

# National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

## Children's Rights

<https://www.missingkids.org/theissues/longtermmissing>

## Campaign and Advocacy

Get the latest updates from NCMEC

Long-term missing children cases are those in which all viable leads have been thoroughly investigated, but the child has not been recovered. Just because a case remains unsolved for many years does not make it less important to the families, law enforcement, or NCMEC. Our team also provides support for unidentified remains of children.

Most children reported missing to NCMEC are recovered safely after a relatively brief period of time. However, Family Abduction cases have the longest average time missing, with an average time of 326 days, versus cases of runaways which average the shortest time missing at 61 days.

In a recent analysis of cases reported to NCMEC between 2014 and 2016.<sup>1</sup>

**98%**

of cases involved children who ran away or were abducted by a family member.

**3,147**

children were recovered after being missing 6 months or longer.

**151**

children were recovered after having been missing for a decade or longer.

*Visit NCMEC's Long Term Missing & Unidentified Child Map*

NCMEC's Forensic Services Unit works with industry experts to help find long-term missing children and to identify deceased children remains. Members of this unit can assist law enforcement, medical examiners, and coroners by:

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