

What Parents Should to Protect their Kids and Youth Online

Statistics: Online Exploitation of Children

sources

Cybertip.ca

Canada's National Tipline for Reporting the Online Sexual Exploitation of Children

Statistics Canada

Police Reported Incidents 2023

Abstract:

Statistics from the Canadian Centre for Child Protection's Cybertip.ca and Statistics Canada show a consistent rise in reports of online child sexual exploitation (OCSE), with significant increases in luring, sextortion, and child sexual abuse material (CSAM) cases in recent years.

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CYBERTIP.CA

- Statistics from the Canadian Centre for Child Protection's [Cybertip.ca](#) show a consistent rise in reports of online child sexual exploitation (OCSE), with significant increases in luring, sextortion, and child sexual abuse material (CSAM) cases in recent years.
 - For example, the number of online child sexual exploitation reports received by Cybertip.ca increased by nearly 8% in 2024.
 - In 2023, there were 1,498 Online Child Sexual Exploitation incidents reported to Cybertip.ca in Alberta. In 2024, that number rose to 1,661 reported incidents.

KEY STATISTICS FROM CYBERTIP.CA (REPORTING DATA FROM 2024)

Between January 1 and December 31, 2024, the following data was processed by Cybertip.ca:

- **Total Public Reports Processed:** Over 449,900 since inception; 29,505 were processed in 2024 alone.
- **Reports by Incident Type (2024):**
 - **Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM):** 22,950 reports.
 - **Luring a Child:** 2,717 reports.
 - **Concerns About Online Harms:** 3,149 reports.
 - **Non-Consensual Distribution of Intimate Images:** 271 reports.
- **Victim Demographics (2024 data with known gender):** 36.2% female, 34.3% male.
- **Reports Forwarded:** Over 34,600 reports have been forwarded to Canadian law enforcement agencies or child welfare services since inception.

NOTABLE TRENDS

- **Overall Increase:**
 - The number of online child sexual exploitation reports increased by nearly 8% in 2024.
- **Sextortion on the Rise:**
 - Cybertip.ca data has shown dramatic increases in sextortion reports, receiving information about an **average of seven incidents per day** between September 2023 and August 2024.
- **Luring/Grooming:**
 - Reports related to online luring/grooming have also seen a sharp rise, growing over 815% in a five-year period leading up to the end of 2022.

STATS. CANADA POLICE-REPORTED STATISTICS (2023)

Statistics Canada reported a 59% increase in the rate of police-reported incidents of online child sexual exploitation between 2022 and 2023.

- **Total Incidents:**
 - There were 19,516 police-reported incidents of online child sexual exploitation in 2023.
- **Primary Offence:**
 - Online child pornography incidents accounted for 87% of these cases.
- **Clearance Rates:**
 - Most police-reported online child pornography incidents (96%) were not solved by police in 2023, largely due to challenges in identifying and locating accused persons who operate anonymously across jurisdictions.

For more detailed information, you can visit the official [Cybertip.ca](https://www.cybertip.ca) website or view reports from [Statistics Canada](https://www.statcan.gc.ca) and Public Safety Canada.

UNDERREPORTING OF ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

- Available data consistently points to a substantial volume of unreported online sexual exploitation and abuse cases, underscoring the challenge in capturing the true prevalence of these crimes.
- While the exact total number of unreported cases to Cybertip.ca is unknown, official sources confirm that **online child sexual exploitation and abuse are highly underreported offences in official crime statistics.**

STATISTICS – REPORTED VS. ACTUAL OCCURANCES

Specific statistics indicate a significant gap between the actual occurrences of harm and formal reports:

VICTIM DISCLOSURE:

- In a July 2022 analysis of sextortion cases, 63% of victims reported they did not disclose the incident to a trusted person.

POLICE VS. EXTERNAL REPORTS:

- Data from sources like Cybertip.ca show that police-reported incidents of sextortion involving children and youth account for only a small proportion of all such incidents.

REPORTING TO PLATFORMS:

- A 2025 survey report revealed that only 1 in 5 (20%) teens who experienced online sexual victimization reported the incident directly to the app or platform where it occurred. The most common reason cited was the belief that the platform would not help.

CLEARANCE RATES:

- The vast majority (77%) of police-reported incidents of online child sexual exploitation between 2014 and 2021 were not cleared (i.e., solved) by police, often due to insufficient evidence to proceed.
- This high attrition rate further illustrates how few incidents ultimately result in official legal action compared to the number of reports made.

REPORTING AND CRISIS HELPLINES

9-1-1 - IMMEDIATE DANGER

- **Call 9-1-1** if your child, pre-teen, or teenager is in immediate risk or danger.

9-8-8 SUICIDE CRISIS HELPLINE

- **Call or text 9-8-8** if you or someone you know is thinking of suicide.

ONLINE CHILD EXPLOITATION REPORTING

- **Cybertip.ca:** Canada's national tipline that serves as a central hub for the public to report illegal online activities and materials involving minors (youth).
 - Online Reporting: <https://cybertip.ca/en/report/>
 - Phone: Call the toll-free tipline at **1-800-532-9135**.

NEEDHELPNOW.CA:

- If a nude of your child under the age of 18 has been shared online, or they have experienced luring, sextortion, or other forms of online sexual violence as a youth, our support team can:
 - Help you with next steps
 - Send notices to assist with having offending accounts suspended and/or removed
 - Send notices to platforms through Project Arachnid, our tool to help take down abusive images
 - Help connect you to additional services like counselling/therapy, peer support, or victim services that are a right fit, and available in your area

KIDS HELP PHONE:

- Kids Help Phone (KHP) is Canada's only 24/7 e-mental health service offering free, multilingual and confidential support to help all young people in Canada – "Feel Out Loud."
 - Phone (1-800-668-6868)
 - Text (text CONNECT to 686868)

KHP Services Include:

- With Kids Help Phone's web resources, young people can get information about how their thoughts, feelings and behaviours are connected and what they can do to care for their well-being.
- If young people need help right now, they can text a trained, volunteer crisis responder at Kids Help Phone about anything they're going through. No issue is too big or too small.
- Young people can work with a professional counsellor at Kids Help Phone over the phone or through online chat to better understand what they're going through.