

## **National Missing Children Services 2003 Reference Report**

National Missing Children Services  
..... an integral part of Canada's National Police Services

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### **Acknowledgments**

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## **Introduction:**

National Missing Children Services (NMCS) is a National Police Services program located within Information and Identification Services. NMCS offers a variety of different services throughout Canada related to the safety of children. Although many services originate from NMCS, they are provided in concert with the many partners who play a key role in providing children with safe homes and safe communities. Often the work is tireless and sometimes less than rewarding, especially when a missing child cannot be located, or is the victim of foul play.

This report focuses on the analysis of information collected through the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) and by NMCS. The research component of NMCS is committed to providing law enforcement, as well as parents and children, with the tools and education to help avoid the abduction of children and to better locate children when they are reported missing.

## **Executive Summary:**

For eighteen years, National Missing Children Services (formerly the Missing Children Registry) has played a significant role in assisting police agencies with missing children investigations in Canada and internationally. Since 1988, 8,052 cases have been opened and 6,052 closed. As of April 2004, National Missing Children Services has an active caseload of 2,000. Fortunately, the majority of missing children reports are removed from CPIC within the first 24 hours.

In 2003, there were three stereotypical stranger abductions in Canada; those abductions were characterized by a kidnaping, by a stranger, or a person not known well to the child. Although this number of incidents is small, the results are frightening and tragic. NMCS played a significant role in some of these cases by providing investigative support, developing and posting child protection guidelines on the Internet, and informing the public, government and non government agencies of abduction incident and research findings. This information assisted police agencies in the search for the missing children and helped to put the national impact of these abductions in perspective. NMCS also coordinated the implementation of the Amber Alert search mechanism, an invaluable tool in the recovery of abducted children.

In 2003, there were 39 missing children reports entered in the kidnaping by Canadian police agencies. Although this number may seem high, it should be noted that the police definition of kidnaping is that the abductor is someone other than the parents, and could, therefore, be a family member or friend. When each kidnaping report was individually analyzed, it was found that only two or three children each year are victims of stereotypical abductions. These children are most often females of elementary school age and are abducted by someone known to the family.

Another significant category of missing children are those who are abducted by their parents. In 2003, 358 incidents were reported to police agencies across Canada, the lowest number since 1999. This number does not include those cases processed through the civil courts. NMCS assisted with 77 cases involving 113 children, 62 males and 51 females. An analysis of these cases indicates that mothers abducted their children more often than fathers. The Travel Reunification Program of NMCS assisted in the return of eight Canadian children to their home from both national and international locations.

As in previous years, runaway children comprise the majority of missing children reports. The 53,459 reports in 2003 represent the highest number since NMCS began in 1987. Although these numbers may appear disturbing, it is important to realize that this is the number of reports, not missing children. One child can generate as many as 20 reports yearly. Previous research findings on runaway transactions have shown that 75 % of the children have repeat or habitual running-away characteristics, however, 16,597 of these runaway reports involve children with *no* history of running away. More females than males were categorized as runaways. The continual increase in runaway children reports over the past 13 years is cause for concern.

International requests for assistance with missing children investigations continue to be an important part of the work of NMCS. In 2003, 494 investigations originated from other countries, 363 from the United States and 131 from other countries. International investigative assistance was more often requested in the search for abducting mothers than fathers, however, several recent international studies have shown that both fathers and mothers are equally likely to abduct. Since international law enforcement agencies must request assistance from NMCS, not all missing children may be represented by these numbers.

In 2003, the NMCS Research Officer produced a study on stranger abduction in Canada, available on the our missing children program website (<http://www.ourmissingchildren.ca>). Other research included studies on parental abduction, characteristics of runaway children, parents who kill their children, as well as guidelines on what to do if a child is missing, safety in cyberspace, and child protection "street proofing" guidelines.

NMCS is committed to supporting initiatives that will ensure the safety of children. The continuing cooperation of the partners in the our missing children program; RCMP, Canada Border Services Agency, Citizenship & Immigration Canada, Foreign Affairs Canada and the Department of Justice Canada; and of the not-for-profit agencies located at home and abroad, will greatly enhance efforts to find children quickly and return them home safely.

## **Data Collection**

The data used for this analysis originated from the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) system and the NMCS internal monitoring system. Each time a file is opened and closed, data is collected and scored. Weekly, monthly and yearly reports are produced for analytical purposes.

## **Canadian Statistics on Missing Children**

There are seven categories of missing children as defined within CPIC:

1. Stranger abduction: abduction by anyone other than by the subject's parent or guardian.
2. Parental abduction: abduction of a child by a parent or guardian.
3. Runaway children: children, 18 years and under who run away from home or substitute home care.
4. Accident: the probable cause for the disappearance is an accident of some kind and the body has not been recovered.
5. Wandered off: when it is presumed the child has wandered away in a confused state.
6. Unknown: the child is missing and the police agency has no previous record of the child running away or wandering off before.
7. Other: the child has not returned to a detention home or institution housing young offenders.

## **National Missing Children Services Database**

### Canadian Investigative Assistance:

In 2003, NMCS assisted in the investigation of 142 cases involving 191 children. Ontario and Quebec requested assistance most often; followed by British Columbia and Alberta. (Appendix 1 details the cases handled by province and category). Of the 191 children, 93 were males and 98 females. Police investigative assistance was provided more often for missing cases involving children four to eight years and 15 years of age. Girls were reported missing more often in the four to seven years of age range, and also at age 15 years, whereas boys were reported missing at ages 1, 4, 7 and 8 years. More police agencies requested assistance in the search for and recovery of missing 15 year-

old girls than they did the previous year.

Fifty-four percent of cases were classified as parental abductions, with mothers as abductors in 37% of cases, while fathers were the abductors in 17% of cases. Rarely (0.07%) were both parents involved in the abduction. Although these statistics are consistent with other years, other national and international research studies indicate that mothers and fathers abduct their children equally.

Seventeen percent of the cases were categorized as runaway children, 23% were classified as “other”(a *trace and locate* service provided to all law enforcement and searching agencies), 4% were classified as kidnaping (stranger abduction), and 2% were classified as “unknown” missing cases.

The number of cases handled by NMCS decreased by 34 from 2002 to 2003. This was mainly due to a decrease in the number of runaway cases, and the “trace and locate” requests handled by the Service. National statistics on the number of transactions of missing runaway children has been steadily increasing, however, this trend in assistance requests is not consistent with the rise in numbers of runaway cases reported to police.

#### United States Investigative Assistance

In 2003, 363 United States cases were referred to NMCS for investigative assistance. These requests increased from 275 cases in 2000, 359 cases in 2001 and 319 cases in 2003. In 2003, the majority of the cases originated from California, consistent with the previous year, followed by New York and Texas, which is different from the previous year.

Fifty-five percent of the United States cases were categorized as parental abduction, 25% as runaways, 13% as stranger abduction, 6% unknown, 1% other and 0.3% wandered off. Of the 200 cases of parental abduction handled by NMCS, 69% of cases involved mothers abducting their children, while fathers were involved in 25% of parental abductions.

#### International Law Enforcement Assistance (excluding the United States)

In 2003, NMCS assisted with 131 international cases, excluding those cases originating from the United States. This is a slight decrease from the 144 cases in 2002, 136 cases in 2001 and 143 cases in 2000. In 2003, the majority of these cases originated from Belgium, Mexico and Sweden.

Sixty-two percent of the international cases were categorized as parental abduction, an increase of 12% from 2002, and 15% were categorized as Unknown, a decrease of 5%

from the previous year. Mothers and fathers abducted their children in relatively equal numbers, however, over the last two years the number of abducting fathers has been slightly higher. International research studies reported that mothers and fathers were equally likely to abduct their children, although at different times: fathers where there was no custody order in place, and mothers after the court issued a formal custody decree. Research studies conducted by NMCS found that Canadian parents behaved similarly.

In 2003, NMCS assisted in the international search for 61 females and 51 males. This is a decrease from 2002 where international searches involved 101 females and 72 males. These children were in an age range cluster of 4 to 6 years, a finding somewhat different from 2002 (3 to 8 years).

### Canadian Police Information Centre System (CPIC)

CPIC entries are made by accredited police agencies in Canada. The CPIC system contains the only national database of missing persons. At any given point in time, there are approximately 1,500 missing children reports on CPIC. The number of CPIC transactions have remained fairly consistent over the past 10 years. In 2003, the total number of missing children transactions increased from 66,532 to 67,809. These reflect an increase in the number of runaway, wandered off, kidnaping, and the other category missing child reports, while parental abductions, unknown and accident category numbers decreased. The 2003 parental abductions reports are at their lowest since 1999 (See Appendix 2). The wandered off reports were at their highest level since 1996.

Missing children transactions or reports from CPIC are summarized below:

- 79% of missing children transactions involve runaway children, 18 years of age and under. This number increased from 52,390 in 2002 to 53,459 in 2003.
- Of the 67,809 transactions, 75% had repeat or habitual missing characteristics. This finding is consistent with other years. Only 24% of the missing reports had no previous history of missing.
- More females (58%) than males (42%) were reported missing. This finding is consistent with previous years.
- 24 females and 15 males were reported missing in the kidnaping and foul play categories (strangers, close friends and relatives). This is consistent with 2002 numbers, but a departure from 2001, where more males than females were reported missing.
- 184 females and 174 males were reported missing by parental abduction. In 2002, more males were abducted by their parents.



- 31,382 females and 22,077 males were reported missing in the runaway category. This is consistent with the previous three years.
- combining all categories of missing children reports, 66,397 transactions were removed from the CPIC system. 64% were removed within the first 24 hours and 87% were removed within a week. This is consistent with the findings of previous years. It should be noted that cases entered in previous years may be removed during subsequent years making it difficult to make any correlation between the removed and entered transactions.
- 80% of all categories of missing children cases are children ages 14 to 17 years, a finding consistent with last year's statistics.
- Children five years of age and under represent 0.8% of the total transactions. Under the age of 1 year, more males than females were reported missing.
- 34% of children and youth went missing from the family residence. Some children went missing from an arranged care facility such as child care (14%), foster home (21%), and institution/detention centre (22%). Less than 1% of reported incidents originated from a shopping mall, while on a vacation or from a place of work.
- law enforcement agencies reported that 16% of all missing children had an alcohol or drug addiction.
- the number of accident reports decreased by 17 reports from 2002 to 2003, that is 38 to 21 respectively.
- the number of unknown reports decreased by 2 reports from 2002 to 2003, that is 10,994 to 10,922 respectively.
- the other category numbers increased from 2002 to 2003 by 153 reports, that is 2052 to 2205 respectively.
- the wandered off numbers increased from 2002 to 2003 by 211 reports, 594 to 805 incidents. The majority of the 2003 wandered off entries (41%) were made by Alberta, with Edmonton Police Services entering 31%. In 2002, Alberta had 106 reports of children missing in the wandered off category but this number increased to 331 in 2003. Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia had increases in the wandered off reports as well, but not as pronounced as Alberta. The increase in Edmonton may be explained by the Edmonton Police Service practice of entering children missing from social service care in the CPIC wandered off category.

## **National Missing Children Services Programs**

In addition to its research services, NMCS also offers services to law enforcement agencies and families.

### **The Travel Reunification Program**

NMCS administers a Travel Reunification Program to assist parents who cannot afford to travel within Canada or abroad to reunite with their child and return them home. Air Canada and Via Rail provide free transportation or hospitality tickets to and from the child's location for a parent or guardian if certain criteria are met for the travel. NMCS does not reimburse parents who have made prior flight arrangements. All arrangements must be made through NMCS during its regular business hours, and may take a day or two to be activated.

In 2003, eight children were returned home using this program; four from within Canada (two females and two males) and four (two females and two males) from an international location. Two children were preschool age, two of elementary school age and the other four between 12 and 17 years of age.

### **Training Program**

National Missing Children Services provides law enforcement investigative training to national and international police agencies upon request. In 2003, eight training sessions were conducted for approximately 125 law enforcement personnel.

### **Internet Case Assistance**

In response to an investigator's request for assistance, an operational analyst may assist by:

- checking available data banks to gather information
- soliciting border, foreign affairs, immigration and justice services expertise;
- advising or acting on the information gathered;
- liaising with Interpol and the investigator in the country where the child is destined;
- advising the sexual exploitation unit if exploitation is anticipated;
- providing advice on avenues to conduct searches; and
- liaising with not-for-profit agencies as required.

From 2000 to 2003, NMCS assisted with the investigation of 15 Internet luring cases. Investigative assistance was provided to Canadian police agencies regarding four cases of Internet luring in 2003. These incidents involved mostly female youth between the

ages of 15 and 17 years.

### **Photo-Age Progression Service**

NMCS provides an age progression service for all Canadian law enforcement agencies and not-for-profit searching agencies. Certain criteria must be met to process a photo-age request, including that the child has to be missing for a minimum of two years. Both Canadian and United States forensic artists assist in the photo-age progression. In 2003, there were 8 requests for photo-age progression of a missing child.

### **Research Studies**

In 2003, the results of a Canadian stranger abduction and kidnaping study conducted in 2000 and 2001 were released. All 2000 and 2001 entries in the kidnaping category on CPIC, as well as cases entered on the NMCS database were analyzed.

Stranger abductions tend to be high profile cases. Although the numbers are low (only five were identified) it is important to try to determine any trends that could prevent these abductions or assist with timely investigations.

#### **Kidnaping Case Study Summary:**

- All cases involved female children ages 5, 5, 9, 10 and 10
- Four victims were white females and the fifth victim was a black female. The black female victim was found alive and unharmed, the four white female victims were found dead.
- All the murder victims were sexually assaulted and asphyxiated.
- Two victims were abducted from inside their home; one from the yard of the family home; one from the parking lot while playing near the family residence, and one while en route to school in a vehicle driven by a family acquaintance who was recently released from prison.
- Four of the children were living in parental separation or divorce situations, and one parent was single.
- The abductors were ages 16, 19, 20, 23 and 31 years; the latter four abductors were arrested for murder.
- Four abductors were male and one female (age 16, the child was recovered unharmed).
- One abductor was black, whereas the other four abductors were white.
- Four abductors were single, and one lived in a common-law relationship with the best friend of the victim's mother (child was found dead).
- Three abductors, ages 19, 20 and 31 years, had previous criminal records. One confessed to the murder of the child.
- Three abductors received life imprisonment for murder, one received open custody and probation (child unharmed), and the trial in another murder case

was pending at the time of the study.

The entire study is available on-line at <http://www.ourmissingchildren.ca>.

## **International Partnerships**

National Missing Children Services works closely with United States law enforcement agencies and the United States National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) in the search for, recovery and return of missing children. Ongoing liaison between the two countries has proven effective in finding missing children who may have journeyed across borders, either on their own, or as a result of a parental or stranger abduction.

NCMEC coordinates the efforts of law enforcement, social service agencies, elected officials, judges, prosecutors, educators, the public and private sectors in the United States in an effort to break the cycles that historically perpetuate crimes against children.

NCMEC operates a 24-hour, toll-free hotline 1-800-THE-LOST or 1-800-843-5678, available in Canada and the United States. Information on missing and exploited children can be reported via a CyberTipline at <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

## **The Amber Alert Program**

The America's Missing Broadcast Emergency Response (AMBER Alert) program is a voluntary partnership between law enforcement and broadcasters to activate an urgent bulletin when a serious child-abduction case is reported to police. The plan was originally developed in 1996 following a search for nine year-old Amber Hagerman. While riding her bicycle near her home, Amber was kidnaped and murdered. Following this incident, citizens designed a search plan that involved community resources and the media. By using television, radio and the electronic highway signs, an abductor may be located more quickly and expediently.

Amber Alert requires the following criteria to be met before law enforcement can initiate an alert:

- The child must be under 18 years of age;
- There must be confirmation that she/he has been abducted; and
- Police must have sufficient descriptors to make a search for the child possible - descriptors of the child, abductor, accomplices, the suspect's vehicle, etc.
- Most importantly, police must judge that the child is in *serious* danger - even in a life threatening situation - and be convinced the broadcast will help find the child.

Currently, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Quebec,

Manitoba, and Alberta, have implemented this plan. Other provinces and territories are planning to be operational in the near future.

For more information on the Amber Alert Plan, contact:  
Constable Marie-France Olivera, National Amber Alert Coordinator, NMCS.  
telephone (613) 993-8656 or e-mail: Marie-France.Olivera@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

## **The our missing children Program**



The our missing children (OMC) program is fundamental to the successful search for, recovery and return of a missing child to a searching parent. It is an investigative and collaboration mechanism designed to coordinate an investigation that is complex due to the involvement of several government agencies, and on occasion other countries. Five government departments and agencies, each with a unique contribution, work closely together: Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Canada Border Services Agency, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Foreign Affairs Canada, and the Department of Justice Canada.

### **Royal Canadian Mounted Police - National Missing Children Services**

The RCMP's NMCS is the only Canadian missing children clearinghouse for information and assistance to police, non-profit agencies and parents. It is also a national police service created to assist law enforcement agencies in the investigation, location and return of a missing child to their parent or legal guardian. The service is linked to all Canadian police and related agencies through CPIC, to United States police agencies through the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), and to most foreign police agencies in over 40 countries through Interpol.

The primary objective of NMCS is to locate, return and protect children. In 2003, NMCS assisted national and international police agencies with 636 investigations. Parental abduction incidents composed 56%, and runaway incidents 20% of investigations.

National Missing Children Services has a two-fold mandate.

#### **I. Operations :**

NMCS is an operational support unit assisting Canadian agencies with their investigations. It co-ordinates national and international investigations with law enforcement agencies by using its network of contacts. NMCS works cooperatively and collectively with municipal, regional, provincial and national law enforcement agencies as well as with other Canadian organizations.

## II. Research and Program Development:

Original studies are conducted to assist with investigations, to assist in the development of investigative response plans and to determine the nature and scope of missing children in Canada. A report on Canada's missing children is written and published yearly. The report is launched by a government official on Canada's National Missing Children's Day, May 25<sup>th</sup>.

In 2003, Dr. Marlene Dalley completed the first Canadian stranger abduction research study using data gathered from case by case analysis of police reports of missing children. This study is available on-line at <http://www.ourmissingchildren.ca>.

NMCS participates as a contributing partner at government and non-government meetings and forums related to issues involving abducted and runaway children and youth. This year NMCS participated in the development of the following: Canada's National Action Plan for Children; the Interdepartmental Committee on the Trafficking of Women and Girls (from both a national and international perspective); the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth committee; the International Child Abduction: Issues for Reform - Recommendation 13 Working Group; and forums targeted to Aboriginal children and the Youth Justice Act .

Additionally, prevention programs and publications are reviewed and evaluated. NMCS has researched and developed brochures and pamphlets, including What to Do If Your Child Is Missing?, Safety In Cyberspace, and Keeping Children Safe .

As requested, the Research and Development section responds to media inquiries for national statistical information, research findings and other resources on missing children and youth.

For more information regarding NMCS, please contact 1-877-318-3576 or view the website at <http://www.ourmissingchildren.ca>

### **Canada Border Services Agency**

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) places the highest level of priority on the safety and protection of children entering Canada. Their commitment to this objective is demonstrated through our use of internal resources and widespread efforts to work with national and international partners towards the same goal.

The CBSA ensures that Customs Officers located at points of entry to Canada are aware of our priority and trained how to handle situations involving abducted or runaway children. A national coordinator and eight regional representatives work to provide timely information and tools necessary to support the efforts of our officers. In cases where information is received by CBSA about a missing child or a suspected abductor,

the coordinators will issue lookouts and notify border points. Recoveries of children are reported and shared within CBSA and with partner organizations.

Beyond CBSA's internal efforts, bulletins, reports, newsletters and best practices are shared nationally and internationally. Ongoing efforts to work with not-for-profit missing children organizations and distribute posters of missing children will continue.

Since 1986, the CBSA has been actively searching for, and locating, missing children. As of December 31, 2003, 1,285 children have been recovered at the border and reunited with their parent or proper legal guardian. In 2003, customs and immigration officers recovered 101 missing children. At our borders, CBSA attaches high priority to the safety and protection of children.

### **Citizenship and Immigration Canada**

Since 1986, and as of December 31, 2003, Customs and Immigration officers have reunited 1,285 children with their parents or legal guardians. Immigration officers are fully alert to children who need protection and pay extra attention to children as they enter Canada.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada:

- coordinates the investigation of cases of missing children nationally and internationally in cooperation with our partners in the OMC program.
- maintains and analyses national and international data on the nature and scope of missing children.
- produces and distributes, both nationally and internationally, bulletins, reports, newsletters, resource materials and the findings of research studies concerning missing children.
- intercepts and recovers missing and abducted children crossing the Canadian border.
- provides the issuance of border lookouts at the request of law enforcement agencies if it is suspected that a child, and/or abductor, is crossing international borders.
- displays posters of missing children at all border points in Canada, in cooperation with Canada Border Services Agency.
- trains law enforcement and other agencies in the techniques of detecting missing children, child abductors and abducted children.

- provides advice and guidance to parents of abducted children on how to proceed if their child is missing.

### **Foreign Affairs Canada**

The Consular Affairs Bureau of Canada's Foreign Affairs became a partner of the OMC program in 1996. The Consular Affairs Bureau has brought valuable expertise to the OMC program by becoming actively involved in international child abduction cases through its network of more than 270 offices in over 180 countries.

The Consular Affairs Bureau has assisted with 539 international child abduction cases from Hague and non-Hague countries, and has been successful in concluding 380 of these cases since it joined the OMC program in 1996. In 2003 alone, the Consular Affairs Bureau received 69 new international child abduction cases, a slight increase in comparison to 2001 and 2002.

Foreign Affairs Canada:

- provides information, advice and guidance to Canadian missions in other countries on all issues associated with international child abductions, including the management of specific cases;
- coordinates the efforts and liaises with Canadian and foreign governments, organizations and agencies dealing with international child abduction issues for the successful resolution of specific cases, where appropriate;
- encourages and promotes the adherence of other countries to the Hague Convention;
- develops and promotes the use of other mechanisms, such as bilateral agreements, that would assist in the resolution of child abduction cases, where it is evident that a country is unable to adhere to the Hague Convention;
- acts as the point of contact on issues related to international child abductions for other parties when dealing with Foreign Affairs Canada;
- provides training, advice and guidance to departmental employees as well as to appropriate national or international agencies on international child abductions issues; and
- maintains a data base of all international child abduction cases and, as appropriate, produces reports for the other parties.



When a Canadian child is abducted to another country, the Consular Affairs Bureau provides 24 hour, 7 days a week assistance to the left-behind parent through Foreign Affairs Canada Operations Centre. Foreign Affairs (FA) works closely with the 270 Canadian government offices abroad who, working with the local authorities and/or other organizations, provide assistance in locating Canadian abducted children. Also, FA offers a broad range of services to the left-behind parent, such as confirming the entry of the abducted child into the foreign country, locating and visiting the abducted child and reporting on his or her welfare. FA assists in making arrangements for the reunification of a child with his parent in cases where the courts in the other country have either granted the Canadian parent custody and/or recognizes a Canadian custody order. FA can determine, with the Passport Office and/or foreign diplomatic or consular offices in Canada, what travel documentation may have been used by the abducted child, by providing information on the country where the child is being retained and including information on its legal system and family laws.

### **The Department of Justice Canada**

The Department of Justice Canada (DOJ), which joined the OMC program in 2001, has both an operational and a policy role on missing and abducted children's issues.

Part of the Department's operational role relates to *the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction*, which applies in all provinces and territories of Canada. The Convention aims to secure the prompt return of children removed to or retained in any country that is a Contracting State to the Convention, in breach of rights of custody. The Convention also promotes the peaceful enjoyment of rights of access.

In Canada, there is a Central Authority in every province and territory. Their duties include filing "outgoing" Hague applications regarding children who have been abducted out of Canada, and processing "incoming" applications regarding children who have been abducted into Canada.

There is also a Federal Central Authority, whose duties complement the work of the provincial and territorial Central Authorities. Those duties include liaison and coordination with provinces, territories, foreign authorities, other government departments and non-governmental groups on policy and work on individual cases, as well as public education and promotion of the Convention.

The Department of Justice is also responsible for seeking the extradition of persons sought for prosecution, or the imposition or enforcement of sentence. Requests for extradition are made to a foreign state at the request of the competent Attorney General when the person is sought for prosecution or imposition of sentence, or at the request of the competent correctional authority when the person is sought for the enforcement of sentence. The extradition process does not address the return of the missing or

abducted child. Rather, the purpose of seeking extradition is to return the alleged abductor to Canada to face trial or for the imposition or enforcement of sentence.

On the policy side, Family, Children and Youth Section of Justice has responsibilities for Canadian federal family law, including the parenting provisions of the *Divorce Act*.

In addition, the Department's Private International Law Team is responsible for negotiating private international law instruments dealing with family law including the *Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of Child Abduction* and related issues such as trans frontier access. The Team leads the consultations within Canadian preparation for Special Commissions to review the practical operation of the Hague Convention and advises DOJ on the interpretation of the Hague Convention.

\* Also see Department of Justice Canada link on the our missing children website: go to <http://www.ourmissingchildren.ca> and then follow links to: [www.canada.justice.gc.ca](http://www.canada.justice.gc.ca)

## Summary

In essence, the number of missing children reports have remained somewhat constant over the years. What is clear is that the majority of missing reports are runaway children who tend to runaway many times during the year. The number of kidnaping incidents involving stranger abductions in Canada have remained small, and each year, better mechanisms are being implemented to find these abducted children quickly before they are harmed. Parental abductions continue to occur but the number of incidents is the lowest since 1999. Some parents leave the country with their child which makes the search and recovery more difficult. Fortunately, abducting parents rarely harm their children, and collaborative efforts between the many jurisdictions involved are helping to return children to their custodial parent.

Internet luring is a rapidly rising way for children to become victims by Internet predators. The power of the Internet can lead children to explore sites that place them in a position of vulnerability and even danger. It is similar to placing a child in the middle of a large metropolitan city, leaving them alone without any supervision or instruction, and then hoping they will know how to survive. For this reason, law enforcement agencies and researchers have devoted considerable resources to protect children from Internet luring. They have a two-pronged approach; education for parents and children, and reducing opportunities for predators to use the Internet to lure children. This is an area that will continue to garner attention in the coming year.

Concern for the well-being of our children is the thread that allows the many organizations and agencies with a missing children mandate to work together more effectively. Canadians can be assured that law enforcement programs support the vigorous investigation of all types of missing children incidents. Together with the help of the many other partners, every effort will be made to find missing children quickly and return them home safely.

## CONTACTS

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# Appendix 1

## Missing Children by Province and Category

NMCS Canadian Profiles by Province and Sex 2003  
January 2003 to December 2003

### TOTAL CASES

PROFILE	YT	NWT	NVT	BC	AB	SN	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PEI	NL	t
Parental	0	0	0	12	5	0	1	42	14	0	2	1	0	77
mother	0	0	0	5	5	0	1	31	9	0	0	1	0	52
father	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	10	5	0	2	0	0	24
both	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Runaway	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	5	12	0	1	0	1	24
Other	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	21	4	1	1	0	0	33
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
Stranger	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>142</b>

### TOTAL CHILDREN

PROFILE	YT	NWT	NVT	BC	AB	SN	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PEI	NL	t
Parental	0	0	0	14	11	0	1	60	22	0	2	3	0	113
mother	0	0	0	6	11	0	1	45	14	0	0	3	0	80
father	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	14	8	0	2	0	0	32
both	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Runaway	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	5	12	0	1	0	1	24
Other	0	0	0	2	3	0	4	28	6	2	1	0	0	46
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
Stranger	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>191</b>

### Males

PROFILE	YT	NWT	NVT	BC	AB	SN	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PEI	NL	t
Parental	0	0	0	10	7	0	0	33	11	0	1	0	0	62
mother	0	0	0	3	7	0	0	23	6	0	0	0	0	39
father	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	10	5	0	1	0	0	23
both	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Runaway	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	5
Other	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	15	2	1	1	0	0	23
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Stranger	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>93</b>

### Females

PROFILE	YT	NWT	NVT	BC	AB	SN	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PEI	NL	t
Parental	0	0	0	4	4	0	1	27	11	0	1	3	0	51
mother	0	0	0	3	4	0	1	22	8	0	0	3	0	41
father	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	3	0	1	0	0	9
both	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Runaway	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	4	12	0	1	0	0	19
Other	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	13	4	1	0	0	0	23
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Stranger	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>98</b>

## Appendix 2

### Canadian Case Summary Of 2003 Missing Children Reports CPIC Transaction Reports For A Ten Year Period Frequency By Category By Year of Missing Children

Profile	Kidnap	PA	Run	Unknown	Acc	Wander	Other	Total
2003	39	358	53459	10922	21	805	2205	67809
2002	35	429	52390	10994	38	594	2052	66532
2001	48	387	53434	10364	49	742	1990	66994
2000	42	416	50633	10031	35	597	1958	63712
1999	52	358	47585	9884	38	496	1947	60360
1998	42	426	48388	10254	28	623	2326	62087
1997	60	426	45527	9404	37	506	2138	58098
1996	45	409	43717	9181	34	822	1914	56122
1995	68	354	43709	9039	35	720	1824	55749
1994	68	394	40140	8901	24	672	1774	51973
1993	61	407	43102	9959	26	543	1810	55908

1. **Kidnap**, kidnaping/stranger abduction ; **PA**, parental abduction; **Run**, runaways; **Acc**, accident; **Wander**, wandered off.  
Source: CPIC annual transaction report for 2003, M.L. Dalley

Key: increase = green  
decrease = yellow

## Appendix 3

### Frequency of Missing Children 2003 Cases Reported on CPIC by Category by Province

#### Females

Profile	YT	NWT	NVT	BC	AB	SN	MB	ON	PQ	NB	PEI	NS	NL	Totals
Kidnap	0	0	0	7	3	0	0	7	7	0	0	0	0	24
Accident	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	10
Wandered	0	0	0	52	169	10	82	92	15	0	2	0	0	422
Parental	0	0	0	27	20	7	5	79	39	1	3	3	0	184
Runaway	3	28	0	8956	6754	948	1972	9097	2932	272	23	238	159	31382
Unknown	3	4	0	1742	292	313	114	2754	578	30	4	46	12	5892
Other	0	0	0	329	52	14	15	577	189	3	4	7	3	1193
Total	6	32	0	11116	7293	1292	2188	12608	3762	306	36	294	174	39107

#### Males

Profile	YT	NWT	NVT	BC	AB	SN	MB	ON	PQ	NB	PEI	NS	NL	Totals
Kidnap	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	6	3	0	0	1	0	15
Accident	0	0	0	3	6	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	11
Wandered	0	1	0	48	162	10	51	84	20	2	0	5	0	383
Parental	0	0	0	36	20	2	7	69	39	0	0	0	1	174
Runaway	2	3	0	5278	5593	721	896	6034	3102	233	13	115	87	22077
Unknown	0	4	0	1666	218	238	87	2087	661	17	5	36	11	5030
Other	2	0	0	278	46	12	9	418	233	9	1	1	3	1012
Totals	4	8	0	7313	6046	983	1050	8698	4060	261	19	158	102	28702

#### Males and Females

Profile	YT	NWT	NVT	BC	AB	SN	MB	ON	PQ	NB	PEI	NS	NL	Totals
Kidnap	0	0	0	11	4	0	0	13	10	0	0	1	0	39
Accident	0	0	0	6	9	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	21
Wandered	0	1	0	100	331	20	133	176	35	2	2	5	0	805
Parental	0	0	0	63	40	9	12		78	1	3	3	1	358
Runaway	5	31	0	14234	12347	1669	2868	15131	6034	505	36	353	246	53459
Unknown	3	8	0	3408	510	551	201	4841	1239	47	9	82	23	10922
Other	2	0	0	607	98	26	24	995	422	12	5	8	6	2205
Totals	10	40	0	18429	13339	2275	3238	21306	7822	567	55	452	276	67809



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