

Facts about Childhood Pornography

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- Pornographic websites: 4.2 million (12% of total websites)
- Pornographic pages: 372 million
- Daily pornographic search engine requests: 68 million (25% of total search engine requests)
- Daily pornographic emails: 2.5 billion (8% of total emails)
- Average daily pornographic emails/user: 4.5 per internet user
- Monthly pornographic downloads (Peer-to-peer): 1.5 billion (35% of all downloads)
- Daily gnutella “child pornography” requests: 116,000
- Websites offering illegal child pornography: 100,000
- Sexual solicitations of youth made in chat rooms: 89%
- Youths who received sexual solicitation: 20%
- Worldwide visitors to pornographic web sites: 72 million annually
- 83% of arrested child pornography possessors had images of children 6 to 12 years old
- 39% had images of children 3 to 5 years old
- 19% had images of infants and toddlers under age 3
- 80% had pictures showing the sexual penetration of a child, including oral sex
- 90 % plus of Canadians are concerned about the distribution of child sexual abuse images
- Child sexual exploitation is ranked as one of the top three concerns for parents regarding children
- Commercial child pornography is estimated to be a multi-billion dollar industry worldwide
- Tens of thousands of new images or videos are put on the Internet every week and hundreds of thousands of searches for child sexual abuse images are performed daily (as listed above)
- It is estimated that there are over 5 million unique child sexual abuse images on the Internet
- The content of the images and videos is becoming increasingly violent
- 20% had child pornography depicting violence such as rape, bondage, and torture. Most of these images involved children who were gagged, bound, blind-folded, or other-wise suffering sadistic sex
- The number of images of “serious child abuse” has quadrupled between 2003 and 2007

- 87 percent had images of prepubescent children that were highly graphic
- 92% had images of minors focusing on genitals or showing explicit sexual activity
- 40%: The increase in rates of child pornography from 2010 to 2011. Last year, there were 3,100 incidents of child pornography across Canada, which Statistics Canada noted are likely reflective of police based programs and initiatives targeting that offence.
- 569: Incidents of luring a child via a computer, resulting in 86 people being charged. This statistic has continued to rise since records were first kept in 2003. At that time 49 incidents occurred, for which eight people were charged.

Other Facts

- There were two million Criminal Code violations reported in 2011 — 110,000 fewer than in 2010.
- Police services also reported about 424,400 incidents of violent crime, a drop of 14,800 over the year before.
- For several years now, violent crimes in Canada have accounted for about 20 per cent of the offences reported by police.
- But while the number of some offences such as attempted murders, assaults and break-ins were down from 2010, there was an increase in other serious crimes in 2011, including:
 - homicide (7% increase)
 - criminal harassment (1% increase)
 - sexual violations against children (3% cent increase)
 - child pornography (40 % increase)
 - impaired driving (2% increase).

Definition of Pornography

The Canadian Criminal Code defines child pornography under section 163.1(1) as:

- A photographic, film, or other visual representation, whether or not it was made by electronic or mechanical means;
- That shows a person who is or is depicted as being under eighteen years and is depicted as engaged in explicit sexual activity or;
- The dominant characteristic of which is the depiction, for sexual purpose, of a sexual organ or the anal region of a person who is under the age of

Definition of Pornography Continued

eighteen years or;

b) Any written material or visual representation that advocates or counsels sexual activity with a person under the age of eighteen years that would be an offence under this act.

c) Any written material whose dominant characteristic is the description, for sexual purpose, of sexual activity with a person under the age of eighteen years that would be an offence under this act: or

d) Any audio recording that has as its dominant characteristic the description, presentation or representation, for sexual purpose, of sexual activity with a person under eighteen years of age that would be an offence under this act.

Essentially, child pornography is any pornographic image or representation which involves a minor. In Canada, this means an individual under the age of eighteen. Producing, distributing, possessing, and accessing child pornography are offences under the Canadian Criminal Code.

Effect on the Victims

Being a part of child pornography has severe negative effects, both long term and short term. Although each child reacts differently depending on the frequency, the acts involved, and the child's personality, no child escapes unscathed.

The effects of child pornography can be compared to the effects of incest or sexual abuse. However, pornography victims face different trials as their image is circulated amongst hundreds or thousands of strangers and the material will continue to exist long after the act has occurred. The following is a list of common effects of child pornography:

- overwhelming feelings of: guilt, shame, worthlessness, and embarrassment that may escalate with age;
- physical and emotional pain;
- psychological distress;
- interference with and difficulty in child development (both physically and emotionally);
- children are more likely to become victims of future sexual violence;
- greater risk of sexual diseases;

Effect on the Victims Continued

- greater risk of unplanned pregnancies at a young age;
- difficulty with relationships.

Offenders

- The number of charges for production or distribution of child pornography increased by 800% between 1998 and 2003.
- Most child sexual abuse image producers are known to the victims;
- 37% are family members;
- 36% are acquaintances;
- Over 30% of those convicted of possessing child pornography were living with minor children; almost 50% had access to minors at home, socially or as part of their jobs.
- Currently, an estimated 500,000 individuals are actively involved in the trafficking of child sexual abuse images on the Internet.

Conclusion

The Canadian Charter guarantees the freedom of speech, thought and expression. However, this freedom does not permit harming others.

Pornography is supposed to involve willing individuals and is not generally seen as having harmful effects on the participants. Child pornography causes harm; children are neither mentally nor physically prepared for the acts that they are put through and the side effects are lifelong and devastating.

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