

Se presenta la cuarta edición del informe anual sobre personas desaparecidas en España, en la que se muestran los datos estadísticos relativos a casos de personas desaparecidas registrados por las Fuerzas y Cuerpos de Seguridad del Estado y de las Comunidades Autónomas con competencias policiales en esta materia. Todos los datos que se muestran, salvo indicación expresa, son a fecha 31 de diciembre de 2019 y han sido extraídos de la base de datos Personas Desaparecidas y Restos Humanos sin identificar (PDyRH), así como del Sistema Estadístico de Criminalidad.

El objeto de esta publicación es la extracción y posterior comparativa de los datos registrados a lo largo de los años sobre personas desaparecidas, llevando a cabo su análisis a través de diferentes parámetros e indicadores. De dicho análisis, se pueden observar en el presente informe datos de desapariciones desagregados según: la cifra total de denuncias interpuestas por desaparición, distinguiendo las que permanecen activas, es decir, sin resolver, y las que han sido cesadas; el sexo; la nacionalidad; la edad; o la reincidencia, entre otros parámetros.

Estos datos servirán al Centro Nacional de Desaparecidos como referente para conseguir las metas por él marcadas en cuanto a la especialización, calidad y eficiencia de los Cuerpos policiales en las actuaciones en materia de personas desaparecidas.

Palabras Clave Persona desaparecida, Fuerzas y Cuerpos de Seguridad, PDyRH, reincidente, CNDES

ABSTRACT

This is the fourth edition of the annual report on missing persons in Spain, which presents the statistical data on cases of missing persons registered by the State and Autonomous Community Law Enforcement Agencies with policing authorities in this area. Unless otherwise specifically indicated, all figures shown are to 31 December 2019 and were taken from the Missing Persons and Unidentified Human Remains database (PDyRH) and from the Crime Statistics System (Sistema Estadístico de Criminalidad).

The aim of this publication is to extract and compare the data on missing persons registered over the years, with analysis using various parameters and indicators. From that analysis, this report provides the data on disappearances broken down into the total number of police reports filed for disappearance, differentiating those still open, i.e., unresolved, and those that have been closed according, among other parameters, to sex, nationality, age, or recurrence.

These data will be used by the National Centre for Missing Persons as a reference for achieving the targets it has set in terms of the specialization, quality and efficiency of Law Enforcement Agencies in actions relating to missing persons.

Key words Missing person, Law Enforcement Agencies, PDyRH, recidivist, CNDES.

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Introduction

It can be said that the National Missing Persons Centre (CNDES) has, since its creation, succeeded in meeting the primary objectives for which it was set up, little by little extending its horizons to develop new public initiatives which help to improve the scenario where the battle has been engaged in a phenomenon, that of missing persons, which has major social impact.

For this reason, it is always necessary to recall the background as well as the moment when a centre of this type was brought on stream.

On March 7 2017, with the publication of the first statistical report on the situation of missing persons in Spain, drawn up by the State Secretariat for Security, the creation was announced of the National Missing Persons Centre.

The work of organising and starting up a centre from scratch finally took shape with the publication of Instruction No. 2/2018 setting up the National Missing Persons Centre as the centralised management body for effectively and permanently coordinating the missing persons system used by the Law Enforcement Agencies (henceforth the PDyRH system) and defining its purpose and functions.

It is precisely one of the functions assigned to it – to draft, disseminate and publish information periodically, of a general or statistical character, on cases of missing persons known to the Law Enforcement Agencies – that underlies this report.

This annual missing persons report aims to set out the figures on reported disappearances and therefore to raise the profile of those numbers representing the persons who, together with their family members, define the National Missing Persons Centre's fundamental line of action.

With the publication of this statistical report, national data have been disclosed now over four years, and it is the aim with each edition to deal better with social needs as they arise and which are transmitted in exchanges with the tertiary social sector or even directly with family members and compiled at meetings that take place during the course of the year. Thus **the report includes data not considered until now**, such as the duration of disappearances and the reasons for closing cases, among other things.

Another of the major aims for which the CNDES came into being is to coordinate the State Secretariat and its associated bodies in the exchange and dissemination of information, while pooling the work of the Security Forces in this field and establishing general protocols for action. This has translated into a reduction in the average length of

disappearances and enhanced effectiveness in resolving them, which is crucial to the investigations.

On the other hand the CNDES has, year by year, sought to extend the international perspective in the treatment of disappearances, and has succeeded in positioning itself among the European Union countries most active at this level. On the one hand, this not only gives continuity to participation in the AMBER EUROPA network which, it is recalled, seeks to have European countries cooperate across borders in disseminating alerts amongst them on missing children, but has also enhanced relations for the exchange of good practice, along with training and participating in prevention and awareness campaigns.

Similarly, work continues in close relation with the *Global Missing Children Network (GMCN)* platform, operating through it with professionals from different specialties in the field of missing children.

Advance in international cooperation relations has come in the form of the recent creation of the network called the *Police Expert Network on Missing Persons* within the European Union Council, in the *Law Enforcement Working Parties* Working Group or the Police Cooperation Group, assiduously worked on by some Member States notably Spain and in particular with momentum from the CNDES, designed to create a common space among the community public bodies dealing with missing persons. Although currently at its initial stage, this working group represents a major advance, involving the participation of police professionals from a large number of European Union countries, aiming to make close international police cooperation possible. The Network's missions include the coordination of operational actions, the sharing of information on missing persons, exchange of good practices, training of members, development of new common strategies, etc., all implemented rapidly and effectively.

The relations the National Missing Persons Centre has established or maintained with other institutions, both public and private, are not just at the international level. Furthermore, another area where consolidation has been possible is in the relation with the most representative associations in the field, regularly using a variety of communication channels with them in an effort to find the best two-way and reciprocal response to the demands of missing persons' families and other loved ones.

Likewise, work has been done with other bodies in both the public and private sectors to develop collaboration agreements such as the one with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation, which allows a joint working framework to be put in place with its Consular Emergencies Division, facilitating the flow of information in cases of missing nationals overseas.

It is hoped through this agreement and others completed or still under way to enlarge the number of agents involved in joint action which provides the best response to the needs arising from cases of missing persons.

1.1 Initiatives adopted by the CNDES in 2019

For the National Missing Persons Centre, 2019 was marked by significant advances in managing, preventing and the search for and location of missing persons. Therefore, as well as publishing here the statistical data registered on the basis of reports of disappearances during the last year, a quick reference must be made to the progress recorded in the field.

The aim of the package of measures promoted by the Ministry of the Interior in 2019 was to enhance effectiveness in tackling cases of missing persons in three main areas: that of attention for the families of those missing; the area of technology; and finally the area of regulation.

Attention for the families of missing persons.

In 2019, through the CNDES, the Ministry of the Interior launched various informative and awareness campaigns which included a number of guides for directing and advising society and designed to avoid disappearances. One of the most notable of these guides is that for "Attention, protection and orientation for missing persons' families" which offers pointers on how to file the report, the first measures to be taken, social and legal resources, etc.

Another of the guides published is that for raising awareness of disappearances in such a vulnerable group as the elderly. We may all lose a loved one in this way, so that it is important to make people aware of what to do in such cases and what steps can be taken to protect our older family members. All this can be found in the guide "Evitémoslo" – Personas mayores (Let's avoid it – the elderly).

There is no doubt that attention for families, whether in person, by telephone or by email on the website, has been one of the Centre's priorities for monitoring all disappearances.

On the other hand, the Centre has held various sessions on missing persons at its headquarters, notable among all of these the following:

- Training Sessions for State and Autonomous Community Law Enforcement Agencies, from 16-27 September 2019.
- The National Missing Persons Centre's Fourth Missing Persons Family Encounter at the Fourth National Forum of Families of Missing Persons, convened by QSDGlobal on 15 November 2019. It is becoming habitual for associations representing families of missing persons to seek the support of the National Missing Persons Centre in holding meetings and sessions in this field.

> Technological advances.

In the field of information technologies, work has been done at the National Missing Persons Centre and the Deputy Directorate-General of Information Systems and Security Communications on developing a new version of the Missing Persons and Unidentified Human Remains system to gather and file reports of disappearances originating with the Security Forces and Corps (SFC), along with data on human remains.

This new development in the system has included substantial improvements, notable among these the cross algorithms used on the physical features of missing persons and human remains found, which will facilitate the investigators' identification work.

This system is also being used by officers in the National Police Force, Civil Guard and Regional Police Forces to seek to have alerts published on missing persons that are announced on the CNDES website and which remain there until the case is closed.

Another of the innovative elements presented was the National Missing Persons Centre website (https://cndes-web.ses.mir.es). Although data were already available concerning missing persons on the Ministry of the Interior website, they were now offered a digital space of their own, provided in several languages. The site provides a tool placed

at the service of citizens, where photographs taken by the Security Forces and Corps at the time when a report is filed can be published to enhance the dissemination the details of missing persons, and which remain in place over time. It will also contain statistical reports like this one, legislation, information on reporting procedures, etc.

The creation by the Ministry of the Interior must also be noted of a tool which is fundamental in preventing and responding to disappearances, in the form of ALERTCOPS, a National Police and Civil Guard mobile application offering a variety of functionalities, including the possibility of allowing the Forces to be alerted to the possible presence of criminal action. The tool also offers the "Guardián" function which, while the application is being used, allows the person(s) designated in real time by the user to see their geolocation. This function proves to be of the greatest utility for elderly people for who have no permanent care, or also for people engaging in sport or games outdoors, e.g. people out running alone, trampers, etc.

Regulation.

Two measures were adopted in 2019 to improve the processing and management of disappearances by the Security Forces and Corps: Instruction No. 3/2019 from the State Secretariat for Security; and the Protocol for Action by the Security Forces and Corps in Cases of Missing persons.

In general terms, the Instruction deals with the following aspects:

- Endorsement of the Protocol for Action by the Security Forces and Corps in cases of missing persons.
- It introduces new alert systems such as AMBER Alert (in the case of children) and the MAYOR DESAPARECIDO (MISSING ELDERLY PERSON) Alert.
- Dissemination of the ALERTCOPS mobile application.
- Reports and collaboration using the harmonised European hot-line number 116000, the direct line for cases of missing children.

For its part, the Protocol for Action is more extensive, including a variety of guidelines and tools which both the Police and the Civil Guard must apply as a component in their actions on reports of missing persons, some of which will be mentioned by name.

In the first instance, it introduces a new classification for disappearances, defining three types: involuntary, voluntary and forced. This means that, depending on the different causes and factors underlying the disappearance of a person, it must be processed differently, so that the situation is dealt with using the most appropriate actions.

Not the same measures must be adopted as from the beginning of police action in the case of a minor absconding from their home following a family dispute, those which must be applied in the disappearance of a cognitively-impaired person, or a disappearance in a criminal context.

On the other hand, the Protocol regulates various aspects involved in submitting a report, defining minimum and mandatory data on the missing person (name, sex, nationality, a physical description, possible motives, photograph...) which must be provided by the party filing the report, along with data considered to be complementary. All must be notified to the nearest Police Offices or Civil Guard Post, within the first few hours following the disappearance.

Finally, the Protocol authorises the Network of Provincial Heads, which brings together all those in charge of the units with the jurisdiction, to investigate cases of missing persons.

The intention with all these measures has been to improve the prevention of disappearances and to substantially enhance the action taken in such cases, and so to combat more effectively a phenomenon whose impact on society is so profound.

1.2 Integral training

All these advances promoted by the Ministry of the Interior through the National Missing Persons Centre in accordance the authorities conferred on it mean that they must be disseminated and made known to those to whom they are directed, namely the members of the Security Forces and Corps entrusted with investigating, searching for and locating missing persons. The purpose of training in the matter under consideration here is

none other than to ensure unified action by training police units and by increasing the awareness of other players involved such as the Ministry of Justice, associations, the media, etc.

Given the importance the Centre assigns to the preparation of officers, and because one of its functions is to coordinate the training of the Security Forces and Corps in connection with the System of Missing Persons and Unidentified Human Remains, the "First training sessions for the Network of Police Heads in cases of Missing Persons" were held in September 2019.

The training targeted the Network of Provincial Heads of Police which was set up in March 2019 as part of measures put in place by the Ministry of the Interior to improve the effectiveness of investigations carried out in this area.

To constitute it, both police forces appointed one person in each province with responsibility for monitoring and tracking action implemented in relation to missing persons. The person appointed is assigned among other tasks to coordinate police action in the search mechanisms, to act as a link with other police forces, and to act as interlocutor with the associations representing the families of missing persons.

These Courses were held on two occasions, to ensure the training reached the largest number of people, the first from 16 - 20 September and the second from 23 - 27 of that month, in the presence of the same members from the National Police, Civil Guard, Mossos d'Esquadra, the Basque Autonomous Police and the Navarre Regional Police Force.

The training was imparted by professionals from various sectors including judges, prosecutors, forensic medicine specialists, psychologists, professionals from the State Law Enforcement Agencies specialised in disappearances, and journalists, amongst others.

However, another important perspective of the course is what can be contributed by the missing persons' families with the assistance of the associations because, in the long run, it is they who suffer the absence of their members, and those who generate the need for the action by public bodies. Thus a primary focus of the training sessions was the care of missing persons' family members.

The aim of these courses was to provide training of an integrated nature and so improve the professional preparation of those in the Police Units entrusted with the investigation of cases of missing persons. Apart from impacting the content and the application of the State Law Enforcement Agencies' Protocol for Action in such cases, the other initiatives undertaken in the matter were also shared.

1.3 What do you need to know if a family member or someone close to you disappears?

As already pointed out, the CNDES website has been incorporating information of interest for missing persons' family members, both to facilitate the location of their relation and in the form of advice on the procedures to be completed throughout the period of the disappearance.

Along these lines, in 2020 those reporting a disappearance were provided at the moment when the report was filed with the following additional information which experience has shown to be of the greatest interest for the families of the missing person:

The filing of the report implies the immediate opening of procedures designed to locate your family member. An investigation unit is made responsible for the case, which remains open until the family member is located, and is <u>under no circumstances closed</u>.

The disappearance of the person is notified immediately to all the country's police forces and so is made known throughout national territory. Likewise, the disappearance is also automatically communicated to all the other countries in the Schengen space.

Important following the report:

- Any relevant fact recalled concerning your family member or loved one must, along with any new information, be notified as quickly as possible.
- Likewise, in any emergency you may call 091 or 062.
- Any action (putting up posters, communication with the press, etc.), must be consulted with the investigating unit.

- An initial registration is recommended, in an attempt to compile information which may prove relevant, ensuring as far as possible that it is not altered.
- Should you wish, **ask the investigating unit to publish a photograph** of the family member or loved one on the National Missing Persons Centre's website.

Resources:

- As required, the telephone 116000, Hot Line for cases of missing children, run by the ANAR Foundation, is available to you.
- In case of a forced disappearance, you can get in touch with one of the Offices for Care of the Victims of Crimes (OAV) in the Ministry of Justice, created as a free public service. (https://www.mjusticia.gob.es/BUSCADIR/)
- The CNDES will advise you on any doubts, through the following channels:

| ☐ At the v | website <u>htt</u> | os: //wwv | w.cndes | s.es/ whe | re you w | ill find a | assorted | informa | ation on | advice, |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|----------|------------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| social resources | , etc. | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |

 $\ \square$ In case of doubt, email contact is available at: colaboracion-cndes@interior.es

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the data held in the Missing Persons and Unidentified Human Remains System (PDyRH) managed by the National Missing Persons Centre. In addition to being made available to all citizens, the information serves for the adoption of public policies in the field. This means that permanent monitoring work is essential to guarantee the quality of the data furnished.

The data in that system are those gathered by the Security Forces and Corps. All the information collected on every disappearance filed with the State Law Enforcement Agencies (National Police and Civil Guard) and with Regional Police Forces (Mossos d'Esquadra, Ertzainza and the Navarre Regional Police) can be subjected to exhaustive analysis, with the input of all the strategic and technical information contained in this report.

The data registered for preparing this report are those posted to 31 December 2019. Other data sources have also been used, such as those dealing with the abduction of children, turning for these purposes to the information in the Crime Statistics System (SEC).

On 31 December 2019, the PDyRH data base held a **total of 202,529 cases of missing persons**, mainly those filed in the period 2010-2019, the time when the system was in operation. Pre-2010 cases are also included which were pending at the time when the system came on stream. Of all cases, on 31 December 2019 **5,529 were open,** accounting for 2.73% of the total registered.

A significant drop can be seen in the figure for cases open compared with the data published last year, a circumstance due to two factors: firstly, speedier management of disappearances following publication of the Protocol for Action; secondly the situation at the time, with the figure for disappearances at the end of 2018 strongly influenced by the increase in illegal immigration during that year, with effects on the figures for minors voluntarily leaving reception centres and who were reported as missing. This phenomenon is explained in greater detail in the following chapters.

A new figure provided in this report is that for **recurrence of cases** of disappearances, this number, 202,529, referring solely to a total of **121,113 people reported missing**.

In relation to the gender of **missing persons**, nearly 59% of all 202,529 cases of missing persons entered in the PDyRH data base refer to males and about 41% to females.

At the same time it is seen that, of the number of cases still open (5,529), that referring to males (76.34%) is substantially higher than that for females (22.57%), while the remaining 1.09% refers to persons of unknown gender.

Of the 202,529 **cases registered** in the PDyRH data base to 31 December 2019, 135,353 cases, close to 67%, refer to underage missing persons (the reference age based on the age at the time of disappearance).

Of the **cases open** (5,529), 35.77% (1,978) relate to minors (current age). On the other hand, based on status as minor at the time of the disappearance, it is seen that 2,839 cases (51.35% of those still open) fall into this age group. Notable among these is the group of 1,059 cases of **foreign minors absconding from centres** before reaching the age of majority and for whom the period established for termination of the guardianship had not transpired¹.

In connection with the **length of disappearances**, the 2019 sample shows that 70% of disappearances ended within the week following filing of the report; 82% in two weeks; 90% in one month; with fewer than 1% extending beyond six months.

Finally, from the sample examined, the **outcome of just 1.54% of the disappearance cases closed proved fatal**, whether because of death from natural causes, an accident, autolysis or some other violent cause.

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¹ According to Article 239 of the Civil Code, "Guardianship of unprotected minors is assigned by law to the Public Institution". Nevertheless, Articles 172, 276 and 277 refer to a set of circumstances in which the Public Institution's protection in the case of minors ceases. These reasons include, among others, the end of the period of six months after leaving the centre voluntarily, or else the minor has relocated voluntarily to another country or they have come of age.

STATISTICAL DATA ON MISSING PERSONS IN SPAIN

3.1 The main figures

The following data show the result of study and analysis of the information registered in the PDyRH data base in the State Secretariat for Security (SES). This Information was incorporated into the PDyRH system by the State and the Autonomous Community Law Enforcement Agencies.

As a starting point and according to the details entered in the PDyRH data base there were, to 31 December 2019, a total of 5,529 cases of missing persons open in Spain.

When a person is located or their situation becomes known to the Security Forces and Corps, immediately and as a consequence of those circumstances, cases currently open in the various data bases and systems employed by policing officers are closed. The same thing happens when it has been possible to complete all the operations and specific analyses intended to link human remains with the identity of a missing person.

In 2019, and for statistical purposes, a new category was introduced, classified as "closed-latent" (cesado-latente) which includes all cases of foreign minors who have voluntarily left protection or assistance centres and who have either come of age or the deadline established in the Civil Code for the end of legal protection has expired (see Note 1).

The aim of this new classification is to provide data that are adjusted to the reality of the phenomenon of missing persons, unifying the criteria put in place at the international level. Here, the figures facilitated in earlier reports distorted the true number of missing persons, listing all foreign minors who have left the centres and have travelled on to other countries as missing. This is the same phenomenon as observed in EU entry states such as Italy and Greece, where it has been found that unaccompanied minors travel onward.

The fact that these specific reports have been moved into this new category does not mean that the case has been closed. Within the PDyRH system, these reports are taken into consideration as part of the crosschecking made between cases and corpses located, and they continue to be flagged in the Data Base of National Markers (Señalamientos Nacionales) allowing data to be swiftly exchanged with other countries via the Schengen Information System (SIS).

Therefore, by way of synthesis, it has been recorded that, throughout the time data have been registered in the PDyRH data base, a total of 188,469 markers arising from the associated reports filed in situations involving missing persons in this country have been closed, slightly more than 93.06% of all those registered by the Security Forces and Corps; in addition, a further 8,531 cases have been classified as "closed-latent".

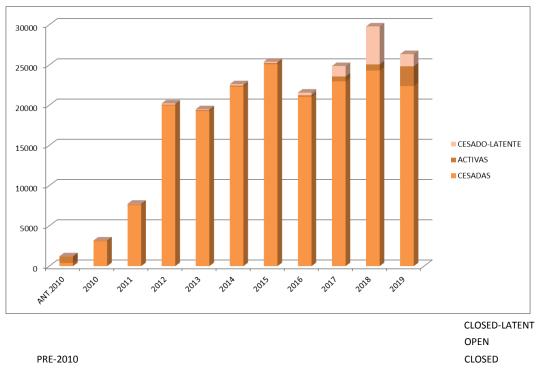
At the same time, it seems important to point out that, in each current year, officers in the Security Forces and Corps file closures that are not confined solely and exclusively to cases registered and opened during that time but those which may, on the contrary, refer to facts on previously-known cases on missing persons posted in the PDyRH prior to that year. In other words, if a case from 2016 which was registered in that year is closed in 2017, for statistical purposes that closure is tallied in 2016.

Thus table 1 and graph 1 show the distribution over time of the figures for open and closed cases posted in the PDyRH:

| | OPEN | CLOSED | CLOSED- LATENT | TOTAL | % OPEN | % CLOSED | % LATENT |
|----------|-------|---------|-------------------|---------|--------|----------|----------|
| Pre-2010 | 827 | 394 | 7 | 1,228 | 67.35 | 32.08 | 0.57 |
| 2010 | 79 | 3,096 | 11 | 3,186 | 2.48 | 97.18 | 0.35 |
| 2011 | 123 | 7,575 | 54 | 7,752 | 1.59 | 97.72 | 0.70 |
| 2012 | 89 | 19,986 | 153 | 20,228 | 0.44 | 98.80 | 0.76 |
| 2013 | 126 | 19,276 | 108 | 19,510 | 0.65 | 98.80 | 0.55 |
| 2014 | 142 | 22,305 | 170 | 22,617 | 0.63 | 98.62 | 0.75 |
| 2015 | 148 | 25,106 | 157 | 25,411 | 0.58 | 98.80 | 0.62 |
| 2016 | 189 | 21,050 | 330 | 21,569 | 0.88 | 97.59 | 1.53 |
| 2017 | 597 | 22,975 | 1,304 | 24,876 | 2.40 | 92.36 | 5.24 |
| 2018 | 758 | 24,322 | 4,716 | 29,796 | 2.54 | 81.63 | 15.83 |
| 2019 | 2,451 | 22,384 | 1,521 | 26,356 | 9.30 | 84.93 | 5.77 |
| TOTAL | 5,529 | 188,469 | 8,531 | 202,529 | 2.73 | 93.06 | 4.21 |

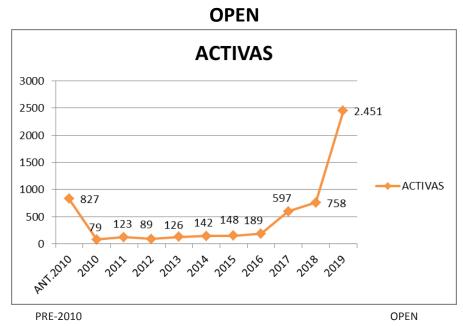
Table 1. SFC missing persons cases open and closed. Source: PDyRH

On the basis of the total of 202,529 cases registered in the PDyRH, it is seen that just 2.73% are currently open while 4.21% are classified as closed-latent, most of these from 2018, a year which saw a considerable increase in the number of cases involving foreign minors.



Graph 1. SFC missing person cases open and closed. Source: PDyRH

On the other hand, analysis of the percentage of open cases counted yearly reveals that, between 2010 and 2018, compared with the overall cases, a small number remain open. Most disappearances prior to 2010 were terminated that year, the period when the first version of the PDyRH system came on stream, while a large proportion (more than 67%) remain open. For the latest year (2019), 9.3% remain open; this figure is always higher for the last year of entries, as many disappearances will be resolved in the coming months of this year.



Graph 2: Trends in cases registered in the PDyRH and the percentage of those open. Source: PDyRH

It must be made clear that these figures may vary year by year as the Security Forces and Corps resolve cases of missing persons.

2019 saw a drop of around 11% in the total number of cases listed compared with the figure for the previous period.

TOTAL CASES DENUNCIAS TOTALES 35.000 30.000 25.000 20.000 15,000 10.000 5.000 ANT.2010 2010 2011 2012 2013 2016 2018 2019 2014 2015

Graph 3: Trends in total cases listed in the PDyRH. Source: PDyRH

This reveals the fact that a total of 827 cases of missing persons from years prior to 2010 remain open. This figure is lower when compared to that in last year's report, thanks to the resolution of older cases. It must also be pointed out in this section that, similarly, 48 new cases were incorporated in 2019 from those years, which had not been recorded in the System.

PRE-2010

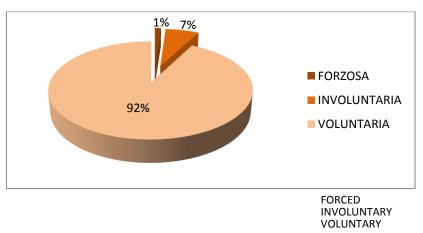
On the other hand, it must also be made clear, as explained in the section on Methodology, that the PDyRH System came on stream in 2010, and was progressively taken up by the different police forces until, in 2012, the system became fully operative for them all (national and regional). As a consequence, as the PDyRH data base gets older, the accumulation and total of open cases will rise. Therefore, and in line with this logical reasoning, total open cases will always be greater than the numbers published in previous years, something which must be analysed carefully with this circumstance in mind.

It is nevertheless also worth mentioning that the figures drop with the passage of time as cases are resolved and missing persons are located, which explains why the most recent cases of missing persons represent a higher percentage of those that remain open.

Moreover, the PDyRH data base makes it possible, following usage of the information it contains, to classify the data using statistical variables such as the breakdown of data according to the territorial distribution of cases filed with the Security Forces and Corps (by Autonomous Community and Province). Further information in this respect is available in the Appendix.

With the implementation of the new "Protocol for Action by the Security Forces and Corps in Cases of Missing Persons", three categories of disappearances were created: forced; involuntary; and voluntary. Police forces have, since the time when the Protocol for Action came into effect, operated on the categorisation of existing cases, with the aim during 2020 of classifying all the cases open so that this information can be analysed in future reports.

Data registered until now on categories in the PDyRH have confirmed that most cases are voluntary (some 92%)². Involuntary disappearances account for 7% of the total of cases known, while forced disappearances stand at only around 1%.



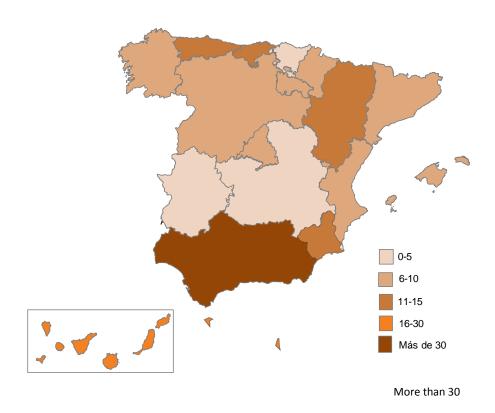
Graph 4: Classification of the types of cases in the PDyRH. Source: PDyRH

In relation to the territorial distribution of cases open, to place these figures in a clearer context, Graph 5 offers these data according to the population rate per 100,000 inhabitants. It is seen that the Autonomous Communities with the highest rates are Andalusia followed by the Canary Islands.

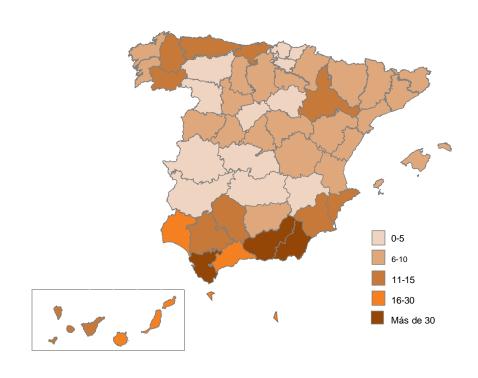
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² This calculation includes cases which are open and those continuing in the "closed-latent" situation.

For their part, Cádiz, Granada and Almeria are the provinces where the rate is more than 30 cases per 100,000 inhabitants (Graph 6).



 $Graph\ 5.\ Cases\ of\ missing\ persons\ open,\ by\ Autonomous\ Community,\ per\ 100,000\ inhabitants.\ Source:\ PDyRH.$

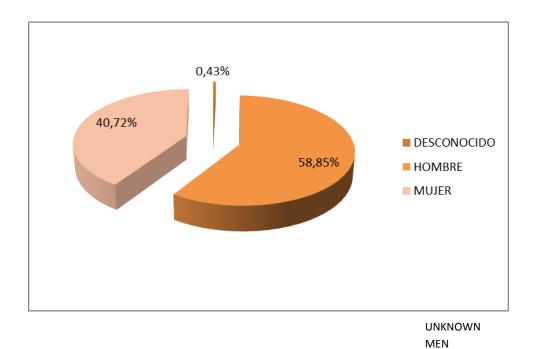


More than 30 Graph 6. Cases of missing persons open by province, per 100,000 inhabitants. Source: PDyRH.

The data on cases of missing persons recorded in the PDyRH show that, in terms of their distribution by the missing person's sex, virtually 59% refer to males and nearly 41% to females. (Table 2 and graph 7). However, the proportion of men whose cases remain open is more than three times that for women.

| | OPEN | % OPEN | CLOSED ³ | % CLOSED | TOTAL |
|---------|-------|--------|---------------------|----------|---------|
| UNKNOWN | 60 | 0.03% | 807 | 0.40% | 867 |
| MEN | 4,221 | 2.08% | 114,971 | 56.77% | 119,192 |
| WOMEN | 1,248 | 0.62% | 81,222 | 40.10% | 82,470 |
| TOTAL | 5,529 | 2.73% | 197,000 | 97.27% | 202,529 |

Table 2. Cases of missing persons by sex. Source: PDyRH.



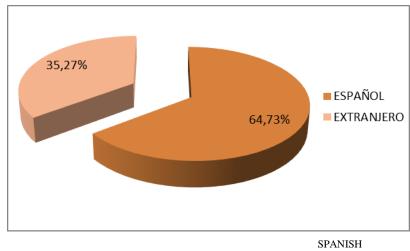
Graph 7: Distribution by sex of the total cases registered. Source: PDyRH.

As to the nationality of missing persons, most reports of disappearances in Spain, nearly 64.73% of the total, refer to Spanish nationals. Those affecting citizens of foreign origin amount to 35.27% of disappearances. (Graph 8).

_

WOMEN

³ Cases in the closed-latent category are entered as closed.



FOREIGN

Graph 8: Distribution of the nationality of cases. Source: PDyRH.

3.2 RECURRENCE AND EPISODES OF DISAPPEARANCE

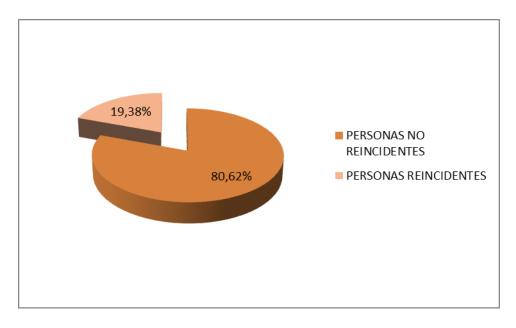
This new section gathers data for the first time thanks to work done to upgrade the PDyRH data base, with analysis of the statistical data on cases reported compared with the number of missing persons.

Of the 202,529 cases gathered by Police Units to 31 December, (Source: PDyRH data base), 97,645 were connected with cases reporting the disappearance of persons just once, and 23,468 with persons for whom disappearance had recurred.

Thus, recording the total of missing persons on a single occasion and those recurring for the first time gives a total of 121,113 persons reported as missing. It can be concluded from these data that 80.62% (97,645) of cases refer to persons who do not recur, and 19.38% (23,468) to those who do.

| | MISSING PERSONS REPORTED |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| NON-RECURRENT | 97,645 |
| RECURRENT | 23,468 |
| TOTAL MISSING PERSONS | 121,113 |

Table 3. Total Missing Persons reported. Source: PDyRH.



NON-RECURRENT RECURRENT

Graph 9. Percentage of missing persons by number of episodes. Source: PDyRH

3.3. Disappearance of minors

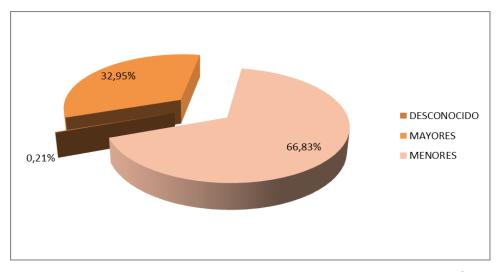
This section analyses and sets out in individualised form the information in the PDyRH system on the disappearance of minors. From the computation of the data available in the PDyRH, approximately two thirds of the cases registered on the disappearance of a person affect a minor, the **data referred to the time of disappearance**, as set out on the following table.

| | OPEN | % OPEN | CLOSED ⁴ | % CLOSED | TOTAL |
|---------|-------|--------|---------------------|----------|---------|
| MINORS | 2,839 | 1.40% | 132,514 | 65.43% | 135,353 |
| ADULTS | 2,645 | 1.31% | 64,098 | 31.65% | 66,743 |
| UNKNOWN | 45 | 0.02% | 388 | 0.19% | 433 |
| TOTAL | 5,529 | 2.73% | 197,000 | 97.27% | 202,529 |

Table 4. Distribution of cases of adults and minors on 31/12/2019. Source: PDyRH.

-

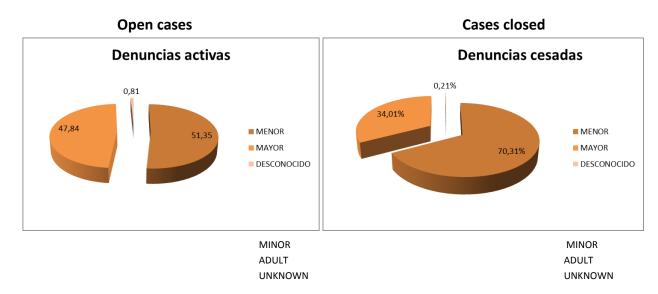
⁴ Closed-latent cases are entered as closed.



UNKNOWN ADULTS MINORS

Graph 10: Percentage of total cases. 31/12/2019. Source: PDyRH.

In analysing the distribution of cases on missing persons, with the reference statistical variable taken as the age at the time of disappearance (adults and minors), it should be mentioned that the majority of those registered in the PDyRH system refer to underage persons (66.83%) while cases involving adults amount to 32.95% (Table 4 and Graph 10).



Graph 11: Percentage of cases open and closed, minors and adults. 31/12/2019. Source: PDyRH.

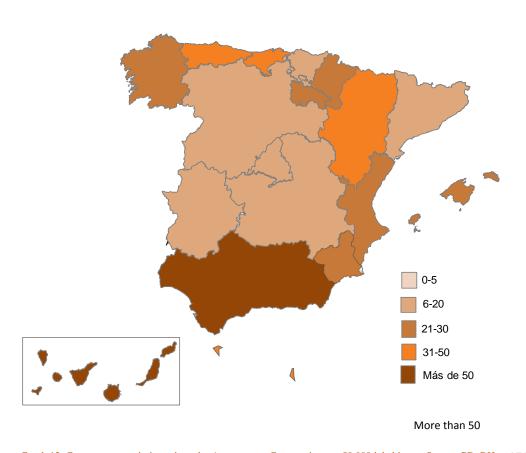
All this points to the need to detail certain questions in connection with the data related to cases of missing minors.

Graph 11 indicates the proportion of cases open on minors compared with those filed on missing adults.

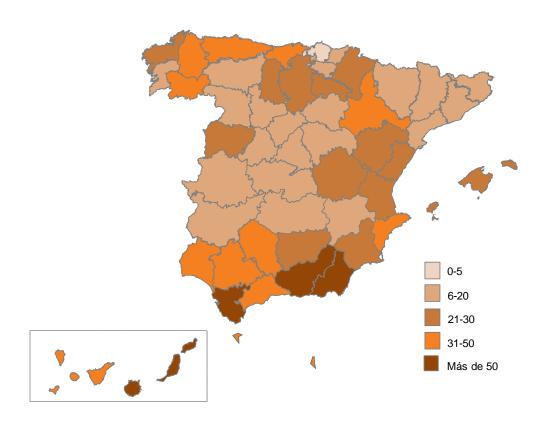
In regional terms, Andalusia, the Community of Valencia and the Canary Islands are the ones which group the greatest number of cases referring to children open and known to the police, with the date of disappearance taken as reference. Based on the demographic data, the Canary Islands Community as well as Andalusia have higher rates of cases per 50,000 inhabitants (Graph 12).

Likewise, the provinces of Cádiz, Málaga, Granada and Almería head the list in terms of the order of importance of reported cases of missing underage persons. Including the demographic data, these provinces, along with Las Palmas, are the ones where the numbers of minors still missing are highest relative to their populations (Graph 13).

In this connection, it must be pointed out that the provinces where the greatest numbers of missing children occur or are registered do have centres for the reception of minors in their localities.



 $Graph\ 12.\ Cases\ open\ on\ missing\ minors\ by\ Autonomous\ Community,\ per\ 50,000\ inhabitants.\ Source:\ PDyRH\ and\ INE\ on\ 1/1/2019.$



Graph 13. Cases open on missing minors by province, per 50,000 inhabitants. Source: PDyRH and INE on 1/1/2019.

More than 50

Of the 2,839 cases open on minors (classified according to the date of disappearance) at least 1,059, i.e. more than 37%, refer to foreign minors who have absconded from reception centres and who remain under the guardianship of the public institution concerned. Most of these reports were filed in the last three years, 2017, 2018 and 2019, coinciding with increased illegal immigration flows.

3.4. FOREIGN MINORS ABSCONDING FROM CENTRES

The high figures registered in recent years of cases of foreign minors absconding from centres demands specific consideration of this category of disappearance which continues to be of special importance to the authorities.

As detailed in the executive summary, the Civil Code is unequivocal on the timing of the ending of the public powers' legal guardianship of these minors. However, even after the State's legal protection has ended, they do continue to be of the greatest interest to the Security Forces and Corps, who retain them amongst national markers while exchanging their data with other European police forces in an attempt to locate them in third countries.

According to the security forces, international bodies and various NGOs, unaccompanied minors (MENAS) illegally entering the EU through countries such as Spain, Italy or Greece tend to move on voluntarily in a short period of time to other countries such as Germany or Sweden where family members often await them. This is a question that is differentiated from the context of "disappearances" — itself a highly heterogeneous problem — because of its special casuistry, the vast numbers involved and because these minors place themselves beyond the Security Forces and Corps' capacity for action.

They also continue to be of the greatest importance for the CNDES and remain in the data base under the "closed-latent" heading which means that their data can be consulted by the Security Forces and Corps, while data-crosschecks continue to be run with the information on corpses and human remains located.

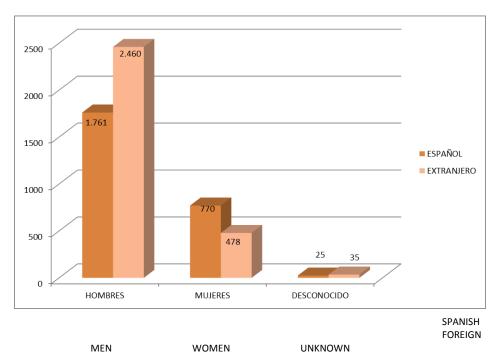
40,918 cases have been registered from this group during these years, accounting for more than 20% of the total (202,529). Of these, 76.56% have been closed, in other words the person has been located or has been reincorporated into the facility from which they absconded, 20.85% have been placed in the "closed-latent" category and 2.59% of cases remain open.

3.5. Data breakdown by sex

Table 5 offers a breakdown of the data registered by the Security Forces and Corps on the sex and nationality of persons reported missing, showing that a substantial part of the cases still open (5,529) relate to the disappearance of foreign nationals (2,460).

| | NATIONALITY | OPEN | TOTALS |
|---------|---------------|-------|---------|
| MEN | SPANISH | 1,761 | 70,731 |
| | FOREIGN | 2,460 | 48,461 |
| | TOTAL MEN | 4,221 | 119,192 |
| WOMEN | SPANISH | 770 | 59,969 |
| | FOREIGN | 478 | 22,501 |
| | TOTAL WOMEN | 1,248 | 82,470 |
| UNKNOWN | SPANISH | 25 | 404 |
| | FOREIGN | 35 | 463 |
| | TOTAL UNKNOWN | 60 | 867 |
| TOTAL | | 5,529 | 202,529 |

Table 5. Missing person cases, by nationality and sex. Source: PDyRH.



Graph 14. Number of cases open, by sex and nationality. Source: PDyRH.

Table 6 and graph 15 record the figures on the total of cases registered and which remain open, according to the sex and age of the missing person (adults and minors). In this section it can be seen that, in the group with the largest number of open cases (Table 6 and graph 15), the highest figure here is in the underage category where the total is 2,839 compared with the 2,645 cases open on adults.

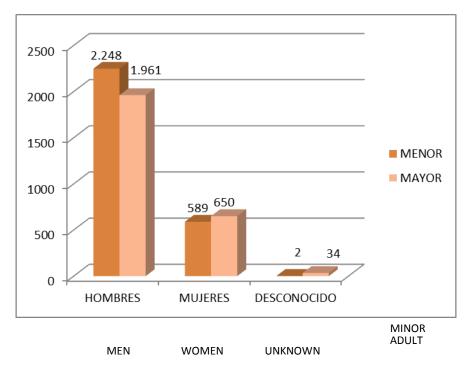
| | MEN | | WOMEN | | UNKNOWN | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|----------------------|
| | MINORS | ADULTS | MINORS | ADULTS | MINORS | ADULTS | TOTAL |
| OPEN | 2,248 | 1,961 | 589 | 650 | 2 | 34 | 5,484 ⁵ |
| TOTALS | 74,707 | 44,376 | 60,434 | 21,966 | 212 | 401 | 202,096 ⁶ |

Table 6. Cases of missing persons by sex and age groups. (Adults/minors). Source: PDyRH.

27

⁵ 45 cases included where the missing persons' ages were unknown

 $^{^{\}rm 6}$ 433 cases included where the missing persons' ages were unknown



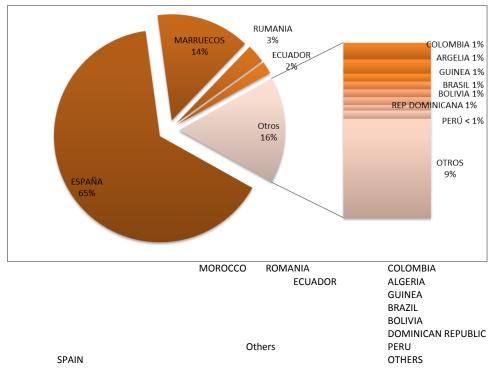
Graph 15. Number of cases open, by sex and age group (Adults/minors). Source: PDyRH

3.5 Data breakdown by nationality

From all the cases of disappearance – open and closed – registered in the PDyRH system, it can be seen that most (131,104), nearly 65% of the total, refer to nationals of this country.

| NATIONALITY | TOTAL CASES |
|--------------------|-------------|
| SPAIN | 131,104 |
| MOROCCO | 29,010 |
| ROMANIA | 5,791 |
| ECUADOR | 3,787 |
| COLOMBIA | 3,127 |
| ALGERIA | 2,680 |
| GUINEA | 1,479 |
| BRAZIL | 1,473 |
| BOLIVIA | 1,468 |
| DOMINICAN REPUBLIC | 1,441 |
| PERU | 1,025 |
| UNKNOWN | 1,576 |
| OTHERS | 18,568 |
| TOTAL | 202,529 |

Table 7. Total missing person cases, by nationality. Source: PDyRH.



Graph 16. Percentage of total cases of missing persons, by nationality. Source: PDyRH.

However, taking current cases as reference confirms that, of the total figure of 5,529, approximately 46%, numbering 2,556, refer to Spanish citizens.

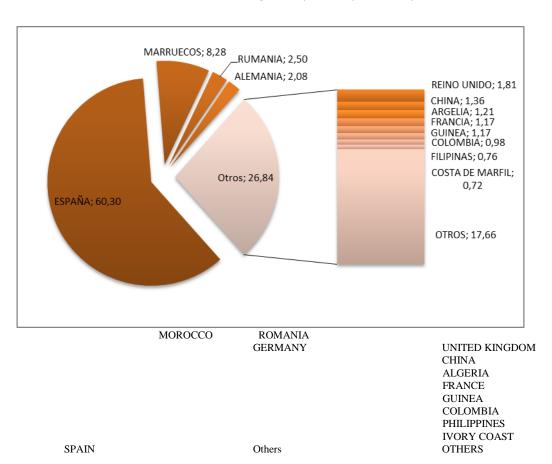
| NATIONALITY | OPEN CASES |
|----------------|------------|
| SPAIN | 2,556 |
| MOROCCO | 1,432 |
| ALGERIA | 197 |
| GUINEA | 142 |
| ROMANIA | 99 |
| MALI | 90 |
| IVORY COAST | 87 |
| GERMANY | 58 |
| UNKNOWN | 53 |
| UNITED KINGDOM | 53 |
| CHINA | 39 |
| FRANCE | 36 |
| OTHERS | 687 |
| TOTAL | 5,529 |

Table 8. Total cases open on missing persons, by nationality. Source: PDyRH.

On the other hand, as seen on the following table, the majority of cases open on adults refer to Spanish nationals, who account for 60% of the total.

| NATIONALITY | OPEN CASES |
|----------------|------------|
| SPAIN | 1,595 |
| MOROCCO | 219 |
| ROMANIA | 66 |
| GERMANY | 55 |
| UNITED KINGDOM | 48 |
| CHINA | 36 |
| ALGERIA | 32 |
| FRANCE | 31 |
| GUINEA | 31 |
| COLOMBIA | 26 |
| PHILIPPINES | 20 |
| IVORY COAST | 19 |
| OTHERS | 467 |
| TOTAL | 2,645 |

Table 9. Total current cases, missing adults, by nationality. Source: PDyRH.

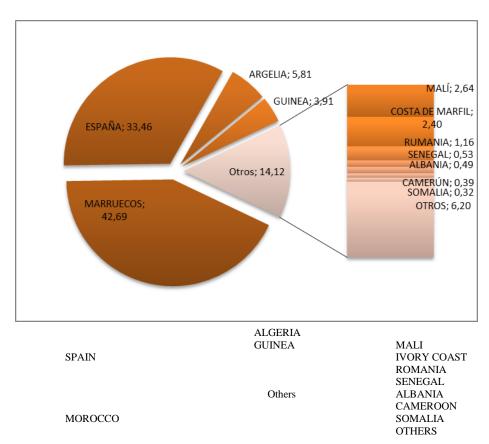


Graph 17. Percentage of cases open on adults, by nationality. Source: PDyRH.

Of the 5,529 current cases of minors in the PDyRH, 2,839 (51%) refer to this group (age calculated on the date of disappearance). However, as shown on the table, 950 concern Spanish citizens (33.46%), while the remaining 66% are minors born in other countries, mainly Morocco (1,212), Algeria (165) or Guinea (111).

| NATIONALITY | OPEN CASES |
|-------------|------------|
| MOROCCO | 1,212 |
| SPAIN | 950 |
| ALGERIA | 165 |
| GUINEA | 111 |
| MALI | 75 |
| IVORY COAST | 68 |
| ROMANIA | 33 |
| SENEGAL | 15 |
| ALBANIA | 14 |
| CAMEROON | 11 |
| SOMALIA | 9 |
| OTHERS | 176 |
| TOTAL | 2,839 |

Table 10. Total cases open on missing minors, by nationality. Minority age calculated on the date of disappearance. Source: PDyRH



Graph 18. Total cases open on missing minors, by nationality. Source: PDyRH.

Table 11 below details the cases open in the PDyRH system at this time, distributed according to the country of disappearance. These figures do not however include the total number of Spanish nationals missing overseas, and refer only to cases reported in this country.

| COUNTRY OF DISAPPEARANCE | CURRENT CASES |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| SPAIN | 5,333 |
| UNKNOWN | 44 |
| FRANCE | 24 |
| MOROCCO | 17 |
| UNITED KINGDOM | 9 |
| MEXICO | 8 |
| ALGERIA | 7 |
| ARGENTINA | 6 |
| PORTUGAL | 6 |
| VENEZUELA | 6 |
| BRAZIL | 5 |
| UNITED STATES | 5 |
| COLOMBIA | 4 |
| PERU | 4 |
| GERMANY | 3 |
| BELGIUM | 3 |
| ECUADOR | 3 |
| ITALY | 3 |
| SWEDEN | 3 |
| CANADA | 2 |
| GUINEA | 2 |
| INDIA | 2 |
| NICARAGUA | 2 |
| PANAMA | 2 |
| DOMINICAN REPUBLIC | 2 |
| ROMANIA | 2 |
| UKRAINE | 2 |
| AUSTRALIA | 1 |
| CAPE VERDE | 1 |
| COSTA RICA | 1 |
| DENMARK | 1 |
| GUATEMALA | 1 |
| HONDURAS | 1 |
| INDONESIA | 1 |
| IRAQ | 1 |
| IRELAND | 1 |
| KAZAKHSTAN | 1 |
| LUXEMBOURG | 1 |
| MALI | 1 |
| MALTA | 1 |
| NEPAL | 1 |
| CENTRAL-AFRICAN REPUBLIC | 1 |
| SOUTH SUDAN | 1 |
| SWITZERLAND | 1 |
| THAILAND | 1 |
| | |

| URUGUAY | 1 |
|---------|-------|
| VANUATU | 1 |
| TOTAL | 5,529 |

Table 11. Total current cases of missing persons according to country of disappearance. Source: PDyRH.

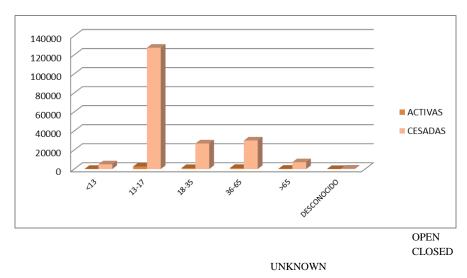
3.7. Data breakdown by age groups

This point includes information on the number of cases made known to the Security Forces and Corps, broken down by age group.

Here it can be seen from the table and the graph below that cases registered in the 13-17 age group give the highest of all the figures. This fact is naturally much influenced by the MENA profile, a minor aged 16 to 17 and close to reaching the age of majority on entering Spain.

| AGE GROUP | OPEN | CLOSED ⁷ |
|-----------|-------|---------------------|
| <13 | 181 | 4,961 |
| 13-17 | 2,658 | 127,553 |
| 18-35 | 1,129 | 26,882 |
| 36-65 | 1,168 | 30,027 |
| >65 | 348 | 7,189 |
| UNKNOWN | 45 | 388 |
| TOTAL | 5,529 | 197,000 |

Table 12. Total cases, open and closed, by age group. Source: PDyRH.



Graph 19. Total cases, open and closed, by age group. Source: PDyRH.

-

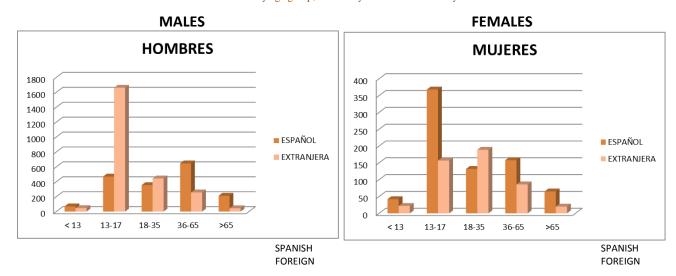
⁷ Closed-latent cases are registered as closed.

Moreover, table 13 and graph 20 set out the figures on current cases overall, broken down by the missing person's age group, nationality and sex.

The data on table 13 and graph 20 once more reveal that the profile in cases open on missing persons is that of an underage foreign male in the 13-17 year age group.

| | NATIONALITY | < 13 | 13-17 | 18-35 | 36-65 | >65 | UNKNOWN |
|---------|-------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-----|---------|
| MALES | SPANISH | 70 | 470 | 355 | 647 | 213 | 6 |
| | FOREIGN | 47 | 1,661 | 444 | 257 | 45 | 6 |
| FEMALES | SPANISH | 42 | 368 | 132 | 158 | 65 | 5 |
| | FOREIGN | 22 | 157 | 189 | 86 | 20 | 4 |
| UNKNOWN | SPANISH | | | 5 | 15 | 5 | |
| | FOREIGN | | 2 | 4 | 5 | | 24 |

Table 13. Total current cases by age group, nationality and sex. Source: PDyRH.



Graph 20. Total current cases by age group, nationality and sex. Source: PDyRH

3.8. Other PDyRH system data

This point refers to the information contained in the PDyRH system on postmortem files collected, associated with the figures for the identification of missing persons and human remains discovered.

Mention can be made here of the fact that two types of identification are carried out using the PDyRH system. In the first place, those classified as identifications linked to a case, where there is a previous missing persons report

on the deceased. And on the other hand, there are in addition many cases of identification of corpses and human remains that are registered in the PDyRH data base but which are not linked to the data in a previous report because, for example, no report was filed on the disappearance of the person with whom the corpse has been identified (Table 14 and graph 21).

| STATUS | FILES |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| OPEN | 3,203 |
| IDENTIFIED/ASSOCIATED WITH A REPORT | 114 |
| IDENTIFIED | 599 |

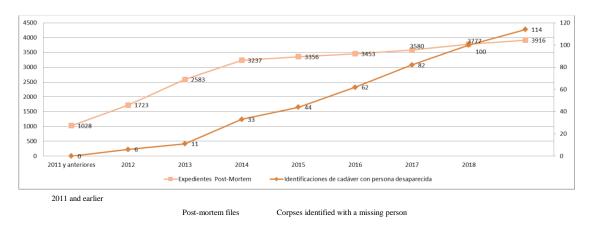
Table 14. Status of files on corpses and unidentified human remains. Source: PDyRH

EXPEDIENTES 3% 15% ABIERTO IDENTIFICADO/ASOCIADO CON DENCUNA IDENTIFICADO

IDENTIFIED/LINK TO A REPORT IDENTIFIED

Graph 21. Percentage of files on corpses and unidentified human remains. Source: PDyRH

In connection with the first case, of identification of missing persons where the identification is linked to reports, Graph 22 set out the following data:



Graph 22. Number of post-mortem files in the system and number of cases of identification of human remains linked to reports. Source: PDyRH.

3.9. Length of disappearance

The following section shows the statistical data on the duration of disappearances, in other words the time-lapse between the moment when the person goes missing and that when the police marker on that person is removed. This was done by taking as a **sample all the cases closed in 2019**, irrespective of when those disappearances occurred.

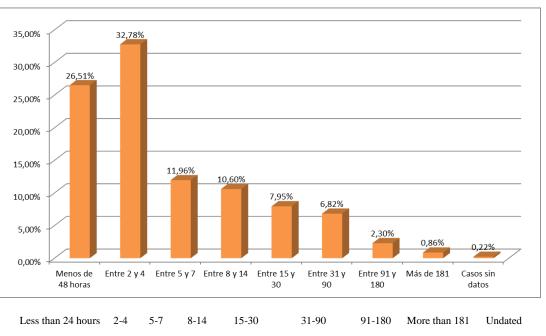
This reveals that a total of 24,710 cases were closed last year, most of them a few days following the disappearance.

It must be kept in mind that the date taken in making this calculation is that when the police marker officially ends, which frequently does not coincide with the moment when the person is located but which is reported several days later, usually because the family does not move quickly to notify this circumstance to the Security Forces and Corps.

| Duration of disappearance (in days) | Cases | Percentage |
|-------------------------------------|--------|------------|
| Less than 48 hours | 5,851 | 23.68 |
| 2-4 | 7,272 | 29.43 |
| 5-7 | 2,683 | 10.86 |
| 8-14 | 2,404 | 9.73 |
| 15-30 | 1,872 | 7.58 |
| 31-90 | 1,735 | 7.02 |
| 91-180 | 839 | 3.40 |
| More than 181 | 1,976 | 8.00 |
| Undated | 58 | 0.23 |
| Total | 24,710 | 100.00 |

Table 15. Length of disappearance, in days. Source: PDyRH.

These data show that nearly 74% of all the cases closed in 2019 had ended within the 14 days following disappearance.



Graph 23. Length of disappearance, in days. Source: PDyRH

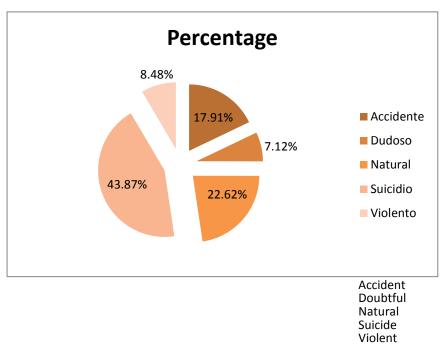
Thus the data set out both on table 15 and in graph 23 show that most disappearances (almost 74%) end or are resolved in the first two weeks following the report, while a smaller percentage is cleared up between 15 and 30 days, although some cases extend over time, where it may take more than a month to locate the missing person (more than 18%).

The vast majority of all the cases which end⁸ this way (90%) are the result of voluntary return (whether to the family home or the reception centre), the party reporting the case closes it once the missing person's situation has been verified, or the SFC confirm that the "missing person" has acted voluntarily in deciding for whatever reason to break off contact with family and/or friends; in 3.6% of cases, the State Security Forces and Corps have located the missing person alive; in 2.23% of cases, the missing person is in hospital or in a psychiatric institution; 1.51% involves persons who are detained or imprisoned. Finally, in 1.54% of cases, the missing person is found, deceased.

Death, the most extreme outcome and the one with the greatest community and psychological impact on society, accounts for 1.54% of the causes for closing

⁸There is at this time no information on all the reasons for closure. Quality control is being put in place to obtain the largest possible amount of available data.

cases on missing persons. Of all deaths, at 43% suicide is the main cause, followed by natural causes at 22%; accident at 17%; violent death 8%; 7% of the figures are classified as "doubtful" at the moment when recorded (Graph 24).



Graph 24. Percentage distribution of type of death. Source: PDyRH

3.10 Alerts published on the CNDES Website.

The Protocol for Action by the Security Forces and Corps in cases on missing persons enabled those Forces and Corps to use the National Missing Persons Centre website to publish cases they had registered.

It is precisely the Security Forces and Corps officers entrusted with the investigations who decide on the suitability of issuing these alerts and, with the express consent of the family member filing the report, they petition the CNDES to post them. It must be remembered that there are times when publication of the alert may not serve the interests of the investigation.

This system was brought on stream at the end of February 2019, and since then and until the end of February 2020, a total of 288 missing persons alerts have been published of which 123, or 42.71%, remain open.

The main objective of these alerts is to publish messages addressed to the population and designed to seek public collaboration, which is of particular importance during the first hours following the disappearance. As a general rule, these alerts are published with the consent of the family member filing the report and once the missing person report has been formalised, although alerts on missing persons which were under way before this system came on stream can, irrespective of the date on which the disappearance occurred, also be published.

As seen on the following table, of the 288 alerts published, 63 were related to persons missing prior to 2019, more than 87% of which remain open. On the other hand, in the case of more recent alerts on missing persons, the trend is for a greater percentage of these alerts to be concluded than that for disappearances of longer duration.

| YEAR OF DISAPPEARANCE | Alerts published | Alerts open | % Open |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------|--------|
| Pre-2019 | 63 | 55 | 87.30% |
| 2019 | 193 | 59 | 30.57% |
| 2020 | 32 | 9 | 28.13% |
| TOTAL | 288 | 123 | 42.71% |

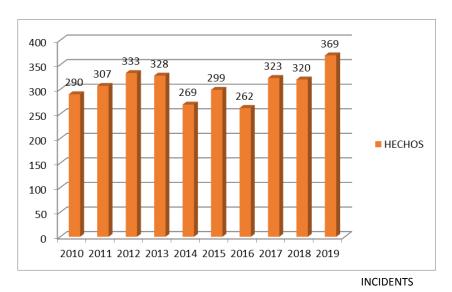
Table 16. Website publications. Source: The CNDES Website - https://cndes-web.ses.mir.es

That Protocol for Action also contemplates a set of extraordinary measures for locating missing persons in exceptional cases which may involve risk to the life and physical well-being of individuals, with the activation of the AMBER Alert and Missing Elderly Person Alert. Since the Missing Elderly Person Alert came on-stream, it has been activated once.

ABDUCTION OF MINORS IN SPAIN

The data set out below and also in the Appendix concerning known incidents involving crimes of abduction of children in Spain are drawn from the Crime Statistics System (SEC) and not from the PDyRH data base.

The figures for criminal infringements which are known to and registered in the SEC by the Security Forces and Corps are similar (around 300 cases per annum) in the 2010-2019 historical series represented (graph 25).



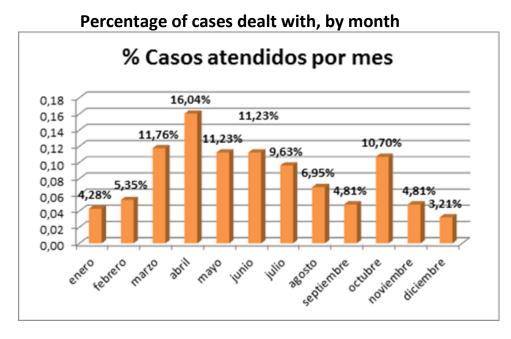
 $Graph\ 25: Trends\ in\ the\ number\ of\ incidents\ of\ abduction\ of\ minors\ known\ to\ the\ SFC.$

CNDES MONITORING OF CASES OF MISSING PERSONS.

As already indicated throughout this report, most of the initiatives and measures implemented by the National Missing Persons Centre are based on needs resulting from the disappearances reported, so that one of the most important tasks forming a part of the daily activities is the actual monitoring and coordination of specific cases of missing persons.

Thus the CNDES monitors and manages cases involving missing persons in which – because of their particular seriousness or complexity, their media profile, their impact on society, or because they were notified in petitions from family members or representative associations – the detail of the matter must be made known so that any necessary coordination and management can be implemented effectively.

The following graph shows the percentage distribution, by months, of the cases monitored and coordinated in 2019. There are considerable differences between one month and another, purely a result of the seriousness of the facts in the cases on missing persons. In other words each case is assessed especially and separately, without reference to any other factor such as place, time etc., and deals only with the relevance of the facts.



January February March April May June July August September October November December

Graph 26: Percentage of cases dealt with, distributed by months

Finally, analysis of the monitoring of cases dealt with according to the year in which the disappearance took place makes it is natural to think that the highest percentage will be seen in 2019 (72.73%) as the families of those recently missing are the ones most requiring information and support. Long-term disappearances were however monitored, the oldest case dating from 1976.

| YEAR OF DISAPPEARANCE | CASES (%) |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1976 | 0.53 |
| 1987 | 1.07 |
| 1999 | 0.53 |
| 2006 | 1.07 |
| 2007 | 0.53 |
| 2009 | 1.07 |
| 2012 | 1.60 |
| 2013 | 1.60 |
| 2014 | 0.53 |
| 2015 | 4.28 |
| 2016 | 3.21 |
| 2017 | 3.74 |
| 2018 | 5.35 |
| 2019 | 72.73 |
| Unknown | 2.14 |
| TOTAL | 100 |

Table 17: Distribution by year of disappearance

METHODOLOGY

As indicated above, the data included in this report are drawn mainly from the PDyRH system which is considered to be the most specific one for managing these disappearances. Data are however also included related to the Crime Statistics System (SEC).

The system came into operation in 2010 and has been taken up progressively by the various police forces until, in 2012, it was converted and became fully operative for all of them (national and regional).

In this way, and with the startup of the PDyRH system, it was decided to record missing persons cases from 2010 and, as from the time when a given police force has the capacity to do so, those in place and open from a date prior to the year of the startup would be registered.

The reasoning behind this decision was based on the circumstance that, should a corpse be found for example in 2015 of someone presumed to have died ten years earlier, the system was unable to crosscheck data if that disappearance was not previously included in that system. It was in the first place therefore decided only to record long-term or high-risk disappearances; it made no sense to register a disappearance which had already been closed. It was thus from 2012 that the data in the PDyRH data base were more in conformity compared with the figures for 2010 and 2011.

It must also be understood that this is a "living" system, permanently updated in the terms of changes made by all its users, whether with the admission of new cases or with the closing of those which have been resolved, and including those from previous years.

This is an important characteristic because, depending on the moment when the system is consulted, the statistical data extracted will vary as a consequence of changes made from one consultation to the next. This means that the statistical information provided in the first report on a missing person in Spain, that submitted in this report and any which may be published in the future will not be the same, although this circumstance does not reveal whether these data are erroneous or

false, but that this modification is determined in terms of peculiarity. For example, if the system shows on 01/01/2017 that there are 100 cases still open from 2012, this figure may well change within a few months if during that time a disappearance for that year is resolved. The same thing can happen with the registration of new disappearances should new cases from previous years be added which were not, for some reason, reported or incorporated into the system.

With this explanation of the dynamic and functioning of the PDyRH system, a series of terms used in the report are defined and explained, to clarify the meaning of each.

In the field dealt with here, that of security, the Security Forces and Corps understand that "a missing person is one whose family, friends and acquaintances have no news of their whereabouts and personal situation, irrespective of their age, sex, status or nationality.

Instruction No. 3/2019 of the State Secretariat for Security approved the Protocol for Police Action in the case of missing persons, introducing the following innovations:

- Review, updating of criteria and a change of name from Missing Minor Alert System to AMBER Alert.
- Inclusion of a new alert system for "Missing Elderly Persons".
- A new classification of missing persons and the introduction of Risk Indicators. (<u>High-risk disappearance is removed</u>).
- The creation of a specific network of officers specialised in cases of missing persons.
- Startup of the CNDES website.

APPENDIX, TABLES

| DISTRIBUTION OF CURRENT CASES BY TERRITORY Autonomous Community Province Data | | | |
|--|------------------------|-------------|--|
| Autonomous Community ANDALUSIA | ALMERIA | Data 262 | |
| ANDALUSIA | | _ | |
| | CADIZ | 864 | |
| | CORDOBA | 108 | |
| | GRANADA | 321 | |
| | HUELVA | 86 | |
| | JAEN | 45 | |
| | MALAGA | 292 | |
| | SEVILLE | 256 | |
| | TOTAL | 2,234 | |
| ARAGON | HUESCA | 14 | |
| | TERUEL | 11 | |
| | ZARAGOZA | 130 | |
| | TOTAL | 155 | |
| ASTURIAS | ASTURIAS | 111 | |
| | TOTAL | 111 | |
| BALEARES | BALEARIC ISLANDS | 113 | |
| | TOTAL | 113 | |
| CANARY ISLANDS | PALMAS (LAS) | 273 | |
| | SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE | 132 | |
| | TOTAL | 405 | |
| CANTABRIA | CANTABRIA | 75 | |
| | TOTAL | 75 | |
| CASTILE & LEON | AVILA | 8 | |
| | BURGOS | 29 | |
| | LEON | 18 | |
| | PALENCIA | 10 | |
| | SALAMANCA | 21 | |
| | SEGOVIA | 4 | |
| | SORIA | 2 | |
| | VALLADOLID | 29 | |
| | ZAMORA | 3 | |
| | TOTAL | 124 | |
| CASTILE LA MANCHA | ALBACETE | 13 | |
| | CIUDAD REAL | 14 | |
| | CUENCA | 13 | |
| | GUADALAJARA | 16 | |
| | TOLEDO | 31 | |
| | TOTAL | 87 | |
| CATALONIA | BARCELONA | 334 | |
| | GIRONA | 48 | |
| | LLEIDA | 30 | |
| | TARRAGONA | 47 | |
| | ., | 7, | |

| COMMUNITY OF VALENCIA | ALICANTE | 216 |
|-----------------------|------------|-------|
| | CASTELLON | 45 |
| | VALENCIA | 227 |
| | TOTAL | 488 |
| EXTREMADURA | BADAJOZ | 18 |
| | CACERES | 11 |
| | TOTAL | 29 |
| GALICIA | A CORUÑA | 76 |
| | LUGO | 38 |
| | ORENSE | 32 |
| | PONTEVEDRA | 52 |
| | TOTAL | 198 |
| MADRID | MADRID | 387 |
| | TOTAL | 387 |
| MURCIA | MURCIA | 163 |
| | TOTAL | 163 |
| NAVARRE | NAVARRE | 53 |
| | TOTAL | 53 |
| BASQUE COUNTRY | ALAVA | 10 |
| | GIPUZKOA | 14 |
| | BIZKAIA | 16 |
| | TOTAL | 40 |
| LA RIOJA | RIOJA (LA) | 28 |
| | TOTAL | 28 |
| CEUTA | CEUTA | 19 |
| | TOTAL | 19 |
| MELILLA | MELILLA | 15 |
| | TOTAL | 15 |
| | FOREIGN | |
| | TOTAL | |
| | UNKNOWN | 346 |
| TOTAL, SPAIN | | 5,529 |

| DISTRIBUTION OF CURRENT CASES OF MINORS, BY TERRITORY | | | |
|---|----------|-------|--|
| Autonomous Community | Province | Data | |
| ANDALUSIA | ALMERIA | 202 | |
| | CADIZ | 771 | |
| | CORDOBA | 87 | |
| | GRANADA | 204 | |
| | HUELVA | 50 | |
| | JAEN | 21 | |
| | MALAGA | 206 | |
| | SEVILLE | 189 | |
| | TOTAL | 1,730 | |

| ARAGON | HUESCA | 6 |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----|
| | TERUEL | 4 |
| | ZARAGOZA | 63 |
| | TOTAL | 73 |
| ASTURIAS | ASTURIAS | 52 |
| | TOTAL | 52 |
| BALEARIC ISLANDS | BALEARIC ISLANDS | 45 |
| | TOTAL | 45 |
| CANARY ISLANDS | PALMAS (LAS) | 126 |
| | SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE | 26 |
| | TOTAL | 152 |
| CANTABRIA | CANTABRIA | 34 |
| | TOTAL | 34 |
| CASTILE & LEON | AVILA | 4 |
| | BURGOS | 9 |
| | LEON | 5 |
| | PALENCIA | 4 |
| | SALAMANCA | 6 |
| | SEGOVIA | 0 |
| | SORIA | 1 |
| | VALLADOLID | 18 |
| | ZAMORA | 1 |
| | TOTAL | 48 |
| CASTILE LA MANCHA | ALBACETE | 7 |
| | CIUDAD REAL | 8 |
| | CUENCA | 3 |
| | GUADALAJARA | 11 |
| | TOLEDO | 10 |
| | TOTAL | 39 |
| CATALONIA | BARCELONA | 53 |
| | GIRONA | 5 |
| | LLEIDA | 11 |
| | TARRAGONA | 9 |
| | TOTAL | 78 |
| | | |
| COMMUNITY OF VALENCIA | | 137 |
| | CASTELLON | 14 |
| | VALENCIA | 84 |
| | TOTAL | 235 |
| EXTREMADURA | BADAJOZ | 8 |
| | CACERES | 3 |
| | TOTAL | 11 |
| GALICIA | A CORUÑA | 19 |
| | LUGO | 11 |
| | ORENSE | 12 |
| | PONTEVEDRA | 17 |
| | TOTAL | 59 |
| MADRID | MADRID | 89 |

| | TOTAL | 89 |
|----------------|------------|-------|
| MURCIA | MURCIA | 91 |
| | TOTAL | 91 |
| NAVARRE | NAVARRE | 36 |
| | TOTAL | 36 |
| BASQUE COUNTRY | ALAVA | 2 |
| | GIPUZKOA | 0 |
| | BIZKAIA | 2 |
| | TOTAL | 4 |
| LA RIOJA | RIOJA (LA) | 16 |
| | TOTAL | 16 |
| CEUTA | CEUTA | 3 |
| | TOTAL | 3 |
| MELILLA | MELILLA | 7 |
| | TOTAL | 7 |
| | FOREIGN | |
| | TOTAL | |
| | UNKNOWN | 37 |
| TOTAL, SPAIN | | 2,839 |