

# SECOND YOUTH INTERNET SAFETU SURVEY (YISS-2)

## NDACAN Dataset Number 159 USER'S GUIDE



National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect

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# **Second Youth Internet Safety Survey (YISS-2)**

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## PREFACE

The data for *Second Youth Internet Safety Survey (YISS-2)* have been given to the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) for public distribution by David Finkelhor. Funding for the project was provided by National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (Award Number(s): 2005-MC-CX-K024 and 2003-JN-FX-0064).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SOURCE

Authors should acknowledge the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) and the original collector(s) of the data when publishing manuscripts that use data provided by the Archive. Users of these data are urged to follow some adaptation of the statement below.

The data used in this publication were made available by the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, and have been used with permission. Data from *Second Youth Internet Safety Survey (YISS-2)* were originally collected by: David Finkelhor. Funding for the project was provided by National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (Award Number(s): 2005-MC-CX-K024 and 2003-JN-FX-0064). The collector(s) of the original data, the funder(s), NDACAN, Cornell University and their agents or employees bear no responsibility for the analyses or interpretations presented here.

The bibliographic citation for this data collection is:

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## PUBLICATION SUBMISSION REQUIREMENT

In accordance with the terms of the *Data License* for this dataset, users of these data are required to notify the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect of any published work or report based wholly or in part on these data. A copy of any completed manuscript, thesis abstract, or reprint should be emailed to [NDACANsupport@cornell.edu](mailto:NDACANsupport@cornell.edu). Such copies will be used to provide our funding agency with essential information about the use of NDACAN resources and to facilitate the exchange of information about research activities among data users and contributors.

## **ABSTRACT**

The Second Youth Internet Safety Survey (YISS-2) was conducted in 2005 and designed to update and expand upon the previous Youth Internet Safety Survey (YISS-1) conducted in 1999/2000. This study involves telephone interviews with a national sample of 1500 youth Internet users, ages 10 to 17. The interviews measure changes in the frequency and nature of unwanted online exposures to sexual solicitations and pornography since YISS-1. Additionally, YISS-2 goes beyond the findings of YISS-1 by including more details about the impact on youth of unwanted exposure to sexual solicitations and pornography and the use and efficacy of filtering and blocking software. Findings from YISS-2 showed increased proportions of youth Internet users were encountering unwanted exposures to sexual material and online harassment, but decreased proportions were receiving unwanted sexual solicitations.

## STUDY OVERVIEW

### **Study Identification**

*Second Youth Internet Safety Survey (YISS-2)*

### **Principal Investigator(s):**

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### **Funded By:**

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention

### **Award Number(s):**

2005-MC-CX-K024 and 2003-JN-FX-0064

### **Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the study is to assess the incidence, consequences and risk factors related to unwanted or illegal exposure of children and adolescents to sexual solicitation, harassment and pornography on the Internet and to determine children's and parent's knowledge of how to respond to such episodes.

### **Study Design**

The sample for YISS-2 was drawn from a national sample of households with telephones, which was developed by random digit dialing. Schulman, Ronca, and Bucuvalas, Inc., a national survey research firm, conducted the interviews. Interviewers dialed a total of 54,842 telephone numbers to identify households with children aged 10 through 17 who had used the Internet at least once a month for the past six months. Standardized definitions developed by the American Association for Public Opinion Research were used to code the final dispositions for the telephone numbers used to create the sample. Of the 54,842 numbers, 24,363 were not active residential phone numbers at the time of the interview, including 3,523 business numbers; 2,512 computer/fax numbers; 17,571 other non-working numbers; and 757 other. In addition, 3,626 numbers yielded non-interviewable households because there was no answer including 565 busy on all attempts; 2,986 no answer; and 75 other. Among the 26,853 eligible households that were contacted for household screening, 12,537 did not interview including 6,638 refusals to complete the initial household screener, 3,937 on callback, and 1,962 for other reasons. Among the 14,316

cooperating households 10,360 were not eligible, including 9,616 households with no children in the eligibility age range; 722 households with no or limited Internet access; and 22 households with an incapacitated child. Household interviews with children ages 10 to 17 who had used the Internet at least once a month for the past 6 months were conducted in 3,956 households. Among these, families with eligible children refused to complete the survey in 1,839 households including 960 adults completed the initial screener but refused to continue the interview, 829 adults completed the parent portion of the survey but refused to allow their child to be interviewed, and 50 adults completed the parent portion of the survey but their child refused to be interviewed. Eligible children in 617 households did not complete the survey during the field time. Families with eligible children in 1,500 households completed the survey. The sample size of 1,500 was pre-determined based upon a maximum expected sampling error of +/- 2.5% at the 5% significance level.

### **Date(s) of Data Collection**

March 4, 2005 - June 12, 2005

### **Geographic Area**

United States

### **Unit of Observation**

Child and one caregiver

### **Sample**

Participants were 1,500 youth ages 10 to 17 who had used the Internet at least once a month for the past 6 months from a computer at their home, school, a library, or any other place; and one parent or guardian in the household self-identified as the one most knowledgeable about the youth's Internet practices (71% female). This broad definition of Internet use was used to ensure the inclusion of youth respondents who had a range of Internet use, from relatively low to high use. Youth participants ranged from ages 10 to 17 ( $M = 14.24$ ,  $SD = 2.09$ ). Fifty-one (51) percent were girls, and 76% identified as White.

### **Data Collection Procedures**

Upon reaching a household, telephone interviewers asked to speak with an adult and then determined whether there was a child in the household who met the inclusion criteria (age 10 to 17 and used the Internet at least once a month for the past six months). Interviewers then asked to speak with the adult who was most familiar with the youth's Internet use and after receiving informed consent, asked a series of questions about Internet use. At the close of the parent/guardian survey the interviewer asked for permission to interview the child. Interviewers told parents and guardians the youth interview would be confidential, it would include questions about "sexual material your child may have seen," and youth would receive \$10 checks for participating. In households with more than one eligible youth, the one who used the Internet the

most often was chosen to participate in the interview. After receiving permission from parents or guardians, interviewers spoke with the youth and asked for permission to conduct an interview. Interviewers assured youth their answers would be confidential and they could skip any question they did not want to answer and end the interview at any time. The youth interview was scheduled at the convenience of the youth and at a time when he or she was able to talk freely and confidentially. Youth participants were mailed \$10 checks upon completion of the survey. Youth who revealed previously undisclosed sexual or physical abuse or who had thoughts of suicide as determined through answers to questions about mental health were contacted after the interview by a clinical psychologist associated with the study for evaluation and follow-up. The average youth interview lasted 30 minutes, and the average adult interview lasted 10 minutes. Interviewing for YISS-2 took place between March 4, 2005, and June 12, 2005.

### **Response Rates**

The American Association for Public Opinion Research has created standardized formulas for response rates of surveys, to help ensure comparable measures are used. These standardized formulas were used to determine response rates for YISS-2. Response rates range from minimum to maximum depending on factors such as how partial interviews and cases of unknown eligibility are calculated. Response rates from YISS-2 ranged from a low of 0.38 to a high of 0.45.

### **Sources of Information**

Telephone interview

### **Type of Data Collected**

Survey

### **Measures**

#### ***Achenbach Youth Self-Report (YSR)***

In YISS-2 the following five sub-scales were included: rule-breaking behavior, aggressive behavior, social problems, withdrawn/depressed, and attention problems.

Achenbach, T. M. (1991). *Integrative guide for the 1991 CBCL/4-18, YSR, and TRF profiles*. Burlington, VT: University of Vermont, Department of Psychiatry. Retrieved from: <http://www.aseba.org/products/products.html>

Achenbach, T. M. (1991). *Manual for the youth self-report and 1991 profile*. Burlington, VT: University of Vermont, Department of Psychiatry. Retrieved from: <http://www.aseba.org/products/products.html>

#### ***Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire (JVQ)***

Subset of questions from this measure was used in YISS-2.

Finkelhor, D., Hamby, S. L., Ormrod, R., & Turner, H. (2005). The juvenile victimization questionnaire: Reliability, validity, and national norms. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 29(4), 383-412. Retrieved from: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/B6V7N-4G24XGB-1/2/d02da4e95c667e089864f977c4182abd>

Finkelhor, D., Ormrod, R. K., & Turner, H. A. (2007). Poly-victimization: A neglected component in child victimization. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 31(1), 7-26. Retrieved from: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/B6V7N-4MV1H3J-1/2/652262ebf6a293c206cda0b28435b74d>

Finkelhor, D., Ormrod, R., Turner, H., & Hamby, S. L. (2005). The victimization of children and youth: A comprehensive, national survey. *Child Maltreatment*, 10(1), 5-25. Retrieved from: <http://cmx.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/10/1/5>

Hamby, S. L., Finkelhor, D., Ormrod, R., & Turner, H. (2004). *The juvenile victimization questionnaire (JVQ): Administration and scoring manual*. Crimes against Children Research Center, University of New Hampshire. Retrieved from: [http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV55\\_2004.pdf](http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV55_2004.pdf)

### ***YISS-2 Internet Use Characteristics***

This set of questions was designed for YISS-2 and is directed at youth participants. Questions target how, how often, and where youth use the Internet.

Finkelhor, D., Wolak, J., & Mitchell, K. (2005). *YISS-2 Internet Use Characteristics [Measure]*. Durham, NH: UNH.

### ***YISS-2 Online Relationships***

This set of questions was designed for the study and is directed at youth participants. Questions target whether youth participants have developed close or romantic relationships with people they have met online. Any positive response triggers detailed follow-up questions about one particular individual.

Finkelhor, D., Wolak, J., & Mitchell, K. (2005). *YISS-2 Online Relationships [Measure]*. Durham, NH: UNH.

### ***YISS-2 Online Risky Behavior***

This set of nine core questions was designed for the First Youth Internet Safety Study and also used in the current study. Questions query whether or not youth had engaged in a variety of different online behaviors that are deemed risky in current prevention messages in the past year - sexual behavior, viewing pornography, posting and sending a picture of oneself, and aggressive behavior.

Finkelhor, D., Wolak, J., & Mitchell, K. (2005). *YISS-2 Risky Behavior [Measure]*. Durham, NH: UNH.

### ***YISS-2 Unwanted Sexual Exposure and Solicitation (USES)***

This set of screener questions was designed for the First Youth Internet Safety Study and also used in the current study. This series of nine yes/no questions is designed to identify youth experiences with unwanted exposure to sexual solicitation, harassment, and pornography on the Internet in the past year. Any positive response triggers a series of detailed follow-up questions designed to provide context regarding a specific experience.

Finkelhor, D., Wolak, J., & Mitchell, K. (2005). *Unwanted Sexual Exposure and Solicitation (USES) [Measure]*. Durham, New Hampshire: UNH.

### ***YISS-2 Online Safety Tools***

This set of questions was designed for the study and is directed at parents. Questions target the use of filtering and blocking software in the home.

YISS-2 Online Safety Tools Finkelhor, D., Wolak, J., & Mitchell, K. (2005). *YISS-2 Online Safety Tools [Measure]*. Durham, NH: UNH.

### ***YISS-2 Reporting***

This set of questions was designed for the study and is directed at parents. Questions target parent knowledge of places on the Internet where one can report cases of children being exposed to sexual material or illegal content.

Finkelhor, D., Wolak, J., & Mitchell, K. Finkelhor, D., Wolak, J., & Mitchell, K. (2005). *YISS-2 Reporting [Measure]*. Durham, New Hampshire: UNH.

### ***YISS-2 Reporting and Prevention***

This set of questions was designed for the study and is directed at youth participants. Questions target whether youth participants have ever heard of places to report situations where adults use the Internet to meet kids for sexual purposes. Additional questions query youth exposure to various Internet safety prevention messages - from parents and from schools (separately).

Finkelhor, D., Wolak, J., & Mitchell, K. (2005). *YISS-2 Reporting and Prevention [Measure]*. Durham, NH: UNH.

### **Related Publications and Final Reports**

**Users are strongly encouraged to review published works, based upon these data, before doing analyses. To view a complete list of publications for this dataset, please visit our online citations collection called “canDL” at:**

<https://www.zotero.org/groups/421939/candl/tags/159-YISS2/library> or go to the [child abuse and neglect Digital Library \(canDL\) NDACAN webpage](#).

### **Analytic Considerations**

The First Youth Internet Safety Survey is also available from NDACAN: dataset number 134.

Missing data is coded as such on a variable by variable basis either in the value labels field, or as system missing.

### **Confidentiality Protection**

The contributor removed primary identifiers from the data. NDACAN removed some variables and some verbatim responses.

### **Extent of Collection**

This dataset contains a User's Guide, Codebook, two survey instruments (youth and adult), final report, and one data file named "DS159\_YISS2" in file formats native to SPSS(.sav), Stata(.dta), and SAS(.sas7bdat), as well as, import program files for SAS(.sas), SPSS(.sps), and Stata(.do) to read in the text(.dat) data file, and one tab-delimited (.tab) data file for use with spreadsheet programs.

### **Extent of Processing**

NDACAN produced the User's Guide and Codebook. Modifications were made to some labels in the data file. Some variables were removed for confidentiality protection.

### **Acronyms and Abbreviations**

The following abbreviations and acronyms are used in this dataset:

| <b>Acronym/abbreviation</b> | <b>Definition/meaning</b>                        |
|-----------------------------|--|
| canDL                       | child abuse and neglect Digital Library          |
| HH                          | household  |
| NDACAN                      | National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect |
| SAS                         | SAS statistical software program                 |
| SPSS                        | IBM SPSS Statistics - software program           |
| Stata                       | Stata statistical software program               |
| USES                        | Unwanted Sexual Exposure and Solicitation        |

| <b>Acronym/abbreviation</b> | <b>Definition/meaning</b>           |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Vol                         | voluntary                           |
| YISS-1                      | First Youth Internet Safety Survey  |
| YISS-2                      | Second Youth Internet Safety Survey |

## DATA FILE INFORMATION

### File Specifications

The data file, DS\_159, has 1500 records and 610 variables. There is one record per respondent.

### Data File Notes

The first two variables are identifiers (id\_2 and status) variables 3 (numadlts) through 44 (income) pertain to the instrument Parentq\_YISS2, variables 52 (websites) through 524 (bullyvic) pertain to the instrument Youthq\_YISS2 and variables 45 to 51 (rule1 to rule3) and 525 through 610 (yiss to exposure\_2) are summary and derived variables. Information on instrument section and respondent for each variable can be found in the codebook. The variable name in the data file and instrument file may not be identical, but through the order of variables and the names and labels given one may readily discern which variable or variables match an instrument question.

The read-in response and skip-logic for survey questions can be found in the instrument documents: Parentq\_YISS2 and Youthq\_YISS2. Other information can be ascertained from the instruments as well, for instance whether possible response choices were offered or whether voluntary responses were coded into categories.

Variables finc and finc\_2 identify the incidents used for follow-up questions. See page 12 of the YISS Youth Interview (Youthq\_YISS2) for an explanation of how USES items for follow-up were chosen.

Variable pri1 identifies the read-in item for follow-up in the online relationship section. See page 37 of the YISS Youth Interview (Youthq\_YISS2.pdf) for definitions.

Variables Rule1 to Rule3 are not included in the instrument file. The Codebook provides text to describe the survey questions and coded responses.

Variables described as "mention 1", "mention 2", and so on are recorded in the actual order of the response.

A negative value for the variable agediff indicates that that the youth respondent was older than the person with whom they were talking.

Some value labels may be truncated by software. Use the instrument files to obtain the full label.

**Technical support for this dataset is provided by NDACAN.**

**Please send your inquiries to [NDACANSUPPORT@cornell.edu](mailto:NDACANSUPPORT@cornell.edu)**

**Visit the User Support page of the NDACAN website for help documents and videos (<https://www.ndacan.acf.hhs.gov>).**