

Child Pornography Investigation

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Criminal Profile

- Molesters and pornographers may not be the same person
 - Possession is almost never just one picture but hundreds
 - White male, middle age, middle class
 - Access to children or has authority over children
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How victims are targeted

- Internet Chat Rooms
 - Often move off chat room to e-mail and peer to peer communications
 - Try to get child to install camera
 - Start to desensitize them to sexually explicit material by sending them pornographic images of popular cartoon characters
 - Try to create a "love affair" environment
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Statistics

- 35% of pedophiles are parent of victim
 - 28% are neighbor or trusted family friend
 - 58% of victims are prepubescent
 - 6% of victims are infants
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Source: National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

Case Statistics

- FBI Innocent Images Initiative
 - Centralized investigation and cooperation effort in CP cases
 - In 1996 there were 113 CP cases opened and in 2006 there were 2135
 - Very high successful prosecution rate (90%+)
 - Threat of being caught is apparently no deterrent
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Investigations

- Pedophiles are so plentiful on the Internet that it takes only a few minutes to be solicited if in the right chat room
 - Internet has exponentially enabled predators to target subjects and to distribute and collect CP images
 - Child pornography consumers are even more plentiful but Law Enforcement target "travelers" first, CP producers second, distributors third and consumers fourth
 - International issues/laws
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Investigative Issues

- Need actual victim
 - Ashcroft v. Free Speech Coalition
 - Computer generated images not illegal and now are the typical defense strategy
 - NCMEC created database of child pornography images to assist in prosecution of CP cases. Currently over 900 victims identified and major effort underway to increase that number
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Investigative Issues cont...

- Forensic proof
 - Is the image of a child or a "look-a-like"
 - Asian Women, Teenagers, Morphed images
 - Encryption
 - Compel passwords through court order?
 - Storage on external servers
 - Servers outside of US jurisdiction
 - Anonymous communication
 - E-mail anonymizer
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Future

- Groups like NAMBLA openly promote their sexual preference as normal.
 - Intergenerational Intimacy
 - Advances in encryption and anonymous communication could further enable CP producers and consumers
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