

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIALS

ENGAGING WITH THIS SUBJECT

Engaging with the topic of online child sexual abuse and exploitation (OCSAE) can be difficult and some aspects are challenging to grasp. This is normal and is supposed to be this way. This series of factsheets aims to guide you through it, by introducing you to the problem and available data, and reminding you that behind the statistics, are real individuals with unique stories. As you absorb the weight of this information, it's okay to take a step back, breathe, look outside, drink a glass of water, and ground yourself. Rest assured, the knowledge you gain holds immense value and has the potential to benefit not only yourself but also those around you.

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIALS

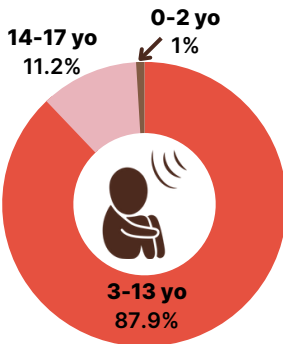
Child sexual abuse material (CSAM) visually depicts a child or a person appearing to be a child engaged in real or simulated sexually explicit conduct. This includes:

- pictures & videos
- digitally created materials
- deepfakes
- screenshots of live-streamed abuse

CSAM is exchanged, shared and sold online.

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Child sexual abuse is when a child is forced or coerced to engage in sexual activity, whether they are aware of what is happening or not.



Age of of child victims of CSAM

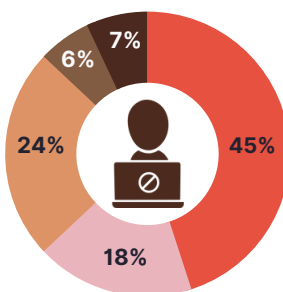
Suojellaan Lapsia 2021

HOW MUCH CSAM IS REPORTED?

88.3 million

images, videos and other files related to child sexual exploitation were reported to CyberTipline in 2022.

NCMEC 2022



What CSAM users watch

- Girls 4-13 yo: 45%
- Sadistic & brutal material: 24%
- Boys 4-13 yo: 18%
- Other violent materials: 7%
- 0-3 yo infants and toddlers: 6%

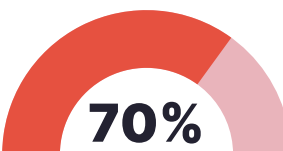
Suojellaan Lapsia 2021

WHERE IS CSAM FOUND?

255,571

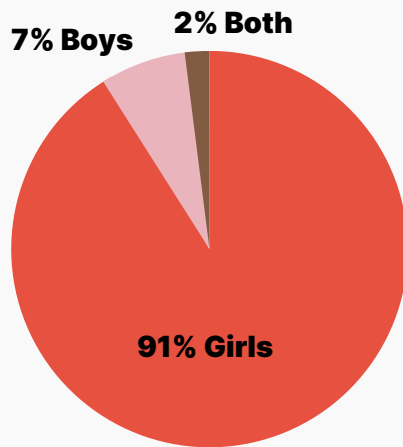
webpages (or URLs) were confirmed as containing child sexual abuse imagery, having links to the imagery or advertising it in 2022.

IWF 2022



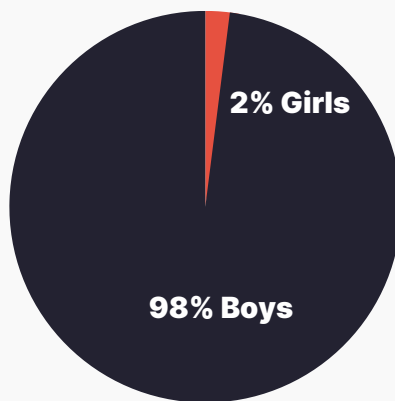
70% of CSAM users were exposed to it when they were **under 18 yo**, of which 40% when they were under 13 yo. (*Suojellaan Lapsia 2021*)

Gender of child victims of CSAM



INHOPE2022 Annual Report

Gender of child victims of financial sexual extortion



C3P 2022

A CONTINUOUS TRAUMA

Even temporary images, videos or live-streamed material can be captured & shared using screenshots. OCSAE survivors not only face the initial trauma of the actual abuse, but also **re-victimisation** by the continuous circulation of their abuse. CSAM survivors describe the **chronic and lasting impact** of this online distribution as a 'never ending' trauma.

WHAT'S THE KEY TO EFFECTIVE ONLINE SAFETY?

Overshielding children with excessive controls and surveillance can lead to a feeling of being oppressed and their privacy invaded. This might encourage children to circumvent parental control and avoid seeking support if something happens. Building **trust, open communication** and **empowering children** to make safer online choices are better approaches.

For more information consult: [Child Safety by Design 2022](#), [INHOPE 2023](#), [Suojellaan Lapsia 2021 "CSAM Users in the Dark Web"](#), [NCMEC 2022](#), [IWF Annual Report 2022](#).

DID YOU KNOW?



91%

of child victims of CSAM reported to [INHOPE](#) (2022 Annual Report) were **girls**.



Girls are twice as likely as boys to have an unknown person asking them to do something sexually explicit online.

Boys are increasingly becoming targets of sexual extortion in part because they may be perceived as having more easy access to money. (Canadian Centre for Child Protection, C3P, 2022)

Sexual extortion: when someone threatens to share intimate details, sexual images, or videos of you online if you do not meet their demands.

Known CSAM: material confirmed to constitute child sexual abuse material.



Unknown/New CSAM: material that potentially constitutes child sexual abuse material, but not (yet) confirmed as such by an authority.

"When a friend(s) called me via video call, they took a screenshot of my photos without my knowledge, then posted my photos on our (private) group chat."

