

Three-Year Assessment of Law Enforcement Community Survey Report

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors

PREPARED FOR

Tennessee Department of Children's Services: Office of Child Safety

PREPARED BY

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Background and Methodology

The Tennessee Department of Children’s Services (DCS) conducted a Three-Year Assessment to determine the needs of its partners and other agencies. As part of this assessment, DCS contracted with the University of Tennessee College of Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (UT SWORPS) to conduct an online survey of the law enforcement community in March 2021. The purpose of the survey was to learn from local law enforcement professionals about their current ability and future needs to adequately investigate standard offenses involving Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors (CSEM). Further, the survey was designed to seek feedback about the challenges they encounter in their investigation of CSEM cases and to solicit recommendations for overcoming these challenges.

The survey was conducted using an online survey platform, Alchemer. To secure input from law enforcement officers, detectives, and investigators from across the state, DCS, the Joint Task Force on Children’s Justice and Child Sexual Abuse (JTF), and UT SWORPS requested that the Children’s Advocacy Centers (CAC) of Tennessee and the Tennessee Sheriffs’ Association distribute an email with a survey link to the law enforcement professionals in their regions.

The CAC directors and Sheriffs’ Association president agreed to help distribute the survey link via the email. They also agreed to send an email with information from DCS and the JTF about the survey approximately one week before they sent the email with the survey link. The email with the survey link was distributed on March 1, 2021. In the following week, the directors and Sheriffs’ Association president sent a short follow-up email to remind possible respondents to complete the survey. The survey remained open until March 12, 2021.

The survey was completed by 193 members of the law enforcement community. Because the number of people receiving the survey invitation is unknown, a response rate and non-response bias cannot be calculated. However, law enforcement personnel from 70 of the 95 counties in Tennessee participated in the survey. Further, all of the major urban counties – Davidson, Hamilton, Knox, and Shelby – were represented in the survey. A copy of the survey questions and a full report of the survey findings are included in the Appendix of this report.

Who responded to the survey?

Survey respondents were equally represented by police and sheriff’s departments (see Figure 1). However, those who are serving in a sheriff’s department are significantly more likely to serve in the least populated areas. Almost half of those working in a sheriff’s department (44.8%) served in counties with a population below 40,000 compared to 20.0% of those working in a police department reported serving in these counties with low population density.

Law Enforcement Agency Type

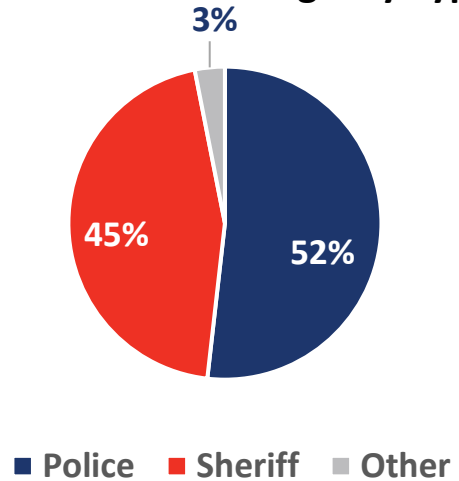


Figure 1: Agency type (n = 193)

Grand Division

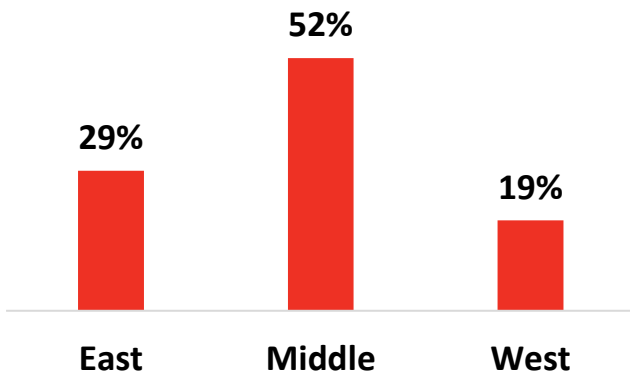


Figure 2: Grand Division (n = 193)

About half of the respondents served in middle Tennessee, almost one-third in the eastern division, one-fifth in the west (see Figure 2). About half of the respondents (45.1%) served in counties with a population over 80,000; 22.8% served in counties with a population between 40,000 and 79,999; and 32.1% served in counties with a population less than 40,000.

The majority of respondents have served with their agency for more than 10 years (see Figure 3). However, officers serving in smaller counties – those with less than 40,000 residents – were more likely to have less than five years of service.

Tenure of Service

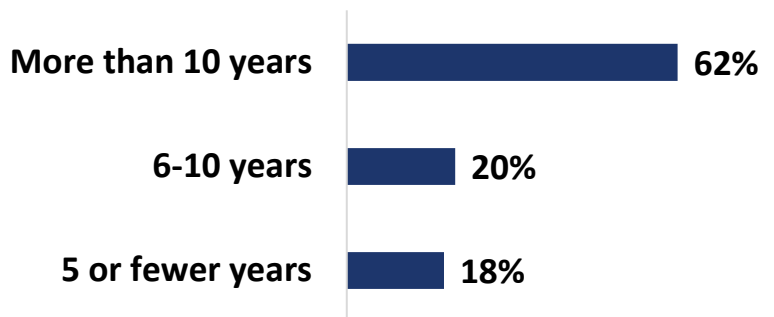


Figure 3: Tenure of service (n = 193)

Confidence in ability to handle CSEM offense

Survey respondents were asked to report on how confident they were in their ability to handle a Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minor (CSEM) offense. Overall, less than one out of three respondents (30.1%) indicated they felt very or extremely confident in their ability to handle this type of case.

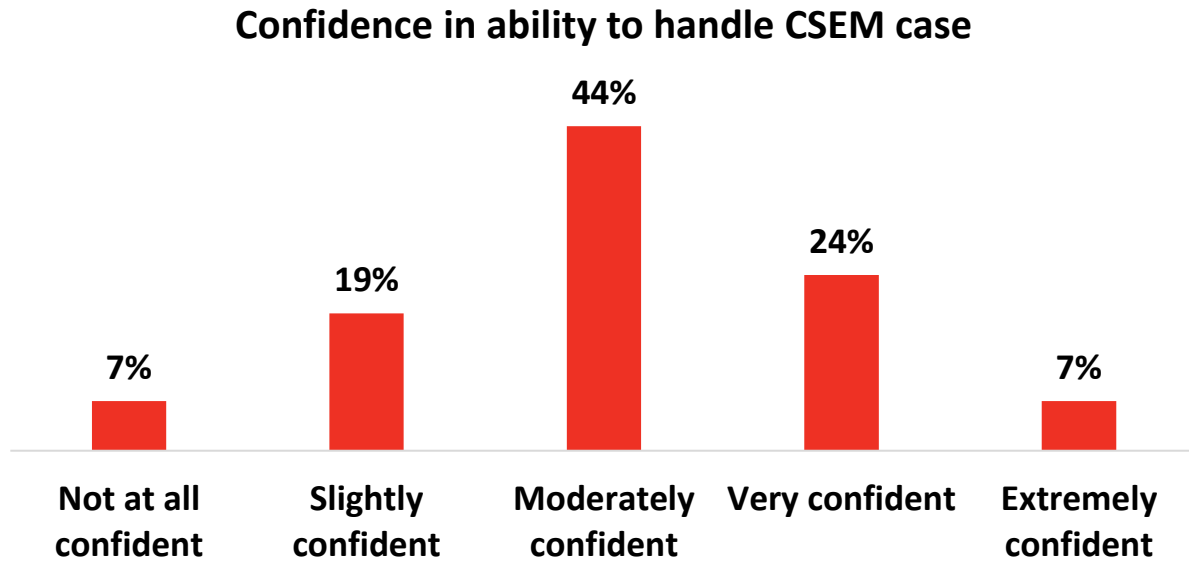


Figure 4: Confidence for CSEM case (n = 193)

However, significant differences in officers' confidence in working this type of case emerged between agencies, length of time serving in the agency, and recent completion of training dedicated to this topic.

- Law enforcement officers working in a sheriff's departments were significantly more likely than their counterparts in police departments to report they felt very or extremely confident in their ability to handle a CSEM case – 42.5% compared to 20.0%.
- Length of time on the job and feelings of confidence in the ability to handle CSEM cases are positively correlated. The reported level of confidence increased as the number of years serving in the agency grew. Only one out of five officers with less than five years with their current agency (20.0%) indicated they were very or extremely confident while slightly more than one-third of those with 10 or more years of service (35.3%) reported this high level of confidence.
- Participants who work in agencies that have a dedicated team for this CSEM cases were twice as likely to report higher levels of confidence – 46.7% of those with a dedicated team compared to 23.4% of those without reported being very or extremely confident.
- Recent participation in training also impacted reported levels of confidence. Almost half of those who completed training in 2020 (45.2%) reported higher levels of confidence compared to one-fourth of those who had not completed training (25.0%)

Training

A number of questions were designed to collect information about training. Specifically, respondents were asked about availability of training, recent participation in training courses, and topics that would be helpful for working CSEM cases. Less than one out of four respondents (21.8%) worked in an agency that provided internal training for CSEM cases during 2020. For those agencies who did provide the training, a large number (81.0%) required all officers to attend. Sheriff’s departments were significantly more likely than police departments to require all officers to attend the training – 94.7% compared to 66.7%, respectively.

Regardless of whether their agency provided in-house training, survey respondents were asked to report whether or not they had attended any training on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors in 2020. Overall, about one out four (27.5%) indicated they had received some training on CSEM last year.

- Those who are employed in a sheriff’s department were more likely than their counterparts in police departments to report they had attended training. About one of three officers in the sheriff’s department (34.5%) attended CSEM training in 2020 while less than one in four police officers (21.0%) reported attending this type of training in 2020.
- Those with fewer years of experience were also more likely to have attended training in 2020. Almost half of the officers who had served in their respective departments five years or less (45.7%) indicated they attended CSEM. Only 21.0% of those with 10 or more years attended CSEM training.

More than half of those who attended this type of training (52.9%) indicated the training lasted three or more hours.

Officers were also provided the opportunity to share what training topics they would be interested in learning more about. Emerging threats using internet technology and investigating sextortion crimes were the topics most frequently identified (see Figure 5).

Desired Training Topics

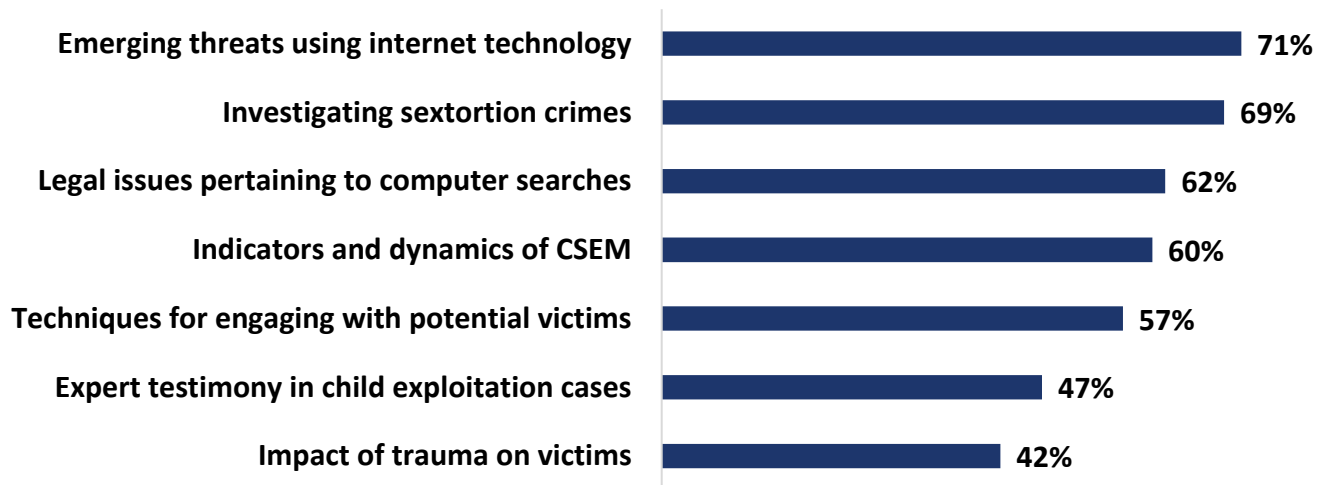


Figure 5: Desired Training Topics (n = 193)

Challenges in fighting CSEM offenses

Officers were also provided the opportunity to share their perspective on the challenges they face in fighting CSEM offenses. Overwhelmingly, lack of manpower was the most frequently cited challenge (74.1%). Lack of training (56.0%) and lack of funding (54.4%) surfaced as the second-tier of challenges for the officers. The need for sharing data across systems (35.8%) and lack of public education (31.6%) were the least cited challenges (see Figure below).

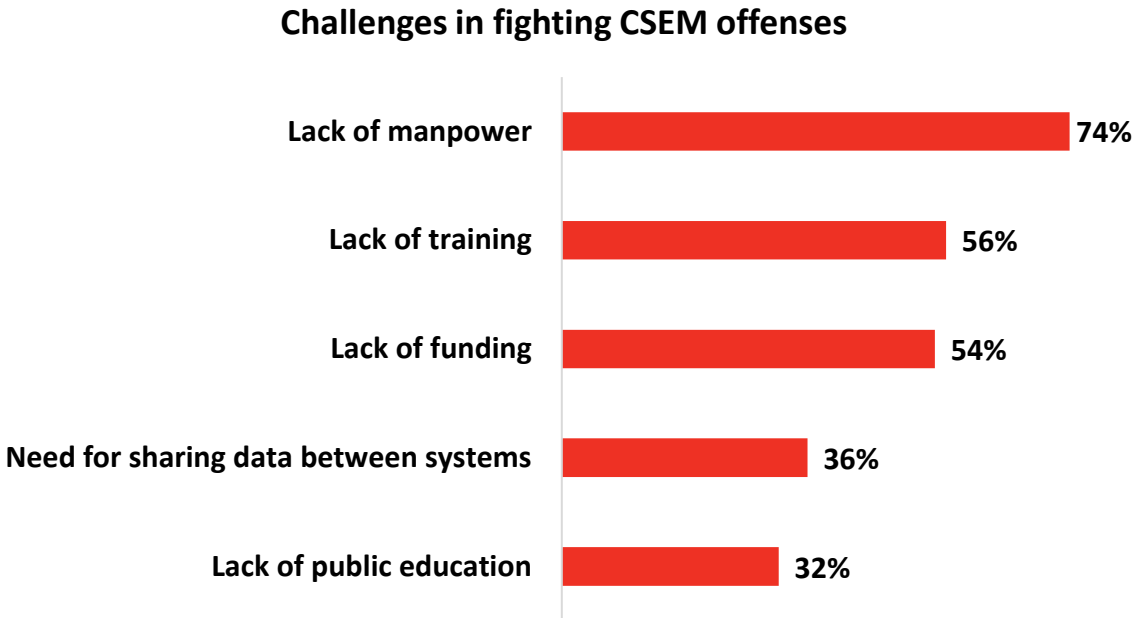


Figure 6:Challenges (n = 193)

Recommendations for improving the handling of CSEM cases

Many of the challenges discussed above re-emerged in the recommendations shared by respondents for improving the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of CSEM cases.

Increased training and public awareness

The recommendation most frequently offered was to increase availability of training within the law enforcement and judicial systems. Allowing this type of training to fulfill professional development requirements could increase the interest in attending the training. Furthermore, incorporating testimony from victims sharing the impact of cases being mishandled in the past would be especially effective.

“I spoke to our detective captain who stated he has very limited knowledge of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors. I think this is training that should be provided to all detectives/ investigators.”

“I would like to see more formal training on CSEM either in house or offered by the state.”

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“DCS and the state need to provide this training to local agencies. We have never heard of this type of training before.”

“Contact local agencies and ask to host training at their departments. Push training to the agencies rather than having the agencies request training.”

“Making (or providing more widespread) classes available to educate law enforcement on this topic that are POST (Peace Officer Standards and Training) certified. As 40 hours of POST classes are required per calendar year for every commissioned officer in TN, a class targeting CSEM that counted towards those hours would make the likelihood of more cops attending these classes much greater. It would also persuade more agencies to send their officers to these classes because it would count towards their required yearly training hours.”

“More training and testimony from victims offering their insight into what investigators have done wrong, right or need to improve in the investigation that make the victims want to assist in the investigation and what will keep them from returning to it.”

“Our Judges need better understanding in all child sex crimes and the problem. Some D.A.'s, not all, need more training in understanding the problem. Most Patrol Officers have no training in what to look for when they are on a traffic stop or call for service.”

“More joint training between prosecutors, law enforcement, and other agencies that work together, to get a more uniformed response.”

“Joint training for all involved to attend as a team, from Investigator to Judge.”

Additionally, it was recommended that efforts be made to increase public awareness about this type of crime. These efforts should include reaching out to the public by publishing information about where to report the crimes. It was further suggested that sharing this information in the schools would be an effective way for disseminating the information.

“Increase community awareness. Publish a number, email or website where people can go to ask questions and get help.”

“The more education the public has on it, the more likely they are to point it out to law enforcement. The better trained the police are, they will be more able to recognize the signs in the information given to them and know more appropriate responses and ways to build the case.”

As an extension of increasing public awareness, additional laws are needed that address this type of crime.

“Laws to address the images or videos taken in public. Laws to address more in regards to images and videos but were obtained and displayed later on.”

“Perhaps expanding Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)”

Additional personnel and funding

Other areas for needed improvements included additional personnel and funding. These recommendations suggest the two areas are symbiotic. It was recommended that a dedicated team or task force should be assigned to investigate the CSEM cases. This would require additional training for the team members. However, this may not be feasible due to budget restraints, especially for smaller agencies and departments.

“More manpower is probably just above funding. Manpower equals funding so they are interchangeable.”

“I believe it would be important to have dedicated teams of individuals specifically trained in Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minor Cases. Obviously, more manpower would be required to make this a possibility. With the manpower, more training would then become a necessity.”

“I would like to hire an additional investigator to handle these cases. Right now, because of my budget structure, I cannot hire an investigator for these cases. I plan to add an investigator for this when I propose my budget for next year.”

Beyond the need for additional personnel, respondents indicated that additional funds are needed for equipment and to access or develop databases. Developing or gaining access to existing databases would facilitate collaboration across jurisdictions and increase capacity to investigate CSEM cases.

“Assist in funding/equipment for local agencies to conduct forensic investigations on electronic devices.”

“Equipment to use in the investigations of these types of crimes, again, funding. Like most jurisdictions, funding is light and it takes funding to get things started.”

“There needs to be additional resources for assisting agencies with electronic communications. The cost of equipment along with manpower limits most departments from having the capabilities to locate and recover electronic media evidence.”

“Possibly the availability of grant funding to help with necessary technology and manhours for investigating these cases on the local level. Also, a statewide or national database for investigators to use for networking and searching possible linked cases. If there is such a database I am unaware of it.”

More collaboration between agencies

Finally, it was recommended that increased collaboration across agencies could greatly increase the ability to address this type of crime. Improving communication and sharing information would improve the effectiveness of the state's efforts to address these crimes.

"More channels of communication between various law enforcement agencies for CSEM cases."

"More communication and joint work of these cases and data concerning these cases."

"We feel that the DCS Data Base [sic] could be shared with Law Enforcement in a better team effort approach."

"More assistance from the TBI. They rarely pickup trafficking cases that are offered to them."

Conclusion

A survey was conducted with law enforcement officers, detectives, and investigators across Tennessee to learn about their training needs and challenges for investigating standard offenses involving Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors (CSEM). Responses were received from across the state and represented both sheriff's offices and police departments in both rural and urban areas. While the majority of respondents had more than 10 years of service, input from those with fewer years of experience were also received.

The majority of respondents reported being only slightly or moderately confident in their ability to adequately work a CSEM case. Working in an agency that housed a dedicated team assigned to work CSEM cases significantly increased their confidence. Moreover, time on the job and participation in training also increased their confidence. Training topics that received the most interest was to increase understanding of how internet technology is being used in sexual exploitation cases and how to better investigate sextortion cases.

While many challenges for adequately addressing these types of cases were identified, lack of funding was reportedly the most significant barrier. Lack of funding limits the ability to provide adequate staffing, training, and equipment. Some of these limitations might be overcome by improving collaborations across agencies so that resources can be shared. There is also value in providing access to databases to help investigate cases and in developing training that is relevant to the judicial system as well as law enforcement. Another key ingredient is to encourage lawmakers to pass legislation to enable law enforcement and the judicial system to adequately prosecute these crimes. Finally, it is important to educate the public about how to recognize and report this type of crime. It is only through collective efforts, proper training, increased awareness, and adequate statutes that these offenses can be properly investigated and prosecuted.

APPENDIX

Three-Year Assessment Survey of Law Enforcement Community Survey Report

| What type of agency/organization do you work for? | | | | |
|--|------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| | | Police | Sheriff | Other |
| Overall | (n = 193) | 51.8% | 45.1% | 3.1% |
| Grand Division | | | | |
| East | (n = 56) | 50.0% | 48.2% | 1.8% |
| Middle | (n = 101) | 54.5% | 41.6% | 4.0% |
| West | (n = 36) | 47.2% | 50.0% | 2.8% |
| Population density | | | | |
| Less than 40,000 | (n = 62) | 32.3% | 62.9% | 4.8% |
| 40,000 – 79,999 | (n = 44) | 45.5% | 50.0% | 4.5% |
| 80,000+ | (n = 87) | 69.0% | 29.9% | 1.1% |
| Tenure | | | | |
| 5 years or less | (n = 35) | 54.3% | 45.7% | 0.0% |
| 6 – 10 years | (n = 39) | 59.0% | 38.5% | 2.6% |
| 10 years or more | (n = 119) | 48.7% | 47.1% | 4.2% |

| Is there a dedicated team within your agency/organization assigned to work on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minor (CSEM) offenses? | | | | |
|---|------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|
| | | Yes | No | Don't know |
| Overall | (n = 193) | 31.1% | 64.2% | 4.7% |
| Agency type | | | | |
| Police | (n = 100) | 30.0% | 65.0% | 5.0% |
| Sheriff | (n = 87) | 33.3% | 63.2% | 3.4% |
| Grand Division | | | | |
| East | (n = 56) | 37.5% | 62.5% | 0.0% |
| Middle | (n = 101) | 25.7% | 67.3% | 6.9% |
| West | (n = 36) | 36.1% | 58.3% | 5.6% |
| Population density | | | | |
| Less than 40,000 | (n = 62) | 25.8% | 71.0% | 3.2% |
| 40,000 – 79,999 | (n = 44) | 31.8% | 65.9% | 2.3% |
| 80,000+ | (n = 87) | 34.5% | 58.6% | 6.9% |
| Tenure | | | | |
| 5 years or less | (n = 35) | 37.1% | 54.3% | 8.6% |
| 6 – 10 years | (n = 39) | 17.9% | 79.5% | 2.6% |
| 10 years or more | (n = 119) | 33.6% | 62.2% | 4.2% |

Three-Year Assessment Survey of Law Enforcement Community Survey Report

| How confident do you feel in your ability to handle a Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minor case? | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| | | Not at all confident | Slightly confident | Moderately confident | Very confident | Extremely confident |
| Overall | (n = 193) | 6.7% | 18.7% | 44.0% | 23.8% | 6.7% |
| Agency type | | | | | | |
| Police | (n = 100) | 12.0% | 24.0% | 44.0% | 16.0% | 4.0% |
| Sheriff | (n = 87) | 0.0% | 13.8% | 43.7% | 33.3% | 9.2% |
| Grand Division | | | | | | |
| East | (n = 56) | 3.6% | 12.5% | 53.6% | 26.8% | 3.6% |
| Middle | (n = 101) | 9.9% | 20.8% | 39.6% | 21.8% | 7.9% |
| West | (n = 36) | 2.8% | 22.2% | 41.7% | 25.0% | 8.3% |
| Population density | | | | | | |
| Less than 40,000 | (n = 62) | 3.2% | 16.1% | 51.6% | 21.0% | 8.1% |
| 40,000 – 79,999 | (n = 44) | 0.0% | 27.3% | 40.9% | 27.3% | 4.5% |
| 80,000+ | (n = 62) | 12.6% | 16.1% | 40.2% | 24.1% | 6.9% |
| Tenure | | | | | | |
| 5 years or less | (n = 35) | 8.6% | 31.4% | 40.0% | 17.1% | 2.9% |
| 6 – 10 years | (n = 39) | 5.1% | 20.5% | 48.7% | 25.6% | 0.0% |
| 10 years or more | (n = 119) | 6.7% | 14.3% | 43.7% | 25.2% | 10.1% |
| Dedicated team assigned to work CSEM cases | | | | | | |
| Yes | (n = 60) | 5.0% | 10.0% | 38.3% | 31.7% | 15.0% |
| No | (n = 124) | 5.6% | 23.4% | 47.6% | 21.0% | 2.4% |

| During Calendar Year 2020, did your agency/organization provide internal training on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors? | | | | |
|---|------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|
| | | Yes | No | Don't know |
| Overall | (n = 193) | 21.8% | 64.2% | 14.0% |
| Agency type | | | | |
| Police | (n = 100) | 21.0% | 60.0% | 19.0% |
| Sheriff | (n = 87) | 21.8% | 70.1% | 8.0% |
| Grand Division | | | | |
| East | (n = 56) | 25.0% | 64.3% | 10.7% |
| Middle | (n = 101) | 19.8% | 65.3% | 14.9% |
| West | (n = 36) | 22.2% | 61.1% | 16.7% |
| Population density | | | | |
| Less than 40,000 | (n = 62) | 29.0% | 61.3% | 9.7% |
| 40,000 – 79,999 | (n = 44) | 13.6% | 72.7% | 13.6% |
| 80,000+ | (n = 62) | 29.0% | 61.3% | 9.7% |
| Tenure | | | | |
| 5 years or less | (n = 35) | 22.9% | 60.0% | 17.1% |
| 6 – 10 years | (n = 39) | 23.1% | 66.7% | 10.3% |
| 10 years or more | (n = 119) | 21.0% | 64.7% | 14.3% |

Three-Year Assessment Survey of Law Enforcement Community Survey Report

| Was this training required for ALL law enforcement officers? | | | | |
|---|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|
| | | Yes | No | Don't know |
| Overall | (n = 42) | 81.0% | 14.3% | 4.8% |
| Agency type | | | | |
| Police | (n = 21) | 66.7% | 28.6% | 4.8% |
| Sheriff | (n = 19) | 94.7% | 0.0% | 5.3% |
| Grand Division | | | | |
| East | (n = 14) | 78.6% | 14.3% | 7.1% |
| Middle | (n = 20) | 85.0% | 10.0% | 5.0% |
| West | (n = 8) | 75.0% | 25.0% | 0.0% |
| Population density | | | | |
| Less than 40,000 | (n = 18) | 83.3% | 16.7% | 0.0% |
| 40,000 – 79,999 | (n = 6) | 66.7% | 33.3% | 0.0% |
| 80,000+ | (n = 18) | 83.3% | 5.6% | 11.1% |
| Tenure | | | | |
| 5 years or less | (n = 8) | 62.5% | 25.0% | 12.5% |
| 6 – 10 years | (n = 9) | 88.9% | 11.1% | 0.0% |
| 10 years or more | (n = 25) | 84.0% | 12.0% | 4.0% |

| During Calendar Year 2020, did you attend any training on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors? | | | |
|--|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | Yes | No |
| Overall | (n = 193) | 27.5% | 72.5% |
| Agency type | | | |
| Police | (n = 100) | 21.0% | 79.0% |
| Sheriff | (n = 87) | 34.5% | 65.5% |
| Grand Division | | | |
| East | (n = 56) | 28.6% | 71.4% |
| Middle | (n = 101) | 24.8% | 75.2% |
| West | (n = 36) | 33.3% | 66.7% |
| Population density | | | |
| Less than 40,000 | (n = 62) | 27.4% | 72.6% |
| 40,000 – 79,999 | (n = 44) | 34.1% | 65.9% |
| 80,000+ | (n = 162) | 27.4% | 72.6% |
| Tenure | | | |
| 5 years or less | (n = 35) | 45.7% | 54.3% |
| 6 – 10 years | (n = 39) | 30.8% | 69.2% |
| 10 years or more | (n = 119) | 21.0% | 79.0% |

Three-Year Assessment Survey of Law Enforcement Community Survey Report

| What was the approximate hours of training you received? | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | One hour or less | One to two hours | Two to three hours | Three to four hours | Four hours or more |
| Overall | (n = 53) | 9.4% | 20.8% | 17.0% | 18.9% | 34.0% |
| Agency type | | | | | | |
| Police | (n = 21) | 14.3% | 19.0% | 23.8% | 19.0% | 23.8% |
| Sheriff | (n = 30) | 6.7% | 23.3% | 13.3% | 20.0% | 36.7% |
| Grand Division | | | | | | |
| East | (n = 16) | 12.5% | 25.0% | 12.5% | 18.8% | 31.3% |
| Middle | (n = 25) | 8.0% | 20.0% | 16.0% | 24.0% | 32.0% |
| West | (n = 12) | 8.3% | 16.7% | 25.0% | 8.3% | 41.7% |
| Population density | | | | | | |
| Less than 40,000 | (n = 17) | 0.0% | 23.5% | 23.5% | 5.9% | 47.1% |
| 40,000 – 79,999 | (n = 15) | 6.7% | 26.7% | 20.0% | 26.7% | 20.0% |
| 80,000+ | (n = 21) | 19.0% | 14.3% | 9.5% | 23.8% | 33.3% |
| Tenure | | | | | | |
| 5 years or less | (n = 16) | 6.3% | 18.8% | 31.3% | 31.3% | 12.5% |
| 6 – 10 years | (n = 12) | 16.7% | 16.7% | 8.3% | 8.3% | 50.0% |
| 10 years or more | (n = 25) | 8.0% | 24.0% | 12.0% | 16.0% | 40.0% |

| Which of the following topics are you interested in learning more about? | Overall | Police | Sheriff |
|---|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| | (n = 193) | (n = 100) | (n = 87) |
| Indicators and dynamics of CSEM | 60.1% | 58.0% | 62.1% |
| Techniques for engaging with potential victims | 56.5% | 59.0% | 55.2% |
| Impact of trauma on victims – the physical and psychological effects | 41.5% | 39.0% | 43.7% |
| Investigating sextortion crimes where victims are threatened into sharing intimate images or videos | 68.9% | 65.0% | 74.7% |
| Emerging threats posed by criminals using Internet technology to victimize children | 71.0% | 69.0% | 74.7% |
| Expert testimony in child exploitation cases | 46.6% | 49.0% | 44.8% |
| Legal issues pertaining to computer searches and seizures | 61.7% | 65.0% | 59.8% |

Three-Year Assessment Survey of Law Enforcement Community Survey Report

| Which of the following topics are you interested in learning more about? | Overall | Less than 40,000 | 40,000 – 79,999 | 80,000+ |
|---|--------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| | (n = 193) | (n = 62) | (n = 44) | (n = 187) |
| Indicators and dynamics of CSEM | 60.1% | 56.5% | 77.3% | 54.0% |
| Techniques for engaging with potential victims | 56.5% | 54.8% | 68.2% | 51.7% |
| Impact of trauma on victims – the physical and psychological effects | 41.5% | 40.3% | 59.1% | 33.3% |
| Investigating sextortion crimes where victims are threatened into sharing intimate images or videos | 68.9% | 77.4% | 86.4% | 54.0% |
| Emerging threats posed by criminals using Internet technology to victimize children | 71.0% | 72.6% | 88.6% | 60.9% |
| Expert testimony in child exploitation cases | 46.6% | 51.6% | 52.3% | 40.2% |
| Legal issues pertaining to computer searches and seizures | 61.7% | 72.6% | 68.2% | 50.6% |

| Which of the following topics are you interested in learning more about? | Overall | 5 or less years | 6 – 10 years | More than 10 years |
|---|--------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|
| | (n = 193) | (n = 35) | (n = 39) | (n = 119) |
| Indicators and dynamics of CSEM | 60.1% | 74.3% | 59.0% | 56.3% |
| Techniques for engaging with potential victims | 56.5% | 77.1% | 61.5% | 48.7% |
| Impact of trauma on victims – the physical and psychological effects | 41.5% | 57.1% | 41.0% | 37.0% |
| Investigating sextortion crimes where victims are threatened into sharing intimate images or videos | 68.9% | 71.4% | 69.2% | 68.1% |
| Emerging threats posed by criminals using Internet technology to victimize children | 71.0% | 74.3% | 69.2% | 70.6% |
| Expert testimony in child exploitation cases | 46.6% | 51.4% | 51.3% | 43.7% |
| Legal issues pertaining to computer searches and seizures | 61.7% | 65.7% | 59.0% | 61.3% |

Three-Year Assessment Survey of Law Enforcement Community Survey Report

| What challenges or concerns does your agency/organization experience in fighting Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minor offenses? | Overall | Police | Sheriff |
|--|-----------|--------|---------|
| | (n = 193) | | |
| Lack of funding | 54.4% | 51.0% | 56.3% |
| Lack of manpower | 74.1% | 69.0% | 81.6% |
| Lack of public education | 31.6% | 31.0% | 31.0% |
| Lack of training | 56.0% | 61.0% | 48.3% |
| The need for sharing data between systems | 35.8% | 38.0% | 33.3% |

| What challenges or concerns does your agency/organization experience in fighting Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minor offenses? | Overall | Less than 40,000 | 40,000 – 79,999 | 80,000+ |
|--|-----------|------------------|-----------------|---------|
| | (n = 193) | | | |
| Lack of funding | 54.4% | 67.7% | 63.6% | 40.2% |
| Lack of manpower | 74.1% | 85.5% | 81.8% | 62.1% |
| Lack of public education | 31.6% | 35.5% | 43.2% | 23.0% |
| Lack of training | 56.0% | 56.5% | 72.7% | 47.1% |
| The need for sharing data between systems | 35.8% | 30.6% | 45.5% | 34.5% |

| What challenges or concerns does your agency/organization experience in fighting Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minor offenses? | Overall | 5 or less years | 6 – 10 years | More than 10 years |
|--|-----------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|
| | (n = 193) | | | |
| Lack of funding | 54.4% | 65.7% | 59.0% | 49.6% |
| Lack of manpower | 74.1% | 80.0% | 76.9% | 71.4% |
| Lack of public education | 31.6% | 51.4% | 25.6% | 27.7% |
| Lack of training | 56.0% | 65.7% | 46.2% | 56.3% |
| The need for sharing data between systems | 35.8% | 37.1% | 33.3% | 36.1% |

The Tennessee Department of Children’s Services (DCS) has asked the University of Tennessee, College of Social Work to conduct a short survey of law enforcement agencies across Tennessee. The purpose is to learn more about your experiences handling and investigating sex trafficking offenses involving minors ***(situations in which something of value was given or exchanged for a child’s participation in a sexual act such as someone meeting a child in a hotel room to pay for sex, providing a child to have sex with in exchange for drugs, and/or landlords who discount rent in exchange for sex with a minor)*** and training participation and needs.

The survey will take about 5 minutes to complete. Your responses are confidential, and we will not reveal your identity when we report the survey results.

The results of the survey will be reported in aggregate to the US Children’s Bureau as part of the Department’s three-year assessment report. The Department will also use the responses to prioritize immediate needs and for long-range planning.

1. What county do you work in?

2. What type of agency/organization do you work for?
 - Police
 - Sheriff
 - Other, please specify: _____
3. How long have you worked for this agency/organization?
 - Less than 1 year
 - 1 to 2 years
 - 3 to 5 years
 - 6 years to 10 years
 - More than 10 years
4. Is there a dedicated team within your agency/organization assigned to work on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minor (CSEM) offenses?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don’t know
5. How confident do you feel in your ability to handle a Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minor case?
 - Not at all confident
 - Slightly confident
 - Moderately confident
 - Very confident
 - Extremely confident

6. During Calendar Year 2020, did your agency/organization provide **internal training** on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors? That is training offered within your organization rather than workshops offered outside for those interested to attend.

- Yes
- No [SKIP to Q8]
- Don't know [SKIP to Q8]

7. Was this training required for ALL law enforcement officers?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

8. During Calendar Year 2020, did you attend any training on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors? *Please check all that apply.*

- Yes, attended training that was available to me outside my agency/organization
- No, I did not have an opportunity to attend any training on this topic [SKIP to Q10]

9. What was the approximate hours of training you received?

- One hour or less
- One to two hours
- Two to three hours
- Three to four hours
- Four hours or more

10. Which of the following topics are you interested in learning more about? *Please check all that apply.*

- Indicators and dynamics of CSEM
 - Techniques for engaging with potential victims
 - Impact of trauma on victims – the physical and psychological effects
 - Investigating sextortion crimes where victims are threatened into sharing intimate images or videos
 - Emerging threats posed by criminals using Internet technology to victimize children
 - Expert testimony in child exploitation cases
 - Legal issues pertaining to computer searches and seizures
 - No challenges or concerns
 - Other, please list below.
-

11. What challenges or concerns does your agency/organization experience in fighting Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minor offenses?

- Lack of funding
- Lack of manpower
- Lack of public education
- Lack of training
- The need for sharing data between systems
- Other, please list below.

12. What are some **recommendations** you would like to make for improving the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of **Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minor cases**?