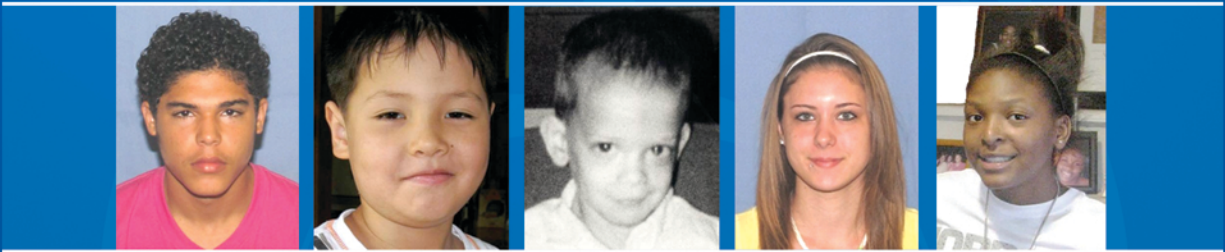


Protecting Ohio's Families



Ohio Attorney General's Office Missing Children Clearinghouse



2013
Annual Report



MIKE DEWINE
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

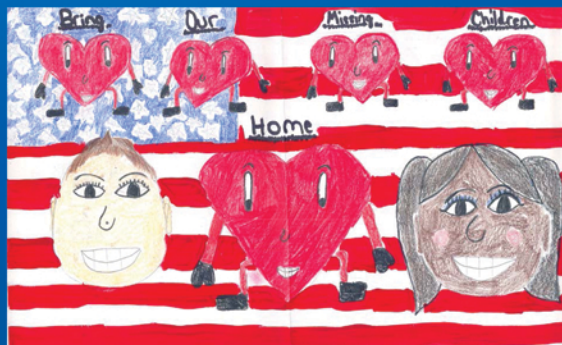
2013 National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest



1st Place

Ben Boutwell

Liberty Benton Elementary School
Findlay, Ohio



2nd Place

McKenzie Sykes

Heritage Elementary School
Lewis Center, Ohio



3rd Place

Shannon Stoll

Midview East Intermediate School
Cleveland, Ohio



MIKE DEWINE

★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★

May 23, 2014

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

The Honorable William G. Batchelder
Speaker, Ohio House of Representatives
Riffe Center, 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

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

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

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

Dear Colleagues:

Protecting Ohio's families and children 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 21 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 2013.

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, coordinates with law enforcement on AMBER Alerts, and promotes awareness of issues related to abductions, human trafficking, and runaway children.

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 (ORC) 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.

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's office created the Ohio Missing Persons Unit 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 Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI). In 2013, it became part of BCI's Criminal Intelligence Unit to 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.

The Attorney General's Office provides visibility at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons for missing person cases and a central location at which families and the public can seek 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. The Attorney General's Office also utilizes 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
- 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. The Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse also will, if contacted, take a supplemental report and verify the investigating law enforcement agency has entered the child's name 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).

2013 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.

Based on these statistics, the clearinghouse documented 22,911 persons reported missing in 2013. Of those, 18,599 were children. Authorities reported that 98.6 percent – a total of 18,338 children – were recovered safely.

Eight children reported missing were recovered deceased in 2013. Two females and three males were homicide victims, and two females and one male died in accidents.

Ohioans reported missing to NCIC were in these age categories:

- 0 to 5 years old – 151
- 6 to 12 years old – 975
- 13 to 17 years old – 17,473
- 18 and older – 4,312

NCIC implemented a Missing Person File in 1975 to track missing person reports nationwide. Records in the Missing Person File are retained until the individual is located or the record is canceled by the entering agency.

Here are NCIC categories of missing persons and the 2013 Ohio cases within each:

- **EMJ:** Individual under the age of 21 who is missing and does not meet any of the entry criteria set forth in other categories, **18,988 Ohio cases**
- **EME:** Person of any age who is missing under circumstances indicating that his/her physical safety may be in danger, **1,325 Ohio cases**
- **EMI:** Person of any age who is missing under circumstances indicating that the disappearance may not have been voluntary (such as abductions and kidnappings), **8 Ohio cases**
- **EMD:** 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, **296 Ohio cases**
- **EMV:** Person of any age who is missing after a catastrophe, **1 Ohio case**
- **EMO:** 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, **242 Ohio cases**

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

Missing Person Circumstances and Ohio entries within each category in 2013 are:

Runaway: A child leaves home without permission and stays away overnight, **11,453 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. ORC Section 2919.23 spells out what constitutes family abduction, also known as interference with custody, and the accompanying penalties. Criminal statutes across the country vary both 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. **35 Ohio entries**

Abducted by Stranger: Two scenarios qualify as nonfamily abductions. In one, a nonfamily perpetrator takes a child by using physical force or threat of bodily harm or detains a child for at least one hour in an isolated place by use of physical force or threat of bodily harm without lawful authority or parental/guardian permission. In the other 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 a distance of 50 miles or more, kills the child, demands ransom, or intends to keep the child permanently. **8 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). **389 Ohio entries**

Missing Ohio Children by County in 2013

County	Children Reported Missing	County	Children Reported Missing	County	Children Reported Missing
Adams	14	Guernsey	47	Muskingum	54
Allen	193	Hamilton	1,487	Noble	3
Ashland	54	Hancock	50	Ottawa	6
Ashtabula	78	Hardin	24	Paulding	1
Athens	43	Harrison	2	Perry	31
Auglaize	19	Henry	6	Pickaway	78
Belmont	20	Highland	22	Pike	16
Brown	13	Hocking	7	Portage	77
Butler	475	Holmes	15	Preble	14
Carroll	16	Huron	26	Putnam	9
Champaign	12	Jackson	16	Richland	271
Clark	280	Jefferson	34	Ross	72
Clermont	145	Knox	65	Sandusky	30
Clinton	15	Lake	213	Scioto	40
Columbiana	43	Lawrence	26	Seneca	13
Coshocton	22	Licking	223	Shelby	97
Crawford	67	Logan	36	Stark	542
Cuyahoga	3,410	Lorain	416	Summit	1,199
Darke	35	Lucas	949	Trumbull	258
Defiance	16	Madison	14	Tuscarawas	26
Delaware	54	Mahoning	532	Union	34
Erie	121	Marion	98	Van Wert	16
Fairfield	107	Medina	62	Vinton	4
Fayette	13	Meigs	8	Warren	88
Franklin	4,251	Mercer	13	Washington	21
Fulton	18	Miami	64	Wayne	59
Gallia	16	Monroe	2	Williams	9
Geauga	12	Montgomery	1,347	Wood	36
Greene	106	Morgan	1	Wyandot	4
		Morrow	18		

Attempted Child Abductions

The clearinghouse works with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to identify patterns involving attempted child abductions, provide technical assistance and resources for law enforcement, and raise awareness among parents and children.

In Ohio, the clearinghouse documented 51 attempted child abductions involving 34 girls and 17 boys. The suspects were driving vehicles in 79 percent of the situations, and 48 percent occurred between 2 and 7 p.m. Thirty-six percent of the incidents occurred while the children were walking to or from school.

Of incidents in which the outcome is known, 58 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, 27 percent used physical force or a weapon; 41 percent offered the children a ride; 14 percent tried to entice the children with candy or an animal (such as a "lost puppy"); 11 percent tried to entice the children by offering money or something of value; and 7 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.

Its beginnings are tied to a 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 addition to the statewide plan, 24 local or regional areas of Ohio have AMBER Alert plans that complement the statewide plan and spell out procedures for alerts in those specific geographic areas.

In 2013, Ohio law enforcement issued eight AMBER Alerts related to the disappearance of 11 children. Nine of the children were recovered safely. Unfortunately, two children were killed in the same incident involving an AMBER Alert.

Thankfully, most AMBER Alerts lead to the child's safe recovery. Here are two such instances involving Ohio children in 2013:

- Huber Heights Police Department issued an AMBER Alert for a 10-year-old girl at 2:40 a.m. March 22, 2013. The child was last seen being taken from her home and ordered into a vehicle by a man armed with a knife and known to be violent. The AMBER Alert was canceled after the suspect was taken into custody by police in a neighboring city and the child was safely recovered.
- The Cleveland Police Department issued an AMBER Alert for an 8-year-old boy at 5:30 a.m. July 1, 2013. The boy was abducted from his home by his noncustodial father, who

suffered from serious mental disabilities. A citizen eating breakfast at a restaurant received the AMBER Alert on his cell phone, observed the suspect and vehicle, and called local police. The suspect was taken into custody, and the child was safely recovered.

The Attorney General's Missing Persons Unit staff assists in training law enforcement and the media in AMBER Alert procedures and best practices. In 2013, the unit offered clearinghouse workshops covering AMBER Alerts to 1,437 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 Steering Committee along with representatives from the Buckeye Sheriffs' Association, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP), Federal Bureau of Investigation (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.

Here are the steps taken during an Ohio AMBER Alert:

- 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 National Crime Information Center database. The FBI, OSHP, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), and Missing Children Clearinghouse are notified of the alert.
- OSHP and the investigating agency discuss case circumstances to verify the case meets AMBER Alert criteria. The clearinghouse also may be consulted.
- The OSHP 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 OSHP uses clearinghouse software on the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG), maintained by the Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation, to issue e-mails, 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 OSHP activates ODOT signboards and posts information on the AMBER Alert Plan website, www.OhioAMBERplan.org.
- The OSHP 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.

Endangered Missing Child Alert

This alert is designed to seek assistance for a missing child whose disappearance meets all AMBER Alert criteria with the exception that law enforcement cannot determine whether the child was abducted. 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 Child Abduction Response Team (CART) if requested, and uses secondary notification systems to inform the public.

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 e-mail – in their drivers' lounges and dispatch offices and include the alerts in dispatches to their drivers.

In 2013, the clearinghouse issued 13 Endangered Missing Child Alerts. Unfortunately, one child was recovered deceased.

Responsibilities of Law Enforcement

Under ORC 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 National Crime Information Center 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 located children to NCIC

National Missing Children's Day

The nation marks National Missing Children's Day each May 25. A variety of events take place on or about that day throughout Ohio. Here is a recap of some of the 2013 commemorations:

- Missing Persons Unit representatives made child safety presentations focusing on runaway issues to more than 2,000 students in Reynoldsburg City Schools, including Reynoldsburg High School and the school district's Bell and Encore academies. After each presentation, the schools held balloon releases. Each balloon had a name of a missing child and the date they were reported missing.
- More than 600 Kirkersville Elementary School students attended a Missing Persons Unit presentation on child safety. Afterward, each student placed on a large map of Ohio a heart sticker bearing a child's name and date they were reported missing.
- The Missing Persons Unit held a balloon launch at Columbus Preparatory Academy involving 700 children.

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.

A panel of judges assembled by the Missing Persons Unit selected these Ohio winners in 2013:

- First place, Ben Boutwell, Benton Elementary School, Findlay
- Second place, McKenzie Sykes, Heritage Elementary School, Lewis Center
- Third place, Shannon Stoll, Midview East Intermediate School, Grafton

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 Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, 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.

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, Ohio State Highway Patrol, and Ohio AMBER Alert Steering Committee in collaboration with the Missing Children Clearinghouse. Twenty-three local CART teams cover six Ohio regions and can be activated when a child goes missing or is abducted. More information is available at www.lef-oh.org/carthm.html.

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 National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

The public plays a vital role in the recovery of missing children through another Web-based resource, the Ohio Citizens Alert Network (CAN). By subscribing to CAN on Ohio's AMBER Alert website at www.ohioamberplan.org, citizens can learn of missing children through text messages and e-mails.

Training Sessions

The Attorney General's Missing Persons Unit gave training presentations on AMBER Alert, CART, first responder programs, child safety, reunification, resources for law enforcement, intervention, and human trafficking to 4,112 individuals in 2013. 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 30 trainings for law enforcement across Ohio in 2013. Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy 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 Steering Committee as well as the subcommittee that organizes the annual AMBER Alert Conference. More than 110 criminal justice professionals and members of the media attended the August 2013 conference in Reynoldsburg. Speakers included Bob Hoever of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), who provided an update on NCMEC services, a review of the National AMBER Alert Annual Report, and considerations for missing special needs children. Phil Keith of Fox Valley Technical College spoke about endangered runaway children, commercial child exploitation, and missing children emerging trends.

The clearinghouse provides two investigative manuals to law enforcement:

- "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 Federal Bureau of Investigation's Child Abduction Response Plan," which details techniques essential in conducting abduction investigations

The clearinghouse also offers a best practices guide for law enforcement for missing person cases. The guide, titled "Legal Mandates and Best Practices Protocol for Law Enforcement in Missing

Persons Cases,” can be obtained through the clearinghouse or the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy. 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 11 presentations in 2013, more than 4,000 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. In support of local child safety efforts, the clearinghouse distributed about 6,300 fingerprint cards in 2013.

Investigative Assistance

The clearinghouse assists law enforcement in missing children investigations in a number of ways. These include:

- Utilizing 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 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 children’s whereabouts, the reasons for their disappearance, their friends, and contacts
- 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 2013, the Missing Persons Unit posted 1,057 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 2013:

- In mid-2013, a Southern Ohio law enforcement agency issued an Endangered Missing Child Alert in the disappearance of a 6-year-old girl last seen on her front porch with a babysitter about midnight. A male acquaintance of the family had approached the home and asked to use the telephone. The babysitter entered the home to retrieve a phone and when he came out of the house, the girl and the man were gone. Multiple BCI units responded to the scene and were involved with processing the house, interviewing witnesses, and analyzing computers. Having seen the alert, an individual six miles away saw the girl and called authorities. BCI and local authorities recovered the youngster, who had been beaten and molested. A suspect was arrested and charged with kidnapping, abduction, rape, gross sexual imposition, and felonious assault. He was awaiting trial as of May 2014.
- The Canton Police Department issued an Endangered Missing Child Alert for a 17-year-old male with autism. He was last seen walking away from his residence about noon Dec. 14, 2013. Multiple agencies and a Child Abduction Response Team responded to assist with the search, and the teen was found safe the next day.

Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway

The Ohio Attorney General's 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 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.

Lost Child Alert Technology Resource (LOCATER)

The clearinghouse staff utilizes the Web-based LOCATER system to create and disseminate posters of missing children to other state clearinghouses, law enforcement agencies, and private

businesses. During presentations, the Missing Persons Unit staff advocates the use of LOCATER to law enforcement agencies. LOCATER posters can be viewed on the clearinghouse website as printable images. Law enforcement and family members can print copies of these posters to be displayed in appropriate areas.

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.

National and state research shows a strong connection between missing children and sex trafficking victimization. A 2012 Ohio study found that 63 percent of those sex trafficked as minors had run away from home within the past year. The Missing Persons Unit assists local law enforcement agencies with identifying missing children who are at high risk of victimization into 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 also 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 the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (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 2013, 92 people attended classroom sessions, and OPOTA students completed more than 10,000 online course sessions. In addition, the Missing Persons Unit provided human trafficking training to 812 officers, other first responders, and victim advocates during the year.

National Resources and Partners

The **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)** 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 **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.achildissing.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 Attorney General's Office
Missing Children Clearinghouse

2013
Annual Report

How to contact us

Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Missing Persons Unit
150 E. Gay St., 25th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Hotline: 800-325-5604



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