CHILDREN

This data analysis examines Family Abductions reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children between 1/1/2016 and 12/31/2020.

All Children

- 43% of all children were recovered by police investigation
- 24% were turned in by a family member or friend
- Nearly all children were recovered alive (99.7%)
- 57% of deceased children were homicide victims
- Deceased children had an average missing duration of 3 months
- 6,076 Children abducted by a family member between 2016 and 2020
- 21 Children recovered deceased
- 64% Children between the ages of 0 and 6 years
- 8% Percentage of active cases
- Most common season for missing incidents (30%)
- Average number of months missing
- 5 months
- 4 months
- 3 months
- 2 months
**Domestic Versus International**

- Between 2016 and 2020 International cases had an average missing duration of one year.
- For international cases the highest recovery method was police investigation (28%).

### Table: Average Missing Duration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Domestic Cases</th>
<th>International Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>15 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>14 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2 months</td>
<td>12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>9 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>4 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Average missing duration for international unresolved cases: 42 months*

*Missing duration for unresolved domestic cases: 81 days*

### Aductors

- **Mother**: 58%
- **Father**: 33%
- **Other Relative**: 9%

**Number of abductors**: 4,070

**Average age of abductor**: 34 Years
RESPONSE TO FAMILY ABDUCTIONS

National Crime Information Center (NCIC)

A longer time period before entering the child into NCIC corresponded to a longer missing duration

Federal law (34 U.S. code § 41308) ensures no waiting period before law enforcement can accept a missing child report and requires law enforcement to enter a missing child into NCIC within two hours of receiving the report. Law enforcement may be unable to enter a child into NCIC for a variety of reasons. These specifics are not available to NCMEC on a case-by-case basis.

State Arrest Warrants

A longer time period before issuing a state warrant corresponded to a longer missing duration

- Just under 2 months (58 days) was the average time between abduction and issuing of a state warrant in resolved cases
- 10 months was the average time between abduction and issuing of a warrant in an active case
There were 495 abductors involved in these cases

Three of these children were killed in an apparent murder-suicide

- Recovered after 72 hours: 17%
- Recovered before 72 hours: 83%

603
- Children whose cases led to an AMBER Alert activation
- 7
- Children recovered deceased

4-Years-Old
- Average age of missing child

Child’s father
- Most common abductor relationship to child (53%)

One day
- Mean missing duration

99.5%
- Percentage of resolved cases