

Introduction:

This is no ordinary podcast. Today, I reveal the hidden dangers of artificial intelligence and its role in the most heinous acts imaginable. Brace yourself!

My name is Mya Baxter, and in this podcast, I will examine the complex role of artificial intelligence, or AI, in child sexual exploitation. I will discuss not only how AI can fuel harm, but also how it can be leveraged as a powerful tool for prevention and protection.

Definitions:

To understand the intricacies of this topic, it is essential to begin by defining key concepts:

Artificial intelligence is a branch of computer science that creates technologies capable of performing human tasks—such as learning, problem-solving, and creativity. AI has developed into what it is today through the creation of artificial neural networks, which are digital replicas of the human brain capable of learning.

Next, child exploitation refers to any situation where an individual coerces or manipulates a child into sexual activity, often through a power imbalance that they hold. When the COVID-19 pandemic moved life online, it contributed to a disturbing increase in digital child sexual exploitation.

Deepfake CSAM:

AI technologies have been weaponized to facilitate the sexual exploitation of children, most notably through the generation of child sexual abuse material—often abbreviated CSAM. This refers to sexually explicit content that depicts children. Scholars have identified that two main

types of child sexual abuse material are created with the help of AI: deepfakes and AI-generated CSAM.

Deepfake CSAM is the modification of photos of real children to create partially synthetic pornographic material. An AI model can superimpose a child's face onto an unclothed body. The results can appear disturbingly authentic. The process to create deepfakes is straightforward—requiring only a free AI tool and an image of the intended child victim. With billions of people connected to the internet, the potential for misuse is staggering.

Consider this... each time parents share photos of their children online, predators can browse social media, collect these images, and use them to create deepfake pornography. Many victims are unaware that they have been targeted. If a single photo can be stolen and altered, is any child truly safe online?

Fully Synthetic CSAM:

It does not stop here. AI-generated CSAM is fully synthetic pornography.

The introduction of AI has made child pornography a fully customizable experience. The appearance of the children depicted, the settings, and even the sexual acts that are performed can be customized. The results align perfectly with the predator's unique preferences and fetishes—even the most sadistic and disturbing acts involving children.

In 2021, Olson suggested that synthetic CSAM might serve as a diversion from real children being victimized. In reality, however, it bolsters pedophilic tendencies. Over time, being exposed to synthetic CSAM can desensitize viewers to pornography, pushing them toward more extreme—or even real—experiences, thereby heightening the risk of child victimization.

This is not just speculation. In 2025, Taffalori carried out a study to understand this phenomenon. The survey results showed that 37% of the sample surveyed had sexually harmed a child after viewing synthetic CSAM, and 525 respondents reported feeling the impulse to engage sexually with a child after watching.

Subcultures:

The emergence of deviant online communities magnifies the harms associated with AI CSAM. Within these digital spaces, participants actively reinforce each other's harmful ideologies and practices.

Emerging evidence indicates the presence of online communities that are dedicated to trading AI-generated CSAM. Furthermore, these spaces are used to share detailed prompt strategies designed to elicit sexual outputs from AI models. These communities have also begun to distribute Low-Rank Adaptation modules, which allow users to alter AI systems to circumvent built-in safety features. Rochman (2025) asserts that low-rank adaptation modules can effectively repurpose any AI model for the creation of CSAM. As a result, the potential pathways for generating CSAM through AI become boundless.

Detection Methods:

While AI poses significant risks to the safety of children, it also offers powerful opportunities to fight against child sexual exploitation.

In 2025, Ali and Somu proposed using an AI-powered Chat Analysis Triage Tool. This system monitors conversations between adults and children on platforms that are notorious for exploitation. When the tone of a conversation becomes sexual, the AI tool issues a warning, urging the user to stop.

Sunde and Sunde, writing in 2022, advanced a different strategy. They suggested training AI on past chat logs, so it learns the “linguistic fingerprints” of known predators. The system could flag potential offenders, streamlining investigative processes.

Conclusion:

Those who operate behind the mask of online anonymity are often the most dangerous—emboldened by AI technology. We have reached a serious point where protecting people from crime has become seemingly impossible. Policing and regulatory measures can't keep up. In many ways, navigating the internet feels more frightening than walking down a dark street.

That is all for today's podcast. Thank you for listening.