

# What research tells us and what agencies know

## What do we know and not know?

- The level of CSA self-reported in surveys is far higher than the level recorded by agencies
- How much the rate of disclosure of CSA has changed over time is unknown
- Agency data cannot be compared properly because the police publish data on offences and children's services record children
- We do not know how the online context is affecting the scale of CSA

**3,075** children on child protection plans for sexual abuse in England and Wales in 2017/18

Source: Department of Education Children in Need census 2017/18 and Welsh Government Children Receiving Care and Support census 2017/18

**30,840** children assessed at risk of CSA by children's services in England in 2017/18

Source: Department for Education Children in Need census 2017/18

**81,271** CSA offences recorded by police in England and Wales in 2017/18

Source: Police recorded crime and outcomes open data tables, updated February 2019

**785,000** children aged 11-17 experienced *any* type of sexual abuse during their childhood;  
**228,000** experienced *contact* sexual abuse in their childhood (2009)

Source: Radford et al 2011, Childhood abuse and neglect in the UK today. Figures calculated using reported rates of victimisation and extrapolated using ONS mid-2009 population figures.

# How surveys' different questions and scope influence rates of reported CSA

## CSA before the age of 16, by adults

10.5%



2.6%



had experienced any form of sexual abuse

3.4%



0.6%



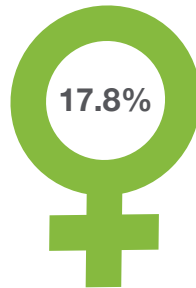
had experienced penetrative offences (including attempts)

### Sample:

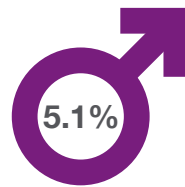
20,582 adults aged 16-59

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, 2016 (three questions)

## CSA before the age of 18, by adults and peers



17.8%



5.1%

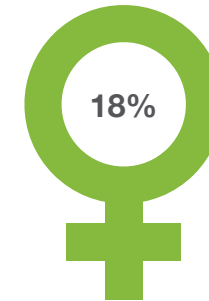
had experienced contact sexual abuse

### Sample:

1,761 young people aged 18-24

Source: NSPCC child maltreatment study (six questions), reported in Radford et al. (2011) *Childhood abuse and neglect in the UK today*

## CSA before the age of 15, by adults



18%

had experienced any form of sexual abuse

### Sample:

1,500 women aged 18-74

(part of a sample of 42,000 female citizens of the EU)

Source: European Agency for Fundamental Rights violence against women survey, 2014 (five questions)

### What do we not know?

- What is the scale of CSA in 2019?
- Tracking changes over time – is there more or less CSA than there used to be?
- How much of CSA is CSE?
- How does the online context affect overall abuse rates?
- What proportion of the population have committed CSA, or considered doing so?

# Different levels of CSA recorded by police and children's services

## Police forces publish data on offences

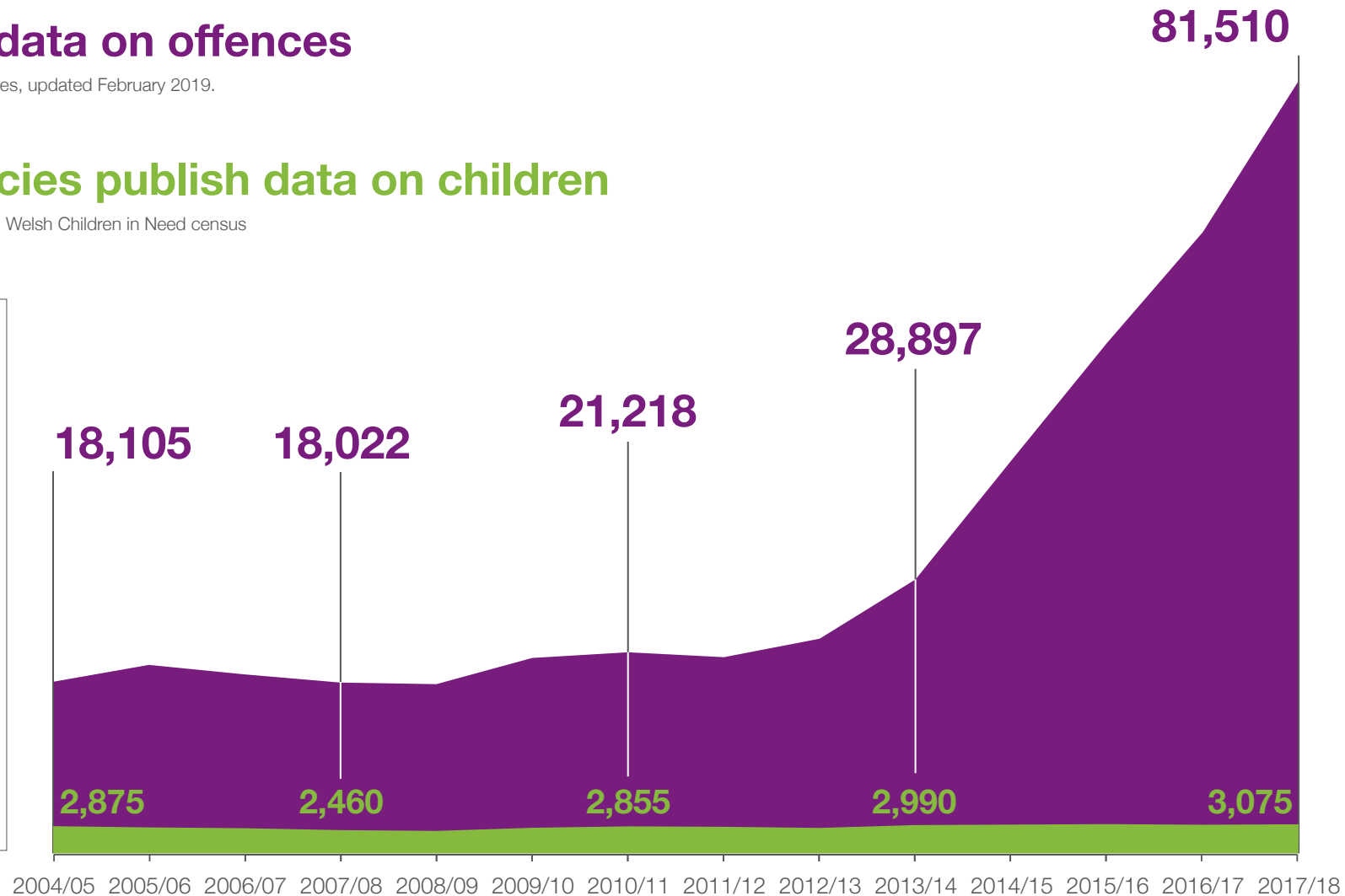
Source: Police recorded crime and outcomes open data tables, updated February 2019.  
Police recorded crime includes non-recent offences.

## Child protection agencies publish data on children

Source: Department for Education, Children in Need census; Welsh Children in Need census

### What do we not know?



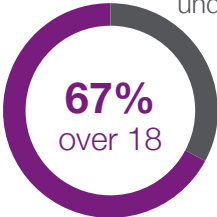


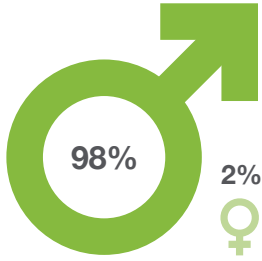
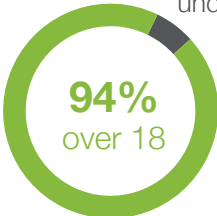
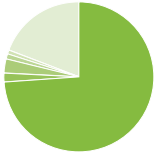

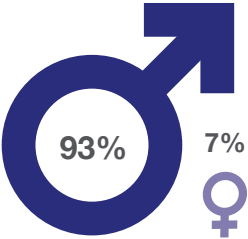

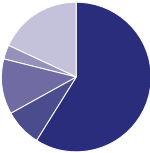
- Why are the numbers of children on child protection plans for CSA stable but police recorded crime is significantly increasing?
- Non-recent cases accounted for 27% of all sexual offences recorded by the police in 2017/18 – but how much of the CSA recorded was non-recent?
- How many CSA victims report to the police?
- How much actual CSE is being dealt with by agencies?



# What do we know about victims?

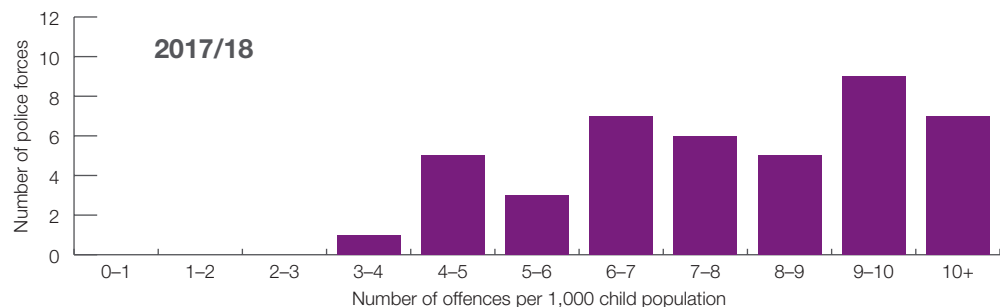
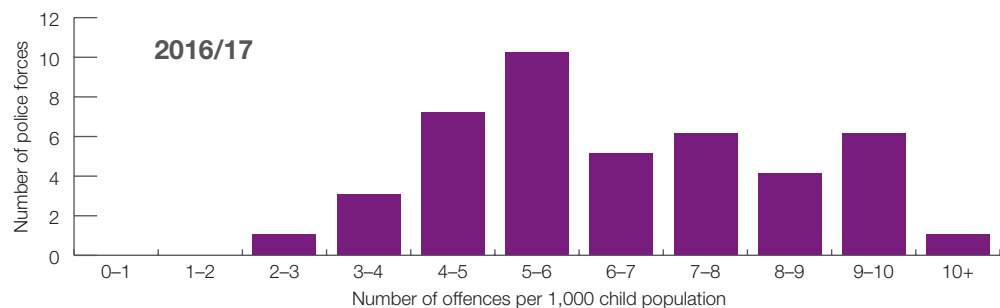
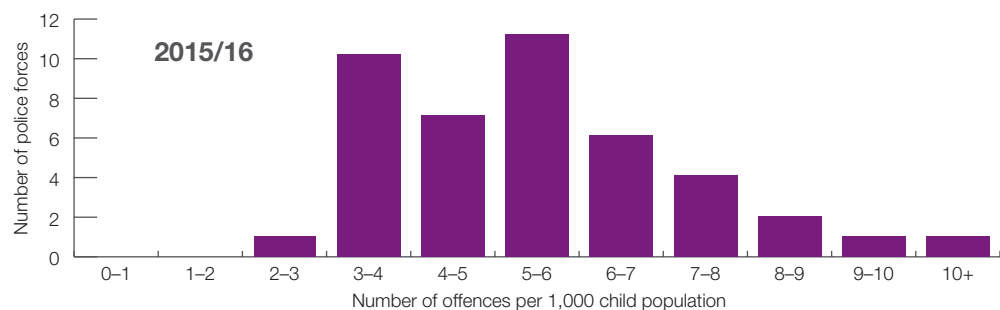
Source	No. of victims identified	Gender	Age	Ethnicity	What do we not know?
<p><b>Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry</b></p> <p>Source: Office of the Children's Commissioner (2015) <i>Protecting children from harm</i></p>	<p><b>49,673</b> CSA victims</p>	<p>73% 27%</p>	<p>Girls Boys</p> <p>0-7 8-12 13+</p> <p>*age at time of report/discovery</p>	<p>White Black Asian Mixed Other Unknown</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Duration and frequency of abuse</li> <li>Relationship to perpetrator</li> <li>How many are CSE victims</li> <li>Ethnicity data in 30% of case</li> </ul>
<p><b>Children's services in England</b></p> <p>Source: Department for Education Children in Need census, 2017/18</p>	<p><b>2,960</b> Children on child protection plans for sexual abuse, 2017/18</p>	<p>62% 38%</p>	<p>0-4 5-9 10-15 16+</p>	<p>White Black Asian Mixed Other Unknown</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Duration and frequency of abuse</li> <li>Relationship to perpetrator</li> <li>How many other victims are known to children's services but recorded under different abuse categories (only the primary concern can be recorded)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Police recorded crime (CSE only)</b></p> <p>Source: National Police Chiefs' Council (2017) Regional CSE problem profiles, includes non-recent offences</p>	<p><b>8,995</b> CSE victims or at risk</p>	<p>88% 12%</p>	<p><b>14</b> Average age</p>	<p>White Black Asian Other Unknown</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Duration and frequency of abuse</li> <li>Relationship to perpetrator</li> <li>What proportion are at risk/actual CSE</li> <li>Detailed information about age</li> <li>Ethnicity data in 22% of cases</li> </ul>

# We know too little about those who commit CSA

Source	No. of perpetrators identified	Gender	Age	Ethnicity	What do we not know?
<p><b>Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry</b></p> <p>Source: Office of the Children's Commissioner (2015) <i>Protecting children from harm</i></p>	 <p><b>34,241</b> perpetrators</p>	 <p>Data not available</p>	 <p><b>67%</b> over 18</p> <p>33% under 18</p>	 <p>Data not available</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender or ethnicity of perpetrators</li> <li>• Perpetrators' relationship to victims</li> <li>• How many are CSE offenders</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ministry of Justice</b></p> <p>Source: CJS Outcomes by Offence 2017. Ministry of Justice, published May 2018.</p>	 <p><b>8,806</b> defendants of CSA offences</p>	 <p><b>98%</b></p> <p>2%</p>	 <p><b>94%</b> over 18</p> <p>6% under 18</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White</li> <li>• Black</li> <li>• Asian</li> <li>• Chinese/other</li> <li>• Mixed</li> <li>• Not stated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether perpetrators are single, multiple or serial offenders</li> <li>• Missing data on ethnicity in 19% of cases</li> <li>• Perpetrators' relationship to victims</li> </ul>
<p><b>Police recorded crime (CSE only)</b></p> <p>Source: National Police Chiefs' Council (2017) Regional CSE problem profiles, includes non-recent offences</p>	 <p><b>6,107</b> CSE offenders</p>	 <p><b>93%</b></p> <p>7%</p>	 <p><b>26</b> average age</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White</li> <li>• Black</li> <li>• Asian</li> <li>• Other</li> <li>• Unknown</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether detected cases are representative</li> <li>• Missing data on ethnicity in 18% of cases</li> <li>• Whether CSE and CSA offenders are different</li> </ul>

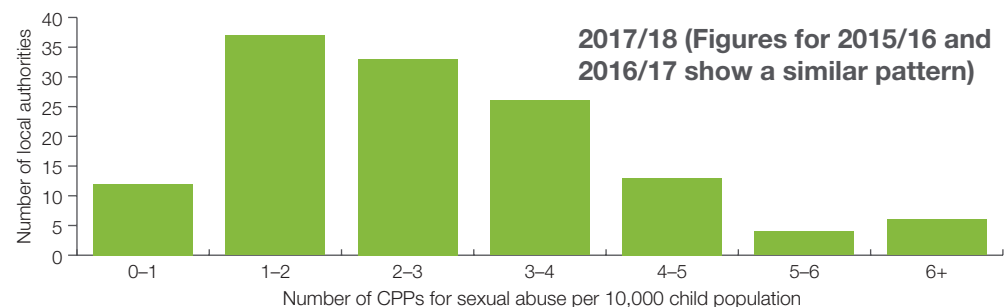
# Regional variations: recorded crimes and child protection plans

## CSA offences recorded by police forces in England and Wales



Source: Home Office police recorded crime open data tables ending March of each year, updated February 2019. Police recorded crime included non-recent offences.

## Children on child protection plans for sexual abuse in local authority areas in England and Wales



Source: For England, Department for Education Children in Need census 2017/18. For Wales, Welsh Government Children Receiving Care and Support census 2017/18.

### What do we not know?

We do not know whether these regional variations reflect:

- different levels of abuse
- local recording practices
- local policy and policing priorities
- resource allocation
- whether police forces have specialist teams
- how safeguarding is organised by local authorities

Note: Figures from police and local authorities are not comparable, and there is no clear correlation between the number of CSA offences recorded and the number of children on child protection plans for sexual abuse.

To read the full report, please visit [www.csacentre.org.uk](http://www.csacentre.org.uk)