Terre des Hommes Netherlands

GENDER AND ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (OCSE)

3 in 5 girls **2 in 5 boys** experienced at least **one online sexual harm** during their childhood

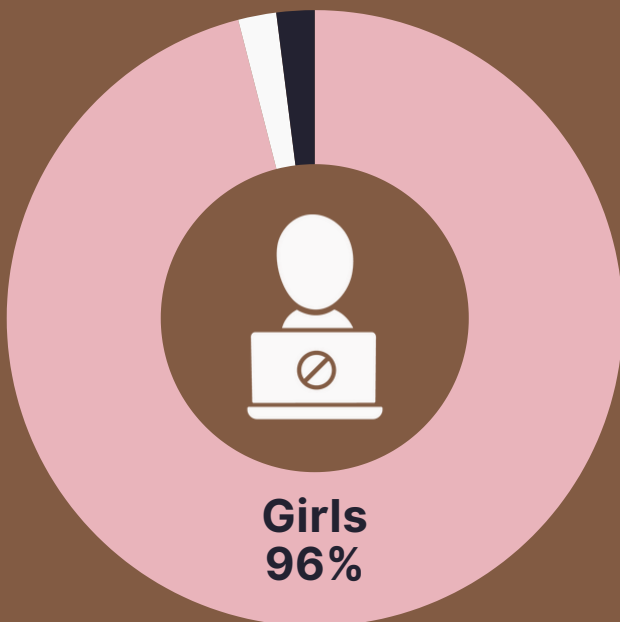**65% of LGBTQIA+** respondents experienced online sexual harm as compared to 46% of non-LGBQ+ respondents

Boys
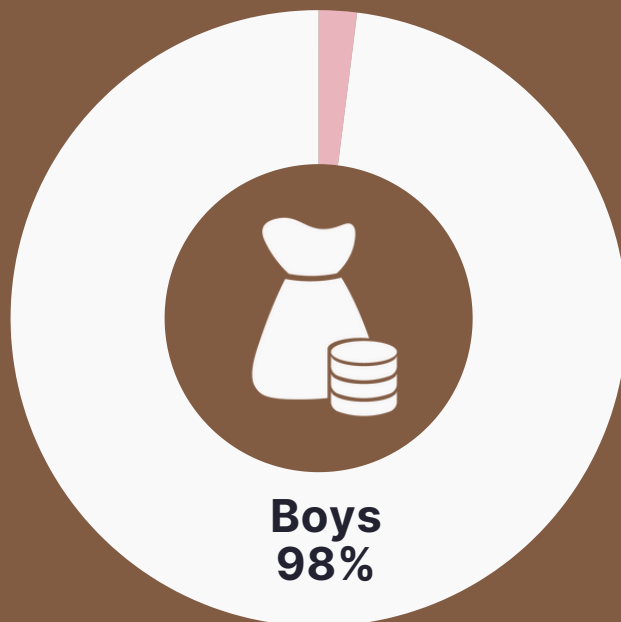2%

Both genders
2%

**Girls
96%**

Girls
2%

**Boys
98%**

96% of child victims in Child Sexual Abuse Materials (CSAM) reported to INHOPE were girls.

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

98% of child victims of financial sexual extortion are boys (Canadian hotline reports).

Boys are increasingly becoming targets of sexual extortion in part as they may be perceived as having more easy access to money.

Hegemonic gender norms of male heterosexual dominance over children and girls, in particular, **influence and shape** the online space.

While OCSE is more recent and some forms of OCSE are quite new (e.g. AI generated CSAM), OCSE **must be placed within a continuum of traditional forms of sexual violence** as well as sexist, homophobic and other abusive behaviour that is facilitated by the internet and online apps in particular.

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OCSE Specificities

1 Children easily reached and monitored

Social media platforms enable potential offenders to easily identify and contact many children. They **facilitate the recruitment, grooming, and control of victims.** Fake social media, dating, or video gaming profiles are easily created and used to reach out to children.

3 Self-generated sexual content involving children

Children are increasingly creating sexually explicit content, including CSAM, using their mobile phones or webcams.

This is done either through extortion, grooming and abuse, but also in the context of intimate relationships, which can lead to further dissemination **without consent** or revenge porn

2 Sexting as ground for offending

The **lack** of Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights or gaps in **SRHR** to cover the online dimension means that **adolescents do not fully understand consent online.**

Gender & Risk Factors

EXPOSURE TO PORNOGRAPHY AND CSAM: Boys are more likely to be exposed to and encourage each other to view pornography. It can lead to unrealistic expectations in intimate relationships and violence. 40% of those using CSAM **first viewed CSAM when they were under 13** years old, while 70% first saw CSAM before reaching adulthood.

EXPERIENCE OF SEXTING: Adolescent **girls fear rejection and shame** when receiving requests for **unwanted** sexual material. **Boys tend to shame** or show hostility towards girls who decline requests. This encourages harmful behaviour and can lead to serious forms of violence.

MALE DOMINANCE OVER CHILDREN AND WOMEN: men are socialised under the norms of male dominance and women's (and children's) subordination. In the online space, male dominance can be seen through 'public' online space including online sexual violence and OCSE.

INTERSECTIONAL FACTORS: children with **disabilities** are particularly vulnerable (e.g. isolation, the stigma around their sexual needs); **LGBTQIA+** children.

GENDER NORMS OF WOMEN'S SUBMISSION: historically girls are encouraged to be submissive. Victims of CSA more easily endorse beliefs about women being more passive, vulnerable, manipulative, sexual teases, and less intelligent. It translates in the online sphere in girls reporting feeling pressured to sext.

VICTIM BLAMING: Women and children tend to be blamed for the violence they experience, often deemed to be due to a violation of expected submissive behaviour norms In research, adolescents report labelling girls "sluts" for engaging in sexting.

Sources: Buren 2018, Canadian Centre for Child Protection 2022, Down to Zero Alliance 2022, Kraus et al 2010, INHOPE 2021, Insoll et all 2022, Livingstone & Helsper 2010, Mishna et al 2021, NSPCC 2021, WeProtect 2022, Whittle et al 2013