

Internet-Initiated Sex Crimes

- Internet-based predators used less deception to befriend their online victims than experts had thought. Only 5% of the predators told their victims that they were in the same age group as the victims. Most offenders told the victims that they were older males seeking sexual relations.
Wolak, J., Finkelhor, D., and Mitchell, K., "Internet-Initiated Sex Crimes Against Minors: Implications for Prevention Based on Findings from a National Study," Journal of Adolescent Health, Vol. 35 (No. 5), pp. 11–20, 2004.
- Approximately 1 in 7 (13%) youth Internet users received unwanted sexual solicitations.
Wolak, J., K. Mitchell, and D. Finkelhor, "Online Victimization of Youth: Five Years Later," National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, 2006.
- In a National Study conducted between October 2001 and July 2002, researchers found:
 - Victims:
 - 76% of victims were between 13 and 15 years old, 1% were 12 years old, and there were no victims younger than 12.
 - 75% of victims were girls and 25% of victims were boys.
 - Offenders:
 - 99% of offenders were male and 1% of offenders were female.
 - 23% of offenders were 18 to 25 years old, 41% of offenders were 26 to 39 years old, and 35% of offenders were 40 or more years old.
 - 80% of offenders brought up sexual topics with victim online, 20% engaged in cybersex with victim, 18% sent sexual pictures to the victim, 10% sent adult pornography to victim, and 9% sent child pornography to victim.
 - 74% met the victim face-to-face and 93% of the face-to-face meetings entailed illegal sexual contact between offenders and victims.
Wolak, J., Finkelhor, D., and Mitchell, K., "Internet-Initiated Sex Crimes Against Minors: Implications for Prevention Based on Findings from a National Study," Journal of Adolescent Health, Vol. 35 (No. 5), pp. 11–20, 2004.
- Repeatedly receiving unwanted telephone calls, voice, or text messages was the most commonly experienced stalking tactic for both female and male victims of stalking (78.8% for women and 75.9% for men).
Black, M.C., Basile, K.C., Breiding, M.J., Smith, S.G., Walters, M.L., Merrick, M.T., Chen, J., & Stevens, M.R., "The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report," Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2011.
- The Maryland Senate passed a bill in 2014 that would outlaw "rape by proxy". Rape by proxy is when someone posts personal identifying information about another person without their consent to invite, encourage, or solicit another to commit a sexual assault against them. This bill came after a Prince George's County woman had more than 50 strangers visit her home during a two-week period. The uninvited men claimed that the woman had invited them to have violent sex with her in an online ad. It was the victim's ex-husband who had posted the ads, posing as the victim herself.
Frosh, B., "Solicitations of Proxy Rapists," Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Frontline, Winter 2014 Issue, 2014.