

**Department of Public Safety**  
**Report to House and Senate Judiciary**  
**On**  
**Vermont Sex Offender Registry Compliance Checks**  
**2020**



This document serves as the 2020 reporting requirement mandated in Act 1. ACT 1 stipulates that the individual Special Investigations Units

*“...shall be responsible for the investigation of this chapter’s registry requirements and are authorized to conduct in-person registry compliance checks in a time, place and manner it deems appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of this chapter. This section shall not be construed to prohibit local law enforcement from enforcing the provisions of this chapter.”*

*“The department of Public Safety shall report to the senate and house committees on judiciary on or before December 15, 2009, and annually thereafter, regarding **its efforts** under this section.”*

Beginning in 2019 local law enforcement agencies were required to report all “in-person” registry compliance checks to the Vermont Crime Information Center. Title 13 VSA Section 5415 was amended to include the following:

*(b) On or before November 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, local law enforcement agencies shall report to the Vermont Crime Information Center about any in-person registry compliance checks that the agency has conducted during the preceding 12 months. The report shall include the total number of in-person compliance checks conducted during the 12-month period, the number of offenders who were in compliance, the number of offenders who were out of compliance, and the reasons for being out of compliance.*

The data contained within this report has been provided by local law enforcement agencies to the Vermont Crime Information Center, the Spillman records management system used by the state police and other local law enforcement agencies, and the Rutland County Child Advocacy Center Director.

The Vermont State Police conduct Sex Offender Registry Checks (SORC) within the geographic coverage area of each barracks and take part in county wide “sweeps” in coordination with local law enforcement and the US Marshal’s Service. Historically this combined effort has met with great success.

As a brief overview as to what a SORC is, it requires that a law enforcement officer or officer from the department of corrections, physically go to the registered address of a sex offender and verify that the offender is in fact residing at the registered location and is in compliance with the registry requirements. Many of these checks are done as a course of action by the Department of Corrections in checking on subjects in the community under their control who are on the registry.

Sweeps/checks are carried out at varying times through the year. This may cause for a single offender to be checked several times during a year.

The U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) continues to be a valuable federal partner in the sex offender registry enforcement effort throughout the state. This was in conjunction with the role the USMS has in enforcing the federal Adam Walsh Act. Historically, the USMS has been of great assistance when it has been determined that a registered sex offender has been in violation of the Adam Walsh Act, typically the USMS and USAO (United States Attorney’s Office) will assume the case on the federal level.

It should also be noted that during a year, offenders under the control of the Department of Corrections (DOC) are also to be checked for compliance for the registry and also additional requirements as assigned by DOC/courts.

According to the Vermont Sex Offender Registry, there are currently 1,397 active registrants. There are 216 individuals who are currently incarcerated who will need to register when/if released from prison. For the purposes of this report, only the active registrants were used.

These statistics are a living document and change nearly daily. Below the above numbers are broken by county:

County	Number of Active Registrants
Addison	56
Bennington	118
Caledonia	96
Chittenden	269
Essex	22
Franklin	140
Grand Isle	7
Lamoille	44
Orange	83
Orleans	66
Rutland	154
Washington	119
Windham	84
Windsor	110

There are currently 29 individuals who are employed in Vermont and who reside out of state or are in transit from Vermont with final verification pending.

The following is the breakdown of sex offenders checked during the part of the 2019 – 2020 calendar years. Again, these numbers do not include all registry checks conducted by the Department of Corrections.

County	Number of Registrants Checked
Addison	45
Bennington	8
Caledonia	102
Chittenden	285
Essex	83
Franklin	61
Grand Isle	9
Lamoille	12
Orange	21
Orleans	69
Rutland	137
Washington	128
Windham	58
Windsor	118

During this timeframe, 7 individuals were found to be in violation of the sex offender registry.

Below are the local law enforcement agencies which provided the number of in-person compliance checks conducted within their jurisdiction to the Vermont Crime Information Center by the November 1, 2020 deadline.

- Barre Town
- Barre City
- Berlin
- Bradford

- Brandon
- Brattleboro
- Bristol
- Burlington
- Castleton
- Chester
- Colchester
- Dover
- Essex
- Fair Haven
- Hartford
- Middlebury
- Montpelier
- Newport
- Northfield
- Norwich
- Pittsford
- Richmond
- Rutland City
- S Burlington
- Springfield
- St. Johnsbury
- Swanton
- Thetford
- Williston
- Wilmington
- Winooski
- Winhall

The combined effort to conduct physical checks of subjects on the VT sex offender registry will continue in 2020 and will be reported again in December of 2021.