

Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre Strategic Overview 2009/2010

Aims

To identify key trends and patterns in the online sexual exploitation of children based on reports of online child abuse to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre in 2009/2010.

Key Findings

- In the year April 2009 to March 2010, CEOP received a total of 6,291 reports; 2,391 were received from members of the public and 3,900 were received from other sources, with 47 % from industry, and 22 % from UK law enforcement and 23 % from overseas law enforcement.
- Over the past three years, CEOP has observed a general increase in reporting, with 5812 reports received in 2007/2008, 5,411 reports in 2008/2009, culminating in 6,291 reports in 2009/2010.
- This increase can be attributed to a rise in industry reporting to CEOP. Through its work with industry and the wider industry implementation of the ClickCEOP button, CEOP has considerably improved levels of online reporting of threatening/uncomfortable experiences among children and young people.
- 25 % of all reports received by CEOP refer to incidents of online grooming.
- In 28 % of grooming reports, a child was incited to perform a sexual act via webcam. In 12 % of grooming reports, a child was incited to watch an adult perform a sexual act via webcam. These findings suggest that approximately 40 % of offenders aim to abuse children via webcam, and do not attempt to solicit an offline meeting. The remaining grooming reports refer to suspicious contact between adults and children through social networking sites (11%), online games (2%), mobile phones (1%), instant messaging services (5%), inappropriate chat (7%), and unspecified media (25%); and adults making arrangements to meet a child (9%).
- CEOP has observed an increase in the numbers of self-taken indecent images of children. These images are sometimes produced as a result of a child or young person being groomed by an adult offender, though some children also appear to upload such images without coercion.

Policy Context

CEOP is a law enforcement and child protection agency, specialising in online child sexual exploitation. CEOP acts as a central hub for reports of online child abuse for UK law enforcement. CEOP's Strategic Overview outlines trends in the UK relating to (i) risk taking by children online; (ii) internet sex offending; and (iii) patterns of reports received by CEOP from members of the public, the private sector, NGOs and law enforcement agencies.

Methodology

The Strategic Overview is large scale and quantitative, predominantly based upon reports made to CEOP by members of the public, industry, NGOs and other law enforcement agencies, in the UK and overseas. It also draws upon a number of information sources, including intelligence assessments produced by UK police forces and their specialist units, and data from partners and key stakeholders such as the UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Child Protection and Abuse Investigation group.

Reports are collected and recorded 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. CEOP Intelligence Analysts collated and analysed reports relating to the period 1st April 2009 – 31st March 2010. Reports received over this period are categorised according to a number of variables used for law enforcement case management, and all relevant data was subject to quantitative and qualitative analysis in order to identify trends and patterns.

Background

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre receives thousands of reports concerning online child abuse from members of the public and other stakeholders each year. CEOP's Strategic Overview is published annually, outlining key trends and patterns in reports.

The 2009 – 2010 Strategic Overview identifies the continuation of established trends and behaviours concerning offending behaviour. It is evident that offenders move seamlessly between online environments order to gain access to children.

Sources [http://www.ceop.police.uk/Documents/Strategic_Overview_2009-10_\(Unclassified\).pdf](http://www.ceop.police.uk/Documents/Strategic_Overview_2009-10_(Unclassified).pdf); last accessed 12/11/10

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