



# Safety of Children on the Internet

# Seattle Police Department ICAC



- ▶ Lead agency for Washington State
- ▶ 1 Captain, 1 Sergeant, 5 Detectives, 2 Forensic Detectives/Analysts, K9 ESD, 1 Strategic Advisor, 1 dually sworn Prosecutor
- ▶ A part of the federal task force, federal jurisdiction
- ▶ Work cases based on offender location
  - ▶ (~140 partner agencies across the state)



# The Internet



It has so much to offer but it comes with an equal amount of risk

It can be a quick source of reliable and useful information

It can be a gateway to a whole world of drug exposure and sexual exploitation for our kids

It is a gateway to predators who want to sexually exploit and abuse our kids

It is so misunderstood by our kids and too often they are exposing not only themselves to victimization but many others as well....



# The Problem



- Not only images but “hands-on” victims
- Scope of child exploitation is global
- Evolving technology, encryption, and anonymity are obstacles to investigations
- Kids today are growing up with technology; whereas we had to learn it at a later age



## The Problem



- NCMEC reports that stats show the following breakdown in CP production:
- 15% Self-Produced (Self-Exploitation)
- 19% Online Enticement
- 16% Parent/Guardian
- 26% Family/Friend
- When you place these percentages in light of the numbers, we are at epidemic proportions


# 5 Ways Social Media Is Changing Your Brain



# What do you look for?



Don't recognize something? Ask the kids!



# Not everyone uses social media the same



Binge watching or  
searching



Staying in touch with  
friends and family



Gaming both  
downloaded and online



Creativity, such as the  
arts, crafting, coding



Education learning  
more and even  
attending virtual classes



Discovery to learn more  
about technology



# Unintended Consequences



Football Coach – sees athletes with photos



Parent finds photo on child's device



School Administer forwards photos to email



# Cyberbullying



# U.S. Suicide Rates

Deaths Per 1,000,000 Girls



Social Media Available on Mobile

Girls Age 15-19

Girls Age 10-14

+70%

Compared to Average 2001-2010

+151%

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



# Signs to Watch For ...

- Becomes sad, angry or frustrated and seems to worry a lot
- Frequent headaches and stomachaches
- Gets tense and stressed out when receiving email, text or im's
- Becomes obsessed with or has a complete, sudden disinterest in devices
- Avoids talking about their change in behavior toward device
- Shows changes in eating and/or sleeping habits
- Grades decline
- Withdraws from family or friends



# Conversations with youth



- What is inappropriate?
- What are the consequences?
- What about pictures and text messages?
- Respect yourself and others
- Online Identity Theft
- Personal responsibility
- Online reputation
- Online Relationships
- Make the decision of what to share now, before the situation occurs
- Just like in real life, you don't have to like everyone, just don't post mean or hateful things

# Parents....

**Kids shouldn't have social media until an agreed-upon age.**

**Child Online Privacy Act** – No child under 13 shall provide personal information or have an online presence

**No devices in the bedroom after a fixed time.**

With phones and social media designed to keep us on our screens, having a phone or laptop in the bedroom can lead to sleep loss. Remove the temptation altogether by getting devices out of the bedroom after a certain time

**Work out a schedule for when kids can or should use technology and social media platforms.**

This can allow kids to realize that having fun does not always involve a screen and social media isn't everything, and not everything revolves around what happens online.



# Resources for Parents & Schools



- [NetSmartz.org](http://NetSmartz.org)
- [CyberTipline.org](http://CyberTipline.org)
- Internet/Cell Phone Providers
- [CommonSenseMedia.org](http://CommonSenseMedia.org)
- Local suicide prevention hotline
- Local sexual assault helpline





Thank YOU!



Questions?



Strategic Advisor Kelly Crouch

Seattle Police Department  
WA ICAC Task Force

610 Fifth Avenue

Seattle, WA 98104-4986

(206) 386-9140 (desk)

[Kelly.Crouch@seattle.gov](mailto:Kelly.Crouch@seattle.gov)