

# National Center for Missing & Exploited Children<sup>®</sup>

## 2010 AMBER ALERT REPORT

Analysis of AMBER Alert Cases in 2010



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## INTRODUCTION

On the afternoon of January 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 that would allow use of the Emergency Alert System (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 (NCMEC), with a request for a national initiative. It then became known as America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response (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 rescue abducted children. Since the inception of the program in 1996 more than 530 children have been safely rescued specifically due to AMBER Alerts being issued.

This program is a voluntary partnership among law-enforcement agencies, broadcasters, and transportation agencies to activate an urgent bulletin in the most serious child-abduction cases. 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 May 2005 NCMEC began to develop a network of Internet content providers, trucking-industry associations, social-networking websites, 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 into a program where all available technology is used to alert the public.

On April 30, 2003, President George W. Bush signed the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today (PROTECT) Act of 2003 (Pub. L. No. 108-21) into law. Building on the steps already taken by the Bush Administration to support AMBER Alerts, this Act codified 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.

The National AMBER Alert Coordinator, in collaboration with a national advisory group, developed a strategy for supporting states/territories and communities to strengthen the AMBER Alert System nationwide and increase the likelihood that abducted children will be recovered swiftly and safely.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>*National Strategy*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, [http://www.amberalert.gov/ntl\\_strategy.htm](http://www.amberalert.gov/ntl_strategy.htm), accessed March 17, 2010.

## AMBER ALERT DEFINITIONS

This report presents information about AMBER Alerts issued throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands from January 1, 2010, through December 31, 2010, 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, they must first determine if that child's case meets their 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 (NCIC) database

Once law enforcement has determined the abducted child's case meets their local, regional, or state-wide/territorial program's criteria, an AMBER Alert is issued via EAS, radio, and television.

An AMBER Alert may involve 1 or more children and is issued on either a statewide/territorial, 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/territorial activation**. A statewide or territorial-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 1 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 1 of the 4 types listed below.

- **FA (Family Abduction)** – A family abduction is defined as the taking, retention, or concealment of a child or children, younger than 18 years of age, by a parent, other family member, or his or her agent, in derogation of the custody rights, including visitation rights, of another parent or family member.
- **NFA (Nonfamily Abduction)** – A nonfamily abduction is defined as the coerced and unauthorized taking of a child younger than the age of 18 or the luring of a child for the purpose of committing another crime by someone not related to the child by blood or marriage.
- **LIM (Lost, Injured, or Otherwise Missing)** – Lost, Injured, or Otherwise Missing is defined as any missing child younger than the age of 18 where 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. These children are also referred to as "Endangered Missing."
- **ERU (Endangered Runaway)** – Any missing individual between 11 and 17 years of age, who is missing on his or her own accord, without permission from his or her parent 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** is a case where an individual falsely reports a child missing or when a child reports him- or herself missing with the intent of misleading 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 will remain 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 January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2010, 173 AMBER Alerts were issued in the United States involving 211 children.

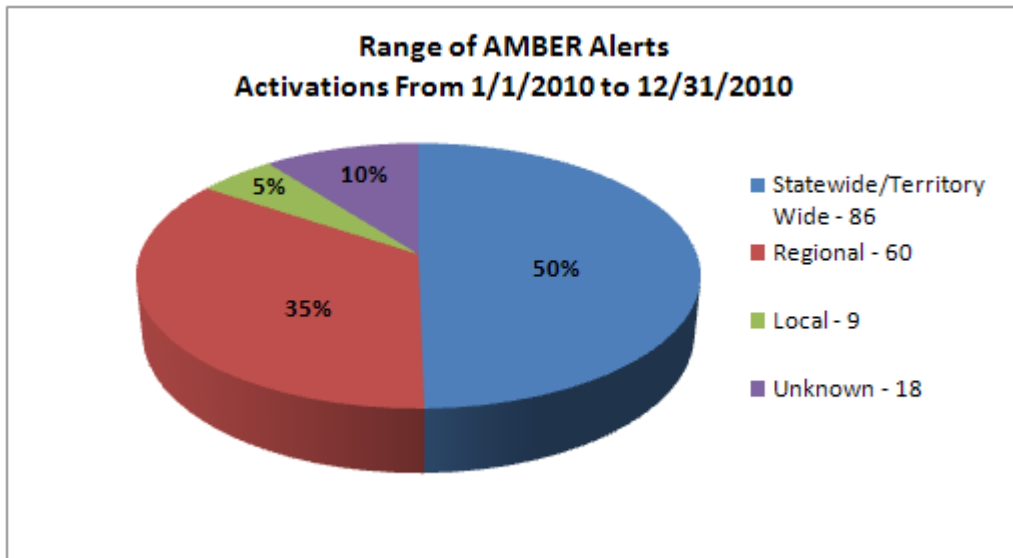
At the time the AMBER Alert cases were intaked there were 80 FAs, 74 NFAs, 16 LIMs, and 3 ERUs. Eleven (11) cases were later determined to be hoaxes, and 10 cases were later determined to be unfounded.

Of the 173 AMBER Alerts issued from January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2010, 150 cases resulted in a recovery, 28 of which were successfully recovered as a direct result of those respective AMBER Alerts being issued. As of February 25, 2011, when statistics for this report were finalized 2 AMBER Alerts issued in 2010 remained active and 9 children were recovered deceased.

## **AMBER ALERTS BY RANGE**

In 2010, 50% (n=86) of AMBER Alerts were issued state- or territory-wide, 35% (n=60) of AMBER Alerts were issued regionally, and 5% (n=9) of AMBER Alerts were issued locally. No data about the range for 10% (n=18) of AMBER Alerts was available.

**Figure 1: Range of AMBER Alerts**



## **AMBER ALERTS BY STATE/TERRITORY**

From January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2010, 173 AMBER Alerts were issued in 37 states and the District of Columbia. Michigan issued the most AMBER Alerts with 14% (n=25), followed by Texas with 13% (n=23) and California with 10% (n=17).



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

State/Territory	Number of Alerts	Percent
Michigan	25	14%
Texas	23	13%
California	17	10%
Florida	9	5%
North Carolina, Ohio, and Tennessee	8 each	5% each
Illinois	7	4%
South Carolina and Washington	6 each	3% each
Arizona, Georgia, New Jersey, and Utah	4 each	2% each
Arkansas, Connecticut, Maryland, Missouri, and Virginia	3 each	2% each
Colorado, District of Columbia, Idaho, Kansas, New York, and Wisconsin	2 each	1% each
Delaware, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, Nevada, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Wyoming	1 each	1% each
Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, U.S. Virgin Islands, Vermont, and West Virginia	0 each	0% each
<b>Total</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>~100%</b>

**MULTISTATE/TERRITORIAL 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 2010, 14 AMBER Alerts were extended beyond the limits of the state where the AMBER Alert first originated.

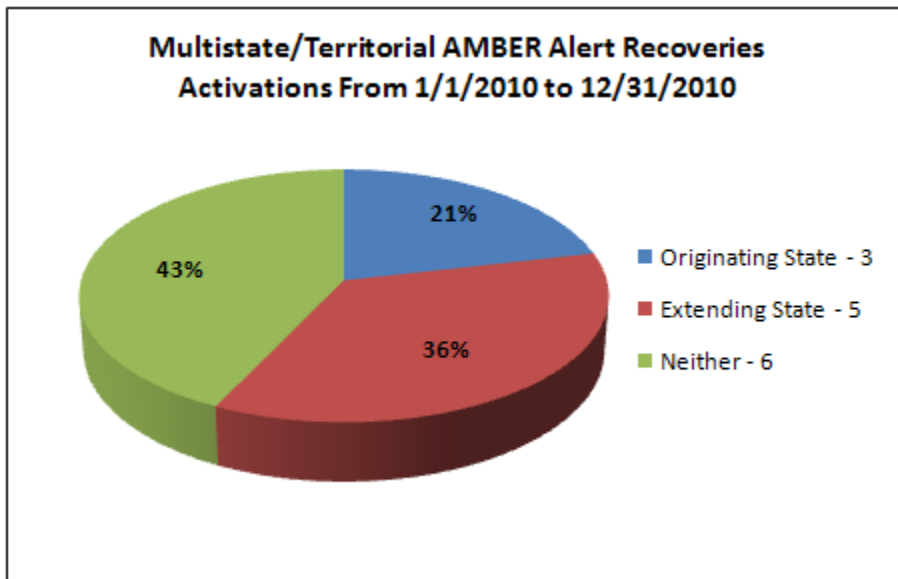
**Table 2: List of Multistate/Territorial AMBER Alerts**

Originating	Extending
California	Nevada
Idaho	Nevada
Illinois	Indiana and Ohio
Massachusetts	Rhode Island
Michigan	Ohio
Montana	Idaho
North Carolina	South Carolina
North Carolina	South Carolina

Originating	Extending
Ohio	Indiana
Oklahoma	Texas
Tennessee	Georgia and South Carolina
Tennessee	Michigan
Virginia	Alabama and Florida
Washington	Montana and Nevada

In 3 cases the child was recovered in the state/territory where the Alert originated, in 5 cases the child was recovered in the extending state, and in 6 cases the child was recovered neither in the originating state/territory nor the extending state/territory.

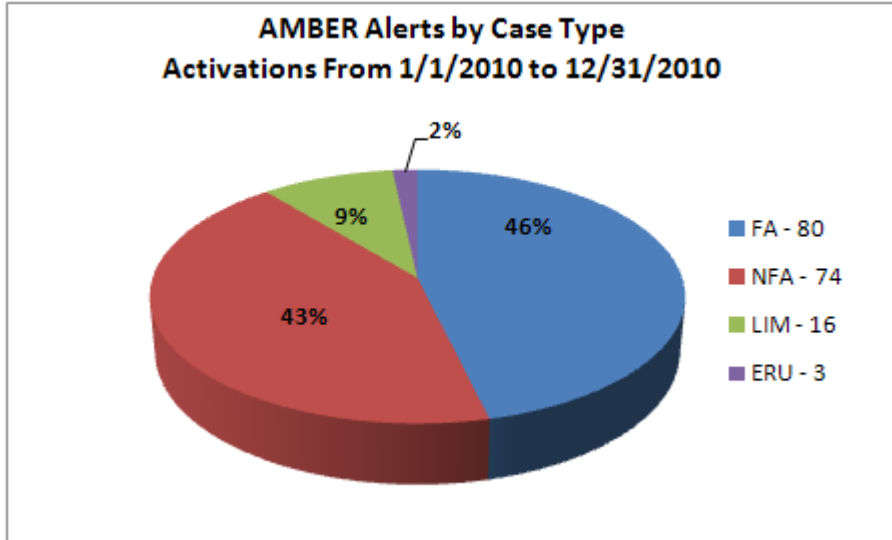
**Figure 2: Multistate/Territorial AMBER Alert Recoveries**



**AMBER ALERTS BY CASE TYPE AT INTAKE**

In 2010, 46% (n=80) of AMBER Alert cases were intaked as FAs, 43% (n=74) were NFAs, 9% (n=16) were LIMs, and 2% (n=3) were ERUs.

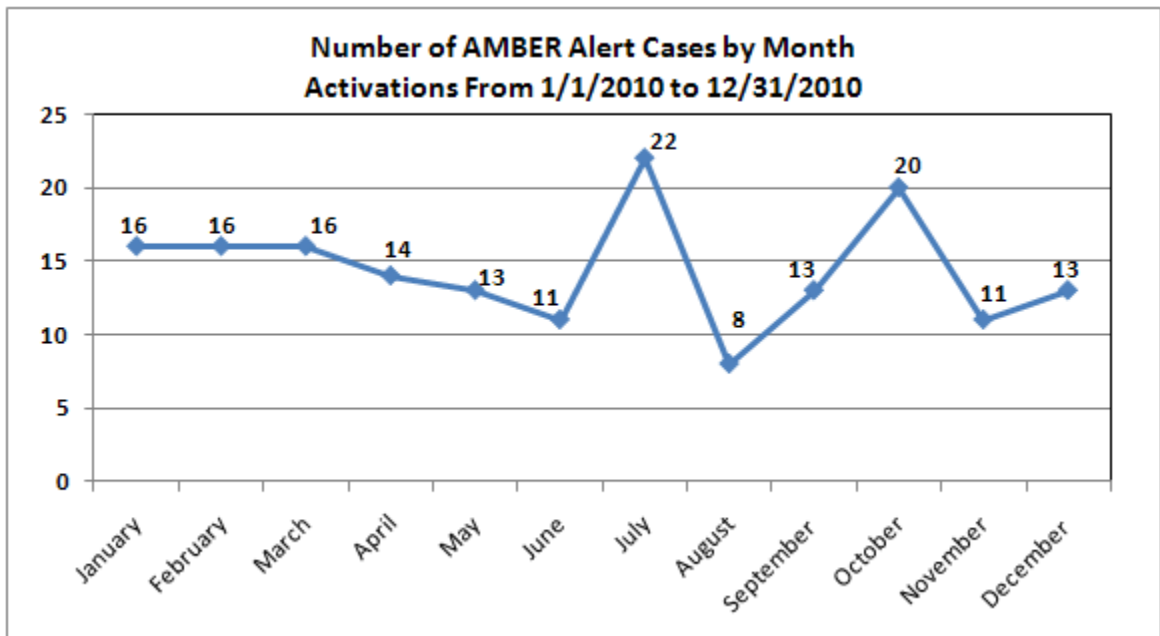
**Figure 3: AMBER Alerts by Case Type**



**NUMBER OF CASES BY MONTH**

In 2010 the number of AMBER Alerts issued per month ranged from a low of 8 Alerts in August to a high of 22 Alerts in July.

**Figure 4: Number of AMBER Alert Cases by Month**



### **NUMBER OF CASE TYPES AT INTAKE BY MONTH**

In 2010 AMBER Alerts were issued most frequently for FAs (n=11) in January and July. The highest number of NFAs (n=11) occurred in the month of July. AMBER Alerts for LIMs (n=6) were most frequently issued in October.

**Table 3: Number of Case Types by Month**

	<b>FA</b>	<b>NFA</b>	<b>LIM</b>	<b>ERU</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total (%)</b>
January	11	4	1	0	16	9%
February	6	9	1	0	16	9%
March	8	7	0	1	16	9%
April	4	9	1	0	14	8%
May	5	6	2	0	13	8%
June	6	3	2	0	11	6%
July	11	11	0	0	22	13%
August	5	3	0	0	8	5%
September	5	7	1	0	13	8%
October	6	7	6	1	20	12%
November	7	4	0	0	11	6%
December	6	4	2	1	13	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>~100%</b>

### **NUMBER OF CHILDREN BY CASE TYPE AT INTAKE BY MONTH**

In 2010, 211 children were involved in 173 AMBER Alert cases. Fifty percent (50%, n=106) of children were intaked as FAs, followed by 40% (n=84) of children intaked as NFAs. Nine percent (9%, n=18) were intaked as LIMs and 1% (n=3) were intaked as ERUs.

Children intaked as FAs were most frequently involved in AMBER Alerts during the month of July (n=16). The highest number of children intaked as NFAs (n=12) occurred in the month of July, and AMBER Alerts for LIMs (n=6) were most frequently issued in October.

**Table 4: Number of Children by Case Type by Month**

	<b>FA</b>	<b>NFA</b>	<b>LIM</b>	<b>ERU</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total (%)</b>
January	14	4	1	0	19	9%
February	6	11	1	0	18	9%
March	10	8	0	1	19	9%
April	4	9	2	0	15	7%
May	7	9	3	0	19	9%
June	8	3	2	0	13	6%
July	16	12	0	0	28	13%
August	8	3	0	0	11	5%

	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU	Total	Total (%)
September	6	8	1	0	15	7%
October	9	8	6	1	24	11%
November	10	5	0	0	15	7%
December	8	4	2	1	15	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>~100%</b>

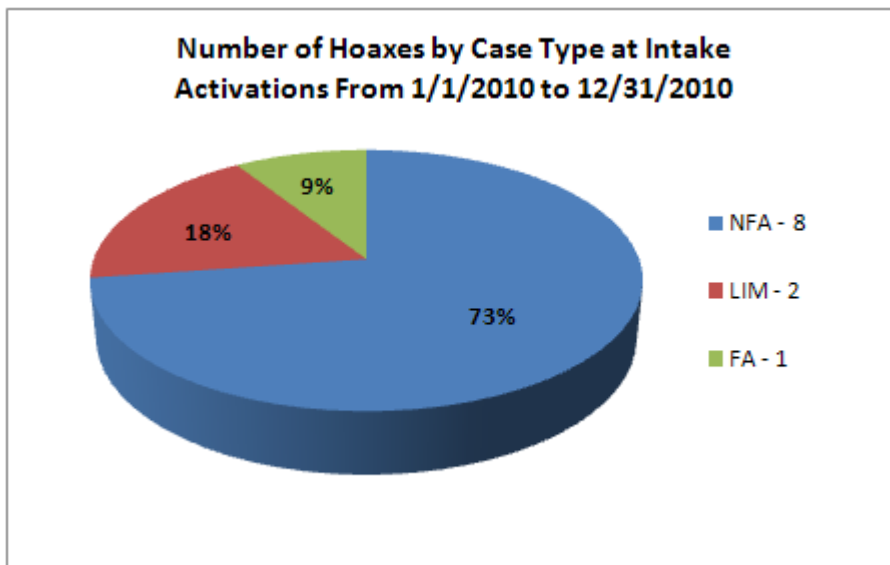
### CASES DETERMINED TO BE HOAXES

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 2010, 6% (n=11) of AMBER Alerts involving 12 children issued were later determined to be hoaxes. Seventy-three percent (73%, n=8) of hoaxes were first thought to be NFAs, followed by LIMs at 18% (n=2) and FAs at 9% (n=1).

Thirty-three percent (36%, n=4) of hoaxes were reported by the child's parent, 36% (n=4) were reported by the child involved, and 18% (n=2) were reported by the child's family member. For 9% (n=1) it is unknown who reported the child missing.

**Figure 5: Number of Hoaxes by Case Type at Intake**



Of the 11 cases determined to be hoaxes, 10 cases had known locations where the children involved were reported missing. Of those cases, 40% (n=4) were reported missing from home, 20% (n=2) were reported missing from "the street," 10% (n=1) were reported missing from school, 10% (n=1) were reported missing from a retail store, 10% (n=1) were reported missing from a vehicle, and 10% (n=1) were reported missing from a football game.

**CHILDREN INVOLVED IN HOAXES**

In 2010, 11 AMBER Alerts involving 12 children were later determined to be hoaxes. Sixty-seven percent (67%, n=8) of children involved in hoaxes were girls, whereas boys represented 33% (n=4) of children involved in hoaxes. All 3 boys with known ages involved in these hoaxes in 2010 were 2 or younger whereas girls involved in hoaxes ranged from ages 1 through 17. Sixty-three percent (63%, n=5) of girls involved in hoaxes were 13 to 17 years old.

***Table 5: Age and Sex of Children Involved in Hoaxes***

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

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

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

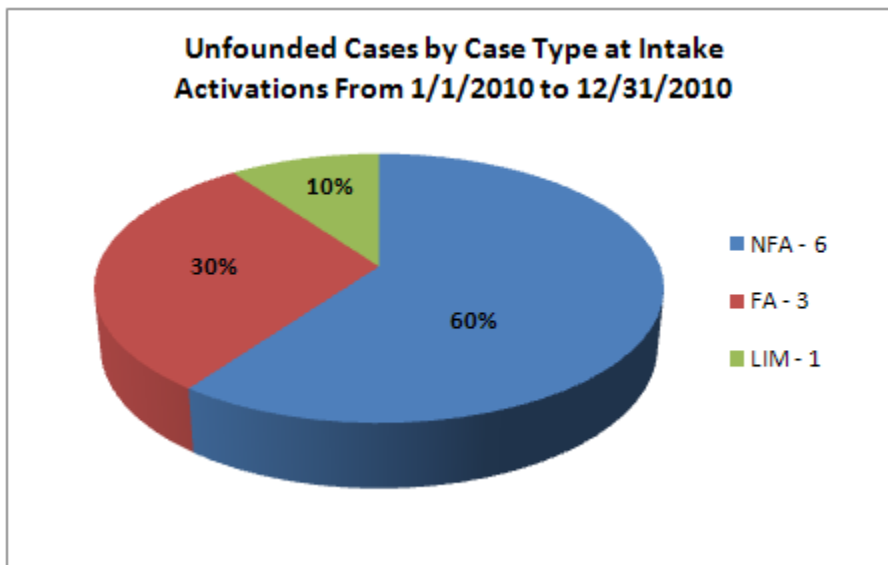
Age	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU
8	0	0	0	0
9	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	0	0
11	0	0	0	0
12	0	0	0	0
13	0	1	0	0
14	0	1	1	0
15	0	1	0	0
16	0	0	0	0
17	0	1	0	0
N/A	0	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

Three (3) children whose cases were determined to be hoaxes were recovered deceased. All 3 children were reported missing by parents who later confessed to killing the children.

#### **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. Ten (10) AMBER Alerts involving 10 children were determined to be unfounded, representing 6% of the total number of AMBER Alerts issued in 2010. These unfounded cases were originally intaked as NFAs at 60% (n=6), FAs at 30% (n=3), and LIMs at 10% (n=1).

**Figure 6: Unfounded Cases by Case Type at Intake**



**CHILDREN INVOLVED IN UNFOUNDED CASES**

In 2010, 10 AMBER Alerts involving 10 children were later determined to be unfounded. Girls represented 60% (n=6) whereas boys represented 40% (n=4) of all children involved in unfounded cases. Unfounded cases were distributed for ages younger than 1, 6, and 17 for girls and ages 6, 9, and 13 for boys.

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

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

**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	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0
6	0	2	0	0
7	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	0	0



Age	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU
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	0	0	0	0
16	0	0	0	0
17	0	1	0	0
N/A	1	2	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

### **SECONDARY DISTRIBUTION OF AMBER ALERTS**

The AMBER Alert Secondary Distribution (AASD) system is comprised of wireless carriers, Internet service providers, digital signage, social-networking websites, content providers, and major retailers who distribute these 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 2010, 89% (n=154) of AMBER Alert cases were secondarily distributed whereas 11% (n=19) cases were not secondarily distributed because the AMBER Alert was cancelled before secondary distribution was possible.

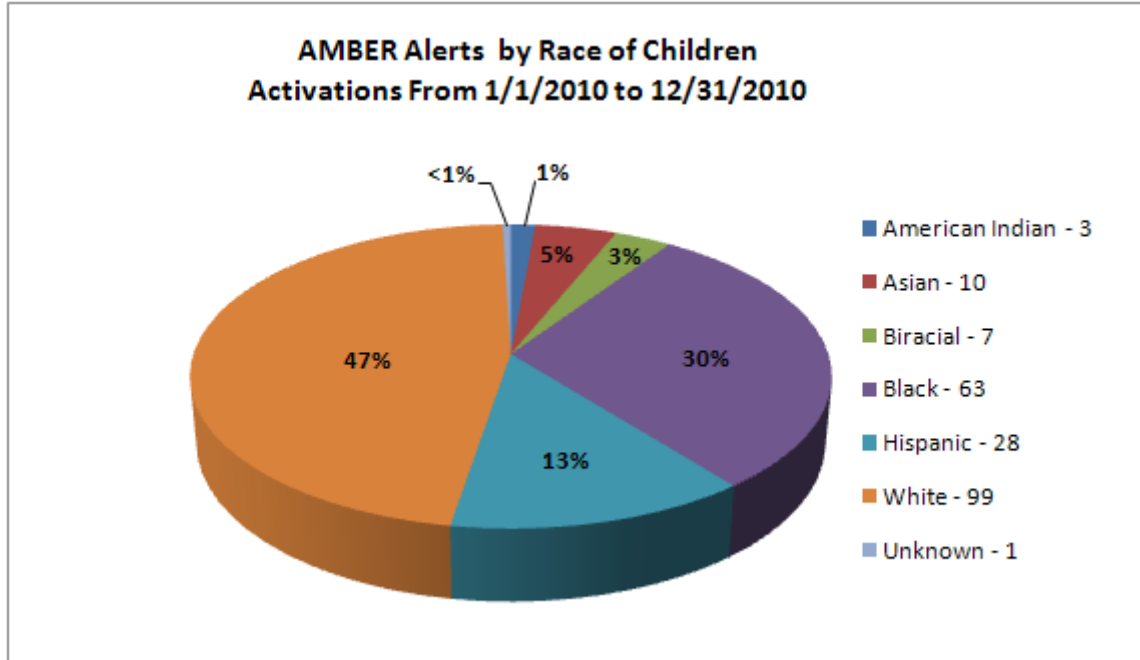
AMBER Alert Secondary Distribution was issued for 72 FAs, 68 NFAs, 12 LIMs, and 2 ERUs. Eight (8) NFAs, 2 LIMs, and 1 FA were later determined to be hoaxes. Six (6) NFAs and 3 FAs were subsequently identified as unfounded. One (1) LIM that was later determined to be unfounded was not secondarily distributed.

### **NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN REPORTED MISSING**

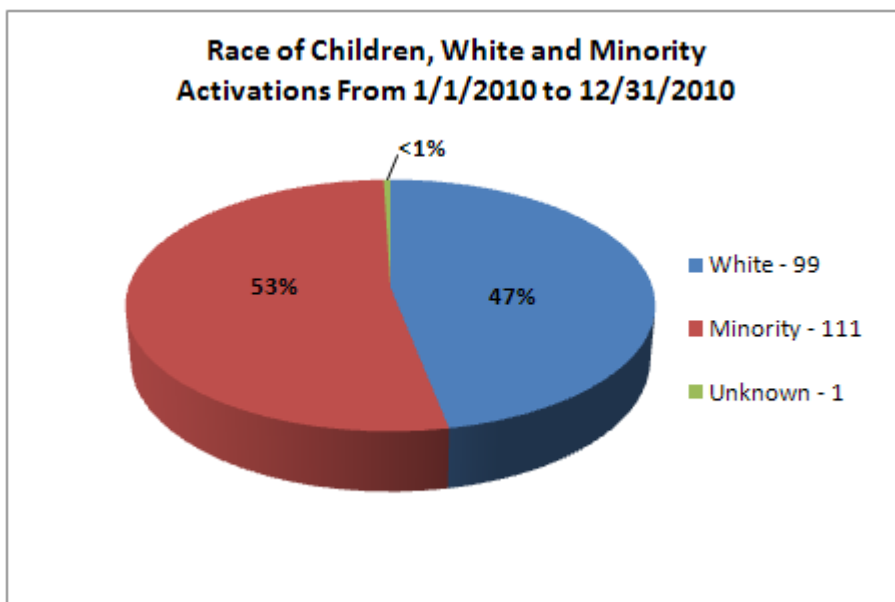
Children involved in AMBER Alert activations were predominantly girls at 53% (n=112), compared to boys who represented 47% (n=99).

Forty-seven percent (47%, n=99) of children involved in AMBER Alerts were White, 30% (n=63) were Black, 13% (n=28) were Hispanic, 3% (n=7) were Biracial, 5% (n=10) were Asian, and American Indian children represented 1% (n=3). The race for fewer than 1% (n=1) was unknown. AMBER Alerts were issued at a rate of 47% for White children whereas Minority children represented 53%.

**Figure 7: AMBER Alerts by Race of Children**

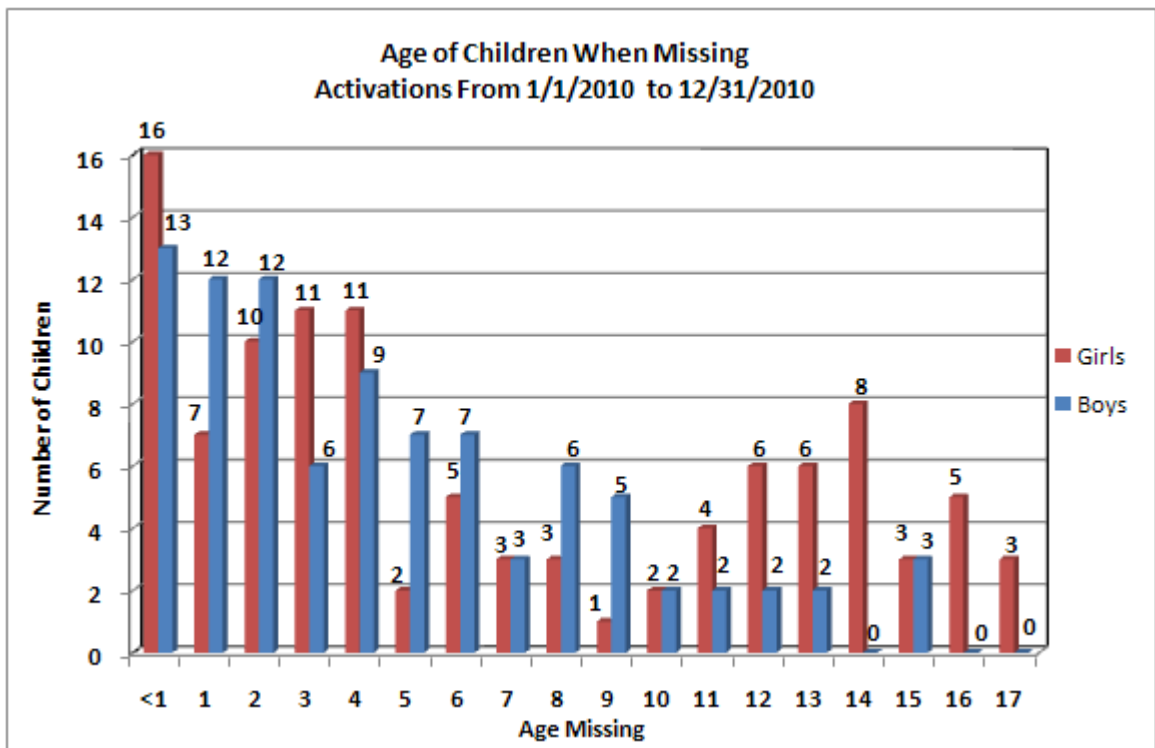


**Figure 8: Race of Children, White and Minority**



Boys and girls who were 5 years old and younger represented 59% (n=116) of the children who were reported missing with known ages. Of all children reported missing, girls (n=16) and boys (n=13) younger than 1 year of age were most frequently involved in AMBER Alerts. The age of 14 children was unknown.

**Figure 9: Age of Children When Missing**



**NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF ABDUCTORS**

One-hundred-forty-nine (149) abductors were identified as being involved in 120 AMBER Alert cases in 2010.

The majority of abductors were male at 66% (n=99), and 30% (n=45) of abductors were female. The sex of 3% (n=5) of abductors is unknown.

Thirty-seven percent (37%, n=55) of abductors were White, 26% (n=39) of abductors were Black, 17% (n=26) of abductors were Hispanic, 2% (n=3) of abductors were American Indian, 1% (n=2) of abductors were Asian, and the race for 16% (n=24) was unknown.

**ABDUCTORS WITH A KNOWN RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHILD**

Of the 149 abductors involved in AMBER Alerts in 2010, 98 abductors had known relationships with the children. An AMBER Alert case may have multiple abductors involved; therefore, the number of abductors involved in a type of case may exceed the number of cases. 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 80 FA cases, 77 abductors involved had known relationships with the children. They consisted of 2 aunts, 1 cousin, 38 fathers, 1 father’s girlfriend, 1 friend of the family, 2 grandmothers, 25 mothers, 2 mother’s boyfriends, 3 stepfathers, and 2 uncles.

Of the 74 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 2 babysitters, 2 boyfriends, 1 ex-boyfriend, 1 father, 5 friends of the family, 1 grandfather, 7 mother’s boyfriends, and 1 mother’s girlfriend.

Of the 16 LIM cases, 1 friend of the family was identified as an abductor with a known relationship with the child.

**Table 9: Abductor Relationship to Child**

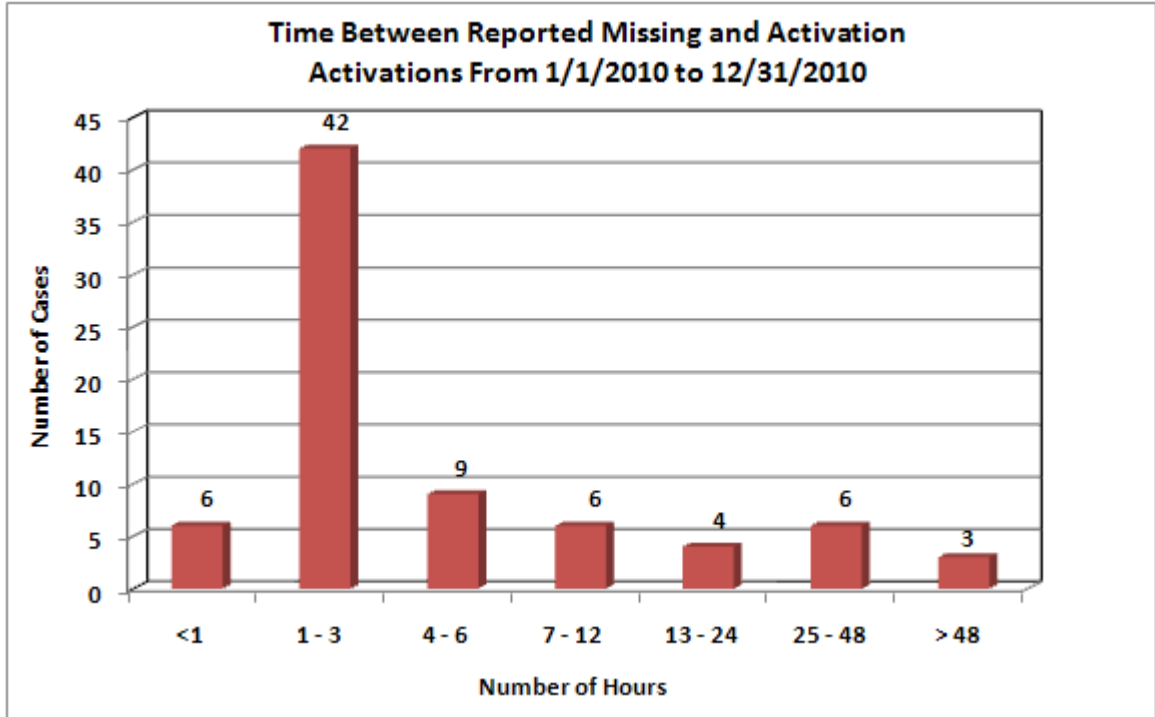
Abductor Relationship to Child	FA	FA (%)	NFA	NFA (%)	LIM	LIM (%)	Total	Total (%)
Aunt	2	3%	0	0%	0	0%	2	2%
Babysitter	0	0%	2	10%	0	0%	2	2%
Boyfriend	0	0%	2	10%	0	0%	2	2%
Cousin	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%
Ex-Boyfriend	0	0%	1	5%	0	0%	1	1%
Father	38	49%	1	5%	0	0%	39	40%
Father’s Girlfriend	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%
Friend of Family	1	1%	5	25%	1	100%	7	7%
Grandfather	0	0%	1	5%	0	0%	1	1%
Grandmother	2	3%	0	0%	0	0%	2	2%
Mother	25	32%	0	0%	0	0%	25	26%
Mother’s Boyfriend	2	3%	7	35%	0	0%	9	9%
Mother’s Girlfriend	0	0%	1	5%	0	0%	1	1%
Stepfather	3	4%	0	0%	0	0%	3	3%
Uncle	2	3%	0	0%	0	0%	2	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100%</b>

**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 76 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 (48) AMBER Alerts were issued within fewer than 3 hours from when the child was reported missing. Nine (9) cases were activated within 4 to 6 hours from when the child was reported missing, and 6 cases were issued within 7 to 12 hours.

**Figure 10: Time Between Reported Missing and Activation**

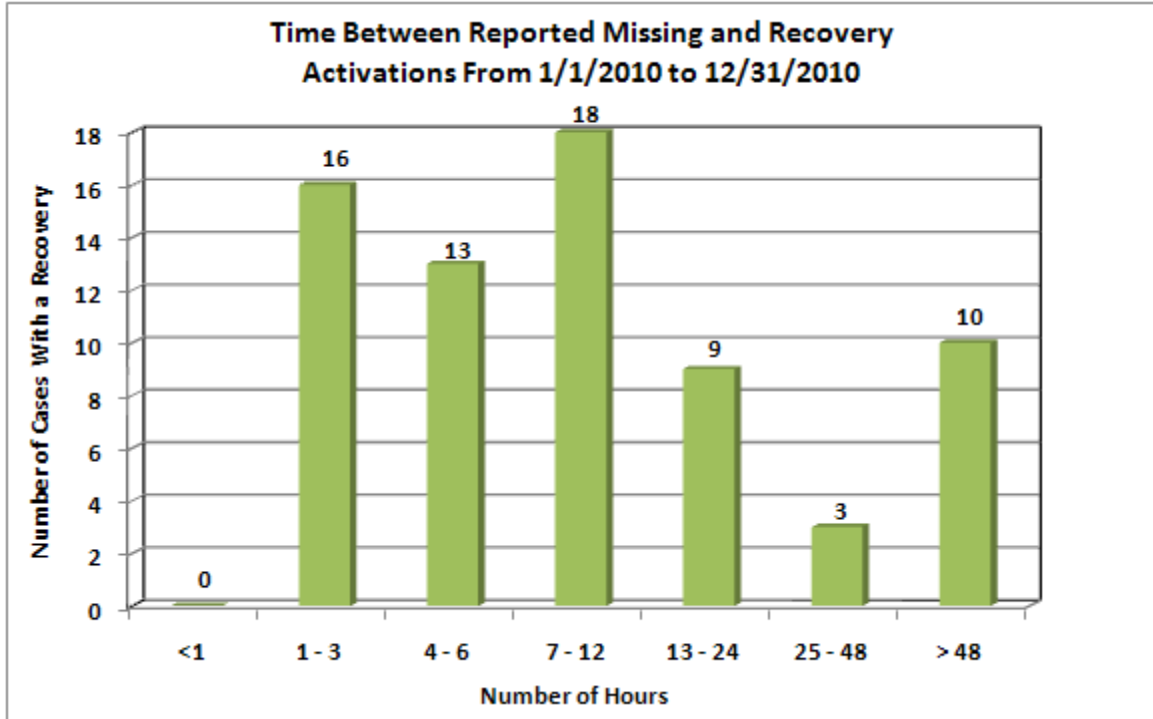


**TIME BETWEEN REPORTED MISSING AND RECOVERY**

Information about the time between when the child was reported missing to law enforcement and the AMBER Alert recovery was available in 69 cases. Hoaxes and unfounded cases were excluded in the statistics because a child was determined not to be missing in those AMBER Alert cases.

Sixteen (16) AMBER Alerts were issued within fewer than 3 hours from when the child was reported missing. Thirteen (13) cases were activated within 4 to 6 hours from when the child was reported missing, and 18 cases were issued within 7 to 12 hours.

Figure 11: Time Between Reported Missing and Recovery

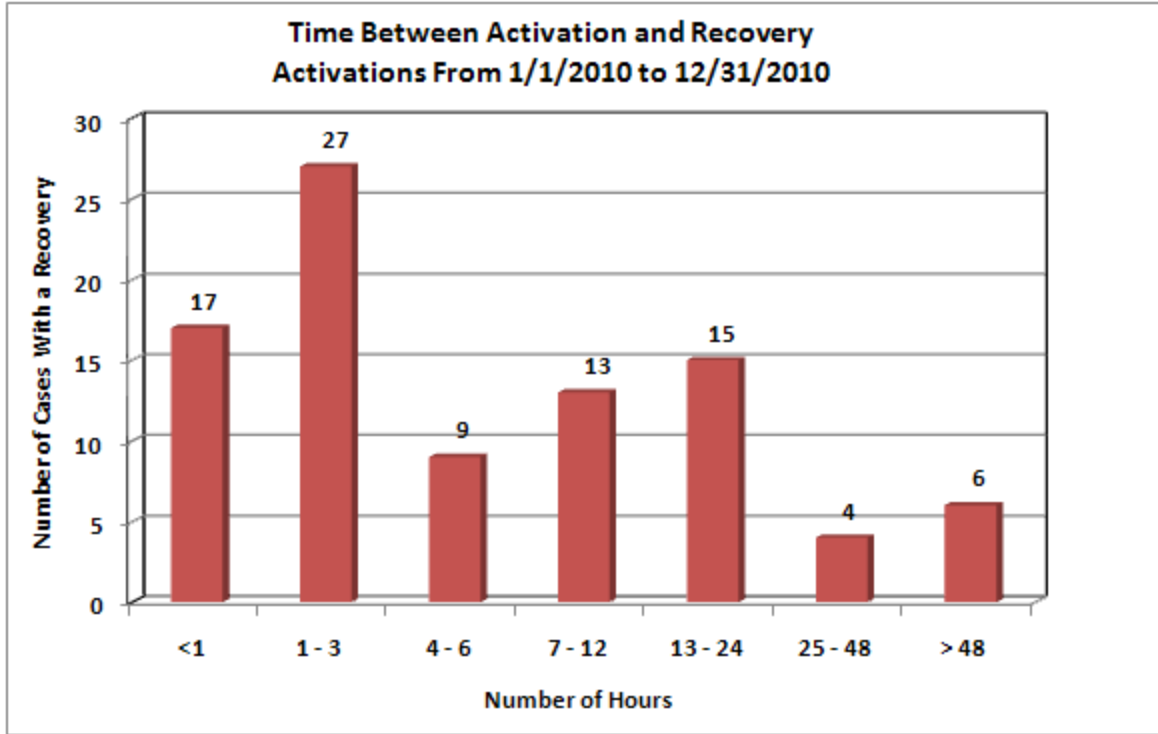


**TIME BETWEEN ACTIVATION AND RECOVERY**

Information about the time between when the AMBER Alert was activated and the AMBER Alert recovery was available in 91 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-four (44) AMBER Alerts were recovered within fewer than 3 hours from when the AMBER Alert was activated. Nine (9) cases were recovered within 4 to 6 hours from when the AMBER Alert was activated, and 13 cases were recovered within 7 to 12 hours.

**Figure 12: Time Between Activation and Recovery**



**RECOVERY WITHIN 3 DAYS OF ACTIVATION**

Information about the date between when the AMBER Alert was activated and the AMBER Alert recovery was available in all 173 cases.

**Table 10: Recovery Within 3 Days of Activation**

	Time Between Activation and Recovery 1/1/2010 - 12/31/2010
Intaked Cases	173
Cases Classified as Hoax or Unfounded After Intake	21
Intaked Children	211
Children Classified as Hoax or Unfounded After Intake	22
Number of Cases in Which Child Recovered Within 72 Hours	143
Percent of Cases in Which Child Recovered Within 72 Hours	94%*
Number of Children Recovered Within 72 Hours	177
Percent of Children Recovered Within 72 Hours	94%**

\*Percentage excludes cases classified as hoaxes (n=11) and unfounded (n=10)

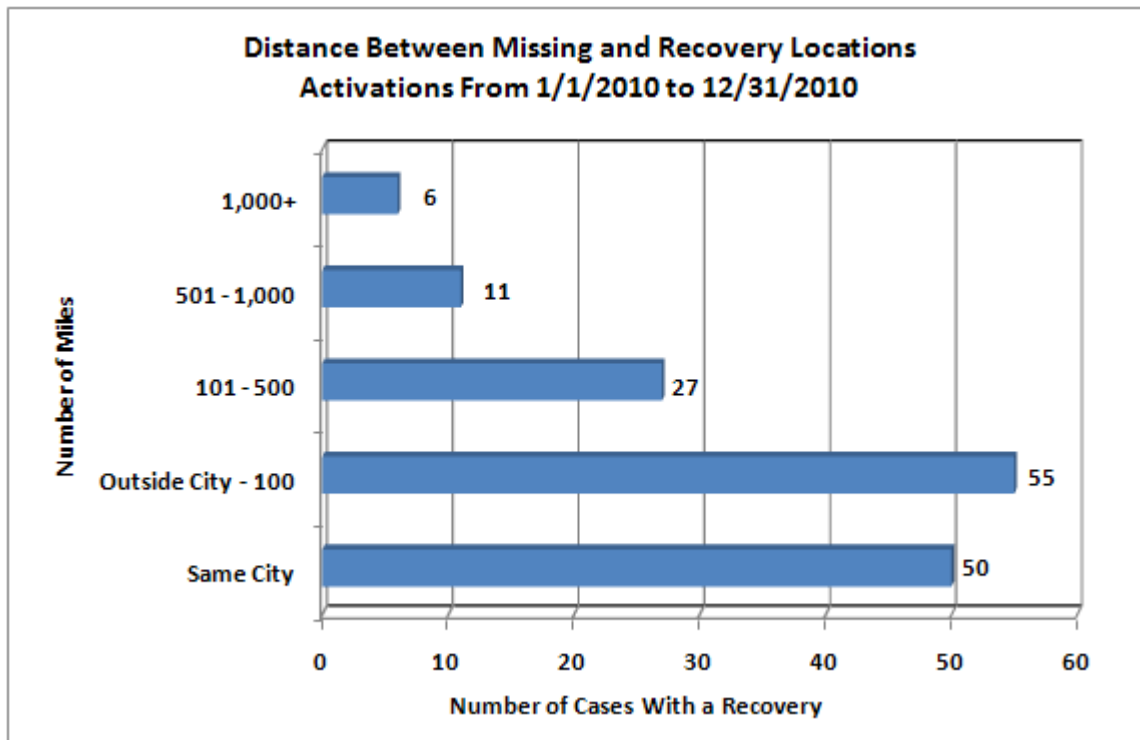
\*\*Percentage excludes children classified as hoaxes (n=12) and unfounded (n=10)

## TRAVEL DISTANCES

In 2010 travel destinations between where the child was reported missing and recovered were known for 149 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 the travel distances were calculated by using zip codes. Therefore distances could not be calculated for cases where the child was abducted from and recovered in the same city.

In 50 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 27 cases the distance between missing and recovery locations ranged from 101 to 500 miles; in 11 cases the distance between missing and recovery locations ranged from 501 to 1,000 miles; and in 6 cases travel distances were more than 1,000 miles. For 1 case the travel distance could not be calculated, and the remaining 23 cases were either hoaxes, unfounded, or active cases.

**Figure 13: Distance Between Missing and Recovery Locations**



Of the 80 AMBER Alerts issued for FA cases, children in 17 cases were found in the same city. In 33 cases travel distances ranged from 5 to 92 miles, and in 17 cases the travel distances ranged from 109 to 356 miles. In 4 cases travel distances ranged from 503 to 992 miles. In 4 cases travel distances exceeded 1,000 miles. In 1 case the distance could not be calculated, and the remaining 4 cases were hoaxes and unfounded cases.

Of the 74 AMBER Alerts issued for NFA cases, the children involved in 24 cases were found in the same city. In 16 cases travel distances ranged from 4 to 84 miles. In 9 cases travel distances ranged from 105

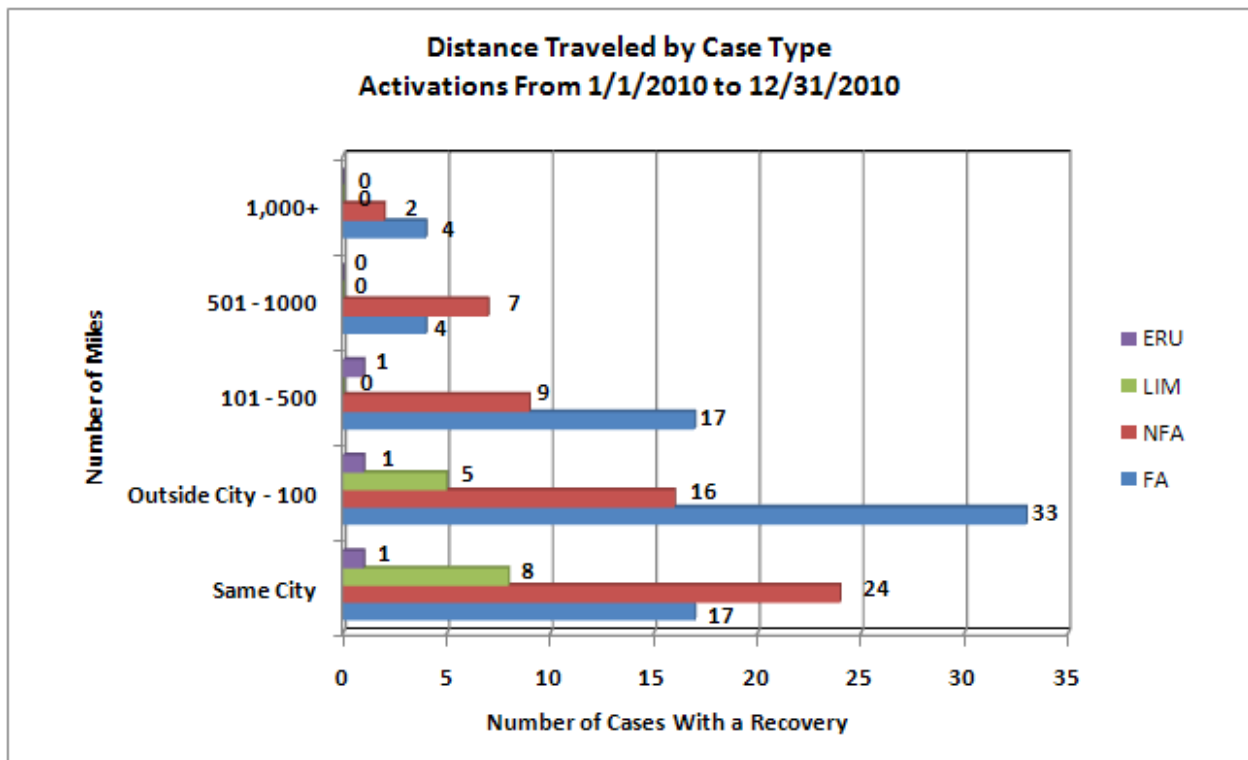


to 480 miles. In 7 cases travel distances ranged from 523 to 924 miles. In 2 cases travel distances exceeded 1,000 miles. The remaining 16 cases were hoaxes, unfounded, and active cases.

There were 16 AMBER Alerts issued for LIM cases in 2010, and of those cases 8 were found in the same city. The travel distances in 5 cases ranged from 6 to 13 miles. The remaining 3 cases were hoaxes and unfounded cases.

For the 3 cases intaked as ERUs in 2010, 1 case had a recovery in the same city, 1 case had a recovery 6 miles from where the child was last seen, and 1 case had a recovery 182 miles from where the child was last seen.

**Figure 14: Distance Traveled by Case Type**



**RECOVERIES OUTSIDE OF STATE/TERRITORY WHERE AMBER ALERT FIRST ACTIVATED**

There are instances where an abductor may travel with a child out of the state/territory where the AMBER Alert was first activated. Of the 173 AMBER Alerts issued in 2010, 2 cases still remain active. Twenty-five percent of cases (25%, n=43) had recoveries out of the state/territory of the original activation. Of those 43 cases, 56% (n=24) were FAs, 40% (n=17) were NFAs, and 5% (n=2) were LIMs.

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

<b>Activation State/Territory</b>	<b>Recovery State/Territory</b>
Arkansas	Texas
California	Nevada
California	Texas
District of Columbia	Maryland
District of Columbia	New York
Georgia	Alabama
Idaho	New Mexico
Idaho	Washington
Illinois	Iowa
Illinois	Missouri
Illinois	Ohio
Indiana	Illinois
Iowa	Illinois
Maryland	Delaware
Maryland	Tennessee
Massachusetts	Connecticut
Michigan	Indiana
Michigan	Ohio
Missouri	Iowa
Nebraska	Arkansas
Nevada	California
New York	Tennessee
North Carolina	South Carolina
North Carolina	South Carolina
North Carolina	South Carolina
Ohio	Alabama
Ohio	Arizona
Ohio	Indiana
Ohio	Michigan
Ohio	West Virginia
South Carolina	Georgia
South Carolina	Kentucky
Tennessee	Florida
Tennessee	Michigan
Tennessee	Mississippi
Texas	New Mexico
Texas	Ohio
Texas	Oklahoma

Activation State/Territory	Recovery State/Territory
Virginia	California
Washington	Montana
Washington	Oregon
Wisconsin	Minnesota
Wyoming	Colorado

### **MISSING LOCATION**

In 2010 there were 141 cases with information about where the children involved were last known to be located. Of those 141 cases, 65% (n=92) were last known to be at home, followed by 6% (n=9) of cases where children were last known to be “on the street” or in an automobile.

**Table 12: Missing Location**

Missing Location	Number of Cases	Percent
Airport	1	1%
Automobile	9	6%
Bus Station	1	1%
Convenience Store	2	1%
Daycare Facility	1	1%
Gas Station	2	1%
Government Facility	2	1%
Home	92	65%
Medical Facility	2	1%
Office Building	1	1%
Outdoor - Open Area	1	1%
Parking Lot	4	3%
Recreational	2	1%
Religious Facility	1	1%
Restaurant	2	1%
Retail	1	1%
School	6	4%
Shopping Center	2	1%
Street	9	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>~100%</b>

## **RECOVERY LOCATION**

There were 147 cases with information about the location where the child was recovered. In 2010 children involved in AMBER Alert cases were most often recovered at home 39% (n=58) of the time, followed by recoveries “on the street” at 14% (n=20).

**Table 13: Recovery Location**

<b>Recovery Location</b>	<b>Number of Cases</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Amusement Park	1	1%
Auto / Vehicle	10	7%
Convenience Store	3	2%
Gas Station	4	3%
Government Facility	5	3%
Grocery Store	1	1%
Home	58	39%
Hotel / Motel	7	5%
Industrial Area	1	1%
Law-Enforcement Agency	10	7%
Mall	1	1%
Medical Facility	1	1%
Movie Theater	1	1%
Outdoor - Open Area	7	5%
Park	1	1%
Parking Lot	2	1%
Path/Trail/Woods	2	1%
Religious Facility	1	1%
Restaurant	4	3%
Retail	1	1%
River	1	1%
School	4	3%
Shopping Center	1	1%
Street	20	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>~100%</b>

## **INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTIONS**

In 2010, 3 AMBER Alert activations involving 3 children resulted in an international abduction. Two (2) cases involved recoveries in Mexico and 1 case involved a recovery in Canada. Sixty-seven (67%, n=2) of those cases were FAs and 33% (n=1) were NFAs. Two (2) of the children were White girls, and 1 child was a Black boy.

## **INFANTS INVOLVED IN AMBER ALERT ACTIVATIONS**

In 2010 infants, who are defined as children 6 months of age or younger, were involved in 16 AMBER Alert activations. Fifty-six percent (56%, n=9) of infants involved were FAs, 38% (n=6) were NFAs, and 6% (n=1) were LIMs. In 1 case that was later determined to be a hoax, the mother had reported her child missing but then confessed to killing the child. In 1 case that was later determined to be unfounded, the child's mother was inebriated when she reported the child missing and had forgotten that she had given the child to her mother.

Thirty-eight percent (38%, n=6) of infants involved in AMBER Alerts were boys and 63% (n=10) were girls. Thirteen percent (13%, n=2) of infants involved were Asian, 6% (n=1) were Biracial, 56% (n=9) were Black, and 25% (n=4) 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 173 AMBER Alert cases in 2010, 38 children involved in 28 AMBER Alert cases were successfully recovered as a direct result of those respective AMBER Alerts being issued.

**Table 14: Success Stories**

<b>Case Type at Intake</b>	<b>Number of Successful Recoveries by Case</b>	<b>% of Successful Recoveries by Case</b>	<b>Number of Successful Recoveries by Child</b>	<b>% of Successful Recoveries by Child</b>
FA	16	57%	22	58%
NFA	10	36%	13	34%
LIM	2	7%	3	8%
ERU	0	0%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100%</b>

The most common reason for an AMBER Alert success story is an abductor hearing the Alert and releasing the child unharmed at 39% (n=11), followed by an individual or law enforcement recognizing the vehicle from the Alert at 32% (n=9).

**Table 15: Reason for Success Stories**

Summary of Success Stories	Number of Cases	% of Cases	Number of Children	% of Children
Individual or Law Enforcement Recognized Vehicle from Alert	9	32%	15	39%
Abductor Heard Alert and Released Child	11	39%	13	34%
Individual Knew Whereabouts of Suspect and Contacted Authorities	2	7%	2	5%
Individual Recognized Child from Alert and Contacted Authorities	4	14%	5	13%
Individual Informed Abductor About Alert and Abductor Contacted Authorities	2	7%	3	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>~100%</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>~100%</b>

**TIME BETWEEN ACTIVATION AND RECOVERY FOR SUCCESS STORIES**

In 2010, 47% of the children (n=18), representing 46% (n=13) of the cases, were successfully recovered within 3 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	4%	1	3%
½+ - 1 Hour	2	7%	4	10%
1+ Hour - 2 Hours	4	14%	6	16%
2+ - 3 Hours	6	21%	7	18%
3+ - 4 Hours	3	11%	4	11%
4+ - 5 Hours	0	0%	0	0%
5+ - 6 Hours	1	4%	1	3%
6+ - 12 Hours	3	11%	3	8%
12+ - 24 Hours	4	14%	6	16%
Unknown	4	14%	6	16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>~100%</b>

**CHILDREN RECOVERED DECEASED**

In 2010, 173 AMBER Alerts were issued involving 211 children. Nine (9) children involved in 9 AMBER Alert cases were recovered deceased. Eleven percent (11%, n=1) of children were reported as FAs, 56% (n=5) were reported as LIMs, and 33% (n=3) were reported as NFAs. Four (n=4) girls, younger than 15,

were found deceased, and 5 boys, younger than 12, were found deceased. One (n=1) child was Asian, 2 children were Black, 1 was Hispanic, and 5 were White.

The 9 children recovered deceased in 2010 were reported missing from their respective homes (n=7) and from the street (n=1). It is unknown where 1 child was last seen.

In 2 cases stepfathers reported the children missing and were later determined to be involved in the children’s deaths. In 1 case the father reported the child missing but was later determined to be involved in the child’s death. In 1 case the father abducted the child and threw her over a bridge. In 1 case the child’s death was ruled to be an accident. In 1 case the child’s mother was the abductor, and in 1 case the friend of the family was the abductor. In 1 case the child was reported to have been abducted but later the child’s mother became a suspect. In 1 case the child was abducted by a nonfamily member in an apparent murder-suicide.

**Table 17: Children Recovered 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
01/14/10	LIM	Black Boy	2	>72 hours	Hoax	Undetermined
01/25/10	FA	White Girl	7	>72 hours	91 Miles	Blunt Force Trauma
02/05/10	NFA	Hispanic Boy	<1	<72 hours	Hoax	Undetermined
02/16/10	LIM	Black Girl	<1	>72 hours	Same City	Drowning
04/21/10	NFA	Asian Boy	<1	<72 hours	Hoax	Asphyxiation
09/18/10	LIM	White Boy	5	<72 hours	Same City	Undetermined
10/09/10	LIM	White Girl	10	>72 hours	8 Miles	Undetermined
10/27/10	NFA	White Girl	15	<72 hours	223 Miles	Gunshot
12/27/10	LIM	White Boy	12	<72 hours	Same City	Undetermined

**AMBER ALERTS INVOLVING VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT**

In 2010 a total of 6 girls involved in 6 AMBER Alert activations were reported to be victims of sexual assault during their abduction. Four (4) girls were White and 2 were Hispanic, ages 8, 11, 12, 14, 14, and 16. The case type at intake included 3 NFAs, 1 FA, 1 LIM, and 1 ERU.

**TEAM ADAM CONSULTANT DEPLOYMENT**

Team Adam is a program of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children providing an on-site response and support system that includes investigative and technical assistance 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 cofounders John and Revé Walsh.

In 2010 Team Adam Consultants were deployed to assist with 42 AMBER Alert cases involving 50 children, with all but 3 children recovered in 1 case. One (1) case involving 1 child was later determined to be unfounded. At intake the case breakdown included 13 FAs, 23 NFAs, and 6 LIMs.

**FBI INVOLVEMENT IN AMBER ALERTS**

The FBI has specialized Child Abduction Rapid Deployment (CARD) Teams designed to deploy teams of 4 to 6 experienced personnel to provide on-the-ground investigative, technical, and resource assistance to state and local law enforcement. The CARD Teams consist of Crimes Against Children Investigators who have in-depth experience in child-abduction cases. The nationwide CARD Team consists of 60 members organized into 10 teams serving 5 regions across the country. They work closely with FBI Behavioral Analysis Unit Representatives, National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime Coordinators, and Crimes Against Children Coordinators. Since the CARD Team’s inception in 2006, the team has deployed approximately 59 times, according to the FBI, to assist law-enforcement agencies where an AMBER Alert or mysterious disappearance of a child has occurred. There were 4 deployments in 2010 for AMBER Alerts.

**COMMAND POST USE IN AMBER ALERTS**

In 2010, 30 AMBER Alert cases were reported as using a command post. Of those 30 cases, 12 cases were intaked as FAs, 13 cases were intaked as NFAs, and 5 cases were intaked as LIMs.

**NATIONAL CRIME INFORMATION CENTER**

The National Crime Information Center (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) mandates NCIC entry must be made by law enforcement within 2 hours of receipt of a report of a missing or abducted child.

Of the 211 children involved in AMBER Alert cases in 2010, information about 164 children was entered into NCIC and information about 47 children was not entered into NCIC.

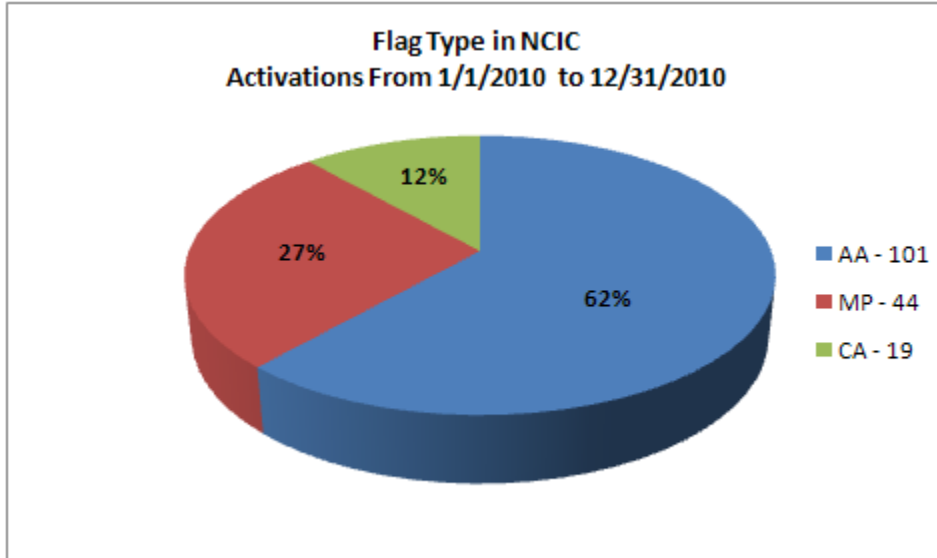
**Table 18: Information Entered in NCIC**

	<b>1/1/2010 - 12/31/2010</b>	<b>1/1/2010 - 12/31/2010 (%)</b>
Information Entered in NCIC	164	78%
Information Not Entered in NCIC	47	22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>100%</b>

Of the 164 children whose information was entered in NCIC from January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2010, 101 children were flagged as an AMBER Alert (AA), 44 children were flagged as a Missing Person (MP), and 19 children were flagged as a Child Abduction (CA).



**Figure 15: Flag Type in NCIC**



NCMEC is the only agency outside of law enforcement granted permission to modify flags in NCIC to AA status for AMBER Alert cases. During the months of January through December 2010, a total of 73 flags were updated in NCIC. Thirty-nine (39) flags were changed from CA to AA, and 23 flags were changed from MP to AA. The flag for 11 children was updated; however, the original flag is unknown. NCMEC made the flag updates for 54 children and law enforcement made the flag updates for 9 children. For 10 children it is unknown who made the update.

The table below shows the Missing-Person Type category for children involved in AMBER Alerts at the time of entry from January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2010.

**Table 19: Missing-Person Type in NCIC**

NCIC Missing-Person Type	1/1/2010 - 12/31/2010	1/1/2010 - 12/31/2010 (%)
Endangered	71	43%
Endangered - Caution	6	4%
Involuntary	46	28%
Involuntary - Caution	2	1%
Juvenile	22	13%
Juvenile - Caution	7	4%
Juvenile - Endangered	1	1%
Other	1	1%
Unknown	8	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>100%</b>

From January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2010, information about 51 children was entered and cancelled from NCIC within 3 hours.

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

	<b>1/1/2010 - 12/31/2010 (Total)</b>	<b>1/1/2010 - 12/31/2010 (Cumulative Total)</b>	<b>1/1/2010 - 12/31/2010 (%)</b>	<b>1/1/2010 - 12/31/2010 (Cumulative %)</b>
Up to 1/2 Hour	14	14	8.5%	8.5%
½+ - 1 Hour	6	20	3.7%	12.2%
1+ Hour - 2 Hours	24	44	14.6%	26.8%
2+ - 3 Hours	7	51	4.3%	31.1%
3+ - 4 Hours	7	58	4.3%	35.4%
4+ - 5 Hours	14	72	8.5%	43.9%
5+ - 6 Hours	10	82	6.1%	50.0%
6+ - 12 Hours	31	113	18.9%	68.9%
12+ - 24 Hours	13	126	7.9%	76.8%
24+ - 48 Hours	8	134	4.9%	81.7%
48+ - 72 Hours	3	137	1.8%	83.5%
72+ Hours	10	147	6.1%	89.6%
Unknown	17	164	10.3%	~100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>164</b>		<b>~100%</b>	

Data collected from the miscellaneous field in NCIC captured information such as abductor threats and use of weapons for 15 children involved in 13 AMBER Alerts issued in 2010. Five (5) abductors were armed with a weapon, 1 abductor had a history of alcohol and/or drug abuse, 1 abductor had a history of mental illness, 2 abductors threatened to kill the child and himself, 1 abductor threatened to kill the child, 1 abductor threatened to kill himself, 1 child was abducted from the scene of a homicide, and 1 abductor threatened to harm the child.

Of the 164 children whose information was entered in NCIC, 51% (n=83) NCIC entries indicated a vehicle was involved in the AMBER Alert. For 49% (n=81) of NCIC records it is unknown whether a vehicle was involved because no vehicle information was entered.

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. In addition law enforcement cannot search for license-plate information in NCIC if the vehicle information is entered only in the miscellaneous field.

License-plate information was available and entered in NCIC for 76 children. Of those 70 children's records had license-plate information entered in the vehicle field only, and in 6 children's records the license-plate information was entered in the miscellaneous field only.

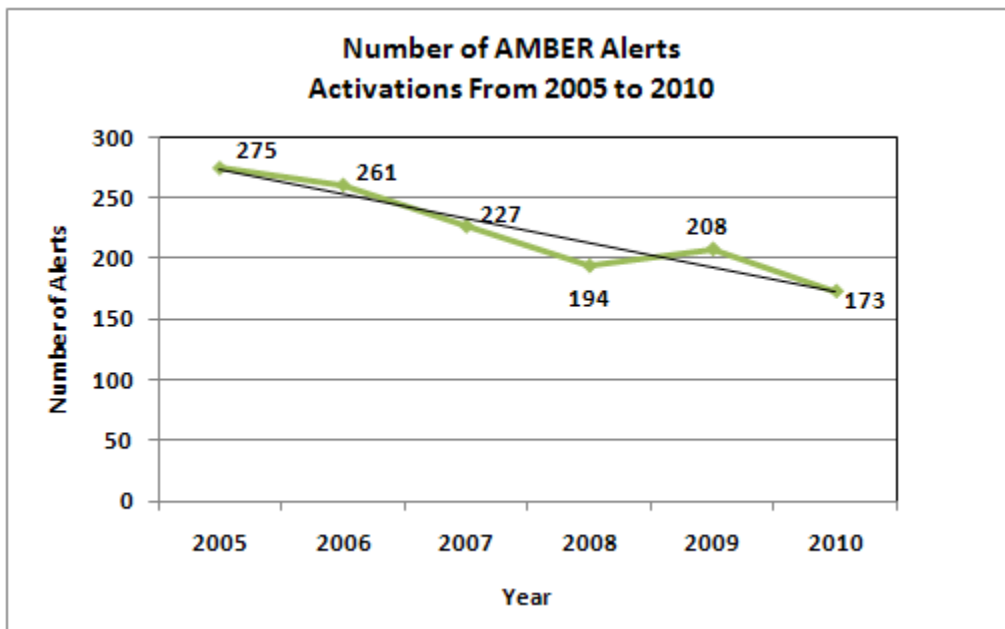
## COMPARISON OF AMBER ALERTS ISSUED FROM 2005 TO 2010

### Number of AMBER Alerts and Children Involved

The number of AMBER Alerts has shown a downward trend with an overall decrease of 37% from 2005 to 2010.

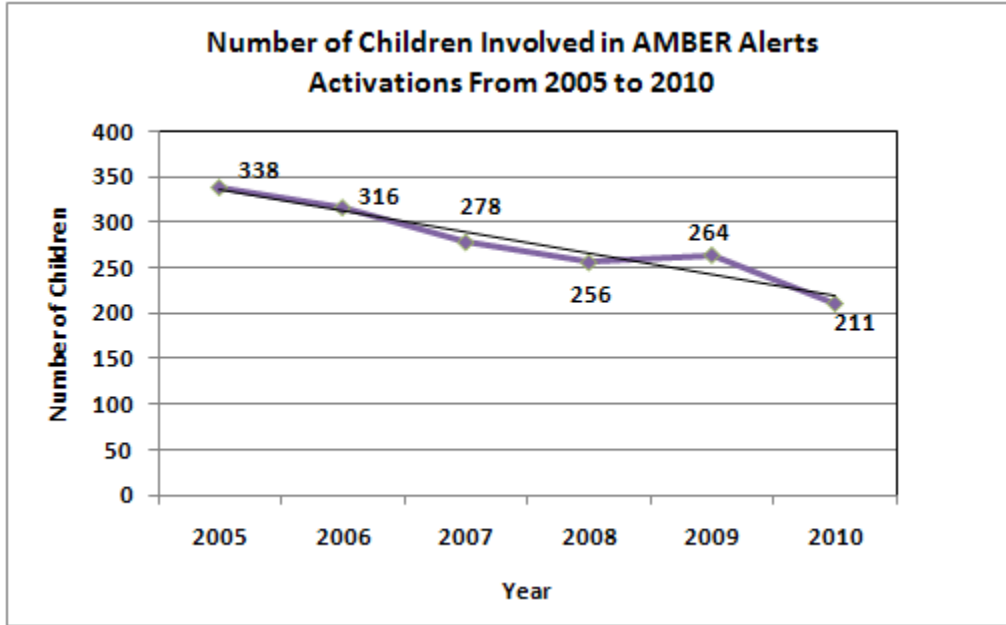
In 2005, 275 AMBER Alerts were issued involving 338 children; in 2006, 261 Alerts were issued involving 316 children; in 2007, 227 Alerts were issued involving 278 children; in 2008 there were 194 Alerts involving 256 children; in 2009 there were 208 Alerts involving 264 children;<sup>2</sup> and in 2010 there were 173 Alerts involving 211 children.

**Figure 16: Number of AMBER Alerts From 2005 to 2010**



<sup>2</sup>The statistics from 2009 were amended to include 1 AMBER Alert involving 1 child.

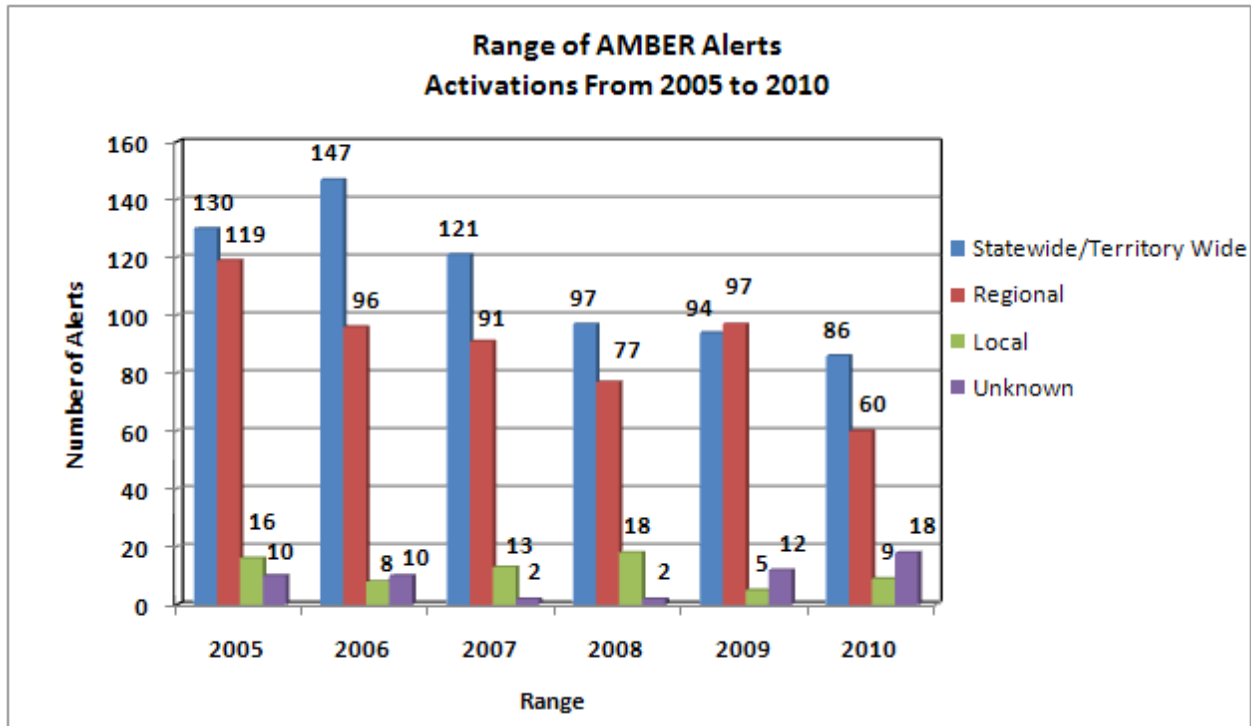
**Figure 17: Number of Children Involved in AMBER Alerts From 2005 to 2010**



**AMBER Alerts by Range**

From 2005 to 2010 AMBER Alerts were predominantly issued statewide/territory wide, followed by regional Alerts and then local Alerts.

**Figure 18: Range of AMBER Alerts From 2005 to 2010**



## Multistate/Territorial AMBER Alerts

The number of multistate/territorial AMBER Alerts consistently decreased over the years of 2005, 2006, and 2007. In 2005 there were 21 such Alerts, in 2006 there were 11 such Alerts, and in 2007 there were 6 such Alerts. In 2008 there was an increase of such Alerts with a total of 14, and in 2009 a decrease with a total of 12 Alerts. In 2010 there was a slight increase with 14 multistate Alerts issued.

## Number of Cases at Intake by Month

**Table 21: Number of Cases by Month From 2005 to 2010**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2005	23	24	20	23	22	19	25	19	28	29	22	21
2006	17	21	19	21	24	36	21	25	20	20	22	15
2007	21	13	24	13	21	20	23	15	22	20	14	21
2008	8	20	13	14	20	27	13	16	13	26	14	10
2009	16	17	23	15	17	16	22	20	22	12	18	10
2010	16	16	16	14	13	11	22	8	13	20	11	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>90</b>

**Table 22: Cases and Percent Increase/Decrease by Month From 2005 to 2010**

	2005	Percent Change	2006	Percent Change	2007	Percent Change	2008	Percent Change	2009	Percent Change	2010
Jan	23	-26%	17	24%	21	-62%	8	100%	16	0%	16
Feb	24	-13%	21	-38%	13	54%	20	-15%	17	-6%	16
Mar	20	-5%	19	26%	24	-46%	13	77%	23	-30%	16
Apr	23	-9%	21	-38%	13	8%	14	7%	15	-7%	14
May	22	9%	24	-13%	21	-5%	20	-15%	17	-24%	13
Jun	19	90%	36	-44%	20	35%	27	-41%	16	-31%	11
Jul	25	-16%	21	10%	23	-44%	13	69%	22	0%	22
Aug	19	32%	25	-40%	15	7%	16	19%	20	-60%	8
Sept	28	-29%	20	10%	22	-41%	13	69%	22	-41%	13
Oct	29	-31%	20	0%	20	30%	26	-54%	12	67%	20
Nov	22	0%	22	-36%	14	0%	14	29%	18	-39%	11
Dec	21	-29%	15	40%	21	-52%	10	0%	10	30%	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>-13%</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>-15%</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>-17%</b>	<b>173</b>

## Case Type at Intake

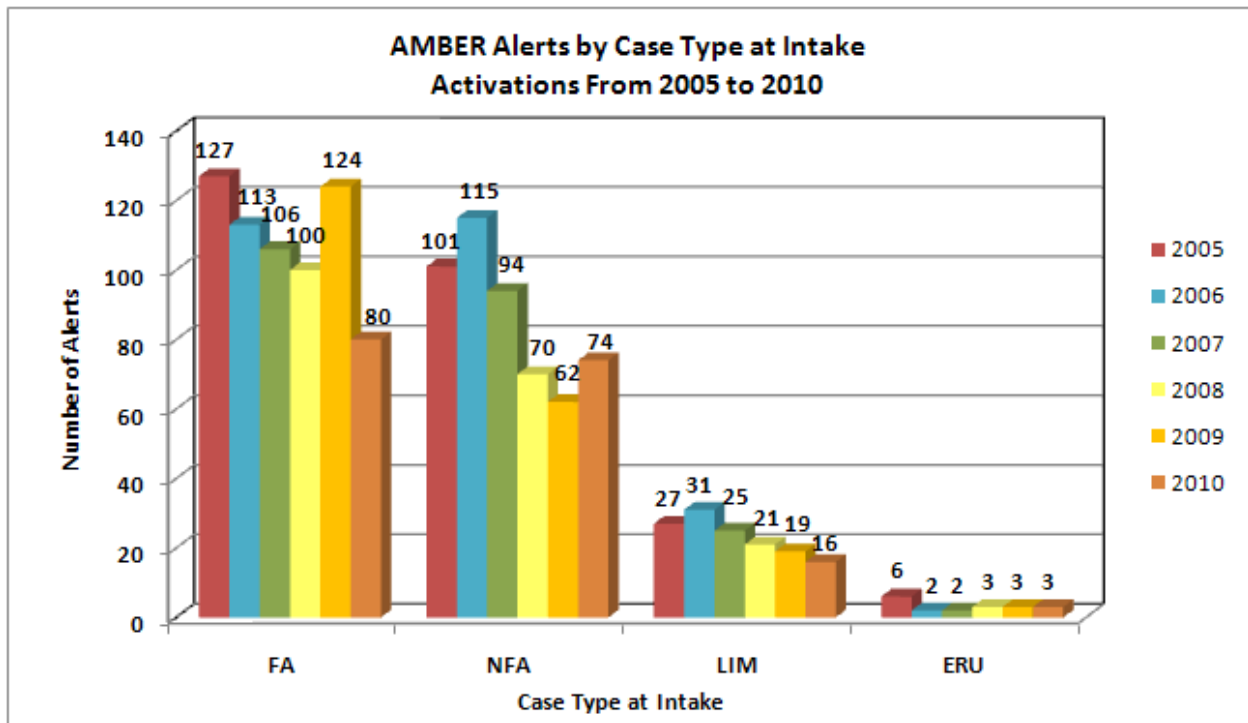
The number of cases intaked as FAs decreased 21% from 2005 to 2008. The number of FAs sharply increased 24% with 124 Alerts in 2009, and then decreased 36% from 2009 to 2010.

For NFAs there was an increase of cases from 2005 to 2006, with 101 Alerts and 115 Alerts respectively. In 2007 the number of NFAs dropped below 2005 levels to 94 Alerts. In 2008 and 2009 the number of NFAs dropped further to 70 and 62 Alerts respectively. In 2010 the number of NFAs increased to 74.

The number of cases intaked as LIMs has decreased almost 50% from 2006 to 2010 with 31, 25, 21, 19, and 16 Alerts respectively issued.

ERUs were issued at a high of 6 Alerts in 2005 and then decreased to 2 Alerts for both 2006 and 2007. From 2008 to 2010 the number of ERUs increased to 3 Alerts for each year.

**Figure 19: AMBER Alerts by Case Type at Intake From 2005 to 2010**



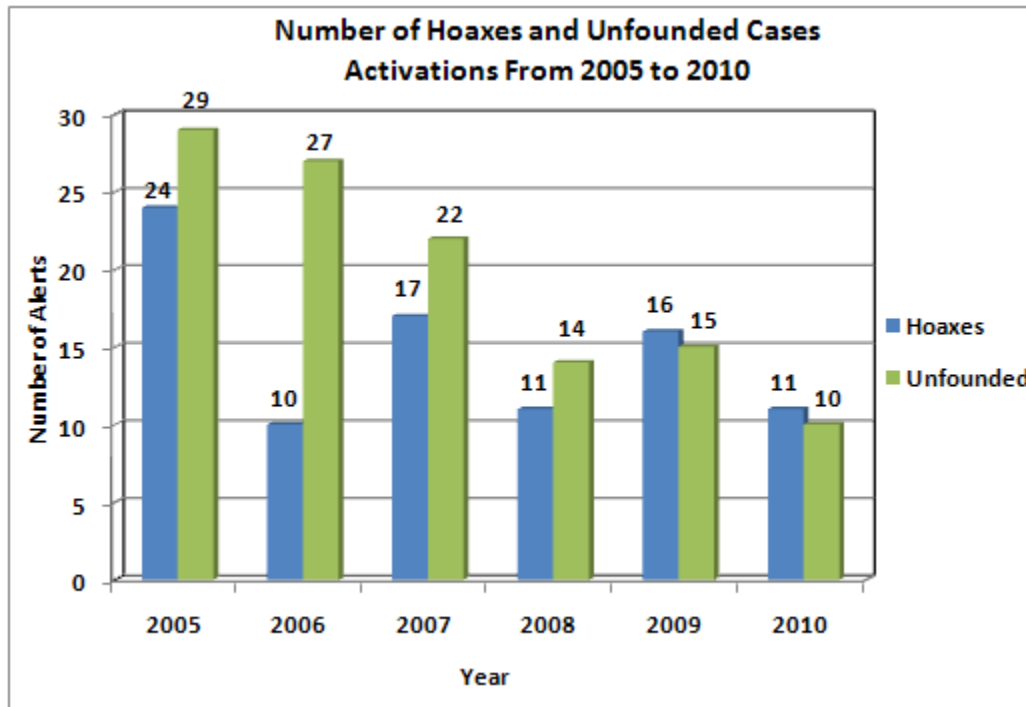
**Table 23: Cases and Percent Increase/Decrease by Case Type From 2005 to 2010**

	2005	% +/-	2006	% +/-	2007	% +/-	2008	% +/-	2009	% +/-	2010
FA	127	-11%	113	-6%	106	-6%	100	24%	124	-36%	80
NFA	101	14%	115	-18%	94	-26%	70	-11%	62	19%	74
LIM	27	15%	31	-19%	25	-16%	21	-10%	19	-16%	16
ERU	6	-67%	2	0%	2	50%	3	0%	3	0%	3
N/A	14	-100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>-13%</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>-15%</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>-17%</b>	<b>173</b>

## Hoaxes and Unfounded Cases

The number of hoaxes has decreased 54% from 2005 to 2010 with 24 and 11 cases respectively. The number of unfounded cases decreased 66% from 2005 to 2010 with 29 and 10 cases respectively.

**Figure 20: Number of Hoaxes and Unfounded Cases From 2005 to 2010**

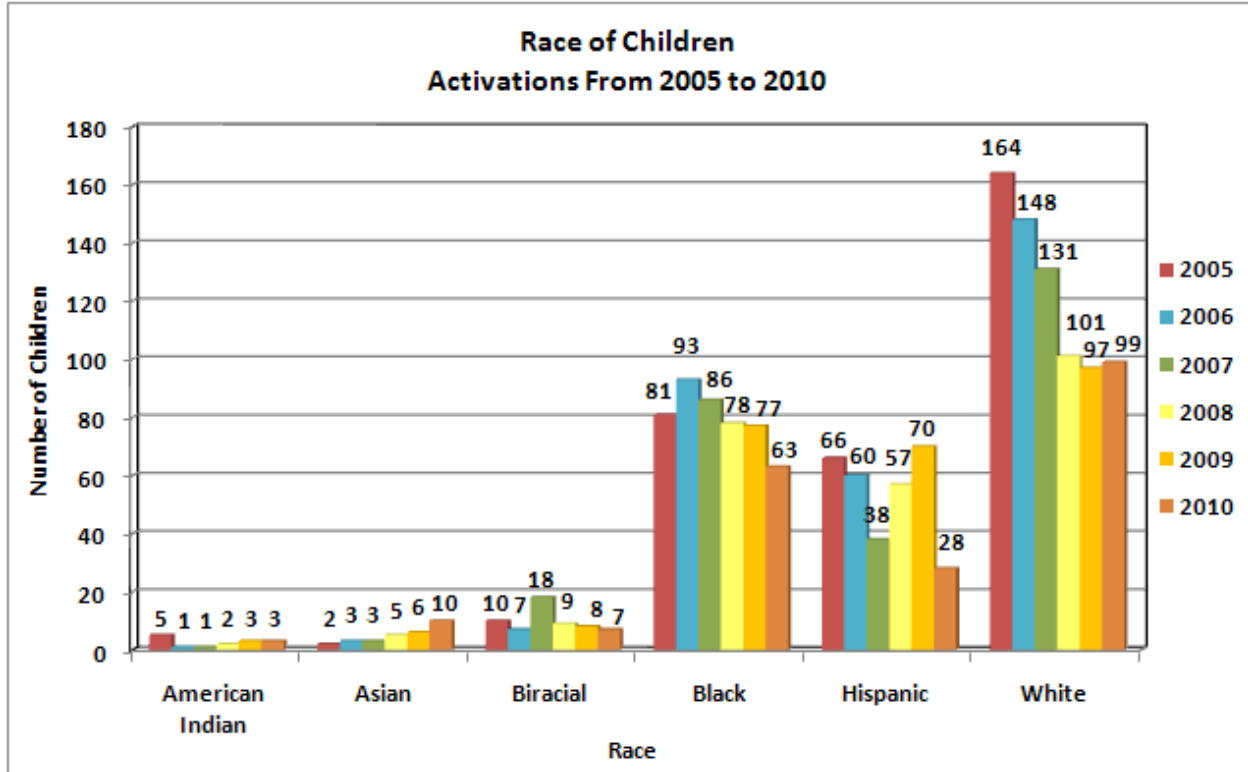


## Number and Characteristics of Children Involved in AMBER Alerts

Girls were more frequently involved in AMBER Alerts than boys from 2005 to 2010. In 2005 girls made up 55% (n=185) of children involved in AMBER Alerts and boys represented 45% (n=153); in 2006 girls represented 57% (n=181) and boys 43% (n=135); in 2007 girls represented 53% (n=148) and boys 47% (n=130); in 2008 girls represented 58% (n=148) and boys comprised 42% (n=108) of children involved in AMBER Alerts; and in 2009 girls represented 57% (n=150) and boys comprised 43% (n=114). In 2010 girls represented 53% (n=112) of children involved in AMBER Alerts, compared to boys who comprised 47% (n=99).

The number of American Indian children involved in AMBER Alerts ranged between 1 child and 5 children from 2005 to 2010. The number of Asian children increased from 2005 to 2010 (n= 2, 3, 3, 5, 6, and 10). The number of Biracial children decreased in 2006 (n=7) from 10 in 2005, increased in 2007 (n=18), and then decreased from 2008 to 2010 (n=9, 8, and 7). For Black children there was an increase in 2006 (n=93) from 81 in 2005, then respective decreases (n=86, 78, 77, and 63) from 2007 through 2010. This resulted in an overall decrease of 32% from 2006 to 2010. The number of Hispanic children saw a 58% decrease from 2005 to 2010 (n=66 and 28) and then saw a sharp increase in 2008 and 2009 (n=57 and 70). The number of White children decreased 40% (n=164) and (n=99) from 2005 to 2010.

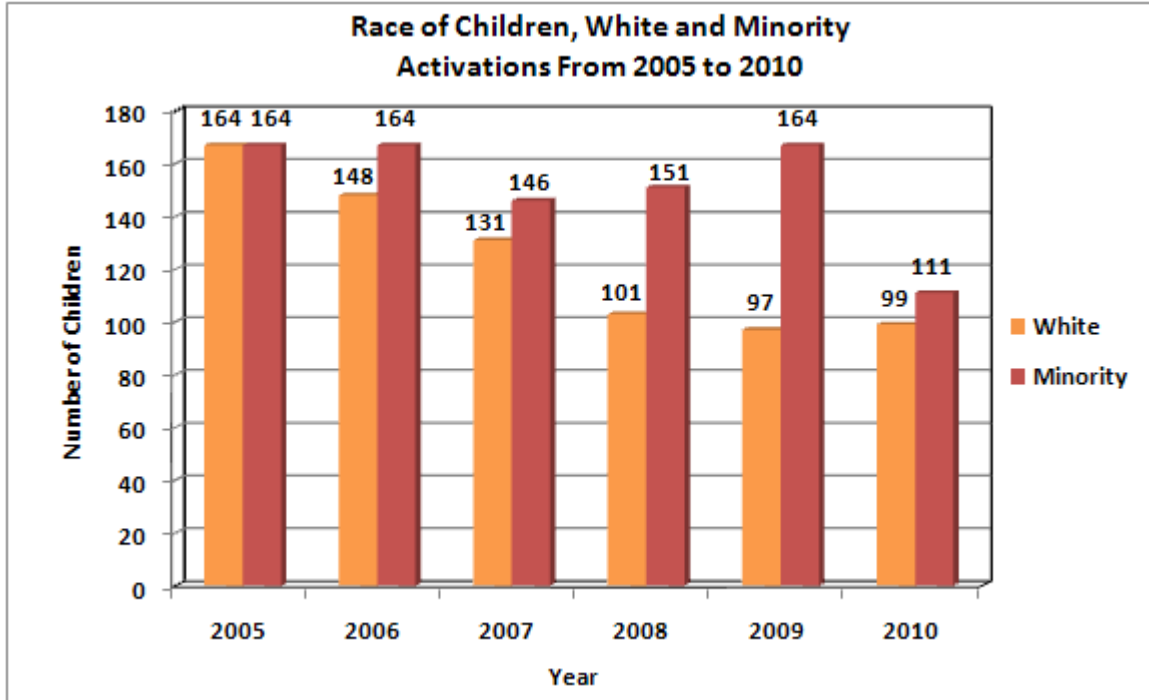
Figure 21: Race of Children From 2005 to 2010



An equal number of White and Minority children (n=164) were involved in AMBER Alert activations in 2005. From 2006 to 2010 Minority children were involved in AMBER Alerts more frequently than White children.



**Figure 22: Race of Children, White and Minority From 2005 to 2010**



**International Abductions**

In 2005, 4 children were found in Mexico and 1 child was found in the Republic of Lebanon. In 2006, 2 children were recovered in Mexico and 2 children were recovered in Honduras. In 2007 there were no AMBER Alerts issued for international abductions. In 2008 there were 5 AMBER Alert activations that resulted in international abductions. In 3 cases the 4 children involved were recovered in Mexico. In 1 case the child involved was recovered in Canada, and in 1 case the child involved was recovered in Romania. In 2009 there were 6 AMBER Alert activations that resulted in an international abduction, all of which were recoveries in Mexico. In 2010, 3 AMBER Alert activations involving 3 children resulted in an international abduction. Two (2) cases involved recoveries in Mexico and 1 case involved a recovery in Canada.

**Children Recovered Deceased**

A total of 57 children who were involved in AMBER Alerts issued from 2005 to 2010 were recovered deceased. The number of children recovered deceased from 2005 to 2007 decreased with 15 children in 2005, 10 children in 2006, and 6 children in 2007. In 2008, 2009, and 2010 there was an increase with 8, 9, and 9 children respectively recovered deceased.

Children intaked as LIMs consistently make up the largest number of case types for children who were recovered deceased since 2005. The percentage of children who were recovered deceased in AMBER Alert cases and were intaked as LIMs increased from 2005 to 2007. Fifty-three percent (53%) of children (n=8) were LIMs in 2005, 60% (n=6) in 2006, and 83% (n=5) in 2007. In 2008 there was a decrease in LIMs (n=4) at 50%. In 2009 and 2010 there was an increase in LIMs (n=5) at 56%.

**Table 24: Number of Children Recovered Deceased From 2005 to 2010**

Case Type at Intake	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
FA	2	1	0	3	4	1	11
NFA	5	3	1	1	0	3	13
LIM	8	6	5	4	5	5	33
ERU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>57</b>

**National Crime Information Center (NCIC)**

In 2005 information about 69% (n=233) of children involved in AMBER Alerts was entered into NCIC. In 2006 similar rates of entry were shown with 68% of children (n=215) having information entered into NCIC. In 2007 and 2008 there was an increase of information entered about children in NCIC at 73% (n=204) and 80% (n=206) respectively. In 2009, 78% (n=207) of children’s information was entered in NCIC. In 2010, 78% (n=164) of children’s information was entered in NCIC. The AA flag has been the predominant flag type since 2005 ranging between 101 and 120 flags.

The frequency of vehicle involvement in AMBER Alerts was predominantly documented for 2005 (n=126), 2006 (n=141), and 2007 (n=124); however, in 2008 (n=111) there were more children where it was unknown whether or not a vehicle was involved in the Alert. In 2009, 110 cases involved a vehicle and in 2010, 83 cases involved a vehicle.

**Figure 23: Vehicle Involvement in AMBER Alerts From 2005 to 2010**

