



## CURRENT INTERNET FACTS

- "87% of U.S. teens ages 12 to 17 currently use the Internet, representing about 21 million youth. Of those, approximately 11 million teens go online on a daily basis." (*Pew Internet and American Life, "Teens and Technology," July 27, 2005.*)
- "The size of the wired teen population surges at the seventh grade mark. While about 60% of sixth graders use the Internet, by seventh grade the number jumps to 82%." (*Pew Internet and American Life, "Teens and Technology," July 27, 2005.*)
- 47% of children have received e-mails with links to pornographic websites. (*Symantec market research report, June 9, 2003*)
- Over half (51%) of parents either do not have, or do not know if they have, software on their computers to monitor where their teenagers go online and with whom they interact. (*Cox Communications and The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, "Parents' Internet Monitoring Study," February 2005.*)
- 57% or more of parents were unable to correctly decipher the meanings of several common instant messaging abbreviations. (*Cox Communications and The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, "Parents' Internet Monitoring Study," February 2005.*)
- In late 2004, teachers at Montevideo Middle School in Virginia, surveyed 178 sixth grade students at their school. The resulting data was alarming: 1 in 4 had become friends with a stranger online and 1 in 10 had attempted to meet an online friend face to face. (*Montevideo Middle School, "Sixth Grade Computer Survey," December 9, 2004*)
- Some 57% of parents worry that strangers will contact their children online. These worries are well grounded. Close to 60% of teens have received an instant message or email from a stranger and 50% report emailing or instant messaging with someone they have not met before. Despite this, teens themselves are not particularly worried about strangers online; 52% of online teens say they do not worry at all about being contacted online and only 23% express any notable level of concern. (*Pew Internet & American Life, "Teenage Life Online," June 20, 2001*)
- 30% of teenage girls polled by the Girl Scout Research Institute said they had been sexually harassed in a chatroom. Only 7 %, however, told their mothers or fathers about the harassment, as they were worried that their parents would ban them from going online. (*Girl Scout Research Institute 2002*)
- 86 % of the girls polled said they could chat online without their parents' knowledge, 57% could read their parents e-mail, and 54% could conduct a cyber relationship. (*Girl Scout Research Institute 2002*)
- 81% of parents and 79% of teens state that teenagers aren't careful enough when giving out information about themselves online. 65% of parents and 64% of teens say that teenagers do things online that they wouldn't want their parents to know about. (*Pew Internet and American Life, "Protecting Teens Online," March 17, 2005.*)
- 27% of teens said that they have known a friend to actually meet someone whom they only knew online (*Teen Research Unlimited, "Topline Findings from Omnibuss Research," October 2005.*)
- Online teens admit that they frequently communicate with people they have never met: 54% have Instant Messaged a stranger, 50% have emailed a stranger, and 45% have participated in a chat room discussion with a stranger (*Teen Research Unlimited, "Topline Findings from Omnibuss Research," October 2005.*)
- 28% of teens said they use code words on a daily basis to hide their online conversations from their parents – example: "PIR" means "parent in room" (*Teen Research Unlimited, "Topline Findings from Omnibuss Research," October 2005.*)