CYBERSAFE

Survey 2015

Introduction

Children today are native digital citizens, and CyberSpace is increasingly becoming a more important part of their lives. It is imperative that we as parents, teachers and caregivers understand the realms of the online world and how children generally fare in this largely unchartered space. Only then can we design the proper interventions to make the internet a safer place for our children.

This CyberSafe survey is an attempt to understand how children live online. We asked 1,268 children aged 7-12 and 1,143 children aged 13-16 how they use the internet. All are school children and come from the areas of the National Capital Region, the municipality of Silang in Cavite, the municipality of Zamboanga Sibugay in Zamboanga, Bayawan City and Bacolod City in the Negros province, Cebu City and the Municipality of Tuy in Batangas. Most of the results presented are age group desegregated, while some cover both groups. Throughout the conduct of the survey, facilitated via CyberSafe sessions conducted by a number of "Break the Silence" partners, we made sure to inform children on how to get help, if they are facing an online problem.

The survey presented is meant to address a gap in data concerning Child Online Protection (COP) in the Philippines and serves as an update to a similar research Stairway and the Break the Silence Network conducted in 2013. Although we can not claim that the results are fully representative of the whole age groups interviewed, they certainly offer important insights we can learn from.

Stairway would like to thank UNICEF Philippines for supporting this study. We would also like to thank the following "Break the Silence" partners for helping us administer the survey: Food for the Hungry Philippines, the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Offices of Silang, Cavite and Zamboanga Sibugay, Katalingbanong Pagtagad Alang sa Kauswagan (KAPASKI), Bakyas Community Development Center, Inc. (BCDCI), SPO2 Bill Felisan of Cebu City and the Lipa Archdiocese Social Action Center (LASAC). Special thanks to the Education Department of NCA-CEOP UK for providing valuable guidance in crafting the survey questionnaires.

General Internet usage

9 out of 10 children are using the Internet

90%

Top means for accessing the net are

40%

4 out of 10:
through home connections

7-16 years

3 out of 10: through Mobile data
2 out of 10: through Internet Cafés
1 out of 10: through multiple connections

Where do children get money for net access?

50%

5 out of 10
use their parents allowances

7-16 years

3 out of 10: do not need it (use net connection at home)
2 out of 10: get it from their food allowance

Primary uses of the internet for children

40%

4 out of 10:
research (school assignments)

7-16 years

3 out of 10: Social Media
2 out of 10: video streaming, downloading and other activities
1 out of 10: online gaming

The top 3 choices for Social Media sites for children

80%

8 out of 10:
Facebook

7-16 years

1 out of 10: Twitter
1 out of 10: Instagram

Cyber Privacy

Privacy status of children's Social Media Account

4 out of 10
had public accounts   **7-12 years**

40%

2 out of 10 had private accounts
4 out of 10 did not know

5 out of 10
had public accounts   **13-16 years**

50%

3 out of 10 had private accounts
2 out of 10 did not know

"Friending" online strangers

8 out of 10
did not add online strangers   **7-12 years**

80%

1 out of 10 added online strangers
1 out of 10 added online strangers with mutual friends

5 out of 10
did not add online strangers   **13-16 years**

50%

3 out of 10 added online strangers
2 out of 10 added online strangers with mutual friends

Chatting with online strangers

80% 8 out of 10
do not chat with online strangers **7-12 years**

2 out of 10 chat with online strangers

60% 6 out of 10
do not chat with online strangers **13-16 years**

4 out of 10 chat with online strangers

Has anyone asked them to do an eyeball?
(to meet up with an online stranger)
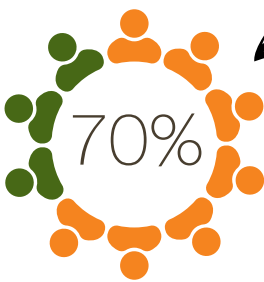
90% 9 out of 10
no one asked **7-12 years**

1 out of 10 have been asked

80% 8 out of 10
no one asked **13-16 years**

2 out of 10 have been asked

70% 7 out of 10 do not chat with online strangers

Posting personal information online

60%

6 out of 10
did not post personal information online

7-16 years

3 out of 10 post personal information online
1 out of 10 post selective information only

Using check-in function on Facebook

70%

7 out of 10
did not use this feature

7-12 years

2 out of 10 sometimes try it
1 out of 10 used this feature

60%

6 out of 10
did not use this feature

13-16 years

3 out of 10 sometimes try it
1 out of 10 used this feature

3 out of 10 post personal
information online

30%

Online Privacy, why is this a concern?

The internet presents a world of expanded opportunity for children. However, like the offline world it presents certain risks if used in an unsafe manner. We have to recognize that the internet (social media in particular) is used by children as a "socialization tool". They use it to connect with their real world friends and to meet new online friends.

As a socialization tool, social media offer near limitless possibilities for communication and interaction. However, we should be aware of certain online behaviors that might put children at risk.

Some children prefer to have "public" social media profiles. A public profile enables online strangers (anybody not in their friends list) to see what they post online. Having a public profile increases the risk for a child to be contacted by online child sex offenders, the information they post being harvested or being subjected to unwanted online interaction, like through comments in their photos or posts.

Aside from the privacy level of profiles themselves, some children also have different views on what they consider as "private information". Information that they would generally not reveal to strangers offline, would be freely given via their profiles in the online world.

Another risky behavior is adding up online strangers as friends. Children might have a "private" social media profile, but if they add online strangers in their social media friends list, the purpose of having a "private" social media profile is defeated.

Thus, we should talk to children about the following aspects:
- Children should learn the privacy settings of their preferred Social Media Sites. There are ways wherein they can restrict who see what they post online.
- Talk to them about the concept of "private" digital information. The information they will not be comfortable to give out offline, should also be the kept private online.
- Children should be wary regarding who they add online. Online friends might not really be who they say they are.
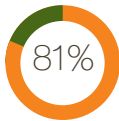
Online relationships, image and content sharing

Online boyfriend/girlfriend

79%

79%
had none

7-12 years

5% had one
16% said it was a secret

81%

81%
had none

13-16 years

7% had one
12% said it was a secret

Do you know any child who has been asked to strip naked online?

90%

9 out of 10
did not know anyone

7-16 years

1 out of 10 knew someone

Do you know any child who takes nude selfies?

90%

9 out of 10
did not know anyone

7-16 years

1 out of 10 knew someone

Do you know any child who strips naked in front of the webcam in exchange for money or load?

90%

9 out of 10
did not know anyone

7-16 years

1 out of 10 knew someone

Have you seen pornographic links (advertisements, videos, photos, posts, etc.) via Social Media?

70%

7 out of 10:
Yes

7-12 years

3 out of 10: No

50%

5 out of 10:
Yes

13-16 years

5 out of 10: No

60%

6 out of 10 have seen pornographic links via Social Media

Online relationships and sexting

Since the internet is another "life sphere" for children, teenagers in particular, online romantic relationships are common. This is not necessarily bad, but the medium and whom they engage with online definitely poses a risk.

The concept of an online boyfriend/girlfriend is someone, whom they have a romantic relationship with through the internet, but they have not met the person in real life yet. Children should realize that they will not be 100% sure if this online boyfriend/girlfriend is who they say they are.

As with any romantic relationship, teenagers might also be exploring their sexuality through these online romantic relationships. Sexting or sex chats – the act of sending sexualized messages or images through the internet – is one of the primary methods of exploring sexuality online. Unfortunately, once a child takes a nude image of him/herself using a digital device like a mobile phone, he/she is already exposing himself/herself to great risk. By the time the child sends or uploads the image over the internet, even though it might be intended for personal purposes, he/she basically loses control of it.

It might get shared through:
- Private messaging
- Social Media pages
- Social Media groups
- Websites
- Downloaded
- Shared offline

All of the above might have immediate and long term consequences for the child. Thus, we must teach children online protective behavior and encourage them never to create such images, as they put themselves into high risk of uncontrolled exposure and exploitation.

Cyberbullying

Do children know of any other children who have been a victim of cyberbullying?

30%
3 out of 10:
Yes   **7-12 years**

7 out of 10: No

40%
4 out of 10:
Yes   **13-16 years**

6 out of 10: No

Cyberbullying usually happens

60%
6 out of 10:
through social media   **7-12 years**

3 out of 10: through chatting
1 out of 10: through texting

80%
8 out of 10:
through social media   **13-16 years**

2 out of 10: through chatting

Ways of cyberbullying

30%

3 out of 10:
through threats

7-12 years

2 out of 10: through photo editing
1 out of 10: through exposing one's secret conversation
1 out of 10: humiliation
3 out of 10: creation of poser account, exclusion and other

30%

3 out of 10:
through photo editing

13-16 years

2 out of 10: through humiliation
2 out of 10: through threats
1 out of 10: through exposing one's secret conversation
2 out of 10: creation of poser account, exclusion and other

Who are the usual cyberbullies?

30%

3 out of 10:
classmates

7-12 years

2 out of 10: school mates
2 out of 10: people who obviously use fake profiles
1 out of 10: unknown people who do not seem to be using fake profiles
1 out of 10: children from other schools
1 out of 10: unspecified

20%

2 out of 10:
classmates

13-16 years

2 out of 10: school mates
2 out of 10: people who obviously use fake profiles
1 out of 10: unknown people who do not seem to be using fake profiles
2 out of 10: children from other schools
1 out of 10: unspecified

Understanding Cyberbullying

While there is not exactly any harmless form for bullying, cyberbullying is particularly repugnant and complicated, as the medium magnifies the problem in almost every aspect. It becomes an invasion of the home space, since it is not bound by any location or time of the day. The offending posts or images will be on the internet 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Bystanders – people who witness the bullying – can range from a few people to hundreds or even thousands, if the cyberbullying is done via public posts. Cyberbullies can remain anonymous, as it is easy to create fake profiles in Social Media.

We must make children understand that cyberbullying should not be ignored, and that it is never the victim's fault. We have to teach how to proactively prevent cyberbullying by practicing online privacy, by learning how to report offending posts and how to block cyberbullies.

We should also know that cyberbullying is a school concern. In the Philippines, schools are mandated to address the prevention and management of Cyberbullying via DepEd order no. 40, series of 2012 (the DepEd child protection policy) and via the anti-bullying law (RA 10627).

20% 2 out of 10 cyberbullies obviously use fake profiles

Selfies

Where do children often post their selfies?

90%

9 out of 10:
Facebook

7-16 years

1 out of 10: Instagram or Twitter

Do they know of any other children who take "sexy" selfies?

30%

3 out of 10:
Yes

7-12 years

7 out of 10: No

40%

4 out of 10:
Yes

13-16 years

6 out of 10: No

Has anyone sent them a sexy selfie before?

90%

9 out of 10:
No

7-12 years

1 out of 10: Yes

80%

8 out of 10:
No

13-16 years

2 out of 10: Yes

Getting help

If children have an online problem, who would be the first person they would go to for help?

60%
60%
would go to their parents

7-12 years

14% would go to their friends
6% would go to their siblings
5% would go their teachers
15% would not tell anyone about it

34%
34%
would go to their parents

13-16 years

33% would go to their friends
10% would go to their siblings
1% would go their teachers
22% would not tell anyone about it

Do their parents know about their online activities?

70%
7 out of 10:
parents know

7-12 years

2 out of 10: parents know a little bit
1 out of 10: parents have no idea at all

50%
5 out of 10:
parents know

13-16 years

4 out of 10: parents know a little bit
1 out of 10: parents have no idea at all

15

Are children comfortable to let their parents know about their online activities?

50%

5 out of 10:
ok that their parents know

7-12 years

2 out of 10: NOT ok that their parents know
3 out of 10: ok, but not for all things

40%

4 out of 10:
ok that their parents know

13-16 years

1 out of 10: NOT ok that their parents know
5 out of 10: ok, but not for all things

Does anyone teach children about risks and dangers they might face online?

60%

6 out of 10:
NO ONE has talked to them about it

7-12 years

4 out of 10: someone has talked to them about it

40%

4 out of 10:
NO ONE has talked to them about it

13-16 years

6 out of 10: someone has talked to them about it

NO ONE

has talked to them about
risks and dangers online

50%

Whom should we go to for help regarding an online child protection concern?

If our concern is with regard to Cyberbullying, the school is the primary institution tasked to manage these cases under Philippine law.

However, if the online child protection concern is already criminal in nature (e.g. leaked nude images, online threats, online grooming, child pornography, etc.), then we should consider contacting the agencies below:

PNP Anti CyberCrime website: http://pnpacg.ph/main/
The Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography: www.iacacp.gov.ph
Stairway Foundation, Inc.: report@stairwayfoundation.org

CALL OR TEXT:

Philippine National Police (PNP) Patrol 117

Philippine National Police - Anti Cybercrime Group (PNP-ACG) - Project Angelnet:
Tel. No. (02) 723-0401, local 5354 Fax. No. (02) 414-1560

National Bureau of Investigation (NBI): (02) 523-8231 to 38 local 3454 to 3455

Department of Justice - Office of Cybercrime (DOJ-OCC): Tel. No. (02) 526-2747

Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD):
Text DSWD <space> URL Adress and send to 2327
Text blockchildporn <space> URL Adress and send to 0918-9122813

As duty bearers, we should be actively engaging with children in order to find out the issues that affect their lives, both offline and online.
Children should see us as trusted adults, so they will consult us, if they have any online concerns.

break the silence

Stop child sexual abuse and exploitation

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