

# Internet Safety Fact Sheet

## What is Internet Safety?

- Being aware of electronic, digital and internet risks and cautions
- Computers, cell phones, webcams and mp3 players are all devices that may be used to perpetrate wireless violence, discrimination and harassment
- It affects people of all different cultural identities
- Having anonymity. Not disclosing personal information, such as your address, phone number, social security number, driver's license number, etcetera...
  - Children and teens tend to give out a lot of information on the internet thinking their friends are only ones who will see it, but this is not true. Predators use these websites also.
- Being cautious when using Peer-to-Peer networks (Limewire, Kazaa, BitTorrent) to share files, because they may be used to share child pornography also
- Knowing that when minors send nude pictures through cell phone messaging (sexting) it may be considered child pornography, which is a felony
- Knowing that cyber bullying is when a child, preteen or teen is tormented, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by any other person using the Internet or other digital communication technology (Illinois Attorney General, High Tech Crimes Bureau, 2007)
- Staying informed of possible signs:
  - Children are easy targets
  - Dangers of chats and emails
  - Predators using profane language and having sexual conversations
  - Knowing what certain online chat characters mean:

▪ ASL(A/S/L)	Age, Sex, Location
▪ DIKU	Do I know you?
▪ DOM	Dirty old man
▪ F2F	Face to face
▪ IPN	I'm posting naked
▪ IFOCN	In front of camera naked
▪ KIT	Keep in touch
▪ KOTC	Kiss on the cheek
▪ KOTL	Kiss on the lips
▪ PAW	Parents are watching
▪ SUAKM	Shut up and kiss me
▪ SOS or POS	Sibling/parent over shoulder
▪ WTGP?	Want to go private?

([http://searchwebservices.techtarget.com/sDefinition/0,,sid26\\_gci211776,00.html](http://searchwebservices.techtarget.com/sDefinition/0,,sid26_gci211776,00.html))
- Having open discussion surrounding these issues with friends, family & coworkers

## Statistics

- 87% of 12-17 year olds use the Internet (<http://www.bonnieharris.com/columns/0306.pdf>)
- 1 in 3 youth are exposed to unwanted sexual material and 1 in 11 youth experience harassment-threatening or other offensive behavior directed at them (<http://www.zephoria.org/isttf/ISTTF-LitReviewDraft.pdf>)
- 13% of teenagers reported receiving an unwanted sexual solicitation online each year ([http://www.education.com/magazine/article/Ref\\_Internet\\_Should\\_Know/](http://www.education.com/magazine/article/Ref_Internet_Should_Know/))
- 1 in 3 children admit that they considered meeting face-to-face with someone they met on the Internet ([http://www.ag.state.il.us/children/internetsafetyquiz\\_w\\_answers.pdf](http://www.ag.state.il.us/children/internetsafetyquiz_w_answers.pdf))
- 16% of teens considered meeting someone they talked to online, while 8% actually met someone they only knew online (<http://www.enough.org/inside.php?id=2UXKJWRY8>)
- 4% of all youth internet users have received aggressive sexual solicitations (<http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV138.pdf>)
- 4% of youth internet users had distressing sexual solicitations that left them feeling upset or extremely afraid (<http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV138.pdf>)
- 52% of teens have given out personal information online to someone they don't know offline (<http://cballan.wordpress.com/2009/08/04/2154/>)
- 61% of youth ages 13-17 have a personal profile on a site such as MySpace, Friendster, or Xanga.
  - Older teens (16-17s) and girls especially use the Internet for social interaction, meeting friends and networking
  - 71% reported receiving messages online from someone they don't know
  - 45% have been asked for personal information by someone they don't know.
  - 30% have considered meeting someone that they have only talked to online
  - 14% have actually met a person face-to-face they have only spoken to over the Internet (9% of 13-15s; 22% of 16-17s).
  - 40% of youth reported that they will usually reply and chat with someone they do not know online
    - Only 18% said they'll tell an adult.

*(Teenage Research Unlimited. Teen Internet Safety Survey. National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and Cox Communications, 2006)*

### *Perceptions of Internet Safety*

- 20% of teens report that it is safe (i.e. “somewhat” or “very safe”) to share personal information on a public blog or networking site.
- 37% of youth ages 13-17 said they are “not very concerned” or “not at all concerned” about someone using information they have posted online in ways they do not want them to

*(Teenage Research Unlimited. Teen Internet Safety Survey. National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and Cox Communications, 2006)*

### **Sexting**

- 20% (22% girls & 18% boys) of teens have sent/posted nude or semi-nude photos or videos of themselves via phones
- 39% (37% girls & 40% boys) of teens have sent sexually suggestive messages via phones
- 33% (36% woman & 31% men) of adults have posted photos via phones
- 59% (56% women & 62% men) of adults have sent sexually suggestive messages via phones

*(2008, Sex and Tech, Cosmo Girl and The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy)*

### **Cyber Bullying**

- 42% of youth have been bullied while online, 1 in 4 more than once
- 35% of youth have been threatened online, 1 in 5 more than once
- 21% of youth have received mean or threatening e-mail messages
- 58% of youth admit someone has said mean or hurtful things to them online, more than 4 out of 10 more than once
- 53% of youth admit having said something mean or hurtful to another person online, more than 1 in 3 more than once
- 58% have not told their parents or an adult about something mean or hurtful that happened to them online

*(Based on 2004 i-SAFE survey of 1,500 students grades 4-8 )*

## Safer tips

While browsing and exploring the internet, individuals can be exposed to inappropriate, offensive and dangerous material. These are some “safer tips” people may utilize to help avoid this material:

- Discuss the internet with someone you trust. Talk about the reality of the internet, including the positive and negative aspects, so that everyone is aware of what is available to them
- Talk about things that make you feel uncomfortable. If you’re browsing the internet and come across something odd, offensive or weird to you, talk with someone you trust about it.
- Talk to youth about why certain behaviors are not safe- do not just make rules without explaining why
  - Do not assume that one conversation about internet safety is sufficient, have them intermittently
- Guardians need to be placed in the mix- create rules that involve parents and limit impulsive behavior online
- Talk to youth about the dangers about giving out personal info- not just when chatting with someone, but also on social networking websites
- Create rules and guidelines in the home. Come up with helpful guidelines to keep by the computer to be used as a reminder of what tends to be safe and what does not. For instance:
  - Do not disclose personal information such as addresses, phone numbers, places of employment, schools, etc.
  - Do not agree to meet with someone you met online without first checking with a guardian
  - Do not send pictures to someone you met online without first checking with a guardian
  - Avoid public chat rooms. They provide anonymity for users, thus allowing people to conceal their true identities and take advantage of other users.
- Inform youth not all predators are the literal monster- they can be anyone
- **Let youth know they always have a safe adult to talk to- even if they make a mistake online**

## Resources

- Rape Victim Advocates (RVA)  
Rape Crisis Center, 312-443-9603  
[www.rapevictimadvocate.org](http://www.rapevictimadvocate.org)
- Illinois Attorney General  
High Tech Crimes and Internet Safety  
[www.ag.state.il.us/communities](http://www.ag.state.il.us/communities)
- CyberAngels  
Online safety education program  
[www.cyberangels.org](http://www.cyberangels.org)
- GetNetWise  
Ensures safe online experience  
[www.getnetwise.org](http://www.getnetwise.org)
- iSAFE  
e-Safety education  
[www.isafe.org](http://www.isafe.org)
- National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)  
<http://www.ncpc.org/cyberbullying>
- STOP Cyberbullying  
Cyber bullying prevention  
[www.ncpc.org/cyberbullying](http://www.ncpc.org/cyberbullying)
  
- YWCA  
Support & advocacy services

[www.ywca.org](http://www.ywca.org), 312-372-6600

- Chicago Rape Crisis Hotline (CRCH)  
24/7 hotline, 888-293-2080
- Rape Abuse Incest National Network (RAINN)  
24/7 hotline, 800-656-4673
- NetSmartz workshop, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children  
[www.netsmartz.org](http://www.netsmartz.org)
- FBI  
Parent's Guide to Internet Safety  
<http://www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguidee.htm>
- Chicago Public Library  
<http://www.chipublib.org/forkids/kidspages/intresources>.

