

Canada's Missing Children 2002 Annual Report

by : Marlene Dalley, PhD.

National Missing Children Services National Police Services Royal Canadian Mounted Police

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:

National Missing Children Services
P.O. Box 8885
Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3M8
www.ourmissingchildren.ca

Telephone: 1-877- 318-3576
Research Officer: (613) 990-9833
Facsimile: (613) 993-5430
e-mail: Marlene.Dalley@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Message from the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police



The National Missing Children Service (NMCS) provides an invaluable investigative service to all law enforcement agencies in the search, recovery and return of abducted and runaway children to their families. The NMCS also links Canadian police agencies with our international counterparts, providing advice, assisting with investigations, and producing research and educational materials for parents and other professionals.

In this respect, the NMCS is a prime example of integrated policing in action. Within Canada, this service works in close partnership with our missing children program partners, such as Canada Customs and Revenue Agency; Citizenship and Immigration Canada; the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade; and the Department of Justice Canada as well as with not-for-profit agencies dedicated to child safety.

However, the search for children who have been lost, abducted or who have run away does not stop at our borders. We have created and continue to nurture vital linkages with law enforcement agencies in the United States, the Interpol Network of Contacts and with other countries, especially those belonging to the *Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction*.

The value of this integrated approach is apparent in the number of successful recoveries. Since its creation in 1988, the NMCS and its network of invaluable partners have assisted with the search for and return of more than 7,000 cases involving missing children. It also administers a Travel program to help parents who cannot afford to travel abroad or within Canada to reunite and return home with their child.

There are many new challenges facing the RCMP and indeed all police organizations in the coming years. With the advent of technology and the proliferation of the Internet, we are seeing more cases of child exploitation. All police agencies have a responsibility to protect young people from predators who seek to lure our children over the Internet.

It is the responsibility of all police services to work with our law enforcement and community partners to prevent young people from being exposed to crime, whether as victims of abduction, or the dangers they may be exposed to as runaways on the streets.

One of the tools being given to law enforcement is the new Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA), which will come into effect on April 1, 2003. The YCJA seeks to redefine the relationship between young people and police, with the end goal of reducing youth

exposure to crime, whether as victims or perpetrators.

I am proud of our successes to date, and I certainly look forward to reporting more successful cases in the future, where we can reunite a child with his or her family. The excellent work done by the National Missing Children Services is instrumental in making this happen, and I encourage all our partners to continue their invaluable support. It is the best way to keep all our children safe.

Giuliano Zaccardelli
Commissioner, Royal Canadian Mounted Police



A message from the Chief of National Police Services

National Police Services' (NPS) National Missing Children's Services (NMCS) have worked diligently and effectively for the past year to be the primary source of information on missing children in Canada. Under the stewardship of the RCMP, NPS provides a range of critical support services to over 500 law enforcement agencies, as well as to international partners.

This report details and explains data that reflects the activities of NMCS, and the successes and challenges we have faced. The results of NMCS are obvious - 66,532 children were reported missing in 2002, 62% of the files were closed in one day, 86% of the files were closed within a week. The NMCS provided assistance to law enforcement agencies on 658 files in 2002 alone. Clearly NMCS is meeting a vital need for specialized services directed to ensuring the safety of children in Canada.

NPS coordinates National Missing Children's Services on behalf of the RCMP and its partner agencies; Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and the Department of Justice. NPS also works with a number of not-for-profit organizations committed to the safety of children. The our missing children program is operated by the Information and Identification Services of NPS. As the provider of nationally-networked police information systems, the Information and Identification Services is the hub of national and international identification of missing children as well as those who exploit children.

The collaborative nature of NMCS is reflective of the NPS commitment to integrated policing, in keeping with the strategic focus of the RCMP. This consultative approach takes the best resources of each partner and eliminates the duplication that can occur when agencies work independently. The our missing children collaboration provides a continuum of services that ultimately results in the identification and location of missing children, the return of abducted and missing children to their homes, and a safer environment for Canadian children.

Reports estimate that children are victimized through sexual exploitation each year, fuelled seemingly by organized Internet-based pedophile rings with access to high-tech information resources. NPS, through the our missing children program and its clients, partners and stakeholders, need to play a more active role in ending such victimization. Our current aim is to coordinate a national strategy to prevent exploitation. Additionally, to help educate children and families, and those responsible for caring for children about how to minimize the risk of child exploitation.

Our service objective is to continue to work with our partners and the community to help

children and youth, and attain the RCMP goal of “Safe Homes, Safe Communities.” My appreciation is extended to the dedicated staff of NPS, NMCS, and our partner agencies who seek to create a safer environment for children.

J. A. J. (Mike) Buisson
Assistant Commissioner
Chief of National Police Services

Acknowledgments

National Missing Children Services (NMCS) would like to extend our appreciation to all the law enforcement agencies who took the time to enter a missing child on the Canadian Police Information Centre system (CPIC) and keep the database current. Special appreciation is also extended to Karen Swanson, B. Soc. Sc., Analyst, who developed an internal data collection mechanism and kept the yearly statistics on our assistance service. Many thanks to Dina Bellinger, Liaison Analyst, who prepared the final report.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Commissioner's Message	ii
Chief National Police Services Message	iv
Acknowledgements	v
Introduction	7
Data Collection	7
Data Source 1 - Canadian Police Information Centre System	8
Total number of Missing Children Cases - Figure 1	9
Summary of Missing Children Reports - Table 1	10
Frequency of Missing Children Cases Reported on CPIC by Category by Province 2002 - Table 2	11
Data Source 2 - National Missing Children Services	13
Canadian Law Enforcement Assistance	14
NMCS Canadian Profiles by Province and by Sex 2002 - Table 3	15
Age Distribution by Sex - Canadian Cases - 2002 - Figure 2	16
Age Distribution - Canadian Cases - 2002 - Figure 3	16
International Law Enforcement Assistance	17
NMCS International Profiles by Country 2002 - Table 4	18
United States Law Enforcement Assistance	19
NMCS USA Cases by Profiles and State 2002 - Table 5	20
Research Overview of abduction and runaway children	21
Stranger abduction	21
Parental abduction	24
Runaway children	25
Runaway Gender Comparison - Figure 4	27
The our missing children program	28
References	33
CONTACTS	35

Dr. Marlene Dalley
Research Officer
National Missing Children Services
National Police Services, RCMP



Introduction

In 2002, a string of high profile stranger abductions were televised across the United States. The abduction of children close to the Canadian border left citizens puzzled as to the situation in their own country. Although there were attempts to assure the public that stranger abduction did not occur very often in Canada, the numbers and events did little to relieve their fears. During the year, a two year old toddler went missing and was murdered in Ontario. The father was charged with abduction. As well, a 14 year Quebec girl was found murdered. Homicide investigators interpreted the method of death, multiple stab wounds, and concluded the offender may have known the girl well.

During the same time frame, investigators were shockingly uncovering the bodies of young women found while excavating fields and searching buildings at a pig farm in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia. By the middle of September, the list of dead women had jumped to eleven and the number continued to rise. It was suspected that some of the woman who were missing from Vancouver's Eastside streets since the 1980's were among those soon to be found.

The words "missing child" evokes the deepest emotions among parents and caregivers across the country. In fact, when parents were interviewed for a national study several years ago, they responded that their greatest fear was stranger abduction. Nonetheless, Canada does not have high numbers of such incidents. However, it is important to keep in mind that a child can be reported missing for many other reasons, such as a victim of assault or attempted abduction. It is for these reasons, not the numbers, that directs Society to protect children.

Before the public fuels their fears by listening to reports of tragic kidnappings, they must have a clear picture of the situation in Canada. A statistical overview of the Canadian missing children reports, and the assistance reports for National Missing Children Services are presented in the next two sections.

Data Collection

Data is collected by several ways for the missing children annual report. The Canadian national data is collected by analysing data from police reports of missing children and youth entered on the **Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC)** system. Each time a file is opened or closed, data is collected and scored. Weekly, monthly and yearly

reports are produced for analytical purposes. Although the data cannot be manipulated and analysed as desired, the data gives a general overview of the situation in Canada. On the down side of CPIC data collection methods, when a child is recovered, the file is closed and removed from the system. Thus, there is relatively sparse information remaining on closed files except that the case was removed. Given this fact, it was necessary to create a Missing Children's Registry database. This database is used to collect additional information on both the open and close files, conduct searches, withdraw a sample population for analytical purposes, and extract the data for trends and international investigative information.

Data Source 1

Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) System

The CPIC data is collected over the year at regular intervals by accessing the CPIC missing person's file. Frequencies and trends are plotted by referencing the yearly transaction log, a transaction log which reports all Canadian law enforcement missing children transactions entered on the system for the year.

When a child is reported missing, a police officer or data entry clerk makes a category entry determination based upon the file facts and the CPIC definition. These categories are: stranger abduction, accident, wandered off, parental abduction, runaway, unknown and other. The definition of each category is as follows.

Canadian Police Information Centre systems definitions

A **parental abduction** is defined as when the subject is a child and s/he has been abducted by a parent. This category is divided into those cases where a custody order has been granted, and where no custody order.

A **stranger abduction** is defined as an abduction by individuals other than the subject's parents or guardian. In other words, the **abductor may be an uncle, sister, cousin, grandfather, neighbour or close friend**. This definition also includes a child who has been briefly restrained from his/her intended destination, and for example, is sexually assaulted and then released.

The **runaway** category includes children, under 18 years of age, who have run away from home or substitute home care (foster home, group home, Children's Aid Society home/shelter). The causes for 'running' may include a previous history of running away or a particular circumstance which leads to the subject's disappearance (family fight, break up with boy/girlfriend etc.).

The **accident** category is used when the probable cause for the child's disappearance is an accident of some kind and the body has not been recovered. This includes

accidental drowning, all types of accidents, fire/avalanche/hiking disappearance etc.

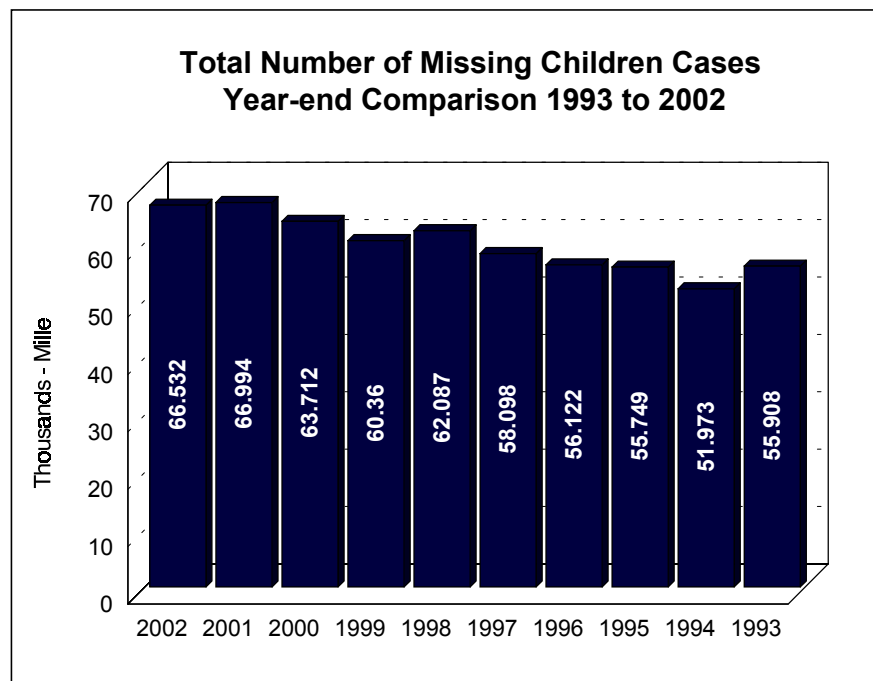
The **wandered off/lost** category is used when the child is presumed to have wandered away, in a confused state, from a hospital, mental institution or chronic care facility, become lost in the woods, has not returned when expected from hiking, camping, hunting or wandered away or is lost from the family location or who has not returned when expected from school, a friend's house, a meeting and the like.

The **other** category is used when the child/youth has not returned to a detention home or institution housing young offenders.

* [For the National Missing Children Services purposes the **other** category is used for **trace and locate** requests, whereby a police agency seeks only to confirm the child's location. Most of these cases are requests from Canadian police services and government agencies wishing to confirm whether or not the children were reported missing from any other country via Interpol.].

The **unknown** category is used when the police agency has no previous record on the missing child. The child has never run away, walked out, or wandered off before the incident was reported to police. They have "no previous history."

Figure 1



Canadian Summary

The cases entered on CPIC over the past 10 years have remained fairly consistent. In 2002, the number of reports have decreased in the stranger abduction, runaway, accident and wandered off categories. The following **Table 1** indicates the changes over the years. **Table 2** shows the 2002 Canadian police report transactions.

Table 1

Canadian Case 2002 Summary Of Missing Children Reports **CPIC Transaction Reports For A Ten Year Period** **Frequency By Category By Year of Missing Children**

Profile/ Year	Kidnap	PA	Run	Unknown	Acc	Wander	Other	Total
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
1994	68	394	40140	8901	24	672	1774	51973
1993	61	407	43102	9959	26	543	1810	55908

1. **Kidnap**, stranger abduction and others (relatives) ; **PA**, parental abduction; **Run**, runaways; **Acc**, accident; **Wander**, wandered off.

Source: CPIC annual transaction report for 2002, M.L. Dalley

Table 2

Frequency of Missing Children Cases Reported on CPIC by Category by Province 2002

Females

Profile	YT	NWT	NVT	BC	AB	SN	MB	ON	PQ	NB	PEI	NS	NF	Totals
Kidnap	0	0	0	6	0	1	1	7	6	1	0	0	0	22
Accident	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	12
Wandered	0	0	0	71	40	9	74	83	13	1	0	0	0	291
Parental	0	0	0	33	16	9	4	94	51	3	0	2	0	212
Runaway	6	10	0	9547	6722	954	2000	8327	3012	329	22	221	94	31244
Unknown	1	0	0	1815	334	294	106	2780	644	26	3	73	13	6089
Other	0	0	0	330	39	14	5	562	219	3	0	6	0	1178
Total	7	10	0	11808	7152	1281	2190	11856	3945	363	25	304	107	39048

Males

Profile	YT	NWT	NVT	BC	AB	SN	MB	ON	PQ	NB	PEI	NS	NF	Totals
Kidnap	0	0	0	2	5	1	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	13
Accident	0	0	0	14	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	0	26
Wandered	0	0	0	48	66	9	65	81	26	4	0	4	0	303
Parental	0	0	0	42	31	9	4	79	48	3	0	1	0	217
Runaway	3	3	0	5874	4983	617	1064	5049	3168	206	10	134	35	21146
Unknown	0	0	0	1670	264	192	69	1983	647	29	2	37	12	4905
Other	0	0	0	244	26	5	7	372	196	10	0	12	2	874
Totals	3	3	0	7894	5379	833	1209	7570	4088	252	12	192	49	27484

Males and Females

Profile	YT	NWT	NVT	BC	AB	SN	MB	ON	PQ	NB	PEI	NS	NF	Totals
Kidnap	0	0	0	8	5	2	1	9	9	1	0	0	0	35
Accident	0	0	0	20	5	0	0	7	0	0	0	6	0	38
Wandered	0	0	0	119	106	18	139	164	39	5	0	4	0	594
Parental	0	0	0	75	47	18	8	173	99	6	0	3	0	429
Runaway	9	13	0	15421	11705	1571	3064	13376	6180	535	32	355	129	52390
Unknown	1	0	0	3485	598	486	175	4763	1291	55	5	110	25	10994
Other	0	0	0	574	65	19	12	934	415	13	0	18	2	2052
Totals	10	13	0	19702	12531	2114	3399	19426	8033	615	37	496	156	66532

Canadian Police Information Centre system (CPIC)

The CPIC data gathering mechanism does not separate some variables by category. Therefore, the results obtained in this section includes the data collected and grouped together on **all categories of missing children and youth**.

Analysis of All Categories of Canadian Missing Children Findings

The following findings are derived from the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) system records of **all** missing children categories:

- Of 66,532 cases of all categories of missing children cases, 74% had repeat or habitual characteristics. This finding is consistent with previous years.
- More females (59%) than males (41%) were reported as missing. This finding is consistent with previous years.
- Of 66,411 cases removed from the system, 62% were removed in 1 day, 86% were removed within a week. This finding is consistent with previous years. **Some removed cases from previous years are included in these statistics.**
- The majority of missing children were runaways. The number decreased from 53,434 in 2001 to 52,390 in 2002 but the number is higher than the 2000 reports totalling 50,633. More females than males were reported as runaways, consistent over a five year period.
- More **females** were reported missing in the kidnapped/foul play (stranger abduction and relatives) category than males. In 2001, more **males** (26) than females (22) were reported missing.
- More males **217** (180 in 2001) than females **212** (207 in 2001) were abducted by a parent or guardian.
- 96% of the missing children were between the ages of 12 and 17 years (14 and 15 year old, 49% and 16 and 17 year old, 30%). This finding is consistent with other years.
- Children, under the age of 5 years, represented only .9% of the total cases in 2001 and 2002.

Other Categories of Missing Children

1. Unknown

The unknown category is used when the police agency has **no previous record** on the missing child. In 2002, 10,994 missing reports were entered on CPIC, 6,089 females and 4,905 males. Previous analysis of this category revealed over half had repeat or chronic episodes of running away.

2. Accident

Children often are victims of accidents. Twelve females and 26 males for a total of 38 children were reported missing as a result of an accident, such as a fire, avalanche, boating or swimming accident.

3. Wandered off/Lost

This category is used when a child wanders off and becomes lost. Last year 594 reports were taken, 291 females and 303 males.

4. Other

Children housed in youth homes, detention centres and other such institutions often do not return as expected and are reported missing. Last year, 2,052 were reported missing, 1,178 females and 874 males. However, all were removed from the system the same year they were entered. Most of these reports involved teenagers.

Data Source 2

National Missing Children Services

National Missing Children Services* (NMCS) provides operational support to law enforcement agencies, conducts research studies, maintains a national database, reviews crime prevention undertakings, and in the search and recovery of missing children provides investigation coordination both nationally and internationally. In 2002, this service provided assistance to law enforcement on 658 files. Since 1988, 7179 cases were opened, 5278 closed and 1901 remained active at the end of December 2002.

* For a more detailed overview of NMCS functions, please refer to page 28.

NMCS Canadian Law Enforcement Assistance

Canadian Cases

The NMCS case file analysis on 175 cases involving 225 children yielded the following results.

These are as follows:

- parental abduction cases made up 44% of the cases for assistance
 - mothers abducted more often than fathers. This finding is consistent with the findings of the past two years.
- runaway cases made up 20% of the cases for assistance.
- law enforcement and searching agencies requested a *trace and locate* service for 30% of the cases, categorized as “Other”.
- assistance to *search and locate* was requested more often in June, September and October. [June is the month when children leave school for summer vacations, while the latter months are those months when the child returns to a permanent residence to attend school. It is postulated that the opening and closing of the school year, characterized by access visits, vacation and the like, may be among the reasons why the search for missing children increases during these months].
- kidnap/foul play cases made up 4% of cases.
- assistance was requested for more missing females than males
- investigative assistance was requested more often for children ages 2,3, 5 and 7 years.
- Ontario and Quebec requested NMCS’s service most often, followed by Alberta and British Columbia.

The following **Table 3** indicates the NMCS transactions by category and by province for 2002. Kidnaping/foul play (including stranger abduction) decreased considerably over the year. This may be partly due to the fact that all police agencies, which entered a stranger abduction report in 2000 and 2001 were required to justify their entry with details in 2001 and forward this information to NMCS. The Researcher hypothesizes more vigilance was used in the 2002 category and entry selection.

Table 3

NMCS Canadian Profiles by Province and by Sex 2002
January 2002 to December 2002

CASES

PROFILE	YT	NWT	NVT	BC	AB	SN	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PEI	NF	TOTAL
Parental	0	0	0	10	5	1	1	38	19	1	1	0	1	77
Runaway	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	14	14	2	0	0	0	35
Other	0	0	0	6	6	0	2	28	9	0	1	0	1	53
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
Kidnap	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	7
TOTAL	0	0	0	16	18	2	5	82	44	4	2	0	2	175

TOTAL Children

PROFILE	YT	NWT	NVT	BC	AB	SN	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PEI	NF	TOTAL
Parental	0	0	0	12	8	1	1	59	28	2	1	0	1	113
Runaway	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	14	14	2	0	0	0	35
Other	0	0	0	6	6	0	4	34	12	0	3	0	1	66
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
Kidnap	0	0	0	0	4	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	8
TOTAL	0	0	0	18	22	2	7	109	56	5	4	0	2	225

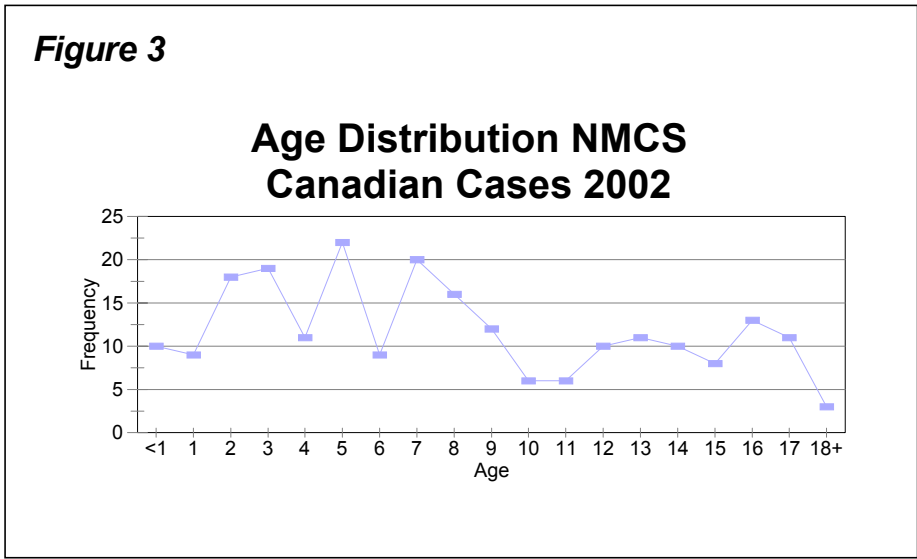
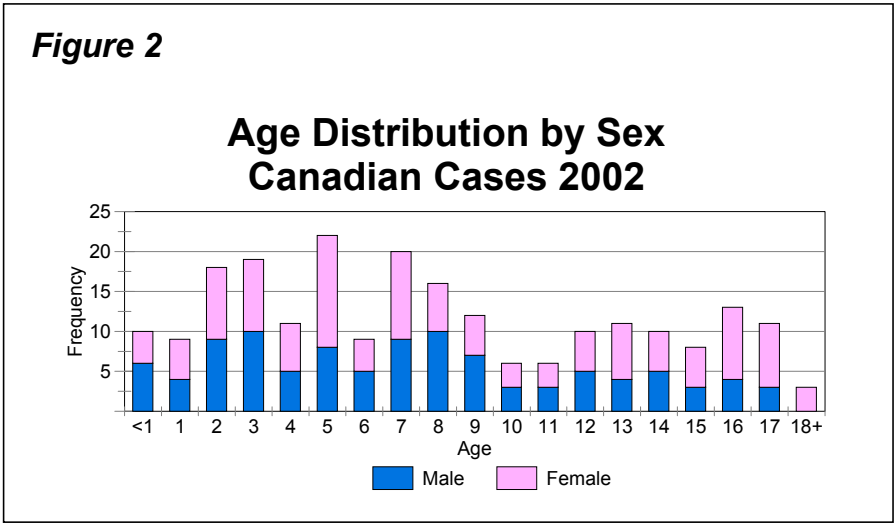
Males

PROFILE	YT	NWT	NVT	BC	AB	SN	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PEI	NF	TOTAL
Parental	0	0	0	10	7	1	1	28	12	1	1	0	1	62
Runaway	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	4	1	0	0	0	11
Other	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	16	4	0	3	0	0	27
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Kidnap	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
TOTAL	0	0	0	10	11	2	4	49	21	2	4	0	1	104

Females

PROFILE	YK	NWT	NU	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NF	TOTAL
Parental	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	31	16	1	0	0	0	51
Runaway	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	9	10	1	0	0	0	24
Other	0	0	0	6	4	0	2	18	8	0	0	0	1	39
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Kidnap	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	5
TOTAL	0	0	0	8	11	0	3	60	35	3	0	0	1	121

The following graphs, **Figure 2** and **Figure 3**, show National Missing Children Services investigative assistance by age and sex. Law enforcement requested assistance in the search and locate more often for male children, 3 and 8 years of age, and female children 5 and 7 years of age.



National Missing Children Services International Law Enforcement Assistance

National Missing Children Services is mandated to promote networking and develop investigative linkages with all countries, especially those belonging to the Interpol network, and those countries which are signatories to the *Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction*.

Over the years, the NMCS program staff have developed expertise in international collaborative investigative techniques that enables them to make contacts quickly and expediently in the search, location and recovery of missing children abducted to other countries. Additionally, this expertise is used to trace and coordinate the investigation at the request of international police agencies who are searching for abducted children believed to be residing in Canada. Excellent in-house computer linkages and national and international liaison contacts help to facilitate this process. The collaborative efforts of the partners under the umbrella of the our missing children (OMC) program also facilitates the speed of the process and extradition mechanisms as assessed appropriate (* See page 26 for explanation of the OMC program and the departmental functions).

In 2002 NMCS assisted with 144 international cases, excluding the United States. This number is consistent with other years; in 2001, 136 cases, and in 2000, 143 cases. The majority of these cases originated from the countries of Sweden, Belgium and Bulgaria. Similarly, in 2001 the countries of origin were Hungary, Sweden, and Belgium. Over half (51%) of the cases were categorized as parental abduction and 20% were categorized as Unknown. Both mothers and fathers abducted their children, but the number was slightly higher for fathers. Please note this number is different from the national findings in Canada and United States whereby mothers abduct more often than fathers.

NMCS assisted in the search for more females (101) than males (72). These children were in an age range cluster of 3 to 8 years of age.

The following **Table 4** shows the country of origin and category of missing children numbers for 2002.

Table 4

NMCS International Profiles by Country 2002

January to December 2002

Total Cases

COUNTRY	PARENTAL	RUNAWAY	OTHER	UNKNOWN	STRANGER	TOTAL	COUNTRY
Argentina	1					1	Argentina
Armenia				1		1	Armenia
Australia		1				1	Australia
Azerbaijan		1				1	Azerbaijan
Belgium	7	3		2		12	Belgium
Bosnia-Herzegovina	1					1	Bosnia-Herzegovina
Brazil	1			5	1	7	Brazil
Bulgaria	3	2	2	3	2	12	Bulgaria
Chile				2		2	Chile
Colombia	1					1	Colombia
Croatia	1					1	Croatia
Cyprus	1					1	Cyprus
Czech Republic	2					2	Czech Republic
Denmark	1					1	Denmark
Ecuador	1		1			2	Ecuador
El Salvador	1					1	El Salvador
Finland	1					1	Finland
France	3	1	2	1	1	8	France
Germany	2			1		3	Germany
Greece			1			1	Greece
Hungary	2	2	1			5	Hungary
India		1			1	2	India
Israel	3					3	Israel
Kuwait	1					1	Kuwait
Malaysia	1					1	Malaysia
Malta	1					1	Malta
Mauritania	1					1	Mauritania
Mexico	6				1	7	Mexico
Netherlands	4	2				6	Netherlands
Niger	1			3		4	Niger
Norway	1					1	Norway
Peru	3					3	Peru
Romania		1	1			2	Romania
Russia				7		7	Russia
Sierra Leone			1			1	Sierra Leone
Slovenia	1					1	Slovenia
South Africa	6					6	South Africa
Spain	5	2		1	1	9	Spain
Sweden	7	4	1	1		13	Sweden
Switzerland	1					1	Switzerland
Trinidad&Tobago			1			1	Trinidad&Tobago
Ukraine	1					1	Ukraine
United Kingdom		1	1	1		3	United Kingdom
Uruguay				1		1	Uruguay
Uzbekistan					2	2	Uzbekistan
Venezuela	1					1	Venezuela
COUNTRY	PARENTAL	RUNAWAY	OTHER	UNKNOWN	STRANGER	TOTAL	COUNTRY
TOTAL	73	21	12	29	9	144	TOTAL

National Missing Children Services United States Law Enforcement Assistance

The National Missing Children Services also works closely with law enforcement agencies in the United States. Since the transportation of children and youth across the United States border, our closest neighbour, is ongoing and concerning, this type of investigative collaboration is critical.

In 2002 , 319 United States cases (385 missing children) were referred to NMCS for investigative search and locate assistance. This number is lower than in 2001, 359 cases but higher than 2000, 275 cases. The majority of the cases originated from the state of California, followed by Florida which is consistent with the previous year.

Fifty percent (50%) of the cases were categorized as parental abductions, 27%, runaway youth, 13% stranger abduction, 8 % unknown, 2 % other and .3% accident. With regard to parental abduction (160 cases) more mothers than fathers abducted their children; mothers 31% and fathers 19%.

More females (218) than males (167) went missing. Most of the reported cases referred to NMCS involved children under 6 years of age but teenagers composed 33% of the cases as well.

The National Missing Children Services works closely with the United States National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) on the investigation of cases, especially those children believed to be in or travelling to Canada. NCMEC spearheads national efforts to locate and recover missing children as well as raise public awareness about the issue. As a private not-for-profit organization, established in 1984, NCMEC operates under a Congressional mandate and works in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. NCMEC coordinates the efforts of law enforcement, social-service agencies, elected officials, judges, prosecutors, educators, and the public and private sectors to break the cycle of violence that historically perpetuated needless crimes against children.

The Center operates a 24-hour, toll free Hotline 1-800-THE-LOST or 1-800-843-5678, available in Canada and the United States. As well, for those who wish to report information on missing and exploited children, a CyberTipline, www.cybertipline.com is available.

The following **Table 5** gives a breakdown of the assistance case numbers by category and state.

Table 5

NMCS USA Cases by Profiles and State 2002

STATE	PARENTAL	RUN	OTHER	UNKNOWN	STRANGER	ACCIDENT	TOTAL	STATE
Alabama	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	Alabama
Alaska	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	Alaska
Arizona	4	0	0	1	1	0	6	Arizona
Arkansas	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	Arkansas
California	33	29	1	5	9	0	77	California
Colorado	3	1	0	1	0	0	5	Colorado
Connecticut	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	Connecticut
Delaware	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	Delaware
District of Columbia	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	District of Columbia
Florida	15	11	0	3	5	0	34	Florida
Georgia	2	0	0	0	1	0	3	Georgia
Hawaii	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	Hawaii
Idaho	0	2	1	0	0	0	3	Idaho
Illinois	4	2	0	1	1	0	8	Illinois
Indiana	5	3	0	0	0	0	8	Indiana
Iowa	2	0	0	1	0	0	3	Iowa
Kansas	1	2	0	0	0	0	3	Kansas
Kentucky	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	Kentucky
Louisiana	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	Louisiana
Maine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Maine
Maryland	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	Maryland
Massachusetts	2	3	0	1	0	0	6	Massachusetts
Michigan	2	0	0	1	0	0	3	Michigan
Minnesota	1	1	1	0	0	0	3	Minnesota
Mississippi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Mississippi
Missouri	4	1	0	2	0	0	7	Missouri
Montana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Montana
Nebraska	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Nebraska
Nevada	1	0	0	1	1	0	3	Nevada
New Hampshire	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	New Hampshire
New Jersey	2	1	0	1	0	0	4	New Jersey
New Mexico	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	New Mexico
New York	10	12	1	1	0	0	24	New York
North Carolina	3	0	0	0	1	0	4	North Carolina
North Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	North Dakota
Ohio	3	4	0	1	2	0	10	Ohio
Oklahoma	4	1	0	1	1	0	7	Oklahoma
Oregon	2	0	0	1	2	1	6	Oregon
Pennsylvania	8	0	0	0	0	0	8	Pennsylvania
Puerto Rico	0	0	1	1	1	0	3	Puerto Rico
Rhode Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Rhode Island
South Carolina	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	South Carolina
South Dakota	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	South Dakota
Tennessee	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	Tennessee
Texas	13	3	0	0	3	0	19	Texas
Utah	4	1	0	0	2	0	7	Utah
Vermont	1	2	0	0	0	0	3	Vermont
Virgin Islands	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	Virgin Islands
Virginia	4	1	0	0	3	0	8	Virginia
Washington	6	4	0	1	0	0	11	Washington
West Virginia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	West Virginia
Wisconsin	2	1	0	1	0	0	4	Wisconsin
Wyoming	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	Wyoming
STATE	PARENTAL	RUN	OTHER	UNKNOWN	STRANGER	ACCIDENT	TOTAL	STATE
TOTAL	160	87	6	25	40	1	319	TOTAL

Research Overview of Abduction and Runaway Children

1. Stranger Abduction

The abduction of children and youth by a non family member evokes great fear among Canadians. Such harm to innocent children is beyond the comprehension of many in a society that tries to ensure that children are able to move about and play in safe environments.

On the whole, Canadian children are considered at a low risk to be kidnaped by a stranger. In 2002, there were 35 incidents, a significant lower number than in 2001. The Canadian Police Information Centre system tallies the kidnaping and foul play incidents together with the abduction incidents by grandparents, aunts, uncles, sisters, brothers, neighbours and close friends. Therefore, the numbers included in this report are the numbers recorded each year of kidnaping incidents. Runaway children are usually not reported as abductions unless there are some convincing circumstances and suitable evidence that indicates the youth did not leave home voluntarily.

NMCS 2002 Research Findings

In 2000, 42 kidnaping occurred and in 2001, 48 incidents. A research study was conducted to determine the nature and scope of these 90 cases. Each police agency that entered a kidnaping case on CPIC was contacted and the details of the case file were requested. Survey questionnaires were sent out but many were not returned, so the researcher contacted each agency directly or through a provincial missing children coordinator for details of the case. An analysis of the data showed that three cases were *true* stranger abductions. All three cases were female children, ages 5, 5 and 10 years. The abductor was a stranger in one case and in the other two cases, a friend of the mother's friend, and a friend of the family who worked as a sitter. Two children were abducted from inside the home, and the other child from the yard of the family home. One child was reported missing, immediately whereas in two of the cases the child was reported missing to police only after two or three hours had passed.

A year later, in 2002, National Missing Children Services was asked to assist with the investigation of five stranger abduction cases. Three of the cases were abductions by a relative, one child was murdered at 14 years of age, and the other request was a age progression for a missing girl reported missing at the age of seven.

Findings from the Review of Literature and Analysis

- The abductor is not always someone totally unknown to the family. Therefore, it is important that children know the safe house in their neighbourhood and the family friends they can trust unequivocally.

- The motivations behind the abduction is generally either emotion-based, sexual-based and profit-based. However, research findings show that most often the offender abducts a child/youth for sexual purposes.
- The risk to children increases with age as they become more independent and are not so closely supervised. Older children should be encouraged to walk about and play in groups.
- Three quarters of the children abducted by strangers were murdered within 3 hours and 91% within 24 hours, hence it is important to report a missing child to police immediately.
- Murder usually is not the motive but the result of the abduction. Therefore, a detailed investigative response plan for abductions is critical.
- Abduction victims are often chosen by sex, age and motivation of the offender rather than by random selection.

Investigation

In the investigation of these cases, Lord, Boudreaux and Lanning (2001) provided theoretical support for computer-aided case management systems and geographic profiling services. The authors stressed that each case must be treated as unique. Additionally, each investigation must include the development of a victimology, intensive neighbourhood searches, roadblock canvases, timely witness interviews, detailed crime scene searches, media coordination and the use of common sense principles.

Searching for Missing Children: The Amber Alert Program

The America's Missing Broadcast Emergency Response (AMBER) plan 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 9 year old Amber Hagerman. While riding her bicycle near home, she was kidnaped and murdered. Following this incident, community members developed a search plan that involved community resources and the media to track down an abductor quickly which uses television, radio and electronic highway signs to speed up the investigative process.

When law enforcement receive an abduction report they must complete the following: determine if the child is under 18 years of age; confirm the child has been abducted; and have sufficient descriptors of the child, abductor and/or suspect's vehicle. As well, they must judge the child is in serious danger - even in a life threatening situation. They must also decide if a broadcast will help find the child. Currently, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec (as of May 25, 2003) have implemented components of this plan. The other provinces are showing great interest and may be "on side" within the year.

For more information on the Amber Alert Plan, contact Constable Marie-France Olivera, National Amber Alert Coordinator, National Missing Children Services, NPS, RCMP telephone (613) 993-8656 or e-mail: Marie-France.Olivera@rcmp-grc.gc.ca .

Internet Luring

The Internet is an exciting new educational and communication tool used by Canadian children. However, it also has tremendous potential for children to be exploited and on occasion, harmed.

A decade ago, parents and professionals struggled to educate their children about strangers who may harm them in a school yard, in a park or at a mall. Today, child protection is even more complex as these *strangers* can now talk to the children in the privacy of their own home and very often in secret. On the down side, while surfing the Internet, these children are exposed to: sexual solicitations they do not want and in many incidences do not understand; unwanted exposure to naked people or people having sex they are too young to understand; vocabulary that is unsettling and not age appropriate; and become victims of threats, intimidation and worrisome harassment. Of great concern to law enforcement and parents is the fact that these predators may live in the neighbourhood or in another country.

In 2000, the United States National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) published the results of a survey involving 1,501 youths between the ages 10 to 17 years of age who used the Internet regularly. The results showed that approximately one in five children received sexual solicitation or were approached over the Internet. Also, one in 33 youth received aggressive sexual solicitation, in that the solicitor asked them to meet them somewhere; called them on the telephone; sent them mail or money or gifts regularly. Surprisingly, in households with home Internet access, only one third of the parents reported that they had filtering or blocking software on their computer (Finkelhor et al, Online Victimization, page ix).

The numbers of Canadian cases involving Internet predators are not easily found. However, since 2000, NMCS investigated eleven cases and Canada Customs and Revenue Agency assisted with an additional two cases. These cases involve mostly children and youth crossing international borders, especially to the United States. Both males (4) and females (7) were lured between the ages of 12 and 17 years - most though were older teens.

In summary, it is quite characteristic for youth to make Internet contacts with friends and strangers on the Internet. As well, they are open to developing relationships and exploring their sexuality through selected sites and chat rooms. If a youth is missing and then located by police, they often are old enough and prefer to remain with the person they met. Some runaway missing children reports are believed to be linked to Internet communications and luring.

Child Protection

Safety in cyberspace does not differ greatly from other approaches. It is similar to protecting children from strangers who contact them at schools, on the telephone or who lure children into the woods or a car at parks, schools and community centers. However, the difference in this type of protection and others is that, in many cases, *the child will know more about cyberspace surfing than the parent does*. Thus, given this situation exists, it is important to learn together in the same manner as watching television together. Children are very open and often do not even recognize “danger” when they see it. NMCS encourages parents to spend time together, listen, discuss mutual concerns and teach the child/youth about cyberspace safety *on the spot*.

2. Parental Abduction

Parental abductions usually occurs during the period of separation and divorce. Some cases are reported to police, as reflected by the numbers in this report, whereas others are processed through the civil courts. Parental abductions numbers have been fairly consistent over the past decade with a slight rise in numbers last year, about 10%. In 2002, more males than females were abducted by a parent or guardian. NMCS provided service to investigators searching for a mother who abducted their child more often than a father. Since NMCS is an assistance agency, Unit investigators most often become involved with the more complex cases; those cases involving warrants for arrest and extensive national and /or international liaison.

The emotional, legal and financial difficulties resulting from parental abduction can be among the hardest challenges a parent can face. These hardships are compounded when the child is taken to another country. If the country has signed the *Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction*, the return is more probable. However, if not, the search, recovery and return process is very difficult.

In 1983, the Hague Convention came into force and continues to be the only multilateral instrument providing assistance in cross border abductions. It is based on the principle that in *the best interest of the child*, the child should be promptly returned to the state of habitual residence. In Canada, the provinces and territories have jurisdiction over child custody matters and therefore, their central authorities are responsible for administration and enforcement of the Convention.

In 2001, Johnston, Sagatun-Edwards, Blomquist and Girdner developed a profile of parents at-risk for abducting their children. These factors are important considerations in the investigative process. They are as follows:

- prior threats or incidents of actual abduction

- parent suspects or believes abuse has occurred and friends and family can provide support for these concerns
- parent is paranoid delusional - the psychotic parent may perceive the child as part of themselves, not as a separate person
- parent is severely sociopathic - characteristically have a long history of flagrant violations of the law and contempt for any authority - unable to perceive their children as having separate needs and rights
- parent who is a citizen of another country concludes a mixed culture marriage - there is perceived or real need to seek the support of the culture, family and religious convictions
- parent that feels alienated from the legal system and have family/social support in another community, including indigent and poorly educated parents, those with financial restraints, those who had poor experiences in court, certain ethnic, religious or cultural groups, mothers who are transient and in an unmarried relationship with the child's father

Although the NMCS assisted in more cases whereas mothers were abductors, the trend appears to be that both mothers and fathers abduct their children equally. As well, it is important to note that younger children are less likely to *make a scene* when taken involuntarily (Dalley, 1994). This finding was further supported in 2001 by Johnston and Girdner's research study. They also found that abducting parents believe they know what is best for the child; they are likely to have the emotional, moral and other types of support needed to perform the act; and they do not consider their actions wrong.

3. Runaway Children

The greatest majority of missing children are those entered in the runaway category. However, these children and youth have multiple episodes of running away each year, thus creating a new file each time they disappear. In 2002, runaway children created over 52,000 reports, a seemingly good cause for societal concern. Equally concerning is the fact that an additional number of children are living *on the street* and no one cares enough about their safety and well being to report them to police as missing.

Most children run away to escape an intolerable home situation, often characterized by alcohol and drug abuse experienced in the home and with friends. Research findings revealed they may have low self esteem, feel neglected and unwanted, show signs of emotional and psychological problems, and have difficulty in school with achievement, relationships and interaction with teachers and peers. Most often they do not run for the fun of it. In essence, they run away, return home hoping the situation has changed but most often it has not, so they run again. The cycle continues and eventually they

become entrenched in street life - a life that exposes them to drugs, prostitution, street crime and the like.

The birth of the video arcade was historically a *magnet* to draw runaway youth to one spot where they were vulnerable to victimization. Today, internet luring and the operation of escort services through the Internet present law enforcement with new challenges. These youth are exposed to a type of *underground victimization*.

Kaufman and Widom (1999) found a correlation between childhood victimization and increased incidents of running away from home, and stated that both childhood victimization and running away increases the likelihood of having an arrest as a juvenile. Also, that chronic runaways (40% of Canadian cases were chronic and 34% repeat runners) were at greater risk of arrest as juveniles. Therefore, it might be hypothesized that running away and having a prior arrest record is a strong indicator to police that an intervention for the runaway is required. Hopefully, the provisions of the new Youth Criminal Justice Act, adopted April 2003, will permit police to intervene positively in the lives of runaway youth.

Assessing the runaway situation

The responding investigator's assessment of the situation is critical to the recovery and return of the child. The investigator must not assume this is just another case of running away.

1. Act quickly being very aware of the time that expires. A runaway or youth abducted by a stranger is most often murdered within hours.
2. Conduct an interview separating parents from other concerned persons. Gather all the details regarding description, criminal, medical and psychiatric history.
3. Examine the youths room for clues to the disappearance, including a dairy, the home computer for evidence of Internet luring. As well, be careful not to disturb items such as desk papers, waste baskets, wallet, jewelry, purse, linen, make up, school books and assignments, cosmetic bag, back pack etc.
4. Search for evidence to make an assessment of voluntary or involuntary departure. The youth may leave his/her wallet, suitcase, back pack etc., indicating a departure was not planned.
5. Search the neighbourhood and places where the youth might frequent, such as a community centre, shopping mall, video arcade, hobby shop, bicycle shop, youth and gang hang outs, bus terminals, school and its facilities, lockers, desk etc.
6. Develop a time line of the youth's last known and favourite activities. As well, develop a history of alcohol and drug use and related contacts.

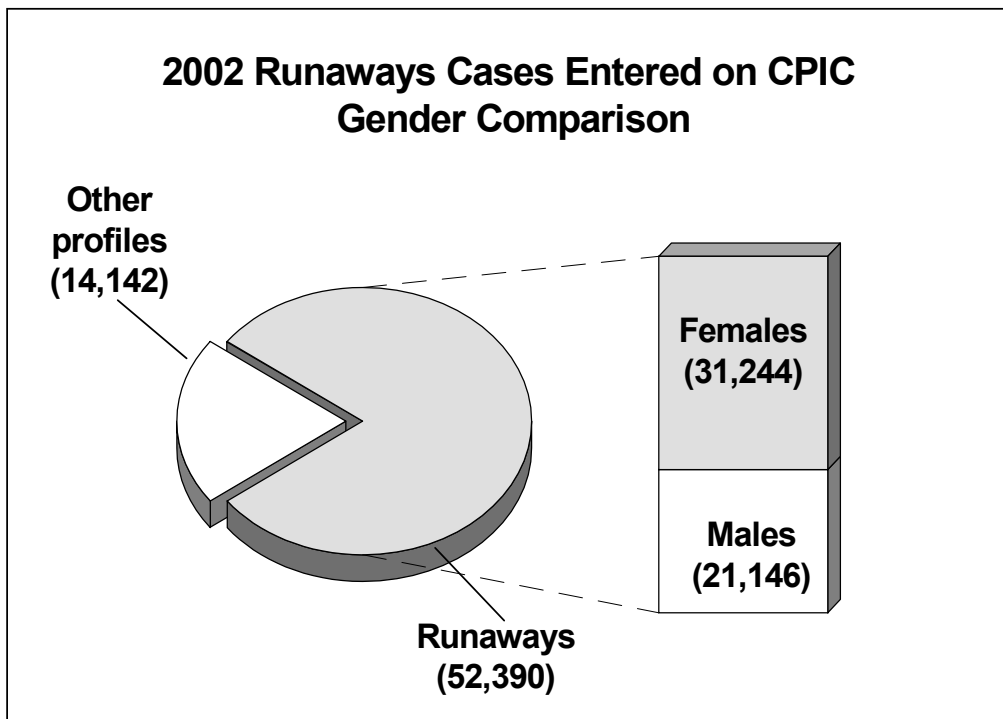
7. Interview separately friends, teachers, co-workers, schoolmates, boy/girlfriends and significant others.

Running away investigations are serious and must be viewed in that light. Some investigators describe the situation as “children running through a revolving door.” They are located and taken home only to run away again soon after the initial episode. However, investigators must be careful not to become too complacent, especially with first time runaways. During a trial of a Canadian serial killer, it was revealed that the first murder victim was an abduction, and the second, the abduction a chronic runaway. Abductors do not discriminate so each investigation must be handled with caution. In essence, the response should be based on strong indicators which describe the situation.

Situation in Canada

In 2002, 66,532 missing children cases were reported in Canada. Out of those, 52,390 (80%) were runaways.

Figure 4





The our missing children Program

The our missing children program investigative collaboration mechanisms is fundamental to the search for, recovery and return of a missing child to a searching parent. Five agencies and departments, each with a unique function, work together under this umbrella of this program to find missing children.

The departments and their primary responsibilities are as follows:

1. National Missing Children Services, National Police Services, Royal Canadian Mounted Police

History

In 1985, following a chain of events which highlighted the abduction and murder of children in Canada, the Government financed a study to gain an accurate picture of the nature and extent of the issue.

As a result of the study, the Solicitor General of Canada announced a multi-faceted program to assist law enforcement in the investigation of missing children and runaway cases. One component of the program was the establishment of a Missing Children's Registry which was officially opened by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on August 15, 1986. The Missing Children's Registry became a permanent Unit in 1988. In 2001, the name of the Missing Children's Registry was changed to the National Missing Children Services to better reflect its National Police Service mandate.



National Police Services

National Police Services' mandate is multi-faceted. It helps prevent and investigate crime; maintains order; enforces laws on matters as diverse as health and the protection of government revenues; contributes to national security; ensures the safety of state officials, visiting dignitaries and foreign missions; and provides vital operational support services to other Canadian and international police and law enforcement agencies.

National Missing Children Services (NMCS) is a National Police Service created to assist law enforcement agencies in the investigation, location and return of missing children and runaways to their parent or legal guardian. It is linked to all Canadian police and related agencies through the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) and United States police agencies through the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), and as well to most foreign police agencies through Interpol. It is the only Canadian clearinghouse for such information and provides assistance to police, non-profit

agencies and parents on crime prevention activities.

Its primary objective is to locate, return and protect children. In order to do this effectively, NMCS has a two-fold mandate.

A. Operations

The functions are:

- co-ordinates investigations with law enforcement agencies by using their extensive network of contacts. The service works cooperatively and collectively with municipal, regional, provincial and national law enforcement agencies in Canada as well as other Canadian government and non government agencies.
- investigates and coordinates international law enforcement requests and responds to Interpol requests. While operating within the Interpol Network, it has established contacts and investigative linkages with over 40 countries worldwide. Through the our missing children program, the network of contacts extends to members of the World Customs Organization, the Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council, Canadian Embassies - Consular Offices, Canadian Immigration contacts, and Central Authorities Central Authorities complying with the articles listed in the *Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction*.
- participates in location, recovery and return efforts both nationally and internationally.
- co-ordinates and exchanges information with other interested groups, such as non-government and not-for-profit organizations working in the search for and safe recovery of missing children.
- provides a computer photo-age progression service in collaboration with the United States National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. In situations whereby a child has been missing for more than two years, this service enables a forensic artist to create a portrait of the missing child as it may look today.
- administers a travel program to reunite families with substantiated financial need, using the services of corporate sponsors, Air Canada and Via Rail Canada.
- provides information based coordination for the national AMBER ALERT project.
- provides training workshops to national, international, government and non government agencies.

B. Research and Program Development

The functions are:

- conducts original research studies.
- writes, publishes and distributes national missing and runaway children annual report, which is distributed to Parliamentarians on National Missing Children Day, May 25th.
- develops unique expertise relating to missing children investigations.
- provides expertise to law enforcement, government and non government agencies.
- reviews and evaluates new mechanisms for the enhancement of the services.
- develop profiles/characteristics related to victims and offenders.
- services as a member of the International Committee on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of children and contributes to the national/international reports.
- reviews and make suggestions to national and international agencies on crime prevention resources.
- educates th public and law enforcement on abduction and runaway prevention and safety activities and undertakings.
- manages the Missing children Registry database.
- responds to national and international requests for information and statistics on missing and exploited children.
- responds to media requests on missing children issues.

2. Canada Customs and Revenue Agency

The safety and protection of children crossing into Canada is the primary concern for the our missing children/Customs program. The focus of the program is ensuring officers are fully trained to deal with situations involving parental and stranger abductions and runaways. As a partner in the our missing children program, Canada Customs strives to ensure best practices are developed and incorporated into our operations for the safety and protection of children.

A National Coordinator is supported by eight regional coordinators across Canada. They determine trends and profiles of abductors and provide training to Customs Officers and other law enforcement personnel. Bulletins, reports and newsletters are distributed nationally and internationally and statistics are kept on recoveries. The coordinators issue lookouts, if it is suspected that a child or abductor may be crossing a border.

Advice and guidance is provided to law enforcement officers, the general public, parents and legal representatives 24-hours a day, 7 days a week.

Canada Customs promotes awareness and distribute posters of missing children for display at Customs border offices, through the cooperation with recognized not-for-profit missing children organizations.

The Canada Customs and Revenue Agency has been actively searching for and locating missing children since 1986. Over 1,200 children have been reunited with their proper legal guardian or parent through recoveries at the border.

As the first Customs Service in the world to have an official missing children's program, this service has a unique perspective on this issue. Customs officers are the first line of defense for Canadians and as well are in a pivotal position to identify and intercept missing children. Every person entering Canada must talk to a Customs Officer. In essence, the safety and protection of children remains paramount to Customs.

3. Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Citizenship and Immigration Canada is one of five Government of Canada departments working together to locate missing and abducted children and return them to their proper guardians. Customs and immigration officers alone have reunited over 1,200 children with their parents or legal guardians since 1986. Immigration officers are fully alert to children who need protection and pay extra attention to children as they enter Canada. This additional scrutiny is for the sole purpose of ensuring the safety of the child.

- coordinates the investigation of cases of missing children nationally and internationally in co-operation with our partners in the our missing children program.
- maintains and analyzes national and international data on the nature and scope of missing children.
- produces and distributes both nationally and internationally bulletins, reports, newsletters, resource materials and the findings of research studies concerning missing children.

- intercepts and recovers missing and abducted children crossing the Canadian border.
- provides the issuance of border lookouts at the request of law enforcement agencies if it is suspected that a child and/or abductor is crossing international borders.
- displays posters of missing children at all border points in Canada, in co-operation with Canada Customs and Revenue Agency.
- trains law enforcement and other agencies in the techniques of detecting missing children, child abductors and abducted children.
- provides advice and guidance to parents of abducted children on what they can do if their child goes missing.

4. Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

The Consular Affairs Bureau of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) became a partner of the our missing children program in 1996. The Consular Affairs Bureau has brought valuable expertise to the our missing children program by becoming actively involved in international child abduction cases, through its network of more than 270 offices in over 180 countries.

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade:

- 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 liaising 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

the other parties when dealing with Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade;

- provides training, advice and guidance to departmental employees as well as to appropriate national or international agencies on international child abductions issues; and
- maintains a data base of all international child abduction cases and, as appropriate, produces reports for the other parties.

When a Canadian child is abducted to another country, The Consular Affairs Bureau provides 24 hours/7 days a week assistance to the left behind parent through the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Operations Centre. DFAIT works closely with the 270 Canadian government offices abroad who, working with the local authorities and/or other organizations, provide assistance in locating Canadian abducted children. DFAIT also offer 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. DFAIT helps make arrangements for the reunification of a child with his parent in cases where the courts the other country have either granted the Canadian parent custody and/or recognizes a Canadian custody order. DFAIT 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.

The Consular Affairs Bureau have assisted a total of 407 international child abduction cases from Hague and non-Hague countries and have been successful in concluding 291 of these cases since it joined the our missing children program in 1996. In 2002 alone, the Consular Affairs Bureau has received 41 new international child abduction cases which represents a slight decrease in comparison to 2000 and 2001.

Conscious of the increasing number of Canadians living and visiting countries all around the world, the Consular Affairs Bureau will continue to be an active partner of the our missing children program whose aim is to protect, locate and return missing and abducted children.

5. The Department of Justice Canada

The Department of Justice Canada, which joined the OMC program in 2001, has both an operational and a "behind the scenes" policy role on missing and abducted children's issues.

Part of the Department's operational role relates to *the Hague Convention on 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 from time to time 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 custody and access provisions of the *Divorce Act*.

In addition, the Department's Private International Law Team is responsible for negotiating private international law instruments dealing with family law including the *Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of Child Abduction* and related issues such as transfrontier access. The Team leads the consultations within Canada regarding the Special Commission to review the practical operation of the Hague Convention; advises DOJ on the interpretation of the Hague Convention and leads the consultations within Canada regarding the Special Commission 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.ca> and then follow links to: www.canada.justice.gc.ca*

References

- Dalley, M.L. (1988 to 2003). *Annual Reports*. National Missing Children Services, National Police Service, Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
- Dalley, M. L. & Ruscoe J. (2002). *An Analysis of the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) System Reports of Stranger Abduction in Canada*. Unpublished report, National Missing Children Services, National Police Service, Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
- Dalley, M. L. & Ruscoe J. (2001). *A Runaway Analysis of Operation Go Home Case Files, Ottawa Branch*. A Working Paper, National Missing Children Services, National Police Service, Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
- Dalley, M. L. (2001). *Child Protection Flags and Guidelines, Working Document*. National Missing Children Services, National Police Service, Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
- Dalley, M. L. (1993). *A Runaway Profile: Investigative Assistance*. Missing Children's Registry Report, National Police Service, Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
- Finkelhor, David., Mitchell, Kimberly & Wolak, Janis (2000). *Online Victimization: A Report of the Nations Youth*, National Center For Missing & Exploited Children, June, p ix.
- Johnston, Janet R., Girdner, Linda K. (2001). *Family abductors: Descriptive Profiles and Preventive Interventions*. Office of Juvenile Justice And Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, United States Department of Justice, January publication.
- Johnston, Janet R., Sagatum-Edwards, Inger, Blomquist, Martha-Elin and Girdner, Linda K.(2001). *Early Identification of Risk Factors for Parental Abduction*. Office of Juvenile Justice And Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, United States Department of Justice, March publication.
- Kaufman Jeanne, Widom Cathy (1999). Childhood Victimization, Running Away, and Delinquency. *Journal of Crime and Delinquency*, V 36, N 4, November, pages 347 to 370.
- Kiedrowski, J., Jayewardene, C.H.S., & Dalley, M. (1994). *Parental Abduction of Children: An Overview and Profile of the Abductor*. Missing Children's Registry, National Police Service, Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Lord, Wayne D., Boudreaux, Monique, Lanning, Kenneth V. Investigating Potential Child Abduction Cases: A Developmental Perspective. *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, V 70, N 4 , April.

MacDonald, J.L. (1998). *Parental Abduction: An Examination of the Nature, Patterns and Consequences for Canadian Society*. Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario.

Simons, Andre.B, Willie, Jeannine (2000). Runaway or abduction? Assessment Tools for the first Responder. *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, V 69, N 11, November.

Swaren, S. & Dalley, M. (1993). *Parental Abduction in Ontario: An Exploration of the Abductors Profile and the Searching Parents Experiences: Working Paper*. Missing Children's Registry, Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

CONTACTS

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE – NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN SERVICES		
Superintendent Gérald Chartier	Officer in charge - Canadian Criminal Records Information Services and National Missing Children Services	(613) 998-6140
Staff Sergeant Roger Martin	Manager i/c National Missing Children Services	(613) 993-1771
Corporal Art Maye	Senior Operations Analyst	(613) 993-3653
Constable Marie-France Olivera	Operations Analyst	(613) 993-8656
Constable Johanne Bigonnesse	Operations Analyst	(613) 993-7860
Dr. Marlene Dalley	Research Officer	(613) 990-9833
Dina Bellinger	Liaison Analyst	(613) 993-5111
Judy Greening	Administrative Assistant	(613) 993-2699
Vicky Bienvenue-Rapacz	Operational Data Analyst	(613) 993-1894
Karen Swanson	Operational Data Analyst	(613) 993-4447

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE – DIVISIONAL COORDINATORS		
Sergeant John Ward	“E” Division (British Columbia)	(604) 264-2253
Constable Jeff McCracken	“M” Division (Yukon Territory)	(867) 557-5546
Sergeant Derek Simmonds	“K” Division (Alberta)	(780) 412-5564
Corporal Mike Brandford	“G” Division (Northwest Territories)	(867) 669-5166
Sergeant Ralph Goss	“F” Division (Saskatchewan)	(306) 780-5485
Sergeant Len Gaudet	“D” Division (Manitoba)	(204) 983-5498
Constable Yvon Brault	“A” Division (Ontario)	(613) 991-1992
Staff Sergeant Frazer Andrews	“O” Division (Ontario)	(519) 640-7351
Constable Linda Brosseau	“C” Division (Québec)	(514) 939-8307
Corporal Mark Thibodeau	“J” Division (New Brunswick)	(506) 452-3948
Sergeant Richard Thibault	“L” Division (Prince Edward Island)	(902) 566-7144
Sergeant Dale McLeod	“H” Division (Nova Scotia)	(902) 426-7075
Staff Sergeant Dominic Broaders	“B” Division (Newfoundland)	(709) 772-5408

CANADA CUSTOMS AND REVENUE AGENCY – OUR MISSING CHILDREN COORDINATORS		
Suzanne Mole	National Coordinator	(613) 990-8585
Stacey Bruce	Pacific - Vancouver	(604) 666-7182
Alana Huntley	Prairies - Alberta	(403) 233-6205
Kirk Cameron	Northern Ontario - Ottawa	(613) 991-0512
Julia Coulson	Greater Toronto Area	(905) 405-3906
Melanie Pouget	Southern Ontario - Windsor	(519) 985-4706
Julia Cossitt	Southern Ontario - Niagara Falls	(905) 354-6512
Michel Lefebvre	Québec - Montréal	(514) 283-2488 ext. 5627
Noella Leblanc	Atlantic - Halifax	(902) 426-1954

CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION CANADA – COORDINATORS		
Jason Daigle	National Coordinator	(613) 993-5959
Carole Dueck	British Columbia - Yukon	(604) 666-0587
Bernie Gratton	Prairies	(204) 373-2197
Jacqueline Montgomery-Reid	Ontario, Nunavut	(905) 676-5330
Howard King	Québec	(514) 633-7782
Mike McDonagh	Atlantic	(902) 426-6920
Michelle Saskiw	CPC - Vegreville	(780) 632-8096

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE		
Jean-Marc Lesage	National Coordinator	(613) 992-3414
Johanne Coulombe	Assistant National Coordinator	(613) 944-5390
Linda Louis-Seize	Canadian Passport Office Assistant National Coordinator	(819) 994-3539

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CANADA		
Sandra Zed Finless	National Coordinator	(613) 996-1300
Louise Haberl	National Coordinator	(613) 996-1300
Marilyn Bongard	Assistant National Coordinator	(613) 941-2337

SÛRETÉ DU QUÉBEC - QUÉBEC PROVINCIAL POLICE		
Sergeant J. P. Bernard	Coordinator	(514) 598-4079

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE		
D/Sergeant June Dobson	Coordinator	(705) 329-6299
D/Sergeant Cathy Bell	Coordinator	(705) 329-6299

ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND CONSTABULARY		
Constable Jim Case	Coordinator	(709) 729-8305

SERVICE DE POLICE DE LA VILLE DE MONTRÉAL - MONTRÉAL POLICE SERVICE		
Lieutenant Détective Yves Malo	Coordinator	(514) 280-8504