



COLORADO
Bureau of Investigation
Department of Public Safety

Missing Children Project

2020 Annual Report





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March 1, 2021

Message from the Director:

The issue of missing children impacts tens of thousands of families across the United States and that number continues to grow each year. The anguish facing these families is difficult to fathom as they work to locate their missing loved ones in coordination with law enforcement and other service organizations.

Since the inception of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) more than 50 years ago, there has been an emphasis on locating and bringing our missing children home. Through CBI efforts to assist local law enforcement agencies in investigating runaways, long-term missing children cases, identifying and rescuing our youth affected by human trafficking, and the coordination of Colorado's AMBER Alert program, our agents and analysts are constantly working to identify new ways to decrease the number of missing children in the state.

I encourage you to review the 2020 Missing Children Program annual report for comprehensive statistics related to missing children in Colorado, in addition to viewing the results from this year's Missing Children Poster contest for fifth grade students across the state. This detailed report represents the dedication of Colorado's law enforcement in helping to bring our missing children home.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Camper".

John Camper
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 (CBI) 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 person or organization 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

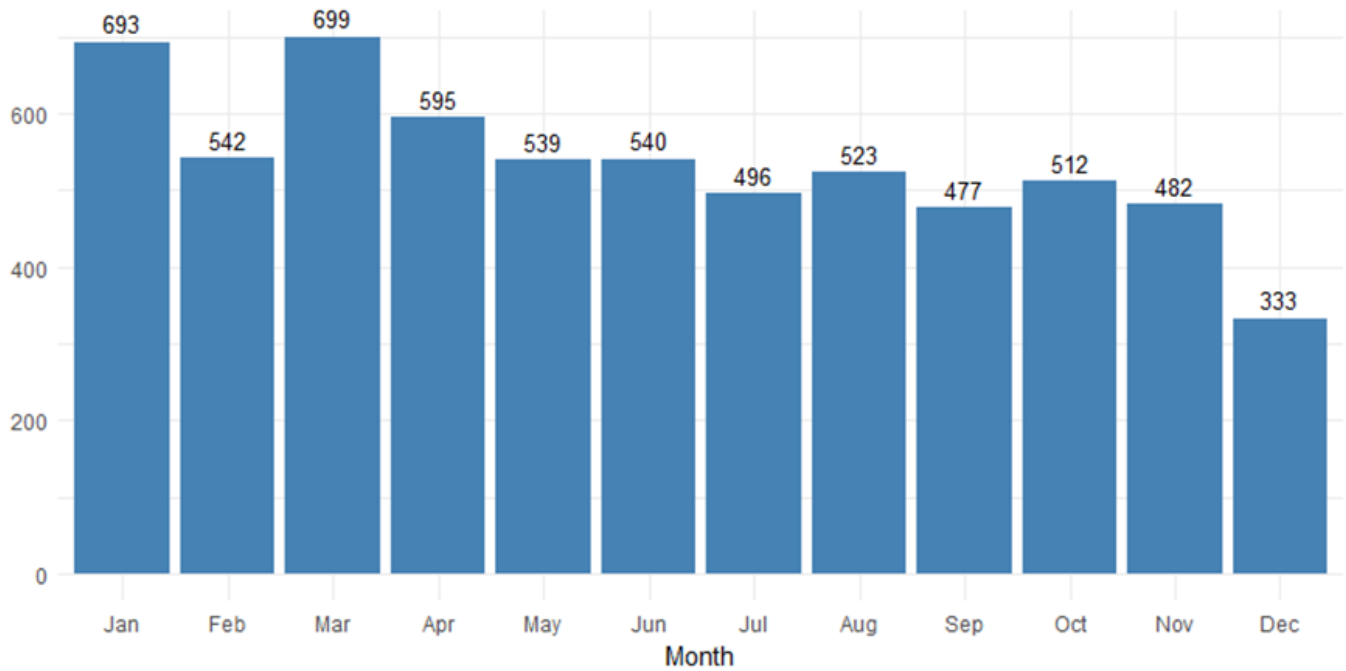
The Unit reviews missing person's reports submitted to the Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC) and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) for validity, completeness and accuracy and ensures the originating agency makes any necessary corrections or additions.

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.

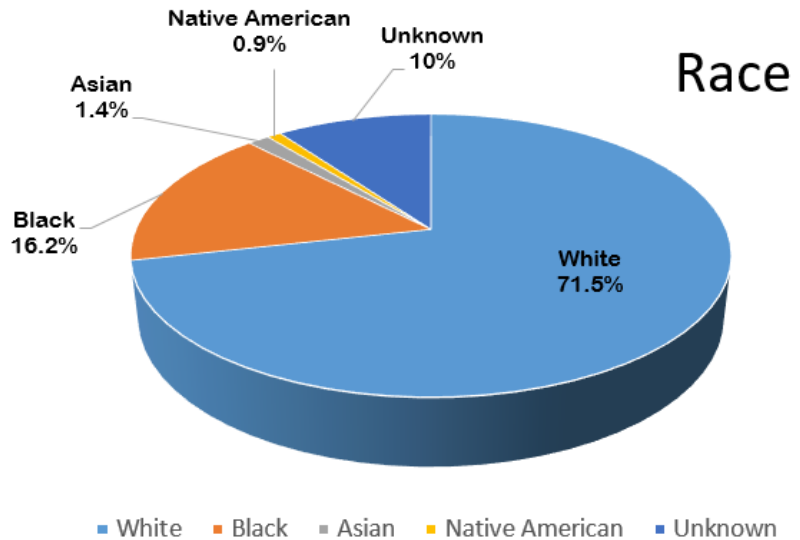
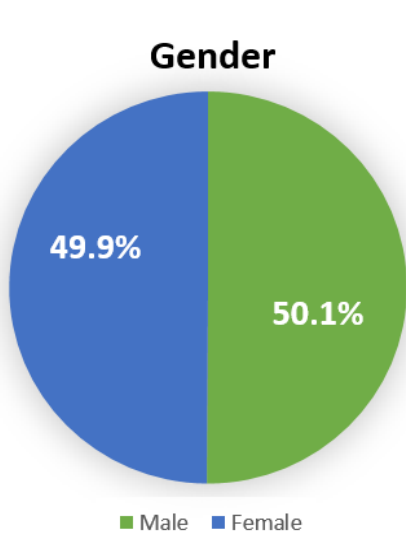
The Unit sends lists of children missing from Colorado to each Colorado school district for comparison with their enrollment records to identify missing children in their schools. If a district chooses, it may submit enrollment lists to the Unit for comparison with NCIC records to locate children missing 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

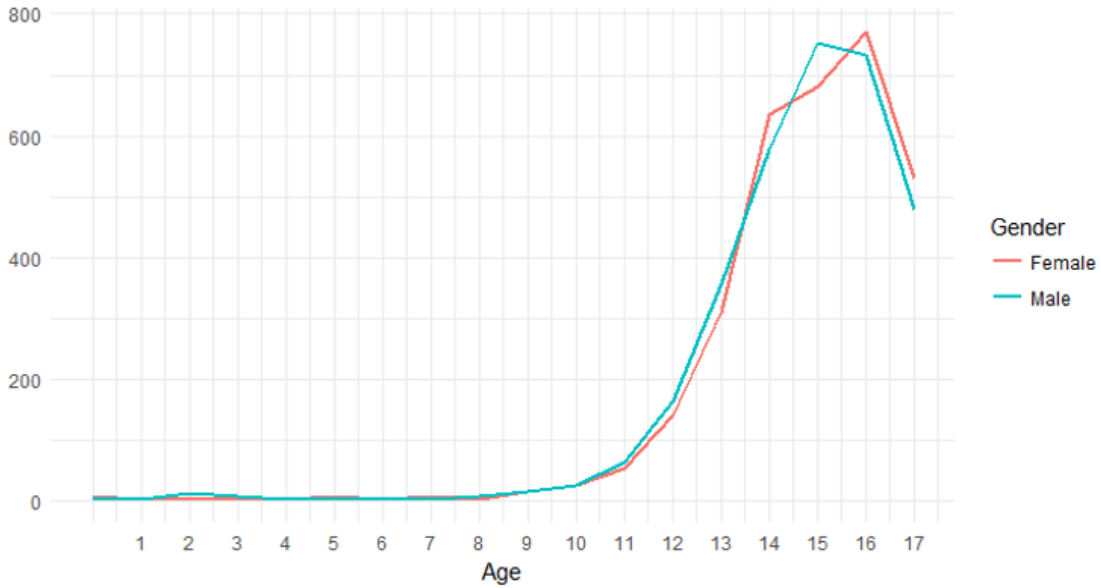
Information in this report was provided to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) by local law enforcement agencies using the CCIC automated information system. Each report filed with the local agency is entered into the CCIC computer as a separate case. The numbers below reflect cases as opposed to actual missing children, i.e. some children may have been reported missing, recovered, and subsequently missing once more. Thus, the intent of this report is to reflect the total number of entries in CCIC and total number of entries removed from CCIC in a given month. It does not indicate recovery rates based on each child. Finally, 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.



A total of 6,431 reports were received in 2020.
This is a decrease of 21.5% from the 8,193 reports received in 2019.



Missing by Age and Sex



80% of the children reported as missing were between the ages of 14 and 17.

46% 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 PM.

Day Last Seen

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total
Female	417	488	443	480	438	519	425	3,210
Male	426	488	495	489	413	468	440	3,219
Total	843	976	938	969	851	987	865	6,429

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	12 PM	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM	11 PM	12 AM	Total
Female	77	37	38	30	26	53	96	130	82	109	110	211	131	154	200	187	185	215	194	199	225	224	153	124	3,190
Male	51	32	20	25	14	56	101	142	107	120	129	204	160	192	224	229	196	203	204	227	189	165	109	105	3,204
Total	128	69	58	55	40	109	197	272	189	229	239	415	291	346	424	416	381	418	398	426	414	389	262	229	6,394

CIRCUMSTANCE 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

Age	Kidnapped	Lost	Non-custodial Kidnapping	Non-suspicious	Suspicious circumstance	Unknown	Total
0	0	0	2	7	5	0	14
1	1	0	3	2	0	0	6
2	0	2	5	8	2	0	17
3	1	3	2	4	1	0	11
4	0	1	1	3	1	0	6
5	1	0	3	9	1	0	14
6	1	0	0	5	1	0	7
7	1	0	4	6	0	0	11
8	0	0	3	8	0	0	11
9	0	1	2	23	2	2	30
10	1	1	0	50	0	1	53
11	1	1	2	108	2	4	118
12	1	1	1	297	3	4	307
13	0	3	0	656	1	6	666
14	1	0	2	1,182	7	21	1,213
15	0	0	1	1,410	6	16	1,433
16	0	1	3	1,478	9	14	1,505
17	1	0	0	982	8	18	1,009
Total	10	14	34	6,238	49	85	6,431

Activities When Missing

	Female	Male	Total
At Friends/Relatives Inside Residence	63	71	134
At Friends/Relatives Outside Residence	32	32	64
At Home Inside Residence	1,591	1,533	3,124
At Home Outside Residence	352	364	716
At Public Place Inside Building	50	40	90
At Public Place Outside	112	105	217
Friends/Relatives Residence In Vehicle	22	22	44
Friends/Relatives Residence On Foot	17	13	30
In Custody Of A Public Institution	65	57	122
Inside A Building	28	37	65
Inside Private Residence	121	111	232
Inside Public Place	25	20	45
Inside School Building	51	38	89
On Trip In Local Area	8	13	21
On Vacation Trip In State	3	5	8
On Vacation Trip Out-Of-State	9	2	11
Other	53	81	134
Outside A Building	39	34	73
Outside At Private Residence	55	51	106
Outside At Public Place	61	65	126
Outside School Building	42	56	98
Public Place In Vehicle	33	40	73
Public Place On Foot	42	53	95
School In Vehicle	4	5	9
School On Foot	5	12	17
Traveling To Or From Anywhere On A Bicycle	6	9	15
Unknown	305	333	638
Work In Vehicle	13	15	28
Work On Foot	3	2	5
Total	3,210	3,219	6,429

49% 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

Blank / Unknown - the circumstances of the child's recovery was not reported to law enforcement or the CBI

Deceased - the child was located deceased

Contacted by Law Enforcement - contact with law enforcement was responsible for the recovery of the child

Non-Law Enforcement Agency Contact - contact with a non-law enforcement agency was responsible for the recovery of the child

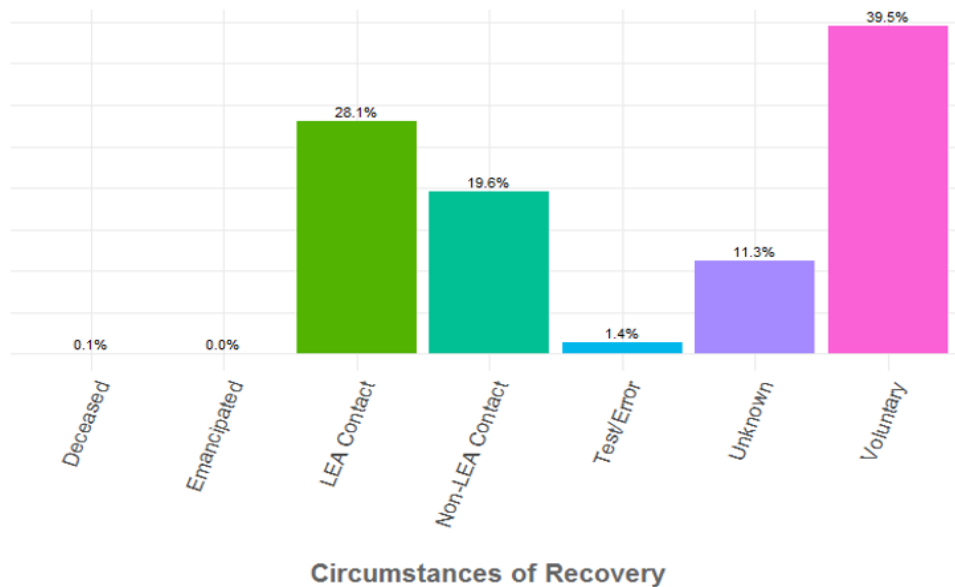
Test Record - the record was entered as a test record or was entered in error

Voluntary - the child returned voluntarily

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Sum
BLANK													
Female	91	74	99	90	80	79	88	92	80	87	73	55	988
Male	79	75	105	76	73	82	88	70	79	72	66	53	918
Unknown	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
DECEASED													
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Male	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EMANCIPATED													
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONTACTED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT													
Female	82	57	54	59	55	52	55	55	33	41	42	23	608
Male	77	52	83	60	63	51	44	55	45	45	61	27	663
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NON-LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY CONTACT													
Female	37	39	46	40	41	41	39	40	37	36	32	23	451
Male	55	47	44	43	30	33	28	31	31	29	37	27	435
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RECORD WAS TEST OR HAD ERRONEOUS DATA													
Female	3	2	1	6	4	1	2	2	2	1	3	2	29
Male	2	3	2	3	8	7	1	2	0	3	1	2	34
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UNKNOWN													
Female	33	18	27	26	31	33	13	27	11	12	12	10	253
Male	42	28	35	27	18	31	10	16	9	21	7	12	256
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
VOLUNTARY													
Female	89	68	113	77	69	61	61	69	64	86	71	52	880
Male	102	79	90	87	67	69	65	64	85	78	75	47	908
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	693	542	699	595	539	540	496	523	477	512	482	333	6,431

Of the cases closed in 2020, 28% were resolved when the child returned voluntarily.

Contact with Law Enforcement was responsible for the resolution of another 20% of cases.

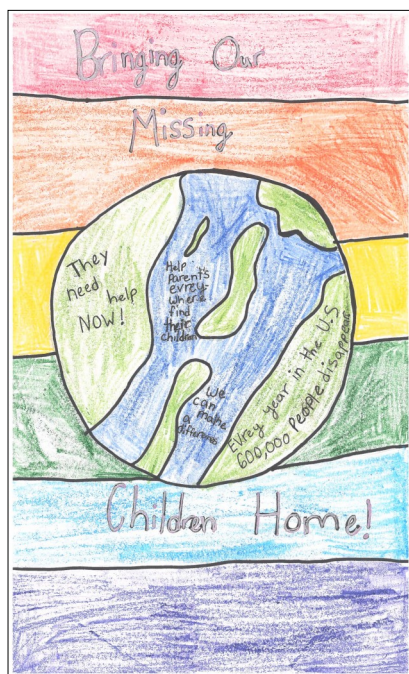


MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY POSTER CONTEST

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.

Paul from Stone Creek Charter School was the winner for the 2021 Colorado contest and his poster is featured on the cover of this report. The second and third place winners are shown below.



2nd Place
Gracie
Agate Schools



3rd Place
Charlotte
St. John the Baptist School

To learn more about the National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest or to see previous submissions, please visit <https://ncitc.fvtc.edu/programs/PR00005772/37th-annual-national-missing-childrens-day>

If you have questions about the Missing Children Program please contact the Colorado Bureau of Investigation at 303-239-4211 or visit <https://cbi.colorado.gov/sections/investigations/missing-persons>