



# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SURVEY ON ABDUCTED CHILDREN

# Part of the 4<sup>th</sup> National Incidence Study of Missing, Abducted, Runaway & Thrownaway Children (NISMART-4)

Sponsored by:

U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention

Managed by:

U.S. Department of Justice National Institute of Justice Washington, DC 20531 Conducted by: Westat

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and

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Toll free: XXX-XXX-XXXX

Please provide the name, position, and contact information of the person completing this survey, in case we need to clarify responses or gather additional information.

NAME:				
POSITION OR TITLE:				
DEPARTMENT OR UNIT:				
TELEPHONE NUMBER:	(	)	Ext.	
EMAIL ADDRESS:				
DATE COMPLETED:				

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#### **SECTION A**

1.	Does your agency have jurisdiction to cond child is reported as missing or abducted?	uct criminal investigations of cases in which a
	Yes  No	➤ Skip to Section G Page 7 ———
2.		cy investigate any cases where a child under the age of a with limited previous contact (a slight acquaintance) (cf.  Yes  No  Skip to Section C, Page 4   **The state of the age of the acquaintance of the a
3. 4.	Were any of these cases where  a. The child was held overnight?  b. The child was transported 50 miles of c. The child was held for ransom?  d. The child was killed?  e. The abductor apparently intended to be Did you answer "yes" to any item in Questice	r more?`
4.		Skip to Section C, Page 5 →
5.	Indicate the total number of cases that your at that fit one or more of the criteria given in Quarteria fit one or more of the criteria given in Quarteria fit one or more of the criteria given in Quarteria fit the Question 3 criteria where your agency performed any investigation activity between [one-year period] regardless of when they were first reported and regardless of the involvement of another agency.	agency investigated between [one-year period] uestion 3.  Total Number of Qualifying Cases Investigated Between [one-year period]  IMPORTANT: Please provide specific information about each case by completing Section B on the next page.

## **SECTION B**

For all abductions included in the total in Question 5 on the previous page, please provide the following information

			•		•	
а	Provide your agency's case number for reference in our follow-up call	b) Who was the key investigating officer or who in your agency is now the most knowledgeable person about the case?	c) Were any other law enforcement agencies involved?	d) When was the case reported? (MM/DD/YY)	e) Is the case still open?	f) Indicate which criteria this case appears to fit (circle all that apply):
1.		Name Email	Yes □ No □	1 1	Yes □ No □	Overnight, 50+Miles, Ransom, Killed, Intent to Keep
2.		Name Email	Yes □ No □	1 1	Yes □ No □	Overnight, 50+ Miles, Ransom, Killed, Intent to Keep
3.		Name Email	Yes □ No □	1 1	Yes □ No □	Overnight, 50+ Miles, Ransom, Killed, Intent to Keep
4.		Name Email	Yes □ No □	1 1	Yes □ No □	Overnight, 50+ Miles, Ransom, Killed, Intent to Keep
5.		Name Email	Yes □ No □	1 1	Yes □ No □	Overnight, 50+ Miles, Ransom, Killed, Intent to Keep
6.		Name Email	Yes □ No □	1 1	Yes □ No □	Overnight, 50+ Miles, Ransom, Killed, Intent to Keep
(Att	ach additional pa	ges to continue this listing, if n	ecessary).			↓
S E	E GLOSSARY,	PAGE 7				Continue with Section C
SE	L GLOSSAKI,	FAGL 1.				

#### **SECTION C**

In order to ensure that NISMART-4 counts <u>all</u> abductions that qualify under its definition of stereotypical abduction (see Glossary), this section asks you to take a different perspective. Here, we ask you to consider all the cases which your agency investigated as homicides of children between **[one-year period]**. Some of these cases might technically qualify under the NISMART definition because there was an element of abduction during the course of the incident.

1.	Between [one-year period], did your agency investigate any homicides or presumed homicides where the victim was a child?
	Yes ☐ No ☐ Skip to Section E, Page 6————
2.	Were any of these cases where
	a. The perpetrator or primary suspect was a stranger?
	b. The perpetrator or primary suspect was a person with limited previous contact (a slight acquaintance) (cf. Glossary)?
	c. The perpetrator's identity has not yet been established? Yes No
3.	Did you answer "yes" to any item in Question 2?
	Yes ☐ No ☐ — Skip to Section E, Page 6 — — —
4.	Indicate the total number of cases that your agency investigated between [one-year period] that fit t criteria given above in Questions 1 and 2.
	Consider all cases where your agency performed any investigation activity between [one-year period], including unsolved cases from previous years which remained open between [one-year period] and including investigations that your agency turned over to another agency, if applicable.  Total number of stranger homicides investigated between [one-year period]
5.	Were any of these cases where, prior to the killing, it appeared that the perpetrator had  a. Moved the child (by force, threat, or lure) 20 feet or more? Yes \( \sum \) No \( \sum \)
	b. Detained the child for one hour orlonger? Yes No
6.	Did you answer "yes" to any item in Question 5?
	Yes ☐ No ☐ → Skip to Section E, Page 7
7.	Indicate the number of cases you included in your answer to Question 4 that involved one or the other of the elements listed in Question 5.
	Total Number of Stranger Abduction Homicides Investigated between [one-year period]
	■ IMPORTANT: Please provide specific information about
SEE	each case by completing Section D on the next page.  GLOSSARY, PAGE 7.

# **SECTION D**

For all stranger abduction homicides included in the total in Question 7 on the previous page, please provide the following information:

	a)	Case Number Provide your agency's case number for reference in our follow-up call	b) Who was the key investigating officer or who in your agency is now the most knowledgeable person about the case?	c) Were any other law enforcement agencies involved?	d) When was the case reported? (MM/DD/YY)	e) Is the case still open?	<ul><li>f) Indicate which criteria this case appears to fit (circle all that apply):</li></ul>
1	1.		Name: Email:	Yes 🗌 No 🗌	/ /	Yes No No	Moved 20+ Feet Detained 1+ Hour
2	2.			Yes 🗌 No 🗌	/ /	Yes No No	Moved 20+ Feet Detained 1+ Hour
3	3.			Yes 🗌 No 🗌	/ /	Yes 🗌 No 🗌	Moved 20+ Feet Detained 1+ Hour
4	4.			Yes 🗌 No 🗌	/ /	Yes 🗌 No 🗌	Moved 20+ Feet Detained 1+ Hour
5	5.			Yes 🗌 No 🗌	/ /	Yes 🗌 No 🗌	Moved 20+ Feet Detained 1+ Hour
6	6.			Yes No No	/ /	Yes 🗌 No 🗌	Moved 20+ Feet Detained 1+ Hour
	-	ch additional pa	ges to continue this listing, if a	necessary).			Skip to Section F, Page 6

## **SECTION E**

1.	fit t	have indicated that your agency did not investigate any cases between [one-year period] that he NISMART criteria for a stereotypical abduction (see Glossary). What year did your agency investigate any case that fit those criteria?
2.		you aware of any cases of stereotypical abductions in your general area or in your state between e-year period]?
	Yes No	☐ Indicate the county (counties) where the abduction(s) took place
		SECTION F
1.	of in	the extent possible, please verify your answers in the previous sections by conducting a check investigation records and/or discussions with your agency's investigative unit(s). Indicate here way(s) you verified this information:
	a.	Checked with other staff in your department? Yes No
	b.	Checked with staff elsewhere in your agency? Yes No
	c.	Checked records? Yes No No
	d.	Used a computerized information system? Yes No
2.	ls yo	ur specific department or unit responsible for
	a.	Investigating child abductions? Yes No No
	b.	Maintaining data on child abductions? Yes ☐ No ☐ → Skip to Section H, Page 7 →

SEE GLOSSARY, PAGE 7.

#### **SECTION G**

You indicated in Section A that your agency does not have the jurisdiction to

conduct criminal investigations of child abductions. Please describe what responsibilities do come under your agency's jurisdiction.
SECTION H
Feel free to comment on this survey to offer your suggestions about other information this research should consider.

THANK YOU FOR
COMPLETING THIS SURVEY.
PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM
IN THE POSTAGE-PAID
ENVELOPE PROVIDED.

#### **GLOSSARY OF STUDY TERMS**

Child. Person under the age of 18.

**Stereotypical Abduction.** An abduction by a stranger, a person with limited previous contact (a slight acquaintance), or an unidentified person where the child was held overnight, transported 50 miles or more, held for ransom, killed, or the abductor apparently intended to keep the child.

**Abduction.** An incident where the child was moved by force, threat, or lure for a distance of 20 feet or more or was detained for one hour or longer.

**Stranger**. Person not known by the child or family.

**Person with limited previous contact (Slight Acquaintance).** A nonfamily perpetrator who was a recent acquaintance whom the child or family have known for less than 6 months, or someone the family or child have known for longer than 6 months but have seen infrequently (e.g., less than once a month).

**Unknown Person**. Person whose identity has not yet been determined. Although this may ultimately turn out to be a family member or someone known well, it is equally likely that they turn out to be a stranger or a person with limited previous contact (slight acquaintance).