

► *Summary*

Throughout the criminal and juvenile justice systems, a wide range of stakeholders bear the responsibility for making key decisions that have important implications for sex offender management efforts. However, because the adults and juveniles who commit sex offenses are diverse populations, each of these decisions must be informed by current and relevant assessment information. Assessments are most useful when they are based on multiple types of data from multiple sources, when research-supported and developmentally-appropriate tools are used, and when they are conducted responsibly by professionals who are specially trained to conduct these assessments. Whether to inform decisions during the disposition phase, to guide the development of initial treatment, case management, or supervision plans, or to ensure that ongoing management strategies are most effective, assessments are a critical component of a comprehensive and integrated approach to adult and juvenile sex offender management.