Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) are images or videos that show a child engaged in or depicted as being engaged in explicit sexual activity. CSAM has previously been referred to as child pornography. Child pornography implies consent, and a child cannot legally give consent.

**Victims of Child Sexual Abuse Material**
- Prepubescent children are at the greatest risk of being depicted in CSAM.\(^1,3,9,19,21\)
- Females (cisgender) appear in the overwhelming majority of CSAM.\(^3,8,32,33\)

**Abusers/Producers/Distributors of Child Sexual Abuse Material**
- Majority are a parent, guardian, neighbor, or friend \(^2,5,6,25,32,54\)
- Most likely to be males in mid-adulthood \(^18,37\)
- Often socially isolated \(^28,48,52\)

**Consumers of Child Sexual Abuse Material**
- 99% are male \(^9,18,24\)
- Likely to be older, white non-Hispanic \(^14,15,16,18,24\)
- Often demonstrate social interaction deficits \(^22,24,48\)
- Likely to have a higher number of paraphilic disorders than other sexual offenders \(^22,24,45\)

**Gateway to manipulation**
- Production of CSAM is often part of the manipulation (grooming) to prepare for contact sexual offenses against children. \(^45,47,50,51,52,53\)

**Crossover to contact sexual offending**
- Consumers often commit child contact sexual offending. \(^10,11,12,13,17,23,44,45\)
- Producers of CSAM and administrators of CSAM networks often commit child contact sexual offending. \(^6,28,29,30,31\)

**The majority of Child Sexual Abuse Material cases involve the internet.** \(^27,34,45\)
- Anonymous peer-to-peer file sharing networks \(^12,26,31,35,36\)
- Virtual reality, the darknet, live streaming \(^38,40,41,42\)
- Messaging apps and social media platforms \(^39,40,42\)

**Child Sexual Abuse Material is not a victimless crime.**
- The impact upon the child and their family is ongoing because the CSAM distribution is continual and the images may be perpetually accessible to new CSAM consumers. \(^1,4,6,7,20,54\)

**Child Sexual Abuse Material that is virtual can be just as harmful to children as it is when created with actual children.**
- Advances in technologies have created a condition in which people often have considerable difficulty differentiating a computer-generated image of a character from a photograph. \(^43,47,49\)
- Virtual CSAM is often used for manipulation (grooming) purposes. \(^46,47,51\)
active trading of child sexual exploitation images depicting identified victims.


Child Maltreatment, 16(3), 184-195.


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