

116 000



data and statistics from hotlines for missing children in 2023

67,345

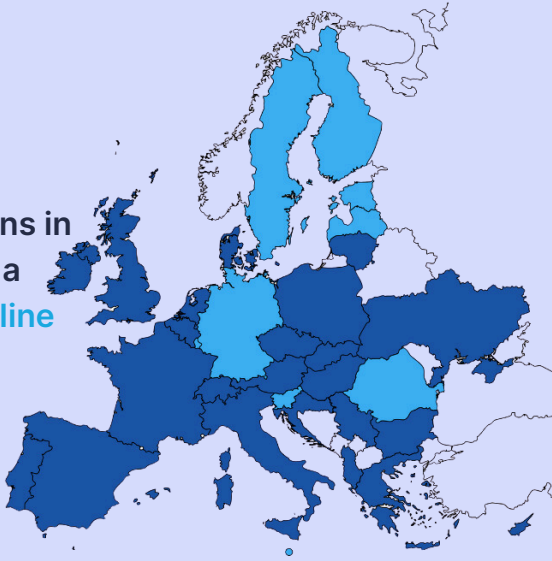
points of contact were recorded by 21 hotlines in 2023

7,274

new cases dealt with in 2023 and 837 ongoing cases

32

organisations in Europe run a 116000 hotline for missing children



 42%

of persons contacting the hotlines are children

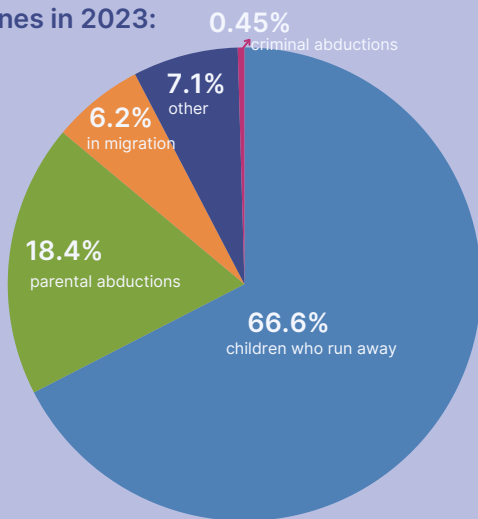
 14%

of cases of missing children had a cross-border dimension

 1 in 5

points of contact was done through the use of texts, chats and/or WhatsApp message


Types of missing cases handled by 116 000 hotlines in 2023:




■ children who run away ■ missing in migration ■ criminal abductions
■ parental abductions ■ lost, injured, or otherwise missing

Missing cases of children by gender:

 53% girls

 47% boys

 1 non-binary (<0%)

Increasing concerns about online grooming:


111 cases of online grooming led to a child going missing


Violence against children linked to risks of going missing:


70% of cases of missing children contained an element of violence or abuse


Vulnerabilities


When asked which vulnerabilities 116 000 hotlines record, 6 out of 18 respondents stated that they did not record any. Hotlines who record vulnerabilities indicate that children in institutional care, children in migration and children with mental health problems are overrepresented amongst children who go missing.


 12 hotlines record information on child's care status.

 9 hotlines record information on child's mental health.

 5 hotlines record information on LGBTQ+ identities.

 10 hotlines record information on child's migration status.

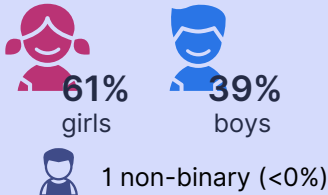
 6 hotlines record information on Roma children.

 4 hotlines record information on colour, physical disabilities, and neurodivergencies.

Breakdown of missing cases by categories, gender, and median age:

Children who run away

66.6%



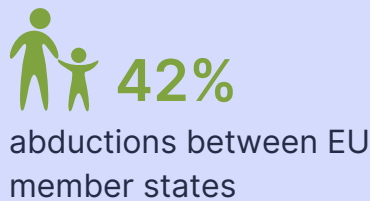
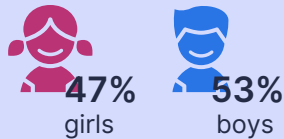
64% left home

30% left a care institution

Median age range
13-17 years old

Parental abductions

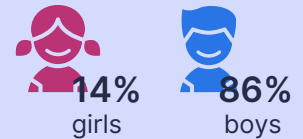
18.4%



Median age range
4-11 years old

Missing in migration

6.2%



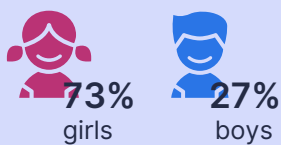
170 children lost in migration were not found in 2023.

Median age range
12-17 years old

Criminal abductions

Abduction of a child by anyone other than a parent or a person with parental authority.

0.45%

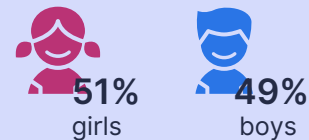


Median age range
11-15 years old

Lost, injured, or otherwise missing

Disappearances of children for no apparent reason, who may have gotten lost or hurt and cannot be found immediately.

7.1%



Median age range
10-17 years old

116 000  www.116000.eu



The network of missing children hotlines is operated by national organisations in 32 countries in Europe. Children and families calling the 116 000 European hotline for missing children receive free and immediate emotional, psychological, social, legal, and administrative support 24/7. They also provide a vital central contact and coordination point for cases that are cross-border. Missing Children Europe coordinates the network of 116 000 hotlines for missing children, and the network of cross border family mediators and facilitates coordination of cases that involve cross-border issues.



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