

Protecting Ohio's Families



Ohio Attorney General's Office

2016

MISSING CHILDREN CLEARINGHOUSE

ANNUAL REPORT



MIKE DEWINE

★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★





Beverly Rose Potts

Lost, injured, or missing

Missing from: Cleveland , Ohio
Missing since: 8/24/1951
Missing age: 10
Current age: 75
Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Height: 4'9"
Weight: 90 lbs
Hair color: Blonde
Eye color: Blue

Beverly disappeared from a neighborhood festival at Halloran Park. She has a vaccination scar on her upper left arm, a scar over her left eyebrow, and a kidney shaped birthmark on her instep.

If you have any information, contact the Cleveland Police Department at 216-623-5100.



James Swaim

Abduction by family member

Missing from: Clayton, Ohio
Missing since: 6/26/2010
Missing age: 5
Current age: 12
Gender: Male
Race/Ethnicity: Asian
Height: 3'0"
Weight: 50 lbs
Hair color: Black
Eye color: Brown

James is believed to be with his male sibling William Swaim and their non-custodial mother Miyuki Swaim. They are believed to be in Okinawa, Japan.

If you have any information, contact the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office at (937) 225-4357.



Erica Baker

Lost, injured, or missing

Missing from: Kettering, Ohio
Missing since: 2/7/1999
Missing age: 9
Current age: 27
Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Height: 3'11"
Weight: 65 lbs
Hair color: Blonde
Eye color: Hazel



Erica's photo is shown age-progressed to 24 years. She was last seen when she left the house to walk her dog between 3 and 3:30 p.m. on February 7, 1999. The dog was later found but Erica has not been seen since. Erica's front teeth are crooked.

If you have any information, contact the Kettering Police Department at (937) 296-2570.



Ty Danielle Sibert

Endangered runaway

Missing from: Centerville, Ohio
Missing since: 5/26/2014
Missing age: 17
Current age: 20
Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: Black
Height: 5'1"
Weight: 150 lbs
Hair color: Brown
Eye color: Brown

Ty was last seen on May 26, 2014 in Centerville, Ohio. She was last seen wearing a white halter top and a long black skirt.

If you have any information, contact the Centerville Police Department at 937-433-7661.



MIKE DEWINE

★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★

May 25, 2017

The Honorable John Kasich
Governor, State of Ohio
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Cynthia Dungey, Director
Department of Job and Family Services
30 E. Broad St., 32nd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

The Honorable Clifford Rosenberger
Speaker, Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High St.
Riffe Center, 14th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

The Honorable Larry Obhof
President, Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square
Statehouse, 2nd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Tom Stickrath
Superintendent
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
P.O. Box 365
London, Ohio 43140

Dear Colleagues,

The following pages of the *2016 Missing Children Clearinghouse Annual Report* chronicle the activities of the Clearinghouse during the past year.

Our mission in the Ohio Attorney General's Office is to protect Ohio's families and children. As part of the Attorney General's Office for 21 years, the Clearinghouse contributes to that mission by collaborating with parents, schools, law enforcement, and others to ensure the safety of Ohio's children.

The Clearinghouse is overseen by the Missing Persons Unit within my office's Bureau of Criminal Investigation. The Clearinghouse compiles state data on missing children, and assists law enforcement and families. It also works with the Ohio Departments of Education and Job and Family Services to train and provide resources for peace officers, teachers, parents, and children. The Clearinghouse distributes the state's Endangered Missing Child Alerts, and promotes awareness of issues having to do with abductions, human trafficking, and runaway children.

Clearinghouse actions outlined in this report confirm that coordination and a quick response among agencies as well as input and assistance from the public are key factors in the safe recovery of a missing child. We can all contribute to the safe return home of missing kids.

I encourage you to visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons or call **800-325-5604** to learn more.

Very respectfully yours,

Mike DeWine
Ohio Attorney General

Introduction and Overview

The Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse (MCCH) was established by the Ohio General Assembly in 1993. MCCH is a central repository for statistics and information about missing children in the State of Ohio. It serves as an investigative resource to help law enforcement and families locate missing children. MCCH also makes educational information available including news releases, training updates, and dates for child abuse prevention and safety fairs.

The Ohio Missing Persons Unit was relocated in 2011 to better coordinate and convey information about services related to missing children and adults. The unit operates MCCH and is part of the Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI). Because it is part of BCI's Criminal Intelligence Unit, the Missing Persons Unit can better coordinate BCI resources, facilitate the quickest possible response to missing person cases, and provide immediate access to important investigative tools. In addition to focusing on missing children, the Missing Persons Unit plays an integral role in cases and issues involving missing adults, human trafficking, and unidentified human remains.

The Missing Persons Unit has a toll-free hotline, **800-325-5604**, to field calls from law enforcement, parents, community members, and the media. The hotline is answered 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The Missing Persons Unit's website, www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons, is also available to provide visibility for missing person cases and as a central location for families and the public seeking resources and guidance. The site features details and photos of missing children and adults, and allows visitors to submit tips and print posters for specific cases. It also includes links to information about Ohio's unsolved homicides and unidentified remains. BCI utilizes social networking websites, such as Facebook and Twitter, to raise awareness about missing person cases.

The Ohio Attorney General's Office prints pictures and information about missing person cases on its business envelopes to increase public awareness. Two missing persons are featured on each envelope along with the Missing Persons Unit's contact information. Different individuals are featured each time a new order of envelopes is printed, with missing children and adults alternated on envelope orders.

Staff members of the Missing Persons Unit also assist law enforcement and parents by:

- Issuing Endangered Missing Child and Endangered Missing Adult Alerts.
- Collaborating with others on the issuance of AMBER Alerts.
- Analyzing social networking websites, public records, and law enforcement databases to help locate children.
- Providing a free program to collect DNA from a missing person's family so the person may be identified.
- Providing training for law enforcement, other professionals, school children, and the public.
- Providing investigative guidance, resource recommendations, and assistance.

Parents should contact local law enforcement immediately if a child goes missing. MCCH also will take a supplemental report and ensure that the child's name is entered into the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database. Parents also should file a report with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC).

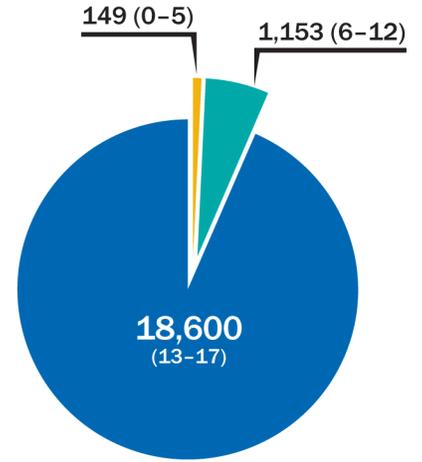
2016 BY THE NUMBERS



19,902
MISSING CHILDREN REPORTS



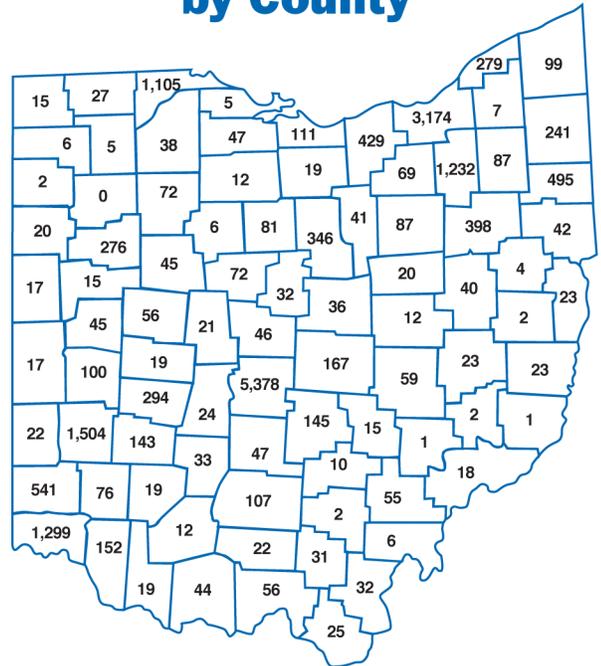
Missing Children Reports per Age



Missing Children Reports per Month



Missing Children Reports by County



48
TRAININGS
7,751 ATTENDEES

1 INTERNATIONAL HAGUE CASES

48 NEW
 LINK CASES
(28 CASES CLOSED)

AMBER ALERT
6

13
ENDANGERED MISSING CHILD ALERTS

2016 Statistics

The clearinghouse receives monthly statistics on missing persons in Ohio whose cases have been entered into NCIC by law enforcement agencies.

Based on these statistics, the clearinghouse documented 25,047 persons reported missing in 2016. Of those, 19,902 were children: 10,569 females and 9,333 males. Authorities reported that 98 percent – a total of 19,503 children – were recovered safely.

Two children reported missing were recovered deceased in 2016. Both children's cause of death was homicide.

NCIC implemented a Missing Person File in 1975 to track missing person reports nationwide. Records in the Missing Person File are retained until the individual is located or the record is canceled by the entering agency.

Here are NCIC categories of missing persons and the 2016 Ohio cases within each:

- Individual under the age of 21 who is missing and does not meet any of the entry criteria set forth in other categories - **19,512 Ohio Cases**
- Person of any age who is missing under circumstances indicating that his/her physical safety may be in danger-- **1,703 Ohio Cases**
- Person of any age who is missing under circumstances indicating that the disappearance may not have been voluntary (such as abductions and kidnappings)-- **89 Ohio Cases**
- Individual of any age who is missing and under proven physical/mental disability or is senile, thereby subjecting him/her or others to personal and immediate danger -- **559 Ohio Cases**
- Person of any age who is missing after a catastrophe -- **2 Ohio Cases**
- Missing individual over the age of 21 who does not meet the criteria for any other category and for whom there is a reasonable concern for his/her safety -- **2,343 Ohio Cases**

When entering a missing person into NCIC, law enforcement agencies have the option of noting the circumstances of the disappearance, if it is known. About half of all missing person reports filed with NCIC contain this information.

Missing Person Circumstances and Ohio entries within each category in 2016 are:

Runaway: A child leaves home without permission and stays away overnight. **12,138 Ohio entries**

Abducted by Noncustodial Parent: A parent, other family member, or person acting on behalf of the parent or other family member takes, keeps, or conceals a child (or children), depriving another individual of his or her custody or visitation rights. Family abductions can occur before or after a court issues a custody determination. Ohio Revised Code Section 2919.23 spells out what constitutes family abduction, also known as interference with custody, and the accompanying penalties. Criminal statutes across the country vary as to the title of the offense and the conduct considered unlawful. Other terms for "family abduction" include parental kidnapping, child abduction, child snatching, and custodial interference. **33 Ohio entries**

Abducted by Stranger: Two scenarios qualify as nonfamily abductions. In the first scenario, a nonfamily perpetrator takes a child by using physical force or threat of bodily harm and/or detains a

child in an isolated place by use of physical force, or threat of bodily harm, without lawful authority or parental/guardian permission. Under this scenario, the child is taken for at least one hour. In the second scenario, the child is taken, detained, or voluntarily accompanies a nonfamily perpetrator who conceals the child's whereabouts, demands ransom, or expresses the intention to keep the child permanently. Within this category, a "stereotypical kidnapping" is defined as involving someone the child does not know, or someone of slight acquaintance, who holds the child overnight, kills the child, demands ransom, or intends to keep the child permanently. **4 Ohio entries**

Adult (Federally Required Entry): Missing person cases involving individuals older than 18 and younger than 21 must be reported to NCIC under 42 U.S. Code 5779 (c). **3 Ohio entries**

Attempted Child Abductions

The clearinghouse works with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) to identify patterns involving attempted child abductions, provide technical assistance and resources for law enforcement, and raise awareness among parents and children.

In Ohio, the clearinghouse documented 24 attempted child abductions involving 14 girls and 10 boys. The suspects were driving vehicles in 95 percent of the situations, and 61 percent occurred between the hours of 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Forty-two percent of the incidents occurred while the children were walking to or from school.

Of incidents in which the outcome is known, 71 percent involved the children being able to walk or run away without any physical contact. Of incidents in which the suspect's method of attempted abduction is known, 38 percent used physical force or a weapon, 51 percent offered the children a ride, 15 percent tried to entice the children with candy or an animal (such as a "lost puppy"), and 12 percent engaged the children in conversation by asking for directions or help. Six suspects were arrested, including one suspect who was arrested for six different incidents. This suspect also attempted to take a child from her bedroom while she was sleeping.

Tools for Finding Missing Children

AMBER Alert

Ohio's statewide AMBER Alert Plan was launched on Jan. 1, 2003. The AMBER Alert Program is a voluntary partnership involving law enforcement agencies, broadcasters, transportation agencies, and the wireless communications industry to activate an urgent bulletin in the most serious child-abduction cases. The goal of an AMBER Alert is to instantly galvanize the entire community to assist in the search for, and safe recovery of, the child.

The inception of the AMBER Alert is rooted in the national effort to publicize child abductions that followed the 1996 kidnapping and murder of 9-year-old Amber Hagerman in Dallas, Texas. Although named for Amber, the program's title also stands for America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response.

In 2016, Ohio law enforcement issued six AMBER Alerts related to the disappearance of nine children. All of the children were recovered safely.

Thankfully, most AMBER Alerts lead to the child's safe recovery. Here are two such instances involving Ohio children in 2016:

- On Monday, July 4, 2016 at 2:28 a.m., the Holmes County Sheriff's Office issued an AMBER Alert for a 2-year-old female and a 9-year-old male, who were brother and sister. The children were in a vehicle with their mother and her boyfriend. The mother and her boyfriend got into an argument. He threatened her with a knife, made her exit the vehicle, and drove away with both children. The alert was canceled at 3:47a.m. after the children were located safe, and the suspect was arrested in Canton, Ohio.
- On Thursday, August 25, 2016 at 1:27 a.m., the Washington County Sheriff's Office issued an AMBER Alert for an 18-month-old female. The grandmother of the child was suffering from a severe mental disability and had taken the child from her residence. Because of the grandmother's mental state, law enforcement believed the child's life was in immediate danger. The West Virginia State police also activated an AMBER Alert. The child was located safe at 3:22 a.m. in Parkersburg, West Virginia.

The Attorney General's Missing Persons Unit staff assists in training law enforcement and the media in AMBER Alert procedures and best practices. In 2016, the unit offered clearinghouse workshops about AMBER Alerts to 1,225 law enforcement personnel, media representatives, emergency management staff, children's services administrators, and victim advocates.

A staff member from the Missing Persons Unit represents the Attorney General on the AMBER Alert Advisory Committee, in addition to a victim advocate and representatives from the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), Ohio Emergency Management Agency, State Emergency Communications Committee, Ohio Association of Broadcasters.

Here are the steps taken during an Ohio AMBER Alert:

- Law enforcement receives the initial call of a missing child and responds to the scene.
- Law enforcement confirms the missing child's case meets AMBER Alert criteria:
 - The abducted child is younger than 18.
 - The abduction poses a credible, immediate threat of serious bodily harm or death to a child.
 - The child is not a runaway and has not been abducted as a result of a child custody dispute (unless such a dispute poses a credible, immediate threat of serious bodily harm or death to the child).
 - There is sufficient descriptive information about the child, the abductor, and the circumstances to indicate that the alert will help locate the child.
- Law enforcement issues a radio broadcast to all neighboring law enforcement agencies and enters pertinent information into the NCIC database. The FBI, OSHP, NCMEC, and MCCH are notified of the alert.
- The OSHP and the investigating agency discuss case circumstances to verify the case meets AMBER Alert criteria. The clearinghouse also may be consulted.
- OSHP sends a statewide teletype to all Ohio law enforcement agencies alerting them to a child abduction.
- Law enforcement and broadcasters use the Emergency Alert System to air a description of the missing child and suspected abductor.
- The OSHP uses clearinghouse alert software on the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG), maintained by BCI, to issue e-mails, faxes, and cell phone text messages containing alert information. These go to all partners, including law enforcement, private and public agencies, businesses, and citizens who have signed up to receive the alerts.

- The OSHP activates ODOT signboards and posts information on the AMBER Alert Plan website, OhioAMBERplan.org.
- The OSHP disseminates the alert via Twitter. To receive these alerts through Twitter, go to www.twitter.com. Search for “Ohio AMBER Alert,” and click “follow.”
- The AMBER Alert phone number is activated. Members of the public can call **877-AMBER-OH (877-262-3764)** to report a tip or listen to the AMBER Alert description.
- The NCMEC sends secondary alert notifications via such sites as AOL, Facebook, MySpace, Google, and Yahoo, notifies truck drivers and Uber drivers, and sends Wireless Emergency Alert messages to cell phones.
- The BCI Child Abduction Response Team (CART) Coordinator contacts the investigating agency to provide BCI resources and assistance.

Endangered Missing Child Alert

This alert is designed to seek assistance for a missing child when law enforcement cannot determine whether the child was abducted but whose disappearance otherwise meets all AMBER Alert criteria. Once local law enforcement makes a request to the clearinghouse, an automated system alerts all Ohio law enforcement agencies of the missing child.

The Endangered Missing Child Alert provides a radio broadcast to law enforcement agencies in targeted areas, sends faxes and e-mails to the media, can activate the local CART if requested, and uses secondary notification systems to inform the public. The BCI CART Coordinator will also contact the investigating agency to provide BCI assistance and resources.

The clearinghouse also sends Endangered Missing Child Alerts to participating trucking companies within a local or regional area designated by law enforcement. The companies post the information – sent by fax and e-mail – in their drivers’ lounges and dispatch offices and include the alerts in dispatches to their drivers.

In 2016, the clearinghouse issued 13 Endangered Missing Child Alerts. Twelve children were recovered safe and one child was recovered deceased.

Responsibilities of Law Enforcement

Under Ohio Revised Code Section 2901.30, which addresses missing children cases, law enforcement must:

- Take missing children reports and investigate them promptly.
- Make a concerted effort to locate the child.
- Submit information about missing children to the NCIC immediately after a report.
- Notify the missing children’s parents, guardians, custodians, or caregivers of updates and of the submission of information to the NCIC.
- Notify the missing child’s school to have the child’s school records flagged, if appropriate.
- Notify other law enforcement agencies of missing children reports.
- Assist other law enforcement agencies in the investigation of their missing children cases.
- Obtain dental records of children missing longer than 30 days.
- Submit information on found children to NCIC.

National Missing Children's Day

The nation marks National Missing Children's Day each May 25. Throughout Ohio, a variety of events take place on or near that day. Below is a description of some of the 2016 commemorations:

- Missing Persons Unit representatives made child safety presentations focusing on runaway issues to more than 960 students in Reynoldsburg City Schools. After each presentation, the schools held balloon releases. Each balloon had a name of a missing child and the date they were reported missing.
- A statewide safety event was held at the Reynoldsburg eSTEM Academy where various speakers presented information on child safety. There were 20 plus exhibitors that provided safety and awareness information on child safety. Human trafficking and BCI representatives were there to collect DNA samples from families of a missing person as a part of BCI's Project LINK.
- More than 600 Kirkersville Elementary School students attended a Missing Persons Unit presentation on child safety.
- Missing Persons Unit representatives also provided child safety presentations to over 1,300 students at the Columbus Spanish Immersion Academy, Pataskala Elementary, and Etna Elementary during the week.
- The Missing Persons Unit held a balloon launch and child safety presentations at Columbus Preparatory Academy with 700 children.

The Missing Persons Unit, in coordination with the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee, forwarded the work of Ohio's poster winner for the National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest to the U.S. Department of Justice. The Department of Justice hosts the annual competition to raise awareness about child abductions and promote safety. The Ohio winners were recognized at the Ohio Attorney General's Two Days In May conference.

The Ohio winners below were selected by a panel of judges assembled by the Missing Persons Unit:

- First place, Mya Wehrkamp, Coldwater Middle School in Coldwater, Ohio
- Second place, Sophia Rush, St. Nicholas Academy in Cincinnati, Ohio
- Third place, Ibraheem Ahmad, Dayton Islamic School, Beavercreek, Ohio

Collaborations

The Ohio Missing Persons Unit (MPU) collaborates with many agencies and organizations to locate missing and abducted children and prevent future incidents, among them are:

Central Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force: The Missing Persons Unit participates in the Central Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force, which also involves local, state, and federal law enforcement, victim advocacy agencies, and prosecutors' offices. The task force identifies human trafficking victims, investigates criminal activity, assists with victim services, and prosecutes offenders. The Missing Persons Unit staff supports investigative efforts, shares intelligence, and provides resources.

Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition: The Missing Persons Unit is a member of the Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition, which works to end human trafficking through public awareness, service to trafficked persons, advocacy, and resource and training support for law enforcement.

I-SEARCH: The InterState Enforcement Agencies to Recover Children (I-SEARCH) Advisory Council aids in the identification and recovery of missing children. Midwestern member states are Illinois,

Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Project L.I.N.K: BCI is the central repository for information regarding Ohio missing persons and unidentified remains. Project LINK (Linking Individuals Not Known) was created in 1999 to help connect Ohio's missing persons, including unidentified remains, to those across the country. After a person is missing for 30 days, a relative may submit a DNA sample to be deposited into a database for comparisons with unidentified remains. The sample is tested for mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), nuclear DNA (nucDNA), and Y-STR. Once completed, test results are uploaded to the national CODIS database and compared across the country. In 2016, 48 LINK cases were submitted to BCI and 28 were closed. The Project LINK program was created under Ohio Revised Code Section 109.573.

NamUs: The Missing Persons Unit participates in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs). NamUs is the national online repository for records involving missing people and unidentified human remains. Launched in 2007 by the U.S. Department of Justice, the initiative is aimed at reducing the number of unidentified bodies held at coroners' and medical examiners' offices across the United States. Coroners and medical examiners enter an individual's record into the database, which is cross-checked with an unidentified remains database in hopes of confirming identification. Families of missing people also may submit DNA to aid in the identification of remains.

Ohio Child Abduction Response Team (CART): The Ohio Attorney General, along with the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police and the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association, launched a new Child Abduction Response Team model for Ohio. During the first part of 2015, over 300 law enforcement officers were trained on the new model. This caused a resurgence in Ohio, and has led to the formation of additional teams throughout the state. Additionally, nearly 50 law enforcement officers have signed up as individual CART Coordinators. The CART teams and coordinators have assisted in the recovery of multiple missing children throughout the state in 2015.

Assistance to the Public

Online resources

The MPU website, www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons, provides valuable information to the public, including:

- Steps to take if a child is missing
- Photographs/poster templates to raise awareness of missing children
- Publications
- Safety tips
- Links to Ohio's AMBER Alert Plan, training information, other state clearinghouses, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

The public plays a vital role in the recovery of missing children through another web-based resource, the Ohio Citizen Alert Network. The Ohio Citizen Alert Network is a critical missing child response software program that notifies the public when children are abducted or are missing in a life threatening circumstance. By subscribing to receive alerts on the Ohio Attorney General's website, <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Law-Enforcement/Local-Law-Enforcement/Ohio-Missing-Persons/Ohio-Amber-Plan>, citizens can receive missing children alerts through text messages and e-mails.

Training Sessions

The Attorney General's Missing Persons Unit gave training presentations on AMBER Alerts, other missing person alert programs, CART, first responder programs, child safety, reunification, resources for law enforcement, intervention, and human trafficking to 7,725 individuals in 2016. These include law enforcement officers, community members, teachers, children, child protective services employees, and other interested individuals.

Assistance to Law Enforcement and Other Agencies

Trainings

The clearinghouse conducted 48 trainings for law enforcement across Ohio in 2016. Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy students, juvenile officers, new sheriffs, and trainers received instruction on missing children investigations, safety tips for children, AMBER Alert protocol, and initiating other missing person alerts.

The clearinghouse is represented on the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee as well as the subcommittee that organizes the annual AMBER Alert Conference. More than 130 criminal justice professionals and members of the media attended the August 2016 conference in Columbus at the Columbus Police Academy. The Valley Enforcement Group Child CART team provided an overview of how to create a CART team and the issues they encountered developing the team. In addition, they provided an operational overview of their team's action during two missing children cases. A panel discussion on Media Relations during Critical Incidents involved Muskingum County Sheriff, Matt Lutz, George Hiotos, from the WHIZ Media Group and Clark Donley, from the Columbus Radio Group. The Ohio Special Response Team presented a course titled Lost Person Behavior. Retired Florida Department of Law Enforcement Special Agent, Al Danna, provided a case study on the Jessica Lunsford case.

The clearinghouse provides three investigative manuals to law enforcement upon request:

- "Missing and Abducted Children: A Law Enforcement Guide to Case Investigations and Program Management," which provides step-by-step investigation checklists for family and nonfamily abductions, lost children, and runaways.
- "The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Child Abduction Response Plan," which details techniques essential in conducting abduction investigations.
- "Long-term Missing Children Guide for Law Enforcement" provides law enforcement strategies for finding long-term missing children.

The clearinghouse also offers a best practices guide for law enforcement for missing person cases. The guide, titled "Legal Mandates and Best Practices Protocol for Law Enforcement in Missing Persons Cases," can be obtained through the clearinghouse or the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy. Copies of other materials, brochures, and applicable Ohio Revised Code citations are distributed at trainings and by mail upon request. A list of all available publications appears at the end of this report.

The clearinghouse also works with the Ohio Department of Education to promote child safety through school presentations and assemblies. In 13 presentations in 2016, more than 3,712 children received information on how to stay safe, how to prevent abduction, what to do in the event of an abduction, and common consequences of — and alternatives to — running away. Each child also

received safety information and a fingerprint card for personal family records. The clearinghouse distributed about 8,100 fingerprint cards in 2016 in support of local child safety efforts.

Investigative Assistance

Law enforcement resources for missing child investigations are also offered by the clearinghouse. These include:

- Using internet research tools, posting the child's photo on the clearinghouse website, and advising peace officers of available resources.
- Conducting online searches to locate the addresses, telephone numbers, professional licenses, neighbors, and family members of people who may have taken or be associated with a missing child.
- Analyzing law enforcement records to see if the child has been incarcerated, taken into the custody of child protective services, obtained a new driver's license or state ID card, or had other contact with law enforcement agencies.
- Accessing various social networking websites on which missing children may have posted profiles, which sometimes reveal details about children's whereabouts, the reasons for their disappearance, their friends, and contacts.
- Providing suspect and associate work ups to try to determine possible locations the child may go and to determine risk of danger to the child.
- Referring the local agency to other resources that can provide assistance or expertise.
- Working with staff from the following BCI units:
 - Crimes Against Children Unit, which assists local law enforcement in child abuse, sexual assault, human trafficking, and Internet crimes against children.
 - The Criminal Intelligence Unit, which can provide background information on missing individuals and suspects.
 - The Special Investigations Unit, which can provide an agent to directly assist with a local investigation.
 - The Cyber Crimes Unit, which provides forensic analysis of many types of technology.

The Attorney General's Office also featured hundreds of missing children's photos on posters in conjunction with AMBER Alerts and Endangered Missing Child Alerts.

Ohio BCI has trained forensic artists who complete composite sketches, facial reconstruction, and image modification. Composite Imagery is the process of creating an image through cognitive interview that will generate leads in locating a person-of-interest in an investigation. Facial reconstruction is completed when skeletal remains are located and a skull is present. The process is used to help generate an image or clay model of what the decedent may have looked like in life. The third service, image modification, can be used for post mortem images or age progression. Post-mortem imaging is the process of taking an autopsy photo and creating an image of what the decedent may have looked like in life to generate tips or leads that assist in identification. The age-progression technique is utilized when missing individuals have not been located for extended periods of time. The forensic artists can modify the image of the missing person to resemble what he or she may look like at the age they would presently be.

Ohio BCI is now offering a new service to help give faces, and hopefully names, back to unidentified persons. Forensic Facial reconstruction is a combination of art and science and can be used for cases where a human skull has been located. The process starts by completing a CT scan of the skull at a local hospital. The scan can then be converted to a 3-D image that is 3-D printed. This produces an exact replica of the victim's skull that can be utilized for facial reconstruction. Following

this process and utilizing the 3-D printing technology helps to preserve the remains and any evidence that might be left behind. Once the reconstruction is completed, images are pushed out to law enforcement and the media in hopes someone will recognize the person and lead to an identification. This process already helped identify one person in 2016.

On May 1, 2016, female remains were located off of Elam Rd. in Xenia, Ohio. Law enforcement utilized all resources including media, bulletins, and DNA analysis to try and identify the victim but had no success. Ohio BCI's forensic artist completed a facial reconstruction of the woman in December of 2016. The day the reconstruction was released, a new lead came in that would positively identify the woman as Tiffany Chambers of Jacksonville, Florida. Tiffany had been missing since July of 2015. Not only was Tiffany Chambers positively identified, but law enforcement was also able to arrest and charge two suspects for her homicide.

Several other facial reconstruction cases are also being worked by Ohio BCI's forensic artist with hopes of leading to more identifications.



Jane Doe from Marion County – W/F, Approx. Age 15-22, located on March 10, 2007

The clearinghouse works closely with human trafficking investigators and social service agencies and can help determine if a child is a victim of (or at risk for) human trafficking. When children are identified as victims or at high risk, the clearinghouse forwards the information to human trafficking task forces, investigators, and social service agencies. Any tips that result are forwarded to the investigating law enforcement agency.

In addition, the clearinghouse provides law enforcement with cell phone tracking information, details on obtaining satellite photos of areas pertinent to searches for missing children, direction on legal issues, CART assistance, details on alert procedures, and information on warrant procedures related to social networking sites. A BCI Special Agent serves as Ohio's CART coordinator. The coordinator contacts agencies during any endangered missing person case and offers additional assistance and resources, participates in Ohio CART Steering Committee meetings, updates the AMBER Alert Advisory Committee, helps create policy and procedures, and coordinates CART response to investigations. The Clearinghouse also can recommend other state and national resources.

Ohio Department of Health

Under a policy the Clearinghouse forged with the Ohio Department of Health, the department flags and holds the birth certificates of missing children involved in an AMBER Alert or Endangered Missing Child Alert and notifies law enforcement of requests for missing children's birth certificates.

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) case managers provide the clearinghouse with information that can help locate a missing child and prevent future disappearances. The clearinghouse provides training to ODJFS employees on procedural issues involving the agencies and other information about missing children.

Other Assistance

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking forces the most vulnerable members of society – including children – into modern-day slavery. More than 1,000 minors are believed to be forced to sell sex in Ohio alone. Nationally, the number is estimated at more than 100,000. The Missing Persons Unit trains local law enforcement to identify and investigate human trafficking cases and assists law enforcement in returning missing children at risk of becoming trafficking victims. The unit provided 20 trainings to more than 1,513 local first responders about missing children and domestic sex trafficking. In addition, eight trainings were provided to over 1,000 hospitality professionals, the medical community, social service workers, and other community professionals.

The Missing Persons Unit assists local law enforcement agencies with identifying missing children who are at high risk of victimization into domestic sex trafficking. The unit then refers the missing child case to BCI's Crimes Against Children Unit, which assists in efforts to locate children who are identified as being at high risk of victimization or children confirmed as sex trafficking victims. The Missing Persons Unit also shares information about missing children with local law enforcement and social service agencies that work with human trafficking victims.

National Resources and Partners

The **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)** helps prevent child abduction and sexual exploitation and find missing children. It also assists victims of child abduction and sexual exploitation, their families, and the professionals who serve them. For details, visit www.missingkids.com or call **800-THE-LOST (800-843-5678)**.

The Missing Persons Unit collaborates with the **U.S. Department of State** regarding outgoing and incoming child abduction cases with an international connection. Within the Department of State, the Office of Children's Issues assists parents whose children have been abducted to and from foreign countries. Country Officers provide information for parents and/or legal guardians that they can use to identify options—both criminal and civil—to pursue the return of their abducted children. In doing so, the Department of State Office of Children's Issues works closely and cooperatively with a wide range of U.S. and foreign entities, including law enforcement, non-governmental organizations, and foreign governments. The clearinghouse assisted the Department of State with two international child abductions in 2016.

The **National Runaway Safeline** is the federally designated national communication system for homeless and runaway youth. The organization provides crisis intervention, referrals to local resources, and educational and prevention services to youth, families, and community members around the clock. The group is known for its Home Free Program, which, in conjunction with Greyhound Lines and United Airlines, provides runaways with free transportation home. For information, visit www.1800runaway.org.

A Child is Missing Inc. provides a first-responder program to law enforcement. The program's rapid response telephone system alerts residents in a targeted area about a missing child, elderly person, or individual with mental impairments or disabilities. The program serves several states, including Ohio. A Child Is Missing works in concert with AMBER Alert and other child safety programs and can only be activated by law enforcement. No special equipment or personnel are needed, and the program is free. For information, visit www.achildismissing.org.

Code Adam, one of the nation's largest child-safety programs, was created by Wal-Mart to assist businesses and others with public facilities in preventing a child from being abducted and removed from the premises. The Code Adam program was named for 6-year-old Adam Walsh, whose 1981 abduction and murder brought the horror of child abduction to national attention. The program lays out a series of steps to be taken in the event a child is reported missing in a store or similar location. All Ohio agencies, schools, libraries, law enforcement, and retailers are encouraged to promote Code Adam in their areas.

Team Adam, a program of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, provides rapid, on-site assistance to law enforcement agencies and families in serious cases of missing children. Team Adam consultants are retired law enforcement professionals with years of investigative experience at the federal, state, and local levels. Consultants from Team Adam rapidly deploy to sites where these cases are unfolding. They provide on-the-ground technical assistance and connect local law enforcement to a national network of resources. The program's unique access to NCMEC's resources, coupled with years of law enforcement experience, often provides departments with the added tools needed to better address complex, media intensive cases.

Team HOPE (Help Offering Parents Empowerment) assists families with missing children by offering counseling, resources, empowerment, and support from trained volunteers who have (or have had) missing children. For information, call **866-305-HOPE (866-305-4673)**, or visit www.teamhope.org.

Related publications*

Child Fingerprint ID Cards

"Keep Your Child Safe" palm card

Child Safety Game Sheet

Eight Rules for Safety

Family Abduction: How to Prevent Abduction and What to Do if Your Child is Abducted

When Your Child is Missing: A Family Survival Guide

National Runaway Safeline

AMBER Alert for the Media

For Healthcare Professionals: Guidelines on Prevention of and Response to Infant Abductions

Parental Kidnapping: How to Prevent Abduction and What to Do if Your Child is Abducted

Recovery and Reunification of Missing Children

Youth at Risk: Understanding Runaway and Exploited Youth

Just In Case Series for Families

Just in Case ... Parental Guidelines in Case You Need a Babysitter

Just in Case ... Parental Guidelines in Case You Need Help Finding Professional Help

Just in Case ... Parental Guidelines in Case You are Considering Daycare

Just in Case ... Parental Guidelines in Case You are Considering Family Separation

Just in Case ... Parental Guidelines in Case Your Child is Testifying in Court

Just in Case ... Parental and Professional Guidelines in Dealing With Grief Following the Loss of a Child
Just in Case ... Parental Guidelines in Case Your Child Might Someday be Missing
Just in Case ... Parental Guidelines In Case Your Child Might Someday be a Runaway
Just in Case ... Parental Guidelines In Case Your Child Might Someday Be a Victim of Sexual Abuse or Exploitation

Know the Rules for Child Safety

Know the Rules (After School Safety for Children Home Alone)
Know the Rules (For Child Safety in Amusement or Theme Parks)
Know the Rules (For Child Safety in Youth Sports)
Know the Rules (General Parental Tips to Help Keep Your Child Safer)
Know the Rules (Safety Tips for The Holidays)
Know the Rules (School Safety Tips)
Know the Rules (For Going to and from School More Safely)

Law Enforcement Resources

AMBER Alert Investigator Checklist
Law Enforcement: Resource Information
Missing and Abducted Children: A Law Enforcement Guide to Case Investigation and Program Management
Long-term Missing Children Guide for Law Enforcement: Law enforcement strategies for finding long-term missing children
Child Molesters Who Abduct
Child Molesters (A Behavioral Analysis)
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Publication Order Form
Child Sex Rings: Behavioral Analysis
Female Juvenile Prostitution Problem and Response
Criminal Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Laws in Eight Midwestern States
Children Traumatized in Sex Rings
Child Abuse and Neglect
Interviewing Child Victims of Sexual Exploitation
Investigator's Guide to Missing Child Cases

* These publications are available from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, **703-224-2150**.

Ohio's 2016 National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest



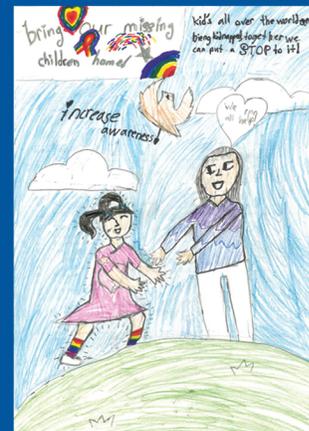
1st Place

Mya Wehrkamp
Coldwater Middle School
Coldwater, Ohio



2nd Place

Sophia Rush
St. Nicholas Academy
Cincinnati, Ohio



3rd Place

Ibraheem Ahmad
Dayton Islamic School
Beavercreek, Ohio



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Missing Children Clearinghouse

2016

Annual Report

Ohio Attorney General's Office
Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Missing Persons Unit
150 E. Gay St., 25th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Hotline: 800-325-5604



MIKE DEWINE

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov