National Center for Missing & Exploited Children®

2017 AMBER Alert Report

Analysis of AMBER Alert Cases in 2017

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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. 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, 2017, 922 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]

[1]*National Strategy*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, www.amberalert.gov/ntl_strategy.htm, accessed Feb. 26, 2018.

AMBER Alert Definitions

This report presents information about AMBER Alerts issued in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands from Jan. 1, 2017, through Dec. 31, 2017, 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.
- Remains in the custody of law enforcement.
- 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 is only labeled recovered/deceased by NCMEC if a body has been found and positively identified.

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, 2017, to Dec. 31, 2017, 195 AMBER Alerts were issued in the U.S. involving 263 children.

At the time the AMBER Alert cases were intaked at NCMEC, there were 128 FAs, 50 NFAs, 10 LIMs and seven ERUs. Fourteen cases were later determined to be hoaxes, and 14 cases were later determined to be unfounded.

Of the 195 AMBER Alerts issued from Jan. 1, 2017, to Dec. 31, 2017, 193 cases resulted in a recovery, 39 of which were successfully recovered as a direct result of an AMBER Alert being issued. As of Feb. 26, 2018, when statistics for this report were finalized, for the AMBER Alerts issued in 2017, two children remained actively missing and six children were located deceased.

AMBER Alerts by Range

In 2017, 79 percent (n=154) of AMBER Alerts were issued state-/territory wide, 21 percent (n=40) of AMBER Alerts were issued regionally and 1 percent (n=1) of AMBER Alerts were issued locally.

Figure 1: Range of AMBER Alerts
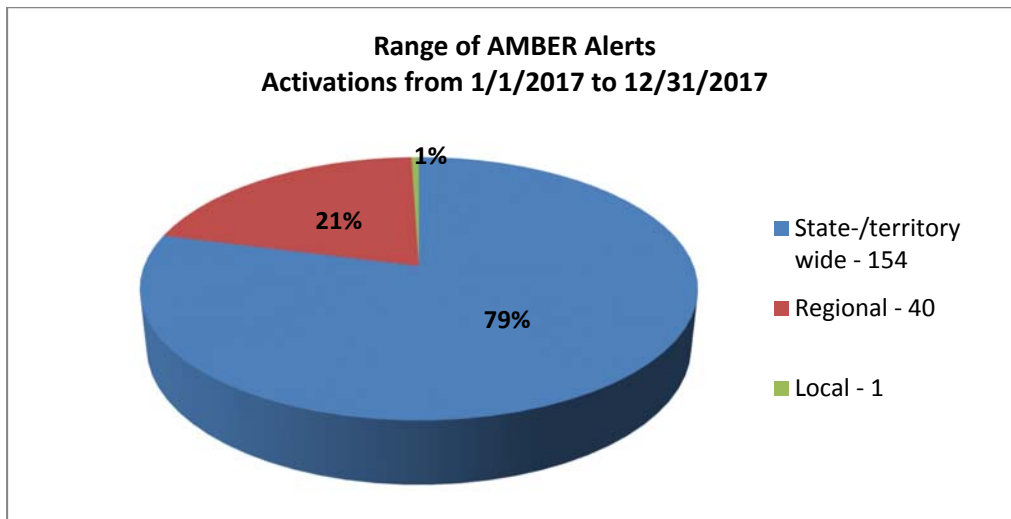
AMBER Alerts by State/Territory

From Jan. 1, 2017, to Dec. 31, 2017, 195 AMBER Alerts were issued in 38 states. Texas issued the most AMBER Alerts with 13 percent (n=26) followed by California with 10 percent (n=19).

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

State/Territory	Number of alerts	Percent
Texas	26	13
California	19	10
Georgia	14	7
North Carolina	11	6
Florida and Ohio	10 each	5 each
Indiana and Tennessee	9 each	5 each
Colorado and New Mexico	7 each	4 each
New York	6	3
Oklahoma and Virginia	5 each	3 each
Arizona, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri and Washington	4 each	2 each
Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota and Nevada	3 each	2 each
Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Utah, West Virginia and Wisconsin	2 each	1 each
Alaska, Delaware, Idaho, Kentucky, Montana, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania	1 each	0.5 each
District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, New Jersey, North Dakota, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, U.S. Virgin Islands, Vermont and Wyoming	0 each	0 each
Total	**195**	**~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 2017, 13 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
Connecticut	Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia
Georgia	Alabama
Georgia	Tennessee
Iowa	Wyoming
Kansas	Missouri

Originating	Extending
Michigan	Ohio
Missouri	Illinois
Missouri	Texas
New Mexico	Arizona and California
North Carolina	South Carolina
Ohio	Indiana
Tennessee	Alabama
Virginia	Maryland

In six cases, seven children were recovered in the state where the alert originated. In six cases, nine children were recovered in the extending state, and in one case, one child was 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 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017

- 41% Originating state - 7
- 53% Extending state - 9
- 6% Neither - 1
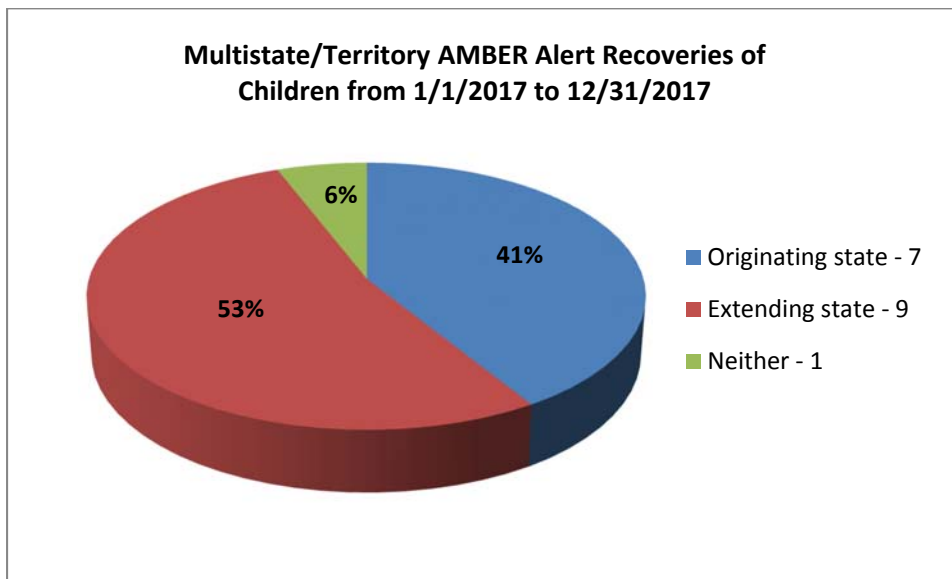
AMBER Alerts by Case Type at Intake

In 2017, 66 percent (n=128) of AMBER Alert cases were intaked as FAs, 26 percent (n=50) were NFAs, 5 percent (n=10) were LIMs and 4 percent (n=7) were ERUs.

Figure 3: AMBER Alerts by Case Type

AMBER Alerts by Case Type
Activations from 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017

5% 4%

26% 66%

- FA - 128
- NFA - 50
- LIM - 10
- ERU - 7
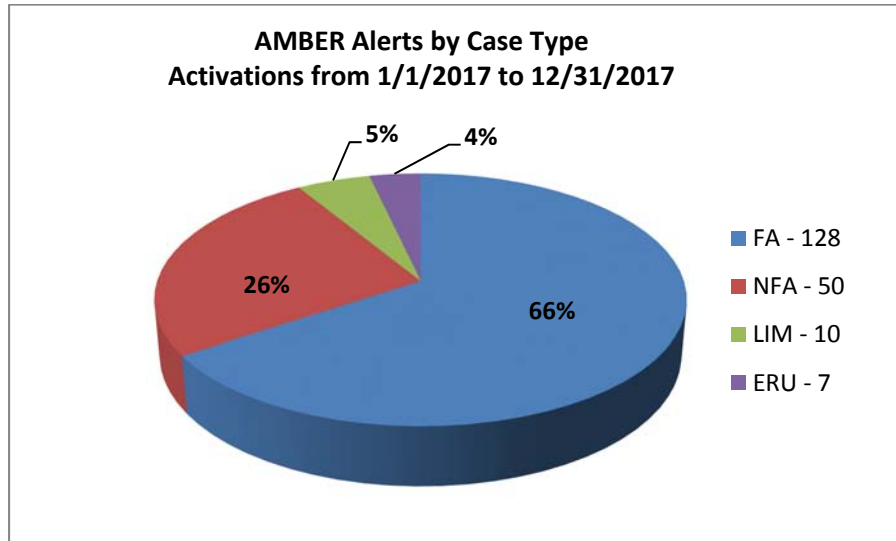
Number of Cases by Month

In 2017, the number of AMBER Alerts issued per month ranged from a low of 10 in November and December to a high of 23 in August.

Figure 4: Number of AMBER Alert Cases by Month

Number of AMBER Alert Cases by Month
Activations from 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017

Month	Value
Jan	20
Feb	11
Mar	17
Apr	19
May	20
Jun	18
Jul	18
Aug	23
Sep	16
Oct	13
Nov	10
Dec	10
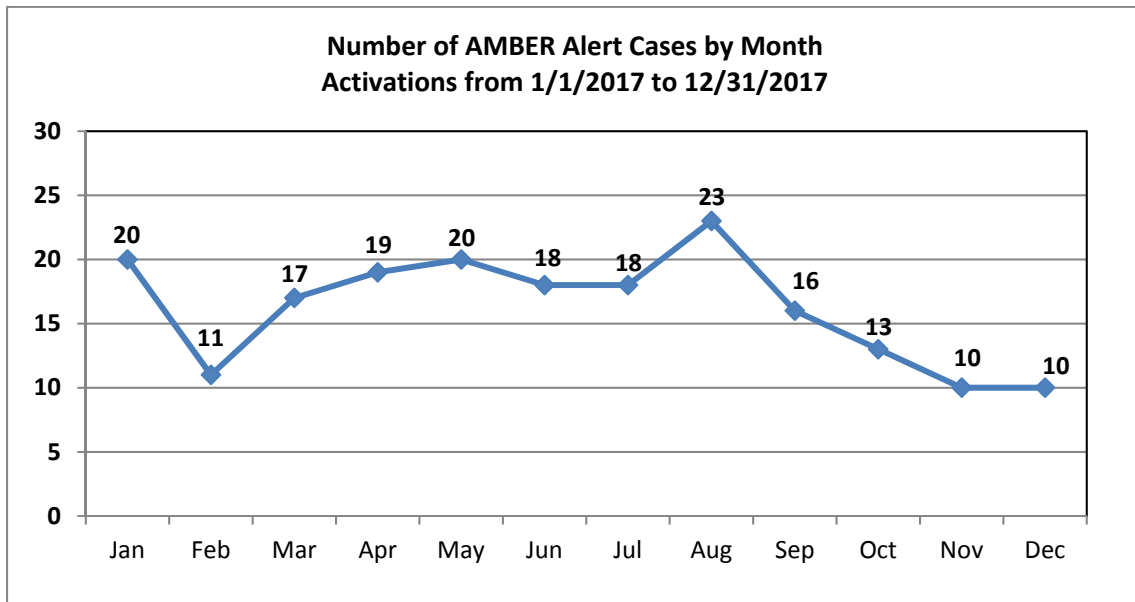
Number of Case Types at Intake by Month

In 2017, AMBER Alerts were issued most frequently for FAs (n=20) in August. The highest number of NFAs (n=7) occurred in the month of March. AMBER Alerts for LIMs (n=2) were the most frequently issued in May and July. The most Alerts for ERUs (n=2) were issued in January and May.

Table 3: Number of Case Types by Month

	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU	Total	Total percent
Jan	13	4	1	2	**20**	**10**
Feb	7	3	1	0	**11**	**6**
Mar	9	7	0	1	**17**	**9**
Apr	12	5	1	1	**19**	**10**
May	10	6	2	2	**20**	**10**
Jun	11	6	1	0	**18**	**9**
Jul	11	5	2	0	**18**	**9**
Aug	20	3	0	0	**23**	**12**
Sep	15	1	0	0	**16**	**8**
Oct	9	3	1	0	**13**	**7**
Nov	5	4	1	0	**10**	**5**
Dec	6	3	0	1	**10**	**5**
Total	**128**	**50**	**10**	**7**	**195**	**100**

Number of Children by Case Type at Intake by Month

In 2017, 263 children were involved in 195 AMBER Alert cases. Sixty-nine percent (n=181) of children were intaked as FAs followed by 24 percent (n=64) of children intaked as NFAs. Four percent (n=10) were intaked as LIMs, and 3 percent (n=8) were intaked as ERUs.

Children intaked as FAs were most frequently involved in AMBER Alerts during the month of September (n=29). The highest number of children intaked as NFAs (n=10) occurred in the months of March and April. AMBER Alerts for LIMs (n=2) were most frequently issued in May and July. Children were most often intaked as ERUs (n=3) in the month of January.

Table 4: Number of Children by Case Type by Month

	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU	Total	Total percent
Jan	18	5	1	3	**27**	**10**
Feb	7	3	1	0	**11**	**4**
Mar	12	10	0	1	**23**	**9**
Apr	16	10	1	1	**28**	**11**
May	14	6	2	2	**24**	**9**
Jun	15	6	1	0	**22**	**8**

	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU	Total	Total percent
Jul	19	7	2	0	**28**	**11**
Aug	27	3	0	0	**30**	**11**
Sep	29	2	0	0	**31**	**12**
Oct	10	3	1	0	**14**	**5**
Nov	7	4	1	0	**12**	**5**
Dec	7	5	0	1	**13**	**5**
Total	**181**	**64**	**10**	**8**	**263**	**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 2017, 7 percent (n=14) of AMBER Alerts issued involving 16 children were later determined to be hoaxes. Fifty percent (n=7) of hoaxes were originally intaked as NFAs followed by FAs at 29 percent (n=4) and LIMs at 21 percent (n=3).

In 50 percent (n=7) of hoaxes, false information was provided by the child's parent and 21 percent (n=3) was provided by the child involved. Additionally, 7 percent each (n=1 each) was provided by the child's family members, father's ex-girlfriend, mother's boyfriend and the child's stepbrother.

Figure 5: Number of Hoaxes by Case Type at Intake
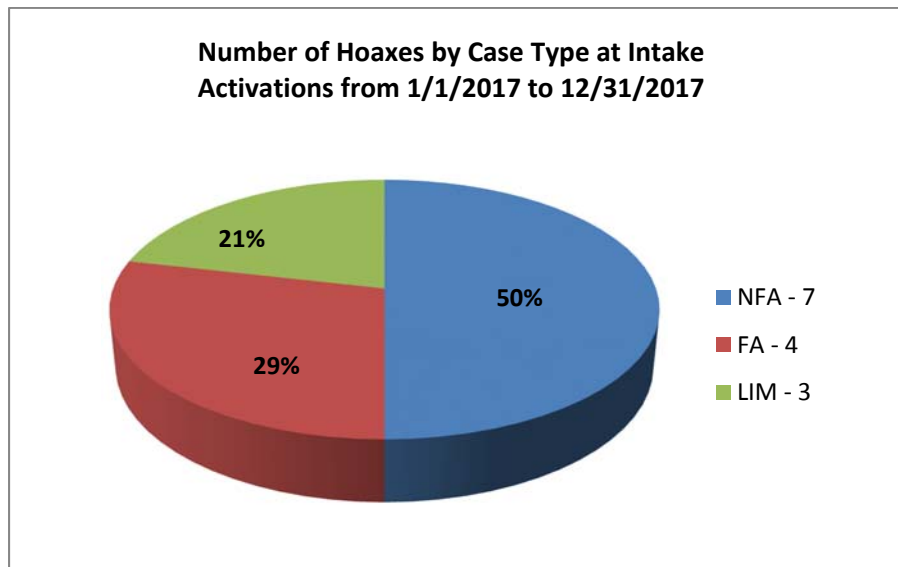
Of the 14 cases determined to be hoaxes, 10 cases had known locations from which the children involved were reported missing. Of those cases, 40 percent (n=4) were reported missing from home, 20 percent (n=2) were reported missing from an automobile. Additionally, 10 percent each were reported missing from a hotel, medical facility, retail and the street (n=1 each).

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Children Involved in Hoaxes

In 2017, 14 AMBER Alerts involving 16 children were later determined to be hoaxes. Fifty-six percent (n=9) of children involved in hoaxes were boys, whereas girls represented 44 percent (n=7) of children involved in hoaxes. Sixty-seven percent (n=6) of boys involved in hoaxes were younger than 3. Of the seven girls involved in hoaxes, fifty-seven percent (n=4) were younger than 5.

Table 5: Age and Sex of Children Involved in Hoaxes

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

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

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

Age	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU
10	0	0	1	0
11	0	1	0	0
12	0	0	0	0
13	0	1	0	0
14	0	0	0	0
15	0	0	0	0
16	0	2	0	0
17	0	0	0	0
Total	**6**	**7**	**3**	**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. Fourteen AMBER Alerts involving 18 children were determined to be unfounded, representing 7 percent of the total number of AMBER Alerts issued in 2017. These unfounded cases were originally intaked as FAs at 57 percent (n=8), NFAs at 21 percent (n=3), LIMs at 14 percent (n=2) and ERUs at 7 percent (n=1).

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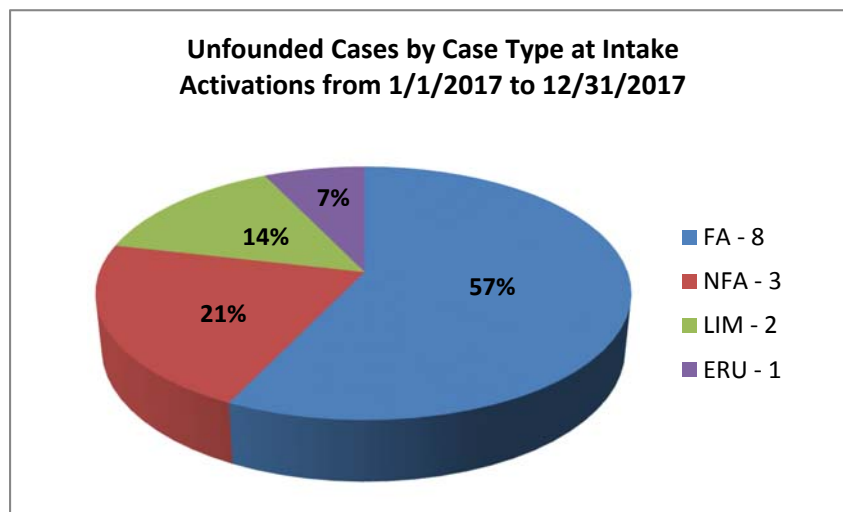
Children Involved in Unfounded Cases

In 2017, 14 AMBER Alerts involving 18 children were later determined to be unfounded. Girls represented 72 percent (n=13) whereas boys represented 28 percent (n=5) of all children involved in unfounded cases. Of the 13 girls involved in unfounded cases, 62 percent (n=8) ranged from 1 to 4 years of age. Of the five boys involved in unfounded cases, four were 2 and younger.

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

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

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

Age	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU
<1	1	0	0	0
1	3	1	0	0
2	4	1	0	0
3	1	0	0	0
4	1	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	0	0
9	0	0	1	0
10	0	0	0	0
11	0	0	0	0
12	0	0	0	0
13	1	1	0	0
14	0	0	0	0
15	1	0	1	1

Age	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU
16	0	0	0	0
17	0	0	0	0
Total	12	3	2	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 2017, 94 percent (n=183) of AMBER Alert cases were secondarily distributed whereas 6 percent (n=12) 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 120 FAs, 47 NFAs, nine LIMs and seven ERUs. Six NFAs, four FAs and three LIMs were later determined to be hoaxes. Eight FAs, three NFAs, two LIMs and one ERU were subsequently identified as unfounded.

Number and Characteristics of Children Reported Missing

Both boys (n=132) and girls (n=131) were nearly equally involved in AMBER Alert activations at 50 percent.

Forty-seven percent (n=123) of children involved in AMBER Alerts were White, 29 percent (n=76) were Black, 15 percent (n=40) were Hispanic, 6 percent (n=16) were Biracial, 2 percent (n=5) were Asian, 1 percent (n=2) were American Indian and one child was Pacific Islander. AMBER Alerts were issued at a rate of 47 percent (n=123) for White children, whereas minority children represented 53 percent (n=140).

Figure 7: AMBER Alerts by Race of Children

AMBER Alerts by Race of Children
Activations from 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017

- American Indian - 2
- Asian - 5
- Biracial - 16
- Black - 76
- Hispanic - 40
- Pacific Islander - 1
- White - 123

1% 2% 6% 47% 29% 15% <1%
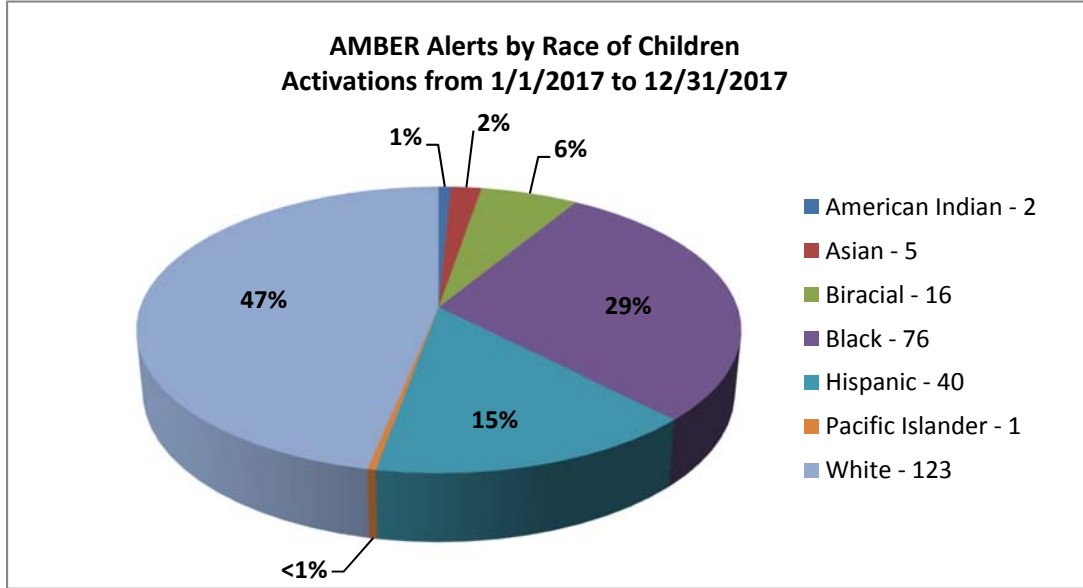
Figure 8: Race of Children, White and Minority

Race of Children, White and Minority
Activations from 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017

- White - 123
- Minority - 140

53% 47%
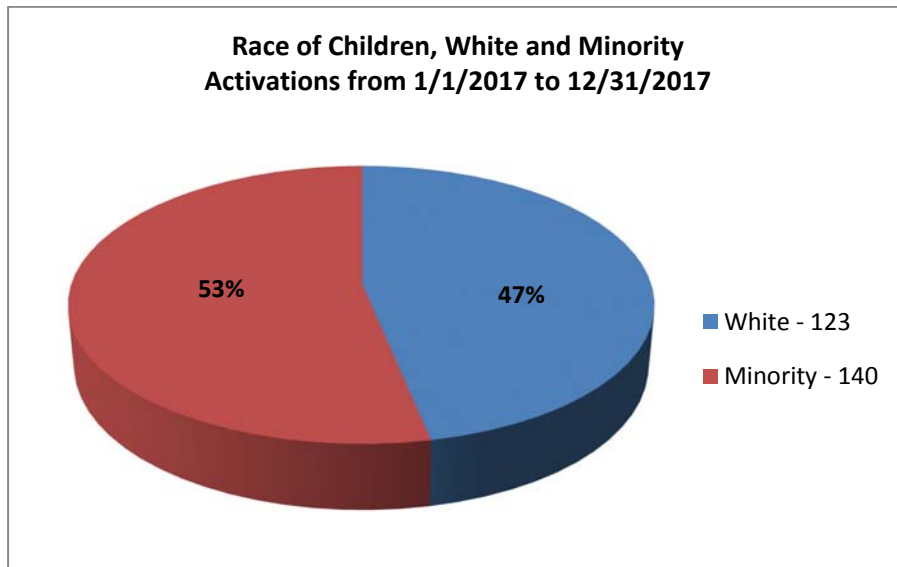
Boys and girls who were 5 years old and younger represented 61 percent (n=160) of the children who were reported missing with known ages. Of all children reported missing, girls 2 years of age (n=17) were most frequently involved in AMBER Alerts, whereas boys 1 year old (n=28) were most frequently involved in AMBER Alerts.

Figure 9: Age of Children When Missing

Age of Children When Missing
Activations from 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017
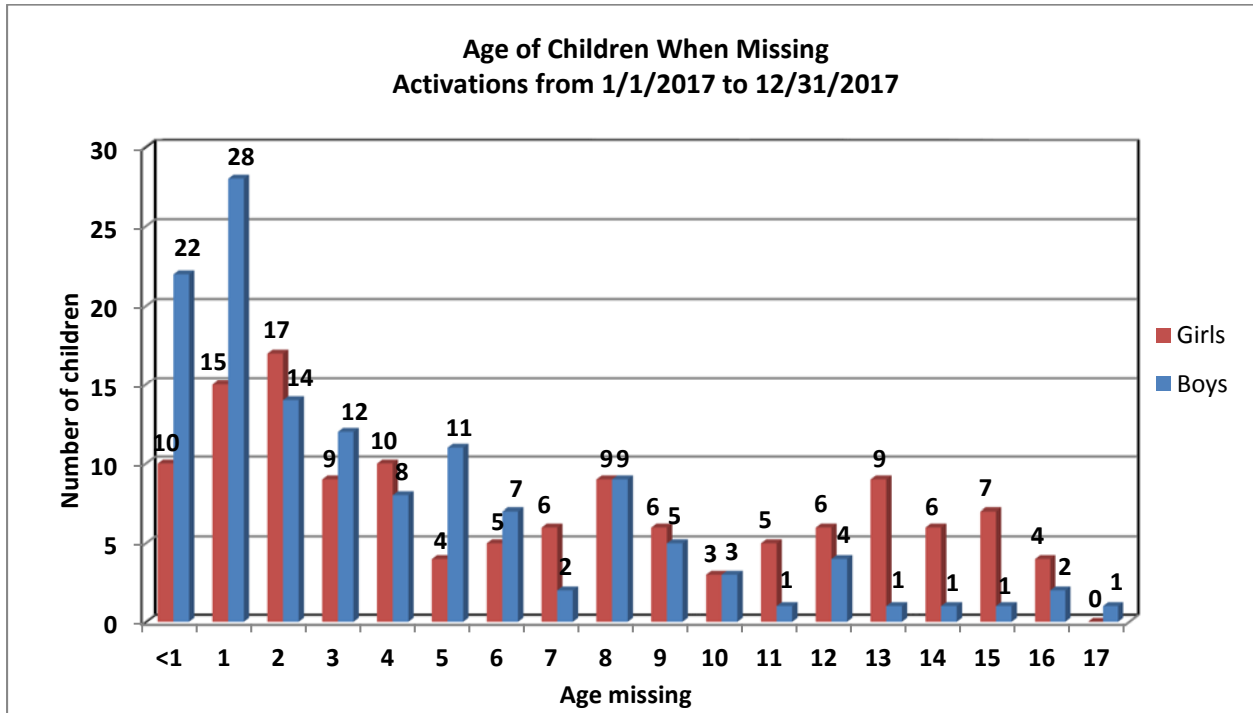
Number and Characteristics of Abductors

In 2017, 216 abductors were identified as being involved in 172 AMBER Alert cases.

The majority of abductors were male at 63 percent (n=137), and 35 percent (n=76) of abductors were female. The sex of three abductors was unknown.

Forty-two percent (n=90) of abductors were White, 24 percent (n=52) of abductors were Black, 12 percent (n=25) of abductors were Hispanic, 4 percent (n=8) of abductors were Biracial, 1 percent (n=3) of abductors were Asian, 1 percent (n=3) of abductors were American Indian and 1 percent (n=3) of abductors were Pacific Islander. The race for 15 percent (n=32) of abductors was unknown.

Abductors With a Known Relationship to the Child

Of the 216 abductors involved in AMBER Alerts in 2017, 165 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 128 FA cases, 142 abductors involved had known relationships with the children. They consisted of three aunts, two boyfriends, 73 fathers, one friend of the family, one girlfriend, three grandfathers, three grandmothers, 51 mothers, two mother's boyfriends, one parent, one sister and one uncle.

Of the 50 NFA cases, 20 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 four babysitters, one boyfriend, one ex-boyfriend, two fathers, one friend/classmate, two friends of the family, seven mother's boyfriends, one teacher/coach and one uncle.

Of the 10 LIM cases, three abductors involved had known relationships with the children. They consisted of one aunt, one father and one mother's boyfriend.

Table 9: Abductor Relationship to Child

Abductor relationship to child	FA	FA percent	NFA	NFA percent	LIM	LIM percent	Total	Total percent
Aunt	3	2	0	0	1	33	4	2
Babysitter	0	0	4	20	0	0	4	2
Boyfriend	2	1	1	5	0	0	3	2
Ex-boyfriend	0	0	1	5	0	0	1	1
Father	73	51	2	10	1	33	76	46
Friend/classmate	0	0	1	5	0	0	1	1
Friend of family	1	1	2	10	0	0	3	2
Girlfriend	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Grandfather	3	2	0	0	0	0	3	2
Grandmother	3	2	0	0	0	0	3	2
Mother	51	36	0	0	0	0	51	31
Mother's boyfriend	2	1	7	35	1	33	10	6
Parent	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Sister	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Teacher/coach	0	0	1	5	0	0	1	1
Uncle	1	1	1	5	0	0	2	1
Total	142	100	20	100	3	~100	165	~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 141 cases. Hoaxes and unfounded cases were excluded in the statistics because a child was determined not to be missing in those AMBER Alert cases.

Fifty-one AMBER Alerts were issued within three or fewer hours from when the child was reported missing. Forty-two cases were activated between more than three and six hours from when the child was reported missing, and 26 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 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017
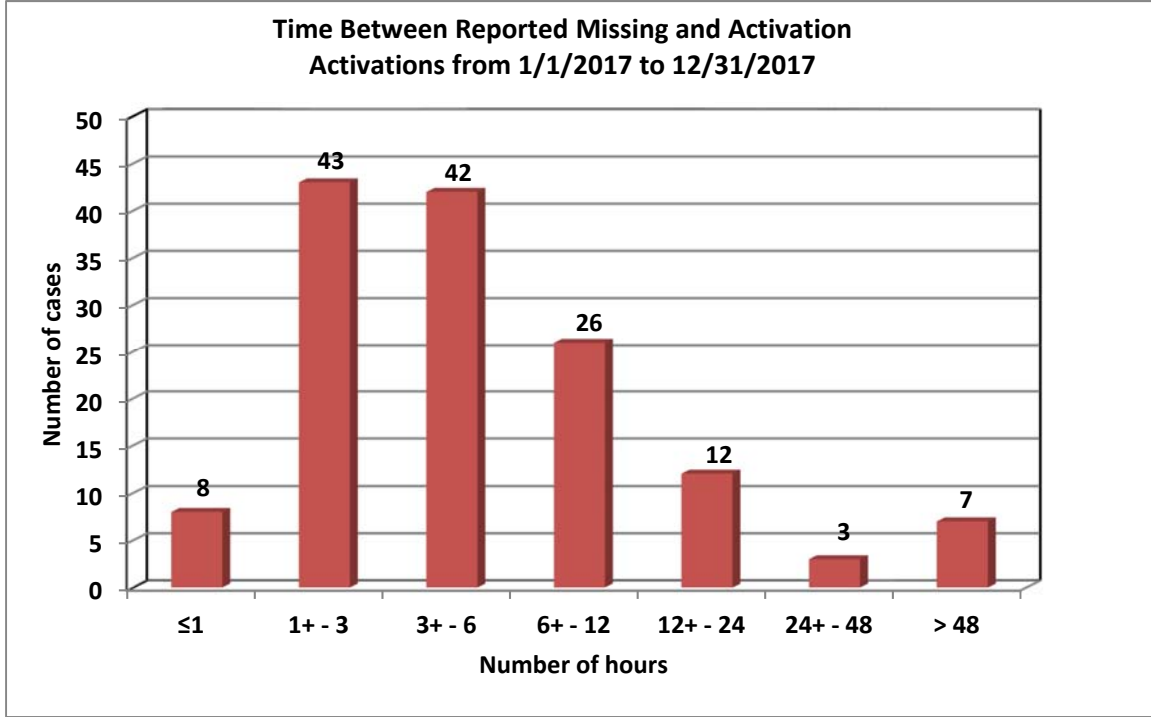
Time Between Reported Missing and Recovery

Information about the time between when the child was reported missing to law enforcement and the AMBER Alert recovery was available in 140 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 16 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 31 cases were recovered between more than three and six hours from when the child was reported missing, and in 43 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 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017

Number of cases with a recovery

≤1	1+ - 3	3+ - 6	6+ - 12	12+ - 24	24+ - 48	> 48
1	15	31	43	26	15	9

Number of hours
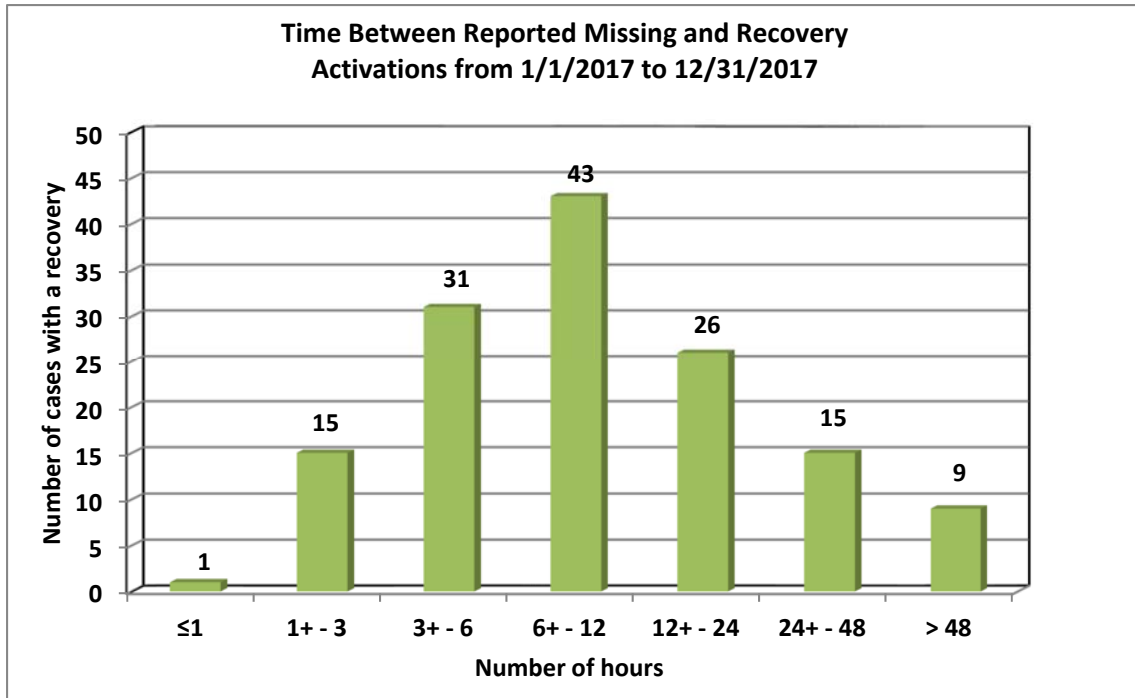
Time Between Activation and Recovery

Information about the time between when the AMBER Alert was activated and the AMBER Alert recovery was available in 165 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 79 cases, the children were recovered within three or fewer hours from when the AMBER Alert was activated. Children in 40 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 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017

Number of cases with a recovery

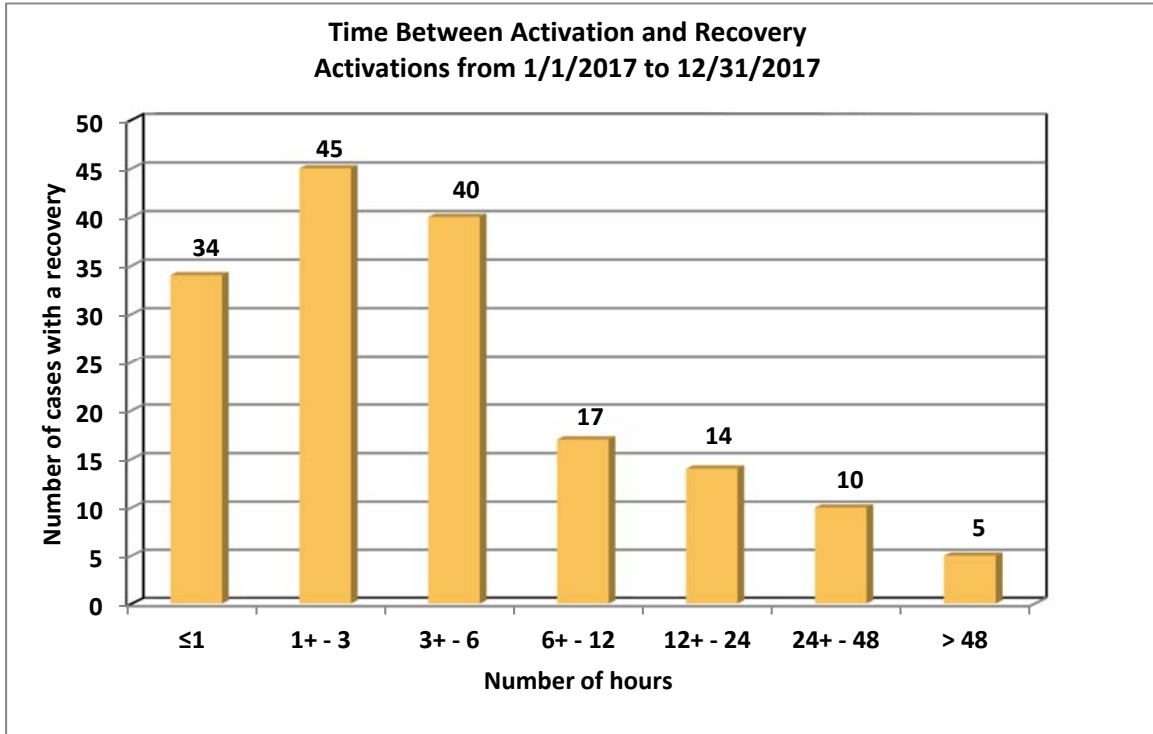| Number of hours	Value
≤1	34
1+ - 3	45
3+ - 6	40
6+ - 12	17
12+ - 24	14
24+ - 48	10
> 48	5

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 195 cases.

Table 10: Recovery Within Three Days of Activation

	Time between activation and recovery 1/1/2017 - 12/31/2017
Intaked cases	195
Cases re-classified as hoax or unfounded after intake	28
Intaked children	263
Children whose cases were re-classified as hoax or unfounded after intake	34
Number of cases in which child recovered within 72 hours	161
Percent of cases in which child recovered within 72 hours	96%*
Number of children reported as being recovered within 72 hours	220
Percent of children reported as being recovered within 72 hours	96%**

*Percentage excludes cases re-classified as hoaxes (n=14) and unfounded (n=14)
**Percentage excludes children whose cases were re-classified as hoaxes (n=16) and unfounded (n=18)

Travel Distances

In 2017, distances between where the child was reported missing and recovered were known for 160 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 63 cases, the missing and recovery locations were in the same city; in 65 cases the distance between missing and recovery locations were outside the city but within 100 miles of each other; in 25 cases the distance between missing and recovery locations ranged from 101 to 500 miles; in five cases the distance between missing and recovery locations ranged from 501 to 1,000 miles; and in two cases the distance was more than 1,000 miles. For five cases the distance could not be calculated, and the remaining 30 cases were either hoaxes, unfounded or active cases.

*Figure 13: Distance Between Missing and Recovery Locations*
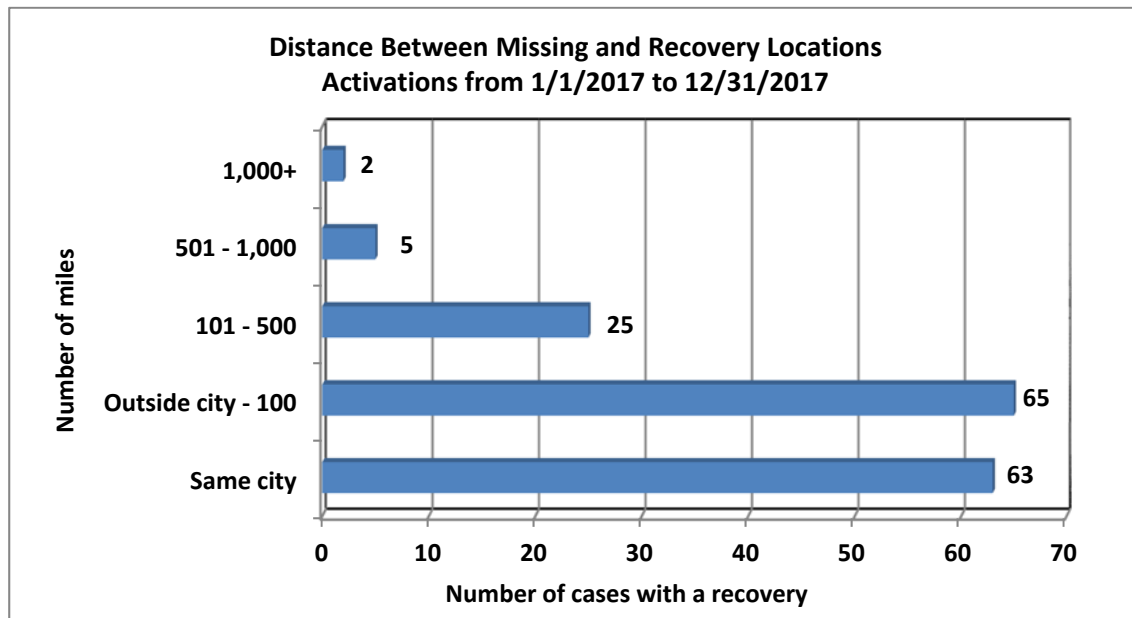
Of the 128 AMBER Alerts issued for FA cases, children in 42 cases were found in the same city. In 48 cases, distances ranged from 0.5 to 96 miles outside of the city, and in 18 cases the distances ranged from 111 to 384 miles. In three cases distances ranged from 535 to 841 miles. In four cases the distance could not be calculated, and the remaining 13 cases were active, hoaxes and unfounded cases.

Of the 50 AMBER Alerts issued for NFA cases, the children involved in 17 cases were found in the same city. In 14 cases distances ranged from two to 95 miles outside of the city. In four cases, travel distances ranged from 103 to 327 miles. In two cases, the distances were 602 and 604 miles. In two cases, the travel distances were 1,220 and 1,979 miles. In one case, the distance could not be calculated, and the remaining 10 cases were active, hoaxes and unfounded cases.

There were 10 AMBER Alerts issued for LIM cases in 2017, and, of those cases, four were found in the same city. The remaining six cases were active, hoaxes and unfounded cases.

For the seven cases intaked as ERUs in 2017, three cases travel distances ranged from 11 to 87 miles outside of the city. The travel distance in three cases ranged from 144 to 199 miles. One case was later determined to be unfounded.

Figure 14: Distance Traveled by Case Type

Distance Traveled by Case Type
Activations from 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017
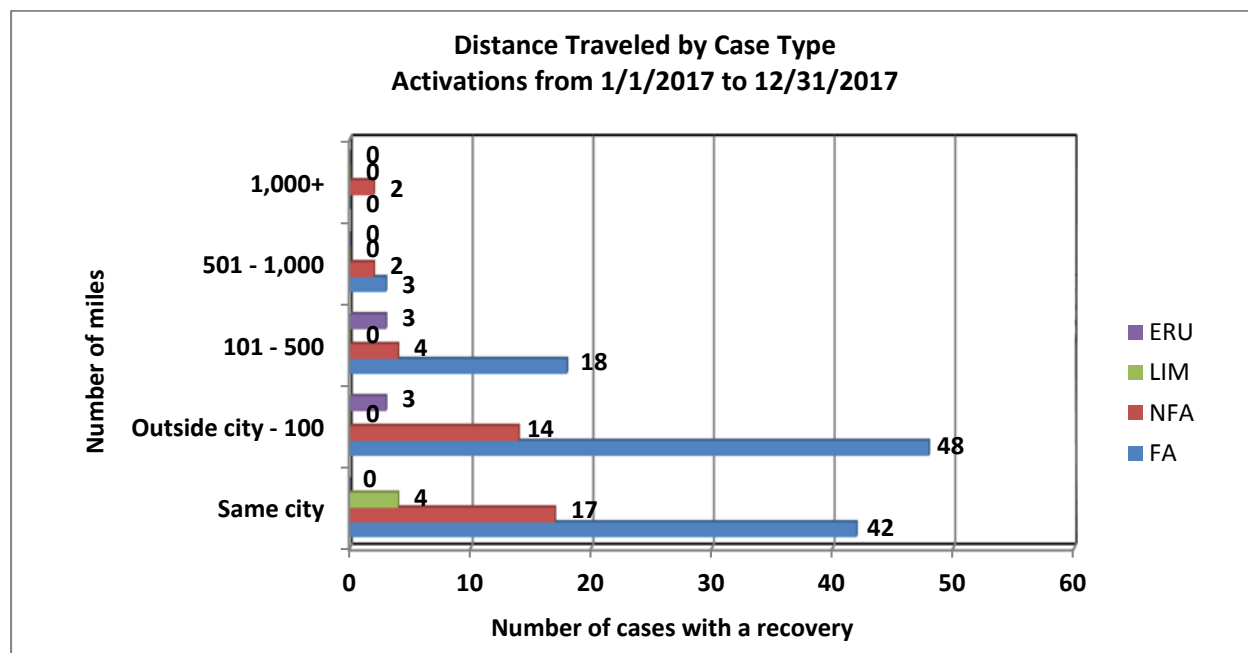
Recoveries Outside of State/Territory Where AMBER Alert First Activated

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 195 AMBER Alerts issued in 2017, two cases still remain active. Sixteen percent of cases (n=31) had recoveries outside of the state of the original activation. Of those 31 cases, 71 percent (n=22) were FAs, 26 percent (n=8) were NFAs and 3 percent (n=1) were LIMs.

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

Activation state	Recovery state
Connecticut	New York
Connecticut	Pennsylvania
Delaware	Maryland
Florida	Alabama
Florida	Alabama
Florida	Missouri
Georgia	Alabama
Georgia	Alabama
Georgia	Tennessee
Idaho	Nevada
Indiana	Illinois

Activation state	Recovery state
Indiana	Illinois
Maryland	Delaware
Massachusetts	Connecticut
Mississippi	Alabama
Missouri	Texas
Nevada	Colorado
Nevada	Nebraska
New Hampshire	Massachusetts
New Mexico	California
North Carolina	District of Columbia
North Carolina	Kentucky
North Carolina	South Carolina
North Carolina	Tennessee
Ohio	Indiana
Oklahoma	Arkansas
Oklahoma	Texas
Tennessee	California
Texas	Arkansas
Texas	Colorado
Texas	Tennessee

Missing Location

In 2017, there were 145 cases with information about where the children involved were last known to be located. Of those 145 cases, 66 percent (n=96) were last known to be at home followed by 5 percent (n=7) of cases where children were last known to be at a store).

Table 12: Missing Location

Missing location	Number of cases	Percent
Automobile	6	4
Day care facility	1	1
Government facility	1	1
Home	96	66
Hotel	3	2
Medical facility	4	3
Office building	1	1
Other	4	3
Outdoor/open area	2	1
Park	2	1
Parking lot/garage	2	1

Missing location	Number of cases	Percent
Recreational	1	1
Religious facility	1	1
Restaurant	1	1
Retail	7	5
School facility	6	4
Social services	4	3
Street	3	2
Total	**145**	**~100**

Recovery Location

There were 183 cases with information about where the child was recovered. In 2017, 33 percent (n=60) of children involved in AMBER Alert cases were most often recovered at home followed by recoveries from the street at 22 percent (n=40).

Table 13: Recovery Location

Recovery location	Number of cases	Percent
Automobile	25	14
Body of water	1	1
Government facility	2	1
Home	60	33
Hotel	11	6
Law enforcement agency	10	5
Other	2	1
Outdoor/open area	12	7
Park	2	1
Parking lot/garage	4	2
Religious facility	1	1
Restaurant	2	1
Retail	7	4
Street	40	22
Theater	1	1
Transportation facility	3	2
Total	**183**	**~100**

International Abductions

In 2017, one AMBER Alert activation involving one child was an international abduction. The AMBER Alert was activated in Washington state and involved a 9-year-old Pacific Islander girl who was abducted from Canada by a family member.

Infants Involved in AMBER Alert Activations

In 2017, 20 infants, who are defined as children 6 months of age or younger, were involved in 19 AMBER Alert activations. Ninety percent (n=18) of infants involved were FAs, 5 percent (n=1) were NFAs and 5 percent (n=1) were LIMs.

Fifty-five percent (n=11) of infants involved in AMBER Alerts were boys and 45 percent (n=9) were girls. Ten percent (n=2) of infants involved were Asian, 5 percent (n=1) were Biracial, 20 percent (n=4) were Black and 65 percent (n=13) 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 195 AMBER Alert cases in 2017, 53 children involved in 39 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	28	72	40	75
NFA	9	23	11	21
ERU	2	5	2	4
LIM	0	0	0	0
Total	**39**	**100**	**53**	**100**

The most common reason for an AMBER Alert success story is an individual or law enforcement recognizing the child and/or abductor at 28 percent (n=11) followed by an individual or law enforcement recognizing the vehicle from the AMBER Alert at 26 percent (n=10).

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 child and/or abductor	11	28	17	32
Individual or law enforcement recognized vehicle	10	26	11	21

Summary of success stories	Number of cases	Percent of cases	Number of children	Percent of children
Abductor heard AMBER Alert and released child	9	23	11	21
Individual knew of abductor's/ child's whereabouts	4	10	8	15
Law enforcement received tips from individuals	4	10	4	8
Individual heard AMBER Alert and convinced abductor to turn self in	1	3	2	4
Total	**39**	**100**	**53**	**~100**

Time Between Activation and Recovery for Success Stories

Of the success stories in 2017, 58 percent of the children (n=31), representing 62 percent (n=24) 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	4	10	6	11
1/2+ - 1 Hour	7	18	8	15
1+ - 2 Hours	7	18	9	17
2+ - 3 Hours	6	15	8	15
3+ - 4 Hours	3	8	3	6
4+ - 5 Hours	2	5	2	4
5+ - 6 Hours	1	3	1	2
6+ - 12 Hours	3	8	4	8
12+ - 24 Hours	2	5	4	8
24+ - 48 Hours	3	8	6	11
48+ Hours	1	3	2	4
Total	**39**	**~100**	**53**	**~100**

Children Located Deceased

In 2017, 195 AMBER Alerts were issued for 263 children. Six children in six AMBER Alert cases were located deceased. Sixty-seven percent (n=4) of children were reported as LIMs, and 33 percent (n=2) of children were reported as NFAs. Four girls, ranging in age from 3 to 13, were found deceased, and two boys, both 6 years old, were found deceased. One child was Asian, two children were Black and three children were White.

Of the six children located deceased in 2017, 83 percent (n=5) were reported missing from their respective homes and 17 percent (n=1) were reported missing from a parking lot/garage.

One child's death was ruled as an accidental drowning. In another case the child was abducted and murdered by a male, unknown to the child, who stole the car of the child's mother. That male was charged with the child's murder. One child was abducted by three males who were charged with the child's abduction. In another case the child's adoptive father was charged with the child's murder. In two cases, people associated with the child's family were accused ranging from the son of a girlfriend of the child's father to the boyfriend of a child's mother who was charged with murder in relation to the child's death.

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
01/02/17	LIM	White boy	6	<72 hours	Same city	Drowning
05/18/17	NFA	Black boy	6	<72 hours	7 miles	Gunshot
06/08/17	LIM	White girl	10	<72 hours	Same city	Undetermined*
06/28/17	NFA	Black girl	13	>72 hours	Same city	Undetermined*
10/07/17	LIM	Asian girl	3	>72 hours	Same city	Asphyxiation/suffocation
11/27/17	LIM	White girl	3	>72 hours	Same city	Undetermined*

*Undetermined means a cause of death was not determined at the time of data collection.

AMBER Alerts Involving Victims of Sexual Assault

In 2017, at the time of data collection no children in AMBER Alert activations had been reported to be victims of sexual assault during their abduction.

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 2017, Team Adam consultants were deployed to assist with 17 AMBER Alert cases involving 18 children. Three cases involving three children were later determined to be hoaxes. One case involving one child was later determined to be unfounded. All 14 children actually determined to be missing were recovered. At intake the case breakdown included five NFAs, five LIMs, four FAs 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 regional teams of both special agents and analysts. 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 148 times to assist law enforcement agencies when an AMBER Alert or mysterious disappearance of a child has occurred. In 2017, CARD deployed three 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 2017, 29 of the AMBER Alert cases reported to NCMEC involved the use of a command post. Of those cases, 18 were intaked as FAs, eight were intaked as NFAs, two were intaked as ERUs and one was intaked as a LIM.

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 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 263 children involved in AMBER Alert cases in 2017, information about 223 children was entered into NCIC, and information about 40 children was not entered into NCIC.

Table 18: Information Entered in NCIC

	1/1/2017 - 12/31/2017	1/1/2017 - 12/31/2017 percent
Information entered in NCIC	223	85
Information not entered in NCIC	40	15
Total	**263**	**100**

Of the 223 children whose information was entered in NCIC from Jan. 1, 2017, to Dec. 31, 2017, 106 children were flagged as an AMBER Alert or AA, 89 children were flagged as a Missing Person or MP, and 26 children were flagged as a Child Abduction or CA. The flags for two children were unknown.

Figure 15: Flag Type in NCIC
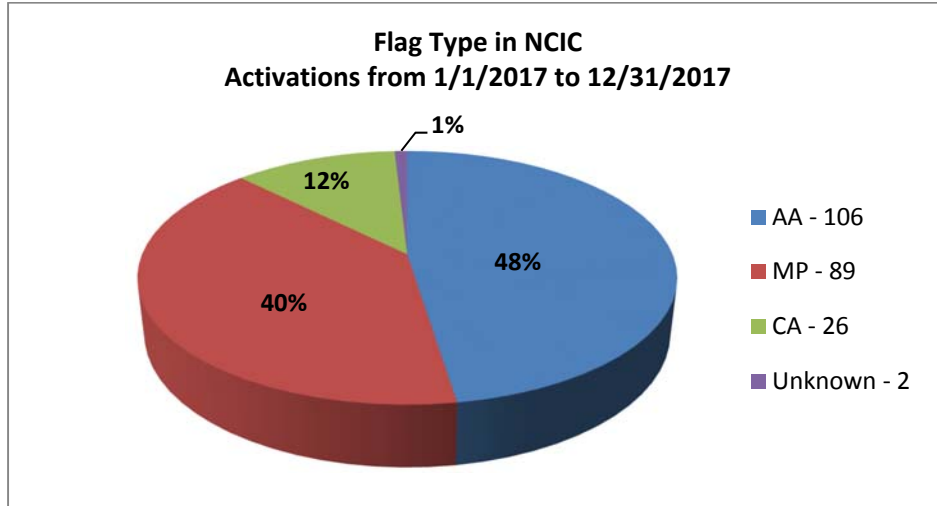
NCMEC has permission to modify flags in NCIC to AA status for AMBER Alert cases at the originating agency's request. During the months of January through December 2017, a total of 59 flags were updated in NCIC. Thirty-seven flags were changed from MP to AA, 18 flags were changed from CA to AA, three flags were changed from MP to CA and one AA flag was changed to MP. Law enforcement made the flag updates for 32 children, and NCMEC made the flag updates for 27 children.

The table below shows the NCIC missing person type category for children involved in AMBER Alerts at the time of entry from Jan. 1, 2017, to Dec. 31, 2017.

Table 19: Missing Person Type in NCIC

NCIC missing person type	1/1/2017 - 12/31/2017	1/1/2017- 12/31/2017 percent
Endangered	86	39
Endangered - caution	8	4
Endangered - caution armed and dangerous	4	2
Involuntary	56	25
Involuntary - caution	5	2
Juvenile	62	28
Juvenile - caution	1	0.4
Other	1	0.4
Total	**223**	**~100**

From Jan. 1, 2017, to Dec. 31, 2017, information about 35 children was entered and canceled from NCIC within three hours.

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

	1/1/2017 - 12/31/2017 (total)	1/1/2017 - 12/31/2017 (cumulative total)	1/1/2017 - 12/31/2017 percent	1/1/2017 - 12/31/2017 cumulative percent
Up to 1/2 hour	3	3	1	1
½+ - 1 hour	3	6	1	3
1+ - 2 hours	14	20	6	9
2+ - 3 hours	15	35	7	16
3+ - 4 hours	31	66	14	30
4+ - 5 hours	7	73	3	33
5+ - 6 hours	14	87	6	39
6+ - 12 hours	37	124	17	56
12+ - 24 hours	43	167	19	75
24+ - 48 hours	17	184	8	83
48+ - 72 hours	9	193	4	87
72+ hours	28	221	13	99
Unknown	2	223	1	100
Total	**223**		**100**	

Data collected from the miscellaneous field in NCIC captured additional information entered by law enforcement such as abductor threats and use of weapons for 59 children involved in 47 AMBER Alerts issued in 2017. Law enforcement noted sixteen abductors were armed with a weapon, six abductors had a history of alcohol and/or drug abuse, four abductors had a history of mental illness, three abductors threatened to kill themselves and the child, three abductors threatened to harm the child, three abductors were suspected in a homicide, two children had medical issues, one abductor threatened to kill himself, and one abductor was a sex offender. Eight children had "other" listed in the miscellaneous field.

Of the 223 children whose information was entered in NCIC, 82 percent (n=182) had vehicle involvement in the AMBER Alert and 18 percent (n=40) 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 114 children. Of those, 84 children's records had license plate information entered in the vehicle field only, and in 14 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 16 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 0.5 percent between 2013 and 2017.

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, in 2016 there were 179 alerts involving 231 children and in 2017 there were 195 alerts involving 263 children.

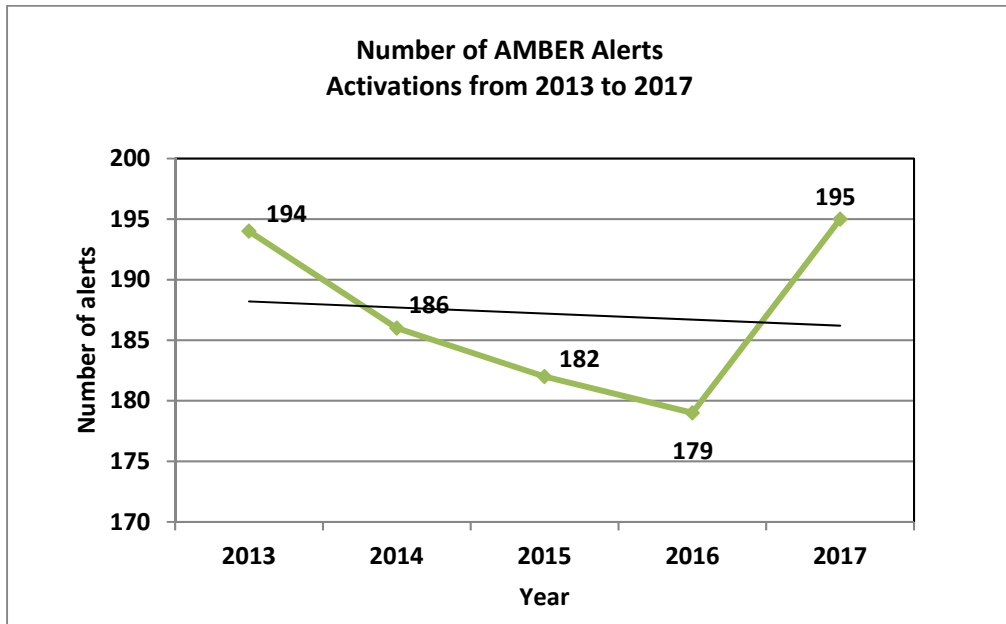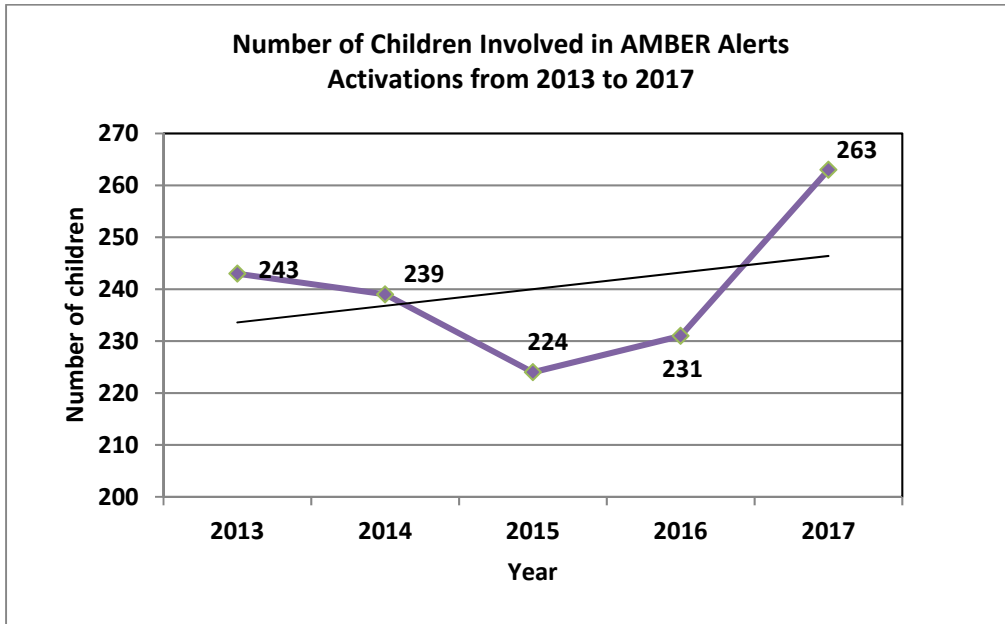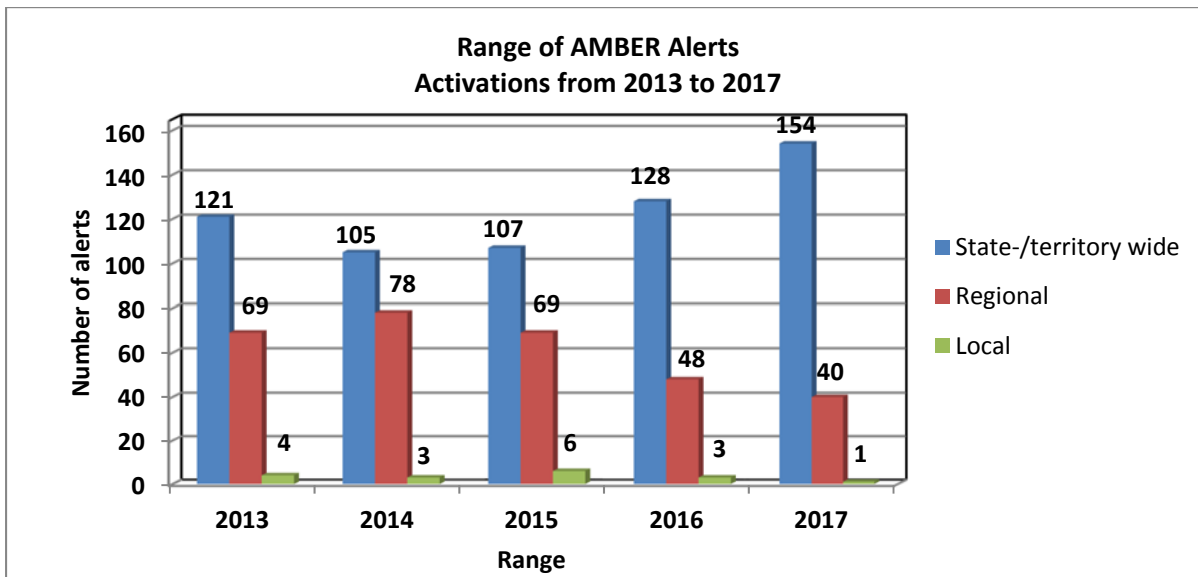*Figure 16: Number of AMBER Alerts from 2013 to 2017*

Figure 17: Number of Children Involved in AMBER Alerts from 2013 to 2017

AMBER Alerts by Range

From 2013 to 2017 AMBER Alerts were predominantly issued state-/territory- wide, followed by regional alerts and then local alerts.

Figure 18: Range of AMBER Alerts from 2013 to 2017

Multistate/Territory AMBER Alerts

The number of multistate/territory AMBER Alerts varied between the years 2013 and 2017. In 2013 there were 15. The number then fell to 14 in 2014 and nine in 2015. In 2016 there was an increase with 21 multistate alerts issued, and in 2017 there was a decrease to 13.

Number of Cases at Intake by Month

Table 21: Number of Cases by Month from 2013 to 2017

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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
2017	20	11	17	19	20	18	18	23	16	13	10	10
Total	**76**	**59**	**78**	**80**	**96**	**73**	**76**	**99**	**86**	**87**	**59**	**67**

Table 22: Cases and Percent Increase/Decrease by Month from 2013 to 2017

	2013	Percent change	2014	Percent change	2015	Percent change	2016	Percent change	2017
Jan	17	18	20	-45	11	-27	8	150	20
Feb	8	75	14	-36	9	89	17	-35	11
Mar	15	-13	13	46	19	-26	14	21	17
Apr	17	0	17	-53	8	138	19	0	19
May	25	-36	16	6	17	6	18	11	20
Jun	15	-13	13	15	15	-20	12	50	18
Jul	19	-53	9	111	19	-42	11	64	18
Aug	20	5	21	-19	17	6	18	28	23
Sep	16	0	16	13	18	11	20	-20	16
Oct	17	6	18	22	22	-23	17	-24	13
Nov	11	-9	10	40	14	0	14	-29	10
Dec	14	36	19	-32	13	-15	11	-9	10
Total	**194**	**-4**	**186**	**-2**	**182**	**-2**	**179**	**9**	**195**

Case Type at Intake

The number of cases intaked as FAs increased 16 percent from 110 alerts in 2013 to 128 alerts in 2017.

In 2013 and 2014 (n=63 and 60), the number of NFAs remained stable. In 2015 the number of alerts issued decreased to 47, and in 2016 the number increased to 60 again. In 2017 the number of alerts issued fell to 50.

Overall the number of cases intaked as LIMs has decreased from 18 to 10 alerts from 2013 to 2017.

From 2013 to 2017, the number of ERUs rose from three alerts in 2013 to seven in 2017. In 2014 there were no alerts issued for ERUs.

Figure 19: AMBER Alerts by Case Type at Intake from 2013 to 2017
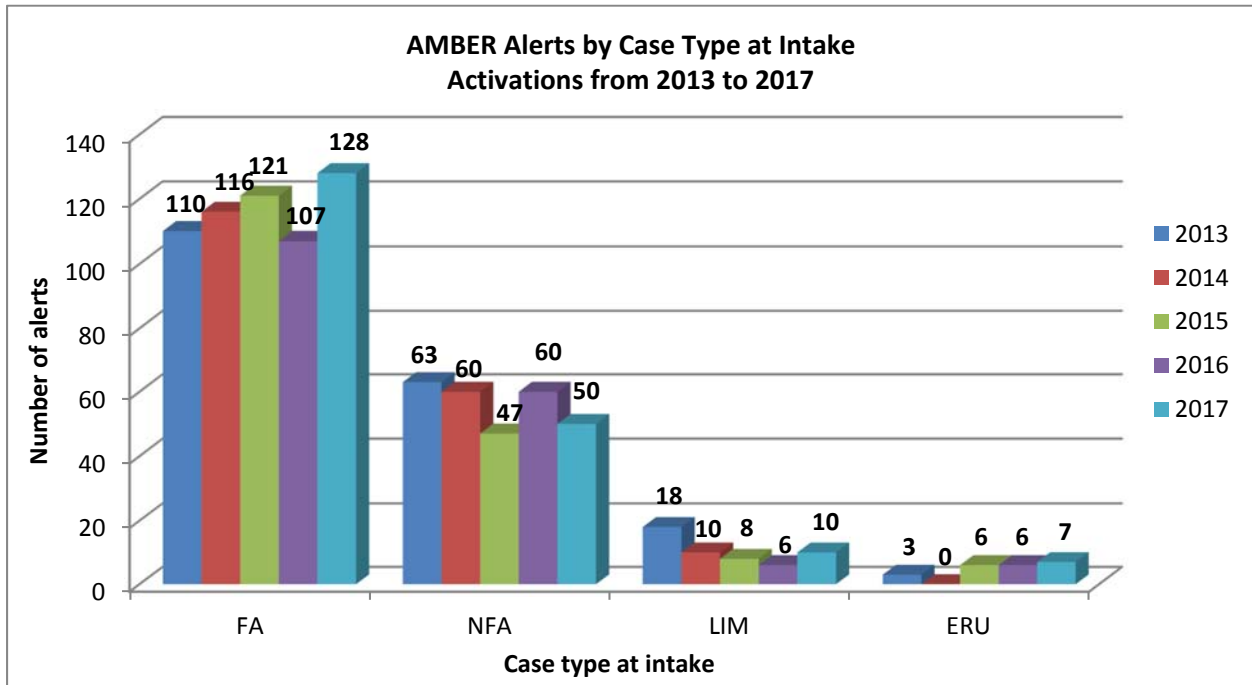

Table 23: Cases and Percent Increase/Decrease by Case Type from 2013 to 2017

	2013	Percent change	2014	Percent change	2015	Percent change	2016	Percent change	2017
FA	110	5	116	4	121	-12	107	20	128
NFA	63	-5	60	-22	47	28	60	-17	50
LIM	18	-44	10	-20	8	-25	6	67	10
ERU	3	-100	0	0	6	0	6	17	7
Total	**194**	**-4**	**186**	**-2**	**182**	**-2**	**179**	9	**195**

Hoaxes and Unfounded Cases

The number of hoaxes has remained stable from 2013 to 2015 with n=14, 15 and 14. In 2016, the number of hoaxes decreased to eight, and in 2017 rose again to 14. Overall, the number of unfounded cases decreased between 2013 and 2017 with 16 and 14 cases respectively.

*Figure 20: Number of Hoaxes and Unfounded Cases from 2013 to 2017*

Number of Hoaxes and Unfounded Cases Activations from 2013 to 2017
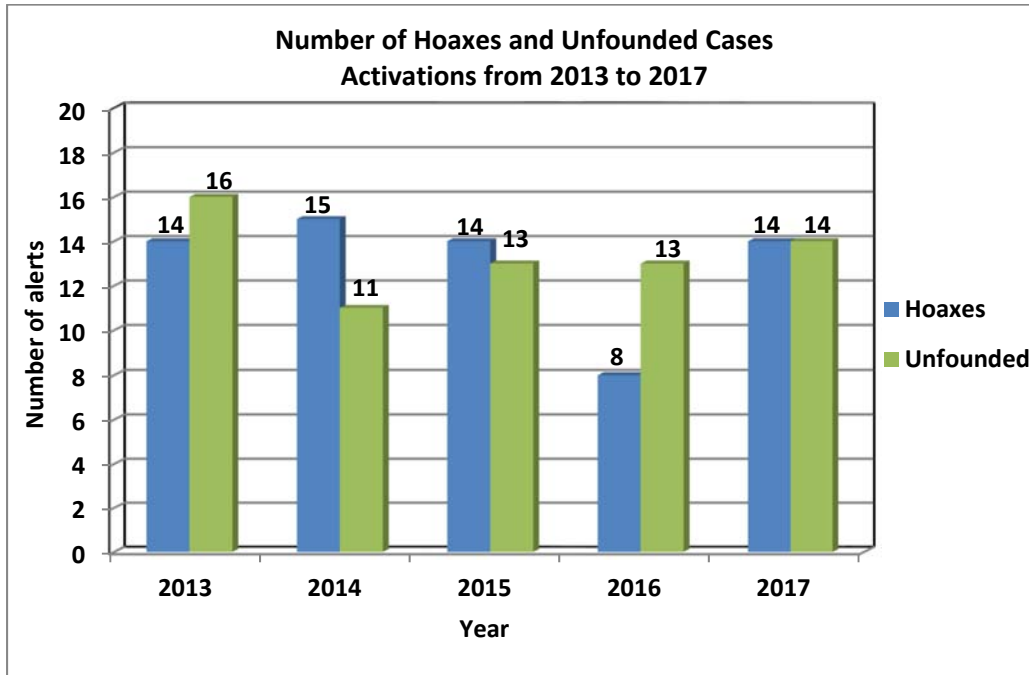
Number and Characteristics of Children Involved in AMBER Alerts

Girls were more frequently involved in AMBER Alerts than boys in 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 2017 the number of boys and girls involved in an alert was nearly the same. 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). In 2017, boys (n=132) and girls (n=131) each made up 50 percent of AMBER Alerts.

The number of American Indian children involved in AMBER Alerts had a pattern of increasing and decreasing from 2013 to 2017 (n= 5, 8, 3, 12 and 2). The number of Asian children increased from 2013 to 2017 (n=3 and 5). The number of Biracial children largely decreased from 2013 (n=20) to 2017 (n=16). For Black children, there was an overall increase from 2013 (n=56) to 2017 (n=76). The number of Hispanic children generally decreased from 2013 to 2017 (n=47 and 40). The number of White children decreased (n=111 and n=98) between 2013 and 2016. In 2017 there was an increase to 123 White children.

Figure 21: Race of Children from 2013 to 2017

**Race of Children
Activations from 2013 to 2017**
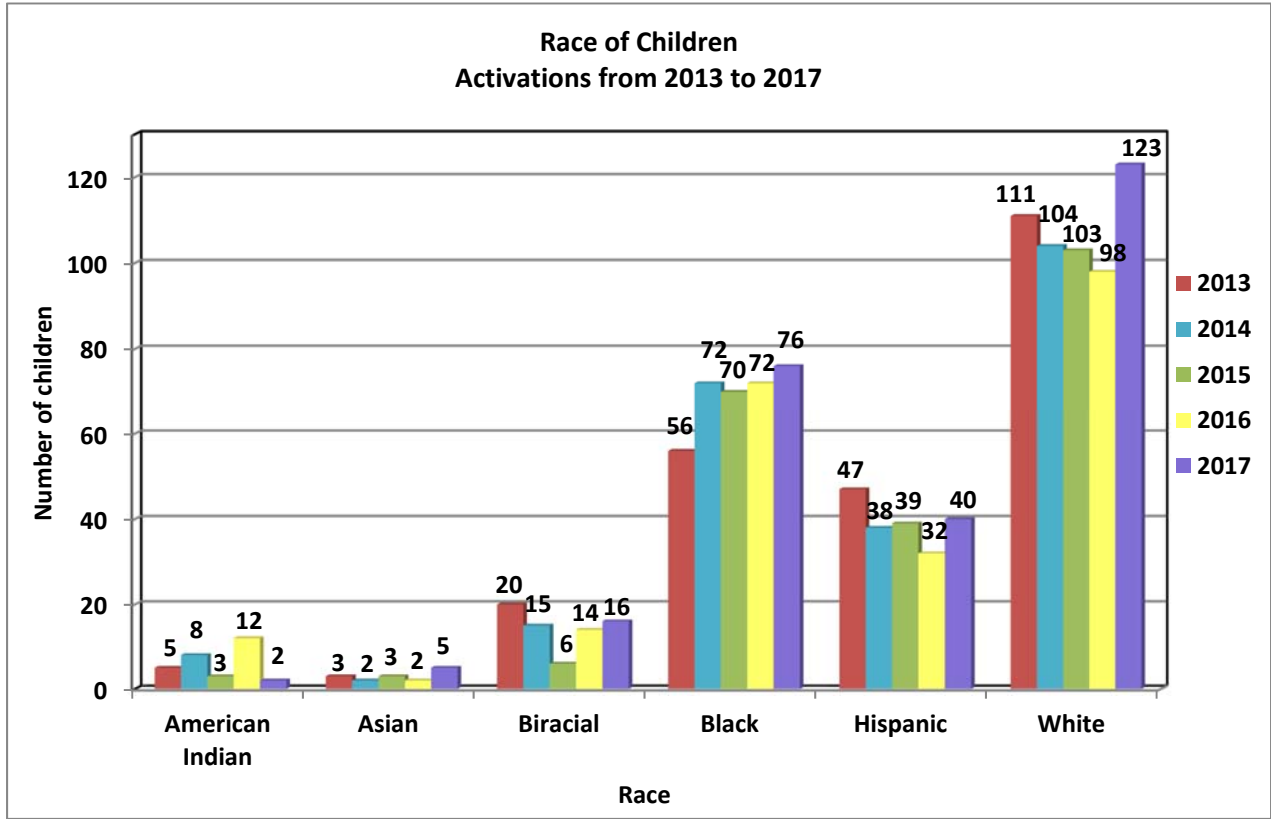
From 2013 to 2017 minority children were involved in AMBER Alerts more frequently than White children.

Figure 22: Race of Children, White and Minority from 2013 to 2017

**Race of Children, White and Minority
Activations from 2013 to 2017**
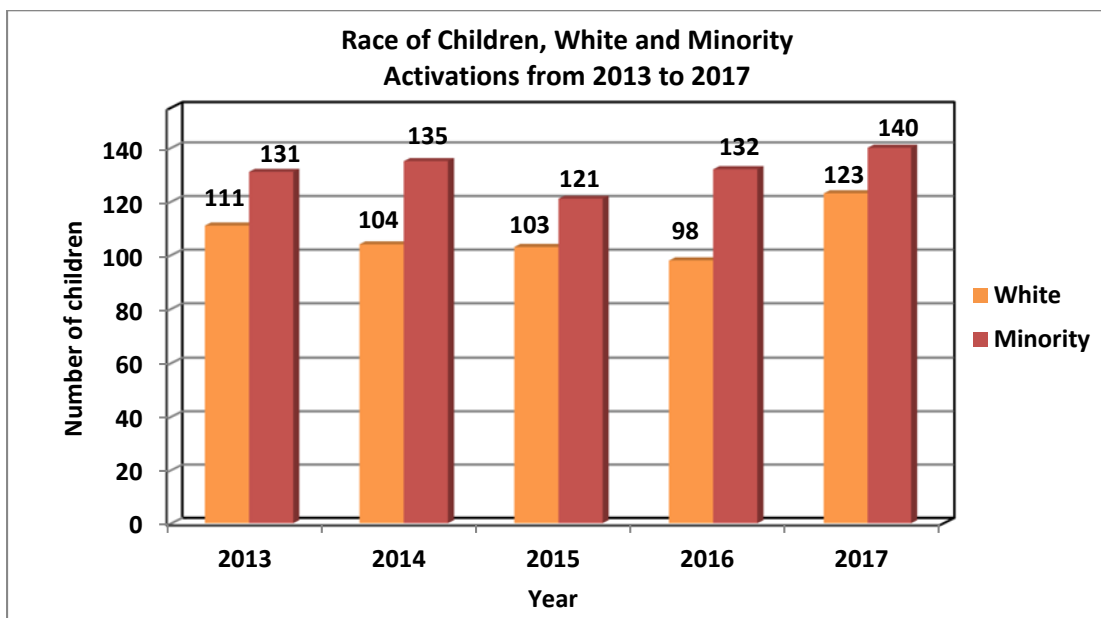
International Abductions

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. In 2017, there was one AMBER Alert for a case originating in Canada, and the child was recovered in Washington state.

Children Located Deceased

A total of 44 children who were involved in AMBER Alerts issued from 2013 to 2017 were located deceased. From 2013 to 2017, the number of children alternated between decreasing and increasing.

While children intaked as NFAs who were located deceased were more frequent between 2013 and 2016, there were more children intaked as LIMs who were located deceased in 2017.

*Table 24: Number of Children Located Deceased from 2013 to 2017*

Case type at intake	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
FA	3	0	3	5	0	11
NFA	7	4	3	7	2	23
LIM	1	2	2	1	4	10
ERU	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**11**	**6**	**8**	**13**	**6**	**44**

National Crime Information Center

In regard to children's information entered in NCIC from 2013 to 2017, it was 80, 81, 78, 78 and 85 percent respectively (n=194, 194, 174, 181 and 223). The AA flag was the predominant flag type from 2013 to 2017.

From 2013 to 2017 there were more instances when it was known a vehicle was involved in the alert (n=156, 152, 147, 152 and 162) than unknown.
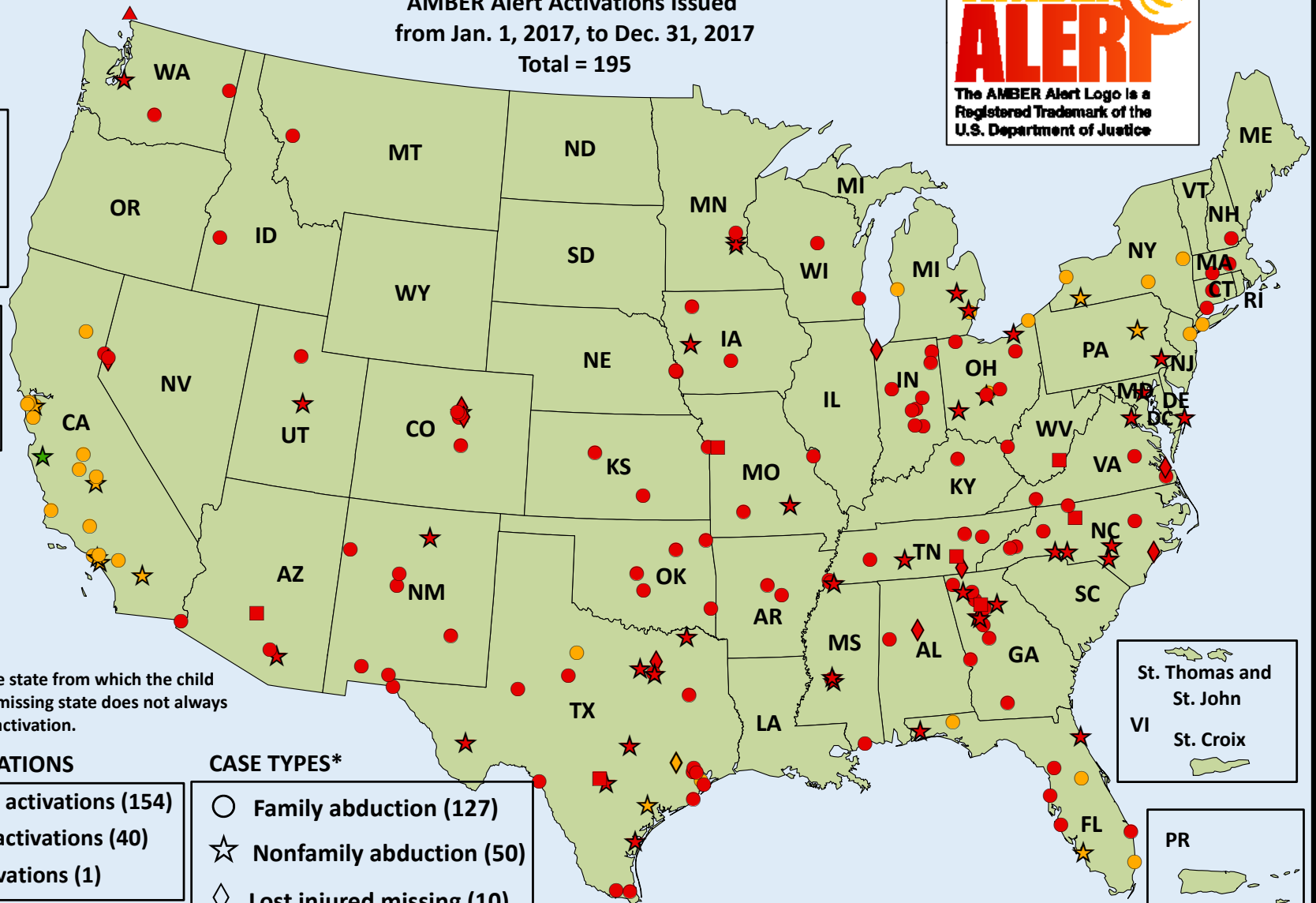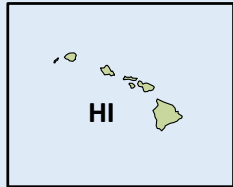
Figure 23: Vehicle Involvement in AMBER Alerts from 2013 to 2017

Vehicle Involvement in AMBER Alert Activations from 2013 to 2017
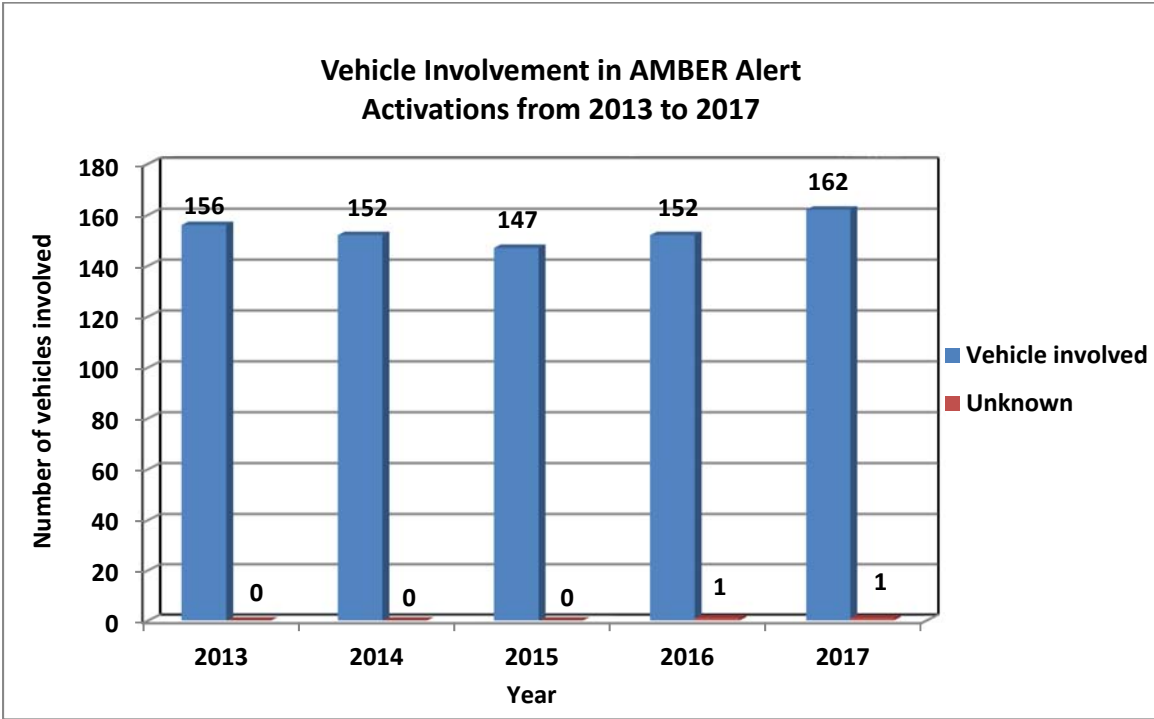
2017 AMBER Alert Report

**AMBER Alert Activations Issued
from Jan. 1, 2017, to Dec. 31, 2017
Total = 195**

NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN

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State labels: AK, HI, WA, OR, MT, ND, MN, MI, ME, VT, NH, NY, MA, CT, RI, ID, WY, SD, WI, MI, PA, NJ, MD, DE, DC, NV, CA, UT, CO, NE, IA, IL, IN, OH, WV, VA, AZ, NM, KS, MO, KY, NC, SC, OK, AR, TN, MS, AL, GA, TX, LA, FL, VI (St. Thomas and St. John, St. Croix), PR

*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 (154)
- 🟧 Regional activations (40)
- 🟩 Local activations (1)

CASE TYPES*

- ○ Family abduction (127)
- ☆ Nonfamily abduction (50)
- ◇ Lost injured missing (10)
- □ Endangered runaway (7)
- △ International family abduction** (1)
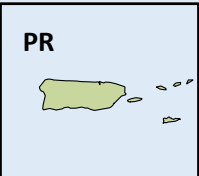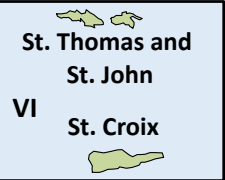
**This AMBER Alert originated in Canada and was activated in Washington.

Source: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
Mapping software donated to NCMEC by Esri, Redlands, California
March 2, 2018