



# Missing Children Report

Fiscal Year 2009



# Annual Report

## I. INTRODUCTION

The I-SEARCH program was created by the passage of the Intergovernmental Missing Child Recovery Act of 1984 (325 ILCS 40/1, et seq.). The program was designed to educate the public, improve the criminal justice system, effect legislative change, and direct assistance for local programs designed to improve child safety. This report is submitted for Fiscal Year 2009, in compliance with the final paragraph of the Act, entitled, "Annual Report."

The Illinois State Police Law Enforcement Agencies Data System (LEADS) is the information system linking Illinois police agencies, other state agencies, and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). The Intergovernmental Missing Child Recovery Act of 1984 and the National Child Search Assistance Act of 1990 mandates immediate entry of all reports of missing children into LEADS, which are automatically entered into the nationwide NCIC database.

## II. STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

An effective resource in solving cases of missing and exploited children, the clearinghouse is a focal point for the coordination of efforts by law enforcement, social services, education and prevention programs, legislative advocacy, and the dissemination of missing children's photographs. Its responsibilities include:

- collecting and maintaining computerized data and investigating information on missing persons and unidentified bodies in the state;
- coordinating with and providing assistance to state and local public and private nonprofit agencies, including those of other states and the federal government, in the location and recovery of missing persons and the identification of unidentified persons and bodies;
- establishing and operating a statewide, toll-free telephone line for reports of missing persons and reports of sightings of missing persons;
- providing a uniform missing person reporting and investigation protocol for law enforcement agencies within the state;
- publishing a directory of missing persons for dissemination to state and local public and private nonprofit agencies and to the public;
- compiling statistics on the missing children cases handled by, and the number resolved by, the Clearinghouse each year, summarizing the circumstances of each case;

- assisting in the preparation and dissemination of fliers about missing persons and their abductors;
- assisting in the training of law enforcement and other professionals about missing and unidentified persons and unidentified bodies;
- operating a clearinghouse of information about methods of locating and recovering missing persons;
- operating a resource center of information about the prevention of abduction and sexual exploitation of children; and
- developing and implementing a coordinated program for a statewide emergency alert system to be used when a child is abducted.

### III. FISCAL

All dedicated funding of this program has ceased.

### IV. SPECIAL ACTIVITY

Public Act 93-0310 established the Illinois AMBER Plan Task Force to monitor and review the implementation and operation of the system. During Fiscal Year 2009, the Task Force met twice and maintained a web site, [www.amberillinois.org](http://www.amberillinois.org), to provide information to law enforcement, educators, media, parents, and the general public in relation to the Illinois AMBER Alert Plan.

On September 30 - October 3, 2008, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and Fox Valley Technical College hosted a State Clearinghouse/Nonprofit Organization National Conference in Greenville, South Carolina. The conference mission was to enhance the nation's response to missing children and their families by encouraging a cooperative and coordinated approach by public and private agencies. The Midwestern States Missing Child Clearinghouse Coalition held its fall meeting during the conference. This event also served as the Interstate Advisory Council for Missing and Exploited Children meeting.

On October 14-16, 2008, a National AMBER Alert Training was held in Orange County, California. The goals were to increase cooperation and opportunities for networking among AMBER Alert programs, to increase knowledge about what works, to enhance the overall AMBER Alert network by providing suggestions for greater communication and collaboration, and to identify and problem-solve AMBER Alert program development and implementation issues.

On January 13, 2009, Illinois observed AMBER Alert Awareness Day. A poster contest titled "Bring Our Missing Children Home" was launched by the Illinois AMBER Alert Task Force. School superintendents, principals, teachers,

community leaders, law enforcement, and parents joined in the effort to educate children about safety issues.

Hosted by the Illinois State Police on March 12-13, 2009, the Interstate Advisory Council for Missing and Exploited Children held its spring meeting in Springfield, Illinois. The following agencies were represented: National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Fox Valley Technical College, California Department of Justice, Illinois State Police, Indiana State Police, Kansas Bureau of Investigations, Kentucky State Police, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Ohio Attorney General's Office, and Wisconsin Department of Justice.

On May 25, 2009, Illinois observed Missing Children's Day. To recognize the day, citizens were asked to "Light the Way Home" by driving with their headlights on and turning on porch lights to raise awareness about the serious issue of missing children.

During Fiscal Year 2009, the clearinghouse prepared and electronically disseminated informational bulletins to the Illinois State Board of Education, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and the 50 state clearinghouses. The bulletins featured missing children from Illinois and listed all Illinois missing persons active in the NCIC database longer than 30 days.

## **V. MISSING CHILDREN: A STATISTICAL OVERVIEW**

There were 32,698 reports of missing persons under the age of 18 in Illinois during Fiscal Year 2009. This represented a decrease of 1,104 (more than three percent) from Fiscal Year 2008. Endangered, involuntary, and the habitual runaway categories increased in Fiscal Year 2009. All other categories of missing children experienced a decrease in reported cases.

Female children were reported missing in greater numbers than male children by a ratio of 27 to 23. Children aged 15 to 17 were reported missing more frequently than any other group. Children aged 12 to 14 had the second highest frequency. These two age ranges totaled 31,603, or 96.5 percent, of all missing children reports for Fiscal Year 2009.

Of the 32,698 reported missing children, 32,057 were cleared through arrest for non-traffic offenses; the child was recovered, located and returned home; or the child was found deceased. This number reflected a 98 percent clearance rate for Fiscal Year 2009. However, as of June 30, 2009, there were 1,922 children still listed as missing. Of this number, 641 of the children were reported missing during Fiscal Year 2009; 1,281 continue to be missing from previous reported years.

During Fiscal Year 2009, the Illinois AMBER Alert Notification Plan was activated in eight instances, alerts were broadcast in six. In two instances, the children in question were recovered after an AMBER Alert was approved, but before a broadcast could be made. Three AMBER Alerts broadcast involved multiple

children, bringing the total of children for whom AMBER Alerts were activated to 12. Nine of the children were recovered safe and sound, three of which were a direct result of the AMBER Alert Activation. Three children who were the subject of AMBER Alerts were found deceased. In a separate case, two were located in Putnam County three weeks after their abduction.

# **STATISTICS**

## DEFINITIONS

**Child** - For the purposes of this report, child is considered to be any person under the age of 18.

**Missing Child** - Any child whose whereabouts are unknown to the parent or legal custodian and the disappearance is not the result of an accident, catastrophe, or arrest.

**Clearance** - Children who have been reported missing and located, returned home, arrested, or found deceased.

**Illinois AMBER Alert Notification Plan** - A voluntary partnership between law enforcement agencies, broadcasters, and the National Weather Service to activate an urgent bulletin in the most serious child abduction cases meeting the below-listed criteria. This is the same concept used during severe weather emergencies. The goal of the AMBER Alert is to instantly galvanize the entire community to assist in the search for and safe return of the child.

### AMBER ALERT CRITERIA

- law enforcement must confirm a child has been abducted;
- the child must be under the age of 16 or have a proven mental or physical disability;
- police must believe the child is in danger of serious bodily harm or death; and
- there is enough descriptive information about the child, abductor, and/or suspect's vehicle to believe an immediate broadcast alert will help.

## MISSING PERSON ENTRY CODES

**AMBER Alert (EMJA)** - A child under the age of 16 who has been abducted and meets criteria.

**Disabled (EMJD)** - A child who is missing and thought to be disabled.

**Endangered (EMJE)** - A child who is missing and in the company of another person under circumstances indicating that he/she may be in danger.

**Habitual Runaway (EMJH)** - A child who is missing and has a history of running away.

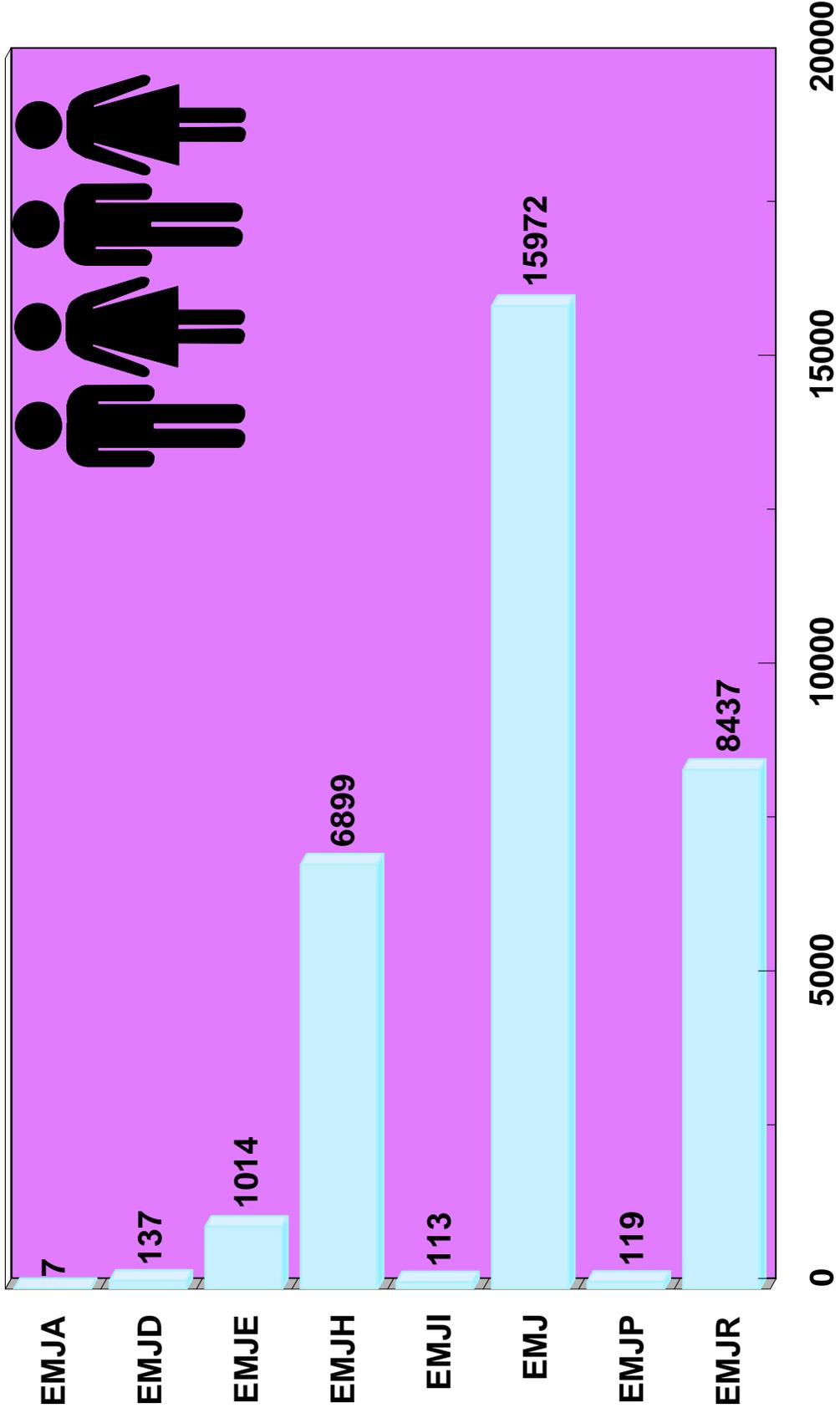
**Involuntary (EMJI)** - A child who is missing under circumstances indicating the disappearance was not voluntary, i.e., abduction or kidnaping.

**Parental Abduction (EMJP)** - A child who is missing and is known to be with a parent (custodial or non-custodial).

**Runaway (EMJR)** - A child who is missing under circumstances indicating the missing person has run away.

**Juvenile (EMJ)** - A child who is missing and does not meet any of the criteria set forth in other categories.

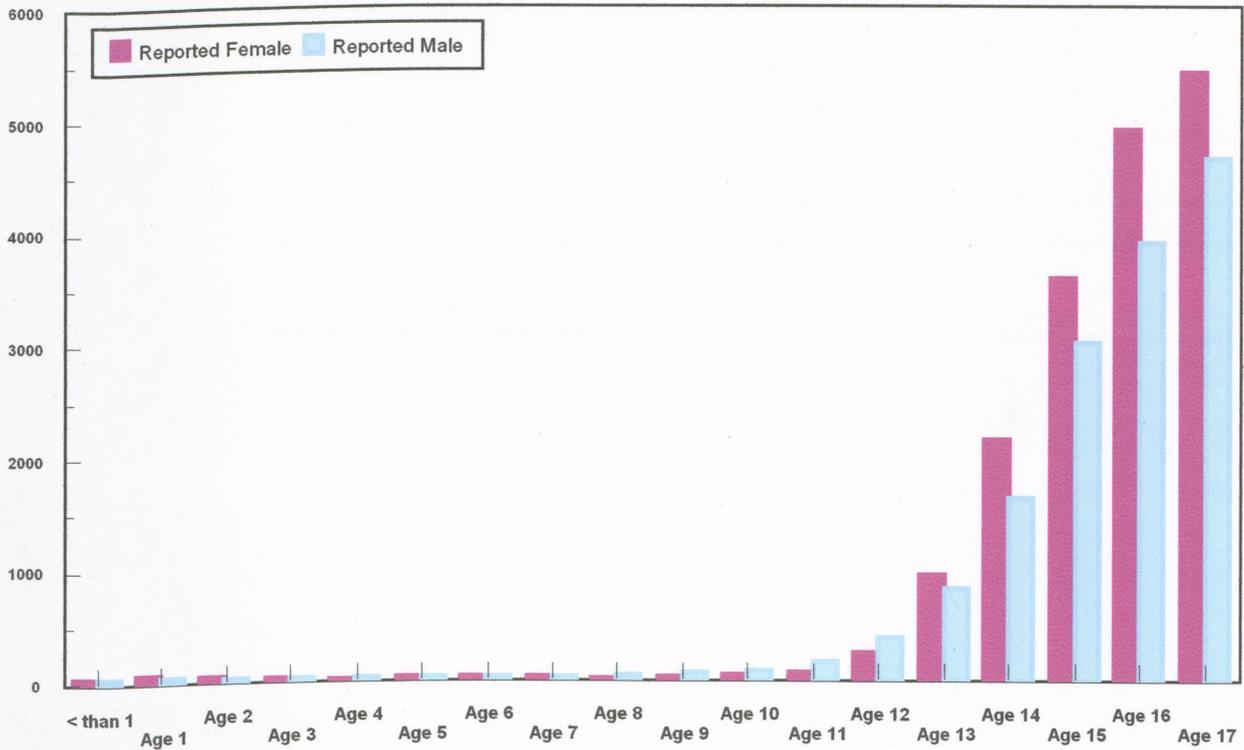
# ILLINOIS MISSING CHILDREN REPORT BY CATEGORY - FY09



\* Information above is derived from LEADS entries by state and local law enforcement agencies. LEADS categories entered may not accurately reflect actual incidents.

# Illinois Missing Juveniles By Age - FY09

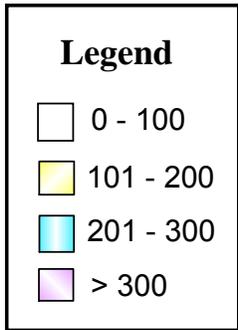
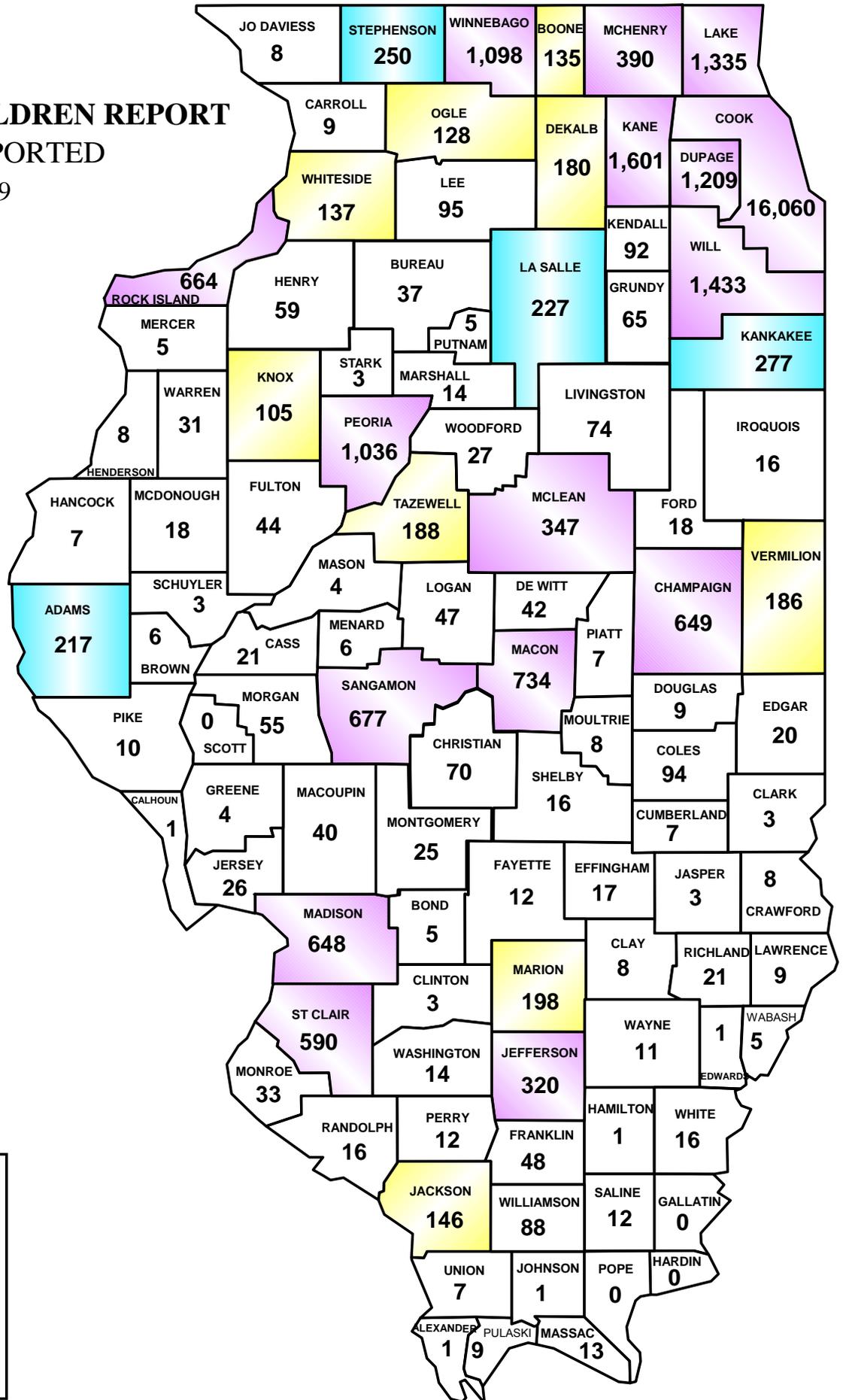
AGE	NUMBER CASES REPORTED			PENDING ACTIVE CASES		
	Female	Male	TOTAL	Female	Male	TOTAL
>1	46	52	98	1	2	3
1	63	49	112	3	2	5
2	48	38	86	1	1	2
3	33	34	67	1	2	3
4	19	26	45	3	1	4
5	24	25	49	1	2	3
6	29	28	57	1	0	1
7	29	37	66	2	1	3
8	18	45	63	1	0	1
9	27	65	92	2	3	5
10	40	81	121	1	0	1
11	74	165	239	0	6	6
12	237	379	616	3	3	6
13	939	826	1,765	13	11	24
14	2,132	1,628	3,760	35	27	62
15	3,577	3,017	6,594	65	46	111
16	4,903	3,891	8,794	102	78	180
17	5,424	4,650	10,074	127	94	221
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>17,662</b>	<b>15,036</b>	<b>32,698</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>641</b>



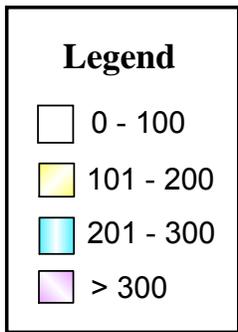
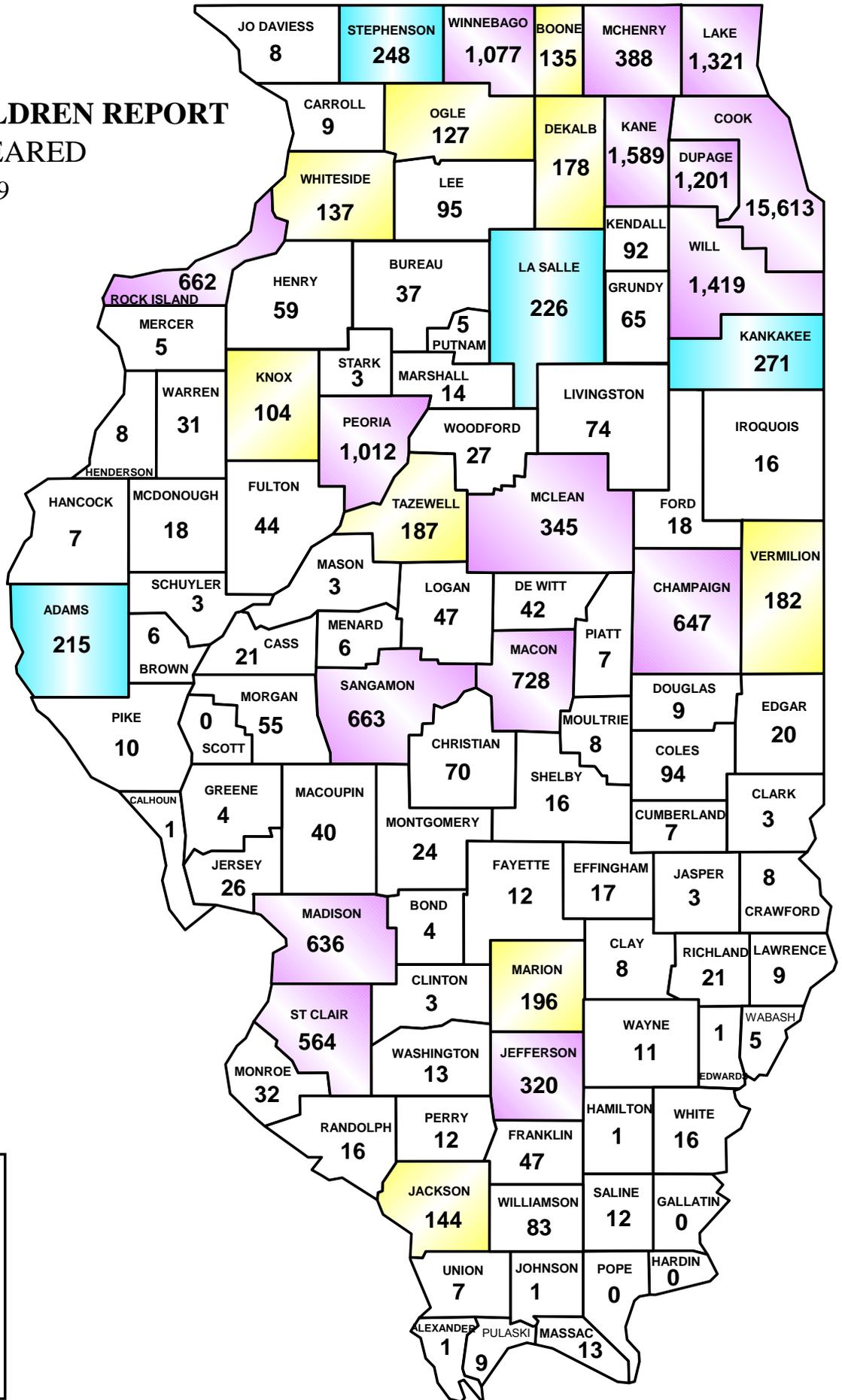
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# MISSING CHILDREN REPORT CASES REPORTED

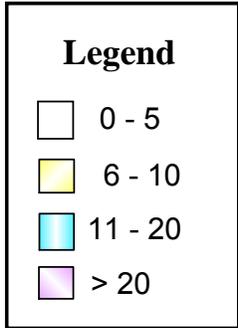
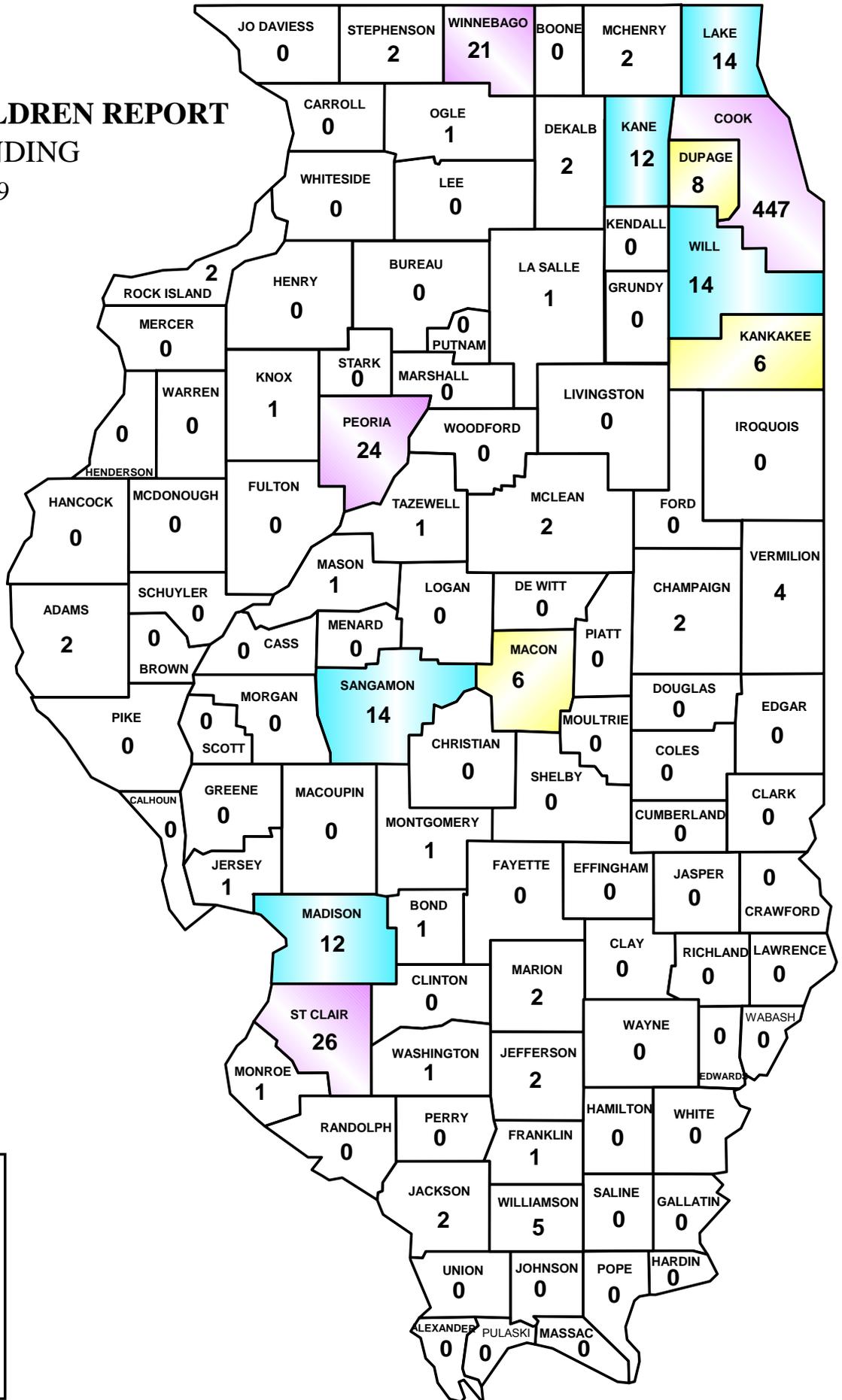
FY 09



# MISSING CHILDREN REPORT CASES CLEARED FY 09



# MISSING CHILDREN REPORT CASES PENDING FY 09



**MISSING CHILDREN REPORTS  
REPORTED, CLEARED, AND PENDING  
BY COUNTY (FY 09)**

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>REPORTED</u>	<u>CLEARED</u>	<u>PENDING</u>
Adams	217	215	2
Alexander	1	1	0
Bond	5	4	1
Boone	135	135	0
Brown	6	6	0
Bureau	37	37	0
Calhoun	1	1	0
Carroll	9	9	0
Cass	21	21	0
Champaign	649	647	2
Christian	70	70	0
Clark	3	3	0
Clay	8	8	0
Clinton	3	3	0
Coles	94	94	0
Cook	16,060	15,613	447
Crawford	8	8	0
Cumberland	7	7	0
DeKalb	180	178	2
DeWitt	42	42	0
Douglas	9	9	0
DuPage	1,209	1,201	8
Edgar	20	20	0
Edwards	1	1	0
Effingham	17	17	0
Fayette	12	12	0
Ford	18	18	0
Franklin	48	47	1
Fulton	44	44	0
Gallatin	0	0	0
Greene	4	4	0
Grundy	65	65	0
Hamilton	1	1	0
Hancock	7	7	0
Hardin	0	0	0
Henderson	8	8	0
Henry	59	59	0
Iroquois	16	16	0
Jackson	146	144	2

**MISSING CHILDREN REPORTS  
REPORTED, CLEARED, AND PENDING  
BY COUNTY (FY 09)**

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>REPORTED</u>	<u>CLEARED</u>	<u>PENDING</u>
Jasper	3	3	0
Jefferson	320	320	0
Jersey	26	26	0
Jo Daviess	8	8	0
Johnson	1	1	0
Kane	1,601	1,589	12
Kankakee	277	271	6
Kendall	92	92	0
Knox	105	104	1
Lake	1,335	1,321	14
LaSalle	227	226	1
Lawrence	9	9	0
Lee	95	95	0
Livingston	74	74	0
Logan	47	47	0
Macon	734	728	6
Macoupin	40	40	0
Madison	648	636	12
Marion	198	196	2
Marshall	14	14	0
Mason	4	3	1
Massac	13	13	0
McDonough	18	18	0
McHenry	390	388	2
McLean	347	345	2
Menard	6	6	0
Mercer	5	5	0
Monroe	33	32	1
Montgomery	25	24	1
Morgan	55	55	0
Moultrie	8	8	0
Ogle	128	127	1
Peoria	1,036	1,012	24
Perry	12	12	0
Piatt	7	7	0
Pike	10	10	0
Pope	0	0	0
Pulaski	9	9	0
Putnam	5	5	0
Randolph	16	16	0

**MISSING CHILDREN REPORTS  
REPORTED, CLEARED, AND PENDING  
BY COUNTY (FY 09)**

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>REPORTED</u>	<u>CLEARED</u>	<u>PENDING</u>
Richland	21	21	0
Rock Island	664	662	2
Saline	12	12	0
Sangamon	677	663	14
Schuyler	3	3	0
Scott	0	0	0
Shelby	16	16	0
Stark	3	3	0
St. Clair	590	564	26
Stephenson	250	248	2
Tazewell	188	187	1
Union	7	7	0
Vermilion	186	182	4
Wabash	5	5	0
Warren	31	31	0
Washington	14	13	1
Wayne	11	11	0
White	16	16	0
Whiteside	137	137	0
Will	1,433	1,419	14
Williamson	88	83	5
Winnebago	1,098	1,077	21
Woodford	27	27	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32,698</b>	<b>32,057</b>	<b>641</b>

# **I SEARCH**

## **ILLINOIS STATE POLICE CLEARINGHOUSE FOR MISSING PERSONS**

**2200 SOUTH DIRKSEN PARKWAY  
SUITE 238  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62703-4528**

**1-800-U HELP ME  
(1-800-843-5763)**



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