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Frequency and implications of exposure to violent web sites on youth mental health and behavior

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* Thank you for your interest in this presentation. Please note that analyses included herein are preliminary. More recent, finalized analyses may be available by contacting CIPHR for further information.

Presenter Disclosures

Michele Ybarra

(1) The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

No relationships to disclose

Growing up with Media Survey

- 1,588 households
- Online Survey
 - Baseline data: August and September, 2006
 - Follow-up: **October – December, 2007** (76% rr)
- Eligibility criteria:
 - Youth:
 - Between the ages of 10-15 years
 - Use the Internet at least once a month for the last 6 months
 - English speaking
 - Adults
 - Member of the Harris Poll OnLine
 - Equally or most knowledgeable about youth's media use
- Funded by the CDC (U49/CE000206)

Definitions

- A “hate” site is one that tells you to hate a group of people because of who they are, how they look, or what they believe.
- A “death” website that shows pictures of dead people or people dying. Some people call these “snuff” sites.
- A website that shows satanic rituals, like devil worship or Satan worship

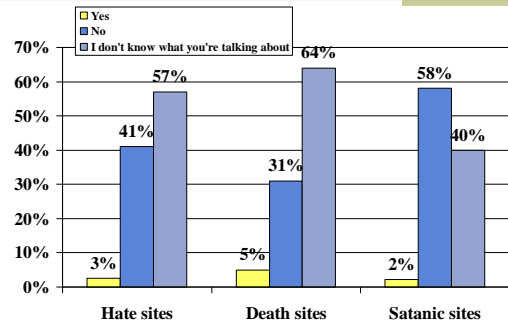
Definitions from Youth Internet Safety Surveys

Definitions

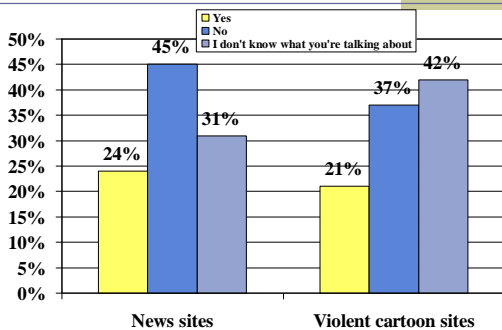
- A website, including news-related sites, that shows pictures of war, death, “terrorism”
- A website (that’s not an online game) that shows cartoons, like stick people or animals, being beat up, hurt, or killed

Definitions specific to GuwM

Frequency of exposure (Wave 1)



Frequency of exposure (Wave 1)



Psychosocial profile of seekers of violent web sites

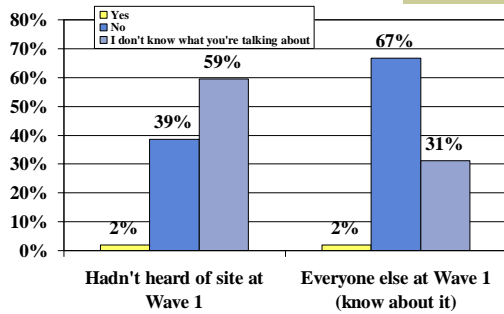
- Violence and aggression
 - Seriously violent behavior: OR = 2.2, p=0.008
 - Frequent physical bullying: OR = 4.6, p<0.001
 - Frequent physical fighting: OR = 6.1, p<0.001
 - Carrying a weapon to school in the past 30 days: OR = 3.4, p=0.02
- Other psychosocial issues
 - Alcohol use: 2.7, p<0.001
 - Marijuana use: 4.2, p<0.001
 - Poor parental monitoring: 1.2, p=0.01
 - Poor emotional bond with caregiver: 1.1, p=0.02

If it's built,
Will they come?

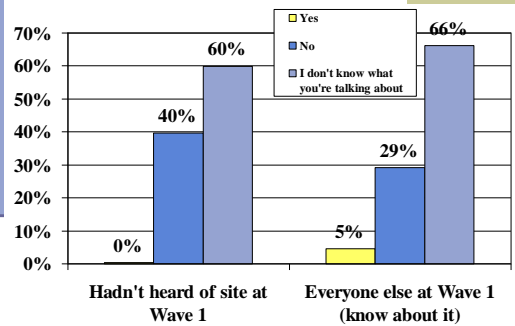
NO

..or at least, not always..

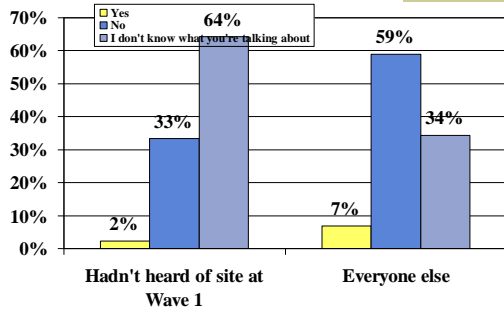
Hate Sites: Frequency of exposure at Wave 2 based upon knowledge of site at Wave 1



Death Sites: Frequency of exposure at Wave 2 based upon knowledge of site at Wave 1



Satanic Sites: Frequency of exposure at Wave 2 based upon knowledge of site at Wave 1



Conclusions

- Exposure to hate, death, and satanic websites is uncommon among 10-15 year olds
 - Accessing these sites may be symptomatic of other psychosocial problems
- Accessing violent websites is associated with elevated odds of concurrently reporting violent and aggressive behavior

Conclusions

- Just *knowing* about a web site is not enough for kids to go to them – even if it's a “new” type of site that some youth might find intriguing
- It seems that there are other factors that influence one's decision to visit these sites
- Figuring out *why* some youth seek out / visit violent web sites whereas others don't seems likely to be a key to prevention efforts.

Thanks for your time

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