

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

Children's Rights

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

Campaign and Advocacy

Get the latest updates from NCMEC

NCMEC defines an Endangered Runaway as a child under the age of 18 who is missing on his or her own accord and whose whereabouts are unknown to their parent or legal guardian. These children are highly vulnerable and can experience homelessness when they are missing. According to a recent [report from Chapin Hall](#), 1 in 30 adolescent minors ages 13 to 17 endures some form of homelessness in a year.

The risk factors for running away from home or state care are multifaceted, and there is no *typical Endangered Runaway*.

The **following factors** may put youth at an increased risk of running away or becoming homeless:

77%
of Endangered Runaways reported to NCMEC were between 15-17 years old.

87%
of these missing children had at least one reported risk factor and
62%
had two or more risk factors.

To search for a missing child and view posters of those missing in your area [click here](#).

NCMEC partners with a variety of organizations that share our commitment to helping families and young people stay safe.

NCMEC is proud to partner with the National Runaway Safeline. We encourage local communities to implement their evidence-based [Let's Talk: Runaway Prevention Curriculum](#).

For families with a missing or sexually exploited child, NCMEC provides [support services](#) like crisis intervention and local counseling referrals to appropriate professionals. Our [Team HOPE](#) program connects families with peers who have had similar experiences and can offer coping skills and compassion. When a missing child is recovered, we help families with the reunification process, including mental health services and travel assistance.

With help from our private-sector photo partners, we coordinate the creation and dissemination of [missing child posters](#) to targeted geographic areas to help generate leads and engage the public in the search.

The public can also help in the recovery efforts by signing up in [The ADAM Program](#) to receive missing child alerts in their area.

Twenty-five years ago, the song "Runaway Train" featured missing children in its music video and helped close 21 cases! For the 25th anniversary of the song, we reimagined "Runaway Train" with new artists and a dynamic music video that updates itself with missing children from the [NCMEC database](#) based on a user's location. That means more missing children in front of more people in more relevant places.

Watch #RunawayTrain25 and help us bring home #Missingkids.

[RunawayTrain25.com](#)

Resources

Copyright National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. All rights reserved.

This Web site is funded, in part, through a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Neither the U.S. Department of Justice nor any of its components operate, control, are responsible for, or necessarily endorse, this Web site (including, without limitation, its content, technical infrastructure, and policies, and any services or tools provided).

3.2.21.P