

**2007**

**New York State  
Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse  
Annual Report**

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David A. Paterson  
Governor

Denise E. O'Donnell  
Commissioner

Issued April 15, 2008



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

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**2007**

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

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*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 2007 Annual Report of the activities of New York State's Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse.*

**Division of Criminal Justice Services  
Office of Criminal Justice Operations  
Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse  
4 Tower Place  
Albany, New York 12203**

*[www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us](http://www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us)  
[missingchildren@dcjs.state.ny.us](mailto:missingchildren@dcjs.state.ny.us)*

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# New York State Missing Children in 2007

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## 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 to 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 was also responsible for the development, implementation and coordination of Operation SAFE CHILD throughout New York State.

# New York State Missing Children in 2007

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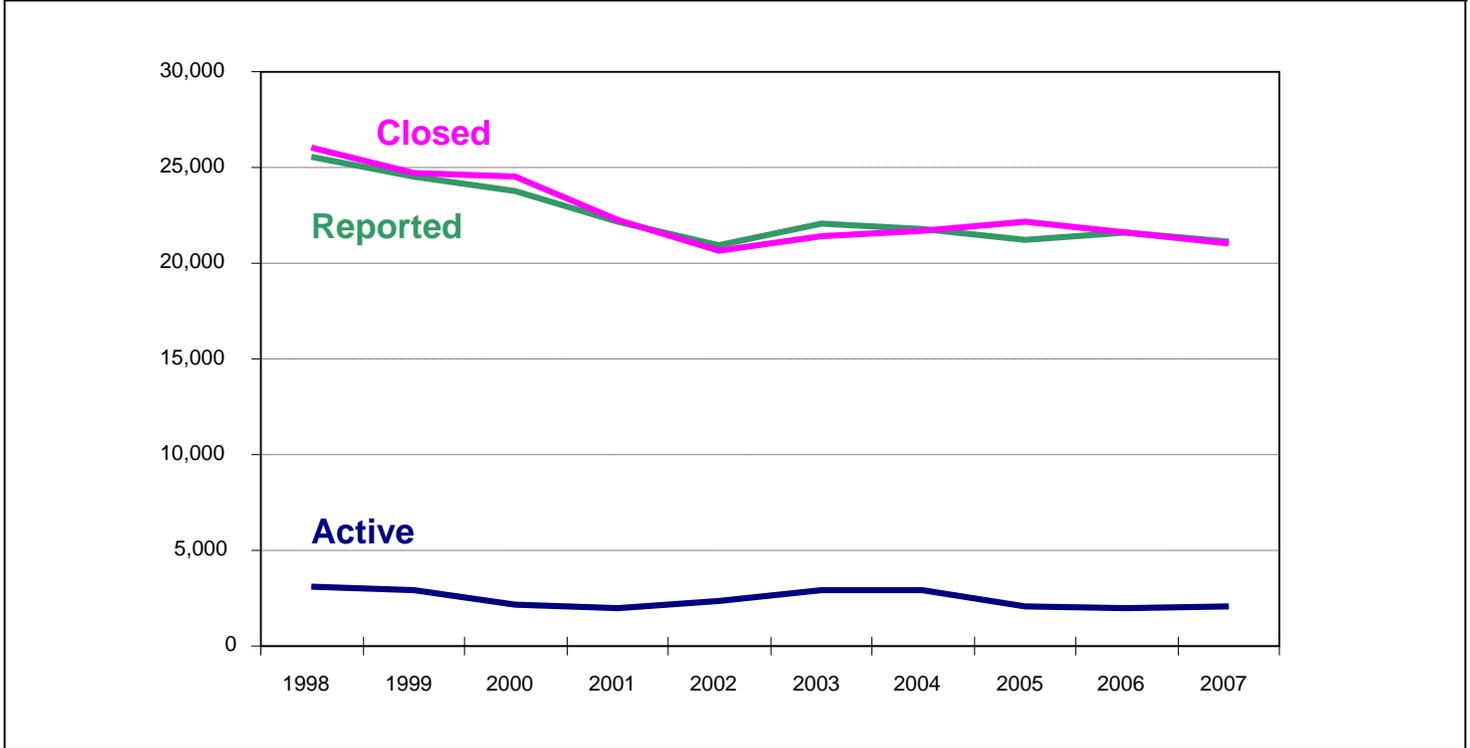
## Executive Summary

The following describes reporting activity on the New York State Missing Children Register during 2007:

- The Register received 21,100 reports of children missing from New York State, a decrease of 0.2 percent from the previous year. However, since fewer cases were cancelled during the year (20,999), there was a 5 percent increase in the number of cases active at the end of 2007 (2,102).
- Reports of missing children were concentrated in the State's largest urban areas. Suffolk County reported the highest volume of cases (1,794), followed by Westchester, Monroe, Erie, and Albany 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 22 counties reported an increase in cases during 2007 as compared to 2006.
- Two counties in the Capital District (Albany and Schenectady) were among those with the highest rates of case reporting in the State (18.0 and 17.4 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 4.6 missing children cases per 1,000 children in 2007.
- The overwhelming majority of missing children cases were reported as suspected runaways (91.5%). 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 was one report of a child abducted by a stranger in 2007; however, that case from Rockland County was ultimately determined to be unfounded. (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, 61 percent were female, and 48 percent were white. The single largest group of cases involved white females 13 years and older (29 % of cases reported).
- Forty-three percent of the 20,999 cases closed during 2007 were resolved by the child voluntarily returning home. Law enforcement efforts were involved in the return of 23 percent of the cases, and four 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 four days.

# New York State Missing Children in 2007

## ANNUAL REPORTING VOLUME: 1995-2007

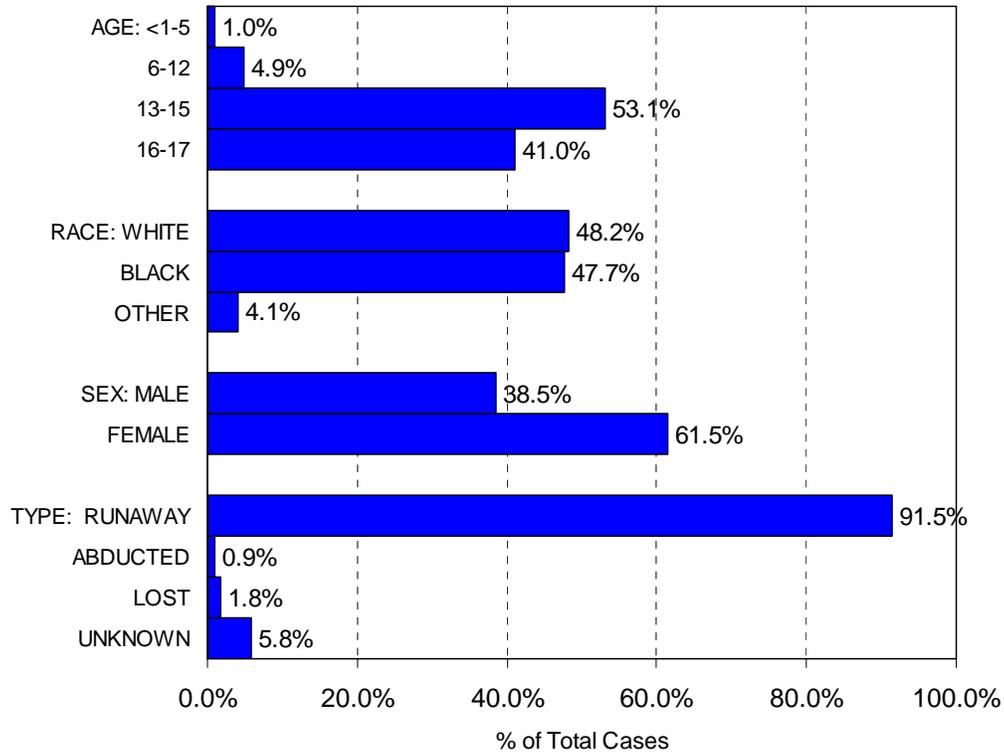


	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>NEW YORK STATE</b>										
Cases Reported	25,578	24,531	23,801	22,139	20,985	22,040	21,753	21,222	21,613	21,100
Cases Closed	26,012	24,755	24,562	22,273	20,654	21,431	21,745	22,139	21,646	20,999
Active End-of-Year	3,122	2,898	2,137	2,003	2,334	2,943	2,951	2,034	2,001	2,102
<b>NEW YORK CITY</b>										
Cases Reported	6,847	6,628	6,640	5,699	4,534	4,505	4,662	4,829	5,297	5,839
Cases Closed	7,393	6,718	7,220	5,916	4,219	4,041	4,590	5,808	5,346	5,826
Active End-of-Year	1,700	1,610	1,030	813	1,128	1,592	1,664	685	636	649
<b>SUBURBAN NEW YORK CITY</b>										
Cases Reported	6,574	6,342	5,989	5,597	5,916	6,312	5,779	5,353	5,400	4,806
Cases Closed	6,400	6,480	6,013	5,617	5,860	6,227	5,773	5,409	5,346	4,855
Active End-of-Year	684	546	522	502	558	643	649	593	647	598
<b>UPSTATE</b>										
Cases Reported	12,147	11,554	11,163	10,829	10,527	11,219	11,305	11,038	10,908	10,446
Cases Closed	12,208	11,554	11,321	10,732	10,566	11,153	11,372	10,921	10,947	10,311
Active End-of-Year	729	729	571	668	629	695	628	745	706	841

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

## New York State Missing Children in 2007

### CHARACTERISTICS OF CASES REPORTED

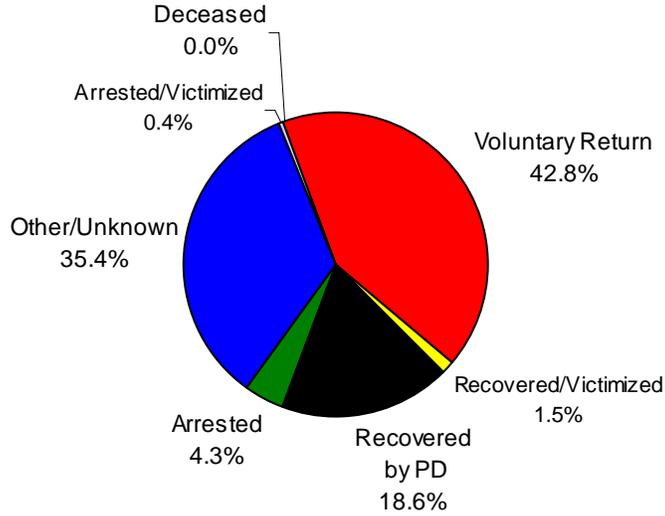


	TOTAL	AGE WHEN REPORTED MISSING				GENDER		RACE	
		< 1 - 5	6 - 12	13 - 15	16 - 17	Male	Female	White	Non-White
TOTAL	21,100	210	1,038	11,205	8,647	8,124	12,976	10,165	10,935
Runaway	19,306	1	837	10,337	8,131	7,380	11,926	9,255	10,051
Familial Abduction	161	120	30	7	4	71	90	65	96
Acquaintance Abduction	37	13	4	14	6	14	23	25	12
Stranger Abduction*	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Lost	379	12	46	201	120	175	204	239	140
Unknown	1,216	63	121	646	386	483	733	580	636

\* Note: While properly categorized as a stranger abduction initially, the investigating police agency determined that the initial report was incorrect. The child was located within a short period of time and the case was closed as a lost child incident.

# New York State Missing Children in 2007

## CHARACTERISTICS OF CASES CLOSED

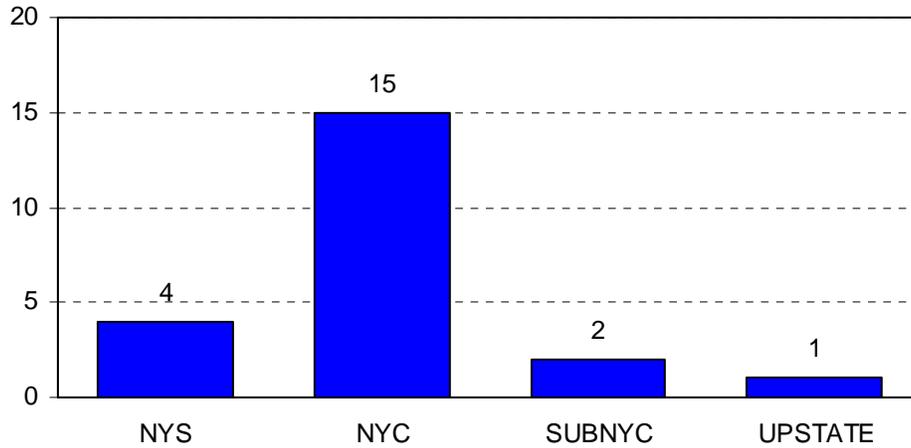


Circumstances of Recovery	TOTAL	AGE WHEN FOUND					GENDER		RACE	
		< 1 - 5	6 - 12	13 - 15	16 - 17	> 17	Male	Female	White	Non-White
TOTAL	20,999	188	996	10,730	8,770	315	8,095	12,904	10,153	10,846
Voluntary Return	8,260	40	356	4,365	3,436	63	3,215	5,045	4,271	3,989
Recovered by Law Enforcement	3,714	49	235	2,027	1,378	25	1,548	2,166	2,325	1,389
Recovered/Victimimized	276	12	20	141	101	2	120	156	168	108
Arrested	804	0	18	342	435	9	418	386	464	340
Arrested/Victimimized	86	0	0	27	56	3	39	47	56	30
Deceased	4	0	0	1	3	0	3	1	4	0
Other/Unknown	7,855	87	367	3,827	3,361	213	2,752	5,103	2,865	4,990

# New York State Missing Children in 2007

## LENGTH OF TIME ON THE REGISTER

*MEDIAN DAYS TO CANCELLATION  
(for Cases Closed During 2007)*



DAYS BETWEEN CASE ENTRY AND CANCELLATION FOR CASES REPORTED DURING 2007		
No. of Days	No. of Cases Closed	Cumulative Percent Closed
< 1	4,351	20.6
1	3,160	35.6
2	1,120	40.9
3	837	44.9
4	638	47.9
5	497	50.3
6	490	52.6
7	524	55.1
8	442	57.2
9	382	59.0
10	331	60.5
11	295	61.9
12	292	63.3
13	324	64.8
14	355	66.5
15	383	68.3
16 - 29	2,392	79.7
30 - 60	1,465	87.0
61 - 90	484	89.6
91 - 120	401	91.5
121 or more	600	93.7
Still Active	1,337	6.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21,100</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## New York State Missing Children in 2007

<b>REPORTING VOLUME BY COUNTY</b>																		
	<b>CASES REPORTED</b>									<b>CASES CLOSED</b>							<b>CASES ACTIVE</b>	
	Total	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Runaway	Acquaint. Abduction	Familial Abduction	Stranger Abduction	Lost	Unknown	Total	Voluntary Return	Returned by P.D.	Arrested	Victimized	Deceased	Other/unk.	End-of-Year Active Cases		
Albany	1,124	18.0	1,064	4	10	0	21	25	1,125	321	95	44	15	0	650	85		
Allegany	16	1.6	14	0	0	0	1	1	16	4	8	3	1	0	0	0		
Broome	327	7.9	297	0	1	0	6	23	340	161	134	13	3	0	29	12		
Cattaraugus	89	4.7	81	0	1	0	4	3	98	35	43	11	0	0	9	1		
Cayuga	143	8.0	127	1	0	0	12	3	143	51	79	5	0	0	8	4		
Chautauqua	229	7.7	217	2	1	0	6	3	229	96	97	17	12	0	7	13		
Chemung	350	17.5	349	0	0	0	1	0	351	190	111	33	0	0	17	24		
Chenango	22	1.9	17	0	0	0	3	2	23	8	12	0	2	0	1	0		
Clinton	41	2.5	39	0	0	0	1	1	41	14	21	4	0	0	2	0		
Columbia	69	5.0	58	0	1	0	8	2	74	13	41	14	2	0	4	1		
Cortland	36	3.4	26	0	0	0	5	5	35	12	14	7	1	0	1	3		
Delaware	43	4.7	41	0	0	0	0	2	42	15	21	3	0	0	3	3		
Dutchess	286	4.2	250	1	8	0	13	14	280	126	93	15	4	0	42	24		
Erie	1,136	5.3	1,062	0	6	0	16	52	1,029	127	131	49	17	0	705	267		
Essex	15	2.0	14	0	0	0	1	0	15	1	9	2	2	0	1	0		
Franklin	65	6.6	64	0	0	0	0	1	66	17	36	13	0	0	0	1		
Fulton	50	4.3	41	0	0	0	5	4	48	20	22	5	1	0	0	2		
Genesee	67	5.0	61	1	0	0	3	2	70	40	17	7	2	0	4	0		
Greene	18	1.8	15	0	0	0	1	2	20	1	11	5	1	0	2	0		
Hamilton	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Herkimer	32	2.4	27	0	0	0	1	4	31	11	11	3	2	0	4	1		
Jefferson	115	4.2	111	0	0	0	1	3	117	46	49	13	4	0	5	2		
Lewis	7	1.1	6	1	0	0	0	0	8	2	4	0	0	0	2	0		
Livingston	36	2.7	32	0	0	0	3	1	37	11	12	3	2	0	9	0		
Madison	38	2.6	35	0	0	0	1	2	40	19	14	3	1	0	3	1		
Monroe	1,375	7.8	1,350	1	4	0	2	18	1,343	336	205	47	9	0	746	142		
Montgomery	57	5.1	46	1	1	0	7	2	55	29	15	4	4	0	3	5		
Nassau	1,000	3.1	808	4	22	0	44	122	990	556	216	53	39	0	126	102		
New York City <sup>2</sup>	5,839	2.9	5,758	3	62	0	5	11	5,826	1,926	0	62	0	0	3,838	649		

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 1,000 children

<sup>2</sup> includes the counties of Bronx, Kings, New York and Richmond

## New York State Missing Children in 2007

<b>REPORTING VOLUME BY COUNTY</b>																	
	<b>CASES REPORTED</b>									<b>CASES CLOSED</b>							<b>CASES ACTIVE</b>
	Total	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Runaway	Acquaint. Abduction	Familial Abduction	Stranger Abduction	Lost	Unknown	Total	Voluntary Return	Returned by P.D.	Arrested	Victimized	Deceased	Other/unlk.	End-of-Year Active Cases	
Niagara	375	7.7	349	1	1	0	5	19	376	203	102	24	13	0	34	30	
Oneida	528	10.6	492	0	0	0	28	8	528	306	123	55	14	0	30	17	
Onondaga	676	6.1	158	1	2	0	1	514	686	282	355	25	7	1	16	27	
Ontario	108	4.7	94	0	1	0	11	2	109	43	41	11	5	0	9	0	
Orange	490	4.9	456	2	8	0	13	11	478	283	121	19	11	0	44	63	
Orleans	51	5.0	48	0	0	0	3	0	49	28	15	4	0	0	2	3	
Oswego	109	3.8	103	1	0	0	1	4	108	37	48	10	7	0	6	3	
Otsego	23	2.0	19	0	0	0	2	2	23	5	15	2	0	0	1	0	
Putnam	118	4.7	93	0	0	0	11	14	116	78	25	4	3	0	6	9	
Rensselaer	336	9.9	316	1	0	0	2	17	334	180	60	9	5	0	80	9	
Rockland	219	2.7	192	1	0	1	16	9	224	117	39	16	8	0	44	38	
St. Lawrence	99	4.3	93	0	0	0	1	5	99	34	36	16	8	0	5	1	
Saratoga	150	3.0	122	0	1	0	18	9	149	51	71	13	3	0	11	9	
Schenectady	586	17.4	553	0	1	0	26	6	579	248	68	34	0	0	229	47	
Schoharie	5	0.8	4	0	0	0	0	1	5	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	
Schuyler	6	1.5	2	0	0	0	2	2	6	1	3	0	1	0	1	0	
Seneca	11	1.5	8	0	0	0	2	1	11	2	6	1	1	0	1	0	
Steuben	73	3.2	56	1	0	0	4	12	73	37	20	4	0	3	9	0	
Suffolk	1,794	4.7	1,602	0	8	0	3	181	1,794	1,110	492	55	6	0	131	111	
Sullivan	72	4.4	67	1	0	0	3	1	73	32	25	8	4	0	4	1	
Tioga	27	2.3	24	0	0	0	2	1	27	10	9	2	1	0	5	1	
Tompkins	111	6.6	105	0	0	0	3	3	113	37	43	13	6	0	14	1	
Ulster	375	9.8	356	2	1	0	4	12	364	135	149	38	10	0	32	24	
Warren	70	5.3	54	0	1	0	14	1	70	37	25	5	0	0	3	0	
Washington	120	9.5	117	0	0	0	0	3	118	43	47	11	11	0	6	3	
Wayne	118	5.1	103	0	0	0	5	10	118	53	47	4	3	0	11	2	
Westchester	1,793	7.6	1,693	6	15	0	24	55	1,847	667	197	66	21	0	896	347	
Wyoming	12	1.4	10	0	0	0	1	1	12	6	3	0	1	0	2	0	
Yates	11	1.9	3	0	1	0	3	4	11	4	5	0	1	0	1	0	
Non-NYS Agencies	9	--	4	1	4	0	0	0	7	1	2	1	2	0	1	14	
<b>NYS Total</b>	<b>21,100</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>19,306</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>1,216</b>	<b>20,999</b>	<b>8,260</b>	<b>3,714</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7,855</b>	<b>2,102</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 1,000 children.

# New York State Missing Children in 2007

## The NYS DCJS Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse

Services provided by the NYS DCJS Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse (MECC), established by statute in 1987, 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.) 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,” information can be conveyed within minutes 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. (In recent years, at least eight 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 National Crime Information Center (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.



## New York State Missing Children in 2007

- 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 DCJS/MECC, New York State Police, 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, Alert subscribers and others within minutes. Information is also placed on the DCJS and NCMEC web sites. Unlike with 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 New York State Police whenever an AMBER Alert request has been rejected. MECC handles all responsibilities, including selection of activation regions and electronic dissemination of posters.



## New York State Missing Children in 2007

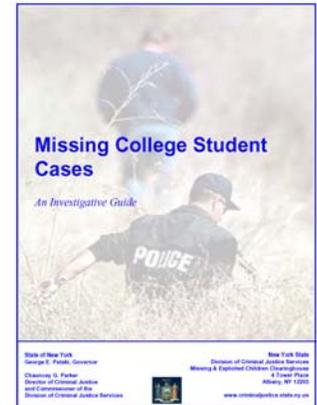
Missing Child Information Distribution Mechanisms	Case Type		
	Missing Child (No Alert)	Missing Child/College Student Alert	AMBER Alert
NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services Website	X	X	X
NYS AMBER Alert Website			X
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Website	X	X	X
Variable Message Signs: Thruway (50); Other Highways (360)			X
Alert Subscriber Lists: AMBER (3707)*; Missing Child/College Student Alert (3383)**		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 Bus Terminals (100)	X	X	X
AMTRAK Stations (13)	X	X	X
Airports/Transportation Safety Administration (9)	X	X	X
NYS/County Probation Agencies (59)	X	X	X
Hospitals (343)	X	X	X
Police Agencies - Local, State and Federal (1328)	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 (200)		X	X
NYS AMBER Alert Partner Agencies		X	X
NYS Lottery Terminal Message Boards - In-store (16,000)			X

### 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 through 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.
- 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 made at various professional conferences and at police training courses conducted throughout New York State.

## New York State Missing Children in 2007

- 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 child and Internet Safety web site content and has aggressively publicized it.
- MECC has an on-going community outreach program. This includes:
  - Developing, implementing and coordinating the Operation SAFE CHILD program.
  - Developing programs and presentations focusing on child safety, Internet Safety and missing/abducted child investigative training for law enforcement. During 2007, MECC developed and released a “Violent Video” presentation and DVD. Presentations have been widely distributed, are used in safety presentations made by MECC staff and are available on the DCJS web site.
  - Presenting child and Internet Safety programs to various groups across the state (children, Parent-Teacher Association meetings, professional conferences, community organization meetings). During 2007, MECC provided the following child 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	31	1,039
Internet Safety for Middle and High School Students	22	3,478
Internet Safety – A Teacher’s Guide to the Internet	4	282
Internet Safety (Train-the-Trainer)	3	110
Missing Person Investigations/AMBER Alert Training	12	424
AMBER and Missing Child/College Student Alert Training	3	49
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>5,382</b>

## New York State Missing Children in 2007



### Operation SAFE CHILD



Operation SAFE CHILD was launched to heighten awareness about child safety. Statistics show that one-third of parents in the United States do not know their child's exact height, weight and eye color. Parents/guardians can greatly assist law enforcement agencies in immediately responding to a child's disappearance by having this information readily available, along with a photograph. Operation SAFE CHILD 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 *DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert* programs.

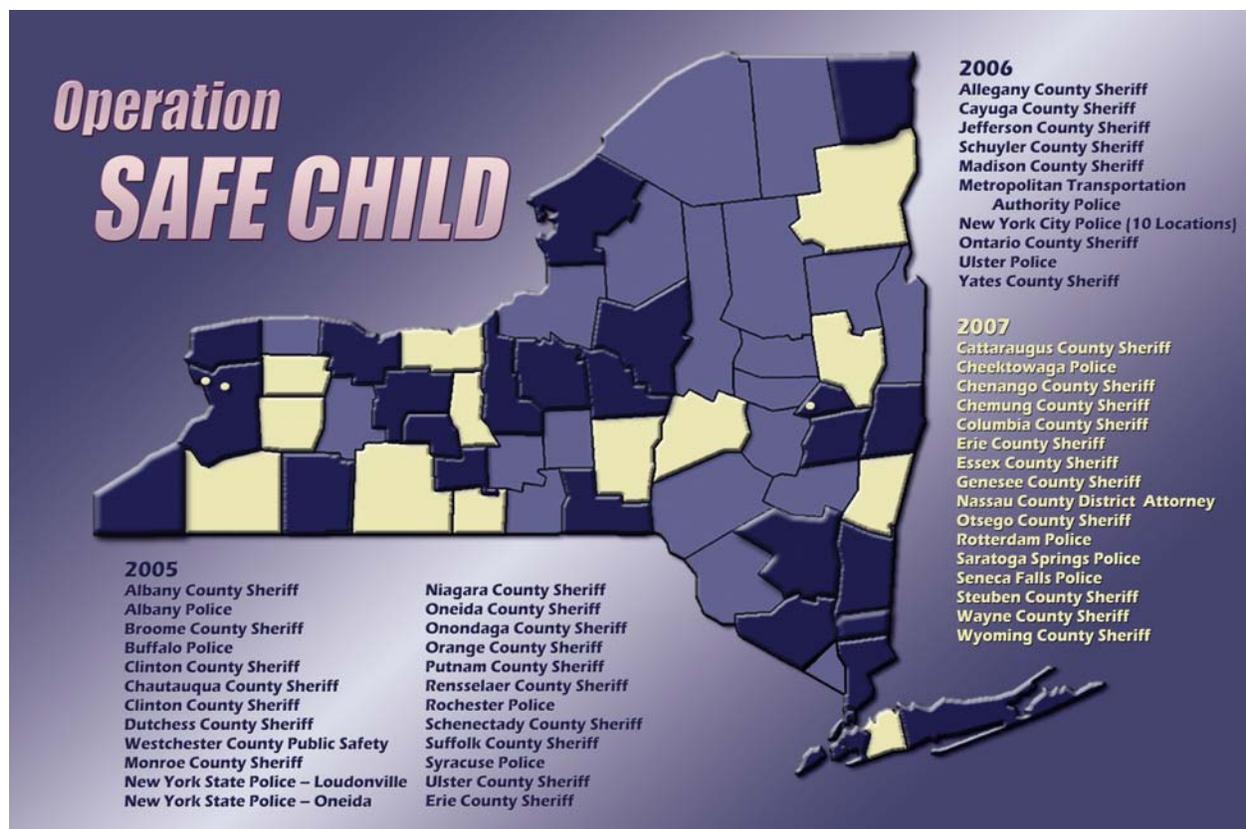
Through Operation SAFE CHILD, parents and care givers can obtain a free credit-card size card that contains a child's photograph, biographical information and two fingerprint impressions. The photograph, biographical data and fingerprints of a child are all captured using state-of-art digital fingerprinting 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 DCJS Operation SAFE CHILD program has established partnerships with 47 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 210,000 children have been processed through the program and over 92 percent of the parents chose to have DCJS store their child's data. During 2007, DCJS staffed 103 events throughout New York State, including the New York State Fair, and produced cards for over 11,586 children. In addition, the Operation SAFE CHILD partners produced cards for an additional 72,000 children.

During 2008, DCJS will be adding more new partners to the Operation SAFE CHILD program to help increase the awareness of child safety in New York State.

The 47 DCJS Operation SAFE CHILD partner agencies, using 58 units, are listed on the following page.

## New York State Missing Children in 2007



### Operation SAFE CHILD Partner Agencies

- Albany County Sheriff
- Albany Police - Albany County
- Allegany County Sheriff
- Broome County Sheriff
- Buffalo Police - Erie County
- Cattaraugus County Sheriff
- Cayuga County Sheriff
- Chautauqua County Sheriff
- Cheektowaga Town Police – Erie County
- Chemung County Sheriff
- Chenango County Sheriff
- Clinton County Sheriff
- Columbia County Sheriff
- Dutchess County Sheriff
- Erie County Sheriff (2 units)
- Essex County Sheriff
- Genesee County Sheriff
- Jefferson County Sheriff
- Madison County Sheriff
- Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police
- Monroe County Sheriff
- Nassau County District Attorney
- New York City Police (10 units)
- New York State Police (2 units)
- Niagara County Sheriff
- Oneida County Sheriff
- Onondaga County Sheriff
- Ontario County Sheriff
- Orange County Sheriff
- Otsego County Sheriff
- Putnam County Sheriff
- Rensselaer County Sheriff
- Rochester Police - Monroe County
- Rotterdam Police – Schenectady County
- Saratoga Springs Police – Saratoga County
- Schenectady County Sheriff
- Schuyler County Sheriff
- Seneca Falls Village Police – Seneca County
- Steuben County Sheriff
- Suffolk County Sheriff
- Syracuse Police - Onondaga County
- Ulster County Sheriff
- Ulster Town Police – Ulster County
- Wayne County Sheriff
- Westchester County Public Safety
- Wyoming County Sheriff
- Yates County Sheriff

## New York State Missing Children in 2007

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### **NYS AMBER and NYS DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alerts 2007**

During 2007, there were two AMBER Alerts and four DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alerts. As a result of the cooperation between law enforcement and DCJS, each of these cases resulted in the children being returned safely to their parent(s) or guardian.

#### *NYS AMBER Alerts (2)*

- On April 2, 2007, an *AMBER Alert* was issued on behalf of the North Tonawanda Police Department. This was based upon a “confirmed child abduction” involving a 4-year-old female who was taken from the grandmother by a 29-year-old family acquaintance who had a history of drug abuse. The Alert was broadcast to regions 1 and 2 and posted on the NYS AMBER Alert, NYSP, DCJS and NCMEC web sites. The child was returned by the abductor a few hours later and the Alert was canceled. After a high speed chase, the abductor was arrested for kidnapping and endangering the welfare of a child. The time from when the Alert was requested to the time the child was located was 2 hours.
- On October 19, 2007, an *AMBER Alert* was issued on behalf of the Yonkers Police Department. This was based upon a “confirmed child abduction” involving a 6-year-old male who was taken by his stepfather. The stepfather was also a suspect in the murder of the child’s mother. The Alert was broadcast to regions 11 and 12. The Alert was canceled after the abductor and child were located in a Bronx hospital after having been involved in an automobile accident. The time from when the Alert was requested to the time the child was located was 39 minutes.

#### *NYS DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alerts (4)*

- On January 9, 2007, a *DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert* was issued on behalf of the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office. An 11-year-old female and a 10-year-old female had last been seen on January 8<sup>th</sup> at a local convenience store getting into a car belonging to an unidentified male they had met via Internet chat, email and instant messaging. Information was distributed throughout eastern New York State and details were placed on the DCJS and NCMEC web sites. Due to investigative efforts by the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office and publicity generated by the Alert, both girls were located and reunited with their families in the afternoon of January 9<sup>th</sup>. The perpetrator was subsequently arrested and charged with several sex offenses. The time from when the Alert was requested to the time the children were located was 5 hours and 15 minutes.
- On April 16, 2007, a *DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert* was issued on behalf of the New York City Police Department. A 13-month-old male had been taken by the 29-year-old boyfriend of the child’s mother from a location in Brooklyn. The abductor was not the father of the child and made a statement that he may harm the child. All parties had been living in shelters. Staff prepared a poster and was awaiting photos when notification was received that the child and subject had been located. The time from when the Alert was requested to the time the child was located was 2 hours and 46 minutes.

## New York State Missing Children in 2007

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- On July 16, 2007, a *DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert* was issued on behalf of the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office. A 3-year-old female was taken by her father on July 11<sup>th</sup> after being denied custody of the child by the Onondaga County Family Court. The father allegedly had suicidal tendencies, had access to guns and was taking medication for depression. He also made a statement that "if he could not have his daughter, no one could". A statewide Alert was immediately issued. On July 18<sup>th</sup> it was confirmed that the child had been taken out of the country to London, England and the Alert was canceled. The child remains an active missing child case and the FBI is now assisting. The time from when the Alert was requested to the time the child was located in England was 48 hours.
- On October 29, 2007, a *DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert* was issued on behalf of the Kingston Police Department. A 16-year-old female was believed to be in the company of an unknown 20-25 year old male whom she met on *MySpace*. Further investigation by the Kingston Police Department revealed that the male had numerous photographs posted to his *MySpace* account that depicted him holding firearms and displaying what appeared to be gang signs. An Alert was issued for regions 9, 10 and 11. On October 31<sup>st</sup>, after further investigation by the Kingston Police Department revealed that the male had ties to Puerto Rico, MECC staff was able to confirm through the Puerto Rico Clearinghouse that the child was in Puerto Rico. Arrangements were made with the Puerto Rico Clearinghouse to transport the child to the airport for a direct flight back to New York to be reunited with her father. The time from when the Alert was requested to the time the child was located was 46 hours.