



H.6(d)

**SEX OFFENDER COMMUNITY
NOTIFICATION ASSESSMENT**

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PINE BLUFF, AR 71611

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July 25, 2025

Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders
State Capitol
Little Rock, AR 72201

Senator Ben Gilmore
Chair, Arkansas Legislative Council
State Capitol
Little Rock, AR 72201

Representative Les D. Eaves
Chair, Arkansas Legislative Council
State Capitol
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Governor Sanders and Chairpersons:

Pursuant to A.C.A. § 12-12-921, the Sex Offender Assessment Committee (SOAC) must report to the Governor and Legislative Council each year a summary of the proceedings, a statement of revenue, expenditures, and any additional requested information. On behalf of the SOAC, I am enclosing a report for the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2025. The committee has no revenue, and their expenses are covered by the Arkansas Department of Corrections. In addition to the statutorily required information, I have included information in this report related to the Sex Offender Community Notification Assessment Program (SOCNA), which operates in conjunction with SOAC to manage the assessment process for all sex offenders.

Sincerely,

Sarah Wilson-Cotton, M.S., L.P.E.-I
SOCNA Administrator

Cc: Lindsay Wallace, Secretary
Arkansas Department of Corrections



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**The Sex Offender Assessment Committee
and the Sex Offender Community Notification
Assessment Program**

Legislative Update FY 2025
Director Jim Cheek & Sarah Wilson-Cotton, M.S.

07/25/2025

REPORT ON SOAC PROCEEDINGS

The Sex Offender Assessment Committee (SOAC) is a committee that reviews and approves guidelines for the sex offender assessment process, votes to assign Level 4 community notification status, and evaluates cases in which offenders seek administrative review. The Secretary of the Department of Corrections (DOC) or the Secretary's designee serves as the executive secretary of the committee, and the administrative functions of the committee are the responsibility of the DOC. The SOAC is a 9- member committee with six (6) members of the committee appointed by the Governor. The remainder of the committee is comprised of directors of the Division of Community Correction (ACC), the Arkansas Crime Information Center, and the

Division of Correction (ADC) or their designees.

Committee members are not paid a salary. Four (4) members of the SOAC are state employees who perform their duties on the SOAC on a voluntary basis or as part of their job duties at their respective state agencies. There are five (5) members who are not state employees. Each non-state employee committee member may seek an \$85 per diem. Members may also seek compensation for mileage incurred travelling to and from the SOAC meetings. The DOC covers these expenses. During the 2025 fiscal year, SOAC spent \$408.72 toward board member travel expenditures and \$170.00 in per diems.

The SOAC and the Sex Offender Community Notification Assessment (SOCNA) program work in conjunction to manage the assessment process for all sex offenders. Adult assessments are conducted by SOCNA. Act 723 of the 2025 regular session transferred the SOCNA program from the Division of Correction to the cabinet-level Department of Corrections. The DOC, on behalf of the SOAC, contracts with a provider program, University of Arkansas School for Medical Sciences Family Treatment Program, to conduct community notification assessments of minors adjudicated delinquent and required to register in Arkansas, according to standards and procedures developed by Family Treatment Program.

During regular meetings, the Committee received information about the adult and juvenile assessment processes from SOCNA and Family Treatment Program staff, respectively. Additionally, in FY 2025, SOAC reviewed three (3) cases presented for consideration as Sexually Dangerous Persons and eleven (11) requests for Administrative Review.

SOCNA & SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT

The SOCNA program has been conducting individualized community notification assessments since September 1999. SOCNA came into existence, in part, because of the need for consistency in the assessment process and because local law enforcement agencies did not have the time, resources, or expertise to conduct individualized assessments. SOCNA continues to monitor and make changes in the assessment process to remain in compliance with best practices, to comply with changes made by the General Assembly, to increase efficiency, and to refine the individualized assessment process.

Arkansas is committed to conducting individualized community notification, as is considered best practice, and to providing local law enforcement agencies with accurate information to help community members protect themselves from future victimization. SOCNA's assessment process involves an extensive search for criminal history documentation, relevant research-derived actuarial instruments, an interview with the sex offender, relevant treatment records, and truth verification techniques, when necessary.

Assessment information was originally intended to help local law enforcement agencies determine the appropriate levels of community notification. That remains the primary goal of the SOCNA assessment; however, assessment information influences other areas as well:

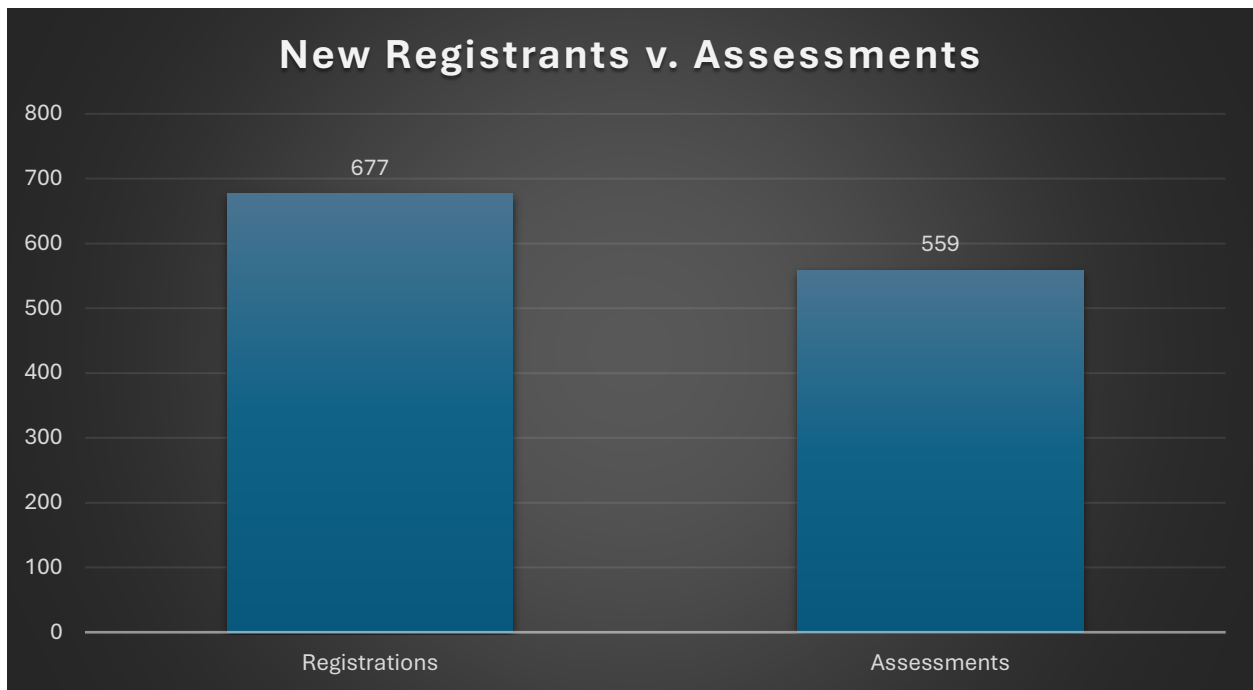
- State law places residency and employment restrictions on Level 3 and 4 sex offenders.
- Local law enforcement must notify state licensing boards of offenders assigned Level 2 and above.
- ACC supervises offenders closely and assigns parolees with community notification Level 3 or 4 to an intensive aftercare program.

- The Arkansas Post-Prison Transfer Board uses the information when making parole decisions and treatment recommendations.
- Treatment providers may be given assessment information upon request to help inform treatment and rehabilitation decisions.
- Federal probation officers use the information to manage sex offenders under federal supervision.
- Local law enforcement agencies and prosecutors may use assessment information to help identify suspects when new sex crimes are reported and when making sentencing recommendations.
- The Department of Human Services and the Arkansas State Police use the information in child maltreatment investigations and decisions regarding child placement.
- Prosecutors and judges use the information when offenders petition to be removed from the sex offender registry.

SOCNA works diligently to maintain positive working relationships with all entities working in the sex offender management field. There is a constant exchange of information.

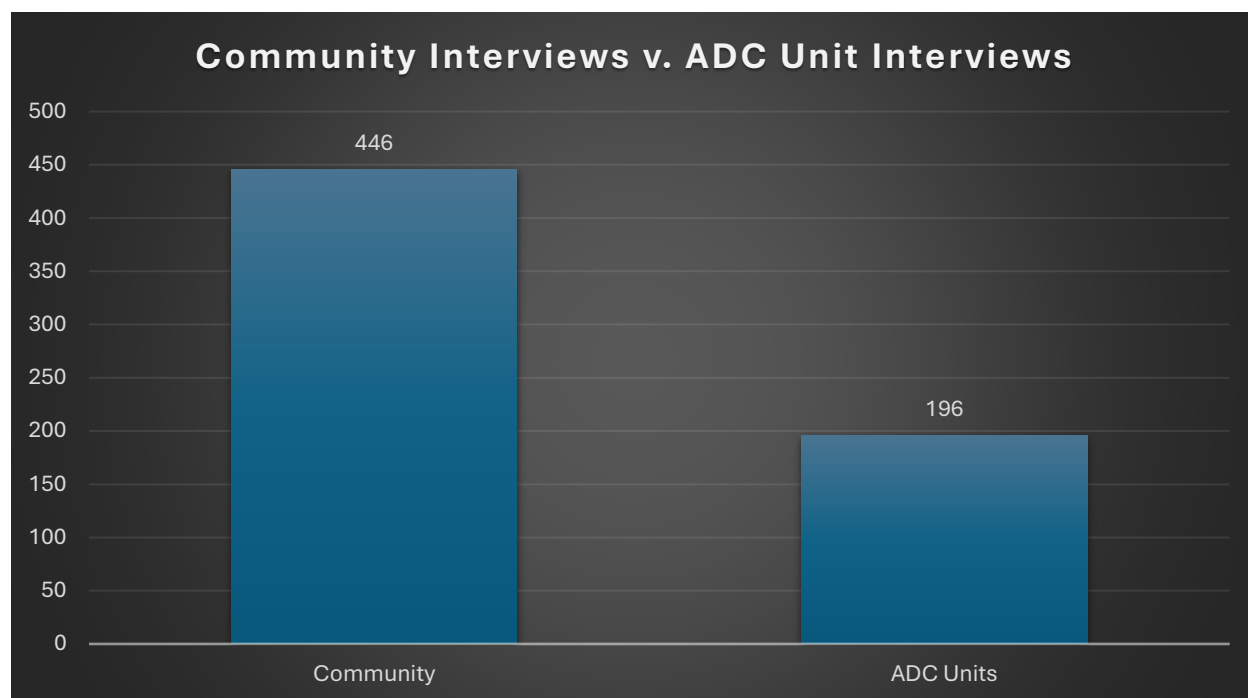
NEWLY REGISTERED OFFENDERS v. ASSESSMENTS

The Arkansas Crime Information Center (ACIC) documented 677 new sex offender registrations during the fiscal year. SOCNA interviewed 642 offenders and completed 559 assessments during the fiscal year. The chart below depicts the number of assessments completed by SOCNA versus the number of newly registered sex offenders documented by ACIC.



COMMUNITY vs. ADC INTERVIEWS

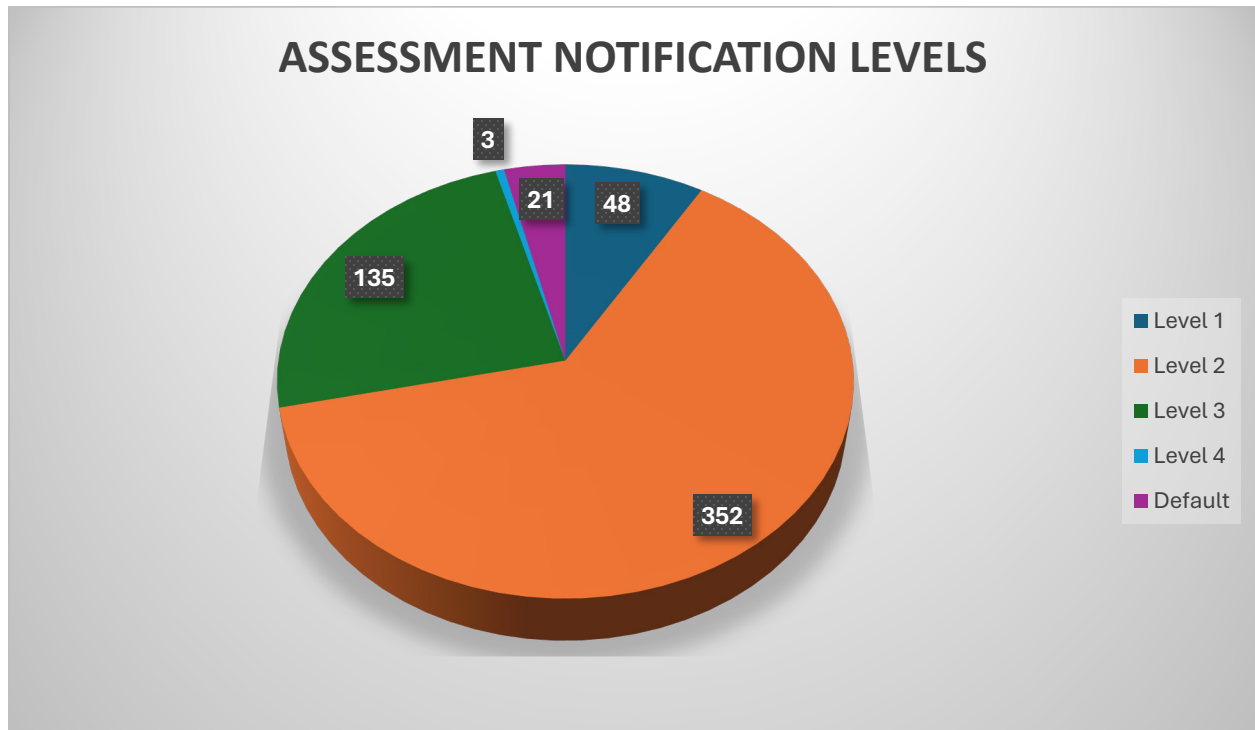
Because victim accessibility is of utmost concern, SOCNA attempts to balance the number of assessments conducted on sex offenders currently living within communities with the number of inmates about to be released from prison. In addition to conducting initial assessments, SOCNA conducts reassessments of offenders as outlined in the SOAC guidelines and procedures. Act 357 of the 2025 regular session provides that offenders are not eligible to request reassessment while they are incarcerated. The data below reflects the number of assessment interviews conducted for offenders living in the community versus those conducted for ADC inmates.



*SOCNA interviewed a total of 642 offenders, with 83 of these assessments not being finalized by the end of the fiscal year. Thus, there is a discrepancy between the total number of interviews completed (642) and the total number of assessments completed (559).

COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION LEVELS

The following graph indicates the Community Notification Levels assigned by SOCNA during the fiscal year.



CONTACT INFORMATION

This report was compiled on behalf of the Sex Offender Assessment Committee by the Arkansas Department of Corrections, Division of Community Correction. To request additional information, please contact SOCNA at ADC.SOCNA@Arkansas.gov.