



Bureau of Justice Statistics Fact Sheet

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Summary of State Sex Offender Registries, 2001

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Background and overview

In March 1998 the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) established the National Sex Offender Registry Assistance Program (NSOR-AP).

As a component of the National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP), NSOR-AP assists States in meeting the requirements of the Wetterling Act (Pub. L. 104-145, 110 Stat. 1345), as amended by Megan's Law, and the Pam Lychner Act (Pub. L. 104-236, 110 Stat. 3093). The program also provides assistance to allow States to participate in the FBI's permanent National Sex Offender Registry (NSOR). The congressional appropriation in 1998 was \$25 million. Subsequent funding was provided under the ongoing NCHIP program.

Under NSOR-AP, a project was initiated in April 1998 to survey the States to evaluate the status of State sex offender registries (SOR's) and to identify priority areas, before the awarding of funds. The survey findings were published in a web-only format and are available on the BJS website at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/sssorao.htm>.

Highlights

- About 386,000 convicted sex offenders were registered in 49 States and the District of Columbia as of February 2001, compared to 277,000 registered in April 1998.
- California had the largest number of offenders in its registry with over 88,000 registrants. Texas had the second largest registry with almost 30,000 registrants.
- Twenty-two State SOR's indicated that DNA samples are collected and maintained as part of registration.
- As of February 2001, 29 States and the District of Columbia had publicly accessible websites containing information on individual sex offenders in a searchable format. Fifteen States had public websites in 1999, and 6 States had them in 1998.

1999 update

Pursuant to section 902 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Predators Act of 1998, Congress directed the Attorney General to study the feasibility of establishing a national hotline to access the FBI's sex offender registry. In support of this study, BJS was asked to contact the States a second time for an update of their sex offender registry dissemination procedures to reflect conditions as of May 1999.

BJS asked the States to provide information on all existing State notification systems, and also to describe any use of the Internet, CD-ROM's, and hotlines to disseminate information to the public on registered sex offenders.

Of particular interest were those procedures used to disseminate information on sexual predators, or the highest risk offenders in each State's registry.

The report *Summary of State Sex Offender Registry Dissemination Procedures, Update 1999*, a BJS Fact Sheet, was published in August 1999 and is on the BJS website at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/ssssordp.htm>.

Summary of State sex offender registries, update 2001

In February 2001, BJS contacted the States for a third time to obtain information on the operation of their sex offender registries. In addition to updating procedures relating to community notification, the States were asked to update information on the overall operation and automation of the SOR's. Responses were received from all 50 States and the District of Columbia. Once the information was updated, a draft was sent to the States for final review.

Location of State sex offender registries

In 17 States, the State police (patrol or troopers) were responsible for operating and maintaining the registry (appendix 1). The department of public safety (DPS) was responsible in 11 States. The office of the attorney general operates the registry in six States, and the department of corrections is responsible in three States. In the remaining States some other defined criminal justice agency is responsible for the SOR.

Number of offenders in the registry

Several factors in the authorizing legislation significantly influenced the size of any particular State registry, among them are included the number of different offenses requiring registration, the date that "triggers" the registration mandate, and the duration of the registration requirement. (For example, California includes all adults convicted in a California court of a covered offense since 1944.)

In February 2001, there were approximately 386,000 convicted sex offenders registered in 49 States and the District of Columbia (appendix 2). The number of offenders in individual State Registries ranged from 473 registrants in Maine to 88,853 registrants in California (this represents about a 14% increase in the California registry in a 3-year period), with the registry median being approximately 4,100 offenders.

The legal status of registries was a factor affecting the counts of registered sex offenders. Massachusetts' information is not included in the 386,000, because at the time the survey was conducted a superior court injunction was in place against the Sex Offender Registry Board (SORB), prohibiting registration without first providing the sex offender a hearing. The injunction was appealed to the Supreme Judicial Court. On June 28, 2001, the court concluded that the SORB can require an offender to provide his home and work address prior to providing the offender a hearing to determine whether or not the offender has to register. Under the ruling the SORB may also transmit this data, and other data regarding the offender, to police departments. However, the information may not be disseminated to the

public until the board classifies the offender and the offender has an opportunity to challenge the recommended classification at an administrative hearing. Massachusetts estimates that there are about 17,000 offenders identified as qualified to register.

Comparatively, in April 1998, approximately 277,000 convicted sex offenders were registered in 49 States and the District of Columbia. (At the time the survey was conducted in 1998, Connecticut did not have a centralized sex offender registry and thus did not provide information on the number of registered offenders.)

Automation status of sex offender registries

Extent of database automation

In 2001 the level of the SOR automation varied substantially, not only across States but also by which data and/or linkages were automated. All of the States reported some level of automation of their text database. It ranged from limited to full automation.

SOR linked to criminal history system

Twenty-six States indicated that there was a link from the SOR database to the criminal history file, (including States in which the SOR is a part of the computerized criminal history file). Five States indicated that although the SOR is not linked to the criminal history file, it can be accessed through a separate "hot file" or through the State identification number. The remaining 20 States reported no electronic link between the SOR database and the criminal history file. Of these, four indicated plans to establish a link.

DNA samples

In 2001, 22 SOR's reported that DNA samples were collected and maintained by the registry as a requirement of registration (appendix 3). Ten SOR's indicated DNA samples were collected but were maintained separate from registry requirements. Nineteen SOR's reported limited or no collection of DNA samples. Of these, two had pending legislation to include DNA samples as part of the SOR program.

In 1998, 15 SOR's reported that DNA samples were collected in conjunction with registration requirements. Nine SOR's reported that DNA samples were collected but not as part of the registry. Twenty-seven SOR's indicated limited or no collection of DNA samples.

Dissemination procedures of SOR information

Community notification

The most notable findings in this section of the survey involve the increasing practice of posting offender-specific information on State and/or local law enforcement websites. A growing number of States uses the Internet to fulfill notification requirements under Megan's Law.

Status of websites in April 1998

The use of websites has increased significantly since BJS first surveyed the States in 1998. Six States had publicly accessible websites with searchable offender information in 1998.

Status of websites in May 1999

By 1999 the number of websites had increased to 15 State sex offender registries that maintained a website with offender-specific information available to the general public.

Status of websites in February 2001

As of February 2001, 29 States and the District of Columbia had publicly accessible Internet sites containing searchable information on individual sex offenders (appendix 4). Eight States reported having a website limited to information regarding sex offender laws and registry requirements and/or restricted to use by law enforcement agencies. Six States were developing a website or are planning to develop one. And seven States reported having no website and provided no further information about whether one was planned.

Methodology/data collection efforts

The information, for the initial survey in 1998, was obtained on these State registries in several ways:

- Review of State applications for BJS NSOR-AP funding
- Review of State legislation on sex offender registries and registration programs
- Information obtained from prior published reports on State registries
- Phone interviews with registry directors and staff
- Online research.

After the information was collected and organized into a uniform template for each State, it was sent to the designated SOR agency for review, comment, and verification. The subsequent updates used the basic template established in 1998 and requested the designated contact at the State registry update the information for May 1999 and then again in February 2001. The State changes were incorporated into the update and sent out to the State for verification.

Each State summary presented information on the agency (or agencies) responsible for the management and operation of the sex offender registry.

The summaries were organized into four main topical areas:

- Who is in the registry?
- How is the registry automated?
- What is the general operation of the registry?
- How is sex offender registry information disseminated?

Under the heading of "Who Is in the Registry" the survey asked about —

- covered offenses that require registration
- who was mandated to register (this can be based on date of the offender's conviction, his release into the community or other stipulations imposed by the State)
- the duration for which the offender must remain on the registry and continue to register (ranging from 10 years to lifetime or an indefinite period of time)
- the number of offenders held by the State central registry.

Under the second heading, BJS collected information on the automation level of the Sex Offender Registry which includes the following:

- the extent to which the SOR database is automated
- whether the SOR database is linked to the State's criminal history system
- whether the SOR transmits data electronically to the FBI's Sex Offender Registry
- the capability of the SOR to store and transmit fingerprints and mugshots to the FBI and to other criminal justice agencies within the State.

Under the third heading, BJS collected information on the overall operation of the Sex Offender Registry in each State. Information was collected on the following:

- The sources of initial information on offender — whether the local law enforcement agency, the court of conviction, department of corrections, local jails or the offender himself provides the initial registration information
- Whether a DNA sample was a requirement of registration
- What procedures were implemented for validation and re-registration of current registrants. This includes whether or not the SOR proactively notified the registrant of the requirement to reregister; whether this notification is automated, and what are the penalties for noncompliance with the registration procedures.

The fourth heading covered in the survey is the dissemination of Sex Offender Registry Information. BJS collected information from the States regarding —

- dissemination of SOR data to law enforcement and criminal justice agencies
- how registrant information is disseminated to organizations serving children, the elderly, and the mentally ill
- what procedures, if any, exist for disseminating SOR information to the general public
- whether SOR data are disseminated over the Internet through a public access website maintained by the SOR agency.

Appendix tables

1. Organizational locus of State SOR's
2. Number of offenders in State registries
3. DNA sample collected and maintained in connection with sex offender registries, 2001
4. Sex offender registry information: Dissemination and community notification, 2001

To view detailed individual State summaries visit the BJS website at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs.

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Appendix table 1. Organizational locus of State SOR's

State	Department of Public Safety	State Police (or Patrol or Troopers)	Office of the Attorney General	Department of Corrections	Other agency	Name of agency (where different from column heading or as a comment)
Alabama	X				X	DPS maintains official record and photo and operates the notification program. The Alabama Crime Information Center maintains all automated files, including criminal history files, and submits data to the FBI.
Alaska		X				
Arizona	X					
Arkansas					X	Arkansas Crime Information Center
California					X	California Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Justice Information Services
Colorado	X					
Connecticut	X					
Delaware		X				
District of Columbia					X	Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency; and Metropolitan Police Department is responsible for community notification.
Florida					X	Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Georgia					X	Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Hawaii					X	Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center
Idaho		X				
Illinois		X				
Indiana					X	Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
Iowa	X					
Kansas			X			
Kentucky		X				
Louisiana		X				
Maine		X				
Maryland	X					Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
Massachusetts					X	Massachusetts Sex Offender Registry Board
Michigan		X				
Minnesota	X					Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
Mississippi	X					
Missouri		X				Missouri State Highway Patrol
Montana					X	Montana Department of Justice
Nebraska		X				
Nevada					X	Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles and Public Safety, Nevada Highway Patrol Division and Nevada Parole and Probation Division
New Hampshire		X				
New Jersey		X				
New Mexico	X					
New York					X	New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services
North Carolina					X	North Carolina Department of Justice; State Bureau of Identification
North Dakota			X			
Ohio			X			
Oklahoma				X		
Oregon		X				
Pennsylvania		X				
Rhode Island			X			
South Carolina					X	South Carolina Law Enforcement Division
South Dakota			X			
Tennessee					X	Tennessee Bureau of Investigation
Texas	X					
Utah				X		
Vermont	X					
Virginia		X				
Washington		X				
West Virginia		X				
Wisconsin				X		
Wyoming			X			
Total	11	17	6	3	15	

Appendix table 2. Number of offenders in State SOR's, 1998 and 2001

State	Offenders in registry		Percent change in the number of registrants, 1998-2001
	1998	2001	
Alabama	440	3,338	659%
Alaska*	3,535	4,107	16
Arizona	9,200	11,500	25
Arkansas	958	2,935	206
California*	78,000	88,853	14
Colorado	4,326	8,804	104
Connecticut	N/A	2,030	
Delaware	800	1,688	111
District of Columbia	50	303	506
Florida	9,000	20,000	122
Georgia	1,200	4,564	280%
Hawaii	1,000	1,500	50
Idaho	1,710	1,778	4
Illinois*	14,300	16,551	16
Indiana	9,500	11,656	23
Iowa	2,240	3,921	75
Kansas	1,200	1,794	50
Kentucky	800	2,000	150
Louisiana	3,455	5,708	65
Maine	275	473	72
Maryland	400	1,400	250%
Massachusetts**	7,004		
Michigan	19,000	26,850	41
Minnesota	7,300	10,610	45
Mississippi	1,063	1,512	42
Missouri	2,800	7,500	168
Montana***	1,739	2,088	20
Nebraska	640	1,120	75
Nevada	1,500	2,519	68
New Hampshire	1,500	2,168	45
New Jersey	5,151	7,495	46%
New Mexico	450	1,171	160
New York	7,200	11,575	61
North Carolina	2,200	5,922	169
North Dakota	683	766	12
Ohio	1,294	5,423	319
Oklahoma	2,303	4,020	75
Oregon	7,400	9,410	27
Pennsylvania	2,400	4,533	89
Rhode Island	273	1,424	422
South Carolina	2,500	4,924	97
South Dakota	800	1,182	48%
Tennessee	2,800	4,561	63
Texas	18,000	29,494	64
Utah	4,733	5,192	10
Vermont	877	1,509	72
Virginia	6,615	9,306	41
Washington	1,400	15,304	993
West Virginia	600	950	58
Wisconsin	10,000	11,999	20
Wyoming	552	682	24
Total	263,166	386,112	

*Number includes more than just registered offenders (for example, never registered but required to do so, offenders in jail, registered but not in compliance).

**The 2001 count is not included due to a superior court injunction against the Sex Offender Registry Board, prohibiting registration without first providing the offender a hearing. Massachusetts estimated about 17,000 sex offenders to be qualified to register at the time of the survey.

***Also includes offenders who must register for certain violent offenses.

Appendix table 3. DNA samples collected and maintained in connection with sex offender registries, 2001

State	DNA sample	Comments
Alabama	Yes	DPS reports that a sample is taken from registered sex offenders "when they can get it."
Alaska	No	
Arizona	Yes	DNA samples are maintained by the DPS Crime Lab.
Arkansas	No	Legislation is currently pending.
California	Yes	DNA samples are maintained at the State's DNA Lab.
Colorado	Yes	Samples are not collected as part of the SOR program. DNA and blood samples are collected for all offenders in the State prison system.
Connecticut	Yes	DNA samples are taken from all sexual offenders upon registration and prior to release into the community.
Delaware	No	Some sex offenders have DNA samples on file with the Medical Examiner's Office.
District of Columbia	No	Independent from the SOR, the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 requires that by June 19, 2001 DNA collection must begin from DC Code offenders.
Florida	Yes	The DNA database is maintained by the State Crime Lab.
Georgia	Yes	The Division of Forensic Science is responsible for the DNA samples and database.
Hawaii	No	
Idaho	Yes	Blood and/or DNA samples are collected under a separate law. The process is administered by Bureau of Forensic Sciences.
Illinois	Yes	DNA sampling is part of a separate CODIS system within the Illinois State Police.
Indiana	No	
Iowa	No	
Kansas	Yes	DNA is required for all offenders convicted of offenses requiring registration. If not obtained during incarceration, a sample is taken at the time of registration.
Kentucky	Yes	A linking mechanism to the SOR is planned.
Louisiana	No	Legislation was passed September 1, 1999 for DNA samples to be taken from persons arrested for felony sex offenses, but the State does not have the capability available to catalog the information for the SOR at this time.
Maine	Yes	
Maryland	No	
Massachusetts	Yes	Not as part of the SOR Law.
Michigan	No	Registration data includes information on whether a DNA profile of the offender is available.
Minnesota	Yes	A DNA sample is required of offenders under DNA Statute 609.117, which also include offenders from other States by Interstate Compact.
Mississippi	Yes	DNA samples are required of each registrant, and are maintained by the State Crime Lab.
Missouri	No	
Montana	Yes	A DNA sample is a requirement of the SOR program, and registration form asks if DNA analysis is available. This information is available on a Montana criminal record.
Nebraska	Yes	A DNA sample is taken from all persons convicted of felony crimes in the State, but the DNA sampling is not related to/mandated by the SOR program.
Nevada	Yes	A DNA sample is taken for offenders under criminal justice supervision or in prison.
New Hampshire	No	Swabbings of saliva are included.
New Jersey	Yes	DNA samples are maintained at the State Crime Lab.
New Mexico	No	
New York	No	The State collects DNA from certain offenders, but it is not linked to the SOR.
North Carolina	Yes	Only for offenses specified in Statute NCGS 15A-266.4. This information is not part of the SOR.
North Dakota	Yes	All sex offenders are required to provide a DNA sample to the Health Department, State Laboratory Division.
Ohio	Yes	DNA is collected as part of the CODIS system.
Oklahoma	Yes	DNA samples are collected as part of the Oklahoma Sex Offender Registry Program.
Oregon	Yes	
Pennsylvania	No	
Rhode Island	Yes	Rhode Island has established a State DNA database pursuant to R.I.G.L 12-1.5-1 et. seq. The database is administered through the Department of Health.
South Carolina	Yes	A DNA sample is taken and maintained, but not as part of the SOR program. Offender DNA samples are covered under a separate section of the State Criminal Code.
South Dakota	No	A DNA sample is not a formal part of the SOR registration, but there is a DNA indicator field to note if the State Forensic Lab has a sample on file. DCI has the responsibility for collecting and filing DNA information from all persons convicted of sex crimes.
Tennessee	Yes	The DNA program operates under a separate law. Tennessee Code requires TBI to establish a DNA database for convicted sexual offenders, maintained by Forensic Services Division.
Texas	Yes	A parallel program within DPS focuses on building a DNA database of all convicted sexual offenders.
Utah	No	
Vermont	No	
Virginia	No	
Washington	No	
West Virginia	Yes	Since July 1996, all persons convicted of violent and/or sexual crimes are placed into a CODIS DNA database.
Wisconsin	Yes	The SOR registration form has a field indicating if a DNA sample was required and taken.
Wyoming	Yes	DNA is collected mostly from persons leaving the Department of Corrections after July 1, 1999.

Appendix table 4. Sex offender registry information: Dissemination and community notification, 2001

State	Community notification by local law enforcement agencies	Internet website
Alabama	When an offender qualifies for community supervision fliers with the offender's photo are mailed to everyone living within 1,000ft. of his home (in cities), 1,500ft. (in towns), and 2,000ft (in rural areas). Citizens may also view fliers at local law enforcement agencies.	< http://www.gsiweb.net/index.html >
Alaska	In addition to a public access Internet site, the public may also obtain information from the local police station, and may receive hard copy reports on individual sex offenders through the SORCR office in response to individual requests.	< http://www.dps.state.ak.us/nsorcr/asp >
Arizona	There is no automatic public access to SOR information. Each law enforcement agency keeps a notebook on registered offenders residing in the jurisdiction that receives community notification. Citizens may ask to see the file and usually have to demonstrate a need to know. Access is at the discretion of law enforcement, with a log kept of who views the file.	< http://www.azsexoffender.com >
Arkansas	Community notification is conducted by local law enforcement agencies, in accordance with guidelines developed by the Sex Offender Assessment Committee. Notification to organizations, schools, and institutions is made for offenders determined to be medium or high risk. As of 02/01, there were no procedures for general public access information from the SOR.	< http://www.acic.org/registration > The ACIC website provides information on the Arkansas law, the offenses requiring registration, and the number of registered sex offenders in a county, but does not post data on individual offenders.
California	Public access to SOR information is provided in two ways. California has a CD-ROM and operates a 900 number of serious and high risk registered sex offenders. Adults and children accompanied by a parent/guardian living in California (other than registered offenders) may view the CD-ROM at their local enforcement agency at no fee. Nationwide, adults may obtain sex offender information via the CA Sex Offender Information telephone service at: 1-900-488-3000. There is a \$10 fee for up to two name searches.	No
Colorado	The public has access to information on registered sexual offenders through the local law enforcement agency where the offender is currently registered. In Colorado, the SOR information is considered a public record. The State has a newly developed website with some individual sex offender data.	< http://sor.state.co.us > As of 2/01 a website was under construction. The website became available as of July 30, 2001.
Connecticut	On May 18, 2001 the United States District Court, District of Connecticut issued a permanent injunction, prohibiting public access to the sex offender registry. The registry may be used by law enforcement personnel in providing for public safety as long as the names of sex offenders are not disclosed as being included in the registry.	No
Delaware	Public access to SOR information is through the notification program conducted by the local law enforcement agency where the offender resides, and through the website. For Tier II offenders, notification is at the discretion of law enforcement. For Tier III offenders, community notification is mandatory. Notification is conducted in a variety of ways: door-to-door, mailings, local media, etc.	< http://www.state.de.us/dsp/sexoff/index.htm >
District of Columbia	Public access to registry information is available by viewing hard copies of the registry at the various police districts. Information on lifetime registrants is also available over the Internet on the Metropolitan Police Department website. MPD is presently restrained by a Federal Court order from notifying the community of any sex offender sentenced under youth sentencing provisions or notifying the community via the Internet of 10-year registrants.	< http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/sor/sor.shtm >
Florida	The general public has access to SOR information through the FDLE website, through a toll-free phone number (1-888-357-7332) and through fliers and leaflets produced for community notification on sexual predators.	< http://www.fdle.state.fl.us > The website averages about 5 million hits per month.
Georgia	Public access is at the discretion of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation or any sheriff maintaining records. Legislation states that the sheriff "shall release relevant information collected under this Code section that is necessary to protect the public..." and stipulates "nothing herein shall prevent any sheriff from posting this information in any public building."	< http://www.ganet.org/gbi/disclaim.html > The site receives approximately 250,000 hits per month.
Hawaii	Hawaii's legislation specifies the specific items of SOR data that are to be accessible to the public. Public record registration data is currently available at the main county police departments, at the Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center, and on the Internet. This information is also integrated into the Criminal History Public Access facility, which can be used by the general public for background checks via various search options.	< http://www.ehawaii.gov.org/HI_SOR >

Appendix table 4. Sex offender registry information: Dissemination and community notification, 2001 (continued)

State	Community notification by local law enforcement agencies	Internet website
Idaho	Any person may inquire on a named individual or request a list of registered sex offenders by zip code or county. This is accomplished through a written public information request submitted to the central registry or local sheriff. All responses to individual requests for lists will include a cautionary statement concerning misuse of the information. The central registry and sheriffs are authorized to charge \$5 for each inquiry on a named individual and each request for a list of offenders.	< http://www.isp.state.id.us/ >
Illinois	The local law enforcement liaison assists the public in access and use of the SOR information when an offender is identified as working or residing in circumstances that might compromise public safety. The Illinois State Police also operates a victim notification program. Local law enforcement agencies also have discretion to provide SOR information to any person or entity likely to encounter the offender.	< http://samnet.isp.state.il.us/isps02/sex_offenders/index.asp >
Indiana	The general public has access to SOR data in hard copy in public libraries throughout the State and on the State of Indiana website. It also has been made available on computer diskette. The SVOR data available to the public does not include street addresses.	< http://www.state.in.us/serv/cji_sor >
Iowa	Current legislation allows for registry information to be disseminated from sheriffs' offices and police departments provided that the requester provides the name of the person on which the inquiry is being made; and one additional identifier, date of birth or address. Affirmative public notification may be made on "at risk" offenders by any local law enforcement agency based on information provided by DPS. Registry information is released through printed materials, visual or audio releases, and the Internet.	< http://www.iowasexoffenders.com > The website generates an average of 9,000 hits per month.
Kansas	The general public has access to SOR information through an Internet website. Members of the public may also inspect registration records at a local sheriff's office or at the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.	< http://www.ink.org/public/kbi/kbiregoffpage.htm > The website averages about 6,800 hits per month.
Kentucky	Offender registration information is available online at the KSP Sex Offender Registry website. Free Internet access is available at all public libraries.	< http://kspsor.state.ky.us > The site averages over 15,000 hits per month.
Louisiana	Citizens may make a public records inquiry to local law enforcement agencies or to the registry. In addition, individual citizens may be informed directly through community notification provisions that require the offender to give notice of the crime for which he was convicted, his name, and his address to at least one person in every residence or business within a one mile radius of his residence in a rural area and a three square block area in an urban or suburban area.	< http://www.lasocpr.lsp.org/socpr/ > The site averages about 177,000 hits per month.
Maine	The information in the Maine Registry is based on conviction data and is, therefore, considered a public record. Registry information is available to citizens through a request to a State or local law enforcement agency. Affirmative notification of schools and organizations is the responsibility of the local law enforcement agency where the offender resides.	There is anticipated future "web-enabled" direct access to SOR information for law enforcement and, separately, public access to information on predator or high risk offenders.
Maryland	When a child sexual offender registers with a local law enforcement agency, the agency is required to notify the county school super-intendent who then notifies school principals. The local law enforcement agency may also notify (as necessary to protect the public interest) community and religious organizations, or any organization that relates to children or youth. Written requests for registry information are mailed or faxed to the Sex Offender Registry Unit.	< http://www.dpscs.state.md.us > This site only contains information on the SOR program, registration procedures, and legislation, it does not contain any offender-specific information.
Massachusetts	There are three procedures by which the general public can access SOR data: (1) by a written request to the Sex Offender Registry Board (SORB) for information on a specific offender; (2) through Community Notification (reserved for high risk offenders only); and (3) through an in-person request at the local police department.	< http://www.state.ma.us/sorb > The site is designed to educate the public about the SORB and provide information on how to obtain offender data, it does not include offender-specific information.
Michigan	Listings by zip code of the registered offenders within a jurisdiction are available for inspection by the general public during normal business hours at State Police posts, local law enforcement agencies, and sheriffs' departments. Agencies may make the listing available through computerized, electronic, or other means.	< http://www.mipsor.state.mi.us > and < http://www.msp.state.mi.us >
Minnesota	All law enforcement agencies in the State are required to have a formal policy on community notification. In general, for Level I (low risk) offenders, information is shared only with law enforcement, victims, and witnesses. For Level II (moderate risk) offenders, schools, day cares, or other organizations are notified. For Level III (high risk) offenders, thorough community notification, including community meetings, is conducted. The Department of Corrections provides an offender fact-sheet with photo.	< http://www.dps.state.mn.us/bca > This site provides information on legislation, forms, and information on the registry program, but does not contain offender-specific information.

Appendix table 4. Sex offender registry information: Dissemination and community notification, 2001 (continued)

State	Community notification by local law enforcement agencies	Internet website
Mississippi	Members of the general public can access the name, address, photograph (if available), place of employment, crime for which convicted, date and place of conviction of any registrant on the MSOR website. The information can also be requested by mail from DPS. Sheriffs are required to keep records for offenders in their jurisdiction and make this information available to the public upon request.	< http://www.sor.mdps.state.ms.us > The MSOR site receives about 9,000 inquiries a month.
Missouri	Upon request, a local law enforcement agency will provide a complete list of the sexual offenders registered within that agency's jurisdiction to any member of the public. Affirmative notification to schools or other youth serving organizations is a local law enforcement responsibility.	No
Montana	Community notification is conducted by local law enforcement agencies. Notification is discretionary for Level 2 offenders and mandatory for Level 3 offenders. The State Department of Justice (DOJ) is currently developing policies for public access to SOR data in conjunction with new policies for public access to criminal history records.	< http://www.svor.doj.state.mt.us >
Nebraska	Nebraska law requires a three tiered notification. Active notification is conducted for the public for registered sex offenders who have been assessed as a high risk to re-offend. These notifications are conducted by the State Patrol by faxing information to law enforcement agencies on new high risk offenders. Media releases on high risk sex offenders are also faxed to media groups. Further notification can be done by law enforcement through direct contact public meetings or further media releases.	< http://www.nsp.state.ne.us/sor/index.cfm >
Nevada	Citizens may submit by-name queries about individuals to the Central SOR. For Tier 3 (high risk) offenders, the law enforcement agency where the offender resides notifies not only other law enforcement agencies, schools, and youth organizations, but also the general public "through means designed to reach members of the public likely to encounter the sex offender." Additional provisions apply for those who committed sexual offenses against minors.	No
New Hampshire	New Hampshire law permits a local law enforcement agency to notify community organizations where an offender plans to reside only if the offender has been convicted of aggravated sexual assault against a child under the age of 13. A public access list is published monthly by the SOR to local law enforcement of those offenders convicted of certain specified offenses. The local law enforcement agency can disseminate this list to any member of the public that requests it.	No
New Jersey	Since October 1994, notification has only been conducted for Level 3 (high risk) sexual offenders. Risk levels are determined through use of the Registrant Risk Assessment Scale, developed by mental health and legal experts, and supplemented by a detailed manual explaining criteria and weighting, and giving examples. For offenders assessed as high risk, the local law enforcement agency conducts community notification, tailoring it to those members of the public likely to encounter the offender.	Legislation is pending to develop an Internet website for public access to sex offender data.
New Mexico	Since July 1, 2000, sex offender information for persons convicted, incarcerated, or on probation or parole will be available to the public through a website.	< http://www.nmsexoffender.dps.state.nm.us >
New York	The local law enforcement agency has discretion for notification to any "entities with vulnerable populations" concerning offenders at risk levels 2 and 3. The State provides public access, regardless of risk level, through a 900 telephone line (with a fee of \$.50 per call/up to five searches per call) and monthly publishes a sub-directory of level 3 (high risk) offenders that is distributed to local law enforcement agencies, and available to the public in those local law enforcement agency offices.	< http://www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us > This site provides information on the SOR program and provides access to the sub-directory of high risk sex offenders. The site averages about 950,000 hits a month.
North Carolina	Free public access to SOR information is available on the Internet. Citizens can also obtain a copy of the statewide registry by making a written request to the State's Division of Criminal Information (DCI) and paying a fee, or obtain a copy of a county-wide registry by making a written request to the appropriate sheriff and paying a fee.	< http://sbi.jus.state.nc.us/sor > The site averages over 61,000 hits per month.
North Dakota	The list of registered offenders is a confidential record, but local law enforcement agencies must release information from the list to the public if the agency determines that the offender is a risk to the public and disclosure is necessary for public protection. Disclosure of "non-registration information" (from criminal history records) is also permitted. Legislation has been proposed to develop risk assessment and community notification procedures.	No

Appendix table 4. Sex offender registry information: Dissemination and community notification, 2001 (continued)

State	Community notification by local law enforcement agencies	Internet website
Ohio	For sexual predators and habitual sexual offenders subject to notification, the local sheriff notifies in writing all occupants of residences adjacent to the offender's place of residence, and additional neighbors within any category the Attorney General rules a "specified geographical notification area." Generally registration information the local sheriff has on sexual predators and habitual sexual offenders, subject to notification, and sexually oriented offenders are public records open to inspection.	No
Oklahoma	The Oklahoma SOR data is considered a public record. Citizens can write, phone, or fax a query about a specific individual to the central SOR unit and get a response. Members of the public also can view SOR files in the DOC's Oklahoma City office. Since, November 1, 1998, the DOC has made hard copies of the full registry available to the public for a fee, and citizens can view the registry files for their jurisdiction at their local law enforcement agency.	No, but one is planned for late 2001.
Oregon	While an offender is under the supervision of a corrections agency, the corrections agency is responsible for conducting community notification, provided that the offender has been determined to be predatory. If the offender is off supervision then law enforcement is responsible for notifying the community, provided the offender has been determined to be predatory in conjunction with the Department of Corrections. 1999 Legislation allows for release of sex offender information to the public upon request.	Currently, there is no public access to the website. The public website is in the Oregon Court of Appeals. Release of public information by request is handled via phone, mail or fax. Criminal justice agencies have full access to SOR data through a secure website.
Pennsylvania	Community notification is conducted by the appropriate State or municipal law enforcement agency for both sexually violent predators and out-of-State offenders subject to notification. The State Police prepares fliers, and the local police or municipal department notifies the victim (for sexually violent predators only), and qualifying neighbors, and maintains records of those notified. Community meetings may be held. "Blanket" requests for information on multiple offenders are referred to the SOR unit.	No
Rhode Island	Community notification for Level III offenders can be accomplished by fact sheets, fliers, news releases, advertisements, computerized access to fact sheet information, and/or public access to fact sheets at agency offices. Offenders subject to community notification receive notice of the proposed notification and can object to it and have a right to judicial review of the notification.	Rhode Island has amended the statute to allow the Parole Board to utilize the State Police website for public release of Level III sexual predators data. Plans are in development.
South Carolina	Local sex offender registry information is open to public inspection upon request to the county sheriff. Requests must be made in writing and include the name of the requester and the name or address of the person about whom information is sought. SLED provides public access via the Internet to statewide SOR information.	< http://www.sled.state.sc.us >
South Dakota	The Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) sexual offender registration file is available to all law enforcement agencies on a 24-hour basis, but is not open to public inspection. However, the registration records collected by local law enforcement agencies and the registration lists provided to local law enforcement by DCI are public records and may be viewed at local law enforcement offices.	No
Tennessee	For offenses committed prior to 7/1/97, the registry information is confidential and is released only to law enforcement officials. For offenses committed on or after 7/1/97, the registry information is, by statute, a public record. It can be accessed by using the TBI website or by calling toll free 888-837-4170.	< http://www.ticic.state.tn.us/SEX_ofndr/search_short.asp >
Texas	Registry data is public information, but the social security number, phone number, driver's license number, and photo are not released. Newspaper notification is made on adult offenders only for convictions or adjudications on or after 9/01/95 where the victim was under the age of 17. Citizens may write to their local law enforcement agency or the Texas Department of Public Safety requesting listings of registered offenders.	< http://records.txdps.state.tx.us/ > The site currently averages about 1.4 million hits a month.
Utah	Effective 4/29/96, registration data, specified in State law, became public record when released upon a written request. In 1998, the information was designated public, and DOC utilizes the Internet to disseminate. By year-end, however, legal issues and constraints precluded adding new offenders. In September 2000, resolution of the legal issues was obtained. The resolution allows DOC to utilize the Internet, and display all current registrants. Written requests are accepted as well.	< http://www.udc.state.ut.us > In December 2000, DOC/SOR displayed an improved Internet registry website containing all current registrants.
Vermont	As of July 1, 2000, information is available to the public regarding a specific offender if the requester articulates a public safety concern. Requesters may contact the registry in writing or by telephone.	< http://www.dps.state.vt.us/cjs/s_registry.htm > The website has a description of the SOR, registration requirements, and a link to the text of the law, but no information is provided on specific offenders.

Appendix table 4. Sex offender registry information: Dissemination and community notification, 2001 (continued)

State	Community notification by local law enforcement agencies	Internet website
Virginia	Information regarding a specific person shall be disseminated to citizens upon receipt of an official request form, which may be submitted directly to the Department of State Police or to the State Police through a local law enforcement agency. The official request form shall include a statement of the reason for the request. Effective 1/1/99, violent sex offender records became available through the Internet.	< http://www.vsp.state.va.us > The site receives between 10,000 and 12,000 hits daily.
Washington	The State Patrol disseminates limited sex offender information to the public and only in response to a written "public information disclosure request." Based on the offender's risk level, the local law enforcement agency has the authority to notify neighbors and community groups for moderate and high risk offenders, and may issue press releases for high risk offenders. Some local law enforcement agencies also use Internet sites for dissemination of information on registered offenders in their jurisdiction.	No. The only SOR data on a State website is a restricted access site used for employment background checks.
West Virginia	Individual citizens can receive SOR information (on 10 registrants) upon application to (and approval by) the circuit court of jurisdiction where the requester resides. Legislation effective 6/15/98 makes lifetime registrants subject to community notification. West Virginia began its community notification program in September 1998.	< http://www.wvstatepolice.com > Data on lifetime offenders is mounted on the State Police website. Twenty-three counties are currently online.
Wisconsin	The general public can access SORP data on a specific person, but they must provide the name, date of birth, and SSN or driver's license number of the subject of inquiry. Affirmative community notification is the responsibility of local law enforcement.	< http://widocoffenders.org > This website only contains information pertaining to the registry, it does not provide offender specific data.
Wyoming	For offenders determined to have a moderate or high risk of re-offense, local law enforcement will provide notification to all residents living within 750 feet of the offender, plus certain organizations in the community. Notifications are by handbills, which include the offender's photo, name, address, date of birth, date and place of conviction, crime for which convicted, and physical characteristics. High risk offenders are also posted on the website using the handbill format.	< http://attorneygeneral.state.wy.us/dci > The site is searchable by county where offender resides.