

The 2016 Once Fallen Job & Welfare Survey

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The Once Fallen Job & Welfare Survey

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A total of 307 Registered Citizens completed this online Job & Welfare Survey between October 2015 and February 2016. The intent of the survey was primarily to study the impact of sex offender laws on the employability of registered citizens with the secondary goal of obtaining accurate job and public assistance information to better advise registered persons on the kinds of jobs available to them. Below is a summary of the key findings of this survey:

- **Demographics:** The Registered Citizens [RCs for short] in this survey were less likely to be married than the general population [GP for short] (34.43% of RC vs 49% of gen), less likely to have kids (54.93 RCs vs 74% GP), more likely to have at least a two-year college degree (49.34% RCs vs 40% GP), and less likely to be a homeowner (33.11% RCs vs 63.2% GP).
- **Unemployment:** Registrants were far more likely to report unemployment than the general population (21.31% RCs vs 5.9% GP); registrants were far less likely to report being employed full-time than the general population (30.82% RCs vs 45.3% GP).
- **Poverty:** Registrants were far more likely to live in poverty compared to the general population (31.44% RCs vs 14.8% GP). Over half of registrants with jobs (52.42%) reported making less than \$30,000 last year.
- **Jobs:** The top 5 job categories for registered citizens are, in order, Unskilled Manual Labor (Day labor, janitorial, basic labor), Skilled Labor/ Trades (plumbing, home repairs, mechanics, maintenance), Retail/ Sales jobs (realtors, cashiers, grocery clerks, telemarketing), Manufacturing (assembly fine, factory work, warehousing), and Restaurant Jobs (cook, server). The five worst job types for registered citizens in this survey were Communication jobs (cable, TV, phone techs), Scientific field (biotech, botany, zoology, etc), Security/ Loss Prevention (home/ business private security, quality control), Education/ Teaching jobs, and Insurance.
- **Workplace:** Registrants are more likely to be “contingent” workers (self-employed or contract laborers) than the general population (42% RCs vs 30% GP)
- **Job Discrimination:** Registrants are more likely to lose their jobs than the general population (56.04% RCs vs 32% gen after 1 year; 83.52% RCs vs. 69% gen after 5 years); 82.51% of registrant job seekers report being denied work due to registry status; 57.94% of registrants have lost a job directly as a result of registry status; and registrants are nearly twice as likely as the average American to experience workplace harassment (50.49% RCs vs 27% GP).
- **Job Search:** Registrants were roughly twice as likely to be long-term unemployed (unemployed for more than 6 months) than the general population (51.14% RCs vs 26.9% GP); while the average American finds employment in 2.5 months, only about a fourth of registrants (26.03%) found employment within three months.
- **Public Assistance:** Only 13.13% of registrants have remained fully self-sufficient or not accepting any form of assistance since being forced to register. Registered citizens are more likely than the general population to rely on food stamps (26.27% RCs vs 18% gen), SSI/ Disability (8.07% RCs vs 4.8% GP), and financial assistance from family and friends (28.89% RCs vs 12% GP).
- **Homelessness:** Registered citizens are almost twice as likely as the general population to have experienced homelessness (25.93% vs 14% GP); registered citizens are also far more likely than the general population to be currently homeless (3.38% RCs vs 0.18% GP).
- **Anti-Registrants vs. non-activists:** Respondents who identified themselves as members of various anti-registry groups (act) or considered themselves anti-registry activists were MORE likely than non-activists (non) to own their own homes (36.08% act vs 30.14% non), be classified as a “Tier 3”

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(23.08% act vs 16.78% non), have been on the registry for at least 10 years (46.4% act vs 39.73% non), and have experienced homelessness (30.97% act vs 20.86% non). Registrant activists were LESS likely than non-activists to live in a rural area (25.32% act vs 31.74% non), to be unemployed (39.88% act vs 45.2% non), or denied employment (85.52% act vs 91.11% non).

- **Adam Walsh Act (AWA) states:** Registrants living in AWA-compliant states were MORE likely than those living in non-AWA states to report being currently homeless (4.05% AWA vs 2.6% non), being unemployed (47.97% AWA vs 36.36% non), being denied a job (61.86% AWA vs 54.61% non), being harassed at work (53.57% AWA vs 47.66% non), and being forced to rely on public assistance (57.43% AWA vs. 50% non). Registrants living in AWA-compliant states were LESS likely than non-AWA states to have been on the registry 10 years or more (39.19% AWA vs 46.75% non), experienced homelessness (21.52% AWA vs 29.22% non), or consider themselves anti-registry activists (48.3% AWA vs 55.84 non). Registrants in AWA-compliant states are more likely to experience numerous residence and employment hardships but are less likely to speak out against these hardships.
- **States listing employment info publicly:** Registrants living in states that post at least some degree of employer information on the public registry are MORE likely than registrants living in states that do not list any employer information publicly to live in rural areas (39.02% do vs 20.9% don't) and be unemployed (52.85% do vs 34.69% don't). Registrants living in states that post at least some degree of employer information on the public registry are LESS likely than registrants living in states that do not list any employer information publicly to be employed full-time (26.83% do vs 35.75% don't) and experience homelessness (22.31 do vs 27.68% don't). Listing employer information has a significant impact on employment rates and “good job” rates of registered citizens.
- **Rural versus urban living:** Registrants living in rural areas or towns with a population under 10,000 (rural) are MORE likely than registrants living in urban areas/ cities with more than 10,000 residents (urban) to own their own home (41.48% rural vs 29.95% urban), be classified as a Tier 3/ “High Risk” (25.3% rural vs 18.14% urban), be unemployed/ retired/ disabled/ not in the labor force (50.59% rural vs 38.7% urban), have been denied employment (93.67% rural versus 85.71% of urban), lost a job (61.64% rural vs 56.5% urban), and have relied on public assistance (60% rural vs 50.69% urban). Registrants living in rural areas or towns with a population under 10,000 are LESS likely than registrants living in urban areas/ cities with more than 10,000 residents to identify as an anti-registry movement activist (47.06% rural vs 54.63% urban) or have been listed on the registry for over 10 years (37.65% rural vs 45.41% urban).
- **Tier Levels:** While there is surprisingly little parity between the Tiers (or for states with no tier system), those considered “High Risk” or Tier 3s were most likely to report being unemployed/ not in the labor force, living in a rural area, making over \$50,000 last year, being denied a job, being on welfare at some point, and identifying as an anti-registrant activist, but least likely to report being homeless, having a full time job, living in poverty, and being harassed on the job.

This research paper confirms a number of beliefs that registered citizens suspected all along—registered citizens are more likely to suffer financial hardships through increased unemployment, job discrimination, and reliance on public assistance. This study also confirms that both the Adam Walsh Act and the practice of adding employment information to the public registry have adverse effects on the employability of registered citizens. The Adam Walsh Act had by far the most adverse effects on registrants, making registrants less financially independent and more likely to become welfare dependent and insecure in housing. Of significant importance is while Registered Citizens are less likely to land a “good” job, the possibility of upward mobility still exists (albeit at a far lower level than the average citizen). However, the types of jobs most registered citizens have been able to achieve are typically associated with low wages, high stress, and lack of upward mobility. Registrants tend to endure a fair amount of job insecurity and the time it takes for a registered citizen to acquire a job greatly exceeds the time it takes for the average American to find gainful employment.

THE JOB AND WELFARE SURVEY: INTRODUCTION

Since Once Fallen was founded in 2007, thousands of Registered Citizens and others concerned about sex offender issues have contacted our organization; the most common requests relates to housing and job information. Information on both employment and housing needs are scarce, and research on these issues is scarcer. The goal of this survey goes beyond simply examining the issue of homelessness and unemployment among registered citizens; this survey is intended to help registered citizens get a better understanding of how other registered citizens obtain jobs and housing. Most importantly, the Survey was designed specifically to get an idea of what kind of jobs or financial assistance registrants have been able to obtain while on the registry.

BACKGROUND

If you are a Registered Citizen and you have ever conducted a job search, chances are you have at least one job search horror story. Among registrant support groups, employment and topics are often discussed, and many inquiries to Once Fallen and other organizations offering support for registered citizens involve employment and housing. Surprisingly, there have not been many actual studies on housing or employment issues for those forced to register as "sex offenders," and much current advice available online is largely anecdotal.

There is some existing research on the collateral consequences of sex offender laws, including the impact on employment and housing options for registered citizens. (This survey will be compared with the available published research as of March 2016.) However, actual rates of unemployment or homelessness among registered citizens can be hard to find and the numbers vary greatly by region. The Tulsa World reported in 2011 that 40% of Tulsa's 330+ registered citizen population were "unemployed, disabled, or retired¹." Another study of DC registrants in 2013 found only 314 of the city's 807 registrants of working age not currently attending school are employed, thus resulting in a 61.1% unemployment rate². A study conducted by Richard Tewksbury, et al., found only 37.2% of registrants studied was employed at the time of the survey³.

Homeless rates have not been frequently mentioned in the media, though it is understood to be a common issue among registered citizens. A 2011 news article stated 60 of the 840 registrants in Mecklenberg Co., NC were using the address of one local homeless shelter as their registration address, with another 20 listed as "address unknown⁴." A 2015 LA Times story notes about a quarter of registrants on parole are homeless⁵. The Tewksbury et al. study noted 5.5% of respondents to his survey were transient⁶.

The results vary greatly by numerous factors, such as living and working restrictions in a local area, so the results published here are not intended to be a universal standard. Even within a state, one may mind

¹ Marshall, Nicole. "Many sex offenders unemployed, increasing risk of re-offending." Tulsa World. BH Media Group Holdings. 4 July 2011. Web. < http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/local/many-sex-offenders-unemployed-increasing-risk-of-re-offending/article_42fc6726-c003-591d-828a-4d8974560a3a.html>

² Marlin, John Tepper. "Hiring Ex-Offenders - Law and Reality." CSRNyc Update. 4 Feb. 2013. Web. <<http://csrnyc.blogspot.com/2013/02/hiring-ex-offenders-law-and-reality.html>>

³ Tewksbury, Richard Ph.D., Jennings, Wesley G. Ph.D., Zgoba, & Kristen Ph.D. "Final Report on Sex Offenders: Recidivism and Collateral Consequences." U.S. Department of Justice/ NCJRS. March 2012. Web. p.55, Table 11. < <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/238060.pdf>>

⁴ Dozens Of Sex Offenders Register Homeless Shelter As Address. 9 WSOC. Cox Media Group. 30 June 2011. Web. < <http://www.wsoctv.com/news/news/dozens-of-sex-offenders-register-homeless-shelter-/nGR5N/>>

⁵ Mather, Kate & Kim, Victoria. "California eases Jessica's Law restrictions for some sex offenders." LA Times. 26 March 2015. Web. < <http://www.latimes.com/local/crime/la-me-jessica-law-20150327-story.html>>

⁶ Tewksbuey et al., "Recidivism & Collateral Consequences," p.55, Table 11

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added restrictions in one location or another. Parole or probation conditions may cause further restrictions. Political climate, particularly in relations to “tough on crime” sentiments may play factors. The external factors that play into the probability of being employed or homeless are too numerous to mention and are out of the scope of this study. Thus, this survey will compare various categories of registrants, such as whether or not the registrant resides in a state that lists employer info on the public registry, whether or not the registrant resides in an Adam Walsh Act-compliant state, whether the registrant lives in a rural or urban environment, and whether or not a registrant is an anti-registry activist.

METHODOLOGY

This survey was posted online using the website esurv.org, a completely free, secure, and unlimited online survey website independently funded by The Ohio State University, The University of Edinburgh, UK, Indiana University, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Universit de Provence lettres et sciences humaines, France, and the University of Toronto, Canada. The survey allows unlimited responses and has options to filter responses. Because a small minority of survey takers had experienced web browser-related issues, a handful of responses were duplicate copies of completed responses, and were subsequently manually purged from the results. This in no way affects the survey, as only these duplicate submissions as the result of web-related issues were purged from the results.

Over the course of four and a half months, from October 4, 2015 to February 29, 2016, this survey was advertised on various websites and social networks dedicated to providing resources, support, or activism for registered citizens and their families. These sites include Sex Offender Solutions & Education Network (SOSEN), Refom Sex Offender Laws (RSOL), Daily Strength’s “Families of Sex Offenders” subforums, all of Once Fallen’s affiliate websites and blogs, and various forms of online social media associated with Once Fallen. In addition, those contacting Once Fallen for assistance were solicited for responses to the survey.

The Survey itself was a 29-question multiple choice survey soliciting responses specifically to registered citizens in the US who were not currently incarcerated (or detained in a "civil commitment center"), no matter their current employment and living status.

In all, 307 registered citizens completed the survey. Not every question was answered by every survey seeker, so the results will be based on the number of answered questions instead of the number of total Survey takers. (Only questions 16, 17, 24, and 28 have more than 10 skipped responses.)

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

SECTION 1 - Demographics of Survey Takers

Demographics play a role in successful post-sentence success. It is widely accepted among researchers that registrants who were older, more educated, married and employed at the time of arrest, and were first time offenders were more likely to have a successful post-sentence life⁷.

Because I failed to add the question of race of the offender in this Survey, race factors will not be discussed in this research report. Perhaps a future study can study the effect of racial demographics on the employability and welfare assistance availability for registered citizens.

⁷ "Recidivism of Sex Offenders: Factors to Consider in Release Decisions." Criminal Justice Policy Council. Feb 1997. Web. <http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/Public_Safety_Criminal_Justice/Reports/RecidSex.pdf>

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1. What is your sex (as it appears on your official documents)?

Of the 307 who completed the survey, 296 (96.42%) responded "Male," while 11 (3.58%) responded "Female." In 2006, females represented 1% of forcible rape arrests and 6% of other sex crime arrests⁸, so the results of the Survey are equally comparable to the earlier statistic on gender.

(A caveat -- I understand there is a growing awareness of "transgendered" or other genders but for the sake of simplicity, I only asked the "legal" gender as would be listed on the registry website or official government documents. To my knowledge, no existing registry website includes options for gender options outside the traditional male/ female gender option).

2. Please select your age range.

Among the 305 who completed the question, 1 (0.33%) was under age 18, 7 (2.3%) were between ages 18-25, 107 (35.08%) were between ages 26-40, 165 (54.1%) were between ages 41-64, and 25 (8.2%) were 65 or older.

The ages were divided in a particular manner for a reason. Age 18 is the general age for legal adulthood. Age 25 is significant for many reasons, including the cutoff age for insurance liability increases, the age used to determine an increased risk on a number of sex offender risk assessment tests, and the age scientists believe the brain reaches maturity. Age 40 is when someone has been traditionally considered "over the hill" and an age where age discrimination can possibly play an increased role in diminished job opportunities. Age 65 is the "traditional" retirement age. A total of 279 (91.48%) of respondents to this survey are currently of working age (18-65).

3. Please select your education level

Among the 304 respondents, 4 (1.32%) does not have a high school degree/ GED, 62 (20.39%) has a high school diploma/ GED, 88 (28.95%) have some college but did not obtain a degree, 42 (13.82%) have an Associate's Degree, 60 (19.74%) have a Bachelor's Degree, 36 (11.84%) have a Master's Degree, and 12 (3.95%) have a PH.D or Juris Doctorate (Law Degree).

Sex offenders are believed to be a class of people convicted of crimes with a higher level of education than other convicted of crimes, so the results of the survey should not be surprising. However, it could be speculated that because of the rather limited reach of the survey (as the Survey must be completed online and promoted online) the results might not be fully representative of all registered citizens.

According to the Lumina Foundation, 40% of Americans hold at least a two-year degree in 2013, the year with the most recent data⁹. By contrast, 49.34% of respondents held at least a two-year degree. Thus, registrants are more likely to have a higher education than the average American.

4. Which option best describes is your marital / family status?

Of the 305 respondents, 114 (37.38%) are single/ divorced/ widowed, and never had kids; 12 (3.93%) were single/ divorced/ widowed, with children living in the home; 74 (24.26%) are single/ divorced/ widowed, living separate from their children; 9 (2.95%) are married but forced to live separate from

⁸ "Female Sex Offenders." Center of Sex Offender Management. March 2007. Web. <http://www.csom.org/pubs/female_sex_offenders_brief.pdf>

⁹ "A stronger nation through higher education." Lumina Foundation. 2016. Web. <<http://strongernation.luminafoundation.org/report/>>

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spouse and/or kids by law; and 96 (31.48%) are currently married and live with spouse (and kids, if they have kids).

According to the US Census data for 2014, 49% of Americans are married and living with a spouse, 1.4% are married but their spouse is absent, 10% divorced, 2.1% separated, 5.7% are widowed, and 31.7% have never been married¹⁰.

Registrants in this survey were less likely to be married (34.43%) than the average American (49%).

5. *Do you have children?*

Of the 304 respondents, 137 (45.07%) do not have children, 51 (16.78%) have children living with them, 28 (9.21%) have children who do not live with them & pay child support, 19 (6.25%) have children living apart but are not required to pay child support, and 69 (22.7%) have adult children.

According to a 2013 Gallup poll, 74% of adults have had kids and only 5% do not want children.¹¹

Registrants in this survey are less likely to have had children (54.93%) than the general public (74%).

6. *What scenario best describes your current living situation?*

Of the 305 respondents, 101 (33.11%) own their own homes, 80 (26.23%) rent an apartment as the primary renter; 41 (13.44%) share a house/ apartment with non-family and split living expenses; 72 (23.61%) live rent free with family/ someone else pays the rent; 1 (0.33%) responded the government pays the rent (Section 8/ HUD/ other housing programs); and 10 (3.28%) are currently homeless.

This question asked specifically for the state of a person's living situation at the moment. Of particular interest is homelessness. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, there were roughly 578,424 homeless people in America in January 2014, or about 18 out of 10,000 (0.18%) of the US population. Even though this number is likely a lowball estimate,¹² the percentage of homeless people compared to the total US population is pretty small. By comparison, 3.18% of those responding to this survey reported being homeless. While the number of reported homeless this survey is fairly small in sample size, the number is still reflective of what many suspect about the correlation between sex offender laws and homelessness. For example, California reported as of August 2015, 73,650 registrants lived "in the community" while 6,146 were reported as "transient" (about 8.3% of the registrants "in the community").¹³ NY State reports as of March 14, 2016, 238 of the state's 39,246 registrants (0.6%) are homeless; however, if you take out the number of NY registrants incarcerated (4388), deported (3600), in ICE custody (67), living outside the US (168) and those living outside NY state (4340), that leaves 26,673 living in NY communities, and the homeless rate becomes 0.89%. Of course, this survey may not be an accurate reflection of homeless populations in the US as a whole (based on sample size and the possible lack of internet access of many homeless registrants). A 2012 study found that 746 (3.2%) of Florida's population of 23,523 registrants living in the community are transient; Broward (8.5%) and Miami-Dade

¹⁰ America's Families and Living Arrangements: 2014. US Census Bureau. Table A1. Web. <<https://www.census.gov/hhes/families/data/cps2014A.html>>

¹¹ Newport, Frank, & Wilke, Joy. "Desire for Children Still Norm in U.S." Gallup. 25 Sept. 2013. Web. <<http://www.gallup.com/poll/164618/desire-children-norm.aspx>>

¹² "The State of Homelessness in America 2015." National Alliance to End Homelessness. Web. <http://www.endhomelessness.org/page/-/files/State_of_Homelessness_2015_FINAL_online.pdf>

¹³ "California Sex Registrant Statistics." California Dept. of Justice, Office of Attorney General. 8 Aug 2015. Web. <<http://www.meganslaw.ca.gov/statistics.aspx?lang=ENGLISH>>

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(8.9%) Counties, with more stringent residency restriction laws in place, have a far higher transient population than the rest of the state¹⁴.

It should come as no surprise that only one respondent reported obtaining “Section 8/ Federal Housing Assistance.” Section 578 of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 (QHWRA) prohibits the admission of lifetime registered sex offenders to federally assisted housing. A 2009 audit by the Inspector General found that between .05 and .07 percent of households living in federally assisted housing contain a lifetime registered sex offender. In response to the audit, HUD issued notice PIH 2009-35(HA)/H 2009-11, which allows HUD to “aggressively pursue” eviction or termination of assistance to the extent allowed by the lease and state or local law.¹⁵ It should be noted the single case of the individual of the registrant in Federal Housing won his right through a lawsuit.¹⁶

Homeownership rates for the 4th quarter 2015, as reported by the Census Bureau, remained steady at 63.2%,¹⁷ while the rate of 18-34-year-olds living with their parents was 31.5% as of March 2015.¹⁸ Of the estimate 35% of Americans living in rental property, 51% are under 30.¹⁹ Based on these stats, registered citizens are nearly half as likely to own a home as the average American, and the rate of registrants relying on family for a residence is slightly lower. The reason for these discrepancies is likely the result residency restriction laws and the employability issues of registered citizens.

7. What statement best describes your neighborhood?

Of the 303 respondents, 46 (15.18%) responded “I live in a rural area, The Boonies, the Sticks, the Middle of Nowhere”; 39 (12.87%) responded “I live in a small town (less than 10,000 people)”; 86 (28.38%) responded “I live in a midsize town (10,001 to about 100,000 people)”; 84 (27.72%) responded “I live in an suburban area in a major city (100,000+ people)”; and 48 (15.84%) responded “I live in an a downtown/ urban area in a major city (100,000+ people).”

Unintentionally, I deviated from the criteria from the way the US Census Bureau collects resident population. “To qualify as an urban area, the territory identified according to criteria must encompass at least 2,500 people, at least 1,500 of which reside outside institutional group quarters. The Census Bureau identifies two types of urban areas: Urbanized Areas (UAs) of 50,000 or more people; Urban Clusters (UCs) of at least 2,500 and less than 50,000 people. ‘Rural’ encompasses all population, housing, and territory not included within an urban area.” Based on the 2010 Census, 19.3% of the US population lived

¹⁴ Levenson, Jill, Ackerman, Alissa, Socia, Kelly M., Harris, Andrew. “Transient Sex Offenders and Residence Restrictions in Florida.” July 2013. Web.

<<http://floridaactioncommittee.org/pdf/SORR%20and%20Transients%20in%20Florida%202013.pdf>>

¹⁵ “Sex Offender issues.” National Housing Law Project. 2016. Web. <<http://nhlp.org/resourcecenter?tid=128>>

¹⁶ Implied in the article by Stein, Perry. “Dennis Sobin Has a Registry for People Who Register Sex Offenders (and He Included His Son on It).” Washington City Paper. CL Washington Inc. 23 Jan. 2014. Web.

<<http://www.washingtoncitypaper.com/blogs/citydesk/2014/01/23/dennis-sobin-has-a-registry-for-people-who-register-sex-offenders-and-he-included-his-son-on-it/>>

¹⁷ Callis, Robert R., & Kresin, Melissa. “RESIDENTIAL VACANCIES AND HOMEOWNERSHIP IN THE FOURTH QUARTER 2015.” US Census Bureau. Press Release. 28 Jan. 2016. Web.

<<http://www.census.gov/housing/hvs/files/currenthvspress.pdf>>

¹⁸ Kusisto, Laura. “More Young Adults Live With Their Parents Now Than During the Recession.” The Wall Street Journal. Dow Jones & Co. 23 Nov. 2015. Web. <<http://blogs.wsj.com/economics/2015/11/23/more-young-adults-live-with-their-parents-now-than-during-the-recession/>>

¹⁹ “Quick Facts: Resident Demographics.” National Multifamily Housing Council. 2016. Web.

<<http://nmhc.org/Content.aspx?id=4708>>

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in a rural area; 9.5% lived in “urbanized clusters”; and 71.2% lived in “Urbanized areas.”²⁰ Both this survey and the US Census Bureau share an agreement that “rural” means outside of an incorporated area. Perhaps a future study would use the US Census Bureau criteria in future surveys.

The results of the survey shows that registered citizens are only slightly more likely than the general population to reside in a “rural area” or a small town. This may be shocking to those who would assume that registered citizens are more likely to live in areas where there are less residency restrictions. However, while urban areas may have more restrictions (such as state or local residency restriction laws), urban areas also have more resources (such as housing, employment or social services) than rural areas, and thus is likely more desirable despite the drawbacks.

8. In which US State/ Territory do you currently reside?

Each state, territory, or Indian tribe varies greatly on a number of issues, such as residency/ work restriction laws or laws that determine the amount of employer information posted on the public registry. Currently, 21 states list some form of employer-related information on the public registry.²¹ As of November 2015, 30 states have some form of residency restriction laws.²² A handful of states, like Alabama, have laws that prohibit registrants from working in close proximity to schools.²³ In addition, 118 jurisdictions (17 states, 98 tribes and 3 territories) have substantially implemented SORNA's requirements.²⁴ State residence implications will be discussed later in this report.

Over a third of respondents resided in the top four states represented in this survey (FL, AL, AR, and OH), and of these states, only Arkansas is not considered substantially compliant with the federal Adam Walsh Act. There was at least one respondent in Washington DC and in all but 4 US states (DE, NH, ND, and SD), nor were there any respondents from any US Territory (Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, Northern Mariana Islands, or US Virgin Islands) or from any of the 566 recognized American Indian tribes. Below are the results by number of respondents:

1. Florida, 54 (17.88%)
2. Arkansas, 25 (8.28%)
3. Alabama, 21 (6.95%)
4. Ohio, 18 (5.96%)
5. New York/ Texas, 13 each (4.30% each)
6. California, 11 (3.64%)
7. Virginia, 10 (3.31%)
8. Michigan/ Pennsylvania, 9 each (2.98% each)
9. Colorado, 8 (2.65%)
10. Georgia/ Maryland/ Nebraska/ New Mexico, 7 each (2.32% each)
11. Connecticut/ Illinois/ Louisiana, 6 each (1.99% each)

²⁰ “2010 Census Urban and Rural Classification and Urban Area Criteria.” US Census Bureau. 2016. Web. <<http://www.census.gov/geo/reference/ua/urban-rural-2010.html>>

²¹ As noted at Devoy, Mary. “Action Item: Support Virginia Bill SB11 To Remove the Employer Information of RSO’s From the VSP Online Registry a Current (and Significant) Barrier for a Successful Re-entry Back Into Society.” It’s Time to Reduce, Reconstruct, Reclassify, Rethink and Reform the Virginia Sex Offender Registry. 18 Dec. 2015. Web. <http://restoringintegritytovirginiaregistry.blogspot.com/2015/12/action-item-support-virginia-bill-sb11.html>. Originally created by Texas Voices.

²² Goldberg, Barbara. “Tide turns against U.S. residency restrictions on sex offenders.” Reuters. 11 Nov. 2015. Web. <<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-sexoffender-idUSKCN0T01BJ20151111>>

²³ See AL Code § 15-20A-13 (2013)

²⁴ See <http://www.smart.gov/newsroom.htm>

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12. Oregon, 5 (1.66%)
13. Missouri/ Nevada/ Wisconsin/ Washington DC, 4 each (1.32% each)
14. Arizona/ Kansas/ Maine/ New Jersey/ Utah/ West Virginia, 3 each (0.99% each)
15. Idaho/ Kentucky/ Massachusetts/ Montana/ North Carolina/ Oklahoma/ Tennessee/ Washington State, 2 each (0.66% each)
16. Alaska/ Hawaii/ Indiana/ Iowa/ Minnesota/ Mississippi/ Rhode Island/ South Carolina/ Vermont/ Wyoming, 1 each (0.33% each)
17. Delaware/ New Hampshire/ North Dakota/ South Dakota, US Territories, Native American Tribal Lands, 0 (0%)

9. *What is your current registration status? Or, if you were forced to register but no longer forced to register, what was your status?*

Most states utilize some sort of Tier levels, though as of 2014, 14 states had a minimum lifetime registration even in states that have some form of differentiation between those they consider “high-risk” and those they do not,²⁵ which complicates studying results rather difficult. Keeping up with ever-changing laws is a monumental task. For purposes of this survey, the question was posed for the current tier level of survey takers.

Of the 301 respondents, 90 (29.9%) were classified as a Tier 1/ Low risk offender; 44 (14.62%) were classified as Tier 2/ “moderate” or “habitual” offenders; 60 (19.93%) were classified as a Tier 3 or higher/ “high risk” or “predators”; and 107 (35.55%) responded their state lacks a formal classification system.

10. *How long have you been forced to register as of today?*

This is the final question posed as a measure of the demographics of test-takers. Of the 306 respondents to this question, 52 (16.99%) responded “less than 3 years”; 113 (36.93%) responded “between 3-10 years”; 132 (43.14%) responded “more than 10 years”; and 9 (2.94%) responded they are no longer required to register. Thus, more than 2 out of 5 respondents have at least 10 years of experience in dealing with the negative effects of the registry.

SECTION 2 – Employment Issues

Questions 11-25 cover employment issues, including the kinds of jobs held by registrants, the amount of income in the households of registered citizens, and issues related to obtaining and maintaining gainful employment.

11. *Which of the following best describes your current employment/ job scenario?*

Of the 305 respondents, 94 (30.82%) work one full-time job; 22 (7.21%) have one part-time job, defined as working “less than 30 hours”; 9 (2.95%) work two part-time jobs; 4 (1.31%) work two full-time jobs; 42 (13.77%) are ‘self-employed’; 5 (1.64%) are “day laborers,” seasonal, or migrant workers; 65 (21.31%) are currently unemployed but looking; and 64 (20.98%) are either retired, disabled, or unemployed but not looking.

Adjusting the results to apply only to the 279 survey-takers currently of “working age” (ages 18-65), 92 (32.97%) work one full-time job; 21 (7.53%) work one part-time job; 8 (2.87%) work two or more part-

²⁵ Shim, Jane. “Listed for Life.” Slate. Graham Holdings. 13 Aug 2014. Web.
<http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/jurisprudence/2014/08/sex_offender_registry_laws_by_state_map.html>

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time jobs; 4 (1.43%) work two full-time jobs; 40% are self-employed; 5 (1.79% are “day laborers”/ seasonal/ migrant workers; 63 (22.58%) are currently unemployed by looking; and 46 (16.9%) are retired/ disabled/ unemployed but not looking.

The measure of unemployment is not as simple as one would think. The unemployment rate as defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is the set of Americans who are both eligible and willing to work and is currently seeking employment. This is also known as U-3 or “headline” unemployment. Gallup uses “payroll-to-population ratio,” which is a measure of the percentage of the total adult population that is employed full-time. (The Gallup poll now refers to that stat as the “good jobs rate.”) Then there is U-6 unemployment, which counts not just those job seekers included in the U-3 (headline) rate, but also those who are marginally attached to the workforce (underemployed) and people working part time for economic reasons.²⁶

According to the BLS, the unemployment rate (U-3) for February 2016 was 4.9%. The “labor force participation rate” (i.e., the percentage of the population aged 16 and older that are currently employed or actively looking for a job, are not in the military and not institutionalized) is 62.7%. About 26.9% of those currently unemployed are considered “long-term unemployed” (unemployed for over 27 weeks/ 6 months).²⁷

According to Gallup, the “Good Jobs Rate” (those working 30+ hrs/wk, what this survey refers to as “full-time employment”) was 45.3%; the workforce participation rate is 67.3%; the unemployment rate was 5.6%; and the underemployment rate was 14% for December 2015.²⁸

The most glaring differences between the BLS and Gallup job rates and the results from this survey are in terms of the number of individuals employed full time (30.82% of registrants versus 45.3%) and the number of “unemployed but looking” (21.31% of registrants versus 4.9% from the BLS or 5.9% from Gallup). The implication here is that registered citizens are significantly more likely to be unemployed but looking (Using BLS, 530%; Using Gallup, 361%) but far less likely (68%) to have full time employment than the average American.

12. How many jobs have you held since you were first forced to register as a sex offender?

The intent with this question is to try to determine if registration has any correlation with job stability. Remarkably, the BLS reports that baby-boomers (in this study, those born between 1957 and 1964) held an average of 11.7 jobs between the ages of 18 and 48. These baby boomers held an average of 5.5 jobs while ages 18 to 24. The average fell to 3 jobs from ages 25 to 29, to 2.4 jobs from ages 30 to 34, and to 2.1 jobs from ages 35 to 39. From ages 40 to 48 the average person held 2.4 jobs. The older the job seeker, the longer amount of time that person stayed on the job. The higher the level of education, the more jobs held during that time period.²⁹ It is rather shocking to realize that there was a fair amount of instability in jobs among the baby boomer generation.

²⁶ Ritter, Dan. “How Many Americans Actually Have Full-Time Work?” The Cheat Sheet. 9 Jan. 2014. Web. <<http://www.cheatsheet.com/business/stock-news/how-many-americans-actually-have-full-time-work-2.html?a=viewall>>

²⁷ “THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION — JANUARY 2016.” Bureau of Labor Statistics. News Release. 5 Feb. 2015. Web. <<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empisit.pdf>>

²⁸ Ryan, Ben. “U.S. Gallup Good Jobs Rate 45.3% in December 2015.” Gallup. 7 Jan. 2016. Web. <<http://www.gallup.com/poll/188042/gallup-good-jobs-rate-december-2015.aspx>>

²⁹ “NUMBER OF JOBS HELD, LABOR MARKET ACTIVITY, AND EARNINGS GROWTH AMONG THE YOUNGEST BABY BOOMERS: RESULTS FROM A LONGITUDINAL SURVEY.” Bureau of Labor Statistics. Press Release. 31 March 2015. Web. <<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/nlsoy.pdf>>

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Of the 306 respondents to this question, 61 (19.93%) responded “I haven't had a job since being forced to register,” 203 (66.34%) held between one and five jobs, and 42 (13.73%) held six or more jobs. It is somewhat encouraging to know that the majority (203 or 82.86%) of the 245 who held a job have not had to work more than five jobs. Perhaps a future study may find a better way to determine employment instability.

13. If employed, how much was your personal gross pay (pay before taxes), NOT total household income, on your most recent tax return?

The purpose for this question was determining the ability of those forced to register to earn sufficient income.

The Federal Poverty line for 2015 is \$11,770 for a single person (to calculate the poverty line for your household, add \$4160 for each household member); for Alaska, \$14,270 for a single person (+\$5200 for each household member); for Hawaii, \$13,550 for a single person (+\$4780 for each household member).³⁰

It may be a bit of a shock to learn it is actually fairly difficult to obtain an average individual wage as the US Census Bureau emphasizes “household” income as opposed to “personal” income; nevertheless, the BLS reported the average American worker in January 2015 got paid \$24.57 per hour in December, or \$850.12 per week.³¹ (For someone who works 50 weeks a year, that is \$42,506.) Obviously, various factors (age, race, gender, job type, geographic factors, etc.) play a significant role in determining wage.

Of the 302 who responded to this question, 86 (28.48%) reported personal earnings of less than \$15,000; 63 (20.86%) earned \$15,001 to \$29,999; 44 (14.57%) earned \$30,000 to \$49,000 ; 26 (8.61%) earned \$50,000 to \$99,000; 8 (2.65%) earned \$100,000+; and 75 (24.83%) responded “Not Applicable.”

Over half of the respondents who had not responded “not applicable” reported earnings of less than \$30,000 last year (119 of 227, or 52.42%). Thus it can be reasonably concluded the average registrant makes well below the median American wage.

14. If you are married and your spouse lives with you, does your spouse work?

According to the BLS, 80.1 percent of families had at least one employed member in 2014. Among married-couple families with children, 96.6% had at least one employed parent in 2014. The share of married-couple families with children where both parents worked was 60.2%. The mother was employed in 69.4% of families with children maintained by women with no spouse present in 2014, and the father was employed in 81.9% of families with children maintained by men with no spouse present. The proportion of families with an unemployed member declined to 8.0% in 2014.³²

Among the 303 respondents to this question, 190 (62.71%) responded “This question does not apply to me”; 32 (10.56%) responded “No”; 49 (16.17%) responded “Yes, we both have jobs”; and 32 (10.56%) responded “Yes, Spouse is the only one with a job.”

³⁰ “Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines.” Federal Register. US Government. 22 Jan. 2015. Web. <<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/01/22/2015-01120/annual-update-of-the-hhs-poverty-guidelines>>

³¹ Campbell, Todd. “How Does Your Income Stack Up Against the Average American's?” The Motley Fool. 18 Jan. 2015. Web. <<http://www.fool.com/investing/general/2015/01/18/how-does-your-income-stack-up-against-the-average.aspx>>

³² “Employment Characteristics of Families Summary.” Bureau of Labor Statistics. Press Release. 23 April 2015. Web. <<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/famee.nr0.htm>>

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After removing the 190 not applicable responses, 71 of 113 married households (71.68%) have a working spouse; of that number, the spouse is the sole worker in 32 of 119 (28.31%) of the households; 32 of 113 households (28.32%) are two-worker households; in 49 of 113 households (43.36%), the spouse does not work. The implication here is that registrant households seem to be more likely to be dependent on a single income. The most striking statistic is the number of married-couple households where both adults work is far lower for registrant household than non-registrants (28.32% versus 60.2%). The probable cause is the lower employability of registered citizens.

15. This question concerns the entire household. Is your household income (total income for you and everyone in your household before taxes) considered to be below the federal poverty line?

The Federal Poverty line for 2015 is \$11,770 for a single person (to calculate the poverty line for your household, add \$4160 for each household member); for Alaska, \$14,270 for a single person (+\$5200 for each household member); for Hawaii, \$13,550 for a single person (+\$4780 for each household member).³³ The official poverty rate for 2014 is 14.8%.³⁴

Among the 299 respondents to this question, 94 (31.44%) reported their household was considered below the federal poverty line, while 205 (68.56%) reported being above the poverty line. Registrants in this study were slightly more than twice as likely (or 212% more likely) to live below the poverty line than the average American.

16. During the time you have been employed since being forced to register, which types of jobs have you acquired?

This is the question many registrant activists are asked the most, but until now, we could only speculate the types of jobs registered citizens are actually taking. Unlike most other survey questions, this question allowed multiple answers, since it is assumed at least some respondents have simply taken any open job as opposed to sticking with a single category.

In all there were 282 respondents to this question. The responses here were reorganized from most-to-least selected occupational categories, with number of respondents and percentage of the total in parentheses:

1. Unskilled Manual Labor (Day labor, janitorial, basic labor), 88 (18.03%)
2. Skilled Labor/ Trades (plumbing, home repairs, mechanics, maintenance), 70 (14.34%)
3. Retail/ Sales jobs (realtors, cashiers, grocery clerks, telemarketing), 50 (10.25%)
4. Manufacturing (assembly line, factory work, warehousing), 50 (10.25%)
5. Restaurant Jobs (cook, server), 40 (8.2%)
6. Internet and Tech jobs (IT, computer repairs, web design), 32 (6.56%)
7. Construction, 30 (6.15%)
8. Customer Service (call/ help centers, store agents), 24 (4.92%)
9. Administration/ Clerical/ Office Jobs, 21 (4.3%)
10. Transportation jobs (bus driver, deliveries, truck drivers), 19 (3.89%)
11. Non-profits and human resource oriented jobs, 14 (2.87%)
12. Executive positions (CEOs and the like), 8 (1.64%)
13. Government jobs (social security office, census bureau, etc.), 7 (1.43%)
14. Legal (Paralegals, Attorneys), 7 (1.43%)

³³ "Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines." Federal Register. US Government. 22 Jan. 2015. Web. <<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/01/22/2015-01120/annual-update-of-the-hhs-poverty-guidelines>>

³⁴ "2014 Highlights." US Census Bureau. Web. <<https://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/overview/>>

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15. Research (research and design, marketing, consulting, analysts), 6 (1.23%)
16. Media jobs (journalist, TV, newspapers), 5 (1.02%)
17. Health Care (nursing, hospice, pharmacy), 5 (1.02%)
18. Accounting/ Banking, 4 (0.82%)
19. Communication jobs (cable, TV, phone techs), 3 (0.61%)
20. Scientific field (biotech, botany, zoology, etc), 2 (0.41%)
21. Security/ Loss Prevention (home/ business private security, quality control), 2 (0.41%)
22. Education/ Teaching jobs, 1 (0.2%)
23. Insurance, 0 (0%)

In addition to the 23 predetermined job categories, there was a section for “Other” or further comments. A total of 65 respondents added further information to this category. Many simply added “not applicable/ unemployed/ unable to find any job”, etc. Some write specific company names or a more specific job title in addition to the predetermined categories selected. (Some of the responses could have been easily pigeon-holed into the predetermined job types but it respondents may have felt the need to add more specific info; in retrospect, it should have been made mandatory to add the specific job title to the “Please Explain” section, since there is variety within each category). Below are some of the specific responses added to the “Other-Please Explain” category:

- Plant manager
- Private contractor
- Full-time student (w/ VA benefits)
- Telemarketer
- Electronics Engineer
- Laundry work/ seasonal
- Day labor
- Selling plasma
- Flea market vendor
- Store manager
- Entertainment/ radio
- Executive director of a ministry for ex-offenders
- “Self-employed home-based business owner”
- On-site mgr. at home storage facility
- Engineering- Gas & oil Co.
- IT, CNC programming (getting paid less than prevailing rate)
- Area sales manager
- Electrical
- Temp agency
- Property management
- Printer for book publisher
- Housing/ Transition services
- TV production
- “Odd jobs”
- Software engineer
- Water district
- Warehouse order-selector
- Sport instructor
- Pet grooming
- Actor/ tour guide
- Newspaper sorting
- Small engine repair
- Phone sex operator (no joke)
- Manufacturing supervisor/ consultant

Despite the overall implications that registered citizens are far more likely to receive the type of work associated with lower pay, hire stress, and little upward mobility, it should be somewhat encouraging that there is a fair amount of diversity in the types of jobs registered citizens have been able to obtain. Not surprisingly, the types of jobs that registered citizens release likely to obtain tend to be the types of jobs associated with high levels of liability (banking, insurance, security), teaching jobs (although not every teaching job is related to school, most teaching jobs are associated with grade schools), scientific work (most likely due to the relatively few jobs available in a narrow field of study) or the types of jobs that may put you in direct contact with individuals in their own homes (healthcare, home service technicians).

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Some of the suggestions written in the “other” section may also give ideas as to how to supplement income. Some people have been able to make money in nontraditional ways, such as selling items on the Internet, selling their plasma, or possibly doing work under the table.

17. If you are employed, what is your current work situation?

This question concerns the work environment of Registered Citizens. Pew reported about 10% of American workers was “self-employed” in 2015.³⁵ Another report (from 2006) found about 30% of the nation’s workforce are “contingent workers” (either contract labor, self-employed, or temporary workers), and that number is predicted to top 40% by 2020.³⁶

Of the 296 who responded to this question, 51 (17.32%) answered “I am self-employed”; 14 (4.73%) answered “I work for a business run by a family member or friend”; 48 (16.22%) answered “I work for a small business (mom and pop or single store businesses)”; 29 (9.8%) answered “I work for a franchise business (Wal-Mart, McDonalds as examples)”; 15 (5.07%) answered “I work for a contractor” (day laborers or other off-site jobs included); and 139 (46.96%) answered “This question does not apply to me.”

Readjusting the numbers by removing those who responded the question did not apply to them (leaving 157 workers), 32.48% of registrants are self-employed, 30.57% work for a “small business”; 9.2% work for a business with a family member or friend, 18.47% work at a “franchise” business, and 9.8% works contract labor. Over three times as many registrants reported being self-employed as the number from the 2015 Gallup poll; adding the numbers of self-employed and contract labor, registrants are more likely to be “contingent workers” (at 42%) than the 30% of the general population stat from the 2006 report. Registrants are not very likely to receive work big large corporations or “franchise” business (less than 1 in 5).

18. If currently employed, did your job require a background check?

As of February 2016, 13 states and Washington DC have passed “ban the box” laws either statewide or within certain communities,³⁷ but it is still taken for granted employers likely perform background checks on a routine basis. In fact, 92% of employers in one study stated they use background checks, and 95% responded that that the presence of a “violent felony” in their records would be “very influential” in the decision not to hire.³⁸ Sex offenses are typically seen as violent crimes even in the absence of actual violence. The Nation magazine also quoted a study that found that 14% of whites and 5% of blacks received a call back after a job interview after discovery of a criminal record, as opposed to 34% of whites and 14% of blacks without a criminal record.³⁹

Of the 300 respondents to this question, 59 (19.67%) replied “Yes”, 91 (30.33%) replied “No”, 23 (7.57%) replied “I Don’t Know,” and 127 (42.33%) replied “Not Applicable.”

³⁵ “Three-in-Ten U.S. Jobs Are Held by the Self-Employed and the Workers They Hire.” Pew Research Center. 22 Oct. 2015. Web. <<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2015/10/22/three-in-ten-u-s-jobs-are-held-by-the-self-employed-and-the-workers-they-hire/>>

³⁶ Neuner, Jeremy. “40% of America’s workforce will be freelancers by 2020.” Quartz. Web. <<http://qz.com/65279/40-of-americas-workforce-will-be-freelancers-by-2020/>>

³⁷ See <http://www.hireimage.com/ban-the-box/>

³⁸ “Management, Background Checking: Conducting Criminal Background Checks.” Society for Human Resources. 22 Jan 2010. PPT file. p.3 Download at <<http://www.shrm.org/research/surveyfindings/articles/pages/backgroundcheckcriminalchecks.aspx>>

³⁹ Wright, Kai. “Boxed In: How a Criminal Record Keeps You Unemployed For Life.” The Nation. 6 Nov 2013. Web <<http://www.thenation.com/article/boxed-how-criminal-record-keeps-you-unemployed-life/>>

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It is likely that the high number of respondents reporting not be subject to a background check likely reflects the results of the prior question in regards to job type. It is likely that small businesses or jobs obtained through a family or friend is less likely to result in a background check than a larger corporation or franchise business; self-employed individuals obviously do not need to conduct background checks on themselves.

19. If you have ever lost a job during the time you are forced to register, how long were you employed before you were fired/ laid off?

According to the BLS, “the length of time a worker remains with the same employer increased with the age at which the worker began the job. Of the jobs that workers began when they were 18 to 24 years of age, 69% of those jobs ended in less than a year and 93% ended in fewer than 5 years. Among jobs started by 40 to 48 year olds, 32% ended in less than a year and 69% ended in fewer than 5 years.”⁴⁰ Americans are surprisingly unstable when it comes to employment.

Of the 304 respondents to this question, 70 (23.03%) replied “Less than 6 months”; 23 (7.57%) replied “6 month to 1 year”; 26 (8.55%) responded “1-2 Years”; 13 (4.28%) responded “3-4 Years”; 23 (7.57%) replied “5+ Years”; and 149 (49.01%) replied “Does not apply.”

As stated earlier in this report, 54.1% of respondents were between the ages of 40 and 65, while only 2.3% were under ages 25. Since this survey only received seven responses from individuals under age 25, it is impossible to make an accurate determination of the impact of the registry on employment under age 25. However, this study can look at the 91 respondents in the 40 to 65 age who answered any response except “does not apply.” Of the 91 respondents, 39 (42.86%) lost their job after 6 months, 12 (13.19%) lost a job between 6-12 months, 16 (17.58%) lost their job between 1-2 years, 9 (9.89%) lost a job after 3-4 years, and 15 (16.48%) held on five years or more before losing a job.

While this survey does not have the ability to break down the demographics further, there is definitive evidence of significant difference between the average American worker and a registrant citizen worker. The registrant citizen job loss rates after one year (56.04%) and five years (83.52%) is significantly higher than the rate for the average American worker (at 32% after 1 year and 69% after 5 years). The rate at which the registered citizen loses his job compared to the average American worker is far greater after one year (175%) than after five years (121%). Thus, there is sufficient evidence to conclude that registry status is a factor in job loss.

20. Do you believe you have been denied a job because you are forced to register as a "sex offender"?

In a 2007 study by Levenson and Tewksbury, 82% of respondents stated, “My family member, the RSO, had a very hard time finding a job because employers don't want to hire a registered sex offender, AND this has created financial hardship for my family⁴¹.”

Of the 303 respondents, 250 (82.51%) stated they have been denied work because of their status; 22 (7.26%) replied “no”; 13 (4.29%) replied “I don't know”; and 18 (5.94%) replied this was not applicable to them. The finding of this survey is consistent with the Levenson and Tewsbury results and implies that one's status as a registered citizen forms a significant barrier to obtaining employment in the first place.

⁴⁰ BLS, “Baby Boomers,” p.3

⁴¹ Levenson, Jill, and Tewksbury, Richard. “Collateral Damage: Family Members of Registered Sex Offenders.” American Journal of Criminal Justice. 2009. Table 3.

21. *Have you ever lost a job as a result of being listed on the sex offender registry?*

The 2007 Levenson and Tewksbury study found 53% of respondents replied yes to the following statement: “My family member, the RSO, lost a job because a boss or co-workers found out through Megan’s Law that (s)he was a sex offender, AND this created financial hardship for my family.”⁴²

Of the 303 who responded to this survey, 146 (48.18%) stated they have lost a job as the result of their registry status; 85 (28.05%) replied “No”; 21 (6.93%) replied they didn’t know; and 51 (16.83%) replied the question was not applicable to them. Adjusting for the not applicable responses, 57.94% of respondents lost a job due to registry status. The results from this survey is comparable to the Levenson and Tewsbury findings and suggest that registry status plays a significant factor in the termination of employment for those forced to register as sex offenders.

22. *Have you ever experienced harassment at work as a result of your status on the public registry?*

“Workplace Bullying is repeated, health-harming mistreatment of one or more persons (the targets) by one or more perpetrators: abusive conduct that takes one or more of the following forms: Verbal abuse, or threatening, intimidating or humiliating behaviors (including nonverbal), or work interference – sabotage – which prevents work from getting done, or some combination of one or more.”⁴³ Harassment or bullying at work is a fairly common problem at work. Overall, 27% of Americans have reported experiencing bullying at work.⁴⁴ Gays and Transgendered people have reported being “verbally or physically abused or had their workplace vandalized” at a rate between 7%-41%, compared to 12%-30%, according to a Williams Institute study.⁴⁵ In addition, 90% of transgendered people were harassed on the job in some form, National Center for Transgender Equality and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.⁴⁶ (Amazingly, transgendered people were fired because of their status at barely half the rate [26%] of a registered citizen [53%]).

Of the 303 respondents to this question, 122 (40.26%) replied they have experienced harassment at work; 120 (39.60%) replied No, and 61 (20.13%) replied “Not Applicable.” After removing the “Not Applicable” responses, the percentage of individuals experiencing workplace harassment is about 50.41%.

The registrants in this survey (50.41%) experienced harassment on the job at almost twice the rate of the average individual (27%) and higher than the highest rates reported by homosexuals (41% in the Williams Institute study). Only transgendered people report a higher rate of harassment on the job (90%). It should come as no surprise that register citizens are often harassed on the job more often than most other categories of Americans.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ “What is workplace bullying?” Healthy Workplace Bill. Workplace Bullying institute. 2016. Web. <<http://healthyworkplacebill.org/problem/#what>>

⁴⁴ Namie, Gary. “2014 WBI U.S. Workplace Bullying Survey.” Workplace Bullying Institute. 2014. Web. <<http://workplacebullying.org/multi/pdf/WBI-2014-US-Survey.pdf>>

⁴⁵ The Williams Institute survey is no longer online, but was reported at Burns, Crosby & Krehely, Jeff. “Gay and Transgender People Face High Rates of Workplace Discrimination and Harassment.” Center for American Progress. 2 June 2011. Web. <<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbt/news/2011/06/02/9872/gay-and-transgender-people-face-high-rates-of-workplace-discrimination-and-harassment/>>

⁴⁶ Grant, Jaime M., Ph.D., Mottet, Lisa A., J.D. & Tanis, Justin, D.Min. “INJUSTICE AT EVERY TURN: A REPORT OF THE NATIONAL TRANSGENDER DISCRIMINATION SURVEY.” The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Center for Transgender Equality. 2011. Web. <http://www.thetaskforce.org/static_html/downloads/reports/reports/ntds_full.pdf>

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23. If you searched for a job since being forced to register, how long did it take to find a job?

Job searches vary greatly, as finding stats on the length of the average job search varies greatly by the kind of job you are seeking. There is an old adage that states it would take about one month to find a job for every \$10,000 of the paycheck you would like to earn. So, in theory, if you were looking to earn \$60,000 a year your job search could take six months. (If that is the case, then I should have a job paying a \$1 million a year, since I have been unemployed for a decade). This is obviously an old wives tale. As stated earlier, the BLS reported that about 26.9% of those currently unemployed are considered “long-term unemployed” (unemployed for over 27 weeks/ 6 months).⁴⁷ The BLS also reported that the average time a person was unemployed between jobs was 10 weeks (about 2.5 months) in 2011, almost double the 2007 rate (the year before the recession). Also noteworthy, the average job seeker gave up the job search efforts after 21.4 weeks. About 26.7% of job seekers who found a job took over six months to find work, with nearly half of those taking a year or longer to find a job.⁴⁸

Of the 304 respondents to this question, 57 (18.75%) replied “Less than 3 months”; 50 (16.45%) replied “4-6 months”; 28 (9.21%) replied “7-12 months”; 84 (27.63%) replied “Over a year”; and 85 (27.96%) replied “Does not apply.” Removing the Not Applicable responses and combining the responses for “7-12 months” and “over a year,” 112 of 219 (51.14%) registrant job-seekers were what the BLS would consider “long-term unemployed.”

Nearly twice as many registered citizens (51.14%) were long-term unemployed compared to the average American job seeker (26.9%). Only about a fourth of registrants (26.03%) found work within 3 months. The numbers strongly indicate that register citizens remain unemployed at a far higher rate than the average citizen.

24. When searching for a job, how do you find work? (Circle all who apply)

This was a response that allowed multiple answers so the numbers will not add up to 100%.

According to BLS, 50.5% of unemployed workers in 2015 contacted an employer directly; 57.4% sent out resumes or filled out applications; 15.1% placed or answered ads; 26.8% contacted their friends or relatives; 17.2% used a public employment agency; 8.2% used a private employment agency; and 14.9% used “other” methods. On average, 1.9 methods were utilized by each job seeker.⁴⁹

Of the 287 respondents to this question, 121 (19%) used “Want ads”, 160 (25.12%) used “networking/family and friends”, 156 (24.49%) used the Internet, 106 (16.64%) did it “the old fashioned way—walk-ins,” and 94 (14.76%) used the local employment office.

This question allowed an “Other” response to allow respondents to share other job hunting tips. There were numerous responses (some that would have fit into the preset answers), but some other ideas were suggested. A number of them reported becoming self-employed, and one respondent stated he now owns his own business and hires other registrants. One responded stated he no longer seeks “conventional employment,” while another stated he mows lawns. A few respondents received referrals through a parole/ probation officer, a program like Prison Fellowship, his Union, or Workforce Alliance (the latter

⁴⁷ BLS, “January 2016”

⁴⁸ “Length of job search for the unemployed.” BLS, 24 April 2012. Web. <http://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2012/ted_20120424.htm>

⁴⁹ “Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey. HOUSEHOLD DATA ANNUAL AVERAGES 34. Unemployed jobseekers by sex, reason for unemployment, and active jobsearch methods used.” BLS. 2016. Web. <<http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsaat34.htm>> Stats were for 2015.

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was ultimately unable to help). One proclaimed that he “choose[s] what I want to do and go pester companies who do that service until I get hired.” One respondent stated his job was held for him until his release. One respondent noted that his mother performed online searches for him since he wasn’t legally allowed to use a computer. Another respondent stated he finds work “underground i.e. secret at night through hard labor and not divulging information.”

One person left a lengthy response. He stated he had several good-paying job offers in the ceramics industry, but despite his rare specialty in the field, he was unable to gain employment due to his status. He also added that his story was a “long story that I’d be happy to tell in public and as to how I was set up by the Federal and State Gov’t due to my political beliefs and affiliation.”

25. Please estimate how many employment applications have you filed before obtaining employment or giving up the job search.

Finding an answer from a source outside the myriad of anecdotal examples found on the internet regarding the average number of job applications someone fills out between jobs. Though most job applications these days are online, the applications of today are seemingly more complex than in the past. (I have noticed in helping others fill out applications to various franchise businesses, for example, job applications are often accompanied by a 60 question survey asking repetitive questions about your propensity to steal or your ability to problem-solve.) The application process varies greatly and with so many variables involved, finding a way to compare the difficulties in job seekers between the average citizen and a registered citizen will prove difficult.

Of the 299 respondents to this question, 73 (24.41%) stated “Less than ten”; 82 (27.42%) replied “Between ten and forty”; 56 (18.73%) replied between 41 and 100; 60 (20.07%) replied over 100; and 28 (9.36%) never bothered to look for a job. Unfortunately, there are no numbers to compare between registrants and non-registrants; however, other questions in the survey better illustrate the difficulties experienced by registered citizens on the job hunt.

SECTION 3 – Welfare and Homelessness

Questions 26-28 deal with public assistance and homelessness.

26. During your time on the registry, have you ever qualified for and relied for any kind of public assistance?

“Welfare” is a generic term that encompasses a myriad of social programs, such as food stamps/ SNAP, TANF, Medicaid/ Medicare, and Social Security. This study should have clarified the definition of “public assistance,” since public assistance likely brings to mind food stamps or Section 8. Pew has found that about 55% of adult Americans polled have benefitted at some point in their lives from one of the six main “entitlement” programs—Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Welfare, Unemployment and Food Stamps. Of those polled, 27% received unemployment benefits; 26% received Social Security; 22% received Medicare; 18% received food stamps; 11% received Medicaid; and 8% received “welfare” benefits.⁵⁰

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities used the following entitlement and mandatory programs covered in their analysis on who collects benefits—Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, unemployment insurance, SNAP (formerly known as the Food Stamp Program), SSI, Temporary Assistance for Needy

⁵⁰ Morin, Rich, Taylor, Paul, & Patten, Eileen. “A Bipartisan Nation of Beneficiaries.” Pew Research Center. 18 Dec. 2012. Web. <<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2012/12/18/a-bipartisan-nation-of-beneficiaries/>>

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Families (TANF), the school lunch program, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), the Earned Income Tax Credit, and the refundable component of the Child Tax Credit. The CBPP found that in 2010, 91% of the benefits provided through entitlement programs went to people who were elderly (65 or older), disabled (receiving Social Security disability benefits, SSI disability benefits, or Medicare on the basis of a disability — all three programs use essentially the same disability standard, which limits eligibility to people with medically certified disabilities that leave them substantially unable to work), or members of a household in which an individual worked at least 1,000 hours during the year. Thus, only 9% of people receiving any benefits from these programs were able-bodied working-age Americans.⁵¹

There are other forms of assistance, such as assistance from non-governmental programs (churches or other charities) as well as agencies with local-level governmental ties (community action agencies, utility assistance programs). Also noteworthy is these benefits aren't limited to the poor. However, it is assumed that for purposes of this survey, "public assistance" was equated to the programs associated with programs for the poor; the next question in this survey would clarify that by asking about assistance type.

Of the 306 respondents to this survey, 163 (53.27%) responded Yes; 85 (27.78%) responded No; and 58 (18.95%) responded they never bothered to check for eligibility for public assistance. The number of respondents relying on public assistance is comparable to the general population, despite a limited number of programs that may automatically deny certain kind of assistance to the registry population (such as section 8 housing).

27. If you have collected government assistance during your time on the registry, check all programs you have collected during your time on the registry:

This was another question that allowed multiple answers. This survey used the term "governmental" assistance, though that was a bit of a misnomer; public assistance was the term that should have been used (especially given some of the options listed have nothing to do with the government).

Of the 298 respondents, 43 (8.07%) have collected Social Security Disability/ SSI; 140 (26.27%) have collected Food Stamps/ EBT; 10 (1.88%) have received help from Rental Assistance Programs; 68 (12.76%) have utilized Local Food and Clothing banks; 48 (9.01%) have received help from other local assistance from non-government charities (churches, action agencies); 154 (28.89%) received assistance from friends or family; and 70 (13.13%) responded they have never accepted any assistance from anyone.

Respondents reported being more likely to have been on food stamps (26.27%) than the general population (18%). In December 2014 (during the height of the recession), just over 4.8% of the population of working-age Americans collected disability/ SSI⁵²; The number of respondents collecting Disability/ SSI is 1.68 times more than the average population. Pew found that 12% of people reported receiving assistance from family or friends (a number they claim may be somewhat underreported)⁵³; this survey found that registrants are 2.4 times more likely to accept financial assistance from friends and family. A 2014 study by Feeding America found that one in seven Americans utilized some kind of food

⁵¹ Sherman, Arloc, Greenstein, Robert, & Ruffing, Kathy. "Contrary to "Entitlement Society" Rhetoric, Over Nine-Tenths of Entitlement Benefits Go to Elderly, Disabled, or Working Households." Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. 11 Feb 2012. Web. < <http://www.cbpp.org/research/contrary-to-entitlement-society-rhetoric-over-nine-tenths-of-entitlement-benefits-go-to> >

⁵² "Annual Statistical Report on the Social Security Disability Insurance Program, 2014: Beneficiaries in Current-Payment Status." Chart 3. SSA. 2016. Web. <https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/di_asr/2014/sect01.html#chart3>

⁵³ "Extended Family Support and Household Balance Sheets." Pew Charitable Trusts. 2 Mar 2016. Web. <<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/issue-briefs/2016/03/extended-family-support-and-household-balance-sheets>>

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assistance program⁵⁴; this study combined food banks with “clothing” assistance, so it is hard to make comparisons here. Many food banks may offer more than food; some programs offer utility, clothing, bus tokens, furniture, and even car assistance community action agencies and some churches offer similar programs. The bottom line is only 13.13% of registrants have not relied on any form of financial assistance, while 45% of Americans have reported never relying on at least the government assistance programs⁵⁵. The implication here is that the registry status is directly linked to increased welfare or dependence or need for financial aid.

28. At any point during your time on the public registry, were you ever considered homeless? If so, what was your sleeping arrangement at that time?

A 1994 survey found that 14% of people had been homeless at some point in their life. Of those 14%, 7.4% had been "literally homeless" in the sense many people think of it, while the remainder had been homeless in the sense that they were forced to double up with friends or relatives. Of those who had been homeless at some point, 8% had been homeless less than a week, 33% for a week to a month, 46% for a month to a year, and 13% for more than a year.⁵⁶ This survey also includes “doubling up” as a category of homelessness.

Of the 297 respondents to this question, 220 (74.07%) stated they were never homeless at any time while forced to register. However, 77 (25.93%) have experienced homelessness at some point while on the registry.

Of those who responded “yes” (the 77 who responded to this question but did not answer “was never homeless”), 13 (16.88%) slept on the street; 23 (29.87%) stayed in a shelter; 30 (38.96%) "crashed" at residences of friends, acquaintances or family (or, as called in the 1994 survey, “doubled up”); 28 (36.36%) slept in car/RV, and 8 (10.39%) made a camp/ pitched a tent.

This question also provided an “other” category that allowed people to explain their living status while homeless. One respondent stated he was allowed to stay in a shelter after lying about his status to the shelter. One received help from Matthew 25 Ministries, while another was able to get into a VA shelter. One respondent stayed in a church, while a couple of respondents stayed in a motel, and another respondent stated he slept in a wheelchair until he was given an RV then moved to a Home Depot parking lot. One respondent noted he was a truck driver and has lived in his cab for two years. One respondent stated he is forced to stay married and had to sign power of attorney to his wife so she can keep the house. One respondent mentioned being homeless would violate his parole, sending him to prison for life.

⁵⁴ Stone, Andrea. “Study Sheds Light on Broadening U.S. Hunger Problem.” National Geographic. 17 Aug. 2014. Web. <<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/08/140818-hunger-feeding-america-food-banks-aid-charities-meals-ngfood/>>

⁵⁵ Morin, et al. “Bipartisan.” Pew.

⁵⁶ Link, Bruce G., PhD, Susser, Ezra, MD, DrPh, Stueve, Ann, PhD, Phelan, Jo, PhD, Moore, Robert E., DrPh, and Struening, Elmer, PhD. “Lifetime and Five-Year Prevalence of Homelessness in the United States.” American Journal of Public Health. Vol. 84, No. 12, Dec 1994. Online at <<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1615395/pdf/amjph00463-0037.pdf>>

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SECTION 4 – Activism Status of Survey Takers

29. *Are you a member of any registered citizen activist/ legal reform groups, such as a member of WAR, RSOL, SOSEN, and the like, or work as an independent activist/ legal reformer within the Anti-Registry Movement, or consider yourself an activist or reformer?*

This survey was promoted to (and in some cases, by) a number of online websites whose focus is reforming (or abolishing) sex offender laws. Thus, the majority (if not all) of respondents received notice of this survey through contact with the aforementioned websites. However, not all consumers of these sites consider themselves “activists,” i.e., people actively carrying out the mission of reforming/ abolishing sex offender registry laws. Many sites offer emotional support, so some are attracted only to this aspect of the anti-registry movement.

One hypothesis I made is that activists are more likely to have experienced certain hardships such as homelessness and job discrimination, thus compelling them to be active in reforming/ abolishing sex offender registry laws. Some researchers who have used activist websites have opined the possibility that one’s participation on an activist website may lead to higher reporting of certain hardships, which could be interpreted by some as not indicative of the population of registrants as a whole⁵⁷. This section will focus on differences between the 158 (51.97%) of the respondents who identified themselves “activists” and the 146 (48.03%) of respondents to this question who did not identify as activists (a total of 304 people responded to this question).

To test this hypothesis, non-activists and activists were compared in 14 categories -- Owns home, currently homeless, lives in small town/ rural area, Is classified a Tier 3/ High risk, unemployed/ not in labor force (incl. disabled/ retired), has full time employment, lives in poverty, earned over \$50,000 last year, ever denied a job, ever lost a job, ever denied a job, ever harassed on the job, ever relied on public assistance, and has ever experienced homelessness while registered.

"Statistical significance" (which means the difference isn't left to chance) in a study is often set at 5%. This study will use the 5% standard as well to determine statistical significance.

Of the results that are statistically significant, those identifying themselves as RSO activists--

- Are more likely to own their homes (36.08% of activists versus 30.14% of non-activists)
- More likely to be classified "High Risk" or Tier 3 (23.08% of activists versus 16.78% of non-activists)
- On the registry for 10+ years (46.2% of activists versus 39.73% of non-activists)
- More likely to have experienced homelessness at some point while on the registry (30.97% of activists versus 20.86% of non-activists)

Those who are NOT RSO activists are...

- More likely to live in a small town/rural area (31.47% of non-activists versus 25.32% of activists)
- More likely to be unemployed/ disabled/ retired/ not in labor force (45.2% of non-activists versus 39.88% of activists)

⁵⁷ See Levenson & Tewksbury “Collateral Damage” p. 13. “The sampling methodology used in this study has limitations and creates a potential for biased results. Participants were self-selected after being recruited via several internet sites, listservs, and blogs identified as advocacy and support resources for RSOs and their families. So, the sample may be more likely to reflect the opinions of those who are experiencing distress rather than those who are not.”

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- More likely to be denied work (91.11% of activists versus 85.52% of activists)

NONE of the other results are statistically significant.

The implications of the survey results is that studies involving “anti-registry movement” activists or those who are members of organized groups will tend to yield few significant differences. While registrant activists reported being more likely to have been on the registry for more years, be more likely to carry a higher registry status, and have experienced homelessness, they are more likely to obtain and maintain gainful employment and be homeowners and live in urban environments than non-registrant activists. The bottom line is that there are few significant different differences between these two groups, and thus, the results of this study do not support any suspicions of bias that was considered in the 2007 Levenson and Tewksbury study.

See Appendix A for the full statistical comparison chart.

COMPARISONS BETWEEN SUB-CATEGORIES OF REGISTRANTS

People forced to register as “sex offenders” are not a homogeneous group; the laws governing the classifications of registrants are just as heterogeneous. Is it integral to this study to compare a number of categories of registered citizens in order to understand the impact various factors may have on the employability or residence-locating ability on registered citizens.

SECTION 1–AWA (Adam Walsh) Act states versus non-AWA states

States can be categorically divided into two main subcategories of states:

- Adam Walsh Act (AWA) compliant states: 17 US states (Alabama, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Wyoming) are listed as “substantially compliant” with the AWA. While the AWA suggests that states have a three-tiered system using an “offense-based” classification system (meaning offenders are assigned risk levels by way of the nature of the offense) with a 15 year minimum registration period, Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Missouri, South Carolina, Tennessee and Wyoming have a minimum lifetime registration requirement for all registrants.⁵⁸ Some states may offer ways to petition off the registry.
- Non-AWA states: The remaining 33 states mostly utilize a “risk assessment” evaluation that may consist of a psychological profile or actuarial tests such as the Static-99. Most states utilize a three-tiered system (Arkansas uses a 4-tier system) and most have a minimum 10 year registration period. Of the non-AWA states, California, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, New Jersey, Oregon, and Virginia all have minimum lifetime registration requirement for all registrants.⁵⁹

Of the 302 respondents to the question asking for state of residence, 148 (49%) lived in the 17 “Adam Walsh Act” states and 154 (51%) lived in the 33 non-AWA states.

The AWA states and non-AWA states were compared in 15 categories -- Owns home, currently homeless, lives in small town/ rural area, Is classified a Tier 3/ High risk, unemployed/ not in labor force (incl. disabled/ retired), has full time employment, lives in poverty, earned over \$50,000 last year, ever denied a job, ever lost a job, ever denied a job, ever harassed on the job, ever relied on public assistance,

⁵⁸ Shim, “Listed” Slate; see also “Jurisdictions that have substantially implemented SORNA. SMART Office. 2016. Web. < http://www.smart.gov/newsroom_jurisdictions_sorna.htm>

⁵⁹ Ibid.

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has ever experienced homelessness while registered, and number of respondents who consider themselves to be activists in the anti-registry movement. The hypothesis is the Adam Walsh Act causes an increase of many hardships for both housing and employment.

Those living in Adam Walsh Act compliant states were...

- About a third more likely to be currently homeless (4.05% for AWA states compared to 2.6% non-AWA states)
- Far more likely to be unemployed/ retired/ disabled/ not in the labor force (47.97% for AWA states versus 36.36% of those in non-AWA states)
- More likely to have been denied employment (90.01% for AWA states versus 83.33% for non-AWA states)
- More likely to have lost a job (61.86% for AWA state versus 54.61 for non-AWA states)
- More likely to be harassed on the job (53.57% for AWA states versus 47.66% for non-AWA states)
- More likely to rely on public assistance (57.43% for AWA states versus 50% for non-AWA states)

Those living in non-AWA states were...

- More likely to have been registering for longer than 10 years (46.75% for non-AWA states compared to 39.19% for AWA states)
- More likely to have experienced homelessness (29.22% for non-AWA states compared to 21.52% for AWA states)
- More likely to have an anti-registry movement activist (55.84% for non-AWA states compared to 48.3% in AWA states)

NONE of the other results are statistically significant.

The negative impact of living in an AWA-compliant state has largely been confirmed by this survey. Registered citizens living in AWA states are more likely to be currently homeless, be out of the labor force, have been denied unemployment, have lost a job, have endured harassment, and have accepted public assistance than registrants living in non-AWA states. Registrants living in non-AWA states were more likely to have been on the registry over 10 years, identify as an anti-registry activist, and (perhaps most surprisingly) MORE likely to have experienced homelessness at some point. Without a doubt, registrants are more likely to report positive job experiences in non-AWA states than in AWA states.

Full Statistical results are available in Appendix B.

SECTION 2—States that list registrant employer info publicly versus states that do not publicly list employer info

As of February 2016, 29 states do not list employer information publicly; Pennsylvania and West Virginia lists employer city, county and zip code; Alabama lists employer city and occupation; Hawaii and Nevada lists employer street name and zip code; Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, Ohio, South Carolina, and Tennessee publicly disclose the employer's address; finally, Alaska, Delaware, Indiana, Maine, New Mexico, and Virginia list employer name and address. It is hypothesized that individuals in states that list employer info publicly are likely more likely to experience adverse employment-related issues (particularly harassment or denial/termination of employment) than in states where employer info is absent from the public registry.

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Of the 302 respondents to the question of state residency, 179 (59.27%) live in the 29 states that do not list employer info publicly, while 123 (40.73%) live in the 21 states posting some form of public information on the public registry.

States that publicly list employer info and states that do not publicly disclose employer info were compared in 15 categories -- Owns home, currently homeless, lives in small town/ rural area, Is classified a Tier 3/ High risk, unemployed/ not in labor force (incl. disabled/ retired), has full time employment, lives in poverty, earned over \$50,000 last year, ever denied a job, ever lost a job, ever denied a job, ever harassed on the job, ever relied on public assistance, has ever experienced homelessness while registered, and number of respondents who consider themselves to be activists in the anti-registry movement.

Those living in states listing employer information publicly are...

- Far more likely to live in a rural area or small town (39.02% of those living in states listing employer versus 20.9% in states that do not list employer info publicly)
- Far more likely to be unemployed/ disabled/ retired or otherwise not in the labor force (52.85% of those living in states listing employer versus 34.64% in states that do not list employer info publicly)

Those living in states NOT listing employer information publicly are...

- More likely to have full-time employment (35.75% of those living in states not listing employer versus 26.83% in states listing employer info publicly)
- More likely to have experienced homelessness (27.68% of those living in states not listing employer versus 22.31% in states listing employer info publicly)

NONE of the other results are statistically significant.

This survey shows that publicly listing employer information has a significant negative impact on the employability of registered citizens. Registered citizens in states that list employer info on public registries are far more likely to be out of the labor force or unemployed and living in rural areas, but less likely to have a full time job or have experienced homelessness than those living in states not publicly listing employer information.

Full Statistical results are available in Appendix C.

SECTION 3 -- Rural (less than 10,000 people) vs Towns/ Urban Areas (10,000+ people)

A total of 303 responded to the question regarding the population of the area of residence; 85 (28.1%) reside either in rural areas or small towns (population less than 10,000); 218 (71.9%) reside in larger towns and urban environments. The common belief is that while urban environments may have more proximity restrictions and other debilitating laws, they are also more likely to have programs, jobs, and housing than rural areas.

Those living in rural areas and those living in more urban areas were compared in 14 categories -- Owns home, currently homeless, Is classified a Tier 3/ High risk, unemployed/ not in labor force (incl. disabled/ retired), has full time employment, lives in poverty, earned over \$50,000 last year, ever denied a job, ever lost a job, ever denied a job, ever harassed on the job, ever relied on public assistance, has ever experienced homelessness while registered, and number of respondents who consider themselves to be activists in the anti-registry movement.

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Those living in rural areas or towns with populations below 10,000 people are...

- More likely to own their own home (41.48% of rural registrants versus 29.95% of urban registrants)
- More likely to be classified as a Tier 3/ “High Risk” (25.3% of rural registrants versus 18.14% of urban registrants)
- More likely to be unemployed/ retired/ disabled/ not in the labor force (50.59% of rural registrants versus 38.7% of urban registrants)
- More likely to have been denied employment (93.67% of rural registrants versus 85.71% of urban registrants)
- More likely to have lost a job (61.64% of rural registrants versus 56.5% of urban registrants)
- More likely to have relied on public assistance (60% of rural registrants versus 50.69% of urban registrants)

Those living in large towns or urban areas (locations with more than 10,000 residents) are...

- More likely to identify as an anti-registry movement activist (54.63% of urban registrants versus 47.06% of rural registrants)
- More likely to have been on the registry for over 10 years (45.41% of urban registrants versus 37.65% of rural registrants)

NONE of the other results are statistically significant.

This study confirms the hypothesis that living in a rural area places more of a financial burden than living in an urban area. Furthermore, the higher number of registrants placed in the “Tier 3” or high risk” category living in rural areas is likely the result of residency restriction laws or similar laws (like Alabama’s 2000 foot work proximity restriction).

Full Statistical results are available in Appendix D.

SECTION 4 – Breakdown of Responses by Tier Level

Breaking down the responses by tier level is a difficult task due to the complexities of registration laws across the US, as explained in the discussion of question 9.

Respondents were categorized by the four responses to question 9 (Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3 or higher, or no tiers) were compared in 14 categories -- Owns home, currently homeless, lives in small town/rural area, unemployed/ not in labor force (incl. disabled/ retired), has full time employment, lives in poverty, earned over \$50,000 last year, ever denied a job, ever lost a job, ever denied a job, ever harassed on the job, ever relied on public assistance, has ever experienced homelessness while registered, and number of respondents who consider themselves to be activists in the anti-registry movement. A total of 99 respondents were considered Tier 1/ low risk, 44 were considered Tier 2/ medium risk, 60 were considered Tier 3/ high risk, and 107 stated they live in states lacking a formal tier or classification system. It is hypothesized that registrants given the highest tier designation (or the equivalent but derogatory and scary designation of “predator”) are more likely to experience unique hardships as the result of the increased fear that accompanies the label of “high risk” or “predator.”

Because of the relatively small number of Tier 2s compared to the other groups, the 5% statistical significance standard is not used here. The analysis for this section will compare the categories with the highest and lowest rates for each category.

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1. Homeowners:
 - a. Highest: Tier 1 (37.78%)
 - b. Lowest: Tier 2 (22.73%)
2. Currently Homeless:
 - a. Highest: Tier 2 (9.09%)
 - b. Lowest: Tier 3 (1.67%)
3. Living in rural areas/ pop < 10k
 - a. Highest: Tier 3 (35%)
 - b. Lowest: Tier 2 (25%)
4. On registry 10+ years
 - a. Highest: No Tiers (51.4%)
 - b. Lowest: Tier 1 (35.56%)
5. Unemployed/ Not in labor force
 - a. Highest: Tier 3 (45%)
 - b. Lowest: Tier 2 (40.91%)
6. Full Time Jobs
 - a. Highest: Tier 2 (34.09%)
 - b. Lowest: Tier 3 (28.33%)
7. Lives in poverty
 - a. Highest: No Tiers (33.33%)
 - b. Lowest: Tier 3 (29.31%)
8. Made \$50k+
 - a. Highest: Tier 3 (20%)
 - b. Lowest: Tier 1 (11.27%)
9. Denied a job
 - a. Highest: Tier 3 (92.85%)
 - b. Lowest: Tier 2 (83.33%)
10. Lost a job
 - a. Highest: Tier 1 (62.5%)
 - b. Lowest: Tier 2 (60%)
11. Harassed on job
 - a. Highest: No Tier (54.22%)
 - b. Lowest: Tier 3 (46%)
12. On Welfare
 - a. Highest: Tier 3 (62.26%)
 - b. Lowest: No Tier (51.89%)
13. Ever been homeless
 - a. Highest: Tier 2 (32.56%)
 - b. Lowest: Tier 1 (21.42%)
14. Is an activist
 - a. Highest: Tier 3 (60%)
 - b. Lowest: Tier 2 (51.56%)

In most categories, the parity between the various categories was minimal. People classified as Tier 3s were most likely to report being unemployed/ not in the labor force, living in a rural area, making over \$50,000 last year, being denied a job, being on welfare at some point, and identifying as an anti-registrant activist, but least likely to report being homeless, having a full time job, living in poverty, and being harassed on the job. Those classified as Tier 2s were most likely to report being homeless, having a full-time job, and have experienced homelessness at some point, but least likely to report being a homeowner, living in a rural area, being unemployed/ not in labor force, denied a job, lost a job, or identify as an anti-registry activist. Those classified as Tier 1s were most likely to report being a homeowner and losing a job, but least likely to report being on the registry over 10 years, making \$50,000+ last year, or experiencing homelessness. Those living in states lacking any formal tier system were most likely to report being on the registry over 10 years, living in poverty, being harassed on the job while being the least likely to report being on welfare.

(One caveat here regarding the Tier 2 homeless rate—only 10 respondents to this survey reported being homeless at the time the survey was taken. Of those, four were Tier 2s, and the number of Tier 2s in this survey was of a smaller number than the other Tiers (or no tiers) in this survey. The extremely high number of homeless Tier 2s reflects more reporting of homelessness by Tier 2s in a smaller group, thus influencing the percentage to a greater degree than in the other categories. Perhaps a future study could examine the impact of the tier system of homelessness of registrants.)

Based on these results, there is some evidence that being categorized as a Tier 3 or equivalent label brings more negative consequences than people classified on lower levels, most notably being more unemployed, being on welfare more often, being denied employment more often, or least likely to have a full-time job. Interestingly, states without a tier system are most likely to report living in poverty, yet are least likely to report relying on public assistance. Tier 1s are least likely to report being on the registry over 10 years, which is likely because in many states, lower levels are able to be removed from the registry. (Nine respondents to this survey reported they were no longer required to register.

Full Statistical results are available in Appendix E.

CONCLUSION

This study confirms many of the beliefs both the general public and registered citizens alike have suspected about the impact of the public registry on the employability of registered citizens, namely, the registry is an affirmative restraint on the ability of registered citizens to obtain and maintain gainful employment. Furthermore, the registry also places an affirmative restraint on the housing stability of registered citizens. Registrants living in “Adam Walsh Act compliant” states are more likely to be currently homeless, be out of the labor force, denied employment, lost a job, endured harassment, and accepted public assistance than states that have failed to adopt this controversial federal law. Registered citizens in states that list employer info on public registries are far more likely to be out of the labor force or unemployed and living in rural areas, but less likely to have a full time job (but also less likely to experience homelessness) than those living in states not publicly listing employer information.

Individuals classified as a “High Risk/ Tier 3” or “predator” are more likely to face numerous hardships, most notably being more unemployed, being on welfare more often, being denied employment more often, or least likely to have a full-time job. In addition, Tier 3s are more likely to be forced to live in rural areas, where registrants are more likely to be unemployed/ retired/ disabled/ not in the labor force, denied employment, experience job loss, and relying on public assistance. Registered citizens can also expect to take longer to find a job than the average citizen. Registrants can also expect a higher level of instability than the average citizen as well as a higher probability of facing harassment or bullying on the job.

In general, registered citizens are less likely than the average citizen to own their own homes, be employed full-time, be employed in general, earn a wage above \$50,000 per year, and be married or have kids of their own, but more likely to live below the poverty line, suffer periods of long-term employment, be a “contingent worker” (i.e., contract, seasonal, or self-employment), rely on welfare, and experience homelessness, despite being more likely to have at least a two-year degree. Despite being more likely than the average citizen to have a college degree, none of the top five job categories for registered citizens (Unskilled Manual Labor, Skilled Labor/ Trades, Retail/ Sales jobs, Manufacturing & Restaurant Jobs) are jobs primarily filled by individuals with college degrees (although some trades require education and training beyond a high school level).

While the results are mostly depressing, there is some useful knowledge to glean from the survey results. While registrants are less likely to find a job making over \$50,000 per year, one in ten respondents held a job making more than \$50,000 a year. The types of jobs held by registered citizens are quite diverse; only one of 26 job categories (insurance jobs) was not selected by any registered citizen. Registered citizens are more likely to be self-employed or work for contractors than the general population, and are more likely to find work through small businesses than “franchise businesses” like Wal-Mart or McDonald’s. In addition, registrants have been able to find ways to supplement their incomes, such as selling plasma, taking used items to flea markets, selling items online, or even running their own non-profits/ ministries. Some have reported selling their services below the prevailing rate to drum up business. Registered citizens may have to find unique strategies to market themselves in today’s competitive job market and accept the possibility of accepting work they are overqualified to do.

There were a few issues raised by this survey that hopefully inspires other researchers to replicate (or improve upon) this existing research. This survey failed to address race as a potential factor affecting employability. Some questions could have been more properly aligned with the statistics collected by the US Census Bureau or the Bureau of Labor Statistics. A future study from a larger organization with

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greater resources may be able to attract more survey-takers and hopefully re-evaluate the effect of the tier system on registered citizens.

Researchers seeking to study registrants have expressed concerns that recruiting potential subjects from registrant organizations may influence results; the results of this study suggests those fears are largely unfounded. While registrant activists reported being more likely to have been on the registry for more than 10 years, be more likely to carry a higher registry status, and have experienced homelessness, they are more likely to obtain and maintain gainful employment, own their own homes, and live in urban environments than non-registrant activists. The evidence suggests that those choosing to identify as registrant activists have endured a wider variety of experiences as the result of enduring years on the registry, but many have learned to adapt somewhat to the hardship. Ultimately, there is little to suggest that anti-registry activists would alter results on studies conducted on registered citizens in general.

Making the registry public has created a substantial economic hardship on registered citizens; listing employer information on this public list creates a direct negative impact on employment; the Adam Walsh Act has the most devastating impact on both employment and housing. Removing employer information from the public registry is a decent start because it would increase the employability of registered citizens. Rejecting the Adam Walsh Act is beneficial in many ways, particularly in terms of welfare dependence, employability, and housing stability. However, removing the registry from public disclosure would have the greatest positive impact on registrant housing and employment instability.

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Appendix A: Activists vs Non-Activists

ACTIVIST STATUS	Number/total NO-- 146	% NO	Number/total YES--158	% YES
Owens Home	44 of 146	30.14	57 of 158	36.08*
Currently homeless	6 of 146	4.11	4 of 158	2.53
Lives in small town/ rural	45 of 143	31.47*	40 of 158	25.32
Is a Tier 3/ "High Risk"	24 of 143	16.78	36 of 156	23.08*
On registry over 10 years	58 of 146	39.73	73 of 158	46.2*
Unemployed/ Not in labor force	66 of 146	45.2*	63 of 158	39.88
Has full time job(s)	49 of 146	33.6	48 of 158	30.38
Lives in poverty	46 of 142	32.39	48 of 156	30.77
Earned \$50,000+ last yr^	14 of 107	13.08	20 of 157	12.74
Ever denied a job^	123 of 135	91.11*	124 of 145	85.52
Ever lost a job^	69 of 115	60	75 of 134	55.97
Harassed on the job^	55 of 111	49.55	66 of 129	51.16
Relied on public assistance	78 of 146	53.42	83 of 158	52.53
Was ever homeless	29 of 139	20.86	48 of 155	30.97*

*Statistically significant

^Numbers adjusted to remove "Not Applicable" responses

Appendix B: AWA States vs Non-AWA States

AWA States (17) vs Non-AWA States (33)	Number/total AWA— 148	% AWA	Number/total Non-AWA – 154	% Non
Owns Home	52 of 148	35.14	48 of 154	31.17
Currently homeless	6 of 148	4.05	4 of 154	2.6
Lives in small town/ rural	40 of 148	27.03	45 of 154	29.22
Is a Tier 3/ “High Risk”	26 of 146	17.81	34 of 151	22.52
On registry over 10 years	58 of 148	39.19	72 of 154	46.75*
Unemployed/ Not in labor force	71 of 148	47.97*	56 of 154	36.36
Has full time job(s)	43 of 148	29.05	51 of 154	33.12
Lives in poverty	44 of 145	30.34	48 of 152	31.58
Earned \$50,000+ last yr [^]	13 of 103	12.62	20 of 121	16.53
Ever denied a job [^]	127 of 141	90.01*	120 of 144	83.33
Ever lost a job [^]	73 of 118	61.86*	71 of 130	54.61
Harassed on the job [^]	60 of 112	53.57*	61 of 128	47.66
Relied on public assistance	85 of 143	57.43*	77 of 154	50
Was ever homeless	31 of 144	21.52	45 of 153	29.22*
Activist Status	71 of 147	48.3	86 of 154	55.84

*Statistically significant

[^]Numbers adjusted to remove “Not Applicable” responses

Appendix C: States Listing Employer Info vs States Not Listing Info

States listing employer info publicly (21) vs states that do not (29)	Number/total YES – 123	% Yes	Number/total NO – 179	% No
Owens Home	42 of 123	34.15	58 of 179	32.4
Currently homeless	5 of 123	4.07	5 of 179	2.79
Lives in small town/ rural	48 of 123	39.02*	37 of 177	20.9
Is a Tier 3/ “High Risk”	27 of 121	22.31	34 of 176	19.32
On registry over 10 years	51 of 123	41.46	79 of 179	44.13
Unemployed/ Not in labor force	65 of 123	52.85*	62 of 179	34.64
Has full time job(s)	33 of 123	26.83	64 of 179	35.75*
Lives in poverty	37 of 121	30.58	55 of 175	31.43
Earned \$50,000+ last yr^	15 of 85	17.6	20 of 139	14.39
Ever denied a job^	100 of 115	86.96	147 of 167	88.02
Ever lost a job^	61 of 99	61.62	93 of 149	62.42
Harassed on the job^	49 of 94	52.13	72 of 146	49.32
Relied on public assistance	69 of 123	56.1	93 of 176	52.84
Was ever homeless	27 of 121	22.31	119 of 177	27.68*
Activist Status (Answer Yes)	69 of 122	56.56	104 of 179	58.1

*Statistically significant

^Numbers adjusted to remove “Not Applicable” responses

Appendix D: Rural vs Urban Dwellers

Rural vs Urban Resident	Number/total RURAL--85	% R	Number/total URBAN--218	% U
Owens Home	35 of 85	41.18*	65 of 217	29.95
Currently homeless	3 of 85	3.53	7 of 217	3.23
Is a Tier 3/ "High Risk"	21 of 83	25.3*	39 of 215	18.14
On registry over 10 years	32 of 85	37.65	99 of 218	45.41*
Unemployed/ Not in labor force	43 of 85	50.59*	84 of 217	38.7
Has full time job(s)	28 of 85	32.94	65 of 217	29.95
Lives in poverty	28 of 83	33.73	65 of 213	30.52
Earned \$50,000+ last yr^	8 of 56	14.29	26 of 215	12.09
Ever denied a job^	74 of 79	93.67*	174 of 203	85.71
Ever lost a job^	45 of 73	61.64*	100 of 177	56.5
Harassed on the job^	38 of 71	53.52	83 of 169	49.11
Relied on public assistance	51 of 85	60*	110 of 217	50.69
Was ever homeless	23 of 85	27.06	54 of 209	25.84
Activist Status (Answer Yes)	40 of 85	47.06	118 of 216	54.63*

*Statistically significant

^Numbers adjusted to remove "Not Applicable" responses

Appendix E: Results by reported tier levels

Tier Levels	Number /total Tier 1 (90)	% T1	Number /Total Tier 2 (44)	% T2	Number/ total Tier 3 (60)	% T3	Number/ Total No Tier (107)	% NT
Owens Home	34 of 90	37.78*	10 of 44	22.73!	20 of 60	33.33	36 of 106	33.96
Currently homeless	3 of 90	3.33	4 of 44	9.09*	1 of 60	1.67!	2 of 106	1.89
Lives in small town/ rural	22 of 88	25!	13 of 44	29.55	21 of 60	35*	27 of 106	25.47
On registry over 10 years	32 of 90	35.56!	18 of 44	40.91	23 of 60	38.33	55 of 107	51.4*
Unemployed/ Not in labor force	39 of 90	43.33	18 of 44	40.91!	27 of 60	45*	44 of 106	41.5
Has full time job(s)	29 of 90	32.22	15 of 44	34.09*	17 of 60	28.33!	33 of 106	31.13
Lives in poverty	28 of 87	32.18	14 of 44	31.82	17 of 58	29.31!	35 of 105	33.33*
Earned \$50,000+ last yr^	8 of 71	11.27!	5 of 37	13.51	8 of 40	20*	12 of 75	16
Ever denied a job^	72 of 80	90	35 of 42	83.33!	52 of 56	92.85*	86 of 101	85.14
Ever lost a job^	45 of 72	62.5*	17 of 34	50!	31 of 50	62	49 of 90	54.44
Harassed on the job^	34 of 70	48.57	18 of 34	52.94	23 of 50	46!	45 of 83	54.22*
Relied on public assistance	47 of 90	52.22	25 of 44	56.82	33 of 53	62.26*	55 of 106	51.89!
Was ever homeless	18 of 84	21.42!	14 of 43	32.56*	18 of 59	30.51	25 of 105	23.81
Activist Status (Answer Yes)	42 of 90	53.33	22 of 43	51.16!	36 of 60	60*	56 of 106	52.83

* Highest Rate

! Lowest Rate

^Numbers adjusted to remove “Not Applicable” responses