

# STATE OF NEW YORK

**David A. Paterson**  
Governor

**Denise E. O'Donnell**  
Deputy Secretary  
for Public Safety and  
Commissioner, DCJS



**NEW YORK STATE  
MISSING &  
EXPLOITED  
CHILDREN  
CLEARINGHOUSE**

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

Office of Criminal Justice Operations  
Missing and Exploited  
Children Clearinghouse  
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Albany, New York 12203

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# New York State Missing Children in 2008

## Introduction

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 2008 Annual Report of the activities of the New York State Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse.

The NYS Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse (MECC) was established within the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) in 1987. MECC operates in accordance with §§ 837-e, 837-f and 838 of the Executive Law, and Part 6055 of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations (NYCRR.) Pursuant to the “Campus Safety Act of 1999,” MECC also is responsible for providing assistance in cases involving missing college students.

Services provided by MECC include: providing investigative support services to law enforcement agencies in connection with missing child cases; providing assistance to the family members of missing children; delivering community education programs to heighten awareness of missing child and exploited child issues, and reducing the incidence of missing child cases. Highly-trained MECC staff work in close association with law enforcement agencies, as well as the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and other state clearinghouses, 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 child safety literature and deliver 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 New York State AMBER Alert Program. 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 also was responsible for the development, implementation and coordination of Operation SAFE CHILD throughout New York State.

## Major Findings 2008

- The number of children reported missing in New York State dropped by 3% to 20,414.
- As in previous years, the number of children listed as runaways exceeded 90%, accounting for 18,848 disappearances (92.3 %).
- Only one stranger abduction case was reported.
- Twenty-nine acquaintance abduction and 149 familial abduction cases were reported.
- Four AMBER Alert and six DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert activations occurred. With the exception of one unresolved disappearance, all Alerts involved children who were returned safely.
- DCJS Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse staff made presentations at 104 events to 12,209 attendees.
- DCJS expanded its Operation SAFE CHILD partnerships to 59 law enforcement agencies across New York State.

Office of Criminal Justice Operations

Deputy Commissioner  
Daniel M. Foro

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# New York State Missing Children in 2008

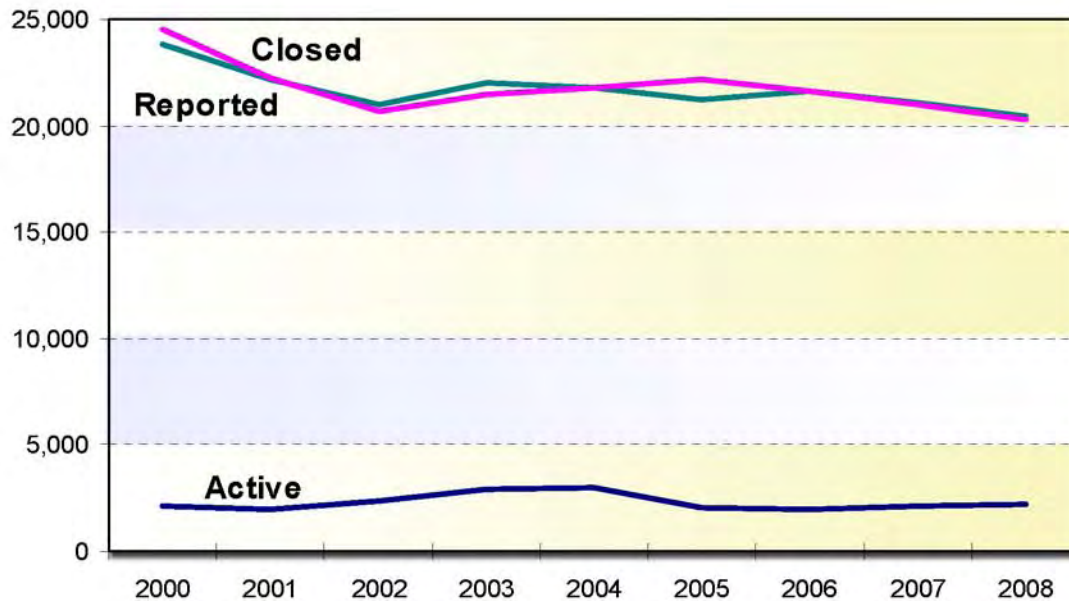
## Executive Summary

- The Register received 20,414 reports of children missing from New York State, a decrease of 3 percent from the previous year. Fewer cases were cancelled during the year (20,283), however, resulting in a 6 percent increase in the number of cases active at the end of 2008 (2,234).
- Nearly all missing children cases were reported as suspected runaways (92.3 percent). Abduction cases accounted for approximately 1 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 2008 from Westchester County. *(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).*
- Every county in the State reported at least one missing child during the year and 21 counties reported an increase in cases during 2008 as compared to 2007. Reports of missing children were concentrated in the State’s largest urban areas. Westchester County reported the highest volume of cases (2,088) followed by Suffolk, Erie, Monroe, and Albany counties. *(Note: The counties of New York City report one total for the City and not separately to the Register).*
- Controlling for the under age 18 population by county, two counties in the Capital District (Schenectady and Albany) were among those with the highest rates of case reporting in the State (21.1 and 16.3 per 1,000 children, respectively). These counties reported unusually large numbers of repeat cases involving children who ran away from group homes or other facilities. The statewide rate of reporting was 4.4 missing children cases per 1,000 children in 2008.
- Ninety-four percent of the children reported missing were age 13 or older, 60 percent were female, and 47 percent were white. The single largest group of cases involved white females 13 years and older (27 percent of cases reported).
- Approximately 31 percent of the 20,283 cases closed during 2008 were resolved by the child voluntarily returning home. Law enforcement efforts were involved in the return of 23 percent of the cases, and six 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 2008

## Annual Reporting Volume: 2000-2008

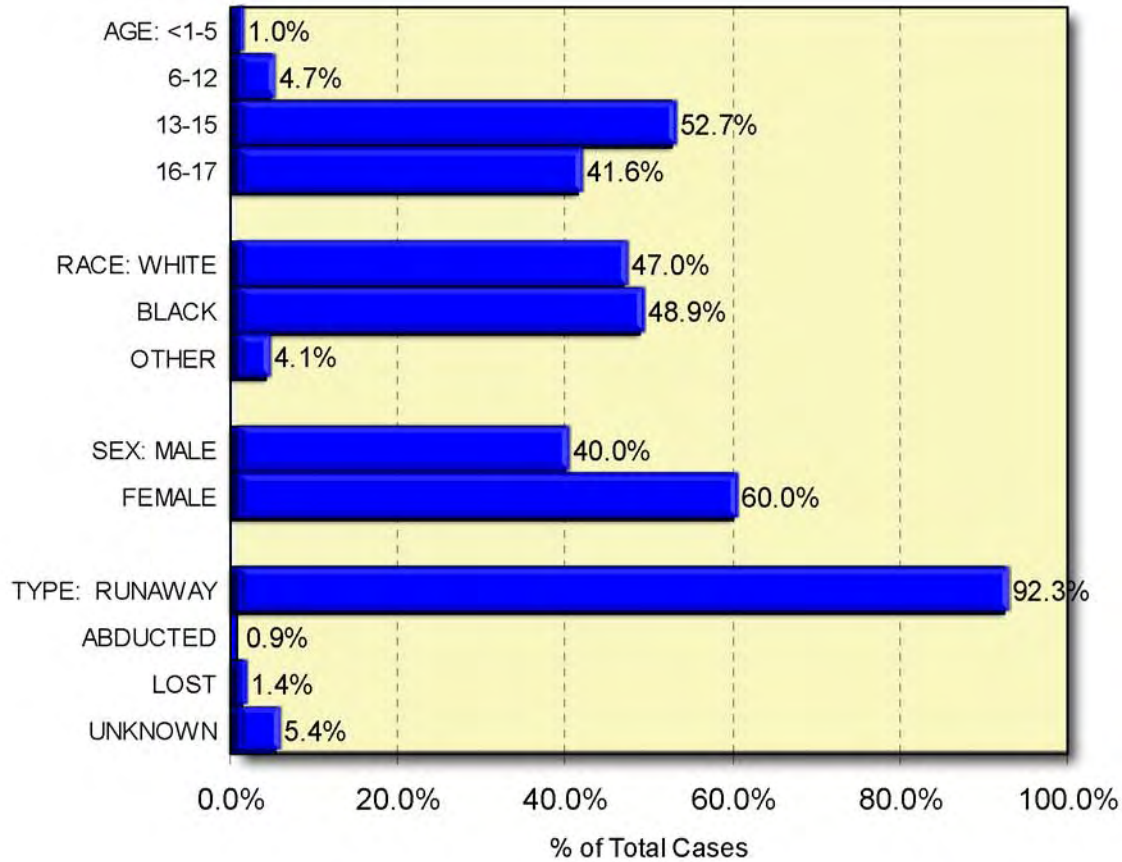


	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>NEW YORK STATE</b>									
Cases Reported	23,801	22,139	20,985	22,040	21,753	21,222	21,613	21,100	20,414
Cases Closed	24,562	22,273	20,654	21,431	21,745	22,139	21,646	20,999	20,283
Active End-of-Year	2,137	2,003	2,334	2,943	2,951	2,034	2,001	2,102	2,234
<b>NEW YORK CITY</b>									
Cases Reported	6,640	5,699	4,534	4,505	4,662	4,829	5,297	5,839	5,800
Cases Closed	7,220	5,916	4,219	4,041	4,590	5,808	5,346	5,826	5,790
Active End-of-Year	1,030	813	1,128	1,592	1,664	685	636	649	660
<b>SUBURBAN NEW YORK CITY</b>									
Cases Reported	5,989	5,597	5,916	6,312	5,779	5,353	5,400	4,806	5,017
Cases Closed	6,013	5,617	5,860	6,227	5,773	5,409	5,346	4,855	5,006
Active End-of-Year	522	502	558	643	649	593	647	598	609
<b>UPSTATE</b>									
Cases Reported	11,163	10,829	10,527	11,219	11,305	11,038	10,908	10,446	9,580
Cases Closed	11,321	10,732	10,566	11,153	11,372	10,921	10,947	10,311	9,470
Active End-of-Year	571	668	629	695	628	745	706	841	951

Note: Suburban New York City includes the counties of Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk and Westchester. The state total includes reports from non-New York State agencies not shown separately.

# New York State Missing Children in 2008

## CHARACTERISTICS OF CASES REPORTED

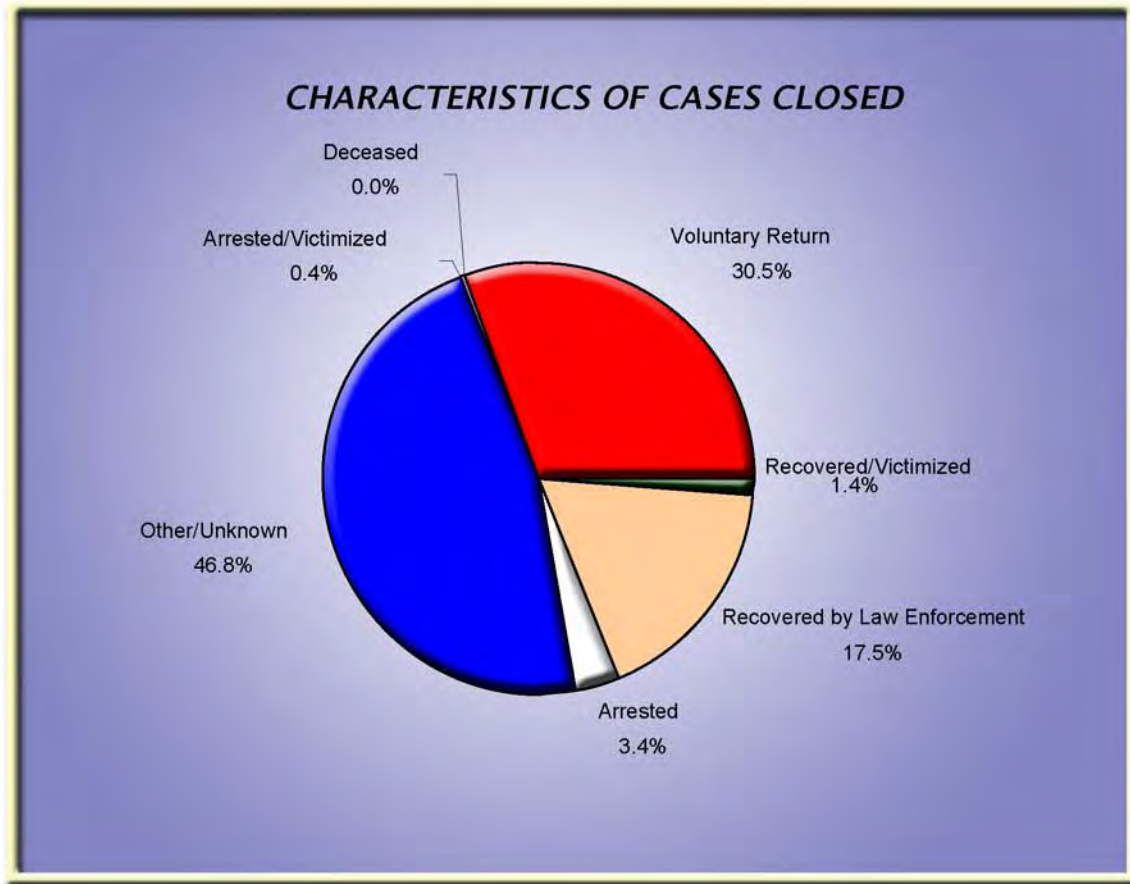


	TOTAL	AGE WHEN REPORTED MISSING				GENDER		RACE	
		< 1 - 5	6 - 12	13 - 15	16 - 17	Male	Female	White	Non-White
Runaway	18,848	1	811	9,997	8,039	7,488	11,360	8,849	9,999
Familial Abduction	149	112	27	7	3	72	77	62	87
Acquaintance Abduction	29	10	5	8	6	9	20	9	20
Stranger Abduction	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
Lost	285	5	35	157	88	126	159	167	118
Unknown	1,102	68	89	588	357	464	638	499	603
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20,414</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>10,757</b>	<b>8,494</b>	<b>8,159</b>	<b>12,255</b>	<b>9,586</b>	<b>10,828</b>



# New York State Missing Children in 2008

## CHARACTERISTICS OF CASES CLOSED

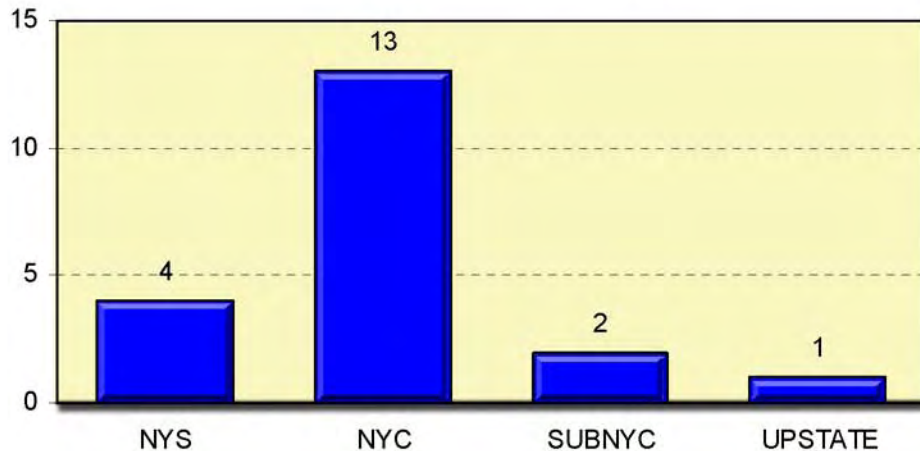


Circumstances of Recovery	TOTAL	AGE WHEN FOUND					GENDER		RACE	
		< 1 - 5	6 - 12	13 - 15	16 - 17	> 17	Male	Female	White	Non-White
Voluntary Return	6,187	27	266	3,278	2,554	62	2,786	3,401	3,421	2,766
Recovered by Law Enforcement	3,548	55	164	1,969	1,332	28	1,489	2,059	2,121	1,427
Recovered/Victimized	277	16	24	130	105	2	99	178	169	108
Arrested	680	0	11	277	386	6	369	311	396	284
Arrested/Victimized	84	0	0	35	48	1	46	38	46	38
Deceased	6	0	0	2	3	1	4	2	5	1
Other/Unknown	9,051	89	454	4,648	4,145	165	3,306	6,195	3,407	6,094
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20,283</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>10,339</b>	<b>8,573</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>8,099</b>	<b>12,184</b>	<b>9,565</b>	<b>10,718</b>

# New York State Missing Children in 2008

## LENGTH OF TIME ON THE REGISTER

MEDIAN DAYS TO CANCELLATION  
(for cases closed during 2008)



DAYS BETWEEN CASE ENTRY AND CANCELLATION FOR CASES REPORTED DURING 2008		
No. of Days	No. of Cases Closed	Cumulative Percent Closed
< 1	4,210	20.6
1	3,043	35.5
2	1,157	41.2
3	847	45.3
4	643	48.5
5	508	51.0
6	529	53.6
7	575	56.4
8	567	59.2
9	423	61.2
10	352	63.0
11	329	64.6
12	321	66.2
13	278	67.5
14	353	69.2
15	333	70.9
16 - 29	2,025	80.8
30 - 60	1,496	88.1
61 - 90	518	90.7
91 - 120	341	92.3
121 or more	385	94.2
Active	1,181	5.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20,414</b>	<b>100.0</b>



# New York State Missing Children in 2008

## REPORTING VOLUME BY COUNTY

	CASES REPORTED									CASES CLOSED						CASES ACTIVE
	Total	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Runaway	Acquaint.	Familial	Stranger	Lost	Other	Total	Returned		Arrested	Victimized	Deceased	Other/Unk.	End-of-Year Active Cases
				Abduction	Abduction	Abduction				Voluntary	by P.D.					
Albany	1,011	16.3	974	3	7	0	12	15	1,014	246	72	31	10	1	654	82
Allegany	17	1.7	16	0	0	0	1	0	17	6	7	3	0	0	1	0
Broome	348	8.4	320	1	1	0	4	22	348	224	88	13	6	0	17	12
Cattaraugus	67	3.6	64	0	0	0	1	2	66	29	26	6	0	0	5	2
Cayuga	102	5.8	92	0	0	0	3	7	104	47	44	5	5	0	3	2
Chautauqua	205	7.0	187	4	0	0	8	6	203	86	82	13	9	0	13	15
Chemung	236	12.0	231	1	1	0	2	1	244	147	62	22	1	0	12	16
Chenango	23	2.1	20	1	2	0	0	0	22	10	7	1	2	0	2	1
Clinton	59	3.7	53	0	0	0	3	3	59	14	26	11	0	0	8	0
Columbia	46	3.4	42	0	0	0	4	0	43	12	25	2	0	0	4	4
Cortland	18	1.7	16	0	0	0	1	1	21	7	10	2	0	0	2	0
Delaware	56	6.2	52	0	0	0	1	3	57	12	29	11	2	0	3	2
Dutchess	272	4.0	242	0	2	0	11	17	283	131	93	20	2	0	37	13
Erie	1,287	6.1	1,219	1	4	0	21	42	1,133	102	150	38	24	0	819	421
Essex	17	2.4	16	0	0	0	0	1	17	5	6	6	0	0	0	0
Franklin	33	3.4	33	0	0	0	0	0	34	10	14	7	3	0	0	0
Fulton	37	3.2	30	0	0	0	5	2	36	18	11	3	4	0	0	3
Genesee	49	3.7	46	0	0	0	3	0	48	26	17	2	2	0	1	1
Greene	17	1.7	16	0	0	0	0	1	16	4	10	2	0	0	0	1
Hamilton	2	2.1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Herkimer	33	2.5	33	0	0	0	0	0	34	15	11	2	2	0	4	0
Jefferson	79	2.9	71	0	0	0	0	8	78	33	37	4	1	0	3	3
Lewis	15	2.5	15	0	0	0	0	0	15	4	6	3	1	0	1	0
Livingston	19	1.5	16	0	0	0	0	3	18	2	7	4	2	0	3	1
Madison	39	2.7	37	0	0	0	1	1	40	16	16	0	0	0	8	0
Monroe	1,125	6.4	1,104	1	4	0	6	10	1,151	372	178	56	7	1	537	116
Montgomery	33	3.0	28	0	0	0	4	1	36	18	14	1	0	0	3	2
Nassau	960	3.0	787	5	13	0	52	103	958	552	179	62	70	2	93	104
New York City <sup>2</sup>	5,800	2.9	5,713	1	73	0	3	10	5,790	0	0	1	0	0	5,789	660
Niagara	351	7.3	323	0	1	0	18	9	359	210	93	21	12	0	23	22
Oneida	418	8.5	395	2	0	0	14	7	420	264	85	53	9	0	9	15



# New York State Missing Children in 2008

## REPORTING VOLUME BY COUNTY

	CASES REPORTED										CASES CLOSED							CASES ACTIVE	
	Total	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Runaway	Acquaint.		Familial		Stranger			Total	Voluntary		Returned by P.D.	Arrested	Vidimized	Deceased	Other/Unk.	End-of-Year Active Cases
				Abduction	Abduction	Abduction	Lost	Other	Return										
Chondaga	710	6.5	178	2	1	0	2	527	711	220	447	19	16	1	8	26			
Ontario	83	3.6	67	0	0	0	10	6	83	35	32	8	3	0	5	0			
Orange	452	4.5	430	0	1	0	7	14	448	269	114	20	2	0	43	67			
Orleans	57	5.7	56	0	0	0	1	0	57	27	22	5	0	0	3	3			
Oswego	101	3.5	96	0	0	0	1	4	104	33	52	3	5	0	11	0			
Otsego	26	2.3	21	0	0	0	2	3	25	8	12	2	1	0	2	1			
Putnam	55	2.2	54	0	0	0	0	1	60	43	9	4	0	0	4	4			
Rensselaer	305	9.1	290	1	0	0	2	12	304	157	63	12	3	0	69	10			
Rockland	265	3.2	238	0	0	0	9	18	261	122	46	21	8	0	64	42			
St. Lawrence	42	1.9	42	0	0	0	0	0	42	16	16	8	0	0	2	1			
Saratoga	103	2.1	77	1	2	0	13	10	105	52	37	7	2	0	7	7			
Schenectady	708	21.1	700	0	0	0	1	7	702	369	93	21	4	0	215	53			
Schoharie	7	1.1	7	0	0	0	0	0	7	2	4	1	0	0	0	0			
Schuyler	9	2.3	6	0	0	0	3	0	8	0	7	0	0	0	1	1			
Seneca	17	2.4	16	0	0	0	0	1	16	4	8	1	0	0	3	1			
Steuben	66	2.9	58	0	0	0	2	6	61	32	17	5	2	0	5	5			
Suffolk	1,704	4.5	1,579	1	11	0	2	111	1,734	985	569	53	10	1	116	81			
Sullivan	63	3.9	53	1	1	0	2	6	59	18	27	4	6	0	4	5			
Tioga	26	2.2	26	0	0	0	0	0	27	10	11	3	0	0	3	0			
Tompkins	111	6.7	109	0	0	0	2	0	111	29	38	23	3	0	18	1			
Ulster	380	10.1	354	0	0	0	5	21	378	116	167	38	13	0	44	26			
Warren	59	4.5	56	0	0	0	1	2	59	27	27	4	1	0	0	0			
Washington	58	4.7	53	0	1	0	2	2	60	26	21	4	3	0	6	1			
Wayne	106	4.6	99	0	1	0	2	4	105	47	36	10	5	0	7	3			
Westchester	2,088	8.8	1,965	3	15	1	38	66	2,053	909	251	79	14	0	800	382			
Wyoming	15	1.8	8	0	4	0	0	3	13	4	4	0	0	0	5	2			
Yates	7	1.2	5	0	0	0	0	2	7	1	5	1	0	0	0	0			
Non-NYS Agencies	17	--	12	0	4	0	0	1	17	3	8	3	2	0	1	14			
New York State	20,414	4.4	18,848	29	149	1	285	1,102	20,283	6,187	3,548	764	277	6	9,501	2,234			

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

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



# New York State Missing Children in 2008

## The Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse

Services provided by the Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse (MECC) 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 (24 hours/day; 365 days/year.) Missing child lead information received on this line is immediately disseminated to investigating law enforcement agencies. MECC also assists law enforcement agencies and parents in searching for missing children. Urgent support includes:

- Offering case management advice and assistance in obtaining other available urgent services.
- Developing and electronically distributing missing child posters to public and private entities statewide. The LOCATER (Lost Child Alert Technology Resource) and Xpedit 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 and e-mail 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.
- Developing lead information by conducting searches through electronic databases, such as the Federal Parent Locator Service (FPLS), Accurant, ChoicePoint, state motor vehicle repositories, Internet and others.

- Assisting police agencies to enter missing and unidentified person information into National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and DCJS files. This 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 produce valuable lead information.





# New York State Missing Children in 2008

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 MECC, New York State Police (NYSP), New York State Broadcasters Association and other partners, the New York State 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 NYSP Communications Section (COMSEC) in Albany. In turn, through the use of broadcast fax, e-mail and other systems capable of rapidly disseminating information, Alert posters are

to broadcasters and law enforcement agencies in the area of the abduction. Details can be seen or heard on television stations, radio stations, highway variable message signs, lottery in-store ticket terminals, Thruway Authority service areas, Department of Motor Vehicles issuing office message boards and NYSP and DCJS web sites. DCJS and NYSP staff work closely during AMBER Alerts. DCJS responsibilities include creating Alert posters and updating Alert information on the DCJS and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (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, 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, television and radio station managers decide if and when to broadcast Alert information. Requests for a Missing Child/College Student Alert are made by contacting MECC. They are also sent to MECC, by the NYSP whenever an AMBER Alert request has been denied. MECC handles all related responsibilities.





# New York State Missing Children in 2008

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 (4,308)*; Missing Child/College Student Alert (3,976)**		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 (14)	X	X	X
Airports/Transportation Safety Administration (40)	X	X	X
NYS/County Probation Agencies (59)	X	X	X
Hospitals (382)	X	X	X
Police Agencies - Local, State and Federal (1,328)	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 (261)		X	X
NYS AMBER Alert Partner Agencies		X	X
NYS Lottery Terminal Message Boards - stores (16,000)			X

## Non-Urgent Services Offered by MECC:

- Continuously develops and distributes printed missing child posters to private and public entities statewide, including police agencies, schools, legislators and others.
- Administers the mandated statewide missing/unidentified person repository. Information contained in this database is submitted by law enforcement agencies via the New York Statewide Police Information Network (NYSPIN.) “Flagging” missing child birth and educational records (as mandated by law) is facilitated through the use of this data.
- 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. These, as well as many other publications and educational videos, have also been placed on the eJusticeNY Integrated Justice Portal to ensure immediate availability to every subscribing law enforcement agency and officer.





# New York State Missing Children in 2008

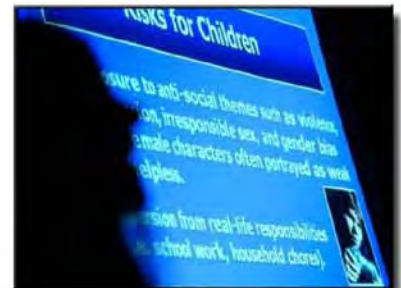
- Interacts and collaborates with NCMEC and other state clearinghouses. The established network of clearinghouses and related organizations can directly provide nationwide and, if necessary, international assistance to law enforcement agencies and family members. Also, MECC works with the U.S. Department of State 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.”
- Develops educational programs and literature concerning child and Internet safety. Also, MECC continually enhances child and Internet safety web site content, including downloadable publications and presentation material in PowerPoint format available through the MECC webpage on the DCJS website at:

[www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us](http://www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us)



## MECC has an ongoing community outreach program that includes:

- Developing, implementing and coordinating the Operation SAFE CHILD program.
- Presenting missing and abducted child investigative training to law enforcement officers at training courses and other professional conferences.
- Presenting Internet Safety programs at various venues, including school assemblies, Parent-Teacher Association meetings, professional conferences and other community meetings.



## During 2008, MECC provided the following Internet 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	29	804
Internet Safety for Middle and High School Students	64	11,058
Internet Safety – A Teacher’s Guide to the Internet	5	145
Internet Safety (Train-the-Trainer)	2	105
Missing Person Investigations/AMBER Alert Training	4	97
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>12,209</b>



# New York State Missing Children in 2008



## 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 and 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 and guardians to carry specific identifying information about their children for immediate use in missing children cases, especially in conjunction with the New York State AMBER Alert and DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert programs.

Through Operation SAFE CHILD, parents and guardians 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 of a missing child case. 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 Operation SAFE CHILD program has established partnerships with 59 law enforcement agencies across New York State to issue free SAFE CHILD cards for families at various venues, including fairs, community-based events and at schools. To date, more than 300,000 children have been processed through the program and approximately 92 percent of their parents/guardians chose to have DCJS store their child's data.

During 2008, DCJS staffed 53 events throughout New York State and produced cards for nearly 3,800 children. In addition, the Operation SAFE CHILD partners produced cards for an additional 79,459 children. The 59 DCJS Operation SAFE CHILD partner agencies, using 66 units, are listed on the following page.





# New York State Missing Children in 2008

## Operation SAFE CHILD Partner Agencies

### 2005

Albany County Sheriff  
Albany Police  
Broome County Sheriff  
Buffalo Police  
Chautauqua County Sheriff  
Clinton County Sheriff  
Dutchess County Sheriff  
Erie County Sheriff  
Monroe County Sheriff  
New York State Police  
Niagara County Sheriff  
Oneida County Sheriff  
Onondaga County Sheriff  
Orange County Sheriff  
Putnam County Sheriff  
Rensselaer County Sheriff  
Rochester Police  
Schenectady County Sheriff  
Suffolk County Sheriff  
Syracuse Police  
Ulster County Sheriff  
Westchester County Public Safety

### 2006

Ulster Police  
Allegany County Sheriff  
Schuyler County Sheriff  
Jefferson County Sheriff  
Cayuga County Sheriff  
Madison County Sheriff  
Ontario County Sheriff  
Yates County Sheriff  
New York City Police

### 2007

Wayne County Sheriff  
Erie County Sheriff  
Wyoming County Sheriff  
Cattaraugus County Sheriff  
Cheektowaga Police  
Genesee County Sheriff  
Seneca Falls Police  
Otsego County Sheriff  
Columbia County Sheriff  
Essex County Sheriff  
Rotterdam Police  
Nassau County District Attorney  
Chenango County Sheriff  
Saratoga Springs Police

### 2008

Chemung County Sheriff  
Steuben County Sheriff  
Oswego County Sheriff  
Seneca County Sheriff  
Fulton County Sheriff  
Montgomery County Sheriff  
Orleans County Sheriff  
Yonkers Police  
St. Lawrence County Sheriff  
Newburgh Police  
Herkimer County Sheriff  
Warren County Sheriff  
Livingston County Sheriff

### 2009

Tioga County Sheriff



# New York State Missing Children in 2008

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

During 2008, there were four AMBER Alerts and six DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alerts. As a result of the cooperation between law enforcement and DCJS, nine of these cases resulted in the children being returned safely to their parent(s) or guardian. One case remains an active missing child case.

### NYS AMBER Alerts (4)

- On January 10, 2008, an **AMBER Alert** was issued on behalf of the Hamburg Police Department. This was based upon a “confirmed child abduction” involving 5- and 7-year-old females who were taken by their 39-year old mother who threatened to kill them and indicated that she had already killed one of the children. The Alert was broadcast to regions 1 and 2 and Canada’s AMBER Alert system was activated under a reciprocal agreement. It was posted on the NYS AMBER Alert, New York State Police (NYSP), Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) web sites. The children and the abductor were located safe in Canada when an alert gas station attendant noticed the abductor acting erratically and notified the police. The children were located 1 hour and 49 minutes after the Alert was issued.
- On April 7, 2008, an **AMBER Alert** was issued on behalf of the Albany Police Department. This was based upon a “confirmed child abduction” involving a 5-year-old male who was taken from his elementary school by the 22-year old boyfriend of the mother. It was reported the boyfriend threatened to harm the child. The Alert was broadcast to regions 9, 10 and 11 and posted on the NYS AMBER Alert, NYSP and DCJS websites. A license plate reader (LPR) activation was disseminated to all New York State law enforcement agencies using the devices. The child was located safe and the abductor was taken into custody when they returned to the family apartment. The child was located 1 hour and 24 minutes after the Alert was issued.
- On April 15, 2008, an **AMBER Alert** was issued on behalf of the New York City Police Department. This was based on a “confirmed child abduction” involving a 4-month old female who was taken by her 20-year-old father and an unidentified accomplice after displaying a firearm. The Alert was broadcast to regions 11 and 12 and posted on the NYS AMBER Alert, NYSP, DCJS and NCMEC websites. The child was located safe in Brooklyn and the abductor was taken into custody. The child was located 2 hours and 12 minutes after the Alert was issued.
- On July 30, 2008, an **AMBER Alert** was issued on behalf of the Lynn (Massachusetts) Police Department. This was based on a “confirmed child abduction” involving four children, ages 11 months, 1 year, 2 years and 3 years. The children and their mother were taken by the 25-year-old father of the children who was wanted for questioning in connection with a homicide that occurred at the address from which the children were taken. The parents previously lived in Brooklyn, NY. The Alert was broadcast to regions 11 and 12 and posted on the NYS AMBER Alert, NYSP and DCJS websites. The children and the mother were located safe and the abductor placed into custody in Brooklyn. The children were located 2 hours and 37 minutes after the Alert was issued.



# New York State Missing Children in 2008

## NYS DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alerts (6)

- On Feb. 29, 2008, a DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert was issued on behalf of the Rochester Police Department. An 11-month-old female was taken by her 16-year-old mother from the child's legal guardian. The mother was on probation for a weapons charge, was known to use drugs and did not have her medication with her for a behavioral disorder. The Alert was broadcast to region 2 and posted to the DCJS and NCMEC websites. The child was located by family members safe with the mother on March 2 in Rochester. The child was located 2 days after the Alert was issued.
- On March 12, 2008, a DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert was issued on behalf of the Saratoga Springs Police Department. A 16-year-old female had not been heard from since she last used her cell phone on the previous day. The child was not familiar with the area, having moved there recently and was known to be depressed over a family situation. An extensive investigation had produced no leads. The Alert was broadcast to regions 7, 9 and 10 and posted on the DCJS and NCMEC websites. The child was located safe by the police when they responded to a disturbance at a local residence. The child was located 1 hour and 45 minutes after the Alert was issued.

### **NYS MISSING CHILD ALERT**

Missing From: Bronx, New York

Date Missing: 2/15/2008

**\*\*\*Vehicle Located in Rochester, New York\*\*\***

#### **Selah Lee Davis**

Sex: Female

Race: Black

Hair: Black

Eyes: Brown

Height: 2'

Weight: 20 lbs.

Date of Birth: 10/20/2007

Complexion: Medium



### **LAST SEEN WITH**

#### **Sasha Davis**

Sex: Female

Race: Black

Hair: Black

Eyes: Brown

Height: 5'07"

Weight: 120 lbs.

Complexion: Medium

Date of Birth: 4/13/1977



#### **Jarib "Griff" Bennett**

Sex: Male

Race: Black

Hair: Black

Eyes: Brown

Height: 5'11"

Weight: 215 lbs.

Complexion: Medium

Date of Birth: 3/01/1980



**Other Information:** Selah, Sasha and Jarib were last seen leaving the Bronx en route to Rochester, NY on February 15, 2008. **Their vehicle was found abandoned in Rochester and the three have not been seen or heard from since.**

**Investigating Agency:** New York City Police Department/Rochester Police Department

To offer information or verify that information listed above is still current, contact the

**NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services  
Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse**



**1-800-FIND-KID**

[www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us](http://www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us)

Issue Date: 3/15/08gwr

- On March 14, 2008, a DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert was issued on behalf of the New York City Police Department and the Rochester Police Department. A 5-month-old female, her mother and a companion traveled from New York City to Rochester in a rental car to pick up a large sum of money. The car was abandoned and located by the Rochester Police Department. However, the family had not heard from the occupants since Feb. 18th. The Alert was broadcast throughout New York State and posted on the DCJS and NCMEC websites. The Alert was canceled on March 28 after the maximum length of time for the Alert had been reached; however, the case remains active.



# New York State Missing Children in 2008

- On May 8, 2008, a DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert was issued on behalf of the Niagara County Sheriff's Office. A 2-year-old female was last seen in the company of her mother's boyfriend on the previous day. The abductor had not been given permission to take the child and he had not reported for work on May 8. An Alert was broadcast in regions 1 and 2 and posted to the DCJS and NCMEC websites. A license plate reader (LPR) activation request was sent statewide. Canadian authorities agreed to alert their border patrol and activate their LPRs. The child and abductor were located safe by family members at a hotel in a nearby town. The abductor was arrested and charged with endangering the welfare of a child. The child was located 3 hours and 35 minutes after the Alert was issued.
- On June 13, 2008, a DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert was issued on behalf of the Ontario County Sheriff's Office. A 17-year-old male was reported missing after the family discovered a bloody knife and a trail of blood and dog hair leading from the house. The family car was also missing and the child had been acting erratically for several weeks. An Alert was broadcast to regions 2 and 3 and posted to the DCJS and NCMEC websites. A license plate reader (LPR) activation request also was sent statewide. The child was located safe in West Virginia after abandoning the vehicle when it ran out of gas. He was taken to a local hospital for evaluation. The child was located 2 days after the Alert was issued.
- On July 28, 2008, a DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert was issued on behalf of the Boston (Massachusetts) Police Department. A 7-year-old female was forcibly taken by her non-custodial father after he assaulted a social worker during a supervised visitation. The child was the subject of a Massachusetts AMBER Alert and an investigation revealed the father may have recently purchased a boat docked at an unidentified location in Long Island. The Alert was broadcast to regions 10, 11 and 12, plus all train stations, bus stations and airports in New York State, New York State Thruway toll barriers and service areas and the U.S. Coast Guard. The child was located safe in Baltimore, Maryland after extensive national and international media coverage. The father was arrested and extradited to Boston to face criminal charges. He was subsequently implicated in a double homicide case in California. The child was located 3 days after the Alert was issued.

**New York State  
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)**



# New York State Missing Children in 2008

## MISSING



**RJ Myers**  
Date of Birth: 10/31/2000  
Missing From: Jamestown, NY  
Date Missing: 01/26/2007  
Family Abduction



**Linda L. Wynn**  
Date of Birth: 10/21/1946



**William Amacher**  
Date of Birth: 10/4/1969

Other Information: RJ is believed to be with her non-custodial aunt and her cousin. Federal kidnapping and family court warrants have been issued for both Linda and William. Linda may use the last name Amacher or Sank.



**Sabrena Beck**  
Date of Birth: 7/11/1998  
Missing From: Lake Ronkonkoma, NY  
Date Missing: 06/17/2000  
Family Abduction



**Sabrena Beck**  
Age Progressed to age 9

Other Information: Sabrena is in the company of her non-custodial mother, Yvette Torres. A Federal arrest warrant for Parental kidnapping has been issued. They may use the last names Dawson, Thomsen or Torres-Dawson.



**Yvette Torres**  
Date of Birth: 7/31/1963



Denise E. O'Donnell  
Deputy Secretary for Public Safety  
and Commissioner, DCJS

**NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services  
Missing & Exploited Children Clearinghouse**

**[www.operationsafechild.org](http://www.operationsafechild.org)**

**1-800-FIND-KID  
(1-800-346-3543)**

3/2009