Online child sexual exploitation and abuse: An international challenge

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1. Nature and scale of online child sexual exploitation
2. Child sexual exploitation and abuse: risks and needs
3. EISIP (Explicit & Implicit Sexual Interest Profile)
4. The international perspective
5. From treatment to desistance to prevention
1. Nature and scale of online child sexual exploitation
What is online child sexual exploitation?
to engage in inappropriate (sexual) talk with children

to harass children online with threats or sexually explicit material

to view and distribute child sexual exploitation material for personal and/or commercial reasons

to promote sexual tourism and/or child trafficking

to locate and prepare (“groom”) potential victims for contact abuse

to exploit youth produced sexual materials

to engage in contact with other individuals with a sexual interest in children
"There are very significant volumes of people viewing this material in this country and abroad. We are going to need to understand as a society how we are going to confront this issue. We are not going to be able to arrest our way out of it. The numbers are significant, the volumes are huge."

Phil Gormley, Deputy Director General of the UK National Crime Agency
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WHY IS CSEM INCREASING?

WHY?

Technological: data speed, mobile devices

The ‘triple A’: Accessibility - Affordability - Anonymity

Background level of adult sexual interest in children

Children more active & sexually active online: social networking, ‘sexting’, accessing pornography

Internet-based ‘shaping’ of deviant sexual interests?

Children more active & sexually active online:

- social networking,
- ‘sexting’,
- accessing pornography
Development of a Case Formulation Model for Individuals Who Have Viewed, Distributed, and/or Shared Child Sexual Exploitation Material

Hannah L. Merdian¹, Derek E. Perkins², Elspeth Dustagheer³,⁴, and Emily Glorney²

Abstract
Increases in the number of arrests of individuals who download or distribute Child Sexual Exploitation Material (CSEM) have highlighted a need to further understand the offending pathways of this offender group. This article describes the development of an aetiological model specific to CSEM offending. Individuals who had viewed, distributed, and/or shared CSEM (n = 20) were interviewed regarding their life and sexual history, relationships, substance use, offending details, and circumstances leading to their CSEM offending, resulting in seven superordinate themes: Developmental Context, Individual Propensities (risk-related and risk-protective) and Psychological Vulnerabilities, Personal Circumstances, Permission-Giving Thoughts, Internet Environment and Behaviour, Evaluation of Consequences for the Individual, and Desistance. These themes were combined into a case formulation tool specific for CSEM offending behaviour, with the aim of providing systematic guidance for assessment and treatment providers.

Keywords
child sexual exploitation, child sexual abuse, illegal images of children, risk management, case formulation

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PATHWAYS TO ONLINE CSEM

- Early development – attachments, exposure to sexual material
- Adult vulnerabilities – paedophilic interest, relationship functioning
- Personal circumstances – change of job
- Permission-giving thoughts – “I’m doing no harm” “More like me”
- Internet environment and behaviour – risky behaviour and arousal
- Evaluation of consequences – blocked or enabled
- Desistance process - reality confrontation, own solutions

Meridian & Perkins, 2017
Assessment and Case Management Guide

For Professionals working with Users of Child Sexual Exploitation Material

More detailed information in here, including:

- research context
- references for interview guidelines and specific scales to inform assessment

Also:
Self-assessment guide for CSEM Users currently in trial

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Derek Perkins PhD, West London Mental Health Trust & Royal Holloway University of London

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Themes in participant feedback on a risk reduction programme for child sexual exploitation material offenders

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\textbf{ABSTRACT}

The number of yearly Child Sexual Exploitation Material (CSEM) convictions is escalating. Whilst some CSEM offenders receive custodial sentences, others are sentenced to a range of community disposals. There exist only a few community-based programmes designed specifically for CSEM offenders, despite an increasing need. Of the programmes that do exist, there is a paucity of research examining programme utility. This qualitative study aimed to evaluate a community-based psycho-educational programme, “Inform Plus”, utilising interviews from 13 male programme leavers, alongside interviews from 8 non-offending others associated with the programme leavers. Results were positive. After course completion, CSEM offenders reported feeling better able to manage their thoughts, feelings and behaviours which may be related to their internet offending. The programme was found to initiate a motivation for self-fuelled change, to facilitate communication within and beyond the group therapy setting, and to make accessible to the participants the possibility and goal of a desirable future away from offending. Non-offending others comprising the partners or parents of Inform Plus participants and other associated professionals independently validated these results.

\textbf{ARTICLE HISTORY}

Received 18 October 2015
Revised 23 November 2016
Accepted 4 December 2016

\textbf{KEYWORDS}

Child pornography; internet sex offenders; sex offender treatment; treatment evaluation; qualitative
CSEM & CSA risks and needs
META-ANALYSES OF INTERNET OFFENDERS

Criminal history of CSEM users:

- **13.3%** previous contact sex offences, mostly against children **18.5%** based on self-report
  (Hanson & Babchishin (2009; n = 3,536):
- **12.2%** previous contact sex offences, mostly against children **17.3%** based on self-report
  (Seto, Hanson, & Babchishin (2011; n = 4,697):

Reoffending rates of CSEM users:

- **5%** sexual reoffending: **3.4%** CSEM, **2%** contact sex offence
  (Seto et al, 2011; n = 2630)
- **3%** contact sex offence, **1.6%** CSEM (US data)
  (Faust et al, 2014; n = 638) follow-up 1-9 years
Indicates opportunistic behaviour and / or seeking opportunities
General antisociality (low psychological barriers to offending) is the key difference between viewing only and contact sex abuse

Babchishin et al., 2014

- First actuarial risk assessment tool for this population
- Can be scored alongside the ‘Correlates of Sexual Interest in Children Scale’
- Eke, Helmus, & Seto (2018)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Any sexual recidivism</th>
<th>CSEM recidivism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>AUC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSEM + contact sex offence index</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSEM index</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>.66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eke, Helmus, & Seto (2018)
Risk predictor analysis revealed 7 items:

1. Age above 35 years
2. Any prior criminal history
3. Any contact sex offence (prior & index)
4. Any failure on conditional release
5. Paedophilic or hebephilic interest
6. More boy than girl content in illegal image material
7. More boy than girl content in nudity (fully/partially dressed, no sexual activity) and other child content (e.g., website images, catalogues, children in public spaces)
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Correlates of Sexual Interest in Children Scale

- Child pornography included child sexual abuse videos (64%)
- Evidence of interest in child pornography for 2+ years (55%)
- Never married (54%)
- Child pornography included sex stories involving children (31%)
- Engaged in online sexual communication with a minor (10%)
- Volunteered in a role with high access to children (7%)
EISIP (Explicit and Implicit Sexual Interest Profile)
20-30 minute computerised assessment of explicit and implicit sexual interest in males and females of different ages.

Explicit
- Questionnaire
- Picture Ratings

Implicit
- Viewing Time
- Implicit Association Test

Banse & Schmidt (2013)
VIEWING TIME AND RATING

Sexual maturity groups (Tanner classes 1-5) x gender

Sexually unexciting 1—2—3—4—5 Sexually very exciting
Attribute categories: Sexually exciting vs. Unexciting

Target categories: Men-Women, Boys-Men, Girls-Women
CSEM Offender

Viewing time primarily peaking at T1 to T3 female images.
Heterosexual Control

IAT indicating preference for women over girls

Viewing time primarily peaking at T5 female images
Porn is everywhere. It’s harder to avoid it than to see it.

www.itsstimewetalked.com
SEXUAL INTERESTS AND PORNOGRAPHY

- 30% of international internet traffic is pornography
- Pornography is increasingly aggressive and demeaning, driven by profit and gender inequality

- 94 billion porn videos viewed in 2016 [64 million porn site visits per day]
- 61% of pornography traffic is on mobile devices, and increasingly accessed by children

- 90% boys (13) & 60% girls (16) viewed pornography
- Affecting brain development, sexual attitudes and functioning
  Sex education “too little, too late, too biological”

Crabbe (2017)
RISE IN YOUNG OFFENDERS

The number of persons (aged 18-24) proceeded against at magistrates' courts under section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1978, England and Wales, 2010 - 2015.

(Phippen & Brennan, 2016)
SEXUALLY HARMFUL BEHAVIOUR (SHB) SERVICES

- Is the EISIP acceptable for research ethics?
- Can young people do it?
- Does it add anything to existing assessments?
Possessed CSEM

Sexually assaulted two unknown pre-pubescent girls

Initiated sexual contact with other young males
Sexual interest in teen/women (T4/5), but IAT suggests homosexuality
CASE B

- Sexually abusive family environment
- Sexually abused pre-pubescent sister
- Sexually interested in mature females. No interest in other boys.
WORKING WITH SHB’S IN YOUTHS

Sexual interest in teen girls/women

Viewing time peaking at T4, indicating no paedophilic inclinations
Lived within an adult controlled sexual abuse environment

Abused pre-pubescent sister

Clinical information suggests an interest in pre-pubescent girls
Sexual interest primarily in pre-pubescent females (T2/3/4)

Potentially signalling, especially female, paedophilia

WORKING WITH SHB’S IN YOUTHS
The international perspective
THE BREADTH OF THE PROBLEM

**Borderless**
(Interpol, 2017)

- International sex offender protocols, databases
- Interpol – Child abuse image indexing program
- 10 thousandth child rescued this year

**Trends**
(Europol, 2016)

- Youth produced sexual material: groomed/extorted online
- Use of the Dark web / Peer-to-peer / Webcams
- Live online abuse on the increase
Dutch children's charity Terre des Hommes used a computer-generated 10 year old child “Sweetie” who was “available” online for sexual behaviour.

Identified 1,000 people willing to pay for online sexual exploitation.

**IS THIS VIEWING OR CONTACT SEX OFFENDING?**
TCSA conducted by individuals:

- travelling to a different jurisdiction and engaging in the sexual abuse of children
- intentionally residing abroad to offend
- engaging in Internet-enabled sex offending: web-cams and live-streaming

Hawke & Raphael, 2016

Little empirical research on the individuals, networks, geographical locations, key challenges...
ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

13 discussants from 3 sectors:

1. Criminal justice and policy-making
2. Child protection/children’s rights organisations
3. Academia: criminology, psychology, marketing, tourism, child development

- Information Sheet: Current Issues
- Introductory Talks
- Small Group Discussion 1
- Anonymous Voting: Key Issues
- Small Group Discussion 2
RESULTS: KEY CHALLENGES & ISSUES

- Need for a definition of TCSA
- Criminal justice issues
- Geographical issues
- Tourism/hospitality issues
“What is being distributed via what channel? (...) It can be online or offline, it can be abroad, or being streamed.”
Results: Key Challenges and Issues

(1) Management of travelling sex offenders
(2) Cooperation with target countries
(3) Enhancing knowledge of offending patterns
(4) Maintaining a victim-centric stance
“Corruption is a real problem – it leads on from poverty. The offenders are rich, they can buy people off. They can buy the family off, they can groom the family. They can pay police officers off.

So poverty, corruption and richness together is the perfect triangle of abuse?”
RESULTS: KEY CHALLENGES & ISSUES

- Need for a definition of TCSA
- Criminal justice issues
- Geographical issues
- Tourism/hospitality issues
TCSA: FUTURE PRIORITIES

1. Offender typologies
2. Victim-centric investigative practice
3. Prevalence and definitions
4. Collaborations
Systematic review - 15 studies met inclusion criteria

Some characteristics of TCSOs might be specific to this population

Most are Western men, 40 years or older, employed or retired, not in a romantic relationship

Implicit theories: entitlement and children as sexual beings

Wefers, Gerard, Whitfield & Drabble (in prep), 2019
From treatment to desistance to prevention
Tertiary prevention:
- Intervening with preparators and victims after exploitation has occurred
- Too many cases for this to fully work

Secondary prevention:
- Targeting ‘at risk’ groups for intervention
- Ethical and practical problems identifying who

Primary prevention:
- Tackling underlying causes: cultural, social, situational, blurred line between ‘victims’ and ‘perpetrators’
- US legislator: “Are we talking about kids or perpetrators”
  - [Nicole Pittman, ATSA Conference, 2017]
Ethics and Issues of Secondary Prevention Efforts in Child Sexual Abuse

Kieran F. McCartan¹, Hannah L. Meridian², Derek E. Perkins³, and Danielle Kettleborough²

Abstract
This article discusses the ethical, practical, and moral issues surrounding secondary prevention efforts of child sexual abuse from a professional and practice-based perspective. Transcripts of a semistructured consultation event with \( n = 15 \) international experts on the secondary prevention of child sexual abuse were analysed using thematic qualitative analysis. The research identified four main critical areas linked to secondary prevention efforts, including, the psychology of self-reporting and disclosure; the interaction with and within existing legal, social, and professional frameworks; the scale and type of an appropriate response; and potential hurdles (i.e., within media, public, politics). The article outlines these areas, highlighting participant perspectives on risk-enhancing and mitigating factors for each domain.

Keywords
child sexual abuse, prevention, public health approach, treatment, ethics

Introduction
In the last few decades, there has been a growing recognition of the depth and extent of sexual violence globally (United Nations Children’s Fund [UNICEF], 2014). The increased global sociopolitical recognition of sexual abuse relates to a number of related factors, including increased investment in sexual violence education, increased reporting of historical cases, a growing recognition that anyone can be a victim or perpetrator of sexual violence (including, but not limited to, celebrities, politicians,
LOST FOR WORDS?

The thought that someone you know or love may be sexually abusing a child is one of the hardest things to face. But it is better to talk over the situation with someone than to discover later that you were right to be worried.

If you suspect that someone you know is sexually abusing a child, or if you are worried about your own thoughts or behaviour towards children ring the Stop it Now! freephone helpline now for confidential advice.

Freephone Helpline
0808 1000 900
www.stopitnow.org.uk
ADULTS CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR BEHAVIOUR

Number of new callers

- Contact offended
- Worried about their inappropriate thoughts about children
- Offended on the internet
- Worried about their behaviour on the internet

Year:
- 2002*
- 2003
- 2004
- 2005
- 2006
- 2007
- 2008
- 2009
- 2010
- 2011
- 2012
- 2013
- 2014
- 2015
- 2016
- 2017

Notes:
- *Data for 2002 is not available.
Lucy Faithfull Foundation’s ‘Get Help’ Website

Seeking help with illegal online image use?

Stop it now provides information and support for users of illegal online images and those around them, helping to cope with difficult emotions and to change problematic behaviours.

Anonymous user

100% anonymous self help resources

Start a new session  
Resume previous session

Family and Friends

Get anonymous information and support

Continue

Professionals

Content for professionals

Continue
PREVENTION PROJECT DUNKELFELD, GERMANY

- "Dunkelfeld" ≈ dark field (of undetected offences; dark figure)
- Confidential treatment, free of charge
- German legislature: no mandatory report law
Established as a response to the problem of online sexual offending and, in particular, offending involving CSEM

Looks to develop a framework for better offence management, prevention, and treatment services
Increase international collaboration to target ‘high-level’ distributors

Research needed on online offender pathways, typologies, risk assessment, treatment, and desistance

Key role for preventative education on the nature and implications of online CSE/CSA

Engage with Internet service providers and pornography sites

Realise potential benefits of a ‘public health model’
SPECIAL THANKS TO...

- Alex Bailey
- Hannah Bradshaw
- Maggie Brennan
- Nicole Diaz
- Elspeth Dustagheer
- Anisah Ebrahimjee
- Tim Hodgson
- Darragh McCashin
- Amanda Roberts
- Britta Schumacher
- Mike Sheath
- Sarah Wefers
- Tony Beech
- Mel Briggs
- Dan Callahan
- Rebekah Dervley
- Emily Glorney
- Danielle Kettleborough
- Todd Hogue
- Zoe Mead
- Emma Morgan
- Alex Schmidt
- Tom Squire
- Emma Tyrell
Thank you!

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