

Child Internet Exploitation (ICE)

It's more widespread than many people think!

GET THE FACTS

- Youth between the ages of 13-15 are most at risk of being sexually exploited online because their online activities may place them in risky situations.¹
- Internet users tend to underestimate the amount of privacy they have when using applications and social media sites. Even when they use the “private” settings, they may disclose personal information that criminals can use to locate potential victims. For example, the location tagging options on mobile devices lets other people know exactly where they are.²
- Very few teens (9%) are concerned about people they don't know seeing the information on their social networking profiles.³
- An increase in cell phone and mobile device ownership means that children and teens can go on the Internet to play games, chat with each other and download content from almost anywhere throughout the day, often with little supervision.⁴
- Forty-three percent (43%) of school aged children and youth communicate with people they have only met online and 29% of these children and youth post their contact information online for others to see.⁵
- Children are more likely than teenagers to tell a parent if they have witnessed inappropriate content online or if they have been victimized online.⁶
- Approximately 72% of students reported that if someone sends them a photo that makes them feel uncomfortable or if they do not feel safe online, they would go to their parents to try and resolve the problem.⁷
- One out of three Canadian Internet users aged 10-17 reported being exposed to sexual content, and 1 out of 7 of these youth reported unwanted sexual solicitations while online.⁸

¹ Media Smarts. (2013). *Online Sexual Predators*. Retrieved on March 4, 2014 from <http://mediasmarts.ca/sexual-exploitation/sexual-exploitation-overview>.

² Williams, T. (2013). *Social Media: An Investigative and Criminal Tool*. Western States Information Network.

³ Madden, M., Lenhart, A., Cortesi, S., Gasser, U., Duggan, M., Smith, A., and Beaton, M. (2013). *Teens, Social Media and Privacy*. Washington: Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project.

⁴ Steeves, V. (2015). *Young Canadians in a Wired World: Trends and Recommendations*. Ottawa: MediaSmarts.

⁵ Steeves, V. (2014). *Young Canadians in a Wired World, Phase III: Life Online*. Ottawa: MediaSmarts.

⁶ Steeves, *supra* at 4.

⁷ Steeves *supra* at 4..

⁸ Loughlin, J., and Taylor-Butts, A. (2009). Child Luring Through the Internet. *Juristat*, 29:4-17.

Websites That Teach Children Online Safety:

Cyber Safe Girl: This site provides information to girls, parents and educators about how girls can be safe online from cyber violence, sexual risk and harm and sexual predators.

www.cybersafegirl.ca

The Door that's Not Locked: This Internet safety site offers an array of brochures, interactive activities, safety tips and guidelines. This site offers a range of age-specific safety tips and guidelines for younger children. www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca

Internet Safety: The RCMP's website has lots of information on Internet exploitation of youth and tips for Internet safety. www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/is-si/index-eng.htm

Need Help Now: This site helps youth who have been involved in self or peer exploitation (i.e. "sexting"). It explains what you can do to remove Internet photos and get your peers to stop spreading your pictures. www.needhelpnow.ca

Respect Yourself: Raises awareness on the dangers of sending self-shots and videos to friends online. Uses real-life stories and cool downloads, to emphasize self-respect and safe boundaries for online exploration. www.respect-yourself.ca

Smartphone Safety: Highlights the risks that come with mobile phone technology, and offers strategies to combat them. It is co-hosted by Cybertip.ca, and links directly to their reporting service for the abuse and exploitation of children online. www.mobility.protectchildren.ca/app/en

TextED: Lots of information for young people to explore, including discussion pages, an 'Acronictionary' with hundreds of text acronyms, guidelines for safe texting, and an ongoing competition for the best responses to inappropriate texts. www.texted.ca

Youth Justice NB: New Brunswick's own website for youth and the law. www.youthjusticenb.ca/english/index.php?page=child-internet-exploitation

Zoe and Molly Online: This site is geared towards kids in grades 3-4. It offers resources for parents and educators including two comic books, lesson plans, and at-home activities, along with a section of the site that's just for kids, including an online storybook and a number of interactive activities. www.zoeandmolly.ca

Be Smart, Strong & Safe: This website aims to prevent child abuse and exploitation by educating youth in grades 5-6 about healthy/unhealthy relationships and respecting-breaking personal boundaries. The site offers several lesson plans and an activity book. www.smartstrongsafe.ca

Cyber Safety NB : This GNB website can direct you to helpful resources to create awareness of online sexual exploitation of children. www.gnb.ca/cybersafety

Don't hesitate. Help to Educate!

For more information on helpful resources, contact: Public Legal Education and Information Service of NB - www.legal-info-legale.nb.ca/en/abuse_and_bullying