



MISSIN
Lola Celli

Please call

Amina Alhaj-
AGE: 25
GENDER: Female
HEIGHT: 5'7"
WEIGHT: 135
DATE MISSING: Jun
MISSING FROM: Colum

SEEN OR HEARD
Call or text (555) 555-0123

MISSIN
Jennife
AGE: 13
GENDER: Fe
HEIGHT: 5'2"
WEIGHT: 120
DATE MISSA
MISSING FRO



Jayme Bowen
22-year-old female. Last seen on April 10, 2014 in Columbus, 5ft tall and 110 lbs. Do you have any information?



James Hysong
AGE: 20
GENDER: Male
HEIGHT: 5'10"
WEIGHT: 145 lbs
DATE MISSING: 3/15/93
MISSING FROM: Toledo

DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION?
PLEASE CALL:

Beverly Potts
AGE: 70
GENDER: Female
HEIGHT: 4'7"
WEIGHT: 90 lbs
DATE MISSING: 8/24/51
MISSING FROM: Cleveland

MISSING

DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION?
PLEASE CALL:

PLEASE HELP
Call or text (555) 555-0123

MISSING



Ronald Tammen, Jr.
AGE: 19
GENDER: Male
HEIGHT: 5'10"
WEIGHT: 175 lbs
DATE MISSING: April 19, 1953
MISSING FROM: Oxford



AGE:
GENDER: Female
HEIGHT: 5'5"
WEIGHT: 145 lbs
DATE MISSING: 8/31/21
MISSING FROM:
Columbus' North Side
Call (555) 555-0123
with any information



Tyler Davis
AGE: 29
GENDER: Male
HEIGHT: 5'11"
WEIGHT: 170 lbs
DATE MISSING: 2/24/19
MISSING FROM: Easton
Town Center in Columbus

DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION?
PLEASE CALL:



Help us find him
Melvin Ho



MISSING

Help us find him
Please call
**HAVE YOU BEEN
THIS CHILD?**

VANISHED

**HAVE YOU SEEN
THIS PERSON?**

Missing

Dawaun Lewis-Taylor
AGE: 15
GENDER: Male



MISSING

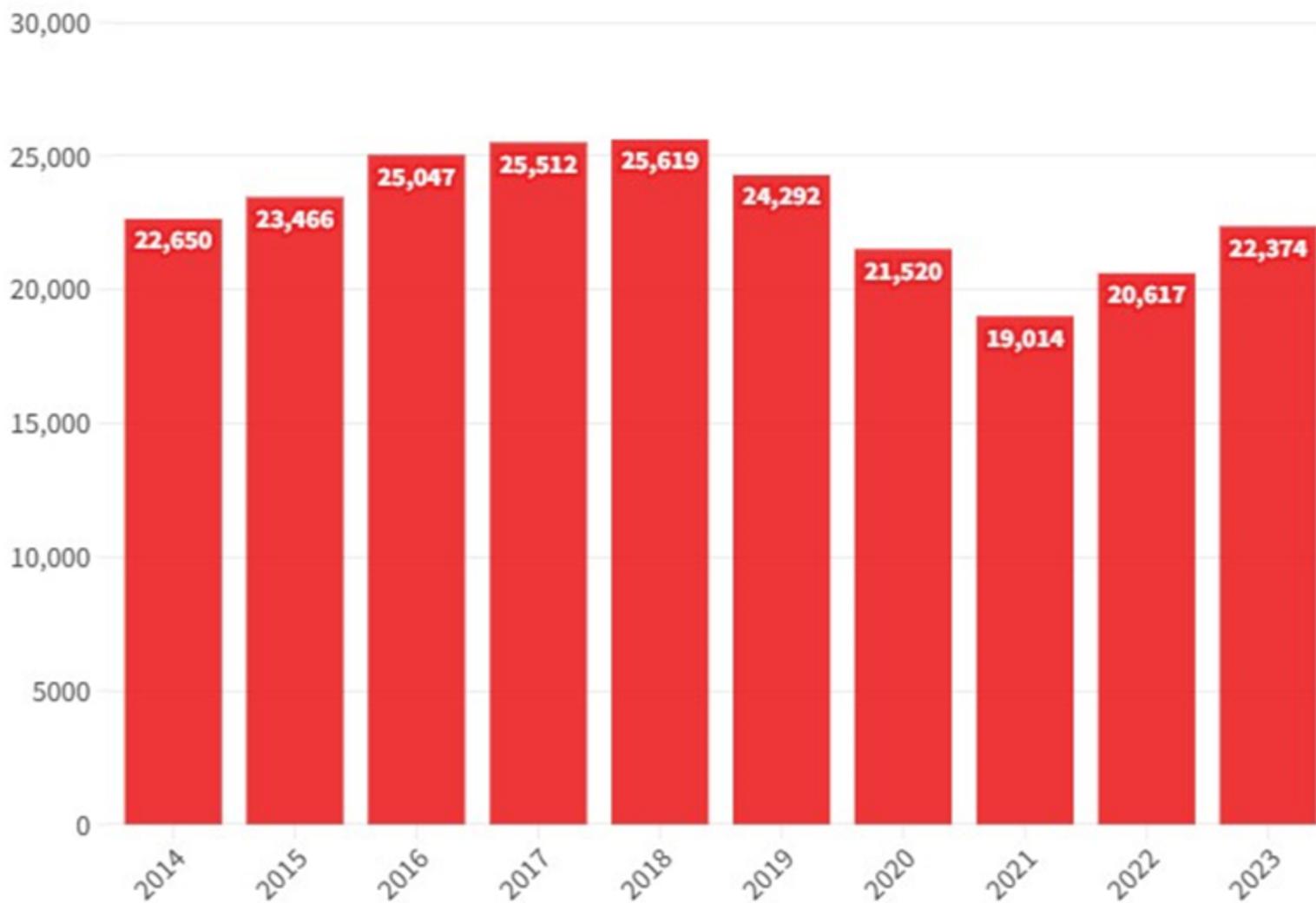
MISSIN

Overview of what we found

- **An estimated 600,000 Americans a year go missing nationwide — including 22,374 Ohioans in 2023 alone**
 - This is up 17.6% from the 19,014 reported in 2021, according to an annual report from Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost's office.
 - The last time more Ohioans vanished was in 2019 when 24,292 were reported missing.
 - Ohio hit a 10-year high of 25,619 missing persons in 2018, statewide data shows.
- **On any given day, roughly 1,000 Ohioans are listed as missing by the Ohio Attorney General's Office**
 - At least 689 Ohioans — including 366 children — were still listed missing more than a year after disappearing, according to data from the Ohio Attorney General's Office through October.
- **Training on missing persons and trafficking makes up roughly 2% of basic training**
 - "There needs to be enhanced training...Missing persons is very complex."
— *Derrica Wilson, former officer and cofounder of Black and Missing Foundation*

Missing Ohioans reported per year

The number of missing persons reported per year in Ohio has risen nearly 18% since 2021, data shows. In the last 10 years, the number of missing Ohioans peaked in 2018.



Source: Annual report from the Ohio Attorney General's Office

Missing Ohioans

- **Gender breakdown of missing Ohioans**
 - 51% female as of the end of 2023.
 - 49% male as of the end of 2023.
- **Ohioans who go missing are disproportionately Black**
 - 12.5% of Ohio's population is Black.
 - 43.2% of those who vanished in Ohio were Black through the end of 2023.
 - 54% of missing minors in Ohio were Black through the end of 2023.
- **Most children who go missing are labeled runaways**
 - 54%, or 9,469 of the 17,405 kids reported missing in 2023 were labeled runaways.
 - The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children stopped using it on posters in 2011.
 - “We hear ‘runaway’ and we think ... bad kids, and so then we ignore it...When, in fact, the vast majority of our runaway kiddos are being abused and neglected ... they're running from that.”
—*Michelle Jeanis, associate professor at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.*

Missing Ohioans

- **Just 13 children of the 17,405 reported missing in 2023 received Amber Alerts**
 - Since 2010, more than 250,000 reports of missing children have been filed in Ohio
 - In that same time period, 134 Amber Alerts have been issued — an average of nine per year (or 0.05%).
- **Many missing Ohioans suffer from addiction or mental illness, though it's unclear how many**
 - A combined 33 research studies have found that people who struggle with addiction, and the mental illnesses that often accompany it, are far more likely to go missing.
- **At least 43 children have gone missing from East Cleveland since 2014**
 - Local community leaders told us they believed many boys had walked away from a behavioral health center there and others may have become victims of human trafficking.

Families of the missing



Dennis "Danny" Fout Jr. disappeared in 2019

- His family members said they felt law enforcement disregarded him because he was known to suffer from addiction.
- They complained that police didn't obtain security camera footage from Fout's last known location at a Walmart.
- They also said they were not told they could submit Fout to NamUs, a national missing persons database.
- "The first detective that showed up at my mother's house literally looked at me because I was asking a bunch of questions ... and said: 'Oh, you're going to be a problem.'"

— *Tammy Fout, sister.*

Families of the missing



Timothy Stanton disappeared in 2014

- His family members said they felt his case was deprioritized because of his race and due to his mental illness.
- They recalled another case of a missing white man receiving far more police attention and resources at the same time Stanton went missing.
- Stanton's son said it took him eight years to get a meeting with a police detective to discuss his father's case.
- "I feel like his case just got passed off and passed around. "They looked at him as just another Black man. He wasn't important."

— **Alyssa Deller, daughter.**

Families of the missing



Melanie Elkins ran away three times

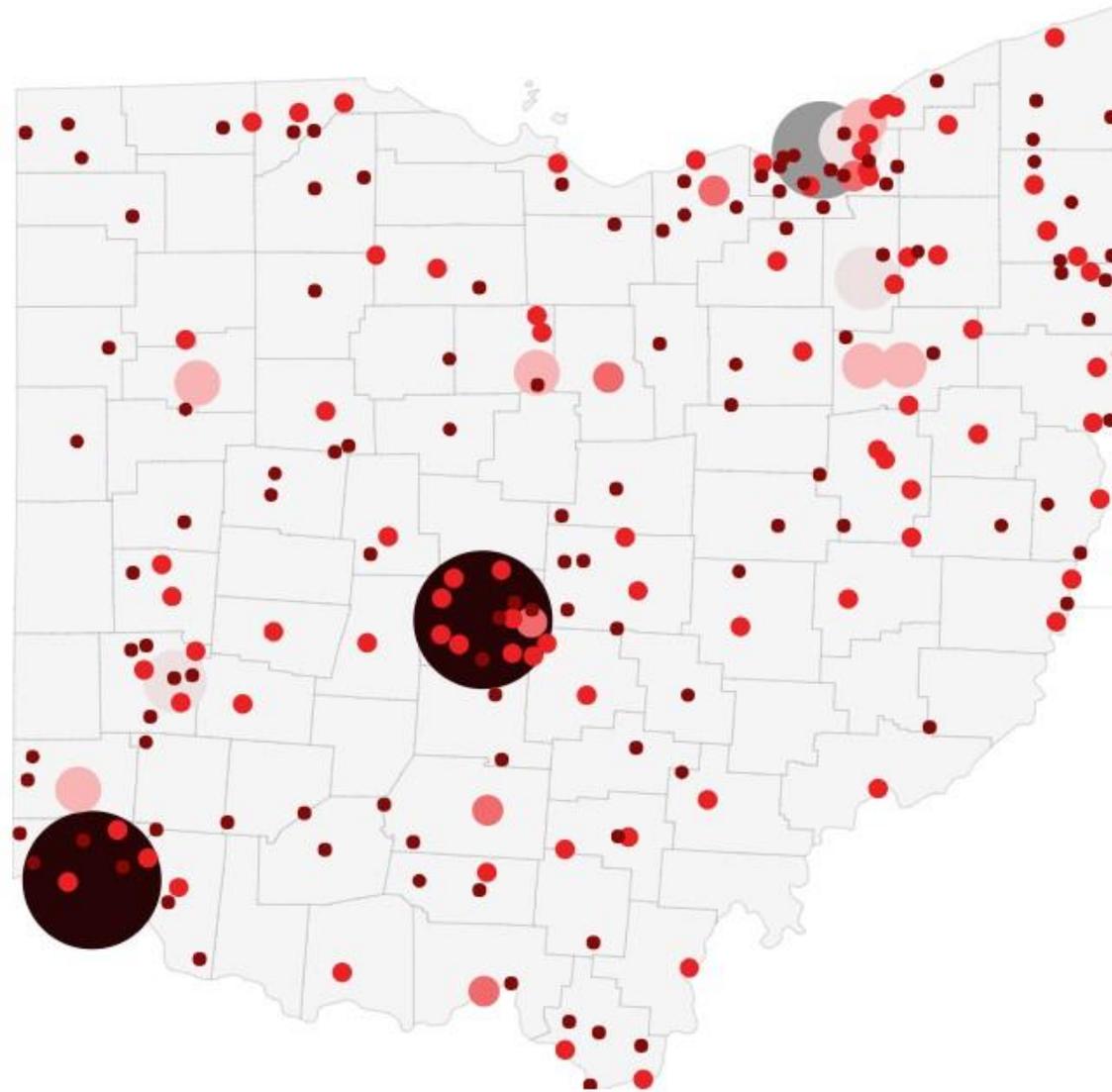
- She had been raped by her father's friend who stayed in her home and had accused her father of hitting her, though he was never charged with a crime.
- The last time she ran away, she was found dead in an Akron alley June 12, 2023 at the age of 13.
- As a runaway, she was excluded from an Amber Alert and notices were not posted on law enforcement social media pages despite other cases being posted more quickly.
- "She felt she had no choice because there was no way out... The system failed her so bad."

— **Rhonda Elkins-Chapman, grandmother.**

Missing persons around Ohio

On any given day, roughly 1,000 Ohioans are listed as missing around the state by the Ohio Attorney General's Office. While most of Ohio's largest cities report the most missing persons, people are reported to have vanished all over the state.

● 1 ● 2-4 ● 5-10 ● 11-20 ● 21-50 ● 50-100 ● 100-125



Source: Ohio Attorney General's Office

Database use

- **National Crime Information Center (NCIC)**
 - For law enforcement use only.
- **National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs)**
 - Broader access, including members of the general public, coroners and medical examiners.
- **Reports submitted to NCIC are often incomplete**
 - Entries sometimes lack information such as a person's race or photos.
 - Roughly 50% of the 689 total Ohioans missing for a year or more on the Ohio AG's website had not been entered into NamUs as of the end of October.
 - Of the 366 Ohio children listed on the AG's website as missing a year or more, 327, or 89% of those missing kids, had not been entered into NamUs as of Oct. 31, 2024.

Law enforcement resources

- Ohio law enforcement is “understaffed in virtually every police department in the state.”
—*Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost.*
- **Most local police departments do not have a unit dedicated to missing persons**
- **Columbus Division of Police has a missing persons unit of eight detectives**
 - In the past decade, between 3,207 and 6,934 reports of missing persons — including repeat runaways — were filed every year with Columbus police, data shows.
 - In 2023, Columbus police received 3,917 reports.
 - The caseload means each of the eight detectives is responsible for anywhere from 400 to 867 missing persons reports per year, although police said many are resolved in a matter of hours or days.

High-risk missing persons

- **What does it mean when someone is labeled a high-risk missing person?**
 - Typically, this designation elevates a case and immediately garners it more attention and resources until a recovery is made or all possible leads have been exhausted.
- **A variety of circumstances are considered in deciding whether someone is a high-risk missing person, such as:**
 - Age
 - Mental illness
 - Signs of foul play
- **The cutoff age for high-risk missing children differs in cities across Ohio**
 - 10 in Columbus
 - 13 in Toledo and Akron
 - 14 in Cleveland and Dayton
 - Cincinnati does not appear to set a specific age

Read the series

- Visit Dispatch.com/Vanished or scan the QR code below

