

A review of international survey methodology on child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation

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About the Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse

The Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse has been established to help bring about significant and system-wide change in how child sexual abuse is responded to locally and nationally.

We do this by identifying, generating and sharing high-quality evidence of what works to prevent and tackle child sexual abuse (including child sexual exploitation), to inform both policy and practice.

The Centre is funded by the Home Office and led by Barnardo's, and works closely with key partners from academic institutions, local authorities, health, education, police and the voluntary sector.

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Executive summary

This review was commissioned by the Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse to inform its work on improving data currently collected in England and Wales.

Unlike previous reviews which have looked at findings on prevalence rates within and across different countries, this study looked at differences in self-report survey *methodologies* to research rates of victimisation and perpetration.

The aims of the review were to:

- identify methodologically different surveys undertaken in countries outside England and Wales that specifically focus on, or include, child sexual abuse (CSA)
- identify questions used in surveys to assess the scale and nature of CSA – including any questions regarding child sexual exploitation (CSE), and those exploring abuse or grooming that takes place online – and comment on their relative effectiveness
- explore the survey methods used, and identify what worked well in achieving a good response rate
- explore the sampling strategies used, including any use of booster samples to reach underrepresented or identified vulnerable groups
- identify questions, survey methods and sampling strategies used to explore potential and actual perpetration of CSA
- discuss what identified good practice would be replicable in the UK context, and to what extent this would allow comparisons to be made across countries.

For the purposes of the review, the current definitions of ‘child sexual abuse’ and ‘child sexual exploitation’ set out in UK government policy documents for England were used.

Methodology

Building on the author’s previous work on this topic, this review was a rapid evidence assessment of self-report surveys, conducted outside England and Wales, of the prevalence of CSA and CSE. Although the review was subject to time constraints, systematic methods were used to identify and assess research literature: these included online searches of relevant research databases and a consultation with international research experts.

Findings

Identification of methodologically different surveys

- The review included 87 publications, 54 of which related to 29 self-report surveys which were methodologically different (in that different questions were asked, different types of participant samples were included or different modes of data collection were employed) The other 33 publications were systematic reviews or meta-analyses, or described specific features of a survey methodology.
- Nineteen of the methodologically different studies looked at experiences of sexual victimisation during childhood. Four of them assessed experiences of being a victim of CSA, and a further two focused specifically on experiences of online abuse, sexting and grooming. The remaining 13 surveys included CSA within a wider study, either of children’s experiences of abuse and neglect or of women’s and girls’ experiences of sexual and domestic violence. Current best practice is to ask about CSA and CSE in the context of other forms of victimisation and adversity, as these can frequently co-occur.

- The other 10 methodologically different studies also included questions asking adults or children whether they had in childhood perpetrated acts of sexual abuse against other young people.

Questions asked to assess the scale and nature of CSA

- Definitions and measures of CSA in the 29 methodologically different surveys varied from narrow to broad: the narrowest asked about only sexual touching and penetration, whilst the broadest included contact and non-contact abuse as well as sexual exploitation.
- The surveys asked about the following 14 areas of sexual abuse to varying degrees:
 - exposure/watching
 - production/sharing images
 - saying sexual things
 - solicitation
 - online sex acts
 - kissing/touching
 - attempted penetration
 - completed penetration
 - attempted/completed sex when drunk/drugged
 - statutory rape
 - abuse by person in position of trust/authority
 - selling/buying sex/exchange food etc
 - intermediaries
 - trafficking.
- The most comprehensive surveys covered nine or 10 of the 14 areas. The most commonly asked-about forms of CSA were kissing and touching (included in 25 surveys) and penetration (included in 19 surveys). Few surveys included any measurement of CSE. The least commonly asked-about behaviours were statutory rape, trafficking and the role of intermediaries.
- Children and young people respond best to questions that have been cognitively tested and are neutrally worded, not asking them whether they have been 'abused', 'raped' or 'molested' but asking instead about behaviour-specific acts such as being touched or kissed. Twelve surveys asked questions about CSA that were non-neutrally worded, ambiguous or non-specific.
- Surveys that include all types of perpetrator typically give higher rates for the prevalence of CSA. The majority of the surveys reviewed asked whether perpetrators were adults or peers, and whether they were related, known or 'strangers' – but four surveys asked only about parent and adult perpetrators, four asked only about intimate partners, and four surveys did not ask at all. One survey limited questions about sexual abuse by peers to those who were at least five years older than the victim.

Questions about self-reported perpetration

- The 10 surveys that included young people's experiences as perpetrators differed in their approach to asking questions: for example, by alternating questions on victimisation with questions on perpetration, or by asking about experiences of victimisation and perpetration separately. Further research is required to identify whether the ordering of questions on perpetration and victimisation influences rates of reporting.
- Some studies asked a comprehensive set of questions about perpetration; others were more limited, asking only about rape or physical contact.

Participants questioned

There were substantial variations in the types of participant included in the surveys, making comparisons in prevalence rates very difficult for different studies across time or place and for different age groups and genders.

- Whilst the majority of the 29 methodologically different surveys could be used with both female and male participants, systematic reviews showed that in practice some studies only asked girls and women about sexual abuse in childhood, neglecting the abuse of boys.
- Other studies have included boys but have taken a gender-neutral approach and have not shown results separately for the experiences of boys and girls.
- Six of the 29 methodologically different surveys asked only adults (up to the age of 90 years) to report on their experiences of CSA in childhood; four asked mostly adults but included young people aged over 15 years; and the others asked young people of varying ages, most commonly those aged 15 to 17 years, to report on past and recent experiences. Reports of recent experiences can indicate current levels of prevalence for children in different age groups and are more helpful for needs assessments and service planning.
- Three of the 29 surveys could be used to evaluate CSA prevalence rates among younger children, as they involved asking parents to act as proxy reporters on the experiences of their children aged under 10.

Survey methods used

- Surveys with children and young people were conducted in two main settings – schools and homes – and using four main modes of delivery: face-to-face or telephone interviews, paper based surveys, and computer-assisted self-interviewing (CASI or audio CASI).
- A national survey of children and violence in South Africa interviewed 9730 young people aged 15–17, and found that CASI surveys – especially those completed in schools – had the highest reporting rates.
- Telephone interviews have been used widely in the USA prevalence surveys, for cost reasons. Methods of sampling have had to be adjusted recently to take into account the fact that many households have only mobile phones.
- The National Survey of Youth in Custody is collected within a custodial environment and shows that it is possible to collect self-report data within secure settings.

Sampling strategies used

- Some differences in CSA prevalence reported in surveys are due to different sampling methods, with studies based on convenience or clinical samples giving different (usually higher) rates from those using random probability sampling techniques in the community.
- Most information on the prevalence of CSA in vulnerable or minority groups has been gained from surveys using either convenience or clinical samples.
- Studies exploring vulnerability issues in broader samples have used very large, population-based samples, or have targeted or over-recruited minority groups using booster samples.
- Despite the relatively large size of the overall sample in population-representative studies, the proportion of children and young people in minority groups are small so researchers have tended to aggregate data from specific minority groups to create a very general group to compare with the majority – for example, comparing the ‘non-Swiss’ with ‘the Swiss’. This inevitably masks differences in vulnerabilities between different minorities.

- There have sometimes been problems with bias where booster samples have been used – for example, over-recruiting strategies aiming to target ethnic minorities have also over-recruited females or low income groups.

Implications

This review has confirmed that some comprehensive and validated, comparable methods exist to research children's and young people's experiences of CSA and CSE.

The more general surveys such as the ICAST, the NatSCEV/JVQ (on which the most recent 2009 UK survey by the NSPCC was based) and the VACS cover CSA using questions that have been tested and used for research with children and young people, and parents of younger children, in several different contexts. These survey instruments are currently recommended by influential global organisations such as the WHO and UNICEF, as they capture the complexity of abuse and violence against children in the context of other forms of victimisation and the influences of age, gender, family, relationships and community. Whilst some gaps exist in these survey instruments, these are currently under review and with minor adaptations would be suitable for use in future CSA/CSE prevalence surveys.

CSE is an area often neglected in existing surveys and is clearly a gap to be addressed. Any new questions or scales developed to address current gaps should be cognitively tested with children and young people, and assessed for consistency and accuracy, before piloting or implementation.

Follow-up questions on perpetrators need to distinguish adults from peers and establish the relationship between perpetrator and victim (whether known, unknown, family member type, boyfriend/girlfriend, person in position of trust or authority; whether acting alone or with others as part of a group/gang).

Follow-up questions on settings/locations for abuse should identify (in addition to home, school, community) abuse online and abuse in residential and secure settings.

It is important to recognise that the purpose of collecting data on children's experiences of sexual abuse and exploitation is not just to obtain statistical estimates of the population prevalence but also to inform prevention and responses. This means collecting data in a way that will:

- allow policy-makers and researchers to develop a baseline of data, track trends and be able to assess whether efforts to safeguard children are having any impact on prevalence rates
- allow robust investigation of the factors that create vulnerabilities for victims and perpetrators, and how these might be addressed.

Targeted surveys that aim to gather data from specific groups of vulnerable children need to use measures that allow some comparability with prevalence rates of abuse within the general population. Qualitative research and a further review of prevalence studies conducted within specific populations of children would be helpful, to inform the development of a future survey that can best address these issues.

1. Introduction

The Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse is scoping the options for undertaking a comprehensive prevalence study of child sexual abuse in England and Wales.

To inform that work, the Centre commissioned this review of the methodological approaches adopted in international prevalence studies on child sexual abuse (CSA), including child sexual exploitation (CSE).

Unlike previous reviews (e.g. Pereda et al, 2005; Stoltenborgh et al, 2011), which looked at findings on victimisation prevalence rates within and across different countries, this review looked at differences in self-report survey *methodologies* used to research rates of victimisation and perpetration. Although there have been a large number of prevalence studies globally, many have used the same or similar/adapted measures. This review therefore looked only at different types of study, covering differences in:

- the research instruments used (the set of questions used to ask about the prevalence of victimisation and perpetration)
- the samples of people surveyed (e.g. whether adults or children, and whether they were from specific vulnerable or minority groups)
- the modes of delivery (where the surveys were conducted, how the questions were asked, etc).

1.1 Aims

The aims of the review were to:

- identify methodologically different surveys undertaken in countries outside England and Wales that specifically focus on, or include, CSA
- identify questions used in surveys to assess the scale and nature of CSA – including any questions regarding CSE, and those exploring abuse or grooming that takes place online – and comment on their relative effectiveness
- explore the survey methods used, and identify what worked well in achieving a good response rate
- explore the sampling strategies used, including any use of booster samples to reach underrepresented or identified vulnerable groups
- identify questions, survey methods and sampling strategies used to explore potential and actual perpetration of CSA
- discuss what identified good practice would be replicable in the UK context, and to what extent this would allow comparisons to be made across countries.

1.2 Definitions

For the purpose of this review, the current definitions of CSA and CSE set out in Department for Education policy documents for England were used:

CSA is defined as:

... forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as

masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). (DfE, 2015:93)

CSE is defined as:

... a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. (DfE, 2017:5)

Acts of CSA and CSE vary according to:

- the nature of the abuse (type of contact or non-contact abuse, penetration, severity, use of force or coercion, frequency)
- the perpetrator (parent, family, neighbour, known adult or peer, boyfriend/girlfriend, stranger, adult in a position of trust or authority; acting as individuals, groups or organised gangs)
- the location/situational contexts that can create vulnerabilities (home, public space, online, residential care/juvenile detention institution, school, workplace, humanitarian crisis/displacement, etc).

In addition, the nature of the abuse needs to be considered in the context of the victim's developmental vulnerabilities and capacities, which will influence how children and young people of different ages are affected.

2. Methodology

This review was a rapid evidence assessment¹ of self-report surveys, conducted in countries outside England and Wales, of the prevalence of CSA and CSE.

With limited time available to conduct the review, a pragmatic approach was taken to identify and review relevant international studies by building on and updating the author's recent work, searching for new materials as required and contacting known international experts in this area of research.

2.1 Population

The population of interest for this review covered three groups of survey participants asked to self-report their experiences of CSA and CSE:

- children under the age of 18 years
- young adults aged 18–24
- adults of all ages.

Some research covering child and/or adult self-reports also includes parents reporting on behalf of their children.

2.2 Search methods

Results of previous reviews

The author drew on findings from her own work on three reviews of the international research surveying the prevalence of CSA/children's experiences of violence (Radford et al, 2011; Radford et al, 2015; Radford et al, 2017a). These provided information on primary studies of prevalence as well as several systematic reviews on this topic.

Where gaps in the literature were identified, especially on self-reported surveys concerning perpetration, a further online database search was conducted. Additionally, key journals were 'hand searched' and snowball methods employed to follow up references from publications identified. Finally, key researchers with experience of prevalence surveys globally were contacted for advice.

Online database searches

The following databases were searched: Embase, OVID, Medline, Psycharticles.

The searches were time-limited to post 2000 for electronic database searches on victimisation (see Radford et al, 2017a) but no time limits were imposed on the search for perpetrator surveys. Time limits were imposed for practical reasons, because previous work had shown that existing systematic reviews and meta-analyses had already identified pre-2000 studies,

For studies including questions about perpetrators, the search terms were: prevalence OR incidence OR statistics AND "child sexual abuse" OR "sexual violence" AND offend* OR perpetr*.

Search terms used to update earlier searches for studies of child victimisation were: prevalence OR incidence OR statistics AND "child sexual abuse" OR "sexual violence" AND victimization OR victimisation.

¹ This is desk-based research which is like a systematic literature review in that it aims to thoroughly and transparently identify and assess research on a topic, but within a more limited time period and with restrictions on the breadth of literature included.

The online searches yielded 428 hits. A large number of these were repeated references to the same source or were not relevant to the review. Studies were considered relevant for the review on the basis of the following first-level screening criteria.

| Inclusions | Exclusions |
|--|---|
| Surveys of victims and/or perpetrators of CSA/CSE: child or childhood victims | Surveys of abuse in adulthood |
| Surveys with at least 500 participants | Surveys with under 500 participants |
| Self-report surveys of children, recording recent and/or lifetime personal experiences | Analyses of official statistics, e.g. crime reports |
| Self-report retrospective surveys of adults, recording lifetime personal experiences | Case file analyses |
| Parental reports about children <11 years | Sentinel report studies of incidence |
| Research from countries outside England and Wales | Research only in England and Wales |
| Convenience, targeted and community samples | |

Unless they offered other findings relevant to the review questions (e.g. on sampling or modes of delivery), studies were also excluded if no details or descriptions of the questions asked in the surveys could be found in publications. Where possible, the full set of survey questions was also found by following up references in publications or searching online. Survey questions are included in the Appendix.

The second-level screening included a brief assessment of quality, as described in Radford et al (2017a), drawing on guidance from the Joanna Briggs Institute (2014) and the AMSTAR assessment checklist (Shea et al, 2017). Where research literature was sparse, quality criteria were relaxed to include studies which were of interest because they addressed some gaps in the research.

Studies of prevalence using convenience samples (such as university students) were rated as lower quality than studies involving community samples that were representative of the population studied. Studies using convenience samples, which are very common, were generally excluded from the review unless they brought new messages about how to research the prevalence of CSA/CSE among specific vulnerable groups.

Consultation with international experts

In addition to the online and hand searching for survey publications, an expert consultation was conducted by email with known international research experts. Twelve experts were contacted, and 10 were able to reply within the limited time frame. International experts were very generous with their time and provided information on their own research, contact with other experts working on specific issues, and copies of research questions used in surveys. Experts who contributed were:

- Dr Christine Barter, University of Central Lancashire, UK
- Dr Sarah Bott, Pan American Health Organization, USA
- Professor Walter Dekeseredy, West Virginia University, USA
- Professor David Finkelhor, University of New Hampshire, USA
- Rebecca Gordon, Together For Girls, USA

- Dr Alessandra Guedes, World Health Organization, Switzerland
- Professor Sherry Hamby, University of the South, USA
- Professor Ben Mathews, Queensland University of Technology, Australia
- Dr Dinesh Sethi, World Health Organization, Switzerland
- Dr Nadia Wager, University of Huddersfield, UK

Where experts made reference to widely or regularly conducted surveys in languages other than English, these have been included. These are mostly surveys conducted in Spanish or African languages. Survey questions in these languages are described in the appendix where possible, but are not fully translated.

2.3 Analysis and data synthesis

A narrative approach was taken for the analysis with reference to the weight of evidence (Gough, 2007) and how useful it is for addressing the research questions set.

2.4 Limitations

Whilst every effort has been made to comprehensively cover methodological differences that exist in this field of research, it should be noted that this review has limitations, mostly due to the time available to conduct the work. The focus on methodologically different and validated self-report surveys is likely to have left out many one-off, bespoke surveys on CSA and CSE that may have been conducted.

2.5 Presentation of findings

A total of 87 publications were included in the review, and are identified with asterisks in the References section of this report. Of these:

- 54 publications covered 29 studies which were methodologically different; these are summarised in the data tables in Chapters 4 and 5
- 33 publications were systematic reviews, meta-analyses and studies involving specific aspects of the methodologies of interest (such as the use of a survey in different contexts or with vulnerable groups of children and young people).

Surveys most commonly ask only about experiences of victimisation; questions on perpetrating CSA are far less common. The findings from the victimisation-only studies of prevalence are presented in Chapter 4, followed by the findings from perpetration surveys in Chapter 5. Each chapter has a general comment on the different measures used, followed by a table summarising the key features of each measure reviewed. Questions from the surveys reviewed are listed in the appendix, in alphabetical order.

Prior to detailed consideration of the prevalence studies assessed in this review, Chapter 3 makes general comments about the state of the victimisation research on CSA and CSE.

3. The state of research into CSA victimisation

Child victimisation is any interpersonal victimisation, perpetrated by any adult or child towards a person under 18, that is likely to cause potential or actual harm (Finkelhor, 2008); sexual abuse is one form of interpersonal victimisation children may experience. This chapter makes general comments about the state of the victimisation research on CSA and CSE, prior to consideration in Chapter 4 of the methodologically different prevalence studies assessed in this review.

A number of systematic reviews and meta-analyses have analysed the international self-report survey data on the prevalence of CSA (Andrews et al, 2004; Barth et al, 2012; Hillis et al, 2012; Hovdestad et al, 2015; Ji et al, 2013; Jones et al, 2012; Moore et al, 2015; Pereda et al, 2009; Pinheiro, 2006; Stoltenborgh et al, 2011; UNICEF, 2012). These reviews present a very mixed picture on the extent of CSA, even from studies conducted in the same regions, and the reviews cited note that the divergence in results is most likely influenced by methodological differences in the studies.

3.1 Choice of participants

Age limitations

Different studies have involved different types of participants, with some focusing on adults' retrospective reports of abusive experiences in childhood (e.g. Olsson et al, 2000; Stavropoulos, 2006) whilst others have asked children and adolescents about recent and lifetime experiences (UNICEF Kenya et al, 2012; Finkelhor et al, 2014b). Some have asked both adults and children (Mohler-Kuo et al, 2014). Six of the 29 methodologically different surveys included in this review asked only adults (up to the age of 90 years) to report on their experiences of CSA in childhood; four asked mostly adults but included young people aged over 15 years; and the others asked young people of varying ages, most commonly those aged 15 to 17 years, to report on past and recent experiences.

Because experiences tend to accumulate over the lifecourse, asking adults or older young people about CSA covering the whole of childhood tends to give higher estimates of the number of children affected than asking children and young people about their experiences within the past year (Radford et al, 2011). Reports of recent experiences can indicate current levels of prevalence for children in different age groups, and are more helpful for needs assessments and service planning.

Surveys of violence against women and girls focus on sexual abuse alongside other experiences including physical violence, emotional and psychological abuse, and sometimes controlling behaviours and financial abuse; most often they ask about sexual abuse with primary reference to intimate partners and family members (Fulu, 2015; Garcia-Moreno et al, 2005). Girls included in the surveys often tend to be aged 15–17, and may or may not be asked retrospectively about sexual abuse experiences over their whole childhoods (ENDIREH, 2011). Limiting a survey to 15–17-year-olds means that recent experiences for younger children cannot be captured; furthermore, vulnerabilities and risks have been shown to vary with age (Radford et al, 2011; 2013).

Current best practice favours asking children and young people themselves, rather than adults, about their experiences: this is more likely to tell us about the *current* prevalence rates and how these may vary according to different types of risk across the age range (Finkelhor, 2008). A children's rights perspective further supports research that enables children's participation and respects their rights to be consulted on matters that affect their wellbeing.

In some surveys, parents act as proxy reporters on the experiences of younger children. Three of the 29 methodologically different surveys asked parents about the experiences of their children aged under 10. One difficulty with asking parents is that a parent may not know about the abuse a child has experienced, so is likely to under-report. In one survey that used this approach, however, no major discrepancies were found when comparing children's reports of victimisation at age 11 with caregiver proxy reports for children aged 10 (Finkelhor et al, 2005).

Gender limitations

Sexual violence is a gendered crime, mostly perpetrated by males, with girls being the larger group of victims (Radford et al, 2013). However boys are also sexually abused and exploited, and are especially vulnerable in some contexts such as single-sex residential schools, (Radford et al, 2017a).

Information collected on the abuse of boys in prevalence surveys is more limited, because some studies have been set within a gender-based violence context and have asked only about the experiences of women and girls (e.g. Birdthistle et al, 2008).

Other studies have taken a gender-neutral approach, but have not shown results separately for the experiences of boys and girls (Mitchell et al, 2017; Ndetei et al, 2007). The experiences of girls and boys need to be covered and shown separately, so that context and gender vulnerabilities can be better understood.

Whilst the majority of the 29 methodologically different surveys could be used with both female and male participants, systematic reviews showed that in practice some studies asked only girls and women about sexual abuse in childhood, neglecting the abuse of boys (Barth et al, 2012).

3.2 Definitions of CSA

A review by Goldman and Padayachi (2000) identified four common problems in conceptualising and measuring CSA:

- How sexual contact is defined.
- Whether non-contact sexual events such as exhibitionism, pornography or sexual invitation are included.
- Whether all wanted and unwanted sexual experiences are included, or just unwanted experiences.
- Whether an age differential is employed between the perpetrator and victim.

The breadth of the definition of sexual abuse has an influence. None of the studies reviewed include all types of sexual abuse and exploitation, and questions about prevalence are less common with regard to internet and mobile phone abuse, CSE, trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, and exploitation in creating and sharing CSA materials.

Only eight of the 29 methodologically different studies asked about sexual exploitation. Many of the studies on the prevalence of CSE have originated in the area of global health, especially sexual and reproductive health research, including HIV/Aids prevention (Radford et al, 2015). Few sexual health surveys include questions on sexual exploitation facilitated online and using mobile phones. There seem to be a lack of questions on intermediaries distinguishing between pimps, 'boyfriends', gangs or organised criminal groups.

Some studies have looked at all forms of unwanted sexual victimisation, whether by adults or peers (Averdijk et al, 2011; Pineda-Lucatero et al, 2009), whilst others have looked more restrictively at forced or coerced first sexual intercourse (Andersson and Ho-Foster, 2008; Birdthistle et al, 2008; Jewkes et al, 2002).

Definitions and measures of CSA and CSE used in some surveys do not match the wider range of behaviours currently recognised as sexual abuse in law and policy. Andrews et al (2004) found that rates of sexual abuse ranged from 6% on average for studies using narrow definitions to an average of 23% for those with broader concepts.

Lower rates for the prevalence of CSA were produced in studies that only included one question on this topic. The average rate for sexual abuse for studies that contained just one question was 14%, compared with 23% for the average prevalence rates found in studies that asked more than one question.

3.3 Wording of questions

There are many reasons why it can be difficult for a child or young person to recognise an experience as sexual abuse; these include the impact of CSA on children at different developmental stages (Kendall-Tackett, 2008). Recognition of an experience as criminal, unlawful, abnormal or abusive may be difficult for any victim, as the power relationship with a perpetrator – especially where there is grooming or an emotional attachment – can mean that the perpetrator’s views dominate. Furthermore, a child or young person may not want to identify themselves as a ‘victim’, and may want to feel they have control over their experiences. How they are asked about experiences of sexual abuse is highly likely to influence the response.

Studies covering CSE often ask about ‘selling sex’ or having sex ‘in exchange for money or other gifts’ (Włodarczyk and Makaruk, 2013). This wording does not distinguish between the buying and selling of sex, and may muddle differences that might exist in behaviours of buying and selling and degrees of coercion among boys and girls. It also may confuse young people who have experienced sexual abuse from a family member or intimate partner and have sometimes been given a gift from the perpetrator.

Children and young people respond best to questions that have been cognitively tested and are neutrally worded, not asking them whether they have been ‘abused’, ‘raped’ or ‘molested’ but asking instead about behaviour-specific acts such as being touched or kissed (Mohler-Kuo et al, 2014; Craner et al, 2015). In reviewing the measures used in different studies these factors have been taken into account. Twelve of the 29 methodologically different surveys asked some questions about CSA that were not neutrally worded, were ambiguous or non-specific.

3.4 Context in which questions about CSA are asked

It is important to consider why data on the prevalence of CSA is collected, given that this can be a costly exercise in terms of potential upset to participants and the economic cost of conducting a robust survey. Few researchers collect data on prevalence just to ‘count’ the number of children self-reporting abusive experiences. Most aim to use the data not only to demonstrate the full burden of abuse and its impact on children and society, but also to learn more about how to prevent and respond to it more effectively (Hillis et al, 2012). Often, therefore, surveys of prevalence also collect data on how victims were affected and the factors that might influence the impact and harm caused.

A difficulty with studies that focus on the prevalence and impact of CSA alone is that sexually abused children and young people may also experience other forms of victimisation and adversity (Frias and Finkelhor, 2017; Karayianni et al, 2017). The harm caused by sexual abuse alone or sexual abuse alongside the other forms of victimisation experienced cannot be measured accurately in a survey asking only about sexual abuse (Hillis et al, 2012). Best practice is currently seen to include asking about sexual abuse and exploitation in the context of other victimisation and adversity (Hillis et al, 2016; Meinck et al, 2016; UNICEF, 2014). Twelve of the 29 methodologically different surveys looked solely at experiences of CSA or CSE.

4. Findings: victimisation surveys

This chapter summarises the methodologically different prevalence studies reviewed. These are categorised as:

- those focusing specifically on CSA (section 4.1)
- those including questions about CSA and CSE within more general studies of violence against children and violence or of violence against women and girls (section 4.2)
- those focusing specifically on abuse or grooming online (section 4.3).

It also describes the survey methods and sampling techniques used in these surveys.

4.1 Surveys focusing specifically on CSA

Studies on the prevalence of CSA are the most frequently conducted child victimisation surveys: for example, 217 different studies were included in the meta-analysis by Stoltenborgh et al (2011). Many of these CSA-specific studies are limited to older age groups of children, typically aged 15 years or more, and often results are merged with results gained from questioning adults. A limitation of the CSA-specific surveys is that impact and resulting harm cannot accurately be taken into account without asking about other forms of victimisation and adversity.

Four instruments to measure CSA only were identified in the review, and their key features are summarised in Table 1.

- Research on sexual health and behaviour was included in the **National Survey of Adolescents**, carried out in four countries in sub-Saharan Africa (Adjei and Saewy, 2017). The measure is limited, as the questions on sexual abuse cover only touching, forced/coerced intercourse and money or gifts in exchange for sex.
- Two of the measures found – the **Sexual Abuse and Violence in Ireland (SAVI)** survey (McGee et al, 2002) and the **Sexual Experiences Survey (SES)** (Koss et al, 2006) – used an adult retrospective approach, with adults in SAVI being up to 90 years old. SAVI included 12 questions on contact and non-contact CSA, including pornography, exhibitionism and forced watching. Koss's SES has been widely used in research on sexual violence. The long form has 21 questions that cover contact and non-contact forms of abuse, including watching sexual acts, being photographed, receiving obscene phone calls, sexual touching and attempted and completed acts of oral, anal and vaginal penetration. The SES includes questions with non-neutral wording (for example, asking participants if they were ever stared at 'in a sexual way'). Whilst most of the questions relate to specific acts, the survey also asks participants if they were raped. The questions are unlikely to be helpful for directly surveying children and young people.
- Of the four measures, only the **Child Sexual Abuse Questionnaire (CSAQ)** (Mohler-Kuo et al, 2014) focuses specifically on children's and young people's experiences. The CSAQ was developed in Switzerland as a new measure of CSA drawing from research literature, professional consultation and a pilot study with 120 adolescents. The survey covers sexual abuse and sexual exploitation although there is only one question on sexual exploitation – and this is not neutrally worded, as it asks: 'Were you ever forced or urged by another person to prostitute yourself (sex for money)?' None of the other CSA-specific studies reviewed included any measurement of CSE.

Table 1. CSA-specific studies of victimisation prevalence

The survey questions are included in the Appendix, except for instruments marked ^

| Name of instrument | Reference | Jurisdiction | Type of violence | Participants | Method | Measures | Questions |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| [1] Child Sexual Abuse Questionnaire (CSAQ) | Mohler-Kuo et al (2014) Mueller-Johnson et al (2014) | Switzerland | Sexual victimisation | Nationally representative sample of 6,787 students aged 13–20 (52% male, 48% female) | Self-completion CASI interview conducted in class time, 2009–10. Response rate 92% | 15 questions on CSA and CSE: • 8 on non-contact CSA • 7 on contact CSA Includes online abuse and abusive images | Some wording not neutral (use of term ‘molested’) Mostly asks about specific acts, but also asks about ‘prostitution’ Perpetrators: adults and peers |
| [2] National Survey of Adolescents (NSA)^ | Awusabo-Asare et al (2006) Adjai and Saewy (2017) | Burkina Faso, Ghana, Malawi, Uganda | Sexual health and behaviour, including CSA and CSE | Sample of 2,158 young people aged 12–19 (1,314 male, 844 female) merged from nationally representative household surveys in four nations | Interviewer administered household survey 2004 Response rates: 87% in Uganda, 89% in Malawi, 89.3% in Ghana, 95% in Burkina Faso | Questions on CSA included: lifetime contact CSA (touching, kissing etc), lifetime forced/coerced sex, forced first sexual intercourse, receipt of goods or money in exchange for sex in the past year | Full questionnaire not found but questions included in publications |
| [3] Sexual Abuse and Violence in Ireland (SAVI) survey | McGee et al (2002) | Ireland | Sexual violence | Randomly selected sample of 3,118 adults aged 18–90 (52% female, 48% male) | Telephone interviews on female and male sexual abuse and violence | 12 retrospective questions on childhood sexual abuse experienced before age 17 Includes pornography, exhibitionism, forced watching, sexual touching, oral, anal and vaginal penetration, penetration with fingers or objects No questions on CSE or abuse online | Neutral wording of questions Asks about specific acts Perpetrators: family, neighbours, authority figures, friends/acquaintances, strangers |
| [4] Sexual Experiences Survey – Long Form Victimization (SES-LFV) | Koss et al (2006) | USA | CSA and sexual violence | Adult retrospective samples asked about experiences since age 14 | Self-completion paper questionnaire | 18 questions on lifetime and past-year contact and non-contact sexual abuse • 10 questions on non-contact abuse cover looking, ‘teasing’, online abuse, obscene phone calls, taking nude photos, watching sexual acts. • 8 questions on contact abuse include sexual touching, attempted and completed oral, anal or vaginal penetration. Includes abuse whilst unable to consent due to drugs or alcohol intoxication. No questions on CSE | Some wording not neutral, e.g asks if ‘stared at in a sexual way’ Specific acts not always asked about in a neutral way, e.g asks if ever ‘raped’ Perpetrators: only identifies whether male or female |

4.2 Broader surveys that include questions about CSA

In the broader studies of violence towards children and young people which included assessments of CSA victimisation, 13 methodologically different studies were found; a summary of their key points is presented in Table 2. The majority of these studies captured both lifetime and past-year experiences of CSA.

Three of the studies had a primary focus on violence against women and girls, and girls aged 15–17 were included in the sample:

- the **USAID Demographic and Health Survey (DHS)**
- the **Fundamental Rights Agency Violence Against Women EU Survey (FRA VAW)**
- the **World Health Organization Multi Country Violence Against Women Survey (WHOWAW).**

Two studies focused on wider wellbeing but included sexual abuse within this:

- the **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)** study
- the **National Survey of Youth in Custody (NSYC).**

The remaining eight studies investigated CSA within the wider study of child abuse and neglect, providing scope to explore the co-occurrence and accumulative impact of different forms of victimisation as well as associated risks or vulnerabilities:

- the **Childhood Experiences of Violence Questionnaire (CEVQ)**
- the **Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ)**
- a **Cyprus study** of the prevalence, contexts, and correlates of CSA
- the **ISPCAN Child Abuse Screening Tool (ICAST)** survey, developed by the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN)
- the **National Survey of Child Exposure to Violence/Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire (NatSCEV/JVQ)**
- the **NorVold Abuse Questionnaire (NorAQ)**
- the **Short Child Maltreatment Questionnaire (SCMQ)**
- a **Swedish survey** of physical punishment and other forms of child abuse.

As with the studies that investigated the prevalence of CSA only, the surveys ranged from brief measures containing few, more limited questions on CSA (four studies: ACE, DHS, SCMQ and the Swedish survey) to those that assessed sexual abuse more comprehensively, identifying different forms of abuse. Both approaches have utility. Shorter surveys are less costly and may enable regular monitoring of trends, whilst more comprehensive surveys give a fuller picture of the range of different victimisation experiences (Meinck et al, 2016).

The Cyprus study, which aimed to modify the ICAST, was the only victimisation survey included in the review that included questions asking about trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation.

The ICAST and the NatSCEV/JVQ have comprehensive, validated measures of child maltreatment/child victimisation, including experiences of sexual abuse covering reports in the past year as well as over the whole span of childhood and including a wide range of perpetrators. Both are endorsed as survey measures of violence against children by influential global organisations such as the World Health Organization (Meinck et al, 2016; Sethi, 2015). The NatSCEV/JVQ includes questions that cover the child/young person's inability to consent, as a result of their young age or intoxication. It also asks about abuse online and through the use of mobile phones.

Table 2. Broader studies of victimisation prevalence which include CSA

The survey questions are included in the Appendix

| Name of instrument | Reference | Jurisdiction | Type of violence | Participants | Method | Measures | Questions |
|--|--|--------------|--|--|-------------------------------|--|---|
| [5] Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study | Dong et al (2004) Felitti et al (1998) Questions on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website (www.cdc.gov) | USA | Physical abuse, sexual abuse, physical neglect, emotional neglect, DV and exposure to violence | Used by professionals to screen and for adult or young person self-report | Self-completion questionnaire | 24 items in the ACE questionnaire CSA: 4 questions covering sexual touching, attempted and completed oral, anal or vaginal penetration. Lifetime and past-year experiences covered. Excludes non-contact abuse and CSE. | Specific questions. Neutral language although use of terms like 'intercourse' may not be appropriate for younger children Participants not asked about who the perpetrators are for CSA |
| [6] Childhood Experiences of Violence Questionnaire (CEVQ) | Walsh et al (2008) | Canada | Peer-on-peer violence, witnessing domestic violence, physical punishment, physical abuse, sexual abuse | Children and young people aged 12–18 | Self-completion questionnaire | 18 items in the CEVQ CSA: 6 questions covering exposure, watching, touching, threatened or completed sexual intercourse | Specific questions Neutral language Perpetrators CSA= mostly family, non family only male or female, adult of peer. |
| [7] Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ) | Bernstein et al (1994) Bernstein et al (1997) Bernstein and Fink (1998) Bernstein et al (2003) | USA | Emotional neglect, Sexual abuse, Physical abuse, Emotional abuse, Physical Neglect, Minimization and Denial (used to detect under reporting) | 1,978 clinical and community sample participants in validation study in 2003 Adult and young people retrospective | Self-completion inventory | 28 items in the CTQ 5 questions on lifetime CSA covering watching, touching, being 'molested' | Non-specific questions Non-neutral language used such as being 'sexually abused' or 'molested' Perpetrators CSA = only older persons or adults. No peers, gangs/groups |

| Name of instrument | Reference | Jurisdiction | Type of violence | Participants | Method | Measures | Questions |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| [8] Cyprus study | Karayianni et al (2017) | Cyprus | Physical violence, psychological abuse, neglect, sexual abuse | 1,080 young people aged 15–18 (259 male, 821 female); 772 young adults aged 19–25 (182 male, 590 female). Recruited through schools, colleges and youth organisations | Online self-completion retrospective survey | ICAST measures of child abuse and neglect including CSA, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 bespoke questions on sexual solicitation, including online and using mobile phone • 1 bespoke question on sexual exploitation • 1 bespoke question on trafficking for sexual exploitation | Neutral language Direct questions Perpetrators adults or peers, stranger, friend/ |
| [9] Fundamental Rights Agency Violence Against Women EU Survey (FRA VAW) | Fundamental Rights Agency (2014) | 28 EU member states | Women's experiences of physical, sexual, psychological and emotional violence including partner abuse, stalking, sexual harassment and abuse and neglect in childhood before age 15 | Nationally representative samples of 42,000 women aged 18–74 across all 28 EU states | Retrospective face to face interviews with women in households. Interviewers using paper survey or CAPI methods to record responses Retrospective questions on abuse in childhood before age 15. | 5 questions on CSA in childhood covering exposure, creation of sexual images, touching, coerced sexual intercourse | Specific questions Focus on acts 'not wanted' Perpetrators only adults |
| [10] ISPCAN Child Abuse Screening Tool (ICAST) | Runyan et al (2009) Zolotor et al (2009) Runyan et al (2015) Kumar et al (2017) Questions available from ISPCAN | Developed by international experts for use across different nations | Physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, exposure to DV and community violence | ICAST-CH for children aged 11–18 at home, ICAST-CI for children aged 11–18 in institutions. ICAST-P for parents. ICAST-R for adults retrospectively describing childhood abuse. | Self or interviewer completion on paper or CASI | 5 questions on CSA lifetime and past-year children and adulthood covering watching, touching, creation of sexual images/videos, doing sexual things with other people, saying or writing sexual things, forced/coerced sexual intercourse | Neutral language Specific questions about acts Perpetrators: adult male or female or child male or female for child survey; parent, siblings, relatives, teacher, neighbour, work colleague, strangers in adult retrospective survey, but no information on perpetrator gender |

| Name of instrument | Reference | Jurisdiction | Type of violence | Participants | Method | Measures | Questions |
|---|---|--------------|--|---|--|--|--|
| [11] National Survey of Child Exposure to Violence/Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire (NatSCEV/JVQ) | Finkelhor et al (2005) Finkelhor et al (2014a) Finkelhor et al (2014b) Various publications on University of New Hampshire Crimes Against Children website | USA | 6 modules for screener questions on : Conventional crime, child maltreatment, peer and sibling victimisation, sexual victimisation, internet/cyber victimisation, indirect and witnessing violence Follow-up questions on frequency, nature of victimisation, perpetrators, location, impact, helpseeking | Nationally representative community samples. Survey available for parents/caregivers of children aged 0–10; children aged 11–17. | Main mode in USA = Telephone interviews with caregivers of child under age 10 years and youth self-report ages 11–17. Survey can be administered in interview face to face, by CASI or in limited form as paper survey | NatSCEV/JVQ asks about lifetime and past-year victimisation CSA module has 8 questions about CSA covering saying sexual things, touching, exposure, attempted and completed forced sexual intercourse, statutory rape Includes question on lack of capacity to consent due to intoxication. Online/cyber victimisation module has 3 questions on CSA No questions currently on CSE | Neutral wording Specific questions about acts Perpetrators of CSA = family, peers, strangers, known adults, boyfriend/girlfriend, gang |
| [12] National Survey of Youth in Custody (NSYC) 2012 | Beck et al (2013) | USA | Life in custody with focus on prevalence and incidence of sexual victimisation (CSA and CSE) questions also on physical violence | Nationally representative sample from USA youth custody Total sample 16,500 young people, of whom 8,707 completed sexual victimisation survey 2012 | ACASI interviews with young people aged 15+ in custody. (92% of sample male.) | 11 questions of type of sexual activity in past 12 months for those aged 14 years and under 12 questions on type of sexual activity for those aged 15 years and over, covering exposure, sexual comments, kissing, touching, sexual intercourse Follow-up questions on coercion of sexual acts | Neutral age specific wording Mostly specific questions about acts, although use of term 'fooled around with' may cause confusion Perpetrators = other young people in custody, staff |
| [13] NorVold Abuse Questionnaire (NorAQ) | Swahnberg and Wijma (2003) | Sweden | Physical violence, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and abuse in health care | Random sample of 2,000 women in Sweden | Adult retrospective postal survey and interview administered survey | 13 questions on abuse and neglect 4 questions on CSA with 2 follow-ups on specific types | No information |

| Name of instrument | Reference | Jurisdiction | Type of violence | Participants | Method | Measures | Questions |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| [14] Short Child Maltreatment Questionnaire (SCMQ) | Meinck et al (2016) | Developed by international experts for use across different nations | Physical violence, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, physical and emotional neglect, exposure to DV | Currently under trial with WHO | Paper questionnaire | 7 questions, 1 question CSA lifetime and past year victimisation No questions on CSE or online abuse | Neutral language Specific questions Perpetrators = adults and family members at least 5 years older |
| [15] Swedish survey of physical punishment and other forms of child abuse | Annerbäck et al (2012) | Sweden | Physical violence from parent/ caregiver, exposure to DV, bullying, CSA (forced sexual acts) by adults or peers | 5,933 schoolchildren average ages 15 and 17 years recruited from schools in Sodermanland county in Sweden | Paper survey administered by teachers/school nurses in class time in 2008 Response rate 81.8% | Bespoke survey based on previous Swedish surveys 1 question on CSA – forced sex | Neutral language Specific questions about acts |
| [16] USAID Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) | USAID (2017) | International focus for use across low- and middle- income nations | Domestic violence including forced sex | Women aged 15 and over | Household interviewer-administered paper survey | Surveys in over 300 countries main focus on health 3 questions on forced sexual intercourse and sex acts | Perpetrators : partners, ex-partners, anyone else |
| [17] World Health Organization Multi Country Violence Against Women Survey (WHOWAS) | Garcia- Moreno et al (2005) Mantras et al (2015) Fulu (2015) | International focus for use across different nations | Physical, sexual, emotional and controlling behaviour | Nationally representative samples of girls and women aged 15–64 | Interviewer-administered household survey | 12 sections including health sections 1 question asked of all retrospectively about contact sexual abuse in the family before age 15 V11 in Cambodia asks specific questions including touching ‘private parts’ 4 questions on sexual violence asked of 15–17-year-olds covering forced/unwanted intercourse or humiliating sex acts Most recent version V11 used in El Salvador 2015 (only in Spanish) being updated now by WHO includes questions on online/mobile phone abuse and sexual harassment at school or work | Earlier versions language not all neutral or specific. V11 gives definitions of harassment, intercourse, forced sex Perpetrators = mostly partners but also ask about family members, friends, police, teachers, boyfriends, strangers, work colleagues and religious leaders |

4.3 Surveys focusing specifically on abuse or grooming online

Two methodologically different studies on online abuse victimisation were included in the review and are summarised in Table 3:

- the **Questionnaire for Online Sexual Solicitation and Interactions With Adults (QOSSIA)**
- the **Youth Internet Safety Surveys (YISS)**.

Two further studies that asked about online victimisation and perpetration were found – the AAUW Sexual Harassment in Schools survey (Hill and Kearl, 2011) and STIR (Barter, 2014) – and are discussed in Chapter 5.

Survey questions used in these studies are relatively limited on the topic of online grooming and tend to focus on online ‘sexual solicitation’, less on how the grooming occurred. The Spanish survey using the QOSSIA measure investigated only online abuse by adult perpetrators. The YISS more comprehensively covered victimisation by peers and by adults.

Table 3. Surveys specifically on online abuse, sexting and grooming

The survey questions are included in the Appendix

| Name of instrument | Reference | Jurisdiction | Type of violence | Participants | Method | Measures | Questions |
|---|---------------------------|--------------|---|---|---|--|--|
| [18] Questionnaire for Online Sexual Solicitation and Interactions With Adults (QOSSIA) | Gómez-Guadix et al (2017) | Spain | Online sexual solicitation and interactions | 2,731 boys (48%) and girls (51%) aged 12–15, recruited from schools in Madrid | Online victimisation survey | New measure piloted in Madrid, Spain. 10 items asking about sexual solicitation and interactions between adults and the young person online in the past year | Questions neutral wording Specific acts mentioned, although use of word ‘cybersex’ may be confusing Perpetrators: adults |
| [19] Youth Internet Safety Surveys (YISS) | Mitchell et al (2014) | USA | Online sexual abuse and harassment, victimisation of young people | Nationally representative samples of boys and girls aged 10–17 | Telephone interviews, surveys conducted approx. every 5 years to track trends: YISS 1 = 1,501 participants, 1999-2000. YISS 2 = 1,500 participants, 2005; YISS 3 = 1,560 participants, 2010-11 | Unwanted online sexual solicitation: 3 questions Exposure to sexual material: 3 questions Sexual harassment: 2 questions Sexting: 5 questions | Neutral language Specific questions asked Perpetrators: adults and peers |

5. Findings: surveys asking about perpetration of CSA and CSE

In this report ‘perpetration’ includes any adult, or any young person below the age of 18 years, who commits any act of sexual abuse against a child, whether or not the abuse is reported. This therefore includes cases of sexual abuse that are not known to authorities such as the police or child protection services. No studies were found that asked participants only about perpetrating CSA, although it is possible these may exist within the offender research literature or in the research on young people with harmful sexual behaviour. Ten methodologically different studies of the prevalence of CSA victimisation and perpetration were identified in the review. These are summarised in Table 4.

- One is the set of comprehensive **Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS)** which included children’s and young people’s victimisation and perpetration experiences of sexual abuse and exploitation (UNICEF, 2017).
- Four studies asked only about victimisation and perpetration of sexual abuse or harassment:
 - the **Baltic Sea Regional Study on Adolescent Sexuality** (Mossige et al, 2007)
 - the **National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health)** (Edwards et al, 2006)
 - the **Sexual Aggression and Victimization Scale (SAV-S)** (Krahe and Berger, 2013)
 - the **American Association of University Women (AAUW) Sexual Harassment in Schools Survey** (Hill and Kearl, 2011).
- One study focused only on CSE – the **Buying and Selling Sex in Quebec Adolescents survey** (Lavoie et al, 2010).
- Four studies asked about sexual abuse victimisation and perpetration in relation to dating/ intimate partner abuse in young people’s relationships:
 - the **Conflict in Adolescent Dating Relationships Inventory (CADRI)** (Wolfe et al, 2001)
 - the **International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES)** (El Feder et al, 2016)
 - the **National Survey on Teen Relationships and Intimate Violence (STRIV)** (Taylor et al, 2016)
 - **Safeguarding Teenage Intimate Relationships (STIR)** (Barter, 2014).

Three of the surveys – the Baltic Sea study, IMAGES and the VACS – included adult and young people participants reporting their experiences.

5.1 Questions used in assessing the scale and nature of perpetration

Some surveys that include perpetration have limited questions asking about acts of sexual violence only. For example, Penning and Collins (2014), in a study in South Africa, explored perpetration using just three questions:

- ‘Touching someone in a sexual way when the other person did not want you to.’
- ‘Attempting to have sex with another person against his or her will.’
- ‘Having sex with someone against his or her will.’

The Baltic Sea study and the VACS are more comprehensive and cover being a victim and/or a perpetrator of sexual abuse and exploitation comprehensively, asking about sexual touching, attempted and actual penetration and sexual exploitation and the production of abusive imagery.

None of the studies of victimisation and perpetration asked about perpetrators' involvement in trafficking, although IMAGES asked in question 10.60: 'Have you ever had sex with a prostitute or sex worker you think was forced or sold into prostitution?' Questions on intermediaries, pimps, gangs or others involved in sexually exploiting children were sparse.

Surveys such as IMAGES included questions on attitudes and behaviours (on partner violence) which could be helpful for exploring whether certain beliefs are associated with perpetration.

In the surveys reviewed, three different approaches were observed in asking questions about perpetration and victimisation:

- CADRI, for example, alternated questions about victimisation with questions about perpetration, so that participants were asked consecutively for each individual act (e.g. touching) whether they experienced this act and/or did it to somebody else.
- The dating/partner relationship abuse surveys such as STIR asked about specific experiences and then used follow-up questions to discover what acts were non-consensual or coerced – and whether other people, such as peers, were perceived to have influenced these.
- In the third approach, used in IMAGES and the VACS, all the questions on victimisation are asked first, followed by questions on perpetration.

It is not known whether the different ordering of questions on perpetration and victimisation influences rates of reporting prevalence; this is an area that requires further research.

Table 4. Surveys asking about victimisation and perpetration of CSA and/or CSE

The survey questions are included in the Appendix, except for instruments marked ^

| Name of instrument | Reference | Jurisdiction | Type of violence | Participants | Method | Measures | Questions |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| [20] American Association of University Women (AAUW) Sexual Harassment in Schools Survey | Hill and Kearl (2011) | USA | Sexual harassment in schools | Boys and girls aged 12 to 17 | Self report online survey of victimisation and perpetration, includes in person and online | 10 questions on sexual harassment victimisation and perpetration in the current school year | Mostly neutral wording Not all questions cover specific acts Perpetrators = teacher, student, group/gang |
| [21] Baltic Sea Regional Study on Adolescent Sexuality^ | Mossige et al (2007) Priebe et al (2010) Asgeirsdottir et al (2011) | Estonia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, West Russia, Sweden, Iceland | CSA and CSE perpetration and victimisation | 20,979 participants of whom 11,528 aged 18 years in Mossige et al, 2007 | School-based paper questionnaire delivered in class time Response rate 78.9%. | 65 main questions and 400 sub questions covering sexual experiences, contact and non-contact sexual abuse, sexual exploitation/selling sex, exposure to pornography/online abusive images | Full questionnaire not seen Questions in English included in detail in publications, although insufficient detail on nature of wording in regional languages and on follow-up questions. |
| [22] Buying and selling sex in Quebec Adolescents survey | Lavoie et al (2010) | Canada | CSA victimisation CSE victimisation and perpetration | 815 school students from Quebec, mean age 15 465 girls, 349 boys | School based self-report paper questionnaire on sexual behaviour, attitudes and prostitution | 4 questions on CSE 2 questions on CSA based on Statistics Canada VAW survey 1995 | Questions included in paper, questionnaire not seen Perpetrators CSE: friend, acquaintance, stranger, other, adult or peer Include question on intermediaries |
| [23] Conflict in Adolescent Dating Relationships Inventory (CADRI) | Wolfe et al (2001) | Canada | Intimate partner victimisation, including sexual | Boys and girls aged 12 to 18 | Self report victimisation and perpetration, male and female version, questionnaires usually delivered in school/class | 4 questions on sexual victimisation and perpetration | Non – neutral – framed in context of conflict or argument Specific acts Perpetrators = boyfriend/girlfriend only |

| Name of instrument | Reference | Jurisdiction | Type of violence | Participants | Method | Measures | Questions |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| [24] International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) | El Feki et al (2017) | Designed for use across different nations. Used mostly in low- to middle-income regions. International | Intimate partner, sexual violence, including CSE, towards adult women and girls, men's experiences of sexual abuse in childhood | Men and boys, Women and girls | Self report survey administered on hand held devices, as paper questionnaire or interviewer administered | Adapted in context over 30 countries 2 questions on csa in childhood in men's survey 3 questions on sexual violence perpetrated whilst a child at school 3 questions sexual exploitation perpetration Only 1 question on sexual exploitation CSE perpetrated as an adult asks if victim under age 18. | Some questions ambiguously worded Perpetrators not clearly distinguished |
| [25] National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health) | Edwards et al (2006) Harris (2003) | USA | Nationally representative longitudinal study of health of young people including sexual risk taking Waves 1, ii and iii | Boys and girls aged 12-17 in 1994-5 13,294 completed questions on selling sex Waves I and II | Survey at school and then CSAI/ ACASI interviews at home | 4 questions on sexual risk taking look at CSE identified as giving sex or paying someone for sex in exchange for money or drugs | Sex not defined Perpetrators and victims not specified |
| [26] National Survey on Teen Relationships and Intimate Violence (STRIV) | Taylor et al (2016) | USA | Longitudinal study of intimate partner abuse in teenagers' relationships covering physical violence, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, controlling behaviours, online abuse. Victimisation and perpetration covered | Parent and young person (age 12-18) surveys. Young person survey for ages 12-18 | Online survey Modified version of CADRI 62 items on covert and overt forms of abuse victimisation and perpetration and positive and negative behaviours. 4 items on CSA used. Also sexual harassment measures based on AAUW measures of SH, including online | 7 questions on SV, victimisation and perpetration (some repeated) by/to partner or by/to anyone else | Neutral wording Specific wording about acts although use of term 'intercourse' Perpetrators = mostly boyfriend/ girlfriend, others asked about but not identified |

| Name of instrument | Reference | Jurisdiction | Type of violence | Participants | Method | Measures | Questions |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| [27] Sexual Aggression and Victimization Scale (SAV-S) | Krahe and Berger (2013) Krahe and Berger (2017) | Germany | 2 wave longitudinal study with retrospective questions on sexual violence victimisation and perpetration | Convenience sample of students from 10 universities in Germany. Wave 1 sample = 2251 participants (1331 female, 920 male); Wave 2 = 1612 participants (993 female, 619 male) | Online self-report survey asking retrospectively about sexual violence since the age of 14 Includes violence in heterosexual (80%), bisexual (17%) and same sex relationships (3%) | Measures of sexual violence adapted from Koss's SES to include coercive strategies such as physical force and exploiting victim's inability to consent (e.g. due to being drunk). 4 types of sexual acts covered: sexual touching, attempted intercourse, completed intercourse, other sexual acts (e.g. oral sex) | Full set of questions not found Perpetrators = partner, acquaintance, stranger |
| [28] Safeguarding Teenage Intimate Relationships (STIR) | Barter (2014) Stanley et al (2016) Wood et al (2015) | Bulgaria, Cyprus, England, Italy, Norway | Teenagers' experiences of online and offline partner abuse including victimisation and perpetration of physical abuse, emotional abuse, controlling behaviour and sexual abuse | Boys and girls aged 14–17 in school | School based self report paper survey administered in class Follow-up interviews | 7 items on CSA including online and offline abuse and use of abusive images/pornography | Questions mostly neutral wording but word 'pressured' may cause confusion. Specific acts are asked about but the term 'regularly' is not defined. Perpetrators = peers or partners |
| [29] Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS) | Together for Girls (2017) Breiding et al (2011) UNICEF Cambodia (2014) UNICEF Tanzania (2011) Rumble et al (2017) | Tanzania Haiti Swaziland Cambodia Zimbabwe Kenya Malawi Indonesia Nigeria | Surveys of violence against children covering physical violence, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and exploitation | Nationally representative samples of children and young adults aged 13–24 years | Interviewer-administered household surveys asking about experiences over childhood retrospectively those aged 18–24, lifetime and past year experiences those aged 13–17 | Survey questions have been adapted to suit a particular country context. 2013 version of VACS (currently being reviewed) has: • 1 question on forced first sex • 2 questions on CSE • 2 questions on CSA involving webcam or photos • 3 screener questions for CSA • 2 questions on CSA perpetration | Neutral wording and direct acts asked about. Perpetrators: family, friends, neighbours, person in authority, employer, partner, stranger, acting alone or in group, adult or peer |

6. Issues in victimisation and perpetration surveys

6.1 Types of abusive behaviour asked about

The review found that questions included in surveys on CSA and CSE covered the following 14 types of sexually abusive acts:

1. exposure/watching;
2. production or sharing of abusive images/content;
3. saying sexual things/verbal sexual abuse;
4. solicitation/invitation/grooming;
5. participation in online sexual acts;
6. kissing/sexual touching;
7. attempted oral, anal, vaginal penetration;
8. completed oral, anal, vaginal penetration;
9. attempted and completed sex acts whilst drunk/unable to consent;
10. statutory rape, i.e sexual intercourse when young person is below the age of consent;
11. abuse by persons in positions of trust/authority (including care workers, teachers, police, faith leaders such as priests/pastors);
12. selling/buying/exchanging sex for food, drugs etc
13. the role of intermediaries in sexual exploitation;
14. trafficking.

The 29 methodologically different surveys were each assessed to see how many of the 14 types of abusive behaviours were covered by the questions asked. The findings are shown in Table 5. No survey covered all 14 types. The surveys with most comprehensive coverage were the NatSCEV/JVQ (10 types) and the VACS (nine types). Both these surveys are currently being revised and updated, and it is likely that their questions on CSA and CSE may be updated. The CSAQ covered eight types of abusive behaviours – more than any other CSA-specific survey, but fewer than those two comprehensive children and violence surveys, where questions on CSA and CSE were included amongst other questions about violence, abuse or neglect.

The surveys covering the fewest abusive behaviour types were, not surprisingly, the short measures (e.g. the SCMQ, which asked only about kissing/sexual touching) and short lists of questions included in the context of wider studies (e.g. the CTQ and the DHS, which each asked about two types).

The types of abusive behaviour most commonly asked about were sexual abuse involving some physical contact: 25 of the surveys asked about experiences of kissing or touching, and 19 about experiences of vaginal, anal or oral penetration. Fewer surveys asked questions about:

- statutory rape (covered only by the NatSCEV/JVQ)
- trafficking (covered by the Cyprus study and IMAGES)
- solicitation and grooming (covered by the Cyprus study, the NatSCEV/JVQ and NorAQ)
- sexual intercourse whilst unable to consent due to drugs/drink (covered by the NatSCEV/JVQ, STRIV, SAV-S and SES).

6.2 Types of perpetrator asked about

Studies that include peers as perpetrators of sexual abuse typically have higher rates for the prevalence of CSA and cover a much wider range of perpetrator-victim relationships. Five major differences were found in how studies ask about the types of perpetrator. These are largely influenced by differences in how the problem of CSA and the reason for asking about it is framed.

- Short survey measures such as the ACE questionnaire ask about experiences of CSA without asking at all about perpetrators (Dong et al, 2004; Felitti et al, 1998).
- Surveys that approach sexual abuse as intimate partner abuse, such as CADRI, ask only about sexual abuse from boyfriends or girlfriends (Wolfe et al, 2001).
- Some surveys reviewed framed CSA within a ‘child maltreatment’ perspective asking only about abuse from parents or adults in positions of trust or authority, as in the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ) (Bernstein et al, 1994; 1997; 1998; 2003). This excludes a lot, and often all, the sexual abuse committed by young people under the age of 18.
- There are surveys that include abuse by peers but only if perpetrators are five years older than the victim, as in the Short Child Maltreatment Questionnaire (SCMQ) (Meinck et al, 2016).
- The surveys with the broadest range of adult and peer perpetrators focus on sexual victimisation in childhood, as in the NatSCEV/JVQ, including family members/siblings, adults in positions of trust/authority, boyfriends/girlfriends, known adults and peers, gangs or ‘strangers’.

Some surveys, such as FRA VAW, ask only about solo perpetrators, thereby leaving out abuse by groups or gangs (Fundamental Rights Agency, 2014). Very few surveys ask about others involved in committing acts of abuse or intermediaries in sexual exploitation such as pimps. One example is the Buying and Selling Sex in Quebec Adolescents survey (Lavoie et al, 2010).

6.3 Survey methods used

Two main settings are used to conduct surveys with children and young people: schools and homes. Surveys in schools, such as the Baltic Sea study, exclude those who are absent or not attending school. Household surveys – conducted by telephone as in the NatSCEV/JVQ or by paper questionnaire as in the ICAST – raise issues about privacy for children and young people, although these can be overcome (by for example, using methods such as computer-assisted self-interviewing, ensuring a safe location in the home to hold the interview, and involving the parent in another aspect of the survey at the same time).

Four main approaches exist in the mode of delivery for the prevalence surveys:

- face-to-face interviews
- telephone interviews
- paper-based surveys
- computer-assisted interviewing (CASI or audio CASI).

A national survey of children and violence in South Africa tested different methods to interview 9,730 young people aged 15–17, in households (5,635) and in schools (4,095), using a face-to-face administered interview and a self-completion CASI interview: the highest rates of reporting victimisation were found in the self-completion CASI surveys, especially those completed in schools (Burton et al, 2015). CASI interviews can provide privacy and some control for young people over whether to respond or not to sensitive questions. Household surveys can offer privacy in some settings, which can enable children and young people who need support to explore options with the interviewer, as found in another survey with children and young people in South Africa (Radford et al, 2017b).

Telephone interviews have been used widely in the USA prevalence surveys because geographical distance makes a household survey expensive (Finkelhor et al, 2014b). Participant response rates to telephone surveys have been declining in recent years, however. Random digit dialling, the traditional method of random sampling for telephone interviews, works best for landlines where addresses are registered with phones – but many households now have only mobile phones, with addresses not easily linked to the telephone number, so it is hard to obtain a representative sample of participants. Methods of sampling have therefore had to be adjusted – by, for example, using commercial lists or numbers used in previous market research. These different methods of random sampling were used for the NatSCEV III, but the sampling problems were not wholly resolved and participant response rates still showed a decline (Finkelhor, 2017, personal communication).

The NSYC is collected within a custodial environment and shows that it is possible to collect self-report data within secure settings.

The ICAST (Runyan et al, 2009) and the NatSCEV/JVQ (Finkelhor et al, 2005) are examples of self-report surveys, asking children and young people aged 11 and over directly about their experiences, where parents act as proxy reporters on the experiences of younger children. As previously mentioned, one difficulty with this approach is that a parent may not know about the abuse a child has experienced so is likely to under-report.

6.4 Sampling strategies used

The studies reviewed used three main approaches to obtain samples of participants:

- convenience samples (often clinical or service samples)
- samples of children and young people from schools or colleges
- community samples using random probability methods of sampling.

Random probability methods to recruit community samples are recognised as best practice for recruiting subsamples of participants who are representative of the general population of children (Meinck et al, 2016; UNICEF, 2014). These methods are widely used for major UK-based surveys, including the Crime Survey of England and Wales.

Convenience samples refer to populations of participants who are easily accessible: in research on sexual abuse, this usually covers children and families attending sexual abuse treatment services or clinics. Whilst research with clinical or convenience samples can be very informative, it is not possible to generalise findings on the prevalence of CSA from these samples to the general population of children and young people, as so few CSA victims disclose the abuse and are able to access treatment services (Office of the Children’s Commissioner, 2015).

Research on sexual abuse and violence is also often conducted in schools and, as previously mentioned, has been shown to result in higher rates of reporting experiences of victimisation compared with research conducted with children and young people in the home (Burton et al, 2015). One disadvantage in using school populations is that this excludes children and young people who do not attend school: both pre-school children and school-aged children not attending school. The non-attenders may be more likely than others to be experiencing high rates of victimisation; to include them, other methods of recruitment (based on household addresses or school exclusion lists, for example) would be needed.

Reaching underrepresented or identified vulnerable and minority groups

A small number of studies in Europe have explored whether there are differences in prevalence rates among specific vulnerable minority groups of children and young people. In general, information on the prevalence of sexual abuse among children from vulnerable and/or minority groups has been gained from surveys using either convenience or clinical samples, raising issues about whether the findings are representative.

A systematic review by Maniglio (2013) of research literature on the prevalence of CSA among people with conduct disorders, for example, found 23 studies: all asked retrospectively about sexual abuse in childhood, 83% used clinical samples, and 52% had fewer than 100 participants.

Some studies have explored vulnerability issues using very large population-based samples (e.g. Mohler-Kuo et al, 2014; Mueller-Johnson et al, 2014), whilst others have used ‘booster samples’ to over-recruit minority groups or specifically targeted minority groups only (Jones et al, 2012; Vertommen et al, 2017).

One difficulty with population-representative studies aiming to explore diversity in experiences is that, despite the relatively large size of the overall sample, the number of children and young people in minority groups is small so researchers tend to aggregate data from specific minority groups to create a very general group to compare with the majority – in the case of the study by Mohler-Kuo et al (2014), comparing ‘the non-Swiss’ with the Swiss population. This inevitably masks differences in vulnerabilities between different minorities.

Two studies in the Netherlands which aimed to investigate ethnicity and sexual abuse (Alink et al, 2013; Okur et al, 2015) both used large samples:

- Okur et al oversampled to over-recruit minority groups; their research was based on a Netherlands-adapted online version of Koss’s Sexual Experiences Survey (see Table 1), using 13 items on contact and non-contact CSA including exposure to pornography. A booster sampling approach was taken, oversampling an ethnically diverse population by recruiting schools and colleges in areas with high ethnic diversity and offering subjects known to attract greater numbers of ethnically diverse students. Altogether 3,426 young people aged 18–25 were surveyed (mean age 20 years), 66% of whom were of native Dutch heritage, 1.5% Dutch Antillean, 3.9% Surinamese, 7% Moroccan and 11% Turkish. Okur et al reported no differences in the prevalence rates of sexual abuse associated with ethnicity: indeed, lower rates of reporting were found among young adults of Moroccan heritage than those of native Dutch heritage. In this study, however, the sampling strategy is likely to have influenced the higher level of reports of experiences of CSA, as over-recruitment aimed at boosting ethnic diversity also increased the number of female participants (accounting for 66% of those surveyed).
- In contrast, Alink et al² found that children in families with a recent migration history were at higher risk of abuse. A survey in Switzerland by Schick et al (2016) had similar findings. However, the Netherlands researchers also discovered that, when step-parenthood and a low level of education were taken into account, the increased risk for immigrants disappeared.

Studies exploring the abuse of children with disabilities have often not distinguished between the type of disability (whether physical, intellectual or emotional for example) and there is some evidence that not all types of disability are associated with the same levels of risk of sexual victimisation (Jones et al, 2012).

Mueller-Johnson et al (2014) looked at the sexual victimisation of young people with physical disabilities living in Switzerland, using data from the Swiss school survey (Mohler-Kuo et al, 2014). From the sample of 6,787 young people (mean age 15 years) who completed the survey, 5% (N=360) were identified as having a physical disability. It was found that both girls and boys with physical disability reported higher rates of sexual victimisation than young people who were able-bodied. However if other risk factors such as child maltreatment and harsh parenting were taken into account, physical disability was not a significant predictor of risk for girls but it was for boys. In this study, the researchers combined items from the Swiss CSAQ with items on sexual victimisation from the JVQ to create two merged measures of contact and non-contact sexual victimisation; the rationale was

² Alink et al (2013) was based on the Dutch study of child maltreatment. Questions do not exist in English, but are described by the authors as drawing from the Dating Violence Questionnaire (Straus, 2011) and the Parent–Child Conflict Tactics Scales (Straus et al, 1998). Questions included sexual abuse.

that the merged measures would give a more accurate measure of both types of sexual victimisation than those in the JVQ or the CSAQ alone. Internal consistency tests (Cronbach's alpha tests) gave questionable to poor results, however, suggesting that the items in the merged measures of contact and non-contact sexual victimisation may have been asking about very diverse types of experiences.

Yin Xu and Yong Zheng (2015) reported on a meta-analysis of 65 articles from nine countries that looked at the prevalence of CSA among gay, lesbian and bisexual adults. They found that rates of CSA reported by these adults were higher than those reported by heterosexual adults.

Meta-analyses which draw together and statistically analyse findings from several studies can be useful to explore the risks in specific groups and identify further gaps in the research that need to be addressed. It has not been possible within the limited scope of this review to comprehensively explore such meta-analyses. This is an area where further work could be done.

Table 5. Abusive behaviours covered by the surveys

| Type of abusive behaviour | AAUW [20] | ACE [5] | Add Health [25] | Baltic Sea [21] | CADRI [23] | CEVQ [6] | CSAQ [1] | CTQ [7] | Cyprus [8] | DHS [16] | FRA VAW [9] | ICAST [10] | IMAGES [24] | NatSCEV/JVQ [11] | NSAQ [13] | NSA [2] | NSYC [12] | QOSSA [18] | Quebec [22] | SAVI [3] | SAV-S [27] | SCMQ [14] | SES-LFV [4] | STIR [28] | STRIV [26] | Swedish [15] | VACS [29] | WHOVAW [17] | YISS [19] | TOTAL |
|--|-----------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|----------|----------|----------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|------------|-------------|----------|------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------|
| 1. exposure/watching | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | 17 |
| 2. production or sharing of abusive images/content | | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ | 11 |
| 3. saying sexual things/verbal sexual abuse | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | 11 |
| 4. solicitation/invitation/grooming | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| 5. participation in online sexual acts | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | 9 |
| 6. kissing/sexual touching | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 26 |
| 7. attempted oral, anal, vaginal penetration | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | 14 |
| 8. completed oral, anal, vaginal penetration | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | 20 |
| 9. attempted and completed sex acts whilst drunk/unable to consent | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | 4 |
| 10. statutory rape | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 11. abuse by persons in positions of trust/authority | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | 8 |
| 12. selling/buying/exchanging sex for food, drugs | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | 10 |
| 13. intermediaries | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| 14. trafficking | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| TOTAL | 4 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 10 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 4 | |

7. Existing guidance

The purpose of this review was, briefly, to consider methodologically different approaches to self-report surveys on CSA and CSE, in order to inform the work of the Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse to improve data currently collected in England and Wales. The World Health Organization's child maltreatment prevention plan (WHO, 2014) states:

Countries should publish comprehensive reports on the status of child maltreatment using standardized criteria and should participate in standardized surveys undertaken by WHO and other United Nations bodies.

By 2020, countries should have:

- a) measures of national child maltreatment incidence and prevalence;
- b) surveys of child maltreatment (physical, sexual and mental abuse and neglect) and mental well-being, based on standardized survey instruments and methods;
- c) comprehensive reports showing a reduction in child maltreatment; and
- d) reports showing improved child mental well-being

A target of a reduction of 20% in the prevalence rate of child maltreatment by 2020 has been set.

This includes improving the data collected on CSA.

Many of the areas of best practice for developing *comprehensive* surveys on the prevalence and impact of child maltreatment supported by the WHO have been considered in the earlier discussion in this review. WHO best practice recommendations (Meinck et al, 2016) include:

1. Using *representative community-based samples of children and young people* using random probability sampling methods.
2. Using *standardised survey instruments* (such as the ICAST, the NatSCEV/JVQ or ACE) that are comparable across different countries.
3. Covering *multiple dimensions of child maltreatment* (not only one type such as sexual abuse alone) to capture the overlapping experiences of victimisation and the harm that results.
4. Gathering reports on abuse experienced over the whole course of childhood (lifetime) and in the *past year* to better monitor trends.
5. *Regular data collection* - collecting data on prevalence comprehensively every four to seven years so trends can be tracked.
6. *Self-administration of the survey*, i.e. use of paper and pencil or CASI/ACASI methods to administer the survey and increase participant anonymity, confidentiality and ability to respond to questions about abuse.
7. For age groups where children may be too young to self-report victimisation experiences via a survey (children under the age of 9 years), *parent or carer reporters* are recommended.

8. Implications and conclusions

This review has confirmed that some comprehensive and validated, comparable methods exist to research children's and young people's experiences of abuse, victimisation and perpetration. The more general surveys such as ICAST, the NatSCEV/JVQ (on which the most recent 2009 UK survey of child abuse and neglect by the NSPCC was based) and the VACS cover CSA using questions that have been tested and used for research with children and young people, and parents of younger children, in several different contexts. These survey instruments capture the complexity of abuse and violence against children in the context of other forms of victimisation and the influences of age, gender, family, relationships and community. Whilst some gaps exist in these survey instruments, these are currently under review and with minor adaptations would be suitable for use in future prevalence surveys.

Drawing together findings from the review, additional recommendations about good practice for future surveys can be made:

1. Any new questions or scales developed to address current gaps should be cognitively tested with children and young people, assessed for consistency and accuracy before piloting or implementing.
2. Follow-up questions on perpetrators need to distinguish adults from peers; relationship between perpetrator and victim (whether known, unknown, family member type, boyfriend/girlfriend, person in position of trust or authority; whether acting alone or with others as part of a group/gang. This approach was found to be taken in some of the surveys reviewed, and was used in the last NSPCC survey of child abuse and neglect.
3. Follow-up questions on settings/locations for abuse should identify (in addition to home, school, community):
 - a) abuse online
 - b) abuse in residential and secure settings.
4. Survey measures need to capture the current changing experiences of children and young people and address some of the gaps identified in this review, particularly on sexual exploitation and on abuse online.
5. A number of different shorter survey instruments exist that could be used to assess the prevalence of CSA and CSE in conjunction with larger, regularly collected surveys with young people. It is beyond the scope of this review to assess the ethical issues of doing so, although these have been addressed in the surveys using short lists of questions such as the ACE questionnaire or the sexual violence questions in the DHS. A short set of questions on child maltreatment, the SCMQ, is currently being piloted by the WHO. The SCMQ is very limited as regards experiences of CSA, however, and collects no information on sexual exploitation or abuse online. Further consideration and testing of a short measure to incorporate sexual abuse and exploitation is recommended.

It is important to reiterate that the purpose of collecting data on children's experiences of sexual abuse and exploitation is not just to obtain statistical estimates of the population prevalence but also to use the data for prevention purposes. This means collecting data from surveys that will:

- allow policy-makers and researchers to develop a baseline of data, track trends and be able to assess whether efforts to safeguard children are having any impact on prevalence rates
- allow robust investigation of the factors that create vulnerabilities for victims and perpetrators, and how these might be addressed.

The review has included some studies that have attempted to explore specific vulnerabilities such as disability, gender, being in care, recent migration and sexual orientation. Two different approaches have been taken: studies that explore vulnerabilities within large community surveys, and studies that specifically target vulnerable groups/use booster surveys. Conducting a comprehensive community survey on the prevalence of CSA and CSE with parallel surveys targeting specific vulnerable groups could be a possible way forward for exploring the complexity of broad vulnerabilities such as 'ethnicity' or 'disability'. The method used to ask children with disabilities about their experiences will need to be appropriate and accessible for children with different types of impairment. In-depth qualitative research with children and young people, particularly from vulnerable and marginalised groups, is needed to explore these methodological, ethical and conceptual issues.

Targeted surveys that aim to gather data from specific groups of vulnerable children need to use measures that allow some comparability with prevalence rates of abuse within the general population. A further review of existing meta-analyses on prevalence studies conducted within specific populations of children would be helpful to inform the development of a future survey that could best address these issues.

Conclusion

The review has shown that research on children's and young people's experiences of sexual abuse and exploitation is a rapidly developing area, and knowledge and experience about best practice has advanced considerably. There are clear examples and professionally endorsed recommendations for 'best practice' that exist within the literature reviewed. This review has benefitted considerably from the expert advice given by leading researchers on surveying children's experiences of violence. It is clear that further changes and recommendations are under way in relation to established survey instruments. It is therefore timely that these issues are being considered in the UK.

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Appendix: Survey questions

Questions from global surveys of victimisation and perpetration prevalence. Numbers in brackets refer to the listings of the surveys in Tables 1–4.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) questionnaire [5]

Did someone touch or fondle you in a sexual way when you did not want them to?

Did someone make you touch their body in a sexual way when you did not want them to?

Did someone attempt oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you when you did not want them to?

Did someone actually have oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you when you did not want them to?

American Association of University Women Sexual Harassment in Schools Survey [20]

Since the beginning of this school year, has anyone you know through school done the following to you in person

- Made unwelcome sexual comments, jokes or gestures
- Called you gay or lesbian in a negative way
- Touched you in an unwelcome sexual way
- Flashed or exposed themselves to you
- Showed you sexy or sexual pictures that you didn't want to see
- Physically intimidated you in a sexual way
- Forced you to do something sexual

Since the beginning of this school year, has anyone you know through school done the following by text, email, Facebook or other electronic means:

- Sent or posted unwelcome sexual comments, jokes or pictures
- Spread unwelcome sexual rumors about you
- Called you gay or lesbian in a negative way

Since the beginning of this school year, have you ever done the following to another student in person.

- Made unwelcome sexual comments, jokes or gestures
- Called someone gay or lesbian in a negative way
- Flashed or exposed yourself when they didn't want to see it
- Touched someone in an unwelcome sexual way
- Physically intimidated someone in a sexual way
- Forced someone to do something sexual

Since the beginning of this school year, have you ever done the following to someone you know through school by text message, email, Facebook or any other electronic means.

- Sent or posted unwelcome sexual comments, jokes or pictures.
- Spread unwelcome sexual rumors
- Called someone gay or lesbian in a negative way

Buying and selling sex in Québec Adolescents survey [22]

Have you ever received something (money, drugs, alcohol, gifts or other) in exchange for sexual contact (touching, oral sex, intercourse, or another activity of a sexual nature)?

Have you ever given something (money, drugs, alcohol, gifts or other) to obtain a sexual contact (touching, oral sex, intercourse, or another activity of a sexual nature)?

How did you enter into contact with this person: by yourself, with the help of someone in your social network (friend, family), you were approached by the person, or other?

Did you feel you were coerced?

When you were a child (before the age of 13), did anyone force you or try to force you into a sexual activity (sexual touching, kissing, caressing, penetration)?

When you were an adolescent (13 to 18 years old), did anyone force you or try to force you into a sexual activity (sexual touching, kissing, caressing, penetration)?

Child Sexual Abuse Questionnaire (CSAQ) [1]

1. Were you ever forced or pressured to look at the genitals of an adult or another kid?
2. Were you ever forced or pressured to undress yourself and/or show your genitals to an adult or another kid?
3. Were you ever forced or urged to watch one or several people masturbating or having sex?
4. Were you ever forced or urged to look at pornographic pictures, drawings, films, DVDs, or magazines (also on cell phone)?
5. Did someone ever take pictures of your nude body against your will (with either a camera or cell phone)?
6. Did someone ever pass on intimate pictures of you to other people or publish them on the Internet?
7. Were you ever molested by someone verbally or by e-mail/short message service?
8. Were you ever clearly sexually harassed or molested when you were chatting or during some other type of Internet-based communication?
9. Were you ever touched or kissed with sexual intention on your body and/or your private parts?
[Also asked if someone tried but she or he did not succeed; someone tried and succeeded in doing so]
10. Have you ever been forced or urged to touch or kiss another person on his or her body and/or his or her private parts?
[Also asked if someone tried but she or he did not succeed; someone tried and succeeded in doing so]

11. Has anyone ever tried to insert his or her finger(s) or an object into your vagina or your anus against your will?
[Also asked if someone tried but she or he did not succeed; someone tried and succeeded in doing so]
12. (Only for females): Has anyone ever tried to have vaginal intercourse with you against your will?
[Also asked if someone tried but she or he did not succeed; someone tried and succeeded in doing so]
13. Has anyone ever tried to have anal intercourse with you against your will?
[Also asked if someone tried but she or he did not succeed; someone tried and succeeded in doing so]
14. Has anyone ever urged or forced you to take his penis or another person's penis into your mouth?
[Also asked if someone tried but she or he did not succeed; someone tried and succeeded in doing so]
15. Were you ever forced or urged by another person to prostitute yourself (sex for money)?
[Also asked if someone tried but she or he did not succeed; someone tried and succeeded in doing so]

Child Experiences of Violence Questionnaire (CEVQ) [6]

Did anyone ever show their private parts to you when you didn't want them to?

Did anyone ever make you show them your private parts when you did not want them to?

Did anyone ever threaten to have sex with you when you didn't want them to?

Did anyone ever touch the private parts of your body or make you touch their private parts when you didn't want them to?

Did anyone ever have sex with you when you didn't want them to or sexually force themselves on you in some other way?

Did anyone ever make you see magazines, pictures, videos, internet sites etc that had to do with sex when you did not want to see it?

Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ) [7]

Someone tried to touch me in a sexual way, or tried to make me touch them.

Someone threatened to hurt me or tell lies about me unless I did something sexual with them.

Someone tried to make me do sexual things or watch sexual things

Someone molested me.

I believe that I was sexually abused

Conflict in Adolescent Dating Relationships Inventory (CADRI) [23]

During a conflict or argument with my boyfriend in the past year:

- I touched him sexually when he didn't want me to.
- He touched me sexually when I didn't want him to

- I forced him to have sex when he didn't want to.
- He forced me to have sex when I didn't want to.
- I threatened him in an attempt to have sex with him
- He threatened me in an attempt to have sex with me
- I kissed him when he didn't want me to.
- He kissed me when I didn't want him to.

Cyprus study [8]

[Bespoke questions in addition to ICAST]

Sexual solicitation

Participants were asked to answer whether:

- a) they were talked to in a sexual way online or on their cell phone,
- b) they were asked to meet with someone who was not the person presented to be online or via cell phone,
- c) they were asked to record themselves or see them live via internet in order to get sexual arousal or satisfaction,
- d) they were asked to send naked photos or with sexual context via internet or cell phone

Sexual exploitation

Made/Asked you to have sex or engage in other sexually related activities either with them, or with other people in exchange of money or other types of bribe (e.g. food, clothes, etc)

Trafficking

Made/Asked you to go to another district or to the occupied area in order to engage in sexually related activities (e.g. sex) for your and/or their financial reward

Fundamental Rights Agency Violence Against Women EU Survey (FRA VAW) [9]

Before the age of 15, how often did an adult who was 18 years or over do the following to you, when you did not want them to?

- Expose their genitals to you when you did not want them to.
- Make you pose naked in front of any person or in photographs, video or an internet webcam when you did not want to do this.
- Touch your genitals or breasts when you did not want them to do this.
- Make you touch their private parts – genitals or breasts.
- Make you have sexual intercourse with them when you did not want to

ISPCAN Child Abuse Screening Tool (ICAST) [10]

Child

Sometimes adults or other people make children do sexual things that make them feel uncomfortable. Did any of the following happen to you in the past year?

[Note: options include 'It happened but not in past year']

- 4a. Made you watch a sex video or look at sexual pictures?
- 5a. Made you look at their private parts or wanted to look at yours?
- 6a. Touched your private parts in a sexual way, or made you touch theirs?
- 7a. Made a sex video or took photographs of you alone, or with other people, doing sexual things?
- 8a. Forced you to have sex or tried to have sex with you when you did not want them to?

Adult retrospective

The next questions are about sexual experiences that sometimes happen to children or young people. It is important to remember that all of the questions are only about sexual acts that may have happened before you were 18 years old, when you did not want them to happen.

- 31. When you were growing up (before age 18), did anyone make you look at their private part or looked at yours when you did not want to?
- 32. Before age 18, did someone make a sex video or take photographs of you alone, or with other people, doing sexual things when you did not want to?
- 33. Before age 18, did anyone touch your private parts in a sexual way, or make you touch theirs when you did not want to?
- 34. Before age 18, did anyone make you upset by speaking to you in a sexual way or writing sexual things about you when you did not want to?
- 35. Before age 18, did anyone ever have sexual intercourse with you when you did not want them to?

International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) [24]

Child sexual abuse questions for men:

Victimisation:

Now some statements will be read to you, and we would like to know how often each of the things described in the statements happened to you. It may be that they Never happened, or that they Happened Sometimes, Happened Often or Happened Very Often. Please remember that everything you say is strictly confidential and will help us a lot in understanding the lives of men.

Before I reached 18.....

- Someone touched my buttocks or genitals or made me touch them on the genitals when I did not want to
- I had sex with someone because I was threatened or frightened or forced

Perpetration:

These next questions ask you about your **experiences at school**. Please indicate by responding to the corresponding number if this Never happened to you, or it happened Sometimes, or Often or Very Often

- My friends and I would touch girls or say sexual things to them to tease them
- Me and my school friends were a group and we would arrange to have sex with girls after school.
- Me and my school friends were a group and we would rotate a girl amongst ourselves all having sex with her.

These next questions on sexual violence ask about acts with women or girls but without disaggregating reports on sexual violence against girls from adult women

- How many times have you had sex with a woman or girl when she didn't consent to sex or after you forced her?
- Have you ever had sex with a prostitute or sex worker you think was forced or sold into prostitution?

This next question asks about age of victim:

- Have you ever had sex with a prostitute or sex worker you know or suspected was under 18 years of age?

National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health) [25]

Did you ever give this person sex in exchange for drugs or money? (Wave I and II)

Have you ever had sex with someone who paid you to do so? (Wave I and III)

Have you ever paid someone to have sex with you? (Wave III)

Did you ever give [X] sex in exchange for drugs or money (Wave I and II)

National Survey of Child Exposure to Violence/Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire (NatSCEV/JVQ) [11]

Sexual Assault by Known Adult

At any time in your life, did a grown-up you know touch your private parts when they shouldn't have or make you touch their private parts? Or did a grown-up you know force you to have sex?

Sexual Assault by Unknown Adult

At any time in your life, did a grown-up you did not know touch your private parts when they shouldn't have, make you touch their private parts or force you to have sex?

Sexual Assault by Peer/Sibling

Now think about other kids, like from school, a boy friend or girl friend, or even a brother or sister. At any time in your life, did another child or teen make you do sexual things?

Forced Sex (Including attempts)

At any time in your life, did anyone try to force you to have sex; that is, sexual intercourse of any kind,

even if it didn't happen?

Flashing/Sexual Exposure

At any time in your life, did anyone make you look at their private parts by using force or surprise, or by “flashing” you?

Verbal Sexual Harassment

At any time in your life, did anyone hurt your feelings by saying or writing something sexual about you or your body?

Statutory Rape & Sexual Misconduct

(Note: Suggested for children aged 12 and older.)

At any time in your life, did you do sexual things with anyone 18 or older, even things you both wanted?

Intoxication Non-consensual Sex

[added NatSCEV III]

Has anyone ever had sex or tried to have sex with you when you didn't want it, when you were very high, drunk, or drugged?

Internet/Cyber abuse

Has anyone ever used the Internet to bother or harass (your child/you) or to spread mean words or pictures about (your child/you)?

Has anyone ever used a cell phone or texting to bother or harass (your child/you) or to spread mean words or pictures about (your child/you)?

Did anyone on the Internet ever ask (your child/you) sexual questions about (himself/herself/ yourself) or try to get (your child/you) to talk online about sex when (your child/you) did not want to talk about those things?

National Survey on Teen Relationships and Intimate Violence (STRIV) [26]

Have you ever fooled around with/kissed [PARTNER_NAME]?

OR: Did you ever fool around with/kiss [PARTNER_NAME]?

Thinking about times you fooled around with/kissed [PARTNER_NAME] how much do you agree that these were the reasons why?

- I thought it would make our relationship closer
- I was in love
- I thought it would be fun
- They pressured me.
- We were drinking or getting high
- I was “horny.”
- They threatened me.
- I was afraid to say no

The following questions are asked only if the child is age 12 or older:

Have you ever had sexual intercourse with [PARTNER_NAME]?
OR: Did you ever have sexual intercourse with [PARTNER_NAME]?

Thinking about times you have had/had sexual intercourse with [PARTNER_NAME], how much do you agree that these were the reasons why?

[Response options as for previous question.]

You touched [DOV_PARTNER_NAME] sexually when they didn't want you to.

[PARTNER_NAME] touched you sexually when you didn't want them to.

You forced [PARTNER_NAME] to have sex when they did not want to.

[PARTNER_NAME] forced you to have sex when you did not want to.

You threatened [PARTNER_NAME] in an attempt to have sex with them.

[PARTNER_NAME] threatened you in an attempt to have sex with you

You kissed [PARTNER_NAME] when they didn't want you to.

[PARTNER_NAME] kissed you when you didn't want them to.

In the last 12 months, how often has anyone done the following to you IN PERSON?

- Made unwelcome sexual comments, jokes, or gestures to or about you
- Touched you in an unwelcome sexual way
- Flashed or exposed themselves to you

[Response options for the above questions: Never / Seldom / Sometimes / Often]

In the last 12 months, how often have you done the following to someone else IN PERSON?

- Made unwelcome sexual comments, jokes, or gestures to or about them
- Touched them in an unwelcome sexual way
- Flashed or exposed yourself to them

[Response options for the above questions: Never / Once / More than once]

National Survey of Youth in Custody (2012) [12]

Males, age 15 or older

During the past 12 months, have you rubbed another person's penis with your hand or has someone rubbed your penis with their hand?

During the past 12 months, have you rubbed another person's vagina with your hand?

During the past 12 months, have you put your mouth on another person's penis or has someone put their mouth on your penis?

During the past 12 months, have you put your mouth on someone's vagina?

During the past 12 months, have you put your penis, finger, or something else inside someone else's rear end or has someone put their penis, finger, or something else inside your rear end?

During the past 12 months, have you put your penis, finger, or something else inside someone's vagina?

During the past 12 months, have you had any other kind of sexual contact with someone at this facility?

- What kind of sexual contact was that? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.
 - Kissing on the lips
 - Kissing other parts of the body
 - Looking at private parts
 - Showing something sexual, such as pictures or a movie
 - Something else that did not involve touching
 - Something else that did involve touching

Females, age 15 or older

During the past 12 months, have you rubbed another person's penis with your hand?

During the past 12 months, have you rubbed someone else's vagina with your hand or has someone else rubbed your vagina with their hand?

During the past 12 months, have you put your mouth on another person's penis?

During the past 12 months, have you put your mouth on someone else's vagina, or has someone put their mouth on your vagina?

During the past 12 months, have you put your finger or something else inside someone else's rear end or has someone put their penis, finger, or something else inside your rear end?

During the past 12 months, have you put your finger or something else inside someone else's vagina or has someone put their penis, finger, or something else inside your vagina?

During the past 12 months, have you had any other kind of sexual contact with someone at this facility?

- What kind of sexual contact was that? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.
 - Kissing on the lips
 - Kissing other parts of the body
 - Looking at private parts
 - Showing something sexual, such as pictures or a movie
 - Something else that did not involve touching
 - Something else that did involve touching

All youth age 14 or younger

The next questions are about sexual contacts that happen in this facility. Sexual contacts are when someone touches your private parts or you touch someone else's private parts in a sexual way. By private parts, we mean any part of the body that would be covered by a bathing suit.

During the past 12 months, have you rubbed anyone's private parts with your hand or has anyone rubbed your private parts with their hand?

During the past 12 months, have you put your mouth on anyone's private parts or has anyone put their mouth on your private parts?

During the past 12 months, have you put any part of your body inside anyone else's private parts?

During the past 12 months, has anyone put part of their body inside your private parts?

During the past 12 months, have you had any other kind of sexual contact with someone at this facility?

- What kind of sexual contact was that? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.
 - Kissing on the lips
 - Kissing other parts of the body
 - Looking at private parts
 - Showing something sexual, such as pictures or a movie
 - Something else that did not involve touching
 - Something else that did involve touching

Measures of coercion:

For incidents with youth

During the past 12 months, did (this/any of these) ever happen because a youth at this facility used physical force or threat of physical force?

During the past 12 months, did (this/any of these) ever happen because a youth at this facility forced or pressured you in some other way to do it?

- How were you forced or pressured in some other way? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.
 - Another youth threatened you with harm
 - Another youth threatened to get you in trouble with other youth
 - Another youth threatened to get you in trouble with the staff
 - Another youth kept asking you to do it
 - Another youth forced or pressured you in some other way

During the past 12 months, did (this/any of these) ever happen with a youth at this facility in return for money, favors, protection, or other special treatment?

For incidents with staff

During the past 12 months, did (this/any of these) ever happen because a staff member used physical force or threat of physical force?

During the past 12 months, did (this/any of these) ever happen because a staff member forced or pressured you in some other way to do it?

- How were you forced or pressured in some other way? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.
 - A staff member threatened you with harm
 - A staff member threatened to get you in trouble with other youth
 - A staff member threatened to get you in trouble with the staff
 - A staff member kept asking you to do it
 - A staff member forced or pressured you in some other way

During the past 12 months, did (this/any of these) ever happen with a staff member in return for money, favors, protection, or other special treatment?

The NorVold Abuse Questionnaire (NorAQ) [13]

Sexual abuse divided into:

Mild abuse, no genital contact

Has anybody against your will touched parts of your body other than the genitals in a 'sexual way' or forced you to touch other parts of his or her body in a 'sexual way'?

Mild abuse, emotional/sexual humiliation

Have you in any other way been sexually humiliated; e.g. by being forced to watch a porno movie or similar against your will, forced to participate in a porno movie or similar, forced to show your body naked or forced to watch when somebody else showed his/her body naked?

Moderate abuse, genital contact

Has anybody against your will touched your genitals, used your body to satisfy him/herself sexually or forced you to touch anybody else's genitals?

Severe abuse, penetration

Has anybody against your will put his penis into your vagina, mouth or rectum or tried any of this; put in or tried to put an object or other part of the body into your vagina, mouth or rectum?

[Follow-up questions ask whether this happened when a child or an adult]

Questionnaire for Online Sexual Solicitation and Interactions With Adults (QOSSIA) [18]

An adult asked me for pictures or videos of myself with sexual content.

An adult asked me questions about explicit sexual content through the Internet or a mobile device.

I have been asked to have cybersex with an adult (e.g. via a webcam)

An adult asked me over the Internet to have offline sex.

An adult sent me photos or videos of himself/herself with sexual content.

I have sent an adult photos or videos with sexual content of me.

I have maintained a flirtatious relationship with an adult online

I talked about sexual things with an adult on the Internet.

I've met an adult I previously met on the Internet in person.

We have met offline to have sexual contact.

Sexual Abuse and Violence in Ireland (SAVI) survey [3]

Unwanted sexual experiences prior to age 17

1. During your childhood or adolescence did anyone ever show you or persuade you to look at pornographic material (for example magazines, videos, internet, etc.) in a way that made you feel uncomfortable?
2. Did anyone ever persuade you to take off your clothes, or have you pose alone or with others in a sexually suggestive way or in ways that made you feel confused or uncomfortable in order to photograph or video you?

3. As a child or adolescent, did anyone expose their sexual organs to you?
4. During this time did anyone masturbate in front of you?
5. Did anyone touch your body, including your breasts or genitals, in a sexual way?
6. During your childhood or adolescence, did anyone try to have you arouse them, or touch their body in a sexual way?
7. Did anyone rub their genitals against your body in a sexual way?
8. Did anyone attempt to have sexual intercourse with you?
9. Did anyone succeed in having sexual intercourse with you?
10. Did anyone, male or female, make you or persuade you to have oral sex?
11. Did a man make you or persuade you to have anal sex?
12. Did anyone put their fingers or objects in your vagina or anus (back passage)?

Sexual Aggression and Victimization Scale (SAV-S) [27]

[Example questions only]

Victimization items:

Heterosexual version for women

Has a man ever made (or tried to make) you have sexual contact with him against your will by threatening to use force or by harming you?

Has a man ever made (or tried to make) you have sexual contact with him against your will by exploiting the fact that you were unable to resist (e.g. after you had had too much alcohol or drugs)?

Has a man ever made (or tried to make) you have sexual contact with him against your will by putting verbal pressure on you (e.g. by threatening to end the relationship or calling you a failure)?

Same-sex version for women

Has a woman ever made (or tried to make) you have sexual contact with her against your will by threatening to use force or by harming you?

Perpetration items:

Heterosexual version for women

Have you ever made (or tried to make) a man have sexual contact with you against his will by threatening to use force or by harming him?

Have you ever made (or tried to make) a man have sexual contact with you against his will by exploiting the fact that he was unable to resist (e.g. after he had had too much alcohol or drugs)?

Have you ever made (or tried to make) a man have sexual contact with you against his will by putting verbal pressure on him (e.g. by threatening to end the relationship or calling him a failure)?

Same-sex version for women

Have you ever made (or tried to make) another woman have sexual contact with you against her will by threatening to use force or by harming her?

Sexual Experiences Survey – Long Form Victimization (SES-LFV) [4]

Questions 1–18 below all invite the respondent to tick ‘0’, ‘1’, ‘2’ or ‘3+’ in each of two categories: ‘How many times in the past 12 months’ and ‘How many times since age 14’.]

The following questions concern sexual experiences that you may have had that were unwanted. We know that these are personal questions, so we do not ask your name or other identifying information. Your information is completely confidential. We hope that this helps you to feel comfortable answering each question honestly. Place a check mark in the box showing the number of times each experience has happened to you. If several experiences occurred on the same occasion – for example, if one night someone told you some lies and had sex with you when you were drunk – you would check both boxes a and c. ‘The past 12 months’ refers to the past year going back from today. ‘Since age 14’ refers to your life starting on your 14th birthday and stopping one year ago from today.

1. Someone stared at me in a sexual way or looked at the sexual parts of my body after I had asked them to stop.
2. Someone made teasing comments of a sexual nature about my body or appearance after I asked them to stop.
3. Someone sent me sexual or obscene materials such as pictures, jokes, or stories in the mail or over the Internet, after I had asked them to stop. *Do not include mass mailings or spam.*
4. Someone showed me pornographic pictures when I had not agreed to look at them.
5. Someone made sexual or obscene phone calls to me when I had not agreed to talk with them.
6. Someone watched me while I was undressing, was nude, or was having sex, without my consent.
7. Someone took photos or videotapes of me when I was undressing, was nude, or was having sex, without my consent.
8. Someone showed me the private areas of their body (ex. butt, penis, or breasts) without my consent.
9. Someone made sexual motions to me, *such as* grabbing their crotch, pretending to masturbate, or imitating oral sex without my consent.
10. Someone masturbated in front of me without my consent.

The next set of questions refers to different sexual experiences that you might have had. After each question you will see statements labeled **a** through **m**. For each statement you are asked to indicate how many times that has occurred during the past 12 months. Then select a number to indicate how many times you have had that experience going back to your 14th birthday.

11. Someone fondled, kissed, or rubbed up against the private areas of my body (lips, breast/chest, crotch or butt) or removed some of my clothes without my consent (*but did not attempt sexual penetration*) by:
 - a. Telling lies, threatening to end the relationship, threatening to spread rumors about me, making promises I knew were untrue, or continually verbally pressuring me after I said I didn’t want to.
 - b. Showing displeasure, criticizing my sexuality or attractiveness, getting angry but not using physical force, after I said I didn’t want to.
 - c. Giving me a drug such as Rohypnol, GHB, “fry cigarettes”, “ecstasy” or “Ketamine” without my knowledge that made me too incapacitated (out of it) to consent or stop what was happening.
 - d. Using me when I was asleep or unconscious from drugs and when I came to (regained consciousness) I could not stop what was happening.

- e. Encouraging and pressuring me to use drugs such as pot, or Valium until I became too incapacitated (out of it) to consent or stop what was happening.
 - f. Using me sexually after I had taken drugs and was conscious but too incapacitated (out of it) to give consent or stop what was happening.
 - g. Serving me high alcohol content drinks when they appeared to be regular strength drinks until I was too intoxicated (drunk) to give consent or stop what was happening.
 - h. Using me sexually when I was asleep or unconscious from alcohol, and when I came to (regained consciousness) I could not give consent or stop what was happening.
 - i. Encouraging or pressuring me to drink alcohol until I was too intoxicated (drunk) to give consent or stop what was happening.
 - j. Using me sexually after I had been drinking alcohol and was conscious but too intoxicated (drunk) to give consent or stop what was happening.
 - k. Threatening to physically harm me or someone close to me.
 - l. Using force, for example holding me down with their body weight, pinning my arms, or having a weapon.
 - m. Acting together with *two or more people* to do these things to me even though I objected or was unable to give consent or stop what was happening.
12. Someone had oral sex with me or made me have oral sex with them without my consent by:
[Answer options a-m as for question 11].
13. **If you are a male, check box and skip to item 14**
A man put his penis into my vagina, or someone inserted fingers or objects without my consent by:
[Answer options a-m as for question 11].
14. A man put his penis into my butt, or someone inserted fingers or objects without my consent by:
[Answer options a-m as for question 11].
15. Even though it didn't happen, someone TRIED to have oral sex with me, or make me have oral sex with them without my consent by:
[Answer options a-m as for question 11].
16. **Check box if you are male and skip to item 17**
Someone TRIED to put fingers, objects (such as a bottle or a candle) or their penis into my vagina but stopped before genital contact after:
[Answer options a-m as for question 11].
17. Even though it didn't happen, a man TRIED to put his penis into my butt, or someone tried to stick in objects or fingers without my consent by:
[Answer options a-m as for question 11].

If you reported one or more experiences described in items 13 or 14 please answer the next question.

18. I woke up several hours later with a sore vagina or anus, and had little or no memory of what had happened.

19. I am: Female / Male

My age is _____ years and _____ months.

20. Did any of the experiences described in this survey happen to you 1 or more times? Yes / No

What was the sex of the person or persons who did them to you?

- Female only
- Male only
- Both females and males
- I reported no experiences

21. Have you ever been raped? Yes / No

Short Child Maltreatment Questionnaire (SCMQ) [14]

Did someone at least five years older than you or an adult touch or fondle you or have you touch their body in a sexual way?

Safeguarding Teenage Intimate Relationships (STIR) [28]

Have YOU EVER SENT sexual messages or pictures of yourself to any of your partners:

- During the relationship
- After the relationship has ended

Please tick all the reasons why you did this:

- As a joke/to be funny
- To feel sexy/be flirtatious
- My partner asked me to
- My partner pressured me to
- My friends pressured me to
- To prove my feelings/commitment
- To get attention
- To show off
- In response to a similar message my partner had sent me
- Other reason
- Don't know

[Follow-up questions on how this made the young person feel, whether the image was shared]

Have your partners ever pressured you into watching online pornography?

Have ANY OF YOUR PARTNERS EVER SENT you sexual messages or pictures of themselves?

- During the relationship
- After the relationship has ended

Did they send it because you asked them to?

Did you share the message with anyone else?

If the message was shared, why did you do this? Please tick all that apply:

- Don't know
- As a joke
- Because I was annoyed with my partner
- Because our relationship had ended and I felt upset
- Because my friends pressured me to show it to them
- Because I asked my partner and they said they didn't mind

Things you and your partner may have done to each other relating to sexual pressure or force. Please note that pressure can include things like a partner saying: 'I will end the relationship unless you agree to a sexual act' or 'If you loved me you would do it'.

Have ANY of YOUR PARTNER/S ever pressured or forced you in any of these ways:

- Pressured you into kissing, intimate touching or something else
- Physically forced you into kissing, intimate touching or something else
- Pressured you into having sexual intercourse
- Physically forced you into having sexual intercourse

If you were pressured, how did this happen? Tick all that apply:

- Through mobile phones
- Through social networking sites
- Face to face

[Follow-up questions on how this made young person feel, whether anyone was told, help seeking]

Have YOU EVER DONE any of the following things to your partner or any ex-partners?

- Pressured them into kissing, intimate touching or something else
- Physically forced them into kissing, intimate touching or something else
- Pressured them into having sexual intercourse
- Physically forced them into having sexual intercourse

Do you regularly view online pornography?

Swedish survey of physical punishment and other forms of child abuse [15]

Have you been forced to engage in sexual acts?

USAID Demographic Health Survey (DHS) 2017 [16]

Did your (last) (husband/partner) ever do any of the following things to you:

- physically force you to have sexual intercourse with him when you did not want to?
- physically force you to perform any other sexual acts you did not want to?
- force you with threats or in any other way to perform sexual acts you did not want to?

So far we have been talking about the behavior of your (current/last) (husband/partner). Now I want to ask you about the behavior of any previous (husband/partner). Did any previous (husband/partner) physically force you to have intercourse or perform any other sexual acts against your will?

Now I want to ask you about things that may have been done to you by someone other than (your/any) (husband/partner). At any time in your life, as a child or as an adult, has anyone ever forced you in any way to have sexual intercourse or perform any other sexual acts when you did not want to?

Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS), 2013 version [29]

The first time you had sex, was it because you wanted to or because you were forced to?

Have you ever received food, favors, or any gifts in exchange for sex?

When you received money, who did you give it to? *[Options include family, pimp, boyfriend, other]*

Has someone ever asked you to have sex in exchange of food, favors or gifts?

What did this person offer you?

Have you ever participated in a sex photo or video, or shown your sexual body parts in front of a webcam, whether you wanted to or not?

Has someone ever asked or tried to make you participate in a sex photo or video, or show your sexual body parts in front of a webcam?

CSA Screener questions:

Has anyone ever touched you in a sexual way without your permission, but did not try and force you to have sex? Touching in a sexual way without permission includes fondling, pinching, grabbing, or touching you on or around your sexual body parts.

These next questions ask you about sex, by sex I mean vaginal, oral or anal sex or the insertion of an object into your vagina or anus.

Has anyone ever tried to make you have sex against your will but did not succeed?

Has anyone ever physically forced you to have sex and did succeed?

Has anyone ever pressured you to have sex, through harassment, threats or tricks and did succeed?

[Each CSA screener question has follow up questions asking who the perpetrator was, whether alone or in a group, whether older or younger or the same age, how many times it happened, age first time, location, time it happened, details of first time and last time, whether it happened in the last 12 months, whether anyone told and help seeking]

Did the person who did this to you use a weapon such as a gun, knife or machete?

[Adapt weapons to country context]

Do you think that you got pregnant as a result of being physically forced to have sex?

Have you ever done any of the following:

- forced a current or previous partner/husband at the time to have sex with you when they did not want to?
- forced someone who was not your husband or partner at the time to have sex with you when they did not want to?

World Health Organization Multi Country Violence Against Women Survey (WHOVAW), 2005 version (updated questions from 2015 Spanish and Cambodian versions) [17]

Has he or any other partner ever physically forced you to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to.

Did you ever have sexual intercourse you did not want because you were afraid of what he might do?

Did he ever force you to do something sexual that you found degrading or humiliating?

Since the age of 15 years, has anyone ever forced you to have sex or to perform a sexual act when you did not want to?

Before the age of 15 years, do you remember if anyone in your family ever touched you sexually, or made you do something sexual that you didn't want to?

How would you describe the first time you had sex? Would you say that you wanted to have sex, you did not want to have sex but it happened anyway or were you forced to have sex?

Youth Internet Safety Survey (YISS) [19]

Unwanted sexual solicitation

*[Definition: unwanted sexual solicitations involve requests to engage in sexual activities or sexual talk or give personal sexual information that were **unwanted** or, whether wanted or not, **made by an adult.**]*

In the past year, did anyone on the Internet ever try to get you to talk about sex when you did not want to?

In the past year, did anyone on the Internet ask you for sexual information about yourself when you did not want to answer such questions? I mean very personal questions, like what your body looks like or sexual things you have done.

In the past year, did anyone on the Internet ever ask you to do something sexual that you did not want to do?

Online harassment

[Definition: Online harassment involves threats or other offensive behaviour (not sexual solicitation), sent online to youth or posted online about the youth for others to see]

In the past year, did you ever feel worried or threatened because someone was bothering or harassing you online?

In the past year, did anyone ever use the Internet to threaten or embarrass you by posting or sending messages about you for other people to see?

Unwanted exposure to sexual material

[Definition: Unwanted exposure to sexual material is defined as, without seeking or expecting sexual material, being exposed to pictures of naked people or people having sex when doing online searches, surfing the web, opening email or instant messages, or opening links in email or instant messages.]

In the past year when you were doing an online search or surfing the web, did you ever find yourself in a web site that showed pictures of naked people or of people having sex when you did not want to be in that kind of site?

In the past year, did you ever receive email or instant messages that you did not want with advertisements for or links to X-rated websites?

Did you ever open a message or a link in a message that showed you actual pictures of naked people or of people having sex that you did not want?

Sexting

Has anyone ever sent you nude or nearly nude pictures or videos of kids who were under the age of 18 that someone else took?

Have you ever forwarded or posted any nude or nearly nude pictures or videos of other kids who were under the age of 18 that someone else took?

Have you ever taken nude or nearly nude pictures or videos of yourself?

Has someone else ever taken nude or nearly nude pictures or videos of you?

Have you ever taken nude or nearly nude pictures or videos of other kids who were under the age of 18?

[Note: some information on sexual exploitation may be gathered in follow-up questions on money that was exchanged.]



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