

Missing Children Project

2015 Annual Report





COLORADO
Bureau of Investigation
Department of Public Safety

Administration
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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 Children Unit.

The CBI Missing Children 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 2015 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 bringing 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 29 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 missing children clearinghouses in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Canada and the Netherlands.

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 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 Unit determines may be instrumental in the identification and recovery of missing children.

STATISTICS

Consistent with statute, the 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

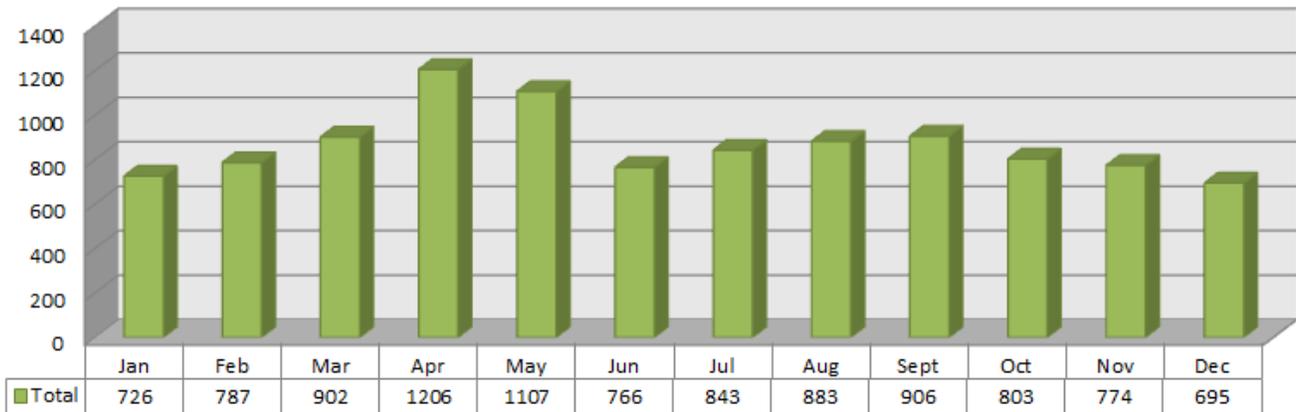
When a child has been missing for thirty days, the Unit must attempt to obtain the child's dental records and attach them to the NCIC missing person report.

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.

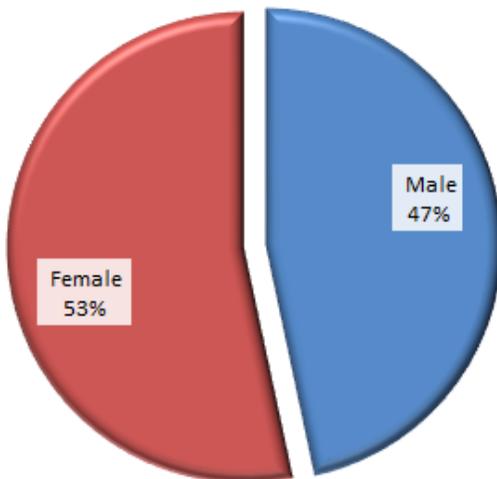
FACTS OF INTEREST

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.

Reports Received

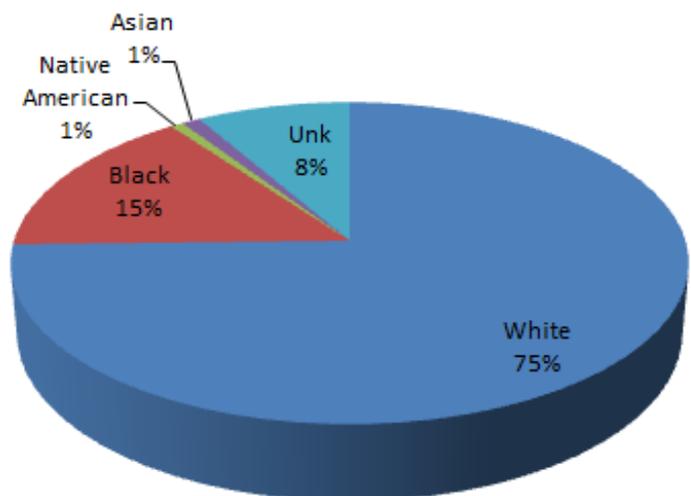


Sex



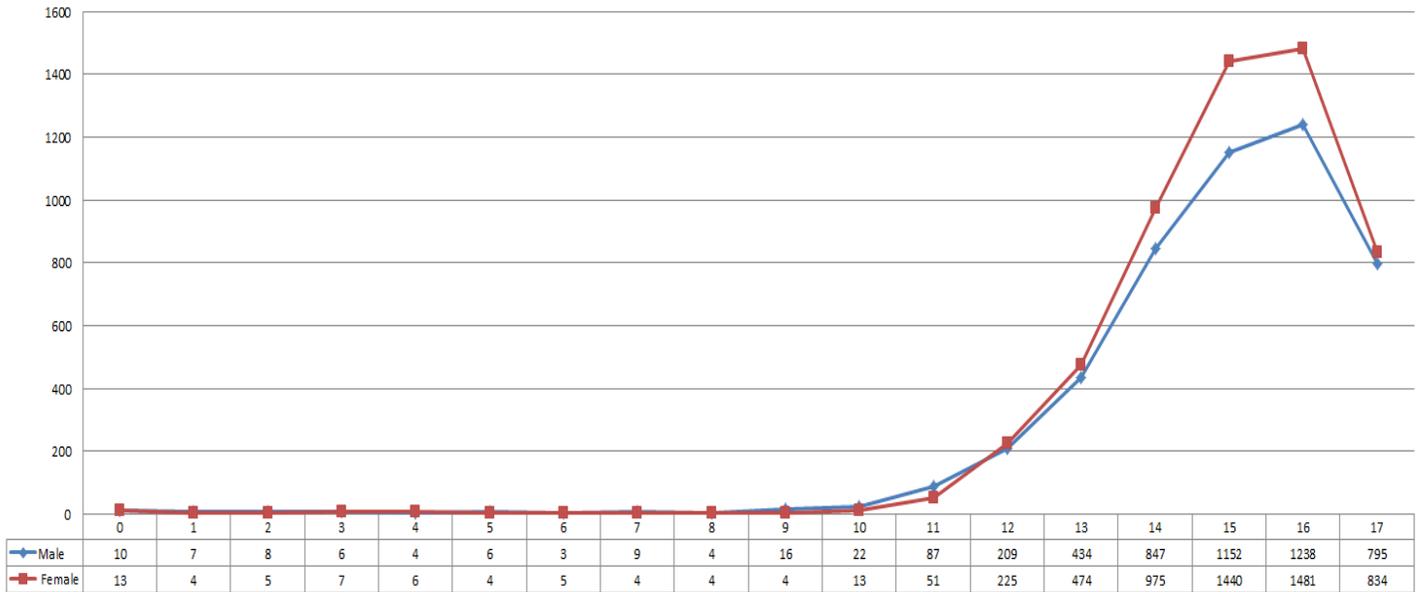
A total of 10,398 reports were received in 2015. This represents a slight drop from the previous year's 10,637.

Race



The top 2 months for reports were April and May, and the lowest month was December.

Missing by Age and Sex



84% of the youth reported missing were between the ages of 14 and 17, with 50% between the ages of 15 and 16.

The highest reported day for children to be missing was Friday although the data was fairly evenly spread throughout the week.

The most common time for children to be last seen was between 7 AM and 8 AM.

Day Last Seen

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Male	540	722	739	672	705	848	624
Female	686	840	819	762	760	961	720
Total	1226	1562	1558	1434	1465	1809	1344

Time Last Seen



Circumstances of Missing	Age	Non-suspicious	Lost	Kid-napped	Non-custodial kid-	Suspicious circumstance	UNK	Total
		0	17	0	0	3	3	0
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	1	7	0	0	3	1	0	11
	2	4	1	0	3	5	0	13
	3	6	1	0	3	3	0	13
Lost - a person who is presumed to have wandered away and has become lost and unable to return to a known location	4	6	0	0	1	3	0	10
	5	4	0	1	1	4	0	10
	6	3	0	0	3	2	0	8
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	7	9	0	0	0	4	0	13
	8	5	0	0	2	1	0	8
	9	18	0	0	2	0	0	20
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	10	30	0	1	1	3	0	35
	11	134	0	0	0	2	2	138
	12	424	2	0	1	5	2	434
Suspicious - a person who is missing with insufficient information to enable placing the record in any other probable category	13	890	2	1	3	10	2	908
	14	1772	4	1	6	21	10	1814
Unknown - the circumstances of their missing were not reported to law enforcement or the CBI	15	2537	2	0	5	28	20	2592
	16	2648	3	0	5	40	23	2719
	17	1577	3	0	3	23	23	1629

Activity	Male	Female
At residence Inside	2665	3139
At residence outside	368	389
At friend/relative inside	87	130
At friend/relative outside	43	46
Public place inside	76	64
Public place outside	136	144
Inside school building	178	247
Outside school building	186	242
Place of employment	81	77
Social Activities	284	289
Traveling to/from on foot	163	150
Traveling to/from in vehicle	32	63
Traveling by bicycle	10	4
In custody of a public institution	160	144
Local area trip	10	5
Vacation	3	2
Unknown	274	307
Other	77	92

ACTIVITIES WHEN MISSING

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

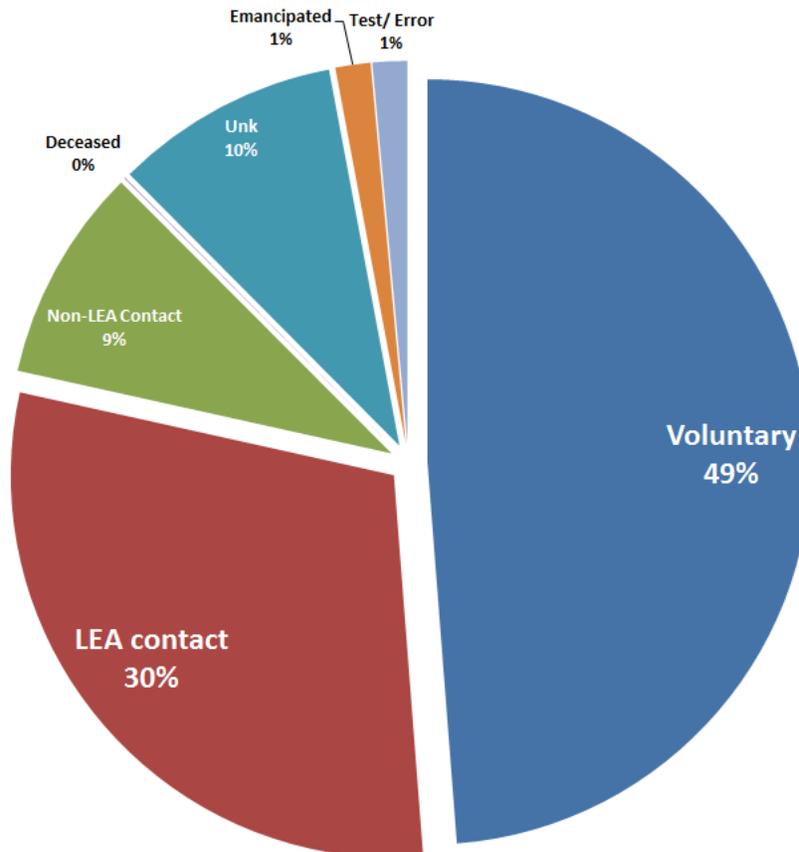
A residence can be a family home, non-profit residential group home, foster home, or residential treatment facility.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF RECOVERY

Of the cases closed in 2014, 49 percent were resolved when either the child returned or was returned voluntarily.

Contact with Law Enforcement was responsible for the resolution of another 30 percent of the cases.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
Returned Voluntarily													
Male	134	132	155	205	168	122	131	120	135	138	142	116	1698
Female	149	138	184	208	232	160	141	128	140	154	130	132	1896
Contact with Law Enforcement													
Male	82	68	102	138	120	90	68	78	79	79	82	50	1036
Female	93	96	112	135	136	84	95	81	75	88	83	74	1152
Contacted by Other than Law Enforcement													
Male	3	7	4	10	6	4	7	38	62	63	45	48	297
Female	2	7	2	13	12	3	4	64	62	64	76	61	370
Deceased													
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Female	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Unknown													
Male	3	4	3	7	77	12	76	64	78	6	3	6	339
Female	6	4	5	11	91	3	101	65	60	5	9	1	361
Emancipated													
Male	5	12	13	13	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	63
Female	7	9	6	8	7	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	46
Record was test or had erroneous data													
Male	0	0	0	1	1	0	6	12	3	13	7	8	51
Female	0	0	0	0	1	0	12	8	5	16	8	7	57
	484	477	586	749	862	497	641	659	699	626	585	503	7368



MISSING CHILDREN DAY

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.

Brooklyn from Global Village Academy was the winner for Colorado and her poster is featured on the cover of this report. The second and third place winners are below.



2nd Place

Regan

Belmar Elementary



3rd Place

Karin

Global Village Academy