

From possessor to producer: The offending pathway for child abuse material producers

Problem

- > Limited research has addressed the gap between those who merely possess CAM and those who produce CAM

Aims

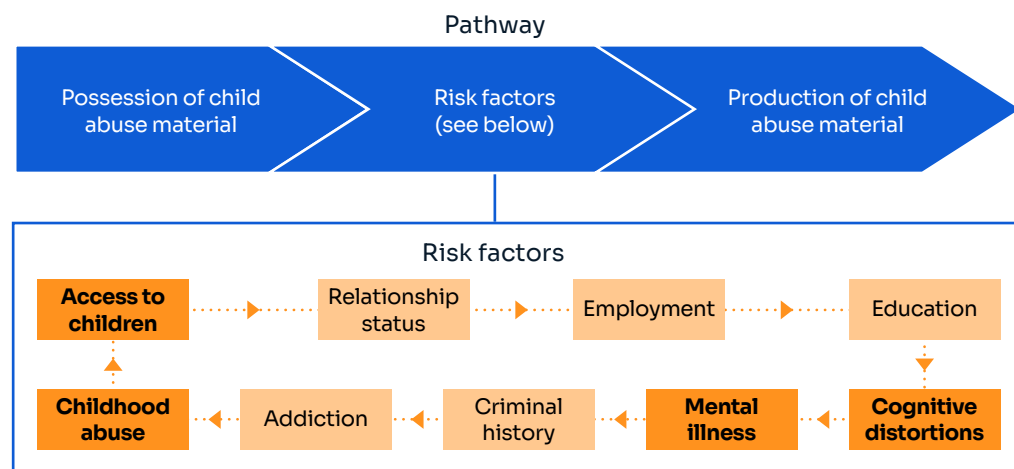
- > To prevent future production and distribution of CAM and its adverse outcomes the risk factors associated with production must be understood.
- > To protect children, we must understand the progression from possessor to producer of child abuse material. Prevention and intervention for CAM requires the understanding of criminal progression.

Methodology

- > A systematic review of review on the following databases: Informit, EBSCO, ProQuest, and PsycNet to answer the question what are the factors which explain why some CAM offenders progress to the production of CAM and others do not?
- > Identify 8 eligible systematic reviews including 20 eligible individual studies investigating child abuse material producers.

Key findings

- > This study found that the pathway between possession of child abuse material and production of child abuse material followed possessors having more access to children (through relationships, the internet, employment, and living with a child), mental illness, possessing pro-offending thoughts, and experiencing childhood abuse. Possessors with these risk-factors are more likely than other possessors to produce CAM.



Implications and recommendations

- > Policy makers could consider a number of reforms to try to stop the progression of CAM possessors to producers:
 1. Improve blue card systems to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement to limit access of at-risk people to children.
 2. Follow the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (2017) and create a national register of legal carers.
 3. Parents and schools need to improve awareness of the dangers of online exploitation and educate children on what constitutes unlawful sexual behaviour from adults.
- > The nature of sexual and online offences mean it is difficult to estimate true rates of offending and identify offenders. Therefore, these results may not reflect the true nature of CAM offending for producers.