
Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline

Title: The prevalence estimates of “offline” child sexual exploitation and abuse in North America, East Asia and Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean region: A systematic review and meta-analysis

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Project abstract:

Although a growing body of evidence on both offline and technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) has been published and widely disseminated, estimating the full extent of these crimes remains challenging due to their hidden nature and the fragmentation of available data. Sexual violence is a complex issue that manifests in multiple forms, including contact violence including rape and sexual assault, “offline” non-contact child sexual violence and sexual exploitation. Each type presents unique challenges and consequences that necessitate tailored response crucial for developing effective prevention, intervention, and support strategies. This systematic review aims to address gaps in understanding of the prevalence of “offline” CSEA at the country and regional levels across North America, East Asia & Pacific, and Latin America & the Caribbean. This review forms part of a broader programme of work examining both technology-facilitated and “offline” CSEA, and is intended to complement other data activities undertaken for the Childlight Global Index, including analyses of administrative data related to CSEA and child sexual abuse material (CSAM). By analysing and synthesising existing literature, this review will provide crucial evidence that can inform policy making and practice regarding the prevention of and response to CSEA. The findings of this review will be of great significance to policymakers, practitioners, advocates and researchers, as they can use the evidence to make informed decisions about allocating resources and designing effective prevention and response programs. The current review will serve as a benchmark for future regional analyses to ensure methodological consistency and comparability across subsequent years.

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The prevalence estimates of “offline” child sexual exploitation and abuse in North America, East Asia and Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean region: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Administrative Information

1) School or Institute

- CAHSS - Moray House School of Education and Sport

Childlight GCSI
Room 3.01, St John's Land
Moray House School of Education and Sport
Holyrood Road
Edinburgh
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2) Project start date

2025-11-01

3) Project end date

2026-11-30

4) Project funder or sponsor.

Human Dignity Foundation

Data Collection

5) Data Collection

The research team searched the following electronic databases for journal articles/reports that meet the inclusion criteria:

- PubMed/Medline (ovid),
- Global Health (ovid),
- PsycINFO (ovid),

- EMBASE (ovid),
- Social science citation index (Web of Science)
- Sociological abstracts (ProQuest)),
- CINAHL (EBSCOhost),
- ERIC (EBSCOhost),
- Criminal Justice Abstract (EBSCOhost),
- Google Scholar,
- Scopus,
- ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global.

In addition, articles will be hand reviewed from the following journals that are key in the field of child protection: Trauma, Violence & Abuse', 'Child Abuse and Neglect', 'Child Maltreatment', 'Child Abuse Review', and 'Journal of Interpersonal Violence'.

Searches will be conducted using English-language search terms without language restrictions, covering publications from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2026. Eligible studies may be published in English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, or Thai, reflecting the primary languages used across North America, East Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. This will update prior global systematic reviews that included studies between January 1st 2010 and December 31st 2024. Additionally, scoping searches will be conducted using the main electronic databases (Embase, ERIC, PsychInfo) for literature from North America, East Asia & Pacific and Latin America & Caribbean, published in other languages. The DistillerSR systematic review software (Version 2.35., DistillerSR Inc.; 2023; <https://www.distillersr.com/>) will be used to compile relevant peer-reviewed sources. Duplicate entries will be removed.

Key grey literature sources include research done by international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), UN agencies and community-based organizations (CBOs), as well as research reports from national government sources will also be searched. A thorough scan of key websites publishing CSEA studies will be completed. This scan will help to identify both grey literature and organizations/individuals that may have links to grey literature. These websites are included but are not limited to:

- www.crin.org (and www.crin.org/bcn)
- www.endcorporalpunishment.org
- www.unicef-irc.org and other UNICEF websites, such as <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/reports/gendered-analysis-child-protection-systems-responses-covid-19-programming-south-asia>
- Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) search by region: <https://www.svri.org/>
- World Health Organization (WHO), WHO's own violence prevention publications (especially the bibliographies/cited interventions: https://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/publications/violence/en/ AND WHO's V-Info website search under countries: <https://apps.who.int/violence-info/countries>
- Digital Repository Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL): <https://repositorio.cepal.org/>
- Save the Children
- Together for Girls

- ECPAT International
- The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children's Knowledge Platform: <https://www.end-violence.org/knowledge>
- EU Horizon Portal (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>)
- UNICEF Regional Offices: search bars on the following websites
- Middle East and North Africa (MENA): <https://www.unicef.org/mena/>
- Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office (LACRO): <https://www.unicef.org/lac/en>
- West and Central Africa Regional Office (WCARO): <https://www.unicef.org/topics/wcaro>
- East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO): <https://www.unicef.org/topics/esaro>,
- East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO): <https://www.unicef.org/eap/>
- Regional Office of South Asia (ROSA): <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/>
- Europe and Central Asia (ECA): <https://www.unicef.org/eca/>

In addition, we will also search for comparable data on the prevalence of CSEA published in:

- Demographic Health Surveys (DHS),
- Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS),
- Global School-Based Health Surveys (GSHS),
- Health Behaviour in School-aged Children Study (HBSC),
- Disrupting Harm (DH),
- Violence Against Children Survey (VACS),
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Surveys,
- I-CAST Tools.

Documentation & Metadata

6) Documentation & Metadata

A folder pertaining to the study held on CMP will contain all documentation and meta data including:
 A master excel sheet will contain all the search terms used for each database. The amount of articles found and search instructions used (i.e., inclusion - year, search terms- AB/Title
 Folders for each database will contain RIS file to be uploaded to Distiller.
 Distiller will hold title/abstract data for screening.
 Final agreed full text articles inclusion will be stored on the CMP.
 Excel forms holding extracted data will be found on the CMP.

Ethics & Legal Compliance

7) Ethics & Legal Compliance

All contributors have undertaken the data protection courses.
The data to be used is based on pre-existing available studies. No ethical approval was required. Data procedures will be followed.

Storage and Back-Up

8) Where will your data be stored and backed-up during the project?

Data will be stored in the data store. All files will be named consistently organised.

Selection and Preservation

9) Where will the data be stored long-term?

The data will be kept for a maximum of three years after the project finishes, then destroyed, as recommended in the University's research data retention policy. In order to destroy the data, it will be deleted from the University's data storage. Thirty days after the deletion it will be totally expunged. This will be done before the three-year retention deadline. The data will not be provided to a repository for re-use and replication by other users.

10) Which data will be retained long-term?

Master excel sheet pertaining to extraction of data may be required to be kept for validation and future re-use.

Data Sharing

11) Will the data produced from your project be made open?

- Yes: go to 12

12) How will you maximize data discoverability & access?

On request. Statement on publication outputs detailing data requests.

Responsibilities & Resources

14) Who will be responsible for the research data management of this project?

Data Governance Manager

15) Will you require any training or resources to properly manage your research data throughout this project?

Training on CMP and data protection completed