



Building Knowledge



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Research and Statistics Division

Online Luring and Internet Use

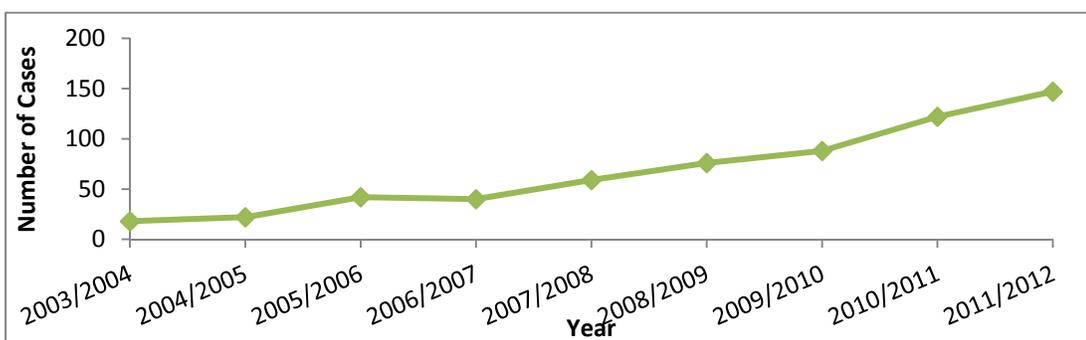
The offence of luring a child is defined in Section 172.1 of the *Criminal Code of Canada* as the use of telecommunication to communicate with someone who is, or who the perpetrator believes to be, under the age of 18, for the purpose of facilitating the commission of an offence against that child.¹ In 2002, the *Criminal Code of Canada* was amended to include the offence of luring a child through the Internet.²

Data on adult criminal court cases that involve child luring charges are collected by Statistics Canada through the adult component of the Integrated Criminal Court Survey. As can be seen in Figure 1 below, the number of child luring cases completed in adult criminal court increased consistently between 2003/2004 and 2011/2012. In 2003/2004, shortly after the amendment of the *Criminal Code*, there were 22 cases completed in adult criminal court in which there was at least

one child luring charge, while in 2011/2012, there were 127 completed cases.

There are a number of possible reasons for the increase in online child luring cases. These include greater awareness of the issues, police-based programs and the creation of Cybertip.ca. Other possible reasons are that Canadians' use of the Internet is growing. Moreover, the Internet is accessible through many different devices such as desktop and laptop computers, wireless handheld devices and game consoles.³ A recent survey found that the majority of youth in Grades 4 to 11 have access to the Internet outside of school. These youth also use portable devices to access the Internet.⁴ The greater accessibility that children have to the Internet may increase their risk of victimization. All of these factors would benefit from further research and monitoring.

Figure 1: Number of child luring cases completed in adult criminal court, 2003/04 to 2011/12



Source: Integrated Criminal Court Survey, 2003/2004 to 2011/2012

The views expressed herein are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Justice Canada.

Notes: Represents all completed cases containing at least one *Criminal Code* child luring charge. Data represent the ten jurisdictions that have consistently reported to the Integrated Criminal Court Survey since 2001/2002. The jurisdictions not covered are Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

¹ *Criminal Code*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-46, s. 172.1; Cybertip.ca. N.D. *Research: Leading the way*.

² Loughlin, J. and A. Taylor-Butts 2009. *Child Luring through the Internet*. *Juristat*. Ottawa, ON: Statistics Canada. Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

³ Statistics Canada. 2013. *Canadian Internet Use Survey, 2012*. *The Daily*, November 26, 2013.

⁴ Steeves, V. 2014. *Young Canadians in a wired world, Phase III: Life online*. Ottawa, ON: MediaSmarts.

