

Our Voice Norwegian Survivors

Experiences of Victims and Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, with a **Comparative Analysis of Online CSAE in the Nordic Region**



Introduction

Child sexual abuse and exploitation constitutes a profound violation of human rights affecting children worldwide. The official Statistics Bureau of Norway (Statistisk sentralbryå) lists 17,688 cases of sexual violence against children ages 0 to 19 reported to police from 2020 to 2024, with 42% of these cases involving children aged 10-14. A survey of Norwegian adults found that approximately 4,7% of women and 0,55% of men had experienced sexual violence before the age of 18. Women who reported assault in childhood made up half of women who reported any sexual assault.¹ A 2019 survey of Norwegian children aged 12 to 16 found that just over 6% of children experienced sexual abuse by an adult, and 22% reported sexual abuse or harm from their peers.²

In response to the scale of offline and online crimes of sexual violence against children and the urgent need for action, this report presents insights from 1,245 Norwegian-speaking victims and survivors of child sexual abuse and exploitation in response to the [Global Our Voice Survivor Survey](#), collected from 14 August 2023 to 5 August 2025. Additionally, this report includes a comparative analysis of the prevalence of online child sexual abuse and exploitation in the Nordic region, based on responses from 246 victims and survivors of online child sexual abuse and exploitation. Specifically, the analysis includes comparative data from Danish- (n = 8), Finnish- (n = 98), Norwegian- (n = 75), and Swedish-speaking (n = 65) victims and survivors of technology-facilitated childhood sexual violence.

A detailed overview of the survey methodology can be found here:

<https://www.suojellaanlapsia.fi/en/post/our-voice-global-report>. The aim of this report is to raise awareness about the realities and long-term impacts of sexual violence against children in Norway, and the challenges of disclosure and recovery. The findings seek to inform prevention, support and healing initiatives, helping policymakers to create more responsive and effective systems.



All children should know they can always talk to an adult, every child should be seen and heard, and feel that they have value.

Quote from a survivor in response to the Norwegian Our Voice Survivor Survey.



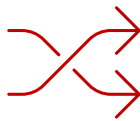
¹ Thoresen, S., & Hjemdal, O. K. (2014). Vold og voldtekt i Norge. En nasjonal forekomststudie av vold i et livsløpsperspektiv [Violence and rape in Norway. A national prevalence study with a life course perspective.] Norwegian only. <https://www.nkvts.no/rapport/vold-og-voldtekt-i-norge-en-nasjonal-forekomststudie-av-vold-i-et-livsløpsperspektiv/#:~:text=S.%20Thoresen%20%26%20O.%20K.%20Hjemdal%20%282014%29.%20Vold,at%20ogs%C3%A5%20vold%20i%20n%C3%A6re%20relasjoner%20rammer%20mange>.

² Hafstad, G. S., & Augusti, E. M. (2019). Ungdoms erfaringer med vold og overgrep i oppveksten: En nasjonal undersøkelse av ungdom i alderen 12 til 16 år. (Rapport 4/2019). <https://www.nkvts.no/rapport/ungdoms-erfaringer-med-vold-og-overgrep-i-oppveksten-en-nasjonal-undersokelse-av-ungdom-i-alderen-12-til-16-ar/>.

Key Findings



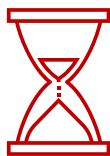
Nearly two-thirds of Norwegian-speaking survivors experienced childhood sexual violence for the first time before the age of 10.



Almost nine in ten survivors experienced sexual violence on multiple occasions, including inappropriate touching, penetration, and forced genital exposure.



Nearly two out of five survivors were subjected to sexual violence as a child by someone living in their same household.



More than half of survivors who disclosed childhood sexual violence did so more than ten years after, with nearly one in four disclosing over 20 years later.



Almost all survivors have endured negative long-term consequences because of the childhood sexual violence.



Survivors from Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden reported widespread online child sexual abuse and exploitation, including grooming, coercion, and exposure to sexual content.

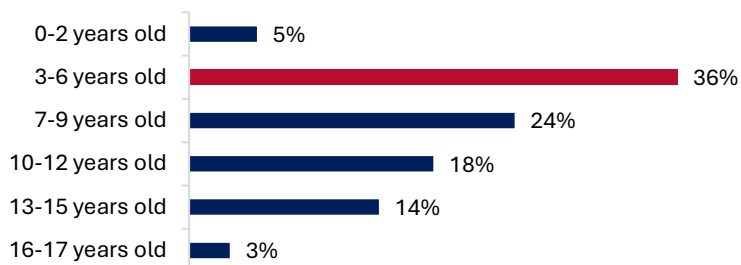
Nearly two-thirds of Norwegian-speaking survivors experienced childhood sexual violence before the age of 10.

Among the Norwegian-speaking survivors who participated in the survey, the vast majority identified as female (92%), with smaller proportions identifying as male (7%) or non-binary (1%). More than half of survivors (56%) reported to be between 45-64 years old, and 35% reported to be below 44 years old at the time of completing the survey.

Nearly two-thirds of Norwegian-speaking survivors reported that the abuse began very early in their childhood, with 36% aged 3–6 and 24% aged 7–9 at the time of the first abuse.

"I don't remember when it started, it's always been there."

Norwegian survivor who experienced sexual violence at ages 7–9.



Almost nine in ten survivors experienced sexual violence on multiple occasions, including inappropriate touching, penetration, and forced genital exposure.

For the majority Norwegian-speaking survivors, the sexual violence occurred repeatedly throughout their childhood, with 86% being subjected to sexual violence as a child on more than one occasion. Moreover, most survivors reported enduring multiple forms of abuse, ranging from inappropriate touching while clothed to the most severe forms of child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Nearly three out of five survivors (58%) reported having their nude genitals touched by another person, or touching another person's nude genitals due to the other person allowing it to happen or asking, manipulating or forcing them to do it. Other commonly reported forms of sexual violence included penetration (34%), being forced to expose their genitals (32%), and being coerced into oral sex or forced to perform oral-genital acts (30%).

Is there anything you would like to say to strengthen the rights of victims and protect children? [Number of respondents: 692]

It is important to understand that children can be threatened into silence, as I was. Being afraid ruined much of my childhood and also affected me as an adult. I was 13 years old when I was assaulted, and without the captain who threatened me, it took 30 years before I told anyone.

The police need better training in interviewing and handling vulnerable individuals. [...] The police treated me like a criminal, not as the vulnerable young person I was, who had experienced something traumatic over a long period.

You need help, multiple times, as life changes.

Listen, don't judge, and believe. Help to find the right support they need without having to ask for it, because one doesn't ask when already feeling like a burden. Understand that it affects a person for the rest of their life, without meaning they are whining, complaining, or seeking attention.

Read the child, listen, and let children speak freely, even if they talk about sex, crude jokes, or things that shouldn't really come from a child's mouth.

Start with earlier education about abuse, what it can look like, examples, what to do if it happens, and so on. My school had personnel come to talk about this as late as 3rd year of high school. If I had known about this earlier, it wouldn't have happened.

Time is important. The abuse is lodged in every cell of the body, not just in the mind.

No one should experience that abuse has no legal consequences.

Don't be afraid to speak up! It is NEVER your fault!!

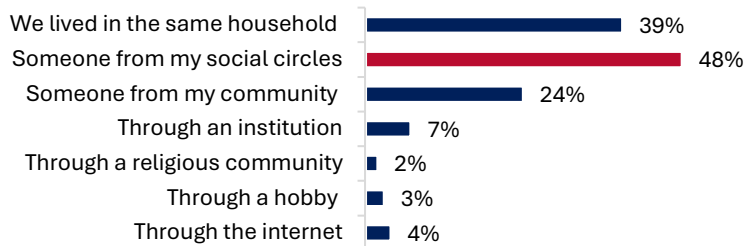
More awareness about the growing unhealthy attitude towards abuse in general, especially against children, and strengthening the focus on blame and shame directed at the perpetrators.

There must be stricter punishments, and victims must be believed. The process of reporting must be clearly explained.

Openness around child abuse in society. Guided parents about abuse, and learning to read signs of abuse.

Nearly two out of five survivors were subjected to sexual violence as a child by someone living in their same household.

Many Norwegian-speaking survivors (61%) reported the abuse involved one perpetrator, with the vast majority (93%) identifying the perpetrator as someone they knew from before. Specifically, 48% of survivors reported the perpetrator was someone from their social circles, 39% someone living in the same household, and 24% someone from their community.



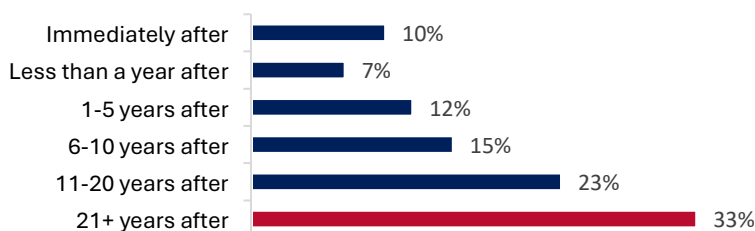
Nearly all Norwegian-speaking survivors (98%) identified the perpetrator as male, with 31% reporting the perpetrator was between 35-54 years old. Concerningly, more than one third (34%) reported the perpetrator was under 18, suggesting many survivors experienced peer-to-peer sexual abuse, including sibling sexual abuse.



More than half of survivors who disclosed childhood sexual violence did so more than ten years after, with nearly one in four disclosing over 20 years later.

Almost nine out of ten Norwegian-speaking survivors (89%) indicated they have disclosed the sexual violence they experienced as a child. However, for most, it took years or even decades before they were able to do so. Over half (55%) disclosed more than 11 years after the abuse, and one in four disclosed 21 years after.

When did you first disclose the sexual violence?



What could have helped you disclose the sexual violence sooner? [Number of respondents: 778]

Not blaming myself throughout my entire childhood.

Someone who would have believed me.

That I felt important and that I mattered.

More openness in the family.

More education in school, perhaps? And more information that it is forbidden.

Early information from school and healthcare services about what this means. Knowing that the healthcare system and police take it seriously and that children are heard.

To be seen by my mother, coaches, teachers, doctor, or school nurse.

That someone talked to me.

Someone should have seen the warning signs. I became withdrawn. Stopped talking. My grades went from top to failing. It's not enough to ask someone once how they are doing. You have to ask several times. Don't give up.

Maybe handing out brochures at school, and informing about who one should talk to.

Self-respect and closer friends/family. I had no close ones after he forced me to cut several close relationships.

If I had learned about sexuality and how to set boundaries for my own body.

More attentive/aware parents.

Better and earlier education. Sexual education starting from kindergarten age.

I don't know. I had no safe adults around me.

If I had received the kind of knowledge people have today. Knowledge about the long-term effects. About how you go into survival mode by shutting it away. Feeling ashamed, without knowing that it is the perpetrator who should feel shame, and without knowing that what they did to you is illegal.

Openness about the topic.

More frequent direct questions. I was asked once after being admitted due to a suicide attempt. Never before and never again.

Norwegian-speaking survivors most commonly disclosed to a parent (35%), a friend (34%), their partner (25%), a therapist (25%) or a sibling (19%).

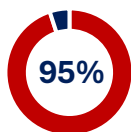
There are, however, 11% of survivors who have never disclosed the childhood sexual violence. Disclosure is both a critical and difficult step for survivors, often hindered by significant barriers. Norwegian-speaking survivors reported barriers such as shame, believing no one would care or help, and lacking the courage to disclose. One Norwegian survivor said:

*"I promised the perpetrator never to tell anyone.
For many, many years it ruled my life."*

Even among those who have disclosed, many continue to face challenges in their recovery, as disclosures often fail to bring justice or meaningful support. 64% of survivors reported their disclosure did not lead to any support. Only 23% survivors reported their disclosure resulted in a police investigation, of which 44% did not lead to prosecution or sentencing, and 32% resulted in no compensation. While all survivors deserve access to justice and compensation, this proportion of survivors reporting they did not receive compensation is lower than the global average of 72%.³ However, it still reflects a significant gap in meeting survivors' needs. Especially considering that, among those who did receive compensation, 96% reported it was not sufficient to cover the necessary support for their recovery.

Almost all survivors have endured negative long-term consequences because of the childhood sexual violence.

Child sexual abuse and exploitation have severe and enduring emotional, physical, and psychological impacts.



Norwegian-speaking survivors reported experiencing negative long-term consequences stemming from childhood sexual violence.

On average, each survivor reported experiencing more than five different negative long-term consequences. These include PTSD/PTS symptoms, depression, difficulty in forming and maintaining personal relationships, somatic symptoms, anxiety or panic attacks, sexual dysfunction, social challenges, eating disorders, and self-harming behaviours. Despite these profound impacts, more than half of survivors (55%) reported not receiving the support they needed to cope with these long-term consequences.

³ Díaz Bethencourt, E., Insoll, T., Ovaska, A., Leivo, K., Soloveva, V. & Vaaranen-Valkonen, N. 2024. "Global Our Voice Survivor Survey: Experiences of Adult Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Across 29 Languages." Protect Children. <https://www.suojellaanlapsia.fi/en/post/our-voice-global-report>

Which of the following describe [the long-term consequences] the best?
[Number of respondents: 1173, selected answers: 6492]

Anxiety and depression. Afraid to trust people. Problems in relationships. Didn't finish school. No self-worth.

Worked for many years, but was frequently on sick leave due to somatic pain and went to AAP for a long time due to cPTSD and needs treatment for the rest of my life due to childhood.

Difficult to relate to my own body.

Lack of orgasmic function.

Can't stand the thought of a partner.

Retraumatization in the health care system.

Disabled. Migraines and neurological problems.

Has difficulty understanding that I am worth something.

Let's people take advantage of me. Afraid of being disliked if I don't do what others think I should do.

How do you feel after having participated in this survey? [Number of respondents: 803]

I feel it is very important to focus on it, and if I can use my voice to maybe help others, that is so important to me.

Hurtful memories come to the surface.

It is going well. More research in this field is important. Keep it up.

Glad that someone is working to help more children.

I hope there will be more focus on this in schools, and in the media, TV, newspapers.

I feel a little heard. It brings up bad memories, but it's going well. I feel like I may have contributed to someone else getting help.

I'm angry because there are no consequences for the abuser while one is vulnerable and feels great pain and grieves for the rest of their lives.

Comparative Analysis of Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation in the Nordic Region

Survivors from Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden reported widespread online child sexual abuse and exploitation, including grooming, coercion or exposure to sexual content.

The majority of Norwegian-speaking survivors (94%) reported the sexual violence they were subjected to as children did not happen online or was facilitated by technology. It is, however, important to emphasise that these results do not reflect the overall prevalence of technology-facilitated and contact crimes of sexual violence against children, rather, they showcase the experiences of the specific group of survivors reached by this survey. This likely reflects the age of many respondents, as more than two-thirds (66%) were aged 45 or older at the time of partaking in the survey, hence they grew up before the internet was widely accessible.

Rapidly developing technology and slow-to-change legal standards have facilitated the proliferation of online child sexual abuse and exploitation, resulting in a pandemic of online abuse. The National Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) received a staggering 19,854,300 reports of child sexual abuse material online which included 62,992,859 images, videos, and other files related to abuse materials.⁴ Abuse which has been recorded is especially harmful in that, with each viewing of the material, the child depicted is re-victimised. Child sexual abuse material offending also normalises the abuse for offenders, resulting in a concerning correlation of continued offenses.⁵ As the technologies used to create these materials improve, the numbers only continue to grow. For example, reports of AI-generated child sexual abuse material increased from 2023-2024 by 1.325%.⁶ Regardless of their format, all depictions of sexual violence against children are abhorrent, as they contribute to the normalisation of such violence and rationalise offending behaviour, leading to further victimisation. Contrary to common belief, online abuse can be just as serious as in-person abuse. Recent research suggests that online elements of sexual abuse may intensify its impact and complicate recovery, contributing to higher levels of symptoms such as post-traumatic stress. Key factors include the permanence of images and videos of abuse, increased self-blame, and emotional manipulation by the perpetrator in the absence of physical threats.⁷

In a 2019 survey of Norwegian children aged 12-16, 46% of those surveyed reported at least one instance of sexual contact online or on social media. 38% had been shown nude images of the sender or someone else. 239 respondents (3%), report their nude images having been shared online or on social media.⁸ In 2024, NCMEC's CyberTipline received 24,472 reports of child sexual abuse material with geographic ties to Norway.⁹ Though this number does not necessarily represent the full scale of online sexual abuse in the country, it demonstrates that Norwegian children, like all others, are at risk.

Due to the significant prevalence of online crimes of sexual violence against children, this section provides a detailed analysis of such crimes in the Nordic region. Out of 24,443 total responses to the

⁴ NCMEC. (2025). 2024 CyberTipline Report. <https://www.missingkids.org/content/dam/missingkids/pdfs/cybertiplinedata2024/2024-CyberTipline-Report.pdf>.

⁵ Insoll, T., Ovaska, A. K., Nurmi, J., Aaltonen, M., & Vaaranen-Valkonen, N. (2022). Risk factors for child sexual abuse material users contacting children online: Results of an anonymous multilingual survey on the dark web. *Journal of Online Trust and Safety*, 1(2). <https://doi.org/10.54501/jots.v1i2.29>.

⁶ NCMEC. (2025). 2024 CyberTipline Report.

⁷ Hanson, E. (2017). The impact of online sexual abuse on children and young people. In J. Brown, *Online risk to children: Impact, protection and prevention* (pp. 97–122). Wiley Blackwell. <https://doi.org/10.1002/9781118977545.ch6>; Jonsson, L., & Svedin, C. G. (2017). Barn utsatta för sexuella övergrepp på nätet. Retrieved from Linköping University Electronic Press / Stiftelsen Allmänna Barnhuset <https://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn:nbn:se:liu:diva-142394>; Hamilton-Giachritsis, C. et al (2017) "Everyone deserves to be happy and safe". London:

NSPCC; Joleby M, Lunde C, Landström S and Jonsson LS (2020) "All of Me Is Completely Different": Experiences and Consequences Among Victims of Technology-Assisted Child Sexual Abuse. *Front. Psychol.* 11:606218. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2020.606218.

⁸ Hafstad, G. S., & Augusti, E. M. (2019). Ungdoms erfaringer med vold og overgrep i oppveksten: En nasjonal undersøkelse av ungdom i alderen 12 til 16 år. (Rapport 4/2019). <https://www.nkvt.no/rapport/ungdoms-erfaringer-med-vold-og-overgrep-i-oppveksten-en-nasjonal-undersokelse-av-ungdom-i-alderen-12-til-16-ar/>.

⁹ NCMEC. (2025). 2024 CyberTipline Report.

Global Our Voice Survivor Survey as of 5 August 2025, 1,588 victims and survivors reported experiences of online child sexual abuse and exploitation. Of these, 246 were survivors of technology-facilitated childhood sexual violence from the Nordic region: Danish- (n = 8), Finnish- (n = 98), Norwegian- (n = 75), and Swedish-speaking (n = 65).

Respondents' Demographics

Most victims and survivors of online child sexual abuse and exploitation identified themselves as female across the four language groups: 88% Danish, 85% Finnish, 90% Norwegian, 94% Swedish. The largest age groups at the time of the survey were 25 to 34 years old across Finnish (41%), Norwegian (45%) and Swedish (43%). In contrast, a significant portion of Danish-speaking survivors (38%) were between 65 and 74 years old when completing the survey. It is important to note that cases of online child sexual abuse and exploitation may include instances where abuse was recorded during childhood but disseminated online later. Notably, a similar proportion of Danish-speaking survivors (37%) reported they were between 18 to 24 years old when responding to the survey.

Many survivors experienced online sexual violence for the first time between 10-15 years old, with a concerning proportion reporting abuse before the age of 10.

To the best of your knowledge, how old were you when you were first subjected to sexual violence?

[Number of respondents: 242]

	Danish	Finnish	Norwegian	Swedish
0-2 years old	15%	5%	6%	6%
3-6 years old	0%	23%	19%	14%
7-9 years old	14%	19%	23%	19%
10-12 years old	57%	27%	23%	37%
13-15 years old	14%	23%	24%	18%
16-17 years old	0%	3%	5%	6%

Nature of the online abuse

Survivors across the Nordic region reported a wide range of online child sexual abuse and exploitation experiences, including grooming through messaging applications or phone calls, being manipulated or forced to engage into sexual acts with other children, forced exposure to adult pornography, and live-stream sexual violence, among others.

The quotes from victims and survivors illustrate the deeply harmful and manipulative nature of online crimes of sexual violence against children (OCSEA):



The technology was recordings of me naked.

I have been exposed to many different cases of sexual abuse as a child at different ages. Many of them were online, where especially omegle and KIK were platforms where older men wrote to me, and pressured me to interact with them in a sexual way.

Quotes from Danish survivors of OCSEA

I was threatened on a website by a man who said I had to send him nude photos, or he would share pictures of me. I was about 13 years old then.

I played a lot and often ended up in online forums on places like Discord, which made me an easy target and accessible to the outside world. I was very naive and found it very difficult to block people, because I just wanted someone to talk to — even if it meant I had to go through experiences like that.



Quotes from Finnish survivors of OCSEA

I was lured into taking nude photos of myself on a messaging app. When I sent a photo, I was blackmailed into sending more photos with the threat that the person would share the photo I sent.

The abuse against me was filmed on video, pictures were taken and distributed to other outsiders. Some of the pictures were edited so that they showed a picture of intercourse.

As a child, I played online games aimed at children. Some sites had "game rooms" for a certain age (e.g. 7-9-year-olds. 10-12-year-olds, etc.). Yet, in these rooms aimed at children, there were adult men who preyed on children to send them sexually suggestive messages.

The man kept in touch with me via text message, email and Facebook Messenger. He told me how much he loved me, how important and unique I was, how mature I seemed compared to other children.

My own bedroom was bugged and recorded.



Quotes from Norwegian survivors of OCSEA

I was shown pictures of child abuse.

We didn't live in the same city but met occasionally, frequent contact from when I was 14. Pretty classic grooming, love bombing/freezing out, etc. Most of the psychological abuse/control was over phone calls, text messages and SoMe. Got in touch online and then met physically.

He took pictures during the abuse, which he shared with others.

I was locked in a room where she forced me to watch porn online on the computer before I could get out. Later I was sent lots of pictures of naked old/young men, also videos.

I was forcibly photographed and these pictures showing my genitals were shared online and via messages.

I was asked to masturbate over the phone.

From the age of 12 offers of money/alcohol/cigarettes for sexual acts from people over 18.



Quotes from Swedish survivors of OCSEA

I was subjected to grooming and sexual abuse online repeatedly when I was 12-14 years old. It consisted of sexual attention from adult men, persuasion and pressure to send nude pictures, the perpetrators masturbating on webcam and persuading me to show my body on webcam and perform sexual acts on myself on webcam.

I was groomed into organized sexual exploitation. The exploitation took place both online and offline and was filmed and spread online.

My stepfather set up webcams in the shower, sauna and in my room and filmed me for several years. Without my knowledge or consent.

Chat messages from men over 18. Most of them I would classify as middle-aged men. They contacted me either via accounts on social media I was on at the time or MSN. MSN usually involved pictures and/or webcam.

I now understand that I was being groomed at first, it eventually escalated. I was tricked by an older adult online who pretended to be a child my age which led to us later meeting in person.

I was first sexually abused by my brother (age 9-15) and then sexually abused online (from about age 10) and later also for sex purchases (from about age 12).

Perpetrators of online child sexual abuse and exploitation

The vast majority of survivors across the four Nordic languages reported the perpetrator was male, and between 80-86% reported it was someone from their circle of trust.

Almost half of Norwegian survivors (47%) reported they met the perpetrator through the internet, and a similar proportion (45%) knew them through their social circles. Similarly, over 60% of Finnish and Swedish survivors reported meeting the perpetrator online, and more than half met them through their social circles. In contrast, almost 60% of Danish survivors reported meeting the perpetrator because they lived in the same household as themselves.

The age of the perpetrator at the time of the technology-facilitated crime of sexual violence against children varies across languages. Half of Danish survivors report the perpetrator was 45-54 years old at the time of the abuse. 55% of Finnish and 38% of Norwegian survivors reported the perpetrator was 25-34 years old, and 54% of Swedish survivors reported the perpetrator was 35-44 years old.

Alarming, a notable proportion of survivors across Danish, Finnish and Norwegian languages reported the perpetrator was below 18 years old, suggesting many survivors experienced peer-to-peer sexual abuse, including sibling sexual abuse.

To the best of your knowledge, how old was/were the perpetrator(s) at the time of the sexual violence?

[Number of respondents: 245, selected answers: 673]

	Danish	Finnish	Norwegian	Swedish
Less than 12 years old	13%	10%	14%	11%
12-17 years old	63%	38%	31%	39%
18-24 years old	38%	38%	34%	43%
25-34 years old	38%	55%	38%	51%
35-44 years old	38%	52%	34%	54%
45-54 years old	50%	44%	28%	49%
55+ years old	0%	31%	19%	63%

It is important to keep in mind that this data is based on 245 respondents who selected a total of 673 answers, as respondents were able to choose multiple age ranges for perpetrators of online crimes of sexual violence.

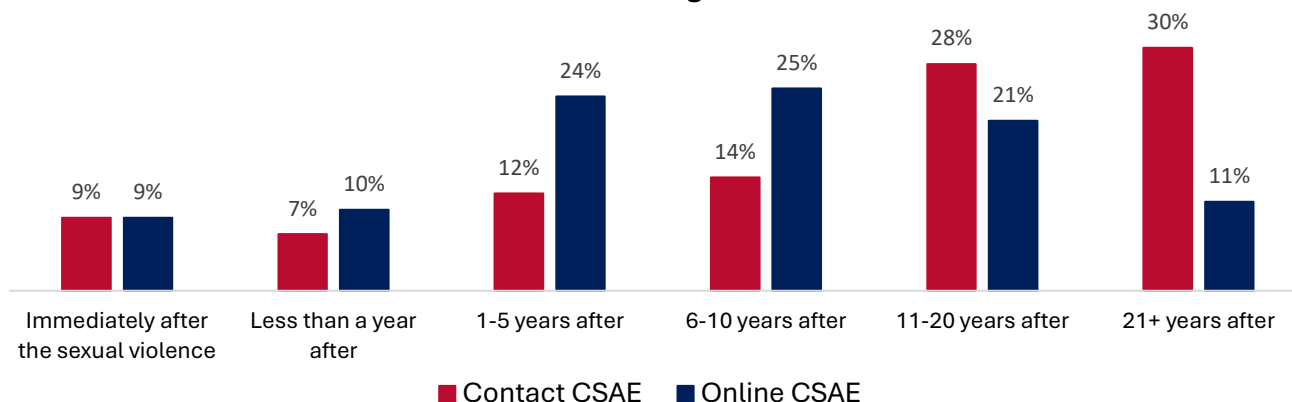
Disclosure of online childhood sexual violence

Most survivors of online child sexual abuse and exploitation report to have disclosed the abuse: 75% of Danish, 84% of Finnish, 80% of Norwegian, and 86% of Swedish-speaking survivors.

Nevertheless, many indicated that it took them a long time before they were able to disclose. Danish survivors most often disclosed 6-10 years after the abuse (33%), while Finnish survivors reported disclosure either 1-5 years or 6-10 years after (26% for each). Swedish survivors also frequently disclosed after 6-10 years (30%). Norwegian survivors, by contrast, were the most likely to disclose earlier, with 24% reporting disclosure 1-5 years after the abuse occurred.

Across all language groups, survivors of online childhood sexual violence were more likely to disclose to a friend, partner or a parent, than to police, educational staff or health care professionals.

Disclosure times in the Nordic region: contact vs. online CSAE



When comparing contact and online sexual abuse and exploitation in the Nordic countries, survivors of online abuse generally disclosed sooner, most commonly within 1–10 years. In contrast, disclosure of contact child sexual abuse and exploitation typically occurred much later, with the largest proportion reporting it 11–20 years or more than 21 years after the abuse took place. It is important to note that survivors of online abuse were typically younger at the time of taking part in the survey than those in the general sample, which may have influenced the shorter disclosure timelines observed.

However, disclosure of online child sexual abuse and exploitation does not always lead to adequate support or intervention. A significant number of Norwegian survivors reported that their disclosures did not result in receiving support (66%), or in police investigations (68%). Danish, Finnish and Swedish survivors' results were similar, highlighting ongoing barriers to justice and healing in the Nordic countries.

Long-term consequences

Online child sexual abuse and exploitation have profound and long-lasting negative consequences on victims and survivors.

87%

of Danish survivors

85%

of Finnish survivors

92%

of Norwegian survivors

97%

of Swedish survivors

Endured negative long-term consequences because of the online child sexual abuse and exploitation they were subjected to.

Survivors of online child sexual abuse and exploitation across the Nordic countries report a wide range of long-lasting impacts:



Danish survivors most commonly reported social challenges, PTSD/PTS symptoms, suicide attempts, and eating disorders.



Finnish survivors reported anxiety disorder/panic attacks, depression, difficulty in forming and maintaining personal relationships, and PTSD/PTS symptoms.



Norwegian survivors reported depression, difficulty in forming and maintaining personal relationships, anxiety disorder/panic attacks, and self-harming behaviours.



Swedish survivors reported depression, anxiety disorder/panic attacks, PTSD/PTS symptoms, and revictimisation.

Despite the serious consequences of technology-facilitated crimes of sexual violence against children have on survivors' physical and psychological health and social lives, many Nordic survivors reported they did not receive any support to cope with these impacts. Specifically, 71% Danish-, 40% Finnish-, 56% Norwegian-, and 52% Swedish-speaking indicated they did not receive any help. Among those Nordic survivors who did receive support, most reported receiving it from a therapist or a social worker.

Conclusion

The insights gathered from 1,245 Norwegian-speaking victims and survivors who participated in the Global Our Voice Survivor Survey reveal significant gaps in Norway's systems for preventing child sexual abuse and exploitation, as well as in supporting those affected. The experiences of survivors underscore the profound and long-lasting consequences of sexual violence against children, and the systemic barriers that survivors face in seeking access to justice, recognition and healing.

This report also includes an in-depth analysis of the experiences of victims and survivors of online child sexual abuse and exploitation across four Nordic languages: Danish, Finnish, Norwegian, and Swedish. This analysis illustrates the widespread risks children face in digital spaces and the urgent need for coordinated prevention and protection efforts. Many Nordic survivors reported that the abuse occurred for the first time when they were 10-15 years old, with a concerning number reporting the abuse took place before the age of 10. The technology-facilitated crimes of sexual violence against children reported by survivors took multiple forms, including grooming, being manipulated or forced to engage into sexual acts with other children, forced exposure to adult pornography, and live-stream sexual violence. The vast majority of survivors reported the perpetrator was male and someone they already knew, with many of them reporting they met the perpetrator through the internet or through their social circles. Although most survivors reported they have disclosed the abuse, many indicated that disclosure did not lead to access to adequate support or police investigations. Across all Nordic language groups, survivors described profound and long-lasting consequences, including depression, anxiety, PTSD/PTS symptoms, self-harm behaviours, and difficulties in forming and maintaining personal relationships.

The findings from this report demonstrate the urgent need for Norway, along with Denmark, Finland and Sweden, to implement comprehensive and survivor-centred prevention and support systems that address both contact and technology-facilitated sexual violence against children. In line with the [Council of Europe's Resolution 2533](#), which calls for stronger measures to prevent abuse in institutions and provide justice and reparation for victims and survivors, the Nordic countries must take decisive action to effectively prevent harm before it occurs and provide adequate and sufficient support to victims and survivors.

By adopting the Council of Europe's recommendations, the Nordic region can move toward a future where children are protected from harm, victims and survivors receive recognition, justice, and support, and systemic failures that enable child sexual abuse and exploitation are eliminated.



About Protect Children

Protect Children is a non-governmental child-rights organization based in Finland, working globally to end all forms of sexual violence against children. We adopt a holistic, research-based approach to address the issue from multiple angles.

Learn more about Protect Children: protectchildren.fi

About the Justice Initiative

The Justice Initiative is a European initiative aiming to restore justice for past victims of abuse across Europe and strengthen child protection for future generations. Protect Children, the leader of the Justice Initiative Nordic Hub, developed the Global Our Voice Survivor Survey with support from the Justice Initiative.

Learn more about the Justice Initiative: justice-initiative.eu

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