

# Facets of Child Pornography—Examining the Offenders

Jacob Butlett

Dr. Decker

Criminology

16 March 2016

# Introduction

## What is child pornography?

- ▶ A form of child sexual exploitation
- ▶ A visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct involving a minor (persons less than 18 years old)
- ▶ Images referred to as child sexual abuse images

(“Child Pornography”)



# Introduction

## What kinds of forms can child pornography assume?

- ▶ Photographs
- ▶ Videos/Films
- ▶ Digital or computer generated images
- ▶ Images created, adapted, or modified, but appear to depict an identifiable, actual minor
- ▶ Electronically stored data capable of transforming into an image of child pornography

(“U.S. Federal Law on Child Pornography”)



# Literature Review

## Who usually commits this type of crime?

### Stats - Offenders

- ▶ 99.3% male
- ▶ 88.7% white
- ▶ 35.1% completed some college
- ▶ 17.5% college graduates
- ▶ 27.2% age 50 or older

(Spearit, 2011, p. 103)

### Characteristics

- ▶ Nonexistent to minimal levels of psychopathy
- ▶ Less likelihood in engaging in sexually risky behaviors than those of child molesters
- ▶ High intelligence
- ▶ Lucrative employment status
- ▶ Usually active relationship status

(Lollar, 2013, p. 372)

Literature  
Review  
Why do child  
pornography  
offenders  
commit the  
crime?

(Seto, Reeves, &  
Jung, 2010, p. 170)

To strengthen or  
develop sexual  
interest

To use child  
pornography “as  
part of larger  
pattern of  
offending”

To quench curiosity  
and embrace  
impulsivity

To cultivate non-  
sexual gains



# Literature Review

## How lucrative is the child pornography market?

- ▶ Internet & child pornography
  - ▶ \$20 billion black market worldwide (Eggestein & Knapp, 2014, p. 29)
- ▶ National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)
  - ▶ 1/5 of Internet porn includes minors (“Issues & Controversies”)





## Theoretical Application

# Is there a correlation between child pornography and addictive behaviors?

### ▶ Position A

- ▶ An indication that “pornography addiction leads to the same brain activity as other potent drug addictions” (Eggestein & Knapp, 2014, p. 40)

### ▶ Position B

- ▶ An indication that “indiscriminate sexual interests or pornography addiction were reported infrequently and are likely to be rare considerations in the treatment or supervision of child pornography offenders” (Seto, Reeves, & Jung, 2010, p.179)



# Theoretical Application

## Is there a correlation between child pornography and addictive behaviors?

*An examination on sexual addiction*

- ▶ What is a reduced mental capacity?
- ▶ How is it relevant to addiction and the law?

(Samenow, 2012, p. 26)



**Reduced Mental Capacity**

Unable to retain information in the usual way or to exercise reason

Able to understand wrong behavior but unable to control behavior



# Conclusion

## What are some important takeaways?

- ▶ Child porn → Form of sexual exploitation
- ▶ Major black market crime
  - ▶ Involves victimization and re-victimization of real or imaginary children.
- ▶ Potential addiction, destructive behavior
- ▶ Buying, selling, or harboring child pornography
  - ▶ Abuses the basic moralistic, political framework concerning children
  - ▶ A right to be treated with respect and care.



# References

- ▶ Child Pornography | CRIMINAL-CEOS | Department of Justice. (n.d.). Retrieved February 14, 2016, from <http://www.justice.gov/criminal-ceos/child-pornography>
- ▶ Citizen's Guide to U.S. Federal Law on Child Pornography | CRIMINAL-CEOS | Department of Justice. (n.d.). Retrieved February 14, 2016.
- ▶ Eggestein, J. V., & Knapp, K. J. (2014). Fighting Child Pornography: A Review of Legal and Technological Developments. *The Journal of Digital Forensics, Security and Law : JDFSL*, 9(4), 29-48.
- ▶ Issues & Controversies - Spotlight: Recent Supreme Court Rulings on Child Pornography. (n.d.). Retrieved February 14, 2016, from <http://icof.infobaselearning.com.ezproxy.loras.edu/support-materials/learn-more-about/r/rg/recent-supreme-court-rulings-on-child-pornography.aspx?sr=1>
- ▶ Lollar, C. E. (2013). Child Pornography and the Restitution Revolution. *Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology*, 103(2), 343-406.
- ▶ Samenow, C. P. (2012). Child Pornography and the Law: A Clinician's Guide. *Sexual Addiction & Compulsivity*, 19(1/2), 16-29. <http://doi.org/10.1080/10720162.2012.660432>
- ▶ Seto, M. C., Reeves, L., & Jung, S. (2010). Explanations given by child pornography offenders for their crimes. *Journal of Sexual Aggression*, 16(2), 169-180. <http://doi.org/10.1080/13552600903572396>
- ▶ Spearit. (2011). Child Pornography Sentencing and Demographic Data: Reforming Through Research. *Federal Sentencing Reporter*, 24(2), 102-107.