

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

Children's Rights

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

Campaign and Advocacy

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For the purposes of this analysis, infant abductions are defined as any abduction of a child under one year of age. This type of abduction can take various forms; from a noncustodial parent abducting the infant, to a stranger abducting the child from the hospital, home, or a public place.

NCMEC has developed a list of characteristics from an analysis of 337 missing infants under six months of age related to healthcare occurring from 1964 through August 2022, in the United States. *However, there is no guarantee an infant abductor will fit this description.*

Usually a female of childbearing age who appears pregnant.

In addition, an abductor who abducts from the home setting (is):

Total abductions of infants related to healthcare confirmed by NCMEC from 1964 to August 2022, in the USA:

337

Of those abducted children,
140 were taken from healthcare facilities
148 were taken from the home
49 were abducted in other locations

Total abducted infants under six months of age who remain missing:

16

As the nations clearinghouse about missing and sexually exploited children, NCMEC maintains statistics regarding the number and location of infant abductions and provides technical assistance and training to health care and security professionals in an effort to prevent infant abductions from occurring in their facilities. NCMEC also provides evidence-based guidance about how to respond when an infant abduction occurs and technical assistance to law enforcement during and after an incident.

[Read: Latest Analysis of Infant Abduction Trends](#)

[Read: For health care professionals: Guidelines on prevention of and response to infant abductions](#)

[Watch: Safeguard Their Tomorrows](#) - a training video and resource for hospital professionals to help prevent infant abductions from medical facilities. Note that the [Latest Analysis of Infant Abduction Trends](#) document should be referenced for the current statistics on infant abductions.

Our publication, [What Parents Need to Know](#), provides tips for expectant parents for keeping their newborn safe while at the hospital and in their transition into their new life at home.

Team Adam is a rapid response 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.

[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.

Coping with the experience of a child abduction demands courage and determination on the part of the victim, parents and guardians, and other family members. NCMEC offers [victim and family support](#) through a team of dedicated professionals who work with law enforcement and families to provide reunification assistance and referrals. NCMEC can also locate short and long term support for families through local victim advocates and mental health agencies.

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