Missouri Sex Offender Fail to Register Model
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The criminal justice system treats offenders who have committed crimes of a sexual nature much differently than virtually any other type of offender (Edwards & Hensley, 2001). Due to the especially heinous nature of crimes committed by sex offenders, preventing reoffending is especially important to ensuring the safety of the public. A broad scope of legislation has been passed with the goal of controlling the sex offender population. The Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA), Title I of the Adam Walsh Act, became law in 2006. SORNA established baseline criteria for jurisdictions to follow pertaining to their registration and monitoring of sex offenders. An emerging body of literature concerning the efficacy of registration requirements suggests they have done little to reduce sexual reoffending (Tewksbury & Jennings, 2010; Huebner et al., 2014). By comparison, much less is known about the factors that influence compliance with these laws among sex offender populations. With few exceptions (Levenson, Ackerman, & Harris, 2014), the extant literature has only started to focus on the factors associated with an increased likelihood of absconding or violating registration agreements. The current project aims to determine the characteristics most useful in predicting compliance with sex offender registry requirements among a sample of registered sex offenders in Missouri.