

2012 NOV -7 A 10:18  
DIGITAL SIGNATURE  
OF DAVID FINKELHOR  
CLERK (U.S. DISTRICT COURT)

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

MICHAEL T. RISHER (SBN 191627)  
mrisher@aclunc.org  
LINDA LYE (SBN 215584)  
llye@aclunc.org  
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION  
FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, INC.  
39 Drumm Street  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
Telephone: (415) 621-2493  
Facsimile: (415) 255-8437

HANNI FAKHOURY (SBN 252629)  
hanni@eff.org  
LEE TIEN (SBN 148216)  
tien@eff.org  
ELECTRONIC FRONTIER FOUNDATION  
454 Shotwell Street  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
Telephone: (415) 436-9333  
Facsimile: (415) 436-9993

Attorneys for Plaintiffs  
JOHN DOE, et al.  
on behalf of themselves and others similarly  
situated

**TEH**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

**C 12 5713**

JOHN DOE, et al., on behalf of themselves and  
others similarly situated,  
  
Plaintiffs,  
  
vs.  
  
KAMALA D. HARRIS, et al.,  
  
Defendants.

Civil Case No. \_\_\_\_\_  
**DECLARATION OF DAVID  
FINKELHOR**

I, David Finkelhor, declare:

1. I am the Director of the Crimes against Children Research Center, Co-Director of the Family Research Laboratory, and Professor of Sociology at the University of New Hampshire. My research focuses on crimes against children, with an emphasis in recent years on technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation crimes. I discuss in this declaration key findings and conclusions of research scientists, including myself, regarding technology-facilitated crimes against minors. The information in this declaration is based upon my personal knowledge and sources of the type which research scientists in my field would rely. If called upon to testify, I could and would competently testify thereto.

#### **Summary of Declaration**

2. Current research and data show that the overwhelming majority of sex offenses against children are committed by family members and acquaintances, not strangers; that technology-facilitated sex crimes are a very small percentage of sex crimes against children; and that most online predators are not registered sex offenders.

- In spite of the significant media attention on internet sex-crimes, the overwhelming majority of sex crimes against children are committed by family members and acquaintances known to the victim, not strangers who use the internet to meet their victims. *See* ¶13.
- Arrests for *all* technology-facilitated sex-crimes against minors constitute only about 1% of all arrests for sex crimes committed against children. Although there was a small increase for such arrests between 2006 and 2009, most of the increase involved offenders who used technology to facilitate sex crimes against victims they already knew. *See id.*
- Studies showed a *decline* between 2000 and 2010 in unwanted sexual solicitations of youth on the internet and unwanted exposure by youth to pornography. *See* ¶¶ 14, 16. While there was a small but statistically significant increase in reports

by youth of online non-sexual harassment (bullying), much of this harassment came from individuals in the youth's chosen social network, not strangers. *See* ¶ 15. The decline in online sex offenses against minors is consistent with a broad drop in the incidence of all types of sex crimes against children. *See* ¶ 17.

- Policies targeted at registered sex offenders are aimed at a very small part of the problem. One recent study found that only 4% of persons arrested for technology-facilitated crimes against youth victims were registered sex offenders, and only 2% of those arrested for soliciting undercover investigators were registered sex offenders. *See* ¶¶ 18.
- In 2009, 46% of arrests for technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation were for child-pornography possession, with no additional sex crimes indicated, and thus did not involve an offender using the internet to contact and victimize a child. *See* ¶¶ 20.

### **Background and Qualifications**

3. I have studied the problems of child victimization, child maltreatment and family violence since 1977. I have written or edited 11 books and over 150 journal articles and book chapters, including publications such as *Sourcebook on Child Sexual Abuse* (Sage, 1986) and *Nursery Crimes* (Sage, 1988). I have received grants from the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, and the US Department of Justice, and a variety of other sources. In 1994, I was awarded the Distinguished Child Abuse Professional Award by the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children and in 2004 I received the Significant Achievement Award from the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers.

4. I received my B.A. from Harvard College in 1968, my Ed.M. from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, 1971, and my Ph.D. from the University of New Hampshire, 1978. A true and correct copy of my CV is attached as Exhibit A to this declaration.

5. The Crimes against Children Research Center (CCRC), of which I am the Director, is concerned with children and adolescents, from birth through age 17, and all their crime victimizations, both within and outside the family, both known and unknown to law enforcement. CCRC has four primary goals to comprise a comprehensive and feasible policy for child victims within the criminal justice system:

- Greater recognition of the extent of victimization among the children who come within the purview of the justice system;
- Enhanced protection of child crime victims from continued victimization and from unnecessary trauma and discomfort associated with the workings of the justice system;
- Universal rehabilitation of child crime victims through services and programs to aid in recovery and minimize long term effects on development;
- Greater public accountability by evaluating the impact of the justice system's policies and programs on children.

6. To further these goals, the Center works to compile national and local statistics on crimes against children, to monitor and interpret trends in these areas, to create tools for practitioners and researchers, and to develop strategies to promote the reporting of crimes against children and the provision of services to child victims and their families. CCRC projects are funded by grants from government and private agencies and organizations, including the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the National Science Foundation, and several programs of the United States Department of Justice, including the Office of Justice Programs and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

7. In recent years I have studied and written about trends in technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation crimes, a category that includes crimes in which sex offenders use the Internet to meet victims or to facilitate the abuse of children who were family members or face-to-face acquaintances, who solicit sex from undercover investigators posing online as

minors or who use the Internet to download child pornography. Most of the information that I present in this declaration is also discussed in three articles that I have published on the topic with my colleagues Janis Wolak and Kimberly Mitchell: “Trends in law enforcement responses to online child sexual exploitation crimes: The Third National Juvenile Online Victimization Study (NJOV-3)” (2012), “Trends in arrests of ‘online predators’”(2009), and “Trends in Youth Internet Victimization: Findings From Three Youth Internet Safety Surveys 2000–2010 (2012).” A true and correct copy of each of these articles is attached to this declaration as Exhibits B, C, and D, respectively.

### **Data about Sex Crimes against Children**

8. Unless otherwise noted, the data that I present below come from two studies: the National Juvenile Online Victimization (NJOV) Study and the Youth Internet Safety Surveys (YISS). Both of these studies were sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and were conducted using appropriate survey methodology.

9. The NJOV Study, which was conducted by CCRC, collected information from a national sample of law enforcement agencies about the prevalence of arrests for and characteristics of technology-facilitated sex crimes against minors during three 12 month periods: July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001 (NJOV1), and calendar years 2006 (NJOV2) and 2009 (NJOV3).

10. The data, weighted to account for sampling procedures and non-response, includes 612 cases from NJOV1, 1,051 cases from NJOV2 and 1,299 cases from NJOV3. Having weighted data that is based on a representative sampling of law enforcement agencies and arrest cases allows us to estimate the incidence of arrests for specific types of crimes during the timeframes of the three NJOV Studies. The studies’ methodology is discussed further in the attached articles, *see* Exhibits B & C, with more details available at

<http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/NJOV3%20Arrest%20Study%20Methods%20Report%20Final%20>

Nov%202011.pdf (all websites last accessed Oct. 31-Nov. 6, 2012). Although the online environment is a rapidly changing one, and careful monitoring of trends will continue to be necessary to identify emerging risks to young people and to provide feedback about policies to combat them, these are the best and most recent available data on the nature of technology-facilitated sexual victimization of minors.

11. The YISS, conducted by a national survey research firm, also comprises three separate surveys, conducted in 1999-2000, 2005, and 2010-2011. An experienced survey research company conducted detailed interviews with youth to determine their demographic information, Internet use characteristics, and rates for sexual solicitation, unwanted exposure to sexual material, and harassment. Again, the methodology is described in greater detail in the paper itself. *See* Exhibit D.

12. In spite of the large amount of media attention on internet sex-crimes, in the larger context of sex crimes against children, offenders who victimize children and youth within their families or networks of acquaintances (“family and acquaintance offenders”) are much more common than those who use the Internet to meet victims. Arrests for all technology-facilitated sex-crimes against minors in 2006 constituted only about 1% of all arrests for sex crimes committed against children and youth in that year. This includes cases in which the offender and victim already knew each other. And between 2006 and 2009, arrests for such crimes did not significantly increase; most of the small increase that was observed involved offenders who used technology to facilitate sex crimes against victims they already knew face-to-face, for example, cases where offenders used computers and cell phones to plan meetings with victims or to take and store photos.

13. Thus, conventional child molestation – abusive fathers, neighbors, teachers and family friends -- still constitutes a much larger part of the problem than does online predation. The increase in such crimes that involve the Internet reflects this broader reality, and most of the increase in Internet-related crimes involved offenders who used technology to facilitated sex

crimes against victims they already knew face-to-face. In fact, some of the reported increase may be a result of a growing tendency of law-enforcement to search computers and cell phones of persons suspected or arrested for sexual abuse cases that have nothing to do with the Internet. Thus, the increase in arrests of family and acquaintance offenders with a technology component does not mean that online technologies are making youth more vulnerable, but only that the existing vulnerability is increasingly enacted and evident online, even in the context of overall declines in sexual abuse from the mid-1990s to the present.

14. In fact, the YISS studies show a 50% decline in unwanted sexual solicitations on the Internet from 2000 to 2010. The reason for the steady decline in rates of sexual solicitations could be due to several factors. It may be that online behavior has changed in ways that reduce such solicitations. For example, youth have migrated from chat rooms to social networking sites over past several years. In social networking environments, youth may confine more of their interactions to people they know, thus reducing online unwanted sexual comments or requests. It is also possible that young people have become more cautious regarding whom they interact with because of Internet safety education. A tremendous effort has been made during the past decade to warn young people about the dangers of online sexual interactions. Also, publicity about criminal prosecutions may have deterred some of the aggressive sexual messaging that occurred previously. There have been many prosecutions of adults during the past decade for directing sexual messages to youth, and although research has found that most unwanted sexual messages online come from other youth and not adults, the potential to get into legal trouble from sending such messages may have been impressed on all Internet participants.

15. I should note that during this same period there was a small but statistically significant increase in reports of online harassment, which was defined as threats or other offensive behavior (excluding sexual solicitations) that were sent online to the youth or posted online about the youth for others to see. Much of this harassment may come from within the youth's chosen social network, for example, classmates who have been accepted as friends on

social networking sites. It is also possible that general harassment and bullying behavior is migrating online in the same way that general adolescent communication has migrated.

16. There was also a decline in youth reports of unwanted exposure to pornography from 2000-2010, which may be related to increasing use of sophisticated anti-spamware and other filters, new law-enforcement tools such as the electronic tagging of known child pornography images, and better education among young people about the dangers of opening unidentified emails or clicking on unidentified links.

17. The decline in online sex offenses against minors is consistent with a broad drop in the incidence of all types of sex crimes against children. As my colleague Lisa Jones and I discuss in a recent research bulletin, there is fairly consistent and convergent evidence from a variety of sources pointing to large declines in child sexual abuse from 1992 to 2010. This conclusion is supported by 3 independent sources of agency data and 4 separate large victim surveys. Our judgment is that the decline in sexual abuse is about as well established as crime trends can be in contemporary social science. It should be noted that the trend for non-sexual physical abuse is less clear. A copy of this research bulletin, "Have Sexual Abuse and Physical Abuse Declined Since the 1990s?" (2012), is attached to this declaration as Exhibit E.

18. It is important for the public and officials to know that policies targeted at registered sex offenders are aimed at a very small part of the problem. The 2006 study found that only 4% of persons arrested for technology-facilitated crimes against youth victims were registered sex offenders, as were 2% of those arrested for soliciting undercover investigators. Thus, Internet safety needs to be designed with the understanding that most online predators are not registered offenders and have no prior record.

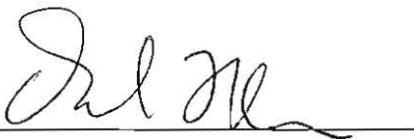
19. Finally, it is important to understand the nature of the crimes against minors committed using technology. First, a rising number of persons arrested for online crimes against minors are themselves under 25 years old (23% in 2000, 40% in 2006). Second, contrary to many stereotypes, crimes by arrested online predators generally involve adolescent

victims (i.e., minors over the age of 13) who knew they were communicating online with older adults who wanted sex. Most victims who met offenders face-to-face went to such meetings expecting to engage in sexual activity. Most offenders were charged with crimes such as statutory rape that involved non-forcible sexual activity with victims who were too young to legally consent to sexual intercourse with adults. Violence, stalking and abduction were rare.

20. When offenders solicited undercover investigators, the case dynamics were consistent with this pattern as well. While these crimes represented serious threats to the well-being of young people at the hands of unscrupulous adults, they differed from the image of online predation that many people have of a sex offender using the Internet to initiate communicate with children for the purpose of victimizing them. Finally, in 2009, 46% of the arrests for technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation were for child-pornography possession, with no additional sex crimes indicated. Again, while such crimes can be very serious, they are very different from the image of online predation in which an offender uses the Internet to contact and victimize a child.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 6 day of November, 2012 in Durham, New Hampshire.



David Finkelhor

# **EXHIBIT A**

## DAVID FINKELHOR

Professor of Sociology and University Professor  
Director, Crimes against Children Research Center  
Co-Director, Family Research Laboratory  
University of New Hampshire  
Durham, NH 03824  
Tel. (603) 862-2761  
Fax (603)862-1122  
E-mail: [david.finkelhor@unh.edu](mailto:david.finkelhor@unh.edu)  
[www.unh.edu/ccrc](http://www.unh.edu/ccrc)

### EDUCATION

Phillips Exeter Academy, 1964.

Harvard College, 1968.

B.A. (Social Relations)

Harvard Graduate School of Education, 1971.

Ed. M. (Sociology)

Institut d'Études Politiques, University of Paris, 1967.

University of New Hampshire, 1978.

Ph.D. (Sociology)

*Special Fields: Family, mental health, social psychology, sexual behavior, family violence, victimology, criminology, child maltreatment trends, Internet-related child victimization.*

## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS

Childhood Victimization: Violence, Crime, and Abuse in the Lives of Young People. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

*(Won Daniel Schneider Child Welfare Book of the Year Award – 2009)*

Program Evaluation and Family Violence Research. New York: The Haworth Maltreatment and Trauma Press, 2000 (Edited with Sally K. Ward).

Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children in America. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1990 (with Gerald Hotaling and Andrea Sedlak).

Nursery Crimes: Sexual Abuse in Day Care. Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 1989 (with Linda Williams and Nanci Burns).

Coping with Family Violence: Research on Policy Perspectives. Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 1989 (Edited with Gerald Hotaling, John Kirkpatrick and Murray Straus).

Family Abuse and its Consequences: New Directions in Research. Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 1988 (Edited with Gerald Hotaling, John Kirkpatrick and Murray Straus).

Stopping Family Violence: Research Priorities for the Coming Decade. Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 1988 (with Gerald Hotaling and Kersti Yllo).

Sourcebook on Child Sexual Abuse. Beverly Hills, CA: Sage, 1986.

License to Rape: Sexual Violence Against Wives. New York: Holt Rinehart, 1985 (with Kersti Yllo).

Child Sexual Abuse: New Theory and Research. New York: Free Press, 1984.

The Dark Side of Families: Current Family Violence Research. Beverly Hills, CA: Sage, 1983 (Edited with Richard Gelles, Gerald Hotaling and Murray Straus).

Sexually Victimized Children. New York: Free Press, 1979 (Spanish translation, 1981).

Up Against the American Myth. New York, NY: Holt Rinehart, 1971 (with Tom Christoffel and Dan Gilbarg.) (Japanese translation, 1973).

## ARTICLES

### In Press

- "Family structure, victimization, and mental health in a nationally representative sample of children and youth" (with Heather Turner, Sherry Hamby, & Anne Shattuck). *Journal of Marriage and Family*. (CV235)
- "Victimization and delinquency in a national sample of youth" (with Anne Shattuck, Carlos Cuevas, Heather Turner, & Sherry Hamby). *OJJDP Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. (CV227).
- "Let's prevent peer victimization, Not just bullying" (with Heather Turner & Sherry Hamby). *Child Abuse & Neglect*. (CV239)

### 2012

- "Child and youth victimization known to police, school, and other medical authorities" (with Richard Ormrod, Heather Turner, & Sherry Hamby). *OJJDP Juvenile Justice Bulletin – NCJ235394* (pgs. 1-8). Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office. (CV214B)
- "Family context, victimization, and child trauma symptoms: Variations in safe stable and nurturing relationships during early and middle childhood" (with Heather Turner, Richard Ormrod, Sherry Hamby, Rebecca Leeb, J. Mercy, & Melissa Holt). *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 82(2): 209-219. (CV209)
- "Teen dating violence: Co-occurrence with other victimizations in the national survey of children's exposure to violence (NatSCEV)" (with Sherry Hamby & Heather Turner). *Psychology of Violence*, 2(2): 111-124. (CV261).
- "Trends in law enforcement responses to online child sexual exploitation crimes: The Third National Juvenile Online Victimization Study (NJOV-3)" (with Janis Wolak & Kimberly Mitchell). Crimes against Children Research Center, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH. (CV268).
- "Trends in arrests for child pornography possession: The Third National Juvenile Online Victimization Study (NJOV-3)" (with Janis Wolak & Kimberly Mitchell). Crimes against Children Research Center, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH. (CV269)
- "Trends in arrests for production of child pornography: The Third National Juvenile Online Victimization Study (NJOV-3)" (with Janis Wolak & Kimberly Mitchell). Crimes against Children Research Center, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH. (CV270).
- "How often are teens arrested for sexting? Data from a national sample of police cases" (with Janis Wolak & Kimberly Mitchell). *Pediatrics*, 129(1). (CV241)
- "Trends in youth Internet victimizations: Findings from three youth Internet safety surveys, 2000 – 2010" (with Lisa Jones & Kimberly Mitchell). *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 50: 179-186. (CV240)
- "Prevalence & characteristics of youth sexting: A national study of youth" (with Kimberly Mitchell, Lisa Jones, & Janis Wolak). *Pediatrics*, 129(1): 1-8. (CV237)

### 2011

- "Poly-victimization in developmental context" (with Anne Shattuck, Heather Turner, & Richard Ormrod). *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma*, 4(Special Series - Assessing trauma in children and adolescents: Associated variables): 291-300. (CV221)
- "Updated trends in child maltreatment, 2010" (with Lisa Jones). Durham, NH: Crimes against Children Research Center.
- "Disability and victimization in a national sample of children and youth" (with Heather Turner, Jennifer Vanderminden, Sherry Hamby, & Anne Shattuck). *Child Maltreatment*, 16(4):275-86. (CV217)
- "Arrests for child pornography production: Data at two time points from a national sample of US law enforcement agencies" (with Janis Wolak, Lisa Jones, & Kimberly Mitchell). *Child Maltreatment* 16(3): 184-195. (CV210).
- "Types of undercover investigations on the internet and characteristics of offenders" (with Kimberly Mitchell, Janis Wolak, & Lisa Jones). *Police Practice and Research*, 1-15, *iFirst Article*, DOI: 10.1080/15614263.2011.627746. (CV212)

"Poly-victimization: Children's exposure of multiple types of violence, crime, and abuse" (with Heather Turner, Sherry Hamby, & Richard Ormrod). *OJJDP Juvenile Justice Bulletin - NCJ235504* (pgs. 1-12). Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office . (CV229)

"Increasing youth safety and responsible behavior online: Putting in place programs that work" (with Lisa Jones). Washington, DC: Family Online Safety Institute. (CV254)

"Questions and answers about the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence" (with Heather Turner & Sherry Hamby). *OJJDP Juvenile Justice Bulletin - NCJ235163* (pgs. 1-4). Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office. (CV224)

"Exposure to intimate partner violence and other forms of family violence: Nationally representative rates among US youth" (Sherry Hamby, Heather Turner, & Richard Ormrod). *OJJDP Juvenile Justice Bulletin - NCJ 232272* (pgs. 1-12). Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office. (CV197)

"Specifying type and location of peer victimization in a national sample of children and youth" (with Heather Turner, Anne Shattuck, Sherry Hamby, & Richard Ormrod). *Journal of Youth & Adolescence*, 40(8): 1052-1067. (CV225)

"Prevalence of child victimization, abuse, crime, and violence exposure". In, White, J.W., Koss, M.P., & Kazdin, A. (Eds). *Violence against women and children: Mapping the terrain* (pgs. 9-29). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. (CV189)

"Abuse and victimization known to school, police & medical officials in a national sample of children & youth" (with Heather Turner, Richard Ormrod, & Sherry Hamby). *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*, 165(1): 9-15. (CV214)

"Youth Internet victimization in a broader victimization context" (with Kimberly Mitchell, Janis Wolak, Michele Ybarra, & Heather Turner). *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 48: 128-134. (CV207)

"The true prevalence of "sexting" (with Kaitlin Lounsbury & Kimberly Mitchell). Durham, NH: Crimes against Children Research Center. (CV236FS)

"Sexting: A typology" (with Janis Wolak). Durham, NH: Crimes against Children Research Center. (CV231B)

"Updated trends in child maltreatment, 2009" (with Lisa Jones & Anne Shattuck). Durham, NH: Crimes against Children Research Center. (CV203FS)

"Growth and change in undercover online child exploitation investigations in the U.S., 2000 to 2006" (with Kimberly Mitchell, Lisa Jones, & Janis Wolak). *Policing and Society*, 20(4): 416-431. (CV205)

"Child pornography possessors: Trends in offender and case characteristics" (with Janis Wolak & Kimberly Mitchell). *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 23(1): 22-42. (CV204)

"Internet-facilitated commercial sexual exploitation of children: Findings from a nationally representative sample of law enforcement agencies in the U.S." (with Kimberly Mitchell, Lisa Jones, & Janis Wolak). *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 23(1): 43-71. (CV201)

"Preface". In, John E.B. Myers (Ed.), *The APSAC handbook on child maltreatment* (3rd ed. – pgs. vii – ix). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. (CV211).

## **2010**

"The overlap of witnessing partner violence with child maltreatment and other victimizations in a nationally representative survey of youth" (with Sherry Hamby, Heather Turner & Richard Ormrod). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 34: 734-741. (CV200)

"Infant victimization in a nationally representative sample" (with Heather Turner, Richard Ormrod, & Sherry Hamby). *Pediatrics*, 126:44–52. (CV199)

- "Disasters, victimization and children's mental health" (with Kathy Becker-Blease & Heather Turner). *Child Development*, 81(4): 1040-1052. (CV190)
- "Protecting victims' identities in press coverage of child victimization" (with Lisa Jones & Jessica Beckwith). *Journalism: Theory, Practice and Criticism*, 11(3): 347-367. (CV182)
- "Use of social networking sites in online sex crimes against minors: An examination of national incidence and means of utilization" (with Kimberly Mitchell, Lisa Jones, & Janis Wolak). *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 47(2): 183-190. (CV174)
- "The effects of child victimization on self-concept and depression" (with Heather Turner & Richard Ormrod). *Child Maltreatment*, 15(1): 76-90. (CV179)
- "Child mental health problems as risk factors for victimization" (with Heather Turner & Richard Ormrod). *Child Maltreatment*, 15(2): 132-143. (CV185)
- "Conceptualizing juvenile prostitution as child maltreatment: Findings from the National Juvenile Prostitution Study" (with Kimberly Mitchell & Janis Wolak). *Child Maltreatment*, 15(1): 18-36. (CV186)
- "Online safety: Why research is important" (with Kimberly Mitchell & Janis Wolak). *Publius Project*: (<http://publius.cc>). Cambridge, MA: Berkman Center for Internet & Society – Harvard University. (CV223)
- "Psychological distress as risk factors for re-victimization" (with Carlos Cuevas, C. Clifford, & Richard Ormrod). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 34: 235-243. (CV184)
- "Poly-victimization in a national sample of children & youth" (with Heather Turner & Richard Ormrod). *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 38(3): 323-330. (CV195)
- "Trends in childhood violence and abuse exposure: Evidence from two national surveys" (with Heather Turner, Richard Ormrod, & Sherry Hamby). *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*, 164(3): 238-242. (CV196)
- "Updated trends in child maltreatment, 2007" (with Lisa Jones). Durham, NH: Crimes against Children Research Center. (CV203FS)

## **2009**

- "The prevention of childhood sexual abuse". *The Future of Children*, 19(2): 169-194. (CV192)
- "Index of problematic online experiences: Item characteristics and correlation with negative symptomatology" (with Kimberly Mitchell & Chiara Sabina). *CyberPsychology & Behavior*, 12(6): 707-711. (CV173)
- "Pathways to poly-victimization" (with Richard Ormrod, Heather Turner, & Melissa Holt). *Child Maltreatment*, 14(4): 316-329. (CV181)
- "Juvenile who commit sex offenses against minors" (with Richard Ormrod & Mark Chaffin). *Juvenile Justice Bulletin – NCJ227763* (1-12pgs). Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office. (CV171)
- "Violence, abuse, & crime exposure in a national sample of children & youth" (with Heather Turner, Richard Ormrod, & Sherry Hamby). *Pediatrics*, 124(5): 1-14. (CV193)
- "Lifetime assessment of poly-victimization in a national sample of children & youth" (with Richard Ormrod & Heather Turner). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 33:403-411. (CV176)
- "Parent/child concordance about bullying involvement & family characteristics related to bullying & peer victimization" (with Melissa Holt & Glenda Kaufman Kantor). *Journal of School Violence*, 8(1): 42-63. (CV177)
- "The developmental epidemiology of childhood victimization" (with Richard Ormrod & Heather Turner). *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 24(5): 711-731. (CV159)

"How protective are filtering and blocking programs against unwanted exposure to pornography and sexual solicitation on the internet?" (with Michele Ybarra, Kimberly Mitchell, & Melissa Wells). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 33(12), 857-869. (CV158)

"Trends in arrests of "online predators" (with Janis Wolak & Kimberly Mitchell). Durham, NH: University of New Hampshire - Crimes against Children Research Center. (CV194FS)

## **2008**

"Psychiatric diagnosis as a risk marker for victimization in a national sample of children" (with Carlos Cuevas, Richard Ormrod, & Heather Turner). *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 24(4): 636-652. (CV166)

"Media exposure predicts children's reactions to crime & terrorism" (with Kathy Becker-Blease & Heather Turner). *Journal of Trauma & Dissociation*, 9(2): 225-248. (CV102)

"The nature and dynamics of Internet pornography exposure for youth under 18" (with Chiara Sabina & Janis Wolak). *CyberPsychology & Behavior*, 11(6): 1-3. (CV169)

"Sexually assaulted children: National estimates & characteristics" (with Heather Hammer and Andrea Sedlak). *Juvenile Justice Bulletin – NCJ214383* (pgs. 1-12). Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office. (CV65)

"Caretaker satisfaction with law enforcement response to missing children" (with Heather Hammer, Richard Ormrod, Andrea Sedlak, and Carol Bruce). *Juvenile Justice Bulletin – NCJ217909* (pgs. 1-8). Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office. (CV69)

"Is talking online to unknown people always risky? Distinguishing online interaction types in a national sample of youth Internet users" (with Janis Wolak & Kimberly Mitchell). *CyberPsychology & Behavior*, 11(3): 340-343. (CV168)

"Are blogs putting youth at risk for online sexual solicitation or harassment?" (with Kimberly Mitchell & Janis Wolak). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 32: 277-294. (CV149)

"Linking youth Internet and conventional problems: Findings from a clinical perspective" (with Kimberly Mitchell and Kathy Becker-Blease). *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 15(2): 39-58. (CV78)

"Online "predators" and their victims" (with Janis Wolak, Kimberly Mitchell, & Michele Ybarra). *American Psychologist*, 63(2): 111-128. (CV163)

## **2007**

"Juvenile delinquency and victimization: A Theoretical Typology" (with Carols Cuevas, Heather Turner, & Richard Ormrod). *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 22(12): 1581-1602. (CV122)

"Developmental victimology: The comprehensive study of childhood victimization". In, David, R.C., Lurigio, A.J., & Herman, S. (Eds). *Victims of crime (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.)*(pgs. 9-34). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. (CV142L)

"The relative importance of online victimization in understanding depression, delinquency, & substance use" (with Kimberly Mitchell & Michele Ybarra). *Child Maltreatment*, 12(4): 314-324. (CV132)

"Does online harassment constitute bullying? An exploration of online harassment by known peers & online only contacts" (with Janis Wolak & Kimberly Mitchell). Special Issue of *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 41: S51-S58. (CV172)

"Current research knowledge about adolescent victimization on the Internet" (with Janis Wolak, Michele Ybarra, & Kimberly Mitchell). *Adolescent Medicine State of the Art Reviews*, 18(2): 325-341. (CV165)

"Hidden forms of victimization in elementary school students involved in bullying" (with Melissa Holt & Glenda Kaufman-Kantor). *School Psychology Review*, 36(3): 345-360. (CV134)

"The prevention of sexual abuse through educational programs directed toward children and their families: A commentary". *Pediatrics*, 120(3): 640-645. (CV170)

- "Predictors of receiving counseling in a national sample of youths: The relative influence of symptoms, victimization exposure, parent-child conflict, & delinquency" (with Heather Turner & Richard Ormrod). *Journal of Youth & Adolescence*, 36(7): 861-876. (CV154)
- "Family structure variations in patterns and predictors of child victimization" (with Heather Turner & Richard Ormrod). *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 77(2): 282-295. (CV112)
- "A classification of adults with problematic internet experiences: Linking internet and conventional problems from a clinical perspective" (with Kimberly Mitchell & Kathy Becker-Blease). *CyberPsychology & Behavior*, 10(3): 381-392. (CV94)
- "Revictimization patterns in a national longitudinal sample of children and youth" (with Richard Ormrod and Heather Turner). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 31(5): 479-502. (CV114)
- "Multiple victimization experiences of urban elementary school students: Associations with psychosocial functioning and academic performance" (with Melissa Holt and Glenda Kaufman Kantor). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 31(5): 503-515.(CV139)
- "Youth Internet users at risk for the most serious online sexual solicitations" (with Kimberly Mitchell & Janis Wolak). *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 32(6): 532-537 (CV143)
- "Online requests for sexual pictures from youth: Risk factors & incident characteristics" (with Kimberly Mitchell & Janis Wolak). *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 41(2): 196-203. (CV155)
- "Online mental health treatment: Concerns & Considerations" (with Melissa Wells, Kimberly Mitchell, & Kathy Becker-Blease). *CyberPsychology & Behavior*, 10(3): 453-459. (CV97)
- "Defining child pornography: Law enforcement dilemmas in the investigation of Internet child pornography cases" (with Melissa Wells, Janis Wolak, and Kimberly Mitchell). *Police Practice & Research*, 8(3): 269-282. (CV96)
- "Statutory sex crime relationships between juveniles and adults: A review of social scientific research" (with Denise Hines). *Aggressions & Violent Behavior*, 12: 300-314. (CV150)
- "Poly-victimization and trauma in a national longitudinal cohort" (with Richard Ormrod & Heather Turner). *Development & Psychopathology*, 19(1): 149-166. (CV130)
- "Unwanted and wanted exposure to online pornography in a national sample of youth Internet users" (with Janis Wolak & Kimberly Mitchell). *Pediatrics*, 119(2): 247-257. (CV153)
- "Poly-victimization: A neglected component in child victimization trauma" (with Richard Ormrod & Heather Turner). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 31: 7-26. (CV91) - **(Won APSAC Award for Article of the Year – 2008)**
- "Trends in youth reports of unwanted sexual solicitations, harassment and unwanted exposure to pornography on the Internet" (with Kimberly Mitchell & Janis Wolak). *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 40: 116-126. (CV135)
- "Kids stuff: The nature & impact of peer and sibling violence on younger and older children" (with Heather Turner, and Richard Ormrod). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 30:1401-1421. (CV133)
- "The homicides of children & Youth" (with Richard Ormrod). In, R. Alexander (Ed.), *An Interdisciplinary guide & photographic reference* (pgs. 29-45). St. Louis, MO: GW Medical Publishing.
- 2006**
- "Why have child maltreatment and child victimization declined?" (with Lisa Jones). Special Issue: *Journal of Social Issues*, 62(4): 683-714. (CV137J)
- "Online victimization: 5 years later" (with Janis Wolak & Kimberly Mitchell). National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. Alexandria, VA. (CV138)
- "Mental health professionals exposure to clients problematic Internet experiences" (with Melissa Wells, Kimberly Mitchell, and Kathy Becker-Blease). *Journal of Technology & Human Services*, 24(4): 35-52. (CV106)

- "How the justice system responds to juvenile victims: A comprehensive model" (with Theodore Cross and Elise Cantor). *Juvenile Justice Bulletin – NCJ210951* (pgs. 1-12). Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (CV62B)
- "Mitigating the impact of publicity on child crime victims & witnesses" (with Charles Putnam). In, N.E. Dowd, D.G. Singer, & R.F. Wilson (Eds.), *Handbook of children, culture, & violence* (pgs. 113-131). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications Inc. (CV86Book)
- "Child maltreatment trends in the 1990's: Why does neglect differ from sexual and physical abuse" (with Lisa Jones and Stephanie Halter). *Child Maltreatment*, 11(2): 107-120. (CV110)
- "Risk & impact of Internet harassment: Findings from the Second Youth Internet Safety Survey" (with Michele Ybarra, Kimberly Mitchell, & Janis Wolak). *Pediatrics*, 118(4): 1169-1177. (CV141)
- "Decline of child sexual abuse in the US: What can be learned?" *Zeitschrift fur Psychotraumatologie und Psychologische Medizin*, 4(4): 9-16. (Journal of Psychotraumatology & Psychological Medicine – Special Issue on Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children). Article adapted from a lecture given on 10/11/05 at the USB Optimus Foundation Best prACTices Symposium. (CV164)

## **2005**

- "The effect of lifetime victimization on the mental health of children and adolescents" (with Heather Turner and Richard Ormrod). *Social Science & Medicine*. (CV87)
- "Measuring poly-victimization using the JVQ" (with Richard Ormrod, Heather Turner, and Sherry Hamby). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 29(11): 1297-1312. (CV101)
- "An inventory of problematic Internet experiences: Findings from a clinical perspective" (with Kimberly Mitchell and Kathy Becker-Blease). *Professional Psychology: Research & Practice*, 36(5): 498-509. (CV92)
- "The varieties of child pornography production" (with Janis Wolak and Kimberly Mitchell). In Quayle, E. & Taylor, M. (Eds.), *Viewing child pornography on the Internet: Understanding the offense, managing the offender, helping the victims* (pgs. 31-48). Dorset, UK: Russell House Publishing. (CV100)
- "Protecting youth online: Family use of filtering and blocking software" (with Kimberly Mitchell and Janis Wolak). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 29: 753-765. (CV49)
- "Police posing as juveniles online to catch sex offenders: Is it working?" (with Kimberly Mitchell and Janis Wolak). *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 17(3): 241-267. (CV82)
- "Police involvement in child protective services investigations" (with Ted Cross and Richard Ormrod). *Child Maltreatment*, 10(3): 224-244. (CV83)
- "National Estimates of Children Missing Involuntarily, or for Benign Reasons" (with Andrea Sedlak and Heather Hammer). *Juvenile Justice Bulletin – NCJ206180* (pgs. 1-12). Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office. (MC20)
- "Online victimization: What youth tell us" (with Kimberly Mitchell and Janis Wolak). In S.W. Cooper, R.J. Estes, A.P. Giardino, N.D. Kellogg, & V.I. Vieth (Eds.), *Medical, legal, and social science aspects of child sexual exploitation: A comprehensive review of pornography, prostitution, & Internet crimes*, Vol. 1 (pgs. 437-467) St. Louis, MO: GW Medical Publishing, Inc. (CV47)
- "Child pornography possessors and the Internet: A national study" (with Janis Wolak and Kimberly Mitchell). National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. Alexandria, VA. (CV81)
- "The JVQ: Reliability, validity, and national norms" (with Sherry Hamby, Richard Ormrod, and Heather Turner). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 29: 383-412. (CV88)
- "Juvenile victims: A comprehensive model of case flow" (with Theodore Cross and Elise Cantor). *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*, 6(2): 83-102. (CV62J)

"The victimization of children & youth: A comprehensive, national survey" (with Heather Turner, Sherry Hamby, and Richard Ormrod). *Child Maltreatment*, 10(1): 5-25. (CV73) – **(Won Child Maltreatment Article of the Year Award – 2005)**

"Introduction: Victimization of children and youth – The spectrum of crimes against children" (with Kathy Kendall-Tackett). In K. Kendall-Tackett & S. Giacconi (Eds.), *Child Victimization* (pgs. xxi - xxvi). New York: Civic Research Institute. (CV84David)

"Using new crime statistics to understand crimes against children: Child pornography, juvenile prostitution, & hate crimes against youth" (with Richard Ormrod). In K. Kendall-Tackett & S. Giacconi (Eds.), *Child Victimization* (pgs. 1-1 to 1-30). New York: Civic Research Institute. (CV84Dick)

"Juvenile victims of intimate partner violence" (with Katreena Scott and Richard Ormrod). In K. Kendall-Tackett & S. Giacconi (Eds.), *Child Victimization* (pgs. 14-1 to 14-17). New York: Civic Research Institute. (CV60BC)

"The Internet and family and acquaintance sexual abuse" (with Kimberly Mitchell and Janis Wolak). *Child Maltreatment*, 10(1): 49-60. (CV93)

"Risk of crime victimization among youth exposed to domestic violence" (with Kimberly Mitchell). Invited submission to *The Prevention Researcher*, 12(1): 18-21. (CV107)

"Zur internationalen Epidemiologie von sexuellem Missbrauch an Kindern." In, Amann, G. & Wipplinger, R. (Eds.), *Sexueller Missbrauch: Überblick zu Forschung, Beratung und Therapie Ein Handbuch* (pgs. 81-94). Tübingen, Germany: dgvt-Verlag.

## **2004**

"Law enforcement challenges in Internet child pornography crimes" (with Melissa Wells, Janis Wolak, and Kimberly Mitchell). *Sex Offender Law Report*, 5(4): 41-42, 49. (CV95)

"Internet-initiated sex crimes against minors: The response of law enforcement" (with Janis Wolak and Kimberly Mitchell). *National Center for Missing & Exploited Children Bulletin - #10-03-022*. Alexandria, VA. (CV70)

"Juvenile prostitution known to police" (with Richard Ormrod). *Juvenile Justice Bulletin-NCJ203946* (pgs. 1-12). Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office. (CV67)

"Pornography and child exploitation in the National Incidence Based Reporting System (NIBRS)" (with Richard Ormrod). *Juvenile Justice Bulletin-NCJ204911* (pgs. 1-8). Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office. (CV56)

"Explanations for the decline in child sexual abuse" (with Lisa Jones). *Juvenile Justice Bulletin – NCJ199298* (pgs. 1-12). Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office. (CV58)

"Which juvenile crime victims get mental health treatment?" (with Kathy Kopiec and Janis Wolak). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 28: 45-59. (CV54)

"Victimization of youths on the Internet" (with Kimberly Mitchell and Janis Wolak). In J.L. Mullings, J.W. Marquart, and D.J. Hartley (Eds.), *The victimization of children: Emerging issues* (pgs 1-39). Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press. (CV90)

"Victimization of youths on the Internet" (with Kimberly Mitchell and Janis Wolak). *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 8(1/2): 1-39. (CV89)

"Protecting the privacy of child crime victims" (with Charles Putnam). *APRI: Update*, 17(2): 1-2. (CV98)

"National estimates of missing children: Selected trends, 1988-1999" (with Heather Hammer and L. Porcellini). *Juvenile Justice Bulletin – NCJ206179* (pgs. 1-8). Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office. (MC21)

## **2003**

"*National Juvenile Online Victimization Study (N-JOV): Methodology Report*" (with Janis Wolak and Kimberly Mitchell). Crimes against Children Research Center, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH. (CV72)

"Internet sex crimes against minors: The response of law enforcement" (with Janis Wolak and Kimberly Mitchell). *National Center for Missing & Exploited Children Bulletin* - #10-03-022. Alexandria, VA. (CV70)

"Commentary: The legacy of the clergy abuse scandal". *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 27: 1225-1229. (CV68)

"Improving national data systems about juvenile victimization" (with Melissa Wells). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 27(1): 77-102. (CV53)

"Reporting assaults against juveniles to the police: Barriers and catalysts" (with Janis Wolak). *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 18(2): 103-128. (CV52)

"Escaping or connecting? Characteristics of youth who form close online relationships. (with Janis Wolak and Kimberly Mitchell). *Journal of Adolescence*, 26(1): 105-119. (CV51)

"The exposure of youth to unwanted sexual material on the Internet: A national survey of risk, impact, & prevention" (with Kimberly Mitchell and Janis Wolak). *Youth & Society*, 34(3): 330-358. (CV43)

## **2002**

"National estimates of missing children: An overview" (with Andrea J. Sedlak, Heather Hammer and Dana Schultz). *Juvenile Justice Bulletin* – NCJ196465, (pgs. 1-12). Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office. (MC16)

"Children abducted by family members: National estimates and characteristics" (with Heather Hammer and Andrea Sedlak). *Juvenile Justice Bulletin* – NCJ196466, (pgs. 1-12). Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office. (MC17)

"Runaway/throwaway children: National estimates and characteristics" (with Heather Hammer and Andrea Sedlak). *Juvenile Justice Bulletin* – NCJ196469, (pgs. 1-12). Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office. (MC18)

"Nonfamily abducted children: National estimates and characteristics" (with Heather Hammer and Andrea Sedlak). *Juvenile Justice Bulletin* – NCJ196467, (pgs.1-16). Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office. (MC19)

"Youth online victimization" (with Kimberly Mitchell and Janis Wolak). In Levinson, D. (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Crime & Punishment* (3):1109-1112. Newbury Park, CA: Berkshire Reference/Sage Publications. (CV48)

"Close online relationships in a national sample of adolescents: A description" (with Janis Wolak and Kimberly Mitchell). *Adolescence*, 37(147): 441-456. (CV50)

## **2001**

"Risk factors & impact of online solicitation of youth" (with Kimberly Mitchell and Janis Wolak). *JAMA*, 285, 23:3011-3014. (CV42)

"Adult offenders incarcerated for crimes against juveniles" (with Richard Ormrod). *Juvenile Justice Bulletin* – NCJ191028, (pgs. 1-12). Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office. (CV45)

"Child abuse reported to police: The NIBRS perspective" (with Richard Ormrod). *Juvenile Justice Bulletin* – NCJ187238, (pgs. 1-8). Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office. (CV32)

"The homicides of children & youth" (with Richard Ormrod). *Juvenile Justice Bulletin* – NCJ187239, (pgs. 1-12). Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office. (CV34)

"Crimes against children by babysitters" (with Richard Ormrod). *Juvenile Justice Bulletin* – NCJ198102, (pgs. 1-7). Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office. (CV41)

"Why is sexual abuse declining? A survey of state child protection administrators" (with Lisa Jones and Kathy Kopiec). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 25 (9): 1139-1158. (CV44)

"Factors in the under-reporting of crimes against juveniles" (with Richard Ormrod). *Child Maltreatment*, 6 (3): 219-229. (CV25)

"Choosing and using child victimization questionnaires" (with Sherry Hamby). *Juvenile Justice Bulletin* - NCJ186027 (pgs. 1-15). Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office. (CV39)

- "Police Reporting and Professional Help for Child Victims: A Review" (with Janis Wolak and Lucy Berliner). *Child Maltreatment*, 6(1): 17-30. (CV29)
- "The victimization of children & youth: A comprehensive overview" (with Patricia Hashima). In S.O. White (Ed.), *Handbook of youth and justice* (pgs. 49-78). NY: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishing Corp. (CV19)
- "Juvenile crime victims in the justice system" (with M.J. Paschall and Patricia Hashima). In S.O. White (Ed.), *Handbook of youth and justice* (pgs. 11-28). NY: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishing Corp. (CV22)
- "Risk of crime victimization among youth exposed to domestic violence" (with Kimberly Mitchell). *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 16(9): 944-964. (CV40)
- "The decline in child sexual abuse cases" (with Lisa Jones). *Juvenile Justice Bulletin - NCJ184741* (pgs. 1-12). Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office. (CV39)
- "Highlights of the youth internet safety survey" (with Kimberly Mitchell and Janis Wolak). *Juvenile Justice Fact Sheet - FS200104* (pgs. 1-2). Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office. (CV46)

## **2000**

- "Online victimization: A report on the nation's youth" (with Kimberly Mitchell and Janis Wolak). *National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Bulletin - #6-00-020*. Alexandria, VA. (CV38)
- "Characteristics of crimes against juveniles" (with Richard Ormrod). *Juvenile Justice Bulletin - NCJ179034* (pgs. 1-11). Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office. (CV26)
- "Kidnapping of juveniles: Patterns from NIBRS" (with Richard Ormrod). *Juvenile Justice Bulletin - NCJ181161* (pgs. 1-8). Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office. (CV28)
- "Juvenile victims of property crimes" (with Richard Ormrod). *Juvenile Justice Bulletin - NCJ184740* (pgs. 1-12). Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office. (CV37)
- "The victimization of children: Recommendations for assessment and instrument development" (with Sherry Hamby). *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 39(7): 829-840. (CV27)

## **1999**

- "Reporting crimes against juveniles" (with Richard Ormrod). *Juvenile Justice Bulletin - NCJ178887* (pgs. 1-7). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. (CV23)
- "Violent victimization of youth versus adults in the national crime victimization survey" (with Patricia Hashima). *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 14(8): 799-819. (CV20)
- "Convening a national call to action: Working toward the elimination of child maltreatment: The science". *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 23(10): 969-974. (CV31)
- "Victimologia infantil". In J. Sanmartin (Ed.), *Violencia contra ninos* (pp. 147-218). Barcelona, Spain: Editorial Ariel.
- "Child sexual abuse". In E. Ullmann & Hilweg, W. (Eds.), *Childhood and trauma: Separation, abuse and war* (pgs. 101-115). Aldershot, England: Ashgate Publishing.

## **1998**

- "Children as victims of crime and violence". *Family Futures*, 2(4): 6-10. (CV35)
- "Children exposed to partner violence" (with Janis Wolak). In J.L. Jasinski, L.M. Williams (Eds.), *Partner violence: A comprehensive review of 20 years of research* (pgs. 73-112). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. (CV21)
- "A comparison of the responses of preadolescents and adolescents in a national victimization survey". *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 13(3): 362-382. (CV9)
- "Improving Research, Policy, and Practice to Understand Child Sexual Abuse". *JAMA*, 280(21):1864-1865.  
dfvita, October 15, 2012, Page 11

## **1997**

- "A developmental perspective on the childhood impact of crime, abuse & violent victimization" (with Kathy Kendall-Tackett). In D. Cicchetti & S. Toth (Eds.), *The effects of trauma and the developmental process*. (CV18)
- "The homicide of children & youth: A developmental perspective". In G. Kaufman Kantor & J. Jasinski (Eds.), *Out of the darkness: Contemporary perspectives on family violence* (pgs. 17-34). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. (CV17)
- "The victimization of children and youth: Developmental victimology". In R.C. Davis, A.J. Lurigio & W.G. Skogan, (Eds.), *Victims of crime* (pg. 86-107). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. (CV16)
- "Is youth victimization related to PTSD and depression after controlling for prior symptoms and family relationships? A Longitudinal prospective study" (with Sue Boney-McCoy). *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 64(6):1406-1416. (CV14)
- "The prevention of child sexual abuse" (with Deborah Daro). In M.E. Helfer, R. S. Kempe, & R.D. Krugman (Eds.), *The battered child, (5th Edition)* (pgs 615-626). Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press.
- "Sexually abused children in a national survey of parents: Methodological issues" (with David Moore, Sherry Hamby & Murray Straus). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 21(1):1-9.
- "Risk factors for family abduction: Demographic and family interaction characteristics" (with Peggy Plass and Gerald Hotaling). *Journal of Family Violence*, 12(3):333-348. (MC11)
- "Die folgen van sexuellem missbrauch bei kindern: Review und synthese neuerer empirischer studien. In G. Amann & R. Wipplinger (Eds.), *Sexueller missbrauch: Ueberblick zu forschung, beratung und therapie* (pp. 151 - 186). Salzburg, Austria: Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Verhaltenstherapie.

## **1996**

- "Risk factors for youth victimization: Beyond a lifestyles theoretical approach" (with Nancy Asdigian). *Violence and Victims*, 11(1):3-20. (CV13)
- "New categories of missing children: Injured, lost, delinquent, and victims of caretakers mix-ups" (with Nancy Asdigian and Gerald Hotaling). *Child Welfare*, 75(4):291-310. (MC10)
- "Family abduction outcomes: Factors associated with duration and emotional trauma to children" (with Peggy Plass and Gerald Hotaling). *Journal of Youth & Society*, 28(1):109-130. (MC12)
- "Introduction: Child maltreatment at a time of transition." In J. Briere, L. Berliner, J.A Bulkley, C. Jenny, & T. Reid, (Eds.), *APSAC handbook on child maltreatment* (p. ix). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- "Corporal punishment as a stressor among youth" (with Heather Turner). *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 58(1):155-166. (CV10)
- "Sexual abuse of children in an international perspective". In S. Matsumoto (Ed.), *Sexuality and human bonding* (pg. 245-248). New York: Elsevier Science.

## **1995**

- "Nonsexual assaults to the genitals in the youth population" (with Janis Wolak). *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, 274(21):1692-1697. (CV12)
- "The effectiveness of victimization prevention programs for children: A follow-up" (with Nancy Asdigian and Jennifer Dziuba-Leatherman). *American Journal of Public Health*, 85(12):1684-1689. (CV11)
- "Research on the treatment of sexually abused children" (with Lucy Berliner). *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 34(11):1408-1423.

- "The psychosocial sequelae of violent victimization on a national youth sample" (with Sue Boney-McCoy). *The Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 63(5):726-736. (CV5)
- "The victimization of children in a developmental perspective", *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 65(2):177-193. (CV8)
- "Victimization prevention programs: A national survey of children's exposure and reactions" (with Jennifer Dziuba-Leatherman). *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 19(2): 129-139. (CV2)
- "The effectiveness of victimization prevention instruction: An evaluation of children's responses to actual threats and assaults" (with Nancy Asdigian and Jennifer Dziuba-Leatherman). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 19(2): 141-153. (CV3)
- "Paternal caregiving and incest: A test of a biosocial model" (with Linda Williams). *The American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 65(1):101-113.
- "Varieties of non-family abduction: Additional analyses from NISMART" (with Nancy Asdigian and Gerald Hotaling). *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 22(3):215-232. (MC8)
- "Attempted non-family abduction" (with Gerald Hotaling and Nancy Asdigian). *Child Welfare*, 74(5):941-955. (MC9)
- "Police involvement in family abduction episodes" (with Peggy Plass and Gerald Hotaling). *Crime & Delinquency*, 41(2):205-218. (MC13)
- "Victimization prevention programs: An american survey of children's exposure and reactions" (with Jennifer Dziuba-Leatherman). In B. Marquardt-Mau (Ed.), *Prevention of child sexual abuse* (p 87-112). Germany: Juventa Verlag. (CV2-GER)
- "What works for children in resisting assaults" (with Nancy Asdigian). *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 10(4):402-418. (CV6)
- "Prior victimization: A risk factor for child sexual abuse and for PTSD-Related symptomatology among sexually abused youth" (with Sue Boney-McCoy). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 19(12):1401-1421. (CV7)
- "The impact of child sexual abuse on children: A review and synthesis of recent empirical findings" (with Kathy Kendall-Tackett and Linda Williams). In M.E. Hertzog & E.A. Farber (Eds.), *Annual progress in child psychiatry and child development* (pp. 321-356). New York: Brunner/Mazel.

#### **1994**

- "Abus sexuel et santé sexuelle chez l'enfant: Nouveaux dilemmes pour le pediatre". *Le Journal Suisse de Medicine*, 124(51/52):2320-2330.
- "Children as victims of violence: A national survey" (with Jennifer Dziuba-Leatherman). *Pediatrics*, 94(4): 413-420. (CV4)
- "Current information on the scope and nature of child sexual abuse". *The Future of Children*, 4(2): 31-53.
- "How does receiving information about abuse influence boys perception of their risk?" (with Jennifer Dziuba-Leatherman). *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 18(7): 557-568.
- "Victimization of children" (with Jennifer Dziuba-Leatherman). *American Psychologist*, 49(3): 173-183. (CV1)
- "The international epidemiology of child sexual abuse", *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 18(5): 409-417.
- "The 'backlash' and the future of child abuse advocacy: Insights from the study of social issues." In J.E.B. Myers, (Ed.), *The backlash: Child protection under fire*, Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, p. 1-16.
- "Parental relations, socioeconomic status, & father-child contact following divorce" (with Denise Donnelly, Cheryl Brown and Donald Gregory), *Family Perspectives*, 28(3):183-194.

#### **1993**

- "Epidemiological factors in the clinical identification of child sexual abuse". *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 17: 67-70.

"The impact of sexual abuse on children: A review and synthesis of recent empirical studies" (with Kathleen Kendall-Tackett & Linda Williams). *Psychological Bulletin*, 113(1), 164-180.

"The main problem is still underreporting not overreporting". In R.J. Gelles, & D.R. Loseke (Eds.), *Current controversies on family violence*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 273-287.

## **1992**

"Child sexual abuse". In J.M. Last & R.B. Wallace (Eds.), *Public health & preventative medicine - 13th edition*. Connecticut: Appleton & Lange.

"Sexual abuse prevention education: A review of evaluation studies" (with Nancy Strapko). In D.J. Willis, E.W. Holder & M. Rosenberg (Eds.), *Prevention of child maltreatment*. New York: Wiley. Also published in O. Schubbe (Ed.), *Therapeutische hilfen gegen sexuellen mißbrauch an kindern*. Göttingen, Zurich: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.

"New myths about the child welfare system". *The Child, Youth and Family Services*, 15(1): 3-5.

"The abduction of children by strangers and nonfamily members: Estimating the incidence using multiple methods" (with G. Hotaling & A. Sedlak). *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 7(2): 226-243. (MC4)

## **1991**

"The scope of the problem". In K. Murray & D. Gough (Eds.), *Intervening in health approach*. New York: Oxford University Press.

"Abus sexuel d'enfants: Nouvelles recherches et développements criminologiques en Amérique du nord. (Sexual abuse of children: New criminological developments in North America.)". In J. Schuh & M. Killias (Eds.), *Délinquance sexuelle (sexual delinquency)*. Chur/Zurich: Verlag Ruegger.

"Child sexual abuse". In Mark Rosenberg (Ed.), *Violence in America: A public health approach*. New York: Oxford University Press.

"Flexible reporting options for skilled child abuse professionals" (with Gail Zellman). *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 15(4): 335-342.

"Children abducted by family members: A national household survey of incidence and episode characteristics". *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 53: 805-817. (MC3)

"The lazy revolutionary's guide to the prospects for reforming child welfare". *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 15(S1): 17-23.

## **1990**

"Is child abuse overreported: The data rebut arguments for less intervention". *Public Welfare*, 48(1): 22-29, 46-47.

"New ideas for child sex abuse prevention". In R. Kim Oates (Ed.), *Understanding and managing child sexual abuse*. Philadelphia, PA: W.B. Saunders.

"Early and long term effects of child sexual abuse: An update". *Professional Psychology: Research & Practice*, 21(5): 325-330.

"Estimating the number of stranger abduction homicides of children: A review of available evidence" (with Gerald Hotaling). *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 18(5): 385-399. (MC2)

"The characteristics of incestuous fathers: A review of recent studies" (with Linda Williams). In W.L. Marshall, D.R. Laws & H.E. Barbaree (Eds.), *The handbook of sexual assault issues, Theories and treatment of the offender*. New York: Plenum.

"Sexual abuse in a national survey of adult men and women: Prevalence, characteristics, and risk factors" (with Gerald Hotaling, I.A. Lewis and Christine Smith). *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 14: 19-28.

## **1989**

"Sexual abuse and its relationship to later sexual satisfaction, marital status, religion & attitudes" (with Gerald Hotaling, I.A. Lewis & Christine Smith). *Journal of interpersonal violence*, 4(4): 379-399.

- "Assessing the long-term impact of child sexual abuse: A review and conceptualization" (with Angela Browne). In L. Walker, (Ed.), *A handbook on child sexual abuse: Assessment and treatment issues*. New York: Springer.
- "Causes of elder abuse: Caregiver stress versus problem relatives" (with Karl Pillimer). *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 59: 179-187.

### **1988**

- "The prevalence of elder abuse: A random sample survey" (with Karl Pillimer). *The Gerontologist*, 28: 51-57.
- "Sexual abuse in day care: A national study" (with Linda Williams and Nanci Burns). Executive Summary, March 1988.
- "An epidemiologic approach to the study of child molestation" (with I.A. Lewis). In R. Prentky & V. Quinsey (Eds.), *Human sexual aggression: Current perspectives*. New York: The Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, June 1988.
- "Child abuse as an international issue" (with Jill Korbin). *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 12: 3-23.
- "The trauma of child sexual abuse: Two models". In G. Wyatt (Ed.), *The lasting effects of child sexual abuse*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

### **1987**

- "The sexual abuse of children: Current research reviewed", *Psychiatric Annals: The Journal of Continuing Psychiatric Education*, 17(4): 233-241.
- "The trauma of child sexual abuse: Two models". *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 2(4): 348-366.

### **1986**

- "The adolescent sexual perpetrator: A new challenge in the field of sexual abuse". *Treating the juvenile sexual abuse perpetrator: Proceedings of a National training conference*. Minnesota Program in Human Sexuality, University of Minnesota.
- "Sexual abuse: Beyond the family systems approach", *Journal of Psychotherapy and the Family*, 2(2): 53-66; also in T.S. Trepper & M.M. Barrett (Eds.), *Treating incest: A multimodel systems perspective*, New York: Hayworth Press.
- "Preventing approaches to child sexual abuse". In M. Lystad (Ed.), *Violence in the home: Interdisciplinary perspectives*. New York: Brunner/Mazel.
- "The impact of child sexual abuse: A review of the research" (with Angela Browne). *Psychological Bulletin*, 99(1): 66-77.
- "Explanations of pedophilia: A four factor model" (with Sharon Araj). *Journal of Sex Research*, 22(2): 145-161.
- "Risk factors for childhood sexual abuse: A review of the evidence" (with Larry Baron). *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 1(1): 26-42.

### **1985**

- "The traumatic impact of child sexual abuse: A conceptualization" (with Angela Browne). *Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 55(4): 530-541. Reprinted in S. Cless and A. Thomas, (Eds.), *Annual progress in child psychiatry and child development*. New York: Brunner/Mazel.
- "Sexual abuse and physical abuse: Some critical differences". In E.H. Newberger & R. Bourne (Eds.), *Unhappy families*, chapter 3. Littleton, MA: PSG Publishing Company, Inc.
- "Explanations of pedophilia: Empirical research" (with Sharon Araj). *Bulletin of the Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*, 13: 17-38.
- "The sexual exploitation of missing children: A research review" (with Gerald Hotaling). Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice.

### **1984**

- "The prevention of child sexual abuse: A review of current approaches", *SIECUS Reports*, Vol XIII (September).

"How widespread is child sexual abuse", *Children Today*, 13(4): 18-20. Also in, National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, *Perspectives on Child Maltreatment in the Mid 80's*. Washington, DC: USDHHS.

"Child abuse in stepfamilies" (with Jean Giles-Sims). *Family Relations*, 33: 407-413.

"Sexual abuse in the National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect: An appraisal" (with Gerald Hotaling). *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 8: 22-33.

"Sexual abuse of boys: The available data". In A. Burgess (Ed.), *Handbook of research on rape and sexual assault*. New York: Garland.

"Explanations of pedophilia: Review of empirical evidence" (with Sharon Araj). *Bulletin of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*, 13:17-38.

### **1983**

"Common features of family abuse". In D. Finkelhor, R. Gelles, G. Hotaling, & M. Straus (Eds.), *The dark side of families: Current family violence research*. Beverly Hills, CA: Sage.

"Marital rape: A sociological perspective". In D. Finkelhor, R. Gelles, G. Hotaling & M. Straus (Eds.), *The dark side of families: Current family violence research*. Beverly Hills, CA: Sage.

"Removing the child - Prosecuting the offender in cases of sexual abuse: Evidence". *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 7:195-205.

### **1982**

"Forced sex in marriage" (with Kersti Yllo). *Crime and Delinquency*, 28(3): 459-478.

"Sexual abuse: A sociological perspective", *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 6: 95-102.

### **1981**

"The scope of family violence in America" (with Barbara Carson). In C. Germaine Warner and G. R. Braen (Eds.), *Management of the physically and emotionally abused*. New York: MacMillan.

"Sexual Abuse of Boys". *Victimology*, 6: 71-84.

### **1980**

"Risk factors in the sexual victimization of children". *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 4(4): 265-273.

"Sexual socialization in America: High risk for sexual abuse". In J. Samson (Ed.), *Childhood and sexuality*. Montreal, Canada: Editions Etudes Vivantes.

"Sex among siblings: A survey report on its prevalence, variety and effects", *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 9: 171-194.

### **1979 and earlier**

"What's wrong with sex between adults and children: Ethics and the problem of sexual abuse". *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 49: 692-697, 1979.

"Psychological, cultural and structural factors in incest and family sexual abuse". *Journal of Marriage and Family Counseling*, 4: 45-50.

"Review essay: Kantor and Lehr, inside the family". *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 39: 423-427, 1977.

"Reflections on my teaching", *Journal of Thought*, 11: 23-33, 1976.

"Urban communal living arrangements", *Theological Education*, (Winter) 1972.

## AWARDS

### Research Grants

- "Incest and Family Sexual Abuse" (Co-investigator): National Institute of Mental Health grant, 1978-1980.
- "Parents Attitudes and Reactions to Sexual Abuse" (Principal Investigator): National Institute of Mental Health grant, 1980-1982.
- "Secondary Analysis of Data Collected by the National Incidence Study -- Sexual Abuse of Children" (Principal Investigator): National Center for Child Abuse and Neglect grant, 1981-1982.
- "Family Violence Research Training Grant" (Co-Investigator): National Institute of Mental Health, 1982-1992.
- "Forced Sex in Marriage" (Principal Investigator): Eden Hall Farm Foundation, 1983-1987.
- "Promoting the Development and Dissemination of Knowledge about Child Sexual Abuse" (Principal Investigator): National Center for Child Abuse and Neglect grant, 1983-1985.
- "Conflict and Abuse in the Family Care of the Elderly" (Principal Investigator): National Institute on Aging grant, 1984-1986.
- "Family Violence: A Research Agenda for the 1980's and 1990's" (Principal Investigator): Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, 1985-1986.
- "Sexual Abuse in Day Care" (Principal Investigator): National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, 1986-1988.
- "Characteristics of Incest Offenders" (Principal Investigator): Northstar Foundation, 1987-1988.
- "National Studies of Incidence of Missing Children" (Co-Investigator): U.S. Department of Justice - Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 1987-1989.
- "Recovery from Sexual Abuse and the Validity of Children's Disclosures: A Longitudinal Study, 1973-1990" (Co-Investigator): National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, 1990-1992.
- "Paternal Characteristics and Risk of Sexual Abuse in Navy Families" (Co-Investigator): National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, 1988-1991.
- "A National Study of Youth Victimization Prevention" (Principal Investigator): Boy Scouts of America, (1991-1994).
- "Family, Non-Family Abduction and Other Missing Children: Additional Analysis and Dissemination of NISMART Data", (1992-1994).
- "Stranger Abduction of Children: Analysis of a National Survey of Children's Experiences", (1993-1994).
- "National Youth Victimization Prevention Follow-Up Study" (1993-1995).
- "Second National Incidence Study of Missing, Abducted, Runaway and Thrownaway Children" (1996-1999).
- "Evaluation of US Air Force Family Violence Prevention Programs (Co-Principal Investigator): US Air Force / US Department of Agriculture (1997).
- "Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence" (Principal Investigator): Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention / Consortium on Children, Families and the Law (University of South Carolina) (1997-1998).
- "Family Violence Research Conference Funding" (Principal Investigator): Packard Foundation (5/98-7/98).
- "Family Violence Research Conference Funding" (Principal Investigator): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (1999-2000).

- "Family Violence Research Conference Funding" (Principal Investigator): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2000-2001).
- "Family Violence Research Conference Funding" (Principal Investigator): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2001-2002).
- "Youth Internet Safety Survey (YISS-1)" (Principal Investigator): National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. (1998-2001).
- "Crimes against Children Research Center: Phase 1" (Principal Investigator): Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (1998-2001).
- "Crimes against Children Research Center: Phase 2" (Principal Investigator): Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (1999-2005).
- "Crimes against Children Research Center: Phase 3" (Principal Investigator): Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2000-2003).
- "Crimes against Children Research Center: Phase 4" (Principal Investigator): Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2000-2004).
- "Crimes against Children Research Center: Phase 5" (Principal Investigator): Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2002-2005).
- "Juvenile Online Victimization Study (NJOV-1)" (Principal Investigator): National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. (2001-2003).
- "National Incidence Study of Missing, Abducted, Runaway and Thrownaway Children-2" (Co-Principal Investigator): Temple University. (2001-2003).
- "Family Violence Research Conference Funding" (Principal Investigator): Sam Houston (2001-2002).
- "Crimes against Children Research Center: Phase 6" (Principal Investigator): Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2003-2007).
- "Crimes against Children Research Center: Phase 7" (Principal Investigator): Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2004-2007).
- "The Second Youth Internet Safety Survey (YISS-2)" (Principal Investigator): National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. (2005-2006).
- "Crimes against Children Research Center: Phase 8" (Principal Investigator): Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2005-2008).
- "National Statewide Child Protection Training Initiative: Phase 1" (Principal Investigator): Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2005-2008)
- "National Statewide Child Protection Training Initiative: Phase 2" (Principal Investigator): Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2006-2008).
- "Crimes against Children Research Center: Phase 9" (Principal Investigator): Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2006-2009).
- "The National Study of Internet-Facilitated Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Criminal Justice System" (Co-Principal Investigator): National Institute of Justice. (2007-2009).
- "National Study of Children Exposed to Violence (NatSCEV)" (Principal Investigator): Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2006-2011).

"National Study of Children Exposed to Violence: Safe, Stable, & Nurturing Relationships Supplement" (Co-Principal Investigator): Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2009-2011).

"National Study of Children Exposed to Violence: Trend Survey 2" (Co-Principal Investigator): Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2009-2011).

"National Study of Internet and Technology-Facilitated Risks to Youth (YISS-3)" (Co-Principal Investigator): Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2009-2012).

"National Study Juvenile Online Victimization Study (NJOV-3)" (Principal Investigator): Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2009-2012).

"Evaluation of Internet Child Safety Materials Used by ICAC Task Forces in School & Community Settings" (Co-Principal Investigator): National Institutes of Justice. (2009-2012).

"National Study of Children Exposed to Violence: Follow-up Wave 2" (Co-Principal Investigator): Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2010-2011).

"National Incidence Study of Missing, Abducted, Runaway and Thrownaway Children (NISMAART-2)" (Principal Investigator): Westat. (2010-2013).

"Ethics in Epidemiology" (Principal Investigator): UBS. (2011-2012).

"National Study of Children Exposed to Violence: Assessing Exposure to Family Violence" (Principal Investigator): National Institutes of Justice. (2011-2013).

### **PROFESSIONAL AWARDS**

University Professorship (2010).

Daniel Douglas Scheider Child Welfare Book Award (2009).

*Childhood victimization: Violence, crime, and abuse in the lives of young people. New York: Oxford University Press.*

APSAC Article of the Year. (2008).

*"Poly-victimization: A neglected component in child victimization trauma" (with Richard Ormrod & Heather Turner). Child Abuse & Neglect, 31: 7-26. (CV91)*

Elected as a Fellow of the American Society of Criminology. (2007).

Child Maltreatment Article of the Year. (2005).

*"The victimization of children and youth: A comprehensive, national survey" (with Richard Ormrod, Heather Turner, and Sherry Hamby). Child Maltreatment, 10 (1): 5-25. (CV73)*

Significant Achievement Award, from the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers. (2004).

Santiago Grisolia Chair, University of Valencia, Spain. For Research on Violence against Children. (1998).

Outstanding Professional Award from the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. (1995).

### **STUDY GRANTS**

National Institute of Mental Health Pre-doctoral Fellowship (1977-78): Study of family violence.

Elementary & Secondary Education Act, Title IV Fellowship (1968-1971): Graduate study in education.

National Science Foundation Grant (1966): To study local government in France.

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Recent Presentations

#### International

Zurich, Switzerland: UBS - Developing the Global Evidence-base for Child Protection to Improve Outcomes (October, 2011)

Lugano, Switzerland: ASPI Foundation International Conference, "Child Abuse: Complementary Points of View". (October, 2011).

Cape Town, South Africa: World Health Organization's 5<sup>th</sup> Violence Prevention Milestones Meeting. (September, 2011).

London, UK: EU Kids Online Conference (September, 2011).

Montreal, Canada: Society for Research of Child Development Conference (March, 2011).

Paddington, London, UK: Vulnerable Children – Recognition and Protection: Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility (March, 2011).

Gateshead, United Kingdom: Child Sexual Abuse: Learning Lessons, Changing Practice (March, 2011).

University Park, Nottingham, UK: Children As Victims: Prevalence and Prevention - An International One Day Conference (March, 2011).

London, Ontario, Canada: Child Abuse Think Tank (November, 10).

Toronto, Ontario, Canada: Current Issues in Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment Conference (November, 10).

Tokyo, Japan: The Forum on the Prevention of Child Abuse 2010 (October, 10).

London, United Kingdom: Kids Online International Advisory Panel (July, 10).

Barcelona, Spain: University of Barcelona Personality Seminar Series (May, 10).

Montreal, Quebec, Canada: Le Centre Jeunesse de Montréal (February, 10).

Stockholm, Sweden: Swedish Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Victimology (November, 09).

Hong Kong, China: International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect (ISPCAN) Annual Congress (September, 08).

Zurich, Switzerland: UBS Optimus Foundation Research Advisory Board Meeting (July, 08).

Edinburgh, Scotland: Division of Forensic Psychology Conference, Heriot-Watt University (June, 08).

Calgary, Ontario, Canada: Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse, "Joining Together – Changes & Challenges in Child Maltreatment Conference" (May, 08).

Bergen, Norway: (May, 08).

Zurich, Switzerland: UBS Optimus Foundation Research Advisory Board Meeting (January, 08).

Montreal, Quebec, Canada: 3e Colloque Québécois sur la Maltraitance envers les Enfants et les Adolescents La maltraitance: une réalité qui bouleverse (October, 07).

Huddersfield, UK: University of Huddersfield Conference: Safeguarding Children? Current Debates – Future Prospects (September, 07).

Toronto, Ontario, Canada: University of Toronto Sexual Exploitation Training (September, 07).

Leuven, Belgium: 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect. (May, 07).

York, United Kingdom: XVI<sup>th</sup> ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse & Neglect. (September, 06).

Templepatrick, Ireland: National Organization for the Treatment of Abusers, Northern Ireland Annual Conference. (June, 06).

Montreal, Canada: 74<sup>th</sup> Congress of ACFAS, “Variations in Child Maltreatment Rates: Epidemiological Reality or Changing Standards?” (May, 06).

Stockholm, Sweden: “Expert Meeting on Children and Young Persons with Abusive and Violent Experiences Connected to Cyberspace – Challenges for Research, Rehabilitation, Prevention and Protection”. (May, 06)

### **Domestic**

Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins School of Medicine 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Child Sexual Abuse Symposium: A Public Health Perspective. (April, 2012).

Washington, DC: Children’s Bureau, 18<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect. (April, 2012).

Rockland, IL: Child Abuse Council’s Children Exposed to Violence Conference. (March, 2012).

Washington, DC: OJP Science Advisory Board Meeting. (January, 2012).

San Diego, CA: Chadwick Center’s Annual Conference on Responding to Child Maltreatment. (January, 2012).

Washington, DC: FOSI’s Fourth Annual Conference, “Internet Freedom, Safety and Citizenship: A Global Call to Action”. (November, 2011).

New York, NY: Social Justice for Children: To End Child Abuse and Violence against Children. (November, 2011).

Portsmouth, NH: University of New Hampshire School of Law Ending Domestic & Sexual Violence: Innovations in Practice & Research Conference (November, 2011).

Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s (OJJDP) 2011 National Conference on Children’s Justice and Safety: Unite-Build-Lead. (October, 2011).

Washington, DC: Meeting of the Bullying Definitions Expert Panel (September, 2011).

Columbus, OH: At Risk Youth Conference (September, 2011).

Philadelphia, PA: One Child, Many Hands Conference (June, 2011).

Snowbird, Utah: 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of Agencies and Organizations Serving Troubled Youth – “Creating Success in Uncertain Times: And How Are the Children?” (May, 2011).

Brooklyn Park, MN: MnATSA 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference (April, 2011).

Washington, DC: Family Online Safety Institute’s Forth Annual Conference - Internet Freedom, Safety & Citizenship: A Global Call to Action (November, 10).

Honolulu, Hawaii: XVII ISPCAN International Congress (September, 10).

Quantico, VA: FBI National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime (NCAVC) Research Advisory Board Meeting (September, 10).

Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice Conference (June, 10).

Dover, Delaware: Protecting Delaware's Children (June, 10).

Baltimore, MD: Pediatric Academic Societies Annual Meeting (May, 09).

Seattle, WA: 17th Annual Children's Justice Conference (April, 09).

West Lebanon, NH: 24th Annual MacNamee Memorial Conference (March, 09).

Miami, FL: University of Miami, School of Education Community Well-Being Forum & Institute for Educational Sciences Speaker Series (February, 09).

Los Angeles, CA: Crime, Violence, and Justice Speaker Series - University of Southern California, Hamovitch Center for Science in the Human Services, School of Social Work (January, 09).

San Diego, CA: 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual San Diego Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment (January, 09).

Albany, NY: Child Sexual Abuse: Understanding Recent Developments and New Findings Social Work Education Consortium (December, 08).

Charlottesville, VA: Advanced Research and Clinical Topics in Forensic Practice, University of Virginia – Harrison Institute (December, 08).

Durham, NH: Kings County Sexual Assault Resource Center Videoconference (October, 08).

Boston, MA: Academy of Pediatrics Conference (October, 08).

Portsmouth, NH: International Family Violence Research Conference (July, 08).

Bronx, NY: Montefiore Medical Center Grand Rounds (May, 08).

Durham, NH: Midwest Children's Resource Center: "National Children's Alliance Videoconference" (April, 08).

Seattle, WA: National Safe Environment Leadership Conference: "Moving Beyond Compliance, Towards, Conversion" (April, 08).

Chicago, IL: Loyola University – Child Law Center, "ISPCAN Global Summit" (video-presentation) (April, 08).

Bethesda, MD: 2008 APA Summit on Violence and Abuse in Relationships: Connecting Agendas and Forging New Directions (February, 08).

San Diego, CA: 22nd Annual San Diego Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment, (January, 08).

Atlanta, GA: Annual American Society of Criminology Conference (November, 07).

Erie, PA: Mercyhurst College, James V. Kinnane Criminal Justice Conference: cyber.crimes.in.cyber.times (October, 07).

Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Developmental Psychopathology Workshop (September, 07).

St. Louis, MO: 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Protect our Children Conference (September, 07).

Boston, MA: 15<sup>th</sup> Annual APSAC Colloquium (July, 07).

Washington, DC: Testimony before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation – Hearing on Protecting Children on the Internet (July, 07).

Tampa, FL: The Florida Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers Conference, "Preventing Sexual Abuse through Collaboration: A Multi-Agency Approach" (May, 07).

New York, NY: The Vincent J. Fontana Center for Child Protection's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual William Randolph Hearst National Conference, "Preparing Leaders, Protecting Children, Supporting Families" (April, 07).

Cleveland, OH: Bellflower Center for Prevention of Child Abuse Conference (April, 07).

Durham, NH: Prevent Child Abuse America Tele-Symposium. (April, 07).

Washington, DC: Department of Justice, National Press Club Breakfast: "The Effects & Treatment of Child Abuse" (March, 07).

Boston, MA: Society for Research in Child Development 2007 Biennial Meeting. (March, 07).

San Diego, CA: 21<sup>st</sup> Annual San Diego Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment, (January, 07).

Durham, NH: Laval University (Canada) Videoconference. (January, 07).

### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

American Sociological Association

American Society of Criminology

American Psychological Association

American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children

International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

HELP Network

Homicide Research Working Group

### **EDITORIAL ACTIVITY**

Associate Editor, Child Abuse and Neglect.

Associate Editor, The Advisor.

Editorial Board, Child Maltreatment.

Editorial Board, Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment.

**EXHIBIT B**

# CHILDREN RESEARCH CENTER

CRIMES AGAINST

## Trends in Law Enforcement Responses to Technology-facilitated Child Sexual Exploitation Crimes: The Third National Juvenile Online Victimization Study (NJOV-3)

April 2012

Janis Wolak, David Finkelhor &amp; Kimberly J. Mitchell

### Abstract

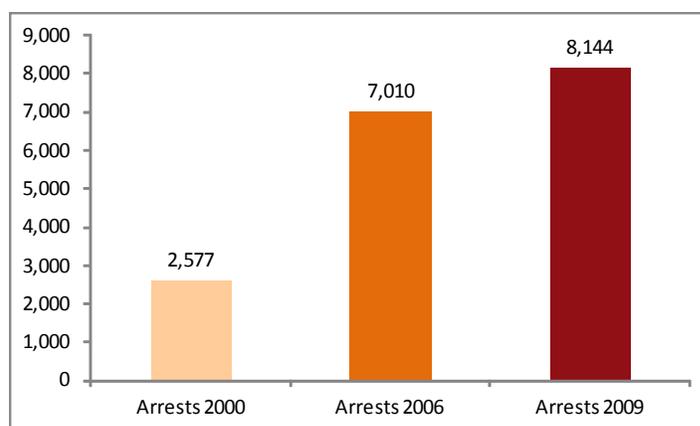
Overall arrests for technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation crimes did not continue to increase from 2006 to 2009 as they had earlier in the decade. However, arrests for child pornography possession increased by about 50% from 2006 to 2009. In addition, arrests for technology-facilitated sex crimes with identified victims doubled, but the increase was in cases where offenders knew their victims in person, not cases in which they met online. Arrests of offenders who solicited undercover police posing as minors declined between 2006 and 2009, after rising earlier in the decade. The decline may be because of shifts in law enforcement strategies that included more focus on child pornography offenses.

This bulletin reports on trends in arrests of individuals who committed technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation crimes in the US. These include sex offenders who used the Internet to meet victims or to facilitate the abuse of children who were family members or face-to-face acquaintances, who solicited sex from undercover investigators posing online as minors or who used the Internet to download child pornography. The data come from 3 waves of the National Juvenile Online Victimization (NJOV) Study that examined arrests in 2000, 2006 and 2009. See the end of this report for a description of the methodology of the NJOV Study.

### Arrests for technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation crimes increased substantially between 2000 and 2009.

In 2009, US law enforcement agencies made an estimated 8,144 arrests for technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation crimes, more than 3 times as many as in 2000 (Figure 1). However, the largest increase in numbers of arrests happened between 2000 and 2006 when the number of arrests almost tripled.

Figure 1. Estimated number of arrests for technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation crimes, by year



While the estimate for arrests in 2009 appears higher, we cannot be sure there was actually an increase in arrests in 2009 compared to 2006. Our survey of law enforcement agencies has a margin of error, also known as a "95% confidence interval." This confidence interval shows the range of possible numbers within which the true number of arrests is likely to fall in 95 out of 100 attempts to estimate it with a sample of the size we used. Our estimate of arrests in 2006 is 7,010 with possible estimates ranging between 6,188 and 7,832 (see Table 1). The estimate for 2009 is 8,144 with a range of between 7,440 and 8,849. These ranges overlap, which indicates that the estimated number of arrests in 2009 could be similar to the number in 2006. In other words, 2009 arrests did not increase significantly in comparison to those in 2006.

Table 1. Estimated total arrests for technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation crimes by year

	Arrests 2000	Arrests 2006	Arrests 2009
Estimated number	2,577	7,010	8,144
95% Confidence Interval	2,277—2,877	6,188—7,832	7,440—8,849

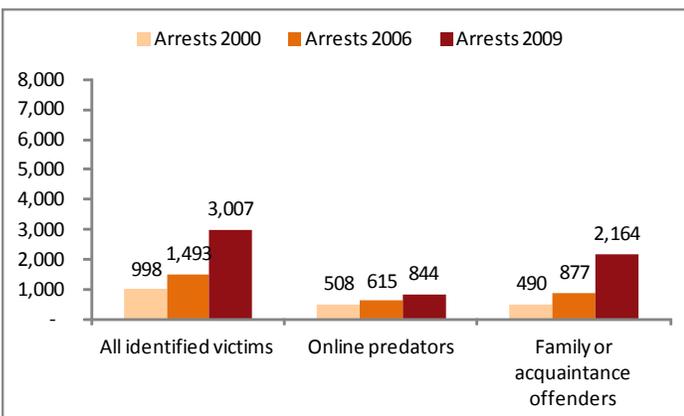
**Arrests increased for crimes with identified victims, declined for solicitations to undercover investigators and increased for downloading child pornography.**

#### *Sex crimes with identified victims*

Arrests for crimes with identified victims increased substantially. ("Identified victims" are directly victimized by offenders and identified by police during the investigation.) These arrests grew by one-third between 2000 and 2006 and then doubled between 2006 and 2009 (Figure 2).

However, arrests of sex offenders who used the Internet to meet victims – so-called "online predators" – accounted for little of this increase. Rather, most of the increase was of offenders who used technology to facilitate sex crimes against victims *they already knew face-to-face* – we call these "family and acquaintance" offenders. Most sex crimes against minors are committed by such persons. More family and acquaintance offenders may be using technology in the course of their crimes. For example, computers and cell phones may be used to plan meetings with victims and to take and store pictures. Also, police may be more aware of the ways technology can be used in sex crimes and thus more likely to examine computers, cell phones and other devices during investigations of sexual abuse cases.

**Figure 2. Estimated arrests for crimes with identified victims, by year**

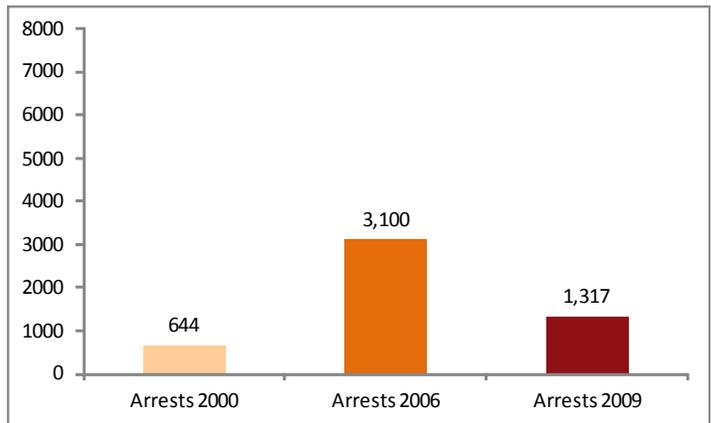


Note: Some numbers do not add exactly due to rounding.

#### *Solicitations of undercover investigators posing online as minors*

Arrests of offenders who solicited law enforcement investigators posing online as minors spiked in 2006 but then declined in 2009 (Figure 3). This rise and fall may reflect a shift in focus among law enforcement agencies, who in the early 2000s trained many officers to pose online as adolescents, but then may have cut back on these time-intensive investigations in favor of investigations of child pornography, which became easier to conduct due to developing police technology.

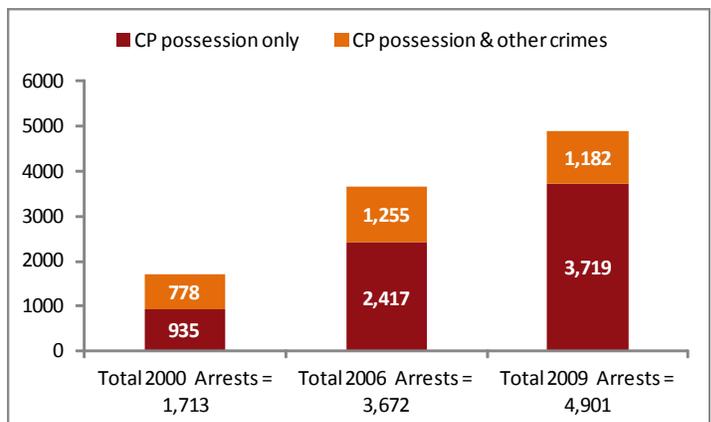
**Figure 3. Estimated arrests for solicitations to undercover investigators posing online as minors, by year**



#### *Child pornography (CP) possession and distribution*

Arrests for CP possession increased steadily between 2000 and 2009 (Figure 4). Close to half of 2009 arrests for technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation (46%) were for CP possession only (no additional sex crimes). We have measured significant increases in arrests for CP possession in each of the three NJOV studies.

**Figure 4. Estimated arrests for CP possession, by year**



#### **Proactive investigations of online CP trading generated more arrests in 2009.**

Law enforcement agencies are aggressively tackling online CP trading by proactively targeting offenders through a variety of tactics – for example, posing online as traders, tracing suspects who transact business on commercial trading sites, and monitoring file sharing networks. Arrests attributable to such proactive investigations more than doubled between 2006 and 2009.

#### Arrests generated by proactive investigation of online CP trading

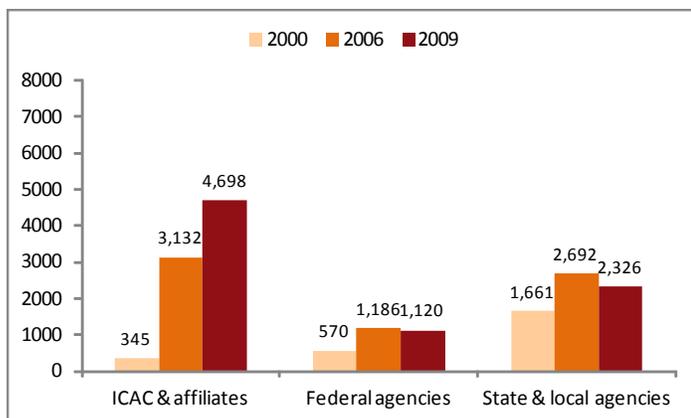
- In 2009, 2,353 arrests
- In 2006, 880 arrests
- In 2000, 274 arrests

### ICAC Task Forces and affiliated agencies made more arrests for technology-facilitated crimes.

Arrests by Internet Crimes against Children (ICAC) Task Forces\* increased sharply (Figure 5). One factor in this increase may be arrests by the growing number of ICAC Task Force affiliates – state and local agencies formally associated with ICAC Task Forces through written agreements.

The number of arrests made by federal agencies remained about the same between 2006 and 2009, as did the number of arrests made by state, county and local agencies that were not affiliated with ICAC Task Forces.

**Figure 5. Estimated arrests by ICAC Task Forces and affiliates, federal agencies and state and local agencies, by year**



### Federal charges were filed in more cases.

Federally charged cases increased by about 25% between 2006 and 2009 even though arrests by federal agencies remained constant. Most federally charged cases that did not result from arrests by federal agencies came from ICAC Task Forces, which often have working relationships with US Attorneys that facilitate referrals for federal prosecution.

#### Estimated cases resulting in federal charges

- In 2009, 1,887 cases
- In 2006, 1,444 cases
- In 2000, 551 cases

#### Estimated cases resulting in state charges

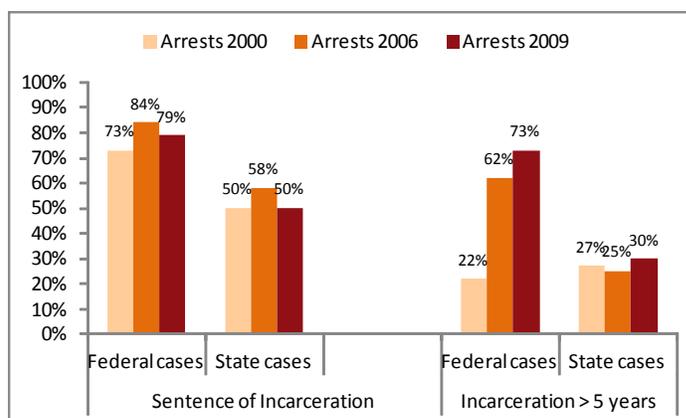
- In 2009, 6,304 cases
- In 2006, 5,714 cases
- In 2000, 2,194 cases

Some cases involved both federal and state charges. For example, an offender might be charged with federal crimes for child pornography offenses and with state crimes for child molestation.

### In federal cases, more offenders received sentences of 5 years or longer.

In each year of the study (2000, 2006 and 2009), about 90% of cases with known outcomes ended in guilty pleas or convictions at trial, a high conviction rate for sex crimes. Most offenders in federal cases with known outcomes were sentenced to incarceration, and most incarcerations were for 5 years or longer (Figure 6). Fewer offenders who were charged under state laws were sentenced to incarceration and, when they were, sentences were shorter.

**Figure 6. Percentage of federal and state cases with sentences of incarceration (cases with known outcomes) and with incarcerations of > 5 years, by year**



### Discussion

Law enforcement in the U.S. appears to be energetically engaged in investigating and prosecuting individuals who use the Internet to commit sex crimes involving children. The most recent trends suggest considerable flexibility and adaptability in their strategies. Overall, arrests in 2009 did not increase as markedly from 2006 as they did earlier in the decade, but arrests for certain types of crimes increased, suggesting a change in focus. There were dramatic increases in arrests for the possession of child pornography and trading in this contraband from 2006 to 2009. This may reflect new tools that law enforcement acquired, including the electronic tagging of known child pornography images and the ability to monitor traffic in these images through peer-to-peer file sharing networks.

At the same time, cases involving police posing online as adolescents declined from 2006-2009, possibly because these cases are time and resource intensive, as investigators need to conduct sometimes lengthy interactions with targets before gathering enough evidence to make an arrest. When suspects are in possession of child pornography, by contrast, arrests often can be made more immediately.

\* The ICAC Task Force program is funded by the US Department of Justice. Its aim is to provide training and technical assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies to enhance their ability respond to technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation crimes.

## Trends in Law Enforcement Responses

Law enforcement officials continue to debate what mix of strategies allows them catch and incapacitate the most dangerous offenders in the most efficient way. While the data analyzed here do not answer these questions in any specific way, they do suggest that the changes in arrest patterns have not resulted in any lower rate of conviction or any decline in the severity of sanctioning, which could possibly indicate less serious offenders.

Law enforcement and parents have also been concerned about the degree to which growth in Internet technology and social network activity may be putting youth at risk for victimization by online sexual predators. Interestingly, while an increasing number of children were abused by someone using technology as part of the offense, the increase was largely of offenders who abused family members and face-to-face acquaintances. The increase in arrests between 2006 and 2009 of sex offenders who used the Internet to meet victims was relatively small. Meanwhile overall sexual abuse and sexual offenses against children declined during this same time period [1, 2].

Our interpretation of the available data is not that the Internet or social networking communication is putting young people at greater risk of victimization. Rather, as electronic communication becomes a dominant medium for interpersonal interaction, every kind of social activity, criminal and non-criminal, has a growing technology footprint. This footprint may also enhance the ability of parents and law enforcement to identify and prosecute it. Thus the big increase in arrests of family and acquaintance offenders with a technology component does not mean that online technologies are making youth more vulnerable, but only that the existing vulnerability is increasingly enacted and evident online, even in the context of overall declines in sexual abuse from the mid-1990s to the present.

Nonetheless, this and other research continues to signal that the online environment is a rapidly changing one. Careful monitoring of trends is important to identify emerging risks to young people and provide feedback about policies to combat them.

### How the National Juvenile Online Victimization (NJOV) Study was conducted

The National Juvenile Online Victimization (NJOV) Study collected information from a national sample of law enforcement agencies about the prevalence of arrests for and characteristics of technology-facilitated sex crimes against minors during three 12 month periods: July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001 (NJOV<sub>1</sub>), and calendar years 2006 (NJOV<sub>2</sub>) and 2009 (NJOV<sub>3</sub>).

We used a two-phase process of mail surveys followed by telephone interviews to collect data from a national sample of the same local, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

First, we sent the mail surveys to a national sample of more than 2,500 agencies. These surveys asked if agencies had made arrests for technology-facilitated sex crimes against minors during the respective 12 month timeframes. Then we conducted detailed telephone interviews with law enforcement investigators about a random sample of arrest cases reported in the mail surveys. In NJOV<sub>2</sub> and NJOV<sub>3</sub> "technology-facilitated" was defined to include Internet use and electronic technologies such as cell phones used for texting and taking and sending photographs.

The data, weighted to account for sampling procedures and non-response, includes 612 cases from NJOV<sub>1</sub>, 1,051 cases from NJOV<sub>2</sub> and 1,299 cases from NJOV<sub>3</sub>. Having weighted data that is based on a representative sampling of law enforcement agencies and arrest cases allows us to estimate the incidence of arrests for specific types of crimes during the timeframes of the three NJOV Studies.

Table 2 provides details about the dispositions of the mail survey and telephone interview samples for the 3 waves of the NJOV Study. Study procedures were approved by the University of New Hampshire Human Subjects Review Board and complied with all Department of Justice research mandates.

**Table 2. Final dispositions and response rates for the National Juvenile Online Victimization (NJOV) Study**

	NJOV <sub>1</sub>	NJOV <sub>2</sub>	NJOV <sub>3</sub>
<b># agencies in sample</b>	<b>2,574</b>	<b>2,598</b>	<b>2,653</b>
No jurisdiction	65	282	190
<b>Eligible agencies</b>	<b>2,509</b>	<b>2,316</b>	<b>2,463</b>
Responded to mail survey	2,205 (88%)	2,028 (87%)	2,128 (86%)
Reported cases	383 (15%)	458 (20%)	590 (24%)
<b># cases reported</b>	<b>1,723</b>	<b>3,322</b>	<b>4,010</b>
Not selected for sample	646 (37%)	1,389 (42%)	1,522 (38%)
Ineligible	281 (16%)	276 (8%)	459 (11%)
<b>Total # cases in sample</b>	<b>796</b>	<b>1,657</b>	<b>2,029</b>
Non-responders	101 (13%)	446 (27%)	471 (23%)
Refusals	25 (3%)	118 (7%)	159 (8%)
Invalid or duplicate cases	40 (5%)	30 (2%)	100 (5%)
<b>Completed Interviews</b>	<b>612 (79%)</b>	<b>1,051 (64%)</b>	<b>1,299 (64%)</b>

Note: NJOV<sub>1</sub> arrests occurred between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2001; NJOV<sub>2</sub> arrests in 2006; NJOV<sub>3</sub> arrests in 2009

**REFERENCES**

1. Finkelhor, D., & Jones, L. (2006). *Why have Child Maltreatment and Child Victimization Declined. Journal of Social Issues* 62(4): 685-716.
2. Jones, L., & Finkelhor, D. (2009). *Updated Trends in Child Maltreatment, 2007. Durham, NH. Crimes against Children Research Center.*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

*This research depended on the assistance of hundreds of law enforcement personnel. We thank each of you for helping us and for the important work you do to protect children.*

NJOV<sub>3</sub> was funded by Grant No. 2009-SNB-90001 awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The total amount of federal funding was \$825,704. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice. We are grateful to the many law enforcement investigators who participated in this research and to the talents, perseverance and skills of research assistants Kristina Breton, Elisabeth Cloyd, Matthew Cutler, Laura Healey, Kaitlin Lounsbury, Marisa MacDonnell, Dianne Ramey, Lynn Russ and Samantha Senechal.

**We welcome inquiries about our research. Please contact Janis.Wolak@unh.edu.**

NJOV Study papers, methodology and other reports are available at the website of the Crimes against Children Research Center: <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/internet-crimes/papers.html>.

**Crimes against Children  
Research Center**

126 Horton Social Science Center  
Durham, NH 03824

(603) 862-1888  
(603) 862-1122 FAX

[www.unh.edu/ccrc](http://www.unh.edu/ccrc)



## **EXHIBIT C**

# CHILDREN RESEARCH CENTER

## CRIMES AGAINST

## TRENDS IN ARRESTS OF “ONLINE PREDATORS”

### How the National Juvenile Online Victimization (N-JOV) Study was conducted

The N-JOV Study collected information from a national sample of law enforcement agencies about the prevalence of arrests for and characteristics of online sex crimes against minors during two 12 month periods: July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001 (Wave 1) and calendar year 2006 (Wave 2).

For both Waves, we used a two-phase process of mail surveys followed by telephone interviews to collect data from a national sample of the same local, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. First, we sent the mail surveys to a national sample of more than 2,500 agencies. These surveys asked if agencies had made arrests for online sex crimes against minors during the respective one-year timeframes. Then we conducted detailed telephone interviews with law enforcement investigators about a random sample of arrest cases reported in the mail surveys.

For the telephone interviews, we designed a sampling procedure that took into account the number of arrests reported by an agency, so that we would not unduly burden respondents in agencies with many cases. If an agency reported between one and three arrests for online sex crimes, we conducted follow-up interviews for every case. For agencies that reported more than three arrests, we conducted interviews for all cases that involved youth victims (victims who were located and contacted during the investigation), and sampled other arrest cases (i.e., crimes that solely involved undercover operations in which investigators posed online as minors, or child pornography possession and distribution). In some agencies, we could not find out which cases had youth victims, so we sampled from all arrest cases.

The final data set, weighted to account for sampling procedures and non-response, includes data from 1,663 completed case-level interviews, 612 from Wave 1 of the N-JOV Study and 1,051 from Wave 2. Having weighted data which is based on a representative sampling of law enforcement agencies and arrest cases allows us to estimate the incidence of arrests for specific types of crimes during the timeframes of Wave 1 and Wave 2 of the N-JOV Study.

The estimates described in this report are based on a subgroup of arrests that includes 726 unweighted case level interviews (Wave 1, n=129 for youth victim cases and n=124 for solicitations to undercover investigators; Wave 2, n=120 for youth victim cases and n=353 for solicitations to undercover investigators).

A full report on the methodology of the N-JOV Study is posted online at: [http://unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/N-JOV2\\_methodology\\_report.pdf](http://unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/N-JOV2_methodology_report.pdf)

**Janis Wolak**

**David Finkelhor**

**Kimberly Mitchell**

Publicity about “online predators”<sup>\*</sup> – sex offenders who use the Internet to meet juvenile victims – has raised considerable alarm about the extent to which Internet use may be putting children and adolescents at risk for sexual abuse and exploitation. Media stories and Internet safety messages have raised fears by describing violent offenders who use the Internet to prey on naïve children by tricking them into face-to-face meetings or tracking them down through information posted online. Law enforcement has mobilized on a number of fronts, setting up task forces to identify and prosecute online predators, developing undercover operations, and urging social networking sites to protect young users.

Unfortunately, however, reliable information on the scope and nature of the online predator problem remains scarce. Established criminal justice data collection systems do not gather detailed data on such crimes that could help inform public policy and education. To remedy this information vacuum, the Crimes against Children Research Center at the University of New Hampshire conducted two waves of a

<sup>\*</sup> Sex offenders who use the Internet to seek underage victims have been widely characterized as “online predators.” We are using the expression “online predator” in this report because it has gained so much currency. At the same time, readers must recognize that the term “predator” can mischaracterize some offenders in this study by giving the impression that these are uniformly highly motivated, repetitive, and aggressive sex offenders. In reality, sex offenders who target juveniles are a diverse group that cannot be accurately characterized with one-dimensional labels.

longitudinal study, the National Juvenile Online Victimization (N-JOV) Study. This research collected data from a national sample of law enforcement agencies about crimes by online predators during two 12 month periods—July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001 (Wave 1) and calendar year 2006 (Wave 2). This study is the only systematic research that examines the number of arrests of these offenders, the characteristics of their crimes, and the scope of related law enforcement activity.

### KEY FINDINGS

In this first report incorporating data from Wave 2 of the N-JOV study, we examine the number of arrests of and nature of crimes committed by online predators including those who victimized youth and those who solicited undercover investigators posing online as youth.

Some key findings of the report are:

- Between 2000 and 2006, there was a 21% increase in arrests of offenders who solicited youth online for sex. During the same time, there was a 381% increase in arrests of offenders who solicited undercover investigators posing as youth.
- In 2006, of those arrested for soliciting online, 87% solicited undercover investigators and 13% solicited youth.
- During the same period that online predator arrests were increasing, overall sex offenses against children and adolescents were declining, as were overall arrests for such crimes.
- **Arrests of online predators in 2006 constituted about 1% of all arrests for sex crimes committed against children and youth.**
- During the interval between the two studies (2000 - 2006), the percentage of U.S. youth Internet users ages 12-17 increased from 73% to 93%.<sup>1,2</sup>
- Although arrests of online predators are increasing, especially arrests for soliciting undercover law

enforcement, the facts do not suggest that the Internet is facilitating an epidemic of sex crimes against youth. Rather, increasing arrests for online predation probably reflect increasing rates of youth Internet use, a migration of crime from offline to online venues, and the growth of law enforcement activity against online crimes.

- The nature of crimes in which online predators used the Internet to meet and victimize youth changed little between 2000 and 2006, despite the advent of social networking sites. Victims were adolescents, not younger children. Most offenders were open about their sexual motives in their online communications with youth. Few crimes (5%) involved violence.
- There was no evidence that online predators were stalking or abducting unsuspecting victims based on information they posted at social networking sites.
- There was a significant increase in arrests of young adult offenders, ages 18 to 25.
- Few of those arrested for online predation were registered sex offenders (4%).

These findings point to several conclusions: First, law enforcement appears to be having success in investigating, arresting and prosecuting online predators, particularly by using undercover techniques. Second, based on the scope of and trend in arrests for online predation, it is premature to conclude that the Internet is an unusually dangerous environment. Nonetheless, continuing research is needed to assess and monitor the relative risk of Internet use in general and of specific contexts, such as social networking sites. Third, current prevention strategies and messages need to be revised to accurately reflect the nature of crimes committed by online predators.

### FINDINGS

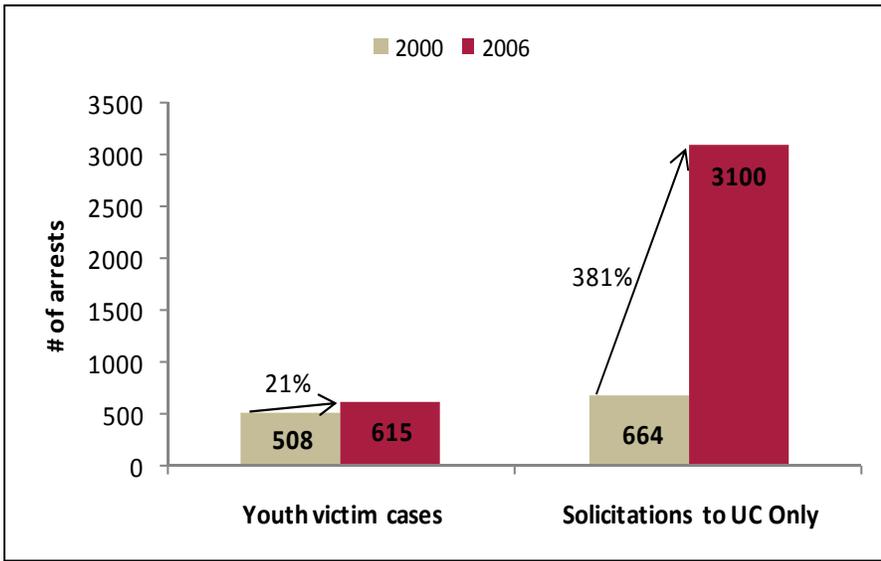
Arrests of online predators increased between 2000 and 2006. Most arrests and the majority of the increase involved offenders who solicited undercover investigators, not actual youth. We classified arrested online predators into two mutually exclusive categories according to whether their arrests were for: 1) “youth victim crimes” that involved youth victims ages 17 or younger or 2) “solicitations to undercover (UC) investigators” who were posing online as minors. Any offender whose crime involved a youth victim was put in the first category whether or not an undercover investigation was also involved.

Arrests for youth victim crimes. In 2006, law enforcement at all levels nationwide made an estimated 615 arrests (95% CI = 468 to 763) for crimes in which youth victims were solicited for sex by someone they met online (see Figure 1). This constituted an increase in arrests of 21% over 2000, when there were an estimated 508 such arrests (95% CI = 405 to 611).

Arrests for solicitations of UC investigators. In 2006, law enforcement made an estimated 3,100 arrests (95% CI = 2,277 to 3,923) for solicitations to UC investigators posing online as minors, compared to an estimated 644 such arrests (95% CI = 327 to 961) in 2000. This was a 381% increase.

These estimates of arrests are not full measures of the number of crimes committed by online predators or even the number of such crimes known to law enforcement. Many sex crimes against minors never come to the attention of law enforcement,<sup>3,4</sup> and many of those known to law enforcement do not culminate in arrest.<sup>5</sup> However, these estimates do provide a means to gauge the growth of these crimes, their number relative to other sex crimes against minors, and the extent of law enforcement activity

**Figure 1. Online predator arrests increased nationwide from 2000 to 2006**



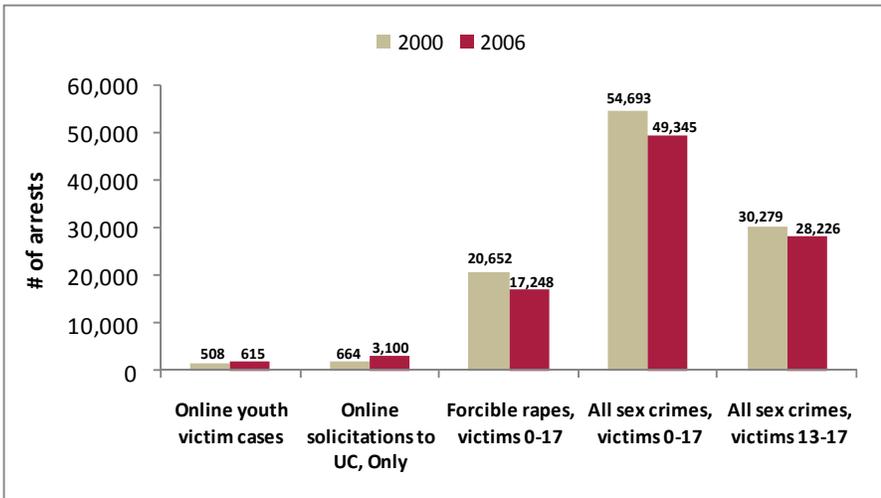
only a few years after the emergence of online predation as a public policy concern.

While there was an increase in arrests of offenders using the Internet to seek sex with minors, there was during the same period a decrease in reports of overall sex offenses against children and adolescents and a decrease in arrests for such crimes.

During the interval between Wave 1 and Wave 2 of the N-JOV Study while arrests for online predation were increasing,

sex crimes against children (and sex crimes in general) were on the decline. These trends are apparent from multiple sources (see Figure 2). From 2000 to 2006, forcible rape arrests involving juvenile victims, estimated from the Uniform Crime Report, declined 16%. During the same time period, arrests for all sex offenses against juveniles estimated from the FBI NIBRS data collection system declined by 10%, with a decrease of 7% for the sub-group of victims who were ages 13 to 17.

**Figure 2. Arrests for forcible rapes and other sex crimes with victims younger than 18 declined from 2000 to 2006**



These trends were extensions of declines in sex crimes against minors underway since the early 1990s that have continued through 2006. The magnitude of these declines since the early 1990s has been quite large. For example, the number of sexual abuse cases substantiated by child protective authorities declined 52% between 1992 and 2005.<sup>6</sup> Sexual assault rates as reported by teenagers to the National Crime Victimization Survey declined by 52% between 1993 and 2005.<sup>7</sup> The fact that the evidence for declines in sexual abuse comes from victim self-report surveys as well as official child protective services and criminal justice system data tends to undermine the objection that these trends might be due simply to reduced reporting or changes in investigatory or statistical procedures.<sup>8</sup> Other indicators reflective of real declines in sexual victimization rates have also improved. For example, the rate of pregnancy among teenagers declined 38% between 1990 and 2004,<sup>9</sup> the percentage of teens engaging in sexual intercourse decreased and fewer children were running away from home.<sup>7</sup> So while arrests of online predators increased, the larger overall sex crime problem against children appeared to have been abating.

The nature of crimes in which sex offenders used the Internet to meet and victimize youth changed little between 2000 and 2006, despite the advent of social networking sites.

Findings from Wave 1 of the N-JOV Study indicated that the stereotype of the online predator who used trickery and violence to stalk, abduct or assault young children was largely inaccurate.<sup>10,11</sup> Most crimes by arrested online predators involved adolescent victims who knew they were communicating online with older adults who wanted sex. Most victims who met offenders face-to-face went to such meetings expecting to engage in sexual activity. Most offenders were charged with crimes such as statutory rape that

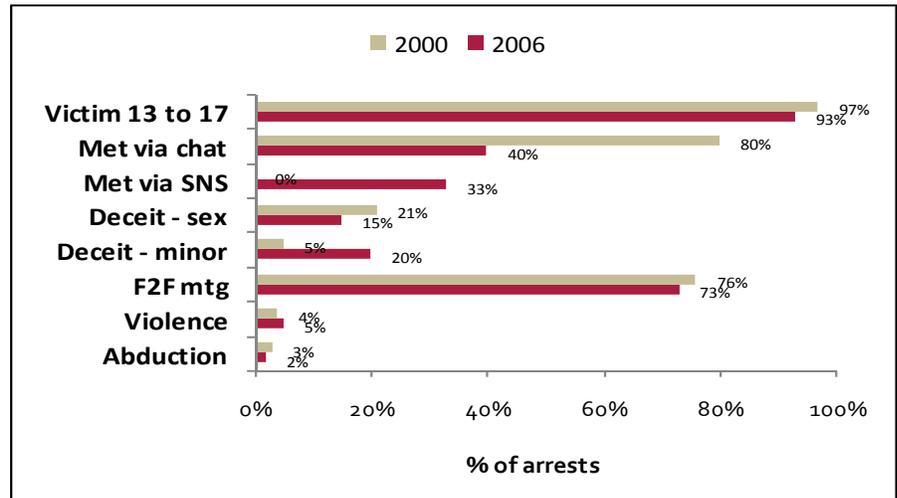
involved non-forcible sexual activity with victims who were too young to consent to sexual intercourse with adults. Violence, stalking and abduction were rare. When offenders solicited undercover investigators, the case dynamics were consistent with this pattern as well.<sup>12</sup> While these crimes represented serious threats to the well-being of young people at the hands of unscrupulous adults, they differed from the image of online predation that many people have.

Despite these findings, the dynamics of crimes by online predators are still often misunderstood. For example, the widespread use of social networking sites by adolescents has led some to propose that sex offenders are commonly using information that youth post online at such sites to track down unsuspecting victims and stalk or abduct them.

Data from Wave 2 of the N-JOV Study suggest, however, that the nature of crimes by arrested online predators against youth victims changed little between 2000 and 2006 (see Figure 3). We found that in 2006 as in 2000, youth victims were young adolescents. Seventy-three percent were ages 13 to 15, similar to 2000 when 76%\* of victims were in that age group. None were age 10 or younger. Most victims were girls, but boys were 16% of victims, compared to 25%\* in 2000. In 2006, 85% of offenders were open about their sexual motives, compared to 79%\* in 2000. Sexual violence against victims was rare, 5% of arrests in 2006 and 4% in 2000\*. In 2006, 73% of cases with youth victims progressed from online contact to face-to-face meetings and illegal sexual activity, as did 76%\* in 2000. In most cases the sex was illegal because the victims were too young to consent.

There were, however, several differences between online predation cases with youth victims that ended in arrest in 2006 compared to those in 2000.

**Figure 3. The nature of crimes by arrested offenders against youth victims changed little between 2000 and 2008**



- First, in 2000 80% of cases were initiated through contacts in chat-rooms, while this was true of only 40% of cases in 2006 ( $p < .001$ ). By contrast, in 2006 33% of cases were initiated with contacts in victims' social networking sites. (Social networking sites were not being used by youth at Wave 1 of the N-JOV Study). However, this

### Crimes by Online Predators: Case Examples

**Case #1.** Police in a West Coast state found child pornography in the possession of the 22-year-old offender. The offender, who was from a Northeastern state, confessed to befriending a 13-year-old local boy online, travelling to the West Coast, and meeting him for sex. Prior to the meeting, the offender and victim had corresponded online for about six months. The offender had sent the victim nude images via webcam and e-mail and they had called and texted each other hundreds of times. When they met for sex, the offender took graphic pictures of the encounter. The victim believed he was in love with the offender. He lived alone with his father and was struggling to fit in and come to terms with being gay. The offender possessed large quantities of child pornography that he had downloaded from the Internet. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

**Case #2.** A 24-year-old man met a 14-year-old girl at a social networking site. He claimed to be 19. Their online conversation became romantic and sexual and the victim believed she was in love. They met several times for sex over a period of weeks. The offender took nude pictures of the victim and gave her alcohol and drugs. Her mother and stepfather found out and reported the crime to the police. The victim was lonely, had issues with drugs and alcohol, and problems at school and with her parents. She had posted provocative pictures of herself on her social networking site. She had met other men online and had sex with them. The offender was a suspect in another online enticement case. He was found guilty but had not been sentenced at time of the interview.

\* This difference was not statistically significant.

difference did not appear to signal changes in case dynamics and probably simply reflected the shift of online social interaction from other Internet venues to social networking sites by 2006.<sup>13</sup>

- A second difference from 2000 was that in 2006 a greater proportion of the offenders claimed to be minors at some point during their online communications with victims, although this ploy was still a factor in only a minority of cases. In 2000, only 5% of cases involved offenders who lied by originally telling victims they were age 17 or younger. In 2006, this happened in 20% of cases ( $p < .001$ ).
- Third, in 2006 fewer cases involved two or more face-to-face meetings between offenders and victims. In 2000, 54% of cases involved repeated meeting, but by 2006 that was true of only 39% ( $p < .05$ ).
- Finally, in 2006 somewhat fewer cases involved offenders or victims who traveled more than 50 miles to a face-to-face meeting, 24% of cases compared to 37% in 2000 ( $p < .05$ ).

There was no evidence that online predators were stalking or abducting unsuspecting victims based on information posted at social networking sites. Some have voiced fears that online predators would use information posted by youth at social networking sites to track down unknowing victims, stalk and abduct them, but we found no cases that reflected this scenario. We specifically asked about offline stalking and abduction in all Wave 2 youth victim cases. There were only three cases where the investigators we interviewed said offline stalking occurred, but all of these incidents happened after offenders and victims had already met face-to-face (see Inset). None involved violence, and it is not clear that any would have met legal definitions of stalking that require patterns of harassment or threatening behavior. Only one case

involved abduction, and it also did not match the stereotype of a stranger snatching an unsuspecting victim. In that case, the offender violated criminal abduction statutes when he took the victim somewhere against her will after, not prior, to a sexual assault

There was a significant increase in arrests of young adult offenders, ages 18 to 25.

Between 2000 and 2006, we found few changes in the characteristics of those arrested for online predation when we examined offenders' gender, race, criminal history and related problems such as substance abuse. This consistency was true for offenders against youth victims as well as

those who solicited undercover investigators (see Figure 4). In both waves of the N-JOV Study, virtually all offenders (99%) were male. Most were white, non-Hispanic although in 2006 a somewhat higher proportion of online predators came from minority groups (16% in 2006 compared to 10% in 2000,  $p < .05$ ). This may reflect increased Internet access among minority racial and ethnic groups in 2006 compared to 2000.<sup>14,15</sup> There was no change in the percentage of arrested offenders with substance abuse problems (15% in 2000, 14% in 2006\*), histories of violence (9% in 2000, 5% in 2006\*), or prior arrests for offenses that were not sexual (19% in 2000, 21% in 2006\*). Curiously, the proportion of arrested offenders

### Stalking Cases

**Case #1.** This 24-year-old offender and his 15-year-old victim had at least three face-to-face meetings over two or three years. The investigator said the stalking occurred late in the relationship when the offender "moved to [the city] where [the victim] lived even though she didn't want to continue the relationship."

**Case #2.** According to the police investigator, this offender, age 36, harassed or stalked the victim, age 14, by making "many unwelcome phone calls." However, the victim was described as being in love with the offender. She was in phone contact with him for months and continued phone contact after her mother tried to stop the relationship. The victim ran away from home to be with the offender, who hid her from police when he found out they were looking for her.

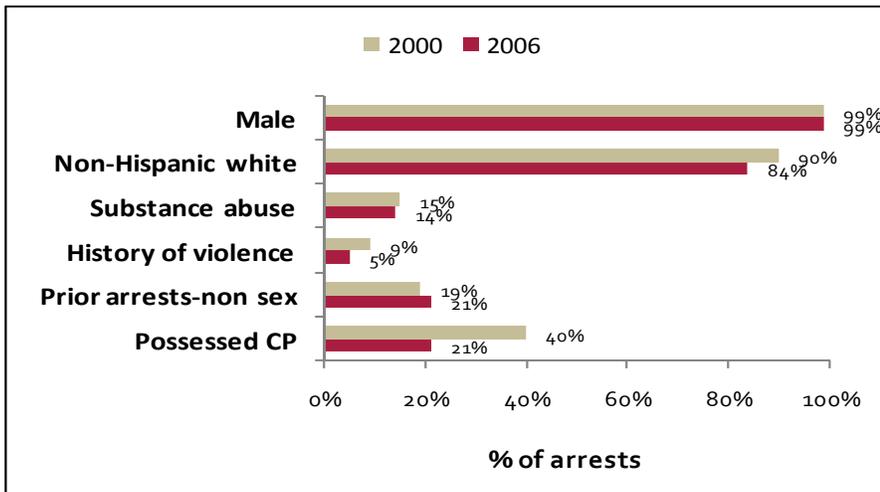
**Case #3.** The offender, age 41, and victim, age 13, met on a telephone chat line. They communicated via cell phone. They met face-to-face at least once for sex. Both claimed to be in love. The investigator said the offline harassment or stalking occurred when the offender "had a friend call [the victim's] house because he still loved her."

### The Only Abduction Case

The victim, age 17, was raped by the offender when she went to his home to meet him. He was a 22 year old man she met online at a social networking site. After the rape, the victim wanted the offender to drive her back home. He refused and, instead, drove her to a nearby town where he planned to abandon her. The victim called 911 on her cell phone and told police the offender would not let her get out of his car. He was arrested and charged with sexual assault and kidnapping. The investigator said the offender was involved in sexual bondage and sadism.

\* This difference was not statistically significant.

**Figure 4. The characteristics of those arrested for online predation changed little between 2000 and 2006**



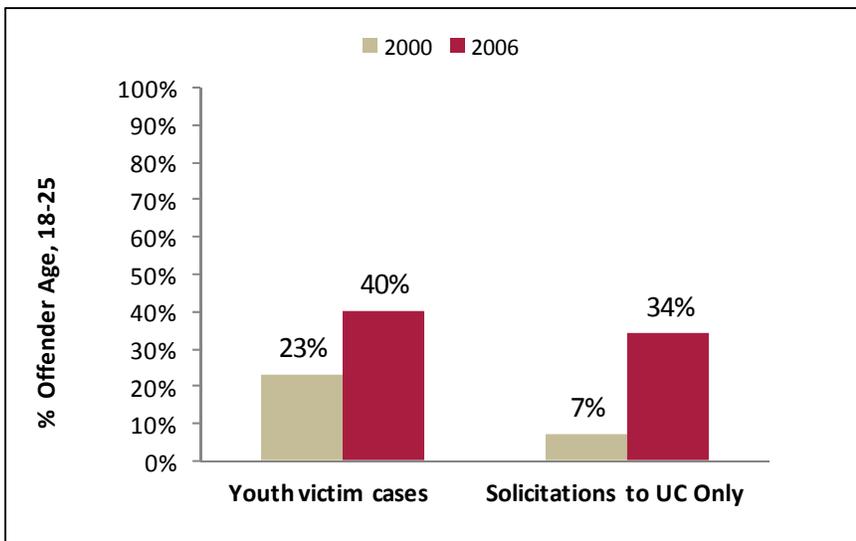
who possessed child pornography, however, decreased by almost half (40% in 2000, 21% in 2006,  $p \leq .001$ ).

One potentially important change was that a larger percentage of those arrested for online predation in 2006 were young adults, ages 18 to 25 (see Figure 5). The percentage of offenders in that age range increased from 23% in 2000 to 40% in 2006 ( $p < .05$ ), for cases with youth victims. In fact, for youth victim crimes, the overall increase in arrests in 2006 appeared to be entirely attributable to more arrests of young adult

offenders (ages 18 to 25). There was no increase in the estimated numbers of arrests of online predators in other age groups. The percentage of arrested offenders who solicited UC investigators also increased sharply among young adults, from 7% of arrests in 2000 to 34% in 2006 ( $p < .0001$ ).

This increase in young adult offenders does not correspond to any overall increase in sex criminality within this age group suggested by other sources. It may be a consequence of

**Figure 5. There were significant increases in arrests of young adult offenders, ages 18 to 25, from 2000 to 2006**



the coming of age of the first cohort of youth to grow up with the Internet. Adults ages 18 to 25 may be more likely than older adults to use the Internet when engaging in deviant behavior.

Few of those arrested for online predation were registered sex offenders.

Of the online predators who were arrested for crimes against youth victims, 10% in 2006 and 9%\* in 2000 had prior arrests for sex offenses against minors (see Figure 6). Only 4% of those arrested for crimes against youth victims in 2006 were registered sex offenders, as were only 2%\* of those arrested in 2000. Among offenders arrested for soliciting UC investigators, 3% in 2006 and 4%\* in 2000 had prior arrests for sex offenses against minors, and 2% of 2006 arrestees compared to 0%\* of arrestees in 2000 were registered sex offenders.

While registration is one of the steps that the criminal justice system has taken to monitor convicted sex offenders and reduce re-offending, aiming strategies to prevent online predation at this population may have limited utility because so few online predators are registered sex offenders.

**IMPLICATIONS**

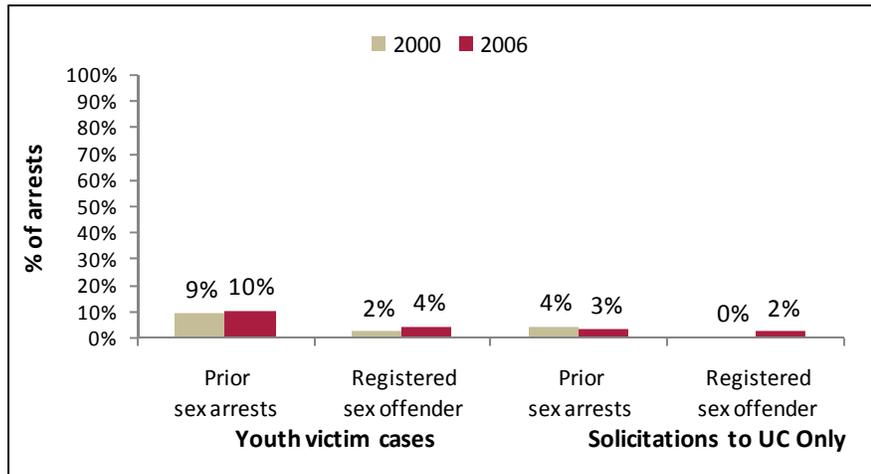
Why would arrests of online predators increase while arrests for overall sex crimes against children declined?

This report finds a large increase in arrests for sexual predation online at the same time that overall sex crimes against children have been declining. This may appear to be a paradox, but there are a number of ways to reconcile these contrasting trends.

First, as shown in Figure 2, arrests of online predators make up a relatively small proportion of arrests for sex crimes against children in general. The 615 arrests for youth victim crimes were about 1% of all arrests for nonforcible sex crimes against actual minors and 2%

\* This difference was not statistically significant.

**Figure 6. Few of those arrested for online predation were registered sex offenders**



of arrests for nonforcible sex crimes committed against youth ages 13 to 17. Because online predation involves a new and relatively rare crime pattern, arrests could grow by large orders of magnitude and still not affect overall arrest rates by much. In spite of the media attention that online predators have received, it is important to bear in mind that in the larger context of sex crimes against children, offenders who victimize children and youth within their families or networks of acquaintances are much more common than those who use the Internet to meet victims.

Second, Internet use, as it grows to occupy more of social life in general, could simply be encompassing sex crimes that may have heretofore originated in other environments. Sex offenders may be substituting online for offline strategies, so that increases in cases where offenders meet victims online are balanced by decreases in cases in which they meet victims other ways. For example, sex offenders who before the widespread use of the Internet would have gone to places such as shopping malls, parks, and roller rinks to meet potential adolescent victims may now be using online arenas where youth congregate, such as chat rooms or social networking sites. Because of this displacement, online

crimes could be increasing even while total crimes fall.

Third, there has been an undeniably large expansion of law enforcement activity online. The number of agencies funded to pursue online child sexual exploitation crimes has increased, as has the number of trained law enforcement investigators. Between 2000 and 2006, the number of Internet Crimes against Children (ICAC) Regional Task Forces funded by the US Department of Justice grew from 30 to 46. By 2006, the ICAC Task Forces had formed partnerships with approximately 1,300 affiliate law enforcement agencies at the local, state, county and federal levels; and had a presence in all 50 states. Training programs for investigating Internet-related child sexual exploitation crimes have been in place and growing since around 1999, so that increasing numbers of law enforcement personnel have been trained in investigating crimes by online predators. New reporting mechanisms have been put in place, such as the CyberTipline, operated by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. There was also increased public awareness brought about by television shows such as "To Catch a Predator" and news accounts of such online crimes.

Publicity about online predators may have led to citizens being more likely to recognize and report such cases. Such increases in law enforcement activity are generally associated with rising arrests, even when there is no underlying change or even a decline in underlying criminal activity.

Fourth, aggressive law enforcement activity related to online predation could actually be reducing overall sex crimes against minors. Arrests of offenders who solicited UC investigators saw the largest increase and constituted the largest proportion of arrests of online predators – an estimated 3,100 arrests in 2006. Arrests of these offenders, some of whom may be at early stages in their offending careers,<sup>12</sup> may be preventing the victimization of some youth.

Law enforcement authorities report that it is easy to locate sexually predatory behavior toward youth online. Some law enforcement officials have suggested they could easily increase numbers of arrests even further. But the discovery that the Internet provides a ready window on sex criminality does not mean necessarily that Internet use by sex offenders has increased the overall quantity of sexual predation of children. Nonetheless, the possibility that Internet use is fueling sex crimes against children at present or could do so in the future does need to be taken seriously. The ongoing trends and risks to children need to be carefully monitored.

#### Signs of law enforcement success.

After six years of considerable law enforcement mobilization in response to online predators between 2000 and 2006, there has been a marked increase in arrests of those who would try to use the Internet to recruit minors for sexual activity. Most of these arrests have occurred through the use of undercover decoys posing online as young adolescents. Our earlier evaluation of this law enforcement activity suggested that overall this was being carried out

responsibly by specially trained officers in multi-agency operations, and that it had resulted in conviction rates as high as or higher than other sex crime investigations.<sup>12</sup> Given the overall declines in sex crimes against minors and in the absence of evidence that police authority is being abused, we are inclined to see this as a sign of a successful initiative to deploy law enforcement in a domain where criminal sexual activities may be migrating, as well as the successful adaptation of new technology to improve police effectiveness.

These findings do not suggest that the Internet is more dangerous than other environments that children and adolescents frequent.

The findings here should emphatically NOT be interpreted to suggest that the Internet is a dangerous environment for children or youth or that the Internet is ridden with sex crimes or becoming more dangerous. The levels of arrests of online predators revealed in this study are quite small compared to total arrests for sex crimes as evidenced by national crime data. Moreover, the growing number of arrests of online predators is best interpreted as a product of the increasing range of the Internet and the increasing aggressiveness of law enforcement activity online. To judge how comparatively dangerous Internet use is we need community studies of young people that assess the full range of sexual victimizations they suffer and determine what characteristics and activities are associated with increased risk. However, the studies of child sexual abuse and exploitation that have been conducted to date suggest that it is not being online or even being visible to strangers online that puts young people at risk. When Internet use puts them in danger, it appears to involve specific high risk activities like talking online about sex with unknown people.<sup>16,17</sup> Moreover, the greatest exposure of children and adolescents to sex crimes is at the hands of people who are already a part of their families and social networks.<sup>18,19</sup> More risk assess-

ment studies are needed because there is a great deal that remains to be understood about Internet use and its impact on youth safety. Nonetheless, the fact that overall sex crime rates have been declining during the time that Internet use has expanded to virtually the entire adolescent population is reassuring.

Social networking sites are not necessarily dangerous environments.

We found that, in 2006, 33% of crimes with youth victims involved initial contact between arrested offenders and victims that occurred at victims' social networking sites. This may reinforce recent concerns that social networking sites are risky environments. But findings like those of this study do not mean that social networking sites are necessarily dangerous or promoting sex crimes. When a medium becomes used by a huge portion of the population – in 2006 55% of youth ages 12 to 17 used social networking sites,<sup>13</sup> an estimated 14 million youth based on census numbers (numbers for adult users were not available) – it inevitably becomes a venue for deviant activity by some, but it is not necessarily a risk-promoter. As indicated earlier, studies are needed about specific activities and environments of young people that are associated with risk. But so far studies have not shown that simply using a social networking site is risky in the absence of other behaviors such as responding to sexual overtures made via such sites.<sup>20,21\*</sup> The fact that some online predation involved the use of social networking sites may simply reflect the broad use of such sites as a communication and interaction tool in current society.

Revising prevention strategies.

The findings of the N-JOV study reiterate conclusions from earlier studies that the dynamics of crimes by online predators differ from how such crimes are often conceived by the public and characterized in much Internet safety

education.<sup>11</sup> The reality, evidenced from 249 interviews about specific arrest cases with youth victims conducted with police investigators in the two waves of this research, is that the victims of online predators are almost exclusively teenagers who go knowingly to meet men whom they know to be considerably older and interested in sex. Most of these victims are drawn into relationships with offenders after extended online exchanges and because they are looking for romance, sexual adventure or validation. There is little stalking, deception, violence, abduction or forcible rape. Online predators commit serious sex crimes and take advantage of vulnerable youth, but effective prevention strategies need to describe how these crimes actually come about if their occurrence is to be prevented or short-circuited; otherwise, the adolescents involved may not recognize these events as crimes.

For example, we think that more efforts need to be made to educate and discourage teens from engaging in sexual and romantic relationships with older partners. Youth awareness also needs to be raised about age of consent and statutory rape laws, the illegality of cross generational sexual solicitation online, the inadvisability of teens engaging in sexual conversations and exchanging sexual or provocative images with strangers and presenting themselves in sexualized descriptions online. These sorts of messages are more likely to address the real dynamics of the crime than warnings about being stalked by someone who obtains personal information posted online.

Beyond registered sex offenders.

Some recent Internet safety debates have dwelt on restricting online access for registered sex offenders. The current study found that only 4% of online predators arrested for crimes against

---

\* It should also be noted that social networking sites have implemented a number of new safety initiatives since 2006.

youth victims were registered sex offenders, as were 2% of those arrested for soliciting undercover investigators. Thus, it is important for the public and officials to know that policies targeted at registered sex offenders are aimed at a very small part of the problem. Internet safety needs to be designed with the assumption that most online predators are not registered offenders and have no prior record. Thus, other mechanisms for deterring this behavior need to be designed.

#### Pursuit of conventional child molesters.

The broader statistical picture revealed by the N-JOV Study is that, despite increases, crimes by online predators are still a small percentage of total sex crimes committed against children and adolescents. Thus, public policy should be careful not to abandon or underfund the investigation of conventional child molestation. Using the Internet to seek out sex offenders who solicit investigators posing online as minors has a clear value, as well as an appeal to law enforcement, which is utilizing technology and sophisticated undercover techniques regarding a crime of considerable public concern. But conventional child molestation – abusive fathers, neighbors, teachers and family friends – still constitutes a much larger part of the problem than online predation. There is every reason for law enforcement to continue to mount aggressive efforts to combat sexual abuse of children both on- and offline.

#### More research is needed.

The discussions about online predators reveal an enormous need for additional information. What sites and what activities put young people at risk? What kinds of online protections and education can help protect youth? How do online predators compare to offline sex offenders in their risk to reoffend? There is much that we still do not know, and because the Internet is a new and rapidly changing environment the need for current information is particularly acute. People are keen to act to protect

children, but misguided action based on mistaken assumptions may waste time and resources, and it may even undermine the current and future effectiveness of protection efforts. We need a sound, regularly updated research agenda to inform evidence-based education and prevention programs geared toward promoting child and adolescent safety as the Internet and other communication technologies continue to evolve and proliferate.

#### REFERENCES

1. Macgill AR. Parent and teenager Internet use. Washington, DC: PEW/Internet; October 24 2007.
2. Lenhart A, Rainie L, Lewis O. Teenage life online: The rise of the instant-message generation and the Internet's impact on friendships and family relationships. Washington, D.C.: Pew Internet & American Life Project; 2001.
3. Finkelhor D, Ormrod RK. Characteristics of crimes against juveniles. *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. 2000(June):1-11.
4. Kilpatrick DG, Saunders BE, Smith DW. *Youth victimization: Prevalence and implications*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice; 2003.
5. Finkelhor D, Cross TP, Cantor EN. The justice system for juvenile victims: A comprehensive model of case flow. *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*. 2005; 6(2):83-102.
6. Finkelhor D, Jones L. Good news: Child victimization has been declining. Why? In: Finkelhor D, ed. *Child victimization: Violence, crimes, and abuse in the lives of young people*. New York: Oxford University Press; 2008:122-147.
7. Finkelhor D, Jones L. Why have child maltreatment and child victimization declined? *Journal of Social Issues*. 2006; 62(4):685-716.
8. Finkelhor D, Jones LM. Explanations for the decline in child sexual abuse cases. *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. 2004(January):1-12.
9. National Center for Health Statistics. NCHS Data on teenage pregnancy: Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/info sheets/infosheet\\_teen\\_preg.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/info sheets/infosheet_teen_preg.htm) Updated September 2008. Accessed February 18, 2009.
10. Wolak J, Finkelhor D, Mitchell K. Internet-initiated sex crimes against minors: Implications for prevention based on findings from a national study. *The Journal of Adolescent Health: Official Publication of the Society for Adolescent Medicine*. 2004; 35(5):424.e411-420.
11. Wolak J, Finkelhor D, Mitchell K, Ybarra M. Online "predators" and their victims: Myths, realities and implications for prevention and treatment. *American Psychologist*. 2008; 63(2):111-128.
12. Mitchell KJ, Wolak J, Finkelhor D. Police posing as juveniles online to catch sex offenders: Is it working? *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*. 2005; 17(3):241-267.
13. Lenhart A, Madden M. *Social networking websites and teens: An overview*. Washington, D.C.: PEW Internet & American Life Project; January 3 2007.
14. Fox S, Livingston G. *Latinos online: Hispanics with lower levels of education and English proficiency remain largely disconnected from the Internet*. Pew Hispanic Center, Washington, DC; 2007.
15. Lenhart A, Rainie L, Fox S, Horrigan J, Spooner T. *Who's not online: 57% of those without Internet access say they do not plan to log on*. Washington, D.C.: Pew Internet & American Life Project; 2000.
16. Wolak J, Finkelhor D, Mitchell K. Is talking online to unknown people always risky? Distinguishing online interaction styles in a national sample of youth Internet users. *CyberP*

- psychology & Behavior*. 2008; 11(3):340-343.
17. Ybarra ML, Mitchell KJ, Finkelhor D, Wolak J. Internet prevention messages: Targeting the right online behaviors. *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*. 2007; 161(2):138-145.
  18. Finkelhor D, Hammer H, Sedlak A. Sexually assaulted children: National estimates and characteristics. *Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention*; August 2008.
  19. Finkelhor D, Ormrod R, Turner H, Hamby SL. The victimization of children and youth: A comprehensive, national survey. *Child Maltreatment*. 2005; 10(1):207-207.
  20. Mitchell K, Wolak J, Finkelhor D. Are blogs putting youths at risk for online sexual solicitation or harassment? *Child Abuse & Neglect*. 2007; 32:277-294.
  21. Ybarra ML, Mitchell KJ. How risky are social networking sites? A comparison of places online where youth sexual solicitation and harassment occurs. *Pediatrics*. 2008; 121(2):350-357.
  22. Wolak J, Finkelhor D, Mitchell K, Ybarra M. Online "predators" and their victims: Myths, realities and implications for prevention and treatment. *American Psychologist*. 2008; 63(2):111-128.

### Acknowledgements

This project was made possible through Grant Numbers 2005-JL-FX-0048 and 2006-JP-FX-0061 awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, US Department of Justice in the amount of \$695,482. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the US Department of Justice. Some of Janis Wolak's effort was supported by a fellowship from the Verizon Foundation. We are grateful to the many law enforcement investigators who participated in this research and to the talents, perseverance, and interviewing skills of research assistants Dianne Ramey, Elisabeth Cloyd, Brynn Dunne, Rick Dumont, Tonya Prescott, and Kaitlin Lounsbury. Thanks to Kelly Foster and Toby Ball for help in the production of the bulletin.

### Figure Notes

The estimates in Figures 1, 4, 5 & 6 are based on 726 unweighted case level interviews (Wave 1 YR 2000, n=129 for youth victim cases and n=124 for solicitations to UC only; Wave 2 YR 2006, n=120 for youth victim cases and n=353 for solicitations to UC only).

In Figure 2, arrests for forcible rapes with victims ages 0 to 17 are estimated from the Uniform Crime Report. Arrests for all sex crimes with victims ages 0 to 17 and the subgroup of victims 13 to 17 are estimated from the National Incident-Based Reporting System. Based on these numbers, arrests for forcible rapes of juvenile victims decreased by 16% between 2000 and 2006; arrests for all sex crimes against juveniles decreased by 10%; arrests for all sex crimes against teenage victims decreased by 7%. Arrests for solicitations to UC investigators increased 381%; arrests for online predation against youth victims increased 21%.

Figure 3 estimates are based on 249 unweighted case level interviews (Wave 1 YR 2000, n=129; Wave 2 YR 2006, n=120). "SNS" social networking site; "Deceit – sex" the offender was deceitful about sexual motives; "Deceit – minor" the offender claimed to be a minor; "F2F mtg" the offender and victim met face-to-face.

In Figure 4, "al" alcohol, "CP" child pornography, "Prior arrests-not sex" prior arrests for crimes that were not sex offenses.



### CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN RESEARCH CENTER

126 Horton Social Science Center  
Durham, NH 03824

(603) 862-1888  
(603) 862-1122 FAX

[www.unh.edu/ccrc](http://www.unh.edu/ccrc)



## **EXHIBIT D**



ELSEVIER

JOURNAL OF  
ADOLESCENT  
HEALTH

www.jahonline.org

Original article

## Trends in Youth Internet Victimization: Findings From Three Youth Internet Safety Surveys 2000–2010

Lisa M. Jones, Ph.D.\*, Kimberly J. Mitchell, Ph.D., and David Finkelhor, Ph.D.

*Crimes against Children Research Center, University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire**Article history:* Received July 6, 2011; Accepted September 23, 2011*Keywords:* Internet; Victimization; Trends

### A B S T R A C T

**Purpose:** The purpose of this research was to explore the trends in youth reports of unwanted online sexual solicitation, harassment, and exposure to pornography over time.

**Methods:** The study was based on three separate cross-sectional national telephone surveys of approximately 1,500 youth Internet users, aged 10 through 17 years. Data were collected in 2000, 2005, and 2010.

**Results and Conclusion:** Nine percent of youth reported an unwanted sexual solicitation in 2010. This continued the decline in unwanted sexual solicitations that occurred between 2000 (19%) and 2005 (13%), resulting in a total 50% decrease between 2000 and 2010. Twenty-three percent of youth reported an unwanted exposure to pornography, a decline from 34% in 2005, following an increase between 2000 and 2005 (25% to 34%). However, marking the only trend to show an increase over the past 5 years, 11% of youth reported an online harassment experience, which was an increase from 9% in 2005, and 6% in 2000. Some differences in these trends were noted for subgroups of youth across age, gender, and race. The trends in unwanted experiences online over the past decade identified by three Youth Internet Safety Surveys may contradict impressions that the general population, professionals, and the media have about what is happening. Trends provide evidence for some optimism that protective adaptations to the online environment have been successful; however, online harassment appears to be increasing for youth, particularly girls, and may require additional mobilization.

© 2012 Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine. All rights reserved.

Concerns about the safety of children online have preoccupied parents, educators, public health officials, and the media over the past decade. As electronic technologies and online activities have become an increasing part of youth culture, many have the perception that the risks and dangers have expanded as well. For example, there has been a great deal of attention to the concern that social networking sites put young people into contact with sexual predators and increase the brazenness of bullies.

However, the electronic environment is characterized by rapid technological changes and equally rapid protective adaptations. Thus, for example, as young people shift from chat rooms

to Facebook, Internet platforms provide new controls and security options, and parents and educators respond with educational programs. Some of these responses may be helping. It is not clear whether youth vulnerability has increased. In fact, national surveys comparing 2000 with 2005 showed that although online harassment did increase, unwanted sexual solicitations declined [1,2].

Given the rapidity of the technological and social changes, it is crucial to have ongoing studies that track trends in children's online activity and safety. This article extends the finding from the Youth Internet Safety Surveys (YISS) conducted in 2000 and 2005 with new data from a survey conducted in 2010. The three YISS studies thus provide information across a critical 10-year period (2000–2010) on changes in the rates of three widely cited concerns: online sexual solicitation, unwanted exposure to pornography, and online harassment experiences.

\* Address correspondence to: Lisa M. Jones, Ph.D., Crimes against Children Research Center, University of New Hampshire, 10 West Edge Drive, Suite 106, Durham, NH 03824.

E-mail address: [lisa.jones@unh.edu](mailto:lisa.jones@unh.edu) (L.M. Jones).

## Methods

The YISS-1, YISS-2, and YISS-3 studies were conducted to quantify and detail youth experiences with unwanted or problematic Internet experiences, including sexual solicitations, harassment, and unwanted exposure to pornography on the Internet. Respondents in the YISS studies were youth between 10 and 17 years who had used the Internet at least once a month for the past 6 months, and a caregiver. Abt Schulman, Ronca, and Bucuvalas, Inc, a national survey research firm, conducted the sampling, screening, and telephone interviews for the YISS studies. Data collection for YISS-1, YISS-2, and YISS-3 occurred between August 1999 and February 2000; March and June 2005; and August 2010 and January 2011, respectively.

A national sample of households that had been prescreened for another survey was used in YISS-1, whereas YISS-2 and YISS-3 samples were largely recruited through random digit dialing. Response rates across the three YISS studies also reflect increasing rates of cell phone-only households and greater reliance on voice mail and caller identification. Thus, more calls were needed to identify eligible households in YISS-2 and again in YISS-3, and an increasing percentage of households reached were not eligible for the study across the YISS studies (28%, 72%, and 88% for YISS-1, YISS-2, and YISS-3, respectively). After eligible households were reached, the refusal rate was 46% for both YISS-2 and YISS-3. The refusal rate was lower for YISS-1 at 18%.

Owing to the increasing reliance of the U.S. population on cell phones [3,4], a cell phone random digit dialing sample was included in the YISS-3 study. At the end of data collection, 45 interviews had been completed by cell phone in addition to 1,515 landline interviews, resulting in a total sample size of 1,560. Analysis of youth demographic and Internet use characteristics between the cell phone and landline samples indicated the cell phone sample included more respondents of Hispanic ethnicity and from families with a single, never-married parent (see [5] for detailed information on YISS methodology).

## Procedures

For all three YISS studies, a sample size of 1,500 was predetermined based on a maximum expected sampling error of  $\pm 2.5\%$  at the 5% significance level. Human subject participation in each YISS studies was reviewed and approved by the University of New Hampshire Institutional Review Board.

Interviewers first spoke with an adult and determined whether there was an eligible child in the household. In households with eligible children, interviewers asked to speak with the adult who was most familiar with that child's Internet use and after receiving informed consent, asked a series of questions about Internet use. The interviewer then asked for permission to interview the child. Parents were informed by interviewers that the youth interview would be confidential, that it would include questions about "sexual material your child may have seen on the Internet," and that youth would receive \$10 for participating. In households with more than one eligible youth, the one who used the Internet most often was chosen as the respondent.

After receiving parental permission, interviewers spoke with the youth and asked for permission to conduct an interview. Interviewers assured youth that they could skip any question they did not want to answer and end the interview at any time. Interviews were scheduled at the convenience of youth and at times when they were able to talk freely and confidentially. The

average youth interview lasted 30 minutes, and the average adult interview lasted 10 minutes.

## Sample

Table 1 compares youth and household characteristics across the three samples. There were significant increases from 2000 to 2010 in the amount of youth Internet use. White youth made up a slightly smaller proportion of the YISS-3 sample of youth Internet users compared with YISS-1 and YISS-2. This was likely to do the increase in minority youth access to the Internet in recent years [6]. The YISS-3 sample also included a greater percentage of youth from high-income and well-educated households. This reflects some of the demographic differences found in landline telephone surveys: low-income families are increasingly more likely to live in cell phone-only households [4]. All study analyses controlled for sample differences across the three YISS studies.

Across all the YISS samples, well-educated and high-income families, and white youth are overrepresented compared with the national average (see <http://www.census.gov>), but the skewed distribution reflects the population of youth Internet users at the time of data collection [7].

## Measures

The incidence rates for sexual solicitation, unwanted exposure to sexual material, and harassment were estimated based on questions about unwanted experiences while using the Internet in the past year ("past year" refers to the year before the interview). The questions used in the current article were identical across all YISS studies.

Unwanted sexual solicitations were defined as requests to engage in sexual activities or sexual talk or to give personal sexual information that was unwanted or made by an individual  $\geq 5$  years, whether wanted or not. The incidence rate for sexual solicitation was estimated based on endorsement of at least one of the following three screener questions:

- "In the past year, did anyone on the Internet ever try to get you to talk online about sex when you *did not want to*?"
- "In the past year, did anyone on the Internet ask you for sexual information about yourself when you did not want to answer such questions? I mean very personal questions, like what your body looks like or sexual things you have done?"
- "In the past year, did anyone on the Internet ever ask you to do something sexual that you did not want to do?"

Additionally, youth who said they had an online sexual relationship with an adult were included to capture possible statutory sex crimes ( $n = 0$  from YISS-1;  $n = 8$  from YISS = 2;  $n = 1$  from YISS-3). We also defined a subgroup of *aggressive sexual solicitations*, in which solicitors attempted or made offline contact with youth through regular mail, by telephone, or in person.

Harassment was defined as threats or other offensive behavior (not sexual solicitations) that were sent online to the youth or posted online about the youth for others to see. Harassment was measured through endorsement of at least one of the following two screener questions:

- "In the past year, did you ever feel worried or threatened because someone was bothering or harassing you online?"

**Table 1**  
Demographic and Internet use characteristics for the 2000, 2005, and 2010 YISS samples

Characteristics	Year 2000 (n = 1,501) % (n)	Year 2005 (n = 1,500) % (n)	Year 2010 (n = 1,560) % (n)	p
<b>Demographic</b>				
Gender (male)	53 (790)	49 (738)	50 (775)	.12
<b>Age</b>				
10–12 years	23 (337)	23 (345)	21 (333)	.02
13–15 years	48 (725)	43 (651)	45 (694)	
16–17 years	29 (439)	34 (504)	34 (533)	
<b>Race</b>				
White, non-Hispanic	73 (1,091)	71 (1,070)	67 (1,048)	.001
Black, non-Hispanic	10 (153)	11 (161)	13 (208)	
Hispanic or Latino, any Race	7 (108)	9 (130)	10 (152)	
American Indian/Alaskan native	2 (30)	1 (21)	3 (41)	
Asian	3 (38)	2 (33)	3 (48)	
Other (includes biracial)	2 (26)	3 (40)	2 (28)	
Do not know/not ascertainable	4 (55)	3 (45)	2 (35)	
<b>Parental marital status</b>				
Married	79 (1,182)	76 (1,139)	78 (1,214)	.01
Living with a partner	1 (19)	3 (37)	2 (36)	
Separated	3 (37)	1 (22)	2 (29)	
Divorced	10 (154)	10 (147)	10 (148)	
Widowed	2 (35)	2 (29)	2 (31)	
Single, never married	5 (73)	8 (117)	6 (98)	
Youth lives with both biological parents	63 (949)	62 (926)	66 (1,029)	.04
<b>Highest level of education in household</b>				
Not a high school graduate	3 (37)	2 (30)	3 (41)	<.001
High school graduate	21 (320)	20 (305)	14 (210)	
Some college education	22 (336)	23 (344)	19 (299)	
College graduate	32 (474)	32 (481)	37 (577)	
Post-college degree	22 (330)	22 (333)	28 (431)	
<b>Annual household income</b>				
<\$20,000	8 (119)	8 (123)	12 (192)	<.001
\$20,000–\$50,000	38 (575)	27 (405)	18 (287)	
>\$50,000–\$75,000	23 (350)	24 (355)	16 (245)	
>\$75,000	23 (347)	33 (494)	45 (700)	
Don't know/missing	7 (110)	8 (123)	9 (136)	
<b>Internet use</b>				
Amount of Internet use (mean, SD) <sup>a</sup>	.24 (.26)	.41 (.31)	.49 (.30)	<.001
<b>Location of Internet use</b>				
Home	74 (1,109)	91 (1,363)	97 (1,506)	<.001
Friend's home	69 (1,028)	69 (1,029)	70 (1,088)	.72
School	73 (1,100)	90 (1,356)	89 (1,392)	<.001
Cell phone	—	—	47 (740)	—

<sup>a</sup> Amount of Internet use was derived from a factor analysis of the following items: youth experience with the Internet (scale of 1–5), importance of Internet in youth's life (scale of 1–5), and hours and days online in a typical week. Values ranged from .00 to 1.0. This comparison was examined using a t test rather than a  $\chi^2$  test.

- “In the past year, did anyone ever use the Internet to threaten or embarrass you by posting or sending messages about you for other people to see?”

Unwanted exposure to pornography was defined as being exposed to pictures of naked people or people having sex without seeking or expecting such pictures, when doing online searches, surfing the web, opening e-mail, or instant messages or links in messages. Unwanted exposure to pornography was estimated based on endorsement of one of the following two questions.

- “In the past year when you were doing an online search or surfing the web, did you ever find yourself in a Web site that showed pictures of naked people or of people having sex when you did not want to be in that kind of site?”
- “In the past year, did you ever open a message or a link in a message that showed you actual pictures of naked people or of people having sex that you did not want?”

Finally, we identified subgroups of youth who reported *distressing* solicitations, harassment, or exposure to pornography. These identified youth rated themselves as very or extremely upset or

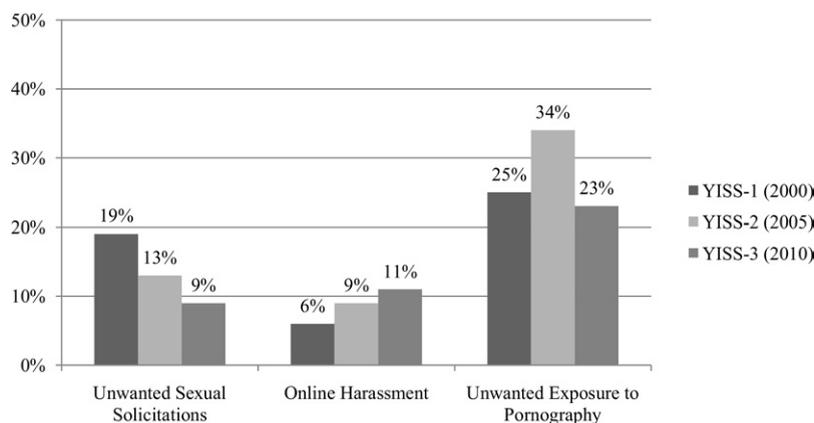
afraid as a result of a sexual solicitation or harassment incident, or as very or extremely upset because of an unwanted exposure to pornography.

#### Internet use characteristics

Youth also reported on their Internet use, including the amount and location of use. High Internet use was operationalized using a summation score derived from a factor analysis of the following four responses: high experience with the Internet, high importance of the Internet,  $\geq 4$  days per week spent online, and  $\geq 2$  hours per day spent online. A summation score was dichotomized at 1 SD above the mean for each YISS study to reflect a high level of Internet use.

#### Demographic information

Caregivers reported on the youth's gender, age, the highest household education, and the previous year's household income. Youth reported information on race and ethnicity.



**Figure 1.** Trends in unwanted experiences on the Internet for youth: YISS-1 (2000), YISS-2 (2005), and YISS-3 (2010). For all percentage differences,  $p < .001$ .

### Analyses

Differences between YISS-1, YISS-2, and YISS-3 were tested for statistical significance based on the rates of occurrence of specific incidents and experiences within the full samples. Logistic regression analyses were conducted to calculate odds ratios comparing the 2005 and 2010 samples of youth on the prevalence of unwanted Internet experiences by age, gender, and race after adjusting for the other demographic characteristics, amount, and locations of Internet use. SPSS 19.0 [8] was used for all analyses.

### Results

There were significant changes in youth reporting unwanted or problematic experiences using Internet technology across the 2000, 2005, and 2010 YISS studies, but they varied according to the type of problem experienced (Figure 1). Unwanted sexual solicitations declined from 19% in 2000 to 13% in 2005, and finally to 9% in 2010; thus, there was a total 50% decline in reports of this problem between 2000 and 2010. However, aggressive solicitations (in which offline contact was attempted or made) did not change significantly across the three surveys (3%, 4%, and 3% in 2000, 2005, and 2010, respectively; data not shown). There was a small but statistically significant increase in reports of online harassment, from 9% in 2005 to 11% in 2010. This continued an increase seen between 2000 and 2005 (from 6% to 9%). Finally, there was a decline in youth reports of unwanted exposure to pornography between the 2005 and 2010 YISS surveys, from 34% to 23%. This decline followed an increase between 2000 and 2005 (from 25% to 34%).

#### Trends by age

The declines in unwanted sexual solicitations occurred primarily for younger adolescents [9–14] (Table 2). Among 10–12-year olds, there was a 63% decline in reports between 2005 and 2010, whereas for 13–15-year olds, the decline was 52%. No significant decline in overall sexual solicitations was seen for the youth aged 16 and 17 years. However, there was a significant decline among this group of youth in reports of distressing sexual solicitations—from 6% in 2005 to 3% in 2010. Aggressive sexual solicitations also declined by 46% among youth aged 13–15 years, from 5% in 2005 to 3% in 2010. Between 2005 and 2010, no

significant differences in reports of online harassment were identified when examining the trends by age group.

Overall, unwanted exposure to pornography, as well as distressing exposure, declined primarily for older adolescents aged 13–15 years and 16 and 17 years. Unwanted exposure to pornography was almost reduced to half for these groups, from 9% in 2005 to 5% in 2010.

#### Trends by gender

There were significant declines in reports of unwanted sexual solicitations for girls and boys (40% and 46%, respectively) (Table 3). A decline in distressing and aggressive sexual solicitations was only seen among girls; boys reported low rates of distressing sexual solicitations.

Reports of general and distressing online harassment increased significantly for girls only. Rates of online harassment increased 50% for girls, from 10% in 2005 to 15% in 2010. Significant declines in reports of unwanted exposure to pornography and distressing exposures occurred equally for both boys and girls.

#### Trends by Race and ethnicity

Finally, some differences were also noted across racial and ethnic groups. There was a significant decline in reports of unwanted sexual solicitations among white and black youth (40% and 50% declines, respectively) (Table 4). A decline in distressing sexual solicitations was also noted among white, non-Hispanic youth (55%). No changes in aggressive sexual solicitation were noted when examined by race and ethnicity.

There were no significant differences in rates of online harassment across the three ethnic and racial groups. Declines in unwanted exposure to pornography were largest for white, non-Hispanic youth (47%) and Hispanic or Latino youth (48%).

### Discussion

The current intensive media attention to the problem of Internet safety can sometimes give the impression that Internet risks are increasing for youth. However, for two out of three online problems measured by YISS-3 in 2010, rates decreased when compared with earlier studies. A decreasing trend was identified for unwanted sexual solicitations of youth online, and also for unwanted exposure to pornography by youth, but a

**Table 2**  
Multivariate (adjusted) trends in unwanted Internet experiences by youth age

Unwanted Internet experiences	Year 2000 % (number)	Year 2005 % (number)	Year 2010 % (number)	Adjusted OR 2005–2010 (95% CI) <sup>a</sup>
<b>Any sexual solicitation</b>				
10–12 years	10 (34)	5 (19)	2 (7)	.37 (.15–.92)*
13–15 years	21 (152)	15 (95)	8 (55)	.48 (.34–.70)**
16–17 years	23 (100)	17 (86)	14 (72)	.76 (.53–1.09)
<b>Distressing sexual solicitation</b>				
10–12 years	5 (17)	3 (10)	1 (4)	.44 (.14–1.46)
13–15 years	4 (32)	5 (29)	3 (19)	.54 (.29–.99)*
16–17 years	5 (23)	6 (28)	3 (14)	.47 (.25–.92)*
<b>Aggressive sexual solicitation</b>				
10–12 years	1 (3)	1 (4)	1 (3)	.42 (.08–2.25)
13–15 years	3 (23)	5 (35)	3 (22)	.54 (.31–.95)***
16–17 years	4 (17)	5 (24)	4 (22)	.81 (.44–1.49)
<b>Any harassment</b>				
10–12 years	5 (18)	5 (16)	6 (20)	1.43 (.72–2.86)
13–15 years	7 (47)	10 (66)	10 (66)	1.17 (.83–1.65)
16–17 years	7 (30)	10 (48)	13 (68)	1.21 (.81–1.81)
<b>Distressing harassment</b>				
10–12 years	2 (8)	3 (10)	2 (8)	.93 (.36–2.43)
13–15 years	3 (19)	3 (21)	5 (37)	1.53 (.88–2.68)
16–17 years	2 (10)	4 (19)	6 (33)	1.50 (.83–2.70)
<b>Any unwanted exposure to pornography</b>				
10–12 years	9 (29)	19 (65)	15 (50)	.70 (.46–1.06)
13–15 years	28 (201)	35 (225)	23 (161)	.57 (.45–.73)**
16–17 years	33 (146)	44 (222)	28 (150)	.49 (.38–.64)**
<b>Distressing unwanted exposure to pornography</b>				
10–12 years	2 (6)	10 (33)	6 (20)	.56 (.31–1.01)
13–15 years	8 (55)	9 (58)	5 (35)	.57 (.37–.88)*
16–17 years	7 (30)	9 (45)	5 (24)	.51 (.30–.86)*

OR = odds ratio.

95% confidence interval (CI) refers to being 95% confident that the interval contains the population percentage.

The rate calculations are based on the total number of youth in each age category and survey year.

10–12-year olds: Year 2000 (n = 337), Year 2005 (n = 345), and Year 2010 (n = 333).

13–15-year olds: Year 2000 (n = 725), Year 2005 (n = 651), and Year 2010 (n = 694).

16–17-year olds: Year 2000 (n = 439), Year 2005 (n = 504), and Year 2010 (n = 533).

<sup>a</sup> Adjusted odds ratios are based on multivariate logistic regression tests that control for other demographic characteristics, amount of Internet use, and locations of Internet use.

\*  $p \leq .05$ ; \*\*  $p \leq .001$ ; \*\*\*  $p \leq .01$ .

steady and significant increase in online harassment was identified as occurring since 2000.

#### Online sexual solicitations

In 2010, one in 10 youth reported receiving an unwanted sexual solicitation, a 50% reduction in rates when compared with one in five youth who reported such an experience when the YISS was conducted in 2000. The reason for the steady decline in rates could be due to several factors. It may be that online behavior has changed in ways that reduce such solicitations. For example, youth have migrated from chat rooms to social networking sites over past several years [9]. In social networking environments, youth may be confining more of their interactions to people they know, thus reducing online unwanted sexual comments or requests. It is also possible that young people have become more cautious regarding who they interact with because of Internet safety education. A tremendous effort has been made during the past decade to warn young people about the dangers of online sexual interactions. Also, publicity about criminal prosecutions may have deterred some of the aggressive sexual messaging. There have been many prosecutions of adults during the past decade for directing sexual messages to youth. Although research has found that most unwanted sexual messages online come from other youth and not adults, the potential to get into

legal trouble from sending such messages may have been impressed on all Internet participants.

It is important to emphasize that the YISS measure of unwanted sexual solicitation is not a measure of online sexual predation by adults. Our research has shown that to the extent that youth know the age of the solicitors, they believe most of them to be other youth, not adults [2]. Moreover, the vast majority of unwanted sexual solicitations are readily deflected by their recipients [2]. Successful online predator crimes typically involve sexual solicitations that are considered flattering and desired by the recipients [10]. The current findings should not be interpreted to mean that one in 10 youth are solicited by online adult predators or that online predation by adults has declined. Nonetheless, if young people are subject to less unwanted sexual messaging, it does suggest some improvement in the online environment.

#### Unwanted exposure to pornography

The study also found a recent substantial decrease in youth exposure to unwanted pornography. This does not mean that young people who are voluntarily accessing pornography are having a hard time finding it. Rates of intentional viewing of X-rated material among young Internet users range from 13% to 23%, and percentages have remained relatively stable over time

**Table 3**  
Multivariate (adjusted) trends in unwanted Internet experiences by youth gender

Unwanted internet experiences	Year 2000 % (number)	Year 2005 % (number)	Year 2010 % (number)	Adjusted OR 2005–2010 (95% CI) <sup>a</sup>
Any sexual solicitation				
Girls	27 (188)	18 (140)	13 (101)	.60 (.45–.81)*
Boys	12 (97)	8 (60)	4 (33)	.54 (.34–.84)**
Distressing sexual solicitation				
Girls	8 (54)	7 (54)	4 (31)	.51 (.32–.81)**
Boys	2 (18)	2 (13)	1 (6)	.43 (.16–1.14)
Aggressive sexual solicitation				
Girls	4 (29)	7 (50)	5 (38)	.62 (.40–.98)***
Boys	2 (14)	2 (13)	1 (9)	.72 (.30–1.71)
Any harassment				
Girls	7 (46)	10 (75)	15 (121)	1.47 (1.07–2.01)***
Boys	6 (49)	8 (55)	7 (55)	.82 (.55–1.22)
Distressing harassment				
Girls	3 (21)	5 (34)	8 (62)	1.65 (1.06–2.56)***
Boys	2 (16)	2 (16)	2 (16)	.96 (.48–1.94)
Any unwanted exposure to pornography				
Girls	23 (159)	31 (236)	22 (176)	.63 (.50–.79)*
Boys	27 (216)	37 (275)	24 (185)	.51 (.41–.65)*
Distressing unwanted exposure to pornography				
Girls	6 (41)	10 (77)	5 (40)	.45 (.30–.67)*
Boys	6 (50)	8 (58)	5 (39)	.62 (.40–.94)***

OR = odds ratio.

95% confidence interval (CI) refers to being 95% confident that the interval contains the population percentage.

The rate calculations are based on the total number of boys and girls in each survey year.

Girls: Year 2000 (n = 708), Year 2005 (n = 760), and Year 2010 (n = 775).

Boys: Year 2000 (n = 790), Year 2005 (n = 738), and Year 2010 (n = 785).

<sup>a</sup> Adjusted odds ratios are based on multivariate logistic regression tests that control for other demographic characteristics, amount of Internet use, and locations of Internet use.

\*  $p \leq .001$ ; \*\*  $p \leq .01$ ; \*\*\*  $p \leq .05$ .

[11,12]. The decline identified by the YISS studies involves unwanted exposure, such as those that occur through errors in searches, unwanted pop-ups, and spam e-mail [2]. The decrease in exposure could be due to two factors. First, spamwares and filters have been increasingly present on networks and individual computers, and their detection capacities have become more refined. Second, young people may have become better educated and more savvy about opening unidentified e-mail or clicking on unidentified links.

#### Online harassment

The 2010 YISS findings show an increase in Internet harassment, from 9% in 2005 to 11% in 2010, continuing an increase from 2000. It is interesting that this trend is opposite the direction of the trend for sexual solicitation. As described earlier, online harassment involves things such as making aggressive or demeaning statements or spreading rumors online. One might have expected that some of the same mechanisms that reduced sexual solicitation, such as increased education, would have reduced harassment as well. However, several features of harassment may make its trend different from sexual solicitation. First, more of the harassment may come from within the youth's chosen social network, for example, classmates who have been accepted as friends on social networking sites. Second, mobilization and education against online harassment are not as long-standing and intensive as that against sexual solicitation. Public concern over "cyberbullying" only took off in recent years. Now that cyberbullying has become a more widespread topic of news and education, it will be interesting to see whether harassment declines as sexual solicitation has done.

Even though online harassment has increased, this cannot be interpreted as a general increase in harassing and bullying be-

havior by youth (i.e., new types of perpetrators being drawn in to harassing peers). It is possible that general harassment and bullying behavior is migrating online in the same way that general adolescent communication has migrated. There is some evidence for this, given that survey data with youth show decreases in general peer harassment and bullying happening over the same period [13].

Nonetheless, the increase in online harassment suggests it is an important area for additional attention by parents, schools, and health professionals. The increase in harassment for girls is a particularly concerning trend. Research has identified gender differences in the bullying behavior and victimization; one study of school bullying among youth in grades 6–10 found boys were more involved in physical or verbal bullying, whereas girls were more involved in relational bullying [14]. The current findings suggest that whatever is driving the increase in harassment is happening mostly for girls.

One obvious direction is to increase the integration of online harassment prevention into existing evidence-based peer victimization and bullying programs. Evidence also has shown that social and emotional learning programs in early elementary grades can improve behavior and reduce aggression down the road [15]; interventions such as these are likely to continue decreasing trends in offline bullying and reverse the trend in online harassment as well.

#### Limitations

Findings should be interpreted keeping in mind several limitations. First, as with all self-report measures, some youth respondents may not have disclosed all unwanted Internet experiences. Response rates declined somewhat between the YISS studies, reflective of a general decrease in response rates for

**Table 4**  
Multivariate (adjusted) trends in unwanted Internet experiences by youth race/ethnicity

Unwanted Internet experiences	Year 2000 % (number)	Year 2005 % (number)	Year 2010 % (number)	Adjusted OR 2005–2010 (95% CI) <sup>a</sup>
Any sexual solicitation				
White, non-Hispanic	19 (207)	12 (128)	8 (83)	.60 (.44–.81)*
Black, non-Hispanic	18 (28)	20 (32)	10 (20)	.38 (.20–.71)**
Hispanic or Latino	25 (27)	19 (24)	13 (19)	.77 (.38–1.58)
Distressing sexual solicitation				
White, non-Hispanic	4 (47)	4 (44)	2 (19)	.45 (.26–.78)**
Black, non-Hispanic	7 (10)	7 (11)	4 (9)	.52 (.20–1.35)
Hispanic or Latino	7 (8)	6 (8)	4 (6)	.85 (.27–2.69)
Aggressive sexual solicitation				
White, non-Hispanic	3 (32)	4 (37)	2 (23)	.64 (.37–1.09)
Black, non-Hispanic	1 (2)	8 (13)	5 (10)	.41 (.17–1.01)
Hispanic or Latino	5 (5)	8 (10)	7 (11)	1.05 (.41–2.66)
Any harassment				
White, non-Hispanic	6 (70)	10 (105)	11 (116)	1.05 (.79–1.40)
Black, non-Hispanic	5 (7)	5 (8)	12 (25)	2.18 (.93–5.12)
Hispanic or Latino	11 (12)	7 (9)	11 (16)	1.38 (.57–3.33)
Distressing harassment				
White, non-Hispanic	2 (25)	4 (38)	5 (48)	1.23 (.79–1.93)
Black, non-Hispanic	2 (3)	3 (4)	6 (13)	2.13 (.67–6.83)
Hispanic or Latino	5 (5)	3 (4)	7 (11)	2.72 (.82–8.98)
Any unwanted exposure to pornography				
White, non-Hispanic	26 (279)	36 (381)	23 (243)	.53 (.43–.64)*
Black, non-Hispanic	24 (36)	27 (44)	22 (46)	.77 (.48–1.26)
Hispanic or Latino	30 (32)	42 (54)	27 (41)	.52 (.31–.86)***
Distressing unwanted exposure to pornography				
White, non-Hispanic	6 (60)	9 (99)	5 (49)	.48 (.33–.68)*
Black, non-Hispanic	11 (16)	8 (12)	5 (11)	.59 (.24–1.44)
Hispanic or Latino	9 (10)	15 (19)	9 (13)	.53 (.25–1.14)

OR = odds ratio.

95% confidence interval (CI) refers to being 95% confident that the interval contains the population percentage.

The rate calculations are based on the total number of youth in each race/ethnicity category and survey year.

White, non-Hispanic: Year 2000 (n = 1,091), Year 2005 (n = 1,070), and Year 2010 (n = 1,048).

Black, non-Hispanic: Year 2000 (n = 153), Year 2005 (n = 161), and Year 2010 (n = 208).

Hispanic or Latino: Year 2000 (n = 108), Year 2005 (n = 130), and Year 2010 (n = 152).

<sup>a</sup> Adjusted odds ratios are based on multivariate logistic regression tests that control for other demographic characteristics, amount of Internet use, and locations of Internet use.

\*  $p \leq .001$ ; \*\*  $p \leq .01$ ; \*\*\*  $p \leq .05$ .

national telephone surveys [16–18] facing the challenges of caller identification, confusion with telemarketers, and survey saturation among the general population. However, analyses suggest that the decline in participation has not influenced the validity of most surveys conducted by reputable surveying [17]. Keeter et al. [17] noted that compared with government benchmarks, the demographic and social composition of telephone survey samples are quite representative on most measures (p. 777).

## Conclusions

Findings from the YISS studies suggest that trends in youth online unwanted experiences may contradict impressions that the general population, professionals, and the media have about what is happening. It is important that such trend data be collected and disseminated by professionals, integrated into prevention directions and material, and used to inform policy. Problems that have been highlighted and may cause parents to be reluctant to let their youth use the Internet are relatively infrequent and, importantly, have decreased over the past 5 years.

However, because the current study suggests that online harassment may be increasing for youth, particularly girls, this topic may require additional mobilization, using tested and evaluated programs that can incorporate messages relevant to age and demographic subgroups. Parents and youth need information about what do to in cases where Internet harassment occurs.

Bystander education, which has proven successful in other prevention campaigns [19–21] should be included so that youth can help intervene effectively when they see problems like harassment occurring. Schools need to have policies in place for when online harassment incidents become serious bullying problems that threaten the healthy functioning of youth in school environments.

## Acknowledgments

For the purposes of compliance with Section 507 of PL 104-208 (the “Stevens Amendment”), readers are advised that 100% of the funds for this program are derived from federal sources. This project was supported by grant number 2009-SN-B9-0002 awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The total amount of federal funding involved is \$734,900. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

## References

- [1] Mitchell KJ, Finkelhor D, Wolak J. Youth internet users at risk for the most serious online sexual solicitations. *Am J Prev Med* 2007;32:532–7.
- [2] Wolak J, Mitchell KJ, Finkelhor D. *Online Victimization: 5 Years Later*. Alexandria, VA: National Center for Missing and Exploited Children; 2006.

- [3] Brick JM, Brick PD, Dipko S, et al. Cell phone survey feasibility in the U.S.: Sampling and calling cell numbers versus landline numbers. *Publ Opin Q* 2007;71:23–39.
- [4] Hu SS, Balluz L, Battaglia MP, Frankel MR. The impact of cell phones on public health surveillance. *Bull World Health Organ* 2010;88:799.
- [5] Mitchell KJ, Jones LM, Wolak J. The Youth Internet Safety Survey (YISS) Methodology Report. Available at: <http://unh.edu/ccrc/internet-crimes/papers.html>.
- [6] Smith A. Technology trends among people of color. Pew Internet and American Life Project; 2010. Available at: <http://www.pewinternet.org/Commentary/2010/September/Technology-Trends-Among-People-of-Color.aspx>. Accessed September 30, 2010.
- [7] Pew Research Center. Demographics of teen internet users. Available at: <http://www.pewinternet.org/Static-Pages/Trend-Data-for-Teens/Whos-Online.aspx>. Accessed June 27, 2011.
- [8] Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Armonk, NY: IBM, 2011.
- [9] Lenhart A, Purcell K, Smith A, Zickuhr K. Social Media and Mobile Internet Use among Teens and Young Adults. Available at: [http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2010/PIP\\_Social\\_Media\\_and\\_Young\\_Adults\\_Report.pdf](http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2010/PIP_Social_Media_and_Young_Adults_Report.pdf). Accessed June 8, 2010.
- [10] Wolak J, Finkelhor D, Mitchell KJ, Ybarra ML. Online “predators” and their victims: Myths, realities, and implications for prevention and treatment. *Am Psychol* 2008;63:111–28.
- [11] Mitchell KJ, Jones LM, Finkelhor D, Wolak J, 3rd. Youth Internet Safety Survey. Durham, New Hampshire: Crimes against Children Research Center, University of New Hampshire, 2011.
- [12] Ybarra ML, Mitchell KJ, Hamburger M, et al. X-rated material and perpetration of sexually aggressive behavior among children and adolescents: Is there a link? *Aggress Behav* 2011;37:1–18.
- [13] Finkelhor D, Turner H, Ormrod R, Hamby SL. Trends in childhood violence and abuse exposure: Evidence from two national surveys. *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med* 2010;164:238–42.
- [14] Wang J, Iannotti RJ, Nansel TR. School bullying among adolescents in the United States: Physical, verbal, relational, and cyber. *J Adolesc Health* 2009;45:368–75.
- [15] Durlak JA, Weissberg RP, Dymnicki AB, et al. The impact of enhancing students' social and emotional learning: A meta-analysis of school-based universal interventions. *Child Dev* 2011;82:405–32.
- [16] Curtin R, Presser S, Singer E. Changes in telephone survey nonresponse over the past quarter century. *Public Opin Q* 2005;69:87–98.
- [17] Keeter S, Kennedy C, Dimock M, et al. Gauging the impact of growing nonresponse on estimates from a national RDD telephone survey. *Public Opin Q* 2006;70:759–79.
- [18] Kempf AM, Remington PL. New challenges for telephone survey research in the twenty-first century. *Annu Review Public Health* 2007;28:113–26.
- [19] Banyard VL, Moynihan MM, Plante EG. Sexual violence prevention through bystander education: An experimental evaluation. *J Community Psychol* 2007;35:463–81.
- [20] Foubert JD. The longitudinal effects of a rape-prevention program on fraternity men's attitudes, behavioral intent, and behavior. *J Am Coll Health* 2000;48:158.
- [21] Stueve A, Dash K, O'Donnell L, et al. Rethinking the bystander role in school violence prevention. *Health Promot Pract* 2006;7:117–24.

# **EXHIBIT E**

# CHILDREN RESEARCH CENTER

CRIMES AGAINST

## Have Sexual Abuse and Physical Abuse Declined Since the 1990s?

David Finkelhor & Lisa Jones

October 2012

*This bulletin summarizes statistics on trends for sexual and physical abuse. A decline in sexual abuse since the early 1990s is a conclusion supported by 3 independent sources of agency data and 4 separate large victim surveys. The trend for physical abuse is less clear, since several of the data sources show conflicting patterns.*

Information from several sources has shown declining rates of both sexual and physical abuse from the early 1990s through 2010. But other data and a variety of opinion have disputed whether these trends indicate a true decline in prevalence. This brief is an effort to assess what the current evidence is about these trends.

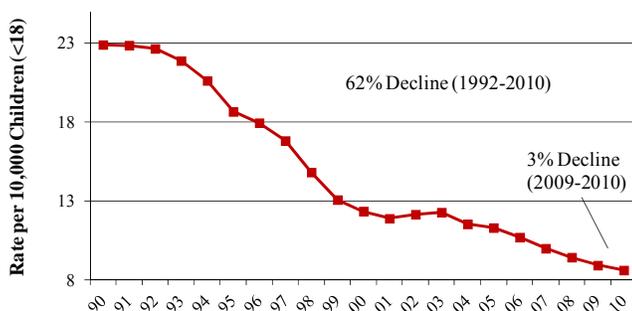
### SEXUAL ABUSE – 7 INDEPENDENT SOURCES SHOW DECLINES

The case that there has been a true decline in sexual abuse is stronger than the case about physical abuse, and it comes from a variety of sources. Three independent sets of agency data show substantial declines in sexual abuse over this period. At least 4 victim self-report surveys also show declines. A variety of related child welfare “outcome indicators” support the idea of a true decline. Finally, efforts to substantiate “alternative explanations” for the decline, due to changed polices or practices, have not been supported.

#### Agency data

*Child protection system substantiations.* The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) aggregates data from state child protective agencies. That data show a 62% decline in rates of substantiated sexual abuse starting in 1992 and continuing through 2010, with the largest drop occurring in the late 1990s (Figure 1). The raw numbers declined from

Figure 1. NCANDS National Estimate Substantiated Sexual Abuse (1990-2010)

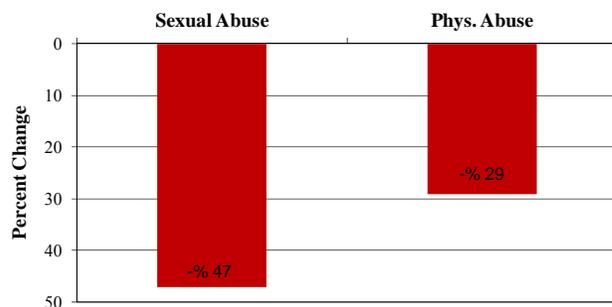


Source: National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System

over 150,000 to 63,000 cases. These numbers primarily count cases involving abuse by family member and other caregivers.

*Cases known to professionals – The National Incidence Study.* Because of concern that child protection agency data may not be a fully reliable count of child maltreatment, roughly every decade the federal government has conducted a more rigorous National Incidence Study (NIS) of Child Abuse and Neglect. The NIS gets reports directly from a systematic sample of child-serving professionals (who represent the whole population of professionals in the country). The NIS also uses detailed and consistent criteria to evaluate the validity of the reports they receive. This is to address issues like changes in standards or screening out criteria in child protection practice. Between 1993 and 2005, the study documented a significant 47% decline in sexual abuse measured by what they call their “endangerment standard” (Figure 2). This finding almost completely confirmed what the NCANDS data shows.

Figure 2. National Incidence Study (NIS) Change in Rate of Sexual Abuse and Physical Abuse (1993-2005) (Endangerment Standard)



\*Change in rate not statistically significant

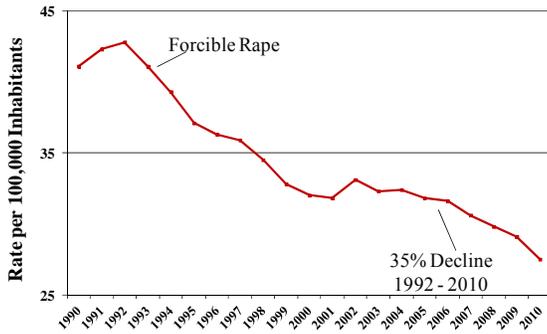
*The NIS finding of a 47% drop strongly suggests that declines in the CPS data are not due primarily to changed screening standards or the implementation of alternative response systems.*

*Cases known to police.* The FBI collects and publishes data from local law enforcement for several major crime types including rape. While the FBI cannot break down the rape statistics by age of victim, over 50% of FBI-reported rape occurs to persons under age 18.<sup>1</sup> Thus the FBI rape statistic is a good proxy of sex crimes against minors.

**Sexual Abuse & Physical Abuse Decline?**

The FBI rape data show a sharp decline that, like the NCANDS data, started in 1992 and continued through 2010. The total drop was 35%, and the trend line is remarkably parallel to the NCANDS trend line (Figure 3).

Figure 3. FBI Forcible Rape (1990-2010)



Source: FBI, Crime in the United States Reports

**Victim Self-report Surveys**

It is always possible that agency data could show declines because victimizations were not being reported. So survey data from victims themselves are useful to confirm that less victimization is occurring. Four surveys show declines in sex crimes against juveniles during this time period.

*The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS).* This study collects crime victimization information annually from a nationally representative sample of tens of thousands of US households every 6 months, and one of the crimes it measures is sexual assault. While there is no information on victims under 12, self-reports of sexual assault are gathered from the 12 to 17 year olds.

The NCVS shows a decline of 69% in the annual rate of sexual assaults against teens from 1993 through 2008 (Figure 4).

Figure 4. National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) Sexual Assault (1993 – 2008)

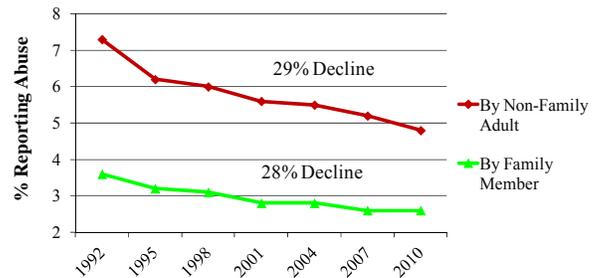


Note: Age 12 – 17 years; 3 year averages except 2008 which is a 2 year average. 2006 data excluded.  
Source: National Crime Victimization Survey

*The Minnesota Student Survey.* This study is conducted every 3 years with all 6th, 9th and 12th graders enrolled in public schools in selected school districts. This survey asks specific questions about lifetime sexual abuse by family members and non-family members.

The Minnesota Student Survey has shown between 1992 and 2010 a 29% decline in sexual abuse by non-family and a 28% decline in abuse by family members (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Minnesota Study Survey Sexual Abuse (1992 – 2010)

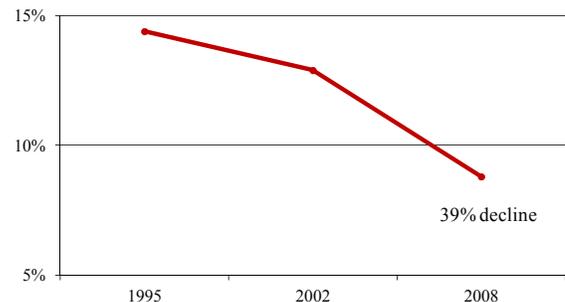


Note: respondents are 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students enrolled in public schools in selected Minnesota school districts.  
Source: Minnesota Student Survey, 1992-2010

*The National Survey of Family Growth.* This study gathers information every few years from national samples of women between the ages of 15 and 44 about sexual and reproductive activity. It asks a question about whether their first experience with sexual intercourse was prior to age 15 and occurred with a person who was 3 or more years older. This is a measure of sexual abuse at the hands of adults and

Between 1995 and 2008, NSFG found a 39% decline in the women age 15-25 who reported that their first experience with intercourse was before age 15 with an older partner (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Statutory Rape (1995-2008) Percentage of Females, Ages 15-24, Whose First Sexual Intercourse Occurred at Age 15 or Younger with an Individual 3+ Years Older



Source: National Survey of Family Growth, analyzed by Child Trends

## Sexual Abuse & Physical Abuse Decline?

*The National Survey of Children Exposed to Violence (NatSCEV).* This study was conducted in 2008 and could be compared to a prior survey using the same methods and questionnaire used in 2003. The comparison found that sexual assault in the past year, including sex offenses at the hands of adults, declined from 3.3% for all children ages 2-17 in 2003 to 2.0% in 2008<sup>2</sup> (Table 1).

Table 1. Sexual Victimization (2003 and 2008)  
National Surveys Using Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire

	% of Children		
	2003 (n=2030)	2008 (n=4046)	P Value
Any sexual victimization	8.0	6.7	0.06
Any sexual assault	3.3	2.0	<0.001 <sup>a</sup>
By a known adult	0.3	0.2	0.45
By a nonspecified adult	0.3	0.3	0.99
By a peer	1.2	0.6	0.01 <sup>a</sup>
Rape, completed/attempted	2.1	1.3	0.02 <sup>a</sup>
Sexual exposure/flashed	3.2	3.0	0.67
Sexual harassment	3.8	2.9	0.06
Sexual misconduct/statutory rape	2.9	1.5	<0.001 <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> P ≤ .05

Source: Finkelhor, D., Turner, H.A., Ormrod, R.K., & Hamby, S.L. (2010). Trends in childhood violence and abuse exposure: Evidence from two national surveys. *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine* 164(3): 238-242.

*National Survey of Adolescents.* There is, however, at least one national survey that did not find a significant decline during this interval. The National Survey of Adolescents conducted two national studies 10 years apart<sup>3</sup> and reported a non-significant decline in lifetime sexual assault for girls from 13.2% in 1995 to 11.5% in 2005 and a non-significant rise for boys from 3.5% to 3.8%.

### Associated Outcome Indicators

Sexual abuse is well known to be associated with a number of other child welfare problems, such as running away, teen pregnancy and suicidal behavior. While these indicators could change for many other reasons, if they were trending in the same way as sexual abuse, it could be seen as indirect support for true decline. Data from national vital statistics show that the teen suicide rate has declined 30% from 1990 to 2010, the rate of teenage running away as measured by police arrests has declined 60%, and the rate of teen births declined 55% from 1991 to 2010. Other indicators of risky and early sexual behavior have also declined.<sup>4</sup> In addition, sex offender re-offense rates have come down by 41%.<sup>19</sup>

### Tests of Alternative Explanations

A major concern about the decline in sexual abuse shown by the NCANDS data is the possibility that the drop could be due, not to a real decline, but to changed standards, less funding for investigations or the exclusion of certain categories of offenders or victims.

To a large degree, the NIS findings do address this issue because that study looked at cases using the identical criteria and standards at different points in time. But other studies have also tested the alternative explanations with various data. One study looked at whether worker caseload could account for some of the decline, but found it could not.<sup>5</sup> Another study<sup>6</sup> found evidence that sexual abuse cases involving very young victims and teenage perpetrators had disproportionately declined in some states in ways consistent with more conservative standards, but that these changes were not substantial enough or consistent enough across states to explain most of the decline.

### Sexual Abuse: Summary

There is fairly consistent and convergent evidence from a variety of sources pointing to large declines in sexual abuse from 1992 to 2010. The idea that child protection system data is a misleading indicator on this trend is contradicted by the fact that the decline shows up in other sources that do not rely on CPS. The NIS study is particularly important because it uses consistent criteria across time, and confirms the child protection system trends. The self-report surveys are also very important because they represent victim testimony itself. It seems unlikely that, in the face of more public attention to sexual abuse and decreasing stigma, youth would be more reluctant to disclose in surveys. In fact one study shows greater reporting of sexual abuse to the authorities.<sup>7</sup> Some have raised the question of whether sexual abuse has become more "normal" and thus less disclosed in surveys by youth. But the surveys showing declines do not use terms like sexual abuse or assault, but simply ask about sexual behaviors and categorize them as assault when certain behaviors occur.

*Our judgment is that the decline in sexual abuse is about as well established as crime trends can be in contemporary social science.*

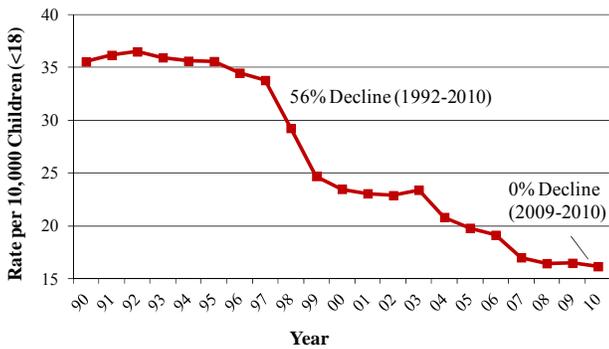
### PHYSICAL ABUSE – CONTRASTING FINDINGS FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES

The evidence for a decline in physical abuse is more mixed than for sexual abuse, and varies perhaps by the type of physical abuse being considered. Both NCANDS data representing national CPS cases and NIS data representing national child serving professionals show declines in caregiver perpetrated physical abuse. However, hospital data on young children admitted for inflicted injuries do not show a decline. Child maltreatment fatalities have also not declined, but FBI reported homicides of young children and older children have. Two national victim surveys of youth do not find decreases in caregiver abuse, but one state survey did, and several other surveys show that youth are exposed to considerably less interpersonal violence in general since the early 1990s.

**Agency data**

*Child protection substantiations.* NCANDS data from child protection agencies show a 56% decline in the rate of substantiated physical abuse from 1992 to 2010 with two periods of particularly steep drops between 1997 and 2000 and between 2003 and 2008 (Figure 7). The comparative numbers were from 240,000 cases in 1992 to 118,700 cases in 2010.

Figure 7. NCANDS National Estimate Substantiated Physical Abuse (1990-2009)



Source: National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System

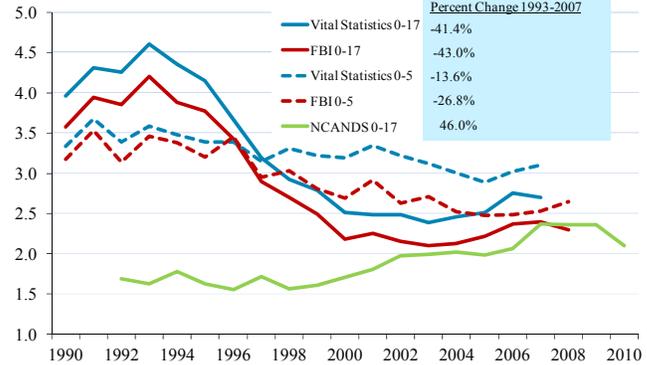
*Cases known to professionals – The National Incidence Study.*

This study which samples community professionals and uses consistent definitions of abuse, found that, using their “endangerment standard,” physical abuse had declined 29% from 1993 to 2005 (Figure 2). This somewhat confirms the NCANDS trend data but not quite to the same extent as with sexual abuse.

*The National Incidence Study shows a clear 29% decline in physical abuse, but it is not as large as the decline evident in the CPS substantiation trend.*

*Physical abuse deaths.* Three sources of information exist on child maltreatment deaths: NCANDS data from child protection agencies, the FBI data from police and Vital Statistics death records. The sources are discrepant. The NCANDS data show an increase of 46% in child maltreatment fatalities from 1993 to 2007 (Figure 8). However, a majority of these maltreatment deaths are due to neglect and not physical abuse. By contrast, homicide data from the FBI show a 43% decline for all children (0-17) over this same time period and a 26% decline for children 0-5, the ages during which most homicides are perpetrated by caregivers. The vital statistics data roughly parallel the FBI data showing a 41% decline for 0-17 and 14% decline for 0-5.

Figure 8. National Child Abuse Deaths and Homicides (1990-2008)



*So two sources, from the FBI and Vital Statistics, show declines in the most severe type of abuse resulting in death, but one other source does not.*

*Hospital data.* Several researchers have also looked at trends in physical abuse with hospital data. Only a small fraction of physically abused children, particularly the youngest and most severely injured, are admitted to hospitals. *These studies have found no large decline and in some cases increases in these children.* A large study of acute care hospitals<sup>8</sup> found a 10.9% increase from 1997 to 2009 in children under 1 admitted for abuse, and a 9.1% decrease for children 1-18 years old. Wood et al. (2012)<sup>9</sup>, using a sample of 38 hospitals found between 2000 and 2009, found a .79% increase per year in hospital admissions for physical abuse to children under age 6 and 3% per year increase in admissions for traumatic brain injury to children under age<sup>1</sup>

*The hospital data do not show a decline.*

**Survey data**

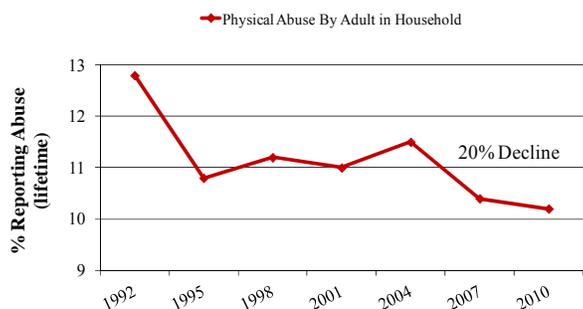
*The survey data also show mixed findings on physical abuse.*

The NatSCEV compared past year physical abuse by caregivers in 2003 and 2008 in 2 national surveys and found no significant change; in fact, the indicator actually increased.<sup>2</sup> The National Survey of Adolescents<sup>10</sup> compared lifetime physical abuse from two national surveys in 1995 and 2005 and found no significant change although the indicator decreased about 6%.

## Sexual Abuse & Physical Abuse Decline?

The Minnesota survey asked a question about students being abused by other family members and tracked a 20% decline from 1992 through 2010 (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Juvenile Physical Abuse Trends in Minnesota (1992 - 2010)

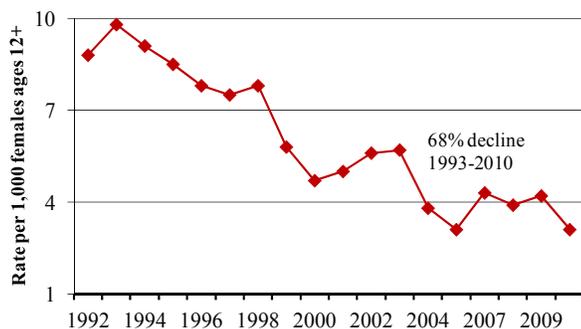


Note: respondents are 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students enrolled in public schools in selected Minnesota school districts.  
Source: Minnesota Student Survey, 1992-2010

The NCVS reports a large decline in assaults against youth ages 12-17, with simple assault down 59% and aggravated assault down 69%. Most of these assaults are by peers, not family members.<sup>†</sup>

The NCVS also reports a large decline in intimate partner violence, down 68% from 1993 through 2008 (Figure 10). Most of this violence is between adults, but some may have been in households where children were present and observers.<sup>11</sup>

Figure 10. NCVS Intimate Partner Violence (1992-2010)



Source: National Crime Victimization Survey Data.

Other surveys report declines in youth exposure to assault, but it is mostly peer abuse. For example, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) reports a 16% decline in teens saying they were in a fight in the past year.<sup>12</sup>

So of three surveys asking specifically about physical abuse by caregivers, only one showed a significant decline (19%) and its data is confined to Minnesota. Other national surveys show declines in youth exposure to violence, but it is not clear how much of this is caregiver violence.

*The survey data on physical abuse do not confirm the agency data in the same way that they do for sexual abuse.*

### Associated Indicators

Violence in general has been declining in the US during the last 20 years. There has been a substantial and widely documented decline in violent crime in the US during the period since about 1992. Police reports of overall violent crime are down 47% from 1992 to 2010.<sup>13</sup> The National Crime Victimization survey finds from victim self-reports that crimes (including assault) for persons living in households with children declined 68% from 1993 to 2010.<sup>14</sup> Homicide rates have declined as well.<sup>15</sup> If people are acting less violently in general, they might be physically assaulting their children less as well, but some people feel that societal violence and child physical abuse are phenomena without common etiology and so inferences about trends cannot be made from crime data.

### Physical Abuse: Summary

The strongest evidence that overall physical abuse has declined is the evidence from the NIS. This study was specifically designed to monitor rates and it is unique in its use of exactly consistent criteria across time points.

However, a variety of other data sources do not show trends consistent with the NIS. The rise in child maltreatment fatalities as measured by NCANDS is particularly important since these are the biggest protection failures. There is, however, evidence that the maltreatment fatalities measured by NCANDS have increased over time at least partly as a result of more careful review and classification of child death cases, particularly those conducted by the child death review boards that have been empaneled in most states.<sup>16-18</sup> The fact that FBI homicide and vital statistics data show a decline when NCANDS does not could be because police and medical examiner judgments, using criteria for what can be charged as a homicide, have been less vulnerable to expansion over time.

The hospitalization data also does not show a decline. This system of data collection is relatively recent and has been developing and expanding during the time period in question. It is possible that as a result of training and system implementation, the coding process to label cases as abuse has gotten more refined and universal, and thus masked a decline. But another explanation for the hospital data trends is that abuse with serious injuries involving hospitalization may be a different phenomenon from overall physical abuse and thus it trends differently.<sup>8</sup> But that leaves a question about why serious abuse resulting in hospitalization has a different trend from homicides, because homicide also is an indicator of the most serious abuse cases.

*In summary, the trends in physical abuse are difficult to conclusively summarize because of contradiction among the various data sources.*

<sup>†</sup> analysis conducted by authors

### CONCLUSION

The controversy over trends in physical and sexual abuse is sometimes characterized as a debate over the validity of trends found in the CPS data. But the reality is that there are multiple sources of data on trends that can be interpolated to try to assess what is happening.

*At least in the case of sexual abuse, the convergence of multiple independent data sources leads to a conclusion that a decline has likely occurred.*

Physical abuse is more ambiguous. Two of the strongest indicators (the National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect and the FBI homicide data) point to a decline in physical abuse. But the existence of contradictory information on physical abuse from other sources means that more evidence needs to be gathered to provide an account that explains all the evidence we have.

### REFERENCES

- Finkelhor, D. and R.K. Ormrod, *Characteristics of crimes against juveniles*. 2000, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention: Washington, DC. p. 1-11.
- Finkelhor, D., H.A. Turner, R. Ormrod, and S.L. Hamby, *Trends in childhood violence and abuse exposure: Evidence from two national surveys*. *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*, 2010. 164(3): p. 238-242.
- Saunders, B.E., *Child sexual assault 1995-2005: Results from the NSA and NSA-R*, in *San Diego Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment*. 2010: San Diego, CA.
- Child Trends. *Sexually active teens*. 2012 October 8, 2012; Available from: <http://www.childtrendsdatabank.org/?q=node/120>.
- Almeida, J., A.P. Cohen, S.V. Subramanian, and B.E. Molnar, *Are increased worker caseloads in state child protective service agencies a potential explanation for the decline in child sexual abuse? A multi-level analysis*. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 2008. 32(3): p. 367-375.
- Finkelhor, D. and L.M. Jones, *Explanations for the decline in child sexual abuse cases*. 2004, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention: Washington, DC.
- Finkelhor, D., R. Ormrod, H.A. Turner, and S.L. Hamby, *School, police, and medical authority involvement with children who have experienced victimization*. *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*, 2011. 165(1): p. 9-15.
- Leventhal, J.M. and J.R. Gaither, *Incidence of serious injuries due to physical abuse in the United States: 1997-2009*. *Pediatrics*, 2012. 130(5): p. 1-6.
- Wood, J.H., S.P. Medina, C. Feudtner, X. Luan, R. Localio, E.S. Fieldston, and D.M. Rubin, *Local macroeconomic trends and hospital admissions for child abuse, 2000 to 2009*. *Pediatrics*, 2012. 130(2): p. e358-e364.
- Hawkins, A.O., C.K. Danielson, M.A. de Arellano, R.K. Hanson, K.J. Ruggiero, D.W. Smith, B.E. Saunders, and D.G. Kilpatrick, *Ethnic/racial differences in the prevalence of injurious spanking and other child physical abuse in a National Survey of Adolescents*. *Child Maltreatment*, 2010. 15(3): p. 242-249.
- Catalano, S.M. *Intimate partner violence in the United States*. 2007 October 8, 2012]; Available from: <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/ipvus.pdf>.
- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. *Trends in the prevalence of behaviors that contribute to violence, National Youth Behavior Risk Survey: 1991-2011*. 2012 October 8, 2012]; Available from: [http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/yrbs/pdf/us\\_violence\\_trend\\_yrbs.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/yrbs/pdf/us_violence_trend_yrbs.pdf).
- Federal Bureau of Investigation. *Crime in the United States - 2009*. 2012 July 5, 2012]; Available from: [http://www2.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2009/offenses/violent\\_crime/index.html](http://www2.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2009/offenses/violent_crime/index.html).
- Smith, E.L. and J.L. Truman, *Prevalence of violent crime among households with children, 1993-2000*. 2012, Bureau of Justice Statistics: Washington, DC. p. 1-18.
- Cooper, A. and E.L. Smith, *Homicide trends in the United States, 1980-2008*. 2011, Bureau of Justice Statistics: Washington, DC. p. 1-36.
- Burstain, J., *Child abuse and neglect deaths in Texas*. 2009, Center for Public Policy Priorities: Austin Texas. p. 1-10.
- Eckholm, E., *Florida shifts child-welfare system's focus to saving families*, in *New York Times*. 2009, NewYork-Times.com: New York.
- Douglas, E.M. *U.S. homicide against children, ages 0-9, 1979-2009: Changing rates or improved diagnostic accuracy? in International Family Violence Research Conference*. 2012. Portsmouth, NH.
- Helmus, L., Hanson, R.K., & Thornton, D. (2009). Reporting Static-99 in light of new research on recidivism norms. *The Forum*, 21 (1): 38-45.



### Crimes against Children Research Center

126 Horton Social Science Center  
Durham, NH 03824

(603) 862-1888  
(603) 862-1122 FAX

[www.unh.edu/ccrc](http://www.unh.edu/ccrc)

