

# Safer Internet Forum 2008

## Children's Use of Online Technologies

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**Growing Up**  
With Media



# Background

More than 9 in 10 US youth now have Internet

**access** (USC Center for the Digital Future, 2006; Lenhart, Rainie, & Lewis, 2001)

Among Internet users:

- 43% go online every day
- The top two things they spend the most time doing:
  - 34% social networking sites, 33% Games, 29% music, 27% school work, 22% IM

# Internet harassment: Prevalence rates over time

- From YISS1 to YISS2, the 12-month prevalence rate of Internet harassment increased from 6% to 9% (Mitchell, Wolak, Finkelhor, 2006).
- In the Growing up with Media Survey, **34%** reported harassment at baseline, **34%** at follow-up
  - Frequent harassment: **8%** reported being harassed monthly at baseline, **8%** at follow-up
  - Continuity of harassed youth over time
    - **20% reported harassment at baseline and follow-up**
    - 13% reported harassment at baseline only
    - 14% reported harassment at follow-up only

# Internet harassment: Who is the harasser?

Based upon data from the YISS2 (Ybarra, Mitchell, Wolak, Finkelhor, 2006).

- 8%: Preadolescent (10-12 years old)
- 51%: Adolescent (13-17 years old)
- 21%: Young adult (18-25 years old)
- 2% Adult (26-40 years): 2%
- 18% Don't know: 18%

**The majority (59%) of harassment comes from other minors**

# Characteristics related to youth harassment

Type of psychosocial problem	Odds of psychosocial problems given report of Internet harassment		
	YISS1	YISS2	GuwM W2
Peer problems			
Interpersonal victimization / offline bullying	<b>3.1 *** +</b>	<b>1.5 *</b>	<b>1.8 **</b>
Social problems		<b>2.4 **</b>	
Behavior problems			
Depression	<b>3.6 * +</b>		
Substance use			
Alcohol use			<b>2.3 **</b>
Inhalant and other 'hard' drug use			<b>4.7 **</b>
Respond to stimuli with anger			<b>1.07 **</b>

Ybarra M, Mitchell KJ, Wolak J, Finkelhor D. Examining characteristics and associated distress related to Internet harassment: Findings from the Second Youth Internet Safety Survey. *Pediatrics*. 2006. 118A(4):e1169-1177.

Ybarra ML, Diener-West M, Leaf PJ. Examining the overlap in internet harassment and school bullying: implications for school intervention. *J Adolescent Health*. 2007 Dec;41(6 Suppl 1):S42-50.

Ybarra ML. Linkages between depressive symptomatology and Internet harassment among young regular Internet users. *Cyberpsychol Behav*. 2004 Apr;7(2):247-57.

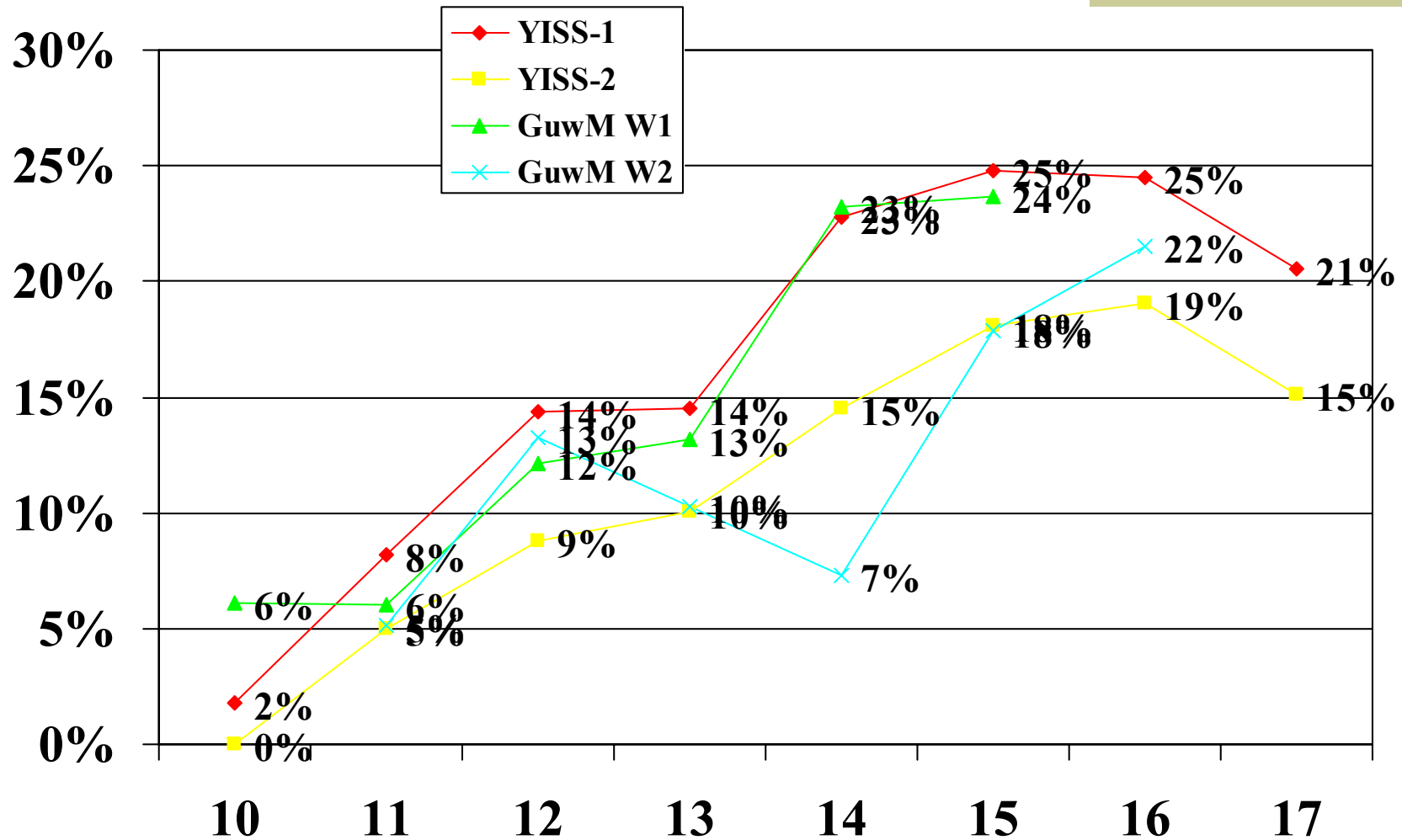
# Impact of Internet harassment

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About one in three youth targeted by Internet harassment report feeling very/extremely upset (or afraid) because of the incident:

- 30% in YISS-1
- 38% in YISS-2
- 25% in GuwM (wave 2)

# Prevalence rates of unwanted sexual solicitation across time and ages



# Unwanted sexual solicitation: Who is the solicitor?

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Based upon data from the YISS2 (Wolak, Mitchell, Finkelhor, 2006).

- 43%: 17 years of age and younger
- 30%: 18-25 years of age
- 9%: 26+ years of age
- 18%: don't know

**Roughly half (43%) of sexual solicitations come from other minors**



# Concurrent psychosocial problems

Odds of psychosocial problems given  
report of unwanted sexual solicitation

Type of psychosocial problem	YISS1	GuwM W2
Caregiver child relationships		
Poor emotional bond		<b>1.1 *</b>
Coercive discipline		<b>1.2 *</b>
Peer problems		
Interpersonal victimization / offline bullying	<b>1.8 * - 1.9 *</b>	<b>2.0 **</b>
Behavior problems		
Symptoms of depression	<b>3.0 ***</b>	
Troubled (e.g., negative life event, depression, child abuse)	<b>1.7 **</b>	
Substance / alcohol use	<b>2.6 ***</b>	<b>3.4 ***</b>
Delinquent behavior	<b>1.8 **</b>	
Weapon carrying at school		<b>10.0 **</b>
Life challenge	<b>2.9 * +</b>	

Mitchell KJ, Finkelhor D, Wolak J. Risk factors for and impact of online sexual solicitation of youth. JAMA. 2001;285(23):3011-4.

Ybarra ML, Leaf PJ, Diener-West M. Sex differences in youth-reported depressive symptomatology and unwanted internet sexual solicitation. J Med Internet Res. 2004 Feb 6;6(1):e5.

Mitchell K, Ybarra M, Finkelhor D. The relative importance of online victimization in understanding depression, delinquency, and substance use. Child Maltreatment. 2007; 12(4): 314-324.

# Impact of unwanted sexual solicitation

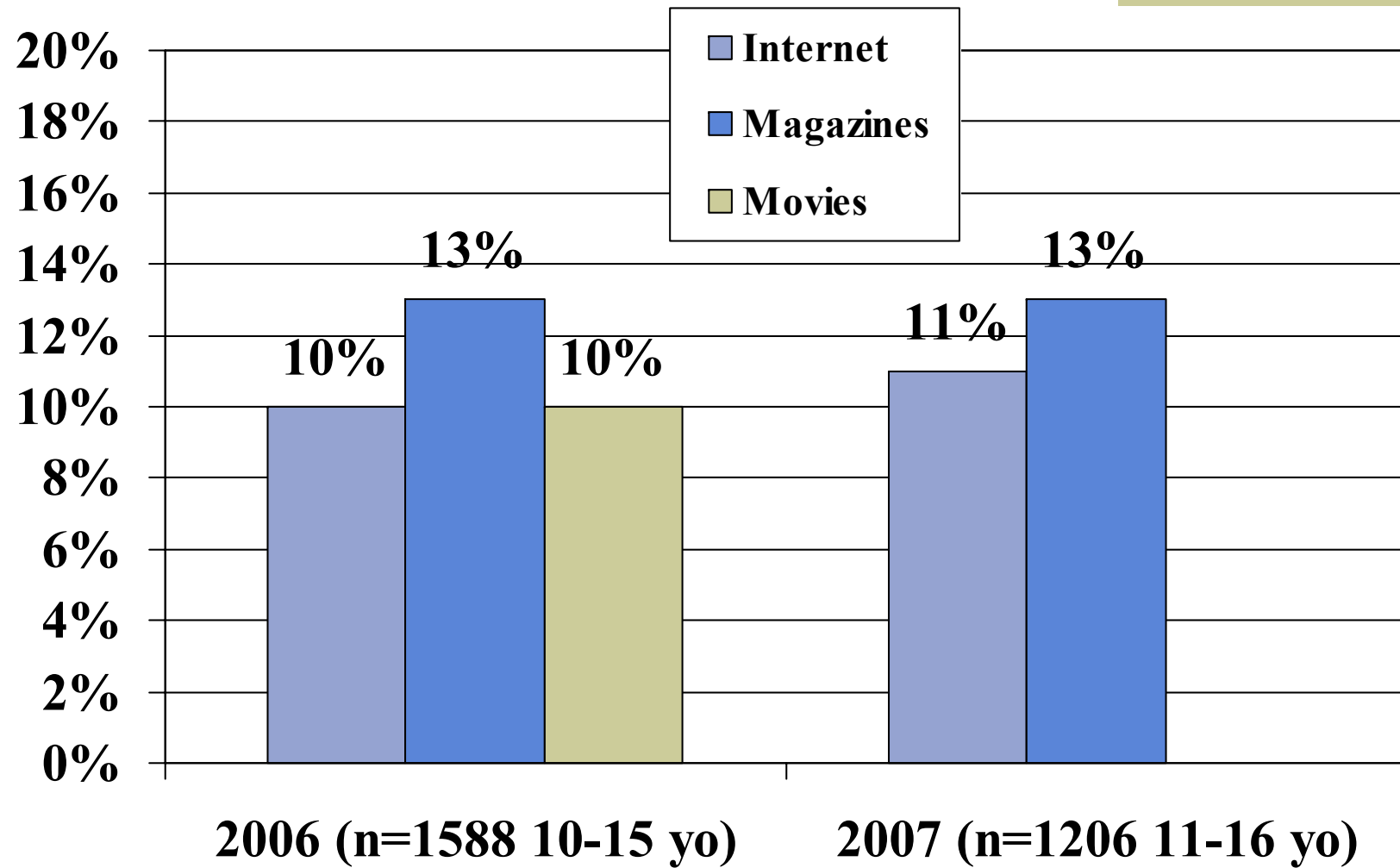
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Across studies, about one in three solicited youth report feeling very/extremely upset (or afraid) because of the incident:

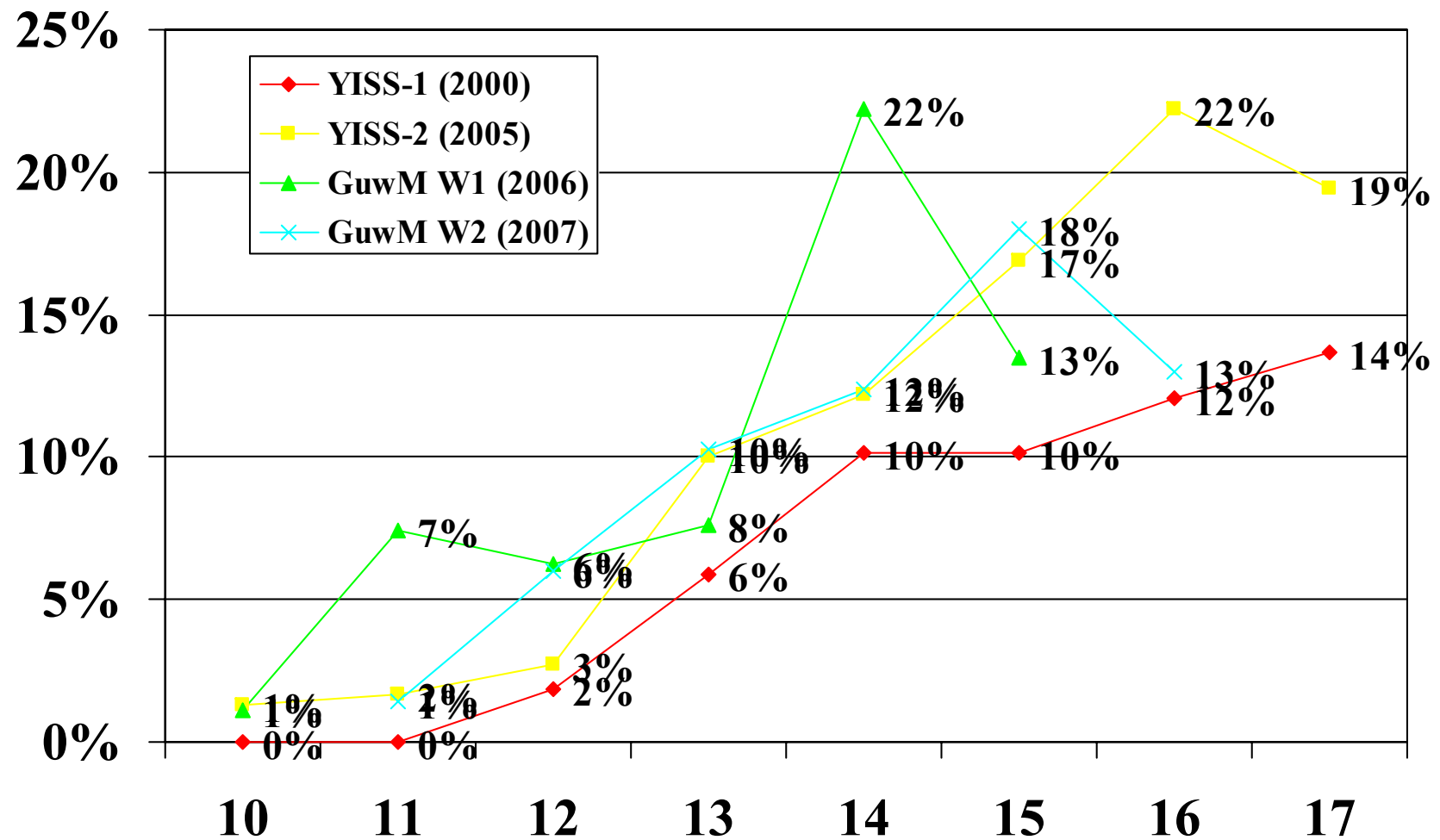
- YISS1: 26%
- YISS2: 31%
- GuwM: 39% (at Wave 2)

# Frequency of intentional exposure

(GuwM)



# Intentional exposure to x-rated material across age and time



# Characteristics of youth looking at internet porn (GuwM)

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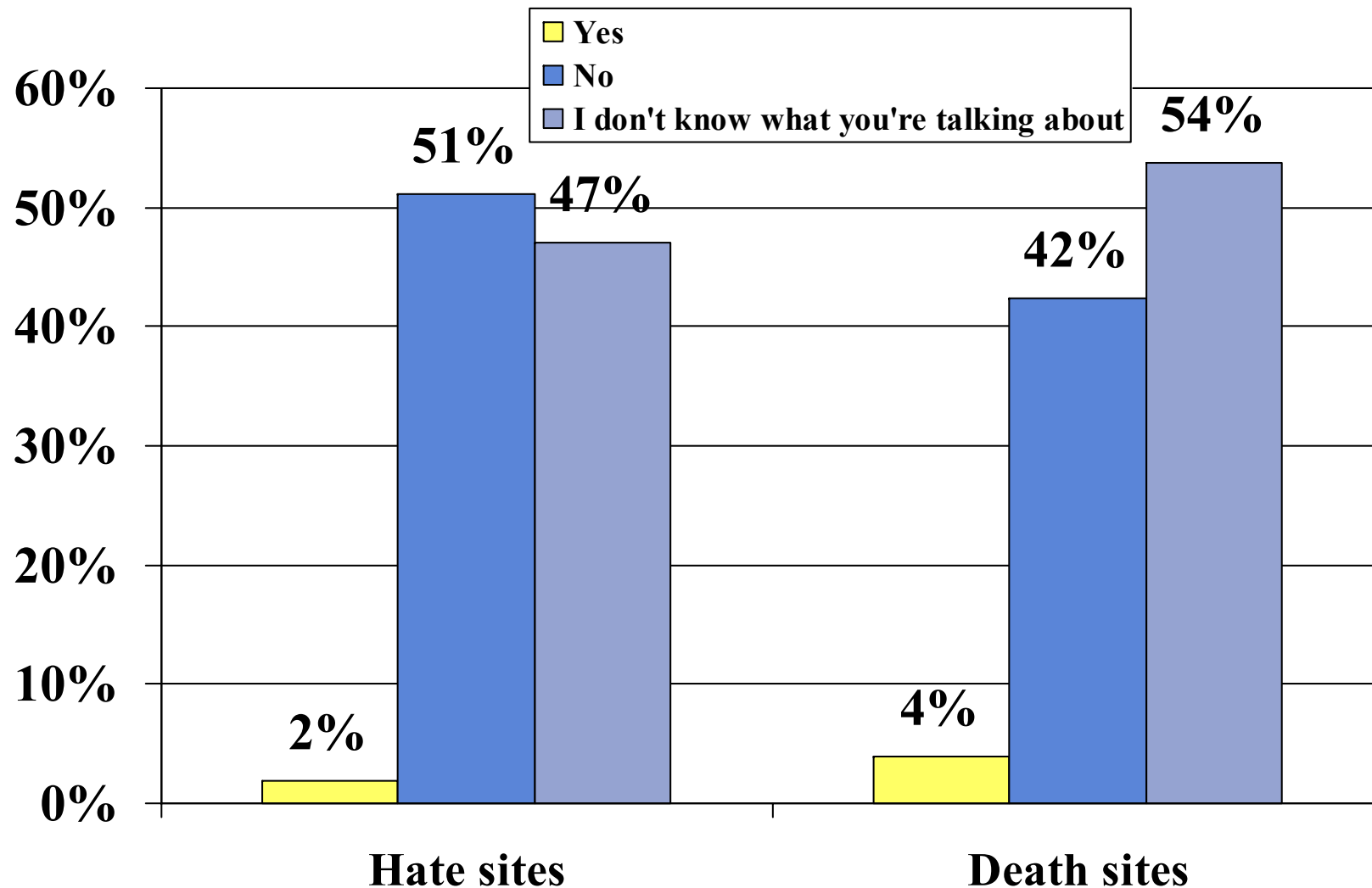
Among 1,206 11-16 year old youth in Oct-Dec, 2007:

- 80% male (OR = 4.2,  $p < .001$ )
- 14.4 years old (OR = 1.3,  $p < .001$ )

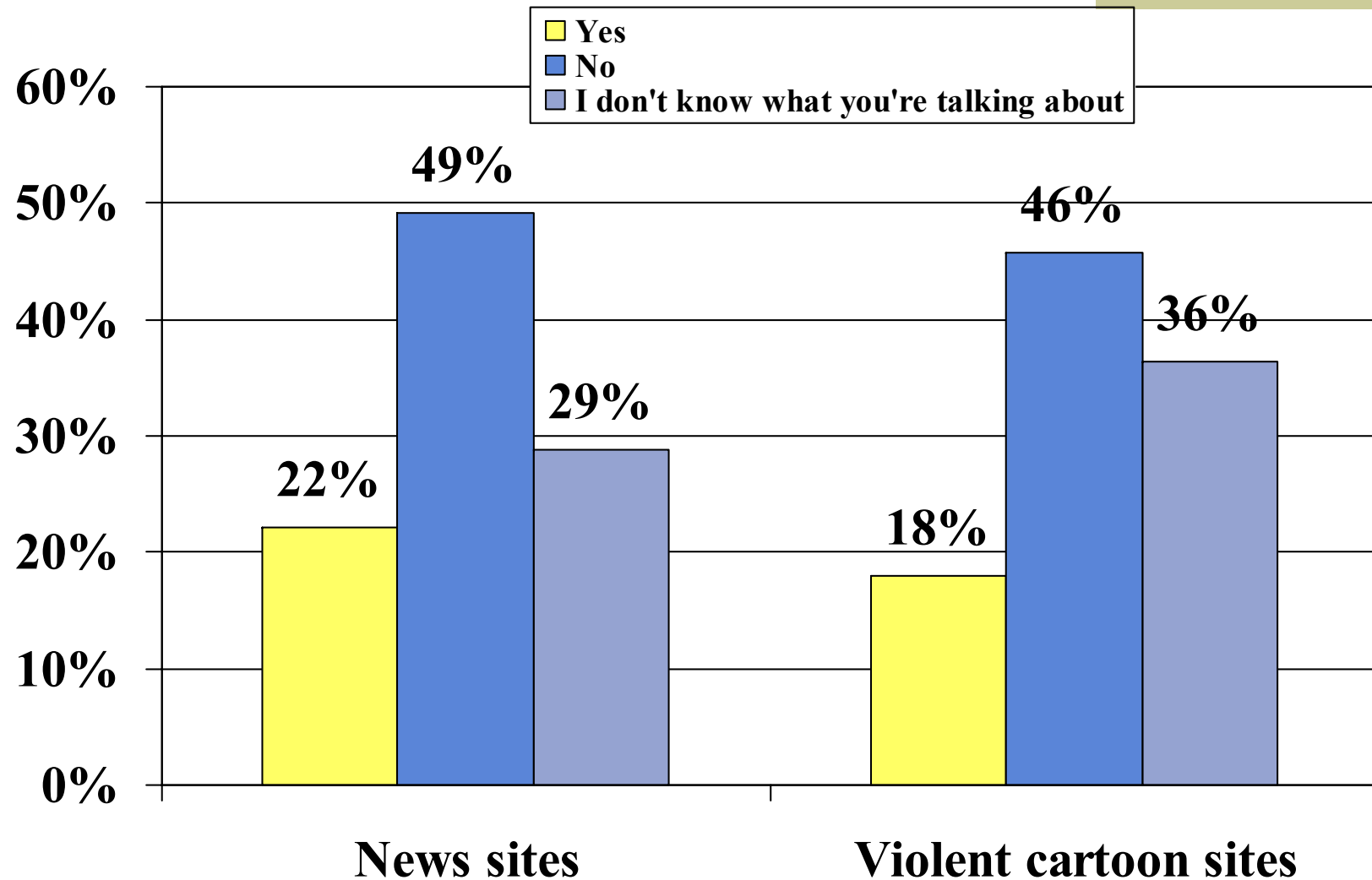
How did they hear about the site? (top 5):

- From a friend: 53%
- Search engine: 30%
- Another web site: 29%
- Typed in an address to see what would come up: 22%
- Pop-up ad: 22%

# Frequency of exposure to violent web sites (GuwM)



# Frequency of exposure to violent web sites (GuwM)



# Final thoughts

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- In order to develop targeted prevention programs, we need to understand what youth are doing online and offline
- Each environment represents an opportunity for risk identification and targeted vulnerability – especially the internet.