

**A Research-to-Practice Summary:
An exploratory study of public reports to investigate patterns and
themes of requests for sexual images of minors online**

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ARTICLE:

Quayle, E., & Newman, E. (2016). [An exploratory study of public reports to investigate patterns and themes of requests for sexual images of minors online](#). *Crime Science*, 5(2).

SUMMARY:

Purpose:

Use online reports from the public to Cybertip.ca to explore:

1. Types of behavior that alerted concerned adults/youth to make a report,
2. Information available about the young person,
3. Information about the suspect,
4. How the suspect and offender interacted with each other.

Design:

Cybertip.ca reviewed all reports classified by analysts as luring between September 2007-June 2011 to determine if there was presence of “luring” (communication with a person under 18 for the purposes of facilitating a sexual offense or abduction). 264 cases meeting this criteria were identified (about one per week), but 74 were excluded due to insufficient confirmation that grooming had occurred. Final n = 150.

Findings:

1. Reporter
 - a. Family member – 50%
 - b. Victim – 30.7%
 - c. Friend – 4.0%
 - d. Babysitter – 1.3%

- e. Neighbor - 0.67%
- 2. Gender of Victim
 - a. Female – 86%
 - b. Male 14%
- 3. Age of Victim – mostly teenagers
- 4. Gender of Suspect
 - a. Male – 90%
 - b. Female – 10%
- 5. Additional text (instant messaging, moderated game sites, social networking sites, skype-like programs, games with video and chat functions, etc.) were available in 166 (63%) of the cases and 94 of these included chat log data
- 6. Themes observed in these 166 cases:
 - a. Request for sexual images of victim – 93%
 - b. Voyeurism (requesting victim to do something sexual) – 83%
 - c. Exhibitionism by offender – 36%
 - d. Contact request – 33%
 - e. Resistance shown by victim – 33%
 - f. Threats by offender – 24%
 - g. Victim self-generated content – 19%
 - h. Mobile phone involved – 17%
 - i. Deception of offender age and/or gender – 7%

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