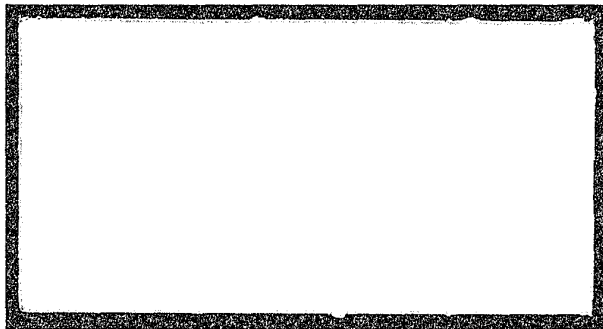


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**MISSOURI
UNIFORM LAW ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM
MISSING PERSONS REPORT
1985 - 1988**

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March 1990

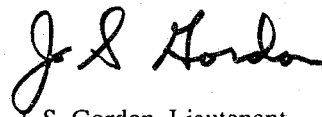
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FOREWORD

Statistics provided in this publication are a measure of the seriousness of the missing persons problem. Thousands of persons are reported missing in Missouri each year with the largest group being children under the age of seventeen.

While authorities are concerned about all missing persons, the vulnerability of children causes a greater concern for that group. Even though many leave voluntarily and return home safely, thousands are exposed to serious danger, exploitation, and even death while they are missing.

The Missing Persons Unit of the Missouri State Highway Patrol is a central repository for information and a resource center for state and national contacts which aid in the location of missing persons. It is through their efforts, along with local law enforcement and private agencies, that many missing persons are located each year. Hopefully, this information provided by the Statistical Analysis Center will present a clear picture of the problem and assist various agencies in justifying time and funds being allocated for locating those persons who are reported missing.

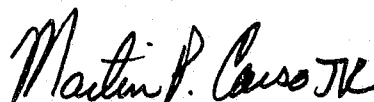


J. S. Gordon, Lieutenant
Director, Missing Persons Unit
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The data used in this report were obtained from the Missouri Uniform Law Enforcement System (MULES). Law enforcement agencies throughout the State report their missing person cases to MULES. Special recognition is given to these agencies, their officers, and dispatchers who conscientiously report such cases into this information system. They not only increase the probability of the missing person being found but also provide valuable data which can be used to identify and analyze this problem as is demonstrated by the findings described in this report.

Over the past years, the U. S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics has supported, through grant funds, the Missouri Statistical Analysis Center's efforts in providing publications and information services to the Missouri criminal justice community.



Martin P. Carso Jr., Director
Statistical Analysis Center
Missouri State Highway Patrol

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report describes the findings of a study conducted on the missing person problem in the State of Missouri with special emphasis on missing children. Data used in this study were obtained from the Missouri Uniform Law Enforcement System (MULES). All missing person cases coming to the attention of law enforcement agencies in the State are required by law to be entered in this information system via its terminal communications network. In this study, an analysis was conducted on all active missing person cases in MULES during calendar years 1985 through 1988 with the primary focus being directed at cases active in the latest year (1988).

The intent of this study is to provide an understanding of the magnitude and characteristics of the State's missing person problem and, in particular, its missing children problem. The findings will, hopefully, provide valuable insights to policymakers and other interested individuals attempting to address this problem.

The following is a description of the major findings of this study:

- In 1988, there was a total of 13,549 active missing person cases in MULES. From 1985 through 1988, there has been an increase each year in the number of missing person cases. The greatest rate of change occurred between 1985 and 1986 with a 23.2% increase. Comparing 1985 activity levels with 1988, there was an overall increase of 37.9% during the four year period. In 1988, one person was reported missing in MULES every 41 minutes.
- When examining the State's missing person problem, the majority of cases involve children. Of all 1988 MULES active missing person cases, 83.8% or 11,357 involved a juvenile under the age of 17. A child was reported missing every 49 minutes during 1988. The primary reason for children being missing was they ran away. Of all children missing in 1988, 85.9% ran away, 1.5% involved parental abductions, 0.1% were stranger abductions, and in 12.5% the reason for missing was not known.
- Children missing on a repetitive basis constitute a sizable proportion of the State's problem. The 11,357 1988 MULES active missing children cases actually involved a total of 8,125 children.

Of the 8,125 children, 1,819 or 22.4% were missing more than once during the year. These 1,819 children accounted for 44.5% of all missing children cases active in MULES in 1988.

- The majority of children reported missing are found and their recovery occurs relatively soon after they are discovered missing. By the end of the year, the child had been found in 91.3% of all 1988 MULES active missing children cases. In another 3.2% of the cases, the case was canceled due to invalid or erroneous information. Also, in those instances where the child was found, 52.9% were returned within two days of being missing and 88.0% were found within 30 days.
- Of those children recovered, 118 were found as a result of being arrested for an offense other than being missing. In addition, one child died while missing. Another aspect of the missing children problem involves the degree to which children are victimized or physically/sexually abused while missing. Unfortunately, this study was unable to identify the true number of such incidents nor their nature.
- At the end of 1988, a total of 629 missing children cases were left unresolved in Missouri. The majority of these cases involved a child being missing for an extended time period. In 77.1% of the cases, they were missing for 31 days or more. In 31.0% of the cases they were missing for over 6 months. Missouri experienced a 37.6% increase in the number of unresolved cases carried in from the prior year in 1985 compared to the number carried out at the end of 1988.

Increased public awareness and policy initiatives can play a critical role in reducing the frequency of occurrence of children missing in the State as well as minimize the possibility of their being victimized or committing deviant social behavior while missing. The findings in this report justify the need for such concern.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Over the past few years, a great deal of attention has been focused on the issue of missing persons, particularly as it relates to children. On September 28, 1985, Missouri enacted the Missing Children's Law to address this problem. One of the provisions of the law specified that the Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP) institute a Missing Persons Unit as a central repository for the State. The mission of this Unit is to collect and disseminate information regarding missing persons in order to locate such persons, establish interstate and intrastate communications systems of information relating to missing children, and provide a centralized file for the exchange of information on missing children with appropriate private and federal agencies that serve as national coordinators of such incidents. In addition, mandatory reporting stipulations require specific public and private agencies, as well as the general public, to report incidents of missing children to the State repository.

During the time period this legislation was enacted and the Missing Persons Unit was being formed, the Highway Patrol Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) conducted a series of analyses using data from the Missouri Uniform Law Enforcement System (MULES). A report was produced entitled "Missing Person Report: 1984 Active Cases from the Statewide MULES System". The purpose of this publication was to provide much needed base-line information on missing persons in Missouri for policymakers undertaking the major program and policy initiatives to address this problem. The findings from this report provided an understanding of the magnitude of the State's missing person problem in terms of the number of children and adults actually missing. In addition, it provided valuable facts such as demographic characteristics of persons missing, how long they were missing, and what regions of the State were most affected by this problem.

Since 1985, the SAC has developed a series of computer programs to access the MULES Missing Person files and produce a series of output reports which are utilized by the MSHP Missing Persons Unit on a continuous basis. Some of these reports provide management-oriented statistical information so Missouri's missing person problem can be continually monitored while others are designed to satisfy operational case processing requirements.

At the request of the MSHP Missing Persons Unit as well as other public officials, the Missouri SAC has conducted a series of analyses on the State's missing person problem from 1985 through 1988 with emphasis on the latest year's experience (1988). The findings of these analyses are documented in this report. The MULES

missing persons files were again used as the primary source of data for these analyses.

The purpose of this report is similar to that of the first publication produced by the SAC. It is designed to provide Missouri policymakers with an up-to-date understanding of Missouri's missing person problem from a quantitative perspective as well as to provide factual information on the characteristics of the problem.

There are four subsequent sections to this report. The first describes the methodology used, including a description of the data source and research limitations which should be considered when interpreting the report's findings.

The second section describes the findings of analyses conducted on all missing person cases, both adult and juvenile, in Missouri. Most of the analyses center on missing person cases active in 1988. However, a trend analysis was conducted using missing person cases active from 1985 through 1988. The findings of these analyses are presented in the following topical format:

- Demographic Characteristics Analysis: 1988 Missing Person Cases
- Annual System Flow Analysis: 1988 Missing Person Cases
- Monthly System Flow Analysis: 1988 Missing Person Cases
- Missouri Missing Person Clock: New Cases Added in 1988
- Length of Time Between Date Missing and Date Entered in MULES: 1988 Missing Person Cases
- Length of Time Missing: Missing Person Cases Cleared or Located on or before 12/31/88
- Length of Time Missing: Missing Person Cases Still Active After 12/31/88
- Persons Missing One or More Times in 1988
- Demographic Characteristics Analysis: Missing Person Cases 1985-1988
- Annual System Flow Analysis: Missing Person Cases 1985- 1988
- Missouri Missing Person Clock: New Cases Added 1985-1988

The third section describes the findings of analyses which focused on missing children in the State of Missouri. Although a trend analysis was conducted using missing juvenile cases active from 1985 through 1988, the majority of the analyses center on cases active in 1988. The findings resulting from these analyses are presented in the following topical format:

- Demographic Characteristics Analysis: 1988 Missing Children Cases
- Classification of 1988 Missing Children Cases
- Children Missing One or More Times in 1988
- Annual System Flow Analysis: 1988 Missing Children Cases
- Monthly System Flow Analysis: 1988 Missing Children Cases
- Length of Time Between Date Missing and Date Entered in MULES: 1988 Missing Children Cases
- Length of Time Missing: Missing Children Cases Cleared or Located on or before 12/31/88
- Missing Children Dispositions: Cases Removed from the System in 1988
- Length of Time Missing: Missing Children Cases Still Active After 12/31/88
- Demographic Characteristics Analysis: Missing Children Cases from 1985 -1988
- Annual System Flow Analysis: Missing Children Cases 1985-1988
- County Analysis: 1988 Missing Children Cases

Conclusions drawn from these analyses are provided in the last section.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

This report describes the findings of descriptive statistical analyses conducted on missing person cases in Missouri from 1985 through 1988 with emphasis on the last year (1988). The purpose of this report is to make those persons directly involved or concerned with this issue aware of the magnitude and characteristics of the problem, especially as it relates to children.

2.1 DATA SOURCE: MULES SYSTEM

The data used in this analysis were derived from the Missouri Uniform Law Enforcement System (MULES). This information system is maintained by the Missouri State Highway Patrol. When missing person cases come to the attention of law enforcement agencies in Missouri, these agencies are required by law to enter the case in the MULES on-line system using its terminal communications network. Once entered in MULES, the case is automatically reported to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) in Washington, D.C. Whenever a person suspected of being missing comes to the attention of any law enforcement agency in the United States, one or both of these information systems can be queried via a terminal communications network to determine whether the individual is, in fact, a missing person. These information systems provide an invaluable service to law enforcement agencies for identifying and resolving missing person cases which come to their attention.

To perform the missing person analysis, data from the MULES on-line system reflecting all missing person cases active in a given calendar year were written to an historical file. Four historical calendar year files were produced reflecting all active missing person cases in MULES in calendar years 1985, 1986, 1987, and 1988. Missing person cases active in a given calendar year may have been active cases carried over from the prior year or cases added to the system during that year. An active missing person case may have been active for a very short time period (less than one day) or could have stayed active during the entire twelve month period.

A series of quality control measures was then taken to insure the data contained in these annual MULES missing person historical files were as accurate and complete as possible.

2.2 RESEARCH LIMITATIONS

Several research limitations of this study as well as its data source are discussed below and should be taken into consideration when interpreting the findings contained in this report.

- 1) The historical files used in these analyses were derived from the on-line MULES missing person file which contained only those cases reported to law enforcement agencies in the State. There is no way of knowing how many missing person cases occurred in the State of Missouri but were never reported to law enforcement agencies. As a result, unreported cases were not factored in the analysis and findings described in this report.
- 2) It is possible that some cases reported to law enforcement agencies were not entered in MULES and are not contained on the historical missing person files. There are a number of reasons non-reporting may occur. In some instances, law enforcement agencies may find the missing person during their initial field investigation of the case prior to reporting it to MULES. In such instances, the agency may not enter the case in MULES since the person was already found.
- 3) In the past, there have been instances where missing person cases in MULES have not been cleared in a timely manner when the individual was located. In these instances, the disposition of the case indicating the person was found may not have been entered because it was not provided to the reporting agency or because the reporting agency failed to enter the information. This would erroneously reduce the number of cleared cases and increase the number of active cases. As with the preceding two database limitations, there is no way of knowing how often this problem occurred. However, it is not considered a large one because MULES has instituted quality control procedures requiring the reporting agency and the MSHP Missing Persons Unit to periodically review and update all 'old' active missing person cases.
- 4) There are two types of superfluous records contained in MULES: 1) Test records and 2) Duplicate records. Quality control software programs were developed and utilized to access the MULES annual missing person historical files and, using a predefined set of logic, remove these superfluous records from the databases. It is likely, however, that a few test and/or duplicate records remain on these files. In addition, it is likely that a small number of missing person case records were identified as test and/or duplicate records and removed from the files when they, in fact, were not.

- 5) The various dates captured in MULES were problematic to some extent. In a few instances, the date of birth was entered the same as the date of missing, date entered, or date of clear/cancel/locate. Quality control programs have been developed to compare these date fields and make corrections where possible.
- 6) Certain Missouri municipal law enforcement agencies jurisdictional boundaries fall in more than one county and missing children cases reported by the agency cannot be broken out by the individual counties affected. For instance, missing children cases reported by the Kansas City Police Department may occur in Platte, Clay, or Jackson counties. Because missing children case activity levels for these individual counties cannot be identified, the activity for Jackson, Platte, and Clay counties has been combined in the section of this report dealing with the county-by-county analysis of 1988 missing children cases (Section 4.12). The same situation occurs for missing children cases reported by the Sikeston Police Department. For that reason, the counties of Scott and New Madrid have been combined in this section of the report as well.
- 7) Most of the findings of this report are based on an analysis of missing person cases active in MULES in a given calendar year and do not represent the actual number of individuals missing during that year. If the same person was missing more than once, they would be counted each time they were missing. Two sections of this report, however, do provide the findings of an analysis identifying the actual number of persons and children involved in missing person incidents in Missouri (Sections 3.8 and 4.3).

3.0 MISSING PERSON ANALYSIS

In order to obtain a comprehensive view of the missing person problem in the State of Missouri, a series of analyses was performed on all cases active in the MULES missing

person system from 1985 through 1988 with emphasis being placed on the last year, 1988. The findings from these analyses are described in this section.

3.1 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS ANALYSIS: 1988 MISSING PERSON CASES

To obtain an understanding of the types of individuals making up the missing person population in the State of Missouri, a series of analyses was completed to identify their demographic characteristics. These

analyses identify the ratio of adults to juveniles, males to females, and whites to blacks and other races. The findings from these analyses are displayed in Figure 3.1.1. Following is a discussion of the findings.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS: There was a total of 13,549 active missing person cases in Missouri in 1988. The vast majority of these cases involved juveniles (83.8%). Adults accounted for 16.2% of the total. Of all cases, there were slightly more females involved (51.6%) than males (48.4%). Also, in relation to race, 69.0% were white, 30.4% were black, and 0.3% were composed of other races. When considering race, please note that in 0.3% of the cases, the race was unknown.

TOTAL NUMBER OF 1988 MISSING PERSON CASES IN MISSOURI

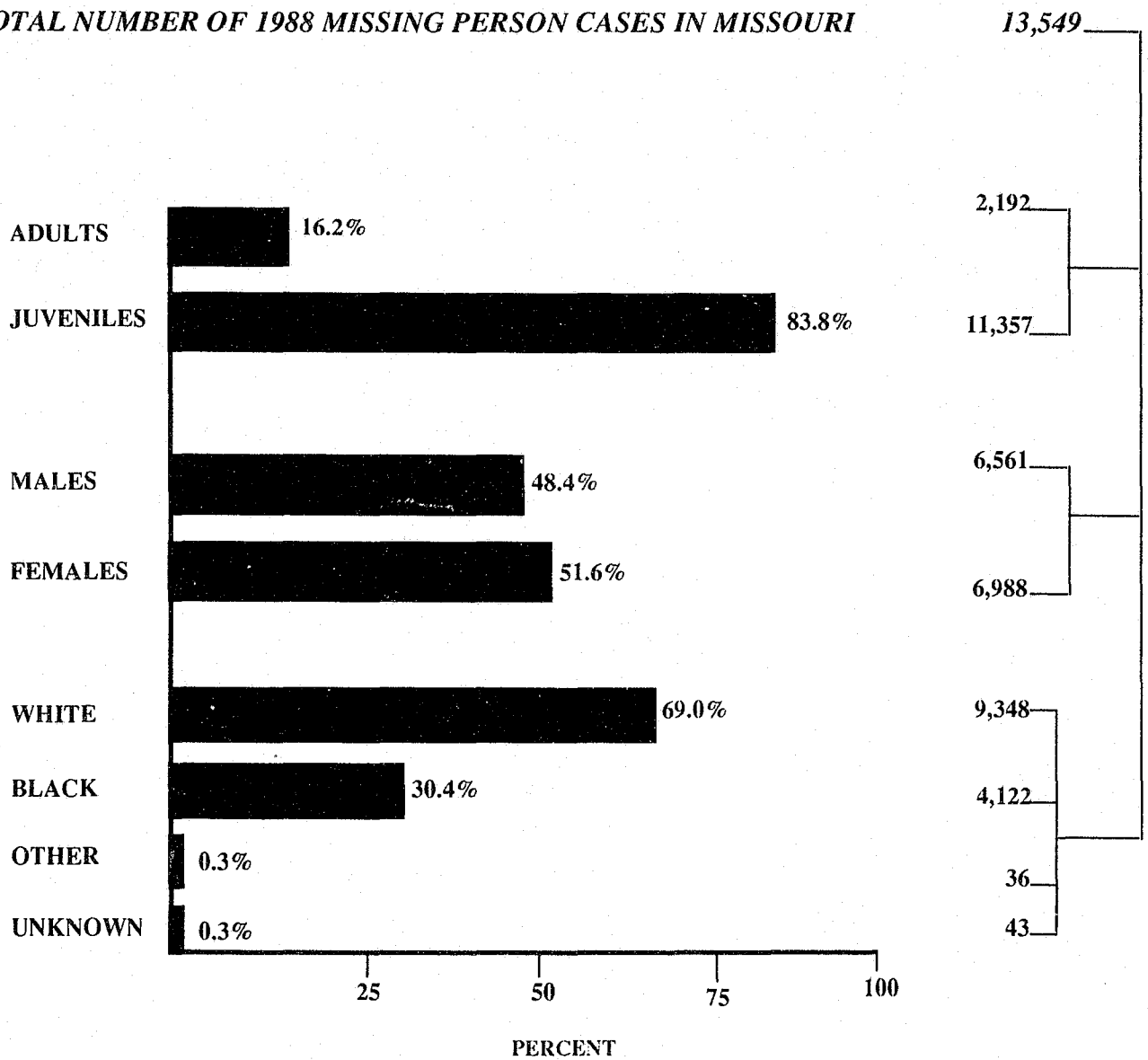


FIGURE 3.1.1
DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS:
PERSONS INVOLVED IN 1988 MISSING PERSON CASES

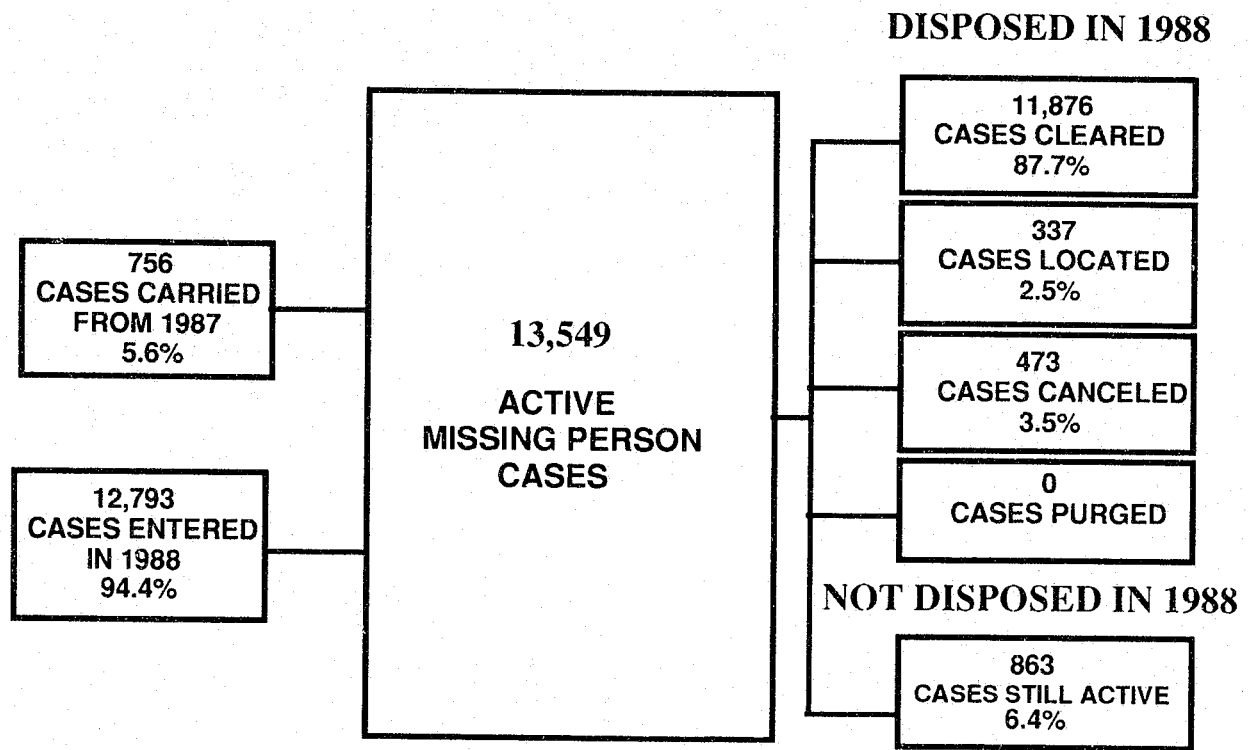
3.2 ANNUAL SYSTEM FLOW ANALYSIS: 1988 MISSING PERSON CASES

A series of analyses was performed to identify the annual processing flow characteristics of the 13,549 missing person cases active in 1988. System flow refers to how cases entered and exited MULES. Cases entered the system in one of two ways. Some cases were carried over from the previous year. These cases were active sometime in 1988 because the individuals had not been found or the case had not been removed for any other reason prior to the start of the year. The second method of entry involves new cases added to the system throughout 1988.

Cases exit the system in a number of ways. The dispositions of CLEARED and LOCATED indicate the missing person was found. The CLEARED disposition indicates the person was found either by the law enforcement agency originating the missing person report or by another law enforcement agency who relied on the originating agency to dispose of the case from the system.

The LOCATED disposition indicates the person was found by a law enforcement agency other than the one originating the missing person report and the locating agency disposed of the case in the system. Other cases were CANCELED which means the originating agency determined the record was invalid or in error for one reason or another and removed it from the system. Cases can exit the system through a PURGE process. In the case of an adult missing person, an active case is purged seven years after date of entry. For a juvenile, an active case is purged seven years after the date of emancipation (their 17th birthday). The final way cases can exit the system is as ACTIVE cases. These cases are not resolved by the end of 1988 and are carried over into 1989. Figure 3.2.1 displays the results of these analyses. Following is a discussion of findings.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS: *It should be noted that a large majority of cases received a final disposition during the year. In over 90% of the total cases, the individual was found (87.7% cleared and 2.5% located). In 3.5% of the cases, the case was canceled due to invalid or erroneous information. No cases were purged during 1988. At year-end, 863 or 6.4% of the cases were unresolved and carried into 1989. At the end of 1987, 756 of the cases were unresolved and carried into 1988. This was a 14.2% increase in the number of active cases carried into 1989 as compared to the number of active cases carried into 1988.*



**FIGURE 3.2.1
ANNUAL SYSTEM FLOW ANALYSIS: 1988 MISSING
PERSON CASES**

3.3 MONTHLY SYSTEM FLOW ANALYSIS: 1988 MISSING PERSON CASES

A series of analyses was conducted to identify the monthly system flow of active missing person cases in MULES for 1988. In addition, the TOTAL column displays the annual system flow. The first row (CARRY-IN) gives the number of active cases carried into the month from the previous month. The second row (ADD) gives the number of cases added to the system during the month. The third row (TOTAL ACTIVE) gives the total cases active in the month and is the sum of rows one and two. The next four rows (CLEARED, LOCATED, CAN-

CELED, and PURGED) deal with final case dispositions. The seventh row (TOTAL REMOVED) gives the total number of cases removed from the system each month and is a sum of the preceding four rows. The final row (CARRY-OUT) represents the number of cases still active at the end of each month and is the difference between the number active in the month and the number removed. The results of these analyses are displayed in Table 3.3.1. The following is a discussion of findings.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS: *These monthly figures underscore the fact that missing person cases in MULES in 1988 were in constant flux. Each month a sizeable number of cases were added, removed, and some were left unresolved. In 1988, the average number of active cases found in MULES per month was 1,129. September had the highest number of active cases with 2,142. December had the lowest number of active cases with 1,649.*

An average of 1,057 cases were removed from the system on a monthly basis as a result of receiving a final disposition. October was again the most active month with 1,255 cases being removed from the system. December had the lowest activity with 786 cases being removed during that time period.

An average of 1,066 new missing person cases were entered in MULES on a monthly basis in 1988. October was the highest month with 1,226 cases being added. The winter months (November, December, January, and February) had the least number of additions compared to all other months. The following is a rank order of missing person cases added by month.

NEW CASES ADDED	
MONTH	FREQUENCY
October	1,226
May	1,195
September	1,174
August	1,165
March	1,100
April	1,074
July	1,063
June	1,031
January	1,023
November	998
February	950
December	794

TABLE 3.3.1
MONTHLY SYSTEM FLOW ANALYSIS: 1988 MISSING PERSON CASES

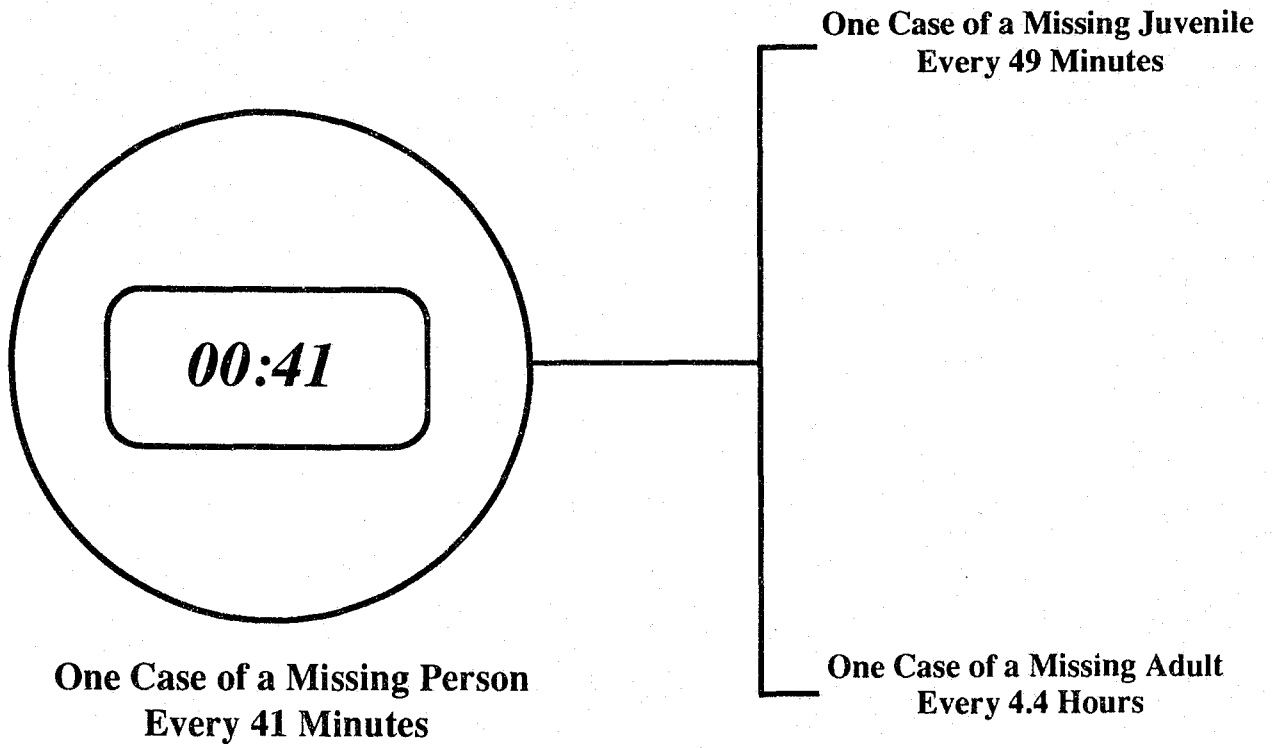
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
CARRY-IN	756	783	785	802	806	844	883	929	968	910	881	855	756
ADD	1,023	950	1,100	1,074	1,195	1,031	1,063	1,165	1,174	1,226	998	794	12,793
TOTAL ACTIVE	1,779	1,733	1,885	1,876	2,001	1,875	1,946	2,094	2,142	2,136	1,879	1,649	13,549
CLEARED	932	889	1,029	1,008	1,081	932	943	1,058	1,134	1,165	972	733	11,876
LOCATED	28	28	23	24	27	16	28	33	41	42	20	27	337
CANCELED	36	31	31	38	49	44	46	35	57	48	32	26	473
PURGED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL REMOVED	996	948	1,083	1,070	1,157	992	1,017	1,126	1,232	1,255	1,024	786	12,686
CARRY-OUT	783	785	802	806	844	883	929	968	910	881	855	863	863

3.4 MISSOURI MISSING PERSON CLOCK: NEW CASES ADDED IN 1988

Another way of looking at the incidence of missing person cases is in the form of a missing person clock. The missing person clock summarizes missing person activity in the State of Missouri during 1988 in relation to time. The figures presented in this clock were arrived at by dividing the number of new missing person cases added to MULES during 1988 by the number of hours and minutes in that year. Only new cases (adds) were used because including old cases from 1987 (carry-ins) would have resulted in a misrepresentation of the actual rate at which new cases occurred during calendar year 1988.

This mode of data presentation does not imply a regularity in the occurrence of missing person cases; rather it represents the annual rate of missing person incidents to fixed time intervals. Figure 3.4.1 represents missing person activity in the State of Missouri during 1988 in relation to time.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS: *In 1988 in the State of Missouri one missing person case was reported every 41 minutes in MULES. One missing juvenile was reported every 49 minutes and one missing adult every 4.4 hours.*



**FIGURE 3.4.1
MISSOURI MISSING PERSON CLOCK: NEW CASES
ADDED IN 1988**

3.5 LENGTH OF TIME BETWEEN DATE MISSING AND DATE ENTERED IN MULES: 1988 MISSING PERSON CASES

One critical factor which may effect the ability of law enforcement agencies to find missing persons is the length of time between when the person was discovered missing and when the law enforcement agency was notified of the case and reported it in MULES. An

analysis was conducted to determine the length of time it takes to enter the person's case in MULES missing person file after the person has been found missing. The results of this analysis are displayed in Figure 3.5.1.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS: Of the 13,549 missing person cases active in 1988, 63.5% were entered in MULES on the same day the person was found missing. From an accumulative perspective, over 90% of the cases were entered in the system within three days. From these analyses, it is concluded that most cases are entered in the system promptly upon discovery. The figures also show a small number of cases took significantly longer to be entered. In a small proportion of these cases, the case was so old the original date of entry was not maintained by the system and the earliest date of re-entry was used to compute lapse time. The number of these types of cases is relatively small and does not appreciably effect the analysis.

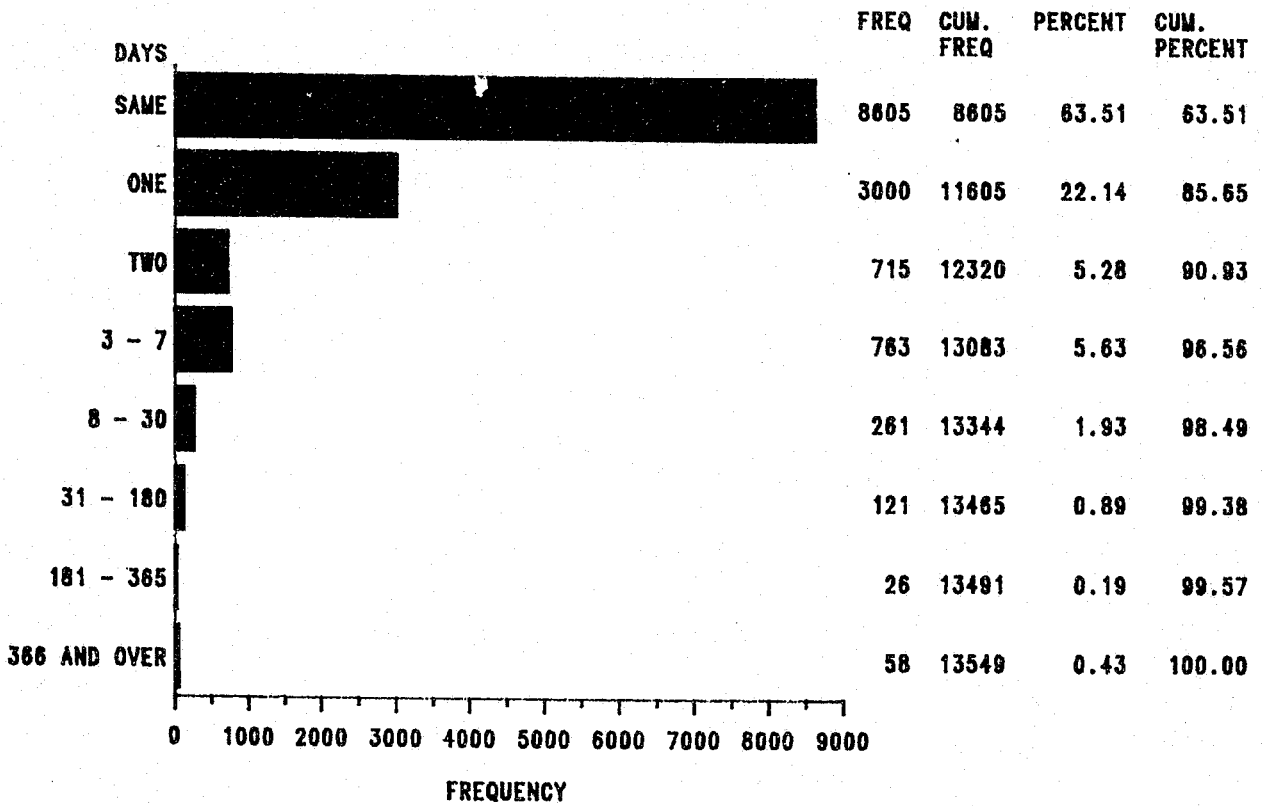


FIGURE 3.5.1
NUMBER OF DAYS ELAPSED BETWEEN DATE MISSING AND DATE ENTERED
IN MULES: 1988 MISSING PERSON CASES

3.6 LENGTH OF TIME MISSING: MISSING PERSON CASES CLEARED OR LOCATED ON OR BEFORE 12/31/88

As stated earlier, the vast majority of missing person cases active in 1988 were successfully resolved by locating the individual. However, the length of time the individual was actually missing prior to recovery is another important aspect of the problem. The longer the individual is missing the greater the likelihood they may be harmed or possibly do harm to others. In this section, an analysis was conducted on the 12,213 missing person cases receiving final dispositions of CLEARED or LOCATED in 1988. These dispositions indicate the person was found.

For purposes of this analysis, the length of time missing was computed by subtracting the date found missing from the date CLEARED or LOCATED. The results yield the number of days missing.

Figure 3.6.1 graphically depicts the length of time associated with the 12,213 missing person cases resulting in recovery of the individual.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS: *In 17.3% of the cases, the individual was found on the same day they were discovered missing. From an accumulative perspective, 41.8% were found within one day of discovery and 52.6% were found within two days after discovery. This means that slightly over half of the people who were found were accounted for within several days of being missing. Almost 72.7% were resolved within one week after discovery. Only 11.2% of the cases had been missing for one month to one year and 1.3% one year or longer. These figures demonstrate that in most cases where a missing person was found during 1988, the person was missing for only a short period of time.*

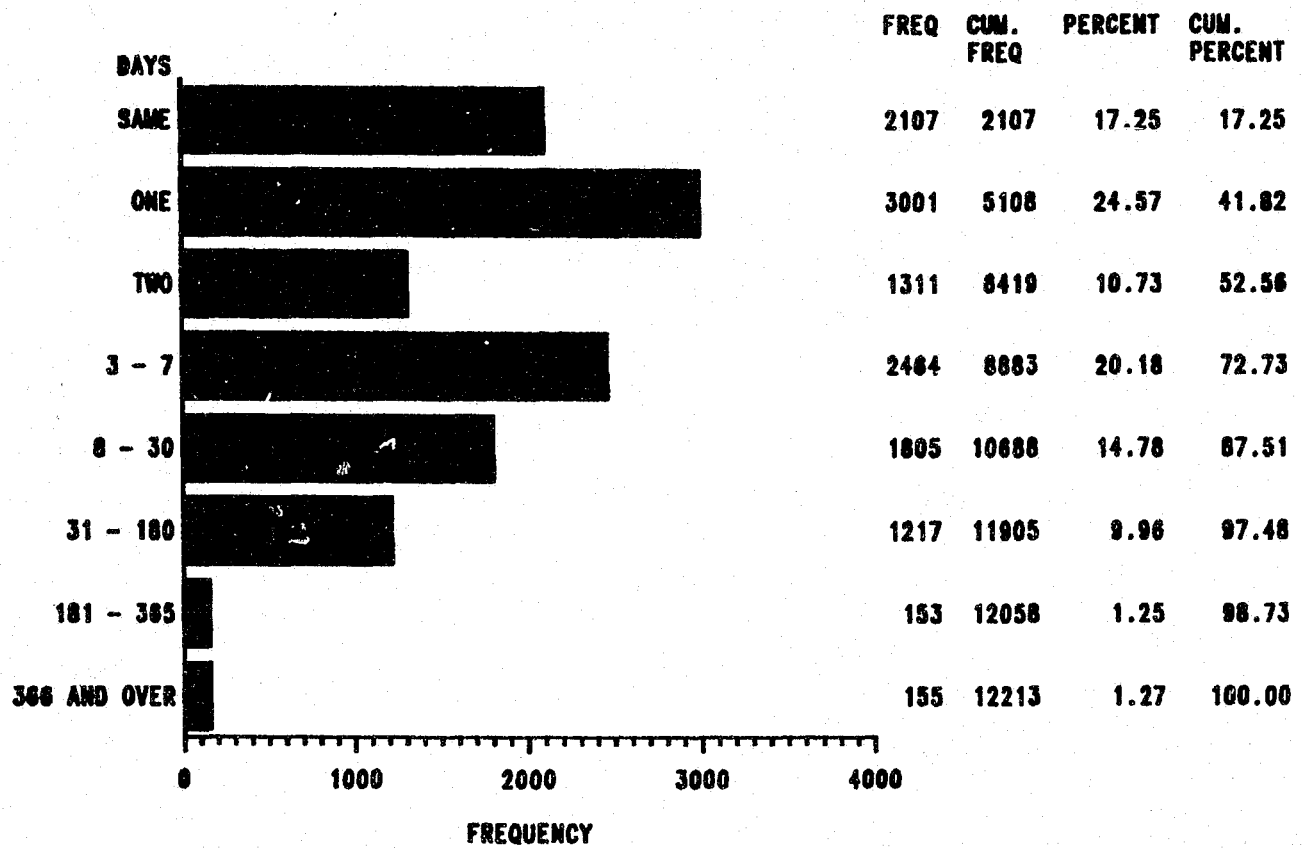


FIGURE 3.6.1
 NUMBER OF DAYS MISSING: MISSING PERSON CASES
 CLEARED OR LOCATED ON OR BEFORE 12/31/88

3.7 LENGTH OF TIME MISSING: MISSING PERSON CASES STILL ACTIVE AFTER 12/31/88

A total of 863 missing person cases were left unresolved in MULES in 1988 and were carried over into 1989. These cases are of critical importance due to the fact the persons involved were not yet found at the end of the year. An analysis was conducted on the length of time they had been missing. In this analysis, the length of time missing was calculated by subtracting the date of

missing from January 1, 1989. The result yields the number of days missing for active cases that remained in MULES after December 31, 1988.

Figure 3.7.1 graphically depicts the length of time associated with the 863 missing person cases carried-out in 1988.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS: Of the 863 cases still active at the end of 1988, only 19.9% had been missing for thirty days or less and 80.1% were missing for at least thirty-one days or more. In 26.9% of the cases, the person was missing for more than one year. This demonstrates that in situations where the missing person case was not resolved in 1988, the person, in most instances, had been missing for a substantial period of time.

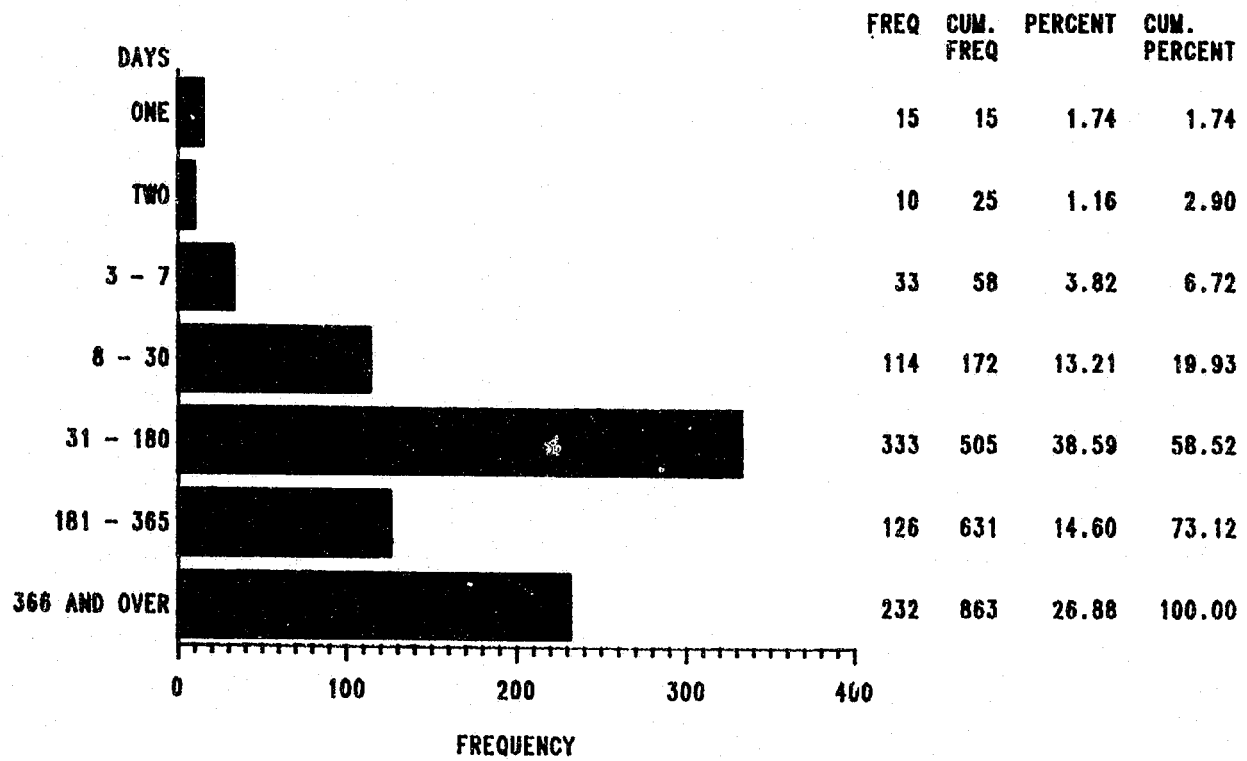


FIGURE 3.7.1
 NUMBER OF DAYS MISSING: MISSING PERSON CASES
 STILL ACTIVE AFTER 12/31/88

3.8 PERSONS MISSING ONE OR MORE TIMES IN 1988

Another way of viewing the missing person problem in Missouri is to identify those individuals who turn up missing on a repetitive basis. The habitual missing person is a special area of concern because each time they are missing a significant amount of public sector resources are devoted to their recovery. An analysis was conducted to identify the number of people who accounted for more than one missing person case in the MULES system during 1988. This analysis was done by matching cases within regions of the state on the basis of similarity in name and birth. The techniques used to make these matches attempted to maximize the probability of making a true match while minimizing the possibil-

ity of making an erroneous match. It is possible that some cases which should have been matched were missed by the matching routines. When testing these matching routines using annual missing person case data, some mismatches were found. However, the proportion of errors found were extremely small and would not significantly effect the findings derived from this analysis.

The findings of this analysis are found in Figure 3.8.1 and Table 3.8.1.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS: The 13,549 active missing person cases in MULES involved 10,158 people. Of the 10,158 people, 1,926 or 19.0% were missing more than once. These 1,926 people accounted for 39.2% of all missing person cases active in 1988.

Of the 1,926 who were missing more than once, 62.7% were missing twice, 19.2% were missing three times, and 18.1% were missing four or more times. The greatest number of times an individual was missing was 14.

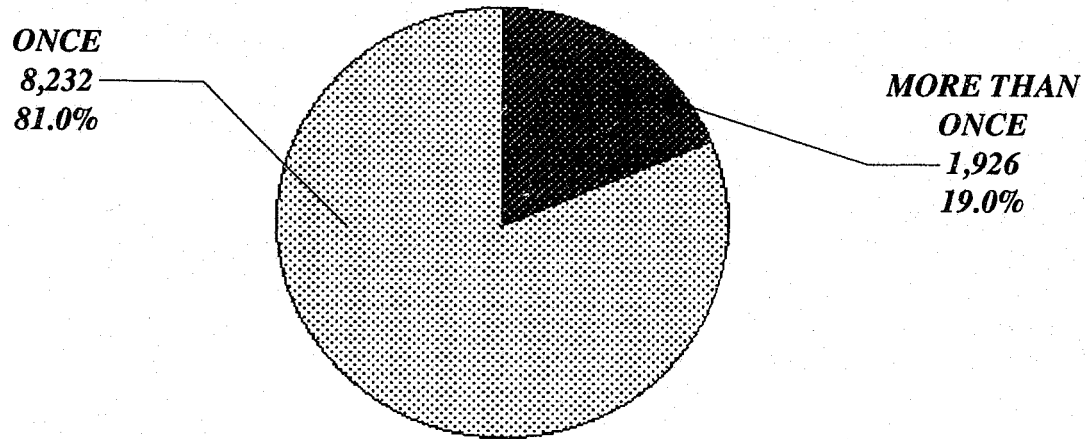


FIGURE 3.8.1
NUMBER OF PERSONS MISSING ONE OR MORE
TIMES IN 1988

TABLE 3.8.1
NUMBER OF TIMES PERSONS WERE MISSING IN 1988

Number Times Missing	Number	Percent of Total	Percent Missing More Than Once
1 Time	8,232	81.0	--
2 Times	1,207	11.9	62.7
3 Times	370	3.7	19.2
4 - 14 Times	349	3.4	18.1
TOTAL	10,158	100.0	100.0

3.9 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS ANALYSIS: MISSING PERSON CASES 1985-1988

In prior sections, the analyses focused on active cases in MULES during 1988. Another way of viewing the missing person problem and its characteristics is to view them over an extended time period to assess their trends. In this section an analysis was made of the demographic

characteristics of active missing person cases in MULES in 1985, 1986, 1987, and 1988. Table 3.9.1 and Figures 3.9.1 through 3.9.7 display the findings of this analysis.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS: *There has been an increase in the total number of active missing person cases each year for the past four years. The greatest increase was between 1985 and 1986 (23.2%). Cases involving children made up the majority each year. During 1985 and 1986 both children and adults increased by over 23%. During 1986 and 1987 adults increased by 6.5% while children cases increased 5.4%. From 1987 to 1988 adult cases decreased by 8.4% while children cases increased by 9.3%.*

Females outnumbered males throughout the four year period. During 1985 and 1986, females increased 24.8% and males increased 21.5%. During 1986 and 1987 males increased 6% while females increased 5.2%. During 1987 and 1988 males increased 8.7% and females increased 3.5%.

There was over a 23% increase in both black and white cases from 1985 to 1986. However, the trends over the following two years varied dramatically. There was a 17% increase in cases of black people missing from 1986 to 1987 and from 1987 to 1988. In the case of white people missing, there was a 2.3% increase from 1986 to 1987 and only a 1.9% increase from 1987 to 1988.

**TABLE 3.9.1
DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS: 1985-1988 MISSING
PERSON CASES**

	1985	1986	PERCENT CHANGE 85-86	1987	PERCENT CHANGE 86-87	1988	PERCENT CHANGE 87-88
TOTAL	9,826	12,109	23.2	12,787	5.6	13,549	6.0
ADULTS	1,816	2,247	23.7	2,392	6.5	2,192	-8.4
JUVENILES	8,010	9,862	23.1	10,395	5.4	11,357	9.3
MALES	4,683	5,690	21.5	6,034	6.0	6,561	8.7
FEMALES	5,143	6,419	24.8	6,753	5.2	6,988	3.5
WHITE	7,238	8,968	23.9	9,172	2.3	9,348	1.9
BLACK	2,449	3,011	23.0	3,523	17.0	4,122	17.0
OTHER	16	36	125.0	27	-25.0	36	33.3
UNKNOWN	123	94	--	65	--	43	--

TOTAL ACTIVE CASES

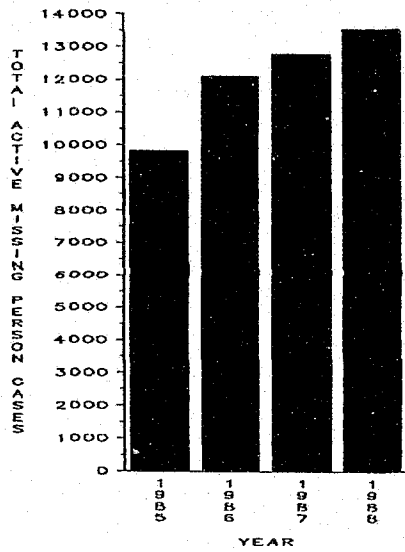


FIGURE 3.9.1
TOTAL ACTIVE CASES
1985 - 1988

ADULTS

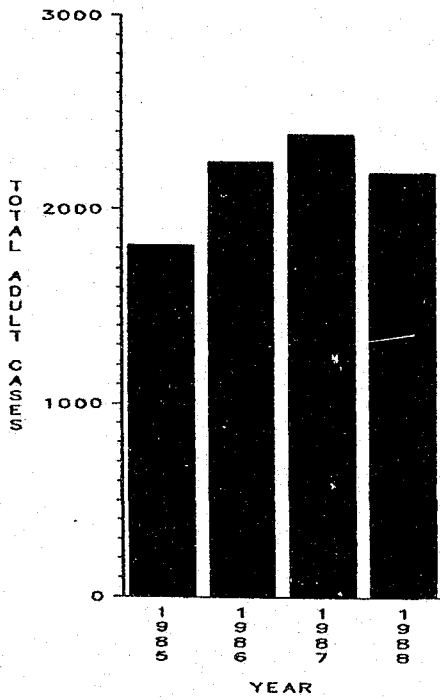


FIGURE 3.9.2
ADULTS
1985 - 1988

JUVENILES

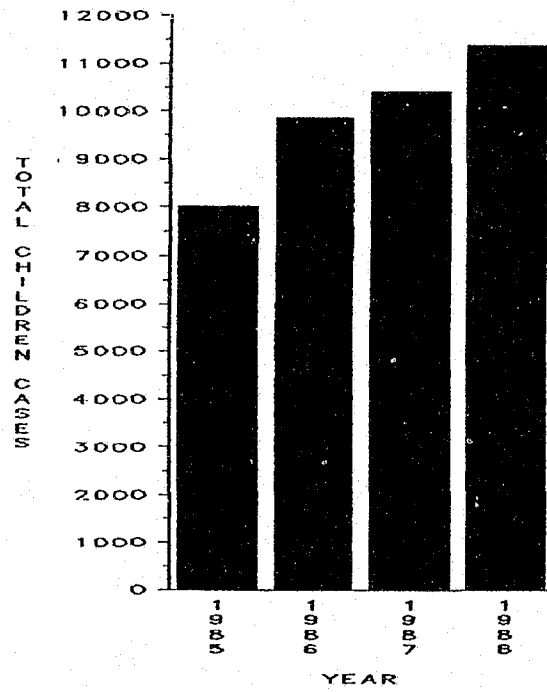


FIGURE 3.9.3
JUVENILES
1985 - 1988

MALES

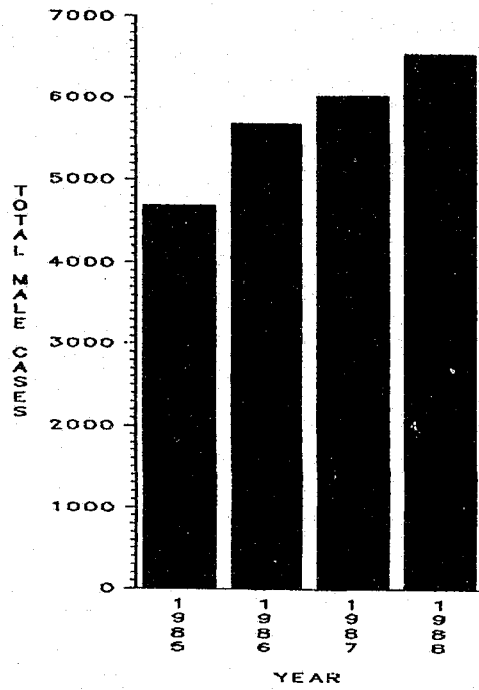


FIGURE 3.9.4
MALES
1985 - 1988

FEMALES

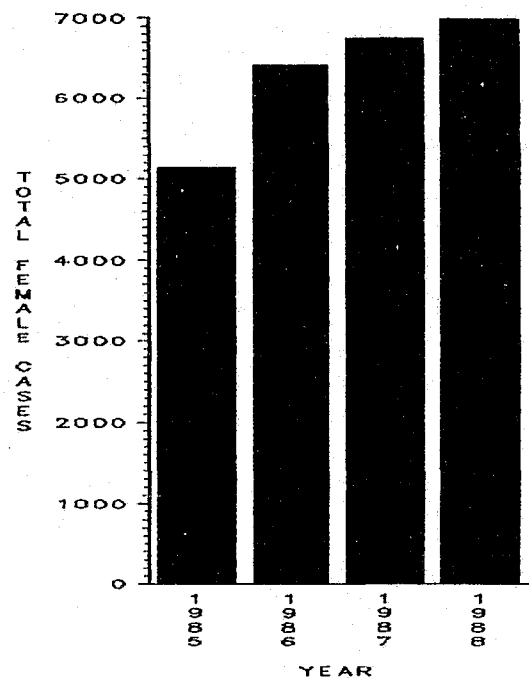


FIGURE 3.9.5
FEMALES
1985 - 1988

WHITES

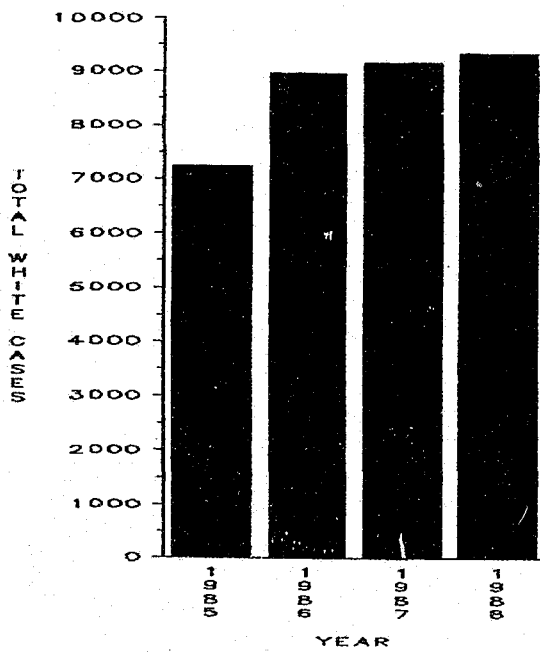


FIGURE 3.9.6
WHITES
1985 - 1988

BLACKS

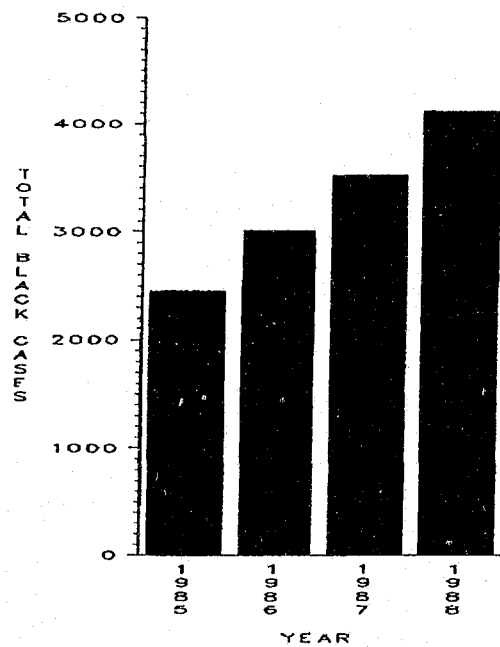


FIGURE 3.9.7
BLACKS
1985 - 1988

3.10 ANNUAL SYSTEM FLOW ANALYSIS: MISSING PERSON CASES 1985-1988

A series of analyses was conducted to identify trends in the annual system flow of active missing person cases in MULES from 1985 through 1988. The first row (CARRY-IN) gives the number of active cases carried into the year from the previous year. The second row (ADD) gives the number of cases added to the system during the year. The third row (TOTAL ACTIVE) gives the total cases active in the year and is the sum of rows one and two. The next four rows (CLEARED, LOCATED, CANCELED, and PURGED) deal with final

dispositions. The seventh row (TOTAL REMOVED) gives the total number of cases removed from the system each year and is the sum of the preceding four rows. The final row (CARRY-OUT) represents the number of cases still active at the end of each year and is the difference between the number active in the year and the number removed. The results of these analyses are displayed in Table 3.10.1. The following is a discussion of findings.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS: From 1985 to 1988, the average number of active cases found in MULES per year was 12,068. 1988 had the highest number of active cases with 13,549 and 1985 had the lowest number of active cases 9,826.

An average of 11,344 new missing person cases were entered in MULES per year from 1985 to 1988. The highest number of cases added was 12,793 in 1988 and the lowest number of cases added was 9,179 in 1985.

An average of 11,290 cases were removed from the system on a yearly basis as a result of receiving a final disposition. The year 1988 was again the most active with 12,686 cases being removed from the system and 1985 had the lowest activity with 9,028 cases being removed.

An average of 778 active cases were carried out each year into the next during the four year period. The most cases carried out were 863 in 1988 and the least amount carried out at the end of a year was 696 in 1986.

TABLE 3.10.1
ANNUAL SYSTEM FLOW ANALYSIS: 1985-1988 MISSING PERSON CASES

	1985	1986	1987	1988
CARRY-IN	647	798	696	756
ADD	9,179	11,311	12,091	12,793
TOTAL ACTIVE	9,826	12,109	12,787	13,549
CLEARED	8,134	10,201	10,749	11,876
LOCATED	172	242	282	337
CANCELED	715	968	998	473
PURGED	7	2	2	0
TOTAL REMOVED	9,028	11,413	12,031	12,686
CARRY-OUT	798	696	756	863

3.11 MISSOURI MISSING PERSON CLOCK: NEW CASES ADDED 1985-1988

An analysis was conducted of cases added in MULES in relation to time through the presentation of the missing person clock. The figures presented in this clock were arrived at by dividing the number of new missing person cases added to MULES during 1985, 1986, 1987, and 1988 by the number of hours and minutes in that year. Only new cases (adds) were used because including old cases (carry-ins) would have resulted in a misrepresentation of the actual rate at which new cases occurred during a calendar year.

This mode of data presentation does not imply a regularity in the occurrence of missing person cases; rather it represents the annual rate of missing person incidents to fixed time intervals. Figure 3.11.1 represents missing person activity in the State of Missouri during 1985, 1986, 1987, and 1988 in relation to time.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS: *Over the past four years there has been an increase in the number of cases added to MULES each year. In 1985 there was one case of a missing person every 57 minutes, in 1986 every 47 minutes, in 1987 every 44 minutes, and in 1988 every 41 minutes.*

In the case of missing adults, in 1985 there was one case every 5.4 hours compared to 1988 with one case every 4.4 hours.

In the case of missing juveniles, in 1985 there was one case every 1.2 hours compared to 1988 with one case every 49 minutes.

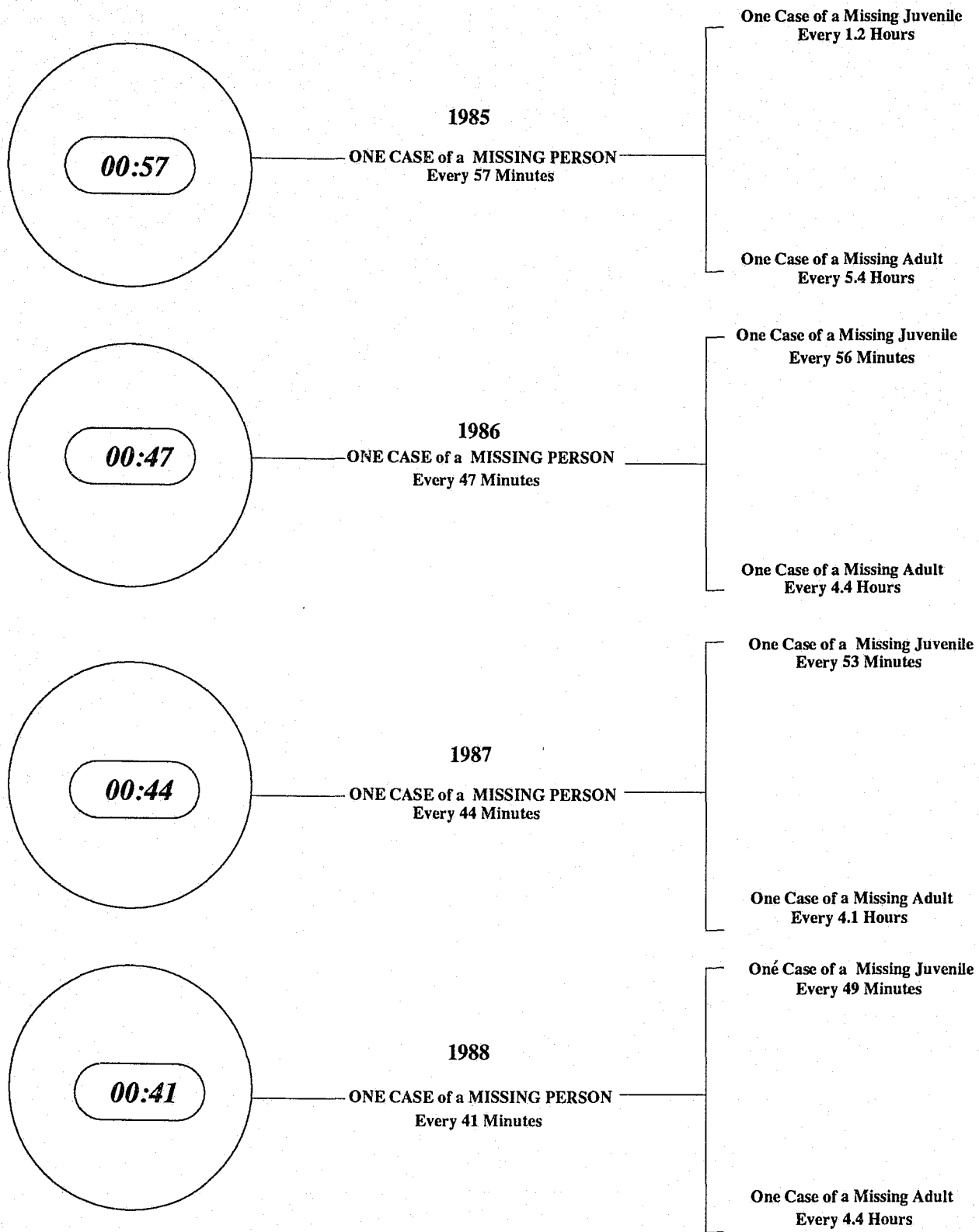
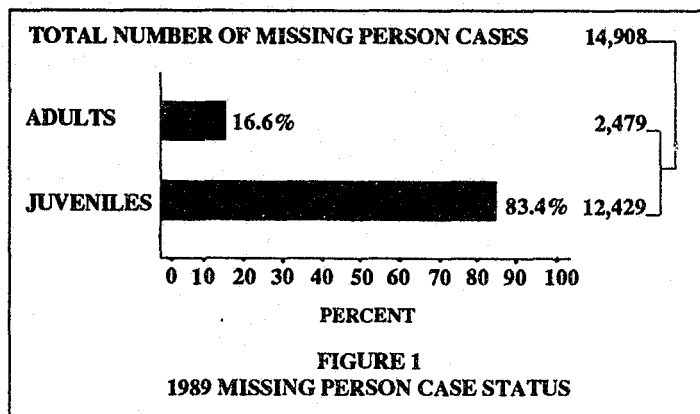


FIGURE 3.11.1
MISSOURI MISSING PERSON CLOCK: NEW
CASES ADDED 1985-1988

- MISSOURI 1989 MISSING CHILDREN BULLETIN -

Data used in this bulletin were obtained from the Missouri Uniform Law Enforcement System (MULES). They describe all MULES missing person cases active sometime during 1989 with emphasis on those cases involving juveniles under the age of seventeen.



TOTAL ACTIVE MISSING PERSON CASES

In 1989,

- There were 14,908 active missing person cases in Missouri.
- Of all active missing person cases, 83.4% involved juveniles and 16.6% involved adults.

TOTAL ACTIVE MISSING CHILDREN CASES

In 1989,

- There were 12,429 active missing juvenile cases in Missouri.

From 1988 to 1989,

- There was a 9.4% increase in total active missing children cases.

From 1985 to 1989,

- There was a 55.2% increase in total active missing children cases.

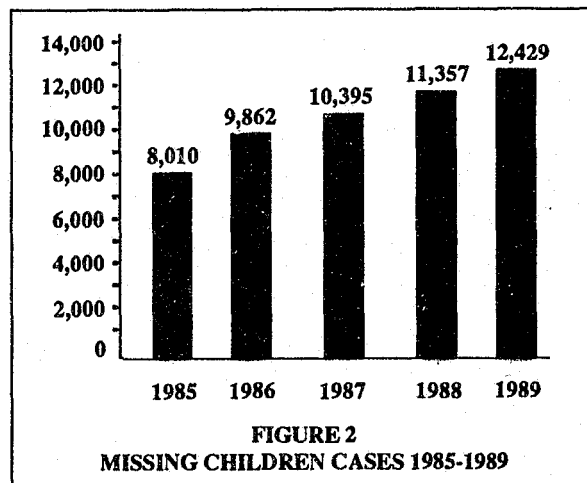


TABLE 1
ANNUAL SYSTEM FLOW 1989 MISSING CHILDREN CASES

	JUVENILE CASES	
	NUMBER	PERCENT
CARRY-IN	629	5.1
ADD	11,800	94.9
TOTAL ACTIVE	12,429	100.0
CLEARED	11,043	88.9
LOCATED	304	2.4
CANCELED	362	2.9
PURGED	0	0.0
TOTAL REMOVED	11,709	94.2
CARRY-OUT	720	5.8

ANNUAL SYSTEM FLOW

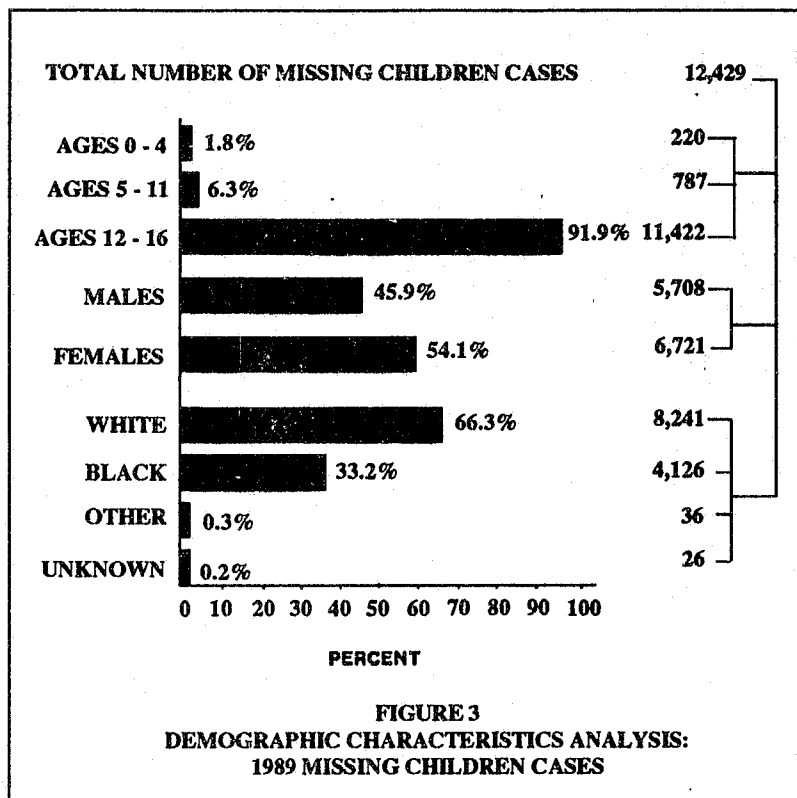
In 1989, of the 12,429 missing children cases in MULES:

- **CARRY-IN** - 629 cases were carried in from prior years.
- **ADDS** - 11,800 cases were added during 1989. This means one case was added every 44.5 minutes.
- **REMOVED** - A large proportion of the cases received a final disposition during the year. In 91.3% of the cases the child was found (cleared or located). In 2.9%, the case was canceled because it was invalid or entered in error.
- **CARRY-OUT** - A total of 720 cases were still not resolved at the end of the year. This constitutes a 14.5% increase in the number of unresolved cases at the end of 1989 compared to the number not resolved at the end of 1988.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

In 1989, of the 12,429 missing children cases in MULES:

- The largest number of missing children were between the ages of 12 and 16 (91.9%). The next largest age group was between 5 and 11 (6.3%). Younger children comprised the smallest group (1.8%).
- There was a higher proportion of female children missing (54.1%) than males (45.9%).
- Of all missing children, 66.3% were white, 33.2% were black, and 0.3% involved other races. In 0.2% of the cases, the race was unknown.



- 1989 MISSING CHILDREN CASES OTHER FINDINGS -

In 1989, of the 12,429 missing children cases in MULES:

- 11,025 or 88.7% were runaways.
- 189 or 1.5% involved parental abductions.
- 14 or 0.1% involved stranger abductions.
- 1,201 or 9.7% the reason for missing was unknown.

In 1989, the 12,429 active missing children cases in MULES involved 8,763 children:

- Of the 8,763 children, 1,936 or 22.1% were missing more than once. These 1,936 children accounted for 45.1% of all missing children cases active in 1989. Sixteen was the greatest number of times a child was missing.

In 1989, of the 11,347 missing children recovered (cleared or located):

- 5,127 or 45.2% returned voluntarily.
- 4,384 or 38.6% were located inside jurisdiction by the law enforcement agency originating the missing person report.
- 1,431 or 12.6% were located outside jurisdiction by law enforcement agencies other than the one originating the report.
- 119 or 1.1% were arrested for charges other than being missing.
- 286 or 2.5% the reason of return was unknown.
- 2 children were found deceased.

4.0 MISSING CHILDREN ANALYSIS

One of the most disturbing aspects concerning the issue of missing persons in the State of Missouri is the fact that children make up such a large proportion of the problem. In 1988, over 83% of the active missing person cases in MULES involved a juvenile. In most instances, the missing child is extremely vulnerable and may be faced with situations which result in their being harmed by others or causing harm to themselves. In addition, without proper adult supervision and home care, they may be more inclined to commit delinquent or criminal acts while missing. Society recognizes the need for protecting its children so they

have an opportunity to develop into mature and responsible citizens. Because of the relative importance of children in relation to the problem of missing persons, a series of analyses was conducted on all active missing juvenile cases in MULES from 1985 through 1988. The findings from these analyses are described in this section.

4.1 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS ANALYSIS: 1988 MISSING CHILDREN CASES

A series of analyses was completed to identify demographic characteristics of children missing in the State of Missouri. This analysis identifies the ratio of males to females, and whites to blacks and other races,

as well as specific categories of the ages of these children. Missing persons under the age of 17 are defined as children. The findings from these analyses are displayed in Figure 4.1.1 and Tables 4.1.1 and 4.1.2.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS: *There were 11,357 active missing children cases reported in Missouri in 1988. The largest number of missing children were between the ages of 12 and 16 years (91.9%). The next largest age group was between 5 and 11 years (6.3%) and younger children comprised the smallest group (1.8%). There was a higher proportion of female children missing (53.1%) than males (46.9%). Of all missing children, 67.4% were white, 32.1% were black, and 0.3% involved other races. Please note that in 0.3% of the cases, the race of the child was unknown.*

When examining the age of missing children by their sex, females were in the majority of the children between the ages of 12 and 16 (54.4%) and those four and younger (51.0%). However, females were a minority of the missing children between the ages of 5 and 11 (35.0%).

When examining missing children under the age of four, 62.5% were white and 37.5% were black. Of those children 5 to 11, the ratio of white to black changes. Of the children missing in this age group, 51.3% were white and 48.3% were black. In the older age group of 12 to 16, a greater number of white children (68.6%) were missing as compared to black children (30.9%).

TOTAL NUMBER OF 1988 MISSING CHILDREN CASES IN MISSOURI

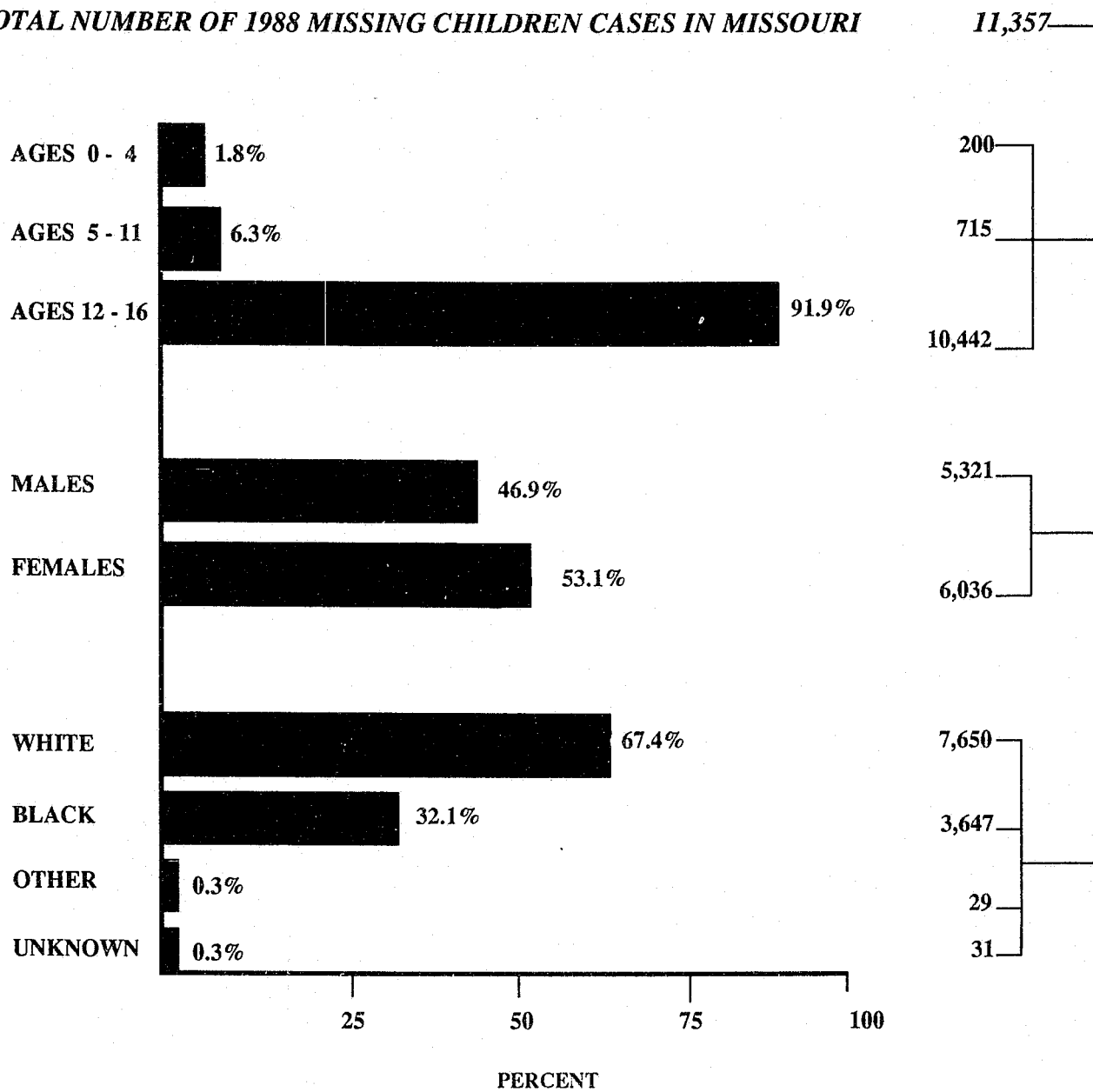


FIGURE 4.1.1
DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS:
CHILDREN INVOLVED IN 1988 MISSING CHILDREN CASES

TABLE 4.1.1
1988 MISSING CHILDREN CASES, AGE BY SEX

SEX	0 - 4 YRS OLD		5 - 11 YRS OLD		12 - 16 YRS OLD		TOTAL	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
MALE	98	49.0	465	65.0	4,758	45.6	5,321	46.9
FEMALE	102	51.0	250	35.0	5,684	54.4	6,036	53.1
TOTAL	200	100.0	715	100.0	10,442	100.0	11,357	100.0

TABLE 4.1.2
1988 MISSING CHILDREN CASES, AGE BY RACE

RACE	0 - 4 YRS OLD		5 - 11 YRS OLD		12 - 16 YRS OLD		TOTAL	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
WHITE	125	62.5	367	51.3	7,158	68.6	7,650	67.4
BLACK	75	37.5	345	48.3	3,227	30.9	3,647	32.1
OTHER/UNK	0	0.0	3	0.4	57	0.5	60	0.5
TOTAL	200	100.0	715	100.0	10,442	100.0	11,357	100.0

4.2 CLASSIFICATION OF 1988 MISSING CHILDREN CASES

A series of analyses was completed to identify the fundamental reason for a child being missing. In addition, the reason for children being missing was examined in relation to their demographic characteristics. The MULES data used to complete these analyses, in most instances, reflect the reporting law enforcement agency's

initial categorization of the case at the time the case was entered in the system. The findings from these analyses are displayed in Figure 4.2.1 and Tables 4.2.1, 4.2.2, and 4.2.3. Following is a discussion of the findings.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS: The primary reason for children being missing in Missouri in 1988 was due to the fact that they ran away (85.9%). Parental abductions accounted for 1.5% and stranger abductions accounted for 0.1% of the total. Those classified as other or unknown comprised 12.5%.

A higher proportion of white children (89.4%) ran away as compared to black children (78.4%). However, black children (20.6%) had a higher proportion of cases classified as other/unknown than did white children (8.7%).

When analyzing the reason children were missing by age, it was discovered that a higher proportion of older children ran away than younger children. In the case of younger children, a higher proportion were abducted by parents or strangers. Of children between the ages of 12 and 16, 88.9% were runaways and only 0.3% were abducted by parents or strangers. However, of children between the ages of 5 and 11, 61.4% were runaways and 10.9% were abducted. When examining children four and under, 35.0% of all cases were abducted. It should be noted that the findings described above in relation to younger children are somewhat problematic due to the high proportion of cases being classified as other/unknown. In the case of children four and under, 51.5% were classified in this manner and for children between 5 and 11, 27.7% also were classified in this manner. Due to limitations in the MULES code structure, there was no way of segregating unknown cases from cases that had some other reason for the child being missing.

There does not seem to be a great deal of difference in the primary reason that children are missing in relation to sex. The proportions related to the reasons for being missing when comparing males to females are similar.

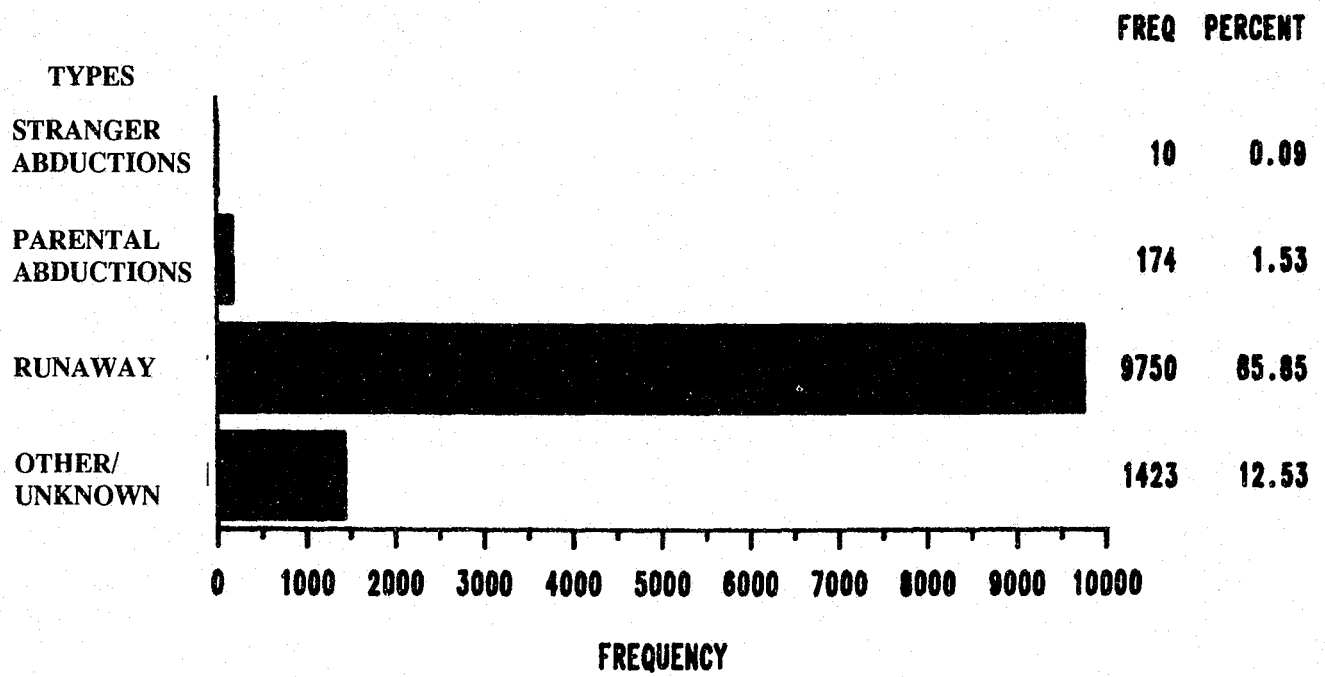


FIGURE 4.2.1
1988 MISSING CHILDREN CASES BY
CLASSIFICATION TYPE

TABLE 4.2.1
1988 MISSING CHILDREN CASES, AGE BY TYPE

	0 - 4 YRS OLD		5 - 11 YRS OLD		12 - 16 YRS OLD		TOTAL	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
STRANGER ABDUCTION	3	1.5	4	0.6	3	0.0	10	0.1
PARENTAL ABDUCTION	67	33.5	74	10.3	33	0.3	174	1.5
RUNAWAY	27	13.5	439	61.4	9,284	88.9	9,750	85.9
OTHER/UNKNOWN	103	51.5	198	27.7	1,122	10.8	1,423	12.5
TOTAL	200	100.0	715	100.0	10,442	100.0	11,357	100.0

TABLE 4.2.2
1988 MISSING CHILDREN CASES, SEX BY TYPE

	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
STRANGER ABDUCTION	2	0.0	8	0.1	10	0.1
PARENTAL ABDUCTION	78	1.5	96	1.6	174	1.5
RUNAWAY	4,568	85.8	5,182	85.9	9,750	85.9
OTHER/UNKNOWN	673	12.7	750	12.4	1,423	12.5
TOTAL	5,321	100.0	6,036	100.0	11,357	100.0

TABLE 4.2.3
1988 MISSING CHILDREN CASES, RACE BY TYPE

	BLACK		WHITE		OTHER		UNKNOWN		TOTAL	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
STRANGER ABDUCTION	5	0.1	5	0.1	0	0.0	0	--	10	0.1
PARENTAL ABDUCTION	34	0.9	137	1.8	1	3.4	2	--	174	1.5
RUNAWAY	2,858	78.4	6,843	89.4	26	89.7	23	--	9,750	85.9
OTHER/UNKNOWN	750	20.6	665	8.7	2	6.9	6	--	1,423	12.5
TOTAL	3,647	100.0	7,650	100.0	29	100.0	31	--	11,357	100.0

4.3 CHILDREN MISSING ONE OR MORE TIMES IN 1988

Another way of viewing the missing children situation in Missouri is to identify those children who were missing on a repetitive basis. The habitual missing child is a special area of concern because each time a child is missing public sector resources have to be devoted to their recovery. Of greater significance is the fact that each repetitive incident increases the probability the child may commit a harmful act or be harmed by others. An analysis was conducted to identify the number of children who accounted for more than one missing children case in MULES during 1988. This analysis was done by matching cases within regions of the State on the basis of similarity in name and birth. The techniques

used to make these matches attempted to maximize the probability of making a true match while minimizing the possibility of making an erroneous match. It is possible of some cases which should have been matched were missed by the matching routines. When testing these matching routines using annual case data, some mismatches were found. However, the proportion of errors found was extremely small and would not significantly effect the findings derived from this analysis. The findings of this analysis are found in Figure 4.3.1 and Tables 4.3.1 and 4.3.2

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS: The 11,357 active missing children cases in MULES involved 8,125 children. Of the 8,125 children, 1,819 or 22.4% were missing more than once. These 1,819 children accounted for 44.5% of all missing children cases active in 1988.

Of the 1,819 children who were missing more than once, 61.8% were missing twice, 19.7% were missing three times, and 18.5% were missing four or more times. The greatest number of times a child was missing was 13.

A higher proportion of older children were missing more than once as compared to younger children. Of children between the ages of 12 and 16, 23.6% were missing more than once compared to only 13.1% of those between 5 and 11 and 3.2% of the children who were four years old or younger.

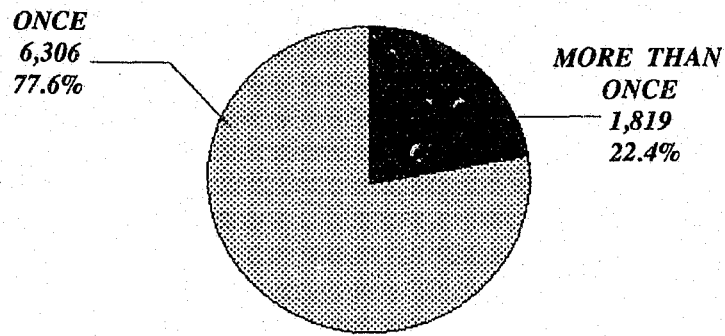


FIGURE 4.3.1
NUMBER OF CHILDREN MISSING ONE OR MORE TIMES IN 1988

TABLE 4.3.1
NUMBER OF TIMES CHILDREN WERE MISSING IN 1988

Number of Times Missing	Number	Percent of Total	Percent Missing More Than Once
1 Time	6,306	77.6	--
2 Times	1,125	13.9	61.8
3 Times	358	4.4	19.7
4 - 13 Times	336	4.1	18.5
TOTAL	8,125	100.0	100.0

TABLE 4.3.2
AGES OF CHILDREN MISSING ONE OR MORE TIMES IN 1988

	0 - 4 YRS OLD		5 - 11 YRS OLD		12 - 16 YRS OLD		TOTAL	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Missing Once	180	96.8	516	86.9	5,610	76.4	6,306	77.6
Missing More Than Once	6	3.2	78	13.1	1,735	23.6	1,819	22.4
TOTAL	186	100.0	594	100.0	7,345	100.0	8,125	100.0

4.4 ANNUAL SYSTEM FLOW ANALYSIS: 1988 MISSING CHILDREN CASES

A series of analyses was performed to identify the annual processing flow characteristics of the 11,357 missing children cases active in 1988. System flow refers to how cases entered and exited MULES. Cases entered the system in one of two ways. Some cases were carried over from the previous year. These cases were active sometime in 1988 because the individuals had not been found or the case had not been removed for any other reason prior to the start of the year. The second method of entry involves new cases added to the system throughout 1988.

Cases exit the system in a number of ways. The dispositions of CLEARED and LOCATED indicate that the missing child was found. The CLEARED disposition indicates the child was found either by the law enforcement agency originating the missing children report or by

another law enforcement agency who relied on the originating agency to dispose of the case from the system. The LOCATE disposition indicates the child was found by a law enforcement agency other than the one originating the missing children report and the locating agency disposed of the case in the system. Other cases were CANCELED which means the originating agency determined the record was invalid or in error for one reason or another and removed it from the system. Cases can exit the system through a PURGE process. For a juvenile, an active case is purged seven years after the date of emancipation (their 17th birthday). The final way cases can exit the system is as ACTIVE cases. These cases are not resolved by the end of 1988 and are carried over into 1989. Figure 4.4.1 displays the results of these analyses. Following is a discussion of findings.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS: *In MULES, there were 11,357 active missing children cases at sometime during 1988. The majority of these cases received a final disposition during the year. In over 90% of the total cases, the child was found (88.8% cleared and 2.5% located). In 3.2% of the cases, the case was canceled due to invalid or erroneous information. No cases were purged during 1988. At year-end, 629 or 5.5% of the cases were unresolved and carried into 1989. At the end of 1987, 545 cases were unresolved and carried into 1988. This was a 15.4% increase in the number of active cases carried into 1989 as compared to the number of active cases carried into 1988.*

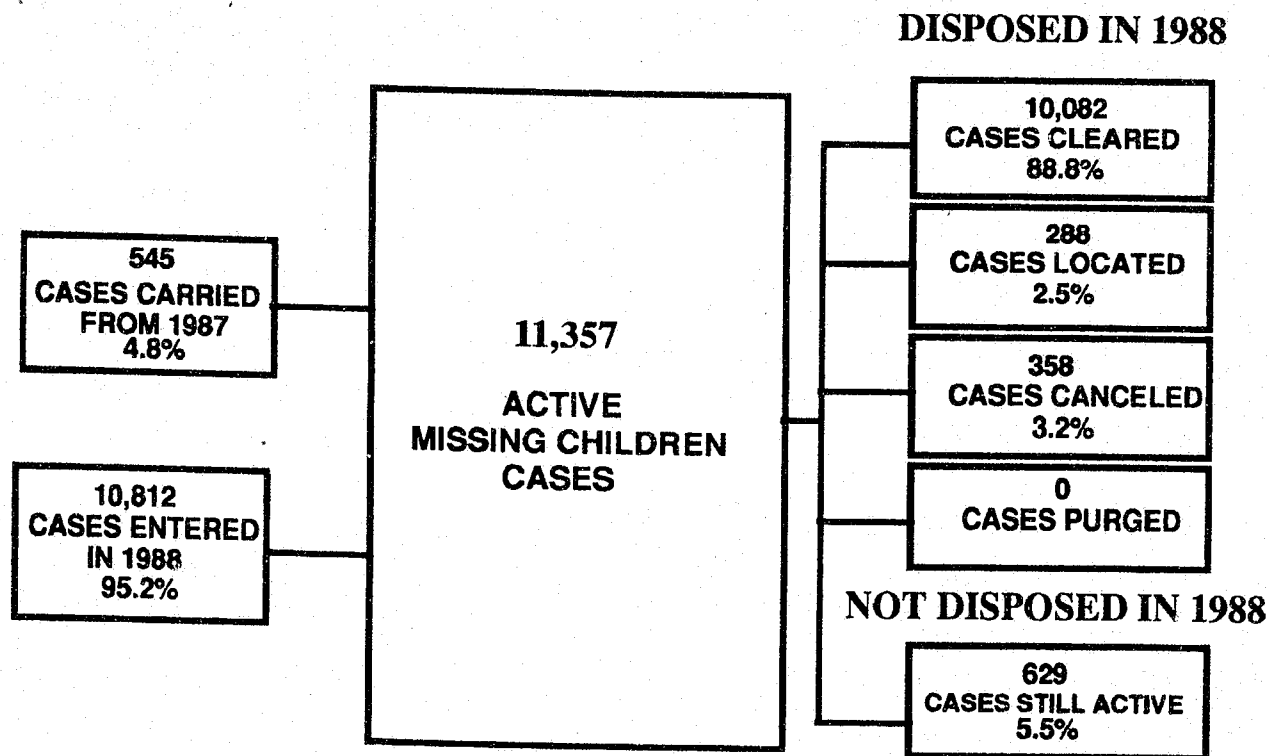


FIGURE 4.4.1
ANNUAL SYSTEM FLOW ANALYSIS: 1988 MISSING
CHILDREN CASES

4.5 MONTHLY SYSTEM FLOW ANALYSIS: 1988 MISSING CHILDREN CASES

A series of analyses was conducted to identify the monthly system flow of active missing children cases in MULES for 1988. In addition, the TOTAL column displays the annual system flow. The first row (CARRY-IN) gives the number of active cases carried into the month from the previous month. The second row (ADD) gives the number of cases added to the system during the month. The third row (TOTAL ACTIVE) gives the total cases active in the month and is the sum of rows one and two. The next four rows (CLEARED, LOCATED,

CANCELED, and PURGED) deal with final case dispositions. The seventh row (TOTAL REMOVED) gives the total number of cases removed from the system each month and is a sum of the preceding four rows. The final row (CARRY-OUT) represents the number of cases still active at the end of each month and is the difference between the number active in the month and the number removed. The results of these analyses are displayed in Table 4.5.1. The following is a discussion of findings.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS: *In 1988, the average number of active cases found in MULES per month was 946. October had the highest number of active cases with 1,733. December had the lowest number of active cases with 1,287.*

In 1988 one case of a missing child was added every 49 minutes. An average of 901 new missing children cases were entered in MULES on a monthly basis. October was the highest month with 1,074 cases being added. December was the lowest month with 658 cases being added. The following is a rank order of missing children cases added by month.

NEW CASES ADDED	
MONTH	FREQUENCY
October	1,074
May	1,015
September	1,012
August	958
March	945
April	922
November	864
June	853
January	849
July	846
February	816
December	658

An average of 894 cases were removed from the system on a monthly basis as a result of receiving a final disposition. October was again the most active month with 1,096 cases being removed from the system. December had the lowest activity with 658 cases being removed from the system.

TABLE 4.5.1
MONTHLY SYSTEM FLOW ANALYSIS: 1988 MISSING CHILDREN CASES

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
CARRY-IN	545	565	559	575	581	614	639	666	709	659	637	629	545
ADD	849	816	945	922	1,015	853	846	958	1,012	1,074	864	658	10,812
TOTAL ACTIVE	1,394	1,381	1,504	1,497	1,596	1,467	1,485	1,624	1,721	1,733	1,501	1,287	11,357
CLEARED	778	775	887	866	919	779	767	859	981	1,020	830	621	10,082
LOCATED	24	24	21	19	26	15	22	25	37	39	17	19	288
CANCELLED	27	23	21	31	37	34	30	31	44	37	25	18	358
PURGED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL REMOVED	829	822	929	916	982	828	819	915	1,062	1,096	872	658	10,728
CARRY-OUT	565	559	575	581	614	639	666	709	659	637	629	629	629

4.6 LENGTH OF TIME BETWEEN DATE MISSING AND DATE ENTERED IN MULES: 1988 MISSING CHILDREN CASES

An analysis was conducted to determine the length of time it takes to enter a children's case in MULES missing person file after the child is found missing. Significant time delays in notifying law enforcement agencies and reporting missing children cases to MULES may appre-

ciably reduce the law enforcement community's ability to find the child in the most timely manner. The results of these analyses are displayed in Figure 4.6.1. Following is a discussion of findings.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS: Of the 11,357 missing children cases active in 1988, 66.3% were entered in MULES on the same day the child was found missing. From an accumulative perspective, 93.3% of the cases were entered in the system in less than three days. From this analysis, it is concluded that most cases are entered in the system promptly upon discovery. The figures also show a small number of cases took a significantly longer time to be entered.

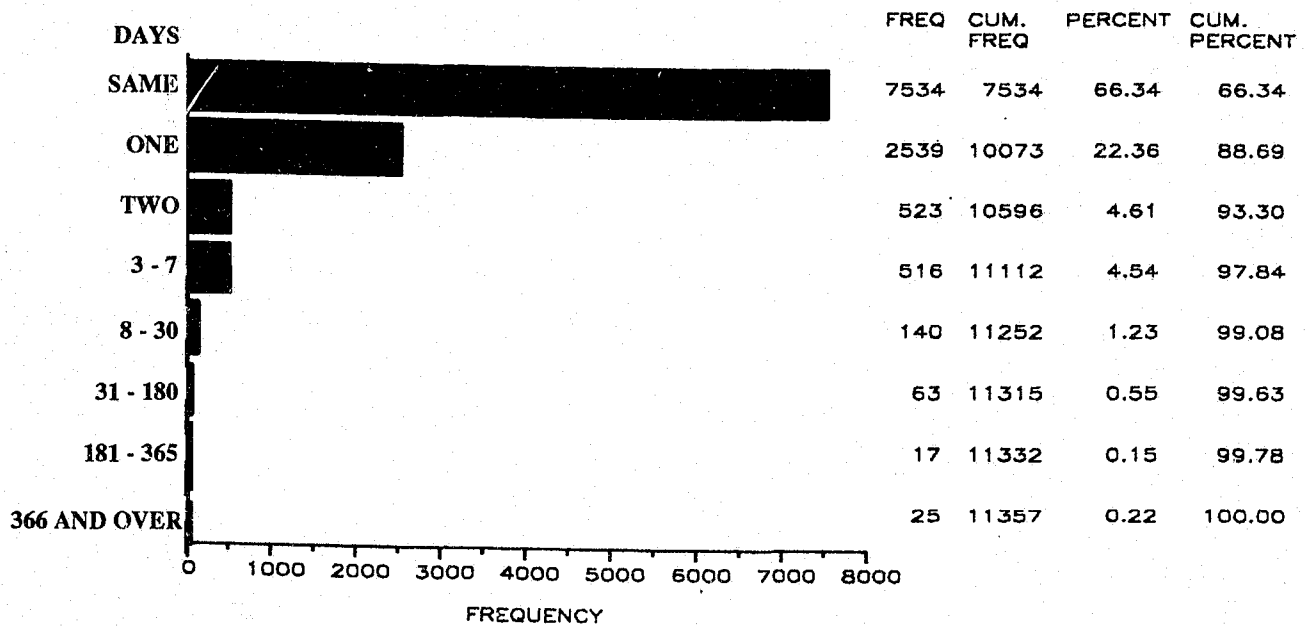


FIGURE 4.6.1
NUMBER OF DAYS ELAPSED BETWEEN DATE MISSING AND DATE ENTERED
IN MULES: 1988 MISSING CHILDREN CASES

4.7 LENGTH OF TIME MISSING: MISSING CHILDREN CASES CLEARED OR LOCATED ON OR BEFORE 12/31/88

The timely recovery of missing children can reduce some of the potential problems associated with such incidents. The shorter the time span between discovery and recovery, the less likely the chance the child will commit deviant social behavior or be harmed by others. An analysis was conducted on the 10,370 missing children cases that received final dispositions of CLEARED or LOCATED in 1988. These dispositions indicate the child was found.

For purposes of this analysis the length of time missing was computed by subtracting the date found missing from the date CLEARED or LOCATED. The results yield the number of days missing.

Figure 4.7.1 graphically depicts the length of time associated with the 10,370 missing children cases which resulted in recovery of the individual. Following is a discussion of findings.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS: In 17.3% of cases the individual was found on the same day they were discovered missing. From an accumulative perspective, 42.0% were found within one day of discovery and 52.9% were found within two days of discovery. This means slightly over half of the children who were found were accounted for within several days of being missing. Within one week after discovery, 73.5% were resolved. Only 10.9% of the cases had been missing for one month to one year and 1.1% one year or longer. These figures demonstrate that, in most cases where a missing child was found during 1988, the child was missing for only a relatively short period of time.

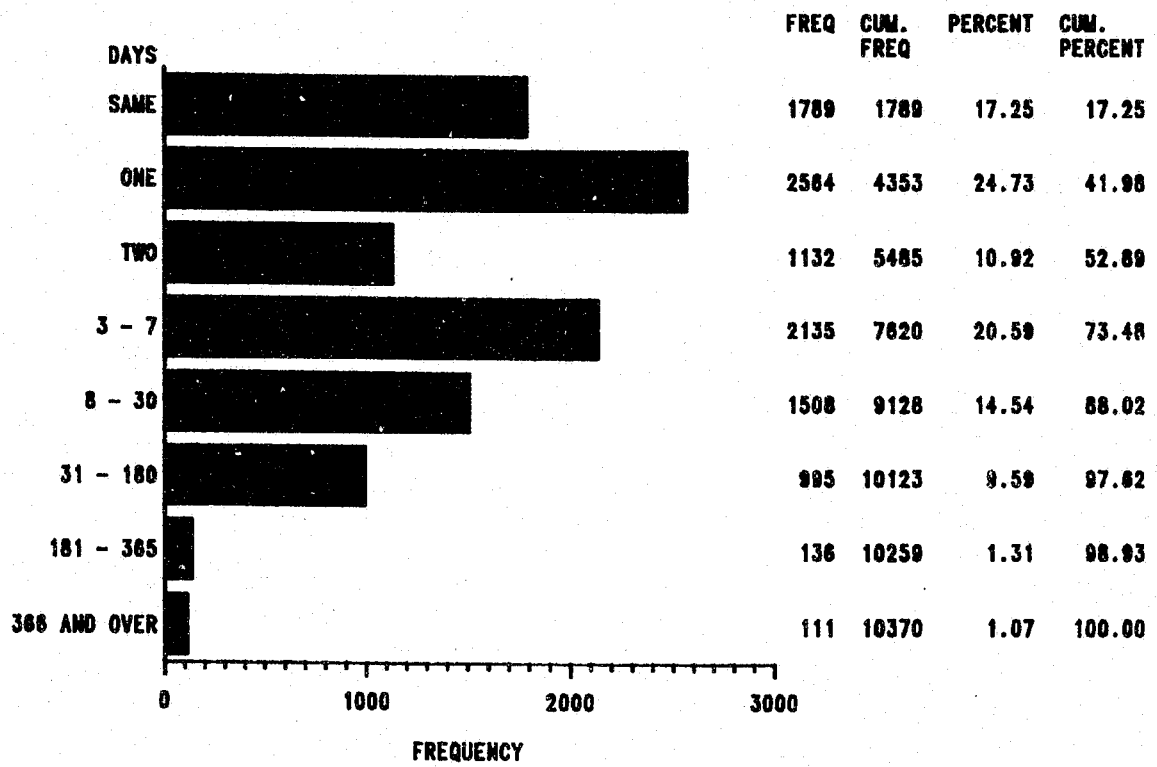


FIGURE 4.7.1
 NUMBER OF DAYS MISSING: MISSING CHILDREN CASES
 CLEARED OR LOCATED ON OR BEFORE 12/31/88

4.8 MISSING CHILDREN DISPOSITIONS: CASES REMOVED FROM THE SYSTEM IN 1988

An analysis was conducted of the circumstances surrounding the recovery of missing children in Missouri. This analysis centered on the 10,370 missing children cases receiving final dispositions of cleared or located in 1988. These case dispositions indicate the child was found.

The purpose of this analysis was to identify how these children were returned as well as their demographic characteristics. In addition, another analysis was conducted to identify the number of children who were either killed or became a victim of a crime while missing.

A note of caution is warranted related to crime victimization. In many instances, law enforcement agencies may enter the final disposition of a missing child's case in MULES prior to finding out through follow-up investigations that the child was a victim of a crime. In these situations, MULES data analyzed would not reflect incidents of crime victimization. As a result, the number of missing children actually victimized is no doubt significantly greater than the findings in this section would indicate. Results of these analyses are displayed in Figure 4.8.1 and Tables 4.8.1 through 4.8.4. Following is a discussion of findings.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS: The majority of missing children found in Missouri in 1988 returned voluntarily (45.6%). The next largest group were those located inside the jurisdiction by the law enforcement agency that submitted the report (36.5%), followed by those located outside their jurisdiction by agencies other than the one originating the report (12.5%). In 1.1% of the cases, juveniles were returned through an arrest for a charge other than being missing. Finally, in 4.3% of the cases the child was returned for some other reason or the reason was unknown.

Older children are more likely to return voluntarily than younger children. Of children between the ages of 12 and 16, 45.9% returned voluntarily as compared to 43.1% of children between 5 and 11 and 36.4% of children four and younger.

The very young child is more likely to be located outside the law enforcement jurisdiction as compared to other children. In 19.7% of the cases, children four and younger were returned outside of jurisdiction as compared to 12.6% between 12 and 16, and 9.5% between 5 and 11. Children 5 to 11 had the highest proportion of instances of being located inside the jurisdiction of the reporting agency (42.5%). Finally, the majority of older children between the ages of 12 and 16 (1.2%) are arrested more often than children 5 and 11 and four and younger (0.9% and 0.7%) for charges other than being missing.

Circumstances surrounding male and female missing children seem to be similar. However, males (1.6%) seemed to be found as a result of being arrested more frequently than females (0.7%).

A higher proportion of black children (52.3%) returned voluntarily as compared to white children (42.3%). A higher proportion of white children (15.7%) were located outside their jurisdiction than black children (6.1%). Apparently white children (1.4%) are arrested for other charges at a higher rate than black children (0.7%).

When examining the adverse impact of children being missing, there was one case of a female white child four and younger found deceased. In 16 of the cases, the child was reported being a victim of one or more crimes while missing. One of these children was four and younger, another was between 5 and 11, and the rest were between 12 and 16. There were nine females and seven males reported as victims of crimes. In relation to race, four of the victims were black and twelve were white.

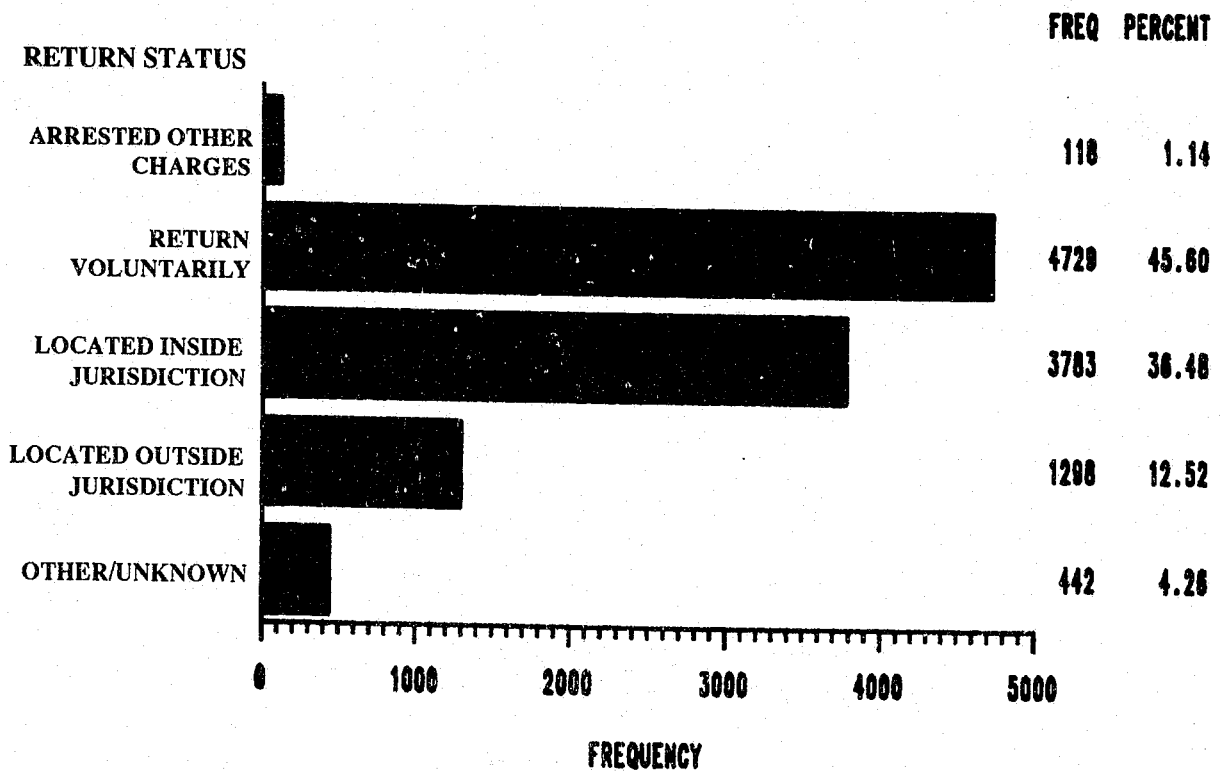


FIGURE 4.8.1
1988 MISSING CHILDREN CASES BY RETURN STATUS

**TABLE 4.8.1
CHILDREN MISSING DURING 1988,
AGE BY RETURN STATUS**

	0 - 4 YRS OLD		5 - 11 YRS OLD		12 - 16 YRS OLD		TOTAL	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Arrested Other Charges	1	0.7	6	0.9	111	1.2	118	1.1
Return Voluntarily	48	36.4	294	43.1	4,387	45.9	4,729	45.6
Located Inside Jurisdiction	47	35.6	290	42.5	3,446	36.1	3,783	36.5
Located Outside Jurisdiction	26	19.7	65	9.5	1,207	12.6	1,298	12.5
Other/Unknown	10	7.6	27	4.0	405	4.2	442	4.3
Total	132	100.0	682	100.0	9,556	100.0	10,370	100.0

**TABLE 4.8.2
CHILDREN MISSING DURING 1988,
SEX BY RETURN STATUS**

	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Arrested Other Charges	80	1.6	38	0.7	118	1.1
Return Voluntarily	2,200	44.8	2,529	46.3	4,729	45.6
Located Inside Jurisdiction	1,820	37.1	1,963	35.9	3,783	36.5
Located Outside Jurisdiction	568	11.6	730	13.4	1,298	12.5
Other/Unknown	240	4.9	202	3.7	442	4.3
Total	4,908	100.0	5,462	100.0	10,370	100.0

**TABLE 4.8.3
CHILDREN MISSING DURING 1988,
RACE BY RETURN STATUS**

	BLACK		WHITE		OTHER		UNKNOWN		TOTAL	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Arrested Other Charges	23	0.7	95	1.4	0	0.0	0	--	118	1.1
Return Voluntarily	1,791	52.3	2,915	42.3	11	45.8	12	--	4,729	45.6
Located Inside Jurisdiction	1,296	37.8	2,467	35.8	8	33.3	12	--	3,783	36.5
Located Outside Jurisdiction	209	6.1	1,081	15.7	5	20.8	3	--	1,298	12.5
Other/Unknown	108	3.1	333	4.8	0	0.0	1	--	442	4.3
TOTAL	3,427	100.0	6,891	100.0	24	100.0	28	--	10,370	100.0

**TABLE 4.8.4
CHILDREN VICTIMIZED DURING 1988**

DEMOGRAPHICS	DECEASED	VICTIM OF A CRIME
TOTAL	1	16
Ages 0 - 4	1	1
Ages 5 - 11	0	1
Ages 12 - 16	0	14
Males	0	7
Females	1	9
White	1	12
Black	0	4
Other	0	0
Unknown	0	0

4.9 LENGTH OF TIME MISSING: MISSING CHILDREN CASES STILL ACTIVE AFTER 12/31/88

A total of 629 missing children cases were left unresolved in MULES in 1988 and were carried over into 1989. These cases are of critical importance due to the fact that the children involved were not yet found at the end of the year. An analysis was conducted on the length of time they had been missing. In this analysis, the length of time missing was calculated by subtracting the

date of missing from January 1, 1989. The result yields the number of days missing for active cases that remained in MULES after December 31, 1988.

Figure 4.9.1 graphically depicts the length of time associated with the 629 missing children cases carried-out in 1988.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS: *Of the 629 cases still active at the end of 1988, only 22.9% had been missing for thirty days or less and 77.1% were missing for at least thirty-one days or more. The majority of active cases (46.1%) have been active from one month to six months. This demonstrates that in situations where the missing children case was not resolved in 1988, the child in most instances had been missing for a substantial period of time.*

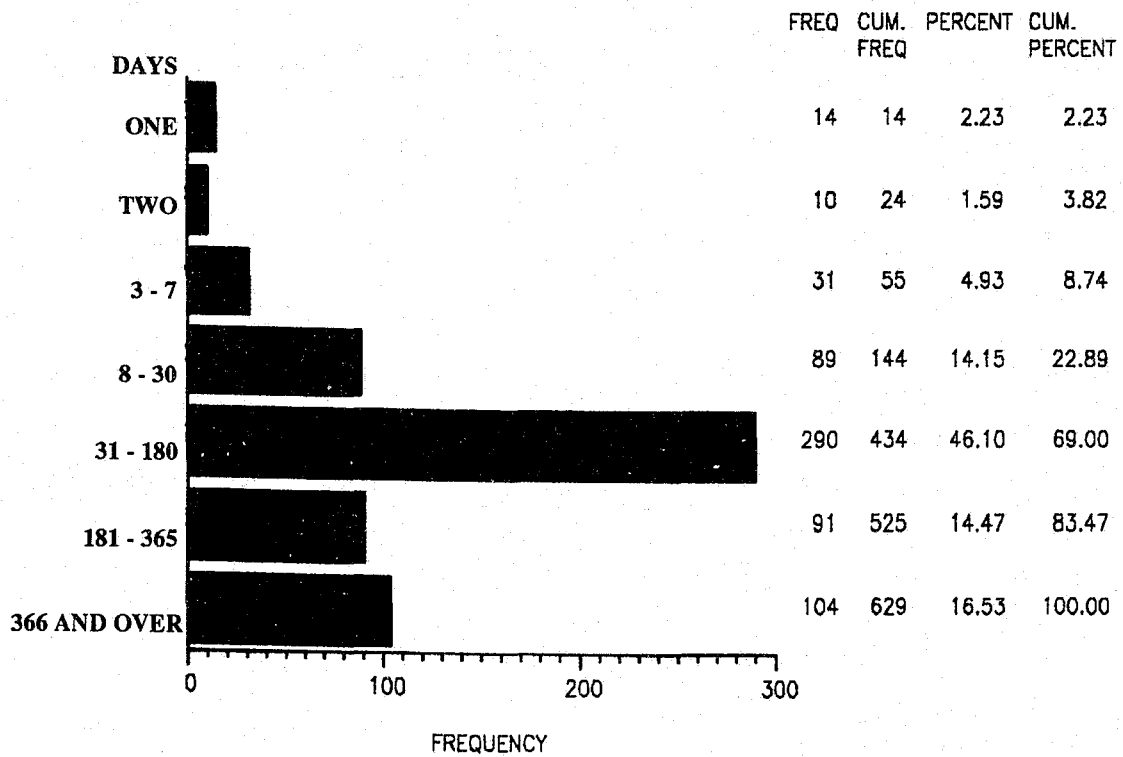


FIGURE 4.9.1
NUMBER OF DAYS MISSING: MISSING CHILDREN CASES
STILL ACTIVE AFTER 12/31/88

4.10 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS ANALYSIS: MISSING CHILDREN CASES 1985-1988

Up to this point, the analyses on missing children in the Missouri have been centered on 1988 active cases contained in MULES. In this section, missing children cases active in MULES from 1985 through 1988 were analyzed in order to assess trends. This analysis includes

an examination of the demographic characteristics of missing children over this time period. Table 4.10.1 and Figures 4.10.1 through 4.10.8 display the findings of these analyses.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS: *There has been an increase in the total number of active missing children cases each year for the past four years. The greatest increase was between 1985 and 1986 (23.1%), followed by 1987 and 1988 (9.3%), and 1986 and 1987 (5.4%).*

When examining the rates of change over this four year time period by age, children four and under had a much greater increase in each year. The rate of increase from 1985 to 1986 was 41.0% compared to 23.1% for all children. The rate of increase when comparing 1987 to 1986 was 8.1% as compared to 5.4% and the rate of change when comparing 1988 to 1987 was 25.0% as compared to 9.3%. In addition, the rate of change for children between the ages of 5 and 11 when comparing 1988 to 1987 was substantially higher (35.4%) than for all children (9.3%). These rates of change are disturbing because of the disproportionate increase of missing children cases involving the very young.

When examining the rates of change in relation to sex, both males and females experienced an increase in each year. The rate of change for females was higher (25.9%) than for males (19.6%) when comparing 1985 with 1986. However, the rate of change for males comparing 1986 with 1987 (7.5%) and 1987 with 1988 (16.3%) was substantially higher compared to females (3.8% and 3.7%).

When comparing the rates of change in relation to race in 1985 to 1986, both blacks and whites had a substantial increase (25.4% and 22.9%). However, in the next two years 1986 to 1987 and 1987 to 1988 blacks experienced a much higher rate of change (18.0% and 24.6%) than did whites (1.7% and 3.4%).

TABLE 4.10.1
DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS: 1985-1988
MISSING CHILDREN CASES

	1985	1986	<i>PERCENT CHANGE 85-86</i>	1987	<i>PERCENT CHANGE 86-87</i>	1988	<i>PERCENT CHANGE 87-88</i>
TOTAL	8,010	9,862	23.1	10,395	5.4	11,357	9.3
AGES 0 - 4	105	148	41.0	160	8.1	200	25.0
AGES 5 - 11	468	541	15.6	528	-2.4	715	35.4
AGES 12 - 16	7,437	9,173	23.3	9,707	5.8	10,442	7.6
MALES	3,561	4,259	19.6	4,577	7.5	5,321	16.3
FEMALES	4,449	5,603	25.9	5,818	3.8	6,036	3.7
WHITE	5,916	7,271	22.9	7,395	1.7	7,650	3.4
BLACK	1,978	2,480	25.4	2,926	18.0	3,647	24.6
OTHER	13	31	138.5	19	-38.7	29	52.6
UNKNOWN	103	80	--	55	--	31	--

TOTAL ACTIVE CASES

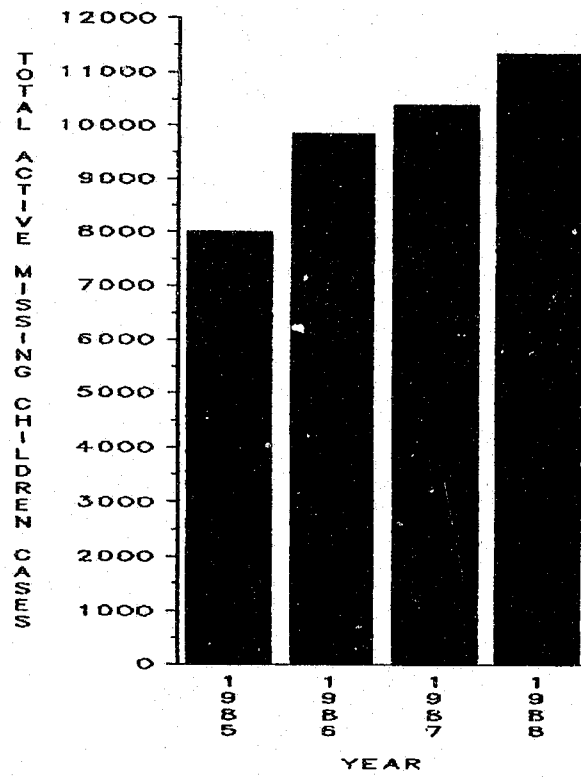


FIGURE 4.10.1
TOTAL ACTIVE CASES
1985 - 1988

AGES 0 - 4

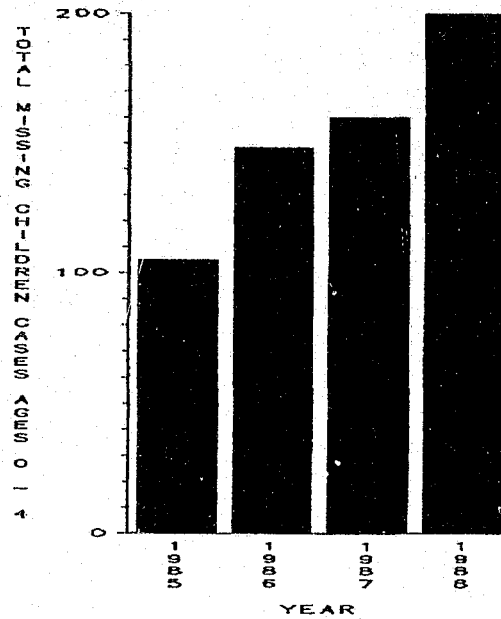


FIGURE 4.10.2
AGES 0 - 4
1985 - 1988

AGES 5 - 11

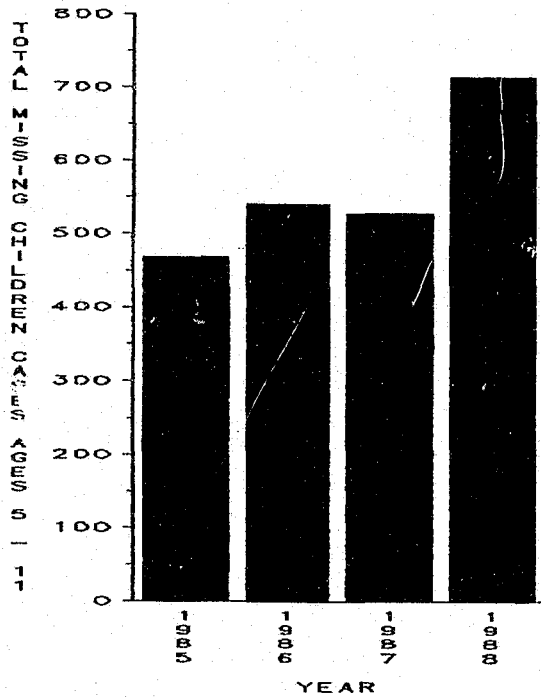


FIGURE 4.10.3
AGES 5 - 11
1985 - 1988

AGES 12 - 16

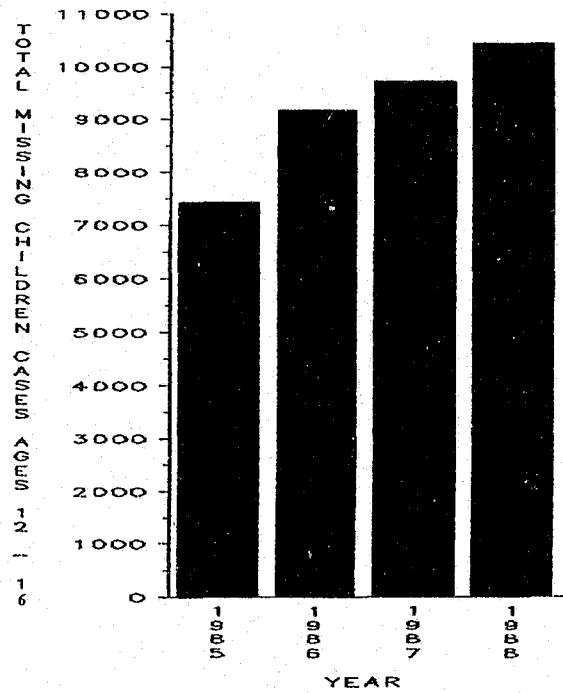
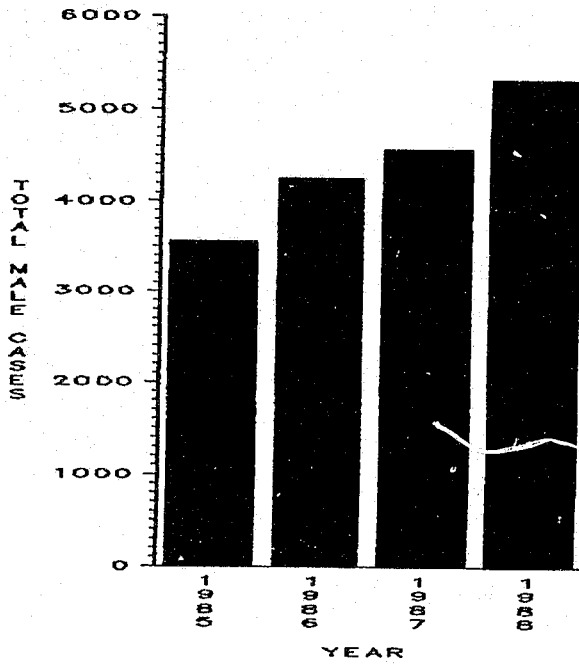


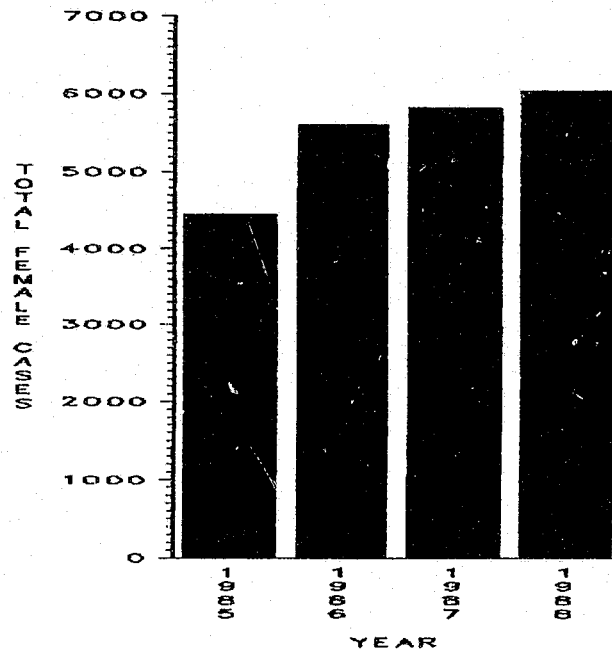
FIGURE 4.10.4
AGES 12 - 16
1985 - 1988

MALES



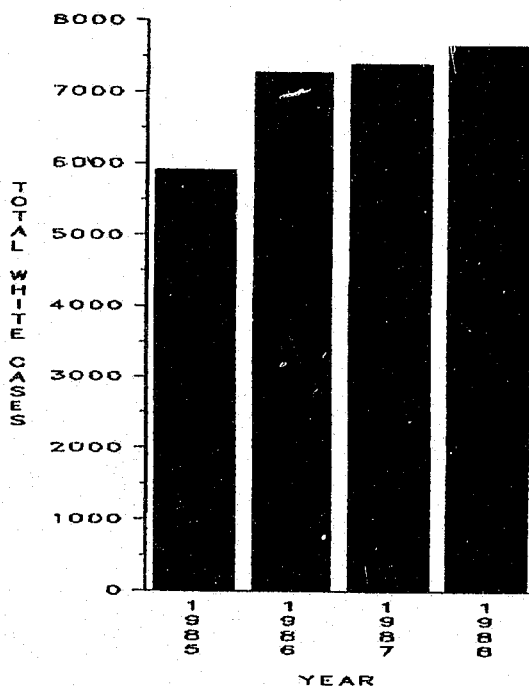
**FIGURE 4.10.5
MALES
1985 - 1988**

FEMALES



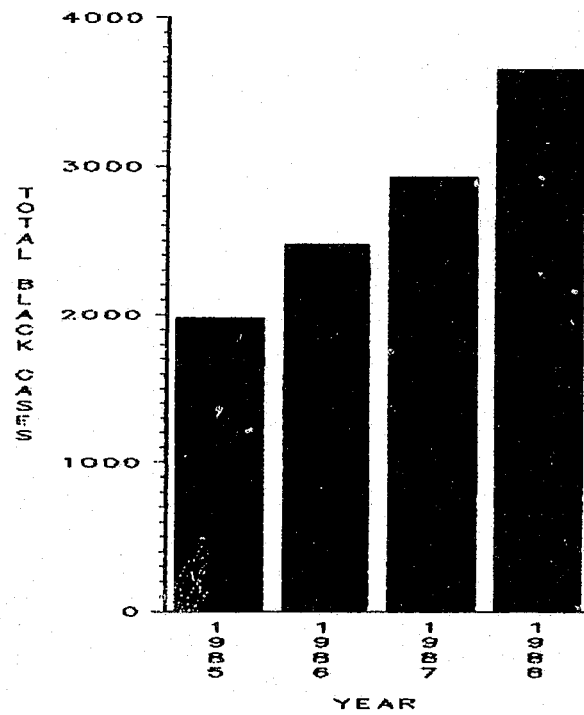
**FIGURE 4.10.6
FEMALES
1985 - 1988**

WHITES



**FIGURE 4.10.7
WHITES
1985 - 1988**

BLACKS



**FIGURE 4.10.8
BLACKS
1985 - 1988**

4.11 ANNUAL SYSTEM FLOW ANALYSIS: MISSING CHILDREN CASES 1985-1988

A series of analyses was conducted to identify trends in the annual system flow of the active missing children cases in MULES from 1985 through 1988. The first row (CARRY-IN) gives the number of active cases carried into the year from the previous year. The second row (ADD) gives the number of cases added to the system during the year. The third row (TOTAL ACTIVE) gives the total cases active in the year and is the sum of rows one and two. The next four rows

(CLEARED, LOCATED, CANCELED, and PURGED) deal with final dispositions. The seventh row (TOTAL REMOVED) gives the total number of cases removed from the system each year and is the sum of the preceding four rows. The final row (CARRY- OUT) represents the number of cases still active at the end of each year and is the difference between the number active in the year and the number removed. The results are displayed in Table 4.11.1.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS: From 1985 to 1988, the average number of active missing children cases found in MULES per year was 9,906. 1988 had the highest number of active cases with 11,357 and 1985 had the lowest number of active cases 8,010.

An average of 9,403 new missing children cases were entered in MULES per year from 1985 to 1988. The highest number of cases added was 10,812 in 1988 and the lowest number of cases added was 7,553 in 1985.

An average of 9,360 cases were removed from the system on a yearly basis as a result of receiving a final disposition. The year 1988 was again the most active with 10,728 cases being removed from the system and 1985 had the lowest activity with cases being removed.

An average of 546 active cases were carried out each year into the next during the four year period. The most cases carried out were 629 in 1988 and the least amount carried out at the end of a year was 460 in 1986.

TABLE 4.11.1
ANNUAL SYSTEM FLOW ANALYSIS: 1985-1988 MISSING CHILDREN CASES

	1985	1986	1987	1988
CARRY-IN	457	549	460	545
ADD	7,553	9,313	9,935	10,812
TOTAL ACTIVE	8,010	9,862	10,395	11,357
CLEARED	6,892	8,592	8,972	10,082
LOCATED	129	194	216	288
CANCELED	440	616	662	358
PURGED	0	0	0	0
TOTAL REMOVED	7,461	9,402	9,850	10,728
CARRY- OUT	549	460	545	629

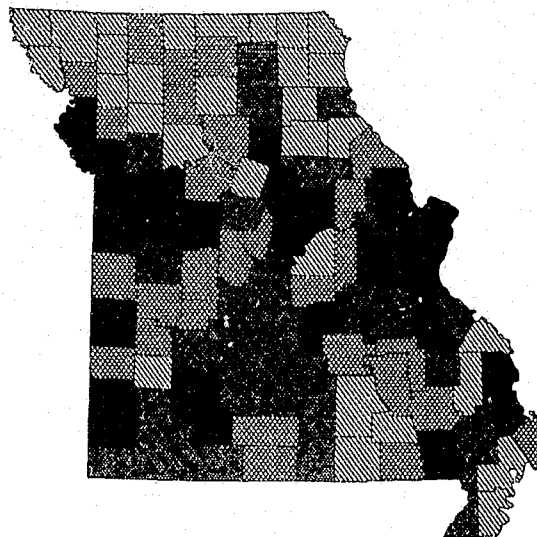
4.12 COUNTY ANALYSIS: 1988 MISSING CHILDREN CASES

In order to obtain an understanding of the missing children problem from a regional as well as a statewide perspective, an analysis was conducted to determine the number of MULES 1988 active missing children cases by county. The MULES missing children case activity for every county could not be totally identified. In certain instances, municipal law enforcement agencies jurisdiction boundaries covered significant portions of more than one county and as a result, their cases could not be identified in terms of the specific county of occurrence. In such instances, the counties affected were combined into one region. For the purpose of this analysis the counties of Jackson, Platte and Clay were combined into one because of the Kansas City Police Department and the counties of Scott and New Madrid were combined into one due to the Sikeston Police Department. The results of this analysis are presented in Figure 4.12.1.

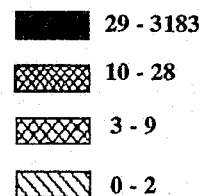
The rank order of all Missouri counties in terms of the number of 1988 missing children cases which occurred in each county is provided as part of this data display. The counties are divided into four groups or quartiles. The first quartile is composed of the top quarter of the counties in terms of the number of missing children cases occurring in 1988. The second quartile is the next quarter of the counties, the third quartile is the next quarter, and the fourth quartile is the bottom quarter of the counties. The fourth quartile also includes the counties that had no missing children cases in 1988.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS: *The combined total of the three Kansas City area counties (Jackson, Platte and Clay) led the State with 3,183 missing children cases in MULES in 1988. This was 28.1% of the State total. St. Louis City was second with 2,236 missing children cases in 1988 (19.7% of the State total). The third highest was St. Louis County with 2,185 cases (19.3% of the State total). Overall, Jackson, Platte, Clay, St. Louis City and County accounted for 67.1% of the total incidents of missing children during 1988. There were ten counties where there was not one incident of a missing child case in 1988 MULES.*

COUNTY ANALYSIS: 1988 MISSING CHILDREN CASES



LEGEND¹



FIRST QUARTILE

RANK	COUNTY ²	FREQUENCY ³	PERCENT
1.0	Jackson/Platte/Clay	3,183	28.1
2.0	St. Louis City	2,236	19.7
3.0	St. Louis	2,185	19.3
4.0	St. Charles	499	4.4
5.0	Greene	419	3.7
6.0	Jefferson	338	3.0
7.0	Jasper	214	1.9
8.0	Buchanan	192	1.7
9.0	Franklin	157	1.4
10.0	Boone	153	1.4
11.0	Cole	134	1.2
12.0	Cape Girardeau	115	1.0
13.0	Cass	94	0.8
14.0	Phelps	90	0.8
15.0	St. Francois	78	0.7
16.0	Scott/New Madrid	64	0.6
17.0	Newton	63	0.6
18.0	Butler	62	0.6
19.0	Callaway	55	0.5
20.0	Vernon	50	0.4
21.0	Randolph	47	0.4
22.0	Pettis	40	0.4
23.0	Christian	37	0.3
24.0	Johnson	36	0.3
25.0	Lincoln	32	0.3
26.0	Lafayette	31	0.3
27.0	Polk	30	0.3
28.0	Howell	29	0.3

SECOND QUARTILE

RANK	COUNTY	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
29.0	Taney	28	0.3
30.5	Miller	27	0.2
30.5	Stone	27	0.2
32.5	Crawford	26	0.2
32.5	Ray	26	0.2
34.0	Pulaski	25	0.2
35.5	Laclede	24	0.2
35.5	Webster	24	0.2
37.5	Warren	23	0.2
37.5	Washington	23	0.2
39.5	Barry	22	0.2
39.5	Henry	22	0.2
42.5	Camden	17	0.2
42.5	Lawrence	17	0.2
42.5	Marion	17	0.2
42.5	Stoddard	17	0.2
45.5	Audrain	16	0.1
45.5	McDonald	16	0.1
47.0	Wright	15	0.1
48.5	Dunklin	14	0.1
48.5	Madison	14	0.1
50.5	Dallas	12	0.1
51.5	Adair	11	0.1
51.5	Ste. Genevieve	11	0.1
54.0	Cooper	10	0.0
54.0	Macon	10	0.0
54.0	Texas	10	0.0

THIRD QUARTILE

RANK	COUNTY	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
56.5	Cedar	9	0.1
56.5	Douglas	9	0.1
59.0	Moniteau	8	0.1
59.0	Pike	8	0.1
59.0	Ripley	8	0.1
61.5	Iron	7	0.1
61.5	Wayne	7	0.1
64.5	Barton	6	0.1
64.5	Benton	6	0.1
64.5	Clinton	6	0.1
64.5	Maries	6	0.1
69.5	Bates	5	0.0
69.5	Dent	5	0.0
69.5	Gasconade	5	0.0
69.5	Mississippi	5	0.0
69.5	Morgan	5	0.0
69.5	St. Clair	5	0.0
76.0	Andrew	4	0.0
76.0	Grundy	4	0.0
76.0	Livingston	4	0.0
76.0	Montgomery	4	0.0
76.0	Ozark	4	0.0
76.0	Saline	4	0.0
76.0	Sullivan	4	0.0
81.5	Chariton	3	0.0
81.5	Harrison	3	0.0
81.5	Hickory	3	0.0
81.5	Reynolds	3	0.0

FOURTH QUARTILE

RANK	COUNTY	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
88.0	Caldwell	2	0.0
88.0	Clark	2	0.0
88.0	Linn	2	0.0
88.0	Mercer	2	0.0
88.0	Nodaway	2	0.0
88.0	Pemiscott	2	0.0
88.0	Perry	2	0.0
88.0	Scotland	2	0.0
97.5	Shannon	2	0.0
97.5	Atchison	1	0.0
97.5	Dade	1	0.0
97.5	Daviess	1	0.0
97.5	DeKalb	1	0.0
97.5	Gentry	1	0.0
97.5	Knox	1	0.0
97.5	Lewis	1	0.0
97.5	Oregon	1	0.0
97.5	Osage	1	0.0
97.5	Ralls	1	0.0
107.5	Bollinger	0	0.0
107.5	Carroll	0	0.0
107.5	Carter	0	0.0
107.5	Holt	0	0.0
107.5	Howard	0	0.0
107.5	Monroe	0	0.0
107.5	Putnam	0	0.0
107.5	Schuyler	0	0.0
107.5	Shelby	0	0.0
107.5	Worth	0	0.0

¹Legend categories are based on quartiles of counties

²For the purpose of this display the counties of Jackson, Platte, and Clay have been combined into one region and the counties of Scott and New Madrid have been combined into another region

³In 12 of the 11,357 active 1988 missing children cases, county location information was not known and the cases were excluded from this analyses.

FIGURE 4.12.1
COUNTY ANALYSIS: 1988 MISSING CHILDREN CASES

CONCLUSIONS

There has been an increase each year in the number of active missing person cases in the Missouri Uniform Law Enforcement System (MULES) from 1985 through 1988. The greatest rate of change in the number of cases occurred from 1985 compared to 1986 which experienced a 23.2% increase. This dramatic increase may, in part, be due to the enactment of the Missouri Missing Children's Law on September 28, 1985 which mandated the reporting of missing children cases by law enforcement agencies to MULES. In addition, publicity surrounding the enactment of this legislation could have increased the public's awareness of the need to report missing child incidents to the law enforcement agencies.

The health, welfare, and general well-being of children is a special concern in society and more specifically in Missouri. When examining the State's missing person problem, it was discovered that the majority of the cases involve children. Of all 1988 active missing person cases in MULES, 83.8% involved a juvenile under the age of 17. One child was reported missing every forty-nine minutes during 1988.

Fortunately, the majority of children who are reported missing are found and, in most instances, are recovered in a relatively short time span. Of all 1988 MULES active missing children cases, 94.5% were either cleared, located, or canceled by the end of the calendar year. In addition, of those cases where the child was found, 52.9% were resolved within two days from the date of missing and 88.0% were resolved within 30 days.

Although the findings described above are encouraging, other findings from this study are disturbing. Even though a large proportion of 1988 active missing children cases were resolved by the end of the year, a total of 629 cases remained open. Also, the majority of these open cases involve a child being missing for an extended time period. In 77.1% of the cases, they were missing for 31 days or more and in 31.0% the cases they were missing for over 6 months. The fact that 629 children were still missing with the majority of them being missing for an appreciable time period is a major concern.

Even though a large number of Missouri's missing children were recovered in a relatively short time frame, the children may have been involved in criminal activity, victimized, physically abused, or sexually abused while missing. Although this study could not identify the true proportion of children who were victimized while missing, it was determined that at least one child had died in 1988 while missing. In addition, 118 missing children were recovered as a result of being arrested for some offense other than being missing.

Children who are missing on a repetitive basis make up a sizable proportion of the total problem in the State. Of all missing children in MULES in 1988, 22.4% had been missing on more than one occasion during that year. These habitual missing children accounted for 44.5% of all missing children cases active in 1988. The predominant reason for children being missing is that they run away. Of all children missing in 1988, 85.9% had run away.

Based on the findings of this study, the missing children problem warrants the on-going attention of Missouri citizens and public officials. In a prior SAC publication dealing with this issue, it was recommended that a series of policy objectives be adopted as attempts are made to address this problem. It is worthwhile to restate these again. They are:

1. The physical recovery of the missing child and their subsequent placement in a safe environment is the most important initial concern.
2. It is imperative that recovery of the child be made as quickly as possible to preclude ongoing threats to the child's health and welfare.
3. Once the child is found, it is important that a determination be made as to whether the child was a victim of physical abuse, sexual abuse, or other criminal action.
4. Special attention must be given to the habitually missing child to minimize the frequency of this problem. The public sector's response to this type of incident should include actions designed to eliminate the underlying causes of being habitually missing.
5. As with most social problems, the most effective approach in obtaining a resolution is through a cooperative effort between the public and private sectors of society. In recent years, a number of private non-profit organizations have evolved whose purpose is to identify and recover missing children. It is recommended that lines of communication be established and maintained between law enforcement agencies and these organizations to insure that all incidents of missing children are fully reported to MULES and other law enforcement information systems.

GLOSSARY

ACTIVE: A missing person case in MULES which was operational sometime during a specified time period.

ADULT: An individual who is 17 years of age or older.

ARRESTED OTHER CHARGES: Seized by legal authority on charges other than being missing.

CANCELED: A MULES case disposition in which the originating agency determines the case to be invalid or in error and removes it from the system.

CARRY-IN: The number of active MULES cases carried in from one time period to another.

CARRY-OUT: The number of MULES cases still active at the end of a given time period.

CLASSIFICATION TYPE: A MULES juvenile case status which identifies the fundamental reason for a child being missing based on the initial categorization of a case at the time the case was entered into the system.

CLEARED: A MULES case disposition in which the individual was found either by the law enforcement agency originating the missing person report or by another law enforcement agency who relied on the originating agency to dispose of the case from the system.

JUVENILE: An individual under 17 years of age.

LOCATED: A MULES case disposition in which the child was found by a law enforcement agency other than the one originating the missing person report and the locating agency disposed of the case in the system.

LOCATED INSIDE JURISDICTION: A child found by the law enforcement agency who submitted the MULES missing person report.

LOCATED OUTSIDE JURISDICTION: A child found by an agency other than the one originating the mules missing person report.

PERCENT CHANGE: The formula is:

$$\frac{\text{Value in Current Period} - \text{Value in Base Period}}{\text{Value in Base Period}} \times 100$$

PURGED: A MULES case disposition in which a case is taken out of the system based on a predefined set of criteria. In the case of an adult, the case is purged seven years after the date of entry. For a juvenile, the case is purged seven years after the date of emancipation (their seventeenth birthday).

PARENTAL ABDUCTION: A child taken without permission and kept or concealed by a parent who does not have legal custody of the child.

QUARTILE: The value that marks the boundary between two consecutive intervals in a frequency distribution of four intervals with each containing one quarter of the total population.

RETURN VOLUNTARILY: A child who returns of their own free will.

RUNAWAY: A child who voluntarily leaves home without the permission of their parent or guardian.

STRANGER ABDUCTION: A child taken without the legal consent of the parent or guardian by an individual unknown to them.

SYSTEM FLOW: The manner in which cases enter and exit MULES during a specified time period.