In April 2022, IJM together with Nottingham Rights Lab, through the Scale of Harm project, developed a methodology that estimates the prevalence of "TCSEM" or the trafficking of children to produce child sexual exploitation materials.

This project is solving for a massive data gap by creating a way to measure this specific form of online exploitation that typically involves private livestreaming of child sexual exploitation on encrypted platforms.

Having an accurate estimate of this crime’s prevalence is key to designing, implementing, and evaluating interventions and their impact. Successful child protection interventions lead to less children being harmed in the first place.

As of August 2022, IJM is finalizing the design, testing the viability of each component more comprehensively, including ethical consideration before implementing the method.

METHOD

The proposed methodology will combine national household surveys using the Network Scale-up Method (NSUM) with data science analysis of a range of secondary datasets.

Scale of Harm identified the NSUM as a promising primary method to estimate the prevalence of TCSEM. While NSUM surveys alone are sufficient to measure prevalence, a data science approach using secondary datasets will be applied to bolster research findings.

Organizations interested in the implementation may contact IJM via endosec@ijm.org