

Children are America's most precious resource and the future of our great nation. As Citizen Patrol Volunteers, protecting them from harm, especially from sexual predators, should be one of our highest priorities.

On July 20, 2005, the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, under the leadership of Assistant Attorney General Regina B. Schofield who also heads the nations Amber Alert program, launched the National Sex Offender Public Registry [www.nsopr.gov](http://www.nsopr.gov), a searchable Web site that links state and territory sex offender public registries and allows users access to public information about sex offenders throughout the country. The NSOPR currently links to 48 state registries and offers information on almost 500,000 registered sex offenders nationwide.



Pictured above is the home web page to the USDOJ NSOPR web site, check it out !

**Help protect our nations children by logging on to our web site, [www.nacop.org/kids](http://www.nacop.org/kids) and find valuable online resources such as how to receive Amber Alerts on your cell phone other useful tips to assist law enforcement in your communities.**



Citizen Patrol Volunteers play a vital role in searching for and locating missing children.

The NSOPR went live two months after Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales directed the U.S. Department's Office of Justice Programs (OJP) to design a national site that would link at least 20 state sex offender public registries and be available for public use in 60 days. Real time access to public sex offender information, Attorney General Gonzales stressed, is one critical resource for Americans to help identify sex offenders beyond their own streets or states. The Department exceeded its goal by linking 22 states. In a 12-hour period following its unveiling, the site received 22 million hits—almost 1,000 hits per second.

A single query from any Web-capable computer allows NSOPR to deliver instant matches on sex offenders, including detailed information and often photographs, from state public registries. Mirroring industry standards, Web services and the Justice Department's Global Justice eXtensible Markup Language (XML), a common computer language that standardizes data and facilitates data sharing, establish a link between NSOPR and state sex offender public registries. Users can initiate local, state, and national searches based on a name, zip code, county, city, or town. Plans are in place to provide additional NSOPR options, especially radius searches and mapping capabilities.

While still in it's formative stages and continuing grow, the NSOPR currently gives millions of parents, grandparents, and other concerned citizens easy-to-use and free access to information on two out of every five registered sex offenders in the United States. Thanks to the National Sex Offender Public Registry, they can now take a proactive and meaningful step in protecting a child's life.