

77.5%

of victims report the most common form: posting of mean or hurtful comments.

The Grooming & Exploitation Funnel

1. Initial Contact & Grooming

Predators use "minor-friendly" apps like social media and gaming sites. They build trust by feigning shared interests, offering gifts, and creating a sense of secrecy.



2. Coercion & Content Generation

Once trust is established, the predator coerces the child into sending explicit images or videos, often called "self-generated" CSAM.



3. Sextortion & Blackmail

With explicit material in hand, the predator blackmails the victim, demanding more content, money, or sexual acts under threat of public exposure. Teenage boys are increasingly the targets of financial sextortion.



4. Severe Psychological Trauma

This cycle leads to devastating consequences, including anxiety, depression, and suicide. Since 2021, over three dozen teenage boys have died by suicide as a result of sextortion.

The Escalation of Harm: From Bullying to Exploitation

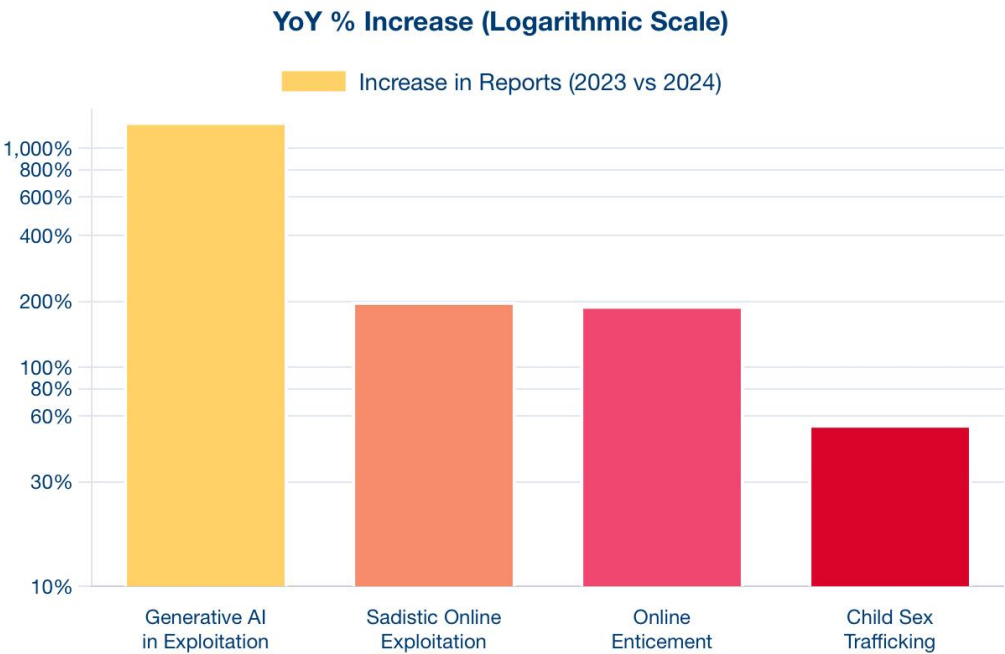
Online harassment is often just the starting point. Predators use digital platforms to groom and exploit children, leading to severe crimes like sextortion and the creation of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM). This dangerous progression demands urgent attention.

Alarming Trends in Online Crimes

Data from NCMEC's CyberTipline reveals exponential growth in sophisticated online crimes against children. The rapid adoption of new technologies by perpetrators presents a significant challenge for law enforcement and safety advocates.

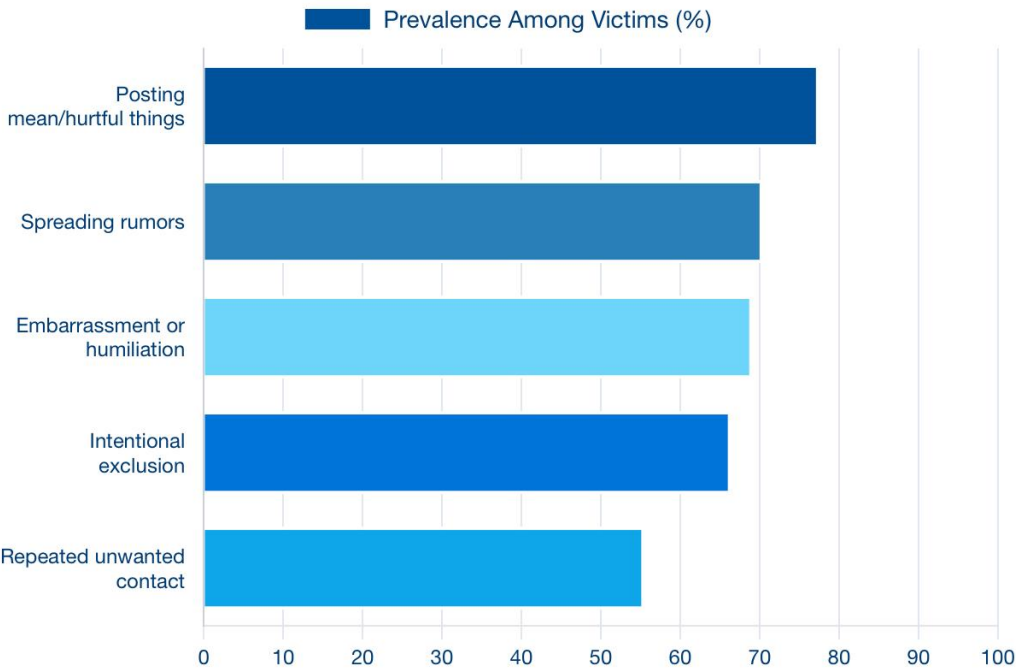
NCMEC CyberTipline Report Increases (2023 vs. 2024)

This chart highlights the staggering year-over-year increase in reports for specific, high-harm crime types, demonstrating how quickly the threat landscape is evolving.



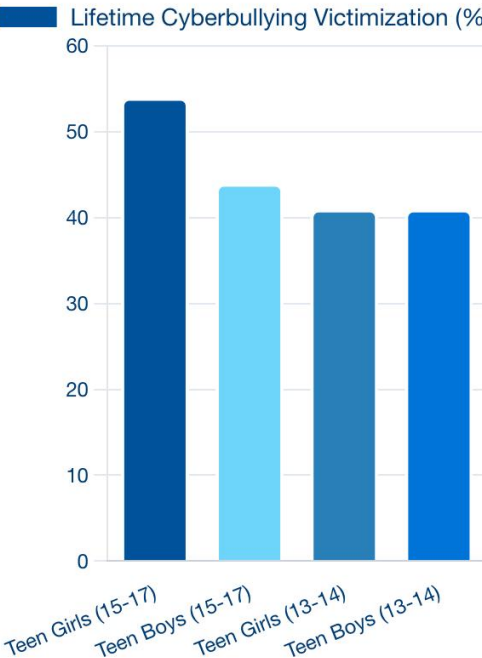
Common Cyberbullying Tactics

Cyberbullying manifests in various forms, from public humiliation to direct threats. This chart shows the prevalence of different tactics reported by victims.



Victimization by Gender & Age

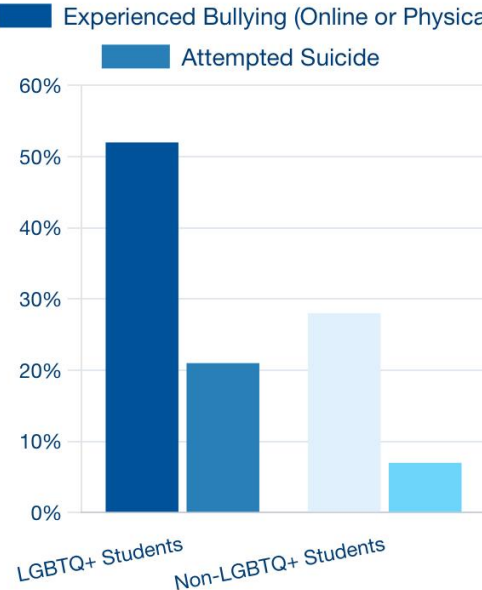
Older teen girls face the highest rates of online harassment. This chart compares the lifetime victimization rates between genders across different teen age groups.



Disproportionate Impact on LGBTQ+ Youth

LGBTQ+ students are significantly more likely to be bullied online or physically. The mental health impact is severe, with this group facing a much higher risk of suicide attempts.

Bullying & Suicide Attempt Rates (%)



The Digital Dangers Facing Our Children

An analysis of cyberbullying, online exploitation, and the escalating threats to youth in the United States.

The Scope of Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is a pervasive issue affecting a significant portion of U.S. youth. Unlike traditional bullying, its digital nature makes it persistent and harder for adults to detect. The data reveals a widespread problem across various age groups.

46%

of teens (13-17) have experienced at least one form of cyberbullying.

59%

of teen girls report being cyberbullied, a higher rate than boys (50%).