

WHAT IS CHILD PORN?

"People do not understand what child pornography is. They often think it could be a child in a bathtub or an 11 year old frolicking on a beach. That's not what we're talking about," says Paul Gillespie, an investigator with the Toronto Police Child Exploitation unit.

Detective Sgt. Paul Gillespie has been tracking down child pornographers for years and says the images are growing more violent and disturbing.

He and nine other investigators have been tracking child porn for three years. Many of the images they've seen are shocking. "We regularly seize hundreds of thousands of images involving children as young as babies in diapers in pictures and in full length movies being brutally tortured, raped, sodomized and bleeding. This is the norm. There are now 3 and 4 year-olds in 20 minute movies screaming for daddy to stop."

The legal definitions of child pornography vary from country to country. In Canada it's illegal to distribute a picture of sex involving someone under eighteen (see [porn laws in Canada](#)). Unfortunately, many of the images seized by police go well beyond that definition.

Vancouver Police detective Noreen Waters is haunted by one particular image. "There's this one image of a little boy that looks terrified. He's being anally penetrated by an adult and he looks maybe five or six years old. That angered more me than anything. To think that this child looked so scared and somebody was collecting this as something sexual that stimulated them. They collect this material and think it's alright to look at these images of children being sexually abused."

The industry of child pornography has evolved along with the internet. It's now possible to access live online sex shows using Web cams and other real-time technology. In 1996, the Orchid Club, an internet club trading in child porn was busted after it hosted an online, by-request assault on a 10 year-old girl that was viewed all around the world.

HOW MUCH CHILD PORN IS ON THE INTERNET?

The internet is a sordid playground for people who are interested in accessing, sharing and selling child pornography; it's estimated that there are more than 100,000 child porn web sites.

According to Terri Moore, a Texan prosecutor involved in the Landslide case, ([see more](#)) it's an international problem. Her investigation into one child pornography portal revealed the names and credit card numbers of 300,000 subscribers from 37 American states and 60 countries. "The numbers are huge and the demand is enormous," she says.

And the problem is growing. In 1995, a Manchester police unit found only 12 images of children on the Internet. Now there are millions.

[COPINE](#), a research group at the University of Cork in Ireland, that studies child pornography is seeing an average of three to four new faces of abused children each month. About 40% of the girls and 55% of the boys are between the ages of 9 and 12. The rest are younger.

PORN FOR PROFIT

The [Internet Watch Foundation](#) in the U.K. finds some 80 to 85 new pay sites

They estimate that there are 50,000 new child abuse images being posted to newsgroups every month. That doesn't include pictures traded in e-mails or listed on peer-top peer sites commonly used to share music which are other ways to share child porn.

COLLECTORS OF PORNOGRAPHY

COPINE research has shown that collecting has become an obsession for many. Pornographic images are collected in series and labeled by a child's name, like 'the Heather series' or 'the Michael series' and feature children in various stages of abuse.

Some offenders acquire many images to increase their bartering power so that they can trade with other pornographers to obtain images of a particular child that they are attracted to. The more rare and complete a collection is, the more highly regarded the offender is by his on-line peers.

Some people have enormous collections. After the Orchid Club bust (see above) the investigation revealed another more sophisticated group, the Wonderland Club, another internet club, that required 10,000 child porn images as a membership fee.

One affluent Toronto home contained 13 safes filled with some 500,000 pornographic images. During Operation Snowball ([see more](#)) Toronto Police raided a million dollar home in an upper middle class neighbourhood. Behind a door with four locks they found a vast collection of pornography. Inside the room were 13 safes of every size and description containing some 500,000 images. "I've never seen anything like that. So much in one place," said Ian Lamond, a member of the unit involved in the bust

Yet, the largest collection of child porn ever seized in Canada was much larger - 1 million images were found in one house.

each month.
Before Landslide Productions - a popular child porn portal site - was closed down in 1999 ([see more](#)) the owner Thomas Reedy was making approximately \$1.4 million U.S. each month.

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