

Children's Safety

he
Problem

The best national estimates for the number of missing children are from incidence studies conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The second National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMAART 2) was released in October of 2002. According to NISMAART 2 data estimates, there were 203,900 children abducted by family members, 58,200 children abducted by nonfamily members and 1,682,900 runaway/throwaway episodes in 1999.

The
Solution

As a member of the Congressional Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus, I have joined with a number of my colleagues in becoming an original cosponsor of the National AMBER Alert Network Act, H.R. 412 in the 108th Congress. The bill would have improved the operation of the AMBER Alert communications network in order to facilitate the recovery of abducted children and would have provided enhanced notification on highways of alerts and information on such children. On April 30, 2005, President Bush signed the PROTECT Act (P. L. 108-21) into law to enhance AMBER Alert plans nationwide and strengthens law enforcement and federal criminal code provisions related to missing and exploited children.

But, parents and young people are on the frontlines of this battle and I have provided a number of resources to help them be prepared and protect their kids.

Resources

National
Center for Missing and Exploited Children Library
of Resources

From
the National Criminal Justice Reference Service

- Personal
Safety for Children: A Guide for Parents and En
Español

- When
Your Child Is Missing: A Family Survival Guide

Cuando
su Niño Desaparece: Una Guía Para la Supervivencia de la
Familia

- Federal
Resources on Missing and Exploited Children: A Directory for
Law Enforcement and Other Public and Private Agencies
Federal Agency Task Force for Missing and Exploited
Children, Third Edition, May 2001

Connecticut
Amber Plan or
call
the CT State Police at (860) 685-8000 or Infoline at 211

Library
of Congress

- Amber
Alert Program Technology

- Missing
and Exploited Children: Overview and Policy Concerns