

INFOCUS



Caren Harp, Administrator

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Child Protection: Law Enforcement

The safety and well-being of children are central to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP's) mission. OJJDP enhances the efforts of federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies who investigate cases of missing, abducted, and exploited children; ensure that victims receive trauma-informed care; and bring offenders to justice.

Programs

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 children whose images appear in pornography. The center's **Team Adam** provides rapid onsite assistance to law enforcement agencies and families in critical cases. During fiscal year 2019, the center helped to resolve cases involving 27,577 children who were reported missing.

▶ **Funding for fiscal years 2017–2019: \$90.2 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 a child has been abducted and 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 2019, a total of 977 children had been successfully recovered through the AMBER Alert program.

▶ **Funding for fiscal years 2017–2019: \$10.2 million**

Internet Crimes Against Children Program

This program comprises a national network of 61 task forces representing more than 4,500 law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies, and has trained nearly 732,000 people to date on how to investigate and prosecute technology-facilitated crimes against children. Since the program's inception through 2019, the task forces have reviewed more than 973,000 reports of online child exploitation, resulting in the arrest of more than 100,500 suspects.

▶ **Funding for fiscal years 2017–2019: \$94.4 million**

For More Information

Access more information about OJJDP's child protection programs at <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/programs/child-abuse-prevention>.

Funding

Between fiscal years 2017 and 2019, OJJDP awarded nearly \$195 million to help law enforcement agencies protect children and youth from harm.

- ▶ **Fiscal Year 2019—\$74 million**
- ▶ **Fiscal Year 2018—\$62.8 million**
- ▶ **Fiscal Year 2017—\$58 million**

From the Field

Each year, the Internet Crimes Against Children task forces lead a nationwide effort called Operation Broken Heart.

The operation targets suspects who produce, distribute, receive, and possess child pornography; engage children online for sexual purposes; participate in the sex trafficking of children; and travel to other states or countries to sexually abuse children.

During Operation Broken Heart in 2019, the task forces investigated more than 18,500 reports of technology-facilitated crimes against children, resulting in the arrest of nearly 1,700 suspected online child sex offenders.

Task force members identified 308 offenders who either produced child pornography or committed child sexual abuse, and 357 children who suffered sexual abuse or were exploited in the production of child pornography.



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