National Summit on Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Across the Lifespan: *Forging A Shared Agenda*
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Trends in technology-based sexual and non-sexual aggression over time and linkages to non-technology aggression

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GrowingUp With Media

* 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.

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Acknowledgements

Technology use in the US: Prevalence rates

☐ More than 9 in 10 youth 12-17 use the Internet (Lenhart, Arafeh, Smith, Rankin Macgill, 2008; USC Annenberg School Center for the Digital Future, 2005).

☐ 71% of 12-17 year olds have a cell phone (Lenhart, 4/10/2009) and 46% of 8-12 year olds have a cell phone (Nielson, 9/10/2008)

Technology use in the US: Benefits of technology

☐ Access to health information:

■ About one in four adolescents have used the Internet to look for health information in the last year (Lenhart et al., 2001; Rideout et al., 2001; Ybarra & Suman, 2006).

■ 41% of adolescents indicate having changed their behavior because of information they found online (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2002), and 14% have sought healthcare services as a result (Rideout, 2001).

Technology use in the US:
Benefits of technology

- □ Teaching healthy behaviors (as described by My Thai, Lownestein, Ching, Rejeski, 2009)
  - Physical health: Dance Dance Revolution
  - Healthy behaviors: Sesame Street's Color me Hungry (encourages eating vegetables)
  - Disease Management: Re-Mission (teaches children with cancer about the disease)

Technology use in the US: risks

Behavior and psychosocial problems have been noted concurrently for youth involved in **Internet harassment** and **unwanted sexual solicitation**

- □ Victims:
  - Interpersonal victimization / bullying offline (Ybarra, Mitchell, Espelage, 2007; Ybarra, Mitchell, Wolak, Finkelhor, 2006; Ybarra, 2004)
  - Alcohol use (Ybarra, Mitchell, Espelage, 2007)
  - Social problems (Ybarra, Mitchell, Wolak, Finkelhor, 2006)
  - Depressive symptomatology (Ybarra, 2004; Mitchell, Finkelhor, Wolak, 2000)
  - School behavior problems (Ybarra, Diener-West, Leaf, 2007)
  - Poor caregiver-child relationships (Ybarra, Diener-West, Leaf, 2007)

Technology use in the US: risks

- □ Perpetrators of Internet victimization:
  - Interpersonal victimization and perpetration (bullying) offline (Ybarra, Mitchell, Espelage, 2007; Ybarra & Mitchell, 2007; Ybarra & Mitchell, 2004)
  - Aggression / rule breaking (Ybarra, Mitchell, Espelage, 2007; Ybarra & Mitchell, 2007)
  - Binge drinking (Ybarra, Mitchell, Espelage, 2007)
  - Substance use (Ybarra, Mitchell, Espelage, 2007; Ybarra & Mitchell, 2007)
  - Poor caregiver child relationship (Ybarra, Mitchell, Espelage, 2007; Ybarra & Mitchell, 2004; Ybarra & Mitchell, 2007)
  - Low school commitment (Ybarra & Mitchell, 2004)

Technology use in the US: risks

Strong overlap between harassment and unwanted sexual solicitation (Ybarra, Mitchell, Espelage, 2007)

- No involvement
- Harassment only
- Unwanted sexual solicitation only
- Harassment + unwanted sexual solicitation

14%
2%
21%
63%
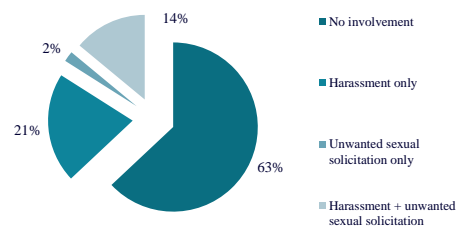
Data not published; average across 2006-2008

Objectives

- Quantify the number of technology-based aggressions reported by young people between 2006-2008

- Describe how technology-based aggression is related to non-technology-based aggression for young people

Growing up with Media survey

- Longitudinal design; Fielded 2006, 2007, 2008
- Data collected online
- National sample (United States)
- Households randomly identified from the 4 million-member Harris Poll OnLine (HPOL)
- Sample selection was stratified based on youth age and sex.
- Data were weighted to match the US population of adults with children between the ages of 10 and 15 years and adjust for the propensity of adult to be online and in the HPOL.

Eligibility criteria

- Youth:
  - Between the ages of 10-15 years
  - Use the Internet at least once in the last 6 months
  - Live in the household at least 50% of the time
  - English speaking
- Adult:
  - Be a member of the Harris Poll Online (HPOL) opt-in panel
  - Be a resident in the USA (HPOL has members internationally)
  - Be the most (or equally) knowledgeable of the youth's media use in the home
  - English speaking

Youth Demographic Characteristics

	2006 (n=1,576)	2007 (n=1189)	2008 (n=1149)
Female	51%	50%	51%
Age (SE)	12.6 (0.05)	13.7 (0.05)	14.5 (0.05)
Hispanic ethnicity	18%	16%	16%
Race: White	71%	72%	72%
Race: Black / African American	14%	13%	14%
Race: Mixed race	9%	9%	9%
Race: Other	6%	6%	6%
Household less than $35,000	26%	24%	25%
Internet use 1 hour+ per day	43%	49%	52%

Objective 1

Quantify the number of technology-based aggressions reported by young people between 2006-2008

Internet harassment

## Working Definition of
Internet harassment

In general, "Internet harassment" is obnoxious behavior directed at someone with the intent to harass or bother them. It:

- Occurs online.
- It can, but does not necessarily include text messaging.
- Can occur once or more often.
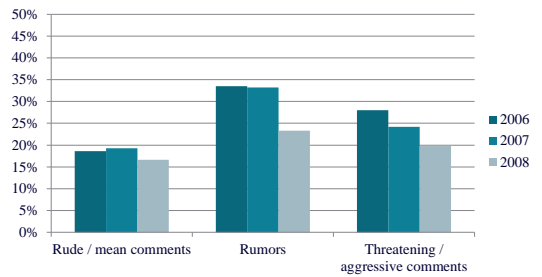- Can occur between people of equal power.

Annual prevalence rates of youth **victims**
of Internet harassment

Type (Monthly or more often)	2006		2007		2008	
ANY	**33%**	*8%*	**34%**	*9%*	**39%**	*9%*
Someone made a rude or mean comment to me online.	29%	7%	31%	8%	35%	8%
Someone spread rumors about me online, whether they were true or not.	12%	2%	17%	3%	19%	3%
Someone made a threatening or aggressive comment to me online.	14%	3%	14%	3%	15%	3%
Someone my age took me off their buddy list because they were mad at me			*26%*	*4%*	*30%*	*4%*
Someone posted a picture or video of me in an embarrassing situation			*1.5%*	*0.7%*	*3%*	*0.6%*
"Revised" total			*41%*	*10%*	*45%*	*10%*

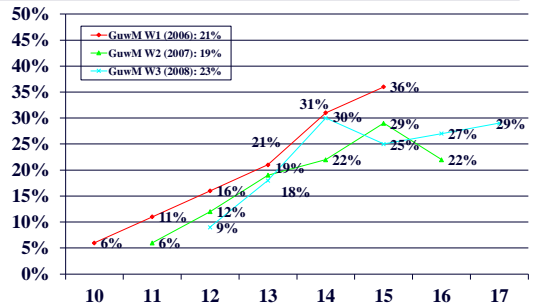## Internet harassment **victimization** by age across time
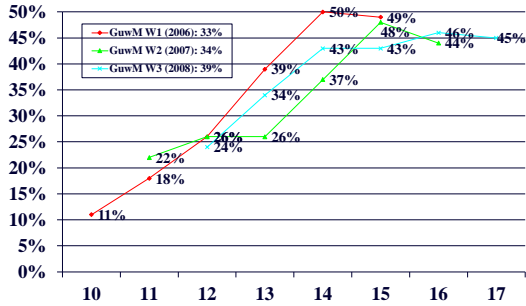
Very / extremely upset by the harassment

Annual prevalence rates of youth **perpetrators** Internet harassment

Type (Monthly or more often)	2006		2007		2008	
ANY	**21%**	*4%*	**19%**	*3%*	**23%**	*4%*
Someone made a rude or mean comment to me online.	18%	*3%*	17%	*3%*	21%	*4%*
Someone spread rumors about me online, whether they were true or not.	11%	*2%*	10%	*0.7%*	11%	*0.7*
Someone made a threatening or aggressive comment to me online.	5%	*1.5%*	5%	*0.5%*	8%	*0.9%*
Someone my age took me off their buddy list because they were made at me			25%	*3%*	26%	*2.3%*
Someone posted a picture or video of me in an embarrassing situation			1.2%	*0.6%*	2%	*0.3%*
"Revised" total			31%	*4%*	35%	*5%*

Internet harassment **perpetration** by age across time

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"Cyberbullying"

Working definition of cyberbullying

As of yet, there is no generally agreed upon definition for cyberbullying

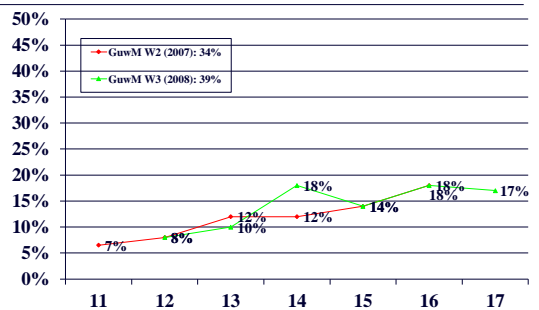Some use Olweus' definition; other use a list of definitions

We define it as:
- Being online
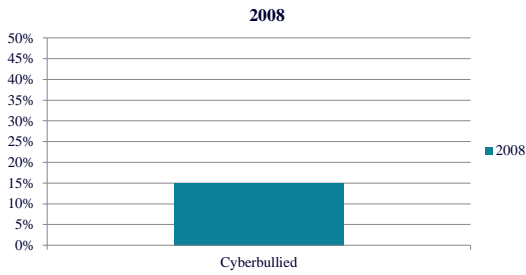- Differential power
- Repetitive
- Over time

Annual prevalence rates of youth **victims** of cyberbullying
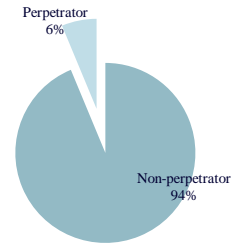
Type (Monthly or more often)	2007		2008	
Cyberbullying	**13%**	*3%*	**15%**	*2%*

Cyberbully **victimization** by age across time

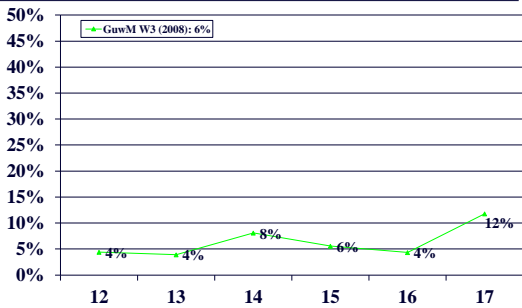## Very / extremely upset by the cyberbullying

2008

Cyberbullying **perpetration**

Data from 2008 only

Cyberbully **perpetration** by age across time

Unwanted sexual solicitation (unwanted sexual encounters)

Working Definition of Unwanted Sexual Solicitation

The definition of unwanted sexual solicitation was created by Dr. David Finkelhor and colleagues in response to concerns from government and non-profit agencies that youth were being "solicited" online

Like harassment, it:
- Occurs online.
- It can, but does not necessarily include text messaging.
- Can occur once or more often.

Working Definition of Unwanted Sexual Solicitation

It usually refers to the following:
- ☐ Being asked to do something sexual when you don't want to
- ☐ Being asked to share personal sexual information when you don't want to
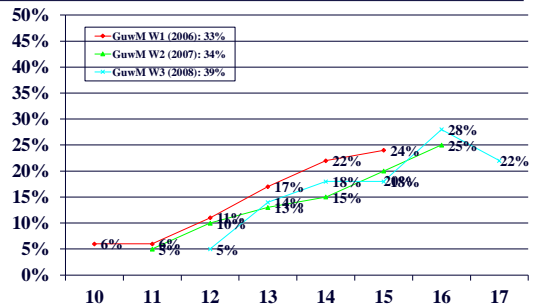- ☐ Being asked to talk about sex when you don't want to

NOTE: It does **not** mean that you are being **solicited for sex**.
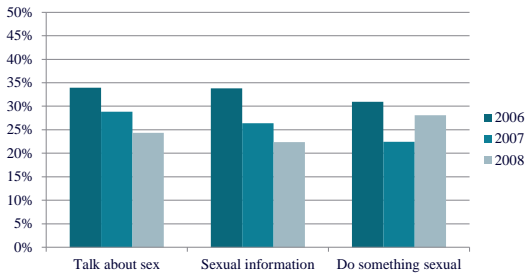→ I propose for this discussion, we call it 'unwanted sexual **encounters**'

Annual prevalence rates of youth **victims** of unwanted sexual encounters

Type	2006		2007		2008	
ANY	**15%**	*3%*	**15%**	*3%*	**18%**	*5%*
Someone asked me to talk about sex when I did not want to	11%	*2%*	13%	*3%*	14%	*3%*
Someone asked me to provide really personal sexual questions about myself when I did not want to tell them	11%	*2%*	12%	*3%*	13%	*3%*
Someone asked me to do something sexual when I did not want to	7%	*2%*	8%	*2%*	9%	*3%*

Unwanted sexual encounters **victimization** by age across time

Very / extremely upset by the unwanted sexual encounter

Legend:
- 2006
- 2007
- 2008

Categories: Talk about sex, Sexual information, Do something sexual

Annual prevalence rates of youth **perpetrators** of unwanted sexual encounters

Type	2006		2007		2008	
ANY	**3%**	*1%*	**3%**	*1%*	**3%**	*0.4%*
Someone asked me to talk about sex when I did not want to	2%	*1%*	2%	*0.6%*	2%	*0.3%*
Someone asked me to provide really personal sexual questions about myself when I did not want to tell them	3%	*1%*	2%	*0.3%*	2%	*0.4%*
Someone asked me to do something sexual when I did not want to	1%	*0.5%*	2%	*0.4%*	2%	*0.3%*

Unwanted sexual encounter **perpetration** by age across time

Legend:
- GuwM W1 (2006): 3%
- GuwM W2 (2007): 3%
- GuwM W3 (2007): 3%
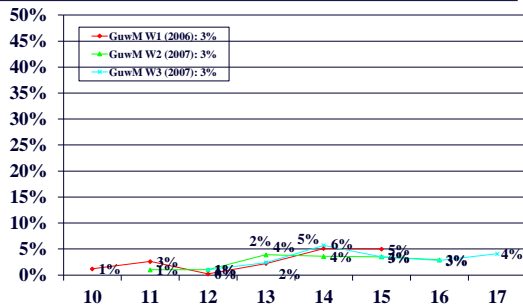
Online harassment – offline violence **perpetration**
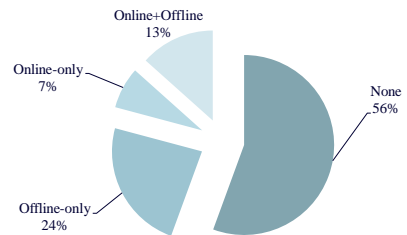
- Online+Offline 13%
- Online-only 7%
- Offline-only 24%
- None 56%

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Objective 2

Describe how technology-based aggression is related to non-technology-based aggression for young people

Internet harassment
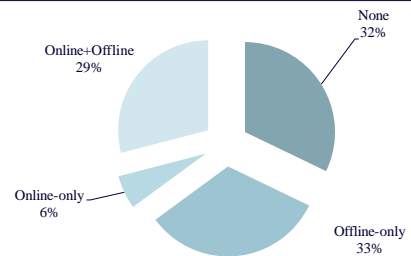
Victim of Non-technology-based aggression

Peer aggression
- ☐ Someone my age did not let me in their group anymore because they were mad at me.
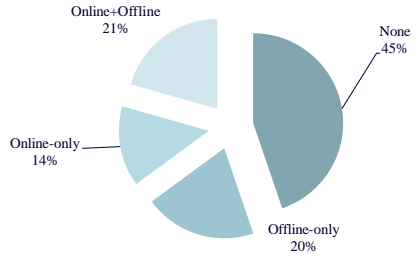- ☐ Someone spread a rumor about me, whether it was true or not.

Violence
- ☐ Someone stole something from me - for example, a backpack, wallet, lunch money, book, clothing, running shoes, bike or anything else.
- ☐ Another person or group attacked me - for example, an attack at home, at someone else's home, at school, at a store, in a car, on the street, at the movies, at a park or anywhere else.
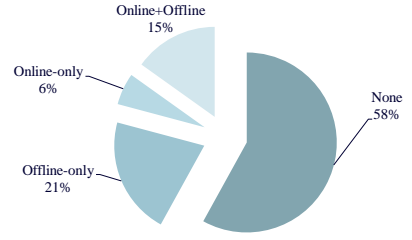- ☐ Someone pulled a knife or gun on me.

Online harassment – offline peer **victimization**

None 32%
Online+Offline 29%
Online-only 6%
Offline-only 33%

Online harassment – offline violence **victimization**

- Online+Offline 21%
- None 45%
- Offline-only 20%
- Online-only 14%

Online harassment – offline peer aggression **perpetration**

- Online+Offline 15%
- None 58%
- Offline-only 21%
- Online-only 6%

Involvement in unwanted sexual encounters

Unwanted sexual encounters

- Perpetrator-only 1%
- Victim-only 13%
- Perpetrator-victim 2%
- Not involved 84%
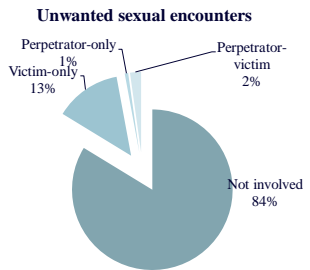
"Cyberbullying"

Victim of Non-technology-based bullying

☐ At school
☐ On the way to and from school

Online bullying – offline bullying **victimization**
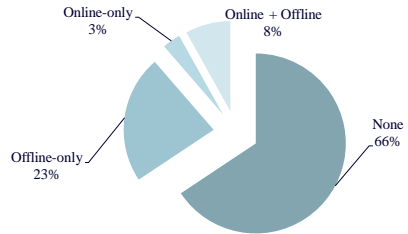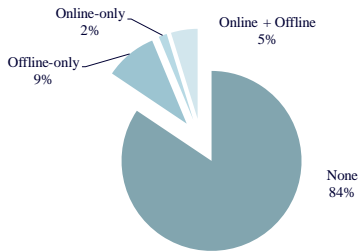
Online-only
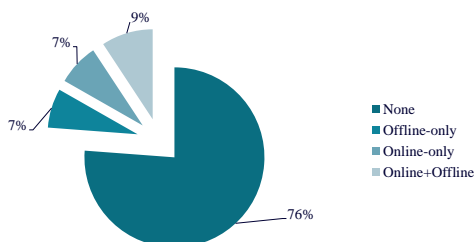3%

Online + Offline
8%

None
66%

Offline-only
23%

Online bullying – offline bullying **perpetration**

Online-only
2%

Online + Offline
5%

Offline-only
9%

None
84%

**Unwanted sexual solicitation
(unwanted sexual encounters)**

Online sexual encounter – offline sexual encounter **victimization**

- None
- Offline-only
- Online-only
- Online+Offline

9%
7%
7%
76%

Age and sex

Type of peer aggression	Age		Female	
	OR	P-value	OR	P-value
Victimization				
Online harassment - offline peer harassment	1.4	p<0.001	1.2	0.17
Online harassment - offline violence	1.3	p<0.001	1.7	p<0.001
Cyberbully - offline bully*	0.8	p<0.001	0.8	0.1
Online unwanted sexual experiences - offline experiences	1.3	p<0.001	1.8	0.003
Perpetration				
Online harassment - offline peer harassment	0.9	0.008	1.4	0.002
Online harassment - offline violence	1	0.612	0.4	p<0.001
Cyberbully - offline bully**	1.2	0.8	1.3	0.46

Age and sex

Type of peer aggression	Age	Female
	OR	OR
Victimization		
Online harassment - offline peer harassment	↑	ns
Online harassment - offline violence	↑	↑
Cyberbully - offline bully*	↓	ns
Online unwanted sexual experiences - offline experiences	↑	↑
Perpetration		
Online harassment - offline peer harassment	↓	↑
Online harassment - offline violence	ns	↓
Cyberbully - offline bully**		

* 2007-2008 only; ** 2008 only

Recap: Objective 1

Quantify the number of technology-based aggressions reported by young people between 2006-2008

Recap: Prevalence rates (average across 2006-2008)

- Internet harassment (ever in the past year 06-08):
  - Uninvolved: 62%
  - Victim-only: 18%
  - Perpetrator-only: 3%
  - Perpetrator-victim: 18%
- Cyberbullying (ever in the past year 08):
  - Uninvolved: 83%
  - Victim-only: 11%
  - Perpetration-only: 3%
  - Perpetrator-victim: 3%

Recap: Prevalence rates (average across 2006-2008)

- Unwanted sexual encounter (ever in the past year 06-08):
  - Uninvolved: 84%
  - Victim-only: 13%
  - Perpetrator-only: <1%
 - Perpetrator-victim: 2%

Recap: Objective 2

Describe how technology-based aggression is related to non-technology-based aggression for young people

Online – offline aggression overlap

Type of peer aggression	None	Offline	Online	O+O
Victimization				
Online harassment - offline peer harassment	32%	33%	6%	29%
Online harassment - offline violence	45%	20%	14%	21%
Cyberbully - offline bully*	66%	23%	3%	8%
Online unwanted sexual experiences - offline experiences	76%	7%	7%	9%
Perpetration				
Online harassment - offline peer harassment	58%	21%	6%	15%
Online harassment - offline violence	56%	24%	7%	13%
Cyberbully - offline bully**	84%	9%	2%	5%

* 2007-2008 only; ** 2008 only

Overlap of cyberbullying-harassment victimization

Cyberbully + harassment victim
13%

Harassment-only victim
24%

Not involved
62%

Cyberbully-only victim
1%
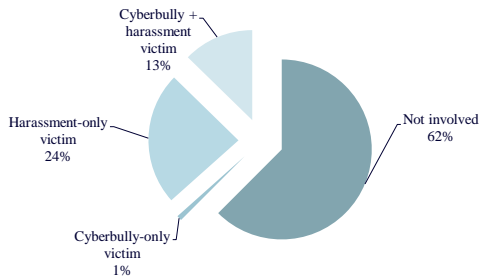
Limitations

□ Findings need to be replicated – preferably in other national data sets

□ Data are based upon the US. It's possible that different countries would yield different rates

□ Non-observed data collection

□ Although our response rates are strong (above 70% at each wave), this still means that we're missing data from 30% of participants…but we are statistically adjusting for non-response

Takeaways

□ Overlap in online and offline aggression involvement varies between 5%-29%, depending on the type

□ The majority of young people are not involved in aggression, either online or offline; or as a perpetrator or victim

Takeaways

□ In general, harassment, bullying, and unwanted sexual encounters increase with age

□ There is some indication that females may be more likely to be co-involved (online and offline) compared to boys, the magnitude of association is low and findings are inconsistent

Takeaways

The Internet is an important and influential world in which young people learn and engage with others

If we are to understand youth behavior, we must include measures of technology-based experiences

But, we also must include measures of non-technology-based experiences

The Internet is only one of many important and challenging environments youth must traverse