Non-Family Abduction

Stereotypical stranger abductions of children are rare.

- In 1997, the estimated number of stereotypical stranger abductions* was 115, according to the second National Incidence Study of Missing, Abducted, Runaway and Thrownaway Children (NISMART).

  Abductions are considered "stereotypical" when the perpetrator is a stranger and any one of the following occurs: 1) the child is gone overnight; 2) the child is killed; 3) the child is transported a distance of 50 miles or more; 4) the child is ransomed; or 5) the perpetrator evidences intent to keep the child permanently.

- An estimated 58,200 short-term abductions occurred to children mostly in the course of sexual assaults and other crimes.

Teenage girls are the group at greatest risk for non-family abduction.

- Two-thirds or more of abduction victims were female, and a majority were adolescents, ages 12 through 17.


In police reports of abductions, juveniles are kidnapped as often by non-family acquaintances as by strangers.