



Human Trafficking

Statistics and Online Safety



Human trafficking is never an easy topic to discuss, but we can no longer avoid the information available, even though it may be painful to consume. The following pages detail the horrors of human trafficking and provide insight into the ever-increasing online presence that modern day traffickers are utilizing to groom and recruit victims.

“You, Lord, hear the desire of the afflicted; You encourage them, and You listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed, so that mere earthly mortals will never again strike terror.” – Psalm 10:17-18

Our goal is to bring light to the darkness by uncovering the facts of human trafficking and how it is weaving its way into every city across the United States and every country across the globe. The reality is that the human trafficking crisis is far too large for us to ignore. But now that we know, we can step up to raise awareness, to fight to protect our families and friends, and to support those rescuing and restoring survivors of this monstrous crime.

17% of survivors noted that their trafficker was a family member. Of those survivors, 80% were 10 years old or younger. Trafficking of those younger than 10 years old is perpetrated almost exclusively by family members at 76%, often by a father or stepfather.

Thorn, Survivor Insights



Survivors reported entering the life from as young as infancy through age 17, and 1 in 6 were forced into the life before the age of 12. However, the average age of entry was 14.

Thorn, Survivor Insights

During lockdowns, online recruitment increased 22% while common recruitment tactics decreased – foster care by 70%, strip clubs by 46% and schools by 38%.



In 2020, there was a 125% increase in Facebook recruitment and a 95% increase in Instagram recruitment over the previous year.

Polaris, Human Trafficking Trends in 2020

The proportion of victims recruited by family members increased from 21% in 2019 to 31% in 2020 – a 47% increase. In 2020, 42% of all victims reported being brought into trafficking by their own families.

Polaris, Human Trafficking Trends in 2020

Human traffickers are turning a profit of over \$150 billion USD a year.

A21 Global Broadcast

1 in 6 kids ages 9 to 12 have had romantic or sexual conversations with an online-only contact.

1 in 8 kids ages 9 to 12 have shared a nude image with an online-only connection.

Thorn, Online Grooming

In a study analyzing the trading of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), data found that cases with prepubescent victims - roughly ages 3-12 - are more likely to be traded than infant/toddler or pubescent material.

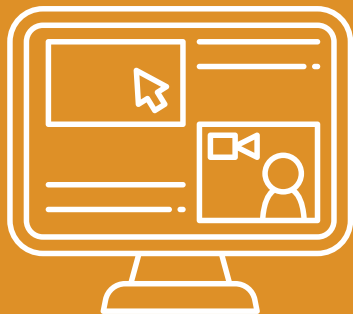
Thorn, Production and Active Trading of CSAM

Findings show that CSAM images depicting younger children and more egregious content - such as bestiality or sadism - are more likely to involve familial offenders and more likely to be actively traded.

Thorn, Production and Active Trading of CSAM

Roughly 59% of all CSAM created of infants and toddlers being traded involved a familial relationship. Infant and toddler CSAM is the most likely to be actively traded.

Thorn, Production and Active Trading of CSAM



Online advertising was also associated with an increased number of buyers per day. **1 in 7** respondents who were advertised on the street reported more than 10 buyers per day. By comparison, **1 in 4** respondents who were advertised online reported more than 10 buyers per day.

Thorn, Survivor Insights

YouTube is the number one platform where minors have shared their own Self-Generated Child Sexual Abuse Material (SG-CSAM) at 78%, been shown SG-CSAM at 85% or re-shared SG-CSAM at 88%.

Thorn, Self-Generated Child Sexual Abuse Materials

Top 5 Risk Factors - Sex Trafficking

Substance Use Concerns

Runaway/Homeless Youth

Unstable Housing

Mental Health Concerns

Recent Migration/Relocation

Top 5 Risk Factors - Labor Trafficking

Recent Migration/Relocation

Self-Reported Economic Hardship

Unstable Housing

Criminal Record

Substance Use Concerns

Human trafficking cases have been reported in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and every U.S. territory.

Tip Report, 2021

In 2016, an estimated 40.3 million people were victims of modern slavery. From 2011 to 2016, 89 million people experienced some form of modern slavery for periods of time ranging from a few days to five years or beyond.

Global Estimates of Modern Slavery 2017 Report

In 2019, just over half of victims in criminal human trafficking cases in the United States were children.

2019 Federal Human Trafficking Report

Within the US, 83% of victims in confirmed sex-trafficking incidents were identified as U.S. citizens.

US Justice Department

1 out of every 130 women worldwide is a victim of human trafficking. Children represent 1 in 4 victims of human trafficking worldwide.

A21 Global Broadcast

The number one type of trafficking remains escort services followed closely by pornography.

Polaris, Human Trafficking Trends in 2020

54% of minors believe online grooming is a common experience for kids their age.

Thorn, Online Grooming



1 in 7 minors are asked for nudes by a stranger online daily or weekly.

Thorn, Online Grooming

40% of 13- to 17-year-olds reported that it was normal for kids their age to share nudes with one another. 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 10 boys ages 13 to 17 have shared their own nudes.

Thorn, Responding to Online Threats

1 in 4 teens interact online with someone they believe is 30 or older. 2 in 3 9- to 12-year-olds interact with unfamiliar adults online.

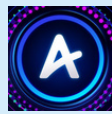
Thorn, Online Grooming

Among kids who have shared nudes, 50% reported that they have shared a nude photo or video with someone they had not met in real life. 41% reported they had shared a nude photo or video with someone age 18 or older.

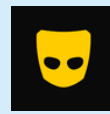
Thorn – SG-CSAM: Youth Attitudes

The Digital Landscape

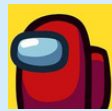
The following are apps and games used by minors, mentioned in several studies conducted by Thorn pertaining to online grooming, self-generated child sexual abuse material, and responding to online threats. Not all of these are inherently bad, but caregivers should be invested in their child's online life.



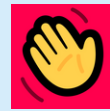
Amino



Grindr



Among Us



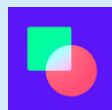
Houseparty



Bumble



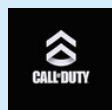
Instagram



Byte



Kik Live



Call of Duty



Marco Polo



Discord



Messenger



Facebook



Minecraft



Fortnite



Monkey



Google Hangouts/Meet



Nintendo Switch



Grand Theft Auto



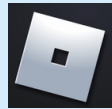
OnlyFans



Pinterest



Reddit



Roblox



Signal



Slack



Slither.io



Snapchat



Tagged



Telegram



TikTok



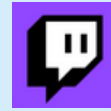
Tinder



Triller



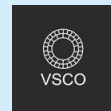
Tumblr



Twitch



Twitter



VSCO



WhatsApp



Whisper



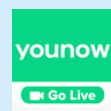
Wickr Me



Wink



Wishbone



YouNow



YouTube

Minors Online Usage

					Social Media
Amino	10%	11%	4%	-	
Byte	5%	9%	-	-	
Discord	34%	27%	5%	-	
Facebook	62%	37%	10%	50%	
Houseparty	15%	12%	1%	-	
Instagram	76%	48%	16%	65%	
Monkey	7%	10%	-	-	
Pinterest	45%	23%	3%	-	
Reddit	32%	21%	2%	-	
Snapchat	71%	47%	16%	71%	
Tagged	4%	10%	-	-	
TikTok	69%	44%	9%	60%	
Triller	7%	10%	-	-	
Twitch	40%	14%	7%	26%	
Tumblr	36%	23%	3%	-	
Twitter	59%	28%	9%	41%	
VSCO	12%	10%	2%	-	
Whisper	4%	9%	-	-	
Wink	5%	9%	-	-	
Wishbone	-	10%	-	-	
YouNow	7%	9%	-	-	
YouTube	97%	47%	9%	78%	
Among Us	43%	35%	3%	-	
Call of Duty	48%	36%	5%	-	
Fortnite	47%	43%	4%	-	
Grand Theft Auto	39%	31%	4%	-	
Minecraft	62%	45%	3%	-	
Nintendo Switch	43%	28%	-	-	
Roblox	47%	42%	3%	-	
Slither.io	31%	13%	1%	-	
Google Hangouts	64%	26%	9%	44%	
Kik Live	14%	13%	3%	-	
Marco Polo	10%	10%	-	-	
Messenger	62%	38%	11%	47%	
Signal	2%	8%	-	-	
Slack	6%	10%	-	-	
Telegram	11%	13%	2%	-	
WhatsApp	47%	21%	9%	39%	
Wickr	-	9%	-	-	
Bumble	-	9%	-	-	
Grindr	-	8%	-	-	
OnlyFans	6%	8%	-	-	
Tinder	-	9%	-	-	
					Gaming
					Messaging
					Dating
% of Minors Using The Platform	% of Minors Exchanging Messages With Unknown Individuals	% of Minors Having An Online Sexual Encounter	% of Minors Sharing Their Self-Generated Child Sexual Abuse Material		

Conclusion

40%

of minors have reported they felt uncomfortable online
because they were asked for personal information.

1/3 of all minors have become uncomfortable after experiencing someone online
try to become close with them too quickly or contacting them too often.

Even so, 23% of minors reported staying in contact with someone they
only know online even after they made them feel uncomfortable.

Thorn, Online Grooming

**Only 6% of 9- to 17-year-olds turned to a
trusted adult/parent/caregiver after being sent
a nude by someone they thought was an adult.**

Thorn, Responding to Online Threats

Human trafficking continues to grow at alarming rates, and as traffickers begin to increase online grooming tactics, it's important for caregivers to be aware of the necessity for online safety. Minors are growing numb to sharing nudes, connecting with strangers, and not reporting uncomfortable circumstances online. As caregivers, it is imperative that we not only know what apps and games are being used, but that we are actively involved in the lives of those we care for and provide a safe place where our kids can come when they make mistakes to receive help and support.



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