

# **Family Abductions**

# Fast Facts

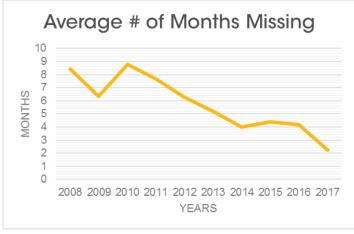
## **CHILDREN**

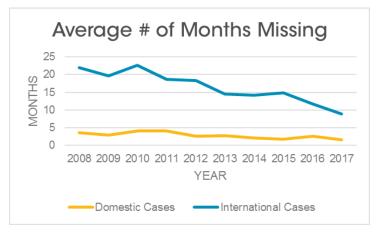
# **Overall**

- Between 2008 and 2017 there were 11,581 children who were abducted by a parent or family member
- ♣ 5.1% of these cases remain active
- 25.9% of these cases had an international component
- Family abductions occurred more frequently when the children were younger. Almost two thirds (65.9%) involved children between the ages of 0 and 6 years.
- Summer (June, July, August) was the most common season for family abductions (32.2%).
- August was the peak month for family abductions (11.1% of all cases)
- 33.6% of all children were recovered by police investigation
- 4 29.7% were turned in by a family member or friend
- Children had an average missing duration of 6 months
- In 2008 children had an average missing duration of 8 months. By 2017 they had an average missing duration of 2 months
- ♣ Nearly all children were recovered alive (99.7%)
- Forty-seven children (0.3%) were recovered deceased. 87.1% of these children were homicide victims
- Deceased children had an average missing duration of 3 months

# **Domestic Versus International**

- ♣ Between 2008 and 2017 there were 4,213 cases with an international component
- 4 14.4% of international cases remain unresolved
- These cases had an average missing duration of 18 months
- In 2008 international cases had an average missing duration of nearly 2 years (22 months), but by 2017 they had an average missing duration of 9 months
- A plurality of international family abductions ended in recovery due to a friend or family member turning the child in (25.6%)





#### **ABDUCTORS**

#### **Overall**

- ♣ A majority of abductors were the parent of the child (90.3%)
- Mothers were the most common abductor of the child (53.9%)
- Fathers were the abductor in 36.0% of these cases
- Abductors had an average age of 33 years

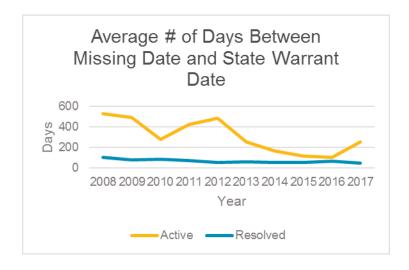
#### **RESPONSE TO FAMILY ABDUCTIONS**

### National Crime Information Center (NCIC)

- Federal law (34 U.S. Code § 41308) ensures no waiting period before law enforcement can accept a missing child report and requires law enforcement to enter a missing child into NCIC within two hours of receiving the report
- 4 69.2% of children abducted by family members were entered into the NCIC
- 40.8% were added to NCIC within a week following abduction date
- There was an average duration of 83 days between missing date and entry into NCIC
- Domestic cases had an average duration of 2 months after the initial abduction before the child was entered into NCIC
- International cases had an average duration of 8 months after the initial abduction before the child was entered into NCIC
- A longer time period before entering the child into NCIC corresponded to a longer missing duration
- Law enforcement may be unable to enter a child into NCIC for a variety of reasons. These specifics are not available to NCMEC on a case-by-case basis.

#### **State Arrest Warrants**

- Between 2008 and 2017 there were 2,909 abductors who had state arrest warrants issued against them
- 24.7% of all family abductors had a state warrant issued against them
- 26.8% of these warrants were issued within 48 hours
- 84 days was the average time between abduction and the issuing of a state warrant
- A longer time period before issuing a state warrant corresponded to a longer missing duration
- 2 months was the average time between abduction and issuing of a state warrant in resolved cases
- 10 months was the average time between abduction and issuing of a warrant in an active case



#### **AMBER Alerts**

- Between 2008 and 2017 there were 1,311 children who were abducted by a family member with circumstances that triggered an AMBER Alert
- These children had an average age of 4 years
- ♣ There were 948 abductors involved in these cases
- ♣ A majority if these abductors were the child's father (56.2%)
- AMBER Alert cases had an average duration of 23 hours between the missing date and the time an AMBER Alert was activated
- 4 A longer time period before activating the AMBER Alert corresponded to a longer missing duration of the child
- The majority (88.7%) of family-abducted children involved in AMBER Alerts were recovered within 72 hours
- Nearly all family abduction AMBER Alert cases have been resolved (99.4%).
- 21 children involved in family abductions where an AMBER Alert was issued, were recovered deceased
- ♣ A majority of the family abductors of deceased AMBER Alert children were male (80.0%)
- A majority (71.4%) of these children were killed in an apparent murder-suicide