

Use of Artificial Intelligence in Criminal Activity

North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation



North Dakota Office of Attorney General

- Drew H. Wrigley
- North Dakota Attorney General
- Serving since February 2022
- Oversees the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation



Bureau of Criminal Investigation

- State Fingerprint Database
- Criminal History Records
- Offender Registration
- Concealed Weapons
- State and Local Intelligence Center (SLIC)
- 64 Sworn Agents assigned to:
 - Criminal
 - Cyber
 - Narcotics
 - Gaming
 - Medicaid Fraud
 - Social Security Fraud

NDBCI Cyber Crime Unit



Chief Agent
Steve Harstad
BISMARCK



Supervisory Special
Agent
Jim Shaw
FARGO

NDBCI Cyber Crime Unit-Fargo



Special Agent

Jesse Smith

Computer, Cell Phone,
Vehicle Forensics, K-9,
and Cell Tower



Special Agent

Kristi Solberg

Computer and Cell
Phone Forensics



Special Agent

Troy Hanson

Computer and Cell
Phone Forensics

NDBCI Cyber Crime Unit-Bismarck



Special Agent
Matt Wingenbach
Computer, Cell Phone,
and Vehicle Forensics



Special Agent
Dan Blood
K9, Computer, and Cell
Phone Forensics



Mark Haegele
HSI
Computer and Cell
Phone Forensics

NDBCI Cyber Crime Unit-Minot



Special Agent
Cassidy Halseth
ICAC Commander
K9 Handler, Computer,
and Cell Phone Forensics



Special Agent
Jared Olson
Computer, Cell Phone,
and Vehicle
Forensics



Special Agent
Taylor Schiller
Computer and Cell
Phone
Forensics

NDBCI Cyber Crime Unit-The Specialists



Special Agent
Jacob Bratsch
HT/ICAC
BISMARCK



Special Agent
Dan Heidbreder
HT/ICAC
FARGO



Nicole Boss
SLIC
FARGO

NDBCI Cyber Crime Unit-Victim Services



Specialist Analena Lunde
Victim Services Unit
DICKINSON



Specialist Jill Krone
Victim Services Unit
FARGO

NDBCI Cyber Crime Unit-K9s



Special Agent Jib

ESD

K9

FARGO



Special Agents Jab

ESD

K9

MINOT



Special Agent Ursa

ESD

K9

BISMARCK

Outreach, Prevention, Technical Assistance

The North Dakota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program (ICAC program) helps state and local law enforcement agencies develop an effective response to technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and internet crimes against children.

Included in this response are community education, forensic, investigative, and victim service components.



NATIONAL CENTER FOR
**MISSING &
EXPLOITED**
CHILDREN®

CyberTipline



NATIONAL CENTER FOR
**MISSING &
EXPLOITED**
CHILDREN®

CyberTipline

Every child deserves a safe childhood

CyberTipline.org

Background: CyberTipline

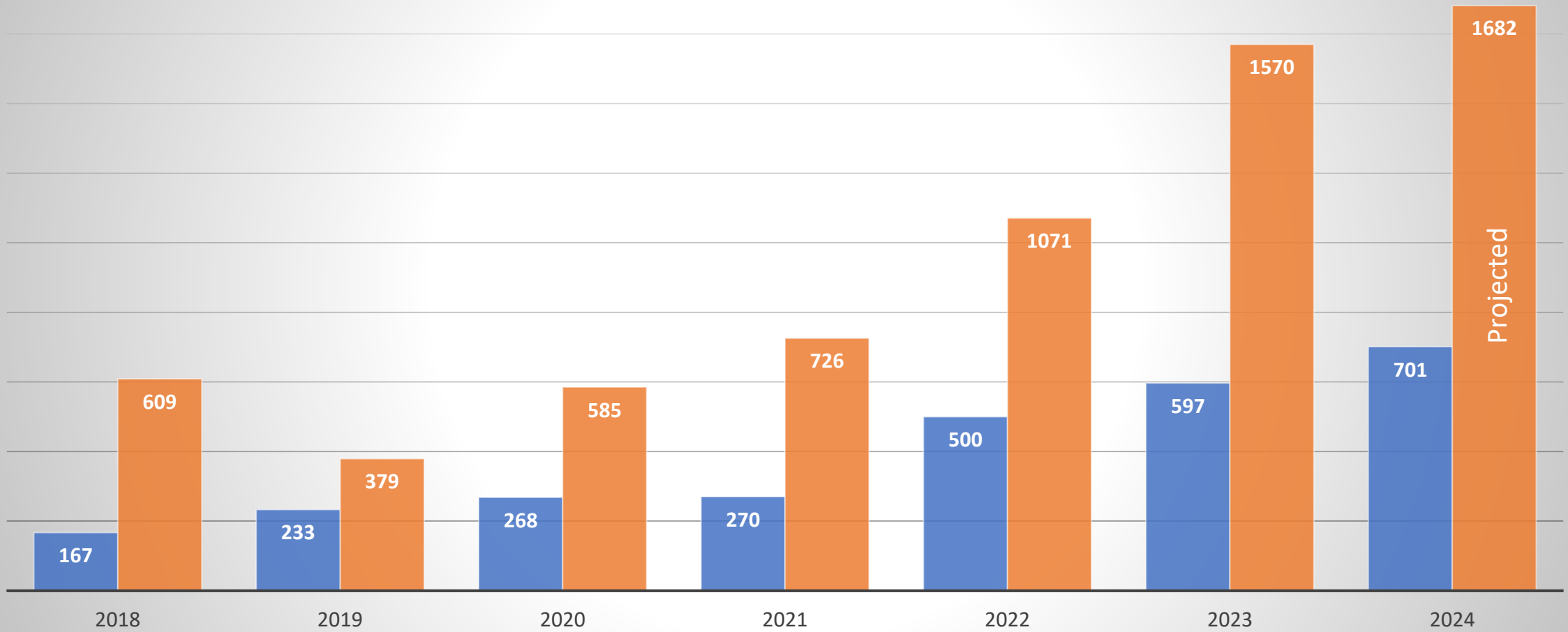
In March 1998, NCMEC created the **CyberTipline** to serve as an online mechanism for members of the public and electronic communication service providers (ESPs) to report incidents of suspected child sexual exploitation including:

- child sex trafficking
- online enticement of children for sexual acts
- child sexual molestation
- child sexual abuse material (CSAM) (referred to in U.S. law as child pornography)
- child sex tourism
- unsolicited obscene materials sent to children
- misleading domain names
- misleading words or digital images

Terminology

- **CSAM:** child sexual abuse material which may violate federal law, a company's Terms of Service, or their published Community Guidelines or Standards.

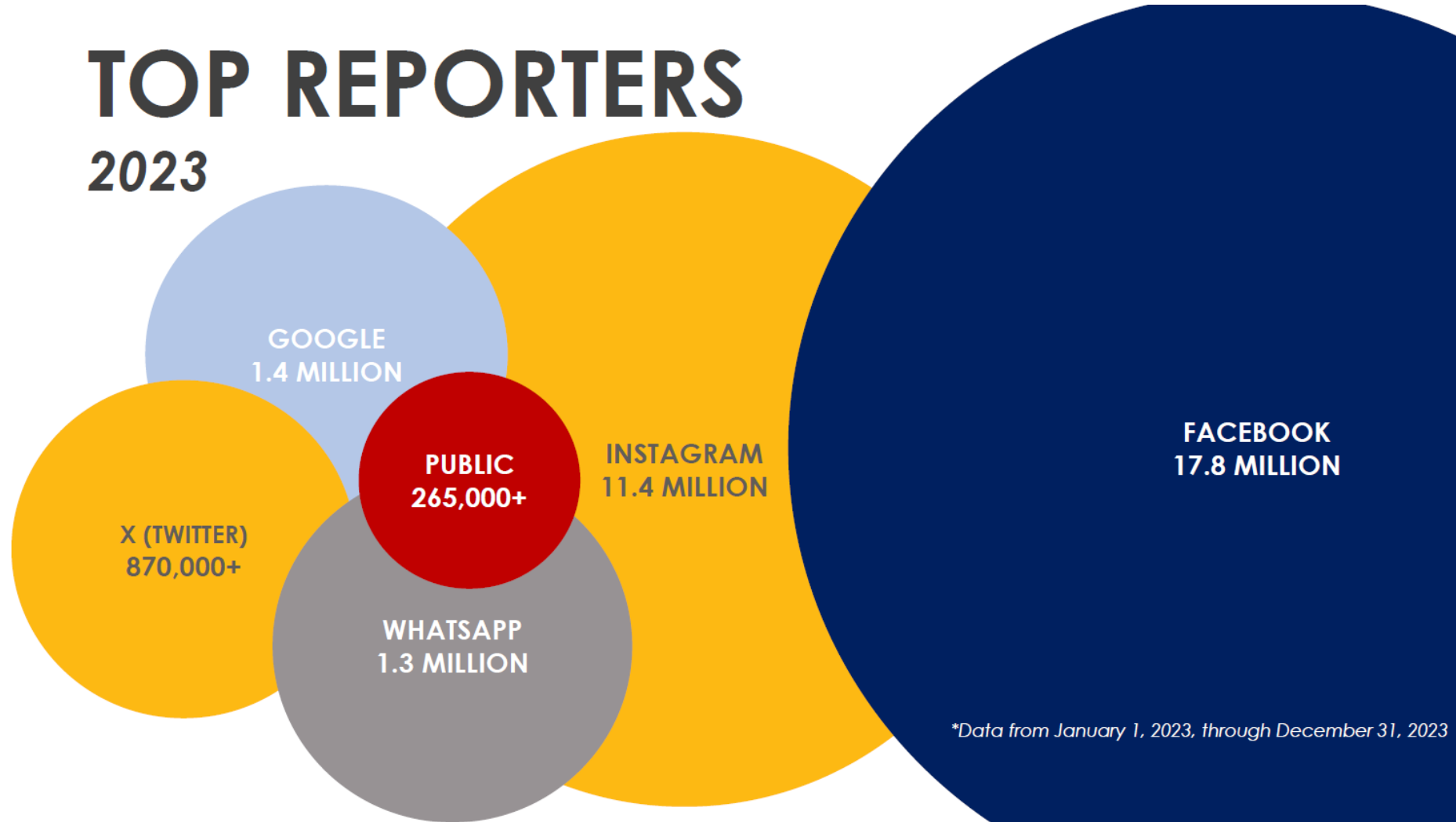
NCMEC Cybertips



■ As of June 19th each year ■ Year Total

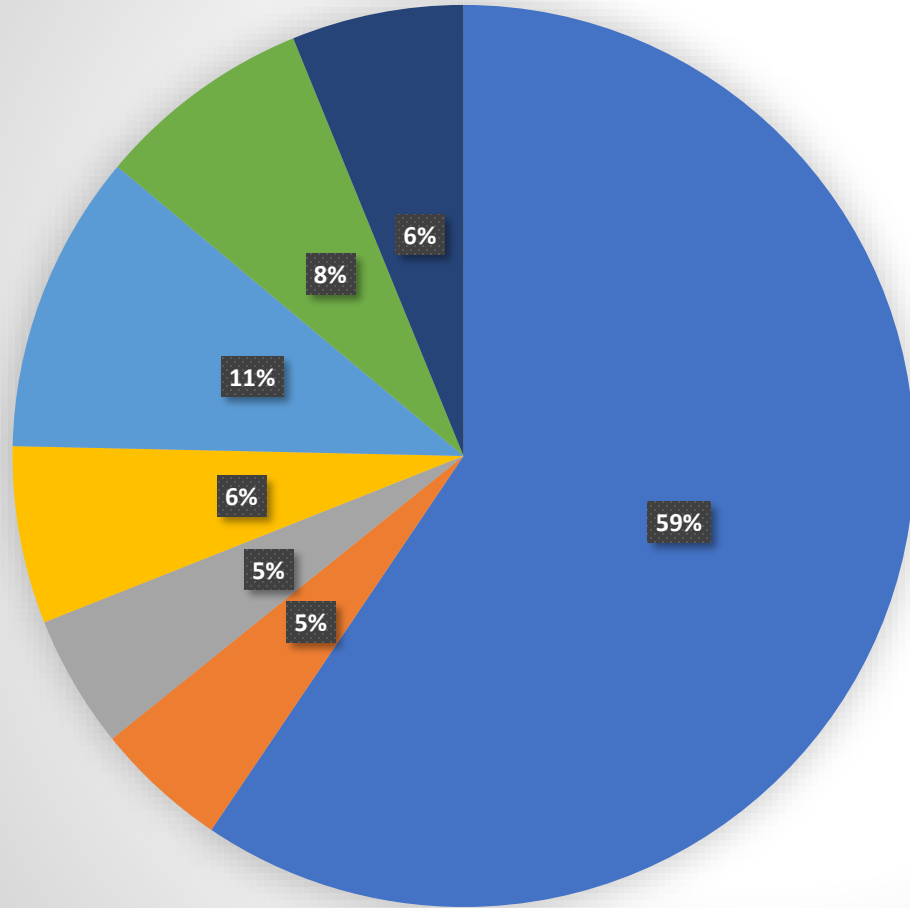
TOP REPORTERS

2023



**Data from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023*

North Dakota's Top ESPs 1/1/2024 - 5/31/2024



- Snapchat
- Discord
- Facebook (Meta)
- Google
- Synchronoss Technologies, Inc
- TikTok
- Twitter/X Corp

How We Plan To Combat This Statewide

How we will do it in 2024:

- Partnerships with Public Health
 - Education, awareness, and prevention
- Increasing affiliates throughout the state
 - School Resource Officers
- Participating on multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs)
- Education, Awareness and Action
 - Push out education materials
 - Speaking opportunities at community gatherings, schools, state conferences

Use of Artificial Intelligence in Criminal Activity

- **Malware and Hacking:** AI can be used to develop sophisticated malware that can evade detection systems, penetrate networks, and steal sensitive information like financial data or personal records.
- **Phishing and Social Engineering:** AI can automate and personalize phishing attacks by analyzing large datasets to craft convincing messages that appear legitimate to unsuspecting users.
- **Automated Fraud:** AI can automate fraudulent activities such as generating fake identities, creating fraudulent documents, or executing financial scams.
- **Cyber-Attacks:** AI can enhance the speed and effectiveness of distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks by coordinating large numbers of compromised devices.
- **Data Breaches:** AI-powered algorithms can be used to identify vulnerabilities in systems, predict passwords, or bypass security measures to gain unauthorized access to sensitive data.
- **Surveillance and Espionage:** AI can be used to enhance surveillance capabilities, such as facial recognition to track individuals, or to analyze vast amounts of data for intelligence purposes.
- **Weaponization of Autonomous Systems:** In the future, as AI advances, there are concerns about the potential misuse of autonomous systems for physical harm, such as autonomous drones or robots repurposed for criminal acts.
- **Deepfakes:** AI algorithms can create highly realistic videos, images, or audio recordings that can be used to impersonate individuals or spread false information, potentially manipulating public opinion or defaming individuals.

How Do You Know?

Verify and Know Who Is On the Other Side of the Conversation















North Dakota Century Code

- 12.1-27.2-02. Use of a minor in a sexual performance
 - A person is guilty of a class A felony if, knowing the character and content of a performance, that person employs, authorizes, or induces a minor to engage in sexual conduct during a performance or, if being a parent, legal guardian, or custodian of a minor, that person consents to the participation by the minor in sexual conduct during a performance.
 - An adult is guilty of a class A felony if, with the intent to persuade, induce, entice, or coerce a minor to engage in a sexual performance, the adult portrays the adult to be a minor.

North Dakota Century Code

- 12.1-27.2-03. Promoting or directing an obscene sexual performance by a minor
 - A person is guilty of a class A felony if, knowing the character and content of a performance, that person produces, directs, or promotes any obscene performance which includes sexual conduct by a person who was a minor at the time of the performance.
- 12.1-27.2-04. Promoting a sexual performance by a minor.
 - A person is guilty of a class B felony if, knowing the character and content of a performance, that person produces, directs, or promotes any performance which includes sexual conduct by a person who was a minor at the time of the performance.

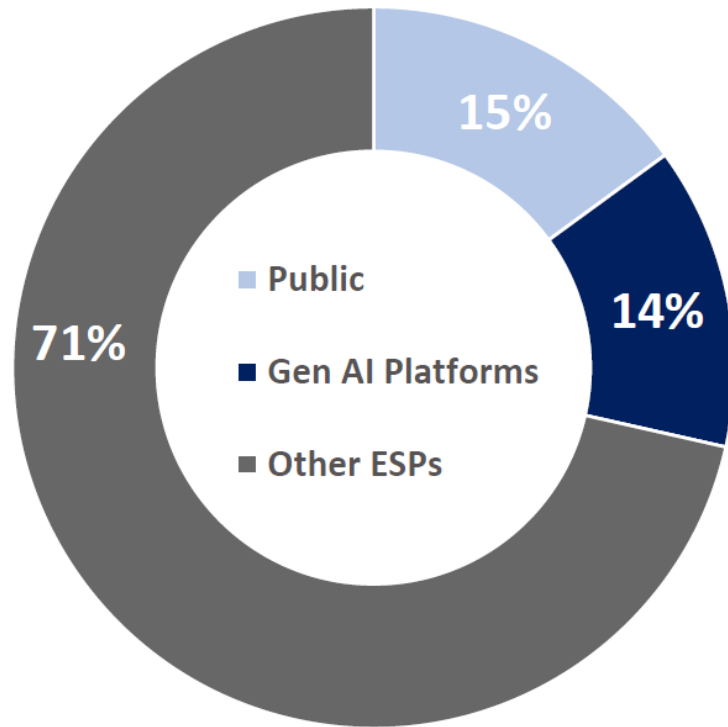
North Dakota Century Code

- As used in this chapter, the terms "obscene material" and "obscene performance" mean material or a performance which:
 - Taken as a whole, the average person, applying contemporary North Dakota standards, would find predominantly appeals to a prurient interest;
 - Depicts or describes in a patently offensive manner sexual conduct, whether normal or perverted; and
 - Taken as a whole, the reasonable person would find lacking in serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.
- Whether material or a performance is obscene must be judged with reference to ordinary adults, unless it appears from the character of the material or the circumstances of its dissemination that the material or performance is designed for minors or other especially susceptible audience, in which case the material or performance must be judged with reference to that type of audience.

North Dakota Century Code

- 12.1-27.2-04.1. Possession of certain materials prohibited
 - A person is guilty of a class C felony if, knowing of its character and content, that person knowingly possesses any motion picture, photograph, or other visual representation that includes sexual conduct by a minor.

GENERATIVE AI REPORTS



Types of AI content

- Image to Image
- Text to Image
- Text to Text

Evolving abuses

- Manipulation of known CSAM
- Creation of new CSAM
- Sextortion and victimization of real children
- Creation of disturbing guides

Data from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023



Trends in ICAC Investigations

Sextortion

Types of Sextortion

Boys

Financial

Demanding money or gift cards in exchange for keeping their sexual images private

Girls

More Sexual Imagery/Videos

Demanding more sexual imagery for keeping their sexual images private

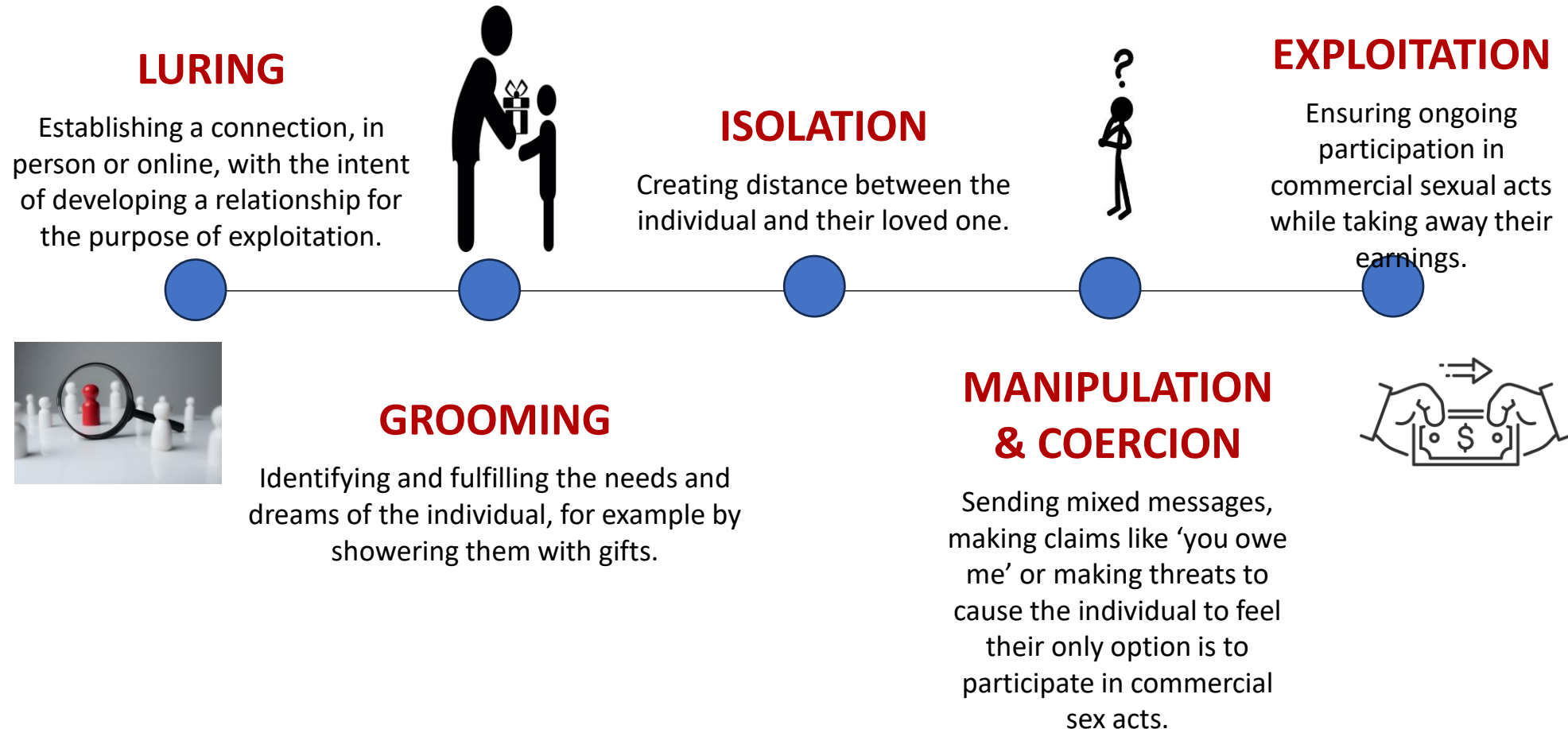
FINANCIAL SEXTORTION



- Average age 15-17 years old
- 93% male
- Most common request: \$500
 - 63% mobile payment apps
 - 30% physical or e-gift cards
 - 7% other (*crypto, debit/credit*)



Exploitation: How It Happens





Increase in Sextortion


FBI Press Release: January 19, 2023

- 1,000% increase in incidents of financial sextortion in the first 6 months of 2022 compared to the same time frame in 2021
- In the last year, law enforcement received over 7,000 reports of financial sextortion attempts, resulting in at least 3,000 victims
- At least 12 teen suicides in 2022



How is it Different?

- Easy to share/leak images online
- Easy to find information to make credible threats
- Easy to photoshop images to appear nude
- Time-sensitive pressure to make decisions
 - Weighted against major consequences
 - Once a victim complies, offender has more content to continue manipulation
- Can manipulate victims into thinking they have images they never sent

A photograph of two young women with long brown hair, smiling and looking at a smartphone held by the woman on the right. The woman on the left is wearing a plaid shirt, and the woman on the right is wearing a red leather jacket. The background is bright and out of focus, suggesting an outdoor setting.

Why Are Youth Vulnerable?

- Communication with strangers
- Oversharing (info and/or images)
- Manipulation
- Decreased ability to make good decisions under pressure
- Pre-frontal cortex isn't developed fully until mid-20s
- Rely mostly on the amygdala for decision-making, especially under pressure
 - Fight or flight; emotional, impulsive, or even aggressive reactions
- Makes it harder for teens to anticipate consequences, resist peer pressure, or resist impulses

Recovery Stress

Getting images removed from sites/apps

Wondering about and waiting for image postings reoccurring/revictimization

Lack of support/services

“Society continues to dismiss the fact that people are forced into situations (like sending nudes) and that they should be shamed if they are”.

-FEMALE/ONLINE/AGE 13

ICAC Task Force: Resources

THIS IS SEXTORTION

Financial sextortion is a scam.

You are not alone.

There's help.

If it happens:

- ✓ Stop responding
- ✓ Take screenshots
- ✓ Report and block user
- ✓ Tell someone!

- ✗ Don't send more images
- ✗ Don't pay any money
- ✗ Don't respond to demands
- ✗ Don't continue the conversation



Even if you comply with demands, they may carry out the threat.

It doesn't matter what has happened.

If you have been a victim, please get help.

- Report to local law enforcement | HSI and FBI may provide additional help
- Report to the CyberTipline | www.cybertipline.org
- Call or text the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline | Call or text 988
- National Center for Missing & Exploited Children Sextortion Resources | <https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/topics/sextortion>

CAMPAIGN ADAPTED FROM AUSTRALIAN CENTER TO COUNTER CHILD EXPLOITATION



Online Sextortion: I didn't think it would happen to me.

You are not alone. Get help.

Report to local law enforcement; HSI and FBI may provide additional help
Report to the CyberTipline: www.cybertipline.org
Call or text the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988



I THOUGHT...

OCCURRED

"Should I send a nude? She's hot, and she *did* send one first...OK. Sent! Maybe she'll send more."

I received a message via social media from an attractive new 'friend.' She was flirting a lot and then she sent a nude. She kept asking for me to send one back until I sent a naked image of myself.

I THOUGHT...

OCCURRED

"They're demanding money and making threats to post my pic now?! I can't pay that...what am I going to do?"

As soon as I sent it, the 'friend' turned nasty and threatened to share my pic with my friends and family. They demanded hundreds of dollars. I couldn't afford to pay that much, and they wanted it immediately. They said it's my fault for sending it. I was running out of time before they followed through on the threats.

I THOUGHT...

OCCURRED

"I have to stop this. I'll pay as much as I can, so they'll stop. Payment sent! ...More?! They're demanding more money."

I offered them as much money as I had. It wasn't the amount they wanted, but they said it would work. I paid the money, and thought it was done. It wasn't. They demanded more. I started getting messages from friends. Even though I had paid, they posted my nude!

I THOUGHT...

OCCURRED

"There's no way out. I'll never live this down. What if I...? **NO.** I know I can always ask for help. I made a mistake, but I'll get through it. I'm telling my parents NOW."

I felt like it was hopeless. I knew better than to fall for this and I made a mistake. Then I remembered. There is HELP. It was late, but I knocked on my parents' door. I'm so glad that I did.

JANUARY 2023



ICACTASKFORCE.ORG

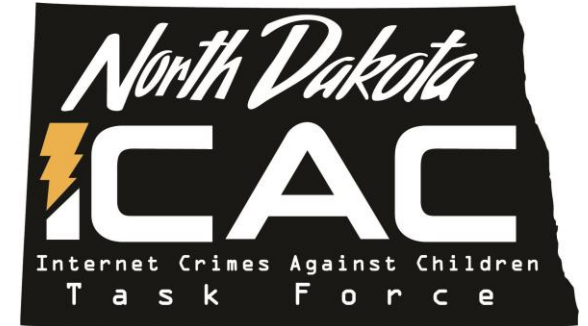
Internet Safety Resources

- Common Sense Media – www.commonsensemedia.org
- ConnectSafely – www.connectsafely.org
- Enough is Enough – www.enough.org
- Internet Safety 101 – www.internetsafety101.org
- Netsmartz (National Center for Missing and Exploited Children parent resources) – www.netsmartz.org/ParentsEducate
- Educate and Empower Kids – www.educateempowerkids.org
- End Sexual Exploitation – endsexualexploitation.org/resources-parents
- Sexting Prevention Course – txssc.txstate.edu/tools/courses/before-you-text
- WebWatcher – www.webwatcher.com
- Know2Protect-dhs.gov/know2protect
- Protect Young Minds – Protectyoungminds.org/resources
- School Safety Guides – www.schoolsafety.gov/

Questions?

*thank
you*

Contact Information



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