

CHILD ABDUCTION DEFINED

- **Abduction** is defined as taking away a person by persuasion, by fraud, or by open force or violence.
- **Child Abduction** is the offense of wrongfully removing or wrongfully retaining, detaining or concealing a **child** or baby.

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Two Types of Child Abduction

Parental abduction

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Abduction by stranger

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KEY CONCEPTS

01

Summarize factors that increase risk and drive child abductions

02

Explain primary strategies you can use to identify those who are at risk for child abductions

03

Describe interventions that can effectively reduce the risk of trauma with child abduction victims

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Understand warning signs of family abductions

- 1 → 2 → 3 → 4 → 5 → 6

Has a criminal record.

Has a history of marital instability, lack of cooperation with the other parent, domestic violence, or child abuse.

Has previously abducted or threatened to abduct a child.

Has strong ties to a different state, or country than those to where he currently lives.

Unemployed, can work anywhere, or is financially independent.

New passports or visas.

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10 YEAR ANALYSIS TRENDS

- School was one of the biggest factors in the timing of when these incidents occurred.
- 70% occurred on school days.
- Younger children were more likely to be walking alone or with a peer to/from school, their bus stop or residence on school days and to other places on non-school days.
- Verbal ploys were used towards elementary and middle school children.
- Attempted abductions occur more often when a child is going to or from school.
- Children who got away either ignored, refused them, used their cell phones, fought, screamed, another child or adult intervened, or the child was able to leave the area.
- Force was most commonly used against younger children and oldest children.

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TRUE OR FALSE?

- 01 Most children are abducted by strangers.
- 02 More and more children go missing everyday.
- 03 The internet has made child abduction easier.
- 04 Prevention starts with teaching children to avoid strangers.

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Most children are abducted by strangers

Children taken by strangers or slight acquaintances represent only one-hundredth of 1 percent of all missing children.

The last comprehensive study estimated that the number was 115 in a year.

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More and more children go missing everyday

Many state missing-children agencies show declining numbers of cases.

Cellphones allow children to summon help and get out of threatening situations.

Over the past decades, we have become more aggressive about finding, prosecuting, incarcerating, supervising, treating and deterring sex offenders.

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The internet has made child abduction easier

The internet has changed the way young people take risks: They do it more often at home.

Young people these days socialize and experiment online.

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Prevention starts with teaching children to avoid strangers

Children are vastly more likely to come to harm and even abducted by people they know than by people they don't know.

We should teach children the signs of people (strangers or not) who are behaving badly: touching them inappropriately, being overly personal, trying to get them alone, acting drunk, provoking others or recklessly wielding weapons.

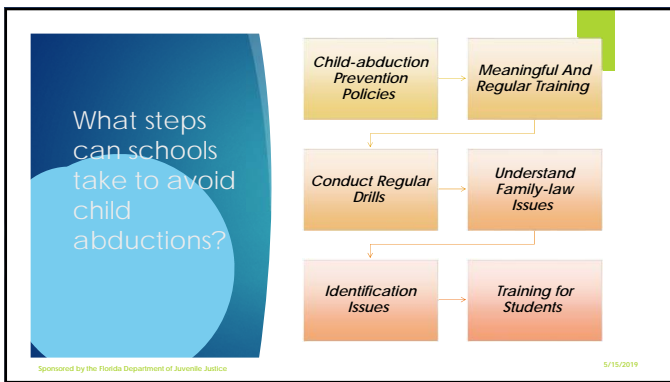
We need to help children practice refusal skills, disengagement skills and how to summon help.

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Preventative Measures

- ▶ **Sex Offenders Registration**
The 1994 Jacob Wetterling Act requires the States to register individuals convicted of sex crimes against children.
- ▶ **Community Notifications**
Megan's Law allows the States discretion to establish criteria for disclosure, but compels them to make private and personal information on registered sex offenders available to the public.

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What Prevention Policies can Law Enforcement use to help prevent child abductions?

- 3 strike laws
- Speedy response
- Communications Systems
- Search Protocols
- Amber Alert

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Stolen Innocence



ABDUCTED - PLAIN SIGHT

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Victim Impact

- ▶ • The child may have a changed identity or a new name.
- ▶ • The child may go from a single-child family to a new, larger family.
- ▶ • The child's school, or grade level may have changed.
- ▶ • The abducting parent and searching parent may have different rules, expectations, and ways of parenting.
- ▶ • The returning child could have a new living environment.
- ▶ • The abduction can be an ongoing experience that changes the child's whole life.
- ▶ • The abduction is about the child and the experience.

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Victim Impact (continued)

- ▶ • There may be developmental issues unique to abducted children.
- ▶ • The child may have been forced to grow up before his/her time.
- ▶ • The child may have missed out on birthdays, holidays, and school promotions.
- ▶ • The child may feel like he's starting over.
- ▶ • There is no continuum—the child may have been forced to assume a new identity.
- ▶ • The child may be behind emotionally and educationally.
- ▶ • The child may operate in survival mode.
- ▶ • The child may lose his childhood.
- ▶ • Abnormal things may have become normalized.

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Why victims refuse help

- ▶ Relationship
- ▶ Circumstances
- ▶ Negative Communication

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Trauma/Victim Assessment Tool

ACE's Adverse Childhood Experiences

Children living through abuse, violence and other traumatic events may unnecessarily suffer the ill effects for the rest of their lives. These life-altering events are called Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

Research about the lifelong impact of ACEs underscores the urgency of prevention activities to protect children from these and other early traumas.

When children do experience trauma, understanding the impact of ACEs can lead to more trauma-informed interventions that help to lessen negative outcomes. Many communities are now exploring how reducing ACEs can help prevent child maltreatment, and help gain healthier results for children and families.

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MENTAL HEALTH DIAGNOSIS

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    graph TD
      A[DEPRESSION] --> B[ANXIETY (SEVERE)]
      B --> C[POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER]
  
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VICARIOUS TRAUMA

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- ▶ The signs of vicarious trauma resemble post-traumatic stress disorder, and can include emotional, behavioral, and physical symptoms, such as **anxiety, depression, disturbed sleep, change in appetite, irritability, nightmares, loss of empathy, and numbness.**

TREATMENT

- ▶ examine your caseload or the availability of debriefing and grounding strategies. You may also need to assess the level of extraneous trauma images and stories that you are exposing yourself to in your personal life.
- ▶ If you have a lot of emotional symptoms, you may consider consulting with a well-trained mental health professional

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Important Community Agencies

The Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse (MEPIC) Part of the AMBER PLAN

Local Law Enforcement Agencies

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

Child abduction Response Team (CART)

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SUPPORT Partners

- ▶ Parents
- ▶ Stakeholders and Partners
- ▶ Media
- ▶ Faith Communities
- ▶ Everyday Persons

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Such a powerful image. Be gentle with the people you meet. Their outsides may not match their insides x

This is powerful...



#MENTALHEALTHAWARENESS

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Resources

- *Abducted in Plain Sight*. Netflix true crime documentary based on the book "Stolen Innocence".
- *Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)*. Child Welfare, <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/preventionmonth/resources/aces/>.
- *AMBER Alerts.* FDLE, <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/MCICSearch/Amber.asp>.
- *AMBER Plan Frequently Asked Questions.* FDLE, <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/AMBER-Plan/FAQ-s>.
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- *Statistics from the National Center for Victims of Crime*. Child Watch North America, 2019. <http://www.childwatch.org/statisticsandinformation.html>
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- United States, Department of Justice. Guide for Implementing or Enhancing an Endangered Missing Advisory. March 2011.
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