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# Child Sexual Abuse Images: An analysis of websites by **cybertip!ca**®

In November 2009, the Canadian Centre for Child Protection released a Child Sexual Abuse Images research report that provides an in-depth analysis of the reports made by the public to Cybertip.ca, Canada's tipline for reporting child sexual exploitation.

Focusing on child sexual abuse images on websites, it provides an overview of the scope of the problem from the tipline's perspective.

Of the 35,111 website incidents processed by Cybertip.ca between September 26, 2002, and March 31, 2009, 15,662 involved sites hosting child pornography and 4,110 unique images were examined for this report.

## Here are some of the report's key findings:

- ▶ **82.1%** of the images analyzed by Cybertip.ca depict very young, pre-pubescent children under 12 years old.
- ▶ Of the 4,110 unique images assessed by analysts, over **35%** show sexual assaults against children.
- ▶ **77.6%** of webpages had at least one child abuse image of a child less than 8 years of age, with many showing infants and toddlers being assaulted.
- ▶ Images of children less than 8 years old most often depicted them being abused through sexual assaults (**37.2%**).
- ▶ Children abused through extreme sexual assaults including bestiality, bondage, torture, and degrading acts, mostly (**68.5%**) occurred against children under 8 years old.
- ▶ **83%** of the images were of girl children.

The study also provides information on the global movement of child sexual abuse websites, identifies the challenges with the borderless nature of the Internet, and recommends additional solutions for tackling this problem. The reality is that illegal content is widely and publicly available and moves in an effort to avoid being shut down.





- ▶ At the time of the analysis, more than 60 countries were hosting child sexual abuse content.
- ▶ In a 48 hour period, Cybertip.ca observed one website cycle through 212 unique IP addresses, located in 16 different countries.

Constant movement and challenges in accurately identifying sites operators require the need for additional solutions to better address this problem. Some disruption examples include:

- ▶ Working with Internet Corporation for Assigning Names and Numbers (ICANN) and others to adopt standards for ensuring the validity of a registrant's personal information
- ▶ Working with domain registrars internationally to have domains known to host illegal content discarded from use
- ▶ Examining notice and takedown options
- ▶ Working with payment providers and financial institutions to track and eliminate payment options
- ▶ Working with stakeholders to internationally share data (i.e. title bar information; SHA-1 values; common domain names hosting illegal content)

The issue of child abuse images needs to remain a national priority. All components—from the social aspects to the technical ones—must be considered when developing effective strategies and solutions.

Cybertip.ca will continue to collect data and publish research on the scope of the problem from the tipline's perspective. With more information, we hope to further clarify the issue and provide constructive recommendations, ultimately protecting children by preventing sexual abuse. We remain optimistic that this is possible.

To read a copy of the full report or the summary report, please visit our website at [WWW.CYBERTIP.CA/RESEARCH](http://WWW.CYBERTIP.CA/RESEARCH).