
Global Research on Online Sexual Solicitation of Minors

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Institute of Mental Health Research**
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Overview

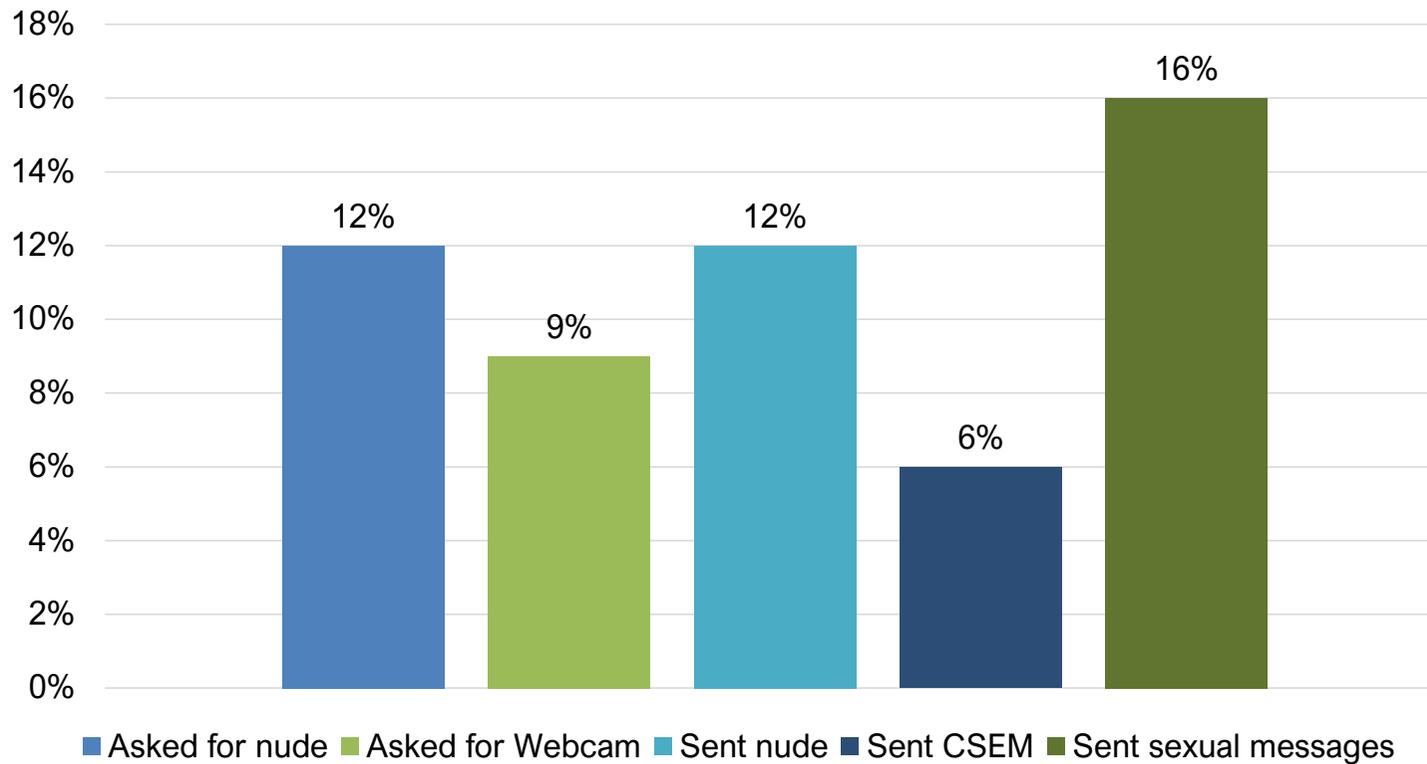
- What is online sexual solicitation?
- What and where
- Overlap with CSEM
- Prevalence rates
- Perpetrator and target characteristics
- Fantasy- vs contact-driven solicitations
- Intervention

Types of Solicitation

- *Request for sexually motivated interaction*
- *Not necessarily luring/enticement or grooming*
- *Focus on solicitations by adults, but peers/older minors too*
- Asking for CSEM
- Sending CSEM or adult pornography
- Sexual chat
- webcam/livestreaming acts
- Planning to meet for sex

Type of Sexual Solicitation

(Thorn 2020 Report)



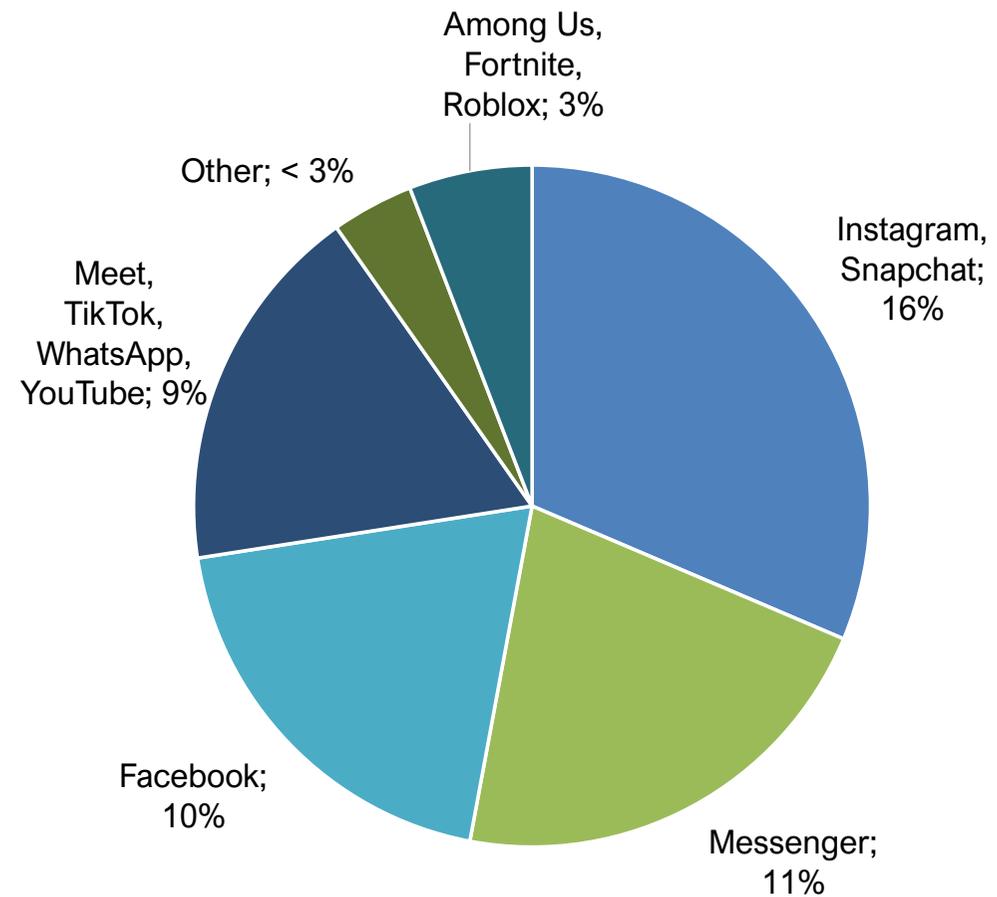
Grooming?

- No common process, highly variable, nonlinear
- Not always grooming, e.g., abrupt, threatening
- Focus on strangers but many already known
- Targeting vulnerable young people

Where Solicitations Occur

(Thorn, 2020)

- Social platforms
- Encrypted messaging apps
- Online multi-player games with messaging
- Chart shows % of online sexual interaction per platform/app (data does not reflect % using the platform/app)



Prevalence Rates

Other studies see Wager et al. (2018)

- Spain: Game-Guadix et al. (2017): **13%** in past year from adult
- Germany, Netherlands, USA, Thailand: Wachs et al. (2016): **18%** in past year from adult known online only
- USA: Thorn 2020 study: **25%** any online sexual interaction from adult

Madigan et al. (2018) meta: 9 studies presented a **11.5%** overall decline over time

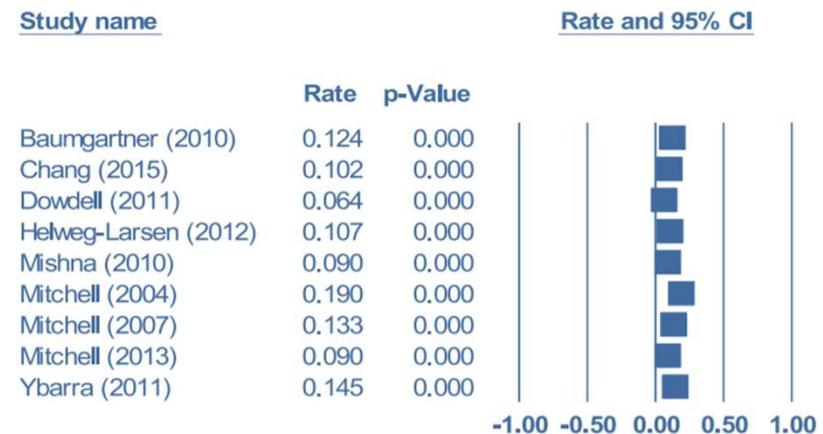


Figure 3. Forest plot of the effect sizes for each study included in the meta-analysis on the prevalence of unwanted online solicitation.

Overlap with CSEM offending

- NJOV3: 28% solicitation cases had CSEM (Wolak & Finkelhor, 2013)
- Our CSEM research: 10% had solicited (Seto & Eke, 2015)
- Solicitation is source of CSEM via self-generation
- Nonconsensual resharing and sextortion

Paquette & Fortin (2021)

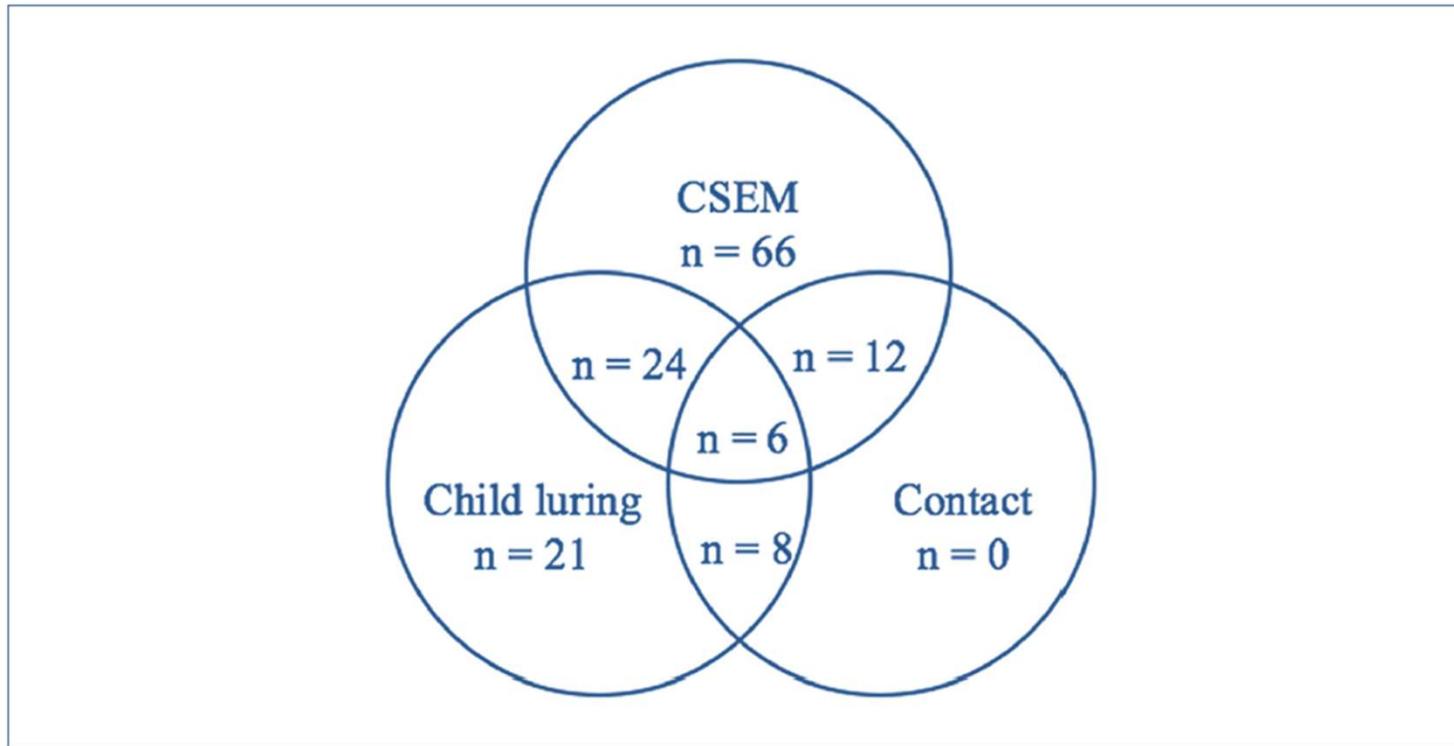
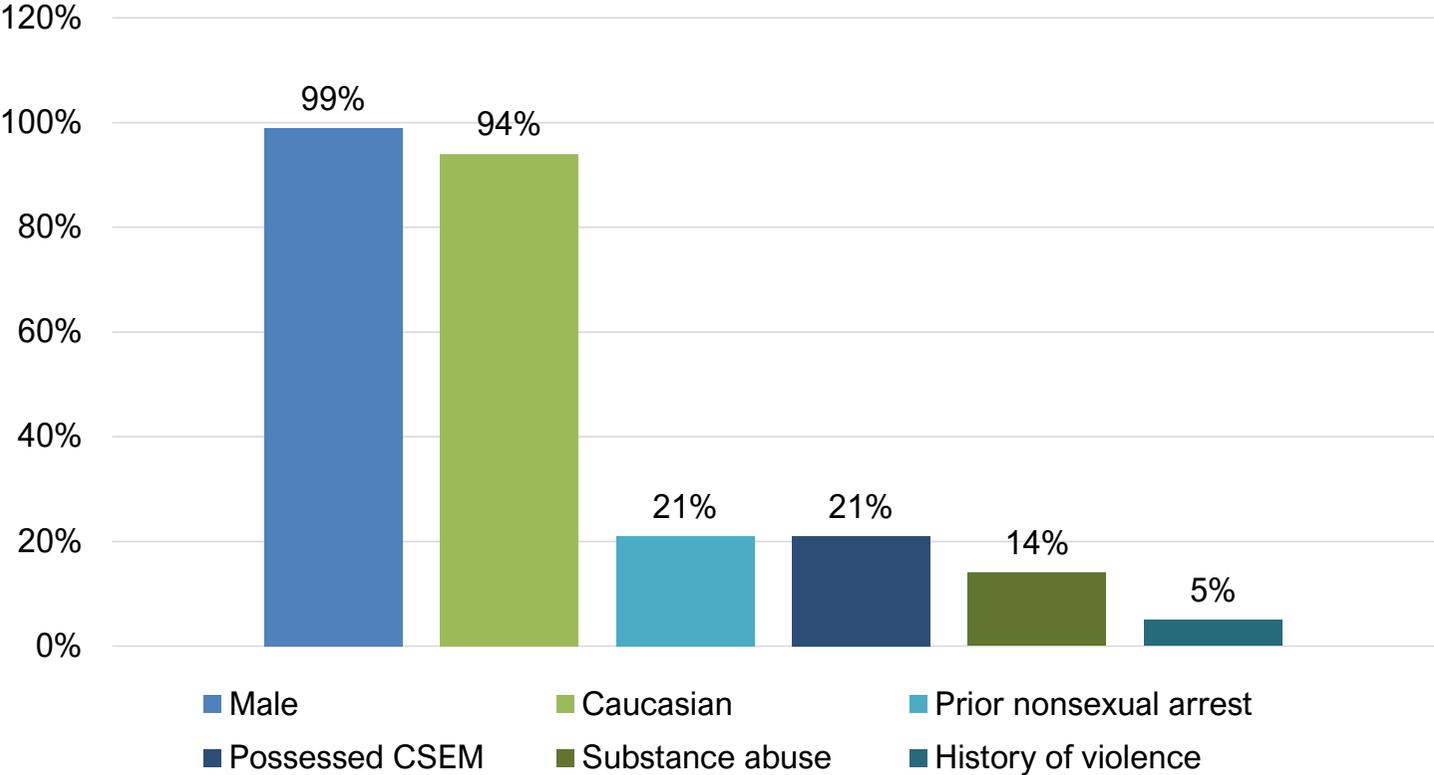


Figure 1. Sample representation of indexed sexual charges.

Solicitation Perpetrator Characteristics

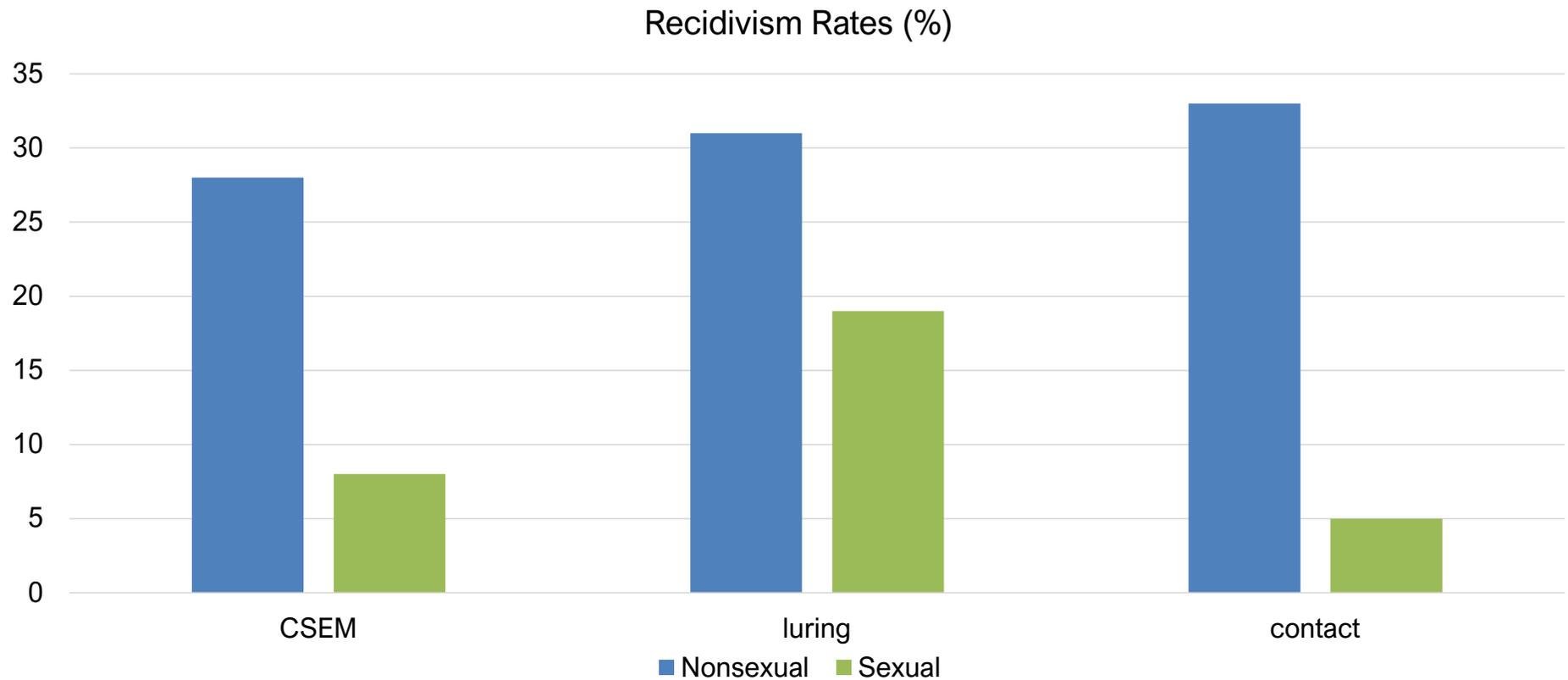
NJOV surveys



Solicitation vs. CSEM Offenders

- Solicitation offenders much less likely to be pedophilic or hebephilic (Babchishin et al., 2012)
- More likely to be antisocial
- More likely to have prior sexual offense history

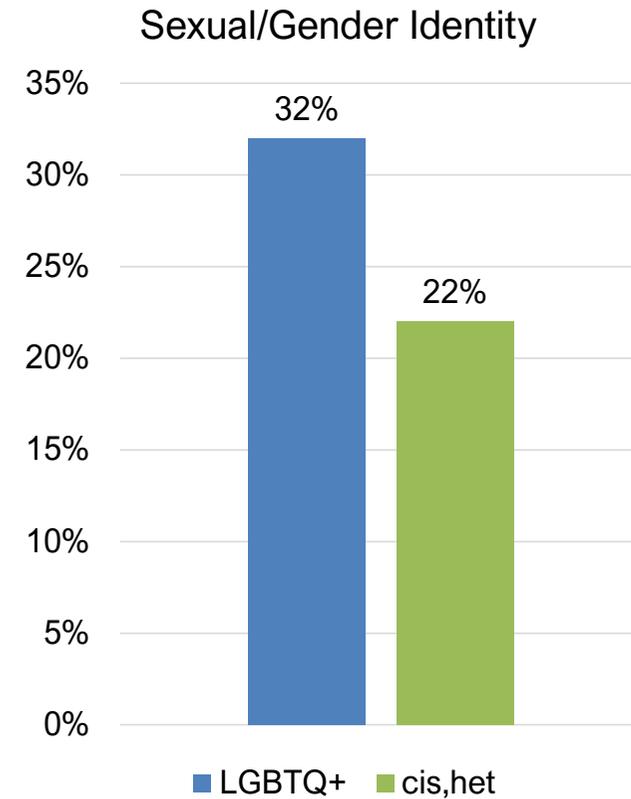
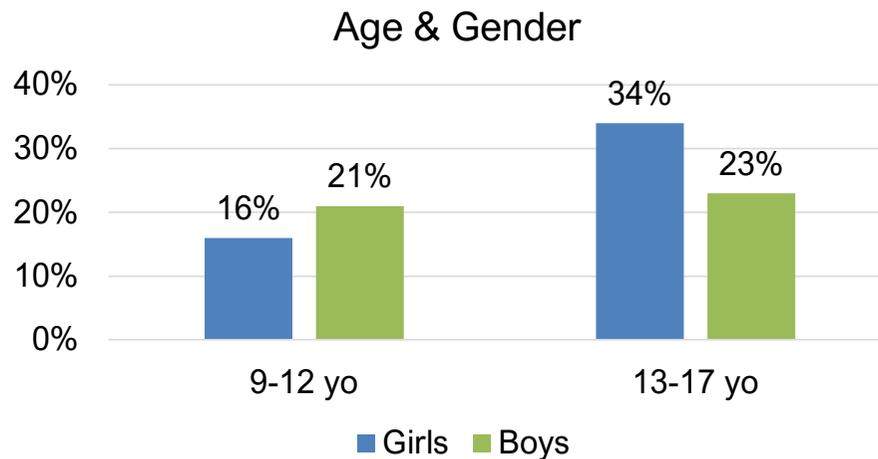
From Dowling et al. (2021): Australia



Target demographic differences

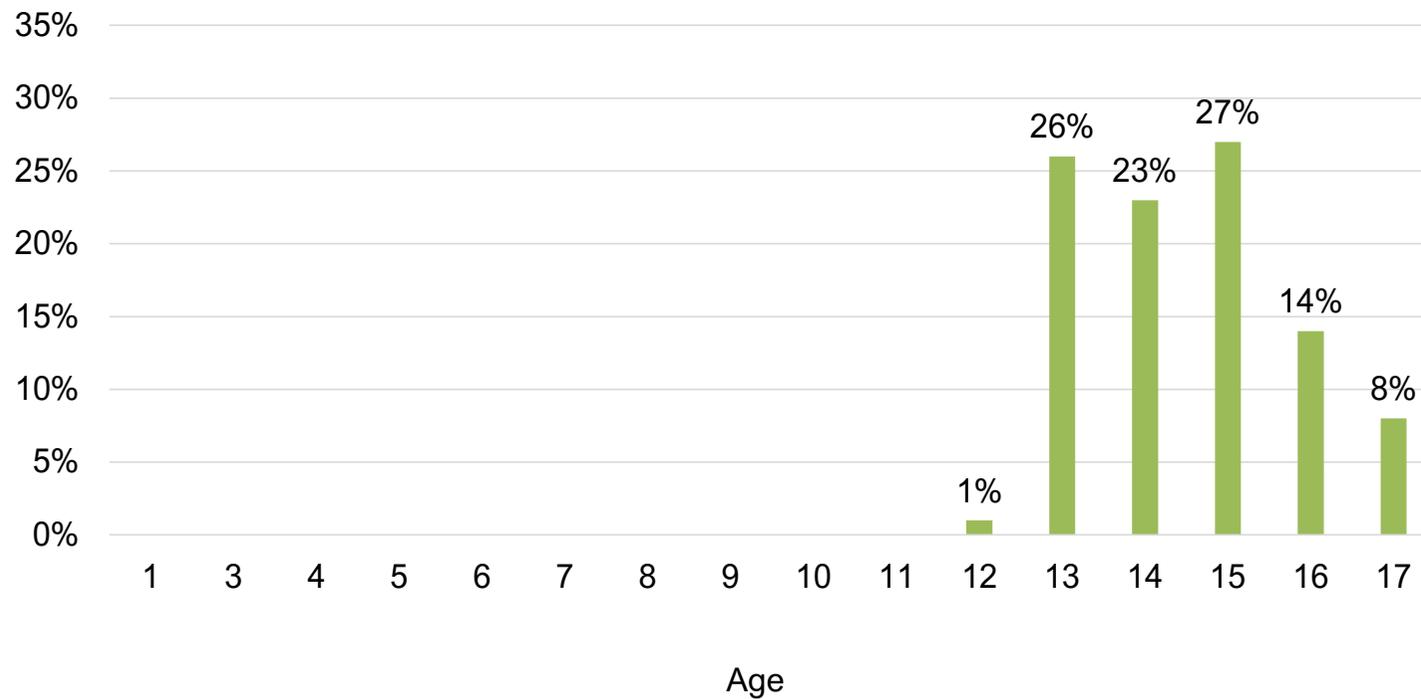
(Thorn 2020 Report)

- Older > younger children
- Girls > boys
- LGBTQ+ > cis-het



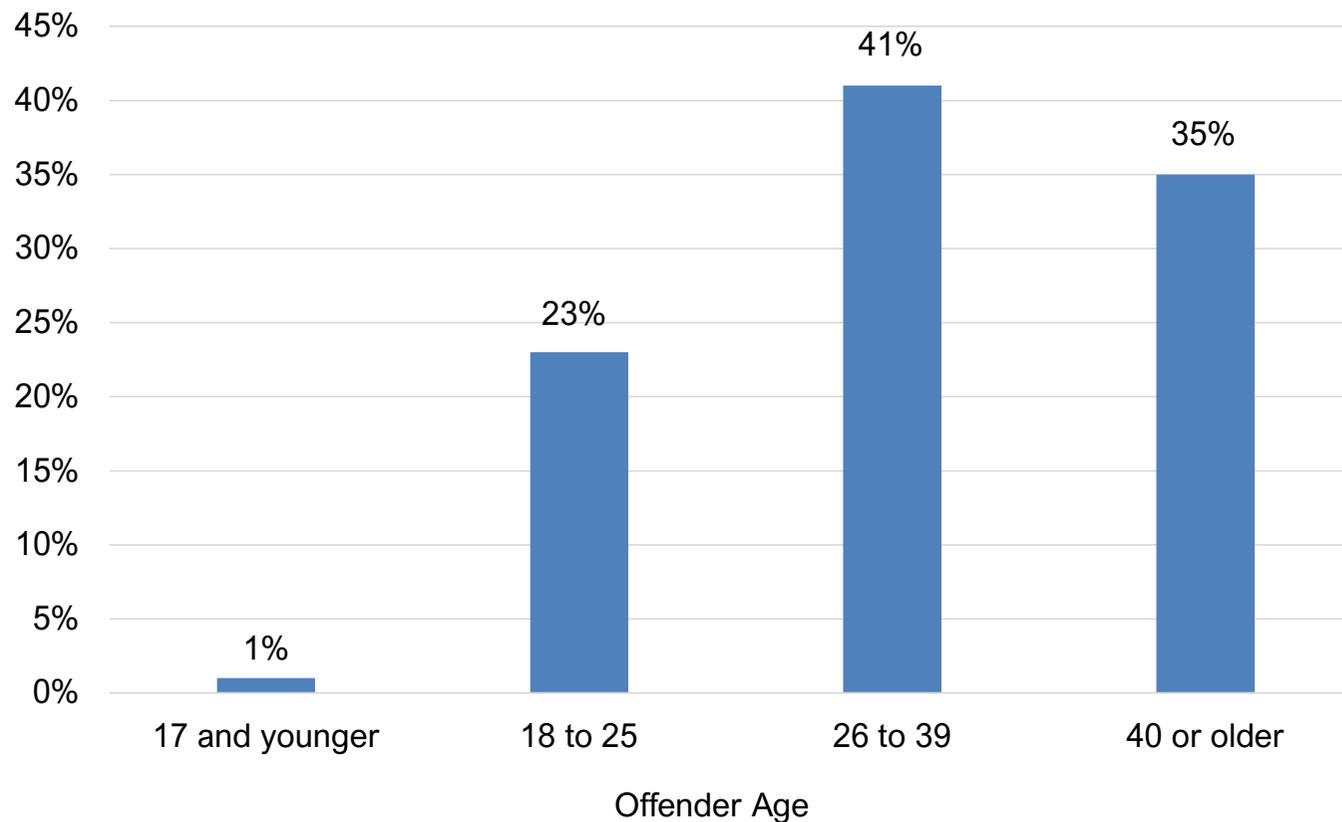
Solicitation Crimes Target Teens

75% Female



Wolak et al. (2008)

Perpetrators Were Much Older



Wolak et al. (2008)

NJOV Trends Over Time

(Wolak & Finkelhor, 2013 Bulletin)

	2000	2006	2009
<u>Already knew in person</u>	49%	59%	72%
Offender age 25 or less	11%	26%	47%
Possessed CSEM (met online > knew)	52%	44%	28%
Produced CSEM (knew > met online)	36%	57%	59%
Offender lied about being minor	5%	20%	15%
Victim lied about being adult	9%	14%	22%
Offender lied about sexual motives	21%	15%	15%
Offender met victim in person	76%	73%	66%
If met, traveled less than 50 miles	51%	67%	59%
If met, two or more meetings	72%	53%	63%

Fantasy- vs contact-driven solicitation

Fantasy Driven	Contact Driven
Focus on CSEM and sex chat	Focus on meeting in person
Longer interactions	Shorter interactions
More interactions	Fewer interactions
More paraphilic	More sexually compulsive
<i>Less antisocial?</i>	<i>More antisocial?</i>
<i>More likely to be stranger?</i>	<i>More likely to be known?</i>
<i>Younger children?</i>	<i>Older children?</i>

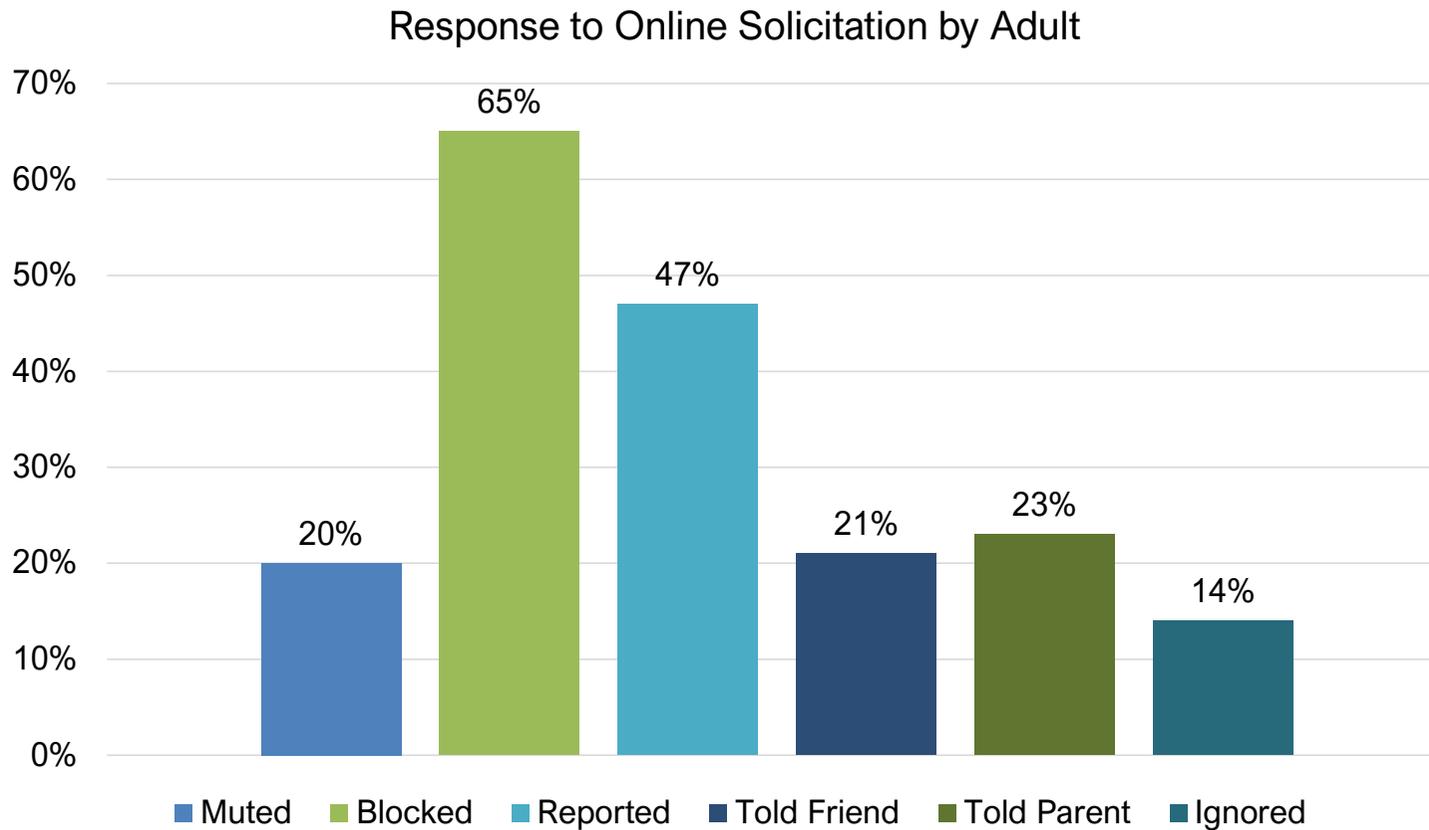
Also a mixed group that does both (DeHart et al., 2017)

Briggs et al. (2011); DeHart et al. (2017); Dowling et al. (2021); Seto et al. (2012)

Intervention



Thorn 2020 Report on Minor Responses



Automating Detection of Solicitations

- Multiple studies attempting to highlight linguistic differences
- Challenges in terms of false positives
- Biggest limitation is that most are based on PJ database

Questions & Answers

All questions can be submitted via the Q&A function.

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