

MISSING CHILDREN PROJECT  
The Colorado Bureau of Investigation  
The number of missing children cases  
reported in the state of Colorado from  
1975 to 1985 is shown in the following  
table.



REPORT TO THE COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**ANNUAL REPORT**

THE COLORADO BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION

**MISSING CHILDREN PROJECT**

JULY, 1985 TO JUNE, 1986

# THE MISSING CHILDREN PROJECT

## *Profile:*

The Colorado Legislature first allocated funds for the Missing Children Project during 1985. The project employs one full-time person to coordinate its activities. The project is operationally a part of the CCIC Coordinate Services Unit, and acts as a repository for pertinent data associated with reported missing children. The project serves as a monitor of new missing children incidents to insure that these cases are completely and correctly reported to and by the proper authority. The project also reviews the reporting techniques of various law enforcement agencies, acts on reports of missing children from both the public and law enforcement agencies, prepares special reports requested by the news media, and prepares related statistical reports as required by the project's enabling legislation [Senate Bill 160]. Liaison duties among private agencies, federally funded groups, and law enforcement agencies both state-wide and nationally are functions of the Missing Children Project.

During July of 1986, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation's Missing Children Project was selected by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to participate as one of seven (7) state-level clearinghouses for dissemination of missing children information. As a member of the clearinghouse network, the Missing Children Project is also participating in a sub-project called Lifenet. The Lifenet project is a unique experiment that focuses upon the high quality transmission of photographs using telephone lines. Photographs of missing children can now be sent over telephone lines with the same speed as teletype information. The sophisticated electronic equipment necessary for these transmissions is located at the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, and is available for use by any requesting Colorado agency.

## *Scope of the Missing Children Issue:*

The number of missing child reports initiated in the State of Colorado is substantial. For the measuring period of mid-July, 1985 through June, 1986, some 14,500 missing child reports were received at Colorado law enforcement agencies. Currently it is felt that the majority of missing child reports are initiated on children later classified as runaways; i.e., children that choose to leave their legal residences for reasons of personal dissatisfaction without advising their parents or guardians of their whereabouts.

Within the next few months, the Missing Children Project will be able to classify missing child reports into one of five distinct categories. They will be:

Children missing under no suspicious circumstances. [Runaways]

Children inadvertently separated from their parents or legal guardians. [Lost children].

Children abducted by strangers or non-family members.

Children abducted by non-custodial parents or relatives.

Children missing under suspicious circumstances.

These classifications will create a database aimed at accurately portraying the missing child problem in Colorado. The present data collection parameters generally address only raw numbers of missing children, and then by capturing often statistically meaningless categories. [E.g., hair and eye color, height and weight measures.]

## *Future Assistance Directions for the Project:*

The one full-time employee assigned to the project is working at 100% of capacity. In fact, this section is thought given to adapting those which would be effective and beneficial in Colorado.

Statistical work product data for the Missing Children Project follows on the ensuing pages.

## STATISTICAL DATA

### MISSING CHILDREN PROJECT WORK PRODUCT

MEASURING PERIOD: July 15, 1985 through June 30, 1986

#### MISSING CHILDREN REPORTS RECEIVED AND REVIEWED

|           |      |        |
|-----------|------|--------|
| JULY      | 1985 | 790    |
| AUGUST    | 1985 | 1,160  |
| SEPTEMBER | 1985 | 1,309  |
| OCTOBER   | 1985 | 1,510  |
| NOVEMBER  | 1985 | 1,078  |
| DECEMBER  | 1985 | 903    |
| JANUARY   | 1986 | 1,266  |
| FEBRUARY  | 1986 | 1,126  |
| MARCH     | 1986 | 1,401  |
| APRIL     | 1986 | 1,385  |
| MAY       | 1986 | 1,351  |
| JUNE      | 1986 | 1,232  |
| TOTAL     |      | 14,511 |

#### MISSING CHILDREN CASES CLOSED ALL AGENCIES

13,564

#### MISSING CHILDREN CASES OPEN AS OF JUNE 30, 1986

947

#### MISSING CHILDREN CASES CLOSED WITH INFORMATION RELAYED TO LOCAL AGENCIES BY THE MISSING CHILDREN PROJECT

408

#### LEADING COLORADO COUNTIES FOR REPORTED MISSING CHILDREN

|              |      |             |      |
|--------------|------|-------------|------|
| 1. ADAMS     | 3028 | 6. BOULDER  | 993  |
| 2. JEFFERSON | 2026 | 7. ARAPAHOE | 907  |
| 3. DENVER    | 1789 | 8. WELD     | 779  |
| 4. EL PASO   | 1552 | 9. LARIMER  | 668  |
| 5. PUEBLO    | 1110 | 10. MESA    | 3819 |

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|                                 |        |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| SUB-TOTAL                       | 13,233 |
| REMAINING FIFTY-THREE COUNTIES: | 1,278  |
| TOTAL                           | 14,511 |

**AGE AND GENDER OF CHILDREN  
REPORTED MISSING**

| AGE          | MALE        | FEMALE      | TOTAL         |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| 0 - 5        | 89          | 79          | 168           |
| 6 - 11       | 370         | 163         | 533           |
| 11 - 17      | 5791        | 8019        | 13,810        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>6250</b> | <b>8261</b> | <b>14,511</b> |

Ninety-five percent of all children reported as missing come from the 11 - 17 years of age group. The majority of these are usually classified as runaways.



**ACTIVITY CHILD INVOLVED IN  
WHEN LAST SEEN**

| ACTIVITY   | MALE        | FEMALE      | TOTAL         |
|--|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| RESIDENCE: HOME,<br>FRIEND OR RELATIVE           | 4156        | 5266        | 9418          |
| PUBLIC PLACE<br>SCHOOL OR PLACE OF<br>EMPLOYMENT | 811         | 1208        | 2019          |
| SOCIAL ACTIVITY                                  | 229         | 356         | 585           |
| TRAVELING TO/FROM<br>AN LOCATION                 | 477         | 767         | 1244          |
| ACTIVITY UNKNOWN                                 | 464         | 589         | 1053          |
| IN CUSTODY OF A<br>PUBLIC INSTITUTION            | 112         | 80          | 192           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                     | <b>6250</b> | <b>8261</b> | <b>14,511</b> |

**TIME OF DAY CHILD LAST SEEN**

| TIME         | MALE        | FEMALE      | TOTAL         |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| 12 AM - 6 AM | 328         | 459         | 787           |
| 6 AM - 12 PM | 1747        | 2271        | 4018          |
| 12 PM - 6 PM | 2198        | 2901        | 5099          |
| 6 PM - 12 AM | 1977        | 2630        | 4607          |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>6250</b> | <b>8261</b> | <b>14,511</b> |

Approximately 63% of all reported missing children are last seen at their home, between the hours of 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Only 5% of missing children are known to have disappeared during the hours of 12 midnight and 6:00 AM.

**DAY OF WEEK CHILD LAST SEEN**

| DAY          | MALE        | FEMALE      | TOTAL         |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| SUNDAY       | 705         | 873         | 1578          |
| MONDAY       | 1006        | 1230        | 2236          |
| TUESDAY      | 873         | 1348        | 2221          |
| WEDNESDAY    | 867         | 1071        | 1938          |
| THURSDAY     | 866         | 1115        | 1981          |
| FRIDAY       | 1078        | 1488        | 2566          |
| SATURDAY     | 855         | 1136        | 1991          |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>6250</b> | <b>8261</b> | <b>14,511</b> |