



August 22, 2006

Hoosiers caught in online sex sting

Associated Press

August 22, 2006

VALPARAISO, Ind. -- An undercover federal investigation targeting child sex predators over the Internet has resulted in 24 arrests, including at least 13 men from Indiana.

Fourteen of the men appeared in U.S. District Court in Hammond on Monday on charges of attempting to induce, entice and coerce for sex undercover federal agents who were posing as 13-year-old girls.

The U.S. Attorney's office was to reveal details of the case later today at the Porter County Sheriff's Department in Valparaiso.

The 14 men, who claimed to range in age from 22 to 47, are expected to have detention hearings this week to determine whether they should remain in custody pending the outcomes of their cases.

Special Agent Wendy Osborne of the Indianapolis FBI office said Internet predators are becoming an increasing problem because there are more people online and therefore more people using the system for fraud or to prey on children.

"We are remaining vigilant and warning people to know who their children are talking to online," Osborne said.

Those appearing in court Monday were Thomas L. Wallace of Anderson; Mark Ciesolka of Columbus; David C. Rouhselang of Crown Point; Justin Reichart of Fort Wayne; David Lohman of Indianapolis; Jeffrey P. Taylor of Logansport; Stephen W. Schaffer of Martinsville; Clayton McNeely of Monticello; Donald L. Cochran of Rushville; Rahul Mannara of South Bend; James Daniel and Matthew Hensley, both of Valparaiso; Jimmie Collins of Whiteland; and Charles Dean Fuller, whose address was not immediately available.