

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

Children's Rights

<https://www.missingkids.org/theissues/nonfamily>

Campaign and Advocacy

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NCMEC receives reports of missing children that fall into one of five case types, including nonfamily abductions. A nonfamily abduction occurs when a child is taken by someone known, but not related, to the child, such as a neighbor or an online acquaintance, or by someone unknown to the child. Nonfamily abductions are the rarest type of case and make up only 1% of the missing children cases reported to NCMEC.

NCMEC collects information concerning attempted abductions of children by individuals unknown to the child. Based on over ten years of data, NCMEC identified that:

Children evaded abduction in a variety of ways, including:

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600 +

attempted abductions were documented by NCMEC in 2020.

In an analysis of attempted abductions, the most common lures used in attempts were:

NCMEC, in partnership with Honeywell, created the [KidSmartz Personal Safety Program](#), a program that educates families about preventing abduction and empowers children in grades K-5 to practice safer behaviors. The program teaches The 4 Rules of Personal Safety: using fun and engaging videos and activities.

Learn more about NCMECs Education and Prevention Resources.

The 4 Rules of Personal Safety

[NCMECs Code Adam Program](#), created in memory of 6-year-old Adam Walsh who was abducted from a Florida department store, is now one of the largest child safety protocols being implemented in tens of thousands of establishments across the nation, providing critical guidance to employees on how to handle reports of missing children on the premises.

[Team Adam](#) is a specialized unit made up of former and retired law enforcement professionals which can be deployed directly to the scene of a child's disappearance to offer assistance to investigators and families in cases of critically missing children and long-term missing child cases.

[The ADAM Program](#) quickly distributes missing child posters to police, news media, schools, businesses, medical centers and other recipients within a specific geographic search areas. The public can also help by signing up to receive missing child alerts in their area.

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