

**NORTH CAROLINA  
CENTER FOR MISSING PERSONS**

**2018 Annual Report**



## **INTRODUCTION**

The annual statistical report is compiled from the data received from National Crime Information Center by the NC Center for Missing Persons. The Center is required to maintain statewide statistics for legislative and public information.

### **The Legislation**

The initial missing person report is filed with the local law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the case. The report is received by the State Bureau of Investigation, Division of Criminal Information System. Once received, it is downloaded weekly to the Centers ACCESS database. Each report filed with a local agency is entered in the system as a separate case. All NCCMP's received information is based on report filing and cancellation information as it is entered by the local agencies.

The Missing Person Center has no way of identifying missing persons that have not been entered in the NCIC system.

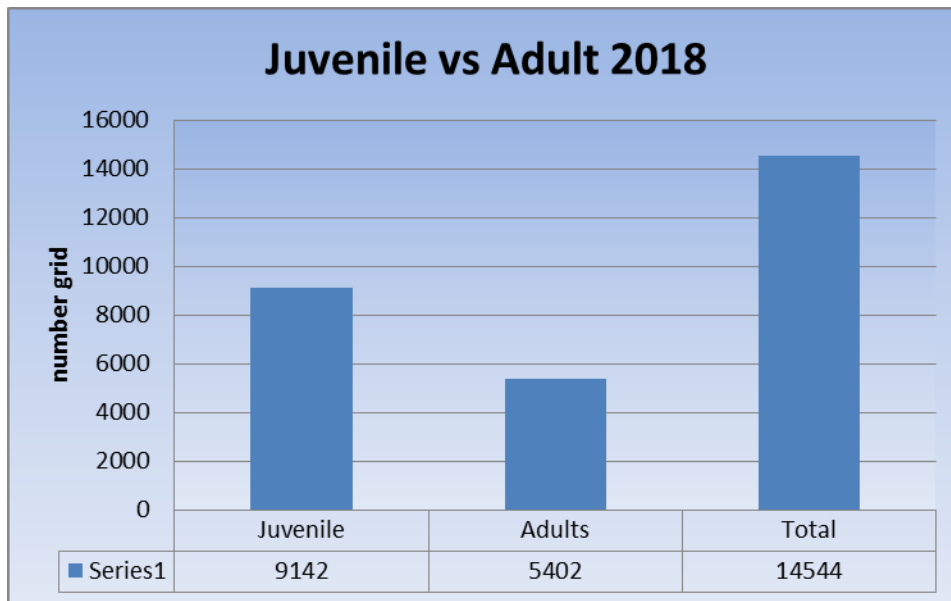
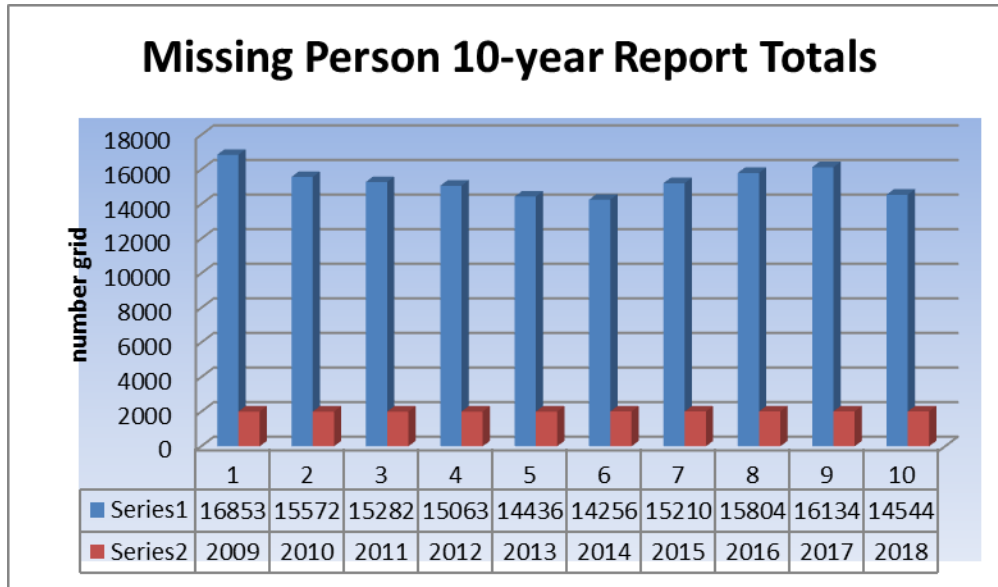
## TERMINOLOGY USED IN THIS REPORT

(1) Missing child means a juvenile as defined in G.S. 7B-101 whose location has not been determined, who has been reported as missing to a law-enforcement agency, and whose parent's, spouse's, guardian's or legal custodian's temporary or permanent residence is in North Carolina or is believed to be in North Carolina.

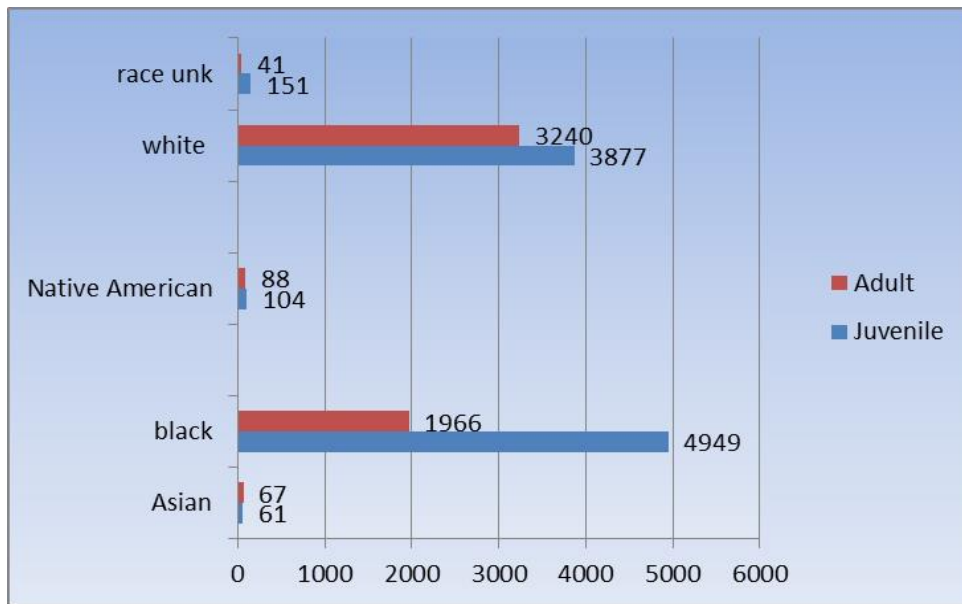
(2) Missing person means any individual who is 18 years of age or older, whose temporary or permanent residence is in North Carolina, or is believed to be in North Carolina, whose location has not been determined, and who has been reported as missing to a law-enforcement agency.

(3) Missing person report is a report prepared on a prescribed form for transmitting information about a missing person or a missing child to an appropriate law-enforcement agency. (1985 (Reg. Sess., 1986), c. 1000, s. 1; 1998-202, s. 13(mm); 2011-145, s. 19.1(w).)

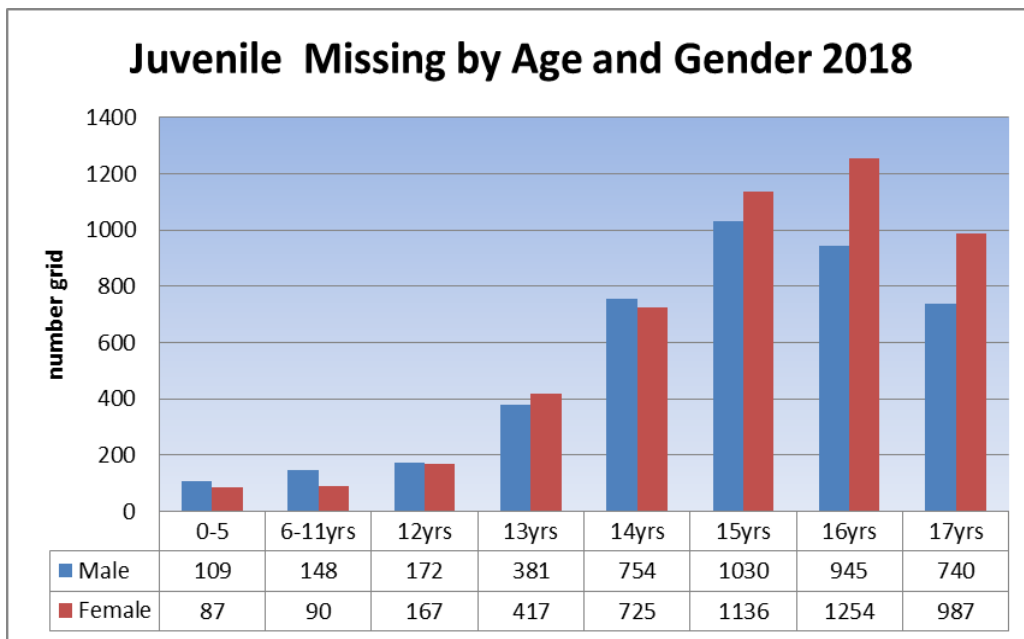
For statistical and report writing purposes, the North Carolina Center for Missing Person (NCCMP) presents numbers that show yearly comparisons of all missing persons reports. Reports are down by 1590 from 2017.



During 2018, the number of black juveniles that went missing was higher than white juveniles by 1,072. However, the number of white missing adults remains the highest in the missing adult category by 1,274.



Special attention has been given to the missing persons reports of juvenile's due to the high number of reports filed annually. It should be noted that more than 97% of these juveniles are voluntary runaways that return within 72 hours. Some are habitual runaways, so each time they run away, counts as a separate report.



## SILVER ALERTS FOR 2018

Total number of Silver Alerts for the year of 2018 was 410. In an effort to show the effectiveness of the program and where possible improvements can be made, the Center for Missing Persons keeps statistics on all alerts activated.

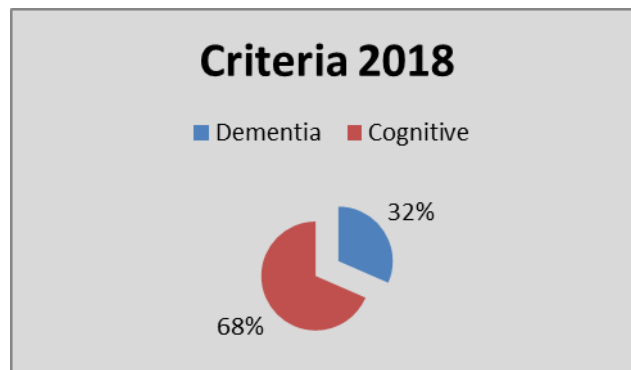
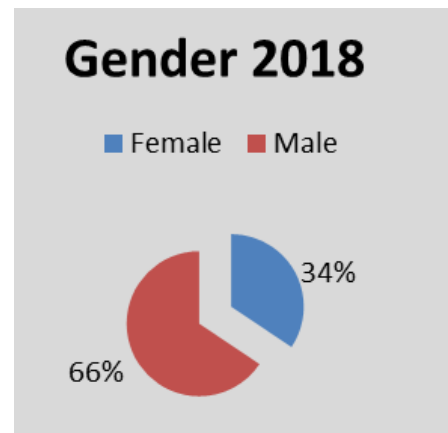
The criteria for activating a Silver Alert remain the same: subject must be reported missing to a law enforcement agency; and she or he must be believed to have dementia or a cognitive impairment.

Out of the 410 alerts activated in 2018, 319 left from a private resident. The other 91 were either missing from a group home, assisted living facility or reported by a homeless shelter. Thirty-four of those 410 alerts returned on their own and six were recovered deceased (down from 2017). Only 71 of the 410 alerts were reported as located or recovered because of the activated Silver Alert.

Other noteworthy stats follow.

Two-thirds of the Silver Alerts during 2018 were male. More research is needed to try to explain the large gender difference.

Dementia and cognitive impairment are the only two criteria for the Silver Alert. The interesting part about this is the initial plan for Silver Alert was to cover dementia but cognitive impairment continues to dominate the numbers.

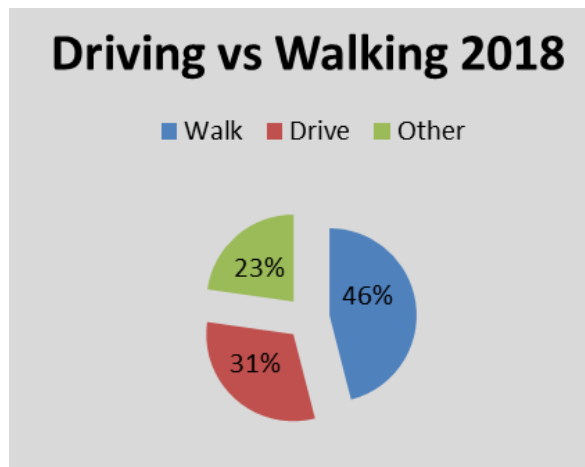
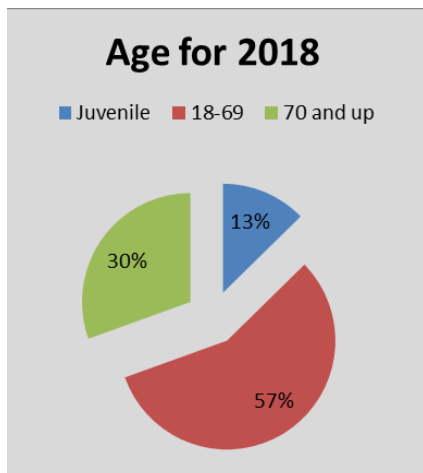
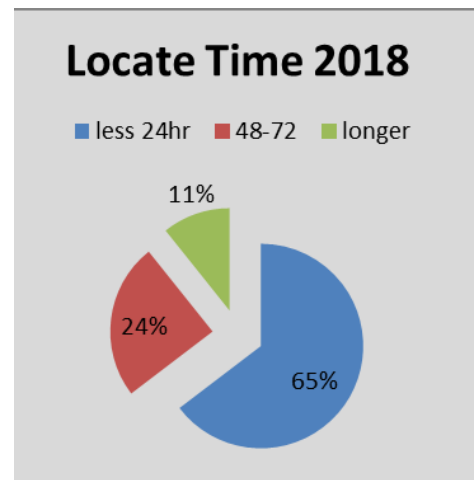
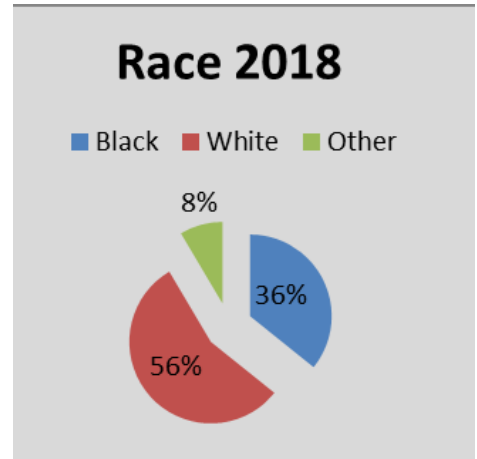


While race plays no part in activation, the numbers are unexplainably skewed.

The location time statistics raise questions regarding alerts are requested and issued so quickly. Because a majority of the alerts are located within 24 hours and *without* the assistance of an alert, we must ask ourselves are we activating too fast? Are requesting agencies meeting the criteria for a state alert? Is it possible those cases could have been worked at a lower level?

Silver Alert activations include all ages, yet the juvenile count remains low. Requests show that very few of these juveniles are in any eminent danger, nor are they runaways with serious cognitive impairments.

Elderly drivers with dementia remain a top priority, but most drivers are not in the elderly category of 60 and above.



## AMBER ALERTS

Eight AMBER Alerts were activated in 2018 which resulted in six successful locates and two recoveries.

NCCMP activated the Wireless Emergency Alert System system on all alerts that were activated before 10 p.m. and after 6 a.m. AMBER Alerts also are now shared on Facebook and Twitter.