Social Media and Cyberbullying

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What is Cyberbullying?

- Bullying that takes place over any digital device like cell phones, computers, and tablets.

- Relatively new and an unfortunate result of the connectivity of the internet

- Same characteristics and traits as in person bullying, except it is through a screen

New ways of bullying online

- Blogs / Posting

- Forms of image / video sharing

- Impersonation

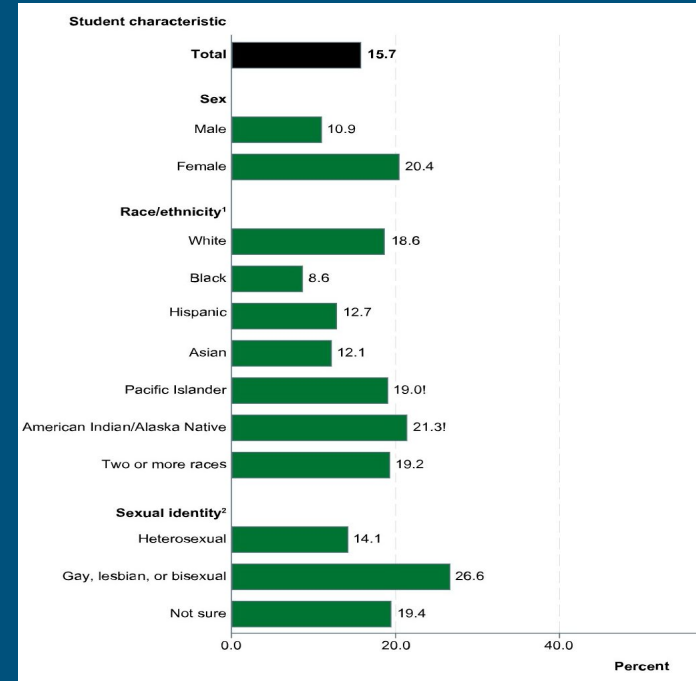- Technical attacks (hacking, DOS, etc).

- Text Messaging

History of CyberBullying

- Earliest Cases occurred in late 2000's

- Megan Meier - Bullied by 47 yr old neighbor

- In the following two years, two more teenage women took their own lives

- New state laws to combat cyberbullying

Who is affected by cyberbullying

- Not everyone experiences the same amount of cyberbullying

- Women are often electronically bullied more than men ~ 10% [2] [8]

- Individuals not identifying as straight are also at increased risk of being cyberbullied ~ 12%

Percentage of students in grades 9–12 who reported having been electronically bullied during the previous 12 months
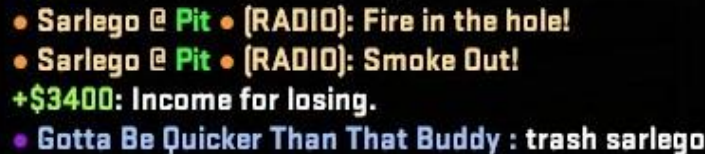*https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator/a10*

Effects of Cyberbullying

- Cyberbullied victims generally manifest psychological problems such as depression, loneliness, low self-esteem, school phobias and social anxiety.

- Cyberbullying causes emotional and physiological damage to defenseless victims, as well as psychosocial difficulties including behavior problems.

- Drinking alcohol, smoking, depression, and low commitment to academics.

Source [5]

Personal Experience

- Experienced my fair share of cyberbullying, whether it was targeted at myself or others.

- Through various platforms

- Main takeaway: any form of unmonitored communication is a possible gateway for cyberbullying or internet trolls.

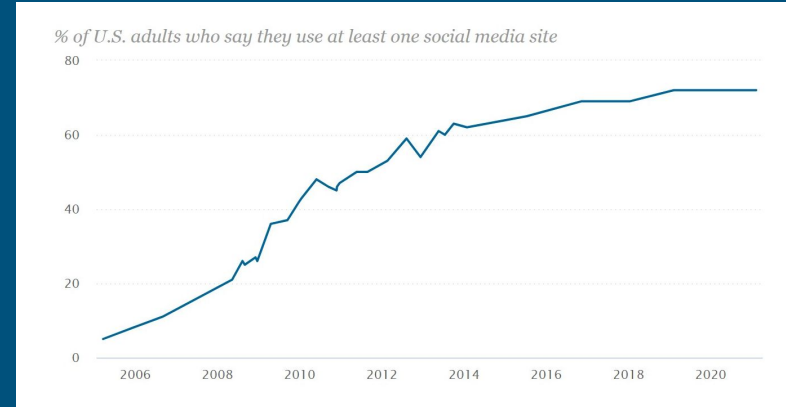- Counter Strike: Global Offensive

● Sarlego @ Pit ● [RADIO]: Fire in the hole!
● Sarlego @ Pit ● [RADIO]: Smoke Out!
+$3400: Income for losing.
● Gotta Be Quicker Than That Buddy : trash sarlego

Cyberbullying targeted at myself on 5/13/22

Social Media

- MySpace - 2003

- Facebook - 2004

- 7 out of 10 American Adults use social media

- Dramatic increase in social media users - 67% increase in the last 15 years.

- Snapchat, Instagram, Tik Tok, and Twitter

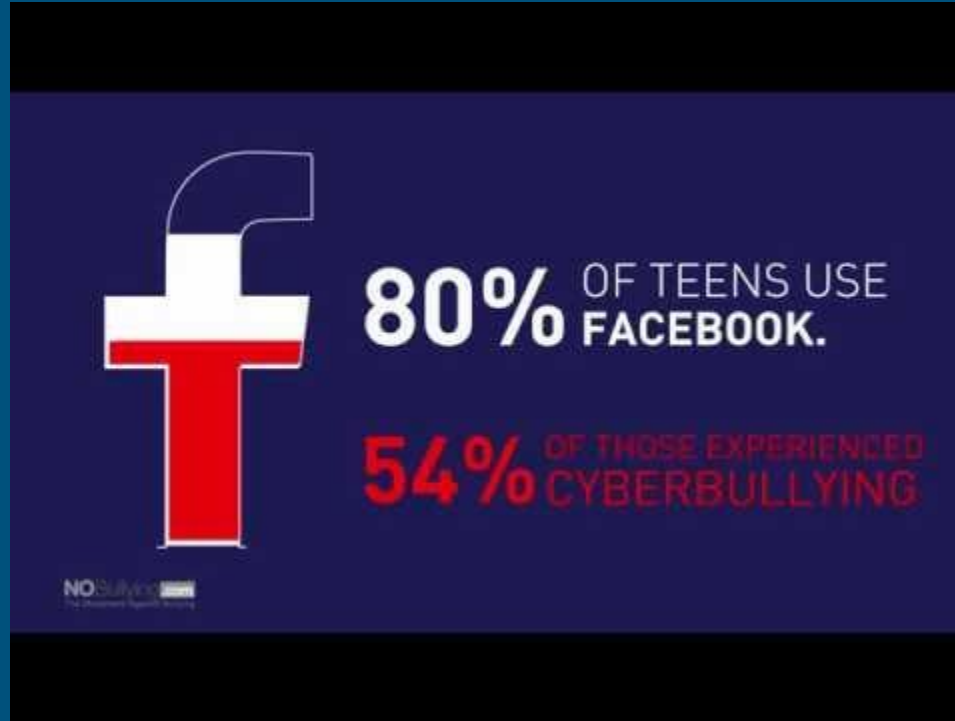% of U.S. adults who say they use at least one social media site

Social Media's role

- Communication and connectivity

- Users share opinions and thoughts

- Cyberbullying has emerged on every platform

- Meta is at the center of the attention

- Two platforms where the most cyberbullying occurs. Instagram 42%, Facebook 37% [6].

2016 Statistics of Social Media & CyberBullying

Who is responsible

User

- Their own doing, their own responsibility
- Accountable for their own actions

Company

- Their platform, their customers safety
- They provide a service, they should be able to control it

What actions have been taken

- Terms of Service agreements

- Filtering certain words / Profanity filters

- Reporting Features

- Child mode

- 3rd party organizations - enough.org, stopbullying.gov, dosomething.org

Freedom of Speech

First amendment - "Congress shall make no law … prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech"

- Who has the right to limit speech
- Who decides what is right/wrong
- How do online conversations differ from in person, why set regulations?
- Reno v. American Civil Liberties Union 1997 - Supreme Court declared the Internet to be a free speech zone

Conclusion

- Cyberbullying is still rampant today

- Social Media continues to face troubles

- Freedom Of Speech is still in question

Thank you for listening!

Sources

[1] https://www.stopbullying.gov/cyberbullying/what-is-it

[2] https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator/a10

[3] https://www.bark.us/blog/the-history-of-cyberbullying/

[4] https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/fact-sheet/social-media/

[5] https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2405844018359474

[6] https://enough.org/stats_cyberbullying

[7]https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-cyber-bullying

[8] https://www.broadbandsearch.net/blog/cyber-bullying-statistics