

OHIO
MISSING
CHILDREN
CLEARINGHOUSE



2010 ANNUAL REPORT

RELEASED MAY 25, 2011



MIKE DEWINE

★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★

ON THE COVER

Sadly, the young people featured on the cover of this annual report are among hundreds missing across Ohio. And while some of those featured have been gone for decades, their loved ones hold out hope that they will return home safely someday.

To raise awareness of missing children and adults, the Ohio Attorney General's Missing Persons Unit provides visibility and resources at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons.



If you have information about any of these cases, call 800-325-5604.
See the inside back cover of this report for information on missing adults.



1. Ashley Nicole Summers
Missing from Cleveland, Ohio,
since July 9, 2007



6. Trevell Henley
Missing from Columbus, Ohio,
since July 2, 1999



2. Georgina Lynn Dejesus
Missing from Cleveland, Ohio,
since April 4, 2004



7. Erica Nicole Baker
Missing from Kettering, Ohio,
since Feb. 7, 1999



3. Toni Renee Oden
Missing from Cincinnati, Ohio,
since July 28, 2003



8. Aaron Cody Stepp
Missing from Columbus, Ohio,
since March 31, 1997



4. Amanda Marie Berry
Missing from Cleveland, Ohio,
since April 21, 2003



9. Jamel Montrice Williams
Missing from Toledo, Ohio,
since May 25, 1994



5. Ashley T. Norah
Missing from Columbus, Ohio,
since June 1, 2002



10. Karen Ann Spencer
Missing from Miami Township,
Ohio, since Dec. 29, 1989

May 25, 2011



This annual report is respectfully submitted to these statutorily required recipients:

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

The Honorable Thomas E. Niehaus
President, Ohio Senate
Statehouse, 2nd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

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

Director Michael Colbert
Department of Job and
Family Services
30 E. Broad Street, 32nd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Colleagues:



Nothing is more precious to parents than their children; that's why having a child go missing is a parent's worst fear. Fortunately, most children in Ohio who are reported missing are returned to their homes quickly and safely. In the panic-stricken moments between realization and recovery, the Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse can be a source of information and assistance.

As Ohio's Attorney General, I am committed to protecting the families and children of our state. For almost 20 years, the clearinghouse — which is overseen by my office — has worked with parents and schools to keep children safe. The clearinghouse compiles data on missing children, serves as a liaison with law enforcement, and partners with the Ohio departments of Education and Job and Family Services to train and educate parents, police officers, teachers, and students. The clearinghouse also issues Ohio's Missing Child Alerts and Missing Adult Alerts, coordinates with law enforcement in the issuance of AMBER Alerts, and raises awareness of issues regarding runaway children, human trafficking, kidnapping, and missing adults.

I am pleased to present this report, which details the work of the clearinghouse in 2010.

Safely recovering a missing child requires rapid, coordinated action, and I am proud of the record the Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse has established in fulfilling that mission.

To learn more about protecting and reporting missing children and adults, please visit our website at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons or call **800-325-5604**.

Very respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike DeWine".

Mike DeWine

OVERVIEW

The Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse, part of Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's Crime Victim Section, plays an integral role in efforts to locate missing children and promote measures that can reduce the likelihood of future incidents.

Established in 1993 under Ohio Revised Code 109.65(B), the clearinghouse serves as a central repository of statistics and information about the state's missing children. It also assists law enforcement and families in searches and develops and disseminates educational information about missing and abducted children through training, child abuse prevention and safety fairs, news releases, and — in coordination with the Ohio Department of Education — child safety lesson plans.

In 2010, Attorney General's Office staff members met with advocates and families with missing loved ones to improve statewide services in missing persons cases. As a result, the Crime Victim Section broadened its scope to regularly assist with cases involving missing adults, unidentified human remains, and human trafficking. While the Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse still exists, it is now housed within a new Missing Persons Unit.

In cooperation with the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, the unit maintains 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 also created a Web microsite at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons that provides more visibility for missing persons 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, missing adults, and unsolved homicides throughout Ohio and allows visitors to submit tips or print alert posters.

Missing Persons Unit staffers also assist law enforcement and parents by:

- Issuing Missing Child Alerts
- Collaborating with law enforcement in issuing AMBER Alerts
- Using social websites, public records, and law enforcement databases to help locate children
- Training law enforcement, other professionals, and the public
- Providing investigative guidance and assistance

While 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 that 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).

DEFINITIONS

Runaway: A child leaves home without permission and stays away overnight.

Family abduction: This involves the taking, keeping, or concealing of a child or children by a parent, other family member, or person acting on behalf of the parent or other family member, 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, and the accompanying penalties. The title of the offense and conduct considered unlawful vary under criminal statutes across the country.

Non-family abduction: Two scenarios qualify as non-family abductions. In one, a non-family perpetrator takes a child by using physical force or threat of bodily harm or detains a child for a substantial period of time, at least one hour, in an isolated place by the 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 non-family perpetrator who conceals the child's whereabouts, demands ransom, or expresses an 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.

Lost, injured, or otherwise missing: This is a situation in which a child's whereabouts are unknown to the child's caretaker for at least an hour. This may be because the child was trying to get home or make contact with the caretaker but was unable to do so because he or she was lost, stranded, or injured; the child was too young to know how to return home or make contact with the caretaker; or the child was unaware that the caretaker was looking for him or her.

2010 STATISTICS

The clearinghouse receives monthly statistics on Ohio children whom law enforcement agencies have entered into the NCIC database. Some children, such as those who are recovered quickly or are the subject of frequent custody disputes, may not be included in NCIC statistics.

In 2010, the clearinghouse documented 19,019 reports of missing children in Ohio. That figure is down about 1 percent from the number of reports in 2009. Of those, authorities reported that 98 percent — 18,640 children — were recovered. Tragically, four of the children were killed.

Types of reports

Missing children reports filed with the NCIC are categorized into four areas. (Category definitions appear on the previous page).

The totals in each category in 2010 were:

- Runaways — 11,251
- Family abductions — 95
- Non-family abductions — 2*
- Lost, injured, or otherwise missing — 7,671

** Because these types of cases usually are very short in duration, a child may be found before law enforcement has time to enter data into NCIC. For this reason, NCIC records may reflect fewer non-family abductions than actually occur.*

Ages of missing children

Ohio children reported missing to the NCIC in 2010 were in these age categories:

- 0 to 5 years old — 133
- 6 to 12 years old — 636
- 13 to 17 years old — 10,967
- 17 and older — 7,247
- Age unknown — 36

Missing Ohio children by county in 2010

County	Children Reported Missing	County	Children Reported Missing
Adams	10	Lawrence	29
Allen	219	Licking	122
Ashland	44	Logan	19
Ashtabula	80	Lorain	479
Athens	34	Lucas	1,173
Auglaize	11	Madison	24
Belmont	23	Mahoning	533
Brown	23	Marion	115
Butler	288	Medina	103
Carroll	12	Meigs	4
Champaign	35	Mercer	10
Clark	312	Miami	92
Clermont	1,107	Monroe	3
Clinton	10	Montgomery	1,161
Columbiana	48	Morrow	27
Coshocton	13	Muskingum	54
Crawford	45	Ottawa	9
Cuyahoga	3,355	Paulding	10
Darke	14	Perry	18
Defiance	17	Pickaway	69
Delaware	90	Pike	11
Erie	149	Portage	84
Fairfield	164	Preble	14
Fayette	12	Putnam	3
Franklin	4,424	Richland	263
Fulton	27	Ross	120
Gallia	15	Sandusky	13
Geauga	18	Scioto	62
Greene	86	Seneca	99
Guernsey	25	Shelby	81
Hamilton	1,628	Stark	417
Hancock	80	Summit	302
Hardin	13	Trumbull	228
Harrison	8	Tuscarawas	47
Henry	5	Union	17
Highland	21	Van Wert	7
Hocking	13	Vinton	5
Holmes	2	Warren	116
Huron	70	Washington	15
Jackson	19	Wayne	82
Jefferson	19	Williams	20
Knox	70	Wood	48
Lake	252	Wyandot	1

TOOLS FOR FINDING MISSING CHILDREN



Ohio's statewide AMBER Alert Plan was launched on Jan. 1, 2003. The program utilizes the resources of law enforcement and the media to notify the public when children are kidnapped. 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. While named for Amber, the program's title also is an acronym for America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response.

In addition to the statewide plan, 24 local or regional areas have AMBER Alert plans that complement the statewide plan and spell out procedures for alerts in those specific geographic areas.

In 2010, Ohio law enforcement issued eight AMBER Alerts. All eight of the children were recovered safely. Thankfully, that is the outcome of most AMBER Alerts.

Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse staff members assist with training law enforcement and the media in AMBER Alert procedures and best practices. In 2010, 1,245 law enforcement personnel, media representatives, emergency management staff, children's services administrators, and victim advocates attended clearinghouse workshops.

SUCCESS STORY

The Miami County Communications Center, in cooperation with the Troy Police Department and the Columbus Communications Center, issued an AMBER Alert for a 7-year-old boy from Troy, Ohio, on July 8, 2010. The suspect was the boy's biological father, who was wanted for questioning in connection with a homicide that had occurred at the residence where the abduction took place. He was known to be armed with a 9 mm handgun.

Investigators determined the suspect's cell phone was within range of a tower in western Indiana. Contact was made with the Indiana AMBER Alert coordinator, and an AMBER Alert was issued there.

The suspect saw the alert and dropped the child off at a relative's home in Carmel, Ind., where authorities recovered the boy unharmed. The suspect later was apprehended and charged with aggravated murder, kidnapping, and abduction in connection with the death of his stepson at the same location the 7-year-old was abducted.

A clearinghouse staff member also represents the Attorney General's Office on the AMBER Alert Steering Committee along with representatives from law enforcement, the media, and others.

Missing Child Alert

The clearinghouse can issue a Missing Child Alert in response to a local law enforcement request when a case meets all of the criteria for an AMBER Alert with the exception of law enforcement being able to confirm that the child was abducted. An automated system alerts all Ohio law enforcement agencies, provides a radio broadcast to agencies in the alert area, sends faxes and e-mails to the media, activates the local Child Abduction Response Team (CART), and uses secondary notification systems to inform the public.

In 2010, the clearinghouse issued 14 Missing Child Alerts. All of the children were recovered safely.

Trucker Alert

A Trucker Alert can be issued with or without an AMBER Alert. Under this initiative, which the Ohio Attorney General's Office launched in 2004 in coordination with the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association and the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, the clearinghouse alerts 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 includes the alerts in dispatches to their drivers.

In 2010, the clearinghouse issued six Trucker Alerts. All children were recovered safely.

National Missing Children's Day

The clearinghouse promotes National Missing Children's Day each year on May 25 to raise awareness about missing children across the nation. Public agencies statewide are encouraged to observe the day with events that promote child safety.

The clearinghouse works with the Ohio Department of Education to promote a national poster contest tied to the observance. Its intent is to raise awareness of the problem of child abductions and promote safety measures.



Megan Charron of State Road Elementary School in Parma, Ohio, said she hopes her first-place poster will inspire people to help find and return lost children. Her message — “Please Help Find the Missing Pieces of Families!” — was spurred by the thought that families whose children are lost experience missing pieces of their hearts. Families like this deserve to have whole hearts, she said. Megan depicted a dream in her poster because “every lost child dreams of reuniting back with their families.”

The winner of the poster contest, sponsored by the Department of Justice, is announced at the annual National Missing Children’s Day Ceremony in Washington, D.C. A panel of judges assembled by the Missing Children Clearinghouse selects Ohio winners, whose work then advances for national consideration.

The Ohio winners are recognized each year at the Attorney General’s Two Days in May Conference on Victim Assistance. In 2010, the winners were:

- First place, Megan Charron of State Road Elementary School in Parma
- Second place, Jordan Reineke, Village Academy in Powell
- Third place, Wilson Dang, Louis Agassiz Elementary in Cleveland

OHIO AMBER ALERT STEPS

- 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 Federal Bureau of Investigation, Ohio State Highway Patrol, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and Missing Children Clearinghouse are notified of the alert.
- The Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) and the investigating agency discuss case circumstances to verify the case meets AMBER Alert criteria. The clearinghouse also may be consulted.
- 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, maintained by the Ohio Attorney General’s Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, to issue e-mails, faxes, and 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 Ohio Department of Transportation signboards and posts information on the AMBER Alert Plan website: www.OhioAMBERplan.org.
- License plate scanners are activated on the Ohio Turnpike.
- 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.

ASSISTANCE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AND OTHER AGENCIES

Trainings

The clearinghouse conducted 18 trainings for law enforcement across Ohio in 2010. Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy students, law enforcement investigators, dispatchers, juvenile officers, and trainers received instruction on a wide range of topics. These included missing children investigations, investigative resources, legislation, safety tips for children, human trafficking, AMBER Alert protocol, and missing children alerts.

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 non-family 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 the NCMEC’s “Selected State Legislation Booklet,” which provides advice for drafting laws to protect children.

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.

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, neighbors, family members, telephone numbers, and professional licenses 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

The clearinghouse also posts missing children’s photos on its own website and that of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. In 2010, the clearinghouse posted 380 photos on posters in addition to those issued as part of AMBER Alerts, Missing Child Alerts, and Trucker Alerts. Any tips that result are forwarded to the investigating law enforcement agency.

In addition, the clearinghouse provides law enforcement with cell phone tracking information, 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. The clearinghouse also can recommend other state and national resources.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Under Ohio Revised Code Section 2901.30, which addresses missing children cases, law enforcement is required to:

- Take missing children reports and investigate them promptly
- Make concerted efforts to locate missing children
- Submit information about missing children to NCIC immediately after a report is complete
- Notify the missing children’s parents, guardians, custodians, or caregivers of updates and of the submission of information to the NCIC
- Notify the missing children’s school to have it flag school records, 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

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 the Law Enforcement Automated Data System (LEADS) is automatically transmitted to 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 the electronic Sex Offender Registration and Notification to locate 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 in 2004, the department flags and holds the birth certificates of missing children and notifies law enforcement of requests for missing children's birth certificates. The Ohio Department of Health is upgrading its software to make the flagging program more efficient.

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 involving missing children.

eOPOTA

An online training course for law enforcement offered through eOPOTA, the Ohio Police Officer Training Academy's Web-based instruction program, examines missing children statistics, outlines the resources available, and presents interactive scenarios.



Jordan Reineke of Village Academy in Powell took second place in the 2010 Ohio poster contest for National Missing Children's Day. "My poster shows a puzzle of a family, but one piece is missing from the puzzle," she said. "The missing piece is the little girl's face." Jordan said she hopes her poster raises awareness about missing children and leads to families being reunited.

Lost Child Alert Technology Resource (LOCATER)



The clearinghouse staff used the Web-based LOCATER system to create and disseminate 428 posters of missing children to other states' clearinghouses, law enforcement agencies, and private businesses nationwide in 2010. 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.

ASSISTANCE TO THE PUBLIC

Online resources

The Ohio Attorney General's Missing Persons Unit provides a wide range of valuable information on its Web page, www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons, including:

- Steps to take if your child is missing
- Poster templates to raise awareness of missing Ohio children
- Publications
- Safety tips
- Fingerprint identification cards and game sheets
- Links to Ohio's AMBER Alert Plan, training information, other states' 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

In 2010, the clearinghouse gave presentations and workshops to 1,310 law enforcement officers, community members, teachers, children's services employees, and others on prevention, intervention, reunification, AMBER Alert, first-responder programs, resources, Internet safety, CART, child safety prevention, and human trafficking.

Telephone inquiries

Clearinghouse staff members responded to more than 1,800 calls from law enforcement, families of missing children, state and federal agencies, and others on issues related to missing children in 2010.

Kids Safety Passport

The clearinghouse provided law enforcement agencies and schools with more than 195,325 free Kids Safety Passport booklets to distribute at local child safety events throughout the state in 2010. The passport is intended to help parents keep their child's personal information — fingerprints, DNA sample, photo, and other details — in one location for easy access in the event the child goes missing. The passport also provides safety tips and resources.



Wilson Dang of Louis Agassiz in Cleveland took third place in the 2010 Ohio poster contest for National Missing Children's Day. "My poster is about a helicopter shining light on people." Wilson said he wanted to show that people work to get the word out about missing children and that playgrounds are lonely places without children.

The clearinghouse also works with the Ohio Department of Education to promote child safety through school presentations and assemblies. In 30 presentations in 2010, more than 7,200 children received information on how to stay safe, how to prevent abduction, what to do in the event of an abduction, and the common consequences of — and alternatives to — running away. Each child also received a Kids Safety Passport. The clearinghouse also supports local law enforcement child safety prevention efforts by providing publications and other support materials.

COLLABORATIONS

The Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse works in collaboration with several agencies and organizations to locate missing and abducted children and prevent future incidents. These groups include:



National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) is a private, (501)(c)(3) nonprofit organization created in 1984. The organization serves as the nation's primary resource on the issues of missing and sexually exploited children. The organization provides information and resources to law enforcement, parents, children (including child victims), and other professionals. The clearinghouse posts photos of Ohio's missing children on the NCMEC's website, utilizes its resources depending on investigative needs, and assists with training.



I-SEARCH

The clearinghouse participates in the InterState Enforcement Agencies to Recover Children (I-SEARCH) Advisory Council, which aids in the identification and recovery of missing children. The 13 Midwestern member states are Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse manager currently serves as president of I-SEARCH.



Ohio CART

Ohio CART (Child Abduction Response Team), www.lef-oh.org/carhtm.html, 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. Ohio CART was developed in 2006 by the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Ohio Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association, Ohio State Highway Patrol, and the Ohio AMBER Alert Steering Committee in collaboration with the clearinghouse. There are 33 local or regional CARTs across Ohio that can be activated when a child goes missing or is abducted.

The clearinghouse participated in three regional trainings for 200 new CART members in 2010. The trainings provide information on search and rescue, neighborhood canvassing, investigations, and resources.



NamUs

The clearinghouse 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's Office of Justice Programs, the initiative is aimed at reducing the number of unidentified bodies held at coroners' and medical examiners' offices across the United States. Through NamUs and other measures, the number of unidentified human remains has fallen from about 40,000 three years ago to about 13,000 currently. 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.

NATIONAL RESOURCES AND PARTNERS



National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), www.missingkids.com or 800- THE-LOST (800-843-5678), 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.



National Runaway Switchboard

The National Runaway Switchboard, www.1800runaway.org, 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 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The group is well-known for its Home Free Program, which in conjunction with Greyhound Lines and United Airlines provides runaways with free transportation home.



A Child Is Missing Inc.

A Child Is Missing Inc., www.achildismissing.org, 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 mentally impaired or disabled individual. The program serves several states, including Ohio. A Child Is Missing (ACIM) 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.



Code Adam

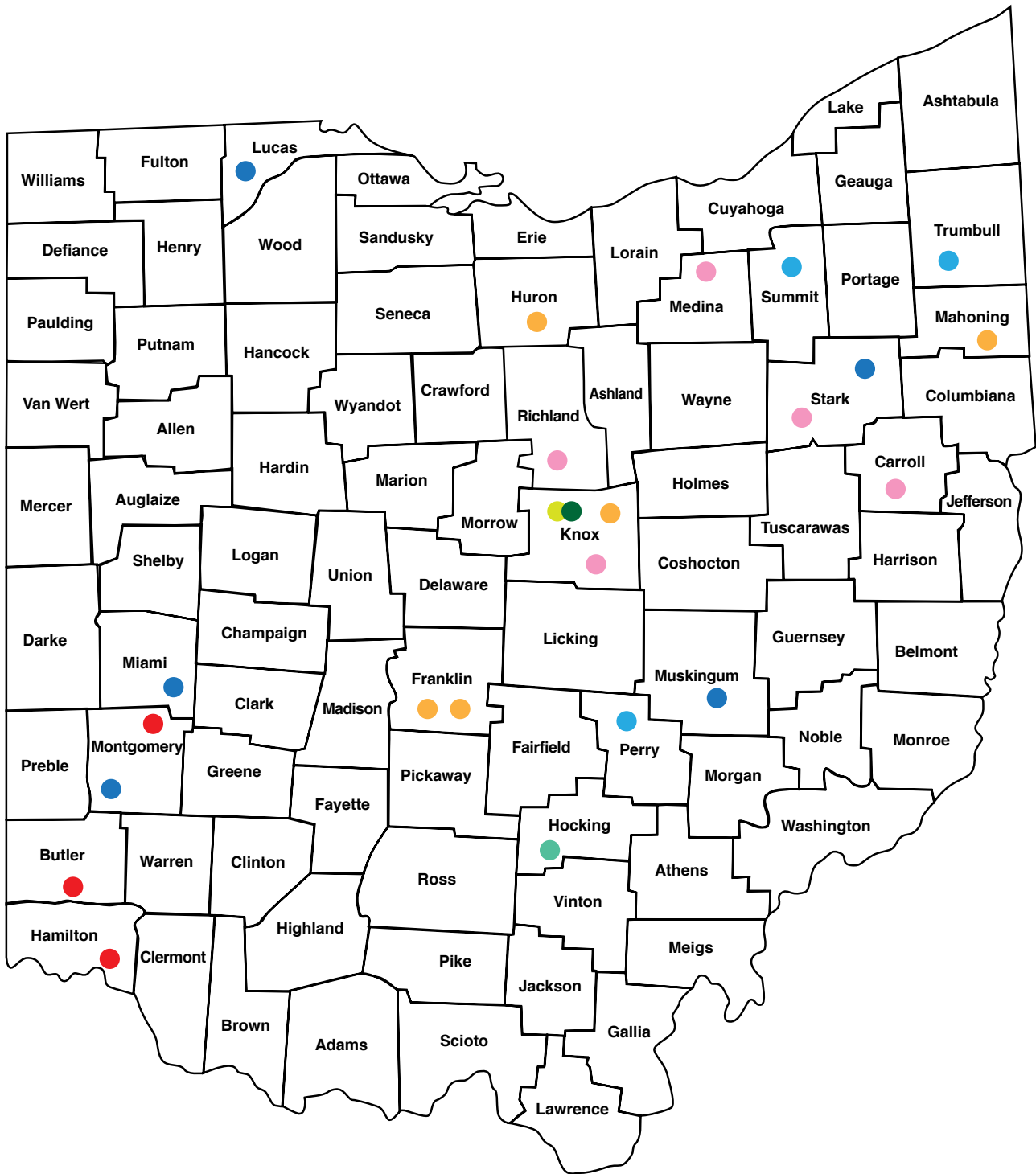
Code Adam, one of the nation's largest child-safety programs, was rolled out in 1994 at Wal-Mart and Sam's Club locations. The system alerts associates that a child has been reported missing in the store. Associates immediately stop their normal work to search for the child and monitor exits to help prevent the child from leaving. The system has been shared with other companies, and today there are Code Adam partners in more than 70,000 locations across the country. All Ohio agencies, schools, libraries, law enforcement agencies, and retailers are encouraged to promote Code Adam in their areas.



Team HOPE

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

2010 AMBER AND MISSING CHILD ALERTS



● AMBER Male	5	● Media/Trucker Male	3	● Media Male	1	● Deceased Male	1
● AMBER Female	3	● Media/Trucker Female	5	● Media Female	5	● Deceased Male (Media/Trucker Siblings)	0
● AMBER Siblings	0	● Media/Trucker Siblings	1	● Media Siblings	0	● Deceased Female	0
		<i>(Female recovered, male found deceased)</i>					
Total AMBER alerts	8	Total Trucker/Media Alerts	9	Total Media Alerts	6	Total Deceased	1

MISSING ADULTS

Missing Adult Alert

The Missing Adult Alert was developed in 2008 in response to several incidents in Ohio and across the country involving older adults or adults with mental impairments who went missing. Although local agencies and media outlets worked together in these instances, the situations illustrated the need for a coordinated effort to garner the public's assistance in such disappearances.

The statewide emergency alert program, established under Ohio Revised Code Section 5502.522, assists in identifying and locating missing adults who are endangered and have a mental impairment or are 65 or older. The program is overseen by the Ohio AMBER Alert Steering Committee, which coordinates with the Ohio Attorney General's Missing Persons Unit.

In 2010, law enforcement issued 154 Missing Adult Alerts. Of those, 145 people were recovered safely. Six people were found deceased, with inclement weather being the primary contributing factor in the deaths. Three people remained missing as of the end of the year. Two individuals reported missing in 2009 have not been found.

SUCCESS STORY

The Hamilton County Sheriff's Department issued a regional alert Nov. 17, 2010, after the disappearance of a 74-year-old woman suffering from Alzheimer's. The woman had failed to pick up her husband from work earlier in the day.

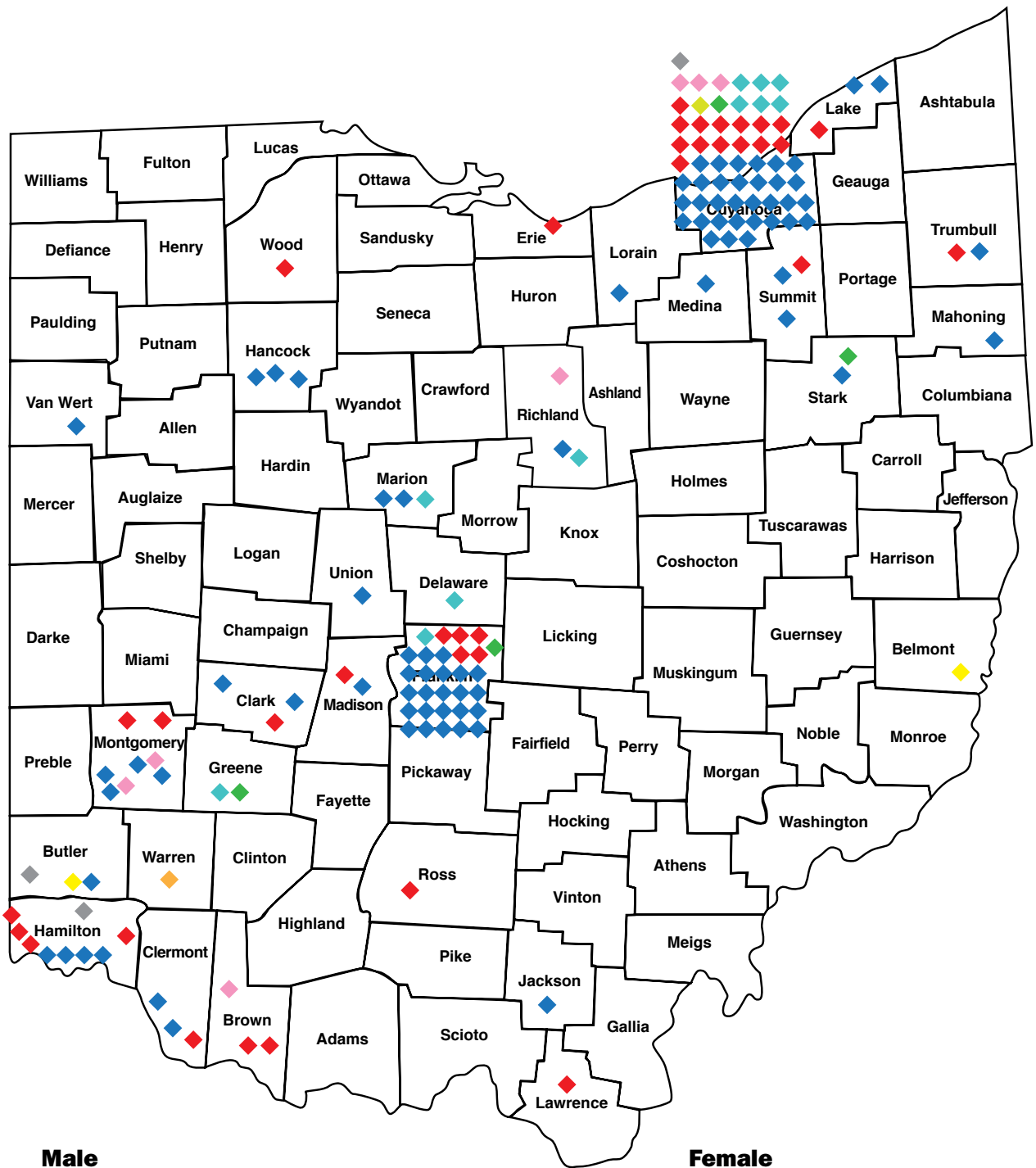
Ohio Department of Transportation signboards along interstate highways were activated to publicize the woman's disappearance and license plate number. A motorist saw one of the signboards and realized she was driving behind the missing woman's car.

The citizen called 911 and followed the woman for 60 miles. When the missing woman pulled over, the concerned citizen stopped as well and waited for law enforcement to arrive.

These are the steps taken during a Missing Adult Alert:

- A family member or someone with responsibility for the care of an individual reports the adult missing to law enforcement.
- Law enforcement responds to take a report and attempts to find the individual.
- Law enforcement confirms the individual meets the criteria for issuing a Missing Adult Alert:
 - The individual is 65 or older or has a mental impairment.
 - The individual faces a credible threat of serious bodily harm or death.
 - There is sufficient descriptive information about the individual and the circumstances surrounding the individual's disappearance to indicate that the alert will help locate the person.
- Law enforcement makes the missing person entry in the Law Enforcement Automated Data System (LEADS) to request an alert.
- The Missing Children Clearinghouse contacts the investigating agency to confirm that the criteria have been met, obtain additional information, determine the regions to receive the alert, and offer additional resources.
- The clearinghouse issues the alert, which includes a statewide teletype to law enforcement, faxes and e-mails to the media and trucking companies, activation of ODOT signs and, if applicable, implementation of license plate scanners along the Ohio Turnpike.
- The Missing Adult Alert website, www.missingadults.Ohio.gov, lists information about and a photo of the missing adult.
- A toll-free number, 866-693-9171, is activated to provide information and receive tips.

2010 MISSING ADULTS ALERTS



Male

◆ 65/Over	87
◆ Under 65	11
◆ Deceased 65/Over	4
◆ Deceased Under 65	0
◆ Still Missing 65/Over	1
◆ Still Missing Under 65	1

Female

◆ 65/Over	37
◆ Under 65	7
◆ Deceased 65/Over	2
◆ Deceased Under 65	0
◆ Still Missing 65/Over	0
◆ Still Missing Under 65	0

◆ Couple	3
◆ Out of State	1

Map updated 5/2011

TOTAL MISSING ADULT ALERTS.....154

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Missing Children Clearinghouse and others within the Ohio Attorney General's Office also work to address the problem of human trafficking. A growing criminal industry in the United States and around the world, human trafficking amounts to modern-day slavery. The United Nations estimates traffickers generate billions of dollars in profit each year at the expense of millions of victims who are forced or coerced into labor or sexually exploited. Most of the U.S. children victimized by traffickers meet the latter fate.

Due to Ohio's geographic location and extensive network of highways, Ohio has become a transit and destination state for human trafficking. Toledo ranked fourth in the nation in the number of human trafficking arrests, investigations, and rescues involving minors in 2009, the latest year for which statistics are available.

The Attorney General's Office created the Trafficking in Persons Study Commission in 2010 and called on the group to:

- Study the problem of trafficking in persons, particularly as it affects Ohio
- Review Ohio's criminal statutes to determine how they address human trafficking
- Develop recommendations to address the problem of human trafficking and improve and expand the criminal statutes as necessary

The clearinghouse assists in the commission's bimonthly meetings

OHIO STRENGTHENS TRAFFICKING PENALTIES

On Dec. 23, 2010, Gov. Ted Strickland signed Senate Bill 235, which became law on March 24, 2011. The measure aligns Ohio's laws with those of the federal government and strengthens human trafficking penalties. More specifically, Senate Bill 235:

- Expands existing kidnapping and abduction laws to include forced labor
- Sets human trafficking as a standalone crime and makes it a second-degree felony
- Deems it a third-degree felony to unlawfully destroy, confiscate, or conceal government identification documents for the purpose of human trafficking
- Makes it a first-degree felony to compel a minor under the age of 16 into prostitution
- Strengthens the penalties for kidnapping for the purpose of involuntary servitude

and serves as a resource for its Victim Services and Law Enforcement subcommittees.

In coordination with the Law Enforcement Subcommittee, the clearinghouse worked with the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) to create courses on human trafficking for peace officers. The courses include a four-hour Basic Human Trafficking course, a two-hour online Basic Human Trafficking course, a human trafficking curriculum for basic peace officer training and an eight-hour Human Trafficking Investigator course. In all, 6,348 officers received training on this topic through the Ohio Attorney General's Office in 2010. Human trafficking courses also are offered at the Two Days in May Conference and Law Enforcement Conference.

The Research and Analysis Subcommittee identified the need for improved data collection to better understand the scope of the trafficking problem. The number of victims is difficult to quantify because the offense often appears as other crimes, such as kidnapping and prostitution, in crime reports. The subcommittee concluded it is difficult to convince jurisdictions to commit resources to fight human trafficking without reliable data to support its prevalence. The subcommittee received a federal grant to address this issue and is working on a two-year study to determine the extent of human trafficking in Ohio.

The Legal and Legislative Subcommittee was tasked with reviewing Ohio's criminal statutes to determine how they address human trafficking and develop recommendations to expand the statutes as necessary. The subcommittee recommended a stand-alone trafficking in persons law, which was passed in December and went into effect March 24, 2011.

The Victims Services and Safe Locations Subcommittee was charged with determining what services are available to assist trafficking victims in Ohio. The subcommittee reported that just five of 200 agencies surveyed offer services geared toward human trafficking victims. In an effort to improve victim services, the Crime Victim Section of the Attorney General's Office awarded grants to facilities offering services tailored for human trafficking victims. The section also aided local groups in finding facilities and support programs to help victims and helped service groups draft applications for federal grants.

The clearinghouse also is a member of the Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition, which creates public awareness about human trafficking, serves and advocates for victims, and provides resources and training for law enforcement and other victim advocate organizations. The Missing Children Clearinghouse manager serves on the coalition's steering committee and chairs its Law Enforcement Subcommittee.

RESOURCES AND PUBLICATIONS

Related publications*

Child Safety Game Sheet

Child Safety on the Information Highway

Eight Rules for Safety

For Camp Counselors: Guidelines on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (brochure)

Guidelines for Programs to Reduce Child Victimization

Child Protection

New Neighborhood Safety Tips

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 (booklet)

When Your Child is Missing: A Family Survival Guide

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

National Runaway Switchboard

AMBER Alert for the Media

For Healthcare Professionals: Guidelines on Prevention Infant Abductions

My 8 Rules for Safety: Multilingual Child Safety and Prevention Tips

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 Guidelines on Using the Federal Parent Locator Service in Cases of Parental Kidnapping and Child Custody

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 the Victim of Sexual Abuse or Exploitation

Just in Case...Parental Guidelines in Case Your Child Might Someday be the Victim of Sexual Exploitation

RESOURCES AND PUBLICATIONS

Know the Rules for Child Safety*

Know the Rules

Know the Rules (After School Safety for Children Home Alone)

Know the Rules (For Child Safety in Amusement 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 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

Investigators Guide to Missing Child Cases Selected State Legislation

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

MISSING ADULTS

These are 10 of the dozens of missing adults featured on the Ohio Attorney General's website. To raise awareness of missing children and adults, the office's Missing Persons Unit provides visibility and resources at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons.



If you have information about any of these cases, call 800-325-5604.



1. Jeffrey Pottinger
Missing from Carlisle, Ohio,
since Dec. 18, 2009



6. Susan Diane Wolff Cappel
Missing from Newcomerstown,
Ohio, since March 16, 1982



2. Paul Predragovic
Missing from Harrison Township,
Ohio, since Aug. 4, 2009



7. Janet Rose Dolgae
Missing from Cortland, Ohio,
since Oct. 1, 1989



3. William Charles Jones
Missing from Milford, Ohio,
since Jan. 31, 2009



8. Clarissa Ann Culberson
Missing from Blanchester, Ohio,
since Aug. 28, 1996



4. Brian Randal Shaffer
Missing from Columbus, Ohio,
since April 1, 2006



9. Maebell Dawson
Missing from Dayton, Ohio,
since Jan. 3, 1998



5. Willie Charles Standberry Sr.
Missing from East Cleveland, Ohio,
since Dec. 8, 2006



10. Dorothy Marie Douglas
Missing from Cincinnati, Ohio,
since Sept. 5, 1998

OHIO
MISSING
CHILDREN
CLEARINGHOUSE

Missing Children Clearinghouse
150 E. Gay St., 25th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
614-466-5610

Hotline: 800-325-5604



MIKE DEWINE

★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★