

# Statistics on Sexual Abuse

Official statistics on the number of sexually exploited children that have been identified by the authorities are not currently available. Although there has been a lot of research into the factors that are associated with child sexual exploitation, very few studies look into the numbers of children who have been exploited.

- **How many children were victims of sexual exploitations in gangs and groups from August 2010 to October 2011?**

500  
1000  
1400  
2400

Over **2400** children were victims of sexual exploitation in gangs and groups from August 2010 to October 2011.

**Source:** Berelowitz, S. et al (2012) "I thought I was the only one. The only one in the world." The Office of the Children's Commissioner's inquiry in to child sexual exploitation in gangs and groups: interim report (PDF).

- **What are the most common reasons for a child to be trafficked?**

Sexual Exploitation  
Labour Exploitation  
Both

The most common reasons for children to be trafficked are **both** sexual exploitation and labour exploitation.

**Source:** National Crime Agency (2017) National referral mechanism statistics: end of year summary 2016 (PDF).

- **How many children were trafficked for sexual exploitation in 2016?**

- Under 50
- 100
- Over 200
- Over 300

**Over 360** children were trafficked for sexual exploitation in 2016.

**Source:** National Crime Agency (2017) [National referral mechanism statistics - end of year summary 2016 \(PDF\)](#).

- **How many of the indecent images shared online are taken by children themselves?**

- 1 in 20
- 1 in 10
- 1 in 5

Of the indecent images of children shared online, **1 in 5** are taken by the child themselves.

**Source:** CEOP (2013) [Threat assessment of child sexual exploitation and abuse](#)

- **Approximately, how many children who are sexually exploited in England are looked after?**

- 1 in 50
- 1 in 10
- 1 in 3

An estimated **1 in 3** or one-third of sexually exploited children are looked after. "Some of the children who are preyed upon by these calculating abusers are the most vulnerable in society".

Although children are being sexually exploited when living in a range of circumstances, children in care account for a disproportionate number of children known to be sexually exploited. However, it is likely that many victims of child sexual exploitation, whether in care or not, go unidentified. It is also likely that some children in care may also have been sexually exploited prior to being taken into care.

**Source:** Office of the Children's Commissioner and Berelowitz, S. (2012) [Briefing for the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Education, on the emerging findings of the Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups, with a special focus on children in care.](#)

- **In 2015-16, a South London Children's Social Care Unit received 119 referrals of children and young people suspected to be vulnerable to or at risk of sexual exploitation. How many these referrals were referrals for boys or young men?**

0  
12  
24  
56

**12** (10%) of the referrals were male, yet in general male victims of child sexual exploitation are far less likely than female victims to recognise or acknowledge their experiences as abusive in the short term; boys rarely disclose abuse, the abuse is played down or denied, they don't talk about being exploited.

**Source:** Barnardos (2014) [Research on the sexual exploitation of boys and young men A UK scoping study.](#)