

# Cybercrime

The CyberTipline at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children received over 40,000 reports of online sexually exploitative behavior of children between July 1998 and June 2001. During this period there were 192 reports of cybercontact involving child pornography; 4026 reports of online enticement; 1,880 reports of child sexual molestation; 779 reports of child prostitution; and 426 reports of child sex tourism. (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention [OJJDP] January 2002. *Protecting Children in Cyberspace: The ICAC Task Force Program*. Washington, DC : U.S. Department of Justice.)

One in five children between the ages of 10 and 17 will receive a sexual solicitation over the Internet each year, and one in 33 will receive an aggressive invitation to meet the solicitor, have telephone contact, or receive mail, money and gifts. (The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children [NCMEC]. 2000. *Online Victimization: A Report on the Nation's Youth*. Arlington, VA.)

A survey of victims of 353 cyberstalking cases in 2000 and 2001 reveals that over 57 percent are Caucasian; over 80 percent are women; 47 percent are 18-40 years of age, and almost half the offenders were strangers to the victims. (Hitchcock, J. November 2002. "Cyberstalking and Law Enforcement" *Crime Victims Report*. 6 [5].)

Of the 353 cyberstalking cases surveyed by Working to Halt Online Abuse (WHO@) in 2000, 39.5 percent began as email communications; 15.5 percent as chat room exchange; 13 percent from instant messaging; 9 percent from a web-based message board; 8.5 percent in a newsroom; 7.0 percent in a general website; 3 percent with a virus attack; and the rest were miscellaneous contacts. (Working to Halt Online Abuse WHO@). 2002. *Online Harassment Statistics*. <http://www.haltabuse.org> Site visited 11/24/2002.)

An investigation by the Internet Fraud Complaint Center at the FBI found that 56,000 victims had been defrauded of 117 million dollars in 2000. (Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI]. May 2001. *Internet Fraud Crime Problem*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice.)

In 2000, the Securities and Exchange Commission took action against 33 different companies for using "pump and dump" schemes to inflate stock prices of more than 70 micro-cap stocks through the use of electronic newsletters and message boards that spread false information on the Internet. (Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI]. *Securities and Commodities Fraud*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice. [http://www.fbi.gov/hq/cid/fc/ec/about/about\\_scf.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/hq/cid/fc/ec/about/about_scf.htm) Site visited 11/24/2002.)

The Internet Fraud Complaint Center at the FBI received 49,711 complaints in 2001. The top five online fraud complaints were Internet auction fraud, non-deliverable merchandise, Nigerian letter fraud, credit card fraud, and confidence schemes. Complaints on non-fraudulent activities included computer intrusions, SPAM/unsolicited mail, and child pornography. (Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI]. 2002. *2001 Internet Fraud Report*. Washington, DC: Department of Justice.)

Victims of Nigerian letter scams, identity theft, and investment fraud reported the highest median dollar losses per person to the FBI in 2001: they reported losses of \$5,575, \$3,000, and \$1,000 respectively. (Ibid.)

The National Fraud Information Center received reports of Internet fraud totaling \$7,209,196 during the first six months of 2002. Eighty-seven percent of the losses occurred at online auction sites. (National Fraud Information Center. [NFIC] 2002. *Internet Fraud Statistics*. Washington DC: National Consumer League.)