

## Are youth doing risky things online?

San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment, 2006, San Diego, CA

\* Thank you for your interest in this presentation. Please note that analyses included herein are preliminary. More recent, finalized analyses can be found in: Ybarra, M., Mitchell, K., Finkelhor, D., & Wolak, J. (2007). Internet prevention messages: Targeting the right online behaviors. *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*, 161, 138-145, or by contacting ISK for further information.

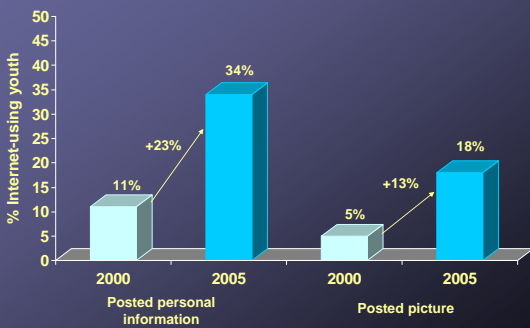
1

## Online Risky Behavior

- Giving out personal information or pictures online
- Engaging in sexual behaviors online
- Being rude or using the Internet to harass or embarrass

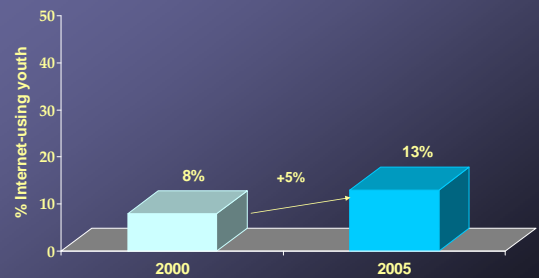
2

## Posting Personal Information Online



3

## Going to X-Rated Sites on Purpose



4

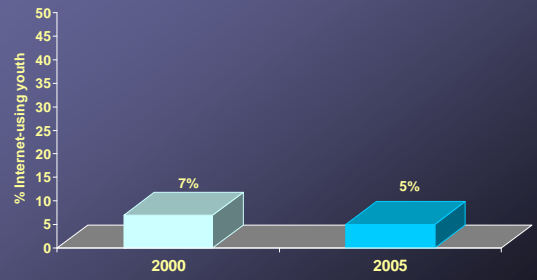
## Going to X-Rated Sites on Purpose

Youth found out about sites they went to through:

- Another youth (52%)
- An online search not about sex (33%)
- A pop-up or other ad (27%)
- SPAM (14%)
- Someone they met online (1%)

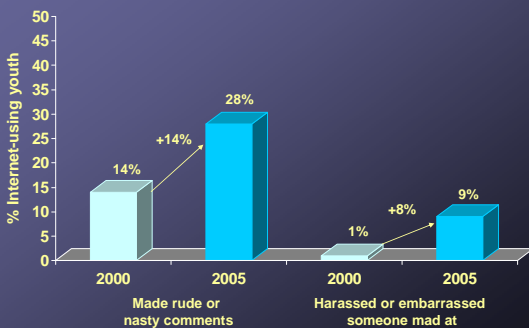
5

## Talking about Sex with Strangers Online



6

## Using the Internet to Harass



7

## Risky Behavior: Summary

*A lot of risky Internet use and unwanted experiences were not solitary.*

8

### *Risky Behavior: Summary*

*Still relatively low levels of risky sexual behavior.*

9

### *Risky Behavior: Summary*

*Particularly large increases in youth being rude, nasty, and harassing others online.*

10

*Have youth gotten prevention information?*

11

### *Parents' Views on Prevention*

Parents have talked to their children about:

- Giving out personal information online (90%)
- Chatting with strangers (87%)
- Responding to offensive messages (79%)
- Talking online about sex (77%)
- Dealing with x-rated SPAM or pop-ups (77%)

12

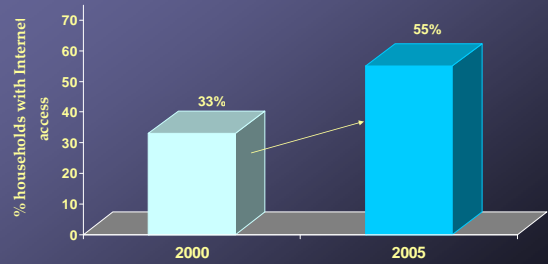
### Children's Views on Prevention

Children say their parents or teachers have talked to them about how to avoid:

- X-rated pictures online (66%)
- People online who might try to talk to them about sex (58%)
- Those online who might bother, threaten or harass (65%)

13

### Use of Filtering and Blocking Software



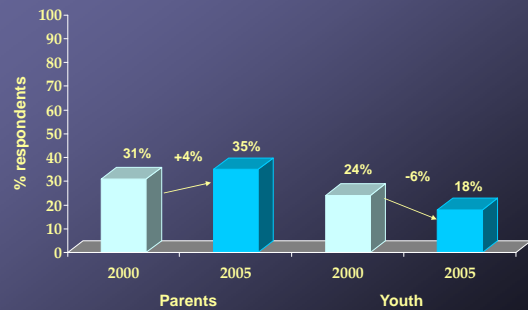
14

### Law Enforcement Safety Presentations

- About 1 in 5 youth had attended a presentation about Internet safety that was put on by law enforcement
  - 21% (n = 321)

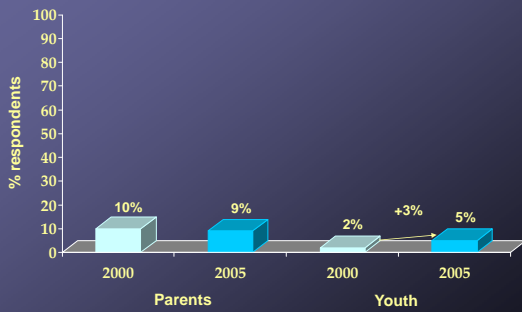
15

### Did more parents or youth know about places to report incidents?



16

*Did more parents or youth know about the CyberTipline?*



17

*Knowledge of the CyberTipline*

Youth who attended law enforcement Internet safety presentations were more likely to know about reporting and the CyberTipline

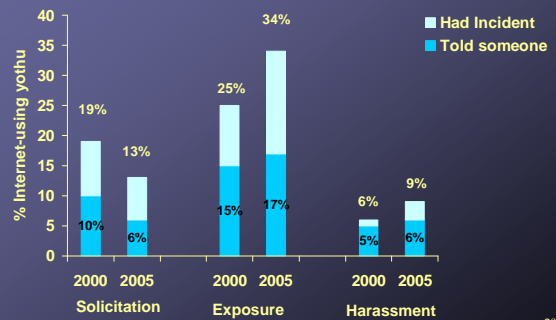
- 23% knew of places to report
  - Compared to 17% w/o LEA safety info
- 8% knew of the CyberTipline
  - Compared to 5% w/o LEA safety info

18

*Youth remain reluctant to reveal unwanted solicitations, exposures and harassment.*

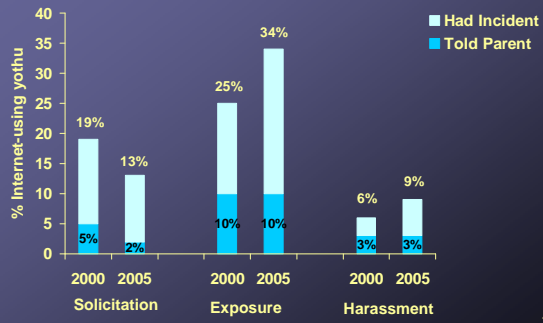
19

*A higher proportion of harassment incidents were disclosed to someone.*



20

*Few youth told parents what happened.*



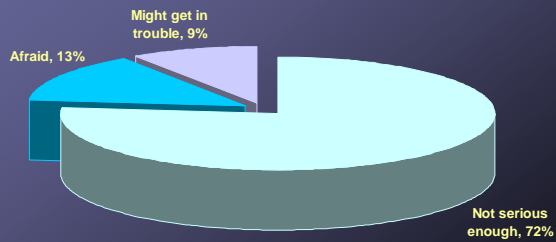
21

*Few incidents were reported to authorities.*



22

*Why didn't youth tell?*



23

*Prevention: Summary*

*Internet safety information from law enforcement seems to be having some impact.*

24

## *Prevention: Summary*

*More families are using filtering and blocking software.*

25

## *Prevention: Summary*

*No change in the low rates of disclosure, particularly among reports to authorities.*

26

What should you find out about the Internet in specific victimization cases?

27

For all youth reporting Internet-related challenges, find out...

- Is there Internet access?
  - Where is the computer?
  - Is it in the common area?
  - Does it have software to filter or block sexual material or otherwise monitor Internet use?
  - Is there a web camera/scanner/digital camera?
  - Do adults need education about Internet safety?

28

## For youth targeted by unwanted sexual solicitations, find out...

### Are youth

- Using suggestive screen names or posting suggestive profiles?
- Visiting chat rooms?
- Have strangers in their IM buddy list?
- Talking online to adults about sex?
- Being aggressively targeted?
  - Gifts?
  - Telephone contact?
  - Face-to-face meetings?

29

## For youth who have been the target of harassment, find out...

### Are youth

- Instigators of harassment themselves?
- Targets of chronic harassment?
- Being targeted by an adult?
- Being targeted by a 'stranger'?
- Being aggressively targeted?
  - Asked to send a picture?
  - Telephone or face-to-face contact?

30