



ARCHIVED - Archiving Content

Archived Content

Information identified as archived is provided for reference, research or recordkeeping purposes. It is not subject to the Government of Canada Web Standards and has not been altered or updated since it was archived. Please contact us to request a format other than those available.

ARCHIVÉE - Contenu archivé

Contenu archivé

L'information dont il est indiqué qu'elle est archivée est fournie à des fins de référence, de recherche ou de tenue de documents. Elle n'est pas assujettie aux normes Web du gouvernement du Canada et elle n'a pas été modifiée ou mise à jour depuis son archivage. Pour obtenir cette information dans un autre format, veuillez communiquer avec nous.

This document is archival in nature and is intended for those who wish to consult archival documents made available from the collection of Public Safety Canada.

Some of these documents are available in only one official language. Translation, to be provided by Public Safety Canada, is available upon request.

Le présent document a une valeur archivistique et fait partie des documents d'archives rendus disponibles par Sécurité publique Canada à ceux qui souhaitent consulter ces documents issus de sa collection.

Certains de ces documents ne sont disponibles que dans une langue officielle. Sécurité publique Canada fournira une traduction sur demande.

2006 Missing Children Reference Report

**National Missing Children Services,
National Police Services,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police**

**Marlene Dalley, Ph. D.
Research Officer
marlene.dalley@rcmp-grc.gc.ca
613-990-9833**

**Service Toll-Free Line 1-877-318-3576
Telephone (613) 993-1525
Facsimile (613) 993-5430
<http://www.ourmissingchildren.gc.ca>**

Reasonable Access Policy

Individuals who are unable to read this document due to a physical disability may request that it be transcribed into a more accessible medium, such as audio tape.

Every reasonable effort will be made to ensure that access is provided.

For additional copies or alternative formats, please contact: 1-877-318-3576

© MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES, CANADA (2007)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments.....	3
Executive Summary	4
Introduction	6
National Missing Children Services Functions	6
Operations	6
Research and Program Development:	7
Data collection	7
Analysis I National Missing Children Services.....	8
1. Canadian Investigative Assistance Case Analysis	8
2. United States Investigative Service Analysis.....	9
3. International Investigative Service Analysis (excluding the U. S.).....	10
Analysis II CPIC Data Collection and Analysis.....	11
Programs, Services and Initiatives	13
1. The Travel Reunification Program	13
2. The Canadian and International Amber Alert Program.....	14
3. Photo-Age Progression Service.....	15
4. The Air Canada Kids' Horizon—RCMP Child Recovery Award Initiative	15
5. Law Enforcement Officials Training Service	15
6. Missing Children Internet-Luring Investigative Assistance	15
7. National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre (NCECC) Service	16
8. Not-for-Profit Organization Liaison on Investigative Matters, Reunification Situations and Crime Prevention Initiatives	17
9. International Partnerships—The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children LOCATOR program	17
10. NMCS Government Department Working Partnerships	18
Research Update.....	19
Appendix 1	23
Appendix 2	24

Acknowledgments

National Missing Children Services (NMCS) extends its appreciation to all the partner police agencies who have made a commitment to entering missing child reports into the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) system and for keeping the CPIC records current. A special thank you is extended to the law enforcement officials and coordinators who work diligently on missing children investigations and initiatives in their provinces.

NMCS wishes to express our gratitude to the missing children searching agencies, and their clients, who participated in the parental abduction study.

This report was prepared with the assistance of the staff of NMCS: Marlene Dalley, Ph.D., author; Diane Barbe, NMCS data collection and tabulation; Sandra Hatzis and Stephen Hobbs, data entry and consultations.

Executive Summary

National Missing Children Services (NMCS) is the only national missing children clearing house for information and assistance to police, not-for-profit agencies and parents. It is proud to have been serving Canadians for the past 20 years.

From December 1988 to December 2006, 9,476 cases were opened and 7,334 cases closed. Currently, 2,142 cases are active.

The NMCS tracks and stores information on its cases yearly. The results of this research show that in 2006, NMCS assisted in the investigation of 100 Canadian cases involving 129 children, 189 United States cases involving 230 children, and 116 international cases (excluding the U.S.A.) involving 146 children.

The NMCS researcher also analyzes the missing children entries in the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC). Entries are made by accredited Canadian police agencies. An analysis of these entries in 2006 shows that the total number of missing children reports decreased to 60,461 reports in 2006 from 66,548 in 2005. The number of reports in all categories of missing children decreased, with the exception of the "stranger abduction" category. This category also includes abductions by relatives and close friends.

The runaway category composes over three-quarters of the missing children reports. More females than males run away and most often they run away from their family residence. Over 80 per cent of runaway children have a history of repeat or chronic running episodes.

The parental abductions reports, both custody and non custody, totalled 326. More female children than males were abducted. In the majority of the cases, a custody order was not *in place*. Forty-seven per cent of the children were under the age of 5, 28 per cent between 6 and 11, and 25 per cent between 12 and 17. About three-quarters were last seen at their family residence.

Stranger abduction reports increased to 46 in 2006 from 30 in 2005. More females than males were reported missing. Over half of the children disappeared from their family residence. Twenty-six per cent were under the age of one, and 28 per cent were 14 and 15 years old.

In 2006, there was a nine per cent decrease in all missing children reports.

In 2006, 60,461 cases were entered and 59,815 transactions were removed from the CPIC system. Sixty-four per cent were removed in the 24 hours following the initial missing report, and 87 per cent were removed within a week. *Note: The 2006 "remove" transactions may include children entered on the system in previous years but who were found in 2006, and then removed.*

NMCS and its partner agencies offer several services to law enforcement agencies and the families of missing children, including a travel reunification program, photo-age pro-

gression service, training for law enforcement officials, and updates on the Amber Alert program.

The NMCS works closely with National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre (NCECC) to combat Internet-facilitated sexual criminal activity that targets, exploits, victimizes, and abuses children and youth

NMCS collaborates on missing children cases with several federal government departments and agencies: the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, Department of Justice Canada, Canada Border Services Agency, RCMP, National Police Service and its international partner, and the United States National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

It also recognizes and works with several not-for-profit agencies, such as Child Find Canada and its provincial offices; the Missing Children Society of Canada; the Missing Children Network Canada; Victims of Violence; Canadian Centre for Missing Children; Operation Go Home; and International Social Service Canada.

Introduction

An Anniversary Year

National Missing Children Services (NMCS) is proud to have been serving Canadians for the past 20 years.

The official opening of the RCMP Missing Children Registry (now NMCS) took place on August 15, 1986. At that time, the available statistical information on missing children was sparse and sometimes inaccurate. Therefore, in response to pressure from the public and not-for-profit searching agencies, the federal government allocated funds and resources to track missing children annually by monitoring police reports.

A new Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) system was created to separate missing children data, by category and characteristics, for analytical purposes. Since 1986, an annual missing children reference report has been published. In recent years, it has released on May 25th, National Missing Children's Day.

Over the years, National Missing Children Services has received several awards: in 1995, in collaboration with the RCMP Community Contract and Aboriginal Policing Services, the International Crime Stoppers award and the Can Pro award for the production of the crime prevention video *Safe Children*. In 1996, the *Our Missing Children* partner program received the Treasury Board of Canada Award of Excellence for service to the public. In 1999, NMCS received the Weber Seavey Award for quality in law enforcement.

National Missing Children Services Functions

NMCS is the only national missing children clearing house for information and assistance to police, not-for-profit agencies and parents. It was 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: Operations; and Research and Program Development.

Operations

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

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. NMCS liaises with Transport Canada regarding employee training, as well as providing training to Canadian law enforcement agencies.

NMCS also has partnered with RCMP National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre investigators to determine if there are links to other crimes against children, such as the trafficking of children, Internet luring, and pornography.

Research and Program Development:

The researcher conducts original studies:

- to contribute to policy development;
- to advance investigative processes;
- to assist in the development of investigative response plans; and
- to determine the nature and scope of the missing children problem in Canada.

In 2006, NMCS collected information from left-behind parents whose children were abducted by the other parent or guardian. Canada's not-for-profit agencies supported this research by contacting their clients and requesting their participation. The final research report will be released in 2007 (See section - Research Update).

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 25th, National Missing Children's Day.

The research officer responds to media and public inquiries for national statistical information, trend analysis, and research study findings related to children and youth. 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 about missing children issues are published in law enforcement magazines.

To fulfil its prevention objectives, NMCS has developed a safety booklet, including information on "What to Do If Your Child Is Missing," "Safety In Cyberspace," and "Keeping Children Safe."

Reports, booklets and research studies are available by contacting the service at 1-877-318-3576 (toll free line) or visiting the website at www.ourmissingchildren.gc.ca.

Data collection

This report is divided into two sections. The first section looks at operational files from the Police Information Retrieval System, an internal monitoring system used by National Missing Children Services (NMCS).

The second section focuses on the National Missing Children and Youth Police Occurrence Reports perspective as generated by the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) system.

Analysis I National Missing Children Services

The NMCS tracks and stores information on its cases yearly. The results of this research are:

- From December 1988 to December 2006, 9,476 cases were opened and 7,334 cases closed. Currently, 2,142 cases are active.
- In 2006, National Missing Children Services (NMCS) opened 419 assistance files, and closed 446 files. Some of the closed files included cases from previous years. Law enforcement requests made up 405 of the 419 files, while 14 business and other types of requests made up the remainder.

Requests for assistance are broken down into three categories and analyzed. The three categories are “Canadian Investigative Assistance Case Analysis;” “United States Investigative Service Analysis;” and “International Investigative Service Analysis.”

1. Canadian Investigative Assistance Case Analysis

In 2006, National Missing Children Services (NMCS) assisted in the investigation of 100 cases involving 129 children. Of the 129 missing children, 76 were female and 53 male. Of *all* the cases handled, *mothers* were the abductors more often than fathers.

Investigation and networking assistance was most often requested for cases originating in Ontario (44 per cent), British Columbia (18 per cent) and Quebec (17 per cent). (See Table 1).

Assistance was requested most often in January (13), followed by February (11), May (10), August (9), September (9) and December (9). To explain this phenomenon, children are often reported missing following a holiday, such as Christmas or a summer school break. Also, in the warmer weather more children are playing outdoors or away from home, some run away, which makes them more vulnerable to victimization.

Seventy four per cent of the NMCS cases were classified as *parental abductions*, nine per cent as *runaways*, two per cent as *stranger abductions*, one per cent as *unknown*, and 14 per cent as *other* (which involves requests from law enforcement agencies to “trace and locate” the missing person - a search to place the victim(s) in an appropriate category).

Children under five represented 47 per cent of the cases and teenagers 32 per cent of the missing children cases. More females than males were reported missing. Assistance with investigations was requested most often for children aged two (14 requests), five (17 requests) and 12 (10 requests) years.

Table 1—2005 NMCS Assistance Requests from Canadian Law Enforcement by category, province and territory

Number of cases														
PROFILE	YT	NT	NU	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	Total
Parental	0	0	0	13	7	2	3	34	12	3	0	0	0	74
Mom	0	0	0	9	5	1	3	24	9	2	0	0	0	53
Dad	0	0	0	4	2	1	0	7	2	1	0	0	0	17
Both	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	4
Runaway	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7	1	0	0	0	0	9
Other	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	3	4	1	0	1	0	14
Unknown	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Stranger	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
TOTAL	0	0	0	18	9	4	3	44	17	4	0	1	0	100
Number of children														
PROFILE	YT	NT	NU	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	Total
Parental	0	0	0	14	13	3	4	44	19	4	0	0	0	101
Mom	0	0	0	9	1	0	3	27	9	2	0	0	0	56
Dad	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	7	2	1	0	0	0	17
Both	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	4
Runaway	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7	1	0	0	0	0	9
Other	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	4	2	3	0	2	0	15
Unknown	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Stranger	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
TOTAL	0	0	0	19	15	5	4	55	22	7	0	2	0	129

The number of cases handled by NMCS in 2006 decreased to 100 from 127, continuing a downward trend that began in 2002. This trend may be the result of ongoing training to Canadian law enforcement provided by NMCS operational staff officials. In 2006, the police computer system was changed to a new system, which could have affected the decrease as well.

Table 2 is a comparison of the frequency of requests by year.

Table 2—Frequency of Requests

Year	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Total Cases	100	127	130	142	175

2. United States Investigative Service Analysis

NMCS works closely with the 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 co-operative in their investigations in order to prevent illegal border crossings.

In 2006, 189 United States cases involving 230 children were referred to NMCS for investigative assistance; a decrease from 121 requests in 2005. Female missing children made up 140 of the cases, while male children made up 90. Thirty-five states requested assistance. Most of these cases originated from California, followed by Florida, and Texas. Over the years, these states have consistently contacted NMCS for assistance with cases.

NMCS classified 63 per cent of the United States cases as parental abduction; 20 per cent as *runaway*; seven per cent as *stranger abduction*; two per cent as *unknown*; and eight per cent as *other*. In 2006, there was an increase in parental abduction requests compared to 2005—63 per cent compared to 56 per cent.

Of the 120 parental abduction cases handled by NMCS, 70 per cent involved abductions by mothers, 26 per cent involved abductions by fathers, and four per cent implicated both parents. Some other research findings also show that mothers are most often the abductor.

3. International Investigative Service Analysis (excluding the U. S.)

International requests for assistance continue to be an important component of the work done by NMCS. When a child is missing from another country and there is some indication the child may be in Canada, NMCS opens a file and assists with the investigation in Canada.

In 2006, NMCS assisted with 116 cases involving 146 children, a decrease of 13 requests from last year. This decrease may be due to efforts made by missing children law enforcement agencies to work together to combat global threats; threats that are intensified by continual advances in technology and the ease of global travel.

NMCS assistance was requested for marginally more cases involving missing male children (72) than female (70). Three files did not indicate the sex of the child. The average age of the missing children was seven years. More children went missing at ages 8, 5, and 10 years.

In 2006, there were 75 parental abduction assistance requests, a decrease of seven cases from 2005. Fifty-nine per cent of these requests involved mothers as abductors, 39 per cent fathers, and three per cent implicated both the father and the mother.

Thirty-five countries requested NMCS assistance with their investigations, including France (9), Belgium (8) and Mexico (5).

Sixty-five per cent of the international cases were classified by NMCS as parental abduction; three per cent as runaway; seven per cent as stranger abduction; three per

cent as unknown; and 22 per cent as other.

Analysis II CPIC Data Collection and Analysis

CPIC entries are made by accredited police agencies in Canada when there is a need to utilize this service. In addition to other information, the CPIC system houses the national data base on missing children (See Appendix 1 for a comparison of reports by year, and Appendix 2 for the 2006 CPIC total missing children reports by category, province and gender).

The total number of missing children reports decreased to 60,461 reports in 2006 from 66,548 reports in 2005. The number of missing children reports in all categories of missing decreased, with the exception of the stranger abduction category. This category includes children abducted by strangers, relatives and friends and those children who have been prevented from reaching their intended destinations.

An analysis of CPIC 2006 missing children reports by category is as follows:

Runaway reports

- *runaways* make up the greatest number of missing reports, 77%.
- 57% of the children entered in the *runaway* category were female and 43% were males.
- 53% of the females were ages 14 and 15 years old, 31% were between 16 and 17 years, and 1.3% were under 11 years old.
- 45% of the males were 14 and 15, 36% 16 and 17, and 3.3% were under 11 years old.
- Over 80% of both males and females had a history of repeat or chronic running episodes. Only 18% had no history of running away.
- 29% were reported as missing from the family residence and 20% from a foster home.
- Ontario (15,724), Alberta (11,198), British Columbia (9,054) and Quebec (5,331) had the most reports.

Parental Abduction

- *parental abduction* reports decreased by 23 reports this year, to 326 from 349 in 2005.
- 176 females and 150 males were reported missing. This is similar to the findings of 2003, whereas in 2004 and 2005 males and females were abducted almost equally.
- 144 of the reports had a custody order in place, and 182 had no custody order in place.

- 47% of the children were under the age of 5 years, 28% between 6 and 11 and 25% between 12 and 17 years old.
- 84% had no history of missing, and 16% had a history.
- 73% went missing from their family residence, 5% from school and 4% from a foster home.
- Ontario (131), Quebec (66), Alberta (48) and British Columbia (45) had the most reports.

Stranger abduction

- there were 46 reports entered in the *stranger abduction* category, which includes abductions by strangers, relatives and close friends. Last year had the lowest number of reports in 20 years, 30. This year showed an increase of 16 reports.
- 30 females and 16 males were reported missing.
- 26% were under the age of one, and 28% were 14 and 15 years of age.
- 72% had no previous history of missing and 28% had a history.
- 50% went missing from their family residence.
- Quebec (11), Ontario (10) and Alberta (9) had the most reports.

Unknown

- There were 10,761 unknown reports, a decrease of 1,318 reports from last year. This category is used when there is no previous record of the missing child. Also, there is insufficient background information to enable coding the missing incident under any of the other causes.

Accident

- There were 24 *accident* reports, a decrease in 21 from last year. The probable cause of the missing incident is an accident where the body has not been recovered.

Wandered off

- There were 567 *wandered off* reports in 2006, a decrease of 137 reports from last year. The wandered off 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

- There were 2,009 *reports classified as other*, a decrease of 52 reports from last year. This category is used when a child/youth has not returned to a detention home or institution housing young offenders.

Reports of all categories of missing children

An analysis of CPIC 2006 missing children reports by combining *all categories* of missing shows:

- 82% of all missing children reports involved children ages 14 to 17 years, with more missing reports entered in CPIC in the 14- and 15-year old category.
- 77% of all missing children reports had repeat or habitual characteristics of missing. The remaining 23% per cent had no previous history of missing.
- Children under five years of age represented 1% of the total number of all missing children reports. More females (305) than males (295) were reported missing under the age of 5 years.
- More males (132) than females (114) were reported missing under the age of 1 year.
- 32% of the children went missing from their family residence while some went missing from a type of arranged care—14% from child care and 20% from foster care.
- 18% went missing from institutions, that is school, detention and youth centres and those classified as “other” institutions. Less than 1% of all missing children went missing from a shopping mall, place of work, or while on a vacation.
- Law enforcement agencies cited alcohol or drug dependency as a problem in 19% of missing children reports.
- 59,815 transactions were removed from the CPIC system in 2006. Sixty-four per cent were removed in the first 24 hours of having been reported missing, and 87% were removed within a week.*

**The 2006 “remove” transactions may include children entered in previous years but who were found in 2006 and then removed.*

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 travel assistance for parents who cannot afford to travel within Canada or abroad to reunite with their child and bring them home. Certain criteria must be met to qualify and the travel is subject to availability.

The Travel Reunification Program is coordinated with a 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 2006, four parents or guardians used this program to transport five children home safely. The provinces using the program were Alberta (1 trip, 2 children), New Brunswick (1), Saskatchewan (1) and Unknown (1). The majority of the adults accompanying the children were *mothers*.

2. The Canadian and International Amber Alert Program

The America's Missing Broadcast Emergency Response (AMBER) Alert program is a voluntary partnership between law enforcement agencies 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 kidnapped 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, such as 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.

In 2006, there were 12 Amber Alert activations in the following provinces: Ontario (5), British Columbia (4), Alberta (2), and Saskatchewan (1), involving 15 children. Eight female and seven male children were abducted. Five children were one year old or younger, four were between three and five years old, and the remaining children were ages six, seven, 11, and 17. Particulars were not provided for two children. Three abductors were strangers to the child, five were fathers, two mothers, and two were boy-friends—one of a mother and the other, of the teenage victim.

Since 2002, there have been 25 Amber Alert activations in Canada—four in 2003, three in 2004, six in 2005, and 12 in 2006. An Amber Alert was issued for 29 children and 26 were recovered alive and three were found deceased.

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 or toll free at 1-877-318-3576.

3. 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 2006, three requests were processed.

4. The Air Canada Kids' Horizon—RCMP 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 2006 recipient of the award was the Missing Children Society of Canada, Alberta.

5. 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, program partners, recognized not-for-profit agencies, government assistance agencies and other resources that can be used to augment investigations. In 2006, two training workshops were conducted in Ontario for 60 law enforcement personnel.

6. 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 2006, NMCS assisted with the investigation of 28 Internet-luring investigations. NMCS luring cases are now investigated in co-operation with its partner service, National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre (NCECC), National Police Services,

RCMP.

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* about Internet advancements, set the rules of use, be alert to any changes in behaviour, and attentive to other noticeable changes, such as 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 tips booklet*, which is posted on its website at www.ourmissingchildren.gc.ca. The safety tips booklet is also available by calling 613-993-2699.

7. 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 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 agencies 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 and www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com .

Since the Centre began operation, Canadian investigators from all agencies successfully identified 150 Canadian children who were victims of sexual abuse.

8. Not-for-Profit Organization Liaison on Investigative Matters, Reunification Situations and Crime Prevention Initiatives

NMCS liaises with not-for-profit organizations regularly to facilitate co-operation between the agencies and the police community. Several Canadian agencies meet a pre-set criteria for recognition by NMCS and they are listed under the heading “Recognized Organizations” on our website (www.ourmissingchildren.gc.ca).

Their activities and services vary. They include searching for the missing child, distributing and posting photos, meeting and advising parents, conducting and supporting research studies, conducting crime prevention projects, and working with police to plan and carry out reunions.

9. 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 searching, recovering and returning 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.

NCMEC also offers assistance with poster distribution to NMCS through its LOCATOR program. 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 coordinators at various locations throughout the United States. These meetings provide participants with regular updates on search techniques, help identify pitfalls and assist 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 day, seven

days a week. Information about missing and exploited children can be reported via a CyberTipline at <http://www.cybertipline.com> .

10. NMCS Government Department Working Partnerships

The search for and return of a missing child requires co-operation and collaboration among the following agencies: Canada Border Services Agency; Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade; and the Department of Justice Canada.

The main duties of these departments are as follows:

Canada Border Services Agency

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) ensures that officers located at points of entry to Canada are trained in identifying and handling 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 regarding the procedures to follow when a child is missing.

Foreign Affairs Canada

Foreign Affairs Canada (FAC) is 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.

The Consular Affairs Bureau provides 24-hour, 7-day-a-week assistance through the Foreign Affairs Canada Operations Centre. It works closely with its network of diplomatic and consular offices abroad, which provide assistance in locating abducted Canadian children by working with local authorities and/or other organizations. It offers a broad range of services to left-behind parents, such as confirming the entry of the abducted child into the foreign country, locating and visiting the abducted child, and reporting on the child's welfare.

FAC assists with 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 recognized a Canadian custody order. It can determine, by liaising with the Passport Office and/or foreign diplomatic or consular offices in Canada, which travel documentation were used by the abducted child. It does this by providing information on the country where the child was retained and then entering this information on its legal

and family laws system.

The Department of Justice Canada

The Department of Justice Canada (DOJ) has both an operational and a policy role in 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 breach of rights of custody in any country that is a contracting state to the Convention. The Convention also promotes the peaceful enjoyment of rights of access.

In Canada, there is a Central Authority in every province and territory whose duties include filing "outgoing" Hague applications regarding children who have been abducted and taken out of Canada, and processing "incoming" applications regarding children who have been abducted and brought 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, 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 (IPL) 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.

See the Department of Justice Canada link on the *Our Missing Children* website at <http://www.ourmissingchildren.gc.ca> and follow the links to: www.canada.justice.gc.ca .

Research Update

In 2005, a descriptive study of parental abduction was conducted to determine the na-

ture and scope of the problem, the characteristics of the abducting and left-behind parents, and the effect of the abduction on the child victim. Several Canadian not-for-profit agencies agreed to contact their clients to determine who would participate in this study. Nineteen left-behind parents completed the questionnaire and returned it to the NMCS researcher.

The not-for-profit agencies were the Missing Children Network of Canada, Child Find Nova Scotia, Child Find Prince Edward Island, Child Find New Brunswick, Child Find Ontario, Child Find Manitoba, and the Missing Children Society of Canada. A final report will be published in 2007, and will be *on loan* from the Canadian Police College, Ottawa, Ontario.

The highlights of this study are:

- Over half the couples were separated or divorced at the time of the abduction.
- The left-behind parent described the relationship with the abductor before the abduction as *poor*.
- More than half the left-behind parents described their child's relationship with the abductor before the abduction as *fair to good*.
- Most often, the abduction was prompted by a perceived need to *revenge* or *control* the other parent.
- A court order was in effect in 79 per cent of the incidents.

Highlights from the study about the abducted child:

- Slightly more boys than girls were abducted.
- The average age of the child was eight years, which differs from some other research study findings, which report the majority of child victims were less than five years old.
- The ethnicity of most of the children was white.
- The majority of the children had Canadian citizenship; two had dual citizenship.
- The majority of the children were living with their mother at the time of the abduction.
- All the parents felt their child suffered harm as a result of the abduction episode; most stated the harm was caused by emotional and verbal abuse.
- Following the abduction, the child seemed to display feelings of insecurity, anxiousness and fear more often than before the abduction.
- Over half the left-behind parents rated their child's adjustment as *good to excellent* after their children were returned to them.

Highlights from the study about the left-behind parent:

- Ten parents were born in Canada, five were *new* Canadians, and four answered *other*.
- Three-quarters were employed.
- Over half had a yearly income of more than \$25,000.
- They were better educated than the abductor; the majority finished college or university.
- They were frustrated during the abduction episode; emotionally drained by feelings of worry, separation anxiety, fear, and one parent suffered *parent alienation syndrome*.
- They reported experiencing financial difficulties during the search, recovery and after the recovery.
- They found the legal costs were high and financially draining.
- They estimated the total cost was about \$30,000, considering costs incurred during the search, upon recovery and after therapy sessions for the child and family.

Highlights about the abducting parent from the study:

- Most abducting parents were white in ethnicity.
- Half were unemployed at the time of the abduction.
- The majority had an income of less than \$25,000.
- Father abductors tended to be better educated than mother abductors, but their education level was lower than the left-behind parents.
- One-fourth had a previous criminal record at the time of the abduction.

Study highlights about reunification:

- 53 per cent were found in less than a year
- 37 per cent were found in Canada, 37 per cent in the United States, and 26 per cent in other countries.
- 56 per cent reported that there was a connection to or reason why the child was found in that location.
- Most reunifications took place in acceptable areas, that is offices, restaurants and coffee houses.

- The left- behind parent was satisfied with the reunification situation for themselves and their child.
- The majority of left-behind parents were very satisfied with the searching agencies services during the search and recovery, and about half were satisfied with police and legal services.

Conclusion

The total number of missing children reports has remained fairly consistent over the years. However, there is a marked decrease in the number of reports this year. All categories of missing children dropped in number, with the exception of the stranger abduction category. Stranger abductions increased but it is important to note, this category also includes abductions by relatives and close friends. Additionally, this year showed the lowest number of runaway reports since 1997.

Since the law enforcement data entry system (CPIC) was being revised during this period, the drop in numbers may have been influenced by this factor.

The parental abduction research study helped identify the characteristics of abduction, the left -behind parents' frustrations, the abductor's characteristics, the impact on the child victim, the police response, and the financial strain experienced by the parent in the search, recovery and treatment of the victims.

Appendix 1

Canadian Missing Children Reports Summary CPIC Year-end Transaction Reports for 2006 Frequency by Category and by Year Reported Missing

Profile	Kidnap	PA	Run	Unknown	Acc	Wander	Other	Total
2006	46	326	46,728	10,761	24	567	2009	60,461
2005	30	349	51,280	12,079	45	704	2061	66,548
2004	31	332	52,280	11,373	27	671	2552	67,266
2003	39	358	53,459	10,922	21	805	2205	67,809
2002	35	429	52,390	10994	38	594	2052	66,532
2001	48	387	53,434	10,364	49	742	1990	66,994
2000	42	416	50,633	10,031	35	597	1958	63,712
1999	52	358	47,585	9,884	38	496	1947	60,360
1998	42	426	48,388	10,254	28	623	2326	62,087
1997	60	426	45,527	9,404	37	506	2138	58,098
1996	45	409	43,717	9,181	34	822	1914	56,122
1995	68	354	43,709	9,039	35	720	1824	55,749

* Kidnap= kidnapping/stranger abduction
 PA=parental abduction
 Run=runaways
 Acc=accident
 Wander=wandered off.

Source: CPIC annual transaction report for 2006 M.L. Dalley

Appendix 2

All of Canada Reports of Missing Children for Year 2006 Cases on CPIC, Year-end Reports by Category, Province and Gender

Females														
Profile	YT	NT	NU	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	PE	NS	NL	Totals
Stranger	0	1	0	4	4	2	2	6	8	1	1	0	1	30
Accident	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	6
Wandered	0	0	0	52	98	13	3	100	7	0	0	7	0	280
Parental	0	0	0	29	30	7	10	67	26	2	1	1	3	176
Runaway	1	109	0	5,523	6,144	966	1,677	9,082	2,568	248	23	347	70	26,758
Unknown	2	13	0	2,148	372	285	177	2,099	671	20	1	43	17	5,848
Other	0	3	0	254	39	15	21	497	266	3	0	16	1	1,115
Totals	3	126	0	8,012	6,688	1,288	1,890	11,852	3,546	274	26	416	92	34,213

Males														
Profile	YT	NT	NU	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	PE	NS	NL	Totals
Stranger	0	0	0	2	5	1	1	4	3	0	0	0	0	16
Accident	0	0	0	4	1	1	0	9	2	0	0	0	1	18
Wandered	0	0	0	49	71	18	3	123	15	4	0	3	1	287
Parental	0	0	0	16	18	5	4	64	40	2	0	0	1	150
Runaway	0	37	0	3,531	5,054	669	858	6,642	2,763	226	14	122	54	19,970
Unknown	1	9	0	1,723	287	230	97	1,806	687	24	1	32	16	4,913
Other	1	1	0	186	25	7	9	374	261	3	1	21	5	894
Totals	2	47	0	5,511	5,461	931	972	9,022	3,771	259	16	178	78	26,248

Totals														
Profile	YT	NT	NU	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	PE	NS	NL	Totals
Stranger	0	1	0	6	9	3	3	10	11	1	1	0	1	46
Accident	0	0	0	6	2	1	0	10	2	0	0	2	1	24
Wandered	0	0	0	101	169	31	6	223	22	4	0	10	1	567
Parental	0	0	0	45	48	12	14	131	66	4	1	1	4	326
Runaway	1	146	0	9,054	11,198	1,635	2,535	15,724	5,331	474	37	469	124	46,728
Unknown	3	22	0	3,871	659	515	274	3,905	1,358	44	2	75	33	10,761
Other	1	4	0	440	64	22	30	871	527	6	1	37	6	2,009
Totals	5	173	0	13,523	12,149	2,219	2,862	20,874	7,317	533	42	594	170	60,461