

# Colorado Bureau of Investigation

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## Message from the Director

This is the fifth 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 15,210 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

**E**ach 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.

**D**uring 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.

**T**he 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 Funding

## **Funding**

In order to accomplish the duties required of the statute, the bureau is authorized to accept, receive, and expend assistance in the form of grants, gifts, grants-in-aid, bequests, and contributions from any agency, organization, or person. Such assistance shall be in addition to moneys appropriated to the bureau by the general assembly. Assistance received by the bureau in the form of money shall not revert to the general fund.

As an instrumentality of a governmental unit, our organization is not subject to Federal income tax under the provisions of Section 115(1) of the IRS code of 1954. Because our organization is an instrumentality of a governmental unit, its income is not taxable as explained above. Contributions to instrumentalities are deductible under Section 170(c)(1) of the code. If you would like to donate to the Missing Children Project, please contact:

Colorado Bureau of Investigation  
Missing Children Unit  
710 Kipling Street, Suite 200  
Denver, CO 80215  
303-239-4251  
303-239-5788 fax

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# Contributing Support

## **NCMEC**

The [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#) serves as a focal point in providing assistance to parents, children, law enforcement, schools, and the community in recovering missing children and raising public awareness about ways to help prevent child abduction, molestation, and sexual exploitation. NCMEC has worked on more than 73,000 cases of missing and exploited children, helped recover more than 48,000 children, and raised its recovery rate from 60 percent in the 1980s to 91 percent today, thereby gaining national and international recognition as "the" resource for missing and exploited children.

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**

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 than 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 2002

An average of 42 children are reported missing every 24 hours in Colorado.

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 May.

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

The number of stranger abductions reported in 2002 increased by 10 cases from 2001.

The number of non-custodial family abductions reported in 2002 increased by 14 cases from 2001.

Most children are reported to have been missing from inside their residence. This may include a family home, non-profit residential group home, foster home or residential treatment facility.

Most children are between the ages of 15 and 16. Females are reported missing more often than males.

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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C. B. I.  
Missing  
Children's  
Unit

# Special Thanks !!

A special thanks to the following who made a contribution of time, resources or money to the Missing Children Project.

The Missing Children Task Force

James Weischelbaum - Broker /  
Owner  
Remax 100, Inc

Colorado Fraternal Order of Police  
State Employee Lodge 28

Nextel

Transnation Title

Colorado National Speedway

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Anschutz Foundation

The "Mid Life Crisis" Band

Metropolitan State College of Denver  
Internship Program

Denver University Internship Program

Colorado State Patrol

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# Missing Children Reports Received and Reviewed 2002

Month	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Number of Reports	1,261	1,161	1,267	1,402	1,497	1,238	1,266	1,140	1,353	1,380	1,214	1,031	15,210

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## Missing Children Entries

YEAR	MISSING CHILDREN REPORTS	INCREASE OR DECREASE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR
2002	15,210	-99
2001	15,309	-1,372
2000	16,681	-261
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 2002

Statistics indicate the believed circumstance at the time the child was reported missing.

**Non-Suspicious:** No unusual circumstances

**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.

**Family:** 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 Circumstances:** A person who is missing with insufficient information to enable placing the record in any other probable category

AGE	NON-SUSPICIOUS	LOST	KIDNAPPED	FAMILY ABDUCTION	SUSPICIOUS	UNKNOWN	TOTALS
ONE	34	0	3	8	13	0	58
TWO	10	0	2	7	4	0	23
THREE	13	0	0	2	4	0	19
FOUR	12	0	2	5	2	0	21
FIVE	17	0	0	1	3	0	21
SIX	9	0	1	2	0	0	12
SEVEN	17	1	3	3	7	0	31
EIGHT	14	2	1	7	8	0	32
NINE	39	0	0	2	6	0	47
TEN	65	1	0	1	6	17	90
ELEVEN	142	2	1	3	6	32	186
TWELVE	526	1	0	1	24	86	638
THIRTEEN	1,360	1	1	4	44	214	1,624
FOURTEEN	2,471	4	5	1	67	431	2,979
FIFTEEN	3,093	4	3	0	87	574	3,761
SIXTEEN	2,902	5	6	3	82	557	3,555
SEVENTEEN	1,696	1	1	2	50	363	2,113
TOTAL	12,420	22	29	52	413	2,274	15,210



# Activity Report 2002

Most children 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
AT RESIDENCE INSIDE	3,632	5,510
AT RESIDENCE OUTSIDE	138	200
AT FRIEND/RELATIVE INSIDE	62	135
AT FRIEND/RELATIVE OUTSIDE	28	66
PUBLIC PLACE INSIDE	55	89
PUBLIC PLACE OUTSIDE	120	215
INSIDE SCHOOL BUILDING	92	165
OUTSIDE SCHOOL BUILDING	94	166
PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT	28	37
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES	141	254
TRAVELING TO/FROM ON FOOT	106	143
TRAVELING TO/FROM IN VEHICLE	55	86
TRAVELING BY BICYCLE	6	5
IN CUSTODY OF A PUBLIC INSTITUTION	136	139
LOCAL AREA TRIP	7	6
VACATION	9	10
UNKNOWN	1,327	1,927
OTHER	14	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,050</b>	<b>9,160</b>





## Day Count of Missing Children 2002

Friday is the day that children are most often reported to have been last seen: 1,079 males and 1,714 females.

Saturday is the day that children are least often reported missing with: 260 males and 1,229 females.

DAY	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
SUN	608	1,032	1,640
MON	966	1,336	2,302
TUES	829	1,234	2,063
WED	875	1,257	2,132
THURS	933	1,308	2,241
FRI	1,079	1,714	2,793
SAT	760	1,279	2,039
TOTAL	6,050	9,160	15,210

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## Age, Race and Sex of Missing Children 2002

	WHITE	BLACK	NATIVE AMERICAN	ASIAN	UNKNOWN	TOTALS
<b>ONE YEAR OLD</b>						
Males	29	2	0	0	1	32
Females	22	3	0	1	0	26
<b>TWO YEARS OLD</b>						
Males	13	0	0	2	0	15
Females	8	0	0	0	0	8
<b>THREE YEARS OLD</b>						
Males	8	3	0	0	0	11
Females	7	1	0	0	0	8
<b>FOUR YEARS OLD</b>						
Males	9	1	0	0	0	10
Females	11	0	0	0	0	11
<b>FIVE YEARS OLD</b>						
Males	10	0	0	0	1	11
Females	7	0	1	2	0	10
<b>SIX YEARS OLD</b>						
Males	8	1	0	0	0	9
Females	3	0	0	0	0	3
<b>SEVEN YEARS OLD</b>						
Males	14	0	0	0	1	15
Females	16	0	0	0	0	16
<b>EIGHT YEARS OLD</b>						
Males	21	0	0	1	0	22
Females	9	0	1	0	0	10
<b>NINE YEARS OLD</b>						
Males	34	2	0	0	1	37
Females	8	1	0	0	1	10
<b>TEN YEARS OLD</b>						
Males	53	8	1	0	1	63
Females	25	0	1	0	1	27
<b>ELEVEN YEARS OLD</b>						
Males	101	13	2	0	1	117
Females	66	1	0	0	2	69
<b>TWELVE YEARS OLD</b>						
Males	200	29	1	2	4	236

Females	352	38	1	2	9	402
<b>THIRTEEN YEARS OLD</b>						
Males	469	101	4	4	14	592
Females	902	88	8	13	21	1,032
<b>FOURTEEN YEARS OLD</b>						
Males	804	122	10	16	29	981
Females	1,758	160	13	29	38	1,998
<b>FIFTEEN YEARS OLD</b>						
Males	1,269	152	10	11	24	1,466
Females	2,008	219	23	14	31	2,295
<b>SIXTEEN YEARS OLD</b>						
Males	1329	135	10	11	40	1,525
Females	1,752	180	18	42	38	2,030
<b>SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD</b>						
Males	779	93	7	11	18	908
Females	1,056	89	14	29	17	1,205
<b>TOTALS</b>	13,160	1,442	125	190	293	15,210



## Time Last Seen Count 2002

TIME	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
<b>MIDNIGHT</b>	121	221	342
<b>1:00AM</b>	81	129	210
<b>2:00AM</b>	37	77	114
<b>3:00AM</b>	26	41	67
<b>4:00AM</b>	24	41	65
<b>5:00AM</b>	54	79	133
<b>6:00AM</b>	183	322	505
<b>7:00AM</b>	431	719	1,150
<b>8:00AM</b>	458	647	1,105
<b>9:00AM</b>	189	216	405
<b>10:00AM</b>	243	289	532
<b>11:00AM</b>	208	272	480
<b>NOON</b>	352	431	783
<b>1:00PM</b>	275	350	625
<b>2:00PM</b>	307	447	754
<b>3:00PM</b>	428	625	1,053
<b>4:00PM</b>	386	528	914
<b>5:00PM</b>	372	589	961
<b>6:00PM</b>	392	606	998
<b>7:00PM</b>	360	534	894
<b>8:00PM</b>	330	530	860
<b>9:00PM</b>	277	571	848
<b>10:00PM</b>	278	513	791
<b>11:00PM</b>	238	383	621
<b>TOTAL</b>	6,050	9,160	15,210



## Circumstance of Recovery 2002

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTALS
<b>RETURNED VOLUNTARILY</b>													
Male	241	242	237	297	296	205	245	240	263	277	232	191	2,966
Female	350	387	327	360	432	368	343	361	438	430	399	327	4,522
<b>CONTACT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT</b>													
Male	142	126	153	189	185	151	163	125	141	192	128	131	1,826
Female	205	205	266	226	274	198	192	208	190	213	196	188	2,561
<b>CONTACTED BY OTHER THAN LAW ENFORCEMENT</b>													
Male	3	6	3	11	10	3	15	4	9	10	3	7	84
Female	8	8	9	10	17	7	22	9	9	10	9	8	126
<b>DECEASED</b>													
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Unknown</b>													
Male	1	7	5	8	5	2	27	4	6	9	3	3	80
Female	8	9	14	9	12	6	26	7	12	23	8	6	140
<b>Emancipated</b>													
Male	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	4	12
Female	5	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	0	2	5	2	25
<b>Record was test or had erroneous data</b>													
Males	44	23	30	35	30	24	28	25	40	44	27	40	390
Female	65	38	43	48	49	55	42	39	63	59	45	57	603
<b>TOTALS</b>	1,072	1,056	1,089	1,195	1,311	1,021	1,106	1,026	1,171	1,270	1,056	964	13,337