

**COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

# **MISSING CHILDREN PROJECT**



**ANNUAL REPORT  
TO THE  
COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**• 1990 •**

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COLORADO  
DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC SAFETY

Carl W. Whiteside, Director  
Colorado Bureau of Investigation

May 23, 1991

The National Crime Information Center reported at the end of 1990, that there were 70,014 active missing person cases nationwide. Seventy two percent of these were known to be juveniles. While authorities are concerned with all missing persons, a child's vulnerability causes greater concern. Even though many missing children leave home voluntarily, they are still exposed to serious danger, exploitation, and death. When a child is missing, the community suffers the loss, shares the grief, and fears for the child.

This report is a measure of the seriousness of Colorado's missing children problem. It may be helpful in evaluating programs and justifying resources allocated to finding missing children. It should also heighten public awareness of the plight of missing children.

We extend our thanks to the Colorado General Assembly for its support of the Missing Children Project and to the law enforcement leaders who work so diligently to find those missing. The Colorado Bureau of Investigation pledges its continuing support to make Colorado a safer place for our children.

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GOVERNOR

David J. Thomas  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Colorado State  
Patrol

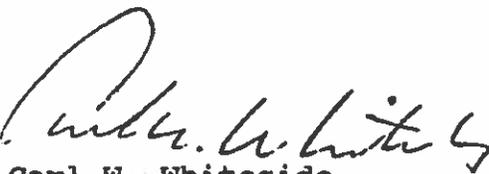
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## INTRODUCTION

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### History

Each year, thousands of children are reported missing around the nation. Although many of the 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. It directed 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 finding missing children. Towards this end, the Project is responsible for obtaining dental records of children who have been missing thirty or more days, comparing new student records with reports of missing children, and reviewing each missing child report submitted by every law enforcement agency in the state.

The NCMEC and the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention instituted a program establishing state level clearinghouses for missing children. Seven state projects, including Colorado's, were selected to participate in this pilot program. Because of its great success, there are now forty States with legislation authorizing the establishment of missing children clearinghouses and four other states with clearinghouses established by executive order.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

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### Lists

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.

### Monitoring

The Project monitors each missing child report into the Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC) and the National

Crime Information Center (NCIC) 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 child's dental records and attach them to the NCIC missing person report.

The Project sends lists of children missing from Colorado to each Colorado school district for comparison with their enrollment records to identify missing children in their schools. If a district chooses, it may submit enrollment lists to the Project to be compared with NCIC to locate children missing from all states. When a match is verified, the Project notifies the appropriate authorities to facilitate the return of the missing child.

### Statistics

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.

### Recovery

The Project now captures the circumstances of recovery of missing children. These include a breakdown by age, race, and sex in cases resolved by: recovery by a law enforcement agency, recovery by an agency other than law enforcement, voluntarily returned, deceased, and circumstances unknown. These are summarized for the first time in the 1991 annual report and will give a clearer picture of what is being done to resolve the missing children problem in Colorado.

## CLEARINGHOUSE ACTIVITIES

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**D**evelop and deliver specialized training programs to criminal justice and youth services professionals.

**P**rovide information regarding cases originating in Colorado for the national directory of missing and abducted children at the National Center.

**P**rovide case follow-up on missing children cases originating in other states.

**P**rovide information to out-of-state agencies concerning applicable Colorado state laws, relevant agency interrelationships, and recovery procedures.

**E**stablish cooperative mechanisms with other state clearinghouses to aid in the reuniting of missing children with their lawful parent or guardian.

**A**ct as a clearinghouse for photographs of missing children and cooperate with businesses that wish to publicize these photographs.

**A**ssist in the preparation of missing children bulletins and their distribution to law enforcement agencies and school districts.

**C**ounsel citizens and business groups on how they may respond to the plight of missing children.

**A**tempt to locate abductors by completing nationwide record and file searches and interacting with other organizations, agencies, or groups that may be instrumental in locating missing children.

## NCMEC SERVICES TO THE COLORADO PROJECT

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**P**rovide training and technical assistance to criminal justice and youth service system professionals.

**S**ponsor 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 single state Clearinghouse and has had many positive results.

**L**aw enforcement has made several technological advancements in the past year. The most instrumental in the search for missing children is that of computerized age enhancement.

Through a donation the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has been able to set up a Video Imaging Laboratory. With this equipment, NCMEC is able to get pictures of the missing children in front of law enforcement agencies and the general public faster, generating a quicker response, and improving the odds of finding the child. Previously, artists have been able to create aged likenesses by hand using the pictures on file. However, it could take up to 80 hours to create a picture manually and is very expensive. With the electronic photography equipment, age-enhanced pictures can be produced in less than 5 hours.

**P**rovide transportation and lodging for custodial parents recovering their missing children who cannot afford such expenses.

**I**nitiate nationwide studies used to identify specific areas of concern and to establish protocols to respond to these problems.

**P**rovide updates on pending legislation relating to missing and exploited children issues.

**P**ublish handbooks for use by parents, law enforcement officers, attorneys, and federal, state, and local officials who deal with the missing and exploited children issues.

**S**ponsor a twenty-four hour hot-line for information concerning missing and exploited children to help insure case follow-up by the State and local authorities.

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY

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**I**nformation in this report was provided to the CBI by local law enforcement agencies using the CCIC automated information system. Each report filed with the local agency is entered into the CCIC computer as a separate case. The numbers reflect cases as opposed to actual missing children; i.e., some children may have been reported missing, recovered and subsequently missing once more. Also, because this data is based only on reports, the Project has no way of identifying those children who have not been reported to local authorities by parents/guardians, or by authorities to CBI.

**T**he 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.

## 1990 FACTS OF INTEREST

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- An average of 48 children are reported missing every 24 hours in Colorado.
- 95.41% of the total number of missing children are classified as runaways.
- 11.8% of the total number of missing children were females under the age of 13.
- 10.7% of the total number of missing children were males under the age of 13.
- 45.4% of the total number of missing children were females 13 years of age and over.
- 32.4% of the total number of missing children were males 13 years of age and over.
- The majority of children (18.97%) were reported missing on Friday.
- More children were reported missing during the month of October.
- At the end of 1990, there were 28 active cases over 6 years old.
- There were 756 more missing children reports than in 1989.

- Project personnel contacted reporting parties on 1,580 occasions in an attempt to obtain dental records, of these, 359 cases were closed as a result.
- The Project received and reviewed 352 sighting reports from the NCMEC, private citizens, and other concerned groups.
- The Project was asked to assist in 19 out-of-state cases and assisted in-state law enforcement agencies, private citizens and other non-profit organizations on 183 occasions.

## SPECIAL THANKS

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We are indebted to many people for their special support of Colorado's children through the Colorado Missing Children Project.

### Vale Grant

The General Assembly enacted House Bill 1264 in 1985 to establish the Assistance to Victims and Witnesses to Crime and Aid to Law Enforcement Act. The Act mandates a surcharge on fines imposed for felonies, misdemeanors and class 1 and 2 traffic offenses. A percentage of the monies collected are dispersed to the local Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement boards to be awarded to agencies for projects and services. During 1990, 382 grants were approved by local VALE boards.

The Project was fortunate enough to be selected to receive funding which enabled the staff to be increased by one part-time employee. The additional assistance in 1990 made it possible for the Project Coordinator to provide training to 227 law enforcement personnel from 41 agencies.

### Seniors Resource Center of Jefferson County

Organized in 1978, the Senior Resource Center is a private, non-profit organization providing coordinated, centralized services to older persons in Jefferson County. One of the services provided for seniors is assistance in re-entering the work force. This is accomplished through on the job development training and job placement. Senior aides are placed in host agencies to which they become a vital part of the organization for a specified amount of time with the goal of permanent employment. This enables the aide to strengthen skills and acquire new ones, while providing the host agency with additional staff.

On January 11, 1990, the Project agreed to act as a host agency for the Senior Resource Center and was provided with a senior aide in February. This additional assistance resulted in the Project checking the names of 37,184 newly enrolled students in Colorado to ensure they had not been reported missing anywhere in the nation.

## **Volunteers**

During 1990, the Project was favored with the efforts of a volunteer who donated 144 hours towards the search for additional funding. Grants and letters of proposals were sent to 83 foundations and organizations due to his endeavor.

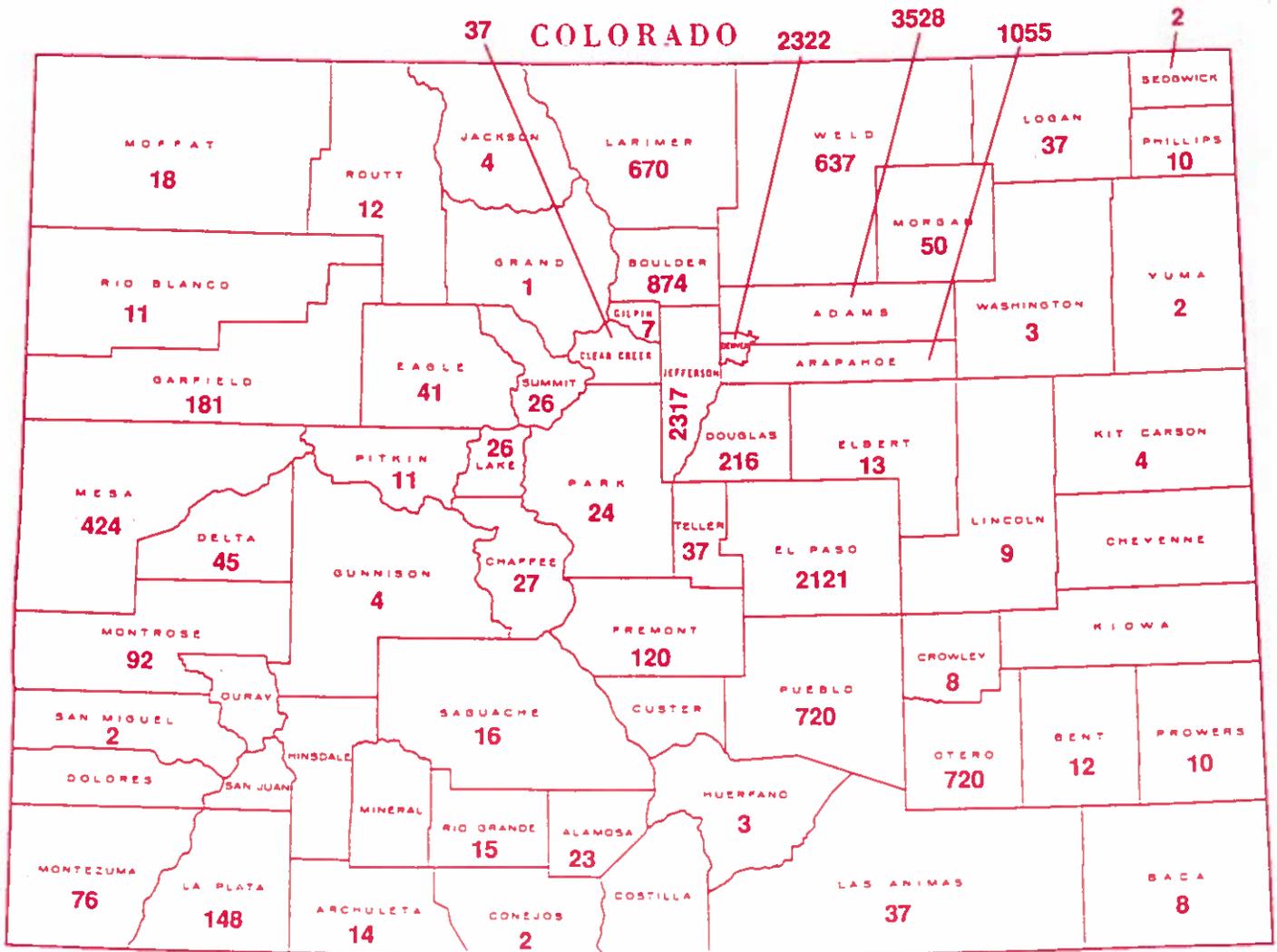
## **Cooperative Internship Program**

The Missing Children Project participates as a training sponsor with the Arapahoe Community College Internship Program to enable a student the opportunity to obtain not only experience, but credit towards a certificate or degree.

This year, the Project provided one student with 120 hours of on-the-job training, including participation in a three day CCIC Conference which was presented to law enforcement agencies statewide.

## GEOGRAPHIC REPORTING

The following map shows 1990 reports by county. 63.74% of Colorado's missing child reports are filed in the Denver metro area. That includes: 21.8% in Adams County; 6.52%, Arapahoe County; 5.4%, Boulder County; 14.35%, Denver County; 1.33%, Douglas County; 14.32%, Jefferson County. There were 8 counties that did not report any children as missing.



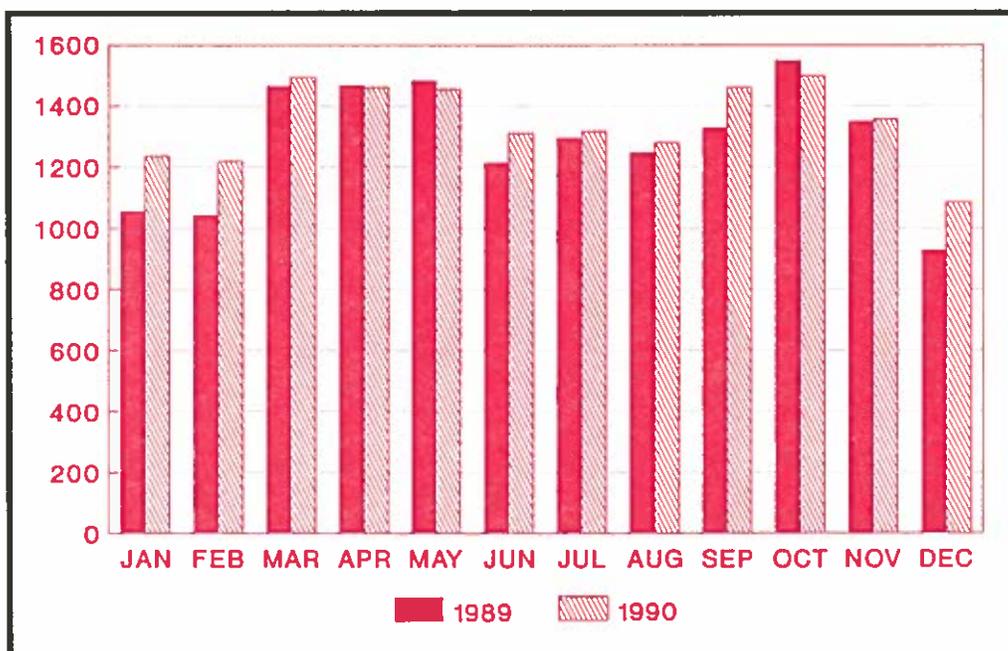
## MISSING CHILDREN REPORTS RECEIVED AND REVIEWED

There were a total of 16,177 children reported missing in 1990. Below is a breakdown of reports per month.

JANUARY .....	1236
FEBRUARY .....	1219
MARCH .....	1493
APRIL .....	1461
MAY .....	1455
JUNE .....	1314
JULY .....	1317
AUGUST .....	1281
SEPTEMBER .....	1461
OCTOBER .....	1499
NOVEMBER .....	1356
DECEMBER .....	1085
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>16,177</b>

## MISSING CHILDREN ENTRIES

There was a difference between the number of children reported missing in 1989 and in 1990. The following graph depicts the 4.67% increase.



## CIRCUMSTANCES OF MISSING CHILDREN

The following chart shows a breakdown of the circumstances of missing children reports. Findings show that 54.71% of all reports were runaway females and 40.69% runaway males.

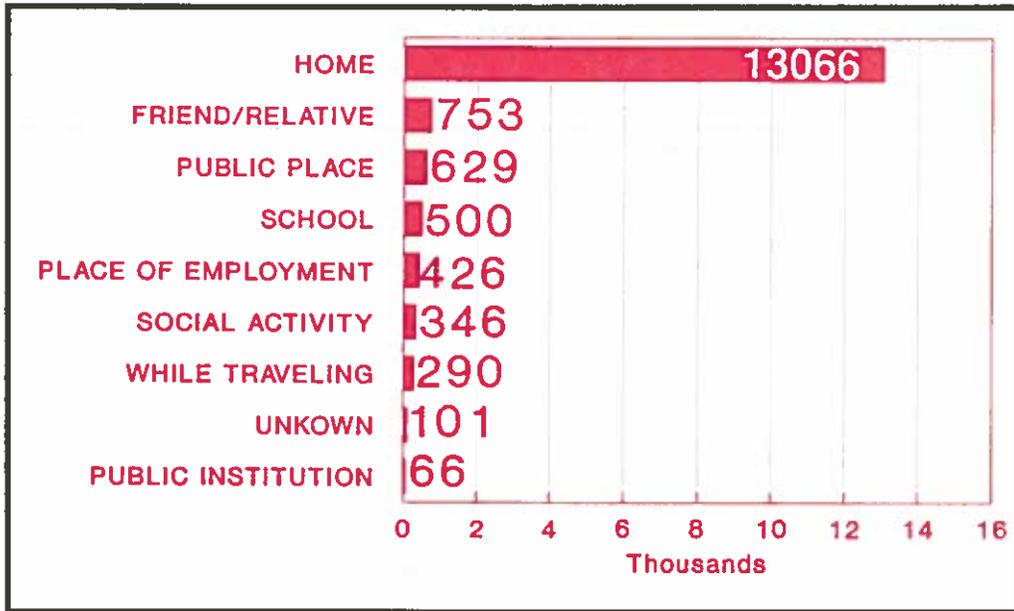
	JAN	FEB	MAR	MAY	APR	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>RUNAWAYS</b>												
Females	679	651	821	811	811	748	695	683	815	785	761	592
Males	488	520	609	587	599	506	537	513	571	648	546	460
<b>LOST</b>												
Females	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	2	2	1	1	0
Males	2	3	1	3	1	1	0	3	1	1	0	4
<b>KIDNAPPED</b>												
Females	0	0	0	3	1	0	4	3	1	1	2	0
Males	1	0	1	1	0	2	2	1	0	5	1	2
<b>NON-CUSTODIAL</b>												
Females	5	1	7	0	3	7	1	7	3	2	4	0
Males	2	0	2	3	2	4	4	6	15	3	2	0
<b>SUSPICIOUS</b>												
Females	34	23	27	32	25	19	43	38	23	36	13	22
Males	25	19	25	21	14	24	26	25	30	21	22	6

## ACTIVITY REPORT

This chart depicts the activities children were involved in at the time they were last seen. The majority, 80.76%, were missing from home. The next largest group, 5.79%, were missing from a public place.

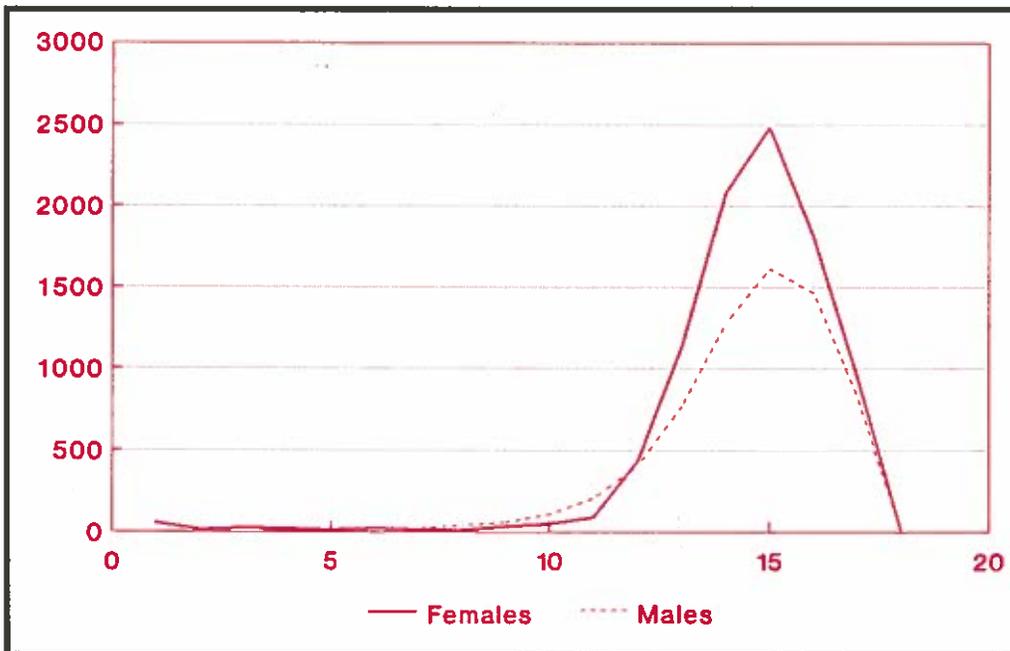
	JAN	FEB	MAR	MAY	APR	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>At home</b>	<b>PLAYING OR VISITING</b>											
Females	542	532	678	655	676	631	597	601	683	661	644	520
Males	419	443	509	504	495	436	463	455	490	555	474	403
<b>At friend/relative</b>												
Females	19	19	25	12	19	29	16	22	20	20	16	15
Males	6	5	20	7	12	4	22	8	10	5	13	2
<b>Public place</b>												
Females	36	27	34	46	42	22	54	37	4	33	39	19
Males	24	25	19	32	28	30	15	23	41	39	14	20
	<b>ATTENDING SCHOOL</b>											
Females	33	23	40	48	22	12	0	7	30	40	33	20
Males	18	19	29	18	20	7	4	6	18	21	21	12
	<b>PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT</b>											
Females	4	2	2	8	10	4	0	2	2	1	1	1
Males	0	0	3	1	1	5	3	4	4	2	4	2
<b>Private residence</b>	<b>SOCIAL ACTIVITIES</b>											
Females	11	10	9	12	9	17	5	5	3	8	2	7
Males	3	5	8	8	10	13	11	5	5	9	4	4
<b>Public place</b>												
Females	5	7	6	10	5	11	7	6	2	3	2	5
Males	1	2	7	3	5	2	5	5	4	1	2	0
<b>School</b>	<b>TRAVELING TO/FROM</b>											
Females	9	14	7	10	15	1	1	0	10	12	19	6
Males	3	9	9	7	10	1	0	1	7	9	6	5
<b>Work</b>												
Females	2	1	3	0	0	0	2	3	2	3	0	0
Males	1	1	0	0	1	0	6	1	1	0	1	0
<b>Friends/Relatives</b>												
Females	1	5	3	6	9	1	5	3	6	3	3	0
Males	4	3	2	4	1	2	1	5	1	3	3	5
<b>Public place</b>												
Females	8	3	3	7	4	8	2	3	7	2	5	4
Males	2	4	7	4	5	4	4	3	2	5	6	3
<b>Vacation</b>												
Females	4	0	2	0	0	2	3	1	0	1	1	0
Males	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0
	<b>UNKNOWN</b>											
Females	42	30	30	27	25	27	44	39	35	38	15	14
Males	23	19	19	20	21	24	33	25	33	20	16	10
	<b>IN CUSTODY PUBLIC INSTITUTION</b>											
Females	1	3	13	3	5	1	4	4	0	0	1	3
Males	13	6	6	6	6	9	0	6	1	4	1	5

## MISSING FROM



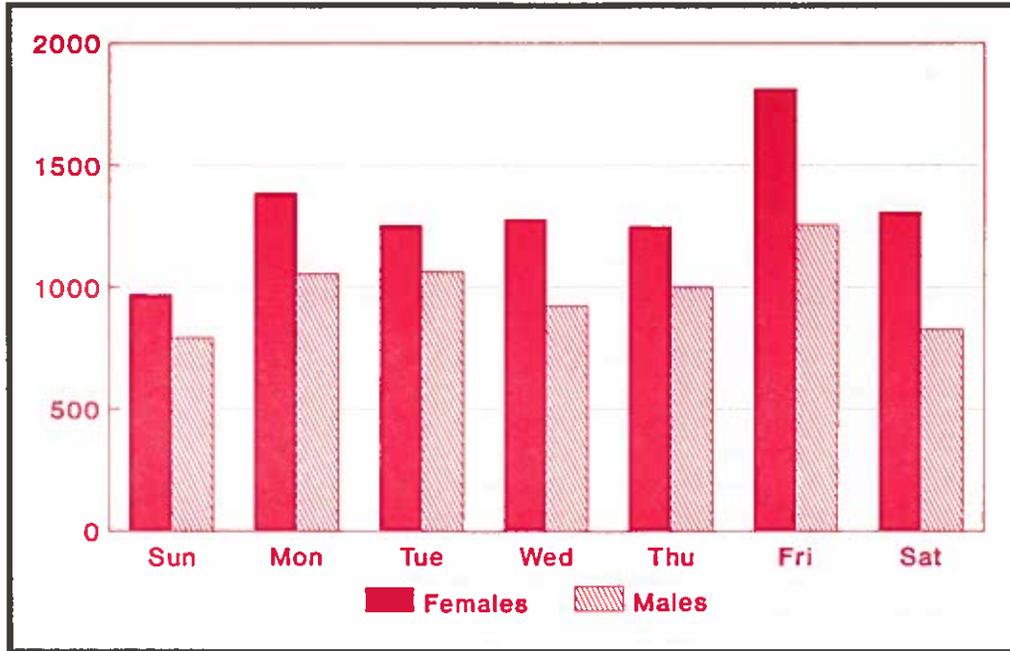
## MISSING CHILDREN COUNT BY AGE AND GENDER

For those juveniles reported missing, 46.7% were females between the ages of thirteen and sixteen, with fifteen year olds being the largest group totaling 2,486 records. 31.7% of reported missing were males in the same age range with fifteen year olds being the largest group totaling 1,614 records.



## DAY COUNT OF MISSING CHILDREN

The highest volume of missing children were reported on Fridays, 18.97% of the total number with 11.2% being females and 7.77% being males.



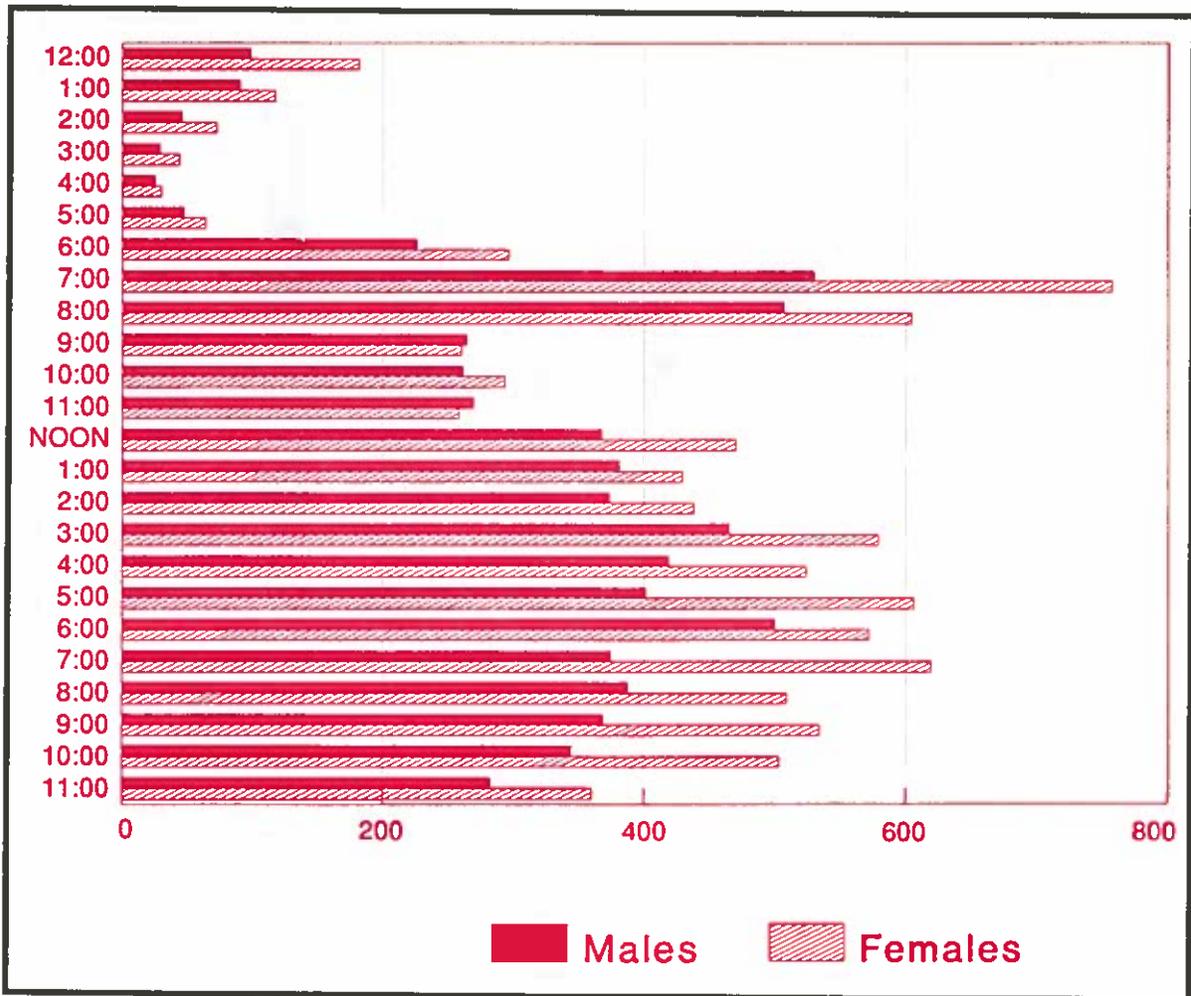
## BREAKDOWN OF MISSING CHILDREN BY RACE AND SEX

The highest percentage of children reported missing were white females totaling 8,327 records at a percentage of 51.47, followed by white males with a total of 6,132 records at a percentage of 37.9 of the total records reported.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	MAY	APR	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>White</b>												
Females	659	619	777	755	755	707	650	658	748	746	704	549
Males	462	489	580	546	550	466	507	483	541	582	499	427
<b>Black</b>												
Females	48	43	62	68	67	58	85	60	71	54	64	54
Males	43	44	45	52	58	57	55	52	53	77	62	37
<b>Native American</b>												
Females	2	1	6	12	7	3	6	7	15	11	4	4
Males	6	5	4	4	4	8	3	4	9	6	9	2
<b>Asian</b>												
Females	7	9	9	10	10	6	3	5	7	10	8	6
Males	4	1	6	9	1	2	3	6	9	7	4	2
<b>Unknown</b>												
Females	2	5	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	4	1	1
Males	3	3	3	4	2	4	2	3	5	2	1	3

## TIME LAST SEEN COUNT

This chart depicts the time of day the children were last seen who were reported missing. Of the total, 8.02% or 1,290 were last seen at approximately 7:00 A.M., followed by 6.62% or 1,072 who were last seen at 6:00 P.M.



# MISSING

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



**ANTHONY STEVEN MICHAEL MOYA**  
Date of Birth: April 29, 1987  
Date Missing: June 12, 1989  
Missing From: Denver, Colorado



**JENNIFER ANNE DOUGLAS**  
Date of Birth: May 21, 1967  
Date Missing: July 16, 1984  
Missing From: Denver, Colorado



**MELLISSA ANN BRYANT**  
Date of Birth: June 3, 1983  
Date Missing: April 15, 1988  
Missing From: Thornton, 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

