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Children's Use of Online Technologies

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* Thank you for your interest in this presentation. Please note that analyses included herein are preliminary. More recent, finalized analyses may be available by contacting CIPHR for further information.



Background

More than 9 in 10 US youth now have Internet access (USC Center for the Digital Future, 2006; Lenhart, Rainie, & Lewis, 2001)

Among Internet users:

- 43% go online every day
- The top two things they spend the most time doing:
 - 34% social networking sites, 33% Games, 29% music, 27% school work, 22% IM

Internet harassment: Prevalence rates over time

- From YISS1 to YISS2, the 12-month prevalence rate of Internet harassment increased from 6% to 9% (Mitchell, Wolak, Finkelhor, 2006).
- In the Growing up with Media Survey, **34%** reported harassment at baseline, **34%** at follow-up
 - Frequent harassment: **8%** reported being harassed monthly at baseline, **8%** at follow-up
 - Continuity of harassed youth over time
 - 20% reported harassment at baseline and follow-up
 - 13% reported harassment at baseline only
 - 14% reported harassment at follow-up only

Internet harassment: Who is the harasser?

Based upon data from the YISS2 (Ybarra, Mitchell, Wolak, Finkelhor, 2006).

- 8%: Preadolescent (10-12 years old)
- 51%: Adolescent (13-17 years old)
- 21%: Young adult (18-25 years old)
- 2% Adult (26-40 years): 2%
- 18% Don't know: 18%

The majority (59%) of harassment comes from other minors

Characteristics related to youth harassment

Type of psychosocial problem	Odds of psychosocial problems given report of Internet harassment		
	YISS1	YISS2	GuwM W2
Peer problems			
Interpersonal victimization / offline bullying	3.1 *** +	1.5 *	1.8 **
Social problems		2.4 **	
Behavior problems			
Depression	3.6 * +		
Substance use			
Alcohol use			2.3 **
Inhalant and other 'hard' drug use			4.7 **
Respond to stimuli with anger			1.07 **

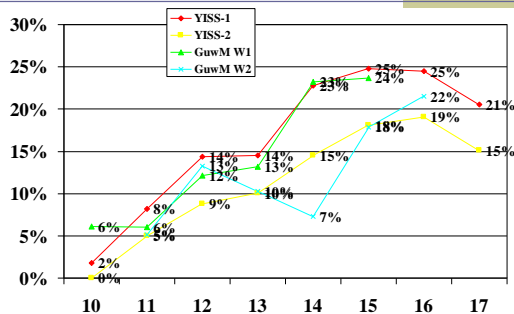
Ybarra M, Mitchell KJ, Wolak J, Finkelhor D. Examining characteristics and associated distress related to Internet harassment: Findings from the Second Youth Internet Safety Survey. *Pediatrics*. 2006. 118(4):e1169-1177.
 Ybarra ML, Diener-West M, Leaf PJ. Examining the overlap in internet harassment and school bullying: implications for school intervention. *J Adolescent Health*. 2007. Dec;41(6 Suppl 1):S42-60.
 Ybarra ML. Linkages between depressive symptomatology and Internet harassment among young regular Internet users. *Cyberpsychol Behav*. 2004 Apr;7(2):247-57.

Impact of Internet harassment

About one in three youth targeted by Internet harassment report feeling very/extremely upset (or afraid) because of the incident:

- 30% in YISS-1
- 38% in YISS-2
- 25% in GuwM (wave 2)

Prevalence rates of unwanted sexual solicitation across time and ages



Unwanted sexual solicitation: Who is the solicitor?

Based upon data from the YISS2 (Wolak, Mitchell, Finkelhor, 2006).

- 43%: 17 years of age and younger
- 30%: 18-25 years of age
- 9%: 26+ years of age
- 18%: don't know

Roughly half (43%) of sexual solicitations come from other minors

Concurrent psychosocial problems

Type of psychosocial problem	Odds of psychosocial problems given report of unwanted sexual solicitation	
	YISS1	GuwM W2
Caregiver child relationships		
Poor emotional bond		1.1 *
Coercive discipline		1.2 *
Peer problems		
Interpersonal victimization / offline bullying	1.8 * - 1.9 *	2.0 **
Behavior problems		
Symptoms of depression	3.0 ***	
Troubled (e.g., negative life event, depression, child abuse)	1.7 **	
Substance / alcohol use	2.6 ***	3.4 ***
Delinquent behavior	1.8 **	
Weapon carrying at school		10.0 **
Life challenge	2.9 * +	

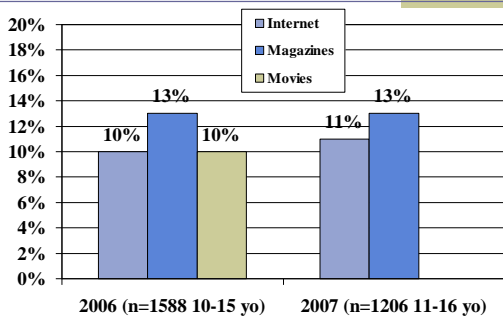
Mitchell KJ, Finkelhor D, Wolak J. Risk factors for and impact of online sexual solicitation of youth. JAMA. 2001;285(23):3011-4.
 Ybarra ML, Leaf PJ, Diener-West M. Sex differences in youth-reported depressive symptomatology and unwanted internet sexual solicitation. J Med Internet Res. 2004 Feb 6;6(1):e5.
 Mitchell K, Ybarra M, Finkelhor D. The relative importance of online victimization in understanding depression, delinquency, and substance use. Child Maltreatment. 2007; 12(4): 314-324.

Impact of unwanted sexual solicitation

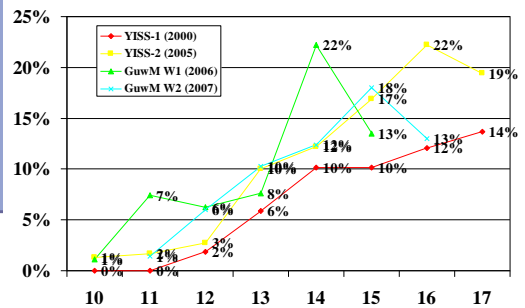
Across studies, about one in three solicited youth report feeling very/extremely upset (or afraid) because of the incident:

- YISS1: 26%
- YISS2: 31%
- GuwM: 39% (at Wave 2)

Frequency of intentional exposure (GuwM)



Intentional exposure to x-rated material across age and time



Characteristics of youth looking at internet porn (GuwM)

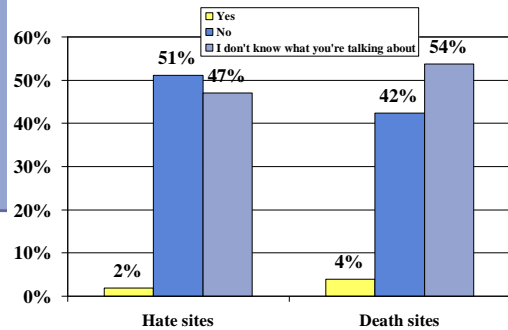
Among 1,206 11-16 year old youth in Oct-Dec, 2007:

- 80% male (OR = 4.2, $p < .001$)
- 14.4 years old (OR = 1.3, $p < .001$)

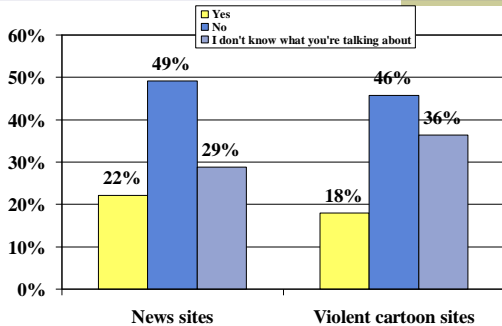
How did they hear about the site? (top 5):

- From a friend: 53%
- Search engine: 30%
- Another web site: 29%
- Typed in an address to see what would come up: 22%
- Pop-up ad: 22%

Frequency of exposure to violent web sites (GuwM)



Frequency of exposure to violent web sites (GuwM)



Final thoughts

- In order to develop targeted prevention programs, we need to understand what youth are doing online and offline
- Each environment represents an opportunity for risk identification and targeted vulnerability – especially the internet.