

Analysis of Sexual Abuse of Children Online and CAM Investigations in Finland

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Abstract: Children who use their free time with phones and computers online, interact with the digital environment on a daily basis, where they will often make social contacts with their friends as well as exchange photos and videos with them. However, children often make contact incautiously with new people online and may risk falling victim to sexual harassment or sexual abuse via sexually charged messages, requests to send nude photos or other Child Abuse Materials (CAM). Most of these cases are unreported crimes. Victims do not always understand that they could be victims. Sexual abuse of children endangers children's psychological, physical and social health, and is against the interests of the child and their human rights. The European Commission's Internal Security Fund Police (ISFP) aims to fund projects on fighting cybercrime and child sexual abuse including digital investigations. This paper provides background information for an innovation project intended to get funding from the ISFP. The case study composes up-to-date pictures of sexual abuse of children online in Finland by applying (1) observations of national police officers who have worked with CAM investigations as a tactical, technical or lead investigator to get unwritten knowledge of the challenge of investigations in the future, and (2) earlier research in Finland. Finnish Child Victim Surveys from past years provide a nationally representative sample of the experiences of children between 12 and 15 years of age where online grooming and sexual abuse is reported. In spring 2021, Save the Children Finland published 11-17-year-old children's experiences of and thoughts on online grooming, and its results show grooming to be a common phenomenon and that a portion of children reported contact being made sexual from its very beginning. This case study combines qualitative and quantitative methods for achieving different aspects and paradigms over the CAM investigations in Finland and are now up to date and would describe how crime investigators have to observe CAM crimes in crime investigations and how cases would be investigated effectively and reliably in a timely fashion and without unnecessary mental workload.

Keywords: child abuse, child pornography, cyberbullying, cybercrime, CAM, Child Abuse Material, case study research

1. Introduction

Child abuse/grooming, child pornography and cyberbullying are the most dangerous cybercrimes (EUROPOL, 2019). Raised awareness can be given to the new exposure that the COVID-19 situation has created with respect to underage people using digital technology. Issues of CAM materials (Child Abuse Material or CSAM; Child Sexual Abuse Material) are meaningful in this phenomenon in general but are also a part of criminal investigations. Other meaningful issues include how children and young people normally share photos and videos even without any sexual meaning behind them. This is not only dependent on Free Internet's possibilities, it is dependent on the Dark Web by anonymous and encrypted sites and new platforms in the future.

2. Research Method and Materials

This study follows Yin's (2014) case study research guidelines and explores what kind of childhood sexual abuse online is seen at open sources. The study considers cases as a crime and as a phenomenon including reported, unreported and hidden crimes as a cybercrime and as a crime against children and their health and welfare. Research questions address *how different forms of contact are made, the nature of each form and the kind of consequences these initiations of contact can have online or in a child's real life.*

The research material of the case study consists of (1) observations of the main author during previous work as a law enforcement authority (LEA) with experience in reported crimes and the related judicial processes, and (2) the previous Finnish studies and reports listed in Table 1.

By getting knowledge widely from different sources, including official authorities whose purpose is to protect children, general purposes in society and legislation, earlier research and different knowledge of voluntary sector reports and surveys by self-informed cases, it is possible to catch an overall holistic picture of child sexual abuse online. After this, it is able to achieve different aspects and paradigms over child sexual abuse online as a crime and recognise the necessity of CAM material investigations in Finland now being up to date. Understanding the phenomenon's complexity can also help authorities to get better results and give ideas to handle and observe cases effectively as criminal processes. This databased point of view can help the LEA to

handle its own mental workload with actual knowledge and recognise better opportunities to find new tools for CAM investigations as necessary digital evidence of investigations but also to prevent and uncover crimes.

Table 1: Research materials

Study	Year(s)
Finnish Criminal Code; Chapter 17, sections 18-22 and Chapter 20, sections 6-7b, 8a-8c and 10-11	1998, 2004, 2006
Finnish Child Victim Surveys from the years	1988, 2008, 2013, 2018
School Health Promotion studies	2017
The reports of the Security Committee	2013, 2017, 2019
Government Report on Internal Security, Publications of the Finnish Government 48, Ministry of the Interior	2021
Rikostorjunnan tila, selvitysraportti 1/2018, Poliisihallitus	2018
Ellonen, Noora & Rantaeskola, Satu (toim.): Lapsiin kohdistuvien väkivalta- ja seksuaalirikosepäilyjen tutkinta, Poliisiammattikorkeakoulun oppikirjat 24	2016
Surveys and Report of <i>Protect Children Finland</i>	
- Tutut tuntemattomat, Raportti lasten ja nuorten nettituttavuuksista sosiaalisessa mediassa	2010
- Internet ja lasten seksuaalinen hyväksikäyttö	2013
- Lasten seksuaalinen hyväksikäyttö ja digitaalinen media	2016
- Grooming internetissä ja lapsen seksuaalinen hyväksikäyttö	2016
- Grooming lasten silmin, selvitys 11-17-vuotiaiden lasten ja nuorten kokemasta groomingista netissä	2021
- Miten suojella lasta verkossa?	2021
- ReDirection project	2021

3. Results

3.1 Child's sexual abuse as a phenomenon and as a crime in Finland

Generally, Cyber-dependent crimes as Cybercrimes either Cyber-enabled crimes are international crimes, which have increasingly larger statistics. The general development of digitalisation or technologies provide for multiple ways to cause harm or crimes. (Jämsén, 2020). Child sexual abuse online is being pictured this same way. The internet has also changed the nature of these crimes. Previously, most of children's sexual abuse was carried out by a person the child knew who was also known in the child's own environment, but on the web, children meet unknown people outside of their own life's real environment - even the digital environment is an important part of children's environment today (Pelastakaa Lapset ry, 2013). National Finnish Child Victim Surveys from earlier years reports that sexual abuse of children has decreased from the 1980s, but from the year 2008 especially, the frequency of girls' first sexual experiences being with unknown persons has increased by one-third overall and in the year 2013 reached almost 40 per cent. In boys, sexual experiences have decreased from 1988 at 10 years from 35 per cent to 21 per cent (Ellonen & Sariola, 2008). The conclusion is that even though sexual abuse has decreased, this has not meant that the risk factors for sexual intercourse among young people have been linearly reduced, but events are more risky because young people often meet strangers. Children and young people have increasing knowledge of sexual abuse and sexual self-determination, which also can show that sexual abuse cases have decreased, but increasing scrutiny of the results of child sexual abuse cases can inform us about better control of authorities and increasing the risk of being caught (Fagerlund, et al., 2013). This has concluded especially during the last 10 years (Sisäministeriö, 2021).

Sexual violence means use of force the wrong way and it addresses violence to individual sexual privilege and self-determination. Sexual violence includes any manner of harmful act or attempt to engage another person's sexuality, unwanted comments or initiation of contact without that person's consent in every manner of relationship. Other's lines can be broken by touching, harassment or force where a situation can include, for example, physical power, psychological intimidation, extortion or threats. Sexual harassment means unwanted suggestions or touching even if the other has shared that another person's behaviour is nonconformist when one important point of this view is also a victim's own experience. On the internet, worldwide, child sexual abuse does not necessarily include physical contact and it can happen by sending sexually explicit messages, photos or videos, children or adults sexually performing by web camera contact, to get child to watch sexually activities or pornography (Pelastakaa Lapset ry, 2013). Additionally, an adult can request sexually explicit photos or videos from a child or add sexual comments to messages or posted photos. (Juusola, et al., 2021)

Some adults are only interested in by CAM material and usually many of them has at the same time many victims or contacts with many children (Pelastakaa Lapset ry, 2013). In a situation where a picture depicting a child has begun to spread across the internet may be equally harmful to children as other acts online or physical acts (Poliisi, 2021). For a child, fear of a sensitive picture or video being shared many times makes this problem more multidimensional generally, but it also increases harm to children or young people, which also impacts on their recovery of what has happened (Pelastakaa Lapset ry, 2013). Most cases of child sexual abuse and child sexual abuse online are unreported crimes just as many cybercrimes are. Victims do not even always understand that they are indeed victims. Additionally, CAM material includes lots of unreported and hidden criminality because of many of those who produce and use child-depicting pictures or photos can act on their own networks on the Dark Web's encrypted sites, which also means that acts can re-occur after long time when users can have many victims (Tanttari, 2018). This autumn, the latest published survey has been released, the approach of which has been to collect information from CSAM users and prevent these crimes on the Dark Web from being reported. CSAM materials report that almost 70 per cent have seen CSAM materials for the first time whilst under 18 years of age and almost 40 per cent have seen such material whilst under the age of 13 (Insoll, et al., 2021).

Today we see increasing child sexual abuse associated with the online universe where both girls and boys are victims on all platforms that children and youths utilise (Poliisi, 2021). Children and youths are victim of some adults' harmful intention and no one platform is seen as protecting a child or youth from having an inappropriate or sexually interaction. In this is way, we also need to understand from that development on how children and young people act online as independent users (Pelastakaa Lapset ry, 2013). Violence and sexual abuse affect children and youth welfare (Fagerlund , et al., 2013), especially their psychic, physical and social health, which is against the interests of the child, the child's rights and can have an influence on familial life (Ellonen & Rantaeskola, 2016).

In the Criminal Code of Finland, 'child' means a person under 18 years old. Sexual abuse of children includes touching, sexual intercourse with child or otherwise performing a sexual act on a child or cajoling a child into an act that can impair his or her development and violate the child's sexual self-determination. (Rikoslaki 20 luku, 2021) For example, possession of a sexually offensive picture depicting a child, the purchase of sexual services from a young person and solicitation of a child for sexual purposes ("grooming") under the age of eighteen are also criminalised (Rikoslaki 17 luku, 2021). Voluntary dating of and sending sexual messages, pictures or videos to those under this same age is not criminalised if there is no great difference in the youth's mental and physical maturity (Rikoslaki 20 luku, 2021). On the other hand, a 15-year-old youth is committing a crime if they send another child or youth sexually explicit photos or post them (Poliisi, 2021). Whether or not that crime is sexual abuse or, for example, mischief as a defamation or dissemination of information violating personal privacy depends on case-based definitions.

The phenomenon is not a new one, online grooming especially is seen as a frequent and increasing phenomenon all over the world. Usually grooming has meant adults making contact making with a child over a period of time where is aim to first build a trusting relationship with the child and after that to aim sexual abuse in either the online or real environment. In conversations the adult may send sexually explicit content to the child, ask the child to send nude photos or ask the child not to tell others about the contact. (Juusola, et al., 2021) Contact making can also happen directly and quickly, including proposing (Kalliokoski, et al., 2021). Children have reported that contact making maybe sexual from the beginning or at least quite quickly after that (Pelastakaa Lapset ry, 2013), (Juusola, et al., 2021). Children can find discussion easy and ingenuous online with strangers because interaction is anonymous and includes physical distance. Conversations can be so intensive that a child does not have normal control over his or her own behaviour even if the child can feel free to halt a discussion if he or she wants to. On the internet, adults can also confirm for children that discussion is normal and confidential and therefore the child can lose control and cannot understand the risk of an adult's behaviour being harmful or criminalised. Children or youths can keep on going with risk-based experience just not thinking about possible consequences in order to feel acceptance or gain understanding. Conversations can go on regarding a child's natural age-driven interest in sexual issues or they may just be curious. It has also been reported that taking part in conversions can be done just by exciting or wasting time. (Pelastakaa Lapset ry, 2013)

3.2 More details of earlier research and surveys

In general, victims of sexual crimes feels guilty about their own victimhood, which can lead to them not reporting crimes. Thus, it has been important to report crimes against children even if it feels minor due to the nature of these crimes. Because of the reporting of cases, it has been possible to recognise victims, to prevent new acts

and stop already ongoing contact making, other acts or crimes. (Poliisi, 2019) Legal Enforced Authority has knowledge of crime statistics and phenomenon by their work experience. It has been recognised when we are talking about unreported or hidden crimes, it is very important to get more specific and better overall information on real phenomena with self-reported methods (Fagerlund , et al., 2013), (Ikonen & Halme, 2018). People have answered quite open questions on their welfare and experience of violence (Parikka, et al., 2018) which make it possible to understand the phenomenon of violence in society and prevents violence in different ways (October, 2018).

Finland has examined Child Victim Surveys from the years 1988, 2008 and 2013. These surveys from past years provide a nationally representative sample of what children between the ages of 12 and 15 experience with regard to online grooming and sexual abuse. The year 2013 survey repeats the questions posed to victims in 1988 and 2008, which makes it possible to compare results to general information on children and young people's sexual experience and sexual abuse by people five years older than they are. Specific questions have been asked of those who have reported experiences. In the year 1988, amongst 14-15-year-old girls, roughly 14 per cent reported sexual experiences with adults, while the results of the same survey in 2008 with girls yielded a frequency of 7 per cent and another such survey in 2013 yielded a frequency of 4 per cent. Boys of the same age first yielded a frequency of sexual experiences with adults of five per cent, while a later survey yielded a frequency of only one per cent. While earlier years yielded more physical sexual experiences than after 2008, the reported experiences that were mostly centred around touching. Most children have not reported feeling that sexual experiences with an adult are abuse. Every year, children or youths have yielded roughly one per cent frequency of an adult interacting with them sexually by creating a sense of obligation, via violence or by giving some form of gifts in exchange for sex. Only a minority has reported that they have met with a previously unknown person but still there has been reported several experiences. (Fagerlund , et al., 2013)

When children's own environment becomes wider with the child's own age and increasing independence the likelihood of that a child can meet violence via a previously unknown person also increases. Part of this threat includes the development of technology, which has brought the internet as a meaningfully contact-making environment for children and youths. Children and youths use the digital environment daily to keep in touch their friends, exchange their contact information and make new friends or other relationships without a face-to-face meeting. In this environment, children and youths feel general negative experiences such as having rumours spread about them, bullying, general spite as well as threatening behaviour (Ellonen, et al., 2008). In the year 2008, about 25 per cent of 15-year-old girls has reported that they have met face to face with a person they have got to know online. Over 20 per cent of girls have shared that they had been asked for sexually explicit photos or received suggestions to have sex. Eight percent of 12-year-old girls have been asked for their photos by an unknown person online. Hiring a person for sex has been reported rarely (Salmi, 2008). Bullying, harassment and asking for sexual photos has been reportedly decreasing since the year 2008, which can tell us that using different platforms with phones and computers is so general for everyone that also knowledge of these phenomena has also increased, and it helps children, youths and their parents to define them better. The Victim Survey in year 2013 added questions of whether a stranger has asked child or a youth to send them nude photos of themselves or perform in front of web cameras. A total of 15 per cent of girls and five per cent of boys have told others about these experiences (Fagerlund , et al., 2013).

Finland has also explored School Health Promotion studies in different years to children and young people. For example, a survey in 2017 has explored sexual harassment and sexual violence committed upon children and youths last year. Sexual harassment has been found to be more general than sexual violence. Sexual harassment means suggestions, harassment, sexually explicit messages, or calling attention to another person's body or clothing. Sexual violence means involuntary touching, applying pressure to have sex or offering or giving money, alcohol or drugs in exchange for sex. Girls have reported sexual harassment being mostly verbal and they have reportedly experienced it more than boys have. Experiences of sexual harassment have reportedly increased as children get older. Most of these experiences have taken place over the phone, online or in some public place. A small percentage of different ages of youths have shared that they have been touched involuntarily or have experienced touch which has triggered fear. These experiences have included both that someone has touched the child or that a child has felt or been forced to touch someone else's intimate area. School Health Promotion studies in the year 2017 have shown that children and youths have experiences of sexual harassment in all age groups, which were included in surveys. These experiences are also quite general with children who are foreigners, who are in some way limited by their acting possibilities or children who have already been taken into custody. (Ikonen & Halme, 2018)

Jusola et al. (2021) surveyed 11-17-year-old children and young people about their experiences and thoughts regarding internet grooming. The survey revealed that this is a common phenomenon, as summarised in Figure 1. Many children share that online contact from an unknown person may have been suggestive of sexual interest right from the beginning. The survey has noticed that children and young people recognise and understand grooming, especially in clear cases. Most children have reported that sexual messages (92%), requests for nude photos of themselves (70%), or receiving them from someone else (89%) can be grooming. Also, when someone wants to make friends (76%), send gifts (70%), ask for contact information (63%), or if someone starts to plan a meeting or ask for confidential conversations (80%) is understood as to be grooming.

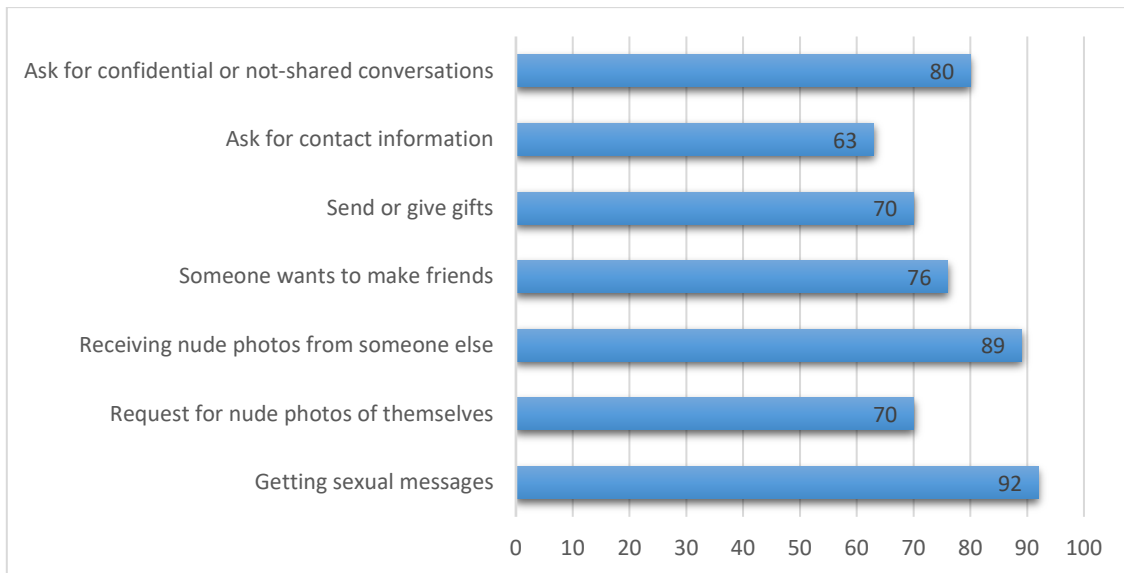


Figure 1: Things that children think are parts of grooming (modified from Juusola, et al., 2021)

Even 73 per cent of children and youths reported that they could recognise a person who is grooming, but at least one quarter cannot say if they could. Children also believe that they can end a conversation which turns sexual but there are also children who have reportedly felt that they would like to end a conversation, but they could not keep in touch or feel attachment to a contact online. Comparing to earlier surveys, 62 per cent of children have reported that they know or they had suspected that the one who initiated contact was an adult or at least five years older. This is a higher frequency than earlier. Only eight per cent of girls and 39 per cent of boys have reported that they have never received sexual messages online, but 17 per cent report that they have received such messages weekly and 29 per cent at least once a month. Almost one-third of girls receive nude photos at least once a month, 15 per cent weekly and boys 12 per cent once in a month and four per cent weekly. Children and youth quite easily and even incautiously initiate conversations with strangers online and provide identification information (name, age, address, hobbies, etc.). Half of answers show that they are used to starting conversation with strangers and it is natural. They can talk about almost everything, such as about daily happenings, shared interesting, hearings, friendship, music, games, sorrows, sex and sexuality. Conversations with unknown are interests (58%), nice (72%), make new friends (71%) or provide support (38%). Contacts are made mainly by dullness (55%) or curiosity (40%) but almost one-third (33%) has not understood what it means when you start a conversation with an unknown person. Six per cent of children have reported that making contact online has led to meeting in the real world. Grooming has caused over half of (54%) feelings of anguish, dejection, depression or other negative feelings from itself but also feelings of embarrassment or guilt. One-third of children have shared that they also felt helpless and one-fifth has felt fear that something awful would happen. If children share about grooming experiences, they usually tell friends or adults but only after a long time. It is meaningful that many wants to tell adults and professionals about their experiences if someone simply asks them. (Juusola, et al., 2021)

3.3 What can authorities do?

It has been especially important to record sexual crimes against children as part of serious crimes against life and health. Victims of these crimes are in a vulnerable position. The judicial process should be more effective and resolved more quickly. That is why an important priority is finding new tools and practices. (Sisäministeriö, 2021) It has already been seen that it is important to protect every child from different violence and for

authorities, it is important to work together that every dimension co-operates to serve the child's benefit (Poliisiammattikorkeakoulu, 2013). There are already many multi-professionals and authorities' working models with official, unofficial or good practices. Police officers, doctors as well as social and health care authorities can consult each other, make contact and change the available knowledge, for example, with schools or kindergarten. Also in pre-trial investigation, it is important to make these contacts and work with prosecutors for better results to guarantee child victims' positions, suspects' rights and an effective judicial process in court. These practices are already normalised because there is needed co-operation and shared professionalism for multiple phenomenon's investigations to get better pictures of the whole situation, guarantee good results for children's ongoing health and social development. That which benefits children is tied to every professional and authority and it is not just a cost-effective act; it is best for everyone and the possibility to recognise and intervene in the same kinds of things in the future. (Ellonen & Rantaeskola, 2016)

Nowadays, criminal investigations quite routinely mean jobs with computers, phones and the internet (Sisäministeriö, 2021) and that is why the challenges of ICT investigations (information and communication technology) have also increased. In 2017, a Laurea master's student wrote his master's thesis on issues of CAM investigations. He interviewed police officers on tactical, technical and leadership investigations to gain unwritten knowledge on the challenges of CAM investigations. These results have shown that CAM investigations are demanding, requiring a lot of time and human resources. Workload, especially mental workload, can be hard or even unreasonable, easily causing cumulative stress for investigators. Investigations based just on using human resources has felt unpleasant and a very hard part of crime investigation. Many investigators have also felt that work that is needed in investigations at the pre-trial phase has had no value or positions in court or at least punishments have been quite small compared to this workload. It has been important to get better tools and opportunities to answer technical challenges and development, for example, with automatised photo and video material classification. There has especially been expectations for a hash-database, the knowledge of which could help a lot in later investigations in terms of making them easier, quicker and erasing extra exposure for harmful materials because of the same circumflex pictures, photos or videos should already be recognised and the knowledge could be used again. In 2018, the National Bureau of Investigations has shared that this kind of database is an ongoing development process and they have co-operated with operators to ensure that sites that contain illegal materials could be closed easily (Tanttari, 2018). Tactical investigators have also earlier reported, with regard to the needs of education on information technology, forensic IT tools and knowledge of different platforms or other technical issues. Many investigators get the best knowledge just by work experience over time. Investigators have also reported that there is a need to gain knowledge which addresses what has happened with illegal materials, for example, how they have come into a suspect's possession and what components should be taken into consideration in interrogations (Marttila, 2017). The same viewpoint has also repeated a survey of the Finnish institute of health and welfare in which has explored authorities' co-operations and practices in 2019 (Huittinen, 2019).

3.4 Old and new challenges to be aware of child's sexual abuse online

It is also considered that cybercrimes are increasing by using new forms of networks - and acting together in different hardly encrypted anonymous marketplaces on the Dark Web. At the same time, it has been recognised that authorities can impact and respond to a cyber environment's challenges only by using actual development and act both nationally and internationally. As earlier, effectiveness is also important such that police could prevent, recover and make crimes' investigations during pre-trial quickly (Turvallisuskomitea, 2017a). Legal Enforcement Authorities' jurisdiction and resources have to respond to changes of environment and duties' demands also motivated human resources has seen to be adding national cybersecurity and cost-effective actors (Turvallisuskomitea, 2017). When we talk about child sexual abuse, it is also an issue of border crossing crimes and investigations which require international police and judicial co-operation to get evidence which is needed for investigations. National legislation should be clear and able to respond different challenges. Handling and analysing digital evidence are also important challenges for the cybercrimes area (Turvallisuskomitea, 2017a). New technology can also free human resources to get better results in IT crimes investigations and they could be cost effective in taking care of possible distractions with worthwhile, authorised quality demands (Sisäministeriö, 2021). In crimes entailing the sexual abuse of children online, there should be tools to catch those who have already committed acts online a long time and also are effective in this way even if there are also a lot of cases where those who are suspects at first time already have a lot of victims (Tanttari, 2018). It is not only an issue of IT forensics, but also that apart from pre-trial and crime processes, authorities could also have enough knowledge of cybersecurity technology, knowledge technology and information technology at all levels of the judicial processes (Ulkuuniemi, et al., 2018). It is also important to be aware of what happens as

technology changes and how children and young people use different technological opportunities and what changes or places are relevant now and in the future to this point of view and that various cases of sexual abuse of a child could be prevented and investigated in the best possible manner (Fagerlund, et al., 2013). For example, only nine per cent of children reported in spring 2021 that they use video contact at all or were asked to perform in front of a web camera (Juusola, et al., 2021) even if previous years have estimated that with CAM materials, there is also the increasing issue of live streaming performances so that victims and suspects can be on the other side of the world and there is no recording of that performance whatsoever (Tanttari, 2018). All this could be authorities being able to be prepared for and predict, which is also an issue of necessary ICT investigations' forensic tools in the future to handle different media, new equipment and frequently updated versions (Marttila, 2017) and also be prepared for other issues, which can assist in delivering better results overall.

4. Discussion

This case study pictures what kind of phenomenon the sexual abuse of children online is, what it includes, and how it could be handled better. The analysis of Finnish LEAs' and voluntary sectors' studies and reports provide quite wide components concerning how sexual abuse of children online can get started and by how many different avenues it can happen. A broad point of view is important for understanding the phenomenon, which includes unreported and hidden criminality. Consequences for children's and youth's lives can be, in the worst cases, even devastating if they could have better knowledge to defend themselves in a new living environment with internet access. There are both old and new challenges to the LEA, including tools and possibilities to aim to gain better and quicker judicial processes to guarantee every stakeholder's rights and benefits. This entails up-to-date technical tools, judicial knowledge of national and even international legislation, and an understanding of different phenomena which occur in new environments and needs ongoing monitoring of forthcoming threats and possibilities.

More research is needed that compares Finnish knowledge with an international perspective. For example, reference data is available from Australia. The Australian Government annually reports online child sexual exploitation focusing on community awareness levels, current attitudes towards online child sexual exploitation, and preventative measures. The Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE) has interviewed parents or caregivers of children and youth ages 4 to 18, their educators, siblings, and other key players such as health care professionals and other community members. According to ACCCE (2021), 65 per cent of parents and caregivers perceive their children are safe using the internet. On the other hand, 21 per cent of parents and caregivers believe online child sexual exploitation could also happen. The Australian Government's Online Safety Act 2021 improves statutory schemes, functions, and powers requiring, for example, industries to keep their users safe online by updated industry codes or standards. The Cyber Report Team investigates and helps to remove illegal and harmful content from the internet. The eSafety Commissioner can identify anonymous online accounts used to bully, abuse, or humiliate others, or exchange illegal content.

Comparing the experiences of different countries can provide new possibilities and tools for preventing, detecting, or investigating these crimes. At the same time, the use of digital evidence may evolve. Other observations also emerge about how law enforcement technologies have evolved and what will be needed in the future.

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