



National Rapporteur on Trafficking in  
Human Beings and Sexual Violence  
against Children

Key figures  
and insights

trafficking sexual  
in violence  
human against  
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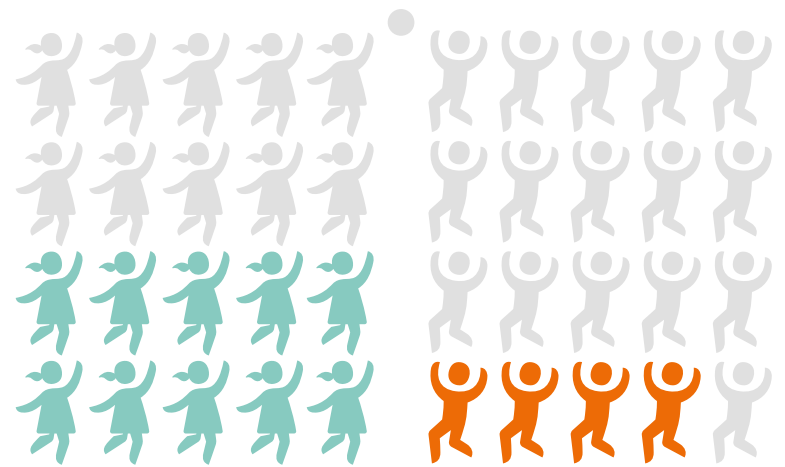
The problem of sexual violence against children and human trafficking in the Netherlands is significant, persistent, multi-faceted and elusive. Victims of these crimes may feel its consequences for years afterwards and it may affect their lives deeply. With this in mind, it is vital to try to prevent the exploitation of and sexual violence against children and, if this is not possible, put a stop to it as quickly as possible, protect victims and offer them help. The same applies for the identification, prosecution, conviction and resocialisation of offenders. This will make it possible to avoid the same individuals repeatedly falling into the victim and offender roles.

Key figures  
and insights

# sexual violence against children

Sexual violence against children is a major violation of children's rights to develop safely and healthily. The term 'sexual violence against children' refers to all criminal acts of a sexual nature that are committed against minors. For example, images of child sexual abuse, rape and online child grooming.

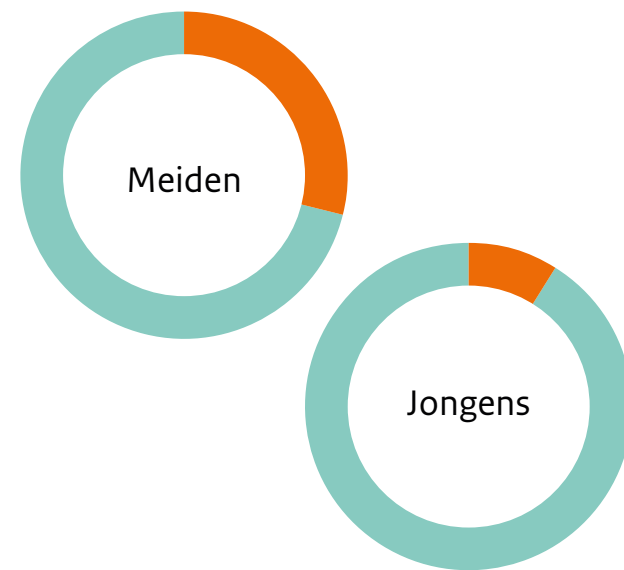
# What do we know about victims of sexual violence against children?



50% of girls and 20% of boys experience a punishable form of sexual violence before they reach the age of 18.



An estimated 7,800 boys and 13,000 girls aged 12 to 16 experience a severe form of physical sexual violence every year.



29% of girls and 9% of boys aged 16 and 17 experience online sexual violence every year.

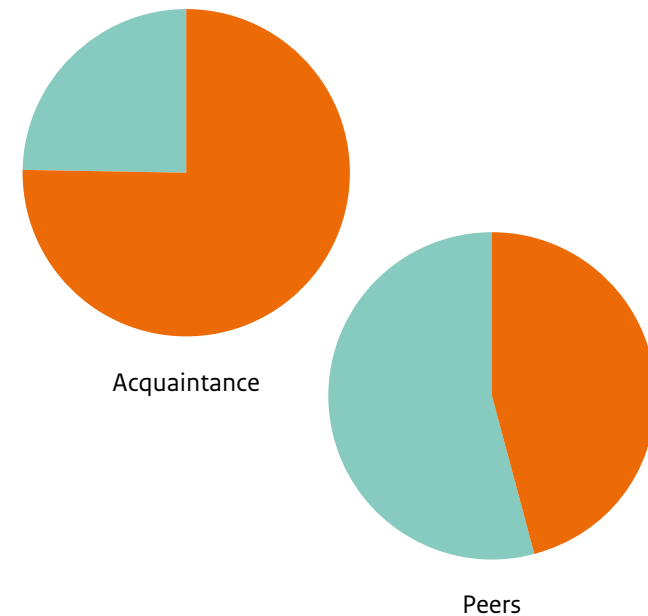


Online sexual violence is multifaceted and perpetrated on all kinds of platforms, like chat apps, online games and social media platforms.



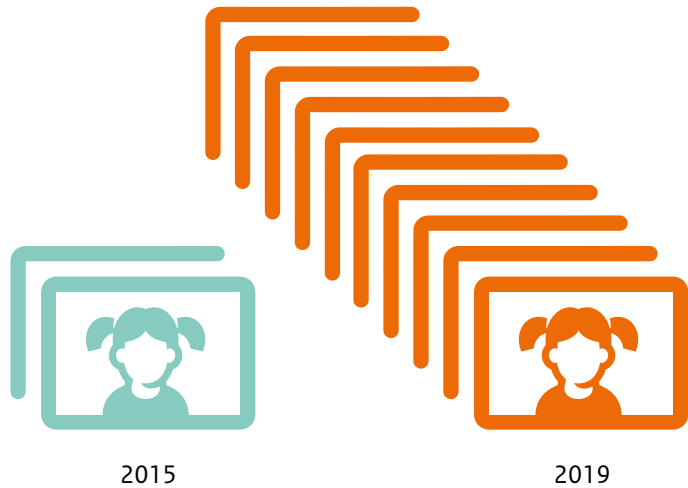
One-third of victims do not tell anyone about the sexual violence they have experienced. When a victim does tell someone, this person will often be one of their peers.

# What do we know about **the offenders** of sexual violence against children?

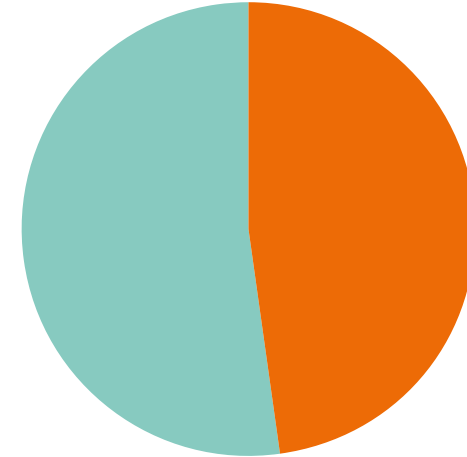


The offenders of sexual violence against children are people who the children know in 77% of cases.

Peers represent 46% of the group of individuals who perpetrate sexual violence against children.



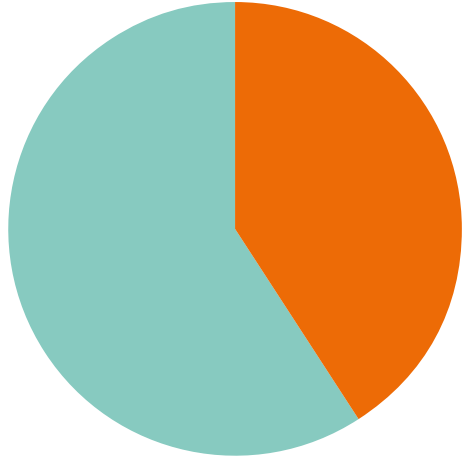
In 2019, the number of reports of child sexual abuse material was five times higher than the figure for 2015. Many of the offenders in question are active on dark web networks.



Between 2015-2019, the police responded to almost 16,500 incidents of sexual violence against children.

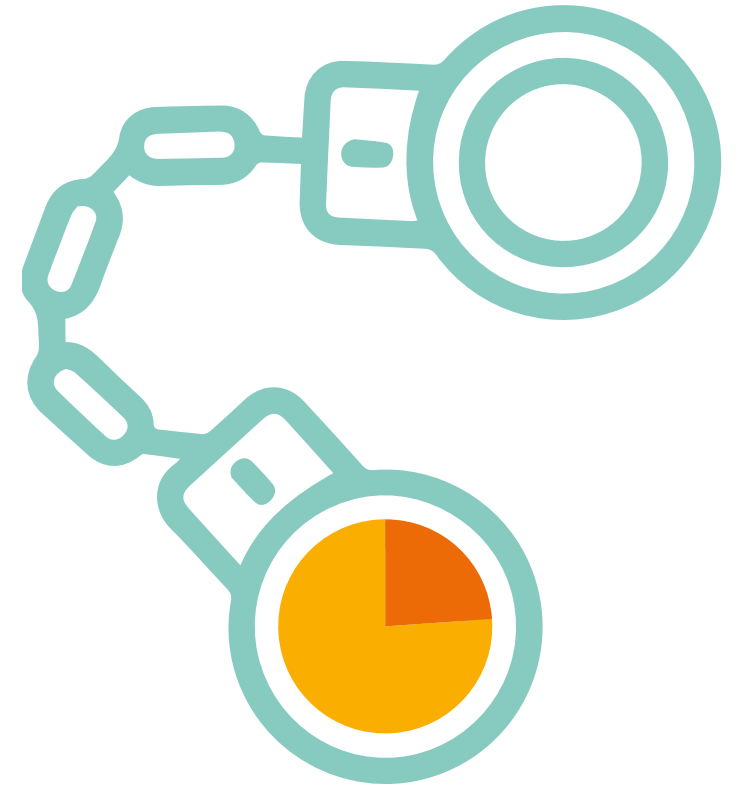
In 48% of these cases reports were filed with the police.





Convictions were achieved in 41% of cases brought before the Netherlands Public Prosecution Service in 2015-2019.

In 2019, 75% of these cases ended with a (partially) non-suspended prison sentence. In 2013, this percentage was 50%.



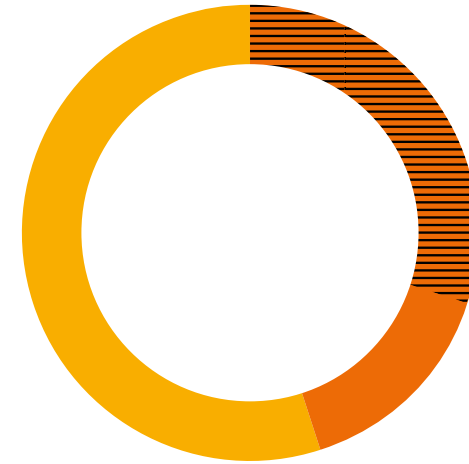
Young offenders (<18 years) of sexual violence against children reoffend within two years in 24% of cases. However, these offences are not usually of a sexual nature.

## Key figures and insights

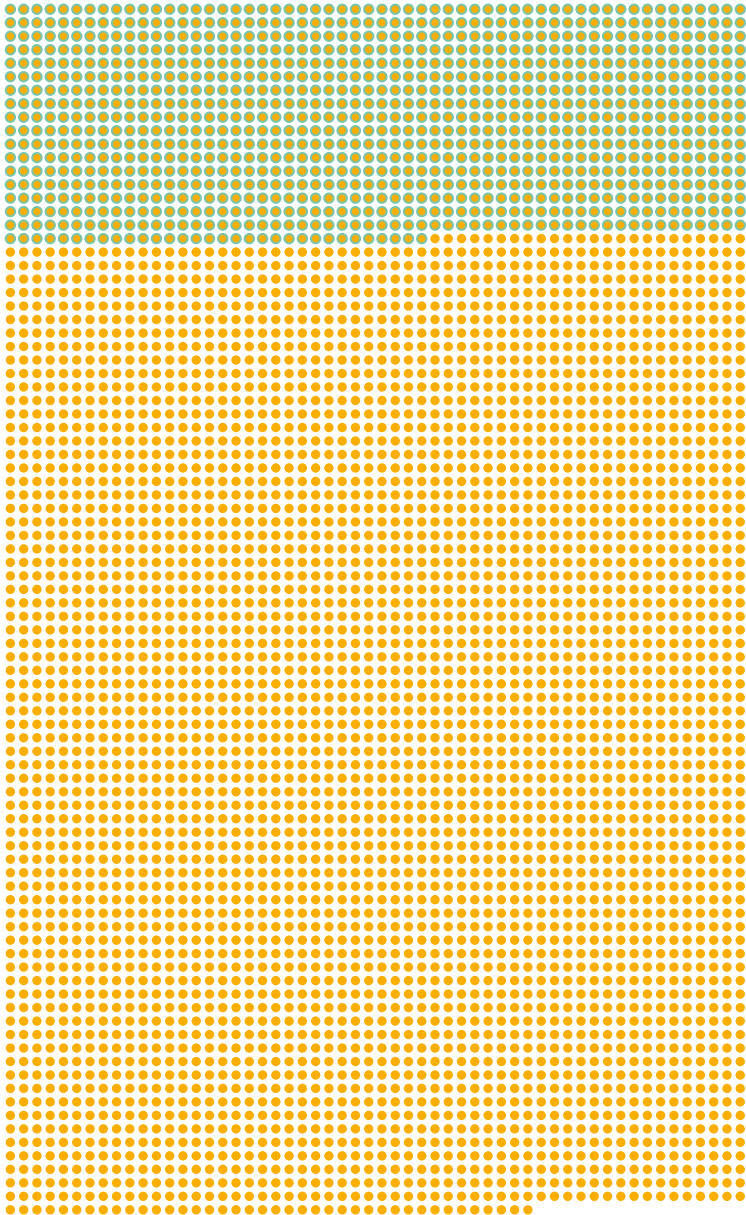
# trafficking in human beings

Human trafficking involves the exploitation of one person by another person. Different types of exploitation are possible. For example, being forced to have sex for money, working in degrading conditions or being forced to commit criminal offences. Coercion and duress are exerted in different ways. For example, by using violence, blackmail or by abusing the vulnerability or dependence of a victim.

## What do we know about **the victims** of human trafficking?



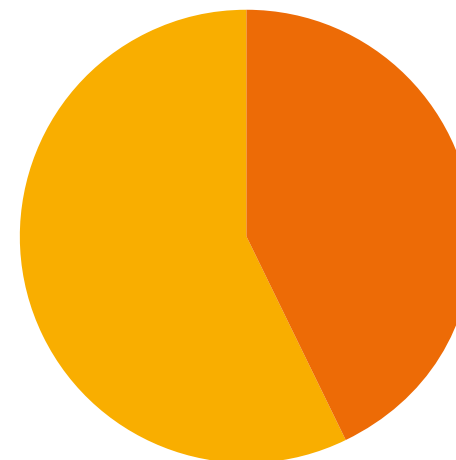
- The victims of human trafficking that are known by the police become victim of another offence within five years in 45% of cases.
- ▨ Two-thirds of this group fall victim to a severe offence. For example, sexual violence, human trafficking or assault.



- There are an estimated 5,000 victims of human trafficking in the Netherlands every year.
- In 2020, the Coordination Centre against Human Trafficking (CoMensha) reported 984 victims.



Victims of domestic sexual exploitation have become less visible. In 2020, the number of cases of exploitation of this nature brought to the attention of CoMensha represented just 11% of the total number of victim reports in comparison with 24% in 2016. This is surprising, given the fact that domestic sexual exploitation is believed to be the most common form of human trafficking in the Netherlands.

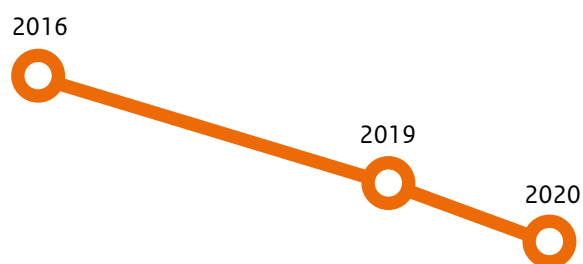


The victims reported by CoMensha in 2020 were the victims of labour exploitation in 43% of cases.

The National Rapporteur is particularly concerned about the following three groups of human trafficking victims:

### Minor victims

Sexual exploitation is the form of exploitation most commonly experienced by minor victims. The sexual exploitation of minors is increasingly being initiated online. There is a risk that minors will become even more vulnerable in the future because of this decreasing visibility. In 2016, 43% of victims were minors or adolescents. In 2019 and 2020, this figure decreased to 30% and 22% respectively.



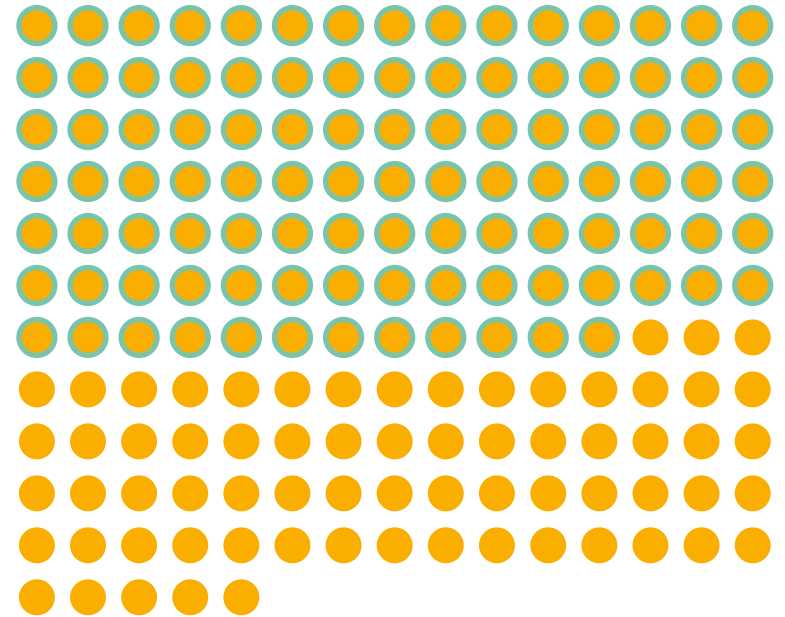
### Vulnerable individuals in migration flows

Migrants are at risk of being abused and exploited as they journey along migration routes. The Netherlands might be either the destination or transit country.

### Labour migrants

People who come to the Netherlands to work run the risk of being exploited because of their vulnerable position. Labour exploitation primarily occurs at the lower end of the labour market. The labour in question is often characterised by its low-paid and flexible nature and the low education required of workers, in industries like the construction, agriculture, horticulture, distribution, cleaning and meat-processing industries. More than 400,000 labour migrants work in these industries in the Netherlands. Labour migrants are even more vulnerable for a number of reasons, including the fact that they do not speak the Dutch language or are residing in the Netherlands illegally.

# What do we know about **the offenders** of human trafficking?



- In 2019, 170 individuals were suspected of human trafficking. This is a decrease of 40% in comparison to 2016.
- These suspects are ultimately brought before the courts in 60% of cases.



Approximately 50% of all perpetrators known to the criminal justice system are the offenders of sexual exploitation.



One in three of these offenders is under the age of 23.



**The National Rapporteur investigates the nature and extent of human trafficking and sexual violence against children in the Netherlands.**

### **Who is the National Rapporteur?**

The Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children consists of the National Rapporteur and a team of enthusiastic employees with a multidisciplinary background.

### **What does the National Rapporteur do against human trafficking and sexual violence against children?**

The National Rapporteur investigates the nature and extent of human trafficking and sexual violence against children in the Netherlands. In the annual monitoring reports and the thematic studies, the emphasis is on monitoring and improving the strategies for tackling human trafficking and sexual violence against children.

Based on information from a wide range of sources, the National Rapporteur advises national and local governments, other administrative bodies, international organisations and professionals who provide help and support, on how to prevent and combat human trafficking and sexual violence against children.

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