CHILD ABUSE IMAGES — STATISICS

The Internet has allowed for a marked increase in the number of child pornography offenses. Statistics Canada reports that such offenses have increased from 55 in 1998 to 1408 in 2008. It further notes that in 2008 there were over 5 million child sexual abuse images on the Internet. The majority of child sexual abuse images online has been produced recently and are linked to the development of the Internet and the availability of cheap, easy-to-use digital cameras.

Cybertip.ca is Canada's national child pornography tipline tipline. On this site there is a form to report sexual exploitation and analysts review, prioritize and add value to the report. Where warranted, reports are sent to the appropriate law enforcement jurisdiction.

Cybertip.ca Summary Report

In 2009, Cybertip.ca reported on 15,662 websites hosting child sexual abuse images. The report emphasized that "while the Internet did not create the problem of child pornography, its growing public accessibility in the 1990s escalated it." The Internet allowed for child sexual abuse images to be easily created, stored, replicated, and shared. Since 1997 the number of child pornography images on the Internet has increased by over 1500 percent.

The study also showed a strong link between offenders convicted of child pornography related crimes and their likelihood to be further involved in child sex crimes. Eighty-five percent of such offenders admitted to committing hands-on offenses.

Statistics regarding child sexual abuse images are difficult to comprehend. They include the following:
- 78% of abusers are known to the child.
- 82% of children in the images are estimated to be under 12 years old.
- 70% of websites include images of multiple children.
- Images of children less than 8 years old often depicted them being abused through sexual assaults (37.2%). This is different than images of older children, which most often depicted the children posed nude or in a sexualized way.

Canada is the third ranked country hosting child pornography websites (behind the United States and Russia).

Sources
- *Child Safety Online: Global Challenges and Strategies* (Florence: UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, 2011) p. 1.
- Kelly Bunzeluk, *Child Sexual Abuse Images: An Analysis of Websites by cybertip.ca* (Winnipeg: Canadian Centre for Child Protection, 2009).