



SCOPING REVIEW

of International Approaches
to Child Sexual Abuse and
Exploitation Prevention
Interventions by Law Enforcement



ECPAT International would like to acknowledge and express special thanks to the experts who took part in the interviews for their insightful input and technical feedback.

This publication is based on research undertaken by Kieran McCartan, Ph.D., for ECPAT International. Feedback and guidance from ECPAT International were given by Sendrine Constant, Kohnwilai Teppunkoonngam, Karina Padilla and Andrea Varrella.



The project *Step Up the Fight Against Sexual Exploitation of Children – Empowering Children and Communities* is supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs under Dutch development/foreign policy with Defence for Children - ECPAT Netherlands.

ECPAT International acknowledges the core funding support for its overall organizational objectives from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and Oak Foundation.

The opinions expressed in this document belong solely to ECPAT International. Support from these donors does not constitute endorsement of the views expressed.

Suggested citation: ECPAT International. (2024) *Scoping Review of International Approaches to Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention Interventions by Law Enforcement*. ECPAT International

© ECPAT International, 2024.

For feedback or suggestions please contact researchteam@ecpat.org

Reproduction is authorized with acknowledgment of source as ECPAT Indonesia and ECPAT International.

Published by:

ECPAT International

328/1 Phaya Thai Road, Ratchathewi,
Bangkok 10400, THAILAND.

Phone: +66 2 215 3388 | Email: info@ecpat.org

Website: www.ecpat.org

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT	2
Parameters of the Scoping Review	3
Methodology of the Scoping Review	3
THEORIES, STRATEGIES AND THE CHANGING FACE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT CRIME PREVENTION	5
The Emergence of the EpiCrim Approach as a Crime-Prevention Strategy	6
PREVENTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION	13
International Strategies and Frameworks	13
National Strategies and Frameworks	16
PROMISING PRACTICES FOR INTERVENTIONS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT IN CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION PREVENTION	19
The Reality and Challenges of the CSEA-Prevention Evidence Base	19
Primary Prevention	22
Secondary Prevention	26
Tertiary and Quaternary Prevention	32
Professional, Practical and Academic Perspectives on Future Developments in the Prevention of CSEA by Law Enforcement	37
CONCLUSIONS: GAPS, LIMITATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERVENTIONS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT IN CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION PREVENTION	39
REFERENCES	45
ANNEXES	53
Appendix 1: Methodology	53
Annex 2: UNICEF Theory of Change	57
Annex 3: UNICEF Checklist for CSEA National Framework Development	58
Annex 4: WeProtect Global Alliance’s Model National Response	60
Annex 5: Key Considerations for Planning, Implementing and Evaluating Secondary Prevention CSE/A Activities	61
List of Figures and Tables	
Figure 1: An ecological framework	10
Table 1: Levels of child sexual abuse prevention	12
Figure 2: Prevention initiatives within prevention stages	13
Figure 3: Circles of support and accountability	38

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

The current scoping review examines law enforcement’s understanding of perspectives on and practices regarding the prevention of child sexual exploitation and abuse (in this report, child sexual exploitation and abuse is referred to as “CSEA”). The prevention of CSEA is a growing national and transnational issue, with the European Commission,^{1,2} the United Nations, UNICEF and the World Health Organization identifying it as an area for sustainable development. In particular, the World Health Organization identifies CSEA as one of its Sustainable Development goals.³

Although we do not have exact figures regarding the prevalence of CSEA globally as it is under-reported and under-recorded, a 2020 UNICEF report cited that one in eight of the world’s children (12.7%) is sexually abused before reaching the age of 18.⁴ In addition, research indicates that CSEA is a global issue that exists in every country.^{5,6,7} It is important to note that with the increase in conversations at a community and national level, as well as better and more skilled investigations by law enforcement, we are seeing an increase in the reported rate of CSEA; however, the reported rates do not accurately represent the actual rates, and the prevalence of CSEA is not fully understood. Additionally, the types of CSEA and the media through which it is happening may be adapting. For instance, a rise in online CSEA may impact the volume and nature of in-person or contact CSEA. Therefore, we need to approach reported rises in the rates of CSEA with caution.

Traditional responses to CSEA are after the fact; that is to say that responses occur after the case has been reported to law enforcement and the criminal justice process has started; this unfortunately does not always work in the victims’ favour and justice is not always served. Thus, our response to CSEA is often limited to a small cross section of people who have harmed (perpetrators) and who have been harmed (victims or survivors).

1 Di Gioia, R., & Beslay, L. (2023). *Help Seeker and Perpetrator Prevention Initiatives*

2 Di Gioia, R., Besley, L., et al. (2022). *Classification Criteria for Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention Programmes*. JRC Technical Report. European Commission.

3 SDG 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children.

4 UNICEF (2020). *Action to End Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation: A Review of the Evidence*. UNICEF

5 UNICEF. (2021). *Global Annual Results Report 2021: Every Child Is Protected from Violence and Exploitation*. UNICEF. Accessed on 28 February 2024.

6 United Nations. (2014). *United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*. United Nations, General Assembly, A/C.3/69/L.5*.

7 United Nations. (2020). *No Country Is Free from Child Sexual Abuse, Exploitation, UN’s Top Rights Forum Hears*. UN News, 3 March 2020. Accessed on 25 February 2024.

To truly respond to the issue of CSEA, we need to change our perspective and approach and consider the prevention of first-time offending by known, and unknown, potential perpetrators. The prevention of CSEA sits within a larger crime-prevention movement and is aligned towards ideas around public health approaches to understanding and responding to criminogenic behaviour. This is more of a challenge for certain parts of the criminal justice system (e.g. the police and law enforcement) than it is for others (e.g. probation, parole and child protection NGOs);⁸ however, with the prevention of CSEA being a key policy and practice issue for all major international and intergovernmental organizations (e.g. the UN, EU and WHO), all sectors and countries have to realign, develop and implement these perspectives.

Parameters of the Scoping Review

It is important to state that while children are the victims or survivors of CSEA, they can also engage in harmful sexual behaviors.⁹ However, the focus of this scoping study is on adults who sexually abuse and exploit children and it does not include discussions related to children who commit sexual harm and the prevention of their behaviour.

Methodology of the Scoping Review

This scoping review consists of two data collection techniques:

1. Scoping the academic, practical and policy literature for material on law enforcement approaches to the prevention of CSEA;
2. A series of interviews with key informants made up of leading national and international professional, policy and academic experts.

We conducted the scoping review in this way to ensure we gathered the most up-to-date policy and practice information concerning law enforcement crime prevention, which represents an under-developed area in this regard. The expert interviews offer nuanced and cutting-edge insights into CSEA prevention by law enforcement and explore frontline initiatives, theories and practices not yet in the public domain.

8 Wager, N., Myers, A., & Parkinson, D. (2021). *Police Disruption of Child Sexual Abuse: A Scoping Review*. Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse.

9 National Police Chiefs' Council (2023). *National Analysis of Police-Recorded Child Sexual Abuse & Exploitation (CSEA) Crimes Report*. Vulnerability Knowledge & Practice Program. National Police Chiefs' Council.

The desk-based scoping review of policies, practices and initiatives took place between the start of November 2023 and the end of March 2024. It was conducted by the lead author with support from colleagues at ECPAT International. The search terms used were broad given the disciplinary, professional and policy disparity in CSEA-prevention terminology and language. They focused on a number of key areas, including terminology (*child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation, child rape, child prostitution*), theories (*prevention, EpiCrim¹⁰, desistence, public health, harm reduction*), intervention terminology (*intervention, treatment, rehabilitation, therapy, in patient, community*) and professional roles (law enforcement, criminal justice, police, therapist, treatment provider, *probation, parole, education*), as well as a series of related and relevant terms (*partnership, integrated, multi-agency, multidisciplinary*).

The broad range of search terms was used in various academic databases (e.g. *Web of Science, Web of Knowledge, JSTOR, psychINFO*), professional networks/databases (*other 2PS database, the Eradicate Child Sexual Abuse Data Base*), the European Commission report on help-seeking behaviours and relevant appendices, and the Working with Perpetrators (*WWP*) database, key organizations (*ECPAT, ATSA, UN, EU*) and open web searches. The desk-based review produced several CSEA-prevention initiatives that are delivered directly or indirectly by law enforcement. It is important to note that the search produced several articles, policies and practices that were not in English. In such cases, the team used translation functions to translate where appropriate; if an accurate translation was not available, the piece was omitted from the study.

The interviews with professional, academic and policy experts took place throughout February and March 2024. They consisted of a mixture of written and oral interviews with nine leading national and international experts as key informants to the scoping. The interviews were designed to last 45 minutes and cover a range of topics related to the prevention of CSEA by law enforcement. The interview schedule is presented in Appendix 1. Some key informants wanted to remain anonymous. In response, we decided to anonymize all key informants.

10 EpiCrim is a public health approach to understanding crime and offending behaviour. It states that when we think about crime, we need to do it along three axes, the socio-ecological (individual, interpersonal, community, and societal), the four prevention levels (primary, secondary, tertiary, and quaternary) and across the multi-agency domain. Anna Jones. [Ep Crim approaches to understanding and responding to sexual abuse event](#). 24 July 2024. UWE Bristol.

THEORIES, STRATEGIES AND THE CHANGING FACE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT CRIME PREVENTION

Crime prevention theory focuses on preventing criminogenic behaviour before it happens. By doing so, there are no victims, no costs to the criminal justice system and an increase in community safety.^{11,12,13} Over the last 30 years or so, we have seen an increase in crime-prevention strategies, especially from law enforcement. They range from programmes targeting individuals to national poster campaigns.^{14,15,16} An important theoretical model underpinning the majority of global crime-prevention initiatives is based on four key strategies: (1) education; (2) risk mitigation; (3) risk management; and (4) direct action.¹⁷ This advocates for educating the public, and specific publics (i.e. people at risk of being a victim of crime and those at risk of committing it), about the impact and consequences of criminogenic behaviour, putting in place barriers and deterrents that make committing crime harder and engaging in direct actions with more challenging populations or populations more at risk.¹⁸ The model is seen as an example of good practice and, although the model itself has not been evaluated, the different prevention interventions have and they are robust.¹⁹

Crime prevention is applied to all forms of crime, including CSEA; however, it is developed, implemented and evaluated differently depending on the organization and country.^{20,21,22} Law enforcement crime prevention approaches normally take the following three forms:

-
- 11 Sutton, A., Cherney, A., et al. (2021). *Crime Prevention: Principles, Perspectives and Practices*. Cambridge University Press.
- 12 Wager, N., Myers, A., & Parkinson, D. (2021). *Police Disruption of Child Sexual Abuse: A Scoping Review*. Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse.
- 13 Ellefsen, H. B., Bjørkelo, B., et al. (2023). *Unpacking Preventive Policing: Towards a Holistic Framework*. International Journal of Police Science & Management, 25(2), 196–207.
- 14 Sutton, A., Cherney, A., et al. (2021). *Crime Prevention: Principles, Perspectives and Practices*. Cambridge University Press.
- 15 Wager, N., Myers, A., & Parkinson, D. (2021). *Police Disruption of Child Sexual Abuse: A Scoping Review*. Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse.
- 16 Ellefsen, H. B., Bjørkelo, B., et al. (2023). *Unpacking Preventive Policing: Towards a Holistic Framework*. International Journal of Police Science & Management, 25(2), 196–207.
- 17 Ibid.
- 18 Ibid.
- 19 Ibid.
- 20 Sutton, A., Cherney, A., et al. (2021). *Crime Prevention: Principles, Perspectives and Practices*.
- 21 Wager, N., Myers, A., & Parkinson, D. (2021). *Police Disruption of Child Sexual Abuse: A Scoping Review*.
- 22 Ellefsen, H. B., Bjørkelo, B., et al. (2023). *Unpacking Preventive Policing: Towards a Holistic Framework*.

1. **Situational crime prevention:** focusing on specific settings to prevent crime (e.g. fixing shutters to a shop to make it harder to break into at night, CCTV in city centres, etc.);
2. **Environmental crime prevention:** focusing on changing the physical environment to prevent crime (e.g. increasing zero tolerance policing in a city with an increasing street-crime rate);
3. **Community or social crime prevention:** focusing on working with communities and individuals at risk of being an offender or victim to prevent crime (e.g. working with offenders or potential offenders and local communities to reduce offending).

Traditionally, the main approaches to crime prevention by law enforcement organizations were situational and environmental. This is because they are easier to implement at a policy and practical level, they are often easier to evaluate and they fit into traditional modes of policing and community safety.^{23,24}

The rise of community and social crime-prevention models over the last 10–15 years poses unique challenges to the criminal justice system and social justice organizations (including law enforcement and related organizations) as they focus on potential perpetrators who may have committed no offence or low-level offences but have the capacity to commit more serious ones. This is unlike the other two forms of crime prevention as working with at-risk populations poses social, political and ethical dilemmas for organizations.²⁵ This is especially true for law enforcement as it means balancing public protection, community safety and risk mitigation.^{26,27}

The Emergence of the EpiCrim Approach as a Crime-Prevention Strategy

The development of community or social crime-prevention strategies has coincided with a growing recognition that we need to understand how health and well-being contribute to criminogenic behaviour (e.g. life-course analyses of offending behaviour,

23 Sutton, A., Cherney, A., et al. (2021). *Crime Prevention: Principles, Perspectives and Practices*.

24 Wager, N., Myers, A., & Parkinson, D. (2021). *Police Disruption of Child Sexual Abuse: A Scoping Review*.

25 McCartan K., Uzieblo K., Smid W. J. (2021). *Professionals' Understandings of and Attitudes to the Prevention of Sexual Abuse: An International Exploratory Study*. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 65, 815–831.

26 McCartan K. F., Merdian H. L., et al. (2018). *Ethics and Issues of Secondary Prevention Efforts in Child Sexual Abuse*. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 62, 2548–2566.

27 Kemshall, H. (2017). *The Historical Evolution of Sex Offender Risk Management*. In K. McCartan & H. Kemshall (Eds) *Contemporary Sex Offender Risk Management, Volume I. Perceptions*. Springer. Chapter 1.

trauma, adverse childhood experiences).^{28,29,30} This highlights the importance of multidisciplinary work in criminal justice and exposes the lack of options for crime reduction, community safety and risk management other than traditional, punitive models. It also outlines the importance of crime prevention for law enforcement organizations and has contributed to the emergence of a new field of research and practice: epidemiological criminology (EpiCrim).³¹ An EpiCrim approach views crime as a behaviour rather than an event and, therefore, posits that it can be prevented through interventions with different populations (i.e. the **socio-ecological model** (SEM): *the analysis of and an effective response to social issues by targeting different population levels, including the individual, interpersonal, community and societal*); at different points in the criminogenic trajectory (i.e. different **prevention stages**: *focusing on the point in the offending pathway where the crime occurs*). There are four levels of prevention—primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary—and different interventions can and should be used at each of these levels (see Figure 1).

EpiCrim is a harm-reduction approach to preventing offending behaviour and poses challenges for criminal justice organizations, especially law enforcement.³² The EpiCrim approach is rooted in the belief that crime and offending behaviours are social behaviours and can be disrupted, as is similar with the biopsychosocial model of rehabilitation, desistance supportive interventions, trauma-informed practice within the criminal justice system (e.g. police, prison and probation) and the role of adverse childhood experiences in the lives of people to commit crime.^{33,34} Moreover, it aligns to current research into crime causation and desistance.^{35, 36} Taking an EpiCrim approach reinforces the multidisciplinary nature of criminal justice practice; it suggests that when thinking about how to respond to crime, we need to look at individualized as well as large-scale contextual explanations to develop appropriate interventions. Additionally, the EpiCrim approach reinforces the growing recognition that sexual offending, including CSEA, is a community, developmental and life-course

28 McCartan, K. F. (2022). *Refining processes in policy and practice in working with people accused or convicted of a sexual offence*. HMI Probation.

29 McCartan, K., & Kemshall, H. (2023). *Incorporating Quaternary Prevention: Understanding the Full Scope of Public Health Practices in Sexual Abuse Prevention*. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 67(2-3), 224–246.

30 McGee, T., & Farrington, D. (2019). *Developmental and Life-Course Theories of Crime*. *Criminology & Criminal Justice*.

31 Lainer, M.M. (2010). *Epidemiological Criminology (EpiCrim): Definition and Application*. *Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Criminology*, 2(1), pp. 63–103.

32 Senker, S., Eason, A., Pawson, C., & McCartan, K. (2023). *Issues, Challenges and Opportunities for Trauma-Informed Practice*. HMI Probation.

33 Bradley A. (2017). *Trauma-Informed Practice: Exploring the Role of Adverse Life Experiences on the Behaviour of Offenders and the Effectiveness of Associated Criminal Justice Strategies*. Doctoral thesis, Northumbria University.

34 Pringer, S. M., & Wagner, N. J. (2020). *Use of Trauma-Informed Care with Incarcerated Offenders*. *Journal of Addictions & Offender Counseling*, 47(1), 52–64.

35 McGee, T., & Farrington, D. (2019). *Developmental and Life-Course Theories of Crime*. *Criminology & Criminal Justice*.

36 McCartan, K. F. (2022). *Refining processes in policy and practice in working with people accused or convicted of a sexual offence*. HMI Probation.

issue,^{37,38,39,40} which enables proactive responses focused on communities and at-risk populations as well as on individuals and promotes prevention strategies rooted in health education and knowledge application (Tabachnick et al., 2016).⁴¹

An EpiCrim framework explains prevention across two axes: the socio-ecological model and the preventive stage framework. Both are essential to understanding the EpiCri approach and how it relates to the role of law enforcement in preventing and responding to sexual abuse.

1. Socio-ecological model

The first axis of the EpiCrim approach is a population-based, or a person-/place-based, approach. It asks us to consider how we engage with different groups in a way that reduces the risk of offending. The socio-ecological model is central to the EpiCrim approach as it devises prevention strategies through emphasizing the interplay between biology and environment in shaping behaviour.⁴² That is to say, it is an integrated approach to understanding social behaviour (including, but not limited to, CSEA) that incorporates nature (biological and innate) and nurture (societal and learned) explanations for human behaviour.⁴³ The socio-ecological model enables both the analysis of and an effective response to social issues by targeting different population levels, including the individual, interpersonal, community and societal (see Figure 1).

Aside from being applied to crime in general, the socio-ecological model has also been applied to sexual offending.^{44,45} Moreover, its use in this context has increased in recent years, as its “tiered” system allows other disciplines to see how they fit into prevention and responses to sexual abuse.^{46,47} Public health approaches to sexual

37 Brown J. (2017). *Public Health, Prevention and Risk Management*. In McCartan K., Kemshall H. (Eds.), *Contemporary Sex Offender Risk Management, Volume 1 Perceptions* (pp. 35–60). Palgrave Studies in Risk, Crime and Society, Palgrave MacMillan.

38 Kemshall H. (2017a). *The Historical Evolution of Sex Offender Risk Management*. In McCartan K., Kemshall H. (Eds.), *Contemporary Sex Offender Management* (Vol. 1, pp. 205–230). Palgrave MacMillan.

39 McCartan, K. F., Kemshall, H., & Tabachnick, J. (2015). *The Construction of Community Understandings of Sexual Violence: Rethinking Public, Practitioner and Policy Discourses*. *Journal of Sexual Aggression*, 21(1), 100–116.

40 McCartan K., Uzieblo K., Smid W. J. (2021). *Professionals' Understandings of and Attitudes to the Prevention of Sexual Abuse: An International Exploratory Study*. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 65, 815–831.

41 Tabachnick, J., & Klein, A. (2011). *A Reasoned Approach-Reshaping Sex Offender Policy to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse*. ATSA.

42 Colding, J., & Barthel, S. (2019). *Exploring the Social-Ecological Systems Discourse 20 Years Later*. *Ecology and Society*, 24(1).

43 Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2004a). *Sexual Violence Prevention: Beginning the Dialogue*. Retrieved 17 December 2020.

44 Fisher-Kowalski M. (2015). *Social Ecology*. In Wright J. D. (Ed.), *International Encyclopaedia of the Social & Behavioural Sciences* (2nd ed., pp. 254–262). Elsevier.

45 Smallbone, S., Marshall, W. L., & Wortley, R. (2008). *Preventing Child Sexual Abuse: Evidence, Policy and Practice*. Willan Publishing.

46 McCartan, K. F., Kemshall, H., & Tabachnick, J. (2015). *The Construction of Community Understandings of Sexual Violence: Rethinking Public, Practitioner and Policy Discourses*. *Journal of Sexual Aggression*, 21(1), 100–116.

47 Brown J. (2017). *Public Health, Prevention and Risk Management*. In McCartan K., Kemshall H. (Eds.), *Contemporary Sex Offender Risk Management, Volume 1 Perceptions* (pp. 35–60). Palgrave Studies in Risk, Crime and Society, Palgrave MacMillan.

abuse have drawn heavily on the socio-ecological model, particularly in terms of research and advocacy for more effective responses.^{48,49,50} UNICEF developed a child-centred framework that is useful in understanding how the child, their experiences and their rights sit within the the socio-ecological model, especially regarding place-based crime prevention approaches and the roles of organizations like the police.⁵¹ This framework allows us to understand how to prevent and respond to CSEA involving not only child victims but also children at risk of committing CSEA.

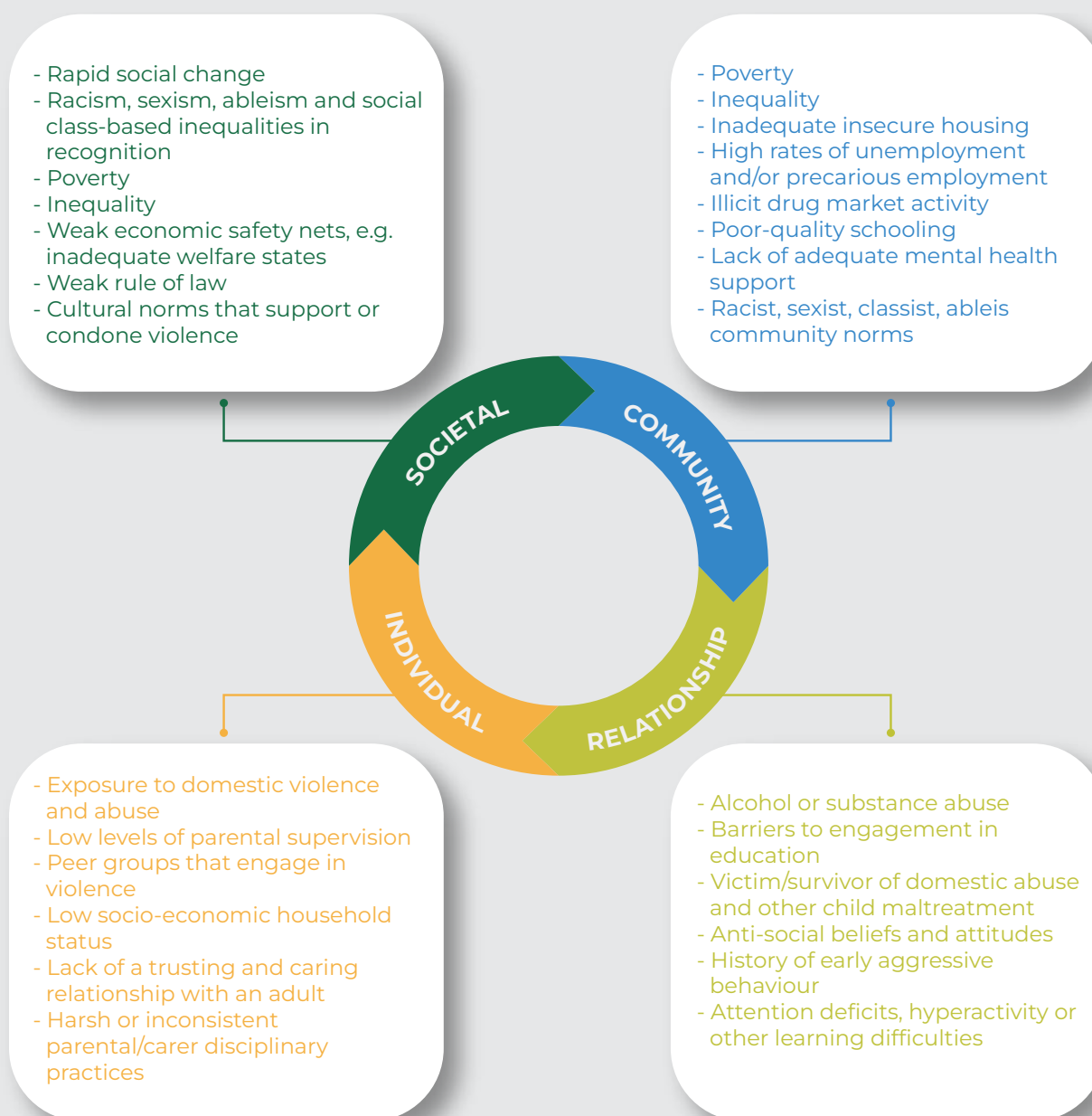


Figure 1: An ecological framework (adapted from the World Health Organization, 2020; drawing on Irwin-Rogers et al., 2020b and Currie, 2016)

48 Ibid.

49 Kemshall H., Moulden H. M. (2017). *Communicating about Child Sexual Abuse with the Public: Learning the Lessons from Public Awareness Campaigns*. Journal of Sexual Aggression, 23, 124–138.

50 Letourneau E. J., Eaton W. W., et al. (2014). *The Need for a Comprehensive Public Health Approach to Preventing Child Sexual Abuse*. Public Health Reports, 129(3), 222–228.

51 UNICEF. (nd.). *Brief on the Social Ecological Model*. UNICEF. Accessed on 25 February 2024.

For law enforcement, engaging at all four points of the socio-ecological model should be straightforward as it runs in parallel with other aspects of policing practice. However, this is currently not the case and most police interventions are focused on the individual and community levels.

2. The four levels of prevention

The EpiCrim approach argues that there are four levels of prevention (primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary) and that different interventions can and should be used at these levels. It focuses on the point and the time of intervention in relation to the criminogenic behaviour and addresses the prevention of first-time offending as well as reducing reoffending.⁵²

Building upon this, the European Commission then framed the prevention of CSEA within the socio-ecological framework and provided examples of innovation and intervention in this context. This operationalization of the EpiCrim framework is helpful in encouraging organizations and governments to think about CSEA prevention and to identify gaps in their justice provisions.



52 McCartan, K., & Kemshall, H. (2023). [Incorporating Quaternary Prevention: Understanding the Full Scope of Public Health Practices in Sexual Abuse Prevention](#). *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 67(2-3), 224-246.

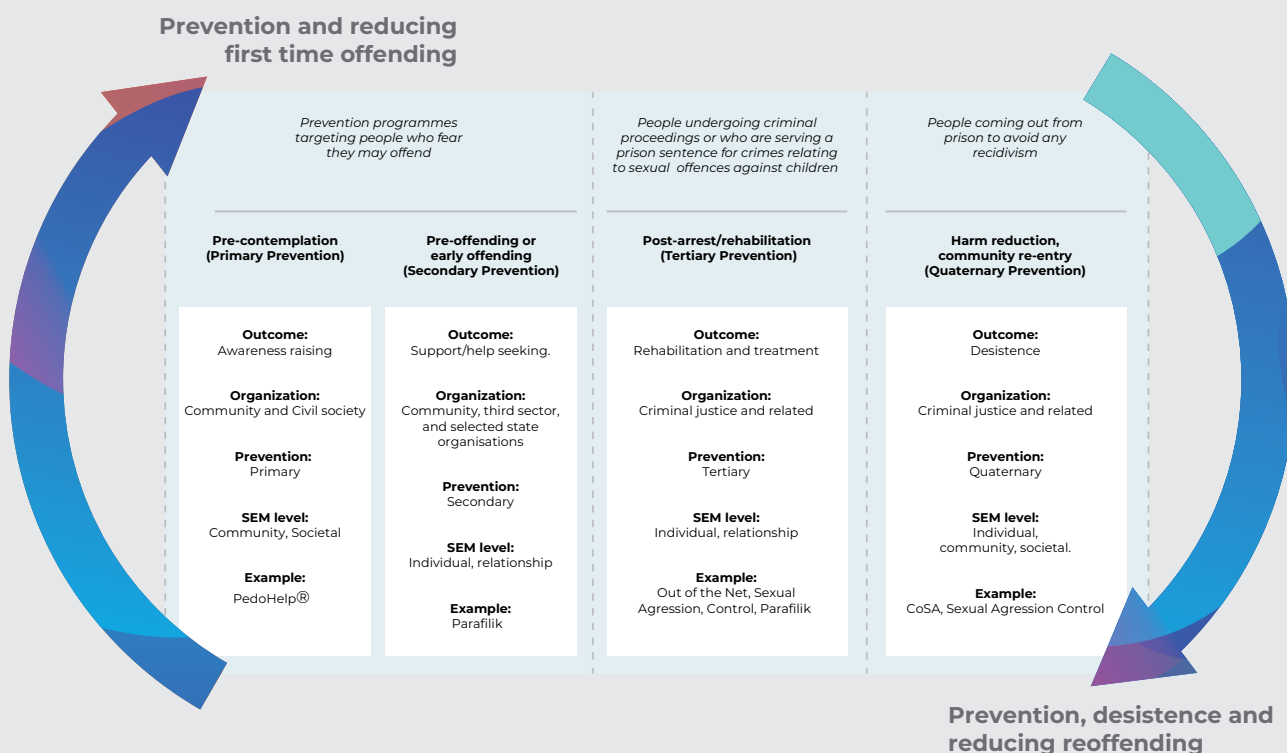
Table 1: Levels of child sexual abuse prevention adapted from McCartan & Kemshall,⁵³ with the addition of suggested illustrations and examples

Prevention level	Definitions	Suggested examples
Primary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Interventions to prevent sexual victimization taking place. ▶ Prevent crime happening in the first place (Skvovtsova, 2013, p. 39). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ “Upstream” programs focused on elimination of events, conditions, situations, or exposure to risk factors (CDC, 2004a, p. 1; Letourneau et al., 2014; Shields & Feder, 2016). ▶ Includes targeted programs of education, public awareness campaigns, bystander education, professional training (Kemshall & Moulden, 2017).
Secondary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Early detection of sexually abusive behavior, or potential for sexually abusive behavior, and response. ▶ Early intervention on trauma on victim support services (Skvovtsova, 2013, pp. 44–46) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Interventions and programs targeted at perpetrators/offenders, including the promotion of self-disclosure and help seeking (Dunklefeld, Lucy Faithfull Foundation) (Knack et al., 2019) ▶ Early intervention victim programs including treatment for trauma (Ogloff et al., 2012).
Tertiary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Responding to perpetration and victimization. ▶ Creating the conditions for offence free lives. ▶ Preventing cycle of victimization (Skvovtsova, 2013, pp. 47–49). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Development of social capital and recovery capital to aid reintegration and desistance (McCartan & Kemshall, 2020). ▶ Capacity enhancing programs for “at risk” communities (Massachusetts Citizens for Children, 2010). ▶ Strategies and interventions focused on reducing opportunities for re-victimization (e.g. community risk management of offenders; MA-PA; CoSA).
Quaternary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ongoing, supportive interventions that streamline criminal justice responses to reduce risk of sexual offending. ▶ Action taken to identify the risk of over punitiveness on a person convicted of an offence, to protect them from harsher managerial regimes, and suggest interventions which are ethically acceptable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Long-term, non-stigmatizing support of offenders (e.g. CoSA), and effective community re-integration as full citizens (Best, 2019; Best et al., 2018).

53 McCartan, K., & Kemshall, H. (2023). *Incorporating Quaternary Prevention: Understanding the Full Scope of Public Health Practices in Sexual Abuse Prevention*. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 67(2-3), 224–246.

In addition, this reinforces the work of the Council of Europe in taking a public health-influenced approach to the assessment, treatment and integration of people who have committed a sexual offence. Moreover, it acknowledges that public health and health framing is important in how we engage in sexual abuse prevention and recovery.^{54,55}

Figure 2: Prevention initiatives within prevention stages⁵⁶



For law enforcement, acting on all four prevention levels is challenging. This is especially true for the secondary level, which, although it falls within standard law enforcement crime-prevention strategies, poses more moral and ethical dilemmas than the other three stages. This is because it requires them to balance public protection, risk management and safeguarding in a complex way. For instance, at what point does a law enforcement offer an intervention to someone who has committed a CSEA offence rather than prosecute?

54 McCartan, K. (2022). *Refining Processes in Policy and Practice in Working with People Accused or Convicted of a Sexual offence*. HM Inspectorate of Probation.

55 McCartan, K., & Kemshall, H. (2023). *Incorporating Quaternary Prevention: Understanding the Full Scope of Public Health Practices in Sexual Abuse Prevention*. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 67(2-3), 224–246.

56 Di Gioia, R., & Beslay, L. (2023). *Help Seeker and Perpetrator Prevention Initiatives*. Gobierno de Ecuador, *Policia Nacional Brinda Capacitaciones a la Ciudadania para Prevenir y Denunciar el Abuso Infantil*. Government of Ecuador website.

PREVENTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION

The idea that CSEA is preventable is well established and has emerged over the last 15 years to become a central tenet in many regional, national and global organizational strategies.^{57,58,59} The prevention of CSEA is both a meta- and microsocial issue; thus, it needs a range of interventions that are adaptable and delivered by the most appropriate organizations. However, it is important to ask who these organizations are, how their interventions are accessed and whether the interventions that they deliver produce the necessary outcomes. These are difficult questions that require careful consideration as they impact the way that interventions are designed, implemented and evaluated.

International Strategies and Frameworks

International and global strategies are in their infancy, with most having been developed in the early 2000s.⁶⁰ Debates surrounding CSEA prevention started in developed countries in the Global North. Moreover, these countries have conducted the majority of research and led the way in the development of interventions and early international and transnational frameworks. However, in recent years, this has started to shift, with Global South countries taking more of a leading role (e.g. the drafting of *UN Model Strategies on Violence Against Children* was led and chaired by the Government of Thailand). This is important because, although CSEA is a global problem and exists in every country, certain aspects of CSEA are more prevalent in some countries than others. Thus, all countries need to be involved in shaping and developing international and transnational frameworks so that they align to shared values and practices.⁶¹

57 Smallbone, S., Marshall, W. L., & Wortley, R. (2008). *Preventing Child Sexual Abuse: Evidence, Policy and Practice*. Willan Publishing.

58 Brown J. (2017). *Public Health, Prevention and Risk Management*. In McCartan K., Kemshall H. (Eds.), *Contemporary Sex Offender Risk Management, Volume 1 Perceptions* (pp. 35–60). Palgrave Studies in Risk, Crime and Society, Palgrave MacMillan.

59 Kemshall H. (2017). *The Historical Evolution of Sex Offender Risk Management*. In McCartan K., Kemshall H. (Eds.), *Contemporary Sex offender management* (Vol. 1, pp. 205–230). Palgrave MacMillan.

60 Merdian, H., Perkins, D., Webster, S. & McCashin, D. (2019) Transnational Child Sexual Abuse: Outcomes from a Roundtable Discussion. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 16(2):243. DOI: 10.3390/ijerph16020243

61 Ibid.

- The *Handbook on the crime prevention guidelines – Making them work* (2010) sees the prevention of crime, first-time offending and repeat offending to be essential to law enforcement, human rights and the development of socio-ecological and political stability. Crime prevention is at the core of the UN's sustainable development goals. However, the UN sees that there are challenges in the development of crime prevention, especially in the case of low- and middle-income countries (e.g. the cost of developing prevention approaches and buy-in from stakeholders) and in respect to transnational cooperation (e.g. data sharing and collaboration). It is demonstrated that it is not only better for society and children, but it is also more cost effective in the long run to prevent rather than respond to crime. In 2014, the *United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice* was developed, which emphasises the importance of general and specific measures to prevent violence against children, as well as to combat the cultural acceptance of such violence.⁶² The strategy emphasizes the importance of cooperation between law enforcement and child protection systems both nationally and transnationally through the development and rollout of protocols to facilitate this. The UN states that various elements are central to the development and rollout of the model strategy. These include the need for clearer cultural acceptance that CSEA is wrong, that it is an issue within as well as across countries, and that there is the need for improved and prolonged training for law enforcement to better understand the risk factors, child development stages, the impact of violence on victims, the specific needs of child victims of violence, safety assessments and risk-management measures. Other aspects emphasized include the focus on knowledge-based interventions and programmes, as well as the involvement of children in crime prevention and the development of prevention strategies.
- In 2020, UNICEF published *Action to End Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation: A Review of the Evidence*. This emphasizes CSEA as a global issue that needs a co-ordinated response.⁶³ It argues that preventing CSEA should be seen as a leading child rights and protection issue. The importance of CSEA prevention is stressed both in terms of first-time and repeat victimization and offending. In their strategies for action, UNICEF argues that we need to pool resources and activities relating to CSEA prevention by building a whole system approach, that is, by drawing on the existing evidence base and developing a coherent theory of change that all organizations and countries help to

62 United Nations. (2014). *United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*. United Nations, General Assembly, A/C.3/69/L.5*.

63 UNICEF. (2020). *Action to End Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation: A Review of the Evidence*. UNICEF.

develop and can sign up to. In the UNICEF theory of change (see Annex 2), law enforcement plays a key role in developing and implementing CSEA-prevention strategies through partnerships that deliver upon key actions (e.g. building enabling environments, improving service delivery and enabling social and behavioural change).

- ✎ In the [EU strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse](#), the [European Commission has committed](#) to sharing effective practices and creating a centre for the prevention of CSEA.⁶⁴ Moreover, the Joint Research Committee has produced two reports on the CSEA prevention: one focusing on overarching ideas on prevention across all tiers and offering classification criteria for child sexual abuse and exploitation prevention programmes, and the other focusing on help seeker and perpetrator prevention initiatives. The European Commission sees CSEA as preventable, arguing that a whole system approach is required to identify and respond to CSEA and that all aspects of civil and social society have a role to play in the development of CSEA prevention. In their scoping reports, they recognize that most prevention initiatives are driven by non-governmental organizations, that they are limited in time and space, and that funding needs to be improved to develop a rounded evidence base. Throughout the European Commission's work, the research and evidence indicate that the majority of CSEA-prevention approaches are focused on the primary, tertiary and quaternary levels, and on place-based (in the primary and tertiary levels) and social and community (in the primary, tertiary and quaternary levels) approaches, with the majority being delivered by the state (e.g. the police, prisons, probation officers, schools and health providers) or social justice organizations (e.g. charities, NGOs and private providers).^{65,66} The typical criminal justice approach to prevention is aimed at reducing, or more appropriately stopping, reoffending and is rooted in a post-conviction rather than a preventive approach, i.e. one aimed at preventing first-time offending. This implies that secondary level prevention initiatives need to be revisited and developed, but with an approach that does not involve prison or probation, rather one that shifts the role of policing towards a practical community-oriented preventive service.

64 European Commission. (2020). *EU strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse*.

65 Di Gioia, R., & Besley, L. (2023). *Help Seeker and Perpetrator Prevention Initiatives*. Gobierno de Ecuador, *Policia Nacional Brinda Capacitaciones a la Ciudadania para Prevenir y Denunciar el Abuso Infantil*. Government of Ecuador website.

66 Di Gioia, R., Besley, L., Cassar, A., & Pawula, A. (2022). *Classification Criteria for Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention Programmes*. JRC Technical Report. European Commission.

- The WeProtect Global Alliance⁶⁷ has developed and published the [Model National Response](#) for the development and implantation of CSEA prevention within countries (See Annex 4). The model is a multifaceted approach that spans victims, at-risk populations and industry. It argues that we need a transnational, multifaceted approach to CSEA prevention that focuses on preventing first-time offending as much as preventing repeat offending. The WeProtect model recommendations are tech- and online-oriented, reinforcing the importance of online and offline environments, and the fact that secondary prevention will look different in both. This indicates that law enforcement has a different role to play in online secondary prevention. For example, it will have more international and transnational partners (e.g. Interpol, Europol and the [European Crime Prevention Network](#) (EUCPN)) and will have to engage with Internet service providers, social media and tech companies.

National Strategies and Frameworks

Countries are now starting to develop their own national strategies for the prevention of CSEA, which often means a repositioning of certain aspects of criminal justice, policing and health-related services. It is important to note that the international frameworks mentioned above have played, and continue to play, an important role in the development of national frameworks, as countries look to them for guidance as well as wanting to, or needing to, comply with them. Many of these strategies are child-centred, survivor-led and rooted in criminal justice data and evidence. However, it is important to state that conversations about the prevention of crime in general, and CSEA in particular,^{68,69} started in Westernized, anglophone countries, which means that some of the best-developed national frameworks are from the Global North (including Australia and New Zealand).⁷⁰ This imbalance in the Global South, and low- and middle-income countries, poses a challenge for transnational law enforcement as they often have to tailor their responses or adapt their practices to frameworks and countries that are socially and culturally distinct. In some cases, national working practices are negatively impacted as CSEA approaches must be adapted to fit with other countries' approaches and/or agendas. On a positive note, however, due to the aforementioned national frameworks, countries that want to develop their CSEA prevention strategies have a point of reference. Below, various examples

67 WeProtect Global Alliance. (2022). *Framing the Future: How the Model National Response Framework Is Supporting National Efforts to End Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Online*. WeProtect Global Alliance.

68 Smallbone, S., Marshall, W. L., & Wortley, R. (2008). *Preventing Child Sexual Abuse: Evidence, Policy and Practice*. Willan Publishing.

69 Brown J. (2017). *Public Health, Prevention and Risk Management*. In McCartan K., Kemshall H. (Eds.), *Contemporary Sex Offender Risk Management, Volume 1 Perceptions* (pp. 35–60). Palgrave Studies in Risk, Crime and Society, Palgrave MacMillan.

70 Rusell, D., Higgins, D., & Posso, A. (2020). *Preventing Child Sexual Abuse: A Systematic Review of Interventions and Their Efficacy in Developing Countries*. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 102, 104395.

are presented to highlight current strategies based on existing national policies and practices and international standards. It is important to note that these are evidence-informed not evidence-based and have not been evaluated since implementation.

- ✎ In England and Wales, a strategy has been established that is focused around three clear objectives: (1) tackling all forms of child sexual abuse and bringing offenders to justice; (2) preventing offending and reoffending; and (3) protecting and safeguarding children and young people and supporting all victims and survivors. Although prevention is mentioned in the strategy, it is more prevention in the sense of deterrence, punishment and an increase in traditional policing practice and policy. It is a reaffirmation of the centrality of the victim to the process. The English and Welsh strategy does not frame secondary prevention with people at risk of committing CSEA as a health intervention, but rather as monitoring and observation issue.⁷¹
- ✎ In Scotland, the prevention of child sexual abuse is at the heart of policy; however, much of it is framed at the primary prevention stage and around upskilling communities, students and professionals. Again, there is no approach to secondary prevention with people at risk of committing sexual offences.⁷²
- ✎ In the USA, the framing of CSEA prevention occurs at a federal and state level, but again it is seen from a criminal justice prevention perspective rather than through a health or public health lens.⁷³ Despite government bodies like the Center for Disease Control and Prevention⁷⁴ advocating for prevention, especially secondary prevention, it has not affected transnational, national or regional policy. In 2023, the US Department of Justice released its *National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention & Interdiction* in which it states that CSEA can be prevented but that it needs better engagement from all organizations, more funding and better partnerships.
- ✎ The Canadian government released *Provincial and Territorial Child Protection Legislation and Policy* in 2018, which mapped different child protection legislation and regulations across Canada as, until then, there was no centralized policy and practice.⁷⁵

71 Home Office (2021). *Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Strategy*. Policy paper. Home Office.

72 Scottish Government (2021). *National Action Plan to Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation: Final Report*. Children and Families Directorate, Scottish Government.

73 Letourneau, E., & Malone, I. (2023). *America Has Been Going about Stopping Child Sex Abuse the Wrong Way*. Time. Accessed on 49 February 2-24.

74 The Centers for Disease Control. (2024). *Fast Facts: Preventing Sexual Violence*. The Centers for Disease Control. Accessed on 27 February 2024.

75 Public Health Agency of Canada (2018). *Provincial and Territorial Child Protection Legislation and Policy 2018*. Public Health Agency of Canada.

- In Australia, since the outcome of the *Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse*, a new national strategy has been developed, resulting in a national office of child safety and a new national plan to end violence against women and children with prevention at its core.^{76,77} The new national plan outlines what is required to end violence in one generation as follows: (1) prevention; (2) early intervention; (3) response; and (4) recovery and healing. The Australian national strategy is a multi-agency approach that includes, but is not limited to, law enforcement partnerships. It grounds CSEA prevention in communities and advocates for collaborative working.
- In 2018, New Zealand developed and released its *National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence*.⁷⁸ It focuses on family violence, with CSEA being included therein, rather than there being a sole CSEA plan. The New Zealand approach is rooted in healing, restoration and well-being. It sees the prevention of CSEA as a multi-agency, collaborative issue whereby the state and related partners work with communities. The strategy sees its prevention activities happening in six stages (or shifts) as follows: (1) shift one: towards strength-based well-being; (2) shift two: towards mobilizing communities; (3) shift three: towards skilled, culturally competent and sustainable workforces; (4) shift four: towards investment in primary prevention; (5) shift five: towards safe, accessible and integrated responses; (6) shift six: towards increased capacity for healing.

We were not able to clearly identify examples of national strategies in Global South countries, although we are starting to see the emergence of CSEA-prevention research, policies and practices in these regions, for instance, in Brazil,⁷⁹ India,⁸⁰ South Africa,⁸¹ and sub-Saharan Africa.^{82,83}

Main findings: Although brief examples, all the national and international strategies outlined here reinforce the centrality of the EpiCrim approach and argue that stopping CSEA needs to happen in all four prevention stages in reference to the socio-ecological model and through multi-agency collaboration and strategic investment.

76 Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (2017). *Final Information Update*. Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. Accessed on 28 February 2024

77 National Office for Child Safety (2021). *National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021–2030: An Initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Government*. National Office for Child Safety.

78 *Spirit of Affection*. The National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence. New Zealand Government. 2018

79 Williams, L.C.A., D’Affonseca, S.M. (2022). *Child Sexual Abuse in Brazil: Awareness, Legal Aspects, and Examples of Prevention Strategies*. In: Deb, S. (eds) *Child Safety, Welfare and Well-Being*. Springer, Singapore.

80 Tyagi S, Karande S. (2021). *Child Sexual Abuse in India: A Wake-Up Call*. *J PostgradMed*;67(3):125-129. doi: 10.4103/jpgm.JPGM_264_21. PMID: 34380802; PMCID: PMC8445113.

81 Ward, C. L., Artz, I., et al. (2018). *Sexual Violence against Children in South Africa: A Nationally Representative Cross-Sectional Study of Prevalence and Correlates*. *The Lancet, Global Health*, 6(4), 460 -468.

82 Munro-Kramer, M. L., Morris, K., et al. (2024). *Barriers and Opportunities for Gender-Based Violence Prevention & Response at Universities in Sub-Saharan Africa*. *Journal of Sexual Aggression*, DOI: 10.1080/13552600.2024.2328055

83 UNICEF (Radford, Allnock, & Hynes, 2015) developed a guide, in his promising practices in CSA/E prevention report, for developing a national framework. See Annex 3. (Radford, L., Allnock, D., & Hynes, P. (2015). *Promising Programmes to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation*. UNICEF.)

PROMISING PRACTICES FOR INTERVENTIONS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT IN CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION PREVENTION

It is important to state that, although crime prevention is a core tenet of policing practice and policy around the world, it is adopted and implemented differently in each jurisdiction, region and country.^{84,85,86} For instance, law enforcement in certain countries is the sole force; in others, it is a representative member of a system of law enforcement organizations.⁸⁷ Thus, the cultural and socio-political context of preventive policing needs to be taken into account and it must be recognized that not all crime prevention interventions, even identical ones, can be directly compared.

The Reality and Challenges of the CSEA-Prevention Evidence Base

In examining the prevention measures delivered by law enforcement, it is important to note their limited nature as compared to the prevention interventions offered by different services, especially third-sector⁸⁸ and social justice organizations. From the data collected in this scoping review, there were only a handful of prevention measures directly delivered by law enforcement as the lead organization or in which law enforcement was the point of contact or referring party. This begs the question: why were so few led by or based around law enforcement organizations? Despite these findings, most key informants saw CSEA prevention to be core to law enforcement and considered that law enforcement embraced this role and were improving at it.

84 Sutton, A., Cherney, A., et al. (2021). *Crime Prevention: Principles, Perspectives and Practices*. Cambridge University Press.

85 Wager, N., Myers, A., & Parkinson, D. (2021). *Police Disruption of Child Sexual Abuse: A Scoping Review*. Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse

86 Ellefsen, H. B., Bjørkelo, B., et al. (2023). *Unpacking Preventive Policing: Towards a Holistic Framework*. *International Journal of Police Science & Management*, 25(2), 196–207.

87 Sutton, A., Cherney, A., et al. (2021). *Crime Prevention: Principles, Perspectives and Practices*.

88 Referring to the non-governmental, non-profit sector

“

“So, I think law enforcement [is] becoming more sophisticated and I have found actually that in certain circles, law enforcement’s understanding of prevention is more sophisticated than a lot of the other agencies. But the police can say: We can’t arrest our way out of this, which is true.”

(Key Informant 2)

The scoping review identified that the majority of CSEA-prevention approaches are focused at the primary, tertiary and quaternary levels, and on place-based (at the primary and tertiary levels) and social and community (at the primary, tertiary and quaternary levels) approaches, with the majority being delivered by the state (e.g. the police, prisons, probation officers, schools and health providers) or social justice organizations (i.e. charities, NGOs and private providers). It also shows that most prevention interventions were delivered by health, psychological/clinical or social justice organizations, with the vast majority being anonymized helplines and cognitive behavioral therapy/ psychotherapy programmes. Law enforcement mainly delivers situational, crime control and deterrence-oriented prevention strategies. Most prevention interventions sit at the individual, community and societal level in the socio-ecological model, with no examples clearly located at the interpersonal level. Additionally, the research and evidence base for prevention interventions is limited; therefore, it is difficult to say if they are successful in preventing CSEA. For this reason, they can only be looked at as promising or emerging practices, not as best or evidence-based practices. It is important to point out that limited research outcomes and a weak evidence base are fairly normal in certain areas of CSEA prevention due to the availability of these programmes, and their funding/ commissioning, research/evaluation capacities and time frames. This was a central concern identified by the professionals interviewed:

“

“Another challenge is the lack of data and tools to evaluate successful prevention interventions.”

(Key Informant 7)

However, they thought that this was developing as research and practice in this area evolves.

“

“The same elements as those of [the] child protection system—laws, governance, prevention, response, co-ordination, human resources, monitoring, etc. We measure them through country standard indicators on [the] number of children victims of violence reached by social welfare, health, justice.”

(Key Informant 5)



“Until very recently, there really wasn’t that much funding, in part because most people don’t think of child sexual abuse as preventable, so they don’t put their resources into prevention. That landscape is changing and changing dramatically, and we’re starting to see evidence that prevention, including perpetration prevention, is working.”

(Key Informant 4)

Similar to what was seen in the literature, the professionals interviewed stated that the evaluation criteria, approaches used and outcomes varied by the prevention stage, SEM stage, funder, organization running the intervention and geographical location. The core base for many of the evaluations was number of people accessing the service, the completion data and the feedback on service engagement and satisfaction. However, when the individual services/interventions are examined, we can see the unique evaluation criteria used, for instance, the number of school children reached, the number of people who accessed a service online, behavioural change linked to therapeutic intervention, reoffending data, recall to prison and improved health and well-being outcomes. This scoping review reinforces the view of the professional’s interviewed: we need a better evaluation framework with which to measure prevention interventions so as to gauge the impact of each in a coherent and comparable way. Some of the emerging evaluation criteria are as follows:

- The prevention and socio-ecological model stage at which the service finds itself;
- Who delivers the service, how they were chosen, how it fits with national policy and practice and the rationale for its implementation;
- The theoretical and evidence base underpinning the service;
- The cost of the service, how it is funded and how sustainable it is;
- Service-user awareness and professional-partner knowledge of the service and its accessibility;
- Partnership and multi-agency working relationships;
- Inclusion and exclusion criteria for service users;
- The number of service users using the service according to flow, completion and dropout rates;
- Outcome data (i.e. behavioural, psychological and cognitive change) upon intervention completion and after follow-up;
- Service size and staffing;

- Data recording techniques, research strategies and evaluation plan;
- Unique service characteristics (e.g. psychometrics, risk levels, behaviour change characteristics, etc.).

Currently, the European Commission is developing evaluation criteria for CSEA-prevention strategies for all four prevention and socio-ecological stages and there are several projects looking at secondary prevention approaches (including Sparks in the Dark: a consortium of EU Horizon 2020-funded projects). The evaluation framework for CSEA prevention, especially secondary prevention, is emerging and the research and evidence landscape will change over the next 5–10 years. However, the role and function of the organization delivering the intervention is vital, as not all services are able to collect the same data in the same way. Therefore, it is important to ask what criteria the prevention outcome data from law enforcement organizations adhere to and the best data capture techniques for them to use.

Main findings: We need to examine promising practices rather than well-defined, robust evidence bases to understand the CSEA-prevention landscape for law enforcement. One of the main takeaways from the professionals was the need for clear definitions and understanding of CSEA-prevention activities, frameworks and evaluation methods.

Primary Prevention

Primary prevention of CSEA is typically the responsibility of social justice organizations, the third sector and educational establishments through sexuality and relationship education. Law enforcement organizations often contribute as partners in these activities and partake in campaigns that talk generally about the challenges and issues linked to CSEA and how to prevent it. These include campaigns targeted at certain populations (e.g. children at risk, concerned parents, at-risk individuals, and certain communities), campaigns linked to certain activities (e.g. sporting events or activities, online environments, etc.) and campaigns linked to certain events or cases (e.g. end violence against women and girls week, high-profile media stories and cases).^{89,90,91} The professionals identified awareness raising as the main form of primary CSEA prevention delivered by law enforcement and suggested that the research, limited as it is, shows these activities to be promising.

89 Smallbone, S., Marshall, W. L., & Wortley, R. (2008). *Preventing Child Sexual Abuse: Evidence, Policy and Practice*. Willan Publishing.

90 Solehati, T., Ramanda Fikri, A., et al. (2022). *The Current Preventing of Child Sexual Abuse: A Scoping Review*. *Social Sciences*, 11(11), 508.

91 Wager, N., Myers, A., & Parkinson, D. (2021). *Police Disruption of Child Sexual Abuse: A Scoping Review*. Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse.



“So, going into schools, making kids aware of laws and, you know, there’s a little bit of research that suggests that when kids are aware of laws, [they] are less likely to engage in those specific behaviours.”

(Key Informant 4)

Education and awareness programmes are common to police forces across the world. For example, in 2021, the Valais cantonal Police in **Switzerland** developed and broadcast 10 videos to raise awareness of violence and sexual abuse directed at children in conjunction with a week of news stories focusing on similar and related issues.⁹² In addition, the Bern cantonal police provide prevention-focused courses in primary and secondary schools, addressing more than 110,000 children and teenagers annually.⁹³ In **Madagascar**, the Police service’s Morals and Protection of Minors (PMPM) unit organizes various prevention activities, including awareness-raising workshops for children and young people. This works in conjunction with the Toliara Local Women’s Brigade running a series of awareness-raising sessions in communities, schools, hotels, bars and nightclubs.⁹⁴ In **Ecuador**, the national police informs and trains citizens to prevent (and report) the abuse of children, including sexual abuse.⁹⁵ In **Australia**, **ThinkUKnow** Australia, a web-based educational package targeting parents, caregivers, educators, children and young people, is operated under leadership of the Australian Federal Police and uses real case studies from their Centre to Counter Child Exploitation. The resource links directly to secondary prevention resources (e.g. how to stop someone from attempting to groom or meet a child).⁹⁶ Additionally, in **Colombia**, the police’s children and adolescents protection group led campaigns to prevent the sexual exploitation of children using child-friendly strategies. In these, they teach children how to protect themselves and make effective use of their time with parent participation.⁹⁷

In addition, the professionals interviewed did not think that law enforcement awareness-raising activities should be limited to schools and children; they believed that law enforcement had a role in upskilling society in general and making the public more aware of CSEA prevention.

92 Frédéric Favre, State Counsellor. Head of the Department of Security, Institutions and Sport. (4 February 2021). Support for press conference on strengthening the prevention of sexual violence children and young people.

93 Bern Cantonal Police. (Nd). *Prevention in Schools*. Bern Cantonal Police website. Accessed in January 2024.

94 Hanitra R. (June 2022). Madagascar: GBV - Toliara’s Women’s Brigade and PMPM Receive Equipment. AllAfrica.

95 Human Rights Watch. (August 2024). *Ecuador Sets Plan to End Sexual Violence in Schools*.

96 <https://www.thinkuknow.org.au/>

97 Colombian National Police. *Intensificamos Campanas para Prevenir el Abuso Sexual Contra Menores*. Colombian Police Website. Accessed in January 2024.



“I think community education is a great thing for law enforcement to be involved in... because along with the communication [that] this is a crime that’s happening... along with that comes the police showing the community, hey, we care about this, and you can come to us, and we do want to see more community referrals, more people making reports saying, I’m aware of something happening and it needs to be investigated”.

(Key Informant 1)

Together for Childhood is an example of a community education intervention from the UK. It is a place-based approach for the prevention of child abuse and CSEA spearheaded by the NSPCC through a multi-agency working group.⁹⁸ Together for Childhood is based on partnerships working with innovative community building techniques. It sees CSEA as a community issue and argues that it takes community engagement to prevent and respond to it. Together for Childhood works around all four prevention levels and the full socio-ecology model, with law enforcement playing a key role in the development of secondary prevention initiatives with other local and regional partners. The initial findings indicate that their scheme is helping communities understand CSEA and engage with statutory and social justice organizations on the issue.⁹⁹

Additionally, law enforcement can play a key role in primary prevention using situational and environment crime prevention models. For instance, international bodies, such as the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) based in the UK and Cybertip.ca based in Canada, block and remove child abuse and exploitation material from the internet to prevent access and trading. The data and research indicate that this has resulted in positive outcomes. For instance, in 2023, the IWF investigated a total of 375,230 reports suspected to contain child sexual abuse material, an increase of 4% as compared to 2021.¹⁰⁰ Of these, 255,588 reports were confirmed to contain images or videos of children suffering sexual abuse. In 2022, 199,363 of the IWF-confirmed URLs of child sexual abuse material contained images and videos made and/or shared via an internet-connected device with a camera, as opposed to an abuser being physically present in the room with the victim/s.¹⁰¹ It is important to state that without law enforcement engagement, data sharing and cooperation, the child sexual abuse and exploitation material and illegal content would have not been immediately removed. For example, activities such as Project Arachnid¹⁰² use technological tools to trawl through links that have been reported to Cybertip.ca,

98 NSPCC (2024). *Together for Childhood*. NSPCC. Accessed on 29 February.

99 NSPCC (2023). *Together for Childhood: Annual Report 2023*. NSPCC.

100 Internet Watch Foundation (2023). *IWF Annual Report 2022 #BehindTheScreens*. Internet Watch Foundation.

101 Ibid.

102 <https://projectarachnid.ca/en/>

detect CSEA materials and determine where they are available on the internet before issuing a notice to the hosting providers. Project Arachnid detects around 100,000 unique suspected images per month and issues approximately 700 removal notices each day to service providers.

The technical challenges in preventing child sexual abuse and exploitation on the internet are considerable, particularly with the increased use of Dark Web peer-to-peer networks, encryption methods to evade detection and a worrying growth in online live abusive image streaming. To tackle this, in 2019, the UK government issued proposals to introduce comprehensive regulations for service providers to prevent all forms of online harm, especially to children.¹⁰³ The Online Safety Bill is still going through parliament and has presented several logistical, policy and practical challenges for law enforcement and Internet service providers. However, it is rooted in prevention, focusing more on situational and environmental prevention than awareness raising and engagement with the public. This is significant, not just for the UK, but for global and transnational online corporations, platforms and Internet service providers, given that the distinction between online and in-person CSEA is becoming increasingly blurred. Prevention programmes that target both online and in-person safety are more relevant for children's experiences and need to engage general populations, including children, in their awareness raising.¹⁰⁴ One of the key informants talked about the importance of changing public awareness of online CSEA and the creation of child sexual exploitation material. In particular, they were concerned that, in the Philippines, communities do not see this as being as harmful as contact sexual abuse.

“*There is misunderstanding in communities about the harm caused by online exploitation. There are attitudes that producing this content online for an overseas offender is a lot safer than letting an overseas offender come [and] sexually harm my child.*”

(Key Informant 1)

Main finding: Most primary prevention interventions conducted by law enforcement using the socio-ecological model are awareness-raising campaigns. These are usually conducted with partner organizations taking the lead and law enforcement being present in a policy, practical and educational role.

103 HM Government (2023). *Britain Makes Internet Safer, as Online Safety Bill Finished and Ready to Become Law*. Department for Science, Innovation and Technology. Press release. Accessed on 01 March 2024.

104 Gewirtz-Meydan A., & Finkelhor D. (2020). *Sexual Abuse and Assault in a Large National Sample of Children and Adolescents*. *Child Maltreat*. May; 25(2): 203-214. doi: 10.1177/1077559519873975. Epub 2019 Sep 16. PMID: 31526040.

Secondary Prevention

The need for greater efforts to shift attention to people at risk of committing CSEA was endorsed by the UN special rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children.¹⁰⁵ Working with potential perpetrators is an area of growth for the prevention of CSEA globally, especially for law enforcement; however, it involves ethical and logistical challenges for all organizations, not just law enforcement, regarding how and why intervention is needed.¹⁰⁶

One of the main secondary prevention interventions used by law enforcement is hotspot policing, i.e. targeting certain locations and public spaces, for instance, parks, recreation areas and locations where CSEA has been reported, with an increased police presence or surveillance techniques (e.g. CCTV). One key informant talked about the role of hotspots in secondary CSEA prevention by law enforcement stating that it was a useful tool in the prevention of abuse.

“*Mapping a community, we’re going to do [this] about child abuse and exploitation. That’s a big part of preventive work, you know? Just the mere fact that police officers are present in all these areas as well.*”

(Key Informant 5)

In **Madagascar**, the police service’s Morals and Protection of Minors unit patrols areas where CSEA is more likely to happen, both online (e.g. by targeting chat rooms, social media sites and certain platforms) and offline (e.g. near hotels and other establishments that are suspected of facilitating CSEA).¹⁰⁷ In **Cheshire, England**, Operation Guardians is a recurring police operation designed to fight CSEA that includes high visibility patrols in key areas.¹⁰⁸ Additionally, in 2020, in Southend-on-Sea, England, the local police piloted a hot spotting campaign in the 20 highest crime areas. This involved two-officer teams paroling for a minimum of 15 minutes and a maximum of 20 minutes on foot with the police vehicle parked in a prominent and visible position to engage with the public and discuss local issues, crime prevention and response techniques, rather than looking to investigate

105 Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. (2015) Tackling the demand for the sexual exploitation of children. Human Rights Council. A/HRC/31/58

106 McCartan K. F., Merdian H. L., Perkins D. E., Kettleborough D. (2018). Ethics and Issues of Secondary Prevention Efforts in Child Sexual Abuse. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 62, 2548–2566.

107 ECPAT International (2015). *Rapport Global de Suivi – Madagascar*. ECPAT International.

108 Cheshire Constabulary (May 2022). An operation aimed at protecting and defending young and vulnerable children has taken place across Cheshire. Cheshire Constabulary News.

crimes directly. This resulted in a 73.5% drop in violent crime and 31.9% drop in street crime on days when the patrols visited as compared with days they did not.¹⁰⁹ Initiatives like the Neighbourhood Block Watch in Toledo, the **United States**, and Cure Violence, which started in Chicago but is now international, are also good examples on how the community can play an active role in hotspot patrolling.^{110,111} Cure Violence views violence through an epidemiological lens—as a learned, transmissible behaviour—that can be interrupted. Although Cure Violence started to combat street- and community-level anti-social behaviour and disruption, over the years, it has grown to include other forms of violence, including sexual and domestic violence. The training programme selected community partners and local credible messengers to detect and interrupt conflict, promote safer and healthier behaviours and life directions among high-risk individuals, and build healthy social norms. Research into the impact of Cure Violence shows that it has an impact on reducing an array of different types of violence, for instance, a 75% reduction in killings in Charlotte, USA, a 90% reduction in killings in Culiacan, Mexico, a 45% reduction in violent crime in East Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, and a 63% reduction in shooting in New York City.¹¹² Additionally, Cure Violence has a significant return on investment, with the initiative saving US\$33 dollars for every US\$1 invested.¹¹³ Unfortunately, we do not know the cost-effectiveness or social return on investment for other hot spotting initiatives and, thus, cannot comment. Police hot spotting as a crime prevention initiative is based on good community and police relations. Thus, it needs to be co-designed with police and local communities, which can be challenging given attitudes towards the police in some of the communities in question.

Although hot spotting is traditionally seen as an in-person, community-based prevention measure, it can be used in online environments. There are examples from France, Switzerland, the UK and the United States of specific police units, who are generally undercover, monitoring discussions with children online to prevent grooming, solicitation and CSEA. In **Norway**, law enforcement officers go on “cyberpatrols” in online spaces openly and offer to answer any questions children have, raising awareness while making their presence known to potential perpetrators.¹¹⁴ While there is no indication of the efficiency of this method, it could be an effective way to deter perpetrators with police presence, to inform children and to maintain good relations with the community.

109 Basford, Sims, C., Agar, I., Hariinan, V., & Strang, H. (2021). *Effects of One-a-Day Foot Patrols on Hot Spots of Serious Violence and Crime Harm: A Randomised Crossover Trial*. *Camb J Evid Based Polic* 5, 119–133.

110 International Association of Chiefs of Police. (2016). *Combating Child Sex Trafficking: A Guide for Law Enforcement Leaders*. Washington, DC: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

111 Cure Violence (2024). *Cure Violence: Mission*. Available at <https://cvg.org/about/#mission> (accessed on 25 February 2024).

112 Cure Violence Global (2021). *The Evidence of Effectiveness*. Cure Violence.

113 Ibid.

114 Le Point (2023). *Au Danemark, la police patrouille sur internet*. Le Point. Accessed on 27 February 2024 via

The key informants discussed the challenges inherent in law enforcement engaging in secondary prevention with at-risk groups, stating that this was not necessarily the role of traditional policing activities; however, some key informants thought that the police could work in partnership with other organizations capable of delivering help and support to at-risk populations.

“I think referring people to services is absolutely a huge place for law enforcement; [it] can play a really big role in secondary prevention. So absolutely.”

(Key Informant 4)

However, as this is not traditional policing, they may be cautious and need help and support from partner organizations.

“It’s not automatic for them. They need to have their hand held a little bit and to point them in these directions.”

(Key Informant 2)

As one key informant stated, the challenge lies in the fact that these people have committed an offence and we cannot tell the police how to do their jobs (e.g. arrest and prosecute them), but rather must assist them in doing so, to reduce the risk that this person poses. Individual-level secondary prevention is one of the most under-developed areas of professional engagement, including by law enforcement.¹¹⁵ Typically, these interventions are aimed at people concerned about their behaviours and attitudes towards children.

The most common secondary prevention interventions with at-risk populations are helplines (e.g. the Stop It Now Helplines in the UK,¹¹⁶ Netherlands¹¹⁷ and USA¹¹⁸) and walk-in clinics (e.g. Dunkelfeld¹¹⁹ in Germany); however, recently, there has been a development in online chat functions both for adults (e.g. Troubled Desire¹²⁰ in Germany) and children (e.g. Shore¹²¹ in the UK). The Dunkelfeld Project, which provides combined cognitive-behavioural, pharmacological and sexological interventions and

115 McCartan K., Uzieblo K., Smid W. J. (2021). *Professionals' Understandings of and Attitudes to the Prevention of Sexual Abuse: An International Exploratory Study*. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 65, 815–831.

116 Stop It Now. (2024). *The Stop It Now Helpline*. Website accessed on 29 March 2024.

117 Stop It Now Netherlands. (2024). *The Stop It Now Helpline*. Website accessed on 29 March 2024.

118 Stop It Now USA. (2024). *The Stop It Now Helpline*. Website accessed on 29 March 2024.

119 Charite (2024). *The Prevention Network Dunkelfeld*. Website accessed on 29 March 2024.

120 Charite (2024). *Troubled Desire*. Website accessed on 29 March 2024.

121 Lucy Faithful Foundation (2024). Shore. Accessible via <https://shorespace.org.uk/>

walk-in clinic services, aims to prevent child sexual offences by addressing various aspects, including motivation for change, self-regulation, coping strategies, social skills and empathy development. This represents a new approach to secondary prevention, with research showing that the intervention contributes to positive changes in the attitudes and behaviours of the perpetrators involved (Beier, Grundmann, Kuhle, Scherner, Konrad, & Amelung, 2014).¹²² Anonymized helplines are difficult to evaluate as limited data are collected and because they are anonymized to offer protection to their users; thus, it is difficult to ascertain whether they have received additional help, their attitudes have changed or whether or not they have offended. Helplines measure success based on the number of calls they receive, which is a problematic success criterion that is affected by many different factors, including socio-political conditions, the context of the individual in question, high-profile media stories and even marketing or advertising by the organization. Law enforcement officers are often aware of these helplines and, in many countries, are encouraged to refer individuals to them; however, there is no clear evidence, nationally or internationally, that individual forces do this.

The engagement of law enforcement agencies and individual-level secondary prevention seems to be best understood at the local level, with strong partnership and multi-agency working facilitating this. For instance, in the UK, law enforcement refers people who have been arrested for child sexual exploitation material offences to organizations like Stop it Now! Lucy Faithful, the Safe Living Foundation, Safer Lives and Stop SO for support and counselling. Additionally, while we might want police to refer individuals to these helplines, organizations or chat functions, we must balance this with community safety and risk management. If law enforcement believes the person in question to be a risk, they may decide to use other powers to prevent CSEA, like increased observation, restraining orders or temporary detention in police custody.

Another avenue available to law enforcement in the secondary prevention of individuals at risk of committing CSEA is multi-agency data sharing and cooperation. While this is targeted at individuals, it is not focused on providing an intervention to said individuals, rather it is aimed at observing and working to intervene pre-offence. Therefore, it is grounded in traditional policing policies and practices.

One such example is the Nimos Safeguarding app in the UK. This app, which can be used on smart devices and PCs (Android, IOS and Windows), enables the sharing of soft intelligence on CSEA. It is cheap, effective and compliments existing information-sharing processes. Initially, a small-scale evaluation of the app indicated that it was helpful for frontline staff in understanding the scale and nature of CSEA

122 Beier KM, Grundmann D, Kuhle LF, Scherner G, Konrad A, Amelung T. *The German Dunkelfeld project: a pilot study to prevent child sexual abuse and the use of child abusive images*. *J Sex Med*. 2015 Feb;12(2):529-42. doi: 10.1111/jsm.12785. Epub 2014 Dec 4. PMID: 25471337.

locally and recommended its wider rollout.¹²³ In addition, PrevBOT was launched in 2024 as a cooperative project involving the Norwegian Police Academy and the University of Agder in which digital robots were designed that patrol open social media, uncovering and preventing possible CSEA.¹²⁴ The AI-based tool also helps map behaviours that indicate a risk of CSEA and identify these, such as grooming conversation, to help police react when required. However, as this project is new, the results and impact are not yet known. Other examples of technology-based data sharing exist both in terms of additional apps (e.g. the partners toolkit in Scotland) and in professional units (e.g. Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command in the UK and the Youth Intervention and Prevention Unit in Canada).

Working in partnership, communicating and sharing data are the central functions of policing. Therefore, it makes sense that law enforcement are involved in these, especially as they mirror tertiary and quaternary prevention through activities like multi-agency public protection arrangements (in the UK) and the registration and monitoring of people convicted of a sexual offence post-release (in many countries). For instance, in Denmark the police launched the campaign Stopdigitaleovergreb aimed at preventing people from downloading CSEA material.¹²⁵ The police upload videos to peer-to-peer networks with names suggesting that the content is child sexual abuse materials, but instead the videos show a police officer who warns people of the consequences of downloading this kind of content (e.g. “You have downloaded this file from a police computer, and we have information that we may use to identify you”). The videos also refer to the national helpline for people with sexual thoughts and fantasies about children. Unfortunately, there is no evaluation available for this and the website is no longer accessible, which is similar for many secondary prevention initiatives and campaigns.



123 Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Organised Crime Unit. (2017). *Nimos Safeguarding Evaluation*. Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Organised Crime Unit.

124 Norwegian Supervisory Authority. (2023). *New sandbox project looks at facial recognition and police roBOTS*.

125 Di Gioia, R., & Beslay, L. (2023). *Help Seeker and Perpetrator Prevention Initiatives*.

In Finland, the Criminal Sanctions Training Centre (RISE) have developed and implemented the Uusi Suunta/New Direction programme: an individual rehabilitation programme offered by the Care about! Unit.¹²⁶ RISE maintains a legal and secure system of sanction enforcement and contributes to reducing reoffending and the exclusion that perpetuates crime. The programme is comprised of a series of one-on-one meetings based on the good lives model, i.e. everyone wants to live a good life, but because of their cognitive development, mental health, attitudes and behaviours, some individual's behaviours become problematized and harmful. These provide individuals with insights into their problematic thoughts and behaviours, enabling them to reflect on the gap between what they want to achieve and what they are doing. It then supports them in building pro-social behaviours that reflect their lifegoals. All conversations are confidential and visits are free. The initial research indicates that the programme is accessible and user-friendly with some emerging successes, but more research and development is needed. This research was conducted over 10 years ago and the programme is still in use, so it will need to be updated.¹²⁷ Countries such as the UK and Sweden have also utilized the good lives method in secondary prevention interventions for children and young people with harmful sexual behaviours.

Law enforcement also works with children and young people at risk of being sexually abused and exploited and there are examples of secondary prevention interventions to reduce their likelihood of being a victim. One example from the UK is Operation Topaz: an intervention by Avon and Somerset Police where children and young people identified as being at risk of CSEA are referred to appropriate services (e.g. counselling, advice, GP appointments, meetings with social workers and access to resources like food and medicine) via health and social justice organizations. Interestingly, their aim is not to arrest potential offenders, but rather to protect and safeguard the children in question. This adds to the discussion of how the police demonstrate success with such interventions; for example, is the volume of successful referrals to other organizations an indication of success? If so, it poses real follow-up and outcome challenges similar to those mentioned earlier for helpline referrals.¹²⁸

Law enforcement agencies engage in international law enforcement cooperation for the transnational prevention of CSEA. For instance, the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) in Thailand employs sophisticated investigation techniques to enhance secondary CSEA prevention. An illustrative case involved disrupting a UK child sex offender's intention to exploit children in the Philippines. Through informant intelligence and undercover operations, the DSI collaborated with authorities from the UK and Philippines in Operation YACHTMANSHIP, leading

126 Ibid.

127 Hirvinen, K. (2013). Uusi Suunta-yksilöohjelma seksuaalirikoksista tuomituille-Ohjelmakäsikirjan käytettävyys työntekijöiden kokemana (Doctoral dissertation).

128 McCartan, K., & Senker, S. (2023). *Evaluation of Operation Topaz*. UWE Bristol & Avon & Somerset Police.

to the perpetrator's apprehension in the UK and the accomplices' arrest in the Philippines in 2020. This successful prevention strategy underscores the significance of proactive risk assessments, sharing of intelligence and collaborative international efforts in curtailing CSEA.

Main findings: Most secondary prevention interventions conducted by law enforcement using the socio-ecological model are either focused on supporting partner organizations with individual prevention activates (e.g. helplines) or working with targeted communities to support situational and environmental prevention strategies (e.g. network strengthening). Secondary prevention at the individual and interpersonal levels requires the largest shift in thinking and development from law enforcement. In contrast, community-based situational prevention is where they are currently showing leadership and engagement.

It is also important to increase awareness of law enforcement's role in secondary prevention, such as proactive measures to identify harmful behaviour and provide comprehensive interventions that address various aspects of behavioural change, including motivation, self-regulation, coping strategies, social skills and empathy development to prevent CSEA. This requires a multi-disciplinary approach. While law enforcement has made strides in secondary prevention, there is a lack of data on its effectiveness in addressing the root causes of CSEA.

Tertiary and Quaternary Prevention

The role of law enforcement in tertiary and quaternary prevention is well established in respect to CSEA as it focuses on reducing reoffending, public protection and community safety. The professionals interviewed thought that tertiary prevention was the best developed and most researched area of CSEA prevention for law enforcement. It was seen as part of their everyday activities and should be considered the main form of prevention that they are involved in.

“

“Prisons and the Department of Corrections, under the Ministry of Justice, are responsible for implementing tertiary and quaternary prevention measures to prevent reoffending of sexual violence, not focusing on child sexual exploitation and abuse.”

(Key Informant 7)

Law enforcement usually leads tertiary prevention in partnership with other third-party organizations using the socio-ecological model; however, the emergence of quaternary prevention has raised questions about which tertiary law enforcement prevention initiatives are actually quaternary and which additional quaternary prevention initiatives run by partner organizations can be tied to law enforcement.¹²⁹ The bulk of reoffending prevention strategies (e.g. registration and disclosure, multi-agency public protection arrangements, monitoring/surveillance, electronic tagging and monitoring internet/computer usage) can be simultaneously seen as tertiary and quaternary, as well as being seen as separate, depending on how and when they are implemented, which is a challenge for law enforcement. Key informants suggested that we need to further develop tertiary and quaternary prevention interventions by using alternative programmes and consider innovation away from the tried and tested models.

“**Restorative justice processes could be used even in serious crimes to promote treatment and healing of the child, the victim and the community. Diversion programmes can reduce reoffending by up to 70%, depending on the quality of the programmes.**”

(Key Informant 5)

A promising method to reduce reoffending and manage risk in the community is through multi-agency cooperation, whereby the police and other responsible authorities share information and work together to make sure the perpetrators do not pose a new or further risk of CSEA.¹³⁰ This is common practice in regional, national and transnational policing, with police using individual, situational and environmental crime-prevention strategies that could be applied across all four stages of the socio-ecological model.¹³¹ Multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPAs) are an example of good practice used in England and Wales¹³² that have been adopted in other parts of the UK.^{133,134} MAPPAs are a framework of statutory arrangements operated by criminal justice and social care agencies that seek to manage and reduce the risk presented by sexual and violent offenders in order to reduce reoffending and protect the public. They function by sharing information and establishing co-ordinated risk-management plans that

129 McCartan, K., & Kemshall, H. (2023). *Incorporating Quaternary Prevention: Understanding the Full Scope of Public Health Practices in Sexual Abuse Prevention*. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 67(2-3), 224–246.

130 McCartan, K., & Gotch, K. (2020). *International approaches to the management of perpetrators of sexual harm policy: Preventative, practical, or political?*. In J. Proulx, F. Cortoni, L. A. Craig, & E. J. Letourneau (Eds.), *The Wiley Handbook on What Works with Sexual Offenders: Contemporary Perspectives in Theory, Assessment, Treatment and Prevention* (441-454). Wiley.

131 Ibid.

132 Ministry of Justice (2014). *Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA): Guidance*. Ministry of Justice.

133 Scottish Government (2022). *Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) in Scotland: National Overview Report 2021/2022*. Scottish Government.

134 Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland (2022). *PPANI ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22*. Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland.

allow offenders to be effectively managed across three levels, depending on their risk. Research indicates that MAPPAs improve public protection and reduce the risk of reoffending by people deemed to be of a medium to high risk of doing so. They also bring oversight and scrutiny to the most complex cases, especially where there seems to be little prospect of a dangerous individual making positive changes.¹³⁵

Recently, ECPAT International highlighted the role, impact and effectiveness of registers for people convicted of a sexual offence, and how they should and should not be used by law enforcement to prevent sexual reoffending.¹³⁶ Registers as a means of keeping people convicted of a sexual offence under surveillance are not a new policing tool; they have been used for over a century in many countries and are seen as a relatively stable and functional form of policing, risk management and community engagement. The length of time that people stay on the register and the way in which the register engages with them (e.g. the law enforcement agents or equivalent that maintain the register) changes from country to country. However, it is normally based on a person's index offence, sentence or risk levels. Research highlights that, although law enforcement believes registers to be a useful tool in preventing reoffending, the evidence is not clear and can be difficult to dissect, especially given that sexual offences have a low reoffending rate regardless of registration.¹³⁷ ECPAT International's overview of registers highlights international good practice in this area. From this, the New Zealand register is standout as a good and innovative practice. It is framed as a pro-social, prevention-based initiative, wherein the register is tied to treatment and reintegration through the good lives model. Law enforcement describes it as a pro-social tool that those registered can use if they think that they are going to reoffend that enables them to obtain help and support when needed. This differs from registers in other countries that are framed as surveillance and risk-management tools and operate to catch out potential reoffenders. The New Zealand approach is individual- and interpersonal-centred, while also addressing the community and societal levels (like other registers).

One of the most controversial aspects of certain registers is that of public disclosure of information by law enforcement. The unfettered public disclosure of registrant information is a form of American exceptionalism that is not replicated in other countries. Some countries like the UK have a policy of limited disclosure

135 Lundrigan, S., Mann, N., & Specht, D. (2023). *The National MAPPA Research: Proven Reoffending Report*. Policing institute for the eastern region.

136 ECPAT International (2023). *(Child) Sex Offender Registry: Working Paper*. ECPAT International.

137 Ibid.

(i.e. you have to apply to law enforcement for information, which is released based on a risk assessment of the potential impact on communities and the registrant), while the majority have a closed register without public access. Allowing public access to the register is framed as a preventive tool, i.e. if people and communities can see who has been convicted of CSEA in their local area, they can be more vigilant and better able to protect their children. However, there is no evidence base for this, as it does not increase community protection and prevention and can lead to vigilantism. Recently, ECPAT International put together a guide for developing and understanding good practice in terms of registration and disclosure, highlighting the need for countries and cultures to develop registers and related practices in their own contexts.¹³⁸ It is important to question whether a register, disclosure or notification would improve CSEA prevention or not.

Additionally, ECPAT International found that law enforcement agencies such as Interpol are observing an increase in rates of CSEA in the context of travel and tourism and a decline in national action plans that specifically address this problem. Moreover, they noted a very low conviction rate for sexual offenders who travel for the purpose of sexual exploitation.¹³⁹ This is tied to countries' desires to have a registration of people convicted of a sexual offence. For some, it appeared to be more important to have a system for monitoring people travelling to their country to commit CSEA than their own citizens.¹⁴⁰ A small number of countries can show how many of their citizens are involved in these crimes. One example of good practice is the development and use of child protection certificates by British and Dutch law enforcement agencies. These enable police to check their own citizens when seeking work in schools, NGOs and other facilities serving children and young people in other countries. Additionally, some countries like Australia, Canada, the UK and the USA have travel orders linked to their sex offence registers that prevent or limit international travel,¹⁴¹ with the USA placing a stamp on people's passport stating that they are a registered "sex offender". It is important to note that the profile of people who travel to commit CSEA has shifted away from traditional wealthy, Western tourists from the northern hemisphere to also include business travellers, expatriates, volunteers (especially for children and disaster-relief NGOs) and pseudo-carers who travel regionally as well as abroad.¹⁴² There is also the rise in online CSEA whereby the abuse of national residents by transnational individuals can happen with neither leaving their country of origin.

138 McCartan, K., Constant, S., & Beg, Z. (2023). *Technical Considerations for the Development of (Child) Sex Offender Registries*. ECPAT International.

139 Hawke, A., & Raphael, A. (2016). *Offenders on the Move: Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism*. ECPAT International.

140 ECPAT International (2023). *(Child) Sex Offender Registry: Working Paper*. ECPAT International.

141 Ibid.

142 Hawke, A., & Raphael, A. (2016). *Offenders on the Move: Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism*. ECPAT International.

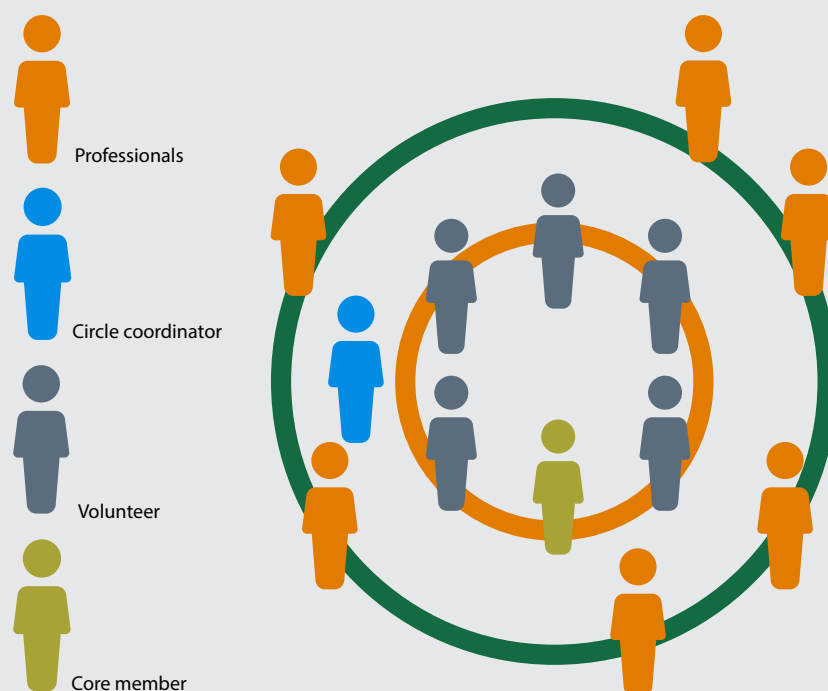


Figure 3: Circles of support and accountability

Circles of support and accountability (CoSA) is an approach to the reintegration of people convicted of a sexual offence that started in Canada in the mid 1990s and has since spread to multiple countries around the world (including Australia, Belgium, Latvia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, the UK and the USA).¹⁴³ Although the CoSA model has adapted depending on where it is being implemented, the core idea has remained the same: the core member (the person convicted of a sexual offence) is supported by five or six community volunteers for 12–18 months.¹⁴⁴ The core member sits at the centre of the circle surrounded by volunteers, who are supported by a co-ordinator (i.e. the circle manager), who is, in turn, supported by the outer circle (i.e. law enforcement and third-party social justice organizations and agencies) (see Figure 3). Law enforcement plays a central role in the CoSA process as they (often probation officers) refer individuals to the circle. Moreover, they are involved with the circle co-ordinators in the feedback and risk-management loop and provide a public safety role for the circle. The volunteers work to prevent reoffending by supporting the core member in their risk management, desistance and community integration by role modelling pro-social behaviour, enabling the perpetrator to reflect upon their offending behaviour and the reasons for it and allowing them the opportunity to test positive behaviours and engagement strategies.¹⁴⁵ CoSA has been heavily evaluated over the years

143 McCartan K., Gotch K. (2020). *International Approaches to the Management of Perpetrators of Sexual Harm Policy*. In Proulx J., Cortoni F., Craig L., Letourneau E. (Eds.), *The Wiley Handbook of what works with sexual offenders: Contemporary perspectives in theory, assessment, treatment, and prevention*. (pp. 441–454). Wiley.

144 Elliott, H., Hocken, K., et al. (2018). *Sexual Crime and Circles of Support and Accountability*. Palgrave Macmillan.

145 HM Government (2023). *Britain Makes Internet Safer, as Online Safety Bill Finished and Ready to Become Law*. Department for Science, Innovation and Technology. Press release. Accessed on 01 March 2024.

and, in the many countries that it exists, has shown positive and consistent results, demonstrating that it works in parallel with law enforcement and the broader criminal justice system to reduce reoffending.¹⁴⁶ Law enforcement, especially in Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands, Spain and the UK endorses the CoSA methodology and sees it as a form of good practice.¹⁴⁷

Main findings: The study revealed that many law enforcement initiatives for preventing CSEA concentrate on tertiary and quaternary prevention; however, more work from law enforcement is required to clearly define which of their practices are tertiary and which are quaternary.

Traditional policing and risk-management activities fall into these two categories, but there exist innovative practices in collaboration with social justice partners that reconceptualize these.

Although tertiary and quaternary prevention initiatives are recognized as a pro-social tool by law enforcement, more evidence is needed on their efficacy in addressing the root causes of CSEA and preventing reoffending.

Professional, Practical and Academic Perspectives on Future Developments in the Prevention of CSEA by Law Enforcement

In the interviews, we asked the key informants what they believed law enforcement needed to do to improve its role in CSEA prevention. Much of what was said was similar and focused on several key areas, as outlined in the following:

- Enhanced international cooperation by law enforcement professionals in the prevention of CSEA;
- More accurate, up-to-date and standardized reporting and recording of CSEA by law enforcement within and between countries;
- Proactive campaigning by government and other organizations for the funding, development, implementation and sustainability of CSEA-prevention initiatives for law enforcement;

¹⁴⁶ Elliott, H., Hocken, K., et al. (2018). *Sexual Crime and Circles of Support and Accountability*. Palgrave Macmillan.

¹⁴⁷ Di Gioia, R., & Beslay, L. (2023). *Help Seeker and Perpetrator Prevention Initiatives*.

- Collaborative prevention initiatives involving law enforcement and various organizations and members of the public;
 - Increased community education to improve CSEA reporting to law enforcement;
 - The promotion of child rights- and child-centred approaches to CSEA prevention;
 - Technology-sector collaboration to promote child protection in their business models and develop free-of-charge, accessible and innovative solutions for the prevention of CSEA;
 - Establishing a policy and action plan for CSEA prevention that is not limited to law enforcement and child protection agencies, but involves all relevant parties, along with a formal and informal cooperation system and a dedicated collaboration focal point;
 - The development of relationships between law enforcement and organizations it would not normally engage with (e.g. survivor organizations and therapy providers);
 - The insights of the experts key informants highlight the need for social and cultural change in law enforcement and the need for them to think differently about prevention CSEA.



CONCLUSIONS: GAPS, LIMITATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERVENTIONS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT IN CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION PREVENTION

The current scoping review was provisional in nature, highlighting the complexity and relatively under-developed nature of CASE prevention by law enforcement organizations.

The key findings are as follows:

- Law enforcement organizations need to better understand and define their role in CSEA prevention, especially at the secondary and tertiary levels;
- Law enforcement needs to align to existing national and international CSEA frameworks and act as a partner in developing new ones;
- The majority of CSEA-prevention initiatives by law enforcement organizations are based at the primary, tertiary and quaternary levels;
- The majority of CSEA-prevention initiatives by law enforcement organizations are focused on the community and societal levels of the socio-ecological model;
- Law enforcement tends to lead on tertiary interventions but is usually a partner/collaborator on the other levels;
- Law enforcement needs to consider their involvement in secondary prevention with at-risk groups;
- A better developed and more robust evaluation of law enforcement prevention initiatives is required, especially at the primary and secondary levels, which are under-developed compared to the tertiary and quaternary ones.

It is important to recognize that the CSEA-prevention landscape is multifaceted and complex. This study highlights the positive impact of collaborative prevention initiatives by law enforcement working in synergy with professionals and agencies, both domestically and internationally, to combat child sexual exploitation and abuse. While laudable, these initiatives necessitate innovation and a shift in the narrative to prompt law enforcement to re-evaluate and expand their prevention tactics beyond conventional boundaries, embracing a holistic approach. Furthermore, the study underscores the imperative of evidence gathering, the exchange of promising and good practices and addressing existing gaps and limitations in the current landscape.

This scoping study identified gaps and challenges in the existing law enforcement CSEA provisions and recommendations concerning how to remedy these:

- **Law enforcement's role in changing community attitudes and cultural beliefs towards CSEA prevention:** Community attitudes to CSEA vary widely within and between countries, meaning messaging and engagement with the public needs to be tailored depending on the message and/or issue. Thus, the framing of CSEA prevention, especially secondary prevention with at-risk populations, needs to be considered at a local level, often with input from local stakeholders. Most research and practice linked to CSEA has occurred in countries from the Global North, with the addition of Australia and New Zealand, which means that there is a gap in understanding “what works” in prevention in the Global South. Simply transferring policy and practice from the Global North to the Global South may not be socially or culturally relevant. Hence, each country needs to develop its own bespoke approach to CSEA prevention.

Recommendation: Law enforcement organizations need to work with their national governments, key stakeholders and local communities to develop appropriate national frameworks and implementation plans for CSEA prevention that are fit for purpose in their specific contexts.

- **A lack of trust in law enforcement and their engagement with at-risk populations:** It is also important to recognize that, because of law enforcement's role in society, they may not be trusted by all communities. Thus, law enforcement may not be seen as approachable by the public or members of the at-risk communities. Communities may want to see primary prevention through awareness-raising campaigns and tertiary prevention through risk-management and surveillance plans, but they may struggle to engage with law enforcement in secondary prevention with at-risk populations.

Recommendation: Law enforcement needs to work with communities, especially at-risk communities, to show that they are committed to the prevention of CSEA. This can be done through the development of key policies and practices that enforce a harm-reduction, restorative and therapeutically informed model.

- **CSEA myths held by law enforcement personnel:** Sexual violence and CSEA are embedded in and supported by discriminatory social and cultural values, patterns and practices. The police, prosecutors and judges are not immune to biases, and stereotypes can be seen in their attitudes towards the offences and the victims. These attitudes, in turn, discourage victims from cooperating with law enforcement and hinder prevention and justice outcomes.

Recommendation: Law enforcement officers should be trained in the reality of CSEA, its causes, its impacts, and how to prevent blaming the victim but rather focus on the role of perpetrator. This will demonstrate to society, mainly community members and partner organizations, that law enforcement practices and policies are professional and evidence-based. This can be achieved through improved training and increased pro-social community engagement.

- **Law enforcement personnel's traditional views about their role in CSEA prevention:** One of the main challenges in the development of prevention initiatives, especially those targeting at-risk populations, is changing law enforcement attitudes and beliefs. The development and rollout of situational and environmental CSEA strategies at all prevention stages and at all points in the socio-ecological model are closely aligned to traditional, community-based policing models, so they do not require a cultural shift from organizations or staff; however, this is not the case with community and social interventions aimed at at-risk individuals or victims and survivors. If law enforcement does not understand the need for secondary prevention, it will not be able to effectively enforce it or engage with the public around it. To address this, staff must be trained in the importance of prevention and equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills. By engaging with at-risk populations, they can protect the public, reduce victimization and re-victimization, and reduce CSEA and the number of people being incarcerated. However, to do this, there needs to be a clear socio-cultural framing of the issue and a detailed evidence-based understanding of how law enforcement fits into the prevention framework

and how prevention aligns with the core territories of policing. It is important to state that there has already been a lot of training on CSEA prevention, but it seems to have had a limited impact. Thus, we must consider whether the training topics, delivery, outcomes and engagement need to be changed. It is possible that the issue is not related to the training or delivery, but how the information is processed in relation to daily policing activities and then implemented.

Recommendation: Evidence-informed policies rooted in narratives about the changing landscape of criminal justice are required. They should work towards a more EpiCrim-centred framing and the manner in which they are developed and delivered should be scrutinized.

➤ **Defining secondary prevention behaviours and interventions for law enforcement:**

One of the main challenges of secondary prevention with law enforcement is understanding the threshold between intervention referral and the point of prosecution. Should the point of intervention be before any offending behaviour has occurred, in the early stages of offending behaviour, or when the person has been caught committing a lesser offence? This is a difficult and fluid area, involving many ethical and political complexities, especially for law enforcement organizations.¹⁴⁸ If the law has been broken and a crime committed, then, if it is in the public interest, they are duty-bound to prosecute. However, if they think that an intervention or a diversionary programme is better suited to the individual in question, can they make that decision? What will the public and political reaction be to a diversionary intervention? Determining the point of secondary prevention intervention and the acceptability of low-level offending is a challenging socio-political issue for any type of crime, but especially so for CSEA.

In looking at promising practices in secondary prevention from law enforcement, it became apparent that there were no identifiable interpersonal law enforcement initiatives, that is, initiatives aimed at understanding the relationship between the children at risk of CSEA and the individuals at risk of committing it. If these interventions exist in other areas of interpersonal violence, why is there a gap here?

¹⁴⁸ McCartan, K F., Merdian, H., Perkins, D., & Kettlebrough, D. (2018). *The ethics of secondary prevention approaches with individuals at risk of committing sexual harm*. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 62(9), 2548-2566.

Recommendation: As part of law enforcement's development of a theory of change around CSEA prevention, particular attention needs to be paid to its role in secondary prevention, especially as regards working with people at risk of committing a CSEA-related offence. This needs to be done in a careful, considered and collaborative manner. It is important that law enforcement consider the role of protected characteristics and vulnerable populations in CSEA prevention and how this might impact their decision making.

➤ **Illustrating that prevention is a continuum not a series of separate stages:**

This scoping study reinforces existing research findings¹⁴⁹ in that CSEA prevention in general, and in relation to law enforcement in particular, is nuanced and exists on a continuum rather than in distinct, progressive stages. Many of the prevention strategies used by law enforcement can, and do, exist in different prevention stages (e.g. primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary) especially when situational and environmental approaches are used. Thus, it is difficult to disentangle them and categorize them into distinct prevention and/or socio-ecological stages. Therefore, rather than trying to align existing prevention interventions to distinct stages or audiences, law enforcement needs to look at and address the gaps in prevention and work to build new interventions at these stages (e.g. the interpersonal as well as the secondary and quaternary). In many of these interventions, law enforcement plays a supporting and partnership role, whereby they assist other organizations in service delivery and help them with signposting, referrals and advice. As opposed to being a lead organization, this may be the most appropriate way from law enforcement to engage in CSEA prevention. The fact that different intervention types can have different prevention stages and formats in the socio-ecological model is important because it reflects the complex and nuanced nature of CSEA. Law enforcement needs to consider the array of audiences it reaches with its prevention activities and consider the best way to achieve its goals. This may mean considering who to partner with and adapting or extending existing interventions.

¹⁴⁹ McCartan, K., & Kemshall, H. (2023). *Incorporating Quaternary Prevention: Understanding the Full Scope of Public Health Practices in Sexual Abuse Prevention*. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 67(2-3), 224–246.

Recommendation: Law enforcement organizations need to review all CSEA-prevention interventions that they are involved in and identify the gaps in their provisions. This should be followed by a genuine conversation about whether they are the right organization to provide these interventions, and whether they should lead or be a partner. Moreover, law enforcement should create a development fund for the creation of new CSEA-prevention initiatives.

➤ **Improved data collection and evaluation for law enforcement CSEA**

prevention: One of the biggest gaps highlighted in this scoping study is the lack of coherent, robust and comparable evaluation data with which to better understand CSEA prevention. When assessing the four prevention levels, tertiary preventions have the best and most robust data. This is because they are the most common and oldest form of CSEA prevention. The research evidence base linked to secondary CSEA preventions is particularly weak as they generally comprise small-scale, time-limited studies that are based on demographic data and, as such, do not provide robust evidence for policy or practice decisions. There needs to be coherent rationale for secondary prevention in law enforcement with at-risk populations, as there are currently no key performance indicators/success criteria. Typically, in law enforcement, success, failure and interventions are measured using the blunt measures of arrests, charges and recalls; however, these are not useful for secondary preventions, which need more nuanced harm-reduction measures.

Recommendation: Law enforcement organizations need to identify the key outcomes of their CSEA-prevention interventions and then develop a series of research and evaluation tools that enable them to capture these in the most effective way. Law enforcement must work with other organizations to do this so that the correct data are collected in the most appropriate way.

REFERENCES

- Assini-Meytin L. C., Fix R. L., Letourneau E. J. (2020). *Child Sexual Abuse: The Need for a Perpetration Prevention Focus*. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 29(1), 22–40. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10538712.2019.1703232>
- Australian Government (2023). *The National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032*. Australian Government, Department of Social Services.
- Basford, Sims, C., Agar, I., Hariinan, V., & Strang, H. (2021). *Effects of One-a-Day Foot Patrols on Hot Spots of Serious Violence and Crime Harm: A Randomised Crossover Trial*. *Camb J Evid Based Polic* 5, 119–133. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41887-021-00067-2>
- Bern Cantonal Police. (Nd). *Prevention in Schools*. Bern Cantonal Police website.
- Bradley A. (2017). *Trauma-Informed Practice: Exploring the Role of Adverse Life Experiences on the Behaviour of Offenders and the Effectiveness of Associated Criminal Justice Strategies*. Doctoral thesis, Northumbria University. <http://nrl.northumbria.ac.uk/36275/>
- Brown J. (2017). *Public Health, Prevention and Risk Management*. In McCartan K., Kemshall H. (Eds.), *Contemporary Sex Offender Risk Management, Volume 1 Perceptions* (pp. 35–60). Palgrave Studies in Risk, Crime and Society, Palgrave MacMillan.
- Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2004a). *Sexual Violence Prevention: Beginning the Dialogue*. Retrieved 17 December 2020 from <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pub/svprevention.html>
- Charite (2024). The Prevention Network Dunkelfeld. Website accessed on 29 March 2024 via https://sexualmedizin.charite.de/en/research/prevention_network_dunkelfeld/
- Charite (2024). *Troubled Desire*. Website accessed on 29 March 2024 via <https://troubled-desire.com/en/>
- Cheshire Constabulary (May 2022). *Protecting and defending young children focus of Cheshire Constabulary operation*. Cheshire Constabulary News. <https://www.birkenhead.news/protecting-and-defending-young-children-focus-of-cheshire-constabulary-operation/>
- Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation: A Mapping Update, Towards a Knowledge Platform*. JRC scientific information systems and database report. European Commission.

- Cid, J., & Martí, J. (2017). *Imprisonment, Social Support, and Desistance: A Theoretical Approach to Pathways of Desistance and Persistence for Imprisoned Men*. *Int J Offender Ther Comp Criminol*. 61(13):1433-1454. doi: 10.1177/0306624X15623988.
- Colding, J., & Barthel, S. (2019). *Exploring the Social-Ecological Systems Discourse 20 Years Later*. *Ecology and Society*, 24(1). <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26796920>
- Colombian National Police. *Intensificamos Campanas para Prevenir el Abuso Sexual Contra Menores*. Colombian Police Website.
- Cure Violence (2024). *Cure Violence: Mission*. Available at <https://cvg.org/about/#mission> (accessed on 25 February 2024).
- Cure Violence Global (2021). *The Evidence of Effectiveness*. Cure Violence.
- Di Gioia, R., Besley, L., Cassar, A., & Pawula, A. (2022). *Classification Criteria for Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention Programmes*. JRC Technical Report. European Commission.
- Dufour I., Brassard R., Martel J. (2015). *An Integrative Approach to Apprehend Desistance*. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 59, 480–501. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0306624X13509781>
- ECPAT International (2015). *Rapport Global de Suivi – Madagascar*. ECPAT International.
- ECPAT International (2023). *(Child) Sex Offender Registry: Working Paper*. ECPAT International.
- Ellefsen, H. B., Bjørkelo, B., Sunde, I. M., & Fyfe, N. R. (2023). *Unpacking Preventive Policing: Towards a Holistic Framework*. *International Journal of Police Science & Management*, 25(2), 196–207. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14613557231163403>
- Elliott, H., Hocken, K., Lievesley, R., Blagden, N., Winder, B., & Banyard, P. (2018). *Sexual Crime and Circles of Support and Accountability*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Eradicating Child Sexual Abuse (2024). *Eradicating Child Sexual Abuse Toolkit*. Lucy Faithful Foundation. <https://ecsa.lucyfaithfull.org/>
- Fisher-Kowalski M. (2015). *Social Ecology*. In Wright J. D. (Ed.), *International Encyclopaedia of the Social & Behavioural Sciences* (2nd ed., pp. 254–262). Elsevier.
- Frédéric Favre, State Counsellor. Head of the Department of Security, Institutions and Sport. (4 February 2021). Support for press conference on strengthening the prevention of sexual violence children and young people.
- Gewirtz-Meydan A., & Finkelhor D. (2020). *Sexual Abuse and Assault in a Large National Sample of Children and Adolescents*. *Child Maltreat*. May; 25(2): 203-214. doi: 10.1177/1077559519873975. Epub 2019 Sep 16. PMID: 31526040.

- Di Gioia, R., & Beslay, L. (2023). *Help Seeker and Perpetrator Prevention Initiatives*. Gobierno de Ecuador, *Policia Nacional Brinda Capacitaciones a la Ciudadania para Prevenir y Denunciar el Abuso Infantil*. Government of Ecuador website.
- Hamilton-Giachritsis, C., Hanson, E. Whittle, H., and Beech, A. (2018). *Everyone Deserves to Be Happy and Safe*. NSPCC.
- Hanitra R. (June 2022). *Madagascar: GBV - Toliara's Women's Brigade and PMPM Receive Equipment*. AllAfrica.
- Hawke, A., & Raphael, A. (2016). *Offenders on the Move: Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism*. ECPAT International. <https://ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Global-ReportOffenders-on-the-Move.pdf>
- Hirvinen, K. (2013). *Uusi Suunta-yksilöohjelma seksuaalirikoksista tuomituille- Ohjelmakäsikirjan käytettävyyys työntekijöiden kokemana* (Doctoral dissertation).
- HM Government (2023). *Britain Makes Internet Safer, as Online Safety Bill Finished and Ready to Become Law*. Department for Science, Innovation and Technology. Press release. Accessed on 01 March 2024 from <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/britain-makes-internet-safer-as-online-safety-bill-finished-and-ready-to-become-law>
- Home Office (2021). *Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Strategy*. Policy paper. Home Office.
- <https://troubled-desire.com/en/>
- International Association of Chiefs of Police. (2016). *Combating Child Sex Trafficking: A Guide for Law Enforcement Leaders*. Washington, DC: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.
- Internet Watch Foundation (2023). *IWF Annual Report 2022 #BehindTheScreens*. Internet Watch Foundation.
- Kemshall H. (2017). *The Historical Evolution of Sex Offender Risk Management*. In McCartan K., Kemshall H. (Eds.), *Contemporary Sex offender management* (Vol. 1, pp. 205–230). Palgrave MacMillan.
- Kemshall H. (2017a). *The Historical Evolution of Sex Offender Risk Management*. In McCartan K., Kemshall H. (Eds.), *Contemporary Sex Offender Management* (Vol. 1, pp. 205–230). Palgrave MacMillan.
- Kemshall H., Moulden H. M. (2017). *Communicating about Child Sexual Abuse with the Public: Learning the Lessons from Public Awareness Campaigns*. *Journal of Sexual Aggression*, 23, 124–138. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13552600.2016.1222004>

Kemshall, H. & Wood, J. (2009). *Community Strategies for Managing High-Risk Offenders: The Contribution of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements*. In A. Beech, L. Craig and K. Browne (eds). *Assessment and treatment of sex offenders: A handbook*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Knack N., Winder B., Murphy L., Fedoroff J. P. (2019). *Primary and Secondary Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse*. *International Review of Psychiatry*, 31(2), 181–194. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09540261.2018.1541872>

Lainer, M.M. (2010). *Epidemiological Criminology (EpiCrim): Definition and Application*. *Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Criminology*, 2(1), pp. 63–103.

Le Point (2023). *Au Danemark, la police patrouille sur internet*. Le Point. Accessed on 27 February 2024 via https://www.lepoint.fr/monde/au-danemark-la-police-patrouille-sur-internet-30-06-2023-2526919_24.php#11

Leavell H., Clark E. (1958). *Preventive Medicine for the Doctor in His Community: An Epidemiologic Approach* (1st ed.). McGraw-Hill.

Letourneau E. (2017). *Watch My TEDMED Talk on Child Sexual Abuse Prevention: Prevention Is the Only Way to End Victimization*. *Psychology Today*. Retrieved 27 January 2021 from <https://www.psychologytoday.com/intl/blog/prevention-now/201709/watch-my-tedmed-talkchild-sexual-abuse-prevention>

Letourneau E. J., Eaton W. W., Bass J., Berlin F. S., Moore S. G. (2014). *The Need for a Comprehensive Public Health Approach to Preventing Child Sexual Abuse*. *Public Health Reports*, 129(3), 222–228.

Letourneau, E., & Malone, I. (2023). *America Has Been Going about Stopping Child Sex Abuse the Wrong Way*. *Time*. Accessed on 4 February 2024 from <https://time.com/6253908/america-child-sex-abuse-prevention/>

Lundrigan, S., Mann, N., & Specht, D. (2023). *The National MAPPA Research: Proven Reoffending Report*. Policing institute for the eastern region.

Maruna S., Mann R. (2019). *Reconciling 'Desistance' and 'What Works'*. HMIP academic insights 2019/1. Manchester; HMIP. Retrieved on 2 February 2021 from <https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmiprobation/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2019/02/Academic-Insights-Maruna-and-Mann-Feb-19-final.pdf>

Massachusetts Citizens for Children. (2010). *Enough Abuse Campaign: Join the Movement*. Retrieved on 6 January 2021 from http://www.enoughabuse.org/index.php?option=com_contentandview=articleandid=18andItemid=22

McCartan K. F., Merdian H. L., Perkins D. E., Kettleborough D. (2018). *Ethics and Issues of Secondary Prevention Efforts in Child Sexual Abuse*. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 62, 2548–2566. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0306624X17723951>

- McCartan K., Gotch K. (2020). *International Approaches to the Management of Perpetrators of Sexual Harm Policy*. In Proulx J., Cortoni F., Craig L., Letourneau E. (Eds.), *The Wiley Handbook of what works with sexual offenders: Contemporary perspectives in theory, assessment, treatment, and prevention*. (pp. 441–454). Wiley.
- McCartan K., Uzieblo K., Smid W. J. (2021). *Professionals' Understandings of and Attitudes to the Prevention of Sexual Abuse: An International Exploratory Study*. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 65, 815–831. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0306624X20919706>
- McCartan, K. (2022). *Refining Processes in Policy and Practice in Working with People Accused or Convicted of a Sexual Offence*. HM Inspectorate of Probation.
- McCartan, K. & Kemshall, H. (2020). *The Potential Role of Recovery Capital in Stopping Sexual Offending: Lessons from Circles of Support and Accountability to Enrich Practice*. *Irish Probation Journal*, 17, pp. 87–106.
- McCartan, K. F., Kemshall, H., & Tabachnick, J. (2015). *The Construction of Community Understandings of Sexual Violence: Rethinking Public, Practitioner and Policy Discourses*. *Journal of Sexual Aggression*, 21(1), 100–116. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13552600.2014.945976>
- McCartan, K., & Kemshall, H. (2023). *Incorporating Quaternary Prevention: Understanding the Full Scope of Public Health Practices in Sexual Abuse Prevention*. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 67(2-3), 224–246. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0306624X2110492>
- McCartan, K., & Senker, S. (2023). *Evaluation of Operation Topaz*. UWE Bristol & Avon & Somerset Police.
- McCartan, K., Constant, S., & Beg, Z. (2023). *Technical Considerations for the Development of (Child) Sex Offender Registries*. ECPAT International.
- McGee, T., & Farrington, D. (2019). *Developmental and Life-Course Theories of Crime*. *Criminology & Criminal Justice* accessed at <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190264079.013.250>
- Ministry of Justice (2014). *Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA): Guidance*. Ministry of Justice.
- Munro-Kramer, M. L., Morris, K., Duma, S., Akinyemi, A., Kamusoko, S., Chamisa, J. A., David, D. S., Owusu-Antwi, R., Omolo, T., M. Darteh, E. K., Randa, M. B., & Compton, S. B. (2024). *Barriers and Opportunities for Gender-Based Violence Prevention & Response at Universities in Sub-Saharan Africa*. *Journal of Sexual Aggression*, DOI: 10.1080/13552600.2024.2328055
- National Office for Child Safety (2021). *National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021–2030: An initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Government*. National Office for Child Safety.

National Police Chiefs Council (2023). *National Analysis of Police-Recorded Child Sexual Abuse & Exploitation (CSEA) Crimes Report*. Vulnerability Knowledge & Practice Program. National Police Chiefs Council.

New Zealand Government (2021). *Te Aorerekura: The Enduring*.

NSPCC (2023). *Together for Childhood: Annual Report 2023*. NSPCC.

NSPCC (2024). *Together for Childhood*. NSPCC. Accessed on 29 February via <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/our-services/together-for-childhood/>

Pringer, S. M., & Wagner, N. J. (2020). *Use of Trauma-Informed Care with Incarcerated Offenders*. *Journal of Addictions & Offender Counseling*, 41(1), 52–64. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jaoc.12075>

Protect and Prevent Through Support (2024). *Protect and Prevent Through Support*. Accessed on 29 February 2024 via <https://2ps-project.eu/>

Protection et droits de l'enfant - AINA, Enfance & Avenir (ainaenfance.org).

Public Health Agency of Canada (2018). *Provincial and Territorial Child Protection Legislation and Policy 2018*. Public Health Agency of Canada.

Public Health England. (2019). *Health and Justice Annual Review - 2018 to 2019* (publishing.service.gov.uk). Retrieved 17 February 2021 from https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/817850/Public_Health_England_Health_and_Justice_Annual_Review_2018-2019.pdf

Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland (2022). *PPANI ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22*. Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland.

Radford, L., Allnock, D., & Hynes, P. (2015). *Promising Programmes to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation*. UNICEF.

Regional Committee for Africa, 54. (2011). *Child Sexual Abuse: A Silent Health Emergency: Report of the Regional Director*. <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/1878>

Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (2017). *Final Information Update*. Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. Accessed on 28 February 2024 https://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/sites/default/files/final_information_update.pdf

Rusell, D., Higgins, D., & Posso, A. (2020). *Preventing Child Sexual Abuse: A Systematic Review of Interventions and Their Efficacy in Developing Countries*. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 102, 104395.

Scottish Government (2021). *National Action Plan to Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation: Final Report*. Children and Families Directorate, Scottish Government.

Scottish Government (2022). *Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements*

(MAPPA) in Scotland: National Overview Report 2021/2022. Scottish Government.

Senker, S., Eason, A., Pawson, C., & McCartan, K. (2023). *Issues, Challenges and Opportunities for Trauma-Informed Practice*. HMI Probation.

Smallbone, S., Marshall, W. L., & Wortley, R. (2008). *Preventing Child Sexual Abuse: Evidence, Policy and Practice*. Willan Publishing.

Solehati, T., Ramanda Fikri, A., Kosasih, C., Hermayanti, Y., & Mediani, H. (2022). *The Current Preventing of Child Sexual Abuse: A Scoping Review*. *Social Sciences*, 11(11), 508. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci11110508>

Spirit of Affection. The National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence. New Zealand Government.

Stop It Now. (2024). The Stop It Now Helpline. Website accessed on 29 March 2024 via <https://www.stopitnow.org.uk/helpline/>

Stop It Now Netherlands. (2024). The Stop It Now Helpline. Website accessed on 29 March 2024 via <https://stopitnow.nl/>

Stop It Now USA. (2024). The Stop It Now Helpline. Website accessed on 29 March 2024 via <https://www.stopitnow.org/help-guidance/get-help-now>

Sutton, A., Cherney, A., White, R., & Clancey, G. (2021). *Crime Prevention: Principles, Perspectives and Practices*. Cambridge University Press.

Tabachnick, J., & Klein, A. (2011). *A Reasoned Approach: Reshaping Sex Offender Policy to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse*. Oregon: Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers.

The Centers for Disease Control. (2024). *Fast Facts: Preventing Sexual Violence*. The Center for Disease Control. Accessed on 27 February 2024 via <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/fastfact.html>

Tyagi S, Karande S. (2-12). *Child Sexual Abuse in India: A Wake-Up Call*. *J PostgradMed*;67(3):125-129. doi: 10.4103/jpgm.JPGM_264_21. PMID: 34380802; PMCID: PMC8445113.

U.S. Department of Justice. (2023). *National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction*. U.S. Department of Justice

UNICEF. (2020). *Action to End Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation: A Review of the Evidence*. UNICEF.

UNICEF. (2021). *Global Annual Results Report 2021: Every Child Is Protected from Violence and Exploitation*. UNICEF. Accessed on 28 February 2024 via <https://www.unicef.org/reports/global-annual-results-2021-goal-area-3>

UNICEF. (nd.). *Brief on the Social Ecological Model*. UNICEF. Accessed on 25 February 2024 via <https://www.unicef.org/media/135011/file/Global%20multisectoral%20operational%20framework.pdf>

United Nations. (2014). *United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*. United Nations, General Assembly, A/C.3/69/L.5*.

United Nations. (2020). *No Country Is Free from Child Sexual Abuse, Exploitation, UN's Top Rights Forum Hears*. UN News, 3 March 2020. Accessed on 25 February 2024 via <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/03/1058501>

United Nations. (2024). *The UN Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime*. United Nations. Accessed on 25 February 2024 via <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/cpcj-crimeprevention-home.html>

Wager, N., Myers, A., & Parkinson, D. (2021). *Police Disruption of Child Sexual Abuse: A Scoping Review*. Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse.

Ward, C. L., Artz, I., Leoschut, I., Kassanje, R., & Burton, P. (2018). *Sexual Violence against Children in South Africa: A Nationally Representative Cross-Sectional Study of Prevalence and Correlates*. *The Lancet, Global Health*, 6(4), 460 -468. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(18\)30060-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(18)30060-3)

WeProtect Global Alliance. (2022). *Framing the Future: How the Model National Response Framework Is Supporting National Efforts to End Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Online*. WeProtect Global Alliance.

Williams, L.C.A., D'Affonseca, S.M. (2022). *Child Sexual Abuse in Brazil: Awareness, Legal Aspects, and Examples of Prevention Strategies*. In: Deb, S. (eds) *Child Safety, Welfare and Well-Being*. Springer, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-9820-0_28

Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Organised Crime Unit. (2017). *Nimos Safeguarding Evaluation*. Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Organised Crime Unit.

ANNEXES

Appendix 1: Methodology

Guiding questions: Law enforcement and crime prevention activities linked to the prevention of child sexual exploitation

Introduction

The sexual abuse and exploitation of children are widespread issues that impact children of all genders, regardless of location. According to the WHO, one in five girls and one in thirteen boys report being sexually abused, with boys and children with a diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (SOGIE) also being affected. Various factors drive sexual abuse and exploitation, including harmful social norms, gender roles and religious and cultural practices. These factors not only contribute to the prevalence of abuse but also create barriers for children to receive essential services and the justice they deserve. Sadly, sexual violence and exploitation can occur in various settings, including the home, schools, communities, workplaces and online. While advancements in travel, tourism and technology offer development opportunities, they also increase the vulnerability of children to exploitation and abuse.

Although children of any gender identity may face varying risks of sexual abuse and exploitation based on their individual vulnerability factors, the impact on their physical, emotional and mental well-being can be significant and long-lasting. This can hinder their ability to reach their full potential. Children who have experienced maltreatment, including sexual abuse and exploitation, often struggle with depression, anxiety, PTSD, and behavioural problems. According to the WHO's *Global Status Report on Preventing Violence against Children 2020*, adults who were sexually and physically abused as children are at a higher risk of experiencing and perpetrating intimate partner violence. Similarly, children who have experienced online sexual abuse and exploitation may also struggle with feelings of self-blame, shame and anger.

Rather than assuming it is inevitable and focusing solely on response and recovery, ECPAT International and its networks believe that we need to shift our focus to preventing violence before it occurs. The priority for future development should be a model that aims to prevent this abuse from happening in the first place. Under the Down to Zero (DtZ) project Children in All of Their Diversity are Better Protected from Sexual Exploitation, this global review is intended to provide advocacy recommendations for law enforcement and civil societies to work

together on effective crime-prevention strategies, specifically to end the sexual abuse and exploitation of children. It identifies good practices and analyzes the gaps and potential for national and international police cooperation initiatives and programmes.

Guiding Questions:

- Please record the demographics of the participant, including *gender, qualifications, role, time in role, country of employment*.
- Could you please explain your role in the organization that you work in and how your organization works to prevent child sexual exploitation?
- What are the main challenges you, and your organization, face in working in the field of child sexual exploitation?
- What language (i.e. words, phrases, terms) are used to discuss people who have committed child sexual exploitation in your country of employment? (*Follow up by asking about public, media and professional attitudes, language and opinions*).
- Do you think that crime prevention (in general) is a central part of law enforcement activities in your organization and country?
- Do you think that prevention of child sexual exploitation is a central part of your organization's core business? Why? Is it a core part of your role?
- Do you think that there is a good understanding and knowledge about child sexual exploitation prevention in your country? Why or why not? (*Follow up by asking about professionals, public, media, etc.*).
 - How do you think we can better involve communities and other civil-society stakeholders in crime-prevention strategies related to child sexual abuse and exploitation?
- Can you please discuss the existing reporting mechanisms, promising practices and challenges in the prevention of child sexual exploitation in your country and organization?

I am going to ask you some questions regarding the scale, type and forms of child sexual exploitation prevention initiatives available in your organization and/or country. [Note: Whether a practice targets children/offenders of all genders or only men/girls, etc.]

- Are you aware of any police- based (or other justice service providers) child sexual exploitation prevention interventions accessible to the public (e.g. awareness-raising campaigns or law enforcement interventions)? If so, can you comment on whether these have been successful not. Please qualify your answer with evidence.
 - Are you aware of any police-based (or other justice service providers) child sexual exploitation prevention interventions specifically addressing particularly vulnerable children or communities, such as indigenous populations (e.g. collaborations between professionals working with children at risk)? If so, can you comment on whether these have been successful not. Please qualify your answer with evidence.
 - Are you aware of any police-based (or other justice service providers) child sexual exploitation prevention interventions targeting individuals who have committed a sexual offence against a child aimed at preventing them from reoffending (e.g. restorative justice programmes, fines, rehabilitation for prisoners)? If so, can you comment on whether these have been successful not. Please qualify your answer with evidence.
 - Are you aware of any police-based (or other justice service providers) child sexual exploitation prevention intervention targeting individuals who have not committed a sexual offence against a child aimed at preventing them from first-time offending? If so, can you comment on whether these have been successful not. Please qualify your answer with evidence.
 - Are you aware of any innovative technologies or data-driven approaches that you believe could significantly impact the effectiveness of police cooperation and prevention models worldwide?
- Can you give examples of child sexual exploitation prevention practices in your partner organizations?
 - Do you feel that child sexual exploitation prevention initiatives imported from other countries can work in your country? Can you give examples of when they have and have not worked?

- What do you believe are the key elements for the success concerning a crime prevention intervention related to child sexual abuse and exploitation?
- How do you measure the success of child sexual exploitation programmes in your organization and country?
- What do law enforcement authorities value most about their current work in dealing with any form of child sexual exploitation?
- Do you have a plan to further develop child sexual exploitation prevention approaches in your organization and/or country? (This can lead to questions about commitment, funding, access, victim type, offence type, potential offender type, etc., depending on what they say).
- Are there lessons learned from your experiences that could inform the development of policies and strategies for police cooperation and prevention in other countries?

Annex 2: UNICEF Theory of Change



Annex 3: UNICEF Checklist for CSEA National Framework Development

Checklist for creating an enabling national framework

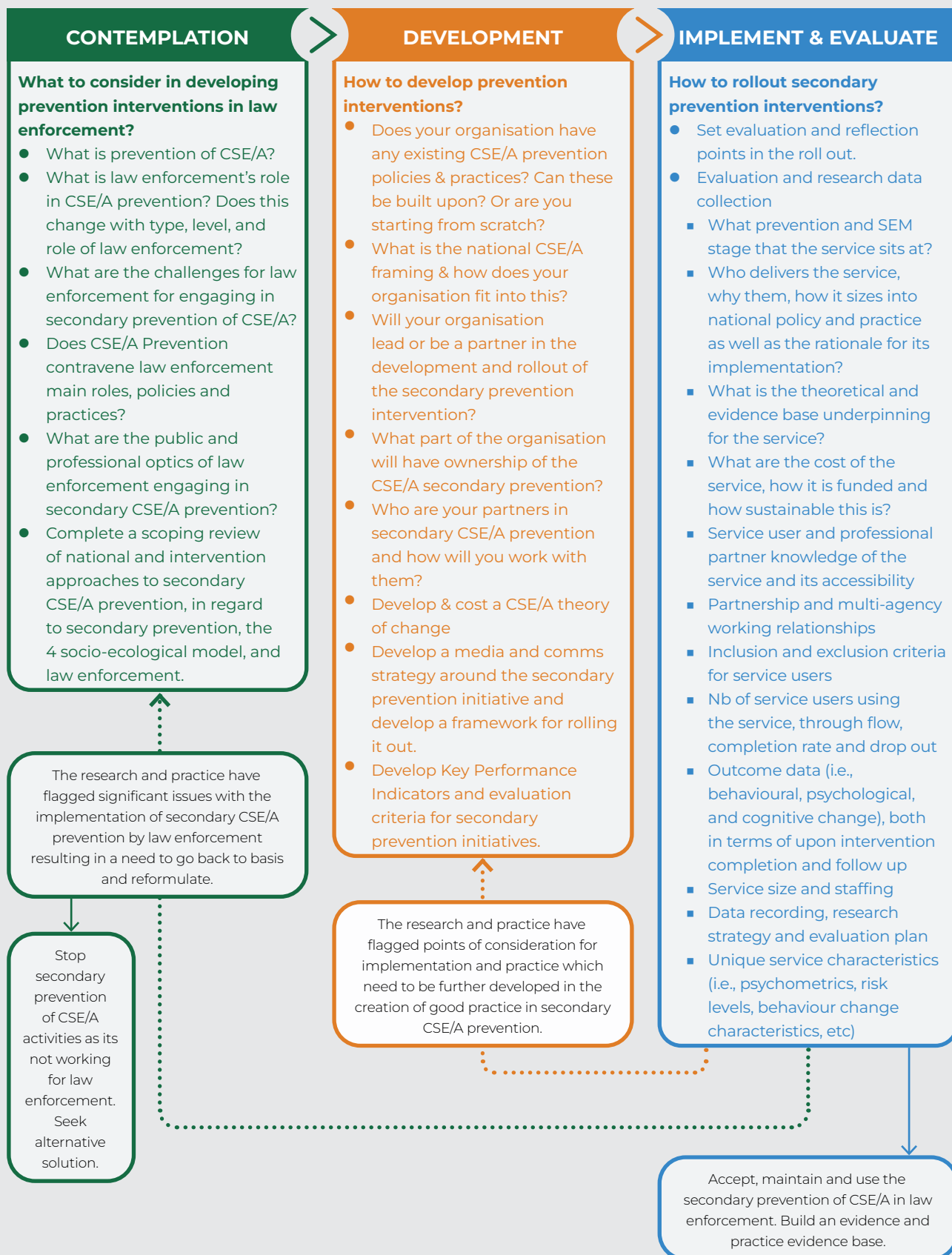
1. Government has signed and ratified: CRC, OPSC, Trafficking Protocol, ILO Convention 182 and 138 and is compliant with UN *Model Strategies and Proctical Measures on the Elimination of Violence Against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, 2014*.
2. Government has signed and ratified relevant regional regulatory instruments.
3. Government has complied with reporting obligations under the relevant regional instruments.
4. Reservations that restrict the rights of the child have been removed.
5. Legislation exists to regulate early and forced marriage.
6. Definitions of child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation are founded on definitions in CRC, OPSC, the Trafficking Protocol, Lanzarote Convention.
7. Legislation or policy ensures that children involved in prostitution are treated as victims of sexual exploitation; legislation exists to decriminalize status offences and survival behaviours.
8. Legislation exists that covers identification of victims of child sexual abuse and exploitation and provides reporting powers and responsibilities.
9. Legislation specifically prohibits violence against children including sexual abuse and exploitation using ICTs, secures online protection and child-friendly methods for reporting online abuse, and provides effective remedies for recovery and reintegration.
10. Legislative provisions are adequately enforced, especially confronting perpetrator impunity.

11. There is outcome-focused monitoring of the impact of policy and legislation including any conflicting policies and perverse or harmful consequences.
12. A financially assessed, time-bound national plan or strategy exists to address violence against children that makes specific reference to plans for the prevention and response to child sexual abuse and exploitation.
13. National plan and actions are based on robust evidence gathered on the prevalence, nature, consequences of the problem as well as robust evidence on which children are most vulnerable, who the perpetrators are and the causes/risks in context.
14. The national plan makes specific reference to protecting the most disadvantaged children from sexual abuse and exploitation.
15. There are policies to regulate violence against children in schools and places of learning that include child sexual abuse and exploitation.
16. The plan covers a child-friendly system for reporting.
17. The plan calls for robust mapping of services to inform future capacity-building.
18. There are coordination mechanisms at national and local levels, and the lead agency has been identified to coordinate and evaluate national strategy.
19. Powers and legal clarity exist on data sharing for child protection purposes across different organisations.
20. There is dissemination of knowledge, awareness-raising and training on law, policy and multisector responsibilities among professionals and policy makers.
21. National guidance exists for coordination of multisector responsibilities exists.
22. Communication and engagement processes include child participation, children's rights organizations, faith groups, NGOs, families, men and boys.

Annex 4: WeProtect Global Alliance’s Model National Response



Annex 5: Key Considerations for Planning, Implementing and Evaluating Secondary Prevention CSE/A Activities





328/1 Phaya Thai Road,
Ratchathewi, Bangkok,
10400, Thailand

Telephone: +662 215 3388
Email: info@ecpat.org
Website: www.ecpat.org

For more information :

