NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN

Online Safety: Trends and Resources

Human Trafficking Child Abuse Prevention Webinar Series

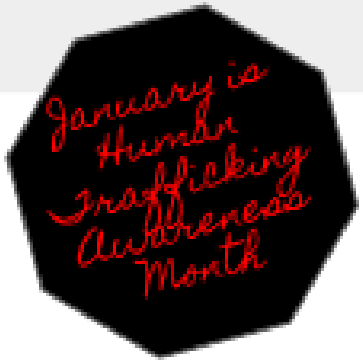
Texas Education Agency

NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN®

Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness Webinar Series

DIGITAL SAFETY

January 8, 2021



Before we get started, please...

- *mute your mics*
- *add your name and ESC/District*

Texas Education Agency

TITLE IV SCHOOL SAFETY STATE INITIATIVE

Region 12 Education Service Center
Innovate. Empower. Educate.

Objective and Purpose:

Human Trafficking Child Abuse Prevention Webinar Series is brought to you as a part of a collaborative workgroup with Office of the Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team, Region 14/Title IV Initiative, Region 12, TEA and other stakeholders to support state roll out and implementation of Human Trafficking prevention and awareness in Texas schools.

OUR MISSION

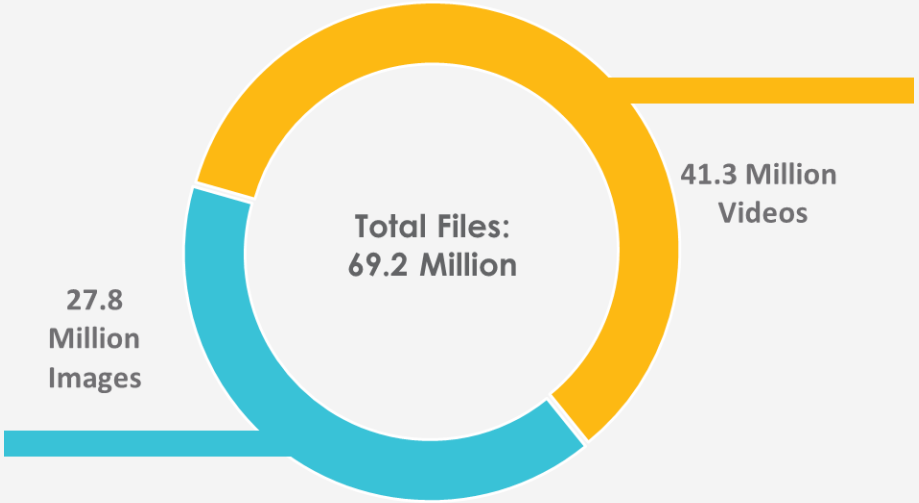
Find Missing Children

Reduce Child Sexual Exploitation

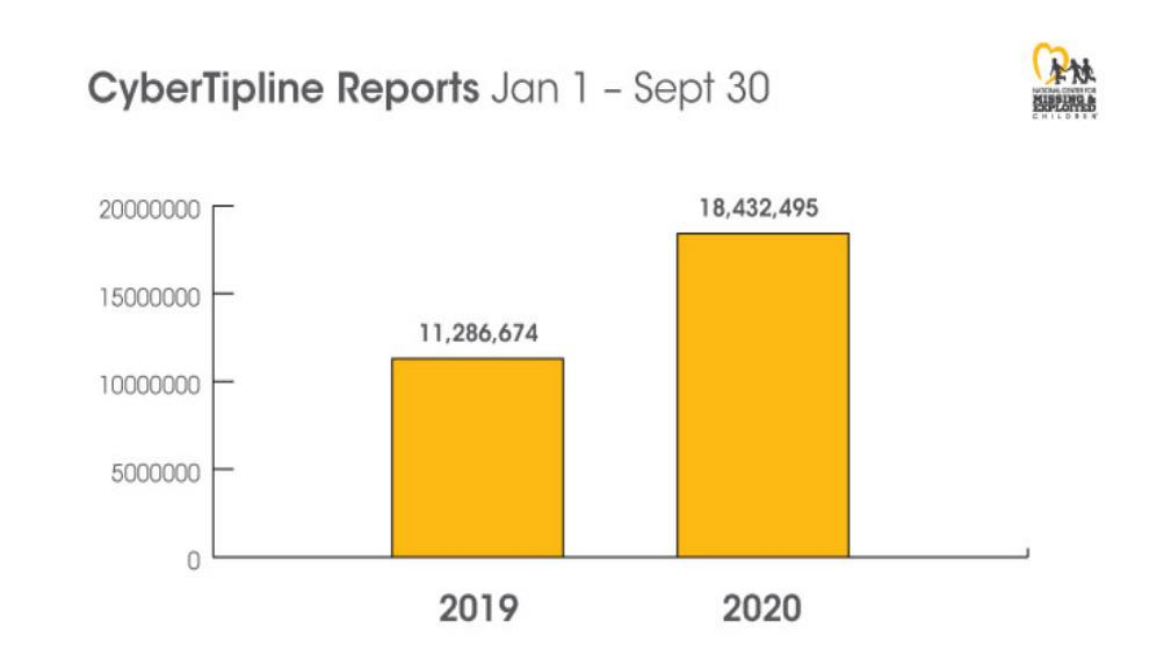
Prevent Future Victimization

Hope is why we're here.

CyberTipline – 2019 Data

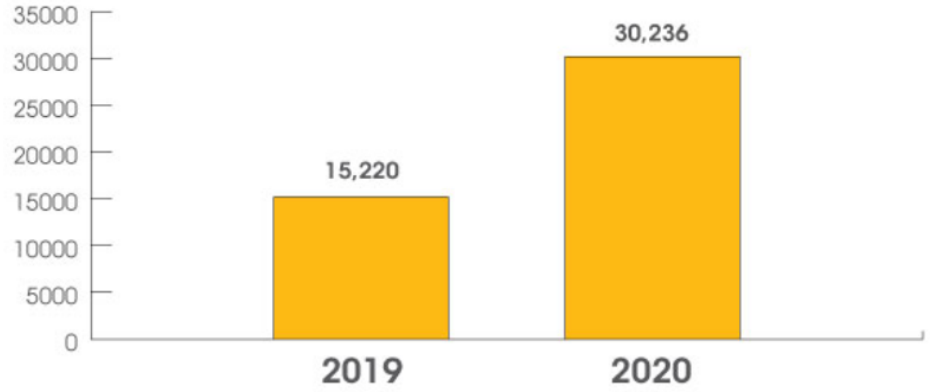


NCMEC COVID Data: CyberTipline Reports



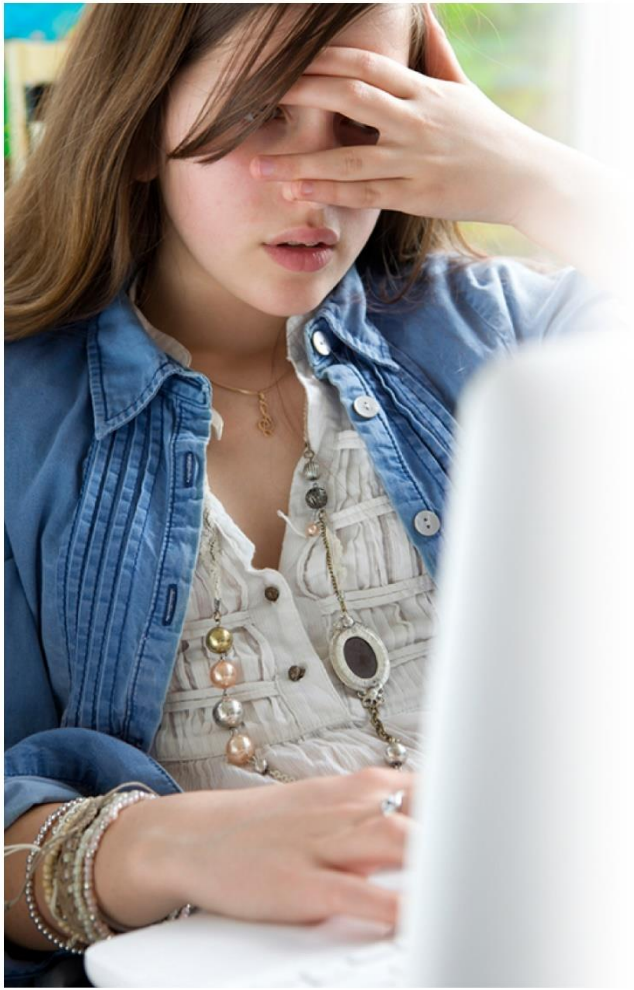
NCMEC has experienced a 63% increase in CyberTipline reports between January - September 2020 versus the same time period in 2019.

NCMEC COVID Data: Online Enticement Reports



NCMEC has experienced a 98.66% increase in online enticement reports between January - September 2020 versus the same time period in 2019.

- With both children and adults spending more time online due to social distancing measures, NCMEC is aware of instances where child predators are using the darknet to discuss this opportunity to entice children to produce sexually explicit material.
- Some child traffickers adjusted to the reluctance of buyers to meet in-person to engage in commercial sex. Some traffickers are now offering options for subscription-based services in which buyers pay to access online images and videos of the child.



Safety & Security Issues

- Inappropriate content
- Online privacy
- Sexting
- Online enticement
- Cyberbullying
- Gaming Safely

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TALK ABOUT THE RISKS AT EVERY AGE

YOUNGER CHILDREN
Netiquette
Looking at inappropriate content
Pop-ups/passwords
Not trusting everyone you meet online

TWEENS & TEENS
Cyberbullying
Sexting
Posting personal/ inappropriate information
Meeting offline

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INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

- Pornography
- Excessive violence
- Hate speech
- Risky or illegal behaviors

How to Respond

- Don't frighten them
- Listen attentively and stay calm
- Tell them it's not their fault
- Answer questions
- Help them report it

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What They Should Do

- Turn off the screen
- Use the back button
- Tell a trusted adult
- Report it to the website or app
- Report it to Cybertipline.org

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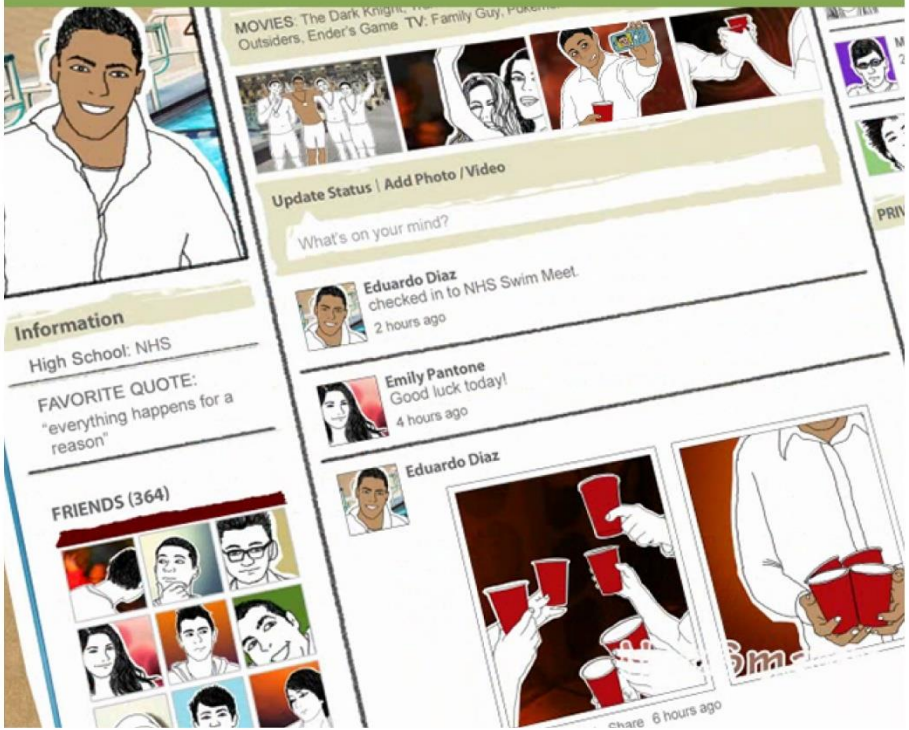
Don't Post



- Inappropriate or illegal behavior
- Offensive language
- Threats of violence
- Underage drinking or drug use
- Hate speech

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What You Can Do

Connect

Learn

Engage

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Online Privacy

What's OK? What's Not OK?

- Pictures of family and friends
- Personal information
- Conversations with unknown people in an online game
- Creating videos on streaming services
- 'Checking in' or sharing current location online
- Sending/viewing/sharing explicit or provocative pictures

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PERSONAL
INFORMATION
• Passwords
• Home address
• Location
• Home/Cell phone number
• Email address

Risks of Sharing Personal Information

- Identity theft
- Online scams
- Hacking
- Online enticement
- Sextortion

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What You Can Do

- Establish rules about what they can share
- Learn about reporting options
- Help them set privacy settings
- Help them create strong passwords
- Talk about friends lists

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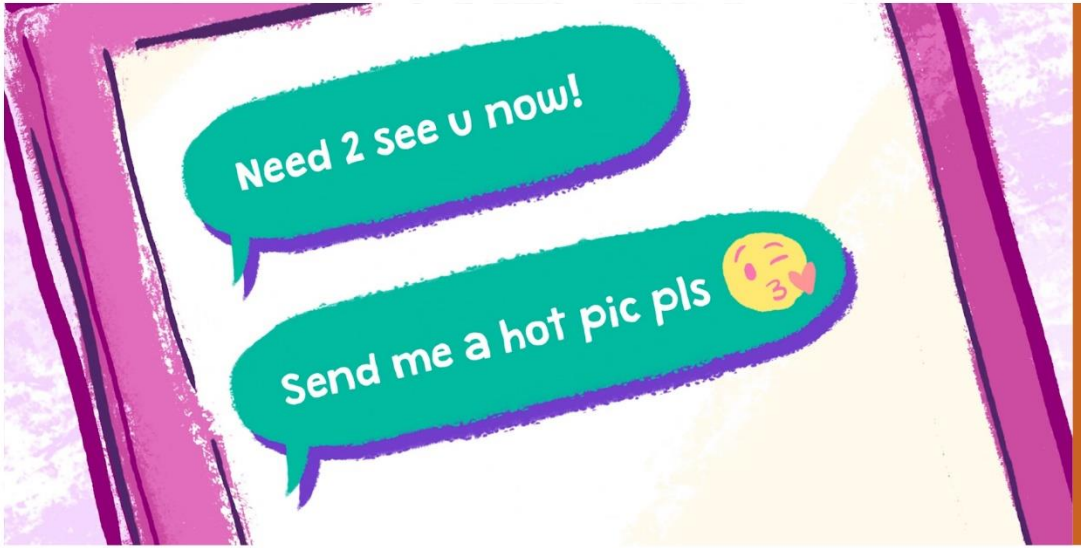

SEXTING

Sending or posting nude or partially nude images.

Research suggests that:

- 15% of teens have sexted
- 27% of say they have recieved a sext

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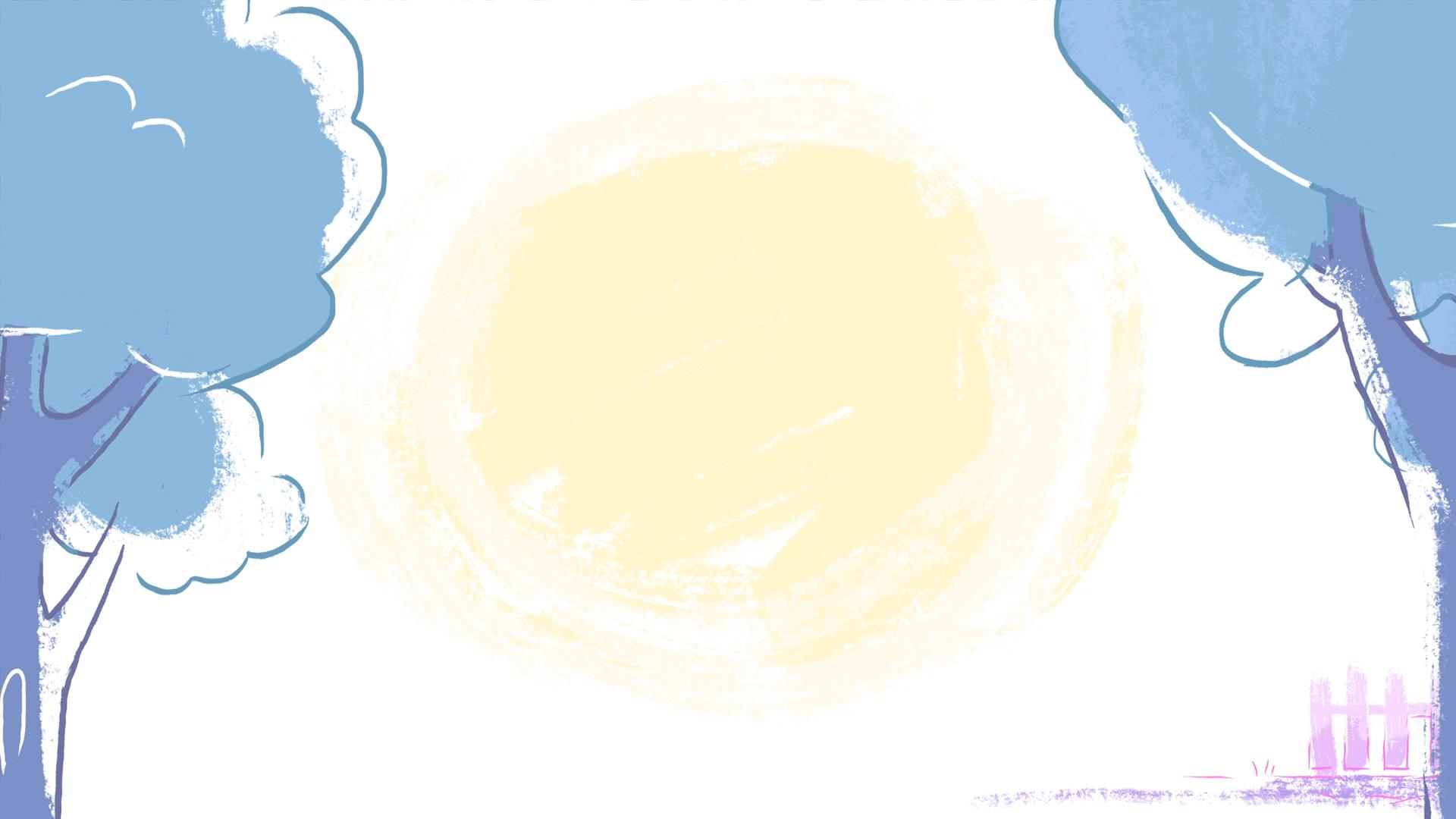
WHY ARE THEY SEXTING?

- To be funny
- To impress a crush
- Peer pressure or threats
- Experimenting with relationships, sexual behavior, and boundaries

Your
Photo
Fate



Consequences of Sexting

- Humiliation
- Bullying
- Blackmail
- School discipline
- Police involvement

Addressing Sexting

- Talk about the consequences
- Tell them never to forward a sexting image
- Discuss healthy relationships
- Talk about ways an image can spread online
- Report it to Cybertipline.org

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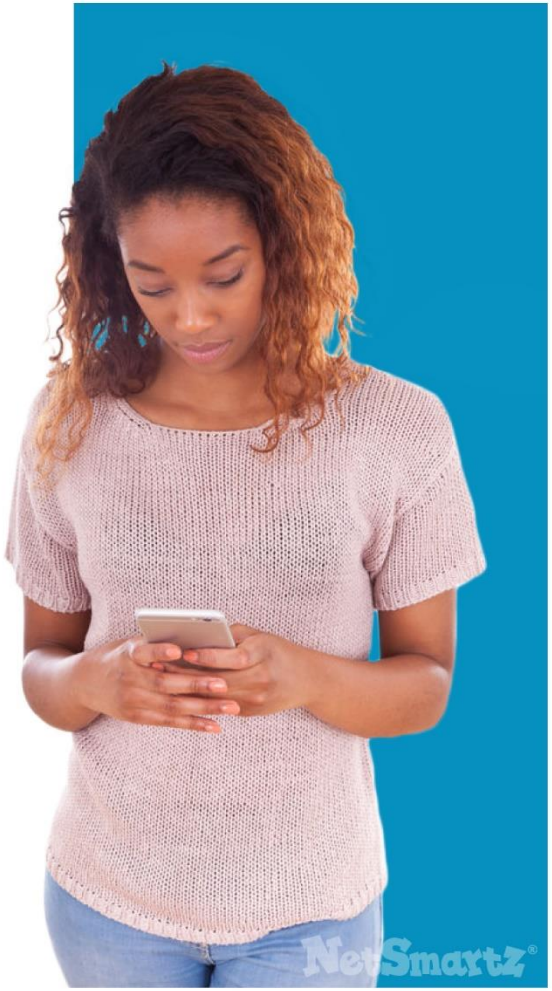
How do SOLICITATIONS occur?

- Most occur on social networking sites
- Most occur among older teens
- Most teens are solicited by peers
- Most are not bothered by it



OFFENDERS GROOM CHILDREN BY:

- Exploiting their natural curiosity
- Gradually introducing explicit images
- Using adult status to control a child's behavior
- Offering gifts like cell phones and gift cards

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Signs of Grooming

Check if your child is:

- Receiving gifts
- Calling unknown numbers
- Rejecting family and friends
- Getting upset when not online
- Minimizing the screen

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SURVIVOR DIARIES

A PROGRAM OF THE
NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN®

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Trends: Self-Produced Explicit Content

What You Can Do

- Talk about relationships
- Discuss the potential consequences of meeting offline
- Discuss why it's important that the child knows who is on his/her friends list
- Discuss the warning signs
- Call the police
- Report to CyberTipline.org

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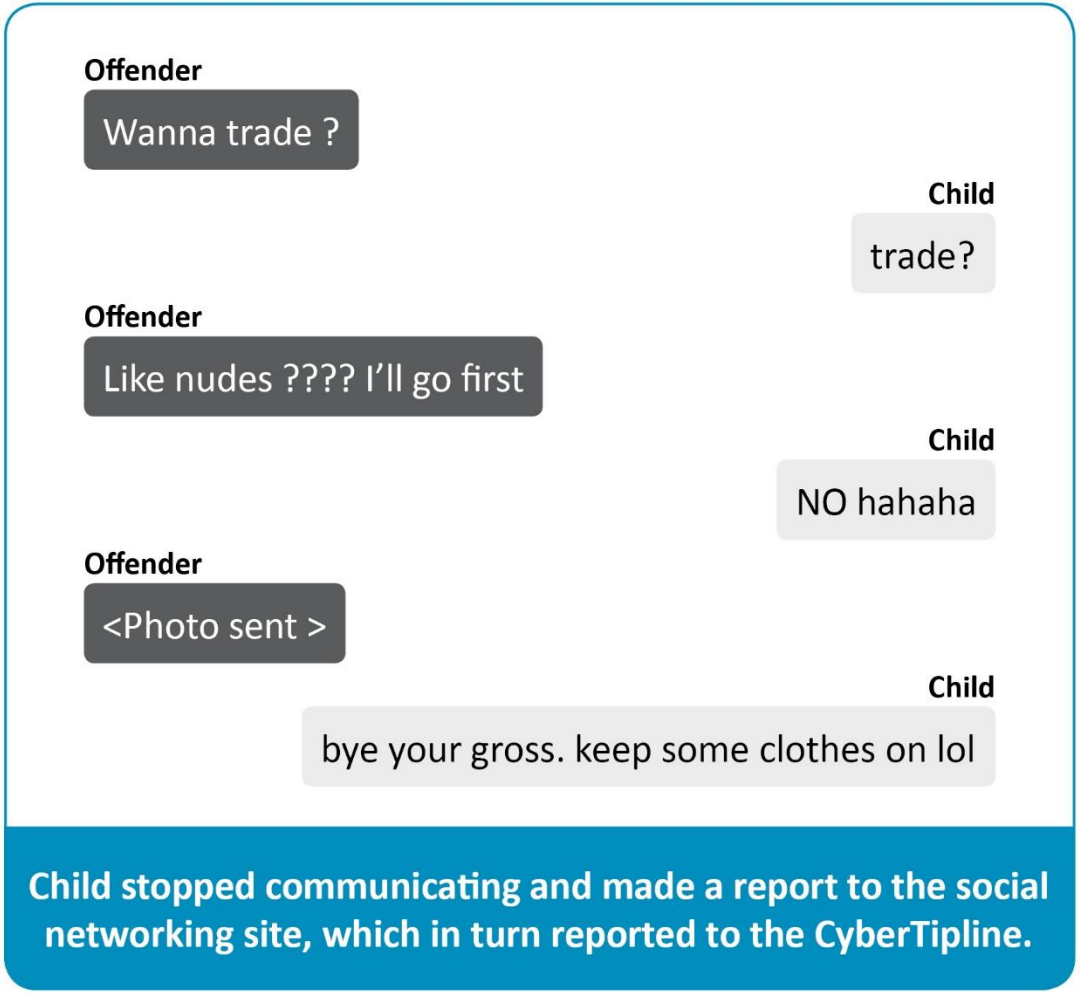
KIDS ARE CAPABLE

Chat log as reported to NCMEC's CyberTipline:



Report to CyberTipline

- Anyone who sends a child photos or videos containing obscene content
- Anyone who asks a child to send sexual images
- Anyone speaking to a child in a sexual manner
- Anyone who asks a child to meet in person

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CyberTipline

CyberTipline.org • 1-800-THE-LOST®

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Bullying + Technology = Cyberbullying

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Examples of Cyberbullying

- Sending mean texts
- Photoshopping pictures
- Creating fake profiles
- Posting fight videos
- Spreading rumors and gossip
- Posting embarrassing pictures
- Sending threatening or harassing comments

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Differences between Cyberbullying & Bullying

- Spreads faster
- Wider audience
- Follows children home

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SUICIDE AMONG CYBERBULLYING VICTIMS IS RARE

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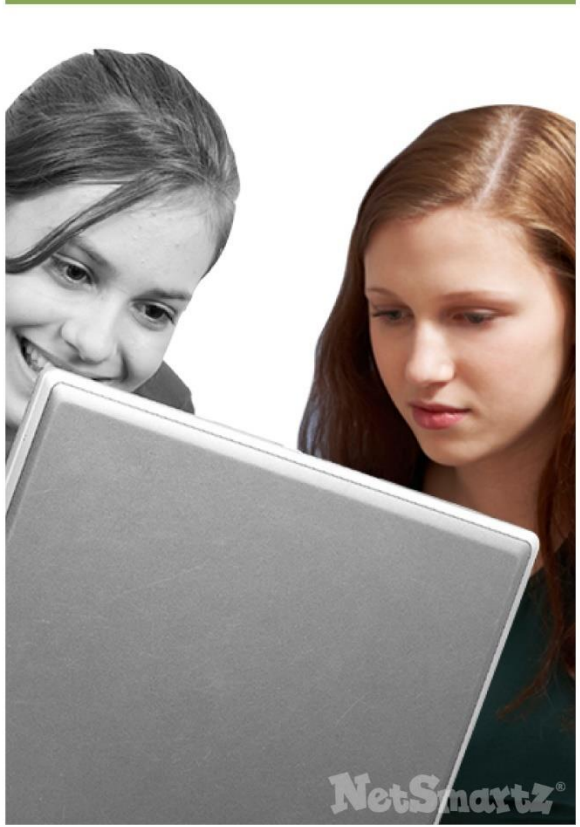
WHAT'S
YOUR
STORY?

Cyberbully

Victim

Bystander



A CYBERBULLYING VICTIM MIGHT

- Stop using the computer or cell phone
- Act nervous when receiving an email, IM or text
- Seem uneasy about going to school
- Withdraw from friends and family

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How To Help

- Offer your support and problem solve together
- Consider saving the evidence
- Block cyberbullies
- Set up new accounts
- Talk to the school
- Report it to CyberTipline.org

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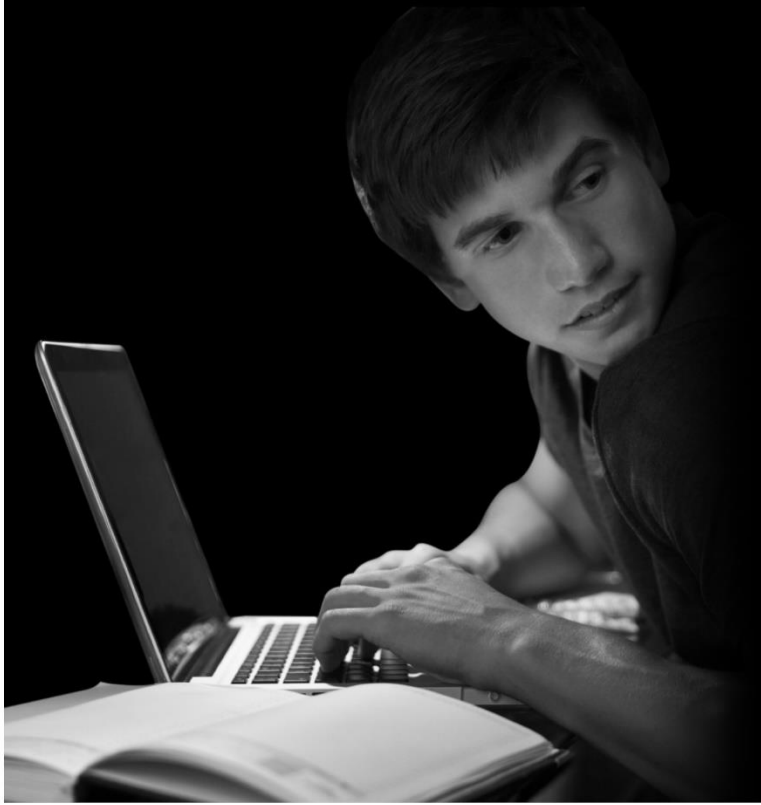
Cyberbullying Behaviors



- Quickly switches screens or closes programs
- Uses the computer at all hours
- Gets unusually upset if they cannot use the computer
- Avoids discussions about what they are doing
- Uses multiple online accounts

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How to Prevent It

- Discuss how online behavior is an extension of "offline" behavior
- Discuss expectations for online behavior
- Discuss the consequences of cyberbullying
- Model good online behavior

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TALK ABOUT NOT BEING A BYSTANDER.

- Discuss how to report
- Encourage them to stand up for the victim
- Help them report the cyberbullying to an adult or teacher

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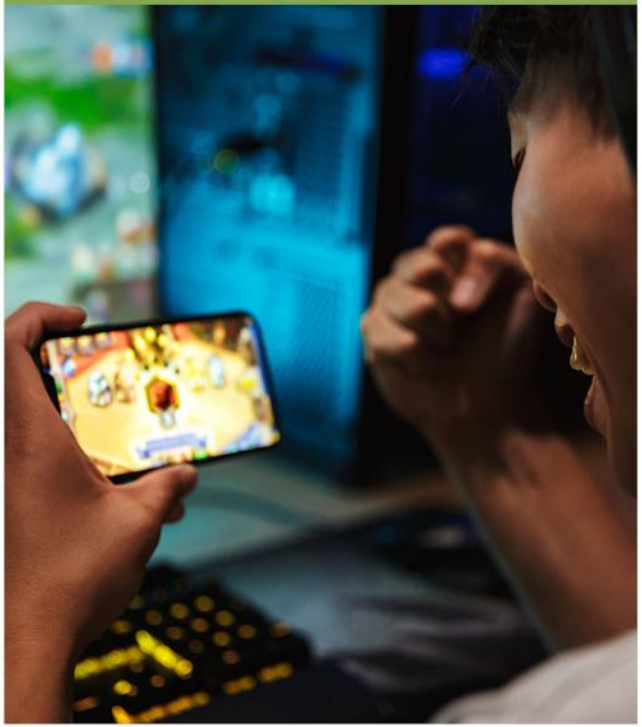
GAMING SAFELY



- 72% of teens, both male and female (ages 13-17) play video games
- More than half of those teens said they have made new friends online
- NCMEC analysis of CyberTipline reports has found that gaming platforms are more often used in the online enticement of young boys than any other group of children

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TECHNOLOGY CAN'T CATCH EVERYTHING SO, COMMUNICATE!

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Training & Professional Development

NCMEC Connect

On-demand trainings, resources and best practices related to missing and exploited children.

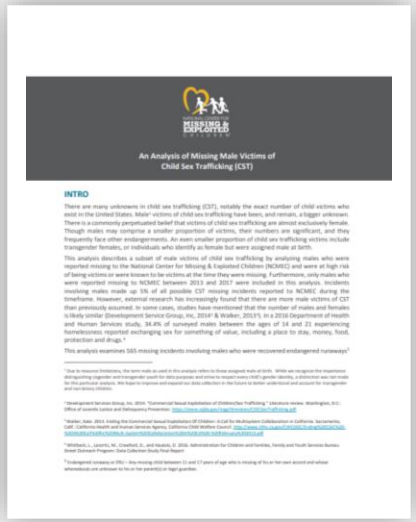
Chief Executive Officer Seminar on Missing & Exploited Children (CEOMEC)

3-day seminar for chiefs, sheriffs, 911 directors and clearinghouse managers to learn about resources and best practice related to missing and exploited child cases.

Child Sex Trafficking Awareness & Response (CSTAR)

3 ½-day training for investigators and prosecutors focused on child sex trafficking cases and the unique dynamics associated with this population.

Publications



An Analysis of Missing Male Victims of Child Sex Trafficking (CST)

INTRO

There are many unknowns in child sex trafficking (CST), notably the exact number of child victims who exist in the United States. Male[1] victims of child sex trafficking have been, and remain, a bigger unknown. There is a commonly perpetuated belief that victims of child sex trafficking are almost exclusively female. Though males may comprise a smaller proportion of victims, their numbers are significant, and they frequently face other endangerments. An even smaller proportion of child sex trafficking victims include transgender females, or individuals who identify as female but were assigned male at birth.

This analysis describes a subset of male victims of child sex trafficking by analyzing males who were reported missing to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) and were at high risk of being victims or were known to be victims at the time they were missing. Furthermore, only males who were reported missing to NCMEC between 2013 and 2017 were included in this analysis. Incidents involving males made up 5% of all possible CST missing incidents reported to NCMEC during the timeframe. However, external research has increasingly found that there are more male victims of CST than previously assumed. In some cases, studies have mentioned that the number of males and females is likely similar (Development Service Group, Inc., 2014[2] & Walker, 2013[3]). In a 2016 Department of Health and Human Services study, 34.4% of surveyed males between the ages of 14 and 21 experiencing homelessness reported exchanging sex for something of value, including a place to stay, money, food, protection and drugs.[4]

This analysis examines 565 missing incidents involving males who were recovered endangered runaways[5]

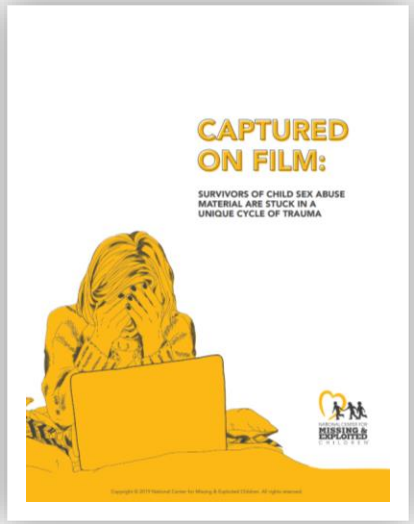
[1] Due to resource limitations, the term male as used in this analysis refers to those assigned male at birth. While we recognize the importance distinguishing cisgender and transgender youth for data purposes and strive to respect every child's gender identity, a distinction was not made for this particular analysis. We hope to improve and expand our data collection in the future to better understand and account for transgender and non-binary children.

[2] Development Services Group, Inc. 2014. "Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children/Sex Trafficking." Literature review. Washington, D.C.: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. http://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg/litreviews/CSECSexTrafficking.pdf

[3] Walker, Kate. 2013. Ending the Commercial Sexual Exploitation Of Children: A Call for Multisystem Collaboration in California. Sacramento, Calif.: California Health and Human Services Agency, California Child Welfare Council. http://www.chhs.ca.gov/CHHSAgency%20Publications%20Publications%20Documents/Ending%20the%20Commercial%20Sexual%20Exploitation%20of%20Children.pdf

[4] Whitbeck, L., Lazorko, W., Crawford, D., and Hoyakis, D. 2016. Administration for Children and Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau Street Outreach Program: Data Collection Study Final Report

[5] Endangered runaway or ORU – Any missing child between 11 and 17 years of age who is missing of his or her own accord and whose whereabouts are unknown to his or her parent(s) or legal guardian.



CAPTURED ON FILM:

SURVIVORS OF CHILD SEX ABUSE MATERIAL ARE STUCK IN A UNIQUE CYCLE OF TRAUMA

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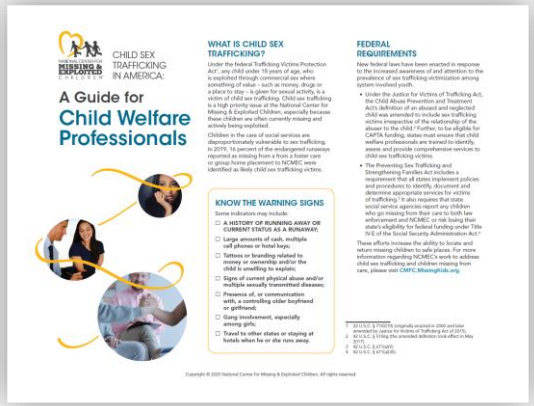

CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING IN AMERICA:

A Guide for Child Welfare Professionals

WHAT IS CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING?

Under the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act[1], any child under 18 years of age, who is exploited through commercial sex where something of value – such as money, drugs or a place to stay – is given for sexual activity, is a victim of child sex trafficking. Child sex trafficking is a high priority issue at the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, especially because these children are often currently missing and actively being exploited.

Children in the care of social services are disproportionately vulnerable to sex trafficking. In 2019, 16 percent of the endangered runaways reported as missing from a from a foster care or group home placement to NCMEC were identified as likely child sex trafficking victims.

FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

New federal laws have been enacted in response to the increased awareness of and attention to the prevalence of sex trafficking victimization among system involved youth:

- Under the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act's definition of an abused and neglected child was amended to include sex trafficking victims irrespective of the relationship of the abuser to the child.[2] Further, to be eligible for CAPTA funding, states must ensure that child welfare professionals are trained to identify, assess and provide comprehensive services to child sex trafficking victims.
- The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act includes a requirement that all states implement policies and procedures to identify, document and determine appropriate services for victims of trafficking.[3] It also requires that state social service agencies report any children who go missing from their care to both law enforcement and NCMEC or risk losing their state's eligibility for federal funding under Title IV-E of the Social Security Administration Act.[4]

These efforts increase the ability to locate and return missing children to safe places. For more information regarding NCMEC's work to address child sex trafficking and children missing from care, please visit CMFC.MissingKids.org.

KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS

Some indicators may include:

- ☐ **A HISTORY OF RUNNING AWAY OR CURRENT STATUS AS A RUNAWAY;**
- ☐ **Large amounts of cash, multiple cell phones or hotel keys;**
- ☐ **Tattoos or branding related to money or ownership and/or the child is unwilling to explain;**
- ☐ **Signs of current physical abuse and/or multiple sexually transmitted diseases;**
- ☐ **Presence of, or communication with, a controlling older boyfriend or girlfriend;**
- ☐ **Gang involvement, especially among girls;**
- ☐ **Travel to other states or staying at hotels when he or she runs away.**

1 22 U.S.C. § 7102(13) (originally enacted in 2000 and later amended by the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015).
2 42 U.S.C. § 5106g (the amended definition took effect in May 2015).
3 42 U.S.C. § 671(a)(9).
4 42 U.S.C. § 671(a)(35).

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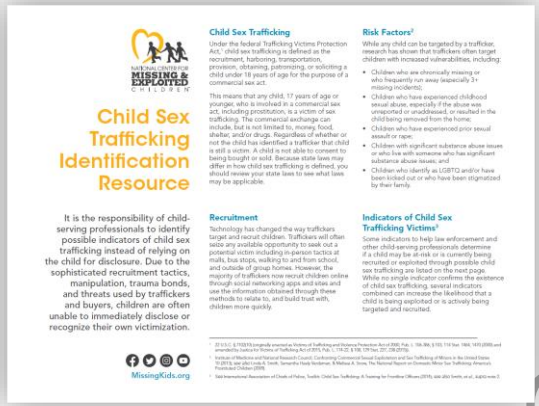

Child Sex Trafficking Identification Resource

It is the responsibility of child-serving professionals to identify possible indicators of child sex trafficking instead of relying on the child for disclosure. Due to the sophisticated recruitment tactics, manipulation, trauma bonds, and threats used by traffickers and buyers, children are often unable to immediately disclose or recognize their own victimization.

MissingKids.org

Child Sex Trafficking

Under the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act,[1] child sex trafficking is defined as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting a child under 18 years of age for the purpose of a commercial sex act.

This means that any child, 17 years of age or younger, who is involved in a commercial sex act, including prostitution, is a victim of sex trafficking. The commercial exchange can include, but is not limited to, money, food, shelter, and/or drugs. Regardless of whether or not the child has identified a trafficker that child is still a victim. A child is not able to consent to being brought or sold. Because state laws may differ in how child sex trafficking is defined, you should review your state laws to see what laws may be applicable.

Recruitment

Technology has changed the way traffickers target and recruit children. Traffickers will often seize any available opportunity to seek out a potential victim including in-person tactics at malls, bus stops, walking to and from school, and outside of group homes. However, the majority of traffickers now recruit children online through social networking apps and sites and use the information obtained through these methods to relate to, and build trust with, children more quickly.

Risk Factors[2]

While any child can be targeted by a trafficker, research has shown that traffickers often target children with increased vulnerabilities, including:

- Children who are chronically missing or who frequently run away (especially 3+ missing incidents);
- Children who have experienced childhood sexual abuse, especially if the abuse was unreported or unaddressed, or resulted in the child being removed from the home;
- Children who have experienced prior sexual assault or rape;
- Children with significant substance abuse issues or who live with someone who has significant substance abuse issues; and
- Children who identify as LGBTQ and/or have been kicked out or who have been stigmatized by their family.

Indicators of Child Sex Trafficking Victims[3]

Some indicators to help law enforcement and other child-serving professionals determine if a child may be at-risk or is currently being recruited or exploited through possible child sex trafficking are listed on the next page. While no single indicator confirms the existence of child sex trafficking, several indicators combined can increase the likelihood that a child is being exploited or is actively being targeted and recruited.

1 22 U.S.C. § 7102(13) (originally enacted as Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, Pub. L. 106-386, § 103, 114 Stat. 1464, 1470 (2000) and amended by Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, Pub. L. 114-22, § 108, 129 Stat. 227, 238 (2015)).
2 Institute of Medicine and National Research Council. Confronting Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking of Minors in the United States. 10 (2013). see also Linda A. Smith, Samantha Vardaman, & Melissa A. Snow, The National Report on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: America's Prostituted Children (2009).
3 Child International Association of Chiefs of Police, Toolkit: Child Sex Trafficking: A Training for Frontline Officers (2019), slide 28 Smith, et al., supra note 2.

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Online safety program for children and families in grades K-12.

Presentations	Games
Discussion guides	E-Books*
Activities	Coloring Books*
Tip sheets	Posters*
Videos	Student Project Kit

MissingKids.org/NetSmartz

NetSmartz Introduces...

NetSmartz®

INTO THE CLOUD

A NEW SERIES!

An age-appropriate six-part web adventure for children ages 12 and under.

Online safety topics include:

- Keeping personal information private
- Recognizing and reporting unsafe interactions and content
- Strategies to handle negative interactions, including cyberbullying

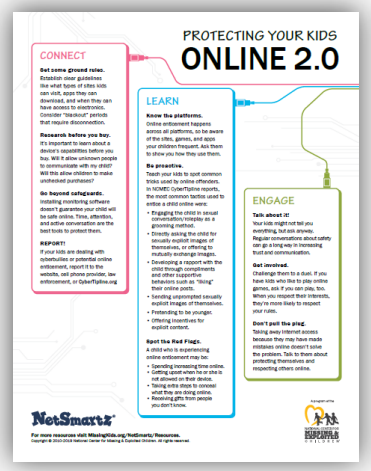
Resources include:

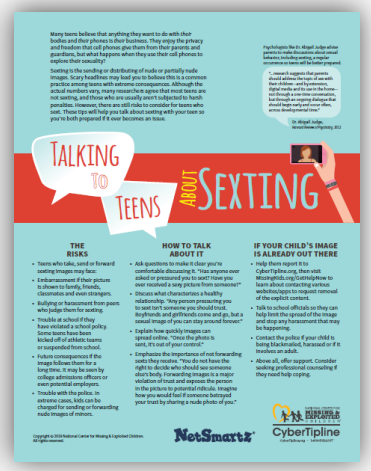
- Episode discussion guides
- Group activities
- "Cloud Chaos!" online game and app
- Scribblez

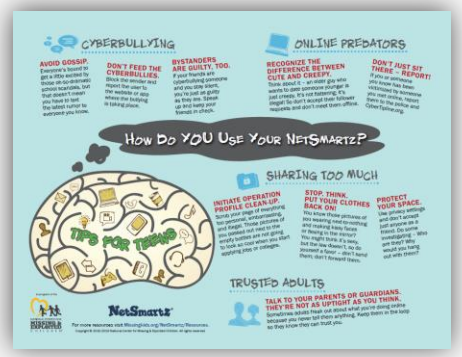
A program of the

NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN®

NetSmartz Tip Sheets: Parents & Youth





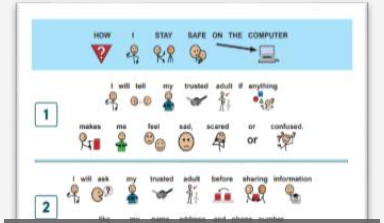


www.KidSmartz.org

Designed to help caregivers and children:

- Understand safety risks
- Learn about risk-reduction strategies
- Feel empowered to report uncomfortable situations

Autism & Sensory Friendly Resources



Internet Safety Pledge

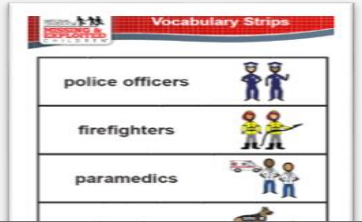
KidSmartz Rules

Sensory Communication Board

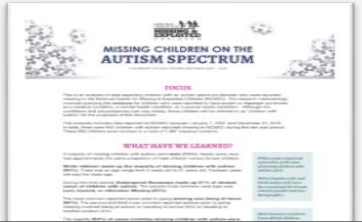
Vocabulary Communication Board

Investigative Checklist

Sensory Friendly Events



Vocabulary Strips



NCMEC Report: Missing Children on the Autism Spectrum

Additional Child Safety Resources

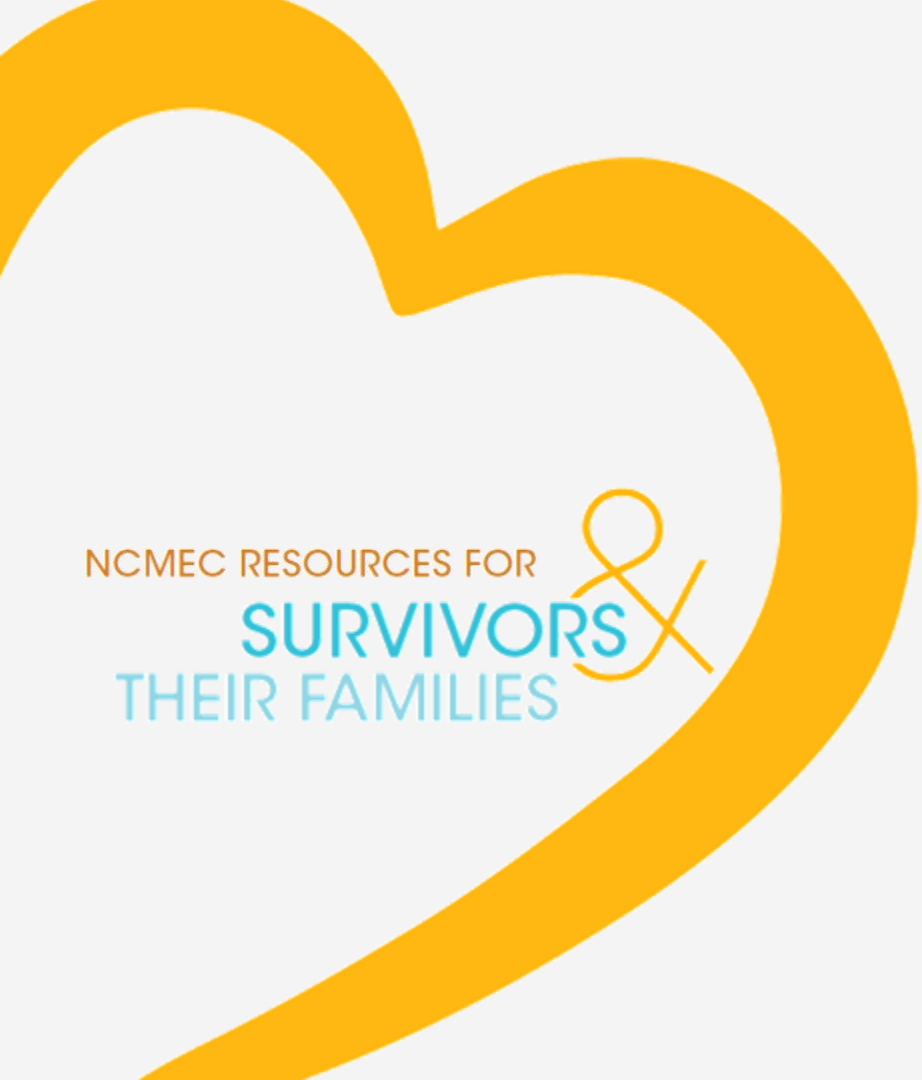
Disaster Preparedness Kits

Safe to Compete

Adam Program

Code Adam

Child ID Kits



- Crisis Intervention
- Peer support network
- Mental health & community support referrals
- Reunification assistance
- Long-term emotional support
- Prevention strategies
- Legal referrals

All services are FREE. Families do not have to have an active case to be eligible.

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missingkids.org

cybertipline.org

1-800-THE-LOST

Endnotes

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