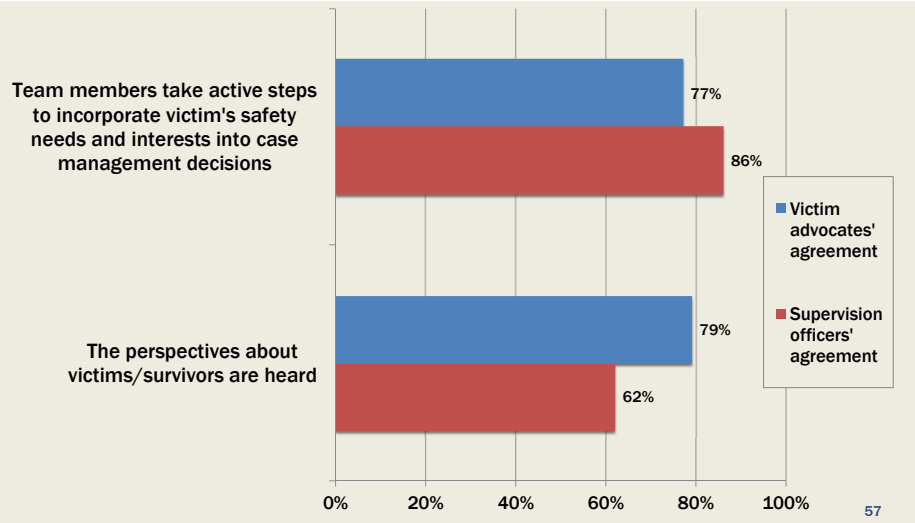
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## TAKING ACTION

- Identify who the victim advocates (or supervision officers) are in your community
- Reach out, make a connection
- Make an appointment to visit one another's offices, agencies
- Attend one another's staff meetings to provide an overview of respective roles, duties
- Co-sponsor, develop, and/or participate in cross-training events, workshops
- Develop system map outlining points, processes with implications for victim-centeredness
- Identify promising practices in other jurisdictions
- Develop joint grant, funding proposals to address shared goals
- Participate in MDTs

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## IMPACT OF ENGAGING VICTIM ADVOCATES IN MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM MEETINGS TO PROMOTE VICTIM-CENTEREDNESS



## EXAMPLES FROM THE FIELD

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## EXAMPLE OF PROMISING PRACTICES IN A LOCAL JURISDICTION

- Victim advocate (employee of state sexual assault coalition) is member of supervision team
- Advocate participates in supervision team meetings
- Treatment provider, probation staff, and victim advocate meet formally every week to make decisions/review cases
  - Decisions about changes in supervision
  - Client travel
  - Violations, revocations

## EXAMPLE OF PROMISING PRACTICES IN A LOCAL JURISDICTION: VICTIM ADVOCATES' ROLE

- Supports supervision activities by accompanying probation officers on home and field visits
- Attends case review meetings
- Assists with victim empathy treatment group comp
- Initiates contact with victim and/or victim's family, maintains contact as long as necessary
- Provides information, concerns to probation officers and treatment staff throughout supervision process
- Provides referrals for counseling, other services
- Obtains background information from all probation files on each individual supervised by the unit
- Gathers information from victims, significant others, and/or family members about an offender's behavior as part of supervision

## EXAMPLE OF PROMISING PRACTICES IN A LOCAL JURISDICTION

- Has a Center for Prevention & Treatment of Sexual Abuse that is co-directed by Child Welfare (Family Services/Department for Children & Families) and the Department of Corrections
- This Center addresses both child and adult victims and offenders, provides prevention and treatment information and community education, and assists in the development of MOUs, policy and practice guidance
- This state also holds a yearly Sexual Violence Summit attended by sex offender management, victims advocates, court and law professionals

## EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN VICTIM ADVOCATES AND SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS: NEEDS ASSESSMENT RESPONDENTS

- Participate in offender notification meetings
- Participate in sex offender review committees
- Host training conducted by a treatment provider for community for education purposes
- Participate in restorative justice programs
- Serve as a member of a SART team
- Participate in COSA models
- Provide public education

### **SUPPORTING VICTIM-CENTERED SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT EFFORTS: EXAMPLES FROM VICTIM ADVOCATES**

- **Help educate about safety measures that should be in place for survivors**
- **Provide support around reunification issues**
- **Ensure victim restitution**
- **Provide education concerning laws**
- **Convene trainings on victim clarification**
- **Provide joint interviews/media broadcasts about understanding abuse, abusers, survivors, and prevention**
- **Support families in writing victim impact statements**

### **VICTIM-CENTERED SUPERVISION PRACTICES: EXAMPLES FROM PROBATION/PAROLE OFFICERS**

- **Send initial letter to victims and advocates to advise them of who the supervising probation officer is and what resources are available to victims**
- **Communicate with victims throughout course of supervision to keep them informed about changes in supervision or other key issues specific to the victims' needs**
- **Help to ensure that safety plans are tailored to the unique needs of victims and their families**



**VICTIM-CENTERED SEX OFFENDER SUPERVISION  
PRACTICES: EXAMPLES FROM PROBATION/PAROLE  
OFFICERS**

- Victim advocates provide input into development of specialized supervision conditions
- Victim advocates explain, clarify roles and responsibilities of supervision officers (including limitations) to victims
- Victim advocates participate in cross training for advocates and officers on victim-related and offender issues

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**WE WANT TO LEARN  
FROM YOU! PLEASE  
SHARE EXAMPLES FROM  
YOUR JURISDICTIONS.**

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## SUMMARY, NEXT STEPS

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## SUMMARY

- A victim-centered approach to supervising sex offenders requires recognition of common goals
- Supervision officers should have a basic understanding of survivor-related issues
- The supervision process provides multiple opportunities to be victim-centered
- Collaboration between supervision officers and victim advocates is important
- A commitment to taking action is essential

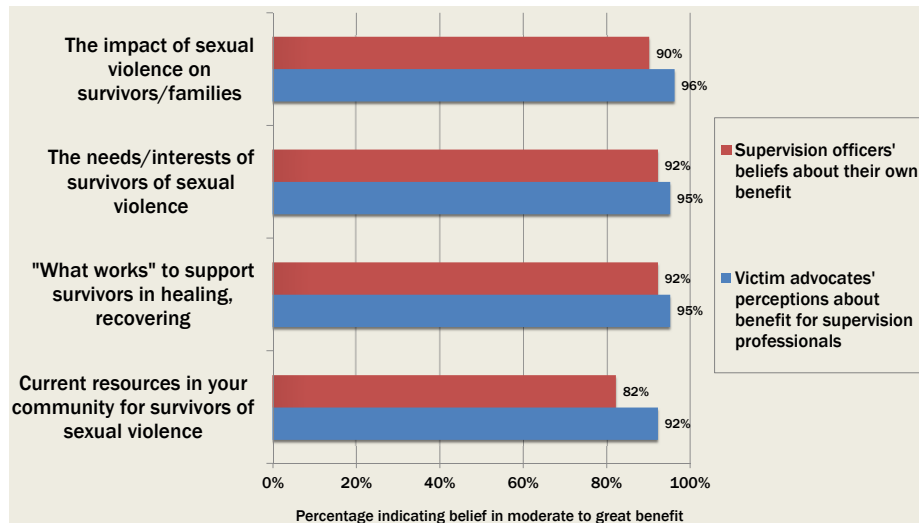
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## SUMMARY (CONT.)

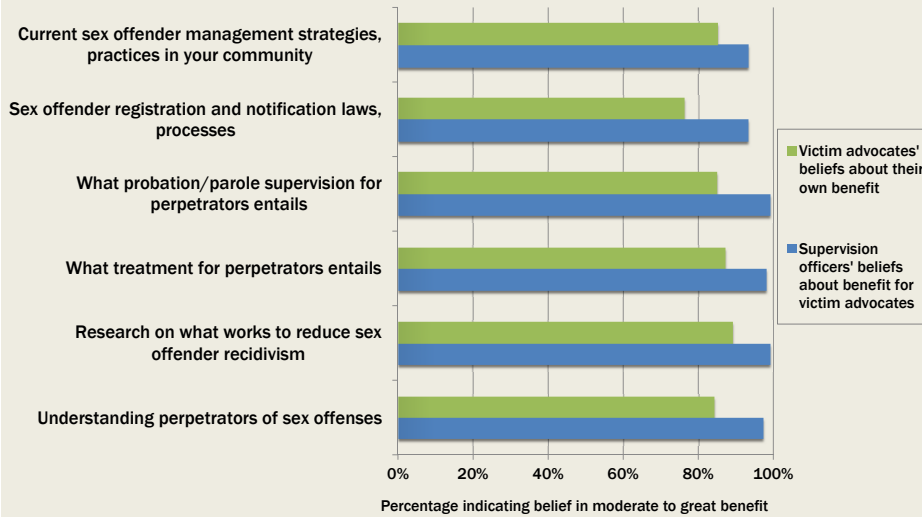
- General consensus among victim advocates and sex offender supervision officers about
  - The value and importance of victim-centeredness
  - The range of goals that can be shared
  - The need to improve communication, collaboration
  - The need for TTA to support their efforts

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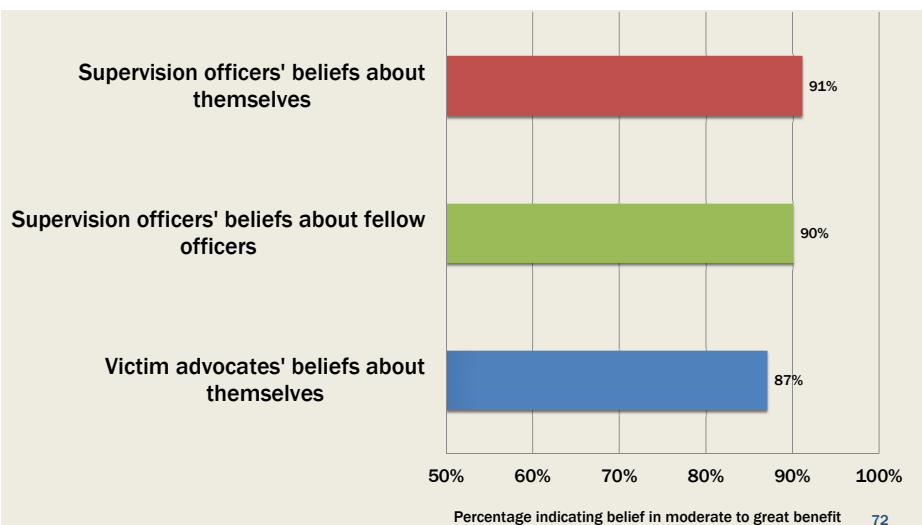
## PERCEIVED BENEFIT OF TTA FOR SUPERVISION OFFICERS ABOUT KEY SURVIVOR-RELATED ISSUES



## PERCEIVED BENEFIT OF TTA FOR VICTIM ADVOCATES ABOUT SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT-RELATED ISSUES

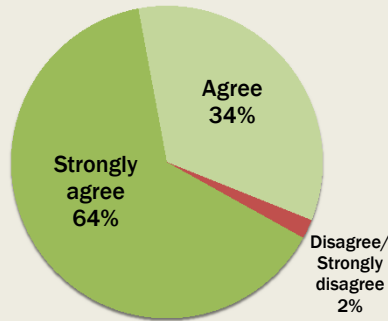


## POTENTIAL BENEFIT FROM TTA TO UNDERSTAND WAYS IN WHICH VICTIM ADVOCATES CAN INFORM OR CONTRIBUTE TO SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT EFFORTS

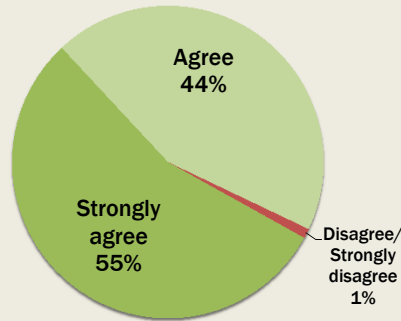


**ADDITIONAL TTA IS NEEDED TO PROMOTE COLLABORATION  
BETWEEN VICTIM ADVOCATES AND SEX OFFENDER  
MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS**

**Victim advocates'  
perspectives**



**Supervision officers'  
perceptions**



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**GREAT NEWS -  
TTA IS AVAILABLE!**

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## NEXT STEPS, TTA

- Create tools and resources
  - E-curriculum
  - Resource package/toolkit
- Provide training and technical assistance to probation agencies and officers
  - Additional webinars
  - On-site training
  - On- and off-site technical assistance

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## EXAMPLES OF ON-SITE ASSISTANCE THAT CAN BE PROVIDED BY THIS PROJECT

- Training for local probation departments on elements, benefits of victim-centered supervision approaches
- Facilitating planning sessions with local advocates and probation stakeholders
- Reviewing policies, procedures to identify potential areas for enhancing victim-centeredness
- Offering "how to" assistance with revising policies, procedures, supervision strategies as needed

## HOW TO APPLY FOR TTA

- Submit a brief (less than one page) description of:
  - Reasons for requested assistance
  - Type of assistance in which you are interested
  - Support demonstrated by requesting agency's administration
  - Desired time frame for delivery of assistance
  - Proposed stakeholders that will receive assistance
- Submit requests to Ms. Leilah Gilligan at [lgilligan@cepp.com](mailto:lgilligan@cepp.com)

## QUESTIONS, COMMENTS?

Please the use chat box in the bottom left of the screen to type in questions or comments.

**TO APPLY FOR TTA OR, FOR QUESTIONS OR  
SUGGESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT**

**Leilah Gilligan, Project Manager**

**[lgilligan@cepp.com](mailto:lgilligan@cepp.com)**

**301-589-9383**

***Thank you for attending this webinar!***