

Internet Safety Statistics and Findings

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Source:

2006 report from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

- Although more parents are using filtering, blocking and monitoring software, youth exposed to unwanted sexual material has increased substantially from their survey five years ago.

- Online harassment has grown 50% in just five years and continues to increase.

- Internet safety for children is a civic responsibility and must be thought of by parents, schools and the community at large as a "fight for the neighborhood."

- When the NCMEC survey asked parents and guardians why they installed filtering, blocking or monitoring software, 51% said a general desire to protect their children from possible online harms.

- The report states that: "Although filtering software was used in 55% of homes with computers, exposure to unwanted sexual material continues to increase. Filters may have become too modest, or may be aimed at just blocking spam, viruses, or pop ups."

- It appears there is still a gap between what consumers want and need and what they end up using.

- The survey suggests that norms about standards of behavior in a new domain are much easier to change while they are still being established, rather than after they have become entrenched.

- Slightly more than 1/3 of youth surveyed were exposed to unwanted sexual material while online.

- More than 90% of parents and guardians were very or extremely concerned about their children being exposed to sexually explicit content on the internet.

- 51% of parents said they want to protect their child from possible online harms in general.

- Only 1/3 of households with Internet access are actively protecting their children with filtering or blocking software.

- A recommendation of the survey is to “make Internet security easier, more built into systems, and less reliant on individual initiative, technological skills and personal resources,” (SafeWave™ provides iLAND5.com, FREE to all users and schools, requires no downloads or installation and goes far beyond mere filters).

Other Resources and 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