

Department of Public Safety
Report to House and Senate Judiciary
On
Vermont Sex Offender Registry Compliance Checks
SFY 2018



This document serves as the SFY 2018 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.”*

The following pages serve to break down the registry compliance checks conducted by county. The data contained within this report has been gained through the SIU county director database and the Spillman system, which is utilized by the State Police and some police departments in the state. Some of the variances from past reports are the growing number of law enforcement agencies that utilize a different computer system other than Spillman. The Special Investigations Units (SIUs) also utilize a standalone tracking system, separate from Spillman.

The Vermont State Police conduct Sex Offender Registry Checks (SORC) within the geographic coverage area of each barracks and also take part in county wide “sweeps” in coordination with other local law enforcement and the US Marshal’s Service. Historically this combined effort has met with great success. Both the criminal division and field force divisions of the Vermont State Police and local police departments participate in sex offender registry checks. The areas are generally identified by county or by barracks/police department coverage area.

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 the course of 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 the course of 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 1,146 active registrants. There are 413 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 | 47 |
| Bennington | 109 |
| Caledonia | 82 |
| Chittenden | 194 |
| Essex | 22 |
| Franklin | 123 |
| Grand Isle | 8 |
| Lamoille | 40 |
| Orange | 71 |
| Orleans | 55 |
| Rutland | 128 |
| Washington | 102 |
| Windham | 72 |
| Windsor | 93 |

According to the Spillman records management system (would cover State Police SORC checks, local department SORC checks that are on the spillman system) and local statistics from SIUs, the following is the breakdown of sex offenders checked in SFY 2018. Again, these numbers do not include all registry checks conducted by the Department of Corrections, any checks done by the 33 local law enforcement agencies on differing RMS systems and/or checks not reported to the local county SIU director.

| County | Number of Registrants Checked |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| Addison | 52 |
| Bennington | 11 |
| Caledonia | 54 |
| Chittenden | 79 |
| Essex | 6 |
| Franklin | 124 |
| Grand Isle | 12 |
| Lamoille | 8 |
| Orange | 36 |
| Orleans | 47 |
| Rutland | 113 |
| Washington | 151 |
| Windham | 23 |
| Windsor | 56 |

During this timeframe, 31 individuals were charged criminally with violations of the sex offender registry.

The combined effort to conduct physical checks of subjects on the VT sex offender registry will continue in SFY 2019 and will be reported again in December of 2019.