

# Prevention strategies to reduce the production, distribution, & victimisation of child abuse materials

## Problem

- > Child abuse material (CAM) describes material that depicts a child, or a representation of a child in a sexual, abusive or cruel context.
- > 34% of children aged three to four own their own media device and 37% of parents in the USA and UK have no security filters or software to protect their children online.
- > Unfiltered access to the internet and technology by children exposes them to potential online grooming, solicitation, bullying, and child abuse materials.
- > Victims of CAM experience perpetuated cycles of abuse with physical, psychological, and emotional damages. CAM victims are constantly revictimised by the knowledge that their documented abuse is continually distributed.

## Prevention

Smallbone and Wortley's 3x3 matrix of prevention strategies:

Prevention levels prevention targets	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
(Potential) offenders	Increasing perceived risk	Warning messages	Preventing re-offending
(Potential) victims	Increasing online safety	Reducing vulnerabilities and risky behaviours	Preventing re-victimisation
Settings	Reducing availability	Blocking online transactions	Gathering intelligence

## Aims

- > Using a rapid systematic literature search of five criminological databases this study aims to identify evaluated prevention strategies that seek to reduce the production, distribution, and victimisation of CAM I identified 60 studies discussing evaluated prevention strategies to reduce production, distribution and victimisation of CAM.

## Methodology

- > What are the range of evaluated prevention strategies that seek to reduce the production, distribution, and victimisation of CAM?
- > What is the reported effectiveness of prevention that seek to prevent CAM production, distribution, and victimisation?

## Key findings

Evaluated prevention strategies to reduce CAM production, distribution, and victimisation include:

### Online environment

- > Digital warnings
- > Online filters
- > Web crawlers
- > Hashing
- > URL list blocking
- > CAM removal

### Offender

- > Psychosocial treatment
  - > Prevention Project Dunkelfeld
  - > i-SOPT
  - > Inform Plus
- > Helplines
- > Restitution
- > Stigma reduction

### Victim

- > Education for parents, children and medical practitioners
- > Internet safety
- > Self-protection
- > Bodily autonomy and inappropriate behaviours

## Barriers

- > Cost of running programs limits their success.
- > Mandatory reporting may impede offenders from seeking help.
- > Cost of psychosocial treatment to offenders can be high.
- > Parents should monitor children's internet use and openly discuss dangers with their children.

## Conclusions and future research

- > The most effective prevention strategies in this study include the use of education for children and parents, monitoring children's internet use, helplines, and providing internet-specific psychosocial treatment for offenders.
- > Future research should explore the effectiveness of existing programs in Australia referencing those international programs, particularly in the UK and Europe, that show the most promise for preventing and reducing CAM production, distribution and victimisation. Future strategies for preventing distribution, production and victimisation from CAM should consider how current mandatory reporting legislation impact the effectiveness of strategies in the Australian context.