

CSAM Perpetrator Research Report

Findings from a Survey of CSAM Perpetrators
on Digital Platform Use and Design

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20,592

respondents

24

languages

18+

years old

The sample consists of adults who report having searched for or viewed CSAM.

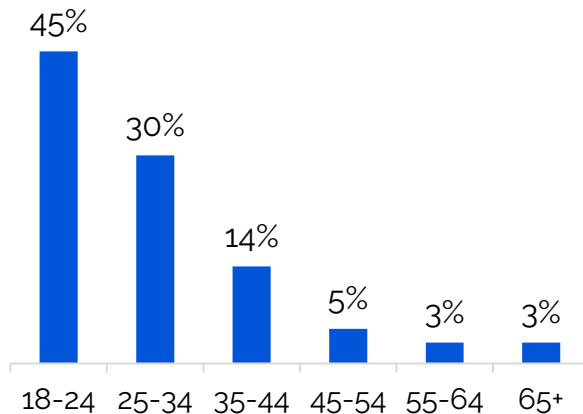
And report to have answered the survey honestly.

Data were collected between 4 June 2025 and 18 January 2026.

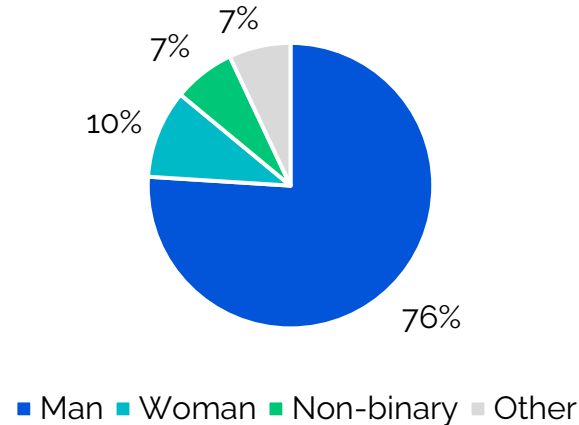
Sample Characteristics

Age & Gender | Respondents were predominantly young adult men. Three in four (75%) were under 35.

Respondent age



Respondent gender



Education & Employment | Over a third had completed tertiary education. Six in ten were employed or in education.

Relationships & Social Life | Two in three were single. One in four were married or in a relationship. Two in three reported good to excellent social life.

Physical & Mental Health | Seven in ten reported good to excellent physical health, and seven in ten reported good to excellent mental health.

Location & Language | Respondents were located across all continents, mostly Asia, Europe, and North America. The survey was available in 24 languages, and was mostly answered in English, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.

Note: Additional demographic questions were optionally offered at the end of the survey. Response rates were substantially lower and may not reflect the full sample.

Three in ten respondents reported viewing AI-generated CSAM.

However, this may be understated, as three in five could not distinguish AI-generated imagery.

Of those who view AI-generated CSAM:

- 77%** view completely AI-generated CSAM
- 64%** view CSAM created by altering images of real children
- 64%** view CSAM derived from existing CSAM, modified to suite preferences

One in ten respondents report creating AI-generated CSAM.



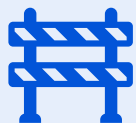
Learning through experimentation

“learned by myself” “through trial and error” “simple” “nothing to learn” “straightforward” “just tried”



Use of multiple easily accessible tools

“I’ve used a lot of different websites to create AI-generated CSAM.” “multiple tools” “various image generators” “a lot of different websites” “I searched and clicked on the 1st option”



Few barriers or restrictions

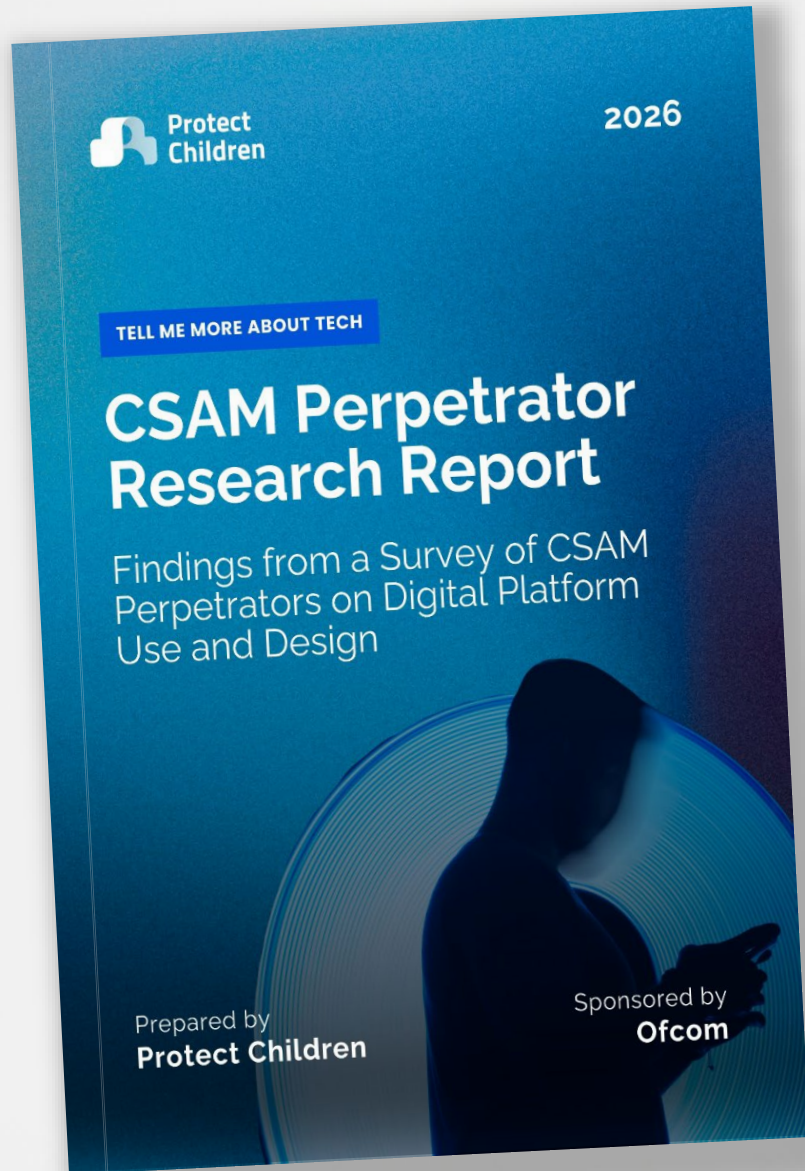
“Unfortunately, it is very easy to find image generators that don’t have any restrictions or ones that are easy to bypass”.

Respondents warn of risks of escalation linked to AI-CSAM.

Respondents warned about significant risks related to AI-CSAM, with some describing it as a *“gateway”*, potentially escalating fantasies into action.

“AI opens the door to even healthier fantasies and therefore increases the risks of translating them into action”.

“Eventually the novelty wears off and you need to see the real thing.”



Explore the findings in full.



www.protectchildren.fi/en/post/tmat-csam-perpetrator-research-report



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Answer the survey

Through the Lens: Survey For Victims and Survivors of Image-Based Child Sexual Violence



English

👉 Answer the survey



Русский

👉 Принять участие



Español

👉 Responda a la encuesta



Français

👉 Répondez à l'enquête