Graham – Statistic Laundering References & Endnotes

Ipce's webmaster notes:

In the htlm version nearly all links are incomplete; most of the end with "....". So this version is without any link.

[*1]. "Filters needed to battle child porn", Bernadette McMenamin, CEO of ChildWise (ECPAT in Australia), Opinion, in The Australian, 8 January 2008

For information concerning why the above opinion article generated a high level of controversy, see:

Reader comments at the end of the opinion article, and/or the following articles and reader comments:

- ^o "Those magick child porn filters...", Stilgherrian, 9 January 2008
- ^o Ms McMenamin's subsequent remarks, including retraction of support for the government's wide-ranging mandatory ISP filtering plan, published at: "Child Wise's Bernadette McMenamin on Internet filtering", Stilgherrian, 14 January 2008
- "Angry geeks: 'Don't waste money on internet filters'", Stilgherrian/Crikey.com, 17 January 2008
- "The futility of censorship in the Internet age", Jon Seymour, Broadbanned Revolution, 16 January 2008

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"Safe at last: porn squad rescues girl from life of torture", Michael McKenna, The Australian, 20 June 2008

She was a girl most police around the world thought had been lost to the violent hand of her abuser.

As a Queensland-led investigation smashed the oldest and most sophisticated internet pedophile ring ever known, the tortured face of the child haunted law enforcement agencies in 20 countries, who had been unable to find out who she was, where she lived and how to rescue her.

[*12]. Chat: Police officer from Task Force 'Argos', Jon Rouse, 60 Minutes/NineMSN, 17 September 2007

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The U.S. Customs Service estimates that there are more than 100,000 Web sites offering child pornography--which is illegal worldwide.

"Business must not tolerate child porn", 'by staff', Red Herring Magazine, 2 Jan 2002

An estimated 100,000 Web sites sell illegal sexual images of children

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"A danger to the nation's children", Frank Furedi ((Professor of Sociology at the University of Kent and author of Paranoid Parenting, Politics of Fear, etc.), Spiked Online, 19 January 2004

If you want to get a story circulating in the media, all you have to do is get some numbers, call it research and put out a press release. ...

In contemporary times, advocacy research provides one of the principal instruments for gaining publicity for a cause. And publicity is what advocacy is all about. The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children is one of the most successful advocacy organisations in the UK. In recent decades the NSPCC has become a lobby group devoted to publicising its peculiar brand of anti-parent propaganda and promoting itself. ...

"Why this NSPCC advert is harmful to children", John Rayner, The Guardian, 8 August 1999

[*29]. Usenet is a world-wide distribution system for shared discussion/dissemination of information which has existed since 1980 (over a decade before the Web was invented). Usenet involves some 30,000 active newsgroups, and some 70,000 others which are defunct or mis-spellings of other group names (according to Australian ISP, Internode, at May 2008). Usenet operates via a decentralized global network of Usenet news servers (NNTP), not web servers (HTTP), hosted by ISPs and third party Usenet services (some of which charge a fee). When a message is posted to a Usenet news server, it is stored locally on that server and copies are automatically distributed to other Usenet news servers around the world. Accessing a Usenet news server requires use of news reader software (not a web browser, although some web browsers and email software also have a news reader built in). Messages stored on a Usenet news server expire (are deleted) after a number of days set by the ISP or other news server host. A Usenet news server host can choose to carry (make available) all newsgroups, or only some of them. Usenet was originally designed for the transmission of text messages, but subsequent developments enabled its use for posting/sharing binary files (images, music files, etc).

[*30]. "Child Sex Abuse and the Internet", John Carr, Children and Technology Unit, NCH (formerly National Children's Home), London, England, July 2003

[*31]. NSPCC commissioned report: "Images of Abuse: A Review of the Evidence on Child Pornography", Emma Renold (Author), Susan J. Creighton (Author), Chris Atkinson (Editor), John Carr (Editor), October 2003

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'Images of Abuse - A review of the evidence on child pornography', NSPCC. This NSPCC report summarises the findings of a literature review of past and current knowledge on child pornography. It estimates that 20,000 images of child pornography are posted on the internet every week. [*33]. "20,000 child porn images a week put on internet, says NSPCC", Maxine Frith, The Independent (London), 8 October 2003

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(States: A recent study by the [NSPCC] indicates that approximately 20,000 images of child pornography are posted on the Internet every week.)

[*36]. "Child abuse, child pornography and the Internet", John Carr, NCH (formerly National Children's Home), London, December 2003

Note 1: The Carr paper above makes a number of claims about Operation Ore. For other information, see:

 "Operation Ore flawed by fraud", Duncan Campbell, The Guardian U.K. 19 April 2007:

The high-profile crackdown on internet child porn has claimed lives and destroyed reputations. But fresh evidence says the police got it wrong

 "Fatal flaws in Operation Ore - the full story", Duncan Campbell, PC Pro Magazine U.K., 10 May 2007

[*37]. Examples of U.S. State Attorneys' media releases:

- ^o U.S. Attorney District of Minnesota, Press releases, 12 Sep 2006 and 23 Feb 2007
- ° U.S. Attorney Northern District of Alabama, Press release, 1 Mar 2007

(All of the above state: According to the U.S. Department of Justice ... In addition, more than 20,000 images of child pornography are posted on the Internet every week.)

- [*38]. See Note 1, B. McMenamin 8 Jan 2008.
- [*39]. See Note 29, J Carr, NCH, July 2003.
- [*40]. See Note 35, J Carr, NCH, December 2003.
- [*41]. See Note 35, J Carr, NCH, December 2003.

[*42]. "Abusive Images of Children and the Internet: Research from the COPINE Project", M. Taylor and E. Quayle, in Medical and Legal Aspects of Child Sexual Exploitation. A Comprehensive Review of Child Pornography, Child Prostitution, and Internet Crimes Against Children, edited by Cooper et al. GW Medical Publishing, St Louis, USA. (2005)

In the 6-week period from August to mid-September 2002, the COPINE Project downloaded a total of 140917 child images files from the Usenet newsgroups monitored by the project. More than 35000 of these images were images not contained within the COPINE archive of more than 500000 images. Almost 30000 of the new images were from identifiable Web sites (containing a reference to a Web site in the image). In the remaining images, 20 new children (9 girls, 11 boys) were categorised at Level 7 or above (COPINE categorizing scale). This represents a considerable increase from previous years in amount of abusive images and the number of children involved in highly abusive images. This level of activity was largely sustained in 2003.

Note: All that can be concluded from the information in the above paper is that: 140,917 child images files were downloaded during 6 weeks and some number of those depicted child sexual abuse.

Almost 35,000 of the images had not been seen by the COPINE researchers before, and almost 30,000 of those previously unseen images were from identifiable Web sites (containing a reference to a Web site in the image). This presumably refers to copyright images taken without authorisation from, for example, legitimate child modelling/acting agency sites which print the name of their business/site on the pictures of children. (It seems unlikely that web sites distributing child pornography would advertise a web site name on their illegal images given that would be of great help to law enforcement agencies who seize computers containing child sexual abuse images).

Of the remaining 5,000 images that had not been seen by COPINE researchers before, some number depicted child sexual abuse, and within that unknown number, the COPINE researchers found abusive images of 20 new children (i.e. of children they had not seen in images before). While an assumption that all of the 5,000 previously unseen images showed child sexual abuse results in an average of 833 per week, that would not be an accurate number because some number of the approx. 105,000 images that the COPINE researchers had seen before would have been child sexual abuse images.

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- "Suffer the Missing Children? Taxpayer dollars continue to disappear while children don't", Tadd Wilson, Reason Magazine Print Edition, November 1995
- "Media Hype: Abducted Kids", On The Media, WNYC Radio (New York), 26 July 2002

Includes interview with Louis Kilzer, one of the former Denver Post investigative journalists whose reporting about inflated number claims in 1985 won a Pulitzer Prize.

- "The Child Savers: Pain & Reward", Bill Treanor, Executive Director/Publisher, Youth Today; newspaper, July 2004
- "Online Warnings Mean Well, But the Numbers Don't Add Up", Carl Bialik, The Numbers Guy, The Wall Street Journal Online, 21 January 2005
- "The other side of missing children", Mike Hendricks, McCook Daily Gazette Nebraska, 25 February 2005
- "Is Child Safety Ignored by Politicians, and the Press?", Don Austen, Thursday's Child. In HOTLINE Vol. 28 No. 2, Children's Rights of New York, Inc., Fall 2007.
- "The 'Fear Industrial Complex' How the Media, Government and Corporate America Bank on the Business of Fear", John Stossel and Natalie D. Jaquez, ABC News 20/20 (U.S.), 23 February 2007

Having claimed in an NCMEC August 2005 media release that an estimated 100,000 child pornography web sites existed on the Internet in 2001 and citing the US\$ 3billion 'statistic', seven months later the NCMEC's CEO, Ernie Allen, apparently decided to promulgate a new scaremongering myth: double the number of sites and multiply the previously alleged dollar value by more than seven:

By many estimates, child pornography has mushroomed into a giant business, attracting organized crime. At least 200,000 websites sell such images, according to Mr. Allen, and rake in from \$20 billion to \$30 billion a year.

("A siege on the child-porn market", Ron Scherer, Christian Science Monitor, 16 March 2006)

[*46]. InternetFilterReview.com "Pornography Statistics 2003". WayBackMachine's page copy as at 21 June 2003

[*47]. "TopTenREVIEWS Releases Porn Industry Statistics", Press release, 6 February 2004. WayBackMachine's page copy as at 30 September 2005

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