National Center for Missing & Exploited Children®

2009 AMBER ALERT REPORT

Analysis of AMBER Alert Cases in 2009

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INTRODUCTION

In 1996, 9-year-old Amber Hagerman was abducted while riding her bicycle in Arlington, Texas, and subsequently murdered. The community, shocked by this tragedy, contacted radio stations in the Dallas area and suggested they broadcast special "alerts" over the airwaves so they could help prevent such incidents in the future. One individual, Diana Simone, suggested a program be implemented allowing the use of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) to notify the public when a child has been abducted. If the community were aware then they too could assist in the search. Ms. Simone followed up with a letter, and her only request was that this program be dedicated to the memory of Amber.

Based on that letter, broadcasters and local law enforcement created a program known as The Amber Plan in Amber Hagerman's honor. 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 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 Fort Worth-Dallas, Texas, area has grown into a seamless system of such programs across the country. Each year these Alerts help safely rescue abducted children. Since the inception of the program in 2006 more than 500 children have been safely rescued specifically due to AMBER Alerts being issued.

This program is a voluntary partnership between 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, is tasked with developing 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.[1]

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[1]*National Strategy*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, 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, 2009, through December 31, 2009, 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.

- A **Family Abduction (FA)** occurs when an individual between birth and 17 years of age is abducted from his or her custodial parent or legal guardian by a noncustodial family member who is related to the child by blood or marriage.
- A **Nonfamily Abduction (NFA)** occurs when a child, age 17 or younger, is abducted by someone who is unknown to the child or his or her family, an acquaintance, or someone who is unidentifiable as either.
- **Lost, Injured, or Otherwise Missing (LIM)** refers to any missing child where there are insufficient facts to determine the cause of a child's disappearance as well as any child age 10 or younger who is missing on his or her own accord. Absent facts to the contrary, the law-enforcement agency should assume the child is endangered, act accordingly, and follow all the investigative steps of an NFA case. These children are also referred to as Endangered Missing.
- An **Endangered Runaway (ERU)** is any missing child 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 intentionally 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.

SUMMARY OF AMBER ALERTS

Between January 1, 2009, and December 31, 2009, 207 AMBER Alerts were issued in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands involving 263 children.

At the time the AMBER Alert cases were intaked there were 124 FAs, 61 NFAs, 19 LIMs, and 3 ERUs. Sixteen (16) cases were later determined to be hoaxes, and 15 cases were later determined to be unfounded.

Of the 207 AMBER Alerts issued between January 1, 2009, and December 31, 2009, 166 cases resulted in a recovery, 45 of which were successfully recovered as a direct result of those respective AMBER Alerts being issued. As of March 17, 2010, when statistics for this report were generated 3 AMBER Alerts issued in 2009 remained active and 9 children were recovered deceased.

AMBER ALERTS BY RANGE

In 2009, 45% (n=94) of AMBER Alerts were issued state- or territory wide, 46% (n=96) of AMBER Alerts were issued regionally, and 2% (n=5) of AMBER Alerts were issued locally. No data about the range for 6% (n=12) of AMBER Alerts was available.

Figure 1: Range of AMBER Alerts

AMBER ALERTS BY STATE/TERRITORY

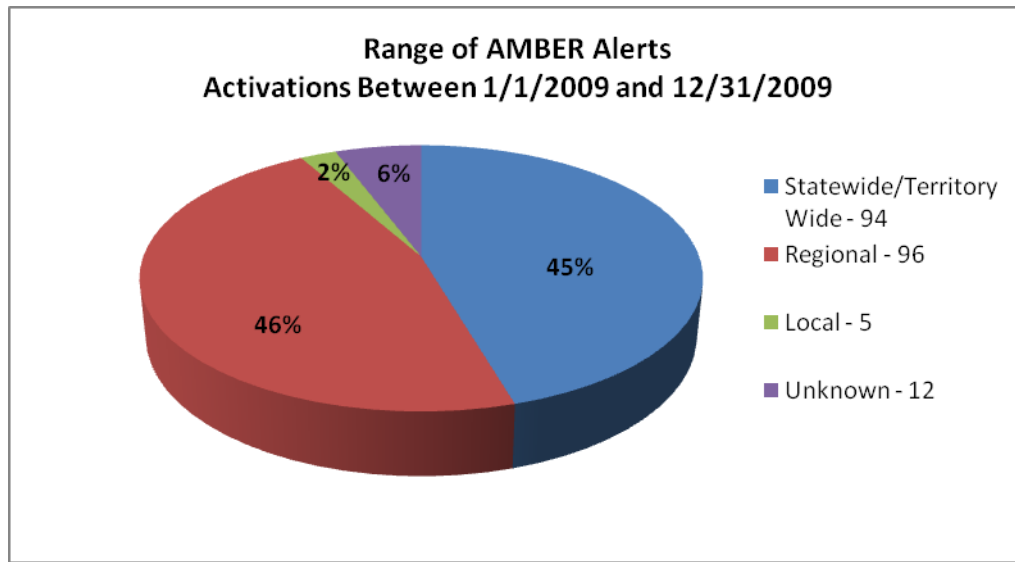Between January 1, 2009, and December 31, 2009, 207 AMBER Alerts were issued in 33 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Michigan issued the most AMBER Alerts with 13% (n=27), followed by Texas and California with 13% (n=26) and 9% (n=18) respectively.

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

State/Territory	Number of Alerts	Percent
Michigan	27	13%
Texas	26	13%
California	18	9%
North Carolina	14	7%
Tennessee	13	6%
Florida	12	6%
Ohio	11	5%
Georgia	8	4%
Illinois	7	3%
Arizona, Missouri, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina	6 each	3% each
New Jersey	5	2%
Colorado and Washington	4 each	2% each
Kentucky, New York, Oklahoma, and Utah	3 each	1% each
Alaska, Idaho, Minnesota, Nevada, Oregon, Virginia, and Wisconsin	2 each	1% each
Arkansas, Delaware, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Nebraska, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands	1 each	0.5% each
Alabama, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming	0 each	0% each
Total	**207**	**~100%**

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 2009, 12 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 and Oregon
Colorado	Montana and Wyoming
Georgia	Alabama
Kentucky	Alabama and Tennessee
Maine	New Hampshire and Vermont

Originating	Extending
Nevada	California
South Carolina	Georgia
South Carolina	Georgia and North Carolina
Tennessee	Alabama
Tennessee	Missouri
Texas	Michigan
Washington	Idaho and Nevada

In 3 cases the child was recovered in the state/territory where the Alert originated, in 6 cases the child was recovered in the extending state, in 1 case the child was recovered neither in the originating state/territory nor the extending state/territory, 1 case was determined to be a hoax, and 1 case was determined to be unfounded.

Figure 2: Multistate/Territorial AMBER Alert Recoveries
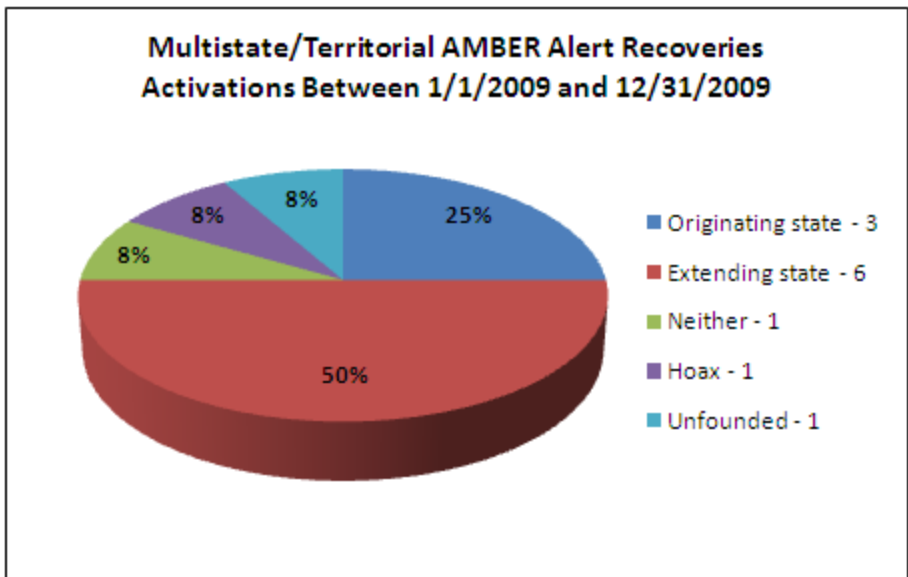
AMBER ALERTS BY CASE TYPE AT INTAKE

In 2009, 60% (n=124) of AMBER Alert cases were intaked as FAs, 29% (n=61) were NFAs, 9% (n=19) were LIMs, and 1% (n=3) were ERUs.

Figure 3: AMBER Alerts by Case Type

AMBER Alerts by Case Type
Activations Between 1/1/2009 and 12/31/2009

- FA - 124
- NFA - 61
- LIM - 19
- ERU - 3

1%
9%
29%
60%
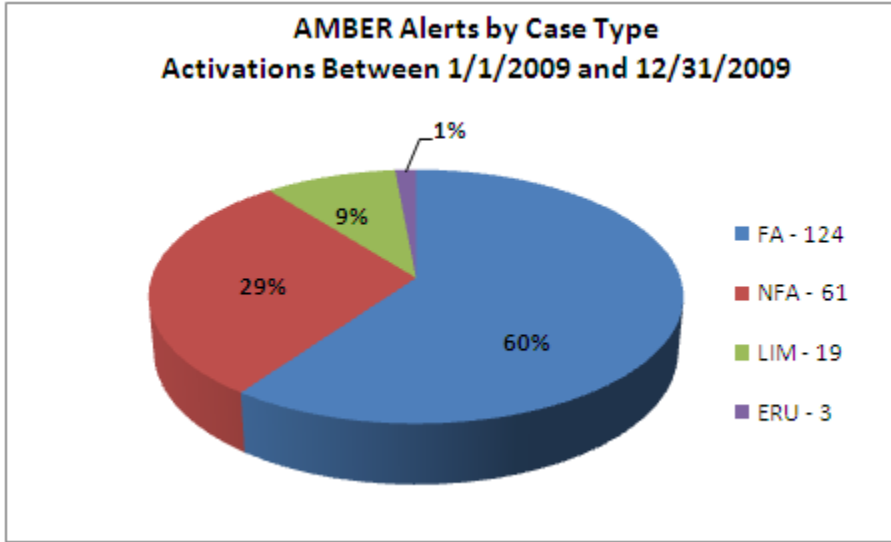
NUMBER OF CASES AT INTAKE BY MONTH

In 2009 the number of AMBER Alerts issued per month ranged from a low of 10 Alerts in December to highs of 23 Alerts in March and 22 Alerts in both July and September.

Figure 4: Number of AMBER Alert Cases by Month

Number of AMBER Alerts by Month
Activations Between 1/1/2009 and 12/31/2009

Month	Alerts
January	16
February	17
March	23
April	15
May	17
June	16
July	22
August	19
September	22
October	12
November	18
December	10
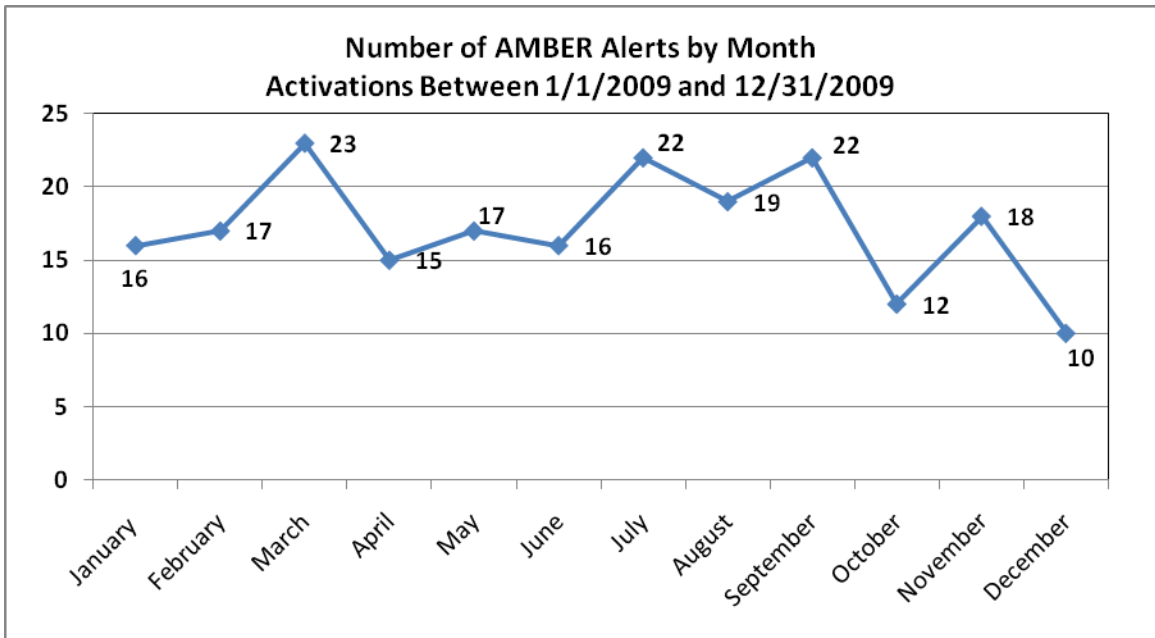
NUMBER OF CASE TYPES AT INTAKE BY MONTH

In 2009 AMBER Alerts were issued most frequently for FAs (n=14) in September. The highest number of NFAs (n=7) occurred in the months of March and July. AMBER Alerts for LIMs (n=4) were most frequently issued in August.

Table 3: Number of Alerts by Case Type

	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU	Total	Total (%)
January	11	5	0	0	16	8%
February	11	4	2	0	17	8%
March	13	7	2	1	23	11%
April	10	5	0	0	15	7%
May	10	6	1	0	17	8%
June	7	6	3	0	16	8%
July	13	7	1	1	22	11%
August	9	6	4	0	19	9%
September	14	6	2	0	22	11%
October	6	3	2	1	12	6%
November	12	4	2	0	18	9%
December	8	2	0	0	10	5%
Total	**124**	**61**	**19**	**3**	**207**	**~100%**

NUMBER OF CHILDREN BY CASE TYPE AT INTAKE BY MONTH

In 2009, 263 children were involved in 207 AMBER Alert cases. Sixty-five percent (65%, n=172) of children were intaked as FAs, followed by 25% (n=67) of children intaked as NFAs. Eight percent (8%, n=21) 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 months of March and July (n=22). The highest number of children intaked as NFAs (n=9) occurred in the month of July, and AMBER Alerts for LIMs (n=5) were most frequently issued in August.

Table 4: Number of Alerts by Child

	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU	Total	Total (%)
January	14	6	0	0	20	8%
February	14	4	2	0	20	8%
March	22	8	2	1	33	13%
April	13	5	0	0	18	7%
May	13	7	1	0	21	8%
June	9	6	4	0	19	7%
July	22	9	1	1	33	13%
August	14	6	5	0	25	10%

	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU	Total	Total (%)
September	18	6	2	0	26	10%
October	7	3	2	1	13	5%
November	14	5	2	0	21	8%
December	12	2	0	0	14	5%
Total	**172**	**67**	**21**	**3**	**263**	**~100%**

CASES DETERMINED TO BE HOAXES

A case is determined to be a hoax when an individual intentionally falsely reports a child missing or when a child reports him- or herself missing with the intent of misleading law enforcement.

In 2009, 8% (n=16) of AMBER Alerts involving 17 children issued were later determined to be hoaxes. Seventy-five percent (75%, n=12) of hoaxes were first thought to be NFAs, followed by FAs at 19% (n=3), and LIMs at 6% (n=1).

Forty-four percent (44%, n=7) of hoaxes were reported by the child's parent, 19% (n=3) were reported by the child involved, 13% (n=2) were reported by the child's sibling at the child's request, and 13% (n=2) were prank calls, 6% (n=1) were reported by the child's family member, and 6% (n=1) were reported by the child's mother's ex-boyfriend.

Figure 5: Hoaxes by Case Type at Intake
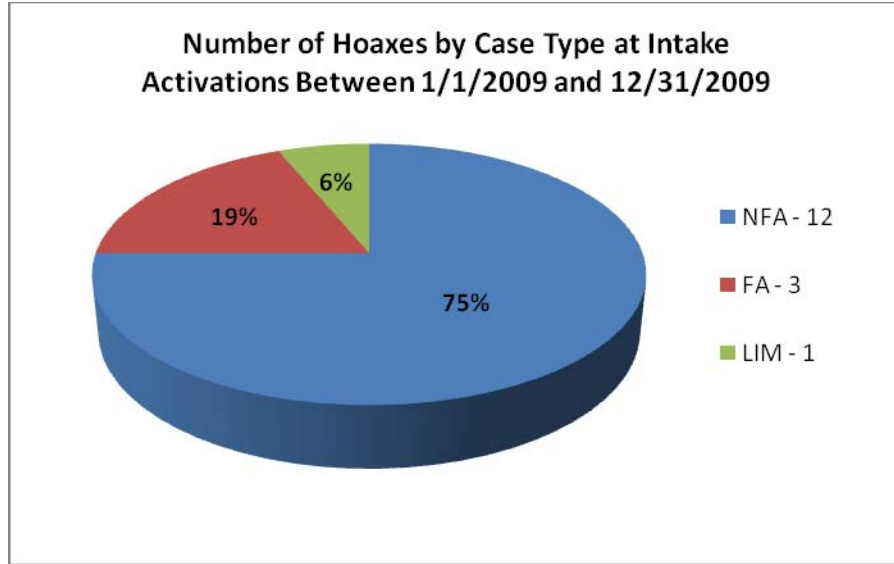
Eighty-two percent (82%, n=14) of children involved in hoaxes were girls, whereas boys represented 18% (n=3) of children involved in hoaxes. All 3 boys involved in these hoaxes in 2009 were younger than 1 whereas girls involved in hoaxes ranged from ages younger than 1 through 17.

Table 5: Age and Sex of Children Involved in Hoaxes

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

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

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

Age	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU
15	-	1	-	-
16	-	-	-	-
17	-	2	-	-
N/A	-	2	-	-
Total	4	12	1	-

One (1) child whose case was determined to be a hoax was recovered deceased. In this case a 5-year-old girl was reported missing from home by her mother. Seven (7) days later the girl was found deceased. The child's mother and another suspect were placed in custody.

Of the 16 cases determined to be hoaxes, 11 cases had known locations where the children involved were reported missing. Of those cases 36% (n=4) were reported missing from home, 27% (n=3) from school, 18% (n=2) from a bus stop, and 18% (n=2) were reported missing from "the street."

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. Fifteen (15) AMBER Alerts involving 18 children were determined to be unfounded, representing 7% of the total number of AMBER Alerts issued in 2009. These unfounded cases were originally intaked as NFAs at 53% (n=8), LIMs at 27% (n=4), and FAs at 20% (n=3).

Figure 6: Unfounded by Case Type at Intake
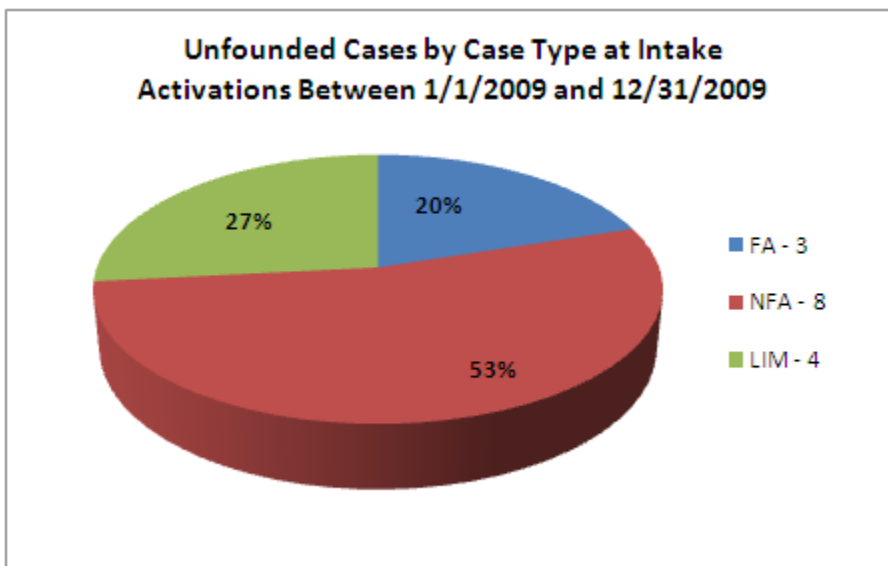
Girls represented 56% (n=10) whereas boys represented 44% (n=8) of all children involved in unfounded cases. Unfounded cases were distributed between ages 2 and 15 for girls and between ages 1 and 15 for boys.

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

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

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

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

Age	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU
15	-	2	-	-
16	-	-	-	-
17	-	-	-	-
N/A	-	2	-	-
Total	6	8	4	-

SECONDARY DISTRIBUTION OF AMBER ALERTS

The AMBER Alert Secondary Distribution (AASD) system is comprised of wireless carriers, Internet service providers, content providers, and major retailers who distribute these AMBER Alerts to a geographically targeted audience at the request 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 2009, 83% (n=171) of AMBER Alert cases were secondarily distributed whereas 17% (n=36) cases were not secondarily distributed. Thirty-five (35) cases were not distributed because the AMBER Alert was cancelled before secondary distribution was possible and for 1 Alert the Coordinator denied permission for dissemination.

AMBER Alert Secondary Distribution was issued for 103 FAs, 51 NFAs, 15 LIMs, and 2 ERUs. Eight (8) NFAs, 1 LIM, and 1 FA were later determined to be hoaxes. Eight (8) NFAs, 3 FAs, and 3 LIMs were subsequently identified as unfounded.

NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN REPORTED MISSING

Children involved in AMBER Alert activations were predominantly girls at 57% (n=150), compared to boys who represented 43% (n=113).

Thirty-seven percent (37%, n=97) of children involved in AMBER Alerts were White, 29% (n=77) were Black, 27% (n=70) were Hispanic, 3% (n=8) were Biracial, 2% (n=6) were Asian, and American Indian children represented 1% (n=3). The race for 1% (n=2) was unknown. AMBER Alerts were issued for 37% of White children whereas Minority children represented 62%.

Figure 7: Race of Children

AMBER Alerts by Race of Children
Activations Between 1/1/2009 and 12/31/2009

1% | 1% | 2% | 3%

- American Indian - 3
- Asian - 6
- Biracial - 8
- Black - 77
- Hispanic - 70
- White - 97
- Unknown - 2

37% | 27% | 29%
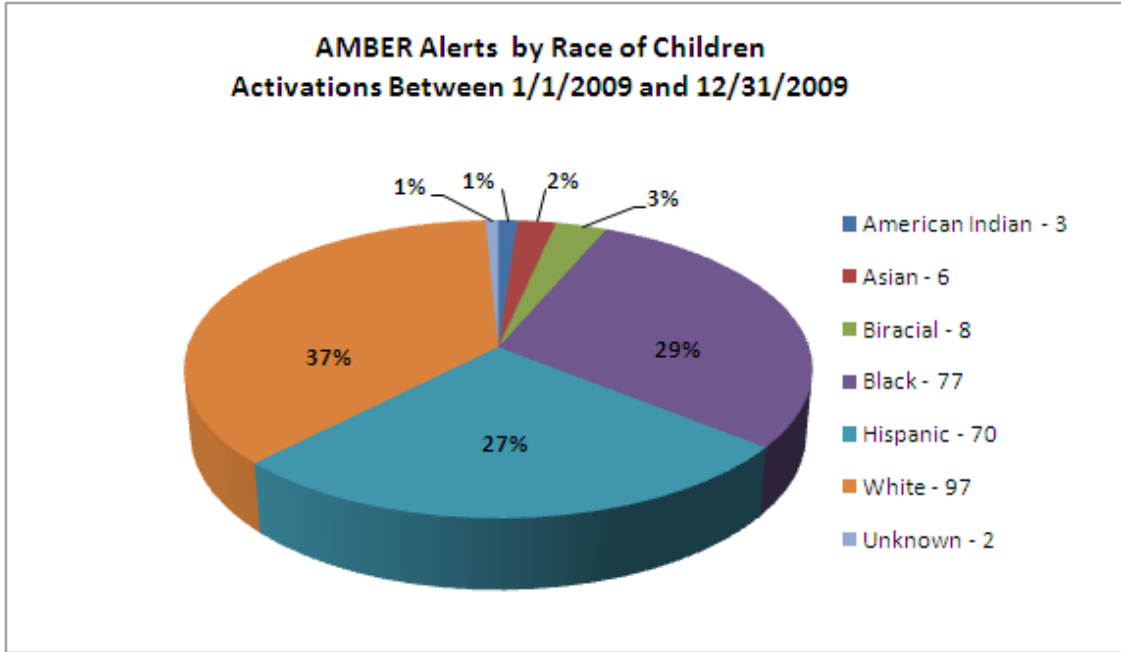
Figure 8: Race of Children, White and Minority

Race of Children, White and Minority
Activations Between 1/1/2009 and 12/31/2009

1%

- White - 97
- Minority - 164
- Unknown - 2

37% | 62%
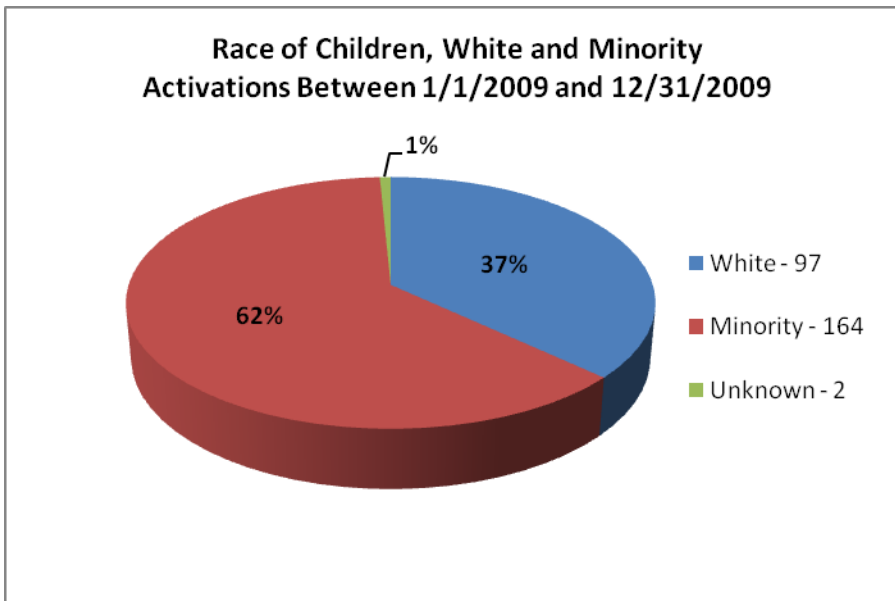
Boys and girls who were 5 years old and younger represented 61% (n=145) of the children who were reported missing with known ages. Of all children reported missing, girls aged 1 (n=16) and boys (n=20) younger than 1 year of age were most frequently involved in AMBER Alerts. The age of 24 children was unknown.

The number of boys involved in AMBER Alerts generally decreased or stayed the same as age increased up through age 6. A slight increase in the number of boys involved was seen at age 7. Between the ages

18

10 and 17, the number of boys involved ranged between no boys involved and 3 boys involved. Up through age 6 the number of girls involved ranged between 8 and 16 girls. Between ages 7 and 11 the number of girls involved ranged between 1 and 6 girls. A sharp increase is seen with ages 12 and 13 with 10 and 9 girls involved respectively. For ages 14 and older the number of girls involved ranged between 2 and 6 girls.

Figure 9: Age of Children When Missing
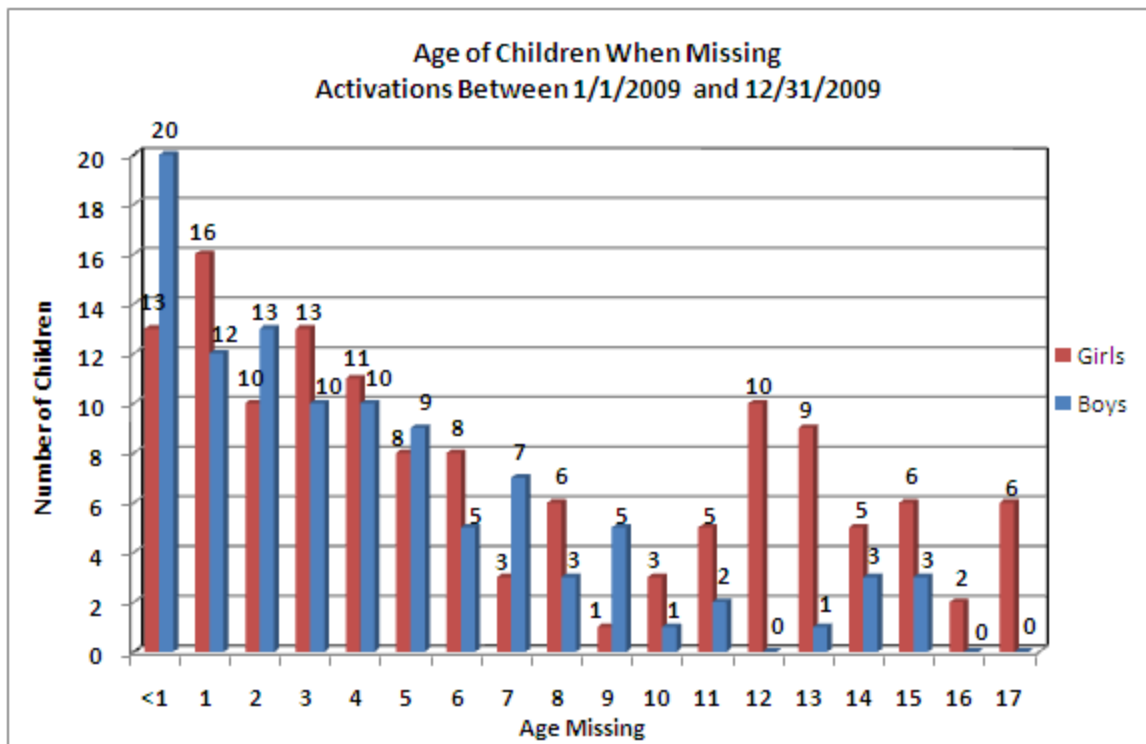
NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF ABDUCTORS

One hundred seventy (170) abductors were identified as being involved in 150 AMBER Alert cases in 2009.

The majority of abductors were male at 66% (n=112), and 33% (n=56) of abductors were female. The sex of 1% (n=2) of abductors is unknown.

Thirty-three percent (33%, n=56) of abductors were White, 24% (n=41) of abductors were Black, 24% (n=41) of abductors were Hispanic, 2% (n=3) of abductors were Asian, 2% (n=3) of abductors were American Indian, and the race for 15% (n=26) was unknown.

ABDUCTORS WITH A KNOWN RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHILD

Of the 170 abductors involved in AMBER Alerts in 2009, 137 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 124 FA cases the relationship between the child and abductor was known in 109 cases. It was possible to determine 118 out of the 124 abductors (95%) involved had relationships with the children. They consisted of 2 aunts, 1 boyfriend, 2 cousins, 64 fathers, 1 father's girlfriend, 1 friend of the family, 4 grandmothers, 34 mothers, 3 mother's boyfriends, 1 relative, 2 stepfathers, and 3 uncles.

Of the 61 NFA cases the relationship between the child and abductor was known in 19 cases. It was possible to determine 19 out of the 46 abductors (41%) involved had relationships with the children. They consisted of 1 babysitter, 4 boyfriends, 5 ex-boyfriends, 2 father's girlfriends, 2 friends of the family, 4 mother's boyfriends, and 1 neighbor.

Of the 3 ERU AMBER Alert cases issued in 2009, there were no abductors identified. Of the 3 LIM cases, only suspects in these cases, not abductors were identified.

Table 9: Abductor Relationship to Child

Abductor Relationship to Child	FA	FA (%)	NFA	NFA (%)	Total	Total (%)
Aunt	2	2%	0	0%	**2**	**1%**
Babysitter	0	0%	1	5%	**1**	**1%**
Boyfriend	1	1%	4	21%	**5**	**4%**
Ex-Boyfriend	0	0%	5	26%	**5**	**4%**
Cousin	2	2%	0	0%	**2**	**1%**
Father	64	54%	0	0%	**64**	**47%**
Father's Girlfriend	1	1%	2	11%	**3**	**2%**
Friend of Family	1	1%	2	11%	**3**	**2%**
Grandmother	4	3%	0	0%	**4**	**3%**
Mother	34	29%	0	0%	**34**	**25%**
Mother's Boyfriend	3	3%	4	21%	**7**	**5%**
Neighbor	0	0%	1	5%	**1**	**1%**
Relative	1	1%	0	0%	**1**	**1%**
Stepfather	2	2%	0	0%	**2**	**1%**
Uncle	3	3%	0	0%	**3**	**2%**
Total	**118**	**~100%**	**19**	**100%**	**137**	**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 101 cases. Hoaxes and unfounded cases were excluded in the statistics because a child was determined not to be missing in those AMBER Alert cases.

Fifty-one (51) AMBER Alerts were issued within less than 1 to 3 hours from when the child was reported missing. Twenty (20) 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 10: Time Between Reported Missing and Activation
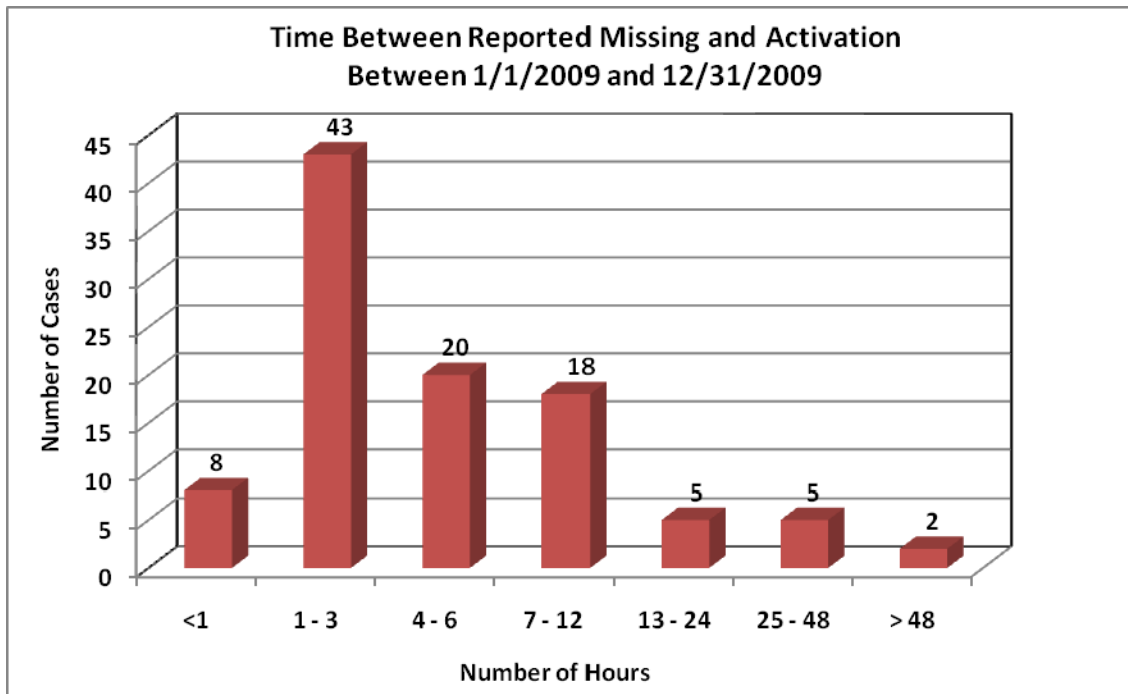
TIME BETWEEN REPORTED MISSING AND RECOVERY

Information about the time between when the child was reported missing to law enforcement and the AMBER Alert recovery was available in 93 cases. Hoaxes and unfounded cases were excluded in the statistics because a child was determined not to be missing in those AMBER Alert cases.

Twenty-one (21) AMBER Alerts were issued within less than 1 to 3 hours from when the child was reported missing. Nineteen (19) cases were activated within 4 to 6 hours from when the child was reported missing, and 20 cases were issued within 7 to 12 hours.
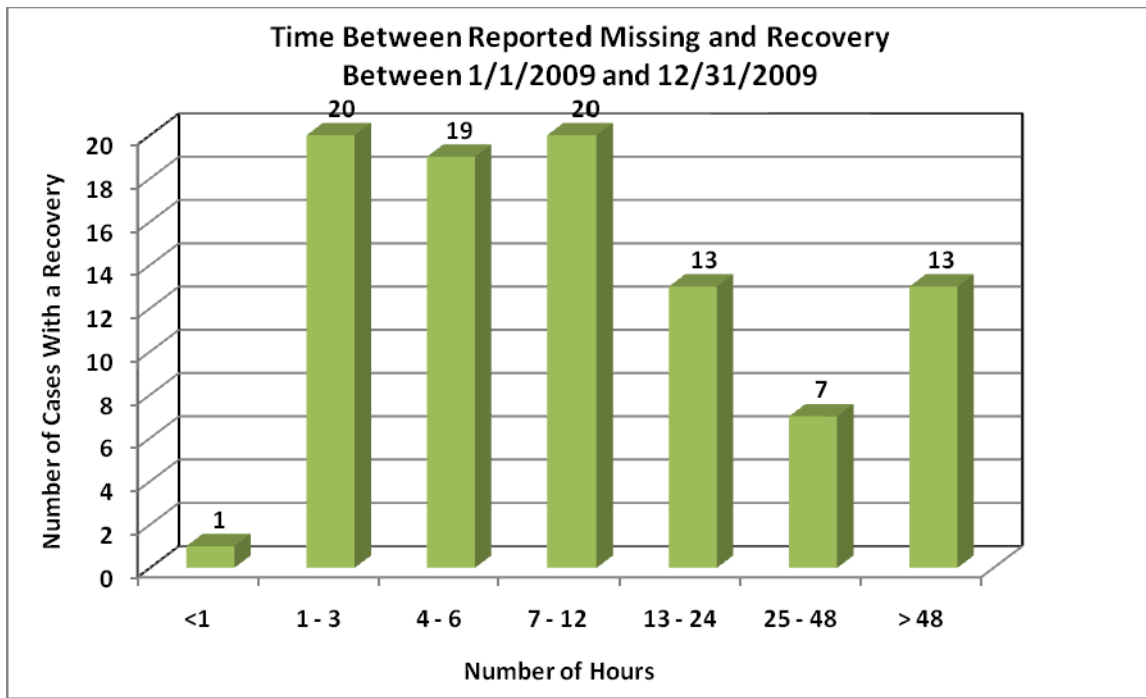
Figure 11: Time Between Reported Missing and Recovery

TIME BETWEEN ACTIVATION AND RECOVERY

Information about the time between when the AMBER Alert was activated and the AMBER Alert recovery was available in 109 cases. Hoaxes and unfounded cases were excluded in the statistics because a child was determined not to be missing in those AMBER Alert cases.

Sixty-two (62) AMBER Alerts were recovered within less than 1 to 3 hours from when the AMBER Alert was activated. Fifteen (15) cases were recovered within 4 to 6 hours from when the AMBER Alert was activated, and 11 cases were recovered within 7 to 12 hours.

Figure 12: Time Between Activation and Recovery
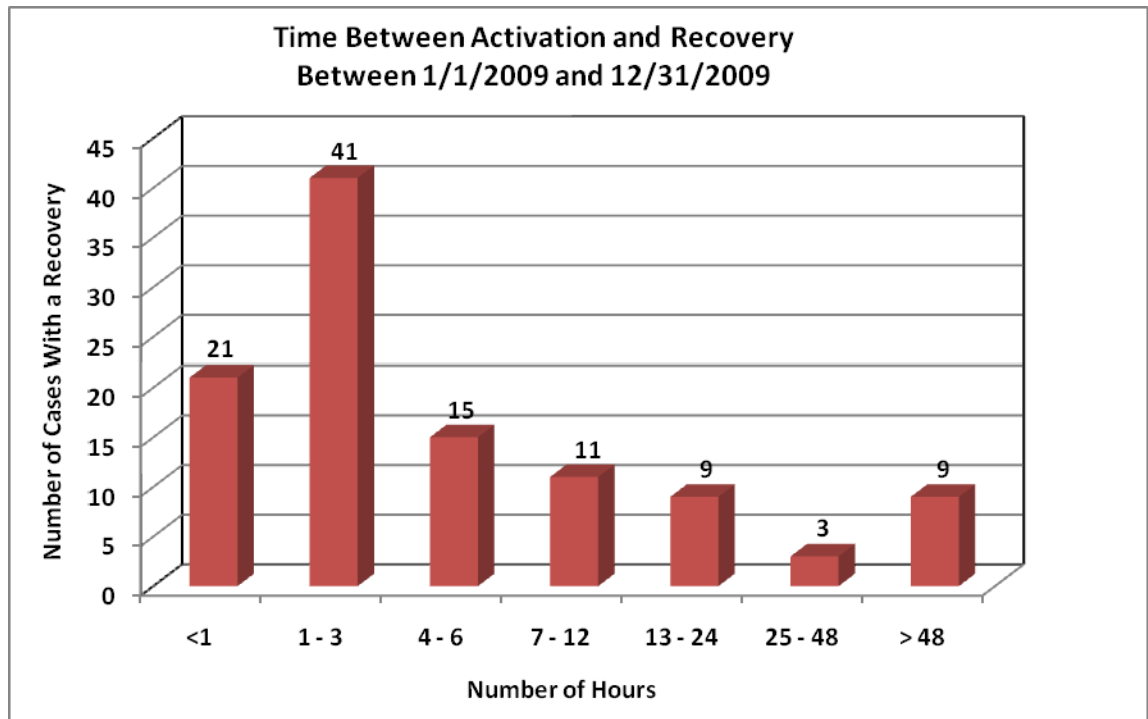
RECOVERY WITHIN 3 DAYS OF ACTIVATION

Information about the date between when the AMBER Alert was activated and the AMBER Alert recovery was available in all 207 cases. Hoaxes and unfounded cases were excluded in the recovery statistics because a child was determined not to be missing in those AMBER Alert cases.

Table 10: Recovery Within 3 Days of Activation

	Cases	Children
Number Intaked	207	263
Number Recoveries in 3 Days	162	213
Percent of Recoveries in 3 Days	78%	81%

23

TRAVEL DISTANCES

In 2009 travel destinations between where the child was reported missing and recovered were known for 159 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 55 cases the missing and recovery locations were in the same city; in 71 cases the distance between missing and recovery locations were outside the city but within 100 miles of each other; in 26 cases the distance between missing and recovery locations ranged between 101 miles and 500 miles; in 4 cases the distance between missing and recovery locations ranged between 501 miles and 1,000 miles; and in 3 cases travel distances were more than 1,000 miles. In 14 cases the travel distance could not be calculated, and the remaining 34 cases were either hoaxes, unfounded, or active cases.

Figure 13: Distance Between Missing and Recovery Locations
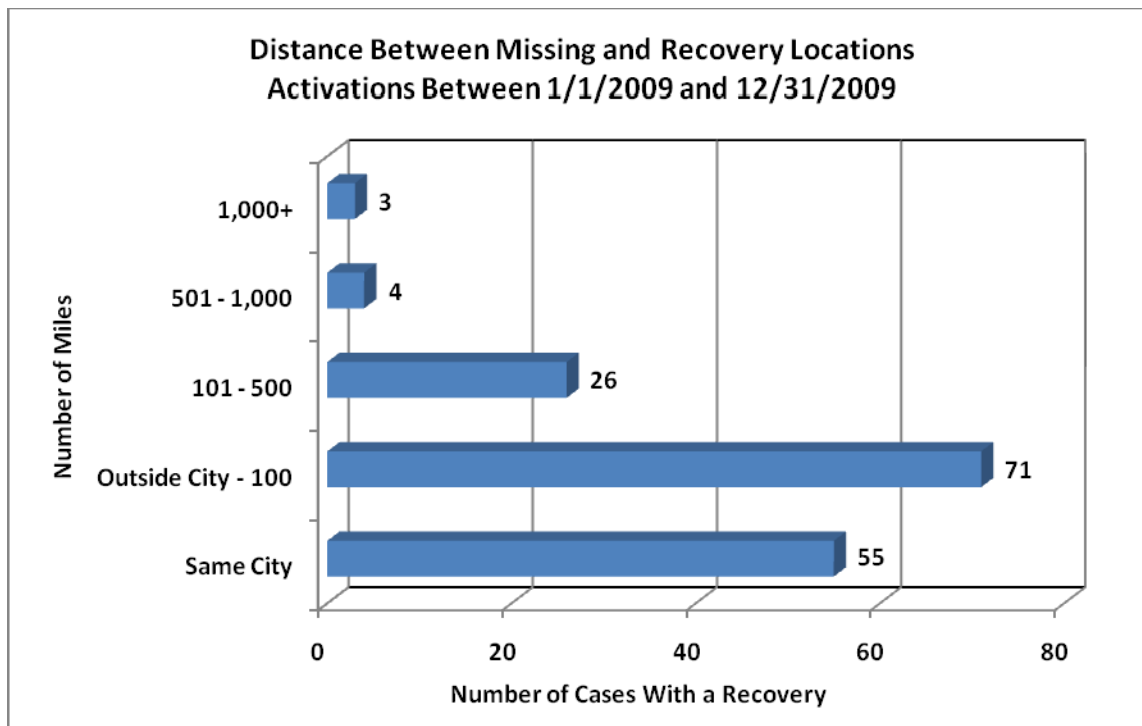
Of the 124 AMBER Alerts issued for FA cases, children in 37 cases were found in the same city. In 45 cases travel distances ranged between 5 miles and 93 miles; in 18 cases the children involved were found between 101 miles and 381 miles from where they were last seen. In 3 cases travel distances ranged between 604 miles and 633 miles. In 3 cases travel distances exceeded 1,000 miles. In 11 cases these distances could not be calculated and the remaining 7 cases were hoaxes, unfounded, and active cases.

Of the 61 AMBER Alerts issued for NFA cases, the children involved in 12 cases were found in the same city. In 21 cases children were found between 4 miles and 87 miles from where they were last seen. In 5

cases children were found between 150 miles and 337 miles from where they were last seen. One (1) case involved a child who was found 619 miles from the missing location. The distance for 2 cases could not be calculated, and the remaining 20 cases were hoaxes and unfounded cases.

There were 19 AMBER Alerts issued for LIM cases in 2009, and of those cases 4 were found in the same city. The children in 5 cases were found between 3 miles and 55 miles from where they were last seen, in 2 cases the children were recovered 155 and 244 miles from where they were last seen. The distance could not be calculated in 1 case, and the remaining 7 cases were active, hoaxes, and unfounded cases.

For the 3 cases intaked as ERUs in 2009, 2 cases had a recovery in the same city and 1 case had a recovery 102 miles from where the child was last seen.

Figure 14: Distance Traveled by Case Type
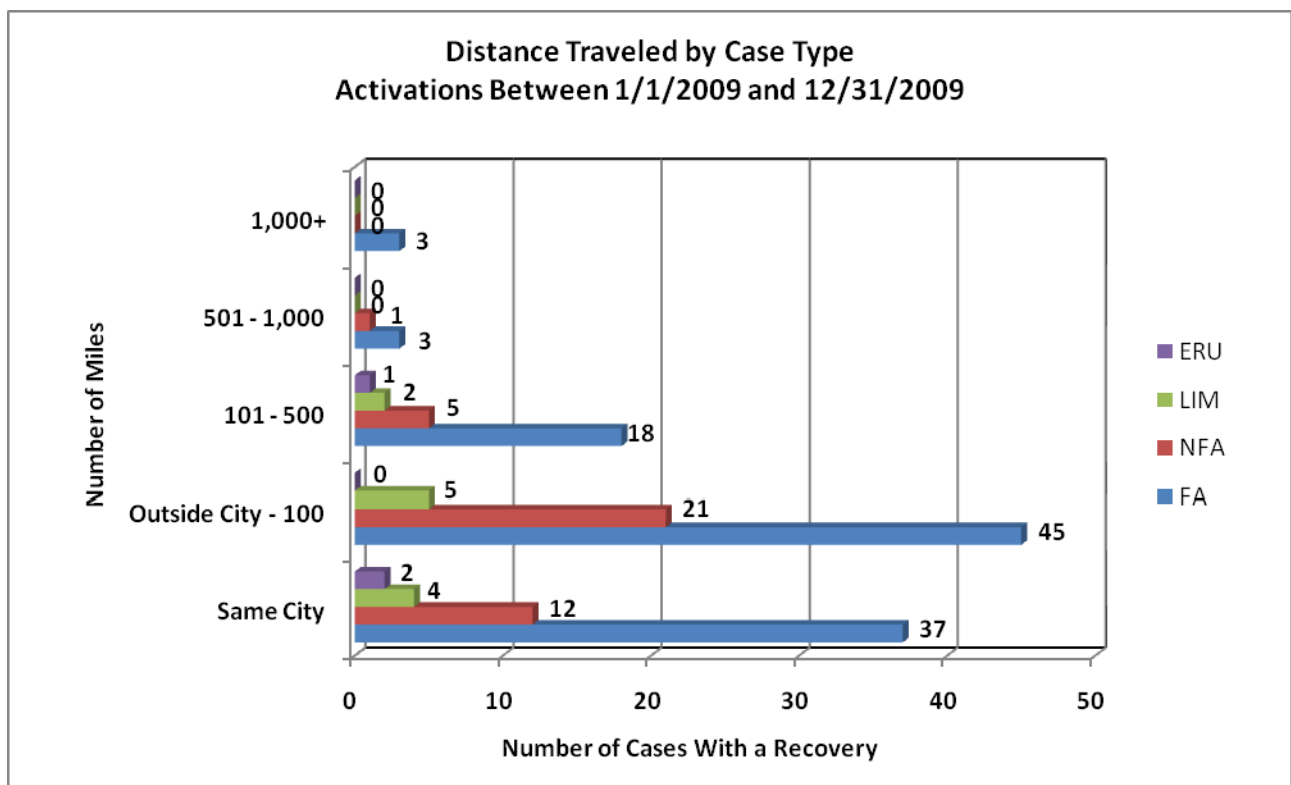
RECOVERIES OUTSIDE STATE/TERRITORY WHERE AMBER ALERT FIRST ACTIVATED

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 207 AMBER Alerts issued in 2009, 13% of cases (n=27) had recoveries out of the state/territory of the original activation. Of those 27 cases, 74% (n=20) were FAs, 19% (n=5) were NFAs, and 7% (n=2) were LIMs.

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

Activation State/Territory	Recovery State/Territory
Colorado	New Mexico
Delaware	New Jersey
Florida	Georgia
Georgia	Alabama
Georgia	Maryland
Georgia	Maryland
Georgia	Mississippi
Kentucky	Wisconsin
Maine	New Hampshire
Michigan	Indiana
Michigan	Maryland
Michigan	Ohio
New York	Virginia
North Carolina	Georgia
North Carolina	Tennessee
North Carolina	Virginia
Oklahoma	Kansas
Oregon	Nevada
Pennsylvania	Ohio
South Carolina	Georgia
Tennessee	Alabama
Tennessee	Alabama
Texas	Florida
Texas	Michigan
Texas	New Mexico
Texas	Ohio
Washington	Nevada

MISSING LOCATION

In 2009 there were 143 cases with information about where the children involved were last known to be. Of those 143 cases, 66% (n=94) were last known to be at home, followed by 10% (n=14) of cases where children were last known to be "on the street."

Table 12: Missing Location

Missing Location	Number of Cases	Percent
Auto / Vehicle	2	1%
Bus Stop	4	3%
Convenience Store	2	1%
Government Facility	2	1%
Home	94	66%
Hospital	1	1%
Law-Enforcement Agency	1	1%
Office Building	3	2%
Outdoor - Open Area	1	1%
Park	2	1%
Restaurant	3	2%
Retail Mall	3	2%
School	9	6%
Street	14	10%
Truck Stop	1	1%
Yard	1	1%
Total	**143**	**100%**

RECOVERY LOCATION

There were 169 cases with information about the location where the child was recovered. In 2009 children involved in AMBER Alert cases were most often recovered at home 41% (n=70) of the time followed by recoveries "on the street" at 14% (n=24).

Table 13: Recovery Location

Recovery Location	Number of Cases	Percent
Auto / Vehicle	9	5%
Gas Station	8	5%
Government Facility	4	2%
Home	70	41%
Hotel / Motel	13	8%
Lake	1	1%
Law-Enforcement Agency	10	6%
Medical	1	1%
Office Building	2	1%
Outdoor - Open Area	7	4%
Park	3	2%

Recovery Location	Number of Cases	Percent
Parking Lot	4	2%
Path/Trail/Woods	4	2%
Restaurant	3	2%
Retail	2	1%
River	2	1%
School	1	1%
Street	24	14%
Truck Stop	1	1%
Total	**169**	**100%**

INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTIONS

In 2009, 6 AMBER Alert activations involving 6 children resulted in an international abduction, involving recoveries in Mexico. Sixty-seven (67%, n=4) of those cases were FAs, 17% (n=1) were NFAs, and 17% (n=1) were LIMs. Eighty-three percent (83%, n=5) of the children involved were Hispanic and 17% (n=1) were White. Fifty percent (50%, n=3) were boys, and 50% (n=3) were girls.

INFANTS INVOLVED IN AMBER ALERT ACTIVATIONS

In 2009 infants, who are defined as children 6 months of age or younger, were involved in 18 AMBER Alert activations. Seventy-two percent (72%, n=13) of infants involved were FAs and 28% (n=5) were NFAs. Two (2) cases were later determined to be hoaxes. In one (1) case the child's mother changed her story and said she had given the father permission to take the child. In the other case the child's mother filed a false report naming a former boyfriend she had previously falsely accused of rape as the probable abductor.

Sixty-one percent (61%, n=11) of infants involved in AMBER Alerts were boys and 39% (n=7) were girls. Six percent (6%, n=1) of infants involved were American Indian, 11% (n=2) were Biracial, 27% (n=5) were Black, 44% (n=8) were Hispanic, and 11% (n=2) 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 success if the law-enforcement investigation indicates the case is unfounded or a hoax.

Of the 207 AMBER Alert cases in 2008, 59 children involved in 45 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	% of Successful Recoveries by Case	Number of Successful Recoveries by Child	% of Successful Recoveries by Child
FA	32	71%	43	73%
NFA	12	27%	15	25%
LIM	0	0%	0	0%
ERU	1	2%	1	2%
Total	**45**	**100%**	**59**	**100%**

The most common reason for an AMBER Alert success story is an individual or law enforcement recognizing the vehicle from the Alert at 36% (n=16), followed by an abductor hearing the Alert and releasing the child unharmed at 27% (n=12).

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	16	36%	21	36%
Abductor Heard Alert and Released Child	12	27%	17	29%
Individual Knew Whereabouts of Suspect and Contacted Authorities	6	13%	9	15%
Individual Recognized Child from Alert and Contacted Authorities	5	11%	5	8%
Individual Informed Abductor About Alert and Abductor Contacted Authorities	3	7%	4	7%
Law Enforcement Received Tips from Individuals	2	4%	2	3%
Individual Heard Alert and Convinced Abductor to Turn Self In	1	2%	1	2%
Total	**45**	**100%**	**59**	**100%**

TIME BETWEEN ACTIVATION AND RECOVERY FOR SUCCESS STORIES

In 2009, 87% (n=39) of the cases had successful recoveries and 85% (n=50) of the children were successfully recovered within 72 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%	3	5%
½+ - 1 Hour	8	18%	12	20%
1+ Hour - 2 Hours	6	13%	6	10%
2+ - 3 Hours	11	24%	14	24%
3+ - 4 Hours	2	4%	2	3%
4+ - 5 Hours	2	4%	2	3%
5+ - 6 Hours	1	2%	1	2%
6+ - 12 Hours	2	4%	3	5%
12+ - 24 Hours	5	11%	7	12%
24+ - 48 Hours	0	0%	0	0%
48+ - 72 Hours	0	0%	0	0%
72+ Hours	2	4%	2	3%
Unknown	4	9%	7	12%
Total	**45**	**~100%**	**59**	**~100%**

CHILDREN RECOVERED DECEASED

In 2009, 207 AMBER Alerts were issued involving 263 children. Nine (9) children involved in 8 AMBER Alert cases were recovered deceased. Forty-four percent (44%, n=4) of children were reported as FAs, and 56% (n=5) were reported as LIMs. Five (n=5) girls, between the ages of 3 and 13, were found deceased, and 4 boys, between the ages of 3 and 9, were found deceased. Two (n=2) children were Asian, 1 child was Black, 2 were Hispanic, and 4 were White.

The 9 children recovered deceased in 2009 were reported missing from their respective homes (n=4) and from school (n=1). It is unknown where 4 of the children were last seen.

Of the 4 children involved in 3 FA cases, 3 children were abducted by their fathers and 1 child was abducted by her uncle. In 1 case involving 2 brothers they were abducted by their father who killed his sons and then killed himself. In 1 case a boy was abducted by his father, but was then killed in an automobile accident. In 1 case a 3-year-old girl was thrown over a bridge by her uncle. Of the 5 children involved in 5 LIM cases, 4 children were abducted and murdered. One (1) child involved in 1 LIM case drowned in a lake near his home.

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
02/10/09	LIM	White Boy	3	> 72 hours	Same City	Drowning
03/08/09	LIM	White Girl	13	< 72 hours	Same City	Strangulation
03/09/09	FA	Asian Boy	7	> 72 hours	N/A	Undisclosed
03/09/09	FA	Asian Boy	9	> 72 hours	N/A	Undisclosed
04/25/09	FA	Hispanic Girl	3	< 72 hours	Same City	Drowning
05/24/09	LIM	White Girl	5	> 72 hours	Same City	Undetermined
10/16/09	FA	Hispanic Boy	3	> 72 hours	N/A	Vehicular
10/21/09	LIM	White Girl	7	< 72 hours	55 Miles	Undetermined
11/10/09	LIM	Black Girl	5	> 72 hours	Hoax	Undetermined

AMBER ALERTS INVOLVING VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

In 2009 a total of 4 girls involved in 4 AMBER Alert activations were reported to be victims of sexual assault during their abduction. Two (2) girls were Hispanic and 2 were White, ages 3, 4, 5, and 13. The case type at intake included 3 NFAs and 1 LIM. Of the 4 cases, all were perpetrated by someone unknown to the family.

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 honor of 6-year-old Adam Walsh, the abducted and murdered son of NCMEC cofounders John and Revé Walsh.

In 2009 Team Adam Consultants were deployed to assist with 27 AMBER Alert cases involving 31 children, with all but 1 child recovered in 1 case. At intake the case breakdown included 11 FAs, 9 NFAs, and 7 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 62 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 55 times, according to the FBI, to assist law-enforcement agencies where an AMBER Alert or mysterious disappearance of a child has occurred. There were 7 deployments in 2009 for AMBER Alerts.

COMMAND POST USE IN AMBER ALERTS

In 2009, 16 AMBER Alert cases were reported as using a command post. Of those 16 cases, 8 cases were intaked as FAs, 5 cases were intaked as NFAs, and 3 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 persons. 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 263 children involved in AMBER Alert cases in 2009, information about 207 children was entered into NCIC and information about 56 children was not entered into NCIC.

Table 18: Information Entered in NCIC

	1/1/2009 - 12/31/2009	1/1/2009 - 12/31/2009 (%)
Information Entered in NCIC	207	79%
Information Not Entered in NCIC	56	21%
Total	**263**	**100%**

Of the 207 children whose information was entered in NCIC between January 1, 2009, and December 31, 2009, 123 children were flagged as an AMBER Alert (AA), 50 children were flagged as a Missing Person (MP), and 29 children were flagged as a Child Abduction (CA). The flag for 5 children was unknown.

Figure 15: Flag Type in NCIC
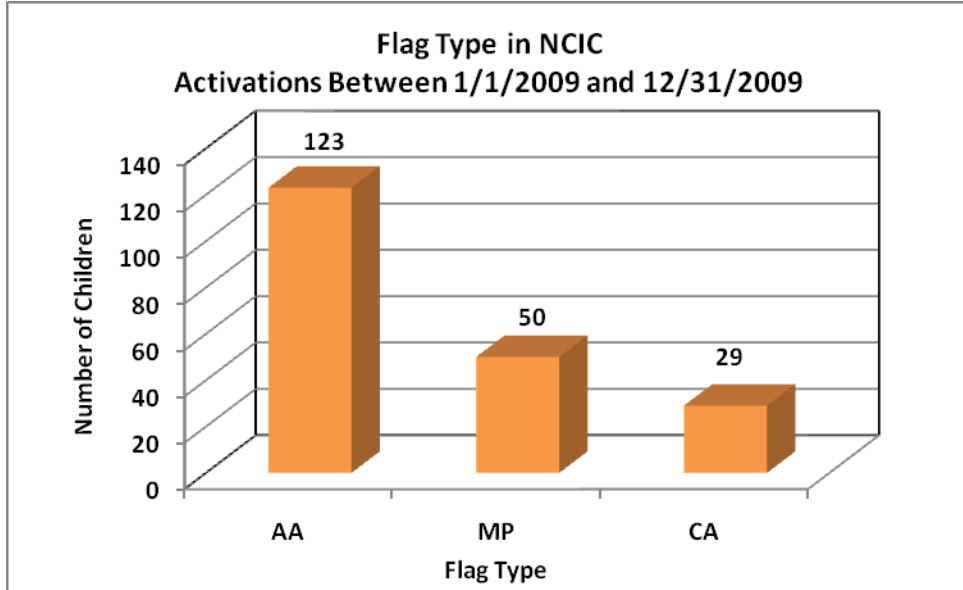
NCMEC is the only agency outside of law enforcement granted permission to modify flags in NCIC to AA status for AMBER Alert cases. During the months of January through December 2009, 43 flags were changed from CA to AA and 16 flags were changed from MP to AA. The original flag for 11 children is unknown. NCMEC made the flag updates for 54 children and law enforcement made the update for 11 children. It is unknown which agency made the flag update for 5 children.

The table below shows the Missing-Person Type category for children involved in AMBER Alerts at the time of entry between January 1, 2009, and December 31, 2009.

Table 19: Missing-Person Type in NCIC

NCIC Missing-Person Type	1/1/2009 - 12/31/2009	1/1/2009 - 12/31/2009 (%)
Endangered	87	42%
Endangered - Caution	16	8%
Endangered - Caution Other	1	0.5%
Involuntary	50	24%
Involuntary Caution	6	3%
Juvenile	28	14%
Juvenile - Caution	5	2%
Disability - Caution	1	0.5%
Emancipated Juvenile	1	0.5%
Unknown	12	6%
Total	**207**	**~100%**

Between January 1, 2009, and December 31, 2009, information about 79 children was entered and cancelled from NCIC within 3 hours.

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

	1/1/2009 - 12/31/2009 (Total)	1/1/2009 - 12/31/2009 (Cumulative Total)	1/1/2009 - 12/31/2009 (%)	1/1/2009 - 12/31/2009 (Cumulative %)
Up to 1/2 Hour	17	17	8%	8%
½+ - 1 Hour	20	37	10%	18%
1+ Hour - 2 Hours	29	66	14%	32%
2+ - 3 Hours	13	79	6%	38%
3+ - 4 Hours	15	94	7%	45%
4+ - 5 Hours	3	97	1%	46%
5+ - 6 Hours	8	105	4%	50%
6+ - 12 Hours	31	136	15%	65%
12+ - 24 Hours	21	157	10%	75%
24+ - 48 Hours	9	166	4%	79%
48+ - 72 Hours	7	173	3%	82%
72+ Hours	17	190	8%	90%
Unknown	17	207	8%	~100%
Total	**207**		**~100%**	

Data collected from the miscellaneous field in NCIC captured information such as abductor threats and use of weapons for 34 children involved in 24 AMBER Alerts issued in 2009. Nine (9) abductors were armed with a weapon, 4 abductors had a history of alcohol and/or drug abuse, 2 abductors assaulted their wives, 1 abductor is a sex offender, 1 abductor had a history of mental illness, 1 abductor had a history of suicide attempts, 1 abductor was possibly suicidal, 1 abductor was a suspect in a homicide, 1 abductor threatened to harm the child, 1 abductor threatened to kill himself, 1 abductor had an active warrant for domestic violence, and 1 abductor was possibly armed and dangerous.

Fifty-three percent (53%, n=110) of NCIC entries indicated a vehicle was involved in the AMBER Alert. For 47% (n=97) 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 the NCIC vehicle field for 110 children. Of those 77 children's records had license-plate information entered in the vehicle field only, and 13 children's records had license-plate information entered in both the miscellaneous and vehicle fields. For 20 children's records the license-plate information was entered in the miscellaneous field only.

COMPARISON OF AMBER ALERTS ISSUED BETWEEN 2005 AND 2009

Number of AMBER Alerts and Children Involved

The number of AMBER Alerts and children involved consistently decreased up through 2008, with a 5% decrease between 2005 and 2006, a 13% decrease between 2006 and 2007, and a 15% decrease between 2007 and 2008. Between 2005 and 2008, there was a total decrease of 29%. Although the years between 2008 and 2009 saw a 7% increase, the overall trend shows a decline in Alerts over the years.

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; and in 2009 there were 207 Alerts involving 263 children

Figure 16: Number of AMBER Alerts Issued Between 2005 and 2009
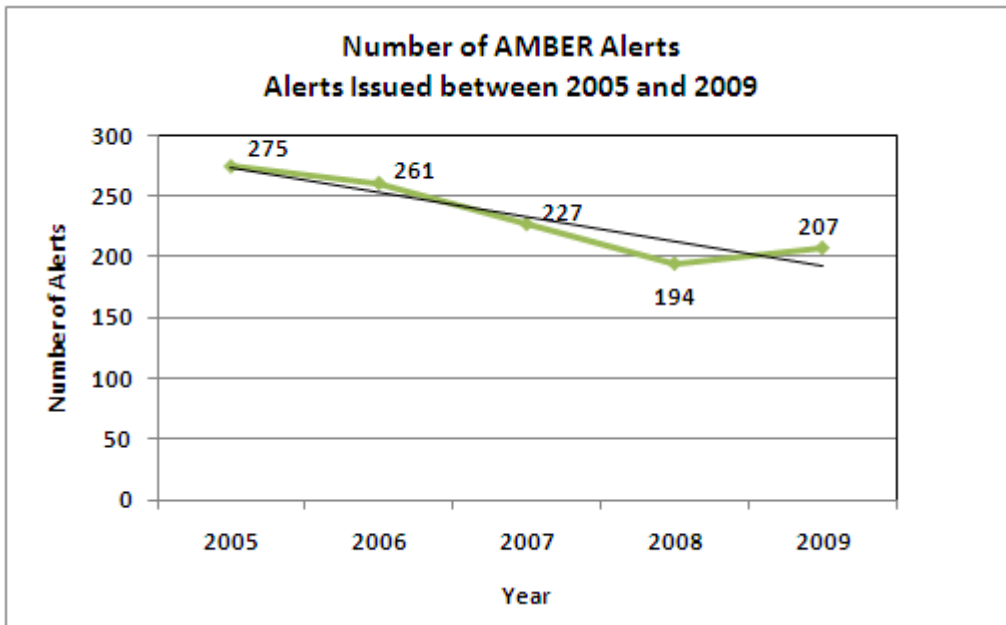
Figure 17: Number of Children Involved in AMBER Alerts Issued Between 2005 and 2009

Number of Children
Activations Between 2005 and 2009

338
316
278
256
263
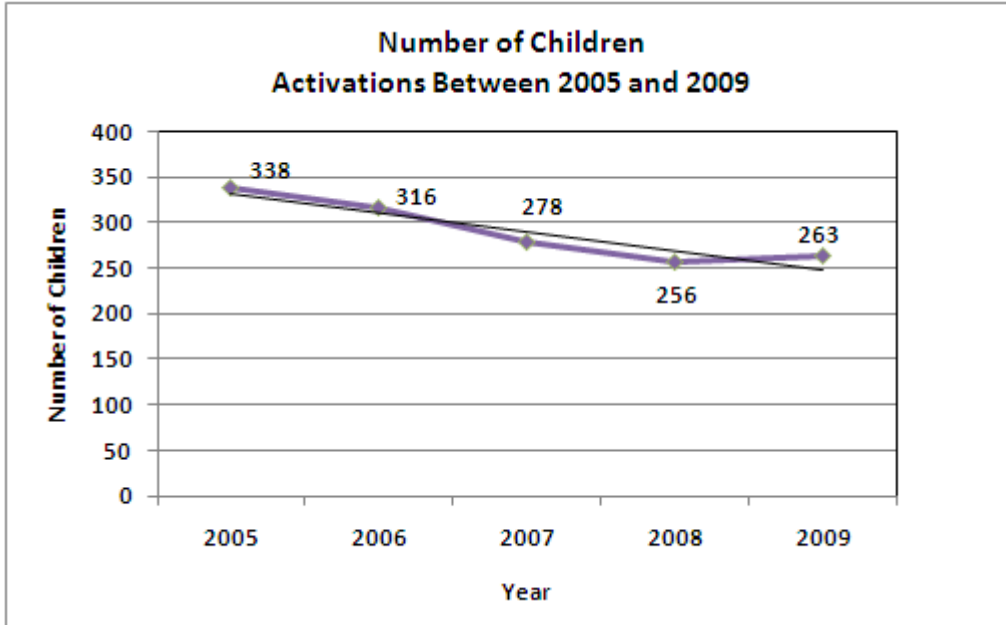
AMBER Alerts by Range

Between 2005 and 2009 AMBER Alerts were predominantly issued statewide/territory wide, followed by regional Alerts and then local Alerts.

Figure 18: Range of AMBER Alerts Between 2005 and 2009

Range of Alerts
Alerts Issued between 2005 and 2009

Range	Statewide/Territory Wide	Regional	Local
2005	130	119	16
2006	147	96	8
2007	121	91	13
2008	97	77	18
2009	94	96	5
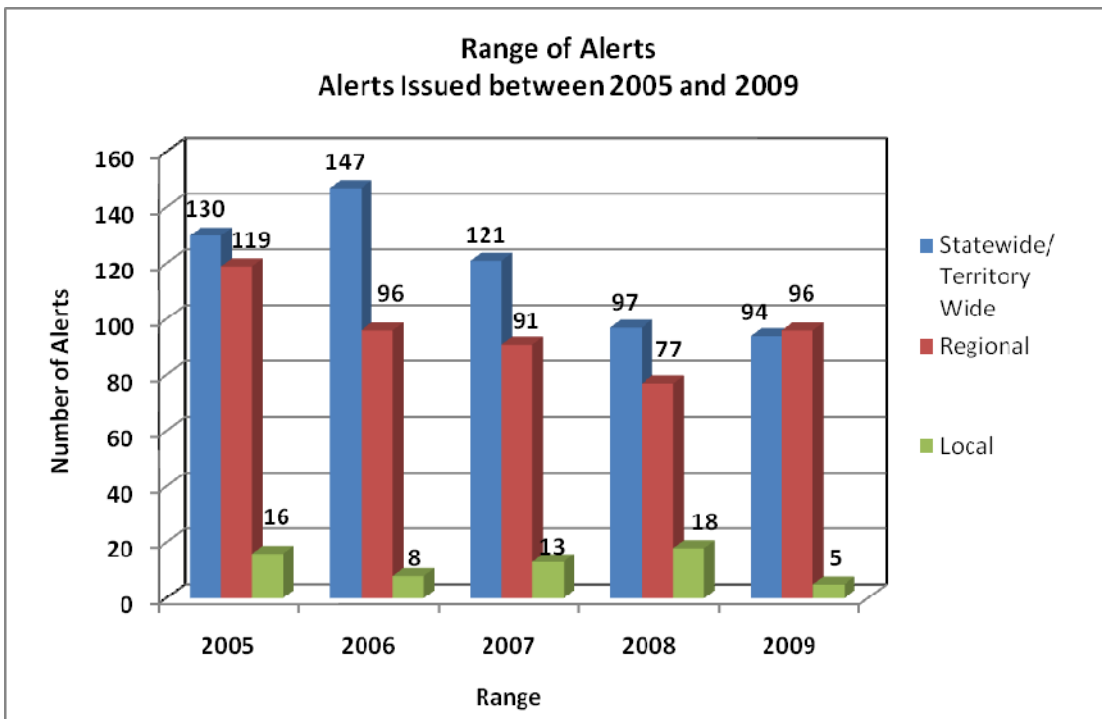
Multistate/Territorial AMBER Alerts

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.

Number of Cases at Intake by Month

Table 21: Number of Cases by Month Between 2005 and 2009

	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	19	22	12	18	10
Total	**85**	**95**	**99**	**86**	**104**	**118**	**104**	**94**	**105**	**107**	**90**	**77**

Table 22: Cases and Percent Increase/Decrease by Month Between 2005 and 2009

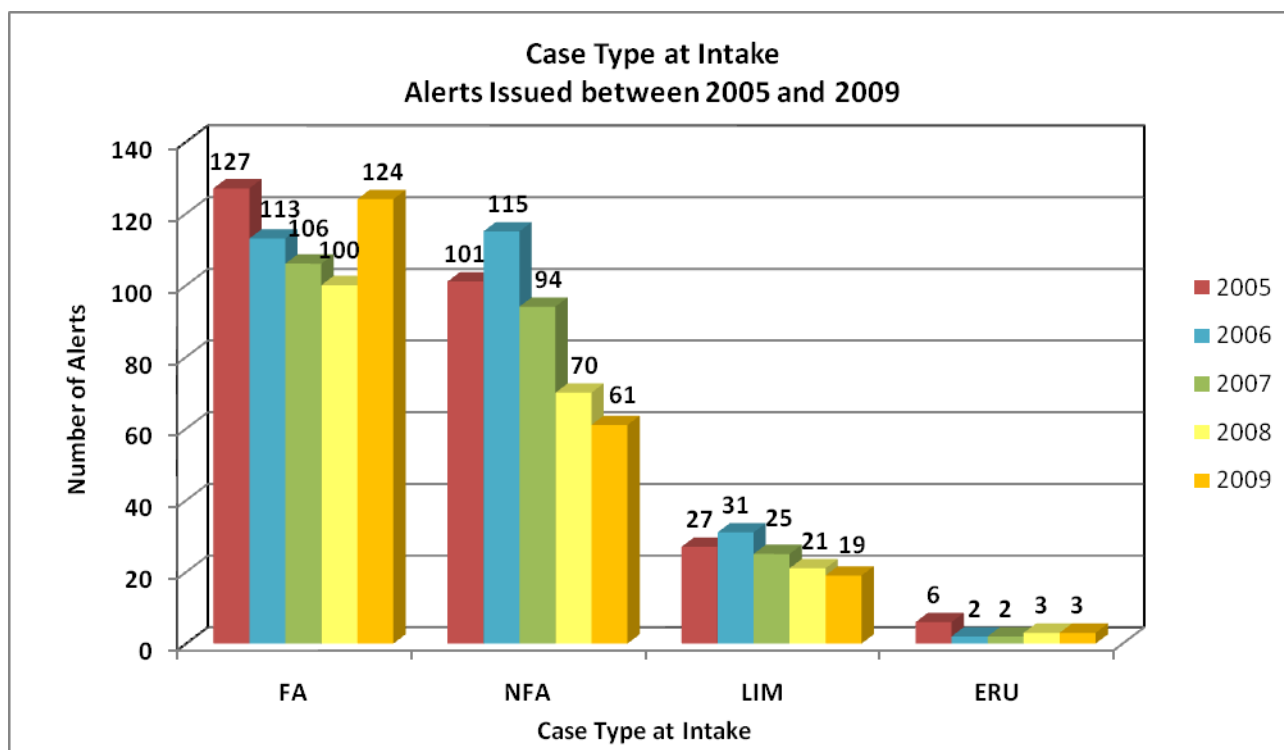|	2005	Percent Change	2006	Percent Change	2007	Percent Change	2008	Percent Change	2009
Jan	23	-26%	17	24%	21	-62%	8	100%	16
Feb	24	-13%	21	-38%	13	54%	20	-15%	17
Mar	20	-5%	19	26%	24	-46%	13	77%	23
Apr	23	-9%	21	-38%	13	8%	14	7%	15
May	22	9%	24	-13%	21	-5%	20	-15%	17
Jun	19	90%	36	-44%	20	35%	27	-41%	16
Jul	25	-16%	21	10%	23	-44%	13	69%	22
Aug	19	32%	25	-40%	15	7%	16	19%	19
Sept	28	-29%	20	10%	22	-41%	13	69%	22
Oct	29	-31%	20	0%	20	30%	26	-54%	12
Nov	22	0%	22	-36%	14	0%	14	29%	18
Dec	21	-29%	15	40%	21	-52%	10	0%	10
Total	**275**	**-5%**	**261**	**-13%**	**227**	**-15%**	**194**	**7%**	**207**

Case Type at Intake

The number of cases intaked as FAs decreased in 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 with 127 Alerts, 113 Alerts, 106 Alerts, and 100 Alerts respectively. The number of FAs increased to 124 Alerts in 2009. FAs were the predominant case type for which AMBER Alerts were issued for all years except 2006.

For NFAs there was an increase of cases between 2005 and 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 61 Alerts respectively.

The number of cases intaked as LIMs remained fairly consistent for the past 5 years with 27, 31, 25, 21, and 19 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. In 2008 and 2009 the number of ERUs increased to 3 Alerts for each year.

Figure 19: AMBER Alerts by Case Type at Intake

Table 23: Cases and Percent Increase/Decrease by Case Type

	2005	Percent Change	2006	Percent Change	2007	Percent Change	2008	Percent Change	2009
FA	127	-11%	113	-6%	106	-6%	100	24%	124
NFA	101	14%	115	-18%	94	-26%	70	-13%	61
LIM	27	15%	31	-19%	25	-16%	21	-10%	19
ERU	6	-67%	2	0%	2	50%	3	0%	3
Unknown	14	-100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
Total	**275**	**-5%**	**261**	**-13%**	**227**	**-15%**	**194**	**7%**	**207**

Hoaxes and Unfounded Cases

The number of hoaxes decreased significantly in 2005 and 2006, from 24 cases to 10 cases, which represents a 58% decrease. Between 2006 and 2007 the number of hoaxes increased from 10 to 17 cases, and once again decreased to 11 Alerts in 2008. The number of unfounded cases decreased in 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 with 29, 27, 22, and 14 cases respectively. In 2009 the number of hoaxes and unfounded cases increased with 16 cases and 15 cases respectively.

Figure 20: Number of Hoaxes and Unfounded Cases Between 2005 and 2009
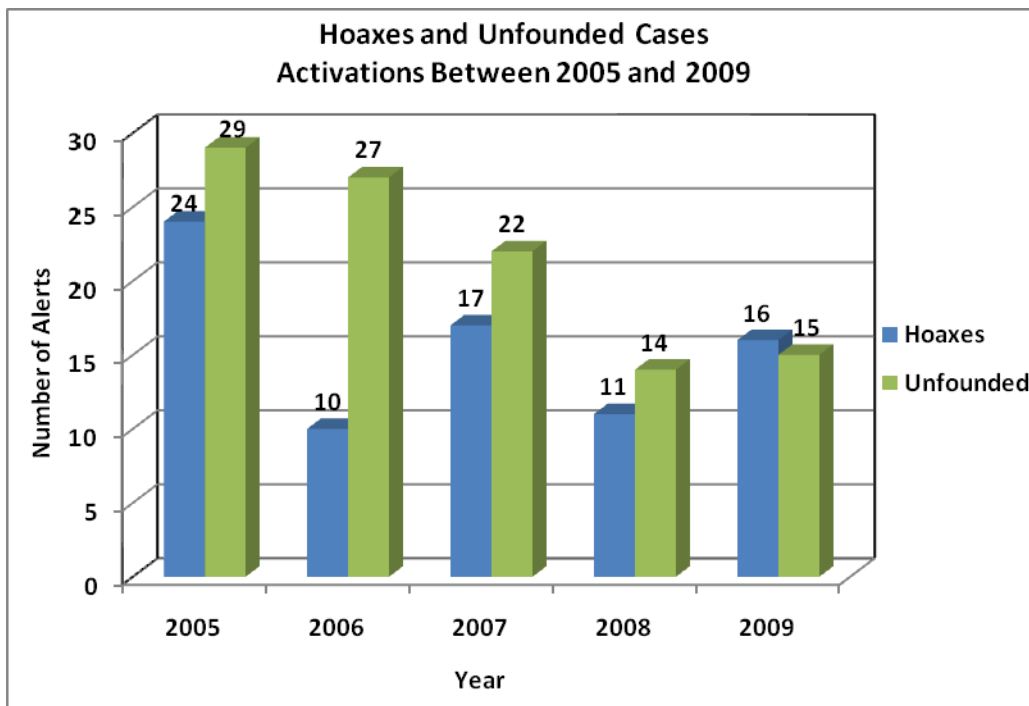

Number and Characteristics of Children Involved in AMBER Alerts

Girls were more frequently involved in AMBER Alerts than boys between 2005 and 2009. 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=113).

The number of American Indian children involved in AMBER Alerts decreased between 2005 and 2007, and then saw a slight increase in 2008 and 2009 (n=5, 1, 1, 2, and 3). The number of Asian children increased between 2005 and 2009 (n= 2, 3, 3, 5, and 6). The number of Biracial children decreased in 2006 (n=7) from 10 in 2005, increased in 2007 (n=18), and then decreased in 2008 and 2009 (n=9 and 8). For Black children there was an increase in 2006 (n=93) from 81 in 2005, then a decrease (n=86, 78, and 77) in the subsequent years. The number of Hispanic children saw a steady decrease between 2005 and 2007 (n=66, 60, and 38) and then saw a sharp increase in 2008 and 2009 (n=57 and 70). The number of White children decreased 41% (n=164) and (n=97) between 2005 and 2009.

Figure 21: Race of Children Between 2005 and 2009
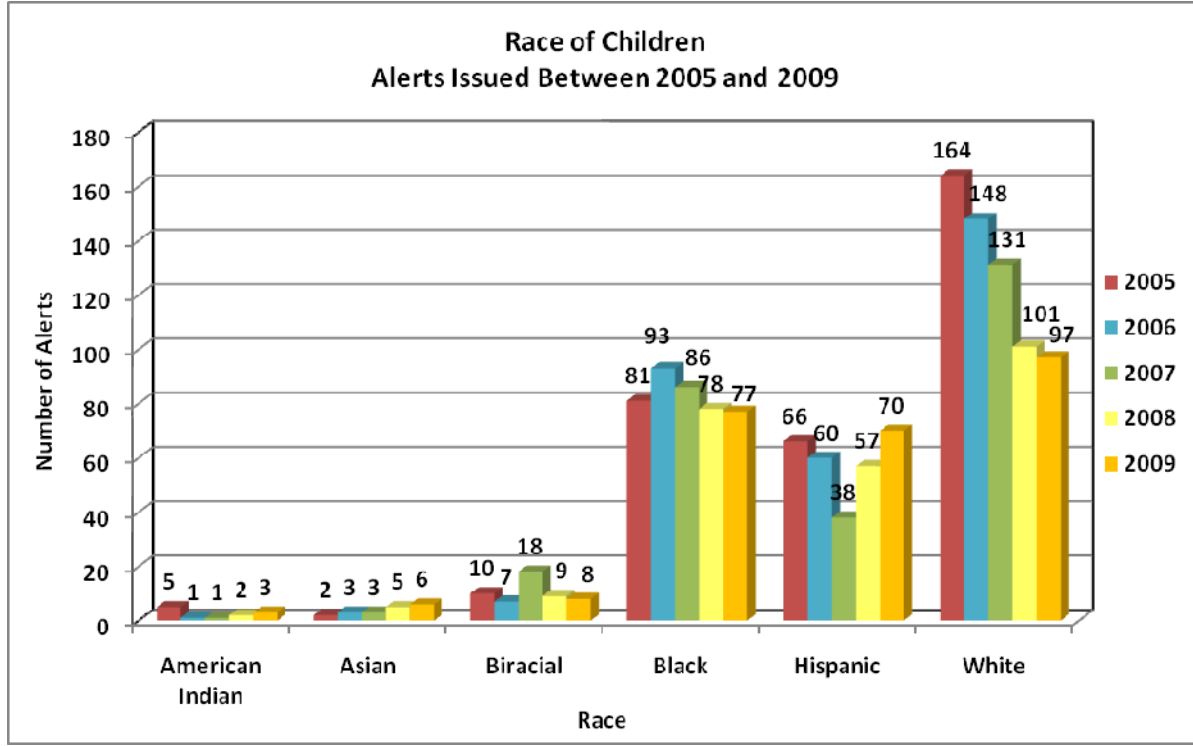
An equal number of White and Minority children (n=164) were involved in AMBER Alert activations in 2005. Between 2006 and 2009 Minority children were involved in AMBER Alerts more frequently than White children.

Figure 22: Race of Children, White and Minority Between 2005 and 2009
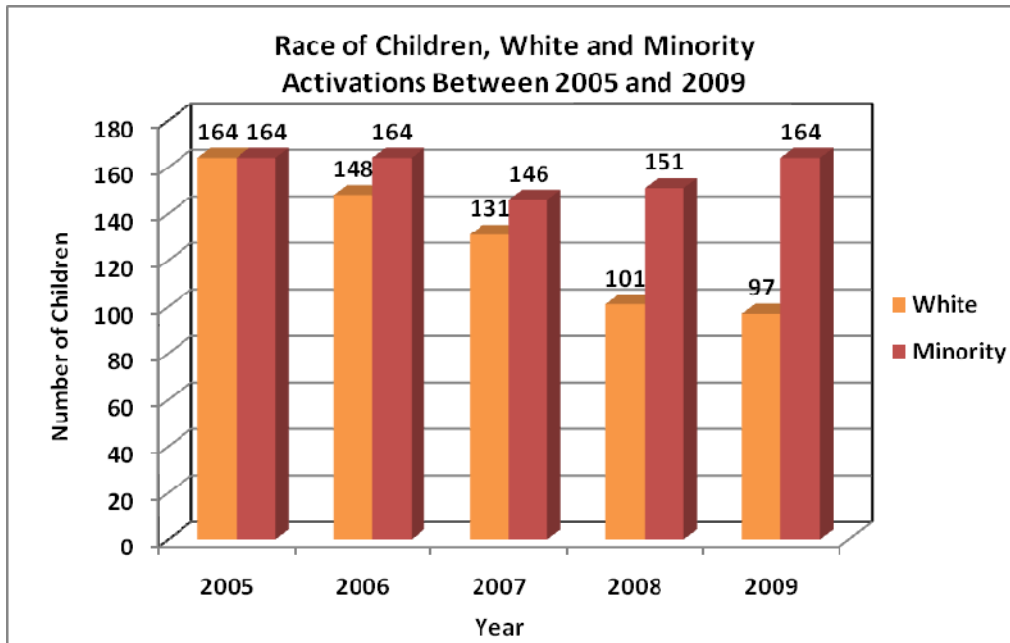
International Abductions

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.

Children Recovered Deceased

A total of 48 children who were involved in AMBER Alerts issued between 2005 and 2009 were recovered deceased. The number of children recovered deceased between 2005 and 2007 decreased with 15 children in 2005, 10 children in 2006, and 6 children in 2007. In 2008 and 2009 there was an increase with 8 and 9 children recovered deceased respectively.

Children intaked as LIMs consistently make up the largest number of case types for children who were recovered deceased over the past 5 years. The percentage of children who were recovered deceased in AMBER Alert cases and were intaked as LIMs increased between 2005 and 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 there was an increase in LIMS (n=5) at 56%.

Table 24: Number of Children Recovered Deceased Between 2005 and 2009

Case Type at Intake	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
FA	2	1	0	3	4	10
NFA	5	3	1	1	0	10
LIM	8	6	5	4	5	28
ERU	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**15**	**10**	**6**	**8**	**9**	**48**

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, 79% (n=207) of children's information was entered in NCIC.

The AA flag was the predominant flag type for the past 5 years with 120, 109, 101, 116, and 123 flags respectively.

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.

Figure 23: Vehicle Involved in AMBER Alerts

Vehicle Involvement in AMBER Alerts Activations Between 2005 and 2009
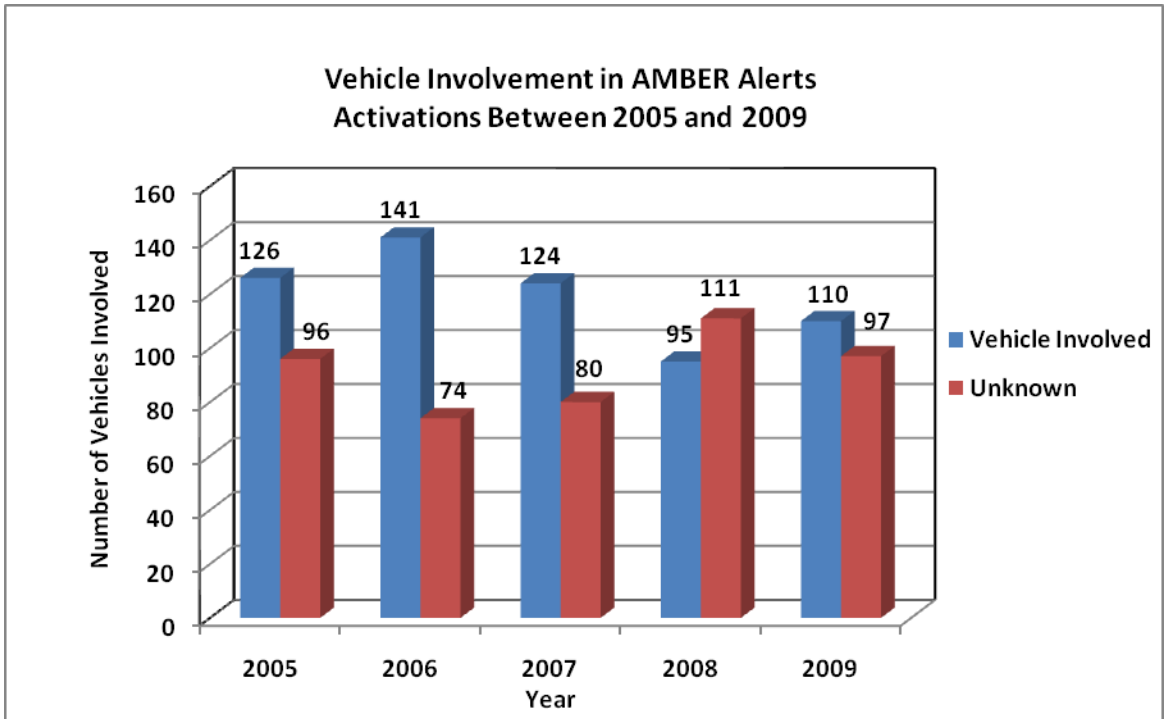
2009 AMBER Alert Report

AMBER Alert Activations Issued
Between January 1, 2009, and December 31, 2009
Total = 207

NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN

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St. Thomas and St. Croix
VI
St. Croix

PR
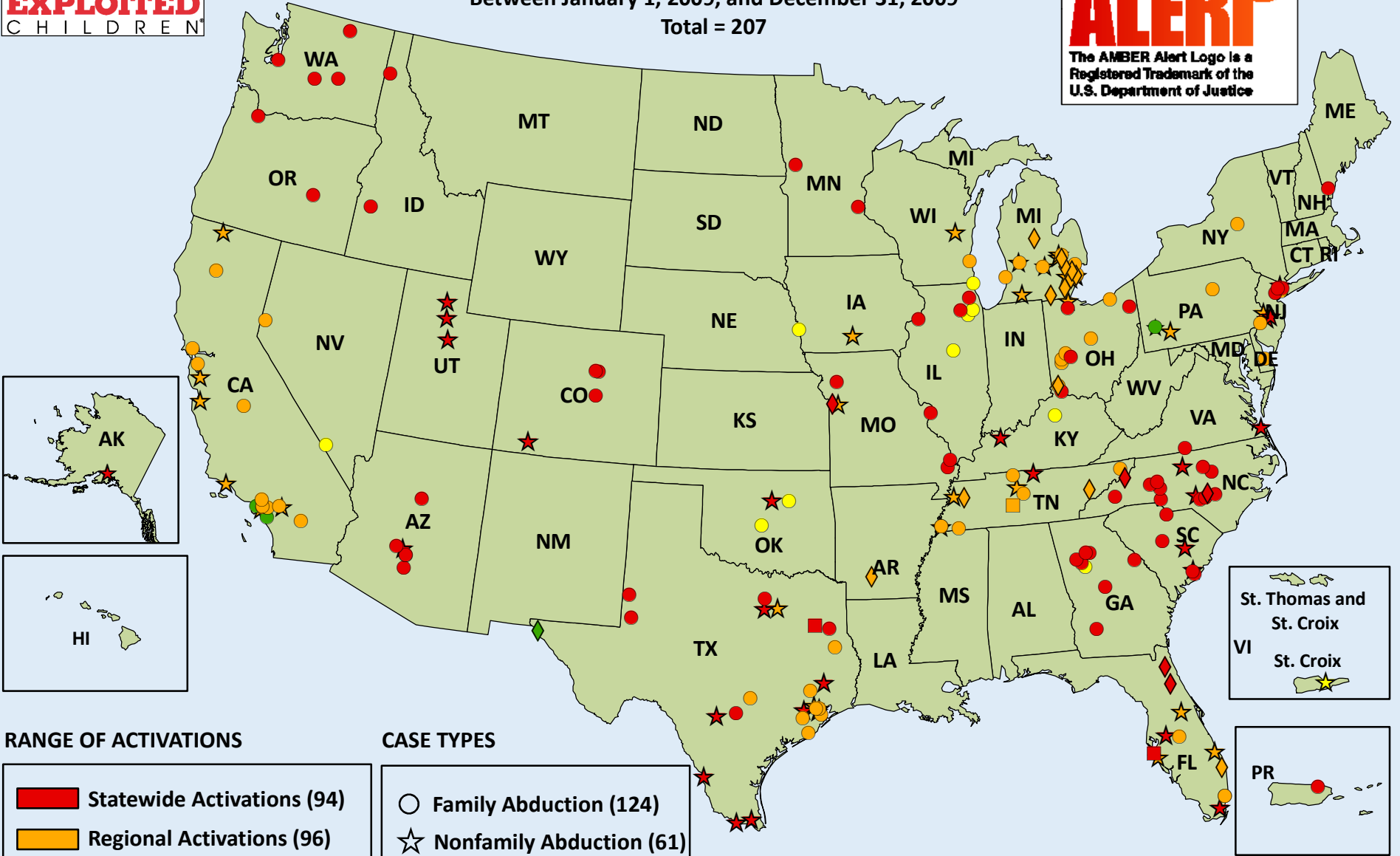
RANGE OF ACTIVATIONS

- 🟥 Statewide Activations (94)
- 🟧 Regional Activations (96)
- 🟩 Local Activations (5)
- 🟨 Unknown Activations (12)

CASE TYPES

- ◯ Family Abduction (124)
- ☆ Nonfamily Abduction (61)
- ◇ Lost Injured Missing (19)
- ☐ Endangered Runaway (3)

Source: National Center for MIssing & Exploited Children
Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), Inc., Redlands, CA
Mapping software donated to NCMEC by ESRI
June 3, 2010

AMBER Alert Plans
America's Missing Broadcast Emergency Response
October 2009

NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN

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FL
AK

Total AMBER Alert Plans (114)

Statewide Plans and District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands (53)

Regional Plans (27)

Local Plans (34)

HI

PR

St. Thomas and St. John, VI

St. Croix, VI

Source:
Special Analysis Unit, Case Analysis Division
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, Alexandria, VA, and
Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI), Redlands, CA
Mapping software donated to NCMEC by ESRI
October 20, 2009

AMBER Alert Plans
America's Missing Broadcast Emergency Response

NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN

AMBER ALERT

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STATEWIDE PLANS

AK	"AMBER Plan Alert"
AL	"AMBER Plan"
AR	"Morgan Nick Alert"
AZ	"Arizona AMBER Alert"
CA	"California Child Safety AMBER Network"
CO	"AMBER Plan"
CT	"Connecticut AMBER Alert"
DC	"DC AMBER Plan"
DE	"AMBER Plan"
FL	"Flordia AMBER Plan"
	Florida Emergency Missing Child Alert
GA	"Levi's CALL"
HI	"MAILE AMBER Alert"
IA	"AMBER Alert Plan"
ID	"AMBER Alert"
IL	"AMBER Alert Notification Plan"
IN	"AMBER Alert"
KS	"AMBER Plan"
KY	"Kentucky AMBER Alert System"
LA	"AMBER Plan"
MA	"AMBER Alert Plan"
MD	"AMBER Plan"
ME	"AMBER Alert Program"
MI	"AMBER Alert of Michigan"
MN	"AMBER Plan"
MO	"ALERT Missouri"
MS	"AMBER Alert"
MT	"Montana AMBER Alert"
NC	"North Carolina AMBER Alert System"
ND	"AMBER Alert Plan"
NE	"AMBER Plan"
NH	"Child Abduction Emergency Alert Plan"
NJ	"AMBER Plan"
NM	"New Mexico AMBER Alert"
NV	"Nevada AMBER Alert Child Abduction Plan"
NY	"AMBER Plan"
OH	"Ohio AMBER Plan"
OK	"Oklahoma AMBER Plan"
OR	"AMBER Plan"
PA	"Pennsylvania AMBER Plan"
PR	"Plan Alerta AMBER"
RI	"AMBER Alert"
SC	"AMBER Alert"
SD	"Child Abduction AMBER Alert"
TN	"Tennessee AMBER Alert Plan"
TX	"AMBER Alert Network"
UT	"AMBER Alert"
VA	"AMBER Alert System"
VI	"Virgin Islands' AMBER Alert Plan"
VT	"Vermont AMBER Child Abduction Alert"
WA	"Washington - AMBER Plan"
WI	"AMBER Alert"
WV	"West Virginia AMBER Alert System"
WY	"Wyoming AMBER Alert Plan"

REGIONAL PLANS

IL/MO	Belleville; St. John, MO; St. Louis, MO - "St. Louis Area Regional A.M.B.E.R. Alert" (SARRA)
MO	Joplin - "Child Abduction Alert System" (CAAS)
MO	Nodaway County plus five others - "Northwestern Missouri AMBER Plan"
OH	Crawford County plus six others - "North Central AMBER Alert Plan"
OH	Cuyahoga County plus eight others "Northeast Ohio AMBER Alert Plan"
OH	Franklin County plus six others "Mid-Ohio AMBER Alert Plan"
OH/KY/IN	Greater Cincinnati, Northern KY; Southeastern IN - "Cincinnati/N. Kentucky/SE Indiana Child Abduction Alert Plan" (CAAP)
OH	Montgomery County and others in Miami Valley - "Miami Valley AMBER Alert Plan"
TX	Abilene Region - "AMBER Alert Network"
TX	Amarillo Region - "AMBER Alert Plan"
TX	Austin Region - "Capital Area AMBER Plan"
TX	Brazos Valley Region - "AMBER Alert Plan"
TX	Cooke, Grayson, and Fannin Counties - "Texoma Plan"
TX	Corpus Christi Region - "AMBERT Alert Plan"
TX	Dallas/Fort Worth Region - "AMBER Plan"
TX	El Paso Region - "Maria Alert"
TX	Houston Region - "Houston Regional AMBER Plan"
TX	Jasper, Newton, Tyler, Orange, Jefferson, and Hardin Counties - "South East Texas AMBER Alert Plan"
TX	Lamar, Delta, Hopkins, Franklin, Titus, Morris, Red River, Bowie, and Cass Counties - "Four States Regional AMBER Alert Plan"
TX	Longview Region - "AMBER Alert Plan"
TX	Lubbock County - "Lubbock AMBER Alert Plan"
TX	Nacogdoches Region - "Deep East Texas AMBER Alert Plan"
TX	Permian Basin Region - "AMBER Alert Plan"
TX	South Texas Region - "Houston Regional AMBER Plan"
TX	Waco Region - "AMBER Alert Plan"
TX	Wichita Falls Region - "AMBER Alert Plan"
WA	King County - "AMBER Alert Plan"

Source:
**Special Analysis Unit, Case Analysis Division
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, Alexandria, VA,
October 20, 2009**

LOCAL PLANS

AL	Dothan - "AMBER Alert Plan"
AL	Tuscaloosa County - "AMBER Plan"
CA	Los Angeles County - "California Child Safety AMBER Network"
CA	Orange County - "C.A.R.E. Alert" - Child Abduction Regional Emergency Alert
CA	San Diego - "San Diego AMBER Alert Plan"
HI	Hawaii County - "Hawaii County AMBER Alert"
HI	Honolulu - MAILE Alert - "Minor Abducted in Life-Threatening Emergency"
HI	Kauai County - "Kauai County AMBER Alert Plan"
HI	Maui County - "Maui County AMBER Alert Plan"
IN	Portage - "Missing Child Alert Plan"
KS	Wichita - "AMBER Alert"
MO	Kansas City - "AMBER Alert"
OH	Allen County - "AMBER Alert Plan"
OH	Athens County - "AMBER Alert Plan"
OH	Auglaize County - "AMBER Alert Plan"
OH	Butler County - "AMBER Alert Plan"
OH	Carroll County - "AMBER Alert Plan"
OH	Clark County - "AMBER Alert Plan"
OH	Clermont County - "AMBER Alert Plan"
OH	Columbiana County - "AMBER Alert Plan"
OH	Coshocton County - "AMBER Alert Plan"
OH	Fulton County - "AMBER Alert Plan"
OH	Harrison County - "AMBER Alert Plan"
OH	Lucas County - "AMBER Alert Plan"
OH	Mahoning County - "AMBER Alert Plan"
OH	Mercer County - "AMBER Alert Plan"
OH	Pickaway County - "AMBER Alert Plan"
OH	Pike County - "AMBER Alert Plan"
OH	Ross County - "AMBER Alert Plan"
OH	Sandusky County - "AMBER Alert Plan"
OH	Stark County - "AMBER Alert Plan"
OH	Tuscarawas County - "AMBER Alert Plan"
OH	Warren County - "AMBER Alert Plan"
TN	Memphis - "AMBER Alert"