

Child Abduction: Patterns, Profiles and Prevention Strategies: Overview

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Self Care



www.ana.co.jp



Grounded in Prevention

“There’s a dream that we dream how the world should be, where the children are safe and where the children are free. But, we know for this to happen, we must make it so. For we are Jacob’s Hope.” – Douglas Wood



Children...not numbers

Andre Bryant
Missing from
Brooklyn, NY
3/29/89



Morgan Nick, Missing from Alma, AR.
6/9/95

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Series of Cases in 1979-1981 that started public discussion/outcry

- May 1979
– Etan Patz, 6yrs



1981

- Adam Walsh, 6yrs



- 1979-1981
– Atlanta Child Murders

1979-1981. Dozens of African American children and young adults went missing in Atlanta, GA. 20 showed up deceased. Wayne Williams was tried for 2 of the 22 murders and found guilty.



"Case Studies," Dittrich, Atlanta Magazine, August 2005

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Some Significant Measures Enacted to Assist Children at Risk (Missing and Abducted Children – NCMEC/OJJDP)

- 1932 Passage of Federal Kidnapping Act
- 1975 FBI Instituted the Missing Person's File
- 1982 Passage of the Missing Children Act
- 1984 Establishment of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)
- 1994 Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexual Violent Offender Registration Act
- 2000 Passage of the Child Abuse Prevention and Enforcement Act known as "Jennifer's Law"

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Various Types of Long Cases

- Endangered Runaways
- Family Abduction



– Carissa Hart
– Missing 2/6/16
– St Cloud, MN



» Raymi Frisancho-Kiss
» Missing 8/25/10
» Baltimore, MD

- Lost, Injured or Otherwise Missing



– Teekah Lewis
– Missing 1/23/99
– Tacoma, WA



- Non-Family Abductions
- » Kamiyah Mobley
- » Missing 6/10/98
- » Jacksonville, FL



Categories of Missing

Missing Adults

- Daniel Marks
- Missing Nov. 10, 2005
- Kauai, HI



- Catastrophe Missing



NISMART I and II

National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway and Throwing Children –

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) supported by the U.S. Department of Justice and Office of Justice Programs is the comprehensive source for numbers on missing children.

NISMART I – 1988

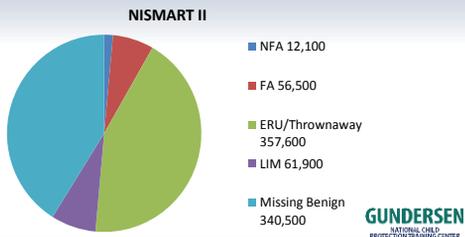
NISMART II – 1999

Access OJJDP publications online at ojjdp.ncjrs.org



NISMART 2 – Reported Missing

Caretaker missing 1,315,600
Reported missing 797,500



Nonfamily Abducted Children: National Estimates and Characteristics

Released October 2002 as a part of NISMART II. Written by David Finkelhor, Heather Hammer, and Andrea J. Sedlak. www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org

- Studied 1997-1999 - Vast majority of cases in 1999 - 1999 is the study year

Nonfamily Abduction

1) An episode in which a nonfamily perpetrator takes a child by the use of physical force or threat of bodily harm or detains the child for a substantial period of time (at least one hour) in an isolated place by the use of physical force or threat of bodily harm without lawful authority or parental permission, or (2) an episode in which a child younger than 15 or mentally incompetent, and without lawful authority or parental permission, is taken or detained or voluntarily accompanies a nonfamily perpetrator who conceals the child's whereabouts, demands ransom, or expressed the intention to keep the child permanently."

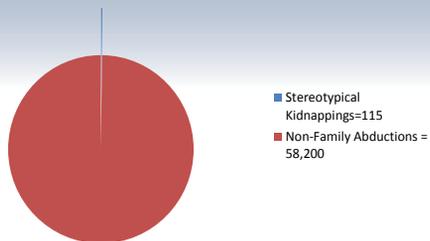
Stereotypical kidnapping (narrower)

"A nonfamily abduction perpetrated by a stranger or slight acquaintance in which a child is taken or detained overnight, transported at least 50 miles, held for ransom or abducted with intent to keep the child permanently, or killed."



NISMART II Data

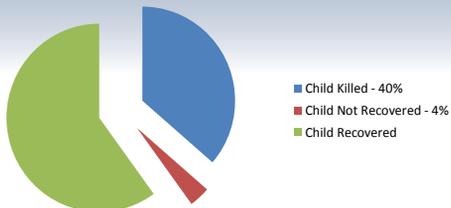
Stereotypical Kidnappings vs Nonfamily Abductions



NISMART II www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org

NISMART II Data Continued

Stereotypical Kidnappings



NISMART II www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org



Most children are abducted by a known individual

The majority of NFA victims (53%) are abducted by a person that the child knows.

- 38% Friend or long term acquaintance
- 5% Neighbor
- 6% Person in Authority
- 4% Caretaker/Babysitter

8% Slight Acquaintance

NISMART II www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org



Checklist Suggestions

Missing and Abducted Children: A Law Enforcement Guide to Case Investigation and Program Management
 NCMEC and OJJDP

“Revisit the crime scene at the same time of day that the abduction supposedly occurred and carefully observe the surroundings. Keep in mind that many children are acquainted or familiar with their abductor before the abduction. Do not assume that the perpetrator had to be a “total stranger.” The abductor can be a person who is somehow peripherally involved in the child’s life such as someone who is at the child’s bus stop every morning or an individual who gives the child quarters at the video arcade.”



Focus on Behavior, NOT Relationship

- Youth have image in their head of a “stranger”
- Mixed Messages
- We want children and teens to know how to ask for help. They should be taught HOW to talk to strangers.
- Children and Teens are much more likely to be victimized by someone they know



Two New Questions

- Does this person try to get me to break my safety rules?
- Does this person give me an uh-oh feeling?



Case Management for Missing Children Homicide Investigation 1997 and 2006

Cooperative agreement between the Washington State Attorney General's Office and the OJJDP, United States Department of Justice.

Katherine M. Brown
Robert D. Keppel
Joseph G. Weis
Marvin E. Skeen

http://www.atg.wa.gov/uploadedFiles/Another/Supporting_Law_Enforcement/Homicide_Investigation_Tracking_System_%28HITS%29/Child_Abduction_Murder_Research/CMIPDF.pdf



Victim-Killer Relationship in Child Abduction Murders

- 44.4% Strangers
- 41.9% Family Friends/Acquaintances
- 13.7% Family/Intimate

Case Management for Missing Children Homicide Investigation



Parallel Investigations

“False Allegation of Child Abduction: A handbook for Law Enforcement Investigators.” (FBI)

BAU-3 researched 66 offenders responsible for the homicide or attempted homicide of 71 victims

- At the time of the report to LE, the RP knew or believed the victim (under 18) was dead and not actually missing



Family Victimization/False Allegation

- Infant and toddler aged victims were at the highest risk
- Median age is 3.4 years
- Biological Parents most likely to make the false report



- » Jessica Swanson
- » Cannon Falls, MN
- » 3 years old
- » Reported in 1996



Parallel Investigations

Sexually motivated cases represented a small percentage of these cases. When this did occur, they were slightly older than the average age of the victim and were killed by males not biologically related to them.

Killed because they were

- Unwanted
- Burden
- Impediment to a goal



Case Management for Missing Children Homicide Investigation

Research on the topic of abducted and missing children found murdered was "undertaken in an effort to better understand these types of murders and to identify investigative techniques and strategies that will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal investigations and apprehension rate of murderers who abduct children." (p. ix)

This research project examined 800 child abduction murders and found:

- Initial contact btwn victim and killer is within ¼ mile of the victim's residence
- Females slightly over 11 yrs
- Low-risk victims – "normal" lives and families



Case Management for Missing Children Homicide Investigation

There is typically over a two hour delay in making the initial missing child report. More than half of these cases are initially reported as a "missing child."

• The vast majority of the abducted children *who are murdered* are dead within three hours of the abduction (76.2%).

- Police involvement began:
 - Missing Child Report 60.2%
 - Body Recovery 20.3%
 - Runaway Report 8.5%
 - Abduction Investigation 9.7%



Case Management for Missing Children Homicide Investigation

When was the case reported to police?

Immediately	19.6%
Within 1 hr	27.5%
Within 2 hrs	42.9%
Within 4.5 hrs	68.4%
Within 24 hrs	86.6%
> 24 hours	99%



Child Abduction-Murder Cases

- These cases are rare.
- 40-150 child abduction murders per year.
- One child abduction murder for every 10,000 missing child reports.
- Less than ½ of 1 percent of murders committed nationally are child abduction-murders

Finklehor, D., Hotaling, G.T., Sedlak, A.J. (1992). The abduction of children by strangers and nonfamily members. Estimating the incidence using multiple methods. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 7(2).



Age Breakdown in child abd/murders

1-5 year olds	10.1%
6-9 year olds	21.5%
10-12 year olds	20.7%
13-15 year olds	25.5%
16-17 year olds	22.2%

68.4% are 10 or older

Case Management for Missing Children Homicide Investigation
http://www.atg.wa.gov/uploadedFiles/Another/Supporting_Law_Enforcement/Homicide_Investigation_Tracking_System_%28HITS%29/Child_Abduction_Murder_Research/CMHPPDF.pdf



Race and Gender of Victim

Caucasian	74.5%	Female	74%
Afr-Am	14.3%	Male	26%
All other	11.2%		

Case Management for Missing Children Homicide Investigation

http://www.atg.wa.gov/uploadedFiles/Another/Supporting_Law_Enforcement/Homicide_Investigation_Tracking_System_%28HITS%29/Child_Abduction_Murder_Research/CMIIPDF.pdf



“When you look at the media, often times it’s a white woman, often times younger and college-aged that is getting the attention, and not a middle-aged Native woman who may have a criminal history because I think people can relate more to [the young woman]; whereas maybe they can’t relate to a Native person or pretty much any person of color that has gone missing.”
- Nigel Perrote of PAVSA

<http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jan/19/minnesota-native-american-women-trafficking-police>



Why this age?



Teenage Brain

The teenage brain has not yet fully connected the frontal lobes. Recent studies show that neural insulation isn't complete until the mid-20s.

"It's the part of the brain that says: 'Is this a good idea? What is the consequence of this action?'" Jensen says. "It's not that they don't have a frontal lobe. And they can use it. But they're going to access it more slowly."

Learning/Addiction part of the brain **is** tuned in.

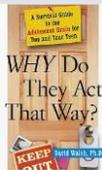


Dr. Frances Jensen, neurologist
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=124119468>



Teenage Brain Perspective from Dr. Walsh

As puberty gets underway, the prefrontal cortex changes. "Because the prefrontal cortex is the executive center of the brain, its job is to think ahead to consequences and control impulses that shoot out of other regions of the brain. Because it is still developing during adolescence, however, teens do not have the impulse control of adults." (pg. 44)



Sexual Motivation

69.2% of child abduction murders involve a sexual motive

Compared to only
5% of all murders have a sexual motive
14% of child murders have a sexual motive

Case Management for Missing Children Homicide Investigation
http://www.atg.wa.gov/uploadedFiles/Another/Supporting_Law_Enforcement/Homicide_Investigation_Tracking_System_%28HITS%29/Child_Abduction_Murder_Research/CMIIIPDF.pdf



Grooming/Seduction

**Child Molesters:
A Behavioral Analysis
For Professionals
Investigating the Sexual
Exploitation of Children**

Fifth Edition, 2010
Kenneth V. Lanning
Former Supervisory Special
Agent, Federal Bureau of
Investigation (FBI)

http://www.missingkids.com/en_US/publications/NC70.pdf

NCMEC/FBI

"...grooming/seduction is defined as a variety of techniques used by a sex offender to access and control potential and actual child victims. This process takes access, time, and interpersonal skill. How much time depends on the needs of the child and skills of the adult. If done well the process not only gains the victim's initial cooperation, but also decreases the likelihood of disclosure by the victim and increases the likelihood of ongoing, repeated access.

The greater the skill of the offender in selecting and seducing vulnerable victims, the more successful the acquaintance molester is and the longer he avoids discovery. How long such offenders get away with this type of victimization is usually determined by how well they select their victims, how good they are at identifying and filling their victims' needs, how much time they have to invest in the process, how proficient they are at seducing and controlling their victims, and how proficient others who might observe the process are at recognizing and responding to it."



You are Special & Deserve to be Safe

Don't go anywhere with anyone who won't let you CHECK FIRST.

- You are more important than your stuff.
- Making noise is a good thing.
 Yelling not Screaming
- Get an adult to help you.



Get an Adult to Help You

8 year old Midsi from Vallejo, California escaped from kidnapper Curtis Dean Anderson in 2000 after being held for three days.

- Abducted when walking home from school.
- She was held captive in the back of Anderson's car, her legs shackled to prevent her escape.
- She managed to unlock her shackles while Anderson was out of the car. She ran for help to a nearby truck driver.
- Anderson was later sentenced to 300 years in prison for kidnapping Midsi and murdering 7-year-old Xiana Fairchild of Vallejo. Anderson died in prison in 2007.

<http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Girl-in-infamous-kidnapping-badly-hurt-in-crash-3243321.php>



ACES Ripple Effect

"I don't think I'll ever fully recover," she said. "But I can think about it without crying and I can help other people."



"For years, Midsi said in an interview, she repressed the horror of her experience and spent much of her teen years self-medicating with alcohol and drugs, and having minor run-ins with the law. But then a car crash, a baby and another missing child 'pumped my brakes,' and helped her begin moving in a more positive direction."

http://www.mercurynews.com/crime-courts/ci_21297983/now-missing-child-advocate-vallejos-midsi-sanchez-defied



Common characteristics of children at risk for online sexual solicitation

- Girls
- Older teens
- Troubled youth
- Frequent Internet users
- Chat room participants
- Children who communicate online with unknown people



(Mitchell, Finkelhor and Wolak. "Risk Factors For and Impact of Online Sexual Solicitation of Youth." JAMA 285, no. 23, 2001)

- Teens struggling with sexual identity

(McGrath. "Cyber Offenders." Investigating Child Exploitation and Pornography. Elsevier Academic Press, 2005)



Parent Perspective

"Everything started when a sex offender who attended our church became involved with my then 14-year-old child. Secretly, they communicated online about harmless topics like music, boys, school and even church activities. My daughter was lonely, so her new pen pal friend felt like a great addition to her life. Unfortunately, his predatory behavior eventually intensified, and he sexually assaulted Lindsey...Years later, Lindsey revealed that she blamed herself for the abuse, because she was molested only after she snuck out of the house to meet her "friend." In her young mind, because she met him willingly and didn't resist his touch, she was to blame for everything. How sad it must have been for her when the abuse escalated to an almost nightly event. Still, Lindsey never said a word. She assumed that she deserved the punishment for being deceptive..."

-Carol Ryan

<http://mecptraining.org/february-2013/>



Prevention Programs

Engage the Bystander – Personal safety should not rest on the shoulders of a 12 year old

Grooming behavior doesn't just groom the child. Parents, extended family, social circle, and general community members are also targeted.



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Kids Personal Safety Rules

Check First

- Cars
- Homes
- Gifts
- Photos

Buddy System

Trust Your Gut

No Secrets

Family Password

Adults Ask Adults for Help

Private Parts are different than the rest of my body



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What do I say to the children?

This is UNCOMFORTABLE...

- Teachable moments–
 - WHAT IF
- Identify Trusted Adults
- Upbeat. Positive.



- Not "THE TALK" but lots of little talks. You don't have to cover everything all at once.
- Open communication with caregivers

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Family Safety Night

An Evening to Connect and Have Fun!

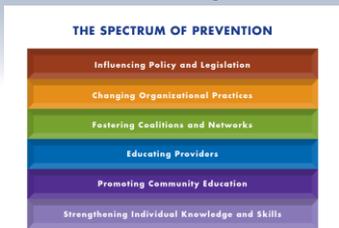
- The whole family participates.
- No Distractions (Maybe order in?)
- Ongoing - twice a year
- Go over all things safety: fire escape plan, safety belts, bike helmets, calling 911, bus safety, internet and personal safety



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Spectrum of Prevention

<http://preventioninstitute.org>



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Infant Abductions

- NCMEC worked with parents, nurses, health care security, LE officials in cooperation with FBI Academy, Penn. School of Nursing, International Association for Healthcare Security and Safety, and the Association of Women's Health Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses to study abductions from hospitals.
- Worked on "hardening the target."
- In 1999 for the first time since records were kept on infant abductions, the incidence of abductions from hospitals decreased to ZERO in the United States.



Missing and Abducted Children (NCMEC and OJJDP)

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Missouri Case



- Michael Devlin abducted Ben (13 yrs old) on Jan 8th, 2007
- 15 year old, Mitchell, witnessed abduction and got a solid description of the vehicle
- Two police officers noticed a truck matching the description when serving an unrelated warrant. Devlin's attitude changed when questioned, L.E. notified FBI
- Pizza shop owner also called in Devlin's truck noting it was covered with road dust

Many of the case details come from book "Child Abduction: Prevention, Investigation and Recovery" by Robert L. Snow



Missouri Witness

"...Mitchell was with classmate Ben Ownby just minutes before he disappeared Jan. 8 after getting off their school bus. Mitchell spotted a white pickup fleeing the scene, and his detailed description led police in suburban St. Louis to spot the truck Thursday.

A day later, Ben was freed from an apartment where he was held captive. Astonishingly, so was 15-year-old Shawn Hornbeck of nearby Richwoods, who disappeared in fall 2002. Michael Devlin, 41, was arrested and charged with kidnapping.

Franklin County Sheriff Gary Toelke said Mitchell's description of the white Nissan pickup was remarkably detailed. Friends and family say that's because Mitchell is a truck fanatic.

"He was so accurate in what he told us, we kind of wondered if he made it up," Toelke said. "So we interviewed him until about 2 in the morning. He got to know us pretty well."

<http://www.nbcnews.com/id/16668590/#.UsG7arRCpCU>



Unknowing Witnesses

There were "unknowing witnesses" in 32.9% of the cases. They saw some aspect of the crime occurring, but at the time did not realize they were witnessing an abduction.

Neighborhood and area canvasses are important.

Case Management for Missing Children Homicide Investigation
http://www.atg.wa.gov/uploadedFiles/Another/Supporting_Law_Enforcement/Homicide_Investigation_Tracking_System_%28HTS%29/Child_Abduction_Murder_Research/CMHPDF.pdf



Blocks to Reporting from "Unto the Third Generation" V. Vieth

"There are several reasons why mandated reporters do not report. Insufficient evidence, lack of certainty that abuse has occurred, the belief a report will cause additional harm, and the need to maintain a good relationship with patients and clients are some of the reasons cited by reporters who fail to comply with the law.(19) Ambiguity in some mandated reporting statutes also contributes to underreporting. A survey of mandated reporters in Iowa revealed difficulty in determining whether a given injury was reportable under the Iowa law. (20)"

19 - Kenny, *supra* note 18 at 902.

20- See Margaret H. Meriwether, *Child Abuse Reporting Laws: Time for a Change*, 20 FAM. L. Q. 141, 142 (1986).



Steven Stayner – Abd.1972, Recovered 1980



"So don't expect abducted children to come up and ask for help. They're totally dependent on their abductors. And if they're being sexually abused, which is usually the case, the last thing they want is to draw attention to it."

<http://www.stevenstaynerfoundation.com/stevens-legacy.php>



Steven Stayner

<http://www.stevenstaynerfoundation.com/stevens-legacy.php>



"Before I was grabbed, my abductor had been convicted of child molesting. Throughout my abduction, he never stopped molesting other children. Even so, after taking me from my home, abusing me for seven years and abducting another 5-year old, he served only three and one-half years in jail.

"Today, no one knows how many missing children are dead or how many now live as I did. But if you're going to help, you have to be aware of the real nature of stranger abduction and be committed to helping children. **While it may be hard for you to tell an abducted child from an abused child, it's not hard to tell a child in trouble. And it's not hard to do something about it.** If you know of, or suspect, there's a situation where a child is in trouble, please call the police."



Sexual Orientation

"The distinction between homosexual and heterosexual child molesters relies on the premise that male molesters of male victims are homosexual in orientation. Most molesters of boys do not report sexual interest in adult men" (Conte, 1991)

Conte, J.R. (1991). The nature of sexual offenses against children. Clinical approaches to sex offenders and their victims. Toronto: Wiley.



Who are the offenders?

Child Molesters Who Abduct:
Summary of the Case in Point Series, Lanning and Burgess
NCMEC, OJJDP, March 1995

and

Case Management for Missing Children Homicide Investigation, Atty General of Washington and US Department of Justice, OJJDP May 2006



FBI Typology related to Child Molesters

FBI's typology began with Dr. Park Elliot Dietz and Dr. Nicholas Groth's separate research, but expanded with Lanning's work.

- Situational Offenders
 - Regressed
 - Morally Indiscriminate
 - Inadequate
 - Sexually indiscriminate
- Preferential (Fixated) Offenders
 - Seduction
 - Introverted
 - Sadistic

Lanning, 1986



Child Molesters Who Abduct: Summary of the Case In Point Series
NCMEC, FBI, OJJDP, Univ. of Pennsylvania, 1995

Children may not be the preferred type, but are selected because they are weak and vulnerable.

- Inadequate Situational child molesters are most likely to be involved in kidnapping children.
 - Social Misfits or on the Social Margins
 - Select children out of insecurity and curiosity
 - Situational molesters have no true sexual preference for children, but molest due to the situation



Case Mgt for Missing Children Homicide
1997-2006
WA Atty Gen and OJJDP

- Weak social bonds
- Social marginals
- 2/3 have prior arrests for violent crimes
 - Slightly more than 50% of those against children

- Child Abduction Murderers**
- Mean age, 27.8 yrs
 - Largely Caucasian (69.8%)
 - 96.1% Male
 - 30.4% suffered from “sexual problems” (only 3% for killers in general)



Abductors vs Non-Abductors (Lanning, Burgess)

Abductors

- Low contact with children
- More often target an unknown child
- Less frequently married
- Sadism, but not physical injury
- More frequent use of weapons (3x)

Non-Abductors

- More likely to molest relatives
- Higher social competence
- Higher contact with children
- Less likely to use a weapon



It's Complicated

Be aware that behavior does not always fit neatly into a box or a chart. Having an understanding of background is a helpful tool, but human behavior doesn't fit as "always" or "never."

We live in a sound byte world, but this is a layered problem.



Ripple Effect



Hope is a Verb

Elizabeth. Recovered after 9 months.
Shawn. Recovered after 4 years.
Steven. Recovered after 7 years.
Jaycee. Recovered after 18 years.
Ohio Recovery of three young women...



Children DO come home.



Find Your Voice

“There are moments in which all of us need to have a backbone and feel that we have the right to say no to adults if we believe they are doing the wrong thing. You must find your voice and not be afraid to speak up.”

— Jaycee Dugard, *A Stolen Life*

11 year old abducted in 1991, Recovered in 2009



Additional Resources

Child Abduction: Prevention, Investigation, and Recovery
By Robert L. Snow
Praeger, 2008

Missing and Abducted Children: A Law-Enforcement Guide to Case Investigation and Program Management
NCMEC and OJJDP
Edited by Stephen E. Steidel, Second Edition May 2000



Resources

Association of Missing and Exploited Children’s Organizations, Inc.
...is an organization of member agencies in the United States and Canada that provide services to families with missing and exploited children. AMECO’s mission is to build and nurture an association of credible, ethical, and effective NPOs that serve missing and exploited children and their families.

www.amecoinc.org



Resources

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

www.missingkids.com 800-843-5678

- Family Advocacy
- Missing Children (ERU, NFA, FA, LIM...)
- Case Analysis
- Exploited Child Unit
- Cybertipline



Resources

Team HOPE

(Help Offering Parents Empowerment) was created to provide parent to parent mentoring services for parents of missing children, resources, counseling, and emotional support and empowerment to families with missing children.

800-305-HOPE (4673)



Resources

Minnesota Missing Persons Clearinghouse
Through the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
651-793-7000

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/bca/bca-divisions/administrative/Pages/missing-unidentified-persons.aspx>



Contact Information

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Protection Training Center
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