

RICHARD CORDRAY
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



Missing Children Clearinghouse
Annual Report
2009

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The Honorable Armond Budish
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The Honorable Bill Harris
President, Ohio Senate
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Superintendent,
Bureau of Criminal Identification
and Investigation
P.O. Box 365
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Dear Colleagues,

A missing child is a parent's worst nightmare. Fortunately, though, the vast majority of children in Ohio who are reported missing are recovered. In these moments of crisis, the Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse can help.

For almost 20 years, the clearinghouse has worked with parents and schools to keep kids safe. The clearinghouse compiles data on missing children, acts as a liaison with law enforcement and partners with the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to train and provide educational materials to teachers, parents, children and law enforcement. Additionally, the clearinghouse issues Ohio's Missing Child Alerts and Missing Adult Alerts, coordinates with law enforcement in the issuance of AMBER Alerts and works to raise awareness of the issues surrounding runaway children, human trafficking, kidnapping and missing adults.

I am pleased to present this report detailing the clearinghouse's work in 2009.

Safely recovering a missing child is a mission that requires speed and coordination, and I am proud of the Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse's efforts and record at fulfilling this mission.

For resources on how to protect children and information on how to report a missing child, please visit www.mcc.ohioattorneygeneral.gov or call **(800) 325-5604**.

Sincerely,



Richard Cordray
Ohio Attorney General



INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

The Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse, part of Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray's Crime Victims Assistance and Protection Section, plays an integral role in efforts to locate Ohio's missing children and promote measures that can reduce the likelihood of future incidents.

Established in 1993 under Ohio Revised Code 109.65(B), the clearinghouse serves as a central repository of statistics and information about the state's missing children. It also assists in searches and develops and disseminates educational information about missing and abducted children through news releases, training, child abuse prevention and safety fairs and, in coordination with the Ohio Department of Education, child safety lesson plans.

In recent years, the Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse has coordinated with others on the issues of human trafficking, missing adults and unidentified human remains.

In cooperation with the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, the clearinghouse maintains a toll-free hotline, (800) 325-5604, to answer calls from law enforcement, parents, community members and the media. The hotline is answered 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The clearinghouse's website, www.mcc.ohioattorneygeneral.gov, provides resources to the public and posters of missing children.

Clearinghouse staffers also assist law enforcement and parents in the search for missing children by:

- Issuing Missing Child Alerts
- Collaborating with others in the issuance of AMBER Alerts
- Using social websites, public records and law enforcement databases to help locate children
- Training law enforcement, other professionals and the public
- Providing investigative guidance and assistance

While parents should contact local law enforcement immediately if a child goes missing, the Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse also will, if contacted, take a supplemental report and verify the investigating law enforcement agency has entered the child's name 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).

2009 STATISTICS

The clearinghouse receives monthly statistics on Ohio children whom law enforcement agencies have entered into the NCIC database. Some children, such as those who are recovered quickly or are the subject of frequent custody disputes, may not be included in NCIC statistics.

In 2009, the clearinghouse documented 20,194 reports of missing children in Ohio. Of those, authorities reported that 97 percent —19,530 children — were recovered. Three children were killed.

Types of reports

Missing children reports filed with the NCIC are categorized into four areas. (Category definitions appear below). The totals in each category in 2009 were:

- Runaways — 10,906
- Family abductions — 66
- Non-family abductions — 2
- Lost, injured or otherwise missing — 9,220

Definitions

Runaway: A child leaves home without permission and stays away overnight.

Family abduction: This involves the taking, keeping or concealing of a child or children by a parent, other family member or person acting on behalf of the parent or other family member, 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 both 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.

Non-family abduction: Two scenarios qualify as non-family abductions. In one, a non-family perpetrator takes a child by using physical force or threat of bodily harm or detains a child for a substantial period of time, at least one hour, in an isolated place by the use of physical force or threat of bodily harm without lawful authority or parental/guardian permission. In the other scenario, the child is taken, detained or voluntarily accompanies a non-family 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, transports the child a distance of 50 miles or more, kills the child, demands ransom or intends to keep the child permanently.

Lost, injured or otherwise missing: This is defined as a situation in which a child's whereabouts are unknown to the child's caretaker for at least an hour. This may happen because the child was trying to get home or make contact with the caretaker but was unable to do so because he or she was lost, stranded or injured; the child was too young to know how to return home or make contact with the caretaker; or the child was unaware that the caretaker was looking for him or her.

Ages of missing children

Ohio children reported missing to the NCIC in 2009 were in these age categories:

- 0 to 5 years old — 133
- 6 to 12 years old — 601
- 13 to 17 years old — 11,736
- 17 and older — 7,691
- Age unknown — 33

Missing Ohio children by county in 2009:

County	Children reported missing	County	Children reported missing	County	Children reported missing
Adams	11	Guernsey	16	Muskingum	57
Allen	191	Hamilton	1,739	Noble	0
Ashland	44	Hancock	84	Ottawa	15
Ashtabula	73	Hardin	19	Paulding	12
Athens	53	Harrison	8	Perry	26
Auglaize	19	Henry	12	Pickaway	83
Belmont	32	Highland	23	Pike	12
Brown	19	Hocking	4	Portage	91
Butler	373	Holmes	5	Preble	15
Carroll	9	Huron	70	Putnam	4
Champaign	32	Jackson	15	Richland	386
Clark	399	Jefferson	34	Ross	173
Clermont	1,183	Knox	30	Sandusky	20
Clinton	9	Lawrence	1	Scioto	74
Columbiana	34	Lake	1	Seneca	112
Coshocton	8	Licking	168	Shelby	116
Crawford	41	Logan	23	Stark	506
Cuyahoga	2,943	Lorain	575	Summit	342
Darke	29	Lucas	1,281	Trumbull	204
Defiance	17	Madison	36	Tuscarawas	52
Delaware	93	Mahoning	417	Union	222
Erie	179	Marion	105	Van Wert	11
Fairfield	155	Medina	88	Vinton	11
Fayette	20	Meigs	4	Warren	118
Franklin	4,736	Mercer	12	Washington	23
Fulton	17	Miami	84	Wayne	105
Gallia	16	Monroe	3	Williams	20
Geauga	13	Montgomery	1,395	Wood	66
Greene	127	Morgan	4	Wyandot	3
		Morrow	31	Unknown*	155

* NCIC record does not include missing child's county.

TOOLS FOR FINDING MISSING CHILDREN



Ohio's statewide AMBER Alert Plan was launched on Jan. 1, 2003. The program utilizes the resources of law enforcement and the media to notify the public when children are kidnapped.

Its beginnings are tied to a national effort to publicize child abductions that followed the 1996 kidnapping and murder of 9-year-old Amber Hagerman in Dallas. While named for Amber Hagerman, the program's title also is an acronym for America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response.

In addition to the statewide plan, 24 local or regional areas have AMBER Alert plans that complement the statewide plan and spell out procedures for alerts in those specific geographic areas.

In 2009, Ohio law enforcement issued 11 AMBER Alerts related to the disappearance of 12 children. Eleven of the children were recovered safely.

One child, a 13-year-old Cincinnati girl, was killed. In that case, Cincinnati Police Department issued an AMBER Alert for the girl on March 8, 2009, after her parents reported that she did not return home from jogging. Police canine officers discovered the girl's body approximately 500 feet from where the suspect was found sleeping in a heavily wooded area. The suspect, who was homeless, had the victim's iPod and cell phone in his possession. The suspect was arrested and charged with aggravated murder.

Thankfully, most AMBER Alerts lead to happy endings. Here are two such instances involving Ohio children in 2009:

- The Champaign County Sheriff's Office — in coordination with the Springfield Police Department and the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Columbus Communications Center — issued an AMBER Alert for a 2-year-old boy the afternoon of March 7, 2009. He had last been seen the previous day in Christiansburg, Ohio, and was believed to be with his father, who had bipolar disorder. The father also had a history of drug abuse and attempted suicide, and he did not have his medications with him. A citizen saw the suspect's vehicle in Springfield and notified law enforcement. Springfield police arrested the man and charged him with child endangering. The victim was recovered safely within hours of the alert and was reunited with his mother.
- The Warren Police Department — coordinating with the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Columbus Communications Center — issued an AMBER Alert for an 8-month-old boy less than an hour after he was taken from his Warren, Ohio, home on Nov. 14, 2009. The suspect, the baby's father, was the subject of an active warrant for child endangering as well as a civil protection order prohibiting him from interacting with the mother and child. The suspect saw the alert on television, telephoned the mother and turned himself in to authorities. He was charged with abduction and violation of a protection order. The child was recovered safely and returned to his mother. Lt. Joseph R. Marhulik of the Warren Police Department called the AMBER Alert system "a fantastic tool that brought about the safe return of the child."

Here are the steps taken during an Ohio AMBER Alert:

- Law enforcement receives initial call of 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 National Crime Information Center database. The FBI, Ohio State Highway Patrol, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and Missing Children Clearinghouse are notified of the alert.
- The Ohio State Highway Patrol (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 (EAS) to air a description of the missing child and suspected abductor.
- The OSHP uses clearinghouse software on the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG), maintained by the Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, 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 Ohio Department of Transportation signboards and posts information on the AMBER Alert Plan website: www.OhioAMBERplan.org.
- 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.

Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse staff members assist with training law enforcement and the media in AMBER Alert procedures and best practices. In 2009, 1,740 law enforcement personnel, media representatives, emergency management staff, children's services administrators and victim advocates attended clearinghouse workshops.

A clearinghouse staff member also sits on the AMBER Alert Steering Committee along with representatives from law enforcement, the media and others.

Missing Child Alert

For a missing child who meets all of the AMBER Alert criteria except that law enforcement cannot determine that the child was abducted, the clearinghouse can issue a Missing Child Alert in response to a local law enforcement request. An automated system alerts all Ohio law enforcement agencies, provides a radio broadcast to law enforcement agencies in the alert area, sends faxes and e-mails to the media, activates the local Child Abduction Response Team (CART) and uses secondary notification systems to inform the public.

In 2009, the clearinghouse issued 15 Missing Child Alerts. All of the children were recovered safely.

Trucker Alert

A Truckers Helping to Recover Ohio's Missing Children advisory can be issued with or without an AMBER Alert. Under this initiative, which the Ohio Attorney General's Office launched in 2004 in coordination with the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association and the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, the clearinghouse alerts 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 2009, the clearinghouse issued seven Trucker Alerts. All children were recovered safely.

National Missing Children's Day

The clearinghouse promotes National Missing Children's Day each year on May 25 to raise awareness about missing children across the nation. Public agencies statewide are encouraged to observe the day with events that promote child safety.

The clearinghouse works with the Ohio Department of Education to promote a national poster contest tied to the observance. Its intent is to raise awareness of the problem of child abductions and promote safety measures. The winner of the poster contest, sponsored by the Department of Justice, is announced at the annual National Missing Children's Day Ceremony in Washington, D.C.

A panel of judges assembled by the Missing Children Clearinghouse selects Ohio winners, whose work then advances for national consideration.

The Ohio winners in 2009 were:

- First place, McKenna Dire of Liberty-Benton Elementary School in Findlay
- Second place, Jillian Vala of St. Paschal Baylon School in Cleveland
- Third place, Brianna Moore of Bevis Elementary School in Cincinnati



In explaining her poster's theme, Dire identified some "cool rules" that can help protect children from abduction. "One rule is: Don't go outside without letting an adult know where you are. Another rule is to avoid strangers and play in groups. Try to be as safe as possible. It's certainly the cool way to play!"

Also on May 25, the clearinghouse sponsored a balloon release at Madison Rural Elementary School in London, Ohio, to raise awareness about the plight of missing children. The students released 925 balloons — each one bearing a tag with a missing child's name and the date they went missing — to represent the children missing in Ohio on the day of the event. In addition, about 1,200 children received safety information and dozens were fingerprinted.

The clearinghouse also partnered with Trumbull County CART on a May 25 event at Eastwood Mall in Niles to commemorate National Missing Children's Day. Organizers displayed 925 beach balls with the names and dates of disappearance of Ohio's missing children, and those attending were encouraged to take a ball home to remember a missing child.

MISSING ADULTS

Missing Adult Alert

The Missing Adult Alert was developed in 2008 in response to several incidents in Ohio and across the country involving older adults or adults with mental impairments who went missing. Although local agencies and media outlets worked together in these instances, they illustrated the need for a coordinated effort to garner the public's assistance in such disappearances.

The statewide emergency alert program, established under Ohio Revised Code Section 5502.522, aids in the identification and location of missing adults who are endangered and have a mental impairment or are 65 or older. The program is overseen by the Ohio AMBER Alert Steering Committee, which coordinates with the Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse.

In 2009, law enforcement issued 123 Missing Adult Alerts. Of those, 115 people were recovered safely, three people died and five people remained missing as of the end of the year.

Here are three examples of successful outcomes that followed the issuance of Missing Adult Alerts in 2009:

- The Lordstown Police Department issued a regional alert Jan. 4, 2009, after the disappearance of an 82-year-old man suffering from dementia and other medical conditions. The man was last seen walking near a wooded area. The local CART was activated, and law enforcement initiated a search. The local police chief found the man walking along a road. He was transported to the hospital for treatment and observation.
- The Marion Police Department issued a statewide alert for an 81-year-old man suffering from Alzheimer's and his wife on April 25, 2009, after they failed to arrive in Mansfield for a doctor's appointment. The couple had gotten lost en route, and the man called for an ambulance when his wife began experiencing chest pains. A responding paramedic recognized the man from a picture he had seen on television and contacted law enforcement. Authorities helped the couple return to Marion safely.
- The Circleville Police Department issued a regional alert for a developmentally disabled 18-year-old woman whom family members reported missing July 20, 2009. A citizen who saw the alert recognized her talking to a group of construction workers at a job site and called authorities. Law enforcement returned her home safely.

These are the steps taken during a Missing Adult Alert:

- A family member or someone with responsibility for the care of an individual reports the adult missing to law enforcement.
- Law enforcement responds to take a report and attempts to find the individual.
- Law enforcement confirms the individual meets the criteria for issuing a Missing Adult Alert:
 - The individual is 65 or older or has a mental impairment.
 - The individual faces a credible threat of serious bodily harm or death.
 - There is sufficient descriptive information about the individual and the circumstances surrounding the individual's disappearance to indicate that the alert will help locate the person.

- Law enforcement makes the missing person entry in the Law Enforcement Automated Data System (LEADS) to request an alert.
- The Missing Children Clearinghouse contacts the investigating agency to confirm that the criteria have been met, obtain additional information, determine the regions to receive the alert and offer additional resources.
- The clearinghouse issues the alert, which includes a statewide teletype to law enforcement, faxes and e-mails to the media and trucking companies, activation of ODOT signs and, if applicable, implementation of license plate scanners along the Ohio Turnpike.
- The Missing Adult Alert website, www.missingadults.Ohio.gov, lists information about and a photo of the missing adult.
- A toll-free number, (866) 693-9171, is activated to provide information and receive tips.

COLLABORATIONS

The Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse works in collaboration with several agencies and organizations to locate missing and abducted children and prevent future incidents. These groups include:

I-SEARCH



The clearinghouse participates in the InterState Enforcement Agencies to Recover Children (I-SEARCH) Advisory Council, which aids in the identification and recovery of missing children. The 13 Midwestern member states are Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. The Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse manager currently serves as president of I-SEARCH.

Ohio CART



Ohio CART (Child Abduction Response Team), www.lef-oh.org/carthm.html, is a network of trained public safety and other individuals from various agencies, jurisdictions and disciplines prepared to respond to missing, endangered or abducted children. Ohio CART was developed in 2006 by the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Ohio Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association, Ohio State Highway Patrol and the Ohio AMBER Alert Steering

Committee in collaboration with the clearinghouse. There are 33 local or regional CARTs across Ohio that can be activated when a child goes missing or is abducted.

The clearinghouse participated in three regional trainings for 200 new CART members in 2009. The trainings provide information on search and rescue, neighborhood canvassing, investigations and resources.

NamUs



The clearinghouse participates in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) workgroup. NamUs is the first national online repository for records involving missing people and unidentified human remains. Launched in 2007 by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, the initiative is aimed at reducing the number of unidentified bodies held at coroners' and medical examiners'

offices across the United States. Through NamUs and other measures, the number of unidentified human remains has fallen from about 40,000 three years ago to about 13,000 currently. 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.

ASSISTANCE TO THE PUBLIC

Online resources

The Missing Children Clearinghouse Web page, www.mcc.ohioattorneygeneral.gov, provides valuable information to the public, including:

- Steps to take if your child is missing
- Photographs/poster templates to raise awareness of missing Ohio children
- Publications
- Safety tips
- Fingerprint identification cards and game sheets
- 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 Citizens Alert Network (CAN). By subscribing to CAN on Ohio's AMBER Alert website at www.ohioAmberplan.org, citizens can learn of missing children through text messages and e-mails. A downloadable screensaver featuring missing children and a desktop pop-up AMBER Alert message also are available.

Training sessions

In 2009, the clearinghouse gave presentations and workshops to 4,652 law enforcement officers, community members, teachers, children's services employees and others on prevention, intervention, reunification, AMBER Alert, first-responder programs, resources, Internet safety, CART, child safety prevention and human trafficking.

Telephone inquiries

The clearinghouse responded to more than 2,100 calls from law enforcement, families of missing children, state and federal agencies, and others on issues related to missing children in 2009.

Kids Safety Passport Booklet

The clearinghouse provides law enforcement agencies and schools with free Kids Safety Passport booklets to distribute at local child safety events throughout the state. The passport helps parents keep their child's personal information — fingerprints, DNA samples, photo and other details — in one location for easy access in the event the child goes missing. The passport also provides safety tips and resources. The clearinghouse distributed more than 33,000 Kids Safety Passport booklets in 2009.

ASSISTANCE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AND OTHER AGENCIES

Training sessions

The clearinghouse conducted 31 trainings for law enforcement across Ohio in 2009. 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 children alerts.

The clearinghouse provides two investigative manuals to law enforcement:

- “Missing and Abducted Children: A Law Enforcement Guide to Case Investigations and Program Management,” which provides step-by-step investigation checklists for family and non-family abductions, lost children and runaways.
- “The Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Child Abduction Response Plan,” which details techniques essential in conducting abduction investigations.

The clearinghouse also offers the NCMEC’s “Selected State Legislation Booklet,” which provides advice for drafting laws to protect children.

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 11 presentations in 2009, more than 3,200 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 a Kids Safety Passport.

Investigative assistance

The clearinghouse assists law enforcement in missing children investigations in a number of ways. These include:

- Utilizing 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, neighbors, family members, telephone numbers and professional licenses 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 Web sites 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

The clearinghouse also posts missing children’s photos on its own website and that of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. In 2009, the clearinghouse posted 379 photos on posters in addition to those issued as part of AMBER Alerts, Missing Child Alerts and Trucker Alerts. Any tips that result are forwarded to the investigating law enforcement agency.

In addition, the clearinghouse provides law enforcement with cell phone tracking information, 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. The clearinghouse also can recommend other state and national resources.

Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway

The Ohio Attorney General's Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG) is a secure, Web-based crime-fighting and communication tool that provides Ohio law enforcement agencies with a single location for information on missing children. All missing child data that law enforcement enters into LEADS is automatically transmitted to OHLEG, where law enforcement can use it to share and quickly disseminate important details to the public. OHLEG allows law enforcement to create missing children posters, generate advisories and search the electronic Sex Offender Registration and Notification to locate registered sex offenders in the area where a child may be missing.

Ohio Department of Health

Under a policy the clearinghouse forged with the Ohio Department of Health in 2004, the department flags and holds the birth certificates of missing children 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 involving missing children.

Lost Child Alert Technology Resource (LOCATER)



The clearinghouse staff used the Web-based LOCATER™ system to create and disseminate 428 posters of missing children to other state clearinghouses, law enforcement agencies and private businesses nationwide in 2009. LOCATER™ posters can be viewed on the clearinghouse website as printable images. Law enforcement and family members can print copies of these posters to be displayed in appropriate areas.

eOPOTA



An online training course for law enforcement offered through eOPOTA, the Ohio Police Officer Training Academy's Web-based instruction program, examines missing children statistics, outlines the resources available and presents interactive scenarios.

OTHER ASSISTANCE

Human trafficking

The Missing Children Clearinghouse and others within the Ohio Attorney General's Office also work to address the problem of human trafficking. A growing criminal industry in the United States and around the world, human trafficking amounts to modern-day slavery. The United Nations estimates traffickers generate billions of dollars in profit each year at the expense of millions of victims who are forced or coerced into labor or sexually exploited. Most of the U.S. children victimized by traffickers meet the latter fate.

In 2007, Rand Corp. named Toledo as one of the nation's major hubs for human trafficking.

Acting on a recommendation included in a new Ohio law on human trafficking, Attorney General Richard Cordray created the Trafficking in Persons Study Commission in 2009 and called on the group to:

- Study the problem of trafficking in persons, particularly as it affects Ohio
- Review Ohio's criminal statutes to determine how they address human trafficking
- Develop recommendations to address the problem of human trafficking and improve and expand the criminal statutes as necessary

The clearinghouse assists in the commission's bimonthly meetings and serves as a resource for its Victim Services and Law Enforcement subcommittees.

In coordination with the Law Enforcement Subcommittee, the clearinghouse worked with the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) to create a course on human trafficking for peace officers. About 150 officers received training in 2009, and the clearinghouse is working with OPOTA on an advanced course on the topic geared toward investigators.

The clearinghouse also is a member of the Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition, which creates public awareness about human trafficking, serves and advocates for victims, and provides resources and training for law enforcement. The Missing Children Clearinghouse manager serves on the coalition's steering committee and chairs its Law Enforcement Subcommittee.

LEGISLATION

Responsibilities of law enforcement

Under Ohio Revised Code Section 2901.30, which addresses missing children cases, law enforcement is required to:

- Take missing children reports and investigate them promptly
- Make concerted efforts to locate the child
- Submit information about missing children to the National Crime Information Center immediately after a report is complete
- 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 the NCIC

House Bill 280 (127th General Assembly)

The Ohio General Assembly passed, and Gov. Ted Strickland signed, legislation to increase the penalties for human trafficking. The bill created a new human trafficking specification in the criminal code, enhancing the penalties that can be imposed when multiple offenses occur related to human trafficking. When applied, the specification requires mandatory prison terms of at least five years for a first-degree felony, at least three years for a second- or third-degree felony and at least 18 months for a fourth-degree felony. It also requires offenders to make restitution to the victim.

The law also encouraged the Attorney General to establish the Trafficking in Persons Study Commission.

NATIONAL RESOURCES AND PARTNERS

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



The **National Runaway Switchboard**, www.1800runaway.org, 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 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The group is well known for its Home Free Program, which in conjunction with Greyhound Lines and United Airlines provides runaways with free transportation home.



A Child Is Missing Inc., www.achildismissing.org, 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 mentally impaired or disabled individual. The program serves several states, including Ohio. A Child Is Missing (ACIM) 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.

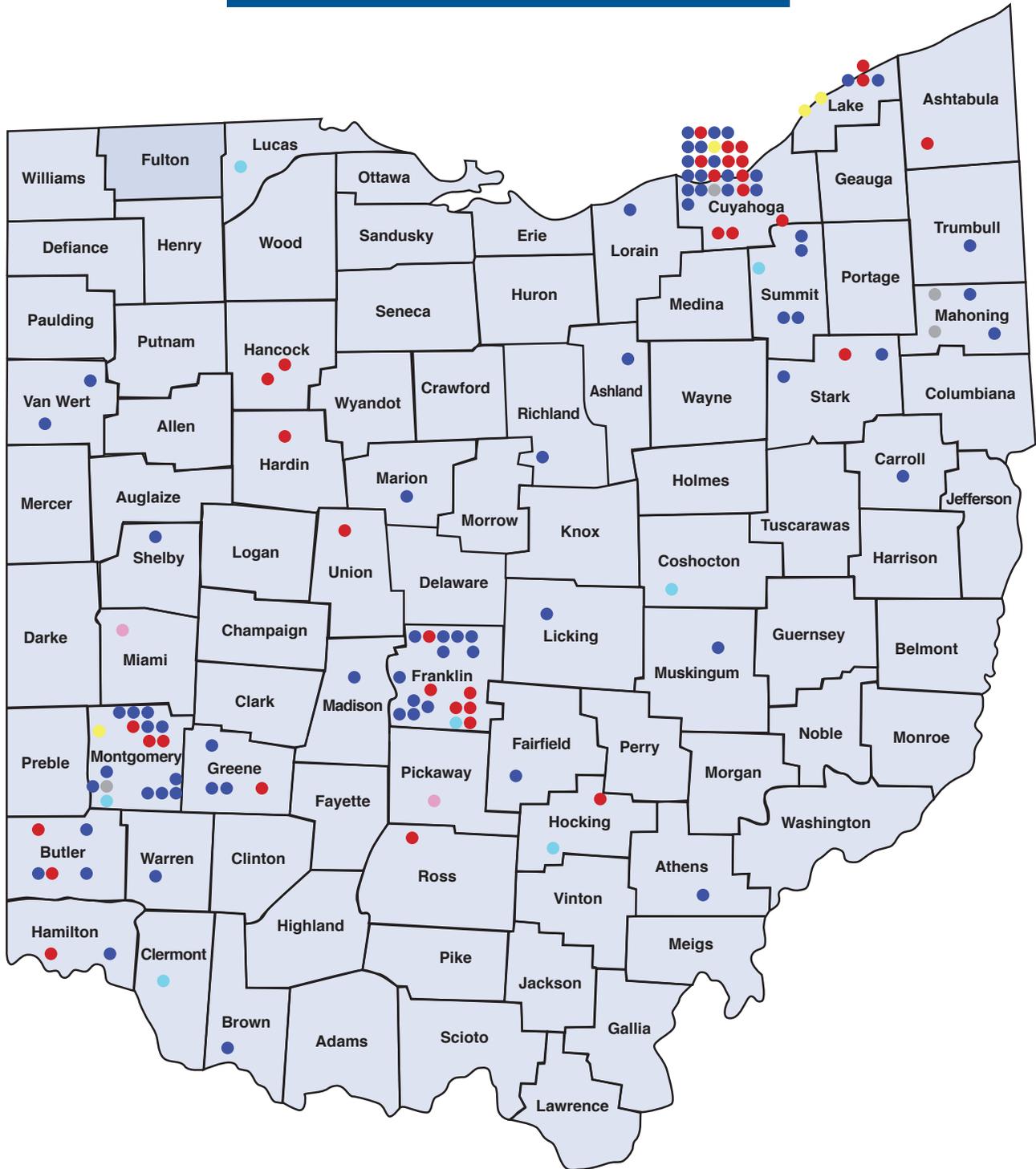


Code Adam, one of the nation's largest child-safety programs, was created by Wal-Mart to assist businesses and others with public facilities in preventing a child from being abducted and removed from the premises. The Code Adam program was named for 6-year-old Adam Walsh, whose 1981 abduction and murder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



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

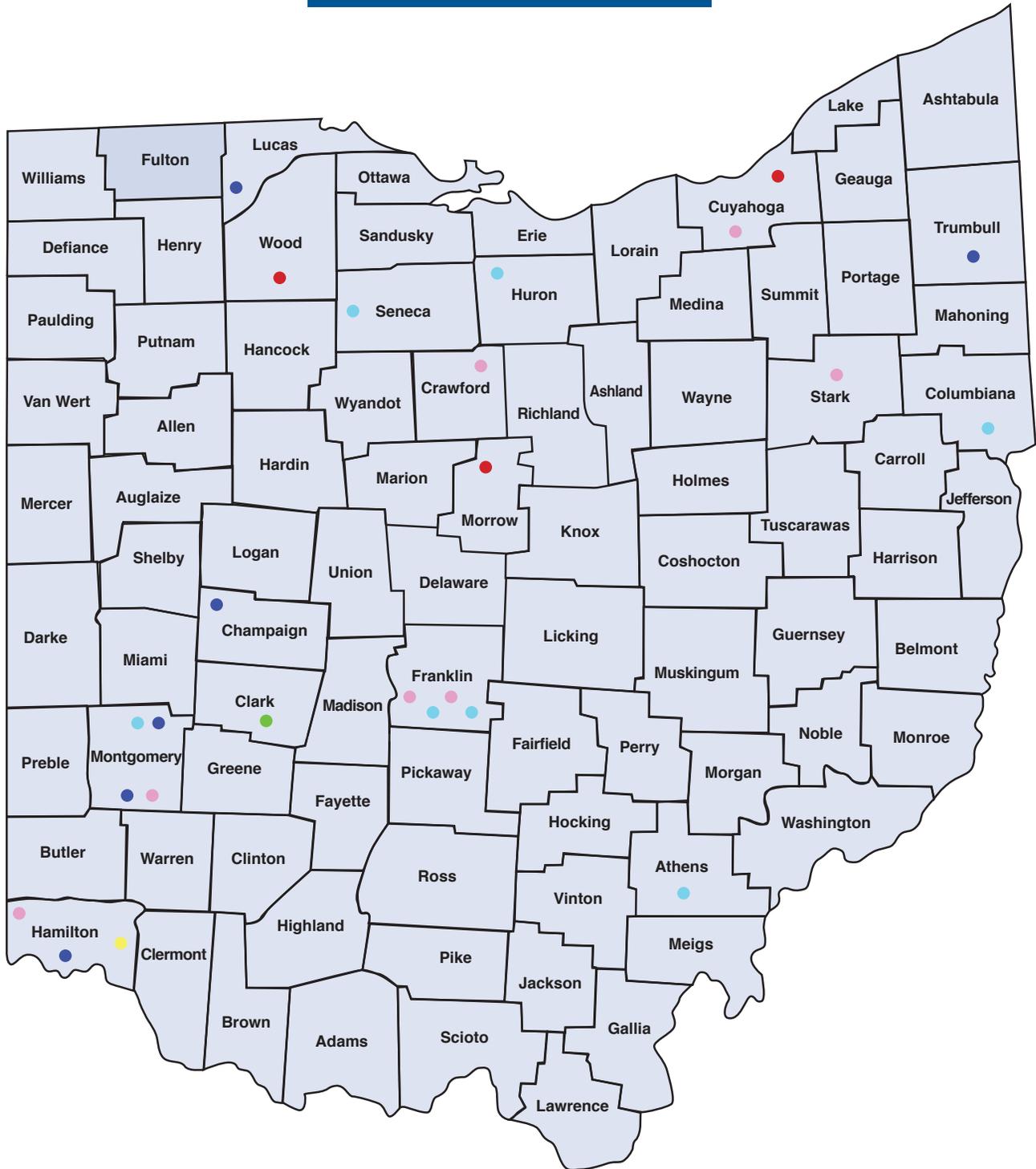
2009 MISSING ADULT ALERTS



● Over 65 Male	71	● Under 65 Male	7	● Deceased Male	0
● Over 65 Female	34	● Under 65 Female	7	● Deceased Female	4
● Over 65 Couple	4				

Total Alerts: 123
 (3 under 65 already added to gender stats)

2009 AMBER ALERTS



● AMBER Male	6	● Endangered Child/Male	7	● Deceased Male	0
● AMBER Female	4	● Endangered Child/Female	7	● Deceased Female	1
● AMBER Siblings	1	● Endangered Child/Female	1		

Total AMBER Alerts: 11 Total Trucker/Media Alerts: 15 Total Deceased: 1

Related publications*

Kids Safety Passport/ Child Fingerprint ID Cards
Child Safety Game Sheet
Child Safety on The Information Highway
Eight (8) Rules for Safety
For Camp Counselors: Guidelines on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (brochure)
Guidelines for Programs to Reduce Child Victimization
Child Protection
New Neighborhood Safety Tips
Personal Safety For Children
Teen Safety On The Information Highway
Family Abduction: How to Prevent Abduction and What to Do If Your Child is Abducted (booklet)
When Your Child Is Missing: A Family Survival Guide
Online Victimization (A Report On The Nation's Youth)
National Runaway Switchboard
National Runaway Switchboard
AMBER Alert for the Media
For Healthcare Professionals: Guidelines On Prevention Infant Abductions
My (8) Rules For Safety: Multilingual Child Safety and Prevention Tips
Non-Profit Service Provider's Handbook
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 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 Family Separation
Just In Case...Parental Guidelines In Case Your Child In Testifying In Court
Just In Case...Parental Guidelines On Using The Federal Parent Locator Service In Cases of Parental Kidnapping and Child Custody
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 The Victim Of Sexual Abuse or Exploitation
Just In Case...Parental Guidelines In Case Your Might Some day Be The Victim Of Sexual Exploited

Know The Rules for Child Safety

Know The Rules
Know The Rules (After School Safety For Children Home Alone)
Know The Rules (For Child Safety In Amusement 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

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 Mid-Western States

Children Traumatized In Sex Rings

Child Abuse and Neglect

Interviewing Child Victims Of Sexual Exploitation

Investigators Guide To Missing Child Cases

Selected State Legislation

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

Missing Children Clearinghouse

150 E. Gay St., Floor 25

Columbus, OH 43215

614-466-5610

Hotline: (800) 325-5604