National Center for Missing & Exploited Children®

2008 AMBER ALERT® REPORT

Analysis of AMBER Alert Cases in 2008

INTRODUCTION

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

The next year local law enforcement and broadcasters created a program known as AMBER Alerts in Amber Hagerman's honor. This program, also known as America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response Plan, allows broadcasters and transportation authorities to immediately distribute information about recent child abductions to the public, enabling the entire community to assist in the search for and safe recovery of the child. What began as a local effort in Dallas, Texas, has grown into a seamless system of such programs across the country. Each year these Alerts save the lives of abducted children.

This program is a voluntary partnership between law-enforcement agencies, broadcasters, and transportation agencies to activate an urgent bulletin in the most serious child-abduction cases. Broadcasters use EAS to air a description of the abducted child and suspected abductor. This is the same concept used during severe weather emergencies. The goal of an AMBER Alert is to instantly galvanize the entire community to assist in the search for and safe recovery of the child.

Once law enforcement has been notified about an abducted child, they must first determine if the case meets their program's AMBER Alert criteria. The U.S. Department of Justice's recommended guidelines are
- There is reasonable belief by law enforcement an abduction has occurred
- The abduction is of a child age 17 or younger
- The law-enforcement agency believes the child is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death
- There is enough descriptive information about the victim and abduction for law enforcement to issue an AMBER Alert to assist in the recovery of the child
- The child's name and other critical data elements, including the Child Abduction flag, have been entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database

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

DEFINITIONS

This report presents information about AMBER Alerts that were activated in 2008 and intaked by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC). This report has been prepared by NCMEC's AMBER Alert Analyst Rachel Mathieu.

An AMBER Alert case may involve 1 or more children and is issued on either a statewide/territorial, regional, or local level. Once an AMBER Alert is activated, the Alert may be extended to another state/territory at the request of the AMBER Alert Coordinator, thus creating a **multistate/territorial activation**. There is no such thing as a nationwide AMBER Alert. Although an AMBER Alert case may be activated in multiple areas, this report only accounts for Alerts in the state/territory of first activation. A statewide or territorial-wide Alert is issued in the entire state or territory, a regional Alert is issued in multiple counties, and a local Alert is issued in 1 county or a smaller geographic area.

When an AMBER Alert is first issued the case is categorized as 1 of the 4 types listed below.
- A **Family Abduction (FA)** occurs when an individual between birth and 17 years of age is abducted from his or her custodial parent or legal guardian by a noncustodial family member who is related to the child by blood or marriage.
- A **Nonfamily Abduction (NFA)** occurs when a child, age 17 or younger, is abducted by someone who is unknown to the child or his or her family, an acquaintance, or someone who is unidentifiable as either.
- **Lost, Injured, or Otherwise Missing (LIM)** refers to any missing child where there are insufficient facts to determine the cause of a child's disappearance as well as any child age 10 or younger who is missing on his or her own accord. Absent facts to the contrary, the law-enforcement agency should assume the child is endangered, act accordingly, and follow all the investigative steps of a Nonfamily Abduction case. These children are also referred to as Endangered Missing.
- An **Endangered Runaway (ERU)** is any missing child between 11 and 17 years of age, who is missing on his or her own accord without permission from his or her parent or legal guardian.

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. Based on new information at the time of a recovery, law enforcement may determine a case should be re-categorized. For example law enforcement may believe at the time of the AMBER Alert activation that the child is a victim of NFA, but at the conclusion of the case may determine the child was in fact an ERU. Law enforcement occasionally encounters cases that should not have been an AMBER Alert. Those cases are determined to be either **unfounded** or a **hoax**.
- A **hoax** is a case where an individual falsely reports a child missing with the intent of misleading law enforcement.
- An **unfounded** case occurs when a child is reported missing based on available information at the time, but the investigation determines a child was never missing.

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

- The child returns home to his or her parent or legal guardian, the child will remain in the custody of law enforcement, or the child is in contact with his or her parent or legal guardian but will not be returning home and the parents or legal guardian and law enforcement are satisfied with the situation. A child's case can only be labeled recovered/deceased if a body has been found and positively identified.
- If law enforcement closes their 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.

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2008 AMBER ALERT REPORT

SUMMARY OF AMBER ALERT CASES

Between January 1, 2008, and December 31, 2008, 194 AMBER Alert cases were issued in the United States involving 256 children.

At the time the AMBER Alert cases were intaked there were 100 FAs, 70 NFAs, 21 LIMs, and 3 ERUs. Eleven (11) cases were later determined to be hoaxes, and 14 cases were later determined to be unfounded.

Of the 194 AMBER Alerts issued between January 1, 2008, and December 31, 2008, 166 cases resulted in a recovery, 40 of which were successfully recovered as a direct result of those respective AMBER Alerts being issued. Eight (8) children were recovered deceased, and as of March 30, 2009, when statistics for this report were generated, 3 AMBER Alerts issued in 2008 remained active.

AMBER ALERTS BY RANGE

In 2008, 50% (n=97) of AMBER Alerts were issued statewide, 40% (n=77) of AMBER Alerts were issued regionally, and 9% (n=18) of AMBER Alerts were issued locally. No data about the range for 1% (n=2) of AMBER Alerts was available.

Figure 1

2008 AMBER Alert Report
Range of AMBER Alerts
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008
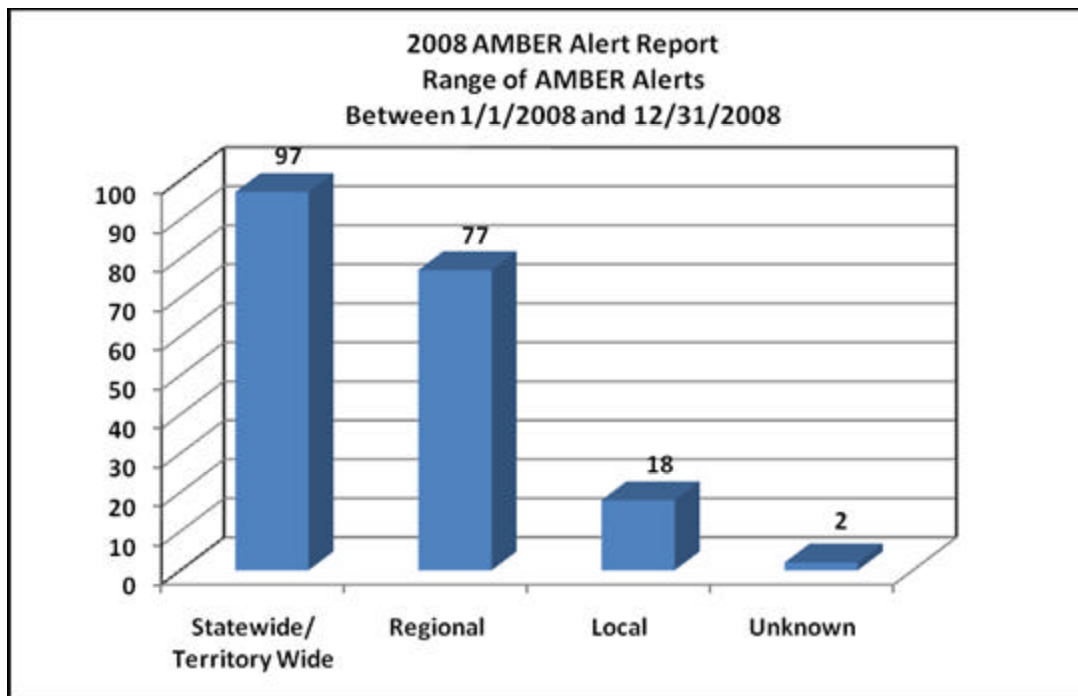
AMBER ALERTS BY STATE/TERRITORY

Between January 1, 2008, and December 31, 2008, 194 AMBER Alerts were issued in 36 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Michigan issued the most AMBER Alerts with 13% (n=25), followed by California and Texas with 11% each (n=22).

Table 1
2008 AMBER Alert Report
Number and Percent of AMBER Alert Cases by State/Territory
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008

State/Territory	Number of Alerts	Percent
Michigan	25	13%
California and Texas	22 each	11% each
Florida, Georgia, and Ohio	12 each	6% each
Illinois and Missouri	7 each	4% each
Arizona, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee	6 each	3% each
Arkansas	5	3%
Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Utah	4 each	2% each
Colorado, Montana, and New York	3 each	2% each
Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, and Wisconsin	2 each	1% each
Alabama, Connecticut, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Oklahoma, U.S. Virgin Islands, Vermont, Virginia, and Wyoming	1 each	<1% each
Alaska, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Washington, and West Virginia	0 each	0% each
Total	**194**	**~100%**

MULTISTATE/TERRITORIAL AMBER ALERTS

When an AMBER Alert is issued an abductor may take the child outside the jurisdiction of the issuing law-enforcement authority. In some cases the AMBER Alert Coordinator in the state/territory where the AMBER Alert originated may request an AMBER Alert be extended into another state/territory. In 2008, 14 AMBER Alerts were extended beyond the limits of the state where the AMBER Alert first originated. In 8 cases the child was recovered in the state/territory where the Alert originated, in 4 cases the child was recovered in the extending state, and in 2 cases the child was recovered neither in the originating state/territory nor the extending state/territory.

Table 2
2008 AMBER Alert Report
List of Multistate/Territorial AMBER Alerts Issued
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008

Originating	Extending
California	Nevada
California	Nevada
California	Utah

Originating	Extending
Georgia	Tennessee
Indiana	Illinois
Kansas	New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas
Massachusetts	New York
Michigan	Illinois
Michigan	Indiana
Nevada	California
Nevada	California and Washington
Ohio	Kentucky and Michigan
South Carolina	Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia
South Carolina	North Carolina

NUMBER OF CASES AT INTAKE BY MONTH

In 2008 the number of AMBER Alerts issued ranged from lows of 8 Alerts in January and 10 Alerts in December to highs of 27 and 26 Alerts respectively in June and October.

Figure 2
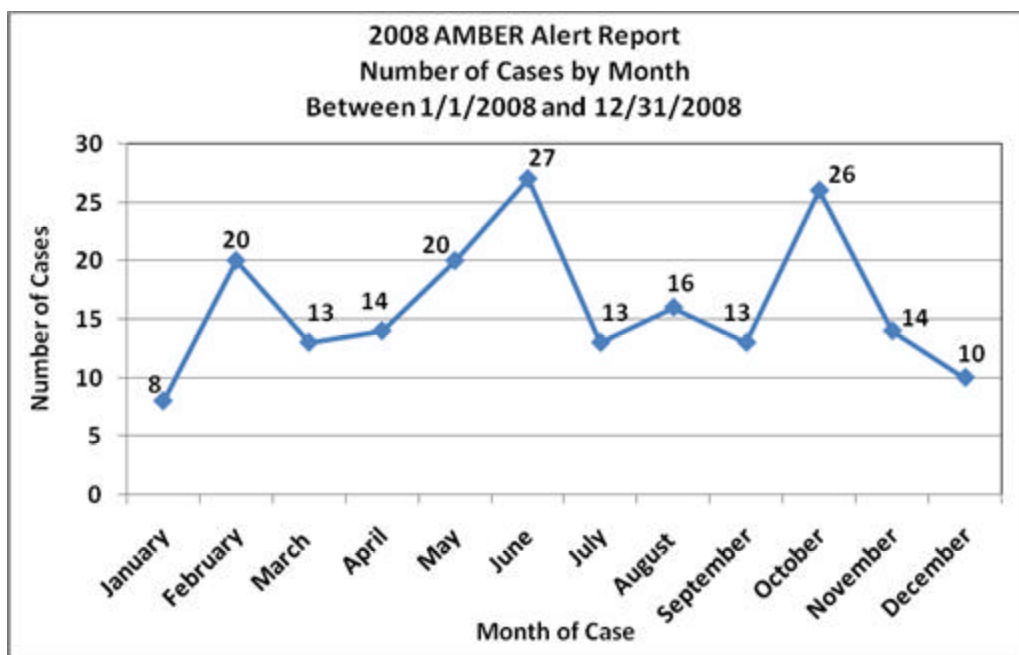
MONTH OF AMBER ALERTS ISSUED BY CASE TYPE

Between January 1, 2008, and December 31, 2008, 52% (n=100) of cases were intaked as FAs, followed by 36% (n=70) of cases intaked as NFAs. Eleven percent (11%, n=21) were intaked as LIMs, and 2% (n=3) were intaked as ERUs.

In 2008 AMBER Alerts were issued for FAs (n=13) the most frequently in August. The highest number of NFAs (n=13) occurred in the month of June. AMBER Alerts for LIMs (n=4) and ERUs (n=2) were most frequently issued in October.

Table 3
2008 AMBER Alert Report
Month of Alerts by Case Type
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008

	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU	Total
January	5	1	2	0	8
February	8	9	3	0	20
March	6	6	1	0	13
April	8	5	1	0	14
May	8	8	3	1	20
June	12	13	2	0	27
July	8	4	1	0	13
August	13	3	0	0	16
September	11	1	1	0	13
October	11	9	4	2	26
November	7	5	2	0	14
December	3	6	1	0	10
Total	**100**	**70**	**21**	**3**	**194**

MONTH OF AMBER ALERTS ISSUED BY CHILD

In 2008, 256 children were involved in 194 AMBER Alert cases. Fifty-eight percent (58%, n=149) of children were intaked as FAs, followed by 32% (n=81) of children intaked as NFAs. Nine percent (9%, n=22) were intaked as LIMs, and 2% (n=4) were intaked as ERUs.

Children intaked as FAs were most frequently involved in AMBER Alerts in August (n=22). The highest number of children intaked as NFAs (n=15) occurred in the month of June. AMBER Alerts for LIMs (n=4 each) were most frequently issued in February and October. Alerts were most frequently issued for ERUs in the month of October (n=2).

Table 4
2008 AMBER Alert Report
Month of Alerts by Child
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008

	FA	NFA	LIM	ERU	Total
January	6	1	2	0	9
February	11	10	4	0	25
March	9	7	1	0	17
April	11	6	1	0	18
May	14	8	3	1	26
June	16	15	2	0	33
July	11	4	1	0	16
August	22	8	0	0	30
September	21	1	1	0	23
October	14	10	4	2	30
November	11	5	2	1	19
December	3	6	1	0	10
Total	**149**	**81**	**22**	**4**	**256**

HOAXES AND UNFOUNDED CASES

Between January 1, 2008, and December 31, 2008, 11 AMBER Alerts were determined to be hoaxes, representing 6% of the total number of AMBER Alerts issued. The AMBER Alert cases determined to be hoaxes were originally intaked as NFAs at 82% (n=9), FAs at 9% (n=1), and LIMs at 9% (n=1).

Figure 3

2008 AMBER Alert Report
Hoaxes by Case Type at Intake
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008
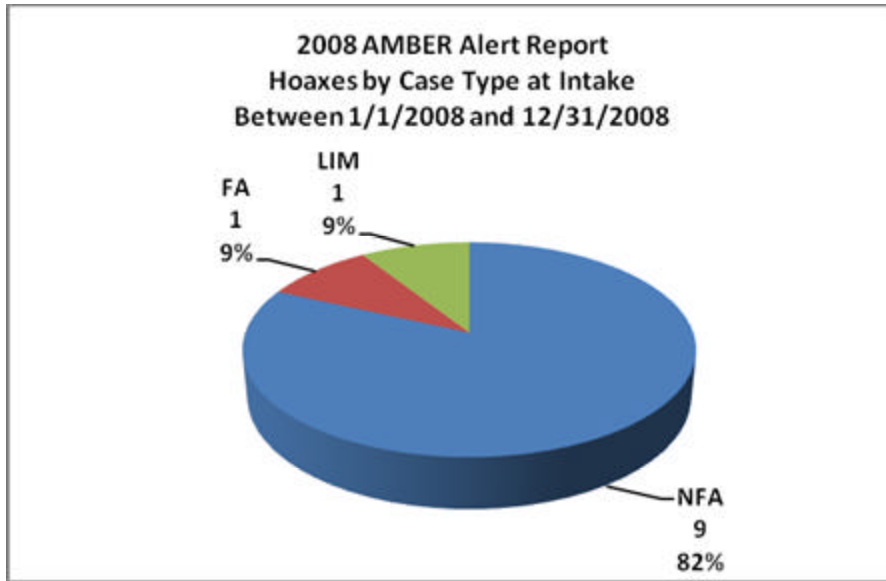
Fourteen (14) AMBER Alerts were determined to be unfounded, which represents 7% of the total number of AMBER Alerts issued in 2008. The unfounded cases were originally intaked as NFAs at 50% (n=7), FAs at 29% (n=4), and LIMs at 21% (n=3).

Figure 4

2008 AMBER Alert Report
Unfounded by Case Type at Intake
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008
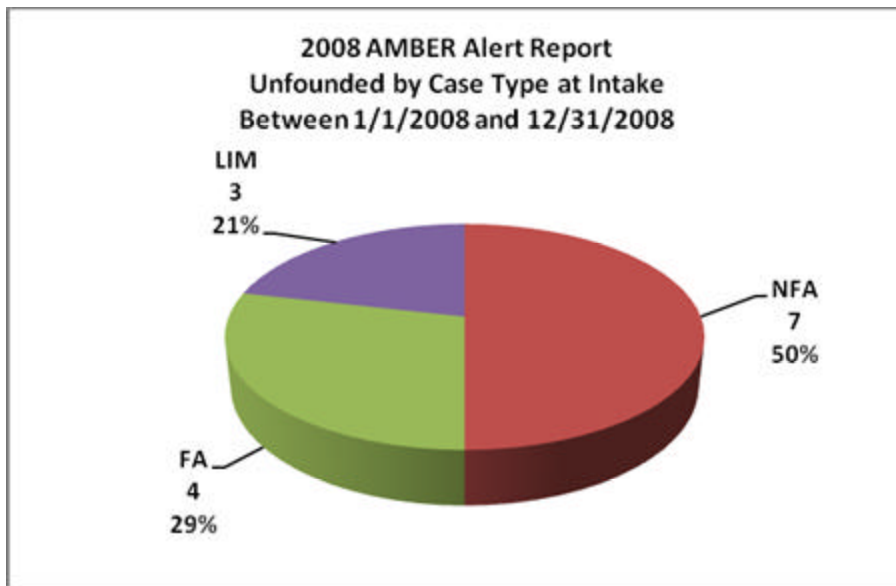
SECONDARY DISTRIBUTION OF AMBER ALERTS

The AMBER Alert Secondary Distribution (AASD) system is comprised of wireless carriers, Internet service providers, content providers, and major retailers who distribute these AMBER Alerts to a geographically targeted audience at the request of the AMBER Alert Coordinator. These Alerts assist in notifying the public about recently reported child abductions with information to help in the search for the abducted child, suspected abductor, and/or suspected vehicle.

In 2008, 160 AMBER Alert cases were secondarily distributed whereas 34 cases were not secondarily distributed. Thirty-one (31) cases were not distributed because the AMBER Alert was cancelled before secondary distribution was possible. For 2 Alerts AASD was approved but not disseminated due to technical difficulties. For 1 Alert it is unknown why AASD was not disseminated.

Figure 5
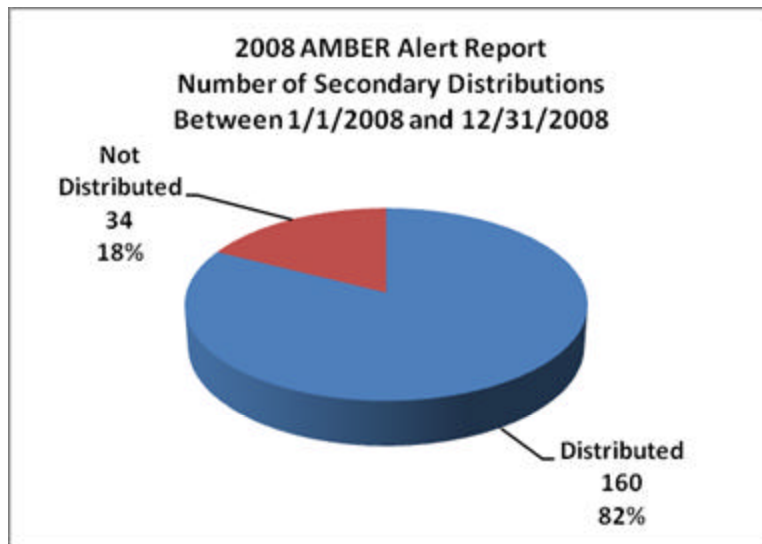
AMBER Alert Secondary Distribution was issued for 83 FAs, 58 NFAs, 16 LIMs, and 3 ERUs. Seven (7) NFAs and 1 FA were later determined to be hoaxes. Six (6) NFAs, 4 FAs, and 3 LIMs were subsequently identified as unfounded.

Figure 6

2008 AMBER Alert Report
Secondary Distribution by Case Type at Intake
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008

LIM 16 10%
ERU 3 2%
FA 83 52%
NFA 58 36%
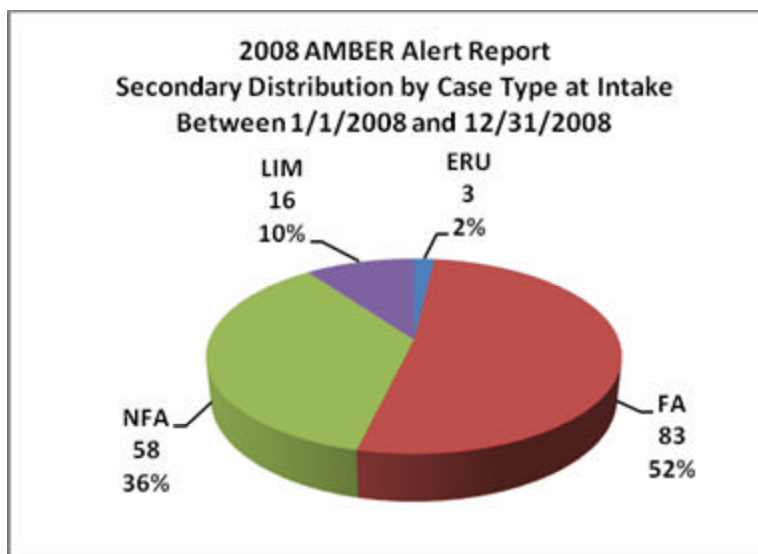
NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN REPORTED MISSING

Between January 1, 2008, and December 31, 2008, girls represented 58% (n=148) and boys comprised 42% (n=108) of children involved in AMBER Alerts.

Figure 7

2008 AMBER Alert Report
Sex of Children
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008

Boys 108 42%
Girls 148 58%
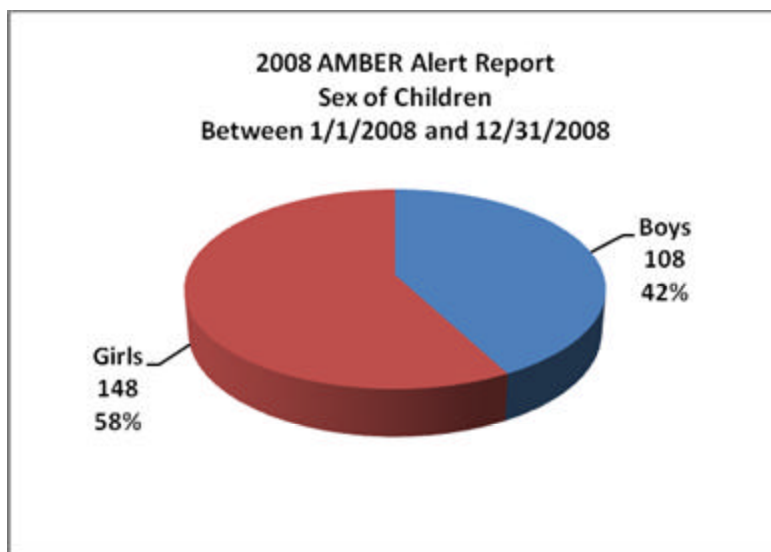
Boys and girls who were 5 years old and younger represented 53% (n=135) of the children who were reported missing with known ages. Of all children reported missing, both girls (n=17) and boys (n=13) younger than 1 year of age were most frequently involved in AMBER Alerts. The number of boys involved in AMBER Alerts generally decreased as age increased. The number of girls involved in AMBER Alerts generally decreased as age increased except for ages 12, 15, and 16.

Figure 8

2008 AMBER Alert Report
Age of Children When Missing
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008
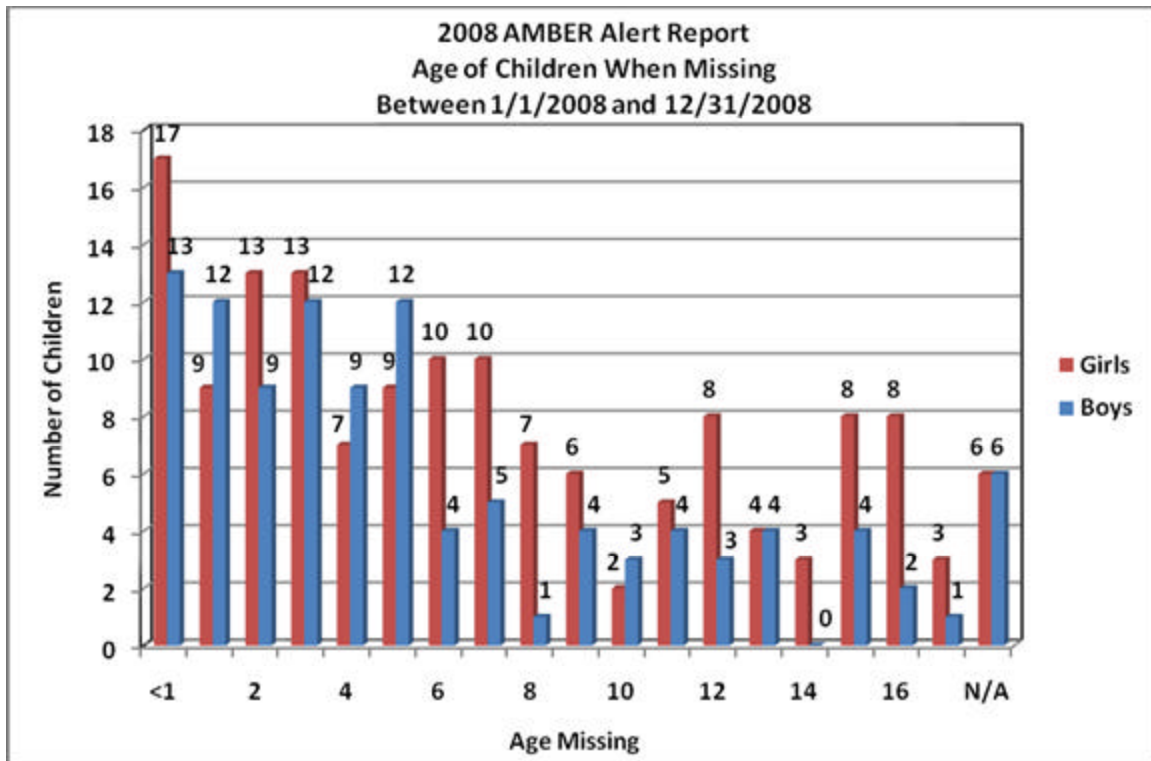
Girls represented 71% (n=10) and boys represented 29% (n=4) of all children involved in hoaxes. The highest number of children involved in hoaxes occurred for girls age 17 and boys age 3.

Girls represented 73% (n=11) and boys represented 27% (n=4) of all children involved in unfounded cases. Unfounded cases only occurred for girls 9 years of age or older, with the highest number of girls involved in unfounded cases occurring for age 12. Boys were most frequently involved in unfounded cases for age 13.

Table 5
2008 AMBER Alert Report
Age and Sex of Children Involved in Hoaxes or Unfounded Cases
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008

	Hoax		Unfounded	
Age	Girl	Boy	Girl	Boy
<1	0	0	0	1
1	0	1	0	0
2	0	0	0	0
3	1	2	0	0
4	0	0	0	0
5	1	0	0	0
6	1	0	0	0

Age	Hoax		Unfounded	
	Girl	Boy	Girl	Boy
7	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	0	0
9	1	1	1	0
10	0	0	1	1
11	1	0	0	0
12	0	0	3	0
13	0	0	1	2
14	1	0	1	0
15	0	0	1	0
16	1	0	2	0
17	2	0	0	0
N/A	1	0	1	0
Total	**10**	**4**	**11**	**4**

Children who were involved in hoaxes were predominantly intaked as NFAs (n=10) and FAs (n=3). Children whose cases were determined to be unfounded, were predominantly intaked as NFAs (n=7).

Table 6
2008 AMBER Alert Report
Age and Case Type at Intake of Children
Involved in Hoaxes or Unfounded Cases
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008

Age	Hoax			Unfounded		
	FA	NFA	LIM	FA	NFA	LIM
<1	0	0	0	1	0	0
1	1	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	3	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	1	0	0	0	0
6	0	1	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	1	1	0	0	1	0
10	0	0	0	0	1	1
11	1	0	0	0	0	0
12	0	0	0	1	1	1
13	0	0	0	2	1	0

Age	Hoax			Unfounded		
	FA	NFA	LIM	FA	NFA	LIM
14	0	1	0	0	1	0
15	0	0	0	0	1	0
16	0	0	1	1	0	1
17	0	2	0	0	0	0
N/A	0	1	0	0	1	0
Total	3	10	1	5	7	3

Between January 1, 2008, and December 31, 2008, 39% (n=101) of children involved in AMBER Alerts were White, 30% (n=78) were Black, 22% (n=57) were Hispanic, 4% (n=9) were Biracial, 2% (n=5) were Asian, and American Indian children represented 1% (n=2). The race for less than 2% (n=4) was unknown. AMBER Alerts were issued for 39% of White children and minority children represented 59%.
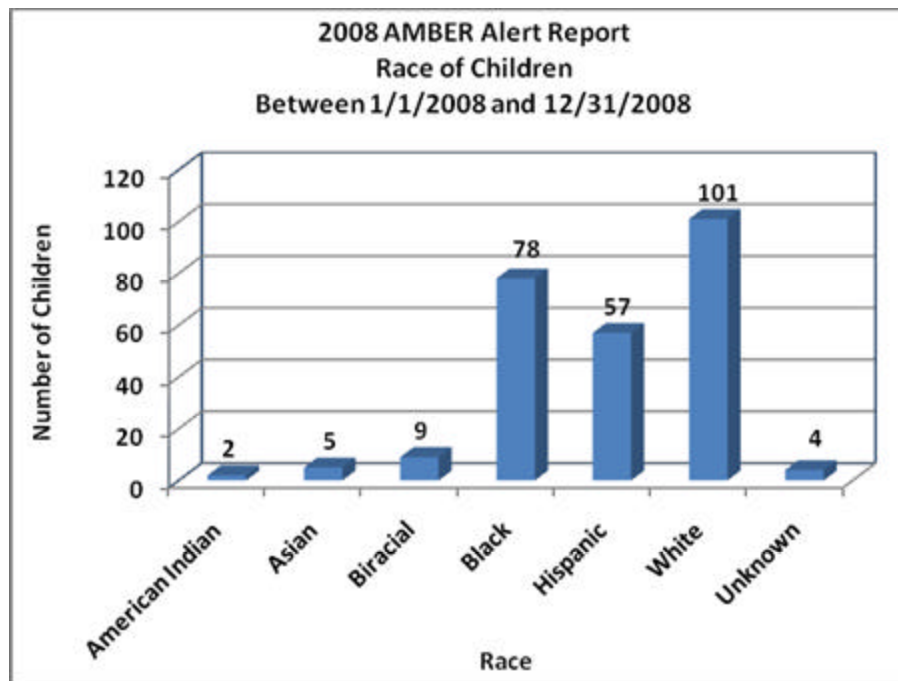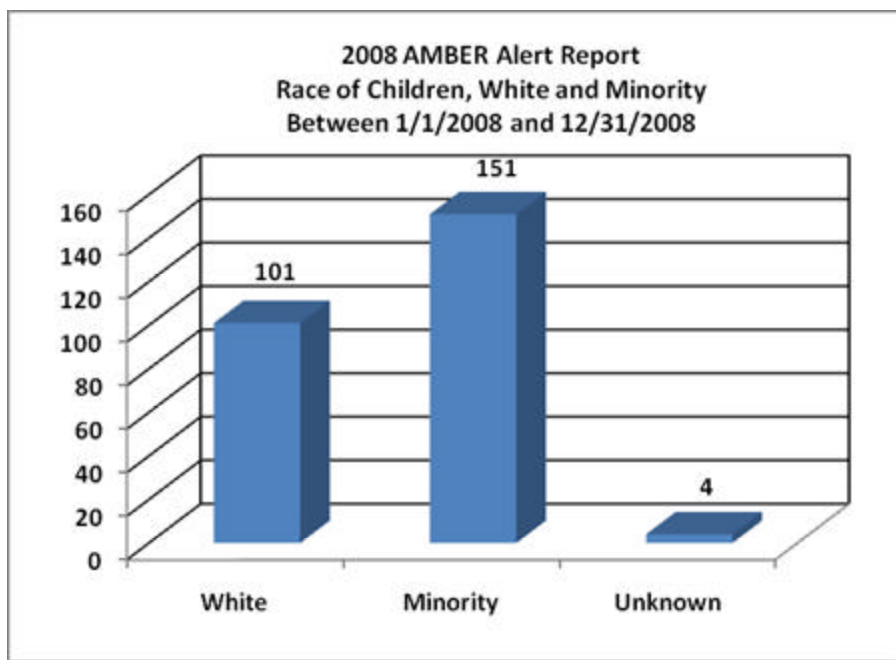
Figure 9

Figure 10

**2008 AMBER Alert Report
Race of Children, White and Minority
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008**

(bar chart: White = 101, Minority = 151, Unknown = 4)

NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF ABDUCTORS

One hundred sixty-two (162) abductors were identified as being involved in 135 AMBER Alert cases in 2008.

The majority of abductors were male at 69% (n=112), and 29% (n=47) of abductors were female. The sex of 2% (n=3) of abductors is unknown.

Thirty-six percent (36%, n=58) of abductors were White, 23% (n=37) of abductors were Black, 26% (n=42) of abductors were Hispanic, less than 1% (n=1) were Biracial, 2% (n=3) were Asians, less than 1% (n=1) of abductors were American Indian, and the race for 12% (n=20) was unknown.

ABDUCTOR RELATIONSHIP TO CHILD

Of the 162 abductors involved in AMBER Alerts in 2008, 118 abductors had known relationships with the children. An AMBER Alert case may have multiple abductors involved; therefore, the number of abductors involved in a type of case may exceed the number of cases. Multiple abductors involved in an AMBER Alert case may have different relationships to the abducted child. For example a mother who abducts her child may use her boyfriend as an accomplice. The boyfriend would also be considered an abductor in a family abduction although he is not related to the child.

Of the 100 FA cases it was possible to determine 95 out of the 100 abductors (95%) involved had relationships with the children. They consisted of 1 brother, 1 ex-boyfriend, 52 fathers, 1 father's girlfriend, 1 grandfather, 3 grandmothers, 33 mothers, 1 mother's boyfriend, 1 stepfather, and 1 uncle.

Of the 70 NFA cases it was possible to determine 21 out of the 59 abductors (36%) had relationships with the children consisting of 1 babysitter, 5 boyfriends, 1 ex-boyfriend, 2 friends/classmates, 4 friends of the family, 1 girlfriend, 4 mother's boyfriends, 2 neighbors, and 1 stepfather.

Of the 21 LIM cases it was possible to determine 2 out of the 3 abductors (67%) had relationships with the children and included 1 friend/classmate and 1 neighbor. Although these cases were intaked as LIMs, an investigation determined an abduction did in fact occur.

Of the 3 ERU cases, it was not possible to determine the relationship in the 1 abduction that occurred. Although this case was intaked as an ERU, an investigation determined the child did not runaway but was instead abducted.

Table 7
2008 AMBER Alert Report
Abductor Relationship to Child
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008

Abductor Relationship to Child	FA	NFA	LIM	Total	Total (%)
Babysitter	0	1	0	1	1%
Boyfriend	0	5	0	5	4%
Brother	1	0	0	1	1%
Ex-Boyfriend	1	1	0	2	2%
Father	52	0	0	52	44%
Father's Girlfriend	1	0	0	1	1%
Friend/Classmate	0	2	1	3	3%
Friend of Family	0	4	0	4	3%
Girlfriend	0	1	0	1	1%
Grandfather	1	0	0	1	1%
Grandmother	3	0	0	3	3%
Mother	33	0	0	33	28%
Mother's Boyfriend	1	4	0	5	4%
Neighbor	0	2	1	3	3%
Stepfather	1	1	0	2	2%
Uncle	1	0	0	1	1%
Total	**95**	**21**	**2**	**118**	**~100%**

TIME BETWEEN MISSING AND ACTIVATION

Information about the time between when the child was reported missing and the AMBER Alert's activation was available in 116 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-one (31) AMBER Alerts were issued within 3 hours from when the child was reported missing, with all but 2 cases recovered. Eighteen (18) cases were activated within 4 to 6 hours from when the child was reported missing, and 28 cases were issued within 7 to 12 hours.

Figure 11

2008 AMBER Alert Report
Time Between Missing and Activation
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008
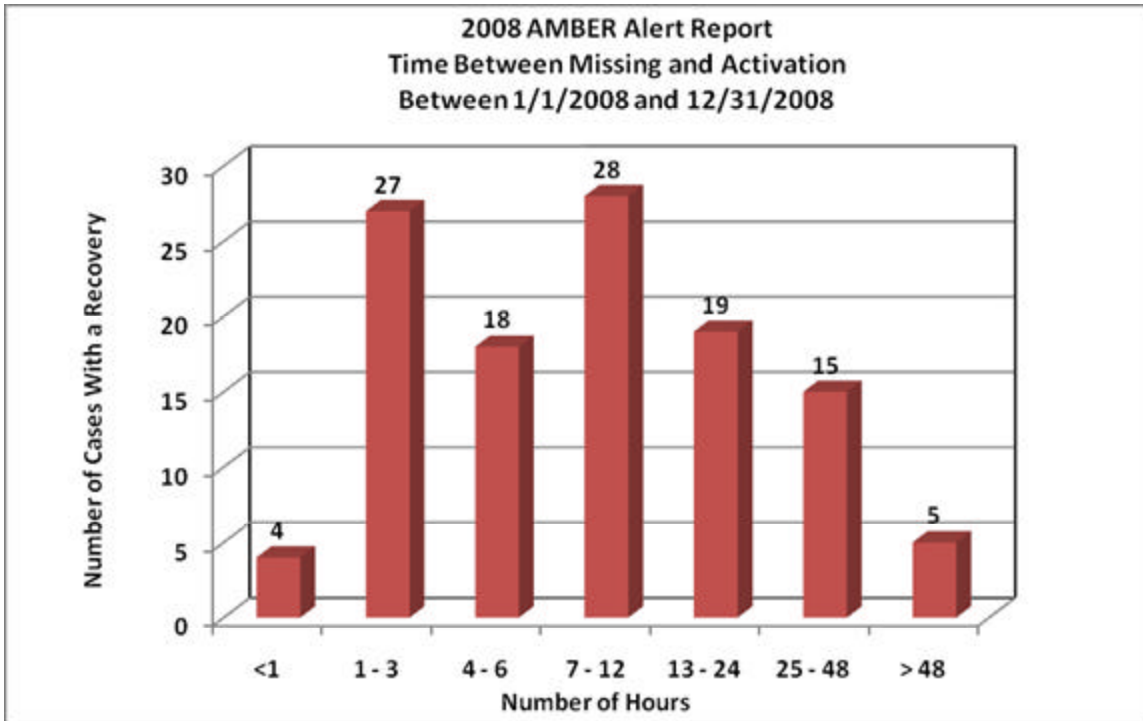
TIME BETWEEN MISSING AND RECOVERY

Sixty cases (60) had a recovery the same day the child was reported missing, and 73 cases had recoveries the day after the AMBER Alert was issued, totaling 80% of all AMBER Alerts with recoveries in 2008.

Same-day recoveries occurred within 24 hours. Next-day recoveries may also have occurred within 24 hours of activation depending on the time the AMBER Alert was activated. Information about the days between missing and recovery was available in 166 AMBER Alert cases and excludes hoaxes, unfounded, and active cases.

Figure 12
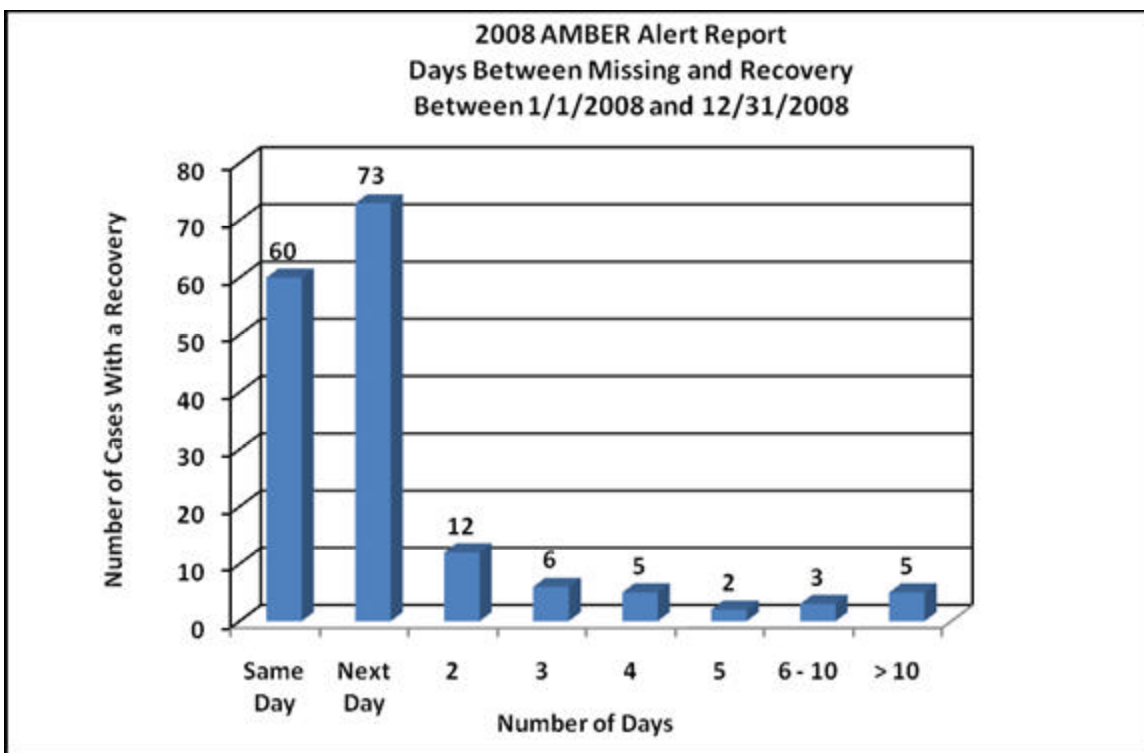
TIME BETWEEN ACTIVATION AND RECOVERY

In 2008, 67% of recoveries (n=111) occurred the same day the AMBER Alert was issued and 21% of recoveries (n=35) happened the day after the AMBER Alert was issued. Same-day recoveries occurred within 24 hours. Next-day recoveries may also have occurred within 24 hours of activation depending on the time the AMBER Alert was activated. Information about the days between activation and recovery was available in 166 cases and excludes hoaxes, unfounded, and active cases.
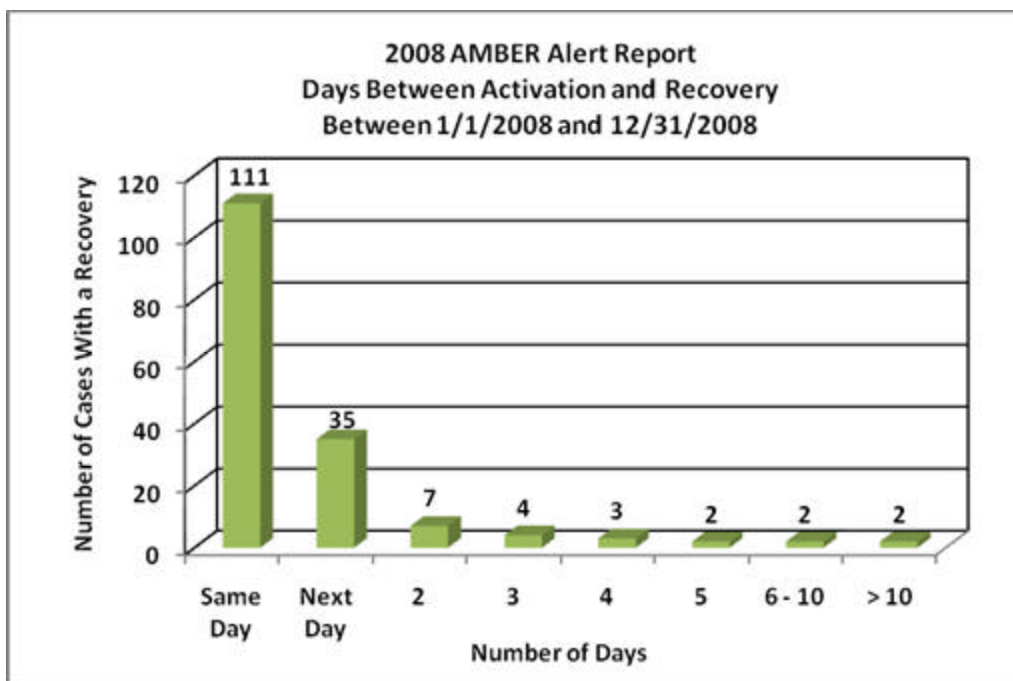
Figure 13

**2008 AMBER Alert Report
Days Between Activation and Recovery
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008**

RECOVERY WITHIN 72 HOURS

**Table 8
2008 AMBER Alert Report
Recovery Within 72 Hours
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008**

	Cases	Children
Number Intaked	194	256
Number of Recoveries in 72 Hours	157	206
Percent of Recoveries in 72 Hours	81%	80%

RECOVERY AND TRAVEL DISTANCES

In 2008 travel destinations between where the child was reported missing and recovered were known for 156 AMBER Alert cases. Hoaxes, unfounded, and active cases were not included in these statistics because no recovery occurred. The distances reported below are estimates since the travel distances were calculated by using zip codes. Therefore distances could not be calculated for cases where the child was abducted from and recovered in the same city.

In 65 cases the missing and recovery locations were in the same city; in 57 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 between 101 miles and 500 miles; in 6 cases the distance between missing and recovery locations ranged between 501 miles and 1,000 miles; and in 5 cases travel distances were more than 1,000 miles. In 10 cases the travel distance could not be calculated and the remaining 28 cases were either hoaxes, unfounded, or active cases.

Figure 14

2008 AMBER Alert Report
Distance Between Missing and Recovery Locations
**Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008**
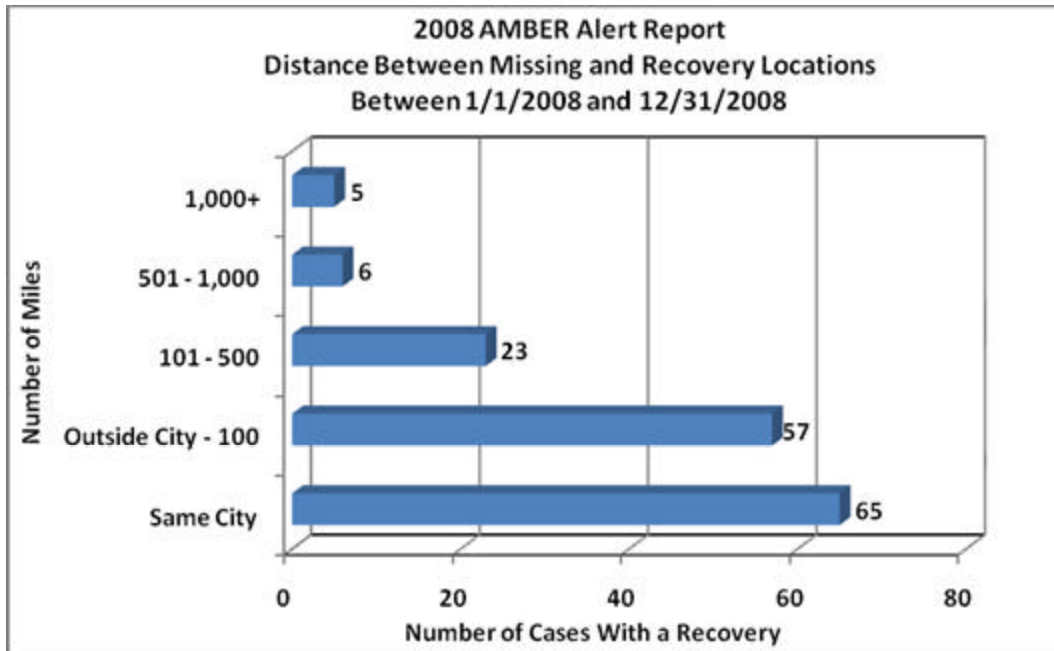
Of the 100 AMBER Alerts issued for FA cases, children in 29 cases were found in the same city. In 32 cases travel distances ranged between 1 mile and 96.3 miles; in 19 cases the children involved were found between 101.7 miles and 489.6 miles from where they were last seen. In 5 cases travel distance ranged between 513.9 miles and 795.7 miles. In 1 case travel distances exceeded 1,000 miles. In 7 cases these distances could not be calculated and the remaining 7 cases were hoaxes, unfounded, and active cases.

Of the 70 AMBER Alerts issued for NFA cases, the children involved in 26 cases were found in the same city. In 19 cases children were found between 5.8 miles and 66.6 miles from where they were last seen. In 3 cases children were found between 284.9 miles and 469.4 miles from where they were last seen. One (1) case involved a child who was found 624.6 miles from the missing location. In 3 cases children were found more than 1,000 miles from where they were last seen. The distance for 1 case could not be calculated, and the remaining 17 cases were unfounded, hoaxes, and active cases.

There were 21 AMBER Alerts issued for LIM cases in 2008, and of those cases 10 were found in the same city. The children in 5 cases were found between 7.7 miles and 30.3 miles from where they were last seen. The distance could not be calculated in 2 cases, and the remaining 4 cases were a hoax and unfounded cases.

For the 3 cases intaked as ERUs in 2008, 1 case had a recovery 18.1 miles from where the child was last seen, 1 case had a recovery 178.5 miles from where the child was last seen, and 1 case had a recovery 1,208.7 miles from where the child was last seen.

Figure 15
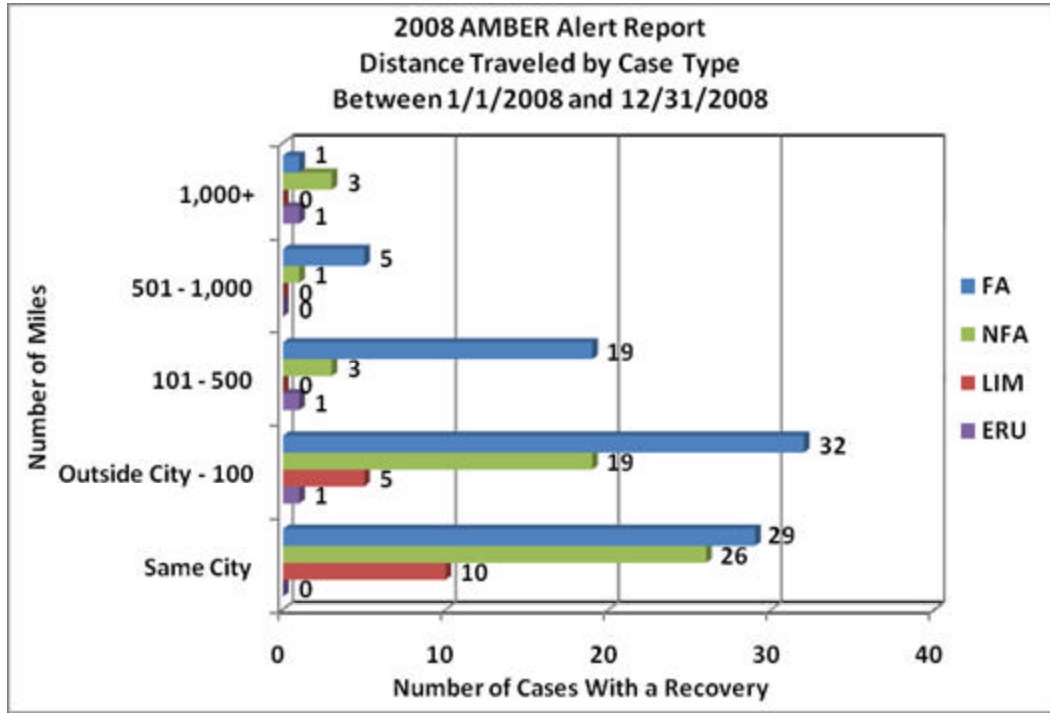
RECOVERIES OUTSIDE OF STATE/TERRITORY WHERE AMBER ALERT WAS FIRST ACTIVATED

There are instances where an abductor may travel with a child out of the state/territory where the AMBER Alert was first activated. Of the 194 AMBER Alerts issued in 2008, 20 cases had recoveries out of the state/territory of the original activation, but within the United States.

Table 9
2008 AMBER Alert Report
Recovery Out of State/Territory Where AMBER Alert First Activated
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008

Activation State/Territory	Recovery State/Territory
California	New Mexico
Florida	Texas
Georgia	Tennessee
Illinois	Wisconsin
Kansas	Texas
Kentucky	Tennessee
Massachusetts	New York
Michigan	Georgia
Michigan	Tennessee
Missouri	Iowa
Missouri	Washington
Nevada	California

Activation State/Territory	Recovery State/Territory
North Carolina	South Carolina
North Carolina	Texas
Pennsylvania	Florida
South Carolina	Florida
South Carolina	North Carolina
South Carolina	Virginia
U.S. Virgin Islands	California
Virginia	District of Columbia

MISSING LOCATION

In 2008 children involved in 95 AMBER Alert cases (49%) were last known to be at home when they were reported missing to law enforcement, followed by 11 cases in which children were last known to be at school.

Table 10
2008 AMBER Alert Report
Missing Location
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008

Missing Location	Number of Cases	Percent
Auto/Vehicle	2	1.0%
Daycare Facility	2	1.0%
Home	95	49.0%
Medical - Hospital	2	1.0%
Medical - Medical Facility	1	0.5%
Medical - Other	1	0.5%
Parking - Business	1	0.5%
Retail - Food Store	1	0.5%
Retail - Gas Station	5	2.6%
Retail - Shopping Center	2	1.0%
Retail - Other	4	2.1%
School	11	5.7%
Street	7	3.6%
Transportation - Bus Station	1	0.5%
Unknown	57	29.4%
Other	2	1.0%
Total	**194**	**100%**

In 2008 children whose cases were later determined to be hoaxes were most frequently reported missing from home (n=5). Children whose cases were later determined to be unfounded were most frequently reported missing from home (n=4) and school (n=3).

Table 11
2008 AMBER Alert Report
Missing Location for Cases Determined to Be Hoaxes or Unfounded
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008

Missing Location	Number of Hoaxes	% of Hoaxes	Number of Unfounded	% of Unfounded
Home	5	45%	4	29%
Parking - Business	1	9%	0	0%
Retail - Gas Station	2	18%	0	0%
Retail - Shopping Center	0	0%	1	7%
Retail - Other	1	9%	0	0%
School	0	0%	3	21%
Street	1	9%	2	14%
Unknown	1	9%	4	29%
Total	**11**	**~100%**	**14**	**100%**

RECOVERY LOCATION

In 2008 children involved in 166 AMBER Alert cases were most often recovered at home (n=65) followed by recoveries "on the street" (n=32).

Table 12
2008 AMBER Alert Report
Recovery Location
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008

Recovery Location	Number of Cases	Percent
Auto/Vehicle	13	8%
Bus Stop	1	1%
Government Facility	4	2%
Home	65	39%
Hotel/Motel	7	4%
Law-Enforcement Station	17	10%
Library	1	1%
Medical – Hospital	1	1%
Medical - Medical Facility	1	1%
Outdoor - Open Area	4	2%
Parking	3	2%
Path/Trail/Woods	4	2%
Religious Facility	1	1%
Restaurant - Fast Food	1	1%
Retail - Gas Station	2	1%
Retail – Mall	1	1%
Retail – Other	2	1%
Street	32	19%
Transportation – Airport	2	1%
Truck Stop	1	1%

| Recovery Location	Number of Cases	Percent
Unknown	3	2%
Total	**166**	**~100%**

INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTIONS

In 2008 there were 5 AMBER Alert activations that resulted in an international abduction. In 3 cases the 4 children involved were recovered in Mexico. In 1 case the child involved was recovered in Canada, and in 1 case the child involved was recovered in Romania.

INFANTS INVOLVED IN AMBER ALERT ACTIVATIONS

In 2008 infants, who are defined as children younger than 6 months of age, were involved in 15 AMBER Alert activations. Eight (8) infants were intaked as FAs, 5 were intaked as NFAs, and 2 were intaked as LIMs. One (1) case intaked as an FA was later determined to be unfounded.

Figure 16
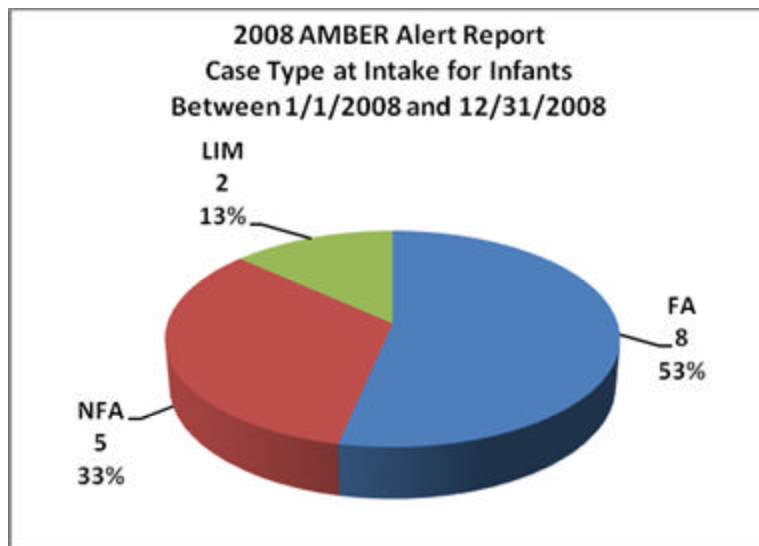
Between January 1, 2008, and December 31, 2008, 47% (n=7) of infants involved in AMBER Alerts were boys and 53% (n=8) were girls.

Figure 17

2008 AMBER Alert Report
Sex of Infants
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008

Boys
7
47%

Girls
8
53%
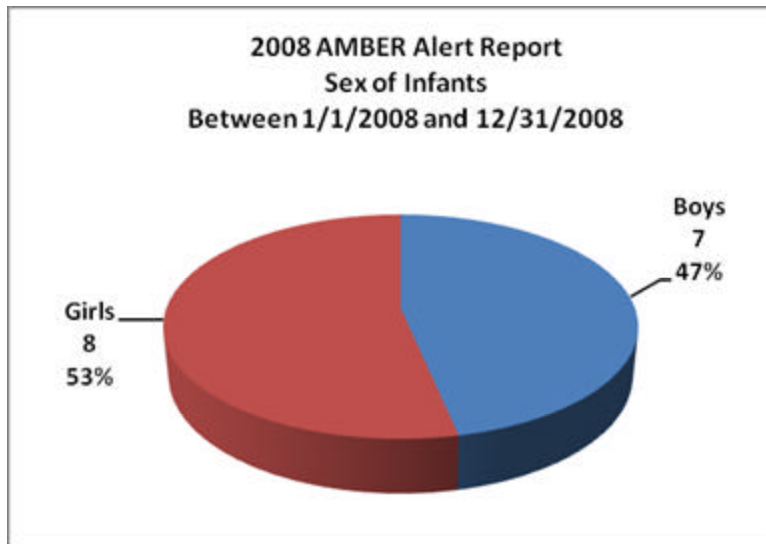
In 2008, 7% (n=1) of infants involved were Asian, 7% (n=1) were Biracial, 40% (n=6) were Black, 13% (n=2) were Hispanic, 27% (n=4) were White, and the race for 7% (n=1) was unknown.

Figure 18

2008 AMBER Alert Report
Race of Infants
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008

Unknown
1
7%

Asian
1
7%

Biracial
1
7%

White
4
27%

Hispanic
2
13%

Black
6
40%
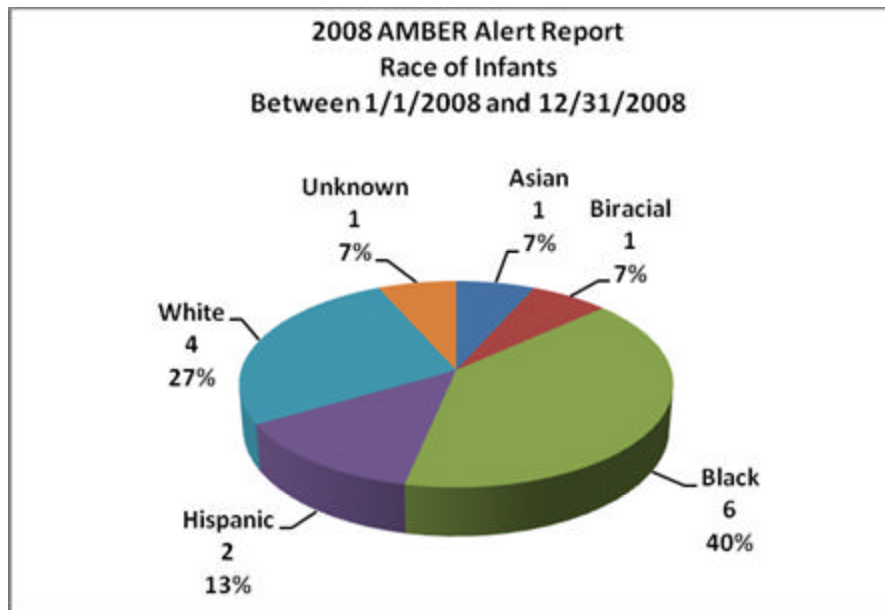
MOTIVE FOR ABDUCTION

Of the 194 AMBER Alerts issued in 2008, motives for AMBER Alert abductions could be determined in 32% of cases (n=63).

In 10% of cases (n=19) a family dispute was cited as the reason for the abduction; in 10% of cases (n=19) a domestic dispute led to the abduction; in 5% of cases (n=10) car theft was the

reason for the abduction; in 4% of cases (n=8) the abduction was sexually motivated; in 3% of cases (n=5) ransom was the motive for abduction; and in 1% of cases (n=2) Internet luring was the reason.

Of the 19 cases that originated from a domestic dispute, 7 cases involved circumstances where the children were abducted from the scene of a murder.

Of the 8 cases that were sexually motivated, 1 abductor was a registered sex offender. The child involved was a White girl involved in an NFA.

SUCCESS STORIES

A successful AMBER Alert recovery is a case in which a child is safely recovered as a **direct result** of the AMBER Alert being issued. A case is not considered a success if the investigation determines the case is unfounded or a hoax. Of the 194 AMBER Alert cases in 2008, 58 children involved in 40 AMBER Alert cases were successfully recovered as a direct result of those respective AMBER Alerts being issued.

Table 13
2008 AMBER Alert Report
Success Stories
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008

Case Type at Intake	Number of Successful Recoveries by Case	% of Successful Recoveries by Case	Number of Successful Recoveries by Child	% of Successful Recoveries by Child
FA	28	70%	43	74%
NFA	9	23%	11	19%
LIM	2	5%	3	5%
ERU	1	3%	1	2%
Total	**40**	**~100%**	**58**	**100%**

The most common reason for an AMBER Alert success story is the abductor hearing the Alert and releasing the child at 28% (n=11), followed by an individual recognizing a child from the Alert and contacting authorities at 23% (n=9).

Table 14
2008 AMBER Alert Report
Reason for Success Stories
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008

Summary of Success Stories	Number of Cases	% of Cases	Number of Children	% of Children
Abductor Heard Alert and Released Child	11	28%	13	22%
Individual Recognized Child from Alert and Contacted Authorities	9	23%	17	29%
Individual or Law Enforcement Recognized Vehicle from Alert	8	20%	15	26%

Summary of Success Stories	Number of Cases	% of Cases	Number of Children	% of Children
Individual Knew Whereabouts of Suspect and Contacted Authorities	8	20%	9	16%
Law Enforcement Received Tips from Individuals	2	5%	2	3%
Individual Informed Abductor About Alert and Abductor Contacted Authorities	1	3%	1	2%
Abductor Heard Alert and Contacted Law Enforcement and the Abductor Was Located Through Investigative Means	1	3%	1	2%
Total	**40**	**~100%**	**58**	**100%**

TIME BETWEEN ACTIVATION AND RECOVERY FOR SUCCESS STORIES

In 2008, 95% of the cases had successful recoveries and 91% of the children were successfully recovered within 72 hours of those AMBER Alerts being issued.

Table 15
2008 AMBER Alert Report
Time Between Activation and Recovery for Success Stories
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008

	Cases	Children
Number of Successful Recoveries	40	58
Number of Recoveries in 72 Hours	38	53
Percent of Recoveries in 72 Hours	95%	91%

CHILDREN RECOVERED DECEASED

In 2008, 194 AMBER Alerts were issued involving 256 children, 8 of whom were recovered deceased. At the time the AMBER Alert cases were intaked, 4 were LIMs, 3 were FAs, and 1 was an NFA. The case intaked as an NFA was later determined to be a hoax.

Four (4) girls between the ages of 1 to 12 were found deceased whereas 4 boys, between the ages of 2 and 9, were found deceased. Five (5) of the children recovered deceased were Black, 2 children were White, and 1 child was Asian. Five (5) children were recovered within 72 hours of the AMBER Alert being issued. In 6 cases the children were recovered in the same city, in 1 case the child was recovered approximately 30 miles from where she was last seen, and in 1 case the child was determined to be part of a hoax.

The 8 children recovered deceased in 2008 were reported missing from their respective homes (n=6) and a gas station (n=1). For 1 child it is unknown where he was last seen.

Three (3) siblings, 2 girls and 1 boy, who had been abducted by their father were found deceased in a wooded area. The cause of death remains undetermined. One (1) boy who had been allegedly stabbed to death by his father was found deceased in a wooded area. One (1) boy who had originally been reported missing had in fact suffocated in a tunnel of collapsed dirt in which he had been playing. One (1) girl was murdered by a neighbor and was recovered in his apartment.

One (1) girl was murdered by her uncle and recovered in the woods. One (1) boy was murdered and recovered in a parking lot.

Table 16
2008 AMBER Alert Report
Children Recovered Deceased
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008

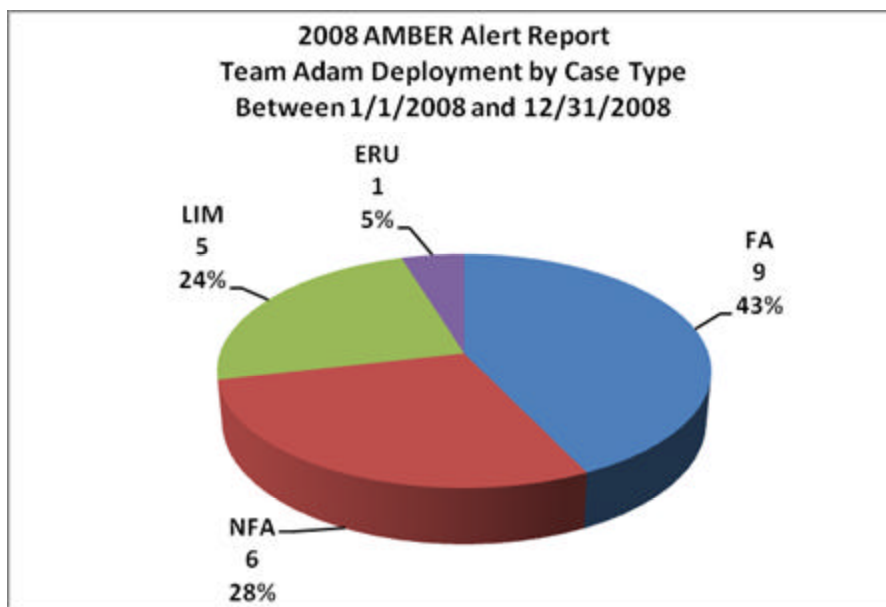| Activation Date	Case Type at Intake	Race/Sex of Child	Age When Missing	Time Between Activation and Recovery	Distance Between Missing and Recovery	Cause of Death
03/05/08	FA	Black Girl	1	> 72 Hours	Same City	Undetermined
03/05/08	FA	Black Girl	1	> 72 Hours	Same City	Undetermined
03/05/08	FA	Black Boy	3	< 72 Hours	Same City	Undetermined
03/15/08	LIM	Black Boy	2	< 72 Hours	30.3	Stabbing
03/19/08	NFA	White Boy	9	< 72 Hours	Hoax	Suffocation
04/01/08	LIM	Asian Girl	7	< 72 Hours	Same City	Multiple
06/26/08	LIM	White Girl	12	> 72 Hours	Same City	Undetermined
10/24/08	LIM	Black Boy	7	< 72 Hours	Same City	Gunshot

Based on the recovery information of 3 children who were intaked as LIMs, it was determined they were actually abducted and murdered.

TEAM ADAM CONSULTANT DEPLOYMENT

Team Adam is a program of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children providing an on-site response and support system that includes investigative and technical assistance to local law enforcement and support for families of missing and sexually exploited children. Team Adam was named in honor of 6-year-old Adam Walsh, the abducted and murdered son of NCMEC cofounders John and Revé Walsh.

In 2008 Team Adam Consultants were deployed to assist with 21 AMBER Alert cases involving 29 children, with all but 1 case recovered. At intake the case breakdown included 9 FAs, 6 NFAs, 5 LIMs, and 1 ERU.

Figure 19

2008 AMBER Alert Report
Team Adam Deployment by Case Type
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008

ERU
1
5%

LIM
5
24%

FA
9
43%

NFA
6
28%

FBI INVOLVEMENT IN CASES

The FBI has specialized CARD Teams (Child Abduction Rapid Deployment) that are designed to deploy teams of 4 to 6 experienced personnel to provide on-the-ground investigative, technical, and resource assistance to state and local law enforcement. The CARD Teams consist of Crimes Against Children Investigators who have in-depth experience in child-abduction cases. The nationwide CARD Team consists of 62 members organized into 10 teams serving 5 regions across the country. They work closely with FBI Behavioral Analysis Unit Representatives, National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime Coordinators, and Crimes Against Children Coordinators. Since the CARD Team's inception in 2006, the team has deployed approximately 50 times, according to the FBI, to assist law-enforcement agencies where an AMBER Alert or mysterious disappearance of a child has occurred. There were 9 deployments in 2008 for AMBER Alerts.

COMMAND POST USE IN AMBER ALERTS

In 2008, 22 AMBER Alert cases were reported as using a command post. Of those 22 cases, 8 cases were intaked as FAs, 10 cases were intaked as NFAs, 3 cases were intaked as LIMs, and 1 case was intaked as an ERU. One (1) case intaked as an NFA was later determined to be a hoax, and another case intaked as an NFA was later determined to be unfounded.

NATIONAL CRIME INFORMATION CENTER

The National Crime Information Center (NCIC) houses a set of databases law enforcement uses to document and query activity and information about missing persons. The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Pub. L. No. 109-248) mandates NCIC entry must be made by law enforcement within 2 hours of receipt of a report of a missing or abducted child.

Of the 256 children involved in AMBER Alert cases in 2008, information about 206 children was entered into NCIC and information about 50 children was not entered into NCIC.

Table 17
2008 AMBER Alert Report
Information Entered in NCIC
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008

	1/1/2008 - 12/31/2008	1/1/2008 - 12/31/2008 (%)
Information Entered in NCIC	206	80%
Information Not Entered in NCIC	50	20%
Total	**256**	**100%**

Of the 206 children whose information was entered in NCIC between January 1, 2008, and December 31, 2008, 116 children were flagged as an AMBER Alert (AA), 64 children were flagged as a Missing Person (MP), and 22 children were flagged as a Child Abduction (CA). The flag for 4 children was unknown.

Figure 20
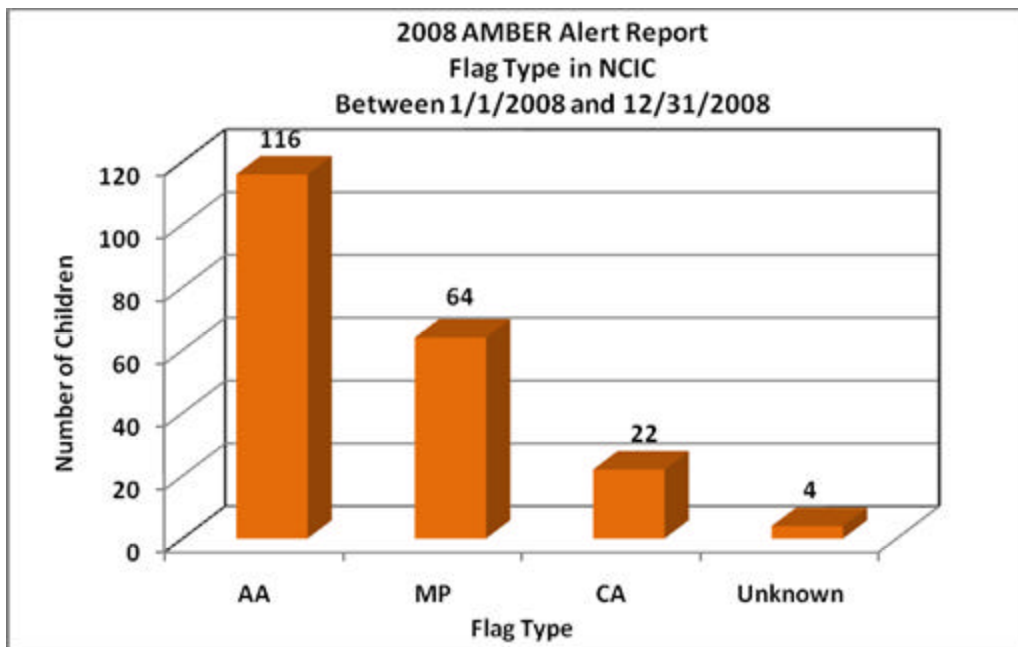
NCMEC is the only agency outside of law enforcement granted permission to modify flags in NCIC to AA status for AMBER Alert cases. During the months of January through December 2008, 34 flags were changed from CA to AA, 11 flags were changed from MP to AA, and for 10 children the original flag is unknown. NCMEC made the flag updates for 50 children and law enforcement made the update for 4 children. For 1 child it is unknown who made the flag update. The table below shows the Missing-Person Type category for children involved in AMBER Alerts at the time of entry between January 1, 2008, and December 31, 2008.

Table 18
2008 AMBER Alert Report
Missing-Person Type in NCIC
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008

NCIC Missing-Person Type	1/1/2008 - 12/31/2008	1/1/2008 - 12/31/2008 (%)
Endangered	70	34%
Endangered - Caution	6	3%
Involuntary	63	31%
Involuntary - Caution	9	4%
Juvenile	44	21%
Juvenile - Caution	3	1%
Other	2	1%
Disability	2	1%
Unknown	7	3%
Total	**206**	**~100%**

Between January 1, 2008, and December 31, 2008, information about 95 children was entered and cancelled from NCIC within 3 hours.

Table 19
2008 AMBER Alert Report
Hours Between Information About Children Entered and Cancelled from NCIC
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008

|	1/1/2008 - 12/31/2008 (Total)	1/1/2008 - 12/31/2008 (Cumulative Total)	1/1/2008 - 12/31/2008 (%)	1/1/2008 - 12/31/2008 (Cumulative %)
Up to 1/2 Hour	38	38	18%	18%
½+ - 1 Hour	12	50	6%	24%
1+ Hour - 2 Hours	24	74	12%	36%
2+ - 3 Hours	21	95	10%	46%
3+ - 4 Hours	17	112	8%	54%
4+ - 5 Hours	11	123	5%	59%
5+ - 6 Hours	9	132	4%	63%
6+ - 12 Hours	21	153	10%	73%
12+ - 24 Hours	12	165	6%	79%
24+ - 48 Hours	11	176	5%	84%
48+ - 72 Hours	10	186	5%	89%
72+ Hours	7	193	3%	92%
Unknown	13	206	6%	**~100%**
Total	**206**		**~100%**	

Data collected from the miscellaneous field in NCIC captured information such as abductor threats and use of weapons for 23 children involved in 15 AMBER Alerts issued in 2008. Seven (7) abductors were armed with a weapon, 3 abductors were suspects in a homicide, 1 abductor had a history of drug and/or alcohol abuse, 2 abductors threatened to kill themselves, 1 abductor was mentally ill, and 1 abductor threatened to kill himself and the child.

Table 20
2007 AMBER Alert Report
Threat Entered in NCIC Miscellaneous Field
Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008

Information Entered in NCIC Miscellaneous Field	Number
Abductor Armed With a Weapon	7
Abductor is Suspect in Homicide	3
Abductor Threatened to Kill Self	2
Abductor History of Drug and/or Alcohol Abuse	1
Abductor is Mentally Ill	1
Abductor Threatened to Kill Self and Child	1
Total	**15**

Forty-six percent (46%, n=95) of NCIC entries indicated a vehicle was involved in the AMBER Alert. For 54% (n=111) of NCIC records it is unknown whether a vehicle was involved because no vehicle information was entered.

Figure 21
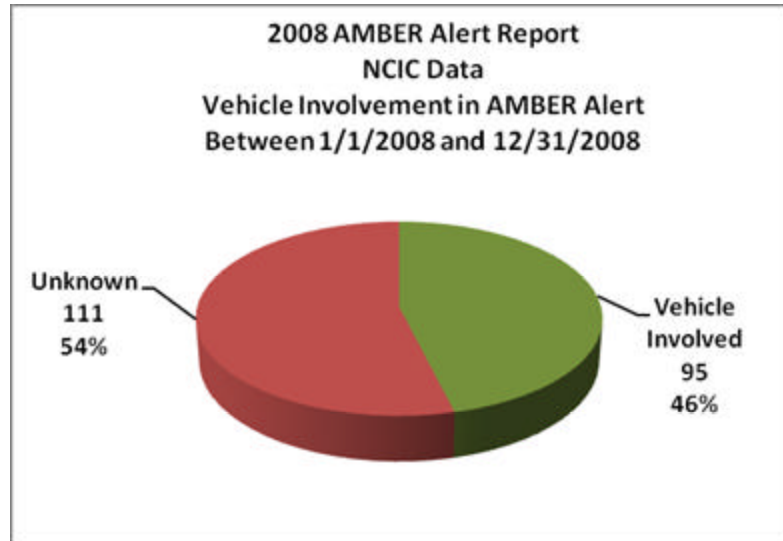
In order for vehicle data to be entered into the NCIC vehicle field, the license-plate number on the vehicle must be available to law enforcement. In addition law enforcement cannot search for license-plate information in NCIC if the vehicle information is entered only in the miscellaneous field.

License-plate information was available and entered in the NCIC vehicle field for 79 children. Of those 79 children, 71 children's records had license-plate information entered in the vehicle field only, and 3 children's records had license-plate information entered in both the miscellaneous field and the vehicle field. For 5 children's records the license-plate information was entered in the miscellaneous field only.

COMPARISON BETWEEN AMBER ALERTS ISSUED IN 2005, 2006, 2007, AND 2008

The number of AMBER Alerts and children involved consistently decreased over the years, with a 5% decrease between 2005 and 2006, a 13% decrease between 2006 and 2007, and a 15% decrease between 2007 and 2008. Between 2005 and 2008, there was a total decrease of 29%.

In 2005, 275 AMBER Alerts were issued involving 338 children; in 2006, 261 Alerts were issued involving 316 children; in 2007, 227 Alerts were issued involving 278 children; and in 2008 there were 194 Alerts involving 256 children.
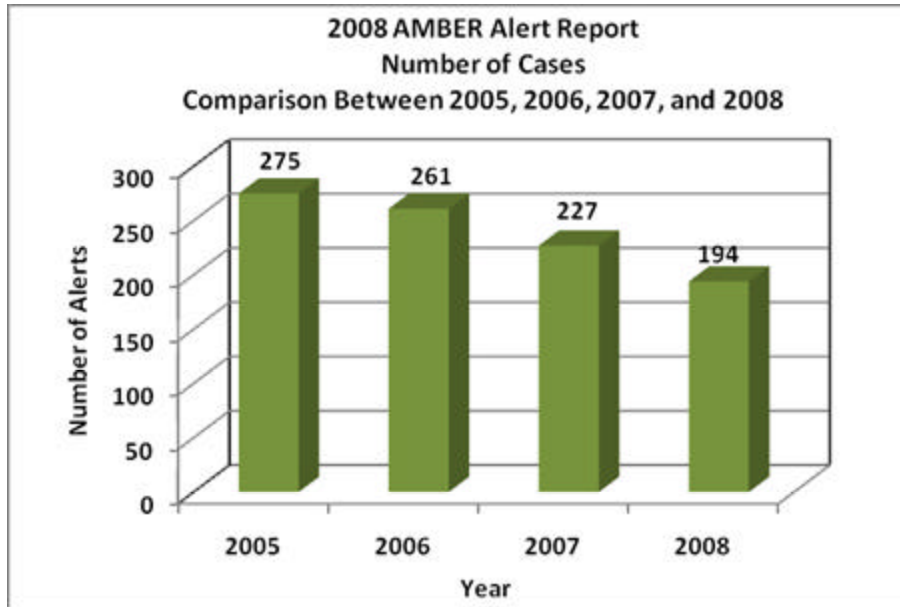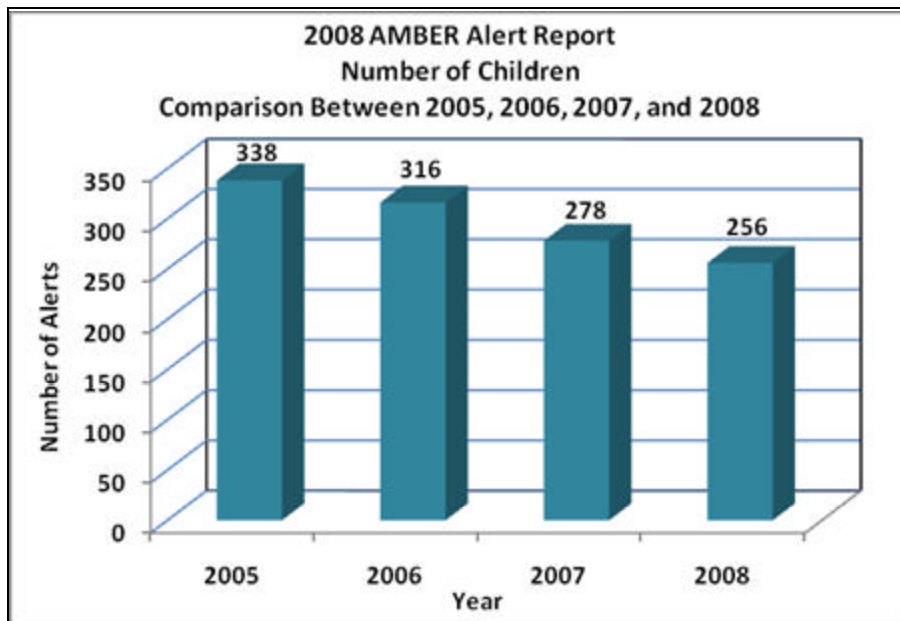
Figure 22

Figure 23

AMBER Alerts by Range

In 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 AMBER Alerts were predominantly issued statewide/territory wide, followed by regional Alerts and then local Alerts.

Figure 24
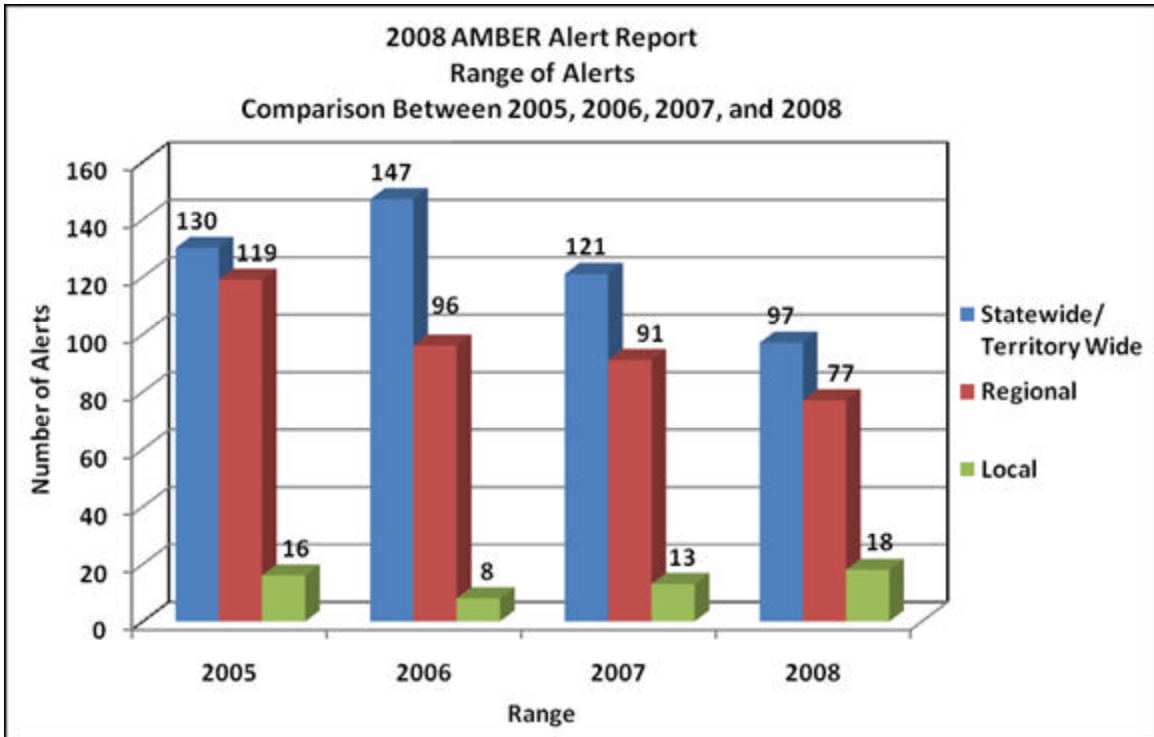
Multistate/Territorial AMBER Alerts

The number of multistate/territorial AMBER Alerts consistently decreased over the years of 2005, 2006, and 2007. In 2005 there were 21 such Alerts, in 2006 there were 11 such Alerts, and in 2007 there were 6 such Alerts. In 2008 there was an increase of such Alerts with a total of 14.

Figure 25

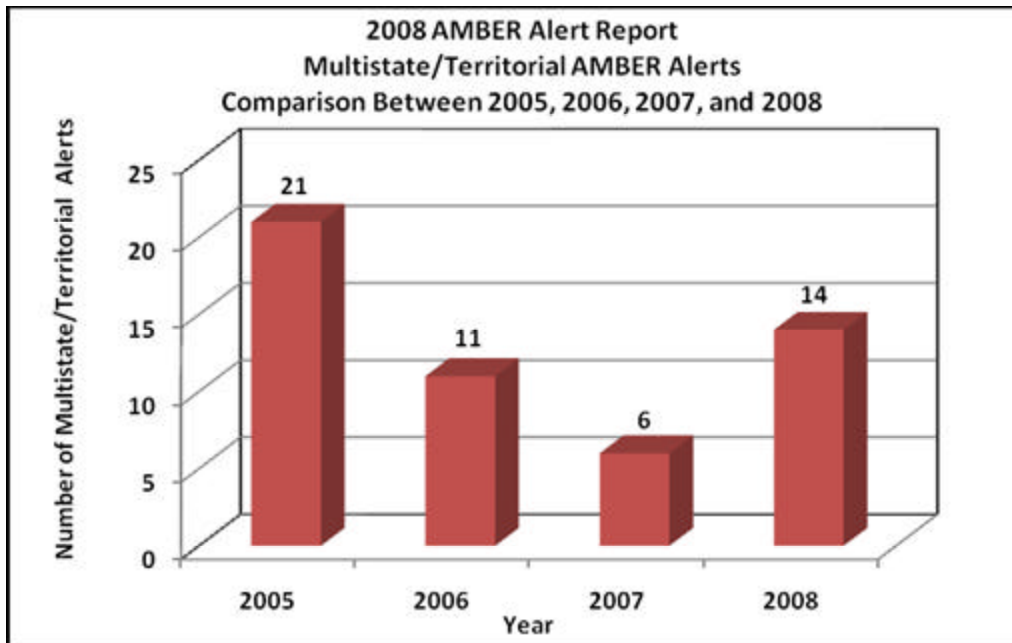2008 AMBER Alert Report
Multistate/Territorial AMBER Alerts
Comparison Between 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008

Number of Cases at Intake by Month

In 2005 there was a high of 28 and 29 AMBER Alerts respectively issued in September and October. In 2006 there was a high of 36 Alerts in June. In 2007 there was a high of 24 Alerts in March. In 2008 there was a high of 27 and 26 Alerts respectively issued in June and October.
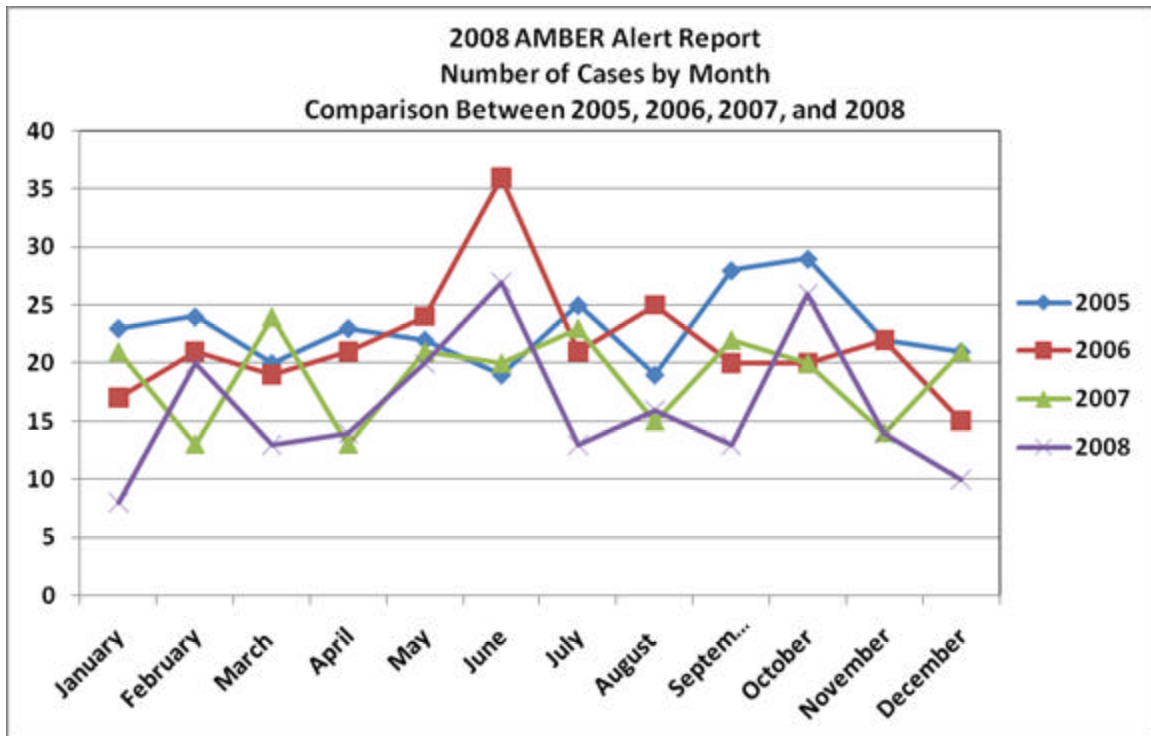
Figure 26

2008 AMBER Alert Report
Number of Cases by Month
Comparison Between 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008

Table 21
2008 AMBER Alert Report
Number of Cases by Month
Comparison Between 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2005	23	24	20	23	22	19	25	19	28	29	22	21
2006	17	21	19	21	24	36	21	25	20	20	22	15
2007	21	13	24	13	21	20	23	15	22	20	14	21
2008	8	20	13	14	20	27	13	16	13	26	14	10

Table 22
2008 AMBER Alert Report
Cases and Percent Increase/Decrease by Month
Comparison Between 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008

	Number of Cases in 2005	Percent (+/-) Between 2005 and 2006	Number of Cases in 2006	Percent (+/-) Between 2006 and 2007	Number of Cases in 2007	Percent (+/-) Between 2007 and 2008	Number of Cases in 2008
January	23	-26%	17	24%	21	-62%	8
February	24	-13%	21	-38%	13	54%	20
March	20	-5%	19	26%	24	-46%	13
April	23	-9%	21	-38%	13	8%	14

	Number of Cases in 2005	Percent (+/-) Between 2005 and 2006	Number of Cases in 2006	Percent (+/-) Between 2006 and 2007	Number of Cases in 2007	Percent (+/-) Between 2007 and 2008	Number of Cases in 2008
May	22	9%	24	-13%	21	-5%	20
June	19	90%	36	-44%	20	35%	27
July	25	-16%	21	10%	23	-44%	13
August	19	32%	25	-40%	15	7%	16
September	28	-29%	20	10%	22	-41%	13
October	29	-31%	20	0%	20	30%	26
November	22	0%	22	-36%	14	0%	14
December	21	-29%	15	40%	21	-52%	10
Total	**275**	**-5%**	**261**	**-13%**	**227**	**-15%**	**194**

Case Type at Intake

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

For NFAs there was an increase of cases between 2005 and 2006, with 101 Alerts and 115 Alerts respectively. In 2007 the number of NFAs dropped below 2005 levels to 94 Alerts. In 2008 the number of NFAs dropped further to 70 Alerts.

The number of cases intaked as LIMs remained fairly consistent for the past 4 years with 27, 31, 25, and 21 Alerts respectively issued.

ERUs were issued at a high of 6 Alerts in 2005 and then decreased to 2 Alerts for both 2006 and 2007. In 2008 the number of ERUs increased to 3 Alerts.
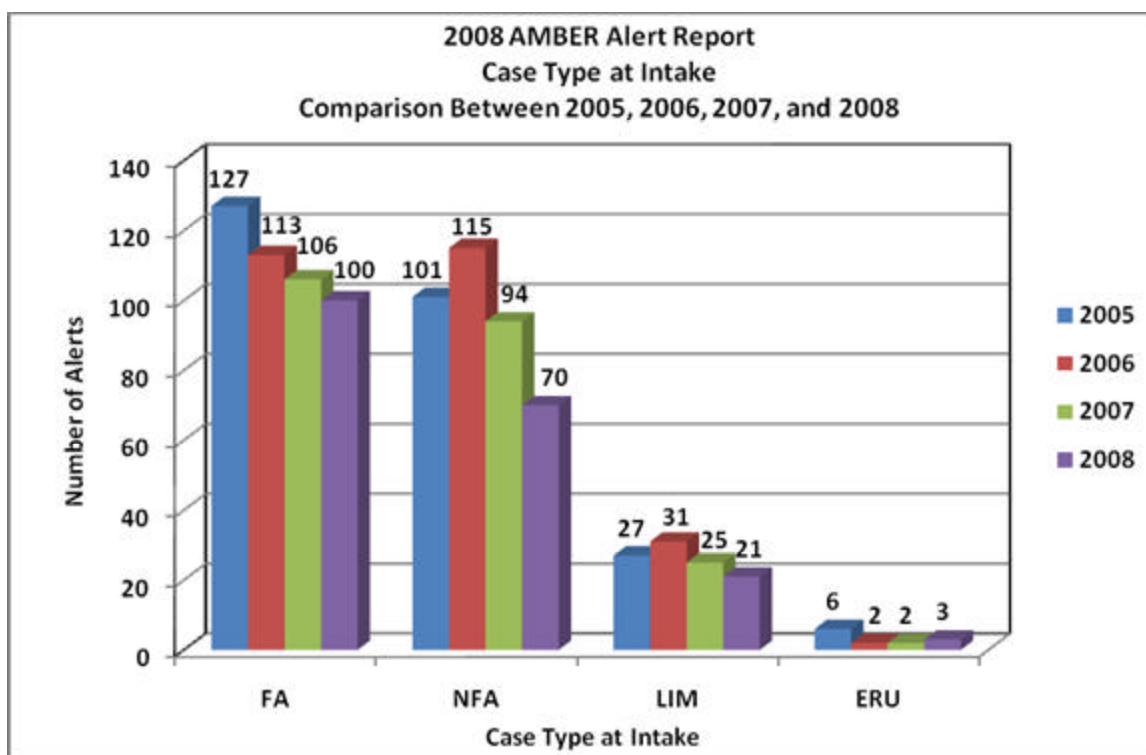
Figure 27

2008 AMBER Alert Report
Case Type at Intake
Comparison Between 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008

Table 23
2008 AMBER Alert Report
Cases and Percent Increase/Decrease by Case Type
Comparison Between 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008

	Case Type at Intake in 2005	Percent (+/-) Between 2005 and 2006	Case Type at Intake in 2006	Percent (+/-) Between 2006 and 2007	Case Type at Intake in 2007	Percent (+/-) Between 2007 and 2008	Case Type at Intake in 2008
FA	127	-11%	113	-6%	106	-6%	100
NFA	101	14%	115	-18%	94	-26%	70
LIM	27	15%	31	-19%	25	-16%	21
ERU	6	-67%	2	0%	2	50%	3

Hoaxes and Unfounded Cases

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

Figure 28

2008 AMBER Alert Report
Hoaxes and Unfounded Cases
Comparison Between 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008
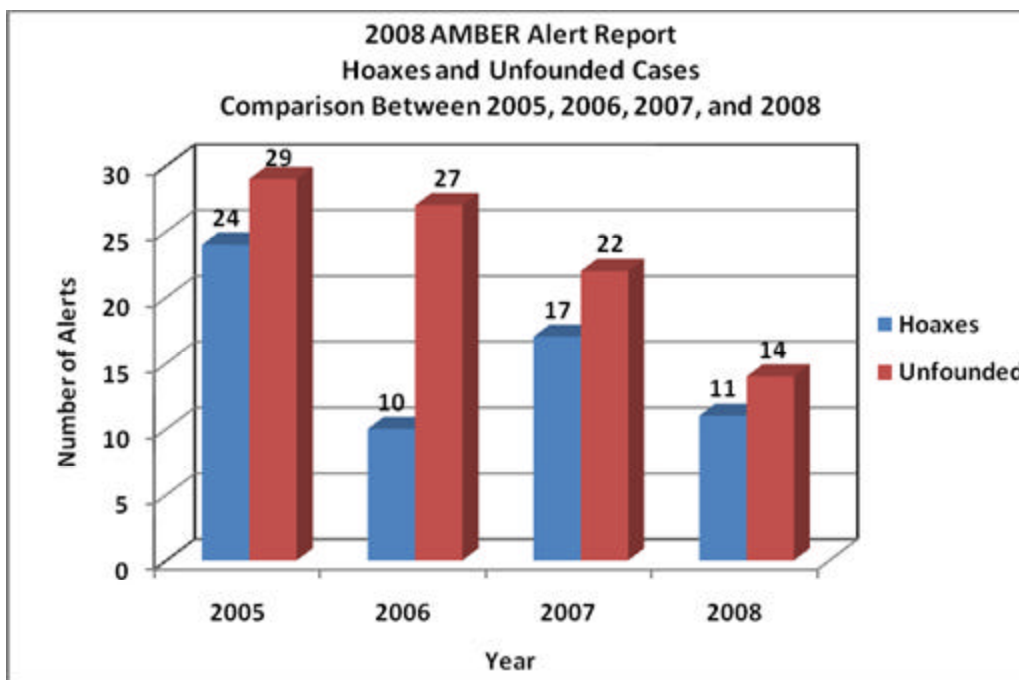
Number and Characteristics

Girls were more frequently involved in AMBER Alerts than boys in 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008. In 2005 girls made up 55% (n=185) of children involved in AMBER Alerts and boys represented 45% (n=153); in 2006 girls represented 57% (n=181) and boys 43% (n=135); in 2007 girls represented 53% (n=148) and boys 47% (n=130); in 2008, girls represented 58% (n=148) and boys comprised 42% (n=108) of children involved in AMBER Alerts.

The number of American Indian children involved in AMBER Alerts decreased between 2005 and 2007, and then saw a slight increase in 2008 (n=5, 1, 1, and 2). The number of Asian children increased between 2005 and 2008 (n= 2, 3, 3, and 5). The number of Biracial children decreased in 2006 (n=7) from 10 in 2005, increased in 2007 (n=18), and then decreased in 2008 (n=9). For Black children there was an increase in 2006 (n=93) from 81 in 2005, then a decrease (n=86 and 78) in the subsequent years. The number of Hispanic children saw a steady decrease between 2005 and 2007 (n=66, 60, and 38) and then saw a sharp increase in 2008 (n=57). The number of White children decreased 38% (n=164) and (n=101) between 2005 and 2008.

Figure 29

2008 AMBER Alert Report
Race of Children
Comparison Between 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008
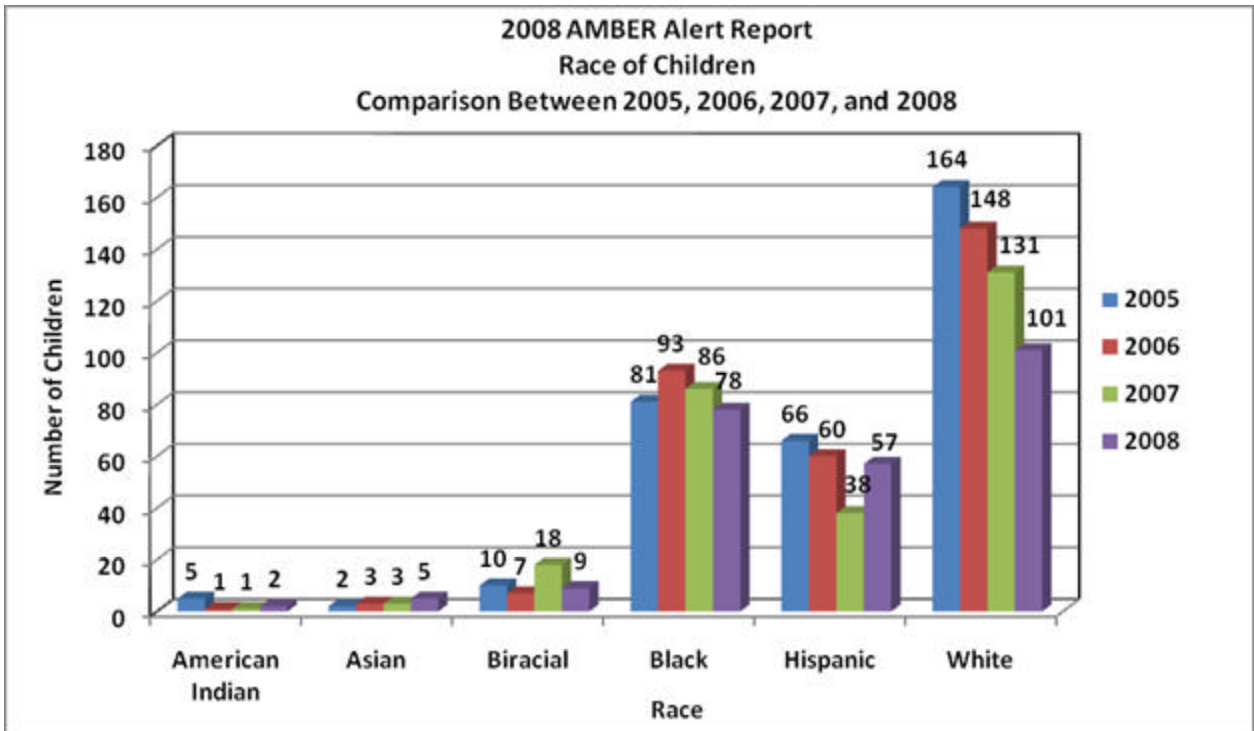
An equal number of White and Minority children (n=164) were involved in AMBER Alert activations in 2005. In 2006, 2007, and 2008 Minority children were involved in AMBER Alerts more frequently than White children.

Figure 30

2008 AMBER Alert Report
Race of Children, White and Minority
Comparison Between 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008
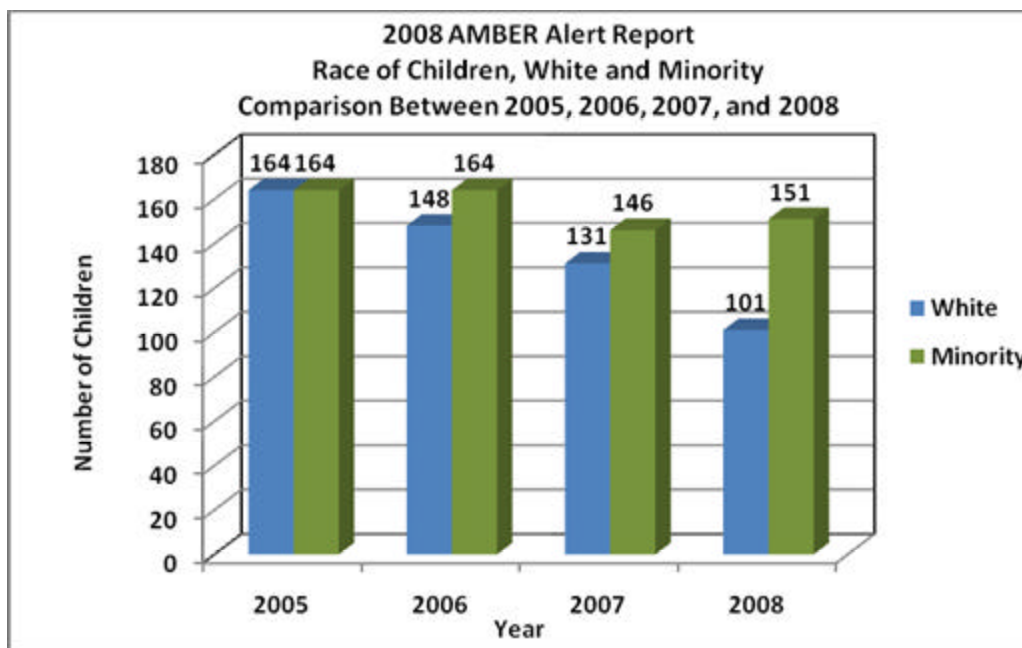
International Abductions

In 2005, 4 children were found in Mexico and 1 child was found in the Republic of Lebanon. In 2006, 2 children were recovered in Mexico and 2 children were recovered in Honduras. In 2007 there were no AMBER Alerts issued for international abductions. In 2008 there were 5 AMBER Alert activations that resulted in international abductions. In 3 cases the 4 children involved were recovered in Mexico. In 1 case the child involved was recovered in Canada, and in 1 case the child involved was recovered in Romania.

Motive for Abduction

Between 2005 and 2008 family disputes and domestic disputes were the primary motives for abductions. Since 2005 there has been an increase in abductions deriving from ransoms. In 2005 there were no such cases, in 2006 there were 3 cases, in 2007 there were 2 cases, and in 2008 there were 5 cases.

Children Recovered Deceased

The number of children recovered deceased in 2005, 2006, and 2007 decreased with 13 children in 2005, 9 children in 2006, and 6 children in 2007. In 2008 there was an increase with 8 children recovered deceased.

Children intaked as LIMs consistently make up the largest number of case types for children who were recovered deceased over the past 4 years. The percentage of children who were recovered deceased in AMBER Alert cases and were intaked as LIMs increased in 2005, 2006, and 2007. Fifty-three percent (53%) of children (n=8) were LIMs in 2005, 60% (n=6) in 2006, and 83% (n=5) in 2007. In 2008 there was a decrease in LIMs (n=4) at 50%.

Table 24
2008 AMBER Alert Report
Number of Children Recovered Deceased
Comparison Between 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008

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

A total of 39 children who were involved in AMBER Alerts issued between 2005 and 2008 were recovered deceased. Of those children, 2 case types were changed based on information developed by law enforcement. One (1) child's case type was changed from an NFA to a LIM because it was determined the child had accidentally drowned. Another child's case was changed from a LIM to an NFA because it was later determined she had been abducted by someone unknown to her family.

In addition to the 2 children referenced, 10 children who were intaked as LIMs were actually abducted and murdered, based on their cause of death.

National Crime Information Center (NCIC)

In 2005 information about 69% (n=233) of children involved in AMBER Alerts was entered into NCIC. In 2006 similar rates of entry were shown with 68% of children (n=215) having information entered into NCIC. In 2007 and 2008 there was an increase of information entered about children in NCIC at 73% (n=204) and 80% (n=206) respectively.

The AA flag was the predominant flag type for the past 4 years with 120, 109, 101, and 116 flags respectively.

The frequency of vehicle involvement in AMBER Alerts was predominantly documented for 2005 (n=126), 2006 (n=141), and 2007 (n=124); however, in 2008 (n=111) there were more children where it was unknown whether or not a vehicle was involved in the Alert.
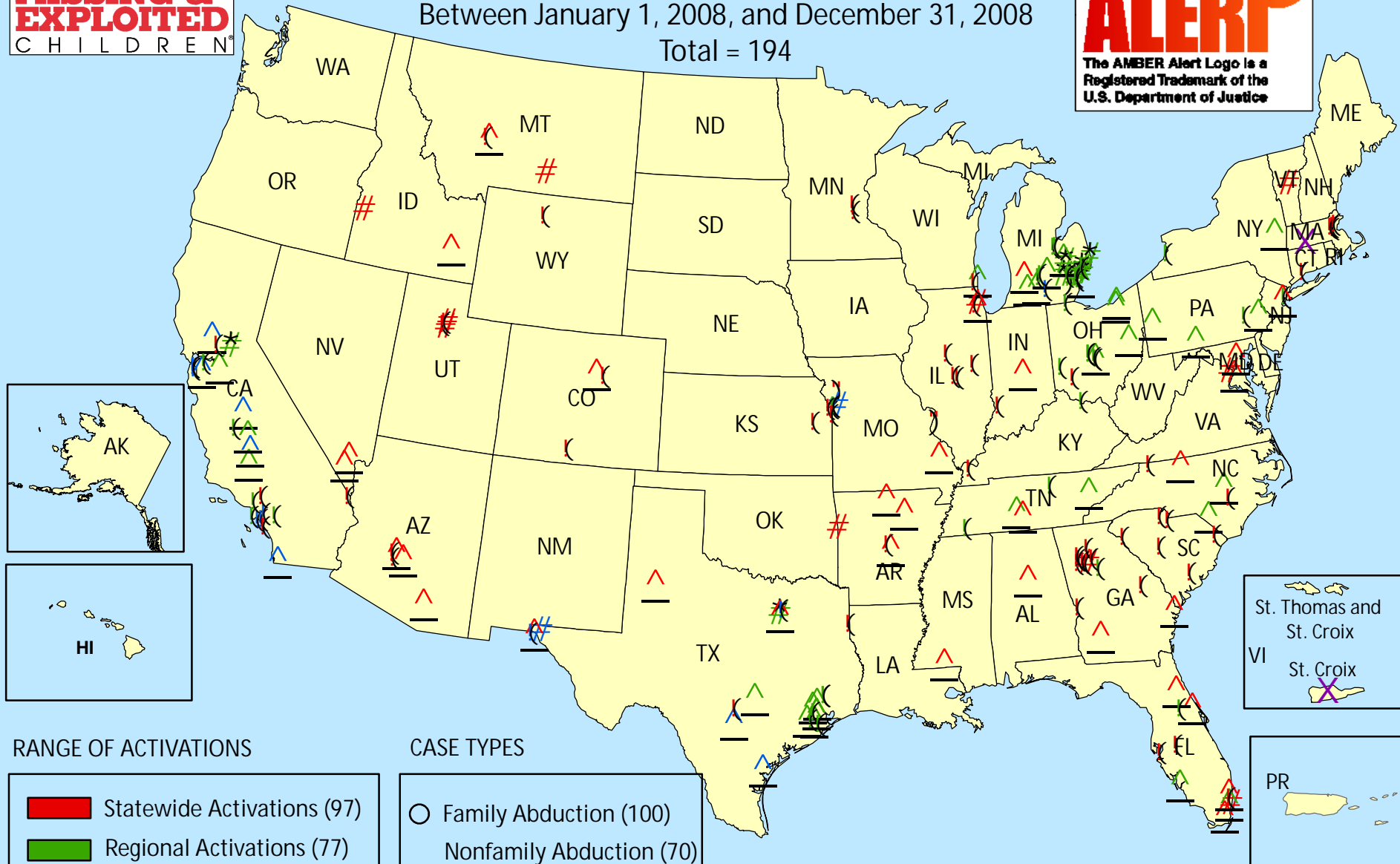
Figure 31

2008 AMBER Alert Report
NCIC Data
Vehicle Involvement in AMBER Alert
Comparison Between 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008
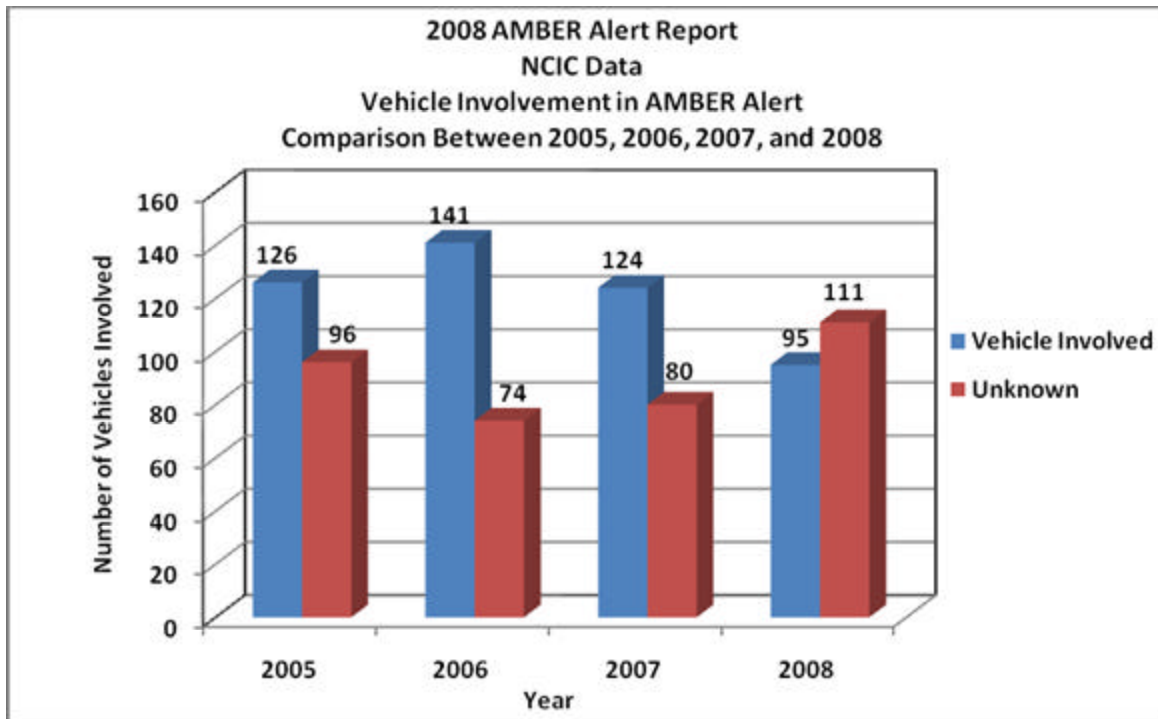
2008 AMBER Alert® Report

AMBER Alert Activations Issued
Between January 1, 2008, and December 31, 2008
Total = 194

NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN

AMBER ALERT®

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RANGE OF ACTIVATIONS

- 🟥 Statewide Activations (97)
- 🟩 Regional Activations (77)
- 🟦 Local Activations (18)
- 🟪 Unknown Activations (2)

CASE TYPES

- ◯ Family Abduction (100)
- Nonfamily Abduction (70)
- W Lost Injured Missing (21)
- ☐ Endangered Runaway (3)

Source: National Center for MIssing & Exploited Children
Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), Inc. Redlands, CA
Mapping software donated to NCMEC by ESRI
June 23, 2009