Internet and e-Safety Facts & Figures

Current Government strategy

On 6th September 2007, the Prime Minister asked Professor Tanya Byron to conduct an independent review looking at the risks to children from exposure to potentially harmful or inappropriate material on the internet and in video games.

The Byron Review: Safer Children in a Digital World is about the needs of children and young people, and preserving their right to take the risks that form an inherent part of their development by enabling them to surf the net and play video games in a safe and informed way.

As a result of the Byron Review's recommendations, the Government launched the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) in September 2008. A number of initiatives are being undertaken including:

- Child e-safety awareness campaign
- Programmes to support sustainable education and children's services initiatives on e-safety
- A framework of better self-regulation by industry to make the internet safer for children

The internet and its users

- In 2008, on average there were **41.8 million** UK internet users, resulting in the UK becoming the **2nd** country in Europe to use the internet most frequently.[1]
- On average **65%** of households in Great Britain had internet access in 2008; this represents an increase of **1.2 million** since 2007.[2]
- In 2008, on average the region with the highest level of access was the South East with **74%** and the region with the lowest access levels was the North East with **54%.**
- On average **58%** of internet users went online everyday in 2008.[3]

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[1] http://internetworldstats.com/stats4.htm
[2] National Statistics

- The average amount of time each person spent on a computer in October 2008 is **38 minutes**.[4]
- The average number of domains visited per person in November 2008 in the UK was **75**.[5]
- The average duration of a web page viewed in 2008 was **51 seconds**.[6]
- The most popular activity of recent internet users was sending or receiving emails at **87%**.[7]
- In 2008 the most common place to access the internet was the home with **90%**.[8]
- On average **29%** of recent internet users communicate over the internet with the use of instant messaging and **20%** by posting messages to chat sites, newsgroups, etc.[9]

Children and young people

- Well over **8 million** children in the UK have access to the internet.[10]
- **One in five** children worldwide admits to doing things online their parents wouldn't approve of.[11]
- Up to half of online adults worldwide and up to **40%** of online children worldwide have made friends online.[12]
- In the UK, **43%** of online adults and **26%** of children enjoy their online relationships as much or more than their offline friendships.[13]
- In UK, adults believe that **4%** of children have been approached online by a stranger. The actual per cent reported by UK online children is **20**.[14]
- **Most** children will not report inappropriate internet contact to their parents because they are afraid of losing internet privileges.[15]

[3] http://www.hitsearchlimited.com/news/999115/
[4] http://www.nielsen-online.com/resources.jsp?section=pr_netv&nav=1
[5] http://www.nielsen-online.com/resources.jsp?section=pr_netv&nav=1
[6] http://www.nielsen-online.com/resources.jsp?section=pr_netv&nav=1
[7] http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/iahi0808.pdf
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[12] http://www.realwire.com/release_detail.asp?ReleaseID=7790
[13] http://www.realwire.com/release_detail.asp?ReleaseID=7790
[14] http://www.realwire.com/release_detail.asp?ReleaseID=7790
[15] http://www.netlingo.com/statistics.cfm

- Prevention programmes for schools bring down bullying by **80%** according to anonymous surveys of pupils.[16]
- The proportion of people who believe that protecting children is the most important issue facing society is **88%**.[17]
- **74.4%** of 1,277 children and young people claimed that they could access the internet whenever they wanted to and had no parental restrictions placed upon what they viewed.[18]
- The average age for first exposure to internet pornography is **11**.[19]

<u>Parents</u>
- **95%** of parents didn't recognize the lingo kids use to let people know that their parents are watching.[20]
- **76%** of parents don't have rules about what their kids can do on the computer.[21]
- Around **seven in 10** UK online parents are concerned about their children being approached with inappropriate content or solicitations but only **four in 10** have spoken to their child on safe internet practices, despite the UK having the highest number of children (**87%)** claiming to be comfortable talking to their parents about their on line experiences.[22]
- **Three quarters** of UK parents are concerned about what their children are doing online.[23]
- **One quarter** of UK parents have no idea about what their children get up to on the internet.[24]

[16] http://www.kidscape.org.uk/cyberbullying/conference.html
[17] http://www.nspcc.org.uk/whatwedo/aboutthenspcc/annualreport/Impact_coverpullout_wdf60941.pdf
[18] http://www.ceop.gov.uk/downloads/documents/iyac_charter_supp.pdf
[19] http://internet-filter-review.toptenreviews.com/internet-pornography-statistics.html#anchor5
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[23] http://www.realwire.com/release_detail.asp?ReleaseID=7790
[24] http://www.realwire.com/release_detail.asp?ReleaseID=7790