IDENTIFYING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE INCREASE USE OF THE INTERNET AS A COMMUNICATION TOOL AND SEXUAL ASSAULTS ON CHILDREN

By

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A thesis submitted in fulfillment of a
Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice

To:

Dr. Hal Campbell

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Florida Metropolitan University

EPIGRAPH

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted,

every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places

will be made plain and the crooked places will be made

straight, "and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all

flesh shall see it together."

This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the

south with. With this faith we will be able to hew out the

mountain of despair, a stone of hope. With this faith we will

be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a

beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be

able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to

go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing

that we will be free one day. And this will be the day. This

will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing

with new meaning, "My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of

liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the

pilgrim's pride, from every mountain side, let freedom ring."

And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true.

- Martin Luther King Jr.
"I Have A Dream" speech 1963

ABSTRACT

IDENTIFYING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE INCREASE USE OF THE INTERNET AS A COMMUNICATION TOOL AND SEXUAL ASSAULTS ON CHILDREN

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This thesis will examine, review, and discuss the increase use of the internet as a form of communication and how it increases the frequency of child sexual assault. First the thesis will cover the scope of the problem including variables and statistical analyses. Next, it will describe demographic characteristics of victims and offenders as well as inaccurate stereotypes. Also characteristics of the meeting of perpetrators and victims through internet means causing crimes of sexual nature will be discussed. Types of sexual crimes will be addressed as will the types of vulnerable populations including those that have a poor relationship with parents, lonely, depressed individuals, gay, and questioning boys. Finally, this thesis will provided educational and awareness information to help make children, parents, and others more conscious of this problem. Furthermore, it will reveal what is going on with future research.

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First and above all, I would like to thank and give all praises to Almighty God Jehovah. He is the creator of all things and is due sole worship and obedience. I thank him for the fruits of his spirit as well as his patience and love. To my parents Gregory Delano Hicks and Bedela May Hicks that has given me life and who have taught me how to survive and persevere over austere conditions and situations. To my wife Vivia Jean Malia Hicks, my sons Quincy and Gregory, daughters Elyssia (R.I.P), Kalia, and Qiuana, thanks for all your love, support, and encouragement during this stressful and time consuming project. To my brothers Carlos and Gregorio Hicks as well as my sister Tracy Hopkins my successes are also your successes the more I achieve and the higher I go I will always take you with me. Last and definitely not least I want to thank Dr. Hal Campbell for his guidance and support likewise, for my classmates. Your encouragement and support was very much appreciated.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King was a profound civil rights leader. He stood up for the rights of all people; not just blacks. He felt that every man, woman, and child are due the same rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness regardless of age, sex, or religion. Just as it seems that the evil of racism and prejudice is slowly dropping away from impeding children of their civil rights, along comes computers and increased internet usage that ever increasingly contributes a part to children and youth sexual assaults.

Computers and the internet's ever growing popularity and use have been a key factor in the widespread dissemination of child pornography, exploitation, and sex crimes against juveniles. This is and has become a very paramount concern for all members of the community that include parents, educators, law enforcement, and politicians just to name a few.

Our country as well as the rest of the world has become so reliant on computers as a main stream communication tool to communicate with friends, family, track weather, finances, plain vacations, and trips. Likewise, we can go to school, join chat groups, and even date. This flexibility to communicate makes life easier and more convenient, but at the same time it makes life more dangerous and challenging. Individuals can take someone else's identity, misrepresent themselves, distort as well as hide information. This makes it hard for individuals to decipher fact from fiction and reality from make believe.

Likewise, for parents and law enforcement it is harder to tract sexual victims and predators because of new and ever changing technology. Both parents and law enforcement agencies have to be and stay educated on technology and trends to confront this problem.

This thesis will try and educate the community as a whole on how widespread the problem is of children meeting sexual predators on line. As well it will try to define and explore the characteristics of perpetrators and victims as to what signs to look for that can decrease the likelihood of becoming a victim and preventing victimization. Furthermore, the thesis will provide educational information and remedies to minimize and hopefully prevent future sexual assaults.

CHAPTER II

NEED FOR THE STUDY

Purpose

The purpose of this research is to provide a better understanding on how adolescence, parents, educators, health care professionals, and the media can be more aware and have a better understanding of the dangers of online relationships by youth. It is also intended to bring into focus the real life nature of this issue as well as characteristics associated with events that are harmful to a child development as is improper and criminal. Having everyone in the community knowledgeable about this growing method of meeting people on-line will help make everyone make smarter decisions and to identify dangers before trying to meet someone from the internet in-person.

Further, the purpose of this thesis is to bring attention to the growing interest of pornography and how it feeds into the minds of the perpetrators and victims; fueling both of their minds, sexual desires, curiosities for cyber sex, and real life sexual encounters. The detail and attention brought forth in this thesis will help children and adults changes their thinking when it comes to on-line dating, which will change their choices in life that will ultimately change their lives.

Problem

The problem with computers and its use with the internet is that it contributes greatly to sexual offenses against juveniles. According to a report by the National Children's Home, pornographic pictures of children since 1988 have increased to a mind-blowing

1500% of youth between the ages of six and twelve. By 2001 individuals arrested for having pornographic material of children continued to increase. 19% of arrests involved individuals that had pictures of children less than 3 years of age. 39% of offenders had pictures of youth 3-5 years of age, while youth between 6 and 12 comprised 83%. These findings are from the National Juvenile Online Victimization Study.

Ernie Allen, president and CEO of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children states that from 1997 to 2004 there has been steady increase in the amount of reports on child pornography incidents. By 2004 the reports had increased by 39%. In 2003 more than 20,000 infants and toddlers photos are ever increasing on the internet, likewise is the sadistic episodes and torturous treatment of them. These children make up an estimated 20% of internet porn from a total of 420 million pages. In 2005, the child porn business would bring in $3 billion a year. Over 15 billion pages of porn were viewed that year. 40% of child sexual offenders that were apprehended possessed child pornography while they sexually abused children. 36% of these sexual offenders provided child pornography to their victims or used it to lure them (Retrieved 15 Feb 07 from: http://enough.org/inside.php?id=2UXKJWRY8#3).

Early 2006, a college sex survey of college students revealed that 87% of college students would use a computer for cyber sex. They would use the telephone, web cameras, and instant messengers to carry out their sexual exploits. Youth between the ages of 12 and 17 are the largest group of individuals that look at internet pornography. The average person spends approximately 14.6 minutes daily viewing pornographic material. The

demand for porn and sex, the ease of accessibility, and solicitation is a growing epidemic

that we as a community need to address.

Sexual exploitation and assault has been increasing towards children around the world

today. This is because with the use of a computer children and sexual predators can meet

on-line in chat rooms at any time and place, likewise with friends and strangers to

interact, exchange information, and schedule meetings. Instead of hanging out in malls,

parks, or video game establishments people are hanging out on-line. This paper will

show that there is a significant relationship between the increasing frequencies of sexual

assault incidents involving the use of the Internet as a means of initial contact.

Helpful Definitions:

"Internet - An immense, global network that connects computers via telephone lines
and/or fiber networks to storehouses of electronic information. With only a computer, a
modem, a telephone line and a service provider, people from all over the world can
communicate and share information with little more than a few keystrokes.

Bulletin Board Systems (BBSs) - Electronic networks of computers that are connected
by a central computer setup and operated by a system administrator or operator and are
distinguishable from the Internet by their "dial-up" accessibility. BBS users link their
individual computers to the central BBS computer by a modem which allows them to
post messages, read messages left by others, trade information, or hold direct
conversations. Access to a BBS can, and often is, privileged and limited to those users
who have access privileges granted by the systems operator.

Commercial On-line Service (COS) - Examples of COSs are America Online, Prodigy,
CompuServe and Microsoft Network, which provide access to their service for a fee.
COSs generally offer limited access to the Internet as part of their total service package.

Internet Service Provider (ISP) - Examples of ISPs are Erols, Concentric and Netcom.
These services offer direct, full access to the Internet at a flat, monthly rate and often
provide electronic-mail service for their customers. ISPs often provide space on their
servers for their customers to maintain World Wide Web (WWW) sites. Not all ISPs are

commercial enterprises. Educational, governmental and nonprofit organizations also provide Internet access to their members.

Public Chat Rooms - Created, maintained, listed and monitored by the COS and other public domain systems such as Internet Relay Chat. A number of customers can be in the public chat rooms at any given time, which are monitored for illegal activity and even appropriate language by systems operators (SYSOP). Some public chat rooms are monitored more frequently than others, depending on the COS and the type of chat room. Violators can be reported to the administrators of the system (at America On-line they are referred to as terms of service [TOS]) which can revoke user privileges. The public chat rooms usually cover a broad range of topics such as entertainment, sports, game rooms, children only, etc.

Electronic Mail (E-Mail) - A function of BBSs, COSs and ISPs which provides for the transmission of messages and files between computers over a communications network similar to mailing a letter via the postal service. E-mail is stored on a server, where it will remain until the addressee retrieves it. Anonymity can be maintained by the sender by predetermining what the receiver will see as the "from" address. Another way to conceal one's identity is to use an "anonymous remailer," which is a service that allows the user to send an e-mail message repackaged under the remailer's own header, stripping off the originator's name completely.

Chat - Real-time text conversation between users in a chat room with no expectation of privacy. All chat conversation is accessible by all individuals in the chat room while the conversation is taking place.

Instant Messages - Private, real-time text conversation between two users in a chat room.

Internet Relay Chat (IRC) - Real-time text conversation similar to public and/or private chat rooms on COS.

Usenet (Newsgroups) - Like a giant, cork bulletin board where users post messages and information. Each posting is like an open letter and is capable of having attachments, such as graphic image files (GIFs). Anyone accessing the newsgroup can read the postings, take copies of posted items, or post responses. Each newsgroup can hold thousands of postings. Currently, there are over 29,000 public newsgroups and that number is growing daily. Newsgroups are both public and/or private. There is no listing of private newsgroups. A user of private newsgroups has to be invited into the newsgroup and be provided with the newsgroup's address. (Retrieved 16 Feb 2006 from: http://www.prevent-abuse-now.com/pedoweb.htm).

CHAPTER III

Review of Literature

History

The stereotypical pedophile and sexual predators have changed from the dirty old man that hangs out at parks and playgrounds to anyone from any economical and cultural background. They could be a complete stranger or a family member. Many predators have moved their stalking territories from the environment and establishments to the internet. Predators are youth oriented and get their thrills from robbing children of their innocence. In earlier times they would initiate contact with them outside and regularly meet in the same place or a predetermined special place. As time would past the predator will build trust and a tight bound with the youth. As soon as the predator would see an opportunity to sexually take advantage of the child he/she would.

With the increase of technology sexual predators know lurk on the internet in chat rooms. This is more convenient and safer for the predator. They look for children that are lonely and going through emotional problems. These are the easiest target because the predators just give them a little time online. They can make them feel good about themselves and create a fantasy world for them that they will want to visit. This is because the mind of a child is different than that of an adult. The child just sees that they found and have a new friend and the predators know just has to build up the relationship through internet chats until the opportunity presents itself for a sexual assault.

<u>Internet Child Predators</u>

The internet allows child predators and pedophiles the following:

- Instant access to other predators worldwide
- Open discussion of their sexual desires
- Shared ideas about ways to lure victims
- Mutual support of their adult-child sex philosophies
- Instant access to potential child victims worldwide
- Disguised identities for approaching children, even
    to the point of presenting as a member of teen groups
- Ready access to "teen chat rooms" to find out how and who
    to target as potential victims;
- Means to identify and track down home contact information
- Ability to build a long-term "Internet" relationship
    with a potential victim, prior to attempting to engage
    the child in physical contact.

Child Predators on the internet can be anything they want to be. They will take on any personality to attract and sexually abuse children. They can pretend to be as young as the child or much older. They will become whatever they have to be to gain the child's trust. To make first contact through the internet with children, many sexual predators will resort to talking about drugs, smoking, sex, or some other recreational activity to get the child's attention and interest. Also these things can be used to influence a first in-person encounter.

With the ground work laid the next step can take different endings. Depending on the personality and desire of the predator a child that takes the bait may become a sexual victim. Other predators may string out the game longer to build a stronger/longer relationship. It all really depends on how the predator wants to carry out their fantasies and what role they have for the child.

Categories of Internet Sex Crimes

Sexual predators can be charged with three types of sex crimes when dealing inappropriately through a computer with a minor. The first is an attempted or completed sexual assault on or with a minor. The sexual act does not have to occur for a sexual offender to be charge with a crime. All that is needed is intent and he/she can be charged. This can be forcible or consensual.

Other crimes that can be committed online are the possession of child pornography and soliciting minors for sex. Many sexual offenders 99% male make initial contact through the internet. Many youth will and have been lured into dangerous sexual situations from communication first initiated through the internet. Others know their victims and the internet are used as a medium to educate and teach them sexual acts. Photographs of the child can be taken and used to sell or even make movies or advertise for prostitution. The internet is an easy place for sexual predators to possess, trade, and sell child pornography and sex.

Characteristics of Offenders

Sexual predators of children are not fixed on just one single fascination; they have several. They usually include not just children, but objects and the humiliation or suffering of their sexual partner. Others may also be preoccupied with bestiality. They are also strict with their preferences and obsessions. Internet predators like the convenience of preying on the net because they have the space to explore and fulfill their desires and fetishes. Many have cameras hooked-up to their computer to share photos of themselves. Also in their home they have the ability to download videos and pictures as

well as trade and share them with other predators. Likewise, while on the net they can use lotions, props, toys, towels, and objects for ejaculating and urinating in. Similarly, items from past victims can be used in the sexual gratifications of themselves while on-line chatting.

Online child sexual predators primarily are male representing an estimated 96-99%. Out of these 86% of the males are not married, 12.5% are married, and 1.5% are divorced. It is also estimated that 27% of these child predators have had some form of homosexual experience. These types of individuals for their sexual gratifications will use anyone or thing. Mental Health specialists call these types of individual polymorphous. They spend large amounts of time going after and setting-up their sexual conquest.

There are four basic categories to internet child predators and they are the following:

"Collectors- This group consist of many entry level offenders. Most of these offenders have no prior contact with law enforcement, or any known illegal contact with children. Some researchers believe that this group may never have become involved in collecting child porn had it not been for the Internet and its easy and, what the predators believe is, anonymous access. Their "collecting" begins with photographs of children from static (stationary) locations on the Internet (newsgroups and Web pages) and generally escalates over time to dynamic (interactive) locations which involves real-time interaction and the collection of Web Cam photos and video clips. There are literally thousands of child porn chat rooms on the Internet. Generally these "rooms" are subdivided into very specific subgroups depending on what type of human physical attributes (blond hair, pre-pubescent, blue eyes, Native American, Asian, slim, etc.) and Paraphilia (deviant sexual behavior) the "collector" is attracted to. Once the "collector" begins progressing into dynamic location interaction he has crossed into the illegal distribution of child porn. Predators classified as "collectors" range from age 13 to old age.

Travelers - This group is comprised of predators who engage in online chat with children, and who use their skills of manipulation and coercion to meet the child in person for sexual purposes. Most "travelers" also collect child pornography. Travelers usually fall within the ages of 17 and 56, with the majority between the ages of 17-29.

The distances these men will travel to consummate their online relationships are incredible, literally across the country and internationally. Travelers "groom" their victims by developing trust, chatting about the child's concerns and interests, and sympathizing with the child over any real or imagined difficulties the child is experiencing at home and/or school. Once a "relationship" has been established, usually within 2-4 chats, the traveler will introduce conversation of a sexual nature and escalate quickly. Travelers will send children cameras and Web Cams so the child can transmit pictures (pics) and videos of himself naked, masturbating (soloing) or simulating some other sexual activity the predator enjoys. They also send children money and bus or plane tickets to facilitate the child running away and joining their new "friend". Some of these offenders are the most dangerous people any child can meet online.

Manufacturers- Not all collectors are manufacturers, but all manufacturers are collectors. These predators distribute child porn usually by way of videotapes or CD-ROMS. The Internet explosion has seriously curtailed the manufacturer's ability to make money because so much is now available free; however, the Russian mob has managed to create a cottage industry with international child porn and they are now the principle distributors throughout the world. To purchase these "products", the customer registers with Pay Pal; the same payment method used by E-bay. Many manufacturers are sexually involved with children and are likely to have criminal histories of sex offending. Manufacturers are the offenders most likely to harbor runaways who they coerce into making porn videos and posing for pictures which the manufacturer then sells. Manufacturers range in age from 26 to 53, will have all the latest computer camera equipment, and are known to frequent public locations where children are likely to congregate.

Chatters- These predators are rarely involved in child porn, instead preferring to take on the role of mentor to children in Internet chat rooms where they spend inordinate amounts of their time. Their innocent "teaching" quickly escalates to conversations of sex and they are avid fans of cyber-sex. The chatterer enjoys phone sex (Erotolalia), but rarely attempts to meet his child victim in-person. Chatter comprises the smallest group of internet child sex predators (Retrieved 16 Feb 2007 from:
http://www.crisisconnectioninc.org/sexualassault/internet_child_sexual_predators.htm
)."

Table 1. Characteristics of Offenders Who Were
Arrested for Internet Sex Crimes Against Minors
Offender %
Characteristics (weighted n = 2,577)
Gender of Offender
Male 99%
Race of Offender
Non-Hispanic White 92%
Age of Offender

17 or Younger 3%
18 to 25 11%
26 to 39 45%
40 or Older 41%
Other Characteristics
Acted Alone in Crime 97%
Prior Arrests for Sexual Offending Against Minors 10%
Known to Be Violent to any Degree 11%
Possessed Child Pornography 67%
Distributed Child Pornography 22%
Solicited an Undercover Investigator 27%
Committed a Sex Crime Against an Identified Victim 45%
Crime Against Identified Victim Was
Internet-Initiated 20%
Against a Family Member or Prior Acquaintance of the Offender 19%
Not Internet-Related 7%
 "Offenders" were defined as alleged perpetrators of crimes who were arrested.
(Retrieved 16 Feb 2007 from:
http://www.missingkids.com/en_US/publications/NC132.pdf).

Characteristics of Victims

The characteristics of children and teenagers that predators go after are different for both

groups. Young children rather than teens are more adventurous and curious about life

and the unknowns. They trust adults easier and are more naïve when it comes to

understanding and noticing individual's arterial motives. Therefore, this makes it easy

for predators to manipulate and build trust with the young children. They can use games

and gifts over the internet to build trust and then victimize and harass them over the

computer or internet.

Teenagers on the other hand are a little harder to deceive, but their risks are higher for

victimization because parents spend less time supervising them. It is easier to get

teenagers to discuss personnel questions about themselves, exchange information, and

pictures online in chat rooms. This is because many teenagers are striving to grow up

fast and be independent. Others may be experiencing emotional problems, personal

problems, or issues with sexual orientations. They may not be able to talk to anyone

about it, and therefore, turn to the internet to confide or discuss their issues with someone

who will listen or who they believe is like them.

For many youth sexual discussions on the internet may seem stimulating and enticing,

while even viewing it as harmless fun, but in actuality what seems as harmless fun can

turn into a dangerous situation. Many predators choose children because it is hard to get

a conviction at times. This is because many youth are afraid or embarrassed to tell, while

it may be hard for others to remember all the facts that occurred or what the predator

looked like.

Signs of Child's On-line Risk

Your child spends large amounts of time on-line, especially at night.

"Most children that fall victim to computer-sex offenders spend large amounts of time
on-line, particularly in chat rooms. They may go on-line after dinner and on the
weekends. They may be latchkey kids whose parents have told them to stay at home after
school. They go on-line to chat with friends, make new friends, pass time, and sometimes
look for sexually explicit information. While much of the knowledge and experience
gained may be valuable, parents should consider monitoring the amount of time spent on-
line.

Children on-line are at the greatest risk during the evening hours. While offenders are on-
line around the clock, most work during the day and spend their evenings on-line trying
to locate and lure children or seeking pornography.

You find pornography on your child's computer.

Pornography is often used in the sexual victimization of children. Sex offenders often
supply their potential victims with pornography as a means of opening sexual discussions
and for seduction. Child pornography may be used to show the child victim that sex
between children and adults is "normal." Parents should be conscious of the fact that a

child may hide the pornographic files on diskettes from them. This may be especially true if the computer is used by other family members.

Your child receives phone calls from men you don't know or is making calls, sometimes long distance, to numbers you don't recognize.

While talking to a child victim on-line is a thrill for a computer-sex offender, it can be very cumbersome. Most want to talk to the children on the telephone. They often engage in "phone sex" with the children and often seek to set up an actual meeting for real sex.

While a child may be hesitant to give out his/her home phone number, the computer-sex offenders will give out theirs. With Caller ID, they can readily find out the child's phone number. Some computer-sex offenders have even obtained toll-free 800 numbers, so that their potential victims can call them without their parents finding out. Others will tell the child to call collect. Both of these methods result in the computer-sex offender being able to find out the child's phone number.

Your child receives mail, gifts, or packages from someone you don't know.

As part of the seduction process, it is common for offenders to send letters, photographs, and all manner of gifts to their potential victims. Computer-sex offenders have even sent plane tickets in order for the child to travel across the country to meet them.

Your child turns the computer monitor off or quickly changes the screen on the monitor when you come into the room.

A child looking at pornographic images or having sexually explicit conversations does not want you to see it on the screen.

Your child becomes withdrawn from the family.

Computer-sex offenders will work very hard at driving a wedge between a child and their family or at exploiting their relationship. They will accentuate any minor problems at home that the child might have. Children may also become withdrawn after sexual victimization.

Your child is using an on-line account belonging to someone else.

Even if you don't subscribe to an on-line service or Internet service, your child may meet an offender while on-line at a friend's house or the library. Most computers come preloaded with on-line and/or Internet software. Computer-sex offenders will sometimes provide potential victims with a computer account for communications with them (Retrieved 16 Feb 2007 from World Wide Web: http://www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguidee.htm ."

Child Preventive Measures

1. "NEVER give out any personal information such as your last name, address, telephone number, and your parents first or last names, their work phone numbers, name of their employer's or business names, the name or location of your school. Make them understand they must always ask you and get your permission first!

2. NEVER to send anyone your photograph or any other items via the Internet without obtaining your parent's permission even if someone insists you will not get into trouble. If someone repeatedly asks for your photo please be sure to alert your parents immediately.

3. NEVER respond to any messages that make you feel uncomfortable! Don't allow someone to say mean or naughty things to you; they have no right to do so! If you do come across someone doing this please get your parents right away so that they can get the person's user ID and possibly their IP address so that they may contact the on-line service.

4. NEVER agree to get together or meet with anyone you meet on-line. If someone asks you to meet with them first discuss it with your parents. If your parents agree to the meeting, be sure they come along and that you meet in a very public place such as a mall or something (Retrieved 17 Feb 2007 from: http://www.geocities.com/capitolHill/7836/predator.html)."

Parent Preventive Measures

It is imperative that parents stay in-tuned and engaged with their children. Many times some parents get lost and or preoccupied with their careers that they forget about their children. They try to provide a better life and environment that they may have had coming up. Parents loose track of their children as well as emotional ties that can divide a family and disrupt open communication. Other parents may lack adequate parenting skills or the mental or physical capability to monitor their children. Despite this, they still have a responsibility to take care of and respect their children.

Parents need to monitor their children's behavior. This is important so that they will know when a child is acting out of the norm. Attitudes, personality, and interest are

important when monitoring behavior. This is because they are indicators of something that may be happening to the child. Daily interactions, questions about their day,

 and spending time with the family is important. Know your child's friends, where they go, and what they do. Know your child's interest, dreams, goals, fears, and hobbies because this can help you to both keep your child safe as well as knowing when something is going on with them because of a change in routine.

Legislation State and Federal

Many states have followed the federal government in enacting laws and enforcing them on the use of the internet, crimes against children, interstate trafficking of persons, and pornography possession. It is a federal offense to possess child pornography as well as to make it, sell it, and trade it with friends or in a community with like individuals of sexual predator persuasion. Similarly, trying to offer or have sex with a child even though a meeting did not occur is also a federal offense.

The Bush Administration takes this problem very seriously so they created a program which receives its operational cost from the United States Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for the Internet Crimes Against Children Program. It is a special group that is charged with addressing and investigating cyber crimes against juveniles. The federal government further involvement in the rights of children was carried out in the U.S. Supreme Court case of Ashcroft v. Free in 2002 when it was ruled unconstitutional for children to be photographed and or drawn out in a sexually explicit manner or activity. In 1997 the U.S. Supreme court also ruled in the United States v.

Hilton that manufacturing, distributing, importation, and possessing child pornography was viewed as contraband similar to that of illegal drugs. This issue was also reaffirmed in the United States v. Matthews in 2002.

Law Enforcement Tactics

Law enforcement agencies that have the money and resources employ computer forensics and special internet task forces to locate online sexual predators and other cyber criminals. Some agencies have sent officers or provided on the job training to the officers in technology and training that helps officers locate online sexual predators. This is very important because predators are hard to find. Therefore, police officers here in the United States and other countries must pose on the internet as pedophiles, women, or underage children to lure suspected and re-offending perpetrators in. The technique that officers use is similar to that of predators. They make the initial contact themselves or wait to be solicited themselves. They build rapport and trust and then schedule the meeting. Once the meeting is schedule to take place at a home or some other public place police officers are waiting to take the suspected sexual predator into custody instead of a child.

When police officers have enough probable cause they can confiscate a suspect's computer and use computer forensic techniques to retrieve pornographic material, e-mail, and chat log transmissions. Many times suspects believe that they can just delete the messages or pictures from the computer and they have gotten rid of the evidence, but in reality this is not true. Police officers possess technology that can retrieve it because it is

floating out in cyberspace. Likewise, criminals have advance technology themselves to

hide information and picture as well as to encrypt it for only certain groups that are

members. This causes law enforcements agencies to continue to learn and apply new

techniques and technologies to keep up with criminals and changing technology.

STATISTIC, GRAPHS, & TABLES

Pornography Industry Statistics

• Size of the Industry	$57.0 billion world-wide - $12.0 billion US
Adult Videos	$20.0 billion
Escort Services	$11.0 billion
Magazines	$ 7.5 billion
Sex Clubs	$ 5.0 billion
Phone Sex	$ 4.5 billion
Cable & Pay Per View	$ 2.5 billion
Internet	$ 2.5 billion
CD-Rom	$ 1.5 billion
Novelties	$ 1.0 billion
Other	$ 1.5 billion

- Porn revenue is larger than all combined revenues of all professional football, baseball and basketball franchises.
- US porn revenue exceeds the combined revenues of ABC, CBS, and NBC (6.2 billion)
- Child pornography generates $3 billion annually

Internet Porn Statistics

Pornographic websites	4.2 million (12% of total websites)
Pornographic pages	372 million
Daily pornographic search engine requests	68 million (25% of total search engine requests)
Daily pornographic emails	2.5 billion (8% of total emails)
Average daily pornographic emails/user	4.5 per Internet user
Monthly Pornographic downloads (Peer-to-peer)	1.5 billion (35% of all downloads)
Daily Gnutella "child pornography" requests	116 thousand
Websites offering illegal child pornography	100 thousand
Sexual solicitations of youth made in chat rooms	89%

- Youths who received sexual solicitation — 20%
- Worldwide visitors to pornographic web sites — 72 million annually

Children's Exposure to Pornography

- Average age of first Internet exposure to pornography — 11 years old
- Largest consumer of Internet pornography — 12-17 age group
- 15-17 year olds having multiple hard-core exposures — 80%
- 8-16 year olds having viewed porn online — 90% (most while doing homework)
- 7-17 year olds who would freely give out home address — 29%
- 7-17 year olds who would freely give out email address — 14%
- Children's characters linked to thousands of porn links — 26 (including Pokeman and Action Man)

CHAPTER IV

RESESARCH METHODOLOGY

The methods I used to conduct my research were to evaluate current research on the issue with online sexual predators. I have reviewed internet sites as well as books to grasps an understanding of this problem and what can be done to deal and prevent it. I further conducted a random sample of youth from individuals that I have known through out the years in my military service to see it they would be at risk of coming into contact with an online sexual predator. I constructed a simple survey and just asked basic questions.

Even though my sample survey cannot show if an assault will or would occur when someone was using the internet it brings attention to the risky behavior and mind-set of youth today. It makes known the level of supervision parents give to their kids, what children are talking about, and doing without parents being aware. Further, it shows how kids are naïve when it comes to the dangers of the internet and how vulnerable they are which would make them easy prey for an online sexual predator.

CHAPTER V

YOUTH SURVEY ANSWERS

1. What is your name? Chiquita Smith

2. Where do you live? Baltimore, Maryland

3. How old are you? 18 years

4. Do you have a family computer? Yes

5. Do you use the internet? Yes

6. Do you use chat rooms? Yes

7. Do your parents monitor your computer use? No

8. Do you make friends online? Yes

9. What do you talk about online?

Clothes, music, boys, sex, famous people, money, and school

10. What do others talk about online? Same as me.

11. Have you met anyone online and then met them in person?

Yeah, I have met two of my best friends and three guys.

12. What was your encounter like? Cool, I always bring a girlfriend when I am

meeting a boy or boys.

1. What is your name? Tierra Johnson

2. Where do you live? Severn Maryland

3.   How old are you? 14 years old

4.   Do you have a family computer? Yes

5.   Do you use the internet? Yes

6.   Do you use chat rooms? Yes

7.   Do your parents monitor your computer use? No

8.   Do you make friends online? Yes

9.   What do you talk about online? T.V. shows, music, sex, clothes

10. What do others talk about online? American Idol, music, love, relationships, and

food.

11. Have you met anyone online and then met them in person? Once, I met a boy. He

said he was cute and had all this money. He was 19 and he was broke and ugly.

12. What was your encounter like? He was trying to be all cool. He tried to get me to go

for a ride in his broken down car. I told him I do not ride in junk. He kept pulling on

me to get in the car, but I did not. He gave me a bad feeling.

1. What is your name? Damario Johnson

2. Where do you live? Severn Maryland

3. How old are you? 15 years old

4. Do you have a family computer? Yes

5. Do you use the internet? Yes

6. Do you use chat rooms? Yes

7. Do your parents monitor your computer use? No

8. Do you make friends online? Yes

9. What do you talk about online? Girls, cars, wrestling, and music

10. What do others talk about online? Same as me and music and stuff.

11. Have you met anyone online and then met them in person? Naw.

12. What was your encounter like? N/A

1. What is your name? Oswald Gross

2. Where do you live? Annapolis, Maryland

3. How old are you? 16 years

4. Do you have a family computer? Yes

5. Do you use the internet? Yes

6. Do you use chat rooms? Yes

7. Do your parents monitor your computer use? No

8. Do you make friends online? Yes

9. What do you talk about online? Rap, music, girls, football, and basketball

10. What do others talk about online? Music and anything else they think of

11. Have you met anyone online and then met them in person? I met a couple of girls

    before. We still kick it as friends.

12. What was your encounter like? It was fun we met at the mall. I brought some

    friends and she brought some friends and we just kicked it you know

1. What is your name? Chante Brown

2. Where do you live? Glen Burnie, Maryland

3. How old are you? 10

4. Do you have a family computer? Yes

5. Do you use the internet? Yes

6. Do you use chat rooms? Sometimes

7. Do your parents monitor your computer use? Sometimes

8. Do you make friends online? A couple of them I have

9. What do you talk about online? School, TV, music, Are you Smarter than a Fifth Grader; that's my show right there.

10. What do others talk about online? Boys, girls, making babies and stuff.

11. Have you met anyone online and then met them in person? No, but a friend of mine did and the guy came with a friend and they tried to get her in a car and she bit her friend on his chest and she ran and got away.

12. What was your encounter like? N/A

1. What is your name? Elizabeth Moody

2. Where do you live? Prattville, Alabama

3. How old are you? 12 years old

4. Do you have a family computer? No

5. Do you use the internet? N/A

6. Do you use chat rooms? N/A

7. Do your parents monitor your computer use? N/A

8. Do you make friends online? Yes

9. What do you talk about online? Everything

10. What do others talk about online? Everything

11. Have you met anyone online and then met them in person? I went with my friend

    to meet this guy before. He was fake. He had just got out of jail for drugs and he

    was trying to find girls that wanted older guys as a boyfriend so he could have

    sex. He was cool, but a little slow in the head.

12. What was your encounter like? N/A

1. What is your name? John Allen

2. Where do you live? Hezbipha, Georgia

3. How old are you? 17 years old

4. Do you have a family computer? Yes

5. Do you use the internet? Yes

6. Do you use chat rooms? Yes

7. Do your parents monitor your computer use? No

8. Do you make friends online? Rarely

9. What do you talk about online? Money, college, sex, dogs, snakes, boys

10. What do others talk about online? Dumb stuff, and sex too much

11. Have you met anyone online and then met them in person? I have met four guys
    online at different places.

12. What was your encounter like? I dated all of them, but I guess I am not lucky
    with hooking up online.

1. What is your name? Tracy Hopkins

2. Where do you live? Augusta, Georgia

3. How old are you? 17 years old

4. Do you have a family computer? Yeah

5. Do you use the internet? Yeah

6. Do you use chat rooms? Yeah

7. Do your parents monitor your computer use? Nope

8. Do you make friends online? Nope

9. What do you talk about online? Hair, nails, soaps

10. What do others talk about online? Music, school, and money

11. Have you met anyone online and then met them in person? Nope, my Dad will

    kill me and them. He is a little strict.

12. What was your encounter like? N/A

1. What is your name? Brian Coffie

2. Where do you live? Fort Walton Beach, Florida

3. How old are you? 14

4. Do you have a family computer? Yup

5. Do you use the internet? Yup

6. Do you use chat rooms? Sometimes

7. Do your parents monitor your computer use? I live with my friends mom

8. Do you make friends online? Yup

9. What do you talk about online? Money, girls, cars

10. What do others talk about online? Money, girls, cars and boys, hair, and clothes

11. Have you met anyone online and then met them in person? No, but if the girl

    asked me and she was cute I would.

12. What was your encounter like? N/A

1. What is your name? Alva Wilson

2. Where do you live? Ft. Walton Beach

3. How old are you? 13

4. Do you have a family computer? Yes

5. Do you use the internet? Yes

6. Do you use chat rooms? Yes

7. Do your parents monitor your computer use? No

8. Do you make friends online? Yes

9. What do you talk about online? TV, cars, music, money, food, life

10. What do others talk about online? Same things as me

11. Have you met anyone online and then met them in person? No

12. What was your encounter like? N/A

1. What is your name? Dante Mackell

2. Where do you live? Crestview, Florida

3. How old are you? 12

4. Do you have a family computer? Yes

5. Do you use the internet? Yes

6. Do you use chat rooms? No

7. Do your parents monitor your computer use? Sometimes

8. Do you make friends online? Not really

9. What do you talk about online? NA

10. What do others talk about online? NA

11. Have you met anyone online and then met them in person? NA

12. What was your encounter like? NA

1. What is your name? Laverne Mackell

2. Where do you live? Crestview Florida

3. How old are you? 10

4. Do you have a family computer? Yes

5. Do you use the internet? Yes

6. Do you use chat rooms? No

7. Do your parents monitor your computer use? Sometimes

8. Do you make friends online? No

9. What do you talk about online? NA

10. What do others talk about online? NA

11. Have you met anyone online and then met them in person? NA

12. What was your encounter like? NA

1. What is your name? Jeremy Pickering

2. Where do you live? Navarre, Florida

3. How old are you? 13

4. Do you have a family computer? Yes

5. Do you use the internet? Yes

6. Do you use chat rooms? Yes

7. Do your parents monitor your computer use? Not really

8. Do you make friends online? Yes

9. What do you talk about online? Video games, movies, comic books

10. What do others talk about online? Everything like how I be talking.

11. Have you met anyone online and then met them in person? No, not yet

12. What was your encounter like? NA

1. What is your name? Linda House

2. Where do you live? Navarre, Florida

3. How old are you? 17

4. Do you have a family computer? Yes

5. Do you use the internet? Yes

6. Do you use chat rooms? Yes

7. Do your parents monitor your computer use? No

8. Do you make friends online? Yes

9. What do you talk about online? Women stuff

10. What do others talk about online? Men and woman stuff. Anything we can think

    of.

11. Have you met anyone online and then met them in person? I almost met a guy

    once, but I had second thoughts. I couldn't find someone to go with me. I told

    him that I had to work and could not meet him.

12. What was your encounter like? NA

1. What is your name? Paula Reese

2. Where do you live? Navarre, Florida

3. How old are you? 16

4. Do you have a family computer? No

5. Do you use the internet? Yes

6. Do you use chat rooms? Yes

7. Do your parents monitor your computer use? No

8. Do you make friends online? Yes

9. What do you talk about online? Money, clothes, sex, life, partying, hot guys

10. What do others talk about online? A lot of stuff.

11. Have you met anyone online and then met them in person? A few times.

12. What was your encounter like? I like the adventure and mystery of meeting the

   men I do online. It is fun. I like doing it, I'm grown.

1. What is your name? Renaldo Roman

2. Where do you live? Navarre, Florida

3. How old are you? 11

4. Do you have a family computer? Yes

5. Do you use the internet? Yes

6. Do you use chat rooms? Yes

7. Do your parents monitor your computer use? Occasionally

8. Do you make friends online? Yes

9. What do you talk about online? Toys, TV, roller coasters, video games

10. What do others talk about online? All of the same stuff I do

11. Have you met anyone online and then met them in person? My parents do not let

   me go out by myself.

12. What was your encounter like? NA

1. What is your name? Frank Rodriguez

2. Where do you live? Navarre, Florida

3. How old are you? 16

4. Do you have a family computer? Yes

5. Do you use the internet? Yes

6. Do you use chat rooms? Yes

7. Do your parents monitor your computer use? Yes

8. Do you make friends online? Yes

9. What do you talk about online? God, food, and fun stuff

10. What do others talk about online? Good things and bad, whatever they feel like.

11. Have you met anyone online and then met them in person? No too scare. It's

    crazy people that are out there.

12. What was your encounter like? NA

1. What is your name? Lonnie Moulden

2. Where do you live? Navarre, Florida

3. How old are you? 15

4. Do you have a family computer? Yes

5. Do you use the internet? Yes

6. Do you use chat rooms? Yes

7. Do your parents monitor your computer use? No

8. Do you make friends online? Yes

9. What do you talk about online? Money, hoes, respect

10. What do others talk about online? Being losers and broke

11. Have you met anyone online and then met them in person? I met a couple

    different brods at different times.

12. What was your encounter like? It was weak. They was not about nothing.

1. What is your name? Kathy Davis

2. Where do you live? Fairfield, California

3. How old are you? 17

4. Do you have a family computer? Yes

5. Do you use the internet? All the time

6. Do you use chat rooms? Everyday

7. Do your parents monitor your computer use? No, they are not very computer

   literate

8. Do you make friends online? Yes and some through my friends

9. What do you talk about online? Everything under the sun

10. What do others talk about online? Mainly sex, money, and music. Sometimes

    clothes.

11. Have you met anyone online and then met them in person? No, but I would if they

    were nice and I felt I would be safe.

12. What was your encounter like? N/A

1. What is your name? Tina Cintron

2. Where do you live? Vacaville, California

3. How old are you? 16

4. Do you have a family computer? Yes

5. Do you use the internet? Yes

6. Do you use chat rooms? Yes

7. Do your parents monitor your computer use? Naw

8. Do you make friends online? Naw

9. What do you talk about online? Nails. Hair, makeup, movies, songs

10. What do others talk about online? Just about any and everything

11. Have you met anyone online and then met them in person? I hooked up with a
    guy once, but he seemed to in a hurry to have sex.

12. What was your encounter like? I just met him and he felt as though we were going
    to a hotel room. He said we knew each other well because of all the chatting we

did. He felt as though we were in a relationship. Anyway I had to ditch him at a

Burger King. I went to the bathroom and left out the side door.

CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSION

The research that I conducted would have been better if I was able to interview children

of sexual assaults and/or conduct a study on-line. But unfortunately, time would not

allow for me to do such for this class period. Therefore, I had to resort to evaluating

research and information that was already collected and comparing it to other research for

validity. Also it is hard to get permission to access personal files of a juvenile. There

also were very limited books that I could not find relating to this topic therefore; most of

the research was from the internet.

The data that I uncovered on internet predators and victims corroborate each other. All

agencies reported over 95% of predators are men and how obsessive, dangerous, easy,

and lucrative the internet is for finding, exploiting, raping, and murdering children and

females. Predators and victims are from all ages, races, economic, educational, and

cultural backgrounds. Countries all over the world are dealing with this problem because

it leads to human trafficking of woman and children nationally and internationally. This

is because victims may be sexually curious, bored, and even alone. Similarly, some kids

and women may not have money so they may hook-up by choice with a predator because

of the likelihood of receiving money or gifts.

The survey that I conducted of youth from ages 10 - 18 shows how the internet is available to youth with minimum supervision. It also brings attention to how easy it is for them to fall victims to online sexual predators. So it is necessary for parents and the community to take steps to ensure we know what our kids are searching and discussing on the internet

The federal government of the U.S. and other countries like Japan and England has taken measures to create laws to deter and punish those who solicit children for sex on the internet and possess child pornography. These laws and penalties carry fines, penalties, and prison sentences. For many offenders this is not a deterrent because many log on again and offend. As long as these sexual predators have these sexual addictions and fantasies we will always have to stay on guard to monitor them and protect our children. We need to bridge the communication gap that exist between parents and children as well as fix the mindset that drives predators and victims.

The internet is a vast free space where sexual predators can be anywhere at anytime as well as become anyone. They use false information, intimidation, and manipulation to take over the self-esteem and emotions of potential victims. Therefore, it is paramount that we increase national and international awareness of the dangers of on-line sexual predators.

CHAPTER VII

RECOMMENDATIONS

The children of the world are definitely our future. We must teach them and show them the way. Senator Hillary Clinton stated that, "It takes a village to raise a child." This village must also protect them as well. We must do this through education. We first need to educate ourselves as adults and parents as to the ways of technology, the habits and interest of our children, and those sexual predators who are out to harm them. In order to achieve this, there needs to be more research done on internet sexual predators. Likewise, for victims of sexual assaults from internet predators, we must not just understand the mental faculties of the predator, but of the victim as well. Knowing why they are turning to a stranger on the internet for love, companionship, sexual endeavors, etc. Many times children are turning to the internet to get the attention that they are not receiving at home. Parents need to stay involved with their children so they will not be resorting to finding trust and love on the internet. They also need to talk to their children about the dangers of the internet and what signs to be aware of and to report to their parents and law enforcement agencies. Constant supervision and computer monitoring is important to protect our children and all children from internet sexual predators.

Likewise, law enforcement agencies need to start patrolling cyberspace and chat rooms. Many from local and federal government have. But many agencies do not have the training in computer forensics, the manpower, or funding to carryout this type of cyber beat. Therefore, many predators go undetected and victims become unsaved. Law enforcement's upper management needs to invest in education, and allocate more funding

to deal with this new type crime more effectively. Also, agencies need better communication with each other when dealing with child sexual predators. This is because many of them cross states lines on the go to avoid detection and being caught. Similarly, this is the case for victims that do not get killed, but become a sex slave, prostitute, or an unwilling child porn model.

Granted, there are laws that have been created and some still being created. But this online sexual predator epidemic is spread over the whole world. We need to get a hold of it. The best way to achieve this is to let our children know the dangers and to keep them from going into chat rooms without being supervised. Parents can also get technology that can monitor their childrens internet usage as well as block out websites and other things from being accessed.

Let us as a village come together in unity to protect our children and their future. Let's teach them well so they can lead the way. Let us setup our own cyber neighborhood watch to catch and lock-up these perverts that want to take away the innocents and youth of our children. By doing this we can increase the eyes and ears of those probing on the net as well as increase the involvement we have with our children.

Chapter VIII

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