

# Ohio AG: Fewer children were reported missing in 2024

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COLUMBUS, Ohio - A new report from Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost says missing persons cases are declining and the recovery rate for missing children is 96.5%.

The 2024 Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse Report, released ahead of May 25's National Missing Children's Day, found that a total of 21,342 people were reported missing in Ohio last year, which is 1,032 less cases than the previous year. Of the total missing people, 16,404 were children, which is 1,001 fewer than in 2023.

The report also found that 96.5% of missing children, or 15,834, were safely recovered by the end of the year. Three children were found deceased.

The Clearinghouse Report is the product of collaboration between local law enforcement agencies and the National Crime Information Center, operated by the U.S. Department of Justice. The National Crime Information Center maintains a database where local agencies enter missing person reports and update cases when individuals are found.

The report also provides a detailed breakdown of missing children cases in 2024. Ohio recorded 8,415 runaway cases involving children who left home without permission, 37 abductions by noncustodial parents, and nine stranger abductions.

The state also issued 13 AMBER alerts for 15 children last year, with 14 recovered safely and one found deceased. Additionally, 17 Endangered Missing Child Alerts were issued for 18 children, with 17 recovered safely and one found deceased.

To strengthen outreach and educational opportunities for local law enforcement on the topic, the attorney general's Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy also unveiled a new video training officers on their responsibilities for when a child is reported missing, as well as identifying available resources. The training is part of a "roll-call refresher" series providing short instructional videos for officers.

"Every missing person is someone to somebody –a child, sibling, loved one or friend," Yost said in a release. "I am proud of the dedication shown by Ohio law

enforcement to keep Ohio's children safe and commit that my office will continue to do everything in its power to support that mission."