



Closer scrutiny for Washington sex offenders

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OLYMPIA, WA -- When police made face-to-face checks on more than 13,000 registered sex offenders in Washington officers found that more than 500 were not where they had registered.

The checks late last year led to 238 arrests.

Gov. Chris Gregoire was briefed Monday on the verification effort. Police are still checking on the rest of the 18,000 registered sex offenders. The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs will have an annual report by the end of June.

The association has compiled a sex offender database that the public can check to see if sex offenders are living nearby.

Gregoire says she kept more than \$5 million in her budget to fund the verification program and Web site in the next two years.