

# CANADIAN CHILD & YOUTH ADVOCACY RESEARCH & KNOWLEDGE CENTRE

RESEARCH TO PRACTICE PANEL

PRIMER

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*it is of vital importance for clinical practitioners to develop awareness and competence to incorporate a consideration of technology in all facets of practice.*

Martin, 2014, p. 112

Research shows that 99% of young people aged 9-19 use the internet, and 92.2% regularly use social media (Schimmele et al., 2021; Steeves, 2014). This rapid growth of the internet and social media has amplified the risks of online exploitation. Online exploitation of a child can take many forms: communicating online to enable in-person sexual abuse, sharing unsolicited explicit content, and soliciting sexual images of a child.

Join us on **Wednesday November 13, 2024** for a Research to Practice Panel on Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), where panelist will explore three key areas:

- CSAM created by adults in positions of power or trust to a child;
- peer-to-peer based CSAM; and
- online grooming and exploitation by offender are unknown to a child.



## 78%

### OF CSAM ON THE INTERNET DEPICTS CHILDREN UNDER 12.

Canadian Centre of Child Protection, 2016

The term child pornography as defined in Section 163.1 of the Criminal Code is most often associated with consensual adult content. Unless referring to specific code, CSAM more accurately accounts for the violence and abuse perpetrated on a child.



## Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM)

Refers to visual depictions, including photographs, films, videos, or other visual representations, of sexually explicit conduct involving children under the age of 18.

Canadian Centre of Child Protection, 2019

## IMPACT ON VICTIM

Once images are shared online, it becomes nearly impossible to permanently destroy them. Many victims report that the resurfacing and/or lack of control over the continued sharing and public access of their images is even more traumatic than the original abuse (CCCP, 2017; Binford et al., 2015). Most cases of child sexual abuse are not reported to law enforcement (Martin, 2014).

The CCCP Survivors Survey (2017) found multiple reasons why victims may not disclose the existence of CSAM, including feelings of shame, fear of consequences if the footage is uncovered, and a belief that the existence of such material incriminates them.

## SYSTEM CHALLENGES

The rapid growth of technology introduces unique challenges for service providers to support, investigate and prosecute cases involving CSAM. Canadian Centre of Child Protection (2024), found that most CSAM (62%) was detected through online police investigations or other online reports, through systems like cybertip.ca.

After a request to remove an image, it can take weeks or even months for internet service providers to respond to law enforcement regarding CSAM—if they respond at all (Cullen et al., 2020). When internet service providers cooperate, encryption technology are designed to protect a users privacy. Often this can help offenders conceal CSAM and/or give them a head start to hide or destroy evidence.

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