

Online Safety Resources

News

September 25, 2006 (3:08 PM EDT) MySpace Joins Seventeen Magazine In Internet Safety Campaign <http://www.myspace.com/safetytips/>

Statistics

Teens have established a significant presence on social networking web sites:

- 61% of 13- to 17-year-olds have a personal profile on sites such as MySpace, Friendster, or Xanga. Half have posted pictures of themselves online.
- Older teens (16- to 17-year-olds) and girls represent the majority of youths who use the Internet for social interaction, meeting friends, and networking.

However, many have also been exposed to the accompanying potential risks.

- 14% have actually met face-to-face with a person they had known only through the Internet (9% of 13- to 15-year-olds and 22% of 16- to 17-year-olds).
- 30% have considered meeting someone they've only communicated with online.
- 71% reported receiving messages online from someone they don't know.
- 45% have been asked for personal information by someone they don't know.

When teens receive messages online from someone they don't know, 40% usually reply to and chat with that person.

- Only 18% said they tell a parent or guardian that they received a message from someone they don't know.

Many teens consider their online behavior to be safe

One out of five teens reported that it is safe (i.e. "somewhat" or "very safe") to share personal information on a public blog or networking site.

As well, 37% of 13- to 17-year-olds said they're "not very concerned" or "not at all concerned" about someone using personal information they've posted online in ways they haven't approved.

Parents and guardians can impact their teen's online experience through communication

- 33% of 13- to 17-year-olds reported that their parents or guardians know “very little” or “nothing” about what they do on the Internet.
- 48% of 16- to 17-year-olds said their parents or guardians know “very little” or “nothing” about their online activities.

Fully 22% of those surveyed reported their parents or guardians have never discussed Internet safety with them.

On the other hand, 36% of youth—girls and younger teens, most notably—said their parents or guardians have talked to them “a lot” about online safety, and 70% said their parents or guardians have discussed the subject with them during the past year.

Fewer teens whose parents and guardians have talked to them “a lot” about online safety have an instant messaging (IM) name or pictures of themselves on the Internet, compared to kids whose parents or guardians haven’t talked to them at all. More teens who’ve talked to parents or guardians ignore messages from unfamiliar people, refuse to reply or chat, block unknown senders, and report these occurrences to trusted adults.

The national teen Internet survey was funded by Cox Communications <http://www.cox.com/takecharge/> in partnership with NCMEC and was conducted among 1,160 teens age 13 to 17 during March 2006. Teenage Research Unlimited (TRU) conducted the research. Take Charge http://www.cox.com/TakeCharge/includes/docs/survey_results.ppt

Publications

The Parents' Guide to the Information Superhighway: Rules and Tools for Families Online

This is a guide for parenting in the age of computers. It provides explanations and safety tips for computer and Internet use. To download a copy of this guide visit the Children's Partnership web site at <http://www.childrenpartnership.org/>.

Teen Safety on the Information Highway

This brochure published by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children provides parents with Internet safety information and tips for keeping teens safer online. Authored by Larry Magid, syndicated columnist and broadcaster.

Print the PDF version of the brochure , or order printed copies of this publication by using the Mail-In Order Form, using the Online Order Form, or calling 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678). English-language version (NCMEC Order #57)
Spanish-language version (NCMEC Order #59)
First 50 copies free, each additional copy 10¢

Web sites

i-Safe www.isafe.org

i-SAFE is a non-profit foundation dedicated to protecting the online experiences of youth everywhere. i-SAFE incorporates classroom curriculum with dynamic community outreach to empower students, teachers, parents, law enforcement, and concerned adults to make the Internet a safer place.

Net Smartz www.netsmartz.org

The NetSmartz Workshop is an interactive, educational safety resource to teach kids and teens how to stay safer on the Internet. NetSmartz combines the newest technologies available and the most current information to create high-impact educational activities that are well received by even the most tech-savvy kids.

Parents, guardians, educators, and law enforcement also have access to resources for learning and teaching about the dangers children may face online. NetSmartz was created by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® (NCMEC) and Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA).

CyberSmart! www.cybersmart.org

The CyberSmart! School Program develops curricula and training programs for professional development designed to help educators empower students to take full advantage of computers and the Internet. The site contains Internet safety information for students, parents, and educators, and includes lesson plans, activity sheets, downloadable posters, and safety tips.

CyberTipline ® www.cybertipline.com

The CyberTipline handles leads from individuals reporting the sexual exploitation of children including child pornography, online enticement of children, child prostitution, child sex tourism, misleading domain names and child sexual molestation (not in the family).

Don't Believe the Type <http://tcs.cybertipline.com/index.htm>

Information for teens and parents, adapted from Teen Safety on the Information Highway written by Lawrence J. Magid, a syndicated columnist, media commentator, and host of www.safekids.com and www.safeteens.com. He is also the author of The Little PC Book (Peach Pit Press, 1993).

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) www.ftc.gov/infosecurity

The Federal Trade Commission's security information web site contains online safety resources for consumers and business alike. The site is easy to navigate

and features "Dewie the Turtle," a colorful cartoon mascot for the FTC's initiative. The web site also includes numerous consumer education publications in both English and Spanish.

GetNetWise www.getnetwise.com

This site is a resource for parents to educate themselves and their children about how to use the Internet safely. They provide information on filtering software and recommend safe web sites for children of all ages.

Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces (ICAC) www.icactraining.org

Through funding from the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, a national network of 45 Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces has been established to coordinate investigations of computer facilitated crimes against children. In January of 2003 the ICAC Training & Technical Assistance program was established to enhance their effectiveness of the ICAC Task Force program by providing training and technical assistance to federal, state, and local law-enforcement agencies working to reduce the victimization of children by individuals and businesses who seek to exploit them through the use of computer and electronic technology.

Internet Content Rating Association (ICRA) www.icra.org

This site contains information and downloads on the content rating system.

Internet Keep Safe Coalition www.ikeepsafe.org

The Internet Keep Safe Coalitions group teaches basic rules of Internet safety to children and parents, reaching them online and in school. Governors and/or first spouses formed this coalition in partnership with a growing list of crime prevention organizations, law-enforcement agencies, foundations, and corporate sponsors. The iKeepSafe web site uses an animated icon/mascot named Faux Paw the Techno Cats to teach children the importance of protecting personal information and avoiding inappropriate places on the Internet.

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children www.missingkids.com

This site provides information on general child safety and Internet safety for children, parents, educators, law enforcement, and the community.

Net Family News www.netfamilynews.org

This is a nonprofit public service providing a forum and "kid-tech news" for parents and educators in more than 50 countries. The forum is 24/7; news is weekly via email and podcast and daily via blog and RSS feed.

Featuring the Net Family Newsletter, the journal-of-record on tech and digital media where children are concerned (since 1997) - distributed in partnership with SafeKids.com and London-based Childnet International.

Based on the premise that informed, engaged parenting is essential to kids' constructive use of technology and the Net.

SafeKids.com www.safekids.com

This site contains information for children, parents, teachers, and officials on Internet safety and Internet family resources.

SafeTeens.com www.safeteens.com

This site provides tips, advice, links, and suggestions to help make your family's online experience fun and productive.

Staysafe.org www.staysafe.org

Staysafe.org is an educational site intended to help consumers understand both the positive aspects of the Internet as well as how to manage a variety of safety and security issues that exist online.

Stay Safe Online [www. http://msn.staysafeonline.com/](http://msn.staysafeonline.com/)

This interactive cartoon by Boys & Girls Clubs of America and Microsoft® teaches children online safety with a cast of interesting characters. Join Tara Lipinski, Shaquille O'Neal, and several cartoon kids in learning more about the Internet. Interactive quizzes help children practice the safety concepts.

Surf Swell Island: Adventures in Internet Safety
disney.go.com/surfswell/index.html

This quiz-driven adventure activity presents Internet safety material in a series of three games, each featuring a classic Disney character and focusing on an area of concern such as privacy, viruses, or netiquette, guidelines for good behavior on the Internet. A mini-quiz follows each of the three games reinforcing what was presented. A parent's guide, a teacher's guide, and additional Internet safety information accompany the activities for adults.

U.S. Department of Education www.ed.gov/technology/safety.html

This site contains Internet safety and technology education information for parents and teachers.

Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT) www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com

The Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT) is an international alliance of law-enforcement agencies working together to make the Internet a safer place. Membership is currently comprised of the Australian High Tech Crime Centre, the National Crime Squad for England and Wales, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and Interpol. The mission of the Virtual Global Taskforce is to make the Internet a safer place; to identify, locate, and help children at risk; and to hold perpetrators accountable. The web site acts as a gateway to a wide range of information on how to use the Internet safely and links to a range of support agencies that can advise and support victims of abuse.

WiredKids.org www.wiredkids.org

This site contains Internet safety information for children, parents, teachers, and officials. It provides links to child-friendly and other Internet safety sites as well as fun games and activities.

MCPS Resources

Using the Internet Safely for Educational Purposes

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/cipa/index.shtm>

Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

Text of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

Senate Bill 67 requires the installation and use by schools and libraries of a technology protection measure for accessing material on the Internet on computers with Internet access to be eligible to receive or retain universal service assistance. Source: THOMAS: U.S. Congress on the Internet

CIPA stipulates that schools must have an Internet safety policy and Internet technology protection measures to shield both adults and children from visual depictions that are obscene, contain child pornography or are harmful to minors.

Position Paper on Recommendations for Internet Safety

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/cipa/positionpaper.shtm>

Staying Safe While Using E-mail and the Web

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/cipa/safe.shtm>

Regulation IGT-RA

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/igtra.pdf>