

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children[®]

2019 AMBER Alert Report

Analysis of AMBER Alert Cases in 2019



Copyright © 2020 National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. All rights reserved.

This project was supported by Grant No. 2019-MU-MU-K012 awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Department of Justice. National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® is a registered trademark of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction...	5
AMBER Alert Definitions...	7
Summary of AMBER Alerts...	9
AMBER Alerts by Range...	9
AMBER Alerts by State/Territory...	9
Multistate/Territory AMBER Alerts...	10
AMBER Alerts by Case Type at Intake...	11
Number of Cases by Month...	12
Number of Case Types at Intake by Month...	12
Number of Children by Case Type at Intake by Month...	13
Cases Determined to Be Hoaxes...	14
Children Involved in Hoaxes...	14
Cases Determined to Be Unfounded...	16
Children Involved in Unfounded Cases...	16
Secondary Distribution of AMBER Alerts...	17
Number and Characteristics of Children Reported Missing...	18
Number and Characteristics of Abductors...	19
Abductors with a Known Relationship to the Child...	20
Time Between Reported Missing and Activation...	21
Time Between Reported Missing and Recovery...	21
Time Between Activation and Recovery...	22
Recovery Within Three Days of Activation...	23
Travel Distances...	24

Recoveries Outside of State/Territory Where AMBER Alert First Activated...25

Missing Location...26

Recovery Location...27

International Abductions...27

Infants Involved in AMBER Alert Activations...28

Success Stories...28

Time Between Activation and Recovery for Success Stories...29

Children Located Deceased...29

AMBER Alerts Involving Victims of Sexual Assault...30

Team Adam Consultant Deployment...30

FBI Involvement in AMBER Alerts...31

Command Post Use in AMBER Alerts...31

National Crime Information Center...31

Five Year Comparison of AMBER Alerts Issued...34

Map of AMBER Alert Activations...42

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 (EAS) to notify the public when a child has been abducted. If the community was aware, then residents could also assist in the search. Simone followed up with a letter, and her only request was the program be dedicated to the memory of Amber Hagerman. That letter was used by broadcasters who met with local law enforcement and created Amber's Plan in Amber Hagerman's memory.

This program was eventually taken to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® (NCMEC) with a request for a national initiative. It then became known as America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response (AMBER) Plan, which allows broadcasters and transportation authorities to immediately distribute information about recent child abductions to the public and enables the entire community to assist in the search for, and safe recovery, of the child. What began as a local effort in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, area has grown into a seamless system of such programs in every state across the country. Each year these alerts help safely recover abducted children. Since the inception of the program in 1996, through December 31, 2019, 983 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. More recently, Wireless Emergency Alerts and targeted distribution on social media continue to improve and expand the reach of the AMBER Alert program.

On April 30, 2003, the *Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today (PROTECT) Act of 2003* (Pub. L. No. 108-21) was signed into law. Building on the steps already taken by the federal government 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 More recently, in 2018,

¹*National Strategy*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, www.amberalert.gov/ntl_strategy.htm, accessed February 25, 2020.

the *Ashlynn Mike AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act* (Pub. L. No. 115-166) expanded resources and focused on integrating tribal AMBER Alert systems with state and regional systems.

AMBER Alert Definitions

This report presents information about AMBER Alerts issued in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands from Jan. 1, 2019, through Dec. 31, 2019, and intaked by NCMEC. Although an AMBER Alert case may be activated in multiple areas, this report organizes alerts based on 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 (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 (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 (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 (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 (ERU)** – Any missing child between 11 and 17 years of age who is missing of their own accord and whose whereabouts are unknown to their parent(s) or legal guardian.

Law enforcement may determine an AMBER Alert should be recategorized 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 themselves 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 their parent or legal guardian.
- Remains in the custody of law enforcement.
- Is in contact with their 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 is only labeled recovered/deceased by NCMEC if a body has been found and positively identified.

A child's recovery is considered a **success story** when their 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, 2019, to Dec. 31, 2019, 145 AMBER Alerts were issued in the U.S. involving 180 children.

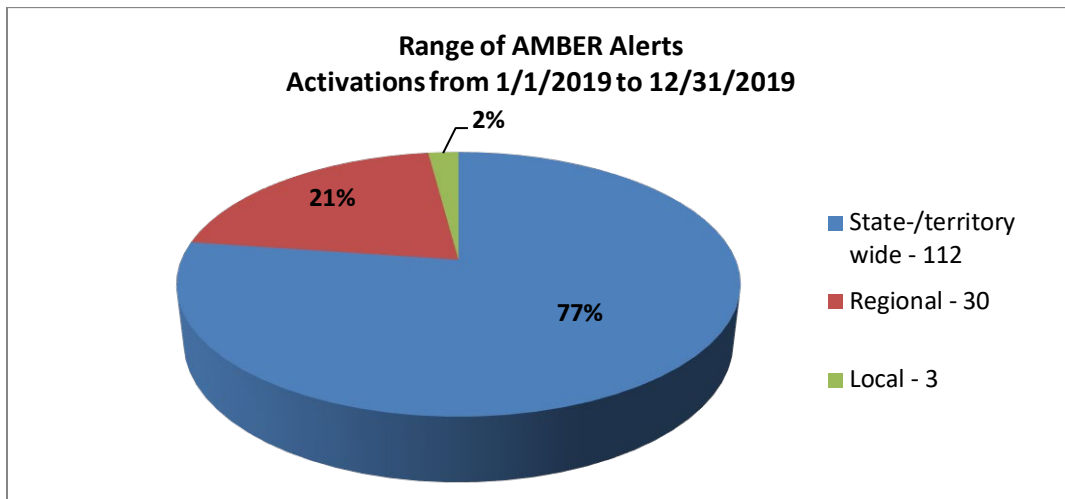
At the time the AMBER Alert cases were intaked at NCMEC, there were 82 FAs, 47 NFAs, nine LIMs, and seven ERUs. Seventeen cases were later determined to be hoaxes, and seven cases were later determined to be unfounded.

Of the 145 AMBER Alerts issued from Jan. 1, 2019, to Dec. 31, 2019, 142 cases resulted in a recovery, 24 of which were successfully recovered as a direct result of an AMBER Alert being issued. As of Feb. 25, 2020, when statistics for this report were finalized, for the AMBER Alerts issued in 2019, three children remained actively missing and 10 children were located deceased.

AMBER Alerts by Range

In 2019, 77 percent (n=112) of AMBER Alerts were issued state-/territory wide, 21 percent (n=30) of AMBER Alerts were issued regionally, and 2 percent (n=3) of AMBER Alerts were issued locally.

Figure 1: Range of AMBER Alerts



AMBER Alerts by State/Territory

From Jan. 1, 2019, to Dec. 31, 2019, 145 AMBER Alerts were issued in 37 states. Texas issued the most AMBER Alerts with 20 percent (n=29) followed by Florida with 9 percent (n=13) and California with 8 percent (n=11).

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

State/Territory	Number of alerts	Percent
Texas	29	20
Florida	13	9
California	11	8
North Carolina	9	6
Pennsylvania	6	4
New Mexico and New York	5 each	3 each
Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, and Oklahoma	4 each	3 each
Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Ohio, Tennessee, Washington, and Wisconsin	3 each	2 each
Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming	2 each	1 each
Arkansas, Connecticut, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, and South Carolina	1 each	1 each
Alaska, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Vermont	0 each	0 each
Total	145	~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 2019, 12 AMBER Alerts were extended beyond the limits of the state where the AMBER Alert first originated.

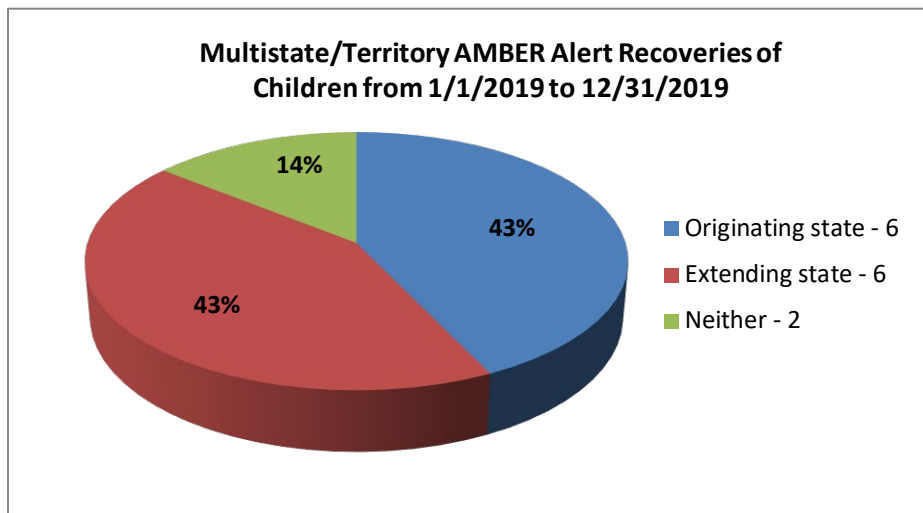
Table 2: List of Multistate/Territory AMBER Alerts

Originating	Extending
California	Nevada
Idaho	Arizona
Idaho	Montana
Mississippi	Alabama
Montana	Idaho
Montana	Washington
Oregon	Idaho and Washington
Utah	Wyoming
Virginia	West Virginia

Originating	Extending
Washington	Idaho and Oregon
West Virginia	Arizona
Wyoming	Colorado

In four cases, six children were recovered in the state where the alert originated. In six 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.

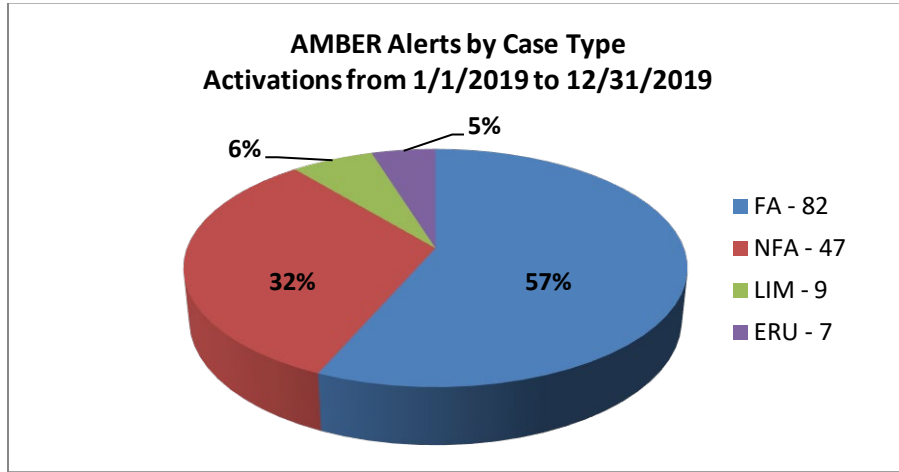
Figure 2: Multistate/Territory AMBER Alert Recoveries



AMBER Alerts by Case Type at Intake

In 2019, 57 percent (n=82) of AMBER Alert cases were intaked as FAs, 32 percent (n=47) were NFAs, 6 percent (n=9) were LIMs, and 5 percent (n=7) were ERUs.

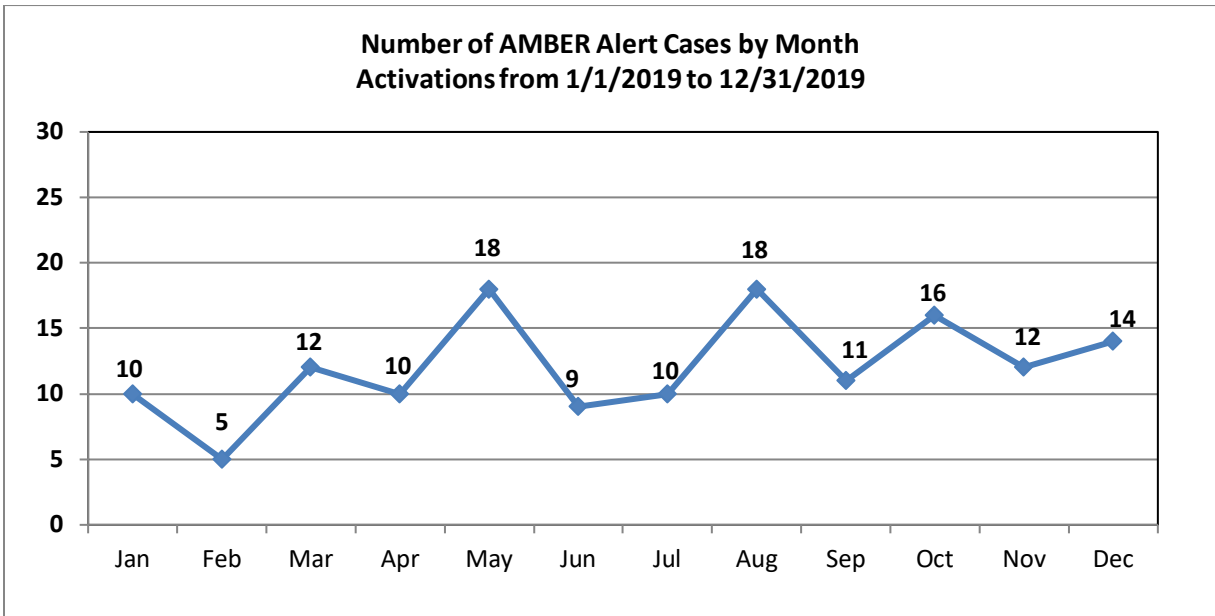
Figure 3: AMBER Alerts by Case Type



Number of Cases by Month

In 2019, the number of AMBER Alerts issued per month ranged from a low of five in February to a high of 18 in both May and August.

Figure 4: Number of AMBER Alert Cases by Month



Number of Case Types at Intake by Month

In 2019, AMBER Alerts were issued most frequently for FAs (n=11) in August. The highest number of NFAs (n=12) occurred in May. AMBER Alerts for LIMs (n=2) were the most frequently issued in May. The most Alerts for ERUs (n=3) were issued in October.

Table 3: Number of Case Types by Month

	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU	Total	Total percent
Jan	2	6	1	1	10	7
Feb	4	0	1	0	5	3
Mar	8	2	0	2	12	8
Apr	8	2	0	0	10	7
May	4	12	2	0	18	12
Jun	6	3	0	0	9	6
Jul	9	0	1	0	10	7
Aug	11	7	0	0	18	12
Sep	7	3	1	0	11	8
Oct	6	6	1	3	16	11
Nov	8	2	1	1	12	8
Dec	9	4	1	0	14	10
Total	82	47	9	7	145	~100

Number of Children by Case Type at Intake by Month

In 2019, 180 children were involved in 145 AMBER Alert cases. Sixty-two percent (n=112) of children were intaked as FAs followed by 29 percent (n=52) of children intaked as NFAs. Five percent (n=9) were intaked as LIMs, and 4 percent (n=7) were intaked as ERUs.

Children intaked as FAs were most frequently involved in AMBER Alerts during the months of August and December (n=13). The highest number of children intaked as NFAs (n=13) occurred in the month of May. AMBER Alerts for LIMs (n=2) were most frequently issued in May. Children were most often intaked as ERUs (n=3) in the month of October.

Table 4: Number of Children by Case Type by Month

	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU	Total	Total percent
Jan	3	6	1	1	11	6
Feb	9	0	1	0	10	6
Mar	10	2	0	2	14	8
Apr	10	2	0	0	12	7
May	7	13	2	0	22	12
Jun	8	3	0	0	11	6
Jul	11	0	1	0	12	7
Aug	13	7	0	0	20	11
Sep	8	6	1	0	15	8
Oct	8	7	1	3	19	11
Nov	12	2	1	1	16	9
Dec	13	4	1	0	18	10

Total	112	52	9	7	180	~100
-------	-----	----	---	---	-----	------

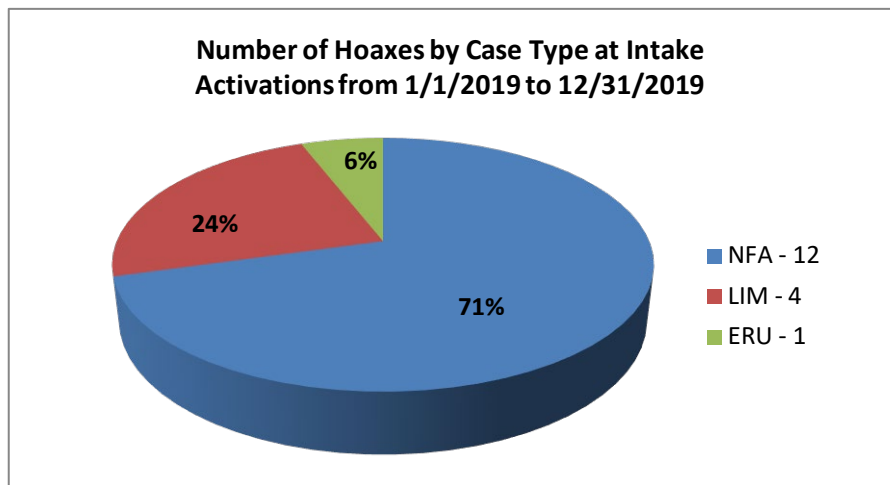
Cases Determined to Be Hoaxes

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

In 2019, 12 percent (n=17) of AMBER Alerts issued involving 18 children were later determined to be hoaxes. Seventy-one percent (n=12) of hoaxes were originally intaked as NFAs, followed by LIMs at 24 percent (n=4) and ERUs at 6 percent (n=1).

In 41 percent (n=7) of hoaxes, false information was provided by the child’s parent, 18 percent (n=3) of false information was provided by the child, and 12 percent (n=2) were provided by the child’s stepfather. Additionally, 6 percent each (n=1 each) was provided by the child’s aunt, babysitter’s boyfriend, child’s mother and uncle, and someone unknown to the child. In one hoax, false information was provided by someone whose relationship to the child was unknown.

Figure 5: Number of Hoaxes by Case Type at Intake



Of the 17 cases determined to be hoaxes, 10 cases had known locations from which the children involved were reported missing. Of those cases, 50 percent (n=5) were reported missing from home and 20 percent (n=2) were reported missing from retail. Additionally, 10 percent each (n=1 each) were reported missing from school, social services, and the street.

Children Involved in Hoaxes

In 2019, 17 AMBER Alerts involving 18 children were later determined to be hoaxes. Sixty-seven percent (n=12) of children involved in hoaxes were girls, whereas boys represented 33 percent (n=6) of children involved in hoaxes. Fifty-eight percent (n=7) of girls involved in hoaxes were younger than 6. Of the six boys involved in hoaxes, 67 percent (n=4) were younger than 5.

Table 5: Age and Sex of Children Involved in Hoaxes

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

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

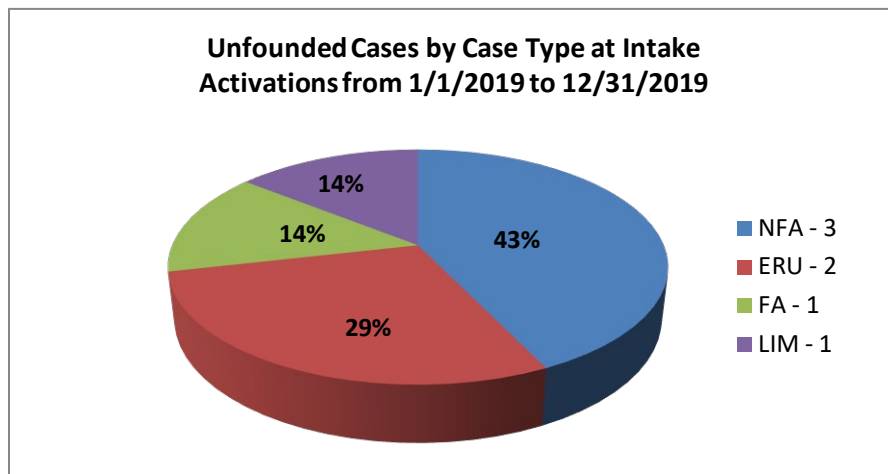
Age	NFA	LIM	ERU	FA
<1	2	1	0	0
1	0	1	0	0
2	0	0	0	0
3	2	0	0	0
4	3	0	0	0
5	0	2	0	0
6	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	0	0
9	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	0	0
11	1	0	0	0
12	2	0	0	0
13	1	0	0	0
14	0	0	0	0
15	1	0	1	0

16	1	0	0	0
17	0	0	0	0
Total	13	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. Seven AMBER Alerts involving nine children were determined to be unfounded, representing 5 percent of the total number of AMBER Alerts issued in 2019. These unfounded cases were originally intaked as NFAs at 43 percent (n=3), ERUs at 29 percent (n=2), and FAs and LIMs at 14 percent (n=1), respectively.

Figure 6: Unfounded Cases by Case Type at Intake



Children Involved in Unfounded Cases

In 2019, seven AMBER Alerts involving nine children were later determined to be unfounded. Boys represented 56 percent (n=5), whereas girls represented 44 percent (n=4) of all children involved in unfounded cases. Of the five boys involved in unfounded cases, 60 percent (n=3) ranged from 1 to 6 years of age. Of the four girls involved in unfounded cases, three were between the ages of 13 and 16.

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

Age	Girls	Boys
<1	0	0
1	0	1
2	0	0
3	0	0
4	0	1
5	0	0
6	0	1
7	0	0

Age	Girls	Boys
8	0	0
9	0	0
10	0	0
11	0	0
12	0	2
13	1	0
14	0	0
15	1	0
16	1	0
17	0	0
Unknown	1	0
Total	4	5

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

Age	FA	NFA	ERU	LIM
<1	0	0	0	0
1	1	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0
4	1	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0
6	1	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	0	0
9	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	0	0
11	0	0	0	0
12	0	1	1	0
13	0	0	0	1
14	0	0	0	0
15	0	1	0	0
16	0	0	1	0
17	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	1	0	0
Total	3	3	2	1

Secondary Distribution of AMBER Alerts

The AMBER Alert Secondary Distribution system (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 2019, 93 percent (n=135) of AMBER Alert cases were secondarily distributed whereas 7 percent (n=10) 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 77 FAs, 43 NFAs, nine LIMs, and six ERUs. Ten NFAs, four LIMs, and one ERU were later determined to be hoaxes. Three NFAs, one FA, one LIM, and one ERU were subsequently identified as unfounded.

Number and Characteristics of Children Reported Missing

Girls (n=109) were involved in AMBER Alert activations more often at 61 percent, compared to boys who represented 39 percent (n=71).

Thirty-eight percent (n=69) of children involved in AMBER Alerts were Black, 32 percent (n=58) were White, 18 percent (n=33) were Hispanic, 6 percent (n=10) were American Indian, 4 percent (n=8) were Biracial, and 1 percent (n=2) were Asian. AMBER Alerts were issued at a rate of 32 percent (n=58) for White children, whereas minority children represented 68 percent (n=122).

Figure 7: AMBER Alerts by Race of Children

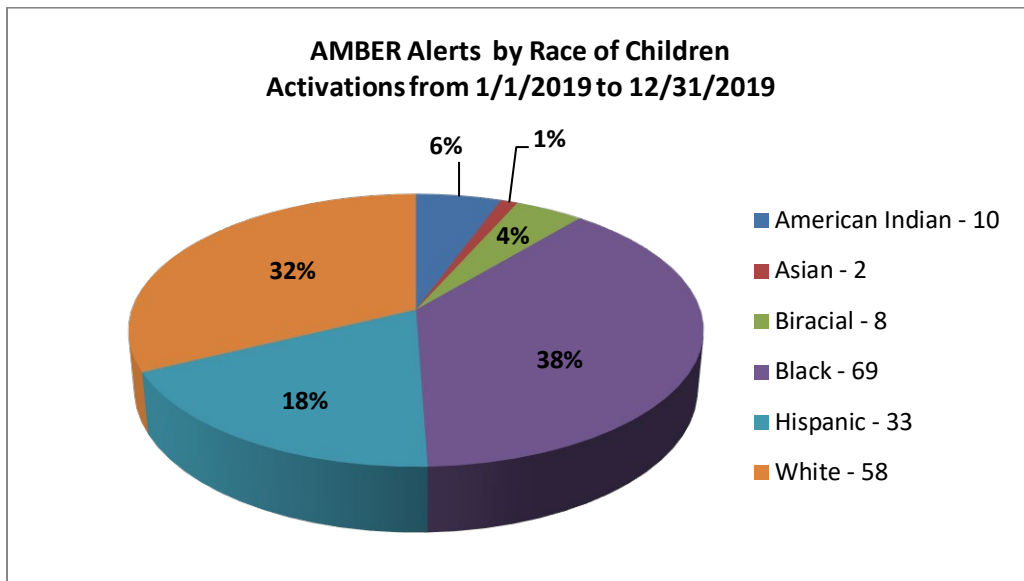
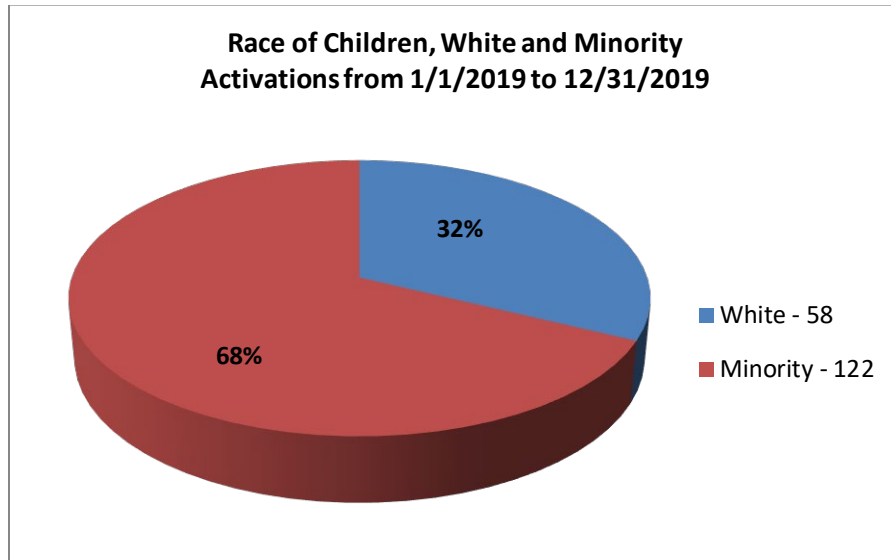
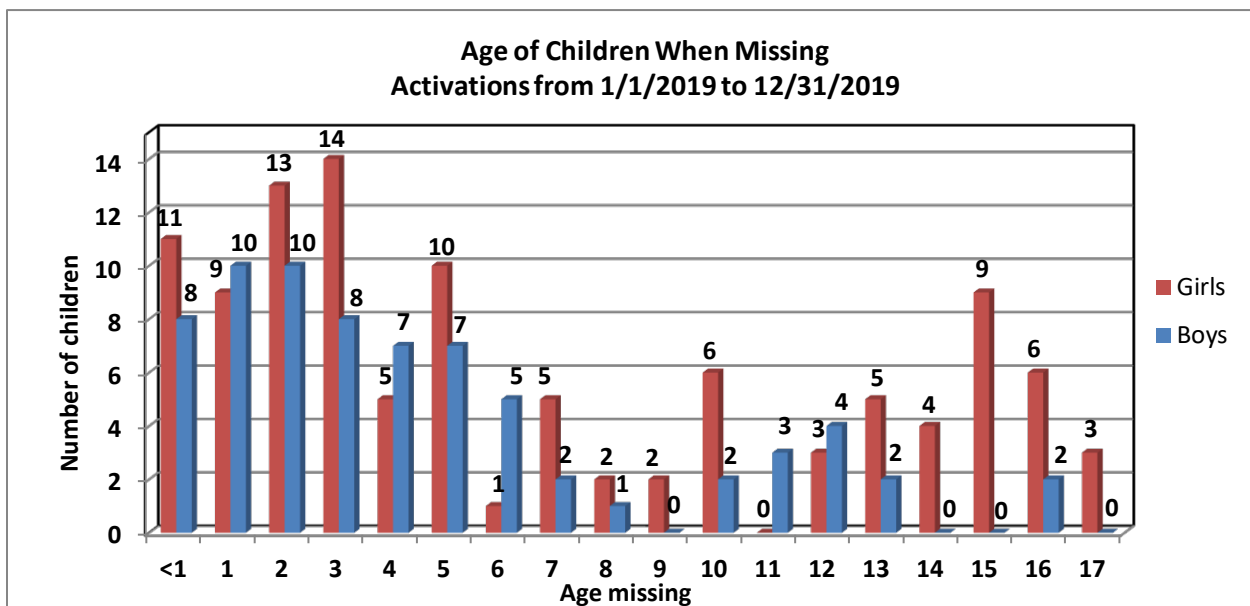


Figure 8: Race of Children, White and Minority



Boys and girls who were 5 years old and younger represented 62 percent (n=112) of the children who were reported missing with known ages. Of all children reported missing, girls 3 years old (n=14) were most frequently involved in AMBER Alerts, whereas boys 1 and 2 years old (n=10 each) were most frequently involved in AMBER Alerts. The age of one child was unknown.

Figure 9: Age of Children When Missing



Number and Characteristics of Abductors

In 2019, 141 abductors were identified as being involved in 115 AMBER Alert cases.

The majority of abductors were male at 66 percent (n=93), and 30 percent (n=42) of abductors were female. The sex for 4 percent (n=6) of abductors was unknown.

Thirty-three percent (n=46) of abductors were Black, 30 percent (n=42) of abductors were White, 16 percent (n=23) of abductors were Hispanic, 3 percent (n=4) of abductors were American Indian, and 1 percent (n=1) of abductors were Asian. The race for 18 percent (n=25) of abductions was unknown.

Abductors with a Known Relationship to the Child

Of the 141 abductors involved in AMBER Alerts in 2019, 101 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 82 FA cases, 84 abductors involved had known relationships with the children. They consisted of one boyfriend, two cousins, 44 fathers, two grandfathers, three grandmothers, 26 mothers, four mother’s boyfriends, and two stepfathers.

Of the 47 NFA cases, 14 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 four boyfriends, one ex-boyfriend, one father, four friends of the family, one mother, two mother’s boyfriends, and one mother’s girlfriend.

Of the nine LIM cases, three abductors had known relationships with the children. They consisted of one father, one mother, and one stepfather.

Table 9: Abductor Relationship to Child

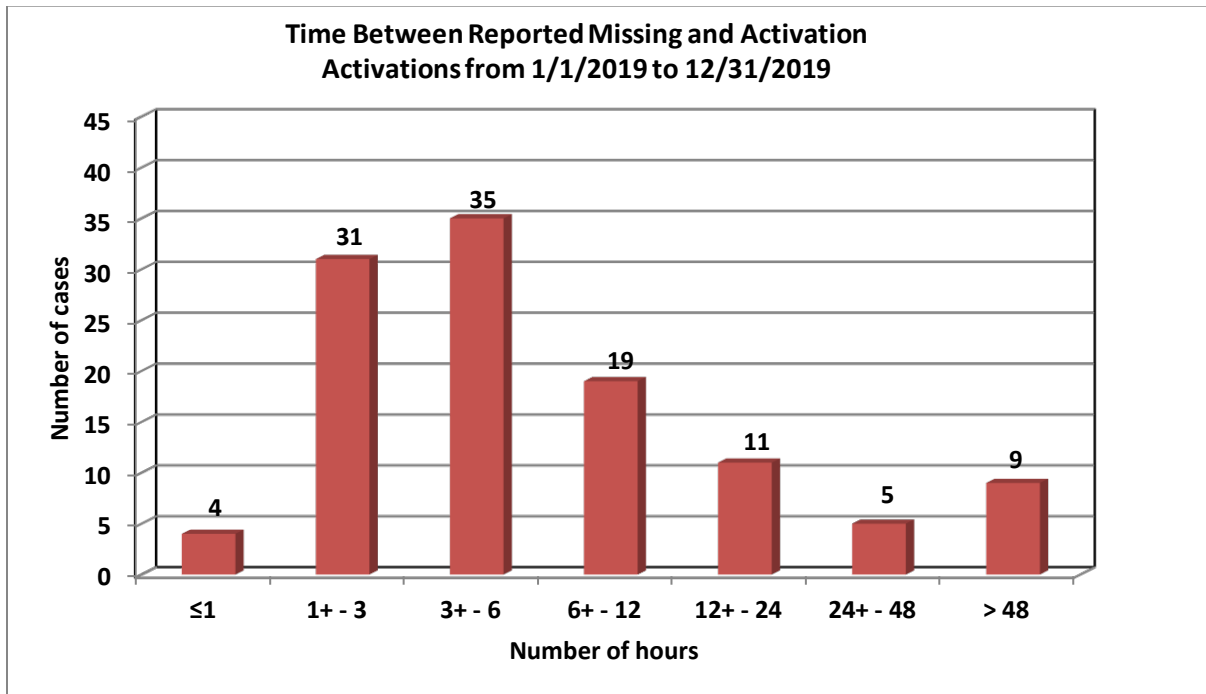
Abductor relationship to child	FA	FA percent	NFA	NFA percent	LIM	LIM percent	Total	Total percent
Boyfriend	1	1	4	29	0	0	5	5
Cousin	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2
Ex-boyfriend	0	0	1	7	0	0	1	1
Father	44	52	1	7	1	33	46	46
Friend of family	0	0	4	29	0	0	4	4
Grandfather	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2
Grandmother	3	4	0	0	0	0	3	3
Mother	26	31	1	7	1	33	28	28
Mother’s boyfriend	4	5	2	14	0	0	6	6
Mother’s girlfriend	0	0	1	7	0	0	1	1
Stepfather	2	2	0	0	1	33	3	3
Total	84	~100	14	100	3	~100	101	~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 114 cases. Hoaxes and unfounded cases were excluded in the statistics because a child was determined not to be missing in those AMBER Alert cases.

Thirty-five AMBER Alerts were issued within three or fewer hours from when the child was reported missing. Thirty-five cases were activated between more than three and six hours from when the child was reported missing, and 19 cases were issued between more than six and 12 hours.

Figure 10: Time Between Reported Missing and Activation

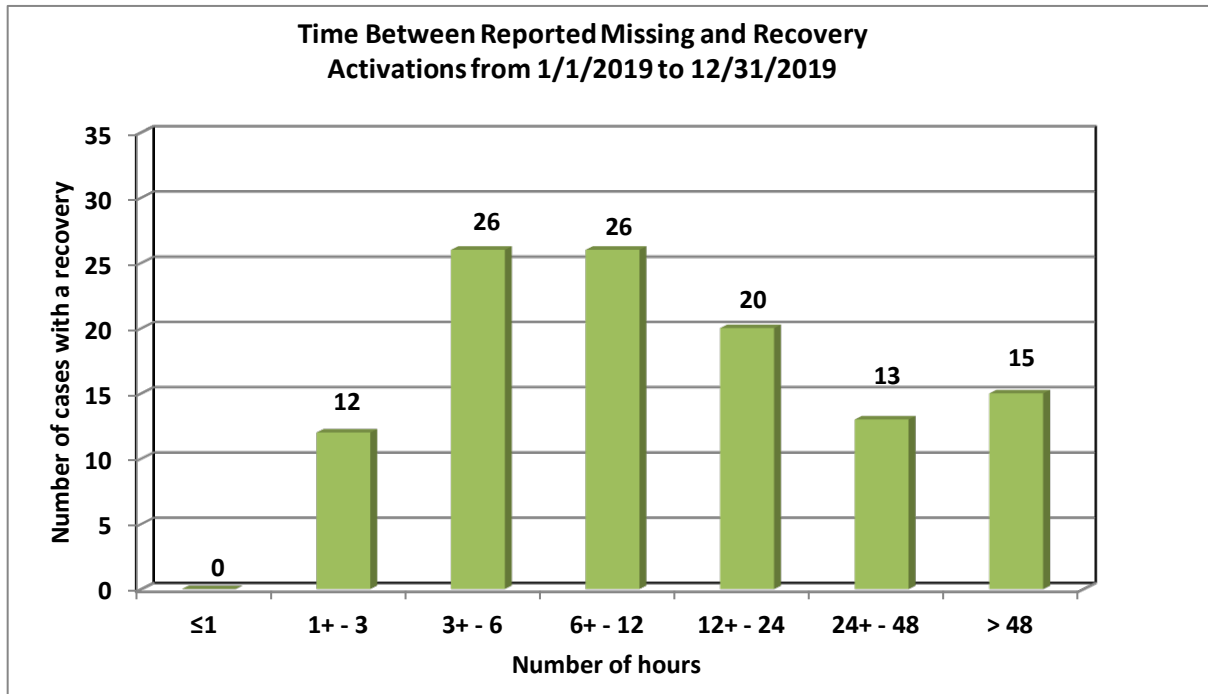


Time Between Reported Missing and Recovery

Information about the time between when the child was reported missing to law enforcement and the AMBER Alert recovery was available in 112 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 12 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 26 cases were recovered between more than three and six hours from when the child was reported missing, and in 26 cases the children were recovered between more than six and 12 hours.

Figure 11: Time Between Reported Missing and Recovery

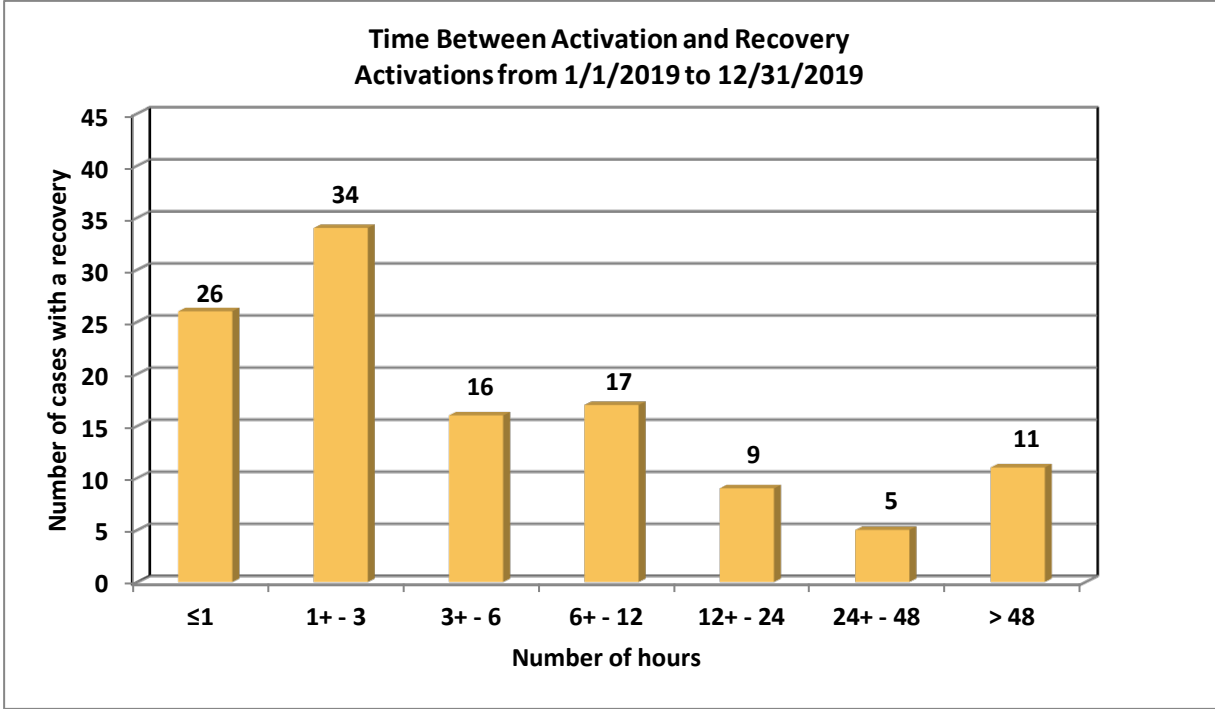


Time Between Activation and Recovery

Information about the time between when the AMBER Alert was activated, and the AMBER Alert recovery was available in 118 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 60 cases, the children were recovered within three or fewer hours from when the AMBER Alert was activated. Children in 16 cases were recovered between more than three and six hours from when the AMBER Alert was activated, and in 17 cases the children were recovered between more than six to 12 hours.

Figure 12: Time Between Activation and Recovery



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 145 cases.

Table 10: Recovery Within Three Days of Activation

	Time between activation and recovery 1/1/2019 - 12/31/2019
Intaked cases	145
Cases reclassified as hoax or unfounded after intake	24
Intaked children	180
Children whose cases were reclassified as hoax or unfounded after intake	27
Number of cases in which child recovered within 72 hours	109
Percent of cases in which child recovered within 72 hours	90 percent*
Number of children reported as being recovered within 72 hours	139
Percent of children reported as being recovered within 72 hours	91 percent**

*Percentage excludes cases reclassified as hoaxes (n=17) and unfounded (n=7)

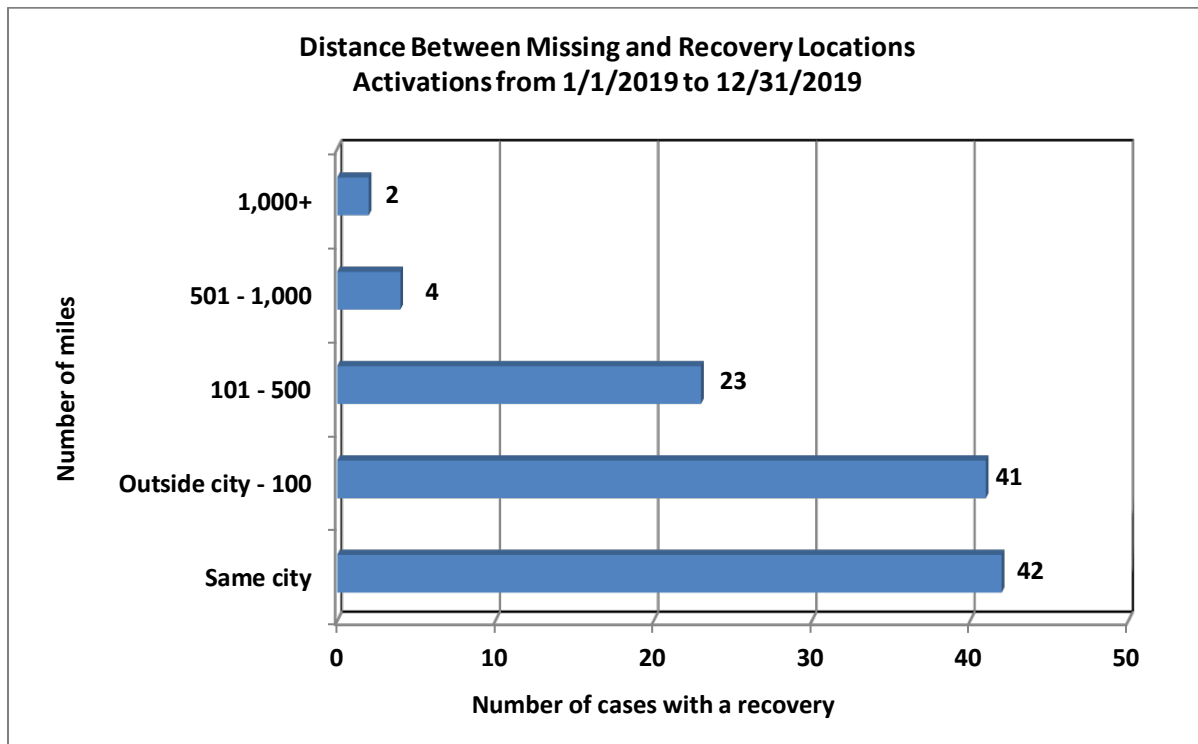
**Percentage excludes children whose cases were reclassified as hoaxes (n=18) and unfounded (n=9)

Travel Distances

In 2019, distances between where the child was reported missing and recovered were known for 112 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 they were abducted.

In 42 cases, the missing and recovery locations were in the same city; in 41 cases, the distance between missing and recovery locations were outside the city but within 100 miles of each other; in 23 cases the distance between missing and recovery locations ranged from 101 to 500 miles; in four cases, the distance between missing and recovery locations ranged from 501 to 1,000 miles; and in two cases, the distance was more than 1,000 miles. For six cases, the distance could not be calculated, and the remaining 27 cases were either hoaxes, unfounded, or active cases.

Figure 13: Distance Between Missing and Recovery Locations



Of the 82 AMBER Alerts issued for FA cases, children in 26 cases were found in the same city. In 26 cases, distances ranged up to 79 miles outside of the city, and in 19 cases, the distances ranged from 101 to 478 miles. In two cases, distances were 539 and 809 miles. In one case, the travel distance was 1,437. In six cases, the distance could not be calculated, and the remaining two cases were active and unfounded cases.

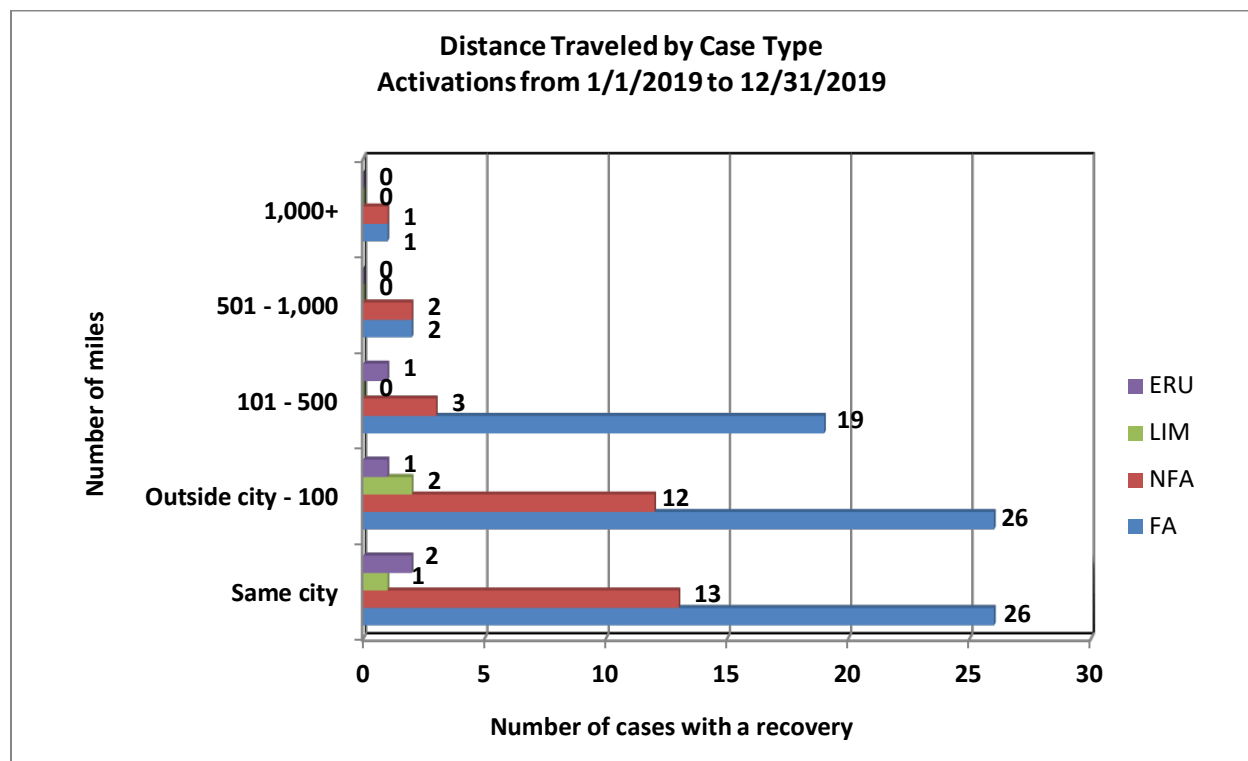
Of the 47 AMBER Alerts issued for NFA cases, the children involved in 13 cases were found in the same city. In 12 cases, distances ranged from six to 98 miles outside of the city. In three cases, travel distances

ranged from 106 to 447 miles. In two cases, the travel distances were 575 and 637 miles, and in one case, the travel distance was 2,089 miles. The remaining 16 cases were active, hoaxes, and unfounded cases.

There were nine AMBER Alerts issued for LIM cases in 2019, and, of those cases, one was found in the same city. In two cases the travel distances ranged from 13 to 15 miles. The remaining six cases were active, hoaxes, and unfounded cases.

Seven cases were intaked as ERUs in 2019. In two cases, the recovery was in the same city. In one case, the travel distance was 17 miles, and in another case, the travel distance was 306 miles. The remaining three cases were hoaxes and unfounded cases.

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 145 AMBER Alerts issued in 2019, three cases still remain active. Seventeen percent of cases (n=24) had recoveries outside of the state of the original activation. Of those 24 cases, 67 percent (n=16) were FAs, 29 percent (n=7) were NFAs, and 4 percent (n=1) were LIMs.

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

Activation state	Recovery state
Alabama	Kentucky
Arizona	Louisiana

Activation state	Recovery state
Florida	Alabama
Florida	South Carolina
Georgia	South Carolina
Idaho	Arizona
Indiana	Arkansas
Kentucky	Alabama
Maryland	Virginia
Mississippi	Alabama
Mississippi	Georgia
Missouri	Illinois
Montana	Washington
Nebraska	Colorado
Oklahoma	Arkansas
Oregon	Washington
Tennessee	Virginia
Texas	Arkansas
Texas	Oklahoma
Utah	Wyoming
West Virginia	Texas
West Virginia	Virginia
Wisconsin	Minnesota
Wyoming	Colorado

Missing Location

In 2019, there were 94 cases with information about where the children involved were last known to be located. Of those 94 cases, 69 percent (n=65) were last known to be at home followed by 10 percent (n=9) of cases where children were last known to be on the street.

Table 12: Missing Location

Missing location	Number of cases	Percent
Daycare facility	2	2
Home	65	69
Hotel/motel	2	2
Medical facility	3	3
Park	4	4
Restaurant	1	1
Retail	4	4
School facility	2	2
Social services	2	2
Street	9	10

Total	94	~100
--------------	-----------	-------------

Recovery Location

There were 122 cases with information about where the child was recovered. In 2019, 38 percent (n=46) of children involved in AMBER Alert cases were most often recovered at home followed by recoveries in an automobile at 12 percent (n=15).

Table 13: Recovery Location

Recovery location	Number of cases	Percent
Automobile	15	12
Body of water	2	2
Dump site/landfill	2	2
Government facility	3	2
Home	46	38
Hotel/motel	6	5
Medical facility	1	1
Other	1	1
Other recreational	1	1
Outdoor/open area	12	10
Park	1	1
Parking lot/garage	4	3
Law enforcement office/station	7	6
Religious facility	1	1
Restaurant	3	2
Retail	4	3
Street	12	10
Transportation facility	1	1
Total	122	~100

International Abductions

In 2019, three AMBER Alert activations involving six children were a result of an international abduction. One AMBER Alert was activated in Texas, and the three Biracial children were recovered in Mexico. They were abducted by their mother and her boyfriend. In another AMBER Alert activation, a Hispanic child went missing from California with her mother and the mother's associate and was also recovered in Mexico. One other AMBER Alert activation involved two White children who were abducted by their father in Texas and were recovered in Mexico.

Infants Involved in AMBER Alert Activations

In 2019, 15 infants, who are defined as children 6 months of age or younger, were involved in 15 AMBER Alert activations. Seventy-three percent (n=11) of infants involved were FAs, 20 percent (n=3) were NFAs, and 7 percent (n=1) were LIMs.

Sixty percent (n=9) of infants involved in AMBER Alerts were girls and 40 percent (n=6) were boys. Forty percent (n=6) of infants involved were White, 33 percent (n=5) of infants involved were Black, 13 percent (n=2) were American Indian, 7 percent (n=1) were Biracial, and 7 percent (n=1) were Hispanic.

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 145 AMBER Alert cases in 2019, 29 children involved in 24 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	18	75	23	79
NFA	5	21	5	17
ERU	1	4	1	3
LIM	0	0	0	0
Total	24	100	29	~100

The most common reason for an AMBER Alert success story is an individual or law enforcement recognizing the vehicle from the AMBER Alert at 46 percent (n=11) followed by an individual knowing of an abductor's/child's whereabouts at 25 percent (n=6).

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	11	46	15	52
Individual knew of abductor's/child's whereabouts	6	25	6	21
Individual or law enforcement recognized child and/or abductor	3	13	3	10

Summary of success stories	Number of cases	Percent of cases	Number of children	Percent of children
Law enforcement received tips from individuals	2	8	2	7
Abductor heard Alert and released child	1	4	2	7
Individual heard Alert and convinced abductor to turn self in	1	4	1	3
Total	24	100	29	100

Time Between Activation and Recovery for Success Stories

Of the success stories in 2019, 72 percent of the children (n=21), representing 67 percent (n=16) 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	1	4	1	3
1/2+ - 1 hour	5	21	5	17
1+ - 2 hours	6	25	10	34
2+ - 3 hours	4	17	5	17
3+ - 4 hours	2	8	2	7
4+ - 5 hours	0	0	0	0
5+ - 6 hours	0	0	0	0
6+ - 12 hours	3	13	3	10
12+ - 24 hours	2	8	2	7
24+ - 48 hours	0	0	0	0
48+ hours	1	4	1	3
Total	24	100	29	~100

Children Located Deceased

In 2019, 145 AMBER Alerts were issued for 180 children. Ten children in 10 AMBER Alert cases were located deceased. Forty percent (n=4) of children were reported as LIMs, 30 percent (n=3) of children were reported as FAs, and 30 percent (n=3) of children were reported as NFAs. Six girls, ranging in age from 1 to 5 years, were found deceased, and four boys, ages 1, 2, 6, and 16, were found deceased. Seven children were Black, one child was Hispanic, and two children were White.

Of the 10 children located deceased in 2019, 60 percent (n=6) were reported missing from their respective homes and 10 percent (n=1) were reported missing from social services. It is unknown where three children (30 percent) were last seen.

In one case, the child’s father abducted and murdered the child. In another case, the child’s cause of death was undetermined; however, the stepfather is a suspect. One child’s death was the result of a gunshot wound by unknown suspects. One child was abducted and murdered by his aunt’s boyfriend. One child was murdered by his mother who committed suicide using a poisonous gas. In one case the child was abducted by the child’s father’s friend, though her cause of death was undetermined. One child was recovered in a body of water, and her father is suspected of her murder. In one case the child was murdered by his father who committed suicide. In another case, the child was abducted by two people who were unknown to the child. They are suspects in her murder. One child was recovered in a wooded area. There are no suspects charged in her murder.

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
03/11/19	FA	Black girl	2	>72 hours	265 miles	Blunt force trauma
05/05/19	NFA	Black girl	4	>72 hours	282 miles	Undetermined*
05/31/19	LIM	Black boy	16	>72 hours	15 miles	Gunshot
07/10/19	LIM	Black boy	1	<72 hours	16 miles	Undetermined*
08/23/19	FA	White boy	6	<72 Hours	33 miles	Asphyxiation/suffocation
08/31/19	NFA	Black girl	1	<72 Hours	31 miles	Undetermined*
09/08/19	LIM	Hispanic girl	5	<72 hours	47 miles	Undisclosed**
09/21/19	FA	White boy	2	<72 Hours	78 miles	Undisclosed**
10/12/19	NFA	Black girl	3	>72 Hours	Same city	Asphyxiation/suffocation
11/06/19	LIM	Black girl	5	>72 Hours	381 miles	Undisclosed**

*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 2019, at the time of data collection, one girl in one AMBER Alert activation had been reported to be a victim of sexual assault during the abduction. The child was American Indian and a teenager.

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 2019, Team Adam consultants were deployed to assist with 19 AMBER Alert cases involving 21 children. Three cases involving three children were later determined to be a hoax. One case involving one child was later determined to be unfounded. Fifteen children actually determined to be missing were recovered. There are fewer recovery cases for Team Adam deployments than the total number of recovery cases due

to two cases remaining active as of Feb. 25, 2020. At intake, the case breakdown included six FAs, six LIMs, four NFAs, and three ERUs.

FBI Involvement in AMBER Alerts

The FBI has a specialized Child Abduction Rapid Deployment (CARD) team, designed to deploy experienced personnel to provide on-the-ground investigative, technical and resource assistance to state and local law enforcement. CARD consists of violent crimes against children investigators and analysts who have in-depth experience in child abduction cases. CARD is made up of more than 60 members organized into five regional teams of both special agents and analysts. Additionally, personnel from the FBI’s Behavioral Analysis Unit 3, Cellular Analysis Survey Team (CAST), and National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime are also consulted during deployments. According to the FBI, since CARD’s inaugural deployment in 2006, teams have deployed approximately 170 times to assist law enforcement agencies when an AMBER Alert or mysterious disappearance of a child has occurred. In 2019, CARD deployed five times 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 2019, 27 of the AMBER Alert cases reported to NCMEC involved the use of a command post. Of those cases, 13 were intaked as FAs, eight were intaked as NFAs, five were intaked as LIMs, and one was an ERU.

National Crime Information Center

The National Crime Information Center (NCIC) houses a set of databases law enforcement uses to document and query activity and information about missing people. *The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006* (Pub. L. No. 109-248) clarifies an NCIC entry by law enforcement must be made within two hours of receipt of a report of a missing or abducted child.

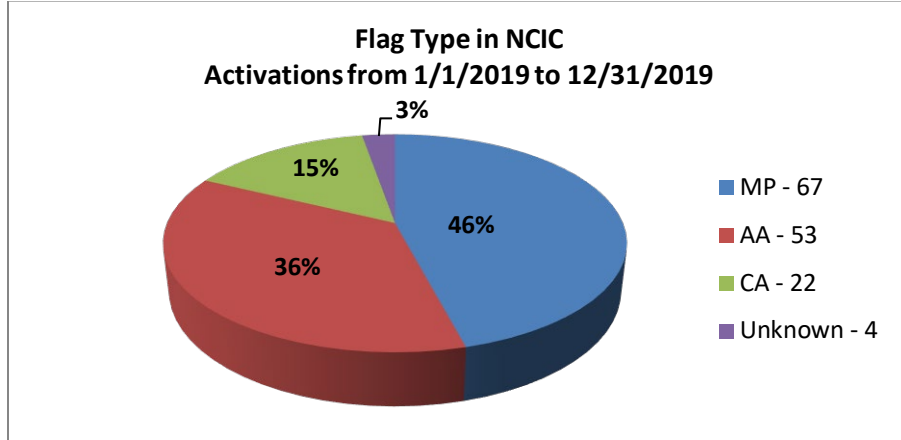
Of the 180 children involved in AMBER Alert cases in 2019, information about 146 children was entered into NCIC, and information about 34 children was not entered into NCIC.

Table 18: Information Entered in NCIC

	1/1/2019 - 12/31/2019	1/1/2019 - 12/31/2019 percent
Information entered in NCIC	146	81
Information not entered in NCIC	34	19
Total	180	100

Of the 146 children whose information was entered in NCIC from Jan. 1, 2019, to Dec. 31, 2019, 67 children were flagged as a Missing Person (MP), 53 children were flagged as an AMBER Alert (AA), and 22 children were flagged as a Child Abduction (CA). The flags for four children were unknown.

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 2019, a total of 21 flags were updated in NCIC. Ten flags were changed from MP to AA, nine flags were changed from CA to AA, and two flags were changed from AA to CA. Law enforcement made the flag updates for 12 children, and NCMEC made the flag updates for nine children.

The table below shows the NCIC missing person type category for children involved in AMBER Alerts at the time of entry from Jan. 1, 2019, to Dec. 31, 2019.

Table 19: Missing Person Type in NCIC

NCIC missing person type	1/1/2019 - 12/31/2019	1/1/2019 - 12/31/2019 percent
Disability	1	1
Endangered	55	38
Endangered – caution	7	5
Involuntary	39	27
Involuntary – caution	2	1
Juvenile	34	23
Juvenile – caution	5	3
Other	3	2
Total	146	100

From Jan. 1, 2019, to Dec. 31, 2019, information about 23 children was entered and canceled from NCIC within three hours.

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

	1/1/2019 - 12/31/2019 (total)	1/1/2019 - 12/31/2019 (cumulative total)	1/1/2019 - 12/31/2019 percent	1/1/2019 - 12/31/2019 cumulative percent
Up to 1/2 hour	3	3	2	2
½+ - 1 hour	0	3	0	2
1+ - 2 hours	7	10	5	7
2+ - 3 hours	13	23	9	16
3+ - 4 hours	15	38	10	26
4+ - 5 hours	11	49	8	34
5+ - 6 hours	11	60	8	41
6+ - 12 hours	22	82	15	56
12+ - 24 hours	19	101	13	69
24+ - 48 hours	11	112	8	77
48+ - 72 hours	4	116	3	79
72+ hours	23	139	16	95
Unknown	7	146	5	100
Total	146		~100	

Data collected from the miscellaneous field in NCIC captured additional information entered by law enforcement, such as abductor threats and use of weapons for 61 children involved in 52 AMBER Alerts issued in 2019. Law enforcement noted seven abductors were armed with a weapon, five children had medical issues, four abductors were suspected in a homicide, two abductors had a history of mental illness, two abductors threatened to kill themselves and the child, and one abductor threatened to harm the child. Thirty-one children had “other” listed in the miscellaneous field.

Of the 146 children whose information was entered in NCIC, 84 percent (n=123) had vehicle involvement in the AMBER Alert and 14 percent (n=21) did not have a vehicle involved. It was unknown if a vehicle was involved in two AMBER Alerts involving two children.

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 68 children. Of those, 42 children’s records had license plate information entered in the vehicle field only, and in 11 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 15 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 decrease of 20 percent from 2015 to 2019.

In 2015 there were 182 alerts involving 224 children, in 2016 there were 179 alerts involving 231 children, in 2017 there were 195 alerts involving 263 children, in 2018 there were 161 alerts involving 203 children, and in 2019 there were 145 alerts involving 180 children.

Figure 16: Number of AMBER Alerts from 2015 to 2019

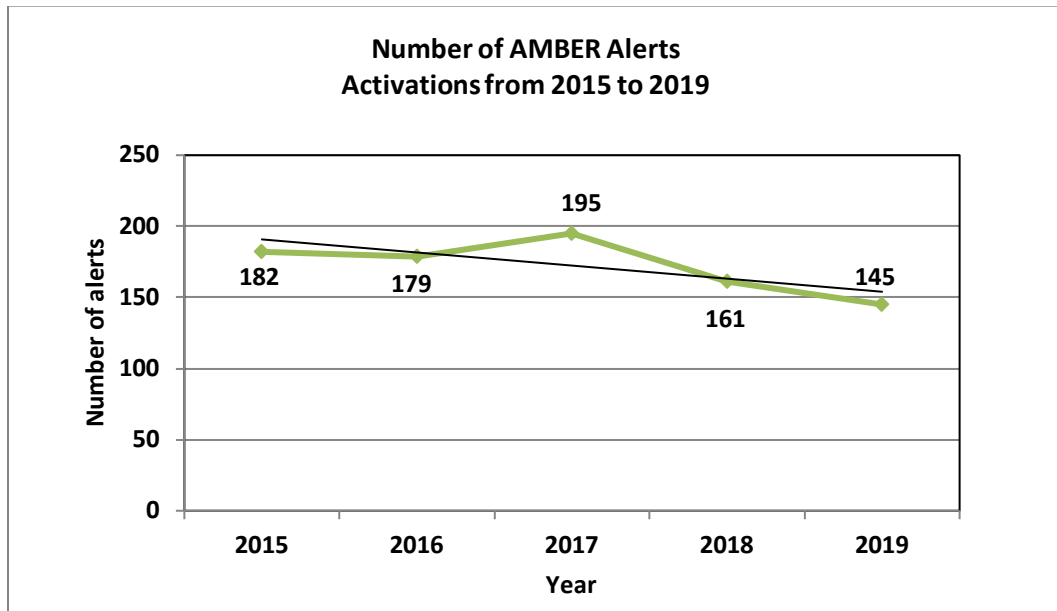
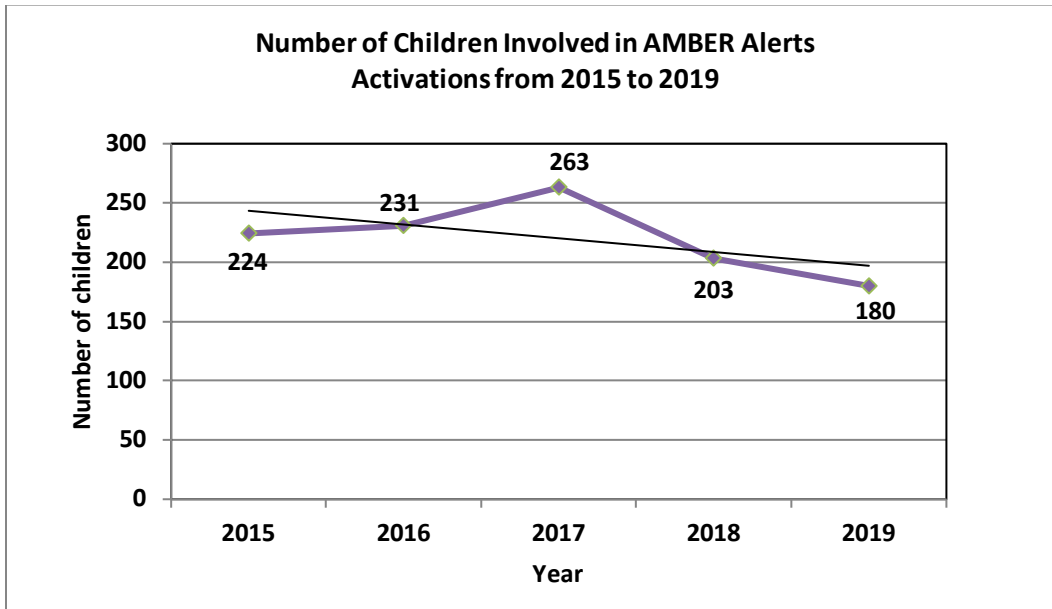


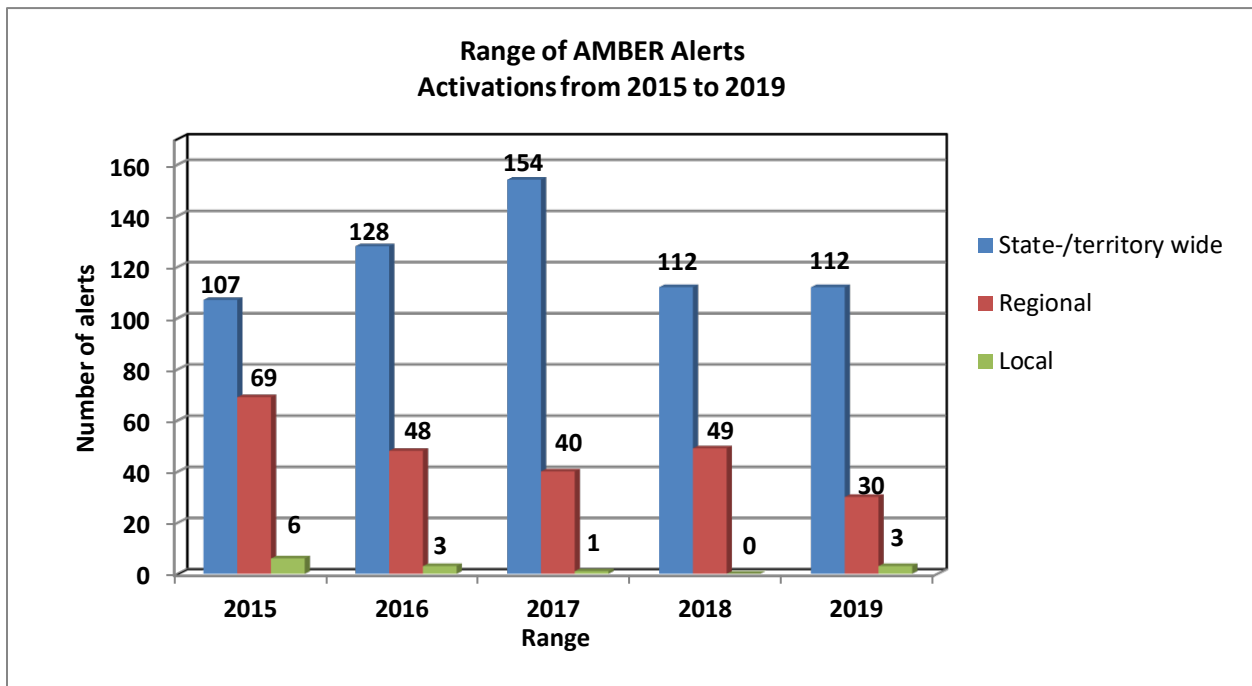
Figure 17: Number of Children Involved in AMBER Alerts from 2015 to 2019



AMBER Alerts by Range

From 2015 to 2019, AMBER Alerts were predominantly issued state-/territory- wide, followed by regional alerts, and then local alerts.

Figure 18: Range of AMBER Alerts from 2015 to 2019



Multistate/Territory AMBER Alerts

The number of multistate/territory AMBER Alerts varied between the years 2015 and 2019. In 2015 there were nine. The number then increased in 2016 to 21, and in 2017 and 2018 there were respective decreases to 13 and seven. In 2019, the number of multistate/territory AMBER Alerts rose slightly to 12.

Number of Cases at Intake by Month

Table 21: Number of Cases by Month from 2015 to 2019

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2015	11	9	19	8	17	15	19	17	18	22	14	13
2016	8	17	14	19	18	12	11	18	20	17	14	11
2017	20	11	17	19	20	18	18	23	16	13	10	10
2018	12	3	15	14	22	17	18	13	18	7	14	8
2019	10	5	12	10	18	9	10	18	11	16	12	14
Total	61	45	77	70	95	71	76	89	83	75	64	56

Table 22: Cases and Percent Increase/Decrease by Month from 2015 to 2019

	2015	Percent change	2016	Percent change	2017	Percent change	2018	Percent change	2019
Jan	11	-27	8	150	20	-40	12	-17	10
Feb	9	89	17	-35	11	-73	3	67	5
Mar	19	-26	14	21	17	-12	15	-20	12
Apr	8	138	19	0	19	-26	14	-29	10
May	17	6	18	11	20	10	22	-18	18
Jun	15	-20	12	50	18	-6	17	-47	9
Jul	19	-42	11	64	18	0	18	-44	10
Aug	17	6	18	28	23	-43	13	38	18
Sep	18	11	20	-20	16	13	18	-39	11
Oct	22	-23	17	-24	13	-46	7	129	16
Nov	14	0	14	-29	10	40	14	-14	12
Dec	13	-15	11	-9	10	-20	8	75	14
Total	182	-2	179	9	195	-17	161	-10	145

Case Type at Intake

The number of cases intaked as FAs decreased 32 percent from 121 alerts in 2015 to 82 alerts in 2019.

There were 47 alerts issued for NFAs in 2015, and the number rose in 2016 to 60. In 2017 the number of alerts issued fell to 50, increased to 56 in 2018, and in 2019 fell to 47 alerts.

Overall the number of cases intaked as LIMs decreased and increased from 2015 to 2019 (n=8, 6, 10, 6, and 9).

From 2015 to 2019, the number of ERUs largely remained the same (n=6, 6, 7, and 7), with the exception of falling to two alerts in 2018.

Figure 19: AMBER Alerts by Case Type at Intake from 2015 to 2019

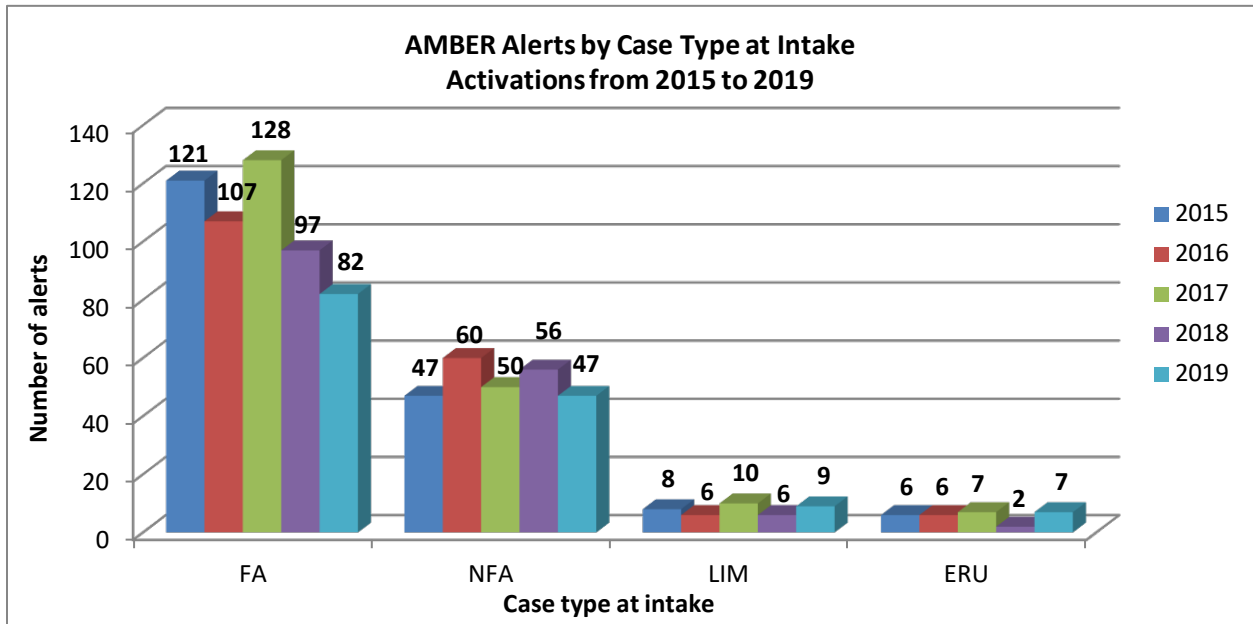


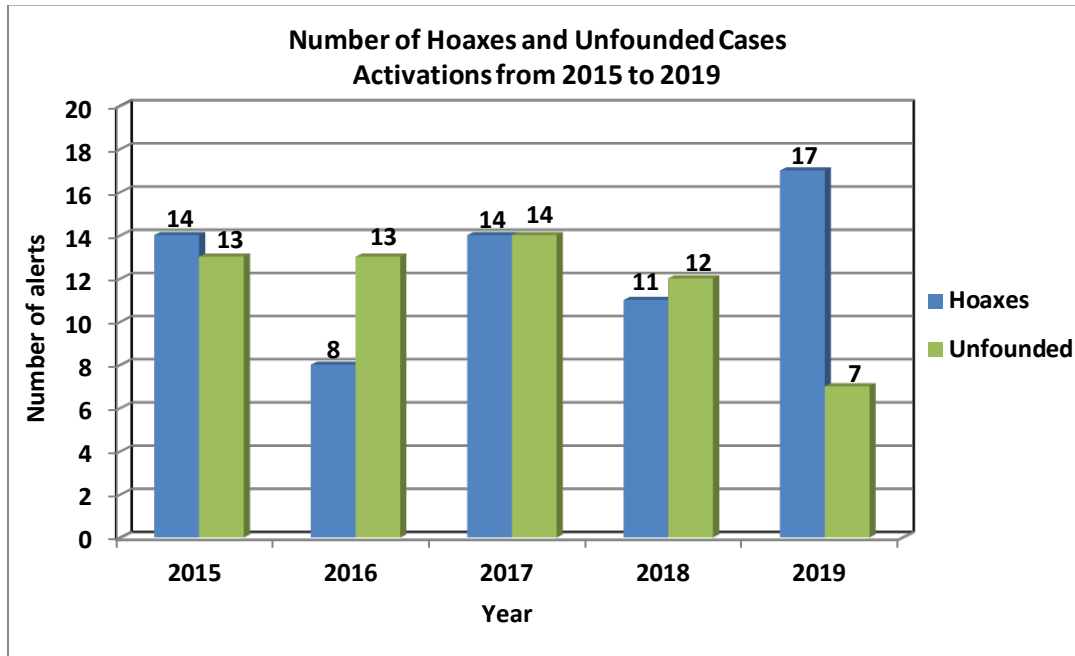
Table 23: Cases and Percent Increase/Decrease by Case Type from 2015 to 2019

	2015	Percent change	2016	Percent change	2017	Percent change	2018	Percent change	2019
FA	121	-12	107	20	128	-24	97	-15	82
NFA	47	28	60	-17	50	12	56	-16	47
LIM	8	-25	6	67	10	-40	6	50	9
ERU	6	0	6	17	7	-71	2	250	7
Total	182	-2	179	9	195	-17	161	-10	145

Hoaxes and Unfounded Cases

The number of hoaxes was 14 in 2015, and in 2016 the number of hoaxes decreased to eight. In 2017 the number rose to 14, and then fell in 2018 to 11. In 2019, the number of hoaxes rose to its highest point at 17. The number of unfounded cases remained relatively stable from 2015 to 2018, (n=13, 13, 14, and 12). In 2019, the number of unfounded cases fell to seven.

Figure 20: Number of Hoaxes and Unfounded Cases from 2015 to 2019

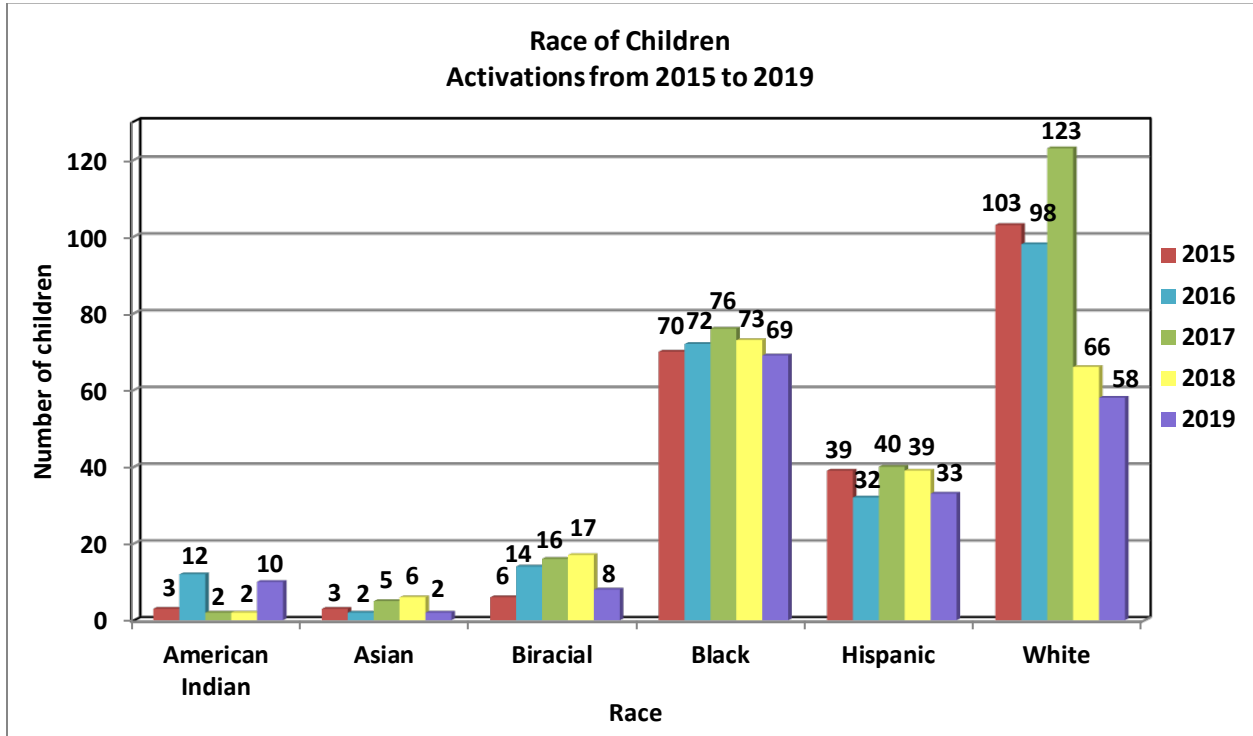


Number and Characteristics of Children Involved in AMBER Alerts

In 2015 the number of boys and girls involved in AMBER Alerts was the same. Girls were more often involved in AMBER Alerts in 2016. In 2017 the number of boys and girls involved in an alert was nearly the same. There were slightly more girls involved in AMBER Alerts than boys in 2018. In 2019, girls greatly outnumbered boys. AMBER Alerts were issued for 112 boys and 112 girls in 2015. In 2016 girls represented 59 percent (n=136) of children involved in AMBER Alerts, and boys made up 41 percent (n=95). In 2017, boys (n=132) and girls (n=131) each made up 50 percent of AMBER Alerts, and, in 2018, 52 percent (n=105) of AMBER Alerts were girls and 48 percent (n=98) were boys. In 2019 girls comprised 61 percent (n=109) of AMBER Alerts, whereas boys comprised 39 percent (n=71).

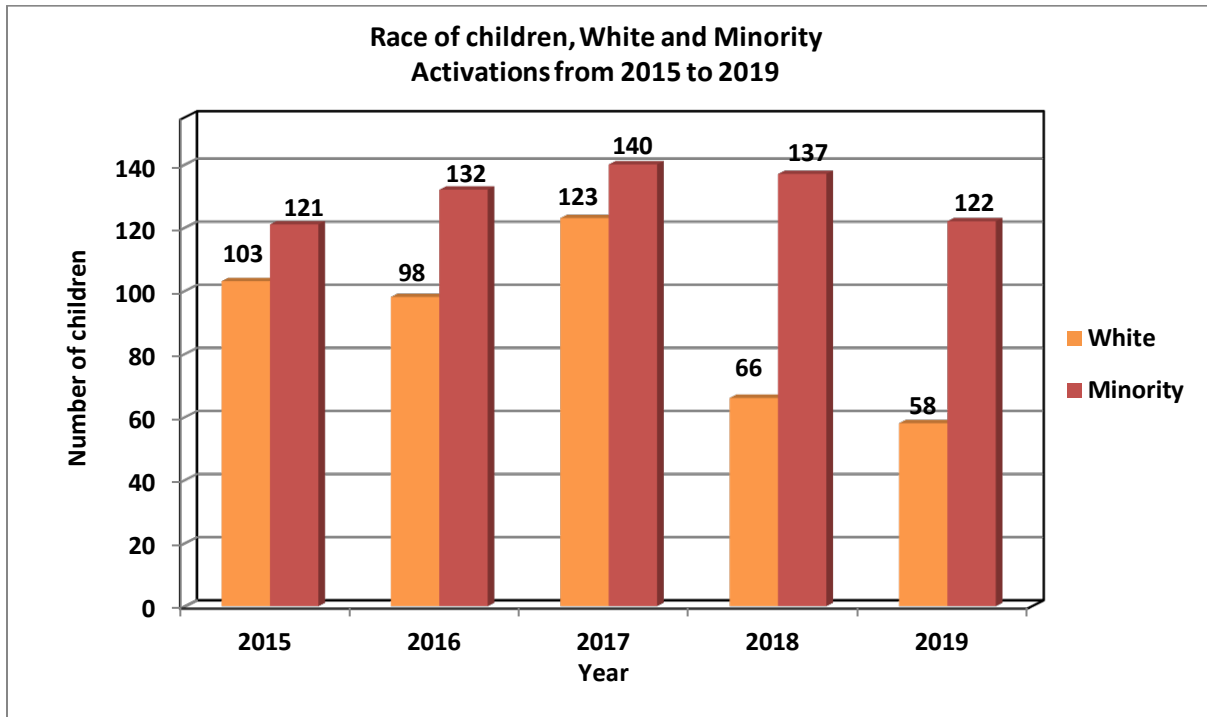
The number of American Indian children involved in AMBER Alerts had a general pattern of increasing and decreasing from 2015 to 2019 (n=3, 12, 2, 2, and 10). The number of Asian children generally varied from 2015 to 2019 (n=3, 2, 5, 6, and 2). The number of Biracial children mainly increased from 2015 to 2019 (n=6, 14, 16, 17, and 8). For Black children, there was a pattern of increasing and then decreasing from 2015 to 2019 (n=70, 72, 76, 73, and 69). The number of Hispanic children generally remained the same from 2015 to 2019 (n=39, 32, 40, 39, and 33). The number of White children decreased substantially between 2015 and 2019 (n=103, 98, 123, 66, and 58).

Figure 21: Race of Children from 2015 to 2019



From 2015 to 2019 minority children were involved in AMBER Alerts more frequently than White children.

Figure 22: Race of Children, White and Minority from 2015 to 2019



International Abductions

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. In 2016, there were no AMBER Alerts issued for international abductions. In 2017, there was one AMBER Alert for a case originating in Canada, and the child was recovered in Washington state. In 2018, one AMBER Alert involving four children was an international abduction. The children were recovered in Mexico. In 2019, there were three AMBER Alerts involving six children. In all three cases, the children were recovered in Mexico.

Children Located Deceased

A total of 44 children who were involved in AMBER Alerts issued from 2015 to 2019 were located deceased, (n=8, 13, 6, 7, and 10).

While children intaked as NFAs who were located deceased were overall more frequent between 2015 and 2019, there were more children intaked as LIMs who were located deceased in 2017 and 2019.

Table 24: Number of Children Located Deceased from 2015 to 2019

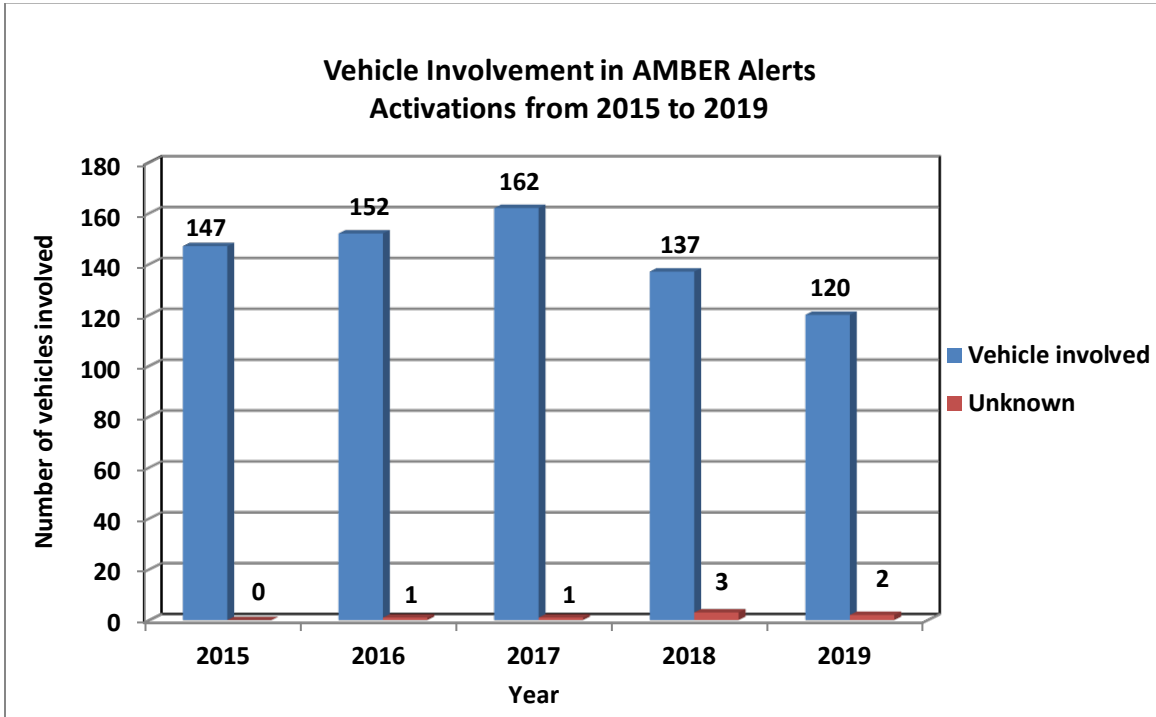
Case type at intake	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
FA	3	5	0	1	3	12
NFA	3	7	2	5	3	20
LIM	2	1	4	1	4	12
ERU	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	8	13	6	7	10	44

National Crime Information Center

In regard to children's information entered in NCIC from 2015 to 2019, it was 78, 78, 85, 85, and 81 percent respectively (n=174, 181, 223, 172, and 146). The AA flag was the predominant flag type from 2015 to 2018, however in 2019 the MP flag was the predominant flag type.

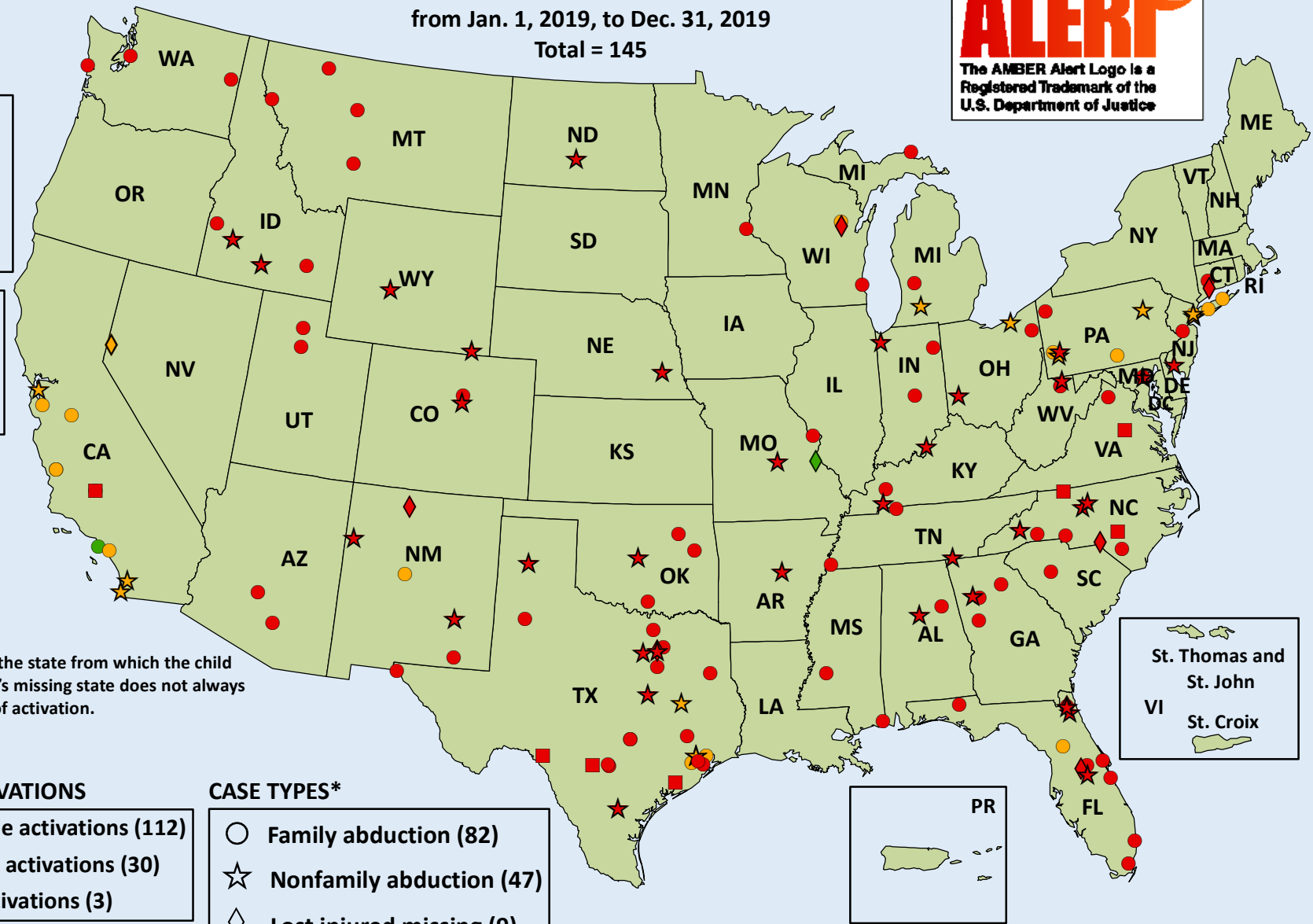
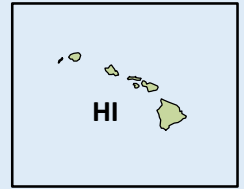
From 2015 to 2019 there were more instances when it was known a vehicle was involved in the alert (n=147, 152, 162, 137, and 120) than unknown.

Figure 23: Vehicle Involvement in AMBER Alerts from 2015 to 2019





AMBER Alert Activations Issued
 from Jan. 1, 2019, to Dec. 31, 2019
 Total = 145



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

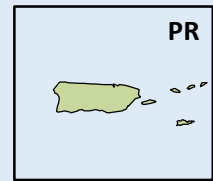
RANGE OF ACTIVATIONS

■	Statewide activations (112)
■	Regional activations (30)
■	Local activations (3)

CASE TYPES*

○	Family abduction (82)
☆	Nonfamily abduction (47)
◇	Lost injured missing (9)
□	Endangered runaway (7)

St. Thomas and St. John
 VI
 St. Croix



Source: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
 Mapping software donated to NCMC by Esri, Redlands, California
 February 27, 2020