



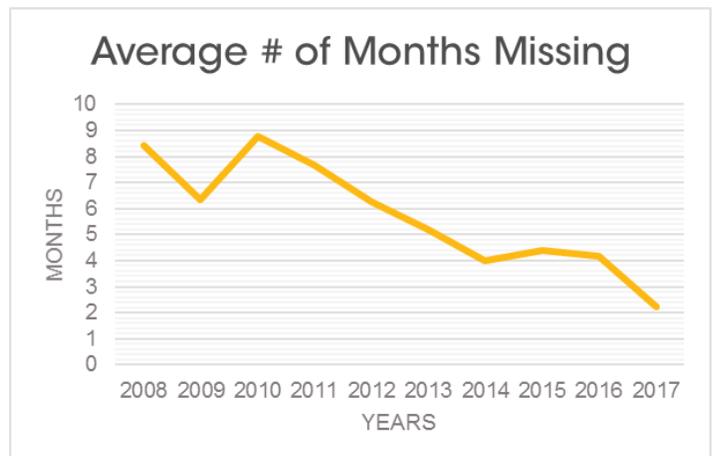
# Family Abductions

## Fast Facts

### CHILDREN

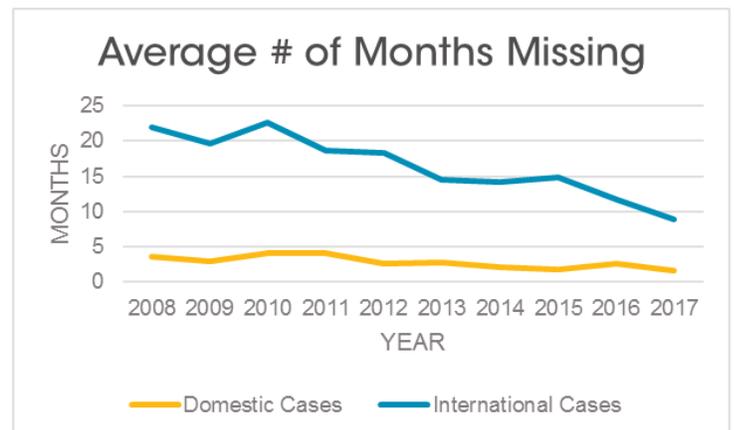
#### Overall

- ✦ Between 2008 and 2017 there were 11,581 children who were abducted by a parent or family member
- ✦ 5.1% of these cases remain active
- ✦ 25.9% of these cases had an international component
- ✦ Family abductions occurred more frequently when the children were younger. Almost two thirds (65.9%) involved children between the ages of 0 and 6 years.
- ✦ Summer (June, July, August) was the most common season for family abductions (32.2%).
- ✦ August was the peak month for family abductions (11.1% of all cases)
- ✦ 33.6% of all children were recovered by police investigation
- ✦ 29.7% were turned in by a family member or friend
- ✦ Children had an average missing duration of 6 months
- ✦ In 2008 children had an average missing duration of 8 months. By 2017 they had an average missing duration of 2 months
- ✦ Nearly all children were recovered alive (99.7%)
- ✦ Forty-seven children (0.3%) were recovered deceased. 87.1% of these children were homicide victims
- ✦ Deceased children had an average missing duration of 3 months



#### Domestic Versus International

- ✦ Between 2008 and 2017 there were 4,213 cases with an international component
- ✦ 14.4% of international cases remain unresolved
- ✦ These cases had an average missing duration of 18 months
- ✦ In 2008 international cases had an average missing duration of nearly 2 years (22 months), but by 2017 they had an average missing duration of 9 months
- ✦ A plurality of international family abductions ended in recovery due to a friend or family member turning the child in (25.6%)



## ABDUCTORS

### Overall

- ✦ A majority of abductors were the parent of the child (90.3%)
- ✦ Mothers were the most common abductor of the child (53.9%)
- ✦ Fathers were the abductor in 36.0% of these cases
- ✦ Abductors had an average age of 33 years

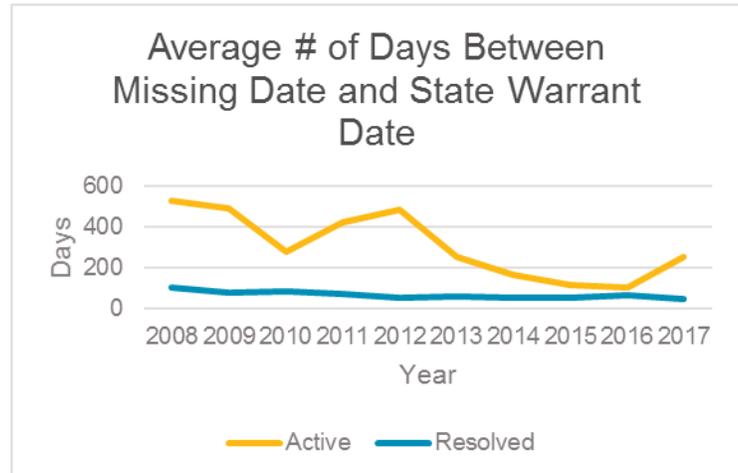
## RESPONSE TO FAMILY ABDUCTIONS

### National Crime Information Center (NCIC)

- ✦ Federal law (34 U.S. Code § 41308) ensures no waiting period before law enforcement can accept a missing child report and requires law enforcement to enter a missing child into NCIC within two hours of receiving the report
- ✦ 69.2% of children abducted by family members were entered into the NCIC
- ✦ 40.8% were added to NCIC within a week following abduction date
- ✦ There was an average duration of 83 days between missing date and entry into NCIC
- ✦ Domestic cases had an average duration of 2 months after the initial abduction before the child was entered into NCIC
- ✦ International cases had an average duration of 8 months after the initial abduction before the child was entered into NCIC
- ✦ A longer time period before entering the child into NCIC corresponded to a longer missing duration
- ✦ Law enforcement may be unable to enter a child into NCIC for a variety of reasons. These specifics are not available to NCMEC on a case-by-case basis.

### State Arrest Warrants

- ✦ Between 2008 and 2017 there were 2,909 abductors who had state arrest warrants issued against them
- ✦ 24.7% of all family abductors had a state warrant issued against them
- ✦ 26.8% of these warrants were issued within 48 hours
- ✦ 84 days was the average time between abduction and the issuing of a state warrant
- ✦ A longer time period before issuing a state warrant corresponded to a longer missing duration
- ✦ 2 months was the average time between abduction and issuing of a state warrant in resolved cases
- ✦ 10 months was the average time between abduction and issuing of a warrant in an active case



### AMBER Alerts

- ✦ Between 2008 and 2017 there were 1,311 children who were abducted by a family member with circumstances that triggered an AMBER Alert
- ✦ These children had an average age of 4 years
- ✦ There were 948 abductors involved in these cases
- ✦ A majority if these abductors were the child's father (56.2%)
- ✦ AMBER Alert cases had an average duration of 23 hours between the missing date and the time an AMBER Alert was activated
- ✦ A longer time period before activating the AMBER Alert corresponded to a longer missing duration of the child
- ✦ The majority (88.7%) of family-abducted children involved in AMBER Alerts were recovered within 72 hours
- ✦ Nearly all family abduction AMBER Alert cases have been resolved (99.4%).
- ✦ 21 children involved in family abductions where an AMBER Alert was issued, were recovered deceased
- ✦ A majority of the family abductors of deceased AMBER Alert children were male (80.0%)
- ✦ A majority (71.4%) of these children were killed in an apparent murder-suicide