

Protecting Ohio's Families



Ohio Attorney General's Office Missing Children Clearinghouse



2014
Annual Report



MIKE DEWINE
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



Bianca Damanik

Abduction by family member

Missing from: Beachwood, Ohio
Missing since: 01/12/2005
Missing age: 2
Current age: 12
Birthdate: 01/07/2003
Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: Biracial (white/Asian)
Height: 3' 0"
Weight: 27 lbs.
Hair color: Brown
Eye color: Brown

Bianca's photo is shown age-progressed to 8 years. She was allegedly abducted by her mother, Elfarida Damanik. They are believed to have left the country and traveled to Indonesia. She has two small birthmarks on her upper left leg.

If you have any information, contact Macedonia Police Department at 330-468-1234.



Zaden McKnight

Lost, injured, or missing

Missing from: Dayton, Ohio
Missing since: 03/26/2014
Missing age: 4
Current age: 5
Date of birth: 05/25/2009
Gender: Male
Race/Ethnicity: Black
Height: 3' 1"
Weight: 95 lbs.
Hair color: Black
Eye color: Brown

Zaden McKnight was last seen at home in Dayton, Ohio, on March 25, 2014. Zaden was last known to be wearing blue jeans, a yellow hat, a yellow and blue coat, and red velcro shoes with "Lighting McQueen" on them. Zaden was last seen with his mother, who was recently found deceased, a victim of homicide.

If you have any information, contact Dayton Police Department at 937-333-2677.



Sami Ashraf-Aljailani

Abduction by family member

Missing from: Akron, Ohio
Missing since: 06/05/2006
Missing age: 6
Current age: 14
Date of birth: 06/17/2000
Gender: Male
Race/Ethnicity: White
Height: 3'2"
Weight: 40 lbs.
Hair color: Brown
Eye color: Brown

Sami went missing on June 5, 2006. He and his two sisters, Amina and Layla, were abducted by their father, Ashraf Al-Jailani, and taken to Yemen. Their mother, Michelle Swensen, has sole custody of the children.

If you have any information, contact Cleveland FBI at 216-522-1400.



Leslie Bustos-Sanchez

Endangered runaway

Missing from: West Chester, Ohio
Missing since: 10/15/2009
Missing age: 16
Current age: 22
Date of birth: 11/27/1992
Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: Hispanic
Height: 5'0"
Weight: 115 lbs.
Hair color: Black
Eye color: Brown

Leslie has pierced ears and is believed to be in Mexico. She was last seen in West Chester, Ohio.

If you have any information, contact West Chester Police Department at 513-759-7263.

www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingKids



MIKE DEWINE

★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★

May 22, 2015

The Honorable John Kasich
Governor, State of Ohio
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Cynthia Dungey, Director
Department of Job and Family Services
30 E. Broad St., 32nd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

The Honorable Cliff Rosenberger
Speaker, Ohio House of Representatives
Riffe Center, 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

The Honorable Keith Faber
President, Ohio Senate
Statehouse, 2nd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Tom Stickrath
Superintendent, Bureau of Criminal Investigation
P.O. Box 365
London, OH 43140

Dear Colleagues:

Protecting Ohio's families is the mission that drives everything we do in the Ohio Attorney General's Office. The Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse has been part of the Ohio Attorney General's Office for 22 years and collaborates with parents, schools, law enforcement agencies, and other partners to keep children safe.

I am pleased to present this report, which details the Clearinghouse's activities in 2014.

The Missing Persons Unit within my office's Bureau of Criminal Investigation oversees the Clearinghouse, which compiles state data on missing children, assists law enforcement and families, and works with the Ohio departments of Education and Job and Family Services to train and provide resources for peace officers, teachers, parents, and children. The Clearinghouse issues Ohio's Endangered Missing Child Alerts and Endangered Missing Adult Alerts, and coordinates with law enforcement on AMBER Alerts. It also promotes awareness of issues related to abductions, human trafficking, and runaway children.

This year we have updated and revised the Child Abduction Response Team (CART) model to better coordinate resources needed in the event of a missing child.

The safe recovery of a missing child requires coordination and a quick response among agencies, as well as critical help and input from the public. All of us have a role to play in making sure missing kids return home safely.

For more information, please visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons or call **800-325-5604**.

Very respectfully yours,

Mike DeWine
Ohio Attorney General

Introduction and Overview

The Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse was established in 1993 under Ohio Revised Code section 109.65(B) and serves as a central repository of statistics and information about missing children in the State of Ohio. It provides assistance to law enforcement and families to help locate missing children, and develops and disseminates educational information through news releases, training, child abuse prevention and safety fairs, and child safety lesson plans.

The Ohio Missing Persons Unit was created in 2011 to better coordinate and convey information about services related to missing children and adults. The unit operates the Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse and is part of the Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI). Because it is part of BCI's Criminal Intelligence Unit, the Missing Persons Unit can better coordinate BCI resources, facilitate the quickest possible response to missing person cases, and provide immediate access to important investigative tools. In addition to focusing on missing children, the Missing Persons Unit plays an integral role in cases and issues involving missing adults, human trafficking, and unidentified human remains.

The Missing Persons Unit provides a toll-free hotline, **800-325-5604**, to field calls from law enforcement, parents, community members, and the media. The hotline is answered 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Also available is the Missing Persons Unit's public website, **www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons**, which can be used to provide visibility for missing person cases and as a central location for families and the public seeking resources and guidance. The site features details and photos of missing children and adults, and allows visitors to submit tips and print posters for specific cases. It also includes links to information about Ohio's unsolved homicides and unidentified remains. BCI also uses social networking websites, such as Facebook and Twitter, to raise awareness about missing person cases.

The Ohio Attorney General's Office prints pictures and information about missing person cases on its business envelopes to increase public awareness. Two missing persons are featured on each envelope, along with Missing Persons Unit contact information. Different individuals are featured each time a new order of envelopes is printed, with missing children and adults alternated on envelope orders.

Staff members of the Missing Persons Unit also assist law enforcement and parents by:

- Issuing Endangered Missing Child and Endangered Missing Adult Alerts.
- Collaborating with others in the issuance of AMBER Alerts.
- Using social networking websites, public records, and law enforcement databases to help locate children.
- Providing a free program to collect DNA from a missing person's family so that person may be identified.
- Training law enforcement, other professionals, and the public.
- Providing investigative guidance, resource recommendations, and assistance.

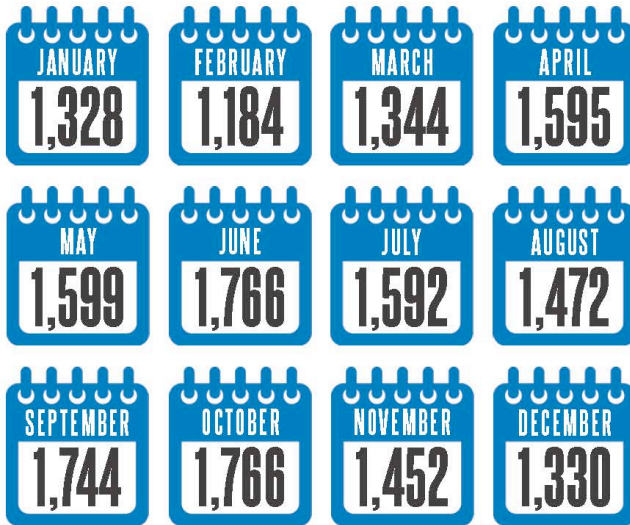
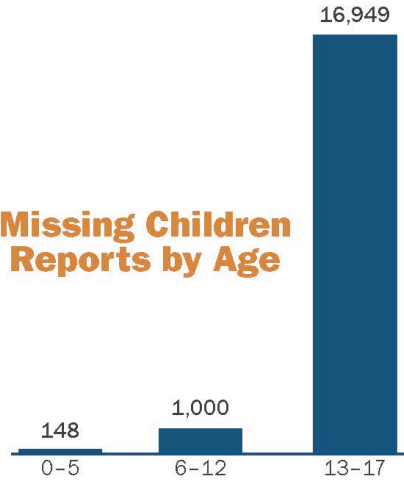
Parents should contact local law enforcement immediately if a child goes missing. When contacted, the Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse also will take a supplemental report and ensure that the child's name is entered into the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database. Parents also should file a report with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC).

2014 BY THE NUMBERS



18,097
CHILDREN
REPORTED
MISSING

Missing Children Reports by Age





Missing Children Reports by County



4 INTERNATIONAL
HAGUE CASES

15 NEW

LINK CASES

 **9,587**
 **8,510**

2014 Statistics

The Clearinghouse receives monthly statistics on missing Ohio children whose cases law enforcement agencies have entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database. In 1975, through NCIC, a Missing Person File was established to track missing person reports nationwide. Records in the Missing Person File are retained until the missing individual is located or the record is canceled by the entering agency.

Based on these statistics, the Clearinghouse documented 22,650 persons reported missing in 2014. Of those, 18,097 were children, with 9,587 females and 8,510 males reported missing. Authorities reported that 98.5 percent — a total of 17,826 children — were recovered safely.

Five children reported missing were recovered deceased in 2014. Two females and two males were homicide victims, and one male died as a result of an accidental drowning.

Here are the NCIC categories of missing persons and the number of 2014 Ohio cases within each:

- Individual under the age of 21 who is missing and does not meet any of the entry criteria in other categories; **18,199 Ohio cases**
- Person of any age who is missing under circumstances indicating that his/her physical safety may be in danger; **1,359 Ohio cases**
- Person of any age who is missing under circumstances indicating that the disappearance may not have been voluntary (such as abductions and kidnappings); **9 Ohio cases**
- Individual of any age who is missing and under proven physical/mental disability or is senile, thereby subjecting him/her or others to personal and immediate danger; **453 Ohio cases**
- Person of any age who is missing after a catastrophe; **1 Ohio case**
- Missing individual over the age of 21 who does not meet the criteria for any other category and for whom there is a reasonable concern for his/her safety; **226 Ohio cases**

When entering a missing person report into NCIC, law enforcement agencies have the option of noting the circumstances of the disappearance, if known. About half of all missing person reports filed with NCIC contain this information.

Missing Person Circumstances and Ohio entries within each category in 2014 are:

- **Runaway:** A child leaves home without permission and stays away overnight; **10,328 Ohio entries**
- **Abducted by Noncustodial Parent:** A parent, other family member, or person acting on behalf of the parent or other family member takes, keeps, or conceals a child or children, depriving another individual of his or her custody or visitation rights. Family abductions can occur before or after a court issues a custody determination. Ohio Revised Code section 2919.23 spells out what constitutes “family abduction,” also known as interference with custody in Ohio, and the accompanying penalties. Criminal statutes across the country vary as to the title of the offense and the conduct considered unlawful. Other terms for “family abduction” include parental kidnapping, child abduction, child snatching, and custodial interference; **36 Ohio entries**

- **Abducted by Stranger:** Two scenarios qualify as nonfamily abductions. In the first scenario, a nonfamily perpetrator takes a child by using physical force or threat of bodily harm, or detains a child in an isolated place by use of physical force or threat of bodily harm without lawful authority or parental/guardian permission. Under this scenario, the child is taken for at least one hour. In the second scenario, the child is taken, detained, or voluntarily accompanies a nonfamily perpetrator who conceals the child's whereabouts, demands ransom, or expresses the intention to keep the child permanently. Within this category, a "stereotypical kidnapping" is defined as involving someone the child does not know, or someone of slight acquaintance, who holds the child overnight, transports the child 50 miles or more, kills the child, demands ransom, or intends to keep the child permanently; **4 Ohio entries**
- **Adult (Federally Required Entry):** Missing person cases involving individuals older than 18 and younger than 21 must be reported to NCIC under 42 U.S. Code 5799 (c); **7 Ohio entries**

Attempted Child Abductions

The Clearinghouse works with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) to identify patterns involving attempted child abductions, provides technical assistance and resources for law enforcement, and raises awareness among parents and children.

In Ohio, the Clearinghouse documented 21 attempted child abductions involving 14 girls and seven boys. The suspects were driving vehicles in 82 percent of the situations, and 52 percent occurred between 2 to 7 p.m. Thirty-four percent of the incidents occurred while the children were walking to or from school.

Of incidents in which the outcome is known, 76 percent involved the children being able to walk or run away with no physical contact occurring. Of incidents in which the suspects' method of attempted abduction is known, 22 percent used physical force or a weapon; 46 percent offered the children a ride; 11 percent tried to entice the children with candy or an animal (such as a "lost puppy"); 12 percent tried to entice the children by offering money or something of value; and nine percent engaged the children in conversation by asking for directions or help.

Tools for Finding Missing Children

AMBER Alert

Ohio's statewide AMBER Alert Plan was launched on Jan. 1, 2003. The AMBER Alert Program is a voluntary partnership involving law enforcement agencies, broadcasters, transportation agencies, and the wireless communications industry to activate an urgent bulletin in the most serious child-abduction cases. The goal of an AMBER Alert is to instantly galvanize the entire community to assist in the search for, and safe recovery of, the child.

The inception of the AMBER Alert is rooted in the national effort to publicize child abductions that followed the 1996 kidnapping and murder of 9-year-old Amber Hagerman in Dallas. Although named for Amber, the program's title also stands for America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response.

In 2014, Ohio law enforcement issued 13 AMBER Alerts related to the disappearance of 15 children. All of the children were recovered safely.

Thankfully, most AMBER Alerts lead to the child's safe recovery. Here are two such instances involving Ohio children in 2014:

- On Saturday, July 26, 2014, at approximately 5:35 a.m., the Springdale Police Department began to issue an AMBER Alert for a 5-year-old female. The suspect broke into his estranged wife's home, allegedly raped her, and abducted his daughter. The suspect was reported to have made threats to kill himself and was potentially armed with a knife. The child was recovered safely by law enforcement on July 26, 2014, at 7:20 a.m. and the alert was canceled. The suspect turned himself in to the police the following day and criminal charges were filed for aggravated burglary, rape, and domestic violence.
- On Saturday, Aug. 9, 2014, at approximately 2:12 p.m., the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office issued an AMBER Alert for a 4-year-old female and a 6-year-old male. The children were removed from the mother's vehicle by the suspect after he intentionally crashed into her vehicle, sending it into oncoming traffic. The suspect and children were picked up by a female in a gold-colored car. On Aug. 9, 2014, the alert was canceled at 5:17 p.m. after the victims were safely recovered. The suspect's grandmother had seen the alert on television and talked her son into turning the children over to her. The suspect was arrested and pleaded guilty to five counts of felonious assault, two counts of kidnapping, two counts of abduction, attempted abduction and disrupting public services, and three counts of domestic violence. He was sentenced to serve five years in prison.

The Attorney General's Missing Persons Unit staff assists in training law enforcement and the media in AMBER Alert procedures and best practices. In 2014, the unit offered Clearinghouse workshops covering AMBER Alerts to 1,406 law enforcement personnel, media representatives, emergency management staff, children's services administrators, and victim advocates.

A staff member from the Missing Persons Unit also represents the Attorney General on the AMBER Alert Advisory Committee, along with representatives from the Buckeye Sheriffs' Association, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSP), FBI, Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), Ohio Emergency Management Agency, State Emergency Communications Committee, and Ohio Association of Broadcasters, as well as a victim advocate.

The steps taken during an Ohio AMBER Alert are as follows:

- Law enforcement receives the initial call of a missing child and responds to the scene.
- Law enforcement confirms the missing child's case meets AMBER Alert criteria:
 - The abducted child is younger than 18.
 - The abduction poses a credible, immediate threat of serious bodily harm or death to a child.
 - The child is not a runaway and has not been abducted as a result of a child custody dispute (unless such a dispute poses a credible, immediate threat of serious bodily harm or death to the child).
 - There is sufficient descriptive information about the child, the abductor, and the circumstances to indicate that the alert will help locate the child.
- Law enforcement issues a radio broadcast to all neighboring law enforcement agencies and enters pertinent information into the NCIC database. The FBI, OSP, NCMEC, and Missing Children Clearinghouse are notified of the alert.

- The OSP and the investigating agency discuss case circumstances to verify the case meets AMBER Alert criteria. The Clearinghouse also may be consulted.
- The OSP sends a statewide teletype to all Ohio law enforcement agencies alerting them to a child abduction.
- Law enforcement and broadcasters use the Emergency Alert System to air a description of the missing child and suspected abductor.
- The OSP uses Clearinghouse software on the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG), maintained by BCI, to issue emails, faxes, and cell phone text messages containing alert information. These go to all partners, including law enforcement, private and public agencies, businesses, and citizens who have signed up to receive the alerts.
- The OSP activates ODOT signboards and posts information on the AMBER Alert Plan website, **www.OhioAMBERplan.org**.
- The OSP issues the alert using Twitter. To receive these alerts through Twitter, go to www.twitter.com, search for “Ohio AMBER Alert,” and click “follow.”
- The AMBER Alert phone number is activated. Members of the public can call **877-AMBER-OH (877-262-3764)** to report a tip or listen to the AMBER Alert description.
- The NCMEC sends secondary alert notifications via such sites as AOL, Facebook, MySpace, Google, and Yahoo, notifies truck drivers, and sends Wireless Emergency Alert messages to cell phones.
- BCI’s Child Abduction Response Team (CART) Coordinator contacts the investigating agency to provide BCI resources and assistance.

Endangered Missing Child Alert

This alert is designed to seek assistance for a missing child when law enforcement cannot determine whether the child was abducted, but whose disappearance otherwise meets all AMBER Alert criteria. Once local law enforcement makes a request to the Clearinghouse, an automated system alerts all Ohio law enforcement agencies of the missing child.

The Endangered Missing Child Alert provides a radio broadcast to law enforcement agencies in targeted areas, sends faxes and e-mails to the media, can activate the local CART if requested, and uses secondary notification systems to inform the public. The BCI CART Coordinator will also contact the investigating agency to provide BCI assistance and resources.

The Clearinghouse also sends Endangered Missing Child Alerts to participating trucking companies within a local or regional area designated by law enforcement. The companies post the information – sent by fax and email – in their drivers’ lounges and dispatch offices, and include the alerts in dispatches to their drivers.

In 2014, the Clearinghouse issued six Endangered Missing Child Alerts. All the children were recovered safe.

Responsibilities of Law Enforcement

Under Revised Code section 2901.30, which addresses missing children cases, law enforcement must:

- Take missing children reports and investigate them promptly.
- Make a concerted effort to locate the child.
- Submit information about missing children to the NCIC immediately after a report.

- Notify the missing children’s parents, guardians, custodians, or caregivers of updates and of the submission of information to the NCIC.
- Notify the missing child’s school to have the child’s school records flagged, if appropriate.
- Notify other law enforcement agencies of missing children reports.
- Assist other law enforcement agencies in the investigation of their missing children cases.
- Obtain dental records of children missing longer than 30 days.
- Submit information on found children to NCIC.

National Missing Children’s Day

The nation marks National Missing Children’s Day each May 25. Throughout Ohio, a variety of events take place on and around that day. Below is a description of some of the 2014 commemorations:

- Missing Persons Unit representatives made child safety presentations focusing on runaway issues to more than 420 students in Reynoldsburg City Schools. After each presentation, the schools held balloon releases. Each balloon had written on it the name of a missing child and the date the child was reported missing.
- More than 600 Kirkersville Elementary School students attended a Missing Persons Unit presentation on child safety.
- The Missing Persons Unit held a balloon launch and child safety presentations at Columbus Preparatory Academy involving 700 children.
- Representatives from the Attorney General’s Office participated in a Missing Children’s Day event held by the Cuyahoga County Sheriff’s Office at the Old Courthouse in Cleveland and attended by the public.

The Missing Persons Unit, in coordination with the Ohio Department of Education, forwarded the work of Ohio’s first-, second-, and third-place National Missing Children’s Day Poster Contest winners to the national contest. The Department of Justice hosts the annual competition to raise awareness about child abductions and promote safety.

The Ohio winners below were selected by a panel of judges assembled by the Missing Persons Unit:

- First place, Mariah Watkins, Liberty Arts Magnet School, Lima
- Second place, Brayden Todd, Liberty-Benton Elementary School, Findlay
- Third place, Kareliz Lopez-Garcia, Shiloh Middle School, Parma

Collaborations

The Ohio Missing Persons Unit collaborates with many agencies and organizations to locate missing and abducted children and prevent future incidents. Among them:

Central Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force: The Missing Persons Unit participates in the Central Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force, which also involves local, state, and federal law enforcement, victim advocacy agencies, and prosecutors’ offices. The task force identifies human trafficking victims, investigates criminal activity, assists with victim services, and prosecutes offenders. The Missing Persons Unit staff supports investigative efforts, shares intelligence, provides resources, and identifies funding sources.

Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition: The Missing Persons Unit is a member of the Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition, which works to end human trafficking through public

awareness, service to trafficked persons, advocacy, and resource and training support for law enforcement.

I-SEARCH: The InterState Enforcement Agencies to Recover Children (I-SEARCH) Advisory Council aids in the identification and recovery of missing children. Midwestern member states are Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

NamUs: The Missing Persons Unit participates in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) workgroup. NamUs is the first national online repository for records involving missing people and unidentified human remains. Launched in 2007 by the U.S. Department of Justice, the initiative is aimed at reducing the number of unidentified bodies held at coroners' and medical examiners' offices across the United States. In June 2007, the Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Statistics confirmed that, in a typical year, medical examiners and coroners handle approximately 4,400 unidentified human decedent cases, 1,000 of which remain unidentified after one year. Coroners and medical examiners enter an individual's record into the database, which is cross-checked with an unidentified remains database in hopes of confirming identification. Families of missing people also may submit DNA to aid in the identification of remains.

Project L.I.N.K: BCI is the central repository for information regarding Ohio missing persons and unidentified remains. Project LINK (Linking Individuals Not Known) was created in 1999 to help connect Ohio's missing persons including unidentified remains, to those across the country. After a person is missing for 30 days, a relative may submit a DNA sample to be deposited into a database for comparisons with unidentified remains. The samples are tested for mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), nuclear DNA (nucDNA), and Y-STR. Once the tests are completed, they upload the results to the national CODIS database so that it may be compared across the country.

In 2014, the missing persons unit opened 15 LINK cases and closed three cases; one missing person was located alive after 30 years.

Ohio Child Abduction Response Team (CART): Ohio CART is a network of trained public safety and other individuals from various agencies, jurisdictions, and disciplines prepared to respond to cases of missing, endangered, or abducted children and adults. Ohio CART was developed in 2006 by the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association, BCI, OSP, and Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee in collaboration with the Missing Children Clearinghouse. In 2013, a Steering Committee was created to update and revise the CART program. The new model was rolled out in late 2014. It focuses on the CART Coordinator, who is the backbone of the CART structure, and provides them with the knowledge and training to deploy the necessary resources for any child abduction incident. The new model will be available to Ohio law enforcement to begin utilization in 2015 and beyond.

Assistance to the Public

Online resources

The Missing Children Clearinghouse website, www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons, provides valuable information to the public, including:

- Steps to take if a child is missing
- Photographs/poster templates to raise awareness of missing children

- Publications
- Safety tips
- Fingerprint identification cards and game sheets
- Links to Ohio's AMBER Alert Plan, training information, other state Clearinghouses, and the NCMEC

The public plays a vital role in the recovery of missing children through another Web-based resource, the Ohio Citizens Alert Network. The Ohio Citizens Alert Network is a critical missing child response software program that notifies the public when children are abducted or are missing in a life-threatening circumstance. By subscribing to receive alerts on the Ohio Attorney General's website at <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Law-Enforcement/Local-Law-Enforcement/Ohio-Missing-Persons/Ohio-Amber-Plan>, citizens can learn of missing children alerts through text messages and emails.

Training Sessions

The Attorney General's Missing Persons Unit gave training presentations on AMBER Alert, other missing person alert programs, CART, first responder programs, child safety, reunification, resources for law enforcement, intervention, and human trafficking to 3,460 individuals in 2014. These included law enforcement officers, community members, teachers, children, child protective services employees, and other interested individuals.

Assistance to Law Enforcement and Other Agencies

Trainings

The Clearinghouse conducted 34 trainings for law enforcement across Ohio in 2014. Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) students, juvenile officers, new sheriffs, and trainers received instruction on missing children investigations, safety tips for children, AMBER Alert protocol, and initiating other missing person alerts.

The Clearinghouse is represented on the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee, as well as the subcommittee that organizes the annual AMBER Alert Conference. More than 100 criminal justice professionals and members of the media attended the August 2014 conference in Columbus at the Columbus Police Academy. Speakers included retired Detective Mark Simpson of the Arlington Police Department. Detective Simpson provided a case study of the Amber Hagerman investigation, which mobilized the creation of the AMBER Alert program. The new AMBER Alert video and guidebook that were created by the AMBER Alert Advisory Committee were shown to attendees. Representatives from BCI provided an update of the CART program and an overview of BCI resources. A social media panel provided input on using social media as a resource in a missing child investigation. Sergeant Steve Monpetit, provincial AMBER Alert coordinator for the Ontario Provincial Police, provided an overview of the Ontario Province AMBER Alert program.

The Clearinghouse provides two investigative manuals to law enforcement upon request:

- "Missing and Abducted Children: A Law Enforcement Guide to Case Investigations and Program Management," which provides step-by-step investigation checklists for family and nonfamily abductions, lost children, and runaways.
- "The FBI's Child Abduction Response Plan," which details techniques essential in conducting abduction investigations.

A best practices guide for law enforcement investigating missing person cases is also offered by the Clearinghouse: “Legal Mandates and Best Practices Protocol for Law Enforcement in Missing Persons Cases.” The guide can be obtained through the Clearinghouse or through OPOTA. Copies of other materials, brochures, and applicable Ohio Revised Code citations are distributed at trainings and by mail upon request. A list of all available publications appears at the end of this report.

The Clearinghouse also works with the Ohio Department of Education to promote child safety through school presentations and assemblies. In 10 presentations in 2014, more than 3,500 children received information on how to stay safe, how to prevent abduction, what to do in the event of an abduction, and common consequences of — and alternatives to — running away. Each child also received safety information and a fingerprint card for personal family records. In support of local child safety efforts, the Clearinghouse distributed about 5,800 fingerprint cards in 2014.

Investigative Assistance

Law enforcement resources for missing child investigations are also offered by the Clearinghouse. These include:

- Using Internet research tools, posting the child’s photo on the Clearinghouse website, and advising peace officers of available resources.
- Conducting online searches to locate the addresses, telephone numbers, professional licenses, neighbors, and family members of people who may have taken or may be associated with a missing child.
- Analyzing law enforcement records to see if the child has been incarcerated, taken into the custody of child protective services, obtained a new driver’s license or state ID card, or had other contact with law enforcement agencies.
- Accessing various social networking websites on which missing children may have posted profiles, which sometimes reveal details about their whereabouts, the reasons for their disappearance, their friends, and contacts.
- Providing suspect and associate workups to try to determine possible locations the child may go and to determine risk of danger to the child.
- Referring the local agency to other resources that can provide assistance or expertise
- Working with staff from these BCI units:
 - Crimes Against Children Unit, which assists local law enforcement in child abuse, sexual assault, human trafficking, and Internet crimes against children.
 - The Criminal Intelligence Unit, which can provide background information on missing individuals and suspects.
 - The Special Investigations Unit, which can provide an agent to directly assist with a local investigation.
 - The Cyber Crimes Unit, which provides forensic analysis of many types of technology.

In 2014, the Missing Persons Unit posted 1,914 cases of missing children and adults on the Ohio Attorney General’s website. The Attorney General’s Office also featured hundreds of missing children’s photos on posters in conjunction with AMBER Alerts and Endangered Missing Child Alerts.

The Clearinghouse works closely with human trafficking investigators and social service agencies and can help determine if a child is a victim of (or at risk for) human trafficking. When children are identified as victims or at high risk, the Clearinghouse forwards the information to human trafficking task forces, investigators, and social service agencies. Any tips that result are forwarded to the investigating law enforcement agency.

In addition, the Clearinghouse provides law enforcement with cell phone tracking information, details on obtaining satellite photos of areas pertinent to searches for missing children, direction on legal issues, CART assistance, details on alert procedures, and information on warrant procedures related to social networking sites. A BCI Special Agent serves as Ohio's CART coordinator. The coordinator contacts agencies during any endangered missing person case and offers additional assistance and resources, participates in Ohio CART Steering Committee meetings, updates the AMBER Alert Advisory Committee, helps create policy and procedures, and coordinates CART response to investigations. The Clearinghouse also can recommend other state and national resources.

Here are two examples of how the Attorney General's assistance to law enforcement aided in the recovery of missing children in 2014:

- On July 2, 2014, the Clearinghouse issued a regional Endangered Missing Child Alert for the Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office. The sheriff's office was investigating the disappearance of a 15-year-old boy, missing from a campground at the Pymatuning State Park. He was believed to be on his bicycle. He was later found 60 miles from the State Park after he walked into a video store. A clerk at the store had seen the alert information on local news and recognized the missing boy. The clerk contacted local police and the missing boy was returned safely to his family.
- On Sept. 19, 2014, a 14-year-old girl was reported missing after failing to show up at school. She had called to get a ride to school after missing her bus. A criminal intelligence analyst in the Missing Persons Unit was asked to assist with locating the missing girl. The analyst was asked to analyze the cell phone records and was able to show the missing girl was using her cell phone in a specific area in Tampa Bay, FL. The Tampa Bay Police Department was contacted and provided the possible location of the missing girl. She was later recovered safely in the area that was identified by the analyst.

Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway

OHLEG is a secure, Web-based crime-fighting and communication tool that provides Ohio law enforcement agencies with a single location for information on missing children. All missing child data that law enforcement enters into LEADS is automatically downloaded into the missing persons software of OHLEG, where law enforcement can use it to share and quickly disseminate important details to the public. OHLEG allows law enforcement to create missing children posters, generate advisories, and search for registered sex offenders in the area where a child may be missing.

Ohio Department of Health

Under a policy the Clearinghouse forged with the Ohio Department of Health, the department flags and holds the birth certificates of missing children involved in an AMBER Alert or Endangered Missing Child Alert and notifies law enforcement of requests for missing children's birth certificates.

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) case managers provide the Clearinghouse with information that can help locate a missing child and prevent future disappearances. The Clearinghouse provides training to ODJFS employees on procedural issues involving the agencies and other information about missing children.

Other Assistance

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking forces the most vulnerable members of society — including children — into modern-day slavery. More than 1,000 minors are believed to be forced to sell sex in Ohio alone. Nationally, the number is estimated at more than 100,000. The Missing Persons Unit trains local law enforcement to identify and investigate human trafficking cases and assists law enforcement in returning missing children at risk of becoming trafficking victims.

The Missing Persons Unit assists local law enforcement agencies with identifying missing children who are at high risk of falling victim to domestic sex trafficking. The unit then refers the missing child case to BCI's Crimes Against Children Unit, which assists in efforts to locate children who are identified as being at high risk of victimization or children confirmed as sex trafficking victims. The Missing Persons Unit also shares information about missing children with local social service agencies that work with human trafficking victims.

The Missing Persons Unit serves on state and local anti-trafficking organizations, including the Attorney General's Human Trafficking Commission and the Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition. In coordination with the Human Trafficking Commission's Law Enforcement Subcommittee, the Missing Persons Unit worked with OPOTA to create courses on human trafficking for peace officers, other first responders, and social service employees. OPOTA offered three courses to raise awareness and improve response to human trafficking. In 2014, 39 people attended classroom sessions, and OPOTA students completed more than 2,399 online course sessions. In addition, the Missing Persons Unit provided human trafficking training to over 600 officers, other first responders, and victim advocates during the year.

National Resources and Partners

The **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children** helps prevent child abduction and sexual exploitation, find missing children, and assist victims of child abduction and sexual exploitation, their families, and the professionals who serve them. For details, visit www.missingkids.com or call **800-THE-LOST (800-843-5678)**.

The Missing Persons Unit collaborates with the **U.S. Department of State** regarding outgoing and incoming child abduction cases with an international connection. Within the Department of State, the Office of Children's Issues assists parents whose children have been abducted to and from foreign countries. Country officers provide information for parents and/or legal guardians that they can use to identify options—both criminal and civil—to pursue the return of their abducted children. In doing so, the Department of State Office of Children's Issues works closely and cooperatively with a wide range of U.S. and foreign entities, including law enforcement, non-governmental organizations, and foreign governments. The Clearinghouse assisted the Department of State with four international child abductions in 2014.

The **National Runaway Safeline** is the federally designated national communication system for homeless and runaway youth. The organization provides crisis intervention, referrals to local resources, and educational and prevention services to youth, families, and community members around the clock. The group is known for its Home Free Program which, in conjunction with Greyhound Lines and United Airlines, provides runaways with free transportation home. For information, visit www.1800runaway.org.

A Child is Missing Inc. provides a first-responder program to law enforcement. The program's rapid response telephone system alerts residents in a targeted area about a missing child, elderly person, or individual with mental impairments or disabilities. The program serves several states, including Ohio. A Child Is Missing works in concert with AMBER Alert and other child safety programs, and can only be activated by law enforcement. No special equipment or personnel are needed, and the program is free. For information, visit www.achildissinging.org.

Code Adam, one of the nation's largest child-safety programs, was created by Wal-Mart to assist businesses and others with public facilities in preventing a child from being abducted and removed from the premises. The Code Adam program was named for 6-year-old Adam Walsh, whose 1981 abduction and murder brought the horror of child abduction to national attention. The program lays out a series of steps to be taken in the event a child is reported missing in a store or similar location. All Ohio agencies, schools, libraries, law enforcement, and retailers are encouraged to promote Code Adam in their areas.

Team HOPE (Help Offering Parents Empowerment) assists families with missing children by offering counseling, resources, empowerment, and support from trained volunteers who have (or have had) missing children. For information, call 866-305-HOPE (866-305-4673) or visit www.teamhope.org.

Related Publications*

Child Fingerprint ID Cards

"Keep Your Child Safe" palm card

Child Safety Game Sheet

Child Safety on the Information Highway

Eight Rules for Safety

For Camp Counselors: Guidelines on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

Guidelines for Programs to Reduce Child Victimization

Child Protection

Personal Safety for Children

Teen Safety on the Information Highway

Family Abduction: How to Prevent Abduction and What to Do if Your Child is Abducted

When Your Child is Missing: A Family Survival Guide

Online Victimization (A Report on the Nation's Youth)

National Runaway Safeline

AMBER Alert for the Media

For Healthcare Professionals: Guidelines on Prevention of and Response to Infant Abductions

Non-Profit Service Provider's Handbook

Parental Kidnapping: How to Prevent Abduction and What to Do if Your Child is Abducted

Recovery and Reunification of Missing Children

Youth at Risk: Understanding Runaway and Exploited Youth

Just In Case Series for Families

Just in Case ... Parental Guidelines in Case You Need a Babysitter

Just in Case ... Parental Guidelines in Case You Need Help Finding Professional Help

Just in Case ... Parental Guidelines in Case You are Considering Daycare

Just in Case ... Parental Guidelines in Case You are Considering Family Separation

Just in Case ... Parental Guidelines in Case Your Child is Testifying in Court

Just in Case ... Parental and Professional Guidelines in Dealing With Grief Following the Loss of a Child

Just in Case ... Parental Guidelines in Case Your Child Might Someday be Missing
Just in Case ... Parental Guidelines in Case Your Child Might Someday be a Runaway
Just in Case ... Parental Guidelines in Case Your Child Might Someday be a Victim of Sexual Abuse or Exploitation

Know the Rules for Child Safety

Know the Rules (After School Safety for Children Home Alone)
Know the Rules (For Child Safety in Amusement or Theme Parks)
Know the Rules (For Child Safety in Youth Sports)
Know the Rules (General Parental Tips to Help Keep Your Child Safer)
Know the Rules (Safety Tips for The Holidays)
Know the Rules (School Safety Tips)
Know the Rules (For Going to and from School More Safely)

Law Enforcement Resources

AMBER Alert Investigator Checklist
Law Enforcement: Resource Information
Missing and Abducted Children: A Law Enforcement Guide to Case Investigation and Program Management
Child Molesters Who Abduct
Child Molesters (A Behavioral Analysis)
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Publication Order Form
Child Sex Rings: Behavioral Analysis
Female Juvenile Prostitution Problem and Response
Criminal Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Laws in Eight Midwestern States
Children Traumatized in Sex Rings
Child Abuse and Neglect
Interviewing Child Victims of Sexual Exploitation
Investigator's Guide to Missing Child Cases

* These publications are available from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 703-224-2150.

Ohio's 2014 National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest



1st Place
Mariah Watkins
Liberty Arts Magnet School
Lima, Ohio



2nd Place
Brayden Todd
Liberty-Benton Elementary School
Findlay, Ohio



3rd Place
Kareliz Lopez-Garcia
Shiloh Middle School
Parma, Ohio



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Missing Children Clearinghouse

2014
Annual Report

How to contact us

Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Missing Persons Unit
PO Box 365
London, OH 43140

Hotline: 800-325-5604



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