

Child Sexual Abuse Material

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. ^{1, 3, 9, 19, 21}
- Females appear in the overwhelming majority of CSAM. ^{3, 8, 32, 33}



Crossover to contact sexual offending

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



Consumers of Child Sexual Abuse Material

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



The majority of Child Sexual Abuse Material cases involve the internet. ^{27, 34, 45}

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



Abusers/Producers/Distributors of Child Sexual Abuse Material

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



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. ^{1, 4, 6, 7, 20, 54}



Gateway to manipulation

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



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. ^{43, 47, 49}
- Virtual CSAM is often used for manipulation (grooming) purposes. ^{46, 47, 51}

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