Case Studies (adapted from Wolak and Finkelhor)

1 **Aggravated Adult** (4 & 7)

2 **Aggravated Youth: Intent to Harm** (5, 6, 3 & 8)

3 **Aggravated Youth: Reckless Misuse** (9 & 10)

4 **Experimental Romantic** (11,12 & 2)

5 **Experimental Attention Seeking** (13, 14, & 1)

6 **Experimental Other** (15)

1 Aggravated Adult

In most of the Adult Involved cases, adult offenders developed relationships with and seduced underage teenagers, in what were clearly criminal sex offenses even without the added element of youth-produced images. Some of these adult offenders had face-to-face relationships with victims as family friends, relatives, community members. In other cases, offenders used the Internet to meet victims. The youth-produced sexual images were generally, but not always, solicited by the adult offenders.

Case Study 4 (Adult aggravated)

The parents of a 14 year old girl found nude pictures of her on her computer and approached her school for advice. She admitted sending the pictures to a 37 year old man she met online. The girl was in love with the offender, who lived in another part of the country. The victim never met him face-to-face. Police found he was communicating with numerous adolescent girls. They were able to identify 8 or 9 victims aged 12 to 16 that had sent him sexual images. He seemed to target victims who struggled with their self image; many were over-weight and had skin problems. According to the police, two of the victims said “he made them feel good.” The offender also had hundreds of photographs and videos featuring child pornography on his computer. He was charged and sentenced to 10 years in prison .

Case Study 7 (Adult involved)

A 16-year-old girl used the Internet to send sexually explicit photos of herself to numerous men and solicit them for sex. She was using a stolen computer because her parents had taken her computer away from her. The parents discovered the online conversations and approached her school for advice. Police talked to two of the men involved but did not charge them because the girl had portrayed herself as 18 and was physically very mature. The girl’s father had asked for help in controlling her behaviour with men on several occasions. Her case was handled in court and she was provided with mental health counselling.

2 Aggravated Youth: Intent to Harm

These cases were diverse and fell into three sub-types;

1) cases that arose from interpersonal conflict such as break-ups and fights among friends,

2) cases that involved criminal or abusive conduct such as blackmail, threats or deception and

3) criminal sexual abuse or exploitation by juvenile offenders.

Case Study 5 Youth: intent to harm; interpersonal conflict

Two Year 9 girls (A & B) got mad at each other. They had been friends and had access to nude photos of each other. Girl A showed a nude photo of Girl B to another girl. Girl B thought the photo had been shown to many people. To get even, she sent a picture of Girl A's breasts to several boys. Several days later, both girls went to the headteacher's office, crying and upset. They felt bad about what they had done.

Case Study 6 Youth: intent to harm; blackmail, threats and deception

The parents of a 16-year-old contacted the school because a boy was blackmailing their daughter. The victim said she had accidentally uploaded a nude picture of herself to a social networking site. When she realised this, she deleted the image, but a boy from another school had already downloaded it. He threatened to distribute it if she did not send him more nude pictures. When the girl refused, the boy sent the picture to about 100 people. The boy, who was a top set student, was charged with a criminal offence. He pleaded guilty and was put on probation.

Case Study 3 Youth only: intent to harm; interpersonal conflict

A girl, 13, sent a topless photo of herself to her boyfriend, who was 14. When they broke up, the boy sent the photo to numerous friends via his mobile phone and many recipients forwarded the image to others. The school found out when one recipient told a parent. By then over 200 students had received the picture. The police seized over 150 mobiles from students. The police did not charge any of the parties to the incident because so many young people were involved and police did not want to "mark kids for life".

Case study 8 Youth: intent to harm; criminal sexual abuse or exploitation by juvenile offenders

A 13-year-old girl took sexual pictures of her three younger sisters (ages 5, 6 & 8) and touched them sexually. A classmate disclosed this information to their class teacher. Subsequently, the police determined that she herself had been molested by her stepfather. A child protection agency had been involved with the family for some time. The girl was removed from the home; the agency was taking steps to remove her younger sisters also.

3 Aggravated Youth: Reckless Misuse

These cases did not appear to involve any intent to harm but images were taken or sent without the knowing or willing participation of the young person who was pictured. In these cases, pictures were taken or sent thoughtlessly or recklessly and a victim may have been harmed as a result, but the culpability appears somewhat less than in the malicious episodes.

Case Study 9 Youth only: reckless misuse

At a party where there was heavy drinking, three boys in the shallow end of a pool pulled down their swim trunks and had a "swordfight". A girl, 17, filmed this and sent the video via her mobile to six other people. The three boys did not know she had taken the video or sent it. The video became a hot topic within the school and came to the attention of the teaching staff. The girl was charged in court.

Case Study 10 Youth only: reckless misuse

A boy, 16, who had been bullied in school and teased about his "male anatomy" took a picture of his penis and sent it a female classmate. The classmate, in turn, but without permission, sent it to four other girls. The incident was disclosed when a teacher confiscated the boy's mobile phone and found he was using the picture as a screensaver on his phone. Police investigated and deleted the images. No one was charged.

Experimental

This means they involved the creation and sending of youth-produced sexual images, with no adult involvement, no apparent intent to harm or reckless misuse. It subdivides into three further subcategories:

4 Experimental Romantic

Episodes in which young people in ongoing relationships made images for themselves or each other, and images were not intended to be distributed beyond the pair.

Case Study 11 Experimental Romantic

A 14-year-old boy and a 12-year-old girl who were boyfriend/girlfriend for a couple of weeks sent sexual pictures and videos to one another, including pictures showing masturbation. The girl's mother found the pictures of the boy on her daughter's mobile phone and told their Headteacher that she wanted the boy prosecuted to the full extent of the law. When she found out that her daughter had sent images too, she wanted the girl prosecuted as well. Both went to court and were assigned 20 hours of community service.

Case Study 12 Experimental Romantic

Parents approached the school when they discovered their son, 16, had received a video of a 17-year-old boy masturbating. Their son was gay and in a relationship with the other boy. His parents were upset about his sexual orientation. The 17-year-old was put on police probation and required to write an essay about what he had done.

Case Study 2 Experimental Romantic

A Year 6 girl (aged 11) texted a photo of herself, topless but covered, to her 12-year-old boyfriend (an ex-pupil). No physical sexual activity took place between them prior to this event on or offline. The image was discovered on the boy's mobile phone by his mother who deleted the image and then contacted the girl's parents. The girl's parents approached the school for advice.

5 Experimental Sexual Attention Seeking

Cases in which images were made and sent between or among young people who were not known to be romantic partners, or one youngster took pictures and sent them to many others or posted them online, presumably to draw sexual attention.

Case Study 13 Experimental Sexual Attention Seeking

A girl, 15, sent unsolicited naked pictures of herself to three different boys in her school using her mobile phone, including to one boy who was 18. Then she and a friend went to their class teacher because they were concerned the images would be sent around the school. However, none of the pictures were ever found and the case was dropped.

Case Study 14 Experimental Sexual Attention Seeking

A girl, 17, posted nude pictures of herself on a social networking site. The website identified the images as possible child pornography, removed them and reported the incident to CEOP, which forwarded the report to the local police force. The police approached the school and talked with the girl, but she was not charged.

Case Study 1 [Primary/Primary] Experimental Attention Seeking

Involved a group of pupils aged between 9 and 10. One girl (aged 9 with mild learning difficulties) was speaking to a group of friends from school via MSN using her webcam. Her laptop was upstairs in her bedroom. She was getting ready for bed and was sat in a towel and "flashed" on webcam. Another pupil (girl aged 10) from the group told the class teacher what had happened the next day at school, who then reported the concern to the head teacher.

6 Experimental Other

There were a small number of cases that did not appear to have aggravating elements, like adult involvement, malicious motives or reckless misuse, but also did not fit into the Romantic or Attention Seeking sub-types. These tended to involve either young people who took pictures of themselves for themselves (no evidence of any sending or sharing or intent to do so) or pre-adolescent children (age 9 or younger) who did not appear to have sexual motives.

Case Study 15 Experimental incident: Other

An 11 year old girl took naked pictures of her breasts with her mobile phone. Her grandparents discovered the images, did not realise they were of the girl and brought the phone to school. The girl, when interviewed, admitted she took the pictures of herself but said she had not sent them to anyone, and there was no evidence otherwise