



Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse Annual Report 2006

Eliot Spitzer
Governor

Denise E. O'Donnell
Commissioner

**New York State
Division of Criminal Justice Services**

**Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse
Annual Report
2006**

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Annual Report - 2006**

Pursuant to Executive Law §837-f (12), the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) is pleased to provide the Governor and the Legislature with the 2006 annual report of the activities of New York State's Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse.

Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse Annual Report - 2006

Introduction

The Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse (MECC) was established in the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) by Executive Law 837-f in 1987 for the purpose of providing investigative support services for law enforcement agencies in connection with missing children cases; the provision of assistance to the family members of missing children; and, the delivery of community education programs to heighten awareness to the issue of missing children, and to reduce the incidence of missing children cases. Highly trained MECC staff work in close association with law enforcement agencies, and with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, on specific cases of children missing from New York State, from other regions of the country, and international cases covered under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

In addition to case management, staff prepare and disseminate many different forms of literature directed at child safety, and deliver numerous presentations to schools and community outreach programs. Notably, MECC staff delivers presentations to both students and parents on Internet safety. One of the many significant achievements of MECC was its participation in a joint effort with the New York State Police, the New York State Broadcasters Association, and other public and private sector partner agencies to establish the AMBER Alert Program in New York State. This innovative program provides law enforcement agencies with a mechanism for rapid and widespread public dissemination of information in the event of the abduction of a child. MECC also operates a "Missing Child/College Student Alert" program for cases that do not meet the criteria for an AMBER Alert. MECC staff at DCJS were also responsible for the development, implementation and coordination of Operation SAFE CHILD.

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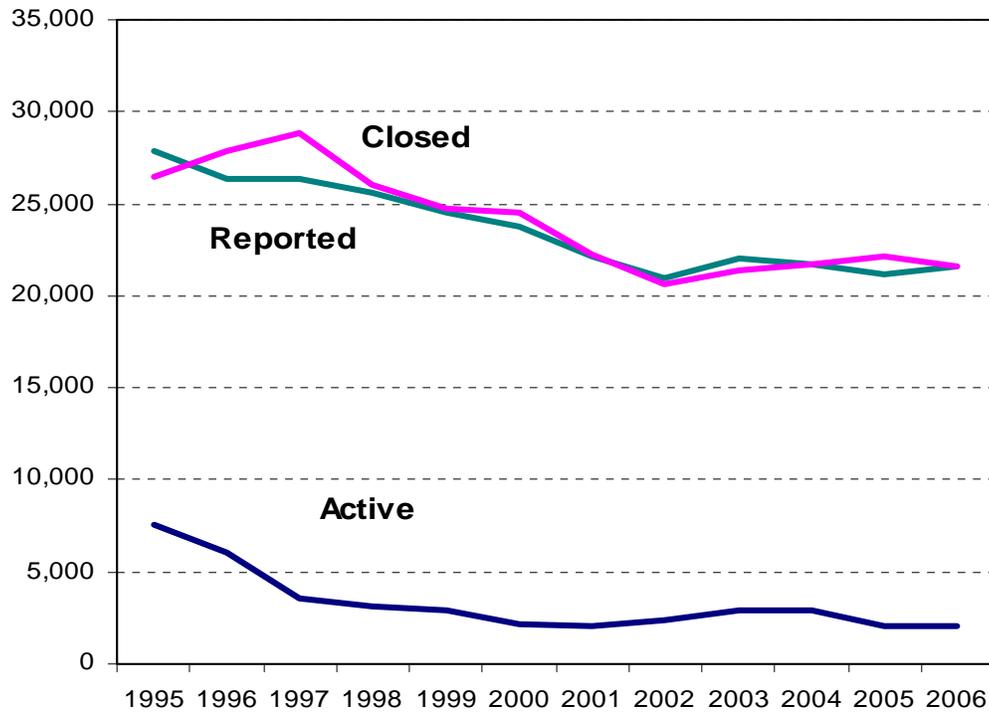
Executive Summary

The following describes reporting activity on the New York State Missing Children Register during the year 2006:

- The Register received 21,613 reports of children missing from New York State, an increase of 1.8 percent from the previous year, and the first annual increase since 2003. A slightly higher number of cases were cancelled during the year (21,646), resulting in a 1.6 percent decrease in the number of cases active at the end of 2006 (2,001).
- Reports of missing children were concentrated in the State's largest urban areas. Suffolk County reported the highest volume of cases (2,096) followed by Westchester, Albany, Monroe, Erie, and Nassau counties (the counties of New York City report one total for the City and not separately to the Register). Every county in the State reported at least one missing child during the year except for Hamilton and 27 counties reported an increase in cases during 2006 as compared to 2005.
- Controlling for the under age 18 population by county, two counties in the Capital District (Albany and Schenectady) had the highest rates of case reporting in the State (21.4 and 17.6 per 1,000 children, respectively). These counties were found to have unusually large numbers of repeat cases involving children who ran away from group homes or other facilities. The statewide rate of reporting was 4.7 missing children cases per 1,000 children in 2006.
- The overwhelming majority of missing children cases were reported as suspected runaways (92.2 percent). Abduction cases accounted for approximately one percent of the total reports, and abductions committed by family members comprised the most frequent form of abduction. There were 3 reports statewide of a child abducted by a stranger in 2006. (Note: The number of stranger abductions reported to the Register may be an undercount. Typically, cases are not categorized as stranger abductions unless someone actually witnessed the child being abducted. Cases initially categorized as 'circumstances unknown' have sometimes later been found to involve stranger abductions but that information is rarely updated on the Register).
- Ninety-four percent of the children reported missing were age 13 or older, 60 percent were female, and 49 percent were white. The single largest group of cases involved white females 13 years and older (27 percent of cases reported).
- Forty-two percent of the 21,646 cases closed during 2006 were resolved by the child voluntarily returning home. Law enforcement efforts were involved in the return of 18 percent of the cases, and 4 children who had been reported missing were found deceased. The median number of days between the reporting and cancellation of a case on the Register was 4 days.

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ANNUAL REPORTING VOLUME: 1995-2006

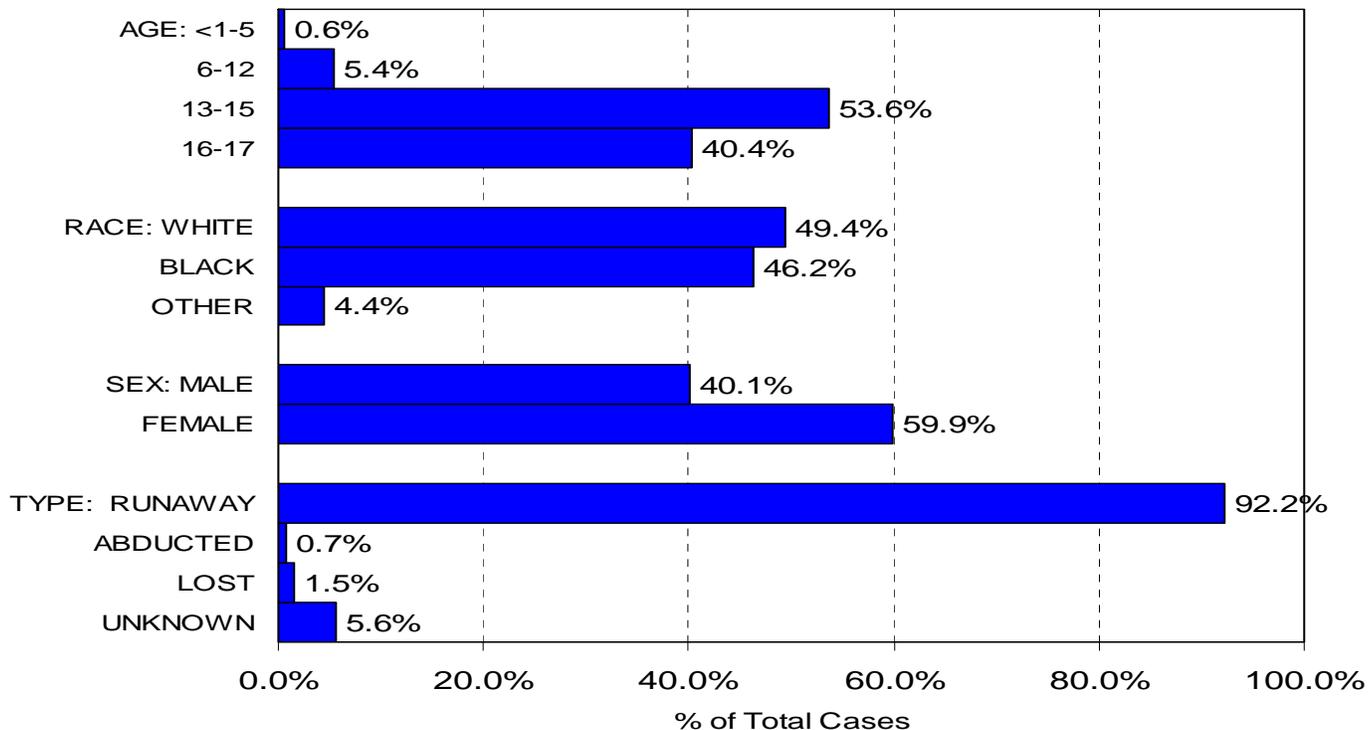


	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
NEW YORK STATE												
Cases Reported	27,830	26,368	26,316	25,578	24,531	23,801	22,139	20,985	22,040	21,753	21,222	21,613
Cases Closed	26,419	27,846	28,840	26,012	24,755	24,562	22,273	20,654	21,431	21,745	22,139	21,646
Active End-of-Year	7,558	6,080	3,556	3,122	2,898	2,137	2,003	2,334	2,943	2,951	2,034	2,001
NEW YORK CITY												
Cases Reported	7,060	6,244	7,067	6,847	6,628	6,640	5,699	4,534	4,505	4,662	4,829	5,297
Cases Closed	5,600	7,902	9,700	7,393	6,718	7,220	5,916	4,219	4,041	4,590	5,808	5,346
Active End-of-Year	6,570	4,879	2,246	1,700	1,610	1,030	813	1,128	1,592	1,664	685	636
SUBURBAN NEW YORK CITY												
Cases Reported	6,467	6,234	6,419	6,574	6,342	5,989	5,597	5,916	6,312	5,779	5,353	5,400
Cases Closed	6,515	6,041	6,362	6,400	6,480	6,013	5,617	5,860	6,227	5,773	5,409	5,346
Active End-of-Year	357	453	510	684	546	522	502	558	643	649	593	647
UPSTATE												
Cases Reported	14,288	13,885	12,821	12,147	11,554	11,163	10,829	10,527	11,219	11,305	11,038	10,908
Cases Closed	14,298	13,762	12,768	12,208	11,554	11,321	10,732	10,566	11,153	11,372	10,921	10,947
Active End-of-Year	614	737	790	729	729	571	668	629	695	628	745	706

Note: Suburban New York City consists of the counties of Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk and Westchester.

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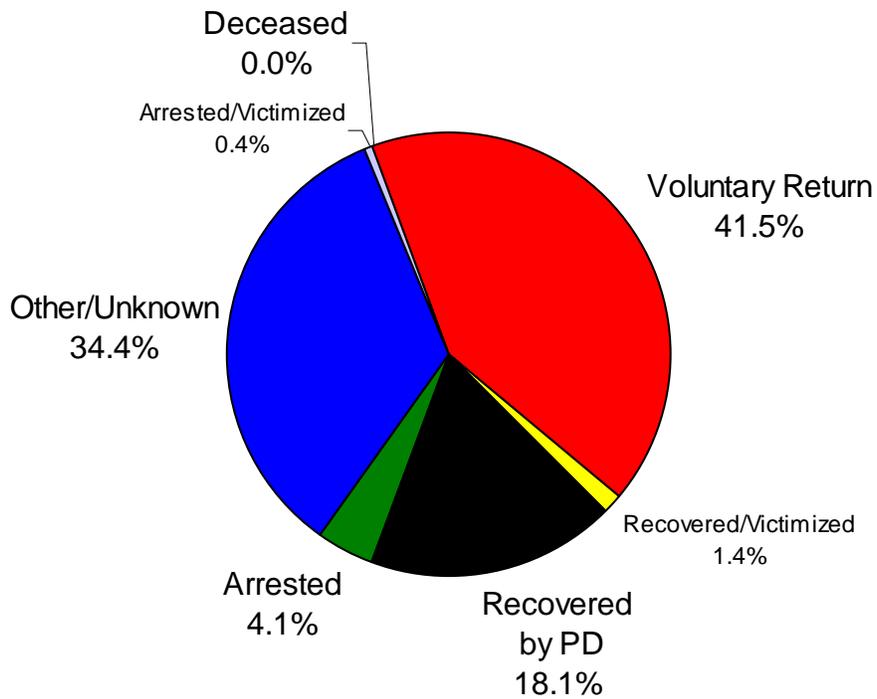
CHARACTERISTICS OF CASES REPORTED



	TOTAL	AGE WHEN REPORTED MISSING				GENDER		RACE	
		< 1 - 5	6 - 12	13 - 15	16 - 17	Male	Female	White	Non-White
TOTAL	21,613	142	1,161	11,585	8,725	8,661	12,952	10,671	10,942
Runaway	19,921	4	955	10,766	8,196	7,914	12,007	9,850	10,071
Familial Abduction	122	82	29	6	5	69	53	61	61
Acquaintance Abduction	41	8	2	15	16	18	23	22	19
Stranger Abduction	3	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	2
Lost	315	0	36	161	118	151	164	174	141
Unknown	1,211	47	139	636	389	508	703	563	648

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CHARACTERISTICS OF CASES CLOSED

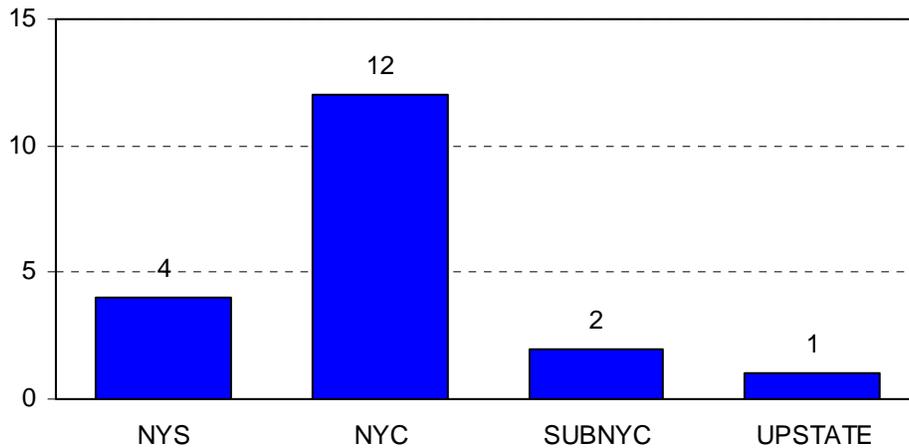


Circumstances of Recovery	TOTAL	AGE WHEN FOUND					GENDER		RACE	
		< 1 - 5	6 - 12	13 - 15	16 - 17	> 17	Male	Female	White	Non-White
TOTAL	21,646	135	1,109	11,260	8,903	239	8,683	12,963	10,675	10,971
Voluntary Return	8,991	19	423	4,752	3,738	59	3,545	5,446	4,713	4,278
Recovered by Law Enforcement	3,915	36	252	2,148	1,458	21	1,703	2,212	2,452	1,463
Recovered/Victimimized	306	8	19	173	104	2	118	188	200	106
Arrested	896	0	22	377	489	8	432	464	523	373
Arrested/Victimimized	92	0	3	40	49	0	53	39	54	38
Deceased	4	0	0	1	3	0	0	4	1	3
Other/Unknown	7,443	72	390	3,769	3,063	149	2,832	4,611	2,732	4,711

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LENGTH OF TIME ON THE REGISTER

*MEDIAN DAYS TO CANCELLATION
(for Cases Closed During 2006)*



DAYS BETWEEN CASE ENTRY AND CANCELLATION FOR CASES REPORTED DURING 2006		
No. of Days	No. of Cases Closed	Cumulative Percent Closed
< 1	4,577	21.2
1	3,329	36.6
2	1,264	42.4
3	884	46.5
4	749	50.0
5	585	52.7
6	558	55.3
7	607	58.1
8	543	60.6
9	465	62.7
10	394	64.6
11	386	66.4
12	316	67.8
13	311	69.3
14	311	70.7
15	293	72.0
16 - 29	2,071	81.6
30 - 60	1,528	88.7
61 - 90	590	91.4
91 - 120	393	93.2
121 or more	280	94.5
Still Active	1,179	5.5
TOTAL	21,613	100.0

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REPORTING VOLUME BY COUNTY

	CASES REPORTED									CASES CLOSED							CASES ACTIVE
	Total	Rate ¹	Runaway	Acquaint.	Familial	Stranger	Lost	Unknown	Total	Voluntary	Returned	Arrested	Victimized	Deceased	Other/unk.	End-of-Year	
				Abduction	Abduction	Abduction				Return	by P.D.					Active Cases	
Albany	1,346	21.4	1,273	1	3	0	22	47	1,335	318	147	64	14	0	792	86	
Allegany	15	1.4	12	0	1	0	1	1	15	7	4	3	0	0	1	0	
Broome	360	8.6	333	0	0	1	4	22	353	171	140	12	1	0	29	25	
Cattaraugus	111	5.8	102	1	1	0	1	6	106	39	45	8	1	0	13	10	
Cayuga	139	7.7	129	1	0	0	3	6	137	45	76	4	2	0	10	4	
Chautauqua	298	9.9	291	0	0	0	5	2	298	106	139	20	11	0	22	13	
Chemung	314	15.5	309	1	0	0	1	3	297	180	80	25	2	0	10	25	
Chenango	31	2.7	28	0	0	0	1	2	31	9	14	2	1	0	5	1	
Clinton	79	4.8	73	2	0	0	3	1	79	33	18	8	0	0	20	0	
Columbia	83	5.9	79	0	0	0	1	3	86	19	38	11	7	0	11	6	
Cortland	40	3.8	36	0	0	0	2	2	38	10	21	2	0	0	5	2	
Delaware	52	5.5	48	0	1	0	1	2	53	13	28	7	1	0	4	2	
Dutchess	295	4.3	264	1	4	0	11	15	295	129	99	21	9	0	37	18	
Erie	1,041	4.8	975	2	4	1	11	48	1,040	114	135	39	25	0	727	160	
Essex	18	2.4	17	0	0	0	0	1	18	7	6	5	0	0	0	0	
Franklin	86	8.5	86	0	0	0	0	0	85	26	39	19	1	0	0	2	
Fulton	26	2.2	23	0	0	0	0	3	29	7	14	4	4	0	0	0	
Genesee	69	5.1	62	0	0	0	2	5	66	31	24	7	2	0	2	3	
Greene	23	2.3	18	0	1	0	0	4	21	2	9	7	1	0	2	2	
Hamilton	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Herkimer	32	2.4	29	0	0	0	1	2	32	11	15	4	0	0	2	0	
Jefferson	123	4.5	116	2	1	0	1	3	125	50	46	16	4	0	9	4	
Lewis	7	1.1	6	0	0	0	1	0	6	3	1	0	0	0	2	1	
Livingston	33	2.5	30	0	0	0	2	1	33	8	18	3	1	0	3	1	
Madison	59	3.9	50	0	0	0	2	7	58	33	14	1	2	0	8	3	
Monroe	1,220	6.8	1,184	1	4	0	2	29	1,255	243	261	59	7	0	685	110	
Montgomery	52	4.6	49	0	0	0	2	1	54	20	25	4	1	0	4	3	
Nassau	988	3.1	821	2	18	0	33	114	977	573	187	38	55	0	124	92	
New York City ²	5,297	2.7	5,228	2	58	0	2	7	5,346	2,050	1	71	0	2	3,224	636	

¹ Rate per 1,000 children

² includes the counties of Bronx, Kings, New York and Richmond

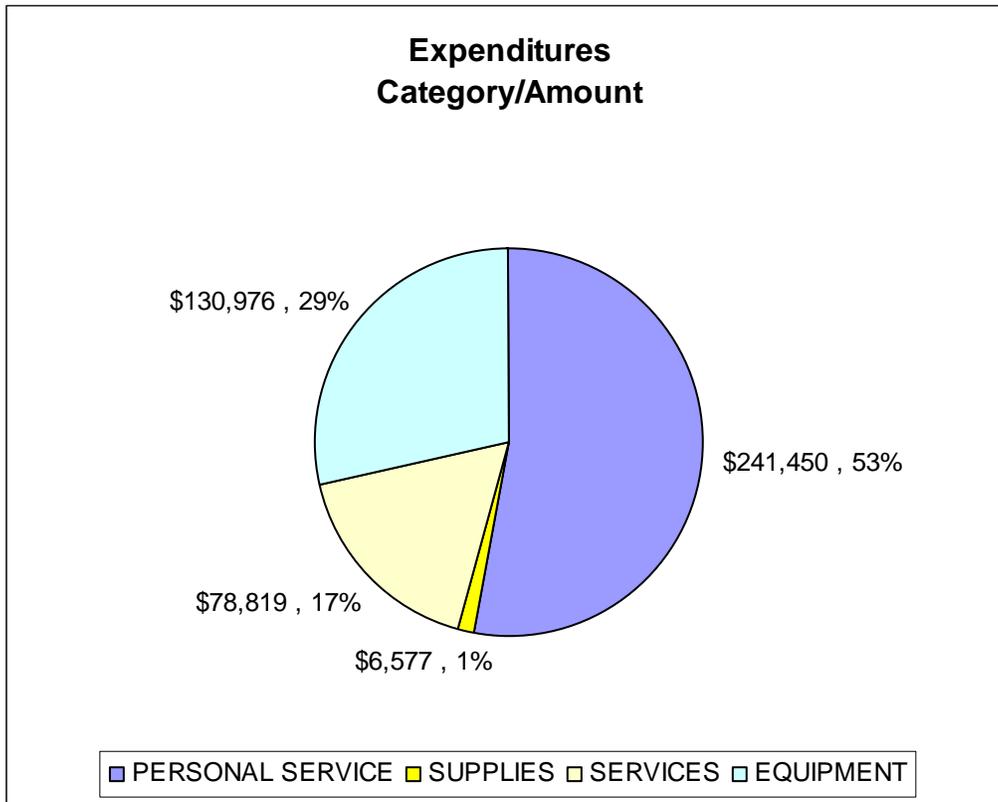
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REPORTING VOLUME BY COUNTY

	CASES REPORTED									CASES CLOSED							CASES ACTIVE
	Total	Rate ¹	Runaway	Acquaint.	Familial	Stranger	Lost	Unknown	Total	Voluntary		Returned			End-of-Year Active Cases		
				Abduction	Abduction	Abduction				Return	by P.D.	Arrested	Victimized	Deceased		Other/unk.	
Niagara	395	8.1	364	1	1	0	3	26	405	198	117	20	5	0	65	31	
Oneida	586	11.6	544	3	1	0	25	13	587	322	141	64	17	0	43	17	
Onondaga	721	6.5	211	0	1	0	1	508	718	310	348	38	7	0	14	37	
Ontario	83	3.6	71	0	0	0	5	7	84	49	23	2	0	0	10	1	
Orange	673	6.7	631	3	1	0	20	18	679	350	205	47	18	0	59	51	
Orleans	55	5.3	55	0	0	0	0	0	58	30	20	2	1	0	5	1	
Oswego	141	4.8	134	1	0	0	3	3	139	60	52	11	7	0	9	2	
Otsego	13	1.1	10	0	0	0	0	3	14	0	10	3	0	0	1	0	
Putnam	83	3.3	74	0	0	0	2	7	81	46	27	5	1	0	2	7	
Rensselaer	441	12.9	420	0	1	0	4	16	454	197	78	18	11	0	150	7	
Rockland	321	3.9	278	0	0	1	22	20	331	195	51	25	6	1	53	43	
St. Lawrence	112	4.8	107	1	0	0	3	1	115	47	47	9	6	0	6	1	
Saratoga	192	3.9	166	4	0	0	17	5	198	70	64	22	13	0	29	8	
Schenectady	600	17.6	586	0	1	0	7	6	592	269	72	28	8	0	215	40	
Schoharie	4	0.6	3	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	
Schuyler	12	2.9	11	0	0	0	0	1	13	6	3	0	2	0	2	0	
Seneca	8	1.1	8	0	0	0	0	0	8	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	
Steuben	67	2.9	57	1	0	0	2	7	68	40	19	4	1	0	4	0	
Suffolk	2,096	5.5	1,922	2	9	0	9	154	2,077	1,362	476	54	4	0	181	111	
Sullivan	51	3.1	47	0	0	0	2	2	56	31	12	5	3	1	4	2	
Tioga	34	2.8	34	0	0	0	0	0	34	16	10	6	1	0	1	1	
Tompkins	111	6.6	108	1	0	0	1	1	110	35	33	22	2	0	18	3	
Ulster	320	8.3	302	1	1	0	7	9	330	107	136	35	5	0	47	13	
Warren	58	4.3	53	0	1	0	1	3	59	28	22	6	2	0	1	0	
Washington	74	5.7	72	0	0	0	0	2	73	33	25	8	4	0	3	1	
Wayne	96	4.1	88	1	1	0	3	3	97	46	25	8	8	0	10	2	
Westchester	1,995	8.4	1,872	6	6	0	58	53	1,961	874	232	81	20	0	754	401	
Wyoming	6	0.7	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	4	0	0	0	1	0	
Yates	20	3.4	13	0	0	0	2	5	20	7	9	0	0	0	4	0	
Non-NYS Agencies	8		3	0	2	0	3	0	7	1	4	0	1	0	1	12	
NYS Total	21,613	4.7	19,921	41	122	3	315	1,211	21,646	8,991	3,915	988	306	3	7,443	2,001	

¹ Rate per 1,000 children.

**Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse
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Contributions	
Month	Amount
January	\$3,455
February	\$2,478
March	\$32,573
April	\$42,482
May	\$63,311
June	\$67,798
July	\$19,956
August	\$4,130
September	\$5,544
October	\$4,264
November	\$7,454
December	\$5,257
Total	\$258,702

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The NYS DCJS Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse

The Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse was established within DCJS in 1987. MECC operates in accordance with §§ 837-e, 837-f and 838 of the NYS Executive Law, and Part 6055 of the NYS Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations (NYCRR.) Pursuant to the “Campus Safety Act of 1999,” MECC is also responsible for providing assistance in cases involving missing college students.

Services provided by MECC generally fall into three categories: support services for law enforcement, assistance provided to left-behind family members and community education programs.

Urgent Services Offered by MECC

- MECC maintains the 1-800-FIND-KID hotline (365 days/year; 24 hours/day.) In addition to case intake, missing child lead information received on this line is immediately disseminated to investigating law enforcement agencies.
- MECC assists law enforcement agencies and parents in searching for missing children. Urgent support includes:
 - Offering case management advice and assisting with obtaining other available urgent services.
 - Developing and electronically distributing missing child bulletins to private and public entities statewide. The LOCATER (Law Enforcement Alert Technology Resource) and Xpedite systems allow for rapid electronic dissemination of high-quality photographic images and biographical information. When a child is deemed to be “endangered,” in a matter of minutes information can be sent via broadcast fax to virtually all law enforcement agencies, NYS Thruway service areas/toll booths, airports, AMTRAK train stations, bus stations and other entities across the State.
 - Placing missing child photographs and biographical information on the DCJS and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) web sites. (As a testament to its effectiveness, in recent years at least six missing children have been recovered as a result of uninvolved parties viewing a child’s photograph and biographical information on the DCJS web site.)
 - Developing lead information by conducting searches through informational databases, such as the Federal Parent Locator Service (FPLS).
 - Assisting police agencies to enter missing (and unidentified) person information into NCIC and DCJS files ensures that entries are timely, accurate and as complete as possible. Analyzing, transcribing and entering dental anatomical information into DCJS/NCIC files on behalf of law enforcement agencies and medical examiners electronically produces valuable lead information.



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- The NYS AMBER Alert and DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert Programs provide law enforcement agencies with mechanisms for rapid and widespread public dissemination.

- The NYS AMBER Alert Program. Through the efforts of the New York State Police, DCJS/MECC, New York State Broadcasters Association, and other partners, the NYS AMBER Alert Program was established in January 2002 and has continually been enhanced since that time. This program is a voluntary partnership between law enforcement, broadcasters and others to immediately involve the public in the search for an abducted child (under 18 years of age). Investigating agencies submit information directly to the New York State Police

Communications Section (COMSEC) in Albany. In turn, through use of high speed broadcast fax, email and other systems capable of rapidly disseminating information, details are sent to broadcasters and law enforcement agencies in the area of the abduction. They can be seen or heard on television stations, radio stations, highway variable message signs, lottery in-store ticket terminals, NYS Thruway Authority service areas, DMV issuing office message boards and New York State Police and DCJS Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse web sites. DCJS/MECC staff members work closely with NYSP staff during AMBER Alerts. Responsibilities include developing Alert posters which are disseminated electronically and updating Alert information on the DCJS and NCMEC web sites.



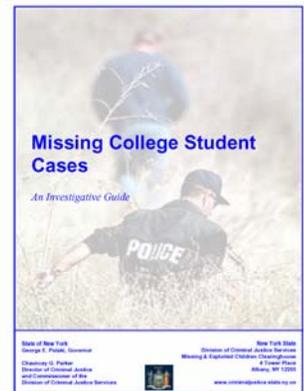
- The DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert Program. When a missing child or college student is deemed to be endangered, but the case does not meet AMBER Alert activation criteria, an alternative alert system is available. Known as a Missing Child/College Student Alert, information can be distributed electronically to every police agency in New York State, NYS Thruway travel plazas and toll barriers, broadcasters, airports, bus terminals and Alert subscribers and others within minutes. Information is also placed on the DCJS and NCMEC web sites. Unlike an AMBER Alert, station managers decide if and when to broadcast Missing Child/College Student Alert information. Requests for a Missing Child/College Student Alert are made by contacting MECC. They are also sent to MECC, by the NYSP, whenever an AMBER Alert request has been rejected. MECC handles all responsibilities, including selection of activation regions and electronic dissemination of posters.



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Non-Urgent Services Offered by MECC

- MECC continuously develops and distributes printed missing child posters to private and public entities statewide.
- MECC administers the mandated statewide missing/unidentified person repository. Information contained in this database is submitted by law enforcement agencies via NYSPIN (approximately 22,000 children are reported missing to DCJS each year.) “Flagging” missing child birth and educational records (as mandated by law) is facilitated through the use of this data.
- MECC presents missing and abducted child training programs for law enforcement officers. For example, the 5-day “Responding To Missing and Abducted Children (REMAC) Course” is conducted through the cooperative efforts of MECC and Fox Valley Technical College (the designated training contractor for the U.S. Department of Justice/OJJDP). Also, presentations are periodically made at various professional conferences and at police training courses conducted throughout New York State.
- MECC develops and disseminates missing/abducted child investigative procedures and guides: For example, printed and electronic copies of the NCMEC “Missing and Abducted Children: A Law Enforcement Guide to Case Investigation and Program Management”, DCJS “Missing College Student Investigative Guide”, “Missing Person Data Collection Guide” and “Unidentified Person Data Collection Guide” can be obtained from MECC at no cost.
- MECC continually interacts and collaborates with NCMEC and other state clearinghouses. The established network of clearinghouses and related organizations can directly provide nationwide and if necessary, worldwide assistance to law enforcement agencies and family members. Also, MECC works with the U.S. Department of State and the NCMEC International Child Abduction Unit to locate and return internationally abducted children to their country of origin (in accordance with the “Hague Treaty on the Civil Aspects of International Abduction”.)
- MECC develops and distributes educational programs and printed literature concerning child safety. Also, MECC has dramatically increased educational child and Internet safety web site content and has aggressively publicized it.
- MECC has an on-going community outreach program. This includes:
 - Making presentations about child and Internet safety to various groups across the State (Parent-Teacher Association meetings, professional conferences, community organization meetings).
 - Developing, implementing and coordinating the Operation SAFE CHILD program.



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Operation SAFE CHILD



Operation SAFE CHILD was launched to heighten the awareness about child safety. Statistics show that a third of parents in the United States do not know their child's exact height, weight and eye color. Having this information readily available, along with a photograph, can greatly assist law enforcement agencies in responding immediately to a child's disappearance. This exciting program promotes the importance of parents or guardians to carry specific identifying information about their children for immediate use in the first few hours in missing children cases, particularly in conjunction with the New York State AMBER Alert and Missing Child Alert programs.

The centerpiece of **Operation SAFE CHILD** is a credit-card size card that contains a child's photograph, biographical information and two fingerprint impressions. The photograph, biographical data and fingerprints of a child are all captured using state-of-art digital fingerprinting technology and high resolution photo imaging equipment. Also, when authorized by a parent or guardian, the photo, biographical data and fingerprints of a child are stored in a secure database at DCJS. This value-added feature of the program allows the stored information to be accessed and disseminated instantly in the critical first few hours in the case of a reported missing child. Parents or guardians can request that information be purged at any time and, after a child turns 18, all information is automatically purged from the database.

Since announcing the program in June 2005, the Division of Criminal Justice Services= (DCJS) Operation SAFE CHILD program has established partnerships with 33 law enforcement agencies across New York State to produce, free of charge, **SAFE CHILD** cards for families at various venues including fairs, community-based events, and at schools. To date, over 121,000 children have been processed through Operation SAFE CHILD and 93 percent of the parents chose to have DCJS store their child's data. During 2006, DCJS staffed 108 events throughout New York State, including the New York State Fair, and produced cards for over 12,067 children. In addition, the Operation SAFE CHILD partners staffed 407 events and produced cards for over 79,900 children.

During 2007, DCJS will be adding at least another 26 new partners to the Operation SAFE CHILD program to help increase the awareness of child safety in New York State.

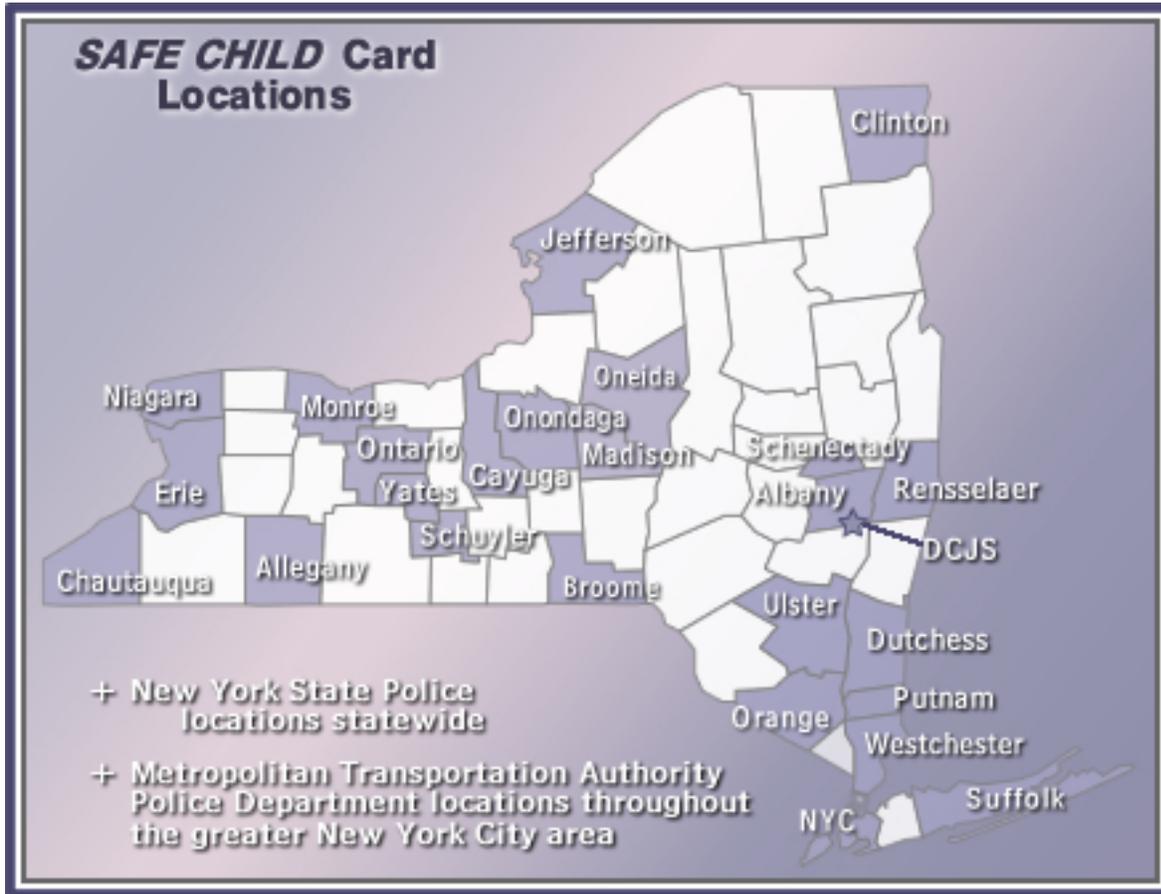
Below is a list of the 33 DCJS Operation SAFE CHILD partners along with a map displaying the New York Operation SAFE CHILD counties. In addition to the 33 partners, there are 48 units operational throughout the state.

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Operation SAFE CHILD Participating Agencies:

Albany County Sheriff's Office
Albany Police Department - Albany County
Allegany County Sheriff's Office
Broome County Sheriff's Office
Buffalo Police Department - Erie County
Cayuga County Sheriff's Office
Chautauqua County Sheriff's Office
Clinton County Sheriff's Office
Dutchess County Sheriff's Office
Erie County Sheriff's Office
Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
Madison County Sheriff's Office
Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police Department
Monroe County Sheriff's Office
New York State Police Statewide
Niagara County Sheriff's Office
New York City Police Department
Oneida County Sheriff's Office
Onondaga County Sheriff's Office
Ontario County Sheriff's Office
Orange County Sheriff's Office
Putnam County Sheriff's Office
Rensselaer County Sheriff's Office
Rochester Police Department - Monroe County
Schenectady County Sheriff's Office
Schuyler County Sheriff's Office
Suffolk County Police Department
Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Syracuse Police Department - Onondaga County
Ulster County Sheriff's Office
Ulster Town Police Department
Westchester County Department of Public Safety
Yates County Sheriff's Office

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2006 NYS AMBER Alerts and NYS DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alerts

During 2006 there were three reported AMBER Alerts and seven Missing Child/College Student Alerts. As a result of the cooperation amongst law enforcement and DCJS, each of these cases resulted in the children be returned safely to their parent or guardian.

NYS AMBER Alerts (3)

- On April 24, 2006 an *AMBER Alert* was issued on behalf of the Ramapo Police Department. This was based upon a “confirmed child abduction” involving a 13-year-old female. Upon exiting a school bus near her residence, she had been abducted and placed into the trunk of a stolen car by three unidentified individuals wearing masks. The Alert was broadcast to regions 10 and 11 and was posted on the NYS AMBER Alert, NYSP, DCJS and NCMEC web sites. The Alert was cancelled several hours later after a woman, who had heard the Alert broadcast, called police regarding an unoccupied car parked in an odd location. The child was located safe, still in the trunk of the car, about a mile from where she was abducted. Four individuals were subsequently arrested for kidnapping and other offenses, which included a plot to demand a ransom from the child’s family. The time from when the Alert was requested to the time the child was located is 3 hours and 20 minutes.
- On August 17, 2006 an *AMBER Alert* was issued on behalf of the New York City Police Department. This was based upon a “confirmed abduction” involving an unidentified black female (witnesses placed her age at approximately 13 to 15 years.) Witnesses indicated that they saw a black male talking to the child, grab her around the neck and forcibly place her into a vehicle. By running the license plate number provided by witnesses, the vehicle and abductor were identified. The Alert, with a photo of the abductor, was broadcast to regions 9, 10, 11 and 12. It was also posted on the NYS AMBER Alert, DCJS and NCMEC web sites. The Alert was cancelled within a few hours after the child was located in New York City. Investigation revealed that the “child” was actually a 42-year-old woman. The time from when the Alert was requested to the time the child was located is 2 hours and 20 minutes.
- On October 10, 2006 an *AMBER Alert* was issued on behalf of the New York City Police Department. An 8-year-old male was abducted after his mother left him in an unattended vehicle. The Alert was broadcast to regions 11 and 12 and was also posted on the NYS AMBER Alert, DCJS and NCMEC web sites. Later that evening, a man who was unaware of the Alert, stopped to help a disabled vehicle and discovered a child and intoxicated adult companion. The man took them to the Nassau County Police Department where it was determined that the child was the subject of an AMBER Alert. The abductor fled, but was arrested later a few blocks from the police station. The child was returned unharmed to his mother. The time from when the Alert was requested to the time the child was located is 3 hours and 50 minutes.

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NYS DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alerts (7)

- On April 6, a *DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert* was issued on behalf of the New York State Police (Catskill). A child had been forcibly taken by his father, without taking the child's needed medication for an on-going medical condition. The mother had obtained emergency temporary custody order and a felony arrest warrant was issued for the father. Based upon this information, a *DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert* was issued. Information was also posted on the DCJS and NCMEC web sites. On April 7th, the father and child were stopped by police while attempting to cross the George Washington Bridge in New York City. The father was arrested and the child was returned to his mother. The time from when the Alert was requested to the time the child was located is 20 hours and 45 minutes.
- On April 22, 2006, a *DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert* was issued on behalf of the Canandaigua Police Department. An eight-month-old child had been left with her maternal grandmother while her mother was at work. However, when the mother returned from work the child and grandmother were gone. Based upon the grandmother's history of drug abuse and the length of time missing, police believed that the child was in danger. MECC began issuing an Alert, however it was halted when the Canandaigua Police Department located the child. The time from when the Alert was requested to the time the child was located is 2 hours and 10 minutes.
- On June 4, 2006, a *DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert* was issued on behalf of the New York City Police Department. A three-year-old child had last been seen on June 3rd in the company of an acquaintance, a 13-year-old female. The 13-year-old had been given permission by the father to take the child for a walk and had not been seen since. She was also listed as a runaway. An Alert was issued and information was also posted on the DCJS and NCMEC web sites. On June 5th both children were located in Brooklyn, after an uninvolved person recognized them from publicity. The three-year-old child was returned to his family and the 13-year-old was arrested for kidnapping. The time from when the Alert was requested to the time the child was located is 17 hours.
- On June 17, 2006, a *DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert* was requested by the Connecticut State Police. They had issued an AMBER Alert for a two-year-old child, who was taken from her mother at gunpoint by the father. The father had ties to New York City, but his travel destination was unknown. MECC began issuing an Alert, however it was halted when the Connecticut State Police advised that the child had been located.
- On July 8, 2006, a *DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert* was issued on behalf of the Eastchester Police Department. Information was also posted on the DCJS and NCMEC web sites. A 17-year-old had been missing since July 2nd and family members believed she was being held against her will by members of the Latin Kings gang in the Bronx. Police had identified four suspects, with extensive criminal records. On July 10th the child returned home, by police accounts due to the intensive publicity. The time from when the Alert was requested to the time the child was located is approximately 34 hours.
- On September 30, 2006, a *DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert* was issued on behalf of the New York City Police Department. Information was also posted on the DCJS and NCMEC web sites. A six-month-old child had been left in the care of her aunt on the morning of Sept 29th. The aunt left the child in the care of a friend while she had a job interview. When the aunt returned, the child and the friend were gone. The abductor was a 20-year-old female with bipolar disorder and the child requires a special formula because she was born premature. After issuance of an Alert, New York City Housing Authority staff sighted the abductor and child at a project. The NYPD subsequently responded and took the abductor into custody. The

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child was returned to her mother. The time from when the Alert was requested to the time the child was located is 8 hours and 50 minutes.

- On November 9, 2006, a *DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert* was issued on behalf of the Cobleskill Police Department. On November 8th a 14-year-old had been picked up by the 37-year-old father of a friend to go to a party at his residence. When the child did not return at his designated curfew, the custodial grandparents contacted the friend. The friend had not seen his father since he left to pick up the 14-year-old friend and he knew nothing about a party. Cobleskill PD had contacted all known family and associates who had not heard from either individual. An Alert was issued and information was posted on the DCJS and NCMEC web sites. It included photos and information on the involved vehicle. Within four hours, MECC staff was notified that the child had been located by the Niskayuna Police Department. Upon receiving the Alert poster, communication staff had notified all patrols. A patrol officer subsequently observed the involved vehicle and ran the plate number which returned the DCJS/NCIC missing child entry. The child was turned over to his grandparents and the investigation was turned over to the Cobleskill PD. The time from when the Alert was requested to the time the child was located is 9 hours.