



Our 2020 Impact

In 1984, John and Revé Walsh and other child advocates founded the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children as a private, non-profit organization to serve as the national clearinghouse and resource center for information about missing and exploited children.

During the last 37 years, our national toll-free hotline, 1-800-THE-LOST®, has received more than 5 million calls. We've circulated billions of photos of missing children. Our peer-support program, Team HOPE, has provided resources to more than 77,000 families. We've assisted law enforcement in the recovery of more than 355,000 missing children.

Hope is why we're here.

At NCMEC, hope drives us and fuels our promise to never stop. The threats our kids face are constantly evolving, and we work hard every day to identify those threats and figure out how to better protect children. And while the way we do our work is ever-evolving, our commitment to children will never falter.



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Here's a look at what we saw in 2020 and the impact we're making in the fight to protect children.



Find Missing Children

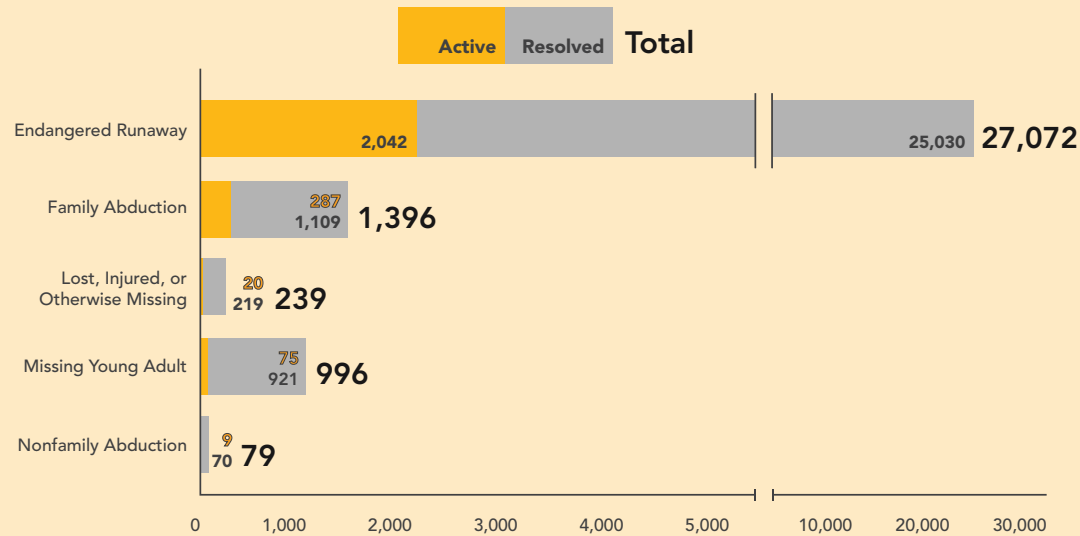
Unfortunately, since many children are never reported missing, there is no reliable way to determine the total number of children who are actually missing in the U.S.

When a child is reported missing to law enforcement, federal law requires that child be entered into the FBI's National Crime Information Center, also known as NCIC. According to the FBI, in 2020 there were 365,348 NCIC entries for missing children*. In 2019, the total number of missing children entries into NCIC was 421,394.

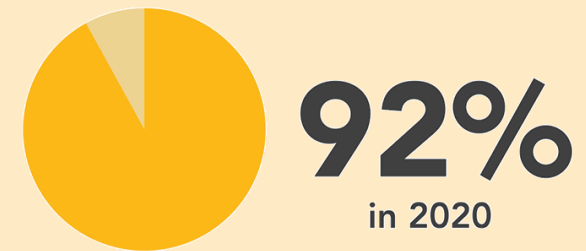
In 2020, NCMEC assisted law enforcement, families and child welfare with 29,782 cases of missing children.

*This number represents reports of missing children. That means if a child runs away multiple times in a year, each instance would be entered into NCIC separately and counted in the yearly total. Likewise, if an entry is withdrawn and amended or updated, that would also be reflected in the total.

Children Intaked at NCMEC Between 1/1/2020 and 12/31/2020
Organized by Case Type and Case Status



Overall recovery of
NCMEC cases



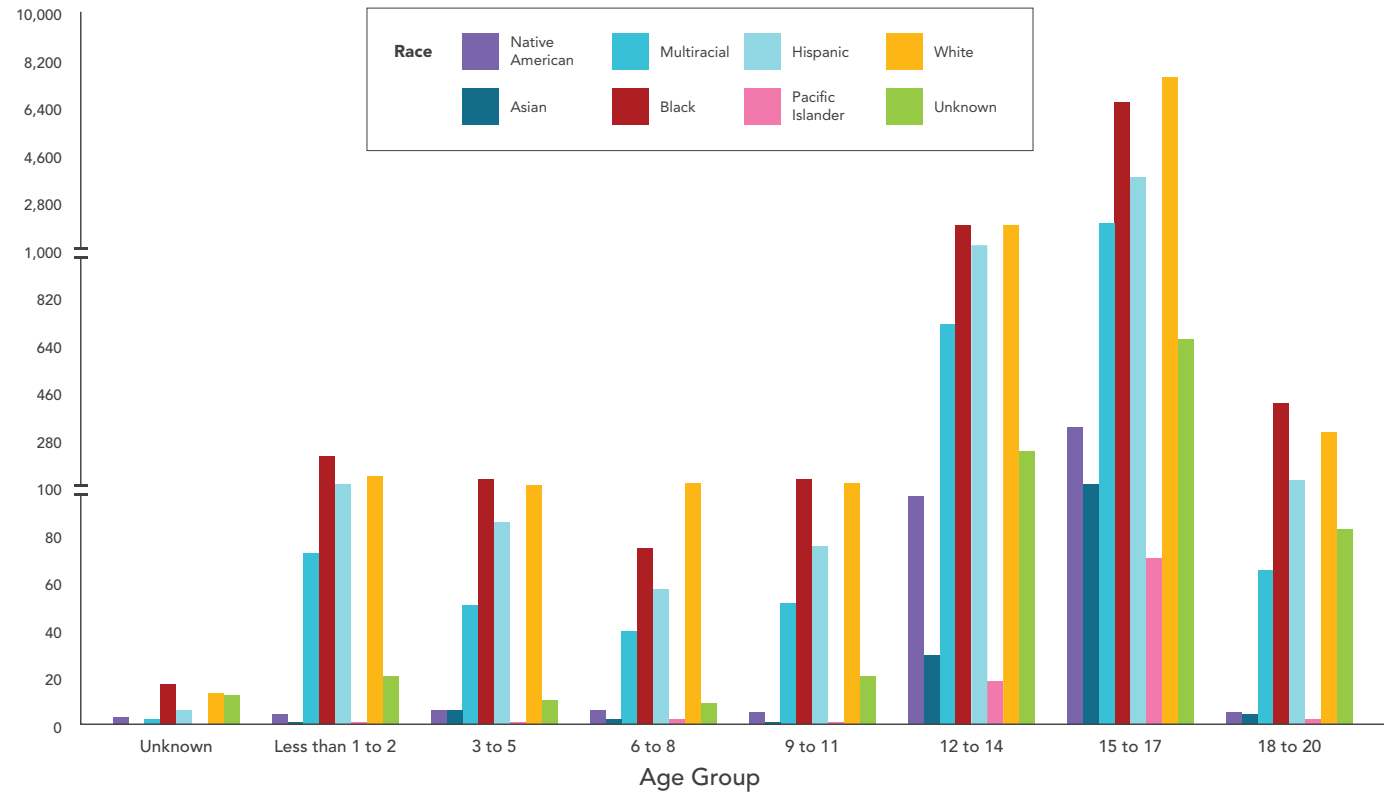
Case Type	Case Status		Total
	Active	Resolved	
Endangered Runaway	2,042	25,030	27,072
Family Abduction	287	1,109	1,396
Lost, Injured, or Otherwise Missing	20	219	239
Missing Young Adult	75	921	996
Nonfamily Abduction	9	70	79
Total	2,433	27,349	29,782

Children who run away make up a majority of the missing child cases reported to us. These children are highly vulnerable and face many risks including homelessness, gang involvement and child sex trafficking. Many children who run away are leaving from the care of social services. Federal legislation requires that state agencies report children missing from their care to both law enforcement and NCMEC. For more information about children missing from care, click [here](#).



Missing Children by Age and Race

Children Intaked at NCMEC Between 1/1/2020 and 12/31/2020
Organized by Child's Age Group and Race

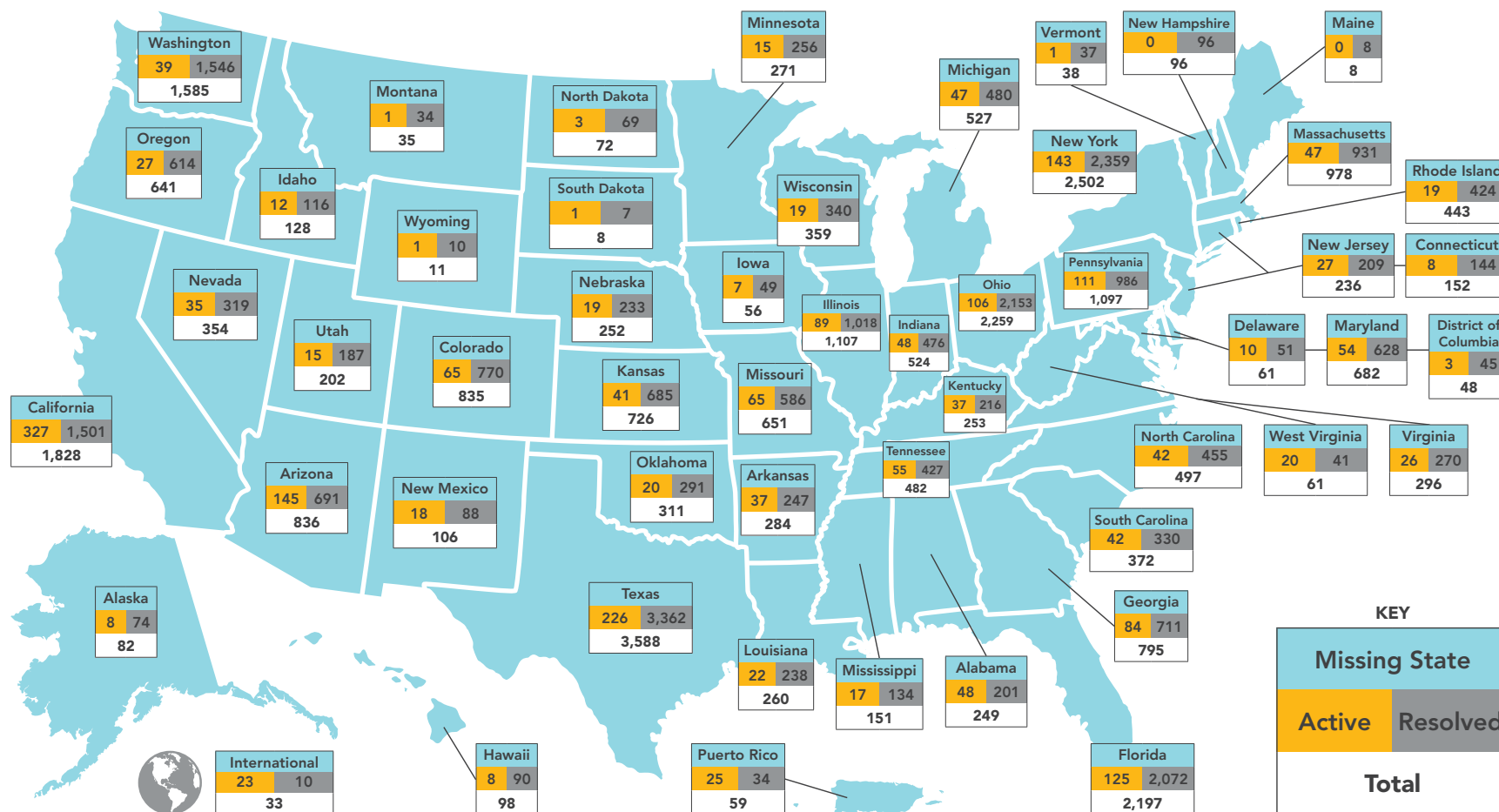


Age Group	Native American	Asian	Multiracial	Black	Hispanic	Pacific Islander	White	Unknown	Total
Unknown	3	0	2	17	6	0	13	12	53
Less than 1 to 2	4	1	72	215	109	1	139	20	561
3 to 5	6	6	50	128	85	1	105	10	391
6 to 8	6	2	39	74	57	2	112	9	301
9 to 11	5	1	51	127	75	1	114	20	394
12 to 14	96	29	716	1,928	1,155	18	1,923	234	6,099
15 to 17	326	108	1,989	6,574	3,735	70	7,521	658	20,981
18 to 20	5	4	65	416	123	2	305	82	1,002
Total	451	151	2,984	9,479	5,345	95	10,232	1,045	29,782

Missing Children by State

Missing children are reported to us by parents, guardians or law enforcement. With the exception of children missing from care, there is no mandatory reporting of missing children to NCMEC. Below is a breakdown of cases by state reported to NCMEC in 2020. This does not represent all missing children in every state. A large number of cases is not an indication of any issues within a state, but it is an indicator of active reporting of missing children within that state. For all children reported missing in your state, contact your [missing child clearinghouse](#).

Children Intaked at NCMEC Between 1/1/2020 and 12/31/2020
Organized by Missing State and Case Status



**Children Intaked at NCMEC Between 1/1/2020 and 12/31/2020
Organized by Missing State and Case Status**

Missing State	Case Status		Total
	Active	Resolved	
Alabama	48	201	249
Alaska	8	74	82
Arizona	145	691	836
Arkansas	37	247	284
California	327	1,501	1,828
Colorado	65	770	835
Connecticut	8	144	152
Delaware	10	51	61
District of Columbia	3	45	48
Florida	125	2,072	2,197
Georgia	84	711	795
Hawaii	8	90	98
Idaho	12	116	128
Illinois	89	1,018	1,107
Indiana	48	476	524
Iowa	7	49	56
Kansas	41	685	726
Kentucky	37	216	253
Louisiana	22	238	260
Maine	0	8	8
Maryland	54	628	682
Massachusetts	47	931	978
Michigan	47	480	527
Minnesota	15	256	271
Mississippi	17	134	151
Missouri	65	586	651
Montana	1	34	35

Missing State	Case Status		Total
	Active	Resolved	
Nebraska	19	233	252
Nevada	35	319	354
New Hampshire	0	96	96
New Jersey	27	209	236
New Mexico	18	88	106
New York	143	2,359	2,502
North Carolina	42	455	497
North Dakota	3	69	72
Ohio	106	2,153	2,259
Oklahoma	20	291	311
Oregon	27	614	641
Pennsylvania	111	986	1,097
Puerto Rico	25	34	59
Rhode Island	19	424	443
South Carolina	42	330	372
South Dakota	1	7	8
Tennessee	55	427	482
Texas	226	3,362	3,588
Utah	15	187	202
Vermont	1	37	38
Virginia	26	270	296
Washington	39	1,546	1,585
West Virginia	20	41	61
Wisconsin	19	340	359
Wyoming	1	10	11
International	23	10	33
Total	2,433	27,349	29,782

This is a one-year snapshot of 2020.

This does not include active cases from previous years where a child was still missing in 2020. This chart also includes recoveries in 2020 of children who were reported missing in previous years. A child that was reported missing on Dec. 31, 2020, would still be listed as active on this chart.

AMBER Alert

One of the first ways many people are introduced to NCMEC is through the AMBER Alert program. AMBER Alerts are activated by law enforcement in the most serious child-abduction cases.

We've been tasked by the U.S. Department of Justice to handle the secondary distribution of these alerts, which includes cell phones, social media, billboards and more.

Check out more about the AMBER Alert program and get answers to frequently asked questions [here](#).

1,053 children have been successfully recovered as a direct result of the AMBER Alert program as of Dec. 31, 2020.

Forensics

When a child has been missing for more than two years, a photograph may no longer show what that child looks like present day. NCMEC's specialized artists working on the forensic imaging team create age-progression images of children as they mature so the public has a more accurate representation of what that child may look like now.

In 2020, NCMEC's forensic artists age-progressed **195** long-term missing children; and more than **7,100** since the team began this work in 1989.



This team of artists also creates facial reconstructions for unidentified deceased children. They work closely with our case managers **who are helping law enforcement determine the child's identity**. Until we're able to give them their name back, we can give them their face.

In 2020, NCMEC's forensic artists created **49** facial reconstructions for unidentified deceased children; and more than **600** to date.

Overall, NCMEC has assisted in **167** identifications of unidentified deceased children.

Team Adam

Named in honor of Adam Walsh, Team Adam provides rapid, onsite assistance to law enforcement and families during critical cases involving missing children. They are retired law enforcement professionals with years of experience at the federal, state and local levels.

In 2020, Team Adam deployed to the scene of **29** cases of critically missing children; and has deployed more than **1,200** times since Team Adam began in 2003. And with COVID restrictions in place during 2020, Team Adam did virtual consultations on an additional **28** critical cases.

Team Adam consultants also assist law enforcement with long-term missing cases, bringing knowledge of landfill assessments, search and rescue, biometrics collection and the integration of all other available NCMEC resources.

Lead Development

As a private, non-profit organization NCMEC has a unique ability to engage in public-private partnerships to achieve our mission. Through the in-kind donation of data, technology, and other tools, specialized analysts develop information and leads to support the recovery of missing children.

In 2020, NCMEC responded to **4,234** requests for information to support the recovery of missing children.

Attempted Abductions

In order to better inform law enforcement, the public and our safety materials, NCMEC tracks and analyzes attempted child abductions and related incidents. Analyzing these crimes enables us to teach families how to better protect their children and provide law enforcement with tools that can help guard their communities.

In 2020, NCMEC tracked and analyzed **720** attempted abductions; and has analyzed a total of **18,335** attempted abductions since we began tracking in 2005.



Reduce Child Sexual Exploitation

NCMEC plays a vital role in the fight to reduce child sexual exploitation online. We've reviewed millions of images of child sexual abuse in an effort to find the child and help law enforcement rescue them from abusive situations. Every day, we work to disrupt the trading of child sexual abuse images and videos online and help survivors begin to rebuild their lives.

NCMEC operates the CyberTipline®, a national mechanism for the public and electronic service providers to report instances of suspected child sexual exploitation. Since its inception in 1998, the CyberTipline has received more than 96 million reports.

In 2020, the CyberTipline received more than 21.7 million reports, up from 16.9 million reports in 2019, most of which related to:

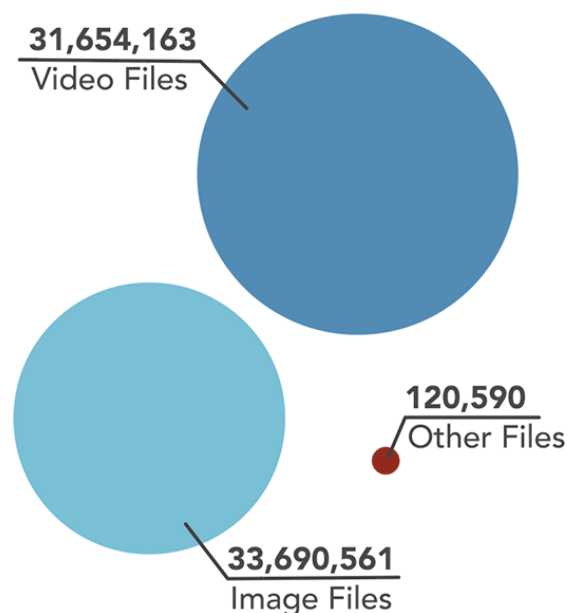
Apparent child sexual abuse material.

Online enticement, including "sextortion."

Child sex trafficking.

Child sexual molestation.

Reports to the CyberTipline included 65.4 million files.



303,299 of those reports from 2020 were from the public and 21.4 million were from electronic service providers. Reports of online sexual exploitation from the public more than doubled in 2020. For a full chart of the number of reports from ESPs in 2020, click [here](#).

Child Victim Identification

When law enforcement seizes child sexual abuse material (CSAM) in an investigation, they need to quickly figure out the identity of the children in the images and videos and determine if they are safe, or their abuse is ongoing.




NCMEC's Child Victim Identification Program (CVIP) serves as the nation's clearinghouse on identified child victims of CSAM. Files containing unidentified children are reviewed and analyzed for any information as to their potential location or who is responsible for their abuse. When this information can be determined, CVIP provides the analysis to the appropriate law enforcement, both domestic and international.

In addition, NCMEC's CVIP connects police who are investigating the collection of CSAM with the police who originally identified the child victim(s) depicted in the files so they can provide additional information to assist prosecution of CSAM collectors.

NCMEC also helps track the distribution of files of identified children. Many of these child victims, now adults, may choose to share their voices through victim impact statements at sentencing. Or they may want to receive notification from federal or state prosecutions of individuals who possessed or distributed images or videos of their abuse. These victims are eligible for restitution to cover medical expenses, therapy costs, lost wages and more. While NCMEC does not notify victims, we are a critical step in the process, alerting the agencies to the presence of a victim in a case and working with victims and their lawyers on the restitution process.

Since the program inception in 2002, CVIP has reviewed more than 330 million images and videos.

In 2020, NCMEC received more than 15 million images and videos from law enforcement to help determine if the children were previously identified or if they are unknown or new victims.

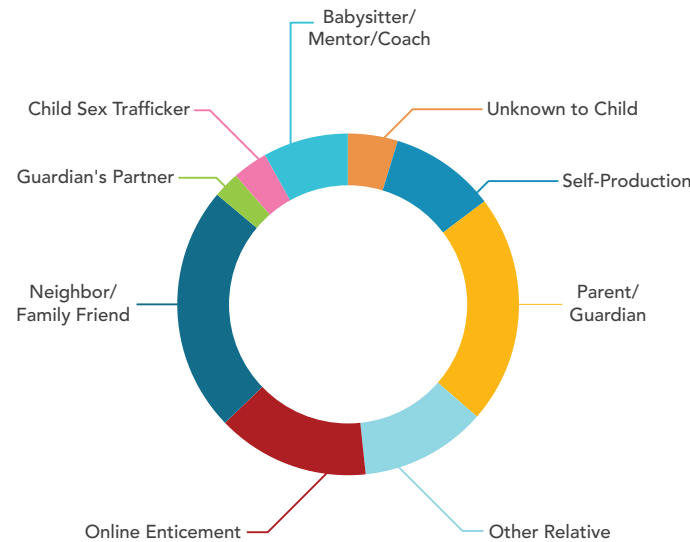
 Number of Requests by Agency	 Images Included	 Videos Included
US Federal Law Enforcement – 1,240	11,598,925	472,640
Local/State/ICAC – 1,852	3,368,659	215,203
Military – 113	90,501	8,702
International – 15	28	7
Grand Total – 3,220	15,058,113	696,552

Actively traded images and videos

NCMEC's Child Victim Identification Program serves as the U.S. clearinghouse for information on child sexual abuse material (CSAM) and has enrolled cases of more than 19,000 identified children in the program.

Of those, 2,141 are considered "actively traded," meaning the child's images or videos have been seen in multiple reports to NCMEC.

Relationship of offender to child in actively traded images and videos



Gender

Male

36%

Female

64%

Age

Infant/Toddler

9%

Prepubescent

60%

Pubescent

31%

Type of Relationship	Parent/Guardian	Other Relative	Neighbor/Family Friend	Babysitter/Mentor/Coach	Guardian's Partner	Online Enticement	Self-Production	Child Sex Trafficker	Unknown to Child
# of Known Relationships	499	275	533	181	56	333	230	80	112
% of Total Victim Relationships	21.71%	11.96%	23.18%	7.87%	2.44%	14.48%	10.00%	3.48%	4.87%

Due to the permanency of the imagery, CSAM can cause continual victimization to survivors, even decades after the sexual abuse ends. That's why NCMEC works to help CSAM survivors and their families by connecting them with mental health and legal professionals as well as peer support networks to assist in their recovery. In addition, NCMEC facilitates the sending of alerts to tech companies who are inadvertently hosting CSAM on their platforms.

Child Sex Trafficking

Child sex trafficking is a crime that is happening everywhere. NCMEC has received reports from all 50 U.S. states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico and in every type of community: suburban, rural, urban and tribal lands. There's no one version of what child sex trafficking looks like. We've seen children victimized while living at home, trafficked by a pimp or even family members. Children who have run away are disproportionately targeted by traffickers and buyers, who prey upon vulnerabilities and a child's need for basic resources like food and a place to live.

In 2020, NCMEC responded to more than **17,000** reports regarding possible child sex trafficking.

Of the more than **26,500** cases of children reported missing to NCMEC in 2020 who had run away, **1 in 6** were likely victims of child sex trafficking

Survivors of child sex trafficking have experienced significant trauma. That's why NCMEC works to support families and child welfare workers in preparing for the recovery of their missing child. Ensuring survivors of child sex trafficking receive trauma-informed response and specialized services immediately upon recovery is crucial to their support and healing.

Sex Offender Tracking

NCMEC's Sex Offender Tracking Team assists law enforcement in their efforts to locate noncompliant sex offenders. The team also works to link information about noncompliant sex offenders to unresolved cases of missing and sexually exploited children known to NCMEC.

In 2020, NCMEC assisted with more than **13,740** requests to help locate noncompliant sex offenders. Of those, feedback indicates that **6,764** noncompliant sex offenders were subsequently located/arrested.



Prevent Victimization

NCMEC is unique in that we receive millions of reports each year about missing and exploited children through our hotline, 1-800-THE-LOST, and our CyberTipline. This data allows NCMEC to identify trends first-hand and create prevention resources to address the evolving needs of children both online and in the real world. All our resources are free, age-appropriate and designed for many audiences, including children, parents and educators.

“Have used Netsmartz for years! Love it and the kids love it!”

– Elementary school technology teacher

“I really like this program. Students respond well and the info is current.”

– Elementary school librarian

Prevention Programs

NCMEC provides safety and prevention resources for families and child-serving professionals focusing on the topics of online and real-world safety, including skills on how to handle a variety of situations ranging from staying home alone to knowing what to do in case of an emergency, to abduction and child sexual exploitation prevention.

Our prevention resources have been viewed in all **50 states** and more than **180 countries**.

The logo for NetSmartz, featuring the word "NetSmartz" in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font with a registered trademark symbol.

Training

We also know that when a child goes missing or is sexually exploited, a law enforcement agency that is trained in these issues will be better prepared and will hopefully see a better outcome. NCMEC has trained law enforcement and other professionals who work in all 50 states and 33 countries.

NCMEC has trained more than **382,000 law enforcement, criminal/juvenile justice and healthcare professionals**.

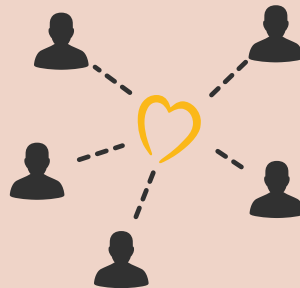
We know it takes everyone working together to keep kids safe. That's why we launched our new online training platform, NCMEC CONNECT. This platform is your virtual gateway to on-demand trainings, virtual discussions and resources about online child safety, prevention and how you can better protect the children in your community.

NCMEC CONNECT has over **9,500** active users.

Public Engagement



At the end of 2020, total social media followers for NCMEC (@MissingKids) had grown to **1.3 million** across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and TikTok.



In 2020, our social media properties' average monthly reach was over **15 million** people.



MissingKids.org had **11.7 million** visitors in 2020.

We want to thank the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, our corporate partners, individual donors and everyone who has contributed resources and funds to support NCMEC's mission to find missing children, reduce child sexual exploitation and prevent victimization. **We couldn't do our vital work without all of you.**



We will #NEVERSTOP protecting children.

MissingKids.org/Impact

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