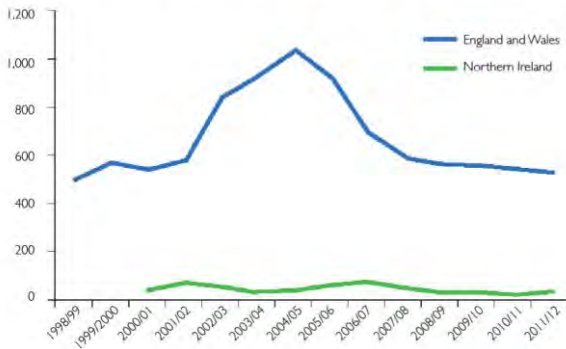


Child abduction in the UK: findings from a new study and implications for prevention



Figure 1: Trends in police recorded child abduction offences (England and Wales and Northern Ireland)



PACT and CEOP study

Aims	Method
1. How many abductions?	1. Data and literature review
2. What type?	2. Police force data
3. How can data be improved?	3. Serious crime data
4. Policy and practice agenda?	4. Interviews



UK police data sample

Offences recorded in 2011/12

49 out of 52 UK forces responded

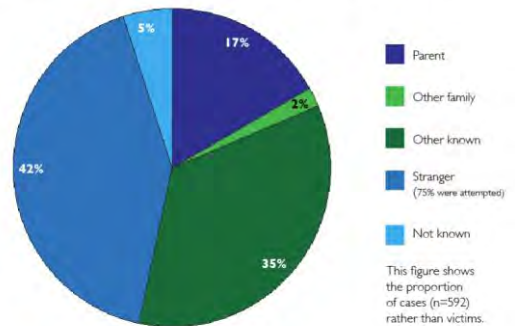
675 victims in 592 cases

Offence types

- Child abduction
- Kidnapping
- Abduction (Scotland)



Figure 2: Child abduction by relationship between victim(s) and offender(s)



'Missing' and abduction

Of the 675 victims:

53 reported missing or run away

- 1 – parental taken from care
- 3 – abusive familial relationship
- 41 – exploitative relationship
- 1 – stranger completed sexual motive
- 7 – other/not coded

36 victims still missing at time of data collection

All international parental child abduction



Exploitative relationships

Within the 'other known' category

144 victims (135 cases)

- Mean age of 14 years; 90% girls
- 41 victims (38 cases) run away or reported missing
- 35 victims (30 cases) confirmed grooming
- 80 victims (79 cases) Child Abduction Warning Notice
- Many victims had gone willingly with or to the offender



Attempted abduction by a stranger

Within the 'stranger' category

181 victims (164 cases)

- Mean age of 12 years; three-quarters girls
- Nearly half involved physical contact
- 12 victims suffered minor (in 1 case more serious) injury
- Difficult to confirm motive
- 90% of offenders acted alone
- In two-thirds of cases the offender(s) had a car



Completed abduction by a stranger (sexual)

Within the 'stranger' category

15 victims (12 cases)

- Aged between 7 and 17 years-old, 11 between 13 and 17
- 9 girls and 3 boys
- 5 suffered sexual assault or rape:
 - 2 lured back to offender's house
 - 2 first met offender online
 - 1 forced into car
- 3 others suffered physical injury



Implications

- High ratio of attempted to completed stranger abductions
- Does this demonstrate that children can protect themselves?
- OR, are offenders not motivated or ineffective?
- Do child safety programmes help them to stay safe?
- How should we talk to children following an attempted child abduction?
- How can we keep children safe, but not create a climate of fear?



Child safety advice

"Pupils at schools in Inverness are being given "stranger danger" lessons after a young boy is alleged to have been approached by two men in a car."

The Scotsman 29 May 2013

"During the school holidays and with the weather getting warmer children will be wanting to play outside and we are reminding parents to encourage them not to play alone but to stay in groups and under appropriate parental supervision."

Thames Valley Police 30 May 2013, after an attempted abduction in Oxford



Many schools and parents use the mantra "Never talk to strangers." It's doubtful that this really helps.... We need to help children practice refusal skills, disengagement skills and how to summon help. We need some new prevention mantras.
David Finkelhor, Washington Post, 10 May 2013

Please respond to our online consultation:
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