

New York State

Missing Children

2003 Annual Report



February 2004

New York State Missing Children in 2003

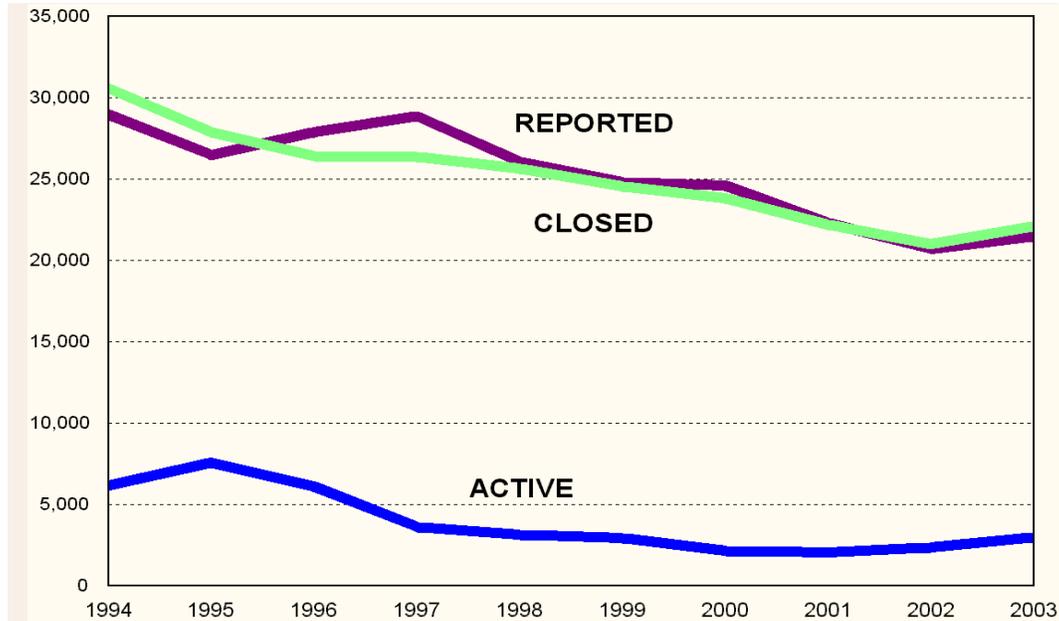
Summary

The following describes reporting activity on the New York State Missing Children Register during the year 2003.

- « The Register received 22,040 reports of children missing from New York State, an increase of five percent from the previous year. A smaller number of cases were cancelled (21,431) than reported during the year, resulting in a 26.1 percent increase in the number of active cases at the end of 2003 compared with 2002.
- « Reports of missing children were concentrated in the State's largest urban areas. Suffolk County reported the highest volume of cases (2,342) followed by Westchester, Albany, Monroe, Erie, and Nassau counties. (New York City counties do not report separately to the Register). Every county in the State reported at least one missing child during the year and 33 counties reported an increase in cases during 2003 compared with 2002.
- « Controlling for the under age 18 population by county, two counties in the Capital District (Albany and Schenectady) had the highest rates of case reporting in the State (18.6 and 17.6 per 1,000 children respectively). These counties were found to have unusually large numbers of repeat cases involving children who ran away from group homes or other facilities, and well established procedures for the timely reporting of these children as missing. The statewide rate of reporting was 4.8 missing children cases per 1,000 children in 2003.
- « The overwhelming majority of missing children cases were reported as suspected runaways (90.3%). Abduction cases accounted for approximately one percent of the total reports, and abductions committed by family members comprised the most frequent form of abduction. There were 6 reports statewide of a child abducted by a stranger in 2003. (Note: The number of stranger abductions reported to the Register may be an undercount. Typically, cases are not categorized as stranger abductions unless someone actually witnessed the child being abducted. Cases initially categorized as 'circumstances unknown' have sometimes later been found to involve stranger abductions but that information is rarely updated on the Register).
- « Ninety-three percent of the children reported missing were age 13 or older, 61 percent were female, and 54 percent were white. The single largest group of cases involved white females 13 years and older (31% of cases reported).
- « Almost 40 percent of the 21,431 cases closed during 2003 were resolved by the child voluntarily returning home. Law enforcement efforts were involved in the return of 20 percent of the cases, and 12 children who had been reported missing were found deceased. The median number of days between the reporting and cancellation of a case on the Register was 3 days.

New York State Missing Children in 2003

ANNUAL REPORTING VOLUME: 1994-2003

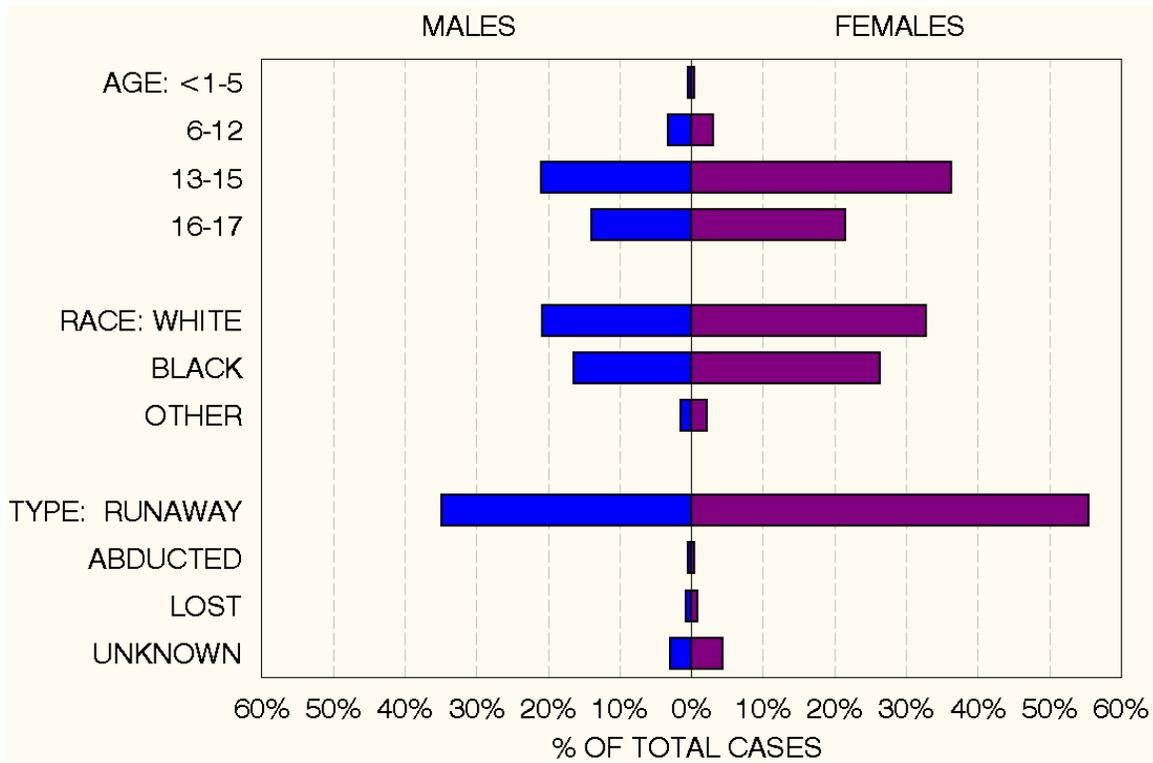


	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
NEW YORK STATE										
Cases Reported	30,549	27,830	26,368	26,316	25,578	24,531	23,801	22,139	20,985	22,040
Cases Closed	28,949	26,419	27,846	28,840	26,012	24,755	24,562	22,273	20,654	21,431
Active End-of-Year	6,147	7,558	6,080	3,556	3,122	2,898	2,137	2,003	2,334	2,943
NEW YORK CITY										
Cases Reported	9,166	7,060	6,244	7,067	6,847	6,628	6,640	5,699	4,534	4,505
Cases Closed	7,667	5,600	7,902	9,700	7,393	6,718	7,220	5,916	4,219	4,041
Active End-of-Year	5,110	6,570	4,879	2,246	1,700	1,610	1,030	813	1,128	1,592
SUBURBAN NEW YORK CITY										
Cases Reported	7,080	6,467	6,234	6,419	6,574	6,342	5,989	5,597	5,916	6,312
Cases Closed	7,038	6,515	6,041	6,362	6,400	6,480	6,013	5,617	5,860	6,227
Active End-of-Year	405	357	453	510	684	546	522	502	558	643
UPSTATE										
Cases Reported	14,296	14,288	13,885	12,821	12,147	11,554	11,163	10,829	10,527	11,219
Cases Closed	14,241	14,298	13,762	12,768	12,208	11,554	11,321	10,732	10,566	11,153
Active End-of-Year	624	614	737	790	729	729	571	668	629	695

Note: Statewide totals include cases from non-New York State agencies not included in the three geographical areas. New York City includes Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens and Richmond counties; Suburban New York City includes Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester counties.

New York State Missing Children in 2003

CHARACTERISTICS OF CASES REPORTED

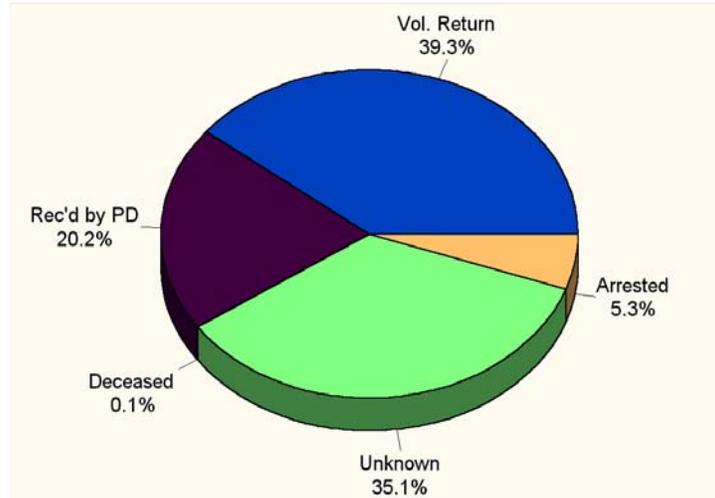


	TOTAL	AGE WHEN REPORTED MISSING				GENDER		RACE	
		< 1 - 5	6 - 12	13 - 15	16 - 17	Male	Female	White	Non-White
TOTAL	22,040	171	1,421	12,633	7,815	8,532	13,508	11,814	10,226
Runaway	19,898	3	1,151	11,560	7,184	7,661	12,237	10,641	9,257
Familial Abduction	128	81	38	3	6	60	68	66	62
Acquaintance Abduction	52	7	12	18	15	23	29	23	29
Stranger Abduction	6	2	1	1	2	4	2	3	3
Lost	340	5	46	182	107	148	192	221	119
Unknown	1,616	73	173	869	501	636	980	860	756

New York State Missing Children in 2003

CHARACTERISTICS OF CASES CLOSED

CIRCUMSTANCES OF RECOVERY

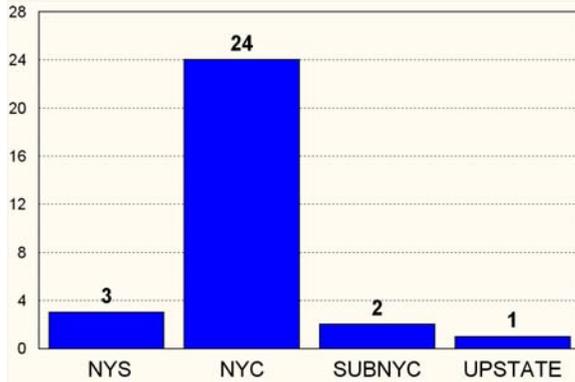


Circumstances of Recovery	TOTAL	AGE WHEN FOUND					GENDER		RACE	
		< 1 - 5	6 - 12	13 - 15	16 - 17	> 17	Male	Female	White	Non-White
TOTAL	21,431	167	1,291	11,920	7,843	210	8,300	13,131	11,612	9,819
Voluntary Return	8,425	39	502	4,757	3,073	54	3,380	5,045	4,865	3,560
Recovered by Law Enforcement	3,992	47	318	2,313	1,295	19	1,611	2,381	2,624	1,368
Recovered/Victimimized	330	6	34	166	118	6	146	184	219	111
Arrested	1,048	0	21	527	495	5	500	548	662	386
Arrested/Victimimized	95	0	0	44	49	2	37	58	59	36
Deceased	12	0	5	4	3	0	7	5	8	4
Other/Unknown	7,529	75	411	4,109	2,810	124	2,619	4,910	3,175	4,354

New York State Missing Children in 2003

LENGTH OF TIME ON THE REGISTER

MEDIAN DAYS TO CANCELLATION
(for Cases Closed During 2003)



CASE ENTRY TO CANCEL RATIO
(% of 2003 Case Entries Closed During 2003)



DAYS BETWEEN CASE ENTRY AND CANCELLATION
FOR CASES REPORTED DURING 2003

No. of Days	No. of Cases Closed	Cumulative Percent Closed
< 1	5,046	22.9
1	3,586	39.2
2	1,318	45.1
3	906	49.3
4	627	52.1
5	447	54.1
6	440	56.1
7	450	58.2
8	360	59.8
9	313	61.2
10	205	62.2
11	194	63.0
12	236	64.1
13	266	65.3
14	238	66.4
15	222	67.4
16 - 29	2,008	76.5
30 - 60	2,165	86.3
61 - 90	908	90.4
91 - 120	429	92.4
121 or more	421	94.3
Still Active	1,255	5.7
TOTAL	22,040	100.0

New York State Missing Children in 2003

REPORTING VOLUME BY COUNTY

	Cases Reported							Cases Closed							Cases Active	
	Total	Rate ¹	Runaway	Acquaint. Abduction	Familial Abduction	Stranger Abduction	Lost	Unknown	Total	Voluntary Return	Returned by P.D.	Arrested	Victimized	Deceased	Unknown	End of Year Active Cases
Albany	1,268	18.6	1,181	1	9	0	14	63	1,274	332	142	57	20	0	723	60
Allegany	15	1.1	14	0	0	0	0	1	15	1	6	4	1	0	3	0
Broome	445	9.2	409	2	5	0	4	25	438	243	132	21	8	0	34	22
Cattaraugus	107	4.4	97	1	0	0	1	8	107	35	44	16	2	0	10	5
Cayuga	137	6.0	121	0	0	0	11	5	137	49	75	3	2	0	8	1
Chautauqua	345	9.3	318	1	1	0	10	15	340	128	128	22	12	0	50	11
Chemung	220	9.0	212	2	0	0	1	5	219	134	45	15	4	0	21	8
Chenango	39	2.6	36	0	0	0	0	3	39	15	11	2	9	0	2	0
Clinton	65	3.0	59	0	0	0	4	2	65	23	16	11	1	0	14	0
Columbia	71	4.3	65	0	0	0	2	4	72	21	24	12	2	0	13	4
Cortland	46	3.5	41	0	0	0	2	3	46	20	12	11	0	0	3	0
Delaware	74	5.9	68	0	0	0	6	0	74	18	43	8	2	0	3	4
Dutchess	342	5.1	310	2	3	0	6	21	341	146	127	16	5	0	47	18
Erie	1,236	5.3	1,124	2	4	2	5	99	1,222	192	82	36	20	3	889	148
Essex	21	2.1	19	0	0	0	0	2	20	5	7	4	2	0	2	1
Franklin	54	4.2	52	0	0	0	1	1	54	28	19	3	0	0	4	0
Fulton	50	3.4	39	1	0	0	7	3	49	22	15	10	1	0	1	3
Genesee	79	4.6	69	5	0	0	1	4	79	51	21	0	1	0	6	0
Greene	26	2.3	23	0	0	0	0	3	26	3	9	11	0	0	3	0
Hamilton	1	0.9	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Herkimer	41	2.3	37	0	0	0	3	1	40	17	10	12	1	0	0	1
Jefferson	143	4.4	139	2	0	0	0	2	141	58	67	9	2	0	5	5
Lewis	6	0.7	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	2	3	1	0	0	0	0
Livingston	64	3.8	53	0	1	0	3	7	65	24	24	5	1	0	11	1
Madison	34	1.8	25	0	1	0	3	5	33	13	10	5	1	0	4	1
Monroe	1,265	6.6	1,228	2	0	0	4	31	1,284	354	325	88	12	0	505	101
Montgomery	46	3.3	40	0	0	0	6	0	46	16	13	13	1	0	3	2
Nassau	1,233	4.1	1,081	2	20	1	43	86	1,233	659	210	50	50	1	263	83
New York City ²	4,505	2.5	4,396	4	37	2	8	58	4,041	952	90	27	2	3	2,967	1,592

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Niagara	364	6.3	329	5	2	0	5	23	366	162	140	29	3	0	32	36
Oneida	512	8.8	470	0	2	0	26	14	510	285	143	42	16	0	24	17
Onondaga	988	8.1	246	0	0	1	3	738	944	452	397	66	7	0	22	95
Ontario	85	3.2	77	0	0	0	2	6	86	39	28	4	2	0	13	1
Orange	476	4.9	451	2	0	0	9	14	494	220	176	27	16	0	55	20
Orleans	39	3.1	35	0	0	0	0	4	41	22	11	3	0	0	5	1
Oswego	145	3.8	134	0	0	0	4	7	147	71	54	16	1	0	5	0
Otsego	15	1.0	13	0	0	0	1	1	16	6	6	3	0	0	1	0
Putnam	88	3.5	74	0	3	0	7	4	88	46	33	4	0	0	5	9
Rensselaer	367	9.3	338	1	2	0	9	17	366	129	70	20	2	0	145	12
Rockland	524	6.9	492	1	1	0	12	18	498	251	92	15	16	0	124	73
St. Lawrence	111	3.8	107	0	0	0	0	4	110	46	43	12	6	0	3	1
Saratoga	172	3.1	161	0	3	0	2	6	179	56	74	24	5	0	20	3
Schenectady	626	17.6	587	0	5	0	24	10	594	198	89	19	9	0	279	67
Schoharie	5	0.6	4	0	0	0	0	1	5	2	1	1	1	0	0	0
Schuyler	24	4.4	22	0	0	0	1	1	24	5	15	2	0	1	1	0
Seneca	29	3.3	27	0	0	0	1	1	28	16	7	2	0	0	3	1
Steuben	66	2.3	54	0	0	0	6	6	63	24	25	5	2	0	7	3
Suffolk	2,342	6.6	2,125	2	16	0	15	184	2,341	1,591	368	170	11	1	200	92
Sullivan	76	4.0	64	0	3	0	3	6	77	34	25	8	1	2	7	6
Tioga	31	2.0	30	0	0	0	0	1	30	9	9	6	1	0	5	2
Tompkins	122	5.8	115	0	0	0	3	4	122	36	29	14	2	0	41	3
Ulster	329	7.9	302	0	1	0	10	16	326	93	145	25	13	0	50	15
Warren	96	6.0	92	0	2	0	0	2	93	42	36	8	2	0	5	3
Washington	69	4.2	67	1	0	0	0	1	68	28	30	6	2	0	2	1
Wayne	114	4.1	103	1	0	0	5	5	113	53	32	16	2	0	10	3
Westchester	2,213	10.6	2,086	12	6	0	46	63	2,155	935	193	123	44	1	859	395
Wyoming	12	1.0	11	0	0	0	0	1	12	4	3	0	0	0	5	0
Yates	18	2.6	16	0	0	0	1	1	18	8	6	1	0	0	3	0
Non-NYS	4	--	3	0	1	0	0	0	10	1	1	0	4	0	4	13
NYS Total	22,040	4.8	19,898	52	128	6	340	1,616	21,431	8,425	3,992	1,143	330	12	7,529	2,943

¹ Rate per 1,000 children

² Includes the counties of Bronx, Kings, Queens, New York and Richmond