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Sex Offenders Told To Stay Away From Kids On Halloween

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WASHINGTON -- Local and federal agents went door to door Tuesday to make sure sex offenders do not answer when trick-or-treaters come knocking.

On Halloween night, thousands of children scatter across Washington, D.C. They go neighborhood to neighborhood, door to door, in places they have never been, meeting people they have never seen.

The police department said the tradition is safe, but authorities also admitted that behind many doors are sex offenders who prey on children.

Inside D.C. city limits, there are 657 registered sex offenders.. An estimated 70 percent have assaulted children, but the government said most child-predators are not registered because they have never been caught, **News4's** Miguel Almaguer reported.

Child-predators in the area were told to stay away from children on Halloween, **News4** reported. At the same time, probation, parole and police officers visited the homes of high-risk offenders.

"They identified and targeted a group of offenders, those who have offended against minors under the age of 12. Other high-risk offenders are those who we just thought needed some particular attention," said Catherine Terry-Crusor of the Federal Parole and Probation Department.

Trick-or-treaters talked and thought little of sex offenders on D.C. streets Tuesday night, but it is what most people won't see on the streets that helps to keep kids safe.

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