

Internet Safety in Georgia

The Internet Safety Program of Georgia is a joint project of the following:

Georgia CyberCrime Task Force

Georgia Bureau of Investigation

Georgia ICAC Task Force

GEMA

Georgia Department of Education

InfraGard

Georgia Security Professionals

Speakers Group

ISSA

IISFA

HTCIA



Two out of every four teens own a cell phone and three out of every four use a cell phone, often one borrowed regularly from a parent. ([Cahners In-Stat Group](#))



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Internet Crimes
Against Children
(ICAC)

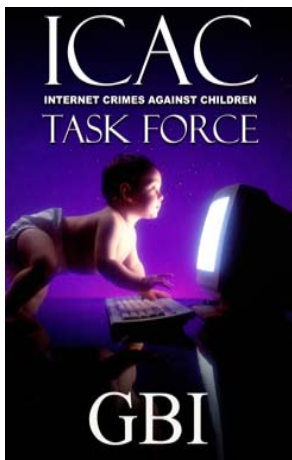
Internet Safety Risks



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ICAC Task Force*

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Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Facts



Georgia's ICAC Task Force is one of 43 regional task force agencies in the United States and is funded by the Office Of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

These types of crimes are investigated in the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Financial Investigations Unit as an assisting agency to local law enforcement. Since 2001, the number of Internet crimes against children that have been investigated in our unit has increased by 538%. These investigations include child pornography, child enticement, and child molestation. In addition, during an investigation of peer to peer trading of child pornography in Georgia, it was distressing to find that 90% of those trading this material were under the age of 21 years, with the majority between the ages of 14 and 18 years. The ICAC Task Force has been notified by local schools of incidences of students hacking into servers, sending harassing emails, and of employees possessing child pornography on their work computers.

It is imperative that our children are taught how to be safe online as well as how to be good cybercitizens. Although many schools have electronic security in place, with the advent of cell phones and other internet capable devices, the students are able to bypass the best electronic security system that a school may have. Education that would prepare them to make wise choices when using technology is key in the process of building a generation of technology users that are productive and safe.

Internet crimes against children is a growing problem in our culture, and our state's children are not immune from this danger. These types of crimes are investigated in the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Financial Investigations Unit as an assisting agency to local law enforcement. Since 2001, the number of Internet crimes against children that have been investigated in our unit has increased by 538%. These investigations include child pornography, child enticement, and child molestation. In addition, during an investigation of peer to peer trading of child pornography in Georgia, it was distressing to find that 90% of those trading this material were under the age of 21 years, with the majority between the ages of 14 and 18 years. The ICAC Task Force has been notified by local schools of incidences of students hacking into servers, sending harassing emails, and of employees possessing child pornography on their work computers.

First Encounter

Research showed that the majority of first encounters between victims and offenders occur in chat rooms

- 76% of initial Internet meetings happened in chat rooms
- 10% happened through Instant Messages
- 5% through e-mail
- 5% other ways such as phone chat lines, websites

Most offenders take time to develop their relationship. 64% of offenders communicated online with victims for more than a month. In 50% of cases, investigators found that victims believed they were in love with or felt close friendships with offenders.

Internet Sex Crimes Against Minors: The Response of Law Enforcement, Wolak, Mitchell, Finkelhor

Risks

Child abductions

825,600 kids per year are reported missing to the FBI's computer program...that is 3 every 2 minutes. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), 2 out of 5 missing children ages 15-17 are abducted due to Internet activity. <http://www.WebWiseKids.net>

Harassment and Bullying

One in four children are bullied or threatened via their mobile phone or online. www.nch.org.uk Incidents of bullying using new technology may be more intimidating because of the anonymous nature and because of the global access to online materials. Incidents of constant threatening cell phone text messages, photos taken without permission and often in embarrassing situations, photos posted online, websites with nasty or personal details, and messages posted about the victim are examples of cyberbullying our children face.



Approximately 45 million children and teens have access to the Internet. By the year 2005 the growth of children and teens will exceed 77 million .

Confusion of reality and fantasy

Children are increasingly exposed to virtual interactions and the use of multiple identities on the Internet (*Barr 2001; Subrahmanyam et al. 2000*), and may engage in role playing games.

Identity theft/ information abuse

An alarming 75% of children share personal information about themselves willingly over the Internet in exchange for goods and services. <http://www.cyberangels.org/homefront/facts.html>

Child Pornography

From 1996 to 2002 there was a nearly 2000% increase in the number of online child pornography and exploitation cases investigated by the FBI (*People Magazine 9-15-03*). In a 6 week period, approximately 20 new children are abused. The most significant change observed during 2003 was the huge increase in new images, with an estimate of 60,000 unidentified individual child victims. They appear to be younger in age, the abuse is more serious and the venue for the abuse appears, in general, to be of a domestic nature. www.barbados.org.uk

Exposure to Inappropriate Material

Children are exposed to hate propaganda, information about drug and weaponry manufacture (*Carlsson 1999, 2001; Feather 1999; Villani 2001*), pictures of suicide and accident victims, suicide advice (*Carr 2001*), offensive music, and over 260 million pages classified as pornography. <http://www.n2h2.com>

Illegal Activity


Children are not only subjected to illegal attempts to harm them, but may also engage in illegal activities, such as hacking, harassment, and trading of illegal materials including child pornography or pirated music and games.

Commercial exploitation of children

Online advertising is being directed at children, children are able to purchase prescription drugs, alcohol and illegal drugs online.

Cheating

Technology is being used to cheat on tests and assignments by using photographs taken with cell phones, text messaging, copy and paste functions and memory stored in the device.

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