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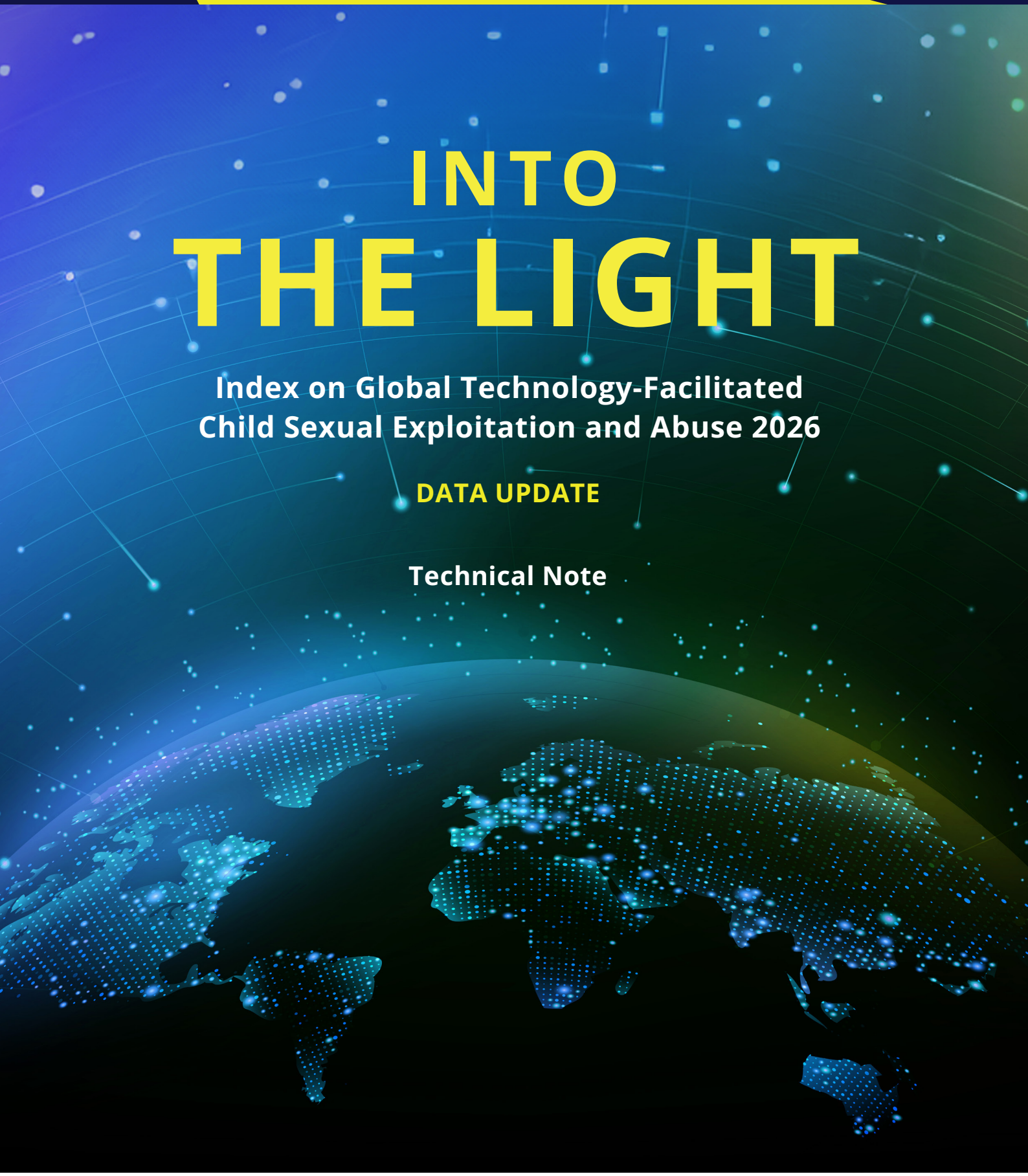

INTO THE LIGHT

Index on Global Technology-Facilitated Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse 2026

DATA UPDATE

Technical Note

HUMAN DIGNITY FOUNDATION

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

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Get help

Behind every number is a child. If you or someone you know needs support for child sexual exploitation and abuse, or if you are concerned that you might hurt a child, please visit Child Helpline International or Brave Movement or Stop it Now.

If you see harmful imagery or content online concerning a child, please report it to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), International Association of Internet Hotlines (INHOPE), Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) or the Canadian Center for Child Protection (C3P).

Disclaimer

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Introduction

Understanding the characteristics of Technology-Facilitated Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (TF-CSEA) victimisation and Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) is a vital part of understanding the scale and nature of child sexual exploitation and abuse globally. This data can vary in many ways, from its means of harm to the age/sex of the victims, but all represent the sexual abuse of a child and must be addressed.

These two data sources offer complementary but distinct perspectives on TF-CSEA. Survey data, drawn from nationally and sub-nationally representative samples, capture self-reported experiences of victimisation, either directly from children and adolescents or retrospectively from adults reflecting on childhood. This provides a public health approach to prevalence estimation that is often generalisable to wider populations. In contrast, CSAM data derive from the analysis of the metadata around images and videos depicting the sexual abuse of children, offering insight into the characteristics and circulation of abusive content within online ecosystems. Taken together, these sources provide a more complete picture of the phenomenon. Each has inherent strengths and limitations, including differences in reporting biases, age coverage, and frequency of data updates. Survey data offer population-level insights grounded in survivor experience, while CSAM data provide near real-time indicators of abuse and its distribution.

This Technical Note details the decision-making, calculations and contextual information required to best understand the data found in the 2026 Into the Light Index Data Update. This review aimed to update the recent systematic review and meta-analysis on global prevalence of TF-CSEA (Fry et al., 2024, 2025) of new studies published between 1 October 2023 and 31 December 2024, as well as additional sources that have not been identified in the previous searches.

There is also a detailed explanation around the CSAM data practices for each organisation which helps to place where the data are sourced and for what purpose. Finally, there is an explanation of the harmonisation and statistical analysis completed using the data. Additional information was gathered from experts in the field to aid in understanding and applicability of the data included.

PART 1

CSAM data analysis methods

The Into the Light Index Data Update report is meant to compliment the country level analysis provided in the 2025 *Into the Light Index* and explore more nuanced data points concerning TF-CSEA. The report provides global and regional data on commercial CSAM, the possession of files known as 'Paedophile Manuals', and both global and regional figures for all measured subtypes of TF-CSEA in global surveys.

The two data points concerning commercial CSAM and manuals are new to the Index and publicly available and therefore require an added level of explanation into their meaning, sourcing and potential impact.

The report also includes regional calculations for previously reported metrics at a country level including CSAM availability, and 'self-generated' and 'virtual' tags. The data will also include a global assessment of the most common type of online environment where CSAM was located.

CSAM data collection

The International Association of Internet Hotlines (INHOPE) and the Child Rescue Coalition (CRC) are some of the only organisations who can provide evidence-based analysis of the sensitive content that is CSAM, owing to their permissions and mandates in their jurisdictions. Furthermore, they are two of the CSAM-focused organisations which collect and share data concerning some of the more specific creation purposes and distribution elements of this material. The data reports which they produce are limited by the responsibility of their respective organisations as well as other privacy considerations (legislation, regulation etc.). The reports are further influenced by the capacity of each organisation during the reporting period.

To supplement the data provided by CRC in relation to 'paedophile manuals', Childlight conducted a roundtable with subsequent thematic analysis to develop a conceptual framework for the discussion and categorisation of 'paedophile manuals'. This panel included members from various sectors who have experience in the analysis, location and criminality of these files. The roundtable was attended by the research team who recorded the proceedings. The draft framework was then shared with participants for review and finally published alongside the country and regional analysis of volumes.

The analysis includes grouping responses by themes which are derived from the conversational prompts and questions developed prior to the roundtable. See Appendix 1 for the list of questions.

Experts with experience and knowledge of 'paedophile manuals' were chosen through Childlight's connections. Each participant was invited via email, which explained the research purpose, methodology, consent process, withdrawal and support services. Those who agreed to partake were provided with a consent form (which was signed before the roundtable) and participant information sheet (which contained in-depth information about the study and participants' involvement). The data collection was a Delphi-inspired roundtable conducted via Microsoft Teams which lasted for two hours. A Delphi-style approach is particularly useful in areas of limited research, where ideas are generated from a knowledgeable participant pool (Hasson et al., 2000), and it is suited to explore areas where controversy, debate or a lack of clarity exist. The aim was to achieve expert consensus on this complex and under-defined issue (Hsu and Sandford, 2007).

The roundtable was led by a Childlight moderator, and there were thirteen participants overall ([former] law enforcement, academics, and experts from CSAM hotlines and the technology sector). The roundtable consisted of a set of questions provided by the moderator (which can be found in the Appendix 1). The roundtable was video recorded via Microsoft Teams, and a transcript was produced. This recording and transcript were saved by the moderator, deleted from Microsoft

Teams and OneDrive, and stored on DataStore with access only for the Childlight research team. The video recording was used to verify the transcript and was subsequently deleted, after which the participants had ten working days to review the transcript before anonymisation. After this period, withdrawal and changes were no longer possible due to anonymisation. This was repeatedly explained verbally to participants and in the participant information sheet and the consent form. No participants chose to make changes or withdraw.

For the analysis, in NVivo, the roundtable transcript was initially subjected to inductive coding by the roundtable moderator, whereby recurring patterns (which arose from the data) were identified. Through discussions with the research team, these inductive codes were grouped into three overarching (and interconnected) themes (Instructional, Justification and Community) and refined by using the concept map function of NVivo. Braun and Clarke's (2006) guidance on thematic analysis was followed, whereby the researcher familiarised themselves with the data, the data was read and re-read, initial codes were generated and evolved into themes through discussions with other team members, where the themes were refined and defined, and the results written up.

Additionally, in NVivo, the mind map function was used to deductively bring together themes which occurred in literature regarding (CSEA) offender communications. As there is limited literature regarding 'paedophile manuals', studies which were adjacent to this subject area were included, such as material on CSEA offender communications. This allowed the nascent themes from this study, to be situated within the existing body of knowledge.

The purpose of the Delphi-inspired roundtable was to develop a conceptual framework of what a 'paedophile manual' is, its purpose, and how it is used for CSEA, based upon expert consensus. This group also came to the consensus to use the term child abuse guidance material when referring to these documents. As there is limited literature on 'paedophile manuals', Grounded Theory is an appropriate methodology as knowledge is generated inductively from the data – that is, knowledge is grounded in the empirical data and built from the 'ground up' - whereby knowledge arises from the data itself (Tie et al, 2019). There is tension between this method and methodology as the pure Delphi method aims for consensus, whereas pure Grounded Theory is about theory generation. This is why this research is Delphi-inspired through its data collection with structured expert input and Grounded Theory-inspired in its methodology due to the nascent nature of the study (Brady, 2015; Charmaz, 2006).

This approach is appropriate because it facilitates the creation of a data-driven understanding of 'paedophile manuals', whilst the Delphi-inspired method buttresses this by validating the nascent conceptual framework through expert consultation.

The Delphi-inspired nature of the roundtable complemented the thematic analysis, as it allowed individuals' expertise from multiple disciplines to enhance and deepen the concepts that emerged. Moreover, through examples provided by the participants, the roundtable helps to update the limited literature on 'paedophile manuals', resulting in rigorous, robust and consensus-derived themes grounded in experts' experiences, which complement the adjacent knowledge regarding offender communications.

To summarise, the method for data collection and generation was a Delphi-inspired roundtable allowing experts to put forth their experience of 'paedophile manuals', with a Grounded Theory methodology, and thematic analysis for data analysis and interpretation.

Data concerning 'paedophile manuals' is collected by CRC and based off the possession of such known manuals which have been documented in a similar manner to the imagery and videos created of the abuse. These documents are shared in a similar manner to the files recording the sexual abuse of children and often appear in offenders' digital files alongside them. This means tracking the manuals is a similar process to that of other CSAM files.

Commercial CSAM is a tag applied to content of sexual abuse that is known to have an element of monetary or value exchanged with it. This can mean that there are indications in the image itself, where it's located or how it was reported. Commercial CSAM is known but often the data focuses on the livestreamed abuse. This measure includes all forms of child sexual abuse content which is sold. In addition to tags of commerciality, analysts were also asked to note when this could not be determined or did not appear to be commercial. These three classifications work together to give a better picture of how difficult analysis is while also showing the value in collecting this data. This data is based on analyst interpretation and training, as mentioned previously INHOPE have worked to create a standard guide for assessment to ensure uniformity in responses. It also relies upon the material that can be located or is reported which may miss a portion of the commercial CSAM that is made available more secretively.

In addition to providing data from the two aforementioned organisations on their specific metrics associated with CSAM creation and distribution, the following provides data concerning regional measures of CSAM availability, 'self-generated' and 'virtual' tags as well as severity. This data was calculated and used in part in the 2025 Into the Light Index. The information on calculations can be found in the 2025 Technical Note.

Data organisation overview

CSAM data is highly influenced by several factors both internal to the organisation but also external. In order to create the highest level of transparency, the following section provides a brief explanation concerning organisation differences and practices which impact the data they produce.

These explanations are found in technical notes for both the 2024 and 2025 editions of the Into the Light Index. The expectation is for this section to add and remove paragraphs as the Index adapts to the CSAM data available.

Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)

The Internet Watch Foundation acts as the hotline (a reporting body usually affiliated with government for responding to public concerns) for child sexual abuse and exploitation in the United Kingdom. It has powers provided by the Safety Net Foundation which tasked IWF with the rating, reporting and responsibility of attending to child sexual abuse material online (CSAM). Since its inception, the IWF has continued to receive reports from the public and industry on CSAM located online. It has also developed web crawlers (software that automatically detects, analyses and collects information online), domain blocking (webpages which are blocked due to varying factors) and other technologies which assist in the identification and location of known CSAM online. Once located the content is removed by means of removal notices or if hosted outside the United Kingdom sent to INHOPE for the swift removal by the member hotlines through similar notices.

Canadian Centre for Child Protection (C3P)

The Canadian Centre for Child Protection is the mandated reporting hotline for technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse in Canada. It collects reports from the public of sexual crimes against children. C3P operates its own web crawler which is called Project Arachnid, which uses both perceptual (matching images which are visually similar) and exact hash matching (images which match based on alphanumeric identifiers assigned to all files) to flag images for analyst review, a process which uses digital identifiers to flag known images of CSAM. C3P also manages a domain blocking list for Canadian web service providers but its blocking power only extends to Canada. Using Project Arachnid and manual notices, C3P works toward the removal of all classified sexual imagery of children which is legal and illegal. It ensures every report is forwarded on to law enforcement, which involves sending to local law enforcement in Canada and the International Policing Body which forwards all international reports outside of Canada.

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

NCMEC is the mandated receiving body for reporting of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse in the United States. While the largest number of reports

come from technology companies, they also come from the general public. Reports are prioritised by NCMEC analysts based on the available information concerning location, illegality, recency and identifiable content, and, if thought to be actionable, sent to law enforcement in the United States. Where location is outside the United States, an automated report is sent to country-specific law enforcement agencies.

INHOPE

INHOPE acts as the collective body for many of the international hotlines for reporting child sexual exploitation and abuse. These hotlines process public reporting of instances of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse in their jurisdiction which are often the result of unintentional discovery. INHOPE represents a total of 57 hotlines covering 50 countries worldwide who provide/report CSAM analysis data. As such, the reporting ability and responsibilities differ between the various hotlines. INHOPE works with all hotlines to process reports and analyse CSAM in a comparable way using software called ICCAM ('I see Child Abuse Material'), which was developed to provide a central system for all member hotlines to feed their data into. INHOPE then issues notice and takedown orders based on the hosting country and forwards the information on to the local law enforcement agencies. IWF is a part of the INHOPE network and, as such, its data is also included in the total figures presented in the INHOPE annual report.

Child Rescue Coalition (CRC)

Child Rescue Coalition is a nonprofit organisation which monitors file sharing networks to locate and identify those users sharing child sexual abuse material. It works with international law enforcement to help flag and analyse the content. Once this is completed, law enforcement can proceed with any criminal charges against those who are sharing it on their network. Due to the way in which file sharing networks operate, in order to be able to share a file one must be in possession of the content. As such all users who are identified would be both in possession of child sexual abuse material and could also be contributing to its distribution. Filesharing networks differ from other interactions in that the collective possession and sharing of a file increases the speed with which it can be transferred to other users in the network. Therefore, it is in the best interests of the network that users both possess and make visible all files that they have on their personal devices (laptops, servers, phones or memory drives).

CSAM data sources

Childlight was provided private access to two separate datasets from INHOPE and CRC. Each dataset provided one of the measured variables, which as far as is available, are unique to that data source. As such, these variables or metrics are calculated as proportions of the complete dataset. Unlike other elements of the Index, this data has no comparable counterpart and represent novel elements of CSAM analysis.

For commercial CSAM, as provided by INHOPE, Childlight received access to 2023-2024 data from the ICCAM ('I see Child Abuse Material') database. This database receives contributions from many of the INHOPE member hotlines who all submit their analysed CSAM information into a central dataset. This makes the dataset unique as it brings together cumulative knowledge of analysts of CSAM from around the world. Data concerning the commercial elements of CSAM was calculated as proportions of the total images input into ICCAM in a calendar year. These numbers were then presented at a country level for Western Europe and South Asia or a cumulative regional level for the remaining countries. Proportions were calculated for all available classifications, which are Commercial, Not Commercial and Not Determined.

For the measurement of 'paedophile manuals', this was based solely on those known to law enforcement and tracked on peer-to-peer networks. The data were tracked at an internet protocol (IP) level, the assigned number for network connected devices, for possession of one or more 'paedophile manuals' and reported at a country level for where the IP originated. As these data are not publicly shared from other sources, this was another metric which was converted to proportions of the total for the data source to maintain accuracy while keeping the data safe. The proportions were presented at a regional level for the countries which appeared in the data set. See the formula for Guidance Files calculations in Appendix 3.

For the regional CSAM availability data, Childlight accessed the reports using the websites for each organisation, where the information was typically published in a downloadable format. The researchers read through each report, extracting numerical data on the sharing, detection and characteristics of CSAM in each dataset. Where necessary, Childlight converted reported counts into percentages to one decimal point. These calculations were double-checked by two members of the Childlight research team and are detailed in Appendix 2. Any other numbers or percentages included in the index were taken directly from the source reports unless otherwise noted.

Country/regional analysis

Childlight gathered data from each report on the countries/jurisdictions where the reports/notices regarding CSAM were sent. Often this was based on the assessed internet host country location, which may be different from where the abuse was recorded. In certain cases, reports were sent based on the assessed location where the content was uploaded or where the abuse is suspected to have occurred, which was the case specifically for NCMEC. In other cases, the reports were sent to the hosting location for electronic service providers and/or internet service providers. It should be kept in mind that the country assignment may not reflect where the victim or perpetrator resides, where the image was produced or where the image is being accessed. Matters like the placement of servers or platforms may influence the assignment of country. Therefore, it may be mistaken to infer that one country has a bigger problem than another country. A larger number of reports may be a reflection of greater efforts at detection or features of the architecture of the networks in storage or transmission.

The reports frequently calculated their own percentages, which were specifically available in the IWF and INHOPE reports alongside volume per country of reports/notices in the reporting period. In order to be able to compare percentages, Childlight calculated the percentages for NCEMC's country level data as well as CRC's country level data which were reported as the total number of reports or IPs. The calculation formula is detailed in Appendix 2.

Childlight then organised the countries by World Regions, according to UNICEF's Regional Office Classification. Following this organisation, Childlight calculated the percentages of reports and/or notices sent to each region based on the countries included in each of the reports. A further calculation of CSAM hosting rate was provided through a division of the aforementioned percentages of CSAM report/notices per region by the calculated percentages of world population for the UNICEF worlds regions. This rate calculation provides a weighting of the cases by population size, but it is not determined this is the only or best denominator. Other measures such as number of sites hosted in a country/region or people with internet access may be explored in the future.

To calculate a CSAM report per region population rate, Childlight conducted a series of calculations. The first was to use United Nations data from 2023 and 2024 concerning country-level population estimates, which were grouped and added together by UNICEF region. The regional population totals were then divided by 10,000 to achieve a rate of reports/notices received per 10,000 people. This was then divided by the previously calculated total number of CSAM reports/notices for the same regions. What resulted was a table that compared total volume of CSAM reports/notices where calculable accounting for population. In addition to

the calculated CSAM rate and regional proportions, Childlight includes the range of report/notice volume for the region as well as the number of countries covered by the data sourcing. See table 1 below.

TABLE 1 CSAM data country coverage

Source	NCMEC	IWF	InHope	CRC
Total Countries	192	53 with portals	50 country hotlines	190
North America	All	N/A	United States	All
Western Europe	All	Gibraltar, United Kingdom	Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom	All
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	All	Cyprus, Ukraine, Mongolia	Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Turkey, Moldova, Serbia, Russia, Romania, Ukraine	All
South Asia	All	India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka		All
East Asia and Pacific	All	Indonesia, Malaysia, Pitcairn Islands	Taiwan, Thailand, South Korea, Philippines, Cambodia, Australia, New Zealand	All

Source	NCMEC	IWF	InHope	CRC
Latin America and Carribean	All	Falkland Island, Argentina, Mexico, Bermuda, Turks and Caicos, Cayman Islands, Haiti, British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, Montserrat, Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador	Mexico, Colombia, Argentina	All
North Africa and Middle East	All	Tunisia, Morocco	No	All
East and Southern Africa	All	DRC, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Madagascar Malawi, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Burundi, Comoros, Mauritius	No	All
West and Central Africa	All	Male, Ghana, Cote De Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Senegal	No	All
Not Identified	All	Acension, St Helena and Tristan de Chuna Islands		

Childlight continued to use the consolidated terminology across the six data sources found in the 2024 Into the Light Index, which created greater harmony among the sources and enabled comparison. This also helped in understanding the genuine differences between them.

Content location analysis

Content removal times were included in three of the organisations' published data, INHOPE, IWF and NCMEC. This was in line with the function of these organisations, which is in part to locate and remove CSAM as well as report its detection to law enforcement.

Reported content removal times are influenced by multiple factors which can increase the amount of time it takes for the offending content to be removed from where it was located. Connecting with the correct electronic service provider can take multiple attempts at outreach and can involve correspondence with said ESP in order to ensure the validity of the request. It remains important to note that these challenges are faced by both the reporting organisation and the company that receives the notice and cooperation between the two entities is needed.

Childlight sought to assess the platform level location of the reports/notices sent each year. For the breakdown of reports/notices by site type, Childlight used the template and categories set by INHOPE and IWF in their Annual Reports. In order to be able to categorise the NCMEC reports by electronic service providers (ESP) in a similar manner, Childlight obtained the typological definitions for the site types used by IWF and INHOPE. These definitions were then applied to ESP's listed in NCMEC's annual report. Due to the confidentiality of the definitions these are not able to be shared publicly. Included in Appendix 4 is a description of the types of online platforms included under each type.

Data quality and limitations

It should be noted that the sources of all the data were published or collated primarily in English and from organisations based in Western Europe and North America. As a result, the data may be skewed to represent primarily high-income countries and populations due to the report sources and responsibilities of the various organisations. INHOPE's data represent a culmination of analysis from around the world and helps to combat this limitation.

The findings and data analysis were presented to each organisation for input concerning the representation of their data to ensure accuracy. Comments from the data owners were recorded and included where appropriate. Data owners were consulted on how they wished Childlight to reference their reports in the index. Each of these organisations was invited to join a core working group for the index and work towards future iterations of this indicator and new indicators that delve deeper into understanding the magnitude and nature of CSAM globally.

Overall, volume of CSAM detected can be misleading in many ways because it is highly sensitive to a large range of factors. The first are at an organisational level including the mission of that organisation, which parts of the online space they cover (ESP, P2P, dark web), and what they count (e.g., sightings which could be one image of a zip file with many images of a film etc.). Additionally, their detection methods for CSAM will impact the type of content that they assess as in certain circumstances these rely upon technology or human intelligence (crawler, targeted searches, reports from public or ESPs), etc. Thus, a drop in CSAM can actually be bad news because it might reflect new encryption technology and an increase might be good because it is due to better detection and awareness. To minimise this bias, we include percentage breakdowns of detected CSAM rather than count only data to understand what we can learn about victims and the abuse they suffer from CSAM.

The source of information for each organisation also influenced that data which the organisations were able to present. Each organisation collected reports of CSAM in a different manner, whether it was through public reporting, reports by electronic service providers (ESP), and data obtained by web crawlers or policing information. Whether an organisation received reports about CSAM from the public, from ESPs or law enforcement, the source influenced the amount and type of CSAM assessed, for example more teen victim reports of image abuse while police reports contained more prepubescent children. Due to the varying mandates for each organisation, their recorded and calculated data was different, as some were focused on content removal, while others have law enforcement responsibilities.

The data sources were not interrogated or researched beyond the published numbers. This posed a challenge when attempting to harmonise country level data as the organisations used various geopolitical boundaries. For the purpose of harmonisation across Childlight reports, the United Nations geopolitical definitions were used and, where necessary, certain jurisdictions were merged to comply with this understanding. Additionally, to provide greater context to the regional and country level statistics, Childlight has provided information concerning World Bank assessments of country wealth, regional population estimates (UN, 2022), as well as the Internet World Stats (2023) data on internet users and their usage. This was in an effort to combat some of the limitations/biases presented by the regional level data, which may unfairly misrepresent countries as having greater or lesser amounts of CSAM. The hope is that the information will help to address differences in country/regional levels of internet capacity/use, infrastructure and means of addressing these crimes.

The definitions and information about the way in which data were collected and calculated regarding each source was only obtained through what was included in the aforementioned reports.

In certain circumstances, smaller samples of data were used for analysis to represent the organisations larger data set, due to the availability and level of granularity provided. For this purpose, CRC's Paedophile Manual Dataset and INHOPE's ICCAM Dataset were used to represent specific characteristics of the complete CSAM data.

The dataset offers valuable knowledge into detected CSAM activity, but several methodological limitations constrain how the findings should be interpreted. Because it includes only files confirmed by CAID, the child abuse image database created and managed by the National Crime agency in the United Kingdom, and is predominantly in English, the dataset carries a linguistic and cultural bias that may underrepresent abuse circulating in other languages. Peer-to-peer monitoring captures only a proportion of online sharing behaviours, and IP-based geolocation can misattribute the origin of activity, particularly when users employ privacy-enhancing tools. Furthermore, the dataset reflects detected possession rather than the true prevalence, distribution, or social acceptance of child sexual abuse material, and should therefore be understood as a partial indicator rather than a comprehensive measure of the underlying phenomenon.

PART 2

TF-CSEA victimisation prevalence survey data

Data collection

This systematic review scanned multiple academic databases and grey literature to identify studies that had published prevalence estimates on any type of technology-facilitation child sexual exploitation and abuse (TF-CSEA) between 15 September 2023 and 31 December 2024, to update the previous systematic review on TF-CSEA (Fry et al., 2024). The search results were supplemented by sources published in the Western Europe and South Asia individual countries, provided by members of Childlight's Index Impact and Communications Working Group, a group of knowledgeable individuals representing various organisations at a country or regional level involved in CSEA based in those locations.

Search terms

The new searches were conducted in January 2025 and the search strategy included the intersection of terms indicating both offline and online sexual victimisation in order to capture studies that were wider than just TF-CSEA but that might have asked questions and produced prevalence estimates for some types of TF-CSEA. For the full list of the search terms used, see the Technical Note attached to the Into the Light 2025 report (Childlight, 2025).

Eligibility criteria

The new studies were included if they were published between 1 October 2023 and 31 December 2024, they reported the prevalence of TF-CSEA, they used general population samples, representative at the national or sub-national level, they included a measure of TF-CSEA, prevalence estimates were collected using traditional sampling methods, or other methodological approaches of prevalence estimation, TF-CSEA was self-reported either by a child younger than 18 years or an adult retrospectively, or reported by parents or others in a position of responsibility, and the sample size was at least 100. Studies were excluded if non-disaggregated data for children or adult experiences as children (e.g., making it impossible to determine findings for children younger than 18 years) were provided, estimates were derived from particular subpopulations that might not generalise to the general population (e.g., patients with psychiatric disorders, people with convictions, the LGBTQ+ community, children living in foster homes, and samples that exclusively comprised of victims of TF-CSEA), or data were collected in a controlled study, randomised controlled trial, or qualitative study.

Screening process

Screening was conducted by two reviewers independently, using the Covidence software package. Following initial screening of titles and abstracts and removal of duplicates, studies meeting the eligibility criteria underwent full-text reviews by the two reviewers, with any discrepancies resolved by an additional team member. All studies were examined for duplicate cohorts before confirming the final list of studies for meta-analysis.

Data extraction

The research teams extracted data based on key publication/research information into Microsoft Excel. Two reviewers independently extracted data from each of the selected studies with an existing data extraction tool, developed for previous systematic review on global prevalence of TF-CSEA (Fry et al., 2024). Methods and findings from this systematic review were reported in line with the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for Systematic Reviews (PRISMA; Page et al., 2021; see Appendix 5).

Data analysis

Results were first grouped according to the measured outcome. Table 2 presents five main subtypes of TF-CSEA that were used in this review. This framework was developed for the 2025 edition of the Into the Light Index (Childlight, 2025), both by examining all the classifications of types of TF-CSEA, as identified in the studies and drawing from the existing literature and conceptual models (E-Safety Commissioner, 2021; Finkelhor et al., 2022; ECPAT International, 2025; Laird et al., 2022). Several iterations of the conceptual framework were developed, and the final broad subtypes listed below were included as all the studies could fit into one or more of these subtypes and they aligned with the existing evidence-base.

Five broad subgroups of TF-CSEA

Aggregated Subgroup	Examples of composite TF-CSEA subtypes	Description
Online solicitation*	Online grooming, online solicitation, online sexual harassment, unwanted sexual talk, pressure to obtain sexual images, unwanted/non-consensual/pressured sexting (sending and receiving sexual messages, images, and videos), unwanted sexual talk and sexual activities on webcam (subtype informed by Finkelhor et al., 2022; ECPAT International, 2025).	This subtype covers a range of unwanted/pressured sexual interactions. Those may include casual sexual inquiries via mobile phone or internet, as well as long-lasting sexual conversations that can lead to exchange of sexual pictures/videos, or exposure of intimate body parts/engaging in cybersex (no money exchange or threats involved). It is important to note, that all different types of online solicitation often come from peers as well as adult perpetrators. This subgroup includes receiving unwanted sexually explicit text messages, emails, photos and videos, sent by peers or adults.
Child sexual abuse material (CSAM)/ Image-based sexual abuse (IBSA)	Sexual images or videos taken and distributed without consent by an adult or another child (subtype informed by ECPAT International, 2025; E-Safety Commissioner, 2021; European Commission, 2024)	Non-consensual image or video taking refers to having sexual images taken when a child was unconscious, intoxicated, distracted, or unable to consent. This subtype also includes non-consensual sharing of sexual images/videos of a child via mobile phone or internet. It could also include so-called deepfake images in which a child's head or likeness was imposed on a sexual image of someone else; as well as AI-generated images**.

Aggregated Subgroup	Examples of composite TF-CSEA subtypes	Description
Exposure to unwanted sexual content	Forced/unwanted exposure to pornographic content (adult content or CSAM) (subtype informed by E-Safety Commissioner, 2021)	This subgroup includes an unwanted exposure of a child to pornographic materials (e.g., forcing a child to watch nude videos or pictures or sending a child a link to pornographic websites). Please note that unwanted exposure to sexual content occurs frequently while surfing or scrolling through social media. This type of exposure may not be precursors to a request for reciprocity.
Online sexual exploitation	Commercial sexual talk, commercial sexual images, or other commercial sexual activity (subtype informed by Laird et al., 2022, Finkelhor et al., 2022, and ECPAT International, 2025)	Sex acts are exchanged for the provision of monetary or non-monetary resources (e.g., food, clothes, shelter, affection, protection, belonging, gifts and/or anything else of perceived value to the young person or child) on or offline.
Sexual Extortion	Sextortion, sexual extortion, sexual blackmail, sexual coercion (subtype informed by E-Safety Commissioner, 2021; ECPAT International, 2025)	Sexual extortion is a form of blackmail that involves threatening to share an individual's intimate image or video online (including spam/phishing) unless they comply with certain demands such as to obtain money or gift cards/other items of monetary worth, additional pictures, or other sexual activities. This subtype also includes sexual acts on webcam coerced by perpetrator.

*This subgroup does not cover consensual sexting.

** Although the existing nationally representative surveys on TF-CSEA have not yet addressed child sexual exploitation and abuse perpetrated using Artificial Intelligence (AI) or other extended reality (XR) technologies (Fry et al., 2025), we included those in the CSAM/IBSA subgroup to future-proof the categorisation.

The lifetime prevalence of different types of TF-CSEA was defined as the proportion of children and adults who reported experiencing those harms at any point before the age of 18. The past-year prevalence was defined as the proportion of children under 18 years who experienced TF-CSEA within the past 12 months. This recall-based breakdown was used to produce prevalence estimate for the total sample, as well as for males and females. For regional prevalence estimates, the UNICEF regional classification (UNICEF, 2023) by nine regions was used.

To combine prevalence estimates between countries within a region defined by each of the nine region classifications, each country estimate in that region was synthesised into an average. Those were further synthesised into an average for a region. Separate analyses were run for each of the subtypes and disaggregated by the recall period and region, if the threshold of four studies was met. Additionally, for studies that reported sex breakdown and sufficient data (≥4 studies) for conducting the analysis, results were also provided.

Meta-analyses were carried out using R software (version 4.2.2; packages: tidyverse_2.0.0, meta_7.0-0, readxl_1.4.2, Hmisc_5.0-1), and the pooled prevalence estimates were determined using a random effects model. This model was used to function as a summary measure of the average prevalence. However, caution is required in interpretation of the results, given the wide variation across individual study estimates.

Statistical adjustments were applied to harmonise observations across recall periods to reduce recall-related bias and ensure comparability. The analysis incorporated all available observations, thereby addressing inconsistencies in reporting TF-CSEA across different recall windows. Among included studies, 12 reported both lifetime and past-year prevalence — these were used to derive the mean ratio between the two measures. This ratio was then applied to all study observations to estimate the corresponding alternative measure. Analyses were conducted on the harmonised dataset to ensure comparability across studies.

Data quality and limitations

This review identified several challenges inherent to conducting prevalence reviews across diverse regions. Differences were found in research design, survey practices, language coverage, and reporting standards. In some settings, limited availability of population-based studies or inconsistent use of the TF-CSEA measures that potentially affected the accuracy and comparability of regional estimates. To mitigate this, the reviewers engaged regional partners to identify reliable data sources. Sensitivity analyses were used where appropriate to assess the robustness of pooled estimates.

In addition, the harmonisation approach used to address differences in recall periods has its own limitations:

1. It assumes a consistent relationship between lifetime and past-year prevalence across study populations; if this assumption does not hold, imputed estimates may introduce bias.

2. The use of a single mean ratio derived from a subset of studies may also not fully capture variation across settings, populations or study designs.

For transparency, unadjusted results are presented in Appendix 6.

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Appendix 1: ‘Paedophile manual’ Delphi study questions

Questions

Terminology clarity

1. The term 'paedophile manual' may evoke the idea of a structured, instructional guide, which can be misleading or overly simplistic in academic and policy contexts (the term manual may not fit linguistically but may work operationally). Based on your experience, do you consider this the most appropriate term to describe such materials?

    a. If not, what alternative terminology would you recommend to more accurately reflect their content, intent and impact?

Definitional boundaries

2. What core elements should be present for a document to be classified as a 'paedophile manual' (e.g., intent, instructive content, audience, format)? For example, does it need to a formalised document, or could it be an exchange of information?

Purpose and function

3. Based on your experience, what are the primary purposes these materials serve for offenders?

    a. Are they instructional, ideological or something else?

4. Where are manuals found? How are they discovered?

Evolution over time

5. Have you observed changes in the structure, language, or dissemination of these materials over the past decade? If so, what are the key shifts, changes? Are these changes related to the online environment?
6. How has the 'paedophile manual' evolved over the years?
7. When was it first learned about (and by whom)?
8. What is known about the origins?
9. How do you think they will continue to evolve?

Legal and policy gaps

10. Do current legal definitions and frameworks adequately capture the nature and risk of these materials (UK and Australia; global)?

11. Where do gaps remain?

Cross-jurisdictional challenges

12. How do definitions and enforcement vary across jurisdictions (e.g., UK, EU, US, Australia)?
    a. What implications does this have for international collaboration?

Indicators of harm/risk

13. What indicators suggest that possession or use of such materials correlates with an increased risk of offending or victimisation?

14. Are manuals an indicator of risk for contact offences i.e., are those in possession of the manuals found to have committed a contact offence or likely to in the future?

Conceptual framework components: content and context

15. What key dimensions should be included in a conceptual framework for analysing these materials? Consider aspects such as content type (e.g., grooming strategies, pseudo-scientific justification), dissemination method (e.g., forums, encrypted platforms), and offender profile (gender/sex; employment; sexual orientation; neurodiversity etc.).

16. Are there other contextual or behavioural indicators that should be considered?

Conceptual framework components: structure and format

17. What structural features of these materials should be analysed, such as length, format, level of detail or use of visual elements?

18. How might these characteristics influence their purpose, accessibility or impact?

Consensus and testing

19. How should we test and refine the proposed definition and framework to ensure that it is applicable across research, policy and operational contexts?

Appendix 2: Commercial CSAM calculations

Countries included:

Western Europe: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom

South Asia: India, Bangladesh

Commercial Tagged CSAM/Country Total CSAM

Not Commercial Tagged CSAM/Country Total CSAM

Not Determined Tagged CSAM/Country Total CSAM

Regions: Latin America and Caribbean, East Asia and Pacific, North America, South and Eastern Africa, North Africa and Middle East, Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Sum of total Commercial CSAM for the region/Sum of Total CSAM for the Region

Sum of total Not Commercial CSAM for the region/Sum of Total CSAM for the Region

Sum of total Not Determined CSAM for the region/Sum of Total CSAM for the Region

Appendix 3: Child abuse guidance material calculations

Regions: Latin America and Caribbean, East Asia and Pacific, North America, South and Eastern Africa, North Africa and Middle East, Eastern Europe and Central Asia

(Country count of IPs with 'paedophile manuals'/total 'paedophile manuals' for 2023)*100

(Country count of IPs with 'paedophile manuals'/total 'paedophile manuals' for 2024)*100

Appendix 4: Electronic service provider type explanation

Image host: A website where users are able to upload images as the primary purpose. Each image is provided a separate URL.

File hosting: A website where users store files and can share secure links so that others are able to upload or download images.

Website: A website is when the domain part of the URL remains constant even as links are accessed.

Forum: Online portals where users can register in order comment on and discuss specific topics. Typically have one or more forum moderators who monitor for content focus and legality.

Banner: A website which contains images, videos or text advertising for a specific product/service. When clicked the banner will often redirect to a main webpage for the advertised company.

Video host: A website where users are able to upload videos as the primary purpose. Each video is provided a separate URL.

Blog: A webpage controlled by one or a small group of individuals that publish a series of contained posts a particular topic or theme. Typically, engagement is limited to comments on posts.

Web archive: A website dedicated to archiving historic content online.

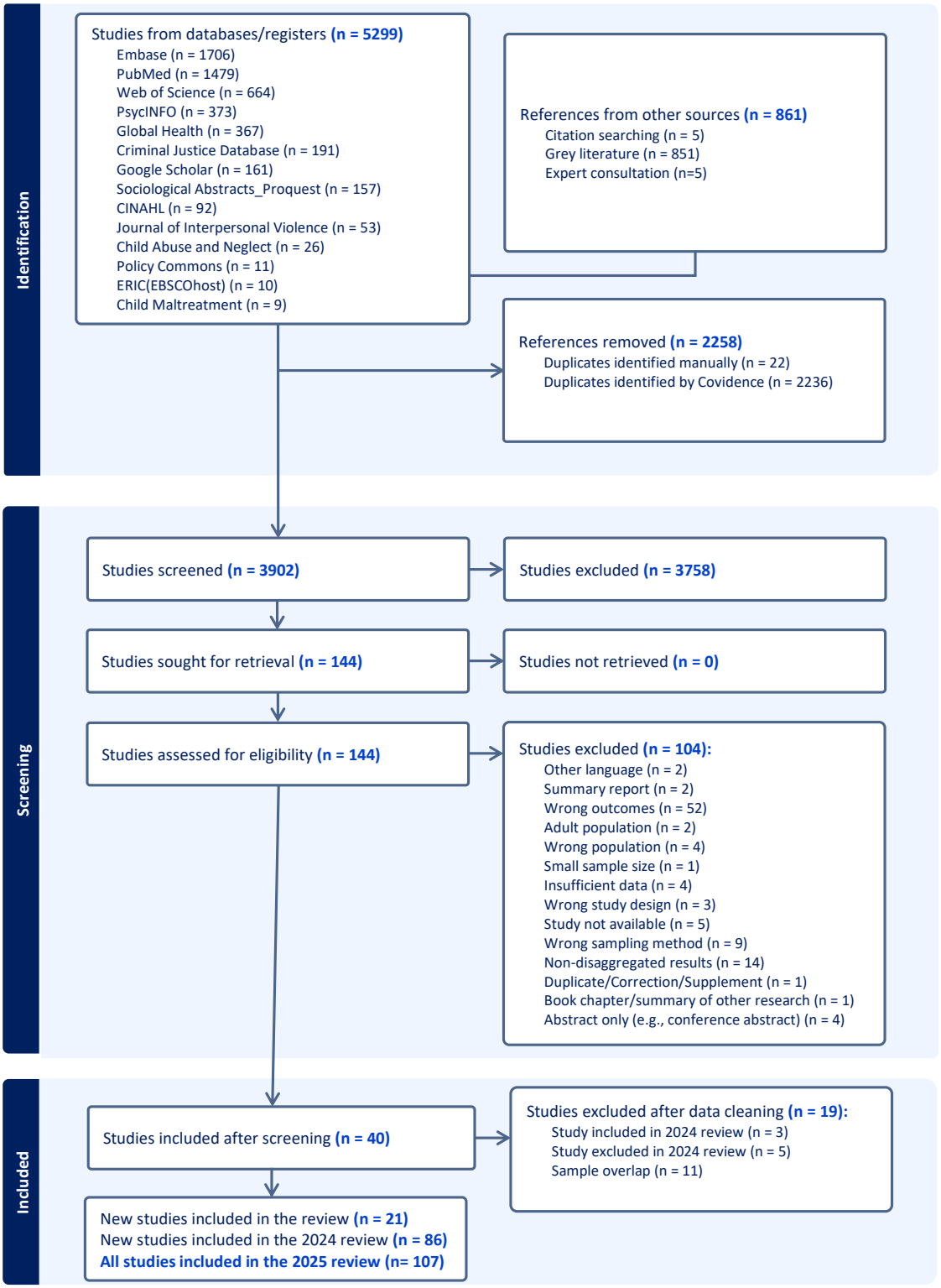
Search provider: A website that allows users to query results for information based on prompts.

Redirector: A URL which when queried or loaded will automatically change and redirect to another URL which differs from the one initially requested.

Social networking: A platform or website which looks to build a community or network of connected users where individuals can share a multitude of content pertaining to their interests or life. The interests are not focused as with a forum.

Appendix 5: PRISMA flow diagram of systematic review

Figure 1: PRISMA flow diagram of systematic review.



Appendix 6: Unadjusted and adjusted prevalence estimates of TF-CSEA

Unadjusted prevalence estimates of TF-CSEA

Figure 2: Global prevalence estimates of TF-CSEA by subtype and recall period.

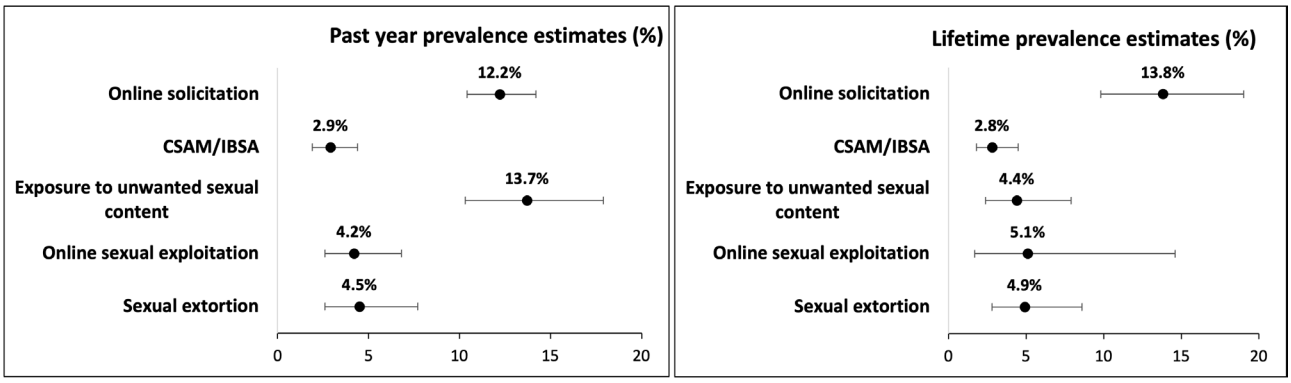


Figure 3: Global prevalence estimates of TF-CSEA by subtype, sex, and recall period.

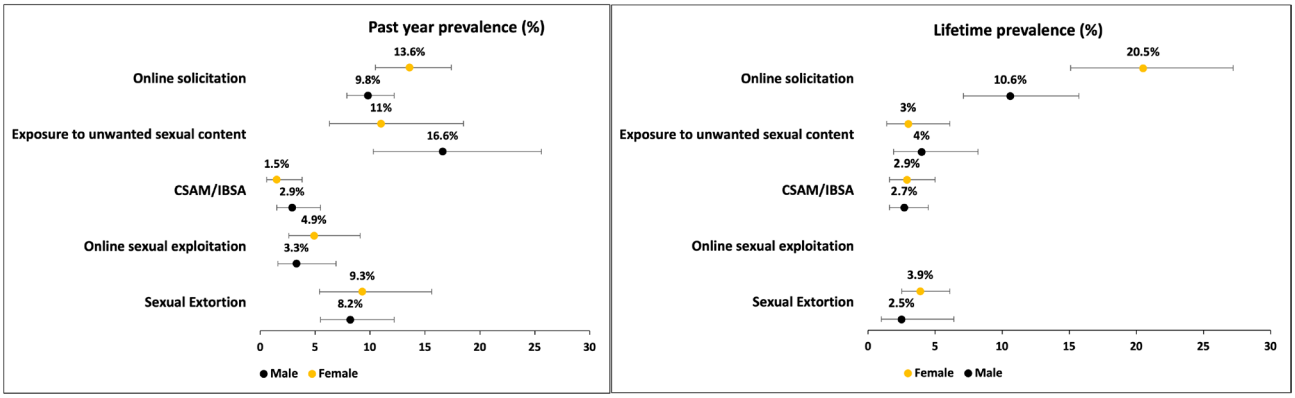


Table 3: Prevalence estimates of online solicitation, by recall period and UNICEF region.

Past year prevalence				
UNICEF Region	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Number of countries with data	Number of sources used
East Asia & Pacific	12.3	8.8-16.9	8	10
Eastern & Southern Africa	17.6	12.6-24.0	7	7
Eastern Europe & Central Asia	9.4	5.7-15.1	4	4
Latin America & Caribbean	13.9	8.5-22.0	3	6
North America	7.6	3.8-14-7.0	1	7
South Asia	6.5	1.1-8.2	2	2
West & Central Africa	7	6.0-8.2	1	1
Western Europe	13.5	11.3-16.0	17	27

Lifetime prevalence				
UNICEF Region	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Number of countries with data	Number of sources used
East Asia & Pacific	15.8	10.2-23.7	3	4
Eastern & Southern Africa	28.1	25.4-31-0	1	1
Eastern Europe & Central Asia				
Latin America & Caribbean	16.6	16.1-17.2	1	2
North America	6.6	2.9-14.2	2	10
South Asia				
West & Central Africa				
Western Europe	19.6	13.7-27.1	11	14

Table 4: Prevalence estimates of online solicitation, by sex, recall period and UNICEF region.

Past year prevalence						
	Female		Male			
UNICEF Region	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Number of countries with data	Number of sources used
East Asia & Pacific	8.9	2.6-26.3	9.3	4.3-19.1	4	4
Eastern & Southern Africa	17.9	12.1-25.7	14.3	6.7-28.1	3	3
Eastern Europe & Central Asia	12.1	7.5-19.1	11.7	7.7-17.4	4	4
Latin America & Caribbean	6.9	2-21.5	6.1	5.8-6.5	1	2
North America	11.3	5-23.4	5.2	1.7-14.8	1	5
South Asia	2.8	0.1-41.5	10.3	3.9-24.6	2	2
West & Central Africa	8	6.5-9.8	6.9	5.5-8.6	1	1
Western Europe	17.9	14.4-22	11	8.5-14.1	17	25

Lifetime prevalence						
	Female		Male			
UNICEF Region	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Number of countries with data	Number of sources used
East Asia & Pacific	24	19.8-28.9	13.5	7.3-23.7	2	3
Eastern & Southern Africa						
Eastern Europe & Central Asia						
Latin America & Caribbean	24.7	24.1-25.4	8.9	8.5-9.3	1	2
North America	10.6	5.3-20.2	5.3	1.9-14.2	2	6
South Asia						
West & Central Africa						
Western Europe	26.3	17.8-37.1	14.7	8.9-23.2	8	10

Table 5: Prevalence estimates of CSAM/IBSA, recall period and UNICEF region.

Past year prevalence				
UNICEF Region	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Number of countries with data	Number of sources used
East Asia & Pacific	2.4	1.2-4.8	8	10
Eastern & Southern Africa	5.4	4-7.4	7	7
Latin America & Caribbean	3.5	3.2-3.8	1	1
Middle East & North Africa	0.8	0.5-1.3	1	1
North America				
South Asia	3.3	0.7-14.5	2	3
Western Europe	2.2	0.7-6.4	4	5

Lifetime prevalence				
UNICEF Region	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Number of countries with data	Number of sources used
East Asia & Pacific	1.4	0.5-3.6	3	5
Eastern & Southern Africa	18.1	15.4-21.1	1	1
Latin America & Caribbean				
Middle East & North Africa				
North America	11	10.5-11.5	1	2
South Asia	5.8	3.6-9.3	1	1
Western Europe	2.5	1.5-3.9	10	12

Table 6: Prevalence estimates of CSAM/IBSA, by sex, recall period and UNICEF.

Past year prevalence						
	Female		Male			
UNICEF Region	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Number of countries with data	Number of sources used
East Asia & Pacific	1.1	0.2-5.5	2.2	0.9-5.2	2	3
Eastern & Southern Africa	3.3	1.9-5.8	5.8	4.2-7.9	1	1
Latin America & Caribbean	2.2	1.9-2.5	4.7	4.3-5.2	1	1
North America						
South Asia	0.9	0.1-12.1	4.9	1.6-14.2	2	3
Western Europe	2.2	0.6-7.6	1.7	0.4-7.1	4	5

Lifetime prevalence						
	Female		Male			
UNICEF Region	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Number of countries with data	Number of sources used
East Asia & Pacific	0.9	0.3-3.3	1.5	0.9-2.7	3	5
Eastern & Southern Africa	14.5	11.2-18.6	21.4	17.4-26	1	1
Latin America & Caribbean						
North America	16.3	14.6-18.1	5.4	4-7.1	1	1
South Asia	4.4	2-9.4	6.6	3.5-12.1	1	1
Western Europe	3.3	2.2-5	2.4	1.2-4.9	9	10 (female); 9 (male)

Table 7: Prevalence estimates of exposure to unwanted sexual content, by recall period and UNICEF region.

Past year prevalence				
UNICEF Region	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Number of countries with data	Number of sources used
East Asia & Pacific	2.8	0.9-7.9	3	9
Eastern & Southern Africa	6.4	1-30.9	2	3
Eastern Europe & Central Asia	18.7	9.3-34.1	6	8
Latin America & Caribbean	16.7	5.8-39.2	3	3
Middle East & North Africa	3.7	2.9-4.6	1	1
North America	17.4	11.5-25-4	1	2
South Asia	4.9	2.1-11	1	2
West & Central Africa	18	16.4-19.7	1	1
Western Europe	20.2	16.2-24.9	25	35

Lifetime prevalence				
UNICEF Region	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Number of countries with data	Number of sources used
East Asia & Pacific	2.1	0.6-7.1	2	5
Eastern & Southern Africa	2.8	2.3-3.5	1	2
Eastern Europe & Central Asia	2.2	1.7-2.7	1	1
Latin America & Caribbean				
Middle East & North Africa				
North America	9.9	8.2-12	1	1
South Asia				
West & Central Africa				
Western Europe	6.7	2.9-14.8	7	10

Table 8: Prevalence estimates of exposure to unwanted sexual content, by sex, recall period and UNICEF region.

Past year prevalence						
	Female		Male			
UNICEF Region	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Number of countries with data	Number of sources used
East Asia & Pacific	1.9	0.3-10.1	3.6	1-12.6	1	5
Eastern & Southern Africa	1.2	0.9-1.5	1.5	0.5-4.1	1	2
Eastern Europe & Central Asia	30.5	23.4-38.6	39	30.2-48.7	4	4
North America	18.7	15-23.2	15.8	8.3-27.9	1	2
South Asia	1.1	0.9-1.4	9.4	5.8-14.9	1	2
West & Central Africa	13	11-15.2	22	19.6-24.6	1	1
Western Europe	22.7	14.4-33.9	29.6	19.8-4.8	12	13

Lifetime prevalence						
	Female		Male			
UNICEF Region	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Number of countries with data	Number of sources used
East Asia & Pacific	1.6	0.6-4.6	2.7	0.7-10.4	2	5
Eastern & Southern Africa	1.6	1.3-2.1	2.1	0.6-6.3	1	2
Eastern Europe & Central Asia						
North America						
South Asia			14.9	13-16.9	1	1
West & Central Africa						
Western Europe	5.9	2-16.3	5.2	1.8-14.6	6	6

Adjusted prevalence estimates of TF-CSEA

Table 9: Prevalence estimates of online solicitation, by sex, recall period and UNICEF region.

Past year prevalence						
	Female		Male			
UNICEF Region	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Number of countries with data	Number of sources used
East Asia & Pacific	5	1.6-14.7	5.1	2.4-10.6	4	4
Eastern & Southern Africa	9.9	6.8-14.2	7.9	3.7-15.8	3	3
Eastern Europe & Central Asia	6.7	4.3-10.5	6.3	4.1-9.6	4	4
Latin America & Caribbean	3.8	1.1-12.2	3.4	3.2-3.7	1	2
North America	6.1	2.8-12.8	2.8	0.9-8.1	1	5
South Asia	1.5	0.1-25.6	5.6	2.2-13.9	2	2
West & Central Africa	4.4	3.3-5.9	3.9	2.9-5.2	1	1
Western Europe	9.8	7.9-12.1	6	4.6-7.8	17	25

Lifetime prevalence						
	Female		Male			
UNICEF Region	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Number of countries with data	Number of sources used
East Asia & Pacific	43.5	35.7-51.6	25	13-42.8	2	3
Eastern & Southern Africa						
Eastern Europe & Central Asia						
Latin America & Caribbean	44.6	43.9-45.2	16	15.4-16.5	1	2
North America	19.2	8.4-38	9	2.8-27	2	6
South Asia						
West & Central Africa						
Western Europe	50.1	27.9-72.3	25.9	13.2-44.5	8	10

Table 10: Prevalence estimates of exposure to unwanted sexual content, by sex, recall period and UNICEF region.

Past year prevalence				
UNICEF Region	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Number of countries with data	Number of sources used
East Asia & Pacific	2.4	1.2-4.8	8	10
Eastern & Southern Africa	5.4	4-7.4	7	7
Latin America & Caribbean	3.5	3.2-3.8	1	1
Middle East & North Africa	0.8	0.5-1.3	1	1
North America				
South Asia	3.3	0.7-14.5	2	3
Western Europe	2.2	0.7-6.4	4	5

Lifetime prevalence				
UNICEF Region	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Number of countries with data	Number of sources used
East Asia & Pacific	1.4	0.5-3.6	3	5
Eastern & Southern Africa	18.1	15.4-21.1	1	1
Latin America & Caribbean				
Middle East & North Africa				
North America	11	10.5-11.5	1	2
South Asia	5.8	3.6-9.3	1	1
Western Europe	2.5	1.5-3.9	10	12

Table 11: Prevalence estimates of CSAM/IBSA, by sex, recall period and UNICEF region.

Past year prevalence						
	Female		Male			
UNICEF Region	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Number of countries with data	Number of sources used
East Asia & Pacific	0.6	0.9-3.2	1.2	0.5-2.9	2	3
Eastern & Southern Africa	1.9	0.9-4	3.1	2-4.8	1	1
Latin America & Caribbean	1.2	1-1.5	2.6	2.3-3	1	1
North America						
South Asia	0.5	0-6.8	2.7	0.9-7.8	2	3
Western Europe	1.2	0.3-4.3	0.8	0.2-3.9	4	5

Lifetime prevalence						
	Female		Male			
UNICEF Region	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Number of countries with data	Number of sources used
East Asia & Pacific	1.7	0.5-5.9	2.7	1.5-4.7	3	5
Eastern & Southern Africa	26.5	22.1-31.4	38.5	33.5-43.7	1	1
Latin America & Caribbean						
North America	29.3	27.2-31.5	9.6	7.8-11.9	1	1
South Asia	8.8	5-14.8	12.4	7.9-19.1	1	1
Western Europe	4.8	2.9-7.9	4	1.7-9	9	10 (female); 9 (male)

Table 12: Prevalence estimates of exposure to unwanted sexual content, by sex, recall period and UNICEF region.

Past year prevalence						
	Female		Male			
UNICEF Region	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Number of countries with data	Number of sources used
East Asia & Pacific	1.2	0.3-5.3	1.9	0.4-7.5	1	5
Eastern & Southern Africa	0.6	0.4-0.9	0.8	0.3-2.4	1	2
Eastern Europe & Central Asia	16.8	13-21.5	21.4	16.8-26.9	4	4
North America	10.4	8.3-12.8	8.7	4.6-15.7	1	2
South Asia	0.6	0.5-9	5.3	3.3-8.3	1	2
West & Central Africa	7.2	5.7-9	12.2	10.4-14.3	1	1
Western Europe	12.2	7.6-18.9	15.9	10.4-23.5	12	13

Lifetime prevalence						
	Female		Male			
UNICEF Region	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Prevalence estimate (%)	Uncertainty (95% CI)	Number of countries with data	Number of sources used
East Asia & Pacific	2.9	1-8.2	4.9	1.1-19.2	2	5
Eastern & Southern Africa	2.9	2.5-3.5	3.6	1.1-11.2	1	2
Eastern Europe & Central Asia						
North America						
South Asia			26.8	24.4-29.3	1	1
West & Central Africa						
Western Europe	10.3	2.6-33.1	8.2	2.5-23.6	6	6