

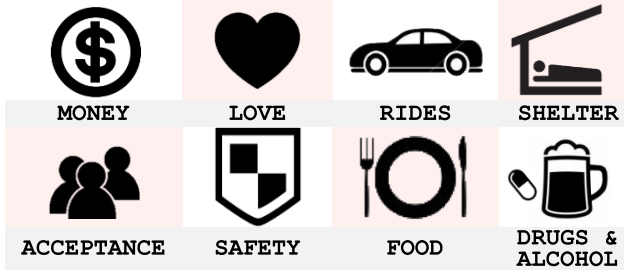
the truth about child & youth sexual exploitation

Sexual exploitation is often a devastating form of **human trafficking** and sexual abuse, and it's happening **here**, in British Columbia.

100,000 to 300,000

children and youth are sexually exploited in North America every year. As many cases go unreported, experts think the real numbers could be much higher.

Sexual exploitation may involve considerations for both tangible and intangible things such as:

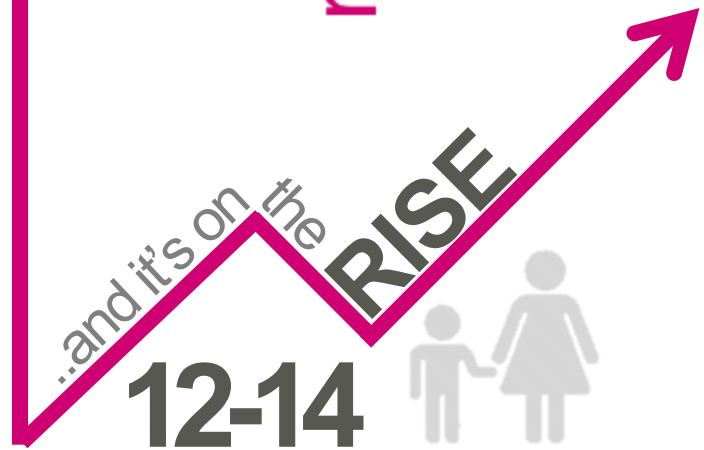


It involves the exchange of a sexual act with a child or youth under the age of 18 for anything.

Sexual exploitation can **AFFECT ANY YOUTH** regardless of



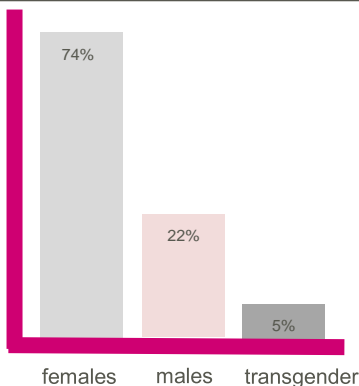
vancouver has been identified as a **destination for travelling sex offenders** who predominantly originate from the United States.



12-14 is the **average age** that children reported their first experience of being exploited through the sex trade.

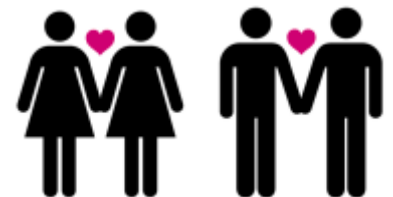
Other facts about sexual exploitation >>

it's not just girls. almost a **THIRD** of sexually exploited youth are boys or transgender.



30%-50%
Aboriginal youth are more vulnerable; up to half of sexually exploited youth identify as **Aboriginal**

youth who identified as **LGBTQ2** were at higher risk to be sexually exploited than their heterosexual peers



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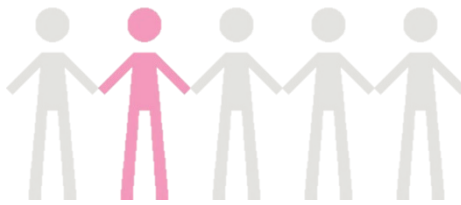
Due to the popularity of technology, the sexual exploitation of children and youth has become less visible on the street, but **online exploitation** has exploded in recent years.

99%

of teens have access to the internet outside school

80%

of teens are posting to social media sites EVERYDAY.



1 in 5 youth ages 10-17 years old have been sexually solicited online.

75% did not tell a parent.

Sexual exploitation also includes the creation, distribution and possession of child sexual abuse videos/images (or child pornography), which is typically seen through peer-to-peer exploitation such as **sexting**, as well as through sexual solicitations from **online predators**.

« image sharing

CANADA



remains **2nd**

in the world to hosting the most child sexual abuse images online, next to the United States.

child pornography offences have increased

233%

in the last ten years.

CYBERTIP REPORTS:

24%

of reported cases were of a youth being threatened by a suspect, with the largest number of threats involving the distribution of existing images of the victim

38%

of cases were of suspects using **instant messaging** to lure victims

35%

of cases were of suspects sending victims sexual images of themselves, or requested youth to go on webcam where youth would see a sexualized image of suspect

SOURCES:

- BURNABY-NEW WESTMINSTER TASK FORCE ON SEXUALLY EXPLOITED AND AT-RISK YOUTH (2017)
- IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK: SEXUALLY EXPLOITED YOUTH IN BC (2008)
- NATIONAL CENTRE FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN (MISSINGKIDS.COM)
- EVERY IMAGE, EVERY CHILD (2009)
- CYBERTIP.CA (2008; 2017)