

Cyber Bullying

on Today's Youth

"Team AWOSOME!"

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What is Cyber bullying?



“Cyber-bullying involves the use of information and communication technologies such as email, cell phone and text messages, instant messaging, and defamatory personal Web sites, to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behavior by an individual or group that is intended to harm others”

-Bill Belsey

What is Cyber bullying cont.

Conceptual issues

- “Online bullying”, “e-bullying”, “digital bullying”, “Internet bullying”
- “cyber-harassment”, “cyber-stalking” when involves adults
- Varies in forms and means
- No single unanimous definition
- At its core, cyber bullying involves the use of technology to harm others.

Characteristics of Cyber bullying

- In common with traditional bullying
 - A form of abuse
 - Repeated over time
 - Aggressive behavior
 - Power imbalance
 - Bystanders
- Represent in a different way due to the unique characteristics of cyberspace



Characteristics of Cyber bullying cont.

Anonymity

- Deindividuation - Anonymity lessens self-awareness, reduces concern over social evaluation, and weakens restraints against harmful behavior (Zimbardo, 1969)
- Pursue behaviors further than normally would
- Go far beyond what intend to do
 - Cannot access to the reaction of the victims
 - Mentally and psychologically harm or pain
 - Instrumental aggression Vs. Hostile aggression

Characteristics of Cyber bullying cont.

- Easy to conduct
 - Hide behind without facing anybody
 - No matter about size
 - Hard to trace responsibility
- Infinite audience or bystanders
 - Unwilling audience
 - Global accessibility
 - Permanent Expressions

Tools used in Cyber bullying

- Instant messaging(IM)
- Emails
- Text message
- Web sites
- Chat room
- On-line games
- Blog
- BBS (Bulletin Board System)



Tools used in Cyber bullying cont.

- Social network sites
 - MySpace & Facebook
 - Part of youth's culture and life
- New communication modalities
 - 3G technology, such as Twitter
 - People deliver the most relevant information as it is happened in the world



Types of Cyber bullying

- The type of behavior being transmitted that leads to a label of cyber bullying
- The means by which cyber bullying is carried out
- A particular kind of bullying may be associated with a particular communication tools

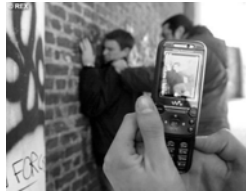
Types of Cyber bullying cont.

- Flaming
- Harassment
- Denigration
- Outing and trickery
- Exclusion
- Cyber-stalking



Types of cyber bullying cont.

- Impersonation
 - The perpetrator pretend to be the victim
 - Often by using the victim's account
 - Deliver negative, aggressive, or inappropriate speech
- Happy slapping
 - assaults a victim, known or unknown
 - someone deliberately , while another person captures the acts, commonly using a camera phone
 - Upload to Web site (such as YouTube) or sent through cell phone



Quotes of Cyber bullied students

- "I still cry when I think of what she said. After awhile you start believing all of the things people tell you that aren't true. When I look in the mirror I wonder if I'm fat (I'm not) after what my ex-friend said." (14 year-old girl from Illinois)
- "One of my friends started hassling me on msn messenger; she was sending me nasty messages and text messages and this carried on at school. I told my parents, my friends, and a teacher. she was spoken to a few times but it still carries on a bit now but not as bad because i have blocked her online. This really affected me at home and at school; I couldn't concentrate on school work and I was always upset and down now I just ignore it and get on with it. I have plenty more friends and i don't need her anymore. Maybe one day she will give up and grow up." (15 year-old girl from the United Kingdom)
- "The last time I was bullied online, I was on MSN (instant messaging) talking to some people from school. Someone from my class who doesn't like me started talking sh** about me to everyone else. And a bunch of people that she had been talking to came and started harassing me. They were talking about how I had bad grades in math and how I bite my fingernails and other stupid stuff like that. They still say stuff about me at school and make things up about me and tell everyone." (13 year-old girl from Canada)

Cyber bullying Statistics in 2005

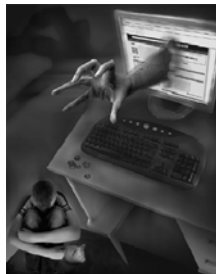
- Victims
 - 34.4% stated that they have been cyber bullied, and
 - 12.6% stated that they were physically threatened and scared for their safety.
 - only 14.3% told their parent(s), a teacher, or some other adult.
- Offenders
 - 16.7% reported that they have bullied someone online.
 - 50% of the bullies claimed that the bullying was done out of fun
 - 40% felt that online bullying is not as hurtful or as bad as bullying in person.

Cyber bullying and Middle School

- Cyber bullying mainly occurs middle school years; ages 11yrs-14yrs old
- During this time adolescents are trying to find their self identity
 - Turn to their peers for acceptance and self identification

Bullying and suicide

- Traditional bullying
 - victims were 1.7 times more likely
 - offenders were 2.1 times more likely
- Cyber bullying
 - victims were 1.9 times more likely
 - offenders were 1.5 times more likely



Ryan Halligan's Story

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-08VtcVfP7Q>

Megan Meier's Story

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cw2FG-Fwpek>



Prevention

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ja_hnNMiK-Aw

Cyber Bullying and the Law

- In light of the suicide Megan Meier, Democratic Representative of California Linda Sanchez created a cyber bullying prevention act.
- H.R.6123 also known as Megan Meier Cyber bullying Prevention Act.
- This act amends the federal criminal code to compel criminal penalties on anyone who participates in cyber bullying.

Cyber Bullying and the Law Continued

- Most states including Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Washington have passed laws that mandate that school districts outline bullying and the repercussions in a school manual, create methods to deal with bullying and enforce the protocol

Cyber Bullying and the Law Continued

- Another case that has proposed a law against cyber bullying is the suicide of Ryan Halligan.
- Governor Jim Douglas of Vermont signed into law in 2004, 2004 Vermont ACT 117, a bill establishing bullying prevention procedures for schools.



Victims

- Should remember not to retaliate, this will just encourage the cyber bully.
- Advise an adult of this behavior so proper action can be taken.
- Stop all communication with the cyber bully.
- Make hard copy of any and all materials the cyber bully has posted or sent online, as evidence.

Victims Continued

- File a complaint with the website, Internet service provider (ISP), or cell phone company.
- If the cyber bullying continues or gets worse (with acts of violence), report the behavior to the police.



Parents

- This information is not new to parents but it is definitely worth repeating.
- Monitor your child's online behavior.
- Keep computers in a communal area.
- To talk with your children about their online activities. Especially regarding expectations for responsible online behavior, proper internet etiquette, and responsible online behavior and proper internet etiquette, and make clear the consequences of breaking your internet rules.

Parents Continued

- Teach children to keep their personal information confidential.
- Install parental control filtering software and/or tracking programs
- Beware of warning signs that might indicate the child is being bullied.



School

- School administrators, psychologists, and educators are in a unique position to have a vital role in addressing the problem of cyber bullying in the schools.
- Conduct a building threat assessment to determine prevalence and severity of cyber bullying in your school.
- Promote anti-cyber bullying in the school through education. Educate using workshops, online training, and in the classroom with lesson plans.

School Continued

- Include in your school's anti-bullying program/manual a no tolerance policy for cyber bullying.
- Create counseling groups to help students talk about what happened to them and work through issues they now face.