



COLORADO
Bureau of Investigation
Department of Public Safety

Missing Children Project

2016 Annual Report





COLORADO
Bureau of Investigation
Department of Public Safety

Administration
690 Kipling Street, Suite 3000
Lakewood, CO 80215
303-239-4202

Message from the Director

With the alarming statistic that thousands of children are reported missing in the United States each year, it is critical that the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) focus its efforts and resources to address this far-reaching issue through the Missing Persons Unit.

The CBI Missing Persons Unit gathers and presents information contained within the Colorado Missing Children annual report, coordinates the AMBER Alert program for the state, provides training for Colorado law enforcement in connection with missing children, and oversees education campaigns to bring awareness to this important topic.

I encourage you to review the 2016 Missing Children Program annual report for comprehensive statistics related to missing children in Colorado, along with the results from this year's Missing Children Poster contest for fifth grade students across the state.

The men and women of the CBI remain steadfast in our dedication to bring our missing children back home.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Rankin".

Michael Rankin
Director
Colorado Bureau of Investigation



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 Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse 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. To that end, the Clearinghouse 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.

An average of 39 children are reported missing every 24 hours in Colorado with the majority being runaways.

The NCMEC and the United States Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention instituted a program establishing state level clearinghouses for missing children. Seven states, including Colorado were selected to participate in the original pilot program. Because of its great success. There are now forty nine States with legislation authorizing missing children clearinghouses.

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE ACTIVITIES

- ◆ 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, when requested.
- ◆ Provide information to out-of-state agencies concerning applicable Colorado State laws, relevant agency relationships, and recovery procedures.
- ◆ Help reunite missing children with their lawful parent or guardian by establishing cooperative mechanisms with other state clearinghouses.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Coordination of the AMBER Alert Program and the other Colorado Alert Programs.

RESPONSIBILITIES

LISTS

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation Missing Persons Unit, 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 Unit determines may be instrumental in the identification and recovery of missing children.

STATISTICS

Consistent with statute, the Missing Persons Unit 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.

This report 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.

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

Resources

NCMEC

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's (NCMEC) mission is to help prevent child abduction and sexual exploitation; help find missing children; and assist victims of child abduction and sexual exploitation, their families, and the professionals who serve them.

NamUs

The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) is a national centralized repository and resource center for missing persons and unidentified decedent records.

NamUs is a free online system that can be searched by medical examiners, coroners, law enforcement officials and the general public from all over the country in hopes of resolving these cases.

Rocky Mountain Innocence Lost Task Force

Part of a joint initiative with the Department of Justice that targets organizations involved in child prostitution.

MONITORING

The Unit reviews missing person's reports submitted to the Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC) and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) for validity, completeness and accuracy and ensures the originating agency makes any necessary corrections or additions.

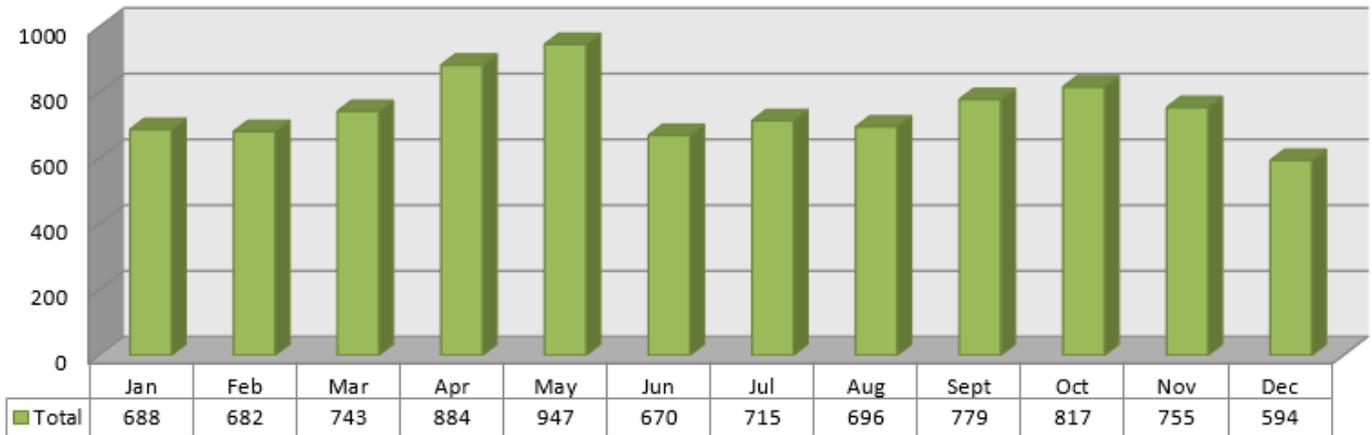
When a child has been missing for thirty days, the Unit must attempt to obtain the child's dental records and attach them to the NCIC missing person report.

The Unit 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 Unit for comparison with NCIC records to locate children missing from all states. When a match is verified, the Unit notifies the appropriate authorities to facilitate the return of the missing child.

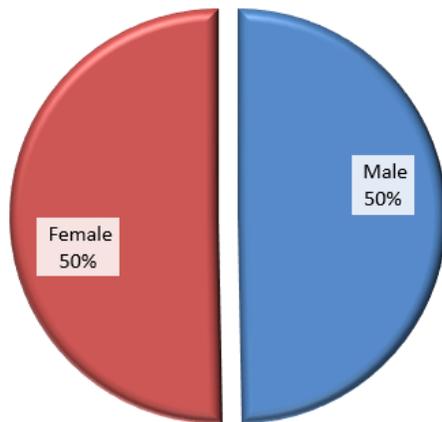
FACTS OF INTEREST

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 program has no way of identifying those children who have not been reported to local authorities by parents or legal guardians. This information is reflecting person's reported as missing who are age 17 and younger.

Reports Received



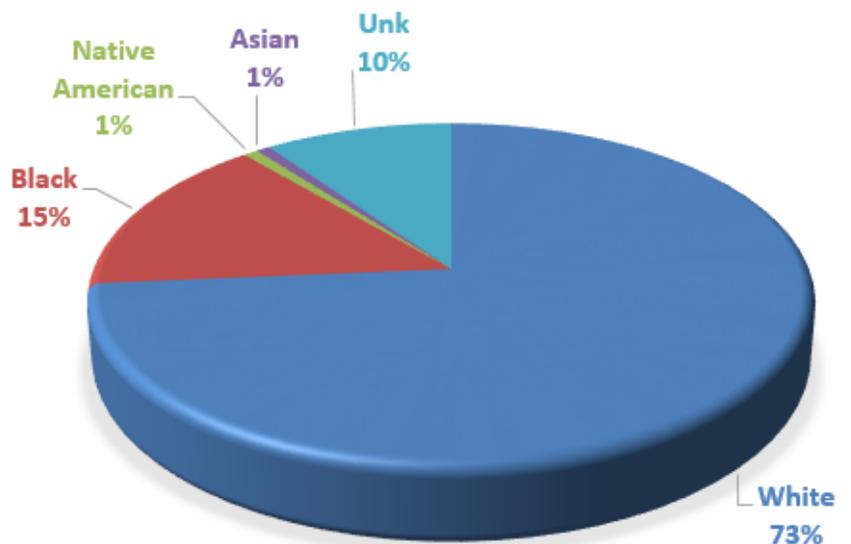
Sex



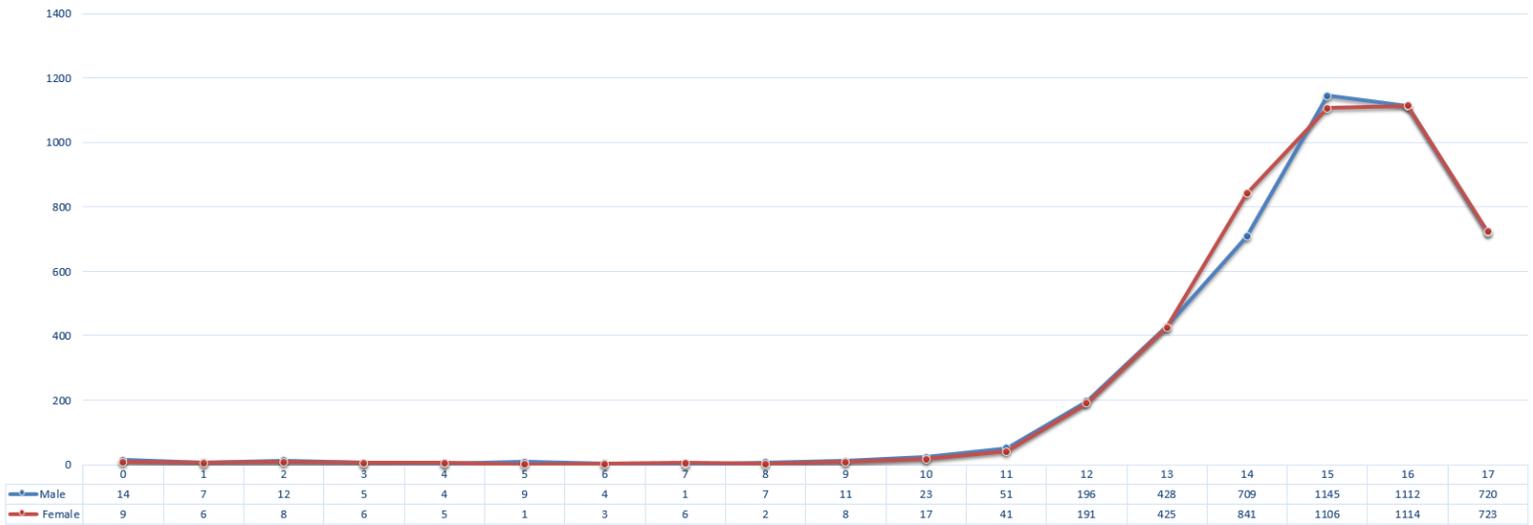
A total of 8,970 reports were received in 2016.

This is a decrease of 13.7 % from the 10,398 reports received in 2015.

RACE



Missing by Age and Sex



83% of the children reported as missing were between the ages of 14 and 17.

50% of the children reported as missing were between the ages of 15 and 16.

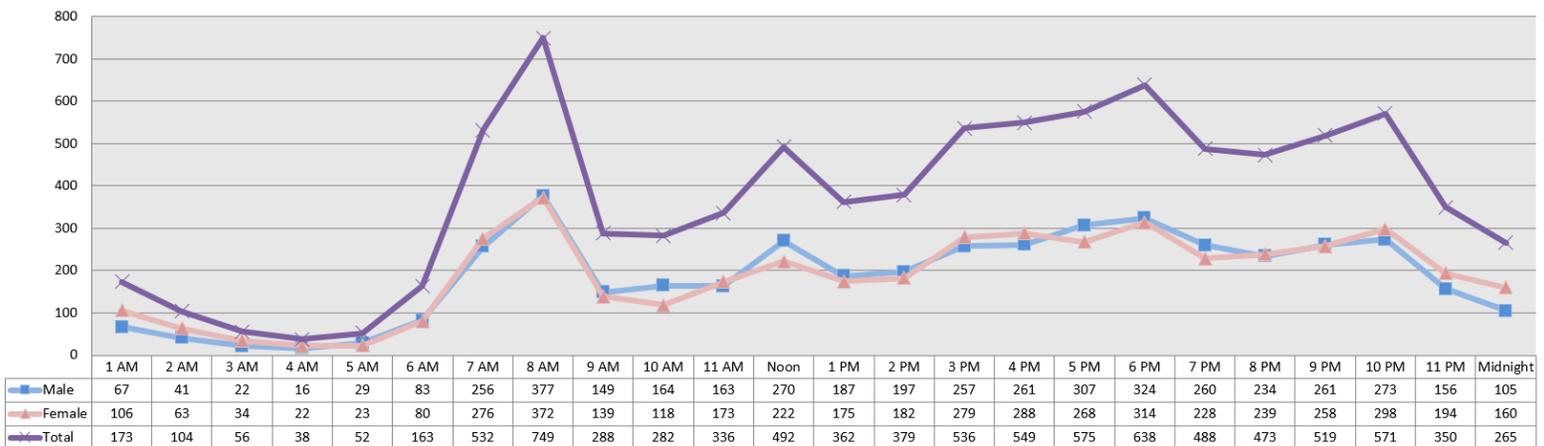
The highest reported day of the week for children to last be seen was Friday.

The most common time for children to be last be seen was around 8 am.

Day Last Seen

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Male	514	684	678	628	599	759	598
Female	544	711	639	562	631	796	627
Total	1058	1395	1317	1190	1230	1555	1225

Time Last Seen



CIRCUMSTANCES OF MISSING

Non-Suspicious - typically signifies children who have either ran away or have been taken by a family member but are not considered to be a victim of a non-custodial abduction

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

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

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

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

Unknown - the circumstances of their missing were not reported to law enforcement or the CBI

Age	Non-suspicious	Lost	Kid-napped	Non-custodial kidnap	Suspicious circumstance	Un-known	Total
0	12	0	3	2	6	0	23
1	8	1	0	0	4	0	13
2	14	0	1	3	2	0	20
3	9	0	0	1	1	0	11
4	7	1	0	1	0	0	9
5	5	1	0	2	2	0	10
6	4	0	0	2	1	0	7
7	6	0	0	0	0	1	7
8	7	2	0	0	0	0	9
9	15	0	4	0	0	0	19
10	35	1	0	1	3	0	40
11	89	1	0	2	0	0	92
12	380	0	1	1	4	1	387
13	838	0	0	4	7	4	853
14	1531	2	0	1	12	4	1550
15	2215	5	1	2	21	7	2251
16	2184	4	3	2	17	16	2226
17	1430	2	0	0	8	3	1443
TOTAL	8789	20	13	24	88	36	8970

ACTIVITIES WHEN MISSING

Activity	Male	Female
At residence Inside	2435	2436
At residence outside	424	358
At friend/relative inside	74	119
At friend/relative outside	45	39
Public place inside	64	61
Public place outside	105	102
Inside school building	165	194
Outside school building	180	205
Place of employment	65	86
Social Activities	345	343
Traveling to/from on foot	129	143
Traveling to/from in vehicle	61	52
Traveling by bicycle	5	2
In custody of a public institution	115	80
Local area trip	3	3
Vacation	0	2
Unknown	196	218
Other	43	65

Over half of the children were reported to have been last seen in or near their residence.

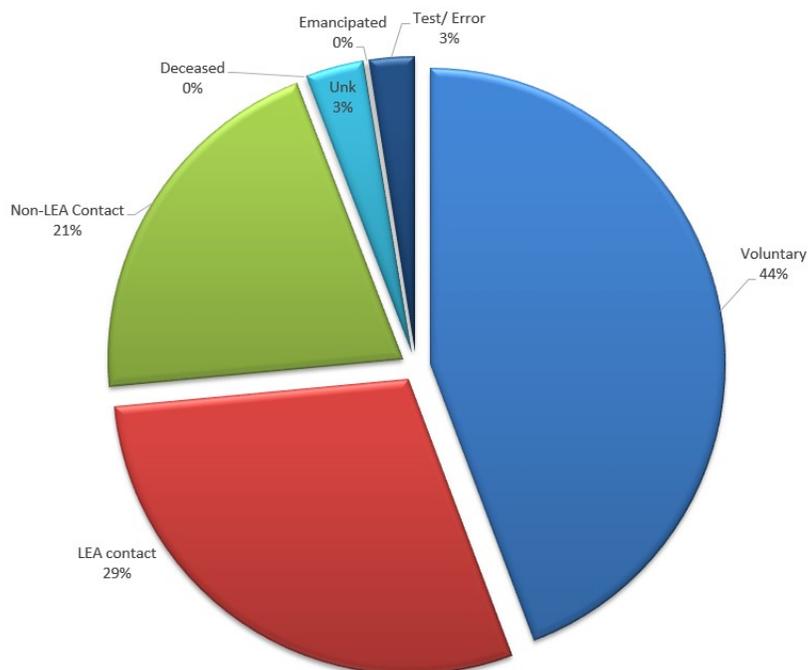
A residence can be a family home, non-profit residential group home, foster home, or residential treatment facility.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF RECOVERY

Of the cases closed in 2016, 44 % were resolved when the child returned voluntarily.

Contact with Law Enforcement was responsible for the resolution of another 29% of cases.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
Returned Voluntarily													
Male	103	121	107	141	137	115	102	100	142	114	121	83	1386
Female	125	103	126	141	141	122	109	105	119	141	112	102	1446
Contact with Law Enforcement													
Male	70	84	101	115	117	76	66	68	82	90	79	49	997
Female	66	72	80	95	99	74	66	66	72	68	65	50	873
Contacted by Other than Law Enforcement													
Male	56	57	55	67	62	67	45	49	66	55	55	36	670
Female	60	43	56	65	68	44	36	60	63	60	60	34	649
Deceased													
Male	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Female	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Unknown													
Male	3	4	4	10	3	11	19	14	11	8	2	14	103
Female	3	6	5	8	7	14	13	10	20	7	2	6	101
Emancipated													
Male	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6
Female	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Record was test or had erroneous data													
Male	6	7	0	11	8	13	5	1	4	11	10	5	81
Female	7	3	0	7	7	10	5	4	8	13	7	6	77
	500	500	541	660	650	547	466	479	587	567	514	385	6396



MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY POSTER CONTEST

Since 1983, May 25 has been designated as National Missing Children's Day and every year the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) takes time to commemorate the valiant and unselfish acts of the many organizations and individuals who bring our missing children home.

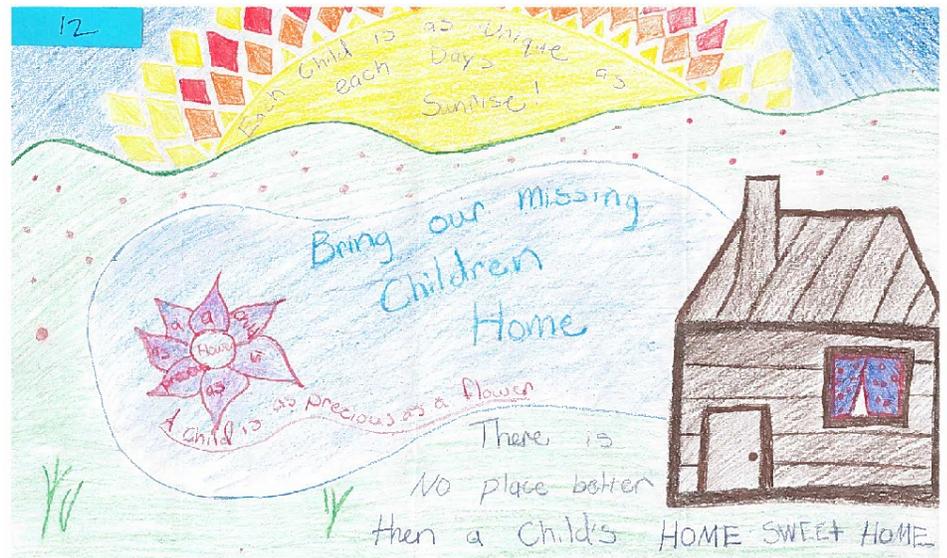
In conjunction with this event the DOJ sponsors a national poster contest for fifth graders and announces the winner at the annual National Missing Children's Day Ceremony in Washington, DC. Each state submits one entry for the national contest.

Duyen from Rolling Hills Elementary was the winner for the 2016 Colorado contest and her poster is featured on the cover of this report. The second and third place winners are shown below.

2nd Place

Lilian

Namaqua Elementary



3rd Place

Kyla

Homeschool