

# National Center for Missing & Exploited Children<sup>®</sup>

## 2013 AMBER Alert report

Analysis of AMBER Alert cases in 2013



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## Introduction

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

This program was eventually taken to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, known as NCMEC, with a request for a national initiative. It then became known as America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response or the AMBER Plan, which allows broadcasters and transportation authorities to immediately distribute information about recent child abductions to the public and enables the entire community to assist in the search for and safe recovery of the child. What began as a local effort in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, area has grown into a seamless system of such programs in every state across the country. Each year these Alerts help safely rescue abducted children. Since the inception of the program in 1996 through Dec. 31, 2013, 679 children have been safely rescued specifically as a result of an AMBER Alert being issued.

This program is a voluntary partnership among law enforcement agencies, broadcasters and transportation agencies 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 into a program where all available technology is used to alert the public.

On April 30, 2003, President George W. Bush signed into law the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today or PROTECT Act of 2003 (Pub. L. No. 108-21). Building on the steps already taken by the Bush Administration to support AMBER Alerts, this Act established the national coordination of state and local programs, including the development of guidance for issuance and dissemination of AMBER Alerts and the appointment of a national AMBER Alert coordinator within the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.

The national AMBER Alert coordinator, in collaboration with a national advisory group, developed a strategy for supporting states/territories and communities to strengthen the AMBER Alert System nationwide and increase the likelihood abducted children will be recovered swiftly and safely.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*National Strategy*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, [www.amberalert.gov/ntl\\_strategy.htm](http://www.amberalert.gov/ntl_strategy.htm), accessed Feb. 20, 2014.

## AMBER Alert definitions

This report presents information about AMBER Alerts issued throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands from Jan. 1, 2013, through Dec. 31, 2013, 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, known as NCIC, database.

An AMBER Alert may involve one or more children and is issued on either a state/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 state-/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 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:

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

Law enforcement may determine an AMBER Alert should be 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 him- or herself missing with the intent to mislead law enforcement.
- An **unfounded** case occurs when a child is reported missing based on available information at the time, but the investigation determines a child was never missing.

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

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

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

### **Summary of AMBER Alerts**

From Jan. 1, 2013, to Dec. 31, 2013, 194 AMBER Alerts were issued in the U.S. involving 243 children.

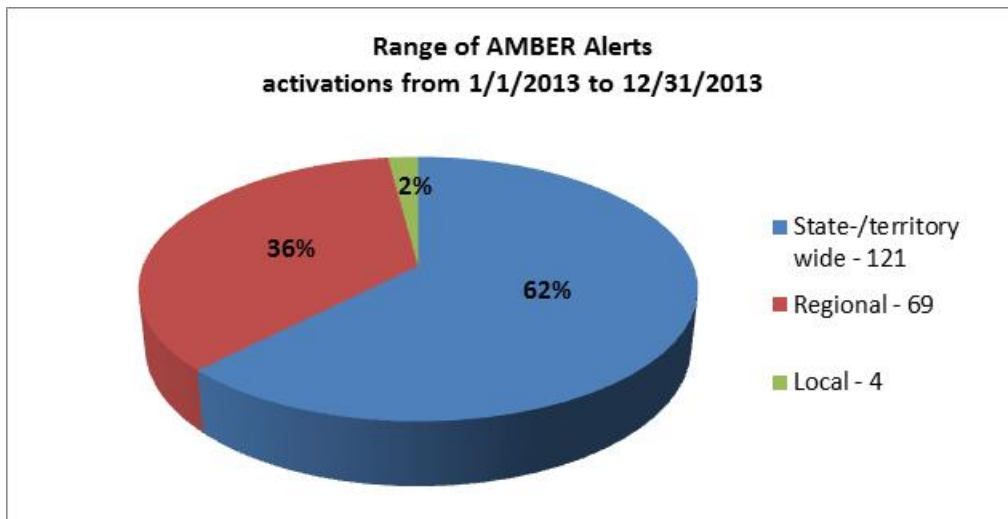
At the time the AMBER Alert cases were intaked at NCMEC there were 110 FAs, 63 NFAs, 18 LIMs and three ERUs. Fourteen cases were later determined to be hoaxes, and 16 cases were later determined to be unfounded.

Of the 194 AMBER Alerts issued from Jan. 1, 2013, to Dec. 31, 2013, 185 cases resulted in a recovery, 41 of which were successfully recovered as a direct result of those respective AMBER Alerts being issued. As of Feb. 11, 2014, when statistics for this report were finalized, three AMBER Alerts issued in 2013 remained active and 11 children were recovered deceased.

### **AMBER Alerts by range**

In 2013, 62 percent (n=121) of AMBER Alerts were issued state-/territorial-wide, 36 percent (n=69) of AMBER Alerts were issued regionally and 2 percent (n=4) were issued locally.

**Figure 1: Range of AMBER Alerts**



### **AMBER Alerts by state/territory**

From Jan. 1, 2013, to Dec. 31, 2013, 194 AMBER Alerts were issued in 36 states. Texas issued the most AMBER Alerts with 19 percent (n=37) followed by Georgia with 9 percent (n=18) and North Carolina with 6 percent (n=11).



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

State/Territory	Number of Alerts	Percent
Texas	37	19
Georgia	18	9
North Carolina	11	6
California, Florida and Washington	10 each	5 each
Oklahoma and Pennsylvania	9 each	5 each
Ohio	8	4
Michigan	7	4
Missouri	5	3
Arizona, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Mexico, New York and Tennessee	4 each	2 each
Arkansas, Illinois and Montana	3 each	2 each
Colorado, Delaware, Iowa, Mississippi, Nebraska, Oregon, Rhode Island and South Carolina	2 each	1 each
Alaska, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, New Jersey and West Virginia	1 each	1 each
Alabama, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Puerto Rico, South Dakota, U.S. Virgin Islands, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming	0 each	0 each
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>~100</b>

**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 2013, 15 AMBER Alerts were extended beyond the limits of the state where the AMBER Alert first originated.

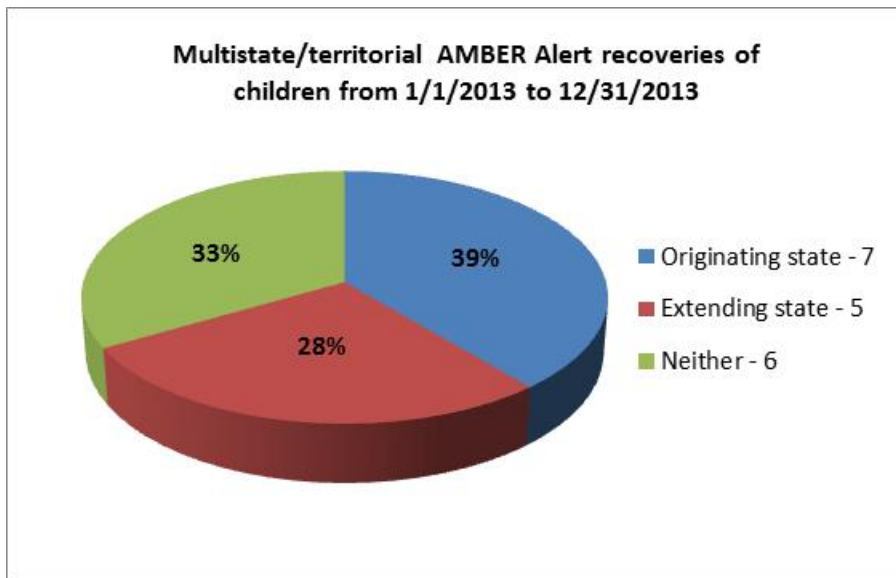
**Table 2: List of multistate/territorial AMBER Alerts**

Originating	Extending
California	Nevada
Colorado	Missouri
Florida	Alabama
Florida	Georgia
Florida	Georgia
Georgia	Kentucky
Mississippi	Alabama
Montana	Washington

Originating	Extending
Nebraska	South Dakota
Nevada	California
New York	Pennsylvania
Oklahoma	Texas
Texas	Illinois
Washington	California
West Virginia	Ohio

In six cases seven children were recovered in the state where the Alert originated, in four cases five children were recovered in the extending state and in five cases six children were recovered in neither the originating state nor the extending state. One case remains active.

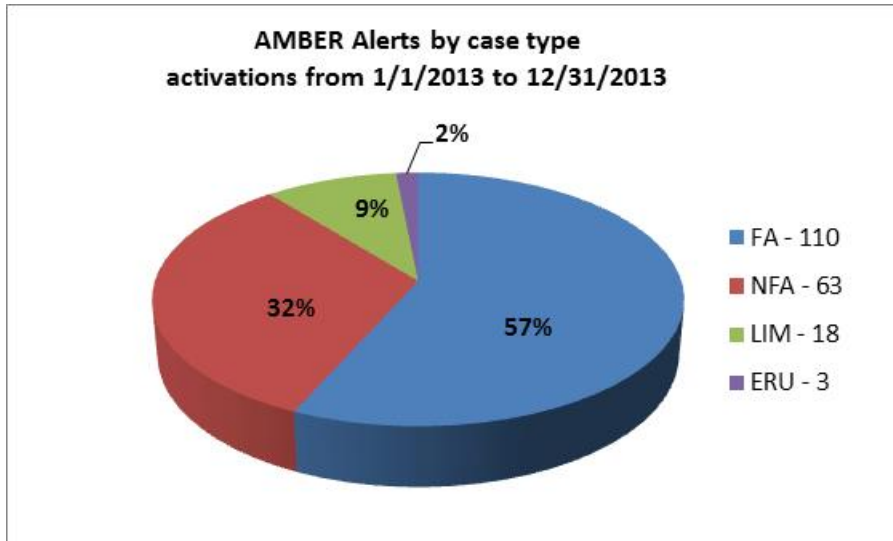
**Figure 2: Multistate/territorial AMBER Alert recoveries**



**AMBER Alerts by case type at intake**

In 2013, 57 percent (n=110) of AMBER Alert cases were intaked as FAs, 32 percent (n=63) were NFAs, 9 percent (n=18) were LIMs and 2 percent (n=3) were ERUs.

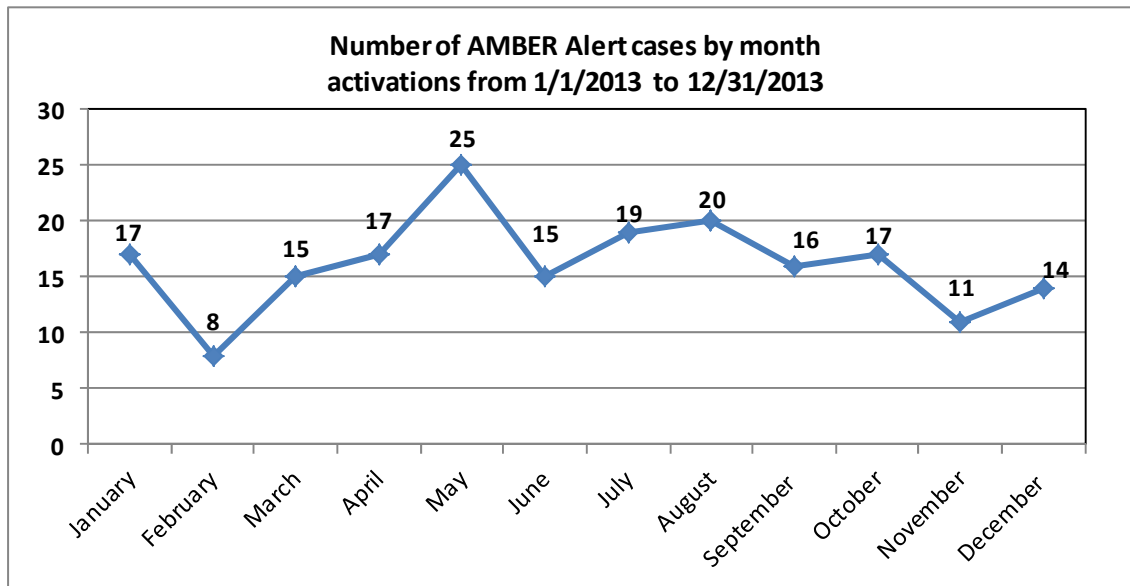
**Figure 3: AMBER Alerts by case type**



**Number of cases by month**

In 2013 the number of AMBER Alerts issued per month ranged from a low of eight Alerts in February to a high of 25 Alerts in May.

**Figure 4: Number of AMBER Alert cases by month**



**Number of case types at intake by month**

In 2013 AMBER Alerts were issued most frequently for FAs (n=18) in May. The highest number of NFAs (n=11) occurred in the month of August. AMBER Alerts for LIMs (n=6) were most frequently issued in July. Alerts were issued for ERUs in the months of April, May and September.

**Table 3: Number of case types by month**

	<b>FA</b>	<b>NFA</b>	<b>LIM</b>	<b>ERU</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total percent</b>
Jan	10	6	1	0	17	9
Feb	5	2	1	0	8	4
Mar	5	9	1	0	15	8
Apr	8	6	2	1	17	9
May	18	6	0	1	25	13
Jun	12	2	1	0	15	8
Jul	11	2	6	0	19	10
Aug	8	11	1	0	20	10
Sep	10	4	1	1	16	8
Oct	8	5	4	0	17	9
Nov	6	5	0	0	11	6
Dec	9	5	0	0	14	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>~100</b>

**Number of children by case type at intake by month**

In 2013, 243 children were involved in 194 AMBER Alert cases. Fifty-eight percent (n=141) of children were intaked as FAs followed by 31 percent (n=75) of children intaked as NFAs. Nine percent (n=22) were intaked as LIMs and 2 percent (n=5) were intaked as ERUs.

Children intaked as FAs were most frequently involved in AMBER Alerts during the month of May (n=20). The highest number of children intaked as NFAs (n=13) occurred in the month of October. AMBER Alerts for LIMs (n=10) were most frequently issued in July and for ERUs (n=2) in April and May.

**Table 4: Number of children by case type by month**

	<b>FA</b>	<b>NFA</b>	<b>LIM</b>	<b>ERU</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total percent</b>
Jan	15	6	1	0	22	9
Feb	7	2	1	0	10	4
Mar	9	10	1	0	20	8
Apr	10	6	2	2	20	8
May	20	8	0	2	30	12
Jun	14	2	1	0	17	7
Jul	13	2	10	0	25	10
Aug	10	12	1	0	23	9
Sep	12	4	1	1	18	7
Oct	11	13	4	0	28	12
Nov	11	5	0	0	16	7
Dec	9	5	0	0	14	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>~100</b>

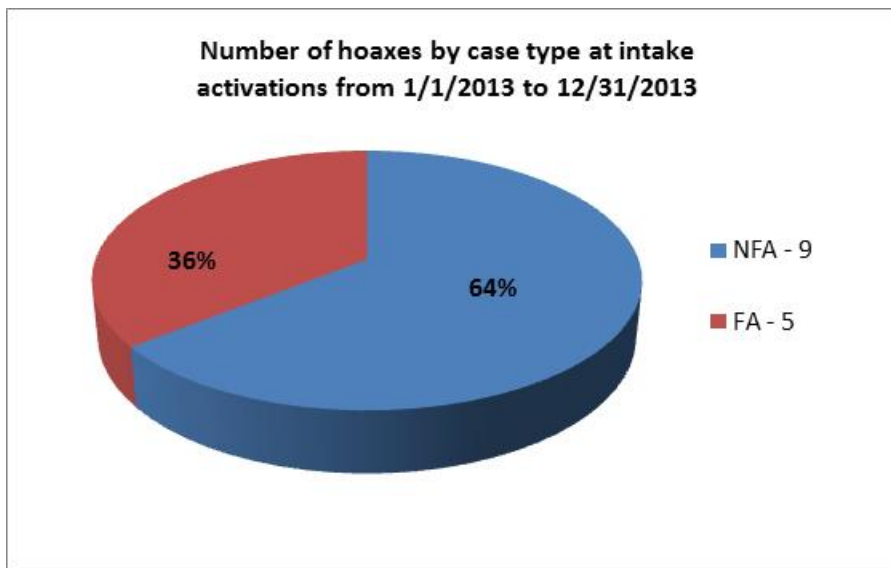
**Cases determined to be hoaxes**

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

In 2013, 7 percent (n=14) of AMBER Alerts issued involving 17 children were later determined to be hoaxes. Sixty-four percent (n=9) of hoaxes were originally intaked as NFAs followed by FAs at 36 percent (n=5).

In 64 percent (n=9) of hoaxes false information was provided by the child’s parent, 29 percent (n=4) was provided by the child involved and 7 percent (n=1) was provided by the child’s legal guardian.

**Figure 5: Number of hoaxes by case type at intake**



Of the 14 cases determined to be hoaxes, eight cases had known locations from which the children involved were reported missing. Of those cases 75 percent (n=6) were reported missing from home, 13 percent (n=1) were reported missing from an automobile and 13 percent (n=1) were reported missing from the street.

**Children involved in hoaxes**

In 2013, 14 AMBER Alerts involving 17 children were later determined to be hoaxes. Sixty-five percent (n=11) of children involved in hoaxes were girls, whereas boys represented 35 percent (n=6) of children involved in hoaxes. Sixty-seven percent (n=4) of the boys involved in these hoaxes were 4 years old or younger. Of the 11 girls involved in hoaxes, 64 percent (n=7) were 5 years old or younger.

**Table 5: Age and sex of children involved in hoaxes**

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

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

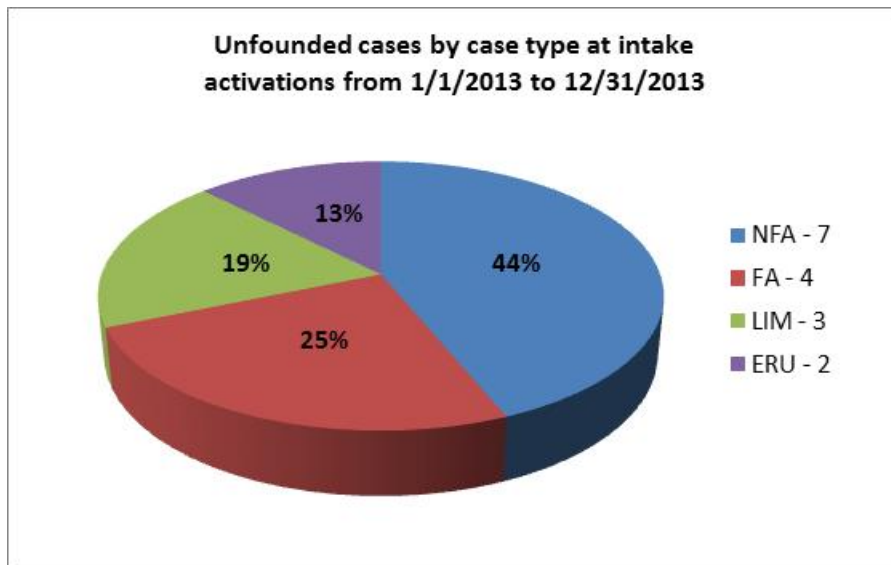
Age	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU
<1	0	0	0	0
1	1	3	0	0
2	0	1	0	0
3	2	0	0	0
4	2	0	0	0
5	1	1	0	0
6	1	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	0	0
9	1	0	0	0
10	0	0	0	0
11	0	0	0	0
12	0	0	0	0
13	0	1	0	0
14	0	0	0	0
15	0	0	0	0

Age	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU
16	0	1	0	0
17	0	2	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**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. Sixteen AMBER Alerts involving 30 children were determined to be unfounded, representing 8 percent of the total number of AMBER Alerts issued in 2013. These unfounded cases were originally intaked as NFAs at 44 percent (n=7), FAs at 25 percent (n=4), LIMs at 19 percent (n=3) and ERUs at 13 percent (n=2).

**Figure 6: Unfounded cases by case type at intake**



**Children involved in unfounded cases**

In 2013, 16 AMBER Alerts involving 30 children were later determined to be unfounded. Boys represented 60 percent (n=18) whereas girls represented 37 percent (n=11) of all children involved in unfounded cases. For one child later determined to be unfounded the sex was unknown. Of the 11 girls involved in unfounded cases, 64 percent ranged from 10 to 14 years of age. The ages for two girls were unknown. Sixty-seven percent of the boys involved in unfounded cases were between 13 and 17 years of age.

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

Age	Girls	Boys
<1	0	0
1	1	0
2	0	0

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

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

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



### **Secondary distribution of AMBER Alerts**

The AMBER Alert Secondary Distribution system, known as AASD, is comprised of wireless carriers, Internet service providers, digital signage, social networking websites, content providers and major retailers who distribute these 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 2013, 89 percent (n=173) of AMBER Alert cases were secondarily distributed whereas 11 percent (n=21) of the cases were not secondarily distributed because the AMBER Alert was cancelled before secondary distribution was possible.

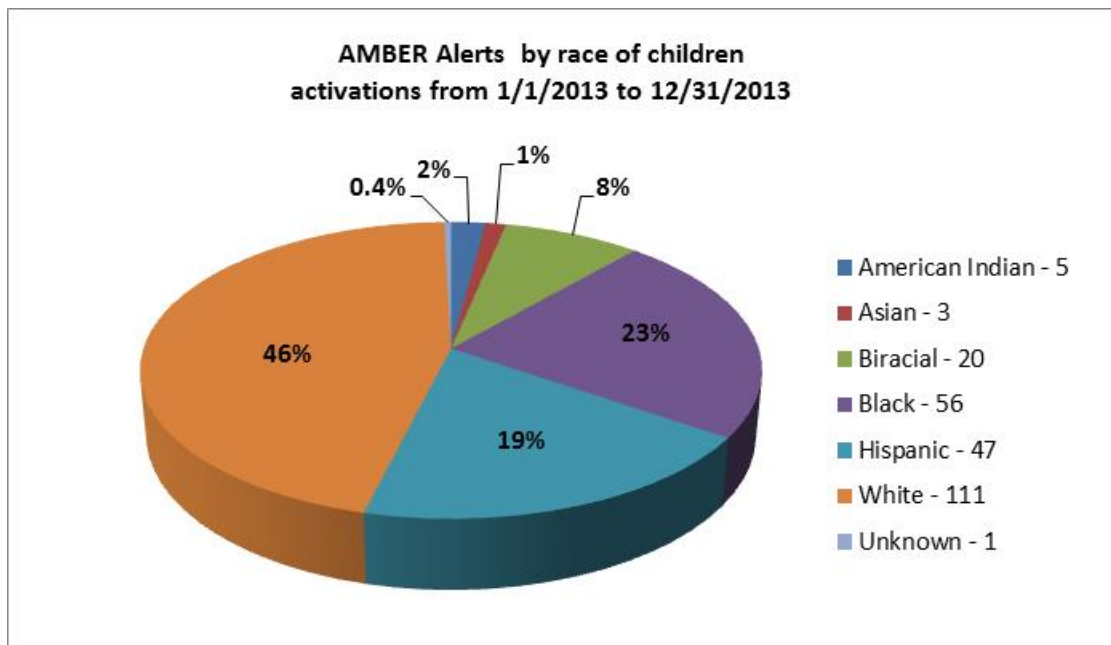
AMBER Alert Secondary Distribution was issued for 95 FAs, 59 NFAs, 16 LIMs and three ERUs. Eight NFAs and four FAs were later determined to be hoaxes. Seven NFAs, three FAs, two LIMs and two ERUs were subsequently identified as unfounded.

### **Number and characteristics of children reported missing**

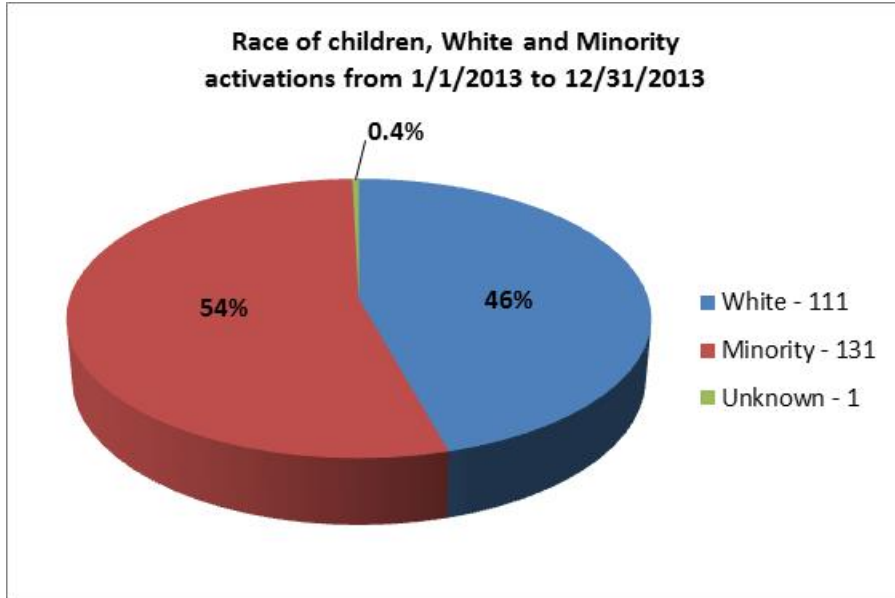
Children involved in AMBER Alert activations were statistically evenly distributed for girls at 51 percent (n=124), compared to boys who represented 49 percent (n=118). The sex for one child was unknown.

Forty-six percent (n=111) of children involved in AMBER Alerts were White, 23 percent (n=56) were Black, 19 percent (n=47) were Hispanic, 8 percent (n=20) were Biracial, 2 percent (n=5) were American Indian and 1 percent (n=3) were Asian. The race for one child was unknown. AMBER Alerts were issued at a rate of 46 percent (n=111) for White children whereas Minority children represented 54 percent (n=131).

**Figure 7: AMBER Alerts by race of children**

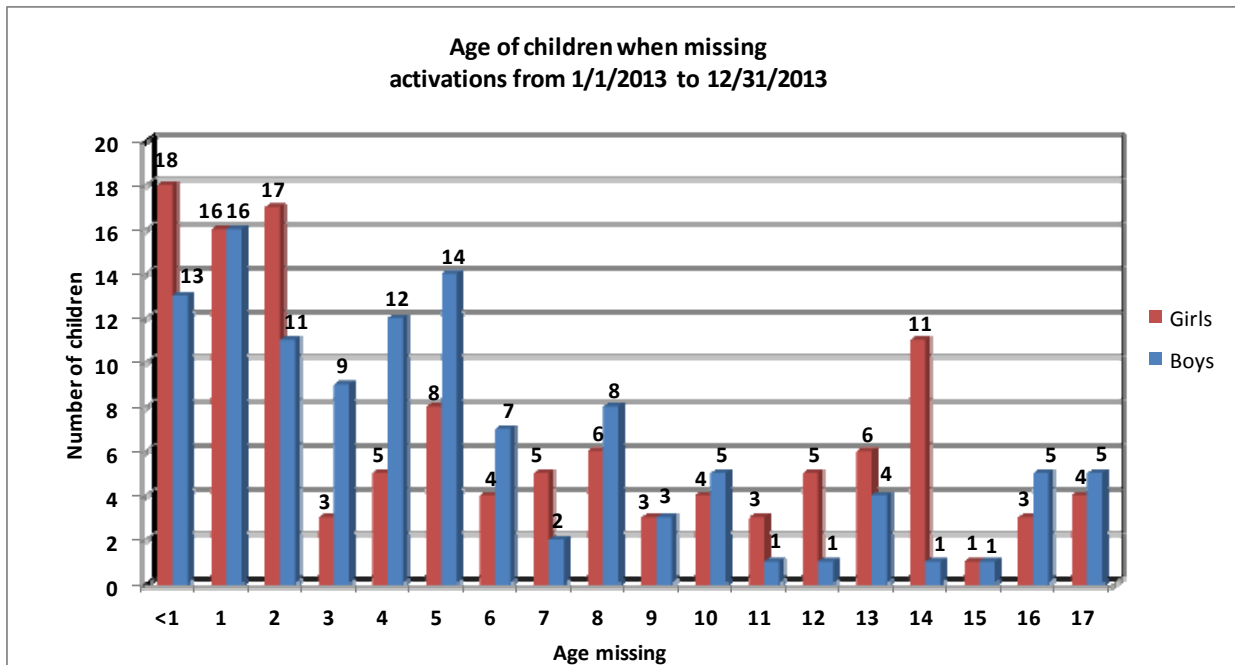


**Figure 8: Race of children, White and Minority**



Boys and girls who were 5 years old and younger represented 59 percent (n=142) of the children who were reported missing with known ages. Of all children reported missing, girls (n=18) younger than 1 year of age and boys (n=16) 1 year old were most frequently involved in AMBER Alerts. The age of three children was unknown.

**Figure 9: Age of children when missing**



**Number and characteristics of abductors**

In 2013, 197 abductors were identified as being involved in 163 AMBER Alert cases.

The majority of abductors were male at 62 percent (n=123), and 34 percent (n=66) of abductors were female. The sex of 4 percent (n=8) of abductors was unknown.

Thirty-eight percent (n=74) of abductors were White, 24 percent (n=48) of abductors were Black, 17 percent (n=33) of abductors were Hispanic, 4 percent (n=8) of abductors were American Indian, 2 percent (n=3) of abductors were Asian and 2 percent (n=3) of abductors were Biracial. The race for 14 percent (n=28) was unknown.

**Abductors with a known relationship to the child**

Of the 197 abductors involved in AMBER Alerts in 2013, 141 abductors had known relationships with the children. An AMBER Alert case may involve multiple abductors; therefore, the number of abductors may exceed the number of cases for any case type. Multiple abductors involved in an AMBER Alert case may have different relationships to the abducted child. For example a mother who abducts her child may use her boyfriend as an accomplice. The boyfriend would also be considered an abductor in a family abduction although he is not related to the child.

Of the 110 FA cases, 112 abductors involved had known relationships with the children. They consisted of two aunts, one boyfriend, 60 fathers, one father’s girlfriend, two friends/classmates, one grandfather, four grandmothers, 34 mothers, two stepfathers, one stepmother and four uncles.

Of the 63 NFA cases, 25 abductors involved had known relationships with the children. For the remaining cases either there was no relationship or the relationship was unknown. The abductors consisted of one baby sitter, one boyfriend, one cousin, one father’s girlfriend, one friend/classmate, six friends of the family, two mothers, nine mother’s boyfriends, two neighbors and one other relative.

Of the 18 LIM cases, four abductors involved had known relationships with the children. They consisted of two fathers, 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
Aunt	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	1
Baby sitter	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	1
Boyfriend	1	1	1	4	0	0	2	1
Cousin	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	1
Father	60	54	0	0	2	50	62	44
Father’s girlfriend	1	1	1	4	0	0	2	1
Friend/classmate	2	2	1	4	0	0	3	2
Friend of family	0	0	6	24	0	0	6	4
Grandfather	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1

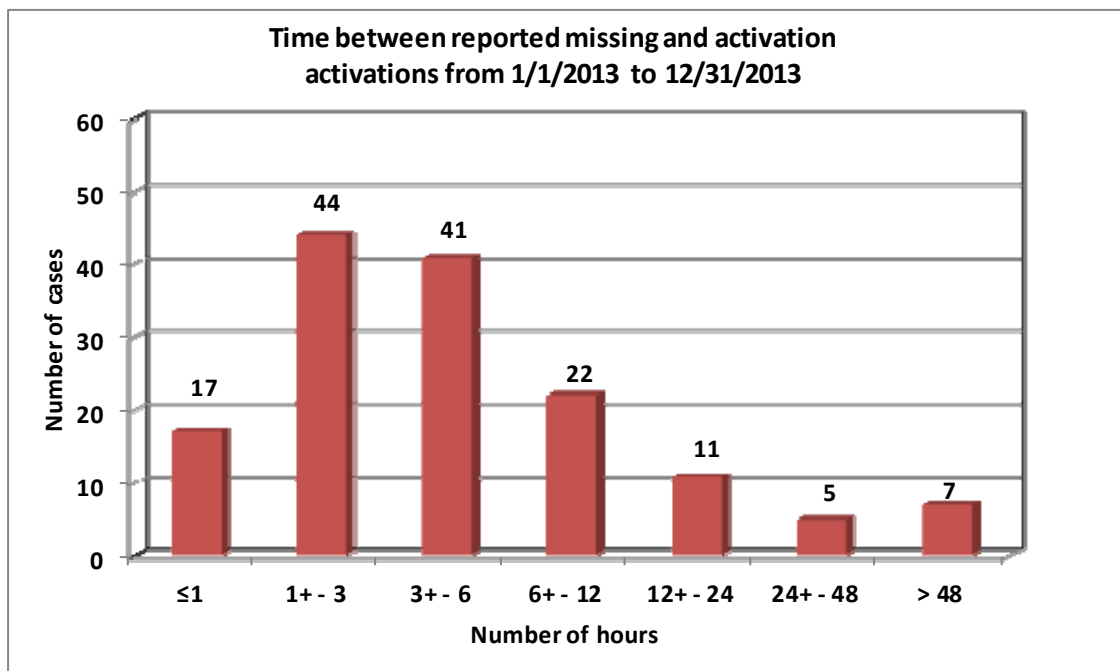
Abductor relationship to child	FA	FA percent	NFA	NFA percent	LIM	LIM percent	Total	Total percent
Grandmother	4	4	0	0	0	0	4	3
Mother	34	30	2	8	1	25	37	26
Mother's boyfriend	0	0	9	36	0	0	9	6
Neighbor	0	0	2	8	0	0	2	1
Other relative	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	1
Stepfather	2	2	0	0	1	25	3	2
Stepmother	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Uncle	4	4	0	0	0	0	4	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>~100</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>~100</b>

### 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 147 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-one AMBER Alerts were issued within three or fewer hours from when the child was reported missing. Forty-one cases were activated between more than three and six hours from when the child was reported missing, and 22 cases were issued between more than six and 12 hours.

**Figure 10: Time between reported missing and activation**

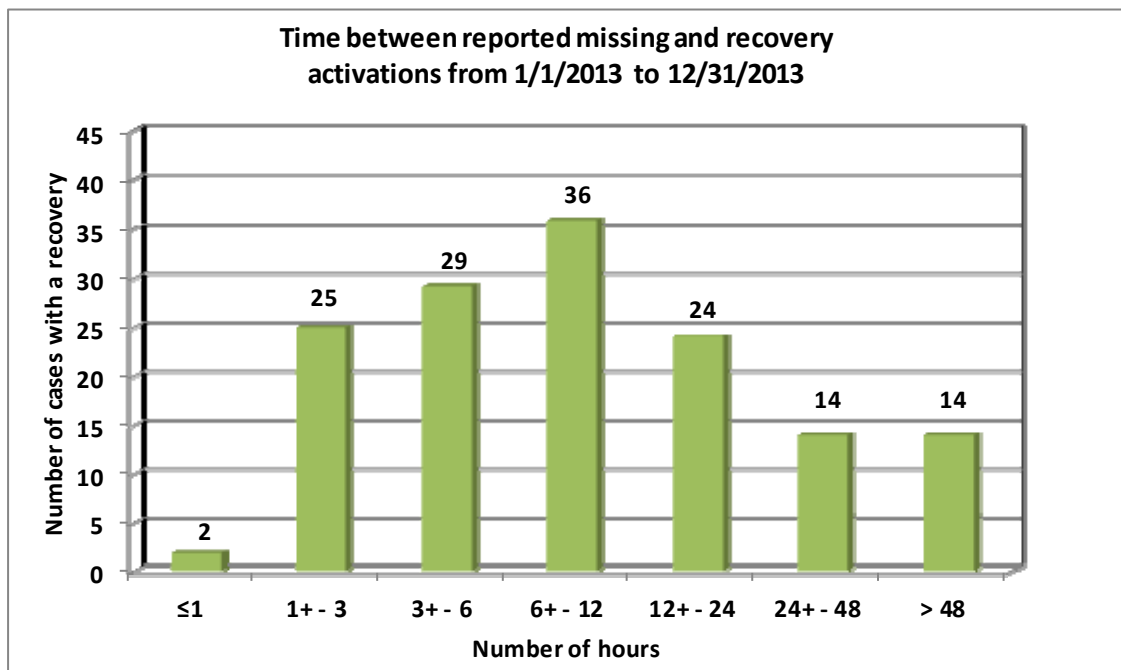


### Time between reported missing and recovery

Information about the time between when the child was reported missing to law enforcement and the AMBER Alert recovery was available in 144 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 27 of the cases where AMBER Alerts were issued the children were recovered within three or fewer hours from when the child was reported missing. Children in 29 cases were recovered between more than three and six hours from when the child was reported missing, and in 36 cases the children were recovered between more than six and 12 hours.

**Figure 11: Time between reported missing and recovery**

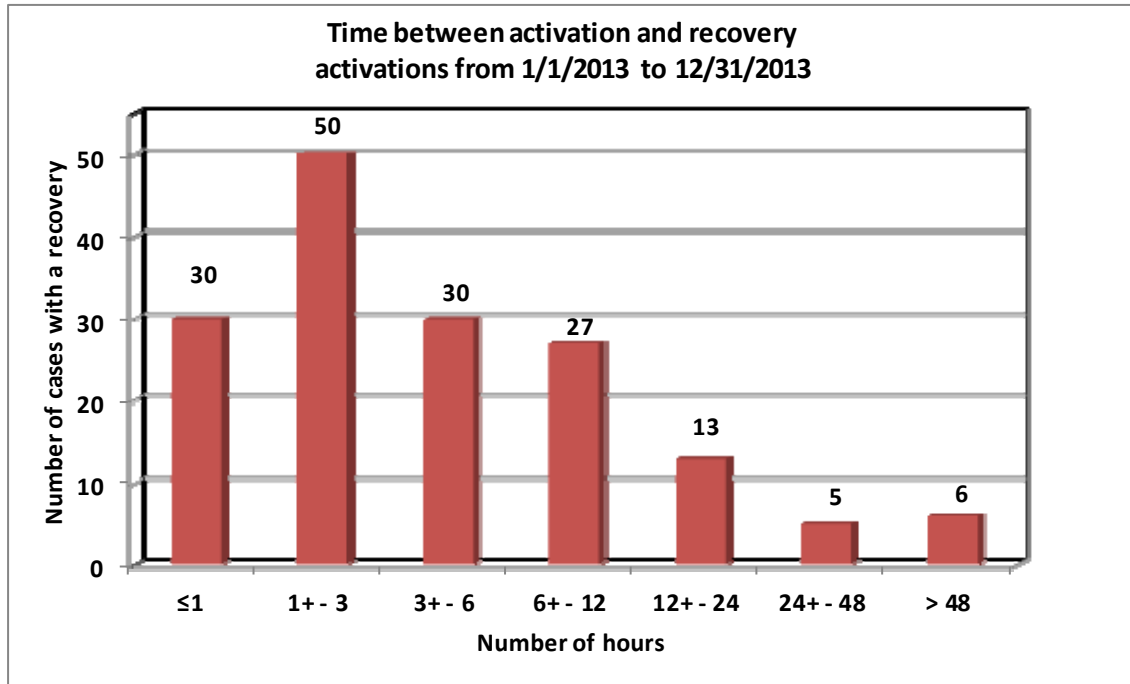


### Time between activation and recovery

Information about the time between when the AMBER Alert was activated and the AMBER Alert recovery was available in 161 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 80 of the cases where AMBER Alerts were issued the children were recovered within three or fewer hours from when the AMBER Alert was activated. Children in 30 cases were recovered between more than three and six hours from when the AMBER Alert was activated, and in 27 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 194 cases.

**Table 10: Recovery within three days of activation**

	Time between activation and recovery 1/1/2013 - 12/31/2013
Intaked cases	194
Cases classified as hoax or unfounded after intake	30
Intaked children	243
Children classified as hoax or unfounded after intake	47
Number of cases in which child recovered within 72 hours	156
Percent of cases in which child recovered within 72 hours	95 percent*
Number of children recovered within 72 hours	187
Percent of children recovered within 72 hours	95 percent**

\*Percentage excludes cases classified as hoaxes (n=14) and unfounded (n=16)

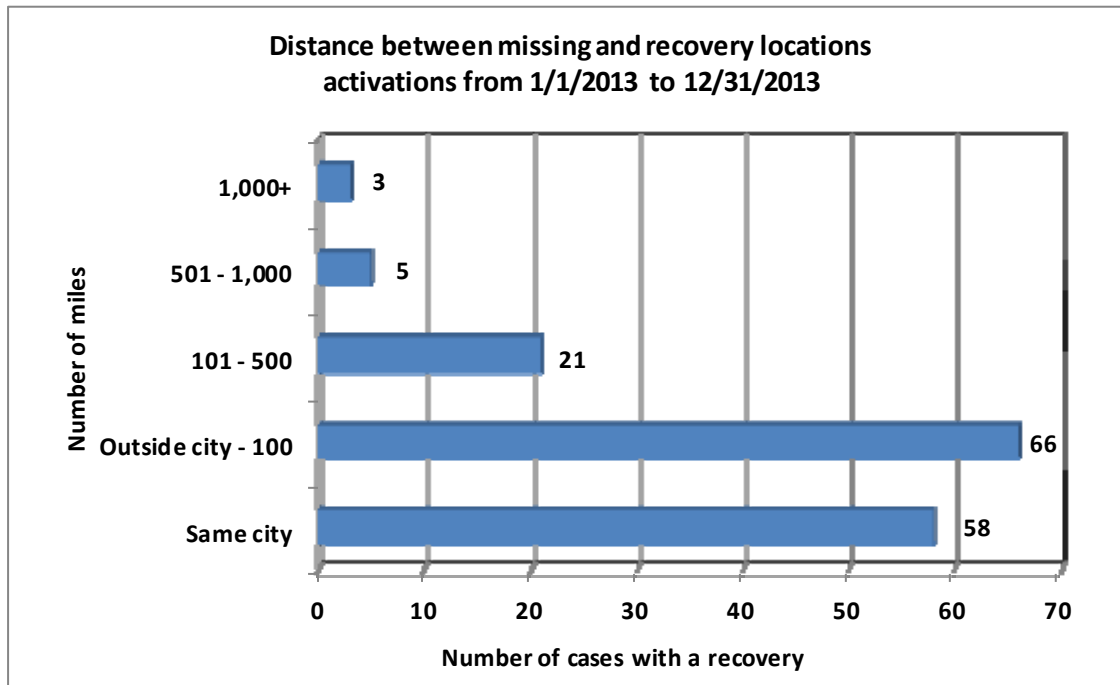
\*\*Percentage excludes children classified as hoaxes (n=17) and unfounded (n=30)

### Travel distances

In 2013 travel destinations between where the child was reported missing and recovered were known for 153 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 city and state. Therefore distances could not be calculated for cases where the child was abducted from and recovered in the same city.

In 58 cases the missing and recovery locations were in the same city; in 66 cases the distance between missing and recovery locations were outside the city but within 100 miles of each other; in 21 cases the distance between missing and recovery locations ranged from 101 to 500 miles; in five cases the distance between missing and recovery locations ranged from 501 to 1,000 miles; and in three cases travel distances were more than 1,000 miles. For eight cases the travel distance could not be calculated, and the remaining 33 cases were either hoaxes, unfounded or active cases.

**Figure 13: Distance between missing and recovery locations**



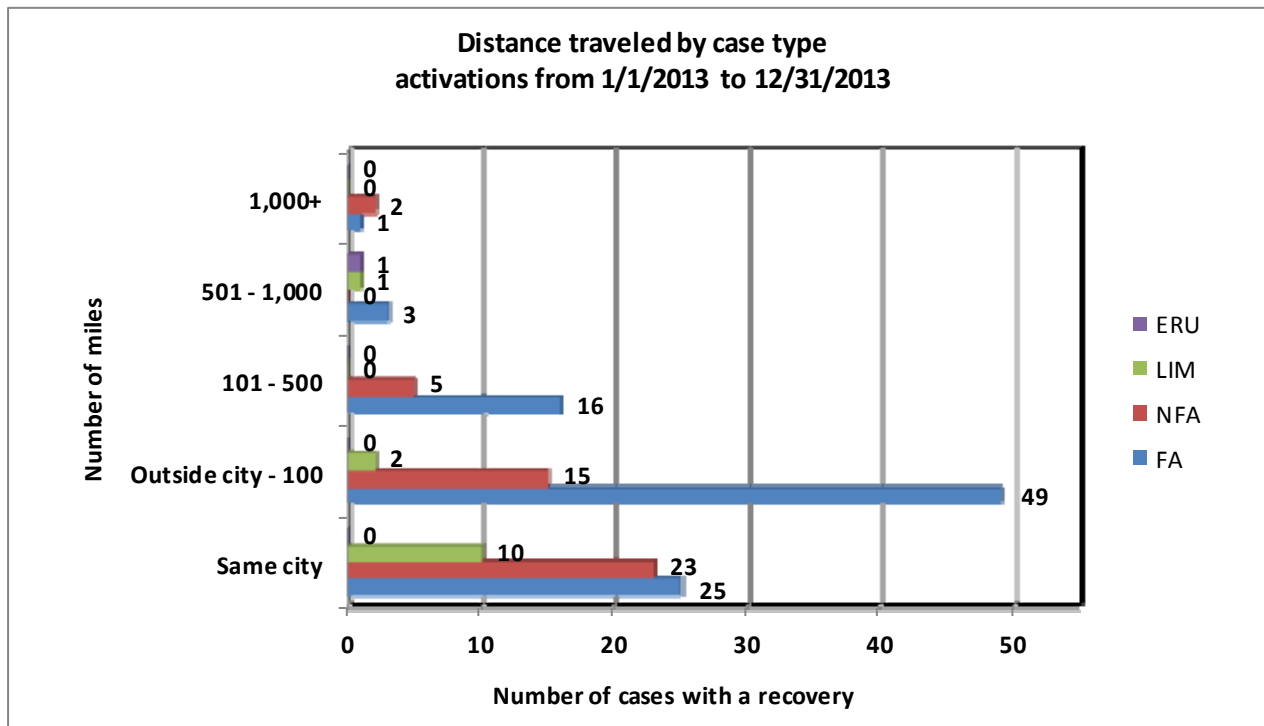
Of the 110 AMBER Alerts issued for FA cases, children in 25 cases were found in the same city. In 49 cases travel distances ranged from 1 to 91 miles and in 16 cases the travel distances ranged from 129 to 404 miles. In three cases travel distances ranged from 643 to 795 miles. In one case travel distances exceeded 1,000 miles. In six cases the distance could not be calculated, and the remaining 10 cases were active, hoaxes and unfounded cases.

Of the 63 AMBER Alerts issued for NFA cases, the children involved in 23 cases were found in the same city. In 15 cases travel distances ranged from 1 to 92 miles. In five cases travel distances ranged from 164 to 450 miles. In two cases travel distances exceeded 1,000 miles. In one case the distance could not be calculated, and the remaining 17 cases were active, hoaxes and unfounded cases.

There were 18 AMBER Alerts issued for LIM cases in 2013, and of those cases 10 were found in the same city. The travel distances in two cases ranged from 10 to 73 miles. In one case the travel distance was 702 miles. For one case the travel distance could not be calculated. The remaining four cases were determined to be active or unfounded.

For the three cases intaked as ERUs in 2013 one case had a recovery 855 miles from where the child was last seen. The remaining two cases were 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 194 AMBER Alerts issued in 2013, three cases still remain active. Fourteen percent of cases (n=28) had recoveries outside of the state of the original activation. Of those 28 cases, 75 percent (n=21) were FAs, 18 percent (n=5) were NFAs, 4 percent (n=1) were LIMs and 4 percent (n=1) were ERUs.

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

Activation state	Recovery state
Arkansas	Florida
Arkansas	New Mexico
California	Arizona



Activation state	Recovery state
California	Idaho
Connecticut	New York
Florida	Georgia
Florida	Kentucky
Georgia	Arkansas
Georgia	Florida
Georgia	South Carolina
Iowa	Nebraska
Illinois	Missouri
Indiana	Kentucky
Massachusetts	Connecticut
Massachusetts	Connecticut
Montana	Washington
North Carolina	Virginia
Nebraska	South Dakota
New Mexico	Arizona
New Mexico	Texas
Nevada	California
Nevada	Utah
Oklahoma	Texas
Rhode Island	New Jersey
Tennessee	Georgia
Texas	Florida
Texas	Indiana
Texas	Tennessee

### **Missing location**

In 2013 there were 151 cases with information about where the children involved were last known to be located. Of those 151 cases 70 percent (n=105) were last known to be at home followed by 5 percent (each) of cases where children were last known to be at school (n=7) and on the street (n=7).

**Table 12: Missing location**

Missing location	Number of cases	Percent
Automobile	2	1
Bus stop	1	1
Day care facility	4	3
Government facility	2	1
Home	105	70
Homeless shelter	1	1

Missing location	Number of cases	Percent
Hotel	3	2
Medical facility	3	2
Other	3	2
Park	3	2
Parking	1	1
Recreational	1	1
Religious facility	1	1
Restaurant	1	1
Retail	6	4
School	7	5
Street	7	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>~100</b>

### Recovery location

There were 176 cases with information about the location where the child was recovered. In 2013 children involved in AMBER Alert cases were most often recovered at home 39 percent (n=68) of the time followed by recoveries on the street at 14 percent (n=25).

**Table 13: Recovery location**

Recovery location	Number of cases	Percent
Automobile	23	13
Body of water	5	3
Government facility	4	2
Home	68	39
Homeless shelter	1	1
Hotel	10	6
Law enforcement agency	6	3
Medical facility	2	1
Office building	1	1
Outdoor	7	4
Park	4	2
Parking lot	8	5
Path/trail/wood	2	1
Playground	1	1
Restaurant	2	1
Retail	7	4
Street	25	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>~100</b>

### International abductions

In 2013 four AMBER Alert activations involving five children were as a result of an international abduction. One AMBER Alert was activated in Texas where the child was recovered; the child was abducted in Mexico. The remaining three cases involved recoveries in Canada, Cuba and Mexico. Seventy-five percent (n=3) of those cases were FAs and 25 percent (n=1) were NFAs. Four of the children were White boys, and one child was a Biracial girl.

### Infants involved in AMBER Alert activations

In 2013 infants, who are defined as children 6 months of age or younger, were involved in 14 AMBER Alert activations. Eighty-six percent (n=12) of infants involved were FAs, and 14 percent (n=2) were NFAs.

Fifty-seven percent (n=8) of infants involved in AMBER Alerts were boys and 43 percent (n=6) were girls. Twenty-one percent (n=3) of infants involved were Biracial, 29 percent (n=4) were Black, 7 percent (n=1) were Hispanic and 43 percent (n=6) were White.

### Success stories

A successful AMBER Alert recovery is a case in which a child is safely recovered as a direct result of the AMBER Alert being issued. A case is not considered a successful recovery if the law enforcement investigation indicates the case is unfounded or a hoax.

Of the 194 AMBER Alert cases in 2013, 50 children involved in 41 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	26	63	34	68
NFA	14	34	14	28
LIM	1	2	2	4
ERU	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>~100</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

The most common reason for an AMBER Alert success story is an individual or law enforcement recognizing the vehicle from the Alert at 56 percent (n=23) followed by an individual recognizing the child and/or abductor from the Alert and contacting the authorities at 17 percent (n=7).

**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 from Alert	23	56	28	56
Abductor heard Alert and released child	6	15	10	20
Individual knew whereabouts of suspect and contacted authorities	1	2	1	2
Individual recognized child and/or abductor from Alert and contacted authorities	7	17	7	14
Law enforcement received tips from individuals	4	10	4	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

**Time between activation and recovery for success stories**

Of the success stories in 2013, 56 percent of the children (n=28), representing 54 percent (n=22) 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	3	7	5	10
1/2+ - 1 hour	5	12	5	10
1+ - 2 hours	9	22	9	18
2+ - 3 hours	5	12	9	18
3+ - 4 hours	2	5	3	6
4+ - 5 hours	1	2	1	2
5+ - 6 hours	1	2	1	2
6+ - 12 hours	7	17	9	18
12+ - 24 hours	6	15	6	12
24+ - 48 hours	0	0	0	0
48+ hours	2	5	2	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>~100</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

**Children recovered deceased**

In 2013, 194 AMBER Alerts were issued involving 243 children. Eleven children involved in eight AMBER Alert cases were recovered deceased. Twenty-seven percent (n=3) of children were reported as FAs, 9 percent (n=1) were reported as LIMs and 64 percent (n=7) were reported as NFAs. Four girls, ranging in age from 1 to 14, were found deceased, and seven boys, ranging in age from younger than 1 to 17, were found deceased. Two children were Black, two children were Hispanic and seven children were White.

Of the 11 children recovered deceased in 2013, 45 percent (n=5) were reported missing from their respective homes, 18 percent (n=2) from day care, 9 percent (n=1) from an automobile and 9 percent (n=1) from a park. It is unknown where 18 percent (n=2) of children were last seen.

In one case the father abducted the child. In one case the child was abducted by a friend of the family. In two cases the child’s grandmother was the abductor, and in one case the child was abducted by his mother’s boyfriend. In one case the stepfather abducted the child, and in one case there was no relationship between the abductor and the child. In four cases the abductors were unknown.

**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
01/08/13	NFA	Hispanic girl	1	<72 hours	Same city	Blunt force trauma
02/26/13	FA	White boy	2	<72 hours	5 miles	Gunshot
02/26/13	FA	White boy	<1	<72 hours	5 miles	Gunshot
03/11/13	LIM	White girl	14	>72 hours	Unknown	Blunt force trauma
04/16/13	NFA	Black boy	1	>72 hours	Same city	Blunt force trauma
05/09/13	NFA	White boy	14	<72 hours	Same city	Undisclosed*
05/09/13	NFA	White boy	17	<72 hours	Same city	Undisclosed*
06/22/13	NFA	White girl	8	<72 hours	Same city	Asphyxiation
07/06/13	NFA	Black girl	1	<72 hours	Same city	Undetermined**
8/5/2013	NFA	White boy	8	>72 hours	46 miles	Undetermined**
12/20/2013	FA	Hispanic boy	4	<72 hours	Same city	Undisclosed*

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

\*\*Undetermined means a cause of death was not determined at the time of data collection.

### **AMBER Alerts involving victims of sexual assault**

In 2013 a total of two girls and one boy involved in three AMBER Alert activations were reported to be victims of sexual assault during their abduction. One girl was White, and one was Hispanic. Both were 14 years of age. The one boy was White, age 6. The case type at intake included three NFAs.

### **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 2013 Team Adam consultants were deployed to assist with 27 AMBER Alert cases involving 37 children, with all but two children recovered in two cases. One case involving one child was later determined to be a hoax. At intake the case breakdown included five FAs, 15 NFAs and seven LIMs.

### **FBI involvement in AMBER Alerts**

The FBI has specialized Child Abduction Rapid Deployment or CARD Teams designed to deploy teams of 10 to 12 experienced personnel to provide on-the-ground investigative, technical and resource assistance to state and local law enforcement. The CARD Teams consist of crimes against children investigators who have in-depth experience in child abduction cases. The nationwide CARD Team consists of 60 members organized into five regionally separated teams. 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 97 times, according to the FBI, to assist law enforcement agencies where an AMBER Alert or mysterious disappearance of a child has occurred. There were two deployments in 2013 for AMBER Alerts.

### **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 2013, 26 of the AMBER Alert cases reported to NCMEC involved the use of a command post. Of those cases 12 cases were intaked as FAs, nine cases were intaked as NFAs and five cases were intaked as LIMs.

### **National Crime Information Center**

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

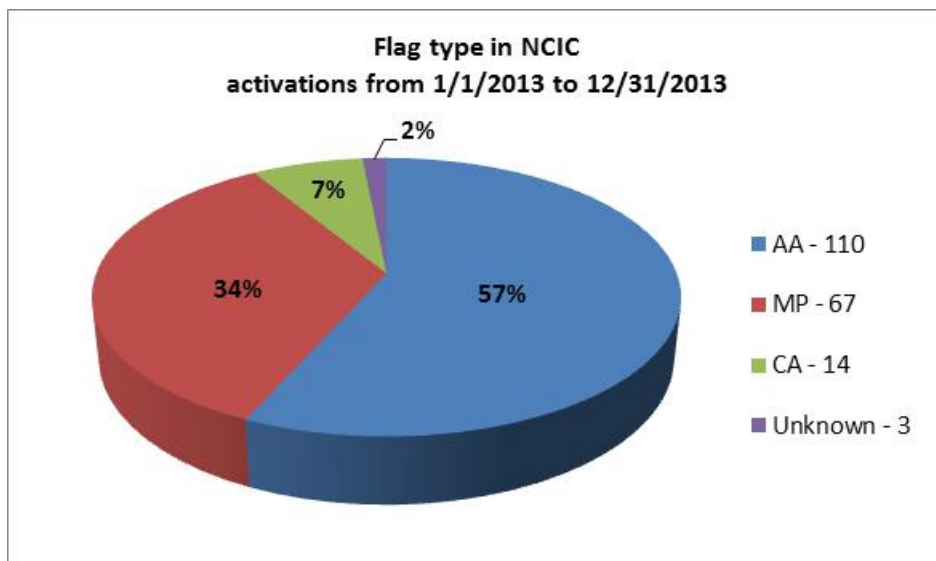
Of the 243 children involved in AMBER Alert cases in 2013, information about 194 children was entered into NCIC and information about 49 children was not entered into NCIC.

**Table 18: Information entered in NCIC**

	1/1/2013 - 12/31/2013	1/1/2013 - 12/31/2013 percent
Information entered in NCIC	194	80
Information not entered in NCIC	49	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>100</b>

Of the 194 children whose information was entered in NCIC from Jan. 1, 2013, to Dec. 31, 2013, 110 children were flagged as an AMBER Alert or AA, 67 children were flagged as a Missing Person or MP, 14 children were flagged as a Child Abduction or CA and the flags for three children were 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 at the originating agency's request. During the months of January through December 2013, a total of 71 flags were updated in NCIC. Thirty-four flags were changed from CA to AA, and 34 flags were changed from MP to AA. Three flags were changed from MP to CA. NCMEC made the flag updates for 52 children, and law enforcement made the flag updates for 17 children. For two children it is unknown who made the update.

The table below shows the missing person type category for children involved in AMBER Alerts at the time of entry from Jan. 1, 2013, to Dec. 31, 2013.

**Table 19: Missing person type in NCIC**

NCIC missing person type	1/1/2013 - 12/31/2013	1/1/2013-12/31/2013 percent
Disability	1	1
Endangered	63	32
Endangered – caution	8	4
Endangered – caution other	1	1
Involuntary	58	30
Involuntary – caution	6	3
Juvenile	46	24
Juvenile – caution	2	1
Unknown	9	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>~100</b>

From Jan. 1, 2013, to Dec. 31, 2013, information about 42 children was entered and cancelled from NCIC within three hours.

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

	1/1/2013 - 12/31/2013 total	1/1/2013 - 12/31/2013 cumulative total	1/1/2013 - 12/31/2013 percent	1/1/2013 - 12/31/2013 cumulative percent
Up to 1/2 hour	2	2	1	1
½+ - 1 hour	5	7	3	4
1+ - 2 hours	18	25	9	13
2+ - 3 hours	17	42	9	22
3+ - 4 hours	26	68	13	35
4+ - 5 hours	14	82	7	42
5+ - 6 hours	18	100	9	52
6+ - 12 hours	19	119	10	61
12+ - 24 hours	24	143	12	74
24+ - 48 hours	20	163	10	84
48+ - 72 hours	5	168	3	87
72+ hours	21	189	11	97
Unknown	5	194	3	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>		<b>100</b>	

Data collected from the miscellaneous field in NCIC captured information such as abductor threats and use of weapons for 59 children involved in 52 AMBER Alerts issued in 2013. Thirteen abductors were armed with a weapon, 11 abductors had a history of alcohol and/or drug abuse, one abductor had a



history of mental illness, two abductors were a suspect in a homicide, three abductors threatened to harm the child, two abductors threatened to kill themselves, two abductors threatened to kill the child and themselves, and eight children had medical issues. Ten children listed "other" in the miscellaneous field.

Of the 194 children whose information was entered in NCIC, 80 percent (n=156) had vehicle involvement in the AMBER Alert and 20 percent (n=38) did not have a vehicle involved.

In order for vehicle data to be entered into the NCIC vehicle field, the license plate number on the vehicle must be available to law enforcement. 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 NCIC for 95 children. Of those 72 children's records had license plate information entered in the vehicle field only, and in 16 children's records the license plate information was entered in the miscellaneous field only. For seven children's records the license plate information was entered in both the miscellaneous and vehicle fields.

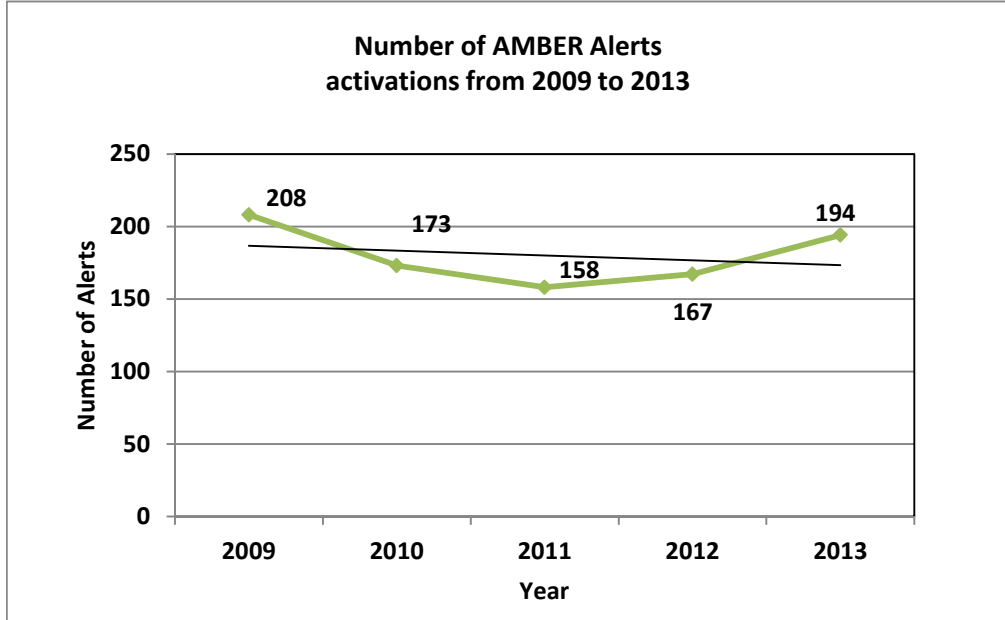
### **Five year comparison of AMBER Alerts issued**

#### **Number of AMBER Alerts and children involved**

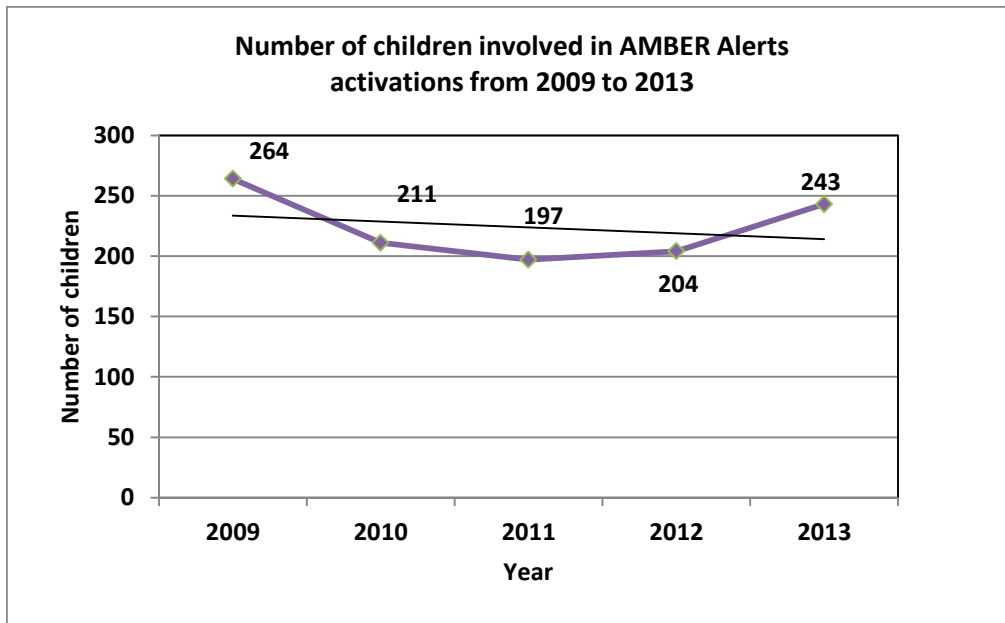
The number of AMBER Alerts has shown a downward trend with an overall decrease of 7 percent between 2009 and 2013.

In 2009 there were 208 Alerts involving 264 children; in 2010 there were 173 Alerts involving 211 children; in 2011 there were 158 Alerts involving 197 children; in 2012 there were 167 Alerts involving 204 children; and in 2013 there were 194 Alerts involving 243 children.

**Figure 16: Number of AMBER Alerts from 2009 to 2013**



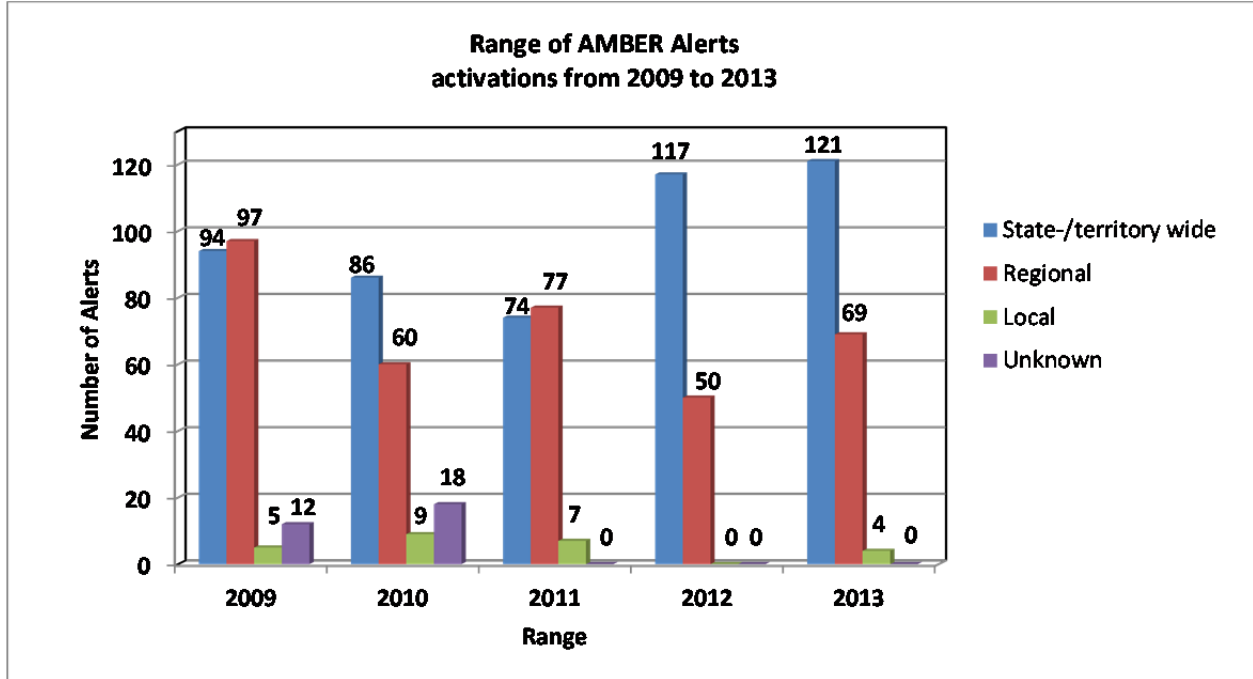
**Figure 17: Number of children involved in AMBER Alerts from 2009 to 2013**



**AMBER Alerts by range**

From 2009 to 2013 AMBER Alerts were predominantly issued state-/territorial-wide, followed by regional Alerts and then local Alerts.

**Figure 18: Range of AMBER Alerts from 2009 to 2013**



**Multistate/territorial AMBER Alerts**

The number of multistate/territorial AMBER Alerts consistently rose and fell slightly from 2009 to 2013. In 2009 there were 12 such Alerts, and in 2010 a slight increase with a total of 14 Alerts. In 2011 there was a decrease with eight multistate Alerts issued. There was an increase with 13 multistate Alerts issued in 2012 and 15 multistate Alerts issued in 2013.

**Number of cases at intake by month**

**Table 21: Number of cases by month from 2009 to 2013**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2009	16	17	23	15	17	16	22	20	22	12	18	10
2010	16	16	16	14	13	11	22	8	13	20	11	13
2011	8	6	10	16	17	18	15	22	12	12	10	12
2012	11	17	15	9	15	10	16	12	17	16	17	12
2013	17	8	15	17	25	15	19	20	16	17	11	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>61</b>

**Table 22: Cases and percent increase/decrease by month from 2009 to 2013**

	2009	Percent change	2010	Percent change	2011	Percent change	2012	Percent change	2013
Jan	16	0	16	-50	8	38	11	55	17
Feb	17	-6	16	-63	6	183	17	-53	8
Mar	23	-30	16	-38	10	50	15	0	15
Apr	15	-7	14	14	16	-44	9	89	17
May	17	-24	13	31	17	-12	15	67	25
Jun	16	-31	11	64	18	-44	10	50	15
Jul	22	0	22	-32	15	7	16	19	19
Aug	20	-60	8	175	22	-45	12	67	20
Sep	22	-41	13	-8	12	42	17	-6	16
Oct	12	67	20	-40	12	33	16	6	17
Nov	18	-39	11	-9	10	70	17	-35	11
Dec	10	30	13	-8	12	0	12	17	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>-17</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>-9</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>194</b>

#### **Case type at intake**

The number of cases intaked as FAs decreased 27 percent from 124 Alerts in 2009 to 90 Alerts in 2012. In 2013 the number of FAs rose 22 percent to 110 Alerts.

For NFAs there was an increase of cases from 2009 to 2010, with 62 Alerts and 74 Alerts respectively. In 2011 the number of NFAs declined below 2009 levels to 56 Alerts. In 2012 and 2013 the number of NFAs increased to 61 and 63 Alerts respectively.

The number of cases intaked as LIMs has remained steady ranging from 16 to 20 Alerts from 2009 to 2013.

From 2009 to 2010 the number of ERUs remained constant at three Alerts each year. In 2011 the number of ERUs decreased to two Alerts, and in 2012 there were no Alerts issued for ERUs. The number of ERUs rose to 2010 levels at three Alerts in 2013.

Figure 19: AMBER Alerts by case type at intake from 2009 to 2013

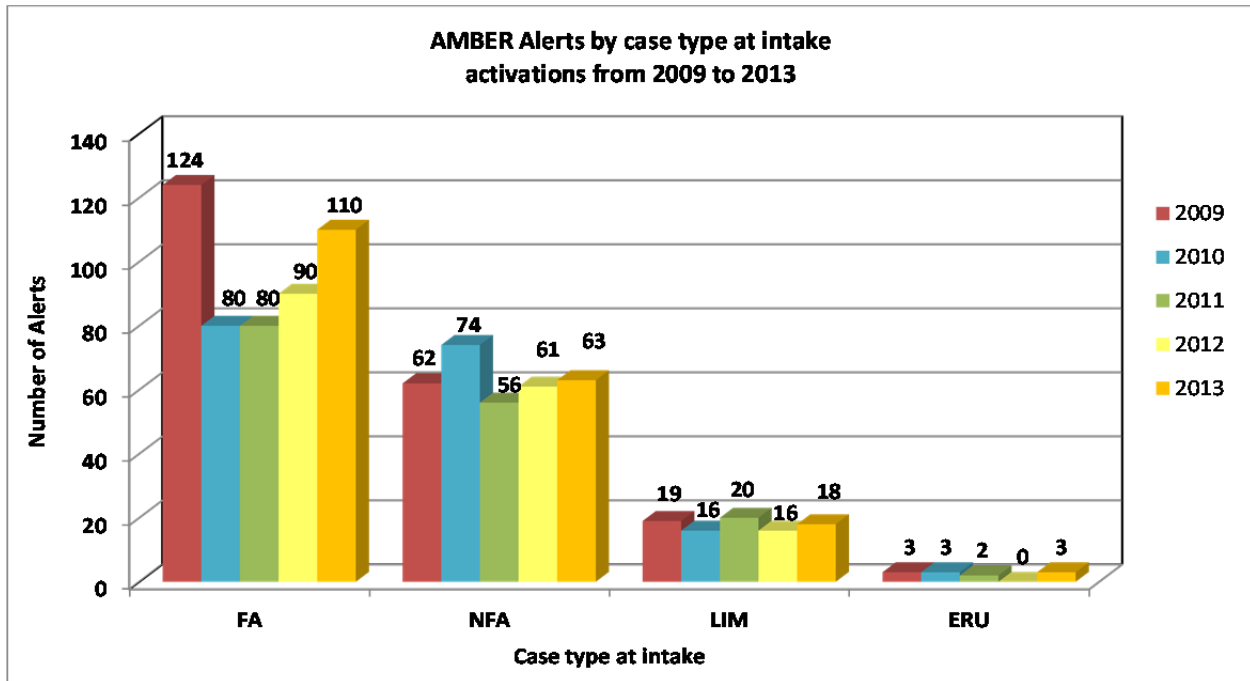


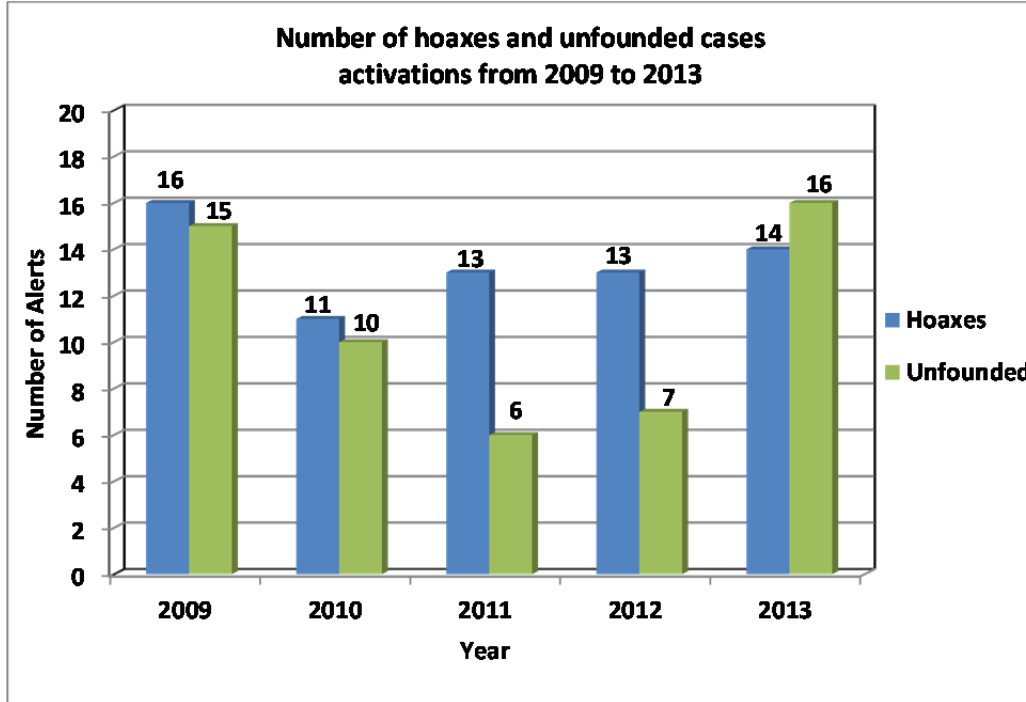
Table 23: Cases and percent increase/decrease by case type from 2009 to 2013

	2009	Percent +/-	2010	Percent +/-	2011	Percent +/-	2012	Percent +/-	2013
FA	124	-35	80	0	80	13	90	22	110
NFA	62	19	74	-24	56	9	61	3	63
LIM	19	-16	16	25	20	-20	16	13	18
ERU	3	0	3	-33	2	-100	0	0	3
N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>-17</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>-9</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>194</b>

### Hoaxes and unfounded cases

The number of hoaxes has steadily fallen and risen from 2009 to 2013 with n=16, 11, 13, 13 and 14. The number of unfounded cases decreased between 2009 and 2012 with 15 and seven cases respectively. In 2013 the number of unfounded cases increased to 16.

**Figure 20: Number of hoaxes and unfounded cases from 2009 to 2013**

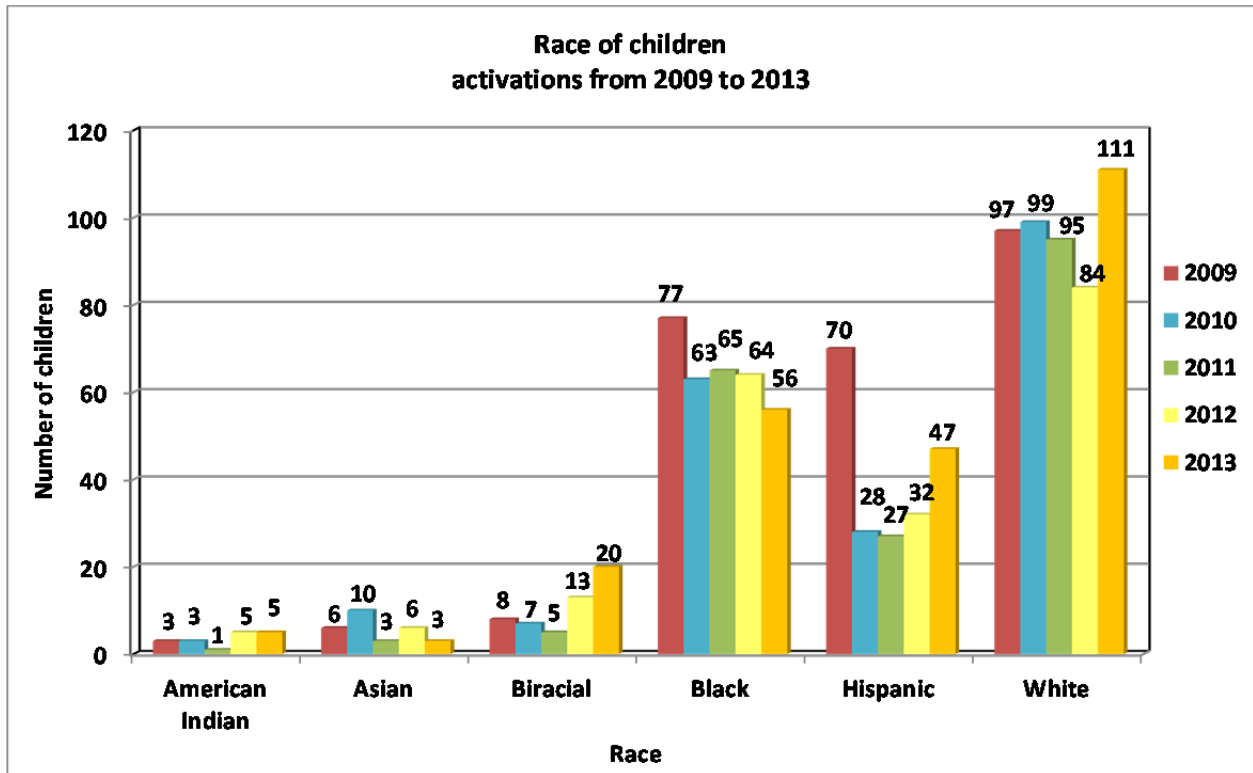


**Number and characteristics of children involved in AMBER Alerts**

Girls were more frequently involved in AMBER Alerts than boys from 2009 to 2013, with the exception of 2011, in which boys were more frequently involved in AMBER Alerts than girls. In 2009 girls represented 57 percent (n=150) and boys comprised 43 percent (n=114). In 2010 girls represented 53 percent (n=112) of children involved in AMBER Alerts, compared to boys who comprised 47 percent (n=99). In 2011 boys represented 51 percent (n=101) of children involved in AMBER Alerts and girls comprised 49 percent (n=96). In 2012 girls made up 56 percent (n=115) of children involved in AMBER Alerts compared to boys who made up 44 percent (n=89). In 2013 girls represented 51 percent (n=124) of children involved in AMBER Alerts, while boys made up 49 percent (n=118); the sex for one child was unknown.

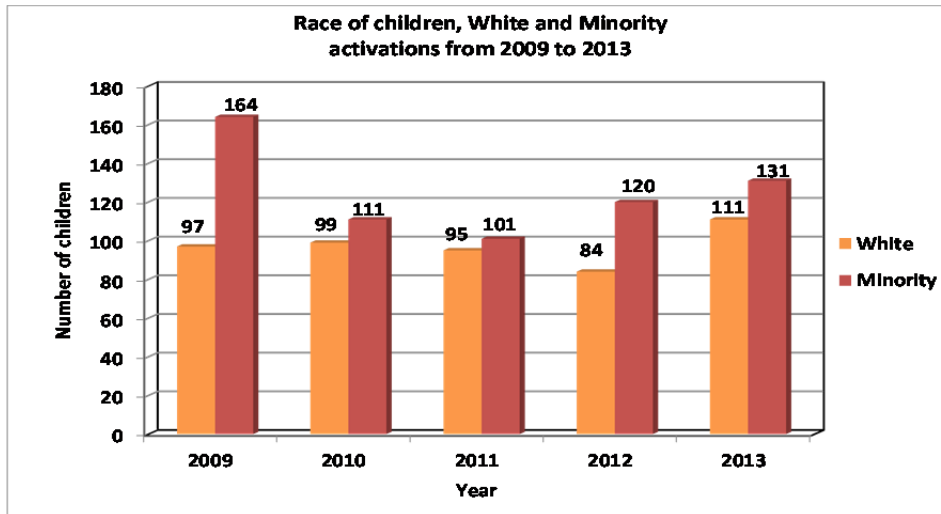
The number of American Indian children involved in AMBER Alerts ranged from three children in 2009 to five children in 2013 (n=3, 3, 1, 5 and 5). The number of Asian children rose from 2009 to 2010 with six to 10 children involved in AMBER Alerts. The number decreased to three in 2011, rose to six in 2012 and decreased to three in 2013. The number of Biracial children decreased in 2011 (n=5) from eight in 2009 and increased in 2012 (n=13) and in 2013 (n=20). For Black children there were decreases (n=77, 63, 64 and 56) from 2009 through 2013, with the exception of a slight increase from 2010 to 2011 (n=63 and 65). The number of Hispanic children saw a 54 percent decrease between 2009 and 2012 (n=70 and n=32). In 2013 the number rose to 47 children. The number of White children decreased 13 percent (n=97 and 84) between 2009 and 2012; there was an increase in 2013 with 111 children.

Figure 21: Race of children from 2009 to 2013



From 2009 to 2013 Minority children were involved in AMBER Alerts more frequently than White children.

**Figure 22: Race of children, White and Minority from 2009 to 2013**



**International abductions**

In 2009 there were six AMBER Alert activations resulting in an international abduction, all of which were recoveries in Mexico. In 2010 three AMBER Alert activations involving three children resulted in an international abduction. Two cases involved recoveries in Mexico and one case involved a recovery in Canada. In 2011 there were no AMBER Alert activations for international abductions. In 2012 there was one AMBER Alert activation in which the case originated in Canada and the child was recovered in Montana. In 2013 four AMBER Alert activations involving five children were as a result of an international abduction. In one case the child was abducted in Mexico, while in another case the child was recovered in Mexico. One case involved a recovery in Canada, and another case involved a recovery in Cuba.

**Children recovered deceased**

A total of 43 children who were involved in AMBER Alerts issued from 2009 to 2013 were recovered deceased. In 2009 and 2010 the number of children recovered deceased remained constant (n=9 and 9). From 2011 to 2013 the number steadily increased (n=5, 9 and 11).

Children intaked as LIMs made up the largest number of case types for children who were recovered deceased from 2009 to 2012. In 2013 NFAs were the most frequent case type for children who were recovered deceased.



**Table 24: Number of children recovered deceased from 2009 to 2013**

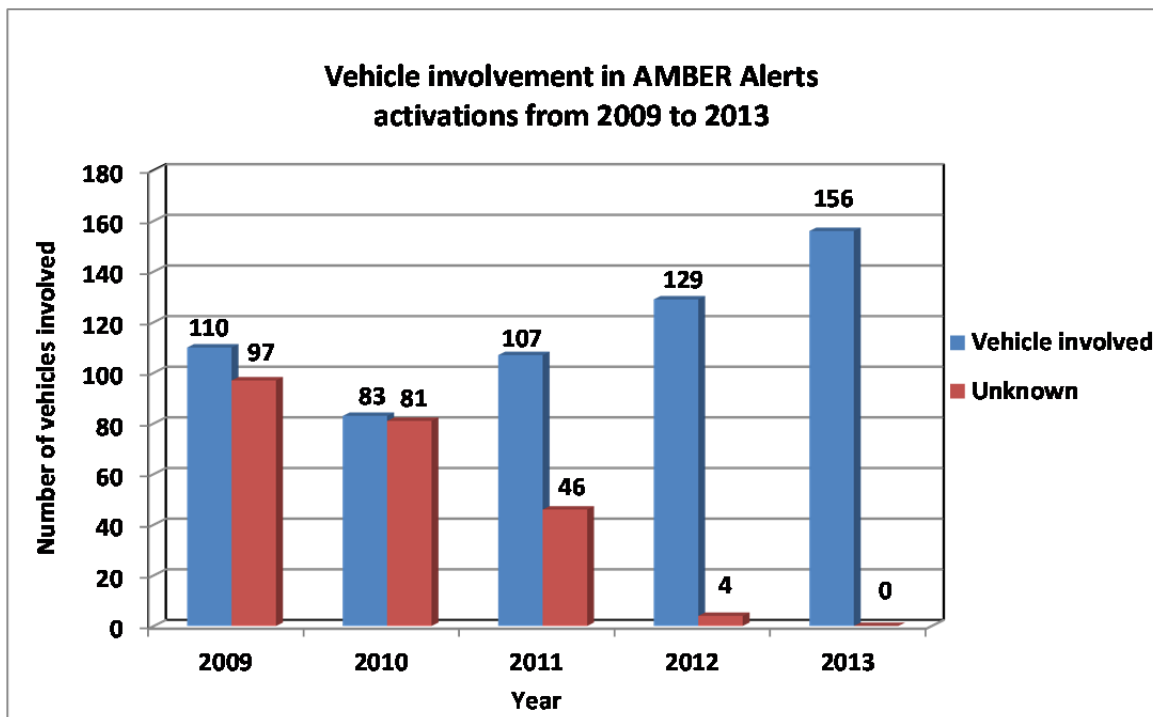
Case type at intake	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
FA	4	1	1	2	3	11
NFA	0	3	2	2	7	14
LIM	5	5	2	5	1	18
ERU	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>43</b>

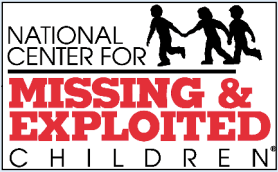
**National Crime Information Center**

In 2009 and 2010 information about 78 percent (n=207 and n=164 respectively) of children involved in AMBER Alerts was entered into NCIC. From 2011 to 2013, 81, 79 and 80 percent respectively (n=159, 161 and 194) of children’s information was entered in NCIC. The AA flag was the predominant flag type from 2009 to 2013.

From 2009 to 2013 there were more instances when it was known that a vehicle was involved in the Alert (n=110, 83, 107, 129 and 156) than unknown.

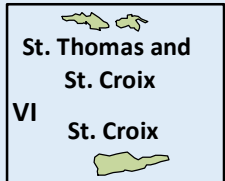
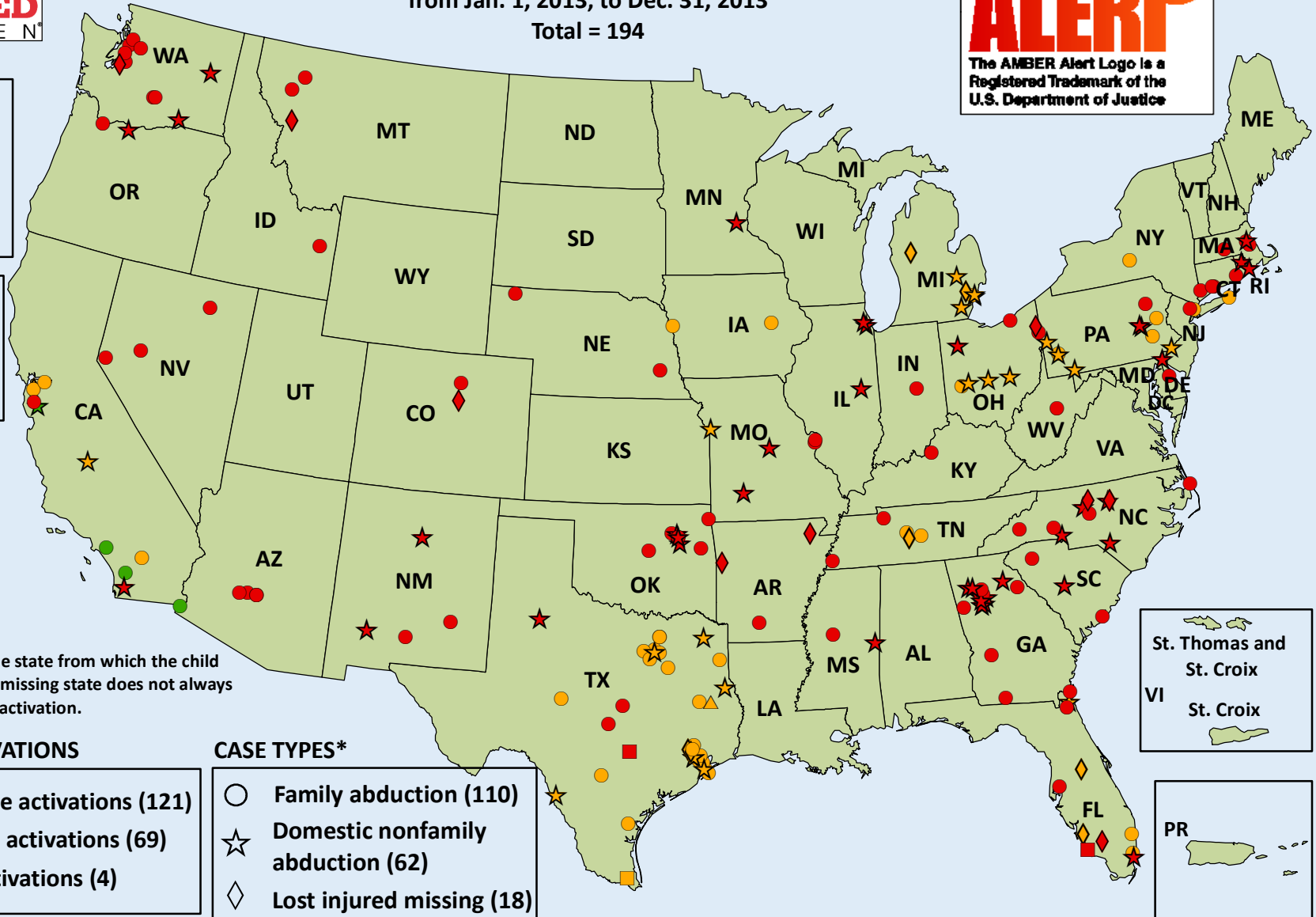
**Figure 23: Vehicle involvement in AMBER Alerts from 2009 to 2013**





# 2013 AMBER Alert report

AMBER Alert activations issued  
from Jan. 1, 2013, to Dec. 31, 2013  
Total = 194



\*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 (121)
- Regional activations (69)
- Local activations (4)

### CASE TYPES\*

- Family abduction (110)
- Domestic nonfamily abduction (62)
- Lost injured missing (18)
- Endangered runaway (3)
- International nonfamily abduction\*\* (1)

\*\*This AMBER Alert originated in Mexico and was activated in Texas.

Source: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children  
Mapping software donated to NCMEC by Esri, Redlands, Calif.  
Feb. 21, 2014