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Trends in Unwanted Online Experiences and Sexting : Final Report

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Recommended Citation

Mitchell, K.J., Jones, L.M., Finkelhor, D. & Wolak, J. Trends in Unwanted Online Experiences and Sexting: Final Report. 2014. Durham, NH: Crimes against Children Research Center.

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CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN RESEARCH CENTER

Trends in Unwanted Online Experiences and Sexting

FINAL REPORT

Kimberly J. Mitchell, Lisa Jones, David Finkelhor, and Janis Wolak

This bulletin summarizes findings from the Third Youth Internet Safety Survey (YISS-3). Topics include youth reports of unwanted sexual solicitations, online harassment, unwanted exposure to sexual material, and "sexting."

HIGHLIGHTS

Unwanted sexual solicitations continued to decline – from 19% in 2000 to 13% in 2005 and 9% in 2010. We saw an increase in online harassment, however – from 6% in 2000 to 9% in 2005 and 11% in 2010.

Unwanted online experiences still remains mainly a phenomenon of older kids (ages 13 -17); the youngest kids (ages 10-12) still report few of these experiences.

Sexting of explicit sexual images involves a small percentage, but still a considerable number of youth.

Reporting to school authorities remains low but is increasing slowly; friends are still most likely to hear about these incidents.

What are Unwanted Online Experiences?

In the Youth Internet Safety Surveys we asked about three types of unwanted online experiences that have been at the forefront of concerns regarding youth Internet use – unwanted sexual solicitations, harassment, and unwanted exposure to sexual material.

Sexual solicitations: Requests to engage in sexual activities or sexual talk, or give personal sexual information that were unwanted or, whether wanted or not, made by an adult.

Aggressive sexual solicitations: Sexual solicitations that involved offline contact with the solicitor through mail, by telephone or in person – or attempts or requests for offline contact.

Harassment: Threats or other offensive behavior (not sexual solicitation), sent online to the youth or posted online about the youth for others to see.

Unwanted exposure to sexual material: Without seeking or expecting sexual material, being exposed to pictures of naked people or people having sex when doing online searches, surfing the web, opening email or links in email.

Distressing sexual solicitations and harassment were episodes where youth rated themselves as being very or extremely upset or afraid as a result of the incident.

HISTORY OF THE YOUTH INTERNET SAFETY SURVEY (YISS)

There has been considerable and growing concern voiced by schools, parents and the public about what youth experience while using the Internet and other electronic technologies. The last decade saw significant and rapid changes in youth online activity: Internet use has now expanded to encompass almost all youth[1]. Moreover, the nature of youth Internet use changed during this time with an increase in the use of cell- and smart-phones, and the migration of adolescent social activity to social networking sites[2]. However, this rapid expansion in technology use has occurred during a period of time in which child victimization has declined significantly[3-6].

YISS-1

In 1999 and 2000 the first Youth Internet Safety Survey (YISS-1) was conducted to address concerns about adults using the Internet to sexually solicit youth, young people encountering sexual material online and youth being threatened and harassed through the Internet. While YISS-1 found that many youth who used the Internet encountered such episodes, most of these incidents were relatively mild and not very disturbing to youth. However, some were serious and distressing.

YISS-2

We conducted the second Youth Internet Safety Survey (YISS -2) in 2005 to reassess the extent to which young Internet users were encountering problems five years later, gauge whether the incidence and characteristics of these episodes have changed, explore new areas of interest, review emerging technologies, ascertain the effect those technologies have on the issue, and assess threats to youth. Compared to YISS-1, the results of YISS-2 showed that a smaller proportion of youth had received unwanted online sexual solicitations and a smaller proportion had interacted online with strangers. However, larger proportions of youth reported being exposed to pornography they did not want to see and were being harassed online.

YISS-3

In 2010, the third Youth Internet Safety Survey (YISS-3) was conducted to continue to track existing trends in the number and types of threats youth encounter using technology; assess risks to youth of new behaviors and activities, including youth creating and distributing explicit images of themselves and/or peers; assess benefits and utilization of safety programs and technologies; and identify activities and behaviors most closely associated with risk. This document reports on the key findings from YISS-3.

How YISS-1, YISS-2 and YISS-3 were conducted

- Telephone interviews with unique nationally representative samples of young Internet users, ages 10 through 17: 1501 in YISS-1, 1500 in YISS-2, and 1560 in YISS-3 (See Table 1 for youth demographic characteristics of each sample).
- "Internet use" was defined as using the Internet at least once a month for the past six months at home, school, a friend's home, a library, a cell phone, or some other location.
- One parent or guardian was interviewed first for about 10 minutes.
- With consent of the parent or guardian, youth were interviewed for about 30 minutes.
- Care was taken to preserve privacy and confidentiality during youth interviews.
- Youth participants received $10 checks and information about Internet safety.
- The YISS interviews took place from:
  - YISS-1: August 1999 to February 2000
  - YISS-2: March to June 2005
  - YISS-3: August 2010 to January 2011

Topics covered in the interviews included:

- Experiences of sexual solicitation, unwanted exposure to sexual material, and harassment via the Internet in the past year and reactions to those experiences.
- Involvement in sexting in the past year, including details of the content of the images and the context in which such events occur (YISS-3 only).
- The nature of friendships formed over the Internet in the past year.
- Knowledge of Internet safety practices among young Internet users and their parents or guardians.
- Assessment of factors that might make some youth more vulnerable than others to sexual solicitation, unwanted exposure to sexual material, and harassment via the Internet.

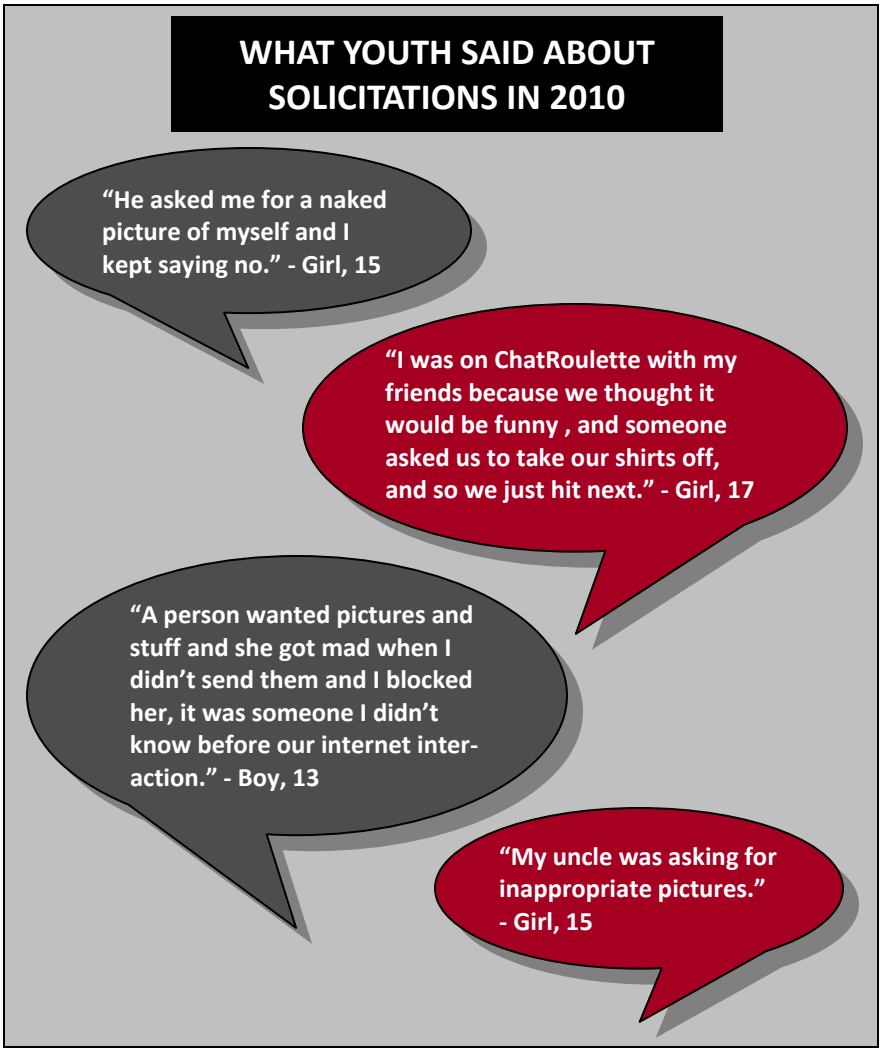
Because we used the same methods and asked most of the same questions in all three studies, we are able to compare many results to see what has changed over the past decade.

UNWANTED SEXUAL SOLICITATIONS

CHANGES IN YOUTH INTERNET USE PATTERNS OVER TIME

Between 2000 and 2010 a number of changes occurred in terms of how youth were using the Internet (See Table 2).

- By 2010 almost all youth (97%) were using the Internet from home, up from 74% in 2000. Almost half of youth (47%) were using the Internet from cell phones.
- Frequency of use also increased – 76% of youth said they used the Internet in the past week in 2000; 86% in 2005 and 94% in 2010.
- Intensity of use also increased – 32% of youth said they used the Internet for more than 2 hours per day in 2010, up from 13% in 2000 and 23% in 2005.
- Many youth (69%) also said they used the Internet 5 to 7 days per week in 2010 (36% did so in 2000 and 49% in 2005).
- More youth were using the Internet to talk with people they knew in person offline, like friends from school (93%) and less with people they met online (40%) by 2010.



When we conducted the first YISS in 2000 there was a great concern about "online predators" using the Internet to find, meet and assault children. Our findings indicate that the risk from online predators is relatively small; most solicitors are other youth and many of the solicitations were very casual. Still, we identify some potentially more concerning solicitation episodes – those we call "aggressive" (those that involved offline contact, or an attempt at offline contact by the solicitor) and "distressing" (those where the youth said the incident made them very or extremely upset or afraid). Ten year trends across all these types are reported here.

Definition

Unwanted sexual solicitations involve requests to engage in sexual activities or sexual talk or give personal sexual information that were **unwanted** or, whether wanted or not, **made by an adult**.

Specifically we asked youth:

- In the past year, did anyone on the Internet ever try to get you to talk about sex when you did not want to?
- In the past year, did anyone on the Internet ask you for sexual information about yourself when you did not want to answer such questions? I mean very personal questions, like what your body looks like or sexual things you have done.
- In the past year, did anyone on the Internet ever ask you to do something sexual that you did not want to do?

Solicitation Trends

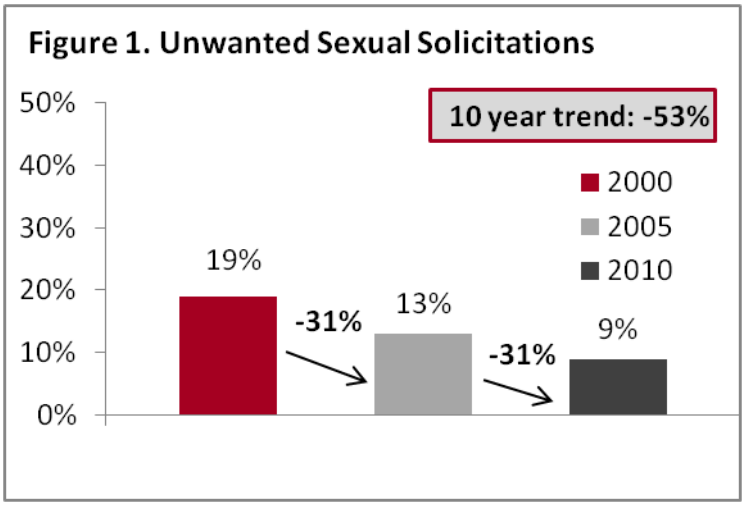
In 2010 approximately 1 in 11 youth Internet users (9%) received an **unwanted sexual solicitation** in the past year (**See Figure 1**). This continues a decline from 19% in 2000 to 13% in 2005. Overall, reports of unwanted sexual solicitations declined 53% over the past decade.

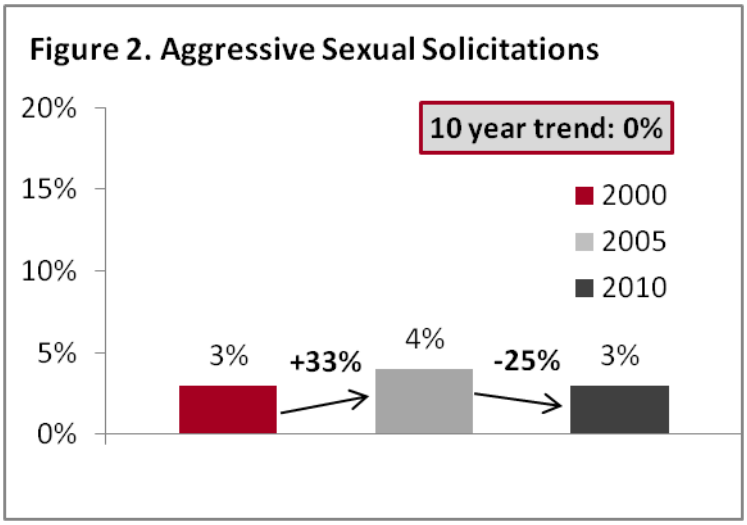
Aggressive solicitations decreased slightly between 2005 and 2010 – from 4% to 3% (**See Figure 2**). The overall ten-year trend in reports of aggressive sexual solicitations was 0%. However, the proportion of solicitations which are aggressive in nature increased slightly between 2005 and 2010 after a large increase from 2000. In 2000 the proportion of solicitations that were aggressive in nature was 15%, 31% in 2005, and 34% in 2010.

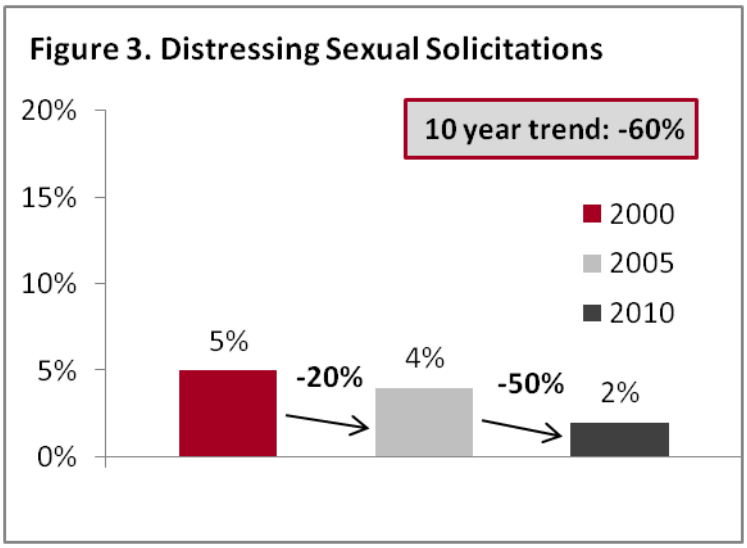
Distressing sexual solicitations continued to decline, from 5% in 2000 to 4% in 2005 to 2% in 2010; indicating a 60% decline over the past decade (**See Figure 3**). The proportion of sexual solicitations that was distressing went from 25% in 2000 to 34% in 2005 to 27% in 2010.

Key Trends in Unwanted Sexual Solicitations (Table 3 and Table 4)

- Declines were greatest among the youngest children (ages 10-12) who may be less equipped to handle such solicitations.
- The proportion of youth receiving multiple solicitations declined.
- The main source of unwanted sexual solicitations was other youth and young adults under the age of 25, not older adults stereotyped as "Internet predators."
- There was an increasing percentage of solicitations from prior offline acquaintances and a decline in those from people met online.
- Most sexual solicitations were occurring in social networking sites by 2010 compared to predominately chat rooms in 2000.
- There was an increasing number of youth disclosing the solicitation – to both friends and parents.







WHAT YOUTH SAID ABOUT AGGRESSIVE SOLICITATIONS IN 2010

"Well they just asked for photos and my number." -Boy, 16

"He was just wanting to know what I've done so I can meet to have sex with him." - Girl, 15

"Well he showed up at my job, and he was a nice enough guy, and he asked for my number, and we were texting throughout the 2+ weeks, and he would ask me if I wanted to hang out in the middle of the night and if I would be willing to meet him someplace." - Girl, 17

"My friend was just irritating me and he wouldn't leave me alone. I kept saying no I'm too young, I don't want to. Basically I had to stop talking to him." - Girl, 11

WHAT YOUTH SAID ABOUT DISTRESSING SOLICITATIONS IN 2010

"Man asked me what my body looked like and I said I didn't want to tell him. He proceeded to ask my age." - Girl, 13

"Sort of like a chat room the person asked a question. Asked if you moon me would you have sex with me. Don't know if it was male or female that sent it." - Boy, 16

"I was on a chat site and he was just a friend and he started posting comments on my profile page asking me and telling me what he has done with girls and if I had done anything with guys. The first time I didn't respond and the second time I deleted him." -Girl, 17

"There was a guy in a game. He invited me to his house in the game and tried to take my shirt off in the game." -Girl, 14

"I was on Facebook, a guy asked me if I was a virgin, and if I wanted to have sex. Also, this guy asked me to send a picture of my breast, and this really bothered me." -Girl, 14

2010 Data Only

Who were the youth targeted for unwanted sexual solicitations? (Table 5)

- Sexual solicitations were concentrated among older youth: overall 54% were ages 16 or 17; 47% of youth reporting aggressive solicitations were older. Distressing incidents were more frequently reported by younger youth – 38% were ages 16 or 17 and 52% were ages 13 to 15.
- No ten year-olds reported a sexual solicitation and few youth ages 11 or 12: 6% overall, 6% of aggressive, and 11% of distressing episodes.
- Overall more girls reported an unwanted sexual solicitation – 75%. Girls were even more likely to report an aggressive (81%) or distressing (84%) solicitation.

Who was soliciting youth? (Table 6)

- Solicitors tended to be male: 72% overall, 79% of aggressive and 74% of distressing episodes; the remaining solicitors were almost equally likely to be females as unknown to the youth.
- Nearly half of all solicitations were committed by other youth (42%) as well as 59% of aggressive solicitations. Over half (54%) of distressing solicitations were known or thought to have been committed by an adult; as well as 37% of aggressive and 45% of solicitations overall.
- Solicitors were both people the youth met online and those they knew in person before the incident: 32% of all, 53% of aggressive and 23% of distressing solicitations were committed by someone the youth knew in person prior to the incident.
- About one-quarter of solicitations were committed by more than one person.
- Approximately one-fourth of solicitations were committed more than once by the same person or group of people.

How often and where did solicitations occur? (Table 7)

- Over half of youth experienced more than one sexual solicitation in the past year; aggressive solicitations happened most frequently with two-thirds of youth reporting 2 or more incidents.
- Most incidents were short in duration (59%) with aggressive solicitations occurring for longer lengths of time – 16% lasted one month or longer.
- The majority of solicitations took place when the youth was at home on their desktop or laptop computer; a notable minority occurred through cell phones.
- Over half of solicitations took place in social networking sites.



2010 Data Only

How often was an aggravating feature part of the solicitation? (Table 8)

- Solicitors made or attempted to make offline contact with the youth in 34% of all episodes and 43% of distressing episodes – typically asking to meet somewhere or calling them on the phone.
- About one in four youth gave the solicitor their cell phone number – this was more common in aggressive episodes.
- The solicitor sent the youth a sexual picture in 12% of all, 24% of aggressive and 15% of distressing episodes.
- Many solicitors wanted sexual pictures of the youth – 45% of all, 65% of aggressive and 54% of distressing solicitations.
- Most youth did not send a sexual picture.
- Few youth met the solicitor in person; even less (1%) had sexual contact at the meeting.

How did solicitations end and who did youth tell? (Table 9)

- Over half of youth handled the solicitation on their own by removing themselves from the situation, telling the solicitor to stop or confronting him or her, or changing their personal information.
- Slightly more than half (53%) of youth told someone about the solicitation; more disclosure occurred in aggressive (69%) and distressing (61%) episodes.
- Disclosure was typically to a friend; about one in five episodes resulted in a disclosure to a parent or guardian.
- Few solicitations were reported to or otherwise known to an authority (law enforcement or Internet Service Provider).
- The most common reason youth did not tell was because the solicitation was not serious enough.



How distressing were the solicitation episodes? (Table 10)

- Overall, about one in four youth reported being very or extremely upset or afraid as a result of the solicitation.
- One in five youth were embarrassed over what happened.
- For youth reporting some distress, 41% reported at least one stress symptom more than a little or all of the time following the solicitation; more so for aggressive (67%) and distressing (64%) solicitation incidents.

ONLINE HARASSMENT

Public anxiety around youth online harassment (sometimes referred to as cyber-bullying[†])has concerned the belief that it is prevalent and rapidly expanding, but also that this is happening because the nature of the online environment facilitates hostile interactions for youth [7-11]. For example, some online safety experts note that the anonymity and remoteness of online interactions reduce inhibitions that would otherwise restrain youth from engaging in harassment. However, another possibility is that an increase in online harassment might be expected simply because all peer interactions– both positive and negative – are moving online, including arguments, harassment and relational bullying. Research suggests that online behavior is often an extension of or similar to social behavior in the face-to-face world[12] and that there is significant overlap between online and offline victimization experiences[13,14].

Definition

Online harassment involves threats or other offensive behavior (not sexual solicitation), sent online to youth or posted online about the youth for others to see.

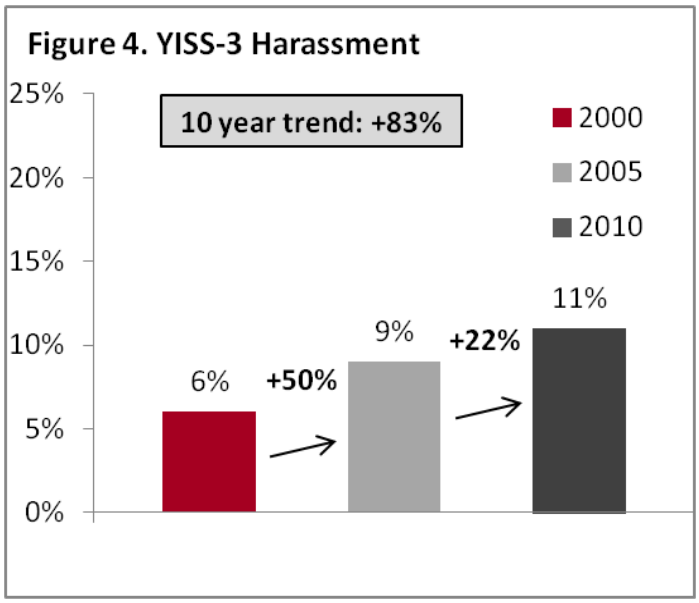
Specifically we asked youth:

- In the past year, did you ever feel worried or threatened because someone was bothering or harassing you online?
- In the past year, did anyone ever use the Internet to threaten or embarrass you by posting or sending messages about you for other people to see?

[†] We do not use the term "cyber-bullying" because the definition is unclear. Bullying is defined as involving repetition and power imbalance but these features have not yet been clearly applied to incidents involving technology.

Harassment Trends

In 2010 approximately 1 in 9 youth Internet users (11%) received an online harassment in the past year (**See Figure 4**). This continues an increase from 6% in 2000 to 9% in 2005. Overall, reports of online harassment increased 83% over the past decade.



What youth said about harassment in 2010

"They put an embarrassing video of me online and said cruel things about me" - Girl, 15

"I had a website on facebook that was about hating me. I hate Jake site." - Boy, 13

"One of my friends was being racist towards me. My dad reported my friend on facebook." - Girl 15

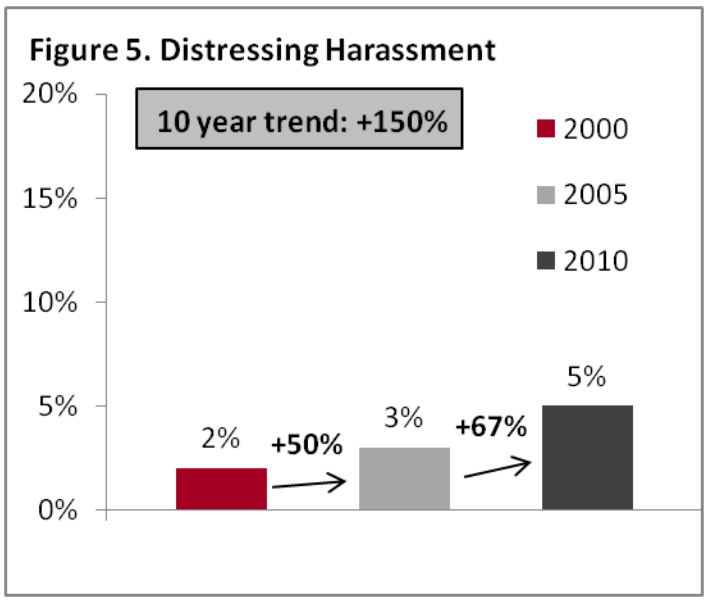
"I was talking with her boyfriend and she threatened to kick my butt." - Girl, 17

"Things I told this person in private and they shared that information with others." - Girl 13

"Someone tagged me in a picture, I was sleeping and friends wrote on me and posted it on facebook but it wasn't anything serious." - Boy, 15

Distressing Harassment Trends

Distressing harassment continued to increase, from 2% in 2000 to 3% in 2005 to 5% in 2010; indicating a 150% increase over the past decade (**See Figure 5**). The proportion of harassment episodes that were distressing went from 39% in 2000 to 38% in 2005 to 44% in 2010.



Key Trends in Online Harassment
(Table 11 & Table 12)

- In 2010, the overwhelming majority of harassment incidents were occurring on social networking sites.
- Online harassment incidents increasingly involved communication with school friends.
- There was a large increase in the proportion of female victims - from 48% to 69%.
- There was a decrease in White victims and corresponding increase in Black victims – up to 14% by 2010.
- There was an increase in disclosures about harassment to school staff.



WHAT YOUTH SAID ABOUT DISTRESSING HARASSMENT IN 2010

"Well it was my ex-boyfriend, and he was posting on websites that I was a whore and all this stuff." - Girl, 17

"Um, well its kind of like a guy issue. These girls came up to me swearing and cussing. Then they send me an IM on facebook saying you better stop doing this or we'll hurt you. So I went to the school about it and the cops got involved." - Girl, 15

"They took pictures of me while I was changing in the locker room for gym and posted it on the internet and made mean comments about how my body was shaped and everything." - Girl, 14

"They took a picture of me doing something, like using the bathroom and they posted it.." - Boy, 13

Online Harassment: 2010 Data Only

Who were the youth targeted for harassment? (Table 13)

- Harassment was reported by youth of all ages: overall 39% were ages 16 or 17; 50% were ages 13-15 and 11% were ages 10-12. Distressing incidents similarly covered the age spectrum.
- Overall more girls reported harassment – 69%. Girls were even more likely to report a distressing (79%) harassment.

Who was harassing youth? (Table 14)

- Harassers were both male (43%) and female (48%); few youth did not know the gender of the harasser. Fifty-five percent of harassers in distressing episodes were female.
- Nearly three in four of all harassment episodes were committed by other youth (70%) as well as 74% of distressing harassment episodes.
- Over half of harassers (66%) were people the youth knew in person; 31% were people the youth met online.
- About one-quarter of harassment episodes were committed by more than one person.
- Almost half of harassment episodes were committed more than once by the same person or group of people.

How often and where did harassment occur? (Table 15)

- Half of the harassment episodes over the course of one year occurred one time; 23% happened twice; and one-quarter happened more frequently; distressing harassment more commonly happened multiple times.
- The length of time the harassment lasted varied – about one-third for one day, but one in four went on for a month or longer; distressing harassment tended to last for longer periods of time.
- Harassment occurred mostly through computers; cell phones were being used in about one in ten incidents.
- Most youth were at home using social networking sites when the harassment occurred.

What type of harassment did the youth report? (Table 16)

- Most of the harassment took the form of being called mean names, exclusion, spreading rumors, and making fun of or teasing youth.
- Youth said that in almost half (41%) of episodes the harasser was someone who had more power or strength then they did; this was true in 53% of distressing episodes.



Online Harassment: 2010 Data Only

How often was an aggravating feature part of the harassment? (Table 17)

- **In 41% of all harassment episodes and 56% of distressing the harasser made (or attempted to make) off-line contact with the youth – the most common forms being called on the phone and asked to meet somewhere.**
- **In 14% of harassment incidents the harasser sent the respondent a picture of themselves; in 15% the harasser requested a picture of the respondent.**



How did harassment end and who do youth tell? (Table 18)

- **Most youth handled the situation themselves – 23% removed themselves from the situation and 15% told the harasser to stop.**
- **Few youth had a parent or teacher handle the situation (5%) and 3% called the police or other authorities.**
- **The majority of youth (74%) told someone about the harassment – usually a parent or guardian (55%) and/or a friend (50%).; more distressing episodes were disclosed (87%).**
- **13% of all harassment and 19% of distressing harassment episodes were ever disclosed or otherwise known to police or and Internet Service Provider.**
- **Most youth who did not tell anyone said it was not serious enough; 20% of youth not reporting a distressing harassment said they did not report because they were too scared.**
- **In 40% of episodes the youth said there was someone else online with them when the incident happened; 19% did something to help stop it and 10% did something to make the situation worse.**
- **In situations where the harassment occurred through a home computer, about one in four families installed some kind of software to help prevent the incident from happening again.**

How distressing were the harassment episodes? (Table 19)

- **In about half of harassment incidents the youth was very or extremely upset or afraid about what happened.**
- **Over one-third reported at least one stress symptom such as staying away from the Internet, feeling unable to stop thinking about it, feeling jumpy or irritable, or losing interest in things as a result.**



UNWANTED EXPOSURE TO SEXUAL MATERIAL

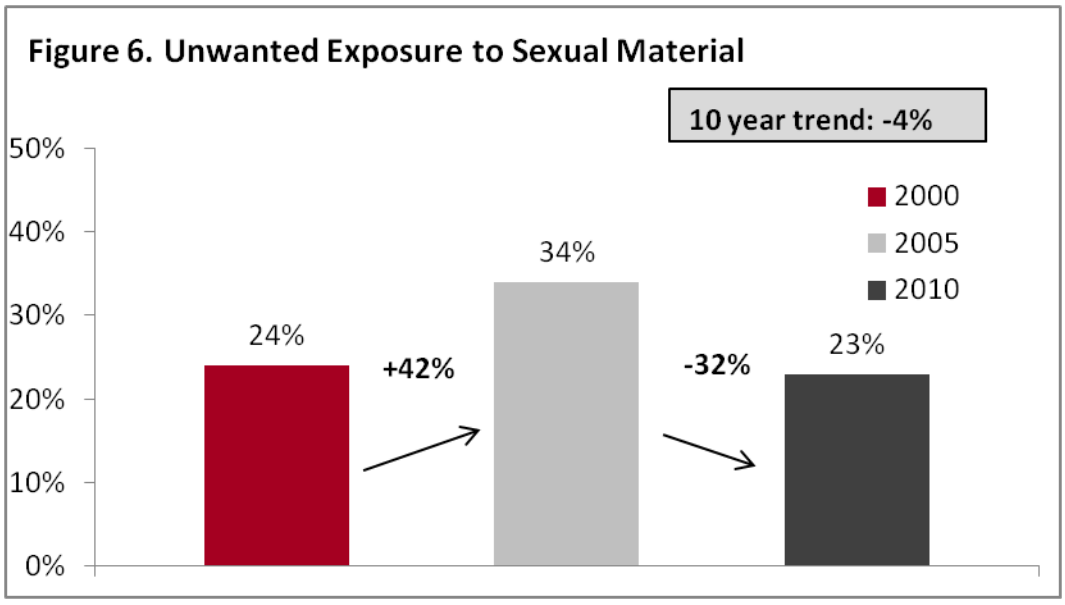
Worry about the possible harms to youth of being exposed to online pornography have been expressed by the medical establishment[15-18], psychologists[19,20], the public sector[21], Congress[22,23] and even the U.S. Supreme Court[24,25]. Fueling this concern is knowledge that many youth are exposed to online pornography[26-32]. Some of this exposure is voluntary. In a 2005 survey, the authors found that 13% of youth Internet users ages 10 through 17 visited X-rated web sites on purpose in the past year[26]. But even more youth, 34%, were exposed to online pornography they do not want to see[26]. This degree of unwanted exposure may be a new phenomenon, since prior to the Internet there were few places youth frequented where they might regularly encounter unsought pornography. While there is evidence that most youth are not particularly upset when they come across unwanted pornography on the Internet[26,29], unwanted exposure could have more of an impact on some youth than voluntary encounters with pornography. Some youth could be psychologically and developmentally unprepared for unwanted exposure, and online images may be more graphic and extreme than pornography available from other sources[21,26].

Definition

Unwanted exposure to sexual material is defined as, without seeking or expecting sexual material, being exposed to pictures of naked people or people having sex when doing online searches, surfing the web, opening email or instant messages, or opening links in email or instant messages.

Specifically we asked youth:

- In the past year when you were doing an online search or surfing the web, did you ever find yourself in a web site that showed pictures of naked people or of people having sex when you did not want to be in that kind of site?
- In the past year, did you ever receive email or instant messages that you did not want with advertisements for or links to X-rated web sites?
- Did you ever open a message or a link in a message that showed you actual pictures of naked people or of people having sex that you did not want?



Unwanted Exposure to Sexual Material Trends

In 2010 approximately 1 in 4 youth Internet users (23%) reported an unwanted exposure to sexual material in the past year (**See Figure 6**). This presents a decline from 34% in 2005 after an initial increase from 24% in 2000. Overall, reports of online harassment declined 4% over the past decade.

WHAT YOUTH SAID ABOUT UNWANTED EXPOSURE IN 2010

"Just this thing popped up and it was like hot sexy lesbians now and had naked girls on it." - Girl, 17

"It showed naked people and a girl sucking a guy's penis. That's about it because I turned it off after that." - Girl, 13

"I was looking for a site at school and I typed in one wrong letter and it brought up this porno site." - Boy, 14

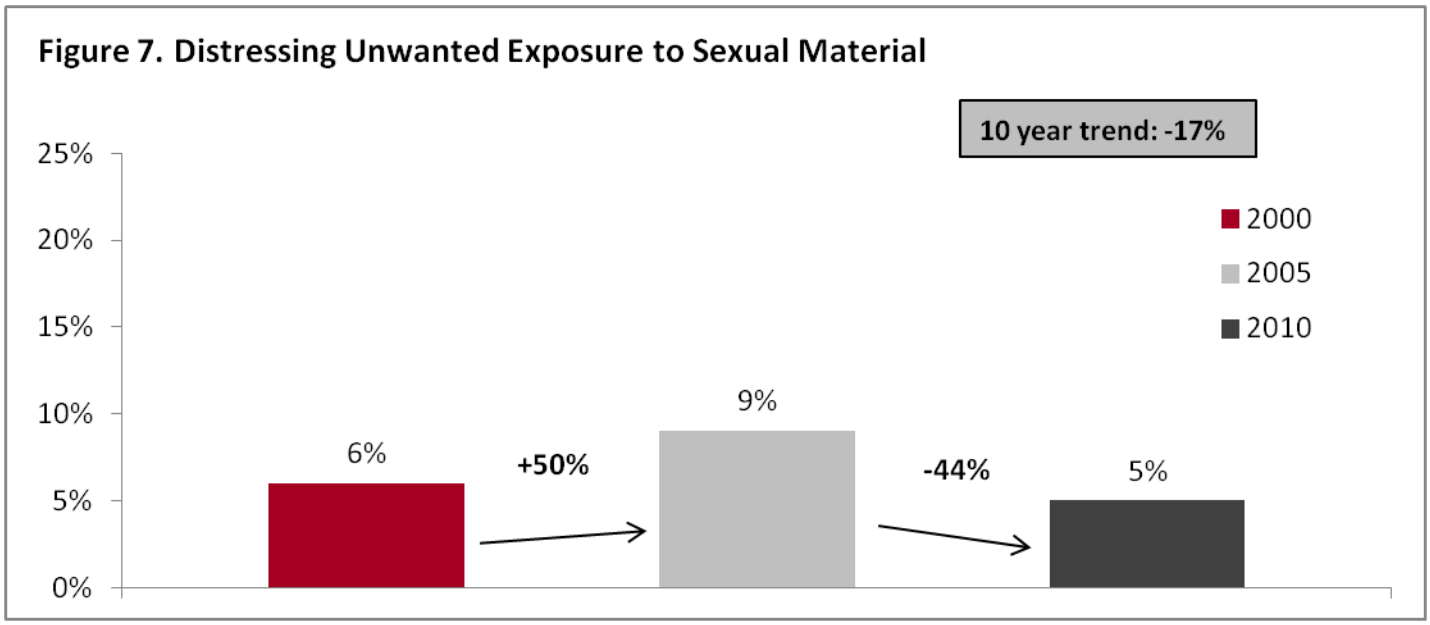
"My friend sent me an email and it contained naked pictures." - Boy, 16

"I was trying to go to DicksSportingGoods.com and I ended up at dicks.com." - Girl, 11

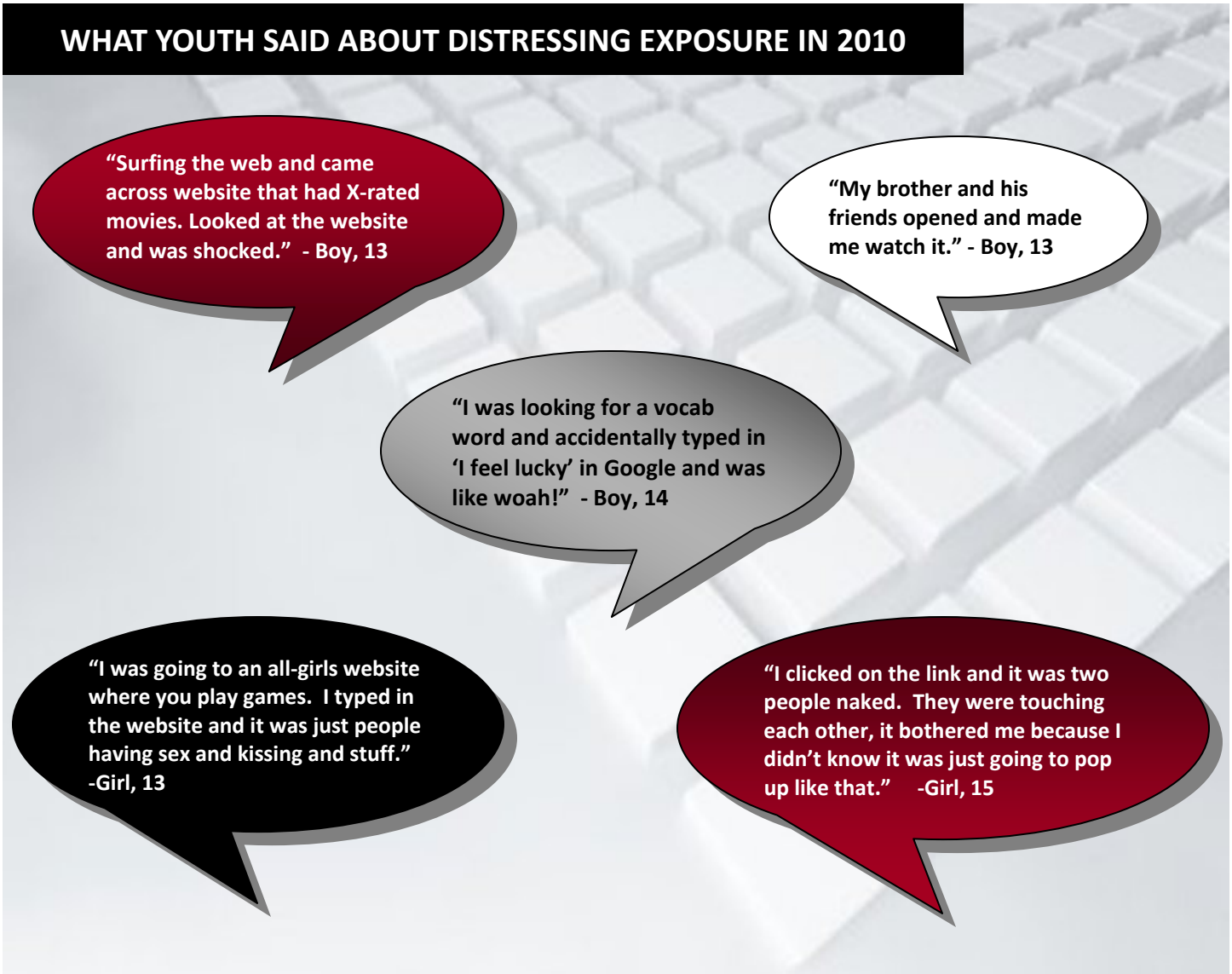
Distressing Exposure

Distressing exposure followed a similar up and down pattern, from 6% in 2000 to 9% in 2005 to 5% in 2010; indicating a 17% decline over the past decade (**See Figure 7**). The proportion of unwanted exposure episodes that were distressing remained relatively stable: 23% in 2000, 26% in 2005, and 22% in 2010.

Figure 7. Distressing Unwanted Exposure to Sexual Material



WHAT YOUTH SAID ABOUT DISTRESSING EXPOSURE IN 2010



Key Trends in Unwanted Exposure to Sexual Material (Table 20 & Table 21)

- Much of the change in reports of unwanted exposure occurred between 2000 and 2005 when examined by age. The youngest youth (ages 10-12) still report minimal exposure.
- Between 2005 and 2010 we saw a decline in exposure to all types of sexual material including naked people, people having sex and sexual images that were violent.
- We saw a decline in exposure while surfing the web but an increase in exposure by clicking on links in email or IM.
- In 2010 fewer youth said they could tell the site was X-rated before entering and fewer youth were exposed on more than one occasion.
- There was no change in overall rates of disclosure over time; but declines were noted between 2000 and 2005 for disclosure to specific types of individuals – friends and parents or guardians. No change was noted in these categories between 2005 and 2010.

Unwanted Exposure: 2010 Data Only

Who were the youth reporting unwanted exposure? (Table 22)

- Unwanted exposure was reported by youth of all ages: overall 42% were ages 16 or 17; 45% were ages 13-15 and 14% were ages 10-12. Distressing incidents similarly covered the age spectrum but was reported by more of the younger youth (25% of 10-12 year olds).
- About equal numbers of girls and boys reported unwanted exposure; this was also true for distressing exposure.

How often and where did unwanted exposure occur? (Table 23)

- Over half of youth said unwanted exposure happened more than once over the course of a year.
- Virtually all exposure happened on a desktop or laptop computer (92%); only 1% happened through a cell phone.
- Most exposure (81%) happened on a computer the youth was using at home.
- 66% of youth saw pictures of naked people; 24% saw people having sex.
- A minority (8%) of youth saw pictures that were violent; 13% of distressing exposure involved violent sexual pictures.
- Most youth were exposed while they were surfing the web (68%); 32% when opening and email or clicking on a link in an email.
- 15% of youth could tell the material was X-rated before entering the site or clicking on the link.

Surfing exposure (Table 24)

- Of the exposures that happened as when surfing the web, 39% happened during an online search, 12% while doing research for school, 25% did not know.
- In 38% of episodes the link came up as a result of a search, 16% through a misspelled web address, 14% when the youth clicked on a link when in another web site.
- 3% of youth said they went back to the site after the unwanted exposure occurred.

E-mail & instant message exposure (Table 25)

- Of the youth who reported unwanted exposure while opening an email or clicking a link in an email or IM, a little over half said this was a personal address.
- Few youth knew the sender of the email (17%) Of those who did, over half (62%) were male and 86% were younger than 18 years old.
- All senders in distressing episodes were males under the age of 18.

How did the unwanted exposure end and who do youth tell? (Table 26)

- Most youth (78%) removed themselves from the situation to end it.
- 40% told someone about what happened – usually a parent (59%) or friend (41%).
- More youth reporting a distressing exposure told a parent (73% of those who disclosed).
- Virtually no unwanted exposure were known or disclosed to police or and Internet Service Provider.
- Of the youth who did not disclose, most said it was not serious enough; 32% of youth who did not disclose a distressing exposure said it was too embarrassing.
- Almost half (47%) of exposure that happened on computers in the home had software that blocked pop-up ads or SPAM email; 26% had other software that filtered, blocked or monitored how you use the Internet.
- One-third of families installed some kind of software to keep this from happening again.

How distressing was the unwanted exposure? (Table 27)

- Most youth (75%) were not upset about what happened.
- 16% reported at least one stress symptom as a result.

SEXTING



Several concerns have fueled the considerable attention to the problem of "youth sexting" among the media, parents, professionals, educators and law enforcement[33-35]. (Sexting generally refers to sending sexual images and sometimes sexual texts via cell phone and other electronic devices.) One is that youth may be creating illegal child pornography, exposing them to possibly serious legal sanctions[36,37]. Another is that youth may be jeopardizing futures by putting compromising, ineradicable images online that could be available to potential employers, academic institutions and family members.

These concerns have been abetted by frequently cited statistics about the supposed widespread teen involvement in sexting. The most common reference has been to a National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy study[38] showing that 20% of teens had sent or posted nude or semi-nude pictures of themselves. However, this research as well as other often cited studies [39,40] have flaws that compromise their findings[41]. For example, the National Campaign study, used an Internet panel rather than a true population sample and included 18 and 19 year olds, and not just minors.

Moreover, none of these studies has made distinctions that allow a careful assessment of the problem from a policy perspective. Studies have asked respondents about "nude or semi-nude", "nearly nude" or "sexually suggestive" images that might, in fact, be no more revealing than what someone might see at a beach. In some studies, sexting was defined to include text messages that could contain no images. And many studies did not distinguish between taking and sending an image of oneself as opposed to receiving or disseminating an image of another youth. For policy purposes, it is important to look at whether images are created or simply received and whether images might qualify as child pornography, but such information is not currently available.

Measurement of Sexting

In 2010 we created a series of five screener questions that asked about three types of sexting involvement: 1) receiving nude or nearly nude images, 2) forwarding or posting such images, and 3) appearing in or creating such images. When youth answered yes to screeners, follow-up questions gathered details about their responses, including the content of the "nude or nearly nude" images. The screeners asked:

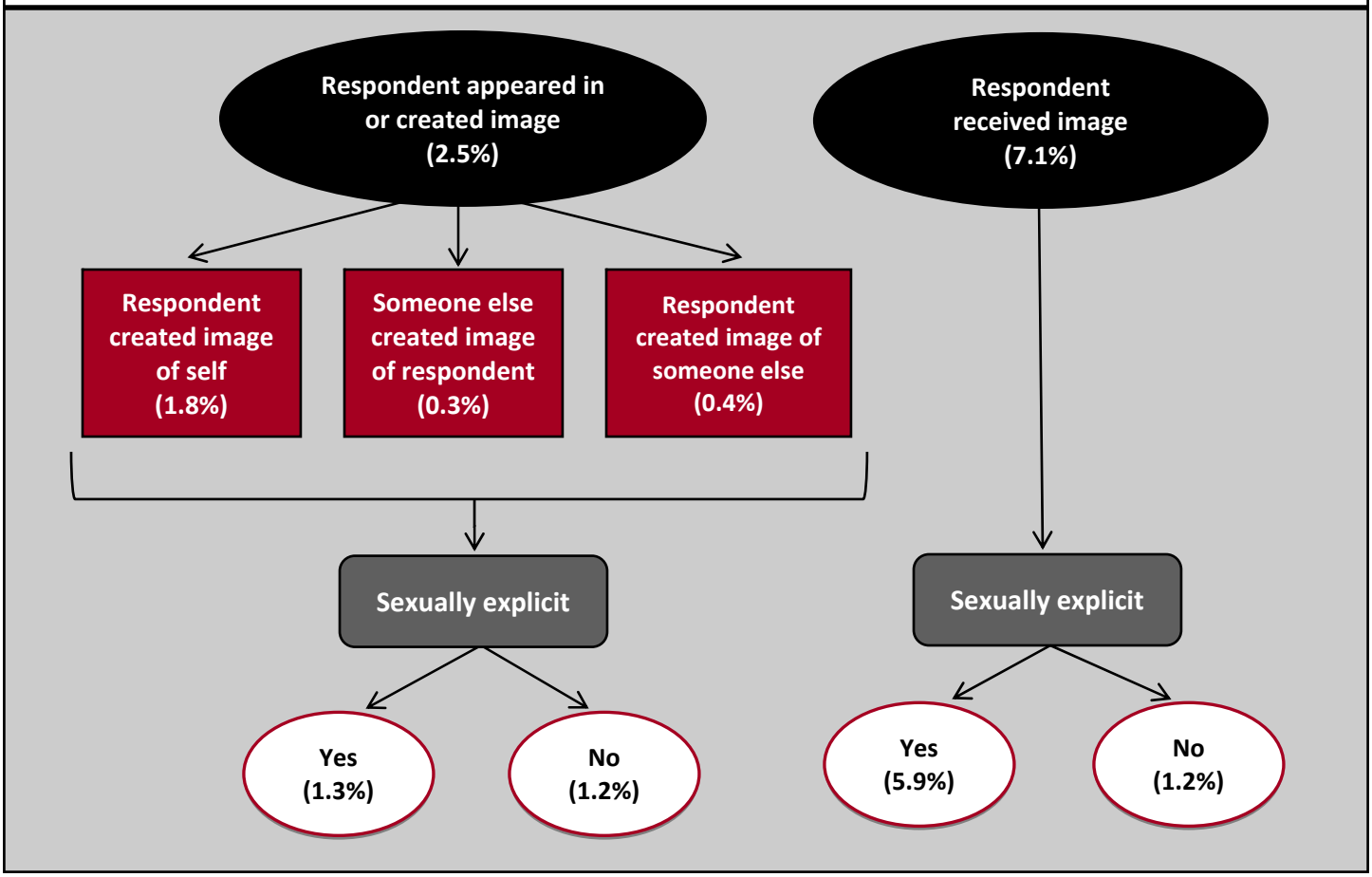
- **Has anyone ever sent you nude or nearly nude pictures or videos of kids who were under the age of 18 that someone else took?**
- **Have you ever forwarded or posted any nude or nearly nude pictures or videos of other kids who were under the age of 18 that someone else took?**
- **Have you ever taken nude or nearly nude pictures or videos of yourself?**
- **Has someone else ever taken nude or nearly nude pictures or videos of you?**
- **Have you ever taken nude or nearly nude pictures or videos of other kids who were under the age of 18?**

When youth responded positively to a screener question, interviewers asked if the incident occurred in the past year. Interviewers then asked extensive follow-up questions about up to two unique *past year* sexting episodes. Prevalence estimates were created based on youth-level data, some of whom reported more than one sexting type incident. An algorithm was used to choose incidents for follow-up with a hierarchy that selected first for incidents in which pictures were taken and second for incidents in which pictures were distributed. No youth were left uncounted based on this algorithm. Follow-up questions included whether the images depicted breasts, genitals or someone's bottom which we used to define images that were "sexually explicit."

Types of sexting involvement (Figure 8 & Table 28)

- A total of 149 youth (9.6%) reported appearing in or creating "nude or nearly nude" images or receiving such images in the past year.
- We differentiated three dimensions of the incidents that youth reported.
    1. The first dimension was whether youth appeared in or created images versus receiving images. Of youth reporting involvement in sexting, 39 (2.5 %) appeared in or created images; 110 youth (7.1%) received images, but did not appear in or create them.
    2. The second dimension, among those who appeared in or created images, was whether a youth was pictured in an image.
    3. The third dimension was whether images were sexually explicit (i.e., might qualify as child pornography).
- Of the 39 youth who appeared in or created images, 61% were girls, 72% were ages 16 or 17 and 6% were 10 to 12. Most youth created images of themselves (1.8% of sample, n=28); some were photographed by someone else (0.3%, n=5); and some photographed other youth (0.4%, n=6).
- Of the 110 youth who received images but did not appear in or create them, 56% were girls; 55% were ages 16 or 17 and none were younger than 12.

Figure 8. Types of sexting involvement



WHAT YOUTH SAID ABOUT SEXTING

YOUTH WHO APPEARED IN OR CREATED IMAGES

"I was just dating a boy and he wanted a picture and I just sent him my picture." -Girl, 17

" We were just messing around and being guys. It wasn't anything sexual." - Boy, 16

"It was like 10PM at night and I couldn't sleep and I just took a picture." - Girl, 13

"I was getting dressed at my boyfriend's house and this girl was there and she took a pic of me and sent it to someone and it got around the school, and after a month it went away." - Girl, 16

"Well, I did not have a boyfriend at this time, and I was curious as to what my body would like to other people…, so I took some pictures." - Girl, 17

YOUTH WHO RECEIVED IMAGES

"Someone sent me a picture of my boyfriend and another girl, and he's no longer my boyfriend.." - Girl, 17

"[I was] sitting in [my] room playing guitar. Got text message. Opened it. It showed pictures of breasts, vagina. I immediately erased it." - Boy, 15

"In girls locker room and some girl asked if anyone wanted to see a pic of her and her boyfriend and we thought it would be them hanging out but they were in bed together." - Girl, 14

"This boy had 4 pictures of a naked girl—he was showing everybody in the classroom." - Girl 16

"I saw a little girl with an older guy and she was down in his personal area." - Girl, 13

Were images sexually explicit? (Table 29)

One of the goals of this study was to determine how youth define "*nude or nearly nude*", since this phraseology has been used in previous studies and been the basis of reported statistics on sexting. We asked youth whether images "showed breasts, genitals, or someone's bottom".

- Only 54% of the 39 youth who appeared in or created images reported pictures that met these criteria, as did 84% of the 110 youth who received images.
- For 46% of youth appearing in or creating images and 16% of those receiving images, "nude or nearly nude" included youth wearing underwear or bathing suits, sexy poses with clothes on, and pictures focused on clothed genitals.



Other key features of sexting (Table 29)

- Twenty-one percent of respondents appearing in or creating images reported feeling very or extremely upset, embarrassed or afraid as a result, as did 25% of youth receiving images.
- Twenty-eight percent of youth who appeared in or created images and 28% of those who received images either reported incidents to an authority (e.g., parent, teacher police) or an authority found out in some other way.
- Youth stated that over half of the incidents in both categories occurred more than once in the past year.
- In most of the episodes the person responsible (when it was not the respondents themselves) was someone the youth knew in person.
- The most commonly reported reason for incidents was "romance as part of an existing relationship;" pranks and jokes or trying to start a relationship were also noted.
- A notable minority of incidents where youth appeared in or created images (31%) included an aggravating component – usually alcohol or drug use (See Table 3).
- Adults were involved in a minority of sexting incidents; they were all young adults, ages 18 to 21.
- One of the concerns about sexting is that youth will forward and distribute images they create or receive. However, only a small proportion of youth reported forwarding or posting images. Photographs were distributed in10% of incidents when youth appeared in or created images and in 3% when youth received images.

There is a tendency in our rapidly evolving society to be easily alarmed about changing youth mores, a tendency we have referred to elsewhere as "juvenoia"[42]. Sexting has been greeted in many media portrayals as yet another sign of the hyper-sexualization of youth and extreme risk-taking. In fact, however, many indicators of youth sexual behavior such as teenage pregnancy, and the number of youth with multiple sexual partners have been improving in recent years[43], in spite of such concerns. It is incumbent on youth-serving professionals not to respond or abet media portrayals that promote alarm. Sexting may not indicate a dramatic change in youth risk-taking or youth sexual behavior. It may just make some of that behavior more visible to adults and other authorities. Good research and sympathetic clinical assessment is necessary to understand the nature and extent of activities such as sexting, before strong recommendations about how to counsel and educate youth and their families are developed and disseminated.

MAJOR FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

1 The continued decline in sexual solicitations is good news.

We found a continued decline in reports of unwanted sexual solicitations – from 19% in 2000 to 13% in 2005 and 9% in 2010. Most of the solicitors in 2000 and 2005 were people the youth met online, less so in 2010. Our Internet safety messages over the 2000 decade targeted the potential dangers of talking with people met online. Today's youth may be more aware of the potential dangers online and monitoring their activities and behaviors accordingly.

2 The continued increase in online harassment needs further attention.

The only area we found a continued increase in reports was online harassment – from 6% in 2000, to 9% in 2005 and 11% in 2010. Although harassment did increase rates are still low. And importantly, the increase did not seem disproportional to the increased amount of time youth are now spending online. While some have worried that the online environment might facilitate harassing behavior, this is not a strong explanation of the trends in our view. It appears more plausible to us that the increasing amount of interaction online, plus an environment that may allow more interactions among friends to be observed, has simply increased the likelihood that hostilities are migrating online and being observed there.

3 Girls are more likely to be victims of online harassment...

...usually in the form of being called mean names, exclusion, rumors spread about them, and being made fun of or teased.

There was a large increase in the proportion of female victims, rising from 48% to 69%. In fact, rates for males calculated separately did not rise during this 10 year period. The peer aggression research has long noted that females tend to predominate in verbal and relational types of aggression [44], and the social networking platforms are clearly more suited to this than physical aggression and intimidation. It may be that the online environments' suitability for female-preferred types of hostility has prompted the gender skewed increase.



4 Almost half (40%) of online harassment episodes occurred in the presence of bystanders – some trying to help stop the situation & some making it worse.



More and more attention is being placed on the importance of bystanders in peer victimization. One question is whether technology-based harassment is equally likely as offline victimization to have bystanders. Peers are present in as many as 85% of school bullying episodes[45], however research has found that few actively reach out to help the victim (10% - 25%)[46-48]. Our findings indicate fewer bystander situations occur online; 40% of harassment incidents occurred when someone else was online who could see what happened. Of those situations that did involve bystanders, 19% did something to help stop it; a similar percentage occurring in more traditional harassment and bullying incidents. More research is needed on ways in which intervention by peers is conducted and proving helpful in preventing further harassment in electronic environments in particular. With the increased communication provided by new technology and the lasting nature of electronic evidence, it is possible that bystander opportunities may increase for youth.



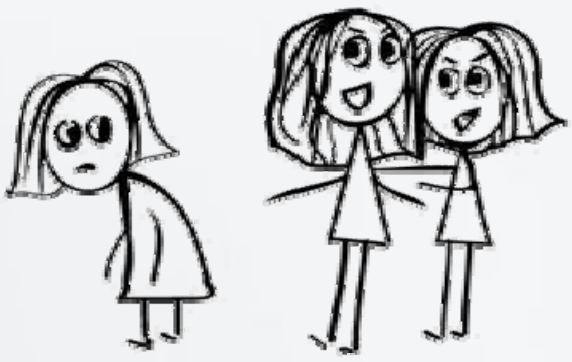


5 Most unwanted experiences and harassment in particular, occurred on social networking sites in 2010.

In 2010, the overwhelming majority of harassment incidents (82%) were occurring on social networking sites and increasingly involved communication with school friends. It is likely that youth are able to see more negative comments about themselves in the exchanges among their school-based peer groups via social networking sites than used to be the case. It should be noted, however, that not all negative online experiences have increased along with the changing online activities; as we note in this report, unwanted sexual solicitations actually decreased during this same period [49]perhaps because social networking sites allow for restricting access to friends and also allow people to identify where solicitations are coming from. One hypothesis is that as youth have migrated to social networking sites like Facebook for their online interactions, they have gravitated away from more open access sites like chat rooms and confined more of their online interactions to people that they already know. This might explain some of the overall decline in solicitation, and might mean that rather than making youth more vulnerable the social networking revolution may have provided an additional measure of protection, at least against unwanted contact from online strangers.

6 The percentage of youth reporting distressing incidents remains small.

Even with the dynamic changes in technology, distressing online harassment and sexual solicitations occurred to only a minority of youth and there is no indication, even across the shifting technology developments of the last decade, that this type of victimization is something significantly different from the peer victimization problems that have always been, and continue to be, a concern for youth. In fact, whether online or offline, the degree of distress caused by a harassment or solicitation incident is likely influenced by a number of possible factors: a believable physical threat, sexual taunts, a sense of powerlessness, or a greater number of perpetrators or witnesses, for example. There may be ways that the online environment might increase the likelihood of certain highly negative features such as more witnesses, or perhaps greater powerlessness under some conditions. On the other hand, the online environment may ameliorate distress by making it easier for victims to prove their mistreatment to parents and others, as well as get support. Such hypotheses should be the focus of future research efforts. Overall, the conditions causing the distress are not new and therefore the focus of prevention and education efforts can apply to many different environments and locations, including shifting and even unpredictable online settings.



7 More of the offensive and unwanted experiences are coming from people youth know in person, usually other kids.

We detected an increasing percentage of solicitations from prior offline acquaintances and a decline in those from individuals met online. Further, the data from this study and some others suggests that much of online harassment is an extension of offline peer problems with disagreements being drawn into a more public space. Similarly, we saw more online harassment episodes occurring at the hands of school peers. A good deal of research is still needed to understand the broader context of online harassment—for example how often and under what circumstances incidents of serious online harassment are part of an ongoing offline peer victimization. But to the extent this is happening, schools can play a critical role and can likely make the biggest difference by implementing evidence-based bullying programs and social emotional learning programs that have incorporated information about online harassment and behavior into their curricula. What distinguishes effective prevention programs is a focus on skill-building: students are taught key relational and social skills such as perspective-taking, emotional regulation, communication skills, and effective bystander intervention skills [50]. These are skills that would likely translate to any environment or communication modality, including the Internet, and minimizes the concern adults have about predicting new popular websites or technologies.

8 Unwanted online experiences still remains mainly a phenomenon of older kids (13+)...

...The youngest kids (ages 10-12) still report few of these experiences.

This is encouraging news. Not only do the youngest youth in our study report the lowest prevalence of unwanted sexual solicitations, the declines in unwanted sexual solicitations were greatest among the younger children, who may be less equipped to handle such solicitations.



9 Reporting to school authorities remains low but increasing slowly; friends are still most likely to hear about these incidents.

Although still low, it is encouraging to note that more youth receiving a solicitation talk about it with others, 53% in 2010 versus 39% in 2000. And an encouraging trend that we observed was an increase in disclosures about harassment to school staff. While the rate of such disclosures was still small in 2010 (12%), it may reflect an increasing involvement of schools in this problem. Schools have been attempting to provide more in the way of Internet safety and bullying prevention education[51]. At the same time friends are generally the people youth go to when they want to tell someone about what happened.



10 After an initial increase in unwanted exposure to sexual material between 2000 & 2005, it declined again by 2010.

Twenty-four percent of youth in 2000 reported unwanted exposure to sexual material; this increased to 34% in 2005 and declined again to 23% in 2010. The decrease in exposure could be due to two factors. First, spamwares and filters have been increasingly present on networks and individual computers, and their detection capacities have become more refined. Second, young people may have become better educated and more savvy about opening unidentified e-mail or clicking on unidentified links.



11 15% of youth could tell the sexual material was X-rated before entering the web site; 3% returned to the site.

Here we are likely encountering some degree of adolescent sexual curiosity. It is part of normal adolescent development to be interested in and curious about sex. Even though these situations initially stemmed from an unwanted situation, youth may be curious enough to explore what is popping up on the screen in front of them, some even chose to go back and explore it further. Still others may return to show the site to their parents.

12 Estimates of youth involved in sexting vary considerably depending on what activities are included in the concept of sexting.

The percentage of youth who have, in the past year, appeared in or created sexually explicit sexual images that potentially violate child pornography laws is small (1%). But if sexting is defined as appearing in, creating or receiving sexually suggestive rather than explicit images, the survey finds 9.6% of youth who used the Internet in the past year involved in this way. Many previous surveys on sexting have used the more expansive definition that captures sexually suggestive images and includes receiving such images, with percentages similar to our 9.6%[41]. However, the much more detailed information obtained by the current survey suggests that the percentages of youth who appear in or create sexually explicit photographs that could meet the definition of child pornography, is much smaller.

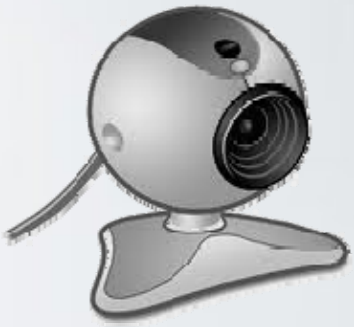


13 Results about sexting are reassuring.

Only a small percentage of young people are appearing in or creating sexting images that could be considered illegal child pornography. Moreover, few of these images were being forwarded or posted, situations that could put youth at risk of having their images circulated online. Our lower and more accurate measurements may be particularly important for those interested in applying a norms-based approach to prevention, one that tries to dissuade youth from the perception that risky behaviors are the norm within their peer group. But receiving and thus possession of potentially illegal images among young people is widespread enough that education about this and its consequences is strongly warranted. Young people need to be instructed that the possession of sexually explicit images of minors is currently a criminal offense, and that such images should be deleted and never retransmitted.

14 Sexting of explicit images involves a small percentage, but still a considerable number of youth.

This raises the question of how the law should treat such cases. Subjecting youth to severe penalties for activities that would be legal for an 18 year old as long as no exploitation was involved is increasingly being recognized as not appropriate. States like Vermont have taken steps to decriminalize some forms of this behavior, while others have reduced the severity to misdemeanor status.[52,53]



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

More information about the Youth Internet Safety Surveys and about youth Internet victimization is available on the Crimes against Children Research Center Web site: http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/internet-crimes/

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For the purposes of compliance with Section 507 of PL 104-208 (the "Stevens Amendment"), readers are advised that 100% of the funds for this program are derived from federal sources. This project was supported by Grant No. 2009-SN-B9-0002 awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The total amount of federal funding involved is $734,900. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

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Table 1
Youth and Household Characteristics for the 2000, 2005, and 2010 YISS Samples

Youth and Household Characteristics	2000 (n=1501) %	2005 (n=1500) %	2010 (n=1560) %	*p* value
Gender (male)	53	49	50	.08
Age				
10 to 12 years old	23	23	21	.02
13 to 15 years old	48	43	45	
16 to 17 years old	29	34	34	
Race				
White, non-Hispanic	73	71	67	.002
Black, non-Hispanic	10	11	13	
Hispanic or Latino, any Race	7	9	10	
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2	1	3	
Asian	3	2	3	
Other (includes bi-racial)	2	3	2	
Don't know/not ascertainable	4	3	2	
Parental marital status				
Married	79	76	78	.01
Living with a partner	1	3	2	
Separated	3	1	2	
Divorced	10	10	10	
Widowed	2	2	2	
Single, never married	5	8	6	
Youth lives with both biological parents	63	62	66	.04
Highest level of education in household				
Not a high school graduate	3	2	3	<.001
High school graduate	21	20	14	
Some college education	22	23	19	
College graduate	32	32	37	
Post college degree	22	22	28	
Annual household income				
Less than $20,000	8	8	12	<.001
$20,000 to $50,000	38	27	18	
More than $50,000 to $75,000	23	24	16	
More than $75,000	23	33	45	
Don't know/missing	7	8	9	

Table 2
Youth Internet Use Patterns Between 2000, 2005 and 2010 (N=4,561)

Internet Use Characteristics	2000 (n=1501) %	2005 (n=1500) %	2010 (n=1560) %	*p* value
Location(s) youth spent time on the Internet in past year [a]				
Home	74	91	97	<.001
School	73	90	89	<.001
Friend's home [b]	69	69	70	.71
Cellular telephone	–	17	47	<.001
Other place (includes library)	5	43	38	<.001
Last time youth used Internet				
Past week	76	86	94	<.001
Past 2 weeks	11	6	3	
Past month or longer	13	8	3	
Number of hours youth spent on Internet on a typical day when online				
1 hour or less	61	45	38	<.001
More than 1 hour to 2 hours	26	31	31	
More than 2 hours	13	23	32	
Number of days youth went on Internet in a typical week [c]				
1 day or less	18	8	4	<.001
2 to 4 days	47	42	27	
5 to 7 days	36	49	69	
How youth used Internet				
Went to chat rooms [d]	56	30	48	<.001
Social networking sites	---	---	80	---
Who youth talked to online [e]				
People youth knew in person offline	81	87	93	<.001
People youth knew only online	46	43	40	.004

[a] Multiple responses possible.
[b] In *YISS-1* we asked if youth used the Internet in "other households," which included friends' homes. In *YISS-2 and YISS-3*, we specifically asked all youth if they used the Internet at friends' homes.
[c] Based on youth who used the Internet in the past week or past 2 weeks (n=1284 for YISS-1; n=1264 for YISS-2; n=1491 for YISS-3).
[d] In YISS-1 and YISS-2 we asked one general question about using chat rooms, in YISS-3 we asked youth whether they used video chat (ChatRoulette, Omegle, Skype) and chat rooms that do not include video separately. For the purposes of these analyses these two separate categories were combined.
[e] Answers not mutually exclusive.
Note: Some categories do not add to 100% because of rounding and/or missing data.

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Table 3
Characteristics of Youth Experiencing Unwanted Sexual Solicitation between 2000, 2005 and 2010

Youth and Household Characteristics	2000 (n=286) %	2005 (n=200) %	2010 (n=134) %	*P* value
Youth sex				
Male	34	31	25	.15
Female	66	69	75	
Youth age				
10-12 years	12	9	5	.004
13-15 years	53	47	41	
16-17 years	35	44	54	
Youth race/ethnicity				
White	72	65	62	.26
Black	10	16	15	
Hispanic	9	11	14	
Other	6	6	8	
Missing	2	2	1	
Household income				
Less than $20K	7	11	13	<.001
$20K to $50K	39	34	21	
$51K to $75K	25	25	13	
More than $75K	23	23	41	
Missing	5	8	12	

Note: Some categories do not add to 100% because of rounding and/or missing data.

Table 4
Online Sexual Solicitation Incident Characteristics and Outcomes between 2000, 2005 and 2010

Incident characteristics	2000 (n=286) %	2005 (n=200) %	2010 (n=134) %	*P* value
Gender of solicitor				
Male	67	69	72	.81
Female	19	17	16	
Don't know	14	15	12	
Age of solicitor				
Under 18	48	43	43	.15
18 to 25 years	20	27	24	
Older than 25	4	7	7	
Don't know	28	21	27	
Relation to solicitor				
Met online	97	83	68	<.001
Knew in person prior	3	14	32	
Don't know	< 1	3	0	
Number of people who did this				
One	64	59	76	.05
2-3	16	19	12	
4 or more	15	15	7	
Don't know	5	7	5	
Where on the Internet this first happened				
Using an email account	2	3	4	<.001
Chat room	64	36	16	
Instant messaging	24	40	5	
Social networking	0	0	58	
Texting	0	0	6	
Other	7	17	10	
Don't know	3	4	1	
Soliciting behaviors occurred more than one time during year	67	70	52	.003
INCIDENT OUTCOMES				
Incident was disclosed to someone [a]	39	43	53	.03
Friend	26	25	37	.05
Sibling	2	3	5	.47
Parent/guardian	25	11	19	.001
School staff	1	2	1	.69
Incident ever reported to or found about by ISP, Cyber Tipline, or police	9	5	6	.19
How situation ended [a]				
Removed self from situation (blocked solicitor, left site or computer)	62	65	49	.006
Told solicitor to stop	13	16	22	.09
Changed screen name, profile, e-mail address, or phone number	4	5	2	.45
Called police	1	1	1	.93

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Incident characteristics	2000 (n=286) %	2005 (n=200) %	2010 (n=134) %	*P* value
Stopped without youth doing anything	4	3	7	.23
Situation still happening	1	0	0	.31
Other	20	20	25	.37
Any distress: very/extremely upset or afraid	25	33	28	.13
Upset	20	29	22	.08
Afraid	13	20	16	.14
Very/extremely embarrassed	17	21	20	.53

[a] Multiple responses possible

Note: Some categories do not add to 100% because of rounding and/or missing data.

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Table 5
Characteristics of Youth Reporting an Unwanted Sexual Solicitation in 2010

Youth Characteristics	All Incidents (n=134) 13% of Youth %	Aggressive Incidents (n=47) 4% of Youth %	Distressing Incidents (n=37) 4% of Youth %
Age of youth			
10	0	0	0
11	1	2	3
12	5	4	8
13	13	13	27
14	15	15	22
15	13	19	3
16	29	28	19
17	25	19	19
Gender of youth			
Girl	75	81	84
Boy	25	19	16

Table 6
Solicitor Characteristics in Unwanted Sexual Solicitation Episodes in 2010

Incident Characteristics	All (n=143) %	Aggressive (n=49) %	Distressing (n=39) %
Gender of solicitor			
Male	72	79	74
Female	15	16	10
Don't know	13	4	15
Age of solicitor			
Younger than 18 years	42	59	36
18 to 25 years	23	27	23
Older than 25 years	7	4	8
Don't know	27 (39)	10 (5)	33 (13)
Thought person was 18 or older [a]	15 (21)	6 (3)	23 (9)
Youth was very or extremely certain of solicitor's age [b]	55	72	50
Relation to solicitor			
Met online	67	45	77
Knew in person before solicitation	32 (n=46)	53 (n=26)	23 (n=9)
Friend/acquaintance from school	87	100	100
Friend/acquaintance from somewhere else	7	0	0
Romantic partner (or –ex)	2	0	0
Family member under 18 years old	0	0	0
Adult family member	2	0	0
Other / don't know	4	(1)	0
Number of people who did this			
One	74	71	72
2 – 3	13	16	8
4 – 6	5	0	10
7 – 10	0	0	0
11 or more	2	0	3
Don't know	5	2	5
Happened series of times (same person/people did this more than once)	24	39	26

[a] Asked of the 39 who did not know the specific age of the solicitor (all incidents), n=13 for distressing incidents, n=5 for aggressive incidents.
[b] Only youth who gave the solicitor's actual age were asked this question (n=104 for all incidents, n=43 for aggressive incidents, and n=26 for distressing incidents).
Note: Some categories do not add to 100% because of rounding and/or missing data.

Table 7
Length and Location of Unwanted Sexual Solicitations in 2010

Incident Characteristics	All (n=143) %	Aggressive (n=49) %	Distressing (n=39) %
Number of times happened in past year			
One time	45	33	51
2 times	22	22	13
3 to 5 times	19	31	28
6 or more times	12	12	8
Don't know / not ascertainable	1	0	0
Length of time incident went on for			
One day	59	39	46
2 – 6 days	20	24	28
7 – 13 days	5	8	8
14 – 29 days	3	6	5
One month or longer	10	16	13
Don't know / not ascertainable	3	4	3
Type of technology using the most to access Internet when this happened			
Desktop computer	46	49	51
Laptop computer	33	29	31
Cell phone	13	20	10
Video game console	1	0	0
Portable gaming device	1	0	5
Other	3	0	3
Don't know / not ascertainable	1	0	0
Location incident usually happened			
Home	88	90	90
School	1	2	0
Public library	2	0	5
Friend's home	7	6	5
Public place (e.g., mall)	0	0	0
On the way to or from school	0	0	0
Some other place	1	0	0
Don't know / not ascertainable	1	0	0
Where on Internet this (first) happened			
Social networking site (sns)	56	57	56
Online journal or blog (not part of sns)	0	0	0
Using an email account	3	4	3
Cell phone	3	0	0
Online dating or romance site	0	0	0
Online video chat room	11	10	10
Chat room with no video component	5	0	8
Using instant messages	6	10	10
In game room or other game site	6	4	8
Online forum or message board	1	0	0
Using downloads from file sharing programs	0	0	0
Happened through text messaging	6	12	3
On a website/search	1	0	0
Some other place	3	0	3
Don't know / not ascertainable	1	0	0

Note: Some categories do not add to 100% because of rounding and/or missing data.

Table 8
Aggravating Features of Unwanted Sexual Solicitations in 2010

Incident Characteristics	All (n=143) %	Aggressive (n=49) %	Distressing (n=39) %
Forms of offline contact [a]			
Asked to meet somewhere	22	67	21
Sent offline mail	1	0	3
Called on telephone (including cell phone)	22	65	33
Went to home	5	16	5
Gave money, gifts, or other similar things	2	6	3
Bought plane, train, or bus ticket	1	2	0
Any of the above	***34***	***100***	***43***
Gave solicitor cell phone number	27	45	28
Not applicable (no cell phone)	15	14	15
Solicitor sent picture of self	20	39	31
Picture was sexual	12	24	15
Solicitor requested picture of youth	59	77	72
Wanted a sexual picture	45	65	54
Youth sent a sexual picture	2	8	0
Youth met solicitor in person	3	4	3
Sexual contact at meeting	1	2	0

[a] Multiple responses possible.
Note: Some categories do not add to 100% because of rounding and/or missing data.

Table 9
Ending the Situation and Disclosure of Unwanted Sexual Solicitations in 2010

Incident Characteristics	All (n=143) %	Aggressive (n=49) %	Distressing (n=39) %
How situation ended [a]			
Removed self from situation (blocking or leaving site or computer)	50	24	43
Told solicitor to stop/confronted or warned solicitor	24	29	23
Changed screen name, profile, e-mail address, or telephone number	3	8	5
Parent/guardian or teacher handled situation	2	4	0
Still happening	1	2	0
Stopped without youth doing anything	6	4	0
Called law enforcement or other authorities	1	2	3
Other (not specified)	19	29	26
Don't Know	1	0	0
Incident disclosed [a]	53 (n=76)	69 (n=34)	61 (n=24)
Friend	68	63	31
Brother or sister	4	4	8
Parent/guardian	19	20	33
Other adult relative	2	2	0
Teacher, counselor, or other school personnel	1	4	3
Law enforcement or other authority, ISP	1	2	3
Someone Else	3	4	8
Ever known to or disclosed to ISP or police	6	4	15
Of youth who did not tell anyone, why didn't youth tell	46 (n=66)	29 (n=14)	38 (n=15)
Not serious enough	57	50	33
Too scared	3	7	13
Too embarrassing	9	14	20
Thought might lose Internet access	1	0	0
Happens all the time	3	0	0
Something else (not specified)	24	21	40
Don't know / not ascertainable	3	7	0
Blocking and filtering software			
Software on computer to block pop-up ads or SPAM email when this happened [a]	51	48	54
Other software on computer to filter, block or monitor how you use the Internet when this happened [b]	26	23	37
After this happened, family installed any kind of software to keep this from happening again [b]	18	18	40

[a] Multiple responses possible.
[b] Only asked of youth with Internet at home (n=126 for all incidents, n=44 for aggressive incidents, and n=35 for distressing incidents).
Note: Some categories do not add to 100% because of rounding and/or missing data.

Table 10
Distress Related to Unwanted Sexual Solicitations in 2010

Incident Characteristics	All (n=143) %	Aggressive (n=49) %	Distressing (n=39) %
Distress: Very/extremely [a]			
Upset	22	33	79
Afraid	15	16	56
Embarrassed	20	33	54
Youth With no/low levels of being upset or afraid	**72 (103)**	**63 (31)**	**0**
Stress symptoms (more than a little/all the time) [b]			
At least one of the following [a]	**25**	**37**	**64**
Staying away from Internet or particular part of it	16	22	46
Being unable to stop thinking about it	14	27	36
Feeling jumpy or irritable	10	12	31
Losing interest in things	5	8	15

[a] Multiple responses possible.
[b] These items are based on standard research measures of stress responses used to assess post-traumatic stress disorder. The items measure avoidance behaviors, intrusive thoughts, and physical symptoms. Youth were asked these questions if they said they scored a 3, 4 or 5 (on a scale of 1 (not at all) to 5 (extremely)) about being upset, afraid, or embarrassed about the solicitation.
Note: Some categories do not add to 100% because of rounding and/or missing data.

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Table 11
Characteristics of Youth Experiencing Online Harassment between 2000, 2005 and 2010

Youth and Household Characteristics	2000 (n=95) %	2005 (n=130) %	2010 (n=176) %	*p* value
Youth sex				
Male	52	42	31	.004
Female	48	58	69	
Youth age				
10-12 years	19	12	11	.45
13-15 years	49	51	50	
16-17 years	32	37	39	
Youth race/ethnicity				
White	74	81	66	.05
Black	7	6	14	
Hispanic	13	7	9	
Other	2	5	8	
Missing	4	1	3	
Household income				
Less than $20K	6	5	12	.001
$20K to $50K	42	27	23	
$51K to $75K	22	31	18	
More than $75K	26	30	37	
Missing	3	6	11	

Note: Some categories do not add to 100% because of rounding and/or missing data.

Table 12
Online Harassment Incident Characteristics and Outcomes between 2000, 2005 and 2010

Incident Characteristics	2000 (n=95) %	2005 (n=130) %	2010 (n=176) %	*p* value
Gender of harasser				
Male	54	51	43	<.001
Female	20	29	48	
Don't know	26	21	9	
Age of harasser				
Under 18	63	59	71	.21
18 to 25 years	13	21	12	
Older than 25	1	2	2	
Don't know	23	19	16	
Relation to harasser				
Met online	71	55	31	<.001
School friend/acquaintance	23	36	58	
Other offline acquaintance	5	7	8	
Don't know	1	2	3	
Number of people who did this				
One	78	73	72	.91
2-3	14	19	19	
4 or more	6	5	5	
Don't know	2	3	4	
Where on the Internet this first happened				
Using an email account	19	13	2	<.001
Chat room	32	11	4	
Instant messaging	34	47	2	
Social networking	0	0	82	
Texting	0	0	3	
Other	14	26	5	
Don't know	2	2	3	
Harassing behaviors occurred more than one time	31	41	40	.19
INCIDENT OUTCOMES				
Incident was disclosed to someone [a]	64	69	75	.18
Friend	34	40	37	.62
Sibling	3	5	7	.45
Parent/guardian	51	31	40	.02
School staff	6	2	12	.006
Other	5	8	8	.69
How situation ended [a]				
Removed self from situation (blocked harasser, left site or computer)	47	49	23	<.001
Told harasser to stop	12	17	13	.47
Changed screen name, profile, e-mail address, or phone number	0	3	1	.15
Stopped without youth doing anything	9	5	14	.03
Situation still happening	3	1	5	.16
Other	27	31	41	.04
Incident ever reported to ISP, Cyber Tipline, or police	21	9	13	.04

[a] Multiple responses possible

Note: Some categories do not add to 100% because of rounding and/or missing data.

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Table 13
Characteristics of Youth Reporting an Online Harassment in 2010

Youth Characteristics	All Incidents (n=176) 11% of Youth %	Distressing Incidents (n=78) 5% of Youth %
Age of youth		
10	3	3
11	3	4
12	5	4
13	15	18
14	20	18
15	15	11
16	23	27
17	16	15
Gender of youth		
Girl	69	79
Boy	31	21

Table 14
Harasser Characteristics in 2010

Incident Characteristics	All (n=176) %	Distressing (n=78) %
Gender of harasser		
Male	43	38
Female	48	55
Don't know	9	6
Age of harasser		
Younger than 18 years	70	74
18 to 25 years	12	11
Older than 25 years	2	4
Don't Know	16 (28)	10 (8)
Thought person was 18 or older [a]	4	9
Youth was very or extremely certain of harasser's age [b]	76	79
Relation to harasser		
Met online	31	32
Knew in person before harassment	66 (n=116)	67 (n=52)
Friend/acquaintance from school	88	87
Friend/acquaintance from somewhere else	3	2
Romantic partner (or –ex)	5	6
Family member under 18 years old	1	2
Neighbor	1	2
Someone else	2	2
Don't know / not ascertainable	3	1
Number of people who did this	40	49
One	72	64
2 – 3	19	22
4 – 6	5	8
7 – 10	1	1
11 or more	0	0
Don't know	4	4
Happened series of times (same person/people did this more than once)	40	49

[a] Asked of the 28 who did not know the specific age of the harasser.
[b] Only youth who gave the harasser's actual age were asked this question (n=148 for all incidents and n=70 for distressing incidents).
Note: Some categories do not add to 100% because of rounding and/or missing data.

Table 15
Length and Location of Harassment in 2010

Incident Characteristics	All (n=176) %	Distressing (n=78) %
Number of times happened in past year		
One time	51	38
2 times	23	23
3 to 5 times	19	27
6 or more times	5	9
Don't know / not ascertainable	1	3
Length of time incident went on for		
One day	36	27
2 – 6 days	25	21
7 – 13 days	13	14
14 – 29 days	6	9
One month or longer	19	27
Don't know / not ascertainable	2	3
Type of technology using the most to access Internet when this happened		
Desktop computer	48	49
Laptop computer	33	32
Cell phone	13	15
Video game console	1	0
Portable gaming device	0	0
Other	3	4
Don't know / not ascertainable	2	0
Location incident usually happened		
Home	80	82
School	8	8
Public library	2	3
Friend's home	5	3
Public place (e.g., mall)	0	0
On the way to or from school	1	0
Some other place	3	5
Don't know / not ascertainable	2	0
Where on Internet this (first) happened		
Social networking site (sns)	82	85
Online journal or blog (not part of sns)	1	0
Using an email account	2	3
Online video chat room	1	1
Chat room with no video component	3	4
Using instant messages	2	1
In game room or other game site	2	0
Happened through text messaging	3	3
Some other place	2	3
Don't know / not ascertainable	3	1

Note: Some categories do not add to 100% because of rounding and/or missing data.

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Table 16
Type of Harassment in 2010

Incident Characteristics	All (n=176) %	Distressing (n=78) %
Did the person who did this ever….		
Call you mean names	65	74
Exclude you because they were trying to make you upset	50	64
Spread rumors about you, whether they were true or not	49	67
Make fun of you or tease you in a nasty way	44	51
Share with others something that was meant to be private (something you wrote or a picture of you)	23	38
Send a picture or video to other people that showed you being hurt or embarrassed	6	10
Harasser had more power or strength than you (e.g., bigger, more friends, more popular, or more power in some other way)	41	53

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Table 17
Aggravating Features of Online Harassment in 2010

Incident Characteristics	All (n=176) %	Distressing (n=78) %
Forms of offline contact [a]		
Asked to meet somewhere	24	32
Sent offline mail	1	1
Called on telephone (including cell phone)	30	43
Went to home	13	15
Gave money, gifts, or other similar things	6	6
Bought plane, train, or bus ticket	1	0
Any of the above	***41***	***56***
Harasser sent picture of self	14	22
Harasser requested picture of youth	15	19

[a] Multiple responses possible.
Note: Some categories do not add to 100% because of rounding and/or missing data.

Table 18
Ending the Situation and Disclosure of Online Harassment in 2010

Incident Characteristics	All (n=176) %	Distressing (n=78) %
How situation ended [a]		
Removed self from situation (blocking or leaving site or computer)	23	21
Told harasser to stop/confronted or warned harasser	15	13
Changed screen name, profile, e-mail address, or telephone number	1	3
Parent/guardian or teacher handled situation	5	5
Apologized, made-up, smoothed over	0	0
Ignored harasser or it, stopped talking to harasser	0	0
Still happening	5	6
Stopped without youth doing anything	14	8
Called law enforcement or other authorities	3	5
Other	37	45
Don't know	3	0
Incident disclosed [a]	74 (n=130)	87 (n=68)
Friend	50	49
Brother or sister	9	13
Parent/guardian	55	63
Other adult relative	7	6
Teacher, counselor, or other school personnel	18	26
Law enforcement or other authority, ISP	5	6
Someone else	5	6
No one / not ascertainable	34	15
Ever known to or disclosed to ISP or police	**13**	**19**
Of youth who did not tell anyone, why didn't youth tell	**25% (n=44)**	**13 (n=10)**
Not serious enough	41	10
Too scared	5	20
Too embarrassing	9	10
Thought might lose Internet access	2	0
Happens all the time	5	0
Something else (not specified)	25	50
Don't know	14	10
Someone else online with you when incident happened (someone who could see or read what happened)	40 (n=70)	41 (n=32)
Someone did something to help stop it	19	19
Someone did something to make situation worse	10	16
Don't know	1	0
Blocking and filtering Software		
Software on computer to block pop-up ads or SPAM email when this happened [a]	59	62
Other software on computer to filter, block or monitor how you use the Internet when this happened [b]	35	35
After this happened, family installed any kind of software to keep this from happening again [b]	21	27

Note: Some categories do not add to 100% because of rounding and/or missing data.
[a] Multiple responses possible.
[b] Only asked of youth with Internet access at home (n = 144 for all incidents, n = 63 for distressing incidents).

Table 19
Distress Related to Online Harassment in 2010

Incident Characteristics	All (n=176) %	Distressing (n=78) %
Distress: Very/extremely [a]		
Upset	39	88
Afraid	19	43
Embarrassed	28	43
Youth With no/low levels of being upset or afraid	***53***	***0***
Stress symptoms (more than a little/all the time) [b]		
At least one of the following [a]	**37**	**69**
Staying Away From Internet or Particular Part of It	18	36
Being Unable to Stop Thinking About It	22	46
Feeling Jumpy or Irritable	16	36
Losing Interest in Things	10	19

[a] Multiple responses possible.
[b] These items are based on standard research measures of stress responses used to assess post-traumatic stress disorder. The items measure avoidance behaviors, intrusive thoughts, and physical symptoms.
Note: Some categories do not add to 100% because of rounding and/or missing data.

Table 20
Characteristics of Youth Experiencing Unwanted Exposure to Sexual Material between 2000, 2005 and 2010

Youth and Household Characteristics	2000 (n=376) %	2005 (n=512) %	2010 (n=361) %	*p* value
Youth sex				
Male	58	54	51	.34
Female	42	46	49	
Youth age				
10-12 years	8	13	14	.01
13-15 years	53	44	45	
16-17 years	39	43	42	
Youth race/ethnicity				
White	74	74	67	.28
Black	10	9	13	
Hispanic	9	11	11	
Other	6	5	7	
Missing	2	2	1	
Household income				
Less than $20K	6	6	11	<.001
$20K to $50K	35	24	17	
$51K to $75K	25	24	17	
More than $75K	29	37	44	
Missing	6	10	12	

Note: Some categories do not add to 100% because of rounding and/or missing data.

Table 21
Unwanted Exposure to Sexual Material Incident Characteristics and Outcomes between 2000, 2005 and 2010

Incident characteristics	2000 (n=376) %	2005 (n=512) %	2010 (n=361) %	*p* value
Type of material youth saw				
Pictures of naked people	95	85	65	<.001
Pictures of people having sex	32	36	24	.001
Pictures that were violent	8	13	8	.03
Pictures that involved animals or other strange things	0	9	5	<.001
How youth was exposed				
Surfing the web	73	87	71	<.001
Opening e-mail or IM or clicking on link in e-mail or IM	27	18	33	<.001
Youth could tell material was X-rated before entering	17	21	15	.04
Exposure occurred more than one time	67	73	50	<.001
INCIDENT OUTCOMES				
Incident was disclosed to someone [a]	44	47	40	.21
Friend	26	15	16	<.001
Sibling	4	2	1	.03
Parent/guardian	39	27	24	<.001
School staff	3	3	1	.07
Other				
Incident ever reported to ISP, Cyber Tipline, or police (or found out other some other way)	4	2	<1	.004
How situation ended [a, b]				
Removed self from situation (blocked sender, left site or computer)	---	90	77	<.001
Any distress: very/extremely upset				
Upset	24	27	22	.28
Very/extremely embarrassed	21	27	26	.11

[a] Multiple responses possible
[b] Not asked in 2000
Note: Some categories do not add to 100% because of rounding and/or missing data.

Mitchell et al. (2014). Trends in unwanted online experiences and sexting: Final report. Crimes against Children Research Center, University of New Hampshire: Durham, NH.

Table 22
Characteristics of Youth Reporting Unwanted Exposure to Sexual Material in 2010

Youth Characteristics	All Incidents (n=361) 23% of Youth %	Distressing Incidents (n=79) 5% of Youth %
Age of youth		
10	3	6
11	4	9
12	7	10
13	12	15
14	18	24
15	15	5
16	21	11
17	21	19
Gender of youth		
Girl	49	51
Boy	51	49

Table 23
Type, Length and Location of Unwanted Exposure in 2010

Incident Characteristics	All (n=376) %	Distressing (n=82) %
Number of times happened in past year		
One time	44	50
2 times	26	21
3 to 5 times	16	16
6 or more times	8	6
Don't know / not ascertainable	6	7
Type of technology using the most to access Internet when this happened		
Desktop computer	59	63
Laptop computer	33	29
Cell phone	1	1
Video game console	1	0
Portable gaming device	0	0
Other	1	2
Don't know / not ascertainable	5	4
Location incident usually happened		
Home	81	80
School	5	2
Public library	1	1
Friend's home	6	10
Public place (e.g., mall)	0	0
On the way to or from school	0	0
Some other place	1	2
Don't know / not ascertainable	5	4
Type of material youth saw		
Pictures of naked people	66	61
Pictures of people having sex	24	21
Pictures that were violent	8	13
Pictures that involved animals or other strange things	5	4
How youth was exposed		
Surfing the web	68	74
Opening e-mail or IM or clicking on link in e-mail or IM	32	26
Youth could tell material was X-rated before entering	15	13

Note: Some categories do not add to 100% because of rounding and/or missing data.

Table 24
Surfing Exposure in 2010

Incident Characteristics	All (n=256) %	Distressing (n=61) %
Where on Internet this (first) happened		
Social networking site	13	5
In a video chat room	1	0
Doing an online search	39	46
Using instant messages	1	0
On a website	3	3
Downloading something from a file sharing program	1	0
YouTube	4	3
Doing school research	12	18
Somewhere else	2	0
Don't know / not ascertainable	25	25
How web site came up		
Link came up as a result of search	38	33
Misspelled web address	16	20
Clicked on link when in other site	14	13
Pop-up	8	7
Other	5	3
Don't know / not ascertainable	19	25
Youth has gone back to web site	3	5

Mitchell et al. (2014). Trends in unwanted online experiences and sexting: Final report. Crimes against Children Research Center, University of New Hampshire: Durham, NH.

Table 25
Email and Instant Message Exposure in 2010

Incident Characteristics	All (n=120) %	Distressing (n=21) %
Youth received e-mail or IM at a personal address	55	48
Sender known	17 (n=21)	14 (n=3)
Sender sex		
Male	62	100
Female	38	0
Sender age		
Younger than 18 years	86	100
18 to 25 years	14	0
Older than 25 years	0	0

Table 26
Ending the Situation and Disclosure of Unwanted Exposure in 2010

Incident Characteristics (Surfing and E-Mail/IM)	All (n=376) %	Distressing (n=82) %
How situation ended [a]		
Removed self from situation (blocking or leaving site or computer)	78	83
Told sender to stop/confronted or warned sender	1	0
Changed screen name, profile, or e-mail address	2	0
Stopped without youth doing anything	1	0
Called law enforcement or other authorities, ISP	1	1
Parent/guardian or teacher handled situation	1	2
Still happening	< 1	0
Other (not specified)	15	15
Don't know / not ascertainable	3	0
Incident known or disclosed to [a]	40 (n=152)	49 (n=40)
Friend	41	27
Brother or sister	3	5
Parent/guardian	59	73
Other adult relative	6	10
Teacher, counselor, or other school personnel	1	3
Law enforcement or other authority, ISP	0	0
Someone else (not specified)	4	7
Ever known to or disclosed to ISP or police	**< 1**	**0**
Of youth who did not tell anyone, why didn't youth tell	55 (n=209)	50 (n=41)
Not serious enough	63	46
Too scared	2	5
Too embarrassing	12	32
Thought might get in trouble	5	10
Thought might lose Internet access	1	0
Happens all the time	2	0
Other (not specified)	14	15
Don't know / not ascertainable	3	0
Blocking and filtering Software		
Software on computer to block pop-up ads or SPAM email when this happened [b]	47	46
Other software on computer to filter, block or monitor how you use the Internet when this happened [b]	26	26
After this happened, family installed any kind of software to keep this from happening again [b]	33	39

[a] Multiple responses possible.
[b] Only asked of youth with Internet at home (n=306 for all incidents, n=66 for distressing incidents).
Note: Some categories do not add to 100% because of rounding and/or missing data.

Mitchell et al. (2014). Trends in unwanted online experiences and sexting: Final report. Crimes against Children Research Center, University of New Hampshire: Durham, NH.

Table 27
Distress Related to Unwanted Exposure in 2010

Incident Characteristics (Surfing and E-Mail/IM)	All (n=376) %	Distressing (n=82) %
Distress: Very/extremely		
Upset	22	100
Embarrassed	25	69
Youth with no/low levels of being upset or afraid	***75***	***0***
Stress symptoms (more than a little/all the time) [a]		
At least one of the following [b]	***16***	***46***
Staying away from Internet or particular part of it	6	18
Being unable to stop thinking about it	9	27
Feeling jumpy or irritable	6	18
Losing interest in things	3	10

[a] These items are based on standard research measures of stress responses used to assess post-traumatic stress disorder. The items measure avoidance behaviors, intrusive thoughts, and physical symptoms.
[b] Multiple responses possible.
Note: Some categories do not add to 100% because of rounding and/or missing data.

Table 28
Youth and Incident Characteristics Based on Type of Sexting Involvement in 2010

	Respondent appeared in or created image (n=39) %	Respondent received image (n=110) %	X^2
YOUTH CHARACTERISTICS			
Age of youth			
10	3	0	13.6*
11	3	0	
12	0	0	
13	10	11	
14	0	15	
15	13	19	
16	31	27	
17	41	28	
Mean age (SD) [a]	15.7 (1.7)	15.5 (1.3)	0.7
Gender of youth			
Girl	61	56	0.3
Boy	39	44	
INCIDENT CHARACTERISTICS			
Nature of the incident			
Youth saw nude or nearly nude pictures/videos of other kids who were under the age of 18 that someone else took	0	100	
Youth took nude or nearly nude pictures or videos of self	72	0	
Someone else took nude or nearly nude pictures/videos of youth	13	0	
Youth took nude or nearly nude pictures/videos of other kids who were under the age of 18	15	0	
Youth distributed the sexual images	10	3	3.6
No. times happened in past year			
Once	41	39	1.7
Twice	23	33	
3 to 5 times	26	22	
6 or more times	10	6	
Technology used			
Social networking site	5	8	0.4
Text messaging	44	56	1.9
Cell phone camera/cell phone	21	26	0.5
Instant messaging	10	6	0.6
Digital/video camera	21	2	16.1***
Disclosed to authority	28	28	0.0
Distress: Very/extremely			
Upset	15	22	0.7
Embarrassed	21	12	1.8

Mitchell et al. (2014). Trends in unwanted online experiences and sexting: Final report. Crimes against Children Research Center, University of New Hampshire: Durham, NH.

	Respondent appeared in or created image (n=39) %	Respondent received image (n=110) %	X^2
Afraid	13	4	4.3*
Any of the above	***21***	***25***	***0.4***
Why thought it happened			
Romance as part of existing relationship	51	54	7.7
Bullying/harassment	0	1	
Prank/joke	23	11	
Blackmail, coercion, threats	3	2	
Conflict or revenge (not related to romance or bullying)	0	1	
Trying to start relationship	5	11	
Get someone to notice you	3	7	
Some other reason	13	7	
Don't know	3	6	
Person responsible			
Youth respondent	87	0	124.8***
Someone met online	3	18	
Boy- or girlfriend (or ex-)	3	6	
Friend or acquaintance from school	5	61	
Friend or acquaintance from someplace else	3	9	
Someone I wanted to hook up with	0	0	
Neighbor	0	1	
Knew some other way or not sure	0	5	
Gender of this person			
Male	39	56	3.7*
Female	61	44	
Age of this person			
Younger than 18 years	97	92	1.5
18 or older	3	8	

[a] F statistic

* $p \leq .05$; *** $p \leq .001$.

Table 29
Characteristics of Nude or Nearly Nude Images or Videos of Minors in 2010

Incident Characteristics	Respondent appeared in or created image (n=39) %	Respondent received image (n=110) %	X^2
Pictures showed breasts, genitals, or someone's bottom			
Yes	54	84	13.9***
Naked breasts	31	63	11.9***
Genitals	36	56	4.8*
Someone mooning camera	10	15	0.6
Someone's bottom (not mooning)	21	28	0.9
Someone completely nude	26	53	8.5**
Sexual intercourse	0	5	2.2
Masturbation	10	13	0.2
Some other sexual contact	0	9	3.8*
No or don't know / not ascertainable	46	16	
Kids wearing underwear	31	10	9.5**
Kids wearing bathing suits	18	8	2.9
Focused on private parts but clothed	10	5	1.1
Sexy poses with clothes on	23	9	5.1*
Number children in images			
One	82	90	3.5
Two	13	5	
3 to 5	0	2	
6 or more	5	3	
Adult (18+) was in images	8	5	0.3
Aggravating features			
Kids under influence of alcohol or drugs	13	8	0.7
Violence	3	1	0.6
Trickery or deception	3	3	0.003
Without person's knowledge	8	7	0.007
Against will	5	1	2.6
Money exchanged	3	0	2.8
Other promises or gifts	10	3	3.6
Any of the above	***31***	***15***	***4.3****

* $p \leq .05$; ** $p \leq .01$; *** $p \leq .001$.