



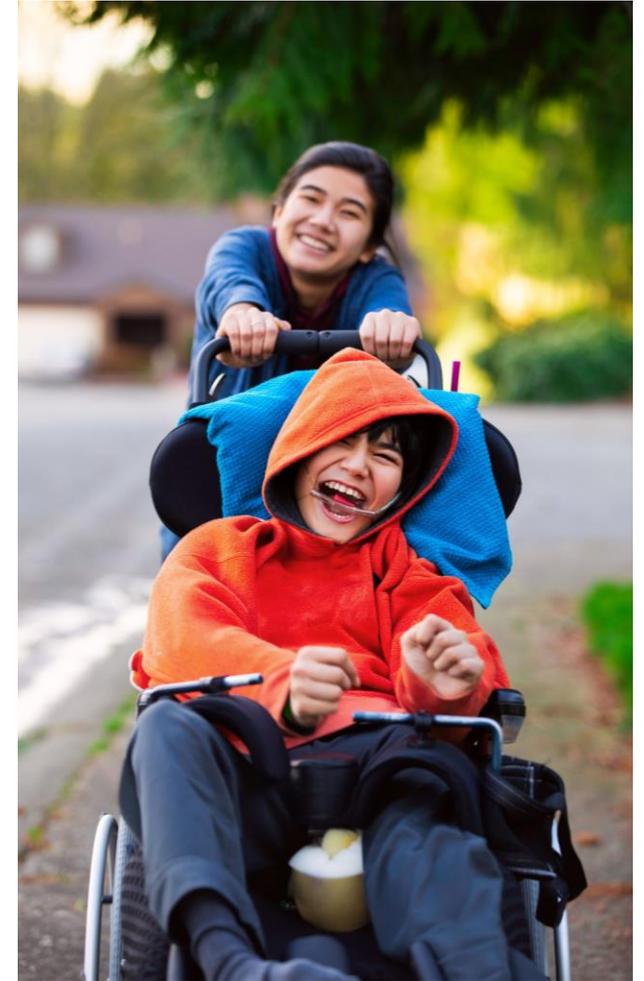
National Child Exploitation Prevention Programming

February 10, 2026



Funding Sponsor

The Children's Safety Network is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under the Child and Adolescent Injury and Violence Prevention Resource Centers Cooperative Agreement (U49MC28422) for \$5,000,000 with 0 percent financed with non-governmental sources. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.



Technical Tips



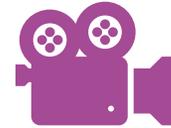
Join audio via your computer if possible



Use the Q/A button found at the bottom of your screen to ask questions



If you experience audio issues, Call the invite's dial-in number and mute your speakers



This session is being recorded



You are muted



Click the more (...) icon, then the Captions (**CC**) icon at the bottom of your screen to turn on automatic captions



Resource files and links will be shared in the chat

Moderator



Jennifer Leonardo

CSN Director

Presenters



Special Agent Britney Hays

Secret Service
Child Safety Outreach Programs



Ale Levi

Department of Homeland Security
Know2Protect Campaign Advisor



Rene Young

Department of Homeland Security
Forensic Interview Specialist

Secret Service Child Exploitation Resources



NATIONAL CENTER FOR
**MISSING &
EXPLOITED**
CHILDREN®

TRUST & CONFIDENCE



FSD NCMEC Mission

In September 1994, pursuant to the passage of the Omnibus Crime Bill (Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act), the Secret Services Forensic Services Division was mandated by Congress to provide forensic and technical support to assist all U.S. law enforcement agencies, and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), with their investigations of missing and exploited child cases

In April 2003, President George W. Bush signed the PROTECT (Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to End the Exploitation of Children Today) Act of 2003, also known as the "Amber Alert Bill," which expanded the authority of the Secret Service to also provide investigative support to all U.S. law enforcement agencies, and the NCMEC, with their investigations of missing and exploited child cases

In 1996 The United States Secret Service was established as one of the first federal liaisons to be collocated within the National Center Missing & Exploited Children Task force





TRUST & CONFIDENCE



The Childhood Smart Program

Childhood Smart Program

The Childhood Smart Program provides age-appropriate presentations to children in grades K-12 as well as to adults.

Presentations focus on internet and personal safety as well as other topics such as social media etiquette and cyberbullying and child sex trafficking, LEO Sextortion, and Partnering in Prevention for child-serving professionals

Ambassador Program – The Secret Service has over 200 employees who are specially trained by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) to provide Childhood Smart Program presentations to schools and other Organizations.



NetSmartz®



Online Safety Program

for children & families in grades K-12



Empower children to take an active role in solving problems safely



Engage children and adults in two-way conversations about safety and risky behaviors



Encourage children to report unsafe behaviors or victimization

For more resources, visit

[NCMEC.org/NetSmartz](https://www.ncmec.org/NetSmartz)

Resources from NetSmartz®



Presentations



Tip Sheets



Activity Guides



NetSmartzKids.org



Videos



Online Games



Peer Education & Leadership Kits



NCMEC.org/NetSmartz

[NCMEC.org/NetSmartz](https://www.ncmec.org/netsmartz)





Into the Cloud Web Series

Nettie and Webster live in the NetSmartz Neighborhood on “the cloud,” and learn how to keep the internet safer while fighting off the evil plots of the Webville Outlaws.

- Interactive web series
- For children in grades K-5
- Facilitate in individual or group settings
- Discussion guides, activity sheets, & game

[NCMEC.org/IntoTheCloud](https://www.ncmec.org/IntoTheCloud)

Into the Cloud Episode Discussion Guides: Example of Discussion Starts

For grades K-2:

- Why did Zion go to Harold to talk about his problem? Who would you go to if you had a problem like Zion's?
- What is Zion's plan for getting the picture off the internet? What could you do in real life?

For grades 3-5:

- If the user who took a screen capture of Zion had simply asked for a picture, should Zion have sent them one?
- If someone you didn't recognize sent you an inappropriate picture, what would you do?
- If someone you knew from school or a sport sent you an inappropriate picture, what would you do?

[NCMEC.org/IntoTheCloud](https://www.ncmec.org/IntoTheCloud)



Elementary School Resource: Into the Cloud, “The Picture”



[NCMEC.org/IntoTheCloud](https://www.ncmec.org/IntoTheCloud)

Online Exploitation Presentations



Presentations for:

- High school students
- Parents and guardians

New presentations focused on online enticement, sextortion, child sex trafficking, and generative AI.

Participants will learn how:

- These threats occur
- To recognize red flags
- To take action and report suspected child sexual exploitation



Rules of Personal Safety

The Rules of Personal Safety



 **1. Check First**

 **2. Take a Friend**

 **3. Tell People "NO"**

 **4. Tell a Trusted Adult**

[NCMEC.org/KidSmartz](https://www.ncmec.org/KidSmartz)



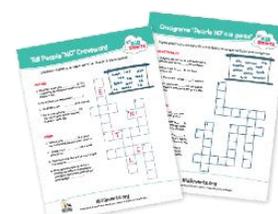
Resources from



Presentation



Tip Sheets



Activities



Videos



Symbol Stix



Lesson Plans



NCMEC.org/KidSmart
Z

[NCMEC.org/KidSmartz](https://www.ncmec.org/KidSmartz)



KidSmartz: Take a Friend



[NCMEC.org/KidSmartz](https://www.ncmec.org/KidSmartz)



Operation Safe Kids

Operation Safe Kids



- Operation Safe Kids promotes the safety of children by providing parents with a document containing biographical data, a current photograph and digitized inkless fingerprints.
- With parental consent, children are photographed and fingerprinted. This information is then printed and given back to the parent. No data is saved by the Secret Service



Ambassador's Program

The Forensic Services Division (FSD)/National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) Ambassador's Program was created to identify employees throughout the nation who are willing to volunteer to bring Childhood Smart Program (CSP) and Operation Safe Kids (OSK) to schools and communities in their district.

Ambassadors serve as a local representative of the FSD/NCMEC Program by educating their local community on child abduction and exploitation.

Ambassadors attend training provided by the NCMEC Outreach team out of Alexandria, VA.



CyberSmart Resources Document

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

CyberSmart Resources



Sextortion

A form of child sexual exploitation where children are threatened or blackmailed, most often with the possibility of sharing with the public a nude or sexual images of them, by a person who demands additional sexual content, sexual activity or money from the child.



Take It Down

A free service that can help you remove or stop the online sharing of nude, partially nude, or sexually explicit images or videos taken of you when you were under 18 years old. You can remain anonymous while using the service and you won't have to send your images or videos to anyone.



Generative AI

Technology allows a user to create new images, videos, audio and text based on user requests or prompts. This technology has many benefits, but at the same time, it is being used to sexually exploit children.



National Center for Missing & Exploited Children CyberTipline

If you believe you or someone you know is a victim of exploitation, we are here to help.





No Escape Room

An interactive film that shows how teens get trapped in sextortion.

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

The nation's largest and most influential child protection organization. We lead the fight to protect children, creating vital resources for them and the people who keep them safe. 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)







Event Request



Questions



Please enter your questions in the Q/A section at the bottom of your screen.

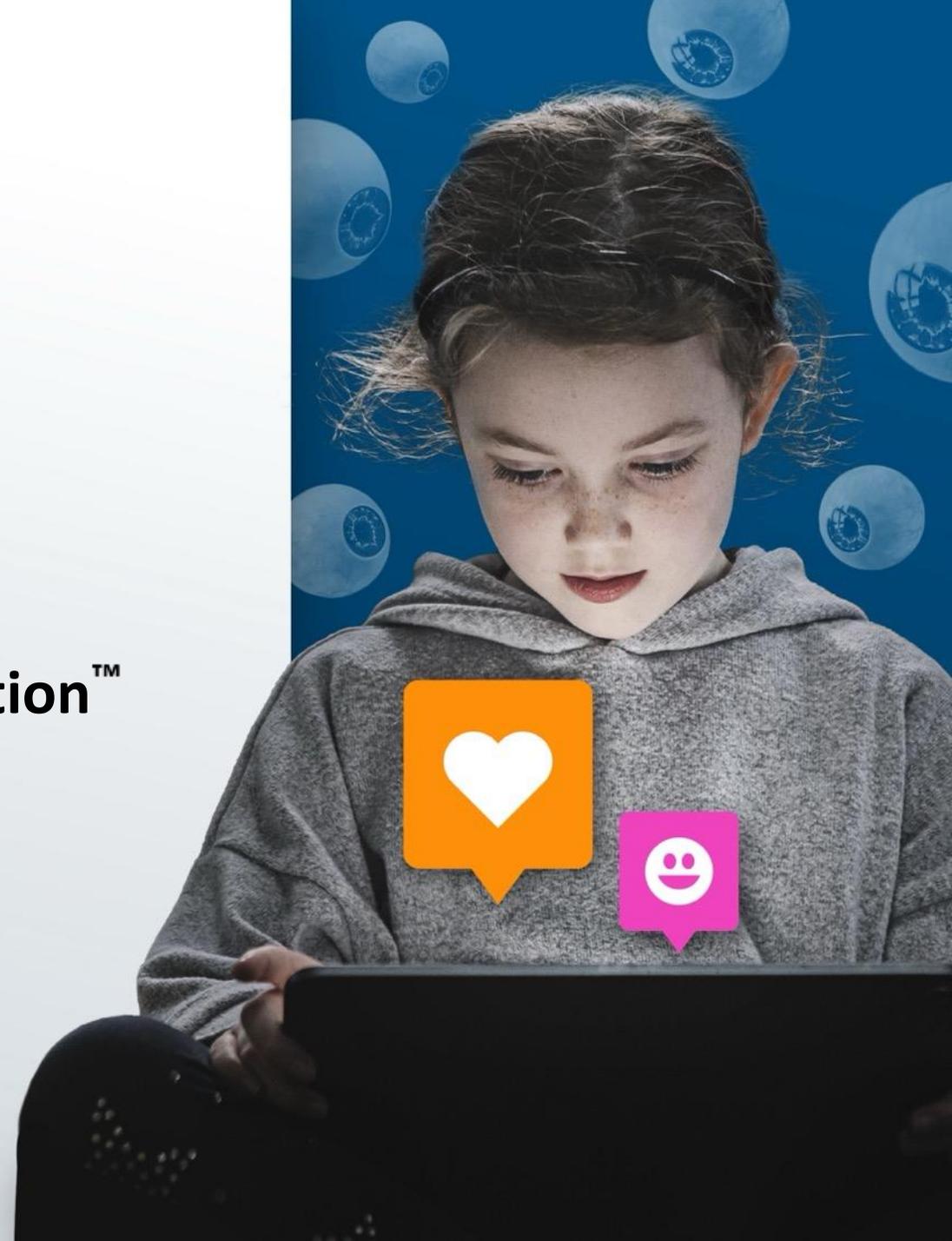
We will answer all questions at the end of the webinar.



Know2Protect

Together We Can Stop Online Child Exploitation™

Safer Internet Day/Child Exploitation Prevention: CSN Webinar
February - 2026



NEWS

Parents reveal teen sons committed suicide after being 'sexorted': 'This is terrorism'

By Rikki Schlott

Published Aug. 30, 2023 | Updated Aug. 30, 2023, 10:32 a.m. ET



At midnight on December 1, 2022, Walker Montgomery received a direct message from a pretty girl on Instagram.

“ I see this as a **FIGHT.**
I see it as a **WAR.** There’s
a war on our kids. We have
no other defense other than
AWARENESS right now.”

— Bryan Montgomery, father of Walker Montgomery, lost his 16-year-old son to suicide after falling victim to a sextortion scam.

— New York Post

*In FY 2025, HSI's Child Exploitation Investigations Unit identified and/or recovered **6,488 CHILD VICTIMS** in child exploitation investigations.*

— *Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)*

*In FY 2025, HSI arrested 4,805 individuals for crimes involving the sexual exploitation of children and helped secure **MORE THAN 1,660 CONVICTIONS.***

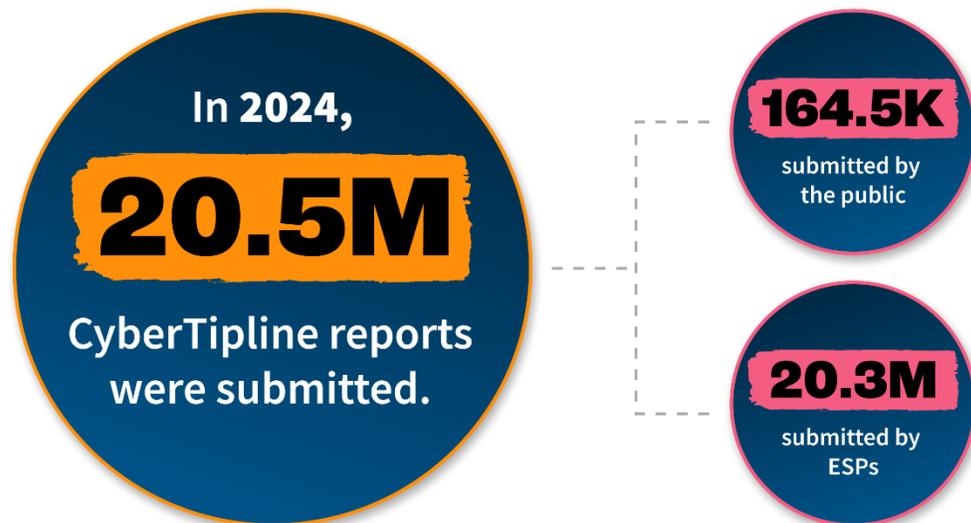
— *Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)*



The Story Behind the Numbers

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) runs the CyberTipline, which is the nation's clearinghouse for receiving cyber tip reports on child sexual abuse material. The CyberTipline receives reports from the public and online electronic service providers (ESPs).

In 2024, **20.5M CyberTipline reports** were submitted, marking a decrease from the 36.2 million reports received in 2023.



*When those 20.5 million reports, including the bundled reports, are adjusted to reflect reported incidents, there are **29.2 million** separate incidents of child sexual exploitation submitted to the CyberTipline in 2024.*

According to NCMEC, **this decline is due to a few reasons:**



There were **20% fewer overall reports in 2024 from online platforms**; the decrease is not reflective of fewer crimes, but that some platforms are not reporting as they should.



A new CyberTipline feature **enables large online platforms the ability to “BUNDLE” related reports to streamline reporting** of widespread incidents, such as viral meme content; this feature reduced redundant submissions.



The growing use of END-TO-END ENCRYPTION, which can limit what platforms are able to detect and report.

Info provided by NCMEC

*“I could literally shut down my entire office and do nothing but child exploitation cases, and we would still have more work than we know what to do with. Just like going onto a playground, **THEY’RE COMING INTO A VIRTUAL PLAYGROUND** and they’re looking to make contact with kids, and then move them off into a **MORE DANGEROUS SPACE.**”*

– Robert Hammer, HSI SAC Seattle

Training Opportunities



Community Engagement & Public Education

- Project iGuardian is the official in-person educational program of Know2Protect.
- This outreach tool educates children and adults about the ongoing threat of online child sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Three distinct audience presentations: Parents, Teens, and Tweens. Developed by HSI subject matter experts.
- Given at: school assemblies, PTA meetings, corporate lunch and learns, other affinity groups (school nurses, resource officers, camp counselors etc.)
- Through partnership with NCMEC, the U.S. Secret Service's Childhood Smart Program offers similar in-school presentations for people ages 5 and up.



iGuardian Characters

The iGuardians were designed to be memorable, iconic, and emphasize the partnership between law enforcement and society. The characters embody Know2Protect's core messaging pillars: **Education, Prevention and Intervention.**



HSI SPECIAL AGENT:

Larissa Law

HSI Special Agent Larissa Law helps kids stay safe online and works with her team to find online predators and bring them to justice.



HSI SPECIAL AGENT:

Jesse Justice

HSI Special Agent Jesse Justice supports victims by helping them report online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (CSEA) and pointing them to resources.



HSI CAPTAIN CANINE:

Mojo

Captain Canine Mojo helps the iGuardians by sniffing out criminals online and providing care and support to victims.



iGUARDIAN:

Mr. Emmett

Mr. Emmett is an iGuardian educator who teaches his students how to set healthy digital boundaries and is always there to listen when they need a trusted adult.



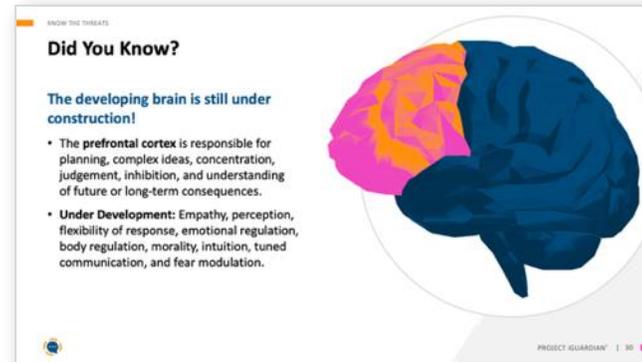
iGUARDIAN:

Penny Peace

Penny Peace is an iGuardian advocate who spreads the word to her classmates about online safety at her school to help keep other kids safe.

iGuardian Presentation Types

ICE HSI special agents deliver presentations on online threats and CSEA, providing a comprehensive overview for parents, case examples and empowerment strategies for 7th graders and up, and interactive discussions for 5th and 6th graders.



Parent iGuardian Presentation

Topics covered for parents and trusted adults:

- Scale and scope of the threat
- Highlights local and national cases
- Top apps overview
- What kids are doing online
- Grooming tactics of predators
- Sextortion
- Data permanency
- Open dialogue is key

Teen iGuardian Presentation

Topics covered for 7th graders and up:

- Reality of online dangers
- Personal information your phone shares
- Data permanency
- Social media addiction
- Grooming tactics of predators
- Sextortion
- What's your exit strategy?

Tween iGuardian Presentation

Topics covered for 5th and 6th graders:

- Interactive; Q&A format
- What is internet safety?
- Who is in your follower/friend list?
- What not to share online
- How to be an iGuardian
- Conversational quiz at the end

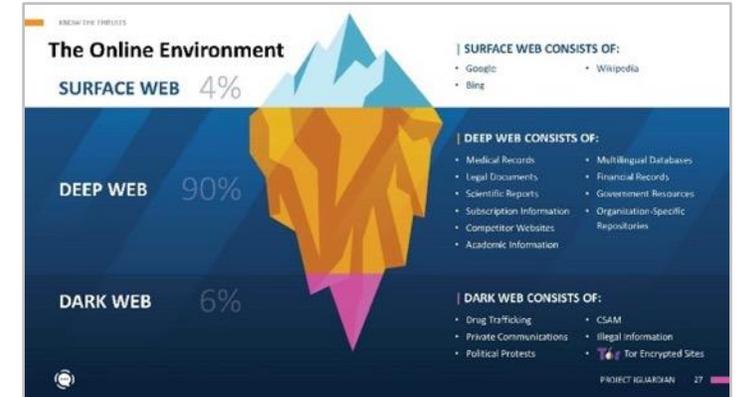
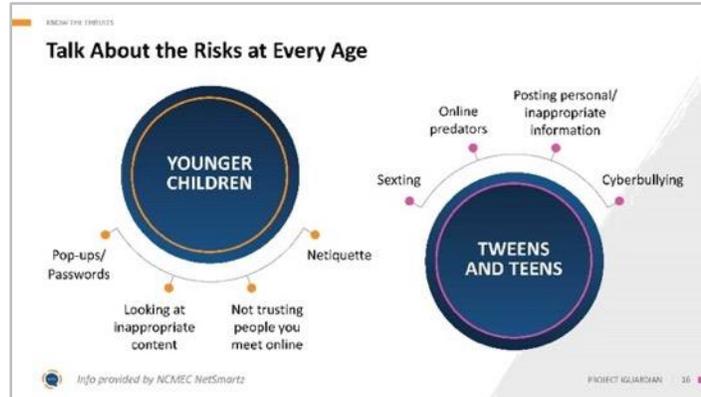
Parent iGuardian Presentation

Geared for parents and trusted adults:

This presentation takes an honest and thorough approach to the difficult topic of online CSEA. It includes an in-depth overview where HSI special agents describe the threats and trends they see in their investigations. They discuss real world case examples to help attendees better understand how children and teens can be victimized online.

Topics Covered:

- Scale and scope of the threat
- Highlights local and national cases
- Top apps overview
- What kids are doing online
- Grooming tactics of predators
- Sextortion
- Data permanency
- Open dialogue is key



KNOW THE THREATS

How Well Do You Know Your Child's Online Activity?

- Who is in your child's follower/friend list on social media?
- How much private information are they or their device sharing or giving away?
- Are your children's social media and gaming profiles set to public or private?

Two smartphones are shown side-by-side. The left one shows a social media profile with a grid of photos. The right one shows a settings menu with options like 'Account privacy', 'App and website permissions', 'Location', 'Language and keyboard', 'Screen time', and 'Mobile data'. A blue box labeled 'Tips2Protect' contains the text: 'Always set online profiles and apps to private.' At the bottom, it says 'PROJECT I GUARDIAN | 15'.

HOW EXPLOITATION HAPPENS

How Exploitation Happens: Tips2Protect

- 1. Communicate grooming tactics with your child.
- Any app, social media platform, or game that has a communication feature is a vulnerability.
- Teach your child the dangers of moving the conversation off-platform or physically meeting offline.

An illustration of a female agent in a dark trench coat and orange pants, standing with her hands on her hips. At the bottom, it says 'PROJECT I GUARDIAN | 16'.

Teen iGuardian Presentation

Geared for 7th graders and up:

This engaging, age-appropriate presentation covers the threats teens face online. HSI special agents present the information in ways that resonate with this age group. They use current trends and real case examples to show how teens fall victim to these crimes. They also deliver empowering messages, explain actions teens can take, and cover solutions they can implement to safeguard themselves.

Topics Covered:

- Reality of online dangers
- Personal information your phone shares
- Data permanency
- Social media addiction
- Grooming tactics of predators
- Sextortion
- What's your exit strategy?

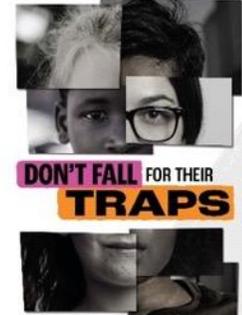
SEXTING AND SEXTORTION

Two Types of Sextortion

Sextortion comes in two major forms:

1. **Traditional sextortion** occurs when a victim is threatened or blackmailed into providing more sexual pictures, videos, or other content **OR** when the offender threatens to share the victim's nude or sexual images with the public.
2. **Financial sextortion** occurs when the offender demands money or gift cards in exchange for keeping the victim's sexual images private.

Tip2Protect
In either situation, **DO NOT** send money or more sexual content.



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IF IT HAPPENS TO YOU OR YOUR FRIEND

If This Happens To You

Here are immediate actions you can take:

- Stop talking to the offender.
- Don't log out of the app.
- Don't delete the app.
- Walk away.
- Tell a trusted adult.
- Allow the adult to contact law enforcement.
- Remember it's not your fault and law enforcement is here to help.



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PERSONAL INFORMATION AND DATA PERMANENCY

What Happens Once You Send a Photo or Video?

- You **CANNOT** get it back.
- Location data is packaged along with the photo or video.
 - Your iPhone, Android, and other devices are designed to share location and other personal information.
- That data includes exact GPS location on a map, exact timestamp, and other information about the specific device.



Tip2Protect
Turn off location data services on social media and online gaming apps.
If something does happen, **do not** delete any of the messages or images. Investigators need them to find the predators.

PROJECT GUARDIAN | 17

PERSONAL INFORMATION AND DATA PERMANENCY

Personal Information and Data Permanency: Tips2Protect

- Turn off location features on all social media, games, and camera apps.
- Set all social media to private.
- Get rid of strangers on all your friend or follower lists.
- All data that leaves your device is permanent.



HSI

PROJECT GUARDIAN | 23

Tween iGuardian Presentation

Geared for 5th and 6th graders:

This interactive presentation is conversational in nature. It is meant to elicit response and spark discussion. It gives an entry-level introduction to some of the threats tweens face online in an age-appropriate manner.

Topics Covered:

- Interactive; Q&A format
- Who is in your follower/friend list?
- Defining the threat
- What not to share online
- How to be an iGuardian
- Conversational quiz at the end



iGuardian Presentations Reflect Latest Threats and Trends

KNOW THE THREATS

Generative AI Allows For The Creation of CSAM

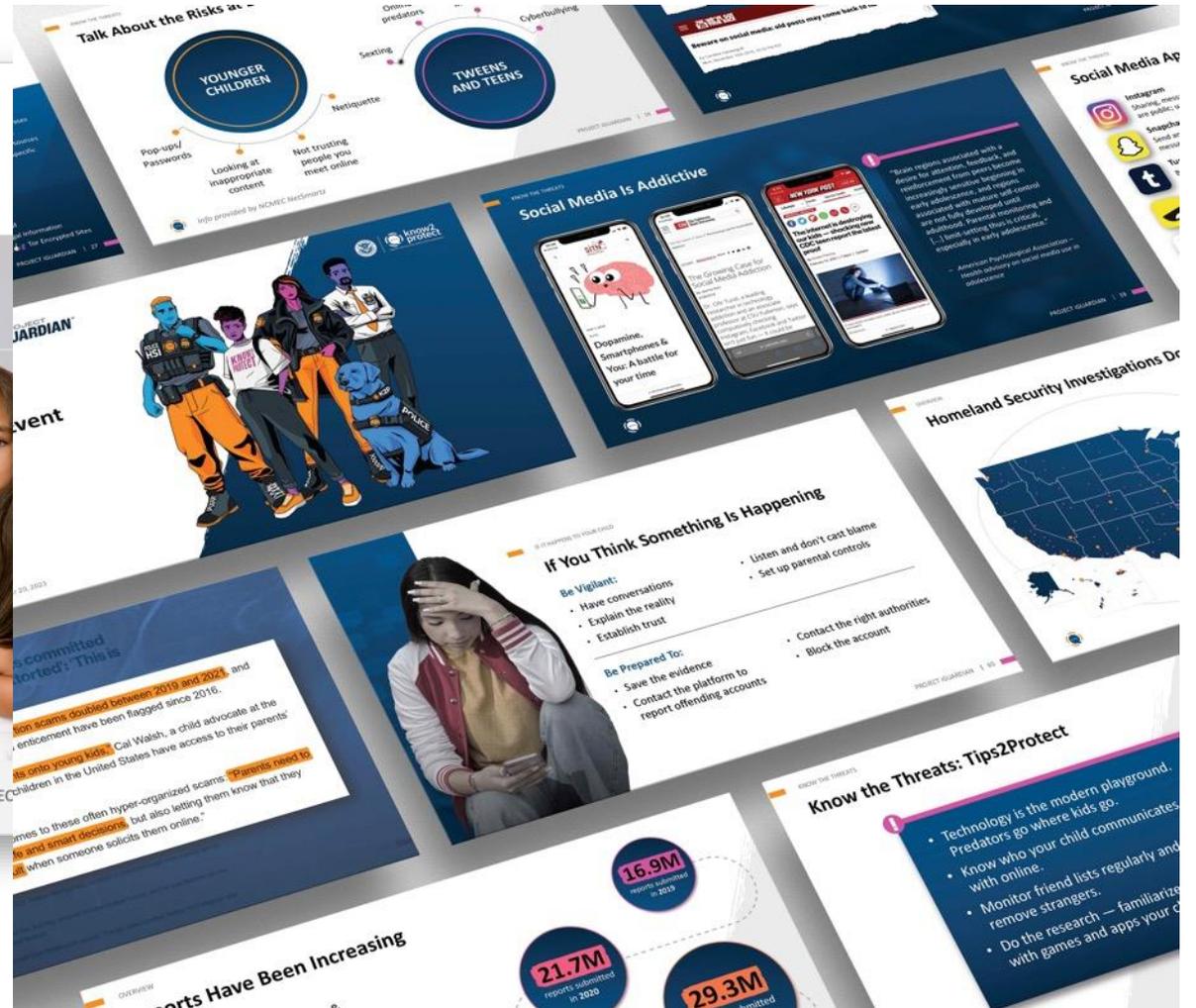
Artificial Intelligence (AI) provides offenders the ability to produce exponentially more digital images and videos depicting child sexual abuse.

Offenders can use AI to:

- Make it appear as though the child is nude or engaged in sexual acts.
- Manufacture images of children being abused who look like real people but are fabricated.
- Teach other offenders how to engage with children online (i.e., grooming).
- Blackmail individuals.

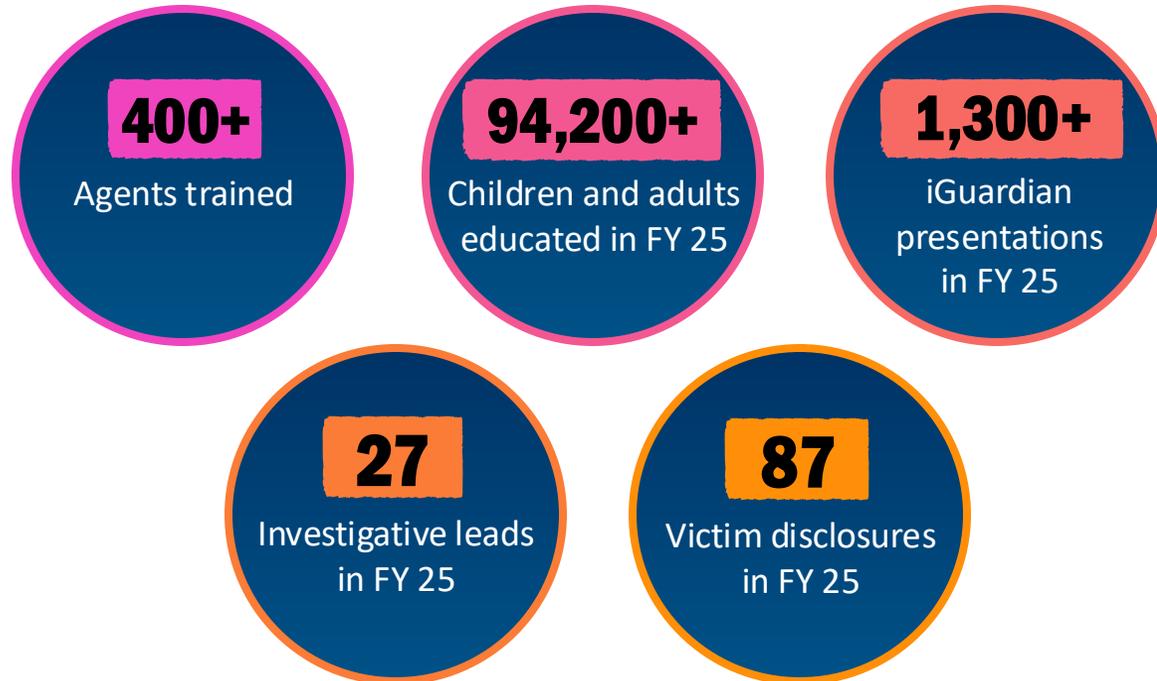


Newest slide for the parent's presentation focusing on AI



iGuardian Presentations – The Impact

Project iGuardian has made a significant mark to combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse. FY 25 numbers as of June 2025:



Campaign Impact Report

Know2Protect has made significant strides in raising awareness and equipping the public with vital tools:



April 2024 – November 2025

1B	1.5M	6.8M	18.9K	\$1.5M
Total impressions across all media outlets and platforms	Unique visitors on know2protect.gov	Views of the Know2Protect 90-second PSA	Clicks from the public to the NCMEC CyberTipline	Donated advertising from Know2Protect campaign partners

Through Project iGuardian, the official training program of Know2Protect, DHS HSI special agents have:



October 2023 – November 2025

235K	2.7K	107	170
Parents, teens and kids engaged	Presentations both nationally and internationally	Investigative leads	Victim disclosures

iGuardian Presentations



ICE HSI San Juan Annual iGuardians Summit held in Barranquitas, Puerto Rico

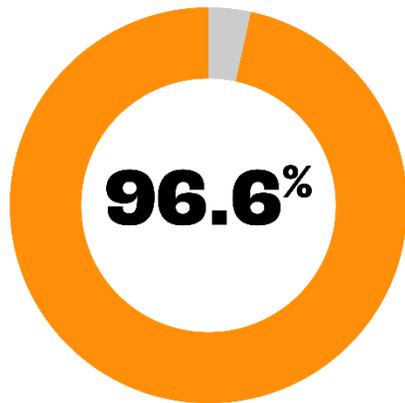


ICE HSI conducts an iGuardian presentation to school students in Medellin, Colombia.

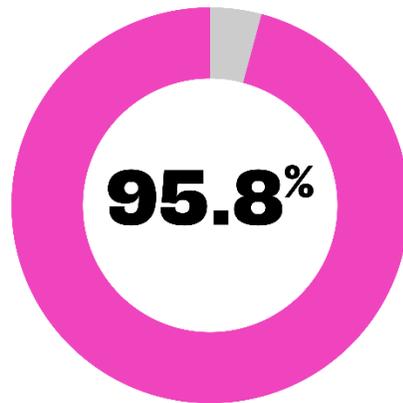
Project iGuardian – Impact Overview

Project iGuardian presenters excel at engaging audiences on a difficult yet vital topic, and audiences agree.

Data below reflects survey results from FY24 through April 2025:



Those who **felt empowered to act**



Those who would **strongly recommend others attend**

“

A horrifying topic but absolutely necessary to learn more... I **believe this should be standard for all parents and their children growing up in the digital age.**

”

“

As a parent, it hits home. My kids are younger but are on the brink of utilizing the internet more and more, so I am glad I got this information in time. I **am hoping this is getting to schools as it is so important.**

”

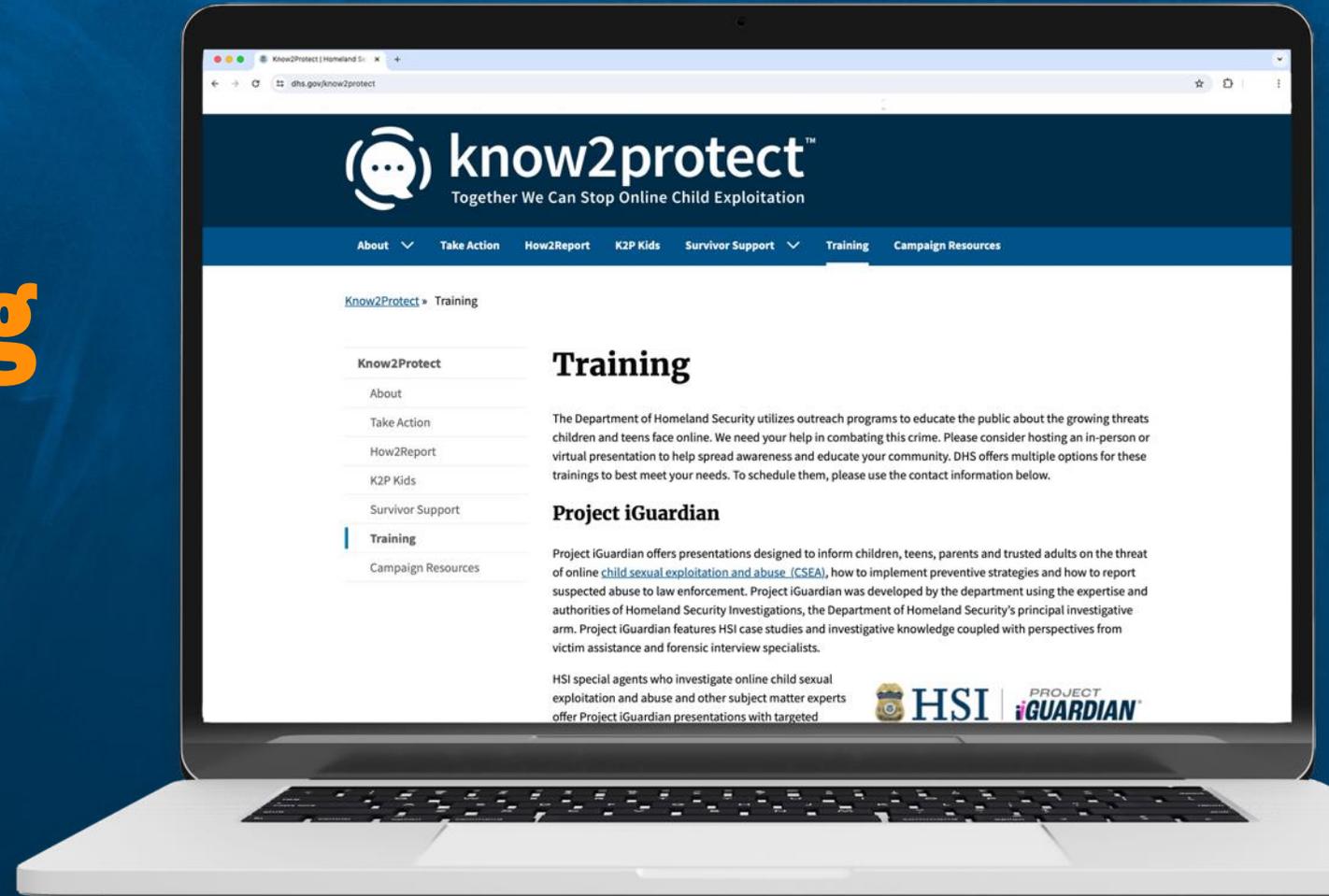
“

This was amazing. I’m glad there was a presentation for the grade 6 class as well. I hope they have this every year, it’s such an important topic and it’s hard to understand how to protect your children. **Presentations like this are so necessary.**

”

Request a Training

Email us at: iguardianhq@hsi.dhs.gov



Ready to Support Know2Protect?

Everyone has a place in this fight and getting involved in our campaign is easy. Organizations at all levels can help — whether through formal partnership, connecting with us on social media or sharing our resources and materials.

LET'S CONNECT

Follow us and share our messages on social media — we are on Facebook, X and Instagram [@know2protect](#). We also have a campaign playlist on the official DHS YouTube channel. Feel free to reach out:

Alexandra “Ale” Levi

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Rene Young

Know2Protect Campaign Advisor &
HSI Forensic Interview Specialist

Rene.young@hsi.dhs.gov



To learn more, visit
know2protect.gov

Questions



Please enter your questions in the Q/A section at the bottom of your screen

Thank you!

- 1 Please fill out our brief evaluation:



- 3 Visit our website:
childrenssafetynetwork.org

- 2 Follow us on social media:

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