National Center for Missing & Exploited Children®

2015 AMBER Alert report

Analysis of AMBER Alert cases in 2015

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Introduction

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

This program was eventually taken to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, known as NCMEC, with a request for a national initiative. It then became known as America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response or the AMBER Plan, which allows broadcasters and transportation authorities to immediately distribute information about recent child abductions to the public and enables the entire community to assist in the search for and safe recovery of the child. What began as a local effort in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas area has grown into a seamless system of such programs in every state across the country. Each year these alerts help safely recover abducted children. Since the inception of the program in 1996 through Dec. 31, 2015, 813 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.

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]

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[1]*National Strategy*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, www.amberalert.gov/ntl_strategy.htm, accessed Feb. 26, 2016.

AMBER Alert definitions

This report presents information about AMBER Alerts issued throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands from Jan. 1, 2015, through Dec. 31, 2015, and intaked by NCMEC. Although an AMBER Alert case may be activated in multiple areas, this report only accounts for alerts in the state/territory of first activation. This report analyzes cases according to the case type for which the AMBER Alert was issued, not the case type at the time of recovery.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Summary of AMBER Alerts

From Jan. 1, 2015, to Dec. 31, 2015, 182 AMBER Alerts were issued in the U.S. involving 224 children.

At the time the AMBER Alert cases were intaked at NCMEC there were 121 FAs, 47 NFAs, eight LIMs and six ERUs. Fourteen cases were later determined to be hoaxes, and 13 cases were later determined to be unfounded.

Of the 182 AMBER Alerts issued from Jan. 1, 2015, to Dec. 31, 2015, 153 cases resulted in a recovery, 50 of which were successfully recovered as a direct result of an AMBER Alert being issued. As of Feb. 26, 2016, when statistics for this report were finalized, for the AMBER Alerts issued in 2015, two children remained actively missing and eight children were located deceased.

AMBER Alerts by range

In 2015, 59 percent (n=107) of AMBER Alerts were issued state-/territory wide, 38 percent (n=69) of AMBER Alerts were issued regionally and 3 percent (n=6) were issued locally.

Figure 1: Range of AMBER Alerts
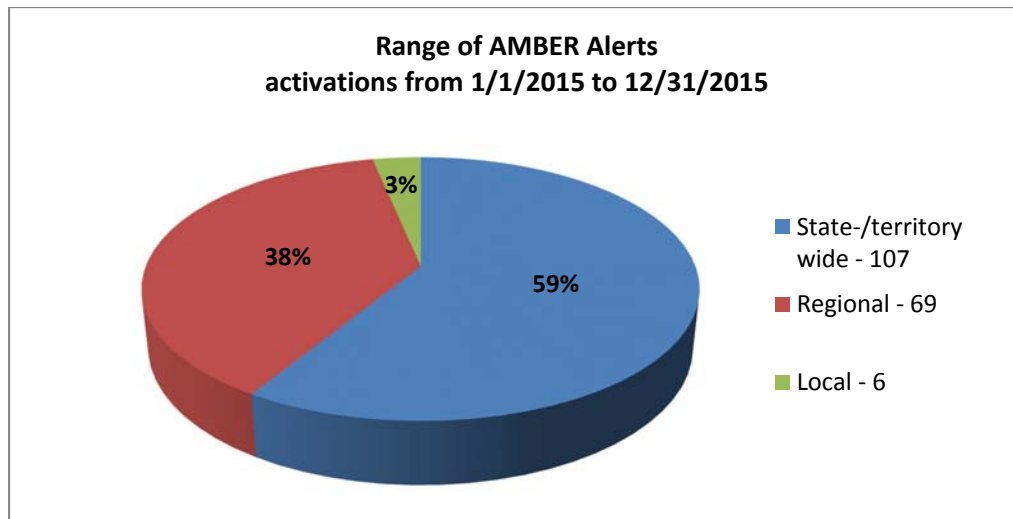
AMBER Alerts by state/territory

From Jan. 1, 2015, to Dec. 31, 2015, 182 AMBER Alerts were issued in 44 states. Texas issued the most AMBER Alerts with 15 percent (n=27) followed by California and Georgia with 7 percent each (n=13 and 13).

Table 1: Number and percent of AMBER Alert cases by state/territory

State/territory	Number of alerts	Percent
Texas	27	15
California and Georgia	13 each	7 each
Ohio	11	6
New York	10	5
Michigan	9	5
Washington	7	4
Florida and North Carolina	6 each	3 each
Iowa, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee and Wisconsin	5 each	3 each
Arizona and Illinois	4 each	2 each
Alabama, Colorado, Maryland and Nebraska	3 each	2 each
Delaware, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon and South Carolina	2 each	1 each
Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, Indiana, Kentucky, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Utah, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia	1 each	0.5 each
District of Columbia, Hawaii, Maine, Nevada, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, U.S. Virgin Islands and Wyoming	0 each	0 each
Total	**182**	**~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 2015 nine 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
Delaware	New Jersey and Ohio
Idaho	Oregon and Washington
Indiana	Michigan
Missouri	Tennessee
Missouri	Texas
New York	New Jersey
Tennessee	Ohio
Vermont	New York

Originating	Extending
Washington	Oregon

In one case one child was recovered in the state where the alert originated, in five cases six children were recovered in the extending state, and in two cases two children were recovered in neither the originating state nor the extending state. In one case involving two children, one child was recovered in the originating state, while the other child was recovered in the extending state.

Figure 2: Multistate/territory AMBER Alert recoveries
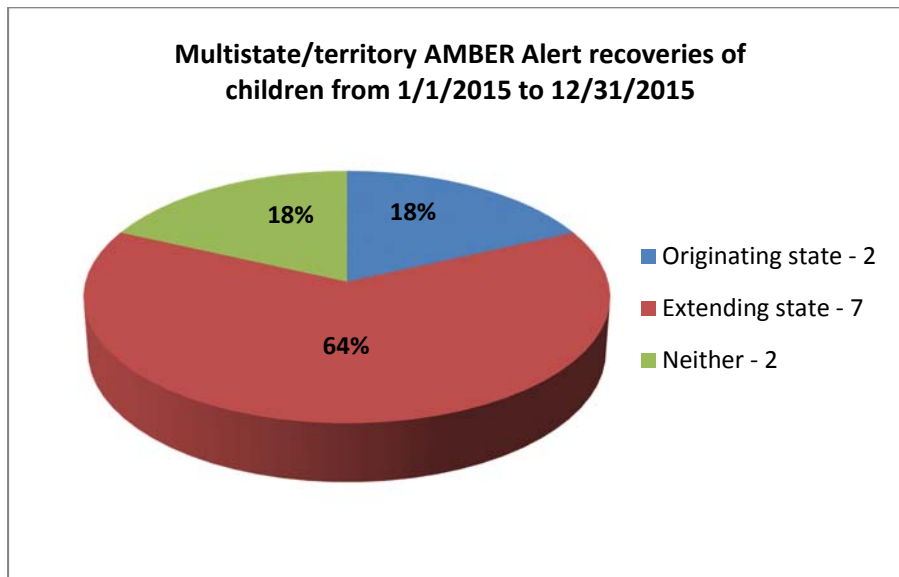
AMBER Alerts by case type at intake

In 2015, 66 percent (n=121) of AMBER Alert cases were intaked as FAs, 26 percent (n=47) were NFAs, 4 percent (n=8) were LIMs and 3 percent (n=6) were ERUs.

Figure 3: AMBER Alerts by case type

AMBER Alerts by case type
activations from 1/1/2015 to 12/31/2015

4%   3%

26%

66%

- FA - 121
- NFA - 47
- LIM - 8
- ERU - 6
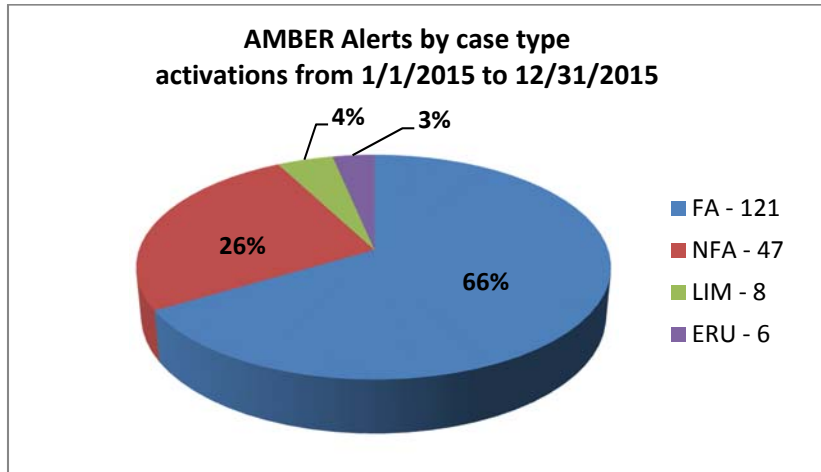
Number of cases by month

In 2015 the number of AMBER Alerts issued per month ranged from a low of eight alerts in April to a high of 22 alerts in October.

Figure 4: Number of AMBER Alert cases by month

Number of AMBER Alert cases by month
activations from 1/1/2015 to 12/31/2015

Month	Value
Jan	11
Feb	9
Mar	19
Apr	8
May	17
Jun	15
Jul	19
Aug	17
Sep	18
Oct	22
Nov	14
Dec	13
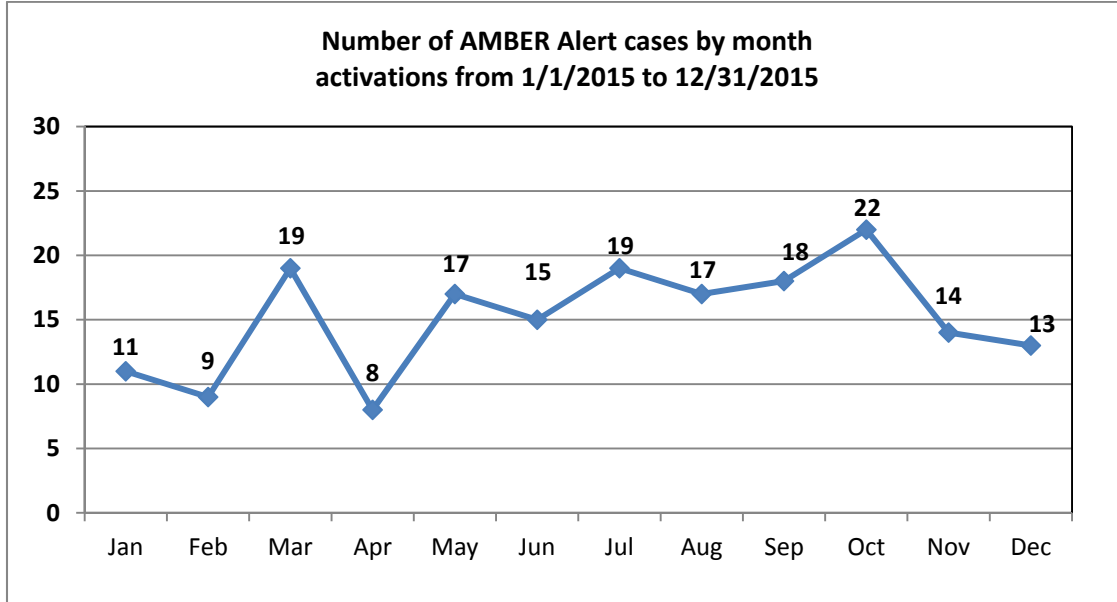
Number of case types at intake by month

In 2015 AMBER Alerts were issued most frequently for FAs (n=14) in March and October. The highest number of NFAs (n=8) occurred in the month of October. AMBER Alerts for LIMs (n=2) were the most frequently issued in August. There was one AMBER Alert for ERUs in the months of March, June, July, August, September and November.

Table 3: Number of case types by month

	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU	Total	Total percent
Jan	9	2	0	0	11	6
Feb	5	4	0	0	9	5
Mar	14	4	0	1	19	10
Apr	4	4	0	0	8	4
May	11	5	1	0	17	9
Jun	11	2	1	1	15	8
Jul	10	7	1	1	19	10
Aug	13	1	2	1	17	9
Sep	13	3	1	1	18	10
Oct	14	8	0	0	22	12
Nov	10	2	1	1	14	8
Dec	7	5	1	0	13	7
Total	**121**	**47**	**8**	**6**	**182**	**~100**

Number of children by case type at intake by month

In 2015, 224 children were involved in 182 AMBER Alert cases. Sixty-nine percent (n=155) of children were intaked as FAs followed by 24 percent (n=53) of children intaked as NFAs. Four percent (n=10) were intaked as LIMs and 3 percent (n=6) were ERUs.

Children intaked as FAs were most frequently involved in AMBER Alerts during the months of March and October (n=19). The highest number of children intaked as NFAs (n=9) occurred in the month of October. AMBER Alerts for LIMs (n=2) were most frequently issued in August, November and December. One child was intaked as an ERU in the months of March, June, July, August, September and November.

Table 4: Number of children by case type by month

	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU	Total	Total percent
Jan	10	2	0	0	12	5
Feb	6	5	0	0	11	5
Mar	19	5	0	1	25	11
Apr	6	4	0	0	10	4

	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU	Total	Total percent
May	14	5	1	0	20	9
Jun	15	3	1	1	20	9
Jul	17	7	1	1	26	12
Aug	15	1	2	1	19	8
Sep	14	3	1	1	19	8
Oct	19	9	0	0	28	13
Nov	13	2	2	1	18	8
Dec	7	7	2	0	16	7
Total	**155**	**53**	**10**	**6**	**224**	**~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 2015, 8 percent (n=14) of AMBER Alerts issued involving 16 children were later determined to be hoaxes. Seventy-one percent (n=10) of hoaxes were originally intaked as NFAs followed by FAs at 21 percent (n=3) and LIMs at 7 percent (n=1).

In 50 percent (n=7) of hoaxes, false information was provided by the child's parent and 36 percent (n=5) was provided by the child involved. Additionally 7 percent (n=1) was provided by the boyfriend of the child's mother and 7 percent (n=1) was provided by an abductor who had no relationship to the child.

Figure 5: Number of hoaxes by case type at intake
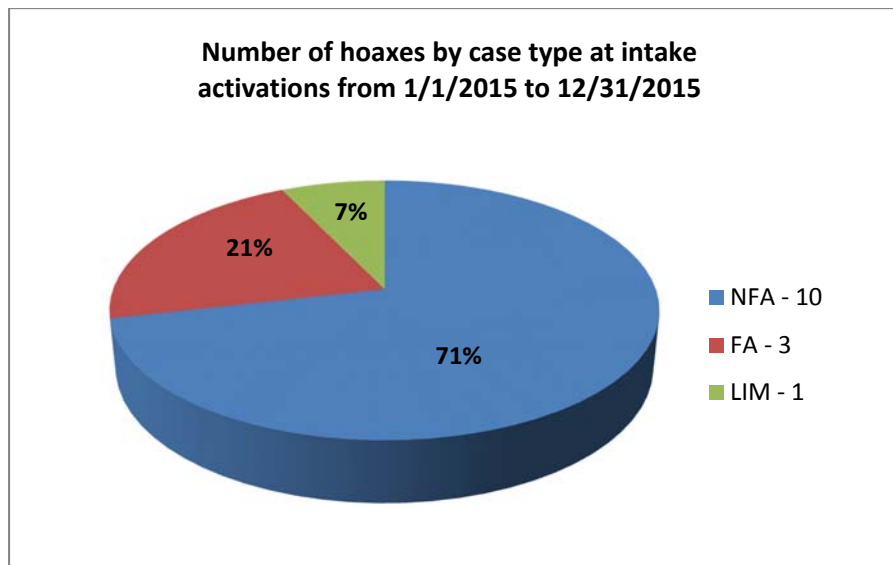
Of the 14 cases determined to be hoaxes, 12 cases had known locations from which the children involved were reported missing. Of those cases 42 percent (n=5) were reported missing from home, 33 percent

(n=4) were reported missing from a retail store, 8 percent each (n=1, 1 and 1) were reported missing from a religious facility, a restaurant and the street.

Children involved in hoaxes

In 2015, 14 AMBER Alerts involving 16 children were later determined to be hoaxes. Fifty-six percent (n=9) of children involved in hoaxes were girls, whereas boys represented 44 percent (n=7) of children involved in hoaxes. Fifty-six percent (n=5) of the girls involved in these hoaxes were 12 years old or older. All seven boys involved in hoaxes were 7 years old or younger.

Table 5: Age and sex of children involved in hoaxes

Age	Girls	Boys
<1	2	0
1	0	3
2	0	1
3	0	0
4	1	0
5	0	0
6	1	1
7	0	2
8	0	0
9	0	0
10	0	0
11	0	0
12	1	0
13	0	0
14	1	0
15	1	0
16	0	0
17	2	0
18	0	0
Total	**9**	**7**

Table 6: Age and case type at intake of children involved in hoaxes

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

Age	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU
6	1	1	0	0
7	0	1	1	0
8	0	0	0	0
9	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	0	0
11	0	0	0	0
12	1	0	0	0
13	0	0	0	0
14	1	0	0	0
15	1	0	0	0
16	0	0	0	0
17	2	0	0	0
18	0	0	0	0
Total	**11**	**4**	**1**	**0**

Cases determined to be unfounded

A case is determined to be unfounded when a child is reported missing based on available information at the time, but the investigation determines a child was never missing. Thirteen AMBER Alerts involving 22 children were determined to be unfounded, representing 7 percent of the total number of AMBER Alerts issued in 2015. These unfounded cases were originally intaked as FAs at 38 percent (n=5), NFAs at 38 percent (n=5), LIMs at 15 percent (n=2) and ERUs at 8 percent (n=1).

Figure 6: Unfounded cases by case type at intake
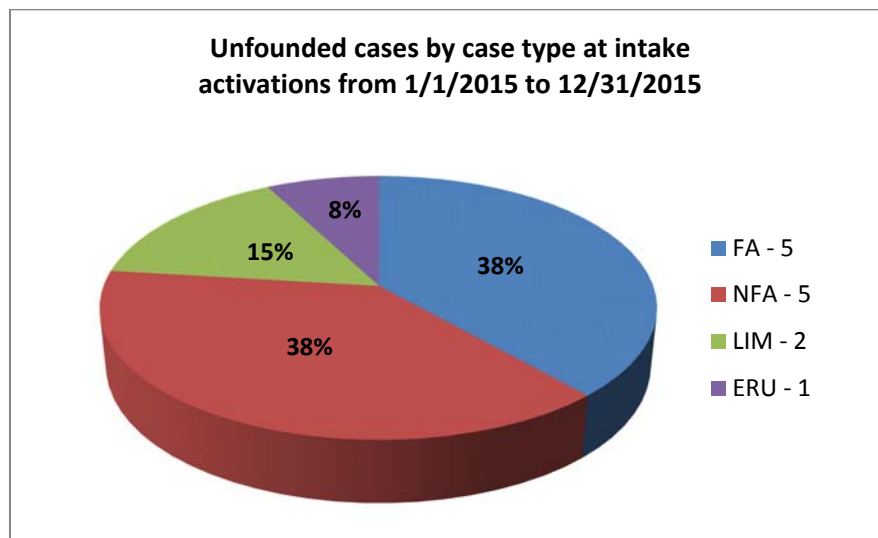
Children involved in unfounded cases

In 2015, 13 AMBER Alerts involving 22 children were later determined to be unfounded. Boys represented 68 percent (n=15) whereas girls represented 32 percent (n=7) of all children involved in unfounded cases. Of the 15 boys involved in unfounded cases, 73 percent (n=11) ranged from 4 to 9 years of age. Of the seven girls involved in unfounded cases, 71 percent (n=5) ranged from 1 to 7 years of age.

Table 7: Age and sex of children involved in unfounded cases

Age	Girls	Boys
<1	0	2
1	2	0
2	0	2
3	1	0
4	0	4
5	1	1
6	0	0
7	1	2
8	0	2
9	0	2
10	0	0
11	0	0
12	0	0
13	0	0
14	0	0
15	0	0
16	1	0
17	0	0
18	1	0
Total	**7**	**15**

Table 8: Age and case type at intake of children involved in unfounded cases

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

Age	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU
9	1	0	1	0
10	0	0	0	0
11	0	0	0	0
12	0	0	0	0
13	0	0	0	0
14	0	0	0	0
15	0	0	0	0
16	0	0	0	1
17	0	0	0	0
18	0	1	0	0
Total	**13**	**6**	**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 2015, 85 percent (n=155) of AMBER Alert cases were secondarily distributed whereas 15 percent (n=27) 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 102 FAs, 40 NFAs, seven LIMs and six ERUs. Ten NFAs, three FAs and one LIM were later determined to be hoaxes. Three FAs, two NFAs, one LIM and one ERU were subsequently identified as unfounded.

Number and characteristics of children reported missing

Children involved in AMBER Alert activations were statistically evenly distributed for boys at 50 percent (n=112), compared to girls who also represented 50 percent (n=112).

Forty-six percent (n=103) of children involved in AMBER Alerts were White, 31 percent (n=70) were Black, 17 percent (n=39) were Hispanic, 3 percent (n=6) were Biracial, 1 percent (n=3) were American Indian and 1 percent (n=3) were Asian. AMBER Alerts were issued at a rate of 46 percent (n=103) for White children whereas minority children represented 54 percent (n=121).

Figure 7: AMBER Alerts by race of children

AMBER Alerts by race of children
activations from 1/1/2015 to 12/31/2015

- American Indian - 3
- Asian - 3
- Biracial - 6
- Black - 70
- Hispanic - 39
- White - 103

1% 1% 3%
46% 31% 17%
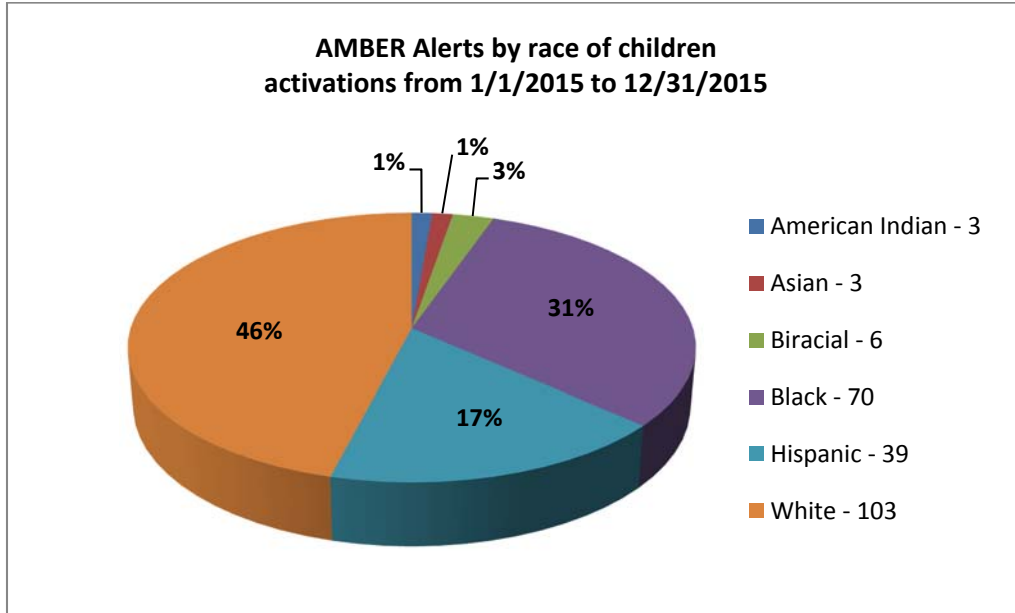
Figure 8: Race of children, White and Minority

Race of children, White and Minority
activations from 1/1/2015 to 12/31/2015

54% 46%

- White - 103
- Minority - 121
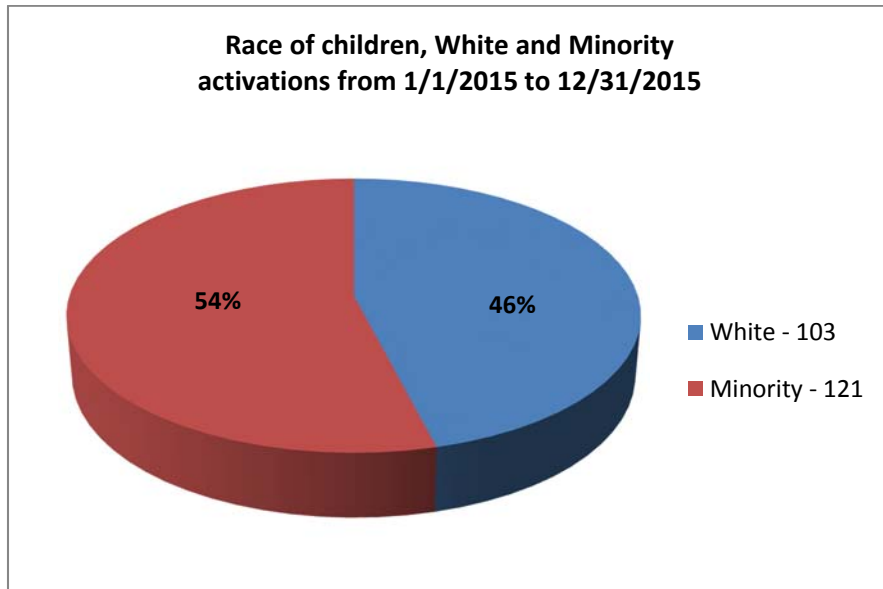
Boys and girls who were 7 years old and younger represented 74 percent (n=166) of the children who were reported missing with known ages. Of all children reported missing, boys (n=15) and girls (n=17) 1 year of age were most frequently involved in AMBER Alerts.

Figure 9: Age of children when missing
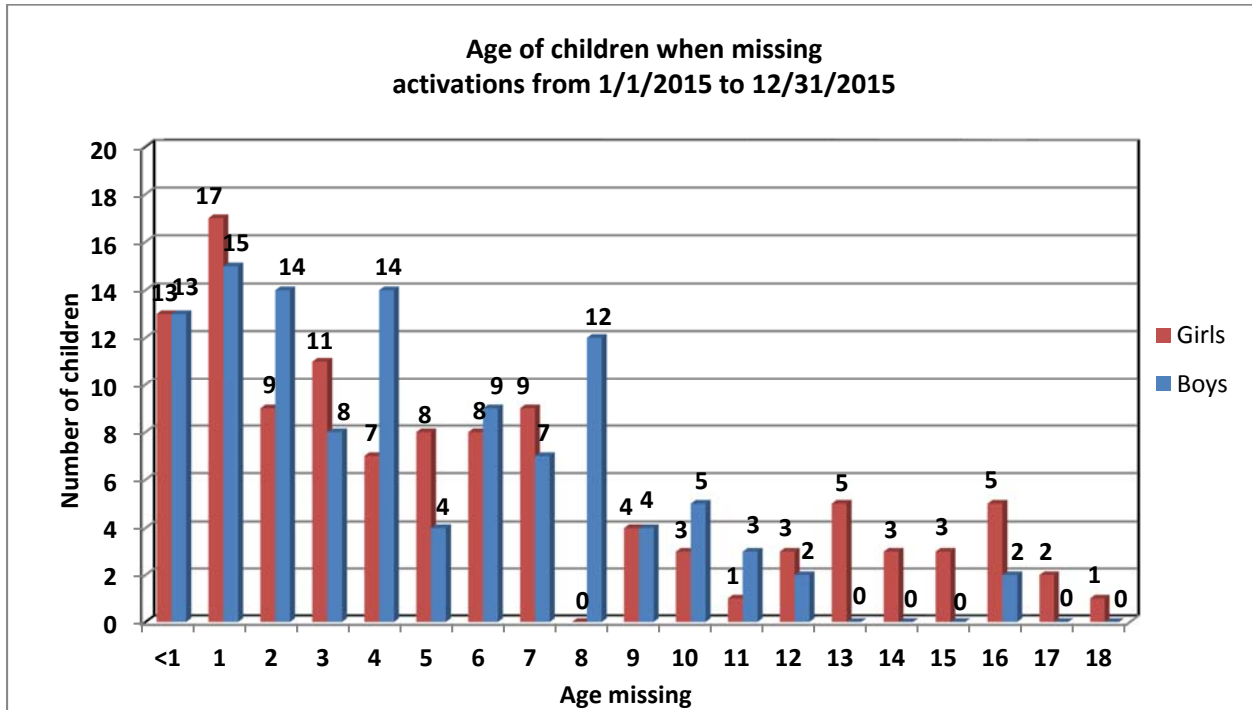
Number and characteristics of abductors

In 2015, 185 abductors were identified as being involved in 157 AMBER Alert cases.

The majority of abductors were male at 60 percent (n=111), and 38 percent (n=71) of abductors were female. The sex of three abductors was unknown.

Forty percent (n=74) of abductors were White, 31 percent (n=57) of abductors were Black, 13 percent (n=24) of abductors were Hispanic, 3 percent (n=5) of abductors were Asian and 1 percent (n=1) of abductors was Biracial. The race for 13 percent (n=24) was unknown.

Abductors with a known relationship to the child

Of the 185 abductors involved in AMBER Alerts in 2015, 141 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 121 FA cases 122 abductors involved had known relationships with the children. They consisted of three aunts, one brother, 54 fathers, two father's girlfriends, one friend/classmate, one grandfather, three grandmothers, 44 mothers, four mother's boyfriends, three other relatives, one sister, two stepfathers and three uncles.

Of the 47 NFA cases 17 abductors involved had known relationships with the children. For the remaining cases either there was no relationship or the relationship was unknown. The abductors consisted of one baby sitter, two boyfriends, one brother, one ex-boyfriend, one father, two friends/classmates, two friends of the family, five mother's boyfriends, one teacher/coach and one uncle.

Of the eight LIM cases two abductors involved had known relationships with the children. They consisted of 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	0	0	3	2
Baby sitter	0	0	1	6	0	0	1	1
Boyfriend	0	0	2	12	0	0	2	1
Brother	1	1	1	6	0	0	2	1
Ex-boyfriend	0	0	1	6	0	0	1	1
Father	54	44	1	6	1	50	56	40
Father's girlfriend	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	1
Friend/classmate	1	1	2	12	0	0	3	2
Friend of family	0	0	2	12	0	0	2	1
Grandfather	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Grandmother	3	2	0	0	0	0	3	2
Mother	44	36	0	0	0	0	44	31
Mother's boyfriend	4	3	5	29	1	50	10	7
Other relative	3	2	0	0	0	0	3	2
Sister	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Stepfather	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	1
Teacher/coach	0	0	1	6	0	0	1	1
Uncle	3	2	1	6	0	0	4	3
Total	**122**	**~100**	**17**	**~100**	**2**	**100**	**141**	**~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 137 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-eight AMBER Alerts were issued within three or fewer hours from when the child was reported missing. Thirty-eight cases were activated between more than three and six hours from when the child was reported missing and 17 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 1/1/2015 to 12/31/2015

Number of cases (y-axis): ≤1: 8; 1+ - 3: 50; 3+ - 6: 38; 6+ - 12: 17; 12+ - 24: 9; 24+ - 48: 9; > 48: 6

Number of hours (x-axis)
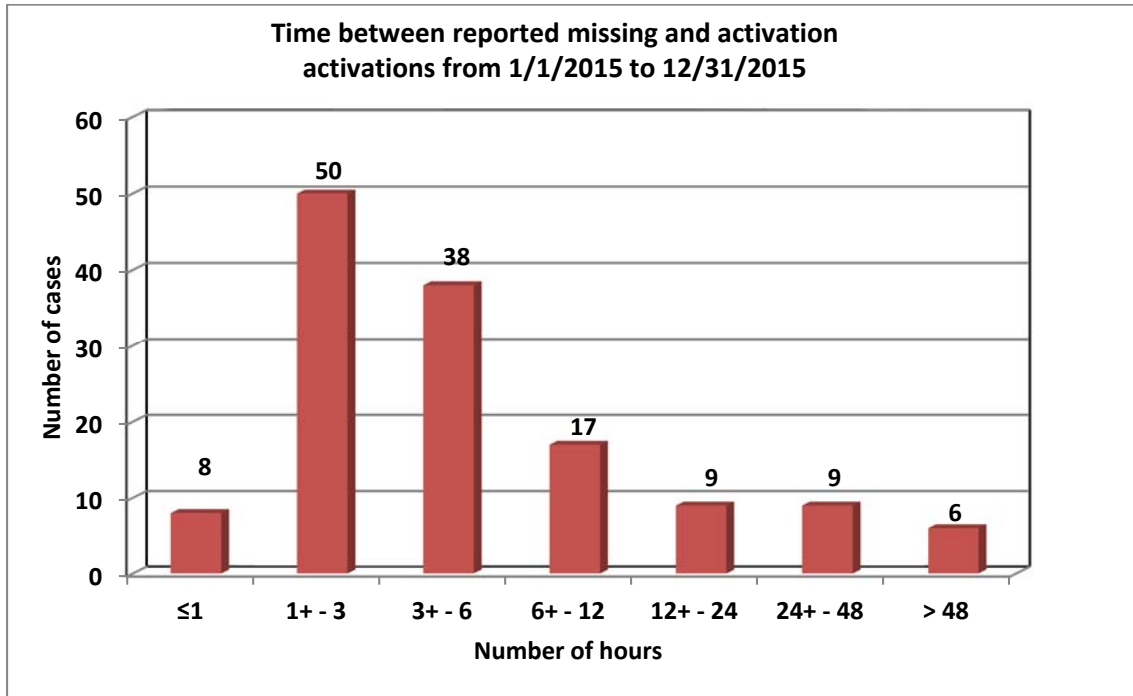
Time between reported missing and recovery

Information about the time between when the child was reported missing to law enforcement and the AMBER Alert recovery was available in 136 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 21 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 40 cases were recovered between more than three and six hours from when the child was reported missing, and in 30 cases the children were recovered between more than six and 12 hours.

Figure 11: Time between reported missing and recovery

Time between reported missing and recovery activations from 1/1/2015 to 12/31/2015

(Y-axis: Number of cases with a recovery; X-axis: Number of hours)

≤1	1+ - 3	3+ - 6	6+ - 12	12+ - 24	24+ - 48	> 48
0	21	40	30	20	15	10
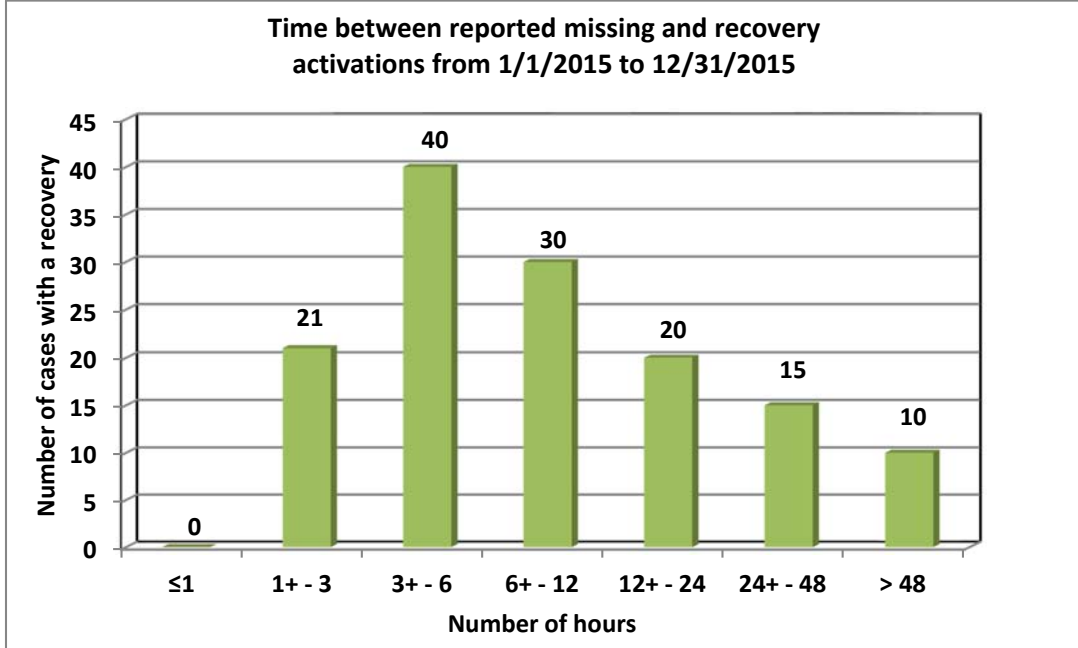
Time between activation and recovery

Information about the time between when the AMBER Alert was activated and the AMBER Alert recovery was available in 153 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 90 cases the children were recovered within three or fewer hours from when the AMBER Alert was activated. Children in 28 cases were recovered between more than three and six hours from when the AMBER Alert was activated, and in 14 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 1/1/2015 to 12/31/2015

A bar chart titled "Time between activation and recovery activations from 1/1/2015 to 12/31/2015." The vertical axis is labeled "Number of cases with a recovery" ranging from 0 to 70. The horizontal axis is labeled "Number of hours."

Number of hours	Number of cases with a recovery
≤1	31
1+ - 3	59
3+ - 6	28
6+ - 12	14
12+ - 24	9
24+ - 48	8
> 48	4

Recovery within three days of activation
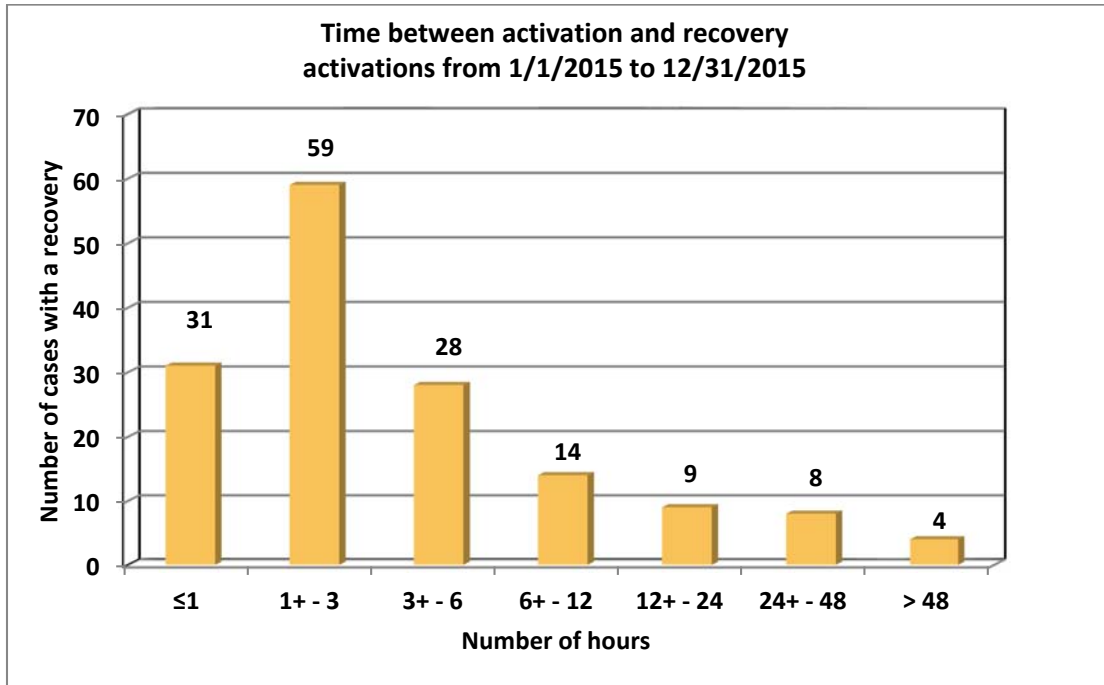
Information about the date between when the AMBER Alert was activated and the AMBER Alert recovery was available in all 182 cases.

Table 10: Recovery within three days of activation

	Time between activation and recovery 1/1/2015 - 12/31/2015
Intaked cases	182
Cases classified as hoax or unfounded after intake	27
Intaked children	224
Children classified as hoax or unfounded after intake	38
Number of cases in which child recovered within 72 hours	150
Percent of cases in which child recovered within 72 hours	97 percent*
Number of children recovered within 72 hours	180
Percent of children recovered within 72 hours	97 percent**

*Percentage excludes cases classified as hoaxes (n=14) and unfounded (n=13)

**Percentage excludes children classified as hoaxes (n=16) and unfounded (n=22)

Travel distances

In 2015 distances between where the child was reported missing and recovered were known for 145 AMBER Alert cases. Hoaxes, unfounded and active cases were not included in these statistics because no recovery occurred. The distances reported below are estimates since they were calculated by using city and state. Therefore distances are not calculated for cases in which the child was recovered from the city where he or she was abducted.

In 45 cases the missing and recovery locations were in the same city; in 69 cases the distance between missing and recovery locations were outside the city but within 100 miles of each other; in 24 cases the distance between missing and recovery locations ranged from 101 to 500 miles; in six cases the distance between missing and recovery locations ranged from 501 to 1,000 miles; and in one case the distance was more than 1,000 miles. For eight cases the distance could not be calculated, and the remaining 29 cases were either hoaxes, unfounded or active cases.

Figure 13: Distance between missing and recovery locations
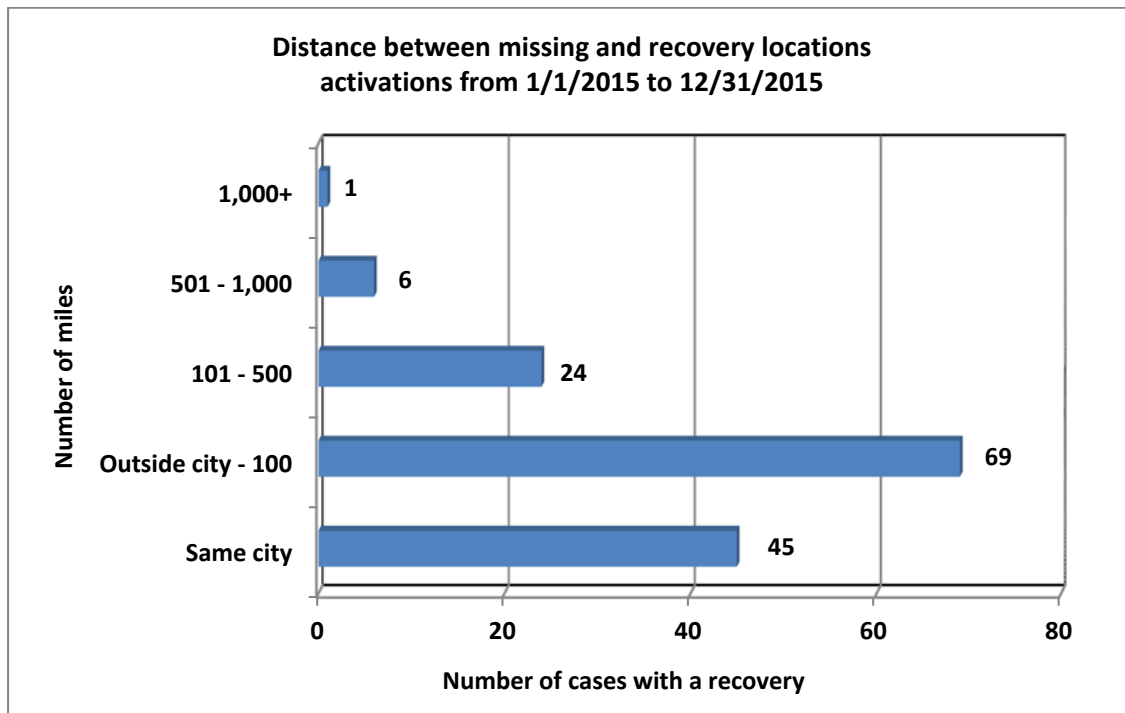
Of the 121 AMBER Alerts issued for FA cases, children in 26 cases were found in the same city. In 57 cases distances ranged from 1 to 99 miles outside of the city, and in 19 cases the distances ranged from 113 to 463 miles. In four cases distances ranged from 510 to 976 miles. In five cases the distance could not be calculated, and the remaining 10 cases were active, hoaxes and unfounded cases.

Of the 47 AMBER Alerts issued for NFA cases, the children involved in 14 cases were found in the same city. In eight cases distances ranged from 1 to 96 miles outside of the city. In four cases travel distances ranged from 155 to 315 miles. In two cases distances ranged from 732 to 827 miles. In one case the distance exceeded 1,000 miles. In three cases the distance could not be calculated, and the remaining 15 cases were hoaxes and unfounded cases.

There were eight AMBER Alerts issued for LIM cases in 2015, and, of those cases, three were found in the same city. The travel distances in two cases ranged from 11 to 33 miles outside of the city. The remaining three cases were determined to be hoaxes and unfounded cases.

For the six cases intaked as ERUs in 2015, two cases had a recovery in the same city. In two cases travel distances ranged from 5 to 83 miles outside of the city. One case had a recovery 134 miles from where the child was last seen. One case was later determined to be unfounded.

Figure 14: Distance traveled by case type
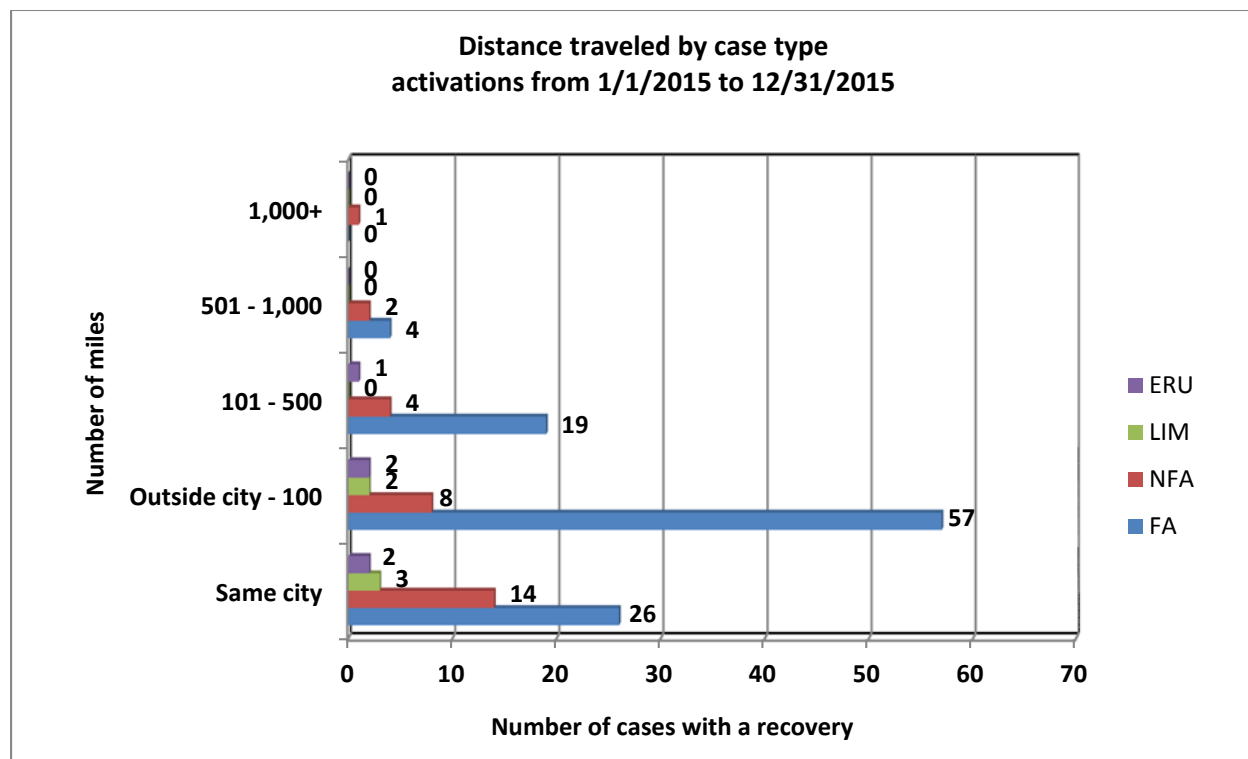
Recoveries outside of state/territory where AMBER Alert first activated

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 182 AMBER Alerts issued in 2015, two cases still remain active. Eighteen percent of cases (n=32) had recoveries outside of the state of the original activation. Of those 32 cases 72 percent (n=23) were FAs, 25 percent (n=8) were NFAs and 3 percent (n=1) were an ERU.

Table 11: Recovery outside of state where AMBER Alert first activated

Activation state	Recovery state
Alabama	South Carolina
Delaware	Indiana
Delaware	Massachusetts
Georgia	Kentucky
Georgia	Tennessee

25

Activation state	Recovery state
Georgia	Tennessee
Idaho	Washington
Illinois	Missouri
Illinois	Missouri
Indiana	Michigan
Iowa	Georgia
Iowa	Missouri
Maryland	Georgia
Missouri	Arkansas
Missouri	New Mexico
Missouri	Ohio
Missouri	Tennessee
New Hampshire	Maine
New Mexico	Indiana
New Mexico	Washington
New York	New Jersey
New York	Pennsylvania
North Dakota	Minnesota
Ohio	Illinois
South Carolina	Georgia
Tennessee	Ohio
Tennessee	Virginia
Texas	Louisiana
Texas	Louisiana
Vermont	New York
Virginia	North Carolina
West Virginia	Virginia

Missing location

In 2015 there were 130 cases with information about where the children involved were last known to be located. Of those 130 cases 62 percent (n=81) were last known to be at home followed by 9 percent of cases where children were last known to be at a store (n=12).

Table 12: Missing location

Missing location	Number of cases	Percent
Automobile	1	1
Day care facility	1	1
Home	81	62

Missing location	Number of cases	Percent
Hotel	4	3
Office building	3	2
Other	3	2
Outdoor/open area	2	2
Park	1	1
Parking	1	1
Religious facility	3	2
Restaurant	2	2
Retail	12	9
School facility	6	5
Social services	3	2
Street	6	5
Transportation facility	1	1
Total	**130**	**~100**

Recovery location

There were 170 cases with information about where the child was recovered. In 2015, 35 percent (n=59) of children involved in AMBER Alert cases were most often recovered at home followed by recoveries in a vehicle at 16 percent (n=28).

Table 13: Recovery location

Recovery location	Number of cases	Percent
Automobile	28	16
Body of water	4	2
Government facility	2	1
Home	59	35
Hotel	13	8
Law enforcement agency	14	8
Medical facility	4	2
Office building	1	1
Other	1	1
Outdoor/open areas	7	4
Parking	5	3
Religious facility	1	1
Restaurant	3	2
Retail	2	1
Street	23	14
Transportation facility	1	1

Recovery location	Number of cases	Percent
Truck/rest stop	2	1
Total	**170**	**~100**

International abductions

In 2015 two AMBER Alert activations involving two children were as a result of an international abduction. One AMBER Alert was activated in Montana; however, the child was abducted and recovered in Canada. One AMBER Alert was activated in California and resulted in a recovery in Mexico. One case involving a White girl was a NFA, and one case involving a Hispanic boy was a FA.

Infants involved in AMBER Alert activations

In 2015 infants, who are defined as children 6 months of age or younger, were involved in 18 AMBER Alert activations. Seventy-eight percent (n=14) of infants involved were FAs, 17 percent (n=3) were NFAs and 6 percent (n=1) were LIMs.

Fifty-six percent (n=10) of infants involved in AMBER Alerts were girls and 44 percent (n=8) were boys. Six percent (n=1) of infants involved were American Indian, 61 percent (n=11) were Black, 6 percent (n=1) were Hispanic and 28 percent (n=5) 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 182 AMBER Alert cases in 2015, 58 children involved in 50 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	37	74	43	74
NFA	11	22	13	22
LIM	0	0	0	0
ERU	2	4	2	3
Total	**50**	**100**	**58**	**~100**

The most common reason for an AMBER Alert success story is an individual or law enforcement recognizing the vehicle from the alert at 42 percent (n=21) followed by the abductor hearing the alert and releasing the child at 20 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 vehicle	21	42	27	47
Abductor heard alert and released child	10	20	10	17
Law enforcement received tips from individuals	7	14	8	14
Individual knew of abductor's/ child's whereabouts	6	12	6	10
Individual or law enforcement recognized child and/or abductor	4	8	5	9
Individual heard alert and convinced abductor to turn self in	2	4	2	3
Total	**50**	**100**	**58**	**100**

Time between activation and recovery for success stories

Of the success stories in 2015, 52 percent of the children (n=30), representing 54 percent (n=27) 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	2	4	4	7
1/2+ - 1 hour	4	8	4	7
1+ - 2 hours	14	28	15	26
2+ - 3 hours	7	14	7	12
3+ - 4 hours	3	6	3	5
4+ - 5 hours	4	8	4	7
5+ - 6 hours	5	10	6	10
6+ - 12 hours	5	10	6	10
12+ - 24 hours	4	8	6	10
24+ - 48 hours	2	4	3	5
48+ hours	0	0	0	0
Total	**50**	**100**	**58**	**~100**

Children located deceased

In 2015, 182 AMBER Alerts were issued for 224 children. Eight children in eight AMBER Alert cases were located deceased. Thirty-eight percent (n=3) of children were reported as FAs, 38 percent (n=3) of children were reported as NFAs and 25 percent (n=2) were reported as LIMs. Seven boys, ranging in age from younger than 1 to 9, were found deceased, and one girl, age 1, was found deceased. Three children were Black, one child was Hispanic and four children were White.

Of the eight children located deceased in 2015, 50 percent (n=4) were reported missing from their respective homes, 25 percent (n=2) were reported missing from a park and 13 percent (n=1) were reported missing from an outdoor/open area. It is unknown where one child (13 percent) was last seen.

In one case an acquaintance of the child's parents abducted the child. The child's brother was the abductor in one case. In two cases the child's father was the abductor, and in one case the child was abducted by his mother's boyfriend. In three cases there were no abductors.

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
5/7/15	NFA	Hispanic boy	4	>72 hours	Same city	Drowning
6/9/15	FA	White boy	<1	<72 hours	Unknown	Burns
7/5/15	LIM	Black boy	9	>72 hours	Same city	Drowning
7/24/15	FA	White boy	1	>72 hours	Same city	Undetermined*
8/15/15	LIM	Black boy	4	<72 hours	Same city	Drowning
9/13/15	NFA	Black boy	4	<72 hours	Same city	Unknown
9/14/15	NFA	White girl	1	<72 hours	Unknown	Undisclosed**
11/3/15	FA	White boy	6	<72 hours	47 miles	Asphyxiation

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

AMBER Alerts involving victims of sexual assault

In 2015 two girls in two separate AMBER Alert activations were reported to be victims of sexual assault during their abduction. One girl was White, and one girl was Black. They were aged 13 and 17. The case type at intake included one ERU and one NFA.

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 2015 Team Adam consultants were deployed to assist with 16 AMBER Alert cases involving 19 children. Four cases involving four children were later determined to be hoaxes. Two cases involving two children were later determined to be unfounded. All children who were actually determined to be missing were recovered. At intake the case breakdown included seven FAs, six NFAs, two LIMs and one ERU.

FBI involvement in AMBER Alerts

The FBI has specialized Child Abduction Rapid Deployment or CARD designed to deploy teams of 10 to 12 experienced personnel to provide on-the-ground investigative, technical and resource assistance to state and local law enforcement. CARD consists of crimes against children investigators who have in-depth experience in child abduction cases. CARD consists of 60 members organized into five regionally separated teams. Additionally personnel from the FBI's Behavioral Analysis Unit 3, Cellular Analysis Survey Team or CAST, and National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime are also consulted during deployments. Since CARD's inception in 2006 teams have deployed approximately 119 times, according to the FBI, to assist law enforcement agencies when an AMBER Alert or mysterious disappearance of a child has occurred. In 2015 CARD deployed once 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 2015, 30 of the AMBER Alert cases reported to NCMEC involved the use of a command post. Of those cases 20 were intaked as FAs, nine were intaked as NFAs 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) mandates NCIC entry by law enforcement within two hours of receipt of a report of a missing or abducted child.

Of the 224 children involved in AMBER Alert cases in 2015, information about 174 children was entered into NCIC, and information about 50 children was not entered into NCIC.

Table 18: Information entered in NCIC

	1/1/2015 - 12/31/2015	1/1/2015 - 12/31/2015 percent
Information entered in NCIC	174	78
Information not entered in NCIC	50	22
Total	**224**	**100**

Of the 174 children whose information was entered in NCIC from Jan. 1, 2015, to Dec. 31, 2015, 85 children were flagged as an AMBER Alert or AA, 65 children were flagged as a Missing Person or MP, and 24 children were flagged as a Child Abduction or CA.

Figure 15: Flag type in NCIC
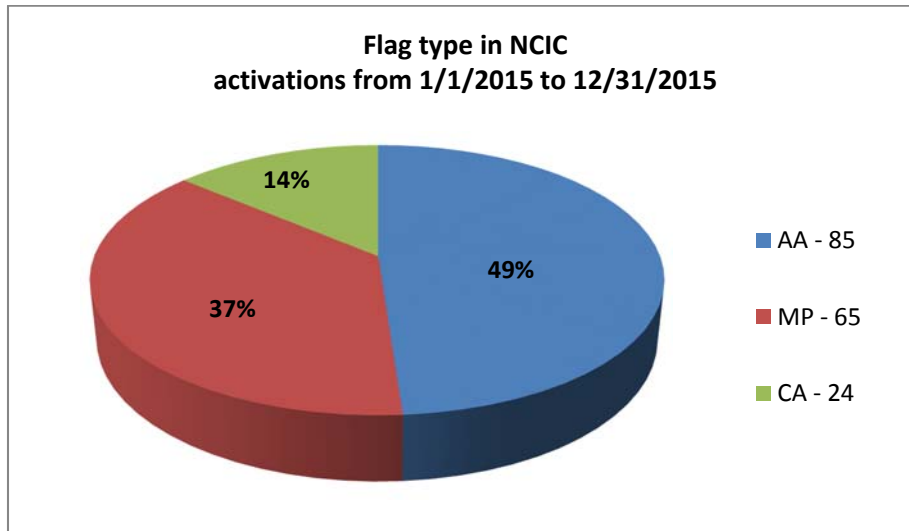
NCMEC has permission to modify flags in NCIC to AA status for AMBER Alert cases at the originating agency's request. During the months of January through December 2015, a total of 39 flags were updated in NCIC. Twenty-four flags were changed from MP to AA, 14 flags were changed from CA to AA and one flag was changed from AA to CA. NCMEC made the flag updates for 28 children, and law enforcement made the flag updates for seven children. For four 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 Jan. 1, 2015, to Dec. 31, 2015.

Table 19: Missing person type in NCIC

NCIC missing person type	1/1/2015 - 12/31/2015	1/1/2015- 12/31/2015 percent
Endangered	63	36
Endangered - caution	8	5
Involuntary	57	33
Involuntary - caution	3	2
Juvenile	36	21
Juvenile - caution	5	3
Other	2	1
Total	**174**	**~100**

From Jan. 1, 2015, to Dec. 31, 2015, information about 46 children was entered and canceled from NCIC within three hours.

Table 20: Hours between information about children entered and canceled from NCIC

	1/1/2015 - 12/31/2015 total	1/1/2015 - 12/31/2015 cumulative total	1/1/2015 - 12/31/2015 percent	1/1/2015 - 12/31/2015 cumulative percent
Up to 1/2 hour	4	4	2	2
½+ - 1 hour	6	10	3	6
1+ - 2 hours	18	28	10	16
2+ - 3 hours	18	46	10	26
3+ - 4 hours	15	61	9	35
4+ - 5 hours	10	71	6	41
5+ - 6 hours	6	77	3	44
6+ - 12 hours	30	107	17	61
12+ - 24 hours	27	134	16	77
24+ - 48 hours	11	145	6	83
48+ - 72 hours	2	147	1	84
72+ hours	25	172	14	99
Unknown	2	174	1	100
Total	**174**		**~100**	

Data collected from the miscellaneous field in NCIC captured information such as abductor threats and use of weapons for 55 children involved in 42 AMBER Alerts issued in 2015. Eight abductors were armed with a weapon, five abductors had a history of alcohol and/or drug abuse, three abductors had a history of mental illness, one abductor was a suspect in a homicide, one abductor threatened to harm the child,

three abductors threatened to kill themselves, two abductors threatened to kill the child and themselves, and six children had medical issues. Thirteen children had "other" listed in the miscellaneous field.

Of the 174 children whose information was entered in NCIC, 84 percent (n=147) had vehicle involvement in the AMBER Alert and 16 percent (n=27) did not have a vehicle involved.

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 88 children. Of those 68 children's records had license plate information entered in the vehicle field only, and in four 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 15 percent between 2011 and 2015.

In 2011 there were 158 alerts involving 197 children, in 2012 there were 167 alerts involving 204 children, in 2013 there were 194 alerts involving 243 children, in 2014 there were 186 alerts involving 239 children, and in 2015 there were 182 alerts involving 224 children.

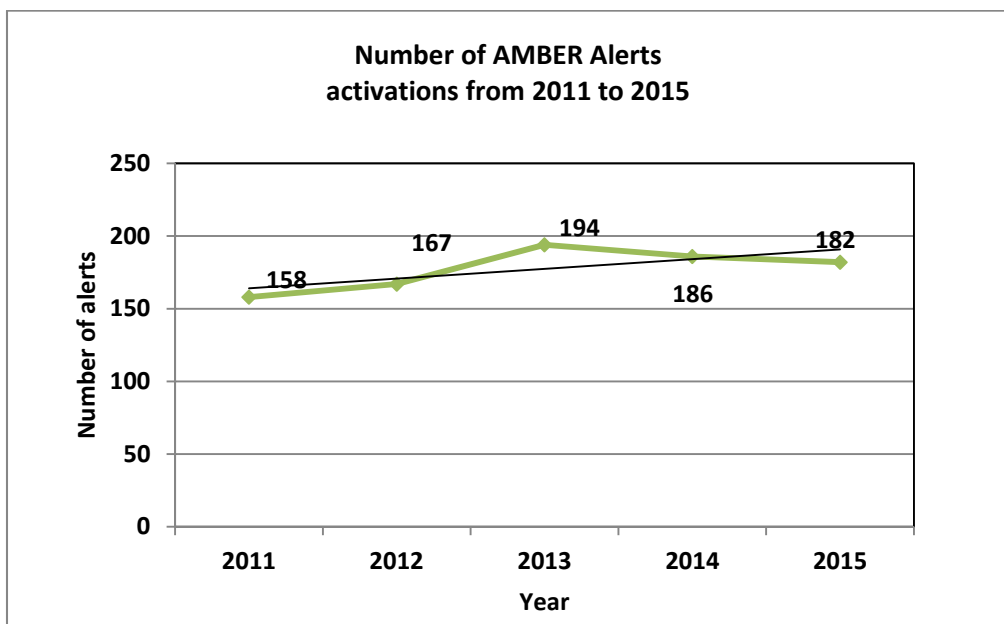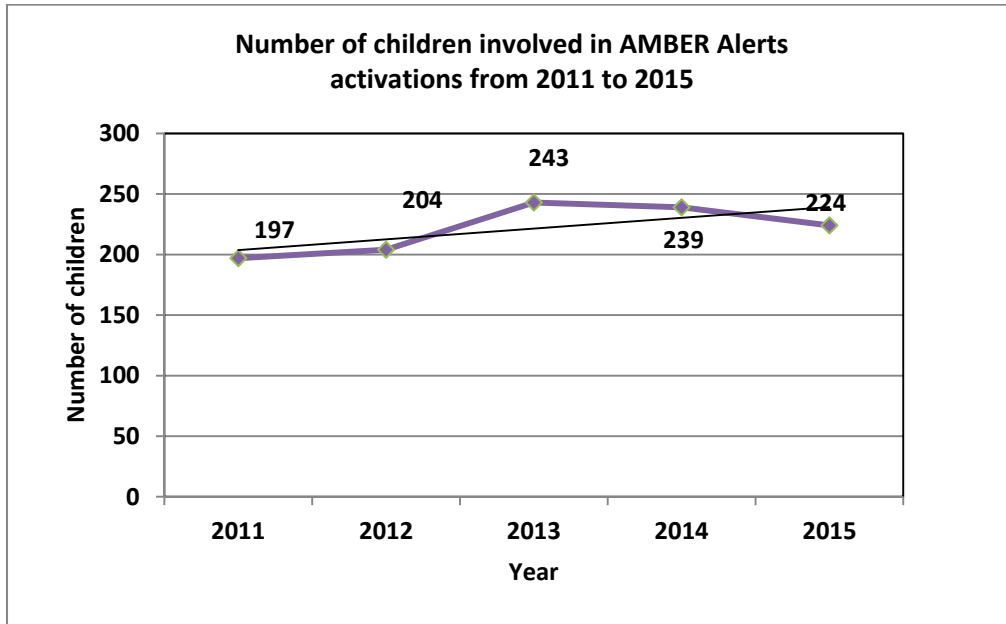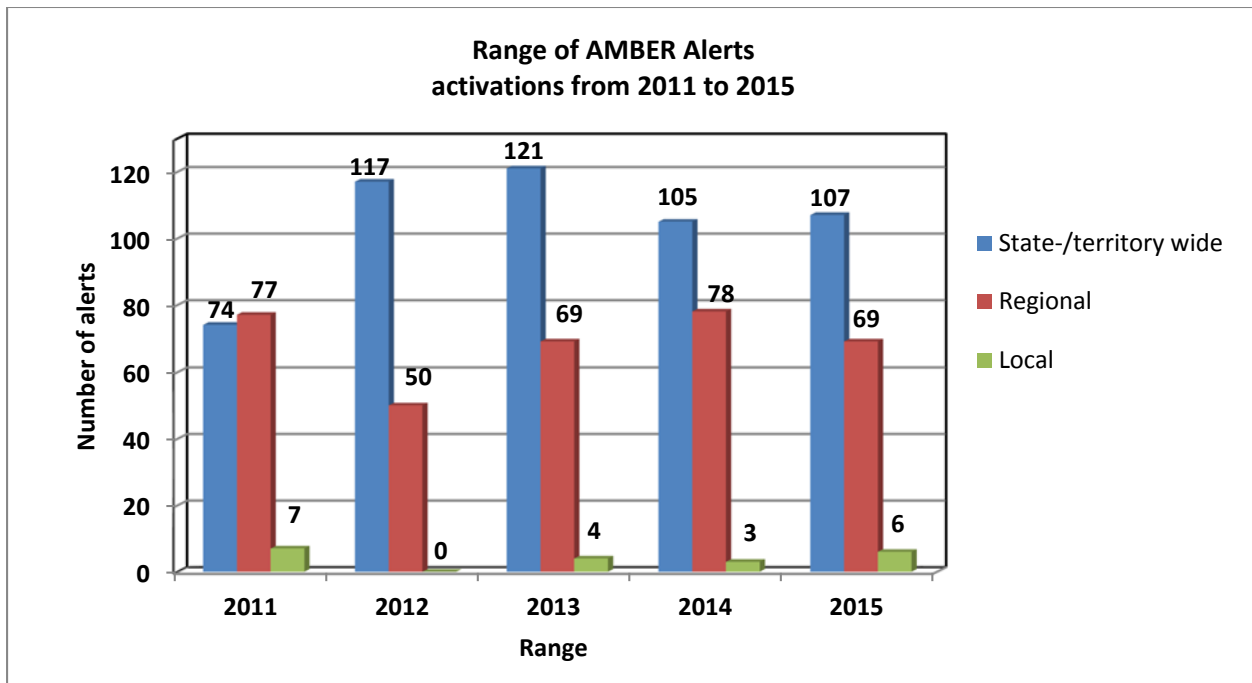*Figure 16: Number of AMBER Alerts from 2011 to 2015*

Figure 17: Number of children involved in AMBER Alerts from 2011 to 2015

Number of children involved in AMBER Alerts activations from 2011 to 2015

Number of children (y-axis): 0 to 300

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of children	197	204	243	239	224

AMBER Alerts by range

From 2011 to 2015 AMBER Alerts were predominantly issued state-/territory wide, followed by regional alerts and then local alerts.

Figure 18: Range of AMBER Alerts from 2011 to 2015

Range of AMBER Alerts activations from 2011 to 2015

Number of alerts (y-axis): 0 to 120

Range	State-/territory wide	Regional	Local
2011	74	77	7
2012	117	50	0
2013	121	69	4
2014	105	78	3
2015	107	69	6

Multistate/territory AMBER Alerts

The number of multistate/territory AMBER Alerts consistently rose and fell slightly from 2011 to 2015. In 2011 there were a total of eight alerts, and in 2012 there was an increase with 13 multistate alerts issued. There was an increase with 15 multistate alerts issued in 2013, a decrease with 14 multistate alerts issued in 2014 and nine multistate alerts issued in 2015.

Number of cases at intake by month

Table 21: Number of cases by month from 2011 to 2015

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2011	8	6	10	16	17	18	15	22	12	12	10	12
2012	11	17	15	9	15	10	16	12	17	16	17	12
2013	17	8	15	17	25	15	19	20	16	17	11	14
2014	20	14	13	17	16	13	9	21	16	18	10	19
2015	11	9	19	8	17	15	19	17	18	22	14	13
Total	**67**	**54**	**72**	**67**	**90**	**71**	**78**	**92**	**79**	**85**	**62**	**70**

Table 22: Cases and percent increase/decrease by month from 2011 to 2015

	2011	Percent change	2012	Percent change	2013	Percent change	2014	Percent change	2015
Jan	8	38	11	55	17	18	20	-45	11
Feb	6	183	17	-53	8	75	14	-36	9
Mar	10	50	15	0	15	-13	13	46	19
Apr	16	-44	9	89	17	0	17	-53	8
May	17	-12	15	67	25	-36	16	6	17
Jun	18	-44	10	50	15	-13	13	15	15
Jul	15	7	16	19	19	-53	9	111	19
Aug	22	-45	12	67	20	5	21	-19	17
Sep	12	42	17	-6	16	0	16	13	18
Oct	12	33	16	6	17	6	18	22	22
Nov	10	70	17	-35	11	-9	10	40	14
Dec	12	0	12	17	14	36	19	-32	13
Total	**158**	**6**	**167**	**16**	**194**	**-4**	**186**	**-2**	**182**

Case type at intake

The number of cases intaked as FAs increased 51 percent from 80 alerts in 2011 to 121 alerts in 2015.

For NFAs there was an increase of cases from 2011 to 2013, with 56 alerts and 63 alerts respectively. In 2014 and 2015 the number of NFAs decreased (n= 60 and n=47).

The number of cases intaked as LIMs has declined from 20 to eight alerts from 2011 to 2015.

From 2011 to 2015, the number of ERUs fell and rose with the highest number of cases at six in 2015. In 2012 and 2014 there were no alerts issued for ERUs.

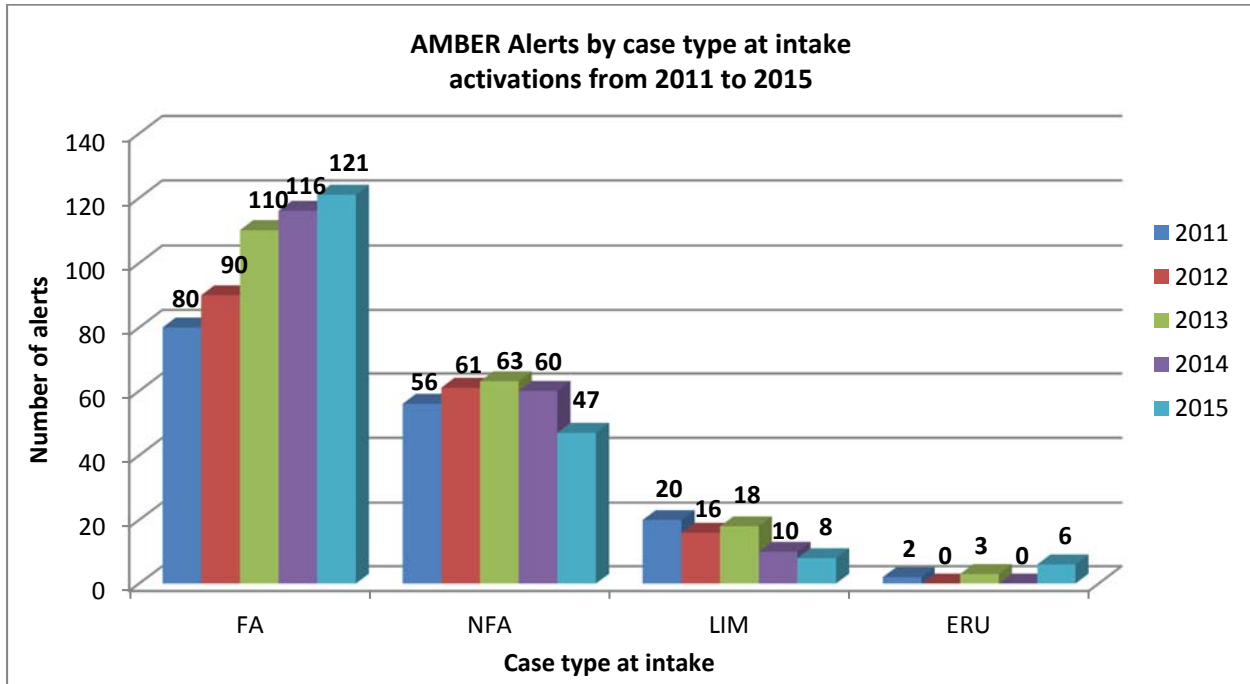*Figure 19: AMBER Alerts by case type at intake from 2011 to 2015*

Table 23: Cases and percent increase/decrease by case type from 2011 to 2015

	2011	Percent change	2012	Percent change	2013	Percent change	2014	Percent change	2015
FA	80	13	90	22	110	5	116	4	121
NFA	56	9	61	3	63	-5	60	-22	47
LIM	20	-20	16	13	18	-44	10	-20	8
ERU	2	-100	0	0	3	-100	0	0	6
Total	**158**	**6**	**167**	**16**	**194**	**-4**	**186**	**-2**	**182**

Hoaxes and unfounded cases

The number of hoaxes has remained stable from 2011 to 2015 with n= 13, 13, 14, 15 and 14. Overall the number of unfounded cases increased between 2011 and 2015 with six and 13 cases respectively. In 2013 the number of unfounded cases increased to 16 and fell to 13 in 2015.

*Figure 20: Number of hoaxes and unfounded cases from 2011 to 2015*
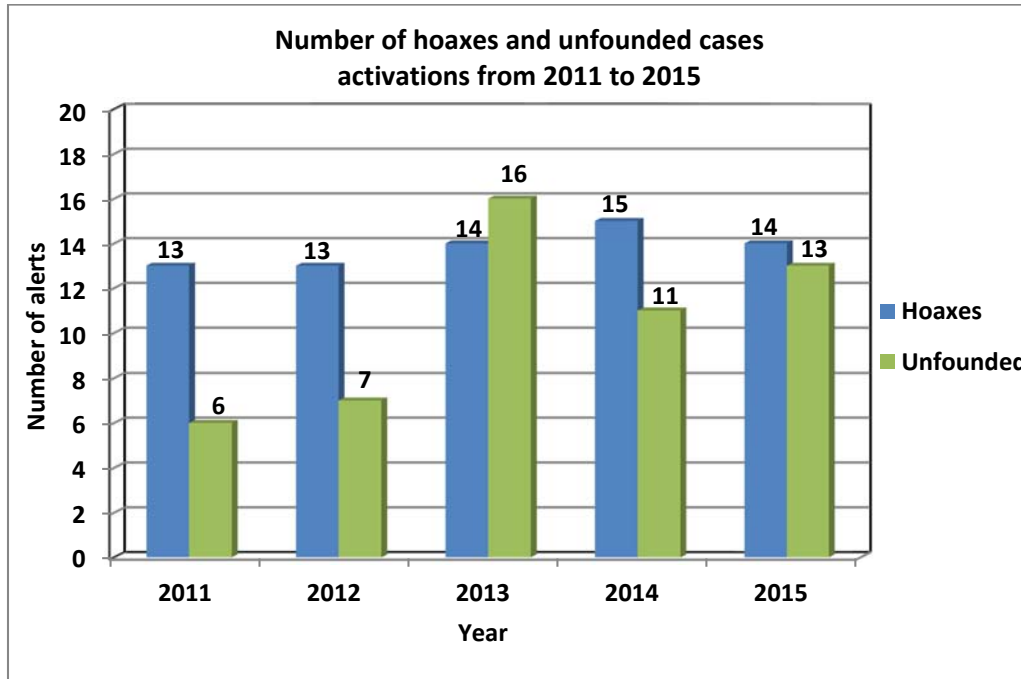
Number and characteristics of children involved in AMBER Alerts

Girls were more frequently involved in AMBER Alerts than boys in 2012 and 2013, while there were more boys than girls in 2011 and 2014. In 2015 the number of boys and girls involved in AMBER Alerts was the same. In 2011 boys represented 51 percent (n=101) of AMBER Alerts, and girls comprised 49 percent (n=96). In 2012 girls made up 56 percent (n=115) of AMBER Alerts compared to boys who made up 44 percent (n=89). In 2013 girls represented 51 percent (n=124) of AMBER Alerts, while boys made up 49 percent (n=118); the sex of one child was unknown. In 2014 boys comprised 51 percent (n=123) of AMBER Alerts, whereas girls comprised 49 percent (n=116). AMBER Alerts were issued for 112 boys and 112 girls in 2015.

The number of American Indian children involved in AMBER Alerts ranged from one child in 2011 to three children in 2015 with a peak in 2014 (n=1, 5, 5, 8 and 3). The number of Asian children generally remained stable from 2011 to 2015 with a peak in 2012 (n=3, 6, 3, 2, and 3). The number of Biracial children overall increased from 2011 (n=5) to 2013 (n=20) and decreased in 2014 and 2015, at 15 and six, respectfully. For Black children, there was a decrease from 2011 (n=65) to 2013 (n=56) and an increase for 2014 (n=72) and 2015 (n=70). The number of Hispanic children saw a 44 percent increase between 2011 and 2015 (n=27 and n=39). The number of White children decreased (n=95 and n=84) between 2011 and 2012; there was an increase in 2013 (n=111) and a slight decrease in 2014 (n=104) and in 2015 (n=103).

Figure 21: Race of children from 2011 to 2015

**Race of children
activations from 2011 to 2015**
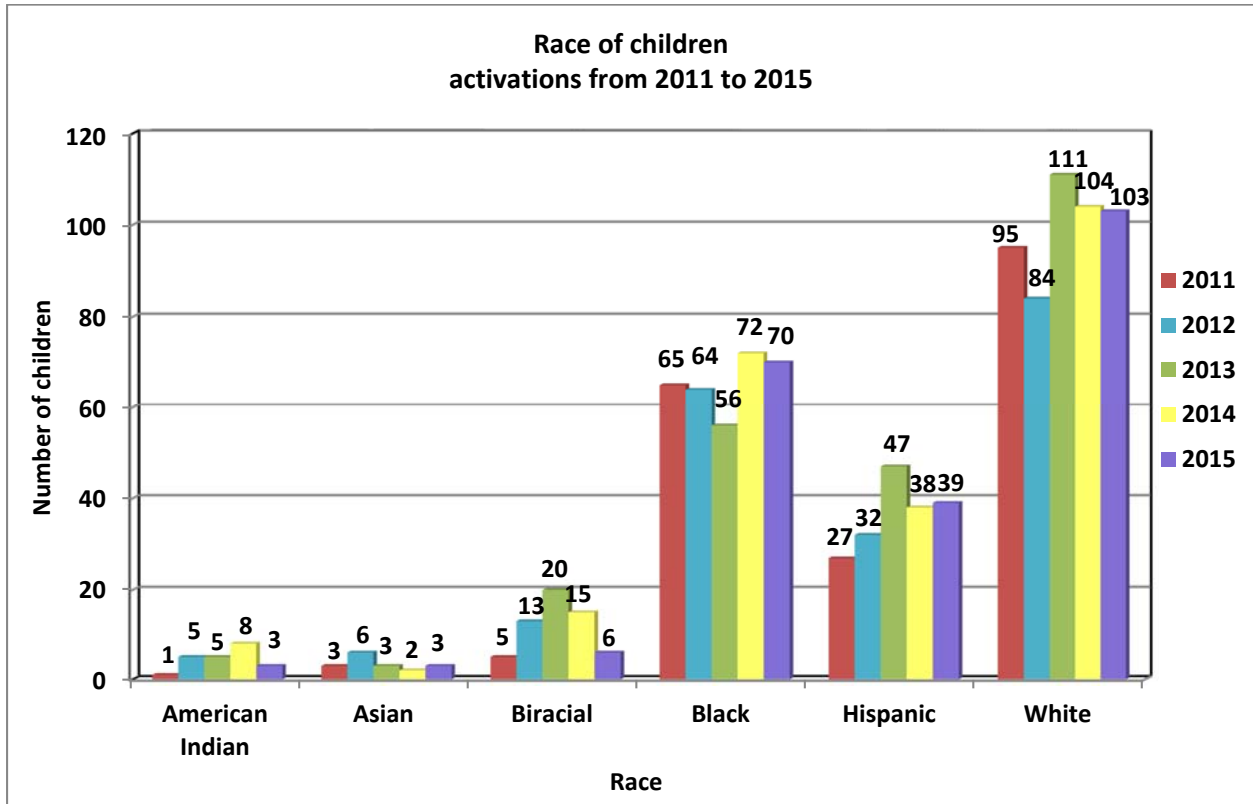
From 2011 to 2015 minority children were involved in AMBER Alerts more frequently than white children.

Figure 22: Race of children, White and Minority from 2011 to 2015

**Race of children, White and Minority
activations from 2011 to 2015**
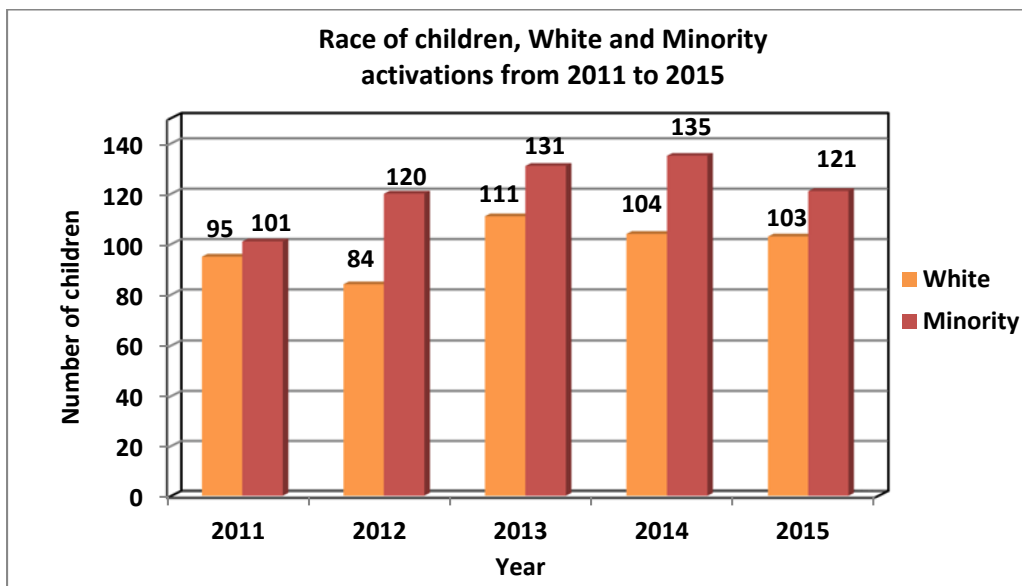
International abductions

In 2011 there were no AMBER Alerts issued for international abductions. In 2012 there was one AMBER Alert for a case originating in Canada, and the child was recovered in Montana. In 2013 four AMBER Alerts involving five children were international abductions. In one case the child was abducted in Mexico, while in another case the child was recovered in Mexico. One case involved a recovery in Canada, and another case involved a recovery in Cuba. In 2014 there was one AMBER Alert involving one child who was recovered in Mexico. In 2015 there were two AMBER Alerts involving two children. In one case the child was abducted and recovered in Canada. In the other case the child was recovered in Mexico.

Children located deceased

A total of 39 children who were involved in AMBER Alerts issued from 2011 to 2015 were located deceased. From 2011 to 2015 the number of children located deceased increased from five to eight. The number of children involved in an AMBER Alert and located deceased peaked at 11 in 2013.

While children intaked as LIMs who were located deceased have been more frequent in years prior to 2011, children intaked as NFAs made up the largest number of case types for children who were located deceased from 2011 to 2015.

*Table 24: Number of children located deceased from 2011 to 2015*

Case type at intake	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
FA	1	2	3	0	3	9
NFA	2	2	7	4	3	18
LIM	2	5	1	2	2	12
ERU	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**5**	**9**	**11**	**6**	**8**	**39**

National Crime Information Center

From 2011 to 2015 it was 81, 79, 80, 81 and 78 percent respectively (n=159, 161, 194, 194 and 174) of children's information entered in NCIC. The AA flag was the predominant flag type from 2011 to 2015.
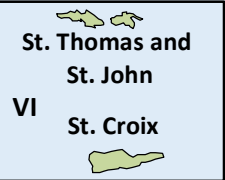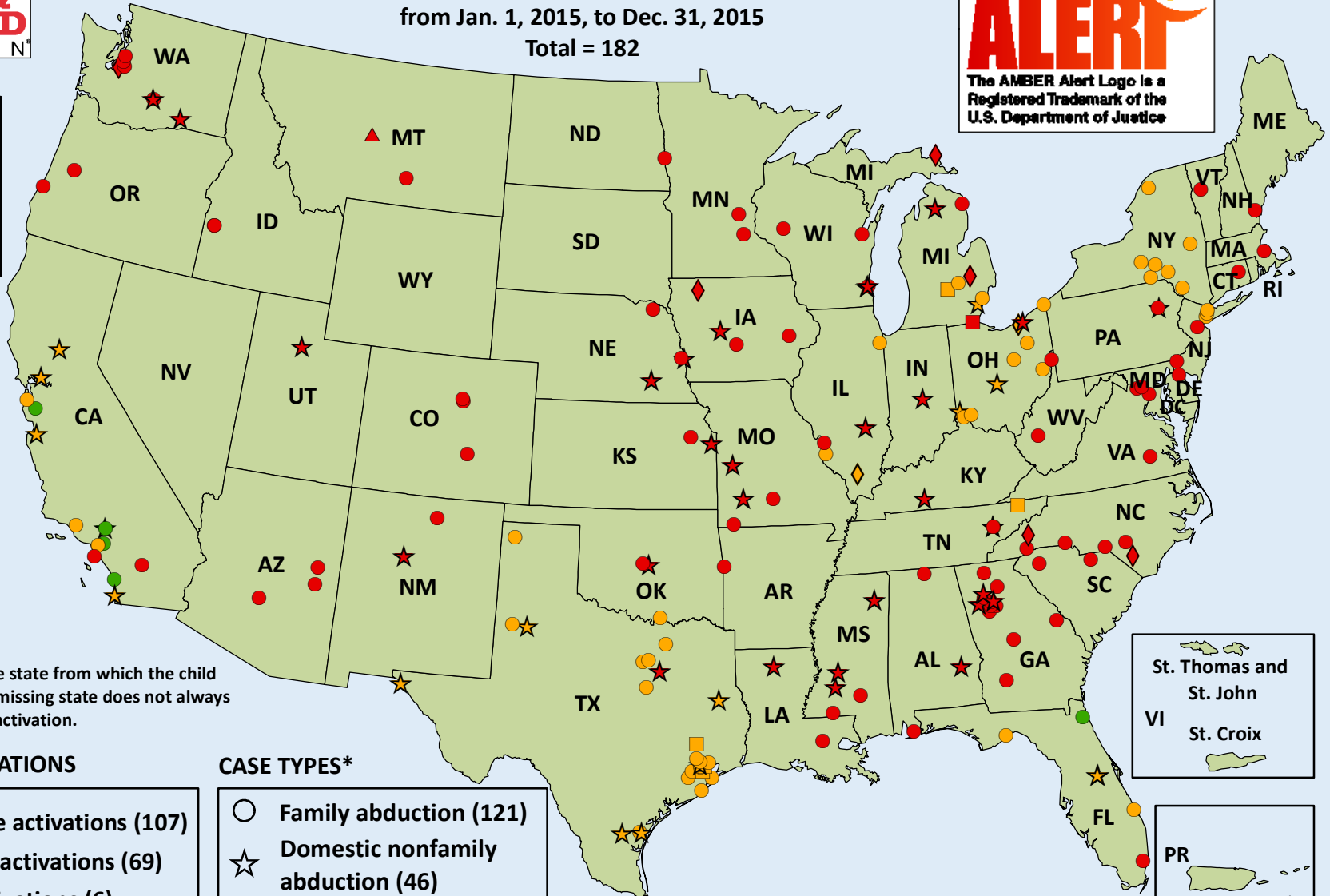
From 2011 to 2015 there were more instances when it was known a vehicle was involved in the alert (n=107, 129, 156, 152 and 147) than unknown.

Figure 23: Vehicle involvement in AMBER Alerts from 2011 to 2015
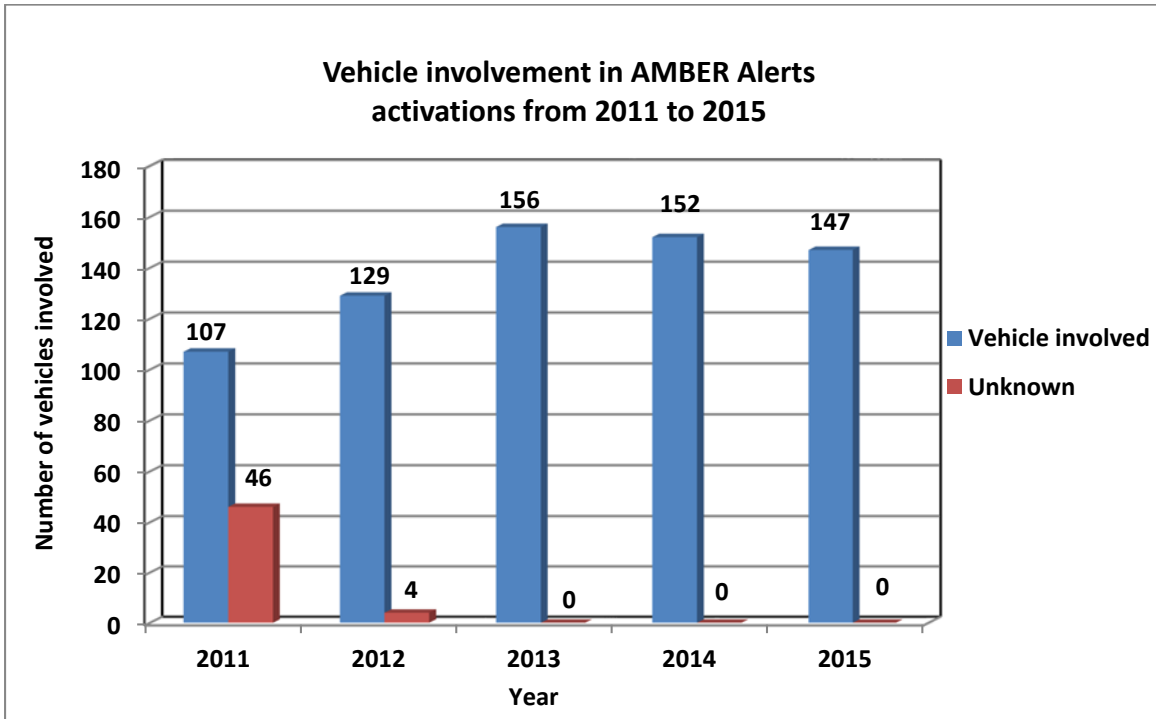
2015 AMBER Alert report

AMBER Alert activations issued from Jan. 1, 2015, to Dec. 31, 2015
Total = 182

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

St. Thomas and St. John

St. Croix

VI

RANGE OF ACTIVATIONS

- 🟥 Statewide activations (107)
- 🟧 Regional activations (69)
- 🟩 Local activations (6)

CASE TYPES*

- ○ Family abduction (121)
- ☆ Domestic nonfamily abduction (46)
- ◇ Lost injured missing (8)
- ☐ Endangered runaway (6)
- △ International nonfamily abduction** (1)

**This AMBER Alert originated in Canada and was activated in Montana.

Source: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
Mapping software donated to NCMEC by Esri, Redlands, California
Feb. 26, 2016