

**INTERNET TRADERS OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY:
PROFILING RESEARCH - UPDATE**

February 2007

Caroline Sullivan

Introduction

The Censorship Compliance Unit of the Department of Internal Affairs enforces the Films, Videos and Publication Classification Act 1993. Prosecutions by the unit have resulted in the conviction of 245 offenders. The Unit carries out proactive Internet investigations focussed on the distribution of images of child abuse.

Research into internet censorship offenders was published in 2004 by the Department based on a questionnaire that collects social, demographic and behavioural information about offenders from Censorship Inspectors. Two updates of this research have also been published.

This year the unit has introduced an enhanced electronic data capture process that allows for greater efficiency in reporting techniques. As a result of this new process, there is some change to the way results are reported. 215 offenders are now profiled in the data.

DEMOGRAPHIC DETAILS OF OFFENDERS

All but one of the offenders is male.

Just over half (52%) of the offenders resided in main urban areas of Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, Christchurch & Dunedin.

Figure1: Offender Location

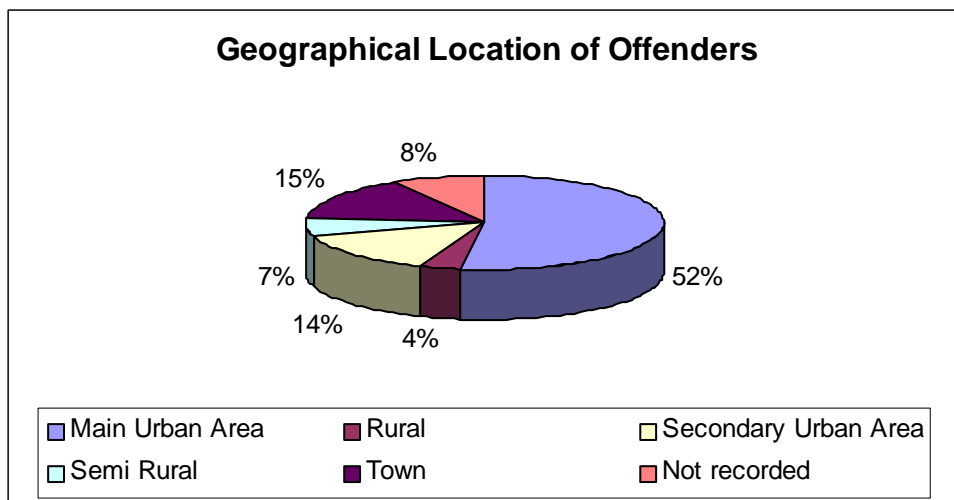


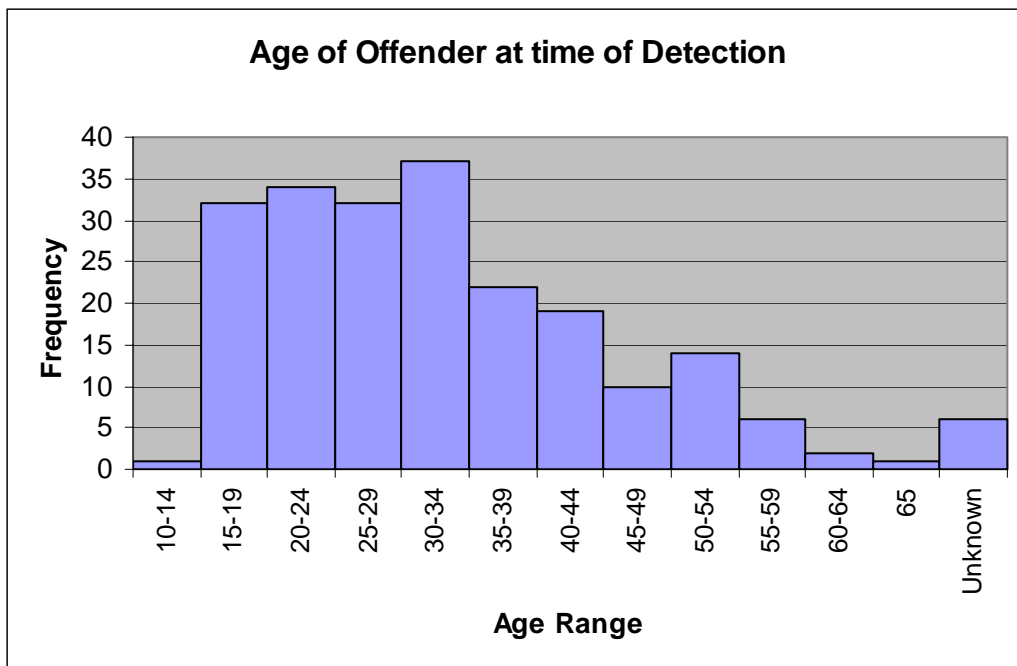
Table 1: Offender Ethnicity

Ethnicity	No of offenders	% of Offenders
Asian	8	4%
Indian	3	1%
NZ European	162	75%
Maori	3	1%
Other Ethnicity	8	4%
Not recorded	31	14%
Total	215	100%

New Zealand European remains the leading ethnicity for offenders.

AGE OF THE OFFENDER

Figure 2: Age of the Offender

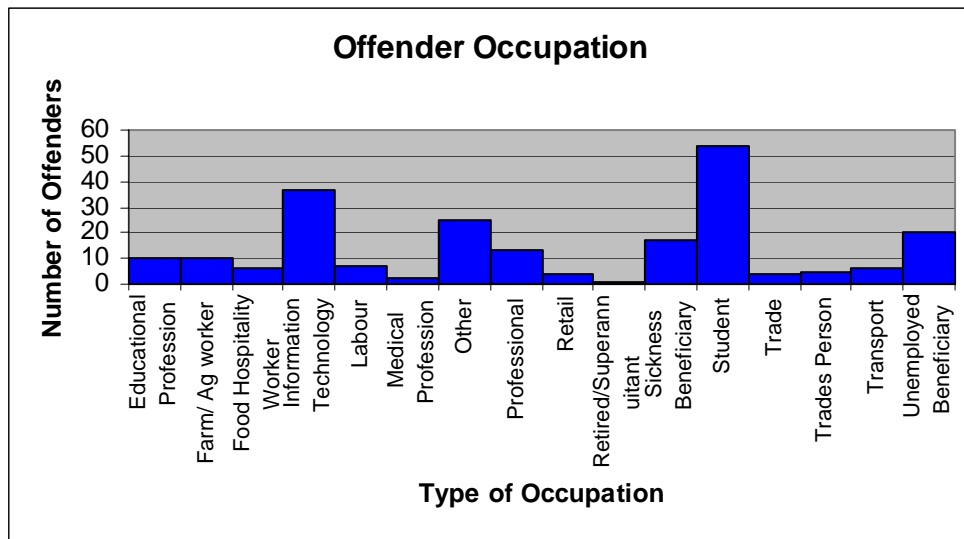


Note: Significant changes have been made in this area due to the update of information to more accurately record the date of birth of offender and execution of the warrant.

Over half of the offenders (63%) are aged between 10 and 34 years of age. The average age range of offenders is 30-34.

OCCUPATION

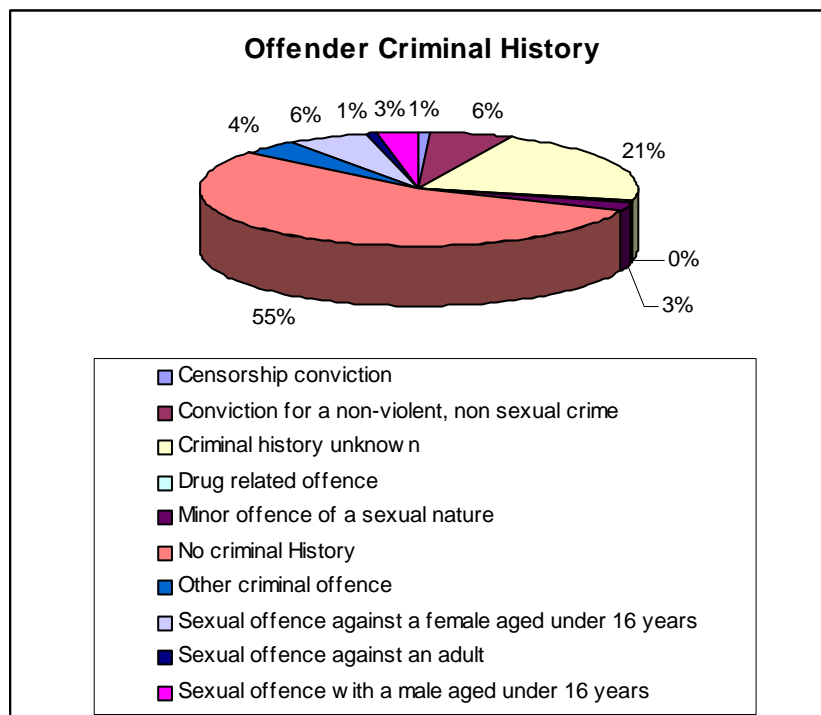
Figure 3: Offender Occupation



Students remain as the largest occupational group amongst offenders, making up 23% of the total, whilst workers in the information technology field remain second with 17% of the total.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Figure 4: Criminal History

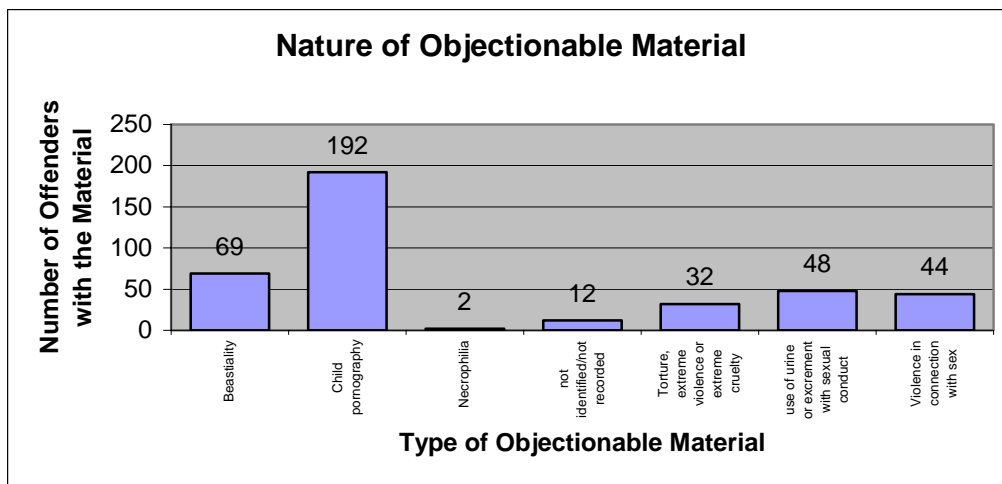


55% of offenders have no criminal history and a further 21% of criminal history is unknown. 13% of offenders have had previous convictions for sexual offences. “Other” offences include arson, violent offence, theft or burglary, an indecent act, firearm offences, fraud, and vandalism.

NATURE OF OBJECTIONABLE MATERIAL

Images of child abuse/child pornography are the main focus of the Department, and only 9 offenders had no child abuse material. 12 offenders’ collections were not recorded. Bestiality material was found in the collections of 69 offenders.

Figure 5: Nature of Objectionable Material



Further analysis was undertaken into what combinations of objectionable material were collected by the offenders. 51% of offenders collected only child abuse material, 9% collected both child abuse and bestiality material, 8% collected child abuse and bestiality material along with material involving the use of urine and excrement in sexual conduct. 7% had collections including child abuse, bestiality, the use of urine and excrement in sexual conduct, torture (extreme violence or cruelty) and violence in connection with sex.

Of those offenders who were not found with child abuse images, their collections mainly consisted of bestiality material.

ACCESS TO THE SUBJECT OF THE OBJECTIONABLE MATERIAL

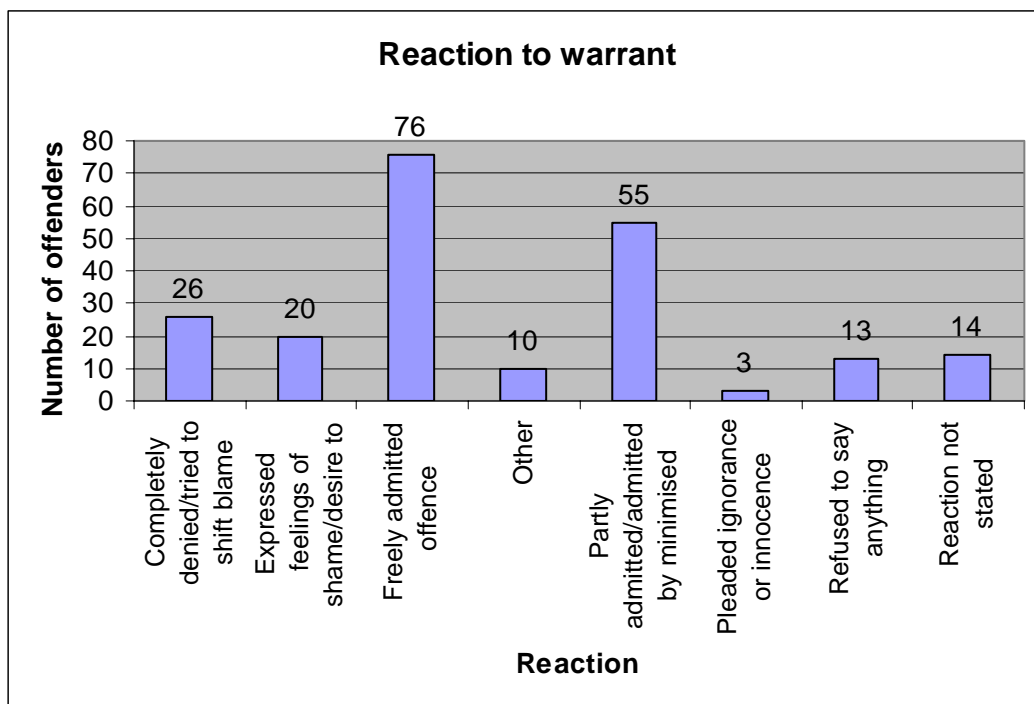
Table 2: Access to Subjects

Offender access to children, animals and other subjects	Number of offenders
Frequently sole caregiver of children/dependants	14
Is mobile in job	13
Not specified	109
Other access to children or animals	12
Works or has frequent contact with animals	3
Works or has frequent contact with children	26
Works or has frequent contact with the general public	38
Works primarily with computers	18

23% have direct access to the subjects of their collections, including a significant number who have frequent contact with children.

REACTION TO WARRANT

Figure 6: Reaction to warrant



35% of offenders told Censorship Inspectors they admitted their participation in the distribution and/or collection of child sexual abuse images with a further 25% partially admitting or in effect admitting by minimising the nature of their offending.

OBSERVATION

With the inception of social chat websites such as Bebo and MySpace online offenders are now targeting these sites. These sites allow for the sharing of information, pictures and videos and are being used by offenders to exploit children. There is no empirical data on to the extent this is happening in New Zealand at present. Parents need to be vigilant of what activity their children are undertaking on line. There are suggestions for safe Internet use on

http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Services-Censorship-Compliance-ISPs-and-Internet-Safety?OpenDocument

CONCLUSION

The profiling of offenders continues to uncover a great deal of information about offenders and their offending habits. It is hoped that the new reporting capabilities further enhance these findings and assist in increasing our knowledge and understanding of these types of offenders and associated behaviour.