When you listen to parents who have lost a child, it is difficult to comprehend how they get through each day, and do what they do. The consistent message they all share is that we ALL must take missing and exploited child matters seriously … ALWAYS.
An Overview of the Issue
Missing Children Homicide Investigation Study

U.S. Department of Justice,
Office of Juvenile Justice
and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)
and the
Washington State
Attorney General’s Office

Dramatic Findings:

- 44% died within the first hour.
- 74% died within the first three hours.

How Many Native Americans Missing?

- Children 17 years old and younger:
  - Arizona: 134
  - California: 67
  - New Mexico: 25
  - Nevada: 17
  - Colorado: 19

- Adults 18 years old and older:
  - Arizona: 121
  - California: 87
  - New Mexico: 35
  - Nevada: 7
  - Colorado: 3

- Total Missing:
  - Arizona: 255
  - California: 154
  - New Mexico: 60
  - Nevada: 24
  - Colorado: 21

NCIC
Who are our missing children?

- NCMEC lists 5 distinct categories of missing children:
  - Runaways
  - Parental/Family Abductions
  - Stranger/Non-Family Abductions
  - Throwaways
  - Lost, Injured or Otherwise Missing

Family Abductions
Family Abduction- Definition

- A family abduction occurs when, in violation of a custody order, or other legitimate custodial rights, a member of the child’s family, or someone acting on behalf of a family member, takes or fails to return a child, and the child is concealed or transported out of state with the intent to prevent contact or deprive the caretaker of custodial rights indefinitely or permanently.

Family Abductions

- It is estimated that 203,900 family abductions are occurring each year.
- Not just a civil matter
- Most victim children are between the ages of 2 and 11.
- File a missing persons report
  - Enter into NCIC
  - Utilize same procedures for investigating non-family abductions
Parental kidnapping can be provoked by a variety of events, including:

- Separation and/or the filing of divorce papers.
- Remarriage.
- Involvement of one parent with a new partner.
- Conflict over child support, custody or visitation.

Marshall Fox Case
Family Abduction
It is a myth that children are not harmed as the result of family abductions.

“The Childs Not In Danger, Their Father/Mother Has Them!”

- It is not uncommon for child victims to:
  - Have their names changed.
  - Have their appearances altered.
  - Experience frequent moves or homelessness.
  - Experience unstable schooling.
  - Experience physical neglect.
  - Experience medical neglect.
  - Be told lies about the parent left behind:
    - “He/she is dead.”
    - “He/she doesn’t want you any more.”
The Number One Cause Of Death For Children Under The Age 11 Is?

At The Hands Of Their Parents
Non-Family Abductions

Non-family Abduction- Definition

- A non-family abduction occurs when a non-family perpetrator takes a child by the use of physical force or threat of bodily harm without lawful authority or parental permission
Victims

Why did the killer select the child?

Opportunity was listed in 57% of the cases.
Offenders’ Motivation:

70% of abductions were motivated by sex.

Missing Children Law

- Mandates immediate NCIC & LE system Entry (eliminates waiting periods)
- Requires “appropriate investigative response”
- Requires case information to be sent to State Clearinghouses
- Requires that local Law Enforcement Agencies liaison with the NCMEC
All missing children are considered endangered.

Time is the ENEMY in the search for a missing child.

Amber Alerts
Protecting Our Children
What is an Amber Alert Plan?

- Emergency child abduction alert
- Purpose -- SAVE THE LIFE OF A CHILD
- The plan is a collaborative partnership between law enforcement agencies and broadcasters to alert the public with critical information about an abducted child

Amber Alert

- Investigative tool
- Good police work
- Technology
  - Cell tracking
  - Thermal imaging
  - Computer
  - Analyst
  - Clearinghouse
What happens when an Amber Alert has been activated?

- Radio and television stations interrupt programming to broadcast information about the abducted child using the Emergency Alert System (EAS)
- The EAS will broadcast information on the abducted child, who is believed to be in danger of serious bodily harm or death

Amber Alert Criteria

- The Child is believed to be ABDUCTED!
- Child should be 17 years of age or younger
- Child must be in danger of serious bodily harm or death
- There must be enough descriptive information about the child, suspect(s) and suspect vehicle(s) to believe an immediate broadcast alert will help locate the child
Amber Alert Criteria

- Note - Not be used for:
  - Runaways, Family Abductions
  - Unless child’s life is in immediate danger

Amber Alert

Reasons for denied activations:

- Family abduction
  - there are an estimated 203,900 family abductions each year in US
- No immediate threat to child
- Need for follow-up investigation by law enforcement
Missing Kids / Runaways

- Will meet some Amber Alert criteria, but there is no ABDUCTION
- Estimated 1,682,900 runaways/thrownaways each year in the US

Amber Alert Time Frame

- Some Amber Alert requests are many hours or even days old
- With 74% of abductions that resulted in a homicide, the child was killed within the first three hours
The Wisconsin Clearinghouse Missing and Exploited Children was established in 1994, in response to concerns regarding missing and exploited children in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Clearinghouse is located in the Division of Criminal Investigation, within the Department of Justice.

Wisconsin Clearinghouse Resources and Services

- Assist tribal, local, state, and federal agencies and families searching for missing and exploited children and adults.
- Actively assists in Amber Alert activations
- Collaborates with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and 50 other state clearinghouses and the District of Columbia.
- Located within law enforcement agencies
Wisconsin Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force

- One of 46 Regional Task Forces

Violent Criminal Apprehension Program VICAP

- Tracks serial killers and repeat offenders
- Collects and analyzes crime of violence
- Patterns of offenders behavior
- DOJ/DCI contact
  - Darla J. Waldron
  - Telephone: (608) 266-1671
  - Fax: (608) 267-2777
  - Email: waldrondj@doj.state.wi.us
Wisconsin Clearinghouse Resources and Services

Toll-free hotline (in-state only):

- 1-800-THE-HOPE
- 1-800-843-4673

Wisconsin Clearinghouse Resources and Services

Creates and disseminates posters/flyers.

- Locater Computer System

Creates and disseminates posters/flyers.

- Critical Reach System (TRAK Computer System)
Wisconsin Clearinghouse
Resources and Services

- Acts as a liaison between victims, parents, law enforcement and state and federal agencies.

- Provides victims and parents of victims with information and referrals.

- Assists victims and their families in securing services from other agencies.

- Arranges transportation and lodging for victim families to be reunited with their children.

- Assists in reunification.
Wisconsin Clearinghouse
Resources and Services

Public Awareness:
- Gives presentations on missing and exploited children and internet crimes against children:
  - schools, community groups
- Participates in law enforcement events
- Participates in community events.
- Disseminates education material.

Working Together As Partners to Prevent Crimes Against Children in Indian Country
3rd Annual Multi-Jurisdictional Approach to Crimes Against Children in Indian Country

Who Should Attend
- Tribal & Non-Tribal Law Enforcement
- Administrators and Supervisors
- Investigators
- Patrol and Community Policing Officers
- Judges and Court Administrators
- Victim Service Coordinators
- Youth Correctional Officers
- Probation & Parole Officers
- Sex Offender Monitors and Re-Entry Staff
- Social Workers
- Employee Assistance & Community Service Providers
- Youth Service Organization Staff
- Teachers, Principals, School Superintendents
- Criminal Justice Instructors
- Peer Counselors

Save the Dates! March 4-6, 2008

Dates & Location
March 4-6, 2008
Hilton Hotel & Casino
Badger, Wisconsin

To Register:
To register or for additional information, please visit www.mtc.edu/youth.

Questions regarding the conference or to have a form mailed to you, please contact the Native Health Care Institute at 608-472-4100 or e-mail sign-up@ibtc.edu

Target Audience

- Tribal & Non-Tribal Law Enforcement
- Administrators and Supervisors
- Investigators
- Patrol & Community Policing Officers
- Judges
- Court Administrators
- Prosecutors
- Victim Service Coordinators
- Youth Corrections
- Probation & Parole Officers
- Sex Offender Monitors
- Re-Entry Staff
- Social Workers
- Employee Assistance & Community Service Providers
- Youth Service Organization Staff
- Teachers, Principals, School Superintendents
- Criminal Justice Instructors
- Peer Counselors
“A family is a source of personal identity, a loving community, a place of joy, and a cause for celebration. A fierce sense of protection toward kin and nation is second nature when trouble threatens.”

Sioux proverb

Working Together As Partners to Prevent Crimes Against Children in Indian Country

Avery Lee Stately

Tristan Anthony White