Dear Sheriff ,

In looking at research results from the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) under the U. S. Department of Justice (DOJ), it is important to know that only people whose most serious offense was rape or sexual assault are often used in their studies. Because the BJS does not include people whose most serious sex offense was possessing child pornography, inappropriate touching, exposure, consensual sex between a 16-year-old and a 21-year-old, etc., their findings for sexual recidivism are higher than if every person with a past sex offense were included. This was true of their 2019 report. (Recidivism of Sex Offenders Released from State Prison: A 9-Year Follow-Up 2005-14)

Unfortunately, this flawed data has been making its way into courts, legislatures, and Congress, having severe consequences for people and their families that can take decades to reverse.

I am enclosing a study that looked at how government agencies have distorted statistics in the past.

Sincerely,