Digital Abuse Statistics

» 3 out of 4 (74%) young people have a home Internet connection.

» Nearly one-third (31%) have a computer in their bedroom, and 1 out of 5 (20%) have an Internet connection there.

» 21% of children in grades K - 2 have access to a cell phone.[1]

» In a typical day, 48% of youth go online from home, 20% from school, and 16% from someplace else.[2]

» 42% of Internet users aged 10 to 17 surveyed said they had seen online pornography in a recent 12-month span. Of those, 66% said they did not want to view the images and had not sought them out.[3]

» 9 out of 10 children between ages 8 and 16 have viewed pornography on the Internet. In most cases, the sex sites were accessed unintentionally when a child, often in the process of doing homework, used a seemingly innocent sounding word to search for information or pictures.

» More than three-quarters of the unwanted exposures (79%) happened at home, 9% happened at school, 5% happened at friends' homes, and 5% happened in other places including libraries.[4]

» 13% of students in grades 2 - 3 report they used the Internet to talk to people they do not know, 11% report having been asked to describe private things about their body, and 10% have been exposed to private things about someone else's body.[5]

» About 1 in 5 (19%) teens have engaged in some kind of sexting; of those, 9% sent a sext, 17% received a sext, and 3% forwarded a sext.

» 53% of teens who sext are girls and 47% are boys.[5]

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[1]*http://www.guardchild.com/statistics*

[2]*Generation M: Media in the Lives of 8-18 Year-Olds. Victoria Rideout, Donald F. Roberts. Ulla G. Foehr. March 2005. The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. 17 November 2006, http://www.kff.org/entmedia/up...f-8-18-Year-olds-Report.pdf).*

[3]*Wolak, Janis, et al. "Unwanted and Wanted Exposure to Online Pornography in a National Sample of Youth Internet Users." Pediatrics 119 (2007); 247-257. In the survey, most kids who reported unwanted exposure were aged 13 to 17. Still, sizable numbers of 10- and 11-year-olds also had unwanted exposure – 17% of boys and 16% of girls that age. The survey had a margin of error of + or - 2.5% points. The results were from a telephone survey of 1,500 Internet users aged 10 to 17 conducted in 2005, with their parents' consent.*

[4]*Online Victimization of Youth: Five Years Later. 2006. National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, Crimes Against Children Research Center, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. December 4, 2006. http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV138.pdf).*

[5]*Enough is Enough: http://www.enough.org/inside.php?id=3K03RC4L00*

Digital Safety Tips

» Start early teaching your child about digital safey. Prevention is the key to safety in this digital culture kids are growing up in.

» Keep all computers, games, and other digital devices in a common area in the house.

» Establish rules/guidelines for your child regarding the length of time they are allowed on the computer and other digital devices, and regarding the use of age-appropriate, approved websites and apps.

» Learn more about the sites/apps your child is using, and read the terms and conditions before agreeing to their use.

» Complete a digital safety agreement with your child and post it near the computer. Visit www.mbfpreventioneducation.org or download our "Child Safety Matters" app at no cost from the App Store or Google Play, for a sample.

» Monitor your child's online accounts and review your child's computer/cell phone/game use and history. Use the opportunities to teach them about potential digital dangers and digital safety.

» Teach your child about good digital citizenship and the importance of establishing a good digital reputation that will follow them into their future.

» Report malicious messages or inappropriate pictures or material your child encounters online to your child's school, your Internet Service Provider, or the Cybertipline at 800-843-5678, as appropriate.

» Resist the urge to take your child's computer, phone, or other digital device if they are the victim of cyberbullying or digital abuse. Instead take appropriate actions to report the behavior and teach your child how to block the perpetrator or bully. Take necessary steps to keep them safe.

» Do not use digital shaming as a form of punishment.

» Be a good role model for your child and model good digital behavior and citizenship.

» Learn more about digital dangers and digital safety to become educated and empowered to keep your child safer online and when using digital devices. Visit the following websites or download our app for resources to help you, including:

    » www.mbfpreventioneducation.org

    » www.PublicandPermanent.com

    » www.internetsafety101.org/agebasedguidlines.htm

    » Mobile app "Child Safety Matters" available from the App Store or Google Play