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OJJDP NEWS @ a Glance

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White House Holds Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children

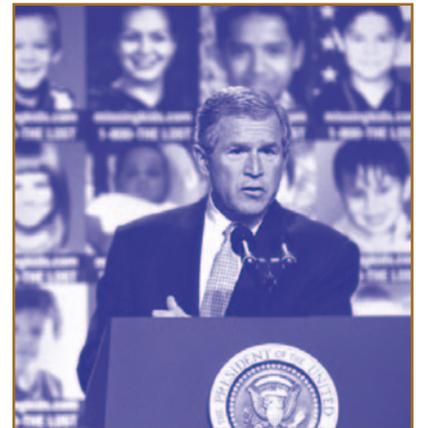
“When a child’s liberty and innocence are taken, it is a terrible, terrible loss. And those responsible have committed a terrible crime. Our society has a solemn duty to shield children from exploitation and danger.”

—President George W. Bush,
October 2, 2002

The first White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children was held October 2, 2002, in Washington, DC. President Bush presented the keynote remarks at the conference, which was designed to raise public awareness of the issue, share progress, and reinvigorate practitioners and other stakeholders. OJJDP and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) joined the White House in sponsoring the event.

“Our first duty as adults is to create an environment in which children can grow and thrive without fearing for their security,” said President Bush in his remarks. “That’s what we’ve got to do. Because children are so vulnerable, they need the care of adults. Because they’re so vulnerable, those who are cruel and predatory often target our children.”

“This White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children is important for America,” President Bush added. “This is the beginning of a refocused effort at the federal level to help save people’s lives. This is the beginning of a successful strategy implemented at all levels of government and all parts of our society to recognize a real threat and to deal with it; to recognize there are some so evil in our society that they’re willing to harm our most precious and most vulnerable citizens; to be prepared to respond quickly when that happens; to help people prevent it from happening in the first place; and to make it clear, if you do it and we catch you, there’s going to be serious consequences for you.”



President Bush presents keynote remarks at the White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children. (White House photo by Paul Morse)

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White House (continued from page 1)

The all-day conference, which drew more than 600 participants, featured the participation of Attorney General John Ashcroft (who gave the opening address), Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, Education Secretary Rod Paige, FBI Director Robert Mueller, and Secretary of State Colin Powell.

The Attorney General and FBI Director Mueller specifically committed to maintaining the Justice Department's efforts to address the problem of missing and exploited children as a priority, even as the Department focuses on homeland security issues. "As our awareness of the threats to our children has sharpened, we have grown even more determined in our mission to protect their lives and safeguard their innocence," said Attorney General Ashcroft in his opening remarks. "The role of concerned citizens is vitally important in keeping our children safe. But we also depend on government and law enforcement to protect and to seek justice for those among us who are most vulnerable—our children."

The seven panel sessions focused on recent research findings, prevention of child victimization, and effective law enforcement policies for handling crimes against children. Because of the spate of abductions this past summer, many families have become anxious and concerned that law enforcement cannot always prevent abductions or return children unharmed to their families. OJJDP Administrator J. Robert Flores addressed this concern in a panel discussion he moderated on "What Works," which highlighted technologies, law enforcement efforts, and community responses that demonstrate that much progress has been made in developing tools to help keep children safe from abduction and exploitation.

Other topics discussed in the panel sessions included child abduction, domestic and international parental kidnapping, sex trafficking of children, child pornography, runaway and homeless youth, Internet safety, and corporate and community involvement. Conference participants included officials from all levels of government, law enforcement personnel, families of child victims, researchers, corporate leaders, and others.

In connection with the conference, the White House announced the release of a new guidebook, *Personal Safety for Children: A Guide for Parents*, available in English and Spanish at the NCMEC Web site (missingkids.com).

OJJDP also announced the release of an updated edition of its guidebook for families of missing children, *When Your Child Is Missing: A Family Survival Guide*, and the recent publication of *A Law Enforcement Guide on International Parental Kidnapping*. OJJDP also released a new series of publications based on the Second National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMAART-2). A list of selected OJJDP publications on missing and exploited children appears below. For additional information about the White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children, visit ojjdp.ncjrs.org/white_house_conf/. ■

Selected Publications

For descriptions of these and other publications pertaining to missing and exploited children, including links to full-text files, visit ojjdp.ncjrs.org/pubs/missing.html. Unless otherwise noted, all publications may also be ordered from the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse at 800-638-8736, 410-792-4358 (fax), and online at puborder.ncjrs.org.

Guidebooks for Families

A Family Resource Guide on International Parental Kidnapping. NCJ 190448.

Personal Safety for Children: A Guide for Parents. NCJ 196166.

When Your Child Is Missing: A Family Survival Guide. NCJ 170022.

Findings From NISMART-2

Highlights From the NISMART Bulletins. Online Fact Sheet. (ojjdp.ncjrs.org/pubs/fact.html#NISMART).

NISMART Questions and Answers. Online Fact Sheet. (ojjdp.ncjrs.org/pubs/fact.html#fs196760).

National Estimates of Missing Children: An Overview. NCJ 196465.

Children Abducted by Family Members: National Estimates and Characteristics. NCJ 196466.

Nonfamily Abducted Children: National Estimates and Characteristics. NCJ 196467.

Runaway/Thrownaway Children: National Estimates and Characteristics. NCJ 196469.

Related Publications

The Criminal Justice System's Response to Parental Abduction. NCJ 186160.

Early Identification of Risk Factors for Parental Abduction. NCJ 185026.

Highlights of the Youth Internet Safety Survey. FS 200104.

Issues in Resolving Cases of International Child Abduction by Parents. NCJ 190105.

Keeping Children Safe: OJJDP's Child Protection Division. NCJ 186158.

Kidnapping of Juveniles: Patterns From NIBRS. NCJ 181161.

A Law Enforcement Guide on International Parental Kidnapping. NCJ 194639.

Please note: This publication is not available online.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. FS 200128.

Protecting Children in Cyberspace: The ICAC Task Force Program. NCJ 191213.

OJJDP To Hold Conference on Child Prostitution

Although the exact number of youth affected is difficult to determine, the sexual exploitation of children through prostitution is a serious problem in the United States. On December 13–14, 2002, OJJDP will host a 2-day conference in Washington, DC, to address this often-overlooked form of child abuse.

The conference will bring together some 120 invitees, including law enforcement officers, judicial and public agency personnel, elected officials, representatives from community agencies, and young people who have experienced child prostitution. Participants will work toward developing a body of knowledge by sharing practices, research, and

innovative approaches to combating child and youth prostitution.

Plenary sessions will be interspersed with working sessions to allow participants the opportunity to spend a concentrated block of time strategizing and exchanging ideas in like- and cross-discipline groups. ■



OJJDP Launches New Web Resource

OJJDP's new Targeted Community Action Planning (TCAP) initiative will help communities identify and respond to their most critical juvenile justice and delinquency prevention needs. The recently launched TCAP Web resource (ojdp.ncjrs.org/tcap/index.html) provides comprehensive information on the initiative and also offers links to a wealth of related resources.

Visitors to the TCAP Web page can learn about the initiative's background, key elements, and activities. The page also describes community eligibility requirements for receiving TCAP technical assistance. It provides links to organizations, agencies, and publications that can help communities address needs related to prevention, intervention, immediate sanctions, corrections, and reentry. ■

Since 1995, OJJDP has supported local comprehensive strategic planning efforts by providing long-term training and technical assistance to communities across the nation. TCAP is building on this experience to develop a strategy that focuses on results, not process. Its four-phase approach—diagnostic assessment, interviews of key community leaders, summit meeting of key leaders, and targeted response—will be pilot tested in 10 to 15 communities within the first year of the project.

Key Elements of TCAP

- Involvement and commitment of community leaders.
- Identification of communities' existing resources and capacity to collect and map data on problem behaviors, crime, and risk factors.
- Identification of local infrastructure that can support community planning.
- Greater reliance on computer technology than on onsite training and technical assistance.
- Access to resources and tools that support community planning.
- Community responses based on the most effective program models.
- Multifaceted responses that involve the continuum of youth services.
- Reallocation of existing resources to address problems.

Funding Update

Be sure to check the OJJDP Web site regularly for the latest news on OJJDP funding opportunities, including grant application information, materials, and deadlines. (Go to ojjdp.ncjrs.org and click on the “Grants & Funding” icon.) To receive e-mail notification of new funding opportunities, subscribe to JUVJUST. (Go to ojjdp.ncjrs.org and click on the “Subscribe to JUVJUST” icon.)

Solicitation

OJJDP is currently soliciting applications for **Promising Programs for Substance Abuse Prevention: Replication and Evaluation Initiative**. The purpose of this initiative is to replicate and test the effectiveness of two school-based substance abuse prevention programs: Project ALERT and Project SUCCESS. OJJDP seeks to determine whether the positive outcomes found in prior evaluations can be replicated in other sites. The initiative will enhance the field’s knowledge about “what works” in youth substance abuse prevention and help communities decide how to spend the limited resources that are available for prevention activities. OJJDP will select one grantee to oversee the replication of each project and then evaluate the outcomes. Up to \$2 million will be available for the initial 24-month budget period.

Grant Awards

OJJDP awarded a number of program grants in September 2002:

- ▶ The **Drug-Free Communities Support Program** made 70 new grant awards totaling \$6,809,909 and also awarded \$38,730,804 in

continuation grants to 462 programs. For information on the Drug-Free Communities Support Program and a complete list of grantees, visit ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/index.html.

- ▶ The **Juvenile Mentoring Program (JUMP)** also announced its grant awards in September. Sixty-six programs in 38 States and the District of Columbia received funding. For a complete list of grant recipients and additional information about JUMP, visit ojjdp.ncjrs.org/jump/index.html.
- ▶ OJJDP’s **Tribal Youth Program (TYP)** awarded 48 new grants to help tribal communities develop programs that prevent and control delinquency, reduce violent crime, improve juvenile justice systems, and, under the TYP Mental Health Project, provide diagnostic and treatment services to tribal youth. Additional information will be available in

an upcoming OJJDP Bulletin, *OJJDP’s Tribal Youth Initiatives*.

In addition, 68 programs are sharing more than \$100 million in funding from the **Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative**. The majority of these programs have a juvenile component. The Reentry Initiative was developed by the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs in conjunction with Federal partners from five agencies. It targets high-risk offenders who are returning to their communities after periods of secure confinement and envisions a comprehensive strategy for ensuring their effective transition to and stabilization in the community. The initiative emphasizes inter-agency collaboration and leverage of resources from existing programs. For complete information on the initiative and its grantees, visit the Reentry Web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/reentry. ■

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- ▶ Browse titles alphabetically or by topic.
- ▶ Discover the latest OJJDP releases.
- ▶ Subscribe to OJJDP’s listserv JUVJUST and the electronic newsletter JUSTINFO.
- ▶ Link to the NCJRS Abstracts Database to search for publications of interest.

Crimes Against Children Conference Draws 2,000 Participants

The 14th Annual Crimes Against Children Conference, held August 5–8, 2002, in Dallas, TX, was designed to provide practical instruction—based on the latest information and ideas and the most successful intervention strategies—for professionals involved in preventing, investigating, and prosecuting crimes against children. Sponsored by OJJDP and presented by the Dallas Children’s Advocacy Center and the Dallas Police Department, the conference brought together nearly 2,000 law enforcement and child protective services workers, attorneys, child advocates, and others who work directly with cases involving crimes against children.

In his keynote address, OJJDP Administrator J. Robert Flores referred to President Bush’s goal to “leave no child behind” and challenged participants to “leave no child unprotected” from the dangers of child abuse, child pornography and prostitution, and other crimes against children. He encouraged his audience to build partnerships, noting the importance of sharing information within these partnerships, and emphasized their role in fighting this “terrorism on our

children.” Mr. Flores suggested a threefold approach to addressing crimes against children: protection, prevention, and assistance to victims.

During the conference, U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R–TX) announced plans to introduce legislation that would create a nationwide AMBER Alert system for quickly broadcasting information about abducted children.¹ AMBER Alert was introduced in Texas in 1996 in memory of Amber Hagerman, a young Dallas girl who was kidnapped and murdered. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) has spearheaded a campaign to promote national implementation of AMBER Alert.² Amber’s mother, Donna Norris, also addressed conference participants. Patricia Bradbury, whose daughter Rae-Leigh was kidnapped but returned safely because of AMBER Alert, spoke at a press conference held in connection with the Crimes Against Children Conference.

In conference workshops, participants had the opportunity to hear veteran detectives describe investigative techniques for cases involving child victims and to learn about evidence collection techniques from special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Prosecutors demonstrated questioning techniques and offered case development guidelines. Workshops were also taught by experts in child protective services.

Detailed information about crimes against children is available from the OJJDP-sponsored Crimes against Children Research Center at the University of New Hampshire. Visit the center’s Web site at unh.edu/ccrc/index.html. ■



Press conference speaker Patricia Bradbury holds daughter Rae-Leigh, who was rescued through AMBER Alert.

¹ The U.S. Senate passed the National AMBER Alert Network Act of 2002 on September 10.

² Since 1996, 66 AMBER Alert plans have been established at the local, regional, and State levels, and 24 States have adopted a statewide plan. Currently, NCMEC credits AMBER Alert plans with the safe return of 31 children. To help expand the AMBER Alert system nationwide, President Bush recently directed Attorney General John Ashcroft to establish a National AMBER Alert Coordinator at the U.S. Department of Justice. On October 2, the Attorney General announced that the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs, Deborah J. Daniels, will serve as AMBER Alert Coordinator. An article on Ms. Daniels’s appointment and the national AMBER Alert network will appear in the next issue of this newsletter.



New College-Planning Web Resource Available for Hispanic Families

The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans has launched a bilingual Web resource that offers Hispanic American families tools to help make a college education a reality. A recent study found that 96 percent of Hispanic parents surveyed expected their children to go to college, but 66 percent could not answer four out of eight basic questions about preparing for college. The new online toolkit serves as a one-stop source of information—in English and Spanish—on preparing for, choosing, getting into, and paying for college. Among the many topics are Myths and Facts About College Costs, 20 Questions To Ask Your Guidance Counselor, and Things You Need To Know About Paying for College. To access the new resource, visit YesICan.gov (YoSiPuedo.gov) and click on the “Secondary” toolkit. ■

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, and the Office for Victims of Crime.

News @ a Glance is OJJDP's bimonthly newsletter, bringing you up-to-date notices of agency activities, recent publications, funding opportunities, and upcoming events—with an emphasis on providing quick access to online sources for publications and other resources. Let us know what types of features would be most useful to you (e-mail askjj@ncjrs.org).

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