

Online Sexual Offenses against Children in the US

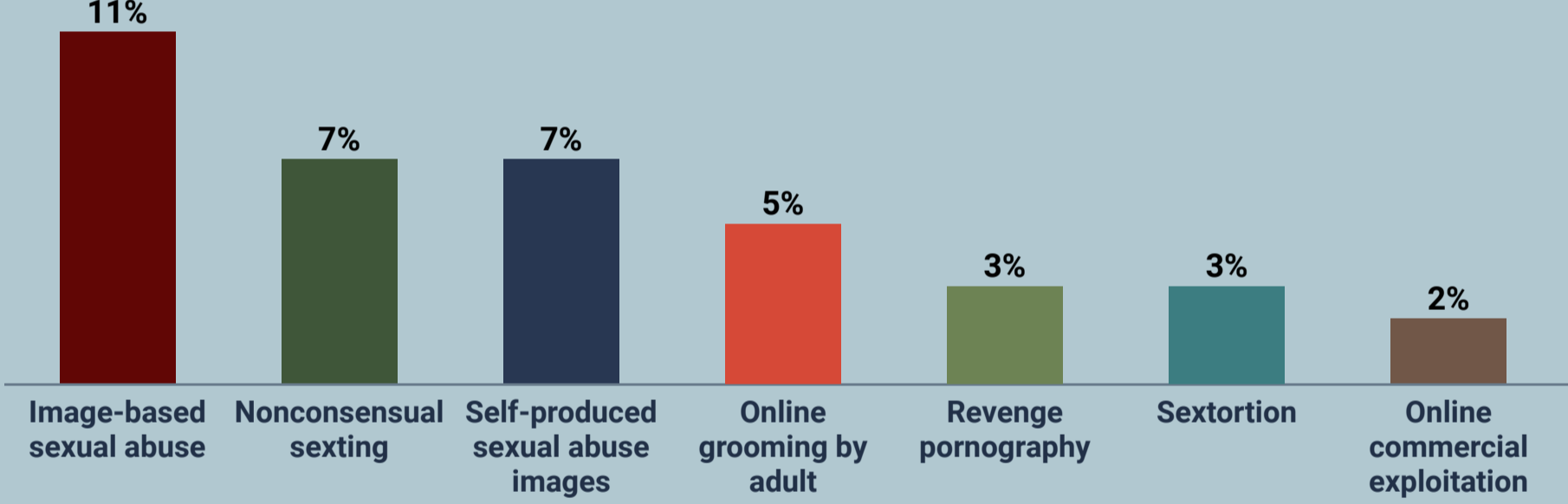


Results of a national survey based on 2,639 people aged 18 to 28, members of the IPSOS Knowledge Panel



One in six respondents (16%) had one or more episodes of online sexual abuse before age 18.

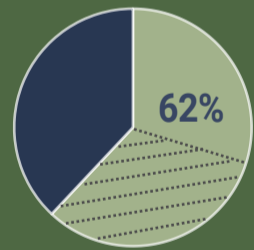
Subcategories of online child sexual abuse



30% of perpetrators were under age 18



62% of perpetrators were people known offline. A majority of those (33%) were intimate partners



Summary

Many children are being sexually abused online, often through image misuse. Most offenders are people they know offline, not strangers. A large portion are also other juveniles.

Implications

Online safety education needs to do more than warn children about interacting with strangers or being groomed online by unknown adults. It needs to help youth navigate risky and inappropriate requests, particularly about images, from persons they already know.

Citation

D. Finkelhor, H. Turner and D. Colburn (2022) Prevalence of Online Sexual Offenses against Children in the US. JAMA Open Network.

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.34471>

This research was funded by the National Institute of Justice.