

## **SUMMARY OF CASES REPORTED TO MISSING CHILDREN SA**

(For the term: 1 December 2010 – 30 November 2011)

Please note that we have also started working on adult cases as the demand for assistance with these cases has increased greatly.

Also, note that these statistics are based on cases reported to our organisation, and do not reflect all the cases reported to SAPS. Cases of missing children reported to SAPS are more or less 1460 cases per year.

According to our statistics, cases reported to our organisation (nationally) for the term mentioned above are as follows:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Total</b>
Missing	92	291	383
Found	61	252	313

Therefore, we have an overall success rate of 82%. For the children's cases alone our success rate is 87%.

Herewith a breakdown of our total cases per province:

<b><u>Province</u></b>	<b><u>Cases Reported</u></b>
Gauteng	158
Western Cape	143
Kwazulu Natal	40
Mpumalanga	13
Eastern Cape	8
North West	7
Free State	6
Limpopo	5
Northern Cape	3

Please see the breakdown below per province for adults and children separately:

Statistics for Eastern Cape:

<b><u>Status</u></b>	<b><u>Adults</u></b>	<b><u>Children</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Missing	1	7	8
Found	1	6	7

Statistics for the Free State:

<b><u>Status</u></b>	<b><u>Adults</u></b>	<b><u>Children</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Missing	2	4	6
Found	1	4	5

Statistics for Gauteng:

<b><u>Status</u></b>	<b><u>Adults</u></b>	<b><u>Children</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Missing	57	101	158
Found	36	82	118

Statistics for Kwazulu Natal:

<b><u>Status</u></b>	<b><u>Adults</u></b>	<b><u>Children</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Missing	4	36	40
Found	2	30	32

Statistics for Limpopo:

<b><u>Status</u></b>	<b><u>Adults</u></b>	<b><u>Children</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Missing	1	4	5
Found	1	2	3

Statistics for Mpumalanga:

<b><u>Status</u></b>	<b><u>Adults</u></b>	<b><u>Children</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Missing	5	8	13
Found	3	7	10

Statistics for Northern Cape:

<b><u>Status</u></b>	<b><u>Adults</u></b>	<b><u>Children</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Missing	1	2	3
Found	1	0	1

Statistics for North-West:

<b><u>Status</u></b>	<b><u>Adults</u></b>	<b><u>Children</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Missing	0	7	7
Found	0	7	7

Statistics for the Western Cape:

<b><u>Status</u></b>	<b><u>Adults</u></b>	<b><u>Children</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Missing	21	122	143
Found	16	114	130

We group the reasons children are reported missing in the following categories (see % for each category):

<u>Category</u>	<u>% of Cases Reported</u>
Run-Aways	28%
Getting Lost	30%
Parental Abductions	7%
Family Abductions	1%
Kidnappings (strangers)	2%
Found Deceased	3%
Unknown	29%

The age-categories of children reported missing to our organisation (1 December 2010 – 30 November 2011):

<u>Province</u>	<u>Ages 0 – 6 years</u>	<u>Ages 7 – 12 years</u>	<u>Ages 13 – 18yrs</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Eastern Cape	6	0	1	<b>7</b>
Free State	0	1	3	<b>4</b>
Gauteng	17	17	67	<b>101</b>
Kwazulu Natal	10	7	19	<b>36</b>
Limpopo	1	2	1	<b>4</b>
Mpumalanga	0	2	6	<b>8</b>
Northern Cape	1	0	1	<b>2</b>
North West	2	2	3	<b>7</b>
Western Cape	23	35	64	<b>122</b>
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>291</b>

The months with the most cases reported to our organisation were:

July 2011 with 41 cases,  
 August 2011 with 46 cases, and  
 October 2011 with 49 cases.

The month with the least cases reported was February 2011 with only 8 cases.

For the Festive Season:

Remember some BASIC safety tips: Keep your children close to home; Should you visit crowded areas (the beach, shopping centres, etc) be sure to agree on a meeting place should somebody get lost; Teach your children to NEVER walk alone; To never go with just anybody without informing you (the parent/guardian) about it; and VERY IMPORANT: **There is NO waiting period when reporting a missing person.** As soon as you suspect your child (or any other person) is missing, report it to you nearest police station immediately. (See our Protocol – what to do when a child goes missing – attached)

We have attached an Interim ID kit. This is a non-official document that serves as a guideline to parents/guardians about what is needed when a child goes missing. It is important to have all this information readily available and therefore we motivate parents to complete this form and to keep it in a safe place together with a RECENT photograph of the child. Keeping a photograph of your child on your cellular phone is also a good idea. Should something happen, be sure to take the form to the police so that the search can start immediately.

The first 3 hours after a child goes missing we call the GOLDEN HOURS. Thereafter the child can be anywhere: another city, another province, even across the border. This is why it is extremely important to report such a case immediately.

We at Missing Children SA understand that it is not always possible for parents to be at home with their children all the time due to work and other obligations. We do urge parents, when leaving their children at home, to make sure of the following:

- Leave your children with a responsible adult (not another child or alone);
- This person should be someone you trust, but even more important, someone your children trust;
- If you do not know a person you can leave your children with, find out from churches, schools and organisations in your area about holiday programs they may have or know of.

It is important to build a trusting relationship with your children. With an open, trusting relationship, your child will (hopefully) feel comfortable enough to share information with you such as: where he/she is going, with whom they are going and when they will be back. Small detail like this can help save a child's life.

In conclusion, we urge every parent/adult to adopt the motto of "YOUR CHILD IS MY CHILD TO PROTECT". We have to look after each other's children to ensure the safety of all the children in South Africa.

For more information, please feel free to contact us on [info@missingchildren.org.za](mailto:info@missingchildren.org.za) or visit our website – [www.missingchildren.org.za](http://www.missingchildren.org.za)

Missing Children SA Team