

MOPAC

MAYOR OF LONDON
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

MOPAC CHALLENGE

10th June 2015

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

London partners have agreed to use the ACPO definition of CSE

The ACPO definition of Child Sexual Exploitation :

- Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where the young person (or third person/s) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or others performing on them, sexual activities.
- Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post images on the internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain.
- Violence, coercion and intimidation are common. Involvement in exploitative relationships is characterised by the child's or young person's limited availability of choice, as a result of their social, economic or emotional vulnerability.
- A common feature of CSE is that the child or young person does not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and does not see themselves as a victim of exploitation.

The issue of Child Sexual Exploitation is of national importance

Child abuse and neglect in the UK today (Radford et al, 2011) NSPCC/CEOP Threat Assessment 2013/14

5% of UK children suffer contact sexual abuse at some point during childhood

190,000 children will be victims of abuse by a stranger or adult relative by the time they reach 18 – representing an average of more than

10,000 new victims in the UK every year.

In March 2015 the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) was updated to include Child sexual abuse (of which Child Sexual Exploitation is considered). The SPR explains that:

“Its potential magnitude and impact necessitate a cohesive, consistent, national effort to ensure police and partners can safeguard children from harm.”

Children across England are at risk to CSE

The Office of the Children's Commissioner's inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups (CSEGG) groups "If only someone had listened" suggests:

- at least **16,500** children across England are at risk of CSE per year

Although we do not know the true prevalence of CSE across London:

- It is estimated that within the region of **12,540** cases each year could be at risk of sexual abuse in London

Source: Child abuse and neglect in the UK today (Radford et al, 2011)

- There were approximately **900** presentations of 11-17 year olds to Havens and Designated Doctor referral in 2014

Source: London Paediatric Review of Sexual Assault services King's College Hospital NHS Trust 2015

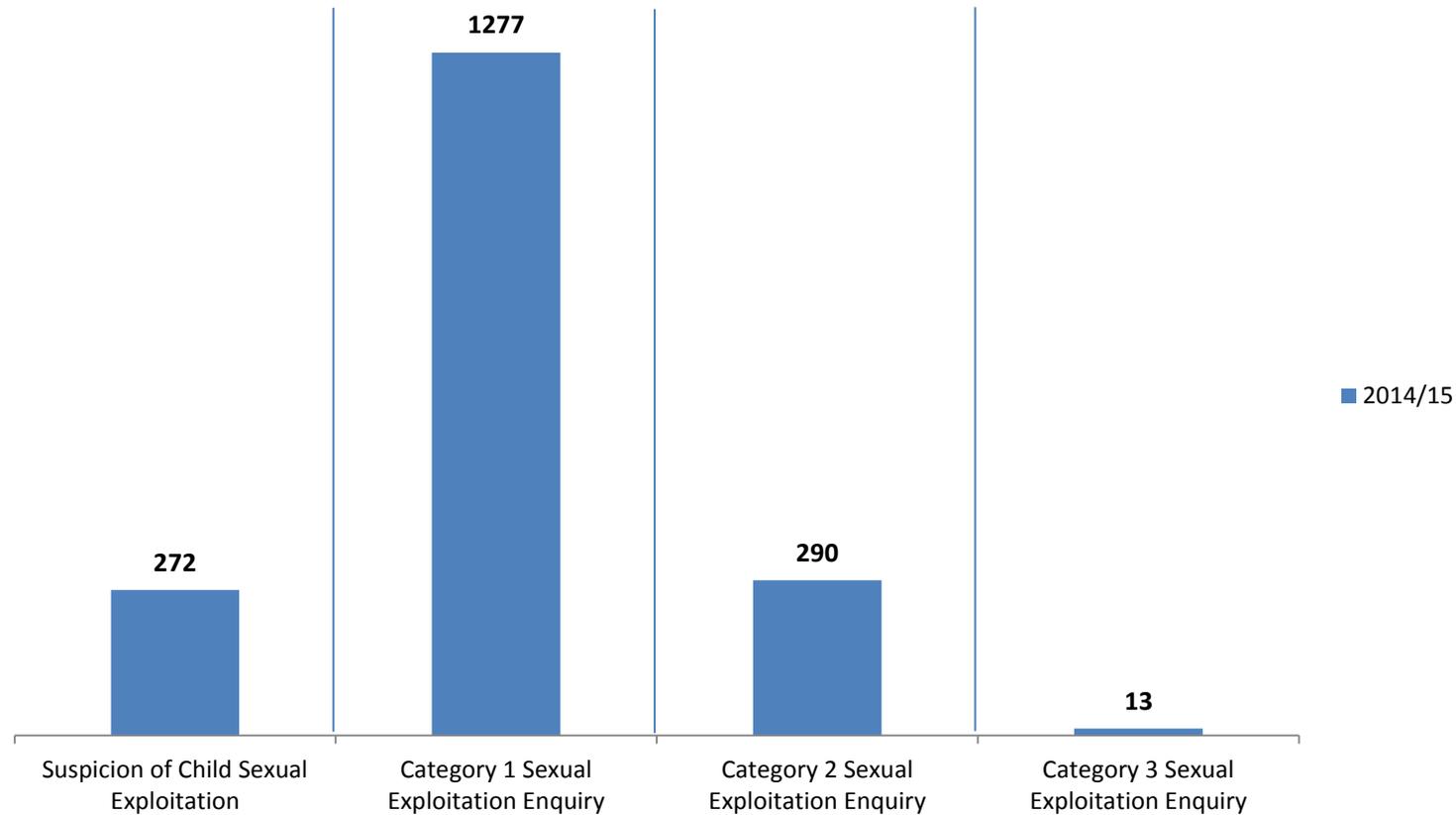
The majority of CSE recorded by the MPS in 2014/15 was coded as Category 1 'At Risk'

1,852

Flagged offences in
2014/15

7 in 10

Category 1 CSE
Enquiry



The flags used to identify this activity were introduced only in October 2013, and as such it is not possible to accurately compare the volume between FY 2014/15 and FY 2013/14. However, the proportions of offences in each category across both years show similarities, with the most frequently recorded being those deemed “at risk”

Recorded levels of allegations of online CSE are currently very low

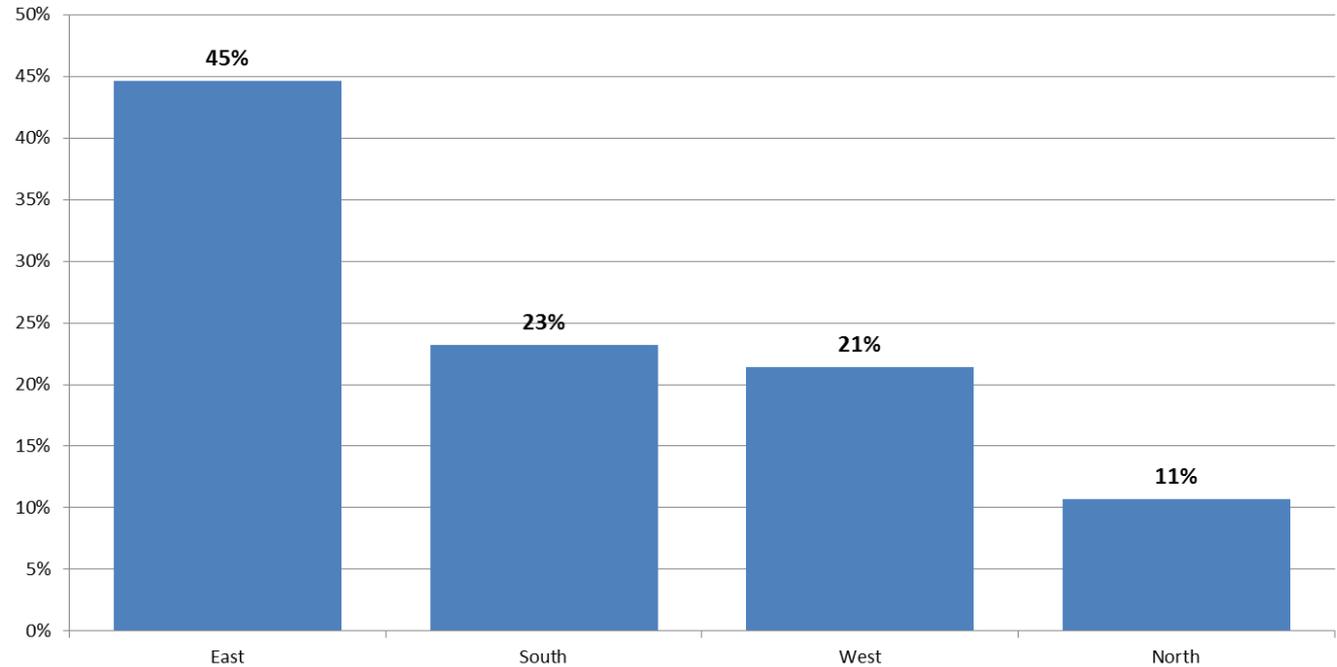
70

Online flagged CSE investigations in 2014/15

45%

Were located within East London

Online CSE - Offence Locations

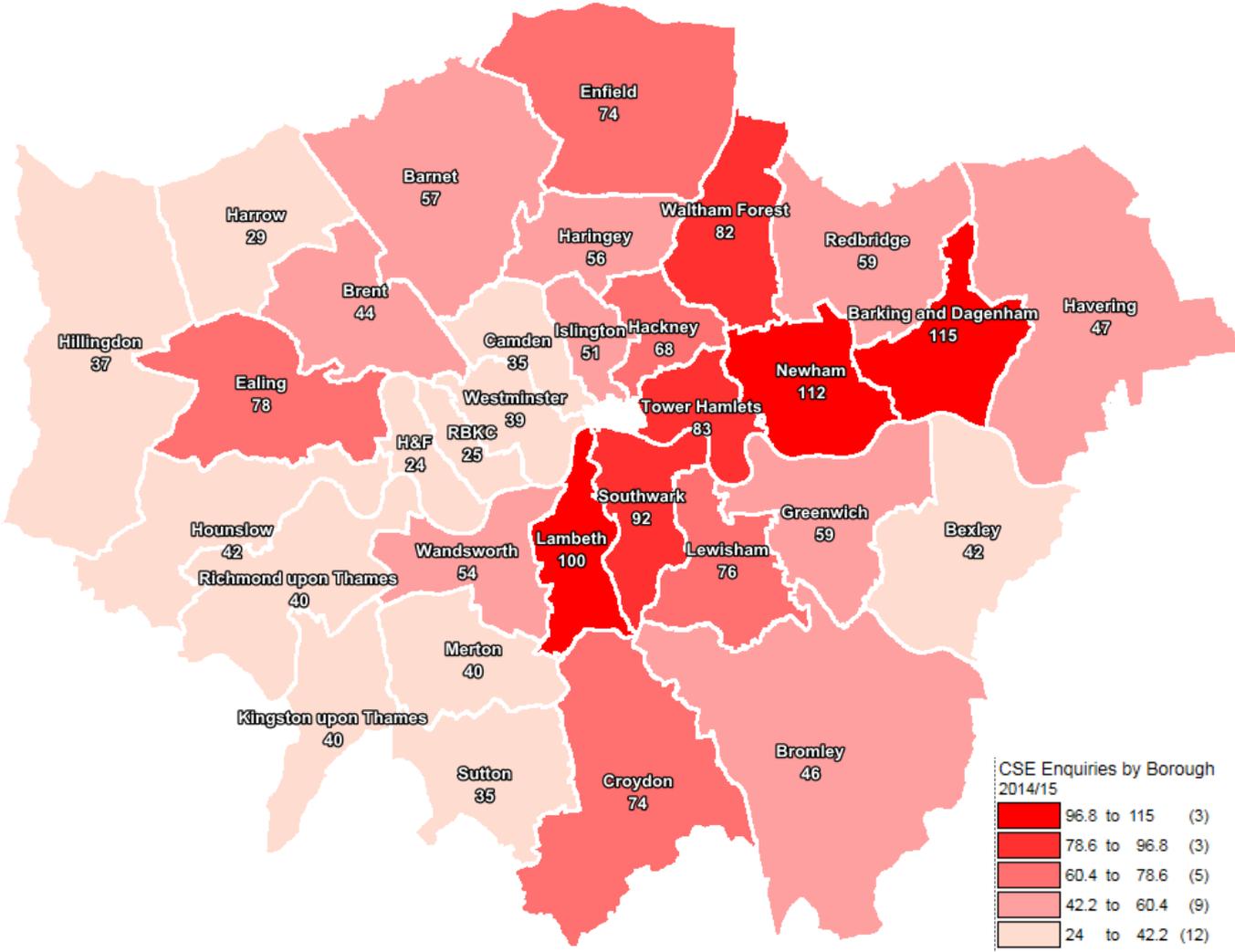


70% were classified as being Category 1 (At Risk), similar to overall CSE.

East London boroughs recorded the highest volumes of all CSE reports...

East London and south Inner London boroughs recorded higher volumes of reported CSE flagged cases than those in the West.

Barking and Dagenham recorded the highest volume in FY 2014/15, followed by Newham then Lambeth. Southwark, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest also recorded over 80 suspected CSE cases in this year.

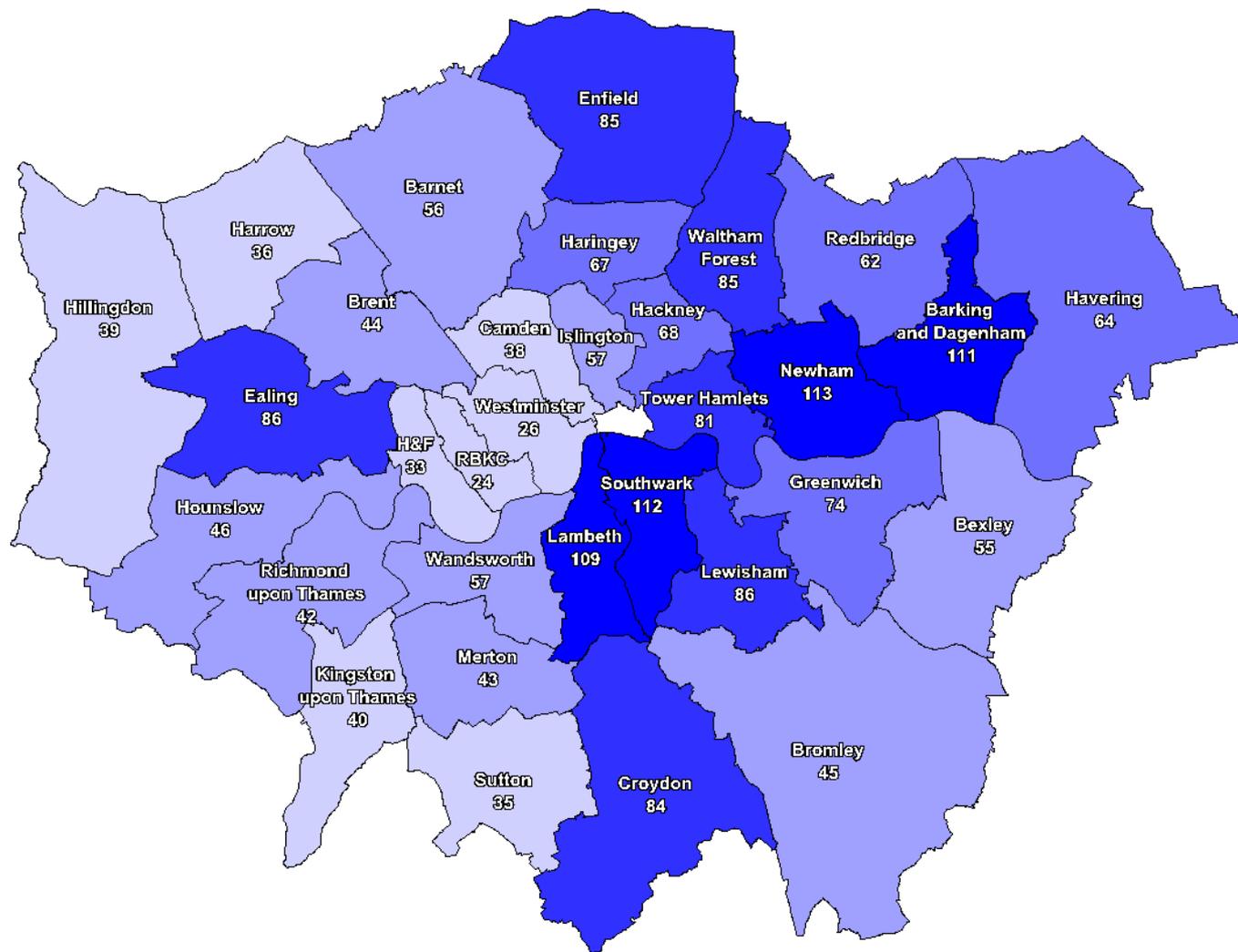


Two thirds of all police investigations during 2014/15 related to CSE were recorded as having Territorial Policing Boroughs as the Investigating Unit. The remainder of investigations are covered by SC&O units such as Child Abuse Investigation Teams (CAIT) and Sapphire

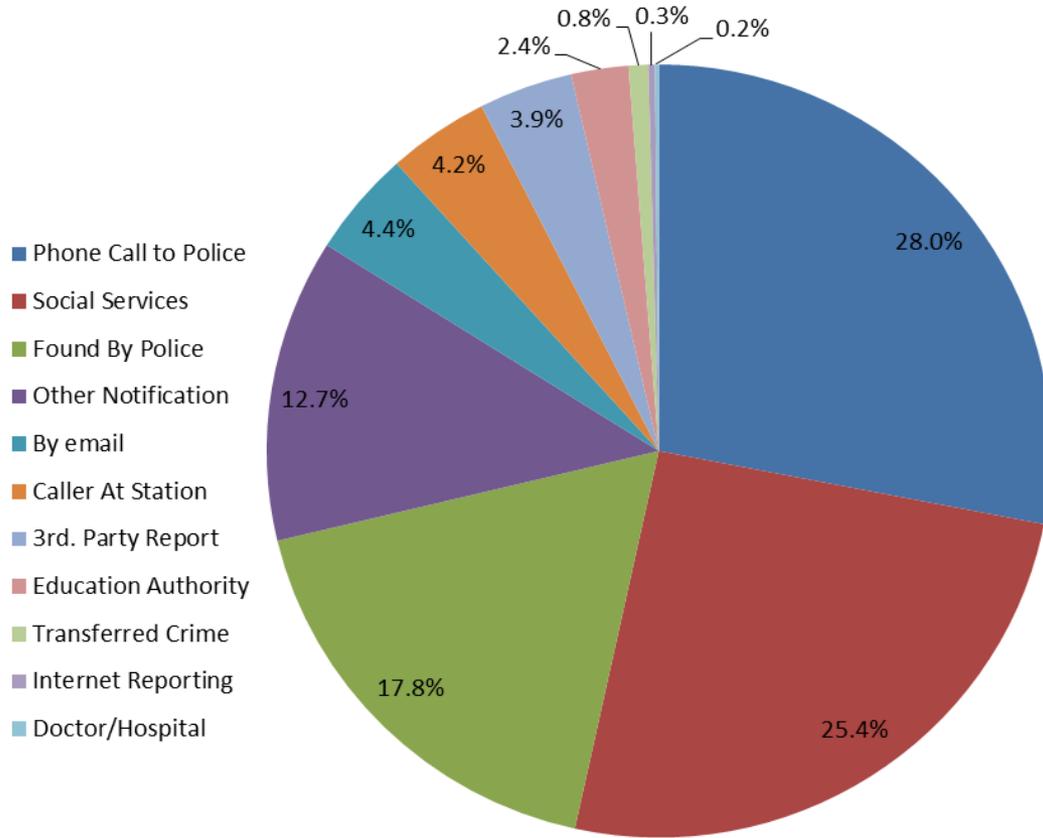
...yet the locations of home addresses of recorded victims varies

Victims of CSE are located in an even split between the North, East and South areas of London. 5% are not London residents.

Newham was home to the highest number of CSE victims in FY 2014/15, followed by Southwark then Barking & Dagenham. Ealing was the only borough located in the West to be home to over 80 victims of CSE offences.



CSE is regularly reported to police via social services



- Phone calls to police are the single most frequent method that police are notified of a potential CSE case.
- The second most frequent method is notification from Social Services.

A large proportion of victims of alleged CSE have previously been reported as missing

Previous analysis conducted by the Metropolitan Police Service highlighted that:

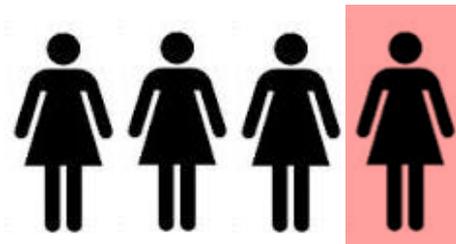
- There is a link between children in care as being at risk of CSE; yet only a small proportion of allegations are linked to children living in care.
- **Two Thirds** of recorded victims of CSE had been reported missing at some point during the preceding 12 months to the report to police
- The profile of missing persons showed that a large number were 'looked after children'.
- Generally these children were found to be missing **multiple times** (and some reported as missing more than 15 times in a year)

Recorded victims of CSE are frequently girls in their mid-teenage years



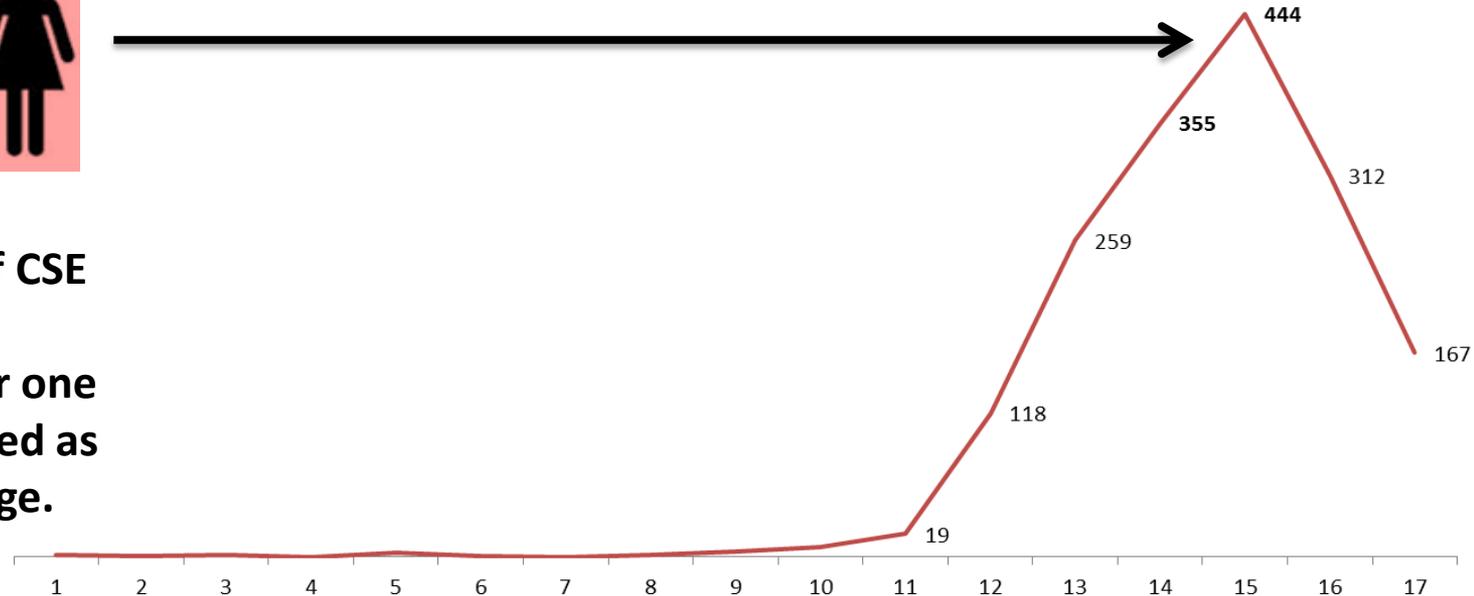
9 in 10

reported victims of CSE
were recorded as Female

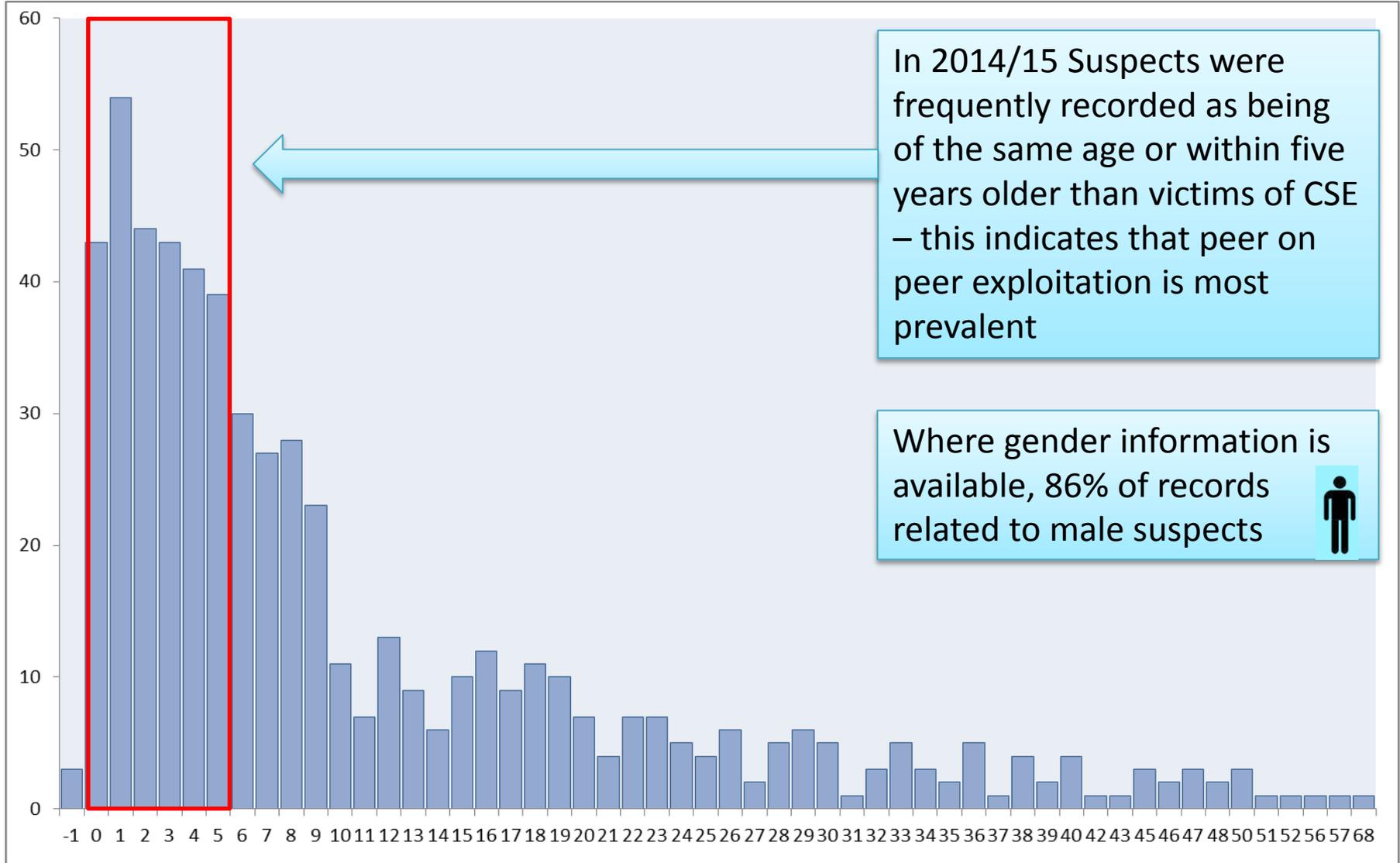


**One in four female
recorded victims of CSE
were aged 15 (FY
2014/15). A further one
in five were recorded as
being 14 years of age.**

Females at risk of CSE (Age)

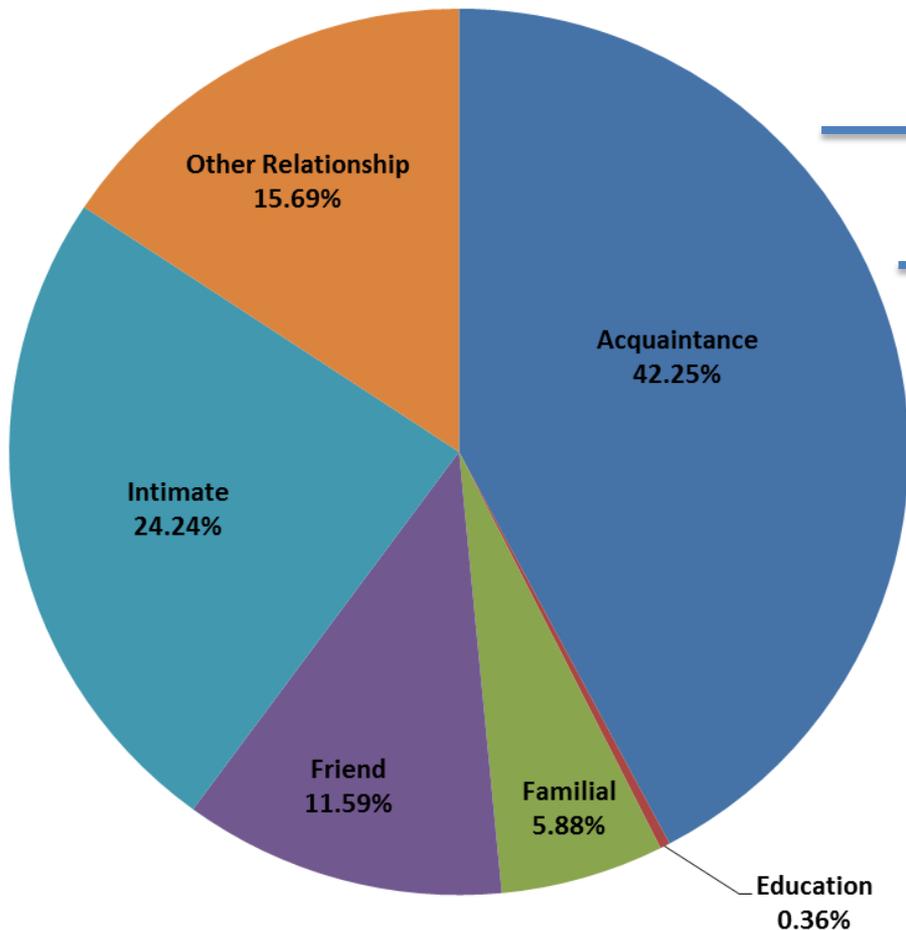


Suspects are frequently male and of a similar age to victims



Suspects are frequently recorded as acquaintances of victims

Although just 30% of CSE records have a relationship recorded between the suspect and recorded victims:



Where a relationship is recorded:

42% = Acquaintance
24% = Intimate/ex-intimate relationship
6% = Familial (incl. extended)

As acquaintances are the most recorded of relationships, this further highlights peer on peer as being an issue within CSE across London

Agencies have started to take a proactive, problem solving approach to tackling CSE in London

In March 2015 the 2nd edition of the London Child Sexual Exploitation Operating Protocol was published. The protocol, signed by delegates of the Metropolitan Police Service and London Safeguarding Children's board. The main aims of the protocol are:

- To **identify children at risk** of being sexually exploited.
- To **work collaboratively** to ensure the children and young people at risk of being sexually exploited are safeguarded.
- To **provide timely and effective interventions** with children and families to safeguard those vulnerable to sexual exploitation.
- To apply **pro-active problem solving** to address the risks associated with victims, perpetrators and locations and ensure the safeguarding and welfare of children and young people who are, or may be, at risk from sexual exploitation.
- To **take action against those intent on abusing and exploiting children** and young people by prosecuting and disrupting perpetrators.
- To **raise awareness and provide preventative education** for the welfare of children and young people who are, or may be, sexually exploited.