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Message from the Director

This is the second year the Missing Children's Annual Report has been accessible on the internet. The report enables us to provide a better understanding of the severity of the missing children problem in Colorado. Last year in Colorado alone there were 16,942 children reported as missing.

Since our children are our future, it is our responsibility to provide them with an environment in which they can enjoy their childhood yet are equipped with the knowledge of what to do or where to turn if a dangerous situation occurs.

The report helps to provide a better understanding of Colorado's missing children phenomena. Statistics confirm there is cause for concern, but do not begin to quantify the impact on those who have experienced the preventable loss of a child, nor do they identify the number of people affected by each incident.

Our thanks to the Colorado General Assembly for its support of the Missing Children Project and to law enforcement leaders who have worked so diligently to find and assist so many young people. The Colorado Bureau of Investigation pledges its continuing support to make Colorado a safer place for children.

Robert C. Cantwell
Director, Colorado Bureau of Investigation

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Introduction

Each year, thousands of children are reported missing in the United States. Although many return safely, those who are not continue to be exposed to harmful and dangerous 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 1985, the legislature created the Colorado Missing Children Project. The Project serves as a central repository for information on missing children in order to better define the problem. It collects, compiles, exchanges, and disseminates information to help find 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 Colorado.

The NCMEC and the United States 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 nine States with legislation authorizing missing children clearinghouses.

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Definitions

CCIC - Colorado Crime Information Center.

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

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

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 or younger.

NCIC - National Crime Information Center.

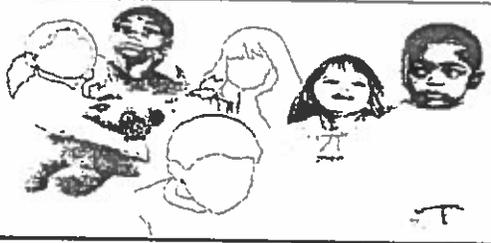
NCMEC - The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

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

Runaway - An unemancipated juvenile who has left the home environment without a parent's or legal guardian's permission. (Classified as non-suspicious for statistical purposes.)

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

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Responsibilities of the Missing Children Project

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 and to any other entity or person the Project determines may be instrumental in the identification and recovery of missing children.

STATISTICS

Consistent 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 documents 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 were summarized for the first time in the 1991 Annual Report to give a clearer picture of what is being done to resolve missing children cases in Colorado.

MONITORING

The Project reviews each missing child report to 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 for comparison with NCIC records 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.

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Activities as a State Clearinghouse

Develop and present specialized training programs to criminal justice and youth service professionals.

Provide information regarding cases originating in Colorado to the NCMEC for inclusion in the national directory of missing and abducted children.

Provide and ensure follow-up on all missing children cases originating in other states but linked to Colorado in some way.

Provide information to out-of-state agencies concerning applicable Colorado State laws, relevant agency interrelationships, and recovery procedures.

Help reunite missing children with their lawful parent or guardian by establishing cooperative mechanisms with other state clearinghouses.

Act as a clearinghouse for photographs of missing children and cooperate with those who 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 may respond to the plight of missing children.

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

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Services Provided by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

Sponsor special programs for victim children and their parents or guardians. Such programs include the ADVO's "America's Looking for Its Missing Children" program which distributes over 16 billion photographs of missing children each year to over 53 million households. This program provides a much broader distribution of missing children bulletins than any single state Clearinghouse and has been directly responsible for reuniting 468 children with their families.

Project ALERT (America's Law Enforcement Retiree Team) was implemented to utilize the expertise and experience of retired law enforcement officers for the benefit of law enforcement agencies needing assistance with all categories of missing and exploited children cases. The assistance provided by these highly specialized volunteers includes, but is not limited to: case assistance, consultation, speaking engagements, and general administrative support to police agencies. All ALERT volunteers must have had extensive experience in the investigation of similar cases and must complete a one week training program developed by the NCMEC after which they are considered for certification. Currently the ALERT program consists of 69 certified volunteers nationwide. Upon request, a volunteer will be provided and any travel expenses paid by the NCMEC. The requesting agency is asked only to provide essential provisions (desk, telephone, etc.) and on-site transportation.

The NCMEC provides technical services to all law enforcement agencies in the search for missing children. The most instrumental has been 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, the NCMEC is able to distribute age enhanced pictures of missing children to law enforcement agencies and the general public more quickly, generating an earlier response, and improving the odds of finding the child. These services have also been extended to include face reconstruction of unidentified deceased persons, identification of children from confiscated child pornography, and the training of forensic artists using comparable equipment. Previously, artists had 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.

In 1992, a grant from the Justice Department enabled the NCMEC to establish a national computerized information network utilizing various programs to distribute data on missing children. One program is a CompuServe forum which allows the clearinghouses to exchange information on missing children cases and participate in on-line discussions. Much of this information is now available to the general public through CompuServe in a forum called "*Go Missing*". Citizens can view posters, download publications and post messages. CompuServe's Internet Division has expanded global efforts by creating a web page that can bring images of missing children to millions of Internet users at:

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

Mapinfo's Desktop Mapping Software allows the NCMEC to plot cases and sightings of missing children, establish profiles, link related cases, and pinpoint patterns. This information is compiled from both the missing children reports received from the Clearinghouses and from hot-line calls.

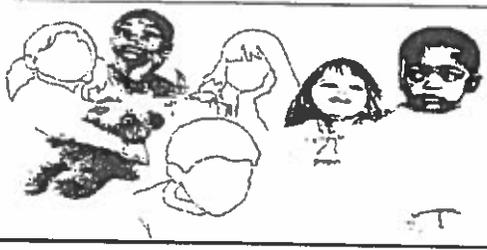
Training and technical assistance are provided to criminal justice and youth service professionals in both missing children issues and youth exploitation. Training and consultation are also provided to health care professionals in the prevention of infant abductions and the recovery of missing infants.

Transportation and lodging are provided for custodial parents who cannot afford such expenses to recover their missing child(ren). Through a voluntary effort on the part of hotel managers and coordinated by the NCMEC, Quality International will provide up to three nights lodging to a custodial parent and their child(ren). The "Let's Find Them" program designed by Greyhound/Trailways, provides transportation for a custodial parent to recover their missing child(ren). American Airlines also provides transportation but only in emergency situations when a child has been abducted by a stranger, or is believed to be endangered. Parents who wish to use these services must do so through the NCMEC.

After identifying pending legislation relating to missing and exploited children the NCMEC not only follows it through the legislative process, but keeps all clearinghouses apprised of its status. Handbooks for use by parents, law enforcement officers, attorneys, and federal, State, or local officials who deal with missing and exploited children are published and distributed in either hard copy or through the CompuServe Forum, "Go Missing". The handbooks available are: *Child Molesters: A Behavioral Analysis*; *Child Sex Rings: A Behavioral Analysis*; *Children Traumatized in Sex Rings*; *Interviewing Child Victims of Sexual Exploitation*; *Investigator's Guide to Missing Child Cases*; *Nonprofit Service Provider's Handbook*; *Parental Kidnapping*; *Selected State Legislation*; and *Youth At Risk*. The following brochures are also available and come in various languages: *Child Protection*; *For Camp Counselors*; *For Hospital Professionals*; *KIDS AND COMPANY: Together for Safety*; *My 8 Rules for Safety*; and a series called "Just in Case" which includes: *You Are Considering Highroad*; *You Are Considering Family Separation*; *You Are Dealing With the Loss of a Child*; *You Need a Babysitter*; *Your Child is a Runaway*; *Your Child is Missing*; *Your Child is Testifying in Court*; *Your Child is the Victim of Sexual Abuse or Exploitation*.

A twenty-four hour international hot-line to report information and request assistance concerning missing and exploited children is managed by the NCMEC and made available in the United States, Canada and Mexico to help ensure case follow up by the proper authorities. Also administered by the NCMEC is the National Child Pornography Tipline and the Alzheimer's Association Safe Return Hot-line.

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Special Resources

VALE GRANT

The Colorado 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 is dispersed to the local Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement (VALE) boards to be awarded to agencies for projects and services. The Project has been fortunate to receive funding from the State VALE Board since 1990 which has enabled the Project staff to be increased by one full-time employee.

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Contributing Support

TRANSPORTATION

Greyhound/Trailways offers a program for runaways who wish to return home. A law enforcement officer or officer of the court must escort the child to a local bus station and confirm a runaway report exists for the child and that a parent or guardian has been contacted. The bus company will then provide a one-way ticket for the child's return home.

NON-PROFIT ASSISTANCE

The Missing Children Task Force a division of The Vector Foundation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to investigate, locate, and recover missing children in Colorado. The organization also educates children on how to stay safe and to raise public awareness of the problem of missing children.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

SCI Escape School is sponsored nationally by neighborhood funeral homes and cemeteries affiliated with Service Corporation International. The people who work at these neighborhood firms are concerned with the quality of life in their community. SCI Escape School is a wonderful way to teach children how to recognize potentially dangerous people and situations and how to escape when they find themselves in places they should not be.

Wal-Mart and Sam's Club stores nationwide have taken leadership roles in the search for our missing children. After an attempted abduction in 1994 more that 2,000 Wal-Mart stores nationwide implemented a new security policy named in tribute to Adam Walsh. When a CODE-ADAM is announced, store personnel stop job responsibilities to look for the lost child, this includes monitoring all of the store exits to ensure that the child does not leave the store.

Community involvement is very important in the recovery of missing children; public awareness and education can also lead to the prevention of this problem. Understanding this necessity the retail chain launched a photo display program which about 2,000 stores nationwide participate in. Wal-Mart offers exposure of missing children pictures, which has resulted in 3 documented cases of children being returned home within the first few months of the programs existence.

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Facts of Interest 1999

An average of 52 children are reported missing every 24 hours in Colorado.

In 1999 97% of the children reported missing in Colorado were classified as non-suspicious cases or runaways.

Approximately 11% of the children reported missing were females under the age of 14.

Approximately 8% of the children reported missing were males under the age of 14.

Approximately 49% of the children reported missing were females 14 years of age and over.

Approximately 32% of the children reported missing were males 14 years of age and over.

In comparison to all other days of the week, more children were reported missing on Friday.

In comparison to all other months, more children were reported missing in October.

In comparison to all other months more cases were resolved during the month of September.

The number of stranger abductions reported in 1999 (12) decreased by 27 cases from 1998.

The number of non-custodial family abductions reported in 1999 decreased by 26 cases from 1998.

Information in this report was provided to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (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, legal guardians, or subsequently by law enforcement to the CBI.

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Special Thanks !!

A special thanks to the following who made a contribution to the Missing Children Project in 1999.

State VALE

The FBI Victim Services Unit

Colorado Crime Prevention Association

Golden Police Department

Colorado National Speedway

"Escape School" Highland Mortuary

Just for You Embroidery

Wheat Ridge Police Department

The "Mid Life Crisis" Band

Drug Enforcement Administration

The Missing Children Task Force

Arapahoe Community College

Colorado State Patrol

Internship Program

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Graphs and Tables - Missing Children Annual Report

1999

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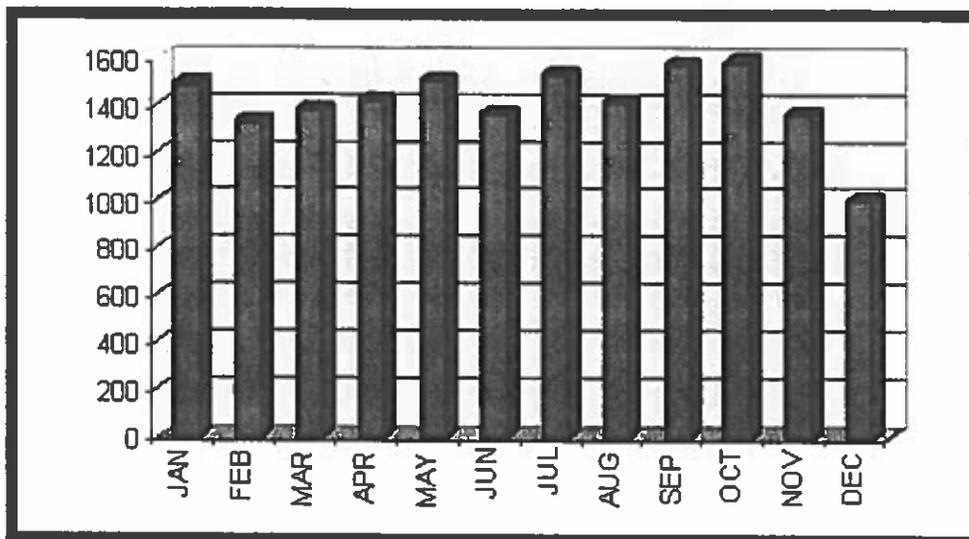
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Missing Children Reports Received and Reviewed

An average of 1,588 missing children reports were taken by Colorado law enforcement agencies each year. The most significant increase between months occurred in September, with an increase of 466 reports from August.



Month	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV
Number of Reports	1491	1330	1378	1418	1505	1361	1532	1412	1570	1583	1363



Missing Children Entries

YEAR	MISSING CHILDREN REPORTS	INCREASE OR DECREASE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR
1999	16,942	- 1,551
1998	18,493	- 1,424
1997	19,917	- 33
1996	19,950	+ 337
1995	19,613	- 30
1994	19,643	+ 1,576
1993	18,067	+ 810
1992	17,257	+ 1,513
1991	15,744	- 433
1990	16,177	

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Circumstances of Missing Children

Statistics indicate that of all the reports received, 96.6 percent were considered non-suspicious. This classification typically signifies children who have either run away from their residence or have been taken by a family member but are not considered to be a victim of a non-custodial abduction. Only .2 percent were categorized as children who were lost. Stranger abductions decreased by 27 reports and non-custodial family abductions decreased by 26 reports. A suspicious circumstance is a situation in which it is not believed that the child left by his/her own accord, but there is no evidence to prove there was an abduction. Of the reported cases, 2.7 percent were classified as suspicious.

AGE	NON-SUSPICIOUS	LOST	KIDNAPPED	FAMILY ABDUCTION	SUSPICIOUS	TOTALS
ONE	53	0	1	4	23	81
TWO	15	1	0	3	3	22
THREE	14	3	0	5	11	33
FOUR	12	0	1	0	3	16
FIVE	11	0	0	3	5	19
SIX	8	0	0	0	4	12
SEVEN	17	4	0	5	3	29
EIGHT	17	0	0	3	8	28
NINE	32	2	1	4	3	42
TEN	79	0	0	1	5	85
ELEVEN	226	1	0	4	8	239
TWELVE	751	4	0	4	16	775
THIRTEEN	1840	5	1	5	37	1888
FOURTEEN	3018	6	0	2	78	3104
FIFTEEN	4196	6	3	0	100	4305
SIXTEEN	3655	6	4	1	91	3757
SEVENTEEN	2430	0	1	0	76	2507
TOTAL	16,374	38	12	44	474	16,942



Activity Report

Most children, 78 percent, were reported to have been last seen inside their residence. A residence can be a family home, non-profit residential group home, foster home or residential treatment facility.

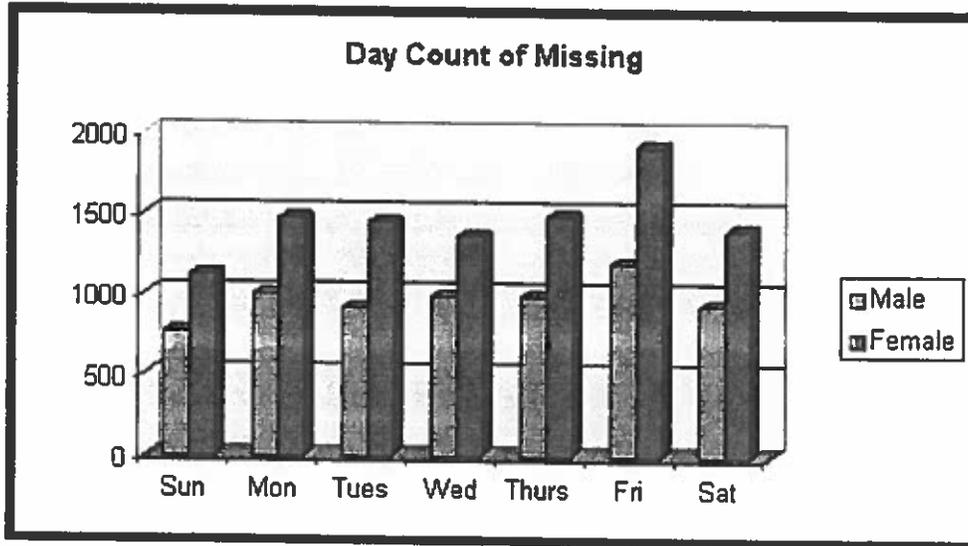
	ACTIVITY	MALES	FEMALES
1	AT RESIDENCE INSIDE	5194	8013
2	AT RESIDENCE OUTSIDE	186	205
3	AT FRIEND/RELATIVE INSIDE	72	170
4	AT FRIEND/RELATIVE OUTSIDE	42	67
5	PUBLIC PLACE INSIDE	61	111
6	PUBLIC PLACE OUTSIDE	169	228
7	INSIDE SCHOOL BUILDING	111	175
8	OUTSIDE SCHOOL BUILDING	101	154
9, 10	PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT	36	66
11, 12, 13, 14	SOCIAL ACTIVITIES	117	217
15, 16, 17	TRAVELING TO/FROM ON FOOT	119	162
18, 19, 20	TRAVELING TO/FROM IN VEHICLE	64	101
21, 22, 23, 24, 25	TRAVELING BY BICYCLE	7	2
26	IN CUSTODY OF A PUBLIC INSTITUTION	194	139
27	LOCAL AREA TRIP	8	13
28	VACATION	5	8
29	UNKNOWN <i>Type of Travel</i>	248	360
30	OTHER	9	8
	TOTAL	6743	10,199

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Day Count of Missing Children

Friday is the day that children are most often reported to have been last seen: 1,192 males and 1,916 females.
Sunday is the day that children are least often reported missing with: 762 males and 1,118 females.





Age, Race and Sex of Missing Children

	WHITE	BLACK	NATIVE AMERICAN	ASIAN	UNKNOWN	TOTALS
ONE YEAR OLD						
Males	36	9	0	0	0	45
Females	27	5	1	1	2	36
TWO YEARS OLD						
Males	7	1	0	0	0	8
Females	9	5	0	0	0	14
THREE YEARS OLD						
Males	14	4	0	0	0	18
Females	14	1	0	0	0	15
FOUR YEARS OLD						
Males	5	0	0	0	0	5
Females	11	0	0	0	0	11
FIVE YEARS OLD						
Males	9	3	0	0	0	12
Females	2	3	0	1	1	7
SIX YEARS OLD						
Males	4	0	1	0	0	5
Females	6	1	0	0	0	7
SEVEN YEARS OLD						
Males	10	2	0	0	0	12
Females	14	0	0	0	3	17
EIGHT YEARS OLD						
Males	16	0	0	0	0	16
Females	11	0	0	0	0	11
NINE YEARS OLD						
Males	25	0	0	1	0	26
Females	15	0	1	0	0	16
TEN YEARS OLD						
Males	57	6	0	0	1	64
Females	15	6	0	0	0	21
ELEVEN YEARS OLD						

Females	86	7	1	3	1	98
TWELVE YEARS OLD						
Males	262	48	1	2	4	317
Females	400	28	17	7	6	458
THIRTEEN YEARS OLD						
Males	564	70	18	10	6	668
Females	1077	80	26	22	15	1220
FOURTEEN YEARS OLD						
Males	844	115	17	21	13	1010
Females	1848	148	26	51	21	2094
FIFTEEN YEARS OLD						
Males	1473	101	15	25	17	1631
Females	2405	181	25	45	18	2674
SIXTEEN YEARS OLD						
Males	1429	125	11	10	17	1592
Females	1915	148	26	59	17	2165
SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD						
Males	999	116	13	26	18	1172
Females	1153	125	16	25	16	1335
TOTALS	14,891	1,350	215	310	177	16,942



Time Last Seen Count

Reports indicate 7:00 a.m. to be the most prevalent time of the day children were last seen with 1,299 reports, accounting for 7.6 percent of all reports.

TIME	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
MIDNIGHT	125	225	350
1:00AM	75	124	199
2:00AM	45	72	117
3:00AM	31	54	85
4:00AM	26	50	76
5:00AM	61	84	145
6:00AM	232	382	614
7:00AM	482	817	1299
8:00AM	512	711	1223
9:00AM	243	317	560
10:00AM	280	321	601
11:00AM	252	339	591
NOON	397	484	881
1:00PM	284	469	753
2:00PM	337	530	867
3:00PM	474	664	1138
4:00PM	409	617	1026
5:00PM	393	600	993
6:00PM	425	640	1065
7:00PM	344	602	946
8:00PM	369	566	935
9:00PM	384	566	950
10:00PM	335	578	913
11:00PM	228	387	615
TOTAL	6743	10,199	16,942



Circumstance of Recovery

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTALS
RETURNED VOLUNTARILY													
Females	488	416	383	444	506	417	401	386	481	481	398	315	5116
Males	292	246	285	310	297	293	262	274	307	288	299	211	3364
CONTACT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT													
Females	374	320	331	323	335	305	289	314	349	367	318	265	3890
Males	205	194	194	186	178	194	216	215	260	255	226	161	2484
CONTACTED BY OTHER THAN LAW ENFORCEMENT													
Females	15	10	10	15	14	14	18	17	41	19	11	15	199
Males	10	5	8	11	3	8	15	9	23	11	6	8	117
UNKNOWN													
Females	13	17	6	15	11	19	16	12	17	7	9	7	148
Males	10	15	7	3	6	8	4	7	9	3	7	5	84
RECORD WAS TEST OR HAD ERRONEOUS DATA													
Females	52	31	56	55	57	49	125	65	72	68	62	49	741
Male	30	32	34	35	25	20	116	91	51	69	32	25	560
DECEASED													
Females	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EMANCIPATED													
Females	4	3	1	1	7	3	7	2	1	4	2	0	35
Males	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	7
TOTALS	1494	1289	1316	1398	1438	1332	1470	1392	1613	1573	1371	1062	16,748