

# ***ACCOUNTABILITY***

## ***AFRESH:***

### **Reimagining Our Responses to & Shifting the Narrative Around Child Sexual Harm**

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CALCASA Conference 2017

Sacramento, CA

August 2017

# VIRGINIA WITT

•Communications Director

## IMPACT JUSTICE

A national innovation and research center

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[@NicoleNPittma](https://twitter.com/NicoleNPittma)

**IMPACT JUSTICE**  
CENTER *on* YOUTH  
REGISTRATION REFORM

# BOBBY GARZA

Bobby, age eight.

Two years before his arrest for indecent exposure.



# BOBBY GARZA

Bobby, age 31.

In prison in July, 2015.



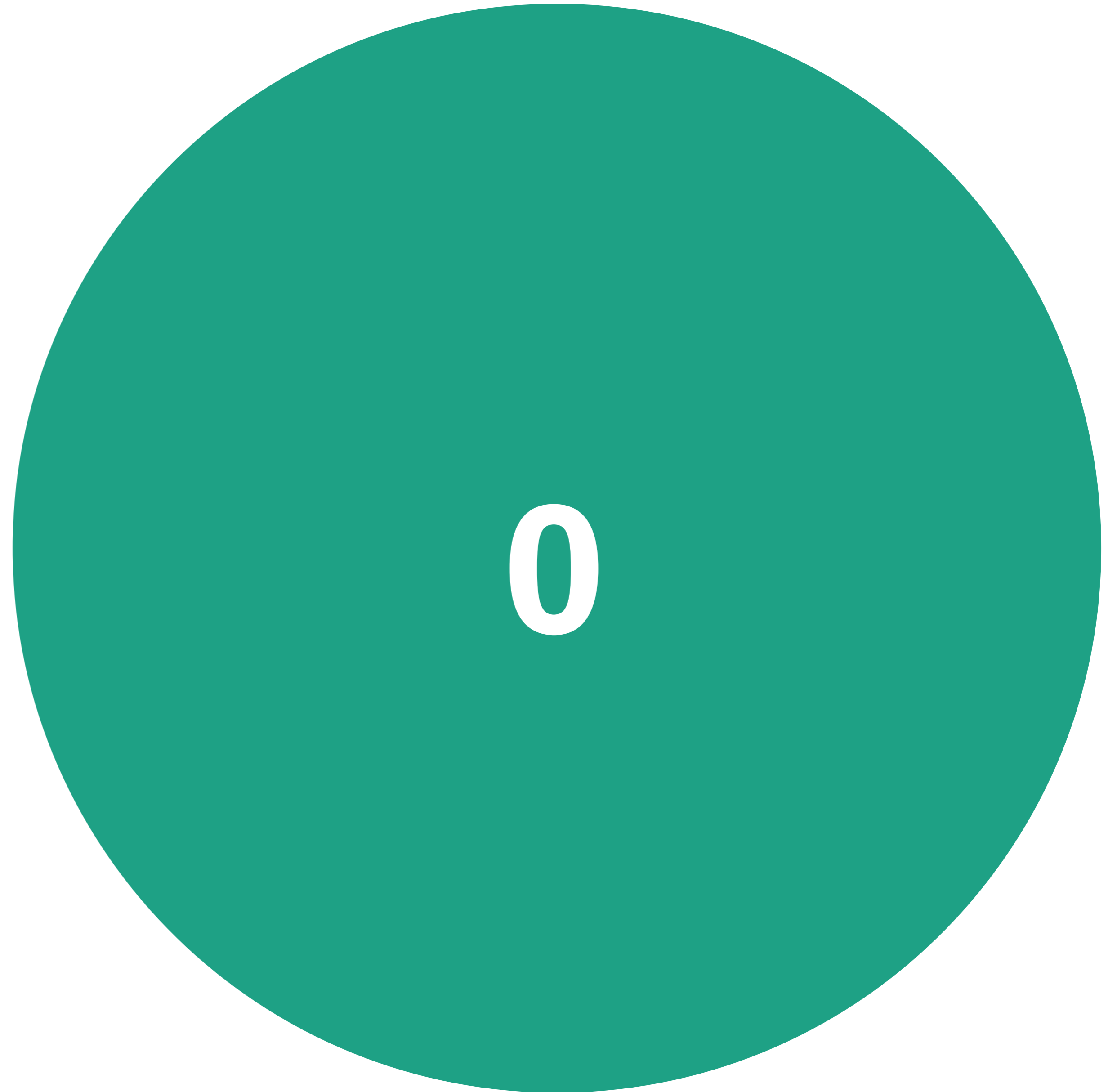
Photograph by Eric Berkowitz

**CURRENT  
NUMBER OF  
PEOPLE ON  
REGISTRIES IN  
THE U.S.**



**900,000**

**NUMBER OF  
STUDIES WITHIN  
THE PAST TWO  
DECADES  
SHOWING YOUTH  
REGISTRATION IS  
EFFECTIVE**



**RATE OF  
RECIDIVISM  
AMONG YOUTH  
WHO COMMIT  
SEXUAL HARM**



**2.75%**



**ANNUAL COST  
OF YOUTH  
REGISTRATION  
PRACTICES**



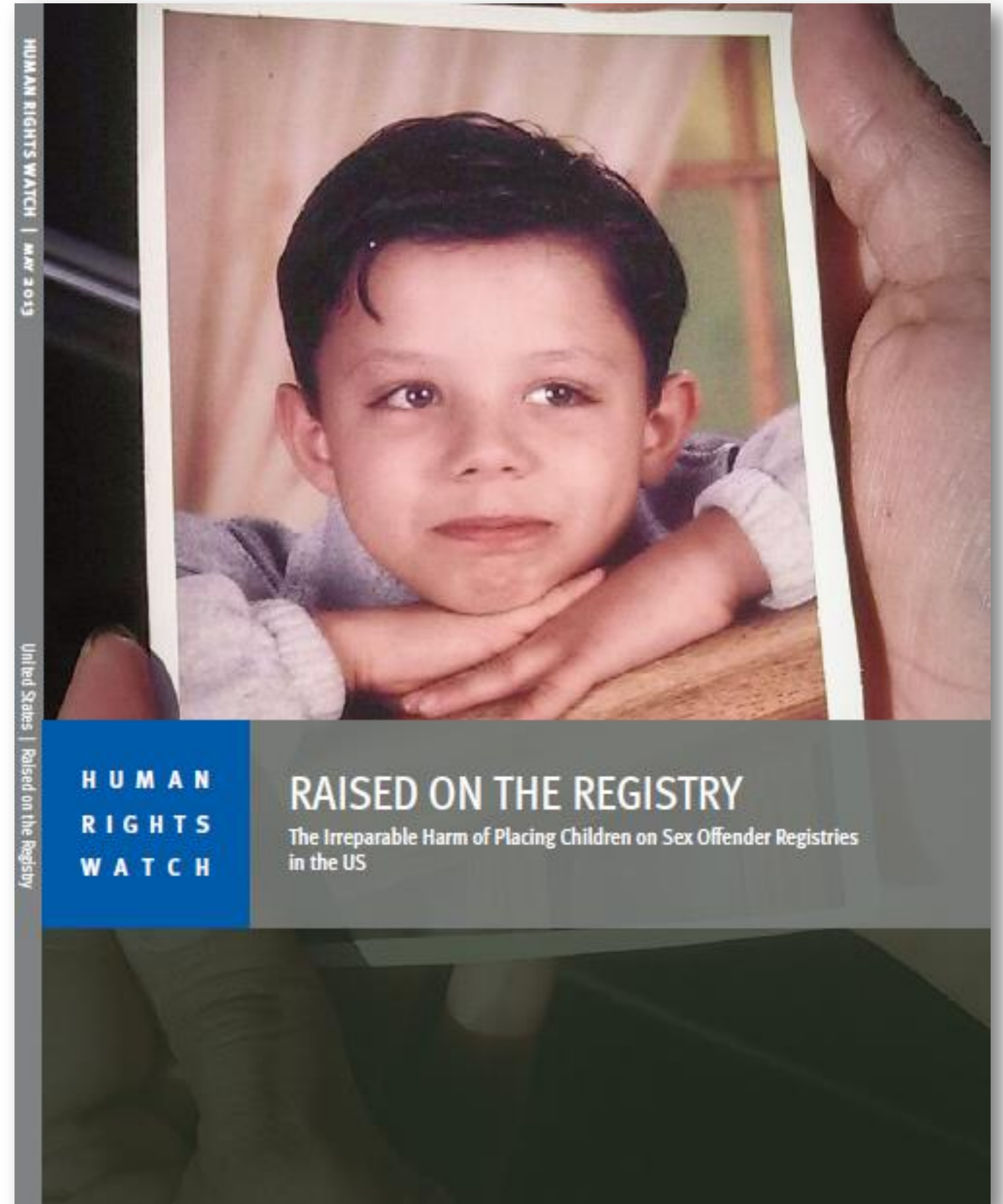
**\$3 BILLION**

# RAISED ON THE REGISTRY

The Irreparable Harm of Placing Children on  
Sex Offender Registries in the U.S.

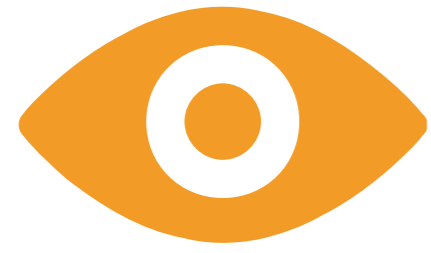
*Nicole Pittman, 2013*

HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
WATCH



# IMPACTS OF YOUTH REGISTRATION

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## PSYCHOLOGICAL HARM

Stigmatization, isolation, depression, suicide.



## EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE

Vigilante violence; harassment and threats.



## FAMILY HARM

Forced separation; children of registrants.



## BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT

Professional licenses and certifications.



## BARRIERS TO EDUCATION

Barred from attending schools.



## HOUSING INSTABILITY

Restrictions on movement; homelessness.



## ECONOMIC ISSUES

Fees and costs of registration.



## CYCLES OF INCARCERATION

Lifetime involvement with criminal justice system



“

**A child on the registry is a family on the registry, and often a victim on the registry.**

”

**YOUTH  
IDENTIFIED AS  
*VICTIMS* IN THE  
CHILD WELFARE  
SYSTEM IN THE  
YEAR BEFORE  
THEIR OFFENCE**



**100%**

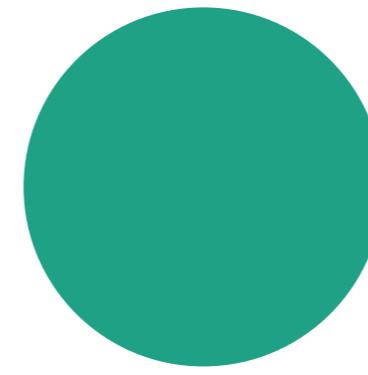
# SOLUTIONS

“ The question is no longer whether we have gone too far – that point has passed long ago. The question is when and how we will find our way out. ”

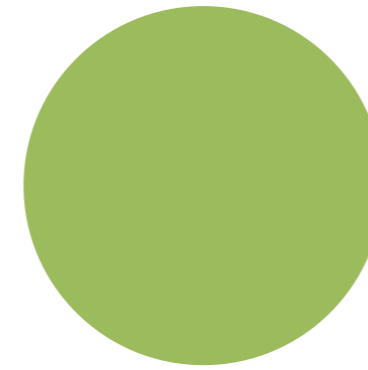
*Dr. Mark Chaffin*

# CENTER ON YOUTH REGISTRATION REFORM *at Impact Justice*

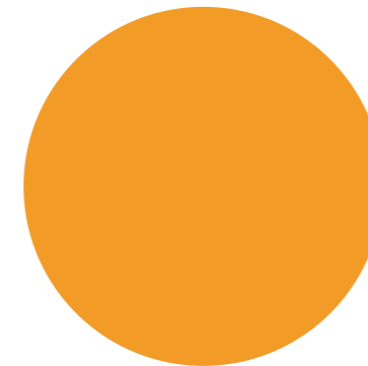
First and only national  
center dedicated to  
eliminating the practice of  
placing children on sex  
offense registries



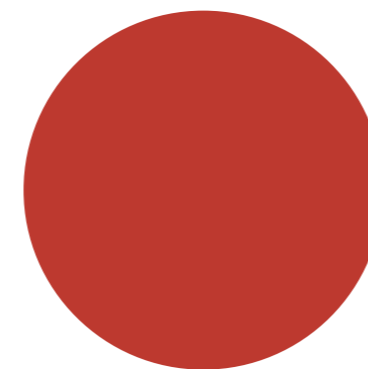
**EDUCATING LAWMAKERS**



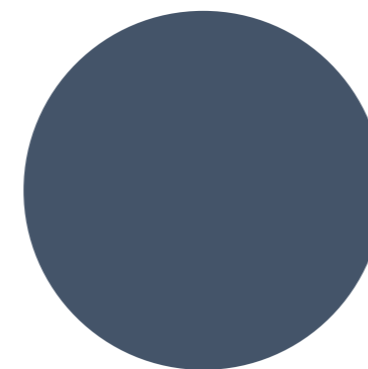
**ORGANIZING AND COALITION BUILDING**



**RESOURCE CENTER**



**ELEVATING THE VOICES OF THE IMPACTED**



**SHIFTING THE NARRATIVE**

# ENGAGING HEARTS & MINDS



Ending youth registration is a piece of the larger movement to reach beyond punitive responses and toward lasting child sexual abuse prevention and healing.

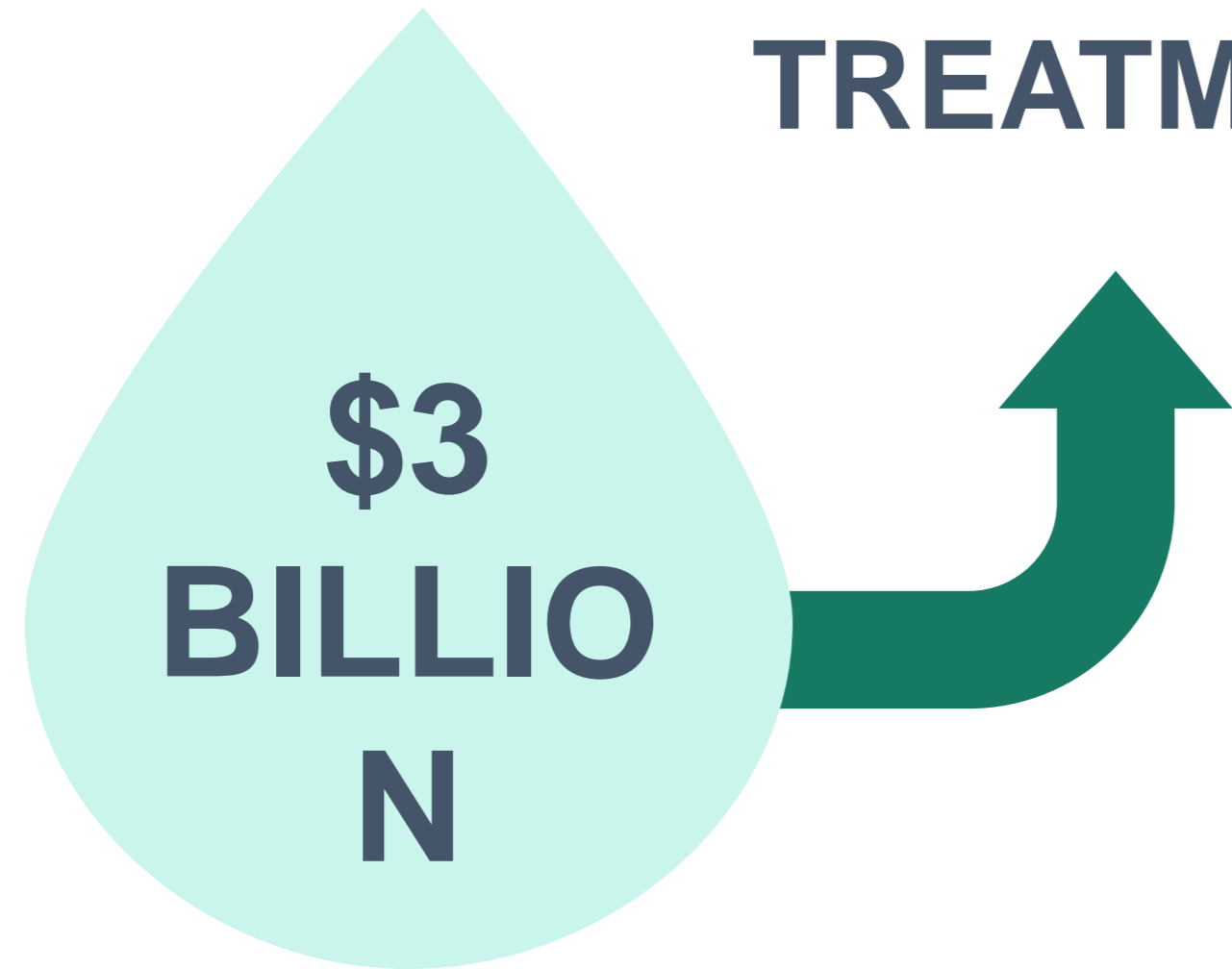
- **Reinvest** in prevention, intervention, and treatment
- **Shift the narrative** and change the language
- **Legislation** to end registration
- Build **coalitions**





# REALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

**PREVENTION  
INTERVENTION  
TREATMENT**



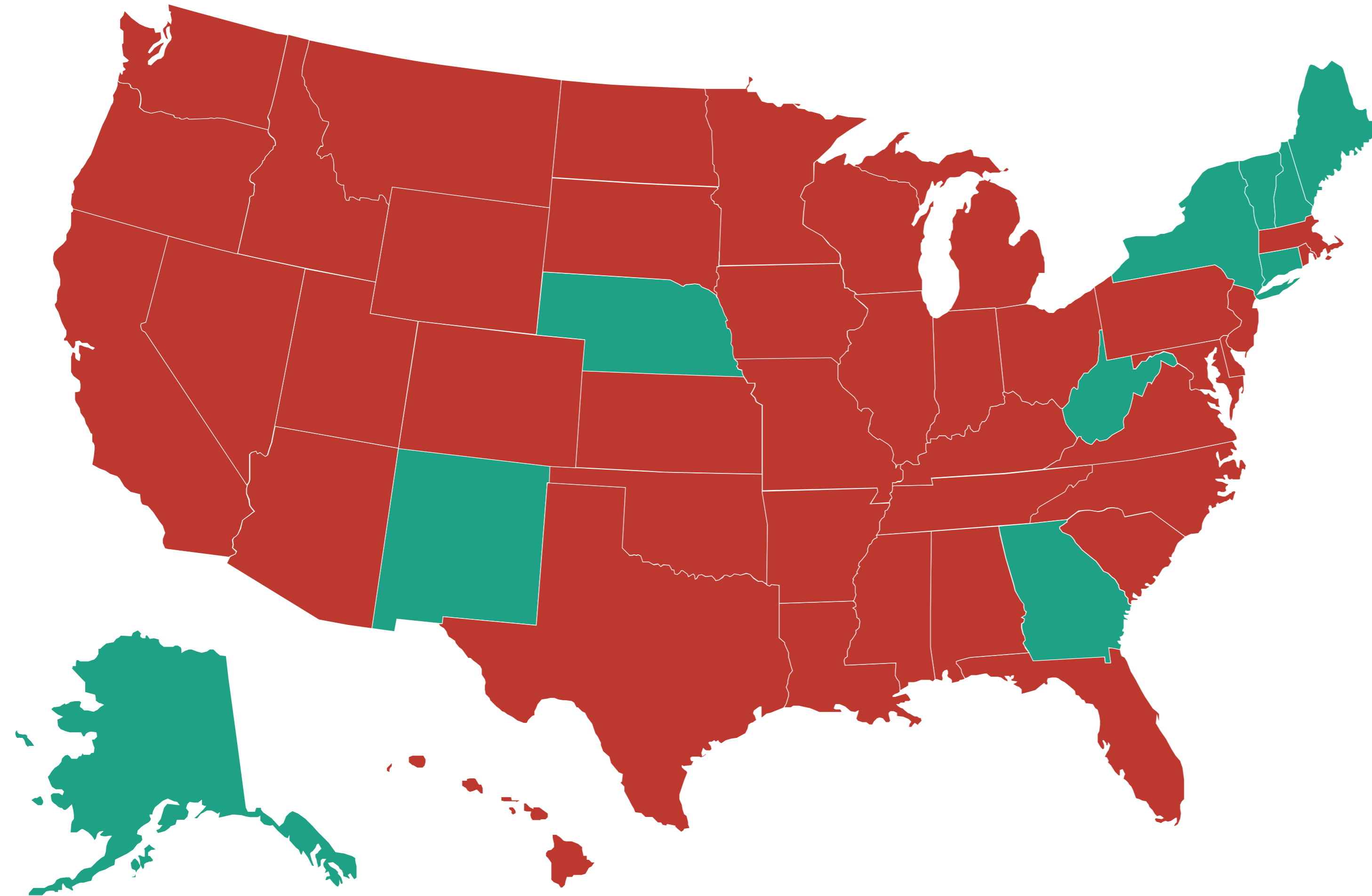
Ending youth registration frees \$3 billion to be redistributed across programs that work to end cycles of sexual harm.

Current youth registration practices are ineffective, expensive and harmful to community safety.



Eliminating the practice of labeling children as sex offenders allows us to reinvest in our youth, support victims and survivors of sexual harm, and enhances community safety.

# UNITED STATES

## Youth Registration Practices



In 40 states, children charged in juvenile court with sexual offenses can be subject to sex offender registration and notification restrictions.

-  Non-Registration State
-  Registration State



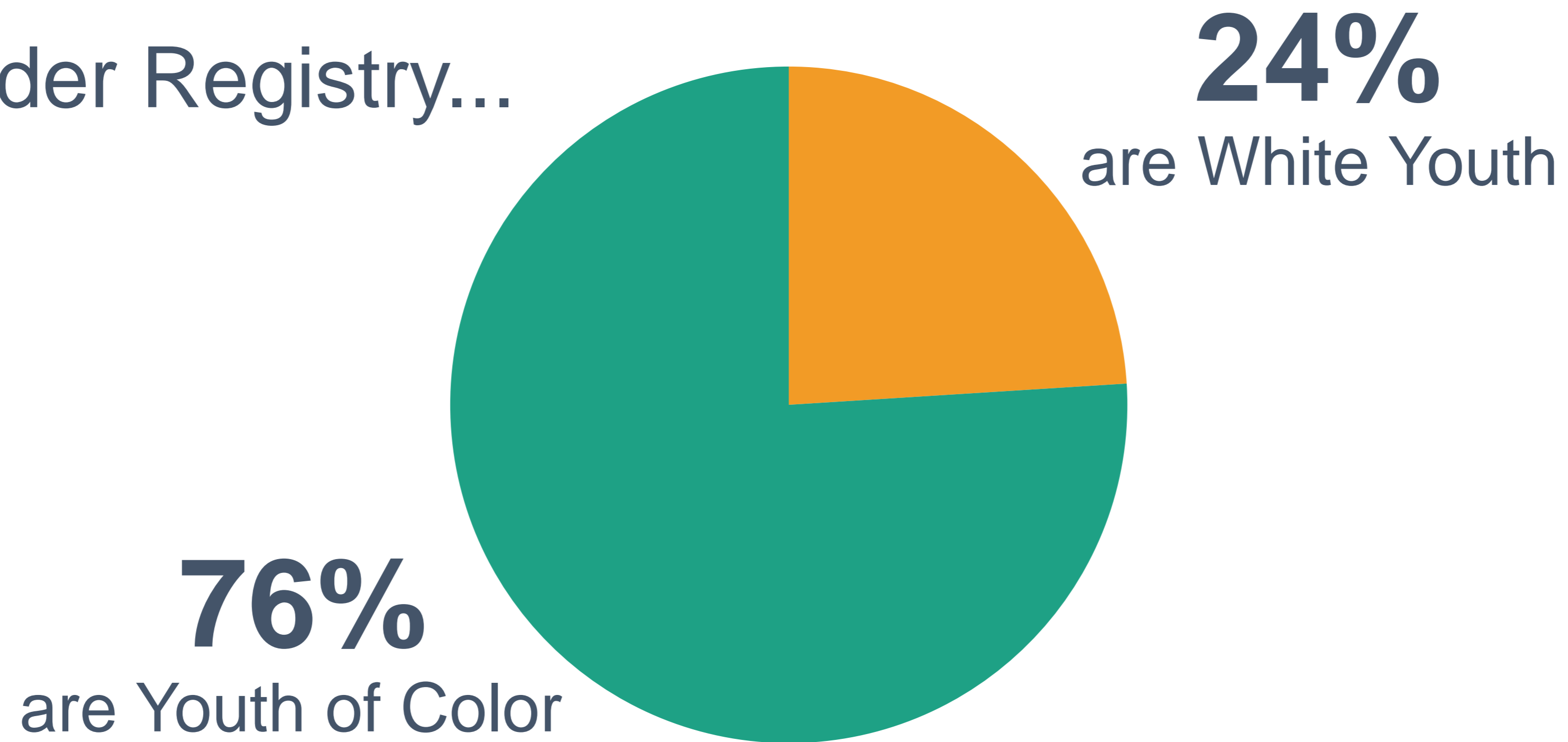
# STATE WORK: CALIFORNIA

# HOW YOUTH REGISTRATION WORKS: CALIFORNIA

- Lifetime for all registrants
- Began practice in 1986
- Not automatic
  - Must be adjudicated delinquent of a registerable sex offense
  - And committed to Division of Juvenile Justice facility (houses 400 youth)

# RACIAL DISPARITIES IN CALIFORNIA YOUTH SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION

Of the children on the California  
Sex Offender Registry...

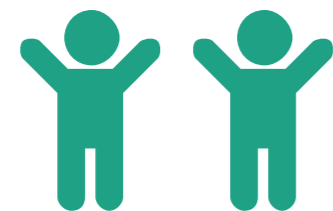


# LIKELIHOOD OF YOUTH REGISTRATION BY RACE IN CALIFORNIA

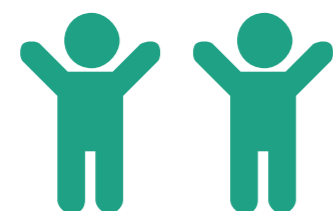
 In comparison to white youth...



Black youth are 6.5 times more likely



Native American youth are 2 times as likely



Samoan, Pacific Islander, Japanese, Hawaiian youth are 1.5 times as likely

Latino youth are equally likely

...to be on the California Sex Offender Registry

# COSTS OF YOUTH REGISTRATION IN CALIFORNIA

- California spends **\$140,000,000** annually to register youth
- 2017 State Budget only designates **\$46,000** for victims services and prevention



**WHAT IF WE FLIPPED THESE  
NUMBERS?**



WE ARE KIDS.  
WE DONT BELONG ON  
SEX OFFENDER REGISTRIES.

I AM NOT  
A SEX  
OFFENDER

I AM NOT  
A SEX  
OFFENDER

I AM NOT  
A SEX  
OFFENDER

I am  
not a sex  
offender

# SHIFTING THE PARADIGM



**THANK YOU!**

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**IMPACT JUSTICE**  
**CENTER *on* YOUTH**  
**REGISTRATION REFORM**

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