

## Sex offenders don't fit profile of neighborhoods where they live

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You live in Hopkinsville, near the city's urban core.

More of your neighbors there are young, poor, black and female than anywhere else in the city, but you are white, male and at least 10 years older than most of them.

And you are four times more likely to be a registered sex offender than anyone living in the outer ring of suburban subdivisions that surround your neighborhood.

Of the 52 sex offenders registered in Christian County, 37 listed existing addresses within the city. Thirty of those addresses are clustered between Country Club Lane and Glass Avenue and within a few blocks of Virginia Street.

The sex offenders in that area range in age from 21 through 69, in height from 5 feet, 1 inch to 6 feet, 4 inches and in weight from 140 to 310 pounds. More than 60 percent of them are white and about half of them are older than 35. Only one of them is female.

Fourteen moved here after they were convicted of sex crimes in other states. At least three, including two who moved here from elsewhere, were convicted of sex crimes involving children.

Other convictions, including those for unlawful confinement, incest and sexual battery by an authority figure may also involve minors. Adding those means the total number of registered sex offenders living in Christian County after being convicted of crimes involving children could be 10 or more.

Most have photos posted on the state police online Sex Offender Registry at <http://kpsor.state.ky.us>.

But critics charge that the list there is incomplete and at times inaccurate. While the Kentucky version of "Megan's Law" -- named for the 7-year-old New Jersey child raped and murdered in 1994 -- requires sex offenders to update their registry information before moving or changing addresses, four Christian County registrants are listed with no known address.

They, and two other sex offenders who listed addresses at the Christian County Jail, are considered "non-compliant" with the

law, according to the registry.

Officials said they know of at least two sex offenders who have been prosecuted in the county for noncompliance.

Christian County authorities actively pursue non-compliant registrants, according to Sheriff Billy Gloyd. Gloyd said state police often ask him to verify addresses submitted by sex offenders.

"Most are in compliance," Gloyd said. "Those that are not, we go down and get a warrant for their arrest."

Officials don't have addresses for about 5 percent of the 2,852 registrants statewide, according to state police.

Depending on the severity of their crimes, some sex offenders are required to register for 10 years and others for life.

Among Christian County offenders, 21 are lifetime registrants for convictions including rape, sodomy, incest and lewd or lascivious acts with a minor.