National Crime Prevention Council
Research and Evaluation Department
Research Brief – March 5, 2008

Cyberbullying Offending and Victimization

Sample: This study, by Hinduja and Patchin, analyzed the responses of 1,378 adolescents under the age of 18 about cyberbullying victimization and offending. (There were 680 male respondents and 698 female respondents.)

Key Findings:

- The authors found that the average respondent spent 18 hours a week online.
- Almost 33 percent of the males and more than 36 percent of the females reported having been a victim of cyberbullying, with chat rooms being the most common online location. (Males accounted for 23.8 percent of this response and females accounted for 24.2 percent.)
- Eighteen percent of males and almost 16 percent of females reported cyberbullying offending. As expected, chat rooms were the most common place for offending to take place.
- The researchers also measured behaviors that are typically associated with traditional bullying: school problems, assaulting peers, and substance use as well as whether respondents had been victims of bullying in real life or had bullied others. They found that those respondents "who reported recent school problems, assaultive behaviors, or substance use were more likely than their counterparts to experience cyberbullying, *both as an offender and victim*,"(emphasis in original document).
- Youths who bullied others or were bullied in real life in the past six months were two and one-half times more likely to cyberbully or be cyberbullied.
- There were no statistically significant differences among victimization and offending in terms of race or gender, meaning that boys and girls as well as whites and nonwhites were all equally as likely to experience cyberbullying as either an offender or a victim.

Recommendations for Future Work:

- The sample used for this study was a convenience sample. Therefore, it would be helpful for future research to have a more technical research design that includes more stringent sampling methods.
- The researchers pose an interesting idea, that historically less powerful groups (e.g., Hispanics, African-Americans, and women) may be more powerful online since there is anonymity. Future research could attempt to test this by looking at those who bully in person as opposed to online and ask direct questions about why youth engage in cyberbullying.
- This study found that those youth who engage in activities indicative of traditional bullying are more likely to engage in cyberbullying. Further study in this area could help define these ideas.

Source: Hinduja, Sameer & Justin W. Patchin (2008). Cyberbullying: An exploratory analysis of factors related to offending and victimization. *Deviant Behavior, 29,* 129-156.