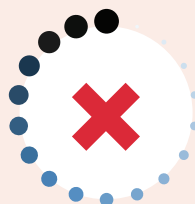


ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION INCIDENTS IN CANADA



From the police to criminal courts

Online child sexual exploitation includes online sexual offences against children, such as luring and invitation to sexual touching, as well as online child pornography.



Cases of online child sexual exploitation experience attrition at all stages of the criminal justice system.

Attrition refers to the phenomenon whereby, at each stage of the criminal justice process, some cases “drop out” and do not proceed. Fewer cases remain or are retained throughout the entirety of the process.

From 2014 to 2021, **16%** of online child sexual exploitation incidents reported by police resulted in charges being laid or recommended against an accused.

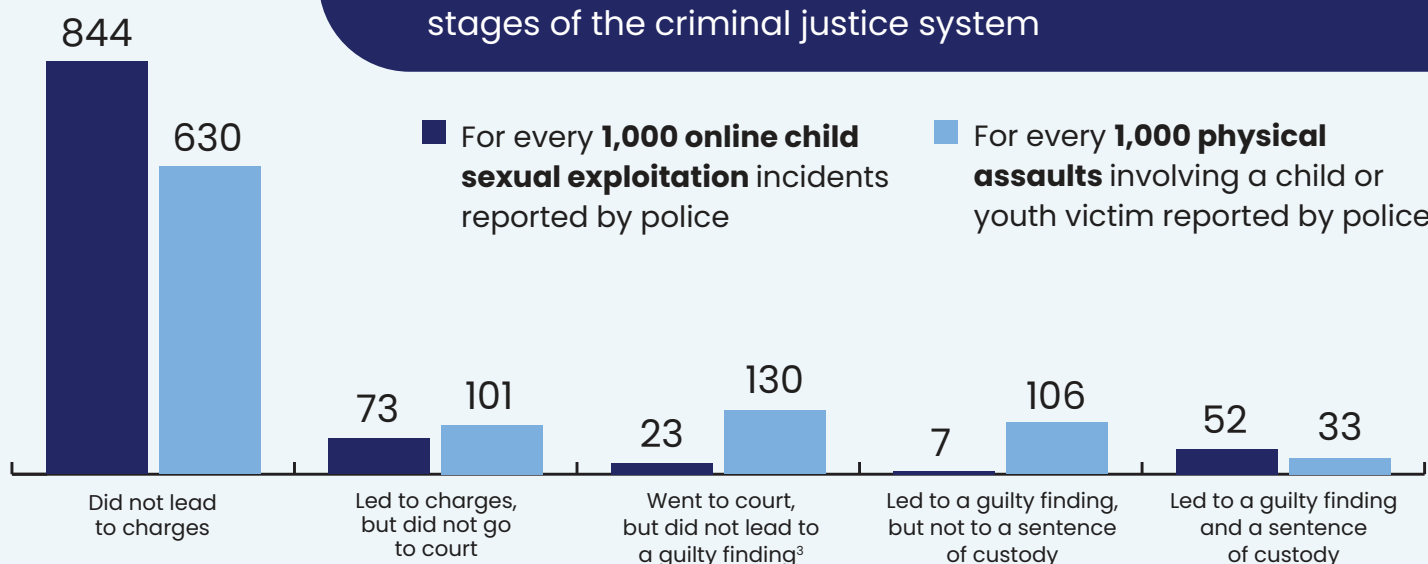
Of these incidents, **53%** proceeded to criminal court.



Once in court, **72%** of adult criminal court cases¹ of online child sexual exploitation resulted in a guilty finding for the most serious offence in the case.



Physical assaults were more likely to be retained at the clearance and charging² stages and drop out at other stages of the criminal justice system



1. Cases in which at least one online child sexual exploitation charge was retained.
 2. Clearance refers to whether an incident was “solved” by police (i.e., that an accused was identified in the incident), while charging refers to whether or not charges were laid or recommended by police once an incident was cleared.
 3. The number of cases that resulted in a completed court case before the end of 2022/2023. It cannot be determined whether the remaining cases were still before the courts into the 2023/2024 fiscal year and beyond or whether they had dropped out of the criminal justice system entirely.

Source: Savage, L., 2024, “Online child sexual exploitation: A statistical profile of police-reported incidents in Canada, 2014 to 2022,” *Juristat*, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

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