

abductions of children were retained and coded for information related to the victim including such things as their age and gender and their relationship to the offender. A comparison of the empirical data from NISMART-2 indicated that male and female children were equally likely to have been abducted by family members, but the print media was more likely to report on female family abductions compared to males (Taylor et al., 2013). However, newspapers articles presented females as more likely to be abducted by strangers and for stereotypical kidnappings compared to males, which was also true for the NISMART-2 data. Still, compared to males, articles of female children abductions were significantly longer for all types of abductions. This was also generally true for younger victims (age 11 and younger) compared to older children victims. The authors concluded, “When [the media sensationalizes inaccurate portrayals of abductions], the media fails to meet moral and ethical reporting standards that society expects, but also causes a disservice to certain victims (i.e., males and nonfamily abduction victims aged 12 and over)” (Taylor et al., 2013, p. 162).

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