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.