

SUMMARY OF CASES REPORTED TO MISSING CHILDREN SA

(For the term: 1 December 2013 – 30 November 2014)

Please note that the following figures are only based on cases reported to Missing Children SA and do not reflect all the cases reported to SAPS.

According to the Missing Persons Bureau, a child goes missing every 5 hours in our country. In 2013 they recorded 1697 cases of missing children reported to the South African Police Service.

Our case load increases every year – not necessarily only because more individuals go missing, but also because more people become aware of Missing Children SA and the service we render.

Our overall figures for the term mentioned above look as follows:

1 December 2013 – 30 November 2014

Category	Adults	Children	Total
Missing	400	285	685
Found	263	219	482

Therefore, we have an overall success rate of 70%. For the children's cases alone our success rate is 77%.

Herewith a breakdown of our total cases per province:

Province	Adults		Children		Cases Reported	
	Missing	Found	Missing	Found	Missing	Found
Gauteng	172	101	122	88	294	189
Western Cape	159	121	117	94	276	215
KwaZulu Natal	23	13	16	11	39	24
Mpumalanga	14	8	11	9	25	17
Free State	10	7	8	8	18	15
Eastern Cape	10	6	7	5	17	11
North West	7	6	2	2	9	8
Limpopo	5	1	0	0	5	1
Northern Cape	0	0	2	2	2	2

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

<u>Category</u>	<u>% of Cases Reported</u>
Runaways	51%
Unknown	42%
Getting Lost	3%
Parental Abduction	3%
Stranger Abductions	2%

Explanations:

Run-Aways: Children run away from home, guardians, and places of safety for various reasons.

- Being abused;
- Escaping unwanted/undeserved circumstances;
- Conflict at home;
- Rebellion;
- Are being offered a better life, better circumstances by strangers or people they have befriended over a social network for instance. The grass seems greener on the other side and when they accept these offers, they sometimes find themselves in a very vulnerable and dangerous place.

Unknown: Cases reported to our organisation and the reason for the child being missing is not mentioned or is unknown. Sometimes the parents/family does not want to share more information and want to keep in confidential.

Getting Lost: Child is found without the parents, wandering around, walking by himself/herself and then brought to a place of safety and/or a police station.
This happens when a child is playing outside without the necessary supervision, or being sent to the shop alone when he/she is only a toddler and cannot find his/her way back home.

Stranger Abduction: Child is taken from the parents/guardians care without their permission, by somebody not known by the family. People kidnap children for various reasons:

- Cannot have children of their own;
- Lost their own child
- Reason for revenge
- Financial benefit
- Human Trafficking (sex, drugs, etc.)

Parental Abductions: Parents are divorced or separated and the one parent takes the child without the permission from the other and disappears with him/her.

Family Abductions:

Child is taken by a family member without the permission from the legal parent/guardians.

Please note: On a daily basis we are striving to make more and more people aware of the reality of Human Trafficking. According to the International Labour Organisation it is estimated that 1.2 million children are trafficked each year. Furthermore, 32 billion dollars profit is generated annually from Human Trafficking.

Below, please find the break-down (in percentage) of the different ages of children reported to our organisation (1 December 2013 – 30 November 2014):

<u>Age</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
0 – 6 years	11%
7 – 12 years	21%
13 – 18 years	68%

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

**December 2013 with 79 cases,
January 2014 with 68 cases,
October 2014 with 82 cases.**

The month with the least cases reported was **July 2014 with only 44 cases.**

Totals of individuals found deceased:

Children - 4
Adults - 27

The racial groups (in percentage) according to cases we have worked on and of which flyers were distributed (available on our website), as follow:

Africans	Coloured	Caucasian	Other (Indian, Asian)
39%	27%	32%	3%

About Missing Children SA

Missing Children SA, is a **registered NPO and PBO** that **assists the authorities when an individual goes missing in South Africa, for any reason whatsoever**. We work closely with the South African Police Service and other government bodies as well as other NGO's and private initiatives, to assist in the recovery and safe return of any missing person.

Our first tier is that of an emergency response service. We have a national helpline for incident reports and callers are advised on which immediate steps to take in logging the incident officially so as to ensure efficient and timeous action. We also liaise with the investigating officers on the case so as to ensure a continuous flow of information between the parents and authorities. **Secondly, by activating a vast national social and media network** we distribute flyers of missing children, creating mass awareness of the individual and maximising the chances of that child being recovered. **Lastly, since prevention is the most efficient way to keep our children safe, we strive to educate** both parents or guardians and children on the dangers of abduction and human trafficking.

Our website www.missingchildren.org.za acts as an emergency report facility as well as being platform for informational and educational material with regards to child safety.

We have over 54 000 members on our Facebook page alone excluding the individual networks of our board members, volunteers and other affiliates which makes for **incredibly efficient, instant mass distribution of flyers, within moments of an incident.**

We are based in the **Western Cape** but operate on a **national** level and as such, are the **most recognised, free community service for missing children** and adults, in the country.

The service MCSA offers to the community and government is invaluable and as you can imagine we certainly have our work cut out for us. We provide **our services free of charge** to every and anyone who needs us. Sadly we **don't necessarily enjoy the same privilege** for our needs and our financial requirements quite often outweigh our resources! **We rely solely on the goodwill of individuals and corporations for financial support.**

Some General Safety Tips:

- There is NO WAITING PERIOD for reporting a person missing to the nearest police station.
 - Should you report a person to the police station and the police officer tells you to come back after 24 hours, demand to speak to the station commander. Or, alternatively, contact Missing Children SA and the organisation will intervene and assist wherever possible.
- When reporting a person missing to the police station, the following information will be required:
 - Full name of missing person
 - Age of missing person
 - Description of missing person
 - Eye colour

- Hair colour/style
 - Height
 - Weight
 - Distinctive marks – scars/birthmarks
- Where was the person last seen
- Clothes the person was wearing
- We have an informal document that serves as a guideline to parents about what will be needed by SAPS when a child goes missing. We call it the Interim ID Kit. It can be downloaded from our website or sent us an e-mail and we will be sure to send you an electronic copy.
- Teach your children the basic safety tips, also available from our website.

Support us by tweeting the following: Support [@072Missing](#) Missing Children SA by adding them as 1 of your 3 MySchool beneficiaries and you could win a R500 Woolworths Gift Card!

For other ways to get involved, please visit www.missingchildren.org.za/involved.

To report a missing person, go to www.missingchildren.org.za/report.

Contact Details for Missing Children SA:

Media Enquiries &
Interview Requests Nicky Rheeder 076 645 6466 or nicky@missingchildren.org.za

Emergency Number: 072MISSING / 072 647 7464
General Enquiries/Office: 021 950 1546 (Office hours only)
E-mail Address: info@missingchildren.org.za
Website: www.missingchildren.org.za

Join our Facebook Group: Missing Children SA Page
Follow us on Twitter: @072missing

For more information, please feel free to contact us on the numbers above or visit our website.

Missing Children SA Team