



## State of New Jersey

### STATE PAROLE BOARD

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# Media Release

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## **State Parole Board Presents Report on GPS Monitoring of Sex Offenders** *Initial Results Indicate Lower Recidivism Rate than in Nationwide Sex Offender Research*

TRENTON – Chairman Peter J. Barnes Jr., Vice Chairwoman Yolette C. Ross and the Members of the New Jersey State Parole Board today presented the “Report on the GPS Monitoring of Sex Offenders.”

“Our GPS monitoring has become a vital component of the State Parole Board’s ‘containment’ approach to sex offender supervision,” Barnes said. “This monitoring strengthens public safety by tracking the most dangerous convicted sex offenders living in New Jersey communities. It has allowed us to intercept new violations. It reminds these sex offenders their movements are watched and recorded. And the data we collect is an invaluable resource for investigations of new crimes.”

The Legislature designated the State Parole Board as the agency responsible for round—the-clock Global Positioning System (GPS) monitoring of New Jersey’s highest-risk sex offenders in 2005, with the “Sex Offender Monitoring Pilot Project Act.”

Only one of the GPS program’s 225 sex offenders has been implicated in a new sex crime. The initial data suggests the State Parole Board’s GPS monitoring has contributed to a significantly lower recidivism rate than nationwide data indicates for high-risk sex offenders.

In several instances, GPS monitoring has allowed officers to discover and take swift action when sex offenders were living in unauthorized residences, violating the terms of Megan’s Law, or coming into areas frequented by their former victims.

The State Parole Board’s caseload of more than 4,300 sex offenders is one of the largest in America, mainly due to the advent of Supervision for Life sentencing guidelines for sex offenders. Prior to the introduction of this sentencing guideline, sex offenders made up less than 5 percent of the State Parole Board’s caseload. Today, they make up nearly a third of the caseload, with a net increase of about 45 new sex offenders each month.

The Pilot Project Act was replaced in August 2007 by legislation making the GPS monitoring program permanent. The original Act required the State Parole Board Chairman to submit a report evaluating the GPS monitoring program’s effectiveness.

A full, PDF copy of the report can be found at [www.state.nj.us/parole/gps.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/parole/gps.pdf)

The New Jersey State Parole Board (SPB) is New Jersey’s lead reentry agency, and works to ensure ex-prisoners return to society as law-abiding citizens. As required by law, appointed Parole Board Members and staff conduct more than 20,000 hearings per year, solicit input from victims and decide parole matters. SPB’s sworn parole officers supervise more than 15,000 offenders statewide. In addition, SPB is New Jersey’s primary law enforcement agency responsible for sex offender supervision. SPB officers

are also active partners with multiple Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies and task forces. Finally, SPB's Community Programs Unit partners with government, non-profit and private agencies to connect ex-prisoners with vocational, mental health and related services, targeted to break the cycle and risk of crime.

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