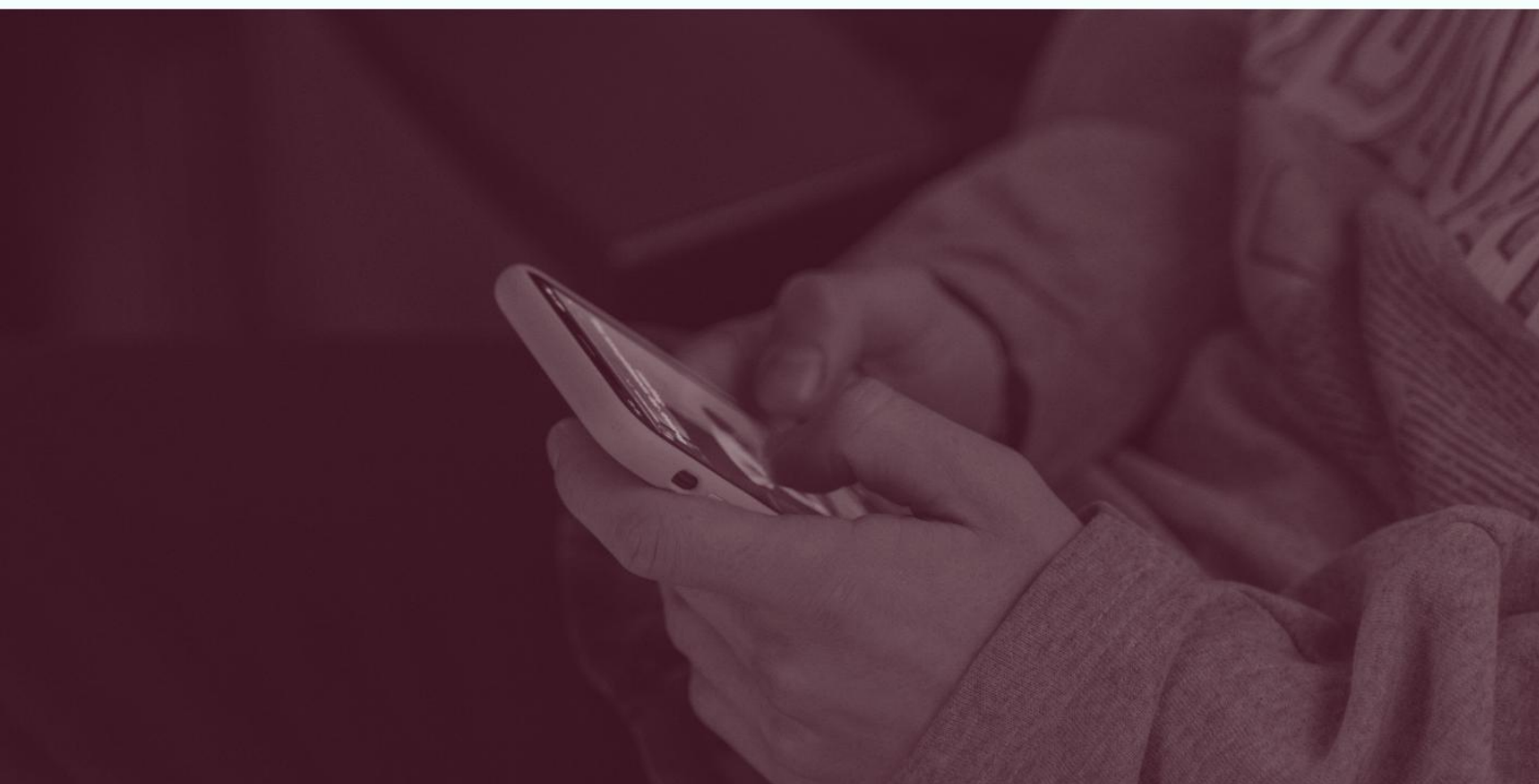


Through the Lens

The Lasting Impact of Image-Based Child Sexual Violence

Findings from an International
Survey of Adult Survivors



Project Lens

Project Lens is an initiative led by Protect Children in collaboration with the University of Eastern Finland and with support from child-rights organisations in Central Asia (Child's Rights Defenders League, Kyrgyzstan; Istiqbolli Avlod, Uzbekistan; Tashabbusi Huquqi, Tajikistan; Union of Crisis Centers, Kazakhstan; Women Lawyers, Tajikistan), which aims to understand and prevent emerging forms of image-based sexual violence against children. Project Lens will build a robust knowledge base to inform and implement a comprehensive, system-wide response to image-based child sexual violence.

Learn more: <https://www.protectchildren.fi/en/project-lens>



Funding

This report is written as part of Project Lens, which is funded by Safe Online. Safe Online is the only global investment vehicle dedicated to keeping children safe in the digital world. Through investing in innovation and bringing key actors together, Safe Online helps shape a digital world that is safe and empowering for all children and young people, everywhere.

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Executive Summary

This report presents findings from the *Through the Lens* survey, an anonymous international survey exploring the experiences and impacts of image-based child sexual violence among adult survivors.

Between April and September 2026, 114 people participated in the survey, of whom 70 reported experiencing at least one form of image-based sexual violence before the age of 18.

The survey was available in 11 languages and explored experiences of image-based sexual violence, its impacts, and survivors' experiences of disclosure, reporting, and seeking support.

The findings demonstrate that image-based child sexual violence can take many forms, with experiences often overlapping, and can have lasting and wide-ranging impacts on survivors' lives.

Participants to the survey described impacts on emotional and psychological wellbeing, relationships, education, employment, social life, everyday activities, and sexual health.

For many survivors, these impacts continued long after the original experience and remained significant into adulthood.

Most importantly, the findings reinforce the value of listening to victims and survivors. Their experiences provide important insight into the consequences of image-based child sexual violence and the support that may be needed.

Understanding these experiences can help strengthen prevention, improve responses to disclosures, and ensure that efforts to address image-based child sexual violence reflect the realities of those who have experienced it.

We thank everyone who took the time to respond to the survey, offering invaluable insights into the lived experiences of image-based child sexual violence.

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Introduction

Image-based child sexual violence is a serious violation of children's rights, impacting an estimated one in eight children globally.¹ The growing use of digital technology and online platforms by children and young people has also increased opportunities for image-based child sexual violence to occur.

Research on child sexual abuse and exploitation has shown that these experiences can have profound and lasting psychological, emotional and physical impacts on victims and survivors.² However, less is known about the long-term consequences of image-based sexual violence, in particular from the perspective of those who experience it during their childhood.

Listening to victims and survivors is crucial for understanding the nature and consequences of image-based child sexual violence and the challenges they may face as a result of the violence they experienced. Their voices and wisdom can help strengthen our understanding of the support victims and survivors might need and inform efforts to prevent and respond to image-based child sexual violence.



“Sharing what I went through back then brought me relief; it had been weighing heavily on me for so long.” – Survivor of image-based child sexual violence (Original in Kyrgyz).

Definition: Image-Based Child Sexual Violence

Image-based child sexual violence refers to any act related to the non-consensual creation, distribution, or threatened distribution of sexual images, videos, or other visual material depicting a person under the age of 18. It also includes the possession of such material.

The material can be real, synthetic, or altered, and can be recorded, livestreamed, or generated, as well as shared through digital or offline means. It also covers acts such as coercing or blackmailing a child to share sexual content.

This report presents findings from the [Through the Lens](#) survey, an anonymous international survey of adult survivors of image-based child sexual violence, available in 11 languages. The data presented in this report was collected between 30 April 2026 and 17 September 2026. During this period, 114 individuals participated in the survey, of whom 70 reported experiencing at least one form of image-based child sexual violence before the age of 18. The findings in this report reflect the experiences shared by these respondents. As respondents had the possibility to skip certain questions, the number of responses varies throughout the report, and percentages are based on the participants who answered each question.

¹ Childlight. (2025). Into the Light Index. <https://www.childlight.org/into-the-light>.

² Díaz Bethencourt, E., Insoll, T., Ovaska, A., Leivo, K., Soloveva, V. & Vaaranen Valkonen, N. 2024. “Global Our Voice Survivor Survey: Experiences of Adult Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Across 29 Languages.” Protect Children. <https://www.suojellaanlapsia.fi/en/post/our-voice-global-report>

Throughout the report, we include quotes shared by respondents to the Through the Lens survey, with their permission. Some quotes have been edited for clarity, conciseness and anonymity, while preserving their meaning; and we have translated all of them into English from their original language.

Project Lens

Project Lens aims to strengthen the evidence base on image-based child sexual violence through three interconnected research strands:

1. **Victims and survivors.** Surveying victims and survivors to understand their experiences and the impacts of image-based child sexual violence.
2. **Parents and caregivers.** Exploring the experiences and impacts of image-based child sexual violence on parents, caregivers, and their families.
3. **Professionals.** Investigating the attitudes, challenges, and perspectives of professionals involved in identifying, investigating, and addressing image-based child sexual violence.

This report is based on the first research strand, focusing on the experiences of victims and survivors who have experienced image-based child sexual violence.

Methodology

Study design | Through the Lens is an anonymous, self-report, online survey exploring experiences of image-based child sexual violence, its impact, and survivors' experiences of disclosure, reporting, and seeking support. The survey was launched on 30 April 2026 and the data collection is still ongoing.

This report presents emerging findings collected until 17 September 2026. During this period, 114 people participated in the survey. Of those who responded, 70 reported that they had experienced at least one form of image-based sexual violence while they were under 18. As the survey remains open, the findings presented in this report may be updated as further responses are collected.

Recruitment | Participants were recruited voluntarily through organic and paid posts on social media platforms and outreach through partner organisations.

Survey instrument | The survey contains 134 questions. The questions were displayed to the participants based on their previous answers; therefore, the total number of questions varied from respondent to respondent. The survey includes multiple-choice (both single-select and multi-select), open-ended, and rating scale questions. It is available in 11 languages. Most questions are optional. Questions asking for informed consent, participants' age, country of residence, and the screening questions concerning forms of experienced image-based child sexual violence were mandatory.

The survey includes five items from the Adverse Childhood Experiences Questionnaire. Questions concerning the impacts of image-based child sexual violence were in part based on the Trauma Screening Questionnaire.

Screening questions | Participants were asked about eight forms of image-based abuse:

1. Unwanted exposure to sexual material
2. Sharing sexual images with an older person
3. Pressured or groomed creation or sharing of sexual images
4. Recorded in-person sexual abuse
5. Non-consensual sharing of sexual images
6. Sexual extortion
7. Commercial sexual exploitation
8. Extremist or violence-based coercive abuse

Inclusion criteria | The report analyses responses from individuals who provided their informed consent to participate in a study, reported to be 18 years old or over, and reported experiencing at least one of the forms of image-based child sexual violence. Whenever an individual reported being under the age of 18 or responded negatively to all screening questions, they were immediately redirected to the survey end page that includes help resources.

Ethics | Ethical aspects of the study were reviewed and approved by the University of Eastern Finland Committee on Research Ethics (Statement No 8/2026).

Participant wellbeing and safeguarding | Participation in the survey is completely voluntary, and respondents can stop participating at any time. Participants are advised to carefully consider their participation and take breaks when needed. Relevant help resources are provided throughout the survey. Participants are not asked to provide detailed descriptions of traumatic events, and questions are phrased in a non-judgemental, neutral tone to minimise the risk of causing distress.

Use of respondent quotes | Quotes included in this report were provided by participants who gave permission for their responses to be used for research and reporting purposes. Some quotes have been edited for clarity, conciseness, or privacy while preserving their meaning. Where relevant, the original language of the response is indicated.

Limitations | This report presents self-reported data, which may be affected by recall bias stemming from the time that has passed since the incident, reluctance of survivors to disclose certain details of the abuse, or personal interpretations of the events. This, however, does not diminish the credibility of respondents or the significance of their answers.

There is a risk of selection bias, as the results represent the experiences of survivors who were reached through a specific recruitment methodology, were ready to share their experiences and participate in the survey. This may affect the generalisability of the findings.

Data | All data presented in the report is available in the [Data Annex](#).

“I am a shell of who I once was. I used to cope by putting myself in worlds in my own imagination, I could be staring right at you and not see. I’ve numbed my mind, I distract myself from my own problems by being angry at the world, at how everything’s turning out. How stupid and vicious people can be.

I have dealt with all of this by myself for years, and although it isn’t as bad as it could have been, it has ruined what my life could have been at this moment. I have ticks (spasms) that originate from my groin area when I get frustrated, usually losing patience. Do I know that all this is the cause? No, but it affected me.”

Survivor of image-based child sexual violence (Original in Finnish)

Forms of Image-Based Abuse

Participants were asked whether they had ever experienced different forms of image-based child sexual violence. The forms were identified in the research underpinning the survey.

Overall, 61% of respondents (n = 70 out of 114) reported having experienced at least one form, with many reporting having experienced multiple forms. The most common form was unwanted exposure to sexual content, reported by 81% of participants, followed by pressured or groomed creation or sharing of sexual images, reported by 59%. The table below summarises the experiences reported by the total 114 participants.

%	Form of image-based child sexual violence experienced
81%	Unwanted exposure to sexual content Being shown or sent sexual images or videos, or seeing extreme pornography, without wanting to see them.
59%	Pressured or groomed creation or sharing of sexual images Being pressured, persuaded, deceived, or emotionally manipulated into creating or sharing sexual images, videos, or livestreamed sexual content.
41%	Sharing sexual images with an older person Sharing sexual images, videos, or livestreamed sexual content with someone at least five years older or over 18, in circumstances perceived at the time as voluntary.
41%	Non-consensual sharing of sexual images Having sexual images or videos, whether real or fake, shared, posted, or shown to others without permission.
37%	Sexual extortion Being threatened with the sharing of sexual images or videos to make the child provide more images, money, or do something they did not want to do.
20%	Recorded in-person sexual abuse Having sexual images, videos, or livestreams recorded during an in-person sexual abuse incident without consent or involving an adult perpetrator.
13%	Commercial sexual exploitation Sharing sexual images or videos, or performing sexually on a livestream or video call, in exchange for money, shelter, basic necessities, valuable items, or drugs.
11%	Extremist or violence-based coercive abuse Being pressured or coerced in an online group involving extreme threats, violence or humiliation, including groups that encouraged harmful acts or required sexual acts as a condition of belonging.
30%	Other Other experiences involving sexual images or videos, including non-consensual recording or sharing, anonymous online distribution, and experiences occurring alongside contact sexual abuse.

Three in ten respondents described experiences outside of the predefined categories. These included images being shared in anonymous online groups, screenshots or recordings being taken without their knowledge, the widespread sharing of intimate images within peer group chats, and experiences involving contact sexual abuse alongside image-based abuse.

“I was added to a bot where anyone could post anonymously, and all sorts of videos were shared—ranging from prohibited sexualised content to gore.” (Original in Russian).

“Screenshots of me naked during a cam with my then boyfriend, taken without my knowledge.”

“Also when I was in secondary school, around 14 or 15 years old, there was a big groupchat made on a social media platform (I think it was snapchat), where people (mostly boys/em) shared 100s of “nudes” i.e., nude photographs that girls had sent them in private.”

“When I went to my neighbor's place to ask for a flash drive, he overpowered me and tried to rape me; this experience has left a deep mark on my heart and is having a negative impact on my life.” (Original in Kyrgyz).

In addition, more than half of participants (52%) said they knew someone who had experienced image-based child sexual violence before the age of 18. This illustrates that these experiences are not isolated, with many survivors aware of similar experiences among people they know.

“Almost all the women I know received unsolicited photos from adult men when they were children; one of my friends was abused by a man over the age of 40 when she was 15—he offered her money for sex and later blackmailed her using a recording.” (Original in Finnish).

Demographics

This section presents the sociodemographic characteristics of the 70 respondents who reported to be over 18 years old and have experienced at least one form of image-based child sexual violence. Percentages are calculated among respondents who answered each individual question.

Age | Over half (54%) of respondents to the survey reported being 18–25 years old. The proportion of respondents decreased across each subsequent age group.

Gender | The majority of respondents (77%) identified as women, while 19% identified as men, and 4% identified as transgender, non-binary, or another gender.

Sexual orientation | Most respondents (57%) identified as straight, 30% identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual, asexual, or unsure/questioning, and 13% preferred not to disclose.

Figure 1. Respondent age in years (n=70)

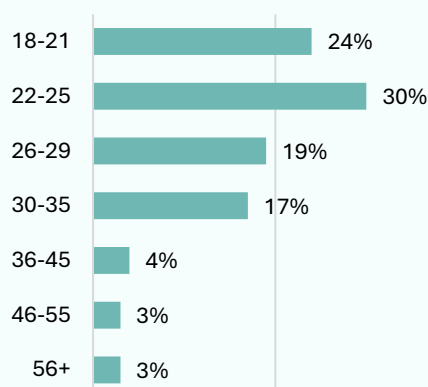


Figure 2. Respondent gender (n=69)

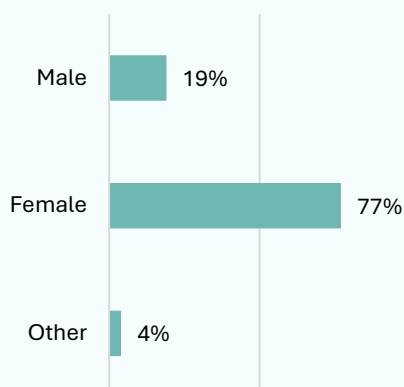
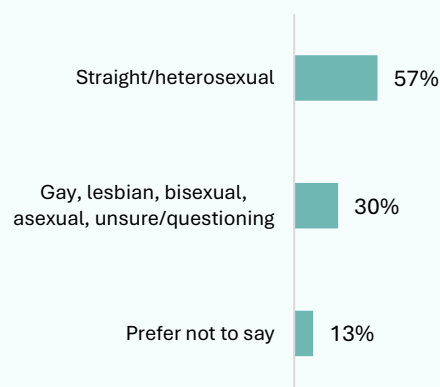
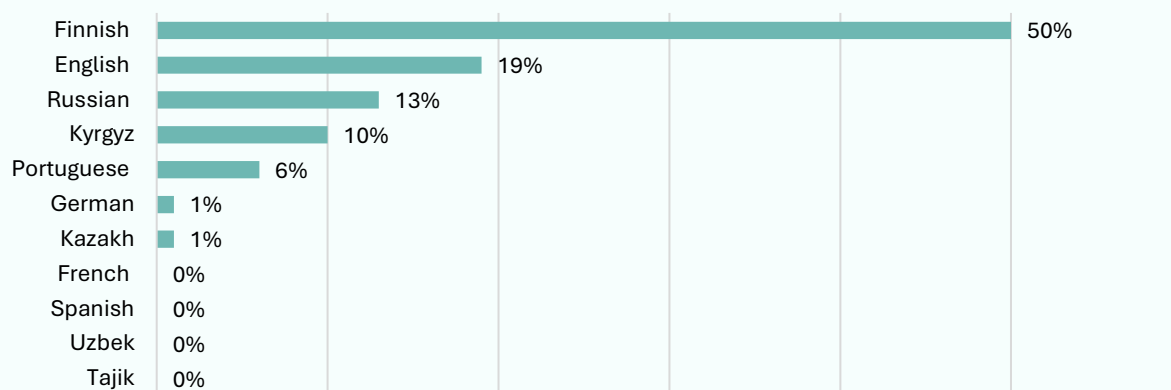


Figure 3. Sexual orientation (n=69)



Language | The survey is available in 11 languages: English, Finnish, French, German, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Uzbek, and Tajik. Most respondents answered the survey in Finnish (n = 35), English (n = 13), and Russian (n = 9).

Figure 4. Language (n=70)



Vulnerabilities in childhood | Among those who answered the survey question concerning difficulties, vulnerabilities, or disabilities in childhood, half of the respondents (51%) reported mental disabilities and emotional challenges, followed by learning or attention-related difficulties (26%). A significant proportion of respondents (43%) reported not having any difficulties, vulnerabilities, or disabilities in childhood.

Adverse childhood experiences | Experiences of emotional abuse (74%) and sexual abuse (57%) in childhood were commonly reported. Other adverse childhood experiences were also commonly reported, including physical abuse (48%), emotional neglect (43%), and physical neglect (26%).

Socioeconomic circumstances | 59% reported that their family experienced economic hardship during their childhood, including difficulties meeting basic needs such as food, medical care, or other necessities. However, 41% did not report experiencing economic hardship, highlighting that image-based child sexual violence can affect children across various socioeconomic circumstances.

Figure 5. Vulnerabilities in childhood (n=69)

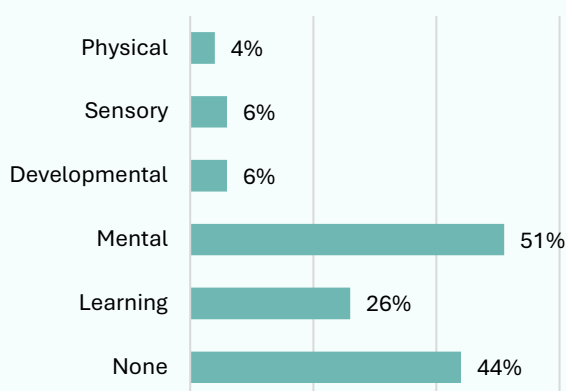
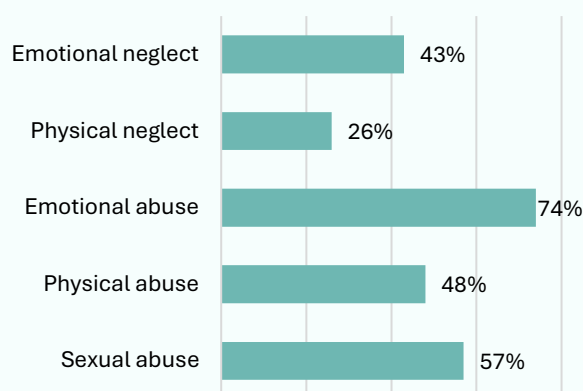


Figure 6. Adverse childhood experiences (n=70)



Findings: Impacts of Image-Based Sexual Violence

The following findings describe the impacts reported by the 70 participants who experiencing at least one form of image-based child sexual violence.

- 1. For many survivors, the impact was lasting and significant.** 85% reported that their experiences had affected their lives, while 61% said their lives had been disrupted and 47% described the impact as significant or devastating. For many, the effects continued long after the original experience.
- 2. Survivors reported substantial emotional and psychological impacts.** 71% experienced difficult emotions, thoughts, or memories, while 69% experienced anxiety, worry, sadness, or difficulties with daily activities. 44% reported suicidal ideation, and 31% reported having hurt themselves.
- 3. Many survivors coped with the impacts through risky or unsafe behaviour.** 58% reported avoiding people, places, or activities, while 53% experienced anger, irritation, or aggressive behaviour. 29% used alcohol, drugs, or other substances to cope, and 24% reported other risky or unsafe behaviour.
- 4. The impact extended into relationships, education, employment, and access to healthcare.** 71% reported impacts on relationships, friendships, family, or social life. The experience also affected education for 41%, employment for 32%, and access to medical assistance for 31% of respondents.
- 5. Sexual health and relationships were significantly affected.** 63% reported that their experience affected their ability to have or enjoy sexual relations, while 53% reported entering romantic relationships that felt unhappy, unhealthy, or harmful. Among those reporting difficulties with sexual relations, 69% described the impact as severe.
- 6. Almost half experienced further sexual violence.** 48% reported experiencing further online or in-person sexual violence after the incidents described in the survey. Survivors described subsequent experiences of sexual harassment, abuse, and violence both online and offline.

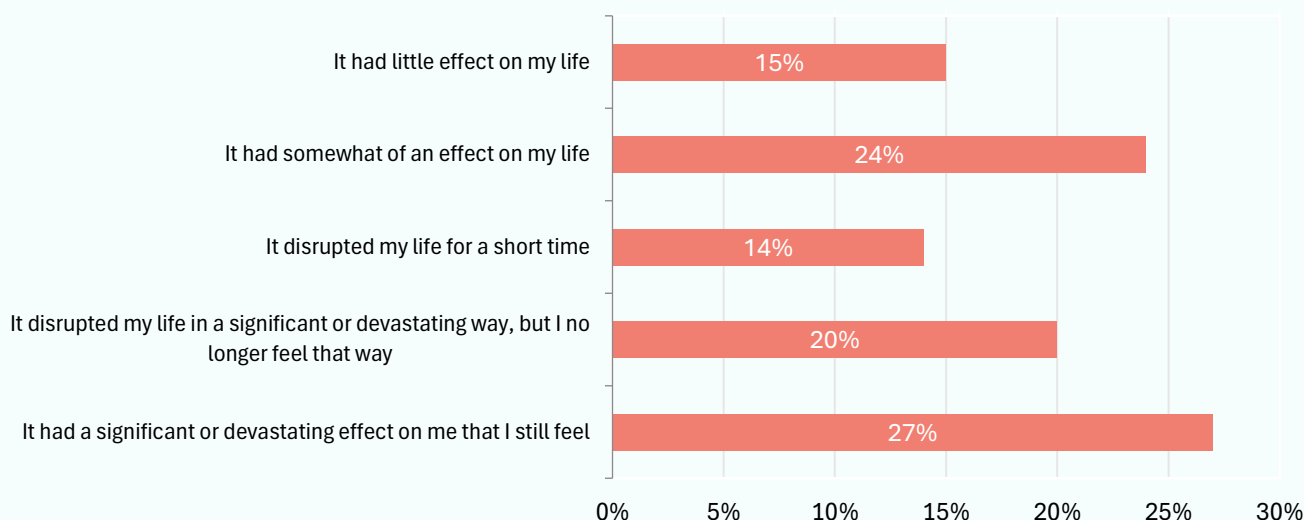
1. Overall Impact

For many respondents, the consequences of image-based child sexual violence continued long after the original incident. A high number of participants (n = 59, 85%) reported that the experience had affected their life. More than three in five (61%) said that it had disrupted their life. Nearly half (47%) described this disruption as significant or devastating.



“It seemed the pain would subside over time, but five years later, negative thoughts still torment me and prevent me from living a normal life. In the short term, there was a distinct period of depression; in the long term, a constant, agonising feeling.” (Original in Russian)

Figure 7. Which statement best describes the overall impact that the experience(s) you shared in this survey had on your life? (n=59)



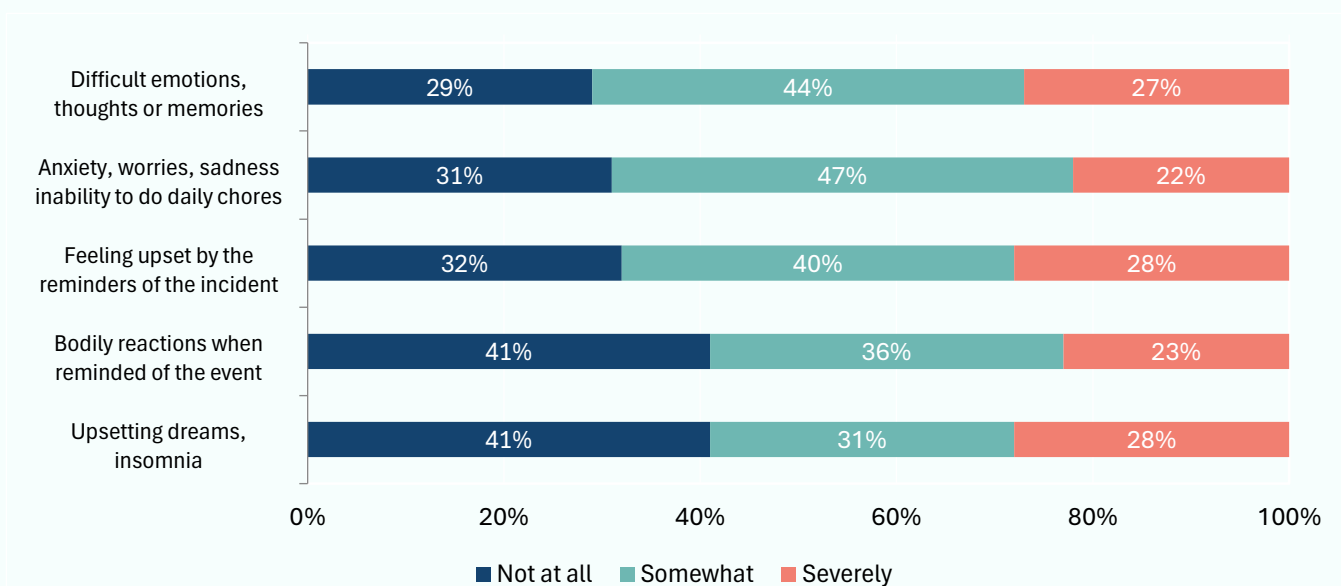
2. Emotional and Psychological Impact

Respondents commonly reported emotional and psychological impacts, with many describing these impacts as severe. The most commonly reported impact was experiencing difficult emotions, thoughts, or memories about the incident, reported by 71% of survivors, of whom 38% described the impact as severe.

Feeling anxious, worried, very sad, or unable to do daily chores was reported by 69% of survivors. Similarly, 69% reported feeling upset by the reminders of the incident, experiencing frightening memories, or feeling on edge, with 41% describing this impact as severe.

Sleep difficulties, including upsetting dreams and insomnia, were reported by 59% of survivors and represented the most severe impact, with 47% describing their sleep difficulties as severe. Bodily reactions when reminded of the event were also reported by 59% of survivors, with 38% describing these reactions as severe.

Figure 8. Please tell us more about how the incident(s) impacted your emotional, psychological, and physical well-being. Did you experience... (n=59)



“I had PTSS and still have DID. It is and always will be an awful part of my life. I have a good life now, I can enjoy a lot, but I had to work hard and long through my memories with therapy and EMDR (for 25 years).”

“I also developed an anxiety disorder and suffered panic attacks brought on by that sense of shame.” (Original in Finnish).

“I began suffering from panic attacks around the age of five; these attacks are accompanied by tic-like symptoms, such as hitting and scratching myself. On top of that, I have slept poorly to this day. I suffer from severe sleep problems; I struggle to fall asleep, or I frequently wake up during the night feeling terrified. I have many nightmares about the abuse I endured, as well as about the deaths of my loved ones.” (Original in Finnish).

Almost half (n = 27 out of 57, 44%) of survivors reported suicidal ideation, with 31% sharing that they have hurt themselves and 13% having thought about self-harm.

“During my teens and early adulthood, I attempted suicide three times. (Original in Finnish)

3. Coping and Behavioural Impacts

Reported behavioural and coping impacts ranged in prevalence and severity. More than half (58%) reported avoiding people, places, or activities, and half (53%) shared feeling angry, irritated or acting out aggressively. Nearly a third (29%) mentioned using alcohol, drugs or other substances to cope with the incident and 24% said they behaved in a risky or unsafe way, prompted in a survey by impulsive spending or gambling, reckless driving, and getting into physical fights.

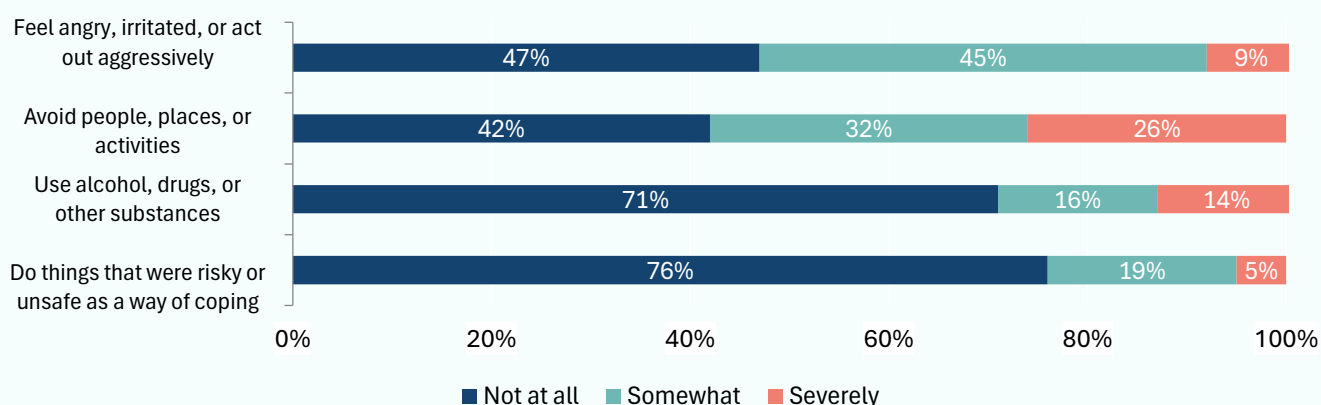
“I find it difficult to entrust the care of my own children to anyone else, and they are not allowed to have sleepovers at other people's” (Original in Finnish).

“This had a profound long-term impact on me, because I've become more fearful and avoid men.” (Original in Russian).

“I'm just hurt bad, I have trouble staying present I have trouble connecting with people and I have severe trouble enjoying life. I cope with alcohol or exercise, basically anything to escape the feeling I have when everything gets quiet. Luckily, I have seen a lot of progress in the last 6 months, I've been slowly starting to rebuild connections, cut back on alcohol and exercise more. There is hope for everybody.”.

The highest severity of impact was reported for substance use and avoidance behaviour. Almost half (47%) of survivors who resorted to the use of substances and 44% of survivors who avoided people, places, or activities described these impacts as severe.

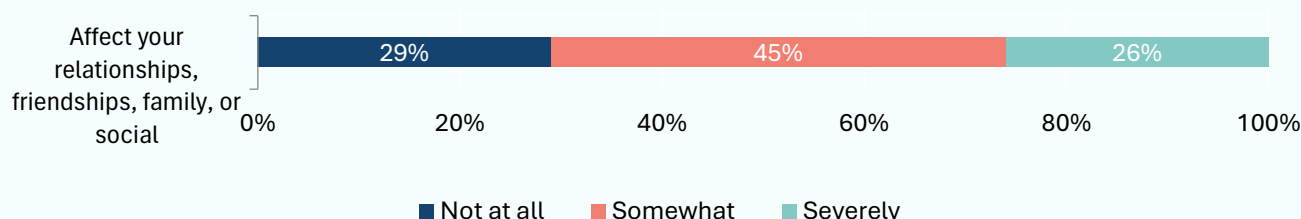
Figure 9. Please tell us more about how the incident(s) impacted your everyday life. Did the experience make you... (n=59)



4. Impacts on Social and Everyday Life

Survivors shared that image-based child sexual violence has affected their social and everyday life in a variety of ways. A majority of respondents (71%) said that the experience had affected their relationships, friendships, family, or social life.

Figure 10. Please tell us more about how the incident(s) impacted your social life. Did the experience...



Many survivors (41%) reported impacts on their ability to study or attend school, with 30% sharing that they needed support or time off and 11% highlighting a severe impact on their education, such as having to change school or stop studying.



“Schooling was impossible for me because the abuse inflicted by my father continued until I was twelve.” (Original in Finnish)

Nearly one in three respondents (32%) reported that it impacted their ability to work, with 25% reducing or interrupting employment, and 8% losing their job. However, the majority of respondents (82%) reported that the experience did not lead to any financial impacts for them or their family, such as loss of income, debts, or fees.

Nearly one in three survivors (31%) also shared that the incident made it harder for them to seek medical assistance.



“Lots of people don't understand my fears. I can't explain them what it makes so hard to call a doctor or to go to the dentist. But I lose a whole day when I go to the dentist (It used to be a whole week).”



“Since then, it has been difficult to trust men and hard to access help.” (Original in Finnish).

5. Sexual Health and Wellbeing

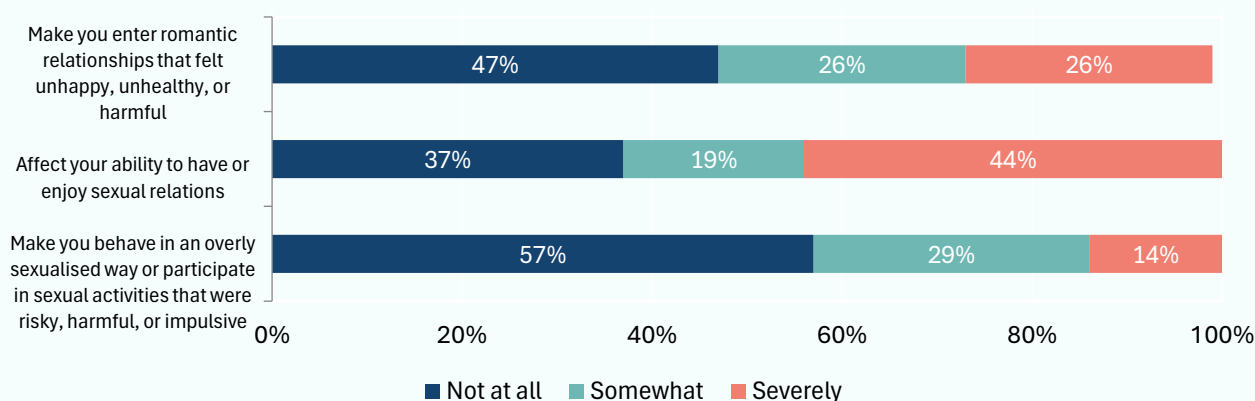
The results revealed significant impacts of image-based child sexual violence on sexual health and wellbeing.

Over half of respondents (53%) shared that the abuse made them enter romantic relationships that felt unhappy, unhealthy, or harmful, with half describing this impact as severe.

Over half (63%) shared that the experience affected their ability to have or enjoy sexual relations. Among those who reported this impact, 69% described it as severe.

Around two in five (43%) said that the experience made them behave in an overly sexualised way or participate in sexual relations or activities that were risky, unsafe, harmful, or impulsive. Nearly one in three (32%) highlighted the severe nature of this impact.

Figure 11. Please tell us more about how the incident(s) impacted your sexual health and well-being. Did the experience... (n=58)

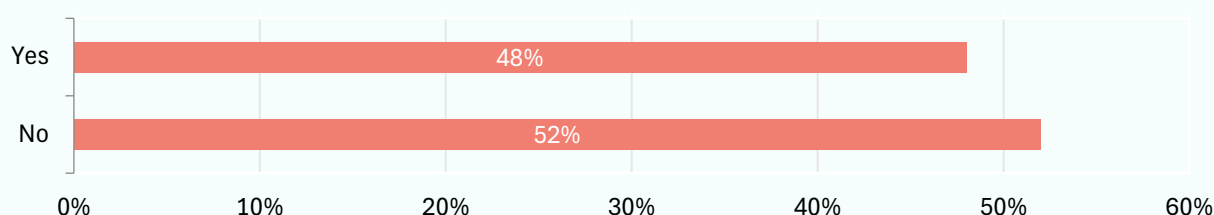


- “I’ve engaged in a lot of unstable sexual behavior. And I’ve had practically no boundaries at all. I’ve been completely open to negotiation when it comes to sex. My sexuality has never been based on my own desires, but rather on the feeling of satisfying the other person—or simply taking the easy way out by “giving” them what they want.” (Original in Finnish).
- “It all began with sexual abuse incidents between the ages of 7 and 9, which triggered hypersexuality; as a result, I sought out these platforms when I was young and naive.” (Original in Finnish)
- “I became unable to say “No” when partners wanted sex, and this has led to at least of my relationships being ruined because of unwanted sexual relations. Also had a long period of my life where I just did not want sex at all, so I only did it so my partner wouldn’t leave me, and found no enjoyment in it.”
- “That incident was the most humiliating moment of my life. I felt so much shame that I didn’t have sex with anyone for a year.” (Original in Finnish)
- “Because of the sexual violence I’d experienced, in every subsequent relationship I tried to act even more sexual; I wanted to appear more mature to my partner, so I’d wear specific lingerie and say I was into BDSM (and I genuinely thought I was). But now, I’m no longer sure if that was truly my own desire or just an attempt to cope with the trauma and its aftermath. Sometimes, even when I’m with a partner who makes me feel safe and comfortable—someone with whom I share a warm, trusting bond—certain moments trigger me, and I start to cry.” (Original in Russian).

6. Revictimisation

Nearly half (48%) of respondents said that after the image-based sexual violence they had been subjected to some form of online or in-person sexual violence again.

Figure 12. Other than what you have shared in the survey, have you been subjected to sexual violence, whether online or in-person, after the incidents you shared in this survey? (n=58)



- “Personally, I was subjected to this by several individuals—three to five people—over a long period.” (Original in Finnish)
- “I have experienced sexual harassment twice in person and once online.” (Original in Finnish)



“The shame is so overwhelming that I cannot bring myself to tell my partner about my experiences from childhood or adolescence. I am consumed by guilt and a sense of my own stupidity. There have been several such experiences, but the one that has had the greatest impact is the violence I endured with a former boyfriend (which involved physical and sexual violence, in addition to the taking of photos). Encounters with strangers have also had some impact.” (Original in Finnish).

Conclusion

The findings from the Through the Lens survey show that image-based child sexual violence can take many forms and can have serious and lasting consequences for children who experience it, with impacts that can continue long after the abuse occurred.

Among the 70 survivors who reported experiencing at least one form of image-based child sexual violence before the age of 18, 85% reported that their experiences had affected their lives, 61% reported that their lives had been disrupted, and 47% reported that the impact had been significant or devastating. The experiences of image-based child sexual violence affected survivors' emotional and psychological wellbeing, relationships, education, employment, and social and everyday life. Survivors also reported significant impacts on their sexual health, with 63% reporting that their experiences affected their ability to have or enjoy sexual relations, and 53% reporting that the abuse made them enter romantic relationships that felt unhappy, unhealthy, or harmful. Moreover, 44% of survivors also reported suicidal ideation, and nearly half of survivors reported being subjected to sexual violence again after the incidents.

These findings highlight the **need for stronger prevention and better understanding of image-based sexual violence**, including what this type of violence can entail.

“Children should be told about these things at school, and it should be made clear just how common the phenomenon is—so that they wouldn't feel ashamed. I found out later that, besides me, one boy had blackmailed my two best friends into sending photos. But none of us talked about it.” (Original in Finnish)

“My friends and I have often wondered why it was such a normal, everyday occurrence to receive nude photos from adult men when we were in elementary school. None of us sought out these situations intentionally, and in every instance, the senders were aware that they were interacting with children. Since turning 18, I have experienced significantly less online harassment than I did as a minor.” (Original in Finnish)

In addition, it is essential to **provide children with safe and accessible ways to disclose experiences of sexual violence and access support**. In this regard, **professionals who work with children should be equipped** to identify image-based child sexual violence and provide a supportive response when a child discloses an experience of abuse.

“In my life, I have never been directly asked—whether in an educational or healthcare setting—if I have experienced sexual violence or any other form of violence. Perhaps I would have spoken up sooner if someone had asked directly—and, especially during my childhood or youth, explained what it actually was.” (Original in Finnish)

“I would say this to every parent raising a child: accept your child with understanding, and ensure that—no matter the situation—they feel free and unafraid to open up to you.” (Original in Kyrgyz)



“Reporting process needs to be clearer.”

In conclusion, the findings presented in this report show that the impact of image-based child sexual violence can continue long after the abuse has ended and can affect victims’ and survivors’ lives and wellbeing in different ways. Therefore, **continuing to listen to the voices and wisdom of victims and survivors can help ensure that efforts to prevent and respond to image-based child sexual violence take their experiences and perspectives into account, including the support survivors may need to heal and recover.**

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