



# Child Sexual Abuse Material

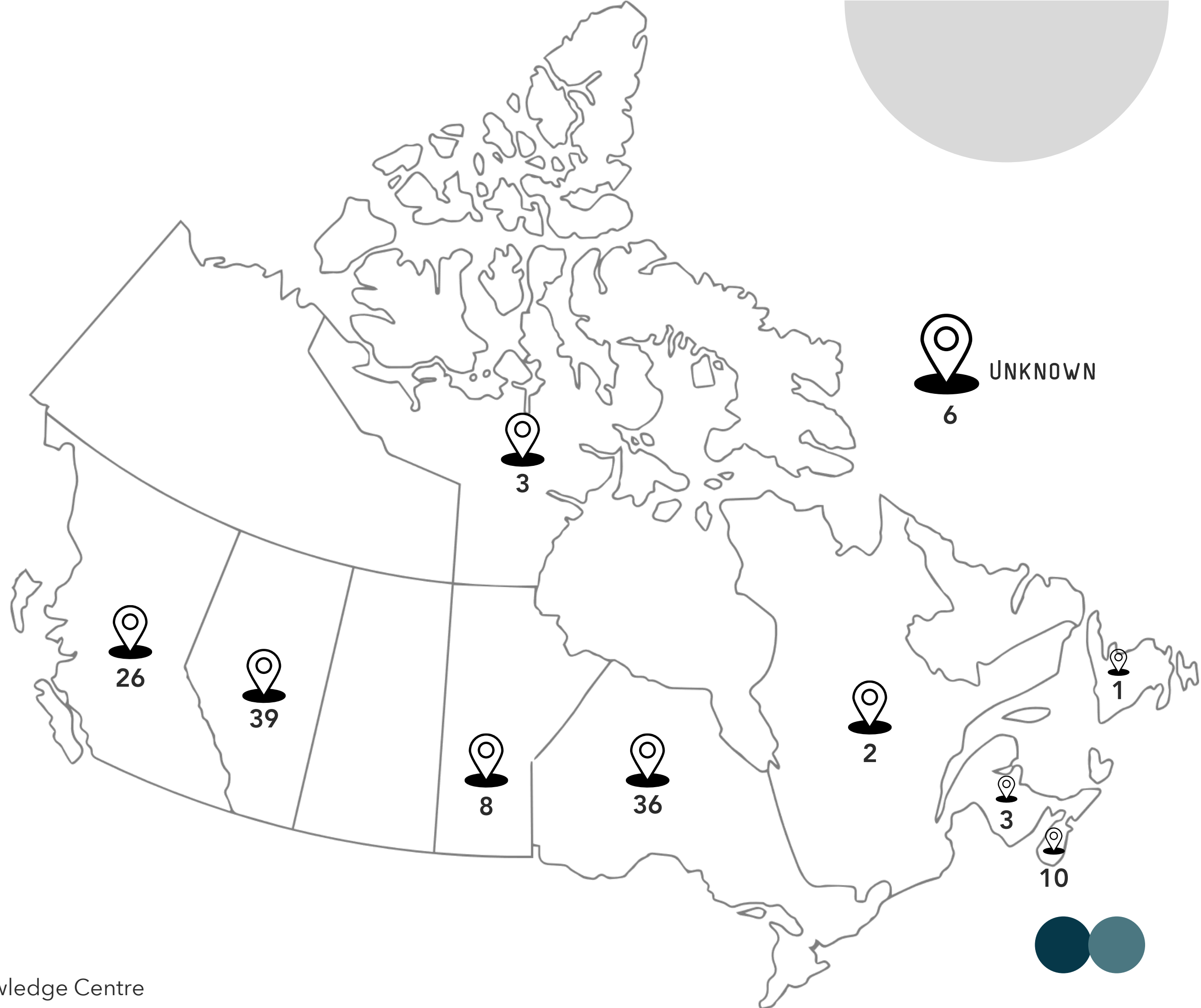
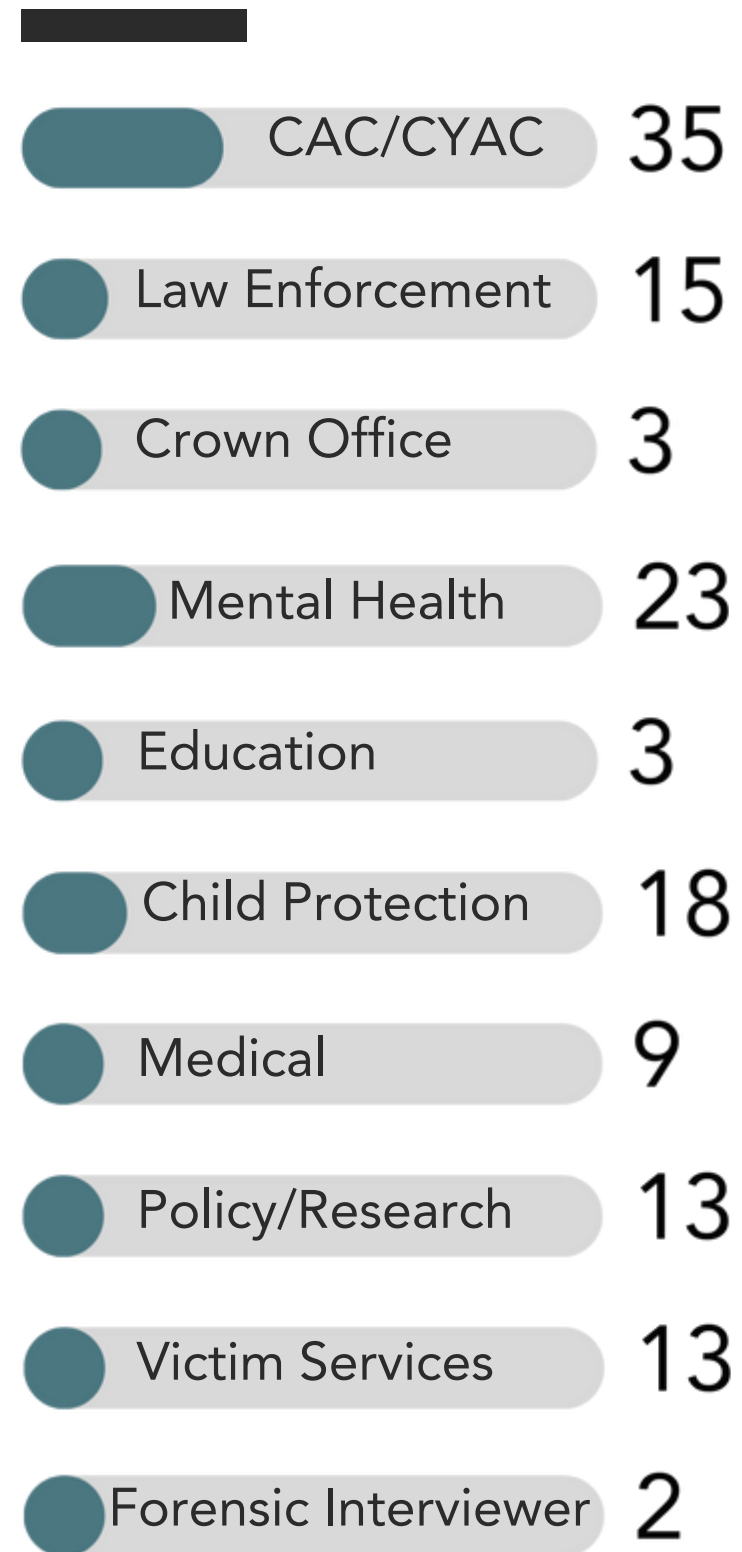


Research to Practice Panel



# Audience

Registration as November 13 @ 10:00 AM



# Meet the Panelists

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Moderator

**Naomi Parker**

Director of Research at  
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**Sarah MacDonald**

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# Definition

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*Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) refers to visual depictions, such as photographs, films, videos, and other visual representations, of sexually explicit conduct involving children under 18 years old.*

R.S.C., 1985, c. C-46; 163.1 Child pornography

## Terminology

### Grooming

a perpetrator builds trust with a child (and sometimes the adults around them) to gain access to and control a child by normalizing certain behaviors and expectation (GoC, n.d.)

### Luring

the use of technology/telecommunication to communicate with someone who is (or who the offender believes to be) under the age of 18 for the purpose of facilitating the commission of an offence against the child (R.S.C., 1985, c. C-46; 172.1 Luring a child)

### Sextortion

a form of blackmail. Threats to share sexually explicit photos/videos with other people if the perpetrator does not receive more images or money



# Background

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CSAM is a significant global problem.

Since the pandemic, reports of CSAM have increased exponentially.

Majority of CSAM victims are 12 and under.

- Girls are more likely to be victimized by CSAM
- Boys are often more violent and explicit CSAM

Age is an important factor. Younger victims (10 and under) more likely to experience in-person/contact offending where abuse is recorded and subsequently shared; Older victims (11-17) are more likely to be manipulated or coerced into taking/sharing self-generated images.





# Overview of Research Study

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Survey to explore the knowledge, confidence, and capacity of service providers to recognize and respond to online and in-person sexual exploitation and abuse (CYAC staff and law enforcement).

Survey sent out across Alberta

- CYAC Staff (N=37)
- Law Enforcement (N=104)

Vignettes used to explore four areas of abuse: grooming, luring, sexual abuse, and child sexual abuse materials.

Survey questions and vignettes developed with input from experts including the Canadian Centre for Child Protection.





# Key Highlights

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59% of CYAC staff and 35% of law enforcement have worked with CSAM victims (suspected or confirmed) in the last year.

The majority of CYAC staff (54%) reported working with clients affected by all of the following in the last year: grooming, luring, sexual abuse, and CSAM [29% for law enforcement].

Both groups (CYAC staff and law enforcement) indicate higher confidence in responding to sexual abuse than CSAM.





# Key Highlights

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About 1/3 of CYAC staff are unsure of what questions to ask or how to support a child impacted by CSAM.

Similarly, law enforcement is significantly less confident in identifying if technology was involved in abuse than investigating sexual abuse in general (though less confident, still a high level of confidence in investigating).

Both CYAC staff and law enforcement report more formal training in sexual abuse than CSAM (or grooming, luring).





# Key Highlights

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CYAC staff indicate high levels of confidence in providing support to children impacted by CSAM, though it is lower than confidence in supporting grooming, luring, and child sexual abuse victims.

For those who provide counselling and treatment, there was not a significant difference in types of treatment chosen: TF-CBT is top choice for both sexual abuse and CSAM.





# Summary

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Responses indicate that the number of victims of technology-facilitated abuse is likely higher than we know (consistent across studies).

Both CYAC staff and law enforcement indicate some confidence in responding to CSAM, though it is lower than responding to other forms of abuse (sexual abuse, luring, grooming).

Both groups indicate lower levels of training in the area of CSAM than other areas.

Knowledge about online technologies and platforms are an ongoing barrier.



# Studies Referenced

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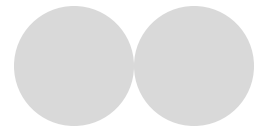
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# Panel Discussion



## Child Sexual Abuse Material



# Contact Information

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