

Tab 1

Missing Children 2024 Annual Report



Introduction

Missing Children and the Evolution of the Problem

Each year, thousands of children are reported missing in the United States. Colorado is no exception. An average of 20 children are reported missing every 24 hours in Colorado, with the majority being runaways. Although many of those missing children return safely, those who

2024 Missing childrens report

Updated automatically every 5 minutes

*An average of 20 children
are reported missing every
24 hours in Colorado with
the majority being
runaways.*

(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 Person 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. Today there are Missing Person Clearinghouses in all 50 states as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Canada and the Netherlands. NCMEC continues to work closely with each of the Missing Child Clearinghouses providing training and technical assistance as needed to bring our missing children home.

In 1996, there was public outcry after 9-year-old Amber Hagerman was abducted from a local grocery store in Arlington, Texas while riding her bicycle with her younger brother. Members of the community were outraged there was not a mechanism in place to alert the community when a child goes missing. Thus was born America's Missing Broadcast Emergency Response (AMBER) Alert which is a cooperative effort between law enforcement and the broadcasters to raise awareness in the community when a child is abducted. In 2002, the AMBER Alert program was created in Colorado.

In the 2000s, the definition and reporting guidelines were changed to better protect this vulnerable population. A missing child is defined as any individual less than 18 years of age whose whereabouts are unknown to the child's parents or legal guardian. In 2003, Suzanne's Law increased the age of a missing child from 18 to 21. Additionally, law enforcement is required to enter a missing child into the national criminal justice system within 2 hours of receiving a report for a missing child.

In 2014, federal legislation referred to as "Children Missing from Care" passed requiring state agencies to report a missing child to both the law enforcement agency as well as NCMEC within 24 hours of receiving information about a missing child under their care. This is one of our most at risk populations. Many of the children that fall into this category runaway of their own free will but find themselves in some of the most serious and dangerous situations.

Initially the missing child clearinghouse was established to raise awareness for those children who may have wandered away or who were abducted. Over the decades we have seen these approaches change as our communities change. Today it is less likely that a child will be taken from their bike in their neighborhood and more likely they will fall victim through online enticement which can occur through various social media apps and online gaming. This is the new way predators are abducting our children. It is happening less on the streets in our communities and more often in our homes and

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.

2024 Missing childrens report

Updated automatically every 5 minutes



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.

2024 Missing childrens report

Updated automatically every 5 minutes

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 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.



Amber Alerts

AMBER

America's **M**issing **B**roadcast **E**mergency **R**esponse

The AMBER Alert System started in Dallas-Fort Worth in 1996 after 9-year-old Amber Hagerman was kidnapped while riding her bicycle in Arlington, Texas. Amber was later found brutally murdered, her case remains unsolved

2024 Missing childrens report

Updated automatically every 5 minutes

AMBER alerts enable communication with the public to disseminate information quickly for an abducted child. The Department of Justice created a criteria to release AMBER alerts to the public.

The criteria for AMBER alerts consists of the following:

- The abducted child must be 17 years of age or younger.
- The abducted child must be in immediate danger of serious bodily harm or death.
- There must be enough descriptive information available to believe a broadcast will assist or aid in the recovery of the child.
- The activation must be requested by a local law enforcement agency or AMBER Designee from another state.

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation is the liaison between local law enforcement and the primary Emergency Alert System (EAS) broadcaster for issuing alerts. AMBER alerts can only be issued by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation in the state of Colorado. In order to notify the public quickly of an AMBER alert, notification outlets include: statewide media, highway signboards, emergency alert system, wireless emergency alerts, Twitter, and other outlets such as social media and lottery machines. If the circumstances of the missing child does not meet AMBER criteria, a Missing Endangered Advisory Alert can still be sent out to the media, although it will not be sent through the Emergency Alert System or as a Wireless Emergency Alert.

Nationwide Amber Statistics for 2024*

* As of May 2024 stats from [US Dept of Justice](#)

- 189 attempted abductions occurred, involving 236 children
- 1,268 children recovered specifically because of the AMBER Alert
- 46 Children recovered specifically because of WEA (Wireless emergency alerts)

Colorado Amber Statistics for 2024

- 4 AMBER alerts were issued
- All children from the AMBER Alerts were recovered safely

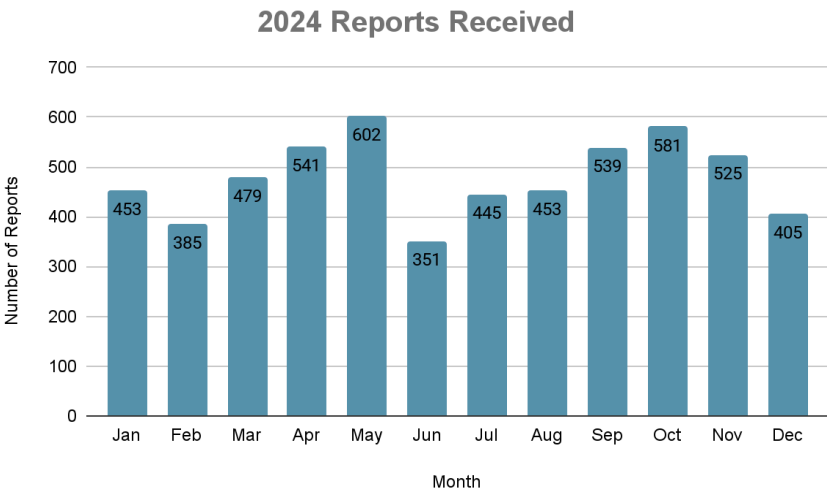
2024 Missing childrens report

Updated automatically every 5 minutes

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 reflects persons reported as missing who are age 17 and younger.

- A total of 5,759 reports were received in 2024.
- This is a decrease of 4.28% from the 6,011 reports received in 2023.

Figure 1: 2024 Reports Received



[Link to 2024 Reports Received raw data](#)

Figure 2: Gender of Missing Children in 2024

2024 Missing childrens report

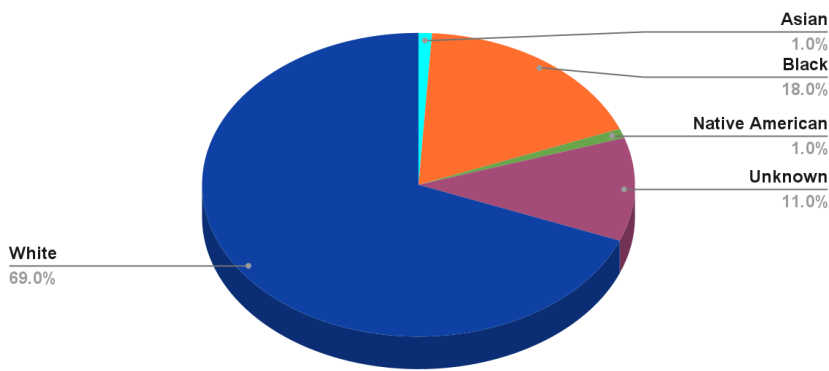
Updated automatically every 5 minutes



[Link to raw data for Gender of Missing Children in 2024](#)

Figure 3: Race of Missing Children in 2024

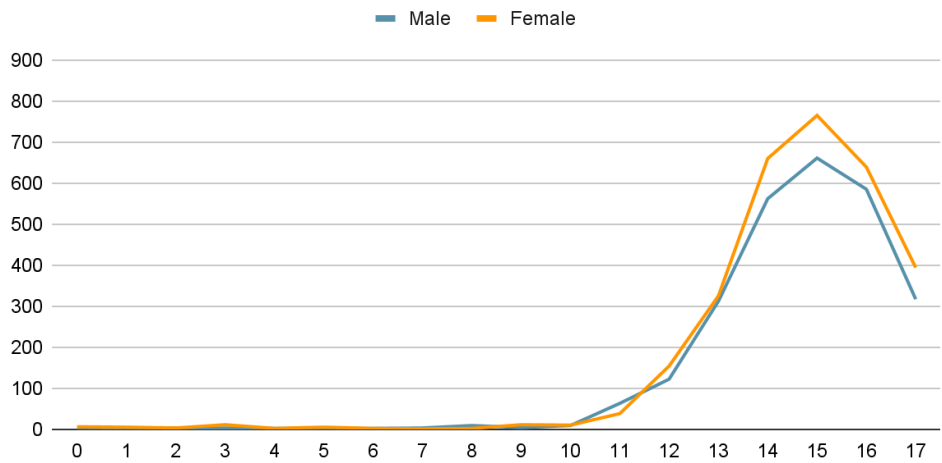
Race of Missing Children in 2024



[Link to raw data for Race of Missing Children in 2024](#)

Figure 4: Missing by Age and Sex in 2024

Missing by Age and Sex in 2024



[Link to Missing by Age and Sex in 2024 Raw Data.](#)

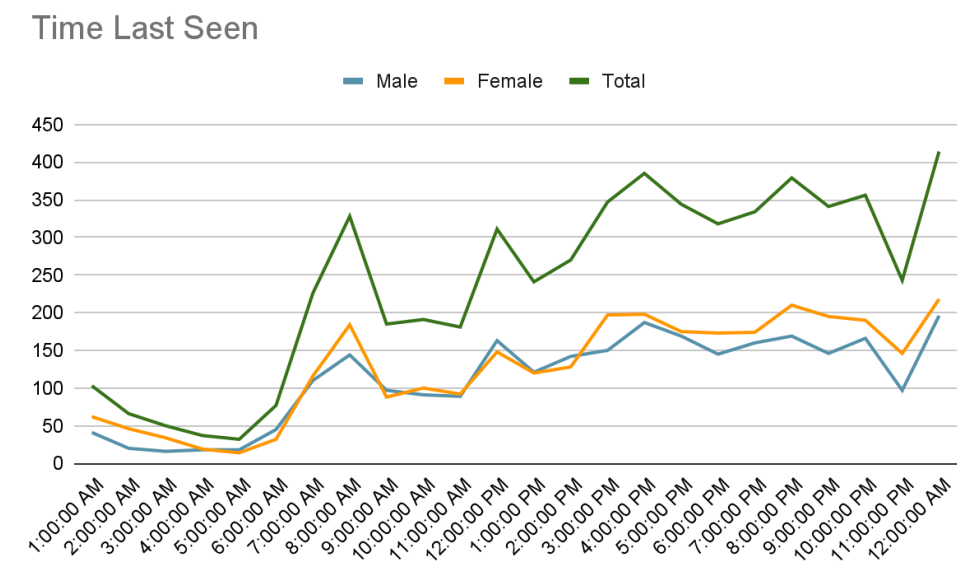
Table 1: Missing by Age and Sex in 2024

- between the ages of 14 and 16.
- 46% of the children reported as missing were between the ages of 15 and 16.
 - The highest reported date of the week for children to last be seen was Friday.
 - The most common time for children to be last seen was around midnight.

Table 2: Day Last Seen

Blank	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Total
Female	419	430	401	445	409	526	429	3059
Male	316	391	381	395	404	451	362	2700
Total	735	821	782	840	813	977	791	5759

Figure 5: Time Last Seen



[Link to Time Last Seen raw data.](#)

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 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.

2024 Missing childrens report

Updated automatically every 5 minutes

Table 3: Circumstance of Missing

Age	Non-suspicious	Lost	Kidnapped	Non-custodial kidnap	Suspicious circumstance	Unknown	Total
0	10	0	0	1	2	0	13
1	7	0	1	4	1	0	13
2	4	0	0	3	1	1	9
3	8	1	1	6	2	0	18
4	5	0	0	2	2	0	9
5	8	0	0	5	2	1	16
6	2	0	1	1	0	0	4
7	5	1	2	1	1	0	10
8	11	3	0	2	0	0	16
9	10	0	1	2	3	0	16
10	18	1	1	1	0	0	21
11	98	2	0	2	2	0	104
12	258	1	1	0	4	17	281
13	597	7	2	1	2	31	640
14	1137	7	0	1	9	68	1222
15	1339	5	0	1	11	73	1429
16	1142	6	1	2	10	64	1225
17	665	4	0	0	5	39	713
TOTAL	5324	38	11	35	57	294	5759

Activities When Missing

2024 Missing childrens report

Updated automatically every 5 minutes

At Friends/Relatives Inside Residence	81	64	145
At Friends/Relatives Outside Residence	43	32	75
At Home Inside Residence	1454	1211	2664
At Home Outside Residence	429	391	820
At Public Place Inside Building	40	19	59
At Public Place Outside	79	96	175
Friends/Relatives Residence In Vehicle	11	19	30
Friends/Relatives Residence On Foot	23	12	35
In Custody Of A Public Institution	16	19	35
Inside A Building	20	16	36
Inside Private Residence	91	102	193
Inside Public Place	13	14	27
Inside School Building	99	92	191

2024 Missing childrens report

Updated automatically every 5 minutes

State			
On Vacation Trip Out-Of-State	2	1	3
Other	47	41	88
Outside A Building	21	22	43
Outside At Private Residence	43	62	105
Outside At Public Place	52	52	104
Outside School Building	117	111	228
Public Place In Vehicle	18	17	35
Public Place On Foot	33	39	72
School In Vehicle	11	4	15
School On Foot	31	24	55
Traveling To Or From Anywhere On A Bicycle	0	10	10
Unknown	275	226	501
Work In Vehicle	2	0	2
Work On Foot	2	1	3

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.

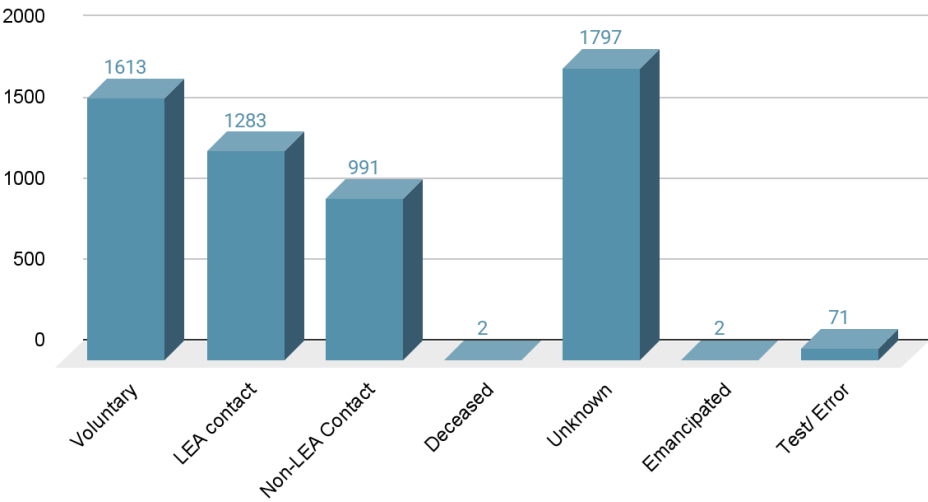
Circumstances of Recovery

Circumstance definitions

- **Blank/Unknown** - The circumstances of the child's recovery was 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 or was entered in error.
- **Voluntary** - The child returned voluntarily.

Figure 6: Circumstance of Recovery in 2024

Circumstances of Recovery in 2024



[Link to Circumstances of Recovery in 2024 Raw Data](#)

Of the cases closed in 2024, 28% were resolved when the child returned voluntarily.

Contact with Law Enforcement was responsible for the resolution of another 22% of cases. The remaining circumstances of recovery are from a non—law enforcement agency or the circumstances of the child’s

2024 Missing childrens report

Updated automatically every 5 minutes

- **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.

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

2024 Missing childrens report

Updated automatically every 5 minutes

- Part of a joint initiative with the Department of Justice that targets organizations involved in child prostitution.

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.

Perpetua from St. Mary Catholic School was the winner for the 2024 Colorado contest and her poster is featured on the cover of this report. The second and third place winners are shown below.



2nd Place- Irie, from West Grand Elementary.

2024 Missing childrens report

Updated automatically every 5 minutes



3rd Place, Vicky from Primero School

To learn more about the National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest or to see previous submissions, please visit the [National Criminal Justice Training Center \(NCJTC\) Website](#).

If you have questions about the Missing Children Program please contact the Colorado Bureau of Investigation at 303-239-4211 or visit [the CBI website](#).