

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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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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Missing Children Reports Received and Reviewed 2007

MONTH	NUMBER OF REPORTS
JANUARY	1,070
FEBRUARY	1,104
MARCH	1,275
APRIL	1,301
MAY	1,440
JUNE	1,208
JULY	1,114
AUGUST	1,091
SEPTEMBER	1,253
OCTOBER	1,309
NOVEMBER	1,178
DECEMBER	988
TOTAL	14,331

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Missing Children Entries

YEAR	MISSING CHILDREN REPORTS	INCREASE OR DECREASE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR
2007	14,331	+1
2006	14,330	-96
2005	14,426	-864
2004	15,290	+ 140
2003	15,150	-60
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	



Circumstances of Missing Children - 2007

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	21	0	1	5	16	0	43
TWO	9	3	0	1	3	0	16
THREE	5	0	2	2	0	0	9
FOUR	11	0	0	4	5	0	20
FIVE	8	0	0	2	2	0	12
SIX	8	0	0	5	2	0	15
SEVEN	17	2	1	1	4	0	25
EIGHT	16	2	1	3	2	0	24
NINE	25	0	1	2	3	0	31
TEN	32	2	0	5	3	12	54
ELEVEN	95	0	0	1	5	14	115
TWELVE	367	2	0	3	11	83	466
THIRTEEN	1,014	3	0	2	24	208	1,251
FOURTEEN	2,125	2	1	3	50	527	2,708
FIFTEEN	2,964	0	3	3	61	764	3,795
SIXTEEN	2,712	2	2	1	69	732	3,518
SEVENTEEN	1,686	1	2	0	36	504	2,229
TOTAL	11,115	19	14	43	296	2,844	14,331



Activity Report 2007

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	3,375	4,547
AT RESIDENCE OUTSIDE	81	105
AT FRIEND/RELATIVE INSIDE	34	67
AT FRIEND/RELATIVE OUTSIDE	23	22
PUBLIC PLACE INSIDE	45	60
PUBLIC PLACE OUTSIDE	71	123
INSIDE SCHOOL BUILDING	107	187
OUTSIDE SCHOOL BUILDING	101	124
PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT	10	23
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES	59	84
TRAVELING TO/FROM ON FOOT	85	102
TRAVELING TO/FROM IN VEHICLE	54	70
TRAVELING BY BICYCLE	8	0
IN CUSTODY OF A PUBLIC INSTITUTION	183	173
LOCAL AREA TRIP	4	3
VACATION	2	4
UNKNOWN	1,930	2,410
OTHER	16	18
TOTAL	6,209	8,122



Day Count of Missing Children 2007

Friday is the day that children are most often reported to have been last seen: 1,148 males and 1,533 females.

Sunday is the day that children are least often reported missing with: 685 males and 881 females.

DAY	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
SUN	685	881	1,566
MON	905	1,183	2,088
TUES	871	1,165	2,036
WED	894	1,135	2,029
THURS	935	1,130	2,065
FRI	1,148	1,533	2,681
SAT	771	1,095	1,866
TOTAL	6,209	8,122	14,331

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Age, Race and Sex of Missing Children 2007

	WHITE	BLACK	NATIVE AMERICAN	ASIAN	UNKNOWN	TOTALS
ONE YEAR OLD						
Males	15	4	0	2	0	21
Females	14	8	0	0	0	22
TWO YEARS OLD						
Males	3	1	0	0	0	4
Females	3	1	0	0	0	4
THREE YEARS OLD						
Males	3	1	0	0	0	4
Females	4	0	0	0	1	5
FOUR YEARS OLD						
Males	6	3	0	0	0	9
Females	8	1	0	2	0	11
FIVE YEARS OLD						
Males	7	0	0	0	0	7
Females	5	0	0	0	0	5
SIX YEARS OLD						
Males	7	0	0	0	1	8
Females	7	0	0	0	0	7
SEVEN YEARS OLD						
Males	11	0	0	1	1	13
Females	11	1	0	0	0	12
EIGHT YEARS OLD						
Males	12	1	0	1	0	14
Females	9	1	0	0	0	10
NINE YEARS OLD						
Males	24	2	0	0	0	26
Females	5	0	0	0	0	5
TEN YEARS OLD						
Males	26	7	0	0	1	34
Females	16	4	0	0	0	20
ELEVEN YEARS OLD						
Males	53	11	0	0	5	69
Females	37	7	1	0	1	46
TWELVE YEARS OLD						

Males	188	60	1	2	6	257
Females	147	39	2	0	21	209
THIRTEEN YEARS OLD						
Males	431	106	2	7	12	558
Females	554	114	9	8	8	693
FOURTEEN YEARS OLD						
Males	859	175	20	14	31	1,099
Females	1,361	186	13	20	29	1,609
FIFTEEN YEARS OLD						
Males	1,277	261	6	13	41	1,598
Females	1,895	210	23	23	46	2,197
SIXTEEN YEARS OLD						
Males	1,208	211	6	19	25	1,469
Females	1,747	235	21	18	28	2,049
SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD						
Males	823	140	3	19	26	1,011
Females	1,046	118	15	13	26	1,218
TOTALS						
Males	4,960	982	38	80	149	6,209
Females	6,869	925	84	84	160	8,122
TOTALS	11,829	1,907	122	164	309	14,331



Time Last Seen Count 2007

TIME	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
MIDNIGHT	137	194	331
1:00AM	62	118	180
2:00AM	44	80	124
3:00AM	38	35	73
4:00AM	26	25	51
5:00AM	53	59	112
6:00AM	242	355	597
7:00AM	453	675	1128
8:00AM	469	553	1022
9:00AM	197	213	410
10:00AM	233	235	468
11:00AM	226	231	457
NOON	346	413	759
1:00PM	238	286	524
2:00PM	314	361	675
3:00PM	444	517	961
4:00PM	369	492	861
5:00PM	422	487	909
6:00PM	394	549	943
7:00PM	340	469	809
8:00PM	366	490	856
9:00PM	318	497	815
10:00PM	297	464	761
11:00PM	181	324	505
TOTAL	6,209	8,122	14,331



Circumstance of Recovery 2007

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTALS
<i>Returned voluntarily</i>	3,169	4,330	7,499
<i>Contact with law enforcement</i>	2,463	3,004	5,467
<i>Contacted by other than law enforcement</i>	119	139	258
<i>Deceased</i>	2	6	8
<i>Unknown</i>	69	119	188
<i>Emancipated</i>	11	27	38
<i>Record was test or had erroneous data</i>	405	549	954
<i>Total Recovered</i>	6,238	8,174	14,412

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