

# Halloween

~~Trick  
or  
Treat~~

## Fiction & Fact

**FICTION:** Halloween is a time that registered sex offenders are at high risk of reoffending.

**FACT:** There has **never been a recorded incident** on Halloween night involving a registered citizen.

**FACT:** The **#1 DANGER** on Halloween is being **killed or injured** in an auto/pedestrian accident.

**FACT:** Most sex offenses against a child involve **someone they know**.

**FACT:** Ridiculous **Halloween restrictions don't keep anyone safer**; they only **waste taxpayer money** and **law enforcement's time**.

## What Does the Research Say?

"There is not a single recorded case of a child being abducted or harmed by someone on the sex offender registry during trick-or-treat or other Halloween activities, and valid, reliable research shows no increase in sex crimes at all on Halloween."

*-Sandy Rozek, Communications Director, NARSOL*

"Pushing for new laws aimed at keeping kids safe from sex offenders on Halloween is nonsense. There is no evidence any kid was ever harmed by someone with a past sex offense on Halloween, and almost all child sex offense involves **1. non-strangers** or **2. those not on sex offense registries**. Those with prior sex offense convictions are always subject to more post-conviction laws and regulations than any other type of ex-offender, yet they have the lowest recidivism rates of almost any other type of offender."

*-Emily Horowitz, Professor of Sociology, St. Francis College*



## Personal Stories

"The days of scarecrows, pumpkins, festive wreaths, spooky witches, and big bowls of candy are gone. Instead, our home remains dark, barren, void of celebration and filled with fear of harassment and vandalism; all thanks to the constant fear-mongering media reports warning families about the dangers of people who are listed on the Texas Sex Offense Registry. People do not understand the harm inflicted on **children** who have a parent on the registry. Shame on those who spread fear and misinformation."

*-Carolyn, mother of a Registered Citizen*

"Halloween terrifies me. I leave my lights off, while my neighborhood is swarming with children, yet they still come to my door innocently tormenting me. My anxiety is sky-high. I do not dare go outside for fear that someone will misconstrue my intentions and contact the police. I sit at home in the dark praying for the night to be over."

*-David, Registered Citizen*



## What Does the Research Say?

### How Safe Are Trick-or-Treaters?: An Analysis of Child Sex Crime Rates on Halloween

"[Halloween] rates [of sexual abuse] did not differ from expectation, no increased rate on or just before Halloween was found, and Halloween incidents did not evidence unusual case characteristics. Findings were invariant across years, both prior to and after these policies became popular. These findings raise questions about the wisdom of diverting law enforcement resources to attend to a problem that does not appear to exist."

<http://bit.ly/2MhYHx8>

### Is Halloween Really More Dangerous for Kids?

"Despite research showing no evidence that children are at greater risk of experiencing sex abuse on Halloween than on any other day, states and localities around the country impose severe restrictions on registered sex offenders during the holiday."

<http://bit.ly/2Z6Qj5w>

## Personal Stories

"Our children, ages 6 & 8, no longer go house to house trick -or- treating in our neighborhood. It's not the same without their father being able to accompany them. The town where we live has its own ordinance prohibiting people who are registered from participating in Halloween activities. Our children are still young and do not understand why we can't decorate or give out candy, or why our family cannot enjoy Halloween like other families do. I try to compensate by taking them to a church event so that they can wear their costumes, get candy, and play a few games. My husband doesn't attend in order to avoid any controversy. Halloween should be a fun day for families and no one should be excluded from that. Sadly, it is our children who suffer most from the myths surrounding Halloween and 'sex offenders.' "

*-Stephanie, wife of a Registered Citizen*



## Fearmongering

### Article Falsely Claims 'Halloween is Christmas for Sex Offenders'

<http://bit.ly/2mLGv3a>

"Despite **ZERO** cases of trick or treaters molested or raped by people on the sex offender registry on Halloween, [@Patch](#) keeps publishing maps of where registrants live."

*-Lenore Skenazy, Founder, Free-Range Kids*

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