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Female Sex Offenders in Washington State

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report reviews the literature regarding female sex offenders, and examines the characteristics of convicted female sex offenders in Washington State. Research literature indicates that the prevalence of sex offenses committed by females is relatively low, partly because of underreporting.

Compared to their male counterparts, female sex offenders are more likely to be younger, have lower social-economic status, and offend against children. Female sex offenders are less likely to use physical force in committing their offenses. Many female sex offenders committed sex offenses accompanied or coerced by a male partner. Many of these characteristics of the female sex offenders are identified among female sex offenders in Washington State.