



Youth & Technology Fact Sheet

Statistics

- 87% of 12-17 year olds use the Internet²
- 1 in 3 youth are exposed to unwanted sexual material and 1 in 11 youth experience harassment-threatening or other offensive behavior directed at them³
- 13% of teenagers reported receiving an unwanted sexual solicitation online each year⁴
- 1 in 3 children admit that they considered meeting face-to-face with someone they met on the Internet⁵
- 52% of teens have given out personal information online to someone they don't know offline⁶
- 61% of youth ages 13-17 have a personal profile on a site such as MySpace, Friendster, or Xanga.⁷
 - 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. Of those, only 18% said they'll tell an adult.

Sexting⁸

- 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

Cyber Bullying⁹

- 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
- 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

Info about Technology Tools & Terms

- Young people tend to give out a lot of information on the internet under the assumption that their friends are the only ones who will see it, but this is not true. Social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace are not truly private, and predators use these websites to gain information.
- Computers, cell phones, webcams and mp3 players are all devices that may be used to perpetrate wireless violence, discrimination and harassment
- Peer-to-Peer (P2P) networks (Limewire, Kazaa, BitTorrent) are used to share files such as music and videos; however they may also be used to share child pornography
- **Sexting**- when minors send nude pictures through cell phone messaging- (it may be considered child pornography and can be a felony)
- **Cyber Bullying**- a child, preteen or teen is tormented, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by any other person using the Internet or other digital communication technology¹



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References

- ¹ Illinois Attorney General, High Tech Crimes Bureau, 2007
- ² <http://www.bonnieharris.com/columns/0306.pdf>
- ³ <http://www.zephoria.org/isttf/ISTTF-LitReviewDraft.pdf>
- ⁴ http://www.education.com/magazine/article/Ref_Internet_Should_Know/
- ⁵ http://www.ag.state.il.us/children/internetsafetyquiz_w_answers.pdf
- ⁶ <http://cballan.wordpress.com/2009/08/04/2154/>
- ⁷ Teenage Research Unlimited, Teen Internet Safety Survey. National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and Cox Communications, 2006
- ⁸ 2008, *Sex and Tech, Cosmo Girl and The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy*
- ⁹ Based on 2004 i-SAFE survey of 1,500 students grades 4-8

Resources

- Rape Victim Advocates (RVA)
Advocacy, Counseling, Crisis & Education
Services
312-443-9603
www.rapevictimadvocates.org
- Illinois Attorney General
High Tech Crimes and Internet Safety
www.ag.state.il.us/communities
- CyberAngels
Online safety education program
www.cyberangels.org
- GetNetWise
Ensuring safe online experience
www.getnetwise.org
- iSAFE
e-Safety education
www.isafe.org
- National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)
<http://www.ncpc.org/cyberbullying>
- STOP Cyberbullying
Cyber bullying prevention
www.ncpc.org/cyberbullying
- YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago
Support & advocacy services
312-372-6600
www.ywcachicago.org
- Chicago Rape Crisis Hotline
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
- 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.php>
- Family Violence Prevention Fund
<http://endabuse.org/content/campaigns/detail/1206>

For information on how adults and youth can protect themselves while using technology, please review Rape Victim Advocates' Guide: *Tips for Safer Technology Use*