

New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services
Office of Public Safety



Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse - 2009 Annual Report

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New York State Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse 2009 Annual Report

Appreciation is expressed to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) - Office of Justice Research and Performance (OJRP). Without their ongoing compilation and analysis of statistical information submitted by police agencies, preparation of these annual reports would not be possible. Appreciation is also extended to the Office of Justice Information Services (OJIS) which also played an important role in compiling statistical information contained in this report.

Pursuant to Executive Law §837-f (12), DCJS is pleased to provide the Governor and the Legislature with the 2009 Annual Report of missing children register statistical information and activities of the New York State Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse.

Introduction

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

As described in more detail on pages 10-14, services provided by MECC include investigative support to law enforcement agencies in connection with missing child cases, providing assistance to left-behind family members and delivery of child safety programming. MECC staff work in close association many public and private sector organizations at local, state and national levels. These include law enforcement agencies, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, other state clearinghouses, not-for-profit organizations and the U.S. Department of State (when cases fall under the “Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction”).

With regard to educational programming, MECC develops and distributes child safety literature and presentations. As a New York State Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force agency, MECC staff delivers Internet safety programming to children and parents across the state. MECC staff also provide missing and abducted child investigative presentations to law enforcement officers. A very significant MECC achievement was participation in a joint effort with the New York State Police, New York State Broadcasters Association, and other public and private sector partner agencies to establish the New York State AMBER Alert Program. This innovative program provides a mechanism for rapid and widespread public dissemination of information in the event of child abduction. MECC also operates a “Missing Child/College Student Alert” program which is used when a missing child case does not meet stringent AMBER Alert activation criteria.

Major Findings 2009

- **The number of children reported missing in New York State dropped by 4% to 19,512.**
- **As in previous years, the number of children listed as runaways exceeded 90%, accounting for 18,071 disappearances (93%).**
- **Only two stranger abduction cases were reported.**
- **Seventeen acquaintance abduction and 180 familial abduction cases were reported.**
- **Three *AMBER Alert* and five *DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert* activations occurred. With the exception of one unresolved disappearance, all Alerts involved children who were returned safely.**
- **DCJS Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse staff made presentations at 54 events to 5,359 attendees.**

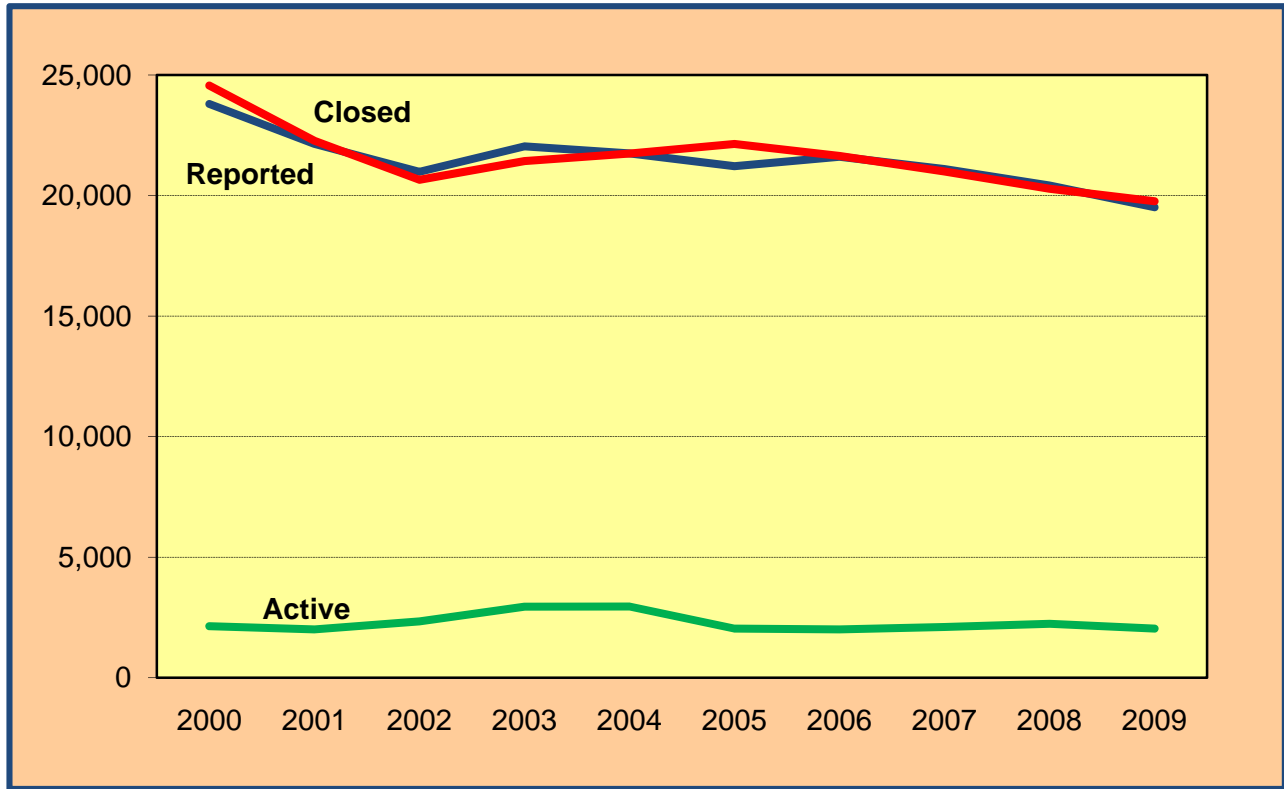
Executive Summary

- In 2009, the Register received 19,512 reports of children missing from New York State, a decrease of four percent from the previous year. In addition, 19,763 cases were cancelled during the year, and 2,034 cases were active at the end of 2009.
- Nearly all missing children cases were reported as suspected runaways (93 percent). Abduction cases accounted for approximately 1 percent of the total reports, with abductions committed by family members as the most frequent form of abduction. There were two reports of a child abducted by a stranger in 2009*.
- Although every county in the State, except Hamilton, reported at least one missing child during the year, the majority of counties reported decreases in the number of new cases as compared to 2008. Of the 40 counties reporting decreases, 29 had double-digit declines. Reports of missing children were concentrated in the State's largest urban areas. Excluding the five New York City counties (which are not reported separately to the Register), Westchester County reported the highest volume of cases (2,077) followed by Suffolk, Erie, Monroe, and Albany counties.
- Controlling for the under age 18 population by county, three counties in the Capital Region (Schenectady, Albany and Rensselaer) had the highest rates of case reporting in the State (20.8, 15.0, and 13.9 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 4.3 missing children cases per 1,000 children in 2009.
- Ninety-four percent of the children reported missing were age 13 or older, 60 percent were female, and 46 percent were white. The single largest group of cases by age and gender was white females 13 years and older (26 percent of cases reported).
- Approximately 28 percent of the 19,763 cases closed during 2009 were resolved by the child voluntarily returning home. Law enforcement efforts were involved in the return of 21 percent of the cases, and six children who had been reported missing were found deceased. Exact circumstances associated with the recovery of missing children were not reported to DCJS by law enforcement in 51 percent of the cases closed during the year. The median number of days between the reporting and cancellation of a case on the Register was five days.

** 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 frequently the case type is not revised on the Register by investigating law enforcement agencies.*

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ANNUAL REPORTING VOLUME: 2000-2009

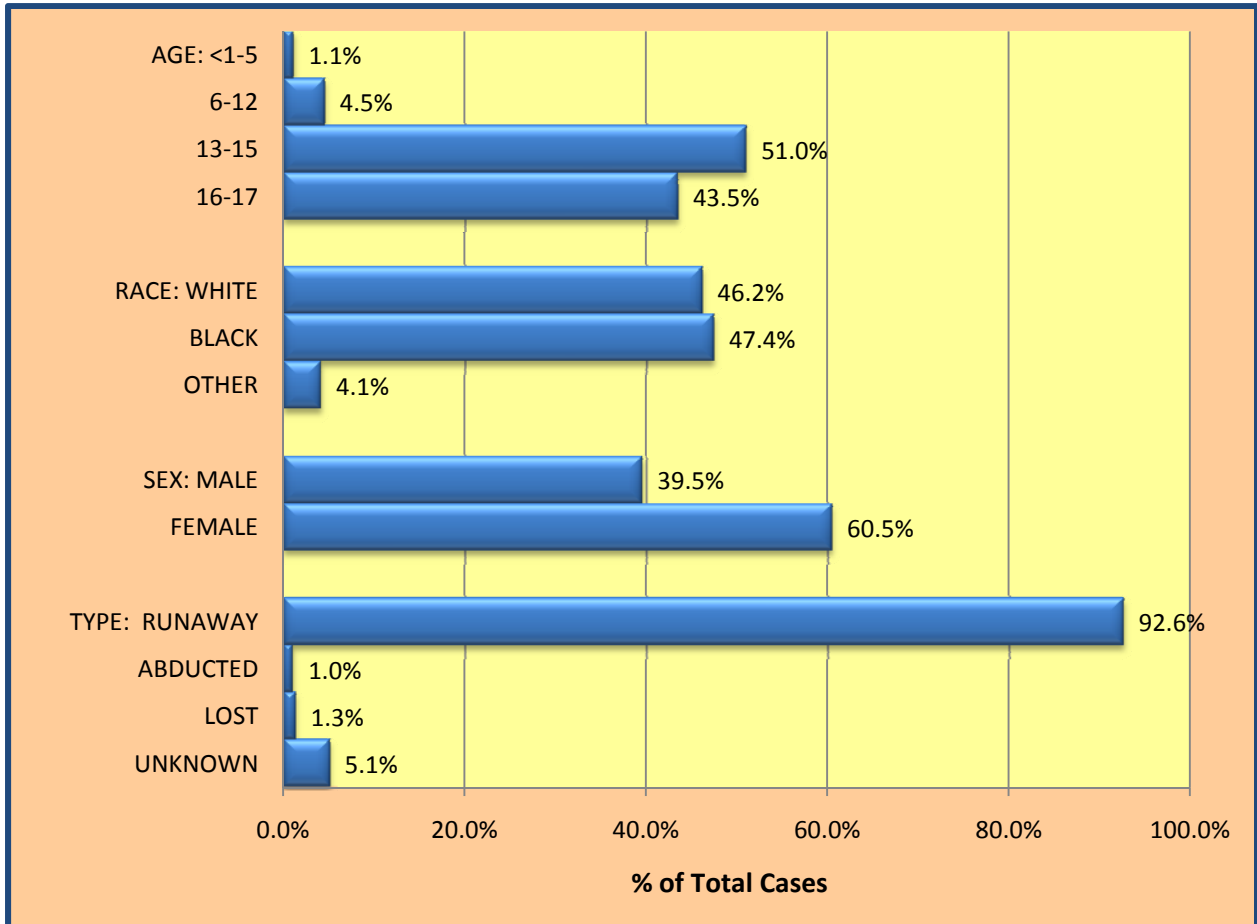


	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009*
NEW YORK STATE										
Cases Entered	23,801	22,139	20,985	22,040	21,753	21,222	21,613	21,100	20,414	19,512
Cases Closed	24,562	22,273	20,654	21,431	21,745	22,139	21,646	20,999	20,283	19,763
Active End-of-Year	2,137	2,003	2,334	2,943	2,951	2,034	2,001	2,102	2,234	2,034
NEW YORK CITY										
Cases Entered	6,640	5,699	4,534	4,505	4,662	4,829	5,297	5,839	5,800	5,721
Cases Closed	7,220	5,916	4,219	4,041	4,590	5,808	5,346	5,826	5,790	5,730
Active End-of-Year	1,030	813	1,128	1,592	1,664	685	636	649	660	678
NON-NEW YORK CITY										
Cases Entered	17,161	16,440	16,451	17,535	17,091	16,393	16,316	15,261	14,614	13,791
Cases Closed	17,342	16,357	16,435	17,390	17,155	16,331	16,300	15,173	14,493	14,033
Active End-of-Year	1,107	1,190	1,206	1,351	1,287	1,349	1,365	1,453	1,574	1,356

* Due to a system conversion that occurred in June 2009, the number of active cases at the end of 2009 does not balance with the case entered (2009), cases closed (2009) and active end-of-year (2008). While the number generated by the new reporting system is 2,034, independent calculation of statistics listed indicates that it number is 1,983. This is a one-time discrepancy that will not appear again in future reports.

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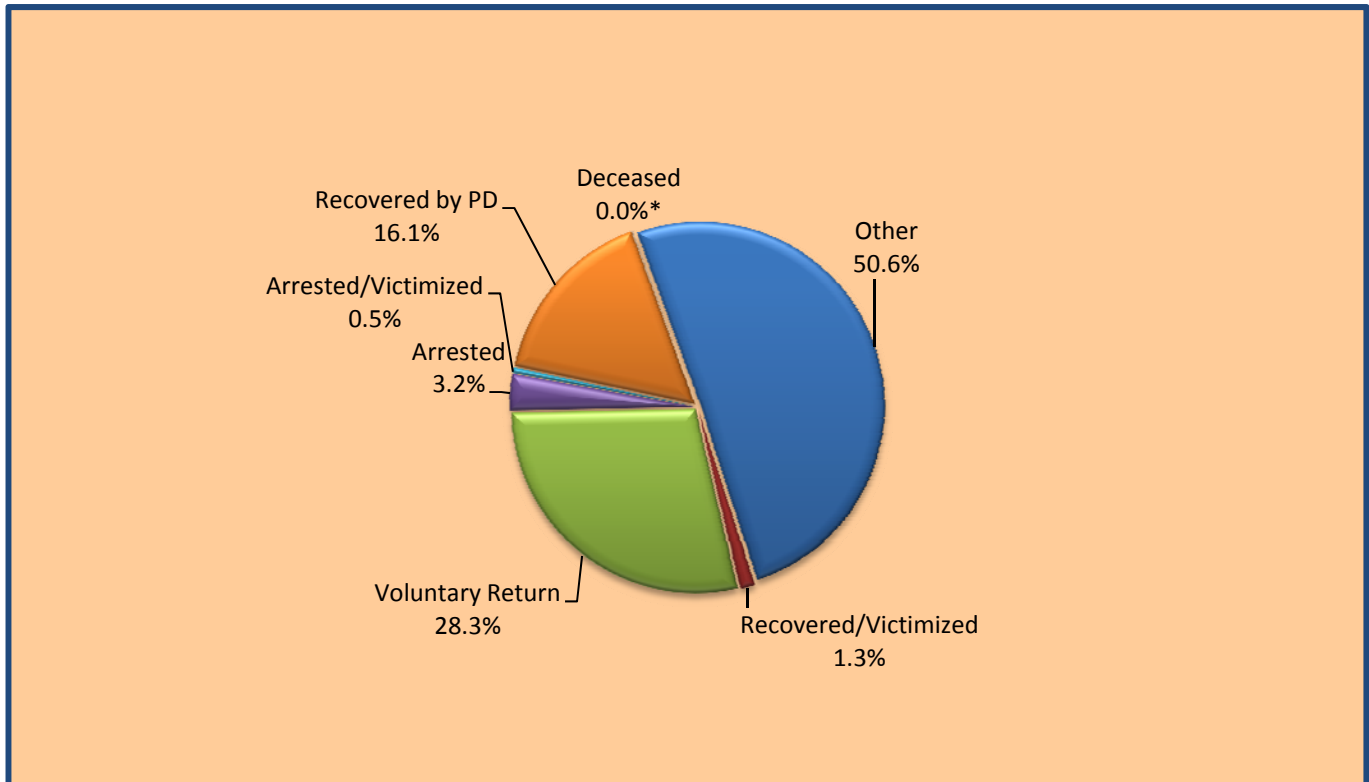
CHARACTERISTICS OF CASES ENTERED



	TOTAL	AGE WHEN REPORTED MISSING				GENDER		RACE	
		< 1 - 5	6 - 12	13 - 15	16 - 17	Male	Female	White	Non-White
Runaway	18,071	1	750	9,259	8,061	7,064	11,007	8,329	9,742
Familial Abduction	180	140	31	3	6	85	95	70	110
Acquaintance Abduction	17	7	2	4	4	2	15	7	10
Stranger Abduction	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	0
Lost	256	3	22	129	102	114	142	164	92
Unknown	986	56	71	555	304	448	538	434	552
TOTAL	19,512	207	877	9,950	8,478	7,714	11,798	9,006	10,506

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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
Voluntary Return	5,602	18	227	2,865	2,482	10	2,517	3,085	3,135	3,133
Recovered by Law Enforcement	3,181	37	170	1,671	1,295	8	1,314	1,867	1,876	1,872
Recovered/Victimimized	258	12	23	131	89	3	95	163	172	172
Arrested	626	0	8	238	375	5	334	292	373	375
Arrested/Victimimized	97	0	1	47	47	2	58	39	51	51
Deceased	6	0	0	3	2	1	4	2	6	6
Other**	9,993	129	414	4,758	4,419	273	3,458	6,535	3,484	3,487
TOTAL	19,763	196	843	9,713	8,709	302	7,780	11,983	9,097	9,096

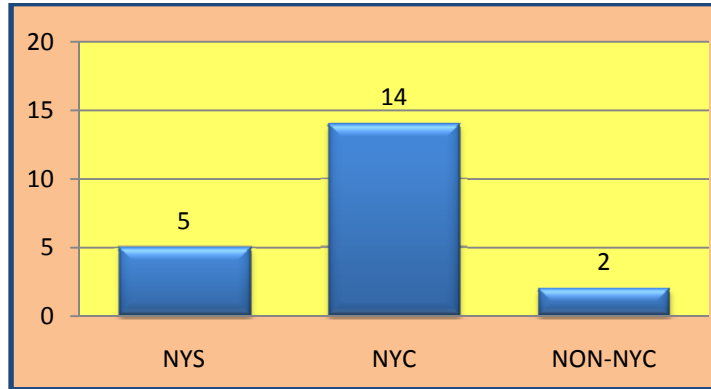
* Note that while six children were located deceased, when rounded for the purposes of preparing this chart, the percentage appears as 0.0%.

** "Other" is an authorized reporting category that can mean the reporting law enforcement agency either did not know the circumstances associated with the recovery of a child, or did not use one of the more specific categories for reasons that are not known.

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LENGTH OF TIME ON THE REGISTER

MEDIAN DAYS TO CANCELLATION (Cases Closed During 2009)



DAYS BETWEEN CASE ENTRY AND CANCELLATION FOR CASES ENTERED DURING 2009		
No. of Days	No. of Cases Closed	Cumulative Percent Closed
< 1	4,184	21.4
1	2,580	34.7
2	1,180	40.7
3	761	44.6
4	631	47.8
5	573	50.8
6	488	53.3
7	565	56.2
8	561	59.1
9	416	61.2
10	360	63.0
11	321	64.7
12	342	66.4
13	320	68.1
14	371	70.0
15	322	71.6
16 - 29	2,173	82.8
30 - 60	1,396	89.9
61 - 90	497	92.5
91 - 120	325	94.1
121 or more	487	96.6
Still Active	659	3.4
TOTAL	19,512	100.0

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REPORTING VOLUME BY COUNTY

	CASES ENTERED									CASES CLOSED							CASES ACTIVE
	Total	Rate ¹	Runaway	Acquaint.	Familial	Stranger	Lost	Other	Total	Voluntary	Returned	Arrested	Victimized	Deceased	Unknown	End-of-Year	
				Abduction	Abduction	Abduction				Return	by P.D.					Active Cases	
Albany	925	15.0	883	3	17	1	10	11	926	189	79	26	8	0	624	89	
Allegany	4	0.4	3	0	0	0	1	0	4	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	
Broome	323	7.9	313	0	0	0	4	6	320	187	98	8	6	0	21	15	
Cattaraugus	88	4.8	88	0	0	0	0	0	87	35	35	10	4	0	3	3	
Cayuga	83	4.8	81	0	0	0	1	1	85	27	45	2	1	0	10	0	
Chautauqua	157	5.4	151	1	1	0	2	2	164	75	70	7	6	0	6	8	
Chemung	156	8.0	155	0	0	0	0	1	163	111	29	10	2	0	11	9	
Chenango	15	1.4	12	0	0	0	2	1	15	5	8	1	0	0	1	1	
Clinton	29	1.9	23	0	0	0	6	0	29	11	8	4	2	0	4	0	
Columbia	42	3.1	35	0	0	0	3	4	43	18	14	6	0	0	5	3	
Cortland	31	3.0	27	0	0	0	2	2	31	8	19	1	1	0	2	0	
Delaware	30	3.4	29	0	0	0	1	0	30	9	14	2	2	0	3	2	
Dutchess	350	5.2	321	3	12	0	6	8	343	142	132	17	4	0	48	20	
Erie	1,246	5.9	1,178	0	2	0	4	62	1,451	121	155	59	18	0	1,098	218	
Essex	28	4.0	27	0	0	0	1	0	27	6	8	11	1	0	1	1	
Franklin	44	4.6	44	0	0	0	0	0	43	17	17	9	0	0	0	1	
Fulton	46	4.0	38	0	0	0	5	3	48	25	15	5	2	0	1	1	
Genesee	43	3.3	41	0	0	0	2	0	44	29	12	1	1	0	1	0	
Greene	10	1.0	9	0	0	0	1	0	11	3	1	2	3	1	1	0	
Hamilton	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Herkimer	23	1.8	22	0	0	0	0	1	21	6	11	4	0	0	0	2	
Jefferson	103	3.8	98	0	0	0	1	4	103	29	49	15	7	0	3	3	
Lewis	8	1.3	8	0	0	0	0	0	8	5	2		1	0	0	0	
Livingston	26	2.0	23	0	0	0	0	3	26	4	13	4	0	0	5	1	
Madison	17	1.2	15	0	0	0	1	1	16	8	4	2	1	0	1	1	
Monroe	1,075	6.2	1,064	0	0	0	3	8	1,115	303	232	46	3	0	531	78	
Montgomery	40	3.6	34	0	0	0	3	3	39	15	19	3	2	0	0	3	
Nassau	861	2.7	712	3	18	0	47	81	844	452	158	50	60	0	124	124	
New York City ²	5,721	2.9	5,617	1	89	0	4	10	5,730	1	0		4	0	5,725	678	
Niagara	281	5.9	267	0	2	0	9	3	273	144	89	19	3	1	17	32	
Oneida	391	8.1	352	0	3	1	25	10	378	219	98	35	15	0	11	30	

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REPORTING VOLUME BY COUNTY

	CASES ENTERED									CASES CLOSED							CASES ACTIVE
	Total	Rate ¹	Runaway	Acquaint. Abduction	Familial Abduction	Stranger Abduction	Lost	Other	Total	Voluntary Return	Returned by P.D.	Arrested	Victimized	Deceased	Unknown	End-of-Year Active Cases	
Onondaga	672	6.2	183	0	1	0	0	488	674	176	447	28	2	2	19	26	
Ontario	50	2.2	47	0	1	0	1	1	50	20	18	4	2	0	6	0	
Orange	376	3.8	351	0	0	0	12	13	386	240	82	27	5	0	32	57	
Orleans	44	4.5	42	0	0	0	1	1	44	28	8	1	3	0	4	3	
Oswego	137	4.9	130	0	0	0	1	6	135	58	45	18	6	0	8	2	
Otsego	13	1.2	9	0	0	0	0	4	14	3	7	3	0	0	1	0	
Putnam	42	1.7	35	0	1	0	2	4	44	27	11	3	0	0	3	2	
Rensselaer	460	13.9	447	0	0	0	4	9	453	275	59	12	4	0	103	19	
Rockland	226	2.7	182	0	7	0	11	26	216	112	30	17	8	0	49	54	
St. Lawrence	74	3.3	65	0	1	0	2	6	73	25	25	15	2	0	6	2	
Saratoga	110	2.2	86	0	1	0	21	2	107	48	37	7	5	0	10	10	
Schenectady	689	20.8	670	2	4	0	4	9	715	331	85	29	12	0	258	27	
Schoharie	8	1.3	8	0	0	0	0	0	8	3	2	1	0	1	1	0	
Schuyler	8	2.1	6	0	0	0	1	1	9	2	6		1	0	0	0	
Seneca	23	3.3	18	0	3	0	1	1	23	9	5	4	1	0	4	1	
Steuben	38	1.7	36	0	0	0	0	2	42	24	14	2	1	0	1	1	
Suffolk	1,577	4.2	1,464	0	3	0	2	108	1,585	975	372	49	4	0	185	81	
Sullivan	52	3.3	49	0	1	0	1	1	54	27	15	7	3	0	2	3	
Tioga	22	1.9	21	0	0	0	0	1	22	11	7		2	0	2	0	
Tompkins	118	7.2	113	0	2	0	2	1	115	39	41	15	3	0	17	4	
Ulster	298	8.0	278	0	0	0	9	11	299	98	132	27	6	1	35	28	
Warren	71	5.6	70	0	0	0	1	0	70	38	25	5	0	0	2	1	
Washington	48	4.0	44	0	0	0	0	4	48	20	21	1	1	0	5	1	
Wayne	64	2.8	63	0	0	0	1	0	66	23	22	5	7	0	9	1	
Westchester	2,077	8.8	1,971	3	10	0	35	58	2,073	776	225	82	21	0	969	388	
Wyoming	7	0.9	5	0	0	0	0	2	9	4	1	1	0	0	3	0	
Yates	12	2.1	8	1	1	0	0	2	12	4	4		2	0	2	0	
New York State	19,512	4.0	18,071	17	180	2	256	986	19,763	5,602	3,181	723	258	6	9,993	2,034	

¹ Rate per 1,000 children
² includes the counties of Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens and Richmond.

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The Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse

As highlighted on page two of this report, services generally fall into three categories: support for law enforcement, assistance provided to left-behind family members, and community education programs.

To ensure that services are available at all times, MECC operates the 1-800-FIND-KID hotline (365 days/year; 24 hours/day) and an e-mail address - missingchildren@dcjs.state.ny.us. In addition to case intake (initial collection of detailed information required to publicize a missing child case), missing child lead information received is immediately disseminated to investigating law enforcement agencies.

Urgent Services Offered by MECC

- General investigative support includes:

- Offering case management advice to investigating law enforcement agencies (i.e., assessment of case details, entry of information into state and national databases) and helping to obtain other available urgent services (i.e., National Center for Missing and Exploited Children - NCMEC - Team Adam, other state clearinghouses.)



- Developing and electronically distributing missing child bulletins to private and public entities statewide. The *LOCATER* (*Law Enforcement Alert Technology Resource*), *NY Alert* and *Premiere Global* systems allow for rapid electronic dissemination of high-quality photographic images and biographical information. When a child is deemed to be “endangered,” information can be sent via broadcast fax and email to nearly every law enforcement agency, Thruway service area/toll booth and other entities in the State in a matter of minutes.

- Placing missing child photographs and biographical information on the DCJS and NCMEC web sites.
- Developing lead information by conducting searches through informational databases, including *Accurint*, the *Federal Parent Locator Service* and the Internet (i.e., social networking sites).
- Assisting police agencies to enter missing and unidentified person information into National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and DCJS files ensures that entries are timely, accurate and as complete as possible. (This includes assisting law enforcement agencies and medical examiners with properly coding and entering dental and other anatomical information into DCJS/NCIC files.)



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- When a missing child case involves significant endangerment, Alert programs are used to ensure rapid and widespread dissemination of information.

- **The New York State AMBER Alert Program.** Through the efforts of MECC, New York State Police (NYSP), New York State Broadcasters Association and other partners, the AMBER Alert Program was established in 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 age 18). Investigating agencies submit information directly to the NYSP Communications Section (COMSEC) in Albany. In turn, through use of broadcast fax, e-mail and other systems capable of rapidly disseminating information, Alert posters are sent to broadcasters, law enforcement agencies and other entities in the area of the abduction. Details can be seen or heard on television stations, radio stations, highway variable message signs, lottery in-store ticket terminals, Thruway Authority service area televisions, Department of Motor Vehicles issuing office message boards and NYSP and DCJS web sites. DCJS and NYSP staff work closely during AMBER Alert activations, with DCJS responsible for preparing Alert posters, uploading case information to the DCJS and NCMEC web sites and activating law enforcement agency license plate readers (LPRs) across the state.



- **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, Thruway travel plazas and toll barriers, broadcasters, airports, bus terminals, Alert subscribers and others within minutes. Information is also placed on the DCJS and NCMEC web sites. Unlike an AMBER Alert, television and radio station managers decide if and when to broadcast Alert information. Requests for a Missing Child/College Student Alert are made by contacting MECC, and also are submitted to MECC by the NYSP whenever an AMBER Alert request does not meet activation criteria. MECC handles all related responsibilities, including selection of activation regions and distribution of posters.



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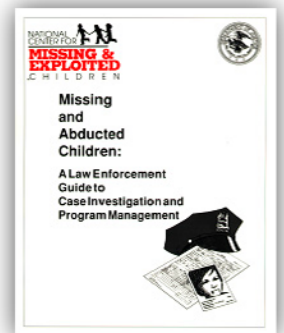
Missing Child Information Distribution Mechanisms	Case Type		
	Missing Child (No Alert)	Missing Child/College Student Alert	AMBER Alert
NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services Website	X	X	X
NYS AMBER Alert Website			X
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Website	X	X	X
Variable Message Signs: Thruway (79); Other Highways (345)			X
Alert Subscriber Lists: AMBER (5,334); Missing Child/College Student Alert (4,955)		X	X
NYS Thruway Toll Barrier Printers (59)		X	X
NYS Thruway Service Area - Televisions (27)		X	X
Thruway Service Area - Posters (28)	X	X	X
Media Outlets - Radio/Television (659)		X	X
Greyhound/Trailways/Other Bus Terminals (108)	X	X	X
AMTRAK Stations (13)	X	X	X
Airports/Transportation Safety Administration (40)	X	X	X
NYS/County Probation Agencies (59)	X	X	X
Hospitals (382)	X	X	X
Police Agencies - Local, State and Federal (1,328)	X	X	X
Canadian Law Enforcement Authorities	X	X	X
NYS/NYC Department of Health/School Records Flagged	X	X	X
Law Enforcement License Plate Readers - LPRs (320)		X	X
NYS AMBER Alert Partner Agencies		X	X
NYS Lottery Terminal Message Boards - stores (16,000)			X
NYC Taxis (13,000) and Limousines (12,000) – Alert Region 11 Only		X	X

Alert Activations		
AMBER Alert	Year	Missing Child/College Student Alert
3	2003	0
6	2004	6
5	2005	4
3	2006	5
2	2007	7
4	2008	5
3	2009	5
26	TOTALS	32

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Non-Urgent Services Offered by MECC

- Continuously develops and electronically distributes non-Alert missing child posters to private and public entities statewide, including police agencies, schools, legislators and others.
- Administers the mandated statewide missing and unidentified person repository. Information contained in this database is submitted by law enforcement agencies via eJusticeNY and the New York Statewide Police Information Network. “Flagging” missing child birth and educational records (as mandated by law) is facilitated through the use of this data.
- 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. These, as well as many other publications and educational videos, also have been placed on the eJusticeNY Integrated Justice Portal to ensure immediate availability to every subscribing law enforcement agency and officer.
- Interacts and collaborates with NCMEC and other state clearinghouses. The established network of clearinghouses and related organizations can directly provide nationwide and if necessary, international assistance to law enforcement agencies and family members. Also, MECC works with the U.S. Department of State 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”*.
- Develops child and Internet safety educational programs and literature. This includes developing web site content, including downloadable safety publications and presentation material in *PowerPoint* format.
- MECC has an ongoing community outreach program that includes:
 - Presenting missing and abducted child investigative training to law enforcement officers at training courses and other professional conferences.
 - Presenting Internet safety programs at various venues, including school assemblies, Parent-Teacher Association meetings, professional conferences and other community meetings.



New York State Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse 2009 Annual Report

During 2009, MECC provided the following Internet safety presentations and training for law enforcement officers:

Name of Presentation/Training Program	Number of Presentations	Number of Attendees
Internet Safety – A Parent’s Guide to the Internet	7	271
Internet Safety for Middle and High School Students	42	4,810
Internet Safety – A Teacher’s Guide to the Internet	2	28
Missing Person Investigations/AMBER Alert Training	3	140
TOTALS	54	5,359



NYS AMBER and NYS DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alerts

During 2009, three AMBER Alerts and five DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alerts were issued. Seven cases resulted in the children being returned safely to their parent(s) or guardian. One case remains unresolved and is an active missing child case.

NYS AMBER Alerts (3)

- On March 16, an *AMBER Alert* was issued at the request of the New York City Police Department. A 10-month-old child had been taken by her non-custodial mother while on supervised visitation at a New York City Administration for Children's Services office in Manhattan. The mother had a history of psychological issues. An Alert was broadcast in the New York City metropolitan area. The mother and child were subsequently located in Yonkers as a result of investigative action.
- On August 18, an *AMBER Alert* was issued at the request of the New Hartford Police Department. Two children (ages 5 and 3) were forcibly removed from their father's home in Chadwicks by their non-custodial mother. The mother had traveled from Texas prior to taking the children and was known to have violent tendencies, as well as a history of mental illness and drug abuse. She was accompanied by an unidentified male in a silver vehicle with Texas license plates. An Alert was broadcast in central New York. Through coordinated investigative action, the involved vehicle was located by tracking the abductor's cellular telephone and was stopped by the Virginia State Police several hours after the Alert activation. The mother was taken into custody and the children were recovered safely.
- On December 22, an *AMBER Alert* was issued at the request of the New York City Police Department. It was reported that a 13-year-old child had run away from a group home, gone to her sister's home and a domestic situation erupted. After the dispute, the 13-year-old took her niece (age 1) and fled. An Alert was broadcast in the New York City metropolitan area. The 13-year old was located and taken into custody in Brooklyn and the 1 year old was located in Queens a short time later.

NYS DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alerts (5)

- On February 5, a *DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert* was issued at the request of the New York State Police (Boston – Erie County.) It was reported that a 6-year-old child was taken by his mother's boyfriend. The boyfriend was known to use drugs and was considered to be dangerous. An Alert was broadcast in western New York. The child and the mother's boyfriend were subsequently located in Buffalo. The child was returned to the mother unharmed and the boyfriend was charged with endangering the welfare of a child and possession of marijuana.

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- On July 4, a *DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert* was issued at the request of the New York State Police (Liberty - Sullivan County.) It was reported that a 7-month-old child was abducted from her stroller while in the company of her father at the WalMart in Monticello. An Alert was broadcast in the mid- and lower- Hudson Valley areas. Through investigative action, the child was located abandoned in a wooded area near Wal-Mart; the father was arrested and charged with attempted second-degree murder, falsely reporting an incident and reckless endangerment.
- On August 19, MECC was contacted by the brother of a missing 16-year-old male. He indicated that his brother was a native of Guatemala, had been in New York only a short time, was developmentally disabled and had been last seen in Brewster on August 15. MECC completed case intake action and based on the described circumstances, contacted the investigating law enforcement agency, the Putnam County Sheriff's Office, and offered to issue a *DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert*. The offer was accepted and an Alert was broadcast in the greater New York City area. After intensive investigative action, a Putnam County Sheriff's Office investigator eventually determined that the child had actually been arrested on August 15 and was incarcerated. At the time of his arrest he had provided arresting officers with a false identity.
- On August 27, a *DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert* was issued at the request of the Buffalo Police Department. On August 25, a 15-year-old child left a group home with her newborn baby, in violation of a court order. The child has been diagnosed with psychological issues and was not to be left alone with the baby for more than fifteen minutes. An Alert was broadcast in western New York. The Alert was canceled after investigative action revealed that the child's mother had provided her with airfare for a plane ticket to Montana, where she was subsequently located.

NYS MISSING CHILD ALERT	
Missing From: Newburgh, New York	Date Missing: 12/14/2009
Mark A. Bookal	
Date of Birth: 10/07/2005	Sex: Male
Race: Black	Eyes: Brown
Hair: Brown	Weight: 42 lbs.
Height: 3'06"	
Other information: Mark was last seen at home by a caretaker around 1pm. A short time later, the front door was found open and the child has not been seen since. He was last seen wearing a red long sleeve shirt, white Nike Uptown sneakers and gray Rokaware sweatpants. He is light skinned, wears his hair in a medium length afro and has discolorations on the back of each hand from a previous burn injury.	
Investigating Agency: Newburgh City Police Department	
	
NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse 1-800-FIND-KID (1-800-346-3543) www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us	
<small>Issue Date 12/14/09 Case # 10-1474</small>	

On December 14, a *DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert* was issued at the request of the Newburgh Police Department. A 4-year-old child was allegedly last seen by a non-family caretaker at home. The caretaker reported that he had left the child unattended for a short period of time and upon checking, found the front door open and was unable to locate the child. The caretaker then contacted police, resulting in a multi-agency investigation and massive search. An Alert was broadcast in the mid- and lower- Hudson Valley areas and the case quickly gained national media attention. On December 29, the Alert was discontinued (after the maximum 14-day Alert period had elapsed) and the case was converted to a non-Alert missing child case. As of the date of this report, the case remains unresolved.