Indiana State Police Internet Crimes against Children (ICAC) Youth Educators Program

Past high profile instances of youth being victimized by cyber bullies, and sexual predators demanded a proactive program be developed and implemented in an effort to inoculate youth against such criminal acts.

There are 61 Internet Crimes against Children Task Force (ICAC) in the United States. However, the Indiana ICAC Task Force is the first to have full-time Youth Educators. Each Youth Educator works within the structure of the Indiana ICAC Task Force with presentations specifically designed to prevent victimization in the areas of:

- Online child sexual solicitation
- Online child extortion, also known as sextortion
- Online production of child pornography
- Online bullying, also known as cyberbullying
- Online radicalization mitigation to reduce the recruitment of youth by terrorists and criminal extremists.

The Indiana ICAC Youth Educators provides age appropriate Cyber Safety presentations to help reach our youth before they become victims, to provide help to those who have already been victimized and mitigate the potential for acts of school violence committed due to online victimization.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Websites:

WWW.Cybertipline.com

WWW.Netsmartz.org

WWW.Missingkids.com

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:

https://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

1-800-273-8255

Want to learn more about the Indiana State Police ICAC Youth Educator Program email your questions to?

icacyouthed@isp.IN.gov

Child Sexual Exploitation
SEXTORTION

INDIANA STATE POLICE

YOUTH EDUCATOR

ICAC Internet Crimes Against Children **Task Force**

MOTIVES FOR SEXTORTION

Based on the information known by the CyberTipline reporter, sextortion appears to have occurred with one of three primary objectives (In 12% of reports, the objective could not be determined):

- To acquire additional, and often increasingly more explicit, sexual content (photos/videos) of the child (76%)
- To obtain money from the child (6%)
- To have sex with the child (6%)

Sextortion is digital blackmail

It typically occurs when a child is coerced into sharing a nude photograph or video of themselves on the internet (sexting). Many times, the child has never personally met the extorter.

Who are the child victims?

- 78% of the incidents involved female children and 12% involved male children (In 10% of incidents, child gender could not be determined);
- The average age at the time of the incident was approximately 15 years old, despite a wider age-range for female children (8-17 years old) compared to male children (11-17 years old); and
- In 22% of the CyberTipLine reports, the reporter mentioned being suspicious of, or knowing that, multiple children were targeted by the same offender.

How are they finding victims?

Sextortion most commonly occurs via phone/tablet messaging apps, social networking sites, and during video chats.

- In 41% of reports, it was suspected or known that multiple online platforms were involved in facilitating communication between the offender and child.
- Commonly, the offender would approach the child on a social networking site and then attempt to move the communication to anonymous messaging apps or video chats where he/she would obtain sexually explicit content from the child.

Why do the victims send more?

Many different manipulation tactics are used by offenders, often in combination, to acquire sexual content (images and/or videos) of the child, obtain money from the child or have sex with the child. The most common tactics are:

- Threatening to post previously acquired sexual content online (71%); and
- Threatening to post previously acquired sexual content online specifically for family and friends to see (29%).

Some other tactics include:

- Reciprocation, whereby the offender coerced the child into providing sexual content by promising reciprocity
- Developing a bond with the child through flattery and praise
- Secretly recording sexually explicit videos of the child during video chats

- Using multiple online identities against a given child, such as being the person blackmailing for sexual content as well as pretending to be a supportive friend to the child or a sympathetic victim of the same offender
- Pretending to be younger and/or a female
- Threatening to physically hurt or sexually assault the child or their family
- Threatening to create sexual content of the child using digital-editing tools
- Accessing the child's account without authorization and stealing sexual content of the child
- Creating a fake profile as the child and posting sexual content of the child
- Pretending to be a modeling agent to obtain sexual content of the child
- Threatening to post sexually explicit conversations with the child online

What are the effects of Sextortion?

In 18% of CyberTipline sextortion reports, it was indicated that the child victim had experienced a negative outcome as the result of the victimization, such as hopelessness, fear, anxiety and depression. In 28% of these reports with negative outcomes (5% of all sextortion reports), the child had engaged in self-harm, had been suicidal, or had attempted suicide as a result of the victimization.

There was no difference between male and female children in negative outcomes of sextortion, or how commonly they were indicated in the CyberTipline reports.