

Missing Children Project

2014 Annual Report





COLORADO
Bureau of Investigation
Department of Public Safety
Administration
690 Kipling Street, Suite 3000
Lakewood, CO 80215

Message from the Director

In nearly 20 years of operation in the state, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Missing Children's Unit has served as a central repository for information on missing children. The Bureau collects, compiles and disseminates information to assist in locating missing children and to spotlight the issue that affects tens of thousands of families each year.

The topic of missing children continues to garner national attention whether through the AMBER Alert program, events such as the National Missing Children's Day poster contest sponsored by the United States Department of Justice or efforts by the CBI and other state agencies to help keep our children safe through awareness programs and investigations.

I encourage you to explore the pages of the 2014 Missing Children Project Annual Report containing comprehensive missing children statistics. The report also provides a better understanding of this critical public safety issue. The CBI remains a steadfast partner with local, state and federal partners and with community awareness organizations and citizens to keep our children safe.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ronald C. Sloan".

Ronald C. Sloan
Director

Introduction

Each year, thousands of children are reported missing in the United States. Although many return safely, those who do 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 were reported missing every 24 hours in Colorado in 2014 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.

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 OF THE MISSING CHILDREN PROGRAM

LISTS

The program compiles and distributes data about missing children from reports submitted by local law enforcement agencies. The Annual Report is made public and individual data is provided to relevant law enforcement agencies which may be instrumental in the identification and recovery of missing children.

STATISTICS

Consistent with statute, the program 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 program documents the circumstances of recovery of missing children. These include a breakdown by age, race, and sex in cases resolved by: contact by a law enforcement agency, contact 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 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.)

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

MONITORING

The program reviews each missing child report to the Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC) and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) for validity, timeliness, completeness, and accuracy. The program also insures the originating agency makes any necessary corrections or additions.

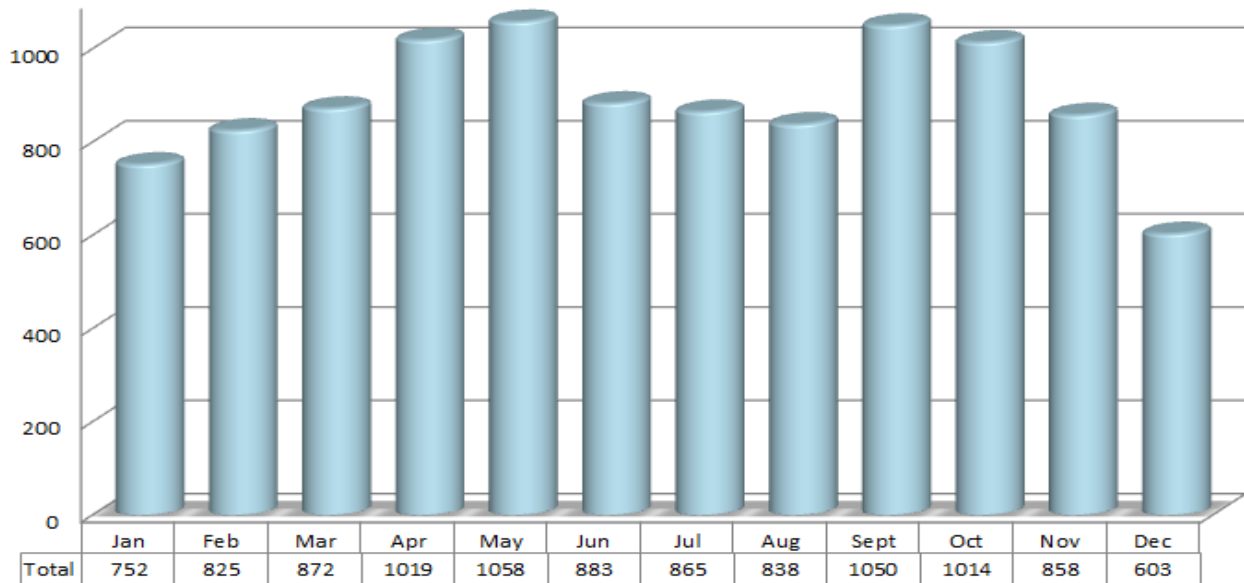
When a child has been missing for thirty days, the program shall attempt to obtain the child's dental records and attach them to the NCIC missing person report.

If a school district chooses, it may submit enrollment lists to the program for comparison with NCIC records to locate children missing from all states. When a match is verified, the program notifies the appropriate authorities to facilitate the return of the missing child.

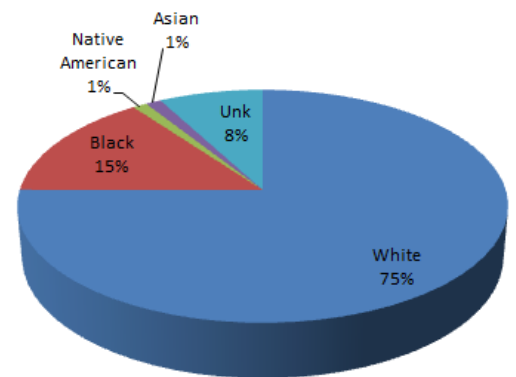
FACTS OF INTEREST

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.

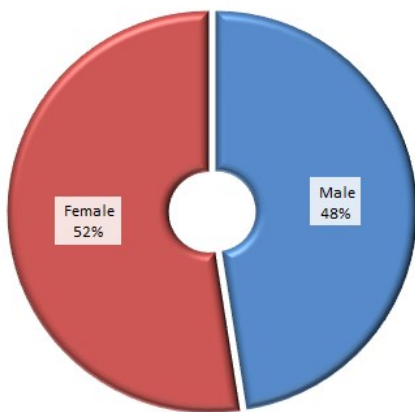
Reports Received



Race



Sex



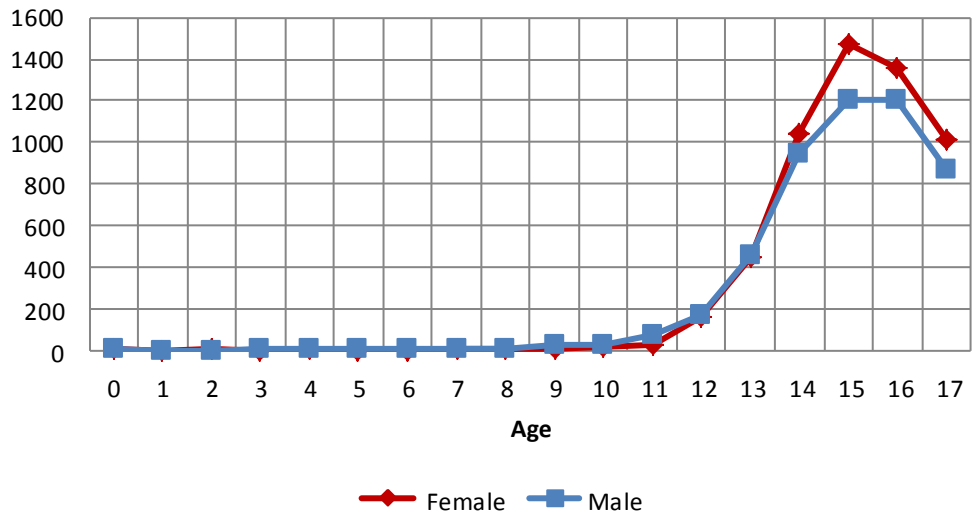
- ◆ The top 2 months for reports were May and September, with reports being higher in general during the school year.
- ◆ More females were reported missing than males.
- ◆ The majority of the missing were white.

85% of the youth reported missing were between the ages of 14 and 17.

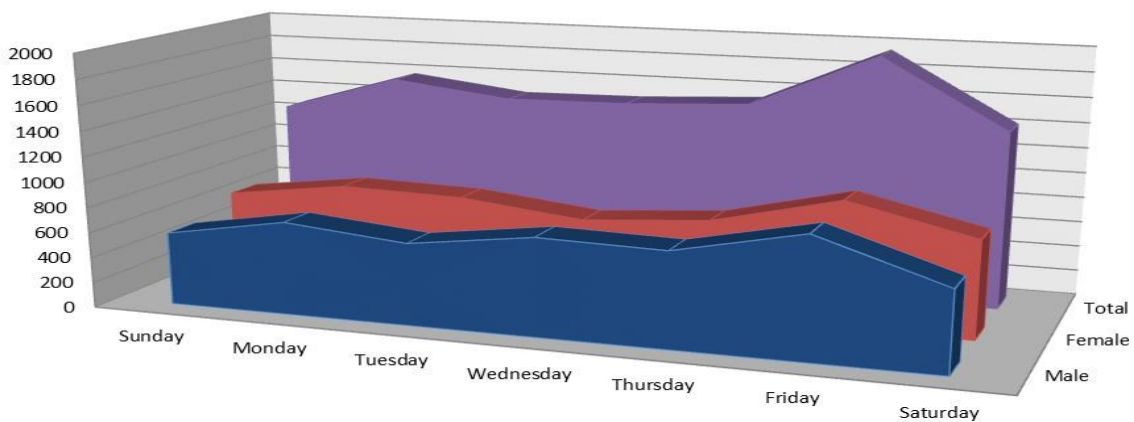
The highest reported day for children to be missing was Friday although the data was fairly evenly spread throughout the week.

The most prevalent time of day when children were last seen was midnight.

Missing by Age and Sex

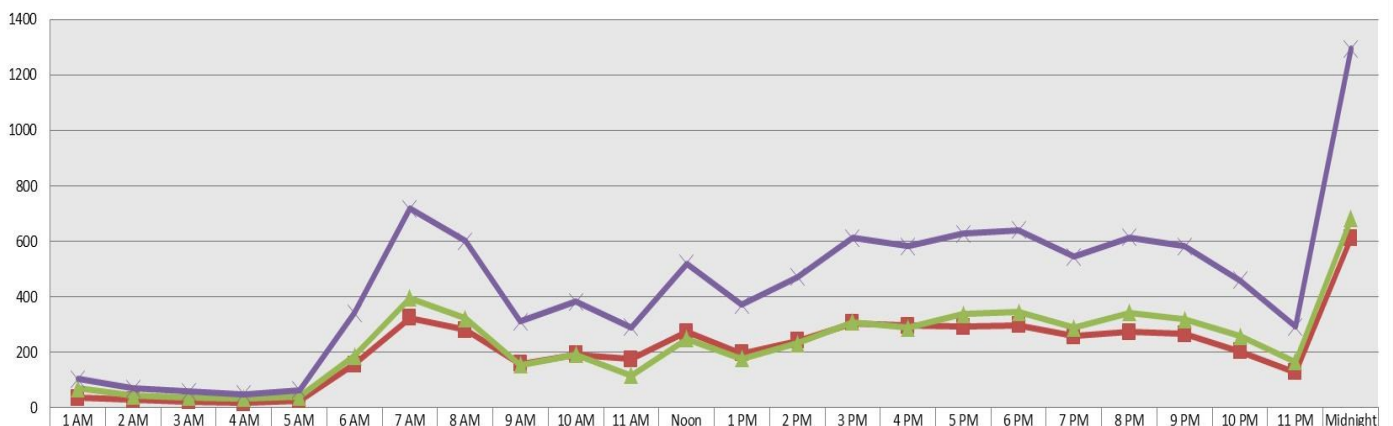


Day Last Seen



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Male	576	735	646	769	747	948	635
Female	709	832	808	699	768	994	771
Total	1285	1567	1454	1468	1515	1942	1406

Time Last Seen



	1 AM	2 AM	3 AM	4 AM	5 AM	6 AM	7 AM	8 AM	9 AM	10 AM	11 AM	Noon	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM	11 PM	Midnight
Male	34	26	21	15	24	155	323	279	157	191	174	271	194	240	304	294	291	297	257	271	265	202	126	612
Female	68	42	35	32	38	184	394	320	153	190	115	247	175	230	307	287	335	343	286	342	316	256	165	681
Total	102	68	56	47	62	339	717	599	310	381	289	518	369	470	611	581	626	640	543	613	581	458	291	1293

Age	Non-Suspicious	Lost	Kidnapped	Non-custodial kidnap	Suspicious circumstance	UNK	Total
0	5	0	0	0	7	0	12
1	4	0	0	1	1	1	7
2	3	0	0	3	7	1	14
3	6	0	0	1	4	0	11
4	5	1	0	0	3	2	11
5	3	0	0	1	5	0	9
6	3	1	0	1	2	0	7
7	9	0	3	1	4	0	17
8	8	0	0	3	2	0	13
9	25	0	1	1	2	1	30
10	33	5	1	0	2	2	43
11	100	1	1	0	0	4	106
12	309	3	0	0	7	20	339
13	854	3	1	3	16	34	911
14	1867	4	1	1	38	81	1992
15	2524	1	0	0	34	122	2681
16	2373	5	1	4	38	137	2558
17	1746	1	2	0	17	110	1876

CIRCUMSTANCES OF MISSING

Non-Suspicious - typically signifies children who have either run 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.

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.

Activity	Male	Female
At residence Inside	2520	2983
At residence outside	337	325
At friend/relative inside	89	146
At friend/relative outside	38	59
Public place inside	49	75
Public place outside	150	144
Inside school building	197	230
Outside school building	233	235
Place of employment	85	68
Social Activities	323	318
Traveling to/from on foot	148	183
Traveling to/from in vehicle	47	56
Traveling by bicycle	14	2
In custody of a public institution	262	182
Local area trip	2	8
Vacation	3	2
Unknown	487	466
Other	72	99

CIRCUMSTANCE OF RECOVERY

Of the cases closed in 2014, 55 percent were resolved when either the child returned or was returned voluntarily.
Contact with Law Enforcement was responsible for the resolution of another 37 percent of the cases.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
Returned Voluntarily													
Male	150	148	149	205	181	163	137	145	199	197	162	127	1963
Female	162	160	173	208	228	178	194	185	207	217	205	146	2263
Contact with Law Enforcement													
Male	87	114	99	138	153	131	114	119	151	141	108	79	1434
Female	99	100	117	135	147	115	99	98	153	166	102	75	1406
Contacted by Other than Law Enforcement													
Male	8	4	5	8	10	13	9	13	5	12	5	5	97
Female	10	7	9	13	13	12	10	21	11	9	9	3	127
Deceased													
Male	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Unknown													
Male	5	12	8	7	6	8	10	4	5	6	6	2	79
Female	2	7	7	11	6	6	13	3	8	6	2	6	77
Emancipated													
Male	5	5	14	13	13	12	13	8	17	7	5	3	115
Female	6	14	13	8	13	8	14	9	15	8	5	5	118
Record was test or had erroneous data													
Male	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
Female	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	4
	535	572	594	748	772	648	614	605	773	769	610	452	7692

