

Omnibus Survey Child Pornography in Japan

July-August 2023

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Summary of Implementation

Objective	To understand public's awareness on child pornography, and to use as a reference for future advocacy to the government and others.
Period	July 30 (Sunday) to August 13 (Sunday), 2023
Subjects	Individuals of both sexes aged 15-79 nationwide
Extraction/ratio	200 sites were selected, households were extracted from a residential map database, and individuals were assigned. Area, city size, and sex and age composition were assigned and collected to match the population composition of Japan.
Method	Individual visits by surveyors (ride-along method)
# responses	1,200s
Researcher	ChildFund Japan
Survey Agency	Japan Research Center

Past opinion polls (as reference)

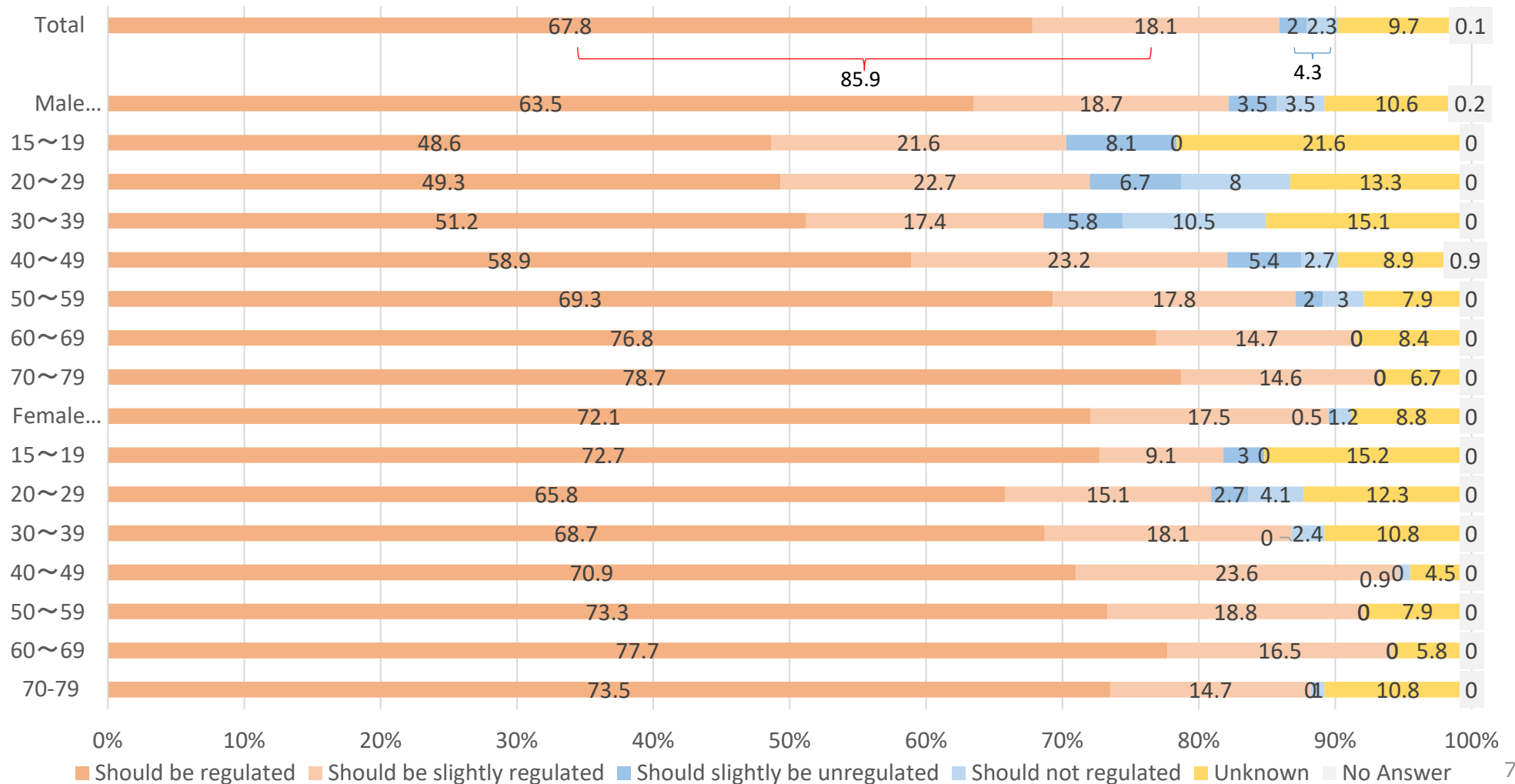
Date	Topics
August 2002	Cabinet Office Public Opinion Survey on Child Pornography
September 2007	Cabinet Office Special Public Opinion Poll on Harmful Information
July-August 2018	Cabinet Office Public Opinion Survey on Measures to Prevent Sexual Victimization of Children

- The percentage of respondents who support the restriction of content out of the scope of the child pornography prohibition law is generally higher for women, and the higher for the older age of the respondents. On the other hand, it is lower among young men.
- Among those who do not support the regulation of non-existent children's virtual content, freedom of expression was the most favourable reason. There were also a certain number of respondents who said, "It cannot be said that it harms the rights of children," and "It has no negative effects such as encouraging the distribution of child pornography."
- While 70% of the respondents supports the regulation of virtual content and AI-generated content, 20% selects "I don't know".
- There were several comments in the descriptive responses that believed that virtual child pornography would prevent actual harm.
- "Content providers" is the highest as the responsible body that should regulate content, and government and Internet providers are also high.

- Particular need to raise awareness among young men. Recommendation is to increase in educational advertisements on media that are heavily used by young men.
- Need to educate the public about the risks of virtual and AI-generated content. Recommendation is to encourage mass media to cover more articles of risk issue.
- Need to raise more awareness about children's rights and human rights. Recommendation is to strengthen sexual reproductive health/rights education in school and "United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights".
- Guidelines to balance freedom of expression and children's rights. Recommendation is to introduce a system similar to the rating system by the Motion Picture Ethics Organization or the Japan Video Ethics Association.
- Need to create a fair and open environment where children and youth can say "NO" to virtual child pornography. Recommendation is to strengthen measures taken by the Basic Act on the Child and the Ordinances on the Rights of the Child.

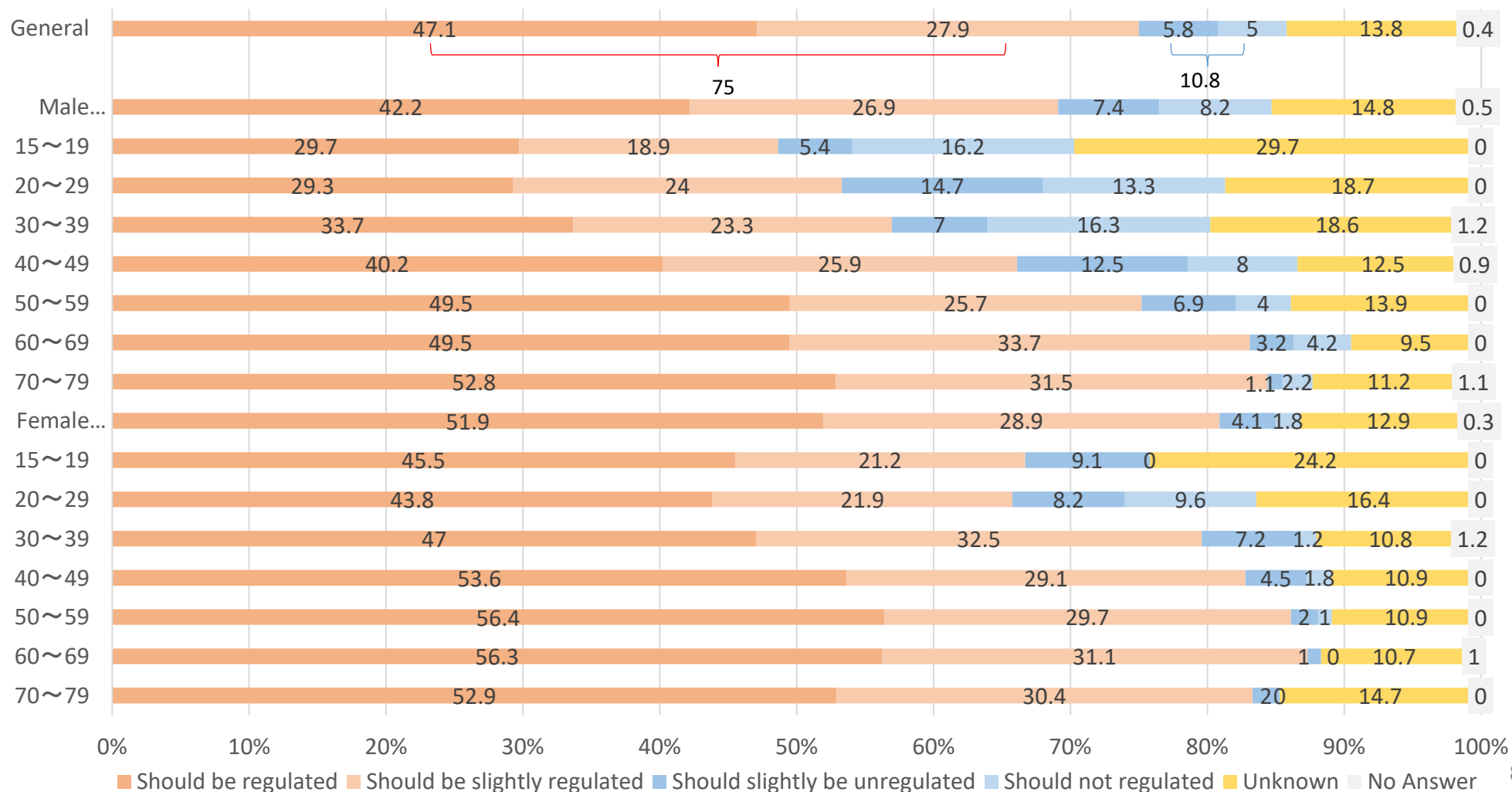
Q1: Opinion of regulating "content harmful to the rights of children" not regulated by the Child Pornography Prohibition Law

As for the regulation of content (images, videos, etc.) that is harmful to children's rights, the highest percentage of respondents (67.8%) answered "Should be regulated", followed by "Somewhat should be regulated" (18.1%), making up a majority of 85.9% in the "Should be regulated total" category. On the other hand, only 4.3% of the respondents answered "Should not be regulated" (those who answered "Somewhat or somewhat should be regulated" plus those who answered "Should not be regulated"). Those who answered "don't know" (9.7%) accounted for about 10% of the total.



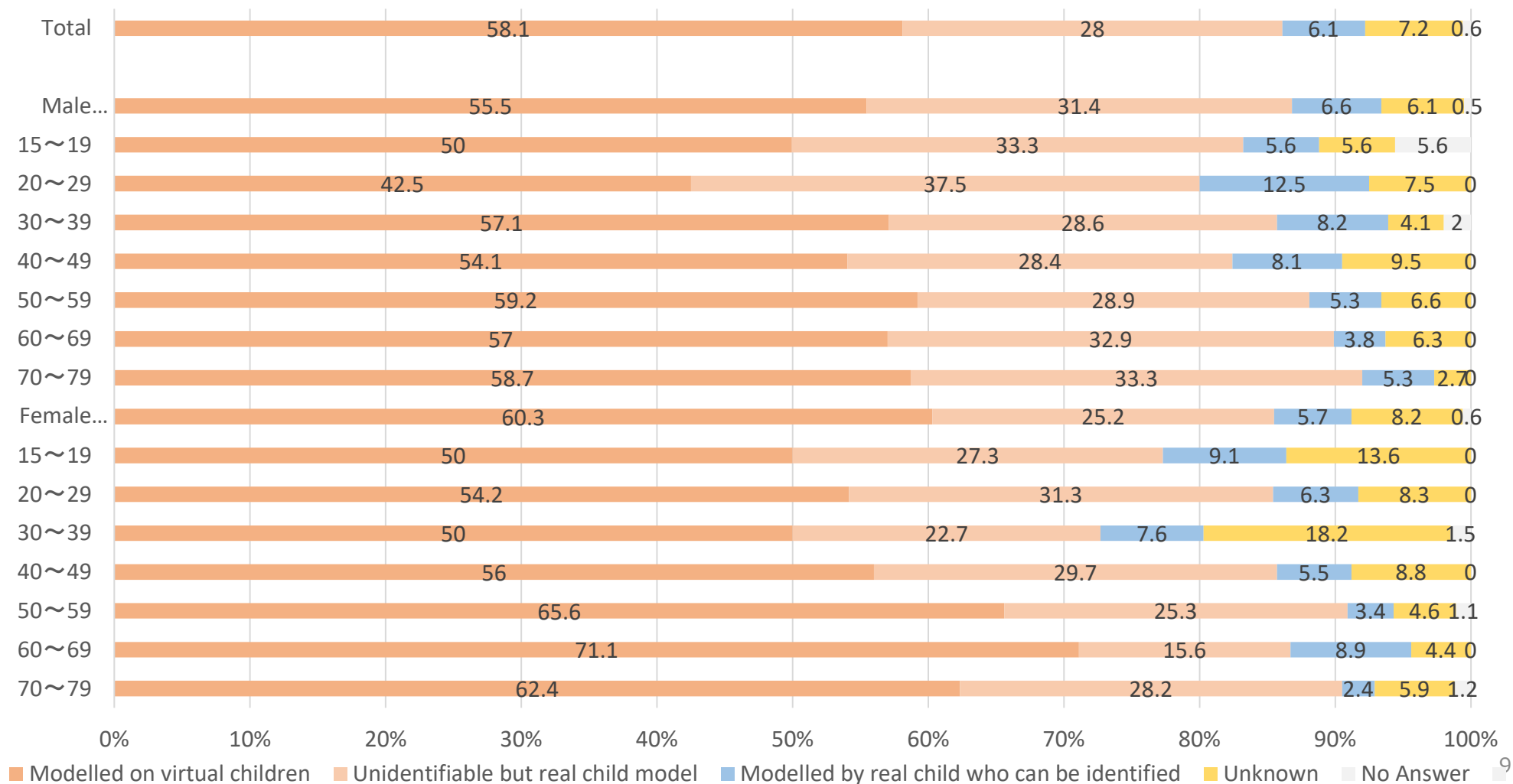
Q2: Opinion of regulating content that involves sexual expressions but not real children

As for the regulation of content that contains sexual expressions but not real children, the highest response rate was "I think it should be regulated" (47.1%), followed by "I rather think it should be regulated" (27.9%), for a total of 75.0%, or three-fourths of the total. On the other hand, "Should not be regulated" (10.8%, about 10% of the total) was the total of "Should not be regulated somewhat or not at all" and "Should be regulated somewhat or not at all" (27.9%). The "Don't know" category (13.8%) accounted for just over 10% of the total.



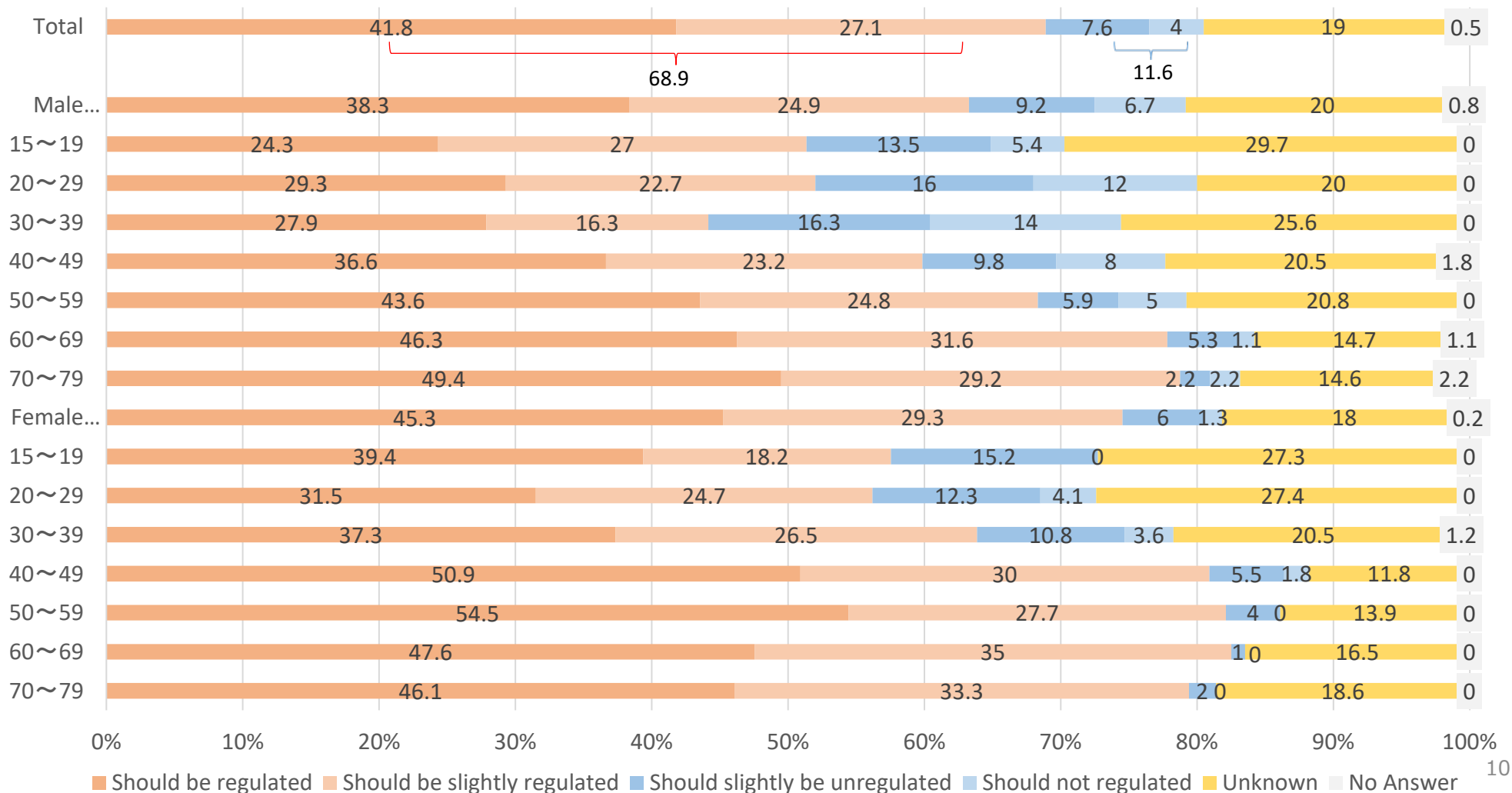
Q3: Scope of regulating content involving sexual expressions but not real children (based on supporters of regulation)

Regarding the type of regulations that should be established for content that contains sexually explicit content but does not depict real children, the highest percentage of respondents (58.1%) answered, "Regulations should be established if it is clear to the viewer that the content depicts children, even if the model does not exist and the content is virtual, This was followed by "Regulations should be imposed if there is an actual child model, even if the viewer does not know who the model is" (28.0%), with these two items accounting for 86% of the responses.



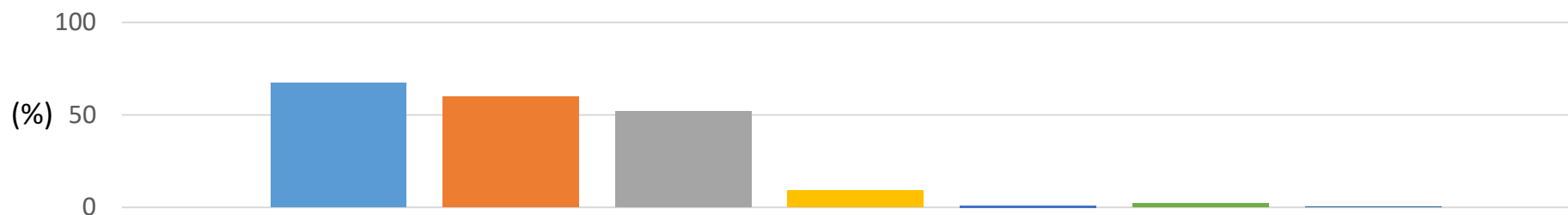
Q4: Opinion of regulating virtual content based on non-existent children

The highest response rate for virtual content based on non-existent children was "should be regulated" (41.8%), followed by "should be regulated somewhat" (27.1%), for a total of 68.9%, or nearly 70% of respondents. On the other hand, "Should not be subject to regulation" (rather should not be subject to regulation + should not be subject to regulation) accounted for 11.6%, or more than 10% of the total. The "Don't know" response (19.0%) was also found at around 20% of the total.



Q5: Reasons why virtual content featuring non-existent children should be subject to regulation (based on supporters of regulation)

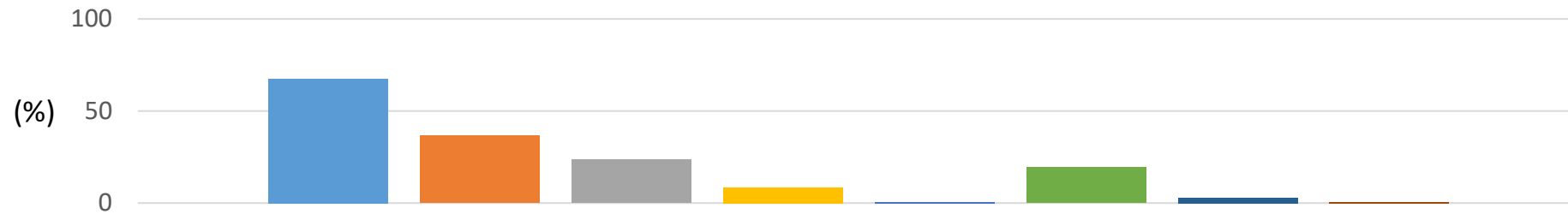
In terms of reasons why they think virtual content modelled after "non-existent children" should be subject to regulation (based on those who support regulation), the most common response (67.1%) was "Because it encourages the distribution of child pornography and has a negative impact," followed by "Because it stimulates pedophiles, etc." (59.7%) and "Because it harms children's rights, and I think it has an impact" (51.9%).



		Encouraging the distribution of child pornography	Stimulus for pedophiles	Violation of the rights of the child	AI learns inappropriate expressions	Regulations in other countries	Others	Unknown
Total		67.1	59.7	51.9	9.1	1.1	2.3	0.2
Male	Male total	65.7	59	52.7	9.3	1.3	2.7	0.3
	15~19	57.9	42.1	57.9	5.3	5.3	10.5	0
	20~29	48.7	46.2	43.6	2.6	5.1	7.7	0
	30~39	60.5	63.2	60.5	10.5	2.6	0	0
	40~49	59.7	58.2	49.3	7.5	0	1.5	0
	50~59	73.9	66.7	58	14.5	1.4	1.4	0
	60~69	68.9	63.5	48.6	12.2	0	2.7	0
	70~79	74.3	57.1	54.3	7.1	0	1.4	1.4
Female	Female total	68.3	60.3	51.2	8.9	0.9	2	0.2
	15~19	63.2	42.1	36.8	0	0	0	0
	20~29	51.2	63.4	48.8	17.1	0	2.4	0
	30~39	67.9	62.3	41.5	5.7	3.8	1.9	0
	40~49	65.2	68.5	48.3	11.2	1.1	3.4	0
	50~59	71.1	61.4	56.6	9.6	1.2	2.4	0
	60~69	76.5	48.2	45.9	4.7	0	1.2	1.2
	70~79	70.4	64.2	65.4	9.9	0	1.2	0

Q6: Reasons why virtual content featuring non-existent children should not be subject to regulation (based on non-supporters of regulation)

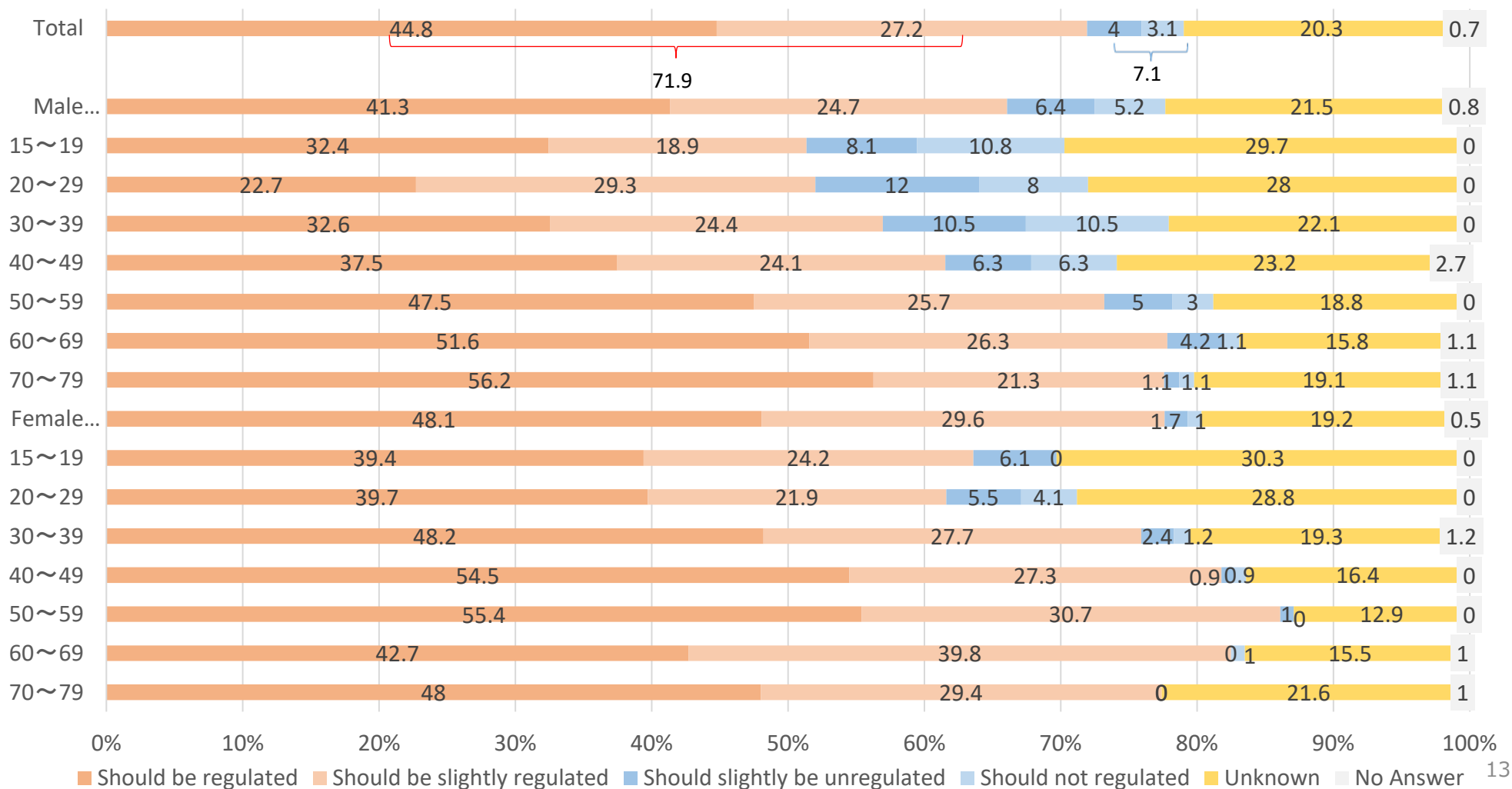
In terms of reasons for not believing that virtual content modelled after "non-existent children" should be subject to regulation (based on non-supporters of regulation), "Because it infringes on freedom of expression" (67.6%) was the most common response, accounting for nearly 70% of the respondents. This was followed by "Because it cannot be said to harm the rights of children" (36.7%) and "Because I don't think it will have any negative effects such as encouraging the distribution of child pornography" (23.7%).



		Violation of freedom of expression	Not harmful to the rights of the child	Does not encourage the distribution of child pornography	No need to introduce in Japan.	In some other countries it is not regulated.	Others	Unknown	No Answer
Total		67.6	36.7	23.7	8.6	0.7	19.4	2.9	0.7
Gender	Male	67.4	40	24.2	12.6	0	20	2.1	1.1
	Female	68.2	29.5	22.7	0	2.3	18.2	4.5	0
Age	15~19	100	33.3	25	0	8.3	0	0	0
	20~29	72.7	39.4	36.4	3	0	15.2	0	0
	30~39	60.5	36.8	26.3	10.5	0	28.9	7.9	0
	40~49	75	35.7	17.9	10.7	0	25	0	3.6
	50~59	46.7	46.7	20	20	0	13.3	0	0
	60~69	57.1	14.3	0	14.3	0	28.6	0	0
	70~79	50	33.3	0	0	0	0	16.7	0

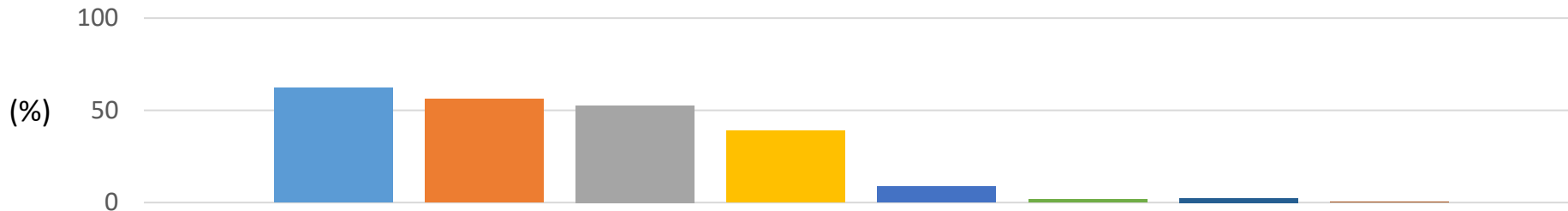
Q7: Opinion of regulating AI-generated content that involves sexual expressions

As for regulating AI-generated content, the highest response rate was "Should be regulated" (44.8%), followed by "Somewhat should be regulated" (27.2%), for a total of 71.9%, or about 70% of the respondents. On the other hand, "Should not be regulated" (rather should not be regulated + should not be regulated) accounted for 7.1%, less than 10% of the total. The "Don't know" category (20.3%) also accounted for about 20% of the total.



Q8: Reasons why AI-generated content containing sexual expressions should be subject to regulation (based on supporters of regulation)

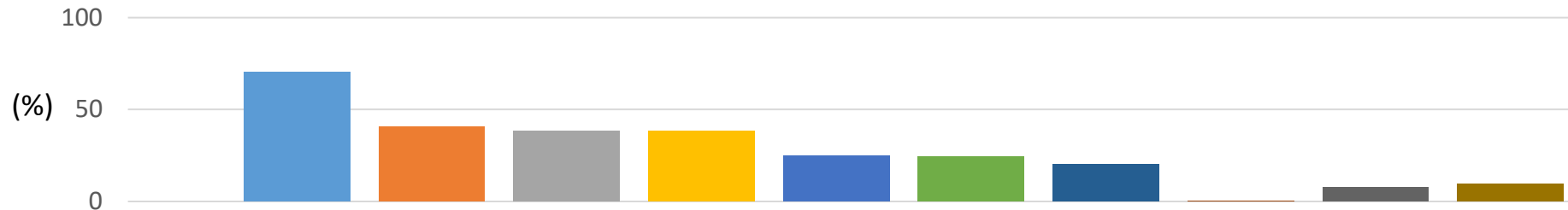
As for the reasons why AI-generated content, etc. should be subject to regulation (based on those who support regulation), "Because it encourages the distribution of child pornography and has a negative impact" (62.1%) was the most common response, followed by "Because it stimulates pedophiles, etc." (56.0%) and "Because it harms children's rights and has an impact" (52.6%). (52.6%), with these three items accounting for more than half of the respondents.



		Encouraging the distribution of child pornography	Stimulus for pedophiles	Violation of the rights of the child	AI learns inappropriate expressions	Regulations in other countries	Others	Unknown	No Answer
Total		62.1	56	52.6	39	8.8	1.7	2.4	0.3
Male	Male total	58.5	55.2	50.1	39.7	8.7	1.3	2.8	0.5
	15~19	63.2	31.6	73.7	31.6	5.3	5.3	5.3	0
	20~29	43.6	35.9	46.2	48.7	2.6	0	2.6	0
	30~39	49	49	34.7	32.7	4.1	4.1	6.1	0
	40~49	58	55.1	43.5	39.1	5.8	0	4.3	0
	50~59	62.2	66.2	56.8	45.9	12.2	2.7	0	0
	60~69	58.1	59.5	51.4	37.8	14.9	0	4.1	0
	70~79	69.6	60.9	55.1	37.7	8.7	0	0	2.9
Female	Female total	65.1	56.6	54.7	38.5	8.9	2.1	2.1	0.2
	15~19	61.9	47.6	38.1	33.3	0	0	0	0
	20~29	55.6	48.9	46.7	44.4	13.3	2.2	4.4	0
	30~39	57.1	52.4	55.6	36.5	4.8	4.8	1.6	0
	40~49	63.3	65.6	52.2	30	13.3	3.3	1.1	0
	50~59	69	62.1	50.6	47.1	12.6	2.3	1.1	0
	60~69	65.9	45.9	55.3	40	3.5	0	3.5	1.2
	70~79	74.7	62	69.6	36.7	8.9	1.3	2.5	0

Q9: Responsible bodies for preventing the distribution of AI-generated content involving sexual expressions (based on supporters of regulation)

As for the bodies responsible for preventing the distribution of such contents created by AI, "content providers (site administrators)" who actually manage and operate the sites" (70.3%) was the highest, especially higher than the other items. This was followed by "government agencies of law enforcement, such as the Ministry of Justice and the National Police Agency" (40.7%), "Internet service providers" (38.1%), and "government agencies that supervise telecommunication-related companies, such as the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications" (38.1%).



	Content providers	Ministry of Justice and National Police Agency	ISP	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications	Internet Users	Telecommunications Industry	Cell phone companies	Others	Unknown	No Answer
Total	70.3	40.7	38.1	38.1	24.6	24.3	20.2	0.2	7.5	9.4
Male Total	69	43	37.2	39.4	23.4	23.9	19.8	0	7.6	8.9
Male 15~19	57.9	36.8	31.6	15.8	21.1	21.1	15.8	0	31.6	5.3
Male 20~29	56.4	35.9	28.2	41	12.8	15.4	12.8	0	7.7	10.3
Male 30~39	59.2	26.5	28.6	32.7	28.6	26.5	16.3	0	12.2	12.2
Male 40~49	60.9	44.9	37.7	36.2	24.6	27.5	21.7	0	11.6	10.1
Male 50~59	78.4	43.2	36.5	37.8	25.7	24.3	18.9	0	1.4	9.5
Male 60~69	73	48.6	47.3	48.6	24.3	23	24.3	0	5.4	4.1
Male 70~79	79.7	52.2	39.1	44.9	21.7	24.6	21.7	0	2.9	10.1
Female total	71.5	38.7	38.9	37	25.5	24.7	20.4	0.4	7.4	9.8
Female 15~19	66.7	38.1	28.6	14.3	19	4.8	14.3	0	4.8	9.5
Female 20~29	68.9	28.9	26.7	33.3	24.4	15.6	11.1	0	15.6	6.7
Female 30~39	63.5	25.4	19	27	27	19	15.9	1.6	7.9	20.6
Female 40~49	76.7	44.4	45.6	38.9	26.7	25.6	16.7	0	4.4	7.8
Female 50~59	77	48.3	49.4	46	27.6	34.5	29.9	1.1	9.2	4.6
Female 60~69	64.7	35.3	40	37.6	24.7	22.4	21.2	0	9.4	14.1
Female 70~79	75.9	41.8	44.3	40.5	24.1	30.4	24.1	0	2.5	6.3

Questionnaire on "child pornography"

We would like to inquire about the issue of "child pornography" as a current concern. The purpose of these questions is to gauge public awareness of child pornography and related matters, with the aim of providing a reference for future advocacy to government and others. It notes that the term "child" in this context refers to individuals under the age of 18.

Under the current laws and regulations, known as the Child Pornography Prohibition Law, "child pornography" is defined as photographs, videos, or any other media depicting real children under the age of 18, including the following:

1. Depictions of children engaged in sexual intercourse or related activities.
2. Any portrayal of a child touching their own or another child's genitals, with the intent of arousing or stimulating sexual desire.
3. Images of a child in a state of undress or with partially removed clothing intended to arouse or stimulate sexual desire.

*The following questions pertain to expressions of children's sexuality that are not subject to regulation under the Child Pornography Prohibition Law.

[To all respondents]

Q1: What is your opinion regarding the regulation of content (such as images, videos, online games, AI-generated material, etc.) that does not fall under categories 1-3 mentioned earlier but is harmful to children's rights, particularly when it involves clear instances of child sexual abuse? (Please circle only one option)

1. Should be regulated.
2. Rather think it should be regulated.
3. Rather think it should not be regulated.
4. Don't think it should be regulated.
5. Don't know.

We would like to inquire about "non-realistic content (such as cartoons, illustrations, videos, etc.) depicting children" that includes sexual expressions.

* There are two types of content: "pseudo image," which involves creating content based on real models or computer graphics, and "virtual image" where there is no real model.

[To all respondents]

Q2: What is your opinion regarding the regulation of content that includes sexual expressions but does not depict real children? (Please circle only one option)

1. Should be regulated.-> Please go to Q3
2. Rather think it should be regulated.
3. Rather don't think it should be regulated.-> Please go to the next page
4. Don't think it should be regulated.
5. Don't know.

[To those who answered "1. Should be regulated" or "2. rather think it should be regulated" in Q2]

Q3: What kind of regulations should be established for content that contains sexual expressions but does not depict real children? (Please circle only one option)

1. If the content is recognizable to the viewer as depicting children, it should be regulated even if it is virtual or non-existence of child model.
2. Even if the viewer cannot identify who the child model is, it should be regulated if there exists a child model.
3. If the viewer can identify who the child model is, it should be regulated.

1

4. Don't know.

We would like to inquire about regulations regarding virtual content, including images, videos, online games, AI-generated materials, and the like, which feature sexual expressions based on "non-existent children" as models.

Under the current Child Pornography Prohibition Law, virtual content depicting sexual acts involving "non-existent children" is not subject to regulation.

There are differing opinions on this matter:

Some argue that such content should remain unregulated because depictions of "non-existent children" do not harm others. Others believe that any information should not be restricted in consideration of the principle of freedom of expression.

On the other hand, others argue that such content should be subject to the same regulations as photos and videos of actual children. They contend that such content might help the viewers see children as a sexual object and could potentially encourage sexual crimes against children.

[To all respondents]

Q4: What is your thought on the regulation of virtual content based on the model of "non-existent children"? (Please circle only one option)

1. They should be subject to regulation.-> Please go to Q5
2. Should rather be subject to regulation.
3. Should rather not be regulated.-> Please go to Q6
4. Should not be regulated.
5. Don't know. ->Please proceed to the next page

[For those who answered "1. it should be subject to regulation" or "2. it should be rather subject to regulation" in Q4]

Q5: Please indicate why you believe it should be subject to regulation by circling any applicable reasons:

1. Because it stimulates pedophiles, etc.
2. Because it is regulated in other countries.
3. Because it is harmful to children's rights.
4. Because it encourages the distribution of child pornography and has a negative impact.
5. Other (please specify): _____
6. Don't know.

[For those who answered "3. rather should not be subject to regulation" or "4. should not be subject to regulation" in Q4]

Q6: Please indicate why you believe it should not be subject to regulation by circling any applicable reasons:

1. Because it infringes on freedom of expression.
2. Because it is not regulated in some other countries.
3. Because there are countries where it is regulated, but I don't think it is necessary to introduce it in Japan.
4. Because it cannot be said to be harmful to the rights of children.

2

5. Because I do not think it has any negative effects such as encouraging the distribution of child pornography.
6. Other (please specify): _____
7. Don't know.

Under current laws and regulations, content generated by artificial intelligence (AI) is not subject to regulation, regardless of whether the model is real or not. Consequently, there is a concerning reality where highly realistic child sexual abuse content is being produced by AI and distributed.

[To all respondents]

Q7: What is your opinion on making AI-generated content subject to regulation, especially in cases where it involves child sexual abuse content? (Please circle only one option)

1. Should be subject to regulation.-> Please go to Q8, Q9
2. Rather should be subject to regulation.
3. Rather should not be regulated.-> Please go to the next theme
4. Should not be regulated.
5. Don't know.

[For those who answered "1. should be subject to regulation" or "2. should be rather subject to regulation" in Q7]

Q8: Please indicate why you believe it should be regulated by circling any applicable reasons:

1. Because it stimulates pedophiles, etc.
2. Because it is regulated in some other countries.
3. Because it is harmful to children's rights.
4. Because it encourages the distribution of child pornography and has a negative impact.
5. Because I think there is a risk that AI (artificial intelligence) learns inappropriate expressions.
6. Other (please specify): _____
7. Don't know.

[For those who answered "1. it should be subject to regulation" or "2. it should be rather subject to regulation" in Q7]

Q9: In your opinion, who has a greater role to play in preventing the distribution of such AI-generated content, especially content related to child exploitation? (Please circle as many as you like)

1. Content providers (site administrators) who actually manage and operate the sites.
2. Internet service providers.
3. Telecommunication companies such as cell phone companies.
4. Governmental agencies such as the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) to supervise telecommunication-related companies.
5. Governmental agencies such as the Ministry of Justice and the National Police Agency to supervise law enforcement.
6. Telecommunications-related industry associations.
7. Internet users.
8. Other (please specify): _____
9. Don't know.

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