



CANADIAN CENTRE *for* CHILD PROTECTION®
Helping families. Protecting children.

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IMAGES ON THE INTERNET: A Cybertip.ca Analysis

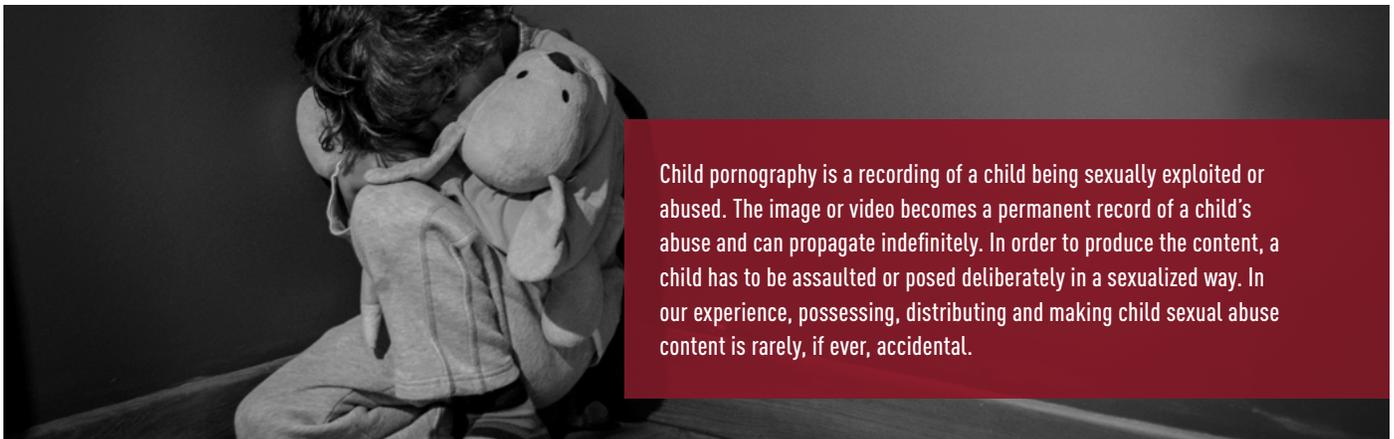
Summary of Key Findings

January 2016

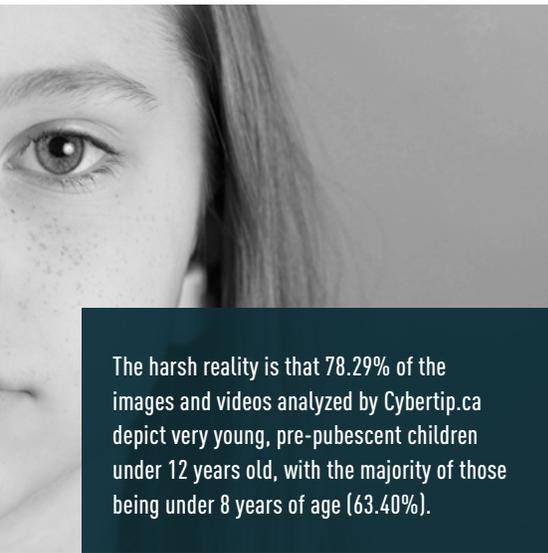
The Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc. (Canadian Centre) is a charitable organization dedicated to the personal safety of all children. Our goal is to reduce the incidence of missing and sexually exploited children while educating the Canadian public about ways to keep children safe.

The Canadian Centre operates Cybertip.ca, Canada's tipline for reporting the online sexual exploitation of children. Like many other hotlines around the world, Cybertip.ca has seen a marked increase in the volume of reports over the past few years. In 2015, the tipline processed 37,352 reports and it is expected that this will continue to increase in the coming years. This significant rise in reporting is primarily related to the public's concerns involving child sexual abuse images and videos on the Internet (over 95% of reports).

In January 2016, the Canadian Centre released its study *Child Sexual Abuse Images on the Internet: A Cybertip.ca Analysis*. This report provides an overview of the information received through reports to the tipline over the last 8 years, with a particular focus on child sexual abuse images. The report was based on the review of close to 152,000 reports and examined 43,762 unique images and videos classified by Cybertip.ca as child pornography.



Child pornography is a recording of a child being sexually exploited or abused. The image or video becomes a permanent record of a child's abuse and can propagate indefinitely. In order to produce the content, a child has to be assaulted or posed deliberately in a sexualized way. In our experience, possessing, distributing and making child sexual abuse content is rarely, if ever, accidental.



The harsh reality is that 78.29% of the images and videos analyzed by Cybertip.ca depict very young, pre-pubescent children under 12 years old, with the majority of those being under 8 years of age (63.40%).



As the age of the children decreases, the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation acts become more intrusive. When babies and toddlers were seen in the images and videos, 59.72% of the abuse acts involved explicit sexual activity/assaults and extreme sexual assaults against the child.



The inclusion of a boy child in the image or video increased the likelihood that the content depicted explicit sexual activity/assaults or extreme sexual assaults.

KEY FINDINGS

Key findings from *Child Sexual Abuse Images on the Internet: A Cybertip.ca Analysis* include:

- ▶ 78.29% of the images and videos assessed depicted very young, prepubescent children under 12 years old
- ▶ 63.40% of those children under 12 years old appeared to be under 8 years of age
- ▶ 6.65% of those children under 8 years old appeared to be babies or toddlers
- ▶ 80.42% of the children were girls
- ▶ 77.05% of the children's faces were visible in the images and videos
- ▶ 50.00% of the images and videos involved explicit sexual activity/assaults and extreme sexual assaults
- ▶ 53.84% of the abuse acts against children under 12 years old involved explicit sexual activity/assaults and extreme sexual assaults
- ▶ 59.72% of the abuse acts against babies and toddlers involved explicit sexual activity/assaults and extreme sexual assaults
- ▶ 68.68% of the images and videos appeared to be in a home setting, of which 69.91% captured explicit sexual activity/assaults and extreme sexual assaults
- ▶ 83.35% of the adults visible in the images and videos were males
- ▶ 97.25% of the content involved explicit sexual activity/assaults and extreme sexual assaults when adult males were visible with the children in the images and videos

RECOMMENDATIONS

Through our role in operating Cybertip.ca over the past 13 years, our organization has witnessed the growing proliferation of child sexual abuse images and videos on the Internet. We know that more needs to be done to identify and support child victims of sexual abuse, identify and prosecute offenders, and reduce the availability of child sexual abuse material on the Internet. The following are some of the Canadian Centre's recommendations for strengthening our commitment to fight the exploitation and sexual abuse of children:

- ▶ Identify and rescue more victims in child sexual abuse material by working closely with child exploitation units, and improve support services in Canada to better protect the rights of victims when abuse material is circulating online.
- ▶ Reduce the availability of child sexual abuse material to Canadians by leveraging technology to disrupt the growing problem of sexual abuse material online, strengthening private sector involvement, and strengthening Canada's role internationally.
- ▶ Increase reporting by Canadians through national public awareness campaigns and working with relevant stakeholders to promote reporting.
- ▶ Stop offenders by enhancing resources and training in Canada including increased police and forensic capacity, adopting best practices related to reducing online sexual exploitation of children and adapting the *Criminal Code* and related legislation to aid in the tackling of this problem.
- ▶ Focus efforts on prevention and education using recognized prevention programming in addition to the creation of new resources for parents, health care professionals, and public facilities (e.g., pools).

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The full report can be accessed online at www.protectchildren.ca.

All images depict models and are intended as illustrative.

"Unlike other forms of exploitation, this one is never ending. [Every day,] people are trading and sharing videos of me as a little girl being raped in the most sadistic ways... They are being entertained by my shame and pain."

Excerpt from Victim Impact Statement filed by a now adult victim of child pornography, quoted in *United States of America v. Lindauer*, Case No. 3:10-cr-00023, US District Court for the Western District of Virginia