



The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children **West Virginia Data**

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) serves as the congressionally designated clearinghouse and resource center on issues relating to missing and exploited children. NCMEC supports families, law enforcement, child welfare, and members of the public to help find missing children, combat child sexual exploitation, and reduce child victimization.

Listed below are West Virginia specific statistics relating to NCMEC's work. For nationwide information on NCMEC's programs, please visit: missingkids.org/ourwork/impact.

NCMEC's Work to Combat Child Sexual Exploitation

NCMEC operates the CyberTipline, the national mechanism for members of the public and online platforms to report suspected child sexual exploitation. In 2023, the CyberTipline received 36.2 million reports related to child sexual exploitation, containing more than 105 million pieces of reported content. **In 2023, 2,933 CyberTipline reports were made available to law enforcement in West Virginia.**

NCMEC also operates the Child Victim Identification Program (CVIP) that helps identify children depicted in imagery seized by law enforcement during investigations. NCMEC has supported law enforcement's identification of 27,130 children. **In 2023, NCMEC reviewed 22 submissions of child sexual exploitation material from West Virginia law enforcement.**

NCMEC's Work to Help Locate and Recover Missing Children

In 2023, NCMEC assisted law enforcement, families, and social service agencies on 28,886 missing child cases, 22,442 of which involved children who had run away from a social services facility. These children are uniquely vulnerable to homelessness, gang involvement, and sex trafficking. Based on NCMEC's analysis, 19% of these children were likely victims of child sex trafficking.

In 2023, NCMEC handled 92 cases of missing children from West Virginia as follows:

Children Missing From Social Services	79
Other Missing Children Cases	8
Children Reported Missing by Office of Refugee Resettlement (HHS-ORR) :	5

NCMEC's Work to Combat Child Sex Trafficking

In 2023, NCMEC received more than 18,400 reports relating to child sex trafficking. NCMEC leverages open-source data and technology tools to support law enforcement's work on reports of child sex trafficking. NCMEC provides recovery services to assist on child sex trafficking cases, including: (1) case-based assistance to develop trauma-informed, victim-centered recovery plans; (2) resources and support to develop effective strategies for youth engagement, trauma responses, and to address running

behavior; and (3) developing multidisciplinary efforts to prevent re-victimization. **In 2023, NCMEC had 4 engagements with West Virginia social service agencies on cases involving child sex trafficking.**

NCMEC's Work to Support Survivors/Families Impacted by a Missing or Exploited Child Case

NCMEC's Team HOPE is a peer support network of individuals who were missing or exploited as children or have experienced having a missing or exploited child. In 2023, Team HOPE supported 5,759 survivors and families with peer support, **including 11 survivors/families in West Virginia.** NCMEC also facilitates the Family Advocacy Outreach Network, a network of experienced mental health professionals who provide free or low-cost therapeutic services to survivors/families. **In 2023, NCMEC connected 20 survivors/families to mental health services in West Virginia.**

In 2023, at the request of law enforcement, Team Adam was activated on 57 incidents involving critically missing children and provided assistance on 146 long-term missing children cases.

NCMEC's Education Resources for Law Enforcement and Child-Serving Professionals

NCMEC is committed to providing educational opportunities and resources to law enforcement and child-serving professionals through in-person education sessions across the country and online through NCMEC CONNECT. In 2023, NCMEC CONNECT had more than 18,000 registered users, including **65 new law enforcement and child-serving professionals** in West Virginia.