



Infant Abductions

January/February 2004

Safety News Special Edition

A snapshot...

Infant Abductions in the United States

From information provided the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

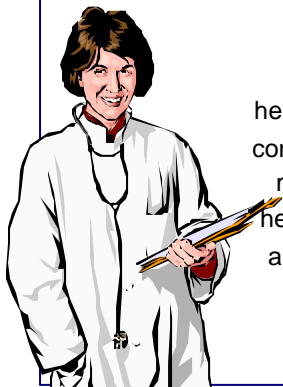
Between 1983 and 2002, 217 infants were abducted by strangers in the United States.

Although California and Texas experienced the most infant abductions (14 each), babies were abducted from 35 states. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 63% of the abductions took place in urban areas, 27% in medium population areas, and 5% in rural areas.

During that time, babies were taken from health care facilities, family homes, cars, and public places.

Over two-thirds of the infants were abducted from healthcare facilities.

- 39.5% from the mother's room
- 10.9% from a pediatric room
- 10.1% from the nursery
- 7.6% from healthcare premises



Less than seven percent of babies were taken by force. In fact, most infant abductions from hospitals and health care facilities are perpetrated by conning the parent or care provider. In most cases, the abductor poses as a health care professional and provides a legitimate sounding reason why she must take the baby.

UK Hospital Is Serious About Infant Security

UK Hospital has worked hard to ensure that infants born or treated at UK Hospital are safe.

- The Hospital has strict policies and procedures for:
 - identification of mother and baby
 - release of infant
 - handling and transporting of infants
- The Hospital has installed an infant security system and cameras to provide added protection.
- A special ID badge identifies hospital employees who are authorized to handle infants.
- Staff is trained to recognize the abductor profile and suspicious circumstances and requests.
- Parents are given information about how to protect their infants while in the hospital.

Even with all of these precautions, UK Hospital has an established infant abduction response plan, known as Code Teddy Bear.

When Code Teddy Bear is announced:

- Birthing Center employees respond immediately to assess the situation and stop anyone from leaving the unit.
- Security personnel and UK Police report to the Birthing Center and to predetermined perimeter locations.

Now the Hospital is adding another layer of security...YOU. To protect our infants, respond immediately to any Code Teddy Bear announcement, following the steps outlined on the back of this handout.