



OUR IMPACT: 2024

Every child deserves
a *safe* childhood.

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children is the largest and most influential child protection organization. We lead the fight to protect children, creating vital resources for them and the people who keep them safe.

Table of Contents

Recovering Missing Children	3
Protecting Children from Sexual Exploitation	16
Prevention Resources for Children & Families	26

We are a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, and we work with families, victims, private industry, law enforcement and the public to help find missing children, stop child sexual exploitation and prevent child victimization. This data is a reflection of NCMEC's impact in 2024 highlighting the range of free services we offer and the number of children, families and professionals we were able to help.



Recovering Missing Children

Missing children are reported to NCMEC by parents, guardians, law enforcement or child welfare professionals. In the past 40 years we've circulated billions of photos of missing children, and we've assisted law enforcement, families and child welfare professionals with the recovery of more than 450,000 cases of missing children.

In 2024, NCMEC assisted law enforcement, families and child welfare professionals with 29,568 reports of missing children.

2,535

Active

27,033

Resolved

29,568

Total

**Overall Recovery of Missing Children
Reported to NCMEC in 2024**

91%

In 2024 the overall recovery of missing children reported to NCMEC was 91%. Missing children reports to NCMEC reflected trends similar to previous years with children who run away making up the majority of cases. These children are highly vulnerable and face risks including physical and sexual violence, homelessness, exposure to substance use and child sex trafficking. Family abductions were the second most common type of case and have serious and harmful effects on child victims and their families.

NCMEC saw a significant number of missing child reports from child welfare professionals. NCMEC assisted with 23,160 reports of children missing from foster or state care. 92% of these children were recovered.

23,160

reports of children
missing from care.

92%

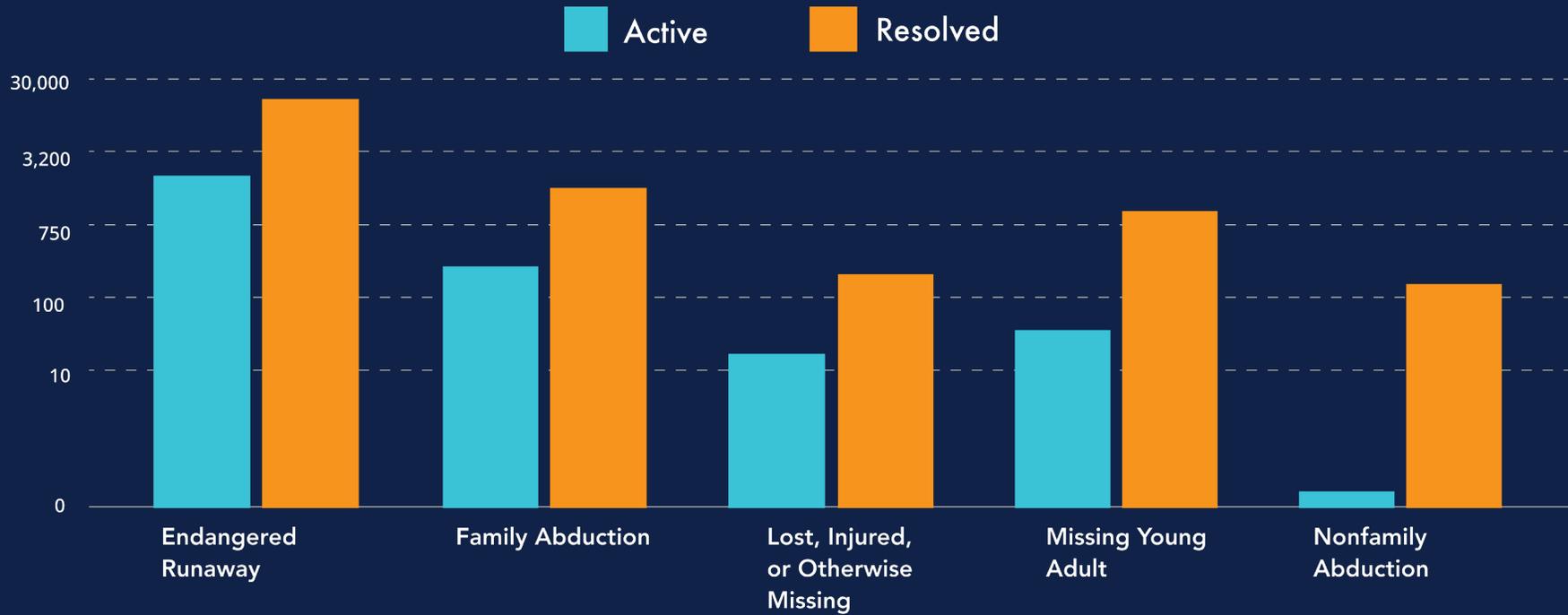
of children missing from care
cases were resolved.



Below is the 2024 data on all reports of missing children shown by report type; by the child's age, race and ethnicity; and by state.

Reports by Type

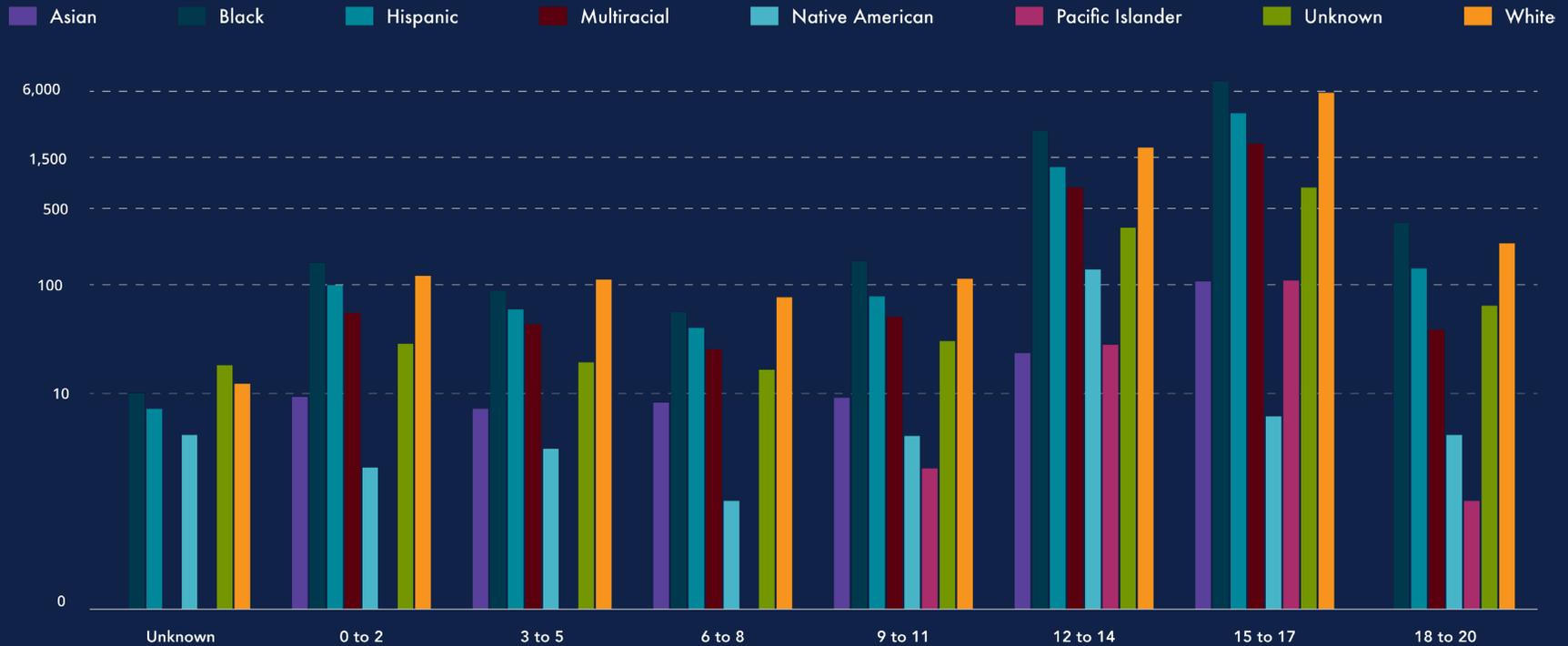
Table: Reports of missing children to NCMEC between 1/1/2024 and 12/31/2024.
The data in this section includes all missing cases reported to us, including missing young adults, ages 18-20.



REPORT TYPE	ACTIVE	RESOLVED	GRAND TOTAL
Endangered Runaway	2,190	25,103	27,293
Family Abduction	252	919	1,171
Lost, Injured, or Otherwise Missing	25	139	164
Missing Young Adult	66	770	836
Nonfamily Abduction	2	102	104
Total	2,535	27,033	29,568

Missing Children by Age & Race/Ethnicity

Table: Missing children reported to NCMEC between 1/1/2024 and 12/31/2024 by child's age group and race/ethnicity.



AGE GROUPS	ASIAN	BLACK	HISPANIC	MULTIRACIAL	NATIVE AMERICAN	PACIFIC ISLANDER	WHITE	UNKNOWN	TOTAL
0 to 2	9	155	98	54	2	0	118	28	464
3 to 5	7	86	59	43	3	0	110	19	327
6 to 8	8	55	39	25	1	0	75	16	219
9 to 11	9	162	76	50	4	2	109	30	442
12 to 14	23	2,578	1,198	767	135	28	1,782	328	6,839
15 to 17	105	7,267	3,771	1,955	395	108	6,008	770	20,379
18 to 20	0	365	137	38	6	1	237	63	847
Unknown	0	10	7	0	4	0	12	18	51
Total	161	10,678	5,385	2,932	550	139	8,451	1,272	29,568

Missing Children by State

Table: Missing children reported to NCMEC between 1/1/2024 and 12/31/2024 by state/U.S. territory and case status.

MISSING STATE	ACTIVE	RESOLVED	GRAND TOTAL
AK	2	31	33
AL	37	170	207
AR	21	223	244
AZ	140	993	1,133
CA	348	1,448	1,796
CO	46	602	648
CT	10	208	218
DC	7	66	73
DE	4	68	72
FL	130	2,140	2,270
GA	92	582	674
GU	0	1	1
HI	19	146	165
IA	7	89	96
ID	6	100	106
IL	92	858	950

IN	64	592	656
KS	34	544	578
KY	33	185	218
LA	26	245	271
MA	67	834	901
MD	63	786	849
ME	2	15	17
MI	35	341	376
MN	12	168	180
MO	81	1,296	1,377
MS	12	82	94
MT	6	87	93
NC	81	1,126	1,207
ND	4	47	51
NE	19	215	234
NH	6	116	122
NJ	21	169	190
NM	13	131	144
NV	42	282	324
NY	141	2,543	2,684

OH	156	1,755	1,911
OK	34	280	314
OR	28	409	437
PA	105	882	987
PR	10	22	32
RI	13	509	522
SC	44	262	306
SD	18	118	136
TN	73	416	489
TX	157	2,351	2,508
UT	9	97	106
VA	42	352	394
VT	2	36	38
WA	48	1,617	1,665
WI	35	264	299
WV	13	101	114
WY	0	9	9
Unknown	25	24	49
Total	2,535	27,033	29,568

**With the exception of children missing from state or foster care, there is no mandatory reporting of missing children to NCMEC.*

NCMEC Resources & Support

NCMEC offers a wide range of services and support to help locate missing or exploited children. After a missing child case is reported to NCMEC, a case manager is assigned to serve as the primary point of contact for the family. Our case managers work with NCMEC analysts to support law enforcement's efforts to recover missing children and identify victims of child sex trafficking.

Below are some of the services NCMEC provides.

Call Center 1-800-THE-LOST

Our call center specialists are available 24/7 to support families of missing and exploited children. Our national, toll-free hotline, 1-800-THE-LOST, has responded to more than 5 million calls.

In 2024, NCMEC's call center received

131,419 calls.

AMBER Alerts

AMBER Alerts are activated in the most serious child abduction cases. These alerts are broadcast through radio, television, road signs, cell phones and other data-enabled devices. The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs tasked NCMEC with managing the AMBER Alert Secondary Distribution Program. When law enforcement issues an AMBER Alert, NCMEC is notified and redistributes the alerts to the appropriate secondary distributors.

In 2024, 68 children were reported as rescued due to the activation of an AMBER Alert. As of December 31, 2024, at least 1,268 children have been recovered due to the activation of an AMBER Alert.



Learn more about
[AMBER Alerts.](#)

68

children were reported as rescued due to the activation of an AMBER Alert in 2024.

1,268

children have been recovered due to an AMBER Alert since the program launched.

Team Adam

Team Adam, named for Adam Walsh, the abducted and murdered son of NCMEC cofounders John and Revé Walsh, is a network of retired law enforcement professionals and other experts that NCMEC deploys to the scene of critical missing child cases. They provide technical assistance and connect families and law enforcement to NCMEC's vast network of resources. They also provide consultation on long-term missing children cases.



Team Adam was activated **37 times for incidents involving critically missing children and helped with 114 long-term missing child cases.**



Read more about
[Team Adam.](#)

Age Progressions, Facial Reconstructions & Identifications

NCMEC provides forensic services to law enforcement, medical examiners and coroners to assist in finding missing children, identify unknown deceased children and develop leads on child homicides. When a child has been missing for more than two years, a photograph may no longer reflect the child's current appearance. Because of this, NCMEC artists create age-progression images so the public has a more accurate representation of what the child could look like now.

NCMEC works with DNA labs and genealogists who leverage DNA databases and forensic genealogy to help identify unknown deceased children or find long-term missing children. In 2024:

141

NCMEC's forensic artists age-progressed 141 long-term missing children and created facial reconstructions for 37 unidentified deceased children.

111

NCMEC assisted with 111 cases solved through the use of genealogy.

398

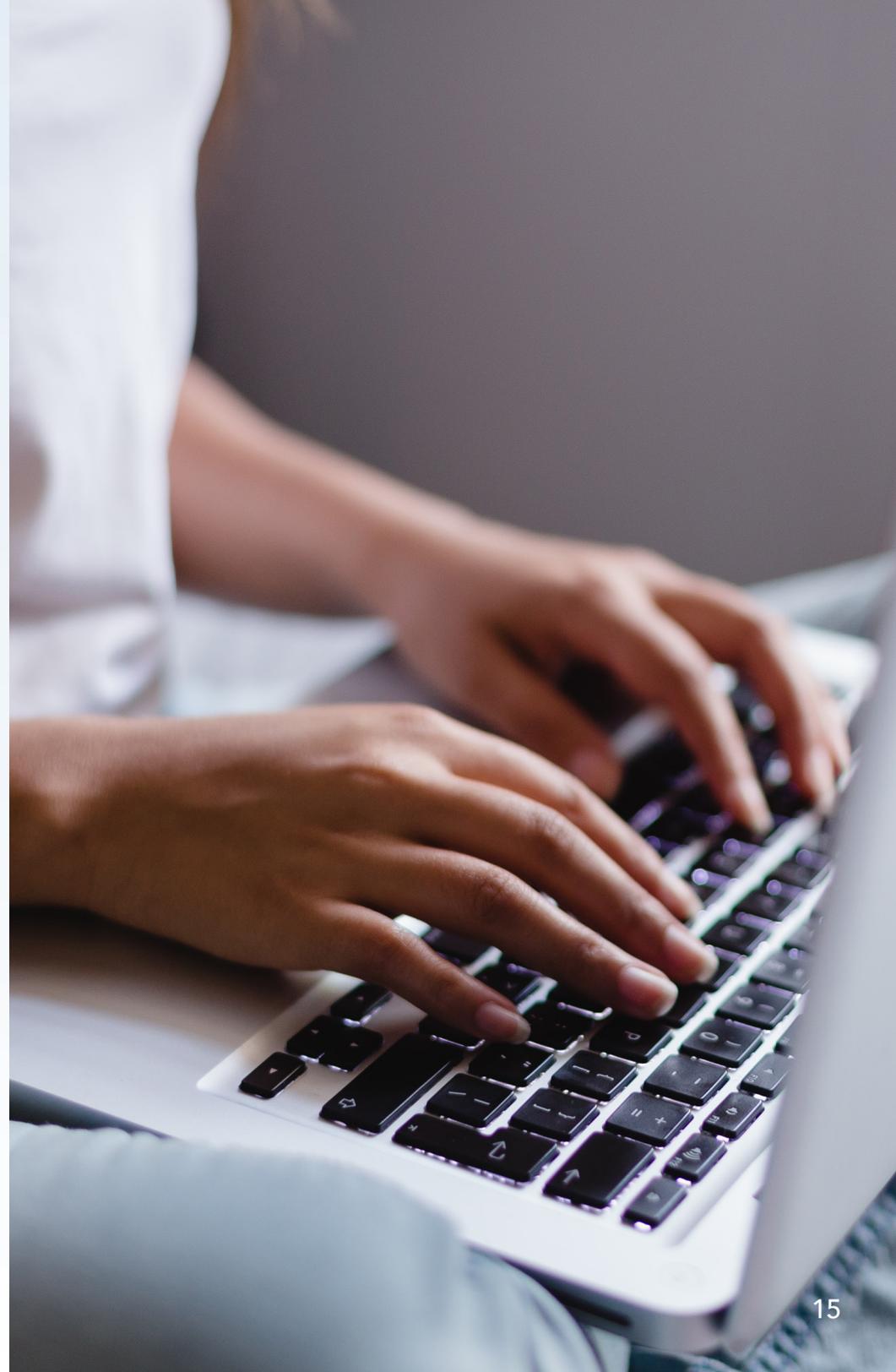
Overall, NCMEC has assisted in 398 identifications of unidentified deceased children.

Operational Support

As part of our work to identify and recover missing children and child sex trafficking victims, NCMEC provides support to critical law enforcement operations. This includes advanced analytical information on missing children and leads related to their possible location.

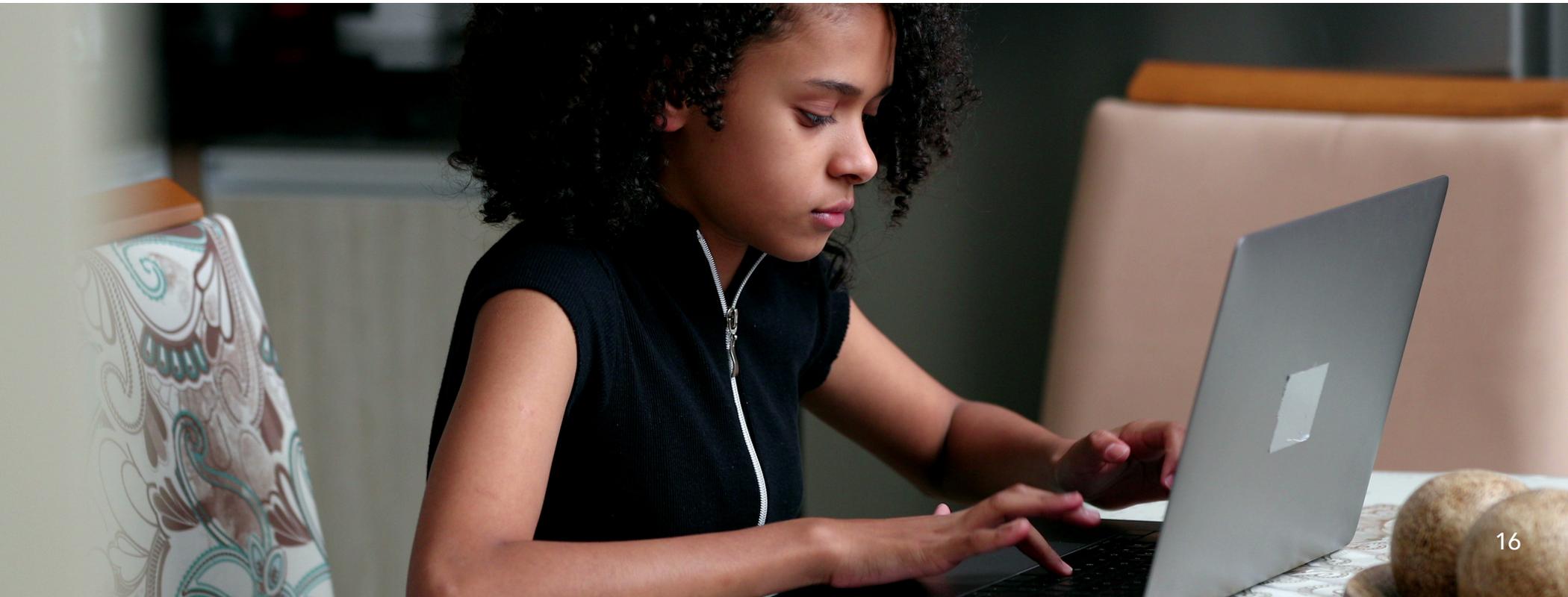
54

In 2024, NCMEC assisted with 54 local, state and national operations.



Protecting Children from Sexual Exploitation

NCMEC stands at the forefront of the fight to protect children from sexual exploitation, rising to meet the demands of evolving threats. NCMEC continues to address new trends in online child safety, offering vital tools and services to victims, families and other child-serving professionals.



CyberTipline

NCMEC's CyberTipline is the nation's designated system for members of the public and electronic service providers to report suspected child sexual exploitation, including child sexual abuse material, child sex trafficking and online enticement.

20,512,803

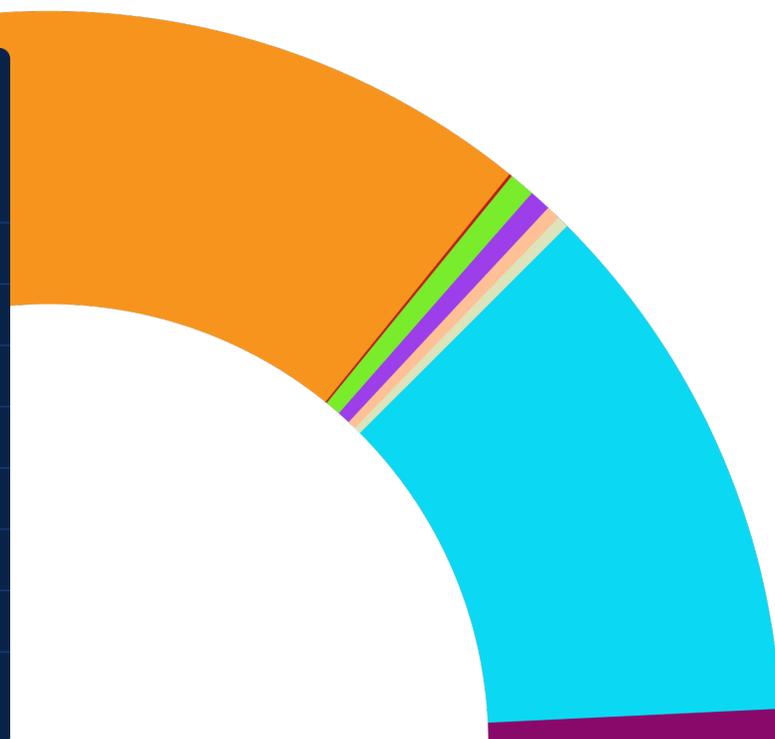
total reports of suspected child sexual exploitation online.

In 2024, the CyberTipline received 20.5 million reports related to 29.2 million incidents of suspected child sexual exploitation.

Types of CyberTipline Reports

Table: Reports of suspected child sexual exploitation made to NCMEC's CyberTipline between 1/1/2024 and 12/31/2024.

CyberTipline Reports by Reported Incident Type		
Child Pornography (possession, manufacture, and distribution)	19,854,300	■
Extraterritorial Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation	2,911	■
Child Sex Trafficking	26,823	■
Child Sexual Molestation	22,242	■
Misleading Domain Name	14,496	■
Misleading Word or Digital Images on the Internet	12,216	■
Online Enticement of Children for Sexual Acts	546,333	■
Unsolicited Obscene Material Sent to a Child	33,482	■
Total	20,512,803	○



Files in CyberTipline Reports

Graphic: Files included in reports of suspected child sexual exploitation made to NCMEC's CyberTipline between 1/1/2024 and 12/31/2024.

In 2024, reports to the CyberTipline included

62,992,859

total files.



33,130,449

Videos



28,004,236

Images



1,858,174

Other

It was a big year for the CyberTipline. New legislation was enacted requiring that online platforms report incidents of child sex trafficking and online enticement of children. NCMEC also saw an alarming increase in sextortion, the use of generative artificial intelligence to create child sexual abuse material (CSAM) and sadistic online exploitation.



CyberTipline

CyberTipline.org • 1-800-THE-LOST®



For more CyberTipline data please visit the full [2024 CyberTipline Report](#).

Make a report at [CyberTipline.org](https://www.CyberTipline.org).

Take It Down

Take It Down is a free service to help people remove nude, partially nude or sexually explicit photos and videos taken before they turned 18 that are posted online. It is available in 33 languages and works by creating a unique hash value for each image and video that can assist participating platforms with removing them or stopping the circulation.

In 2024, we received more than 83,000 submissions to Take It Down including more than 166,000 hashes.



Learn more about
[Take It Down](#).

Take Down

83,000+

Submissions

166,000+

Hashes

Child Victim Identification

NCMEC's Child Victim Identification Program (CVIP) is the nation's premier team in helping law enforcement identify child victims of CSAM. CVIP analytically pieces together information from these images and shares their findings with law enforcement both domestically and internationally. Since 2002, CVIP has reviewed more than 430.6 million images and videos.

In 2024, NCMEC received 5,251 requests from law enforcement and analyzed more than 22.3 million images and videos of child sexual abuse.

5,251

requests from law enforcement.

22.3M+

images in requests.

Breakdown of Law Enforcement Requests, Number of Images and Number of Videos by Agency

AGENCY	REQUESTS	IMAGES	VIDEOS
U.S. Federal Law Enforcement	2,372	13,108,190	1,284,440
Local, State, Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces	2,647	6,686,134	551,944
Military	220	695,283	42,762
International	12	30	21
Total	5,251	20,489,637	1,879,167

Actively Traded Images & Videos

NCMEC's CVIP is aware of more than 31,770 child victims who have been identified by law enforcement. Of these, 3,244 children are depicted in "actively traded" imagery, meaning the images or videos have been seen in multiple reports to NCMEC.

Relationship of Offender to Child in Actively Traded Images and Videos

RELATIONSHIP TYPE	NUMBER KNOWN	PERCENTAGE
Parent or Guardian	663	20%
Other Relative	376	12%
Babysitter, Mentor or Coach	204	6%
Neighbor or Family Friend	743	23%
Self-Production	446	14%
Online Enticement	607	18%
Child Sex Trafficker	88	3%
Unknown to Child	142	4%

Demographics

GENDER	INFANT/TODDLER	PREPUBESCENT	PUBESCENT	TOTAL
Male	103	686	452	1,241
Female	168	1,179	656	2,003
Total	271	1,865	1,108	3,244

Child Sex Trafficking

Child sex trafficking is a crime that can happen anywhere. NCMEC has received reports from all 50 U.S. states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico. It also happens in every type of community, including urban, suburban, rural and tribal lands. Additionally, children who run away are disproportionately targeted by traffickers and buyers who prey upon a child’s need for love, acceptance, food and shelter.

There’s no one version of what child sex trafficking looks like. NCMEC receives reports of non-familial traffickers such as pimps, romantic partners or gang members targeting and exploiting children. Other reports involve children victimized while living at home and trafficked by their biological father, mother or other family members.

Of the more than 29,000 missing children reported to NCMEC in 2024, 1 in 7 were likely victims of child sex trafficking. NCMEC’s Child Sex Trafficking Team provided analytical support to law enforcement on more than 27,800 reports regarding possible child sex trafficking.

Reports of CST				
RACE/ETHNICITY	FEMALE	MALE	UNKNOWN	TOTAL
Asian	19	0	0	19
Black	1,580	222	2	1,804
Hispanic	587	25	3	615
Multiracial	475	46	4	525
Native American	73	3	0	76
Pacific Islander	32	2	0	34
Unknown	63	2	0	65
White	1,174	99	0	1,273
Total	4,003	399	9	4,411

Learn more about NCMEC’s [Child Sex Trafficking Team](#).



Victim Demographics

9% (399)

Male

91% (4,003)

Female

<1% (9)

Unknown

Age Breakdown

AGE MISSING	FEMALE	MALE	UNKNOWN	TOTAL
11	1	1	0	2
12	31	8	0	39
13	163	9	0	172
14	429	21	0	450
15	850	59	0	909
16	1,150	65	1	1,216
17	1,265	223	8	1,496
18	82	2	0	84
19	26	2	0	28
20	6	9	0	15
Total	4,003	399	9	4,411

Supporting Kids After Recovery

Survivors of child sex trafficking have experienced significant trauma. Ensuring they receive support, including trauma-informed response and specialized services immediately upon recovery, is crucial to their healing.



In 2024, NCMEC's Recovery Services Team provided

3,088

instances of support for children reported missing to NCMEC from child welfare who were likely victims of child sex trafficking.

Sex Offender Tracking

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

In 2024, NCMEC assisted with 19,861 requests to help locate noncompliant sex offenders. Of those, 2,990 noncompliant sex offenders were subsequently located and arrested.

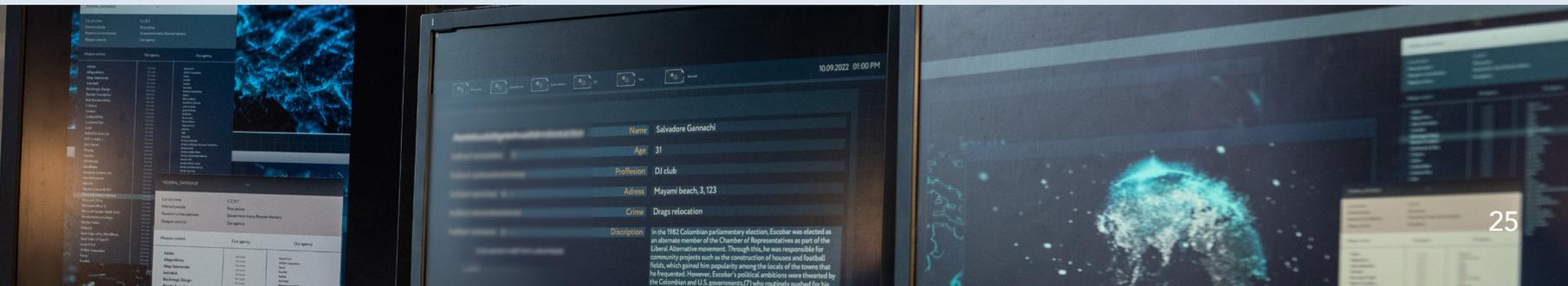
19,861

requests to help locate noncompliant sex offenders.

2,990

noncompliant sex offenders subsequently located and arrested.

NCMEC also assisted with seven local, state and national noncompliant sex offender operations.



Prevention Resources for Children & Families

In addition to helping locate missing children and reducing child sexual exploitation, NCMEC also works to prevent further victimization of children. This includes providing mental health support to families who have experienced a missing or exploited child to help them on the path to healing, creating education programs that empower children and families to make safer decisions online and offline, leading training sessions for child-serving professionals and expanding our public engagement through social media.



Support for Mental Health

In 2024, NCMEC provided 1,571 victims and families with mental health services that include education about resources, crisis support and referrals to mental health/therapy providers near them for longer-term support.

1,571

victims and families provided with mental health services.

386

FAON members providing free or sliding-scale mental health services.

2,886

first-time contacts to Team HOPE for emotional peer support.

NCMEC facilitates the Family Advocacy Outreach Network (FAON), which is a membership-based network of experienced mental health professionals and organizations. FAON had 386 members who provide crucial mental health services on a free or sliding scale.



Learn more about [FAON](#).

Our nationwide volunteer peer-support group, Team HOPE, provides emotional peer support to parents and family members of missing and exploited children, as well as adults who were missing and/or exploited when they were children. In 2024, 2,886 individuals contacted Team HOPE for the first time.



Learn more about [Team Hope](#).

Prevention Resources & Training

NCMEC receives millions of reports every year about missing and exploited children through our hotline, 1-800-THE-LOST, and our CyberTipline. NCMEC uses data from these reports to identify trends and create educational resources to address the evolving needs of children.

NetSmartz and KidSmartz are free, age-appropriate resources designed for children, parents and child-serving professionals.



349

new professionals trained.

86,178

children reached.

10,841

parents and caregivers
educated.

NCMEC provides ongoing training to partners in law enforcement, other nonprofits and child-serving organizations to deliver safety presentations. In 2024, we trained 349 new professionals to deliver our internet safety presentations, providing lessons directly to 86,178 children and 10,841 parents and caregivers.

In 2024, NCMEC provided 41,909 instances of training to child-serving professionals to enhance their ability to prevent or respond to cases of missing or exploited children.

NCMEC Connect is a virtual gateway to on-demand trainings, resources and best practices related to missing and exploited children. In 2024, NCMEC Connect had more than 26,355 registered users.

41,909

training sessions provided in 2024.

Enhancing the capabilities of child-serving professionals nationwide.

26,355

registered users on NCMEC Connect.

A robust online community for on-demand training and resources.



31

public safety agencies engaged.

NCMEC's Missing Kids Readiness Program promotes best practices for training and policies for law enforcement and emergency communication centers responding to cases of missing and exploited children. In 2024, 31 public safety agencies completed the policy review and online training to become new or renewed member agencies.

These agencies serve jurisdictions with a cumulative population of more than **4.8 million people.**

Connecting on Social Media



In 2024, NCMEC's total social media followers across Facebook, X, Instagram, TikTok, LinkedIn and YouTube grew to 3.3 million users. Our social media channels also received:

175 Million

Impressions

16 Million

Engagements

27 Million

Video Views

NCMEC.org

NCMEC.org had 9.3 million visitors and 24.8 million views in 2024.

9.3 Million

Visitors

24.8 Million

Views

This project was supported by Grant No. 15PJDP-24-GK-02959-MECP awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Justice.

[NCMEC.org](https://www.ncmec.org)

Copyright © 2025 National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. All rights reserved.

