

Statistics

MISSING CHILDREN:

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC)

- Since 1984, NCMEC has assisted law enforcement with more than 182,000 missing child cases, resulting in the recovery of more than 169,000 children.
- NCMEC's toll-free national Hotline 1-800-THE-LOST® (1-800-843-5678) has handled more than 3.4 million telephone calls.

The U.S. Department of Justice reports

- 797,500 children (younger than 18) were reported missing in a one-year period of time studied resulting in an average of 2,185 children being reported missing each day.
- 203,900 children were the victims of family abductions.
- 58,200 children were the victims of non-family abductions.
- 115 children were the victims of "stereotypical" kidnapping. These crimes involve someone the child does not know or a slight acquaintance who holds the child overnight, transports the child 50 miles or more, kills the child, demands ransom, or intends to keep the child permanently.

[Andrea J. Sedlak, David Finkelhor, Heather Hammer, and Dana J. Schultz. U.S. Department of Justice. "National Estimates of Missing Children: An Overview" in *National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children*. Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, October 2002, page 5.]

AMBER Alerts

- Since 1997, the AMBER Alert program has been credited with the safe recovery of 542 children.
- To date there is a network of more than 120 AMBER Plans across the country.

EXPLOITED CHILDREN:

According to the latest online victimization research

- Approximately one in seven youth online (10 to 17-years-old) received a sexual solicitation or approach over the Internet.
- Four percent (4%) received an aggressive sexual solicitation - a solicitor who asked to meet them somewhere; called them on the telephone; or sent them offline mail, money, or gifts.
- Thirty-four percent (34%) had an unwanted exposure to sexual material - pictures of naked people or people having sex.
- Twenty-seven percent (27%) of the youth who encountered unwanted sexual material told a parent or guardian. If the encounter was defined as distressing - episodes that made them feel very or extremely upset or afraid - forty-two percent (42%) told a parent or guardian.

[David Finkelhor, Kimberly J. Mitchell, and Janis Wolak. *Online Victimization of Youth: Five Years Later*. Alexandria, Virginia: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, 2006, pages 7-8, 33.]

- 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 10 boys will be sexually victimized before adulthood.

[D. Finkelhor. "Current Information on the Scope and Nature of Child Sexual Abuse." *The Future of Children: Sexual Abuse of Children*, 1994, volume 4, page 37.]

CyberTipline®

- Since its establishment in March 1998, the CyberTipline has received more than 1,226,000 reports involving the possession, manufacture, and distribution of child pornography, the online enticement of children for sex acts, child prostitution, child sex-tourism, child molestation (not in the family), unsolicited obscene material sent to a child, and misleading domain names.