

# Primary Prevention with Digital Natives

Who We Are:



Mo Lewis

Nina Carmichael

Alex Colley

Antwon Mitchell

Monica Schell



[www.100conversations.org](http://www.100conversations.org)

[www.kcsarc.org](http://www.kcsarc.org)

# Objectives:

- become more familiar with research dealing with youth and technology
- examine some common statistics and beliefs regarding youth safety online
- learn various methods of incorporating digital safety into primary prevention efforts

# what are digital natives?

While I groan whenever the buzzword "digital native" is jockeyed about, I also know that there is salience to this term. It is not a term that demarcates a generation, but a state of experience. The term is referencing those who understand that the world is networked, that cultures exist beyond geographical coordinates, and that mediating technologies allow cultures to flourish in new ways. Digital natives are not invested in "life on the screen" or "going virtual" but on using technology as an artifact that allows them to negotiate culture. In other words, a "digital native" understands that there is no such thing as "going online" but rather, what is important is the way in which people move between geographically-organized interactions and network-organized interactions. To them, it's all about the networks, even if those networks have coherent geographical boundaries.

-danah boyd

[www.danah.org/papers/talks/4S2007.html](http://www.danah.org/papers/talks/4S2007.html)

# what are digital natives?

While I groan whenever the buzzword "digital native" is jockeyed about, I also know that there is salience to this term. It is not a term that demarcates a generation, but a state of experience. The term is referencing those who understand that **the world is networked**, that **cultures exist beyond geographical coordinates**, and that **mediating technologies allow cultures to flourish in new ways**. Digital natives are not invested in "life on the screen" or "going virtual" but on using technology as an artifact that allows them to negotiate culture. In other words, a "digital native" understands that **there is no such thing as "going online" but rather, what is important is the way in which people move between geographically-organized interactions and network-organized interactions**. To them, it's all about the networks, even if those networks have coherent geographical boundaries.

-danah boyd

[www.danah.org/papers/talks/4S2007.html](http://www.danah.org/papers/talks/4S2007.html)

# poll: where are you from?

Sexual Assault agency

Domestic Violence agency

SA/DV agency

Educational system

Other

# poll: do you discuss digital safety in your work?

yes, frequently

yes, sometimes

yes, rarely

no, but I want to

no, it's not applicable

# our work

- 3 year project
- aimed at digital safety and primary prevention among LGBTQ and other “at risk” youth
- components:
  - P.O.P! (power of prevention) youth leadership group
  - 100 Conversations ([www.100conversations.org](http://www.100conversations.org)), an online toolkit to promote accurate and culturally relevant information about digital safety and provide conversation prompts for parents and supportive adults to have with young people in their lives



# our values

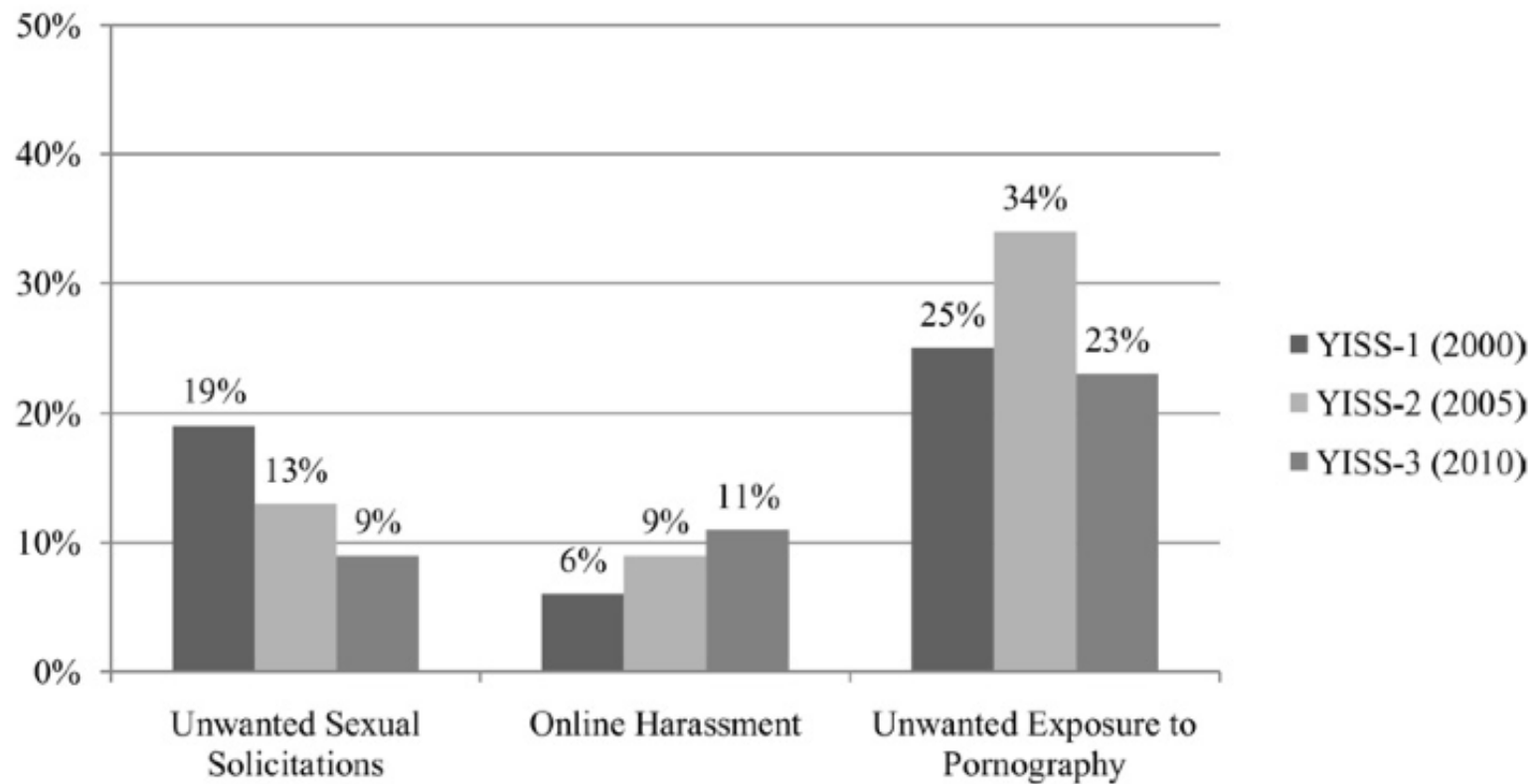
- focus on primary prevention
- youth empowerment model
- based on research
- anti “scare tactics”

# Youth Internet Safety Surveys

- University of New Hampshire, funded by National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)
- Three surveys – 2000, 2005, 2010
- Interviewed 1500 youth (between age 10-17) per survey, and their parent(s)
- Measured:
  - internet use
  - sexual solicitation
  - harassment

# YISS Findings

*L.M. Jones et al. / Journal of Adolescent Health xx (2011) xxx*



# Common statistics and beliefs regarding youth safety online

Less accurate:

**“1 in 7 youth are sexually solicited online.”**

# Common statistics and beliefs regarding youth safety online

In YISS, “sexual solicitations” include things like: questions about bra size, rude comments from peers, or personal questions about sex

- *2/3 of youth were not bothered or frightened*
- *almost all youth handled the solicitations effectively (blocking/ignoring, leaving the site, telling them to stop)*

More accurate:

**“1 in 25 youth received aggressive sexual solicitations which included attempts to have offline contact.”**

# Common statistics and beliefs regarding youth safety online

Less accurate:

**“You never know who is on the other side of the screen – it could be a 40-year-old pedophile pretending he’s 14.”**

# Common statistics and beliefs regarding youth safety online

YISS shows that “online predators”

- do not impersonate young people – age difference is more statutory in nature
- appeal to teens’ interest in relationships, sex, adventure
- do not “trick” youth into meeting – most young people know they are meeting an adult for sexual purposes
- target those who are willing to talk about sex online

Wolak J, Finkelhor D, Mitchell K, et al. Online "predators" and their victims: Myths, realities and implications for prevention and treatment. *American Psychologist* 2008;63 (in press).

More accurate:

**“It is a crime for adults to be interacting with young people online about sex or wanting to meet for sex. It might seem exciting, but it’s illegal.”**

[http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/internet-crimes/safety\\_ed.html](http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/internet-crimes/safety_ed.html)

# Common statistics and beliefs regarding youth safety online

Less accurate:

**“Don’t share personal information online.”**



# Common statistics and beliefs regarding youth safety online

YISS shows that simply “sharing information” is not, by itself, dangerous. What is more dangerous is a willingness to talk about sex online and interacting with many unknown people online.

More accurate:

**“Be careful with what kinds of things you share online, and who you share with, especially things that are overly personal or about sex.”**

# prevention focus

- build on youth resiliency and knowledge
- focus on developmental aspects – interest in love, relationships, sex, dating
- be clear about laws – what could hurt them
- be clear about power differences between young people and adults

David Finkelhor, Ph.D

[http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/internet-crimes/safety\\_ed.html](http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/internet-crimes/safety_ed.html)

<http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/researchers/finkelhor-david.html>

## P.O.P! meet with David Finkelhor



## our premise

*Do not keep digital safety separate from prevention – incorporate it into the primary prevention work you are doing*

- young people do not separate “real life” from “digital life”
- digital safety messages can be more effective if they are spread throughout prevention efforts

# poll: what are topics you cover in prevention work? (check all that apply)

- consent
- bystander intervention
- gender stereotypes/harmful gender roles
- healthy relationships
- none of these

# Ways to Incorporate Digital Safety: Consent

- Work on incorporating consent into social media use
- Create group norms for getting consent for taking photos and posting photos online
- Consent for sharing photos, statuses, information posted online
- Consent for “tagging” others online
- Knowledge about your state’s age of consent laws and how it applies to online interaction

# Ways to Incorporate Digital Safety: Bystander Intervention

- Discuss how to interrupt bullying online
- Challenging racist or sexist comments online
- Options for what to do when harmful behavior is happening online
- Ways to show support for someone online
- How to create a healthy and inclusive environment online

# Ways to Incorporate Digital Safety: Gender Stereotypes

- Challenge media messages about gender online
- Discuss how online behavior differs based on gender expectations
- Discuss how sex is discussed online – “slut shaming” v. boasting about sexual conquests
- Ways that gender stereotypes are different online – positive aspects? Negative aspects?



# Ways to Incorporate Digital Safety: Healthy Relationships

- Discuss what a healthy relationship looks like online
- What are healthy online boundaries for people in a relationship?
- What is healthy texting?
- Discuss how you can respect relationship boundaries when it comes to social media and phone use

Questions?



Contact:

Mo Lewis, Prevention Services Manager

[mlewis@kcsarc.org](mailto:mlewis@kcsarc.org)

We did not cover sexting in this webinar, but if you are looking for information:

“The True Prevalence of ‘Sexting’”

[http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/Sexting%20Fact%20Sheet%204\\_29\\_11.pdf](http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/Sexting%20Fact%20Sheet%204_29_11.pdf)

- includes findings and limitations for many recent studies about youth sexting