

STATISTICS

- 160,000 students a day miss school because of bullying. - *Pacer.org*
- About 71 percent of teens think that blocking abusive messages is the most effective way to prevent cyberbullying, according to the National Crime Prevention Council. - *US World News Report Dec '07*
- Three-fourths of American teenagers say they've been bullied online, but only one in ten tells their parents, according to a new survey by UCLA. - *October 2008*
- 75% of children are willing to share personal information online about themselves and their family in exchange for goods and services. - *eMarketer*
- Only approximately 25% of children who encountered a sexual approach or solicitation told a parent or adult. - *Crimes Against Children Research Center*
- According to *DoubleClick Performics and ROI Research*:
 - 83% of 10-14-year-olds surveyed went online for an hour or more every day.
 - 42% of children ages 3-11 were online in 2008, accounting for over 15.4 million children. The number is expected to reach 15.8 million children in 2009, and projected to climb to 16.6 by 2011.
- Adolescence 18 years and younger spend an average of 18 hours per week online. - *National Crime Prevention Council, March 2008*
- Creating websites geared toward youth increasingly makes sense, since more than 4 out of 10 US children ages three to eleven are now online – and the number is growing. - *eMarketer.com, June 2008*
- "National statistics show that one in five children received unwanted sexual solicitations online each year. Web sites that kids frequent very often are also cruised by child predators. My Cyber Crimes Unit investigators have seen firsthand the dangerous criminals that prey on children and teenagers in Internet chatrooms, personal web pages, and social networking sites." - *Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott*
- 77% of the targets for online predators were age 14 or older. Another 22% were users ages 10 to 13. - *Crimes Against Children Research Center*
- One in five U.S. teenagers who regularly log on to the Internet say they have received an unwanted sexual solicitation via the Web. Solicitations were defined as requests to engage in sexual activities or sexual talk, or to give personal sexual information. - *Crimes Against Children Research Center*

ONLINE SEXUAL PREDATORS

- Currently, there are over 644,865 Registered Sex Offenders in the United States; an estimated 10,000 have been lost in the system (National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 2008).
- The predominant sex crime scenario doesn't involve violence or stranger molesters posing online as children; only 5 percent of offenders concealed the fact they were adults from their victims. Almost 80 percent of offenders were explicit about their intentions with youth. In 73 percent of crimes, youth go to meet the offender on multiple occasions for multiple sexual encounters (NJOV Study, 2007).
- Teens are willing to meet with strangers: 16 percent of teens considered meeting someone they've only talked to online and 8 percent have actually met someone they only knew online (Online Victimization of Youth: Five Years Later, 2006).
- Four percent of all youth Internet users received aggressive sexual solicitations, which threatened to spill over into "real life". These solicitors asked to meet the youth in person, called them on the telephone, or sent offline mail, money, or gifts. Also 4 percent of youth Internet users had distressing sexual solicitations that left them feeling upset or extremely afraid (Online Victimization of Youth: Five Years Later, 2006).

YOUTH

YOUTH AND GENERAL INTERNET USE

- K-1st grade students access the Internet using various devices for a variety of purposes, including playing online games and communicating with other people. Online gaming is increasingly popular among younger students. (Rochester Institute of Technology, 2008)
- ### YOUTH, ONLINE PRIVACY & SOCIAL NETWORKING
- Frequently children in 4th-6th grade levels engage in social networking activities. In the process they post personal, potentially exploitable, information about themselves online. Specifically, and within the last school year: 16% posted personal interests online, 15% posted information about their physical activities and 20% gave out their real name. In addition, 5% posted information about their school, 6% posted their home address, 6% posted their phone number and 9% posted pictures of themselves. (Rochester Institute of Technology, 2008)
 - A majority of teens (58 percent) don't think posting photos or other personal info on social networking sites is unsafe. (National teen Internet survey was funded by Cox Communications in partnership with NCMEC and John Walsh and was conducted in March 2007 among 1,070 teens age 13 to 17. The research was conducted online by TRU. http://www.cox.com/TakeCharge/...ocs/survey_results_2007.ppt <http://www.cox.com/TakeCharge/includes/docs/survey_results_2007.ppt>).
 - Teens readily post personal info online. 64 percent post photos or videos of themselves, while more than half (58 percent) post info about where they live. Females are far more likely than male teens to post personal photos or videos of themselves (70 percent vs. 58 percent). (National teen Internet survey was funded by Cox Communications in partnership with NCMEC and John Walsh and was conducted in March 2007 among 1,070 teens age 13 to 17. The research was conducted online by TRU. http://www.cox.com/TakeCharge/...ocs/survey_results_2007.ppt <http://www.cox.com/TakeCharge/includes/docs/survey_results_2007.ppt>).
 - Nearly one in 10 teens (8 percent) has posted his or her cell phone number online. (National teen Internet survey was funded by Cox Communications in partnership with NCMEC and John Walsh and was conducted in March 2007 among 1,070 teens age 13 to 17. The research was conducted online by TRU. http://www.cox.com/TakeCharge/...ocs/survey_results_2007.ppt <http://www.cox.com/TakeCharge/includes/docs/survey_results_2007.ppt>).
 - Teens who have online profiles are generally more likely to say it is okay to give out certain pieces of personal information in offline situations than they are to have that information actually posted to their profile. Teens with online profiles have a greater tendency to say it is fine to share where they go to school, their IM screen name, email address, last name and cell phone number with someone they met at a party, when compared with the percentage who actually post that information online. The only piece of information they are more likely to share online rather than in person with a new acquaintance is the city and state where they live. (Lenhart, Amanda and Madden, Mary. Teens, Privacy, and Online Social Networks. Pew Internet and American Life Project, April 18, 2007 http://www.pewinternet.org/pdf...rivacy_SNS_Report_Final.pdf <http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP_Teens_Privacy_SNS_Report_Final.pdf>).
 - Some 23 percent of teen profile creators say it would be "pretty easy" for someone to find out who they are from the information posted to their profile, and 40 percent of teens with profiles online think that it would be hard for someone to find out who they are from their profile, but that they could eventually be found online. Another 36 percent say they think it would be "very difficult" for someone to identify them from their online profile. (Lenhart, Amanda and Madden, Mary. Teens, Privacy, and Online Social Networks. Pew Internet and American Life Project, April 18, 2007 http://www.pewinternet.org/pdf...rivacy_SNS_Report_Final.pdf <http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP_Teens_Privacy_SNS_Report_Final.pdf>).

YOUTH, STRANGERS & SEXUAL SOLICITATIONS

- 14 percent of students in 10th-12th grade have accepted an invitation to meet an online stranger in-person and 14 percent of students, who are usually the same individuals, have invited an online stranger to meet them in-person. (Rochester Institute of Technology, 2008)
- 14 percent 7th-9th grade students reported that they had communicated with someone online about sexual things; 11 percent of students reported that they had been asked to talk about sexual things online; 8 percent have been exposed to nude pictures and 7 percent were also asked for nude pictures of themselves online. (Rochester Institute of Technology, 2008)
- 59 percent of 7th-9th grade victims said their perpetrators were a friend they know in-person; 36 percent said it was someone else they know; 21 percent said the cyber offender was a classmate; 19 percent indicated the abuser was an online friend; and 16 percent said it was an online stranger. (Rochester Institute of Technology, 2008)
- Nine percent of children in 7th-9th grade have accepted an online invitation to meet someone in-person and 10 percent have asked someone online to meet them in-person. (Rochester Institute of Technology, 2008)
- 13 percent of 2nd-3rd grade students report that they used the Internet to talk to people they do not know, 11 percent report having been asked to describe private things about their body and 10 percent have been exposed to private things about someone else's body. (Rochester Institute of Technology, 2008)
- 69 percent of teens regularly receive personal messages online from people they don't know and most of them don't tell a trusted adult about it. (National teen Internet survey was funded by Cox Communications in partnership with NCMEC and John Walsh and was conducted in March 2007 among 1,070 teens age 13 to 17. The research was conducted online by TRU. http://www.cox.com/TakeCharge/...ocs/survey_results_2007.ppt <http://www.cox.com/TakeCharge/includes/docs/survey_results_2007.ppt>).
- While 16 percent of teens say they've considered meeting face-to-face with someone they've talked to only online, that marks a significant drop compared to the 30% of teens who were considering such a meeting in 2006. In 2007, 8 percent of teens say they actually have met in person with someone from the Internet, down from 14 percent in 2006. (National teen Internet survey was funded by Cox Communications in partnership with NCMEC and John Walsh and was conducted in March 2007 among 1,070 teens age 13 to 17. The research was conducted online by TRU. http://www.cox.com/TakeCharge/...ocs/survey_results_2007.ppt <http://www.cox.com/TakeCharge/includes/docs/survey_results_2007.ppt>).
- When they receive online messages from someone they don't know, 60 percent of teens say they usually respond only to ask who the person is. Compared to the 2006 survey, there was a 10-percentage-point increase in teens ignoring such messages (57 percent vs. 47 percent). Still, nearly a third of teens (31 percent) say they usually reply and chat with people they don't know, and only 21 percent tell a trusted adult when they receive such messages. (National teen Internet survey was funded by Cox Communications in partnership with NCMEC and John Walsh and was conducted in March 2007 among 1,070 teens age 13 to 17. The research was conducted online by TRU. http://www.cox.com/TakeCharge/...ocs/survey_results_2007.ppt <http://www.cox.com/TakeCharge/includes/docs/survey_results_2007.ppt>).
- Approximately 1 in 7 (13 percent) was solicited in 2005, compared to approximately 1 in 5 (19 percent) in 2000; however, aggressive solicitations, in which solicitors made or attempted to make offline contact with youth, did not decline. Four (4) percent of youth Internet users received aggressive solicitations - a proportion similar to the 3 percent who received aggressive solicitations in 2000 (Online Victimization of Youth: Five Years Later. 2006. National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, Crimes Against Children Research Center, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. December 4, 2006. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV138.pdf> <<http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV138.pdf>>).
- Four percent of all youth Internet users in 2005 said online solicitors asked them for nude or sexually explicit photographs of themselves (Online Victimization of Youth: Five Years Later. 2006. National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, Crimes Against Children Research Center, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. December 4, 2006. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV138.pdf> <<http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV138.pdf>>).
- In a survey conducted by the Intelligence Group, Dateline questioned 500 teenagers across the country, ages 14-18, about their computer habit. When asked if someone they've met online has wanted to meet them in person, 58 percent said "yes" and 29 percent said they've had a "scary" experience online (Most Teens Say They've Met Strangers Online, MSNBC Interactive, April 26, 2006, <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/12...T/print/1/displaymode/1098/> <<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/12...T/print/1/displaymode/1098/>>).
- Half of teens ages 13-18 often communicate through the Internet with someone they have not met in person (Internet Safety: Realistic Strategies & Messages for Kids Taking More and More Risks Online. December 21, 2005. Polly Klaas Foundation. February 17, 2006. <http://www.pollyklaas.org/internet-safety/pkfsurvey.pdf> <<http://www.pollyklaas.org/internet-safety/pkfsurvey.pdf>>).
- One-third of youth ages 8-18 have talked about meeting someone they have only met through the Internet (Internet Safety: Realistic Strategies & Messages for Kids Taking More and More Risks Online. December 21, 2005. Polly Klaas Foundation. February 17, 2006. <http://www.pollyklaas.org/internet-safety/pkfsurvey.pdf> <<http://www.pollyklaas.org/internet-safety/pkfsurvey.pdf>>).
- Almost one in eight youth ages 8-18 discovered that someone they were communicating with online was an adult pretending to be much younger (Internet Safety: Realistic Strategies & Messages for Kids Taking More and More Risks Online. December 21, 2005. Polly Klaas Foundation. February 17, 2006. <http://www.pollyklaas.org/internet-safety/pkfsurvey.pdf> <<http://www.pollyklaas.org/internet-safety/pkfsurvey.pdf>>).
- 30 percent of teenage girls polled by the Girl Scout Research Institute said they had been sexually harassed in a chatroom. Only 7 percent, however, told their mothers or fathers about the harassment because they were worried that their parents would ban them from going online" (Girl Scout Research Institute, 2002).
- 86 percent of the girls polled said they could chat online without their parents' knowledge, 57 percent could read their parents' e-mail, and 54 percent could conduct a cyber relationship. (Girl Scout Research Institute, 2002).