

OMB Package Appendixes

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Appendix 1
Authorizing Legislation

34 USC 11293: Duties and functions of the Administrator

Text contains those laws in effect on August 16, 2018

From Title 34-CRIME CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Subtitle I-Comprehensive Acts

CHAPTER 111-JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

SUBCHAPTER IV-MISSING CHILDREN

§11293. Duties and functions of the Administrator

(a) Description of activities

The Administrator shall-

(1) issue such rules as the Administrator considers necessary or appropriate to carry out this subchapter;

(2) make such arrangements as may be necessary and appropriate to facilitate effective coordination among all federally funded programs relating to missing children (including the preparation of an annual comprehensive plan for facilitating such coordination);

(3) provide for the furnishing of information derived from the national toll-free telephone line, established under subsection (b)(1), to appropriate entities;

(4) coordinate with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness to ensure that homeless services professionals are aware of educational resources and assistance provided by the Center regarding child sexual exploitation;

(5) provide adequate staff and agency resources which are necessary to properly carry out the responsibilities pursuant to this subchapter; and

(6) not later than 180 days after the end of each fiscal year, submit a report to the President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, the President pro tempore of the Senate, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate-

(A) containing a comprehensive plan for facilitating cooperation and coordination in the succeeding fiscal year among all agencies and organizations with responsibilities related to missing children;

(B) identifying and summarizing effective models of Federal, State, and local coordination and cooperation in locating and recovering missing children;

(C) identifying and summarizing effective program models that provide treatment, counseling, or other aid to parents of missing children or to children who have been the victims of abduction;

(D) describing how the Administrator satisfied the requirements of paragraph (4) in the preceding fiscal year;

(E) describing in detail the number and types of telephone calls received in the preceding fiscal year over the national toll-free telephone line established under subsection (b)(1)(A) and the number and types of communications referred to the national communications system established under section 11231 of this title;

(F) describing in detail the activities in the preceding fiscal year of the national resource center and clearinghouse established under subsection (b)(2);

(G) describing all the programs for which assistance was provided under section 11294 of this title in the preceding fiscal year;

(H) summarizing the results of all research completed in the preceding year for which assistance was provided at any time under this subchapter; and

- (I)(i) identifying each clearinghouse with respect to which assistance is provided under section 11294(a)(9) of this title in the preceding fiscal year;
- (ii) describing the activities carried out by such clearinghouse in such fiscal year;
- (iii) specifying the types and amounts of assistance (other than assistance under section 11294(a)(9) of this title) received by such clearinghouse in such fiscal year; and
- (iv) specifying the number and types of missing children cases handled (and the number of such cases resolved) by such clearinghouse in such fiscal year and summarizing the circumstances of each such cases.¹

(b) Annual grant to National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

(1) In general

The Administrator shall annually make a grant to the Center, which shall be used to-

(A)(i) operate a national 24-hour toll-free telephone line by which individuals may report information regarding the location of any missing child, and request information pertaining to procedures necessary to reunite such child with such child's legal custodian; and

(ii) coordinate the operation of such telephone line with the operation of the national communications system referred to in part C of subchapter III;

(B) operate the official national resource center and information clearinghouse for missing and exploited children;

(C) provide to State and local governments, public and private nonprofit agencies, State and local educational agencies, and individuals, information regarding-

(i) free or low-cost legal, restaurant, lodging, and transportation services that are available for the benefit of missing and exploited children and their families; and

(ii) the existence and nature of programs being carried out by Federal agencies to assist missing and exploited children and their families;

(D) coordinate public and private programs that locate, recover, or reunite missing children with their families;

(E) disseminate, on a national basis, information relating to innovative and model programs, services, and legislation that benefit missing and exploited children;

(F) based solely on reports received by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), and not involving any data collection by NCMEC other than the receipt of those reports, annually provide to the Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention-

(i) the number of children nationwide who are reported to NCMEC as missing;

(ii) the number of children nationwide who are reported to NCMEC as victims of non-family abductions;

(iii) the number of children nationwide who are reported to NCMEC as victims of parental kidnappings; and

(iv) the number of children recovered nationwide whose recovery was reported to NCMEC;

(G) provide, at the request of State and local governments, and public and private nonprofit agencies, guidance on how to facilitate the lawful use of school records and birth certificates to identify and locate missing children;

(H) provide technical assistance and training to law enforcement agencies, State and local governments, elements of the criminal justice system, public and private nonprofit agencies, and individuals in the prevention, investigation, prosecution, and treatment of cases involving missing and exploited children, including cases involving children with developmental disabilities such as autism;

(I) provide assistance to families and law enforcement agencies in locating and recovering missing and exploited children, both nationally and, in cooperation with the Department of State, internationally;

(J) provide analytical support and technical assistance to law enforcement agencies through searching public records databases in locating and recovering missing and exploited children and helping to locate and identify abductors;

(K) provide direct on-site technical assistance and consultation to law enforcement agencies in child abduction and exploitation cases;

(L) provide forensic technical assistance and consultation to law enforcement and other agencies in the identification of unidentified deceased children through facial reconstruction of skeletal remains and similar techniques;

(M) track the incidence of attempted child abductions in order to identify links and patterns, and provide such information to law enforcement agencies;

(N) provide training and assistance to law enforcement agencies in identifying and locating non-compliant sex offenders;

(O) facilitate the deployment of the National Emergency Child Locator Center to assist in reuniting missing children with their families during periods of national disasters;

(P) operate a cyber tipline to provide online users and electronic service providers an effective means of reporting Internet-related child sexual exploitation in the areas of-

- (i) possession, manufacture, and distribution of child pornography;
- (ii) online enticement of children for sexual acts;
- (iii) child sex trafficking, including child prostitution;
- (iv) sex tourism involving children;
- (v) extrafamilial child sexual molestation;
- (vi) unsolicited obscene material sent to a child;
- (vii) misleading domain names; and
- (viii) misleading words or digital images on the Internet,

and subsequently to transmit such reports, including relevant images and information, to the appropriate international, Federal, State or local law enforcement agency for investigation;

(Q) work with law enforcement, Internet service providers, electronic payment service providers, and others on methods to reduce the distribution on the Internet of images and videos of sexually exploited children;

(R) operate a child victim identification program in order to assist the efforts of law enforcement agencies in identifying victims of child pornography and other sexual crimes;

(S) develop and disseminate programs and information to the general public, schools, public officials, youth-serving organizations, and nonprofit organizations, directly or through grants or contracts with public agencies and public and private nonprofit organizations, on-

- (i) the prevention of child abduction and sexual exploitation; and
- (ii) internet safety;

(T) provide technical assistance and training to State and local law enforcement agencies and statewide clearinghouses to coordinate with State and local educational agencies in identifying and recovering missing children;

(U) assist the efforts of law enforcement agencies in coordinating with child welfare agencies to respond to foster children missing from the State welfare system; and

(V) provide technical assistance to law enforcement agencies and first responders in identifying, locating, and recovering victims of, and children at risk for, child sex trafficking.

(2) Limitation

(A) In general

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no Federal funds may be used to pay the compensation of an individual employed by the Center if such compensation, as determined at the beginning of each grant year, exceeds 110 percent of the maximum annual salary payable to a member of the Federal Government's Senior Executive Service (SES) for that year. The Center may compensate an employee at a higher rate provided the amount in excess of this limitation is paid with non-Federal funds.

(B) Definition of compensation

For the purpose of this paragraph, the term "compensation"-

(i) includes salary, bonuses, periodic payments, severance pay, the value of a compensatory or paid leave benefit not excluded by clause (ii), and the fair market value of any employee perquisite or benefit not excluded by clause (ii); and

(ii) excludes any Center expenditure for health, medical, or life insurance, or disability or retirement pay, including pensions benefits.

(c) National incidence studies

The Administrator, either by making grants to or entering into contracts with public agencies or nonprofit private agencies, shall-

(1) triennially conduct national incidence studies to determine for a given year the actual number of children reported missing each year, the number of children who are victims of abduction by strangers, the number of children who are the victims of parental kidnappings, and the number of children who are recovered each year; and

(2) provide to State and local governments, public and private nonprofit agencies, and individuals information to facilitate the lawful use of school records and birth certificates, in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. 1232g)² to identify and locate missing children.

(d) Independent status of other Federal agencies

Nothing contained in this subchapter shall be construed to grant to the Administrator any law enforcement responsibility or supervisory authority over any other Federal agency.

(Pub. L. 93-415, title IV, §404, as added Pub. L. 98-473, title II, §660, Oct. 12, 1984, 98 Stat. 2126; amended Pub. L. 100-690, title VII, §7285, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4459; Pub. L. 101-204, title X, §1004(2), Dec. 7, 1989, 103 Stat. 1828; Pub. L. 106-71, §2(c), Oct. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1034; Pub. L. 107-273, div. C, title II, §12221(b)(2), Nov. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 1894; Pub. L. 108-21, title III, §§321(b), 323, Apr. 30, 2003, 117 Stat. 664, 665; Pub. L. 108-96, title II, §202(a), Oct. 10, 2003, 117 Stat. 1172; Pub. L. 110-240, §3, June 3, 2008, 122 Stat. 1561; Pub. L. 113-38, §2(b), Sept. 30,

2013, 127 Stat. 527; Pub. L. 114–22, title II, §211, May 29, 2015, 129 Stat. 249; Pub. L. 115–141, div. Q, title II, §201, Mar. 23, 2018, 132 Stat. 1120.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, referred to in subsec. (c)(2), is section 513 of Pub. L. 93–380, title V, Aug. 21, 1974, 88 Stat. 571, which enacted section 1232g of Title 20, Education, and provisions set out as notes under sections 1221 and 1232g of Title 20. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 1974 Amendment note set out under section 1221 of Title 20 and Tables.

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 5773 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section. Some section numbers or references in amendment notes below reflect the classification of such sections or references prior to editorial reclassification.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 404 of Pub. L. 93–415 amended section 3882 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, and was repealed by Pub. L. 95–115, §10, Oct. 3, 1977, 91 Stat. 1061, and Pub. L. 107–273, div. C, title II, §12221(a)(4), Nov. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 1894.

AMENDMENTS

2018-Subsec. (b)(1)(H). Pub. L. 115–141 inserted ", including cases involving children with developmental disabilities such as autism" before semicolon at end.

2015-Subsec. (b)(1)(P)(iii). Pub. L. 114–22 substituted "child sex trafficking, including child prostitution" for "child prostitution".

2013-Subsec. (a)(4). Pub. L. 113–38, §2(b)(1)(C), added par. (4). Former par. (4) redesignated (5).

Subsec. (a)(5). Pub. L. 113–38, §2(b)(1)(B), redesignated par. (4) as (5). Former par. (5) redesignated (6).

Pub. L. 113–38, §2(b)(1)(A), in introductory provisions, substituted "Representatives, the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives," for "Representatives, and" and inserted ", and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate" after "Senate".

Subsec. (a)(6). Pub. L. 113–38, §2(b)(1)(B), redesignated par. (5) as (6).

Subsec. (b)(1)(C). Pub. L. 113–38, §2(b)(2)(A)(i), in introductory provisions, struck out "and" after "governments," and inserted "State and local educational agencies," after "nonprofit agencies,".

Subsec. (b)(1)(T) to (V). Pub. L. 113–38, §2(b)(2)(A)(ii)–(iv), added subpars. (T) to (V).

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 113–38, §2(b)(2)(B), amended par. (2) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: "There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this subsection, \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2009 through 2013."

Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 113–38, §2(b)(3), substituted "triennially" for "periodically" and "kidnappings" for "kidnapings".

Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 113–38, §2(b)(4), inserted ", in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. 1232g)" after "birth certificates".

2008-Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 110–240, §3(1), amended par. (1) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (1) consisted of subpars. (A) to (H) relating to annual grants to Center.

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 110–240, §3(2), substituted "\$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2009 through 2013" for "\$20,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2004 through 2008".

2003-Subsec. (b)(1)(H). Pub. L. 108–21, §323, added subpar. (H).

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 108–96 substituted "2008" for "2005".

Pub. L. 108–21, §321(b), substituted "\$20,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2004 through 2005" for "\$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003".

2002-Subsec. (a)(5)(E). Pub. L. 107–273 substituted "section 5714–11" for "section 5712a".

1999-Subsecs. (b) to (d). Pub. L. 106–71 added subsecs. (b) and (c), redesignated former subsec. (c) as (d), and struck out former subsec. (b) which related to the establishment of toll-free telephone line and national resource center and clearinghouse, conduct of national incidence studies, and use of school records and birth certificates.

1989-Subsec. (a)(5)(C). Pub. L. 101–204, §1004(2)(A), substituted semicolon for comma at end.

Subsec. (b)(2)(A). Pub. L. 101–204, §1004(2)(B), inserted "to" before "provide to State".

1988-Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 100–690, §7285(a)(1), struck out "law enforcement" before "entities".

Subsec. (a)(4). Pub. L. 100–690, §7285(a)(2), inserted "and" at end.

Subsec. (a)(5). Pub. L. 100–690, §7285(a)(3), amended par. (5) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (5) read as follows: "analyze, compile, publish, and disseminate an annual summary of recently completed research, research being conducted, and Federal, State, and local demonstration projects relating to missing children with particular emphasis on-

"(A) effective models of local, State, and Federal coordination and cooperation in locating missing children;

"(B) effective programs designed to promote community awareness of the problem of missing children;

"(C) effective programs to prevent the abduction and sexual exploitation of children (including parent, child, and community education); and

"(D) effective program models which provide treatment, counseling, or other aid to parents of missing children or to children who have been the victims of abduction or sexual exploitation; and".

Subsec. (a)(6). Pub. L. 100–690, §7285(a)(4), struck out par. (6), which read as follows: "prepare, in conjunction with and with the final approval of the Advisory Board on Missing Children, an annual comprehensive plan for facilitating cooperation and coordination among all agencies and organizations with responsibilities related to missing children."

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 100–690, §7285(b)(1), designated existing provisions as subpar. (A), inserted "24-hour" after "national" and "and" at end, and added subpar. (B).

Subsec. (b)(2)(A). Pub. L. 100–690, §7285(b)(2)(A), amended subpar. (A) generally. Prior to amendment, subpar. (A) read as follows: "to provide technical assistance to local and State governments, public and private nonprofit agencies, and individuals in locating and recovering missing children;"

Subsec. (b)(2)(D). Pub. L. 100–690, §7285(b)(2)(B), inserted "and training" after "assistance" and "and in locating and recovering missing children" before semicolon.

Subsec. (b)(4). Pub. L. 100–690, §7285(b)(3), (4), added par. (4).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 107–273 effective on the first day of the first fiscal year that begins after Nov. 2, 2002, and applicable only with respect to fiscal years beginning on or after the first day of the first fiscal year that begins after Nov. 2, 2002, see section 12223 of Pub. L. 107–273, set out as a note under section 11101 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1988 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 100–690 effective Oct. 1, 1988, with the report required by subsec. (a)(6) of this section with respect to fiscal year 1988 to be submitted not later than Aug. 1, 1989, notwithstanding the 180-day period provided in subsec. (a)(6) of this section, see section 7296(a), (b)(3) of Pub. L. 100–690, set out as a note under section 11101 of this title.

TERMINATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

For termination, effective May 15, 2000, of provisions in subsec. (a)(6) of this section relating to submittal of annual report to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate, see section 3003 of Pub. L. 104–66, set out as a note under section 1113 of Title 31, Money and Finance, and the 2nd item on page 122 of House Document No. 103–7.

Appendix 2

IRB Approval

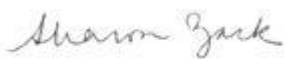


An Employee-Owned
Research Corporation

Memo

Date: December 15, 2017

To: Crystal MacAllum, Project Director

From: 
Sharon Zack, Administrator, Westat IRB

Subject: **Expedited Approval of NISMCRLE, Project Number 6562**
FWA 00005551

As Administrator of the Westat Institutional Review Board (IRB), I reviewed the materials submitted for the following: **NISMCRLE, Project Number 6562**. The Westat IRB reviews all studies involving research on human subjects. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention funds this study.

Surveys will be completed by law enforcement officers about abduction cases they investigate.

IRB regulations permit expedited review of certain activities involving minimal risk [28 CFR pt. 46.110, 45 CFR pt. 46.110]. This study can be considered minimal risk and is approved under expedited authority. Per [28 pt 46.117(c), 45 CFR 46.117(c)], a waiver of documentation of informed consent is also approved as the research presents no more than minimal risk of harm to subjects and involves no procedures for which written consent is normally conducted outside of the research context.

As the Project Director, you are responsible for the following:

- Ensure that all final participant materials are reviewed by the IRB Office before being used for this research.
- Submit this study for a continuing review before December 15, 2018.
- In the interim, notify the IRB Office as soon as possible if there are any injuries to subjects as well as problems or changes with the study that relate to human subjects.

cc: Institutional Review Board Janet Ciarico



An Employee-Owned
Research Corporation

Memo

Date: August 1, 2018
To: Crystal MacAllum, Project Director
From: Sharon Zack, Administrator, Westat IRB *Sharon Zack*
Subject: **Amendment Approval of NISMCRLE, Project Number 6562 FWA 00005551
Transaction # 2803**

As Administrator of the Westat Institutional Review Board (IRB), I reviewed the materials submitted for the following: **NISMCRLE, Project Number 6562**. The Westat IRB reviews all studies involving research on human subjects. This project was last reviewed in December 2017.

This amendment included a request to approve invitation letters and other respondent correspondence for all 4 data collections, as well as the data collection instruments.

The regulations (28 CFR 46; 45 CFR 46) permit expedited review of minor changes in previously approved activities. I am therefore approving the modifications under expedited authority.

- You are required to submit this study for a continuing review before December 15, 2018.
- In the interim, you are responsible for notifying the IRB Office as soon as possible if there are any injuries to the subjects as well as problems or changes with the study that relate to human subjects.

cc: Institutional Review Board Janet Ciarico

Appendix 3

NISMART Citations

NISMART Citations

Asdigian, N., Finkelhor, D., and Hotaling, G.T. (1995). Varieties of Non-Family Abduction of Children & Adolescents. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 22(3):215-232.

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Finkelhor, D., Hotaling G.T., and Sedlak, A.J. (1990). *Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children in America. First Report: Numbers and Characteristics, National Incidence Studies*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

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Appendix 4

Title 34, United States Code, Section 10231

§10231. Confidentiality of information

(a) Research or statistical information; immunity from process; prohibition against admission as evidence or use in any proceedings

No officer or employee of the Federal Government, and no recipient of assistance under the provisions of this chapter shall use or reveal any research or statistical information furnished under this chapter by any person and identifiable to any specific private person for any purpose other than the purpose for which it was obtained in accordance with this chapter. Such information and copies thereof shall be immune from legal process, and shall not, without the consent of the person furnishing such information, be admitted as evidence or used for any purpose in any action, suit, or other judicial, legislative, or administrative proceedings.

(b) Criminal history information; disposition and arrest data; procedures for collection, storage, dissemination, and current status; security and privacy; availability for law enforcement, criminal justice, and other lawful purposes; automated systems: review, challenge, and correction of information

All criminal history information collected, stored, or disseminated through support under this chapter shall contain, to the maximum extent feasible, disposition as well as arrest data where arrest data is included therein. The collection, storage, and dissemination of such information shall take place under procedures reasonably designed to insure that all such information is kept current therein; the Office of Justice Programs shall assure that the security and privacy of all information is adequately provided for and that information shall only be used for law enforcement and criminal justice and other lawful purposes. In addition, an individual who believes that criminal history information concerning him contained in an automated system is inaccurate, incomplete, or maintained in violation of this chapter, shall, upon satisfactory verification of his identity, be entitled to review such information and to obtain a copy of it for the purpose of challenge or correction.

(c) Criminal intelligence systems and information; prohibition against violation of privacy and constitutional rights of individuals

All criminal intelligence systems operating through support under this chapter shall collect, maintain, and disseminate criminal intelligence information in conformance with policy standards which are prescribed by the Office of Justice Programs and which are written to assure that the funding and operation of these systems furthers the purpose of this chapter and to assure that such systems are not utilized in violation of the privacy and constitutional rights of individuals.

(d) Violations; fine as additional penalty

Any person violating the provisions of this section, or of any rule, regulation, or order issued thereunder, shall be fined not to exceed \$10,000, in addition to any other penalty imposed by law.

(Pub. L. 90–351, title I, §812, formerly §818, as added [Pub. L. 96–157, §2, Dec. 27, 1979, 93 Stat. 1213](#); renumbered §812 and amended [Pub. L. 98–473, title II, §609B\(f\), \(k\), Oct. 12, 1984, 98 Stat. 2093, 2096](#); [Pub. L. 109–162, title XI, §1115\(c\), Jan. 5, 2006, 119 Stat. 3104](#).)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to [section 3789g of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare](#), prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 812 of Pub. L. 90–351 was classified to [section 3789a of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare](#), prior to repeal by [section 609B\(e\) of Pub. L. 98–473](#).

AMENDMENTS

2006-Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 109–162 substituted "No" for "Except as provided by Federal law other than this chapter, no".

1984-Subsecs. (b), (c). Pub. L. 98–473, 609B(k), substituted "Office of Justice Programs" for "Office of Justice Assistance, Research, and Statistics".

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 609B(k) of Pub. L. 98–473 effective Oct. 12, 1984, see section 609AA(a) of Pub. L. 98–473, set out as an Effective Date note under [section 10101 of this title](#).

CONSTRUCTION

Terms "this chapter" and "this section", as such terms appear in this section, deemed to be references to [chapter 501](#) and [section 50105 of this title](#), respectively, and reference to the Office of Justice Programs in this section deemed to be a reference to the Attorney General, see [section 50105 of this title](#).

Appendix 5

28 CFR Part 22

Confidentiality of Identifiable Research and Statistical Information (28 CFR Part 22)

PART 22—CONFIDENTIALITY OF IDENTIFIABLE RESEARCH AND STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Sec.

- 22.1 Purpose.
- 22.2 Definitions.
- 22.20 Applicability.
- 22.21 Use of identifiable data.
- 22.22 Revelation of identifiable data.
- 22.23 Privacy certification.
- 22.24 Information transfer agreement.
- 22.25 Final disposition of identifiable materials.
- 22.26 Requests for transfer of information.
- 22.27 Notification.
- 22.28 Use of data identifiable to a private person for judicial, legislative or administrative purposes.
- 22.29 Sanctions.

AUTHORITY: Secs. 801(a), 812(a), Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, 42 U.S.C. 3701, *et seq.*, as amended (Pub. L. 90–351, as amended by Pub. L. 93–83, Pub. L. 93–415, Pub. L. 94–430, Pub. L. 94–503, Pub. L. 95–115, Pub. L. 96–157, and Pub. L. 98–473); secs. 262(b), 262(d), Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, 42 U.S.C. 5601, *et seq.*, as amended (Pub. L. 93–415, as amended by Pub. L. 94–503, Pub. L. 95–115, Pub. L. 99–509, and Pub. L. 98–473); and secs. 1407(a) and 1407(d) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, 42 U.S.C. 10601, *et seq.*, Pub. L. 98–473.

SOURCE: 41 FR 54846, Dec. 15, 1976, unless otherwise noted.

§ 22.1 Purpose.

The purpose of these regulations is to:

- (a) Protect privacy of individuals by requiring that information identifiable to a private person obtained in a research or statistical program may only be used and/or revealed for the purpose for which obtained;
- (b) Insure that copies of such information shall not, without the consent of the person to whom the information pertains, be admitted as evidence or used for any purpose in any judicial or administrative proceedings;
- (c) Increase the credibility and reliability of federally-supported research and statistical findings by minimizing subject concern over subsequent uses of identifiable information;

(d) Provide needed guidance to persons engaged in research and statistical activities by clarifying the purposes for which identifiable information may be used or revealed; and

(e) Insure appropriate balance between individual privacy and essential needs of the research community for data to advance the state of knowledge in the area of criminal justice.

(f) Insure the confidentiality of information provided by crime victims to crisis intervention counselors working for victim services programs receiving funds provided under the Crime Control Act, the Juvenile Justice Act, and the Victims of Crime Act.

[41 FR 54846, Dec. 15, 1976, as amended at 51 FR 6400, Feb. 24, 1986]

§ 22.2 Definitions.

(a) *Person* means any individual, partnership, corporation, association, public or private organization or governmental entity, or combination thereof.

(b) *Private person* means any person defined in § 22.2(a) other than an agency, or department of Federal, State, or local government, or any component or combination thereof. Included as a private person is an individual acting in his or her official capacity.

(c) *Research or statistical project* means any program, project, or component thereof which is supported in whole or in part with funds appropriated under the Act and whose purpose is to develop, measure, evaluate, or otherwise advance the state of knowledge in a particular area. The term does not include “intelligence” or other information-gathering activities in which information pertaining to specific individuals is obtained for purposes directly related to enforcement of the criminal laws.

(d) *Research or statistical information* means any information which is collected during the conduct of a research or statistical project and which is intended to be utilized for research or statistical purposes. The term includes information which is collected directly from the individual or obtained from any agency or individual having possession, knowledge, or control thereof.

(e) *Information identifiable to a private person* means information which either—

(1) Is labeled by name or other personal identifiers, or

(2) Can, by virtue of sample size or other factors, be reasonably interpreted as referring to a particular private person.

(f) *Recipient of assistance* means any recipient of a grant, contract, interagency agreement, subgrant, or subcontract under the Act and any person, including subcontractors, employed by such recipient in connection with performances of the grant, contract, or interagency agreement.

(g) *Officer or employee of the Federal Government* means any person employed as a regular or special employee of the U.S. (including experts, consultants, and advisory board members) as of July 1, 1973, or at any time thereafter.

(h) *The act* means the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended.

(i) *Applicant* means any person who applies for a grant, contract, or subgrant to be funded pursuant to the Act.

(j) *The Juvenile Justice Act* means the “Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, as amended.”

(k) *The Victims of Crime Act* means the Victims of Crime Act of 1984.

[41 FR 54846, Dec. 15, 1976, as amended at 43 FR 16974, Apr. 21, 1978; 51 FR 6400, Feb. 24, 1986]

§ 22.20 Applicability.

(a) These regulations govern use and revelation of research and statistical information obtained, collected, or produced either directly by BJA, OJJDP, BJS, NIJ, or OJP or under any interagency agreement, grant, contract, or subgrant awarded under the Crime Control Act, the Juvenile Justice Act, and the Victims of Crime Act.

(b) The regulations do not apply to any records from which identifiable research or statistical information was originally obtained; or to any records which are designated under existing statutes as public; or to any information extracted from any records designated as public.

(c) The regulations do not apply to information gained regarding future criminal conduct.

[41 FR 54846, Dec. 15, 1976, as amended at 43 FR 16974, Apr. 21, 1978; 51 FR 6400, 6401, Feb. 24, 1986]

§ 22.21 Use of identifiable data.

Research or statistical information identifiable to a private person may be used only for research or statistical purposes.

§ 22.22 Revelation of identifiable data.

(a) Except as noted in paragraph (b) of this section, research and statistical information relating to a private person may be revealed in identifiable form on a need-to-know basis only to—

(1) Officers, employees, and subcontractors of the recipient of assistance;

(2) Such individuals as needed to implement sections 202(c)(3), 801, and 811(b) of the Act; and sections 223(a)(12)(A), 223(a)(13), 223(a)(14), and 243 of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.

(3) Persons or organizations for research or statistical purposes. Information may only be transferred for such purposes upon a clear demonstration that the standards of § 22.26 have been met and that, except where information is transferred under paragraphs (a) (1) and (2) of this section, such transfers shall be conditioned on compliance with a § 22.24 agreement.

(b) Information may be revealed in identifiable form where prior consent is obtained from an individual or where the individual has agreed to participate in a project with knowledge that the findings cannot, by virtue of sample size, or uniqueness of subject, be expected to totally conceal subject identity.

[41 FR 54846, Dec. 15, 1976, as amended at 51 FR 6400, Feb. 24, 1986]

§ 22.23 Privacy certification.

(a) Each applicant for BJA, OJJDP, BJS, NIJ, or OJP support either directly or under a State plan shall submit a Privacy Certificate as a condition of approval of a grant application or contract proposal which has a research or statistical project component under which information identifiable to a private person will be collected.

(b) The Privacy Certificate shall briefly describe the project and shall contain assurance by the applicant that:

(1) Data identifiable to a private person will not be used or revealed, except as authorized under §§ 22.21, 22.22.

(2) Access to data will be limited to those employees having a need therefore and that such persons shall be advised of and agree in writing to comply with these regulations.

(3) All subcontracts which require access to identifiable data will contain conditions meeting the requirements of § 22.24.

(4) To the extent required by § 22.27 any private persons from whom identifiable data are collected or obtained, either orally or by means of written questionnaire, shall be advised that the data will only be used or revealed for research or statistical purposes and that compliance with requests for information is not mandatory. Where the notification requirement is to be waived, pursuant to § 22.27(c), a justification must be included in the Privacy Certificate.

(5) Adequate precautions will be taken to insure administrative and physical security of identifiable data.

(6) A log will be maintained indicating that identifiable data have been transmitted to persons other than BJA, OJJDP, BJS, NIJ, or OJP or grantee/contractor staff or subcontractors, that such data have been returned, or that alternative arrangements have been agreed upon for future maintenance of such data.

(7) Project plans will be designed to preserve anonymity of private persons to whom information relates, including, where appropriate, name-stripping, coding of data, or other similar procedures.

(8) Project findings and reports prepared for dissemination will not contain information which can reasonably be expected to be identifiable to a private person except as authorized under § 22.22.

(c) The applicant shall attach to the Privacy Certification a description of physical and/or administrative procedures to be followed to insure the security of the data to meet the requirements of § 22.25.

[41 FR 5486, Dec. 15, 1976, as amended at 51 FR 6401, Feb. 24, 1986]

§ 22.24 Information transfer agreement.

Prior to the transfer of any identifiable information to persons other than BJA, OJJDP, BJS, NIJ, or OJP or project staff, an agreement shall be entered into which shall provide, as a minimum, that the recipient of data agrees that:

(a) Information identifiable to a private person will be used only for research and statistical purposes.

(b) Information identifiable to a private person will not be revealed to any person for any purpose except where the information has already been included in research findings (and/or data bases) and is revealed on a need-to-know basis for research or statistical purposes, provided that such transfer is approved by the person providing information under the agreement, or authorized under § 22.24(e).

(c) Knowingly and willfully using or disseminating information contrary to the provisions of the agreement shall constitute a violation of these regulations, punishable in accordance with the Act.

(d) Adequate administrative and physical precautions will be taken to assure security of information obtained for such purpose.

(e) Access to information will be limited to those employees or subcontractors having a need therefore in connection with performance of the activity for which obtained, and that such persons shall be advised of, and agree to comply with, these regulations.

(f) Project plans will be designed to preserve anonymity of private persons to whom information relates, including, where appropriate, required name-stripping and/or coding of data or other similar procedures.

(g) Project findings and reports prepared for dissemination will not contain information which can reasonably be expected to be identifiable to a private person.

(h) Information identifiable to a private person (obtained in accordance with this agreement) will, unless otherwise agreed upon, be returned upon completion of the project for which obtained and no copies of that information retained.

[41 FR 5486, Dec. 15, 1976, as amended at 51 FR 6401, Feb. 24, 1986]

§ 22.25 Final disposition of identifiable materials.

Upon completion of a research or statistical project the security of identifiable research or statistical information shall be protected by:

(a) Complete physical destruction of all copies of the materials or the identifiable portion of such materials after a three-year required recipient retention period or as soon as authorized by law, or

(b) Removal of identifiers from data and separate maintenance of a name-code index in a secure location.

The Privacy Certificate shall indicate the procedures to be followed and shall, in the case of paragraph (b) of this section, describe procedures to secure the name index.

§ 22.26 Requests for transfer of information.

(a) Requests for transfer of information identifiable to an individual shall be submitted to the person submitting the Privacy Certificate pursuant to § 22.23.

(b) Except where information is requested by BJA, OJJDP, BJS, NIJ, or OJP, the request shall describe the general objectives of the project for which information is requested, and specifically justify the need for such information in identifiable form. The request shall also indicate, and provide justification for the conclusion that conduct of the project will not, either directly or indirectly, cause legal, economic, physical, or social harm to individuals whose identification is revealed in the transfer of information.

(c) Data may not be transferred pursuant to this section where a clear showing of the criteria set forth above is not made by the person requesting the data.

[41 FR 5486, Dec. 15, 1976, as amended at 51 FR 6401, Feb. 24, 1986]

§ 22.27 Notification.

(a) Any person from whom information identifiable to a private person is to be obtained directly, either orally, by questionnaire, or other written documents, shall be advised:

(1) That the information will only be used or revealed for research or statistical purposes; and

(2) That compliance with the request for information is entirely voluntary and may be terminated at any time.

(b) Except as noted in paragraph (c) of this section, where information is to be obtained through observation of individual activity or performance, such individuals shall be advised:

(1) Of the particular types of information to be collected;

(2) That the data will only be utilized or revealed for research or statistical purposes; and

(3) That participation in the project in question is voluntary and may be terminated at any time.

(c) Notification, as described in paragraph (b) of this section, may be eliminated where information is obtained through field observation of individual activity or performance and in the judgment of the researcher such notification is impractical or may seriously impede the progress of the research.

(d) Where findings in a project cannot, by virtue of sample size, or uniqueness of subject, be expected to totally conceal subject identity, an individual shall be so advised.

§ 22.28 Use of data identifiable to a private person for judicial, legislative or administrative purposes.

(a) Research or statistical information identifiable to a private person shall be immune from legal process and shall only be admitted as evidence or used for any purpose in any action, suit, or other judicial, legislative or administrative proceeding with the written consent of the individual to whom the data pertains.

(b) Where consent is obtained, such consent shall:

(1) Be obtained at the time that information is sought for use in judicial, legislative or administrative proceedings;

(2) Set out specific purposes in connection with which information will be used;

(3) Limit, where appropriate, the scope of the information subject to such consent.

[41 FR 54846, Dec. 15, 1976, as amended at 45 FR 62038, Sept. 18, 1980]

§ 22.29 Sanctions.

Where BJA, OJJDP, BJS, NIJ, or OJP believes that a violation has occurred of section 812(a) of the Act or section 1407(d) of the Victims of Crime Act, these regulations, or any grant or contract conditions entered into thereunder, it may initiate administrative actions leading to termination of a grant or contract, commence appropriate personnel and/or other procedures in cases involving Federal employees, and/or initiate appropriate legal actions leading to imposition of a fine not to exceed \$10,000 against any person responsible for such violations.

[41 FR 54846, Dec. 15, 1976, as amended at 45 FR 62038, Sept. 18, 1980; 51 FR 6401, Feb. 24, 1986]

Appendix 6

Federal Assurances of Confidentiality and Other Notices

FEDERAL ASSURANCES OF CONFIDENTIALITY AND OTHER NOTICES

This data collection is authorized under the Missing Children's Assistance Act (see, 34 U.S.C. § 11293(c)). NIJ, OJJDP, its employees, and its data collection agents will use the information you provide for statistical or research purposes only, and will not disclose your information in identifiable form without your consent to anyone outside of the research team. All personally identifiable data collected are protected under the confidentiality provisions of 34 U.S.C. § 10231, and any person who violates these provisions may be punished by a fine up to \$10,000, in addition to any other penalties imposed by law. Further, under the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, your data are protected from cybersecurity risks through screening of the systems that transmit your data. Your compliance with the request for information is entirely voluntary, and if you choose to provide information, you may discontinue at any time without penalty of any sort.

Under the Federal Paperwork Reduction Act, a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. We try to create forms and instructions that are accurate, can be easily understood, and which impose the least possible burden on you to provide us with information. We estimate that it will take xx hours to complete this questionnaire. This estimate includes time for reviewing the instructions, searching for and gathering the data, completing the form, and reviewing answers.

If you would like more information concerning this authorization, the confidentiality guarantee, have comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate, or suggestions for making the form simpler, please contact Benjamin Adams, Social Science Analyst, at Benjamin.Adams@usdoj.gov or 202-616-3687. If you need assistance regarding your submission, please contact the survey director, Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu or call the project's toll free number: xxx-xxx-xxxx.

Appendix 7

NISMART-3 Planning Papers



ICPSR 36566

National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway and Thrownaway Children (NISMA^{RT}), 2011 [United States]

Andrea Sedlak
Rockville Institute & Westat, Inc.

David Finkelhor
*Crimes against Children Research Center,
University of New Hampshire*

Planning Papers



Office of Juvenile Justice
and Delinquency Prevention

ICPSR

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Third National Incidence Studies of Missing,
Abducted, Runaway and Thrownaway Children
(NISMAART-3)

Law Enforcement Survey (LES) Redesign

Planning Papers and Draft Instruments

Authors

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November 14, 2016

NISMART-3 was funded by Grant Number 2010-MC-CX-0004 awarded to the Rockville Institute, Rockville MD by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC. The research was conducted by the Rockville Institute, Rockville, MD, and the Crimes against Children Research Center at the University of New Hampshire. Andrea Sedlak was Project Director and Co-Principal Investor, J. Michael Brick, and Shelley Brock project statisticians and methodological advisors. All three are at Westat and worked for the Rockville Institute to conduct this research. David Finkelhor, co-Principal Investigator, is Director of the Crimes Against Children Research Center.

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1. Introduction

Statement of the Problem

Upon the completion of the NISMART-3 studies, it was evident that Household Survey methodology, which has served as the principal data source for NISMART's estimates of episode children and missing children, was no longer an efficient and cost effective method for obtaining the data OJJDP required to respond to the legislative mandate. The relatively low numbers of missing children and the large samples of households needed to identify adequate samples of qualifying cases, combined with the seriously declining response rates to household surveys and the concomitant greater cost of achieving acceptable response rates, undermine the feasibility of estimating numbers of episode children and missing children on the basis of data from household surveys of parents (and youth).

At the same time, the Law Enforcement Survey (LES) has been a successful element of NISMART in that it has been accomplished at a reasonable cost and yielded a high participation rate in an era of declining participation rates. It has produced a result that comports with other sources of information about serious non-family kidnappings, like data from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), has been widely cited in the media, and the topic of the most queries for updated data. However, the LES has two major limitations:

- Its primary goal is counting SK, which does not fully meet the statutory language requiring information about the “number of children reported missing each year, the number of children who are victims of abduction by strangers, the number of children who are victims of parental kidnappings, and the number of children who are recovered.”
- The SK estimates produced by the LES have very large confidence intervals. This means that although the order of magnitude is clear the estimate is very imprecise. Of particular importance, a fairly large underlying change could not be detected with statistical confidence.

Planning Papers and Draft Instruments

This collection of papers responds to the request of OJJDP and BJS that we establish an initial foundation for the redesign of NISMART. Four main tasks were involved:

- Improving the precision of the LES-SK estimates. We were asked to explore the feasibility of improving the precision of the SK estimate using post-stratification control

totals on measures that may be correlated with the SK PSU-level estimates. Paper 1 describes this work, which entailed searching for potentially usable correlates in the SHR, UCR, and NIBRS, as by extracting data on the number of child homicides, the crime rate and the number of abductions.

- Examine the utility of a self-administered survey for the future LES-SK. The LES has been used to study stereotypical kidnaping (SK) in the last two NISMARTs. It relies on telephone interviews with investigating officers of potentially qualifying cases. We were asked to discuss potential advantages and outline in detail how a self-administered modality could be integrated into the LES-SK methodology. Paper 2 describes our work, which considered issues such as: how it would be accessed, what kind of help information would be provided, and how non-response would be managed. We drafted a questionnaire that could be implemented in a self-administered online format.
- Adding family abduction to the LES. We examined a number of issues involved in adding family abduction to the LES, essentially considering the design of an LES-FA. Paper 3 describes our work, which considered sample size and issues of precision of estimate, strategies for identifying cases, and delineation of major issues to be tested in a future NISMART. We also proposed some operational definitions for key items to be used in the counting of family abductions. We conducted 5 interviews with officials at law enforcement agencies about searching for family abductions. We drafted a family abduction questionnaire for pretesting and pilot testing in the LES-FA design phase.
- Developing an LES-MC design to measure overall missing children and their recovery. Our task was to outline the possible design of an LES-MC, specifying some of the issues that need to be resolved in planning such a survey, and suggest how to organize a pilot add-on to the next NISMART effort that could deal with some of these issues. We will propose some operational definitions for identifying and counting missing children in LE files and also counting recoveries. We conducted 5 interviews with officials at law enforcement agencies about searching for general missing children and determining recovery. (These were the same 5 officials interviewed about family abduction.) We drafted a questionnaire to obtain data on missing child cases for use in future design work.

Next Steps

The planning papers for the LES-SK, LES-FA, and LES-MC all mention the need for a design phase which will finalize the sample design and instruments, obtain OMB clearance, and conduct pretesting/pilot testing.

The design phase can be relatively short because the LES-SK has an established methodology that has been quite successful and the main change is the move to a simplified self-administered online questionnaire to collect case-level data. The LES-SK design phase will entail finalizing and programming the instruments, exploring their workability through limited pretesting

with a few law enforcement agencies (LEAs), and preparing the OMB package and getting OMB approval. We recommend using the same basic sampling design that has worked well in the past—drawing a stratified sample of 400 PSUs (counties and clusters of small counties) and mailing the phase 1 questionnaire to all the LEAs who serve the counties. If agencies/responding officers run into problems using the online questionnaire, interviewers will contact them and administer the interview by phone—reverting to the tried-and-true methodology for this study.

The design phase will require more time and resources for the other studies, the LES-FA and the LES-MC. We recommend a unified OMB package that covers all the surveys that will proceed (including the LES-SK). The new instruments for the LES-FA and LES-MC should not just undergo simple pretests, but the full survey methodologies should be pilot tested in LEAs in several counties. That will require initial OMB approval for the pilot tests and, if the pilot test results indicate that modifications to the instruments or study protocol are needed, then it will be necessary to obtain OMB approval of those amendments before the national study can proceed. Note that if both LES-FA and LES-MC are pilot-tested during the same design year (to allow for a unified OMB application and minimize duplication of efforts in sampling, website development, etc.), then they should not be pilot-tested in the same counties, for the same reasons we recommend fielding the national implementations in different years, as described below.

As the ensuing papers indicate, we recommend that all three designs start with the current LES-SK approach—selecting 400 PSUs (counties or small county-clusters) and recruiting the LEAs that serve those counties. However, for the LES-FA and LES-MC, we expect that many more cases will potentially qualify than in the LES-SK, so we recommend devising methods of reducing the burden on participants, as by sampling from listings of potentially qualifying cases to obtain case-level details, by sampling agencies, and in one instance, by asking agencies to report on reports they received only during a one-month period (with calendar months randomly allocated to subsamples of agencies). Additionally, because the certainty counties will be sampled in every study, we recommend against fielding more than one of these studies in any given calendar year. This will minimize the burden on agencies that will be targeted for recruitment in every study and will minimize suppression of response across the studies due to the additional burden. These considerations lead to our recommendation to consider planning to collect data from the three LES designs in a 3-year cycle, with one study implemented each year. Note that this schedule will synchronize with the current legislative mandate that requires OJJDP to report triennially.

2. Investigating Improving Precision for the LES-SK

Background

The NISMART–3 Law Enforcement Survey (LES–3) measured the national incidence of stereotypical kidnappings that occurred between October 1, 2010, and September 30, 2011 using essentially the same approach used previously in the NISMART–2 in 1997. The LES–3 sampled 433 counties from a sample frame of counties after clustering small adjacent counties. The sample selected these first stage units using a stratified probability-proportional-to-size design so that the largest counties were in sample with certainty and smaller counties had a lower chance of being selected. Within the sampled first stage counties, all law enforcement agencies (LEAs) were surveyed. In all, the 4,644 LEAs identified in the sampled counties were surveyed. Data collection occurred in two phases. In the first phase, the sampled LEAs were sent a mail survey that asked whether they investigated any stereotypical kidnappings in their jurisdiction between October 1, 2010, and September 30, 2011. The response rate for the mail survey was 86 percent. In the second phase, extensive telephone interviews were conducted with investigating officers to obtain details of the cases reported in the mail survey. Interviews were completed for 91 percent of the targeted cases. After applying the rules for defining a stereotypical kidnapping only 40 cases with 46 victims were determined to qualify using the definitions of NISMART.

More details on the sampling and reporting on the LES-3 are available in the report *Child Victims of Stereotypical Kidnappings Known to Law Enforcement in 2011* that can be downloaded from the URL at <http://www.ojjdp.gov/pubs/249249.pdf>. The 2011 LES-3 estimate of the national number of stereotypical kidnapping victims was 105, with a 95% confidence interval of the estimate ranging from 40 to 165. While the estimate and confidence interval clearly show the number of victims of stereotypical kidnapping is very small, the breadth of the confidence interval is larger than desired. Analysis of the subgroups and characteristics of the incidents, victims, and perpetrators are based on even smaller sample sizes, and subject to high sampling errors.

With any sample survey, the natural approach to improving precision of the estimates is to increase the sample size. With the LES this is not a viable approach largely because stereotypical kidnapping cases are so rare and the sample already contains almost half the estimated total that

would be obtained if all LEAs were canvassed.¹ The vast majority were obtained within counties that were included with certainty. Increasing the number of counties in the first stage sample above 433 would bring in proportionately considerably fewer cases because the larger counties are already included with certainty. The LES-3 sample of 4,644 sampled LEAs only found 40 cases; so increasing the sample of counties would be relatively expensive and produce a very low yield in terms of increased precision.

Using Auxiliary Data to Improve Precision

Another approach to increasing precision of sample survey estimates is to try to use auxiliary data available from other sources in the estimation stage. The general idea is that if an estimate from the survey is highly correlated to data that are known from an alternative data source then the survey weights can be adjusted by taking this relationship into account. The adjusted weights², under favorable conditions on the nature of the relationship, will give more precise estimates. Cochran (1977) discusses ratio and regression estimators that take advantage of auxiliary data to reduce the variance of the estimates. Deville and Särndal (1992) elaborate on the use of auxiliary data; they show that poststratification and raking estimation methods, as well as ratio and many regression estimators, are within a class of “calibration” estimators.

In the NISMART-3 LES, the final weights were the inverse of the selection probabilities for counties and were adjusted for LEA and case level nonresponse. Two case weights were trimmed to deal with very large weights. In this report, we use the original nonresponse adjusted, but untrimmed, case weights for all the work to avoid possible distortions. We will refer to these as the original nonresponse adjusted weights for this report.

The best type of auxiliary data for this purpose is one that is consistent with the NISMART definition of a stereotypical kidnapping case. Of paramount importance is that the auxiliary data are known (or estimated precisely from a probability sample) at the national or some lower level of detail such as census region. For example, in a survey of the general population, poststratification at the national level to a variable such as sex adjusts the base weight for each female respondent ($w_{female,j}$) by the ratio of the known number of females in the population (F) to the estimated number from the sample ($F / \sum_i w_{female,i}$). Ratio-adjusted weights for males would be

¹ The confidence intervals for the estimates do not contain a finite population adjustment for the variance estimate to account for the high sampling rates.

done the same way and then the sum of the weights of the respondents over sex would be equal to $F+M$. From this example it is clear that the ratio-adjustment in relation to sex requires independent data (from census) on the numbers of males and females in the general population.

With these objectives in mind we searched for suitable sources of auxiliary data for the LES estimates. The data sources that are most closely related to the LES estimates of stereotypical kidnapping are discussed in *Child Victims of Stereotypical Kidnappings Known to Law Enforcement in 2011*. Specifically, sources and the differences from the NISMART definitions that are discussed in the report include data from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, State Clearinghouses for Missing Children, the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), and the National Crime Information Center. None of these sources provide data that are fully nationally representative and comparable to the definitions used in NISMART.

Two data sources from the Federal Bureau of Investigation that we thought might be useful for adjusting the LES weights were the NIBRS and the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. Both of these collect aggregate data from local law enforcement and try to use a consistent definition. Several methodological investigations show there are differences by agencies within and across states. Furthermore, neither system currently provides complete data for the nation.

NIBRS has information on incidents that can be classified at the LEA, county and state level. We obtained the 2011 NIBRS data and selected only records for completed kidnapping cases where at least one victim for each case was under age 18. From this data set we did some additional data editing to remove duplicates and eliminate some suspicious data values. We then created a NVICTIM variable that is the number of victims for the incident. Some of the counts were larger than seemed reasonable, so the counts of victims were trimmed in a few cases.

The UCR does not have data as directly related to the stereotypical kidnapping estimates from the LES. The variables available are more aggregates of categories of crime. We extracted data from the UCR file for 2011 including: violent crime, murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, property crime, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

We also downloaded data from the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year data file for 2010-2014. These data are available for census geographies (such as state, county, block group) but these do not correspond to geographies for LEAs. Thus, the county was the only level that corresponded to the LES data, so the ACS county-level counts were the only variables that could be

used for the current analysis. While several variables were downloaded and were included in initial models, the only two that are discussed later are the number of adults and the number of children (under 18 years) in the geographies.

Modeling Predicted Victims

Our approach to using the NIBRS and UCR data to try to develop an auxiliary variable for estimation purposes was a bit nonstandard. The problem is that neither NIBRS nor UCR is complete for all states, counties, and certainly not for LEAs. This incompleteness means that standard approaches that involve computing totals by summing the auxiliary data across the country do not work. Furthermore, the missing data in the files are not due to controlled sampling, which meant that we could not compute precise national estimates using probability weighting (instead of using known totals). We understand that NIBRS has been considering having a probability sample of agencies that could be used to produce national estimates. If this existed, we could have evaluated a more standard approach to using the NIBRS.

As result of this problem, we decided to try to create a predicted value of the number of stereotypical kidnapping victims in each county in the U.S. by a series of modeling steps. The first decision was to do the modeling at the county level rather than the LEA level. We believed the prediction would be less error-prone at the more aggregate county level (most LEAs had no stereotypical kidnapping cases in the year so predicting zeros and a predicting a few spikes is very error prone). The same type of problem exists at the county level because most counties also have zero cases, but at least it is a bit more aggregated. Furthermore, these data are only used as auxiliaries that are summed to regional totals as discussed later.

The NIBRS count of victims is the statistic that is most directly related to the LES stereotypical kidnapping victim count. As a result, we decided to try to model the NIBRS count for each county in the U.S. To do this, we looked at the 11 states that had complete reporting (as best as could be determined from the data sets) for both NIBRS and UCR data.

The model in these states predicted the NIBRS number of victims using data from the ACS and UCR data files. Initial models were run with all the UCR variables and several ACS variables and interactions among some of the variables. After reviewing and modifying the models, the model selected was a simple linear regression to predict the number of victims using the adult population (the only ACS variable that remained in the model) and forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Due to the influence of a very small

number of cases with a large value of the number of victims, the regression was done after top-coding the number of victims in a county to 20 (any value greater than 20 was set to 20). The final model is given in the appendix. The model was relatively good for predicting the number of victims with an R^2 of 0.27 and residuals (not shown) that were distributed reasonably.

The next step was to use the estimated parameters from this model to predict the number of victims for those states with complete reporting of UCR.³ To do this, the parameters from the model were applied to the UCR (and ACS) values for the counties with UCR reported data. Since the regression model was linear and the expected value of the number of victims in a county was small, negative predicted values of the number of victims were not uncommon. If the predicted value from the regression model was negative, we set it equal to zero.

The same process was followed to produce predicted values for the 11 states that actually had NIBRS and UCR data. This was done (rather than using the actual value from NIBRS of the number of victims) to have a consistent measure for the auxiliary variable regardless of the missing data pattern in the UCR and NIBRS, to the extent possible. Again, the predicted value of the number of victims was set to zero if the model prediction was negative.

The only remaining issue was how to deal with the states without complete UCR reporting. For these, two options were considered. One option was to use the UCR data for the counties that had some reporting but not complete county-level reporting with the model developed above. We decided that this might be problematic because missing data for some of the LEAs within a county was hard to assess and the UCR data present might be biased downward due to the missing data. Instead, we chose to disregard the UCR data entirely in these states and just use ACS to model the number of victims.

For this, we ran a linear regression of the number of victims from NIBRS using only the ACS variable of the number of adults (adults was more predictive than the number of children), again using the 11 states with complete UCR and NIBRS reporting. This model is also given in the appendix. The model fit for this subset was poor, with an R^2 of only 0.03. The predicted value of the number of victims was set to zero if the model prediction was negative.

³ Three states appeared to have complete reporting for all but one county (Georgia, Minnesota, and Ohio). These three states were included and the UCR variables for these counties (all small ones) were set equal to zero.

These procedures provided a predicted value of the number of victims for every county in the U.S. Of the 3,142 counties in the U.S., 59 percent were in counties with both UCR and NIBRS, 38 percent were in counties with UCR but no NIBRS, and 3 percent were in states without UCR. Thus, the poor model fit associated with using ACS only was at least limited to a relatively small number of counties.

Alternative Estimators

The weights for the LES-3 were developed in steps. At the first step, the weight was the inverse of the probability of selection of the county (or group of counties for the smaller ones). The largest counties were sampled with certainty so many of the counties had weights of one at this step. This weight is called the PSU weight since it refers to the weight for the primary sampling unit at the first stage.

Within the county or group of counties, all LEAs were sampled so no adjustment was needed for sampling LEAs within counties. However, some agencies did not respond so the PSU weight that would have been appropriate for the LEAs if there had been complete response had to be adjusted to create nonresponse agency-level weights.

The final step was obtaining case level information on each case in an agency that met the screening eligibility requirements. Again, there was no sampling but there was nonresponse. Thus, the nonresponse adjusted agency weights were further adjusted for case level nonresponse and these weights are called the case weights. These original nonresponse adjusted case weights⁴ were used to produce the estimates corresponding to those in *Child Victims of Stereotypical Kidnappings Known to Law Enforcement in 2011*.

We created three additional weights to produce three alternative estimates using three sets of auxiliary data. The three auxiliary variables used for this purpose were:

- Total adult population in the county (group of counties);
- Total child (under 18 years) population in the county; and
- Total model-predicted victims in the county.

⁴ As noted before, the case weights used in the report were trimmed, but the analysis here uses the weights without trimming.

The auxiliary variables were known at the county level so the adjustment was applied at the PSU weight level⁵. Thus, the process involved ratio-adjusting the PSU weight with the auxiliary data and then doing the exact same agency and case nonresponse adjustment processes as was done for original weights.

As explained earlier, a “ratio adjustment” uses the ratio of the ‘known’ sum or total of the auxiliary variable (either adult population, child population, or predicted victims) to the sum of the estimated value of the same variable using the PSU weights. This ratio adjustment was created for each of the 4 census region (with the hope of producing a more effective adjustment) and then applied to the PSU weight for PSUs/counties in the region to form the adjusted weight. Specifically, the adjustment factor (A_r) for each PSU weight in region r is

$$A_r = \frac{T_r}{\sum_{k \in r} w_k t_k}$$

where T_r is the value of the auxiliary summed over all counties in region r , t_k is the auxiliary for county k in region r , and w_k is the unadjusted PSU weight for county k . The adjusted PSU weight is then $w'_k = A_r w_k$ for counties in region r . The adjustments for agency and case

nonresponse were then made to give alternative weights.⁶

Thus, we had four weights for alternative analyses:

- The original nonresponse adjusted weight;
- The original weight adjusted using adult population;
- The original weight adjusted using the child population; and
- The original weight adjusted using model-predicted victims.

As discussed in the LES report for the original weights, a set of 80 jackknife replicate weights were computed for the three alternative weighting approaches. The PSU ratio-adjustment was replicated individually for each of these replicate weights. Thus, estimates and their estimated sampling errors could be computed for each weighting scheme.

⁵ As mentioned earlier, applying an adjustment at a lower level would have required the auxiliary data for every LEA or case and that was not done in the modeling.

⁶ We considered restricting the adjustment to those counties that were not certainty selections, but decided to include all counties for the initial work. Based on the results given below, we did not revise the adjustment to only the non-certainty counties.

Findings

To evaluate the effectiveness of using the auxiliary variables in estimation we computed the 8 estimates that appear in Table 1 of *Child Victims of Stereotypical Kidnappings Known to Law Enforcement in 2011* with each of the ratio-adjusted weights as well as with the original nonresponse adjusted weights. For each of these estimates, we also computed the variance of the estimate (the variance is the square of the standard error of the estimate). To assess the effectiveness of the adjustment more easily, we computed the ratio of the variance of the adjusted estimate to the variance of the original, unadjusted estimates. A value less than 1 in this ratio indicates the ratio-adjustment improved the precision (the variance of the adjusted estimate is less than the variance of the unadjusted estimate) and a value of greater than 1 indicates the adjustment caused an increase in the variance.

Table 1 shows the values of the ratios for the 8 estimates. When the adjustment was based on the number of children or the number of adults, the variances of the estimates never decreased. Clearly, both of these adjustments simply added noise and did not improve the precision of the estimates.⁷

The variance ratios when the predicted number of victims was used as the auxiliary are more variable, with 4 of the ratios greater than 1 and 4 less than 1. The 4 ratios that are less than 1 only show a relatively small increase in precision (less than 5 percent); the variance increases for 2 of the estimates are fairly large (1.3 and 1.9). This suggests that while this auxiliary might have some potential to increase precision for some estimates, it also has serious problems. It is likely that the adjustment to the predicted value of the number of victims is just too unstable to perform reliably.

⁷ The estimates from the adjusted and unadjusted estimators are very highly correlated because they use exactly the same data set. The statistical significance of the ratio was not evaluated because it is clear the adjustments did not improve precision.

Table 1. Ratio of variance of the ratio-adjusted estimate to the variance of the original, nonresponse adjusted estimates for each auxiliary variable.

	Auxiliary variable used in adjustment		
	Child	Adult	Victims
Outcome			
Homicide	1.007	1.035	1.941
Recovered	1.005	1.033	0.959
Abduction involved			
Use of force or threats	1.005	1.034	0.959
Sexual assault or exportation	1.005	1.034	0.957
Ransom/extortion	1.005	1.035	1.001
Intent to keep as own child	1.004	1.034	1.290
Victim was			
Detained overnight	1.005	1.034	0.956
Moved 50 miles or more	1.009	1.025	1.016

Conclusion

Strategies for improving the precision of LES-3 estimates of the number and characteristics of stereotypical kidnapping cases in the U.S. were examined. The approach of increasing the sample size was determined to be very inefficient and unlikely to be useful without doing a complete census. The alternative approach of using auxiliary variables in the estimation stage was also not effective. It is so difficult to improve the precision in the LES because the outcome (stereotypical kidnapping) is so rare and so unpredictable on the basis of readily available data that neither design nor estimation strategies are helpful. The whole premise of probability sampling, the foundation for the design and estimation of the LES, requires large sample theory. With such rare outcomes, even though the sample size in terms of the number of counties and agencies is extremely large, the actual number of cases of interest is very small. In some sense, the best that can be done with a sample survey is to determine if the number of stereotypical kidnapping cases in the U.S. remains low. The current design and estimation strategy for the LES is useful for monitoring that outcome. Large increases such as an increase from 100 to 200 in the number of stereotypical kidnapping would be detected by the current design. Even 200 cases is a small number to estimate from a probability sample.

Other alternative approaches might be explored in the future. If NIBRS or UCR were to change the structure and coverage of their programs, more investigations of their utility in improving LES precision might be worthwhile. For example, if the completeness or the level of detail in these systems improves, a new evaluation of the usefulness of these systems could yield different results. Furthermore, we only considered sampling and estimation strategies for LES in this

study, and have not investigate other approaches might totally change the system such as relying on administrative records and modeling rather than probability sampling. However, such drastic changes would require substantial design work and might make tracking changes in estimates of stereotypical kidnapping over time more difficult.

References

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Appendix

Final model for predicting NIBRS number of victims using UCR and ACS

<i>Source</i>	<i>DF</i>	<i>Sum of Squares</i>	<i>Mean Square</i>	<i>F Value</i>	<i>Pr > F</i>
Model	8	478.70491	59.83811	85.79	<.0001
Error	1843	1285.48245	0.69749		
Corrected Total	1851	1764.18737			

Root MSE	0.83516	R-Square	0.2713
Dependent Mean	0.12473	Adj R-Sq	0.2682

<i>Variable</i>	<i>Label</i>	<i>DF</i>	<i>Parameter Estimate</i>	<i>Standard Error</i>	<i>t Value</i>	<i>Pr > t </i>
Intercept	Intercept	1	-0.00002107	0.02208	-0.00	0.9992
ADLTPOP	ACS (10-14): Adult population	1	-0.00000161	2.577401E-7	-6.23	<.0001
AGASSLT	AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS (04)	1	-0.00039694	0.00006828	-5.81	<.0001
ARSON	ARSONS (09)	1	0.00368	0.00059749	6.16	<.0001
BURGLRY	BURGLARIES (05)	1	0.00030437	0.00003851	7.90	<.0001
LARCENY	LARCENIES (06)	1	-0.00006464	0.00001536	-4.21	<.0001
MVTHEFT	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFTS (07)	1	-0.00050870	0.00005034	-10.11	<.0001
RAPE	RAPES (02)	1	0.00800	0.00079904	10.01	<.0001
ROBBERY_P4	ROBBERIES (03)	1	0.00078095	0.00009878	7.91	<.0001

Final model for predicting NIBRS number of victims using ACS

<i>Source</i>	<i>DF</i>	<i>Sum of Squares</i>	<i>Mean Square</i>	<i>F Value</i>	<i>Pr > F</i>
Model	1	60.51899	60.51899	65.72	<.0001
Error	1850	1703.66837	0.92090		
Corrected Total	1851	1764.18737			
Root MSE	0.95964	R-Square	0.0343		
Dependent Mean	0.12473	Adj R-Sq	0.0338		

<i>Variable</i>	<i>Label</i>	<i>DF</i>	<i>Parameter Estimate</i>	<i>Standard Error</i>	<i>t Value</i>	<i>Pr > t </i>
Intercept	Intercept	1	0.06117	0.02364	2.59	0.0097
ADLTPOP	ACS (10-14): Adult population	1	6.490445E-7	8.006363E-8	8.11	<.0001

3. Utility of a Self-Administered LES-SK

The proposal being evaluated is whether to give agencies and officers the option of providing the information on possible Stereotypical Kidnappings (and also possibly Parental Kidnapings) via a self-administered web-based questionnaire.

Possible Benefits

- Reduction in the survey cost, since interviewers would not need to spend time making appointments with respondents and collecting the information.
- Reduction in length of the data collection period. The survey might be completed more quickly.
- Increase in response rate. Given the option to fill out a questionnaire at their own leisure, some respondents might participate who would otherwise not.

Possible Design

As with the present design, a questionnaire would be mailed to all selected LEAs asking for the enumeration of cases involving a SK, and the contact information for the investigator who could provide information on the case. We would retain the mechanism of making personal contact with the investigator. The communication with the investigator (either by phone or email) would give them the option of being interviewed by phone or filling out an online SAQ about case. If the investigator chose the SAQ, they would be given a 2-week window in which to complete it. At the end of that time, they would receive an additional reminder, a one week extension and query about whether they would prefer to schedule an interview. If the SAQ was not completed within the extension, then regular contacts would be scheduled to try to set up an interview.

The SAQ would consist of the same questions asked in the interview. In both cases, the questionnaire will be considerably shortened and simplified from previous SK questionnaires. Links to helpful information would be available on every webpage, including contact numbers for help in filling out the questions.

The SAQ would be reviewed upon submission and any questions or ambiguities would be flagged and the investigator will be contacted for clarification.

Possible Problems

- Would the quality of the data suffer without the interviewer to ask clarifying questions or give feedback on responses? This should be taken care of by the possibility of asking clarifying questions after reviewing the responses.
- Would the narrative component of the interview suffer? We will specifically ask for narrative accounts of certain elements.
- Given relatively small sample size, how much savings would actually be involved? This procedure would be useful particularly if data is collected about Family Abduction.

For Further Exploration

Is a pilot test necessary? We think that adding this option can probably be done without pilot testing, but with some pretesting of the self-administered questionnaire after it has been programmed. If problems arise, they should be readily reparable by returning to the investigator in a phone interview format.

Draft Self-Administered LES-SK Questionnaire

PREFACE

The methodology of the LES–SK will closely replicate the methodology of the previous two NISMART Law Enforcement Surveys (LES-2, 1997 and LES-3, 2011) with one change. Instead of collecting case-level data from investigators solely via lengthy telephone interviews, it uses a streamlined instrument, the LES-SK SAQ, which can be self-administered online by law enforcement respondents or administered by telephone interviewers.

As with LES-2 and -3, the LES–SK will obtain a sample of stereotypical kidnapping cases through a survey of all law enforcement agencies located in a national sample of counties. Within each sampled county, researchers will identify all of the law enforcement agencies and take them into the sample.

Data collection will occur in two phases. In the first phase, the researchers will send the sample agencies a mail survey using either a hard-copy mailed questionnaire or electronic mail. The mail survey will ask whether the agency investigated any stereotypical kidnappings in their jurisdiction during the 12-month time frame determined for the survey. If agencies have such cases, the survey will ask them to provide case numbers along with names and contact information, including email addresses, for primary investigating officers for each case.

In the second phase, the researchers will contact the primary investigator for each case and provide them with a link to the LES-SK SAQ to obtain details of the case. Researchers will use email to provide the link when an email address is provided and a letter when there is no email address. Researchers also will give reminders to non-responders via email or telephone call, and telephone interviewers will call respondents to obtain data if they do not complete an online survey. In LES-3, interviews were completed for 91 percent of the targeted cases, and we expect similarly high response rates with this streamlined methodology for collecting case-level data.

The online surveys that respondents sign into will have unique login identification numbers and will automatically indicate the agency and case that is the subject of the online survey. The instructions to the LES-SK SAQ will direct respondents to refer to agency records of the incident when they fill out the survey. The research team will review submitted surveys for completeness and contact respondents when necessary to resolve questions, acquire missing data and understand ambiguous descriptions.

An IRB-approved explanation of the survey and confidentiality will be provided at the beginning of the LES-SK SAQ and for the mail survey. The SAQ will also provide contact information for the research team (email, telephone) for respondents to use if they have questions.

PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS

SK1.1 Please give your contact information here so the researchers can reach you if they have questions after they review your survey. This information will be deleted as soon as the research team verifies that your survey is complete.

- Name and title (1) _____
- Telephone number (2) _____
- Email address (3) _____

NISMART requirements for SK

SK1.2 Your agency's case number for this investigation is [number will be provided].

Please confirm that this case involved a child age 17 or younger abducted by someone who was not a family member AND the child was

- Moved at least 20 feet OR
- Held for at least one hour.

If you are not sure what happened to the child, answer based on what investigators in your agency think is the most likely explanation.

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

Box 1

If SK1.2=2 (child was not moved 20' or held for 1 hour) or SK1.2=3 (don't know) and respondent has no additional surveys to complete, go to ENDSURVEY1.

If SK1.2=2 or SK1.2=3 and respondent has additional surveys to complete, go to ENDSURVEY2.

NISMART Time Frame

SK1.3

Did this incident occur between [12-month time frame to be established]?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

Box 2

If SK1.3=2 (incident not in time frame) or SK1.3=3 (don't know) and respondent has no additional surveys to complete, go to ENDSURVEY1.

If SK1.3=2 or SK1.3=3 and respondent has additional surveys to complete, go to ENDSURVEY2.

NISMART definition of SK

SK1.4 Did any of the following happen in this case? (Please respond to all items.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
a. A child was <u>held overnight</u> OR between 12 midnight & 5am (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. A child was <u>transported 50 miles</u> or more (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. A child was <u>held for ransom</u> (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. A child was <u>killed</u> (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. A perpetrator apparently intended to <u>keep a child permanently</u> (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Box 3

If none of the answers to SK1.4 = 1 (Yes) and respondent has no additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY1.
 If none of the answers to SK1.4 = 1 and respondent has additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY2.

SK1.5 Did this case involve more than one perpetrator?

If number of perpetrators is unknown, please enter the number believed to have been involved if more than one.

- Yes (Enter number of perpetrators) (1) _____
- No, 1 perpetrator (2) _____ SK1.9
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK1.9

SK1.6 How did the perpetrators know each other? (Please respond to all items.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Married or romantic or sexual partners (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other members of a family (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Members of a gang (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Involved together in selling or buying drugs (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Involved together in sex trafficking (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Involved in some other type of criminal enterprise (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Friends, acquaintances or schoolmates (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Something else (Please describe) (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SK1.7 Did any of the perpetrators have a close relationship with a victim or victim's family? This could involve a blood or legal tie to the family, a romantic partnership with a relative of a victim, a longstanding friendship, or another relationship that would make a perpetrator well-known to a child victim or their family.

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ SK1.9
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK1.9

SK1.8 Please describe this close relationship between a perpetrator and child victim or victim's family. [TEXT ENTRY] _____

Box 4

If SK1.5 = 1 (multiple perpetrators) the survey will be programmed to instruct respondents to answer questions regarding the perpetrator most responsible for the incident.

SK1.9 Did this case involve more than one child victim?

- Yes, 2 child victims (1)
- Yes, 3 or more child victims (Enter number) (2) _____ SK1.11
- No, 1 child victim (3) _____ SK1.12
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4) _____ SK1.12

SK1.10 How did the victims know each other?

- Siblings or step-siblings (1) _____ SK1.12
- Related as family some other way, such as cousins (2) _____ SK1.12
- Friends, acquaintances or schoolmates (3) _____ SK1.12
- Something else (Please describe) (4) _____ SK1.12
- Don't know/Cannot determine (5) _____ SK1.12

SK1.11 How did the victims know each other?

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Siblings or step-siblings (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Related as family some other way, such as cousins (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Friends, acquaintances or schoolmates (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Something else (Please describe) (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Box 5

If SK1.9 = 1 or SK1.9 = 2 (multiple child victims) the survey will be programmed to refer to plural victims or to "any" or "each" victim and to provide other related instructions.

NISMART Definition of Stranger

SK1.12 Was the perpetrator [most responsible for this incident] a stranger to [the/any] child victim?

Stranger means a non-family perpetrator whom the child or child's family did not know OR the perpetrator's identity is unknown but investigators reasonably believe the perpetrator is a stranger.)

- Yes, a perpetrator was a stranger (1) _____ SK1.15
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK1.13 Please briefly describe how the [most responsible] perpetrator knew the child victim[s] or families. [TEXT ENTRY] _____

NISMART definition of Slight Acquaintance

SK1.14 Was the [most responsible] perpetrator a slight acquaintance of [the/any] victim?

Slight acquaintance means that one of the following statements applies to the [most responsible] perpetrator's relationship to the [any] child victim or their family. If you are not sure, please answer based on what investigators in your agency think is most likely about the perpetrator/victim relationships.

(Please respond to all statements.) The perpetrator was not a family member AND before the abduction:

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
The <u>perpetrator's name was unknown</u> to the child or family and the child or family <u>did not know</u> the perpetrator <u>well enough to speak to</u> . (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The child <u>met</u> the perpetrator <u>on the Internet but not in person</u> . (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The child or family <u>knew</u> the perpetrator for <u>less than 6 months</u> . (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The child or family <u>knew</u> the perpetrator for <u>longer than 6 months but saw them less than once a month</u> . (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Box 6
 If all of the answers to SK1.14 = 2 (No) and respondent has no additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY1.
 If all of the answers to SK1.14 = 2 and respondent has additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY2.

SK1.15 Were other law enforcement agencies involved in this case?

- Yes (Please specify number of agencies involved) (1) _____
- No (2) _____ SK1.19
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK1.19

SK1.16 Did your agency receive the first report of this case?

- Yes (1) _____ SK1.18
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK1.18

SK1.17 What agency received the first report? (Please enter the agency name, county and state.)

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

SK1.18 Please list the other agencies involved in this case. Please list each agency by name, county and state.

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

SK1.19 What is the current status of this case in your agency?

- Open (under active investigation) (1)
- Open (arrest warrant issued) (2)
- Cleared by arrest (3)
- Closed for reasons other than arrest (exceptional clearance) (4)
- Suspended (inactive investigation) (5)
- Some other status (Please describe) (6) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (7)

CHILD CHARACTERISTICS

SK2.1 Next are questions about [the/each] child victim in this incident. [Since there is more than one, please start with the oldest child.] Is this child male or female?

- Male (1)
- Female (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK2.2 How old was this child at the time of the incident? (Please give your best estimate if not sure.)

- Less than 1 year old (1)
- 1 year old or older (Please enter age in years) (2) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK2.3 Is this child Hispanic or Latino/a?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK2.4 What is this child's race? (Please enter all that apply.)

- White (1)
- Black or African American (2)
- American Indian or Alaska Native (3)
- Asian (4)
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (5)
- Other (Please describe) (6) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (7)

Box 7

If SK1.9 = 3 (one child victim) or SK1.9=4 (don't know), go to SK2.10
If SK1.9 = 1 or If SK1.9 = 1 (multiple child victims), go to SK2.5.

SK2.5 Was the [most responsible] perpetrator in this incident a stranger to this child or their family?

Stranger means that the child or the child's family did not know the perpetrator OR the identity of the perpetrator is unknown but law enforcement reasonably believes it is a stranger.

- Yes (1) _____ Box 9
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK2.6 Please briefly describe how this child knew the [most responsible] perpetrator.

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

SK2.7 Was the [most responsible] perpetrator a slight acquaintance of this child victim?

Slight acquaintance means that one of the following statements applies to the [most responsible] perpetrator's relationship to the [any] child victim or their family. If you are not sure, please answer based on what investigators in your agency think is most likely about the perpetrator/victim relationships.

(Please respond to all statements.) The perpetrator was not a family member AND before the abduction:

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
a. The <u>perpetrator's name was unknown</u> to the child or family and the child or family <u>did not know the perpetrator well enough to speak to</u> (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. The child <u>met the perpetrator on the Internet but not in person</u> (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. The child or family <u>knew the perpetrator for less than 6 months</u> (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. The child or family <u>knew the perpetrator for longer than 6 months but saw them less than once a month</u> (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Box 8
 If all of the answers to SK2.7 = 2 (No) and there are additional victims, go to SK2.1.
 If all of the answers to SK2.7 = 2 and there are no additional victims, go to SK3.1.

Box 9
 If SK1.9 = 1 or If SK1.9 = 2 (multiple child victims) and SK1.4c = 1 (held for ransom), go to SK2.8.
 Otherwise go to Box 10.

SK2.8 Was this child held for ransom?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

Box 10

If SK1.9 = 1 or If SK1.9 = 2 (multiple child victims) and SK1.4e = 1 (intent to keep permanently), go to SK2.9.
Otherwise go to SK.10.

SK2.9 Did [the/a] perpetrator intend to keep this child permanently?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK2.10 How far did the perpetrator move this victim from the beginning of the abduction to the time the victim was released, found, escaped or killed?

- 20 feet or less (1)
- More than 20 feet but less than 1 mile (2)
- 1 to 9 miles (3)
- 10 to 49 miles (4)
- 50 miles or more (5)
- Child was not moved (6)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (7)

SK2.11 How long did the perpetrator keep or detain this victim before he or she was released, found, escaped or killed?

- Less than 1 hour (1) _____ SK2.13
- 1 hour to less than 24 hours (2)
- 1 to 3 days (3) _____ SK2.13
- 4 to 7 days (4) _____ SK2.13
- More than 1 week (5) _____ SK2.13
- Child was not detained (6) _____ SK2.13
- Don't know/Cannot determine (7) _____ SK2.13

SK2.12 Was this victim held or detained overnight OR for at least one hour between midnight and 5am?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK2.13 What parents did this child live with when this incident began?

- Two married, biological parents (1)
- Two married parents, one or both not biological, but both having a legal relationship to the child, such as adoption (2)
- Two unmarried parents, biological or other (3)
- One unmarried parent with a live-in partner who was not the child's parent) (4)
- A single parent (no live-in partner) (5)
- No parent (6)
- Other situation (Please describe) (9) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (10)

SK2.14 What type of housing did this child live in at the time of the incident?

- Single family dwelling (1)
- Multi-family dwelling (duplex, apartment building, for example) (2)
- Other situation such as shelter, institution, etc. (3)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4)

SK2.15 At the time of the abduction, was this child impaired by any serious or permanent physical or mental disabilities, life threatening medical conditions or other problems such as drug or alcohol use?

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ Box 11
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ Box 11

SK2.16 Please describe the child's disabilities, medical conditions or other impairments at the time of the incident.

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

SK2.17 Would you say that this child was mentally incompetent at the time of the episode?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

Box 11

If child is age 10 or older, go to SK2.18. If child is age 9 or younger, go to SK2.19.

SK2.18 Was this child involved in any way in... (Respond to all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
The criminal justice system (past or current, perpetrator or victim) (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drugs, using or selling (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Alcohol use (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SK2.19 Did this child have a parent who was involved in any way in... (Respond to all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
The criminal justice system (past or current, perpetrator or victim) (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drugs, using or selling (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Definition of Recovery

SK2.20 Was this victim...

- Recovered? (1)
- Killed? (2)
- Still missing? (3)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4)

Box 12

If SK1.9=1 or SK1.9=2 (multiple child victims), questions SK2.1—SK2.20 will repeat for each child.
After last child, go to SK3.1.

PERPETRATOR CHARACTERISTICS

SK3.1 The next questions ask about the perpetrator. [Please answer about the perpetrator most responsible for the incident.] Is the identity of this perpetrator known?

- Yes (1) _____ SK3.3
- No (2)

SK3.2 Do you have any information at all, like sex, race or approximate age?

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ SK4.1

SK3.3 How old was the [most responsible] perpetrator at the time of the incident.

- Please enter age in years (1) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (2)

SK3.4 Is the [most responsible] perpetrator male or female?

- Male (1)
- Female (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK3.5 Is the [most responsible] perpetrator Hispanic or Latino/a?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK3.6 What is the [most responsible] perpetrator's race? (Enter all that apply.)

- White (1)
- Black or African American (2)
- American Indian or Alaska Native (3)
- Asian (4)
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (5)
- Other (Please describe) (6) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (7)

Box 13

If SK3.2=1 (some information about unknown perpetrator), go to SK3.7.
If SK3.1=1 (perpetrator's identity is known), go to SK3.8.

SK3.7 Do you have any information about the perpetrator's life circumstances, like marital status, employment or involvement with the criminal justice system?

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ SK4.1

SK3.8 What was the [most responsible] perpetrator's marital status at the time of the crime?

- Single (1)
- Married (2)
- Separated, divorced or widowed (3)
- Living with a partner (4)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (5)

SK3.9 Was the [most responsible] perpetrator's employed either full- or part-time at the time of the crime?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK3.10 At the time of this crime, did the [most responsible] perpetrator have any active or ongoing involvement with the legal system or treatment programs?

- Yes (Please describe) (1) _____
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK3.11 At the time of the episode, did the [most responsible] perpetrator have a diagnosed mental illness?

- Yes (Please describe) (1) _____
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK3.12 How would you describe the [most responsible] perpetrator's overall intelligence?

- Above average (1)
- Average (2)
- Below average (3)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4)

SK3.13 How would you describe the amount of social interaction the [most responsible] perpetrator had in everyday life?

- Above average (1)
- Average (2)
- Below average (3)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4)

SK3.14 Is there any indication that the [most responsible] perpetrator has any problems with drugs or alcohol?

- Yes (Please describe type of problem) (1) _____
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK3.15 Did this perpetrator have any prior arrests?

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ SK4.1
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK4.1

SK3.16 Were any of these arrests for crimes of violence?

- Yes (Please describe)(1) _____
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK3.17 Did this perpetrator have any prior arrests for crimes against juveniles?

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ SK4.1
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK4.1

SK3.18 Did any of these prior arrests involve any of the following? (Please answer all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Homicide of a child (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A sex crime against a child (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child abduction (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Battery or assault of a child (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Something else (Please describe) (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

CRIME CHARACTERISTICS

SK4.1 Did a parent or other caretaker of a child victim in this case contact the police for help to locate their missing child?

- Yes, contacted police to locate missing child (1)
- No, contacted police for other reason or did not contact police (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK4.2 Where [was the victim/were the victims] last seen before the abduction occurred?

- Victim's residence or place child was staying at night, includes yard (1)
- Outdoor area with public access (sidewalk, park, street, beach, etc.) (2)
- Indoor area with public access (shopping mall, store, theater, etc.) (3)
- Perpetrator's residence or yard (4)
- Common area of apartment complex (5)
- School or daycare, indoors or outdoors (6)
- Vehicle (7)
- Other place (Please describe) (8) _____
- Don't know/Not sure (9)

SK4.3 Was [the/any] victim taken from a group of children?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK4.4 How would you characterize the perpetrator's initial approach? (Please respond to all options.)

	No (1)	Yes (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Deceptive or non-threatening pretext (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Surprise (laying in wait, using stealth) or blitz (sudden, overwhelming force) (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other type of approach (Please describe) (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SK4.5 Did [the/any] victim go with the perpetrator voluntarily (even if duped)?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK4.6 During the incident did the perpetrator take or move [the/any] victim in or to any of the following... (Please answer all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
A vehicle? (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A building? (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The perpetrator's home? (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
An outside area, like woods? (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SK4.7 Did the perpetrator use physical force or any kind of threat in taking or moving [the/any] victim from their original location?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

Box 14
 If SK2.11<6 (victim was detained) or SK2.11=7 (don't know), go to SK4.8.
 If SK2.11=6 (not detained), go to Box 15.

SK4.8 Did the perpetrator use any kind of force or threat during the time [the/any] victim was detained?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK4.9 How isolated was the location where the victim was detained?

- Very isolated (1)
- Probably isolated (2)
- Not isolated (3)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4)

Isolated means the child was not able to leave on his or her own and had no opportunity to appeal for help.

Box 15

If SK4.7=1 (force or threat while taking/moving) or SK4.8=1 (force/threat during detainment), go to SK4.10.
Otherwise go to SK4.11.

SK4.10 Did the perpetrator use force or threaten [the/any] victim in any of the following ways during the crime? (Please respond to all statements.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Threaten a child with or use a weapon? (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Harm or threaten to harm a child's family or pets? (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Force the child to walk somewhere (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other use of force (Describe) (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SK4.11 During the abduction or detainment, did [any] perpetrator... (Please respond to all statements.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Physically assault a child victim? (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neglect a victim's basic needs (food, water, shelter, medical treatment, etc.)? (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sexually assault a child victim? (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drug a child victim? (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rob a child victim or damage or destroy their belongings? (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Harm the child some other way (Please describe) (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SK4.12 Is there any indication that this crime was connected with ... (Answer all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Youth gang activity (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drug trafficking (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sex trafficking (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Serial killings (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other criminal networks or conspiracies (Describe) (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SK4.13 Is there any indication that the internet played a role in prior contact between a perpetrator and victim or in leading up to the abduction encounter?

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ SK5.1
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK5.1

SK4.14 Please describe the role the internet played.

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

INVESTIGATION

SK5.1 Was this case submitted to ... (Please answer all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
FBI's Violent Criminal Apprehension system (VICAP)? (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National Crime Information Center (NCIC)? (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC)? (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SK5.2 Did a NCMEC Project Alert team participate in the investigation?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK5.3 Was a DNA profile entered into CODIS (Combined DNA Index System)?

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ SK5.5
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK5.5

SK5.4 Was a match found?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK5.5 Was a telephone hotline established?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK5.6 Was a leads management system established?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK5.7 Was an Amber Alert issued?

- Yes (1) _____ SK5.9
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK5.11

SK5.8 Why wasn't an Amber Alert issued? (Please answer all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Child was quickly recovered (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
No reasonable belief an abduction had occurred (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child was not in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insufficient information about child, vehicle, etc. to issue Amber Alert (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other reason (Please describe) (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Box 16

If SK5.7=2 (no Amber Alert), go to SK5.11.

SK5.9 Did the Amber Alert result in any information that helped to locate or recover the child or identify the perpetrator?

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ SK5.11
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK5.11

SK5.10 Please describe how the Amber Alert helped to locate and recover the child? [TEXT ENTRY] _____

SK5.11 Did electronic devices such as cell phones or computers provide evidence, leads, or other information that was key to recovering [the/any] victim or identifying the perpetrator?

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ SK5.13
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK5.13

SK5.12 Please describe how electronic devices provided evidence, leads or other information. [TEXT ENTRY] _____

SK5.13 Is there anything else that would be important to know about this case? [TEXT ENTRY] _____

Box 17

If respondent has no additional surveys to complete, go to ENDSURVEY3.
If respondent has additional surveys to complete, go to ENDSURVEY4.

ENDSURVEY1 We are only including certain incidents in this study and this case does not qualify. There are no further questions. Thank you for your time.

ENDSURVEY2 We are only including certain incidents in this study and this case does not qualify. Please use this link to access questions about your next case that may qualify for this study: [To be added].

ENDSURVEY3 Thank you for completing this survey. We appreciate your help and your contribution to understanding the problem of child kidnapping.

ENDSURVEY4 Thank you for completing this survey. We appreciate your help and your contribution to understanding the problem of child kidnapping. Please use this link to access questions about your next case that may qualify for this study: [To be added].

4. Designing an LES-FA to Estimate Family Abduction

Our proposal is to use the LES-SK-type methodology to also make counts of Family Abduction from a sample of law enforcement agencies (LEAs) selected and surveyed in a similar way as the Stereotypical kidnappings.

Benefits

- It would be a relatively low-cost strategy to satisfy the statutory requirement about parental kidnappings.
- It could provide very valuable information about the law enforcement practices around the management of FA cases.

The design would entail using a similar sampling approach to that used in selecting LEAs as has been used in the SK study. In the 2011 NISMART LES-SK, this meant selecting a sample of 400 (county and county-cluster) PSUs, which included 433 counties. In the LES-SK the design included all law enforcement agencies located in those counties (4,644), but the LES-FA may adopt a different approach, as discussed below. The request letter would ask officials to identify cases of children in their records who had been abducted by family members over a one-year time period, provided to us online or hardcopy format. For large agencies, we might need to select a subsample from this list. We could then ask to interview the investigator or someone with a copy of the case record as in the LES-SK, or we could ask the agency to fill in an online form on the case. Project staff will follow up by phone to interview non-respondents and conduct data-retrieval on answers to key items that are confusing or missing in the online responses.

This is a strategy that has been used very successfully not only in the LES-SK but also in the N-JOV studies (Wolak, Mitchell and Finkelhor, 2003, 2010, 2011), which entailed many more cases known to LE than with Stranger Kidnapping.⁸ In N-JOV, we were asking police to enumerate all sex crimes against children that had some internet component and that had occurred over the course of a year. In organizing the participation of large agencies, we have typically had a single interviewer who negotiates with the agency about the optimal way to create the list and identify the respondents and who conducts the interviews.

⁸ The N-JOV3 collected over 4,000 cases from LEAs, over 2000 of which met that study's eligibility requirements.

An initial mailing with hard-copy is cost effective. The hard-copy mail form worked well through two cycles of the LES-SK. Westat's 2014-5 implementation of the BJS Annual Survey of Probation and Parole Agencies (ASPP) also demonstrated the success of the online response format when combined with mailed pre-notices and invitations to the website and then followed by telephone contact and, as needed, additional mail reminders. The ASPP obtained a 90% response rate from 476 agencies targeted for recruitment. The Census of Adult Probation-Serving Agencies (CAPSA) similarly showed the success of online data collection from agencies, which obtained a 79% response rate from nearly 1,500 public agencies. These completed the relatively long survey (68 questions taking about an hour) by logging in to do so on their own schedule (even in multiple sessions, as their time allowed).

In the interview with investigators, information would be gathered about the characteristics of victims, perpetrators and aggrieved caregivers. Other key elements to be ascertained: whether the whereabouts of the child was known, whether the child was endangered, whether the LEA deemed this episode to be a missing child, whether the child was reported to the NCIC or the state Missing Children Clearinghouse (MCCH), what steps the agency took to recover the child, and whether the child was indeed returned to the caregiver.

Possible Problems

Some concerns that this addition to the LES-SK might raise are the following:

- If it were done in complete conjunction with the LES-SK, would it impair in some way the participation rate for the LES-SK by increasing the perceived burden on agencies? This addition of FA cases would be asking considerably more from agencies. Compared to SK which entailed a few hundred cases nationwide, FA cases known to LEAs number 30,000, so many agencies that had only minor inconvenience to accommodate the SK request might have much more burden to accommodate the FA request.

However, our experience with N-JOVs suggests that a larger burden on agencies does not impair participation rates. In NJOV-3, conducted in 2010 and 2011, 2,653 law enforcement agencies responded to a mail survey asking them to list arrests for internet-facilitated sex crimes against minors, reflecting 86% of the agency sample. They listed more than 4,000 such cases; the researchers drew a sample of these for in-depth interviews about the case details and succeeded in completing nearly two-thirds (64%) of the targeted interviews. The study generated a national estimate of 8,144 arrests for internet-facilitated sex crimes against minors.

- Would it be feasible to find cases? Because of the electronic data bases in most LEAs, searching for family abductions should be feasible. Moreover, it appears that capabilities are improving at an accelerating pace. The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) has just announced the award of \$24.2 million to LEAs to support infrastructure for national and consistent crime reporting (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2016).
- Because of variability in agencies and communities, would it prove very hard to get comparable cases from all jurisdictions? In other words, would the records in some agencies include some systematically different types of cases than others? Such differences might be due to statute or to agency practices, and they might vary according to the expectations of different communities in how willing they are to involve police in family matters.

This issue could be addressed with some pilot testing. Some exploration and testing of this problem may also be feasible after the first data collection is accomplished. Some general questions could be asked as part of the agency recruitment about whether the agency has any criteria for accepting a case for investigation.

- Recovery information on cases may be incomplete. It is likely that case resolution information will be available for cases that were reported to the NCIC as a missing child. But for other FAs that were custody disputes and that were not filed as missing, the resolution information may be less complete. There may even be some cases where very little case detail is available. Some effort will need to be made in the study to estimate the proportion of cases with missing information.

To Explore

Can we confirm that current computerized data management systems are widespread enough and comprehensive enough to make searching relatively easy? This info is in something called the LEMAS, <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/lpd13et.pdf>

Inferences from an ABA Study

The feasibility of a law enforcement survey of family abduction is largely confirmed by the experience of an earlier such survey (Grasso et al., 2001), which was conducted by the American Bar Association and Westat. That study aimed, among other goals, at estimating the number of family abduction cases known to law enforcement for 1992 used a methodology somewhat similar to the current NISMART LES, for which it was a precursor. A nationally representative sample of 400 counties were drawn with the 104 largest counties selected with certainty. A total of 3625 municipal and 405 county LEAs were identified in those counties. A four-step mail questionnaire process was used to get information from the agencies about family abduction cases. The agencies

provided the aggregate counts. No direct phone interviewing was done of the investigators about the cases, as is done in the LES-SK.

Several conclusions from this study are encouraging.

- The participation rate was high. 76.6% of all agencies and 80.4% of the eligible agencies completed the mail survey. This was in an era when searches of agency data bases was not yet as computerized as they are today.
- 40-50% of all the cases estimated to exist came from the agencies actually targeted in the survey. This confirms that a strategy targeting the large agencies captured many of the existing cases.
- The confidence interval of the estimate was relatively narrow, the estimate being 30,536, (CI 27,227-33,845), meaning that a change of 14% could be detected by subsequent equivalent samples.
- High percentages of agencies (71.7%) reported that all calls they receive about a custody cases result in the production of a written report when the call concerned an allegation that a child was being kept, concealed or wrongly taken. Again this was in an era before most agencies had electronic dispatch tracking systems.
- The study should be even less burdensome for LEAs today because of computerized information management systems.

The findings and procedures from the ABA study do nonetheless leave some questions that a new study would have to consider.

Possible underestimate of cases. The 1990 NISMART estimated that caregivers contacted police about 155,800 family abducted children. This is about 5 times more than the estimate that the ABA arrived at by surveying LEAs. One source of discrepancy is that the LEA survey was of cases, not distinct children. But this discrepancy may indicate that there were a large number of calls that police (at least at that time) did not record or did not classify as abductions or criminal matters. It could mean that LEAs did not do a very thorough job of identifying cases in their records. It could also reflect the possibility that NISMART had a broader definition of family abduction than that used by law enforcement. Or caregivers may not have given NISMART interviewers reliable accounts of what they did.

Solution: This disjunction between population survey estimates and agency-based estimates is a reality almost universal in epidemiology. It highlights the fact that agency-based estimates may be vulnerable to agency practices, record keeping and enumeration

efforts. But as with UCR, NIBRS, and NCANDS data collection, these agency tallies have proven to be useful in public policy nonetheless.

Consistent definition of family abduction. The ABA study gave agencies only a relatively simple and non-detailed definition of what kinds of cases were sought. (See Exhibit 1, table used in the Grasso et al. data collection, which LEAs completed.) It specified “criminal reports of parental or familial abduction” where a family member “was alleged to have wrongfully taken, kept or concealed a child or youth from another parent or legal guardian.” Questions might be raised about what what interpretations agencies may have given to the terms “criminal” or “wrongfully” and in particular whether these were interpreted from the point of view of the agency or the complainant. It should also be noted that no information was specified or gathered about whether the episode involved a “missing child,” that is, a child whose whereabouts were unknown.

Solution: This shortcoming in the ABA study might be remedied in a NISMART LES in two ways. First, more detailed definitions and criteria could be given to the agencies in selecting the cases. Second, more data could be collected about the cases (through interviews or SAQs of the investigators) so that consistent definitional criteria could be applied.

Exhibit 1. Response table used in Grasso et al. (2001) data collection

CRIMINAL REPORTS OF PARENTAL OR FAMILIAL ABDUCTED CHILDREN IN CALENDAR YEAR 1992			
4. Please give us the number of criminal reports of parental or familial abduction your department received in 1992 in each of the following categories. Put an asterisk (*) next to any numbers that are estimates. Include ONLY those reports relating to your agency's jurisdiction in the county named on the cover page label.			
	Total Number Reported	Number Resulting In Arrest	Number Referred to the Prosecutor
a. Abductions by Parents or Their Agents: A parent or parent's agent (e.g., boyfriend, private investigator, etc.) was alleged to have wrongfully taken, kept, or concealed a child/youth from another parent or legal guardian.	_____	_____	_____
b. Abductions by Other Family Members or Their Agents: Another family member or this person's agent (e.g., boyfriend, private investigator, etc.) was alleged to have wrongfully taken, kept, or concealed a child/youth from the child's parent or legal guardian. (INCLUDE ONLY THOSE CASES NOT LISTED UNDER a ABOVE).	_____	_____	_____

The ABA study seems to confirm that a LES could be used to derive a fairly precise estimate of Family Abductions and that response rates and cooperation would likely be quite high. However, the ABA study had a very short instrument and asked only for aggregate data. By adding a component to the ABA methodology that involves getting more details about individual cases, it may be possible to apply a more consistent definition and also ascertain the “missingness” of the children.

Family Abduction or “Missing” Family Abduction

A key design question for a LES on family abduction is whether to count only FAs where a child is deemed to be missing, or, as an alternative, also to count FAs where the child’s location is known, but he/she is not where the caretaker believes the child ought to be. This would be the case where a parent says, “My ex-husband has the child at his home in Cincinnati and is refusing to return him to me now that school vacation is over.”

In the NISMART household survey, family abduction was defined independently of whether the child’s location was known. Then caregivers were asked about whether the child’s location was known. If police had been contacted, they were also asked whether that contact was for the purpose of locating a missing child or for some other reason (e.g., to report a crime). This tiered sequence allowed NISMART to ascertain that in at least **half** of the police contacts about family abduction the caregivers **did know** the location of the child.

In principle, it would be possible to ask LEAs to identify FAs whether the child was missing or not, and then for the study to ascertain through a review of case information whether the child’s whereabouts were known and/or whether the child was treated as a missing child. This would involve having the officer providing the case-level data check the case record for what information was given about the child’s whereabouts. It could also involve ascertaining if a missing child report was filed about this child with the NCIC or the state MCCH. This approach would provide the most comprehensive and nuanced data about the problem and also give information about the degree to which family abduction is indeed a problem of literally missing children. This point about the fact that many FA kids are not literally missing may be one of the more important findings about the FA problem that is worth emphasizing and educating people about through the NISMART studies. Moreover, this approach would fully address the legislative mandate in that it would provide the estimates to address that mandate regardless of whether one reads it to mean only the missing abducted children or all abducted children.

As an alternative, the LES-FA could focus just on FAs that were reported as missing to NCIC or the state MCCH. The possible advantages to just counting “missing” family abducted children, include the following. The count of missing FA kids might be accomplished very easily using the data from the state MCCH in states where clearinghouses collect such data. The count would nest into the total of all MC more readily. This “missing” portion probably reflects the most serious of the FA cases.

However, we strongly recommend the approach that identifies FAs more broadly, irrespective of whether the child was missing.

Recommendations

- A LES study to estimate FAs in law enforcement records should be undertaken.
- The study should obtain case-level data (using a methodology closer to the LES-SK and the N-JOV than to the ABA study, which obtained agency-aggregate data only).
- While the PSU/Counties sample will be drawn similarly in all these studies (400 PSUs comprising counties and county-clusters), the LES-FA should subsample in some way because of the large number of family abduction cases anticipated. If the national total of family abductions is close to 30,000 (as the ABA study indicated) and if the 400-PSU sample design includes close to one-half of that number of cases in its sample (as occurred in the LES-SK1, the LES-SK2, the N-JOV3, and the ABA study), then the LEAs in the sampled counties will have reports on about 15,000 family abductions during the study year. The LES-FA will not need nearly that number of cases to provide precise estimates—about 4,000 cases should suffice. Further design work is needed to consider the method of sampling to obtain that total, whether to sample agencies within PSUs (which would reduce the recruitment labor and hence study costs) or cases within agencies (which would reduce the agency burden and enhance response rates), or some combination of both strategies.
- The LES-FA should use a self-administered online instrument or, when needed but not routinely, direct interviews with the investigators or someone with the case record in order to get details on the case. (Various justice system surveys show that such methods can be successful and obtain high rates of LE cooperation.)
- A broad definition for the search should be given to the agencies, including any cases of contact in which a caregiver was trying to recover a child from a family member who was deemed not to have a right to the child at that time.
- Some key goals of the data collection will be to ascertain from among these cases how many of the children:
 - a. Had whereabouts that were unknown

- b. Were deemed to be in danger
 - c. Had some recovery action performed by police
 - d. Were reported as missing children to MCCH and NCIC
 - e. Were recovered
- This study should be implemented separately from the LES-SK, so as not to impair the participation in the LES-SK by asking too much of agencies at one time.
 - Piloting activity need not be extensive for this study. Prior studies such as the ABA LES-SK and the N-JOVS suggest that this methodology works. The questionnaire can be pretested with a small number of informants and the adequacy of the questionnaire and the definitions can be vetted by advisory groups. After the first administration of the LES-FA, analysis may suggest some modifications and alterations to the methods or the questionnaire.

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Definitional Elements for the LES-FA

The following are some important elements of the Family Abduction data collection, and proposed definitions for these elements.

Family abduction

The taking or keeping of a child by a family member in violation of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding about custody or visitation rights

Family member

A biological, adoptive, step- or foster family member; someone acting on behalf of such a family member; or the romantic partner of a parent

Missing child

Report was made to the MCH or the NCIC

Whereabouts unknown

The person who reported this incident did not have an address, telephone number or other information that works to contact the child or the perpetrator.

Endangerment

Caregiver believed that child was at risk of physical assault, sexual abuse, physical injury, or health problem in the company of the perpetrator.

Recovery

Child was returned or came back to the custody of the aggrieved caregiver

Violation of custody agreement

An aggrieved parent is stating that a specific part of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding about custody or visitation rights has been violated

Draft Self-Administered LES-FA Questionnaire

PREFACE

The LES-FA methodology to collect data about family abductions will closely replicate the methodology of the proposed LES-SK (stereotypical kidnappings). The LES-FA also will use a streamlined instrument to collect case-level data, the LES-FA SAQ, which can be self-administered online by law enforcement respondents or administered by telephone interviewers.

As with LES-SK, the LES-FA will obtain a sample of family abduction cases through a survey of law enforcement agencies located in a national sample of counties. The sampling method is not yet finalized and will probably differ somewhat from that used to collect data about stereotypical kidnappings because family abductions occur much more frequently.

LES-FA data collection will occur in two phases. In the first phase, the researchers will send the sample agencies a mail survey using either a hard-copy mailed questionnaire or electronic mail. The mail survey will ask agencies to list case numbers of any family abductions investigated in their jurisdiction during the time frame determined for the survey. The researchers will sub-sample cases in agencies with large numbers of such incidents. Agencies will be asked to provide names and contact information, including email addresses, for primary investigating officers for each selected case.

In the second phase, the researchers will contact the primary investigator for each selected case and provide them with a link to the LES-FA SAQ to obtain details of the case. Researchers will use email to provide the link when an email address is provided and a letter when there is no email address. Researchers also will give reminders to non-responders via email or telephone call, and telephone interviewers will call respondents to obtain data if they do not complete an online survey.

The online surveys that respondents sign into will have unique login identification numbers and will automatically indicate the agency and case that is the subject of the online survey. The instructions to the LES-SK SAQ will direct respondents to refer to agency records of the incident when they fill out the survey. The research team will review submitted surveys for completeness and contact respondents when necessary to resolve questions, acquire missing data and understand ambiguous descriptions.

An IRB-approved explanation of the survey and confidentiality will be provided at the beginning of the LES-FA SAQ and for the mail survey. The SAQ will also provide contact information for the research team (email, telephone) for respondents to use if they have questions.

PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS

FA1 Please give your contact information here so the researchers can reach you with any questions after they review your survey. This information will be deleted as soon as the research team verifies that your survey is complete.

- Name and title (1) _____
- Telephone number (2) _____
- Email address (3) _____

NISMARTLES-FA Definitions of Family Abduction and Family Member

FA2 Your agency's case number for this investigation is [number will be provided].

Please confirm that this incident involves a family member who took or kept a child in violation of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding about custody or visitation rights.

A family member includes 1) a biological, adoptive, step or foster family member, 2) someone acting on behalf of such a family member, or 3) the romantic partner of a parent.

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

Box 1

If FA2=2 (case is not FA) or FA2=3 (don't know) and respondent has no additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY1.
If FA2=2 or FA2=3 and respondent has additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY2.

NISMARTLES-FA Time Frame

FA3 Was this violation of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding reported between [time frame to be established]?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

Box 2

If FA3=2 (case not in time frame) or FA3=3 (don't know) and respondent has no additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY1. If FA3=2 or FA3=3 and respondent has additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY2.

NISMARTLES-FA Criteria for Missing Child

FA4 Did your agency make a missing child report about a child involved in this incident to ... (Please respond to both options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
National Crime Information Center (NCIC)? (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your state's Missing Child Clearing House? (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

NISMARTLES-FA criteria for Qualifying Family Abduction

FA5 Did a perpetrator in this incident ... (Please respond to all statements.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Attempt to <u>conceal</u> the taking or whereabouts of a child with the intent to prevent return, contact or visitation? (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<u>Transport</u> or intend to transport a child from the state for the purpose of making recovery more difficult? (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Intend to <u>prevent contact</u> with a child on an indefinite basis? (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Intend to <u>affect custodial privileges</u> indefinitely? (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Box 3

If none of the answers to FA5 = 1 (Yes), and respondent has no additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY1. If none of the answers to FA5 = 1 and respondent has additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY2.

FA6 Did the person who reported this incident primarily want law enforcement to...

- Locate and recover a child whose whereabouts were not known, or (1)
- Recover a child whose whereabouts were known? (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4)

NISMARTLES-FA Definition of Whereabouts Unknown

FA7 Did the person who reported this incident have an address, telephone number or other information that worked to contact the child or the perpetrator?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

NISMART LES-FA Definition of Violation of Custody Agreement

FA8 Did the person who reported this incident state that a specific part of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding about custody or visitation rights had been violated?

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ FA10
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ FA10

FA9 What were the conditions of the court order, written agreement or mutual understanding that this episode violated?

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

NISMART LES-FA Endangerment Categories

FA10 Did the person who reported this incident believe that a child was at risk of any of the following while in the company of the perpetrator? (Please respond to all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Physical assault (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sexual assault (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neglect of basic needs (food, shelter, supervision, etc.) (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neglect of medical needs (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other health problem (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Physical injury (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

NISMART LES-FA Narrative of Incident

FA11 Please describe briefly what happened during this episode. To the best of your knowledge, how did it take place and why? What happened to the child or children during and after the incident? [TEXT ENTRY] _____

FA12 Did your agency ultimately determine that this incident was a criminal matter or a civil matter?

- Criminal matter (1)
- Civil matter (2) _____ FA15
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ FA15

FA13 Did your agency consider this to be an abduction or kidnapping?

- Yes (1) _____ FA15
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

FA14 What type of criminal incident did your agency consider this to be?

- Custodial interference (1)
- Child endangerment (2)
- Denial of access to a child (3)
- Something else (Please describe) (4) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (5)

CHILD CHARACTERISTICS

FA15 Next are questions about each child involved in this incident. First, did this incident involve more than one child victim?

- Yes (Enter number of child victims) (1) _____
- No, 1 child victim (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

FA16 Is this child a boy or a girl?

- Boy (1)
- Girl (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

If more than one child was involved, please start with the oldest.

FA17 How old was this child when this incident was first reported to police?

- Less than 1 year old (1)
- 1 year old or older (Please enter age in years) (2) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

FA18 Is this child Hispanic or Latino/a?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

FA19 What is this child's race?

- White (1)
- Black or African American (2)
- American Indian or Alaska Native (3)
- Asian (4)
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (5)
- Other (Please describe) (6) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (7)

FA20 Did the person who reported this incident have sole or joint custody of this child based on a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding?

- Yes, sole custody (1)
- Yes, joint custody (2)
- No, did not have custody (3)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4)

Box 4

If FA15=1 (multiple children) and FA20=3 (no custody) or FA20=4 (don't know) go to Box 8.
If FA15=2 (one child) and FA20=3 or FA20=4 and respondent has no additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY1.
If FA15=2 and FA20=3 or FA20=4 and respondent has additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY2.

FA21 How was the person who reported this incident related to this child as a family member?

A family member includes 1) a biological, adoptive, step or foster family member, 2) someone acting on behalf of such a family member, or 3) the romantic partner of a parent.

- Biological or adoptive mother (1)
- Biological or adoptive father (2)
- Step-mother (3)
- Step-father (4)
- Other relative such as grandparent, aunt, etc. [This option will pull up a pre-coded list.] (5)
- Foster parent (6)
- Legal guardian (7)
- Romantic partner of a parent, or (8)
- Someone acting on behalf of a family member [This option will pull up a pre-coded list.] (9)
- Someone else? (Please describe) (10) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (11)

FA22 Was the perpetrator a family member of this child or acting on behalf of a family member of this child?

A family member includes 1) a biological, adoptive, step or foster family member, 2) someone acting on behalf of such a family member, or 3) the romantic partner of a parent.

- Yes, a family member (1)
- Yes, acting on behalf of a family member (2)
- No (3)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4)

Box 5

If FA15=1 (multiple children) and FA22=3 (perpetrator not family member) or FA22=4 (don't know) go to Box 8.
If FA15=2 (one child) and FA22=3 or FA22=4 and respondent has no additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY1.
If FA15=2 (one child) and FA22=3 or FA22=4 and respondent has additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY2.
If FA20=2 (the reporter had joint custody) and FA22=1 (perpetrator was family member) or FA22=2 (perpetrator was acting on behalf of a family member) go to FA23.
Otherwise go to FA25.

FA23 Did the family member responsible for this incident share joint custody of this child with the person who reported it?

Answer "Yes" if the person responsible was acting on behalf of a family member who shared joint custody with the reporter of the incident.

- Yes (1) _____ FA25
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ FA25

FA24 Who shared joint custody of this child with the person who reported this incident? [TEXT ENTRY] _____

FA25 How was the perpetrator related to the child? Was the perpetrator a...

- Biological or adoptive mother of the child (1)
- Biological or adoptive father of the child (2)
- Step-mother (3)
- Step-father (4)
- Other relative such as grandparent, aunt, etc. [This option will pull up a pre-coded list.](5)
- Foster parent (6)
- Legal guardian (7)
- Romantic partner of a parent (8)
- Someone acting on behalf of a family member? [This option will pull up a pre-coded list.](9)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (10)

FA26 What parents did this child live with when this incident began?

- Two married biological parents (1)
- Two married parents, one or both not biological, but both having a legal relationship to the child, such as adoption (2)
- Two unmarried parents, biological or other (3)
- One unmarried parent with a live-in partner who was not the child's parent) (4)
- A single parent (no live-in partner) (5)
- No parent (6)
- Other situation (Please describe) (9) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (10)

FA27 As far as you know, did this child have any serious or permanent physical or mental disabilities, impairments or life threatening medical conditions when this incident was reported to police?

- Yes (Please describe) (1) _____
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

Box 6

If FA6=1 (reporter primarily wanted LE to locate and recover child whose whereabouts were unknown) go to FA28. If FA6=2 (reporter primarily wanted LE to recover a child whose whereabouts were known) go to FA29.

NISMARTLES-FA Definition of Recovery

FA28 What was the outcome of this incident for this child?

- Returned home (1) _____ FA31
- Located, but not returned (2) _____ FA30
- Not returned and not located (3) _____ FA33
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4) _____ FA34

NISMARTLES-FA Definition of Recovery

FA29 What was the outcome of this incident for this child?

- Returned home (1) _____ FA31
- Not returned home (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4) _____ FA34

FA30 Please explain why the child was not returned.

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

Box 7

If FA28=2 (the child was located but not returned) go to FA32.
If FA29=2 (the child was not returned) go to FA33.

FA31 How long did the perpetrator keep the child in violation of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding about custody or visitation before the child was returned home? (Your best estimate is fine.) Please enter the number of hours, days, weeks or months below.

- Hours (1) _____
- Days (2) _____
- Weeks (3) _____
- Months (4) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (5)

FA32 How long did the perpetrator keep the child in violation of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding about custody or visitation before the child was located? (Your best estimate is fine.) Please enter the number of hours, days, weeks or months below.

- Hours (1) _____
- Days (2) _____
- Weeks (3) _____
- Months (4) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (5)

FA33 How long has the perpetrator kept the child in violation of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding about custody or visitation? (Your best estimate is fine.) Please enter the number of hours, days, weeks or months below.

- Hours (1) _____
- Days (2) _____
- Weeks (3) _____
- Months (4) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (5)

FA34 To the best of your knowledge, did this child suffer any physical or sexual abuse, neglect or injury during this episode?

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ Box 8
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ Box 8

FA35 Did any of the following occur? (Please respond to all statements.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
The child was <u>sexually abused</u> (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The child was <u>physically abused</u> (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The child's <u>basic needs</u> were <u>neglected</u> (food, supervision) (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The child's <u>medical needs</u> were <u>neglected</u> (medications, medical care) (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The child suffered an <u>accidental injury</u> that required medical attention (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Something else (Please describe) (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Box 8

If FA15=1 (multiple children), questions FA16—FA35 will repeat for each child. After last child, go to FA36.

PERPETRATOR CHARACTERISTICS

FA36 Did this incident involve more than one perpetrator?

- Yes (Enter number of perpetrators) (1) _____
- No, 1 perpetrator (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

FA37 Was the perpetrator male or female?

- Male (1)
- Female (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

If more than one perpetrator, please answer the following questions about the family member who was most responsible for the incident.

FA38 As far as you know, what was this perpetrator's age at the time of the report?

- Teens (1)
- 20s (2)
- 30s (3)
- 40s (4)
- 50s (5)
- 60s (6)
- 70s (7)
- 80s (8)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (9)

FA39 Is he/she of Hispanic or Latino origin?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

FA40 What is his/her race?

- White (1)
- Black or African American (2)
- American Indian or Alaska Native (3)
- Asian (4)
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (5)
- Other (Please describe) (6) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (7)

CRIME CHARACTERISTICS

FA41 As part of this incident, did the perpetrator take a child to another state or country?

If more than one child, please answer the next questions about all of the children involved in the incident.

- Yes, another state (1)
- Yes, another country (2)
- No (3) _____ FA43
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4) _____ FA43

FA42 Did the perpetrator take a child to another state or country for any of these reasons? (Please respond to all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
To take a vacation (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To go to the perpetrator's residence (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To visit relatives (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To make the recovery or return of a child more difficult (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To make contact with a child more difficult (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

FA43 Did the perpetrator do any of the following at any point during this incident? (Please respond to all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Threaten violence to a child (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use force against a child (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use a weapon to threaten or harm a child (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Threaten violence to any other person (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use force against any other person (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use a weapon to threaten or harm any other person (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

POLICE INVESTIGATION

FA44 How did your agency respond to the report? (Please respond to all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
<u>Took a report</u> over the telephone (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<u>Sent officers to the child's household</u> or to the scene (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<u>Interviewed</u> household members (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Made a <u>written report</u> (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Got <u>photos</u> of the child or children (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<u>Collected evidence</u> such as fingerprints or inventory (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<u>Questioned witnesses</u> or suspects (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<u>Conducted a search</u> for the child/children (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Contacted <u>NCMEC</u> (11)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Made an <u>arrest</u> (12)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Investigated or responded in other ways (Please describe) (13)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

FA45 Did your agency bring other agencies into the investigation or refer the case to another agency?

- Yes, brought other agency or agencies into the investigation (1)
- Yes, referred the case to another agency (2)
- No (3)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4)

Box 9

If FA45=3 (did not bring in or refer to other agencies) or FA45=4 (don't know) and respondent has no additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY3. If FA45=3 or FA45=4 and respondent has additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY4.

FA46 What agencies were brought into the investigation or did you refer the case to? Please list each agency by name, county and state.

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

Box 10

If FA45=1 or FA45=2 (brought in or referred to other agencies), and respondent has no additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY3. If FA45=1 or FA45=2 and respondent has additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY4.

ENDSURVEY1 We are only including certain incidents in this study and this case does not qualify. There are no further questions about this case. Thank you for your time.

ENDSURVEY2 We are only including certain incidents in this study and this case does not qualify. Please use this link to access questions about your next case that may qualify for this study: [To be added].

ENDSURVEY3 Thank you for completing this survey. We appreciate your help and your contribution to understanding the problem of children abducted by family members.

ENDSURVEY4 Thank you for completing this survey. We appreciate your help and your contribution to understanding the problem of children abducted by family members. Please use this link to access questions about your next case that may qualify for this study: [To be added].

5. Designing an LES-MC to Estimate Missing Children and Recovery

Background Considerations

Because of the response rate problems and likely expense involved in a household survey to count missing children, we have recommended that the OJJDP fulfill the requirements of the Missing Children statute by using a law enforcement agency survey (LES) to estimate two other categories of MC required by statute: missing children reported to police and missing children whose recovery is known to police.

The statutory language states: *“The Administrator (of OJJDP) . . . (will) periodically conduct national incidence studies to determine for the given year the actual number of children reported missing each year, the number of children who are victims of abduction by strangers, the number of children who are victims of parental kidnappings, and the number of children who are recovered.”*

The statutory language asks for the number of “reported missing” and from this standpoint, missing child cases “reported to law enforcement” are certainly responsive to the statute. In addition, the request for the “number of children who are recovered” also could very reasonably be interpreted as “known to be recovered by law enforcement.”

If all that is needed is a simple count of missing-child events, the NCIC data that is posted each year could in principle provide that. Admittedly, it is not unduplicated to the child level, so a given child might be entered multiple times depending on the number of their episodes during the year. Also, circumstances of the missing event are only entered for slightly less than one-half of the cases entered. Among those, runaways comprised almost 96% of the cases for each of the years during the 2011-2015 period. Noncustodial parent abductions were less than 1% (0.7% or 0.8% in each of those years), and nonfamily abductions were far less (0.1%).

But the NCIC information is severely limited by (1) the fact that the circumstances are not available for more than half of the cases entered, and (2) the circumstances that are indicated are very rudimentary—certainly not of a standard that would be helpful to policymakers and service practitioners. Thus, we advise an approach that collects more detailed case information from law enforcement records.

While an LES-based estimate of missing children will certainly be smaller than a household estimate, and will lack some of the details from the caregivers' point of view, an LES-based estimate has some distinct advantages:

- It will have many more details about the law enforcement response to and management of missing children reports.
- It will represent the dimensions and characteristics of the problem that are closest to practitioners and policy makers
- It can be completed more quickly and cheaply than a household survey.
- It can potentially form the template for a data collection system that could be integrated at some point into other existing data systems, such as the state missing children clearinghouses, or the federal NIBRS or NCIC.

We believe that a strong strategy can be designed to get counts required by statute and at the same time case details of these missing child episodes using a sample of LEAs with an expanded design relatively similar to the current LES-SK. Much has changed since the 1980s in the systematization of agency records that would make searching, sampling and data retrieval easier.

This project, which we label LES-MC, should be separate from the LES-SK and LES-FA so as not to interfere with the other counts. In addition, in order to expedite record searching, it should cover a shorter reference period than a full year. It would be manageable to LEAs if it asked them to search records for episodes that occur during a one-month period, and specified the one-month period at least 6 months in the past so that recovery information could be available by the time of data collection.

From previous NISMARTs and from the NCIC we can estimate that the number of missing children reported to (or known to) police is likely to be in the hundreds of thousands. Based on the NISMART caregivers survey in 2011, we estimated that in the course of a year 238,000 reports of MC were made to law enforcement from caregivers. As an alternative estimate of magnitude, the NCIC listed 460,700 missing person entries for youth under 18 in 2015.

The vast majority of these missing children reported to police, as estimated in NISMART-2 in 1999, involved runaways (45%) or benign missing (43%) episodes (episodes where a miscommunication or misunderstanding resulted in parental concern prompting a call to police). So the study can expect to accommodate an estimate of 200,000-500,000, a large number that dictates a

different strategy than the approach that is workable for Stranger Kidnaping (est. 100) or even Family Abduction known to police (est. 30,000).

As background to planning estimation strategies, it is possible to think of missing children cases as identifiable at 4 levels within the LE system: (1) the dispatch level, where dispatchers enter logs on calls they get about events; (2) the case report level, where LE officers describe and record the nature of cases and actions they took; (3) the state missing children's clearinghouse (MCCH), to which all MC cases are supposed to be reported; and (4) the NCIC to which all MC cases are supposed to be reported.

In our interviews with law enforcement officials, we have been led to believe that levels 3 and 4 are nearly identical—that reports to clearinghouses almost always are also reported to NCIC. It is not possible to obtain NCIC data for the study, since the NCIC is barred from use for research purposes. So we will focus on the clearinghouses. Clearinghouses could be used in MC estimation strategies and they could be validated against NCIC totals.

Possible strategy 1:

Find MC cases through a review of cases filed with state clearinghouses. Training and statute dictate to agencies that MC cases need to be reported to clearinghouses and NCIC. A plausible approach is to assume that most important MC cases are so reported.

Advantage: this strategy is relatively easy and can be done with the cooperation of a fairly small number of people and agencies.

Disadvantage: state clearinghouses are organized differently and have different functions in different states; they may not include a substantial number of reported cases

One of the major policy problems commonly raised by MC stakeholders is the question of how systematically cases known to local LE actually do get reported to MCCH and NCIC. There may be tremendous variability in how MCCHs function and what state and local practices entail. A strategy relying on the MCCH alone would not answer this question.

Possible strategy 2:

Find cases at local level among police reports. This strategy would involve selecting a national sample of agencies and gathering information from the agency in 2 stages: first having each agency complete a questionnaire (on paper or online) or provide an electronic file listing from their records management system that enumerates all contacts about missing children. Ideally, this would

be done through a review of dispatch records. In the second stage, the study would have someone from the agency fill out an online questionnaire or be interviewed by a phone interviewer about the information in those records (or a representative sample of those records).

Advantage: this strategy would address the question of whether there are a substantial number of cases that do not get reported to the MCCH and would identify the characteristics those cases.

Disadvantage: This approach is more time-consuming and burdensome for agencies.

Possible strategy 3:

Hybrid approach. MC clearinghouses and local LEAs could be combined in an estimation strategy, using MCCH data to assist in nonresponse adjustments on estimates in cases of local LEA non-participation.

Recommendation

We recommend a strategy based on local LEAs either without MCCH or using MCCH only in a supplementary way (e.g., to adjust for non-participation).

The LES-MC should select a first-stage PSU sample similar to the other LES samples. Counties or groups of counties should be sampled first, then LEAs within the county should be sampled. Samples with first-stage sample sizes of about 400 counties and 4000 LEAs were used previously and should be adequate to obtain sufficient precision. Preliminary design work could estimate the precision of the estimates from this type of design.

Once the counties have been sampled, a list of all the LEA within the county will be developed. As mentioned before, the agencies will be asked to provide data (an inventory of cases) for a time period of a single month that is 6 or more months prior to the present. Using a reference period of a single month limits the number of cases that need to be identified. The 6-month window in the LES-MC should provide ample time to measure child recovery, because the proportion of missing children gone more than 6 months is under 1% (based on the 1999 NISMART). In the next stage, agencies will be asked to complete questionnaires on the cases in the listing. In a few of the largest agencies it might be necessary to draw a subsample from the case listing for the case details if the burden is too great for them to complete case detail questionnaires on all.

The agencies will be assigned reference months allocated over the 12 months of the year using a sampling strategy to reduce the potential for seasonal effects on the estimates. The agencies will be ordered within a first stage unit and the first stage units will be ordered, and then the sample will be allocated to the 12 months of year. This ordering will ensure that time of year selection is not biased by geography.

This approach assumes that, given a total of ~400,000 cases nationwide, the 400 PSUs will include close to one-half of those (as discussed earlier in the paper on the LES-FA design). With ~200,000 cases in the 400 PSUs, a one-month sample will obtain about 17,000 cases, which is more than required for reasonably precise estimates (about 5,000 cases total). Thus, further subsampling can be accommodated, whether sampling of agencies within PSUs, of cases listed within agencies, or both. Further design work is needed to consider the implications of these alternative sampling designs.

The protocol for data collection should include a recruitment letter describing the study design and providing the agencies with the reasons for the survey and the data they will be asked to provide (counts of all calls to their dispatch system from a caregiver or caregiving agency reporting a missing child under age 18 or trying to get help in locating such a child). Key information gathered will be date of contact, age of child, sex of child, relationship to caller, length of time currently missing, endangerment features, whether the case was reported to MCCCH or NCIC, whether recovery information is available, and if so date of recovery.

This should be followed by a mixed mode data collection approach. Since the vast majority of the agencies will be capable of using the Web and this is the lowest cost (and likely the highest quality mode), the first step will be asking them to complete and submit detailed case-level data via the Web. After reminders (or if an agency indicates that they do not have access to the Web), the next mode should be a mailed hard-copy questionnaire and a standard approach should be followed. Non-respondents to the self-administered data collection can be contacted by telephone to prompt their response or to collect the data by phone.

As noted above, it may be necessary to subsample cases in the larger agencies with great numbers of cases. It is also possible to target only cases with specific characteristics for further data collection with the LES-MC questionnaire. This provides the opportunity to obtain more data on high-interest types of cases. For these follow-ups the mode of data collection might depend on the nature of the information needed. For example, it may be better to conduct phone interviews with police about the details of specific types of cases.

Additional Issues for Further Design Work

Several additional issues must be addressed in further design and pilot work:

- Can we use missing children's clearinghouses in various states to help adjust for agency non-participation? We need to have discussions with some clearinghouse officials and review of their data to ascertain its quality and detail. From the look of some of the clearinghouse publications, we are concerned that this data quality and availability are very variable and may not provide information on geographic and agency sources.
- Although LEA participation in such surveys in the past has been high, obtaining the cooperation and careful data extraction from large agencies may prove a problem because of the likely burden. Options should be evaluated, including possibly provisions to defray costs and subsampling strategies, mentioned above. These should be tested in a pilot phase. Additionally, pilot work could help in formulating the most effective agency recruitment approach and offer some idea of how many agencies may need direct telephone contact during the recruitment process.

Definitions

Missing child

Because an LES-MC would not have systematic information from caregivers many of the original NM definitions would be difficult to operationalize. For instance, the current NISMART definition of a “reported” missing is “caretaker contacted the police or a missing children’s agency to locate the child.” (“Note that the category “reported missing” does not include children who were reported to the police for reasons other than locating the missing child, e.g., to report an incident as a crime or simply to recover a child whose whereabouts were known.”)

We do not know whether there will much discrepancy between this original NM definition and what LEAs deem to be a missing child. For example, LEAs may consider children missing even if the whereabouts are known, and caregivers are calling primarily to recover rather than locate.

We also do not know how difficult it will be to ascertain from police records whether the caregiver did know the whereabouts of the child. But we presume that if recovery (rather than location) is the primary goal, caregivers will give police substantial details about the child’s location to assist police efforts, so that this information will be in the record.

Recommendation: a missing child would be any child for whom police help was sought (and some record created) to either locate or recover the child.

The study would try to ascertain from the record whether the location was known or unknown when the child was first reported. But presumably sometimes this information would not be certain. The study would compare this information on whereabouts known with whether the case was classified as a missing child by the LEA by such actions as the creation of a MC report.

Recovered Child

Recovery in NISMART has been defined as the child returned to the household. This definition has never been problematic in NISMART. The key potential difficulty is whether all LEAs make a systematic effort to ascertain whether recovery occurred and record that information. There could be a large number of cases with missing information.

Recommendation: define recovery according to whether the record indicates that the child has returned to the household. If the record does not indicate a return, a key question asked in the questionnaire will be the level of investigator confidence that this is due to a failure to return as opposed to a failure to follow-up. The study will make some effort to assess the amount of missing information and correct estimates accordingly.

Endangerment

NISMART has not had a generalized category of endangered missing across all categories. But this is a category that is structured within the LEA system because the NCIC asks for this designation. NCIC defines endangered as: “a person who is missing under circumstances indicating that his/her physical safety may be in danger.”

Dispatchers say they always assess for risk/endangerment when they receive a call about a missing child. They mention assessing for elements such as drugs, serious medical conditions, and if the situation calls for it, past suicide attempts, recent arguments or violent incidents. NISMART findings indicated that substantial numbers of runaway/throwaway children were also endangered by virtue of their young age (13 years old or younger), being in the company of someone known to be abusing drugs, or use of hard drugs by the children themselves.

Recommendation: Plans should be made to encode endangerment elements of the episode from the police records. The plans for what measures to put into the instrument should be refined during pilot-testing and should focus on the most common endangerment elements known to police.

Subcategories of Missing Children

The question here is how to define/distinguish the various episode types that can lead to missingness in an LES. These were described in the report on the NISMART-3 Household Survey. They include family abduction (FA), non-family abduction (NFA), runaway/throwaway (RATA), missing injured/lost (MILI), and missing benign explanation (MBE). They raise several problems. First, some of these categories (RATA, MILI) are not specified in the statutory language. Nonetheless, NISMART has previously estimated them. Second, for most of these categories, fairly detailed information was elicited from caregivers in the NISMART household survey, which allowed clearly operationalizing these categories and distinguishing them one from another. Certainly, inLE

records, NISMART's subdivision of these types will not be feasible. For example, RA distinguished between children who left home without permission and those who were out of the home with permission but chose not to return. It is doubtful that detailed enough information will be systematically available in the police records to code these elements.

Recommendation: An effort should be made to classify cases into the categories of RATA, MILL, and FA, as well as into a "Non-Family Abducted" and a residual category of "Other." New and simpler definitions for these categories, however, will need to be developed for the coding of episodes from police records. One obvious possibility would be to default to the definition of the case given by the LE record, as indicated by the use of any categorizing words in the record such as "runaway" or "abduction." Finally, because of questions about the precision of these categories, it will be best to report the findings in terms of the percentage of the total MC cases that fall into these various subcategories rather than reporting point estimates for them. No effort should be made to try to estimate a "non-family abduction" point estimate from this sample, since it is likely to be very unreliable given the small number of cases.

Omitted Subcategories of Missing Children

The NCMEC officials have raised concerns that an LES of the sort described here will not be informative about throwaways and abandoned children. Such children may have been identifiable through a household survey in which caregivers acknowledged ejecting a child from the household. But because caregivers may be unlikely to report such children as missing, they will probably not be included in a LES-based estimation.

Several responses are possible: (1) the statute does not specify the enumeration of this population. (2) Since NISMART-2, we have recognized that it was not easy to distinguish RA and TA populations, so it is not clear the first NISMART provided a good estimate of the throwaway population. (3) This may be a population better assessed through a study like the National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect, rather than through NISMART.

Draft Self-Administered LES-MC Questionnaire

PREFACE

The LES-MC will collect data about children reported missing to law enforcement agencies using a methodology similar to those of the proposed LES-SK (stereotypical kidnappings) and LES-FA (family abductions). The LES-MC also will use a streamlined instrument to collect case-level data, the LES-MC SAQ, which can be self-administered online by law enforcement respondents or administered by telephone interviewers.

As with the LES-SK and the LES-FA, the LES-MC will obtain a sample of reports about missing children made to law enforcement agencies through a survey of agencies located in a national sample of counties. The agency and case sampling methods will be finalized during a pilot phase of the study. Agencies in the sample will be asked to provide an inventory of missing child reports for a specific time period, such as a single month, that is 6 or more months in the past (to allow time for child recovery to be determined).

LES-MC data collection will occur in two phases. First, researchers will send each agency selected for the sample a recruitment letter explaining the reasons for the survey and asking them to provide a count of all calls to their dispatch system from a caregiver seeking help to locate or recover a missing child. This count could be an electronic file from their records management system listing all contacts about missing children. In the second phase, the study will ask someone from the agency to fill out an online questionnaire or be interviewed by a phone interviewer about the information in those records, or in a subsample sample of the records.

Researchers will give reminders to non-responders via email or telephone call, and telephone interviewers will call respondents to obtain data if online surveys are not completed. The online surveys will have unique login identification numbers and will automatically indicate the agency and case that is the subject of the online survey. The instructions to the LES-MC SAQ will direct respondents to refer to agency records of the incident when they fill out the survey. The research team will review submitted surveys and contact respondents when necessary to resolve questions and acquire missing data.

An IRB-approved explanation of the survey and confidentiality will be provided at the beginning of the LES-MC SAQ and for the first-phase survey. The SAQ will also provide contact information for the research team (email, telephone) for respondents to use if they have questions.

PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS

MC1 Please give your contact information here so the researchers can reach you with any questions after they review your survey. This information will be deleted as soon as the research team verifies that your survey is complete.

- Name and title (1) _____
- Telephone number (2) _____
- Email address (3) _____

NISMARTLES-MC Definition of Reported Missing

MC2 The incident number for this report is [number will be provided].

Please confirm that this incident involved a child, age 17 or younger, missing from a caretaker who contacted your agency for help to either locate or recover the child.

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

Box 1

If MC2=2 (not child reported missing) or MC2=3 (don't know) and respondent has no additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY1. If MC2=2 or MC2=3 and respondent has additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY2.

[NISMART Time Frame]

MC3 Did the initial call occur between [time frame to be established]?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

Box 2

If MC3=2 (not in time frame) or MC3=3 (don't know) and respondent has no additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY1. If MC3=2 or MC3=3 and respondent has additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY2.

MC4 Did the person who reported this incident primarily want law enforcement to

- Locate and recover a child whose whereabouts were not known, or (1)
- Recover a child whose whereabouts were known? (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

MC5 Did the person who reported this incident have an address, telephone number or other information that worked to contact the child?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

MC5a Was this incident submitted to ... (Please respond to both options)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
National Crime Information Center (NCIC)? (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Missing Child Clearinghouse for your state? (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

MC6 Was more than one child reported missing in this incident?

- Yes, 2 children (1)
- Yes, 3 or more children (Enter number) (2) _____ MC8
- No, 1 child (3) _____ MC9
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4) _____ MC9

MC7 How did the children know each other?

- Siblings or step-siblings (1) _____ MC9
- Related as family some other way, such as cousins (2) _____ MC9
- Living in a group home or treatment or detention facility for juveniles (3) _____ MC9
- Friends, acquaintances or schoolmates (4) _____ MC9
- Something else (Please describe) (5) _____ MC9
- Don't know/Cannot determine (6) _____ MC9

MC8 How did the children know each other? (Please respond to all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Siblings or step-siblings (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Related as family some other way, such as cousins (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Living in a group home or treatment or detention facility for juveniles (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Friends, acquaintances or schoolmates (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Something else (Please describe) (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

MC9 How was the person who reported the incident related to the child?

If more than one child was involved, please answer about the closest relationship.

- Parent or step-parent (1)
- Other relative [This option will provide a pre-coded pull down list.](2)
- Employee of school or daycare (3)
- Employee of group home or treatment, detention or other juvenile facility (4)
- Someone else (Please describe) (5) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (6)

NISMART Categories of Missing Children

MC10 Does the incident log or record indicate that this episode involved any of the following? (Please respond to all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
A <u>runaway</u> ? (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A <u>repeat runaway</u> ? (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A violation or alleged violation of a <u>custodial order or agreement</u> ? (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A child who was <u>lost, stranded, injured</u> or too young to know how to return home or make contact with caretaker? (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A child reported missing because of a <u>misunderstanding or other harmless circumstance</u> ? (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A child missing under <u>unknown circumstances</u> ? (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
An <u>abduction by a non-family perpetrator</u> ? (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A <u>stranger abduction</u> ? (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

CHILD CHARACTERISTICS

MC11 Is this child male or female?

- Male (1)
- Female (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

If more than one child was involved, please start with the oldest.

MC12 How old was this child at the time of the initial call?

- Less than 1 year old (1)
- 1 year old or older (Please enter age in years) (2) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

MC13 Is this child Hispanic or Latino/a?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

MC14 What is this child's race?

- White (1)
- Black or African American (2)
- American Indian or Alaska Native (3)
- Asian (4)
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (5)
- Other (6) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (7)

Endangerment

MC15 Was this child at risk or endangered because of a medical condition, disability or other condition or circumstance, such as drug use?

- Yes [This option will provide a pre-coded pull down list] (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

Definition of Recovery

MC16 What was the outcome of this incident for this child?

- Returned (1) _____ MC19
- Located but not returned (2) _____ MC18
- Not returned and not located (3)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4) _____ MC21

MC17 Sometimes records are not updated to show that a child has been recovered. Which do you think is more likely?

- This child has not returned home, or (1) _____ MC21
- This child has returned but the record has not been updated (2) _____ MC21
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ MC21

MC18 Please explain why the child was not returned.

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

Box 3

If MC16=2 (located not returned), go to MC20.

MC19 (If returned)

How much time passed from the initial call to your agency until this child's return home? (Your best estimate is fine.) Please enter the number of hours, days, weeks or months below.

- Hours (1) _____ MC21
- Days (2) _____ MC21
- Weeks (3) _____ MC21
- Months (4) _____ MC21
- Don't know/Cannot determine (5) _____ MC21

MC20 How much time passed from the initial call to your agency until the child was located? (Your best estimate is fine.) Please enter the number of hours, days, weeks or months below.

- Hours (1) _____
- Days (2) _____
- Weeks (3) _____
- Months (4) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (5)

MC21 Was this child reported missing at any other time between [time frame of study]?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

Box 4

If MC6=1 (multiple children), questions MC11—MC21 will repeat for each child. After last child, go to MC21.

POLICE RESPONSE

MC22 During the initial call was information logged about ... (Please respond to all options)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Where child was <u>last seen</u> ? (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<u>Who child was with</u> when last seen? (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child's <u>physical description</u> and clothing? (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whether child has <u>medical conditions, disabilities</u> ? (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whether child had <u>cell phone</u> ? (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Any <u>mode of travel</u> for child (walking, bicycle, motor vehicle)? (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

MC23 How did your agency respond to this incident? (Please answer all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
<u>Sent officers to a child's household</u> or to the scene (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<u>Interviewed</u> household members (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Got child <u>photos</u> (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Collected <u>other evidence</u> (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<u>Conducted a search</u> (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<u>Secured the scene</u> (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Investigated or responded in other ways (Describe) (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

MC24 Did your agency bring other agencies into an investigation or refer the case to another agency?

- Yes, brought other agency or agencies into the investigation (1)
- Yes, referred the case to another agency (2)
- No (3)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4)

Box 5

If MC24=3 (did not bring in/refer to other agencies) or MC24=4 (don't know) and respondent has no additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY3. If MC24=3 or MC24=4 and respondent has additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY4.

MC25 What agencies were brought into the investigation or did you refer the case to? Please list each agency by name, county and state.

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

Box 6

If MC24=1 or MC24=2 (brought in or referred to other agencies), and respondent has no additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY3. If MC24=1 or MC24=2 and respondent has additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY4.

ENDSURVEY1 We are only including certain incidents in this study and this case does not qualify. There are no further questions about this case. Thank you for your time.

ENDSURVEY2 We are only including certain incidents in this study and this case does not qualify. Please use this link to access questions about your next case that may qualify for this study: [To be added].

ENDSURVEY3 Thank you for completing this survey. We appreciate your help and your contribution to understanding the problem of children reported missing.

ENDSURVEY4 Thank you for completing this survey. We appreciate your help and your contribution to understanding the problem of children reported missing. Please use this link to access questions about your next case that may qualify for this study: [To be added].

Appendix 8

LES-SK Pilot Materials

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Attachment A
Pilot Survey Invitation Letter

Attachment A: Pilot Survey Invitation Letter

[F_NAME L_NAME]
[DEPT NAME]
[ADDRESS]
[CITY, STATE ZIP]

[DATE OF MAILING]

Dear [INSERT TITLE, L_NAME]:

Your agency is being asked to participate in a pilot test for the National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMA^{RT}). The study is sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and managed by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), at the U.S. Department of Justice. NISMA^{RT} was created in response to the Missing Children's Assistance Act for the purpose of estimating the number of missing children nationwide. We have included a copy of the findings from the last survey. As Westat and the University of New Hampshire prepare to conduct NISMA^{RT}-4, we are asking for your assistance in pilot testing a new method of collecting case information on cases where children are abducted by strangers.

The following case has been identified by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) as an episode of stranger abduction: [CASE ID, NAME OF VICTIM(S)]

To participate, you or the most knowledgeable investigator will be asked to answer questions about the case identified above using a web survey. The survey is estimated to take 40 minutes, and may be completed in parts. After the survey is completed, we will follow up with a phone call at a time of your convenience to talk about the survey experience. For example: *Did the survey allow you to say everything you wanted to say about this case? Were there questions that were confusing because of how they were worded?* This follow up conversation should take about 20 minutes.

The pilot survey is available on our secure website. You may go to the website at any time and enter your personal and confidential user login and password (below) to begin the survey. **We ask you to complete the web survey by Month, XX, 20XX.**

Survey address: <https://www.XXXXXXXXXX>

User Login: «uID»

Password: «Password»

Your agency's participation is voluntary and will not affect the status of your agency in any way. The survey and post-survey phone call will be used to evaluate the utility of the survey process only. Your name and the name of your agency will remain confidential and will not be used in any reports. We understand how busy you are and appreciate your assistance in this important project. If you have questions about the pilot or your participation, please call our toll free number, 1-xxx-xxx-xxxx, or email xxxx@xxx.com.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire

Co-Principal Investigator

Co-Principal Investigator

[BACK PAGE]

FEDERAL ASSURANCES OF CONFIDENTIALITY AND OTHER NOTICES

This data collection is authorized under the Missing Children's Assistance Act (see, 34 U.S.C. § 11293(c)). NIJ, OJJDP, its employees, and its data collection agents will use the information you provide for statistical or research purposes only, and will not disclose your information in identifiable form without your consent to anyone outside of the research team. All personally identifiable data collected are protected under the confidentiality provisions of 34 U.S.C. § 10231, and any person who violates these provisions may be punished by a fine up to \$10,000, in addition to any other penalties imposed by law. Further, under the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, your data are protected from cybersecurity risks through screening of the systems that transmit your data. Your compliance with the request for information is entirely voluntary, and if you choose to provide information, you may discontinue at any time without penalty of any sort.

Under the Federal Paperwork Reduction Act, a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. We try to create forms and instructions that are accurate, can be easily understood, and which impose the least possible burden on you to provide us with information. We estimate that it will take 0.67 hours to complete this questionnaire. This estimate includes time for reviewing the instructions, searching for and gathering the data, completing the form, and reviewing answers.

If you would like more information concerning this authorization, the confidentiality guarantee, have comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate, or suggestions for making the form simpler, please contact Benjamin Adams, Social Science Analyst, at Benjamin.Adams@usdoj.gov or 202-616-3687. If you need assistance regarding your submission, please contact the survey director, Gail Thomas at gailthomas@westat.com or call the project's toll free number: xxx-xxx-xxxx.

Attachment B
Frequently Asked Questions

Attachment B: Frequently Asked Questions

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS LES-SK Pilot

What is NISMART-4?

You have been asked to participate in a **pilot study** of the National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMART). NISMART-4 is a research study created by the federal Missing Children's Assistance Act. Its goal is to estimate the number of missing children, including children who have been abducted. NISMART-4 is the fourth in a series of studies between conducted between 1988 and 2011. It will update numbers from the three previous studies to determine whether there have been increases or decreases in the number of missing or abducted children. NISMART-4 findings will be reported to Congress and will guide the development of policies and programs for missing children. This study is sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and managed by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), at the U.S. Department of Justice. Westat and the Crimes against Children Research Center (CCRC) at the University of New Hampshire are conducting the study, including this pilot study.

What is a pilot study?

A pilot study is a small-scale version of a large-scale study. Its purpose is to test and refine materials, methods and protocols proposed for the eventual full scale study.

What is the National Law Enforcement Survey on Abducted Children?

NISMART includes a number of different studies. The National Law Enforcement Survey on Abducted Children will estimate the number of children who were kidnapped by strangers between **[one-year period]**. For the pilot study, researchers will contact investigators of pre-identified stereotypical kidnapping cases to ask them to complete a new, self-administered web survey to provide details about the specified case. Because this is a pilot study, investigators will also be asked their opinions about their experience completing the online survey: for example, "Were any questions confusing?"

How did you choose this agency?

A selection of stereotypical kidnapping cases were pre-identified in order to test the study pilot. Your agency investigated one of the selected cases.

Why is my agency's participation important?

Participation is voluntary, and will not affect the status of your agency in any way. Participating in this pilot will not entail any particular risks or benefits to you. However, your participation will contribute to an improved NISMART and a better reporting experience for law enforcement officers in the future. Ultimately, your participation and feedback will add to our national knowledge about abducted children.

What will the pilot survey involve?

We will ask the investigator who is most knowledgeable about a relevant case to respond to a new web survey on a secure site to provide details about the characteristics of offenders, victims, and case investigated. The survey will take about 40 minutes and it can be taken in parts. After your survey is completed and submitted, we would like to follow up with a brief telephone interview (about 20 minutes) to ask about your reaction to the survey itself.

What about security and confidentiality protections?

In accordance with 28 CFR Part 22, the research team will provide administrative and physical security of identifiable data and preserve the anonymity of persons participating in the pilot. The online survey avoids asking for identifying information about cases, such as victims' names. Throughout the pilot study, all information that would link an agency with any specific case details will be kept under lock and key or in secure computer files, accessible to authorized study staff only.

What if I have questions?

If you have questions about the research, please contact the survey director, Gail Thomas, at 301-610-5523, or GailThomas@westat.com, or the study's toll-free number at 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX. If you have any questions about your rights as a research subject, you may contact the Westat Human Subjects Protection Office at 1-888-920-7631. Please leave a message with your full name, the name of the study (NISMART-4) and a phone number, beginning with the area code. Someone will return your call as soon as possible.

Attachment C
Survey Reminder by Email or Telephone

Attachment C: Survey Reminder by Email or Telephone

Dear [TITLE L_NAME]:

On [DATE] we sent you a letter asking you to participate in a pilot test for the National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMART). NISMART is sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and managed by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), at the U.S. Department of Justice. As Westat and the University of New Hampshire prepare to conduct NISMART-4, we are writing to ask again for your assistance in pilot testing a new method of collecting case information on cases where children are abducted by strangers.

In the letter we sent on [DATE], we identified the name of the victim(s) in the kidnapping case identified for us by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). If you need information to identify this case, or you are not the right person to complete the survey, please let us know by calling 1-800-xxx-xxxx.

The pilot survey is available on our secure website. You may go to the website at any time and enter your personal and confidential userlogin and password (below) to begin the survey. The survey should only take about 30 minutes and we will follow up with a short debriefing call. **We ask you to complete the web survey by Month, XX, 20XX.**

Survey address: <https://www.XXXXXXXXXX>

User Login: «uID»

Password: «Password»

We know you are extremely busy, but your voluntary participation in this pilot will help law enforcement in the future.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

Attachment D
LES-SK Instrument

Attachment D: LES-SK Instrument

PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS

SK1.1 Thank you for participating in the NISMART pilot survey. Please provide your contact information here so the researchers can reach you later. After your survey is completed and reviewed, we would like to talk with you about your experience taking the survey. This information will be deleted as soon as the research team verifies that your survey is complete.

- Name and title (1) _____
- Telephone number (2) _____
- Email address (3) _____

NISMART requirements for SK

SK1.2 Your agency's case number for this investigation is [number will be provided].

Please confirm that this case involved a child age 17 or younger abducted by someone who was not a family member AND the child was

- Moved at least 20 feet OR
- Held for at least one hour.

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

If you are not sure what happened to the child, answer based on what investigators in your agency think is the most likely explanation.

Box 1

If SK1.2=2 (child was not moved 20' or held for 1 hour) or SK1.2=3 (don't know) and respondent has no additional surveys to complete, go to ENDSURVEY1.

If SK1.2=2 or SK1.2=3 and respondent has additional surveys to complete, go to ENDSURVEY2.

NISMART Time Frame

SK1.3

Did this incident occur between [12-month time frame to be established]?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, we cannot ask you to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 40 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the National Institute of Justice, 810 Seventh Street NW, Washington, DC 20531.

Box 2

If SK1.3=2 (incident not in time frame) or SK1.3=3 (don't know) and respondent has no additional surveys to complete, go to ENDSURVEY1.
 If SK1.3=2 or SK1.3=3 and respondent has additional surveys to complete, go to ENDSURVEY2.

NISMART definition of SK

SK1.4 Did any of the following happen in this case? (Please respond to all items.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
a. A child was <u>held overnight</u> OR between 12 midnight & 5am (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. A child was <u>transported 50 miles or more</u> (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. A child was <u>held for ransom</u> (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. A child was <u>killed</u> (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. A perpetrator apparently intended to <u>keep a child permanently</u> (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Box 3

If none of the answers to SK1.4 = 1 (Yes) and respondent has no additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY1.
 If none of the answers to SK1.4 = 1 and respondent has additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY2.

SK1.5 Did this case involve more than one perpetrator?

If number of perpetrators is unknown, please enter the number believed to have been involved if more than one.

- Yes (Enter number of perpetrators) (1) _____
- No, 1 perpetrator (2) _____ SK1.9
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK1.9

SK1.6 How did the perpetrators know each other? (Please respond to all items.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Married or romantic or sexual partners (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other members of a family (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Members of a gang (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Involved together in selling or buying drugs (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Involved together in sex trafficking (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Involved in some other type of criminal enterprise (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Friends, acquaintances or schoolmates (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Something else (Please describe) (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SK1.7 Did any of the perpetrators have a close relationship with a victim or victim's family? This could involve a blood or legal tie to the family, a romantic partnership with a relative of a victim, a longstanding friendship, or another relationship that would make a perpetrator well-known to a child victim or their family.

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ SK1.9
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK1.9

SK1.8 Please describe this close relationship between a perpetrator and child victim or victim's family.
[TEXT ENTRY] _____

Box 4

If SK1.5 = 1 (multiple perpetrators) the survey will be programmed to instruct respondents to answer questions regarding the perpetrator most responsible for the incident.

SK1.9 Did this case involve more than one child victim?

- Yes, 2 child victims (1)
- Yes, 3 or more child victims (Enter number) (2) _____ SK1.11
- No, 1 child victim (3) _____ SK1.12
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4) _____ SK1.12

SK1.10 How did the victims know each other?

- Siblings or step-siblings (1) _____ SK1.12
- Related as family some other way, such as cousins (2) _____ SK1.12
- Friends, acquaintances or schoolmates (3) _____ SK1.12
- Something else (Please describe) (4) _____ SK1.12
- Don't know/Cannot determine (5) _____ SK1.12

SK1.11 How did the victims know each other?

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Siblings or step-siblings (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Related as family some other way, such as cousins (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Friends, acquaintances or schoolmates (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Something else (Please describe) (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Box 5

If SK1.9 = 1 or SK1.9 = 2 (multiple child victims) the survey will be programmed to refer to plural victims or to "any" or "each" victim and to provide other related instructions.

NISMART Definition of Stranger

SK1.12 Was the perpetrator [most responsible for this incident] a stranger to [the/any] child victim?

Stranger means a non-family perpetrator whom the child or child's family did not know OR the perpetrator's identity is unknown but investigators reasonably believe the perpetrator is a stranger.)

- Yes, a perpetrator was a stranger (1) _____ SK1.15
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK1.13 Please briefly describe how the [most responsible] perpetrator knew the child victim[s] or families. [TEXT ENTRY] _____

NISMART definition of person with limited previous contact

SK1.14 Was the [most responsible] perpetrator a person with limited previous contact with [the/any] victim?

Person with limited previous contact (Slight acquaintance) means that one of the following statements applies to the [most responsible] perpetrator's relationship to the [any] child victim or their family. If you are not sure, please answer based on what investigators in your agency think is most likely about the perpetrator/victim relationships.

(Please respond to all statements.) The perpetrator was not a family member AND before the abduction:

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
The <u>perpetrator's name was unknown</u> to the child or family and the child or family <u>did not know</u> the perpetrator <u>well enough to speak to</u> . (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The child <u>met</u> the perpetrator <u>on the Internet but not in person</u> . (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The child or family <u>knew</u> the perpetrator for <u>less than 6 months</u> . (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The child or family <u>knew</u> the perpetrator for <u>longer than 6 months</u> but saw them <u>less than once a month</u> . (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Box 6

If all of the answers to SK1.14 = 2 (No) and respondent has no additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY1.

If all of the answers to SK1.14 = 2 and respondent has additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY2.

SK1.15 Were other law enforcement agencies involved in this case?

- Yes (Please specify number of agencies involved) (1) _____
- No (2) _____ SK1.19
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK1.19

SK1.16 Did your agency receive the first report of this case?

- Yes (1) _____ SK1.18
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK1.18

SK1.17 What agency received the first report? (Please enter the agency name, county and state.)

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

SK1.18 Please list the other agencies involved in this case. Please list each agency by name, county and state.

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

SK1.19 What is the current status of this case in your agency?

- Open (under active investigation) (1)
- Open (arrest warrant issued) (2)
- Cleared by arrest (3)
- Closed for reasons other than arrest (exceptional clearance) (4)
- Suspended (inactive investigation) (5)
- Some other status (Please describe) (6) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (7)

CHILD CHARACTERISTICS

SK2.1 Next are questions about [the/each] child victim in this incident. [Since there is more than one, please start with the oldest child.] Is this child male or female?

- Male (1)
- Female (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK2.2 How old was this child at the time of the incident? (Please give your best estimate if not sure.)

- Less than 1 year old (1)
- 1 year old or older (Please enter age in years) (2) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK2.3 Is this child Hispanic or Latino/a?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK2.4 What is this child's race? (Please enter all that apply.)

- White (1)
- Black or African American (2)
- American Indian or Alaska Native (3)
- Asian (4)
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (5)
- Other (Please describe) (6) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (7)

Box 7

If SK1.9 = 3 (one child victim) or SK1.9=4 (don't know), go to SK2.10

If SK1.9 = 1 or If SK1.9 = 1 (multiple child victims), go to SK2.5.

SK2.5 Was the [most responsible] perpetrator in this incident a stranger to this child or their family?

Stranger means that the child or the child's family did not know the perpetrator OR the identity of the perpetrator is unknown but law enforcement reasonably believes it is a stranger.

- Yes (1) _____ Box 9
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK2.6 Please briefly describe how this child knew the [most responsible] perpetrator.

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

SK2.7 Was the [most responsible] perpetrator a person with limited previous contact (slight acquaintance) of this child victim?

Person with limited previous contact means that one of the following statements applies to the [most responsible] perpetrator's relationship to the [any] child victim or their family. If you are not sure, please answer based on what investigators in your agency think is most likely about the perpetrator/victim relationships.

(Please respond to all statements.) The perpetrator was not a family member AND before the abduction:

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
a. The <u>perpetrator's name was unknown</u> to the child or family and the child or family <u>did not know the perpetrator well enough to speak to</u> (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. The child <u>met the perpetrator on the Internet but not in person</u> (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. The child or family <u>knew the perpetrator for less than 6 months</u> (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. The child or family <u>knew the perpetrator for longer than 6 months but saw them less than once a month</u> (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Box 8
 If all of the answers to SK2.7 = 2 (No) and there are additional victims, go to SK2.1.
 If all of the answers to SK2.7 = 2 and there are no additional victims, go to SK3.1.

Box 9
 If SK1.9 = 1 or If SK1.9 = 2 (multiple child victims) and SK1.4c = 1 (held for ransom), go to SK2.8.
 Otherwise go to Box 10.

SK2.8 Was this child held for ransom?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

Box 10

If SK1.9 = 1 or If SK1.9 = 2 (multiple child victims) and SK1.4e = 1 (intent to keep permanently), go to SK2.9.
Otherwise go to SK.10.

SK2.9 Did [the/a] perpetrator intend to keep this child permanently?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK2.10 How far did the perpetrator move this victim from the beginning of the abduction to the time the victim was released, found, escaped or killed?

- 20 feet or less (1)
- More than 20 feet but less than 1 mile (2)
- 1 to 9 miles (3)
- 10 to 49 miles (4)
- 50 miles or more (5)
- Child was not moved (6)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (7)

SK2.11 How long did the perpetrator keep or detain this victim before he or she was released, found, escaped or killed?

- Less than 1 hour (1) _____ SK2.13
- 1 hour to less than 24 hours (2)
- 1 to 3 days (3) _____ SK2.13
- 4 to 7 days (4) _____ SK2.13
- More than 1 week (5) _____ SK2.13
- Child was not detained (6) _____ SK2.13
- Don't know/Cannot determine (7) _____ SK2.13

SK2.12 Was this victim held or detained overnight OR for at least one hour between midnight and 5am?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK2.13 What parents did this child live with when this incident began?

- Two married, biological parents (1)
- Two married parents, one or both not biological, but both having a legal relationship to the child, such as adoption (2)
- Two unmarried parents, biological or other (3)
- One unmarried parent with a live-in partner who was not the child's parent) (4)
- A single parent (no live-in partner) (5)
- No parent (6)
- Other situation (Please describe) (9) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (10)

SK2.14 What type of housing did this child live in at the time of the incident?

- Single family dwelling (1)
- Multi-family dwelling (duplex, apartment building, for example) (2)
- Other situation such as shelter, institution, etc. (3)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4)

SK2.15 At the time of the abduction, was this child impaired by any serious or permanent physical or mental disabilities, life threatening medical conditions or other problems such as drug or alcohol use?

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ Box 11
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ Box 11

SK2.16 Please describe the child's disabilities, medical conditions or other impairments at the time of the incident.

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

SK2.17 Would you say that this child was mentally incompetent at the time of the episode?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

Box 11
If child is age 10 or older, go to SK2.18. If child is age 9 or younger, go to SK2.19.

SK2.18 Was this child involved in any way in... (Respond to all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
The criminal justice system (past or current, perpetrator or victim) (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drugs, using or selling (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Alcohol use (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SK2.19 Did this child have a parent who was involved in any way in... (Respond to all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
The criminal justice system (past or current, perpetrator or victim) (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drugs, using or selling (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Definition of Recovery

SK2.20 Was this victim...

- Recovered? (1)
- Killed? (2)
- Still missing? (3)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4)

Box 12
If SK1.9=1 or SK1.9=2 (multiple child victims), questions SK2.1—SK2.20 will repeat for each child.
After last child, go to SK3.1.

PERPETRATOR CHARACTERISTICS

SK3.1 The next questions ask about the perpetrator. [Please answer about the perpetrator most responsible for the incident.] Is the identity of this perpetrator known?

- Yes (1) _____ SK3.3
 No (2) _____

SK3.2 Do you have any information at all, like sex, race or approximate age?

- Yes (1)
 No (2) _____ SK4.1

SK3.3 How old was the [most responsible] perpetrator at the time of the incident.

- Please enter age in years (1) _____
 Don't know/Cannot determine (2)

SK3.4 Is the [most responsible] perpetrator male or female?

- Male (1)
 Female (2)
 Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK3.5 Is the [most responsible] perpetrator Hispanic or Latino/a?

- Yes (1)
 No (2)
 Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK3.6 What is the [most responsible] perpetrator's race? (Enter all that apply.)

- White (1)
 Black or African American (2)
 American Indian or Alaska Native (3)
 Asian (4)
 Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (5)
 Other (Please describe) (6) _____
 Don't know/Cannot determine (7)

Box 13

If SK3.2=1 (some information about unknown perpetrator), go to SK3.7.
If SK3.1=1 (perpetrator's identity is known), go to SK3.8.

SK3.7 Do you have any information about the perpetrator's life circumstances, like marital status, employment or involvement with the criminal justice system?

- Yes (1)
 No (2) _____ SK4.1

SK3.8 What was the [most responsible] perpetrator's marital status at the time of the crime?

- Single (1)
- Married (2)
- Separated, divorced or widowed (3)
- Living with a partner (4)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (5)

SK3.9 Was the [most responsible] perpetrator's employed either full- or part-time at the time of the crime?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK3.10 At the time of this crime, did the [most responsible] perpetrator have any active or ongoing involvement with the legal system or treatment programs?

- Yes (Please describe) (1) _____
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK3.11 At the time of the episode, did the [most responsible] perpetrator have a diagnosed mental illness?

- Yes (Please describe) (1) _____
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK3.12 How would you describe the [most responsible] perpetrator's overall intelligence?

- Above average (1)
- Average (2)
- Below average (3)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4)

SK3.13 How would you describe the amount of social interaction the [most responsible] perpetrator had in everyday life?

- Above average (1)
- Average (2)
- Below average (3)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4)

SK3.14 Is there any indication that the [most responsible] perpetrator has any problems with drugs or alcohol?

- Yes (Please describe type of problem) (1) _____
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK3.15 Did this perpetrator have any prior arrests?

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ SK4.1
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK4.1

SK3.16 Were any of these arrests for crimes of violence?

- Yes (Please describe) (1) _____
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK3.16.1 Was this perpetrator listed in the National Sex Offender Registry?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK3.16.2 Was this perpetrator listed in the National Sex Offender Public Website?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK3.17 Did this perpetrator have any prior arrests for crimes against juveniles?

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ SK4.1
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK4.1

SK3.18 Did any of these prior arrests involve any of the following? (Please answer all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Homicide of a child (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A sex crime against a child (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child abduction (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Battery or assault of a child (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Something else (Please describe) (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

CRIME CHARACTERISTICS

SK4.1 Did a parent or other caretaker of a child victim in this case contact the police for help to locate their missing child?

- Yes, contacted police to locate missing child (1)
- No, contacted police for other reason or did not contact police (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK4.2 Where [was the victim/were the victims] last seen before the abduction occurred?

- Victim's residence or place child was staying at night, includes yard (1)
- Outdoor area with public access (sidewalk, park, street, beach, etc.) (2)
- Indoor area with public access (shopping mall, store, theater, etc.) (3)
- Perpetrator's residence or yard (4)
- Common area of apartment complex (5)
- School or daycare, indoors or outdoors (6)
- Vehicle (7)
- Other place (Please describe) (8) _____
- Don't know/Not sure (9)

SK4.3 Was [the/any] victim taken from a group of children?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK4.4 How would you characterize the perpetrator's initial approach? (Please respond to all options.)

	No (1)	Yes (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Deceptive or non-threatening pretext (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Surprise (laying in wait, using stealth) or blitz (sudden, overwhelming force) (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other type of approach (Please describe) (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SK4.5 Did [the/any] victim go with the perpetrator voluntarily (even if duped)?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK4.6 During the incident did the perpetrator take or move [the/any] victim in or to any of the following... (Please answer all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
A vehicle? (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A building? (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The perpetrator's home? (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
An outside area, like woods? (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SK4.7 Did the perpetrator use physical force or any kind of threat in taking or moving [the/any] victim from their original location?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

Box 14
 If SK2.11<6 (victim was detained) or SK2.11=7 (don't know), go to SK4.8.
 If SK2.11=6 (not detained), go to Box 15.

SK4.8 Did the perpetrator use any kind of force or threat during the time [the/any] victim was detained?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK4.9 How isolated was the location where the victim was detained?

- Very isolated (1)
- Probably isolated (2)
- Not isolated (3)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4)

Isolated means the child was not able to leave on his or her own and had no opportunity to appeal for help.

Box 15

If SK4.7=1 (force or threat while taking/moving) or SK4.8=1 (force/threat during detainment), go to SK4.10.
Otherwise go to SK4.11.

SK4.10 Did the perpetrator use force or threaten [the/any] victim in any of the following ways during the crime? (Please respond to all statements.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Threaten a child with or use a weapon? (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Harm or threaten to harm a child's family or pets? (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Force the child to walk somewhere (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other use of force (Describe) (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SK4.11 During the abduction or detainment, did [any] perpetrator... (Please respond to all statements.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Physically assault a child victim? (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neglect a victim's basic needs (food, water, shelter, medical treatment, etc.)? (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sexually assault a child victim? (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drug a child victim? (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rob a child victim or damage or destroy their belongings? (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Harm the child some other way (Please describe) (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SK4.12 Is there any indication that this crime was connected with ... (Answer all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Youth gang activity (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drug trafficking (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sex trafficking (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Serial killings (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other criminal networks or conspiracies (Describe) (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SK4.13 Is there any indication that the internet played a role in prior contact between a perpetrator and victim or in leading up to the abduction encounter?

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ SK5.1
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK5.1

SK4.14 Please describe the role the internet played.

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

INVESTIGATION

SK5.1 Was this case submitted to ... (Please answer all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
FBI's Violent Criminal Apprehension system (VICAP)? (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National Crime Information Center (NCIC)? (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC)? (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SK5.2 Did a NCMEC Project Alert team participate in the investigation?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK5.3 Was a DNA profile entered into CODIS (Combined DNA Index System)?

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ SK5.5
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK5.5

SK5.4 Was a match found?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK5.5 Was a telephone hotline established?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK5.6 Was a leads management system established?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK5.7 Was an Amber Alert issued?

- Yes (1) _____ SK5.9
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK5.11

SK5.8 Why wasn't an Amber Alert issued? (Please answer all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Child was quickly recovered (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
No reasonable belief an abduction had occurred (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child was not in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insufficient information about child, vehicle, etc. to issue Amber Alert (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other reason (Please describe) (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Box 16

If SK5.7=2 (no Amber Alert), go to SK5.11.

SK5.9 Did the Amber Alert result in any information that helped to locate or recover the child or identify the perpetrator?

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ SK5.11
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK5.11

SK5.10 Please describe how the Amber Alert helped to locate and recover the child?
[TEXT ENTRY] _____

SK5.11 Did electronic devices such as cell phones or computers provide evidence, leads, or other information that was key to recovering [the/any] victim or identifying the perpetrator?

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ SK5.13
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK5.13

SK5.12 Please describe how electronic devices provided evidence, leads or other information.
[TEXT ENTRY] _____

SK5.13 Is there anything else that would be important to know about this case?
[TEXT ENTRY] _____

SK.14 If you want to clarify your answers to any of the close-ended responses above, please do so here:

SK.15 If you feel a narrative description of the kidnapping episode would help us better understand this case, please provide a description here:

Box 17

If respondent has no additional surveys to complete, go to ENDSURVEY3.

If respondent has additional surveys to complete, go to ENDSURVEY4.

ENDSURVEY1 We are only including certain incidents in this study and this case does not qualify. There are no further questions. Thank you for your time.

ENDSURVEY2 We are only including certain incidents in this study and this case does not qualify. Please use this link to access questions about your next case that may qualify for this study: [To be added].

ENDSURVEY3 Thank you for completing this survey. We appreciate your help and your contribution to understanding the problem of child kidnapping.

ENDSURVEY4 Thank you for completing this survey. We appreciate your help and your contribution to understanding the problem of child kidnapping. Please use this link to access questions about your next case that may qualify for this study: [To be added].

Attachment E
Recording Comments

Attachment E: Recording Comments

While you are taking the survey, we ask that you consciously take note of your reactions to the questions while answering the survey questions and telling us about this case.

Comment fields throughout the programmed pilot survey will allow you to record easily any problems you may encounter [see sidebar].

Here are some possible problem areas to look for:

QUESTION WORDING

Are there questions that are confusing because of how they are worded?

RESPONSE CATEGORIES

For multiple-choice questions, can you find the response category you need or is a response category missing?

CONTENT

Are there questions that were not included that you think are important to add in order for people to understand the case and its outcome?

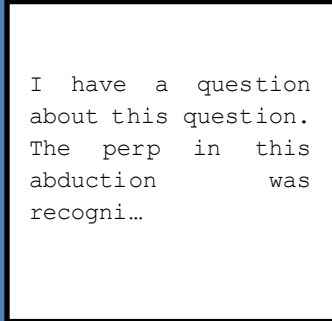
HOW TO USE COMMENT FIELDS IN THE WEB SURVEY

Comment fields in the programmed pilot survey will allow you to record easily any comments or problems you may encounter.

To the right of each question, you will see an ADD COMMENT button.

An orange, rounded rectangular button with the text "ADD COMMENT" in black, uppercase letters.

Just click the ADD COMMENT button, and a comment window will open, allowing you to type your thoughts about that question.

A white rectangular box with a black border, containing the text: "I have a question about this question. The perp in this abduction was recogni...".

I have a question about this question. The perp in this abduction was recogni...

Attachment F
Script for Telephone Follow-up Interviews

Attachment F: Script for Telephone Follow-up Interviews

INTRODUCE SELF, CONFIRM SPEAKING TO SURVEY RESPONDENT

First, I want to thank you for taking time out of your very busy schedule to participate in the NISMART pilot. As you may recall, we wanted to talk with you a little about your experience taking the survey and possible reactions you may have had to any of the questions.

Is this a good time to ask you a few questions about the pilot survey? We estimate this call will take about 20 minutes.

[IF NOT A GOOD TIME, SCHEDULE CALL BACK APPOINTMENT]

First, I'd like to ask your reaction to the amount of time it took for you to complete this survey online. I see from our management system that it looks like you completed the survey in [1/MORE THAN 1 SESSION] and the total amount of time it took was ___ minutes. Thinking back, what was your impression about the length of the survey?

Did the amount of time seem about appropriate or right to you?

Was it hard to find time to take the survey?

We know that with our schedules it's not always possible to do a task from beginning to end without interruption. Did you take any breaks or have any interruptions?

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, we cannot ask you to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the National Institute of Justice, 810 Seventh Street NW, Washington, DC 20531.

[QUESTIONS ABOUT DATA RETRIEVAL SHOULD BE ASKED IN LINEAR ORDER AND INTEGRATED INTO THE DISCUSSION AND COLLECTION OF OTHER COMMENTS. DO NOT JUMP BACK AND FORTH IN THE INSTRUMENT.]

I want to ask you about this question [which was not answered or appears inconsistent].

[IF EMBEDDED COMMENTS REQUIRE CLARIFICATION] Comment fields were programmed into the survey to allow you to comment on the elements of any given question. Your comments were very helpful and I'd like to follow up on a comment/couple comments you left.

[GIVE OR DESCRIBE QUESTION TO HELP RESPONDENT RECALL] you wrote [READ RESPONDENT'S COMMENT AND YOUR CLARIFYING QUESTION].

Thank you!

As researchers, we spend a great deal of time on the development of questionnaires, scrutinizing the wording of questions and anticipating possible responses and the information we need to capture by our questions. Despite our best efforts, sometimes people have difficulties answering a question.

Were any questions confusing because of how they were worded?

A number of survey questions ask you to select from multiple choice answers. In multiple-choice questions, did you always find the response category you needed to answer the question accurately or did you feel like we missed a response category?

Were any questions left out of the survey that you expected to be asked and think are important to add in order for people to understand the case and its outcome?

Finally, when you completed the survey, did you feel you had the opportunity to say everything you wanted to say about this case?

Anything else?

Thank you again for being part of our pilot. We're learning a lot and appreciate your participation. Goodbye.

Appendix 9
LES-SK Full Study

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Attachment A

Sample Letter from State Investigative Partner or State Missing Children Clearinghouse Manager

Attachment A: Sample Letter from State Investigative Partner or
State Missing Children Clearinghouse Manager

[INSERT F_NAME L_NAME]

[INSERT DATE OF MAILING]

[INSERT DEPT NAME]

[INSERT ADDRESS 1]

[INSERT CITY], [INSERT STATE] [INSERT ZIP]

Dear [INSERT TITLE L_NAME],

Greetings! We are contacting you today to encourage your participation in the National Law Enforcement Survey on Abducted Children, a national study designed to estimate the number of U.S. children kidnapped by strangers. This study is part of the Fourth National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMAART-4), and is being conducted by Westat and the University of New Hampshire's Crimes against Children Research Center. It is sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and managed by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), at the U.S. Department of Justice.

This important project will generate updated national estimates of child victims of stranger abductions and determine whether there have been any changes in the overall number or characteristics of victims. The data will be reported to Congress and used to inform the development of future policies and programs for missing children. Findings from the survey will be available on the NIJ and OJJDP websites.

In the next few weeks, you will receive a survey in the mail from NIJ Senior Science Analyst Benjamin Adams with Co-Principal Investigators, Dr. Andrea Sedlak from Westat, and Dr. David Finkelhor from the University of New Hampshire. We urge you to complete the survey. ***If your agency does not have jurisdiction to conduct investigations for child abductions, you only need to complete 2 questions but it is important that all surveys are returned!***

<<SIP/The State Name Missing Children Clearinghouse>> is keenly interested in the success of NISMAART-4 and the National Law Enforcement Survey on Abducted Children. Your agency's participation will make an important contribution to the accuracy and reliability of the final study estimates and to furthering our understanding of the problem of missing children and how to address it. Accordingly, I strongly encourage you to take a few moments of your time to participate.

If you have any questions regarding about this request or about the study, please feel free to contact the survey director, Gail Thomas, toll-free at 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX or GailThomas@westat.com.

Sincerely,

<<Name of SIP/State Missing Children Clearinghouse >>

Attachment B
Letter of Support from NIJ

Attachment B: Letter of Support from NIJ

[INSERT F_NAME, MID_INIT, L_NAME]

[INSERT DATE OF MAILING]

[INSERT DEPT NAME]

[INSERT ADDRESS 1]

[INSERT CITY], [INSERT STATE] [INSERT ZIP]

Dear [INSERT TITLE, L_NAME],

Westat and the University of New Hampshire's Crimes against Children Research Center are conducting the Fourth National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMAART-4). The study is sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and managed by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), at the U.S. Department of Justice. Your agency has been invited to participate in this study and we would appreciate your assistance.

In response to the 1984 Missing Children's Assistance Act, three previous national incidence studies have been conducted to determine for a given year the actual number of children reported missing, the number of children who are victims of abduction by strangers, the number of children who are the victims of parental kidnappings, and the number of children who are recovered.

The current study will generate updated national estimates of child victims of stranger abductions and determine whether there have been any changes in the overall number of victims or in specific categories of victims. The data collected in this survey will only be used for research and statistical purposes, as described in Title 34, USC §10231 (enclosed). The data will be reported to Congress and will be used to inform the development of future policies and programs for missing children. Findings from the survey will be available on the NIJ and OJJDP websites.

We understand that you receive a number of data requests throughout the year; however, we would greatly appreciate it if you would please take the time to complete the enclosed survey. Your responses will allow us to examine the size and nature of key aspects of the nation's missing children problem.

If you have any comments or questions about this request, please feel free to contact me at XXX-XXX-XXXX or Benjamin.Adams@ojp.usdoj.gov.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Adams
Social Science Analyst
National Institute of Justice

[BACK PAGE]

FEDERAL ASSURANCES OF CONFIDENTIALITY AND OTHER NOTICES

This data collection is authorized under the Missing Children's Assistance Act (see, 34 U.S.C. § 11293(c)). NIJ, OJJDP, its employees, and its data collection agents will use the information you provide for statistical or research purposes only, and will not disclose your information in identifiable form without your consent to anyone outside of the research team. All personally identifiable data collected are protected under the confidentiality provisions of 34 U.S.C. § 10231, and any person who violates these provisions may be punished by a fine up to \$10,000, in addition to any other penalties imposed by law. Further, under the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, your data are protected from cybersecurity risks through screening of the systems that transmit your data. Your compliance with the request for information is entirely voluntary, and if you choose to provide information, you may discontinue at any time without penalty of any sort.

Under the Federal Paperwork Reduction Act, a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. We try to create forms and instructions that are accurate, can be easily understood, and which impose the least possible burden on you to provide us with information. We estimate that it will take 0.25 hours to complete this questionnaire. This estimate includes time for reviewing the instructions, searching for and gathering the data, completing the form, and reviewing answers.

If you would like more information concerning this authorization, the confidentiality guarantee, have comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate, or suggestions for making the form simpler, please contact Benjamin Adams, Social Science Analyst, at Benjamin.Adams@usdoj.gov or 202-616-3687. If you need assistance regarding your submission, please contact the survey director, Gail Thomas at gailthomas@westat.com or call the project's toll free number: xxx-xxx-xxxx.

Attachment C

Invitation Letter, Chief of Police/Sheriff

Attachment C: Invitation Letter, Chief of Police/Sheriff

[INSERT F_NAME, MID_INIT, L_NAME]

[INSERT DATE OF MAILING]

[INSERT DEPT NAME]

[INSERT ADDRESS 1]

[INSERT CITY], [INSERT STATE] [INSERT ZIP]

Dear [INSERT TITLE, L_NAME],

We are asking your agency to participate in the National Law Enforcement Survey on Abducted Children, a study designed to estimate the number of children kidnapped by strangers in the U.S.

This study is part of the Fourth National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMART-4). The current study will update the national estimates of child victims of stranger abductions and determine whether there have been any changes in the overall number of victims or in specific categories of victims. This study will limit the scope of events to those known to law enforcement and so we are relying on law enforcement agencies as the source of data.

The study is being conducted in two phases. In this first phase, we are asking your agency to complete a brief mail screener to let us know 1) if you have jurisdiction to conduct criminal investigations of missing children and 2) if you have had any relevant cases between XX/XX/XXXX and XX/XX/XXXX. In Phase 2, the research team will contact investigators of the child abduction cases identified in Phase 1. They will be asked to complete a self-administered web survey providing details about the specific case.

Enclosed is the Phase 1 survey packet for your agency. The packet includes the mail survey screener, frequently asked questions about the study, and a pre-paid return envelope. Please review the materials enclosed, complete the survey and return it using the enclosed prepaid envelope by <<SURVEY DUE DATE>>.

In order for the results of this study to truly represent the experience of all law enforcement agencies across the country, ***it is important that every questionnaire be completed and returned, even if your agency did not have any relevant cases. You can simply note this. If your agency has a lot of eligible cases, you can call the survey director and she will help you complete it.***

Your agency's participation is voluntary and will not affect the status of your agency in any way. Responses are confidential and will be used for statistical purposes only, as required by federal law. The name of your agency will also remain confidential. It will not be used in any of the results from the study. The survey identification number is for mailing purposes only, so we can check your agency off our mailing list when your survey is returned.

This study is sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and managed by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), at the U.S. Department of Justice. The results of this study will be published in a report by OJJDP and NIJ.

We will be happy to answer your questions about this project. Please call us at our toll free number, 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX, or send an e-mail to survey director Gail Thomas at GailThomas@westat.com. Thank you so much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

Attachment D
Mail Survey Screener

SECTION A

1. Does your agency have jurisdiction to conduct criminal investigations of cases in which a child is reported as missing or abducted?

Yes No → Skip to Section G Page 7 →

2. Between **[one-year period]**, did your agency investigate any cases where a child under the age of 18 was abducted by a stranger, or a person with limited previous contact (a slight acquaintance) (cf. Glossary), or by an unknown person?

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] including investigations that your agency turned over to another agency, if applicable.

Yes No → Skip to Section C, Page 4 →

3. Were any of these cases where...

- a. The child was held overnight? Yes No
- b. The child was transported 50 miles or more? Yes No
- c. The child was held for ransom? Yes No
- d. The child was killed? Yes No
- e. The abductor apparently intended to keep the child? Yes No

4. Did you answer "yes" to any item in Question 3? → Skip to Section C, Page 5 →

Yes No

5. Indicate the total number of cases that your agency investigated between **[one-year period]** that fit one or more of the criteria given in Question 3.

Remember to include all cases that 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.

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

	a) Case Number <i>Provide your agency's case number for reference in our follow-up call</i>	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.	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	Name Email	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	/ /	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Overnight, 50+ Miles, Ransom, Killed, Intent to Keep
2.	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	Name Email	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	/ /	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Overnight, 50+ Miles, Ransom, Killed, Intent to Keep
3.	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	Name Email	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	/ /	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Overnight, 50+ Miles, Ransom, Killed, Intent to Keep
4.	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	Name Email	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	/ /	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Overnight, 50+ Miles, Ransom, Killed, Intent to Keep
5.	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	Name Email	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	/ /	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Overnight, 50+ Miles, Ransom, Killed, Intent to Keep
6.	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	Name Email	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	/ /	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Overnight, 50+ Miles, Ransom, Killed, Intent to Keep

(Attach additional pages to continue this listing, if necessary).

SEE GLOSSARY, PAGE 7.

↓
Continue with Section C



SECTION C

In order to ensure that NISMART-4 counts all 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? Yes No
 - b. The perpetrator or primary suspect was a person with limited previous contact (a slight acquaintance) (cf. Glossary)? Yes No
 - 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 the 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 No
 - b. Detained the child for one hour or longer? 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 each case by completing Section D on the next page. →

SEE GLOSSARY, PAGE 7.

SECTION D

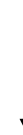
For all stranger abduction homicides included in the total in Question 7 on the previous page, please provide the following information:

	a) Case Number <i>Provide your agency's case number for reference in our follow-up call</i>	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.	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	Name: <input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> Email: <input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	/ /	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved 20+ Feet Detained 1+ Hour
2.	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	/ /	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved 20+ Feet Detained 1+ Hour
3.	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	/ /	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved 20+ Feet Detained 1+ Hour
4.	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	/ /	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved 20+ Feet Detained 1+ Hour
5.	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	/ /	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved 20+ Feet Detained 1+ Hour
6.	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	/ /	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved 20+ Feet Detained 1+ Hour

(Attach additional pages to continue this listing, if necessary).

SEE GLOSSARY, PAGE 7.

↓
Skip to Section F, Page 6



SECTION E

1. You have indicated that your agency did not investigate any cases between [one-year period] that fit the NISMART criteria for a stereotypical abduction (see Glossary). What year did your agency last investigate any case that fit those criteria?

2. Are you aware of any cases of stereotypical abductions in your general area or in your state between [one-year period]?

Yes → Indicate the county (counties) where the abduction(s) took place

No

SECTION F

1. To the extent possible, please verify your answers in the previous sections by conducting a check of investigation records and/or discussions with your agency's investigative unit(s). Indicate here the way(s) you verified this information:

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. Checked with other staff in your department? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Checked with staff elsewhere in your agency? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Checked records? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Used a computerized information system?..... | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. Is your specific department or unit responsible for...

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|---|
| a. Investigating child abductions?..... | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Maintaining data on child abductions?..... | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> → 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).

Attachment E
FAQs Mail Survey Screener

Attachment E: FAQs Mail Survey Screener

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is NISMART-4?

NISMART-4 is a research study created by the federal Missing Children's Assistance Act. Its goal is to estimate the number of missing children, including children who have been abducted. NISMART-4 is the fourth in a series of studies conducted between 1988 and 2011. It will update numbers from the three previous studies to determine whether there have been increases or decreases in the number of missing or abducted children. The findings will be reported to Congress and will guide the development of policies and programs for missing children. The study is sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and managed by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), at the U.S. Department of Justice. Westat and the Crimes against Children Research Center (CCRC) at the University of New Hampshire are conducting the study.

What is the National Law Enforcement Survey on Stereotypical Kidnappings?

NISMART includes a number of different studies. The National Law Enforcement Survey on Abducted Children will estimate the number of children who were abducted by strangers between **[one-year period]**. Data will be collected in two phases from all law enforcement agencies with authority to investigate stereotypical kidnappings. In Phase 1, Law Enforcement Agencies will complete a mail survey screener to identify relevant cases. Then in Phase 2, researchers will contact investigators of the relevant stereotypical kidnapping cases to ask them complete a self-administered web survey to provide details about specific cases they investigated.

How did you choose this agency?

This mail survey is being sent to all law enforcement agencies in a nationally representative sample of more than 400 U.S. counties, a total of **4,727** agencies.

Why is my agency's participation important?

Participation is voluntary, and will not affect the status of your agency in any way. However, the sample of agencies has been carefully designed to be nationally representative, so your agency will make an important contribution to the accuracy and reliability of the final study estimates. This applies whether or not your agency investigated any relevant cases during **[one-year period]**.

Participating in this research will not entail any particular risks or benefits to you but it will contribute to knowledge about abducted children.

What if my agency has no cases?

Please complete the survey even if your agency did not investigate any relevant cases during the study year **[one-year period]**. Whatever your agency's experiences, they represent the experiences of other law enforcement agencies like yours nationwide.

What does the mail survey screener involve?

The mail survey screener asks about the agency's experience with cases in which a child is reported as abducted or missing. It takes about 15 minutes to complete.

What about security and confidentiality protections?

In accordance with 28 CFR Part 22, the research team will provide administrative and physical security of identifiable data and preserve the anonymity of private persons participating in this project. The study avoids asking for identifying information about cases, such as victims' names. Throughout the research, all information that would link an agency with any specific case details will be kept under lock and key or in secure computer files, accessible to authorized study staff only. Finally, federal law requires that all information be used for statistical purposes only—no specific agencies or cases will be identified in any publicized materials.

What if I have questions?

If you have questions about the research, please contact the survey director, Gail Thomas, at 301-610-5523 or GailThomas@westat.com, or the study's toll-free number at 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX. If you have any questions about your rights as a research subject, you may contact the Westat Human Subjects Protection Office at 1-888-920-7631. Please leave a message with your full name, the name of the study (NISMART-4) and a phone number, beginning with the area code. Someone will return your call as soon as possible.

Attachment F
Thank You/Reminder Postcard

Attachment F: Thank you/Reminder Postcard

Reminder to Complete the National Law Enforcement Survey on Abducted Children

We recently sent you a survey about cases in your agency involving child abductions by strangers. The current study will update the estimates of how many children are abducted by strangers each year. The data will be reported to Congress and will be used to inform the development of future policies and programs for missing children.

If you have already completed the survey and returned it to us, please accept our sincere thanks. If not, please complete the survey and send it to us as soon as possible. The survey is due on <<MAIL SCREENER SURVEY DUE DATE>>. We need to receive your survey, even if you do not have any stranger abduction cases, so that the study results will accurately represent the experiences of law enforcement agencies across the nation.

If you have questions about completing the survey, did not receive the survey, or it has been misplaced, please call us at the following toll-free number, 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX, and we will mail another survey to you right away.

We greatly appreciate your help!

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

Attachment G
Second Reminder Letter

Attachment G: Second Reminder Letter

[INSERT F_NAME, MID_INIT, L_NAME]

[INSERT DATE OF MAILING]

[INSERT DEPT NAME]

[INSERT ADDRESS 1]

[INSERT CITY], [INSERT STATE]

[INSERT ZIP]

Dear [INSERT TITLE, L_NAME],

In [MONTH SURVEY SENT] we sent you a survey and a letter asking you to participate in the National Law Enforcement Survey on Abducted Children. The survey seeks information about your agency's experiences with stranger abductions. The survey was due [SURVEY DUE DATE] but, as of today, we have not received your completed survey. (If you are still filling it out or have recently returned it, please disregard this notice.)

Our research team was asked to conduct this study to obtain an accurate estimate of the number of children who are kidnapped by strangers. We know that crime investigators are the most knowledgeable sources of information about such cases.

I am writing to you again because each questionnaire is significant to the usefulness of this study. Your agency was drawn through a *scientific sampling process in which every law enforcement agency in the United States had an equal chance of being sampled*. In order for the study results to truly represent the experiences of all agencies, it is essential that each agency in the sample return the questionnaire, even if your agency does not have any relevant cases. There is a place for you to note this on the questionnaire.

We know you are extremely busy, but your response to this survey is an investment of time that will help law enforcement in the future. The report we write from this study will give policy makers and legislators vital information about cases involving stranger abductions. In case your questionnaire has been misplaced, a replacement is enclosed. If you have any questions about this project, please send an email to GailThomas@westat.com or you can call our project's toll-free number 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX, and someone will return your call promptly. Thank you so much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

Attachment H
Third Reminder Letter

Attachment H: Third Reminder Letter

[INSERT F_NAME, MID_INIT, L_NAME]

[INSERT DATE OF MAILING]

[INSERT DEPT NAME]

[INSERT ADDRESS 1]

[INSERT CITY], [INSERT STATE]

[INSERT ZIP]

Dear [INSERT TITLE, L_NAME],

This is the third request for your agency's participation in the National Law Enforcement Survey on Abducted Children. The survey seeks information about your agency's experiences with child kidnappings. The survey was due [SURVEY DUE DATE] but, as of today, we have not received your completed survey. (If you have recently returned your survey, please disregard this notice.)

If you have not yet responded, we hope that you will be able to do so soon. The survey should take no longer than 5–10 minutes to complete. We would be very grateful if you would consider helping us with this important research. We appreciate the many demands for your time but please be assured that the study results will help law enforcement in the future. In case your questionnaire has been misplaced, a replacement is enclosed. If you have any questions about this project, please send an email to XXXXXX@XXXX.com or you can call our project's toll-free number 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX, and someone will return your call promptly.

Thank you so much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

Attachment I
Shortened Four-Question Survey

Attachment I: Shortened Four-Question Survey

National Law Enforcement Survey on Child Abductions

This is the fourth request for your agency's participation in the National Law Enforcement Survey on Child Abductions. As of today, we have not received your completed questionnaire.

The report we write from this study will help law enforcement in the future and give policy makers and legislators vital information about cases involving stranger abductions. Your agency was drawn through *a scientific sampling process in which every law enforcement in the United States has an equal chance of being sampled*. In order for the study results to truly represent the experiences of all agencies, it is essential that each agency in the sample respond, even if you do not have any cases to report.

To make things easier for you, we have simplified the survey to four essential questions, listed below. Please answer them to the best of your knowledge and return this to us. If you have any questions about this project, please send an email to GailThomas@westat.com or you can call our project's toll-free number at 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX, and someone will return your call promptly. Thank you so much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

1. Does your agency have jurisdiction to conduct criminal investigations of cases in which a child is reported as abducted or missing?

Yes No

2. Between <<<MONTH-DAY-YEAR>>> and <<<MONTH-DAY-YEAR>>> did your agency investigate any cases where a child under the age of 18 was abducted by a stranger, or a person with limited previous contact (slight acquaintance) or by unknown person?

Yes No Does not apply

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, we cannot ask you to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the National Institute of Justice, 810 Seventh Street NW, Washington, DC 20531.

3. Between <<<MONTH-DAY-YEAR>>> and <<<MONTH-DAY-YEAR>>> did your agency investigate any homicides or presumed homicides where the victim was a child under the age of 18 and the perpetrator or the primary suspect was a stranger, or a person with limited previous contact (slight acquaintance) or unknown person?

Yes No Does not apply

4. Between <<<MONTH-DAY-YEAR>>> and <<<MONTH-DAY-YEAR>>> did your agency have any open cases of child abductions or presumed abductions from prior years?

Yes No Does not apply

Your Name and Title: _____

Phone Number: _____

***Thank you for your time. Please refold this paper so that
the prepaid side is visible and mail it back to us.***

Attachment J
LES-SK Web Survey

Attachment J: LES-SK Web Survey

PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS

SK1.1 Please give your contact information here so the researchers can reach you if they have questions after they review your survey. This information will be deleted as soon as the research team verifies that your survey is complete.

- Name and title (1) _____
- Telephone number (2) _____
- Email address (3) _____

***Note:** Only the introduction is different between the pilot LES-SK and the full study LES-SK. The rest of the survey is the same.

NISMART requirements for SK

SK1.2 Your agency's case number for this investigation is [number will be provided].

Please confirm that this case involved a child age 17 or younger abducted by someone who was not a family member AND the child was

- Moved at least 20 feet OR
- Held for at least one hour.

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

If you are not sure what happened to the child, answer based on what investigators in your agency think is the most likely explanation.

Box 1

If SK1.2 = 2 (child was not moved 20' or held for 1 hour) or SK1.2 = 3 (don't know) and respondent has no additional surveys to complete, go to ENDSURVEY1.

If SK1.2 = 2 or SK1.2 = 3 and respondent has additional surveys to complete, go to ENDSURVEY2.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, we cannot ask you to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 40 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the National Institute of Justice, 810 Seventh Street NW, Washington, DC 20531.

NISMART Time Frame

SK1.3

Did this incident occur between [12-month time frame to be established]?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

Box 2

If SK1.3 = 2 (incident not in time frame) or SK1.3 = 3 (don't know) and respondent has no additional surveys to complete, go to ENDSURVEY1.

If SK1.3 = 2 or SK1.3 = 3 and respondent has additional surveys to complete, go to ENDSURVEY2.

NISMART definition of SK

SK1.4 Did any of the following happen in this case? (Please respond to all items.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
a. A child was <u>held overnight</u> OR between 12 midnight & 5am (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. A child was <u>transported 50 miles or more</u> (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. A child was <u>held for ransom</u> (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. A child was <u>killed</u> (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. A perpetrator apparently intended to <u>keep a child permanently</u> (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Box 3

If none of the answers to SK1.4 = 1 (Yes) and respondent has no additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY1.

If none of the answers to SK1.4 = 1 and respondent has additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY2.

SK1.5 Did this case involve more than one perpetrator?

If number of perpetrators is unknown, please enter the number believed to have been involved if more than one.

- Yes (Enter number of perpetrators) (1) _____
- No, 1 perpetrator (2) _____ SK1.9
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK1.9

SK1.6 How did the perpetrators know each other? (Please respond to all items.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Married or romantic or sexual partners (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other members of a family (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Members of a gang (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Involved together in selling or buying drugs (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Involved together in sex trafficking (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Involved in some other type of criminal enterprise (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Friends, acquaintances or schoolmates (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Something else (Please describe) (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SK1.7 Did any of the perpetrators have a close relationship with a victim or victim's family? This could involve a blood or legal tie to the family, a romantic partnership with a relative of a victim, a longstanding friendship, or another relationship that would make a perpetrator well-known to a child victim or their family.

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ SK1.9
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK1.9

SK1.8 Please describe this close relationship between a perpetrator and child victim or victim's family.
[TEXT ENTRY] _____

Box 4

If SK1.5 = 1 (multiple perpetrators) the survey will be programmed to instruct respondents to answer questions regarding the perpetrator most responsible for the incident.

SK1.9 Did this case involve more than one child victim?

- Yes, 2 child victims (1)
- Yes, 3 or more child victims (Enter number) (2) _____ SK1.11
- No, 1 child victim (3) _____ SK1.12
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4) _____ SK1.12

SK1.10 How did the victims know each other?

- Siblings or step-siblings (1) _____ SK1.12
- Related as family some other way, such as cousins (2) _____ SK1.12
- Friends, acquaintances or schoolmates (3) _____ SK1.12
- Something else (Please describe) (4) _____ SK1.12
- Don't know/Cannot determine (5) _____ SK1.12

SK1.11 How did the victims know each other?

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Siblings or step-siblings (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Related as family some other way, such as cousins (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Friends, acquaintances or schoolmates (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Something else (Please describe) (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Box 5

If SK1.9 = 1 or SK1.9 = 2 (multiple child victims) the survey will be programmed to refer to plural victims or to "any" or "each" victim and to provide other related instructions.

NISMART Definition of Stranger

SK1.12 Was the perpetrator [most responsible for this incident] a stranger to [the/any] child victim?

Stranger means a non-family perpetrator whom the child or child's family did not know OR the perpetrator's identity is unknown but investigators reasonably believe the perpetrator is a stranger.)

- Yes, a perpetrator was a stranger (1) _____ SK1.15
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK1.13 Please briefly describe how the [most responsible] perpetrator knew the child victim[s] or families. [TEXT ENTRY] _____

NISMART definition of person with limited previous contact

SK1.14 Was the [most responsible] perpetrator a person with limited previous contact with [the/any] victim?

Person with limited previous contact (Slight acquaintance) means that one of the following statements applies to the [most responsible] perpetrator's relationship to the [any] child victim or their family. If you are not sure, please answer based on what investigators in your agency think is most likely about the perpetrator/victim relationships.

(Please respond to all statements.) The perpetrator was not a family member AND before the abduction:

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
The <u>perpetrator's name was unknown</u> to the child or family and the child or family <u>did not know</u> the perpetrator <u>well enough to speak to</u> . (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The child <u>met</u> the perpetrator <u>on the Internet but not in person</u> . (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The child or family <u>knew</u> the perpetrator for <u>less than 6 months</u> . (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The child or family <u>knew</u> the perpetrator for <u>longer than 6 months but saw them less than once a month</u> . (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Box 6

If all of the answers to SK1.14 = 2 (No) and respondent has no additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY1.

If all of the answers to SK1.14 = 2 and respondent has additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY2.

SK1.15 Were other law enforcement agencies involved in this case?

- Yes (Please specify number of agencies involved) (1) _____
- No (2) _____ SK1.19
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK1.19

SK1.16 Did your agency receive the first report of this case?

- Yes (1) _____ SK1.18
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK1.18

SK1.17 What agency received the first report? (Please enter the agency name, county and state.)

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

SK1.18 Please list the other agencies involved in this case. Please list each agency by name, county and state.

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

SK1.19 What is the current status of this case in your agency?

- Open (under active investigation) (1)
- Open (arrest warrant issued) (2)
- Cleared by arrest (3)
- Closed for reasons other than arrest (exceptional clearance) (4)
- Suspended (inactive investigation) (5)
- Some other status (Please describe) (6) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (7)

CHILD CHARACTERISTICS

SK2.1 Next are questions about [the/each] child victim in this incident. [Since there is more than one, please start with the oldest child.] Is this child male or female?

- Male (1)
- Female (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK2.2 How old was this child at the time of the incident? (Please give your best estimate if not sure.)

- Less than 1 year old (1)
- 1 year old or older (Please enter age in years) (2) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK2.3 Is this child Hispanic or Latino/a?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK2.4 What is this child's race? (Please enter all that apply.)

- White (1)
- Black or African American (2)
- American Indian or Alaska Native (3)
- Asian (4)
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (5)
- Other (Please describe) (6) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (7)

Box 7

If SK1.9 = 3 (one child victim) or SK1.9 = 4 (don't know), go to SK2.10

If SK1.9 = 1 or If SK1.9 = 1 (multiple child victims), go to SK2.5.

SK2.5 Was the [most responsible] perpetrator in this incident a stranger to this child or their family?

Stranger means that the child or the child's family did not know the perpetrator OR the identity of the perpetrator is unknown but law enforcement reasonably believes it is a stranger.

- Yes (1) _____ Box 9
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK2.6 Please briefly describe how this child knew the [most responsible] perpetrator.
 [TEXT ENTRY] _____

SK2.7 Was the [most responsible] perpetrator a person with limited previous contact (slight acquaintance) of this child victim?

Person with limited previous contact means that one of the following statements applies to the [most responsible] perpetrator's relationship to the [any] child victim or their family. If you are not sure, please answer based on what investigators in your agency think is most likely about the perpetrator/victim relationships.

(Please respond to all statements.) The perpetrator was not a family member AND before the abduction:

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
a. The <u>perpetrator's name was unknown</u> to the child or family and the child or family <u>did not know the perpetrator well enough to speak to</u> (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. The child <u>met</u> the perpetrator <u>on the Internet but not in person</u> (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. The child or family <u>knew</u> the perpetrator for <u>less than 6 months</u> (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. The child or family <u>knew</u> the perpetrator for <u>longer than 6 months but saw them less than once a month</u> (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Box 8

If all of the answers to SK2.7 = 2 (No) and there are additional victims, go to SK2.1.
 If all of the answers to SK2.7 = 2 and there are no additional victims, go to SK3.1.

Box 9

If SK1.9 = 1 or If SK1.9 = 2 (multiple child victims) and SK1.4c = 1 (held for ransom), go to SK2.8.
 Otherwise go to Box 10.

SK2.8 Was this child held for ransom?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

Box 10

If SK1.9 = 1 or If SK1.9 = 2 (multiple child victims) and SK1.4e = 1 (intent to keep permanently), go to SK2.9.

Otherwise go to SK.10.

SK2.9 Did [the/a] perpetrator intend to keep this child permanently?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK2.10 How far did the perpetrator move this victim from the beginning of the abduction to the time the victim was released, found, escaped or killed?

- 20 feet or less (1)
- More than 20 feet but less than 1 mile (2)
- 1 to 9 miles (3)
- 10 to 49 miles (4)
- 50 miles or more (5)
- Child was not moved (6)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (7)

SK2.11 How long did the perpetrator keep or detain this victim before he or she was released, found, escaped or killed?

- Less than 1 hour (1) _____ SK2.13
- 1 hour to less than 24 hours (2)
- 1 to 3 days (3) _____ SK2.13
- 4 to 7 days (4) _____ SK2.13
- More than 1 week (5) _____ SK2.13
- Child was not detained (6) _____ SK2.13
- Don't know/Cannot determine (7) _____ SK2.13

SK2.12 Was this victim held or detained overnight OR for at least one hour between midnight and 5am?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK2.13 What parents did this child live with when this incident began?

- Two married, biological parents (1)
- Two married parents, one or both not biological, but both having a legal relationship to the child, such as adoption (2)
- Two unmarried parents, biological or other (3)
- One unmarried parent with a live-in partner who was not the child's parent) (4)
- A single parent (no live-in partner) (5)
- No parent (6)
- Other situation (Please describe) (9) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (10)

SK2.14 What type of housing did this child live in at the time of the incident?

- Single family dwelling (1)
- Multi-family dwelling (duplex, apartment building, for example) (2)
- Other situation such as shelter, institution, etc. (3)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4)

SK2.15 At the time of the abduction, was this child impaired by any serious or permanent physical or mental disabilities, life threatening medical conditions or other problems such as drug or alcohol use?

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ Box 11
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ Box 11

SK2.16 Please describe the child's disabilities, medical conditions or other impairments at the time of the incident.

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

SK2.17 Would you say that this child was mentally incompetent at the time of the episode?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

Box 11

If child is age 10 or older, go to SK2.18. If child is age 9 or younger, go to SK2.19.

SK2.18 Was this child involved in any way in... (Respond to all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
The criminal justice system (past or current, perpetrator or victim) (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drugs, using or selling (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Alcohol use (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SK2.19 Did this child have a parent who was involved in any way in... (Respond to all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
The criminal justice system (past or current, perpetrator or victim) (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drugs, using or selling (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Definition of Recovery

SK2.20 Was this victim...

- Recovered? (1)
- Killed? (2)
- Still missing? (3)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4)

Box 12

If SK1.9 = 1 or SK1.9 = 2 (multiple child victims), questions SK2.1—SK2.20 will repeat for each child.

After last child, go to SK3.1.

PERPETRATOR CHARACTERISTICS

SK3.1 The next questions ask about the perpetrator. [Please answer about the perpetrator most responsible for the incident.] Is the identity of this perpetrator known?

- Yes (1) _____ SK3.3
 No (2) _____

SK3.2 Do you have any information at all, like sex, race or approximate age?

- Yes (1)
 No (2) _____ SK4.1

SK3.3 How old was the [most responsible] perpetrator at the time of the incident.

- Please enter age in years (1) _____
 Don't know/Cannot determine (2)

SK3.4 Is the [most responsible] perpetrator male or female?

- Male (1)
 Female (2)
 Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK3.5 Is the [most responsible] perpetrator Hispanic or Latino/a?

- Yes (1)
 No (2)
 Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK3.6 What is the [most responsible] perpetrator's race? (Enter all that apply.)

- White (1)
 Black or African American (2)
 American Indian or Alaska Native (3)
 Asian (4)
 Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (5)
 Other (Please describe) (6) _____
 Don't know/Cannot determine (7)

Box 13

If SK3.2 = 1 (some information about unknown perpetrator), go to SK3.7.

If SK3.1 = 1 (perpetrator's identity is known), go to SK3.8.

SK3.7 Do you have any information about the perpetrator's life circumstances, like marital status, employment or involvement with the criminal justice system?

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ SK4.1

SK3.8 What was the [most responsible] perpetrator's marital status at the time of the crime?

- Single (1)
- Married (2)
- Separated, divorced or widowed (3)
- Living with a partner (4)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (5)

SK3.9 Was the [most responsible] perpetrator's employed either full- or part-time at the time of the crime?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK3.10 At the time of this crime, did the [most responsible] perpetrator have any active or ongoing involvement with the legal system or treatment programs?

- Yes (Please describe) (1) _____
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK3.11 At the time of the episode, did the [most responsible] perpetrator have a diagnosed mental illness?

- Yes (Please describe) (1) _____
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK3.12 How would you describe the [most responsible] perpetrator's overall intelligence?

- Above average (1)
- Average (2)
- Below average (3)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4)

SK3.13 How would you describe the amount of social interaction the [most responsible] perpetrator had in everyday life?

- Above average (1)
- Average (2)
- Below average (3)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4)

SK3.14 Is there any indication that the [most responsible] perpetrator has any problems with drugs or alcohol?

- Yes (Please describe type of problem) (1) _____
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK3.15 Did this perpetrator have any prior arrests?

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ SK4.1
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK4.1

SK3.16 Were any of these arrests for crimes of violence?

- Yes (Please describe) (1) _____
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK3.16.1 Was this perpetrator list in the National Sex Offender Registry?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK3.16.2 Was this perpetrator listed in the National Sex Offender Public Website?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK3.17 Did this perpetrator have any prior arrests for crimes against juveniles?

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ SK4.1
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK4.1

SK3.18 Did any of these prior arrests involve any of the following? (Please answer all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Homicide of a child (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A sex crime against a child (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child abduction (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Battery or assault of a child (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Something else (Please describe) (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

CRIME CHARACTERISTICS

SK4.1 Did a parent or other caretaker of a child victim in this case contact the police for help to locate their missing child?

- Yes, contacted police to locate missing child (1)
- No, contacted police for other reason or did not contact police (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK4.2 Where [was the victim/were the victims] last seen before the abduction occurred?

- Victim's residence or place child was staying at night, includes yard (1)
- Outdoor area with public access (sidewalk, park, street, beach, etc.) (2)
- Indoor area with public access (shopping mall, store, theater, etc.) (3)
- Perpetrator's residence or yard (4)
- Common area of apartment complex (5)
- School or daycare, indoors or outdoors (6)
- Vehicle (7)
- Other place (Please describe) (8) _____
- Don't know/Not sure (9)

SK4.3 Was [the/any] victim taken from a group of children?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK4.4 How would you characterize the perpetrator's initial approach? (Please respond to all options.)

	No (1)	Yes (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Deceptive or non-threatening pretext (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Surprise (laying in wait, using stealth) or blitz (sudden, overwhelming force) (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other type of approach (Please describe) (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SK4.5 Did [the/any] victim go with the perpetrator voluntarily (even if duped)?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK4.6 During the incident did the perpetrator take or move [the/any] victim in or to any of the following... (Please answer all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
A vehicle? (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A building? (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The perpetrator's home? (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
An outside area, like woods? (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SK4.7 Did the perpetrator use physical force or any kind of threat in taking or moving [the/any] victim from their original location?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

Box 14

If SK2.11 < 6 (victim was detained) or SK2.11 = 7 (don't know), go to SK4.8.

If SK2.11 = 6 (not detained), go to Box 15.

SK4.8 Did the perpetrator use any kind of force or threat during the time [the/any] victim was detained?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK4.9 How isolated was the location where the victim was detained?

Isolated means the child was not able to leave on his or her own and had no opportunity to appeal for help.

- Very isolated (1)
- Probably isolated (2)
- Not isolated (3)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4)

Box 15

If SK4.7 = 1 (force or threat while taking/moving) or SK4.8 = 1 (force/threat during detainment), go to SK4.10.

Otherwise go to SK4.11.

SK4.10 Did the perpetrator use force or threaten [the/any] victim in any of the following ways during the crime? (Please respond to all statements.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Threaten a child with or use a weapon? (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Harm or threaten to harm a child's family or pets? (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Force the child to walk somewhere (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other use of force (Describe) (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SK4.11 During the abduction or detainment, did [any] perpetrator... (Please respond to all statements.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Physically assault a child victim? (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neglect a victim's basic needs (food, water, shelter, medical treatment, etc.)? (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sexually assault a child victim? (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drug a child victim? (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rob a child victim or damage or destroy their belongings? (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Harm the child some other way (Please describe) (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SK4.12 Is there any indication that this crime was connected with ... (Answer all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Youth gang activity (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drug trafficking (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sex trafficking (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Serial killings (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other criminal networks or conspiracies (Describe) (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SK4.13 Is there any indication that the internet played a role in prior contact between a perpetrator and victim or in leading up to the abduction encounter?

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ SK5.1
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK5.1

SK4.14 Please describe the role the internet played.

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

INVESTIGATION

SK5.1 Was this case submitted to ... (Please answer all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
FBI's Violent Criminal Apprehension system (VICAP)? (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National Crime Information Center (NCIC)? (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC)? (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SK5.2 Did a NCMEC Project Alert team participate in the investigation?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK5.3 Was a DNA profile entered into CODIS (Combined DNA Index System)?

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ SK5.5
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK5.5

SK5.4 Was a match found?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK5.5 Was a telephone hotline established?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK5.6 Was a leads management system established?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

SK5.7 Was an Amber Alert issued?

- Yes (1) _____ SK5.9
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK5.11

SK5.8 Why wasn't an Amber Alert issued? (Please answer all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Child was quickly recovered (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
No reasonable belief an abduction had occurred (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child was not in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insufficient information about child, vehicle, etc. to issue Amber Alert (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other reason (Please describe) (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Box 16

If SK5.7 = 2 (no Amber Alert), go to SK5.11.

SK5.9 Did the Amber Alert result in any information that helped to locate or recover the child or identify the perpetrator?

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ SK5.11
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK5.11

SK5.10 Please describe how the Amber Alert helped to locate and recover the child?

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

SK5.11 Did electronic devices such as cell phones or computers provide evidence, leads, or other information that was key to recovering [the/any] victim or identifying the perpetrator?

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ SK5.13
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ SK5.13

SK5.12 Please describe how electronic devices provided evidence, leads or other information.

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

SK5.13 Is there anything else that would be important to know about this case?

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

SK.14 If you want to clarify your answers to any of the close-ended responses above, please do so here:

SK.15 If you feel a narrative description of the kidnapping episode would help us better understand this case, please provide a description here:

Box 17

If respondent has no additional surveys to complete, go to ENDSURVEY3.

If respondent has additional surveys to complete, go to ENDSURVEY4.

ENDSURVEY1 We are only including certain incidents in this study and this case does not qualify. There are no further questions. Thank you for your time.

ENDSURVEY2 We are only including certain incidents in this study and this case does not qualify. Please use this link to access questions about your next case that may qualify for this study: [To be added].

ENDSURVEY3 Thank you for completing this survey. We appreciate your help and your contribution to understanding the problem of child kidnapping.

ENDSURVEY4 Thank you for completing this survey. We appreciate your help and your contribution to understanding the problem of child kidnapping. Please use this link to access questions about your next case that may qualify for this study: [To be added].

Attachment K

Invitation Letter for Web Survey, Investigating Officer

Attachment K: Invitation Letter for Web Survey, Investigating Officer

[F_NAME L_NAME]

[DATE OF MAILING]

[DEPT NAME]

[ADDRESS]

[CITY, STATE ZIP]

Dear [INSERT TITLE, L_NAME]:

Your agency is participating in the National Law Enforcement Survey on Child Abductions, a study designed to estimate the number of children abducted by strangers in the U.S.

This study is part of a larger study, sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and managed by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), which seeks to design and test methodologies to produce accurate estimates on the number and characteristics of missing children reported to law enforcement. The study will update the national estimates of child victims of stereotypical kidnapping and determine whether there have been any changes in the overall number of victims or in specific categories of victims. This study will limit the scope of events to those known to law enforcement and relying on the law enforcement agencies as the source of data.

The following case has been identified by your agency as an episode of stranger abduction: [CASE ID]

We are asking you (or the most knowledgeable investigator) to answer questions about this case on a web survey. In order for the results of this study to truly represent the experience of all law enforcement agencies across the country, it is important that every questionnaire be completed. The web survey is hosted on our secure website and will take about 30 minutes. It may be completed in one sitting or in parts. You may go to the website at any time and enter your personal and confidential user login and password (below) to begin the survey. **We ask you to please complete the web survey by Month, XX, 20XX.**

Survey address: <https://www.XXXXXXXXX>

User Login: «ulD»

Password: «Password»

Your agency's participation is voluntary and will not affect the status of your agency in any way. Responses will be confidential and will be used for statistical purposes only, as required by federal law. Your name and the name of your agency will remain confidential and will not be used in any of the results from the study. We greatly appreciate your assistance in this important project. If you have questions about the operation or content of the web survey, have difficulty accessing the survey, or need further assistance, please call our toll free number, 1-xxx-xxx-xxxx, or email our survey director Gail Thomas at GailThomas@westat.com.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

[BACK PAGE]

FEDERAL ASSURANCES OF CONFIDENTIALITY AND OTHER NOTICES

This data collection is authorized under the Missing Children's Assistance Act (see, 34 U.S.C. § 11293(c)). NIJ, OJJDP, its employees, and its data collection agents will use the information you provide for statistical or research purposes only, and will not disclose your information in identifiable form without your consent to anyone outside of the research team. All personally identifiable data collected are protected under the confidentiality provisions of 34 U.S.C. § 10231, and any person who violates these provisions may be punished by a fine up to \$10,000, in addition to any other penalties imposed by law. Further, under the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, your data are protected from cybersecurity risks through screening of the systems that transmit your data. Your compliance with the request for information is entirely voluntary, and if you choose to provide information, you may discontinue at any time without penalty of any sort.

Under the Federal Paperwork Reduction Act, a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. We try to create forms and instructions that are accurate, can be easily understood, and which impose the least possible burden on you to provide us with information. We estimate that it will take 0.67 hours to complete this questionnaire. This estimate includes time for reviewing the instructions, searching for and gathering the data, completing the form, and reviewing answers.

If you would like more information concerning this authorization, the confidentiality guarantee, have comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate, or suggestions for making the form simpler, please contact Benjamin Adams, Social Science Analyst, at Benjamin.Adams@usdoj.gov or 202-616-3687. If you need assistance regarding your submission, please contact the survey director, Gail Thomas at gailthomas@westat.com or call the project's toll free number: xxx-xxx-xxxx.

Attachment L
Frequently Asked Questions
Phase 2: Web Survey

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PHASE 2: WEB SURVEY

What is NISMART-4?

NISMART-4 is a research study created by the federal Missing Children's Assistance Act. Its goal is to estimate the number of missing children, including children who have been abducted. NISMART-4 is the fourth in a series of studies conducted between 1988 and 2011. It will update numbers from the three previous studies to determine whether there have been increases or decreases in the number of missing or abducted children. The findings will be reported to Congress and will guide the development of policies and programs for missing children. The study is sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and managed by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), at the U.S. Department of Justice. Westat and the Crimes against Children Research Center (CCRC) at the University of New Hampshire are conducting the study.

What is the National Law Enforcement Survey on Abducted Children?

NISMART includes a number of different studies. The National Law Enforcement Survey on Child Abductions will estimate the number of children who were kidnapped by strangers between **[one-year period]**. Data are being collected in two phases from all law enforcement agencies with authority to investigate stereotypical kidnappings. In Phase 1, Law Enforcement Agencies completed a mail survey screener to identify relevant cases. Now in Phase 2, we are asking investigators of child kidnapping cases to complete a self-administered web survey to provide details about specific cases investigated.

How did you choose this agency?

The initial mail survey screener was sent to all law enforcement agencies in a nationally representative sample of more than 400 U.S. counties, a total of **4,727** agencies. Because your agency investigated a child abduction case, you are being asked to provide some case details.

Why is my participation important? Participation is voluntary, and will not affect the status of your agency in any way. However, the sample of agencies has been carefully designed to be nationally representative, so your agency will make an important contribution to the

accuracy and reliability of the final study estimates about child abductions. Participating in this research will not entail any particular risks or benefits to you but it will greatly contribute to our knowledge about abducted children.

What will the web survey involve?

We are asking the investigator who is most knowledgeable about a relevant case to respond to the web survey on a secure site to provide details about the characteristics of offenders, victims, and cases investigated. The web survey will take about 40 minutes.

What about security and confidentiality protections?

In accordance with 28 CFR Part 22, the research team will provide administrative and physical security of identifiable data and preserve the anonymity of private persons participating in this project. The study avoids asking for identifying information about cases, such as victims' names. Throughout the research, all information that would link an agency with any specific case details will be kept under lock and key or in secure computer files, accessible to authorized study staff only. Finally, federal law requires that all information be used for statistical purposes only—no specific agencies or cases will be identified in any publicized materials.

What if I have questions?

If you have questions about the research, please contact the survey director, Gail Thomas, at GailThomas@westat.com, or 301-610-5523 or the study's toll-free number at 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX. If you have any questions about your rights as a research subject, you may contact the Westat Human Subjects Protection Office at 1-888-920-7631. Please leave a message with your full name, the name of the study (NISMART-4) and a phone number, beginning with the area code. Someone will return your call as soon as possible.

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).

Attachment M
Web Survey First Reminder Email

Attachment M: Web Survey First Reminder Email

Dear [TITLE L_NAME]:

On [DATE] we sent you a letter asking you to participate in the National Law Enforcement Survey on Child Abductions. Your agency is one of a number of agencies being asked to participate in a national study to estimate the number of children kidnapped by strangers.

In the letter we sent on [DATE], we identified the case ID of the victim(s) in the kidnapping case identified by your agency. The survey was due on [SURVEY DUE DATE] but we have not received your completed survey. (If you are still filling it out or have recently submitted it, please disregard this notice).

If you need information to identify this case, or you are not the right person to complete the survey, please contact the survey director, Gail Thomas at 301-610-5523 or by email at GailThomas@westat.com.

The web survey is available on our secure website. You may go to the website at any time and enter your personal and confidential user login and password (below) to begin the survey. The survey should only take about 30 minutes. **We ask you to complete the web survey by Month, XX, 20XX.**

Survey address: https://www.XXXXXXXXXX
User Login: «uID»

Password: «Password»

We know you are extremely busy, but your participation in this study will help law enforcement in the future.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

Attachment N
Web Survey Third Reminder Email

Attachment N: Web Survey Third Reminder Email

Dear [TITLE L_NAME]:

On [DATE] we sent you a letter asking you to participate in the National Law Enforcement Survey on Abducted Children. You were selected to participate because of your investigation of a child abduction that fits our study. This research is designed to help estimate the number of children involved in stranger abductions each year in the U.S. and is mandated by Congress.

In the letter we sent, we identified the case ID of the victim(s) in the kidnapping case investigated by your agency. The survey was due on [SURVEY DUE DATE]. We will be very grateful if you could help us with this important research and complete the survey today.

The web survey is available on our secure website. You may go to the website at any time and enter your personal and confidential user login and password (below) to begin the survey. The survey should only take about 30 minutes. **We now ask you to complete the web survey by Month, XX, 20XX.**

Survey address: <https://www.XXXXXXXXXX>

User Login: «uID»

Password: «Password»

If you need information to identify this case, or you are not the right person to complete the survey, please let us know by contacting the survey director, Gail Thomas at 301-610-5523 or by email at GailThomas@westat.com. If you have questions about the operation or content of the web survey, have difficulty accessing the survey, or need further assistance, please call our toll free number at xxx-xxx-xxxx.

We know you are extremely busy, but your participation in this study will help law enforcement and abducted children in the future.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

Attachment O
Web Survey Second Reminder Email

Attachment O: Web Survey Second Reminder Email

Dear [TITLE L_NAME]:

Westat and the University of New Hampshire's Crimes against Children Research Center are conducting the Fourth National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMAART-4). The study is sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and managed by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), at the U.S. Department of Justice. The study seeks to update national estimates of child victims of stereotypical kidnapping and determine whether there have been any changes in the overall number of victims or in specific categories of victims.

On [DATE] the research team sent you a letter asking you to participate in the web survey component of the study by providing details about a specific case of child abduction. You were selected as the investigator most knowledgeable about the case. The research team has not yet heard from you and I wanted to reach out to urge you to respond.

In the original letter sent, the research team identified the case ID of the victim(s) in the kidnapping case investigated by your agency. If you no longer have the letter and need information to identify this case, please contact the survey director, Gail Thomas at 301-610-5523 or by email at GailThomas@westat.com and she can help you. If you have questions about the operation or content of the web survey, have difficulty accessing the survey, or need further assistance, please call the project's toll free number at xxx-xxx-xxxx.

The web survey is available on the project's secure website. You may go to the website at any time and enter your personal and confidential user login and password (below) to begin the survey. The survey should only take about 30 minutes. **I ask you to please complete the web survey by Month, XX, 20XX.**

Survey address: https://www.XXXXXXXXXX

User Login: «uID»

Password: «Password»

I can appreciate the many demands on your time, but please know that your participation in this study will help law enforcement in the future.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Adams
Social Science Analyst
National Institute of Justice

Attachment P
Thank You Letter

Attachment P: Thank You Letter

[F_NAME L_NAME]
[DEPT NAME]
[ADDRESS]
[CITY, STATE ZIP]

[DATE OF MAILING]

Dear [INSERT TITLE, L_NAME],

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency and Prevention (OJJDP), Westat, and the University of New Hampshire's Crimes against Children Research Center (CCRC) would like to thank you for your participation in the National Law Enforcement Survey of Child Abductions. We truly appreciate your support and your [agency's] efforts in completing the survey. Your participation and the data you provided will be used to produce estimates on categories of missing children across the nation and inform the development of future policies and programs.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at andreasdlak@westat.com or david.finkelhor@unh.edu.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

Appendix 10

LES-FA Component 1 Materials

Table of Contents

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B	Mail Survey Screener.....	10-4
C	Frequently Asked Questions	10-11
D	Follow-up Protocol and Questions for Search Component.....	10-13

Attachment A

Invitation Letter, Targeted to Each of the 5 LEAs

Attachment A: Invitation Letter, Targeted to Each of the 5 LEAs

[INSERT F_NAME, MID_INIT, L_NAME]

[INSERT DATE OF MAILING]

[INSERT DEPT NAME]

[INSERT ADDRESS 1]

[INSERT CITY], [INSERT STATE] [INSERT ZIP]

Dear [INSERT TITLE, L_NAME],

We are asking your agency to participate in the first component of a pilot study for the National Law Enforcement Survey on Family Child Abduction, a study designed to estimate the number of children abducted by family members in the U.S.

This study is part of the Fourth National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMAART-4). The ultimate study will update the national estimates of child victims of family abductions and determine whether there have been any changes in the overall number of victims or in specific categories of victims. This study will limit the scope of events to those known to law enforcement and so we are relying on law enforcement agencies as the source of data.

Today we are requesting your help in an important first component of this pilot study where we want to identify how law enforcement agencies search for relevant cases in their data system and challenges they may encounter.

Enclosed is a pilot survey packet for your agency. The packet includes the mail survey screener, glossary of terms, frequently asked questions, and a pre-paid return envelope.

As part of the mail survey screener we will be asking you to identify specific family abduction cases investigated by the agency. In identifying these cases we ask you to search your case management system for codes related to “abduction” and “family offense” as well as free text searches for the word “custody”. Additional study criteria include:

1. Involvement of a juvenile ages 0-17,
2. Involvement of a family perpetrator, and
3. The removal or detention of a child without permission.

When conducting these searches please keep track of the problems and questions you encounter as we provide a place at the end of the survey where you can write these down. After you complete the search we will be contacting you by telephone to ask you about your experience with the process.

Your agency’s participation is voluntary and will not affect the status of your agency in any way. The study avoids asking for identifying information about cases, such as victims’ names. Throughout the research, all information that would link an agency with any specific case details will be kept under lock and key or in secure computer files, accessible to authorized study staff only. Finally, federal law requires that all information be used for statistical purposes only—no specific agencies or cases will be identified in any publicized materials.

We will be happy to answer your questions about this project. Please call us at our toll free number, 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX, or send an e-mail to survey director Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu. Thank you so much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

[BACK PAGE]

FEDERAL ASSURANCES OF CONFIDENTIALITY AND OTHER NOTICES

This data collection is authorized under the Missing Children's Assistance Act (see, 34 U.S.C. § 11293(c)). NIJ, OJJDP, its employees, and its data collection agents will use the information you provide for statistical or research purposes only, and will not disclose your information in identifiable form without your consent to anyone outside of the research team. All personally identifiable data collected are protected under the confidentiality provisions of 34 U.S.C. § 10231, and any person who violates these provisions may be punished by a fine up to \$10,000, in addition to any other penalties imposed by law. Further, under the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, your data are protected from cybersecurity risks through screening of the systems that transmit your data. Your compliance with the request for information is entirely voluntary, and if you choose to provide information, you may discontinue at any time without penalty of any sort.

Under the Federal Paperwork Reduction Act, a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. We try to create forms and instructions that are accurate, can be easily understood, and which impose the least possible burden on you to provide us with information. We estimate that it will take 3 hours to complete this questionnaire. This estimate includes time for reviewing the instructions, searching for and gathering the data, completing the form, and reviewing answers.

If you would like more information concerning this authorization, the confidentiality guarantee, have comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate, or suggestions for making the form simpler, please contact Benjamin Adams, Social Science Analyst, at Benjamin.Adams@usdoj.gov or 202-616-3687. If you need assistance regarding your submission, please contact the survey director, Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu or call the project's toll free number: xxx-xxx-xxxx.

Attachment B
Mail Survey Screener

Attachment B: Mail Survey Screener



NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SURVEY ON FAMILY CHILD ABDUCTION

OMB No.

Part of the 4th 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
1600 Research Blvd,
Rockville, MD 20850
and

Crimes against Children Research Center
University of New Hampshire
10 West Edge Drive
Durham, NH 03824

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:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

DATE COMPLETED:

()	Ext.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, we cannot ask you to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 3 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the National Institute of Justice, 810 Seventh Street NW, Washington, DC 20531.

SECTION A

1. Does your agency have jurisdiction to conduct criminal investigations of cases in which a child is reported as missing or abducted?

Yes No → Skip to Section C, Page # →

2. Between **[one-year period]**, did your agency investigate any cases where a family member (cf. Glossary) took or kept a child in violation of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding about custody or visitation rights?

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] including investigations that your agency turned over to another agency, if applicable.

Yes No → Skip to Section C, Page # →

3. Did any of these cases involve...

- a. An attempt to conceal the taking or whereabouts of a child with the intent to prevent return, contact or visitation?..... Yes No
- b. Transport or intent to transport a child from the state for the purpose of making recovery more difficult?..... Yes No
- c. Intent to prevent contact with a child on an indefinite basis?..... Yes No
- d. Intent to affect custodial privileges indefinitely?..... Yes No

4. Did you answer “yes” to any item in Question 3? → Skip to Section C, Page # →

Yes No

5. Indicate the total number of cases that your agency investigated between **[one-year period]** that fit one or more of the criteria given in Question 3.

Remember to include all cases that 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.

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. →

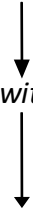
SECTION B

For all family abductions included in the total in Question 5 on the previous page, please provide the following information. If your agency has a lot of eligible cases you can: 1) print out the eligible cases directly and insert those pages into your returned survey; 2) add additional pages as necessary; or 3) contact us directly and we will provide you with additional assistance.

	a) Case Number <i>Provide your agency's case number for reference in our follow-up call</i>	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.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Name Email</div>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">/ /</div>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Conceal, Transport, Prevent Contact, Affect Custodial Privileges</div>
2.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Name Email</div>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">/ /</div>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Conceal, Transport, Prevent Contact, Affect Custodial Privileges</div>
3.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Name Email</div>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">/ /</div>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Conceal, Transport, Prevent Contact, Affect Custodial Privileges</div>
4.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Name Email</div>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">/ /</div>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Conceal, Transport, Prevent Contact, Affect Custodial Privileges</div>
5.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Name Email</div>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">/ /</div>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Conceal, Transport, Prevent Contact, Affect Custodial Privileges</div>
6.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Name Email</div>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">/ /</div>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Conceal, Transport, Prevent Contact, Affect Custodial Privileges</div>

SEE GLOSSARY, PAGE #.

Continue with Section C



SECTION C

1. You have indicated that your agency did not investigate any cases between **[one-year period]** that fit the NISMART criteria for a family child abduction (see Glossary). What year did your agency last investigate any case that fit those criteria?

2. Are you aware of any cases of family child abductions in your general area or in your state between **[one-year period]**?

Yes → Indicate the county (counties) where the abduction(s) took place

No

SECTION D

1. To the extent possible, please verify your answers in the previous sections by conducting a check of investigation records and/or discussions with your agency's investigative unit(s). Indicate here the 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
- d. Used a computerized information system?..... Yes No

2. Is your specific department or unit responsible for.....

- a. Investigating missing children? Yes No
- b. Maintaining data on missing children? Yes No

Skip to Section F, Page # →

SEE GLOSSARY, PAGE #.

SECTION E

You indicated in Section A that your agency does not have the jurisdiction to conduct criminal investigations of child family abductions. Please describe what responsibilities do come under your agency's jurisdiction.

GLOSSARY OF STUDY TERMS

Child. Person under the age of 18.

Family abduction: The taking or keeping of a child by a family member in violation of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding about custody or visitation rights

Family member: A biological, adoptive, step- or foster family member; someone acting on behalf of such a family member; or the romantic partner of a parent

Missing child: A child whose caregiver contacted the police in order to recover or locate the child.

Whereabouts unknown: The person who reported this incident did not have an address, telephone number or other information that works to contact the child or the perpetrator.

Endangerment: Caregiver believed that child was at risk of physical assault, sexual abuse, physical injury, or health problem in the company of the perpetrator.

Recovery: Child was returned or came back to the custody of the aggrieved caregiver

Violation of custody agreement: An aggrieved parent is stating that a specific part of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding about custody or visitation rights has been violated

Attachment C
Frequently Asked Questions

Attachment C: Frequently Asked Questions

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PHASE 1: SEARCHES

What is NISMART-4?

NISMART-4 is a research study created by the federal Missing Children's Assistance Act. Its goal is to estimate the number of missing children, including children who have been abducted by family members. NISMART-4 is the fourth in a series of studies conducted between 1988 and 2011. It will update numbers from the three previous studies to determine whether there have been increases or decreases in the number of missing or abducted children. The findings will be reported to Congress and will guide the development of policies and programs for missing children. The study is sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and managed by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), at the U.S. Department of Justice. Westat and the Crimes against Children Research Center (CCRC) at the University of New Hampshire are conducting the study.

What is the National Law Enforcement Survey on Family Child Abduction?

NISMART includes a number of different studies. The National Law Enforcement Survey on Family Child Abductions will estimate the number of children who were kidnapped by family members between **[one-year period]**. Data will be collected in two phases from all law enforcement agencies with authority to investigate missing children. In Phase 1, Law Enforcement Agencies will complete a mail survey screener to identify relevant cases. In Phase 2, we will ask investigators of child family abduction cases to complete a self-administered web survey to provide details about specific cases investigated.

We are asking you to participate in a pilot of Phase 1.

How did you choose this agency?

This initial mail survey screener is being sent to a sample of 30 law enforcement agencies of different sizes across the U.S. as part of the pilot.

Why is my participation important? Participation is voluntary, and will not affect the status of your agency in any way. However, the information you provide in testing this mail screener will help us design a better instrument for the national study. This will lead to more accurate and reliable final study estimates about family child abductions. Participating in this research will not entail any particular risks or benefits to you but it will greatly contribute to our

knowledge about family abductions.

What will the pilot involve?

We are asking you to search your records for cases of children abducted by family members during **[one-year period]**. After you have completed the search and recorded your results on the mail survey, we will follow up with a telephone call about your experience. Depending on the number of cases found, we anticipate the search and telephone interview will take about 3 hours.

What is my agency has a lot of eligible cases?

If your agency has a lot of eligible cases making it difficult to complete this survey you can: 1) print out the eligible cases directly and insert those pages into your returned survey; 2) add additional pages as necessary; or 3) contact us directly and we will provide you with additional assistance.

What about security and confidentiality protections?

In accordance with 28 CFR Part 22, the research team will provide administrative and physical security of identifiable data and preserve the anonymity of private persons participating in this project. The study avoids asking for identifying information about cases, such as victims' names. Throughout the research, all information that would link an agency with any specific case details will be kept under lock and key or in secure computer files, accessible to authorized study staff only. Finally, federal law requires that all information be used for statistical purposes only—no specific agencies or cases will be identified in any publicized materials.

What if I have questions?

If you have questions about the research, please contact the survey director, Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu, or 301-610-5523 or the study's toll-free number at 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX. If you have any questions about your rights as a research subject, you may contact the Westat Human Subjects Protection Office at 1-888-920-7631. Please leave a message with your full name, the name of the study (NISMART-4) and a phone number, beginning with the area code. Someone will return your call as soon as possible.

Attachment D

Follow-up Protocol and Questions for Search Component

Attachment D: Follow-up Protocol and Questions for Search Component

Hi Det/Lt/Chief XXXX,

My name is XXXXX. I am part of the research team conducting The National Law Enforcement Survey on Family Child Abduction. I want to thank you for completing the pilot mail survey we sent you. We would now like to ask you just a few questions about your experiences searching for and identifying these cases in your agency's system. This should only take about 20 minutes. Is now a good time to talk?

Questions for telephone interview

1. On a scale of 1 (very difficult) to 5 (very easy), how easy was it for you to identify these cases?
2. Was there a specific search terms or terms that identified most of your cases?
3. Were there other search terms you used?
4. What did you find challenging about this search?
5. (IF APPLICABLE): We asked NCMEC and your state's Missing Children Clearinghouse for all cases of family abductions reported to them by your agency during the study period. They identified these X cases which don't appear to have come up in your search. Let's review these cases to see why they did not come up in your search.
6. Is there anything else you would like us to know about this process?

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, we cannot ask you to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the National Institute of Justice, 810 Seventh Street NW, Washington, DC 20531.

Appendix 11

LES-FA Component 2 Materials

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Attachment A

Invitation Letter, Targeted to Each of the 25 LEAs

Attachment A: Invitation Letter, Targeted to Each of the 25 LEAs

[INSERT F_NAME, MID_INIT, L_NAME]

[INSERT DATE OF MAILING]

[INSERT DEPT NAME]

[INSERT ADDRESS 1]

[INSERT CITY], [INSERT STATE] [INSERT ZIP]

Dear [INSERT TITLE, L_NAME],

We are asking your agency to participate in the first component of a pilot study for the National Law Enforcement Survey on Family Child Abduction, a study designed to estimate the number of children abducted by family members in the U.S.

This study is part of the Fourth National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMAART-4). The ultimate study will update the national estimates of child victims of family abductions and determine whether there have been any changes in the overall number of victims or in specific categories of victims. This study will limit the scope of events to those known to law enforcement and so we are relying on law enforcement agencies as the source of data.

Today we are requesting your help in an important first component of this pilot study where we want to identify how law enforcement agencies search for relevant cases in their data system and challenges they may encounter.

The study is being conducted in two phases. In this first phase, we are asking your agency to complete a brief mail screener to let us know 1) if you have jurisdiction to conduct investigations of missing children and 2) if you have had any relevant cases between XX/XX/XXXX and XX/XX/XXXX. In Phase 2, the research team will contact investigators of the child family abduction cases identified in Phase 1. They will be asked to complete a [self-administered web survey or telephone interview providing details about the specific case.

Enclosed is the Phase 1 survey packet for your agency. The packet includes the mail survey screener, glossary of terms, frequently asked questions, and a pre-paid return envelope.

As part of this Phase 1 mail survey screener we will be asking you to identify specific family abduction cases investigated by the agency. In identifying these cases we ask you to search your case management system for codes related to "abduction" and "family offense" as well as free text searches for the word "custody".

Additional study criteria include:

1. Involvement of a juvenile ages 0-17,
2. Involvement of a family perpetrator, and
3. The removal or detention of a child without permission.

When conducting these searches please keep track of the problems and questions you encounter as we provide a place at the end of the survey where you can log these problems and questions. After you complete the search we will be contacting you by telephone to ask you about your experience with the process.

Your agency's participation is voluntary and will not affect the status of your agency in any way. The study avoids asking for identifying information about cases, such as victims' names. Throughout the research, all information that would link an agency with any specific case details will be kept under lock and key or in secure computer files, accessible to authorized study staff only. Finally, federal law requires that all information be used for statistical purposes only—no specific agencies or cases will be identified in any publicized materials.

We will be happy to answer your questions about this project. Please call us at our toll free number, 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX, or send an e-mail to survey director Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu. Thank you so much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

FEDERAL ASSURANCES OF CONFIDENTIALITY AND OTHER NOTICES

This data collection is authorized under the Missing Children's Assistance Act (see, 34 U.S.C. § 11293(c)). NIJ, OJJDP, its employees, and its data collection agents will use the information you provide for statistical or research purposes only, and will not disclose your information in identifiable form without your consent to anyone outside of the research team. All personally identifiable data collected are protected under the confidentiality provisions of 34 U.S.C. § 10231, and any person who violates these provisions may be punished by a fine up to \$10,000, in addition to any other penalties imposed by law. Further, under the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, your data are protected from cybersecurity risks through screening of the systems that transmit your data. Your compliance with the request for information is entirely voluntary, and if you choose to provide information, you may discontinue at any time without penalty of any sort.

Under the Federal Paperwork Reduction Act, a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. We try to create forms and instructions that are accurate, can be easily understood, and which impose the least possible burden on you to provide us with information. We estimate that it will take 3 hours to complete this questionnaire. This estimate includes time for reviewing the instructions, searching for and gathering the data, completing the form, and reviewing answers.

If you would like more information concerning this authorization, the confidentiality guarantee, have comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate, or suggestions for making the form simpler, please contact Benjamin Adams, Social Science Analyst, at Benjamin.Adams@usdoj.gov or 202-616-3687. If you need assistance regarding your submission, please contact the survey director, Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu or call the project's toll free number: xxx-xxx-xxxx.

Attachment B
Mail Survey Screener

SECTION A

1. Does your agency have jurisdiction to conduct criminal investigations of cases in which a child is reported as missing or abducted?

Yes No → Skip to Section C, Page # →

2. Between **[one-year period]**, did your agency investigate any cases where a family member (cf. Glossary) took or kept a child in violation of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding about custody or visitation rights?

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] including investigations that your agency turned over to another agency, if applicable.

Yes No → Skip to Section C, Page # →

3. Did any of these cases involve...

- a. An attempt to conceal the taking or whereabouts of a child with the intent to prevent return, contact or visitation?..... Yes No
- b. Transport or intent to transport a child from the state for the purpose of making recovery more difficult?..... Yes No
- c. Intent to prevent contact with a child on an indefinite basis?..... Yes No
- d. Intent to affect custodial privileges indefinitely?..... Yes No

4. Did you answer "yes" to any item in Question 3? _____

Yes No → Skip to Section C, Page # →

5. Indicate the total number of cases that your agency investigated between **[one-year period]** that fit one or more of the criteria given in Question 3.

Remember to include all cases that 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.

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 family abductions included in the total in Question 5 on the previous page, please provide the following information. If your agency has a lot of eligible cases you can: 1) print out the eligible cases directly and insert those pages into your returned survey; 2) add additional pages as necessary; or 3) contact us directly and we will provide you with additional assistance.

	a) Case Number <i>Provide your agency's case number for reference in our follow-up call</i>	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.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px;"></div>	Name Email	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	/ /	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Conceal, Transport, Prevent Contact, Affect Custodial Privileges
2.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px;"></div>	Name Email	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	/ /	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Conceal, Transport, Prevent Contact, Affect Custodial Privileges
3.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px;"></div>	Name Email	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	/ /	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Conceal, Transport, Prevent Contact, Affect Custodial Privileges
4.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px;"></div>	Name Email	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	/ /	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Conceal, Transport, Prevent Contact, Affect Custodial Privileges
5.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px;"></div>	Name Email	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	/ /	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Conceal, Transport, Prevent Contact, Affect Custodial Privileges
6.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px;"></div>	Name Email	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	/ /	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Conceal, Transport, Prevent Contact, Affect Custodial Privileges

↓
Continue with Section C

SEE GLOSSARY, PAGE #.

SECTION C

1. You have indicated that your agency did not investigate any cases between **[one-year period]** that fit the NISMART criteria for a family child abduction (see Glossary). What year did your agency last investigate any case that fit those criteria?

2. Are you aware of any cases of family child abductions in your general area or in your state between **[one-year period]**?

Yes → Indicate the county (counties) where the abduction(s) took place

No

SECTION D

1. To the extent possible, please verify your answers in the previous sections by conducting a check of investigation records and/or discussions with your agency's investigative unit(s). Indicate here the way(s) you verified this information:

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. Checked with other staff in your department? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Checked with staff elsewhere in your agency? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Checked records? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Used a computerized information system?..... | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. Is your specific department or unit responsible for.....

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. Investigating missing children? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Maintaining data on missing children? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

Skip to Section F, Page # →

SEE GLOSSARY, PAGE #.

GLOSSARY OF STUDY TERMS

Child. Person under the age of 18.

Family abduction: The taking or keeping of a child by a family member in violation of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding about custody or visitation rights

Family member: A biological, adoptive, step- or foster family member; someone acting on behalf of such a family member; or the romantic partner of a parent

Missing child: A child whose caregiver contacted the police in order to recover or locate the child.

Whereabouts unknown: The person who reported this incident did not have an address, telephone number or other information that works to contact the child or the perpetrator.

Endangerment: Caregiver believed that child was at risk of physical assault, sexual abuse, physical injury, or health problem in the company of the perpetrator.

Recovery: Child was returned or came back to the custody of the aggrieved caregiver

Violation of custody agreement: An aggrieved parent is stating that a specific part of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding about custody or visitation rights has been violated

Attachment C
Frequently Asked Questions

Attachment C: Frequently Asked Questions

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PHASE 1: SEARCHES

What is NISMART-4?

NISMART-4 is a research study created by the federal Missing Children's Assistance Act. Its goal is to estimate the number of missing children, including children who have been abducted by family members. NISMART-4 is the fourth in a series of studies conducted between 1988 and 2011. It will update numbers from the three previous studies to determine whether there have been increases or decreases in the number of missing or abducted children. The findings will be reported to Congress and will guide the development of policies and programs for missing children. The study is sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and managed by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), at the U.S. Department of Justice. Westat and the Crimes against Children Research Center (CCRC) at the University of New Hampshire are conducting the study.

What is the National Law Enforcement Survey on Family Child Abduction?

NISMART includes a number of different studies. The National Law Enforcement Survey on Family Child Abductions will estimate the number of children who were kidnapped by family members between **[one-year period]**. Data will be collected in two phases from all law enforcement agencies with authority to investigate missing children. In Phase 1, Law Enforcement Agencies will complete a mail survey screener to identify relevant cases. In Phase 2, we will ask investigators of child family abduction cases to complete a self-administered web survey to provide details about specific cases investigated.

We are asking you to participate in a pilot of Phase 1.

How did you choose this agency?

This initial mail survey screener is being sent to a sample of 30 law enforcement agencies of different sizes across the U.S. as part of the pilot.

Why is my participation important? Participation is voluntary, and will not affect the status of your agency in any way. However, the information you provide in testing this mail screener will help us design a better instrument for the national study. This will lead to more accurate and

reliable final study estimates about family child abductions. Participating in this research will not entail any particular

risks or benefits to you but it will greatly contribute to our knowledge about abducted children.

What will the pilot involve?

We are asking you to search your records for cases of children abducted by family members during **[one-year period]**. After you have completed the search and recorded your results on the mail survey, we will follow up with a telephone call about your experience. Depending on the number of cases found, we anticipate the search and telephone interview will take about 3 hours.

What is my agency has a lot of eligible cases?

If your agency has a lot of eligible cases making it difficult to complete this survey you can: 1) print out the eligible cases directly and insert those pages into your returned survey; 2) add additional pages as necessary; or 3) contact us directly and we will provide you with additional assistance.

What about security and confidentiality protections? In accordance with 28 CFR Part 22, the research team will provide administrative and physical security of identifiable data and preserve the anonymity of private persons participating in this project. The study avoids asking for identifying information about cases, such as victims' names. Throughout the research, all information that would link an agency with any specific case details will be kept under lock and key or in secure computer files, accessible to authorized study staff only. Finally, federal law requires that all information be used for statistical purposes only—no specific agencies or cases will be identified in any publicized materials.

What if I have questions?

If you have questions about the research, please contact the survey director, Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu, or 301-610-5523 or the study's toll-free number at 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX. If you have any questions about your rights as a research subject, you may contact the Westat Human Subjects Protection Office at 1-888-920-7631. Please leave a message with your full name, the name of the study (NISMART-4) and a phone number, beginning with the area code. Someone will return your call as soon as possible.

Attachment D
Thank You/Reminder Postcard

Attachment D: Thank you/Reminder Postcard

Reminder to Complete the National Law Enforcement Survey on Family Child Abduction

We recently sent you a letter asking your agency to participate in a pilot study for the National Law Enforcement Survey on Family Child Abduction, a study designed to estimate the number of children abducted by family members in the U.S. The data from the main study will be reported to Congress and will be used to inform the development of future policies and programs for missing children.

If you have already completed the survey and returned it to us, please accept our sincere thanks. If not, please complete the survey and send it to us as soon as possible. The survey is due on <<MAIL SCREENER SURVEY DUE DATE>>. We need to receive your survey, even if you do not have any family abduction cases, so that the study results will accurately represent the experiences of law enforcement agencies.

If you have questions about completing the survey, did not receive the survey, or it has been misplaced, please call us at the following toll-free number, 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX, and we will mail another survey to you right away.

We greatly appreciate your help!

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

Attachment E
Second Reminder Letter

Attachment E: Second Reminder Letter

[INSERT F_NAME, MID_INIT, L_NAME]

[INSERT DATE OF MAILING]

[INSERT DEPT NAME]

[INSERT ADDRESS 1]

[INSERT CITY], [INSERT STATE]

[INSERT ZIP]

Dear [INSERT TITLE, L_NAME],

In [MONTH SURVEY SENT] we sent you a survey and a letter asking you to participate in a pilot study for the National Law Enforcement Survey on Family Child Abduction. The survey seeks information about your agency's experiences with abductions by family members. The survey was due [SURVEY DUE DATE] but, as of today, we have not received your completed survey. (If you are still filling it out or have recently returned it, please disregard this notice.)

Our research team was asked to conduct this study to obtain an accurate estimate of the number of children who are abducted by family members. We know that crime investigators are the most knowledgeable sources of information about such cases.

I am writing to you again because each questionnaire is significant to the usefulness of this study. In order for the study results to truly represent the experiences of all agencies, it is essential that each agency in the sample return the questionnaire, even if your agency does not have any relevant cases. There is a place for you to note this on the questionnaire. **If your agency has a lot of eligible cases, you can call the survey director and she will help you complete it.**

The study is being conducted in two phases. In this first phase, we are asking your agency to complete a brief mail screener to let us know 1) if you have jurisdiction to conduct criminal investigations of missing children and 2) if you have had any relevant cases between XX/XX/XXXX and XX/XX/XXXX. In Phase 2, the research team will contact investigators of the child family abduction cases identified in Phase 1. They will be asked to complete a self-administered web survey/telephone interview providing details about the specific case.

Enclosed is the Phase 1 survey packet for your agency. Enclosed is a pilot survey packet for your agency. We are also interested in understanding the process through which you search for these types of cases in your system. In identifying these cases we ask you to search your case management system for codes related to "abduction" and "family offense" as well as free text searches for the word "custody". Additional study criteria include:

1. Involvement of a juvenile ages 0-17,
2. Involvement of a family perpetrator, and
3. The removal or detention of a child without permission.

When conducting these searches please keep track of the problems and questions you encounter as we provide a place at the end of the survey where you can write these down. After you complete the search we will be contacting you by telephone to ask you about your experience with the process.

We know you are extremely busy, but your response to this survey is an investment of time that will help law enforcement in the future. The report we write from this study will give policy makers and legislators vital information about cases involving stranger abductions. In case your questionnaire has been misplaced, a replacement is enclosed. If you have any questions about this project, please send an email to Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu or you can call our project's toll-free number 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX, and someone will return your call promptly. Thank you so much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

Attachment F
Third Reminder Letter

Attachment F: Third Reminder Letter

[INSERT F_NAME, MID_INIT, L_NAME]

[INSERT DATE OF MAILING]

[INSERT DEPT NAME]

[INSERT ADDRESS 1]

[INSERT CITY], [INSERT STATE]

[INSERT ZIP]

Dear [INSERT TITLE, L_NAME],

This is the third request for your agency's participation in the pilot study for the National Law Enforcement Survey on Family Child Abduction. The survey seeks information about your agency's experiences with child abductions by family members. The survey was due [SURVEY DUE DATE] but, as of today, we have not received your completed survey. (If you have recently returned your survey, please disregard this notice.)

If you have not yet responded, we hope that you will be able to do so soon. We would be very grateful if you would consider helping us with this important research. We appreciate the many demands for your time but please be assured that the study results will help law enforcement in the future. In case your questionnaire has been misplaced, a replacement is enclosed. If you have any questions about this project, please send an email to XXXXXX@XXX.com or you can call our project's toll-free number 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX, and someone will return your call promptly.

Thank you so much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

Attachment G
Shortened Three-Question Survey

Attachment G: Shortened Three-Question Survey

National Law Enforcement Survey on Family Child Abductions

This is the fourth request for your agency's participation in the pilot study for the National Law Enforcement Survey on Family Child Abduction. As of today, we have not received your completed questionnaire.

The report we write from this study will help law enforcement in the future and give policy makers and legislators vital information about cases involving family abductions. In order for the study results to truly represent the experiences of all agencies, it is essential that each agency in the sample respond, even if you do not have any cases to report.

To make things easier for you, we have simplified the survey to three essential questions, listed below. Please answer them to the best of your knowledge and return this to us. If you have any questions about this project, please send an email to Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu or you can call our project's toll-free number at 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX, and someone will return your call promptly. Thank you so much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

1. Does your agency have jurisdiction to conduct criminal investigations of cases in which a child is reported as abducted or missing?
Yes No
2. Between **[one-year period]**, did your agency investigate any cases where a family member took or kept a child in violation of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding about custody or visitation rights?
Yes No Does not apply

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, we cannot ask you to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the National Institute of Justice, 810 Seventh Street NW, Washington, DC 20531.

3. Between <<<MONTH-DAY-YEAR>>> and <<<MONTH-DAY-YEAR>>> did your agency have any open cases of child family abduction5s or presumed family abductions from prior years?

Yes No Does not apply

Your Name and Title: _____

Phone Number: _____

Thank you for your time. Please refold this paper so that the prepaid side is visible and mail it back to us.

Appendix 12
LES-FA Component 3

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Attachment A
Draft LES-FA Questionnaire

Attachment A: Draft LES-FA Survey

FA1 Please give your contact information here so the researchers can reach you with any questions after they review your survey. This information will be deleted as soon as the research team verifies that your survey is complete.

- Name and title (1) _____
- Telephone number (2) _____
- Email address (3) _____

NISMART LES-FA Definitions of Family Abduction and Family Member

FA2 Your agency's case number for this investigation is [number will be provided].

Please confirm that this incident involves a family member who took or kept a child in violation of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding about custody or visitation rights.

A family member includes 1) a biological, adoptive, step or foster family member, 2) someone acting on behalf of such a family member, or 3) the romantic partner of a parent.

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

Box 1

If FA2 = 2 (case is not FA) or FA2 = 3 (don't know) and respondent has no additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY1. If FA2 = 2 or FA2 = 3 and respondent has additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY2.

NISMART LES-FA Time Frame

FA3 Was this violation of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding reported between [time frame to be established]?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, we cannot ask you to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 15 minutes per response as web survey and 30 minutes as telephone interview, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the National Institute of Justice, 810 Seventh Street NW, Washington, DC 20531.

Box 2

If FA3 = 2 (case not in time frame) or FA2 = 3 (don't know) and respondent has no additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY1. If FA3 = 2 or FA3 = 3 and respondent has additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY2.

NISMART LES-FA Criteria for Missing Child

FA4 Did your agency make a missing child report about a child involved in this incident to ... (Please respond to both options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
National Crime Information Center (NCIC)? (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your state's Missing Child Clearing House? (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

NISMART LES-FA criteria for Qualifying Family Abduction

FA5 Did a perpetrator in this incident ... (Please respond to all statements.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Attempt to <u>conceal</u> the taking or whereabouts of a child with the intent to prevent return, contact or visitation? (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<u>Transport</u> or intend to transport a child from the state for the purpose of making recovery more difficult? (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Intend to <u>prevent contact</u> with a child on an indefinite basis? (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Intend to <u>affect custodial privileges</u> indefinitely? (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Box 3

If none of the answers to FA5 = 1 (Yes), and respondent has no additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY1. If none of the answers to FA5 = 1 and respondent has additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY2.

FA6 Did the person who reported this incident primarily want law enforcement to...

- Locate and recover a child whose whereabouts were not known, or (1)
- Recover a child whose whereabouts were known? (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4)

NISMARTLES-FA Definition of Whereabouts Unknown

FA7 Did the person who reported this incident have an address, telephone number or other information that worked to contact the child or the perpetrator?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

NISMARTLES-FA Definition of Violation of Custody Agreement

FA8 Did the person who reported this incident state that a specific part of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding about custody or visitation rights had been violated?

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ FA10
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ FA10

FA9 What were the conditions of the court order, written agreement or mutual understanding that this episode violated?

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

NISMART LES-FA Endangerment Categories

FA10 Did the person who reported this incident believe that a child was at risk of any of the following while in the company of the perpetrator? (Please respond to all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Physical assault (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sexual assault (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neglect of basic needs (food, shelter, supervision, etc.) (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neglect of medical needs (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other health problem (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Physical injury (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

NISMART LES-FA Narrative of Incident

FA11 Please describe briefly what happened during this episode. To the best of your knowledge, how did it take place and why? What happened to the child or children during and after the incident?

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

FA12 Did your agency ultimately determine that this incident was a criminal matter or a civil matter?

- Criminal matter (1)
- Civil matter (2) _____ FA15
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ FA15

FA13 Did your agency consider this to be an abduction or kidnapping?

- Yes (1) _____ FA15
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

FA14 What type of criminal incident did your agency consider this to be?

- Custodial interference (1)
- Child endangerment (2)
- Denial of access to a child (3)
- Something else (Please describe) (4) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (5)

CHILD CHARACTERISTICS

FA15 Next are questions about each child involved in this incident. First, did this incident involve more than one child victim?

- Yes (Enter number of child victims) (1) _____
- No, 1 child victim (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

If more than one child was involved, please start with the oldest.

FA16 Is this child a boy or a girl?

- Boy (1)
- Girl (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

FA17 How old was this child when this incident was first reported to police?

- Less than 1 year old (1)
- 1 year old or older (Please enter age in years) (2) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

FA18 Is this child Hispanic or Latino/a?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

FA19 What is this child's race?

- White (1)
- Black or African American (2)
- American Indian or Alaska Native (3)
- Asian (4)
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (5)
- Other (Please describe) (6) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (7)

FA20 Did the person who reported this incident have sole or joint custody of this child based on a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding?

- Yes, sole custody (1)
- Yes, joint custody (2)
- No, did not have custody (3)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4)

Box 4

If FA15 = 1 (multiple children) and FA20 = 3 (no custody) or FA20 = 4 (don't know) go to Box 8.
If FA15 = 2 (one child) and FA20 = 3 or FA20 = 4 and respondent has no additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY1.
If FA15 = 2 and FA20 = 3 or FA20 = 4 and respondent has additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY2.

FA21 How was the person who reported this incident related to this child as a family member?

A family member includes 1) a biological, adoptive, step or foster family member, 2) someone acting on behalf of such a family member, or 3) the romantic partner of a parent.

- Biological or adoptive mother (1)
- Biological or adoptive father (2)
- Step-mother (3)
- Step-father (4)
- Other relative such as grandparent, aunt, etc. [This option will pull up a pre-coded list.] (5)
- Foster parent (6)
- Legal guardian (7)
- Romantic partner of a parent, or (8)
- Someone acting on behalf of a family member [This option will pull up a pre-coded list.] (9)
- Someone else? (Please describe) (10) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (11)

FA22 Was the perpetrator a family member of this child or acting on behalf of a family member of this child?

A family member includes 1) a biological, adoptive, step or foster family member, 2) someone acting on behalf of such a family member, or 3) the romantic partner of a parent.

- Yes, a family member (1)
- Yes, acting on behalf of a family member (2)
- No (3)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4)

Box 5

If FA15 = 1 (multiple children) and FA22 = 3 (perpetrator not family member) or FA22 = 4 (don't know) go to Box 8. If FA15 = 2 (one child) and FA22 = 3 or FA22 = 4 and respondent has no additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY1.

If FA15 = 2 (one child) and FA22 = 3 or FA22 = 4 and respondent has additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY2.

If FA20 = 2 (the reporter had joint custody) and FA22 = 1 (perpetrator was family member) or FA22 = 2 (perpetrator was acting on behalf of a family member) go to FA23.

Otherwise go to FA25.

FA23 Did the family member responsible for this incident share joint custody of this child with the person who reported it?

Answer "Yes" if the person responsible was acting on behalf of a family member who shared joint custody with the reporter of the incident.

- Yes (1) _____ FA25
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ FA25

FA24 Who shared joint custody of this child with the person who reported this incident?

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

FA25 How was the perpetrator related to the child? Was the perpetrator a...

- Biological or adoptive mother of the child (1)
- Biological or adoptive father of the child (2)
- Step-mother (3)
- Step-father (4)
- Other relative such as grandparent, aunt, etc. [This option will pull up a pre-coded list.] (5)
- Foster parent (6)
- Legal guardian (7)
- Romantic partner of a parent (8)
- Someone acting on behalf of a family member? [This option will pull up a pre-coded list.] (9)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (10)

FA26 What parents did this child live with when this incident began?

- Two married biological parents (1)
- Two married parents, one or both not biological, but both having a legal relationship to the child, such as adoption (2)
- Two unmarried parents, biological or other (3)
- One unmarried parent with a live-in partner who was not the child's parent (4)
- A single parent (no live-in partner) (5)
- No parent (6)
- Other situation (Please describe) (9) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (10)

FA27 As far as you know, did this child have any serious or permanent physical or mental disabilities, impairments or life threatening medical conditions when this incident was reported to police?

- Yes (Please describe) (1) _____
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

Box 6

If FA6 = 1 (reporter primarily wanted LE to locate and recover child whose whereabouts were unknown) go to FA28. If FA6 = 2 (reporter primarily wanted LE to recover a child whose whereabouts were known) go to FA29.

NISMARTLES-FA Definition of Recovery

FA28 What was the outcome of this incident for this child?

- Returned home (1) _____ FA31
- Located, but not returned (2) _____ FA30
- Not returned and not located (3) _____ FA33
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4) _____ FA34

NISMARTLES-FA Definition of Recovery

FA29 What was the outcome of this incident for this child?

- Returned home (1) _____ FA31
- Not returned home (2) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4) _____ FA34

FA30 Please explain why the child was not returned.

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

Box 7

If FA28 = 2 (the child was located but not returned) go to FA32.

If FA29 = 2 (the child was not returned) go to FA33.

FA31 How long did the perpetrator keep the child in violation of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding about custody or visitation before the child was returned home? (Your best estimate is fine.) Please enter the number of hours, days, weeks or months below.

- Hours (1) _____
- Days (2) _____
- Weeks (3) _____
- Months (4) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (5) _____

FA32 How long did the perpetrator keep the child in violation of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding about custody or visitation before the child was located? (Your best estimate is fine.) Please enter the number of hours, days, weeks or months below.

- Hours (1) _____
- Days (2) _____
- Weeks (3) _____
- Months (4) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (5)

FA33 How long has the perpetrator kept the child in violation of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding about custody or visitation? (Your best estimate is fine.) Please enter the number of hours, days, weeks or months below.

- Hours (1) _____
- Days (2) _____
- Weeks (3) _____
- Months (4) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (5)

FA34 To the best of your knowledge, did this child suffer any physical or sexual abuse, neglect or injury during this episode?

- Yes (1)
- No (2) _____ Box 8
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ Box 8

FA35 Did any of the following occur? (Please respond to all statements.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
The child was <u>sexually abused</u> (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The child was <u>physically abused</u> (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The child's <u>basic needs</u> were <u>neglected</u> (food, supervision) (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The child's <u>medical needs</u> were <u>neglected</u> (medications, medical care) (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The child suffered an <u>accidental injury</u> that required medical attention (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Something else (Please describe) (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Box 8

If FA15=1 (multiple children), questions FA16—FA35 will repeat for each child. After last child, go to FA36.

PERPETRATOR CHARACTERISTICS

FA36 Did this incident involve more than one perpetrator?

- Yes (Enter number of perpetrators) (1) _____
- No, 1 perpetrator (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

FA37 Was the perpetrator male or female?

- Male (1)
- Female (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

If more than one perpetrator, please answer the following questions about the family member who was most responsible for the incident.

FA38 As far as you know, what was this perpetrator's age at the time of the report?

- Teens (1)
- 20s (2)
- 30s (3)
- 40s (4)
- 50s (5)
- 60s (6)
- 70s (7)
- 80s (8)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (9)

FA39 Is he/she of Hispanic or Latino origin?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

FA40 What is his/her race?

- White (1)
- Black or African American (2)
- American Indian or Alaska Native (3)
- Asian (4)
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (5)
- Other (Please describe) (6) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (7)

CRIME CHARACTERISTICS

FA41 As part of this incident, did the perpetrator take a child to another state or country?

If more than one child, please answer the next questions about all of the children involved in the incident.

- Yes, another state (1)
- Yes, another country (2)
- No (3) _____ FA43
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4) _____ FA43

FA42 Did the perpetrator take a child to another state or country for any of these reasons? (Please respond to all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
To take a vacation (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To go to the perpetrator's residence (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To visit relatives (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To make the recovery or return of a child more difficult (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To make contact with a child more difficult (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

FA43 Did the perpetrator do any of the following at any point during this incident? (Please respond to all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Threaten violence to a child (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use force against a child (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use a weapon to threaten or harm a child (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Threaten violence to any other person (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use force against any other person (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use a weapon to threaten or harm any other person (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

POLICE INVESTIGATION

FA44 How did your agency respond to the report? (Please respond to all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
<u>Took a report</u> over the telephone (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<u>Sent officers to</u> the child's household or to the scene (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<u>Interviewed</u> household members (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Made a <u>written report</u> (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Got <u>photos</u> of the child or children (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<u>Collected evidence</u> such as fingerprints or inventory (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<u>Questioned witnesses</u> or suspects (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<u>Conducted a search</u> for the child/children (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Contacted <u>NCMEC</u> (11)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Made an <u>arrest</u> (12)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Investigated or responded in other ways (Please describe) (13)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

FA45 Did your agency bring other agencies into the investigation or refer the case to another agency?

- Yes, brought other agency or agencies into the investigation (1)
- Yes, referred the case to another agency (2)
- No (3)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4)

Box 9

If FA45 = 3 (did not bring in or refer to other agencies) or FA45 = 4 (don't know) and respondent has no additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY3. If FA45 = 3 or FA45 = 4 and respondent has additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY4.

FA46 What agencies were brought into the investigation or did you refer the case to? Please list each agency by name, county and state.

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

Box 10

If FA45 = 1 or FA45 = 2 (brought in or referred to other agencies), and respondent has no additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY3. If FA45 = 1 or FA45 = 2 and respondent has additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY4.

We would now like to ask you just a few questions about your experiences answering questions about this case.

FA47 First, did you find any questions difficult to answer? If so, which ones and what them difficult?

FA48 Are there any questions I should have asked about this case but didn't? If yes, what other parts of the case should we know about?

FA49 How did you feel about the length of the survey?

ENDSURVEY1 We are only including certain incidents in this study and this case does not qualify. There are no further questions about this case. Thank you for your time.

ENDSURVEY2 We are only including certain incidents in this study and this case does not qualify. Please use this link to access questions about your next case that may qualify for this study: [To be added].

ENDSURVEY3 Thank you for completing this survey. We appreciate your help and your contribution to understanding the problem of children abducted by family members.

ENDSURVEY4 Thank you for completing this survey. We appreciate your help and your contribution to understanding the problem of children abducted by family members. Please use this link to access questions about your next case that may qualify for this study: [To be added].

Attachment B

Web Survey Email Invite for Telephone Interview (10 Cases)

Attachment B: Web Survey Email Invite for Telephone Interview (10 Cases)

National Law Enforcement Survey on Family Child Abduction

Dear Det/Inv/LtXXXXX,

We are conducting the pilot study for the National Law Enforcement Survey on Family Child Abduction. Chief XXXX from your agency completed a mail survey for us gave us your name and email address so you could complete an online survey about Case #####. The survey will take approximately 30 minutes to complete as a computerized telephone interview.

This study is part of the Fourth National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMART-4). The ultimate study will update the national estimates of child victims of family abductions and determine whether there have been any changes in the overall number of victims or in specific categories of victims. This study will limit the scope of events to those known to law enforcement and so we are relying on law enforcement agencies as the source of data.

Your participation is voluntary and will not affect your status in your agency in any way. The study avoids asking for identifying information about cases, such as victims' names. Throughout the research, all information that would link an agency with any specific case details will be kept under lock and key or in secure computer files, accessible to authorized study staff only. Finally, federal law requires that all information be used for statistical purposes only—no specific agencies or cases will be identified in any publicized materials.

An interviewer will be contacting you shortly to complete the interview. If you have any questions about this project, please call us at our toll free number, 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX, or send an e-mail to survey director Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu. Thank you so much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

FEDERAL ASSURANCES OF CONFIDENTIALITY AND OTHER NOTICES

This data collection is authorized under the Missing Children's Assistance Act (see, 34 U.S.C. § 11293(c)). NIJ, OJJDP, its employees, and its data collection agents will use the information you provide for statistical or research purposes only, and will not disclose your information in identifiable form without your consent to anyone outside of the research team. All personally identifiable data collected are protected under the confidentiality provisions of 34 U.S.C. § 10231, and any person who violates these provisions may be punished by a fine up to \$10,000, in addition to any other penalties imposed by law. Further, under the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, your data are protected from cybersecurity risks through screening of the systems that transmit your data. Your compliance with the request for information is entirely voluntary, and if you choose to provide information, you may discontinue at any time without penalty of any sort.

Under the Federal Paperwork Reduction Act, a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. We try to create forms and instructions that are accurate, can be easily understood, and which impose the least possible burden on you to provide us with information. We estimate that it will take 0.5 hours to complete this questionnaire. This estimate includes time for reviewing the instructions, searching for and gathering the data, completing the form, and reviewing answers.

If you would like more information concerning this authorization, the confidentiality guarantee, have comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate, or suggestions for making the form simpler, please contact Benjamin Adams, Social Science Analyst, at Benjamin.Adams@usdoj.gov or 202-616-3687. If you need assistance regarding your submission, please contact the survey director, Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu or call the project's toll free number: xxx-xxx-xxxx.

Attachment C

Telephone Case Interview Introduction (10 Cases)

Attachment C: Telephone Case Interview Introduction (10 Cases)

Hi, my name is XXXXX and I am part of the research team conducting the pilot study for the National Law Enforcement Survey on Family Child Abduction. Chief XXXX from your agency completed a mail survey for us gave us your name and telephone number so we could follow-up with you about Case #####. Is now a good time to talk?

Let me just take a minute to let you know how this interview works. This interview is run through a computer system which only allows me to see one question at a time. Most questions require a simple Yes or No answer, while others are more detailed. If at any time during this interview you do not want to answer any question, you are free to decline to answer. Also, if at any time during this interview you think of something relevant to something mentioned earlier, just let me know and I will make a note.

Also, you should be aware that our research reports will not contain any information that could identify you or your agency, or any suspects or victims in this case.

In 3 or 4 sentences, can you give me a brief description of what happened in this case?"

TAKE NOTES BY HAND.

See Attachment A for the computerized survey.

Attachment D

Web Survey Email Invite (20 Cases)

Attachment D: Web Survey Email Invite (20 Cases)

National Law Enforcement Survey on Family Child Abduction

Dear Det/Inv/LtXXXXX,

We are conducting the pilot study for the National Law Enforcement Survey on Family Child Abduction. Chief XXXX from your agency completed a mail survey for us gave us your name and email address so you could complete an online survey about Case #####. The survey will take approximately **15 minutes to complete** and you will be able to pause the survey and go back to it at any time. After the survey is completed, we will follow up with a phone call at a time of your convenience to talk about the survey experience. For example: *Did the survey allow you to say everything you wanted to say about this case? Were there questions that were confusing because of how they were worded?* This follow up conversation should take about 20 minutes.

This study is part of the Fourth National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMART-4). The ultimate study will update the national estimates of child victims of family abductions and determine whether there have been any changes in the overall number of victims or in specific categories of victims. This study will limit the scope of events to those known to law enforcement and so we are relying on law enforcement agencies as the source of data.

Your participation is voluntary and will not affect your status in your agency in any way. The study avoids asking for identifying information about cases, such as victims' names. Throughout the research, all information that would link an agency with any specific case details will be kept under lock and key or in secure computer files, accessible to authorized study staff only. Finally, federal law requires that all information be used for statistical purposes only—no specific agencies or cases will be identified in any publicized materials.

[CLICK HERE to access the survey.](#)

We will be happy to answer your questions about this project. Please call us at our toll free number, 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX, or send an e-mail to survey director Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu. Thank you so much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

FEDERAL ASSURANCES OF CONFIDENTIALITY AND OTHER NOTICES

This data collection is authorized under the Missing Children's Assistance Act (see, 34 U.S.C. § 11293(c)). NIJ, OJJDP, its employees, and its data collection agents will use the information you provide for statistical or research purposes only, and will not disclose your information in identifiable form without your consent to anyone outside of the research team. All personally identifiable data collected are protected under the confidentiality provisions of 34 U.S.C. § 10231, and any person who violates these provisions may be punished by a fine up to \$10,000, in addition to any other penalties imposed by law. Further, under the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, your data are protected from cybersecurity risks through screening of the systems that transmit your data. Your compliance with the request for information is entirely voluntary, and if you choose to provide information, you may discontinue at any time without penalty of any sort.

Under the Federal Paperwork Reduction Act, a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. We try to create forms and instructions that are accurate, can be easily understood, and which impose the least possible burden on you to provide us with information. We estimate that it will take 0.25 hours to complete this questionnaire. This estimate includes time for reviewing the instructions, searching for and gathering the data, completing the form, and reviewing answers.

If you would like more information concerning this authorization, the confidentiality guarantee, have comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate, or suggestions for making the form simpler, please contact Benjamin Adams, Social Science Analyst, at Benjamin.Adams@usdoj.gov or 202-616-3687. If you need assistance regarding your submission, please contact the survey director, Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu or call the project's toll free number: xxx-xxx-xxxx.

Attachment E

Invitation Letter for Web Survey, Investigating Officer

Attachment E: Invitation Letter for Web Survey, Investigating Officer

[F_NAME L_NAME]
[DEPT NAME]
[ADDRESS]
[CITY, STATE ZIP]

[DATE OF MAILING]

Dear [INSERT TITLE, L_NAME]:

Your agency is participating in the National Law Enforcement Survey on Family Child Abductions, a study designed to estimate the number of children abducted by family members in the U.S.

This study is part of a larger study, sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and managed by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), which seeks to design and test methodologies to produce accurate estimates on the number and characteristics of missing children reported to law enforcement. The study will update the national estimates of child victims of family abductions and determine whether there have been any changes in the overall number of victims or in specific categories of victims. This study will limit the scope of events to those known to law enforcement and relying on the law enforcement agencies as the source of data.

The following case has been identified by your agency as an episode of family abduction: [CASE ID]

We are asking you (or the most knowledgeable investigator) to answer questions about this case on a web survey. In order for the results of this study to truly represent the experience of all law enforcement agencies across the country, it is important that every questionnaire be completed. The web survey is hosted on our secure website and will take about 15 minutes. It may be completed in one sitting or in parts. You may go to the website at any time and enter your personal and confidential user login and password (below) to begin the survey. **We ask you to please complete the web survey by Month, XX, 20XX.**

Survey address: <https://www.XXXXXXXX>

User Login: «uID»

Password: «Password»

Your agency's participation is voluntary and will not affect the status of your agency in any way. Responses will be confidential and will be used for statistical purposes only, as required by federal law. Your name and the name of your agency will remain confidential and will not be used in any of the results from the study. We greatly appreciate your assistance in this important project. If you have questions about the operation or content of the web survey, have difficulty accessing the survey, or need further assistance, please call our toll free number, 1-xxx-xxx-xxxx, or email our survey director Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire

Co-Principal Investigator

Co-Principal Investigator

FEDERAL ASSURANCES OF CONFIDENTIALITY AND OTHER NOTICES

This data collection is authorized under the Missing Children's Assistance Act (see, 34 U.S.C. § 11293(c)). NIJ, OJJDP, its employees, and its data collection agents will use the information you provide for statistical or research purposes only, and will not disclose your information in identifiable form without your consent to anyone outside of the research team. All personally identifiable data collected are protected under the confidentiality provisions of 34 U.S.C. § 10231, and any person who violates these provisions may be punished by a fine up to \$10,000, in addition to any other penalties imposed by law. Further, under the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, your data are protected from cybersecurity risks through screening of the systems that transmit your data. Your compliance with the request for information is entirely voluntary, and if you choose to provide information, you may discontinue at any time without penalty of any sort.

Under the Federal Paperwork Reduction Act, a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. We try to create forms and instructions that are accurate, can be easily understood, and which impose the least possible burden on you to provide us with information. We estimate that it will take 0.25 hours to complete this questionnaire. This estimate includes time for reviewing the instructions, searching for and gathering the data, completing the form, and reviewing answers.

If you would like more information concerning this authorization, the confidentiality guarantee, have comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate, or suggestions for making the form simpler, please contact Benjamin Adams, Social Science Analyst, at Benjamin.Adams@usdoj.gov or 202-616-3687. If you need assistance regarding your submission, please contact the survey director, Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu or call the project's toll free number: xxx-xxx-xxxx.

Attachment F
Frequently Asked Questions

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PHASE 2: SURVEY

What is NISMART-4?

NISMART-4 is a research study created by the federal Missing Children's Assistance Act. Its goal is to estimate the number of missing children, including children who have been abducted by family members. NISMART-4 is the fourth in a series of studies conducted between 1988 and 2011. It will update numbers from the three previous studies to determine whether there have been increases or decreases in the number of missing or abducted children. The findings will be reported to Congress and will guide the development of policies and programs for missing children. The study is sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and managed by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), at the U.S. Department of Justice. Westat and the Crimes against Children Research Center (CCRC) at the University of New Hampshire are conducting the study.

What is the National Law Enforcement Survey on Family Child Abduction?

NISMART includes a number of different studies. The National Law Enforcement Survey on Family Child Abductions will estimate the number of children who were kidnapped by family members between [**one-year period**]. Data are being collected in two phases from all law enforcement agencies with authority to investigate missing children. In Phase 1, Law Enforcement Agencies completed a mail survey screener to identify relevant cases. Now in Phase 2, we are asking investigators of child family abduction cases to complete a self-administered web survey or telephone interview to provide details about specific cases investigated.

How did you choose this agency?

The initial mail survey screener was sent to 30 law enforcement agencies across the U.S. Because your agency investigated a child abduction case, you are being asked to provide some case details.

Why is my participation important? Participation is voluntary, and will not affect the status of your agency in any way. However, the information you provide in testing this survey will help us design the best instrument for the

national study. This will lead to more accurate and reliable final study estimates about family child abductions. Participating in this research will not entail any particular risks or benefits to you but it will greatly contribute to our knowledge about family abductions.

What will the survey involve?

We are asking the investigator who is most knowledgeable about a relevant case to respond to a telephone interview or a web survey on a secure site to provide details about the characteristics of offenders, victims, and cases investigated, as described in the survey invitation letter. If you complete the web survey, we will follow up by telephone to ask about your experience. The web survey and followup will take about 35 minutes.

What about security and confidentiality protections?

In accordance with 28 CFR Part 22, the research team will provide administrative and physical security of identifiable data and preserve the anonymity of private persons participating in this project. The study avoids asking for identifying information about cases, such as victims' names. Throughout the research, all information that would link an agency with any specific case details will be kept under lock and key or in secure computer files, accessible to authorized study staff only. Finally, federal law requires that all information be used for statistical purposes only—no specific agencies or cases will be identified in any publicized materials.

What if I have questions?

If you have questions about the research, please contact the survey director, Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu, or 301-610-5523 or the study's toll-free number at 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX. If you have any questions about your rights as a research subject, you may contact the Westat Human Subjects Protection Office at 1-888-920-7631. Please leave a message with your full name, the name of the study (NISMART-4) and a phone number, beginning with the area code. Someone will return your call as soon as possible.

GLOSSARY OF STUDY TERMS

Child. Person under the age of 18.

Family abduction: The taking or keeping of a child by a family member in violation of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding about custody or visitation rights

Family member: A biological, adoptive, step- or foster family member; someone acting on behalf of such a family member; or the romantic partner of a parent

Missing child: A child whose caregiver contacted the police in order to recover or locate the child.

Whereabouts unknown: The person who reported this incident did not have an address, telephone number or other information that works to contact the child or the perpetrator.

Endangerment: Caregiver believed that child was at risk of physical assault, sexual abuse, physical injury, or health problem in the company of the perpetrator.

Recovery: Child was returned or came back to the custody of the aggrieved caregiver

Violation of custody agreement: An aggrieved parent is stating that a specific part of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding about custody or visitation rights has been violated

Attachment G
Web Survey First Reminder Email

Attachment G: Web Survey First Reminder Email

Dear [TITLE L_NAME]:

On [DATE] we sent you a letter asking you to participate in the National Law Enforcement Survey on Family Child Abductions. Your agency is one of a number of agencies being asked to participate in a national study to estimate the number of children kidnapped by family members.

In the letter we sent on [DATE], we identified the case ID of the victim(s) in the family abduction case identified by your agency. The survey was due on [SURVEY DUE DATE] but we have not received your completed survey. (If you are still filling it out or have recently submitted it, please disregard this notice).

If you need information to identify this case, or you are not the right person to complete the survey, please contact the survey director, Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu. Or call the project's toll free number: xxx-xxx-xxxx.

The web survey is available on our secure website. You may go to the website at any time and enter your personal and confidential user login and password (below) to begin the survey. The survey should only take about 30 minutes. **We ask you to complete the web survey by Month, XX, 20XX.**

Survey address: <https://www.XXXXXXXXXX>

User Login: «UID»

Password: «Password»

We know you are extremely busy, but your participation in this study will help law enforcement in the future.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

Attachment H
Web Survey Third Reminder Email

Attachment H: Web Survey Third Reminder Email

Dear [TITLE L_NAME]:

On [DATE] we sent you a letter asking you to participate in the National Law Enforcement Survey on Family Child Abductions. You were selected to participate because of your investigation of a child abduction that fits our study. This research is designed to generate estimates of the number of children involved in family abductions each year in the U.S. and is mandated by Congress.

In the letter we sent, we identified the case ID of the victim(s) in the family kidnapping case investigated by your agency. The survey was due on [SURVEY DUE DATE]. We will be very grateful if you could help us with this important research and complete the survey today.

The web survey is available on our secure website. You may go to the website at any time and enter your personal and confidential user login and password (below) to begin the survey. The survey should only take about 15 minutes. **We now ask you to complete the web survey by Month, XX, 20XX.**

Survey address: <https://www.XXXXXXXXXX>

User Login: «uID»

Password: «Password»

If you need information to identify this case, or you are not the right person to complete the survey, please let us know by contacting the survey director, Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu or call the project's toll free number: xxx-xxx-xxxx. If you have questions about the operation or content of the web survey, have difficulty accessing the survey, or need further assistance, please call our toll free number at xxx-xxx-xxxx.

We know you are extremely busy, but your participation in this study will help law enforcement and abducted children in the future.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

Attachment I
Web Survey Second Reminder Email

Attachment I: Web Survey Second Reminder Email

Dear [TITLE L_NAME]:

Westat and the University of New Hampshire's Crimes against Children Research Center are conducting the Fourth National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMAART-4). The study is sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and managed by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), at the U.S. Department of Justice. The study seeks to update national estimates of child victims of family abduction and determine whether there have been any changes in the overall number of victims or in specific categories of victims.

On [DATE] the research team sent you a letter asking you to participate in the web survey component of the study by providing details about a specific case of child abduction. You were selected as the investigator most knowledgeable about the case. The research team has not yet heard from you and I wanted to reach out to urge you to respond.

In the original letter sent, the research team identified the case ID of the victim(s) in the family abduction case investigated by your agency. If you no longer have the letter and need information to identify this case, please contact the survey director, Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu and she can help you. If you have questions about the operation or content of the web survey, have difficulty accessing the survey, or need further assistance, please call the project's toll free number at xxx-xxx-xxxx.

The web survey is available on the project's secure website. You may go to the website at any time and enter your personal and confidential user login and password (below) to begin the survey. The survey should only take about 30 minutes. **I ask you to please complete the web survey by Month, XX, 20XX.**

Survey address: <https://www.XXXXXXXX>

User Login: «uID»

Password: «Password»

I can appreciate the many demands on your time, but please know that your participation in this study will help law enforcement in the future.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Adams
Social Science Analyst
National Institute of Justice

Attachment J
Script for Telephone Follow-up Interviews

Attachment J: Script for Telephone Follow-up Interviews

INTRODUCE SELF, CONFIRM SPEAKING TO SURVEY RESPONDENT

First, I want to thank you for taking time out of your very busy schedule to participate in the NISMART pilot. As you may recall, we wanted to talk with you a little about your experience taking the survey and possible reactions you may have had to any of the questions.

Is this a good time to ask you a few questions about the pilot survey? We estimate this call will take about 20 minutes.

[IF NOT A GOOD TIME, SCHEDULE CALL BACK APPOINTMENT]

First, I'd like to ask your reaction to the amount of time it took for you to complete this survey online. I see from our management system that it looks like you completed the survey in [1/MORE THAN 1 SESSION] and the total amount of time it took was ___ minutes. Thinking back, what was your impression about the length of the survey?

Did the amount of time seem about appropriate or right to you?

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, we cannot ask you to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the National Institute of Justice, 810 Seventh Street NW, Washington, DC 20531.

Was it hard to find time to take the survey?

We know that with our schedules it's not always possible to do a task from beginning to end without interruption. Did you take any breaks or have any interruptions?

[QUESTIONS ABOUT DATA RETRIEVAL SHOULD BE ASKED IN LINEAR ORDER AND INTEGRATED INTO THE DISCUSSION AND COLLECTION OF OTHER COMMENTS. DO NOT JUMP BACK AND FORTH IN THE INSTRUMENT.]

I want to ask you about this question [which was not answered or appears inconsistent].

[IF EMBEDDED COMMENTS REQUIRE CLARIFICATION] Comment fields were programmed into the survey to allow you to comment on the elements of any given question. Your comments were very helpful and I'd like to follow up on a comment/couple comments you left.

[GIVE OR DESCRIBE QUESTION TO HELP RESPONDENT RECALL] you wrote [READ RESPONDENT'S COMMENT AND YOUR CLARIFYING QUESTION].

Thank you!

As researchers, we spend a great deal of time on the development of questionnaires, scrutinizing the wording of questions and anticipating possible responses and the information we need to capture by our questions. Despite our best efforts, sometimes people have difficulties answering a question.

Were any questions confusing because of how they were worded?

A number of survey questions ask you to select from multiple choice answers. In multiple-choice questions, did you always find the response category you needed to answer the question accurately or did you feel like we missed a response category?

Were any questions left out of the survey that you expected to be asked and think are important to add in order for people to understand the case and its outcome?

Finally, when you completed the survey, did you feel you had the opportunity to say everything you wanted to say about this case?

Anything else?

Thank you again for being part of our pilot. We're learning a lot and appreciate your participation. Goodbye.

Appendix 13

LES-MC Component 1 Materials

Table of Contents

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C	Frequently Asked Questions	13-12
D	Follow-up Protocol and Questions for Search Component.....	13-14

Attachment A

Invitation Letter, Targeted to Each of the 5 LEAs

Attachment A: Invitation Letter, Targeted to each of the 5 LEAs

[INSERT F_NAME, MID_INIT, L_NAME]
[INSERT DEPT NAME]
[INSERT ADDRESS 1]
[INSERT CITY], [INSERT STATE] [INSERT ZIP]

[INSERT DATE OF MAILING]

Dear [INSERT TITLE, L_NAME],

We are asking your agency to participate in the first component of a pilot study for the National Law Enforcement Survey on Missing Children and Recovery, a study designed to estimate the number of missing and recovered children in the U.S.

This study is part of the Fourth National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMART-4). The ultimate study will update the national estimates of the number of children who go missing and the number recovered over the course of one year as well as determine whether there have been any changes in the overall number of victims or in specific categories of victims. This study will limit the scope of events to those known to law enforcement and so we are relying on law enforcement agencies as the source of data.

Today we are requesting your help in an important first component of this pilot study where we want to identify how law enforcement agencies search for relevant cases in their data system and challenges they may encounter.

Enclosed is a pilot survey packet for your agency. The packet includes the mail survey screener, glossary of terms, frequently asked questions and a pre-paid return envelope.

As part of the mail survey screener we will be asking you to identify specific missing children cases investigated by the agency. In identifying these cases you can search your case management system for codes related to “missing person” as well as a free text search for the word “missing child.” Additional study criteria include involvement of a juvenile ages 0-17.

When conducting these searches please keep track of the problems and questions you encounter as we provide a place at the end of the survey where you can write these down. After you complete the search we will be contacting you by telephone to ask you about your experience with the process.

Your agency’s participation is voluntary and will not affect the status of your agency in any way. The study avoids asking for identifying information about cases, such as victims’ names. Throughout the research, all information that would link an agency with any specific case details will be kept under lock and key or in secure computer files, accessible to authorized study staff only. Finally, federal law requires that all information be used for statistical purposes only—no specific agencies or cases will be identified in any publicized materials.

We will be happy to answer your questions about this project. Please call us at our toll free number, 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX, or send an e-mail to survey director Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu. Thank you so much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

[BACK PAGE]

FEDERAL ASSURANCES OF CONFIDENTIALITY AND OTHER NOTICES

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Under the Federal Paperwork Reduction Act, a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. We try to create forms and instructions that are accurate, can be easily understood, and which impose the least possible burden on you to provide us with information. We estimate that it will take 3 hours to complete this questionnaire. This estimate includes time for reviewing the instructions, searching for and gathering the data, completing the form, and reviewing answers.

If you would like more information concerning this authorization, the confidentiality guarantee, have comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate, or suggestions for making the form simpler, please contact Benjamin Adams, Social Science Analyst, at Benjamin.Adams@usdoj.gov or 202-616-3687. If you need assistance regarding your submission, please contact the survey director, Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu or call the project's toll free number: xxx-xxx-xxxx.

Attachment B
Mail Survey Screener

SECTION A

1. Does your agency have jurisdiction to conduct criminal investigations of cases in which a child is reported as missing or abducted?

Yes No → Skip to Section E, Page # →

2. Between [time period], did your agency investigate any cases where child, ages 17 or younger, was reported missing from a caretaker who contacted your agency for help to either locate or recover the child?

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] including investigations that your agency turned over to another agency, if applicable.

Yes No → Skip to Section C, Page # →

3. Did any of these cases involve...

- a. A runaway or repeat runaway? Yes No
- b. A violation or alleged violation of a custodial order or agreement? Yes No
- c. A child who was lost, stranded, injured or too young to know how to return home or make contact with the caretaker? Yes No
- d. A child reported missing because of a misunderstanding or other harmless circumstance? Yes No
- e. A child missing under unknown circumstances? Yes No
- f. An abduction by a non-family perpetrator? Yes No
- g. A stranger abduction? Yes No

4. Did you answer "yes" to any item in Question 3? → Skip to Section C, Page # →

Yes No

5. Indicate the total number of cases that your agency investigated between [time period] that fit one or more of the criteria given in Question 3.

Remember to include all cases that 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.

Total Number of Qualifying Cases Investigated Between [time period]

IMPORTANT: Please provide specific information about each case by completing Section B on the next page. →

SECTION B

For all missing children cases included in the total in Question 5 on the previous page, please provide the following information. If your agency has a lot of eligible cases you can: 1) print out the eligible cases directly and insert those pages into your returned survey; 2) add additional pages as necessary; or 3) contact us directly and we will provide you with additional assistance.

	a) Case Number <i>Provide your agency's case number for reference in our follow-up call</i>	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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	/ /	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Runaway, Custodial Order/ Agreement, Lost/Stranded/ Injured, Misunderstanding, Unknown Circumstances, Non-family Abduction, Stranger Abduction
2.		Name Email	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	/ /	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Runaway, Custodial Order/ Agreement, Lost/Stranded/ Injured, Misunderstanding, Unknown Circumstances, Non-family Abduction, Stranger Abduction
3.		Name Email	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	/ /	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Runaway, Custodial Order/ Agreement, Lost/Stranded/ Injured, Misunderstanding, Unknown Circumstances, Non-family Abduction, Stranger Abduction
4.		Name Email	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	/ /	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Runaway, Custodial Order/ Agreement, Lost/Stranded/ Injured, Misunderstanding, Unknown Circumstances, Non-family Abduction, Stranger Abduction

5.

Name
Email

Yes No

/ /

Yes No

Runaway, Custodial Order/
Agreement, Lost/Stranded/
Injured, Misunderstanding,
Unknown Circumstances, Non-
family Abduction, Stranger
Abduction

6.

Name
Email

Yes No

/ /

Yes No

Runaway, Custodial Order/
Agreement, Lost/Stranded/
Injured, Misunderstanding,
Unknown Circumstances, Non-
family Abduction, Stranger
Abduction

SEE GLOSSARY, PAGE #.

Skip to Section D



SECTION C

1. You have indicated that your agency did not investigate any cases between [time period] that fit the NISMART criteria for a missing child (see Glossary). What year did your agency last investigate any case that fit those criteria?

2. Are you aware of any cases of missing children in your general area or in your state between [time period]?

Yes → Indicate the county (counties) where the abduction(s) took place

No

SECTION D

1. To the extent possible, please verify your answers in the previous sections by conducting a check of investigation records and/or discussions with your agency's investigative unit(s). Indicate here the 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
- d. Used a computerized information system?..... Yes No

2. Is your specific department or unit responsible for.....

- a. Investigating missing children? Yes No
- b. Maintaining data on missing children? Yes No

Skip to Section F, Page # →

SEE GLOSSARY, PAGE #.

SECTION E

You indicated in Section A that your agency does not have the jurisdiction to conduct criminal investigations of missing children. Please describe what responsibilities do come under your agency's jurisdiction.

GLOSSARY OF STUDY TERMS

Child. Person under the age of 18.

Family abduction: The taking or keeping of a child by a family member in violation of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding about custody or visitation rights

Family member: A biological, adoptive, step- or foster family member; someone acting on behalf of such a family member; or the romantic partner of a parent

Missing child: A child whose caregiver contacted the police in order to recover or locate the child.

Whereabouts unknown: The person who reported this incident did not have an address, telephone number or other information that works to contact the child or the perpetrator.

Endangerment: Caregiver believed that child was at risk of physical assault, sexual abuse, physical injury, or health problem in the company of the perpetrator.

Recovery: Child was returned or came back to the custody of the aggrieved caregiver

Violation of custody agreement: An aggrieved parent is stating that a specific part of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding about custody or visitation rights has been violated

Attachment C
Frequently Asked Questions

Attachment C: Frequently Asked Questions

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PHASE 1: SEARCHES

What is NISMART-4?

NISMART-4 is a research study created by the federal Missing Children's Assistance Act. Its goal is to estimate the number of missing children. NISMART-4 is the fourth in a series of studies conducted between 1988 and 2011. It will update numbers from the three previous studies to determine whether there have been increases or decreases in the number of missing or abducted children. The findings will be reported to Congress and will guide the development of policies and programs for missing children. The study is sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and managed by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), at the U.S. Department of Justice. Westat and the Crimes against Children Research Center (CCRC) at the University of New Hampshire are conducting the study.

What is the National Law Enforcement Survey on Missing Children?

NISMART includes a number of different studies. The National Law Enforcement Survey on Missing Children will estimate the number of missing children between **[time period]**. Data will be collected in two phases from all law enforcement agencies with authority to investigate missing children. In Phase 1, Law Enforcement Agencies will complete a mail survey screener to identify relevant cases. In Phase 2, we will ask investigators of missing child cases to complete a self-administered web survey or telephone interview to provide details about specific cases investigated. We are asking you to participate in a pilot of Phase 1.

How did you choose this agency?

This initial mail survey screener is being sent to a sample of 30 law enforcement agencies of different sizes across the U.S. as part of the pilot.

Why is my participation important? Participation is voluntary, and will not affect the status of your agency in any way. However, the information you provide in testing this mail screener will help us design a better instrument for the national study. This will lead to more accurate and reliable final study estimates about missing children. Participating in this research will not entail any particular risks or benefits to you but it will greatly contribute to our knowledge about missing children.

What will the pilot involve?

We are asking you to search your records for cases of missing children during **[time period]**. After you have completed the search and recorded your results on the mail survey, we will follow up with a telephone call about your experience. Depending on the number of cases found, we anticipate the search and telephone interview will take about 3 hours.

What if my agency has a lot of eligible cases?

If your agency has a lot of eligible cases making it difficult to complete this survey you can: 1) print out the eligible cases directly and insert those pages into your returned survey; 2) add additional pages as necessary; or 3) contact us directly and we will provide you with additional assistance.

What about security and confidentiality protections?

In accordance with 28 CFR Part 22, the research team will provide administrative and physical security of identifiable data and preserve the anonymity of private persons participating in this project. The study avoids asking for identifying information about cases, such as victims' names. Throughout the research, all information that would link an agency with any specific case details will be kept under lock and key or in secure computer files, accessible to authorized study staff only. Finally, federal law requires that all information be used for statistical purposes only—no specific agencies or cases will be identified in any publicized materials.

What if I have questions?

If you have questions about the research, please contact the survey director, Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu, or 301-610-5523 or the study's toll-free number at 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX. If you have any questions about your rights as a research subject, you may contact the Westat Human Subjects Protection Office at 1-888-920-7631. Please leave a message with your full name, the name of the study (NISMART-4) and a phone number, beginning with the area code. Someone will return your call as soon as possible.

Attachment D

Follow-up Protocol and Questions for Search Component

Attachment D: Follow-up Protocol and Questions for Search Component

Hi Det/Lt/Chief XXXX,

My name is XXXXX. I am part of the research team conducting The National Law Enforcement Survey on Missing Children and Recovery. I want to thank you for completing the pilot mail survey we sent you.

We would now like to ask you just a few questions about your experiences searching for and identifying these cases in your agency's system. This should only take about 20 minutes. Is now a good time to talk?

Questions for telephone interview

1. On a scale of 1 (very difficult) to 5 (very easy), how easy was it for you to identify these cases?
2. Was there a specific search terms or terms that identified most of your cases?
3. Were there other search terms you used?
4. What did you find challenging about this search?
5. (IF APPLICABLE): We asked NCMEC and your state's Missing Children Clearinghouse for all cases of missing children reported to them by your agency during the study period. They identified these X cases which don't appear to have come up in your search. Let's review these cases to see why they did not come up in your search.
6. Is there anything else you would like us to know about this process?

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, we cannot ask you to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the National Institute of Justice, 810 Seventh Street NW, Washington, DC 20531.

Appendix 14

LES-MC Component 2 Materials

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Attachment A

Invitation Letter, Targeted to Each of the 25 LEAs

Attachment A: Invitation Letter, Targeted to each of the 25 LEAs

[INSERT F_NAME, MID_INIT, L_NAME]

[INSERT DATE OF MAILING]

[INSERT DEPT NAME]

[INSERT ADDRESS 1]

[INSERT CITY], [INSERT STATE] [INSERT ZIP]

Dear [INSERT TITLE, L_NAME],

We are asking your agency to participate in the first component of a pilot study for the National Law Enforcement Survey on Missing Children and Recovery, a study designed to estimate the number of missing and recovered children in the U.S.

This study is part of the Fourth National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMAART-4). The ultimate study will update the national estimates of the number of children who go missing and the number recovered over the course of one year as well as determine whether there have been any changes in the overall number of victims or in specific categories of victims. This study will limit the scope of events to those known to law enforcement and so we are relying on law enforcement agencies as the source of data.

Today we are requesting your help in an important first component of this pilot study where we want to identify how law enforcement agencies search for relevant cases in their data system and challenges they may encounter.

The study is being conducted in two phases. In this first phase, we are asking your agency to complete a mail screener to let us know 1) if you have jurisdiction to conduct investigations of missing children and 2) if you have had any relevant cases between XX/XX/XXXX and XX/XX/XXXX. In Phase 2, the research team will contact investigators of missing children cases identified in Phase 1. They will be asked to complete a self-administered web survey or telephone interview providing details about the specific case.

Enclosed is the Phase 1 survey packet for your agency. The packet includes the mail survey screener, glossary of terms, frequently asked questions and a pre-paid return envelope.

As part of this Phase 1 mail survey screener we will be asking you to identify specific missing children cases investigated by the agency. In identifying these cases you can search your case management system for codes related to "missing person" as well as a free text search for the word "missing child." Additional study criteria include involvement of a juvenile ages 0-17.

When conducting these searches please keep track of the problems and questions you encounter as we provide a place at the end of the survey where you can log these problems and questions. After you complete the search we will be contacting you by telephone to ask you about your experience with the process.

Your agency's participation is voluntary and will not affect the status of your agency in any way. The study avoids asking for identifying information about cases, such as victims' names. Throughout the research, all information that would link an agency with any specific case details will be kept under lock and key or in secure computer files, accessible to authorized study staff only. Finally, federal law requires that all information be used for statistical purposes only—no specific agencies or cases will be identified in any publicized materials.

We will be happy to answer your questions about this project. Please call us at our toll free number, 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX, or send an e-mail to survey director Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu. Thank you so much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

FEDERAL ASSURANCES OF CONFIDENTIALITY AND OTHER NOTICES

This data collection is authorized under the Missing Children's Assistance Act (see, 34 U.S.C. § 11293(c)). NIJ, OJJDP, its employees, and its data collection agents will use the information you provide for statistical or research purposes only, and will not disclose your information in identifiable form without your consent to anyone outside of the research team. All personally identifiable data collected are protected under the confidentiality provisions of 34 U.S.C. § 10231, and any person who violates these provisions may be punished by a fine up to \$10,000, in addition to any other penalties imposed by law. Further, under the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, your data are protected from cybersecurity risks through screening of the systems that transmit your data. Your compliance with the request for information is entirely voluntary, and if you choose to provide information, you may discontinue at any time without penalty of any sort.

Under the Federal Paperwork Reduction Act, a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. We try to create forms and instructions that are accurate, can be easily understood, and which impose the least possible burden on you to provide us with information. We estimate that it will take 3 hours to complete this questionnaire. This estimate includes time for reviewing the instructions, searching for and gathering the data, completing the form, and reviewing answers.

If you would like more information concerning this authorization, the confidentiality guarantee, have comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate, or suggestions for making the form simpler, please contact Benjamin Adams, Social Science Analyst, at Benjamin.Adams@usdoj.gov or 202-616-3687. If you need assistance regarding your submission, please contact the survey director, Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu or call the project's toll free number: xxx-xxx-xxxx.

Attachment B
Mail Survey Screener

SECTION A

1. Does your agency have jurisdiction to conduct criminal investigations of cases in which a child is reported as missing or abducted?

Yes No → Skip to Section C, Page # →

2. Between **[timeperiod]**, did your agency investigate any cases where child, ages 17 or younger, was reported missing from a caretaker who contacted your agency for help to either locate or recover the child?

3.

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] including investigations that your agency turned over to another agency, if applicable.

Yes No → Skip to Section C, Page # →

4. Did any of these cases involve...

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. A runaway <u>or repeat runaway</u> ? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. A <u>violation or alleged violation</u> of a custodial order or agreement? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. A child who was <u>lost, stranded, injured</u> or too young to know how to return home or make contact with the caretaker? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. A child reported missing because of a <u>misunderstanding</u> or other <u>harmless circumstance</u> ? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. A child missing under <u>unknown circumstances</u> ? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. An <u>abduction by a non-family perpetrator</u> ? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. A <u>stranger abduction</u> ? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

5. Did you answer “yes” to any item in Question 3? ↑

Yes No → Skip to Section C, Page # →

6. Indicate the total number of cases that your agency investigated between **[time period]** that fit one or more of the criteria given in Question 3.

Remember to include all cases that 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.

Total Number of Qualifying Cases Investigated
Between **[time period]**

↓
IMPORTANT: Please provide specific information about each case by completing Section B on the next page. →

SECTION B

For all missing children cases included in the total in Question 5 on the previous page, please provide the following information. If your agency has a lot of eligible cases you can: 1) print out the eligible cases directly and insert those pages into your returned survey; 2) add additional pages as necessary; or 3) contact us directly and we will provide you with additional assistance.

	a) Case Number <i>Provide your agency's case number for reference in our follow-up call</i>	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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	/ /	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Runaway, Custodial Order/ Agreement, Lost/Stranded/ Injured, Misunderstanding, Unknown Circumstances, Non-family Abduction, Stranger Abduction
2.		Name Email	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	/ /	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Runaway, Custodial Order/ Agreement, Lost/Stranded/ Injured, Misunderstanding, Unknown Circumstances, Non-family Abduction, Stranger Abduction
3.		Name Email	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	/ /	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Runaway, Custodial Order/ Agreement, Lost/Stranded/ Injured, Misunderstanding, Unknown Circumstances, Non-family Abduction, Stranger Abduction
4.		Name Email	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	/ /	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Runaway, Custodial Order/ Agreement, Lost/Stranded/ Injured, Misunderstanding, Unknown Circumstances, Non-family Abduction, Stranger Abduction

5.

Name
Email

Yes No

/ /

Yes No

Runaway, Custodial Order/
Agreement, Lost/Stranded/
Injured, Misunderstanding,
Unknown Circumstances, Non-
family Abduction, Stranger
Abduction

6.

Name
Email

Yes No

/ /

Yes No

Runaway, Custodial Order/
Agreement, Lost/Stranded/
Injured, Misunderstanding,
Unknown Circumstances, Non-
family Abduction, Stranger
Abduction

SEE GLOSSARY, PAGE #.

Skip to Section D



SECTION C

1. You have indicated that your agency did not investigate any cases between [time period] that fit the NISMART criteria for a missing child (see Glossary). What year did your agency last investigate any case that fit those criteria?

2. Are you aware of any cases of missing children in your general area or in your state between [time period]?

Yes → Indicate the county (counties) where the abduction(s) took place

No

SECTION D

1. To the extent possible, please verify your answers in the previous sections by conducting a check of investigation records and/or discussions with your agency’s investigative unit(s). Indicate here the 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
- d. Used a computerized information system?..... Yes No

2. Is your specific department or unit responsible for.....

- a. Investigating missing children? Yes No
- b. Maintaining data on missing children? Yes No

Skip to Section F, Page # →

SEE GLOSSARY, PAGE #.

GLOSSARY OF STUDY TERMS

Child. Person under the age of 18.

Family abduction: The taking or keeping of a child by a family member in violation of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding about custody or visitation rights

Family member: A biological, adoptive, step- or foster family member; someone acting on behalf of such a family member; or the romantic partner of a parent

Missing child: A child whose caregiver contacted the police in order to recover or locate the child.

Whereabouts unknown: The person who reported this incident did not have an address, telephone number or other information that works to contact the child or the perpetrator.

Endangerment: Caregiver believed that child was at risk of physical assault, sexual abuse, physical injury, or health problem in the company of the perpetrator.

Recovery: Child was returned or came back to the custody of the aggrieved caregiver

Violation of custody agreement: An aggrieved parent is stating that a specific part of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding about custody or visitation rights has been violated

Attachment C
Frequently Asked Questions

Attachment C: Frequently Asked Questions

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PHASE 1: SEARCHES

What is NISMART-4?

NISMART-4 is a research study created by the federal Missing Children's Assistance Act. Its goal is to estimate the number of missing children. NISMART-4 is the fourth in a series of studies conducted between 1988 and 2011. It will update numbers from the three previous studies to determine whether there have been increases or decreases in the number of missing or abducted children. The findings will be reported to Congress and will guide the development of policies and programs for missing children. The study is sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and managed by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), at the U.S. Department of Justice. Westat and the Crimes against Children Research Center (CCRC) at the University of New Hampshire are conducting the study.

What is the National Law Enforcement Survey on Missing Children?

NISMART includes a number of different studies. The National Law Enforcement Survey on Missing Children will estimate the number of missing children between **[time period]**. Data will be collected in two phases from all law enforcement agencies with authority to investigate missing children. In Phase 1, Law Enforcement Agencies will complete a mail survey screener to identify relevant cases. In Phase 2, we will ask investigators of missing child cases to complete a self-administered web survey or telephone interview to provide details about specific cases investigated. We are asking you to participate in a pilot of Phase 1.

How did you choose this agency?

This initial mail survey screener is being sent to a sample of 30 law enforcement agencies of different sizes across the U.S. as part of the pilot.

Why is my participation important? Participation is voluntary, and will not affect the status of your agency in any way. However, the information you provide in testing this mail screener will help us design a better instrument for the national study. This will lead to more accurate and reliable final study estimates about missing children. Participating in this research will not entail any particular risks or benefits to you but it will greatly contribute to our knowledge about missing children.

What will the pilot involve?

We are asking you to search your records for cases of missing children during **[time period]**. After you have completed the search and recorded your results on the mail survey, we will follow up with a telephone call about your experience. Depending on the number of cases found, we anticipate the search and telephone interview will take about 3 hours.

What if my agency has a lot of eligible cases?

If your agency has a lot of eligible cases making it difficult to complete this survey you can: 1) print out the eligible cases directly and insert those pages into your returned survey; 2) add additional pages as necessary; or 3) contact us directly and we will provide you with additional assistance.

What about security and confidentiality protections?

In accordance with 28 CFR Part 22, the research team will provide administrative and physical security of identifiable data and preserve the anonymity of private persons participating in this project. The study avoids asking for identifying information about cases, such as victims' names. Throughout the research, all information that would link an agency with any specific case details will be kept under lock and key or in secure computer files, accessible to authorized study staff only. Finally, federal law requires that all information be used for statistical purposes only—no specific agencies or cases will be identified in any publicized materials.

What if I have questions?

If you have questions about the research, please contact the survey director, Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu, or 301-610-5523 or the study's toll-free number at 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX. If you have any questions about your rights as a research subject, you may contact the Westat Human Subjects Protection Office at 1-888-920-7631. Please leave a message with your full name, the name of the study (NISMART-4) and a phone number, beginning with the area code. Someone will return your call as soon as possible.

Attachment D
Thank You/Reminder Postcard

Attachment D: Thank You/Reminder Postcard

Reminder to Complete the National Law Enforcement Survey on Missing Children and Recovery

We recently sent you a letter asking your agency to participate in a pilot study for the National Law Enforcement Survey on Missing Children and Recovery, a study designed to estimate the number of children who go missing each year in the U.S. The data from the main study will be reported to Congress and will be used to inform the development of future policies and programs for missing children.

If you have already completed the survey and returned it to us, please accept our sincere thanks. If not, please complete the survey and send it to us as soon as possible. The survey is due on <<MAIL SCREENER SURVEY DUE DATE>>. We need to receive your survey, even if you do not have any family abduction cases, so that the study results will accurately represent the experiences of law enforcement agencies.

If you have questions about completing the survey, did not receive the survey, or it has been misplaced, please call us at the following toll-free number, 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX, and we will mail another survey to you right away.

We greatly appreciate your help!

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

Attachment E
Second Reminder Letter

Attachment E: Second Reminder Letter

[INSERT F_NAME, MID_INIT, L_NAME]

[INSERT DATE OF MAILING]

[INSERT DEPT NAME]

[INSERT ADDRESS 1]

[INSERT CITY], [INSERT STATE]

[INSERT ZIP]

Dear [INSERT TITLE, L_NAME],

In [MONTH SURVEY SENT] we sent you a survey and a letter asking you to participate in a pilot study for the National Law Enforcement Survey on Missing Children and Recovery. The survey seeks information about your agency's experiences with missing children. The survey was due [SURVEY DUE DATE] but, as of today, we have not received your completed survey. (If you are still filling it out or have recently returned it, please disregard this notice.)

Our research team was asked to conduct this study to obtain an accurate estimate of the number of children who go missing and the number who are recovered. We know that crime investigators are the most knowledgeable sources of information about such cases.

I am writing to you again because each questionnaire is significant to the usefulness of this study. In order for the study results to truly represent the experiences of all agencies, it is essential that each agency in the sample return the questionnaire, even if your agency does not have any relevant cases. There is a place for you to note this on the questionnaire. If your agency has a lot of eligible cases, you can call the survey director and she will help you complete it.

The study is being conducted in two phases. In this first phase, we are asking your agency to complete a brief mail screener to let us know 1) if you have jurisdiction to conduct criminal investigations of missing children and 2) if you have had any relevant cases between XX/XX/XXXX and XX/XX/XXXX. In Phase 2, the research team will contact investigators of the missing children cases identified in Phase 1. They will be asked to complete a self-administered web survey or telephone interview providing details about the specific case.

Enclosed is the Phase 1 survey packet for your agency. Enclosed is a pilot survey packet for your agency. We are also interested in understanding the process through which you search for these types of cases in your system. In identifying these cases you can search your case management system for codes related to "missing person" as well as a free text search for the word "missing child". Additional study criteria include involvement of a juvenile ages 0-17.

When conducting these searches please keep track of the problems and questions you encounter as we provide a place at the end of the survey where you can write these down. After you complete the search we will be contacting you by telephone to ask you about your experience with the process.

We know you are extremely busy, but your response to this survey is an investment of time that will help law enforcement in the future. The report we write from this study will give policy makers and legislators vital

information about cases involving missing children. In case your questionnaire has been misplaced, a replacement is enclosed. If you have any questions about this project, please send an email to Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu or you can call our project's toll-free number 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX, and someone will return your call promptly. Thank you so much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

Attachment F
Third Reminder Letter

Attachment F: Third Reminder Letter

[INSERT F_NAME, MID_INIT, L_NAME] [INSERT DATE OF MAILING]
[INSERT DEPT NAME]
[INSERT ADDRESS 1]
[INSERT CITY], [INSERT STATE]
[INSERT ZIP]

Dear [INSERT TITLE, L_NAME],

This is the third request for your agency's participation in the pilot study for the National Law Enforcement Survey on Missing Children and Recovery. The survey seeks information about your agency's experiences with missing children. The survey was due [SURVEY DUE DATE] but, as of today, we have not received your completed survey. (If you have recently returned your survey, please disregard this notice.)

If you have not yet responded, we hope that you will be able to do so soon. The survey should take no longer than 5–10 minutes to complete. We would be very grateful if you would consider helping us with this important research. We appreciate the many demands for your time but please be assured that the study results will help law enforcement in the future. In case your questionnaire has been misplaced, a replacement is enclosed. If you have any questions about this project, please send an email to XXXXXX@XXXX.com or you can call our project's toll-free number 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX, and someone will return your call promptly.

Thank you so much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

Attachment G
Shortened Three-Question Survey

Attachment G: Shortened Three-Question Survey

National Law Enforcement Survey on Missing Children and Recovery

This is the fourth request for your agency's participation in the pilot study for the National Law Enforcement Survey on Missing Children and Recovery. As of today, we have not received your completed questionnaire.

The report we write from this study will help law enforcement in the future and give policy makers and legislators vital information about cases involving missing children. In order for the study results to truly represent the experiences of all agencies, it is essential that each agency in the sample respond, even if you do not have any cases to report.

To make things easier for you, we have simplified the survey to three essential questions, listed below. Please answer them to the best of your knowledge and return this to us. If you have any questions about this project, please send an email to Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu or you can call our project's toll-free number at 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX, and someone will return your call promptly. Thank you so much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

1. Does your agency have jurisdiction to conduct criminal investigations of cases in which a child is reported as abducted or missing?

Yes No

2. Between **[time period]**, did your agency investigate any cases where child, ages 17 or younger, was reported missing from a caretaker who contacted your agency for help to either locate or recover the child?

Yes No Does not apply

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, we cannot ask you to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the National Institute of Justice, 810 Seventh Street NW, Washington, DC 20531.

3. Between <<<MONTH-DAY-YEAR>>> and <<<MONTH-DAY-YEAR>>> did your agency have any open cases of missing children from prior years?

Yes No Does not apply

Your Name and Title: _____

Phone Number: _____

Thank you for your time. Please refold this paper so that the prepaid side is visible and mail it back to us.

Appendix 15
LES-MC Component 3

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Attachment A
Draft LES-MC Questionnaire

Attachment A: Draft LES-MC Questionnaire

PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS

MC1 Please give your contact information here so the researchers can reach you with any questions after they review your survey. This information will be deleted as soon as the research team verifies that your survey is complete.

- Name and title (1) _____
- Telephone number (2) _____
- Email address (3) _____

NISMART LES-MC Definition of Reported Missing

MC2 The incident number for this report is [number will be provided].

Please confirm that this incident involved a child, age 17 or younger, missing from a caretaker who contacted your agency for help to either locate or recover the child.

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

Box 1

If MC2 = 2 (not child reported missing) or MC2 = 3 (don't know) and respondent has no additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY1. If MC2 = 2 or MC2 = 3 and respondent has additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY2.

[NISMART Time Frame]

MC3 Did the initial call occur between [time frame to be established]?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, we cannot ask you to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 15 minutes per response for web administration and 30 minutes for telephone administration, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the National Institute of Justice, 810 Seventh Street NW, Washington, DC 20531.

Box 2

If MC3 = 2 (not in time frame) or MC3 = 3 (don't know) and respondent has no additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY1. If MC3 = 2 or MC3 = 3 and respondent has additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY2.

MC4 Did the person who reported this incident primarily want law enforcement to

- Locate and recover a child whose whereabouts were not known, or (1)
- Recover a child whose whereabouts were known? (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

MC5 Did the person who reported this incident have an address, telephone number or other information that worked to contact the child?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

MC5a Was this incident submitted to ... (Please respond to both options)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
National Crime Information Center (NCIC)? (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Missing Child Clearinghouse for your state? (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

MC6 Was more than one child reported missing in this incident?

- Yes, 2 children (1)
- Yes, 3 or more children (Enter number) (2) _____ MC8
- No, 1 child (3) _____ MC9
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4) _____ MC9

MC7 How did the children know each other?

- Siblings or step-siblings (1) _____ MC9
- Related as family some other way, such as cousins (2) _____ MC9
- Living in a group home or treatment or detention facility for juveniles (3) _____ MC9
- Friends, acquaintances or schoolmates (4) _____ MC9
- Something else (Please describe) (5) _____ MC9
- Don't know/Cannot determine (6) _____ MC9

MC8 How did the children know each other? (Please respond to all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Siblings or step-siblings (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Related as family some other way, such as cousins (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Living in a group home or treatment or detention facility for juveniles (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Friends, acquaintances or schoolmates (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Something else (Please describe) (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

MC9 How was the person who reported the incident related to the child?

If more than one child was involved, please answer about the closest relationship.

- Parent or step-parent (1)
- Other relative [This option will provide a pre-coded pull down list.] (2)
- Employee of school or daycare (3)
- Employee of group home or treatment, detention or other juvenile facility (4)
- Someone else (Please describe) (5) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (6)

NISMART Categories of Missing Children

MC10 Does the incident log or record indicate that this episode involved any of the following? (Please respond to all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
A <u>runaway</u> ? (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A <u>repeat runaway</u> ? (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A violation or alleged violation of a <u>custodial order or agreement</u> ? (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A child who was <u>lost, stranded, injured</u> or too young to know how to return home or make contact with caretaker? (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A child reported missing because of a <u>misunderstanding or other harmless circumstance</u> ? (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A child missing under <u>unknown circumstances</u> ? (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
An <u>abduction by a non-family perpetrator</u> ? (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A <u>stranger abduction</u> ? (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

CHILD CHARACTERISTICS

MC11 Is this child male or female?

- Male (1)
- Female (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

If more than one child was involved, please start with the oldest.

MC12 How old was this child at the time of the initial call?

- Less than 1 year old (1)
- 1 year old or older (Please enter age in years) (2) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

MC13 Is this child Hispanic or Latino/a?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

MC14 What is this child's race?

- White (1)
- Black or African American (2)
- American Indian or Alaska Native (3)
- Asian (4)
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (5)
- Other (6) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (7)

Endangerment

MC15 Was this child at risk or endangered because of a medical condition, disability or other condition or circumstance, such as drug use?

- Yes [This option will provide a pre-coded pull down list] (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

Definition of Recovery

MC16 What was the outcome of this incident for this child?

- Returned (1) _____ MC19
- Located but not returned (2) _____ MC18
- Not returned and not located (3)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4) _____ MC21

MC17 Sometimes records are not updated to show that a child has been recovered. Which do you think is more likely?

- This child has not returned home, or (1) _____ MC21
- This child has returned but the record has not been updated (2) _____ MC21
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3) _____ MC21

MC18 Please explain why the child was not returned.

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

Box 3
If MC16 = 2 (located not returned), go to MC20.

MC19 (If returned)

How much time passed from the initial call to your agency until this child's return home? (Your best estimate is fine.) Please enter the number of hours, days, weeks or months below.

- Hours (1) _____ MC21
- Days (2) _____ MC21
- Weeks (3) _____ MC21
- Months (4) _____ MC21
- Don't know/Cannot determine (5) _____ MC21

MC20 How much time passed from the initial call to your agency until the child was located? (Your best estimate is fine.) Please enter the number of hours, days, weeks or months below.

- Hours (1) _____
- Days (2) _____
- Weeks (3) _____
- Months (4) _____
- Don't know/Cannot determine (5)

MC21 Was this child reported missing at any other time between [time frame of study]?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (3)

Box 4

If MC6 = 1 (multiple children), questions MC11—MC21 will repeat for each child. After last child, go to MC21.

POLICE RESPONSE

MC22 During the initial call was information logged about ... (Please respond to all options)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
Where child was <u>last seen</u> ? (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<u>Who child was with</u> when last seen? (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child's <u>physical description</u> and clothing? (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whether child has <u>medical conditions, disabilities</u> ? (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whether child had <u>cell phone</u> ? (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Any <u>mode of travel</u> for child (walking, bicycle, motor vehicle)? (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

MC23 How did your agency respond to this incident? (Please answer all options.)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know/Cannot determine (3)
<u>Sent officers to a child's household</u> or to the scene (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<u>Interviewed</u> household members (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Got child <u>photos</u> (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Collected <u>other evidence</u> (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<u>Conducted a search</u> (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<u>Secured the scene</u> (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Investigated or responded in other ways (Describe) (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

MC24 Did your agency bring other agencies into an investigation or refer the case to another agency?

- Yes, brought other agency or agencies into the investigation (1)
- Yes, referred the case to another agency (2)
- No (3)
- Don't know/Cannot determine (4)

Box 5

If MC24 = 3 (did not bring in/refer to other agencies) or MC24 = 4 (don't know) and respondent has no additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY3. If MC24 = 3 or MC24 = 4 and respondent has additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY4.

MC25 What agencies were brought into the investigation or did you refer the case to? Please list each agency by name, county and state.

[TEXT ENTRY] _____

Box 6

If MC24 = 1 or MC24 = 2 (brought in or referred to other agencies), and respondent has no additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY3. If MC24=1 or MC24 = 2 and respondent has additional surveys, go to ENDSURVEY4.

We would now like to ask you just a few questions about your experiences answering questions about this case.

MC26 First, did you find any questions difficult to answer? If so, which ones and what them difficult?

MC27 Are there any questions I should have asked about this case but didn't? If yes, what other parts of the case should we know about?

MC28 How did you feel about the length of the survey?

ENDSURVEY1 We are only including certain incidents in this study and this case does not qualify. There are no further questions about this case. Thank you for your time.

ENDSURVEY2 We are only including certain incidents in this study and this case does not qualify. Please use this link to access questions about your next case that may qualify for this study: [To be added].

ENDSURVEY3 Thank you for completing this survey. We appreciate your help and your contribution to understanding the problem of children reported missing.

ENDSURVEY4 Thank you for completing this survey. We appreciate your help and your contribution to understanding the problem of children reported missing. Please use this link to access questions about your next case that may qualify for this study: [To be added].

Attachment B

Web Survey Email Invite for Telephone Interview (10 Cases)

Attachment B: Web Survey Email Invite for Telephone Interview (10 Cases)

National Law Enforcement Survey on Missing Children and Recovery

Dear Det/Inv/LtXXXX,

We are conducting the pilot study for the National Law Enforcement Survey on Missing Children and Recovery. Chief XXXX from your agency completed a mail survey for us gave us your name and email address so you could complete an online survey about Case #####. The survey will take approximately **30 minutes to complete** as a computerized telephone interview.

This study is part of the Fourth National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMAART-4). The ultimate study will update the national estimates of the number of children who go missing and the number recovered over the course of one year as well as determine whether there have been any changes in the overall number of victims or in specific categories of victims. This study will limit the scope of events to those known to law enforcement and so we are relying on law enforcement agencies as the source of data.

Your participation is voluntary and will not affect your status in your agency in any way. The study avoids asking for identifying information about cases, such as victims' names. Throughout the research, all information that would link an agency with any specific case details will be kept under lock and key or in secure computer files, accessible to authorized study staff only. Finally, federal law requires that all information be used for statistical purposes only—no specific agencies or cases will be identified in any publicized materials.

An interviewer will be contacting you shortly to complete the interview. If you have any questions about this project, please call us at our toll free number, 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX, or send an e-mail to survey director Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu. Thank you so much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

FEDERAL ASSURANCES OF CONFIDENTIALITY AND OTHER NOTICES

This data collection is authorized under the Missing Children's Assistance Act (see, 34 U.S.C. § 11293(c)). NIJ, OJJDP, its employees, and its data collection agents will use the information you provide for statistical or research purposes only, and will not disclose your information in identifiable form without your consent to anyone outside of the research team. All personally identifiable data collected are protected under the confidentiality provisions of 34 U.S.C. § 10231, and any person who violates these provisions may be punished by a fine up to \$10,000, in addition to any other penalties imposed by law. Further, under the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, your data are protected from cybersecurity risks through screening of the systems that transmit your data. Your compliance with the request for information is entirely voluntary, and if you choose to provide information, you may discontinue at any time without penalty of any sort.

Under the Federal Paperwork Reduction Act, a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. We try to create forms and instructions that are accurate, can be easily understood, and which impose the least possible burden on you to provide us with information. We estimate that it will take 0.5 hours to complete this questionnaire. This estimate includes time for reviewing the instructions, searching for and gathering the data, completing the form, and reviewing answers.

If you would like more information concerning this authorization, the confidentiality guarantee, have comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate, or suggestions for making the form simpler, please contact Benjamin Adams, Social Science Analyst, at Benjamin.Adams@usdoj.gov or 202-616-3687. If you need assistance regarding your submission, please contact the survey director, Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu or call the project's toll free number: xxx-xxx-xxxx.

Attachment C

Telephone Case Interview Introduction (10 Cases)

Attachment C: Telephone Case Interview Introduction (10 Cases)

Hi, my name is XXXXX and I am part of the research team conducting the pilot study for the National Law Enforcement Survey on Missing Children and Recovery. Chief XXXX from your agency completed a mail survey for us gave us your name and telephone number so we could follow-up with you about Case #####. Is now a good time to talk?

Let me just take a minute to let you know how this interview works. This interview is run through a computer system which only allows me to see one question at a time. Most questions require a simple Yes or No answer, while others are more detailed. If at any time during this interview you do not want to answer any question, you are free to decline to answer. Also, if at any time during this interview you think of something relevant to something mentioned earlier, just let me know and I will make a note.

Also, you should be aware that our research reports will not contain any information that could identify you or your agency, or any suspects or victims in this case.

In 3 or 4 sentences, can you give me a brief description of what happened in this case?"

TAKE NOTES BY HAND.

See Attachment A for the computerized survey.

Attachment D

Web Survey Email Invite (20 Cases)

Attachment D: Web Survey Email Invite (20 Cases)

National Law Enforcement Survey on Missing Children and Recovery

Dear Det/Inv/LtXXXX,

We are conducting the pilot study for the National Law Enforcement Survey on Missing Children and Recovery. Chief XXXX from your agency completed a mail survey for us gave us your name and email address so you could complete an online survey about Case #####. The survey will take approximately **15 minutes to complete** and you will be able to pause the survey and go back to it at any time. After the survey is completed, we will follow up with a phone call at a time of your convenience to talk about the survey experience. For example: *Did the survey allow you to say everything you wanted to say about this case? Were there questions that were confusing because of how they were worded?* This follow up conversation should take about 20 minutes.

This study is part of the Fourth National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMAART-4). The ultimate study will update the national estimates of the number of children who go missing and the number recovered over the course of one year as well as determine whether there have been any changes in the overall number of victims or in specific categories of victims. This study will limit the scope of events to those known to law enforcement and so we are relying on law enforcement agencies as the source of data.

Your participation is voluntary and will not affect your status in your agency in any way. The study avoids asking for identifying information about cases, such as victims' names. Throughout the research, all information that would link an agency with any specific case details will be kept under lock and key or in secure computer files, accessible to authorized study staff only. Finally, federal law requires that all information be used for statistical purposes only—no specific agencies or cases will be identified in any publicized materials.

[CLICK HERE to access the survey.](#)

We will be happy to answer your questions about this project. Please call us at our toll free number, 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX, or send an e-mail to survey director Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu. Thank you so much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

FEDERAL ASSURANCES OF CONFIDENTIALITY AND OTHER NOTICES

This data collection is authorized under the Missing Children's Assistance Act (see, 34 U.S.C. § 11293(c)). NIJ, OJJDP, its employees, and its data collection agents will use the information you provide for statistical or research purposes only, and will not disclose your information in identifiable form without your consent to anyone outside of the research team. All personally identifiable data collected are protected under the confidentiality provisions of 34 U.S.C. § 10231, and any person who violates these provisions may be punished by a fine up to \$10,000, in addition to any other penalties imposed by law. Further, under the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, your data are protected from cybersecurity risks through screening of the systems that transmit your data. Your compliance with the request for information is entirely voluntary, and if you choose to provide information, you may discontinue at any time without penalty of any sort.

Under the Federal Paperwork Reduction Act, a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. We try to create forms and instructions that are accurate, can be easily understood, and which impose the least possible burden on you to provide us with information. We estimate that it will take 0.25 hours to complete this questionnaire. This estimate includes time for reviewing the instructions, searching for and gathering the data, completing the form, and reviewing answers.

If you would like more information concerning this authorization, the confidentiality guarantee, have comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate, or suggestions for making the form simpler, please contact Benjamin Adams, Social Science Analyst, at Benjamin.Adams@usdoj.gov or 202-616-3687. If you need assistance regarding your submission, please contact the survey director, Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu or call the project's toll free number: xxx-xxx-xxxx.

Attachment E

Invitation Letter for Web Survey, Investigating Officer

Attachment E: Invitation Letter for Web Survey, Investigating Officer

[F_NAME L_NAME]
[DEPT NAME]
[ADDRESS]
[CITY, STATE ZIP]

[DATE OF MAILING]

Dear [INSERT TITLE, L_NAME]:

Your agency is participating in the National Law Enforcement Survey on Missing Children and Recovery, a study designed to estimate the number of children who go missing in the U.S. as well as the number who are recovered.

This study is part of a larger study, sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and managed by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), which seeks to design and test methodologies to produce accurate estimates on the number and characteristics of missing children reported to law enforcement. The study will update the national estimates of the number of children who go missing and the number recovered over the course of one year as well as determine whether there have been any changes in the overall number of victims or in specific categories of victims. This study will limit the scope of events to those known to law enforcement and relying on the law enforcement agencies as the source of data.

The following case has been identified by your agency as an episode of a missing child: [CASE ID]

We are asking you (or the most knowledgeable investigator) to answer questions about this case on a web survey. In order for the results of this study to truly represent the experience of all law enforcement agencies across the country, it is important that every questionnaire be completed. The web survey is hosted on our secure website and will take about 30 minutes. It may be completed in one sitting or in parts. You may go to the website at any time and enter your personal and confidential user login and password (below) to begin the survey. **We ask you to please complete the web survey by Month, XX, 20XX.**

Survey address: <https://www.XXXXXXXX>

User Login: «uID»

Password: «Password»

Your agency's participation is voluntary and will not affect the status of your agency in any way. Responses will be confidential and will be used for statistical purposes only, as required by federal law. Your name and the name of your agency will remain confidential and will not be used in any of the results from the study. We greatly appreciate your assistance in this important project. If you have questions about the operation or content of the web survey, have difficulty accessing the survey, or need further assistance, please call our toll free number, 1-xxx-xxx-xxxx, or email our survey director Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

FEDERAL ASSURANCES OF CONFIDENTIALITY AND OTHER NOTICES

This data collection is authorized under the Missing Children's Assistance Act (see, 34 U.S.C. § 11293(c)). NIJ, OJJDP, its employees, and its data collection agents will use the information you provide for statistical or research purposes only, and will not disclose your information in identifiable form without your consent to anyone outside of the research team. All personally identifiable data collected are protected under the confidentiality provisions of 34 U.S.C. § 10231, and any person who violates these provisions may be punished by a fine up to \$10,000, in addition to any other penalties imposed by law. Further, under the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, your data are protected from cybersecurity risks through screening of the systems that transmit your data. Your compliance with the request for information is entirely voluntary, and if you choose to provide information, you may discontinue at any time without penalty of any sort.

Under the Federal Paperwork Reduction Act, a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. We try to create forms and instructions that are accurate, can be easily understood, and which impose the least possible burden on you to provide us with information. We estimate that it will take 0.25 hours to complete this questionnaire. This estimate includes time for reviewing the instructions, searching for and gathering the data, completing the form, and reviewing answers.

If you would like more information concerning this authorization, the confidentiality guarantee, have comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate, or suggestions for making the form simpler, please contact Benjamin Adams, Social Science Analyst, at Benjamin.Adams@usdoj.gov or 202-616-3687. If you need assistance regarding your submission, please contact the survey director, Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu or call the project's toll free number: xxx-xxx-xxxx.

Attachment F
Frequently Asked Questions

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PHASE 2: SURVEY

What is NISMART-4?

NISMART-4 is a research study created by the federal Missing Children's Assistance Act. Its goal is to estimate the number of missing children. NISMART-4 is the fourth in a series of studies conducted between 1988 and 2011. It will update numbers from the three previous studies to determine whether there have been increases or decreases in the number of missing or abducted children. The findings will be reported to Congress and will guide the development of policies and programs for missing children. This study is sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and managed by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), at the U.S. Department of Justice. Westat and the Crimes against Children Research Center (CCRC) at the University of New Hampshire are conducting the study.

What is the National Law Enforcement Survey on Missing Children and Recovery?

NISMART includes a number of different studies. The National Law Enforcement Survey on Missing Children will estimate the number of missing children between [time period]. Data are being collected in two phases from all law enforcement agencies with authority to investigate missing children. In Phase 1, Law Enforcement Agencies completed a mail survey screener to identify relevant cases. Now in Phase 2, we are asking investigators of missing child cases to complete a self-administered web survey or telephone interview to provide details about specific cases investigated.

How did you choose this agency?

The initial mail survey screener was sent to 30 law enforcement agencies across the U.S. Because your agency investigated a missing child case, you are being asked to provide some case details.

Why is my participation important? Participation is voluntary, and will not affect the status of your agency in any way. However, the information you provide in testing this survey will help us design the best instrument for the national study. This will lead to more accurate and reliable

final study estimates about missing children. Participating in this research will not entail any particular risks or benefits to you but it will greatly contribute to our knowledge about missing children.

What will the survey involve?

We are asking the investigator who is most knowledgeable about a relevant case to respond to a telephone interview or a web survey on a secure site to provide details about the characteristics of offenders, victims, and cases investigated, as described in the survey invitation letter. If you complete the web survey, we will follow up by telephone to ask about your experience. The survey and followup will take about 35 minutes.

What about security and confidentiality protections? In accordance with 28 CFR Part 22, the research team will provide administrative and physical security of identifiable data and preserve the anonymity of private persons participating in this project. The study avoids asking for identifying information about cases, such as victims' names. Throughout the research, all information that would link an agency with any specific case details will be kept under lock and key or in secure computer files, accessible to authorized study staff only. Finally, federal law requires that all information be used for statistical purposes only—no specific agencies or cases will be identified in any publicized materials.

What if I have questions?

If you have questions about the research, please contact the survey director, Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu or the study's toll-free number at 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX. If you have any questions about your rights as a research subject, you may contact the Westat Human Subjects Protection Office at 1-888-920-7631. Please leave a message with your full name, the name of the study (NISMART-4) and a phone number, beginning with the area code. Someone will return your call as soon as possible.

GLOSSARY OF STUDY TERMS

Child. Person under the age of 18.

Family abduction: The taking or keeping of a child by a family member in violation of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding about custody or visitation rights

Family member: A biological, adoptive, step- or foster family member; someone acting on behalf of such a family member; or the romantic partner of a parent

Missing child: A child whose caregiver contacted the police in order to recover or locate the child.

Whereabouts unknown: The person who reported this incident did not have an address, telephone number or other information that works to contact the child or the perpetrator.

Endangerment: Caregiver believed that child was at risk of physical assault, sexual abuse, physical injury, or health problem in the company of the perpetrator.

Recovery: Child was returned or came back to the custody of the aggrieved caregiver

Violation of custody agreement: An aggrieved parent is stating that a specific part of a court order, written agreement or mutual understanding about custody or visitation rights has been violated

Attachment G
Web Survey First Reminder Email

Attachment G: Web Survey First Reminder Email

Dear [TITLE L_NAME]:

On [DATE] we sent you a letter asking you to participate in the National Law Enforcement Survey on Missing Children and Recovery. Your agency is one of a number of agencies being asked to participate in a national study to estimate the number of children who go missing in the U.S.

In the letter we sent on [DATE], we identified the case ID of the victim(s) in the missing child case identified by your agency. The survey was due on [SURVEY DUE DATE] but we have not received your completed survey. (If you are still filling it out or have recently submitted it, please disregard this notice). If you need information to identify this case, or you are not the right person to complete the survey, please contact the survey director, Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu or call the project's toll free number: xxx-xxx-xxxx.

The web survey is available on our secure website. You may go to the website at any time and enter your personal and confidential user login and password (below) to begin the survey. The survey should only take about 30 minutes. **We ask you to complete the web survey by Month, XX, 20XX.**

Survey address: <https://www.XXXXXXXX>

User Login: «uID»

Password: «Password»

We know you are extremely busy, but your participation in this study will help law enforcement in the future.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

Attachment H
Web Survey Third Reminder Email

Attachment H: Web Survey Third Reminder Email

Dear [TITLE L_NAME]:

On [DATE] we sent you a letter asking you to participate in the National Law Enforcement Survey on Missing Children and Recovery. You were selected to participate because of your investigation of a missing child that fits our study. This research is designed to help generate estimates of the number of children who go missing each year in the U.S. and is mandated by Congress.

In the letter we sent, we identified the case ID of the victim(s) in the missing child case investigated by your agency. The survey was due on [SURVEY DUE DATE]. We will be very grateful if you could help us with this important research and complete the survey today.

The web survey is available on our secure website. You may go to the website at any time and enter your personal and confidential user login and password (below) to begin the survey. The survey should only take about 30 minutes. **We now ask you to complete the web survey by Month, XX, 20XX.**

Survey address: https://www.XXXXXXXXXX

User Login: «uID»

Password: «Password»

If you need information to identify this case, or you are not the right person to complete the survey, please let us know by contacting the survey director, Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu or call the project's toll free number: xxx-xxx-xxxx. If you have questions about the operation or content of the web survey, have difficulty accessing the survey, or need further assistance, please call our toll free number at xxx-xxx-xxxx.

We know you are extremely busy, but your participation in this study will help law enforcement and abducted children in the future.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sedlak, Ph.D.
Westat
Co-Principal Investigator

David Finkelhor, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire
Co-Principal Investigator

Attachment I
Web Survey Second Reminder Email

Attachment I: Web Survey Second Reminder Email

Dear [TITLE L_NAME]:

Westat and the University of New Hampshire's Crimes against Children Research Center are conducting the Fourth National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMAART-4). The study is sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and managed by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), at the U.S. Department of Justice. The study seeks to update national estimates of the number of children who go missing and the number recovered over the course of one year as well as determine whether there have been any changes in the overall number of victims or in specific categories of victims.

On [DATE] the research team sent you a letter asking you to participate in the web survey component of the study by providing details about a specific case of a missing child. You were selected as the investigator most knowledgeable about the case. The research team has not yet heard from you and I wanted to reach out to urge you to respond.

In the original letter sent, the research team identified the case ID of the victim(s) in the missing child case investigated by your agency. If you no longer have the letter and need information to identify this case, please contact the survey director, Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.Mitchell@unh.edu and she can help you. If you have questions about the operation or content of the web survey, have difficulty accessing the survey, or need further assistance, please call the project's toll free number at xxx-xxx-xxxx.

The web survey is available on the project's secure website. You may go to the website at any time and enter your personal and confidential user login and password (below) to begin the survey. The survey should only take about 30 minutes. **I ask you to please complete the web survey by Month, XX, 20XX.**

Survey address: <https://www.XXXXXXXXX>

User Login: «uID»

Password: «Password»

I can appreciate the many demands on your time, but please know that your participation in this study will help law enforcement in the future.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Adams
Social Science Analyst
National Institute of Justice

Attachment J
Script for Telephone Follow-up Interviews

Attachment J: Script for Telephone Follow-up Interviews

INTRODUCE SELF, CONFIRM SPEAKING TO SURVEY RESPONDENT

First, I want to thank you for taking time out of your very busy schedule to participate in the NISMART pilot. As you may recall, we wanted to talk with you a little about your experience taking the survey and possible reactions you may have had to any of the questions.

Is this a good time to ask you a few questions about the pilot survey? We estimate this call will take about 20 minutes.

[IF NOT A GOOD TIME, SCHEDULE CALL BACK APPOINTMENT]

First, I'd like to ask your reaction to the amount of time it took for you to complete this survey online. I see from our management system that it looks like you completed the survey in [1/MORE THAN 1 SESSION] and the total amount of time it took was ___ minutes. Thinking back, what was your impression about the length of the survey?

Did the amount of time seem about appropriate or right to you?

Was it hard to find time to take the survey?

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, we cannot ask you to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the National Institute of Justice, 810 Seventh Street NW, Washington, DC 20531.

We know that with our schedules it's not always possible to do a task from beginning to end without interruption. Did you take any breaks or have any interruptions?

[QUESTIONS ABOUT DATA RETRIEVAL SHOULD BE ASKED IN LINEAR ORDER AND INTEGRATED INTO THE DISCUSSION AND COLLECTION OF OTHER COMMENTS. DO NOT JUMP BACK AND FORTH IN THE INSTRUMENT.]

I want to ask you about this question [which was not answered or appears inconsistent].

[IF EMBEDDED COMMENTS REQUIRE CLARIFICATION] Comment fields were programmed into the survey to allow you to comment on the elements of any given question. Your comments were very helpful and I'd like to follow up on a comment/couple comments you left.

[GIVE OR DESCRIBE QUESTION TO HELP RESPONDENT RECALL] you wrote [READ RESPONDENT'S COMMENT AND YOUR CLARIFYING QUESTION].

Thank you!

As researchers, we spend a great deal of time on the development of questionnaires, scrutinizing the wording of questions and anticipating possible responses and the information we need to capture by our questions. Despite our best efforts, sometimes people have difficulties answering a question.

Were any questions confusing because of how they were worded?

A number of survey questions ask you to select from multiple choice answers. In multiple-choice questions, did you always find the response category you needed to answer the question accurately or did you feel like we missed a response category?

Were any questions left out of the survey that you expected to be asked and think are important to add in order for people to understand the case and its outcome?

Finally, when you completed the survey, did you feel you had the opportunity to say everything you wanted to say about this case?

Anything else?

Thank you again for being part of our pilot. We're learning a lot and appreciate your participation. Goodbye.