Who we are

IWF

- We're a **not-for profit child protection organisation**.

- We **identify images and videos** showing the sexual abuse of children, wherever they are found on the internet. We then work **with partners and law enforcement globally** to have them removed.

- For 26 years we've given people a safe place to report child sexual abuse imagery, anonymously – now **in 50 countries.**

- More than **180 global technology companies** make up our membership.

Finding Child Abuse Online

IWF

Public reports

We take public reports in the UK and from our 50 international portals.

Proactive

Our analysts proactively search all public areas of the internet including forums and the dark web; their experience and expertise means they know where criminal content is exchanged.

Operate 2 x Victim reporting services

Children can report to us, via Report Remove, an IWF & Childline partnership and the Meri Trustline which is a collaboration with the Rati Foundation, our project partners based in India.

National Child Abuse Image Database (CAID)

We continue to work with the Home Office to assess and hash (create digital fingerprint) millions of the worst child sexual abuse images found by UK law enforcement.

We use CAID daily to share images with UK police forces as well as supporting our victim identification work.
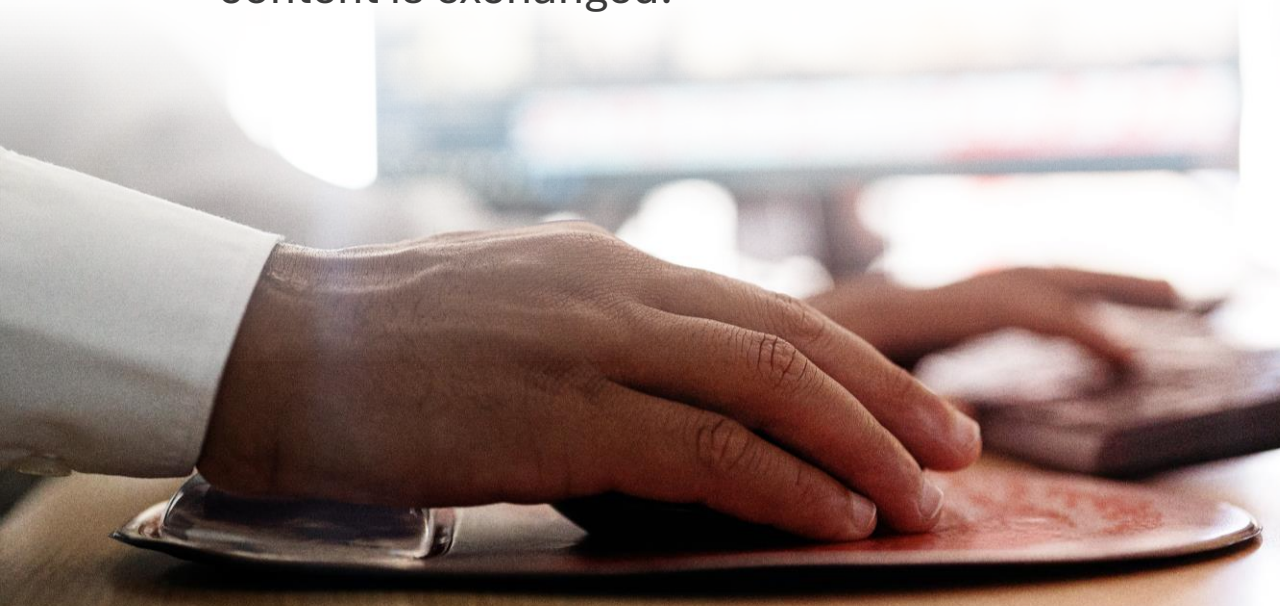
Scale of the problem in 2022

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375,230
reports suspected to contain child sexual abuse imagery

255,588
were confirmed to contain images or videos of children suffering sexual abuse

199,363
reports included child sexual abuse images/videos where children are often **groomed/coerced/exploited online**

63,050
reports included child sexual abuse imagery of **7-10 year olds** who were **groomed/coerced/exploited online**

129%
This is a **129 per cent increase** on 2021

14%
of the imagery of 7-10 year olds showed **rape, sexual torture and inclusion of sexual activities with animals** (UK Category A material)

Since 2020, reports that include child sexual abuse imagery showing UK Category A content (**rape, sexual torture and inclusion of sexual activities with animals**) have increased by
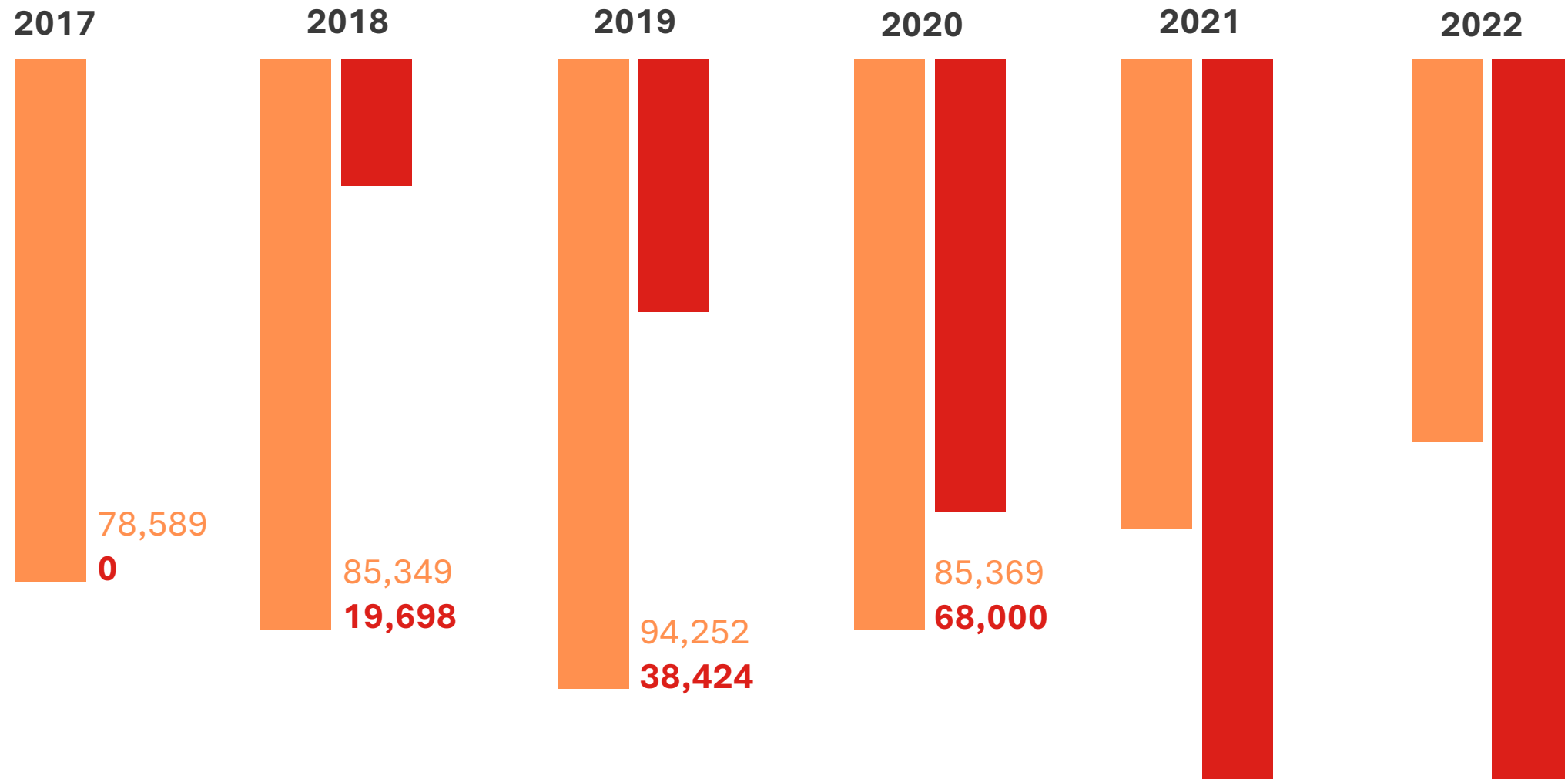
100%   (25,050 > 51,369)

IWF HOTLINE DATA

The changing scale and nature of child abuse images online

Offender present vs Child alone at home and unsupervised (Offender not present)

IWF

2017   **2018**   **2019**   **2020**   **2021**   **2022**

78,589
0

85,349
19,698

94,252
38,424

85,369
68,000

We found that sexual imagery created of children when they are online, often in the supposed 'safe spaces' of their bedrooms, now accounts for almost **four in every five** reports.

69,913
182,281

56,208
199,363

"Sextortion"

- **Financially motivated** sexually coerced extortion or 'sextortion' is a type of blackmail where offenders use intimate photos or videos of their victims to extort money from them.

- Financial Reward – Offenders target young people and adults alike. SWGfL @ RPH report a 47% increase in adults reaching out for support in extortion cases.

- The acquisition of images is a means to an end, not the primary goal.

- When shared online, the publication of the images signals the end stage of the extortion process.

"Sextortion"

IWF
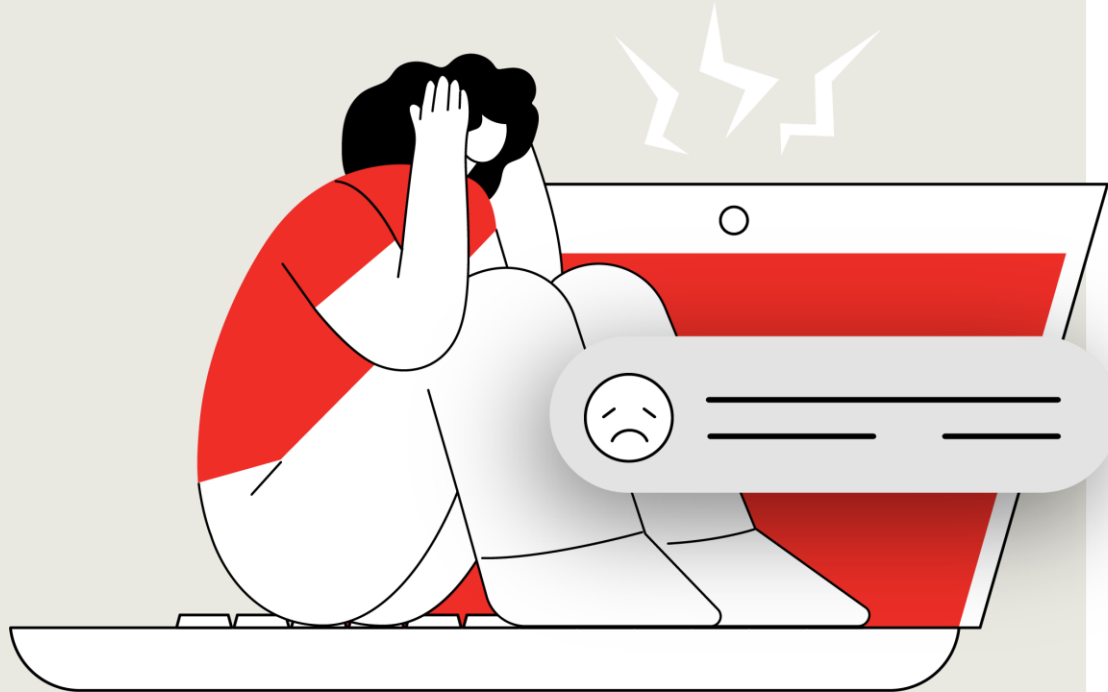
- **Sexually motivated** Sextortion is a type of blackmail where offenders coerce victims into producing intimate and sexually explicit photos or videos of their victims.

- Sexual gratification – The production of more often increasingly extreme imagery - Children are the intended target.

- Images and coercion may be used facilitate contact abuse.

- Victim contact details may be 'traded' with other offenders and used in swaps as a form of human currency.

- The sharing of images online is not an indicator that the abuse process has ended.

$$$ Opportunity = Organised Crime
Low risk & Low barrier to entry

- International Organised Crime Hot-spot locations have been identified in West Africa, and Southeast Asia.

- Offenders adopt a ruthless approach to demanding payment from victims and parents of victims.

- A range of payment forms are promoted including Mobile payment Apps, Money Transfer, e-gift cards etc.

- Offenders typically engage with victims across several platforms using fake accounts and profiles which are designed to convince victims that the profiles are real because of the number of followers and other indicators suggesting a genuine profile.
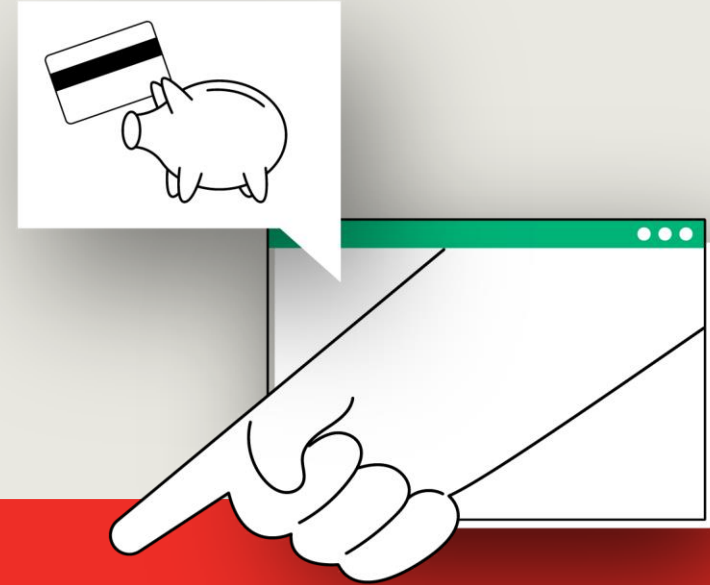
It can be a matter of minutes between exchange of images and the demands for money.

Gender bias in **online** CSAM

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In 2022

96%

of the reports showed girls
(242,989)

2%

of the reports showed boys
(6,253)

2%

of the reports showed both sexes
(4,016)

A small number were unidentifiable.

Line chart showing "Girls seen in imagery" (red) and "Boys seen in imagery" (orange) from 2012 to 2022.

Girls: 75% (2012), 76% (2013), 80% (2014), 85% (2015), 89% (2016), 86% (2017), 78% (2018), 92% (2019), 93% (2020), 97% (2021), 96% (2022)

Boys: 10% (2012), 10% (2013), 10% (2014), 9% (2015), 5% (2016), 7% (2017), 17% (2018), 3% (2019), 3% (2020), 1% (2021), 2% (2022)
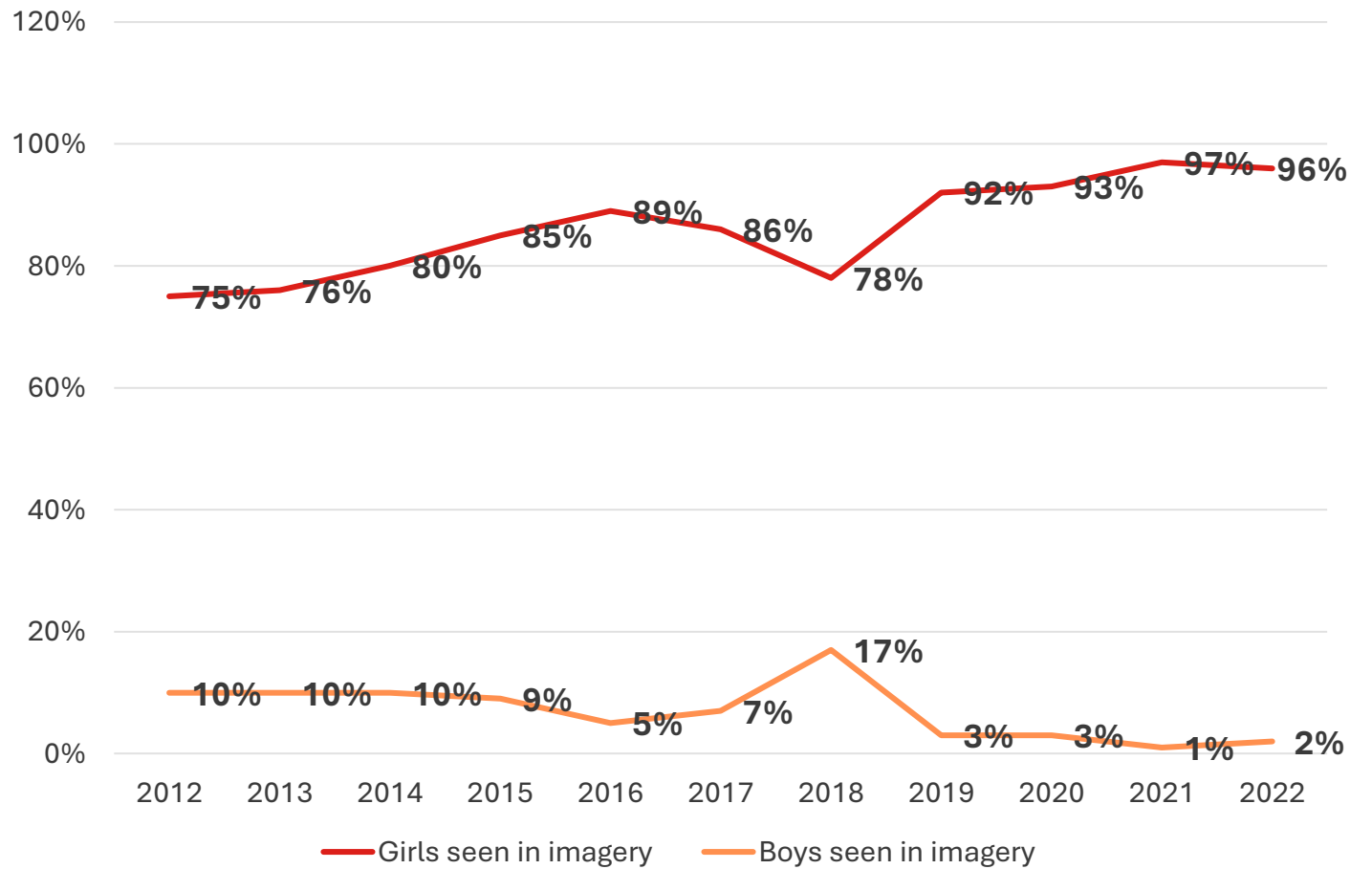
Gender Demographics of victims of financially motivated sextortion*

(*Jan – August 2023 Report Remove)

IWF
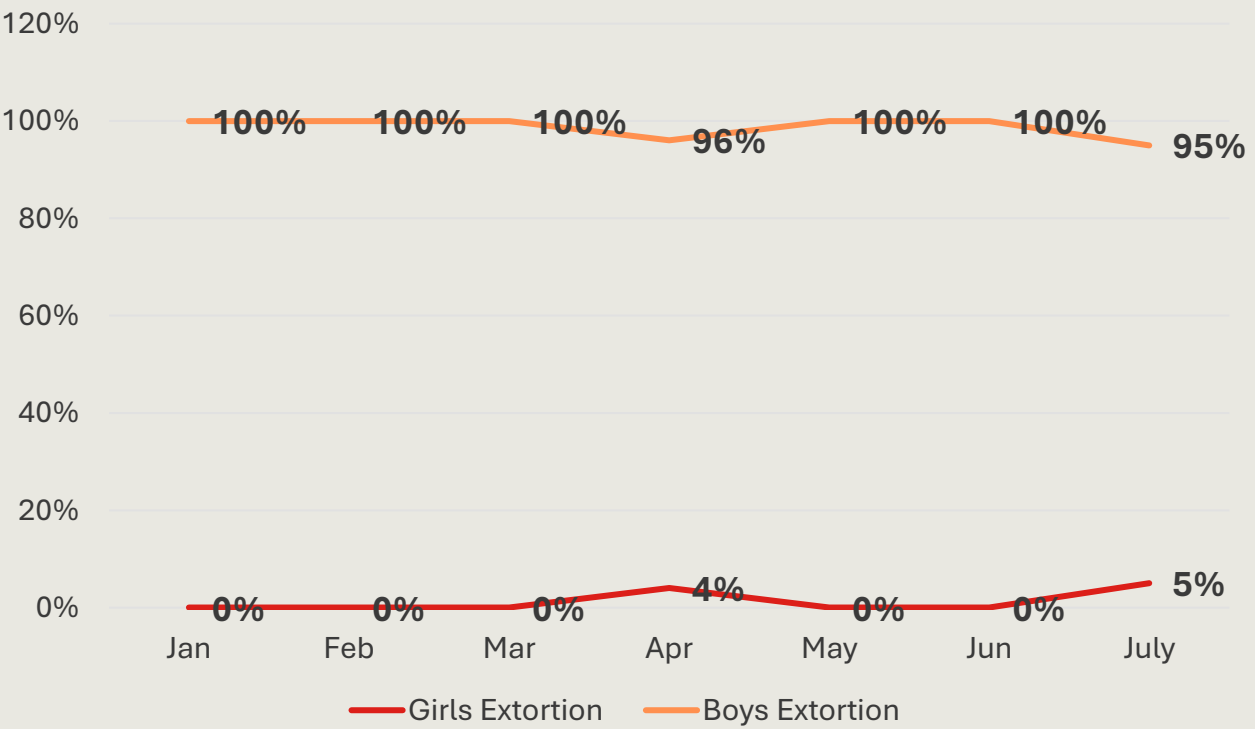
In 2023

12%

of all Report Remove reports featured the confirmed sextortion of a minor with **113** UK incidents recorded*.
324+ reports of Extortion YTD.

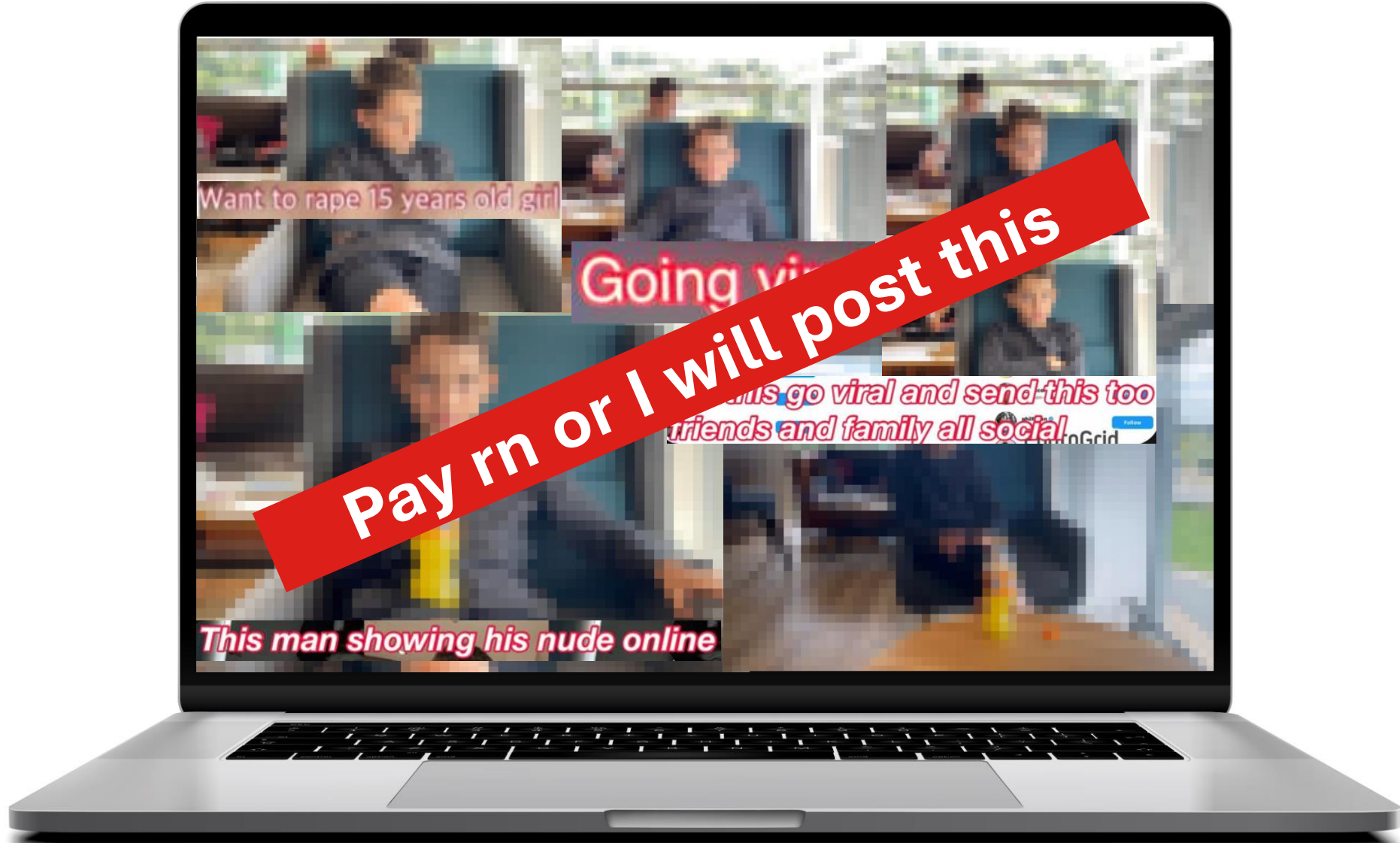*The identified incidents are likely an under representation of the true scale of the issue due to under reporting and non-disclosure by victims /the financial element of their abuse*

Trend: NCMEC Data
1 Recorded instance in 2019 rising to over 7,000 cases in 2022.

Boys of 15-17 are overrepresented in the data.

Chart axis values: 120%, 100%, 80%, 60%, 40%, 20%, 0%

Boys Extortion line: 100%, 100%, 100%, 96%, 100%, 100%, 95%

Girls Extortion line: 0%, 0%, 0%, 4%, 0%, 0%, 5%

X-axis: Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, July

Legend: Girls Extortion, Boys Extortion

The Threat / MO

The Threat / MO

IWF Extract:

Offender: "I have screenshot all ur followers and tags can send this nudes to everyone and also send your nudes to your Family and friends Until it goes viral...All you've to do is to cooperate with me and I won't expose you"

Independent Newspaper US Teenager Extract:

Offender: "Are you gonna cooperate with me"

Victim: "I'm kms rn" ["I'm kill myself right now"]

Victim: "Bc of you" ["Because of you"] e

Offender: "Good"

Offender: "Do that fast"

Offender: "Or I'll make you do it"

Offender: "I swear to God"

Hey I have ur nudes and everything needed to ruin your life, I have screenshot all ur followers and tags and those that commented on your post. I can send this nudes to everyone in England if you don't corporate...... all you have to do is corporate with me and I will not expose u. If you block me I'll ruin your life.

? Who's this

I thought u deleted them

Don't try to be smart and think you can get off my hook by blocking me. I've got all this planned and I'm not the only one pulling this off... so in your own best interest, I'd advise you to corporate and do as I say. If you take too long to read and reply my text you're going down. I DON'T MAKE EMPTY THREATS!!! Be warned!

We've gone through this before who is this

Message...

INDEPENDENT

News > World > Americas > US Crime News

A teen dead and two Nigerians extradited for sextortion. How a horror night on Instagram killed Jordan DeMay

Jordan DeMay, 17, killed himself after being blackmailed by a group of men overseas who posed as a woman on Instagram and coerced him into sending them nudes. His mother tells **Andrea Blanco** how she hopes the extradition and prosecution of the suspects will set a precedent for the handling of sextortion cases

Thursday 17 August 2023 11:08

The importance of disclosure and reporting

Depression, self-harm and suicide are all factors that have been associated with sextortion events.

Barriers to reporting

Victims may feel:
- Trapped by the inability to pay and the prospect of being exposed online
- They are to blame
- They won't be believed
- A sense of shame

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Finding a way through

Block it, Report it, Hash it, Remove it!

REPORT REMOVE

Nude image of you online?
We can help take it down.

IWF & NSPCC developed Report Remove to support a young person in reporting their own sexual images or videos for removal from the internet.

The process is child-centred; does not identify them and ensures the child will not inadvertently be criminalised.

www.childline.org.uk/report-remove

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Rogue Support/ Content Removal Services

Security / Reputation Management firms and individuals have been identified by victims as compounding their abuse and anxiety.

Themes reported included:

- High pressure sales tactics to get victims to pay for offered removal services

- High fees for promised removal

- Over promise what is possible

- [Link](#)

Good quality conversations

One good quality conversation about online grooming and online sexual abuse can make all the difference to both parents/carers and children.

- It breaks down barriers to future conversations.

- Parents who'd already spoken to their children were more confident their child would speak to them if a problem arose.

Advice, guidance and support resources have been developed across LEA, NGO and Industry sectors. www.iwf.org.uk/resources/sextortion

Be proactive – leave the door open to make it easier for children to disclose if something goes wrong.
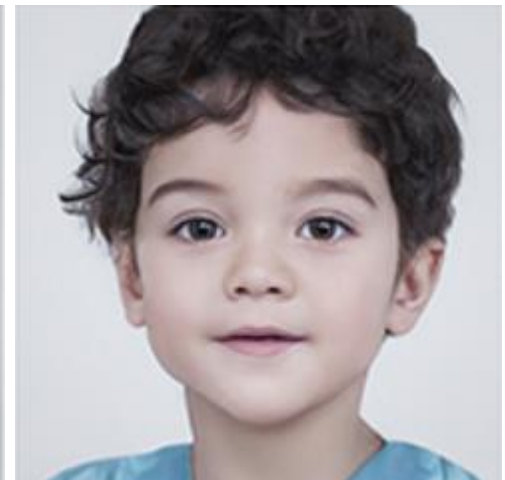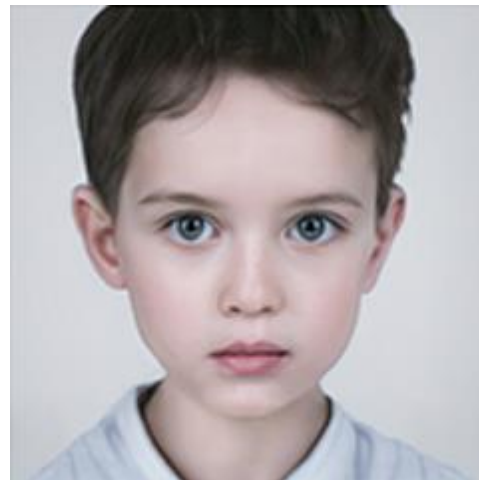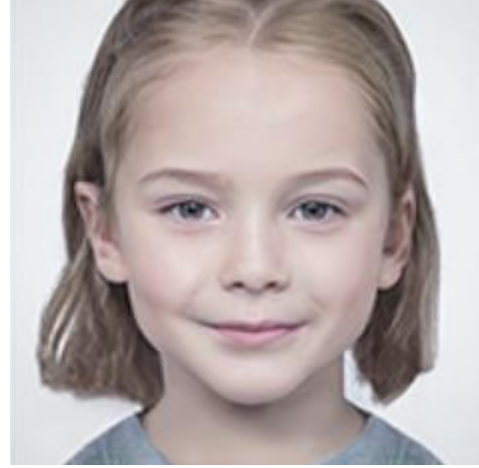
"Prevention is better than cure"

often attributed to the Dutch philosopher Desiderius Erasmus in around 1500

talk.iwf.org.uk

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Artificial Intelligence and the creation of CSAM

AI Face Swapping

IWF

AI/Machine Learning

- AI-generated child sexual abuse imagery is criminal in the UK.

- IWF analysts are identifying photo-realistic AI-generated child sexual abuse imagery.

- Majority of AI CSAM on Darknet/Tor.

- Clearnet examples first reported to IWF in May 2023.

- Crossover from Darknet to Clearnet is likely to only increase over time.

Text to Image AI Images

Prompt results

Positive:

two 23yo American women naked, in room, blonde, 8k, best quality, masterpiece, (looking into camera:1.3), photograph, (beautiful)

Negative:

(deformed iris, deformed pupils, semi-realistic, cgi, 3d, render, sketch, cartoon, drawing, anime:1.4), text, close up, cropped, out of frame, worst quality, low quality, jpeg artifacts, ugly, duplicate, morbid, mutilated, extra fingers, mutated hands, poorly drawn hands, poorly drawn face, mutation, deformed, blurry, dehydrated, bad anatomy, bad proportions, extra limbs, cloned face, disfigured, gross proportions, malformed limbs, missing arms, missing legs, extra arms, extra legs, fused fingers, too many fingers, long neck, ((blurry)), duplicate, deformed, cartoon, animated, render, conjoined, detached, hands mutated

AI Prompt Generated Image

Offender Discussions on Tor

IWF

Discussion of Models

- Considerations are security/anonymity

- Restrictions/keyword controls in each model

- Quality of end results

- Ease of creation

- Speed of development/quality

Exchange of guides and prompts

- Several 'how to' guides were identified

- Offenders sharing the prompts they have used alongside the resulting images
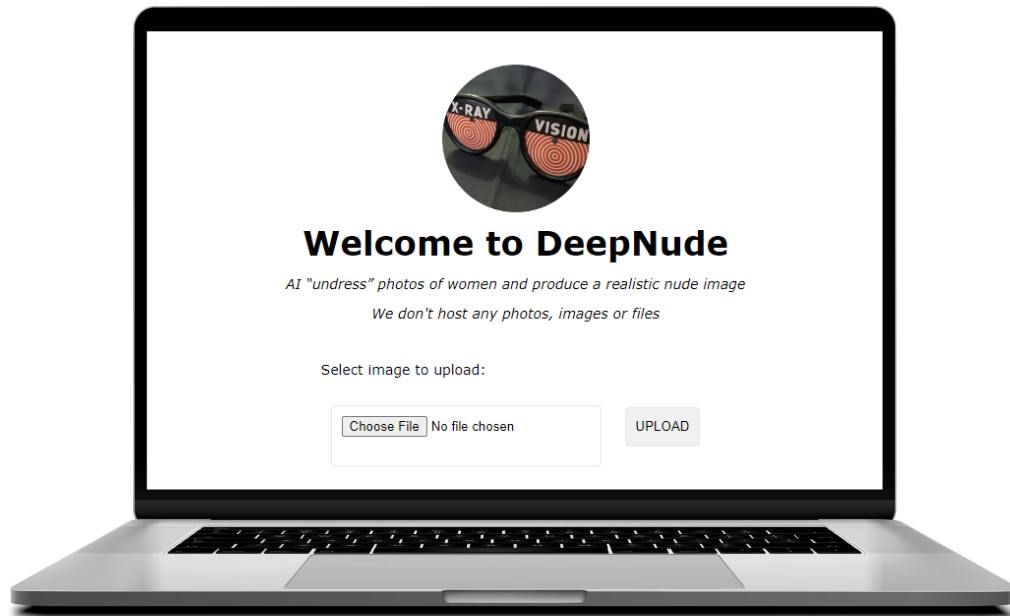
Other notable chat

- Requests for creators to use AI to generate new CSAM images of existing named real victims

- Use of other tools to adjust/refine images (Photoshop)

Children's access to AI tools

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AI can undress
pictures
children upload

Welcome to DeepNude

AI "undress" photos of women and produce a realistic nude image
We don't host any photos, images or files

Select image to upload:

[Choose File] No file chosen   [UPLOAD]

Reddit forum post from mother.

"It turns out that some of the boys from the year have found a website where **an AI can undress pictures you upload.** ...among other things, **my daughter has been exposed to this, where a vacation photo of her in a bikini has been run through this AI and now a "nude photo" of my 14-year-old daughter abounds.**

We have so far chosen to contact the police, who will call us later today, and we have blocked her Facebook photos from being seen by others. But it seems that a warning to all the rest of you is necessary. This AI undressing page is apparently completely free and only one of many..."

Prevention & Protection

Building resilience to the threat of online sexual abuse of children, thereby reducing the number of incidences.

1. To raise awareness of the risks to our children – understand **the opportunities and risks** that emerging Technology poses**.** Help them recognise the actions of offenders, feel empowered to block, report & tell someone they trust.

2. Inculcate respect and consideration for their peers.

3. Provide **more positive actions for parents** and carers to take to prevent their child becoming a victim of this these types of abuse.

4. Continued Multi-Stakeholder cooperation across Industry, Gov, Law Enforcement & Civill Society to produce practical, solutions to mitigate the challenges presented by a fast-paced digital landscape.

Thanks for listening

![IWF Internet Watch Foundation logo]

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