

# Child Sexual Abuse Material

## The Facts

Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) are images or videos that show a child engaged in or depicted as being engaged in explicit sexual activity. CSAM has previously been referred to as child pornography. Child pornography implies consent, and a child cannot legally give consent.



### Victims of Child Sexual Abuse Material

- Prepubescent children are at the greatest risk of being depicted in CSAM.<sup>1, 3, 9, 19, 21</sup>
- Females (cisgender) appear in the overwhelming majority of CSAM.<sup>3, 8, 32, 33</sup>



### Consumers of Child Sexual Abuse Material

- 99% are male<sup>9, 18, 24</sup>
- Likely to be older, white non-Hispanic<sup>14, 15, 16, 18, 24</sup>
- Often demonstrate social interaction deficits<sup>22, 24, 48</sup>
- Likely to have a higher number of paraphilic disorders than other sexual offenders<sup>22, 24, 45</sup>



### Abusers/Producers/Distributors of Child Sexual Abuse Material

- Majority are a parent, guardian, neighbor, or friend<sup>2, 5, 6, 25, 32, 54</sup>
- Most likely to be males in mid-adulthood<sup>18, 37</sup>
- Often socially isolated<sup>28, 48, 52</sup>



### Gateway to manipulation

- Production of CSAM is often part of the manipulation (grooming) to prepare for contact sexual offenses against children.<sup>45, 47, 50, 51, 52, 53</sup>



### Crossover to contact sexual offending

- Consumers often commit child contact sexual offending.<sup>10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 23, 44, 45</sup>
- Producers of CSAM and administrators of CSAM networks often commit child contact sexual offending.<sup>6, 28, 29, 30, 31</sup>



### The majority of Child Sexual Abuse Material cases involve the internet.<sup>27, 34, 45</sup>

- Anonymous peer-to-peer file sharing networks<sup>12, 26, 31, 35, 36</sup>
- Virtual reality, the darknet, live streaming<sup>38, 40, 41, 42</sup>
- Messaging apps and social media platforms<sup>39, 40, 42</sup>



### Child Sexual Abuse Material is not a victimless crime.

- The impact upon the child and their family is ongoing because the CSAM distribution is continual and the images may be perpetually accessible to new CSAM consumers.<sup>1, 4, 6, 7, 20, 54</sup>



Child Sexual Abuse Material that is virtual can be just as harmful to children as it is when created with actual children.

- Advances in technologies have created a condition in which people often have considerable difficulty differentiating a computer-generated image of a character from a photograph.<sup>43, 47, 49</sup>
- Virtual CSAM is often used for manipulation (grooming) purposes.<sup>46, 47, 51</sup>

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