

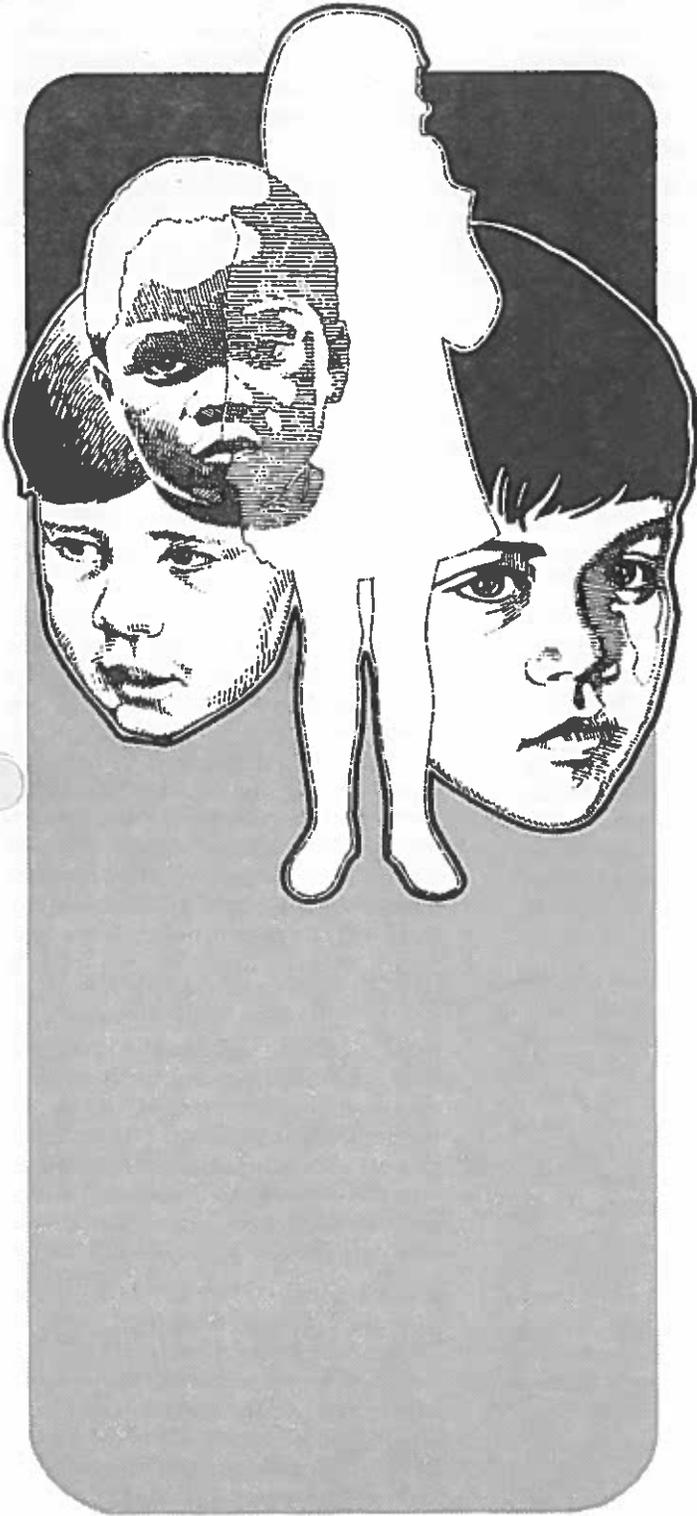
Annual Report to the Colorado General Assembly

**STATE OF COLORADO
MISSING CHILDREN PROJECT**

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**



JULY, 1986 TO JUNE, 1987



THE MISSING CHILDREN PROJECT

July 1, 1987

These reports of Colorado's Missing Children Project are the product of an extraordinarily cooperative effort among all of Colorado's law enforcement agencies: with each other and with their counterparts nationwide. Missing Children cases are not restricted by town or state lines. Only a continuing, cooperative and deliberate effort by each of our local law enforcement agencies will result in timely identification and rescue of missing children.

We extend our thanks to the Colorado General Assembly for its support of this project, and to the law enforcement leaders who have worked so diligently to find and assist so many young people. The CBI has renewed its commitment to supporting this work, and to reducing the call so dreaded by emergency personnel, "Help me, please! My child is missing!"



Carl W. Whiteside
Director

Project Profile:

To assist in compiling a list of missing children, every law enforcement agency in the state is required to send a missing child report to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation as soon as possible, but no later than twenty-four hours, after taking the report. If, at a later time, the law enforcement agency determines that the missing child has been located, the agency must again notify the bureau no later than twenty-four hours after making such determination.

A timely list of missing children is distributed on a regular basis to all school districts in Colorado. A school district may either immediately notify the Bureau if it comes in contact with a child whose name appears on the list of missing children, or send the names of all new or transfer students to the Missing Children office on a regular basis. Those names are then checked against the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) to see if they have been reported missing. If a missing child is identified, the law enforcement agency that submitted the initial report is notified immediately.

Effective July 1, 1987, Colorado Senate Bill 63 requires the CBI to obtain, if available, the dental records of any child who has been missing thirty or more days, and any custodian of such records must comply with the Bureau's request for the records. This will prove invaluable in the most serious cases.

History:

The Colorado General Assembly established the Missing Children Project in the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on July 1, 1985, with one full time coordinator. The project, part of the CBI's Crime Information Center, is a repository of information associated with missing children. The project monitors reports of missing children in Colorado to insure the cases are handled completely and correctly reported to proper authorities; continuously reviews local agency reporting techniques; evaluates reports from the public and from other law enforcement agencies, relaying investigative lead information to appropriate agencies; and prepares special reports for the media, for missing children agencies in other states, and for the General Assembly. Project staff maintains liaison with federal, state, local and private missing children agencies nationwide.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has selected the Colorado Missing Children Project to be one of seven state level clearinghouses for dissemination of missing children information. The CBI is also a LIFENET participant, a benefit of the clearinghouse network. LIFENET is a federally funded system supporting rapid, high quality transmission of photographs over telephone lines. Pictures of a missing child can be sent from one agency to another within seconds. The sophisticated equipment required is housed at CBI headquarters and is available for use by all law enforcement agencies.

Dimension of the Missing Children Problem:

Between July 1, 1986 and June 30, 1987, local law enforcement agencies reported 14,504 missing children to the CBI. The majority of those were eventually resolved and classified as "runaway" incidents: children who left voluntarily without telling their parents or guardians. During the same period, the number of adults reported missing was considerably less. Depending on the time of year, the number of missing persons under the age of eighteen on any given day may vary from 875 to 1,027, as compared to 246 to 316 for adults. The great majority of these people will eventually be located.

Missing persons under the age of eighteen are now classified into one of five distinct categories:

- No suspicious circumstances
- Inadvertently separated from parent/guardian
- Abducted by strangers or non-family members
- Abducted by non-custodial family members
- Suspicious circumstances

These classifications were created to assist in accurately portraying the missing child problem in Colorado. July, 1986 through June, 1987, it was deter-

mined that 97.4% of those children missing occurred under no suspicious circumstances; .2% were inadvertently separated from their parents or legal guardian; .3% were abducted by strangers or non-family members; .7% were abducted by non-custodial parents or relatives; and 1.4 were missing under suspicious circumstances.

The Future:

Project staff, one state funded coordinator and one half time federally funded position, has established an enviable and cost effective productivity record in finding missing children, yet is nearly six months behind in pursuing investigative leads. Only the most urgent of a great many tips are pursued and relayed in a timely way. Additional staff will eventually contribute directly to a proportional increase in the number of children located and returned to their parents or guardians. The CBI has encouraged and utilized both citizen volunteers and student interns, at no cost to the State, in its effort to resolve missing children cases and continues to seek ways to speed resolution of these distressing incidents.

The following pages portray statistically Colorado's Missing Children experience during the period reported.



MISSING CHILDREN REPORTS RECEIVED AND REVIEWED

JULY	1986	1,168
AUGUST	1986	1,134
SEPTEMBER	1986	1,301
OCTOBER	1986	1,397
NOVEMBER	1986	1,170
DECEMBER	1986	787
JANUARY	1987	1,191
FEBRUARY	1987	1,220
MARCH	1987	1,223
APRIL	1987	1,377
MAY	1987	1,380
JUNE	1987	1,156
TOTAL		14,504

MISSING CHILDREN CASES CLOSED ALL AGENCIES

13,525

MISSING CHILDREN CASES OPEN AS OF JUNE 30, 1987

979

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

379

LEADING COLORADO COUNTIES FOR REPORTED MISSING CHILDREN

1. ADAMS	2,995	6. BOULDER	938
2. JEFFERSON	1,990	7. ARAPAHOE	936
3. DENVER	1,771	8. WELD	714
4. EL PASO	1,663	9. LARIMER	702
5. PUEBLO	1,111	10. MESA	401

SUB-TOTAL	13,221
REMAINING FIFTY-THREE COUNTIES	1,283
TOTAL	14,504

**MISSING CHILDREN CASES
OPEN AS OF JULY 1, 1987 SINCE**

1986	- 237
1985	- 68
1984	- 31
1983	- 32
1982 And Prior	- 65

**ACTIVITY CHILD INVOLVED IN
WHEN LAST SEEN**

ACTIVITY	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
RESIDENCE: HOME, FRIEND OR RELATIVE	4,674	6,360	11,034
PUBLIC PLACE SCHOOL OR PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT	680	990	1,670
SOCIAL ACTIVITY	144	193	337
TRAVELING TO/FROM A LOCATION	320	438	758
ACTIVITY UNKNOWN	226	281	507
IN CUSTODY OF A PUBLIC INSTITUTION	81	117	198
TOTAL	6,125	8,379	14,504

**AGE AND GENDER OF CHILDREN
REPORTED MISSING BY PERCENTAGE**

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
0 - 5	.6	.6	1.2
6 - 11	1.9	.9	2.8
11 - 17	39.0	57.0	96.0
TOTAL	41.5	58.5	100.0%

Ninety-six 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.



TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN REPORTED MISSING BY RACE

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES	SEX		RACE				
	MALE	FEMALE	WHITE	BLACK	ASIAN/ PACIFIC	NATIVE AMERICAN	OTHER
14,504	6,125	8,379	13,364	910	104	108	18

DAY OF WEEK CHILD LAST SEEN

DAY	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	PERCENT
SUNDAY	679	953	1,632	11.2
MONDAY	869	1,265	2,134	14.7
TUESDAY	922	1,236	2,158	14.9
WEDNESDAY	865	1,106	1,971	13.6
THURSDAY	900	1,139	2,039	14.1
FRIDAY	1,076	1,591	2,667	18.4
SATURDAY	814	1,089	1,903	13.1
TOTAL	6,125	8,379	14,504	100.0%

TIME OF DAY CHILD LAST SEEN

TIME	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	PERCENT
12 AM - 6 AM	279	475	754	5.2
6 AM - 12 PM	1,727	2,243	3,970	27.4
12 PM - 6 PM	2,092	2,770	4,862	33.5
6 PM - 12 AM	2,027	2,891	4,918	33.9
TOTAL	6,125	8,379	14,504	100.0%

Approximately 61% of all reported missing children are last seen 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 A.M.