

**Evidence-Based Electronic Monitoring of Sex
Offenders: Technology, Evidence, and
Implications for Community Supervision**

American Probation and Parole Association

Evidence-Based Electronic Monitoring of Sex Offenders: Technology, Evidence, and Implications for Community Supervision

- **Technology**
 - Rapidly Evolving
 - Legislation = Active GPS
- **Technology offers 1 more TOOL**
 - Combined with others
 - Means to End = Structured Containment
 - Not the End
- **Provide WINDOW into Offender's Life**
- **Many electronic tools for SO**

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- **Technology**
 - Radio Frequency
 - Location Tracking
 - Computer Monitoring and Forensics
 - Crime and GPS Data Integration
 - Polygraph
 - Others

Radio Frequency: Martha Stewart's Model



Radio Frequency



Radio Frequency

- Home Arrest
- Curfew Monitoring
- Judge Love (Albuquerque, NM)
- 1983
 - By 1990 in 50 States
 - Several Countries
- Repairs
- False Positives of Violations
- Drive-by Units
- Random Calling
 - Identity Verification
 - Slow scan photos
 - Electronic voice analysis
 - Remote Alcohol Detection (late 1980s)

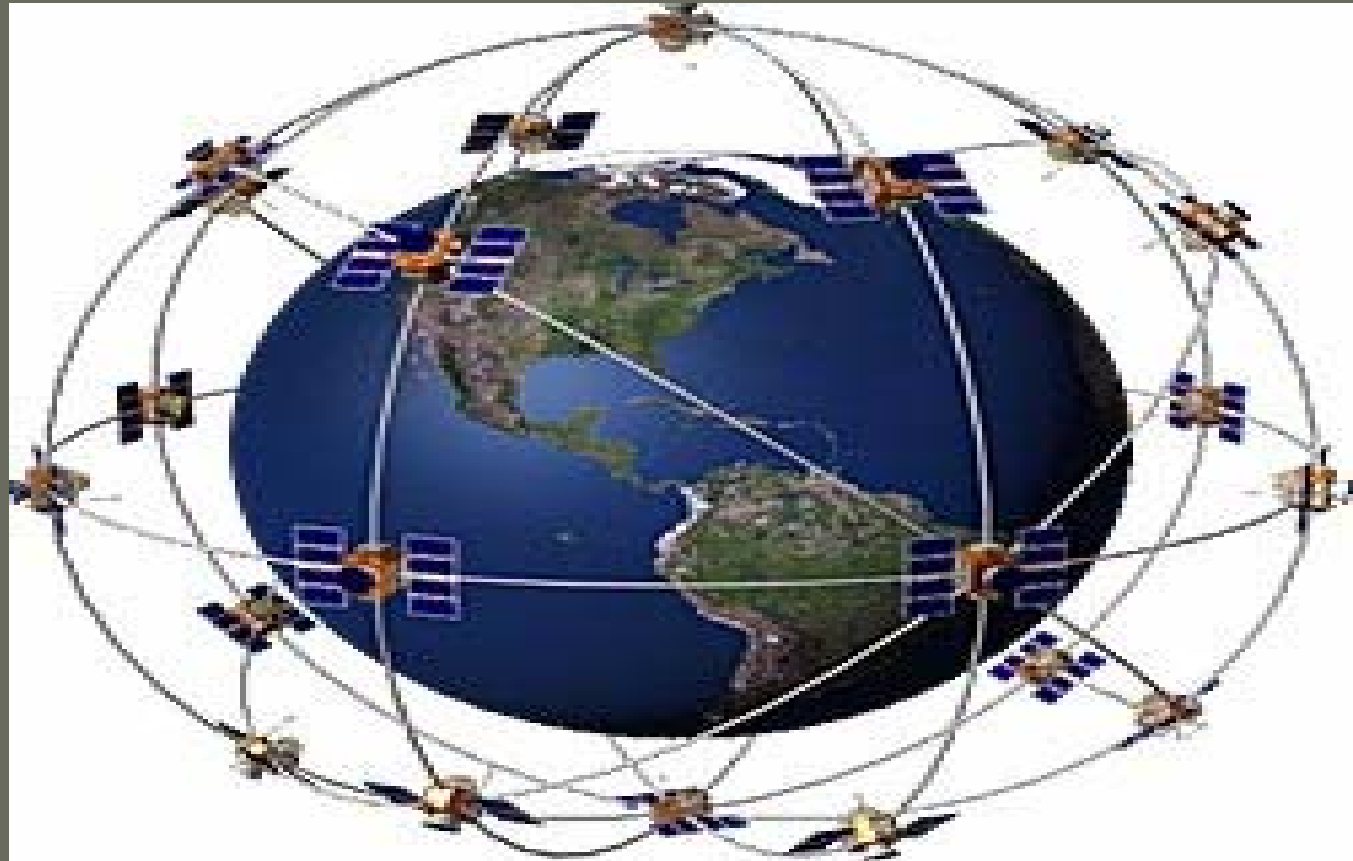
Location Tracking



Location Tracking

- Late 1990s
- Cellular Technology
- 24 Satellites
- U.S. Department of Defense
- Active and Passive
- Exclusion Zones
- Workload Differences
- Liability
- Legislation
- Electronic Alibi

Location Tracking



Where's the Evidence

- Does EM Work?
- Does EM reduce Recidivism?
- Does EM improve case management?
- How do we know?

Where's the Evidence

- Little Research
 - Weak Methodologies
- Mixed Results
 - Better for some populations
 - Differences across types of Offenders
- What is purpose of EM
 - Punishment?
 - Accountability?
 - Behavior Change?
- Not a FIX
 - EM does not replace OFFICER
 - ONE Tool
 - Incorporated with other TOOLS
 - Create Highly structured CONTAINMENT

EVIDENCE

- Finn and Muirhead Steves (2002)
 - High-risk Male Parolees
 - EM no-impact after 4-YEARS
 - Sex Offenders on EM
 - Less likely to return to prison
 - Longer Survival in community

EVIDENCE

- Bonta, Wallace-Capretta, & Rooney (2000)
 - EM + Treatment
 - LOWER recidivism for high-risk
 - No effect on lower risk
 - Match Offender to Interventions
 - Low-risk in High-risk setting
 - More recidivism

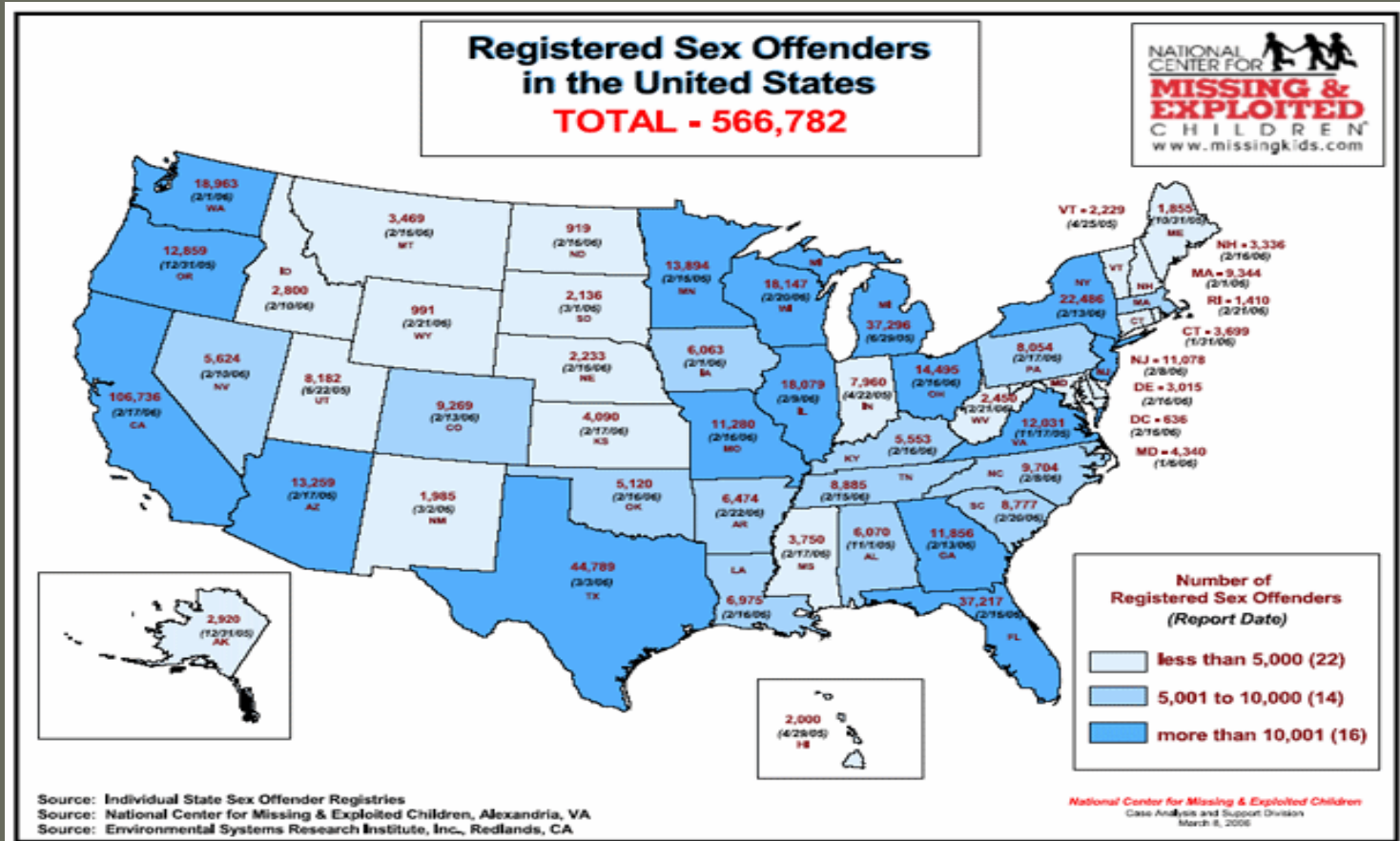
EVIDENCE

- Padgett, Bales, & Blomberg
 - 75, 661 (RF and GPS)
- EM of offenders in the community may prove an effective public safety alternative to prison.

EVIDENCE

- **Revocation for technical violation**
 - RF = 95.7% less likely
 - GPS = 90.2% less likely
 - SO = slightly less likely
- **Absconding**
 - RF = 91.2% less likely
 - GPS = 90.2% less likely
 - SO = 42% less likely
- **Revocation for New Crime**
 - RF = 95% less likely
 - GPS = 95% less likely
 - SO = 44.8% less likely

IMPLICATIONS



IMPLICATIONS

- Consider Workload
 - Repairs and Malfunctions
 - Responding to Alerts
- Consider Liability
 - Active GPS
 - Constant Information
 - Must Process Information
- Consider Offender Type
 - Location Tracking = High-Risk SO
 - Curfew Monitoring = Lower-Risk Offenders
- Consider Cost
 - RF = \$1.97
 - Active GPS = \$8.97
 - Prison = \$51.22

IMPLICATIONS

- Improve Performance
 - Short-term Management
 - Treatment completion
- No Behavior Change
 - Lack Long-term
 - Lack Cognitive-Behavioral Adjustment
- Integrate TOOLS
 - Not a Panacea
 - Highly Structured = External Control
 - Containment of Offender's life
 - Overall Strategy of ACCOUNTABILITY
- Legislation
 - Mandating Active GPS

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