

Attempted Abductions

What Parents & Guardians Need to Know

The numbers are surprising: **forty-nine percent** of parents or guardians believe that their neighborhood is safe, and therefore are not concerned that their child will go missing. The same research indicates that over half of parents and guardians do not have a recent photo of their child – one updated within the last six months – for emergency purposes.

Yet preliminary analysis conducted by NCMEC's Attempted Abduction Program indicates that **child safety remains of paramount importance**. Initial findings show that attempted non-family abductions:

- Occur more often when a child is going to and from school or a school-related activity
- More often involve children between the ages of 10 to 14
- Happen to more female children than male
- More often entail a suspect that uses a vehicle

Nearly 450 confirmed, attempted abductions were foiled when the victims:

- Yelled, kicked or pulled away (56%)
- Walked or ran away (32%)
- Got help from an adult (12%)

In light of these findings, NCMEC encourages parents and guardians now more than ever to **discuss safety with their families and to update children's photo IDs**.

About the Program

In 2006, NCMEC developed the Attempted Abduction Program within its Special Analysis Unit to analyze attempted abduction trends and patterns and collect information to assist law enforcement during investigations. Currently, no national organization aggressively tracks attempted abductions across the United States.

