

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

- Child pornography is one of the fastest growing businesses online, and the content is becoming much worse. In 2008, Internet Watch Foundation found 1,536 individual child abuse domains. (Internet Watch Foundation. Annual Report, 2008).
- Of all known child abuse domains, 58 percent are housed in the United States (Internet Watch Foundation. Annual Report, 2008).
- The fastest growing demand in commercial websites for child abuse is for images depicting the worst type of abuse, including penetrative sexual activity involving children and adults and sadism or penetration by an animal (Internet Watch Foundation. Annual Report, 2008).
- In a study of arrested child pornography possessors, 40 percent had both sexually victimized children and were in possession of child pornography. Of those arrested between 2000 and 2001, 83 percent had images involving children between the ages 6 and 12; 39 percent had images of children between ages 3 and 5; and 19% had images of infants and toddlers under age 3 (National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, Child Pornography Possessors Arrested in Internet-Related Crimes: Findings from the National Juvenile Online Victimization Study.

2005).

- Child pornography has become a \$3 billion annual industry (Top Ten Reviews, 2005).

INTERNET PORNOGRAPHY

- Worldwide pornography revenue in 2006 was \$97.06 billion. Of that, approximately \$13 billion was in the United States (Internet Filter Review, 2006).
- Every second, \$3,075.64 is being spent on pornography, 28,258 Internet viewers are viewing pornography, 372 Internet users are typing adult search terms into search engines, and every 39 minutes, a new pornographic video is made in the United States (Internet Filter Review, 2006).
- 79% of youth unwanted exposure to pornography occurs in the home (Online Victimization of Youth: Five Years Later, 2006).

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- 58 percent of moms think the government is not doing enough to keep kids safe online (Harris Interactive-McAfee 10/2008)
- 44 percent said they worry about their teens' safety when they are online in their bedroom unsupervised, and about one in four (24 percent) are more concerned about what their children do online than what they do when they are out of the house. (Harris Interactive-McAfee 10/2008)

- 58 percent of moms believe teens sharing too much personal information is a primary concern. (Harris Interactive-McAfee 10/2008)
- About two-thirds of mothers of teens in the United States are just as, or more, concerned about their teenagers' online safety, such as from threatening emails or solicitation by online sexual predators, as they are about drunk driving (62 percent) and experimenting with drugs (65 percent). (Harris Interactive-McAfee 10/2008)
- 72 percent of mothers have a verbal agreement with their teen - that is, a discussion of what is and is not allowed online (Harris Interactive-McAfee 10/2008)
- 48 percent of mothers admitted they don't always know what their kids do online. (Harris Interactive-McAfee 10/2008)
- 26 percent of moms said they have joined and "friended" their child on a social networking site, but many moms are going undercover to monitor their children. (Harris Interactive-McAfee 10/2008)
- 59 percent said they check their child's browser history when they are done using the Internet and 15 percent use a software program to monitor what their kids do online. (Harris Interactive-McAfee 10/2008)
- Parental awareness of their teens' online activities has risen significantly. This year, 25 percent of teens say their parents know "little" or "nothing" about what they do online, down from 33 percent last year. (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).
- 41 percent of teens report their parents talk to them "a lot" about Internet safety (up five points over 2006), and three out of four say their parents have talked to them in the past year about the potential dangers of posting personal info. The level of parental involvement is higher for younger teens and girls, although it has increased across all age groups and both genders. (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).
- Teens whose parents have talked to them "a lot" about Internet safety are more concerned about the risks of sharing personal info online than teens whose parents are less involved. For instance, 65 percent of those whose parents have not talked to them about online safety post info about where they live, compared to 48 percent of teens with more involved parents. (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).
- Teens whose parents have talked to them "a lot" about online safety are less likely to consider meeting face to face with someone they met on the Internet (12 percent vs. 20 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).
- 53 percent of parents say they have filtering software on the computer their child uses at home. (Lenhart, Amanda and Madden, Mary. Teens, Privacy, and Online Social Networks. Pew Internet

- 95 percent of parents did not recognize other common chat room lingo that teenagers use to let people they are chatting with online know that parents are around including: POS (parents over shoulder); P911 (parents alert). (Parents' Internet Monitoring Study, June 2005. Cox Communications, The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and Netsmartz, December 14, 2005, <http://www.cox.com/TakeCharge/includes/docs/results.pdf>).
- 23 percent of parents have rules about what their kids can do on the computer. (The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Study, March 2005).

RESOURCES

www.enough.org

www.isafe.org

www.missingkids.com

www.cybercrime.gov



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Sexual Predators Online



One of the attractions of the Internet is the anonymity of the user, and this is why it can be so dangerous. A child doesn't always know with whom he or she is interacting. Children may *think* they know, but unless it's a school friend or a relative, they really can't be sure. Often we think of pedophiles as having access to children out on the playground and other places, but because of the way the Internet works, children can actually be interacting on their home computers with adults who pretend to be children.

Child sexual exploitation occurs in every economic, social, ethnic, and religious group. With the explosion of the Internet into a powerful, worldwide medium, the danger to children, whether they are from New York or New Zealand, has drastically increased. Pedophiles and other sexual predators can use the Internet, with no precautions, to exchange names and addresses of other pedophiles and of potential child victims. Hidden behind screen names that are pseudonyms, they gather online and swap child pornography with amazing speed and in amounts beyond our wildest imagination, which excites them to molest even more.

Offline, pedophiles typically operate in isolation. *Never before have pedophiles had the opportunity to communicate so freely and directly with each other as they do online.* Their communication on the Internet provides validation, or virtual validation, for their behavior. They share their conquests, real and imagined. They discuss ways to contact and lure children online and exchange tips on seduction techniques. They are using the technology of the Internet to train and encourage each other to act out sexually with children. The Internet also serves as a tool for predators to exchange tips on the avoidance of law enforcement detection.

The most common means by which sexual predators contact children over the Internet is through chat rooms, instant messages and email. In fact, 89% of sexual solicitations were made in either chat rooms or instant messages and 1 in 5 youth (ages 10-17 years) has been sexually solicited online (JAMA, 2001). Considering that 25% of kids online participate in real time chat and 13 million use instant messaging, the risks of such children, either knowingly or unknowingly, interacting with a predator is alarming. See [Parents Safety Guide](#) section.

To Report Illegal Online Activity

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) provides excellent resources concerning sexual exploitation of children and related issues for the lay public, counseling community, and law enforcement agencies. NCMEC has created an extensive web presence for its Exploited Child Unit:

<http://www.missingkids.com>. These web pages provide background information on laws and legislation, tips and pointers for parents and children, and lists of preventive resources on the various aspects of child sexual exploitation.

In addition to its Web pages, NCMEC, in partnership with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Customs Service, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, serves as the National CyberTipline. To report possible illegal online activity related to child pornography, predation, or any other type of child sexual exploitation, call the CyberTipline: 800-843-5678 (800-TheLost) or contact their Web site: <http://www.missingkids.com>

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How Children Access Pornography on the Internet



(excerpted and paraphrased from Kids Online:Protecting Your Children in Cyberspace)

When I first discovered what types of pornography are being generated on the Internet, I was alarmed. But when I actually saw the depraved material available on the Internet to any child who stumbles across it, I was truly repulsed and saddened. The common practice of today's Internet "pornpreneur" is the posting of free teaser images on their web sites as enticements to solicit new subscribers. Any child with unrestricted Internet access can view these free pictures through accidentally accessing such sites or by deliberately searching them out. Any computer-literate child can view adult pornography, such as images that appear in *Playboy* or *Penthouse*, as well as pornography that is prosecutable as obscenity, which might include pictures of women having sex with animals; men engaged in sexual acts with children; and the rape, torture, and mutilation of women.

Children can access such pornography in two ways: unintentionally and intentionally.

Unintentional Access

Children can inadvertently access pornography in several ways:

- *Innocent, imprecise, misdirected searches*

In an effort to increase traffic to their sites, pornographic Web site operators use popular terms. When children key in their favorite search terms, pornographic sites pop up along with the sites the children are seeking. The search engines don't distinguish between an adult's hit and a child's hit.

- *Stealth sites and misleading URLs*

Many children seeking information on the nation's White House, may find themselves on a porn site instead of the official site at www.whitehouse.gov. Pornographers purchase domain names such as the .com equivalent of a popular .gov or .org website, knowing full well that web surfers are likely to end up on their pornographic site instead of their desired destination.

- *Innocent word searches*

Innocent word searches on many popular search engines can lead an unsuspecting child to numerous porn sites. Examples include such words as toys, boys, Britney Spears and dogs.

- *The misuse of brand names*

- According to a recent study in England, 26 popular children's characters, such as Pokemon, My Little Pony and Action Man, revealed thousands of links to porn sites. 30% of the sites were hard-core. (Envisional 2000)

- 25% of porn sites are estimated to misuse popular brand names in search engine magnets, metatags and links. Three of the top ten brand names used are specifically targeted to children - Disney, Barbie, and Nintendo. (Cyveillance Survey, 1999)

- ***The need to constantly say no***

A reporter shared with me how her nine-year-old son (who couldn't care less about girls or sex at his age) did a search for Beanie Babies. He found many links to Beanies, and "Hot Cyber Babes!!" also appeared in the list. If he had clicked on that link, her son would have been connected to that site and able to freely view pornographic pictures. Once he viewed the free pictures, the site would have required a credit card number and an *adult password*. Without saying no at least three times, he would have seen the free pictures and damage would have been done. The constant need to say no conflicts with a child's natural curiosity. If a child, out of curiosity or carelessness, clicks on such links, he or she may be exposed to material that can never be erased from the mind.

- ***Unsolicited e-mail***

Unsolicited commercial e-mail messages are referred to as *spam*. Spammers can get e-mail addresses in many ways and they send hundreds of thousands of pieces of junk e-mail every day. They try to boost traffic by advertising pornography for sale and "make-money-fast" schemes.

In the case of pornographic spam, children open their e-mail and find direct access links to pornographic sites. Many of these e-mails contain subject lines that are deceptive; for example, "Please Help Me." Who wouldn't open mail with that subject heading? Children and adults are unable to determine the mail's true contents until the mail is opened and read, and by that time the damage is done. In addition, some Web browsers automatically open to display images that may be pornographic. Also disturbing is the fact that a child can be automatically switched to an adult Web page-exhibiting sexually explicit images-without even clicking on the link!

- ***Instant Messages (IMs)***

Children are also vulnerable to receiving pornographic content through private, real-time communication with sexual predators. In addition, when certain people think that their identities are somewhat anonymous and they have a captive audience, they take the opportunity to direct *flames* (abusive or vulgar messages) to others, including children.

Intentional Access

Even the most diligent parental guidance and supervision sometimes do not deter a child who is determined to view pornography on the Internet. Children have access to computers and the Internet not only at home, but in many other places-at school, libraries, or the home of a friend. Though your child may not directly access pornography, he or she may come into contact with other children who are, since online pornography is widely available to the public at large. In the

past, those who wanted to view hard-core pornography, particularly that which might be prosecutable, had to overcome the embarrassment of others watching them enter an adult bookstore or peep show. Obviously it was very difficult for children to see hard-core pornography with these limitations. Even soft-core "men's" magazines are not sold to minors or displayed so minors can see them.

With the advent of online pornography, however, there has been a boom in new and younger pornography users. According to The Kaiser Family Foundation report (found at www.kff.org), 70% of teenagers (ages 15-17 "have accidentally come across pornography on the Web." Since adolescent males make up one of the largest consumer groups of pornography, and their access on the Internet is largely unrestricted, they may be facing an even more serious problem-sexual addiction. See the [Porn Addiction section](#) for more on this problem.

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