

INFOCUS



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Child Protection: Law Enforcement

Few things are more disturbing than the abduction or exploitation of a child. Through innovative programs, training, and technical assistance, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) helps federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement protect young people and respond quickly and effectively when a child is maltreated, abducted, or exploited.

Programs

Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program

OJJDP's national network of 61 task forces—representing more than 5,400 law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies—investigates and prosecutes technology-facilitated crimes against children. Funding supports the task forces, training and technical assistance, and the development of investigative tools and technologies. The task forces have reviewed approximately 1.3 million reports of online child exploitation to date, resulting in the arrest of more than 118,700 suspects.

► **Funding for fiscal years 2019–2021: \$108.6 million**

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

The center is an information clearinghouse and resource on missing and exploited children. It operates a 24-hour missing children's hotline, a CyberTipline that processes reports of online child sexual exploitation, and a Child Victim Identification Program to help authorities determine the identities of victims of child sexual abuse material. The center's Team Adam provides rapid onsite assistance to law enforcement agencies and families in critical child abduction and missing child cases. During fiscal year 2021, the center helped to resolve cases involving 27,268 children who were reported missing.

► **Funding for fiscal years 2019–2021: \$105.9 million**

AMBER Alert Program

AMBER Alert systems in each state issue alerts to the public—on highway signs, radio, television, wireless devices, and the Internet—when law enforcement determines that an abducted child is in imminent danger. OJJDP offers training to enhance the state systems and expand AMBER Alert in Indian country. The Office also hosts an annual AMBER Alert symposium. By the end of 2021, a total of 1,111 children had been successfully recovered through the AMBER Alert program.

► **Funding for fiscal years 2019–2021: \$13.2 million**

For More Information

Learn more about OJJDP's child protection programs by visiting the Office's [National Center for Missing & Exploited Children](#), [Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program](#), and [Missing and Exploited Children](#) webpages.

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Funding

Between fiscal years 2019 and 2021, OJJDP awarded nearly \$222.7 million to help law enforcement agencies protect children and youth from harm.

- **Fiscal Year 2021—\$79 million**
- **Fiscal Year 2020—\$74.6 million**
- **Fiscal Year 2019—\$74.1 million**

From the Field

OJJDP's annual National Law Enforcement Training on Child Exploitation expands the knowledge of law enforcement officers, digital forensic examiners, and prosecutors who investigate or prosecute technology-facilitated crimes against children.

In 2021, nearly 2,350 professionals from the U.S., Brazil, Canada, Chile, Philippines, and Turkey attended the virtual event. The 5-day training offered 120 sessions on topics such as emerging investigative strategies, identifying and working with victims, understanding predatory behaviors, and officer wellness and safety.

A participating federal analyst noted that the "diverse presentations... all relate back to real time investigations." A state prosecutor expressed appreciation for the "many new techniques" taught and the opportunity to network with peers. "[It is] comforting to know that there are others out there sharing the same issues and concerns in this complicated area of law," said the attendee.

OJJDP

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Delinquency Prevention
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