



2024 ANNUAL REPORT MISSING PERSONS



ANNUAL REPORT ON MISSING PERSONS FOR THE YEAR 2023

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ABSTRACT

Living without knowing what has become of a family member or loved one is a harsh reality that unfortunately thousands of people affected by this social reality, which affects all levels of society in general, know.

The phenomenon of missing persons without apparent cause is a multifaceted fact of which anyone can be a victim, directly or indirectly. No one is exempt from the possibility that one day our parents, siblings, partners and children may disappear from our lives without knowing what has happened to them and, above all, where they are. It is a very difficult emotional situation to manage, especially when the disappearances are prolonged over time.

The disappearance of a person is a tragedy for everyone, not only for the person who is absent for no apparent reason, but also for his or her relatives - true indirect victims - who are left in a situation of uncertainty and, in some cases, in a certain economic helplessness when the disappeared person is the one who generates the family's income.

Disappeared persons are considered a vulnerable group, with the onus on state authorities to prevent disappearances and to find the whereabouts of persons reported missing.

Law enforcement agencies, as those responsible for the investigation, search and location of missing

persons, have an important role to play in this area. It is therefore essential that they have coherent protocols and instructions at national level to solve missing persons cases, as well as to provide more effective assistance to the victims' families and prevent further disappearances.

Awareness of this phenomenon is justified, both at international and national level, by the high number of complaints that disappear each year in all countries for this reason.

During the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the National Centre for Missing Persons (CNDES) has highlighted the importance of police management of missing persons and attention to their families and relatives on the European agenda. Likewise, the different lines of action and measures that are being developed in this area and other work carried out have been presented, making Spain one of the leading Member States at European level in the field of missing persons.



Image 1: Search, location and rescue drill at the PEUE23 Seminar
Source: CNDES

The image features a minimalist abstract design. A large, solid orange circle occupies the upper left portion of the frame. Overlapping its bottom edge is a smaller, semi-transparent grey circle. To the right and overlapping the bottom of the orange circle is a large, semi-transparent light orange circle. The word "Presentation" is centered within the orange circle in a white, sans-serif font.

Presentation

The basic structure of the Ministry of the Interior¹ establishes that, among other bodies, the Directorate- General for Coordination and Studies, depends on the Secretary of State for Security, and said General Directorate will direct the National Center for Missing Persons (CNDES)².

The CNDES is responsible for the quality control and management of the national information system of Missing Persons and Unidentified Human Remains (PDyRH), supervising the recording and registration of data on missing persons.

It is also responsible for analyzing and assessing the proposals of the relatives of missing persons, and any other issue that may be of interest regarding the PDyRH system, as well as improving the action plans in the area of disappearances.

The CNDES is consolidating its position as a national and international benchmark in matters of missing persons due to the activity carried out in this area, for its work promoting cross-border cooperation between countries, fostering relationships for the exchange of best practice and for the multidisciplinary approach to this phenomenon.



Image 2: Seminar organized during the PEUE23
Source: CNDES

The training and awareness-raising of the Security Forces and Corps (FFCCS) is one of the main objectives of the National Center, as is the development and dissemination of prevention and social awareness campaigns on this serious problem that affects us all.

The dynamics and solidity demonstrated by the CNDES, as a pioneering center with a consolidated structure and functions, is leading many countries in Europe and beyond to show interest in its daily work.

The annual statistical report on missing persons that is included intends to highlight the figures of registered disappearances and, therefore, give visibility to its data, which we must not forget represent people, who, together with their families and close ones, are the main focus of the CNDES's actions.

1 Royal Decree 207/2024, of February 27, which develops the basic organic structure of the Ministry of the Interior.

2 Royal Decree 207/2024, of February 27, Article 6.1. 14th



**Approach focused on the unification of
police criteria at the service of families**

EU Council Presidency Seminar 2023

Within the framework of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union (PEUE23), the Directorate-General for Coordination and Studies (DGCE) of the Secretariat of State for Security through the National Center for Missing Persons (CNDES), was entrusted with the organization of the **“Seminar on best practice on the issue of missing persons without apparent cause”** on October 25 and 26, 2023.



Image 3: Seminar organized during the PEUE23
Source: CNDES

Some 70 people participated in this Seminar, members of the National Police, the Civil Guard, the Ertzaintza, the Mossos d'Esquadra, the Policía Foral de Navarra and the Madrid Municipal Police, a majority representation of different police forces from EU Member States, members of the Police Experts Network on Missing Persons (PEN-MP), Ibero-American countries (Mexico, Ecuador and Chile), and a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation

(FBI) of the United States of America.

The main objective of the Seminar, in addition to showing the capabilities of the Spanish Security Forces and Corps in this matter, was to establish the basis for the development of a future Guide of Best Practice that could be adopted by most European police forces and facilitate the exchange of information and police collaboration in this area.



Image 4: Press conference prior to the practical exercise of the Seminar
Source: CNDES

The Guide of Best Practice and common procedure for action in the event of the disappearance of persons without apparent cause, takes as its starting point to ensure the physical integrity of the missing persons and the effective compliance with the decisions issued by international organs and bodies, regarding the human rights and protection of vulnerable persons.

The simulation carried out in the Casa de Campo in Madrid, which worked under a common scenario in the area, showed the capabilities, means and devices available to the Spanish police forces and served to demonstrate the close police coordination that exists in our country; this was the most valued aspect by all attendees.

The disappearance of persons is a complex phenomenon that requires the involvement of the institutions involved in their care, making necessary a guide, manual or common procedure that unifies the daily work of the FFCCS.



Image 5: Search device at PEUE23
Source: CNDES



Image 6: Civil Guard helicopter during the search for a missing person
Source: CNDES

National Vulnerable Alert Publication

One of the important advances during 2023 has been the implementation of a new ALERT procedure, which has the capacity to activate the CNDES, with great repercussion at the national level.



Image 7: PAV Alert Monopost
Source: lpunto Company



Image 8: PAV Alert Monopost
Source: Ipunto Company

The publication of a missing person alert has a great impact on citizens, especially on the two most vulnerable groups in society: minors and the elderly (with cognitive or neurodegenerative diseases).

Although there are specific alerts planned for these groups (Amber Alert and Major Alert), the CNDES studied and developed the activation of other support resources, without distracting material and human resources from the investigation, to assist in the prompt location of missing persons. Thus, the possibility of activation of a national

alert for the FFCCS has been foreseen, and it has been defined as **Vulnerable Alert Publication (PAV)** for cases in which the physical integrity of the missing person is at serious risk.

The establishment of the **PAV** alert has been possible thanks to the agreement signed by the Secretary of State for Security with five outdoor advertising companies that manage the digital advertising monoposts located throughout the national geography, and that give up their advertising space for the broadcasting and dissemination of timely and urgent messages, which require the cooperation of citizens due to the special vulnerability of the missing person.



Image 9: PAV Alert Monopost
Source: Ipunto Company

Since the creation of the CNDES (2018), neither the Amber Alert nor the Major Alert, established for these vulnerable groups, has been activated in Spain, although, since the implementation of the PAV alert (March 2023), it has been activated on 6 occasions in 2023, with the following result:

- 3 persons were located in good physical condition.
- 2 persons were found dead.
- 1 case is still active.

The PAV alert is therefore an urgent resource activated by the National Center for Missing Persons, to assist the FFCCS in the investigation, for a special and immediate search, which requires the essential collaboration of the citizens.

@Twitter X

The CNDES, among its functions, has been assigned the task of “coordinating the different awareness and prevention campaigns deemed appropriate”.

The presence of the Center in social networks such as Twitter is of paramount importance for the dissemination of alerts and prevention and awareness campaigns, since it allows for immediacy in the publication, with the aim of informing and raising awareness in society in general of the disappearance of a person in the shortest possible time, as their collaboration is essential. The delay in publication may put the physical integrity of the missing person at risk, especially if they suffer from neurodegenerative or cognitive diseases or depressive disorders with autolytic manifestations.



Image 10: X logo
Source: X website



Image 11: Publication of alert in X. Fictitious image
Source: CNDES

Early activation of alerts is essential, thereby decreasing the overall dissemination time, to avoid unwanted outcomes.

The «**STRATEGIC PLAN ON MISSING PERSONS (2022-2024)**», which was approved by Instruction 4/2022, of March 9, of the Secretary of State for Security, establishes among its objectives “To create specific accounts of the National Center for Missing Persons in social networks...”.

Since the activation of the official [@cndes_oficial](#) Twitter account in June 2023, it has been followed by **2,312 persons** and institutions (as of March 1, 2024).



Image 12: Tweet @cndes_oficial
Source: CNDES



Working at European level with the Police Experts
Network on Missing Persons (PEN-MP)

Meetings with the PEN-MP

The Police Experts Network on Missing Persons (PEN-MP) organized the Network's annual congress in the towns of Almere and Urk (The Netherlands) on December 6, 7 and 8, 2023. The CNDES participated as a member of the PEN-MPN Core Group, highlighting the developments made by Spain in this area, presenting the «I Strategic Plan on Missing Persons (2022-2024)» and the operational capabilities of the Spanish police forces.

At the congress, several working groups were set up within the Network, and it was agreed that Spain, together with Sweden, would lead one of them, the purpose of is to prepare a **“Best Practice Guide on Missing Persons”**.



Image 13: Official PEN-MP logo
Source: CNDES integrating the Core Group

The image features a large, solid orange circle on the left side. Overlapping its bottom edge is a smaller, semi-transparent grey circle. To the right of the grey circle is a large, semi-transparent light orange circle that overlaps the bottom edge of the large orange circle. The text "In continuous contact with families" is centered within the large orange circle.

In continuous contact with families

Total dedication to indirect victims

One of the main pillars of the different CNDES actions is based on the constant improvement of care for the families and closed ones of missing persons. The special circumstances of this problem require specific actions to mitigate its effects.

The needs of indirect victims of missing persons disrupt the fundamental pillars that provide stability to the delicate balance that defines their lives. Most of them suffer a great psychological impact due to the overwhelming emotional coping that the absence of their loved one entails, suffering additionally different problems of a social, legal, labor nature and a long etcetera depending on the different characteristics of the disappearance itself. The experience of families tests the capacity for strength and resilience of every human being.



Image 14: Frame from the video "Every Minute Counts"
Source: CNDES

The CNDES promotes active listening and the approach to each and every one of the problems that arise through the different communication channels. One of them, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, is a direct channel through the e-mail account colaboracion-cndes@interior.es.

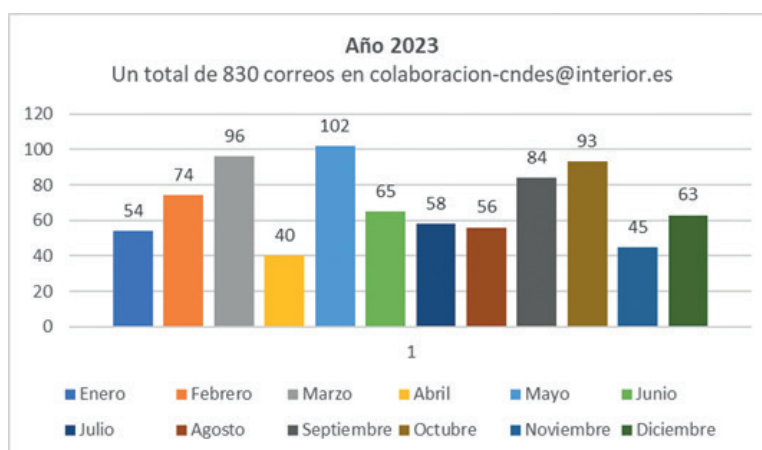


Image 15: Communications through the account colaboración-cndes@interior.es
Source: CNDES

During 2023, a total of **830 emails** were exchanged, 20% more than the previous year. Of these, 47% are related to requests for information on the procedure to follow to file a missing persons report, both domestically and from abroad.



Image 16: Meeting of foundations and associations with the FFCCS
Source: CNDES

Another channel opened by the CNDES allows direct communication with **associations and foundations specialized in missing persons**, as well as, on a personal basis, with the families represented under the assistance framework they provide.

In 2023, bilateral meetings have been held with the third social sector and families in which it has been possible to directly gather their requirements and demands, which has made it possible to direct different lines of work aimed at assisting them.

One of the advances that have been consolidated is the consideration of family members as indirect victims of missing persons, and the publication of the “**Guide of recommendations for the assistance in Crime Victims’ Support Offices to indirect victims in the case of missing persons**”, the result of the collaboration agreement between the Victim Assistance Advisory Council of the Ministry of Justice and the CNDES of the Ministry of the Interior. This guide establishes a set of action guidelines addressed to all **Crime Victims’ Support Offices (OAVD)** throughout the national territory, which regulates common, homogeneous and harmonized recommendations, providing families with legal, psychological and social care from the first moment of the disappearance, and which is provided free of charge.

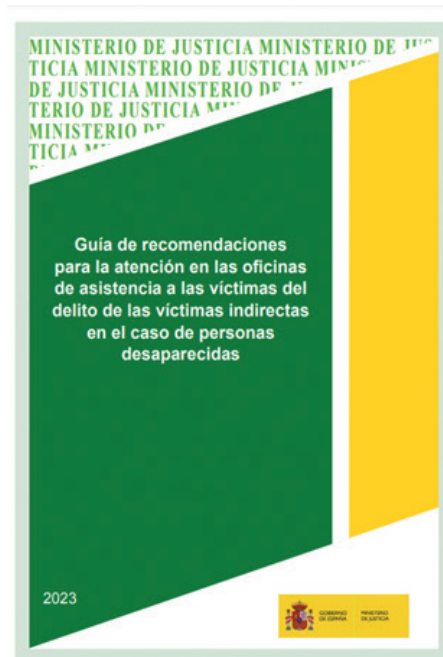


Image 17: Guide of recommendations for the assistance in Crime Victims’ Support Offices to indirect victims in the case of missing persons
Source: Ministry of Justice

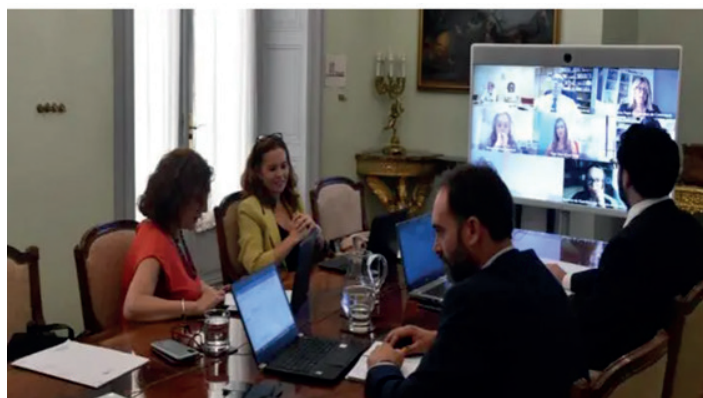


Image 18: Members of the Ministry of Justice during a telematic meeting
Source: Ministry of Justice

Other lines of work have been aimed at the specialization of the Security Forces and Corps with the implementation of specific curricular content related to the search for and investigation of missing persons. This is a repeated demand from the families that has resulted in the creation of several working groups aimed at specialized training, both in updating police action protocols and in improving communication with family members in the different phases of the disappearances.



Image 19: First Strategic Plan on Missing Persons
Source: CNDES

These trainings are aimed at promoting awareness and sensitization of the FFCCS on this social phenomenon, providing them with psychological intervention tools aimed at minimizing the re-victimization of family members.



Image 20: Network of Police Officers
Source: CNDES

One of the most common demands of the families is to be able to maintain regular and fluid contact with police officers in charge to be informed, both at the time of filing the complaint and during the progress of the investigation to locate their loved one.

The CNDES has created several working groups with the Security Forces. In one of them, an informative document ("**Information Letter**") has been prepared, which is available to the Security Forces and Corps, and includes the rights of the complainant, the resources available to him/her, possible actions after the complaint, direct contact details with the corresponding responsible person of the network of Provincial Police Officers

created by the CNDES, as well as a brief description of the functions of the network of responsible persons.

Each progress made makes us more aware of the many shortcomings that still exist and that must be studied in order to offer quality in the means available to the FFCCS, in raising awareness and in preventing the disappearances of people belonging to the most vulnerable groups, such as minors and elderly people with neurodegenerative or cognitive diseases. The analysis of reported cases is considered key to minimize recidivism and propose concrete preventive measures to reduce disappearances in these groups.

In the area of prevention, especially in the case of the elderly with neurodegenerative or cognitive diseases, a working group has been created with the General Council of Official Pharmaceutical Colleges, to promote public awareness through information campaigns in pharmacies, leading to action protocols and training programs aimed at pharmacists, as relevant professionals in the prevention of disappearances, due to their direct contact with citizens and knowledge of their health profiles.

We have achieved some goals, but there is still much to achieve for so many people who suffer day after day the disappearance of a loved one. Our purpose is to continue working for and with all families.



Image 21: IParticipation of the CNDES at the Assembly of Presidents General Council of Official Pharmaceutical Colleges.

Source: <https://vidasinsuperables.com/las-farmacias-colaboraran-en-la-deteccion-y-localizacion-de-personas-desaparecidas/>

The image features a large, solid orange circle on the left side. Overlapping its bottom edge is a smaller, semi-transparent grey circle. To the right of the grey circle is a large, semi-transparent light orange circle that overlaps the bottom edge of the large orange circle. The text "Progress in support of research" is centered within the large orange circle.

Progress in support of research

Technology as a basis for research

One of the priorities identified is to provide law enforcement agencies with better technological capabilities to assist them in the investigation and location of missing persons, and citizens with the aim of providing more information and transparency with respect to missing persons cases.

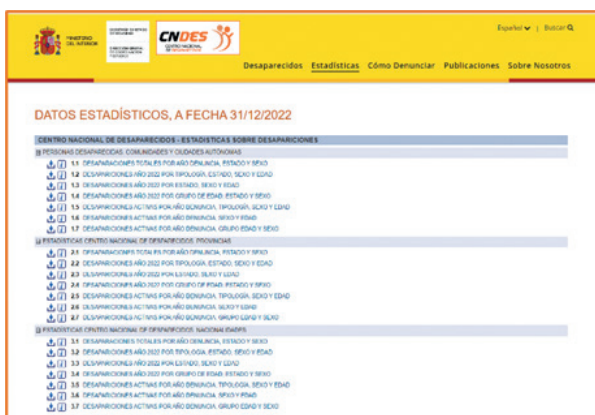


Image 22: CNDES Statistics
Source: CNDES

One of the highlights in this area has been the inclusion of a specific section -called **STATISTICS**- within the CNDES website (<https://cndes-web.ses.mir.es>). Through this section, all available official data on missing persons in Spain are accessible to any citizen, broken down by province, region and nationality of the missing persons, allowing searches and filters to be carried out by a multitude of variables, such as: sex, age, state or type of disappearance.



Image 23: PDyRH
Source: CNDES

These data are presented in the same format (Pc-Axis) that is used by the National Statistics Institute (INE) and by other government agencies, and will be updated at the beginning of each year. In this way, the information obtained through consultations in this section will consistent with the information shown in annual Statistical Reports and will allow

those who so wish to obtain further information that is not explicitly shown in these Reports, as well as to download it in different formats, such as Excel or the PC-Axis itself.

Another important technological advance with scientific rigor, available to the law enforcement agencies for the research and early location of missing persons, has been the implementation in the PDyRH System of the “**Outcome Type Estimation**” tab. This “predictive tool” helps those responsible for the investigation units to make decisions regarding the mobilization of the necessary resources to locate them.

Likewise, the completion of this “tab” by the research units allows for the feedback of this tool, improving protocols, resources and response times.



Image 24: PDyRH terminations
Source: CNDES

The PDyRH system is under continuous review and evolution, responding to the requirements of the Security Forces and Corps. During the year 2023, new developments have been incorporated into the system that will have a direct impact on the work of the research units.



Harmonisation of data to resolve long-term cases

The importance of data quality for the identification of bodies

The importance of harmonisation between databases lies in the identification of missing persons who do not have DNA samples provided by relatives.

This work, which began in May 2021, has required a special effort and dedication by specialised personnel from Law Enforcement Agencies and the National Missing Persons Centre (CNDES).

During the year 2023, harmonization of the two databases containing DNA information from the relatives of missing persons, PDyRH System and the Police Database of DNA Identifiers (INT-FENIX), has been completed.

The lophoscopic analysis of fingerprints of long-term missing persons, carried out by the specialised personnel of the Forensic Science Police and the Criminology Service of Law Enforcement Agencies in collaboration with the CNDES, allows a reliable identification of corpses that were found unidentified. This helps to alleviate, to a certain extent, the long suffering of their relatives, who will then be able to close their mourning.



Image 25: Lophoscopy
Source: Google

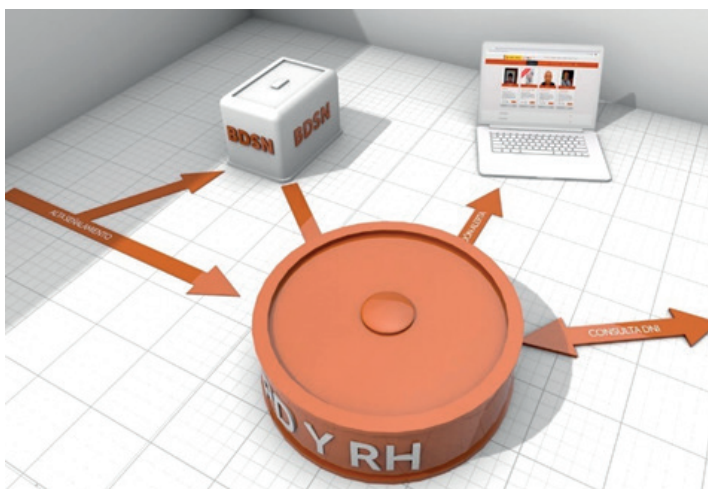


Image 26: Diagram of the PDyRH database
Source: CNDES

Intense efforts have also been made to improve the quality of the information in the PDyRH System. During 2023, a total of **294** unidentified corpses were identified in the PDyRH System, which is a considerable number that significantly exceeds the data obtained in previous years.

Regarding data quality, a significant number of reports of missing persons in the National Reports Database were not registered in the PDyRH System.

In order to provide an immediate solution and regularize this situation, every law enforcement agency was informed about the specific details of their respective cases.

Within the framework of the Agreement, signed in 2019 and extended in 2023, between the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of the Interior on the identification of missing persons, the CNDES has reached out to the Institutes of Forensic Medicine (IML) of Asturias, Cantabria, La Rioja, Navarre and the Basque Country, and offered them to join this Agreement through the relevant cooperation mechanism.

As expected, the collaboration between the three Departments (Barcelona, Madrid and Seville), as well as the Delegation (Tenerife) of the National Institute of Toxicology and Forensic Sciences, and the CNDES has been a success.

At the CNDES we continue to be committed to the constant search for missing persons using the information recorded in the databases of other entities and government bodies. This cross-referencing of information allows obtaining data that may lead to the location of missing persons.



Image 27: Logo of the National Statistics Institute
Source: <https://www.ine.es/>

Law Enforcement Agencies will not cease their efforts until all persons reported missing are located and identified.

NO CASE IS FORGOTTEN



Image 28: Logos of the 5 National Law Enforcement Agencies with competences in Citizen Security
Source: CNDES



Executive report on statistical data

A summary of the main statistical data of all reports of disappearances, as well as unidentified bodies found, that have been registered during 2023 is set out in the following paragraphs. It also shows the general evolution compared to data from previous years, which has helped to obtain a very useful global vision to monitor this phenomenon. All the data shown both in this summary and in the rest of the Report are based on the information existing on 31 December 2023 in the PDyRH System.

During the year 2023, Law Enforcement agencies recorded a total of 24,581 reports of disappearances, which represents a reduction of 5.5% compared to the 26,003¹ cases reported in 2022. As shown in the following graph, the reduction has been constant throughout the year, especially in February and March with a decrease on a month-to-month basis of 33% and 18% respectively.

A total of 295,043 reports were registered since 2010 - when PDyRH came into operation -, 170,043 of them were recidivist persons, which means that approximately 42% of the reports received correspond to persons who had been reported missing previously. This rate of recidivism is even higher (above 56%) considering the 24,581 reports registered last year, which correspond to 10,729 persons reported for the first time; while the remaining (13,852) are recidivist cases, corresponding to 4,397 persons. Taking into account the persons reported missing, regardless of the cases of recidivism, the total number of **missing persons** in 2023 was **15,126**.



Image 29: Disappearances solved
Source: CNDES



Image 30: Recidivist persons
Source: CNDES



Image 31: Spanish Citizens
Source: CNDES

¹ As can be seen in **Table 5 of the “Report on Persons Reported Missing in 2023”**, the figure of 26,003 corresponds to the reports registered during 2022 by 31 December 2022. Once updated the date used as reference for this report (31 December 2023), the reports registered in 2022 are 26;283)..

There are 6,001 reports that remain active as of 31 December, whereas 7,548 reports were classified as absent minors. Therefore, the rate of reports solved is **95.4%**.

YEAR OF REPORT	ACTIVE	ABSENT MINORS	CEASED	TOTAL	EVOLUTION	% ACTIVE	% ABSENT MINORS	% CEASED
ANT 2010	925	10	681	1.616	-	57,2%	0,6%	42,1%
2010	71	7	3.117	3.195	97,7%	2,2%	0,2%	97,6%
2011	107	24	7.629	7.760	142,9%	1,4%	0,3%	98,3%
2012	72	58	20.107	20.237	160,8%	0,4%	0,3%	99,4%
2013	101	77	19.336	19.514	-3,6%	0,5%	0,4%	99,1%
2014	119	116	22.392	22.627	16,0%	0,5%	0,5%	99,0%
2015	106	112	25.198	25.416	12,3%	0,4%	0,4%	99,1%
2016	140	265	21.170	21.575	-15,1%	0,6%	1,2%	98,1%
2017	415	855	23.624	24.894	15,4%	1,7%	3,4%	94,9%
2018	446	3.258	26.156	29.860	19,9%	1,5%	10,9%	87,6%
2019	242	1.358	25.964	27.564	-7,7%	0,9%	4,9%	94,2%
2020	210	319	16.957	17.486	-36,6%	1,2%	1,8%	97,0%
2021	450	438	21.547	22.435	28,3%	2,0%	2,0%	96,0%
2022	642	563	25.078	26.283	17,2%	2,4%	2,1%	95,4%
2023	1.955	88	22.538	24.581	-6,5%	8,0%	0,4%	91,7%
TOTAL	6.001	7.548	281.494	295.043		2,0%	2,6%	95,4%

Image 32: Annual evolution of missing persons reports²

Source: CNDES

In order to provide a more realistic information on the phenomenon, this report breaks down the data according to the number of persons, and not the number of reports³. According to the sex of these 15,126 persons, 61.5% corresponds to men and 38.4% to women. This trend is slightly different compared to the rates shown in previous years' reports, around 60% correspond to men and 40% women.

2 As PDyRH is a dynamic system, which is constantly being updated, the data shown in the table may vary compared to previous reports, especially with regard to 2022 (since during 2023 some reports of disappearances from the previous year will be recorded) and the years before 2010, as it is currently possible to computerise old reports.

3 En los informes que se han realizado en años precedentes, como norma general, se ha desglosado en In the reports made in previous years, the total number of reports registered (for example, 26,003 in 2022) were disaggregated by different variables. This report will focus on the number of persons who have been reported missing, irrespective of whether they have been involved in repeated episodes of disappearance. Therefore, the results provided will be more realistic and unbiased than those obtained when there are persons with a high number of cases.

Among the 15,126 persons, all non-recidivists are included, as well as the last report of recidivists.

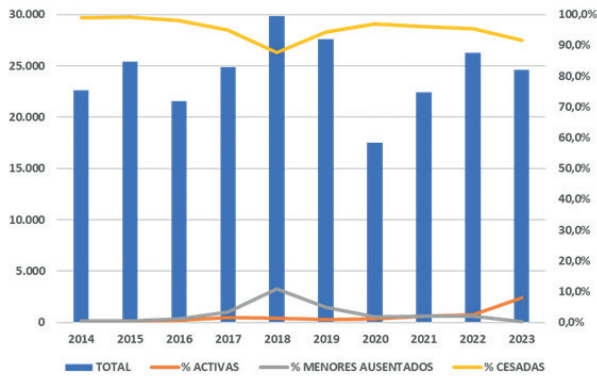


Image 33: Reports registered disaggregated by status
Source: CNDES



Image 34: Percentages by status.
Total complaints
Source: CNDES

According to the total number of complaints, the recidivism rate registered in 2023 exceeds 56%. 13,852 out of the total 24,581 reports correspond to 4,397 persons, while 10,729 persons have been reported missing for the first time.

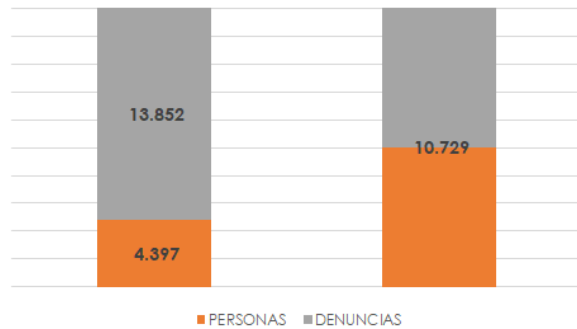


Image 35: Rate of recidivists/reports
Source: CNDES

The percentage of reports according to the age of the missing persons is 51.1% for adults, and 48.9% for minors.



Image 36: Missing persons rate disaggregated by age
Source: CNDES



Image 37: Missing persons disaggregated by sex
Source: CNDES

Most of these 15,126 persons are Spanish nationals (66.3%), while among the foreign nationalities, Morocco is the most frequent with 11.3% of the cases. This rate is similar regardless of whether the missing persons are adults or minors.

Taking into account the province of disappearance, Madrid, Barcelona and Las Palmas had the highest number of cases, 14%, 12% and 7% respectively, of the total number at national level. It should be noted that Las Palmas is the only province where Spanish nationality is not the most frequent, surpassed by Moroccan nationality (312 cases vs 277).

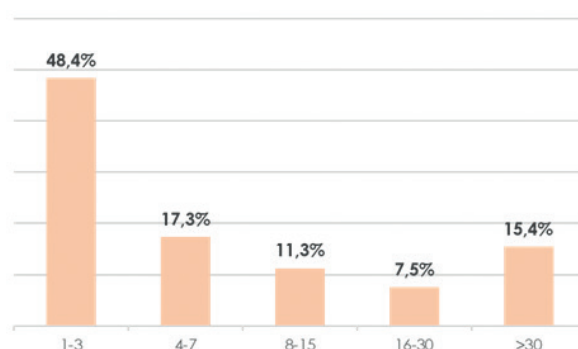


Image 38: Duration of ACTIVE reports
Source: CNDES

Another interesting variable is the duration of disappearances, which is the time from the moment of disappearance until its cancellation or cessation date. In this sense, the data observed during 2023 are in accordance with previous years, with approximately 66% of the disappearances being resolved during the first seven days.

A total of 294 bodies were identified during 2023, the highest figure since this information is recorded. However, not all of them were identified during this period; this figure corresponds to those whose identification has been recorded in the PDyRH in the previous year.

Finally, the data⁴ shown below on abduction of children in Spain (Article 225 bis of the Spanish Criminal Code), which come from the Statistical Crime System (SEC in its Spanish acronym) - not from the PDyRH system -, correspond to known criminal offences that were registered by the Spanish Law Enforcement Agencies.

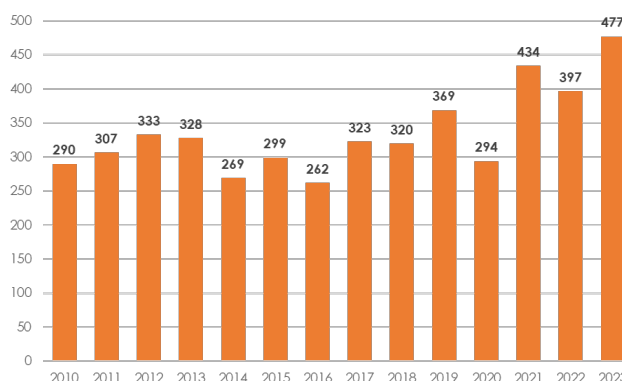


Image 39: Parental abductions 2010 - 2023.
Source: Crime Statistics System

⁴ At the time this report is written, data for 2023 are still being collected and may be updated in the future..

The image features a large, solid orange circle on the left side. On the right side, there is a large, semi-transparent light orange circle that overlaps with the orange circle. In the lower-middle section, there is a smaller, semi-transparent grey circle that overlaps with both the orange and light orange circles. The text "Statistical methodology" is centered within the orange circle.

Statistical methodology

The PDyRH system manages dozens of reports on a daily basis, both new disappearances and cessations or modifications of existing ones. As it is a dynamic database, it is necessary to fix a specific point in time as a reference for statistical studies, and thus be able to return at any time later to that point and extract the data as needed. The only data whose origin is not this system are those corresponding to parental abductions, which comes from the Statistical System of Criminality (SEC).

Therefore, as in previous annual reports (the reference date was the last day of the year), the data shown in this report are based on information collected as of 31 December 2023.

It is also important to highlight that all missing persons cases reported are entered in the National Database on Information of Persons of Interest to the Police (BDSN in its Spanish acronym), which is part of the Schengen Information System (SIS II), a system used by the Schengen countries to exchange police information.

As detailed earlier in this document, the statistical report has focused on presenting the main statistical data of the 15,126 persons reported missing during the year 2023.

The executive summary shows the most relevant data that may help to have a comprehensive picture of the evolution of this phenomenon from 2010 to the present day. The main figures have also been included, such as the number of active and resolved reports, or the number of recidivists persons, as well as other key variables disaggregated by the age, sex, or nationality of the 15,126 people reported missing in 2023.

Given the great number of variables and their possible combinations, a specific module called ESTADISTICAS (statistics) has been designed within the CNDES website in which all data may be consulted through the PC-AXIS system. This software system, used for the creation, maintenance and dissemination of statistics and data, provides tools for the management of statistical data and show them in tables and graphics.

PC-Axis software is used by government agencies (e.g. the INE), academic institutions, international bodies and other entities that need to efficiently manage a great number of statistical data and make such information publicly accessible. PC-Axis has become a standard in the presentation and dissemination of statistical information due to its user-friendliness and tools for data visualisation and analysis.

As can be seen in the “Statistics” section of the CNDES website ([web CNDES](#)), the following sections and variables have been generated:

Total reports registered, autonomous communities and cities

- Total disappearances by year of report, status and sex.
- Persons year 2023 by type, status, sex and age
- Persons year 2023 by age group, status and sex
- Active disappearances by year of report, type, sex and age
- Active disappearances by year of report, age group and sex

Total reports registered, provinces

- Total disappearances by year of report, status and sex.
- Persons year 2023 by type, status, sex and age
- Persons year 2023 by age group, status and sex
- Active disappearances by year of report, type, sex and age
- Active disappearances by year of report, age group and sex

Total reports registered, nationality

- Total disappearances by year of report, status and sex.
- Persons year 2023 by type, status, sex and age
- Persons year 2023 by age group, status and sex
- Active disappearances by year of report, type, sex and age
- Active disappearances by year of report, age group and sex

In line with the rest of the report, the specific data for the year 2023 are broken down according to the number of persons, and not the number of disappearance reports. This means that if several cases of recidivism regarding one person were reported during the year, only the first will be considered for the purposes of studying the related variables (such as sex, age or province).

If a person has been reported missing in previous years and in 2023 has had one or more episodes, only the first report registered in 2023 will be considered.

Due to the application of the rounding-up rule to figures with decimals expressed in percentages, these figures may not total 100%. Finally, it should be noted that the variable “identified corpses” refers to bodies whose identification has been recorded in the PDyRH System throughout 2023.



Basic guide. Viewing data in PC-AXIS format

The purpose of this guide is to introduce the user to the main technical functionalities available in the STATISTICS section of the website of the National Centre for Missing Persons ([CNDES STATISTICS](#)) and how to interact within it.




The website, which is located within a web site environment, enables the user to consult the tables contained in the corresponding menus in an intuitive manner.

Three sections have been included to facilitate queries and to be able to break down the data efficiently: total reports registered, by autonomous communities and cities; total reports registered, by provinces; and total reports registered, by nationality.

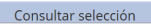

Within each section, several subsections have been created. By clicking on each of them, you may access the available tables related to the option chosen.

The tables may be downloaded directly in different formats (Pc-Axis, Excel and CSV) by clicking the icon . The size and the date in which the file was last modified is shown by clicking the icon .

Clicking on the title of the table the various attributes in which the file is structured will be opened, so that users may choose the option that is most convenient for them, bearing in mind that:

- Icon  selects all the elements of the attribute.
- Icon  is used to clear the previously made selection.
- Icon  is used to sort the elements of the attribute in ascending or descending order.
- Clicking on an element of the attribute selects it. To select two or more attributes, hold down the “Control” key and click on each of the elements containing the information.
- Or, if you prefer, there is always the option to do a search for the element to be consulted through each search engine that appears in the different attributes.

Once the elements of each attribute have been selected, the user may choose the form of presentation of the table in which the selected information will be recorded, by designing which figures will be shown in columns and which in rows.

Once the elements and the form of presentation of the data have been selected, click the button  to display the table according to the parameters designed, which can be consulted on the website, or downloaded in the formats indicated above by clicking on the download icon .

In addition, by clicking on the button  the application allows users to view all the content of the table, without selecting all the attributes.

Finally, it should be noted that the selection made may be displayed in two types of visualisation: Table or Graph.

Both formats may also be downloaded by clicking the download icon.

The information displayed in a "Graph" shows the options selected from the different attributes designed in the query, which the user may modify by selecting a new type of graph or a new attribute value.

Icon  enables the user to make a new selection. All the elements and attributes of the table will be shown again to make a new query.

Download the PC-AXIS program

Several statistical institutes, organisations and research centres use Files in PC-AXIS format to carry out their studies and analyses.

In order to view the data tables downloaded in PC-AXIS format, it is necessary to have the PC-AXIS program installed.

This program may be downloaded from the websites of different official bodies, including the INE. To download it you may find a link with a simple search on the internet, or click on the following link: [download PC-AXIS](#).



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CNDES

CENTRO NACIONAL
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