

Electronic Aggression

Is described as: Any type of harassment or bullying (teasing, telling lies, making fun of someone, making rude or mean comments, spreading rumors, or making threatening or aggressive comments) that occurs through Email, a chat room, instant messaging, a Web site (including blogs), or text messaging.

Introduction

For my fact sheet I chose to research the topic of electronic aggression. What led me to this topic was in fact curiosity. I had heard of electronic aggression and knew that it had something to do with cyber bullying or aggression taken out on someone through media, like a computer. This was the extent of my background in the electronic aggression field and I thought that it would be interesting to gain knowledge on this topic. I have known several people who have complained about being picked on through the computer or the phone by people and fortunately they haven't caused harm to themselves over it, but I know that it is a very growing problem today, especially for students around my age. I hear stories on the news about people committing suicide over traumatic mediated events and I want to learn more about this problem.

Section 1: Background and Problem Statement

Web site #1 Name: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Web address:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/youthviolence/electronicaggression/index.html>

Background Information:

Healthy People 2020 does not have anything covering the topic of electronic aggression, but another source posted (CDC) contained information on this growing problem. People all over the world, especially younger people are using the new advancement of technology made available to them. Cell phones, and the Internet allow communication throughout the entire world. New so called "communication avenues" such as text messaging, chat rooms, and social networking Web sites like MySpace and Facebook have allowed the youth to build relationships with someone they have never met behind the computer screen. You may say it's a good thing that these kids have access to such advanced tools allowing them to be more social, but what happens when things are taken too far, or used the wrong way? Many teens are becoming victims of this new form of youth violence, termed electronic aggression. New electronics are used to embarrass harass or threaten other peers. Electronic aggression goes hand in hand and is associated with emotional distress and conduct problems at school. The technology has just made it that much easier for these children to take out their frustrations.

Web site #2 Name: Healthy States

Web address: http://www.healthystates.csg.org/NR/rdonlyres/A52EBEE-5532-4B33-810A-D14824AD41E0/0/CyberBullyTP_screen.pdf

Background Information:

As many teens across the world are falling victim to this new form of cyber bullying or electronic aggression, many actions are being made trying to resolve this recurring issue among many youths. Since nowadays, 80 percent of teenagers own cell phones or computers with Internet access, cyber bullying is growing as a convenient method of harassment. This Web site is trying to expand the knowledge on this topic, by listing how some states are responding to this form of aggression. Arkansas, New Jersey, Oregon and Washington are among those that addressed this issue by providing counselors and serious consequences for those who choose to engage. Besides holding repercussions, students and even parents are being educated on the topic until they understand that it's unreasonable and uncalled for. The main point of this site is to reach out to those and explain how this problem needs to be stopped and how electronic aggression should be addressed not only in school but through legislation.

Web site #3 Name: The Bronx Ink

Web address: <http://bronxink.org/2011/04/15/14439-digital-bronx-electronic-aggression-cyberbullying-a-hot-topic/>

Background Information:

President Barack Obama said "Today, bullying doesn't even end at the school bell," "It can follow our children from the hallways to their cell phones to their computer screens." Youth agencies and other organizations have been following the trend for just around 5 years and consider this topic of cyber bullying and electronic aggression an "emerging adolescent health issue." Within the past year, aware of this continuous problem, the District Attorney's office requested that workshops be held due to the attention on suicides. Although young people usually are avoided punishment due to youthful mistakes, electronic aggression is a problem that law enforcement tries to keep at bay. Unlike face to face communication, confrontation through the media is an easy way for bullies to take out their aggression on others and feel as if they got away with it. Many programs are being started to bring attention to the topic and educate teens and others not only on cyber bullying but on healthy relationships which hopefully will reduce the issue. Due to the lack of knowledge regarding technology parents are less likely to notice and be aware of this issue, and the aggression may be occurring under the radar. Some states such as Arkansas have proposed the idea of making this unfortunate topic a crime.

Section 2: Research

Web site #1 Name: Ishim

Web address: <http://www.ishib.org/journal/19-2s3/ethn-19-02s3-11.pdf>

Summary of the research:

Community health advocates at the University of South Alabama Center of Excellence have been paying close attention to the rapidly growing problem of youth violence. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently released a podcast on the new topic called electronic aggression. The report stated that nearly 34% of youths say that they have been victims of electronic aggression and as many as 21% reported having committed this type of violence. The project was as follows. A local

radio station was told to produce an on air rap session, open to any callers on the topic of electronic aggression. The purpose of the research was to increase the awareness of electronic aggression to youths and parents, which results showed parents were not aware of the Internet behaviors of their children. The radio station posed two questions, one for the youth and one for the parents. The parent question was “What role do you play in preventing electronic aggression?” The youth were then asked “Do you feel like in some instances that you are victims of violence through social electronic networking such as MySpace and Facebook?” The caller’s comments and ages were then recorded for the results. Eight parents responded to the question. 40% of the parents claim they did not allow MySpace or Facebook on their home computer. 25% said they monitored the pages that their children visited and 25% didn’t know which sites their children went on. 13% indicated that their child should not take offense to MySpace and or Facebook comments. The other eight participants in the research were the youth who all claimed to have been victims of some sort of harassment, and 50% of them were victims of violence resulting from electronic aggression.

Web site #2 Name: ProQuest

Web address: <http://gradworks.umi.com/MR/65/MR65202.html>

Summary of the research:

In order to study electronic bullying and aggression effectively research is said needed to consider the unique qualities of the electronic medium. Therefore it must be studies in relation to peer processes that occur in the “real world.” Queens University conducted two studies on how students perceive the seriousness and harmfulness of electronic aggression. The studies were conducted to examine the precursors of electronic bullying and victimization in a sample of grade 9 and 10 students. These students were given questionnaires regarding the issue. The results indicated that “real world” behaviors such as verbal and social bullying were considered precursors to electronic aggression. Along with these results came more, stating that in addition, females, older students and or students with less social behavior were at risk for involvement in electronic aggression.

Web site #3 Name: Treatment Online

Web address: https://www.treatmentonline.com/blog/index.asp?blog_id=2798

Summary of the research:

According to the National Institutes of Health, it is found that unlike traditional forms of bullying, youths or teens that are the targets of cyber bullying at school are at a much greater risk for depression than those who are the bullies. A study analyzing 6th through 10th grade students, or the prime time for electronic violence was conducted by a group of Doctors, all of the Division of Epidemiology, Statistics and Prevention Research and NIH’s Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. One of these professionals, stated that although bullies are less likely to report feelings of depression than are the victims, they are however more likely to report depression than those not involved in any sort of bullying behavior. The same doctor found in a recent study that 20.8 percent of U.S. adolescents in school have been bullied physically at least once in the last two months, 53.6 percent

have been bullied verbally, and 51.4 percent bullied socially (excluded or ostracized), and 13.6 percent have been bullied electronically. After further research, the team of doctors set out to conduct a new study analyzing previous data. The researchers measured depression by gauging responses to six survey items. Students were asked to indicate, if, within the past 30 days, they felt very sad; grouchy or irritable, or in a bad mood; hopeless about the future; felt like not eating or eating more than usual; slept a lot more or a lot less than usual; and had difficulty concentrating on their school work. Students ranked their responses according to a five item scale ranging from "never" to "always." After conducting the experiment the researchers found that youth who were frequently involved with bullying behaviors reported higher depression scores than did youth only occasionally involved with electronic violence. They also related regular to cyber bullying and found those involved of victims of cyber bullying scored higher for feeling depression than those who were bullied regularly in the different bully category. In conclusion to the results, one of the doctors reported that in an earlier conducted study, she and her co-workers found that students were less likely to bully or become victims if they felt that they had strong parental support. Feeling like you have to hide things from your parents or a feeling of non-understanding can play along with the issue of electronic aggression.

Section 3: Statistics

Web site #1 Name: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Web address: <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/dsElectronicAggression/>

Summary of the statistics:

Electronic aggression has become an emerging public health issue. Statistics show an increase of 50% from 2000-2005 in the percentage of young people who have reported being victims of electronic aggression. Electronic aggression victims are significantly more likely to use drugs and alcohol, skip school, experience in person aggression, have emotional distress and have parental relationship problems. Victimization occurs through all forms of technology. 25% in a chat room, 23% on a Web site, 67% with instant messaging, 25% through an e-mail, 16% with a text message.

Web site #2 Name: Cyber Bullying Research Center

Web address: <http://www.cyberbullying.us/research.php>

Summary of the statistics:

"Cyberbullying is when someone repeatedly harasses, mistreats, or makes fun of another person online or while using cell phones or other electronic devices." Approximately 20% of the students in the sample reported experiencing cyberbullying in their lifetimes. When asked about specific types of cyberbullying in the previous 30 days, mean or hurtful comments (13.7%) and rumors spread (12.9%) online continue to be among the most commonly-cited. Seventeen percent of the sample reported being cyberbullied in one or more of the nine types reported, two or more times over the course of the previous 30 days. Cell phones have become bullying tools as 83% of the youth reported using at least one weekly. In the same

survey, 20% of youths admitted to using mediated bullying. Girls are more likely to have experienced and reported electronic aggression.

Web site #3: Bullying Statistics

Web address: <http://www.bullyingstatistics.org/content/cyber-bullying-statistics.html>

Summary of the statistics:

Over half of adolescents and teens have been bullied online, and about the same number have engaged in cyber bullying. More than 1 in 3 young people have experienced aggressive electronic threats. Over 25 percent of adolescents and teens have been bullied repeatedly through their cell phones or the Internet. Well over half of young people do not tell their parents when cyber bullying occurs. Around half of teens have been the victims of cyber bullying. Only 1 in 10 teens tells a parent if they have been a cyber bully victim. Fewer than 1 in 5 cyber bullying incidents are reported to law enforcement. 1 in 10 adolescents or teens have had embarrassing or damaging pictures taken of themselves without their permission, often using cell phone cameras. About 1 in 5 teens have posted or sent sexually suggestive or nude pictures of themselves to others. Girls are somewhat more likely than boys to be involved in cyber bullying

Section 4: Consumer Information

Web site #1 Name: Indiana State Medical Association

Web address: <http://www.ismanet.org/news/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=285>

Summary of the information:

Cyber bullying or electronic aggression is considered the main form of bullying. After a victim has been cyber bullied there is a need of support from physicians who are they to care for them. Suicide rates for victims and perpetrators are higher than those of students not involved in the activity. Due to this fact, experts say after being bullied for some the support of a physician on a victim could be life saving. Studies cited in the report indicate that from 13 to 43 percent of students say they have experienced cyber bullying. While traditional bullying and cyber bullying are distinct phenomena, the two sometimes overlap. Within a group of 3,700 youths in grades 6 to 8, nearly one-quarter experienced both bullying and cyber bullying.

Web site #2 Name: Pennsylvania Attorney General

Web address: <http://www.attorneygeneral.gov/kidsparents.aspx?id=1567>

Summary of the information:

Age and gender are an important topic for discussion when regarding electronic aggression or cyber bullying. It is important as consumers to understand that this problem is not limited to high school students, but instead in many cases is linked to younger children who have in fact grown up around computers and learned how to use the Internet at an early age. Growing up in this new technology era has posted greater knowledge in many youths which then leads to online bullying or harassment more so than students in older grades. Middle school-aged children pose the biggest threat to this movement of electronic aggression. Along with age gender also plays a

big role. It is assumed that boys are bigger bullies than girls, but this is where people are wrong. Boys do, in fact, engage in more physical bullying but when it comes to cyber or mediated bullying, females are often more involved and active than males. According to recent studies, nearly 60 percent of boys who are classified as bullies in grades six through nine were convicted of at least one crime by the age of 24. Even more dramatic, 40 percent of them had three or more convictions by age 24.

Web site #3 Name: Consumer-Warning

Web address: <http://www.consumer-warning.org/Internet-safety/identifying-the-signs-of-cyber-bullying/>

Summary of the information:

The unfortunate truth is that many children and teens are reluctant to tell a parent peer or teacher that they've been involved in electronic aggression or cyber bullying. The main concern for kids is losing computer or cell phone privileges. Victims of this issue show identifiable signs as a result of being bullied. Changes in mood, sleep, appetite or behavior. Withdrawal from friends and activities, grades slipping, mood swings, avoiding social gatherings and emotion distress are just some of the symptoms and signs shown by youths after becoming a victim. On the other hand there are also signs shown by the bullies them self that can be identified. Frequent computer use, excessive laughing during computer or phone use, avoidance of answering parental questions regarding media use, multiple online accounts and agitation when denied computer or phone use are some signs that bullies show when they are in the act of electronic aggression.

Section 5: Solutions to the Problem (or Issue)

Web site #1 Name: cacsc

Web address: <http://www.cacsc.org/pdfs/ElectronicAggression.pdf>

Summary of the information:

Parent-child communication has never been this important, but due to increasing acts of electronic aggression, there is a need for it. Parents should talk to their child, and really ask them questions about what they are doing. It is important not to punish the child but to ask them honestly about what they are doing on their phone and or the computer. Along with the interaction, certain rules should be set up to prevent the violence from occurring. Talk with them about the dangers of electronic aggression and explain what they should do if they were to get caught in the act. Also, make safe behaviors and rules for your child to follow. As a parent you deserve to know what happens on the sites your child is visiting so parents should surf the web and explore the Internet so that they are aware of what is happening in the media. Getting involved with other parents and talking with the school about this issue is key to preventing the problem.

Web site #2 Name: It's for parents

Web address: <http://itsforparents.org/parent-talk/cyberbullying-rise>

Summary of the information:

Actions need to be taken in order to stop this violence. Solutions to the problem and prevention techniques involve: Keeping your home computer(s) in easily viewable places, such as a family room or kitchen. Talk regularly with your child about on-line activities he or she is involved in. Talk specifically about cyberbullying and encourage your child to tell you immediately if he or she is the victim of cyberbullying, cyberstalking, or other illegal or troublesome on-line behavior. Encourage your child to tell you if he or she is aware of others who may be the victims of such behavior. Explain that cyberbullying is harmful and unacceptable behavior. Outline your expectations for responsible online behavior and make it clear that there will be consequences for inappropriate behavior. Although adults must respect the privacy of children and youth, concerns for your child's safety may sometimes override these privacy concerns. Tell your child that you may review his or her on-line communications if you think there is reason for concern.

Web site #3 Name: Social Safety

Web address: http://www.socialsafety.org/law_enforcement_cyberbullying.html

Summary of the information:

Many states have considered the impact on electronic aggression and cyber bullying and some have begun to take legal action to prevent this issue from happening. In Arkansas the state senate passed a bill calling on schools to set up policies and address the issue. Idaho also expanded their anti-bullying legislation in 2006, requiring schools to again address their anti-bullying policy. Along with these two more states have reached out to schools in attempt to stop this outbreak of electronic aggression.

Conclusions

I always knew bullying or this issue of electronic aggression was a problem, but I never knew how serious the problem was. I have heard of it occurring when I was in high school but like I said never saw any negative effects from it. Just because I haven't experienced anything negative with electronic violence, doesn't mean that millions of other people aren't affected by it every day of their lives. I realized now from composing this fact sheet that it is a serious issue and can't be taken lightly. Bullying in general needs to stop whether it takes place in a school yard or behind a computer or some other form of technology. Technology is going to keep growing which will give people more opportunities to expand their bullying horizons. I personally don't believe bullying will ever stop, I think that no matter what happens there will always be bullies out there looking to prey on the innocent. I do believe, however, that with knowledge and support on the topic mixed in with legal actions, this thing called electronic aggression can be affected dramatically.

Back to Betty C. Jung's Web site	http://www.bettycjung.net
Back to Fact Sheet Directory	http://www.bettycjung.net/Pch202fs.htm