GIRLS ON THE NET

THE SURVEY OF
ADOLESCENT GIRLS' USE OF THE
INTERNET IN NEW ZEALAND

THE INTERNET SAFETY GROUP

FEBRUARY, 2001

Contents

1.   Acknowledgments

The Internet Safety Group (ISG), representing schools, government and community groups, first came together in September of 1998 to address the question of how to educate parents and young people about safety on the Internet. After 18 months of hard work, the New Zealand Internet Safety Kit was created and sent to every school in New Zealand and a modified version to every library. The same day the Kit was launched, www.netsafe.org.nz made its debut, New Zealand's first Internet Safety website. We would like to thank the Kit's primary sponsor, the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services, the other two sponsors (the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Police) and the Department of Internal Affairs for endorsement of the Kit. We are also grateful for the continued sponsorship of our website by the Ministry of Education.

From the beginning, Liz Butterfield has managed this project with the support of Auckland Rape Crisis, where she is Co-ordinator. Besides Liz, several members have worked hard on publicising these issues: Claire Balfour, Associate Principal of Mt Roskill Grammar School and co-author of the Kit with Liz, Superintendent Howard Broad, District Commander of Auckland City Police, Denise Ritchie, ECPAT NZ, and David Knowles, Principal of Three Kings Primary School. However, every member of our group has contributed valuable expertise and actively champions the cause of Internet safety in their various professional fields.

One serious concern of the ISG was the complete lack of research on Internet usage and risks in New Zealand. We asked Dr. Niki Harré and Dr. John Read, of the University of Auckland Psychology Department, and Dr. John Barnett, from the University's School of Education (and now an ISG member) for help. Using an important United States online survey done on a website for adolescent girls as a model, psychology student Pat Bullen took on the task of designing a survey for New Zealand girls and doing a literature search for relevant material. We are grateful to Pat for her hard work and would like to thank Dr Ilene Berson and Dr Michael Berson of the University of South Florida, two of the creators of the US survey, for their assistance and encouragement of this project.

The staff of the very popular website for adolescent girls, 'nzgirl', were eager to help out and agreed to run the survey form on their site for several weeks. Our thanks to Jenene Crossan, owner of 'nzgirl', and Keri O'Brien for being so enthusiastic and committed to using their site to help young women keep safe on the Net. Thanks, too, to Kirsten Hyde for her help with the mechanics of the data spreadsheet.

The responses to the survey went back to Dr Niki Harré and Dr John Read for analysis. Many thanks to them for their commitment to this project and to students Mary-Rose Mahala and Jennifer Hauraki for assisting. A final thanks to the members of the Media who have shown interest throughout this project and helped the Internet Safety Group disseminate the vital education that will help keep the children and young people of New Zealand safe on the Internet.

The New Zealand Internet Safety Group
February, 2001

2. Introduction

The Internet is one part of the technological revolution that is rapidly changing our society in very fundamental ways. This exciting 'information highway' is definitely here to stay. We are now far beyond the point where parents can say 'yes' or 'no' to the Net; this is a resource that every child and young person, and most adults, in New Zealand will experience as part of their daily lives.

But how safe is the Internet? There are no behaviours evident on the Net which are new to society, but the illusion of anonymity in cyberspace encourages both the naïve trust of children and adolescents and the predatory behaviour of those who would victimise the young. There are technological tools that can help protect kids, but **the ultimate weapon against online victimisation is education**.

This survey addresses risks in 'chat' environments on the Internet, though there are other serious risks, such as exposure to child pornography, of which we need to be aware. 'Girls on the Net' survey gives us a very quick glimpse of what is happening out there and the results are of serious concern, given that it is estimated that almost 200,000 New Zealanders under 17 are online at home. It must be pointed out that this is an online survey, which means the respondents are already a selected group: they are all Internet users. We also have no way of knowing the veracity of these responses, but that is a problem with all surveys, not just this one.

The results of this survey are a clear wake-up call to all who are entrusted with the care of our young people that we must take the issue of Internet Safety seriously. Those offering Internet access, (whether parents, youth groups, schools, libraries or churches), need to couple the access they offer with education that will safeguard our young people, as well as initiate commonsense safety procedures. As a nation, we must start thinking of Internet Safety like water and road safety – mainstream child safety information.

There is much we can all contribute to the goals of Internet Safety. Our leaders in Wellington could more often talk publicly about these issues, as did the Commissioner for Children, Roger McClay, upon release of the Internet Safety Kit. Educational institutions, guided by the Ministry of Education, can not only set in place the policies and procedures that will help establish a safe Internet environment, but also encourage Internet Safety education into the school's curriculum. As well, the Ministry of Education can monitor the implementation through existing accountability procedures carried out with schools. Counsellors, psychologists, social workers and researchers can turn their attention to these issues, for they will be essential in responding effectively to online victimisation. Internet Service Providers can be a powerful force behind educational remedies, as well as technological ones. Businesses can do as Sanitarium has done with their Weet-Bix boxes and offer a forum for Internet Safety education. As well, businesses can ensure their workplaces are safe Internet environments.

The New Zealand Internet Safety Kit, the Netsafe website, and this 'Girls on the Net' Survey are key components of this first national initiative on Internet Safety in the world. This is a wonderful achievement, but there is still much work to be done. Too many children are still gravely at risk.

3.   Survey Highlights

*The **347** respondents were all female, age 11-19 (**72%** 13 –16), and residing in New Zealand at the time of the survey.*

3.1   **68.5%** were using the Internet most days.

3.2   **23%** were using the Internet over 10 hours per week (**12%** over 15 hours).

3.3   **29%** have sent or received post mail and **26%** have communicated by telephone with people they have met on the Internet – ways of communicating which are no longer anonymous.

3.4   **33.5%** have had a personal face-to-face meeting with someone they met on the Internet.

   Of those who have had a personal face-to-face meeting:

   3.4.1   **40%** met the person in a chatroom.
   3.4.2   **86%** met males.
   3.4.3   **38%** met someone 18 or older, and **5%** someone 25 or older.
   3.4.4   **34.5%** did not tell their parents or caregivers about the meeting beforehand.
   3.4.5   **32%** went to that meeting alone. (Of the total sample, **2.5%** of 11-14 yr olds, and **10.5%** of 15 yr olds have had a personal face-to-face meeting alone.)

3.5   **60%** had done at least one potentially unsafe behaviour. (**35.5%** gave out personal information e.g. address/phone no., **26.5%** sent a photo of themselves to someone they met, and **14.5%** had posted a picture of themselves on the Net.)

3.6   **95.5%** use the Internet at home, yet **75%** state that their use of the Internet at home is only occasionally **(37.5%)** or never **(37.5%)** monitored by an adult.

3.7   **44.5%** use the Internet at school, yet **58%** state that their use of the Internet at school is monitored only occasionally **(28.5%)** or never **(29.5%)** by an adult.

3.8   Only **5.5%** use the Internet at the Public Library, but **88.5%** of those report monitoring by an adult only occasionally **(20.0%)** or never **(68.5%)**.

3.9   **36.5%** use the Internet at someone else's home.

3.10   **22.5%** report having felt unsafe or threatened while using the Internet (most commonly from sexual threats).

3.11   Approximately half **(48%)** would tell their parents if something happened on the Internet that made them feel unsafe. **62%** would tell a friend, **14.5%** the Police, **5%** a teacher. **9.5%** wouldn't tell anyone.

4.   Conclusions

The 'Girls on the Net' survey is a clear warning that there is no time to waste in moving forward with this national Internet Safety initiative. There are key areas that the Internet Safety Group, a unique body that includes representatives of government agencies, community groups and educational institutions, will be addressing in the coming months.

We will continue to:

4.1   Educate teachers and school administrations, parents, children and young people about Internet Safety, and to broaden the scope to include educating government agencies, community groups, Internet industry players and private businesses. This education will be promulgated through the Netsafe website and the media.

4.2   Promote skill development for young people in critically analysing the unfiltered information they find on the Internet and 'cyberethics' to help them moderate their behaviour on the Net.

4.3   To educate about the laws in New Zealand regarding the Net and publicly endorse legislative changes that make those laws more efficient and effective.

4.4   To develop partnerships with educational institutions and computer hardware and software developers in order to keep ahead of technological developments which may present new child safety challenges.

4.5   To facilitate communication about Internet technology and the attendant risks, and also 'bring to the table' all parties who can contribute to the prevention of victimisation of New Zealand children and young people on the Internet.

Over the next three years, we will be able to gauge if we are making progress if:

4.6   The work of the ISG is fully funded by a combination of government bodies and businesses.

4.7   The usage of the Netsafe website, the number of queries originating from the site, and the number of links to other sites increases.

4.8   New research projects on Internet usage, risks, and related issues are underway.

4.9   There is an increase in reporting of Internet related crimes.

4.10   There is routine instruction about Internet safety at all levels of education, from pre-school to tertiary.

4.11   Surveys reveal an increased awareness of Internet safety issues, a reduction in high risk behaviours and increased levels of monitoring.

4.12   There are permanent links between this New Zealand national initiative and other programmes world-wide.

The Internet Safety Group cannot do this alone. Just as New Zealanders are so rapidly embracing the Internet, let us also embrace Internet Safety education with the same facility and enthusiasm.

5.   Methodology

This document contains tables that show the main findings from the survey. A small number of more detailed analyses have been carried out. Only one of the open-ended questions (for which participants were asked to give a written response) has been analysed at this stage.

Males, people over 20, and people not resident in New Zealand at the time of completing the survey, were not included in the study.

The total sample size is 347. Due to a small number of missing responses there is slight variation in the number who answered each question. The number responding to each question is given on tables in which the response categories are mutually exclusive, i.e. it was only possible to give one answer. For some items, response options were not mutually exclusive and therefore non-responses cannot be distinguished from negative responses.   For example, not ticking any response from a range of options for a certain question may mean that none were applicable or that the person chose not to answer that question. The numbers (n) responding to these questions is therefore not given.

The title of each table is the question as given in the survey.

All figures are given to one decimal place and have been rounded to the nearest .5, therefore percentages will not always sum to 100.

These results have been produced by the Psychology Department of the University of Auckland. The students and staff involved in the construction of the survey and analysis of the results were: Dr Niki Harré, Dr John Read, Pat Bullen, Mary-Rose Mahala and Jennifer Hauraki.

6.   Survey Questions

1.   How old are you?

2.   Are you male or female?

3.   Do you live in New Zealand?
       Yes/No

4.   How often do you use the Internet?
       a.   less that once a month
       b.   once a month
       c.   once a fortnight
       d.   two or three times a week
       e.   most days

5.   On average, how many hours do you spend on the Internet each week?

6.   In the past 6 months, where have you used the Internet?
       (you may enter more than one)
       a.   at home
       b.   someone else's home
       c.   school
       d.   public library
       e.   some other place (please write here)

7.   What do you use the Internet for?
       (you may enter more than one)
       a.   chat rooms
       b.   instant messages
       c.   e-mail
       d.   surfing for personal interest
       e.   for school work or other educational reasons
       f.   some other reason (please write here)

8.   Have you ever done any of the things listed below with someone you met on the Internet?
       (*you may enter more than one*)
       a.   sent or received an e-mail
       b.   sent or received regular post/mail
       c.   called them by telephone or had them call you
       d.   contacted them in some other way (please write in blank)
       e.   no, none of the above

9.   Have you ever had a personal face-to-face meeting with someone you met on the Internet?
       Yes/No

       If you answered 'no' go to Question 15
       If you answered 'yes' continue to Question10

10.   You mentioned that you have had a personal/face to face meeting with someone you met on the Internet… how did you originally meet this person on the Internet?
       a.   met in a chat room
       b.   met through a web site

c. met some other way (please write here)

11. Thinking about the last meeting you had with someone you met on the Internet… did you go to the meeting alone?
Yes/No

12. Was the person you met male or female?

13. How old was the person you met?

14. Did your parents/caregivers know you were going to the meeting?
Yes/No

15. Have you ever…
(*you may enter more than one*)
a. posted a picture of yourself on the Internet for other people to see?
b. given personal information (address, phone number, or last name) to someone you met on the Internet?
c. sent a picture of yourself to someone you met on the Internet?
d. none of the above.

16. Does an adult look at the screen, monitoring your use of the Internet…

at home?	**at school?**	**at the library?**
a. never	a. never	a. never
b. occasionally	b. occasionally	b. occasionally
c. sometimes	c. sometimes	c. sometimes
d. often	d. often	d. often
e. all the time	e. all the time	e. all the time
f. don't use at home	f. don't use at school	f. don't use at the library

17. Have you heard or read about Internet safety from any of the following sources?
(*you may choose more than one*)
a. your parents or caregivers
b. a teacher
c. a friend
d. newspaper/TV/radio
e. nzgirl website
f. some other source (please write in the blank)
g. I haven't heard about Internet safety at all

18. Have you ever felt unsafe or threatened while you were using the Internet?
Yes/No

19. What in particular made you feel unsafe or threatened while you were using the Internet?

20. Who would you tell if something happened that made you feel unsafe or threatened while you were using the Internet? *(you may choose more than one response)*
a. your parents or caregivers
b. a teacher
c. a friend
d. the police
e. some other person (please write in blank)
f. I wouldn't tell anyone

7. Survey Results - frequency tables for each of the quantitative items on the survey

Table 1. How old are you?

Age	Percentage (%)
11	1.5
12	4.5
13	12.5
14	18.5
15	21.5
16	19.5
17	10.5
18	8.0
19	3.5

n = 347

All respondents included for analysis indicated they were female and lived in New Zealand at the time of completing the survey.

Table 2. How often do you use the Internet?

Response Options	Percentage (%)
Less than once a month	0.5
Once a month	1.5
Once a fortnight	6.5
Two or three times a week	23.5
Most days	68.5

n = 347

Table 3. On average, how many hours do you spend on the Internet each week?

Number of hours	Percentage (%)
0-5	43.0
6-10	33.5
11-15	11.0
16-20	6.0
20+	6.0

n = 340

Responses have been grouped into 5 hour blocks up to 20 hours. The minimum response was 0.5 hours; the maximum was 126 hours

Table 4. In the past 6 months, where have you used the Internet?

Location	Percentage (%)
At home	95.5
Someone else's home	36.5
School	44.5
Public library	5.5

Survey n = 347

Exact n cannot be given because responses to this item were not mutually exclusive, therefore missing responses cannot be distinguished from negative responses. The largest n endorsing one category for this item was 332.

Table 5. What do you use the Internet for?

Internet use	Percentage (%)
Chat rooms	47.5
Instant messages	56.5
e-mail	86.5
Surfing for personal interest	78.0
School work or other educational reasons	64.0

Survey n = 347

Exact n cannot be given because responses to this item were not mutually exclusive, therefore missing responses cannot be distinguished from negative responses. The largest n endorsing one category for this item was 301.

Table 6. Have you ever done any of the things listed below with someone you met on the Internet?

Types of contact	Percentage (%)
Sent or received e-mails	70.5
Sent or received regular/post mail	29.0
Called them by telephone or had them call you	26.0
None of the above	23.0

Survey n = 347

Exact n cannot be given because responses to this item were not mutually exclusive, therefore missing responses cannot be distinguished from negative responses. The largest n endorsing one category for this item was 245.

Table 7. Have you ever had a personal face-to-face meeting with someone you met on the Internet?

Response	Percentage (%)
Yes	33.5
No	66.5

n = 254

Table 8. Thinking of the last person you met on the Internet... how did you originally meet this person on the Internet?

How met	Number	Estimated %
Met in a chat room	34	40
Met through a web site	8	9.5

The estimated percentage for this table is based on an n of 85, which is the number who indicated they had had a face to face meeting with someone they met on the Internet. Exact % cannot be calculated due to a third, open-ended response category "other" that has not yet been analysed.

Table 9. Thinking about the last meeting you had with someone you met on the Internet... did you go to the meeting alone?

Response	Percentage (%)
Yes, met alone	32
No, did not meet alone	68

n = 85

Table 10. Was the person you met male or female?

Gender of person met	Percentage (%)
Male	86
Female	14

n = 84

Table 11. How old was the person you met?

Age of person met	Percentage (%)
13	3.5
14	4.5
15	16.5
16	16.5
17	20.0
18	12.0
19	8.0
20-24	13.0
25+	5.0

n = 85

Table 12. Did your parents/caregivers know you were going to the meeting?

Response	Percentage (%)
Yes	65.5
No	34.5

n = 84

Table 13. Have you ever done any of the following?

Types of behaviour	Percentage (%)
Posted a picture of yourself on the Internet for other people to see	14.5
Given personal information (address, phone number or last name) to someone you met on the Internet	35.5
Sent a picture of yourself to someone you met on the Internet	26.5
None of the above	40.0

Survey n = 347
Exact n cannot be given because responses to this item were not mutually exclusive, therefore missing responses cannot be distinguished from negative responses. The largest n endorsing one category for this item was 138.

Table 14. When you use the Internet at home how often does an adult look at the screen, monitoring your use of the Internet?

How often an adult monitors Internet use at home	Percentage (%)
Never	37.5
Occasionally	37.5
Sometimes	19.5
Often	3.5
All the time	2.0

n = 339
This table refers only to those respondents who indicated that they used the Internet at home

Table 15. When you use the Internet at school how often does an adult look at the screen, monitoring your use of the Internet?

How often an adult monitors Internet use at school	Percentage (%)
Never	29.5
Occasionally	28.5
Sometimes	19.0
Often	12.5
All the time	10.5

n = 212
This table refers only to those respondents who indicated that they used the Internet at school

Table 16. When you use the Internet at the library how often does an adult look at the screen, monitoring your use of the Internet?

How often an adult monitors Internet use at the library	Percentage (%)
Never	68.5
Occasionally	20.0
Sometimes	4.5
Often	4.5
All the time	2.5

n = 86
This table refers only to those respondents who indicated that they used the Internet at the library

Table 17. Have you heard or read about Internet safety from any of the following sources?

Options	Percentage (%)
Parents/caregivers	52.0
Teacher	28.0
Friend	28.0
Newspaper/T.V./Radio	57.5
NZ Girl Web Site	22.0
I haven't heard about Internet safety at all	8.5

Survey n = 347
Exact n cannot be given because responses to this item were not mutually exclusive, therefore missing responses cannot be distinguished from negative responses. The largest n endorsing one category for this item was 199.

Table 18. Have you ever felt unsafe or threatened while you were using the Internet?

Response	Percentage (%)
Yes	22.5
No	77.5

n = 330

NB: An independent samples t-test indicated that the <u>mean age</u> of those who had or had not ever felt unsafe or threatened while using the Internet was not significantly different. That is, younger teenagers appeared just as likely to have felt unsafe or threatened as older teenagers.

Table 19. What in particular made you feel unsafe or threatened while using the Internet?

Coded responses	Number who gave response	Examples
Implied Sexual Threats	27	*"When people ask if you want to cyber and then you say no, they call you all these names and stuff".* *"Some guy just started chatting to me and talking about sexual matters, I didn't like it".* *"This person was like 45 and was asking to have sex with me, I felt like he was watching me".*
Strangers Accessing Personal Details	23	*"People pretending to be on IRC and copying my ICQ details".*

		"This guy rang up from Guam and I don't even know how he got my number".
		"Some really dodgy people saying they knew me and knew stuff about me which was really freaky".
Harassment	14	*"Constantly being emailed by a 40 yr old sicko".*
		"People insisting on meeting me".
		"I manages to get my self a stalker who found out where I worked and turned up there".
Verbal Abuse/Intimidation	12	*"The words he used and how he used them".*
		"Someone tried to scare me".
		"The scary talk and mean things".
Computer Hackers	9	*"A hacker got into the computer".*
		"People sending viruses, hacking into my computer".
		"Being able to hack into your computer to find out things about you they normally could never find out".
Implied Physical Threats	8	*"My ex-boyfriend sent me death threats, my dad took them to the police and he got a visit from them".*
		"People threatening me".
Other	5	*"People on the chat".*
		"I was chatting and the guy lived down the street from me!".
		"Nasty people".

Note: results for this item were analysed from the total sample size including a small number of males, people not resident in NZ, and people over 20 yrs old.

<u>Notes for Table 19</u>

A total of 80 comments were made in response to this item. The responses were coded into the above categories. Some comments were scored as belonging to two categories and therefore the number of responses to each category does not sum to 80. For example:

> *"Some guy hacked into my computer and stuck porn up for my wallpaper, told me he was stalking me and wanted to have sex with me".*

This item was coded as 'Implied Sexual Threat' and 'Computer Hackers'.

> *"Someone was sending me e-mails saying they knew who I was and were going to kill me".*

This item was coded as 'Implied Physical Threat' and 'Strangers Accessing Personal Details'.

> *"A guy kept pestering me because I wouldn't give out my phone number and one person went on about finding out all this computer data of mine from my email address".*

This comment was coded as 'Strangers Accessing Personal Details' and 'Harassment'.

Table 20. Who would you tell if something happened that made you feel unsafe or threatened while you were using the Internet?

Response	Percentage (%)
Parents/caregivers	48.0
Teacher	5.0
Friend	62.0
Police	14.5
I wouldn't tell anyone	9.5

Survey n = 347
Exact n cannot be given because responses to this item were not mutually exclusive, therefore missing responses cannot be distinguished from negative responses. The largest n endorsing one category for this item was 216.

Further Analyses Regarding Adult Monitoring of Internet Use and Risky Behaviour of Adolescent Users.

Table 21. Of those people who indicated they had carried out at least one identified risk behaviour[1] and use the Internet at home (n = 154), how frequently is their Internet use monitored when using the Internet at home?

How often an adult monitors Internet use at home	Percentage (%)
Never	41.5
Occasionally	35.5
Sometimes	17.0
Often	3.0
All the time	2.5

[1] 'Risk Behaviours' include (i) posting a picture of yourself on the Internet for other people to see, (ii) giving personal information (address, phone number, or last name) to people you met on the Internet, (iii) sending a picture of yourself to someone you met on the Internet.

Table 22. Of those people who indicated they had carried out at least one identified risk behaviour[1] and use the Internet at school (n = 99), how frequently is their Internet use monitored when using the Internet at school?

How often an adult monitors Internet use at school	Percentage (%)
Never	34.5
Occasionally	24.0
Sometimes	21.0
Often	9.0
All the time	11.0

[1] 'Risk Behaviours' include (i) posting a picture of yourself on the Internet for other people to see, (ii) giving personal information (address, phone number, or last name) to people you met on the Internet, (iii) sending a picture of yourself to someone you met on the Internet

Table 23. Of those people who indicated they had carried out at least one identified risk behaviour[1] and use the Internet at the library (n = 43), how frequently is their Internet use monitored when using the Internet at the library?

How often an adult monitors Internet use at library	Percentage (%)
Never	76.5
Occasionally	14.0
Sometimes	4.5
Often	2.5
All the time	2.5

[1] 'Risk Behaviours' include (i) posting a picture of yourself on the Internet for other people to see, (ii) giving personal information (address, phone number, or last name) to people you met on the Internet, (iii) sending a picture of yourself to someone you met on the Internet.

Note: The results showed on Tables 21 - 23 can be compared with those shown on Tables 14-16, which refer to supervision rates for the entire sample. The pattern of responses for both samples is similar. However, it is of possible interest that for every location (home, school and library) the percentage who were never supervised was slightly higher for the sub-sample who had carried out at least one risky behaviour than for the general sample.

Table 24. Of those people who indicated they had carried out at least one identified risk behaviour[1] (n = 154) how many had ever felt unsafe or threatened while using the Internet?

Ever felt unsafe or threatened while using the Internet	Percentage (%)
Yes	28.5
No	71.5

[1] 'Risk Behaviours' include (i) posting a picture of yourself on the Internet for other people to see, (ii) giving personal information (address, phone number, or last name) to people you met on the Internet, (iii) sending a picture of yourself to someone you met on the Internet.

Note: The results shown on Table 24 can be compared to those for the entire sample shown on Table 18. The distributions are very similar.

Further Analyses Regarding Face-to-Face Meetings With People Met on the Internet

Table 25. Mean age of people who indicated they have or have not had a face-to-face meeting with someone they first met on the Internet.

Have had a face-to-face meeting	Mean age of respondents
Yes	15.9
No	15.1

$t(252) = 3.54$ $p<.0005$

The significant t-test result suggests that the older respondents were more likely to have had a face to face meeting than the younger respondents.

The following analyses refer only to those respondents who indicated they had had a face-to-face meeting with someone they first met on the Internet.

Table 26. How many respondents of each age group who had a face-to-face meeting with someone she first met on the Internet went to that meeting alone or not alone?

Age of respondent	n	% Went to meeting alone (n = 26)	% did not go to meeting alone (n = 57)
12	1	100.0 (1)	0 (0)
13	4	25.0 (1)	75.0 (3)
14	7	14.5 (1)	85.5 (6)
15	22	36.5 (8)	63.5 (14)
16	24	29.0 (7)	71.0 (17)
17	11	36.5 (4)	63.5 (7)
18	9	22.0 (2)	78.0 (7)
19	5	40.0 (2)	60.0 (3)

For each age bracket (excluding the single 12 year old) they were more likely to go to the face to face meeting with someone than alone. There is no obvious pattern for age.

Table 27. Of those respondents who met a male person how many went alone, and of those who met a female person how many went alone?

Went to meeting alone?	% who met a male person (n = 70)	% who met a female person (n = 12)
Yes, went alone	34.5	16.5
No, did not go alone	65.5	83.5

Table 27 indicates that twice as many of those meeting a male person went alone as those meeting a female person. However, the numbers meeting a female person are very small.

Table 28. Of those respondents who went to face-to-face meetings with someone they first met on the Internet either alone or not alone, how old was the person they were meeting?

Age of person met	% Went to meeting alone (n = 26)	% Did not go to meeting alone (n = 57)
13 (n = 3)	0 (0)	100.0 (3)
14 (n = 4)	25.0 (1)	75.0 (3)
15 (n = 13)	23.0 (3)	77.0 (10)
16 (n = 14)	21.5 (3)	78.5 (11)
17 (n = 16)	31.5 (5)	69.0 (11)
18 (n = 10)	30.0 (3)	70.0 (7)
19 (n = 7)	43.0 (3)	57.0 (4)
20 (n = 1)	0 (0)	100.0 (1)
21 (n = 3)	0 (0)	100.0 (3)
22 (n = 4)	50.0 (2)	50.0 (2)
23 (n = 2)	50.0 (1)	50.0 (1)
24 (n = 1)	0 (0)	100.0 (1)
25 (n = 1)	100.0 (1)	0 (0)
26 (n = 1)	100.0 (1)	0 (0)
34 (n = 2)	100.0 (2)	0 (0)

Table 28 shows how many people in total met a person of each age group and whether or not they went alone. For example: 4 people met a 14 yr old, of these 25% (1) went to the meeting alone and 75% (3) did not go alone. There is no obvious pattern for age, although it can be seen that the three oldest people met, were met alone.

Table 29. Of those people who went to a face-to-face meeting with someone they first met on the Internet either alone or not alone, did their parents/caregivers know they were going to the meeting?

Went to meeting Alone?	% Parents/caregivers knew about meeting (n = 54)	% Parents/caregivers did not know about meeting (n = 28)
Yes (n = 26)	61.5	38.5
No (n = 56)	68.0	32.0

Table 29 suggests that parents knowing about a meeting had little impact on whether or not the meeting took place alone. A similar percentage of those that went alone had told their parents as those who did not go alone.

Table 30. Of respondents within each age group who had a face-to-face meeting with someone they first met on the Internet, for how many did their parents/caregivers know about the meeting?

Age of Respondents who had face-to-face meetings with someone they first met on the Internet	% Parents/caregivers knew about meeting (n = 54)	% Parents/caregivers did not know about meeting (n = 28)
12 (n = 1)	100.0	0.0
13 (n = 4)	100.0	0.0
14 (n = 7)	71.5	28.5
15 (n = 21)	52.5	47.5
16 (n = 24)	58.5	41.5
17 (n = 11)	82.0	18.0
18 (n = 9)	66.5	33.5
19 (n = 5)	80.0	20.0

While there is probably no real pattern associated with age of respondent and whether or not their parents knew about the meeting, it may be of interest that 15 and 16 year olds were somewhat less likely to have told their parents about the meeting than respondents of other ages (this has not been statistically analysed).

Further analyses concerning the relationship between the amount of time spent using the internet, adult supervision and risk behaviours

The relationship between hours spent using the internet each week and the amount of supervision received at home, at school and at the library was examined. There was a small but significant negative correlation between hours spent using the internet and supervision at home ($r = -.12$, p<.05). Hours spent using the internet did not appear to be related to supervision at school or at the library. Although this was not measured in the current study it seems likely that more hours are spent on the internet at home than at the other locations and therefore supervision at home is the most relevant variable.

The mean hours of use for those who responded that they had done at least one of the following behaviours:

- Posted a picture of themselves on the internet
- Given out personal information to someone they met on the internet
- Sent a picture of themselves to someone they met on the internet

were compared with the mean hours of use for those who responded that they had not engaged in any of these behaviours. Those who had engaged in at least one of the risk behaviours had a mean of 11.37 hours per week, those who had not engaged in any of the risk behaviours had a mean of 8.16. This difference was significant t(338) = 2.50, p = .01.