



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Prevent. Protect. Prepare.

Roy Cooper, Governor

Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairs, House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety
Chairs, Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety

FROM: Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Secretary 
Timothy Moose, Chief Deputy Secretary 

RE: Report on GPS Monitoring for Sex Offenders

DATE: March 1, 2022

§ 143B-707.1. Report on probation and parole caseloads.

...

(b) *The Department of Public Safety shall report by March 1 of each year to the Chairs of the House of Representatives and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety on the following:*

- (1) *The number of sex offenders enrolled on active and passive GPS monitoring.*
- (2) *The caseloads of probation officers assigned to GPS-monitored sex offenders.*
- (3) *The number of violations.*
- (4) *The number of absconders.*
- (5) *The projected number of offenders to be enrolled by the end of the fiscal year.*



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF ADULT CORRECTION AND JUVENILE JUSTICE
COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS**

GPS Monitoring for Sex Offenders

March 1, 2022

**Roy Cooper
Governor**

**Timothy Moose
Chief Deputy Secretary**

**Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr.
Secretary**

Tracy Lee, Director
 Chris Oxendine, Field Deputy Director
 Maggie Brewer, Administrative Deputy Director

N.C. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

DIVISION OF ADULT CORRECTION & JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS



Fourth Judicial Division		Third Judicial Division		Second Judicial Division		First Judicial Division	
JD Adm.	Boyce Fortner	JD Adm.	Brian Gates	JD Adm.	Sheila Moore	JD Adm.	Kim Williams
Asst JD Adm.	Karey Treadway	Asst JD Adm.	Jackie Murphy	Asst JD Adm.	Lewis Adams	Asst JD Adm.	Bill Woolard
CCA Div.	Brady Soop	CCA Div.	Sunday Joyce	CCA Div.	Gigi Smith	CCA Div.	Rosanna Anderson
JDM Dist	Robin Hodshon	JDM Dist	David King	JDM Dist	Rodney Robertson	JDM Dist	Jennifer Gallop
JDM Dist	Kevin Miller	JDM Dist	Angela Williams	JDM Dist	Steve Walker	JDM Dist	Sharon Stevens
JDM Dist	Darius Deese	JDM Dist	Scott Idol	JDM Dist	Cindy Willis	JDM Dist	Randall Parker
JDM Dist	Kim Gettys	JDM Dist	Thomas Buckingham	JDM Dist	Moses Barrow	JDM Dist	Travis Joyner
JDM Dist	Lori Anderson	JDM Dist	Tara Richardson	JDM Dist	Mike Frazier	JDM Dist	Thurman Turner
JDM Dist	Jessica Chitwood	JDM Dist	Sherrri Cook	JDM Dist	Celeste Kelly	JDM Dist	Bill Mitchell
JDM Dist	Todd Sellers	JDM Dist	Robin Griffin	JDM Dist	Aries Cox	JDM Dist	Paige Wade
		JDM Dist	Nancy Gilchrist	JDM Dist	Truman Raines	JDM Dist	Heather Bevell

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- (1) The number of sex offenders enrolled on active and passive GPS monitoring.
- (2) The caseloads of probation officers assigned to GPS-monitored sex offenders.
- (3) The number of violations.
- (4) The number of absconders.
- (5) The projected number of offenders to be enrolled by the end of the fiscal year.

Overview of Satellite Monitoring Program

G.S. 14-208.40 requires the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice of the Department of Public Safety to establish a sex offender monitoring program that uses a continuous satellite-based monitoring system and to create guidelines to govern the program. Offenders subject to monitoring include those under probation, parole, or post-release supervision and certain offenders who have completed their periods of supervision or incarceration but are subject to lifetime tracking pursuant to statute.

Number of Sex Offenders Enrolled

During FY 2020-21, only four sex offenders enrolled in the electronic monitoring program. All four were monitored via active GPS.

Caseloads of Probation Officers Assigned to Sex Offenders under GPS Monitoring

Due to the relatively small numbers of offenders under GPS supervision, Community Corrections utilizes existing resources to aid in the supervision of GPS sex offender cases. Probation officers specializing in the supervision of sex offenders monitor this population, which includes convicted sex offenders who do not have GPS requirements. Factors such as geography, offender needs, admission rates, and officer resources impact decisions concerning local case management practices.

Two officers work in the GPS administrative office and oversee GPS monitoring for offenders sentenced to “lifetime” GPS tracking. This population consists of certain sex offenders who are no longer actively supervised by Community Corrections, but continue to be subject to GPS monitoring. As of June 30, 2021, the administrative office was monitoring 388 sex offenders who met that criteria.

Number of Violations and Absconders

During FY 2020-21, enrollees in the electronic monitoring program were cited for nine violations. Of the four offenders who enrolled in the program during the fiscal year, one was cited for at least one violation, which was failure to comply with sex offender treatment.

Twenty-two enrollees exited GPS monitoring during the fiscal year. All 22 enrollees successfully completed the program, and there were no absconders.

Population Projections

As of June 30, 2021, there were 607 offenders enrolled in the electronic monitoring program. All offenders enrolled at the end of the fiscal year were monitored via active GPS.

It should be noted that there was a decrease in the overall number of sex offenders assigned to GPS monitoring during the FY 2020-21 fiscal year. This decrease can be attributed primarily to the impact of COVID-19 on court operations, as well as the ruling in *State v. Grady*, 372 N.C. 509, 831 S.E.2d 542 (2019).

The table below shows year-end population projections for the GPS program for FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23.

Projected Population for GPS Supervision

	Projected Population
FY 2021-22	600
FY 2022-23	594

The projections are based on the laws in effect as of June 30, 2021, and do not take into consideration any future legislation affecting GPS supervision.