

Context & Timeline

Recent Context

Recent events highlighting exploitation risks
Why Age Standards Matter

Background

Recent public attention surrounding the Jeffrey Epstein case has reinforced concerns about how exploitation networks target individuals during vulnerable developmental stages. While Epstein's crimes involved minors, the broader lesson is that proximity and access matter.

Key Developments

- 2019–2024: Renewed investigations and document releases related to Epstein's network
- Ongoing public discussion on grooming, age gaps, and exploitation pipelines
- Increased scrutiny of industries intersecting with youth and sexualized content

Policy Relevance

Raising the minimum age to 21 increases distance between minors and adult sexual industries, disrupting recruitment pathways without criminalizing lawful expression.