

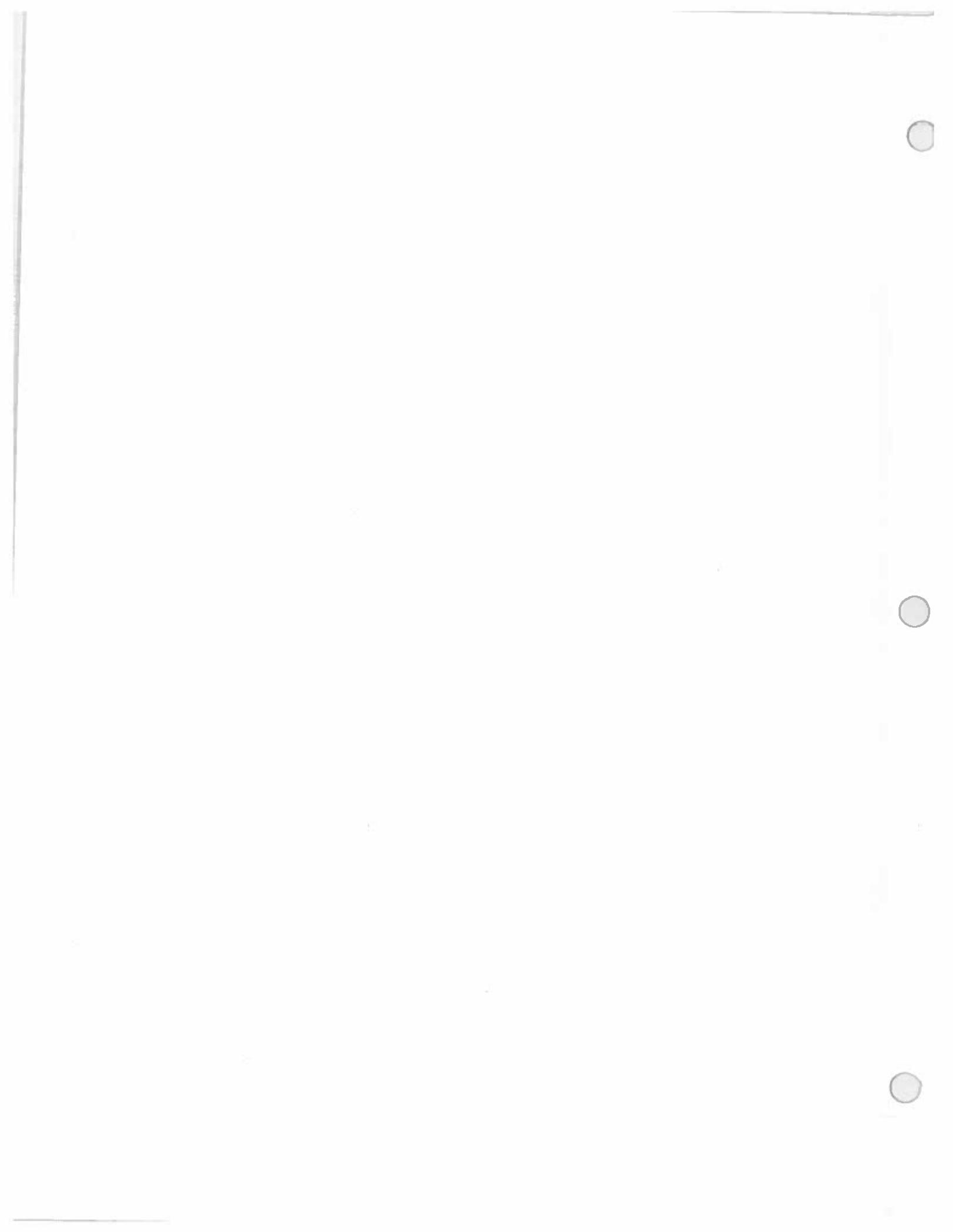
**COLORADO BUREAU OF
INVESTIGATION**

MISSING CHILDREN PROJECT



**ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE
COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

• 1989 •



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COLORADO
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SAFETY

Carl W. Whiteside, Director
Colorado Bureau of Investigation

July 31, 1990

This report of Colorado's missing children is 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.

Statistics provided in this publication are a measure of the seriousness of the missing children problem. In just one year there has been an alarming 9.25 percent increase in reported incidents. Although the information included in this report does not provide reasons for the increase, it does give an indication of increased public awareness in the reporting of missing children.

It is with these public concerns in mind that the Colorado Bureau of Investigation disseminates this information in hopes that the scope of the problem will be realized and solutions to the whereabouts of these children will be achieved.

We extend our thanks to the Colorado General Assembly for it's support of the Missing Children Project and to the law enforcement leaders who have worked so diligently to find and assist so many young people. The Colorado Bureau of Investigation is committed to supporting this work, and to reducing the call so dreaded by emergency personnel, "Help me, please! My child is missing!"

Roy Romer
GOVERNOR

David J. Thomas
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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CONTRIBUTORS TO THE MISSING CHILDREN PROJECT

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation Missing Children Project would like to express appreciation for the generous donations received from the following organizations.

AMERICAN LEGION POST #8
Rocky Ford, Colorado

B.P.O.E. LODGE #1650
Littleton, Colorado

B.P.O.E. LODGE #1235
Delta, Colorado

V.F.W. POST #4171
Golden, Colorado

KING SOOPERS
Denver, Colorado

**BLUE KNIGHTS
DENVER CHAPTER**
Littleton, Colorado

INTRODUCTION

History:

Each year, thousands of children are reported missing around the nation. Although, many of these children are returned safely, those who are not, are continually exposed to harmful situations. In response to the growing national concern for missing and exploited children, the Federal Children's Assistance Act was passed in 1982, and Congress mandated the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to become actively involved in missing children cases. Federal efforts were further strengthened by the creation of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) in 1984.

During this time, child abduction cases were becoming more highly publicized in Colorado and public concern was mounting. In June of 1985, legislation was passed to establish the Missing Children Project within the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

The Project's primary purpose is to serve as a central repository for information on missing children in order to better define the extent of the problem. It is designed to collect, compile, exchange, and disseminate information to assist in locating missing children.

Towards this end, the Project is responsible for obtaining dental records on children who have been missing thirty or more days, comparing student records with reports of missing children, and reviewing each missing child report submitted to every law enforcement agency in the state.

The National Center and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, instituted a program establishing state level clearinghouses for missing children. Seven state projects, including Colorado's Missing Children Project, were selected to participate in this pilot program. Because of its great success, there are now 40 states with legislation authorizing the establishment of missing children clearinghouses and 4 states with clearinghouses established by executive order.

PROFILE

Responsibilities of the Missing Children Project:

The Project compiles and distributes lists of missing children from reports submitted by local law enforcement agencies. The reports are released to school districts as well as any other entity or person the Project determines may be instrumental in the identification and recovery of missing children.

In accordance with statute, the Project maintains and distributes statistics on missing children which include:

- The number of missing children reported.
- The number of missing children cases resolved.
- The approximate physical location at which each child was last seen.
- The time of day each child was last seen.
- The age, gender, and physical description of each child reported missing.
- The activity the child was engaged in at the time last seen.
- The number of reported sightings of missing children.

The Project monitors the entry of each missing child report into the Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC) and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) systems for validity, completeness and accuracy and insures the originating agency makes any necessary corrections or additions.

When a child has been missing for thirty days, the Project must attempt to obtain the dental records and attach them to the on-line NCIC missing person record.

The Project submits lists of children missing from Colorado to each school district to compare with their enrollment records in order to identify missing children in their schools. If a district chooses, they may submit enrollment lists to the Project to be compared with the NCIC system to locate children missing from every state. When a match is verified, the Project notifies the appropriate authorities to initiate the return of the missing child.

Functions of the Project as a State Clearinghouse

- The development and delivery of specialized training programs for criminal justice and youth services professionals.
- Provide information regarding cases originating in Colorado for the national directory of missing and abducted children at the National Center.
- Provide case follow-up on missing children cases originating in other states.
- Provide out-of state agencies information concerning applicable Colorado state laws, relevant agency interrelationships, and recovery procedures.
- Establish cooperative mechanisms with other state clearinghouses to aid in the reuniting of missing children with their lawful parent or guardian.
- Act as a clearinghouse for photographs of missing children and cooperate with businesses that wish to publicize these photographs.
- Assist in the preparation of missing children bulletins and their distribution to law enforcement agencies and school districts.
- Counsel citizens and business groups on how they contribute to the effort of combating the plight of missing children.
- Attempt to locate abductors by completing nationwide record and file searches and interact with other organizations, agencies, or groups that may be instrumental in locating missing children.
- Another program sponsored by the National Center provides transportation and lodging for custodial parents recovering their missing children who cannot afford such expenses. Access to this assistance can be obtained through the State Clearinghouse.
- The National Center initiates nationwide studies used to identify specific areas of concern and to establish protocols to respond to these problems.
- The National Center provides the Clearinghouses with updates on pending legislation relating to missing and exploited children issues.
- The National Center publishes handbooks for use by parents, law-enforcement officers, attorneys, and federal, state, and local officials who deal with the missing and exploited children issues. These publications can be obtained directly from NCMEC or through the State Clearinghouse.
- The National Center sponsors a twenty-four hour hot-line to secure critical information concerning missing and exploited children and insures case follow-up by the appropriate agencies through the State Clearinghouses.

Benefits of participating in the Clearinghouse Program:

- The National Center is staffed with professionals from the criminal justice and youth services systems who provide training and technical assistance to all Clearinghouse members.
- The National Center sponsors special programs for victim children and their parents or guardians. Such programs include the ADVO Public Service Campaign which distributes photographs of missing children to thousands of households each week. This program provides a much broader distribution of missing children bulletins than any Clearinghouse has access to and has had many positive results.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF 1989 MISSING CHILDREN ACTIVITY

1989 FACTS OF INTEREST

Information contained in this report was compiled from data entered into the CCIC system by local law enforcement agencies. Each report filed with the local agency is entered into the computer system as a separate case and therefore the numbers reflect cases as opposed to actual missing children. Also, since this data is based on report filing into the system, the Project has no way of identifying those children who have not been entered, but who have been reported as missing.

The following definitions explain terms used in this report.

CCIC - Colorado Crime Information Center.

NCIC - National Crime Information Center.

Missing Child - A child whose whereabouts are unknown, whose domicile at the time he was first reported missing was Colorado, and whose age at the time he was reported missing was seventeen years of age or younger.

Runaway - An unemancipated juvenile who has left his/her home environment without parent's or legal guardian's permission.

Lost - A subject who is presumed to have wandered away and has become lost and unable to return to a known location.

Non-Custodial Abduction - The taking of a child with the intent to deprive the legal parent or guardian of possession of that child by the non-custodial parent or family member.

Kidnapped - A subject who is missing under circumstances indicating that the disappearance is not voluntary and has been abducted by a stranger or non-family member.

Suspicious - A subject who is missing with insufficient information to enable placing the record in any other probable category.

- An average of 42 children are reported missing every 24 hours in Colorado.
- 95.88% of the total number of missing children are classified as runaways.
- 4.25% of the total number of missing children were females under the age of 13.
- 5.67% of the total number of missing children were males under the age of 13.
- 51.79% of the total number of missing children were females 13 years of age and over.
- 38.29% of the total number of missing children were males 13 years of age and over.
- At the end of 1989, there were nine cases remaining active that were over 3 years old.
- More children were reported missing during the month of October.
- The majority of children were reported missing on Friday.
- There was an increase of 1,146 missing children reports from 1988.

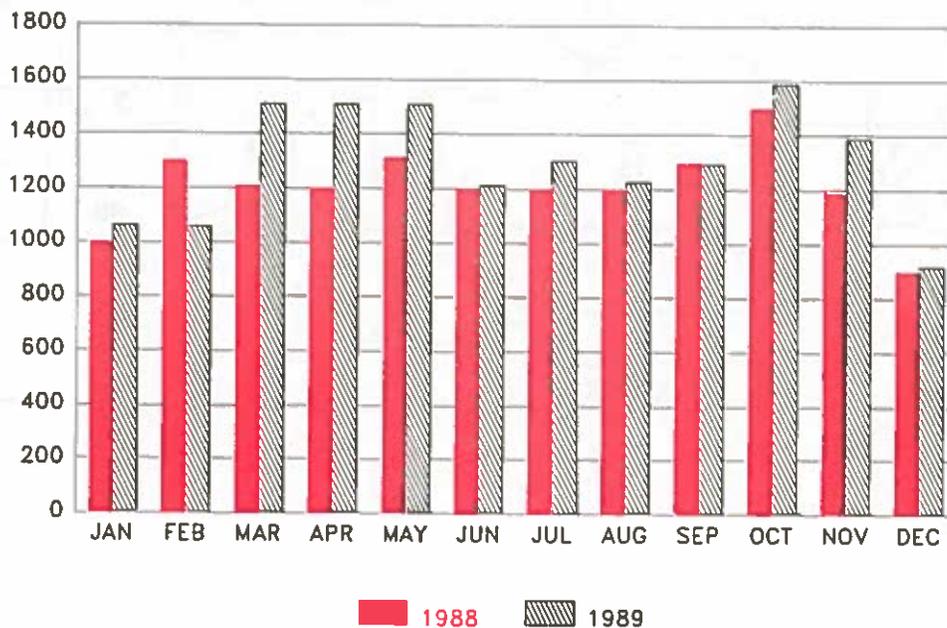
MISSING CHILDREN REPORTS RECEIVED AND REVIEWED

There were a total of 15,421 children reported missing in 1989. Below is the breakdown of reports per month.

JANUARY	.1056
FEBRUARY	.1043
MARCH	.1465
APRIL	.1466
MAY	.1484
JUNE	.1212
JULY	.1295
AUGUST	.1247
SEPTEMBER	.1328
OCTOBER	.1549
NOVEMBER	.1349
DECEMBER	.927

MISSING CHILDREN FILE ENTERIES 1988 - 1989

There is a significant difference in the number of children entered as missing between 1988 and 1989. The following graph depicts this 9.25% increase of entries which is the highest increase since the project began collecting data on missing children.



CIRCUMSTANCES OF MISSING CHILDREN

The following chart shows a breakdown of the circumstances of missing children reports. Findings show that 53.92% of all reports were runaway females and 42.09% runaway males.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Runaways												
Females	561	553	814	796	800	639	670	678	712	836	730	512
Males	480	457	619	619	623	524	557	490	569	637	561	355
Lost												
Females	3	3	2	2	1	3	2	1	1	1	0	1
Males	2	1	2	4	1	1	1	2	0	2	1	2
Kidnapped												
Females	0	1	2	1	2	1	0	4	0	0	1	0
Males	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	6	0	1	3	0
Non-custodial												
Females	2	10	1	5	0	5	4	8	1	6	6	3
Males	0	5	9	2	4	4	2	4	3	5	7	6
Suspicious												
Females	5	8	8	19	22	22	35	30	23	39	20	27
Males	3	5	8	19	30	12	24	24	19	23	19	21

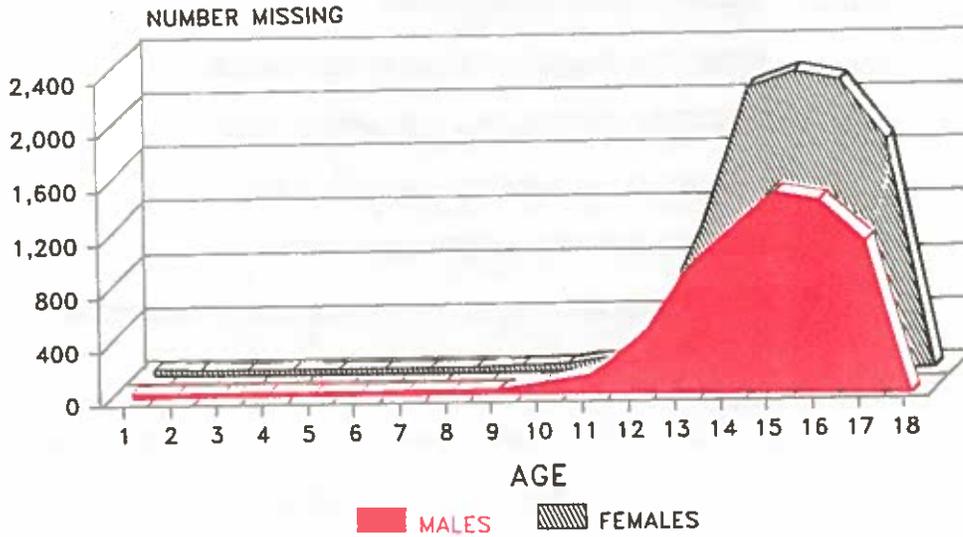
ACTIVITY REPORT

This chart depicts the activities children were involved in at the time they were last seen. The majority, 76.79%, were missing from home. The next largest group, 5.79%, were missing from a public place.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
(At Home)												
Females	435	433	627	611	605	535	545	544	556	673	570	418
Males	348	358	500	519	524	451	467	409	453	502	475	284
Playing or Visiting												
Females	14	12	30	24	18	22	26	26	12	27	21	17
Males	7	11	12	12	10	16	13	12	8	12	10	16
(At Friend/Relative)												
Females	37	33	45	69	53	39	32	39	46	48	52	24
Males	29	34	38	36	33	24	32	26	33	51	32	26
(Public Place)												
Females	18	31	39	33	48	11	9	1	38	40	50	17
Males	22	16	25	21	21	5	3	2	17	18	30	16
Attending School												
Females	8	1	4	6	8	6	5	5	4	5	7	5
Males	7	5	2	7	1	3	1	4	3	6	3	0
Place of Employment												
Females	17	11	18	14	12	4	9	10	11	8	8	7
Males	14	13	14	7	6	4	2	5	4	15	3	6
(Private Residence)												
Females	3	4	13	3	7	5	10	10	9	8	4	6
Males	7	2	4	4	5	6	5	5	14	4	3	3
(Public Place)												
Females	12	14	15	11	15	2	1	1	13	19	8	4
Males	8	10	16	7	4	1	0	1	12	17	4	7
School												
Females	0	4	2	0	2	0	4	4	1	1	0	0
Males	0	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	0
Work												
Females	1	6	5	10	4	7	9	8	6	6	4	5
Males	2	2	0	2	9	2	9	11	3	3	2	2
Friends/Relatives												
Females	5	8	8	5	10	9	8	16	4	6	3	6
Males	10	3	3	6	10	5	7	13	9	7	5	5
Public Place												
Females	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	6	0	0	2	0
Males	3	0	1	0	3	0	6	5	2	1	1	1
Vacation												
Females	13	12	14	21	33	26	45	46	28	39	22	29
Males	21	7	10	14	25	13	28	26	20	18	15	18
Unknown												
Females	4	6	6	14	9	3	6	15	10	2	5	3
Males	7	5	11	9	7	10	10	6	12	13	10	1
In Custody Public Institution												

MISSING CHILDREN COUNT BY AGE AND GENDER

For those juveniles reported missing, 46.24% were females between the ages of thirteen and sixteen, with fifteen year olds being the largest group totaling 2,215 records. 32.37% of reported missing were males in the same age range with fifteen year olds being the largest group totaling 1,535 records.



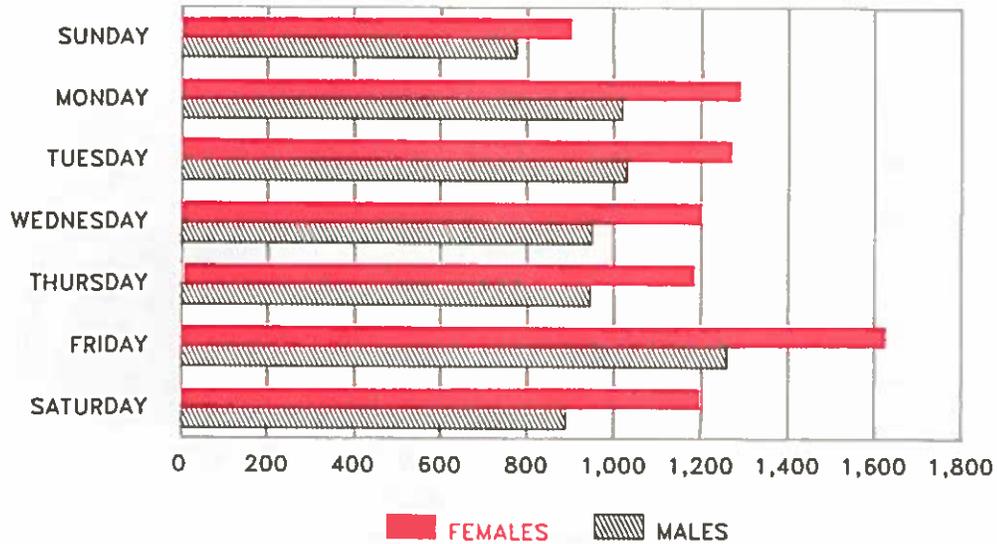
BREAKDOWN OF MISSING CHILDREN BY RACE AND SEX

The highest percentage of children reported missing were white females totaling 7,878 records at a percentage of 51.07, followed by white males with a total of 6,061 records at a percentage of 39.29 of the total records reported.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
White												
Females	517	517	769	748	750	614	639	663	670	803	692	496
Males	443	442	572	566	573	485	514	477	534	601	543	331
Black												
Females	44	45	46	52	53	47	62	47	44	56	52	43
Males	32	32	55	65	76	48	58	34	44	55	42	43
Native American												
Females	2	5	5	13	15	4	6	5	9	13	3	1
Males	7	3	2	5	4	6	5	7	5	6	4	4
Asian												
Females	8	6	4	6	7	4	3	4	6	5	7	2
Males	2	9	7	6	5	1	6	2	4	5	4	2
Unknown												
Females	0	2	3	3	0	1	1	2	8	5	2	0
Males	1	2	2	3	1	2	1	6	4	1	0	5

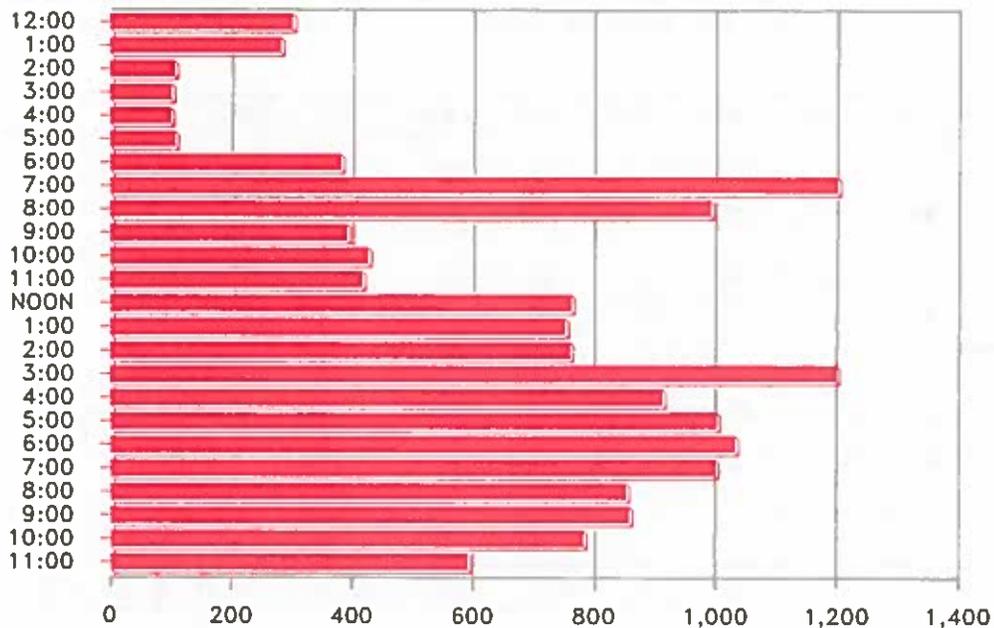
DAY COUNT OF MISSING CHILDREN

The highest volume of missing children were reported on Fridays, 18.79% of the total number with 10.7% being females and 8.09% being males.



TIME LAST SEEN COUNT

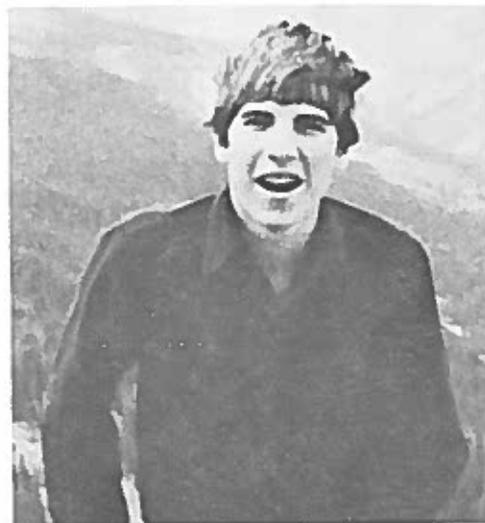
This chart depicts the time of day the children were last seen who were reported missing. Of the total, 7.5% or 1,160 were last seen at approximately 11:00 A.M. , followed by 7.2% or 1,129 last seen at 3:00 P.M.



On behalf of these children, we would like to dedicate this annual report to all our missing children and their families.



ELIZABETH ANN MILLER
Date of Birth: July 27, 1969
Date Missing: August 16, 1983
Missing From: Idaho Springs, Colorado



CHRISTOPHER JAMES HARVEY
Date of Birth: August 9, 1969
Date Missing: July 11, 1984
Missing From: Hinsdale County, Colorado



CHRISTOPHER ENOCH ABEYTA
Date of Birth: November 28, 1985
Date Missing: July 15, 1986
Missing From: Colorado Springs, Colorado



JONELLE RENEE MATTHEWS
Date of Birth: February 9, 1972
Date Missing: December 20, 1984
Missing From: Greeley, Colorado

IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION ON THESE OR ANY OTHER MISSING CHILD, PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR THE COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AT (303) 239-4222

