

Patty Wetterling

*Director of Sexual Violence Prevention,
Minnesota Department of Health*

Patty Wetterling is the mother of Jacob Wetterling, who was abducted at the age of 11, by a masked gunman on October 22, 1989 near his home in St. Joseph, Minnesota. Jacob is still missing. She has become a nationally recognized educator on the issues of child abduction and sexual exploitation of children. Ms. Wetterling and her husband co-founded the Jacob Wetterling Resource Center (JWRC) to educate communities about child safety issues in order to prevent child exploitation and abductions.



Ms. Wetterling co-founded and is past Director of Team H.O.P.E., a national support group for families of missing children. She is also a founding member and past President of the Board of Directors of the Association of Missing and Exploited Children's Organizations (AMECO). She also co-authored a book, "When Your Child is Missing: A Family Survival Guide," along with four other families.

Patty Wetterling is currently Director of Sexual Violence Prevention for the Minnesota Department of Health and is working with leadership across Minnesota to create and implement a 5 year strategic plan to prevent sexual violence and exploitation. She is also the Chair of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.