Cyberbullying

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What is cyberbullying?

“Cyberbullying is being cruel to others by sending or posting harmful material, or engaging in other forms of social cruelty using the Internet or other digital technologies.” Willard (2006)

Cyberbullying means using electronic/digital tools like cell phones and the Internet to hurt someone (by threatening, humiliating or embarrassing, ruining friendships or reputation).
A comparison of traditional bullying and cyberbullying

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional bullying</th>
<th>Cyberbullying</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Remote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Known bully</td>
<td>Can be anonymous or pretender (including pretending to be the patient)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Must be observed directly for others to spread accurate info</td>
<td>Can be known by anyone to whom the info is forwarded</td>
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<tr>
<td>Can report perpetrators</td>
<td>No one to report, in general</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primarily at school</td>
<td>Can be anywhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical (boys) or verbal (girls) as a rule</td>
<td>Can involve <strong>sexuality</strong> or other personal harassment</td>
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</table>
# A comparison of traditional bullying and cyberbullying

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spreads slowly if at all</th>
<th>Spreads instantly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Known by only a few people</td>
<td>Can be known by thousands of people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Few rumors</td>
<td>Many rumors manufactured or perpetrated</td>
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<tr>
<td>When it’s over it’s over</td>
<td>Pictures and comments never go away</td>
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<tr>
<td>Once home, feels safe</td>
<td>No safety anywhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficult to prove who did what to whom</td>
<td><strong>Evidence of C-B can be saved and reported to authorities</strong></td>
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Frequency of cyberbullying in teens

• Cell phones are the most popular technology utilized by adolescents--almost 83%. A large proportion of adolescents use Facebook, but Twitter remains unpopular among youth.

• Cyberbullying is defined as harassing, mistreating, or making fun of another person online or while using cell phones or other electronic devices. In one study, 17% of students said they have experienced cyberbullying, while 5% admitted being perpetrators.

• Mean or hurtful comments (13.7%) and rumors (12.9%) spread online were among the most common.

• Cyberbullying is not affected by number of friends.

• Higher SES protects against physical aggression but actually increases the risk of cyberbullying

Frequency of cyberbullying in teens

• Posting mean or hurtful comments and spreading rumors online were the most commonly reported types of cyberbullying students report. About 11% report cyberbullying two or more times over the course of the previous 30 days.

• Adolescent girls are significantly more likely to have experienced cyberbullying in their lifetimes (25.8% vs. 16%). The type of cyberbullying tends to differ by gender; girls are more likely to spread rumors while boys are more likely to post hurtful pictures or videos.
Bill Gates just bought Azerbaijan!

Write something...

RECENT ACTIVITY

Bill and Ashton Kutcher are now friends. - Comment - Like

Bill is now a fan of Tool Academy and Project Runway. - Comment - Like

Steve Jobs Remember that OS you made that was awesome? Yeah, neither do I. at 4:45pm March 26 - Comment - Like

Steve Wozniak liked this.

Bill Gates at 4:48pm March 26
I’ll mention that to the 88.9% market share I have. BTW, saw the new iPod shuffle. It looks like a tampon.

Write a comment...

Bill Gates SAYS NO TO THE NEW FACEBOOK
at 12:02pm March 26 - Comment - Like
Who is this? (Bill Gates)
What is this? (His Facebook page)

• What does he say on his page?
  – I just bought Azerbaijan
  – I’m a friend of Ashton Kutcher
  – Steve, I’m better than you and I have 40 billion reasons why

• Steve Jobs: Remember that OS you made that was awesome? Yeah, neither do I.

• Lesson: anyone can be anyone.
  – A girl who says she loves you, via technology, may be a boy who hates you
  – That good-looking 17 year-old boy who wants to meet you tonight (you’ve even seen a dreamy picture of him, wants you to meet him at 10 PM—and then what might happen?)
What recommendations can be made to parents?

• Do not allow your children unsupervised access to computers
• Set up parental controls on computers and TVs to block mature content
• Monitor your child’s text messages
• If your child has a Facebook account, talk openly about being friends, and more importantly, be able to log on as your child
• Communicate openly and non-judgmentally with your child about his or her use of technology
• If your child is acting secretive, (i.e., quickly shutting the computer down when you walk in the room), you need to set limits about computer use
What recommendations can be made to teens?

Don’t do or say anything online you wouldn’t in person.
• Only post things you are okay with people seeing and knowing.
• Remember, it’s not just about you. If you post information or photos about your friends or family, you may also be putting them at risk.
• Never give your passwords to anyone other than your parent or guardian.
• Trust your instincts! If you think something is wrong or are feeling threatened, tell someone who can help you.
What recommendations can be made to teens? (cont)

• Don’t respond to harassing, abusive or inappropriate comments. It won’t make the person stop and it could get you in trouble or put you in danger.
• Use the privacy preferences to keep your page as private as you can.
• If you are in or coming out of a dangerous relationship, don’t use any form of technology to contact your abuser. It can be dangerous and may be used against you in the future.
• Save or keep a record of all harassing or abusive messages, posts, and comments in case you decide to tell the police or get a protective order.
• Pictures and text in computers never go away; they will be available for future boyfriends/girlfriends, college/job applications, etc.
What recommendations can be made to teens? (cont)

- Don’t send an embarrassing picture or information to your closest friend, no matter how sure you are that he or she would never share it.

- Margarite, a 14 y.o. girl from Lacey, WA, thought the nude picture of her was confidential; her boyfriend had other ideas once they broke up.

- Now she says “I guess if they are about to send a picture and have a feeling, like, they’re not sure they should, then don’t do it at all. I mean, what are you thinking? It’s freaking stupid!”