A Research-to-Practice Summary: Federal Prosecution of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Cases, 2004-2013

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ARTICLE:

SUMMARY:
Purpose:
Identify the frequency and relative pattern changes in the federal prosecution of child pornography possession, child pornography production, and child sex trafficking between 2004 and 2013.

Design:
Data for this report came from three agencies:
1. Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys National Legal Information Office Network System
2. Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts Criminal Master File
3. Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts’ Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System

Findings:
1. From 2004-2013, a total of 37,105 suspects referred to U.S. Attorneys’ for prosecution had a lead charge of CSEC
   a. Possession of Child Pornography – 72%
   b. Child Sex Trafficking – 18%
c. Child Pornography Production – 10%

2. Growth in cases between 2004-2013
   a. Production of Child Pornography – 195% (218 to 643)
   b. Child Sex Trafficking – 111% (488 to 1,031)
   c. Possession of Child Pornography – 28%
      i. No growth since 2007

3. Suspect profiles
   a. Possession of Child Pornography
      i. Male (99%)
      ii. White (87%)
      iii. U.S. Citizens (98%)
      iv. Older than other CSEC suspects
      v. No prior felony convictions (82%)
   b. Production of Child Pornography
      i. Male (93.5%)
      ii. White (81.1%)
      iii. U.S. Citizen (97.6%)
      iv. No prior felony conviction (71.7%)
   c. Child Sex Trafficking
      i. Male (89%)
      ii. Race
         1. White – 60%
         2. Black – 25%
         3. Hispanic – 12%
      iii. Younger than other CSEC suspects
      iv. U.S. Citizens (94%)
      v. Prior felony conviction (30%)

4. 2013 Cases
   a. Child Pornography Possession – 2,140
   b. Child Pornography Production - 528
   c. Child Sex Trafficking - 586