

SUMMARY OF CASES REPORTED TO MISSING CHILDREN SA

(For the term: 1 June 2014 – 31 May 2015)

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 follow:

1 June 2014 – 31 May 2015

Category	Adults	Children	Total
Missing	362	236	598
Found	222	173	395

Therefore, we have an overall success rate of 66%. For the children's cases alone our success rate is 73%. It is an unfortunate reality that 3.8% of the children found again, were found deceased. Every year we see the success rate decrease – we cannot say for a fact that it is because fewer children are found again, or perhaps because more cases are reported to our organisation.

Herewith a breakdown of our total cases per province:

Province	Adults		Children		Cases Reported	
	Missing	Found	Missing	Found	Missing	Found
Gauteng	143	84	108	75	251	159
Western Cape	169	111	89	68	258	179
KwaZulu Natal	17	9	14	10	31	19
Free State	3	3	8	8	11	11
Eastern Cape	4	1	6	4	10	5
North West	7	3	2	2	9	5
Limpopo	5	2	2	1	7	3
Mpumalanga	12	8	6	4	18	12
Northern Cape	2	1	1	1	3	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>
General (Reasons Unknown)	50.84%
Run-Aways	45.34%
Victim of Crime (eg Hijacking)	0.42%
Stranger Abduction	0.85%
Parental/Family Abduction	1.27%
Confirmed Human Trafficking	0.42%

Please note: On a daily basis we are striving to make more and more people aware of the reality of Human Trafficking. We are sure more cases reported to SAPS as well as to our organisation are because of Human Trafficking, but at this stage it cannot be proven. 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 June 2014 – 31 May 2015):

<u>Age</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
0 – 6 years	13.14%
7 – 12 years	18.22%
13 – 17 years	68.64%

The month with the most cases reported to our organisation was **October 2014 with 87 cases.**

The month with the least cases reported was **April 2015 with only 32 cases.**

Totals of individuals found deceased:

Children - 9
Adults - 33

The racial group distribution:

African	Coloured	Caucasian	Other (Indian, Asian)
33.61%	31.10%	31.94%	3.34%

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. **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/guardians and children on the dangers of abduction and human trafficking etc. We also liaise with the investigating officers on the case so as to ensure a continuous flow of information between the parents and authorities.

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 56 000 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 individuals** 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 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 along with a recent photograph:
 - 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 send 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.

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

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

Contact Details for Missing Children SA:

Emergency Number: 072MISSING / 072 647 7464
General Enquiries/Office: 021 950 1546
Media Enquiries: media@missingchildren.org.za
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