

**Mortality & Risk in  
ASD  
Wandering/Elopement:  
2011-2016**

*Lori McIlwain  
National Autism Association*





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**From 2011 to 2016, NAA collected  
over 800 ASD missing person cases, and  
“found missing” cases that occurred within the U.S.**

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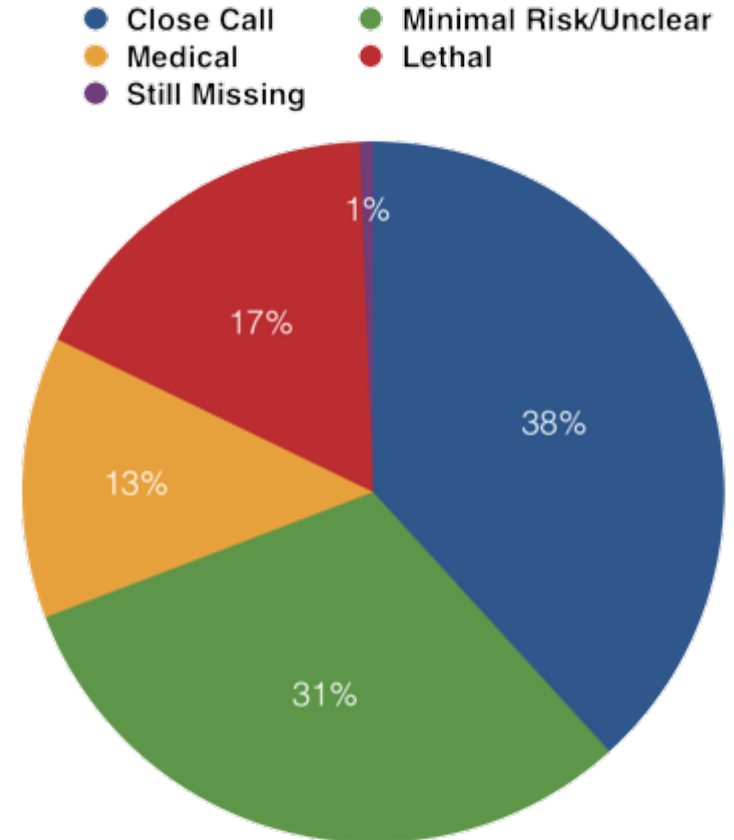
## *Cases were reviewed to identify:*

- Diagnosis
- U.S. location
- Age, gender, race
- Time of year and day
- Search response & interaction
- Outcome



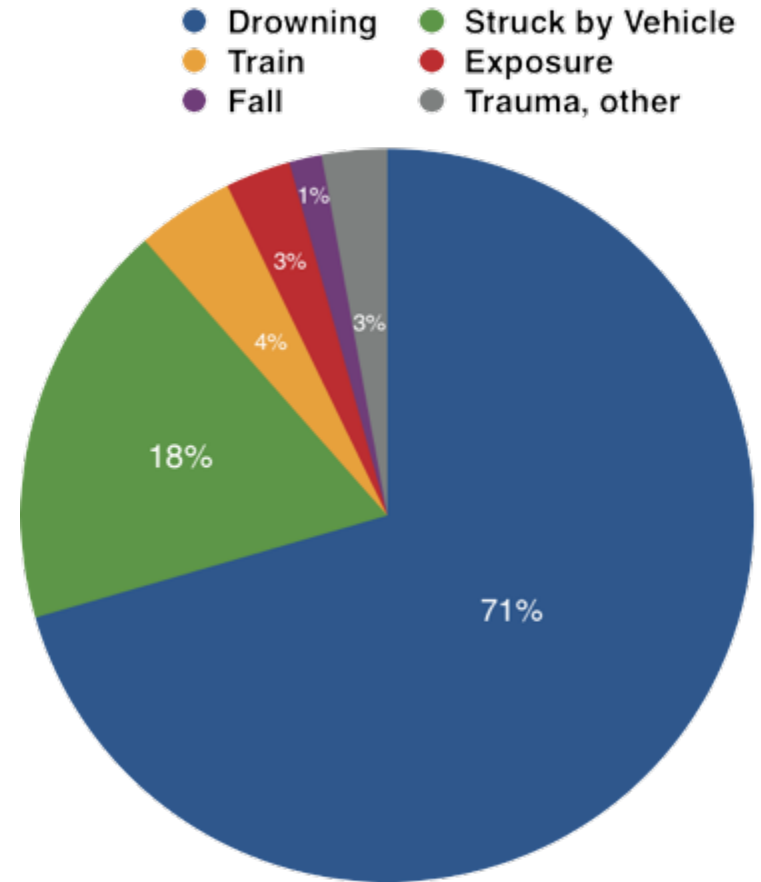
## All Outcomes, 2011 to 2016

<b>All Outcomes</b>	<b>808</b>
Lethal	139
Medical Attention	105
Close Call	309
Still Missing	5*
Minimal Risk/Unclear	250



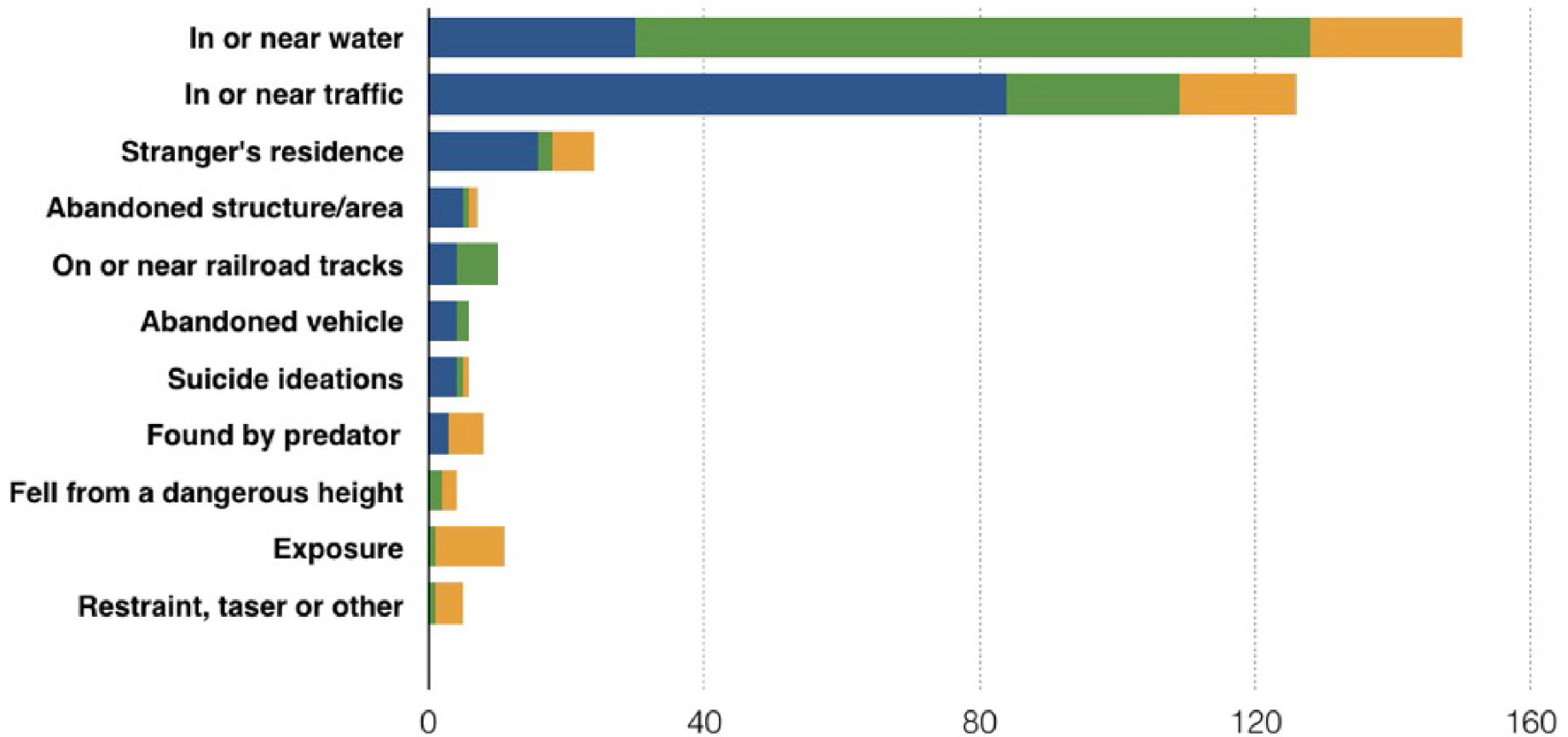
## Lethal Outcomes, 2011 to 2016

<b>Lethal Outcomes</b>	<b>139</b>
Drowning	98
Struck by vehicle	25
Struck by train	6
Hyper/Hypothermia	4
Fall	2
Trauma, other	4

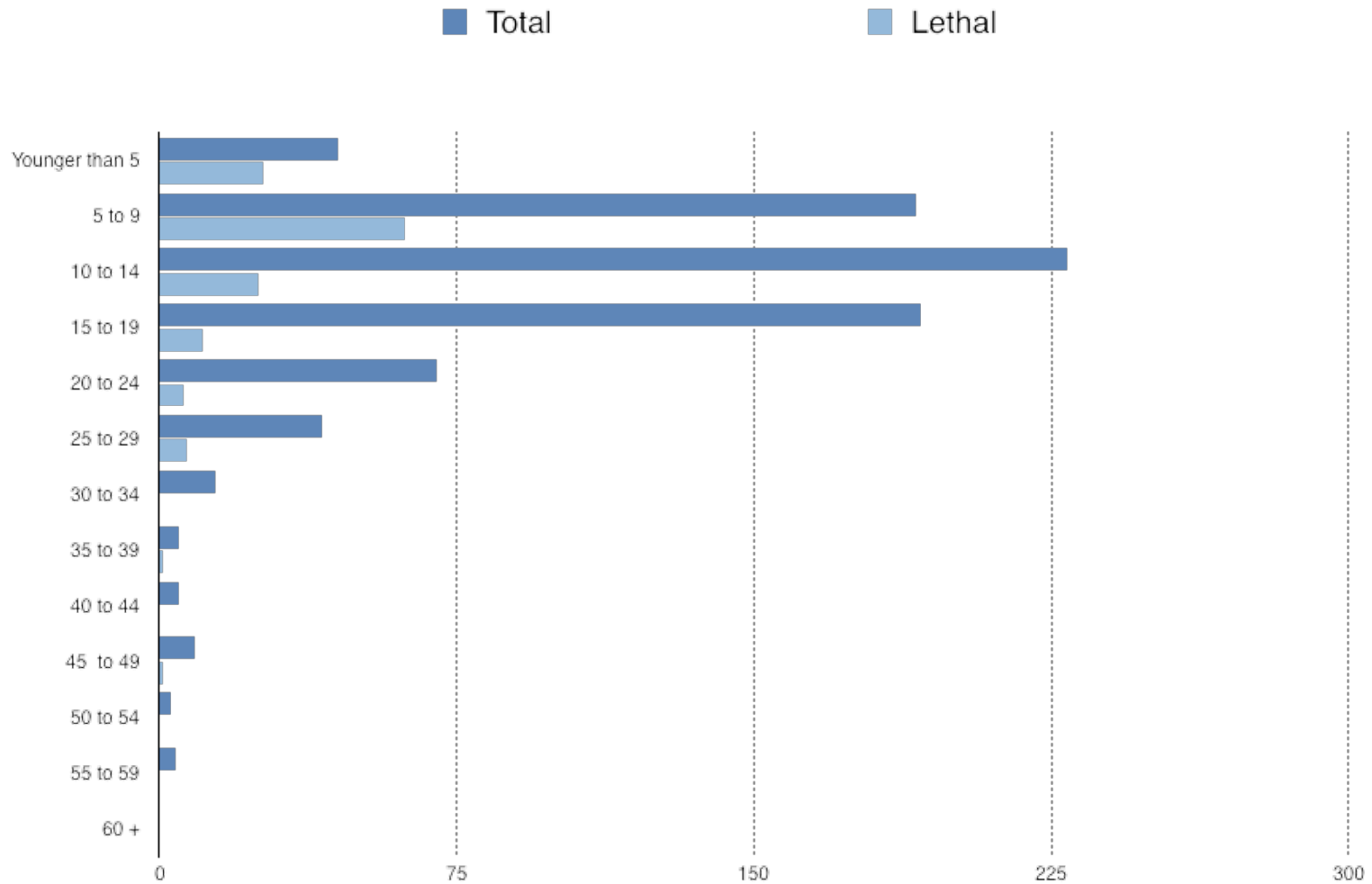


# Outcomes by Risk & Injury, 2011 to 2016

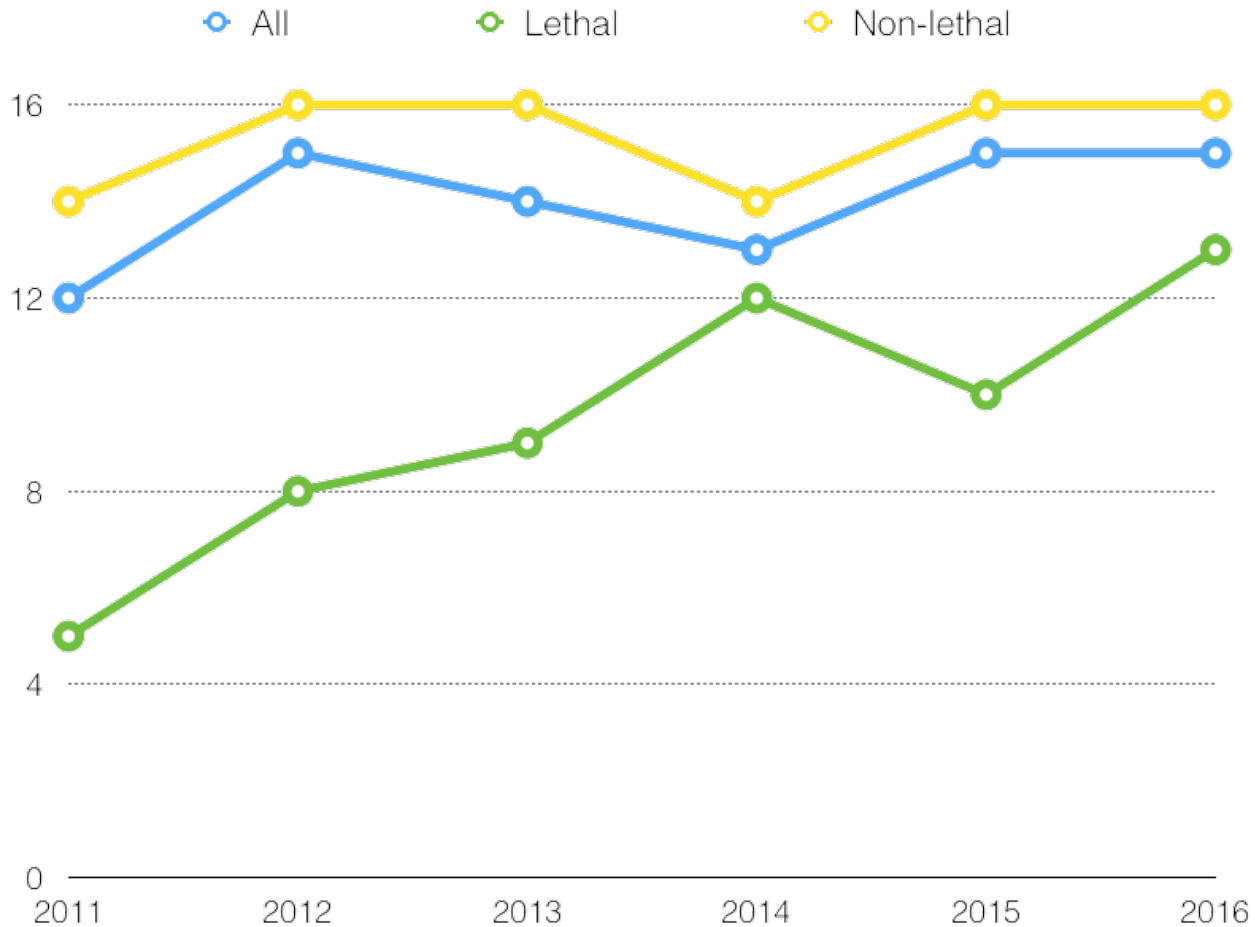
■ Risk      ■ Lethal      ■ Injury, Trauma or Other



# All Outcomes by Age Group, 2011 to 2016



## Average Age by Year, 2011 to 2016



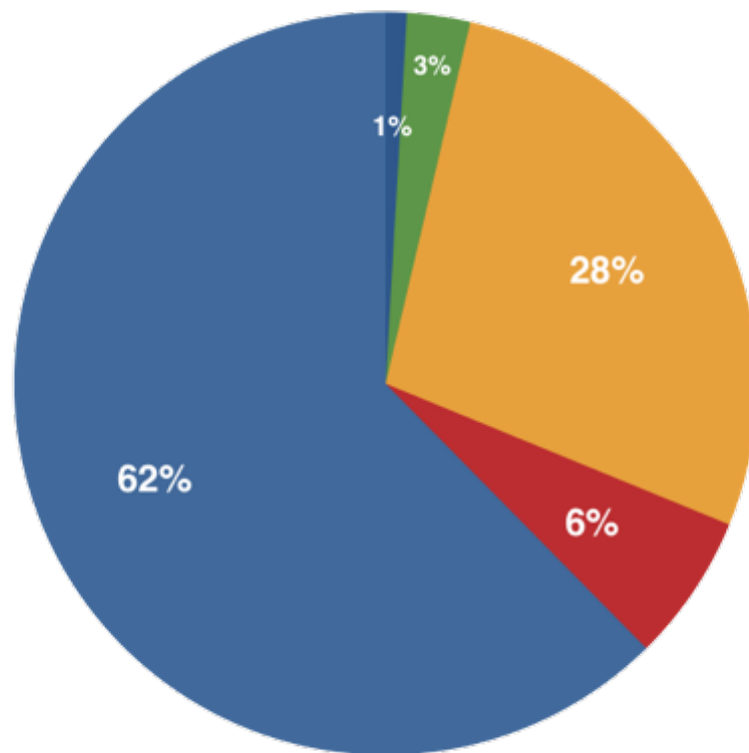
### Mean Age, Lethal

Drowning: 9    Struck by Vehicle: 14



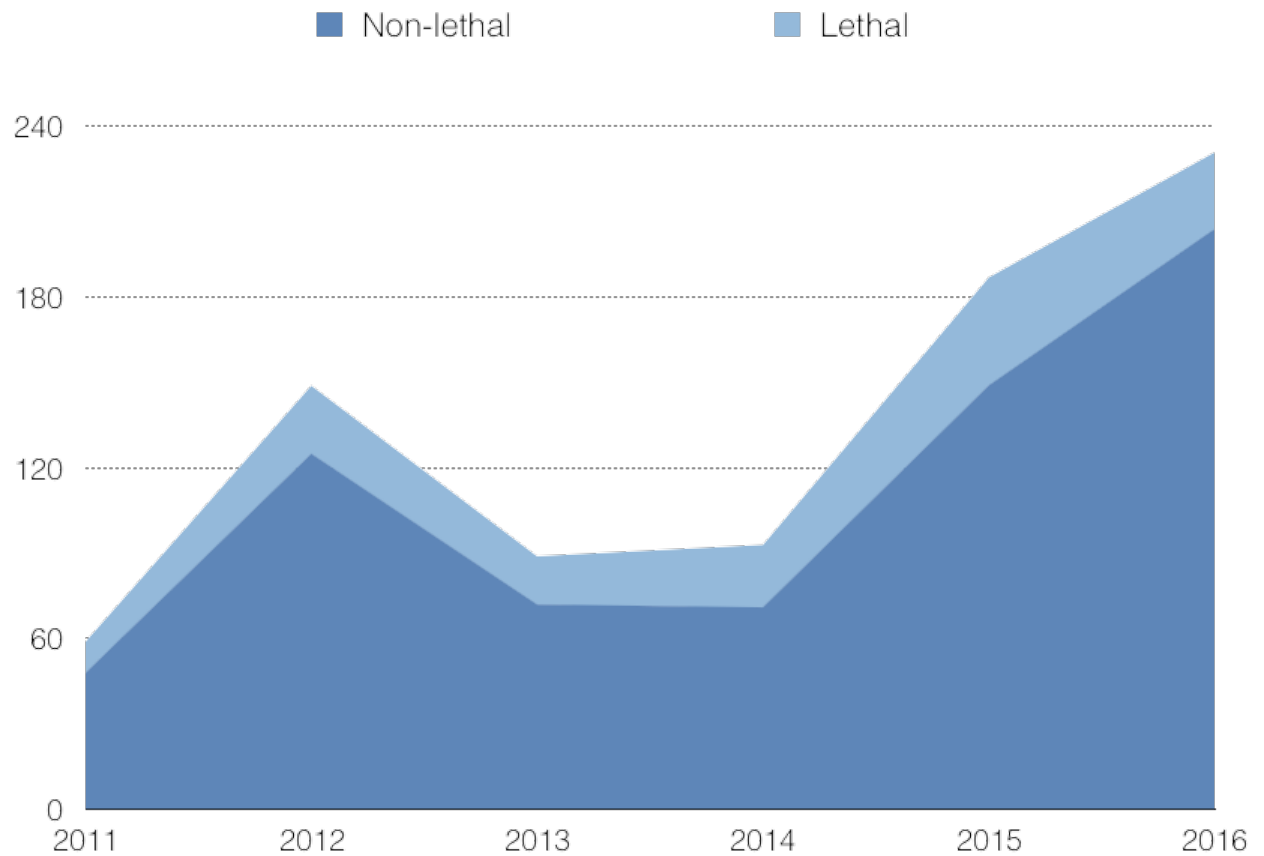
## *Lethal Outcomes by Ethnicity, 2011 to 2016*

- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native American
- White
- Biracial
- Hispanic or Latino
- Pacific Islander

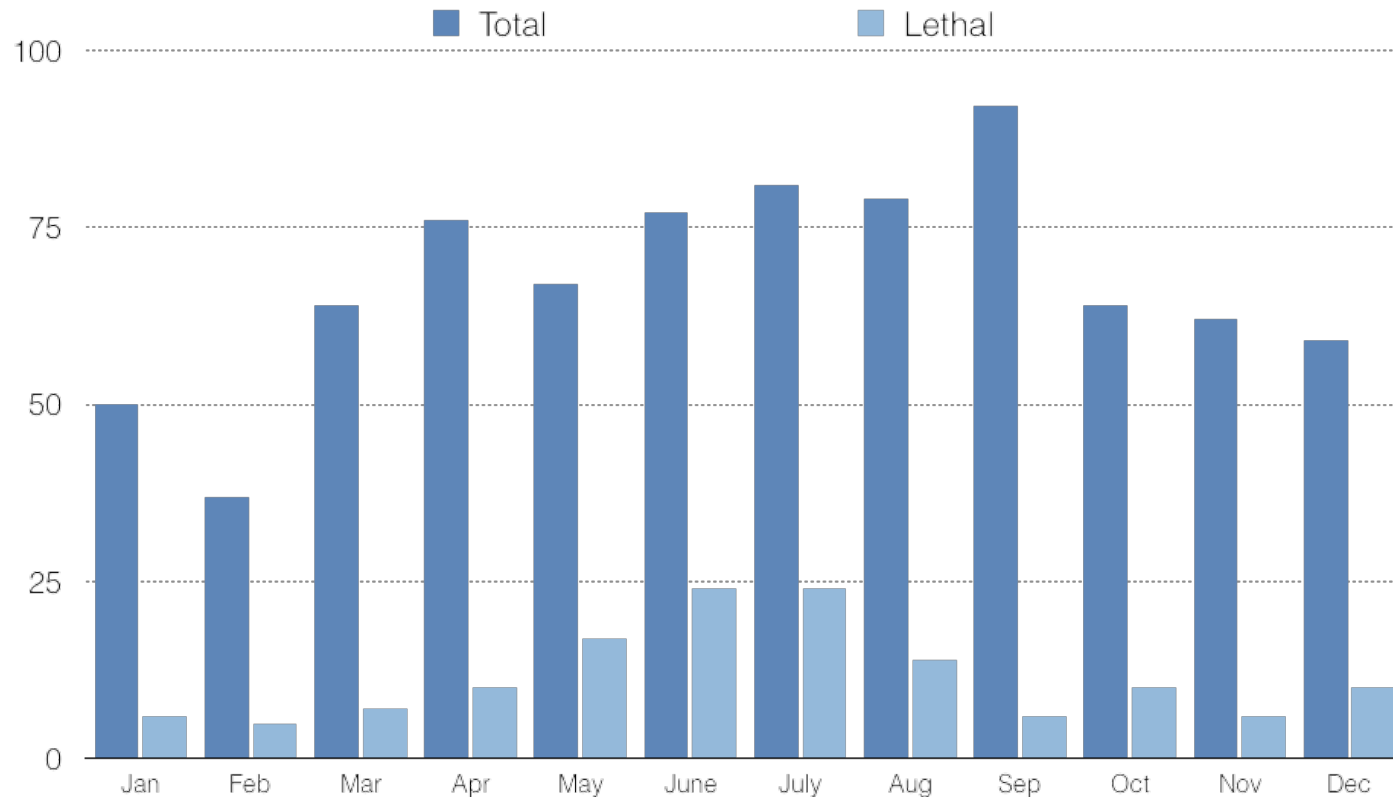


## All Outcomes by Year, 2011 to 2016

**About half of lethal outcomes happened in the last two years.**

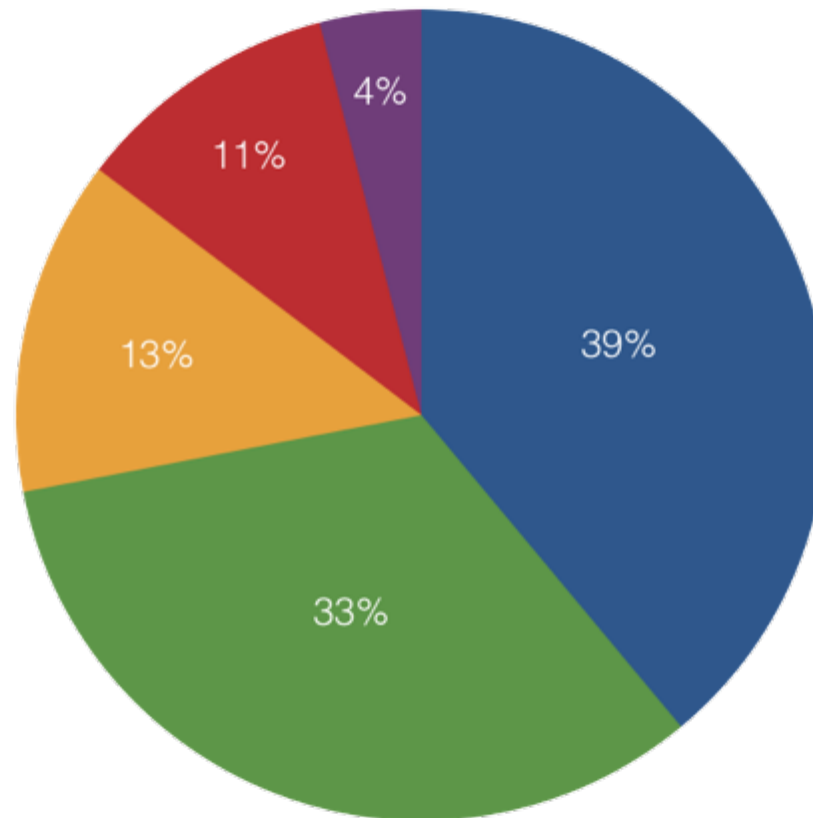


## All Outcomes by Month, 2011 to 2016

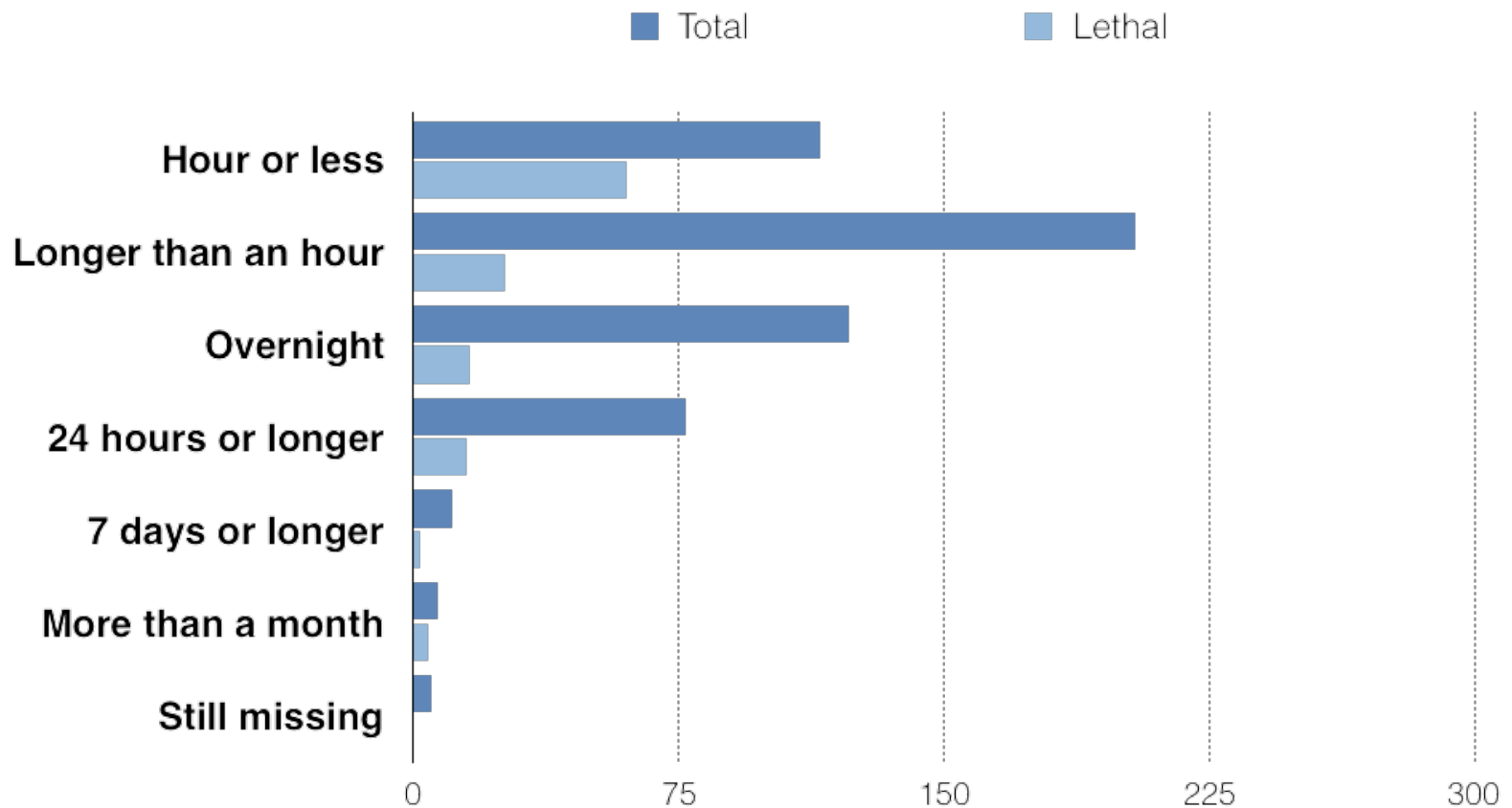


## Outcomes by Vulnerable Times/Triggers, 2011 to 2016

- Transition/Commotion/Stress
- Playing Outside
- Family/Social Gathering
- Between 9p-9a
- Unfamiliar Setting



## *Outcomes by Search Time, 2011 to 2016*



## *Top Places **Left From***

1. Home
2. School/School Bus
3. Relative's Home \*
4. Field Trip/Camp
5. Group Home
6. Store/Restaurant
7. Between Settings
8. Hotel/Vacation Home \*
9. Train or Bus Station
10. Church

## *Top Places **Found***

1. Water \*
2. Streets/Roads
3. Woods or Brush
4. Stranger's Residence
5. Store/Restaurant
6. Train or Bus Station
7. Abandoned vehicle/home
8. Train Tracks \*
9. Farm or Field
10. Park

\*Highest Lethal Risk

## *What Increased Lethal/Injury Risk*

- Residential settings, esp. those unfamiliar, near water
- Times of transition, commotion
- Heightened response to stress
- Caregiver/staff distracted
- Holidays/family gatherings
- Longer Search Time
- Police unaware, unprepared



## What **Decreased** Lethal/Injury Risk

- Community-based settings, hospitals/schools
- Quicker Response Time
- Response Tools (Alerts, Tracking, Reverse 911)
- Good Samaritans
- Identification
- Police familiar with autism, familiar with individual





## ***Currently...***

- About 20 ASD missing person cases per month
- 3 to 4 deaths per month



# 4-year-old with autism drowns in neighbor's pool

Posted: Jul 03, 2017 7:36 PM EDT  
Updated: Jul 05, 2017 1:11 PM EDT

By Devin Turk, Collier County Reporter [CONNECT](#)



Autistic 4-year-old drowns in neighbor's pool

*July 3  
Naples, FL*

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# Police: Autistic RI man was walking in middle of highway in Attleboro when struck by car



By David Linton dlinton@thesunchronicle.com Jul 5, 2017



*July 5  
Pawtucket, RI*

Buy Now

MORE INFORMATION



ATTLEBORO — Police say the victim struck by a car late Tuesday night on Route 1A in South Attleboro was an autistic teenager reported missing from his Pawtucket home.



# Pedestrian killed on Highway 118 in Simi Valley identified

Christian Martinez , [christian.martinez@vcstar.com](mailto:christian.martinez@vcstar.com), 805-437-0245

Published 10:31 a.m. PT July 6, 2017 | Updated 10:31 a.m. PT July 6, 2017



(Photo: CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL)

577

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A pedestrian who was killed on Highway 118 in Simi Valley was identified Thursday by a Ventura County Medical Examiner.

Andres Valadez, 19, of Simi Valley, was struck and killed by multiple vehicles Friday on the eastbound 118 just west of Rocky Peak Road, officials said.

The incident occurred sometime after 9:50 p.m. when a California Highway Patrol officer responded to reports of a man walking in the center divider of the westbound 118, officials said.

The officer spotted Valadez along the roadway and pulled up to the area with lights flashing, officials said.

The officer then instructed Valadez to stay in place via loudspeaker, at which time the 19-year-old jumped over the center median onto the eastbound side of the roadway, authorities said.

Valadez did not comply with a second instruction from the officer to stay in place and subsequently began "walking quickly" into eastbound traffic when he was struck by multiple vehicles, officials said.

**July 6**  
**Simi Valley, CA**

# Authorities in Brownsburg searching for missing boy with autism

POSTED 3:27 PM, JULY 7, 2017, BY [CBS4 WEB](#), UPDATED AT 08:54PM, JULY 7, 2017



BROWNSBURG, Ind. – Police in Brownsburg are looking for a missing boy today named Shalom Lawson.

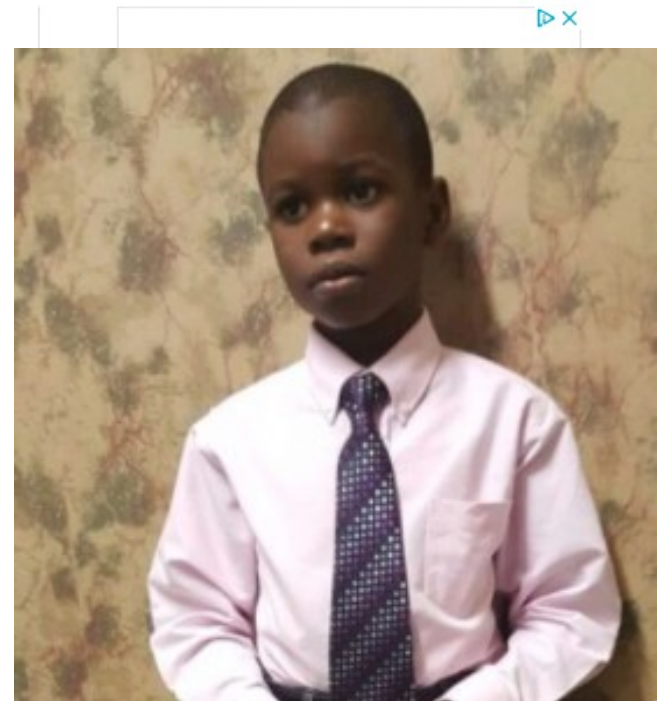
He was last seen at 1:34 p.m. this afternoon on Watercress Way in the area of 900 E and US 136.

Shalom is described as an African-American boy, aged 7-8, with a thin build. He has autism and may not communicate.

The child was last seen wearing a gray t-shirt possibly with some type of robot graphic and gray shorts.

He was not wearing any shoes.

He is 4'7" and weighs approximately 56 lbs.



*July 7*  
***Brownsburg, IN***



# Body of 8-year-old Louisville boy found in pond near Indianapolis

Posted: Jul 08, 2017 12:12 PM EDT

Updated: Jul 08, 2017 12:14 PM EDT



*July 8  
Brownsburg, IN*

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (WDRB) -- Officials say the body of an 8-year-old Louisville boy was found Saturday morning in a pond near Indianapolis.

Brownsburg Fire Territory Lt. Ryan Miller tells WDRB the boy was 8-year-old Shalom Lawson. The body was found in a nearby retention pond across from a family member's home Saturday just before 10:30 a.m.

Officials say his family is from Louisville and they were visiting relatives in Brownsburg. The area is about 15 miles west of Indianapolis.



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 NATIONAL  
AUTISM  
ASSOCIATION

# 7-year-old with autism drowns in Seminole



By WFLA Web Staff

Published: July 9, 2017, 6:07 am



*July 9  
Seminole, FL*

SEMINOLE, Fla. (WFLA) — Detectives in Pinellas County say a young boy with autism died Saturday night after being found face down in a pool in Seminole.

Detectives say 7-year-old Artemio Shkulaku was with his mother, father and grandmother when he apparently snuck out of his house through a side door and wandered off. The boy's father was working on the opposite side of the home at the time.



# Missing 5-Year-Old With Autism Rescued From River

A missing 5-year-old boy with autism has been rescued from the Blackstone River a few hours after he was reported gone.

July 10, 2017, at 12:54 p.m.

**AP**

PAWTUCKET, R.I. (AP) — A 5-year-old boy with autism has been rescued from the Blackstone River after he was reported missing and discovered wading by a kayaker.

Police in Pawtucket received a call about the boy being missing around 6:30 a.m. Monday.

A person kayaking on the river then called police to say there was a young boy in the water.

Police say the kayaker stayed with the boy until they arrived, when they found the boy in knee-deep water. They say they tried to help him from the river bank, but he went deeper, so Officer James Doyal went into the river and brought the boy to safety.

Police say the boy was evaluated by Pawtucket Rescue and released to his mother.

*July 10  
Pawtucket, RI*





*July 11  
Albany, GA*

## Command post to be set up as search for autistic Albany boy continues

Police were continuing the search Tuesday night for an 11-year-old Albany boy with autism, Bruce Lemon-Curry, and were asking volunteers to help with the search...

# Missing 6-year-old boy struck and killed on I-5 near Albany

56

Posted on July 11, 2017 at 2:44 PM



(The Oregonian/OregonLive)



By **Samantha Matsumoto**, [smatsumoto@oregonian.com](mailto:smatsumoto@oregonian.com),  
The Oregonian/OregonLive

A 6-year-old boy reported missing from his Albany home was struck and killed on Interstate 5 less than an hour later, Oregon State Police said Tuesday.

The boy was reported missing at about 9:30 p.m. Monday night, state police spokesman Sgt. Jeff Proulx said. Linn County sheriff's deputies and state police officers searched the area.

*July 11  
Albany, OR*



# Search for missing Albany child ends in tragedy

Jul 12, 2017



Bruce Lemon-Curry (Source: APD)



**ALBANY, GA (WALB)** - The Albany Police Department sent out a request for the public to be on the lookout for a missing child, Tuesday morning.

Bruce Lemon-Curry, 11, had autism and wandered away from his home at approximately 8:30 a.m. Tuesday.

*July 12*  
*Albany, GA*

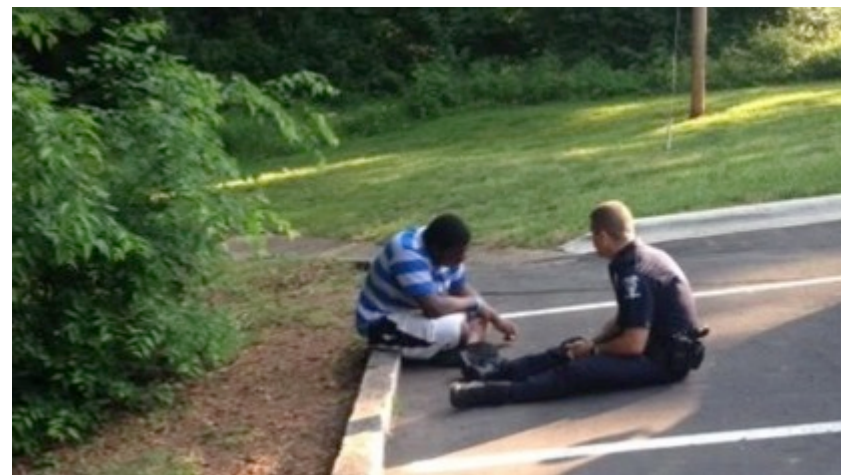
## *The Good News:*

- More awareness, more rescues
- More understanding to search water first



## ***But:***

- Increase in cases and deaths in the last two years
- Awareness, training & resources not widespread
- Disproportionate risk among African American individuals with ASD



# Missing boy with autism wandered miles before being found

By Mike LaBella mlabella@eagletribune.com Apr 24, 2017



HAVERHILL — The 10-year-old Haverhill boy with autism who was reported missing early Sunday evening and was found several hours later at the edge of a pond in Atkinson had last been seen on the back porch of his home in the upper North Broadway area, according to police.

The boy's parents had called police at about 6:35 p.m. to report they could not find their son.

Police Detective Lt. Robert Pistone said officers searched the boy's home multiple times, because in some cases of missing children, those children are often found hiding their own homes.

“Police Detective Lt. Robert Pistone said officers **searched the boy's home multiple times**, because in some cases of missing children, those children are often found hiding their own homes.”

***“The program consists of training videos, direct 8-hour training sessions, two-day train-the-trainer sessions, 15 resources, and a state-by-state guide to state-specific resources.***

***To date, the direct training has reached over 1,600 participants and the program has disseminated over 50,000 resources to the field.”***

## ALZHEIMER'S INITIATIVES



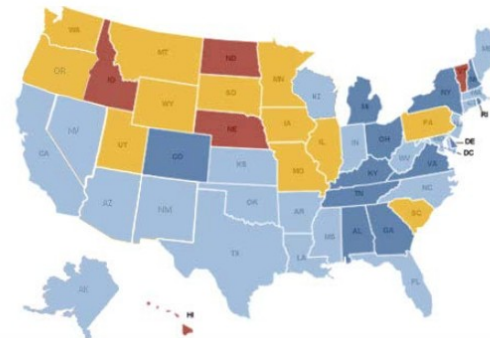
## IACP ALZHEIMER'S INITIATIVE

With more than 5 million Americans currently living with Alzheimer's disease and approximately 500,000 new cases of this disease emerging each year, projections pronounce that there could be as many as 16 million Americans that will have Alzheimer's by 2050. To help law enforcement protect this special population, IACP's Alzheimer's Initiatives program is committed to helping first responders improve their knowledge and skills to safeguard this special population.

### A STATE-BY-STATE GUIDE TO:

### Missing Senior/Adult Public Alert Systems

choose a state



#### DOWNLOADS

#### HELPFUL LINKS

- [Pocket Card: 10 Signs & Steps](#)
- [Guide to Voluntary Registry Systems](#)
- [Identifying and Helping Drivers](#)
- [MedicAlert Access](#)
- [Program Overview Brochure](#)
- [ID & Evaluate the At-Risk Older Adult](#)
- [Evaluate Questions to Ask Caregivers](#)
- [IACP Model Policy](#)
- [Concepts and Issues Paper](#)
- [Training Key](#)
- [Locative Technologies 101](#)
- [Podcast: Alzheimer's Initiatives](#)
- [Post Card: Alzheimer's - Do's and Don'ts](#)
- [Post Card: Alzheimer's - Senior Drivers](#)
- [Webinars](#)

**Award Title:** Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Initiative

**Award Description:**

This program is funded under both the Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant Program (Byrne Competitive Program) and the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. Authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2009 (Pub. L. 111-8), the Byrne Competitive Program helps local communities improve the capacity of state and local justice systems and provides for national support efforts including training and technical assistance programs strategically targeted to address local needs. The JAG Program (42 U.S.C. 3751(a)) is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions, and JAG funds support all components of the criminal justice system. The JAG Program authorization also states that 'the Attorney General may reserve not more than 5 percent, to be granted to 1 or more States or units of local government, for 1 or more of the purposes specified in section 3751 of this title, pursuant to his determination that the same is necessary'(1) to combat, address, or otherwise respond to precipitous or extraordinary increases in crime, or in a type or types of crime' (42 U.S.C. 3756). This program is also funded in part by the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Assistance Program (Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2009 PUB. L. 111-8), which provides funds to defray the cost of planning, designing, establishing, and operating locally based, proactive programs to protect and locate missing patients with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and other missing elderly individuals. The National Initiatives: Enhancing Law Enforcement Program, administered by the Office of Justice Programs' (OJP) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), helps improve criminal justice systems and provides national programs and national efforts such as training and technical assistance to strategically address the needs of state and local justice systems and communities. The International Association of Chiefs of Police, Inc. (IACP) will develop or enhance a national outreach program to increase awareness among law enforcement agencies and the public in addressing the needs of missing persons with Alzheimer's disease. Law enforcement agencies expend countless hours annually searching for missing persons with Alzheimer's disease, and if not found quickly, they are at high risk of serious injury or even death. In addition, law enforcement officers may not be trained or equipped to handle the special needs of those with Alzheimer's, once they are found. IACP will partner with national level law enforcement and Alzheimer's disease associations to address this issue. They will provide a web site that serves as a national clearinghouse of information and resources for those involved with missing persons. IACP will develop and sustain a national registry for persons living with Alzheimer's disease or other form of dementia, develop and implement a process for aiding in the location of lost persons with Alzheimer's disease, provide training and substantive informational material to law enforcement agencies through a national or regional initiative. They will also support the development of a model policy that can be implemented nationwide by law enforcement agencies.

CA/NCF



**Award Title:** Project Lifesaver Replication Initiative

**Award Description:**

This program is funded under both the Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant Program (Byrne Competitive Program) and the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. Authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2009 (Pub. L. 111-8), the Byrne Competitive Program helps local communities improve the capacity of state and local justice systems and provides for national support efforts including training and technical assistance programs strategically targeted to address local needs. The JAG Program (42 U.S.C. 3751(a)) is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions, and JAG funds support all components of the criminal justice system. The JAG Program authorization also states that 'the Attorney General may reserve not more than 5 percent, to be granted to 1 or more States or units of local government, for 1 or more of the purposes specified in section 3751 of this title, pursuant to his determination that the same is necessary' (l) to combat, address, or otherwise respond to precipitous or extraordinary increases in crime, or in a type or types of crime' (42 U.S.C. 3756). This program is also funded in part by the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Assistance Program (Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2009 PUB. L. 111-8), which provides funds to defray the cost of planning, designing, establishing, and operating locally based, proactive programs to protect and locate missing patients with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and other missing elderly individuals. The National Initiatives: Enhancing Law Enforcement Program, administered by the Office of Justice Programs' (OJP) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), helps improve criminal justice systems and provides national programs and national efforts such as training and technical assistance to strategically address the needs of state and local justice systems and communities. The Project Lifesaver Inc. will develop or enhance a national outreach program to increase awareness among law enforcement agencies and the public in addressing the needs of missing persons with Alzheimer's disease. Law enforcement agencies expend countless hours annually searching for missing persons with Alzheimer's disease, and if not found quickly, they are at high risk of serious injury or even death. In addition, law enforcement officers may not be trained or equipped to handle the special needs of those with Alzheimer's, once they are found. The Project Lifesaver Inc. will partner with national level law enforcement and Alzheimer's disease associations to address this issue. They will provide a web site that serves as a national clearinghouse of information and resources for those involved with missing persons. The Project Lifesaver Inc. will develop and sustain a national registry for persons living with Alzheimer's disease or other form of dementia, develop and implement a process for aiding in the location of lost persons with Alzheimer's disease, provide training and substantive informational material to law enforcement agencies through a national or regional initiative. They will also support the development of a model policy that can be implemented nationwide by law enforcement agencies. CA/NCF



### ***Brandon, age 20 – Found Safe in Water***

- January 2017 - Burbank, CA
- Exited his home in the early morning hours
- Was wearing a **Radio Frequency (RF)** tracking unit
- Located by police via tracking unit in the Burbank wash



## ***NNR, age 19 – Found safe in Water***

- February 2017 – Santa Maria, California
- Wandered from group home
- Located by police via **Radio Frequency (RF)** tracking unit in reservoir
- Because of tracking unit, Sheriff's volunteer knew the teen and was able to talk him into coming out of the water

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2614

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 18, 2016

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## AN ACT

To amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, and to promote initiatives that will reduce the risk of injury and death relating to the wandering characteristics of some children with autism.

- Would have reauthorized *Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program*
- Passed Senate; revised version passed House
- Revised House version failed to pass in Senate

## *What Would Help*

- Pediatric Community warning caregivers
- Widespread training/federal initiatives, DOJ participation
- Outreach, awareness, resources to ASD African American community
- Exit-seeking, stress response can evolve or crossover into other emerging issues - self-harm, suicidality – study & discussion needed



# Missing man with Asperger's last seen in northwest Vegas

Posted: Nov 29, 2016 3:03 PM EST

Updated: Feb 07, 2017 3:50 PM EST

Written by Matt Guillermo

CONNECT

LAS VEGAS (FOX5) - Police said a man with Asperger syndrome went missing and was last seen in the northwest Las Vegas Valley on Monday.

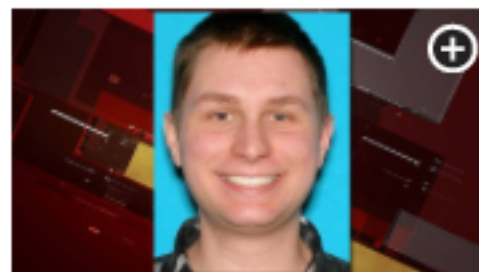
According to Las Vegas Metro police, Christian Harned, 24, was last seen about 2:30 p.m. in an apartment complex near Grand Teton Drive and Hualapai Way.

Harned is described as 5'11" in height and 163 pounds. He has blue eyes, brown hair and a fair complexion, police said.

Harned was also last seen wearing a dark brown jacket, blue jeans, white and black "Jordan" gym shoes, police said. He was last seen carrying a gray backpack.

Police noted Harned may be fearful of police due to his condition.

Police urged anyone with information on Harned's disappearance to contact Metro's Missing Persons Detail at 702-828-3111 or at 702-828-2709.



Christian Harned (Source: LVMPD)

*“When you think of Christian you find yourself guilty of being selfish. In our family, Christian was the guy you wanted to have around to help make yourself feel better. He was silly, spontaneous, thoughtful, loving and his smile swept through a room like wildfire. Having been diagnosed in his teen years with early onset schizophrenia and Asperger’s syndrome, those amazing qualities were only visible to those closest to him as Christian struggled connecting with a world that was eager not to take the time to understand him...”*

*Christian clung to the safety and familiarity of his family but yearned to receive more from this world in which he could never completely find his footing. The difficulties he found in navigating everyday social aspects of human interaction often left him exhausted, frustrated, and on the worst of days, in tears. He sought love and purpose of being; but in the end, this world proved too gruesome to withstand. Christian took his last breath in the coldness of dark and alone, which is perfectly attuned with how he viewed his place in this world.“*





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## **Mortality & Risk in ASD Wandering/Elopement: 2011-2016**