



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

3060 Willamette Drive NE
Lacey, WA 98516
360-486-2380 (Phone)
360-486-2381 (Fax)
www.waspc.org

President

Sheriff Kevin Morris
Douglas County

November 30, 2023

President-Elect

Chief Darrell Lowe
City of Redmond

Bernard Dean

Chief Clerk of the House

Deliver to: clerk.chief@leg.wa.gov

Vice President

Sheriff John Nowels
Spokane County

Sarah Bannister

Secretary of the Senate

Deliver to: senate.secretary@leg.wa.gov

Past President

Chief Steve Crown
City of Wenatchee

Treasurer

Chief Brett Vance
City of Montesano

Subject: RCW 36.28A.230, Registered Sex Offender and Kidnapping Offender Address and Residency Verification Grant Program—Annual Report

Executive Board

Chief Michelle Bennett
City of Edmonds

Chief Clerk Dean and Secretary Bannister:

Chief Rebecca Mertzig
City of Bellingham

Pursuant to Chapter 265, Laws of 2010, the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) is submitting its annual report on the Registered Sex Offender and Kidnapping Offender Address and Residency Verification Grant Program. This report is submitted in accordance with RCW 43.01.036.

Sheriff Clay Myers
Kittitas County

Chief Rafael Padilla
City of Kent

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven D. Strachan".

Sheriff James Raymond
Franklin County

Steven D. Strachan
Executive Director

Sheriff Brad Thurman
Cowlitz County

Chief Sam White
Lower Elwha Klallam
Police Department

Chief John Batiste
Washington State Patrol

Richard Collodi, SAC
FBI—Seattle

Steven D. Strachan
Executive Director

Washington State Registered Sex and Kidnapping Offender Address and Residency Verification Grant Program—2023 Annual Report

In 2010, the Washington State Legislature established the Registered Sex Offender and Kidnapping Offender Address and Residency Verification Grant Program ([RCW 36.28A.230](#)). When funded, the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) administers a grant program to local governments for the purpose of verifying the address and residency of sex offenders and kidnapping offenders registered under [RCW 9A.44.130](#) who reside within the county sheriff's jurisdiction.

The Registered Sex Offender and Kidnapping Offender Address and Residency Verification Grant Program continues to be a valuable resource for local law enforcement agencies. Agencies continue to report they would not be able to fund the resources needed for face-to-face address verifications without the grant money. Agencies also report the following concerns:

- The passage of ESHB 1394¹ (2023) redirected significant resources as it relates to the review for relief of all registered sex offenders who were adjudicated or convicted under the age of 18 per chapter 9A.44 RCW. Valuable resources were redirected from verification responsibility to review and relief efforts.
- Law enforcement agencies report challenges conducting verifications for offenders that have registered a shelter as their fixed addresses. Housing managers at shelters are often unwilling to confirm or deny that someone is living in the shelter.
- Agencies continue to experience staffing shortages which has an impact on the priority of address verifications, leading to less verifications being completed.

For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, WASPC granted \$4.81 million to local law enforcement agencies through the Registered Sex Offender and Kidnapping Offender Address and Residency Verification Grant Program. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, WASPC again granted \$4.81 million to local law enforcement agencies. The following information describes the efforts by local law enforcement agencies utilizing the Address and Residency Verification Grant Program.

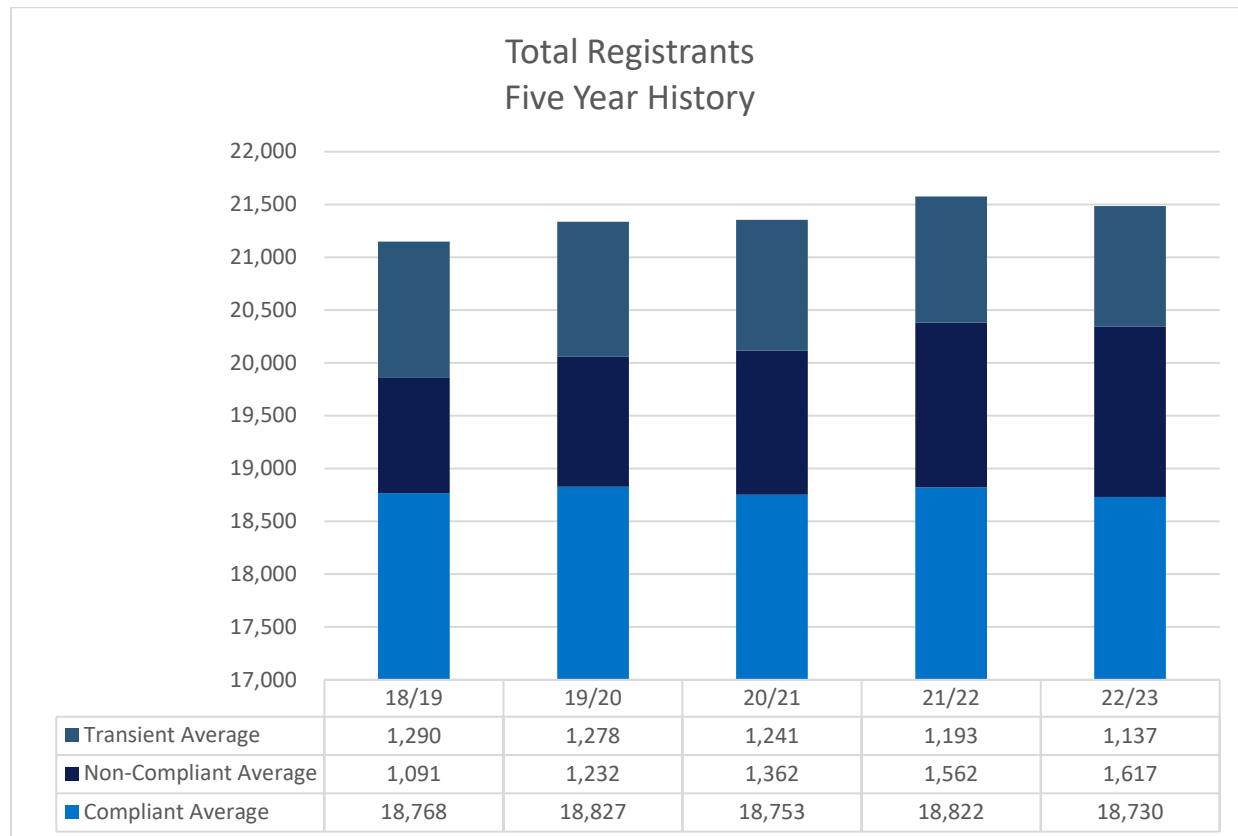
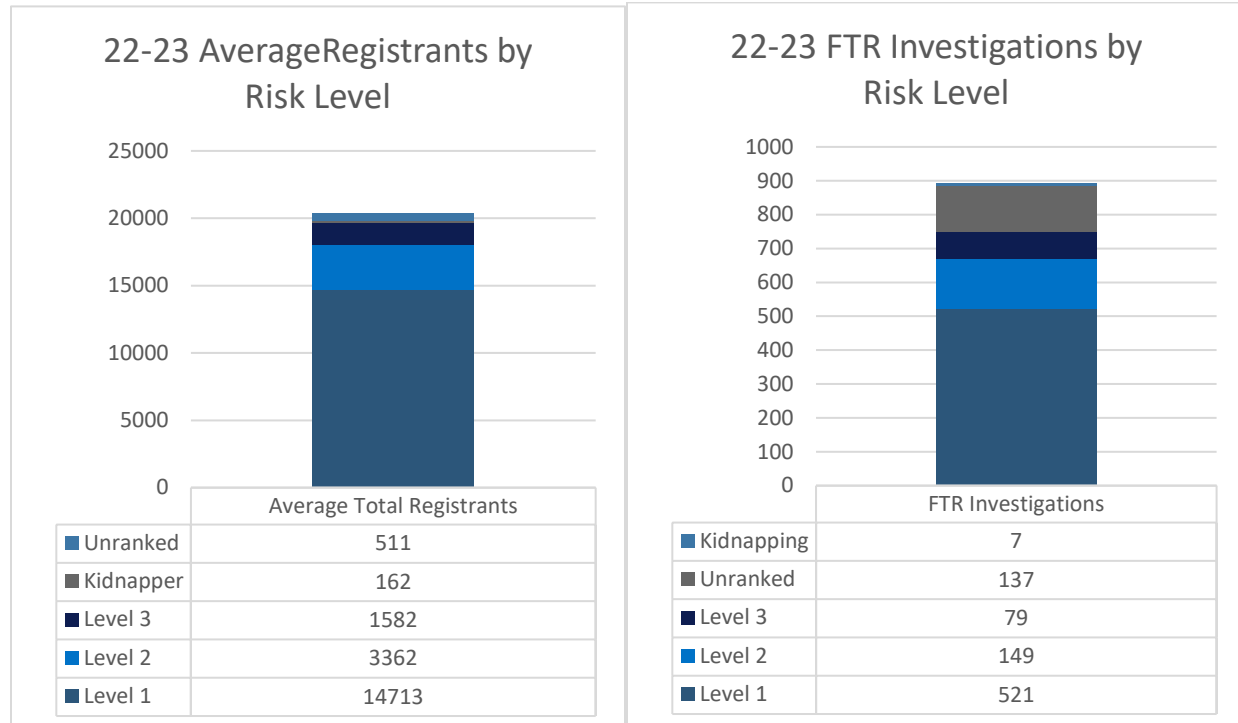
From July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023:

- Average number of statewide sex and kidnapping offenders: 20,347
- Average number of compliant sex and kidnapping offenders: 18,730
- Average number of non-compliant sex and kidnapping offenders: 1,581
- Average number of sex and kidnapping offender registered transient: 1,137
- Total face-to-face address verifications reported statewide: 26,492
- Total statewide investigations for failure to register investigations: 893

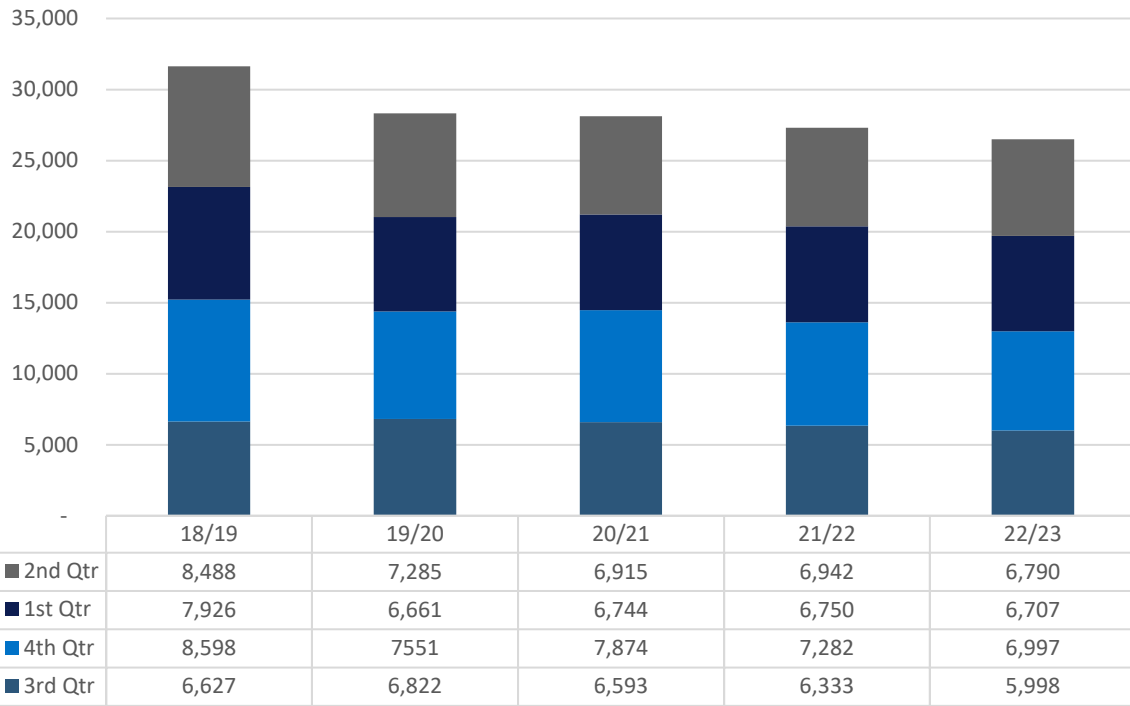
The following charts display the above information over a five-year span. The charts are based on fiscal

¹ [1394-S.SL.pdf \(wa.gov\)](#)

years with quarter 1 being January 1 to March 31, quarter 2 being April 1 to June 30, quarter 3 being July 1 to September 30 and quarter 4 being October 1 to December 31.



Total Reported Face to Face Address Verifications
Five Year History



Failure To Register Investigations
Five Year History

