

# Safer Internet Forum 2008

## Online social networking and safety: Data to inform policy

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**Growing Up**  
With Media



# Background

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One in three teens 12-17 engage in some form of content creation in 2006 (Lenhart, Madden, Magill et al., 2007)

- Girls are more likely to post photos (54% v 40%)
- Boys are more likely to post video (19% v 10%)

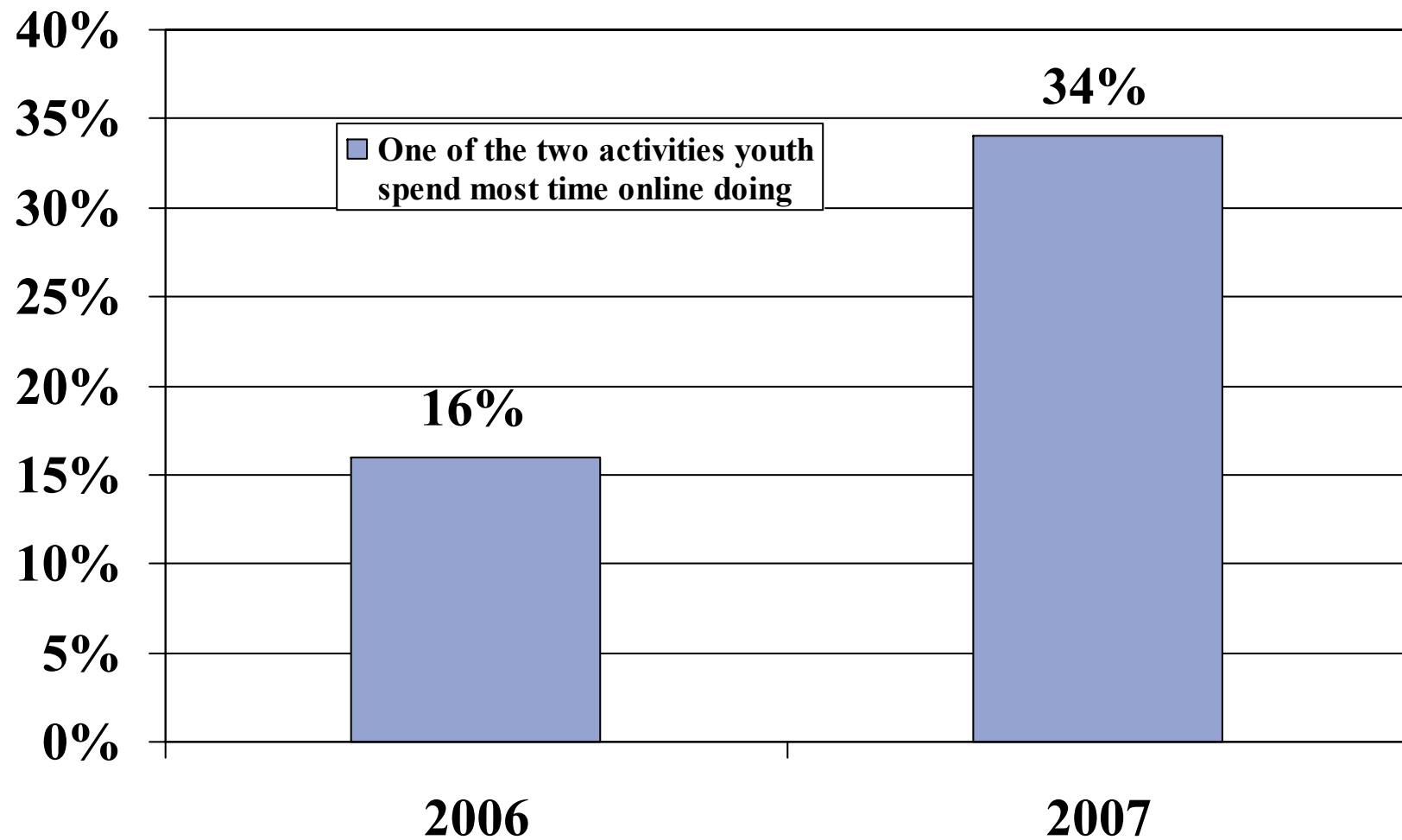
# Growing up with Media Survey

- 1,588 households
- Online Survey
  - Baseline data: August and September, 2006
  - Follow-up: October – December, 2007 (76% rr)
- Eligibility criteria:
  - Youth:
    - Between the ages of 10-15 years
    - Use the Internet at least once a month for the last 6 months
    - English speaking
  - Adults
    - Member of the Harris Poll OnLine
    - Equally or most knowledgeable about youth's media use
- Funded by the CDC (U49/CE000206)

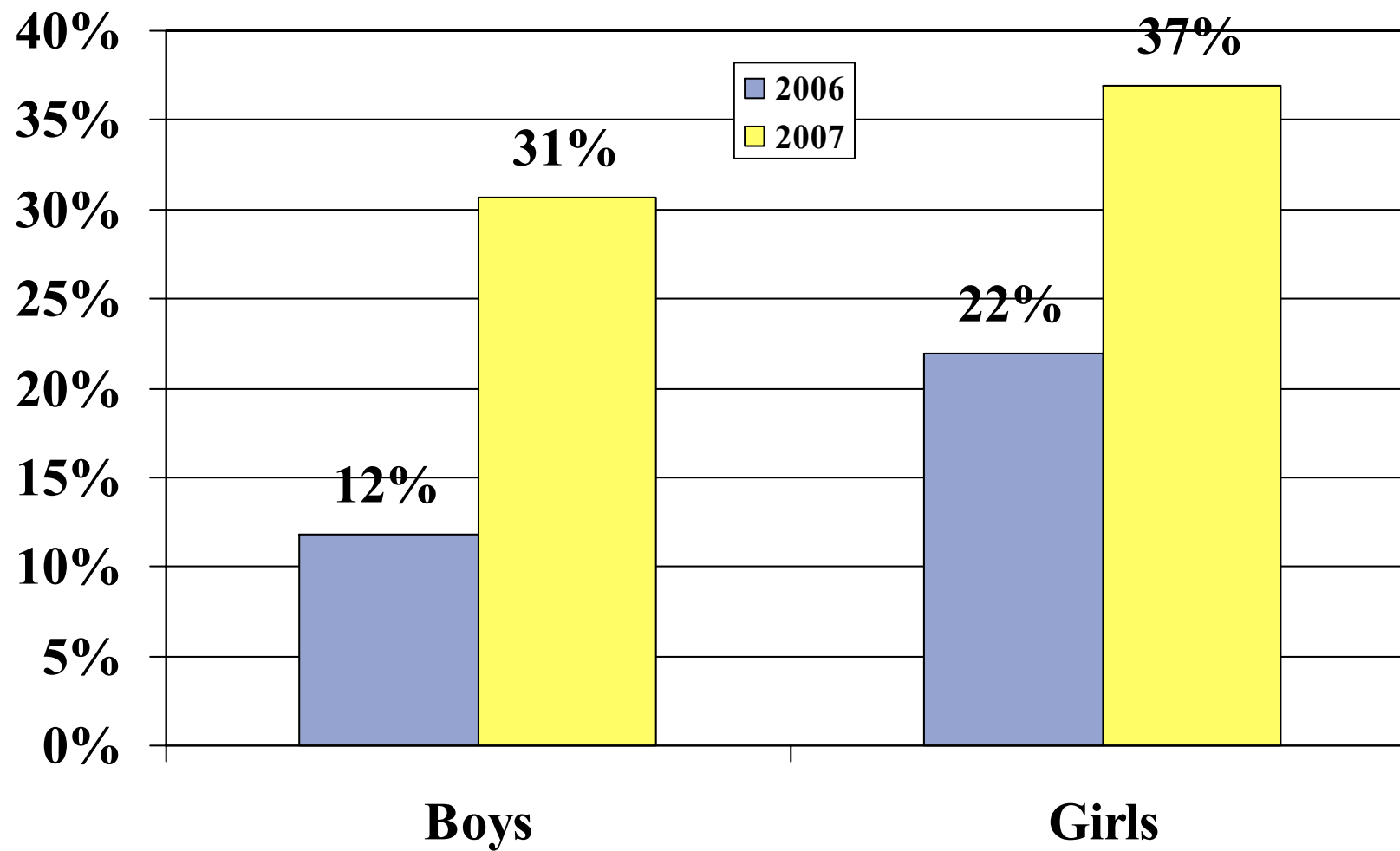
# Youth Internet Safety Surveys

- 1,500 households were surveyed
- Random digit dial telephone survey
- Eligibility criteria:
  - Youth:
    - Between the ages of 10-17 years
    - Use the Internet at least once a month for the last 6 months
    - English speaking
  - Adults
    - Equally or most knowledgeable about youth's Internet use
- YISS-1 conducted 1999-2000; YISS-2 conducted in 2005 by Dr. David Finkelhor and colleagues at UNH

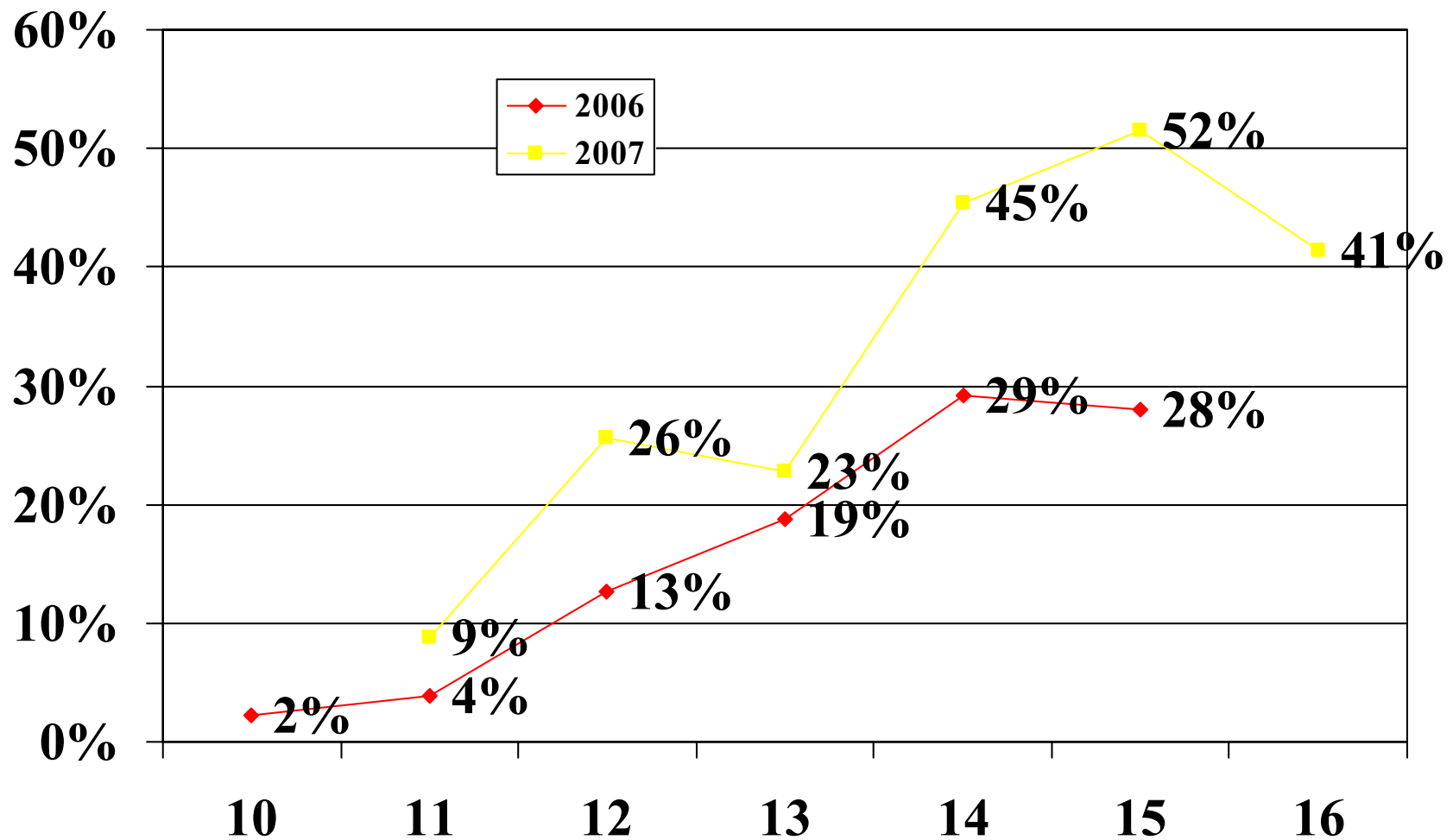
# Frequent SNS use is growing



...for boys and girls



...and across all ages

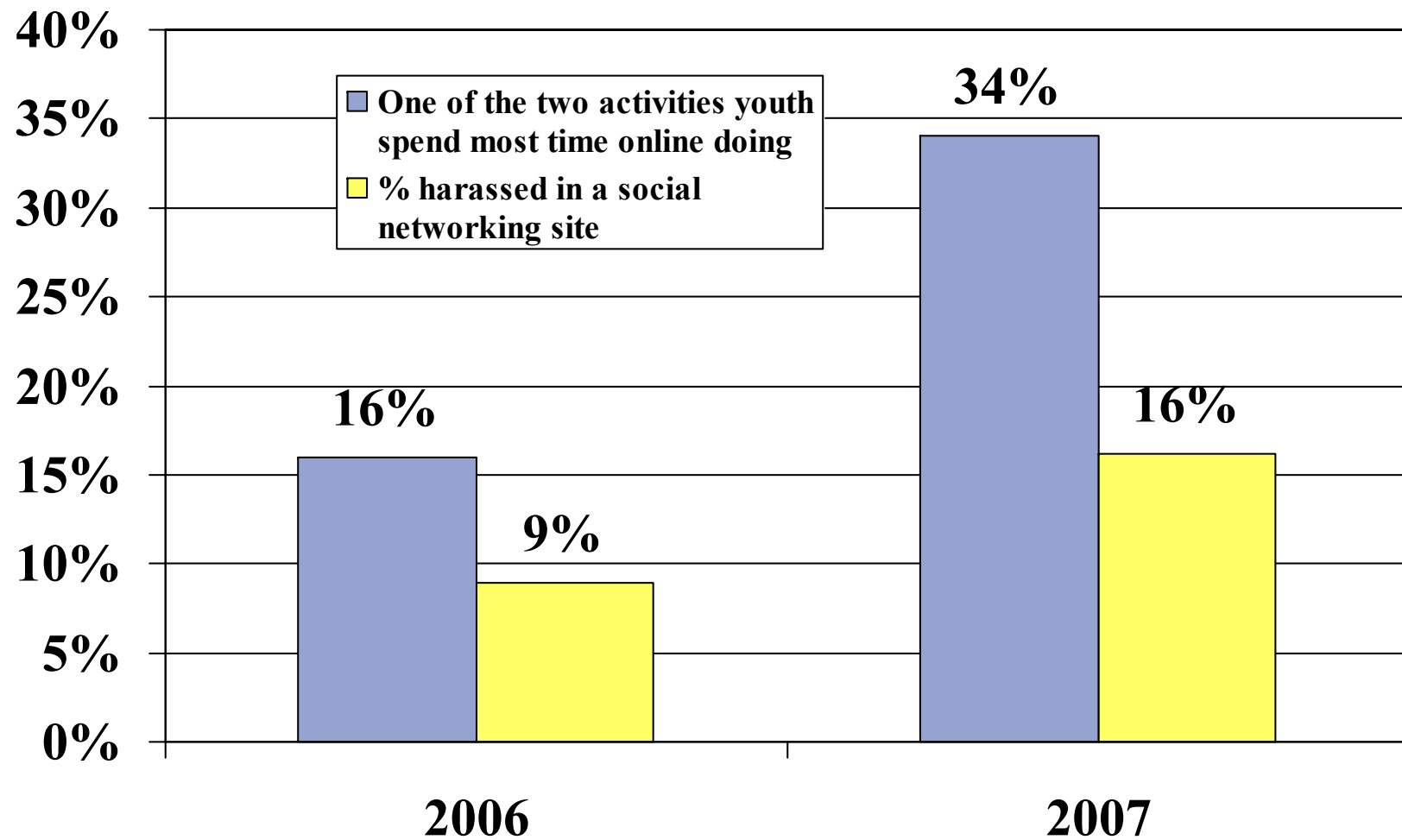


# Internet harassment: Prevalence rates over time

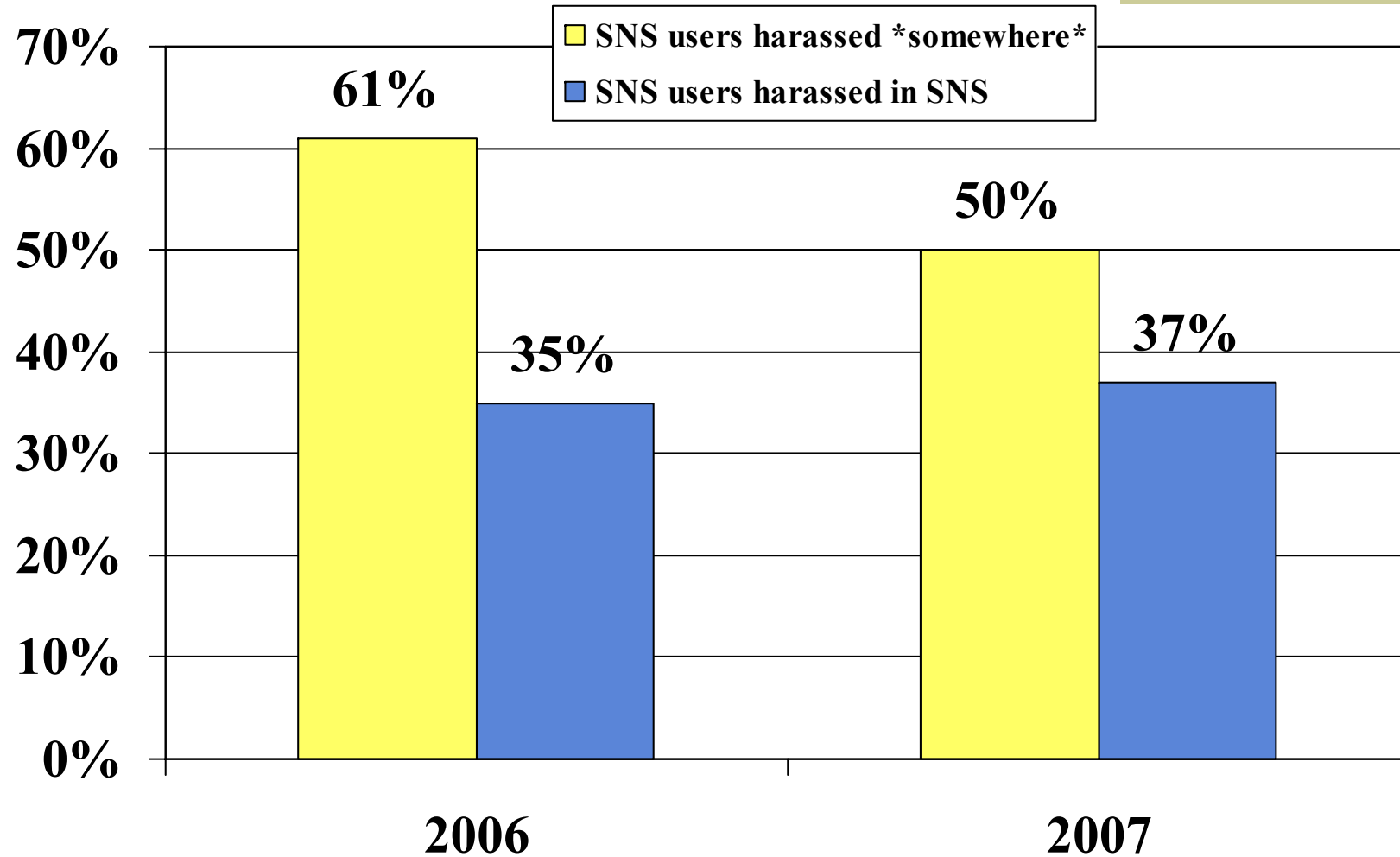
- Definition:
  - Rude or mean comments
  - Threatening or aggressive comments
  - Spread rumors about youth, whether they were true or not
- In the Growing up with Media Survey, **34%** reported harassment at baseline, **34%** at follow-up
  - Frequent harassment: **8%** reported being harassed monthly 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.



# Social networking sites and harassment



# What is the likelihood SNS users will be harassed?



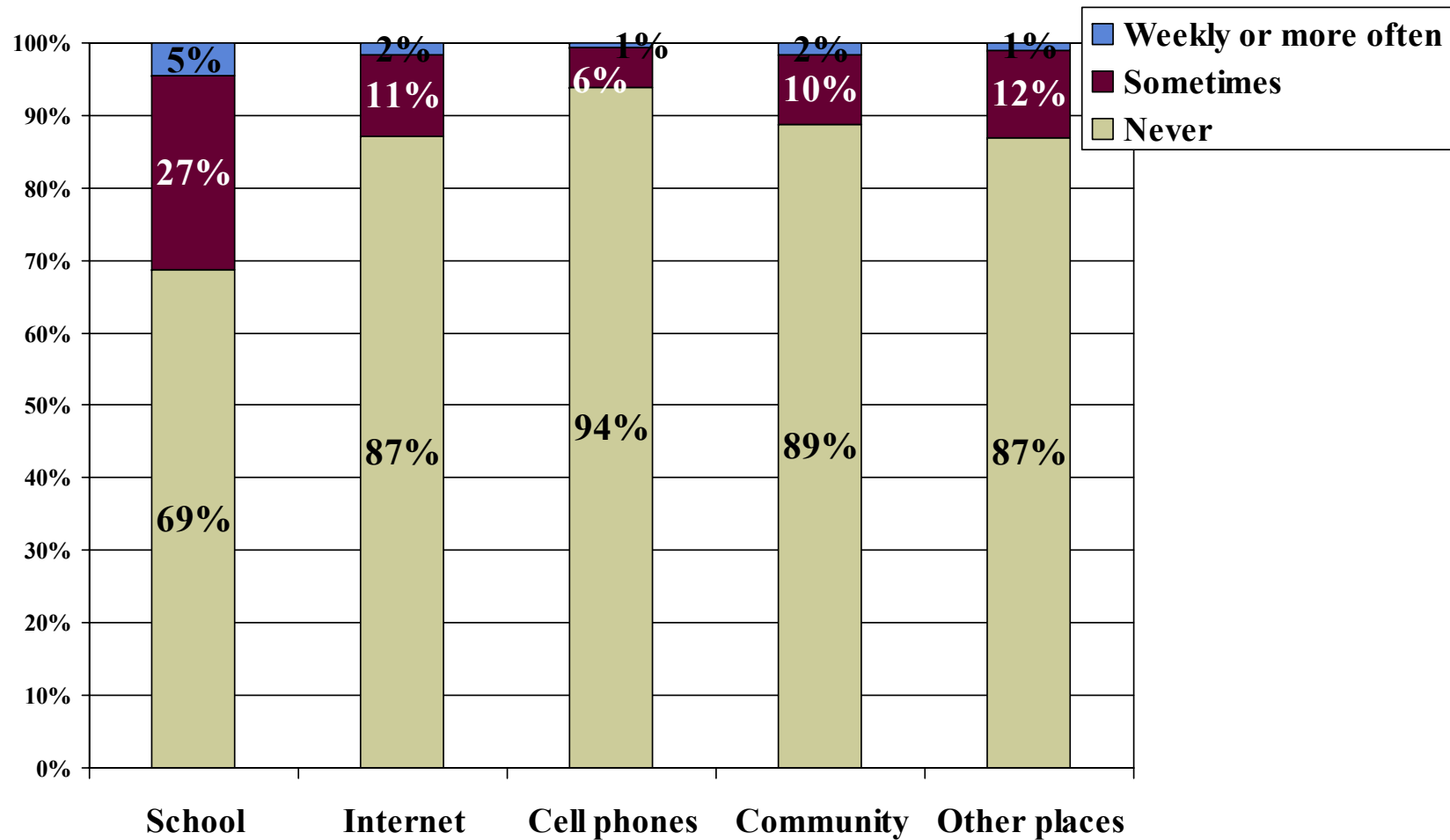
# How do rates compare online and offline?

From GuwM

## Defining Bullying

We say a young person is being bullied or harassed when someone else or a group of people **repeatedly** hits, kicks, threatens, or says nasty or unpleasant things to them. Another example is when no one ever talks to them. These things can happen at school, online, or other places young people hang out. It is **not** bullying when two young people of about the **same strength** fight or tease each other.

# How do rates compare online and offline?

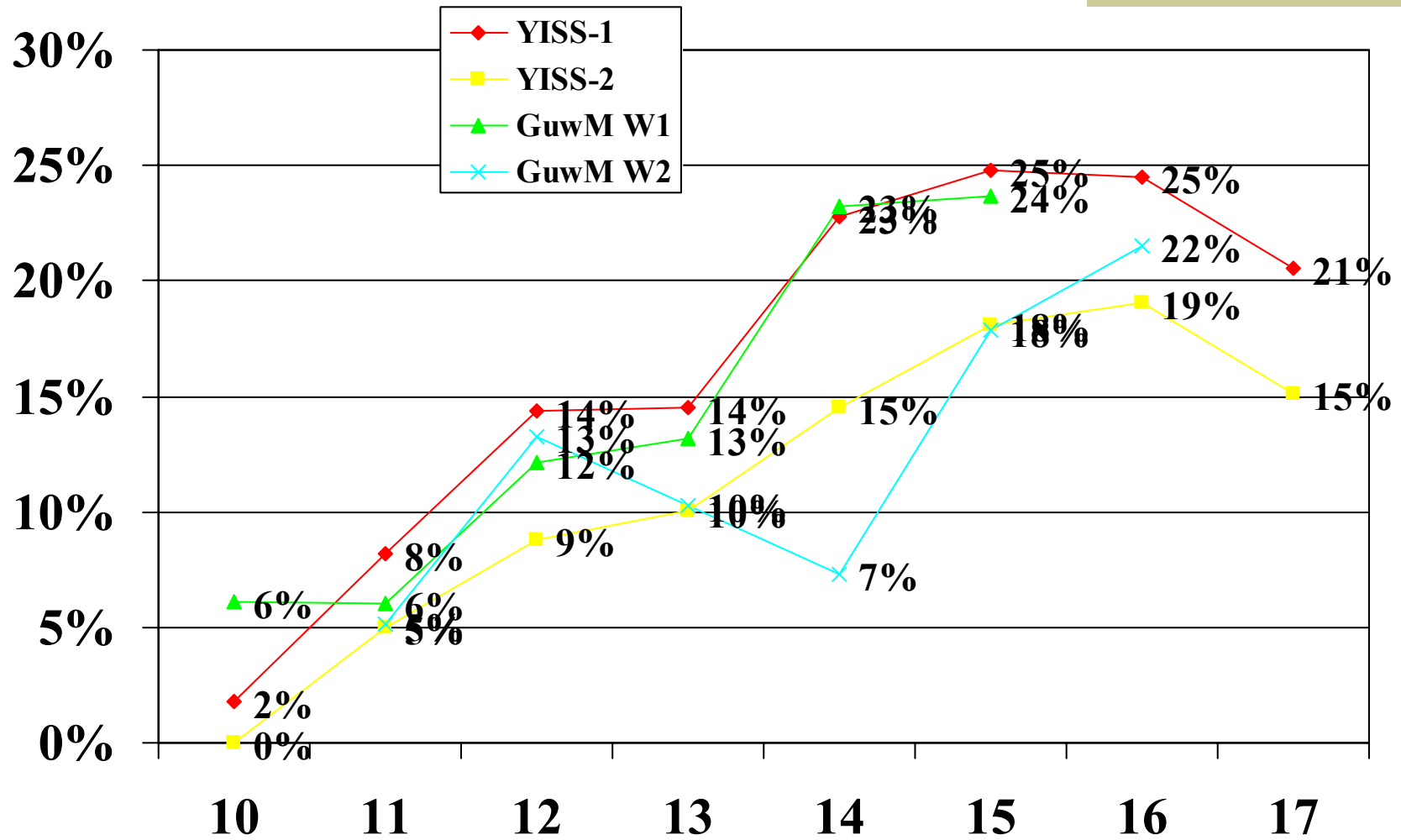


# Defining unwanted sexual solicitation on the Internet

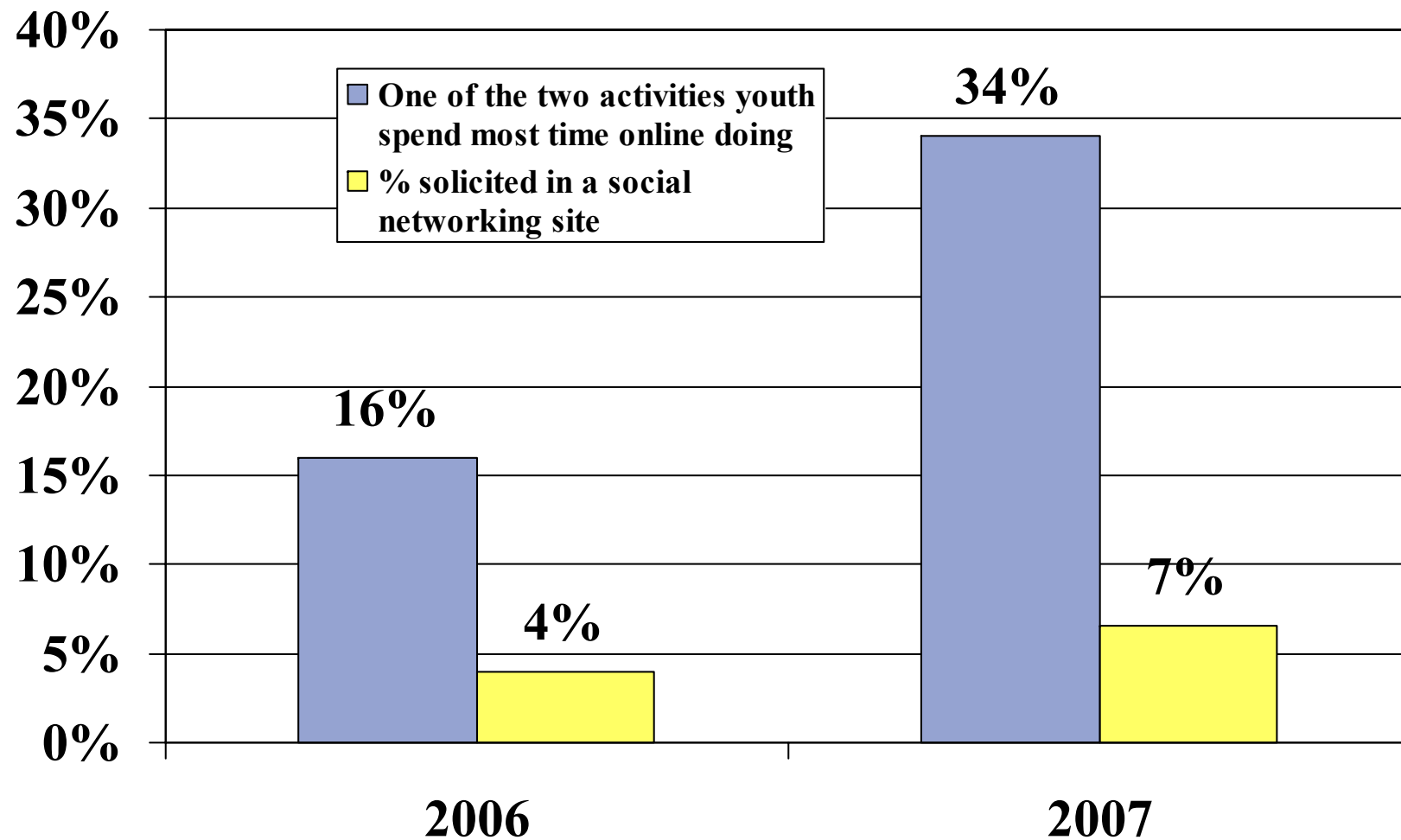
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- Someone tried to get me to talk about sex online when I did not want to.
- Someone online asked me for sexual information about myself when I did not want to tell the person, e.g., really personal questions, like what my body looks like or sexual things I have done.
- Someone asked me to do something sexual when I was online that I did not want to do.

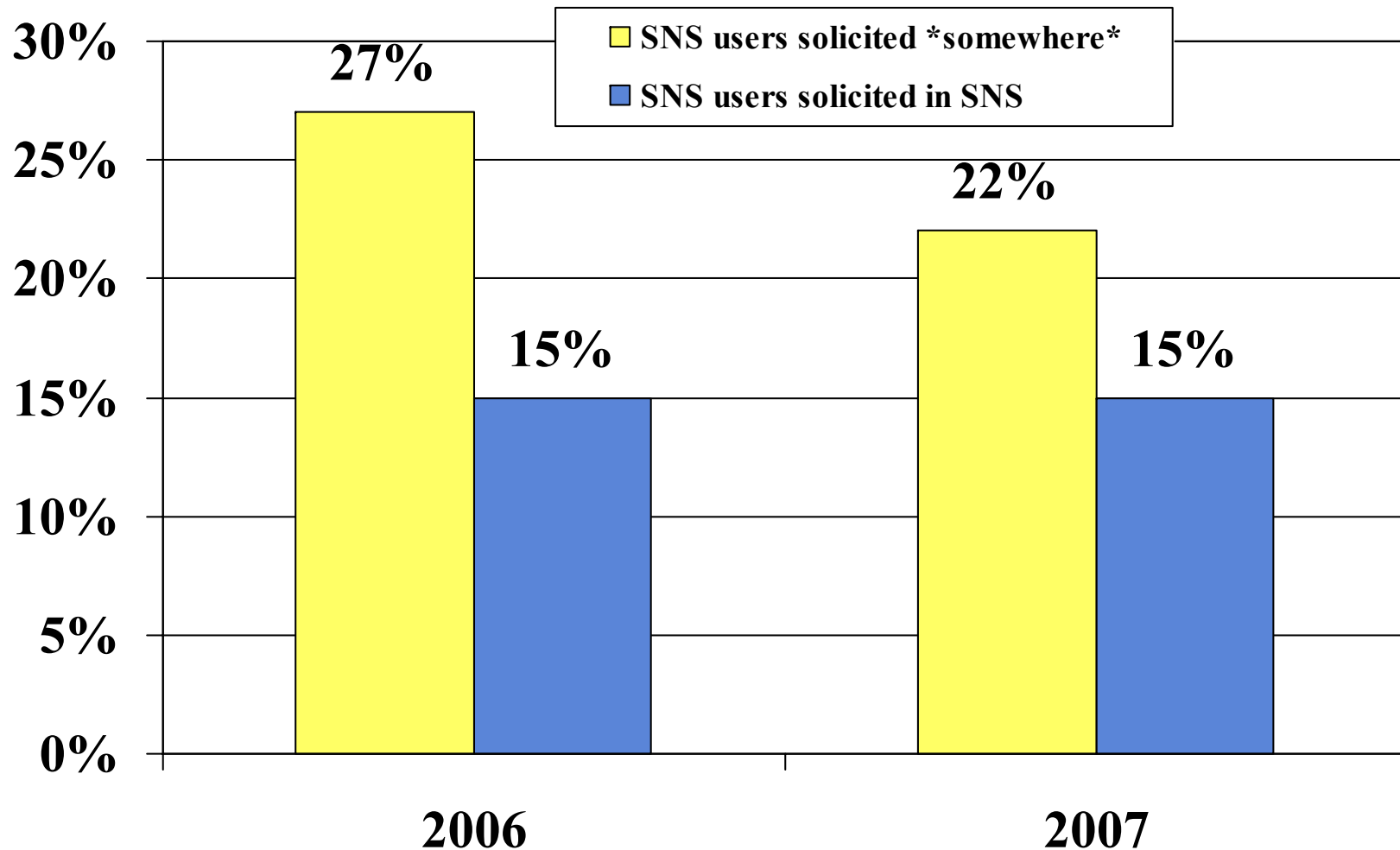
...and across all ages



# Social networking sites and unwanted sexual solicitation



# What is the likelihood that SNS users will be solicited?





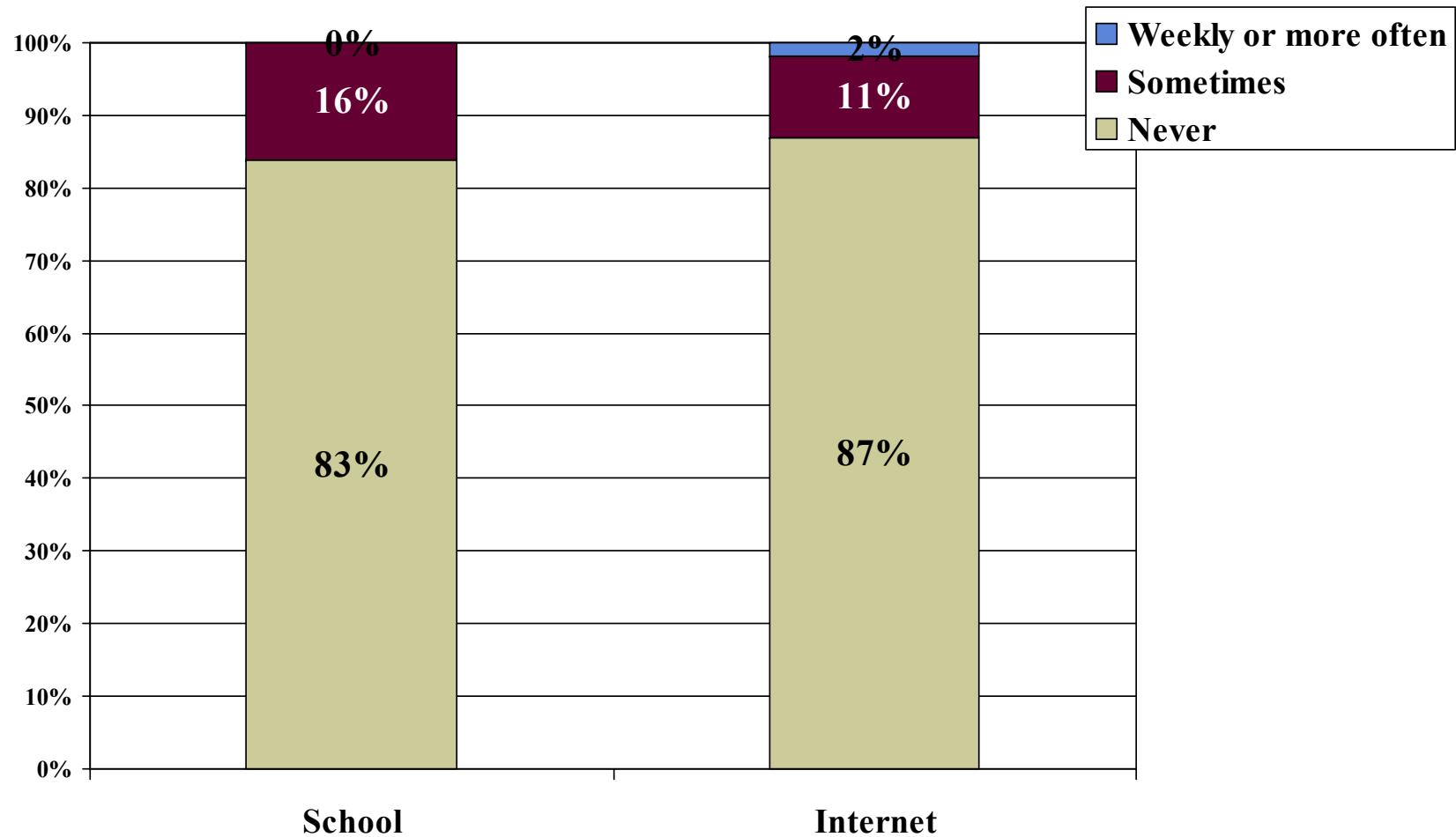
# How do rates compare online and offline?

(From GuwM) **School-based sexual solicitation / sexual harassment**

The following question is about your experiences at school. In the past 12 months, did the following happen to you while you were at school?

- Someone tried to get me to talk about sex when I did not want to.
- Someone asked me for sexual information about myself when I did not want to tell the person, e.g., really personal questions, like what my body looks like or sexual things I have done.
- Someone asked me to do something sexual that I did not want to do.

# How do rates compare online and offline?



# Implications for professionals working with youth

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- The data do **not** support the assertion that youth are more likely to be sexually solicited or harassed online than offline.
- We need to do more to provide support and intervention for youth who are targeted by peer aggression, both online **and offline**.
- Most youth do not operate in a 'vacuum'. What are we doing to treat children more globally and provide services that address all of their needs?

# Final thoughts

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- The **majority** of youth who use the Internet have **positive** experiences and report that none of these types of exposures occur.
- Youth having problems online are more likely to have problems offline. We need to be concerned about those reporting problems over time.
- We need to **focus on the child**, not the online application.



# Thanks for your time

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