



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Moore".

**September 12, 1995**

**Feasibility of NIBRS for Supporting National  
Studies of Non-Family Abductions of Children**

**Prepared by:**

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**Prepared for:**

**Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention  
633 Indiana Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20531**

**OJJDP Cooperative Agreement No. 92-MC-CX-K002 (S-2)  
RTI Project No. 5313-5**







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Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.



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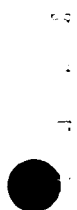
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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) awarded a cooperative agreement in May 1992 to the Research Triangle Institute (RTI) and the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) to support this study, "Testing Incident-Based Reporting Systems for Studying Child Abductions." Its purpose has been to examine the feasibility of using the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as a basis for estimating nonfamily abductions (NFAs) of children and for the study of child victimization more generally. RTI and NCJJ have conducted various methodological and other activities to determine the extent to which NIBRS has developed, the quality of the data it contains, and the potential usefulness of these data for scientific purposes.

At the time this study was funded, OJJDP had begun planning the second National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMART), an important part of which involves estimating NFAs. An early question for the current study was the potential utility of NIBRS data for estimating NFAs in NISMART II. In a report of data collected in the developmental phase of this study, Potential of NIBRS for Supporting National Studies of Non-Family Abductions of Children (Messerschmidt, McCalla, Mead, & Snyder 1992), we recommended not considering NIBRS as a potential basis for NFA estimation for NISMART II. Our primary concern was that the system was not yet sufficiently developed or widespread to support national estimates.

The present report is intended to provide a more detailed examination of the NIBRS data based on (a) information provided in site visits at State and local agencies participating in NIBRS, (b) extraction and evaluation of record data from the local sites visited, and (c) detailed analysis of national, State, and local NIBRS files. Here we address issues related to the feasibility of using NIBRS as the basis for future NISMART NFA estimation and for the scientific study of child victimization more generally. In the remainder of this chapter, we discuss the problems addressed by the NIBRS project and summarize the project's goals and activities. The final section presents an overview of the rest of the report.

### Problems Addressed by the NIBRS Project

The incidence of NFAs was very controversial as NISMART I began, with estimates ranging from a few dozen to 50,000 per year (Finkelhor, Hotaling, & Sedlak, 1990a, 1990b). This controversy, apparently about numbers, was at bottom primarily about definitions.



Widely accepted definitions were not available for any missing child category. Experts OJJDP had consulted during the developmental work for NISMART had strongly suggested developing standard definitions. A major goal of that work, then, was to develop clear, objective, and comprehensive definitions that could be used for NISMART and potentially for later research (Finkelhor et al., 1990). In the course of their definition developmental work, the NISMART I researchers found that the definitional controversy regarding NFAs was primarily between "a popular stereotype of stranger kidnapping" (Finkelhor et al., 1990, p. 65) and a broader, more technical legal conceptualization of abduction. The former was based on notorious and tragic cases (such as the Adam Walsh murder), commonly entailing taking a child from home and parents for an extended time to extort ransom or to commit a sexual or sadistic offense. The latter, though differing in detail from State to State, generally includes the coercive movement of a person and/or confinement of the victim. By this latter type of definition, a variety of crimes can include abduction as one offense within the overall incident. Accordingly, the NISMART I research team developed three "legal" NFA definitions applying to somewhat different situations and one "stereotypical" NFA definition.

The first NISMART found that although NFAs were rarer than other categories of missing children, the children involved were at relatively high risk of suffering physical harm during the incident. NISMART I collected data on NFAs by several methods and demonstrated that the most productive and reliable was the Police Records Study (PRS). The PRS involved extracting information from paper records in a sample of local police agencies and evaluating these data for the presence or absence of NFAs as defined by NISMART. Although productive for identifying NFAs, this was a costly and time-consuming method.

The developing NIBRS, together with the State and local incident-based reporting systems (IBRS) that feed it, appeared to offer the possibility of using existing automated police record data to study the incidence and features of NFAs. Unlike the traditional Uniform Crime Report (UCR) program data maintained by the FBI, NIBRS specifically allows collection of data on multiple offenses within a single incident, as well as detailed data on offense characteristics, victims, and offenders. Also, NIBRS defines kidnapping/abduction as a separate offense (whereas the UCR includes such crimes in an "other offenses" category), and NIBRS provides detailed information on victim-offender relationship. Although the NIBRS definition of kidnapping/abduction appeared to include the major definitional elements that were part of the NISMART definitions (taking/luring and/or detaining a victim), it was not clear how well the more detailed definitional elements (such as degree of movement, specific conditions of confinement, or permission to have/take the child) were represented in the data.



At the time the current research began, three States had passed the FBI's certification process and were classified as active NIBRS sites. Eleven other States were submitting test data to the FBI (with some nearing certification), while another 18 States were in early stages of NIBRS development. We knew that the fact that a State had applied to become a NIBRS site did not mean that all law enforcement agencies within the State could or would contribute data in the NIBRS format. We also knew that the certification process was primarily an analysis of the internal consistency of the NIBRS data a State submitted to the FBI. Technical staff at the FBI reviewed submitted data to see that all required fields contained data that fell into valid codes for each field. In addition, a series of consistency checks was conducted. The FBI's certification process did not compare the reported NIBRS data with information from paper files in local law enforcement agencies. Nor did it include examination of state or local system documentation or collection of information about training or quality control procedures.

Conceivably, then, the detailed study of NFAs using NIBRS would be possible in jurisdictions fully implementing the system. The feasibility of using NIBRS data for such a purpose was largely dependent on the scope and quality of these data. The feasibility of using NIBRS data as a basis for NISMART NFA estimates additionally depends on the degree to which NIBRS kidnapping/abduction offenses correspond to such offenses as defined by NISMART. These are the central problems the current study addresses.

#### Goals and Activities of the NIBRS Project

This study has examined the feasibility of using NIBRS data to study NFAs and other child victimizations as part of the second NISMART effort and more generally. More specifically, the work on this project has been guided by two main operational goals:

- determine the feasibility of using NIBRS given the specifications and procedures for data collection and automation implemented, and the resulting data quality; and
- determine the validity and reliability of non-family child abduction estimates extracted from NIBRS, including their comparability to estimates based on NISMART definitions.

Had the potential of NIBRS been established early in the project, we would have developed a plan for using it as part of NISMART II and more generally.



The work proceeded in three phases. The first, a *developmental phase*, comprised two tasks:

- a telephone survey of the State UCR programs that were currently submitting test or production data to the FBI, and
- a definitional study comparing NIBRS specifications and offense codes to NISMART NFA definitions.

The results of this phase of the study were reported in the potentials report cited above (Messerschmidt et al., 1992).

The remaining two phases of the project have built on the developmental work done. In the second phase, we conducted *case studies* at two State UCR agencies participating in the NIBRS program and at five local law enforcement agencies located in those States (three local agencies in one State and two in the other). The case studies involved two main tasks: site visits to case study sites and replication of the NISMART PRS at the participating local agencies. These activities allowed us to collect more in-depth information about State and local IBRS programs and data through discussion with program staff, to collect State and local automated files from the case study sites (along with assistance from program staff in working with them), and to create a dataset containing NISMART countable abductions for comparison with abductions on the NIBRS files. The final phase has comprised *analysis and reporting* of the data collected in phase 2.

### Overview of This Report

This document reports on the activities of the second and third phases of the project. Chapter 2 summarizes the methods used for the major data collection and reduction activities of this part of the project, namely, the site visits, PRS, and collection of local, State, and national electronic files. It reviews the goals of each set of activities, the work done, and analytic uses of the resulting data.

Chapter 3 presents results of analyses of the agreement of NISMART coding of NFAs from paper records with police classification for those cases, including results of attempts to determine whether there are any systematic differences that could assist in identifying likely NISMART countable cases where police and NISMART coding disagree. Here, we give consideration to site visit data collected from detectives on circumstances under which they decide to classify and investigate a case as an abduction.



Chapter 4 describes the work that compared the three versions (local, State, and national) of a set of incident records likely to be selected in any attempt to use the NIBRS data to support NISMART efforts. The nature of inconsistencies found as data moved from paper to local, State, and national automated formats are identified, and recommendations are made to improve the consistency of the data.

Chapter 5 compares NISMART- and NIBRS-based classifications of NFAs. Using the same sample of incidents, the FBI's NIBRS data were used to select those incidents that would be classified as NFAs using the detail available to the NIBRS format. Incidents that were classified differently by the two methods were studied to determine the source of these differences.

In Chapter 6, we draw some conclusions regarding our comparison of police classification to NISMART classification in the local (paper) and national (automated) files. Based on these findings, recommendations are made to modify (a) the NISMART definition of NFA so that it can be supported by the NIBRS data and (b) the NIBRS coding procedures to capture more accurately the factors needed to support this proposed definition.

The study team has collaborated closely in conducting the study and preparing this report, while the staff at each organization has had particular responsibilities. RTI's staff has had the main responsibility for primary data collection activities (the telephone survey, site visits, and PRS replication) and for the definitional analysis conducted in phase 1 with NCJJ staff participating in most activities. RTI has taken primary responsibility for Chapters 1 to 3 and 6 of this report. NCJJ staff has had primary responsibility for collecting, manipulating, and analyzing the automated NIBRS files with RTI staff cooperating. NCJJ has taken primary responsibility for reporting their work in Chapters 4 and 5.



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## 2 METHODS

This chapter describes the methods used to collect the data upon which this report is based: site visits to State and local agencies participating in the NIBRS program and replication of the NISMART PRS at the local agencies. Analytic issues, including data reduction methods, are presented in connection with reporting of the analyses themselves.

### Site Visits

Goals. The site visits had five explicit objectives. First, they allowed us to gather more in-depth information about State and local sites' actual experiences with NIBRS implementation. Such information has provided some insight into the feasibility of using NIBRS data from several perspectives: the level and sorts of difficulties sites have encountered in working with the data, how they have gone about solving problems, and procedural comparability across sites (in training or quality control, for example). Second, the site visits gave us an opportunity to explore the extent to which the thinking and procedures police employ when investigating and classifying cases correspond with NISMART definitional elements. Third, we wished to collect detailed information about the State/local automated IBRS file structure and arrange to obtain a copy of the file. Fourth, they allowed us to discuss the PRS replication with local agencies and gain firm commitments for their cooperation. Finally, we expected to collect copies of file documentation, training materials, and other relevant documents.

Background Work. We identified sites (here defined as a State UCR office or its equivalent, plus two or three local police departments in that State) based on the results of our telephone survey and our first advisory board meeting. (The results of the telephone survey are reported in Messerschmidt et al., 1992.) The site selection criteria included

- current program status/maturity (length of time in implementation/operation, level of local agency participation),
- caseload for offense types relevant for replication of PRS record extraction activities,
- police agency use of its IBRS or other operational data for its own purposes, and
- the agency's willingness to participate in the project's case study activities.

We selected three State UCR/NIBRS program offices; two had been certified by the FBI, while the third had achieved a low error rate in the testing data they were submitting to



the FBI and was actively recruiting local agencies. In the two certified States, we chose several of the larger local agencies that had implemented NIBRS for participation. In one State, two municipal police departments were chosen. In the other, we chose a county sheriff and a municipal department that shared a larger, county-level police records office and a second municipal police department. In the noncertified State, we selected one county sheriff's office that had a relatively mature program in operation.

Letters of recruitment were sent to the State UCR directors and to the police chief or sheriff of each local agency. These letters explained the study and what we wanted to accomplish in our site visits. The letters also asked for tentative agreement to participate in the PRS replication and to release machine-readable copies of their NIBRS data files to us for the study. We followed up the letters with telephone calls. All recruited agencies agreed to participate.

We spent 4 to 5 days in each State visited, 1 to 1½ days in each agency. Arrangements were made for us to talk to individuals involved in all phases of NIBRS reporting, including computer program design, report writing, coding, data entry, data processing, analysis, and training. We also discussed the process of implementation with the administrator(s) and with all personnel involved with NIBRS. In each of the local agencies, we met with detectives experienced in investigating NFAs of children to discuss their definitions of the elements of the offense. With detectives we used scenarios of situations that included various elements of abductions (such as taking, detaining, luring) to guide and encourage discussion. The site visit protocol and the scenarios for site visit discussions of case classification appear in Appendix A.

The site visit interviews were tape-recorded and subsequently transcribed. A summary of the visit to each State and local site was prepared, including summaries of the case classification discussions with detectives. These data have been useful in supporting and explaining the quantitative analyses reported in this document.

### Summary of PRS Replication

Site Selection and Recruitment. The local agencies selected for site visits were also asked to participate in the PRS. None of the sites refused to participate. (A local site selected in one State had too few cases of the relevant case types to make participation in the PRS worthwhile.)



Case Identification and Sampling. From each of the six local agencies that participated in the site visit phase, we obtained a listing of cases that fit NISMART I's case selection eligibility criteria:

- the case had to be an abduction, sex offense, or homicide;
- the perpetrator had to be a nonfamily member; and
- the victim had to be under 18-years-old.

Agencies were asked to list cases in the following order: all homicides (regardless of other offenses), then the remaining abductions, then the remaining sex offenses. Some agencies sent a listing of all cases of each relevant case type so that cases classified as two or more of the relevant case types were listed by each case type. Such duplicates were removed prior to case selection. We assumed, based on NISMART I sampling results, that we would need to screen between 500 and 600 cases to obtain approximately 100 countable cases for analysis. All abduction and homicide cases were included in our study. We sampled the sex offense cases in most agencies in order to reach our goal of 500 to 600 screened cases, which we estimated was necessary to produce approximately 100 countable abductions for analysis. (One of the local agencies had too few cases of child victimizations to make participation in the PRS cost-effective. That agency was excluded from the study at this point.)

Table 2.1 shows the results of screening selected cases. A case was considered eligible ("in-scope") for extraction if it met the following criteria:

- the date of the first report was between January 1, 1991, and December 31, 1992;
- the victim was younger than 18-years-old at the time of the incident;
- the perpetrator was not the parent, stepparent, sibling, aunt, or uncle of the victim; and
- (for abductions and sex offenses only) the victim resided in the county at the time of the incident.

Unfounded reports were excluded from the study. Sex offenses that clearly involved no direct physical contact with the child and those where the perpetrator did nothing to conceal the activity were excluded as well. Table 2.1 shows that the 532 cases screened produced 365 in-scope cases that involved 441 victims.



**Table 2.1**  
**Number of Eligible, Screened, and In-Scope Records, by Case Type**

Case Type	Eligible (Cases)	Screened (Cases)	In-Scope (Cases)	In-Scope (Victims)
Homicide	15	15	10	10
Abduction	110	110	74	90
Sex Offense	620	407	281	341
<b>Total</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>441</b>

Note: Eligible cases include each incident reported to the four law enforcement agencies participating in the PRS that (a) was a homicide, abduction, or sex offense; (b) had at least one victim younger than 18 years old; and (c) had at least one perpetrator who was unrelated to the juvenile victim(s). Agencies were asked to list eligible cases with case types in the following order: all homicides (regardless of other offenses), then all **remaining** abductions, then the **remaining** sex offenses. All homicides and abductions were selected. Sex offenses were sampled so as to provide approximately 50 in-scope cases per agency.

Record Extraction. We used the NISMART I PRS record extraction forms, revised somewhat in format and content to better serve the purposes of this study. NISMART I used three different extraction forms, one for each of the three types of cases (abductions, homicides, and sex offenses). Because cases identified by agencies that had implemented a NIBRS type of system might include more than one of these types of cases, we collapsed these forms into one form. We also added several items to allow extraction of information that had not been collected in NISMART I (though it may have been included in the narrative summary the form requests). Some information was also deleted (information about arrest of and other consequences for the perpetrator). The RTI data collection supervisor also prepared an abstractor's manual that included background information about the study, general instructions for extracting record data and "question-by-question objectives" (i.e., specific information and/or definitions needed to extract data correctly for each item in the extraction form). (Copies of the extraction form and abstractor's manual are in Appendix B.)

In our site visits, we discussed the record extraction process with personnel in the agencies' records departments. In one State, we were able to recruit agency personnel to conduct the extraction. These individuals were experienced in coding data from the local records and entering it into the local IBRS. In the other State, we obtained copies of the records from the agencies and conducted the record extraction in-house at RTI. All extractors (both in local agencies and in-house) were trained by the data collection supervisor (who had designed the extraction form). The extractors were instructed on how to complete each element of the extraction form. The record extractors then screened the records for each selected in the study and extracted information on the forms for each in-scope case. All of these forms were reviewed for accuracy and completeness by the data collection supervisor.



The forms requested narrative information about the case, demographic information about the victim and the perpetrator, specific information about the crime, and demographic information about the perpetrator(s). Information was collected for all of the 17 definitional elements needed to determine countability of the three definitions above. For example, at the core of each definition, a child was taken, lured, or detained (we call these the "core definitional elements"). The data extractors were trained to look for the following types of evidence for the core definitional elements:

- Taken: The record extractors were asked to determine whether the child was moved by the perpetrator at any time during the incident. The movement must have been planned for and desired by the perpetrator (i.e., they were not to include the child running away from the perpetrator or any movement of the child by someone trying to assist the child). The extractors were asked to write down the evidence from the police record that showed that the child was moved. They were also asked to write down, if available, the distance the child was moved and the locations from and to which the child was moved.
- Lured: The record extractors were asked to determine whether at any time during the incident the perpetrator offered promises or enticements to the child under false pretenses as a means of imposing his/her will on the child. The extractors were also asked to provide the evidence from the record and to indicate what the lure was (e.g., falsehood/lies, money, candy/toys, other).
- Detained: The record extractors were asked to determine whether the child was confined, kept in custody, or prevented from proceeding by the perpetrator for any period of time during the incident. The detainment could have been accomplished through obvious means (e.g., tying child to chair) or subtle means (e.g., implying that he/she would stop the child from leaving). Again, the extractors were asked to provide the evidence from the police record.

As an example, detainment was handled in the following manner on the extraction form:

- A. DETAINMENT (Circle the one that best describes whether, at any time during the incident, the victim was confined, kept in custody, or prevented from proceeding by the perpetrator.)
- 1 = Definitely, there was detainment
  - 2 = Possibly, there was detainment
  - 3 = Definitely, there was not detainment
  - 9 = The record does not provide sufficient evidence to select one of the above.



B. EVIDENCE FROM RECORD USED TO ANSWER ABOVE (Include (1) the form or means of detainment and (2) when it occurred during the course of the incident.)

(Room was available to write in evidence.)

Similar information was requested for taking, luring, and the other definitional elements. Some definitional elements were easier to extract than others (e.g., age of child and child's relationship to the perpetrator were usually easier to determine than whether the child was taken, lured, or detained). But the data extractors were instructed to choose "possibly" or "insufficient evidence" if they could not make a definite determination.

One-fifth of the cases went through quality control by having a second extractor look at an already-extracted record and recording information onto a separate form. The data extracted by the original extractor were compared with the data extracted in quality control. Discrepancies were reviewed with the original data extractor, and any errors were corrected.

Evaluative Coding. The purpose of the evaluative coding was to evaluate the probability that each definitional element was present in the cases extracted. This work was done by coders at RTI so that it would be done consistently across sites. A form similar to NISMART I's form was designed, and a manual describing the criteria for evaluating each definitional element was prepared based on the information provided in the NISMART I PRS methodology report (Sedlak, Mohadjer, McFarland, & Hudock, 1990). (Copies of these are included in Appendix B.) RTI project personnel very familiar with the NISMART definitions of NFAs trained the evaluative coders. Using the detainment example again, the coder was able to examine the detainment question from the extraction form, as well as all other extracted information (including the narrative), to determine whether the child was detained. Coders were asked to determine whether it was more or less than 50% likely that the child was detained. The same likelihood determinations were required for all of the definitional elements for all three definitions (i.e., the core definitional elements plus the rest of the definitional elements, which we call the "contingency definitional elements"). A variable coded as "very probable" had an 80% or greater probability of occurring, according to the evaluative coder. A variable coded as "probable" had a 51% to 79% probability of occurring. If a variable had less than a 50% probability of occurring, it was coded as "unlikely." If no other code applied (i.e., it was not possible to make an up-or-down decision about whether circumstances of the case fit a definitional element) because there was not enough information in the record, the variable was coded as "insufficient evidence."

The evaluative coding brought some consistency to the data extraction done in the field. In many cases, judgment calls had to be made due to lack of specific evidence that a



particular definitional element was present. For example, the core element, "taken," was defined as the movement of a child at least 20 feet or into a vehicle or a building. Unfortunately, data on the actual distance moved were usually unavailable. Thus, the evaluative coders had to make their judgments with incomplete or less specific information, such as the information that a perpetrator had taken a child "halfway across the park." Evaluators were also asked to code "insufficient evidence" if there was too little information to justify coding a definitional element either as more than 50% likely or less. Thorough training and quality control helped ensure that the judgment calls were made consistently.

Evaluative coders worked in the same room to promote discussion of cases where there was doubt about the appropriate decision and, thus, raise questions about the application of criteria to particular cases and promote consistent decision-making across cases. The coders kept track of their decisions, and these decisions were reviewed by the project managers. (A copy of questions that arose and decisions made is included in Appendix B.) The project managers also reviewed about half of the evaluatively coded cases; no problems were discovered. In NISMART I's evaluative coding stage, a group of cases was discovered that "slipped through the cracks." These were cases in which a child was in the company of someone with the parent's permission, but something went wrong (e.g., a babysitter who takes the child somewhere he/she was not supposed to). We conducted additional quality control in our evaluative coding stage to identify any additional cases that may have "slipped through the cracks." We did not find any such cases.

Data for all cases (that were not unfounded) were entered to create a dataset. This data entry was done by personnel at RTI, and these data were edited for consistency and accuracy.

When the PRS data had been automated and cleaned, an algorithm was applied that defined the conditions under which a case could be counted as an NFA under any of the three definitions. Following the procedures used for NISMART I, we defined cases as countable under NFA definition 1 where all the necessary definitional elements were more than 50% likely. The same procedure was used to determine whether a case may have been counted under NFA definitions 2 and 3. A case may have counted under one or more of these definitions; any case that was counted under at least one definition went into the final NFA count. (A copy of the "Countability Rules for Non-Family Abduction Definitions" is included in Appendix B.)







### 3 AGREEMENT OF NISMART AND POLICE CLASSIFICATION OF NONFAMILY ABDUCTIONS IN THE LOCAL PAPER RECORDS

#### Introduction

In this chapter, we examine the level of agreement of the NISMART definitions of nonfamily abduction (NFA) with police classification and definitions in the paper records of local agencies.<sup>1</sup> In the PRS, 441 in-scope case records were extracted and evaluated for the presence of a countable NFA as defined by NISMART. A total of 140 countable NFA victims were identified (in 110 cases).

#### Determining Case Countability

Each of the in-scope cases found in screening the police records went through a step process to determine whether the case could be counted as any of the three study definitions of legal NFAs:

- NFA Definition 1: Child was taken by the use of force or threat or detained by the use of force or threat for a substantial period in a place of isolation by a nonfamily member without either lawful authority or the permission of a parent/guardian; or
- NFA Definition 2: Child who is 14 or younger or who is under 18 and mentally incompetent was taken by or voluntarily went with or was detained by a nonfamily member without either lawful authority or the permission of a parent/guardian and the perpetrator (1) concealed the child's whereabouts, or (2) requested ransom, goods, or services in exchange for the child's return, or (3) expressed an intention to keep the child permanently; or
- NFA Definition 3: Child was taken by or voluntarily went with a nonfamily member who, at the time that person took or went away with the child, had the apparent purpose of physically or sexually assaulting the child.

As noted in Chapter 2, this process included data extraction, evaluative coding, and, finally, determination of countability using an automated algorithm.

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<sup>1</sup> One agency participating in the PRS for this study was entirely automated. Officers entered their reports directly into the computer, including both categorized information and narrative reports. No paper reports were filed. The records extracted for this agency were printed copies of the automated records.



### Agreement Overall

Table 3.1 shows that agreement between NISMART coding and police classification was moderate overall (though it was higher when victims who could be not classified by NISMART procedures were excluded). For approximately 56% of the victims, the NISMART countability coded agreed with the police classification: 13% were classified by police as abductions and coded as countable NFAs in the PRS, while 43% did not include an abduction among the offenses charged by police and were not found to be countable NFAs in this research. For about 21% of the victims, no judgment could be made regarding countability because of insufficient information in the case record. Thus, it can be said that classification agreed for approximately 70% of the countable victims.

In approximately 24% of the victims for whom data were extracted from case records and evaluated, on the other hand, the PRS results did not agree with the police classifications: 4% were victims the police had classified as abductions that were not found to be countable in the PRS, while 19% were victims the police had not classified as abductions that *were* found countable in the PRS.

Table 3.2 shows how the level of agreement between police classification and the PRS results varied by detailed police classification categories. These data should be interpreted with care because of the small number of cases for most of these categories. Some observations may be made, however:

- The PRS results were more likely to agree with a police classification of abduction in cases where police had coded multiple offenses than where they coded only abduction (89% of victims the police classified as victims of abduction combined with sex offense vs. 42% of abduction-only victims).
- In cases the police classified as sex offenses only, the PRS results were more likely to agree with police (53%) than not (25%). The 85 countable abduction victims found in the "sex offense only" cases, however, constitute 61% of all countable abduction victims found in the PRS.

Tables 3.3 and 3.4 show how agreement between PRS results and police case classification varied by police agency. It is likely that variability among local agencies, such as that shown in these tables, is typical. Levels of agreement between PRS results and police case classification were highest for victims in cases from agency 3--approximately 67%. Proportions of victims for whom there was insufficient information in the files to allow a clear decision regarding countability as a NISMART NFA were somewhat higher in agencies 1 and 2 (both located in State A) than in the agencies 3 through 5 (all located in State B).



**Table 3.1**  
**Agreement of Police Case Classification with**  
**PRS/NISMART Coding of Countability as Abduction**

Police Classification	PRS/NISMART Countability (%)			Total	(N)
	Countable as Abduction	Not Countable as Abduction	Insufficient Information		
Abduction	12.5	4.3	3.9	20.7	(91)
No abduction	19.3	43.1	17.0	79.4	(350)
<b>Total (N)</b>	31.8 (140)	47.4 (209)	20.9 (92)	100.1	(441)

Note: "Table percentages" are shown (i.e., the number of cases in each cell divided by the total table N). The cells in the body of the table (excluding the totals) can be added across rows and/or columns. The shaded cells show the percentages of cases where NISMART.NFA countability coding agreed with police case classification.



**Table 3.2**  
**Agreement Between NISMART and Police Coding of Cases as Abductions,**  
**by Offenses Included in Police Classification**

Agreement Between NISMART & Police Coding	Offenses Included in Police Classification					Total (N)
	Abduction Only(%)	Abduction & Sex Off. (%)	Abduction, Sex Off. & Hom. (%)	Sex Off. Only (%)	Homicide Only (%)	
Agree						
Abduction	41.8	88.6	100.0	0	0	12.5 (55)
No abduction	0	0	0	53.4	88.9	43.1 (190)
Disagree						
NISMART: no abd. & police: abd.	27.3	11.4	*	0	0	4.3 (19)
NISMART: abd. & police: no abd.	0	0	0	24.9	*	19.3 (85)
Insufficient Information to Determine NISMART Countability						
NFA unk.	30.9	*	*	21.7	11.1	20.8 (92)
Total (N)	100.0 (55)	100.0 (35)	100.0 (1)	100.0 (341)	100.0 (9)	100.0 (441)

Note: The shaded cells have a frequency of zero by definition.

\*Less than 0.5%.



**Table 3.3**  
**Agreement Between NISMART and Police Coding of Cases as Abductions,**  
**by Local Agency Providing Cases**

Agreement Between NISMART & Police Coding	Local Department (% of Agency Cases)					Total	(N)
	State A		State B				
	1	2	3	4	5		
Agree	57.2	50.0	67.0	53.1	49.2	55.6	(245)
Disagree	17.0	22.6	13.8	32.1	34.1	23.6	(104)
Insufficient info. to determine NISMART countability	25.9	27.4	19.1	14.9	16.7	20.9	(92)
Total (N)	100.1 (112)	100.0 (62)	99.9 (94)	100.1 (47)	100.0 (126)	100.1	(441)

**Table 3.4**  
**Type of Agreement Between NISMART and Police Coding of Cases,**  
**by Local Agency Providing Cases**

Agreement Between NISMART & Police Coding	Local Department (% of Agency Cases)					Total ( <u>N</u> )
	State A		State B			
	1	2	3	4	5	
Agree (%)						
Abduction	17.0	12.9	17.0	19.1	2.4	12.5 (55)
No abduction	40.2	37.1	50.0	34.0	46.8	43.1 (190)
Disagree (%)						
NISMART: no abd. & police: abd.	2.7	1.6	5.3	14.9	2.4	4.3 (19)
NISMART: abd. & police: no abd.	14.3	21.0	8.5	17.2	31.7	19.3 (85)

Note: Column percentages are shown in the table. They do not add to 100% because the "insufficient information" category is excluded.



Levels of disagreement were highest for agencies 4 and 5 (approximately one-third of cases compared with approximately one-fifth or fewer from other departments). These agencies are served by the same county records division. The data in Table 3.4 suggest that this difference from PRS results may be more a function of the police case classification practices than of the coding and data entry operations conducted in the records division. Here we see that PRS results disagreed with agency 5 most in finding countable abductions where detectives had not coded such offenses: For approximately 32% of victims from this agency, the PRS results found an abduction where agency personnel had not. For agency 4, on the other hand, PRS results were about as likely to find *no* abduction where agency personnel had coded one (15% of victims) as it was to find an abduction where detectives had not (17% of victims). Another way to interpret these data is that

- for victims from agency 5, the PRS was nearly as likely to disagree with officers' classification of their cases as *not including* an abduction (32%) as it was to agree with such a classification (47%), whereas
- for victims from agency 4, the PRS was nearly as likely to disagree with officers' classification of their cases as *including* an abduction (15%) as to agree with such classification (19%).

#### Agreement and Definitional Issues

Table 3.5 shows the agreement between police and NISMART coding according to which, if any, NFA legal definition victims' situations fit. The majority (62%) of victims countable by NFA definition 1 had also been classified as abducted by police, while police classification disagreed for the remaining 38% of such victims. The pattern of agreement for victims countable by the other two NFA legal definitions was reversed. Although NFA countability agreed with the police classification for almost two-fifths of the victims, it was more likely that police had not considered these victims to have been abducted. Agreement between NISMART coding and police classification was higher for victims not countable under an NFA legal definition. For each definition, approximately 70% or more of the victims found not to be countable by NISMART rules had not been classified as abductions by police.

Analysis of the missing data problem in the NISMART I PRS indicated that police record data supported some of the definitional requirements better than others (see Collins, Messerschmidt, McCalla, Iachan, & Hubbard, 1994, Chapter 6). Each of the core definitional elements (taking, luring, detaining) has situational conditions placed on it in each of the definitions. In each of the three definitions, these situational conditions must be satisfied for the core element (and, hence, the definition) to be satisfied. For example, NISMART I



**Table 3.5**  
**Agreement Between NISMART and Police Coding of Abductions, by NISMART**  
**Countability According to "Legal" Definitions**

NISMART Countability	(N)	Agreement Between NISMART and Police Coding			
		Agree	Disagree	NISMART Unknown	Total
Yes					
by NFA1	(55)	62.1	37.9	*	100.0
by NFA2	(62)	35.5	64.5	*	100.0
by NFA3	(109)	38.5	61.5	*	100.0
No					
by NFA1	(298)	69.8	25.2	5.0	100.0
by NFA2	(314)	70.7	19.1	10.2	100.0
by NFA3	(255)	79.6	13.7	6.7	100.0

\*Less than 0.5%.



defined "detaining" fairly simply as "...the child [being] held against his or her will or made to stay in a place where s/he did not want to stay" (Sedlak et al., 1990, p. 5-12). To be countable under NFA definition 1, however, detaining has additional conditions put upon it: The child must have been detained by a nonfamily member, by force or threat, for a "substantial period" (1 hour or more), in an isolated place, and without lawful authority or parental permission. "Taking" was countable under definition 1 if fewer conditions were satisfied: The child must have been taken (moved 20 feet or more or into a building or vehicle) by a nonfamily member, by force or threat, without lawful authority or parental permission. Generally, the more conditions placed on a core definitional element, the less well it was supported by the information in paper records. This suggested that police may generally have operationalized their definitions of these core elements in less concrete detail and/or less stringently than NISMART. Our discussions of definitional issues with police during the site visits generally supported that interpretation.

Table 3.6 shows the areas of agreement or disagreement between police and NISMART coding abductions according to the countability of the core elements of each of the legal definitions. NFA definition 1 includes two core elements (taken or detained), at least one of which must be satisfied for the definition to be satisfied. Similarly, NFA definition 2 has three core elements (taken, detained, and/or lured), and NFA definition 3 has two core elements (taken and/or lured). Looking at areas of disagreement in case classification, it can be seen that for all the definitions and core elements, substantial proportions of victims found to be countable on core elements by NISMART rules had not been classified as abducted by police. For NFA1, for example, 30% of the victims countable as taken and 40% of those countable as detained were not classified by police as abductions. The highest proportions of countable victims not considered by police to have been abducted were those countable by NISMART rules as having been lured: 82% of victims were considered by NFA definition 2 to have been lured, and 77% of those considered by definition 3 to have been lured had not been classified by police as abducted.

Tables 3.7 and 3.8 show selected case and victim characteristics for victims where there is agreement and disagreement regarding case classification. The most disagreement appears in Table 3.7 for victims 13 to 15 years old (36%) and those in cases where the perpetrator(s) was a friend or acquaintance (34%). In Table 3.8, we see higher than average proportions (32%) for these two groups in the category of disagreement where police had not classified cases as abductions whereas NISMART coding found countable abductions had occurred. For most of the case and victim characteristics shown in Table 3.8, the type of disagreement is that NISMART methods found countable abductions where police had not. For situations involving a perpetrator who was a stranger to the victim, however, the form of



**Table 3.6**  
**Areas of Agreement/Disagreement Between NISMART and Police Coding of**  
**Abductions, by Countability of Definitional Elements**

Countability of Definitional Elements	(N)	Agree		Disagree	
		Abduction	No Abduction	Police = Yes NISMART = No	Police = No NISMART = Yes
NFA1: Taken?					
Yes	(43)	69.8	*	*	30.2
No	(277)	6.1	68.2	1.8	20.9
NFA1: Detained?					
Yes	(30)	60.0	*	*	40.0
No	(186)	11.8	52.1	10.2	17.7
NFA2: Taken?					
Yes	(27)	55.6	*	*	44.4
No	(304)	11.2	62.2	3.0	20.4
NFA2: Detained?					
Yes	(48)	37.5	*	*	62.5
No	(197)	15.7	47.2	7.1	19.8
NFA2: Lured?					
Yes	(22)	18.2	*	*	81.8
No	(303)	15.2	54.1	6.3	17.2
NFA3: Taken?					
Yes	(61)	57.4	*	*	42.6
No	(259)	5.4	73.0	2.3	19.3
NFA3: Lured?					
Yes	(71)	22.5	*	*	77.5
No	(256)	13.3	61.7	7.4	10.9

Note: Row percentages are shown. Figures do not add to 100% because cases whose countability could not be determined due to insufficient information have been excluded.

\*Less than 5%.



**Table 3.7**  
**Agreement Between NISMART and Police Coding of Abductions,**  
**by Selected Case and Victim Characteristics**

Case and Victim Characteristic	(N)	Agreement Between NISMART and Police Coding			Total
		Agree	Disagree	NISMART Unknown	
<b>Total</b>	(441)	55.6	23.6	20.9	100.1
<b>No. Victims</b>					
1	(318)	59.7	27.0	13.2	99.9
2+	(121)	45.5	13.2	41.3	100.0
<b>No. Perpetrators</b>					
1	(381)	55.9	23.6	20.5	100.0
2+	(58)	55.2	20.7	24.1	100.0
<b>Victim's Age</b>					
≤5	(77)	59.7	13.0	27.3	100.0
6-9	(82)	61.0	13.4	25.6	100.0
10-12	(70)	54.3	27.1	18.6	100.0
13-15	(113)	51.3	36.3	12.4	100.0
16-17	(77)	57.1	26.0	16.9	100.0
<b>Victim's Sex</b>					
Male	(98)	60.2	16.3	23.5	100.0
Female	(438)	54.7	25.9	19.4	100.0
<b>Victim's Race</b>					
White	(248)	53.6	25.8	20.6	100.0
Black	(160)	62.5	23.7	13.8	100.0
<b>Perpetrator-Victim Relationship</b>					
Family friend	(45)	48.9	22.2	28.9	100.0
Victim's acquaintance or friend	(179)	48.0	34.1	17.9	100.0
Stranger	(89)	60.7	21.3	18.0	100.0
<b>Victim Injured?</b>					
Yes	(46)	54.4	30.4	15.2	100.0
No	(212)	60.4	17.4	22.2	100.0

Note: Row percentages are shown. Figures do not add to 100% because cases whose countability could not be determined due to insufficient information have been excluded.

<sup>a</sup>Not Hispanic.

<sup>b</sup>Includes strangers known by sight to the victim.



**Table 3.8**  
**Areas of Agreement/Disagreement Between NISMART and Police Coding of**  
**Abductions, by Selected Case and Victim Characteristics**

Case and Victim Characteristic	(N)	Agree		Disagree	
		Abduction	No Abduction	Police = Yes NISMART = No	Police = No NISMART = Yes
<b>Total</b>	(441)	12.5	43.1	4.3	19.3
<b>No. Victims</b>					
1	(318)	12.3	47.5	3.5	23.6
2+	(121)	13.2	24.8	6.6	6.6
<b>No. Perpetrators</b>					
1	(381)	11.3	44.6	3.4	20.2
2+	(58)	20.7	34.5	10.3	10.3
<b>Victim's Age</b>					
≤5	(77)	11.7	48.1	2.6	10.4
6-9	(82)	2.4	58.5	2.4	11.0
10-12	(70)	8.6	45.7	4.3	22.9
13-15	(113)	15.0	36.3	4.4	31.9
16-17	(77)	24.7	32.5	6.5	19.5
<b>Victim's Sex</b>					
Male	(98)	18.4	41.8	3.1	13.3
Female	(340)	10.9	43.8	4.7	21.2
<b>Victim's Race</b>					
White <sup>a</sup>	(248)	12.9	40.7	3.6	22.2
Black <sup>a</sup>	(160)	11.9	50.6	6.3	17.5
<b>Perpetrator-Victim Relationship</b>					
Family friend	(45)	4.4	44.4	2.2	20.0
Victim's friend or acquaintance	(179)	6.7	41.3	1.7	32.4
Stranger <sup>b</sup>	(89)	33.7	27.0	17.9	4.5
<b>Victim Injured?</b>					
Yes	(46)	23.9	30.4	2.2	28.3
No	(212)	10.4	50.0	7.1	10.4

Note: Row percentages are shown. Figures do not add to 100% because cases whose countability could not be determined due to insufficient information have been excluded.

<sup>a</sup>Not Hispanic.

<sup>b</sup>Includes strangers known by sight to the victim.



disagreement was reversed. Here, the police were more likely than the NISMART coders to classify the case as an abduction.

### Police Definition of Abduction

As noted above, during our site visits we attempted to determine the extent to which police understanding of the elements of abduction corresponded with the NISMART legal definitions of the offense. We were also interested in learning about the consistency of case classification practices among individual police officers within departments and also across departments. We set aside time in each department to discuss some scenarios with the officers or detectives who were responsible for investigating juvenile abduction/kidnapping cases. (See Appendix B.) These scenarios included various combinations of NISMART definitional elements, and our discussions focused around whether the officers/detectives would call each scenario an abduction and why (or why not). These discussions concentrated on the "core" definitional elements (taking, detaining, luring,) and on abductions in combination with other crimes. In general, we found that police consider the core definitional elements central to their definition of abduction and consider many of the conditional elements important as well. (This is not surprising given that the NISMART definitions were developed based on statutory and case law that police must also follow.) Police, however, operationalized their definitions of abductions in less concrete detail than did the NISMART data extraction and evaluative coding rules. This was true for both the core definitional elements (taking, detaining, and luring) and the contingency definitional elements (such as time detained).

Taking. The officers defined taking in terms of movement of the victim. In none of the law enforcement agencies we visited, however, did the police require that a victim be moved a certain distance or into any object before an abduction could be coded. This is in contrast to NISMART's "20-feet or into a car or building" criterion. Instead, police evaluated the circumstances of each case to determine whether "enough" distance was covered to constitute a taking. In some cases, this kind of decision would be made at the prosecution level (district attorney or equivalent). Also, we found that consistency might be a problem: Some officers may consider a case to be a taking and others may not, both within departments and across departments.

Detaining. In all departments, time held was an issue, but it was dealt with differently in different departments. For example, in one department, whether enough time had transpired to call a case an abduction was a decision made by district/county attorneys rather than police officers. Across all departments, the concept of detaining as a whole seemed to be more troublesome to define than taking was. In some departments, the detaining only



seemed to be relevant if something else happened to the child, but detainings in conjunction with sex crimes were especially difficult to define. Departments varied greatly on their coding for these types of cases: some were very close to NISMART definitions, and some were not.

Luring. Luring (which is part of NFA definitions 2 and 3 only) was also difficult to nail down with officers/detectives. They all did agree, however, that the focus of the luring is on the intent of the perpetrator. In other words, the luring had to have been planned; it could not have just happened. They also agreed that the intent of the perpetrator is not easily determined in many cases.

Abductions in Combination with Other Crimes. For abduction and sex crime combinations, most departments agreed that there would have to be some indication that the child was held against his/her will or forced to the location. Also, there had to be something (time held or movement) in addition to the sex offense; it could not be a case where the child just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Intent was also important for these cases: The incident could not be simply opportunistic for the perpetrator.

Summary. In all, it appeared that these police departments used less consistent criteria to code cases as abductions than are contained in the NISMART definitional elements. In many cases, different circumstances were important (age of child, whether force/threat was used, what the outcome was), but it was difficult to come up with any consistent rules, in part because these departments saw few abduction/kidnapping cases in a given year. Of course, police definition and classification of abductions is necessarily based on State law, which varies to some extent from place to place and may or may not have been precisely consistent with the NISMART definitions. In all the departments visited for this project, police coding appears to be more consistent with NISMART's NFA definition 1 than with NFA definitions 2 or 3. The cases that were the most inconsistent were those that occurred in conjunction with other crimes, especially sex crimes (NFA definition 3). This result is consistent with the finding of our definitional analysis of the NIBRS and State-level IBRS data collection/entry specifications that the NIBRS offense definition and other data appeared to support NISMART's NFA definition 1 better than the other two NISMART definitions, assuming that police determinations were consistent with those of the PRS evaluative coders.

## Conclusions

Analysis of the levels and sorts of agreement and disagreement between abductions found by PRS evaluation of police (paper) records and by police classification indicated the following:



- Agreement between the PRS and police classification of victims in the paper records as abductions was moderate at best. For 56% of the victims whose cases we examined, NISMART and police methods agreed as to whether or not abductions had occurred (70% of victims for whom NISMART countability could be determined).
- Agreement for victims the police had classified only as abduction victims was lower. The PRS found only 42% of these victims to be countable NFAs by NISMART methods. (The proportion for whom there was insufficient information to decide on countability was unusually high, 31%.)
- For victims that the police classified as sex offense victims only, the PRS results were more likely to agree (53%) than not agree (25%) with police.
- There was a good deal of variability in levels of agreement between police classification and PRS results by local law enforcement agencies supplying the records. It is likely that such variability is typical of police data.
- Examination of levels of agreement by NFA definition indicated higher levels of agreement that victims had been abducted for NFA definition 1 (62%) than for NFA definitions 2 and 3 (35% and 39% respectively). Discussions of definitional issues with police support this result.
- Examination of disagreement by the countability of core definitional elements indicated that the disagreement is particularly likely to occur in cases involving luring and, to some extent, detainment: Police were less likely than PRS coders to find abductions in such situations. Discussions of definitional elements in abduction with police indicated variability (and some confusion) in their notions of luring.
- Disagreement between police and PRS coders was highest when victims were in their early teens (13 to 15) and/or perpetrators were friends or acquaintances of the victims; again, in such cases police were less likely than PRS coders to find countable abductions.
- Generally, the discussions of definitional issues with police indicated that they considered the core elements of the NISMART NFA definitions to be central to the legal definitions guiding their work, though they did not express consistent or concretely defined notions of situations under which a victim had been moved, held long enough to be said to have been detained, and the like.
- Other conditional definitional elements were important to police, in particular the involvement of force or threat, unwillingness of



the victim to go along with the perpetrator, intent of the perpetrator to harm the victim, and permission or authority of the perpetrator to take or hold the victim.

### Recommendations

We have noted that incident-based data might be a useful basis for estimating NFAs by NISMART's definition 1, which is similar to the NIBRS definition of kidnapping/abduction, if we could assume that police evaluation of cases for the purpose of classification was sufficiently similar to PRS evaluation of cases. Clearly, it is not. Estimates based on NIBRS data, then, are unlikely to be consistent with estimates obtained by NISMART.







## 4 RELIABILITY OF THE FBI'S NIBRS DATA

### Purpose and Objectives

The major goal of this project is to determine the feasibility of using the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) to monitor and study the nonfamily abductions of children and other child victimizations. A necessary aspect of this task is to assess the reliability of the FBI's data (i.e., the ability of this national information resource to replicate the information stored in the large number of local law enforcement agencies that do and will contribute to the NIBRS effort). The data received by the FBI have passed through many stages:

- data entry into the local incident-based reporting (IBR) system,
- transformation of the local data into a State-specified format,
- transmission to the State data collector and entry into the State IBR system,
- conversion of the State's data into the FBI-specified NIBRS format,
- transmission to the FBI, and
- updating the data at all levels when new information on an incident becomes available.

Inconsistencies can develop between any of these stages in the process. Therefore, the consistency of incident-level information across the local, State, and Federal datasets must be ensured before the FBI's NIBRS data can be employed to support national research efforts.

To that end, this chapter presents the results of a study designed to evaluate the consistency of the incident records stored in the FBI's NIBRS file, with their antecedents in the local and State IBR systems. Consistency was evaluated by comparing the data on a sample of incidents that were likely to involve a nonfamily abduction of a child stored at the local, State, and Federal levels. In doing so, this work also identifies where changes in or loss of information occurred and speculates on possible reasons for such occurrences.

### Methodology

Site Selection. In 1992, a telephone survey was conducted of 20 State UCR programs and selected local sites submitting test or production NIBRS data to the FBI. During this



phase, basic information was gathered about program status and operation, as well as State/local specifications for data collection and file preparation. A total of five local law enforcement agencies from two States were determined to be the most appropriate study sites. Site selection criteria included the availability of the site's IBR data, the caseload size for relevant incident types, and the site's ability and willingness to participate in the project's case study activities.

Data Collection. Prior to site visits, the five local agencies were asked to prepare a list of the identification numbers of all incidents that had occurred in 1991 or 1992 that met the following criteria: an incident involving a victim under the age of 18, an offender who was a nonfamily member, and an offense of either murder, violent sexual assault, or kidnapping. These selection criteria paralleled the essential elements of the selection criteria used in the Police Record Study component of the National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMART). From the five local law enforcement agencies, a total of 532 incidents met the selection criteria.

During the site visits to the five local agencies, in-depth interviews were conducted with IBR system personnel. Data development, coding, and transmission processes were discussed and documented. At the end of each interview, the research team asked the local staff to provide a data file containing their automated data on the incidents that met the selection criteria. Similar visits were made to the corresponding State data collectors, and their automated versions of the sample incidents were requested.

With the exception of the data file from one local law enforcement agency, data files provided by the local and State law enforcement agencies contained the IBR records that the agency maintained for its own use. One local agency could only extract their incident records in the State's reporting format.

Members of the research team also met with representatives of the FBI's NIBRS program. Their data collection and processing procedures were reviewed, and the research team requested and received a copy of the FBI's 1991 and 1992 NIBRS data files. The use of these data was complicated by the fact that the FBI routinely encrypts incident numbers during the processing of State data to maintain confidentiality. The FBI agreed to pass the sample's local incident numbers through its encryption algorithm, so that the research team could extract the sample from the FBI's master file. Authorization to provide the research team with this information was obtained through written consent from the chief of police or sheriff of each local agency.



Standardization of Data. The local, State, and Federal incident-based reporting systems maintain different record structures and coding categories. Therefore, it was necessary to standardize the data from each source to compare the contents of these files. Standardization was achieved by extracting a common set of variables with common coding structures from each of the eight files (five local, two State, and one Federal).

To ensure the accuracy of the extracted data, two individuals independently encoded the IBR records. Coders were first trained in the coding rules and were tested until they were yielding similar results on test data. The coders then were given copies of the eight raw data files from which they extracted incident-level data in the standardized format. The standardized data were recorded on data entry forms. The data entry forms from both coders were periodically "spot-checked" by a third individual to verify the coder's understanding of the file format and coding structure. Each coder's data forms were then entered into separate data files, which were compared for discrepancies. Differences were flagged, and the discrepancies were reviewed and corrected.

### Analysis

The reliability of the FBI's NIBRS data is related to both (a) sample attrition (i.e., the proportion of local incidents available for analysis at the Federal level) and (b) the consistency of the incident characteristics (i.e., the proportion of local incident characteristics that are replicated in the FBI file). To test the reliability of the NIBRS data, local incident records were compared with the State and Federal versions of these incidents.

Sample Attrition. Sample attrition was measured by the proportion of the local incident records that were not found in the FBI's NIBRS file. Analysis found that 12% of the sample incidents that were expected to be in the FBI data were in fact not available at the Federal level (Table 4.1). Both States had a 12% attrition rate, although the point at which incidents were lost varied by State and local law enforcement agency.

Nearly all of the State A incidents that were not available at the Federal level were also unavailable at the State level. This loss may be due to local agencies not transmitting their data to the State. However, another possible reason for the loss at the State level may be related to data-processing problems at the State level. The basis for this speculation is found in the unique character of the data contributed by Agency 2. Agency 2 is the agency that could not provide this project with data in the locally defined format, but only in the format it transmitted to the State (i.e., we knew what the State had received from this agency). It was expected that the incident records from Agency 2 would be identical in the



**Table 4.1**  
**Proportion of Local Incidents Found in State and Federal Data Files**

	Percent of Local Incidents		
	Not in State File	Not in FBI File	Available in FBI File
All Agencies in Sample	3	12	88
State A Agencies	11	12	88
Agency 1	7	7	93
Agency 2	14	16	84
State B Agencies	1	12	88
Agency 3	0	6	94
Agency 4	0	10	90
Agency 5	1	15	85

local and State files. They were not. Therefore, it is possible that at least some of the incidents were lost after they were transmitted to the State.

In contrast to State A, only 1% of local incidents were not available in the State B file; however, 12% of the incidents in the State B file were not found in the Federal data. Discussions with State personnel point to one possible reason for this loss of information. When the FBI receives records with coding or logical errors, the records are returned to the State for revision and are not entered into the Federal file. The loss of State B incidents between the State and Federal level may indicate that the State did not revise and then return these records. Although the FBI has no record of rejected records from State B and believes the missing incident records were never received, a contact at the State office recalls there were many incident records rejected by the FBI during this time. However, the State could not confirm that it had resubmitted the rejected records.

**Reliability of Incident Characteristics.** The usefulness of information at the Federal level is also affected by the stability of the incident characteristics across the local, State, and Federal data files. In other words, do the incident records in the FBI file contain the same information that exists at the local level? The consistency of the data was analyzed variable by variable. Consistency was quantified by the proportion of available incidents at the Federal level with the same coding value for a specific variable in all three versions of the incident (local, State, and Federal).



Overall, the consistency of the data in the local and FBI files is quite high. In fact, with the exception of Agency 3 data, the average consistency rate for incident level data is well above 95% (Table 4.2 and Appendix C). For example, all (100%) of State A incidents in the FBI file had the same *most serious offense* as did the local records. In comparison, the *most serious offense* consistency rate for State B was lower (86%). This lower joint rate was caused by the relatively low rate for Agency 3 (64%); data from both Agencies 4 and 5 displayed very high consistency rates (97% and 95%, respectively).

Inter-Coder Reliability. A major reason for the low consistency rate of Agency 3's data is, unlike the other local agencies studied, Agency 3 sends the State copies of the paper incident reports, handwritten by officers, rather than automated data files. The local and State data-processing staffs, therefore, independently interpret these paper reports and enter their decisions into their own IBR systems. Consequently, Agency 3 incidents are more likely to contain discrepancies between the local and State level than if automated records of these incidents had been sent to the State. Fortunately for this project, a closer look at Agency 3's data at the local and State levels provides a natural test of the effect of inter-coder reliability on the quality of the Federal NIBRS data.

The majority of inconsistencies found when comparing Agency 3 incident data at local, State, and Federal levels occur between the local and State levels, likely reflecting the independent coding decisions made by Agency 3 and State data-processing personnel. For instance, it is believed that inconsistent interpretations of the paper records by the local and State data-processing personnel accounted for slightly more than one-half of the differences between local and State data files for the variable *most serious offense*. The majority of incidents with differences in local and State coding revealed a code of 90z or *other type B offenses* on the local file. Data at the State level reflect a more specific interpretation of the same incident as a *sexual offense* (offense codes 11A through 11d). Observed differences in the Agency 3 coding of both *victim age* and *offender age* may also be attributable to inconsistent coding at the local or State levels. In fact, examination of these variables revealed that a large portion of the differences among both variables is the result of *missing data* codes in the local file.

A study of the *offense location* variable in the Agency 3 data also indicates problems with inter-coder reliability. Comparison of the local, State, and Federal data files revealed differences in 67 of Agency 3's 99 incidents for this variable. (This total number of incidents reflect those with a record available at the local, State, and national levels.) Although there is no definite explanation for these inconsistencies, it is curious that inconsistencies in the coding of this variable by Agency 3 and State personnel markedly decreased from 1991 to 1992.



**Table 4.2**  
**Proportion of Cases with Consistent Codes Across Local, State and Federal Levels, by Variable and Reporting Agency**

Variable	All Agencies	State A			State B			
		Total	Agency 1	Agency 2	Total	Agency 3	Agency 4	Agency 5
Counts								
# of offenders	94%	100%	100%	100%	92%	73%	100%	99%
# of victims	96	100	100	100	95	85	99	99
# of offenses	95	100	100	100	93	82	100	96
# of arrestees	88	93	92	94	86	66	93	96
Incident Information								
Year	99	100	100	100	99	96	100	100
Month	99	100	100	100	99	96	100	100
Date	99	100	100	100	99	97	100	100
Hour	92	99	100	98	90	67	100	100
Excpt clearance code	93	96	94	98	92	75	99	99
Excpt clearance year	99	97	94	100	99	N/A	99	99
Excpt clearance month	99	97	94	100	99	N/A	99	99
Excpt clearance date	99	97	94	100	99	N/A	99	99
Offense Information <sup>1</sup>								
Offense	89	100	100	100	86	64	97	95
Offense location	79	100	100	100	73	32	90	91
Weapon	99	99	100	98	99	N/A	100	99
Victim Information <sup>2</sup>								
Age	95	100	100	100	94	78	100	100
Sex	98	100	100	100	98	92	100	100
Race	99	100	100	100	99	97	100	100
Ethnicity	85	100	100	100	80	32	100	100
Resident status	84	100	100	100	80	32	100	99
Relationship	100	100	100	100	99	N/A	100	99
Victim injury	100	99	98	100	100	N/A	100	99
Offense	87	100	100	100	83	55	96	95
Offender Information <sup>2</sup>								
Age	94	100	100	100	92	77	99	98
Sex	96	100	100	100	95	85	100	99
Race	97	100	100	100	96	86	100	99
Arrestee Information <sup>2</sup>								
Age	86	82	92	71	87	67	94	96
Sex	90	95	94	96	88	69	96	96
Race	90	95	94	96	88	69	96	96
Arrest year	89	95	94	96	87	66	96	96
Arrest month	89	95	94	96	87	64	96	96
Arrest date	88	95	94	96	86	60	96	96

<sup>1</sup>Offense information is provided for the most serious offense associated with the incident.

<sup>2</sup>Victim, offender, and arrestee information is provided for the youngest actor associated with the incident.

N/A indicates that the data element was not routinely available in the local data system.



Differences also existed among 33 of the 99 incidents in the variable *incident hour*. Examination of this variable revealed the majority of these differences was due to the State practice of simply dropping the minutes from incident hour (e.g., 11:45 AM became 11 AM), while Agency 3 coded both the hour and the minute of the incident. This project's recoding of the Agency 3 data (as per FBI coding guidelines) rounded the time values to the nearest whole hour for analysis, resulting in the inconsistencies in the two datasets.

Incompatible System Designs. There is an additional reason why certain data elements from incidents originating in Agency 3 exhibited lower consistency rates than data from the other law enforcement agencies studied. For part of the study period, Agency 3's IBR system did not capture the following variables: *victim resident status and ethnicity; number of arrestees; arrestee age, sex, and race; and year, month, and date of arrest*. By 1992, however, Agency 3 began to code these variables. In contrast, the State had been distilling this information from Agency 3's paper files and entering the information into the State system during the entire study period. Consequently, discrepancies resulted between the local and State automated files and exceptionally low consistency rates among these variables.<sup>1</sup>

If the consistency analyses had been run differently (distinguishing incidents that had missing information at the local level by design for a limited time period), a much higher consistency rate would have resulted. For instance, the original consistency rate in Agency 3's data for *victim ethnicity* was 32% (Table 4.2). However, nearly half (48%) of Agency 3's incidents did not contain values for this variable in large part because the data element was excluded by design from the local system for part of the study period (Table 4.3). If these incidents were classified as not having inconsistent data, the consistency rate for Agency 3 for this variable increases to 81%. However, this new consistency rate assumes no discrepancies in Agency 3's incidents at the local, State, and national levels had complete information been available. Therefore, this new rate may be somewhat higher than what would actually be found.

Data Revision Problems. Data revision problems were discussed earlier in regard to sample attrition in the State B data. A possible explanation for this attrition is that, once the FBI rejects a submission for coding irregularities, State data processing does not resubmit the

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<sup>1</sup>The following additional variables were not collected by Agency 3 during the entire study period: victim injury; the relationship of victim to offender; year, month, and date of exceptional clearance; and weapon connected to offense. This project's calculation of consistency rates for these variables was not influenced by this total lack of reporting at the local level because variables never collected at the local level were excluded from consistency analysis and not considered inconsistent.



**Table 4.3**  
**Proportion of Agency 3's Incidents with Consistent Coding**  
**Given Different Interpretation of "Missing Data"**

	Victim Ethnicity
Total	100%
Incidents with Consistent Codes	81
Incidents with Consistent Nonmissing Codes	32
Incidents with Local Data Missing by Design	48
Incidents with Inconsistent Codes	19

corrected record. Another possible data revision problem includes information about an incident that is developed after the transmission of the data to the next level has occurred. For example, inconsistencies in arrest-related and exceptional clearance-related variables may be due to the addition of new information or changing of information to the incident records at the local level that is not communicated to the State. However, the consistency rates for arrestee and clearance variables are high for incidents originating from Agencies 1, 2, 4, and 5 (Table 4.2). The low rates in Agency 3 can largely be attributed to the aforementioned problem of coding reliability. Therefore, the submission of revisions after an incident has been accepted at the next level does not appear to be a significant problem for NIBRS.

Data Conversion Problems. The reliability of Federal data may also be influenced by the reliability of automated transformations that occur between the local and State and the State and Federal levels. For example, Table 4.2 reveals a consistency rate of 71% among incidents originating in Agency 2 for the variable *arrestee age*. Examination of this variable revealed 14 differences between the local and State files. Twelve of these differences originate from incidents in which the arrestee is reported as a 24-year-old in the State file, while the ages varied in the local Agency 2 data. As previously stated, the records the study received from Agency 2 were identical to the records sent for State processing (i.e., there were no coding or formatting differences between the two files). Consequently, the problem is likely to have developed through a conversion problem at the State level.

Another example of data conversion problems occurs when local systems use coding structures that are inconsistent with State and Federal formats. For example, Agencies 4 and 5 use an offense location code that does not exist at the Federal level (*condominium*). For



these agencies, most of the differences in the coding of the variable *offense location* can be attributed to the use of an offense location code of *unknown* for these incidents at the Federal level. Apparently, either the process by which local data are transformed into the State format or State data into the FBI format is not designed to handle these *out-of-bounds* codes.

### Conclusions

To assess the potential of using NIBRS to study nonfamily abductions and related child victimizations, the Federal data were evaluated with respect to the consistency of information stored at the local and Federal levels. The following findings reflect the results of this analysis:

- The completeness of the Federal data is reflected by the proportion of local incidents available for analysis at the Federal level. Overall, 88% of all incidents reported to local law enforcement agencies were available for analysis at the Federal level. The point at which incidents were lost varied by State and local law enforcement agency.
- In four of the five agencies studied, analysis revealed that to a very high degree the incident characteristics found in the local IBR systems were also found in the Federal data.
- The independent IBR coding by local and State personnel of the paper files from one local agency provided an opportunity to assess the impact of inter-coder reliability on the quality of the NIBRS data. The low consistency rate of the data from this one agency at the local and State level raises serious concerns about the effect of inter-coder reliability of the Federal NIBRS data.
- Although there is evidence from a study of sample attrition that about 12% of incidents never find their way into the FBI data file, updated incident information developed after the initial transfer of data files appears to have consistency rates that are relatively high.
- Incompatibly designed system coding structures at the local or State levels (i.e., coding structures that are incompatible with the NIBRS format) may result in inconsistent reporting of information.

Finally, data transformation procedures at the local or State level may also affect the reliability of data at the Federal level.



## Recommendations

NIBRS data maintained by the FBI appear to reasonably reflect the information stored in local and State information systems. However, some problems were discovered. To increase the ability of the Federal NIBRS data to support research on the nonfamily abductions of children, the following recommendations are offered:

- FBI and State data collectors should develop procedures to ensure that all local incidents are reported to them. They should also develop a process to ensure that incidents returned for corrections are, in fact, corrected and returned.
- Data transformation programs should be routinely reviewed and updated when the feeder system changes. Problems associated with improperly functioning data transformation programs should be resolved.
- Local and State information system designers should be strongly encouraged to develop and enhance their systems to capture information at as detailed a level as possible. However, these coding structures must be compatible with the NIBRS format. Recoding rules for transformations from the local to the State IBR system, and from the State to the Federal NIBRS system, should be a required and reviewed component of all system designs.
- It is likely that more training is needed to improve the inter-coder reliability of the NIBRS data. Systematic auditing of local IBR records is also encouraged.



## **5 TEST OF NIBRS' ABILITY TO REPLICATE THE NISMART POLICE RECORDS STUDY**

### **Purpose and Objectives**

A major component of the 1988 National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMART) was the Police Records Study (PRS). NISMART designers realized that incidents of nonfamily abductions of children were relatively rare and that a national household survey could not capture a sufficient number of such incidents. Consequently, NISMART incorporated into its research plan a review of a large sample of police records. The records selected for review were those incidents that were most likely to include a nonfamily abduction: murder, kidnapping, and violent sex offenses of children. Data collectors for the PRS reviewed thousands of paper files and coded their incident characteristics. The PRS was very expensive, and the cost-effectiveness of the approach was questioned.

In preparation for the second NISMART, OJJDP questioned whether the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) could be used to electronically review a large sample of police records. Consequently, a primary goal of this project was to test how well the NIBRS data can replicate the findings of a police record study that employs the same methods as the PRS in the original NISMART.

This chapter reports on the findings of such a study. It describes the methods employed and reports on the overlap in the incident classifications from the two approaches. It then documents when the two approaches disagree and identifies the reasons for the disagreements. Then the chapter proposes recommendations (a) to modify the NISMART definition of a nonfamily abduction so it can be supported by NIBRS data and (b) to modify the NIBRS coding procedures to capture more accurately the information needed to support the proposed definition.

### **Method**

Employing the procedures developed for the NISMART PRS, a total of 532 detailed, paper case files maintained by the local law enforcement agencies were reviewed and a determination was made whether an incident could be classified as a nonfamily abduction. NISMART's PRS classified an incident as a nonfamily abduction if the victim was a resident of the county in which the incident occurred and the incident fell into one of the three following categories:



- A person under age 18 was taken by use of force or threat or detained by the use of force or threat for a substantial period in a place of isolation by a nonfamily member without either lawful authority or the permission of a parent/guardian.
- A person who is 14 or younger or who is under 18 and mentally incompetent was taken by or voluntarily went with or was detained by a nonfamily member without either lawful permission of a parent/guardian and the perpetrator (a) concealed the child's whereabouts, or (b) requested ransom, goods, or services in exchange for the child's return, or (c) expressed an intention to keep the child permanently.
- A person under age 18 was taken by or voluntarily went with a nonfamily member who, at the time she or he took or went away with the child, had the apparent purpose of physically or sexually assaulting the child.

Of the 532 incidents reviewed at the local level, 440 incidents were available for study in the FBI file. Thirty-six of the 92 missing incidents were 1991 State A incidents. These incidents were not in the FBI file because State A only began contributing to NIBRS with its 1992 data. The other incidents were lost through sample attrition. The FBI's NIBRS data on these incidents were reviewed. Modifying the NISMART definitional criteria to correspond with the set of NIBRS data elements, an incident was classified as a nonfamily abduction based on the NIBRS data using the following criteria:

- the incident must contain at least one offense of kidnapping;
- at least one victim of the kidnapping must be a person under the age of 18; and
- the perpetrator of the kidnapping against the child must be a nonfamily member.

### Analysis

Of the 440 incidents in the comparison sample, the PRS classified 110 incidents as nonfamily abductions, while 30 were classified as nonfamily abductions using the NIBRS data (Table 5.1). There is very little overlap in those incidents identified as a nonfamily abduction by the PRS and NIBRS methods of classification. Only 16% (or 19) of the 121 incidents classified as a nonfamily abduction by either method were classified as a nonfamily abduction by both classification approaches. The PRS uniquely classified 91 incidents, while the NIBRS approach uniquely classified 11 incidents as nonfamily abductions. Clearly, the NIBRS-based approach does not replicate the findings of the PRS.



**Table 5.1**  
**Consistency of the NIBRS and PRS Nonfamily Abduction Classifications**

PRS Classification	NIBRS Classification	
	Non-NFA	NFA
Non-NFA	319	11
NFA	91	19

Why Does NIBRS Identify Nonfamily Abductions When the PRS Does Not? A total of 11 incidents were classified as nonfamily abductions by NIBRS and not by the PRS. Examination of PRS data revealed why these incidents were not classified as a nonfamily abduction.

PRS coders did not identify three incidents as a nonfamily abduction because their reading of the paper files indicated that the offender attempted, but did not succeed, in "taking" the child. These incidents were classified as a nonfamily abduction using the NIBRS data because the NIBRS data classified the incident as a completed kidnapping.

The NISMART definition requires the victim to be a resident of the county for an incident to be classified as a nonfamily abduction. However, the NIBRS *victim residence* variable assesses whether the victim was a resident of the geographical area served by the local police department, which is often only a portion of the county. Consequently, a victim may be a resident under the PRS definition but not the NIBRS definition. As a result, the NIBRS information on residency was ignored for classifying a nonfamily abduction. Consequently, three incidents classified as a nonfamily abduction by the NIBRS method were not classified as a nonfamily abduction by the PRS because the victim was not a county resident.

Four other incidents classified as kidnappings in the NIBRS data were not identified as abductions by the PRS because the coders found no indication in the paper files of the "taking" of a child. In one incident, the PRS data indicated that the offender was a family member.

Why Does the PRS Identify Nonfamily Abductions When NIBRS Does Not? A total of 91 incidents were identified as nonfamily abductions by the PRS and not the NIBRS data. Examination of NIBRS data revealed the following explanations for the inconsistencies.



Eighty-three incidents were not considered to be nonfamily abductions because the NIBRS data did not classify the incidents as kidnappings. They were, however, classified as abductions by the PRS.

Twenty-two incidents were not classified as nonfamily abductions using the NIBRS data because the NIBRS data indicated that the offenders were family members, while the PRS did not. The NIBRS coding for 14 of these incidents also did not include an offense code of kidnapping.

The 83 incidents that were not identified as a nonfamily abduction by NIBRS contained a violent sexual offense rather than a kidnapping. (This is not surprising because the sampling strategy for the initial selection of incidents required that the incident contain either a murder, kidnapping, or violent sexual offense.) The police characterization of violent sexual offense incidents may be the source of the major discrepancy between the PRS and NIBRS classifications. Under the PRS definition of a nonfamily abduction, the incident must include the "taking" or "detaining" of a child. Many violent sexual assaults have this characteristic. However, it appears that for a substantial portion of these incidents, the NIBRS coders do not distinguish this incident characteristic in their offense coding, seeing it instead as a component of the violent sex offense.

If it could be assumed that all violent sexual offenses against a child included a "taking" or "detaining," then the NIBRS data could be used to identify NISMART-defined abduction cases. But this is not the case. A special analysis of the data found that the large majority of violent sexual offenses do not include a NISMART abduction.

Other classification schemes using the NIBRS data were tested in an attempt to improve the consistency of the PRS and NIBRS NFA classifications. Such variables as offender age, incident location, and degree of injury were incorporated. However, nothing in the NIBRS data could increase the nonfamily abduction classification overlap yielded by the PRS and NIBRS schemes.

### Conclusions and Recommendations

The NIBRS data, as they are currently designed, are unable to adequately replicate the findings of the NISMART PRS. Of the 110 incidents classified by the PRS as a nonfamily abduction, the NIBRS data were only able to consistently classify 19, while coding 11 other incidents as nonfamily abductions when the PRS did not. Many of the definitional dimensions of a nonfamily abduction in the NISMART work are not supported by NIBRS. In addition, it appears that local law enforcement's offense coding of a criminal incident does



not always independently code a *kidnapping/abduction* when this offense is present. Based on these findings, the following recommendations are made:

- The primary limitation in the use of the NIBRS data to replicate the PRS findings is the apparent practice of not classifying an incident as an abduction when the abduction is seen as an inherent component part of another offense classification, such as forcible rape. If local data coders were trained to incorporate this distinction into their local IBR systems, the ability of the NIBRS data to replicate the PRS results would improve substantially, even to the point where the NIBRS data could be considered a possible alternative to the PRS for a future NISMART effort.
- Another approach to improve the consistency of the NIBRS and PRS classification of abduction incidents would be to modify the definitions of abduction used by NISMART. If NISMART's definition of an abduction could be expanded to include attempts to take or detain a child, the consistency with NIBRS would improve.
- Another source of inconsistency is the NISMART criterion that requires the child victim to reside in the county at the time of the incident. NIBRS, as currently designed, limits residence to the geographical area covered by the local law enforcement agency, which is most likely to be smaller than the county. Consequently, if the NIBRS definition for residency were changed to include the county rather than police department residency or the NISMART definition dropped the residency requirement, consistency would also improve.



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100



## 6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Introduction

In this report, we have addressed the feasibility of using NIBRS data as the basis for estimating NFAs of children or for conducting other studies of child victimization in terms of two central project goals:

- determine the feasibility of using NIBRS given the specifications and procedures for data collection and automation implemented, and the resulting data quality; and
- determine the validity and reliability of nonfamily child abduction estimates extracted from NIBRS, including their comparability with estimates based on NISMART definitions.

We have analyzed data in automated IBRS files provided by the State and local sites participating in this study, in the corresponding NIBRS files provided by the FBI, PRS data extracted from paper records at the participating local sites, and qualitative data collected from detectives at the local sites for this report. In this chapter, we summarize the results of our analyses and make recommendations.

### Agreement of NISMART and Police Classification of NFAs in the Local Paper Records

Analysis of the levels and sorts of agreement and disagreement between abductions found by PRS evaluation of police (paper) records and by police classification, presented in Chapter 3, indicated the following:

- Agreement between the PRS and police classification of victims in the paper records as abductions was moderate at best. Agreement for victims the police had classified only as abduction victims was lower.
- There was a good deal of variability in the levels of agreement between police classification and PRS results by a local law enforcement agency supplying the records. It is likely that such variability is typical of police data.
- Examination of levels of agreement by NFA definition indicated higher levels of agreement that victims had been abducted for NFA definition 1 (62%) than for NFA definitions 2 and 3 (35% and 39%, respectively). Discussions of definitional issues with police support this result.



- Examination of disagreement by the countability of core definitional elements ("taken," "lured," and "detained") indicated that the disagreement is particularly likely to occur in cases involving luring and, to some extent, detainment: Police were less likely than PRS coders to find abductions in such situations. Discussions of definitional elements in abduction with police indicated variability (and some confusion) in their notions of luring.
- Disagreement between police and PRS coders was highest when victims were in their early teens (13 to 15) and/or perpetrators were friends or acquaintances of the victims; again, in such cases police were less likely than PRS coders to find countable abductions.
- Generally, the discussions of definitional issues with police indicated that they consider the core elements of the NISMART NFA definitions to be central to the legal definitions guiding their work, though they did not express consistent or concretely defined notions of situations under which a victim had been moved, held long enough to be said to have been detained, and the like.
- Other conditional definitional elements were important to police, in particular the involvement of force or threat, unwillingness of the victim to go along with the perpetrator, intent of the perpetrator to harm the victim, and permission or authority of the perpetrator to take or hold the victim.

#### Comparison of the Automated Local, State, and National Incident-Based Reporting Data

To capture NFAs from multiple jurisdictions accurately, the FBI's NIBRS data must consistently reflect the information stored at the local level. Generally, the automated data are (a) collected at the local level, (b) transformed into a predefined State reporting format, (c) transmitted to the State, (d) transformed into the predefined NIBRS reporting format, and (e) transmitted to the FBI. At each step along this process, inconsistencies may be introduced. The analyses presented in Chapter 4 compared the three versions (local, State, and national) of a set of automated incident records likely to be eligible for selection in an attempt to use the NIBRS data to support NISMART studies. The main findings from these analyses included the following:

- Overall, 88% of all incidents reported to local law enforcement agencies were available for analysis at the Federal level. The point at which incidents were lost varied by State and local law enforcement agency.



- To a very high degree the specific incident characteristics found in local automated files (except the files from one local department) were also found in the Federal data.
- It was possible to compare coding of incident data from one local department with State-level coding of the same incidents. The low rate of consistency between these local and State-level data raised serious questions about the level of intercoder reliability of the Federal NIBRS data.
- Although a study of sample attrition provided evidence that a significant number of incidents never found their way into the Federal data file, updated incident information developed later appeared to have relatively high consistency rates.
- System-coding structures at the local or State levels that are incompatible with the NIBRS format may result in inconsistent reporting of information. Similarly, local- and State-level data transformation procedures may also affect reliability of the Federal-level data.

#### A Test of NIBRS' Ability to Replicate the NISMART Police Records Study

In Chapter 5, the NISMART and NIBRS-based classification of cases as NFAs was compared, using the sample of incidents selected for the PRS conducted as part of the current research. NIBRS data were used to select NFAs based on the following criteria: (a) the incident included at least one kidnapping offense, (b) at least one kidnapping victim had to be younger than 18 years old, and (c) the perpetrator of the kidnapping of the child had to be a nonfamily member. Incidents classified differently by the two methods were studied to determine the source of the different classifications. The main findings from this analysis include the following:

- Only 16% of the cases classified as NFAs by either the PRS or the NIBRS-based method were classified that way by both methods.
- The PRS coders were more likely to classify cases as NFAs than were local law enforcement officers, particularly where a violent sex offense was present.
- Many of the detailed NISMART definitional dimensions are not supported by NIBRS.



## Recommendations

Based on the study results summarized above, we recommend the following:

- It is likely that more training is needed to improve the intercoder reliability of the NIBRS data. Systematic auditing of local IBRS records is also encouraged.
- FBI and State data collectors should develop procedures to ensure that (a) all local incidents are reported to them; (b) incidents returned to lower-level agencies for corrections are, in fact, corrected and returned to the higher level agencies; and (c) new information and informational changes occurring at local agencies are transmitted to both the State and Federal levels.
- Data transformation programs should be routinely reviewed and updated when the feeder system changes. Problems associated with improperly functioning data transformation programs should be resolved.
- Coding structures must be compatible with the NIBRS format. Recoding rules for transformations from the local to the State IBRS, and from the State IBRS to the Federal NIBRS, should be a required and reviewed component of all system designs.
- A change to NISMART NFA definition 1 that would improve its consistency with the NIBRS kidnapping/abduction offense definition and police evaluation of cases for classification would be to relax the definitional precision regarding such contingent definitional elements as distance moved and time held, and eliminate the requirement that the victim be held in an isolated place.



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1. The first part of the document is a list of names and titles, including "The Hon. Mr. Justice" and "The Hon. Mr. Justice".



## **Appendix A**

### **Site Visit Instrumentation**

- **NIBRS Site Visit Protocol**
- **Scenarios for NIBRS Site Visit Discussion of Case Classification**







## **NIBRS SITE VISIT PROTOCOL**

### **Objectives**

1. Collect in-depth information about state and local IBR program policies and procedures regarding data collection and reduction.
2. Explore extent to which the thinking and procedures police employ when investigating and classifying cases correspond with NISMART definitional elements, as operationalized.
3. Collect detailed information about the state/local IBR file structure and (arrange to) obtain a copy of the file.
4. Finalize plans with local agency staff for extracting data from (or making copies of) paper records.
5. Collect copies of file documentation, training materials, and other relevant documents.



## Site Report Outline/Research Questions

1. Organization of the Department and Description of Site
  - Characteristics of jurisdiction served (pop. size, racial/ethnic mix, main industries/occupations, financial base, etc.)
  - Characteristics of department (sworn force size, organizational complexity, etc.)
  - Organization of department for handling/reporting child victimizations of interest (homicide, sex offense, abduction)
2. View of (Police) Top Administrator/NIBRS Program Supervisor
  - Development of original automated incident-based records system (when, categories of data automated)
  - Conversion to NIBRS-compatible system
    - when and why,
    - how were planning and implementation done?
    - how did the process go?
  - How are these data used?
    - by you/department administrators?
    - in the department?
    - other users/ways?
    - how is this (NIBRS) system an improvement over what you had before (from your point of view)? How has it been worse?
3. Overview of state/local NIBRS/IBR program and data
  - Briefly describe the record-keeping process for the relevant offenses from the initial report through investigation to case close-out.
    - who makes what type of report?
    - at what point are data automated? (by whom) Stored online or some other way?
    - what error checks are done? (at what point in the process? how are errors corrected?
    - under what circumstances are records updated? (by whom)
    - under what circumstances are records (otherwise) corrected? (by whom)
    - any other quality control? (by whom)
    - summarize: categories of personnel who make decisions about classification/coding of data



### 3. Overview (cont.)

- Circumstances under which definitions of errors have changed since implementing NIBRS-compatible system (who can/has changed them, change only current files or old ones as well)
- Briefly describe transfer of data from local agencies to the state/state to F.B.I.
  - conversion of local file to state format
  - how transfer physically accomplished
  - how often
  - what cases are transferred (open and closed both? updates/corrections?)
- Users of the data and how they access it
  - categories of people (police officers, police administrators, other public employees, general public)
  - types of access (direct, request runs/special reports, get/request routine reports)

### 4. Decision-making re coding, data entry, cleaning of critical data elements (offenses, victim-offender relationship, victim/offender characteristics)

- Under what circumstances is a decision needed?
- What rules/standards are decisions based on?
- How are ambiguities handled?

### 5. Case Classification

- Explain purpose of study

"....We'd like to start by talking with you about how you handle cases that only involve abductions. Then we'd like to discuss cases that involve abductions and other offenses."
- Use scenarios throughout as probes
- For a fairly straightforward abduction case:
  - describe the case (What made you think it was an abduction in the first place?)
  - what did/would you have to prove to convict the offender?
  - what evidence did/do you look for to prove that/those things?
  - we summarize what we think we've heard.



## 5. Case Classification (cont.)

- How about a kind of abduction case that involves aspects we haven't discussed yet?
  - describe the case
  - what did/would you have to prove to convict the offender?
  - what evidence did/do you look for to prove that/those things?
  - we summarize what we think we've heard.
- How about a case involving a sex offense against a juvenile--under what circumstances would you say an abduction had occurred in addition to the sex offense?
  - an abduction that was not part of the sex offense? probe for distinguishing definitional element(s).
  - (--"what evidence" if necessary)
  - we summarize
- How about a case involving homicide of a juvenile--under what circumstances would you say an abduction had occurred in addition to the homicide.
  - an abduction that was not part of the homicide? probe for distinguishing definitional element(s).
  - (--"what evidence" if necessary)
  - we summarize
- (IF THERE'S TIME) Discuss NISMART definitions and definitional elements if Rs interested.
- Police response to--and use of--their current record system w/ multi-offenses possible

## 6. Data processing and analysis

- Brief description of data file structure and software used
- Reports generated routinely (audience, info presented)
- Other planning/research programs
- How useful is information from the this incident-based system to people compared to what could be learned from the old system?
  - for police administrators/officers
  - others (who)



7. Training

- What training is planned/conducted by state personnel? What by local?
- Who is trained? to do what? how?
- Circumstances under which people are trained? How long? How often?

8. Summary







## Scenarios for NIBRS Site Visit Discussions of Case Classification

### Detaining

- Perpetrator was school janitor who blocked the child's exit from a school room. Perpetrator closed the door and began walking toward the child; the child was able to push him away and run out of the room. (Westat PRS, p. 5-12)
- Perpetrator forcibly took the child to his (perpetrator's) apartment and made the child sit in a kitchen chair. When the perpetrator turned his back to get some water, the child ran from the apartment. (Westat PRS, p. 5-12)

### Attempting to Detain

- The perpetrator lured a 3 year old neighborhood child to his house, where he engaged her in pornographic activity. When she said she was tired of this "game" and wanted to leave now, the perpetrator said "no, stay for a while longer." The child began to cry and the perpetrator immediately released her. (Westat PRS, p. 5-13)
- The perpetrator was child's acquaintance from school. After riding around for a while in the perpetrator's car, child told perpetrator she needed to go home. He would not let her out, but she jumped out soon thereafter while he was stopped at a stop light. (Westat PRS, p. 5-13)

### Detaining by force or threat

1. strong arm tactics (tying, holding, otherwise restraining the child's movement)
2. show of weapons (blade, gun, stick, etc.)
3. explicit threat of bodily injury to anyone (NB: threats of action other than bodily (such as damage to property) *did not* count)

### Detaining for a substantial period

1. 1 hour or longer *from the time the child tried to leave.*

### Detaining in a place of isolation

- A child says she was grabbed, raped, and then held for two hours in a parked van. While the child's story seems to be true, her mother casts some doubt onto it by saying she wonders whether or not her daughter was actually with her boyfriend. [*The believability of the child's story would be downgraded in coding detainment, however, here only the degree to which the parked van was*



*"a place of isolation" was evaluated.]*

#### Lawful authority or parental permission to detain child

1. *explicit* permission of the parent to watch or care for the child, and, therefore, the explicit or presumed permission to detain him/her. "Presumed permission" meant that the parent may not have actually said, "yes, so-and-so should keep Johnny inside today," but *implied* his/her permission by entrusting the care of the child to the perpetrator. For example:
  - The babysitter has the parents' instructions to pick up the child from school, which she does, in spite of the child's strong protest. Here, "perpetrator" has parental permission.
2. Only a parent who effectively had custody of the child at the time of the incident was considered to be in a position to grant such permission.

#### Taking

- A high school acquaintance of the child's knocks on the door of her house and asks her to join him for a drive. When she declines, he grabs her and carries her to his car.
- A 2-year-old is playing in his front yard when a neighbor, whom the child has seen before, walks up and carries the child away.

#### Attempting to take

- While a child was walking down the hall to her apartment, perpetrator grabbed her by the arm and began to pull her toward another apartment. Perpetrator heard someone coming, released the child, and ran out of the building.
- Perpetrator was on the outside edge of the playground and trying to get a 5-year-old girl to come toward him. When she got close to him, the perpetrator leaned over the fence and picked up the child. Just then the child's mother saw what was happening and began screaming. The perpetrator put the child back down and absconded.

#### Taking or attempting to take by force or threat

#### Voluntarily accompanying or attempting to get child to voluntarily accompany

The child was either lured or convinced to go, but got more than s/he bargained for; that is, the perpetrator apparently had assault or other criminal activity in mind when asking the child



to accompany him or her. Same criteria re movement as taking.

- The child was leaving school when an old boyfriend drove up and asked her if she would go with him to get something to eat so that they could talk. She agreed to go and he took her to a wooded area where he assaulted her.
- The victim was waiting at the bus stop when some friends drove up and asked him if he wanted a ride home. He agreed, but instead of taking him home they drove to a secluded area in the country and beat him up.

Attempting:

- The child is walking down the street. The perpetrator pulls up beside her and begins to talk to her, asking her to get into the car with him. The child tells the perpetrator to "take a hike" and keeps walking. The perpetrator drives away.

Lawful authority/parental permission to take or have child voluntarily accompany

- A mother asks her new neighbor to meet her child at the bus stop and take the child home with him (the neighbor) until the mother returns from the store. The neighbor assaults the child.

Here the perpetrator had parental permission to take the child.

Concealing or attempting to conceal

1. Hiding the child from view.
2. Hiding the activity of taking or assaulting the child.
3. Taking action to prevent the parents or caretakers from finding the child.

Examples:

- Taking the child to an unfamiliar place where parents were unlikely to look for him/her.
- Taking child to a place of isolation (e.g., inside an abandoned building or to an empty classroom).
- Making child lie down in the back seat of a car.
- Flight from town.
- Preventing child from engaging in normal activities.



- Burying or otherwise hiding child's body.

Something the perpetrator did without the victim's collaboration unless there is a 5-year or greater age difference, in which case the age difference is assumed to constitute a coercive factor.

Intent to keep the child (not applicable for attempts)

- A childless woman removes a child from the hospital and, when apprehended, says that she wanted to keep the child for her own.
- A husband and wife steal a baby and then represent the child as their own, telling neighbors and friends "the adoption agency finally came through."
- A childless woman takes a child from a local daycare center, and when apprehended, tells the police she only intended to take the child for a walk. Upon searching her home and further questioning, however, the police find that she had furnished a nursery, subscribed to Parents magazine, arranged for maternity leave at work, and employed a diaper service.

Difficult recovery had the attempt been successful (attempts only)

- When apprehended, the perpetrator stated that s/he intended to keep the child or prevent the parents from getting the child back.
- The police find that the perpetrator, who is childless, had airplane reservations for one adult and one child to Brazil, leaving the day the perpetrator took the child.
- A complete stranger drives up in a car and tries to get the child to get into the car.



## **Appendix B**

### **Data Collection Instrumentation**

- **NIBRS Police Record Abstraction Form**
- **Abstractors Manual**
- **Evaluative Coding Form**
- **NIBRS PRS Evaluative Coding Criteria**
- **Evaluative Coding—Questions and Decisions**
- **Countability Rules for Non-Family Abduction Definitions**







**NATIONAL INCIDENCE STUDIES OF MISSING, ABDUCTED, RUNAWAY,  
AND THROWAWAY CHILDREN  
POLICE RECORD ABSTRACT FORM**

ID Label

Victim # \_\_\_\_\_

Abstractor ID

--	--	--	--	--

Police Record ID

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Type of Case (Circle 1 or 2 for each answer)

Yes No

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 1. Abduction  |
| 1 | 2 | 2. Sexual Offense/Rape                                |
| 1 | 2 | 3. Homicide → IF THIS IS THE ONLY OFFENSE → GO TO A-2 |

**PART A. SCREENING INFORMATION**

**A-1. VICTIM RESIDED IN (SAMPLED) COUNTY AT TIME OF INCIDENT**

- 1 = Yes → GO TO A-3  
2 = No

**A-2. VICTIM RESIDED IN \_\_\_\_\_ AT THE TIME OF INCIDENT**  
(City & State/County)

- 8 = Residence unknown to police  
9 = Residence not specified in record

IF TYPE CASE = HOMICIDE → GO TO A - 3  
IF CASE DID NOT INCLUDE HOMICIDE AND:  
A-1 = 1 (Yes) → GO TO A-3  
A-1 = 2 (No) → STOP - CASE IS NOT ELIGIBLE



A-3. NUMBER OF KNOWN, ALLEGED OR SUSPECTED PERPETRATORS INVOLVED IN INCIDENT

--	--

98 = Number of perpetrators unknown to police

99 = Record does not specify

A-4. PERPETRATOR'S RELATIONSHIP(S) TO VICTIM (Enter codes from list below).

a. Perpetrator 1 

--	--

 → Go to A-4.b

b. Perpetrator 2 

--	--

 → Go to A-4.c

c. Perpetrator 3 

--	--

 → Go to A-4.d

Family

01 = Parent

02 = Stepparent

03 = Sibling

04 = Aunt/Uncle

05 = Grandparent

Nonfamily

11 = Other "step" relative (e.g., step brother)

12 = Parent's boyfriend/girlfriend

13 = Family friend

14 = Victim's babysitter

15 = Victim's acquaintance/friend

16 = Victim's employer

17 = Stranger-known by sight to victim

18 = Other stranger

19 = Other (SPECIFY): \_\_\_\_\_

20 = No second or third perpetrator

98 = Perpetrator unknown to police

99 = Record does not specify relationship

d. ONE OR MORE PERPETRATORS ARE CODED AS NON-FAMILY MEMBER (11-19) OR UNKNOWN/NOT SPECIFIED (98,99) IN A-4 a-c.

1 = Yes

2 = No → STOP - CASE IS NOT ELIGIBLE

A-5. a. DATE OF (FIRST) REPORT

		-			-		
--	--	---	--	--	---	--	--

MM

DD

YY



b. DATE BETWEEN 1/1/91 AND 12/31/92

1 = Yes

2 = No → STOP-CASE IS NOT ELIGIBLE

A-6. VICTIM'S AGE

a. DATE OF BIRTH

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	-	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	-	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
MM			DD			YY	

98 = Year of birth unknown to police

99 = Year of birth not in records

b. AGE RECORDED IN RECORD

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
----------------------	----------------------

(Circle one number below to describe this age.)

1 = Age at time of incident

2 = Age at time of report

4 = Other (SPECIFY): \_\_\_\_\_

8 = Unknown to police

9 = Not specified in record

c. FOR 1991 CASES, YEAR OF BIRTH IS 1973 OR LATER

OR

FOR 1992 CASES, YEAR OF BIRTH IS 1974 OR LATER

1 = Yes → GO TO BOX BEFORE A-7

2 = No → STOP - CASE IS NOT ELIGIBLE

3 = Year of birth not entered in A-6.a.

d. AGE IN RECORD IS 18 OR LESS

1 = Yes → GO TO BOX BEFORE A-7

2 = No → STOP - CASE IS NOT ELIGIBLE

3 = Age not entered in A6-b

e. THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THE VICTIM WAS UNDER 18 AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT/EPISODE

1 = Yes

2 = No



f. EVIDENCE FROM RECORD USED TO ANSWER A-6e.

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IF EVIDENCE SHOWS CHILD IS 18 OR OVER AT TIME OF INCIDENT, STOP - CASE IS NOT ELIGIBLE.

IF CASE ONLY INVOLVES SEXUAL OFFENSE → GO TO A-7  
OTHERWISE GO TO B-1

A-7 CASE INCLUDES AT LEAST ONE FORCIBLE SEX OFFENSE (OR ATTEMPT) WITH CONTACT.

- 1 = Yes
- 2 = Unclear
- 3 = No → STOP - CASE IS NOT ELIGIBLE

A-8 THE ENTIRE INCIDENT OCCURRED IN THE CHILD'S HOME OR SOME OTHER PRIVATE (NONINSTITUTIONAL) RESIDENCE

- 1 = Yes → STOP - CASE IS NOT ELIGIBLE
- 2 = Unclear from record
- 3 = No

A-9 THE PERPETRATOR DID SOMETHING TO CONCEAL THE ACTIVITY

- 1 = Yes
- 2 = Unclear from record
- 3 = NO → STOP - CASE IS NOT ELIGIBLE



**PART B. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR VICTIM**

**B-1. RACE**

- 1 = White, Not Hispanic
- 2 = American Indian/Alaskan Native
- 3 = Asian/Pacific Islander
- 4 = Black, Not Hispanic
- 5 = Hispanic
- 6 = Other (SPECIFY): \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 = Unknown to police
- 9 = Not specified in record

**B-2. SEX**

- 1 = Male
- 2 = Female
- 9 = Not specified in record

**B-3. DISABLING CONDITIONS**

- a. Check here ☐ if record makes no reference to any disability → GO TO B-4

RECORD SPECIFIES A DISABILITY (Circle 1 or 2 for each item.)

YES NO

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | a. Developmental disability                        |
| 1 | 2 | b. Emotional disturbance                           |
| 1 | 2 | c. Learning disability                             |
| 1 | 2 | d. Hearing, speech, or sight impairment            |
| 1 | 2 | e. Physical disability                             |
| 1 | 2 | f. Other (SPECIFY): _____                          |
| 1 | 2 | g. Nature of disabling condition unknown to police |
| 1 | 2 | h. Nature of disabling condition not specified     |

- b. PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF DISABLING CONDITION AS IT IS RECORDED IN RECORD.

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**B-4. CHILD WAS A RUNAWAY AT THE TIME OF INCIDENT**

- 1 = Yes
- 2 = No
- 3 = Record indicates child may have been a runaway
- 9 = Cannot be determined from record



B-5. a. RECORD SPECIFIES CHILD HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

- 1 = Yes
- 2 = No → GO TO B-6

b. TYPE OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY SPECIFIED IN RECORD (Circle all that apply.)

- 1 = Prostitution
- 2 = Drug dealing
- 3 = Gang activity
- 4 = Burglary/theft ring
- 5 = Other (SPECIFY): \_\_\_\_\_

c. TIME OF INVOLVEMENT IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Check here ☐ if record does not specify when → GO TO B-6

RECORD SPECIFIES INVOLVEMENT (Circle 1 or 2 for each item.)

YES NO

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | a. Prior to the incident/episode       |
| 1 | 2 | b. At the time of the incident/episode |
| 1 | 2 | c. Subsequent to the incident/episode  |

B-6. CHILD WAS INSTITUTIONALIZED AT TIME OF INCIDENT/EPISODE

- 1 = Yes
- 2 = No
- 9 = Cannot be determined from record



### PART C. CRIME INFORMATION

- C-1. a. DATE OF INCIDENT/EPISODE. If single extended episode enter date began. If multiple incidents over time, and the case is a homicide, enter beginning date of incident resulting in child's death. Otherwise, enter beginning date of most recent incident.

-  -  → GO TO C-2  
MM DD YY

98 = Month and year unknown to police  
99 = Month and year not specified in record

- b. APPROXIMATE DATE OF INCIDENT/EPISODE. If single extended episode, enter when it began. If multiple incidents over time, enter date of most recent incident. (for homicide enter date of incident resulting in child's death.) Circle one.

1 =	Winter 1990/1991	7 =	Summer 1992
2 =	Spring 1991	8 =	Fall 1992
3 =	Summer 1991	9 =	Winter 1992/93
4 =	Fall 1991	10 =	None of the above/date cannot be approximated
5 =	Winter 1991/92		

- C-2. a. TIME INCIDENT/EPISODE BEGAN

:  am/pm (Circle one.) → GO TO C-3

98 = Unknown to police  
99 = Not specified in record

- b. EXACT TIME UNKNOWN, BUT RECORD INDICATES THAT INCIDENT/EPISODE OCCURRED IN (Circle One)

1 = Morning  
2 = Afternoon  
3 = Evening  
4 = Night  
8 = Unknown to police  
9 = Not specified



C-3. REPORTED TO POLICE BY

Check here ☐ if record does not specify →GO TO C-4

RECORD SPECIFIES (Circle 1 or 2 for each item.)

YES	NO	
1	2	a. Child's mother
1	2	b. Child's father
1	2	c. Babysitter
1	2	d. Neighbor
1	2	e. Other relative
1	2	f. Victim
1	2	g. Passerby
1	2	h. Other (SPECIFY): _____







C-5. a. **MOVEMENT OF THE CHILD** (Circle the one that best describes movement of the child, at any time during the course of the incident, that was due to the will and/or plan of the perpetrator.)

- 1 = Definitely, there was movement of the child
- 2 = Possibly, there was movement of the child
- 3 = Definitely, there was no movement of the child → GO TO C-6.a.
- 9 = The record does not provide sufficient evidence to select one of the above → GO TO C-6.a.

b. **EVIDENCE FROM RECORD USED TO ANSWER C-5.a.** (Include (1) where victim was moved from and to and (2) when the movement occurred during the course of the incident. If victim moved more than once, describe each movement. If record indicates exact or approximate distance, enter that information in the space provided at C-5.c)

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c. **DISTANCE** (State exact or approximate distance in feet or yards or miles if in record.)

--	--	--

or

--	--	--

or

--	--	--

FT

YDS

MILES

999 = Not specified in record

C-6. a. **LURING THE CHILD** (Circle the one that best describes whether, at any time during the incident, the perpetrator offered promises or enticements to the victim under false pretenses as a means to impose his/her will on the victim.)

- 1 = Definitely, there was luring
- 2 = Possibly, there was luring
- 3 = Definitely, there was not luring → GO TO C-7
- 9 = The record does not provide sufficient evidence to select one of the above → GO TO C-7



- b. EVIDENCE FROM RECORD USED TO ANSWER C-6.a (Include (1) what was promised or offered and/or what the victim expected and (2) what the perpetrator accomplished through luring, e.g., movement, concealment, detention, etc.)

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- c. THE LURE (Circle 1 or 2 for each item.)

YES NO

- |   |   |                                |
|---|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | a. Falsehood/lies              |
| 1 | 2 | b. Money                       |
| 1 | 2 | c. Candy/toys                  |
| 1 | 2 | d. Other (SPECIFY): _____      |
| 1 | 2 | e. Unknown to the police       |
| 1 | 2 | f. Not specified in the record |

- C-7. LOCATION VICTIM WAS MOVED OR LURED FROM (Circle one location.)

- |    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 01 | = | Street (as pedestrian) → GO TO C-8   |
| 02 | = | Child's own home (includes yard) → GO TO C-9   |
| 03 | = | Other home where child was living (SPECIFY): _____ → GO TO C-9                       |
| 04 | = | Other home where child was visiting (e.g., friend, babysitter, relative) → GO TO C-9 |
| 05 | = | Institutional setting (SPECIFY): _____ → GO TO C-9                                   |
| 06 | = | Vehicle/car → GO TO C-9  |
| 07 | = | School/day care center (including playground) → GO TO C-9                            |
| 08 | = | Shopping area/mall/office building → GO TO C-9                                       |
| 09 | = | Hotel/boarding house/dormitory → GO TO C-9   |
| 10 | = | Park/amusement area/beach → GO TO C-9  |
| 11 | = | Other (SPECIFY): _____ → GO TO C-9   |
| 96 | = | Victim was not moved or lured, → GO TO C-10  |
| 98 | = | Location unknown to police → GO TO C-9   |
| 99 | = | Record does not specify location → GO TO C-9   |

- C-8. CHILD'S ACTIVITY WHILE ON STREET

- |    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 01 | = | Playing                                  |
| 02 | = | Walking to or from school/store/friend's |
| 03 | = | Hitchhiking                              |
| 04 | = | Prostitution                             |
| 05 | = | Drug dealing                             |
| 06 | = | Gang activity                            |
| 07 | = | Other activity (SPECIFY): _____          |
| 98 | = | Activity not known to police             |
| 99 | = | Activity not specified in record         |



C-9. LOCATION CHILD WAS MOVED OR LURED TO (Circle one.)

- 01 = Perpetrator's home
- 02 = Isolated wooded area or field
- 03 = Park/amusement area/beach
- 04 = Deserted building
- 05 = Parking lot or structure
- 06 = Highway/road (child was driven around in vehicle)
- 07 = Vehicle (vehicle was not moved)
- 08 = Different room in same building where incident began
- 09 = Other (SPECIFY): \_\_\_\_\_
- 98 = Unknown to police
- 99 = Record does not specify

C-10. a. DETAINMENT (Circle the one that best describes whether, at any time during the incident, the victim was confined, kept in custody, or prevented from proceeding by the perpetrator.)

- 1 = Definitely, there was detainment
- 2 = Possibly, there was detainment
- 3 = Definitely, there was not detainment → GO TO C-11
- 9 = The record does not provide sufficient evidence to select one of the above → GO TO C-11

b. EVIDENCE FROM RECORD USED TO ANSWER C-10.a (Include (1) the form or means of detainment, (2) when it occurred during the course of the incident, and (3) where it occurred).

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C-11. a. CONCEALMENT (Circle the one that best describes whether the change in the child's location and/or detaining the child was for the purpose of concealment.)

- 1 = Definitely, concealment was the purpose
- 2 = Possibly, concealment was the purpose
- 3 = Definitely, concealment was not the purpose → GO TO C-12
- 9 = The record does not provide sufficient evidence to select one of the above → GO TO C-12

b. EVIDENCE FROM RECORD USED TO ANSWER C-11.a (Include (1) how concealment was achieved, (2) any evidence regarding purpose, and (3) when it occurred during the course of the incident.)

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- C-12. a. USE OF FORCE OR THREAT (Circle the one that best describes whether physical or verbal force or threat was used against the victim [or victim's family/friends] in order to achieve the will/plan of the perpetrator.)

1 = Definitely, there was force or threat

2 = Possibly, there was force or threat

3 = Definitely, there was not force or threat → GO TO C-13

9 = The record does not provide sufficient evidence to select one of the above → GO TO C-13

- b. EVIDENCE FROM THE RECORD USED TO ANSWER C-12.a (Describe (1) the force or threat that was used. Include (2) whether or not it was used to move, conceal, or detain the victim. If there were multiple or extended events involving force or threat (3) describe each event.)

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- c. MEANS USED TO FORCE OR THREATEN (Circle 1 or 2 for each item.)

YES NO

1 2

a. Gun (rifle, pistol, etc.)

1 2

b. Knife (or blade)

1 2

c. Other instrument (stick, tree branch, pipe, etc.)

1 2

d. Strong-arm (fists, hands, feet, etc.)

1 2

e. Verbal threat(s) of bodily injury to anyone

1 2

f. Other (SPECIFY): \_\_\_\_\_

- C-13. a. LAWFUL AUTHORITY/PARENTAL PERMISSION TO MOVE AND/OR DETAIN CHILD (Circle the one that best describes whether perpetrator had lawful authority or explicit permission of the parent to move or detain child.)

1 = Definitely, had lawful authority or parental permission to move and/or detain child

2 = Possibly, had lawful authority or parental permission to move and/or detain child

3 = Definitely, did not have lawful authority or parental permission to move and/or detain child → GO TO C-14

4 = Victim was not moved or detained → GO TO C-14

9 = The record does not provide sufficient evidence to select one of the above → GO TO C-14



- b. EVIDENCE FROM THE RECORD USED TO ANSWER C-13 a. (Describe (1) the perpetrator's role or status with respect to the child (e.g., babysitter, family, social worker, etc.) and (2) the nature of the legal authority, if any (e.g., court ordered placement) or (3) the explicit parental permission given, if any.)

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- C-14. FORMS OF MALTREATMENT. Circle one answer for all forms of maltreatment the child experienced during the incident. (For homicides, include forms that caused fatal injuries.)

Physical abuse:

YES NO

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | a. Slapped, pushed, kicked                    |
| 1 | 2 | b. Tied, bound, gagged, locked in small space |
| 1 | 2 | c. Beaten/shot/knifed                         |
| 1 | 2 | d. Carried/dragged                            |
| 1 | 2 | e. Other physical abuse (SPECIFY): _____      |

Physical neglect:

YES NO

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | f. Abandoned (left in woods or on street/road)   |
| 1 | 2 | g. Medical neglect of obvious or known condition |
| 1 | 2 | h. Food/water withheld                           |
| 1 | 2 | i. Other physical neglect (SPECIFY): _____       |

Sexual assault/exploitation:

YES NO

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | j. Penetration                                |
| 1 | 2 | k. Genital Molestation                        |
| 1 | 2 | l. Unspecified sexual maltreatment            |
| 1 | 2 | m. Photographed for pornography               |
| 1 | 2 | n. Other sexual maltreatment (SPECIFY): _____ |



Emotional abuse/threats:

YES NO

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | o. Verbally threatened harm to child                      |
| 1 | 2 | p. Displayed weapons to threaten harm to child            |
| 1 | 2 | q. Threatened to harm parents without child's cooperation |
| 1 | 2 | r. Direct threats to parents (letters, phone calls, etc.) |
| 1 | 2 | s. Other emotional abuse/threats (SPECIFY): _____         |

Other maltreatment:

YES NO

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | t. Physically forced to walk from one location to another |
| 1 | 2 | u. Moved more than once                                   |
| 1 | 2 | v. Other maltreatment not previously specified: _____     |

Other Crimes: Child was

YES NO

- |   |   |                                 |
|---|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | w. Drugged                      |
| 1 | 2 | x. Robbed                       |
| 1 | 2 | y. Other crime (SPECIFY): _____ |

Unknown

YES NO

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | z. Record does not specify form of maltreatment → GO TO BOX AFTER C-15 |
|---|---|--|

C-15. DESCRIBE THE FORMS OF MALTREATMENT CIRCLED ABOVE. (Also include (1) the number of times each form of maltreatment occurred and (2) who was involved or present each time.)

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IF CASE INCLUDES COMPLETED HOMICIDE, → GO TO BOX BEFORE C-19  
OTHERWISE → GO TO C-16



C-16. a. CHILD RECEIVED INJURIES AS RESULT OF INCIDENT/EPISODE

- 1 = Yes
- 2 = No → GO TO C-17
- 8 = Unknown to police → GO TO C-17
- 9 = Record does not specify → GO TO C-17

b. NATURE OF INJURIES (Describe nature of injuries as they are documented in the record.)

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C-17. CHILD WAS TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL, CLINIC, ETC., AS RESULT OF INCIDENT/EPISODE

- 1 = Yes
- 2 = No → GO TO BOX BEFORE C-19
- 8 = Unknown → GO TO BOX BEFORE C-19
- 9 = Record does not specify → GO TO BOX BEFORE C-19

C-18. RESULTS OF HOSPITAL, CLINIC, ETC. VISIT (Circle one.)

- 1 = Child was examined and released (received no treatment)
- 2 = Child received outpatient treatment only
- 3 = Child was admitted to hospital
- 4 = Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 = Unknown
- 9 = Record does not specify

CASE INVOLVED ABDUCTION/KIDNAPPING:

- 1 = Yes
- 2 = No → GO TO C-23



C-19. a. APPARENT PURPOSE OF ABDUCTION/KIDNAPPING WAS ASSAULTING CHILD (Circle the one that best describes whether the abductor apparently intended to assault the child, physically or sexually, whether or not the assault was successful.)

- 1 = Definitely, intended to assault the child
- 2 = Possibly, intended to assault the child
- 3 = Definitely, did not intend to assault the child → GO TO BOX BEFORE C-20
- 9 = The record does not provide sufficient evidence to select one of the above → GO TO BOX BEFORE C-20

b. EVIDENCE FROM THE RECORD USED TO ANSWER C-19 a. (Describe what the abductor said or did during the incident which suggests that she/he apparently intended to assault the child.)

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THE ABDUCTION/KIDNAPPING WAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

- 1 = Yes
- 2 = No, abduction was only an attempt → GO TO C-21

C-20. a. INTENT TO KEEP THE CHILD (Circle the one that best describes whether the abductor expressed some intention to keep the child)

- 1 = Definitely, intended to keep the child
- 2 = Possibly, intended to keep the child
- 3 = Definitely, did not intend to keep the child → GO TO C-22
- 9 = The record does not provide sufficient evidence to select one of the above → GO TO C-22



- b. EVIDENCE FROM THE RECORD USED TO ANSWER C-20. a. (Include (1) what perpetrator said and/or did that indicated she/he intended to keep the child, (2) when these statements/behaviors occurred (before, during, and/or after the incident), and (3) who else was involved (person(s) to whom statements were made, witnesses, etc.)

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GO TO C-22

- C-21. a. (Attempts only) DIFFICULT RECOVERY IF ATTEMPT HAD SUCCEEDED (Circle the one that best describes whether it would have been difficult to recover the child had the attempt succeeded.)
- 1 = Definitely, recovering child would have been difficult
  - 2 = Possibly, recovering child would have been difficult
  - 3 = Definitely, recovering child would not have been difficult → GO TO C-22
  - 9 = The record does not provide sufficient evidence to select one of the above → GO TO C-22
- b. EVIDENCE FROM THE RECORD USED TO ANSWER C-21.A. (Include (1) statement(s) by the perpetrator regarding plans if the attempt had succeeded, (2) other evidence potential difficulty locating/recovering child had the attempt succeeded.)

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- C-22. a. INTENT WAS SHOWN TO RANSOM CHILD FOR MONEY, SERVICES, OR GOODS
- 1 = Yes
  - 2 = No → GO TO C-23
  - 8 = Unknown to police if ransom demanded → GO TO C-23
  - 9 = Not specified in record → GO TO C-23



b. RANSOM DEMANDS (Describe demands as they appear verbatim in record.)

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C-23. CHILD IS STILL MISSING

- 1 = Yes → GO TO C-27
- 2 = No
- 8 = Unknown to police → GO TO C-27
- 9 = Record does not specify → GO TO C-27

C-24. AMOUNT OF TIME ELAPSED. (Record evidence to describe the amount of time from when the incident began until the time of the victim's release/abandonment by the perpetrator. Indicate (1) what you consider to be the start of the incident and the event you consider to be the end of the incident. Provide (2) description of sequence of events that can be used to approximate time. If the record provides total elapsed time in minutes or hours or days, (3) enter that below.

--	--	--

or

--	--	--

or

--	--	--

MIN

HR

DAYS

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C-25. INCIDENT/EPISODE TERMINATED WHEN (Circle one.)

- 1 = Child escaped from perpetrator
- 2 = Perpetrator released child into the custody of authority/guardian
- 3 = Perpetrator left location where child was (includes flee scene)
- 4 = Child died while in perpetrator's custody (murdered or died as a result of neglect or injuries)
- 5 = Other (SPECIFY): \_\_\_\_\_

- 8 = Unknown how incident ended
- 9 = Record does not specify



IF CASE INCLUDES ABDUCTION/KIDNAPPING → GO TO C-26  
OTHERWISE → GO TO D-1.

C-26. DATE OF CHILD'S RELEASE

		-			-		
--	--	---	--	--	---	--	--

MM

DD

YY

→ GO TO D-1

98 = Unknown to police → GO TO D-1

99 = Record does not specify → GO TO D-1

C-27. POLICE SUSPECT THAT (Circle one.)

1 = Child still being held by abductor

2 = Child has been killed

3 = Child was released and has chosen not to return home

4 = Child has returned to parents/caretaker and no one has reported child found

5 = Other (SPECIFY): \_\_\_\_\_

9 = Record does not specify what police suspect



## PART D. DEMOGRAPHICS FOR PERPETRATOR

Do police have any suspects?

- 1 = Yes  
2 = No → GO TO END

ANSWER QUESTIONS FOR EACH PERPETRATOR RECORDED IN A-4.	Perpetrator 1	Perpetrator 2	Perpetrator 3
D-1. DATE OF BIRTH	<div> <div>MM</div> <div>DD</div> <div>YY</div> </div> <div>→ GO TO D-3</div> 98 = Year Unknown → GO TO D-2 99 = Year not specified → GO TO D-2	<div> <div>MM</div> <div>DD</div> <div>YY</div> </div> <div>→ GO TO D-3</div> 96 = No 2nd perpetrator→GO TO E-1 98 = Year Unknown → GO TO D-2 99 = Year not specified → GO TO D-2	<div> <div>MM</div> <div>DD</div> <div>YY</div> </div> <div>→GO TO D-3</div> 96 = No 3rd Perpetrator→GO TO E-1 98 = Year Unknown → GO TO D-2 99 = Year not specified → GO TO D-2
D-2. AGE	<div> <div> <div>88</div> <div>88</div> </div> </div> 98 = Unknown 99 = Not specified	<div> <div> <div>88</div> <div>88</div> </div> </div> 98 = Unknown 99 = Not specified	<div> <div> <div>88</div> <div>88</div> </div> </div> 98 = Unknown 99 = Not specified
D-3. RACE	1 = White, Not Hispanic 2 = Amer. Indian/Alaskan Nat. 3 = Asian/Pacific Islander 4 = Black, Not Hispanic 5 = Hispanic 6 = Other (SPECIFY): _____ 8 = Unknown 9 = Not specified	1 = White, Not Hispanic 2 = Amer. Indian/Alaskan Nat. 3 = Asian/Pacific Islander 4 = Black, Not Hispanic 5 = Hispanic 6 = Other (SPECIFY): _____ 8 = Unknown 9 = Not specified	1 = White, Not Hispanic 2 = Amer. Indian/Alaskan Nat. 3 = Asian/Pacific Islander 4 = Black, Not Hispanic 5 = Hispanic 6 = Other (SPECIFY): _____ 8 = Unknown 9 = Not specified
D-4. SEX	1 = Male 2 = Female 8 = Unknown 9 = Not specified	1 = Male 2 = Female 8 = Unknown 9 = Not specified	1 = Male 2 = Female 8 = Unknown 9 = Not specified
D-5. RESIDENT IN VICTIM'S HOUSEHLD	1 = Yes 2 = No 8 = Unknown 9 = Not specified	1 = Yes 2 = No 8 = Unknown 9 = Not specified	1 = Yes 2 = No 8 = Unknown 9 = Not specified
D-6. NON RELATIVE ACTED ON BEHALF OF VICTIM'S RELATIVE	1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Perp. 1 is relative 8 = Unknown 9 = Not specified GO TO D-1 FOR PERPETRATOR 2 IF NO PERPETRATOR 2, GO TO E1	1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Perp. 2 is relative 8 = Unknown 9 = Not specified GO TO D-1 FOR PERPETRATOR 3 IF NO PERPETRATOR 3, GO TO E1	1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Perp. 3 is relative 8 = Unknown 9 = Not specified GO TO E-1



**PART E. OUTCOMES FOR PERPETRATOR**

**E-1. PERPETRATOR 1 WAS ARRESTED/APPREHENDED**

- 1 = Yes
- 2 = No
- 9 = Not specified in record

**E-2. PERPETRATOR 2 WAS ARRESTED/APPREHENDED**

- 1 = Yes
- 2 = No
- 3 = No second perpetrator involved → GO TO END
- 9 = Not specified in record

**E-3. PERPETRATOR 3 WAS ARRESTED/APPREHENDED**

- 1 = Yes
- 2 = No
- 3 = No third perpetrator involved
- 9 = Not specified in record

END

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



TESTING INCIDENT - BASED REPORTING SYSTEMS  
FOR  
STUDYING CHILD ABDUCTIONS

ABSTRACTORS MANUAL

*June 1993*



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Research supported by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) since 1984 has documented the varied nature of the missing child problem. This work produced findings on the numbers and characteristics of the various types of missing child cases, including risks to the children involved. One of these studies, the first National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMA<sup>RT</sup>), found that while abductions of children by non-relatives were relatively rare, the youngsters involved were at high risk of being sexually abused or otherwise physically harmed during the incident.

As it was when NISMA<sup>RT</sup> began in late 1987, no national data exist that can be used to study non-family child abductions, broadly defined. NISMA<sup>RT</sup> collected data on such abductions by several methods. The most productive and reliable was the Police Records Study, in which they extracted data from paper records in a national sample of county and municipal law enforcement agencies. The FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), including the state and local incident-based systems sending data to NIBRS, appears to offer the possibility of using existing automated police record data to study child abductions and victimizations. Unlike the traditional UCR data, NIBRS defines kidnapping/abduction as a separate offense and specifies collection of data on multiple offenses within an incident as well as detailed data on offense characteristics, victims, and offenders.

The current study will examine the feasibility of using NIBRS, and/or state and local incident-based data, to study attempted and completed non-family child abductions and related child victimizations in the second NISMA<sup>RT</sup> effort. More specifically, this study will try to:

- determine the feasibility of using NIBRS given the specifications and procedures for data collection and automation implemented, and
- determine the accuracy and comparability of non-family child abduction estimates based on NIBRS to those based on NISMA<sup>RT</sup> definitions.

If the potential of NIBRS is established, we will develop a plan for using it to study non-family child abductions as part of NISMA<sup>RT</sup> II and more generally. If such use is currently not feasible, we will develop alternative approaches.

### 1.2 Study Design

The Research Triangle Institute (RTI) and the National Center for Juvenile Justice will conduct this study jointly. It will proceed in three phases over a period of 18 months.



## Phase 1: Developmental Work

The two main tasks in the first study phase are:

- a telephone survey of the 20 state UCR programs currently submitting test or production NIBRS data to the FBI, and selected local sites. In the telephone survey the study team will ask for some basic information about program status and operations. We will request the state/local specifications for data collection and file preparation and ask about the site's willingness to participate in subsequent study activities.
- a definitional study--i.e., a detailed comparison of NIBRS data collection specifications (federal, state, and local) with NISMART child abduction definitional elements.

## Phase 2: Case Studies

The two main tasks in Phase 2 will be:

- site visits to state and local jurisdictions with NIBRS/IBR systems to collect more in-depth information about state and local IBR programs and data through discussion with program staff. Some site selection criteria will include availability and accuracy of the site's IBR data, the site's caseload size for relevant offense types, and the site's ability and willingness to participate in the project's case study activities.
- replication of the NISMART Police Records Study in the local jurisdictions participating in site visits. This will produce a data set like the one NISMART used to identify and estimate of non-family abductions. We can then compare cases from this data set to the same cases on NIBRS national, state, and local files.

## Phase 3: Data Analysis and Reporting

In Phase 3, we will create and analyze data files from the Police Records Study replication and from the IBR data files created at the local, state, and federal levels. The analysis will be in two forms:

- We will analyze the feasibility of using NIBRS/IBR data to study non-family abductions. We will examine the law enforcement recordkeeping practices (e.g. do the paper files contain enough detail about an incident to classify it as a non-family abduction?) and the process of automating this information (e.g. how well do the local automated records reflect the detail found in the paper files? What information is lost moving from the local to state and from the state to federal IBR systems?). These questions will help us determine how



well NIBRS data can support national estimates of non-family abductions comparable to NISMART estimates.

- We will analyze the features of non-family abductions. We will describe the abduction incidents (location, other offenses, etc.), its participants (victim, offender), and its outcomes (injury, cleared, etc.).

### 1.3 Sponsor

The study is being sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). OJJDP is a division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

### 1.4 Research Triangle Institute

Research Triangle Institute (RTI) is a separately operated, not-for-profit scientific research organization established in 1958 by joint action of the three major universities of North Carolina's Research Triangle area -- Duke University in Durham, The University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, and North Carolina State University in Raleigh. Research operations began in 1959. The Institute is a self-supporting corporate entity under a Board of Governors that includes academic officials, university scientists, industrial research executives, and businessmen.

Research Triangle Institute occupies 17 laboratory and office buildings on a central campus of 180 acres in the Research Triangle Park. A 5,200-acre near the center of a compact geographic triangle formed by the three universities and the cities of Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill, the Park has been developed by the Research Triangle Foundation of North Carolina. Buildings on the RTI campus contain an excellent complement of laboratory equipment, and many special-purpose items, including a research computer.

RTI also maintains research offices in Washington, D. C.; Newport News, VA.; Cocoa Beach, FL; and at various project locations in the U. S. and abroad.

The Institute employs a permanent, full-time staff that has grown to approximately 1,500. Approximately 60 percent of the staff is professionally trained, with two-thirds holding advanced degrees. More than 115 different degree fields are represented. Most professional staff members have experience in industrial or government organizations, or in university research and teaching. RTI's broad professional capabilities span the natural, physical, social, engineering, mathematical, and statistical sciences.

### 1.5 National Center for Juvenile Justice

The National Center for Juvenile Justice, a private non-profit research organization, is the research division of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. NCJJ is staffed by professionals with a combined total of more than 100 years of experience in the field of juvenile justice. Since opening in 1973, NCJJ has received the majority of its



funding from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. These projects have resulted in a better informed juvenile justice community.

### 1.6 Your Assignment

You will be working on Phase 2 as described in Section 1.2. You will abstract police records so that we can compare this information with the information contained in NIBRS for that police department.

### 1.7 List of Materials

You will be provided with the following materials:

- Abstract Forms
- ID labels
- Tyvek envelopes for returning forms
- Production, Time & Expense (PT & E) forms
- Envelopes for returning PT & E forms

### 1.8 Use of This Manual

This manual has been prepared as a source of general information you will need to carry out your assignment. It should be carefully studied when you prepare for fieldwork.

You may, however, have questions or encounter field situations for which you do not find any answer in this manual or the site-specific information. When in doubt about any field situation, you may call Ellen Stutts at RTI, toll-free, 1-800-334-8571. Calls to RTI may be made Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 pm. (EST)



## 2. CASE INFORMATION

### 2.1 Advance Activities

Project staff have been working to gather as much information from the agencies as possible before data collection begins. After receiving contact names from the FBI, staff from RTI and NCJJ conducted telephone interviews with personnel in state UCR offices. In these telephone interviews, we gathered information about the status and operations of the incident-based reporting (IBR) systems, such as length of time in operation, status of local agency participation, and problems encountered in implementation of the system. After reviewing the results of the telephone interviews, a few states were selected for further study based on their stage in the program and their willingness to participate. State UCR personnel in these states were re-contacted and recruited for a site visit. At that time, we also received contact names for local agencies participating in the IBR programs. We selected local agencies for recruitment into the study based on their approximate caseload of relevant offenses for this study.

The chief or sheriff for the selected local agencies received a recruitment letter ( See Figure 2.1) which was accompanied by a short project description and information about RTI. The letter gave an overview of the study and described the purpose of the site visit and the record extraction process. The recruitment letter was followed up with a phone call to the chief, sheriff or an appointed contact person. In this phone call, project staff answered questions and gained approval for project activities in the agency. Final arrangements for these activities were usually worked out with an appointed contact person.

In the site visits, we met with administrative, records, and programming staff familiar with the IBR system. At that time, project staff also collected information about each agency's organizational structure, procedures, regulations, and policies. Detailed information about the records system, including coding, data entry, and computer programming, was also gathering during the site visits. We also discussed the record extraction process and recruited personnel (usually records department personnel) for the project. These extractors were contacted later by RTI's data collection manager.

### 2.2 Local Contacts

The following people were contacted by RTI to give permission to conduct the study in their department:

SECTION LEFT BLANK ON PURPOSE

### 2.3 Eligibility Criteria

The records you will be abstracting will involve homicides, sexual offenses, and abductions. Not all cases which are assigned to you will be eligible for abstraction. For each record, you will begin abstracting data on to the abstraction form. However, if you see



the instruction: "STOP-CASE IS NOT ELIGIBLE", you will know that the case does not meet our eligibility criteria. At this point, you would not need to fill out any more of the form. You would simply return it to RTI.

In order for any case to be eligible, the incident must have taken place between January 1, 1991 and December 31, 1992. The victim must have been under the age of 18 at the time the incident occurred. In addition, at least one perpetrator must not have been related to the victim (as defined in question A-4). These are the only eligibility criteria in the case of a homicide.

For abductions, all of the above criteria must be met. In addition, at the time of the incident the victim must have resided in the county where the police/sheriff's department is located. Also, in order for the case to be eligible, the child cannot have been a runaway at the time of the incident.

For sexual offenses, all of the criteria which apply to homicide cases must be met. In addition, at the time of the incident, the victim must have resided in the county where the police/sheriff department is located. The case must have involved physical contact or attempted physical contact. In order to be eligible, the case cannot have taken place in the victim's home or private residence. Also the perpetrator had to do something to conceal the activity.

#### 2.4 Multiple Case Types

It is possible that a case can encompass more than 1 type. For example, for the purpose of this study, if a child was abducted and later killed, the case would be considered to be both an abduction and a homicide.

In incidents with multiple case types, answer all of the questions that apply to either kind of case. When following skip instructions, follow the path which would lead you to answer questions on each applicable case type.



### 3. COMPLETING THE ABSTRACTION FORM

#### 3.1 General Conventions

1. Please complete the abstracts in pencil
2. For precoded questions, circle the number, not the words, of the appropriate answer.
3. Some precoded questions contain an "Other (Specify)" answer choice. If the response can't be classified into one of the answer choices provided, circle the appropriate code for "Other" and write in the answer in the space provided.
4. When quoting directly from the record, use quotation marks (" ") to indicate that you are quoting from the record. If the record is too long to quote verbatim, use ellipses (...) to indicate omitted words.
5. If you make a mistake on the record, cross through the incorrect entry with a single line and write the correct entry next to it. Do not erase.
6. Please write legibly. If you use abbreviations, be sure to explain the abbreviation the first place it appears on the form.

#### 3.2 Difference between "Unknown to Police" and "Not Specified in Record".

You will notice for some questions that we have included two categories for you to answer if the information asked in a question is not available: unknown to police and not specified in record.

The category "Unknown to police" should be used when there is a statement in the record which indicates that the police do not know the information. (e.g. in A-3, if the record states that the police do not know how many perpetrators there were). The category "Not specified in record" should be used when there is no mention at all in the record (e.g. for A-3, if the record does not indicate how many perpetrators there were -- the police may know how many perpetrators there were but it is not in the record).

#### 3.3 Q x Q Specifications

**Form ID** The rectangle at the top of the page is provided for the preprinted ID label. Please affix label within the rectangle.

Each preprinted label has a 5 digit record ID number. The number is composed of the police/sheriff department ID (first digit), a sequential record number (next 3 digits) and a check digit.



Check to be sure that the label has the correct agency number on it. Compare the agency number on the label against the agency number on the listing of agencies below:

<u>First Digit</u>	<u>Department</u>
1	State B Agency
2	State B Agency
3	State B Agency
4	State A Agency
5	State A Agency
6	State C Agency

If your label does not have the correct agency number on it, contact the field supervisor immediately.

**Victim Number** For the most part, cases are based on incidents rather than victims. In some cases there may be more than one victim. Every victim associated with a case should have a separate abstract form completed. For cases with more than one victim, use the same ID on the label. For the first victim in the case, affix the label in the box and write in 1 for victim number. For each subsequent victim, write in the box the same number that was on the label but use the next victim number. For example, for case 10013 which has 3 victims, for the first victim, affix the label and write 1 in victim number. For the second victim, fill out a new abstract form writing in 10013 in the box and writing 2 for victim number. For the third victim, fill out a new abstract form writing in 10013 in the box and writing 3 for the victim number.

**Abstractor ID** Enter your Powerforce ID which will be assigned to you at training.

**Police Record ID/  
Case Number** This is the number that the police agency uses to identify and locate this record in its own recordkeeping system. This number should match the case number on your label. Start at the left-most box and enter the ID number from the police record. Do not zero fill; leave blank any unneeded spaces. This number will be the only identification taken from the records. It is crucial that you record this number accurately since it will be our only link to the NIBRS record.

**Type of Case** Circle the number indicating the classification of the case.

If the case is classified as more than one of these offenses (e.g., abduction and homicide), circle all that apply. Then answer all questions that apply to either type of case.



## PART A. SCREENING INFORMATION

A-1 This question will not be coded for homicides unless the case is also an abduction or sexual offense.

Circle the number of the response that applies to the victim's residence. If the response is "yes", circle 1 and skip to A-3. If the response is "no", circle 2 and go to A-2.

A-2 For abductions and sexual offenses, complete A-2 only if the response to A-1 was "no".

Write the name of the county and state in which the victim lived. If county is not available, write the city and state of residence. Enter this in the space provided.

When residence information is not available, circle the number that best describes the situation. If the victim was not identified by the police (for a homicide) or if the record states that the victim's residence was unknown, circle 8. If no mention is made of the victim's place of residence or the information is missing, circle 9.



A-3

Use the most recent evidence in the record to determine who the police thought was/were the perpetrator(s). This could be anyone they thought was involved but not necessarily everyone they interviewed or questioned. If an arrest was not made, use the most recent reports to determine the latest information available from investigations. If the record repeatedly indicates "1 perpetrator" left the scene, you may deduce that only one person was suspected and enter "01". Enter the number in the boxes. Always enter a "0" in front of the numbers 1 - 9.

Circle 98 if the record states that the police did not know how many perpetrators were involved. If "perpetrators" are discussed in the record, but no number was specified and no specific statement is made that the number is unknown to the police, circle 99. Do not attempt to guess.

A-4

The relationship between victim and perpetrator, and whether or not there were family ties, is among the most critical definitional criteria for this study. Review the record carefully to select the appropriate code for each perpetrator. Enter the appropriate codes in the boxes provided. Unlike other questions, do NOT circle the codes. (The response codes are set off in their own box to remind you not to circle these codes.)

It is important for you to keep track of who you list as perpetrator 1, 2, and 3, here in A-4. If there is more than one perpetrator you will need to list them in the SAME ORDER later on. It does not matter who is listed first as long as you are consistent. Make a note for yourself if necessary.

You must complete the codes for A-4 a, b, and c, for every record. If there was only one perpetrator use code 20 (no second or third perpetrator) for A-4 b and c. Use code 98 if the record states that the perpetrators were unknown to the police. Even if the number of perpetrators was unknown or the record does not state the number of perpetrators (see A-3a), A-4 a, b, and c MUST be completed. For example, it is possible that the police identified one perpetrator and thought others were involved without knowing how many or who they were.

Relationships in the left hand column of the response category box (codes 01 through 05) are "family relationships" for the purposes of this study. For purposes of this study anything given a code from the right hand column is considered nonfamily. Note that "Other" is to be treated as nonfamily regardless of whether or not you think there may be a relationship.

Select "Other (Specify)" if you are unsure of which code best describes the victim/perpetrator relationship. Write the other (Specify) to the right of the box which applies.



If more than three perpetrators were known, alleged or suspected continue to list and code them to the right of A-4 a, b, and c. Assign each additional perpetrator a sequential number (i.e., perpetrator 4, perpetrator 5, etc.) and write the appropriate relationship code beside each one.

The skip instructions (e.g., GO TO A-4.b) are a reminder to continue to the next line and not to leave any boxes blank.

A-4

#### Codes

- Family 01 = Parent: A biological or adoptive parent (does not include step or foster parents). Code a child's legal guardian as his/her parent (foster parents use code 19).
- 02 = Stepparent: A legal relationship by marriage of one biological or adoptive parent. This does NOT include live-in boy/girl friends, even if the relationship is long term. Read the record carefully to ensure you select the correct code.
- 03 = Sibling: Biological and adoptive brothers and sisters. Does not include step- or half- brother/sister (use code 11).
- 04 = Aunt/Uncle: A legal (by marriage) or biological aunt or uncle; not a family friend (use code 13) or steprelative (use code 11).
- 05 = Grandparent: A legal or blood relationship.

#### Non-Family

- 11 = Other "step" relative: Include step-brother or step-sister; include a brother or sister of the child's step-parent (i.e., "step-aunt" or "step-uncle"). Also include "half-relatives" (e.g., half-brother). Use the "other" code for all other relatives, including former relatives.
- 12 = Parent's boyfriend/girlfriend: Include mother's or father's boyfriend or girlfriend, regardless of whether or not the boyfriend/girlfriend resides with the parent.
- 13 = Family friend: Should only be used if the perpetrator is specifically described as a "friend" in the police record. Refers to immediate friends of parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles.
- 14 = Victim's babysitter: A person who was entrusted with the care of the child in the absence of the parent or guardian.



Does not include school or day care center personnel (use code 19).

- 15 = Victim's acquaintance/friend: Anyone that it seems the child considered as his or her friend or who was an acquaintance of the child (e.g., from school, part-time job, or church). (compare with code 17).
- 16 = Victim's employer: Include victim's work supervisor. Do not use this category for a co-worker (use code 15).
- 17 = Stranger - known by sight to victim: Include perpetrators such as school janitor, bus driver, mail carrier, and bag boy at the grocery store. Include here perpetrators the victim may see regularly, but to whom the victim probably doesn't speak or whose name the victim wouldn't know.
- 18 = Stranger: Include perpetrators who were complete strangers to the victim.
- 19 = Other: If you cannot definitely determine the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim, but have made a deduction as to the relationship, based on something in the record, write in your deduction next to one perpetrator box and state your reasons for the deduction. If there is any reference to what may be a blood or legal relationship, be sure to record exactly what is recorded.
- 20 = No second or third perpetrator: If there was only one perpetrator, enter 20 for A-4.b and c. If there were only two perpetrators, enter 20 for A-4.c.
- 98 = Perpetrator unknown to police: Fill in this code when record states that the perpetrator was not identified.
- 99 = Record does not specify relationship: Use only if there are indications in the record that the police knew or suspected who the perpetrator was, but the relationship to the victim is not stated.

If more than one relationship is described between the victim and a single perpetrator, and one of these descriptions is familial, use the code for the familial relationship. Otherwise, use "Other" and specify both relationships.



If you need to use "Other (specify)" for more than one perpetrator, clearly indicate which relationship describes which perpetrator. Use the margin space at the bottom of the page, if necessary.

A-5a This is a very important date. We are interested in when the report was first made, NOT when the incident occurred. If more than one report was made (e.g., more than one person called the police about the problem), write in the date of the first report.

If the police agency has different types of "reports," we are interested in the report filed by a complainant (vs. the date the complaint was investigated or the date the detectives filled out a reporting form). In the case of an "unknown homicide" write the date the child's body was found.

Some children may have been involved in more than one incidence or more than one type of incident. For example, a child who was beaten by a babysitter on more than one occasion or a child who was beaten and also sexually abused by a babysitter on more than one occasion. In the case of sexual offense, we want to know the date of the first report pertaining to the most recent incident involving this child. In the case of a homicide, we want to know the date of the first report pertaining to the incident that resulted in the child's death.



A-5b We want to know if the first report was made between, and including, January 1, 1991 and December 31, 1992. If the first report was made on or between those days, circle 1 and continue to A-6. If the first report was made before January 1, 1991 or after December 31, 1992, circle 2 and stop abstracting information from this record. It does not meet the study criteria based on the time period under study.

A-6a The victim's date of birth will be used to determine exact age at the time of the incident. While we would like month, day, and year, the most important part of the date of birth is the year of birth. If only part of the birthdate is available, write what is given and leave the rest blank. Do not guess or subtract to determine year of birth.

Circle 98 if the police state in the record that the year of birth is unknown.  
Circle 99 if the year is not given in the record, but no specific statement is made that it is unknown.

A-6b Write the age listed in the record (right justify the numbers). If only a range of ages (e.g., 12-15 years old) is available, write the range in the space to the right of the boxes and instructions. Next, circle one number to describe the age entered in the boxes (or in the margin). For homicides, "At time of incident" refers to how old the child was when the event leading to death actually occurred. If no age is indicated in the record, leave the box blank and record "N/A" for not available, at "Other (specify)".

A-6c Refer to A-6a in order to answer this question. If the answer to A-6c is "yes", circle 1 and skip to A-7.

If year of birth is 1973 and year of report is 1991 AND month of report is earlier than month of birth, then the answer is "yes".

If year of birth is 1974 and year of report is 1992 AND month of report is earlier than month of birth, then the answer is "yes".

If the response to A-6c is "no," circle 2 and stop abstracting from this record. It does not meet our study criteria based on age of victim. If the answer to A-6c is "Year of birth not entered in A-6a," circle 3 and continue on to A-6d.

A-6d Refer to A-6b to answer the question regarding the child's age. If the response to this is "yes," circle 1 and skip to A-7. If the response is "no," circle 2, indicating the record does not meet the study criteria based on age of victim, and stop abstracting from this record. If the response is "age not entered in record," circle 3 and continue to A-6e.



A-6e You will answer this question if there is no specific information in the record to determine whether or not the child was under 18. You will need to read the record carefully to help find clues as to the victim's age. Look for grade in school, school attended, and any other of the victim's activities that may help you determine an appropriate age. Witness reports may be useful to help answer this question. If the response is "yes," circle 1 and go to A-6f. If the response is "no," circle 2, record the evidence at A-6f, and stop abstracting from this record.



A-6f Carefully record the evidence in the record that lead you to answer A-6 e the way that you did. (e.g., victim is referred to as a young child or as of school age). Record information verbatim as much as possible.

A-7 This question should only be answered for cases that only involved forcible sexual offenses with contact.

The purpose of this question is to identify cases of sexual offense that, by definition, could not involve an abduction. You should not have to review the entire police record to answer this question. Use classification information contained in the standardized section of the report.

A-8 By institution we mean an orphanage, boarding school, hospital, prison or group home. A group care (or institutional) setting would involve paid staff working shifts, rather than care by a family in a private residence (e.g., foster care). This question asks if the incident took place in the child's place of residence - if that residence was not an institution. Circle the number of the most accurate response. If you are certain that answer is "yes," circle 1 and stop abstracting information from this record as this case does not meet study criteria pertaining to sexual offense cases.

A-9 Circle the number for the appropriate response. Do not spent a lot of time here trying to decide if the perpetrator tried to hide the activity. This question is intended to eliminate cases where the perpetrator obviously did not try to conceal the sexual offense. These cases do not meet study criteria.



## PART B: DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR VICTIM

- B-1 Circle only one number. Be as precise as possible when using 6 (other) and use this code whenever you are unsure about how to code the race data in the record. Circle 8 if record states that race is unknown. Circle 9 if information on race is not stated in the record.
- B-2 Use clues in the record to determine sex if it is not clearly stated. References to the victim as her or him are acceptable if the usage is consistent. Do not make an assumption based only on victim's name.
- B-3a Check the box if no handicap or other indication of a disability is referred to in the record, then skip down to B-4.

If a handicap or disability is referred to, circle 1 for "yes" or 2 for "no" for each item listed to indicate whether or not that type of disability is specifically mentioned. Circle 1 for (g) if the record refers to a disabling condition but states that the type of condition is unknown to the police. Circle 1 for (h) if a handicap or disability is referred to in the record but it is not described or identified.

Do not make assumptions about the disability, in order to code B-3a. If the terms listed in (a) through (e) are not in the record, code 1 for (f) and briefly describe the disability in the space provided. Then record the full evidence of disabling condition in B-3b.

- B-3b Record specific, if possible verbatim, evidence of the victim's disabling condition as it appears in the record. Do not refer to the victim by name when quoting from the record. Refer only to the "child" or the "victim" or use "V" as an abbreviation for the child/victim.
- B-4 If the police record clearly states that the child was a runaway at the time of the incident, you will answer 1 "yes." If there is any indication that the child was a runaway at the time of the incident, but the police were not certain or the record is not clear on that point, circle 3: "Record indicates child may have been a runaway." If there is no mention or suggestion that the child was a runaway, and it is clear to you the child was not, circle 2. Circle 9 if in doubt.



- B-5a The intent of this question is to obtain information about one type of risk factor that may be involved with children who are victims of different forms of abduction. If the response to the question is "yes," the child was involved in some form of criminal activity, circle 1 and go to B-5b. If the response is "no," circle 2 and skip to B-6. If an activity is described that you think may have been "criminal" but you are uncertain, circle 1 for "yes" and provide a full explanation at B-5b.
- B-5b Circle the number(s) that describe the type of criminal activity the child was involved in. If more than one type of activity was involved, circle all that apply. If an activity is described and you are uncertain as to whether or not it is "criminal" record the description of this activity in "Other (specify)."
- B-5c If the record does not state when the criminal activity took place, check the box provided and skip to B-6. If information is stated in the record about when the criminal activity took place, circle 1 for yes or 2 for no for each possibility given.
- B-6 A child who was institutionalized would have resided in an orphanage, boarding school, hospital, prison, or group home. A group home situation would involve paid staff working shifts. A child in foster care would not be considered as institutionalized, as the child would have been cared for by a family in a private residence.



## PART C: CRIME INFORMATION

- C-1 In most records the date of the incident will be self-evident and it is often the same as the date of the report.

A child who was kidnapped from a playground and several days later was found in the woods would be an example of a single extended episode. Enter the date of the abduction, not the date found.

A child who had been abused several different times by a babysitter and was eventually killed by the babysitter would be an example of multiple incidents over time. Enter the date of the incident resulting in the child's death.

Some victims will have been involved in more than one type of incident ("multiple incidents over time"). For example, a child who was abducted from a day care center may also have been previously sexually abused while at the day care center. Enter the date the child was abducted, if that is the most recent date.

- C-1a Ideally, we want the month, day, and year, but we will take partial information. If the whole date of the incident is stated, fill it in and go on to C-2. If month and year are stated enter them, leaving day blank and go on to C-2. If month and/or year are missing, circle 98 if they are unknown by the police or circle 99 if the information is missing from the record and then go to C-1b.

- C-1b You will answer C-1b if the month and year when an incident occurred are not available. The intent of this item is to provide the time frame in which the incident occurred if the actual date is not available.

Circle one number that best describes when the incident resulting in the child's death took place.

Winter = December, January, or February

Spring = March, April, or May

Summer = June, July, or August

Fall = September, October, or November

Look for clues in the record referring to weather, if necessary.

Circle 10 only if after careful reading of the record you can find no estimate of the date of the incident and you can make no deduction from evidence in the record.

- C-2a Enter the time in the boxes, using a 12 hour clock. Be sure to circle "am" or "pm." If time is given in the police record using a 24 hour clock (e.g., 15:30), convert it to



the 12 hour clock time (e.g., 3:30 pm) and enter it in the boxes. Also write the 24 hour clock time to the right of the boxes, then continue to C-3. If the time of the incident is stated as unknown, circle 98 and go to C-2b. If specific time is not mentioned in the record, or the time is stated as a time frame, circle 99 and go to C-2b.

C-2b Circle one number that best describes where the incident occurred. If necessary use clues in the record to make a deduction.

Morning = 6 am to noon

Afternoon = Noon to 6 PM

Evening = 6 PM to 12 midnight

Night = 12 midnight to 6 am



C-3 Police records generally document who reported an incident. If this information is missing, check the box if the record does not state who reported the incident and skip to C-4. Circle 1 (yes) or 2 (no) for each possibility listed. It is possible that a report was made by more than one person. We want to know about all the persons reporting, including those filing a report after the "first" report (question A-5a).



- C-4 This narrative is critical to the planned valiative coding of data. The narrative should be as complete and accurate as possible. Be certain to provide all the information requested in the instructions for this item. Quote verbatim from the record as much as possible, but only from police and other summary reports. Do not quote witnesses or relatives unless their reports are the only source of information. If official reports are lengthy, paraphrase them, but use their wording when possible. Use quotes (" ") to show verbatim information and ellipses (...) to show untranscribed information within quotes. Neat and clear writing is essential.



C-5 This refers only to movement planned for and desired by the perpetrator. Do NOT include movement of the child such as running away from the perpetrator or movement of the child by someone trying to assist the child.

C-5a You will need to consider the events described in order to determine how to answer C-5a. If response to C-5a is 1 or 2, circle the appropriate number and go to C-5b. If response is 3 or 9, go to C-6a. If there is some indication that the child's movement was due to the will or plan of the perpetrator, but the police are not certain, or the record is not clear or you are otherwise in doubt as to whether or not movement occurred, circle 2 (possibly there was movement of the child). Don't get caught up trying to decide whether or not movement took place as the result of the perpetrator's will or plan. Whenever you are in doubt, chose response 2.

C-5b Be as complete possible, quote verbatim from the record. If you are in doubt about whether movement took place due to the plan or will of the perpetrator, write in the information that appears in the record and circle 2 in C-5a. Quote the record or paraphrase using terms as close as possible to describe what happened.

Include as much of the information described in the instructions as appears in the record. If you believe you fully described movement under C-4, repeat the description at C-5b. Do not refer back to C-4.

C-5c Write the approximate or exact number of feet (FT) or yards (YDS) or miles that the child was moved by the perpetrator. If the distance the child was moved is not specified as a unit of measure in the record, circle 999.

C-6 Luring refers to leading or attempting to lead a person from his/her course, usually into harm or wrong, by exerting a strong attraction. Synonyms include entice, decoy, and tempt. For this study, we are interested in luring or enticement that took place for the purpose of imposing the perpetrator's will on the victim. Note that it also involves false pretenses.

C-6a Read the record very carefully to decide whether or not luring took place. If you are in doubt, circle 2 for possible luring and explain the situation and evidence of possible luring in the space provided in C-6b. If the response to C-6a is 1 or 2, circle the appropriate number and complete C-6b. If the response is 3 or 9, circle the appropriate number and skip to C-7a.



- C-6b Read the record carefully to ensure that you have considered all the evidence and have identified all the descriptions related to luring. Complete this section as accurately and precisely as possible. Quote verbatim from the records official reports. Once again, do not get too involved trying to decide whether or not luring took place. Write the information as it appears in the record and go on to C-6c.

Be certain to include all the information requested in the instruction. If you believe you described luring under C-4, repeat the description under C-6b. Do not refer back to C-4.

- C-6c Circle 1 (yes) or 2 (no) for **each** possibility listed. If you circle 1 (yes) at e or f, 2 (no) must be circled on all other lines.

- C-7 This refers back to C-5 and C-6, regarding movement or luring of the child due to the will and/or plan of the perpetrator. It refers to the original location of the child at the time the incident began.

If the response is "street," circle 1 and go to C-8. Circle 96 if the 3 or 9 was circled for C-5a and C-6a. If the response is 96 (victim was not moved or lured), skip to C-10. For all other responses, circle the appropriate number and go to C-9. Read all the possibilities and choose the one that is the most specific and provides the most detail (e.g., the child was at school, circle 07, not 05, even though a school is an institution). Use "Other (specify)" if the location is not clearly the same as one of the preprinted categories.

- C-8 You will answer this question regarding the child's activity on the street when the incident began if the response to C-7 was 01 (street). Select the one category that is specified in the record. Use "Other (specify)" if the match is not certain.



- C-9 Remember that this refers to a location the perpetrator wanted the child to move to, not to where the child ran or went on his/her own. Circle 98 only if the record states that the location the child was moved, lured or forced to was not known to the police. Circle 99 if the information about the location is not contained in the police record. This is the first location the child was moved to from the location recorded at C-7.
- C-10 Detainment is defined as the child being confined, kept in custody, or prevented from complete freedom of movement by the perpetrator. The perpetrator could do this by some very obvious means (e.g., tying the child to a chair) or by more subtle means (e.g., preventing the child from leaving or implying that s/he would stop the child from leaving if the child tried to do so). If the child was detained for any amount of time, it counts as detainment.
- C-10a If the response is 1 or 2, circle the appropriate number and complete C-10b. If the response to C-10a is 3 or 9, circle the appropriate number and proceed to C-11. If you are in doubt as to whether or not detainment took place, circle 2 in C-10a and complete C-10b with the information available in the record.
- C-10b Read the record carefully and quote evidence from the record verbatim when possible. When necessary, paraphrase official reports using the same terms as in the record.
- C-11 To conceal means to hide, keep secret or keep from observation, discovery or understanding. It implies a deliberate intent to keep from the sight or knowledge of others. Concealment in the context of this study refers to action on the part of the perpetrator for the purpose of preventing or delaying knowledge of the perpetrator's crime against the child.
- C-11a If concealment definitely did not occur or there is not way to determine whether or not it did, the response to C-11a is 3 or 9. Circle the appropriate number and skip to C-12. If there is any indication that concealment took place, the response is 1 or 2; circle the appropriate number and then complete C-11b. If you are in doubt about whether or not concealment was the purpose of the change in the child's location and/or the child's detainment, circle 2 in C-11a and complete C-11b to explain what happened.
- C-11b Read the record carefully for indications that concealment took place. Quote the evidence verbatim or paraphrase accurately. Include the information in the instructions.



C-12a Read the record carefully for official statements regarding force and threat. If you are in doubt about whether or not force or threat (as it is defined in the instruction) was used, circle 2 in C-12a and complete C-12b to describe the evidence in the record. If the response is 1 or 2, circle the appropriate number and continue to C-12b. If the response is 3 or 9, circle the appropriate number and skip to C-13.

C-12b Be as precise and accurate as possible. Read the record carefully for official statements regarding force and threat. If you are in doubt about whether or not force or threat was used, circle 2 in C-12a and complete C-12b to describe the evidence in the record. Quote record verbatim when possible. Include as much of the requested information as possible, based on what is available in the record.

If you believe you described the use of force or threat fully under C-4, repeat the description under C-12b. Do not refer the coder back to C-4.

C-12c Circle 1 for yes and 2 for no for each possibility listed. Use "other (specify)" for any response that does not clearly fit responses a-d.

C-13 This question is trying to determine whether or not the perpetrator had either the lawful authority or parental permission to move or detain the child. There may have been instances where the child is taken by or voluntarily goes away with the perpetrator, but the perpetrator had the right, either by law or by the permission of the parent, to take or go away with the child.

Examples of lawful authority include the Department of Social Services keeping the child (due to some act of negligence on the parent's part) or a residential care facility (e.g. drug treatment center) keeping the child in a court-ordered placement at the facility.

Parental permission is defined as having the explicit permission of the parent to watch or care for the child or to have the child go with the perpetrator (e.g., a parent asks a neighbor to meet the child at the bus stop and take the child home with him. Even though the neighbor sexually assaults the child, the parent entrusted the care of the child to the perpetrator [neighbor] so he, therefore, had parental permission to take the child home from the bus stop.)

If the perpetrator had the authority to do one but not the other (e.g., to take the child but not to detain or to detain but not take anywhere else) then code a "2".



C-14 Circle 1 for yes and 2 for no for each form of maltreatment. When specifying "other" (e.g., other physical abuse), quote verbatim from the record or paraphrase using the same terminology as in the official reports.



- C-15 Quote verbatim or paraphrase from official reports. Do not merely repeat the terms appearing in C-14 when describing maltreatment. Be as accurate and precise as possible. Remember to include the number of times each type of maltreatment took place and who was involved or present each time, as well as describing the form(s) of maltreatment as stated in the record.



- C-16 Review the record carefully to determine if the child received injuries. This includes injuries resulting from purposeful or negligent behavior by the perpetrator or action of the child while in the perpetrator's custody. If the answer is "yes," circle 1 and complete C-16b. Circle 8 if the record states that the police do not know if the child was injured. Circle 9 if no information is in the record about injuries to the child. If the response is 2, 8, or 9, circle the appropriate number and skip to C-17.
- C-17 This question refers to a doctor's office, emergency room or center, or any other type of setting where professional medical attention is provided, as well as a hospital or clinic. If the response is "yes," circle 1 and continue to C-18. If 2, 8, or 9 is the correct response, circle the appropriate number and skip to C-19. "Unknown" means a statement in the record that says it was unknown to the police whether or not the child received medical attention. If no mention is made, one way or the other, of medical attention, use code 9 "Record does not specify".
- C-18 This question asks about what happened to the child taken to a medical service provider at the conclusion or following the incident as indicated by a "yes" response to C-17. If the child was seen by a medical professional and was examined, questioned, x-rayed or whatever, but did not receive treatment, circle 1. If the child was seen by a medical professional and did receive treatment (e.g., medication, bandages, cast, stitches, etc.) but was sent home immediately after the treatment, circle 2. If the child was admitted to the hospital for treatment, surgery, observation, or other care, circle 3. If the record states that the police do not know the results of the visit to the doctor, hospital, clinic, etc., circle 8. If there are no indications on the record as to the results of the medical attention that the child received, circle 9. Look for clues in the record regarding a stay in the hospital, for example a reference to the child being interviewed in the hospital two days later.



C-19 This question asks whether or not the perpetrator apparently intended to assault the child when s/he went away with the child or tried to do so. Note that the response to this question does not depend on whether or not the physical or sexual assault was successful. Guidelines for determining that the perpetrator "had the apparent purpose of assaulting the child" include:

- the assault or attempted assault occurred within a short time after the perpetrator took/went away with the child;
- the perpetrator took the child directly to the location where the assault or attempted assault occurred;
- the perpetrator made a statement indicating that s/he intended to assault the child at the time they went away together; and
- for attempted abductions and attempted assaults: the perpetrator made some gesture (e.g., tried to fondle the child or otherwise touch the child inappropriately, the perpetrator undressed him/herself, the perpetrator made suggestive statements to the child) that indicated that s/he had the intention of assaulting the child at the time of the attempted abduction.

C-20 For successful abductions, the question is seeking to determine whether or not the perpetrator expressed some intention to keep the child. (For example, a husband and wife steal a baby and then represent the child as their own telling neighbors and friends "the adoption agency finally came through").



- C-21 For attempted abductions, the question is seeking to determine whether or not, given all the circumstances presented in the record, it seemed likely that recovery of the child would have been difficult had the attempt to get the child succeeded. (for example, police find the childless perpetrator had airline reservations for one adult and one child to Brazil, leaving the day the perpetrator took the child).
- C-22 Ransom implies a demand made in offer of exchange for the child. If the response is yes, circle 1 and record the ransom demands documented in the police record at C-22b. If the response is 2, 8, or 9, circle the appropriate number and skip to C-23.



- C-22b Provide a description of any ransom demands, as stated in the record. Include any threats made if demands were not met.
- C-23 Circle the number of the correct response based on the information available in the record. If the answer is "yes," circle 1, and skip to C-27. If the record states that the police do not know if the child is still missing, circle 8 and skip to C-27. If there is nothing in the record that tells you whether or not the child is still missing, circle 9 and skip to C-27. If the answer is "no," circle 2 and continue to C-24.
- C-24 Write a sequential outline of the events that occurred. If the record includes clues as to how quickly or slowly things happened be sure to include that evidence. If the record states a specific elapsed time in minutes (MIN) or hours (HRS) or days, enter the numbers in the appropriate boxes provided. Do NOT include detailed descriptive information that was included in the narration for C-4. Do NOT include events that occurred after the victim was out of the custody of the perpetrator.
- C-25 The intent of this question is to document how the child gained release from the abductor. Note that the death of the child while in custody is a response option for this item. Circle the one number that best indicates how the incident ended. If the precoded choices do not accurately reflect what happened, select "Other" and describe how the child was released. Use "Other" in the case of homicides that involved no abduction.



- C-26 This question refers back to C-25, when the incident/episode terminated. Fill in as much of the date as is available and go to D-1. If the date of the child's release is stated as being unknown by the police, circle 98 and go to D-1. If the record does not give any indication as to when the child was released, circle 99 and go to D-1.
- C-27 Only answer this question if the response to C-23 was code 1, 8, or 9 and you have skipped questions C-24 through C-26. Circle the number of the response that is the most accurate based on the most current information in the police record.



## PART D: DEMOGRAPHICS FOR PERPETRATOR

If there was more than one perpetrator, it is very important that the perpetrators be listed in the same order as they were in A-4. Please refer back to A-4 or to your notes when you record information for each perpetrator.

If there was only one perpetrator, complete D-1 through D-6 for the first column, then circle 96 for Perpetrator 2 (in the top square of the second column) and skip to E-1. If there were two perpetrators, complete D-1 through D-6 for both. Answer all the questions for Perpetrator 1 and then go to the top and work down the second column for Perpetrator 2. Circle 96 for Perpetrator 3 in the top square of the third column and skip to E-1.

If there were three perpetrators, complete D-1 through D-6 for each perpetrator, work down the columns and answer all questions, for Perpetrator 1, then all questions for Perpetrator 2, and then all questions for Perpetrator 3.

In the unlikely event that there are more than three perpetrators, you will need to use a second abstract form. Copy the Form ID number from the preprinted label on the original abstract form onto a blank form. Write the number in the label box. Do NOT use another label. On the first abstract form write "part 1 of 2"; on the second form, write "part 2 of 2". Draw lines through the unused parts (A-C) of the second form. Assign the additional perpetrators the appropriate sequential numbers (i.e., 4, 5, 6), keeping them consistent with A-4. Complete Part D and Part E for each additional perpetrator.

- D-1 If the perpetrator's year of birth is given in the record, enter as much detail as is available in the boxes provided and skip to D-3. If year of birth is stated as being unknown to the police circle 98 and continue to D-2. If the record does not contain the year of birth, circle 99 and continue to D-2. If the second/third perpetrator was coded as relationship "20" at A-4, circle 96 for "No Perpetrator 2/3".
- D-2 Write the perpetrator's age (as it appears in the record) if year of birth was not known or is not specified in the record. If the age is stated as unknown to the police, circle 98. If the age is not mentioned in the report, circle 99. If an age range is given, write in the area to the right of the boxes.
- D-3 Circle one number that best describes the perpetrator's race.
- D-4 You may use clues in the record to determine the perpetrator's sex if it is not clearly stated. Be careful not to draw conclusions based solely on name or use of a pronoun if the perpetrator was not identified. "He" might be used to define an unknown perpetrator without knowledge of the perpetrator's actual gender. Look for indications that the police had reason to believe that the perpetrator was male/female. If the sex of the perpetrator(s) is clearly stated as unknown, circle 8. If the perpetrator's sex is



not mentioned, but the perpetrator has been identified and you cannot determine the gender, circle 9.

- D-5 Circle the number of the response that describes whether or not the perpetrator lived in the same household as the victim at the time of the incident. Base your answer on information in the police record. You may need to compare addresses to determine this, if the question is not directly answered in the record.
- D-6 Circle the number of the response that best fits the information stated in the record.

Remember to complete a column in the demographics chart for each perpetrator and to keep them in the same order as you listed them in A-4.



## PART E: OUTCOMES FOR PERPETRATOR

Be sure that Perpetrator 1 is the same as in A-4 and Part D. If there is a Perpetrator 2 and 3, also list them consistently with A-4 and Part D.

E-1, E-2  
and E-3  
E-2

Answer "yes" if the perpetrator was arrested or apprehended for this incident. If there was no second perpetrator involved, circle 3. You have completed the abstract. Otherwise, continue.

## COMMENTS SECTION

Use this section if you need more space for narrative answers to an item in the abstract form. Also use it to provide additional information that you feel is pertinent and that was not captured by the questionnaire. Only use this section for the later purpose when you think that there is information that needs to be added to help understand a certain case. Do not include personal opinions or guesses.



## 4. FIELD PROCEDURES

RTI is committed to providing the highest quality data possible. To attain this goal, a number of quality assurance and quality control procedures will be implemented. RTI has high standards for abstractor hiring. In the previous chapters we have reviewed proper procedures necessary to abstract information from police records for the survey. In order to complete this process, it is necessary for you to follow the quality control procedures described below.

### 4.1 Field Quality Control

In order to check the quality of the abstractions, we want to do a double coding of the first five cases that each abstractor completes. We will have two abstractors abstract 5 records independently of each other. The person who has the ID assigned to him/her will abstract on a white form. The other person will abstract on a blue form. After the two people have completed the abstractions, they will compare the answers, write-up any discrepancies and mail both forms to RTI. After the first 5 forms have been abstracted and have been resolved to our satisfaction, two people will independently code one case in every 10.

### 4.2 Abstractor Field Edit

You are required to do some editing before you turn your materials in to your supervisor. The field edit is a two-step process. First, before you return the police case file, scan the abstract form for omissions or incomplete items. If there are omissions or incomplete items on the form, go back to the police file and complete these items. Remember that it is usually easier to correct an error prior to returning the case file than it is to have to come back at a later time.

The second step of the editing process occurs away from the police station, preferably at your own home. Here you must check to be sure that all answers are legible, skip patterns have been followed correctly and any non-standard abbreviations have been written out. This should be done while the case is still fresh in your mind.

### 4.3 Field Supervisor Edit

Weekly telephone conferences will be scheduled with your supervisor. Before this conference, you will have submitted your completed work to your supervisor. You should not turn in materials from an abstraction until the entire form is completed. Your supervisor will edit 100% of your first 10 completed questionnaires and will provide prompt feedback to you on the quality of the work. If there are no problems with your work at that time, a 10% random sample quality control check will be performed on your remaining work. However, if problems are later identified, your work will again be reviewed at 100%.



Abstraction forms with problems that cannot be easily resolved will be returned to you for correction. This could involve re-checking the record to get additional information. Abstractors whose work is consistently below acceptable standard will be released from the study.

#### 4.4 In-House Editing

After reviewing your completed abstraction forms, the supervisor will submit the forms to the data edit staff. Here a team of in-house editors will review each form again. There are certain questions in the abstract form which must be answered on every form in order to pass the editing process. In addition, if too many questions are unanswered or have some sort of problem, the form will not pass the editing process. If certain questions are not answered you will be contacted to provide an answer for the question or a reason why the question was not answered. This may involve checking the record to provide the answer.



## 5. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

### 5.1 Length of Fieldwork Period

The length of the fieldwork period for this project is approximately four weeks. You will receive your assignment at the conclusion of your training session.

### 5.2 Field Reporting and Communications

At the weekly conferences, you will discuss production status, progress and any problems you may be having. This information serves as the database for summary reports by your supervisor to the project sponsor. Thus, your weekly report is the first link in a reporting chain that provides essential data to each management level on the progress of the fieldwork.

During your weekly conference, the supervisor will first ask you to provide an update for your assigned cases. When all work for a case is completed and you have told your supervisor, then you do not have to report on that case for all subsequent reporting weeks.

The supervisor will also want to review with you the status of each active case and advise you on any problems. The supervisor will also discuss with you your production during the previous week, your time and expense charges for the most recent pay period, your planned activities for the current week, performance indices compiled for you (efficiency rating, cost per case, and quality of completed work), any questions or concerns we may have about your Production, Time and Expense Report (discussed below), and any other topics relevant to your assignment. During the weekly conference, you should also be prepared to discuss any questions or problems that you may have.

Your supervisor will inform you at the training session of the scheduled time for your weekly conferences. Please be prepared for this contact -- be read to report on the status of each assigned case, have your Production, Time and Expense Report available when appropriate, and prepare a list of any questions or problems. Proper preparation on your part will avoid wasted time and allow more time for discussion of relevant topics.

### 5.3 Disposition of Completed Work

Throughout the study you will mail abstract forms to the Field Supervisor each week. Every Friday you must mail all abstracts that are completed. (This is so that the abstracts are not sitting in the agency unattended all weekend.) You should also mail abstracts when more than 40 that are completed have accumulated. Also, send all abstracts for a given agency at the time the abstracting work is completed in that agency. That is, do not carry forms from one agency to the next. When your work is completed in an agency, send the abstract forms and all unused labels, to the Field Supervisor as soon as you finish editing the forms. To summarize, you should mail abstracts:



- When you complete all work at an agency (include labels);
- When more than 40 abstracts are ready to transmit;
- Every Friday.

Abstracts will be sent to the home office in batches, along with a transmittal sheet for each batch. Abstracts for records that do not pass all of the eligibility questions are referred to as "Completed-Ineligible" and will be batched together (check Completed-Ineligible Cases box on the Transmittal Form). Not more than the first four pages of these screener abstract forms should be filled-in. Abstracts for records that are eligible and are abstracted are referred to as "Complete-Eligible" and will be batched together (check "Completed Eligible Cases box on Transmittal Form). The same transmittal form will be used for both screener and full abstracts.

**Completing the Transmittal.** Begin by writing the shipment number in which this batch will be mailed in the upper right-hand corner (e.g., your first mailing to the home office is shipment "1"). Next, complete the top part of the transmittal with the agency name, your name, and date. Check whether the abstracts batched with this transmittal form are ineligible or eligible abstracts.

Proceed to list the abstract ID for all forms batched with this transmittal. The transmittal provides room for 22 ID numbers. If you have more than 22 abstract forms to send, continue listing them on a second transmittal form (staple the white copies of the transmittals together). Complete the "page \_\_ of \_\_ section in the upper right-hand corner. Lastly, count the number of forms included in the batch. Count the actual forms (not the ID numbers you have transcribed), and put this number where indicated at the top of the form. Make sure this number corresponds with the number of IDs listed on the transmittal(s).

Rubber band the batches of screener and completed abstracts with the corresponding transmittal sheet(s) and send them to the home office.

You will be provided with postage-paid envelopes to return your materials. It is important that you do not retain completed materials for extended periods since, as mentioned earlier, weekly conferences will be scheduled between you and your supervisor to discuss your work and address any difficulties or concerns you are having. To prepare for these conferences, your supervisor needs to review your completed work.

#### 5.4 Employment

Record Abstractors (and other temporary field data collection personnel) who work with RTI on survey research projects will be employees of Powerforce Services, Inc. (PSI) of Chicago, Illinois, a subsidiary of IDC Services. PSI serves as a subcontractor on RTI projects requiring field data collection, providing payroll and related services. This subcontractor makes payroll and expense reimbursement payments to field personnel, based on Production,



Time, and Expense Reports submitted to RTI, as described in this chapter and approved by an authorized RTI staff member. PSI will make all deductions for federal, state, and local taxes required by law and will provide a W-2 Form for tax reporting purposes following each calendar year. Workers compensation and liability insurance coverages are also provided by PSI for their employees.

At the beginning of each assignment, you will be required to read and sign a Powerforce Services Employment Agreement. The agreement outlines your relationship with Powerforce and RTI.

Questions concerning a field staff member's relationship with PSI should be directed to RTI's Center for Survey Research. If a question cannot be answered by a member of that center it will be referred to an appropriate PSI staff member.

## 5.5 Production, Time and Expense Reporting

### 5.5.1 Allowable Charges

Time and expense charges must be allowable under RTI policy if you are to be reimbursed.

### 5.5.2 Completing the Report

The Interviewer's Production, Time, and Expense (PT&E) Report provides you, your supervisor, and RTI Central Office staff with a detailed summary of tasks completed during the one-week period covered by the report and the time expended and expenses incurred in completing these tasks. Step-by-step instructions for completing this form are provided below (also see Figure 5-1). Please refer to these instructions and the example as you are completing your PT&E reports to be sure you are making all required entries correctly.

- 1) Starting Date -- Enter date (month, day, and year) of the Sunday on which the reporting period begins. The reporting period runs from Sunday through the following Saturday, a 7-day period. For example, if your first period began on Sunday, Nov. 11, the next will begin on Sunday, Nov. 18, and so forth. If you did not work during a reporting period, check the box provided; no further entries except FI signature, FI No., Social Security Number, and date (lower center of the form) are required.
- 2) RTI Project No. -- The project number for the data collection activities for this survey is 5313-4. Enter this number on the line provided.
- 3) Section A (Day of Week) -- For each day you work, the appropriate entries should be made in the column to the right on the line for that day.



- 4) Section B (Production) -- Show the number of completed abstraction forms for the day.
- 5) Section C (Time) -- For each day that you work, record in Column C-1 the total number of hours worked, rounded to the nearest quarter-hour. Partial hours should be expressed in decimal form rather than as a fraction (e.g., 5.75 hours instead of 5 3/4 hours). then allocate the total time worked across Columns C-2 through C-8 as appropriate, again using decimals rather than fractions to express partial hours. These "hours worked" categories are defined as follows:
- a) Study/Training -- This is time spent studying for training and time in training.
  - b) Travel -- Record the time spent traveling to and from training.
  - c) Contacting/Locating -- Record the time spent locating police files. Include time spent talking to the contact person.
  - d) Interviewing -- Record the time spent abstracting cases.
  - e) Editing -- Record the time spent at your home editing completed questionnaires, consent forms, and organizing all materials for a case to be delivered to your supervisor.
  - f) Conference -- Record time spent during your weekly conference with your supervisor, and any other time spent discussing problems and special situations with your supervisor.
  - g) Other -- Record time spent preparing for fieldwork, delivering completed materials to your supervisor, and performing other allowable project activities. Note that each "other" activity must be specified in the "Notes" section. Use the reverse side of the white copy of the form if necessary.
- 6) Section D (Expenses) -- Record the following for each day you work:
- a) Miles Driven -- Record the total miles driven (rounded to the nearest mile) that day on project business (check to make sure that the corresponding travel time is shown in Column C-3).
  - b) Miscellaneous Expenses -- Record the total amount of eligible expenses for the day, and explain each item in the "Notes" section. Attached receipts for each expense in excess of \$1.00.
  - c) Incentives Paid -- Do not enter any information.



- 7) Totals -- Total all columns, then check your calculations! Remember to express partial hours in Columns C-1 through C-7 in decimal form rather than as fractions.
- 8) For Office Use Only -- Do not make any entries in this section. The Central Office will complete this section to determine the total amount due as payment for your services and reimbursement for mileage and expenses.
- 9) Certification Section -- Complete this section by recording your name (please print!), FI number, date, Social Security Number, complete mailing address, and telephone number. Then sign the form (unsigned forms cannot be processed and will be returned to you!).
- 10) Notes -- The "Notes" section is for any comments or explanations you wish to make about your entries in Sections A-D. To avoid delaying approval of your PT&E Report, be sure to explain any unusually high time charges. Also, all "other" time (Column C-8) must be explained in the "Notes" section.

The PT&E Report should be completed with as much care as other data collection instruments. To avoid processing delays, please be sure that you have completed the report correctly. Direct any questions you may have to your supervisor (not to Central Office).

The PT&E Report is to be maintained daily. Do not rely on your memory to complete it after days have passed. It is essential to project management that each PT&E Report be completed accurately and submitted on time. Field efficiency and cost reports must be prepared regularly by Central Office project staff. If your report is completed incorrectly or submitted late, it not only disrupts the project reporting schedule, it will also delay processing of the report and payment.

#### 5.5.3 Submitting the Report

The PT&E Report is printed on special paper so that an original and three copies of your entries are produced without the use of carbon paper. Mail the white and yellow copies of the PT&E Report (with necessary receipts) to RTI no later than Monday morning following the end of the reporting period at 12:00 midnight on the preceding Saturday. Use the preaddressed, no-postage required envelopes you have been supplied with to mail all PT&E's. Send the pink copy of the PT&E Report to your supervisor. Keep the gold copy of the report for your records.

You should expect to receive a check approximately three weeks after mailing a PT&E Report to RTI, assuming the report was completed correctly. IF you do not receive a check within four weeks following the date of submission, and you have not been contacted by your supervisor concerning any errors, contact your supervisor. The following reasons may explain why your check might be late in arriving:

- 1) The report is unsigned (unsigned reports will be returned to you).



- 2) Mileage is reported but there is no corresponding travel time, or vice versa.
- 3) The explanation of "other" time is inadequate or missing.
- 4) Miscellaneous expenses are not explained.
- 5) A receipt for an expense exceeding \$1.00 is missing.
- 6) Charges appear excessive and are not explained.
- 7) Errors are so numerous that the report cannot be processed.

#### 5.6 Telephone Log

The Telephone Log (see Figure 5-2) is a 4 part carbon form which itemizes each call you make from your personal telephone that will be charged to the project. Details for completing the Telephone Log are listed at the top of the form. After completing the Log, enter the total on the Telephone Invoice (Section 5.6) and in the Miscellaneous section of the PT&E (Section 5.4.3), separate the carbon copies and submit with your ORIGINAL telephone bill to the appropriate individuals designated at the bottom of the form.

#### 5.7 Monthly Telephone Expense Invoice

The Telephone Invoice (see Figure 5-3) is also a 4 part carbon form which summarizes your monthly project-related telephone expenses. Instructions for completing the Telephone Invoice are located at the top of the form. Upon completing the invoice, enter the total in the Miscellaneous section of the PT&E (Section 5.4.3), separate the carbon copies of the Telephone Invoice, Telephone Log and the PT&E and submit with your ORIGINAL telephone bill to the appropriate individuals designated at the bottom of the form. Be sure to indicate which calls are project calls by circling them on your phone bill.

#### 5.8 Equipment and Supplies

As previously noted, you will receive a supply of materials you will need for the fieldwork from your supervisor. She will distribute additional supplies on an as needed basis. Immediately check the contents to be sure you have all the items needed. Notify your supervisor of any missing materials.

As previously noted, all completed work should be mailed to your supervisor before scheduled weekly conferences. The materials are to be returned to the supervisor after all work for a case has been completed. Any unused supplies you have at the end of the fieldwork period should be returned to your supervisor. If you run out of supplies, your supervisor will provide you with the necessary materials to complete fieldwork.



## PRS TRANSCRIPTION SHEET

## PRE-EVALUATIVE

## Codes:

1 = yes  
2 = no  
5 = N/A

- A. Form ID      B. Batch
- C. Residence (N/A for homicides)  D. Non-Family Perpetrator  E. Date of Report  F. Child's Age
- G. E-Coding Needed 1 = Yes → Go to H  
2 = No → Stop H. Incident occurred within a private residence  → Go to Section I

## EVALUATIVE

If A1 = 3 or 8, and F1 = 3 or 8, and G = 3 or 8, then J through P = 5

## Codes:

1 = very probable  
2 = probable  
3 = unlikely  
5 = N/A  
8 = insufficient evidence  
C = completed  
A = attempted

Section I

A1. Detained/attempt made

If A1 = 3 or 8, then A2, B, C, D, and E = 5

A2. By force or threat

B. For a substantial period

(If detainment was attempted only, then B = 5)

C. Isolated place

D. No authority or permission to detain

(If perpetrator had authority or permission, then D=3)

E. Child was detained overnight

Go to Section II

Section II

F1. Taken/attempt made

If F1 = 3 or 8, then F2 = 5

F2. By force or threat

G. Went voluntarily/attempt made

If F1 = 3 or 8 and G = 3 or 8, then H = 5 and I = 5

H. No authority or permission to take or have child voluntarily accompany

(If perpetrator had authority or permission, then H=3)

I. Child was moved at least 50 miles

Go to box before Section III

Section III

J. 14 or younger

K. Mentally incompetent

L. Concealed whereabouts/ would have

M. Requested ransom, goods, or services

(If sex offense only or if attempt only, then M = 5)

N. Intent to keep

(If attempt only, then N = 5)

O. Difficult recovery

(If not an attempt, then O = 5)

P. Apparent purpose of assault



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## NIBRS PRS Evaluative Coding Criteria

### Section I

#### **A1. Detained/attempt made**

- 
- This element is always evaluated - never coded 5 (not applicable).
  - **CONTINGENCIES:** If "detained/attempt made"
    - = 1 (v. probable) or 2 (probable) then A2 (detained by force or threat) must be evaluated.
    - = 3 (unlikely) or 8 (insufficient evidence) then A2 and B - E = 5 (not applicable)
- 

Child was successfully detained if s/he was:

- prevented from leaving or proceeding subsequent to being taken (PRSM:5-12)
- OR
- held against his/her will (PRSM:5-12)
- OR
- made to stay in a place where s/he did not want to stay (PRSM:5-12)
- AND
- the detainment was against the parents'/legal guardians' will - i.e., the perpetrator did something to prevent the parent/legal guardian from having physical custody of the child (PRSM:5-25)

The perpetrator could do this by:

- obvious means (tying the child to a chair)
- or
- subtle means (implying that s/he would stop the child if the child tried to leave)

If a child was detained for **any** amount of time, the case was coded as "very probably" or "probably" detained (PRSM:5-12)

Cases were considered attempted detainments if:

- the perpetrator tried to prevent the child from leaving, or threatened to do so if the child tried to leave, but did not actually try to stop the child or follow through on his/her threat (PRSM:5-12)



**A2. By force or threat/attempt made**

---

**CONTINGENCIES:**

- This element must be evaluated if A1 (detaining/attempting to detain) is evaluated 1 ("very probable") or 2 ("probable").
  - This element = 5 (not applicable) if A1 = 5 (unlikely) or 8 (insufficient evidence).
- 

Force is defined (PRSM:5-13) as:

- use of strong arm tactics (tying, holding, or otherwise restraining the movement of the child), or
- show of weapons (blade, gun, stick, etc.), or
- explicit threat of bodily injury to anyone; threat could be to anyone, including the child, his/her parents, family, or friends.

Note: threats of action other than bodily injury (e.g., damage to property) DO NOT count as "threats" for purposes of the study.

**B. For a substantial period**

- 
- Code 5 (not applicable) if detainment was an attempt only or if A1 was coded 3 (unlikely) or 8 (insufficient evidence).
- 

Substantial period is defined (PRSM:5-14):

- one hour or longer from the time the child tried to leave or said s/he wanted to leave.

When a child stays willingly with a perpetrator,

- the period of detainment begins when the child says s/he wants to go or tries to leave the perpetrator (PRSM:5-15).
- if the perpetrator does not make the child stay for at least one hour after the child tried to leave or said s/he wanted to leave, then the substantial period criterion was not met (PRSM:5-14).



### C. Isolated place

- 
- Code 5 (not applicable) if A1 was coded 3 (unlikely) or 8 (insufficient evidence).
- 

A place of isolation is defined (PRSM:5-14) as:

- any place where the child was unable to leave on her or his own,
- AND(or?)
- from which the child had no opportunity to appeal for help or the assistance of others.

**NOTE:** Here we are **not** evaluating whether the child was detained. Rather we are evaluating whether the place where the detainment (or possible/attempted detainment) occurred was an isolated place.

**EXAMPLES:** A secluded, wooded area.

A school gym after school hours.

A restroom in a restaurant.

A construction area in a mall.



**D. Lawful authority/parental permission to detain**

- 
- Code 5 (not applicable) if A1 = 3 (unlikely) or 8 (insufficient evidence).
- 

A perpetrator may have detained child with lawful authority (PRSM 5-15). For example:

- social service departments/agencies (and foster care parents) may keep a child due to his/her parent's negligence/abuse
- police and juvenile corrections agencies may detain a child suspected of involvement in a crime
- residential care facilities (such as group homes or drug treatment facilities) may keep a child placed there by order of a court

A perpetrator may have detained a child with parental permission:

- **explicit** permission of the (custodial) parent to watch or care for the child, and therefore
- **explicit or implied** permission to detain child - i.e., the parent may not have said "so-and-so should keep Johnny inside today," but implied permission by entrusting the child's care to the perpetrator.

Note: If a child's parents are divorced or separated, only a parent who effectively has custody at the time of the incident is considered in a position to give permission.

**E. Child was detained overnight**

- 
- Code 5 (not applicable) if A1 = 3 (unlikely) or 8 (insufficient evidence).
- 

A child was detained overnight if:

- the perpetrator kept him/her for at least one full night (HHSM 7-42 etc.)



## Section II

### **F1. Taken/attempt made**

- 
- This element is always evaluated - never coded 5 (not applicable).

If "taken/attempt made"

= 1 (v. probable) or 2 (probable) then F2 (taken by force or threat) must be evaluated.

= 3 (unlikely) or 8 (insufficient evidence) then F2 = 5 (not applicable)

---

- A key issue in "taking" is the movement of the child by some physical action of the perpetrator usually with physical contact (PRSM 5-17).

--This contact could have been indirect - such as a perpetrator pushing a baby away in a stroller.

"Taking" is defined as:

- moving or transporting the child
  - (1) at least 20 feet, or
  - (2) into a vehicle or building (including an apartment or house)

"Attempted taking" is defined as:

- the perpetrator making some effort or remarks that indicate that s/he was trying to take the child away, but the actual "taking" was unsuccessful.

Note: A perpetrator may attempt to get a child to "voluntarily accompany" her/him then, when that fails, "take" the child. In such a case, the "taking" would be coded in here as completed and the attempt to get the child to "voluntarily accompany" him/her would be coded later in F2.



**F2. Taken by force or threat/attempt made**

- 
- This element must be evaluated if F1 (taken/attempt made) = 1 ("very probable") or 2 ("probable").
  - This element = 5 (not applicable) if F1 = 5 (unlikely) or 8 (insufficient evidence).
- 

Force is defined (PRSM:5-13) as:

- use of strong arm tactics (physically grabbing, dragging, or otherwise taking the child against his/her will or against the will of his/her parents), or
- show of weapons (blade, gun, stick, etc.), or
- explicit threat of bodily injury to anyone; threat could be to anyone, including the child, his/her parents, family, or friends.

Note: threats of action other than bodily injury (e.g., damage to property) DO NOT count as "threats" for purposes of the study.



**G. Voluntarily accompanying/attempting to get child to voluntarily accompany**

- 
- This element is always evaluated - never coded 5 (not applicable).
- 

- The key issue in "voluntarily accompanying" is whether the **child willingly agreed** to go with the perpetrator (PRSM 5-18).

"Voluntarily accompanying" was defined as (PRSM 5-19)

- the child willingly accompanying the perpetrator
  - (1) at least 20 feet, or
  - (2) into a vehicle or building (including an apartment or house).

"Attempting to get child to voluntarily accompany" is defined as

- the perpetrator did something to try to **lure or convince** the child to go with him/her, but for some reason this attempt failed and the child did not accompany the perpetrator.

Note: A perpetrator may **attempt** to get a child to "voluntarily accompany" her/him then, when that fails, "take" the child. In such a case, the "taking" would be coded in F1 as completed and the attempt to get the child to "voluntarily accompany" him/her would be coded here.



**H. Lawful authority/parental permission to take or have child voluntarily accompany**

- 
- Code 5 (not applicable) if F1 = 3 (unlikely) or 8 (insufficient evidence) and G = 3 or 8.
- 

A perpetrator may have taken child (or had child voluntarily accompany him/her) with lawful authority (PRSM 5-19). For example:

- social service departments/agencies (and foster care parents) may take a child due to his/her parent's negligence/abuse
- police may take a child suspected of involvement in a crime

A perpetrator may have taken a child (or had child voluntarily accompany him/her) with parental permission:

- explicit permission of the (custodial) parent to have the child go with the perpetrator.

**Note:** If a child's parents are divorced or separated, only a parent who effectively has custody at the time of the incident is considered in a position to give permission.

**I. Child was moved at least 50 miles**



### Section III

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If A1 = 3 or 8 AND F1 = 3 or 8 AND G = 3 or 8, then  
J through P = 5

---

**J. 14 or younger**

This is defined as 14 or younger at the time of the incident - i.e., date of birth compared to date of incident.

**K. Mentally incompetent**

This was defined as

- any learning, psychological, emotional, or mental disability or handicap.



## **L. Concealed whereabouts/attempted to conceal**

Concealment was taken to mean something the perpetrator did without the victim's collaboration. If there was a five year or greater age difference between perpetrator and victim, any apparent "collaboration" by the victim was regarded as nonconsensual, because the age difference was considered to be a coercive factor.

Concealing was defined as

- Hiding the child from view,
- Hiding the activity of taking, detaining, or assaulting the child, or
- Taking action to prevent the parents/caretakers from finding the child.

Examples:

- Taking child to an unfamiliar place where parents were unlikely to look for him/her.
- Taking child to a place of isolation (e.g., inside an abandoned building or to an empty classroom.
- Making child lie down on the backseat of a car.
- Flight from town.
- Preventing child from engaging in his/her normal activities.
- Burying or otherwise hiding the child's body.

Attempting to conceal was defined as:

- the perpetrator trying to conceal the child but, for some reason, failing to do so.

Examples:

- the perpetrator tries to carry the child behind some trees...
- the perpetrator tries to drag the child into an abandoned building...



**M. Requested ransom, goods, or services**

---

**CONTINGENCIES:**

This item = 5 (not applicable) for

- attempts (because the perpetrator never had control of the child and therefore was not in a position to demand ransom), and
- sex offenses (because it is not in the nature of these cases for the perpetrator to demand ransom).

---

Ransom implies that the perpetrator demanded payment of some kind (money, goods, or services) in offer of exchange for the child.

**N. Intent to keep**

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**CONTINGENCIES:**

This item = 5 (not applicable) for attempts.

---

The perpetrator expressed some intention to keep the child.

Examples:

- S/he stated (to police or others) that s/he wanted to keep the child.
- S/he told others that a (kidnapped) child was his/hers (e.g., "the adoption agency finally came through")
- S/he stated that s/he only meant to detain the child temporarily (e.g., "take the child for a walk"), but police find other evidence that s/he had made arrangements to care for the child indefinitely (e.g., furnished a nursery, arranged to take maternity leave from work, hired a diaper service, bought plane tickets to Brazil for self and child, etc.)



## **O. Difficult recovery**

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### **CONTINGENCY:**

This item = 5 (not applicable) for successful detainments and/or taking, whether or not child voluntarily accompanied perpetrator or perpetrator had parental permission.

---

Given all the circumstances in the abstract form, assess how likely it seems that recovering the child would be difficult.

### **Examples:**

- Upon apprehension, the perpetrator stated that s/he intended to keep the child or prevent the parents from getting the child back.
- The police find that the perpetrator, who is childless, had airplane reservations for one adult and one child to Brazil, leaving the day the perpetrator took the child.
- The perpetrator is a complete stranger who tried to walk off with an infant in a public place. There would have been a difficult investigation to identify and locate the perpetrator had the attempt succeeded.
- A stranger drives up in a car and tries to get the child to get into the car.



**P. Perpetrator had apparent purpose of assaulting child**

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- This element is always evaluated - never coded 5 (not applicable).
- 

Evaluate whether or not the perpetrator apparently intended to assault the child physically or sexually when s/he went away with the child - or tried to do so.

**Examples:**

- The assault (or attempted assault) occurred within a short time after the perpetrator took/went away with the child.
- The perpetrator took the child directly to the place where the assault occurred.
- The perpetrator stated that s/he intended to assault the child at the time they went away together.
- (For attempted abductions and attempted assaults): The perpetrator made some gesture indicating that s/he intended to assault the child at the time of the (attempted) abduction - e.g., tried to fondle child or otherwise touched the child inappropriately, made suggestive statements to the child, perpetrator undressed himself/herself.

**Note:** Evaluation of this element does not depend on whether or not the assault was successful.



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## EVALUATIVE CODING - QUESTIONS AND DECISIONS

### Definitional Element: A1. Detained/attempt made

<u>Description</u>	<u>how coded</u>	<u>batch/inc #</u>	<u>check</u>
P was 10 years old. V was 3 years old. P disrobed himself and V and then attempted to sexually assault her. V yelled, indicating that she was not willing; therefore, it was at least probable that P was attempting to detain her.	2A		ok
P threatened to whip V if she told. When P told V what he wanted her to do, she called him "naşty" and left the room. P did not follow through with his threat.	2A		ok
P was 25 years old, and V was 8 years old. Considered whether age difference made an attempt to detain probable. Decided that there was insufficient evidence.	8		ok
V entered his shed in his backyard where he found the Ps and confronted them. One P beat V with baseball bat until he was unconscious. Ps put V in a car, drove him to another location, and dumped him.	3		ok

### Summary

Questions seemed to focus on how to code attempted detainings. If the P used some kind of force or at least threatened to use force (and the V protested in some way), but did not follow through on assault, an attempted detaining was coded. Age difference was not considered sufficient evidence for attempted detaining.

For the completed detainings, there were too few cases to summarize general rules. Those that did fit seemed to fit the guidelines set up by NISMART I.



## EVALUATIVE CODING - QUESTIONS AND DECISIONS

Definitional Element: A2. By force or threat

Description

how coded

batch/inc #

check

No examples - followed guidelines set up by NISMART I.



## EVALUATIVE CODING - QUESTIONS AND DECISIONS

Definitional Element: B. For a substantial period

<u>Description</u>	<u>how coded</u>	<u>batch/inc #</u>	<u>check</u>
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No examples - followed guidelines set up by NISMART I.



## EVALUATIVE CODING - QUESTIONS AND DECISIONS

### Definitional Element: C. Isolated place

<u>Description</u>	<u>how coded</u>	<u>batch/inc #</u>	<u>check</u>
V's mother left to go to the store, leaving P and V alone in residence.	1		ok
P attempted to assault V in her own bedroom during what sounded like a teenage drinking party. There was no reference to any parents being present. P closed door and turned radio up loud.	2		ok
P assaulted V in her own house while her mother was upstairs on the telephone. P covered V's mouth.	1		ok
P assaulted V in her own room while she was asleep. P was boyfriend of V's babysitter. Record does not indicate whether P closed or locked door or where babysitter was during incident.		8	ok

### Summary

Isolated places do not have to be places that are always isolated - just places that are isolated for the V during the time of the incident. The V's own home can be considered isolated if there is no one there from whom he/she could get help (or if he/she was prevented from being able to get help).

NOTE: In contrast to NISMART I, we did include cases that occurred within a private residence. Part of the reason was that many abstractors were having difficulty identifying when an incident started. We did not make a decision to exclude those cases in subsequent phases, but we will analyze those cases separately.



## EVALUATIVE CODING - QUESTIONS AND DECISIONS

### Definitional Element: D. No authority or permission to detain

<u>Description</u>	<u>how coded</u>	<u>batch/inc #</u>	<u>check</u>
P was boyfriend of V's mother and was acting as a babysitter while mother went to the store.	3		ok
Sounded like a teenage drinking party in V's own house, but there was no reference to any parents being present. (NEED TO CHANGE THIS TO 1 OR 2)	1		ok

### Summary

Even without specific information, if circumstances indicated that parents were not present and presence of P may have been unauthorized, then could assume that there was not authority or permission.

Even though a parent did not give permission for the assault, if the P had permission to babysit, then no unauthorized detaining took place.



EVALUATIVE CODING - QUESTIONS AND DECISIONS

Definitional Element: E. Child was detained overnight

<u>Description</u>	<u>how coded</u>	<u>batch/inc #</u>	<u>check</u>
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No examples - followed guidelines set up by NISMART I.



## EVALUATIVE CODING - QUESTIONS AND DECISIONS

### Definitional Element: F1. Taken/attempt made

<u>Description</u>	<u>how coded</u>	<u>batch/inc #</u>	<u>check</u>
P took V into his bedroom. No evidence to evaluate whether this was 20 feet or not.	8		ok
V's mother let V go with P. P had not returned with child at time of report, but later returned with child. Not clear if child was actually taken or if this was just of case of the P returning late.	8		ok
Witnesses say that P tried to pull V into truck by pulling at his shirt, but V (4 year old child) said that P did not touch him.	2A		ok
A truck pulls up beside 2 Vs. Ps try to lure Vs into truck. One P gets out and chases Vs. It is later stated in report that P was just trying to scare the Vs.	1A		ok

### Summary

Despite evidence in report, cases can be coded as takings or attempted takings if other evidence supports it. Can forgoe the evidence of a 4-year old child for the evidence of witnesses.

There may not be enough evidence to establish whether the child was moved 20 feet or not.



## EVALUATIVE CODING - QUESTIONS AND DECISIONS

### Definitional Element: F2. By force or threat

<u>Description</u>	<u>how coded</u>	<u>batch/inc #</u>	<u>check</u>
Witnesses say that P tried to pull V (a 4 year old child) into a vehicle by pulling at the V's shirt. The V tells the police that the P did not touch him.	2		ok
For an attempted taking, the P chases after the boys.	1		ok

### Summary

Can use evidence of witnesses despite what the 4 year old V said.

For attempts, running after the V can be a form of force or threat.



## EVALUATIVE CODING - QUESTIONS AND DECISIONS

### Definitional Element: G. Went voluntarily/attempt made

<u>Description</u>	<u>how coded</u>	<u>batch/inc #</u>	<u>check</u>
V was playing at a friend's home. P was the friend's father. Could have gone voluntarily because she trusted P as friend's father.	8		ok
P came to V's bedroom in her own house. She did not tell him to leave.	3		ok
V was 1 year old. V's mother let V go with P, but V had no active will in going.	3		ok
Two Ps called Vs over to truck by offering them magnets. The Vs refused, but they were initially lured to the truck.	1A		ok
V was a babysitter for P's children. P told V that he loved her and "overpowered her emotionally." V kept seeing P and had sexual relations with him for 10 months (P would take V home in car but would stop at side of road for sexual realtions). P told V that if anyone found out about them, his life would be shattered.	1C		ok
P was V's bus driver. P took V home, then entered V's home and assaulted her.	2C		ok
Cases in which the P is the V's babysitter or the V is spending the night at someone's house (and in which there is no movement).	3		ok
P was substitute teacher. P asked V to come into the classroom. V did so, but there is no way of knowing whether this was 20 feet or not.	8		ok

### Summary

To code a victim's actions as "voluntarily accompanying" the perpetrator, there had to be movement. In many of these cases, we might have wanted to code the perpetrator's actions as a lure, but if there was no movement, this element was coded 3.



## EVALUATIVE CODING - QUESTIONS AND DECISIONS

Definitional Element: H. No authority or permission to take/voluntarily accompany

<u>Description</u>	<u>how coded</u>	<u>batch/inc #</u>	<u>check</u>
V was sexually assaulted from ages 13-15 (when mother found out) by father of a friend. P picked V up from school. This may or may not have been by permission of mother.	8		ok
V's mother allowed V to continually babysit for P. After ok babysitting, the V would be driven home by the P, often stopping on the way to engage in sexual behavior.		3	
P was V's bus driver. This gave implied parental permission for V to voluntarily accompany him.	3		ok

### Summary

No further examples - followed guidelines set up by NISMART I.



## EVALUATIVE CODING - QUESTIONS AND DECISIONS

**Definitional Element: I. Child was moved at least 50 miles**

<u>Description</u>	<u>how coded</u>	<u>batch/inc #</u>	<u>check</u>
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No examples - followed guidelines set up by NISMART I.



## EVALUATIVE CODING - QUESTIONS AND DECISIONS

### Definitional Element: J. 14 or younger

<u>Description</u>	<u>how coded</u>	<u>batch/inc #</u>	<u>check</u>
P assaulted V while V was aged 13-15. Coded based on V's age during most recent incident.	3		ok

### Summary

For series crimes, code based on most recent incident.



## EVALUATIVE CODING - QUESTIONS AND DECISIONS

### Definitional Element: K. Mentally incompetent

<u>Description</u>	<u>how coded</u>	<u>batch/inc #</u>	<u>check</u>
Most cases have no reference to mental health of V at all. There is no indication of mental incompetency in report.	3		ok

### Summary

If there is no reference to mental incompetency and no evidence that there was any, code as unlikely.



## EVALUATIVE CODING - QUESTIONS AND DECISIONS

Definitional Element: L. Concealed whereabouts/would have

Description

how coded

batch/inc #

check

No examples - followed guidelines set up by NISMART I.



## EVALUATIVE CODING - QUESTIONS AND DECISIONS

**Definitional Element: M. Requested ransom, goods, or services**

<u>Description</u>	<u>how coded</u>	<u>batch/inc #</u>	<u>check</u>
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No examples - followed guidelines set up by NISMART I.



## EVALUATIVE CODING - QUESTIONS AND DECISIONS

Definitional Element: N. Intent to keep

<u>Description</u>	<u>how coded</u>	<u>batch/inc #</u>	<u>check</u>
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No examples - followed guidelines set up by NISMART I.



## EVALUATIVE CODING - QUESTIONS AND DECISIONS

**Definitional Element:** O. Difficult recovery

<u>Description</u>	<u>how coded</u>	<u>batch/inc #</u>	<u>check</u>
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No examples - followed guidelines set up by NISMART I.



## EVALUATIVE CODING - QUESTIONS AND DECISIONS

### Definitional Element: P. Apparent purpose of assault

<u>Description</u>	<u>how coded</u>	<u>batch/inc #</u>	<u>check</u>
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No examples - followed guidelines set up by NISMART I.



## PRE-EVALUATIVE CODING - QUESTIONS AND DECISIONS

### H. Incident Occurred within a Private Residence

#### Summary

If the abstractor indicated in A-8 of abstraction form that it was unclear whether the sex offense had taken place within a private residence, then on the evaluative coding form, the question was coded as 2 (no).



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## **Countability Rules for Non-family Abduction Definitions**

### **NFA1 – Broad Scope and Policy Focal**

It is "very probable" or "probable" that:

- (1) {
  - Child was taken by a non-family member
  - AND
  - Perpetrator used force or threat to take child
  - AND
  - Perpetrator took child without lawful authority or parental permission
- OR
- (2) {
  - Child was detained by a non-family member
  - AND
  - Perpetrator used force or threat to detain child
  - AND
  - Perpetrator detained child for a substantial period
  - AND
  - Perpetrator detained child in an isolated place
  - AND
  - Perpetrator detained child without lawful authority or parental permission



NFA2 – Broad Scope and Policy Focal

It is "very probable" or "probable" that:

- (1) { Child was 14 years old or younger  
OR  
Child was under 18 years old and child was mentally incompetent  
AND
- (2) { Child was taken by a non-family member  
OR  
Child voluntarily accompanied a non-family member  
OR  
Child was detained against the parents will by a non-family member  
AND
- (3) Child was taken/went away with/detained without lawful authority or parental permission  
AND
- (4) { Perpetrator concealed child's whereabouts  
OR  
Perpetrator requested ransom, goods, or services  
OR  
Perpetrator expressed an intention to keep child permanently



NFA3 – Broad Scope and Policy Focal

It is "very probable" or "probable" that:

- (1) { Child was taken by a non-family member  
OR  
Child voluntarily accompanied a non-family member  
AND
- (2) Perpetrator had the apparent purpose of assaulting the child

NFAPUB – "Public" Definition

To be countable under this definition, the case must:

- (1) { Count under definition NFA1  
OR  
Count under definition NFA2  
OR  
Count under definition NFA3  
AND
- (2) { Perpetrator detained child overnight  
OR  
Perpetrator transported child at least 50 miles  
OR  
Perpetrator killed child







## **Appendix C**

### **Consistency of Individual Data Elements in Incident Records Across Local, State, and FBI Files**



[illegible]



## Consistency of Individual Data Elements in the Local, State, and FBI Files

Incident Variable	Percent of incidents with		
	Same Non-Missing Codes	Same Codes	Inconsistent Codes
Incident year	99%	99%	1%
Incident month	99	99	1
Incident date	99	99	1
Incident hour	91	92	8
Exceptional clearance	93	93	7
Exceptional clearance year	27	99	1
Exceptional clearance month	27	99	1
Exceptional clearance date	27	99	1
N of offenders	94	94	6
N of victims	96	96	4
N of offenses	95	95	5
N of arrests	30	88	12
Offense1	89	89	11
Offense2	15	95	5
Offense3	3	99	1
Location/Offense1	79	79	21
Location/Offense2	13	94	6
Location/Offense3	3	99	1
Weapon1/Offense1	75	99	1
Weapon1/Offense2	9	99	1
Weapon1/Offense3	1	100	0
Offense1/Victim1	87	87	13
Offense1/Victim2	8	95	5
Offense1/Victim3	2	99	1
Offense2/Victim1	11	95	5
Offense2/Victim2	1	98	2
Offense2/Victim3	0	99	1
Offense3/Victim1	1	99	1
Offense3/Victim2	0	100	0
Offense3/Victim3	0	100	0
Age of victim1	95	95	5
Age of victim2	97	97	3
Age of victim3	100	100	0
Sex of victim1	98	98	2
Sex of victim2	10	97	3
Sex of victim3	3	100	0
Race of victim1	99	99	1
Race of victim2	10	97	3
Race of victim3	3	100	0



Incident Variable	Percent of Incidents with		
	Same Non-Missing Codes	Same Codes	Inconsistent Codes
Ethnicity of victim1	77%	85%	15%
Ethnicity of victim2	7	96	4
Ethnicity of victim3	2	100	0
Residence of victim1	84	84	16
Residence of victim2	8	96	4
Residence of victim3	2	100	0
Injury to victim1	76	100	0
Injury to victim2	7	100	0
Injury to victim3	2	100	0
Relationship-offender1/victim1	74	100	0
Relationship-offender1/victim2	7	99	1
Relationship-offender1/victim3	2	100	0
Relationship-offender2/victim1	9	99	1
Relationship-offender2/victim2	1	99	1
Relationship-offender2/victim3	0	100	0
Relationship-offender3/victim1	2	100	0
Relationship-offender3/victim2	0	100	0
Relationship-offender3/victim3	0	100	0
Age of offender 1	94	94	6
Age of offender 2	96	96	4
Age of offender 3	99	99	1
Sex of offender 1	87	96	4
Sex of offender 2	12	97	3
Sex of offender 3	3	99	1
Race of offender 1	87	97	3
Race of offender 2	12	97	3
Race of offender 3	3	99	1
Year of arrest of arrestee/1	31	89	11
Year of arrest of arrestee/2	3	96	4
Year of arrest of arrestee/3	0	99	1
Month of arrest of arrestee/1	31	89	11
Month of arrest of arrestee/2	3	96	4
Month of arrest of arrestee/3	0	99	1
Date of arrest of arrestee/1	30	88	12
Date of arrest of arrestee/2	3	96	4
Date of arrest of arrestee/3	0	99	1
Age of arrestee/1	28	86	14
Age of arrestee/2	2	96	4
Age of arrestee/3	0	99	1
Sex of arrestee/1	32	90	10
Sex of arrestee/2	3	96	4
Sex of arrestee/3	0	99	1
Race of arrestee/1	32	90	10
Race of arrestee/2	3	96	4
Race of arrestee/3	0	99	1



# Consistency of Individual Data Elements from Agency 1 in the Local, State, and FBI Files

Incident Variable	Percent of incidents with		
	Same Non-Missing Codes	Same Codes	Inconsistent Codes
Incident year	100%	100%	0%
Incident month	100	100	0
Incident date	100	100	0
Incident hour	88	100	0
Exceptional clearance	94	94	6
Exceptional clearance year	57	94	6
Exceptional clearance month	57	94	6
Exceptional clearance date	57	94	6
N of offenders	100	100	0
N of victims	100	100	0
N of offenses	100	100	0
N of arrests	22	92	8
Offense1	100	100	0
Offense2	6	98	2
Offense3	0	100	0
Location/Offense1	100	100	0
Location/Offense2	8	100	0
Location/Offense3	0	100	0
Weapon1/Offense1	100	100	0
Weapon1/Offense2	6	100	0
Weapon1/Offense3	0	100	0
Offense1/Victim1	100	100	0
Offense1/Victim2	10	100	0
Offense1/Victim3	2	100	0
Offense2/Victim1	4	100	0
Offense2/Victim2	0	100	0
Offense2/Victim3	0	100	0
Offense3/Victim1	0	100	0
Offense3/Victim2	0	100	0
Offense3/Victim3	0	100	0
Age of victim1	100	100	0
Age of victim2	94	94	6
Age of victim3	100	100	0
Sex of victim1	100	100	0
Sex of victim2	10	100	0
Sex of victim3	2	100	0
Race of victim1	100	100	0
Race of victim2	10	100	0
Race of victim3	2	100	0



Incident Variable	Percent of incidents with		
	Same Non-Missing Codes	Same Codes	Inconsistent Codes
Ethnicity of victim1	37%	100%	0%
Ethnicity of victim2	2	100	0
Ethnicity of victim3	2	100	0
Residence of victim1	100	100	0
Residence of victim2	10	100	0
Residence of victim3	2	100	0
Injury to victim1	98	98	2
Injury to victim2	8	98	2
Injury to victim3	0	98	2
Relationship-offender1/victim1	100	100	0
Relationship-offender1/victim2	10	100	0
Relationship-offender1/victim3	0	100	0
Relationship-offender2/victim1	4	100	0
Relationship-offender2/victim2	0	100	0
Relationship-offender2/victim3	0	100	0
Relationship-offender3/victim1	0	100	0
Relationship-offender3/victim2	0	100	0
Relationship-offender3/victim3	0	100	0
Age of offender 1	100	100	0
Age of offender 2	100	100	0
Age of offender 3	100	100	0
Sex of offender 1	100	100	0
Sex of offender 2	4	100	0
Sex of offender 3	0	100	0
Race of offender 1	100	100	0
Race of offender 2	4	100	0
Race of offender 3	0	100	0
Year of arrest of arrestee/1	24	94	6
Year of arrest of arrestee/2	0	98	2
Year of arrest of arrestee/3	0	100	0
Month of arrest of arrestee/1	24	94	6
Month of arrest of arrestee/2	0	98	2
Month of arrest of arrestee/3	0	100	0
Date of arrest of arrestee/1	24	94	6
Date of arrest of arrestee/2	0	98	2
Date of arrest of arrestee/3	0	100	0
Age of arrestee/1	22	92	8
Age of arrestee/2	0	98	2
Age of arrestee/3	0	100	0
Sex of arrestee/1	24	94	6
Sex of arrestee/2	0	98	2
Sex of arrestee/3	0	100	0
Race of arrestee/1	24	94	6
Race of arrestee/2	0	98	2
Race of arrestee/3	0	100	0



# Consistency of Individual Data Elements from Agency 2 in the Local, State, and FBI Files

Incident Variable	Percent of incidents with		
	Same Non-Missing Codes	Same Codes	Inconsistent Codes
Incident month	100%	100%	0%
Incident date	100	100	0
Incident hour	98	98	2
Exceptional clearance	98	98	2
Exceptional clearance year	4	100	0
Exceptional clearance month	4	100	0
Exceptional clearance date	4	100	0
N of offenders	100	100	0
N of victims	100	100	0
N of offenses	100	100	0
N of arrests	23	94	6
Offense1	100	100	0
Offense2	2	100	0
Offense3	2	100	0
Location/Offense1	100	100	0
Location/Offense2	2	100	0
Location/Offense3	2	100	0
Weapon1/Offense1	96	98	2
Weapon1/Offense2	2	100	0
Weapon1/Offense3	2	100	0
Offense1/Victim1	100	100	0
Offense1/Victim2	6	98	2
Offense1/Victim3	4	100	0
Offense2/Victim1	2	100	0
Offense2/Victim2	0	98	2
Offense2/Victim3	0	100	0
Offense3/Victim1	0	100	0
Offense3/Victim2	0	100	0
Offense3/Victim3	0	100	0
Age of victim1	100	100	0
Age of victim2	100	100	0
Age of victim3	100	100	0
Sex of victim1	100	100	0
Sex of victim2	8	100	0
Sex of victim3	4	100	0
Race of victim1	100	100	0
Race of victim2	8	100	0
Race of victim3	4	100	0



Incident Variable	Percent of incidents with		
	Same Non-Missing Codes	Same Codes	Inconsistent Codes
Ethnicity of victim1	100%	100%	0%
Ethnicity of victim2	8	100	0
Ethnicity of victim3	4	100	0
Residence of victim1	100	100	0
Residence of victim2	8	100	0
Residence of victim3	4	100	0
Injury to victim1	100	100	0
Injury to victim2	8	100	0
Injury to victim3	4	100	0
Relationship-offender1/victim1	71	100	0
Relationship-offender1/victim2	6	100	0
Relationship-offender1/victim3	4	100	0
Relationship-offender2/victim1	8	100	0
Relationship-offender2/victim2	2	100	0
Relationship-offender2/victim3	0	100	0
Relationship-offender3/victim1	4	100	0
Relationship-offender3/victim2	0	100	0
Relationship-offender3/victim3	0	100	0
Age of offender 1	100	100	0
Age of offender 2	100	100	0
Age of offender 3	100	100	0
Sex of offender 1	71	100	0
Sex of offender 2	8	100	0
Sex of offender 3	4	100	0
Race of offender 1	71	100	0
Race of offender 2	8	100	0
Race of offender 3	4	100	0
Year of arrest of arrestee/1	25	96	4
Year of arrest of arrestee/2	2	98	2
Year of arrest of arrestee/3	0	98	2
Month of arrest of arrestee/1	25	96	4
Month of arrest of arrestee/2	2	98	2
Month of arrest of arrestee/3	0	98	2
Date of arrest of arrestee/1	25	96	4
Date of arrest of arrestee/2	2	98	2
Date of arrest of arrestee/3	0	98	2
Age of arrestee/1	0	71	29
Age of arrestee/2	0	96	4
Age of arrestee/3	0	98	2
Sex of arrestee/1	25	96	4
Sex of arrestee/2	2	98	2
Sex of arrestee/3	0	98	2
Race of arrestee/1	25	96	4
Race of arrestee/2	2	98	2
Race of arrestee/3	0	98	2



# **Consistency of Individual Data Elements from Agency 3 in the Local, State, and FBI Files**

Incident Variable	Percent of incidents with		
	Same Non-Missing Codes	Same Codes	Inconsistent Codes
Incident year	96%	96%	4%
Incident month	96	96	4
Incident date	97	97	3
Incident hour	67	67	33
Exceptional clearance	75	75	25
Exceptional clearance year	0	100	0
Exceptional clearance month	0	100	0
Exceptional clearance date	0	100	0
N of offenders	73	73	27
N of victims	85	85	15
N of offenses	82	82	18
N of arrests	9	66	34
Offense1	64	64	36
Offense2	16	82	18
Offense3	1	97	3
Location/Offense1	32	32	68
Location/Offense2	9	80	20
Location/Offense3	1	97	3
Weapon1/Offense1	0	99	1
Weapon1/Offense2	0	99	1
Weapon1/Offense3	0	100	0
Offense1/Victim1	55	55	45
Offense1/Victim2	3	81	19
Offense1/Victim3	0	95	5
Offense2/Victim1	7	84	16
Offense2/Victim2	0	93	7
Offense2/Victim3	0	97	3
Offense3/Victim1	0	97	3
Offense3/Victim2	0	98	2
Offense3/Victim3	0	99	1
Age of victim1	78	78	22
Age of victim2	90	90	10
Age of victim3	98	98	2
Sex of victim1	92	92	8
Sex of victim2	11	91	9
Sex of victim3	1	98	2
Race of victim1	97	97	3
Race of victim2	11	91	9
Race of victim3	1	98	2



Incident Variable	Percent of incidents with		
	Same Non-Missing Codes	Same Codes	Inconsistent Codes
Ethnicity of victim1	32%	32%	68%
Ethnicity of victim2	1	84	16
Ethnicity of victim3	0	98	2
Residence of victim1	32	32	68
Residence of victim2	1	84	16
Residence of victim3	0	98	2
Injury to victim1	0	100	0
Injury to victim2	0	100	0
Injury to victim3	0	100	0
Relationship-offender1/victim1	0	99	1
Relationship-offender1/victim2	0	99	1
Relationship-offender1/victim3	0	99	1
Relationship-offender2/victim1	0	99	1
Relationship-offender2/victim2	0	98	2
Relationship-offender2/victim3	0	99	1
Relationship-offender3/victim1	0	100	0
Relationship-offender3/victim2	0	100	0
Relationship-offender3/victim3	0	99	1
Age of offender 1	77	77	23
Age of offender 2	84	84	16
Age of offender 3	96	96	4
Sex of offender 1	84	85	15
Sex of offender 2	11	88	12
Sex of offender 3	5	98	2
Race of offender 1	85	86	14
Race of offender 2	11	88	12
Race of offender 3	5	98	2
Year of arrest of arrestee/1	9	66	34
Year of arrest of arrestee/2	1	89	11
Year of arrest of arrestee/3	0	96	4
Month of arrest of arrestee/1	7	64	36
Month of arrest of arrestee/2	0	88	12
Month of arrrst of arrestee/3	0	96	4
Date of arrest of arrestee/1	3	60	40
Date of arrest of arrestee/2	0	88	12
Date of arrest of arrestee/3	0	96	4
Age of arrestee/1	10	67	33
Age of arrestee/2	0	88	12
Age of arrestee/3	0	96	4
Sex of arrestee/1	12	69	31
Sex of arrestee/2	1	90	10
Sex of arrestee/3	0	96	4
Race of arrestee/1	12	69	31
Race of arrestee/2	1	90	10
Race of arrestee/3	0	96	4



# Consistency of Individual Data Elements from Agency 4 in the Local, State, and FBI Files

Incident Variable	Percent of incidents with		
	Same Non-Missing Codes	Same Codes	Inconsistent Codes
Incident year	100%	100%	0%
Incident month	100	100	0
Incident date	100	100	0
Incident hour	100	100	0
Exceptional clearance	99	99	1
Exceptional clearance year	22	99	1
Exceptional clearance month	22	99	1
Exceptional clearance date	22	99	1
N of offenders	100	100	0
N of victims	99	99	1
N of offenses	100	100	0
N of arrests	42	93	7
Offense1	97	97	3
Offense2	20	100	0
Offense3	9	100	0
Location/Offense1	90	90	10
Location/Offense2	20	100	0
Location/Offense3	9	100	0
Weapon1/Offense1	96	100	0
Weapon1/Offense2	16	100	0
Weapon1/Offense3	4	100	0
Offense1/Victim1	96	96	4
Offense1/Victim2	14	96	4
Offense1/Victim3	1	99	1
Offense2/Victim1	16	100	0
Offense2/Victim2	3	100	0
Offense2/Victim3	0	99	1
Offense3/Victim1	1	100	0
Offense3/Victim2	0	100	0
Offense3/Victim3	0	99	1
Age of victim1	100	100	0
Age of victim2	99	99	1
Age of victim3	100	100	0
Sex of victim1	100	100	0
Sex of victim2	16	99	1
Sex of victim3	3	100	0
Race of victim1	100	100	0
Race of victim2	16	99	1
Race of victim3	3	100	0



Incident Variable	Percent of incidents with		
	Same Non-Missing Codes	Same Codes	Inconsistent Codes
Ethnicity of victim1	100%	100%	0%
Ethnicity of victim2	16	99	1
Ethnicity of victim3	3	100	0
Residence of victim1	100	100	0
Residence of victim2	16	99	1
Residence of victim3	3	100	0
Injury to victim1	99	100	0
Injury to victim2	13	100	0
Injury to victim3	3	100	0
Relationship-offender1/victim1	100	100	0
Relationship-offender1/victim2	13	99	1
Relationship-offender1/victim3	3	100	0
Relationship-offender2/victim1	16	99	1
Relationship-offender2/victim2	1	100	0
Relationship-offender2/victim3	1	100	0
Relationship-offender3/victim1	3	99	1
Relationship-offender3/victim2	1	100	0
Relationship-offender3/victim3	1	100	0
Age of offender 1	99	99	1
Age of offender 2	99	99	1
Age of offender 3	100	100	0
Sex of offender 1	81	100	0
Sex of offender 2	17	99	1
Sex of offender 3	4	100	0
Race of offender 1	81	100	0
Race of offender 2	17	99	1
Race of offender 3	4	100	0
Year of arrest of arrestee/1	45	96	4
Year of arrest of arrestee/2	6	96	4
Year of arrest of arrestee/3	1	100	0
Month of arrest of arrestee/1	45	96	4
Month of arrest of arrestee/2	6	96	4
Month of arrest of arrestee/3	1	100	0
Date of arrest of arrestee/1	45	96	4
Date of arrest of arrestee/2	6	96	4
Date of arrest of arrestee/3	1	100	0
Age of arrestee/1	43	94	6
Age of arrestee/2	6	96	4
Age of arrestee/3	1	100	0
Sex of arrestee/1	45	96	4
Sex of arrestee/2	4	94	6
Sex of arrestee/3	1	100	0
Race of arrestee/1	45	96	4
Race of arrestee/2	6	96	4
Race of arrestee/3	1	100	0



# **Consistency of Individual Data Elements from Agency 5 in the Local, State, and FBI Files**

Incident Variable	Percent of incidents with		
	Same Non-Missing Codes	Same Codes	Inconsistent Codes
Incident year	100%	100%	0%
Incident month	100	100	0
Incident date	100	100	0
Incident hour	100	100	0
Exceptional clearance	99	99	1
Exceptional clearance year	43	99	1
Exceptional clearance month	43	99	1
Exceptional clearance date	43	99	1
N of offenders	99	99	1
N of victims	99	99	1
N of offenses	96	96	4
N of arrests	42	96	4
Offense1	95	95	5
Offense2	18	97	3
Offense3	3	99	1
Location/Offense1	91	91	9
Location/Offense2	16	95	5
Location/Offense3	3	100	0
Weapon1/Offense1	97	99	1
Weapon1/Offense2	14	98	2
Weapon1/Offense3	0	100	0
Offense1/Victim1	95	95	5
Offense1/Victim2	8	99	1
Offense1/Victim3	3	100	0
Offense2/Victim1	15	98	2
Offense2/Victim2	1	100	0
Offense2/Victim3	1	100	0
Offense3/Victim1	1	99	1
Offense3/Victim2	1	100	0
Offense3/Victim3	1	100	0
Age of victim1	100	100	0
Age of victim2	99	99	1
Age of victim3	100	100	0
Sex of victim1	100	100	0
Sex of victim2	8	99	1
Sex of victim3	3	100	0
Race of victim1	100	100	0
Race of victim2	8	99	1
Race of victim3	3	100	0



Incident Variable	Percent of incidents with		
	Same Non-Missing Codes	Same Codes	Inconsistent Codes
Ethnicity of victim1	100%	100%	0%
Ethnicity of victim2	8	99	1
Ethnicity of victim3	3	100	0
Residence of victim1	99	99	1
Residence of victim2	8	99	1
Residence of victim3	3	100	0
Injury to victim1	98	99	1
Injury to victim2	7	99	1
Injury to victim3	2	99	1
Relationship-offender1/victim1	99	99	1
Relationship-offender1/victim2	8	99	1
Relationship-offender1/victim3	3	100	0
Relationship-offender2/victim1	14	99	1
Relationship-offender2/victim2	1	99	1
Relationship-offender2/victim3	1	100	0
Relationship-offender3/victim1	3	99	1
Relationship-offender3/victim2	0	99	1
Relationship-offender3/victim3	0	99	1
Age of offender 1	98	98	2
Age of offender 2	99	99	1
Age of offender 3	99	99	1
Sex of offender 1	91	99	1
Sex of offender 2	15	100	0
Sex of offender 3	3	99	1
Race of offender 1	91	99	1
Race of offender 2	15	100	0
Race of offender 3	3	99	1
Year of arrest of arrestee/1	43	96	4
Year of arrest of arrestee/2	4	99	1
Year of arrest of arrestee/3	1	100	0
Month of arrest of arrestee/1	43	96	4
Month of arrest of arrestee/2	4	99	1
Month of arrest of arrestee/3	1	100	0
Date of arrest of arrestee/1	43	96	4
Date of arrest of arrestee/2	4	99	1
Date of arrest of arrestee/3	1	100	0
Age of arrestee/1	43	96	4
Age of arrestee/2	4	99	1
Age of arrestee/3	1	100	0
Sex of arrestee/1	43	96	4
Sex of arrestee/2	4	99	1
Sex of arrestee/3	1	100	0
Race of arrestee/1	43	96	4
Race of arrestee/2	4	99	1
Race of arrestee/3	1	100	0







[illegible]