Welcome To The Gemini IBD® Cybersecurity Infographics Newsletter

Stop Cyerbullying!

Shift ⇧

The Effects of Cyberbullying and Social Media
By Ravi Das

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CYBERBULLYING AND SOCIAL MEDIA NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the latest edition of the Gemini IBD® Cybersecurity Newsletter. In our last newsletter, we examined in great detail the effects of Cyberbullying on kids. This is no doubt a huge problem today, and parents will have a hard time dealing with it, as children are getting quicker and wider access to technology, such as iPads and Smartphones. This is where parents will have to draw the line and enforce strict roles and perhaps even punishment of some sort.

While the above-mentioned technology is a prime vehicle, there is still yet another medium which is a prime source for Cyberbullying: Social Media. While the major platforms are still present, such as Facebook, X (once called Twitter), Linked In, Instagram, Pinterest, etc., there are many others that are coming up. Thus, the Cyberbullier of today now has even more avenues in which to inflict their damage.

This newsletter will focus on this in much greater detail. Tips will also be given as to how parents can deal with this other kind of carnage, as well as links to extra resources will be provided as well. Here we go!!!

The Top Social Media Sites for Cyberbullying:

Apart from the major Social Media sites in the last section, the following are other Social Media sites in which Cyberbullying has occurred in, and still continues to this day:

1) "Amino:

   An app that lets users join online communities, chats, forums, and groups on a variety of topics based on their interests.

2) BeReal:

   An app where users can post a photo once a day documenting their environment. These images can only be seen by the user's friends.

3) Discord:

   A voice-over-IP (VOIP) app that allows users to communicate using video messages, voice calls, texts, and media. This app is commonly used among video gamers.

4) Reddit:

   A site that stores social news, rates and evaluates web content, and discussion threads Snapchat: A photo messaging app that allows for sharing pictures and short videos that are intended to be erased shortly after delivery.

5) Telegram:

   Messaging app that allows users to share photos, videos, and files; make calls, and delete texts or chats from recipient's phone using a timer.

6) TikTok:

   An app that allows users to create and share their own videos where they lip-synch, sing, dance, or just talk. Twitch: A live stream platform for gamers to watch live stream content, chat, and connect

7) WeChat:

   An app that allows users to chat with friends, and to search for people nearby and around the globe.

8) WhatsApp:

   A private messaging app that allows users to text, and send photos, videos, and location information to their contacts.

9) YouTube:

   A platform that allows users to share videos and receive comments, subscriptions, and follows from other users.

10) YUBO:

   An app referred to as the "Tinder for teens" that allows users to swipe right or left to accept or reject the profiles of other users.

11) Askfm:

   A social networking site that allows users to ask other people questions, often anonymously.

12) Calculator%:

   A "vault" or secret app that appears harmless, but hides photos, videos, files, and browser history.

13) Chatroulette:

   There are over 20 different chat roulette sites that allow users to instantly connect via webcam and video chat. Sites typically pair the users randomly and instantly.

14) Discord:

A voice-over-IP (VOIP) app that allows users to video chat with others, private message, and join, create, or participate in public and private chat rooms. This app is often used by players to chat with each other while playing videogames.

15) Houseparty:

A group video chat and social networking app that allows up to eight people to video chat at once in a "room."

16) Kik:

Messaging app that allows users of all ages to contact others anonymously.

17) Line:

A messaging app that allows users to make free phone calls, leave voice messages, and text. Users can delete texts or chats from recipient's phone using a timer.

18) LiveMe:

A tool to broadcast live-streaming videos and watch other users' videos.

19) MeetMe:

A dating app that connects users to others based on geographic proximity.

20) Omegle:

An app that pairs users with strangers in anonymous one-on-one chat sessions.

21) Roblox:

An online game platform with free multiplayer games created by users. Roblox allows users to communicate with each other and join groups.

22) Sarahah:

An anonymous messaging app that allows users to send anonymous messages to people they may know.

23) Snapchat:

A photo messaging app that allows for sharing pictures and short videos that are intended to be erased shortly after delivery.

24) <u>Telegram</u>:

Messaging app that allows users to share photos, videos, and files; make calls, and delete texts or chats from recipient's phone using a timer.

25) <u>Tumblr</u>:

A social networking site that allows posting of short blogs and media.

26) <u>Twitch</u>:

A live stream platform for gamers to watch live stream content, chat, and connect.

27) <u>VSCO</u>:

A photography app to capture and edit photos.

28) <u>WeChat</u>:

An app that allows users to chat with friends, and to search for people nearby and around the globe.

29) <u>Whisper</u>: An anonymous social media site that allows users to post and share photo and video messages.

30) <u>YUBO (formerly YELLOW)</u>:

An app referred to as the "Tinder for teens" that allows users to swipe right or left to accept or reject the profiles of other users.

31) <u>YouNow</u>:

Broadcast, Chat, and Watch Live Video: An app that lets teens broadcast themselves live. They can see and respond to live chat or view other broadcasters and chat with them."

(SOURCES: 1 and 2).

Here are the top 5 Social Media sites that sees the most amount of Cyberbullying:

1) Facebook @75%

2) Instagram @24%

3) X (Twitter) @24%

4) Snapchat @15%
5) TikTok @9%

(SOURCE: 1).

The Effects of Social Media/Cyberbullying On Kids

The effects of Cyberbullying on Social Media platforms, and the effects can be quite devastating, for anybody at any age. But the most prone and susceptible to this are the kinds of America (and for that matter, around the world). Although the exact effect will vary from person to person, the following are some of the general characteristics of it:

1) Exclusion:

    This is when the individual feels left out of anything. For example, if a kid is being bullied on the playground, other kids may isolate him or her, thus leaving them in a feeling of total isolation. This can also happen in the Cyber world, especially on Social Media sites. A child could become a member of a forum or group on Facebook, and just abruptly, they could be left out of any future conversations. So whether it is physical or virtual, the main intent is to cause pain to the innocent victim by making them feel like they have no friends, or that nobody wants to be near them.

2) Harassment:

    This is probably the most basic form of Cyberbullying on Social Media. Traditionally, it can take the following forms:

    ➢ Threatening actions
    ➢ Sarcastic instant messages
    ➢ Spreading forums on online threads
    ➢ The spreading of false information (such as we are seeing in the political world today)

    The behaviors of harassment by the perpetrator include the following:

➢ "Offensive name-calling (32%)
➢ Spreading of false rumors about them (22%)
➢ Receiving explicit images they didn't ask for (17%)
➢ Constantly being asked where they are, what they're doing, or who they're with by someone other than a parent/guardian (15%)
➢ Physical threats (10%)
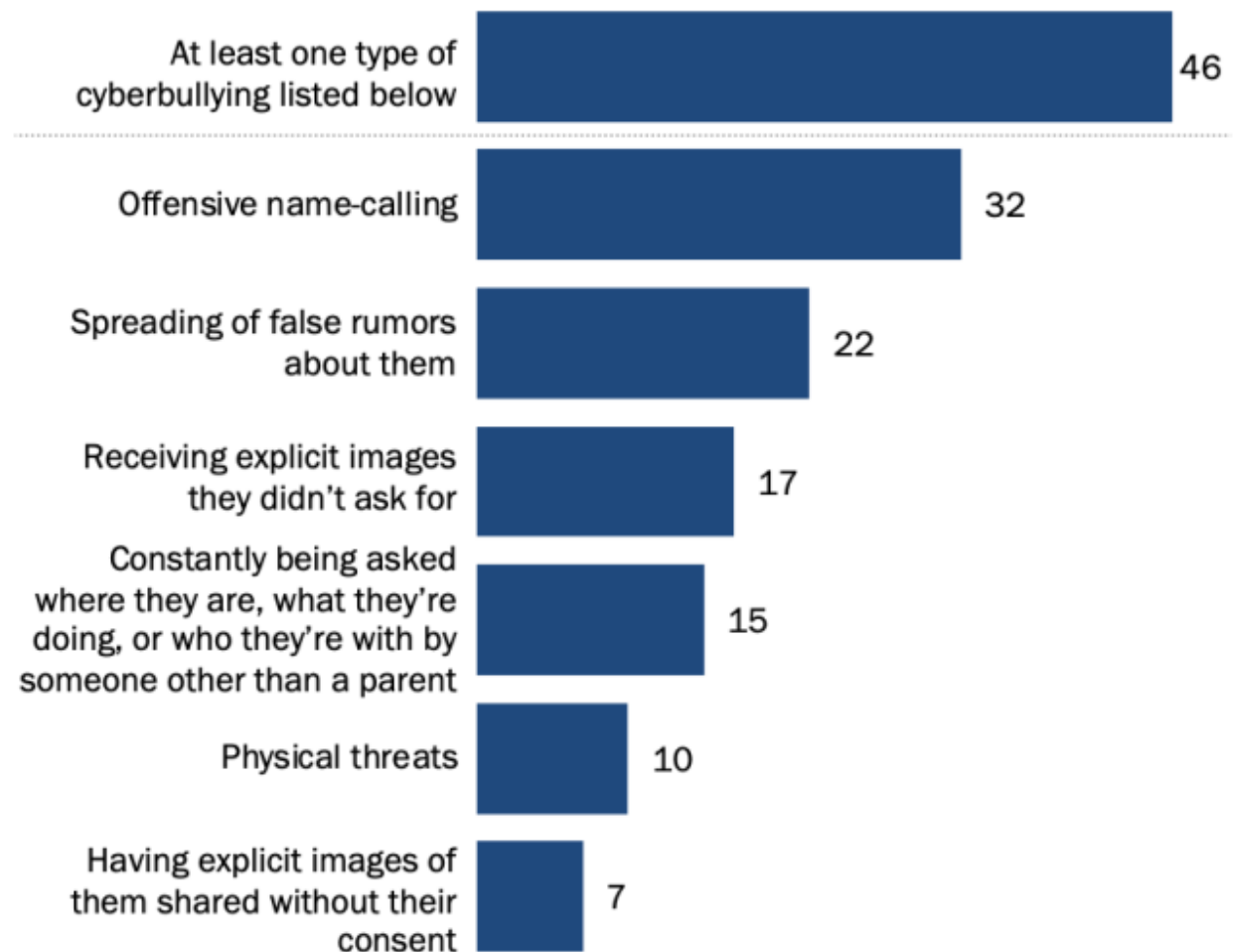➢ Having explicit images of them shared without their consent (7%)"

(SOURCE: 4).

The percentage numbers reflect the total number of respondents in a recent study conducted by Pew Research, which can be seen at the link below:

https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2022/12/15/teens-and-cyberbullying-2022/

Here some illustrations to further exemplify the findings from their study:

Nearly half of teens have ever experienced cyberbullying, with offensive name-calling being the type most commonly reported

% of U.S. teens who say they have ever experienced ___ when online or on their cellphone

Category	%
At least one type of cyberbullying listed below	46
Offensive name-calling	32
Spreading of false rumors about them	22
Receiving explicit images they didn't ask for	17
Constantly being asked where they are, what they're doing, or who they're with by someone other than a parent	15
Physical threats	10
Having explicit images of them shared without their consent	7

Note: Teens are those ages 13 to 17. Those who did not give an answer are not shown.
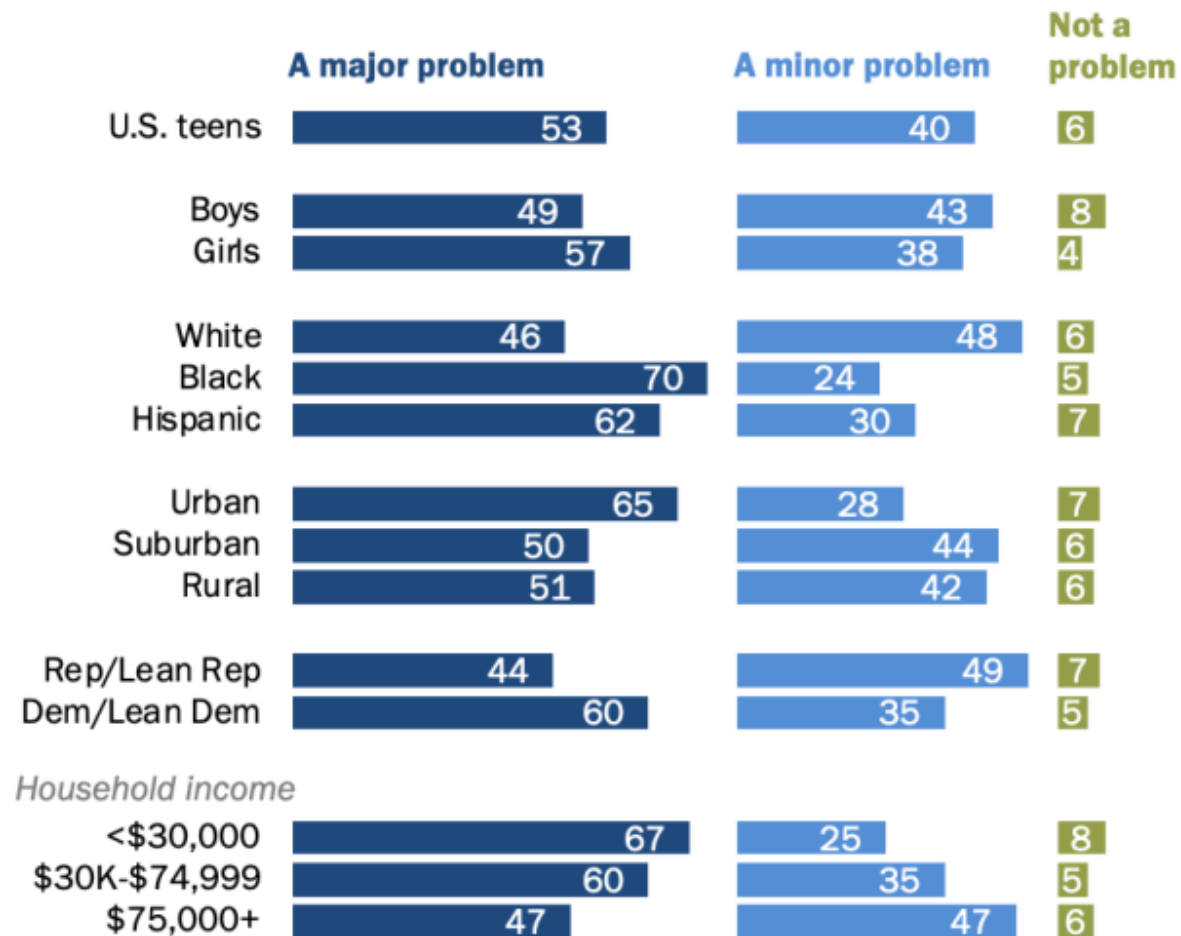Source: Survey conducted April 14-May 4, 2022.
"Teens and Cyberbullying 2022"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

(SOURCE: 5).

Black or Hispanic teens are far more likely than White teens to say online harassment and bullying are a major problem for people their age

% of U.S. teens who say online harassment and online bullying are ___ for people their age

	A major problem	A minor problem	Not a problem
U.S. teens	53	40	6
Boys	49	43	8
Girls	57	38	4
White	46	48	6
Black	70	24	5
Hispanic	62	30	7
Urban	65	28	7
Suburban	50	44	6
Rural	51	42	6
Rep/Lean Rep	44	49	7
Dem/Lean Dem	60	35	5
Household income			
<$30,000	67	25	8
$30K-$74,999	60	35	5
$75,000+	47	47	6

Note: Teens are those ages 13 to 17. White and Black teens include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanic teens are of any race. Those who did not give an answer are not shown.
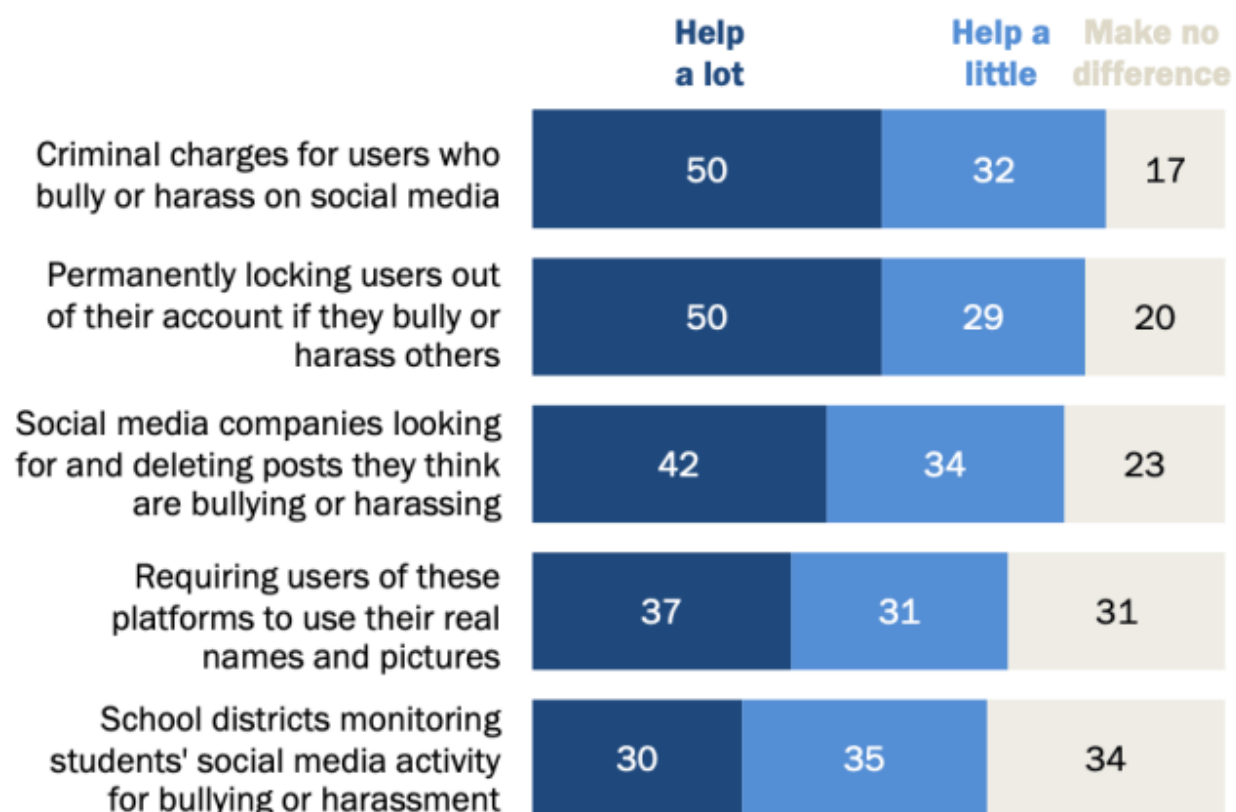Source: Survey conducted April 14-May 4, 2022.
"Teens and Cyberbullying 2022"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

(SOURCE: 5).

Half of teens think banning users who bully or criminal charges against them would help a lot in reducing the cyberbullying teens may face on social media

% of U.S. teens who say each of the following would ___ in reducing the amount of harassment and bullying that teens may face on social media

	Help a lot	Help a little	Make no difference
Criminal charges for users who bully or harass on social media	50	32	17
Permanently locking users out of their account if they bully or harass others	50	29	20
Social media companies looking for and deleting posts they think are bullying or harassing	42	34	23
Requiring users of these platforms to use their real names and pictures	37	31	31
School districts monitoring students' social media activity for bullying or harassment	30	35	34

Note: Teens are those ages 13 to 17. Those who did not give an answer are not shown.
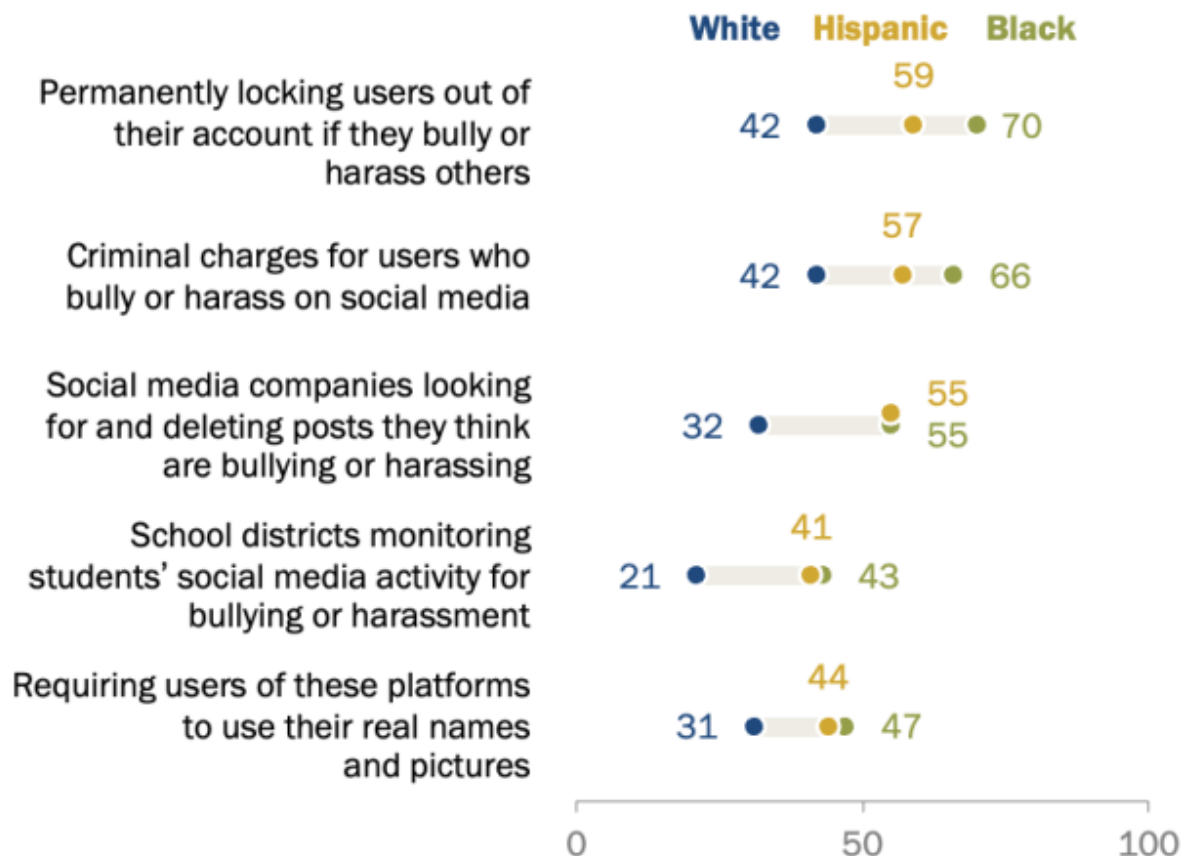Source: Survey conducted April 14-May 4, 2022.
"Teens and Cyberbullying 2022"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

(SOURCE: 5).

Black or Hispanic teens more optimistic than White teens about the effectiveness of five potential solutions to curb online abuse

*% of U.S. teens who say each of the following would **help a lot** in reducing the amount of harassment and bullying that teens may face on these sites*

Note: Teens are those ages 13 to 17. White and Black teens include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanic teens are of any race. Those who did not give an answer or who gave other responses are not shown.
Source: Survey conducted April 14-May 4, 2022.
"Teens and Cyberbullying 2022"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

(SOURCE: 5).

3) <u>Doxing</u>:

This is also referred to as "Outing". This happens when a Cyberbullier shares the private and confidential information about their victim, without their previous consent.

4) <u>Trolling</u>:

This is when comments are posted on the Cyberbullying platforms of Social Media, which are once again false, or completely off the topic of what is being discussed. In a legal sense, this is not really considered to be Cyberbullying, but if the main intention is to cause direct harm, then it is considered to be an act of Cyberbullying.

(SOURCE: 3).

5) <u>Depression</u>:

This is probably the most traditional, very negative side effect of Cyberbullying. The classic symptoms of this include the following:

➢ "Behavioral problems
➢ Changes in eating habits
➢ Feelings of sadness or hopelessness
➢ Lack of interest in fun activities
➢ Low energy levels or general fatigue
➢ Irritability and mood swings"

(SOURCE: 4).

Cyberbullying/Social Media Stats:

So far in this newsletter, and especially in the last section, we have reviewed a number of key statistics about the effects of Cyberbullying. But in order to paint a true picture of it, and to further drive home the sheer gravity of it, we devote this entire section to examining even more detailed statistics. So, here we go:

➢ "Teenage cyberbullying statistics show that among middle and high school students in the U.S., 37% have experienced online harassment.

➢ Moreover, 90% of teens agree that cyberbullying is a problem that has a negative impact on their peers, while 63% believe it is a major problem.

➢ 41% of American adults reveal that they have experienced cyberbullying and 67% think that it is a major problem in society.

➢ 7% of young people, ages 18-29, have been targets of online harassment—41% have experienced severe cyberbullying.

- 9% of adults ages 30-49 have experienced online harassment.

- 22% of people ages 50 and above reported that they have been targets of hostile behaviors online. When it comes to gender, 44% of adult men experienced cyberbullying compared to 37% of women.

- 21% of young women, ages 18-29, reported experiencing online sexual harassment compared to 9% of men.

- 60% of teen girls and 59% of teen boys have been targets of online harassment, which tells us that both genders in this demographic equally experience cyberbullying.

- 42% of teens reported that they have been called by offensive names online or on text messages.

- 32% said they have been the targets of false rumors.

- 25% received explicit images they didn't ask for.

- 27% of respondents have been called offensive names.

- 22% have experienced online shaming.

- 8% have received threats pertaining to physical harm.

- Another 8% experienced online stalking.

- 7% said they were continuously harassed.

- 6% reported they have been sexually harassed.

- 77% of survey respondents said at least some of the cyberbullying they experienced happened on Facebook.

- Twitter was the second platform where most online harassment took place at 27%.

- Video-sharing platform, YouTube, and social networking service, Instagram, followed with 18% and 17%, respectively.

- Adults ages 18-49 are more likely to be cyberbullied on social media and online gaming, while older adults ages 50 and older experience more harassment via email."

(SOURCE: 6).

Source: Nixon, 2014

Research.com

(SOURCE: 6).

The Effects of AI/Social Media on Cyberbullying

In today's society, we now live in a world where Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) are making the news headlines on an almost daily basis. While these concepts have been around since the 19050s, its eruption of recent has been brought primarily by ChatGPT, and the GPT4 algorithms that drive it. AI and ML can be used for the both good and bad. For example, when it comes to Cybersecurity, these tools can be used to predict future threat variants in a matter of minutes where it would take a human being days to figure this out.

But on the flip side, AI and ML can also be used by the Cyberattacker to launch even more nefarious kinds of malicious payloads, especially when it comes to Ransomware. They can now make them much more covert in nature, which makes it even that much harder to detect in time.

These premises also holds true for Cyberbullying on the various Social Media platforms. First, we take a look at how AI and ML can be used for this purpose, and then we will look at the flip side as to how they can also be used to help detect Cyberbullying in time before it inflicts grave damage on the intended victims.

How AI and ML Can Be Used To Cyberbully

Both AI and ML tools have made it easier for Trolls to seek out vulnerable targets and create convincing fake content, of all types. One example of this are Deepfakes. With this, trolls can create fake videos or images of real people that are difficult to detect at first glance. As a result, this makes it very easy to easy to spread false information or damage someone's reputation. Chatbots, although they have been around for quite some time, are also being used to flood social media platforms with abusive messages, and also spread false news.

To make matters even worse, Generative AI can also be used to create real messages to the victim in order to lure them into a trap. This can really happen anywhere, but this is being prevalently used on Social Media platforms as well. At this point, it is important to define a few terms:

1) <u>What is a troll</u>?

   A troll can be defined as follows:

   "A Troll is a term for a person, usually anonymous, who deliberately starts an argument or posts inflammatory or aggressive comments with the aim of provoking either an individual or a group into reacting."

   (SOURCE: 7).

2) <u>What is a deepfake</u>?

   A deepfake can be defined as follows:

   "Deepfake AI is a type of artificial intelligence used to create convincing images, audio and video hoaxes. The term describes both the technology and the resulting bogus content, and is a portmanteau of deep learning and fake."

   (SOURCE: 8).

3) <u>What is Generative AI</u>?

   Generative AI can be defines as follows:

   "Generative AI refers to deep-learning models that can generate high-quality text, images, and other content based on the data they were trained on."

   (SOURCE: 9).

   Now, the trend is to use Generative AI to create even more sophisticated deepfakes, that are almost impossible to tell if they are real or not. A prime example of this is during the Presidential Election cycle. Using Generative AI, a very convincing can be created of a legitimate candidate, asking for donations for their campaign. But of course, any money sent will be sent to an offshore account, which is very difficult to trace.

   An example of Cyberbullying using AI and ML recently happened to Uber. The business was a victim of a massive cyberbullying campaign launched by a group of taxi drivers. AI and ML powered tools were used to create fake accounts and flood Social Media platforms with both negative reviews and false information about Uber. As a result, it had a significant impact on Uber's reputation, bottom line, and stock price.

Just very recently, a couple of computer scientists in early 2023 created an AI avatar of a 19-year-old female named "Claudia". They made use of the Stable Diffusion algorithms just to see if they could fool some unsuspecting users on Reddit. Although they were discovered shortly, they still got a nice chunk of money by catfishing others into paying for additional AI-generated nudes of Claudia.

Now you can imagine the depth and breadth of how Generative AI can generate text, images, and video given the descriptions and examples just reviewed. Even worse, it can be instructed to build very realistic social media profiles with believable biographical information and data other details to convince users of its legitimacy.

More detailed examples of how AI and ML have been used for Cyberbullying can be seen at the link below:

https://cyberbullying.org/generative-ai-as-a-vector-for-harassment-and-harm

However, AI and ML can also be used to help filter out for Cyberbullying on Social Media and stop it in its tracks before it causes any level of significant harm. There are numerous research studies that are being conducted on this, and some of them are as follows:

`*Using AI/ML in conjunction with sophisticated statistical based algorithms:

http://cyberresources.solutions/Cyberbullying/AI_ML_Cyberbullying_Study_1.pdf

*How ML models cane be specifically created to mitigate Cyberbullying on Social Media:

http://cyberresources.solutions/Cyberbullying/AI_ML_Cyberbullying_Study_2.pdf

http://cyberresources.solutions/Cyberbullying/AI_ML_Cyberbullying_Study_3.pdf

*A comprehensive review of the AL and ML tools and algorithms created to track Cyberbullying on Social Media:

http://cyberresources.solutions/Cyberbullying/AI_ML_Cyberbullying_Study_4.pdf

What Parents Can Do

Our last newsletter looked at various ways in which kids can be protected from the effects of Cyberbullying. This can now be extended to Social Media as well, so here we go:

1) Be on the same Social Media apps as your children. Be especially aware of "fake" accounts – as reviewed in the last section. Talk to your children and remind them that they do not need "honest" feedback from strangers.

2) Instruct your children not to avoid gossip both offline and online, even if they are using an alias.

3) Make sure that you abide by the age guidelines as set forth by the major Social Media platforms:
   - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Tumblr, Kik, and Snapchat: 13 years old
   - LinkedIn: 14 years old

> ➢ WhatsApp: 16 years old
> ➢ Vine and Tinder: 17 years old.

(SOURCE: 10).

4) Saving the evidence of the cyberbullying to present to teachers and law enforcement officials.

5) Get the help you need: Feel free to talk to a parent, teacher, counselor, or other trusted adult.

6) Report threats of harm and inappropriate sexual messages to the police.

7) Always prevent communication from the cyberbully. This means blocking their email address and cell phone number, unfriend or unfollow them, and delete them from your social media contacts.

8) Reevaluate your internet and social media habits: Spending a lot of time online, particularly on social media, can help you feel connected to friends and family around the world and find new outlets for self-expression. But it is important to do this in moderation. It is also equally important to meet and be with people face to face.

9) Spend time doing things you enjoy. For example, when you spend time pursuing hobbies and interests that bring you joy, cyberbullying can have far less significance and meaning in your life.

10) Be with others who share the same values and interests. Many people are cyberbullied for not fitting in with the mainstream. Whether it's your race, sexual orientation, beliefs, or gender that makes you a target, it's important to remember that you're not alone, and that there are other people with your same backgrounds that you can hang out with.

11) If you are the actual victim of Cyberbullying, keep these pointers in mind:

> ➢ Don't blame yourself: No matter what a cyberbully does or says about you, it's important to remember that it's not your fault. It is important to keep in mind that the cyberbully is the person with the problem, not you.
> ➢ Don't beat yourself up: Don't ever make the incident worse by reading the message over and over and punishing yourself further. Remember, there are many wonderful things about you as a person, so be proud of who you are.
> ➢ Keep a healthy relationship with food: Body shaming by Cyberbullies can affect how you think   about food and you're eating habits. Weight-based insults might even lead you to consider unhealthy diet restrictions. The moral of the story is don't allow a cyberbully to have that kind of power over you. Especially if you are overweight.

12) Now, if you are the parent of a Cyberbullier, follow these tips:

➢ Learn in detail about your child's friends and social life: At times, a child or teen's friends can encourage their bullying behavior online. So talk to them about their friends, and what they are learning from them.

➢ Educate your kids about cyberbullying: Very often, Cyberbulliers don't see the consequences of their actions. Try to foster your child's empathy by encouraging them to look at their behavior from the standpoint of the victim. Also, remind them that cyberbullying can have serious legal consequences.

➢ Set strict boundaries with technology: Let your kids know that you'll be watching their online behavior. Also, let them know that you will take away their devices in they are caught Cyberbullying.

➢ Establish consistent rules of behavior. By doing this, you will show your kids that they're worthy of your time and attention.

➢ Get the school involved: Share your concerns with your teen's teacher, principal or counsellor and seek their point of view.

➢ Seek professional help: Sometimes taking them to a therapist, counselor or psychologist could just reveal the underlying emotional issues that are causing your kid to act out.

(SOURCE: 11).

The following illustrations further exemplify the effects of Cyberbullying on Social Media to children:

Cyberbullying on social media is considered a much bigger threat than in-person bullying

24 — Can happen around the clock, 24/7, making it difficult for victim to ignore.

Post — Tends to be more permanent; what is posted online often remains there.

Difficult to pinpoint, as typicallt not in places easily seen or heard by teachers and parents.

(SOURCE: 12).

Percentage of students bullied on the different social media platforms:
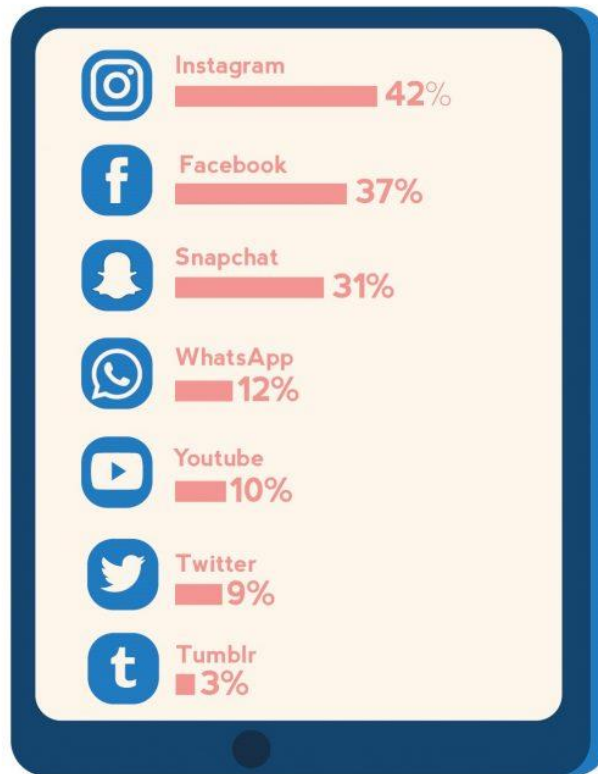
Instagram **42%**

Facebook **37%**

Snapchat **31%**

WhatsApp **12%**

Youtube **10%**

Twitter **9%**

Tumblr **3%**

(SOURCE: 12).

The Most Common Forms of Cyberbullying on Social Media

| Flaming | Impersonation | Exclusion | Harassment |
| Cyberstalking | Outing/Trickery | Denigration/Gossip | Cyber threats |

(SOURCE: 12).

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(SOURCE: 12).

Here is a breakdown of these terms:

1) Flaming:

   This is when online bullying is offensive, hateful or derogatory in nature.

2) Impersonation:

   This happens when Cyberbulliers open fake accounts impersonating the victim. This is where deepfakes are used.

3) Exclusion:

   This typically involves ignoring them in an online conversation.

4) Harassment:

   This refers to the use of direct messages (DMs), instant messages (IMs), etc. to repeatedly send threatening and/or abusive messages.

5) Cyberstalking:

   This occurs when the Cyberbullier uses technology to keep tabs on their victims and then repeatedly threaten, intimidate or harasses them.

6) Outing/Trickery:

   This happens when the Cyberbullier convinces the victim to reveal embarrassing information or secrets.

7) Denigration/Gossip:

   This involves posting rumors about the victim online usually with the intention of ruining their reputation.

8) Cyber threats:

This occurs when the Cyberbullier threatens actual, physical violence towards the victim.

The Effects of Social Media Addiction

It has been known that high levels of "Social Media Addiction" can actually lead to much higher levels of Cyberbullying on the major platforms, such as Facebook, X, Instagram, etc. One such study was conducted at the University of Georgia, and the principal researcher conducting this study was Amanda Giordano, an associate professor in the UGA Mary Frances Early College of Education.

The study surveyed adolescents ranging in age from 13-19 years old. Of the 428 people surveyed, 214 (50%) were female, 210 (49.1%) were male, and four (0.9%) as other.

Astonishingly enough, the participants in the study reported spending over seven hours online per day, and the maximum number of hours spent online in one day was over 12 hours. Here are some of the quotes from the study:

"There are some people who engage in cyberbullying online because of the anonymity and the fact that there's no retaliation".

"You have these adolescents who are still in the midst of cognitive development, but we're giving them technology that has a worldwide audience and then expecting them to make good choices."

"The perpetrator doesn't get a chance to see how damaging their bullying is and to learn from their mistakes and do something different".

"Social media addiction is when people crave it when they're not on it, and continue their social media use despite negative consequences".

"It's feeding into that addictive behavior, and they may be using cyberbullying as a way to get likes, shares, comments and retweets".

"That's the common thread you see in behavioral addictions—people start relying on a rewarding behavior as a way to make them feel better when they're experiencing negative emotions. And so, I think the social media addiction piece is really interesting to show that there's another factor at play here in addition to the number of hours spent online".

"I think when clinicians see cyberbullying happen, they really need to explore the individual's relationship with social media and to address social media addiction, not just the cyberbullying".

"We need schools and school counselors to do this preventative work early and educate students about the risk of addiction with some of these rewarding behaviors like gaming and social media".

"We need to teach them the warning signs of behavioral addiction, what to do if they start to feel like they're losing control over their behaviors and help them find other ways to manage their emotions, rather than turning to these behaviors. There are a lot of programs already moving in this direction, and I think that's amazing and there needs to be more of it".

(SOURCE: 13).

More details on this study can be seen at the link below:

https://neurosciencenews.com/cyberbullying-social-media-addiction-18152/

Actual Teenage Suicide Because of Social Media/Cyberbullying

Earlier in this newsletter, we reviewed the effects that Cyberbullying via Social Media can have. Although the focus was on children, these same effects can happen to anybody and anytime, in any geographic location in the world. But the worst effect of all is suicide. In fact, more teens and younger children are now resorting as Cyberbullying becomes much more pervasive in today's digital world.

At the link below, you can access a horrible story as to how one teen actually did this:

https://news.yahoo.com/nj-teens-suicide-highlights-dangers-of-social-media-bullying-203150706.html

Apparently, the victim, Adriana Kuch of Bayville, N.J was bullied at her school. The perpetrators of this took a video of this with their smartphones, and uploaded that to all of the major Social Media platforms. It went viral, and took a horrible toll on Adriana. She killed herself on February 3rd, of this year. Luckily, the perpetrators are all facing criminal charges.

Here are some quotes from the article that you should pay special attention to:

"It can be argued that cyberbullying is a more threatening form of aggression than traditional bullying, as cyberbullies can remain anonymous, causing bullying to occur around the clock".

"Although cyberbullying and traditional bullying share the common feature of being behaviors that communicate disrespect and domination, the expression of dominance in cyberbullying is emotional and psychological, without limits".

"But it's a message you can reread and easily return to at any moment. The message can be forwarded, you can respond, and now you're in a pattern of repetition and revictimization as you relive the experience".

"It's feeding into that addictive behavior, and they may be using cyberbullying as a way to get likes, shares, comments and retweets".

"That's the common thread you see in behavioral addictions — people start relying on a rewarding behavior as a way to make them feel better when they're experiencing negative emotions".

The bottom line here: It is the Social Media addiction that is fueling the huge growth in Cyberbullying. People want to feel good about something, and they also want to be a part of something bigger, in which they get a lot of attention. That's where the Likes and Reposts have a horrible impact in this regard.

(SOURCE: 14).

Holding Social Media Companies Responsible for Cyberbullying

In the end, jut about everybody can agree upon the fact that there has to be accountability for Cyberbullying on Social Media. Here are the different sides of it:

➢ The teachers: The thought here is that they need to monitor their students more closely, and educate them about Social Media Addiction and Cyberbullying.

➢ The parents: Of course, the proverbial "buck" has to stop here. Parents of children and early teenagers need to be responsible for varying the actions their kids take on Social Media. Along with the teachers, they need to educate their children about the impacts of this all. Further, they need to employ the use of monitoring tools to make sure that their kids stay on par with the rules that have been set forth by them.

➢ The Cyberbullier: There are now thoughts that they should be held criminally accountable for the actions they have taken to negatively impact the lives of others. This is especially true in the cases where Cyberbullying and Social Media have triggered a case of suicide by the victim.

➢ The Victim: How much blame should they get? Should they have known better? These are obviously very tough questions to answer.

Now, there is yet another party involved in all of this: The Social Media companies that own their platforms. The overall American public is now of the view that they should be hide liable, both from a criminal and civil standpoints. But here come the issues involved with the Right to Free Speech, Privacy Rights, etc. Obviously as you can tell, this can become a very complex topic to be handled by a court of law.

To view a detailed study on the pro's and con's of this stance, click on the link below:

https://mypaperhub.com/blog-post.php?id_blog_post=171

Conclusions

This illustration below tells it all. Cyberbullying is going to only get worse as technology and Social Media platforms further evolve. It's time now to take a proactive stance to protect our most precious asset – the children of the world.

Taking Action Against Cyberbullying

Educators

Let students know cyberbullying isn't tolerated and that they can turn to you for help.

Create an environment of mutual tolerance and respect in the classroom.

Incorporate social media and internet safety classes into your teaching plan.

Talk to your students about cyberbullying, its negative impact and why it's wrong.

Know what laws your state has enacted against cyberbullying and the legal recourse to cyberbullying at schools.

Get parents involved.

Parents

There are 3 main steps you can take to protect your children from cyberbullying:

Have conversations with your child or teen on what cyberbullying is, it's negative impact, and what they can do when they witness/experience it.

Lay down cyber-safety rules. e.g. never respond with revenge bullying, always treat others how you want to be treated.

Know what your child or teen is doing online. e.g. follow them on social media, know what apps are on their phones.

(SOURCE: 12).

More Resources

For a glimpse on the "Dark Side" of Cyberbullying:

http://cyberresources.solutions/Cyberbullying/Cyberbullying_Dark_Side.pdf

Using AI/ML/Automation Tools to quickly detect Cyberbullying on Social Media:

http://cyberresources.solutions/Cyberbullying/Cyberbullying_Detection_AI_ML.pdf

http://cyberresources.solutions/Cyberbullying/Cyberbullying_Detection_App_Automation.pdf

http://cyberresources.solutions/Cyberbullying/Cyberbullying_Textual_Analysis.pdf

For a scientific study examining the Ethical Issues of Cyberbullying and Social Media:

http://cyberresources.solutions/Cyberbullying/Cyberbullying_Ethica_Issues.pdf

To download a Cyberbullying/Social Glossary, click here:

http://cyberresources.solutions/Cyberbullying/Cyberbullying_Glossary.pdf

To see a scientific study on the repercussions of Cyberbullying On Mental Health, click here:

http://cyberresources.solutions/Cyberbullying/Cyberbullying_Mental_Health.pdf

To see the impacts of Cyberbullying/Social Media in the Educational Setting, click on the links below:

http://cyberresources.solutions/Cyberbullying/Cyberbullying_School_Responsibility.pdf

http://cyberresources.solutions/Cyberbullying/Cyberbullying_Teachers.pdf

http://cyberresources.solutions/Cyberbullying/Student_Perception.pdf

To see how college students are impacted by Cyberbullying/Social Media, click here:

http://cyberresources.solutions/Cyberbullying/Cyberbullying_College_Students.pdf

To see a scientific study on the effects of Cyberbullying/Social Media on an international level, click here:

http://cyberresources.solutions/Cyberbullying/Cyberbullying_International.pdf

Sources

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