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# **2005 Missing Children Reference Report**

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## **Acknowledgments**

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## Introduction

Many Canadians find the subject of missing children and the detailed accounts of these incidents heartbreaking. While stranger abductions are rare, the rising number of runaway and *throwaway* children living on the streets of Canadian cities and towns is concerning. Organizations such as NMCS and its partners are striving to diminish the number of children who go missing while improving Canada's capacity to find those who do before they are harmed or transported across borders.

## Executive Summary

Since its inception in 1988, National Missing Children Services (NMCS), has continued to make progress in addressing the emerging issues related to missing and exploited children. In 1990, a photo-age progression service was developed, followed by the implementation of the Travel Reunification program in 1991. Additionally, a number of crime prevention brochures were created to inform the public on how to keep children safe.

In 1993, the program was expanded to include the our missing children (OMC) initiative. This initiative includes the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Canada Border Service Agency, Foreign Affairs Canada, and Department of Justice Canada. Each partner has a unique role to play in the searching for, recovering and returning of missing children.

In 2002, NMCS announced the appointment of a national Amber Alert program coordinator. The coordinator provides advice and updates on the program to Canadian law enforcement and searching agencies.

Further expansion of the services occurred in October 2004 when NMCS and the National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre (NCECC) were united. Both services are managed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police under the umbrella of National Police Services.

Each year a reference report is released on National Missing Children's Day, May 25<sup>th</sup>. National data for this report is collected from the occurrence reports generated by the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) system. An overview of the findings are as follows.

In 2005, the *total* number of Canadian missing children reports decreased from 67,266 to 66,548. Most of the reports fell in the runaway category and this number decreased as well. The kidnaping reports, including stranger abductions, were the lowest since the program began in 1986. Parental abduction reports increased to 344 reports from 332, and the Unknown reports increased to 12,074 from 11,373.

National Missing Children Services assisted with 593 missing child requests, involving 743 children. Law enforcement requested assistance with 127 Canadian files involving 174 children; the United States requested assistance with 310 cases, involving 400 children; and other countries, excluding the United States, requested assistance with 129 cases involving 171 children.

NMCS is committed to supporting initiatives and programs that will ensure the safety of children. The safe return of missing children will be realized through the cooperative efforts of National Missing Children Services, the our missing children program partners, the National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre services, the services of the recognized not-for-profit searching agencies as well as international law enforcement efforts and networking.

## **Data Collection**

This report is divided into two sections. The first section focuses on the National Missing Children and Youth Police Occurrence Reports perspective as generated by the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) system.

The second section looks at operational files from the Police Information Retrieval System, an internal monitoring system used by National Missing Children Services (NMCS).

## **Analysis I**

### **CPIC Canadian Law Enforcement Missing Children Reports**

CPIC was created in 1966 to provide all Canadian law enforcement agencies with information on crimes and criminals. CPIC entries are made by accredited police agencies in Canada. The CPIC system houses the national database on missing children as well as other valuable information

( See Appendix 1 for a comparison of reports by year, and Appendix 2 for the 2005 CPIC missing children reports by category, province and gender).

In 2005, the total number of missing children reports decreased from 67,266 reports in 2004 to 66,548. The number of missing children reports in the *runaway*, *kidnaped* and *other* categories (children who have not returned to a detention home or institution housing young offenders) decreased, while parental abduction, unknown, accident, and wandered off reports increased.

An analysis of CPIC 2005 missing children reports by category is as follows:

#### Runaway reports

- 78% of all reports fell in the Runaway category.
- by gender, 38,041 (57%) were females, and 28,507 (43%) males.

#### Kidnaping / Foul play.

- 30 reports were entered in the *kidnaping /foul play* category, including abductions by strangers, acquaintances, relatives and close friends. This was the lowest number of kidnaping/foul play reports in twenty years.
- by gender, 21 were females and 9 males.

#### Parental Abduction

- *parental abduction* reports increased from 332 in 2004 to 349.
- by gender, 173 were females and 176 males. Previous year comparisons show that there were more female abductions than male in 2003, and an equal number of male and female abductions in 2004.
- 157 of the reports investigated had a custody order in place, 192 did not.

#### Unknown

- *unknown* reports have steadily increased to an all time high of 12,079 in 2005. This category is used when there is no previous record of the missing child and insufficient background information to enable coding under other causes.

#### Accident

- *accident* reports increased from 27 to 45. The probable cause is an accident where the body has not been recovered.

#### Wandered Off

- *wandered off* reports increased from 671 in 2004 to 704 in 2005. Alberta, Ontario and British Columbia respectively had the greatest number of missing reports in this category. This category is used when it is presumed the child has wandered away and not returned when expected. Feedback received from the Canadian law enforcement community has

revealed that this category is sometimes used to enter youth who are missing from social service care.

#### Other

- The *other* category numbers have decreased from 2,552 reports in 2004 to 2,061 in 2005. This category is used when a child has not returned to a detention home or institution housing young offenders.

An analysis of CPIC 2005 missing children reports by combining ***all categories*** is as follows:

- 83% of reports involved children aged 14 to 17 years, with the most reports being entered on 14 and 15 year-olds.
- 76% of all reports had repeat or habitual characteristics of being missing.
- Children under five years of age represented 0.3% of the total number of all reports.
- By gender, more males (57%) than females (43%) under one year of age were reported missing. This finding is different from the findings of 2004 where more females went missing but the same as the findings for 2003, where more males went missing.
- 32% of the children went missing from their family residence while 14% went missing from child care and 21% from foster care. 26% went missing from institutions, including school, detention and youth centers and those reports classified as “other” institutions. Less than 1% of children went missing from a shopping mall, place of work, or while on a vacation.
- Law enforcement scored alcohol or drug dependency as a factor in 23% of reports.
- 65,866 transactions were removed from the CPIC system in 2005. 64% were removed in the first 24 hours of having been reported missing, and 87% were removed within a week.\* Please note: *The 2005 “remove” transactions may include children entered in previous years but who were found in 2005 and then removed.*



## **1986 to 2006 CPIC Canadian Missing Children Reports Comparison**

For the period of 1986 to 2005, the total number of missing children reports increased by 16%, while the rate per 100,000 children increased by 18%. Additionally, there was a constant decline in the rate of kidnaping reports and parental abductions per 100,000 children. Although the number of runaway reports showed a decrease in total numbers in 2005 by 1.5%, the number of reports increased by 24% over the period, and the analysis related to the population of children per 100,000 showed an increase of 26% since 1986.

## **Analysis II**

### **2005 Requests for Assistance - National Missing Children Services**

In 2005, National Missing Children Services opened 593 assistance files, and closed 514. Law enforcement investigative requests comprised 566 of the total, while 27 business and other types of information requests comprised the remainder. Requests for assistance are broken down into four categories:

#### **I. Canadian Investigative Service Analysis**

In 2005, National Missing Children Services (NMCS) assisted in the investigation of 127 cases involving 174 children. Of the 174 missing children, 92 were female and 82 male. Of *all* the cases handled, mothers abducted more often than fathers. ( See Appendix 3 ).

Investigation and networking assistance was most often requested for cases originating in Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and Alberta respectively. These provinces also entered the most CPIC missing children reports last year.

Fifty eight percent of the NMCS cases were classified as *parental abductions*, 16% as *runaways*, 1.5 % as *stranger abductions*, 1.5% as *unknown*, and 23% as *other* (which involved the requests from law enforcement to “trace and locate” the missing incident).

In the majority of cases, NMCS assisted with requests involving children who were between the ages of 4 and 7 years. Slightly more males than females comprised this group. This finding is different from last year, when the NMCS assisted with a cluster of requests involving missing 14 year-old females.

The number of cases handled by NMCS in 2005 decreased from 130 to 127, continuing a downward trend that began in 2002. This trend may be the result of ongoing training provided by NMCS operational staff to Canadian law enforcement officials.

A comparison of the frequency of requests by year are presented as follows: 2005 - 127 cases; 2004 - 130 cases; 2003 - 142 cases; 2002 - 175 cases.

## **2. United States Investigative Service Analysis**

National Missing Children Service works closely with United States law enforcement community and supports its partner service, the United States National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Since the two countries share a common border, it is important for investigators to be vigilant and cooperative in their investigations in order to prevent illegal border crossings.

In 2005, 310 United States cases involving 400 children were referred to NMCS for investigative assistance, a decrease by 38 requests from 2004. Forty-six states requested assistance. The majority of these cases originated from California, followed by New York, and Florida. Their origin this year is consistent with the 2004 findings, except for Texas, which made fewer requests in 2005. Female missing children made up 224 of the cases, while male children made up 176.

NMCS classified fifty-six percent of the United States cases as *parental abduction*; 26% as *runaway*; 10% as *stranger abduction*; 6% as *unknown*; 1% as *other* and 0.7% as *accident*.

Of the 174 parental abduction cases handled by NMCS, 60% involved abductions by mothers, 37% involved abductions by fathers, and 3% of cases implicated both parents in the abduction. Some other research findings also show that mothers are most often the abductor.

## **3. International Investigative Service Analysis (excluding the United States)**

International requests for assistance continue to be an important component of the work done by NMCS.

In 2005, NMCS assisted with 129 cases involving 171 children. This is an increase of 20 requests from last year. This increase may be due to efforts made by missing children law enforcement agencies to work together to combat global threats, threats that are intensified by the continual advances in technology and the ease of global travel.

Fifty countries requested NMCS assistance with their investigations, including Mexico (13), Sweden (12), Belgium (11), United Kingdom (8), France (6) and The Netherlands (6).

Sixty-four percent of the international cases were classified by NMCS as *parental abduction*; 9% as *runaway*; 10% as *stranger abduction*; 9% as *unknown*; 6% as *other* and 2% as *accident*.

NMCS assistance was requested for more cases involving missing male children (86) than female (85). The male ages were predominantly in the range of 4 and 5 years but

the female ages were more diversified, that is more reports were around the ages of 3, 8 and 15 years respectively.

In 2005, there were 82 parental abduction assistance requests, an increase of 19 cases over 2004. Fifty-two percent of these requests involved mothers as abductors, 44% fathers, and four percent implicated both the father and the mother in the abduction act.

Stranger abduction assistance requests decreased by 13 cases in 2005. More females than males, 11 and 3 respectively, were abducted by strangers. This gender breakdown is consistent with other research findings.

#### **4. Historical Investigative Assistance Service Analysis**

##### **National Missing Children Services**

Since the program began collecting data in 1988, NMCS had opened 9,057 files and closed 6,888 files as of December 31, 2005.

##### **Programs, Services and Initiatives**

NMCS and its partner agencies offer the following services to law enforcement agencies and families.

###### **1. The Travel Reunification Program**

NMCS administers a Travel Reunification Program which provides financial assistance for parents who cannot afford to travel within Canada or abroad to reunite with their child and bring them home. Air Canada and Via Rail provide free transportation or passes for a parent or guardian to travel *to* and *from* the child's location. Certain criteria must be met to qualify and the travel is subject to availability.

The Travel Reunification Program is coordinated with the transportation company and no funds are exchanged between the parent and NMCS. All arrangements must be made through NMCS services during its regular business hours, and it should be noted that the process *may* take approximately 48 hours. NMCS does not reimburse parents who have made prior flight arrangements.

In 2005, nine cases involving 13 children were safely returned home using this program. The provinces using the program were Quebec (5), Alberta (4), British Columbia (2) and Ontario (2). Ten requests involved international travel. The majority of the adults accompanying the children were *mothers*.

## **2. Photo-Age Progression Service**

NMCS provides a photo-age progression service for all Canadian law enforcement agencies and not-for-profit searching agencies. This service renders a likeness of what a child who went missing some time ago might look like today. Certain criteria must be met before the process is activated. For example, the child has to be missing for a minimum of two years. Canadian and United States forensic artists perform the photo-age progression. In 2005, one photo-age progression request was processed. In the future, partner agencies, NMCS and the NCECC will also be exploring the possibility of photo age regression - the opposite process to photo age progression - to assist in the investigation of child exploitation cases.

## **3. Law Enforcement Officials Training Service**

National Missing Children Services provides a two-day training workshop several times a year for investigators, law enforcement representatives, and other individuals who are working in the field of missing children. The goal of the course is to sensitize participants to the missing child investigative process as it relates to criminal and/or civil proceedings. This workshop is designed to provide the participants with additional tools needed to more efficiently and effectively conduct their investigation. An overview is given of the various resources available, such as, the federal government's our missing children program partners, recognized not-for-profit agencies, government assistance agencies and other resources which can be used to augment investigations.

In 2005, four training workshops were conducted throughout Canada for 107 law enforcement personnel. NMCS also hosted the our missing children program National Training Conference in Ottawa, Ontario, which had 130 participants.

## **4. Missing Children Internet Luring Investigative Assistance**

Internet luring has become a major concern as it relates to missing and exploited children and youth. In this scenario, a stranger develops a relationship with the child over the internet without ever meeting face-to-face. Then, attempts are made to meet the child in secret, placing the child in a position of vulnerability and danger.

From 2000 to 2005, NMCS assisted with the investigation of 27 Internet luring type investigations. In 2005, there was one case involving the wrongful removal of a six year old boy to another country. The mother met a person on the Internet and took the child to this country without the father's permission. NMCS luring cases are now investigated in cooperation with its partner service National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre (NCECC), National Police Services.

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

- checking available databases to gather information;

- soliciting border, immigration, foreign affairs, and justice services expertise;
- advising or acting on the information gathered from the investigation;
- liaising with Interpol and the investigator in the destination country of the child;
- advising the National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre (NCECC) if exploitation is an anticipated component of the case;
- providing advice on avenues to conduct searches; and
- liaising with not-for-profit agencies as required.

The Internet is a powerful learning tool but parents need to *be informed* on Internet advancements, set the rules of use, be alert to any changes in behavior, and attentive to other noticeable changes, like the use of inappropriate language or dress for the child's age group. Keeping a child out of harm's way is the key to their safety. For your education, NMCS has produced a *Safety In Cyberspace* brochure, which is posted on its website ( [www.ourmissingchildren.gc.ca](http://www.ourmissingchildren.gc.ca) ).

## **5. National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre (NCECC) Service**

The National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre (NCECC), an integral part of National Police Services, is managed by the RCMP. It was expanded in May 2004 as part of the Government of Canada's national strategy to protect children from sexual exploitation on the Internet. Through leadership and partnership, the NCECC provides a national integrated environment for the coordination, collaboration, education, intelligence, and development of strategies to combat the global online sexual exploitation of children.

The NCECC works closely with NMCS to combat Internet facilitated sexual criminal activity that targets, exploits, victimizes, and abuses children and youth. The service provides assistance to Canadian law enforcement in support of their international commitments with a mandate that is based on the G8 objectives.

These objectives include: victim identification, suspect location, standardized law enforcement policies, training, research, awareness and prevention, effective legislation, and intelligence gathering and dissemination. The NCECC is also a partner in the Virtual Global Task force (VGT), an international law enforcement working group contributing to increased safety on the Internet. Additionally, the NCECC is an integral part of the Canadian Coalition Against Internet Child Exploitation working group that is partnering with Industry Canada in various efforts. For more information, please consult [www.ncecc.ca](http://www.ncecc.ca) and [www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com](http://www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com) .

## **6. Not-for-profit Organization Liaison on Investigative Matters, Reunification Situations and Crime Prevention Initiatives**

NMCS liaises with not-for-profit organizations on a regular basis to facilitate cooperation between the agencies and the police community. Several Canadian agencies meet a preset criteria for recognition by NMCS and they are listed under the heading "Recognized Organizations" on our website ( [www.ourmissingchildren.gc.ca](http://www.ourmissingchildren.gc.ca) ). Their

activities and services vary, including searching for the missing child, distributing and posting photos, meeting and advising parents, conducting and supporting research studies, conducting crime prevention undertakings, and working with police to plan and carry out a reunion.

## **7. International Partnerships - The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children LOCATOR program**

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 crossed over borders, either on their own, or with a parent or stranger.

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.

In the fall of 2005, NCMEC introduced the LOCATOR program to NMCS. This is an advanced, web-based computer program offered to law enforcement agencies free of charge. It helps agencies create and distribute professional looking posters across the nation. Currently, the LOCATOR program is used in more than 4,000 law enforcement agencies in the United States, and several in Canada.

Canadian law enforcement agencies can also take advantage of the NCMEC services to produce Amber Alert posters at no cost.

NCMEC sponsors yearly training for the Canadian Amber Alert coordinator held at various locations throughout the United States. These meetings provide participants with regular updates on the search technique process, helps identify pitfalls and assists in making the necessary revisions to improve the program.

To contact a NMCS partner agency, call the toll-free hotline 1-800-THE-LOST or 1-800-843-5678, which is available in Canada and the United States 24 hours a week, 7 days a week. Information on missing and exploited children can be reported via a CyberTipline at <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

## **8. The Canadian and International 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.

The following basic criteria must be met before law enforcement can initiate an Amber Alert:

- The child must be under 18 years of age.
- There must be confirmation that the child has been abducted.
- Police must have sufficient descriptors to make a search for the child possible, like descriptions of the child, abductor, accomplices, or the suspect's vehicle.
- Most importantly, police must judge that the child is in serious danger or risk of harm, and be convinced the broadcast will help find the child.

Since 2002, there have been 16 Amber Alert activations in Canada; eight from the province of Ontario, three from both Alberta and British Columbia, and two from Quebec. Seven of the children were located as a result of the information that was broadcasted at the time of the incident.

For more information on the Amber Alert Plan, contact the National Amber Alert Coordinator at National Missing Children Services, National Police Services (613) 993-8656.

### **9. The Air Canada Kids' Horizon - Royal Canadian Mounted Police Child Recovery Award Initiative**

The *Child Recovery Award* recognizes the work and efforts of a Canadian individual or Canadian organization in the search for and safe recovery of a missing child or children.

The award includes two hospitality class tickets from Air Canada. Tickets are valid to any Air Canada scheduled destination (blackout periods and restrictions apply). The 2005 recipient of the award was the Peel Regional Police Vice Squad.

### **10. The *Our Missing Children* Program Award of Excellence**

This award may be presented to an individual, group, program or organization that have dedicated themselves to, and shown sustained excellence in working together with others to bring missing children home. The candidates merit may also be evaluated on preventive and facilitative efforts.

Each department national coordinator for the program may nominate no more than two candidates yearly for the award. It is the discretion of the national coordinators to decide whether the award will be presented in a given year. Only if there is a meritorious candidate for the year will the award be presented.

For more information on the selection criteria or to make a nomination, contact the Head of National Missing Children Services at (613) 993-1771.



## The *Our Missing Children* Program

The fundamental purpose of the *Our Missing Children* (OMC) program is to find, recover and return missing children. The program is designed to coordinate complex investigations that involve several government agencies, and in some cases, other countries.

Four government organizations work closely together: National Police Services, National Missing Children Services, Royal Canadian Mounted Police; Canada Border Services Agency; Foreign Affairs Canada; and the Department of Justice Canada. Although each has its own function, OMC operates as one unit. In this capacity, the unit is linked to all Canadian police agencies through CPIC, the United States National Crime Information Centre (NCIC), and most foreign police agencies through Interpol. Collectively, the partnership that forms OMC provides a unique and powerful force in locating and recovering missing children.

### **1. National Missing Children Services:**

National Missing Children Services (NMCS) is the only national missing children clearinghouse for information and assistance to police, not-for-profit agencies and parents. It was also 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 the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC), to United States police agencies through the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), and to most foreign police agencies through Interpol. National Missing Children Services has a two-fold mandate that is Operations and Research, and Service Development.

#### **- Operations:**

NMCS is an investigative and 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 with municipal, regional, provincial and national law enforcement agencies as well as with other Canadian searching organizations.

NMCS also liaises with the National Child Exploitation Coordination Center investigators for the purpose of over viewing cases to determine if there are any links to other crimes against children, like the trafficking of children and pornography.



In 2005, NMCS assisted national and international police agencies with 566 missing children investigations, 63 more cases than in 2004. NMCS also opened 27 business/bulk files for a total of 593 working files.

**- Research and Program Development:**

The researcher conducts original studies for the following purposes: to contribute to policy development; to advance upon the investigative processes; to assist in the development of investigative response plans; and to determine the nature and scope of missing children in Canada.

An extensive reference report on Canada's missing children is written and published yearly. The report is launched by a federal government official on May 25<sup>th</sup>, National Missing Children's Day. The report, and previous reports, are posted on our missing children (OMC) website at [www.ourmissingchildren.gc.ca](http://www.ourmissingchildren.gc.ca) .

The research officer responds to media and public inquiries for national statistical information, trend analysis, and research study findings related to children and youth.

The researcher develops a greater understanding of missing children issues by attending meetings, working groups, forums, and conferences, on behalf of the NMCS. This year, NMCS participated on the Interdepartmental Working Group on Trafficking of Persons, the Senate Committee Against the Commercial Exploitation of Children and Youth, the International Social Service Working Group Committee on International Child Abduction, the Government of Canada Interdepartmental Trafficking In Persons Working Group, and the RCMP Human Trafficking Unit Committee.

Presentations on research undertakings as well as missing children services are ongoing. In 2005, the services of NMCS and NCECC were presented at the World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights which was held in Cape Town, South Africa.

The NMCS researcher reviews and gives feedback on prevention program proposals and publications related to missing children issues. To fulfil their prevention objectives, NMCS has developed several safety brochures and pamphlets for the public, including "What to Do If Your Child Is Missing", "Safety In Cyberspace", and "Keeping Children Safe". These are available by contacting the service or consulting the OMC website at [www.ourmissingchildren.gc.ca](http://www.ourmissingchildren.gc.ca) .

Research data collection and methodological advice and feedback on university graduate and post graduate papers are provided to national and international students. As well, research and crime trend articles are published in law enforcement magazines on missing children issues.

In 2005, there were 108 requests for assistance, related as follows.

Type	Number	Type	Number
Crime Prevention	7	Publications & Writers	8
Educational Institutions	25	Non-for- Profit requests	7
Law Enforcement	10	Media	20
Legal Services	1	Corporate	2
Government Services	12	Other	10
International Requests	6	Total	108

\* These numbers do not include RCMP requests for assistance.

For more information regarding National Missing Children Services, please call 1-877-318-3576 or go to [www.ourmissingchildren.gc.ca](http://www.ourmissingchildren.gc.ca) .

## **2. 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 its use of internal resources and widespread efforts to work with national and international partners towards the same goal.

The CBSA ensures that officers located at points of entry to Canada are trained regarding how to identify and handle situations involving abducted or runaway children. A national coordinator and eight regional representatives work to provide timely information and tools to support the efforts of its 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 the distribution of missing children posters will continue. CBSA also provides advice and guidance to parents of abducted children related to the procedures to follow when a child is missing.

Since 1986, the CBSA has been actively searching for, and locating missing children. As of December 31, 2005, over 1,400 children have been recovered at the border and reunited with their parent or proper legal guardian. In 2005, officers recovered 69 missing children.

CBSA attaches high priority to the safety and protection of children.

### **3. Foreign Affairs Canada**

Foreign Affairs Canada (FAC) became a partner of the OMC program in 1996. FAC brings valuable expertise by being actively involved in International Child Abduction cases through the Consular Affairs Bureau and its network of diplomatic and consular offices in over 275 locations in approximately 180 foreign countries. These offices provide different levels of services to Canadians abroad.

The Consular Affairs Bureau assists with International Child Abduction cases from Hague and non-Hague countries. In 2005, the Consular Affairs Bureau received 65 new international child abduction cases, a slight decrease in comparison to 2004. During the same year, FAC has concluded 37 of the old and new cases.

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;
- maintains a data base of all international child abduction cases and, as appropriate, produces reports for the other parties;
- in cases where the Hague Convention applies, assists in making direct contact with the relevant Canadian provincial/territorial central authority, and assists the central authorities both in Canada and abroad;
- in cases where the Hague Convention does not apply, attempts to locate and visit the child and report on his or her welfare;

- works with the central Passport Office in establishing what travel documentation may have been used by your child;
- contacts foreign diplomatic or consular offices in Canada to establish what travel documentation may have been used, or whether a visa was issued;
- provides information on the country concerned, including its legal system and family laws;
- provides client with a list of lawyers in the country concerned, who may be willing to act on their behalf in the return of the child and assists in the authentication of needed documents;
- should the client decide to travel to the country in which the abduction took place, the office provides advice and guidance before departure and ensure that officials from the Canadian government office are available to assist you upon your arrival;
- follow judicial and administrative proceedings overseas and provides client with information on developments;
- assists client in contacting officials in other countries or contact them directly on your behalf;
- provides information and advice on things that the client can do or that other organizations or offices of the Canadian government can do; and
- provides foreign authorities with any evidence of child custody, abduction, abuse or neglect.

The Consular Affairs Bureau provides 24 hour, 7 days a week assistance through the Foreign Affairs Canada Operations Centre. The Consular Affairs Bureau works closely with its network of diplomatic and consular offices abroad who, working with the local authorities and/or other organizations, provide assistance in locating abducted Canadian children. Also, FAC 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. FAC assists in making arrangements for the reunification of a child with a parent in cases where the courts in the other country have either granted the Canadian parent custody and/or recognizes a Canadian custody order. FAC 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.

#### **4. 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 in some cases, 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 International Private Law Section is responsible for negotiating private international law instruments dealing with family law including *the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction* and related issues, such as, trans frontier access. The IPL Section also advises DOJ on the interpretation of the Hague Convention and leads the consultations within Canada to prepare for Special Commissions to review the practical operation of the Hague Convention.

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

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## Appendix 1

### Canadian Missing Children Reports Summary for A Ten-Year Period **CPIC Year- End Transaction Reports** **Frequency By Category and Year Reported Missing**

<b>*Profile</b>	<b>Kidnap</b>	<b>PA</b>	<b>Run</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>Acc</b>	<b>Wander</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>51280</b>	<b>12079</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>2061</b>	<b>66548</b>
2004	31	332	52280	11373	27	671	2552	67266
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

\* **Kidnap**, kidnaping/stranger abduction ; **PA**, parental abduction; **Run**, runaways; **Acc**, accident; **Wander**, wandered off.  
 Source: CPIC annual transaction report for 2005 M.L. Dalley.

## Appendix 2

### Missing Canadian Children Reports for the Year 2005 Cases on CPIC, Year- End Reports by Category, Province and Gender

<b>Females</b>														
<b>Profile</b>	<b>YT</b>	<b>NT</b>	<b>NU</b>	<b>BC</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>SK</b>	<b>MB</b>	<b>ON</b>	<b>QC</b>	<b>NB</b>	<b>PE</b>	<b>NS</b>	<b>NL</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Stranger	0	0	0	4	2	1	2	5	6	1	0	0	0	21
Accident	0	0	4	8	5	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	21
Wandered	0	0	0	49	149	10	15	117	8	2	0	1	1	352
Parental	0	0	0	40	18	8	8	66	29	0	0	4	0	173
Runaway	3	89	0	7115	6652	1072	1660	9564	2781	297	17	287	113	29650
Unknown	0	7	1	2337	384	298	197	2642	741	40	1	49	14	6711
Other	0	6	0	329	43	12	4	489	212	4	1	11	2	1113
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9882</b>	<b>7253</b>	<b>1401</b>	<b>1886</b>	<b>12887</b>	<b>3777</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>38041</b>
<b>Males</b>														
<b>Profile</b>	<b>YT</b>	<b>NT</b>	<b>NU</b>	<b>BC</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>SK</b>	<b>MB</b>	<b>ON</b>	<b>QC</b>	<b>NB</b>	<b>PE</b>	<b>NS</b>	<b>NL</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Stranger	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	9
Accident	1	0	2	11	1	1	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	24
Wandered	0	0	0	52	143	8	14	106	20	3	0	5	1	352
Parental	0	0	0	31	20	6	6	78	24	6	2	3	0	176
Runaway	0	35	0	4336	5245	720	862	6919	2992	275	6	138	102	21630
Unknown	0	9	0	1828	263	226	112	2051	799	37	1	29	13	5368
Other	0	1	0	175	33	15	11	457	248	1	1	5	1	948
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6438</b>	<b>5705</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>1005</b>	<b>9616</b>	<b>4089</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>28507</b>
<b>Totals</b>														
<b>Profile</b>	<b>YT</b>	<b>NT</b>	<b>NU</b>	<b>BC</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>SK</b>	<b>MB</b>	<b>ON</b>	<b>QC</b>	<b>NB</b>	<b>PE</b>	<b>NS</b>	<b>NL</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Stranger	0	0	0	9	2	1	2	5	9	1	0	1	0	30
Accident	1	0	6	19	6	1	0	9	3	0	0	0	0	45
Wandered	0	0	0	101	292	18	29	223	28	5	0	6	2	704
Parental	0	0	0	71	38	14	14	144	53	6	2	7	0	349
Runaway	3	124	0	11451	11897	1792	2522	16483	5773	572	23	425	215	51280
Unknown	0	16	1	4165	647	524	309	4693	1540	77	2	78	27	12079
Other	0	7	0	504	76	27	15	946	460	5	2	16	3	2061
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16320</b>	<b>12958</b>	<b>2377</b>	<b>2891</b>	<b>22503</b>	<b>7866</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>66548</b>



**Appendix 3**  
**2005 NMCS Assistance Requests from Canadian Law Enforcement**  
**Profiles by Category, Province & Gender**

**TOTAL CASES**

PROFILE	YT	NT	NU	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	TOTAL
<b>Parental</b>	0	0	0	14	12	2	1	30	13	1	0	1	0	<b>74</b>
Mother	0	0	0	7	10	2	1	23	4	1	0	0	0	48
Father	0	0	0	7	2	0	0	7	9	0	0	1	0	26
Both	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Runaway</b>	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	9	5	0	2	0	0	<b>20</b>
<b>Other</b>	0	0	0	4	6	0	0	15	3	0	0	0	1	<b>29</b>
<b>Unknown</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Stranger</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>127</b>

**TOTAL CHILDREN**

PROFILE	YT	NT	NU	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	TOTAL
<b>Parental</b>	0	0	0	22	13	2	1	49	17	2	0	1	0	<b>107</b>
Mother	0	0	0	11	11	2	1	41	5	0	0	0	0	71
Father	0	0	0	11	2	0	0	8	12	2	0	1	0	36
Both	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Runaway</b>	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	9	6	0	2	0	0	<b>21</b>
<b>Other</b>	0	0	0	4	9	0	0	23	4	0	0	0	2	<b>42</b>
<b>Unknown</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Stranger</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>174</b>

Profile-Males	YT	NT	NU	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	TOTAL
<b>Parental</b>	0	0	0	10	9	0	0	25	9	2	0	1	0	<b>56</b>
Mother	0	0	0	7	8	0	0	21	1	0	0	0	0	37
Father	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	4	8	2	0	1	0	19
Both	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Runaway</b>	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	<b>4</b>
<b>Other</b>	0	0	0	2	7	0	0	9	1	0	0	0	2	<b>21</b>
<b>Unknown</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Stranger</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>82</b>

Profile-Females	YT	NT	NU	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	TOTAL
<b>Parental</b>	0	0	0	12	4	2	1	24	8	0	0	0	0	<b>51</b>
Mother	0	0	0	4	3	2	1	20	4	0	0	0	0	34
Father	0	0	0	8	1	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	17
Both	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Runaway</b>	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	7	5	0	2	0	0	<b>17</b>
<b>Other</b>	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	14	3	0	0	0	0	<b>21</b>
<b>Unknown</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Stranger</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>92</b>