National Center for Missing & Exploited Children®

2016 AMBER Alert Report

Analysis of AMBER Alert Cases in 2016

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Introduction

The afternoon of Jan. 13, 1996, Amber Hagerman, a 9-year-old girl who lived in Arlington, Texas, was last seen riding her bike in a parking lot. A witness saw a man with a black, flat-bed truck snatch Amber from her bicycle. Four days later Amber's body was found in a creek 3.2 miles from her home. Her murder remains unsolved. Dallas-Fort Worth area residents were outraged and began calling radio stations not only to vent their anger and frustration but also to offer suggestions to prevent such crimes in the future. One person, Diana Simone, suggested a program be implemented allowing use of the Emergency Alert System, known as EAS, to notify the public when a child has been abducted. If the community was aware then residents could also assist in the search. Ms. Simone followed up with a letter, and her only request was the program be dedicated to the memory of Amber Hagerman. That letter was used by broadcasters who met with local law enforcement and created Amber's Plan, in Amber Hagerman's memory.

This program was eventually taken to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children®, known as NCMEC, with a request for a national initiative. It then became known as America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response or the AMBER Plan, which allows broadcasters and transportation authorities to immediately distribute information about recent child abductions to the public and enables the entire community to assist in the search for and safe recovery of the child. What began as a local effort in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, area has grown into a seamless system of such programs in every state across the country. Each year these alerts help safely recover abducted children. Since the inception of the program in 1996 through Dec. 31, 2016, 867 children have been safely recovered specifically as a result of an AMBER Alert being issued.

This program is a voluntary partnership among law enforcement agencies, broadcasters, transportation agencies and the wireless industry to activate an urgent bulletin in the most serious cases of child abduction. Broadcasters use EAS to air a description of the abducted child and suspected abductor. This is the same concept used during severe weather emergencies. 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. In the summer of 2004 NCMEC began to develop a network of internet content providers, trucking industry associations, social networking websites, digital billboards and wireless industry representatives to further enhance the alerting capabilities of each state/territory's AMBER Alert program. The AMBER Alert program has now evolved to use all available technology when alerting the public. More recently, Wireless Emergency Alerts and targeted distribution on social media continue to improve and expand the reach of the AMBER Alert program.

April 30, 2003, President George W. Bush signed into law the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today or PROTECT Act of 2003 (Pub. L. No. 108-21). Building on the steps already taken by the Bush Administration to support AMBER Alerts, this act established the national coordination of state and local programs, including the development of guidance for issuance and dissemination of AMBER Alerts and the appointment of a national AMBER Alert coordinator within the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.

The national AMBER Alert coordinator, in collaboration with a national advisory group, developed a strategy for supporting states and communities to strengthen the AMBER Alert System nationwide and increase the likelihood abducted children will be recovered swiftly and safely.[1]

AMBER Alert Definitions

This report presents information about AMBER Alerts issued throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands from Jan. 1, 2016, through Dec. 31, 2016, and intaked by NCMEC. Although an AMBER Alert case may be activated in multiple areas, this report only accounts for alerts in the state/territory of first activation. This report analyzes cases according to the case type for which the AMBER Alert was issued, not the case type at the time of recovery.

When a law enforcement agency is notified about an abducted child, it must first determine if that child's case meets the program's AMBER Alert criteria. The U.S. Department of Justice's recommended guidelines are:
- There is reasonable belief by law enforcement an abduction has occurred.
- The abduction is of a child age 17 or younger.
- The law enforcement agency believes the child is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death.
- There is enough descriptive information about the victim and abduction for law enforcement to issue an AMBER Alert to assist in the recovery of the child.
- The child's name and other critical data elements, including the Child Abduction flag, have been entered into the National Crime Information Center, known as NCIC, database.

An AMBER Alert may involve one or more children and is issued on either a state/territory, regional or local level. Once an AMBER Alert is activated, the alert may be issued in another state/territory at the request of the originating state's AMBER Alert coordinator, thus creating a **multistate/territory activation**. A state-/territory wide alert is issued in the entire state or territory, a regional alert is issued in multiple counties and a local alert is issued in one county or a smaller geographic area. Although an AMBER Alert can be issued in multiple states or territories, it is never issued on a nationwide basis. AMBER Alerts are geographically targeted based on law enforcement's investigation.

At the outset of an AMBER Alert case, law enforcement categorizes the case as one of the four types listed below, defined for the purposes of this report as:
- **Family abduction** or FA – A family abduction is defined as the taking, retention or concealment of a child, younger than 18 years of age, by a parent, other person with a family relationship to the child, or his or her agent, in violation of the custody rights, including visitation rights of a parent or legal guardian.
- **Nonfamily abduction** or NFA – A nonfamily abduction is defined as the unauthorized taking, retention, luring, confinement or concealment of a child younger than the age of 18 by someone other than a family member.
- **Lost, injured or otherwise missing** or LIM – Lost, injured or otherwise missing is defined as any missing child younger than the age of 18 when there are insufficient facts to determine the cause of the child's disappearance or any child 10 years of age or younger who is missing on his or her own accord.
- **Endangered runaway** or ERU – Any missing child between 11 and 17 years of age who is missing of his or her own accord and whose whereabouts are unknown to his or her parent(s) or legal guardian.

Law enforcement may determine an AMBER Alert should be re-categorized based on new information developed during the case investigation. For example when the AMBER Alert is issued law enforcement may believe the child is an NFA victim, but at the conclusion of the case may determine the child was in fact an ERU.

Law enforcement occasionally encounters cases in which an AMBER Alert should not have been issued later determining those cases were either **unfounded** or a **hoax**:

- A **hoax** occurs when an individual falsely reports a child missing or when a child reports him- or herself missing with the intent to mislead law enforcement.
- An **unfounded** case occurs when a child is reported missing based on available information at the time, but the investigation determines a child was never missing.

Cases are categorized as **resolved** when any of the criteria listed below are met:

- The child returns home to his or her parent or legal guardian, the child remains in the custody of law enforcement or the child is in contact with his or her parent or legal guardian but will not be returning home and the parents or legal guardian and law enforcement are satisfied with the situation. A child's case can only be labeled recovered/deceased if a body has been found and positively identified.
- If law enforcement closes the case and the child has not been recovered or if the parents/guardians state in writing they no longer want NCMEC to assist with their child's case.

A child's recovery is considered a **success story** when his or her safe recovery occurred as a direct result of the AMBER Alert being issued. For example, an individual may recognize the vehicle involved in the alert and report the sighting to law enforcement leading to the safe rescue of the child.

Summary of AMBER Alerts

From Jan. 1, 2016, to Dec. 31, 2016, 179 AMBER Alerts were issued in the U.S. involving 231 children.

At the time the AMBER Alert cases were intaked at NCMEC there were 107 FAs, 60 NFAs, six LIMs and six ERUs. Eight cases were later determined to be hoaxes, and 13 cases were later determined to be unfounded.

Of the 179 AMBER Alerts issued from Jan. 1, 2016, to Dec. 31, 2016, 155 cases resulted in a recovery, 43 of which were successfully recovered as a direct result of an AMBER Alert being issued. As of Feb. 24, 2017, when statistics for this report were finalized, for the AMBER Alerts issued in 2016, three children remained actively missing and 13 children were located deceased.

AMBER Alerts by Range

In 2016, 72 percent (n=128) of AMBER Alerts were issued state-/territory wide, 27 percent (n=48) of AMBER Alerts were issued regionally and 2 percent (n=3) of AMBER Alerts were issued locally.

Figure 1: Range of AMBER Alerts

**Range of AMBER Alerts
Activations from 1/1/2016 to 12/31/2016**

- 2%
- 27%
- 72%

■ State-/territory wide - 128
■ Regional - 48
■ Local - 3
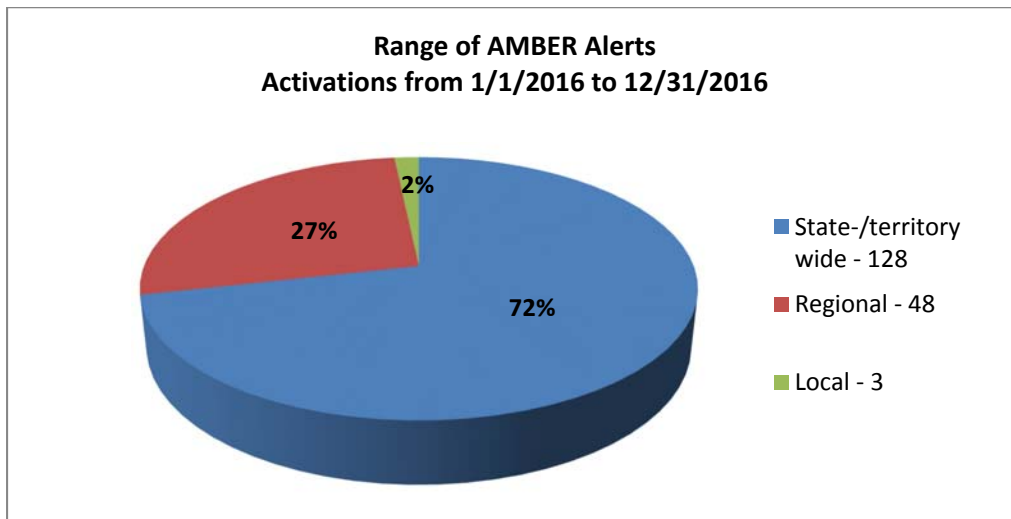
AMBER Alerts by State/Territory

From Jan. 1, 2016, to Dec. 31, 2016, 179 AMBER Alerts were issued in 38 states. Texas issued the most AMBER Alerts with 9 percent (n=16) followed by Georgia and Florida with 7 percent each (n=13 and 12).

Table 1: Number and Percent of AMBER Alert Cases by State/Territory

State/Territory	Number of alerts	Percent
Texas	16	9
Georgia	13	7
Florida	12	7
Michigan	11	6
California and North Carolina	10 each	6 each
Arizona and Colorado	8 each	4 each
Indiana, Missouri and New Mexico	7 each	4 each
Ohio, Utah and Washington	6 each	3 each
Montana, Tennessee and Virginia	5 each	3 each
Kansas	4	2
Nebraska, New York and Pennsylvania	3 each	2 each
Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, Nevada, Oklahoma, West Virginia and Wisconsin	2 each	1 each
Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Dakota, South Carolina and South Dakota	1 each	0.6 each
Alabama, Alaska, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Kentucky, Louisiana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, U.S. Virgin Islands, Vermont and Wyoming	0 each	0 each
Total	**179**	**100**

Multistate/Territory AMBER Alerts

When an AMBER Alert is issued an abductor may take the child outside the jurisdiction of the issuing law enforcement authority. In some cases the AMBER Alert coordinator in the state/territory where the AMBER Alert originated may request an AMBER Alert be extended into another state/territory. In 2016, 21 AMBER Alerts were extended beyond the limits of the state where the AMBER Alert first originated.

Table 2: List of Multistate/Territory AMBER Alerts

Originating	Extending
Arkansas	Kansas, Kentucky and Oklahoma
Connecticut	New York
Florida	Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky and Tennessee
Florida	Georgia
Georgia	South Carolina
Georgia	Texas

Originating	Extending
Idaho	Nevada
Missouri	Kansas
Missouri	Kansas
Missouri	Kansas
Montana	North Dakota
Montana	Wyoming
New Mexico	Arizona
Pennsylvania	New Jersey and New York
Tennessee	Missouri
Texas	Alabama
Utah	Arizona and New Mexico
Utah	Nevada
Washington	Idaho
Washington	Idaho
Washington	Idaho and Montana

In seven cases seven children were recovered in the state where the alert originated, in eight cases 10 children were recovered in the extending state, and in six cases nine children were recovered in neither the originating state nor the extending state.

Figure 2: Multistate/Territory AMBER Alert Recoveries

Multistate/Territory AMBER Alert Recoveries of Children from 1/1/2016 to 12/31/2016

- Originating state - 7 — 33%
- Extending state - 8 — 38%
- Neither - 6 — 29%
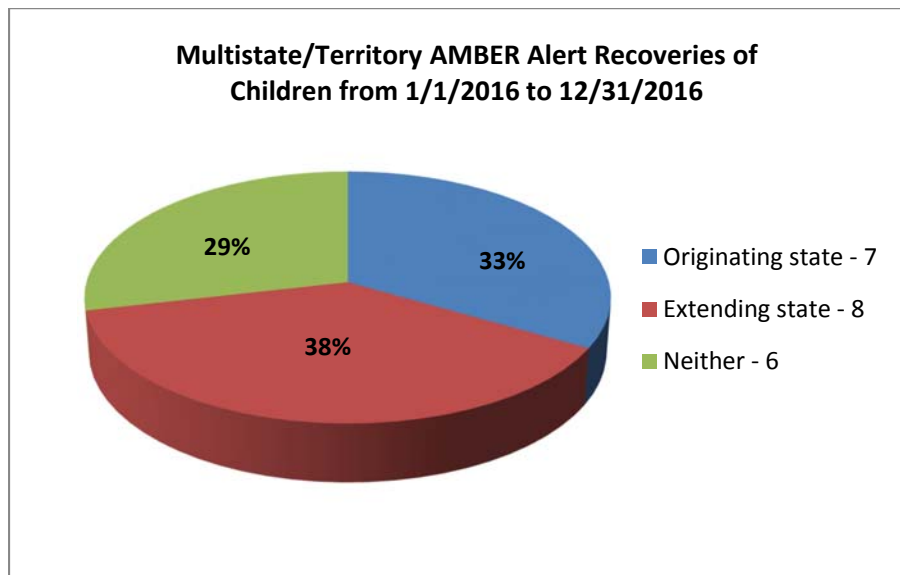
AMBER Alerts by Case Type at Intake

In 2016, 60 percent (n=107) of AMBER Alert cases were intaked as FAs, 34 percent (n=60) were NFAs, 3 percent (n=6) were LIMs and 3 percent (n=6) were ERUs.

Figure 3: AMBER Alerts by Case Type

AMBER Alerts by Case Type
Activations from 1/1/2016 to 12/31/2016

- FA - 107
- NFA - 60
- LIM - 6
- ERU - 6

3% 3% 34% 60%
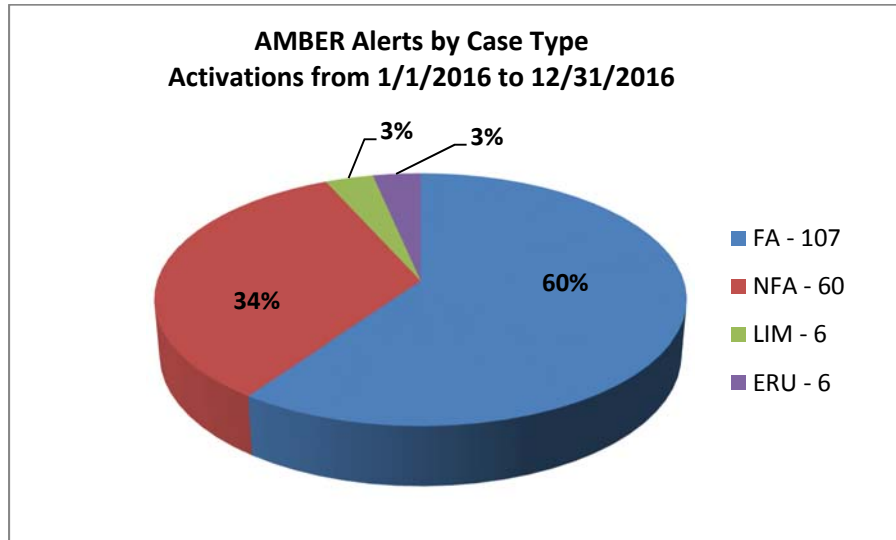
Number of Cases by Month

In 2016 the number of AMBER Alerts issued per month ranged from a low of eight alerts in January to a high of 20 alerts in September.

Figure 4: Number of AMBER Alert Cases by Month

Number of AMBER Alert Cases by Month
Activations from 1/1/2016 to 12/31/2016

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8	17	14	19	18	12	11	18	20	17	14	11
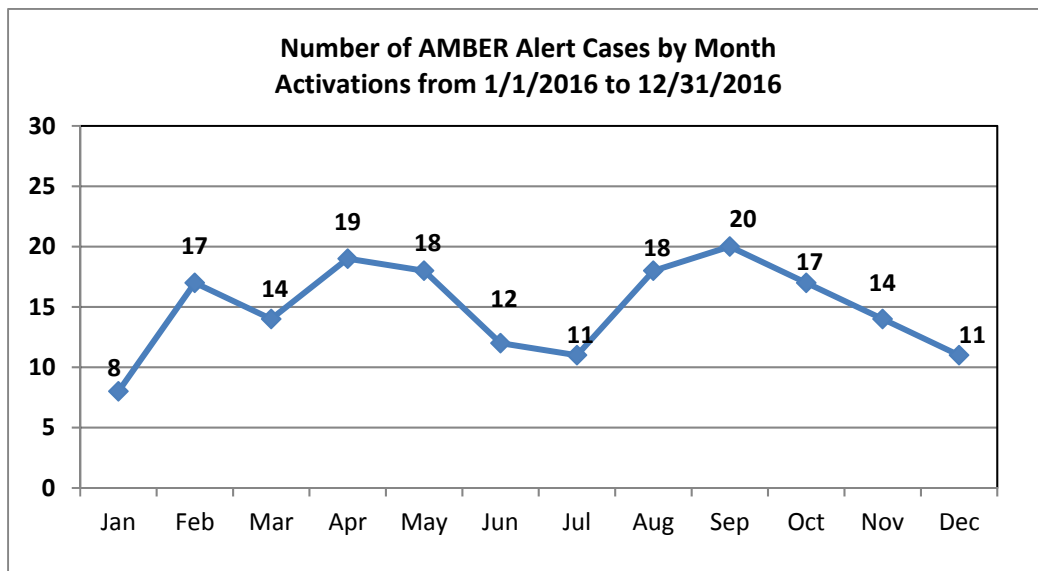
Number of Case Types at Intake by Month

In 2016 AMBER Alerts were issued most frequently for FAs (n=14) in September. The highest number of NFAs (n=10) occurred in the month of October. AMBER Alerts for LIMs (n=2) were the most frequently issued in March. Alerts were issued for ERUs (n=2) the most in May.

Table 3: Number of Case Types by Month

	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU	Total	Total percent
Jan	6	2	0	0	8	4
Feb	8	8	0	1	17	9
Mar	7	4	2	1	14	8
Apr	12	6	0	1	19	11
May	12	4	0	2	18	10
Jun	7	4	1	0	12	7
Jul	7	3	1	0	11	6
Aug	13	5	0	0	18	10
Sep	14	5	0	1	20	11
Oct	6	10	1	0	17	9
Nov	10	3	1	0	14	8
Dec	5	6	0	0	11	6
Total	**107**	**60**	**6**	**6**	**179**	**~100**

Number of Children by Case Type at Intake by Month

In 2016, 231 children were involved in 179 AMBER Alert cases. Sixty-four percent (n=148) of children were intaked as FAs followed by 30 percent (n=70) of children intaked as NFAs. Three percent (n=6) were intaked as LIMs, and 3 percent (n=7) were intaked as ERUs.

Children intaked as FAs were most frequently involved in AMBER Alerts during the month of September (n=21). The highest number of children intaked as NFAs (n=11) occurred in the month of October. AMBER Alerts for LIMs (n=2) were most frequently issued in March. Children were most often intaked as ERUs (n=2) in the months of May and September.

Table 4: Number of Children by Case Type by Month

	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU	Total	Total percent
Jan	10	2	0	0	12	5
Feb	11	9	0	1	21	9
Mar	11	5	2	1	19	8
Apr	14	6	0	1	21	9
May	14	4	0	2	20	9
Jun	11	5	1	0	17	7

	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU	Total	Total percent
Jul	8	4	1	0	13	6
Aug	18	5	0	0	23	10
Sep	21	7	0	2	30	13
Oct	7	11	1	0	19	8
Nov	16	3	1	0	20	9
Dec	7	9	0	0	16	7
Total	**148**	**70**	**6**	**7**	**231**	**100**

Cases Determined to Be Hoaxes

A case is determined to be a hoax when either an individual falsely reports a child missing or when a child reports him- or herself missing with the intent of misleading law enforcement.

In 2016, 4 percent (n=8) of AMBER Alerts issued involving nine children were later determined to be hoaxes. Sixty-three percent (n=5) of hoaxes were originally intaked as FAs followed by NFAs at 25 percent (n=2) and LIMs at 13 percent (n=1).

In 50 percent (n=4) of hoaxes, false information was provided by the child's parent and 25 percent (n=2) was provided by the child involved. Additionally, 25 percent (n=2) was provided by the child's legal guardian.

Figure 5: Number of Hoaxes by Case Type at Intake
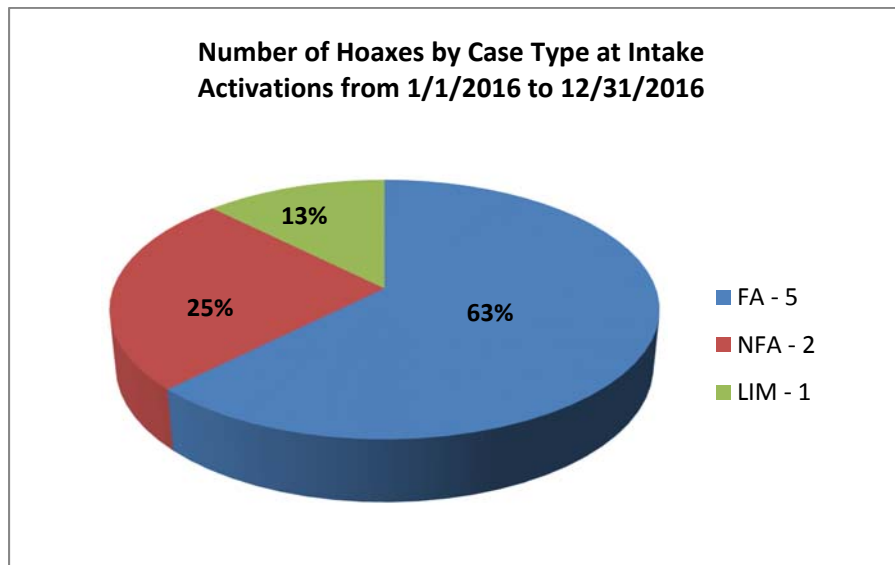
Of the eight cases determined to be hoaxes, seven cases had known locations from which the children involved were reported missing. Of those cases 71 percent (n=5) were reported missing from home and 14 percent each were reported missing from school and the street (n= 1 and 1).

Children Involved in Hoaxes

In 2016, eight AMBER Alerts involving nine children were later determined to be hoaxes. Seventy-eight percent (n=7) of children involved in hoaxes were girls, whereas boys represented 22 percent (n=2) of children involved in hoaxes. Forty-three percent (n=3) of the girls involved in these hoaxes were 1 year of age. The two boys involved in hoaxes were 1 and 9 years old.

Table 5: Age and Sex of Children Involved in Hoaxes

Age	Girls	Boys
<1	0	0
1	3	1
2	0	0
3	0	0
4	0	0
5	0	0
6	0	0
7	0	0
8	1	0
9	0	1
10	0	0
11	0	0
12	1	0
13	0	0
14	0	0
15	1	0
16	0	0
17	1	0
Total	7	2

Table 6: Age and Case Type at Intake of Children Involved in Hoaxes

Age	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU
<1	0	0	0	0
1	3	1	0	0
2	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0
8	1	0	0	0
9	1	0	0	0

Age	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU
10	0	0	0	0
11	0	0	0	0
12	0	0	1	0
13	0	0	0	0
14	0	0	0	0
15	1	0	0	0
16	0	0	0	0
17	0	1	0	0
Total	**6**	**2**	**1**	**0**

Cases Determined to Be Unfounded

A case is determined to be unfounded when a child is reported missing based on available information at the time, but the investigation determines a child was never missing. Thirteen AMBER Alerts involving 23 children were determined to be unfounded, representing 7 percent of the total number of AMBER Alerts issued in 2016. These unfounded cases were originally intaked as FAs at 62 percent (n=8), NFAs at 23 percent (n=3), LIMs at 8 percent (n=1) and ERUs at 8 percent (n=1).

Figure 6: Unfounded Cases by Case Type at Intake
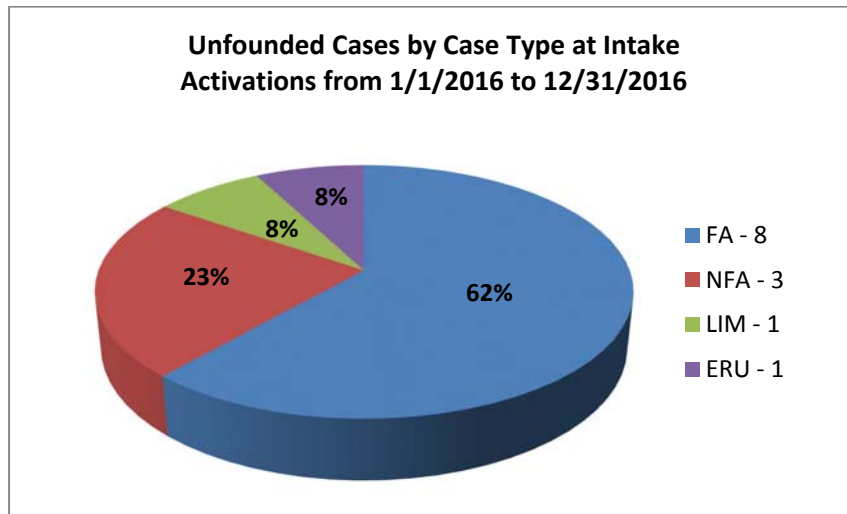
Children Involved in Unfounded Cases

In 2016, 13 AMBER Alerts involving 23 children were later determined to be unfounded. Girls represented 57 percent (n=13) whereas boys represented 43 percent (n=10) of all children involved in unfounded cases. Of the 13 girls involved in unfounded cases, 54 percent (n=7) ranged from 7 to 12 years of age. Of the 10 boys involved in unfounded cases, 70 percent (n=7) were 6 and younger.

Table 7: Age and Sex of Children Involved in Unfounded Cases

Age	Girls	Boys
<1	1	1
1	1	1
2	2	0
3	0	2
4	0	0
5	0	2
6	0	1
7	1	0
8	2	0
9	1	0
10	1	1
11	1	1
12	1	0
13	0	1
14	0	0
15	1	0
16	0	0
17	0	0
Unknown	1	0
Total	**13**	**10**

Table 8: Age and Case Type at Intake of Children Involved in Unfounded Cases

Age	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU
<1	1	1	0	0
1	2	0	0	0
2	1	1	0	0
3	1	1	0	0
4	0	0	0	0
5	2	0	0	0
6	0	1	0	0
7	1	0	0	0
8	2	0	0	0
9	1	0	0	0
10	2	0	0	0
11	2	0	0	0
12	0	0	0	1
13	1	0	0	0
14	0	0	0	0

Age	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU
15	0	0	1	0
16	0	0	0	0
17	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	1	0	0
Total	**16**	**5**	**1**	**1**

Secondary Distribution of AMBER Alerts

The AMBER Alert Secondary Distribution system, known as AASD, is comprised of wireless carriers, internet service providers, digital signage, social networking websites, content providers and major retailers who distribute AMBER Alerts to a geographically targeted audience in support of the AMBER Alert coordinator. These alerts assist in notifying the public about recently reported child abductions with information to help in the search for the abducted child, suspected abductor and/or suspected vehicle.

In 2016, 86 percent (n=154) of AMBER Alert cases were secondarily distributed whereas 14 percent (n=25) of the cases were not secondarily distributed because the AMBER Alert was canceled before secondary distribution was possible.

AMBER Alert Secondary Distribution was issued for 92 FAs, 50 NFAs, six LIMs and six ERUs. Four FAs, two NFAs and one LIM were later determined to be hoaxes. Six FAs, three NFAs, one LIM and one ERU were subsequently identified as unfounded.

Number and Characteristics of Children Reported Missing

Girls (n=136) were involved in AMBER Alert activations more often at 59 percent, compared to boys who represented 41 percent (n=95).

Forty-two percent (n=98) of children involved in AMBER Alerts were White, 31 percent (n=72) were Black, 14 percent (n=32) were Hispanic, 6 percent (n=14) were Biracial, 5 percent (n=12) were American Indian and 1 percent (n=2) were Asian. The race for one child was unknown. AMBER Alerts were issued at a rate of 42 percent (n=98) for White children whereas minority children represented 57 percent (n=132).

Figure 7: AMBER Alerts by Race of Children

AMBER Alerts by Race of Children
Activations from 1/1/2016 to 12/31/2016

- American Indian - 12
- Asian - 2
- Biracial - 14
- Black - 72
- Hispanic - 32
- White - 98
- Unknown - 1

0.4% · 5% · 1% · 6% · 42% · 31% · 14%
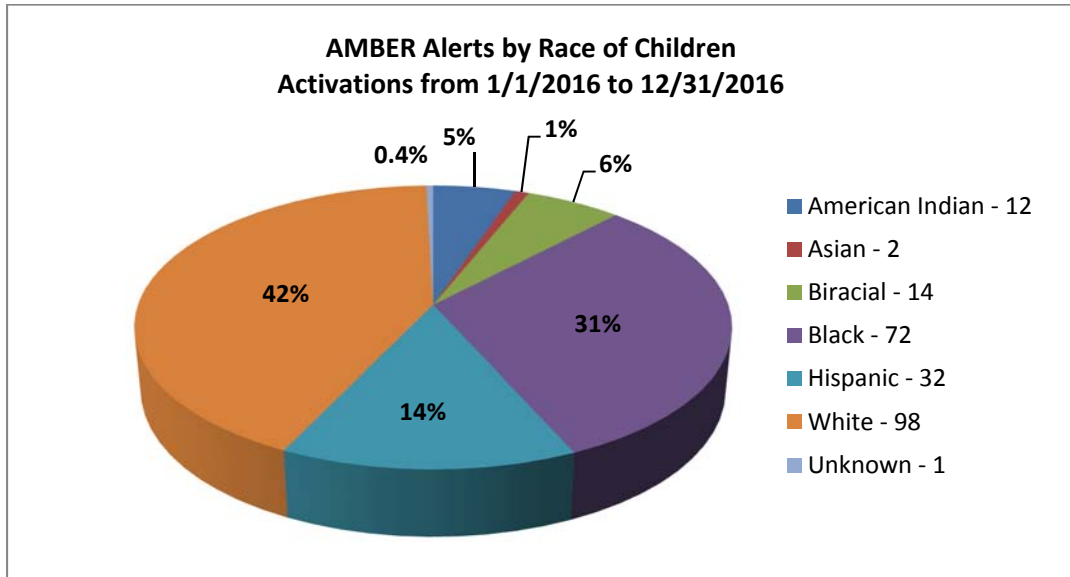
Figure 8: Race of Children, White and Minority

Race of Children, White and Minority
Activations from 1/1/2016 to 12/31/2016

- White - 98
- Minority - 132
- Unknown - 1

0.4% · 57% · 42%
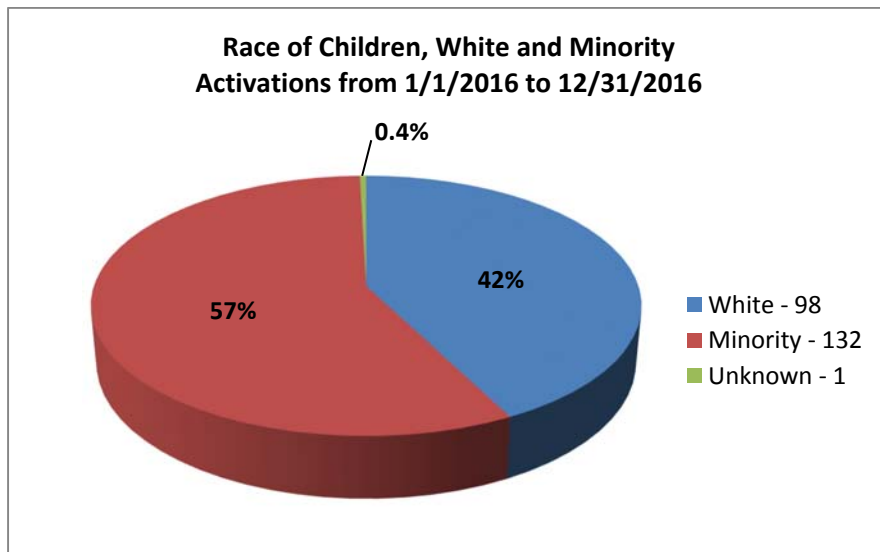
Boys and girls who were 7 years old and younger represented 70 percent (n=161) of the children who were reported missing with known ages. Of all children reported missing, girls younger than 1 year of age (n=19) were most frequently involved in AMBER Alerts, whereas boys were more often younger than 1 (n=16) and 1 year old (n=16). The age of 1 child was unknown.

Figure 9: Age of Children When Missing

Age of Children When Missing
Activations from 1/1/2016 to 12/31/2016
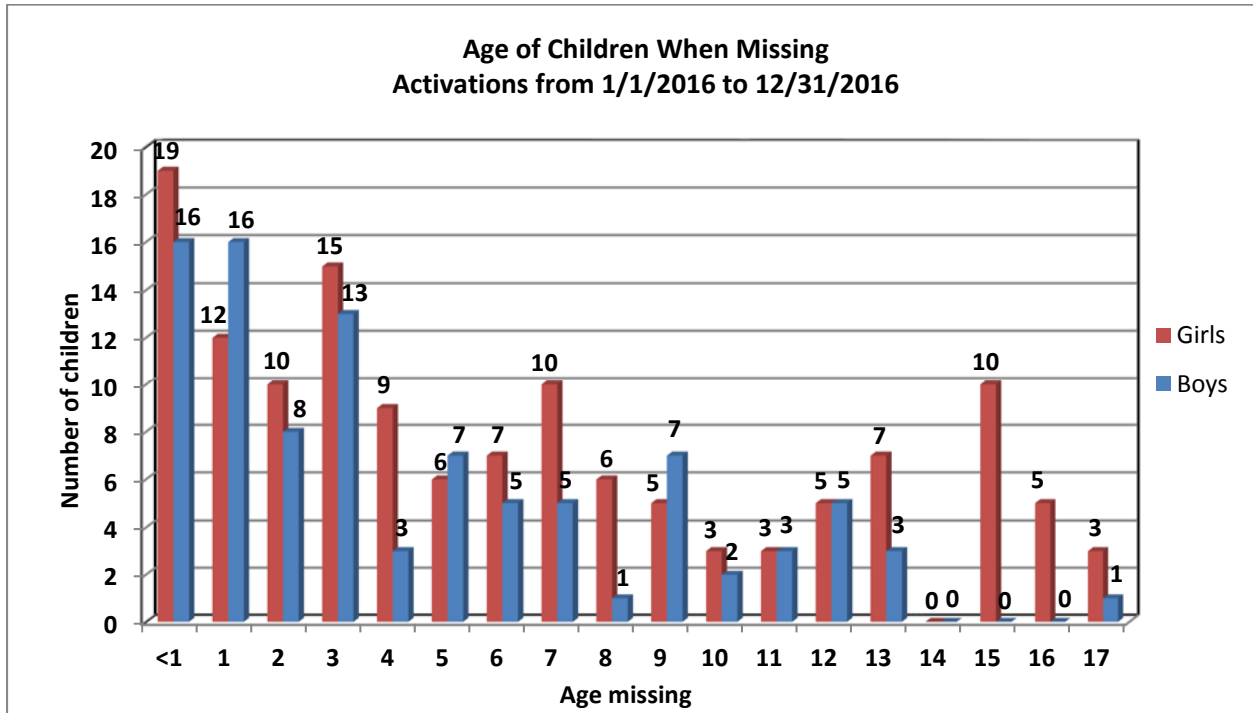
Number and Characteristics of Abductors

In 2016, 174 abductors were identified as being involved in 146 AMBER Alert cases.

The majority of abductors were male at 67 percent (n=116), and 31 percent (n=54) of abductors were female. The sex of four abductors was unknown.

Thirty-nine percent (n=67) of abductors were White, 30 percent (n=53) of abductors were Black, 13 percent (n=23) of abductors were Hispanic, 2 percent (n=4) of abductors were American Indian, 2 percent (n=3) of abductors were Biracial and 1 percent (n=2) of abductors were Asian. The race for 13 percent (n=22) of abductors was unknown.

Abductors With a Known Relationship to the Child

Of the 174 abductors involved in AMBER Alerts in 2016, 128 abductors had known relationships with the children. An AMBER Alert case may involve multiple abductors; therefore, the number of abductors may exceed the number of cases for any case type. Multiple abductors involved in an AMBER Alert case may have different relationships to the abducted child. For example, a mother who abducts her child may use her boyfriend as an accomplice. The boyfriend would also be considered an abductor in a family abduction although he is not related to the child.

Of the 107 FA cases 106 abductors involved had known relationships with the children. They consisted of two cousins, 57 fathers, one father's girlfriend, three grandmothers, 36 mothers, four mother's boyfriends, one other relative, one parent and one uncle.

Of the 60 NFA cases 22 abductors involved had known relationships with the children. For the remaining cases either there was no relationship or the relationship was unknown. The abductors consisted of one babysitter, three boyfriends, two ex-boyfriends, one father, three friends/classmates, three friends of the family, four mother's boyfriends, three mother's girlfriends, one other relative and one stepfather.
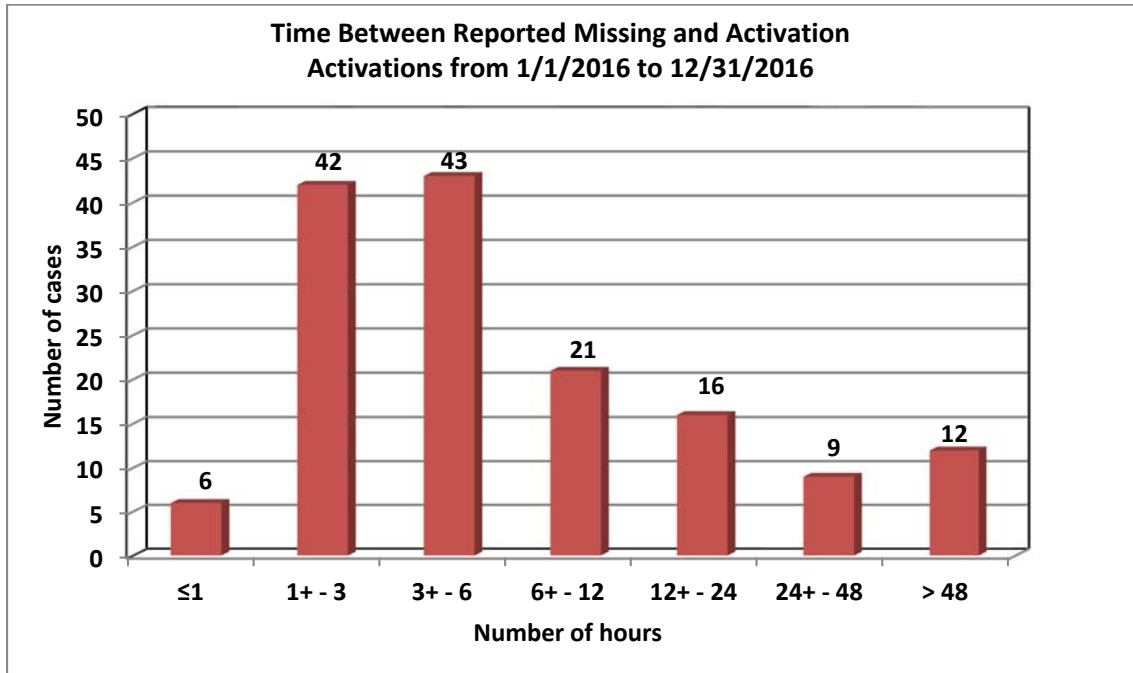
Table 9: Abductor Relationship to Child

Abductor relationship to child	FA	FA percent	NFA	NFA percent	Total	Total percent
Baby sitter	0	0	1	5	**1**	**1**
Boyfriend	0	0	3	14	**3**	**2**
Cousin	2	2	0	0	**2**	**2**
Ex-boyfriend	0	0	2	9	**2**	**2**
Father	57	54	1	5	**58**	**45**
Father's girlfriend	1	1	0	0	**1**	**1**
Friend/classmate	0	0	3	14	**3**	**2**
Friend of family	0	0	3	14	**3**	**2**
Grandmother	3	3	0	0	**3**	**2**
Mother	36	34	0	0	**36**	**28**
Mother's boyfriend	4	4	4	18	**8**	**6**
Mother's girlfriend	0	0	3	14	**3**	**2**
Other relative	1	1	1	5	**2**	**2**
Parent	1	1	0	0	**1**	**1**
Stepfather	0	0	1	5	**1**	**1**
Uncle	1	1	0	0	**1**	**1**
Total	**106**	**~100**	**22**	**~100**	**128**	**100**

Time Between Reported Missing and Activation

Information about the time between when the child was reported missing to law enforcement and the AMBER Alert's activation was available in 149 cases. Hoaxes and unfounded cases were excluded in the statistics because a child was determined not to be missing in those AMBER Alert cases.

Forty-eight AMBER Alerts were issued within three or fewer hours from when the child was reported missing. Forty-three cases were activated between more than three and six hours from when the child was reported missing and 21 cases were issued between more than six and 12 hours.

Figure 10: Time Between Reported Missing and Activation

Time Between Reported Missing and Activation
Activations from 1/1/2016 to 12/31/2016

(Bar chart: Number of cases vs. Number of hours)

Number of hours	≤1	1+ - 3	3+ - 6	6+ - 12	12+ - 24	24+ - 48	> 48
Number of cases	6	42	43	21	16	9	12

Time Between Reported Missing and Recovery

Information about the time between when the child was reported missing to law enforcement and the AMBER Alert recovery was available in 146 cases. Hoaxes and unfounded cases were excluded in the statistics because a child was determined not to be missing in those AMBER Alert cases.

In 14 of the cases when AMBER Alerts were issued the children were recovered within three or fewer hours from when the child was reported missing. Children in 36 cases were recovered between more than three and six hours from when the child was reported missing, and in 30 cases the children were recovered between more than six and 12 hours.

Figure 11: Time Between Reported Missing and Recovery

Time Between Reported Missing and Recovery
Activations from 1/1/2016 to 12/31/2016

Number of cases with a recovery (y-axis), Number of hours (x-axis)

≤1	1+ - 3	3+ - 6	6+ - 12	12+ - 24	24+ - 48	> 48
1	13	36	30	34	14	18
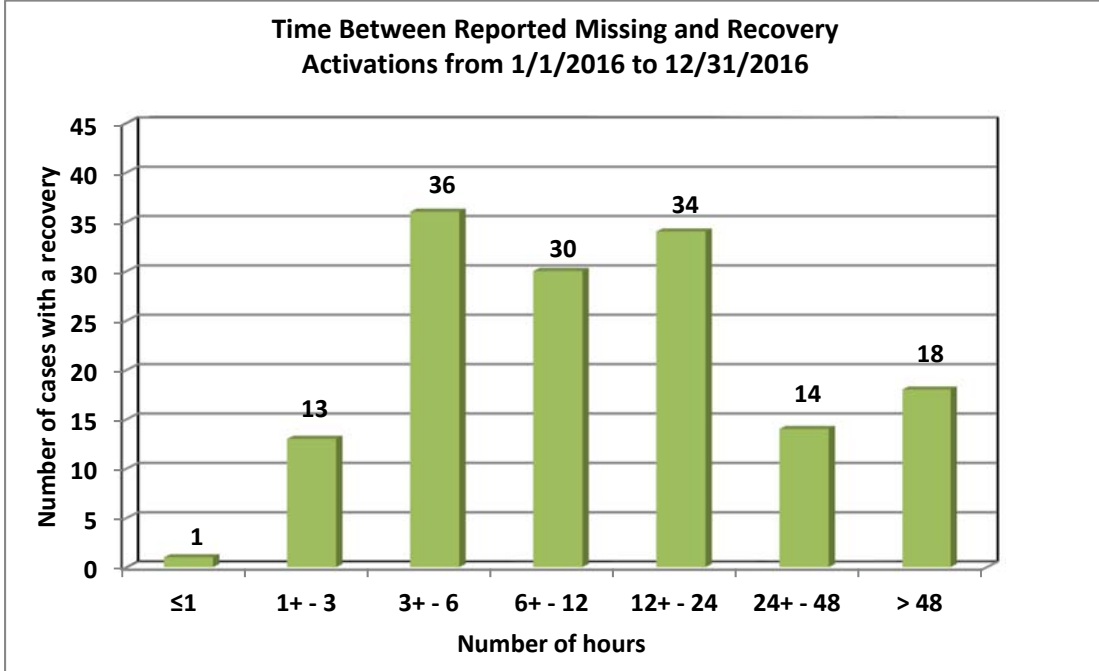
Time Between Activation and Recovery

Information about the time between when the AMBER Alert was activated and the AMBER Alert recovery was available in 155 cases. Hoaxes and unfounded cases were excluded in the statistics because a child was determined not to be missing in those AMBER Alert cases.

In 73 cases the children were recovered within three or fewer hours from when the AMBER Alert was activated. Children in 32 cases were recovered between more than three and six hours from when the AMBER Alert was activated, and in 17 cases the children were recovered between more than six to 12 hours.

Figure 12: Time Between Activation and Recovery

**Time Between Activation and Recovery
Activations from 1/1/2016 to 12/31/2016**

Number of cases with a recovery:
- ≤1: 31
- 1+ - 3: 42
- 3+ - 6: 32
- 6+ - 12: 17
- 12+ - 24: 13
- 24+ - 48: 10
- > 48: 10

Number of hours

Recovery Within Three Days of Activation
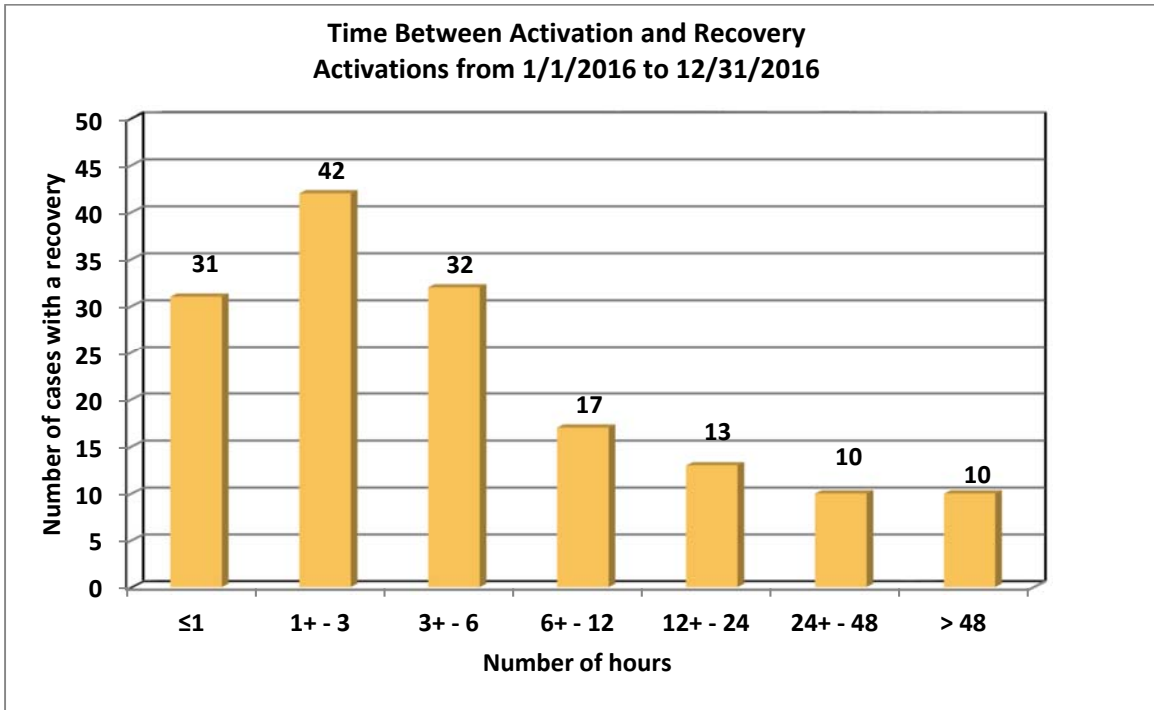
Information about the date between when the AMBER Alert was activated and the AMBER Alert recovery was available in all 179 cases.

Table 10: Recovery Within Three Days of Activation

	Time between activation and recovery 1/1/2016 - 12/31/2016
Intaked cases	179
Cases classified as hoax or unfounded after intake	21
Intaked children	231
Children whose cases were classified as hoax or unfounded after intake	32
Number of cases in which child reported as being recovered within 72 hours	150
Percent of cases in which child reported as being recovered within 72 hours	95 percent*
Number of children reported as being recovered within 72 hours	188
Percent of children reported as being recovered within 72 hours	94 percent**

*Percentage excludes cases classified as hoaxes (n=8) and unfounded (n=13)
**Percentage excludes children classified as hoaxes (n=9) and unfounded (n=23)

Travel Distances

In 2016 distances between where the child was reported missing and recovered were known for 145 AMBER Alert cases. Hoaxes, unfounded and active cases were not included in these statistics because no recovery occurred. The distances reported below are estimates since they were calculated by using city and state. Therefore distances are not calculated for cases in which the child was recovered from the city where he or she was abducted.

In 57 cases the missing and recovery locations were in the same city; in 55 cases the distance between missing and recovery locations were outside the city but within 100 miles of each other; in 19 cases the distance between missing and recovery locations ranged from 101 to 500 miles; in eight cases the distance between missing and recovery locations ranged from 501 to 1,000 miles; and in six cases the distance was more than 1,000 miles. For 10 cases the distance could not be calculated, and the remaining 24 cases were either hoaxes, unfounded or active cases.

Figure 13: Distance Between Missing and Recovery Locations
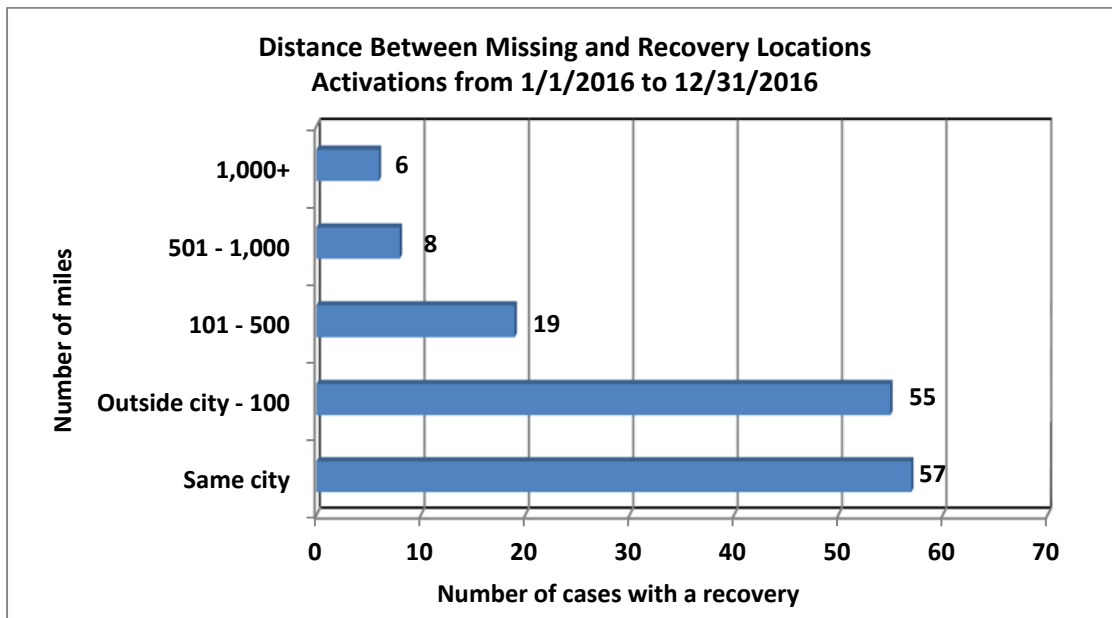
Of the 107 AMBER Alerts issued for FA cases, children in 27 cases were found in the same city. In 35 cases distances ranged from 2 to 94 miles outside of the city, and in 14 cases the distances ranged from 110 to 433 miles. In six cases distances ranged from 597 to 954 miles. In five cases distances exceeded 1,000 miles. In six cases the distance could not be calculated, and the remaining 14 cases were active, hoaxes and unfounded cases.

Of the 60 AMBER Alerts issued for NFA cases, the children involved in 28 cases were found in the same city. In 17 cases distances ranged from 4 to 98 miles outside of the city. In four cases travel distances ranged from 184 to 342 miles. In one case the distance was 666 miles. In four cases the distance could not be calculated, and the remaining six cases were active, hoaxes and unfounded cases.

There were six AMBER Alerts issued for LIM cases in 2016, and, of those cases, two were found in the same city. The travel distance in one case was 3 miles outside of the city. The remaining three cases were active, hoaxes and unfounded cases.

For the six cases intaked as ERUs in 2016, in two cases travel distances ranged from 21 to 27 miles outside of the city. The travel distance in three cases was 463 miles, 565 miles and more than 1,000 miles. One case was later determined to be unfounded.

Figure 14: Distance Traveled by Case Type

Distance Traveled by Case Type
Activations from 1/1/2016 to 12/31/2016
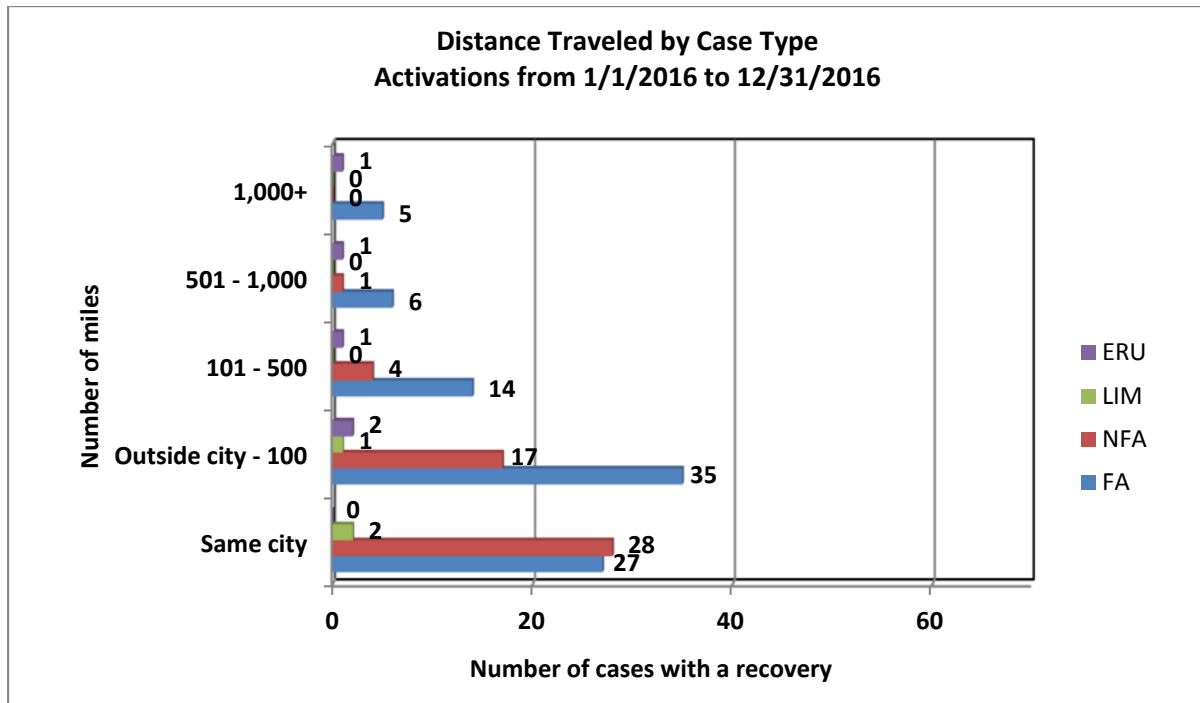
Recoveries Outside of State/Territory Where AMBER Alert First Activated

There are instances when an abductor may travel with a child out of the state/territory where the AMBER Alert was first activated. Of the 179 AMBER Alerts issued in 2016, three cases still remain active. Twenty percent of cases (n=36) had recoveries outside of the state of the original activation. Of those 36 cases 72 percent (n=26) were FAs, 19 percent (n=7) were NFAs and 8 percent (n=3) were ERUs.

Table 11: Recovery Outside of State Where AMBER Alert First Activated

Activation state	Recovery state
Arizona	New Mexico
Arizona	New Mexico
Arkansas	Illinois
Arkansas	Tennessee
Connecticut	New York
Florida	Georgia

Activation state	Recovery state
Florida	Maryland
Florida	Tennessee
Florida	Texas
Georgia	Florida
Georgia	Florida
Georgia	Tennessee
Georgia	Texas
Idaho	Colorado
Indiana	Illinois
Indiana	West Virginia
Iowa	Tennessee
Michigan	Colorado
Michigan	Florida
Montana	Washington
Montana	Wyoming
New Mexico	California
New Mexico	Colorado
North Carolina	Montana
Ohio	West Virginia
Pennsylvania	New York
Texas	Alabama
Texas	Louisiana
Utah	Hawaii
Utah	New Mexico
Utah	New Mexico
Virginia	Maryland
Virginia	New Jersey
Washington	California
Washington	New Mexico
Washington	Ohio

Missing Location

In 2016 there were 139 cases with information about where the children involved were last known to be located. Of those 139 cases 61 percent (n=85) were last known to be at home followed by 9 percent of cases where children were last known to be at a store (n=12).

Table 12: Missing Location

Missing location	Number of cases	Percent
Automobile	3	2
Day care facility	2	1
Home	85	61
Hotel	1	1
Law enforcement agency	1	1
Medical facility	2	1
Office building	1	1
Other	6	4
Outdoor/open area	3	2
Park	1	1
Parking lot/garage	1	1
Recreational	1	1
Religious facility	1	1
Retail	12	9
School bus stop	3	2
School facility	7	5
Social services	3	2
Street	6	4
Total	**139**	**100**

Recovery Location

There were 166 cases with information about where the child was recovered. In 2016, 35 percent (n=58) of children involved in AMBER Alert cases were most often recovered at home followed by recoveries from the street at 17 percent (n=29).

Table 13: Recovery Location

Recovery location	Number of cases	Percent
Automobile	21	13
Body of water	1	1
Construction/industrial area	1	1
Government facility	1	1
Home	58	35
Hotel	9	5
Law enforcement agency	7	4
Medical facility	1	1
Other	3	2
Outdoor/open area	11	7
Park	1	1

Recovery location	Number of cases	Percent
Parking lot/garage	8	5
Retail	11	7
Social services	1	1
Street	29	17
Transportation facility	1	1
Truck/rest stop	2	1
Total	**166**	**~100**

International Abductions

In 2016 there were no AMBER Alert activations as a result of an international abduction.

Infants Involved in AMBER Alert Activations

In 2016 infants, who are defined as children 6 months of age or younger, were involved in 17 AMBER Alert activations. Forty-seven percent (n=8) of infants involved were NFAs, 41 percent (n=7) were FAs, 6 percent each (n=1 and 1) were LIMs and ERUs.

Fifty-three percent (n=9) of infants involved in AMBER Alerts were boys and 47 percent (n=8) were girls. Six percent (n=1) of infants involved were American Indian, 47 percent (n=8) were Black, 6 percent (n=1) were Hispanic and 41 percent (n=7) were White.

Success Stories

A successful AMBER Alert recovery is a case in which a child is safely recovered as a direct result of the AMBER Alert being issued. A case is not considered a successful recovery if the law enforcement investigation indicates the case is unfounded or a hoax.

Of the 179 AMBER Alert cases in 2016, 54 children involved in 43 AMBER Alert cases were successfully recovered as a direct result of those respective AMBER Alerts being issued.

Table 14: Success Stories

Case type at intake	Number of successful recoveries by case	Percent of successful recoveries by case	Number of successful recoveries by child	Percent of successful recoveries by child
FA	27	63	36	67
NFA	16	37	18	33
LIM	0	0	0	0
ERU	0	0	0	0
Total	**43**	**~100**	**54**	**~100**

The most common reason for an AMBER Alert success story is an individual or law enforcement recognizing the vehicle from the alert at 40 percent (n=17) followed by an individual or law enforcement recognizing the child and/or abductor at 21 percent (n=9).

Table 15: Reason for Success Stories

Summary of success stories	Number of cases	Percent of cases	Number of children	Percent of children
Individual or law enforcement recognized vehicle	17	40	23	43
Individual or law enforcement recognized child and/or abductor	9	21	9	17
Law enforcement received tips from individuals	8	19	10	19
Abductor heard alert and released child	5	12	7	13
Individual knew of abductor's/ child's whereabouts	4	9	5	9
Total	**43**	**~100**	**54**	**~100**

Time Between Activation and Recovery for Success Stories

Of the success stories in 2016, 48 percent of the children (n=26), representing 44 percent (n=19) of the cases, were successfully recovered within three hours of those AMBER Alerts being issued.

Table 16: Time Between Activation and Recovery for Success Stories

	Number of cases	Percent of cases	Number of children	Percent of children
Up to 1/2 hour	1	2	1	2
1/2+ - 1 hour	6	14	9	17
1+ - 2 hours	9	21	11	20
2+ - 3 hours	3	7	5	9
3+ - 4 hours	3	7	3	6
4+ - 5 hours	2	5	3	6
5+ - 6 hours	3	7	3	6
6+ - 12 hours	8	19	9	17
12+ - 24 hours	4	9	6	11
24+ - 48 hours	4	9	4	7
48+ hours	0	0	0	0
Total	**43**	**100**	**54**	**~100**

Children Located Deceased

In 2016, 179 AMBER Alerts were issued for 231 children. Thirteen children in 11 AMBER Alert cases were located deceased. Fifty-four percent (n=7) of children were reported as NFAs, 38 percent (n=5) of children were reported as FAs and 8 percent (n=1) were reported as LIMs. Nine girls, ranging in age from 1 to 16, were found deceased, and four boys, ranging in age from 3 to 13, were found deceased. Two children were American Indian, two children were Biracial, one child was Black, one child was Hispanic and seven children were White.

Of the 13 children located deceased in 2016, 62 percent (n=8) were reported missing from their respective homes, 8 percent (n=1) were reported missing from a religious facility, 8 percent (n=1) were reported missing from the street and 8 percent (n=1) were reported missing from another location. It is unknown where two children (15 percent) were last seen.

In one case the child's boyfriend was charged with her abduction and murder and is also suspected in the deaths of the child's mother and sister. In another case the father abducted the child. Her remains were later found in a body of water, and the father pled guilty to the child's murder. In another case two children were abducted by their father in an apparent murder-suicide. In one case the child was allegedly abducted by a friend of the child's family. In another case the child's legal guardian reported the child missing and was later charged with murder in relation to the child's death. Two children were allegedly abducted by their noncustodial mother. In one case the child's uncle was charged with abducting and murdering the child and disposing of her body in a well. One child was abducted and murdered by two males and one female, all unrelated to the child, who each pled guilty. In another case a nonfamily member pled guilty to abducting the child and her mother. Both were later found deceased in a burning building. In one case the child and her brother were allegedly abducted by a nonfamily member, who was charged with the child's murder while her brother was released. In one case it is unknown who abducted and killed the child and her father.

Table 17: Children Located Deceased

Activation date	Case type at intake	Race/sex of child	Age when missing	Time between activation and recovery	Distance between missing and recovery	Cause of death
02/20/16	NFA	White girl	4	<72 hours	Same city	Undisclosed*
02/21/16	FA	White girl	1	<72 hours	Same city	Unknown
03/14/16	NFA	White girl	13	<72 hours	Same city	Gunshot
04/20/16	NFA	American Indian girl	1	<72 hours	14 miles	Beating
05/03/16	NFA	American Indian girl	11	<72 hours	Same city	Blunt force trauma
06/01/16	NFA	Black boy	13	<72 hours	Same city	Undisclosed*
08/20/16	NFA	White girl	5	<72 hours	68 miles	Strangulation
09/26/16	FA	Biracial boy	6	<72 hours	55 miles	Asphyxiation/Suffocation
09/26/16	FA	Biracial girl	7	<72 hours	55 miles	Asphyxiation/Suffocation

Activation date	Case type at intake	Race/sex of child	Age when missing	Time between activation and recovery	Distance between missing and recovery	Cause of death
11/02/16	LIM	Hispanic girl	10	<72 hours	Same city	Blunt force trauma
11/05/16	FA	White boy	5	<72 hours	Same city	Gunshot
11/05/16	FA	White boy	3	<72 hours	Same city	Gunshot
11/08/16	NFA	White girl	16	<72 hours	25 miles	Stabbing

*Undisclosed means the cause of death was not released by the investigative agency at the time of data collection.

AMBER Alerts Involving Victims of Sexual Assault

In 2016 four girls in four separate AMBER Alert activations were reported to be victims of sexual assault during their abduction. Two of the girls were American Indian and two were White. They were aged 4, 5, 11 and 15. The case type at intake were all NFAs.

Team Adam Consultant Deployment

Team Adam is a program of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children providing an on-site response and technical assistance support system to local law enforcement and support for families of missing and sexually exploited children. Team Adam was named in memory of 6-year-old Adam Walsh, the abducted and murdered son of NCMEC co-founders John and Revé Walsh.

In 2016 Team Adam consultants were deployed to assist with 24 AMBER Alert cases involving 28 children. Two cases involving two children were later determined to be hoaxes. No cases were later determined to be unfounded. All 26 children who were actually determined to be missing were recovered. At intake the case breakdown included 11 NFAs, eight FAs, two LIMs and three ERUs.

FBI Involvement in AMBER Alerts

The FBI has a specialized Child Abduction Rapid Deployment or CARD team designed to deploy experienced personnel to provide on-the-ground investigative, technical and resource assistance to state and local law enforcement. CARD consists of violent crimes against children investigators and analysts who have in-depth experience in child abduction cases. CARD consists of more than 60 members organized into five regionally separated teams. Additionally, personnel from the FBI's Behavioral Analysis Unit 3, Cellular Analysis Survey Team or CAST and National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime are also consulted during deployments. According to the FBI, since CARD's inaugural deployment in 2006, teams have deployed approximately 133 times to assist law enforcement agencies when an AMBER Alert or mysterious disappearance of a child has occurred. In 2016 CARD deployed five times as a result of an AMBER Alert.

Command Post Use in AMBER Alerts

A command post is a field headquarters/office for scene management to centralize investigative efforts as well as search-and-rescue operations.

In 2016, 27 of the AMBER Alert cases reported to NCMEC involved the use of a command post. Of those cases, 13 were intaked as FAs, 12 were intaked as NFAs, one was intaked as a LIM and one was intaked as an ERU.

National Crime Information Center

The National Crime Information Center, known as NCIC, houses a set of databases law enforcement uses to document and query activity and information about missing people. The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Pub. L. No. 109-248) clarifies that an NCIC entry by law enforcement must be made within two hours of receipt of a report of a missing or abducted child.

Of the 231 children involved in AMBER Alert cases in 2016, information about 181 children was entered into NCIC, and information about 50 children was not entered into NCIC.

Table 18: Information Entered in NCIC

	1/1/2016 - 12/31/2016	1/1/2016 - 12/31/2016 percent
Information entered in NCIC	181	78
Information not entered in NCIC	50	22
Total	**231**	**100**

Of the 181 children whose information was entered in NCIC from Jan. 1, 2016, to Dec. 31, 2016, 83 children were flagged as an AMBER Alert or AA, 74 children were flagged as a Missing Person or MP, and 20 children were flagged as a Child Abduction or CA. The flags for four children were unknown.

Figure 15: Flag Type in NCIC
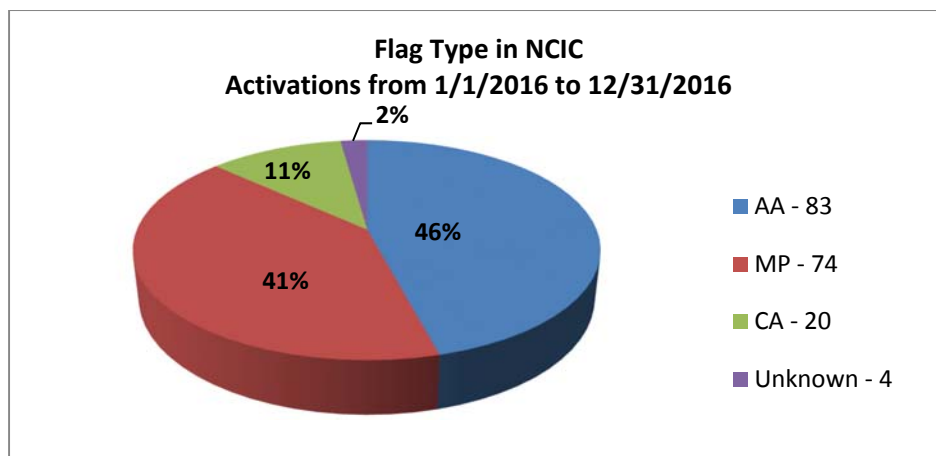
NCMEC has permission to modify flags in NCIC to AA status for AMBER Alert cases at the originating agency's request. During the months of January through December 2016, a total of 44 flags were updated

in NCIC. Twenty-six flags were changed from CA to AA and 18 flags were changed from MP to AA. NCMEC made the flag updates for 27 children, and law enforcement made the flag updates for 14 children. For three children it is unknown who made the update.

The table below shows the NCIC missing person type category for children involved in AMBER Alerts at the time of entry from Jan. 1, 2016, to Dec. 31, 2016.

Table 19: Missing Person Type in NCIC

NCIC missing person type	1/1/2016 - 12/31/2016	1/1/2016 - 12/31/2016 percent
Endangered	75	41
Endangered - caution	8	4
Involuntary	45	25
Involuntary - caution	3	2
Juvenile	47	26
Juvenile – caution	3	2
Total	**181**	**100**

From Jan. 1, 2016, to Dec. 31, 2016, information about 27 children was entered and canceled from NCIC within three hours.

Table 20: Hours Between Information About Children Entered and Canceled from NCIC

	1/1/2016 - 12/31/2016 (total)	1/1/2016 - 12/31/2016 (cumulative total)	1/1/2016 - 12/31/2016 percent	1/1/2016 - 12/31/2016 cumulative percent
Up to 1/2 hour	1	1	1	1
½+ - 1 hour	5	6	3	3
1+ - 2 hours	8	14	4	8
2+ - 3 hours	13	27	7	15
3+ - 4 hours	11	38	6	21
4+ - 5 hours	10	48	6	27
5+ - 6 hours	16	64	9	35
6+ - 12 hours	36	100	20	55
12+ - 24 hours	17	117	9	65
24+ - 48 hours	13	130	7	72
48+ - 72 hours	9	139	5	77
72+ hours	37	176	20	97
Unknown	5	181	3	100
Total	**181**		**100**	

Data collected from the miscellaneous field in NCIC captured information such as abductor threats and use of weapons for 68 children involved in 56 AMBER Alerts issued in 2016. Eight abductors were armed with a weapon, six children had medical issues, five abductors threatened to harm the child, three abductors were sex offenders, three abductors threatened to kill themselves and the child, two abductors had a history of alcohol and/or drug abuse, two abductors were suspects in a homicide, one abductor threatened to kill herself, and one abductor had a history of mental illness. Twenty-five children had "other" listed in the miscellaneous field.

Of the 181 children whose information was entered in NCIC, 84 percent (n=152) had vehicle involvement in the AMBER Alert and 15 percent (n=28) did not have a vehicle involved. It was unknown if a vehicle was involved in one AMBER Alert.

In order for vehicle data to be entered into the NCIC vehicle field, the license plate number on the vehicle must be available to law enforcement.

License plate information was available and entered in NCIC for 106 children. Of those, 82 children's records had license plate information entered in the vehicle field only, and in 10 children's records the license plate information was entered in the miscellaneous field only. **Note**: Law enforcement cannot search for license plate information in NCIC if the vehicle information is entered only in the miscellaneous field. For 14 children's records the license plate information was entered in both the miscellaneous and vehicle fields.
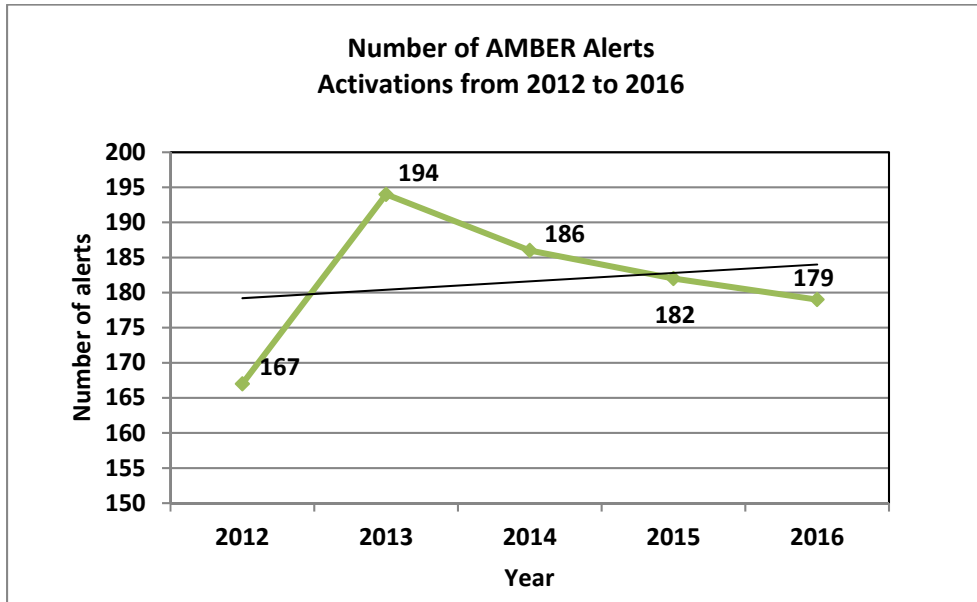
Five Year Comparison of AMBER Alerts Issued

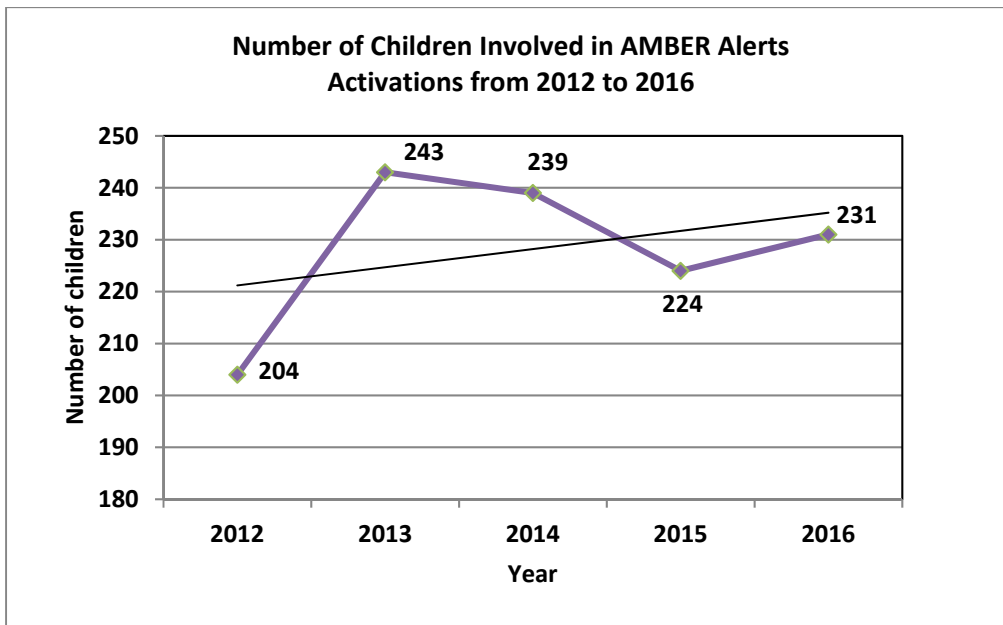**Number of AMBER Alerts and Children Involved**

The number of AMBER Alerts has shown an overall increase of 7 percent between 2012 and 2016.

In 2012 there were 167 alerts involving 204 children, in 2013 there were 194 alerts involving 243 children, in 2014 there were 186 alerts involving 239 children, in 2015 there were 182 alerts involving 224 children and in 2016 there were 179 alerts involving 231 children.

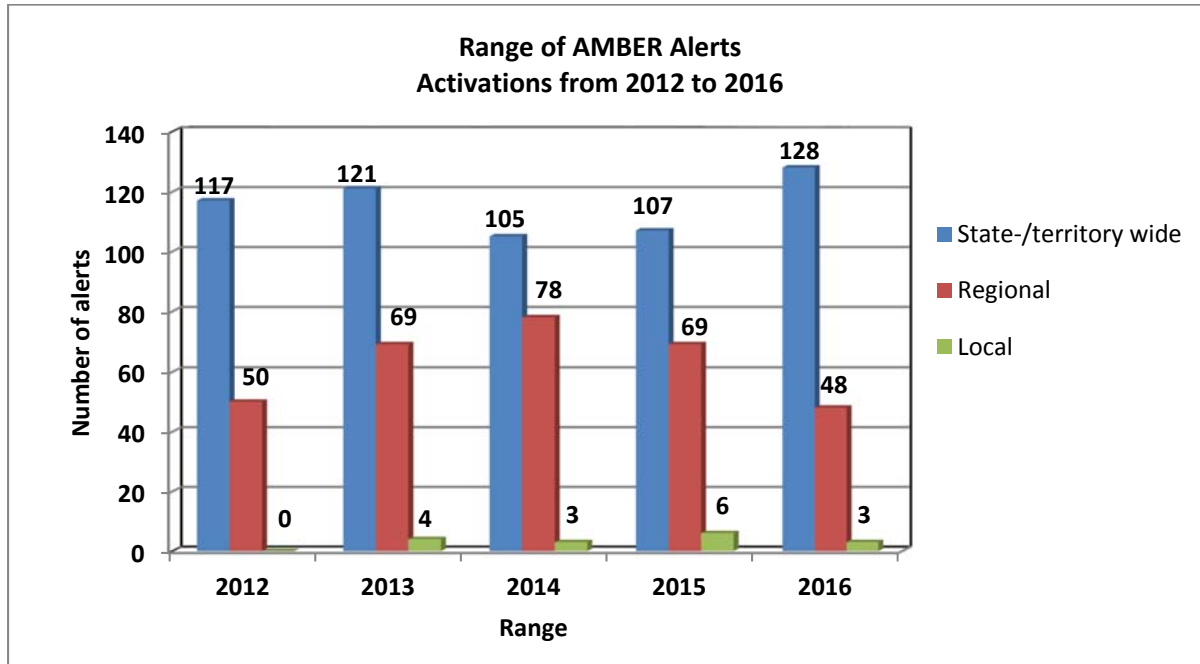*Figure 16: Number of AMBER Alerts from 2012 to 2016*

**Number of AMBER Alerts
Activations from 2012 to 2016**

Number of alerts

200	
195	194
190	186
185	
180	179
175	182
170	
167	
165	
160	
155	
150	

2012   2013   2014   2015   2016

Year

Figure 17: Number of Children Involved in AMBER Alerts from 2012 to 2016

**Number of Children Involved in AMBER Alerts
Activations from 2012 to 2016**

Number of children

250 — 243 — 239 — 231
240
230
224
220
210
204
200
190
180

2012   2013   2014   2015   2016

Year

AMBER Alerts by Range

From 2012 to 2016 AMBER Alerts were predominantly issued state-/territory wide, followed by regional alerts and then local alerts.

Figure 18: Range of AMBER Alerts from 2012 to 2016

Range of AMBER Alerts Activations from 2012 to 2016

Year	State-/territory wide	Regional	Local
2012	117	50	0
2013	121	69	4
2014	105	78	3
2015	107	69	6
2016	128	48	3

Y-axis: Number of alerts (0 to 140)
X-axis: Range

Multistate/Territory AMBER Alerts

The number of multistate/territory AMBER Alerts varied between the years 2012 and 2016. In 2012 there were 13 multistate alerts issued. In 2013 the number rose to 15. The number then fell to 14 in 2014, and falling further to nine in 2015. In 2016 there was another increase with 21 multistate alerts issued.

Number of Cases at Intake by Month

Table 21: Number of Cases by Month from 2012 to 2016

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2012	11	17	15	9	15	10	16	12	17	16	17	12
2013	17	8	15	17	25	15	19	20	16	17	11	14
2014	20	14	13	17	16	13	9	21	16	18	10	19
2015	11	9	19	8	17	15	19	17	18	22	14	13
2016	8	17	14	19	18	12	11	18	20	17	14	11
Total	**67**	**65**	**76**	**70**	**91**	**65**	**74**	**88**	**87**	**90**	**66**	**69**

Table 22: Cases and Percent Increase/Decrease by Month from 2012 to 2016

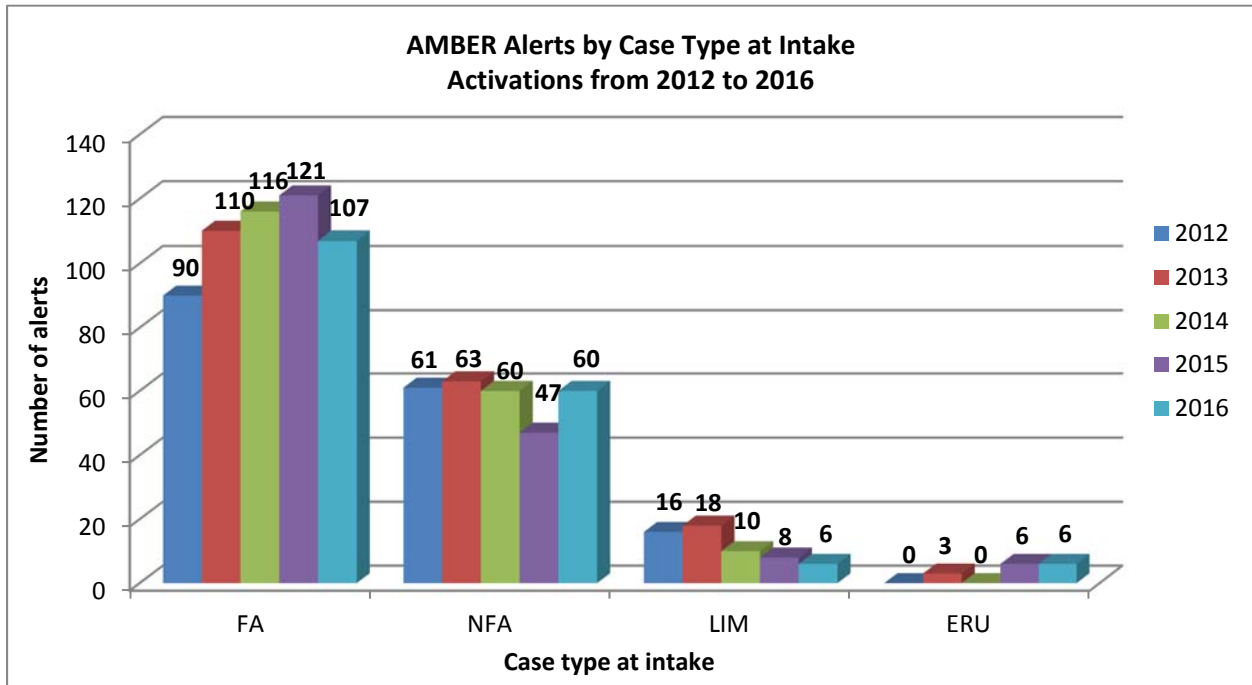|	2012	Percent change	2013	Percent change	2014	Percent change	2015	Percent change	2016
Jan	11	55	17	18	20	-45	11	-27	8
Feb	17	-53	8	75	14	-36	9	89	17
Mar	15	0	15	-13	13	46	19	-26	14
Apr	9	89	17	0	17	-53	8	138	19
May	15	67	25	-36	16	6	17	6	18
Jun	10	50	15	-13	13	15	15	-20	12
Jul	16	19	19	-53	9	111	19	-42	11
Aug	12	67	20	5	21	-19	17	6	18
Sep	17	-6	16	0	16	13	18	11	20
Oct	16	6	17	6	18	22	22	-23	17
Nov	17	-35	11	-9	10	40	14	0	14
Dec	12	17	14	36	19	-32	13	-15	11
Total	**167**	**16**	**194**	**-4**	**186**	**-2**	**182**	-2	**179**

Case Type at Intake

The number of cases intaked as FAs increased 19 percent from 90 alerts in 2012 to 107 alerts in 2016.

In 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2016 (n= 61, 63, 60 and 60) the number of NFAs remained stable. In 2015 the number of alerts issued decreased to 47.

Overall the number of cases intaked as LIMs has declined from 16 to six alerts from 2012 to 2016.

From 2012 to 2016, the number of ERUs rose and fell with the highest number of cases at six in 2015 and 2016. In 2012 and 2014 there were no alerts issued for ERUs.

*Figure 19: AMBER Alerts by Case Type at Intake from 2012 to 2016*

AMBER Alerts by Case Type at Intake
Activations from 2012 to 2016

Table 23: Cases and Percent Increase/Decrease by Case Type from 2012 to 2016

	2012	Percent change	2013	Percent change	2014	Percent change	2015	Percent change	2016
FA	90	22	110	5	116	4	121	-12	107
NFA	61	3	63	-5	60	-22	47	28	60
LIM	16	13	18	-44	10	-20	8	-25	6
ERU	0	0	3	-100	0	0	6	0	6
Total	**167**	**16**	**194**	**-4**	**186**	**-2**	**182**	**-2**	**179**

Hoaxes and Unfounded Cases

The number of hoaxes has remained stable from 2012 to 2015 with n=13, 14, 15 and 14. In 2016 the number of hoaxes decreased to eight. Overall the number of unfounded cases increased between 2012 and 2016 with seven and 13 cases respectively. In 2013 the number of unfounded cases increased to 16, decreased to 11 in 2014 and increased to 13 in 2015.

Figure 20: Number of Hoaxes and Unfounded Cases from 2012 to 2016
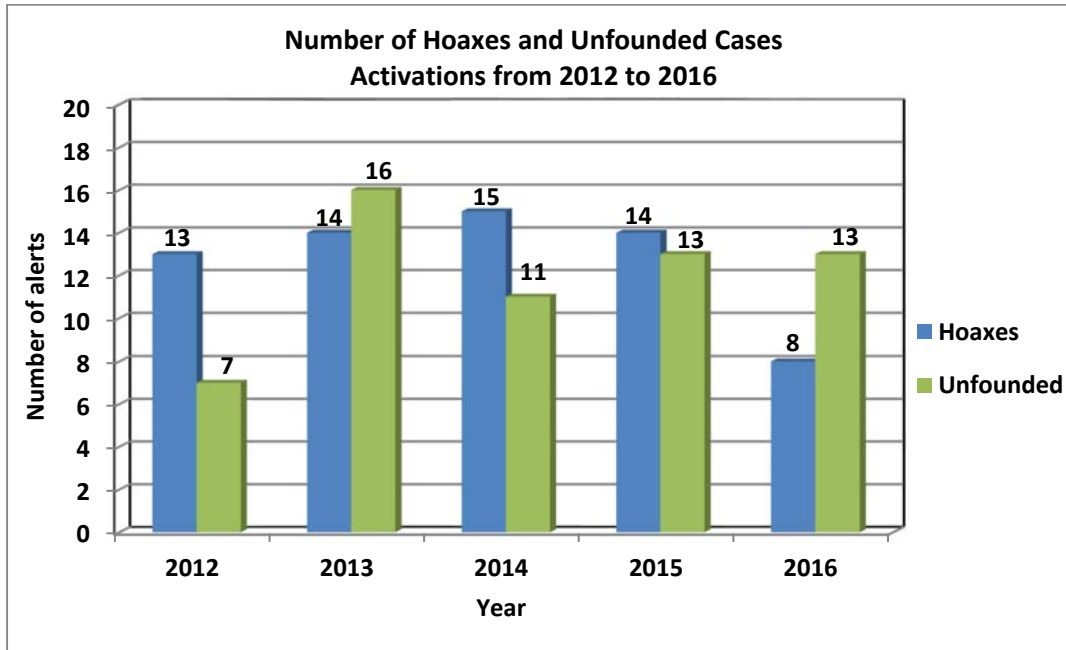

Number and Characteristics of Children Involved in AMBER Alerts

Girls were more frequently involved in AMBER Alerts than boys in 2012 and 2013, while there were more boys than girls in 2014. In 2015 the number of boys and girls involved in AMBER Alerts was the same. Girls were more often involved in AMBER Alerts in 2016. In 2012 girls made up 56 percent (n=115) of AMBER Alerts compared to boys who made up 44 percent (n=89). In 2013 girls represented 51 percent (n=124) of AMBER Alerts, while boys made up 49 percent (n=118); the sex of one child was unknown. In 2014 boys comprised 51 percent (n=123) of AMBER Alerts, whereas girls comprised 49 percent (n=116). AMBER Alerts were issued for 112 boys and 112 girls in 2015. In 2016 girls represented 59 percent (n=136) of children involved in AMBER Alerts and boys made up 41 percent (n=95).

The number of American Indian children involved in AMBER Alerts generally increased from 2012 to 2016 (n= 5 and 12) with a decrease to three in 2015. The number of Asian children decreased from 2012 to 2016 (n=6, 3, 2, 3 and 2). The number of Biracial children increased from 2012 (n=13) to 2013 (n=20) and decreased in 2014 and 2015, at 15 and six, respectively. There was an increase in Biracial children in 2016 (n=14). For Black children, there was an overall increase from 2012 (n=64) to 2016 (n=72) with a decrease to 56 in 2013. The number of Hispanic children generally remained stable in 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2016 (n=32, 38, 39, 32). In 2013 there was a spike to 47. The number of White children increased (n=84 and n=111) between 2012 and 2013 and from 2014 to 2016 there was an overall decrease (n=104, 103 and 98).

Figure 21: Race of Children from 2012 to 2016

**Race of Children
Activations from 2012 to 2016**
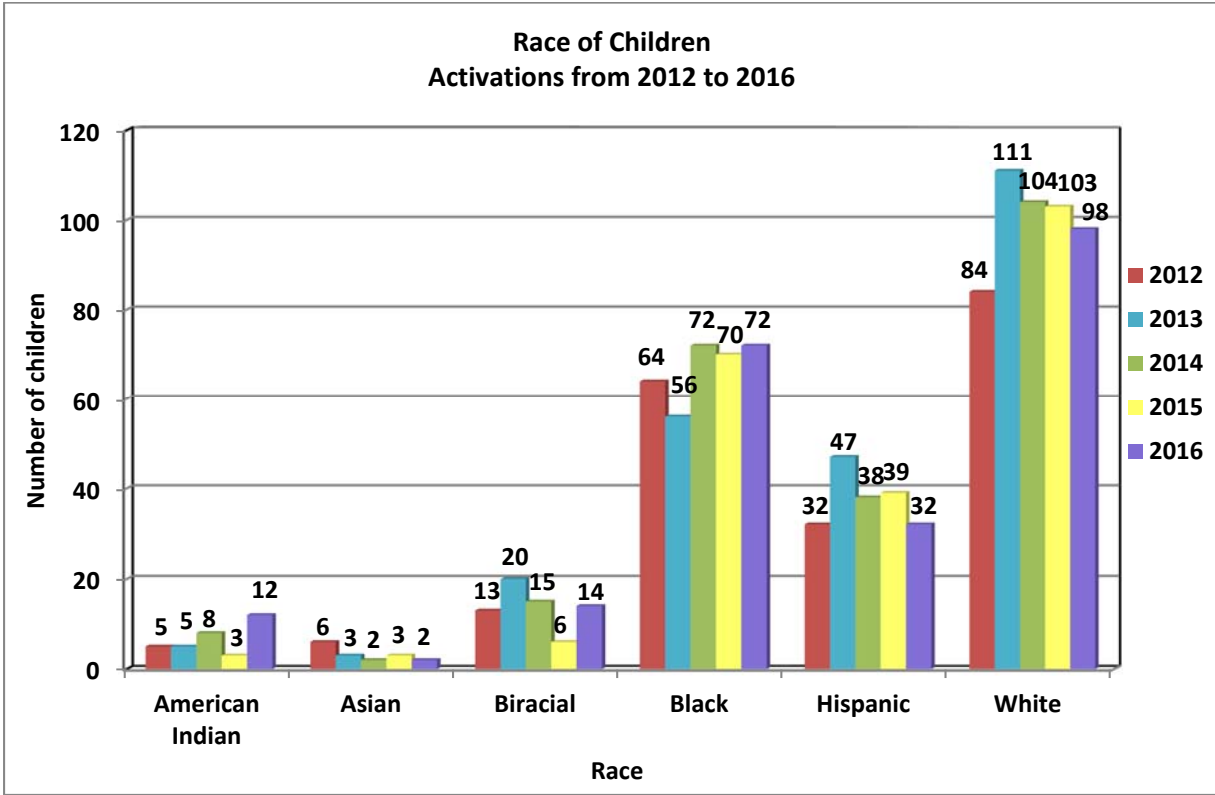
From 2012 to 2016 minority children were involved in AMBER Alerts more frequently than White children.

Figure 22: Race of Children, White and Minority from 2012 to 2016

**Race of Children, White and Minority
Activations from 2012 to 2016**
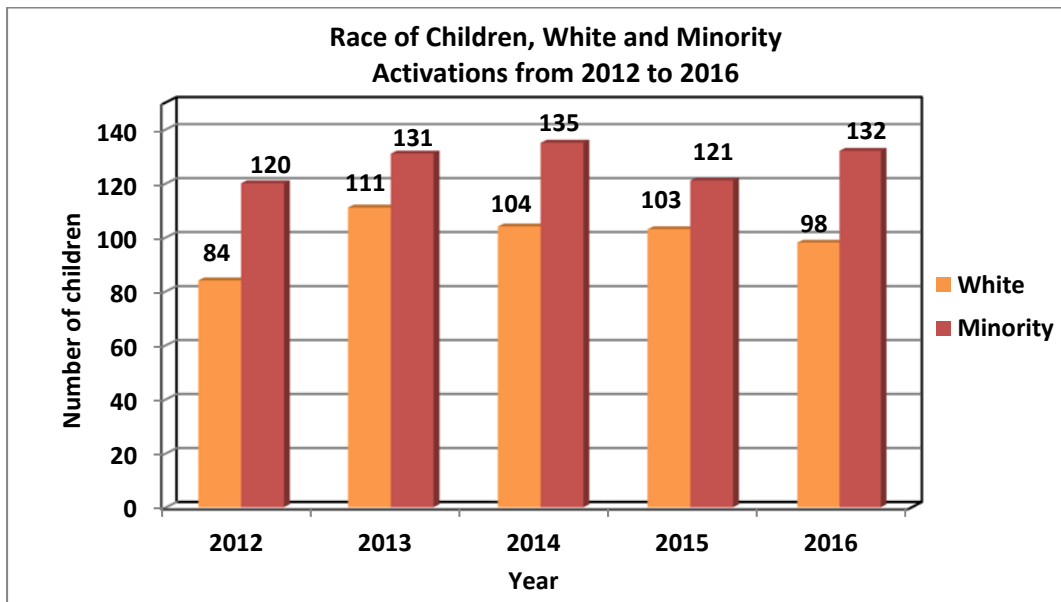
International Abductions

In 2012 there was one AMBER Alert for a case originating in Canada, and the child was recovered in Montana. In 2013 four AMBER Alerts involving five children were international abductions. In one case the child was abducted in Mexico, while in another case the child was recovered in Mexico. One case involved a recovery in Canada, and another case involved a recovery in Cuba. In 2014 there was one AMBER Alert involving one child who was recovered in Mexico. In 2015 there were two AMBER Alerts involving two children. In one case the child was abducted and recovered in Canada. In the other case the child was recovered in Mexico. In 2016 there were no AMBER Alerts issued for international abductions.

Children Located Deceased

A total of 47 children who were involved in AMBER Alerts issued from 2012 to 2016 were located deceased. From 2012 to 2016 the number of children located deceased increased from nine to 13.

While children intaked as LIMs who were located deceased have been more frequent in years prior to 2012, children intaked as NFAs made up the largest total number of case types for children who were located deceased from 2012 to 2016.

*Table 24: Number of Children Located Deceased from 2012 to 2016*

Case type at intake	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
FA	2	3	0	3	5	13
NFA	2	7	4	3	7	23
LIM	5	1	2	2	1	11
ERU	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**9**	**11**	**6**	**8**	**13**	**47**

National Crime Information Center

In regard to children's information entered in NCIC from 2012 to 2016, it was 79, 80, 81, 78 and 78 percent respectively (n=161, 194, 194, 174 and 181). The AA flag was the predominant flag type from 2012 to 2016.
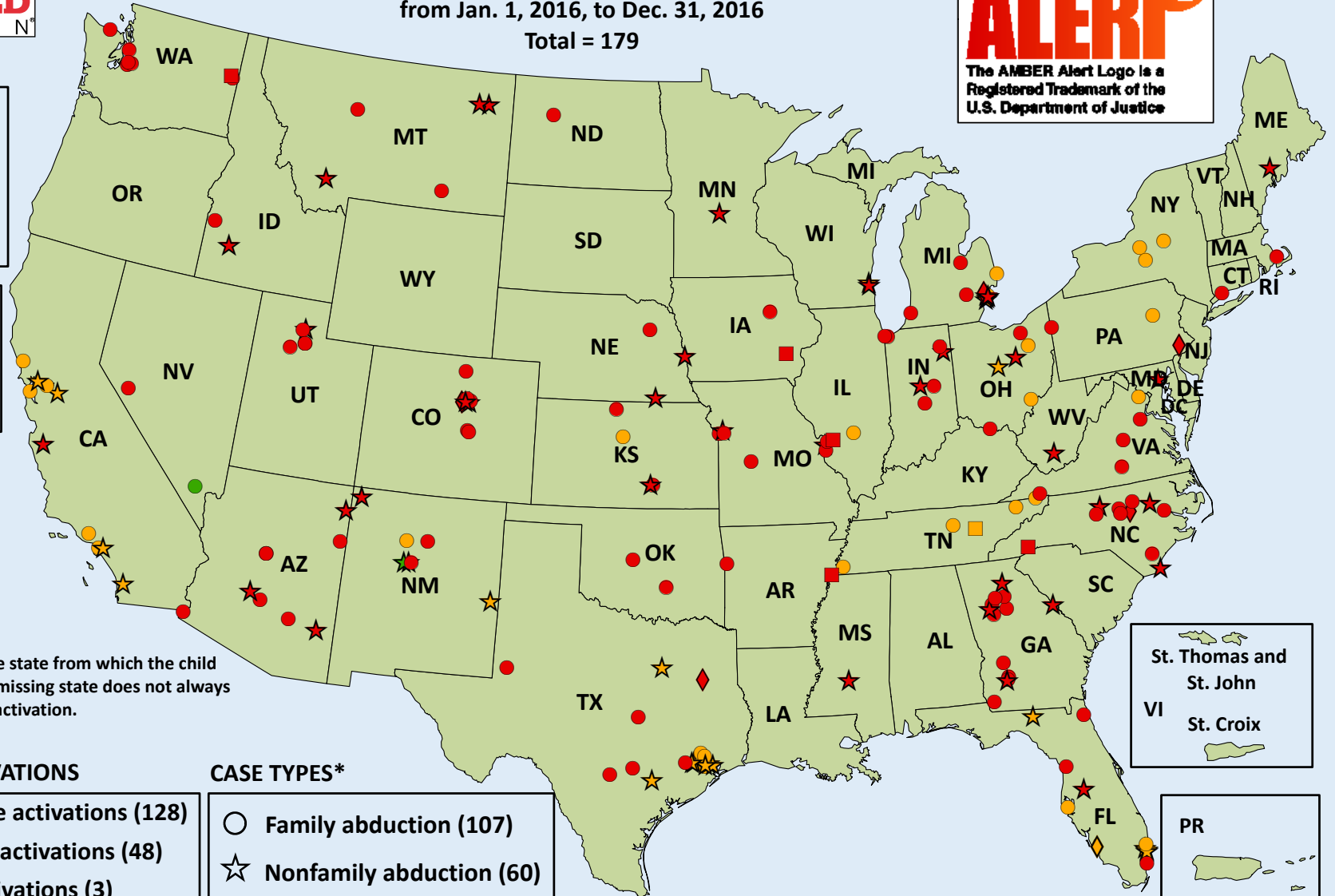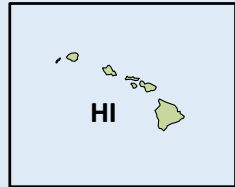
From 2012 to 2016 there were more instances when it was known a vehicle was involved in the alert (n=129, 156, 152, 147 and 152) than unknown.

Figure 23: Vehicle Involvement in AMBER Alerts from 2012 to 2016

Vehicle involvement in AMBER Alerts activations from 2012 to 2016
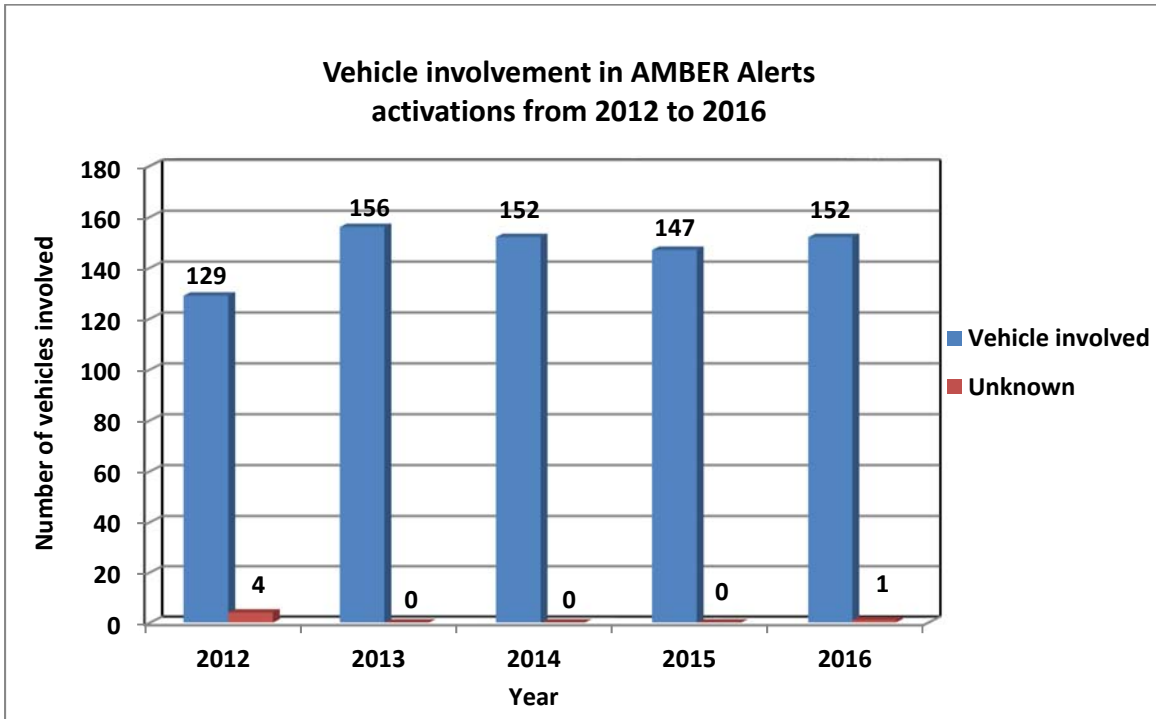
2016 AMBER Alert Report

**AMBER Alert Activations Issued
from Jan. 1, 2016, to Dec. 31, 2016
Total = 179**

NATIONAL CENTER FOR
MISSING & EXPLOITED
C H I L D R E N®

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*Symbols represent the state from which the child
is missing. The child's missing state does not always
represent the state of activation.

RANGE OF ACTIVATIONS

🟥	**Statewide activations (128)**
🟧	**Regional activations (48)**
🟩	**Local activations (3)**

CASE TYPES*

◯	**Family abduction (107)**
☆	**Nonfamily abduction (60)**
◇	**Lost injured missing (6)**
▢	**Endangered runaway (6)**

St. Thomas and
St. John

VI   St. Croix

PR
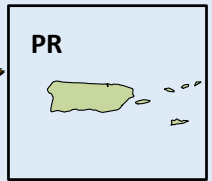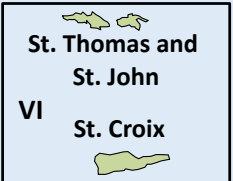
Source: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
Mapping software donated to NCMEC by Esri, Redlands, California
Feb. 28, 2017