

THIS MONTH we look at the vulnerability of youth due to victimisation through cyber bullying. According to Dr Pieter Schreicher from Bulksms.com this type of bullying is more psychological than physical and teachers or parents can not intervene in the same manner. Cyber bullying can occur in the privacy of the home and the abuse can be broadcasted quickly over the internet or cellphones.

WHAT IS CYBER BULLYING?

When a teen, preteen or child is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by another child, preteen or teen using the internet, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones.

ADOLESCENT SEXUAL VICTIMISATION— STEIN & NOFZIGER

This study investigates the experience of sexual victimisation among American youth. The objective is to determine who adolescents tell of their victimization and whether the choice influences the likelihood of the offender being arrested.

<http://yvj.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/6/2/158>

In this issue:

- Adolescent Sexual Victimization. Choice of Confident and failure of Authorities.
- Risk factors for and the impact of online sexual solicitation of our youth.
- Online “predators” and their victims: Myths, Realities and Implications for Prevention and Treatment.
- The rise of cyber bullying
- **Statistics of Cyber Bullying**

RISK FACTORS FOR AND IMPACT OF ONLINE SEXUAL SOLICITATION OF YOUTH.

Health care professionals, educators, and others are increasingly called upon to advice parents and policy makers about risks posed to children by Internet use. However little scientific information exist on the experiences of children online. This research was done to asses the risk factors surrounding online sexual solicitation of youth and distress due to solicitation.

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/285/23/3011>

ONLINE PREDATORS AND THEIR VICTIMS: MYTHS, REALITIES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR PREVENTION AND TREATMENT - MITCHELL, FINKELHOR & WOLAK

The publicity about online “predators” that prey on naïve children using trickery and violence is largely inaccurate. Internet sex crimes involving adults and juveniles more often fit a model of statutory rape than a model of forcible sexual assault or pedophilic child molesting. This is a serious problem, but one that requires different approaches from current prevention messages emphasizing parental control and the dangers of divulging personal information.

<http://www.largepelagicslab.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/Am%20Psy%202-08.pdf>

A GREAT RESOURCE

www.parentscorner.org.za is an innovative website aimed at parents seeking a no-nonsense guide to understanding cellphone use by teenagers.

THE RISE OF CYBER BULLYING

Ryan Halligan was taunted for months. Classmates spread rumours via instant messaging that the 13-year-old boy was gay. A popular female classmate pretended to like him and chatted with him online only to copy their personal exchanges and share them with her friends. Unable to cope, Halligan, of Essex Junction, Vermont, killed himself.

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg19526136.300-the-rise-of-cyberbullying.html>

FIRST RESEARCHED BASED CYBER BULLYING AWARENESS CURRICULUM LAUNCHED...

The solution does not lie with 'stranger danger', fear tactics or filtering, but with prevention strategies where students and schools 'own' the problem. Read the rest of the article...

<http://www.reuters.com/article/pressRelease/idUS125077+12-Jan-2009+PRN20090112>

INTERESTING WEBSITES

www.cyberbullying.us

www.stopcyberbullying.org

www.bulksms.com

STATISTICS OF CYBER BULLYING

- According to the American crime prevention centre over 40% of teenagers with internet access have reported bullying online over the last year.
- Girls are more likely than boys to be the target of cyber bullying.
- Only 10% of teenagers tell their parents of bullying and only 18% of these were reported to law enforcement.
- 18% of males and 16 % of females reported being offenders
- Only 15% of parents are in "the know" of their children's social networking habits and that it can lead to cyber bullying.
- Social networks like Facebook and MySpace are growing fast and so is the cyber bullying incidents originating from them.

<http://www.cyberbullyalert.com/blog/2008/08/cyber-bullying-statistics-that-may-shock-you/>

- In South Africa there are 1.4 million Facebook users.
- 30.45% of all SA Internet users are on Facebook.

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Note: The Newsletter is pleased to provide space for members to share stories and experiences. We will publish all entries that uphold the [values](#) of RAPCAN. Unfortunately, we are unable to publish member's requests for funds or fundraising drives in this space.