Preventing and Responding to Cyberbullying: Why Collaborative Efforts Matter and What's Getting in the Way

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Outline
✓ Define cyberbullying and explore its key characteristics
✓ Consider how youth cope with cyberbullying
✓ Understand how parents, teachers, and the police prevent and respond to cyberbullying
✓ Identify barriers to collaboration and discuss solutions

92% of teens report going **online daily**
– including **24%** who say they go **online “almost constantly”**

Amanda Lenhart, 2015
What is cyberbullying?

Repeated behaviours performed by one or more people through electronic media for the purpose of harming a less powerful individual.

Cyberbullying may be...

- Spreading rumours
- Hurtful or threatening comments
- Creating website, profile, blog
- Impersonation
- Spreading images/videos
- Posting harmful material
- Photoshopping images

How common is it?

- 18% of youth cyberbully others
- 24% of youth are cyberbullied
- ~35% cyberbullying is less common than traditional bullying
Youth who are cyberbullied are 2 times more likely to have attempted suicide.

Youth who cyberbully others are 1.5 times more likely to have attempted suicide.

How do cyberbullied youth cope?

Nearly half of youth do not tell anybody when they are cyberbullied.

- Strict privacy controls
- Change u/n, p/w, email
- Confront cyberbully

Telling an adult?

26% tell a parent
13% tell a teacher

Why don’t young people tell an adult?

1. They believe it will stop on its own
2. Seeking help is something “kids” do, they want to be an adult
3. They are worried they will lose access to technology
4. They do not think they will be taken seriously
How do three groups of adults – parents, teachers, and the police – prevent and respond to cyberbullying?

Do they work together? Why or why not?

What do parents do?

**Strategies:**
- Be friends
- Restrict and monitor technology

**Challenges:**
- Lack technological savvy
- Difficulty controlling others' behaviour

“Information Router”

What do teachers do?

**Strategies:**
- Prevention and awareness campaigns
- Codes of conduct

**Challenges:**
- Lack technological savvy
- Must remain ‘nurturing’
What do the police do?

**Strategies:**
- Low-tech
- Existing laws (when necessary)
- Resource
- ‘Scare’ cyberbullies

**Challenges:**
- Resource deficiencies
- Jurisdictional issues
- Legal-structural constraints

“Knowledge Brokers”

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Barriers to collaboration

- Desired **outcomes** differ
- **Definitions** of cyberbullying vary
- Mistrust exists
- Disagreement about **timelines** to resolution
- Contested **role of parents**

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What can we do?

1. Focus on **prevention.**
What can we do?

2. Create opportunities for continued professional development and education.

What can we do?

3. Remain mindful of others.

What can we do?

4. Consider other relevant partners where appropriate (expand the network).
What can we do?

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Thank you