

# Silver Search Report 2019

alzheimer's association

AARP

IBA  
ILLINOIS BROADCASTERS  
ASSOCIATION

ILETSB

Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board

Illinois Department  
of Transportation

Illinois Department  
on Aging



# 2019 Annual Report

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Silver Search program was created by the passage of the Public Act 099-0322 (20 ILCS 2605/2605-485(e)(1)). The program is designed to provide increased public awareness and a toolkit for law enforcement when someone 21 years-of-age or older who is believed to have Alzheimer's disease, other related dementia, or other dementia-like cognitive impairment is reported missing. These types of missing person cases are referred to as Silver Search.

On January 1, 2016, the Silver Search program began by creating a Silver Search Task Force. The Task Force's mission is to create criteria for a toolkit and public awareness program as well as establish the use of technology as a means to locate persons with Alzheimer's or dementia who go missing. The Task Force shall monitor law enforcement training on how to react appropriately and effectively with individuals who suffer from Alzheimer's Disease, other dementia, or other dementia-like cognitive impairment. The Silver Search Task Force is chaired by the Department of State Police Silver Search Program Coordinator. Members of the Silver Search Task Force include: Illinois State Police, Illinois Alzheimer's Association, Illinois Department on Aging, American Association of Retired Persons, Illinois Broadcasters Association, Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Lottery, Illinois Tollway Authority, Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board, and Illinois Secretary of State.



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 National Child Search Assistance Act of 1990 mandate immediate entry of all reports of missing persons into LEADS, which are automatically entered into the nationwide NCIC database.

The Endangered Missing Person Advisory is the mechanism for local law enforcement to request that notices be sent out to the public when a person who is high-risk goes missing. A high-risk missing person is any person who is believed to be in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability; environment, weather conditions; in the company of a potentially dangerous person; or other factors that may expose the person to possible harm or injury.

## **II. ILLINOIS CLEARINGHOUSE FOR MISSING PERSONS**

An effective resource in solving missing person cases, the Clearinghouse is a focal point for the coordination of efforts by law enforcement, social services, education and prevention programs, as well as legislative advocacy and the dissemination of missing person'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 the public;
- compiling statistics on the missing children cases handled and resolved by the Clearinghouse each year, as well as summaries of the circumstances of each case;
- assisting in the training of law enforcement and other professionals about missing and unidentified persons and bodies;
- operating a clearinghouse of information about methods of locating and recovering missing persons;
- operating a resource center of information about the prevention of those with Alzheimer's and dementia from wandering; and
- developing and implementing a coordinated program for a statewide advisory system when a high-risk person goes missing.

## **III. FISCAL**

There is no fiscal liability to the state of Illinois. All activities are performed under the structure of the Department of State Police.

#### **IV. SILVER SEARCH TASK FORCE**

In the first half of 2019, the Silver Search Task Force continued the statewide awareness campaign. Radio and television public service announcements continued to air on media outlets all across Illinois. Social media continued to gain followers, digital displays of missing persons appeared on lottery terminals and interstate message boards. The Task Force trained hundreds of law enforcement personnel, caregivers, first responders, and guardians across Illinois. These training sessions highlighted the endangered missing person advisory and its usefulness in missing person cases. Because of these trainings, law enforcement all across Illinois is utilizing this advisory system in their missing person policies and procedures. The campaign in coordination with the Illinois Broadcasters Association expired on July 1, 2019.

- The Silver Search Task Force met five times in 2019. The focus of the group was to increase the understanding of what a Silver Search is and how it can be utilized to save a person's life. The Task Force continues to branch out to incorporate new members and initiatives with the common goal of providing the best program for those that go missing with Alzheimer's or dementia.
- The Silver Search Task force met on January 29, 2019, in Springfield. The focus of the meeting was to update the group on the transition of a new lottery vendor to display our advisories, protocols for use of Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) digital message boards, and toolkit distribution.
- On May 15, 2019, the Silver Search Task Force met in Springfield to discuss website updates, archiving alerts, social media account updates, public awareness campaign numbers, and additional system upgrades and support.
- The Silver Search Task Force met on June 13, 2019. The meeting was in collaboration with the Illinois Broadcasters Association annual conference in Springfield. As a host and member of the Silver Search Task Force, the Illinois Broadcasters Association provides a partnership for spreading the word about the Silver Search program. During the conference, the Task Force met to review and revisit statutory obligations of the group, as well as talk about law enforcement training, toolkit distribution, and the completion of the public awareness campaign.
- On September 5, 2019, the Silver Search Task Force met with a focus on two objectives. First, to figure out a way to capture information about each alert and the cancellation of each alert, and how to follow up with law enforcement and the family of the missing person to determine the effectiveness of the advisory. Second, the focus was to figure out a way to geo target the advisories to the most important areas.
- The Silver Search Task Force met again on November 20, 2019, in Springfield. The meeting focused on finalizing an after action report for all advisories to be effective January 1, 2020. This after action report will allow the Task Force to collect information to better improve the system for law enforcement and the public by gathering data regarding each endangered missing person advisory.

## V. SPECIAL ACTIVITY

In 2019, the Illinois Silver Search Task Force continued utilizing the Illinois Lottery and its new provider Camelot Illinois and its vendor Intralot to help provide public awareness of missing endangered persons. As a partner, the Illinois Lottery utilized its digital lottery terminals inside of retail establishments to display all endangered missing person advisories. These displays depict the missing person information, photos of the missing person, and vehicle information. This partnership has been tremendously successful in distributing the time sensitive information to the public.



The partnerships do not stop at lottery terminals. The Endangered Missing Person Advisory System began utilizing digital message boards over Illinois interstates and tollways. This partnership has led to increased awareness for drivers of Illinois roadways to identify vehicle descriptions and license plates involved in high-risk missing person cases.



In 2019, the Illinois Silver Search Task Force website, [www.silversearchillinois.org](http://www.silversearchillinois.org), continued to provide the most up-to-date information about all the Endangered Missing Persons advisories. This website is maintained through a partnership with the Illinois Alzheimer's Association. The website posts the photo and names of all active advisories in real time. The website also provides law enforcement with a toolkit and procedures for use of the Silver Search program.



With the help of the Illinois Broadcasters Association, a statewide public awareness campaign was launched in November 2017. Radio and television public service commercials were filmed to promote the Silver Search program. Radio and television stations across Illinois aired commercials on their airwaves throughout 2018 and into the first part of 2019.



The Silver Search Coordinator continues to provide training to law enforcement officers, dispatch staff, and various public safety officials. The Silver Search curriculum is taught at various police training academies across Illinois. The Task Force partners with the Illinois Attorney General's Office to provide training during all elderly service office training sessions. These trainings help officials dealing with this population know what tools they have at their disposal to help.

**Illinois Silver Search**

**Endangered Missing Person Advisory**

**Advisory Overview**

The Endangered Missing Person Advisory was enacted in 2010 as a way for law enforcement to notify the public when a high risk person goes missing. This advisory process is designed to use the media to pass along the vital information about the missing person to the public. The public's eye becomes a law enforcement tool to quickly locate and return a missing person safely.

There are 4 criteria for an Endangered Missing Person Advisory:

- The person is missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances
- The person is in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability, environment, weather, or in the company of a dangerous person.
- Public information is available to help assist in the safe recovery of the person.
- It does not fit the criteria for an AMBER Alert

**High Risk Missing Person(s):**

- Persons with Alzheimer's or dementia-like symptoms
- Persons with mental impairment
- Dropping from a nursing home
- Missing because of suspicious circumstances
- Missing under known dangerous circumstances
- No pattern of running away or disappearing
- Law Enforcement judgement

**Law Enforcement Procedures:**

- 1) Enter into LEADS and NCIC
- 2) Complete Endangered Advisory Form
- 3) Obtain Pictures and information for the advisory. Fax or email to State Police
- 4) Send an ISPERN and LEADS/NIETS broadcast message

For further information visit [www.silversearchillinois.org](http://www.silversearchillinois.org)

In collaboration with the Department on Aging, the Silver Search Coordinator provided training to caregivers, guardians, and welfare workers who work regularly with the elderly. These training sessions outline what to do if someone in your care goes missing and how to be prepared in case it should happen. This training continues to be vital when dealing with this growing population of citizens.

More than **60%** of people with Alzheimer's go missing.

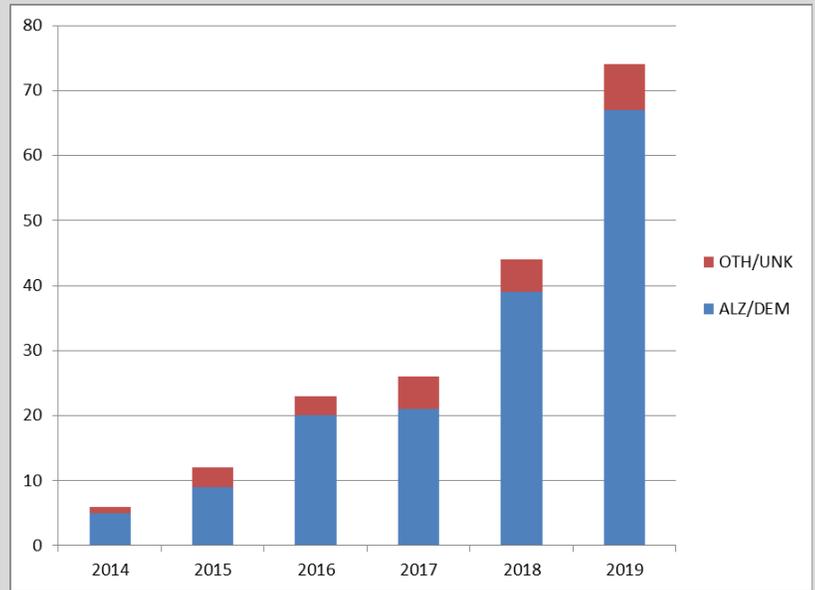
**Silver Search is a new tool to help law enforcement find them.**

The Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board will continue to train law enforcement throughout Illinois on how to interact with people with Alzheimer's and dementia and what to do if they go missing. Refresher courses are offered for law enforcement officers throughout their careers. These courses will utilize the toolkit created by the Task Force in its curriculum.

In May 2019, Illinois marked its five-year anniversary of its partnership with Alert GPS. This technology provides a more efficient and effective warning system to law enforcement, media, and the public. The Law Enforcement Alerting Portal (L.E.A.P) delivers major efficiencies to the Illinois Endangered Missing Person Advisory system. It provides a quicker, more robust alerting technology that enables the issuance of Missing Endangered Advisories through a variety of sources including texts, emails, faxes, and website feeds.

## VI. STATISTICS

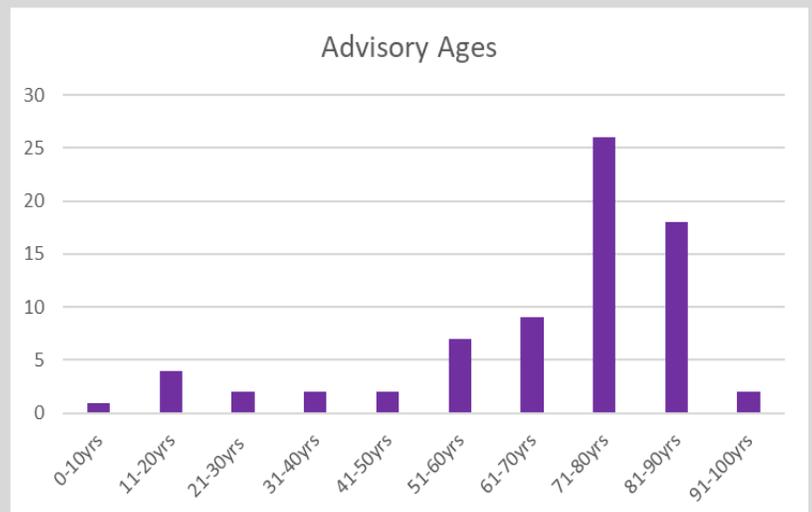
Because of the increased awareness the Silver Search Task Force has brought to the Endangered Missing Person Advisory, the usage has increased nearly 92 percent over the last six years. The year with the highest total of advisories by far at 74 total advisories was 2019. Of the 74 advisories, 67 involved people with Alzheimer's or dementia. Seventy-three of the 74 advisories have been cancelled. One remained active from 2019.



Each month in 2019 had an Endangered Missing Person advisory issued. The months with the most advisories were May and June with nine advisories each. The month with the least amount of advisories was March with two.



Of the 74 Endangered Missing Person Advisories issued in 2019, 28 were female and 46 were male. The average age of all advisories issued was 66 years old. By far the decade with the most advisories was people between 71 and 80 years of age, with 81-90 years-of-age coming in second.



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

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