WHAT ARE THE FACTS ABOUT CYBER CRIMES?

- Cyber crimes are reported as the fastest growing criminal activities.

- Currently, there are no national composite statistics for cyber crimes. National cyber crime surveys and databases are in the process of being established.

- One in five youth receive a sexual approach or solicitation over the internet (DOJ, OVC, Internet Crimes against Children, 2001).

- One in thirty-three youth received an aggressive sexual solicitations (request for meetings, direct correspondence, money or gifts).

- One in four received unwanted exposure to pictures of naked people or people having sex. (DOJ, OVC, Internet Crimes against Children, 2001)

- One in seventeen was threatened or harassed. (DOJ, OVC, Internet Crimes against Children, 2001).

- Between March 1998 and October 2003, the Cyber Tipline operated by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children received a total of 140,593 reports of child pornography, and 2,048 reported cases of child prostitution.

- There were 908 cases of child sex tourism, and 5,522 cases of child molestation (not in the family). Also, there were 9,377 reported cases of online enticement. (National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, "Cyber Tipline Fact Sheet." Sept. 2004

- Working to Halt Online Abuse (WHOA) received 198 reports of cyber stalking in 2003. Thirty five percent mail began as e-mail communications, 16.5 percent from a message board conversation, 17 percent from IM, 7.5 percent from a website, and 8 percent from chat rooms. (Working to Halt Online Abuse, September 2004)

Call to Get Help
1.866.751.7119

Your Resource for Information and Assistance

Spokane Crime Victim Service Center
1.866.751.7119

Bullying
www.bullying.org

Net Crimes
www.netcrimes.net

Cyberbullying
www.cyberbullying.ca

Cybertip line
www.Cyber Tipline.com

ChatDanger
www.chatdanger.com

WHOA (Working to Halt Online Abuse)
www.haltabusektd.org/help/index.shtml

Protecting the rights of crime victims

SPOKANE CRIME VICTIM SERVICE CENTER

Your Resource for Information and Assistance

CYBER STREET SMARTS

WHAT ARE CYBER CRIMES?

Cyber crime is a broadly used term to describe when a computer is used as either a tool to commit the crimes or as a target of the crimes or both. There are many types of crimes that may include a cyber crime component. Some examples include:

- Financial crimes
- Cyber pornography and indecent exposure including child pornography
- Cyber stalking, harassment, defamation
- Online gambling
- Forgery
- Intellectual property crimes
- Unauthorized access to computer systems or networks
- Theft (including identity theft)
- Various types of 'computer attacks' such as virus/worm, Trojan attacks, data alteration, email scams, hacking and many others
- Sale of illegal materials

There are multiple concerns for victims of cyber crimes. Victim service needs are similar to those of victims of other major crimes (financial or property crimes, personal crimes such as stalking, harassment, etc.) committed using other methods.

Of particular concern is the involvement of juveniles in cyber crime, both as exploited victims and as perpetrators of cyber crimes.

While the use of the computers to commit the crime may be present (cyber crime) and covered by some federal or state statutes, the crime often involve very serious other kinds of crimes (sexual exploitation, trafficking, drugs, activities of organized crime, hacking-espionage, etc.).

Use Cyber Street Smarts

- **Use a gender-neutral username**/e-mail address
- **Use a free e-mail account** such as Hotmail (www.hotmail.com) or YAHOO! (www.yahoo.com) for news groups, mailing lists, chat rooms, IMs, e-mails from strangers, message boards, filling out forms and other online activities.
- **Don't give your primary e-mail address** to anyone you do not know or trust.
- Instruct children to **NEVER give out their real name, age, address or phone number** over the net without your permission.
- **Don't provide your credit card number** or other information as proof of age to access or subscribe to a web site you're not familiar with.
- **Lurk on newsgroups, mailing lists and chat rooms** before "speaking" or posting messages.
- When you do participate online, **be careful**— only type what you would say to someone's face.
- **Don't be so trusting online**—don't reveal personal things about yourself until you really and truly know the other person.
- Your first instinct may be to defend yourself— **DON'T**—this is how most online harassment situations begin.
- **Don't fall for phishing e-mails** that claim your account has been suspended or needs to be updated—it's a scam!
- **If it looks too good to be true — IT IS!**

For more online safety tips, go to
www.haltabuse.org/help

Where Do You Go For Help?

1. KEEP EVERYTHING! Don't delete messages, chat logs, etc. Place them in a separate folder on your hard drive or diskette/zip disk, CD, etc. and print a hard copy.

2. Call your local police, whether city or county—ask for the Computer Crimes Unit or someone who handles online incidents.

3. Call the state police.

4. Call the FBI Computer Crimes Unit in your area ONLY if you've received a direct death threat or threat of physical harm.

5. When speaking to law enforcement, be calm and know your facts—who, what, when, where, and if possible, why and keep it concise.

If the above fails, try the online resources on the back cover.

Program of
Lutheran Community Services
210 W. Sprague Ave.
Spokane, WA 99201
Tel: 866.751.7119 (24 Hours)
Fax: 509.747.0690