

# CHESTER COUNTY SAFE SCHOOLS SUMMIT

Parenting in a Digital World

Detective Ben Martin



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## ABOUT ME



- 16 years in Law Enforcement
- 11 years as Detective (5 with Chester County Detectives)
- Bachelors & Masters in Criminal Justice, West Chester University
- Ph.D. in Leadership, Alvernia University
- Adjunct professor of Law Enforcement Technology, Criminal Profiling and Policing

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## EXPERIENCE

- Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC)
- Main responsibilities include tracking down and arresting online predators
- Complaints can lead me to your front door
- Being proactive is just as important as being reactive



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## THE PROBLEM

- Young children and teenagers are at risk on the internet.
- Parents are often unaware of how strangers can access their children in their homes.



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## PROCESS

- Social media platform algorithms scan for child exploitation material, including images of themselves to peers
- Next steps:
  - Find location
  - Search warrant
  - Identify children in photos
  - Child may face criminal charges



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## REALITY CHECK

- Nothing is ever deleted online!



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## RED FLAGS

- The most common tactics used to entice children include:
  - Sexual conversation/role-playing as a grooming method
  - Exchange of sexually explicit images
  - Rapport through interaction such as compliments, shared interests or liking posts as a grooming method
  - Portraying themselves as younger
  - Offering incentives
    - Gift cards, alcohol, drugs, lodging, transportation or food

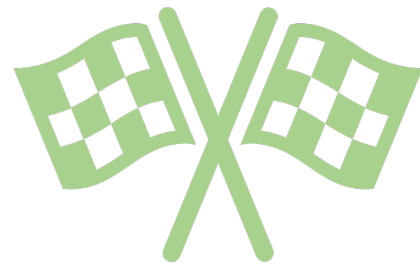


(NCMEC 2022)

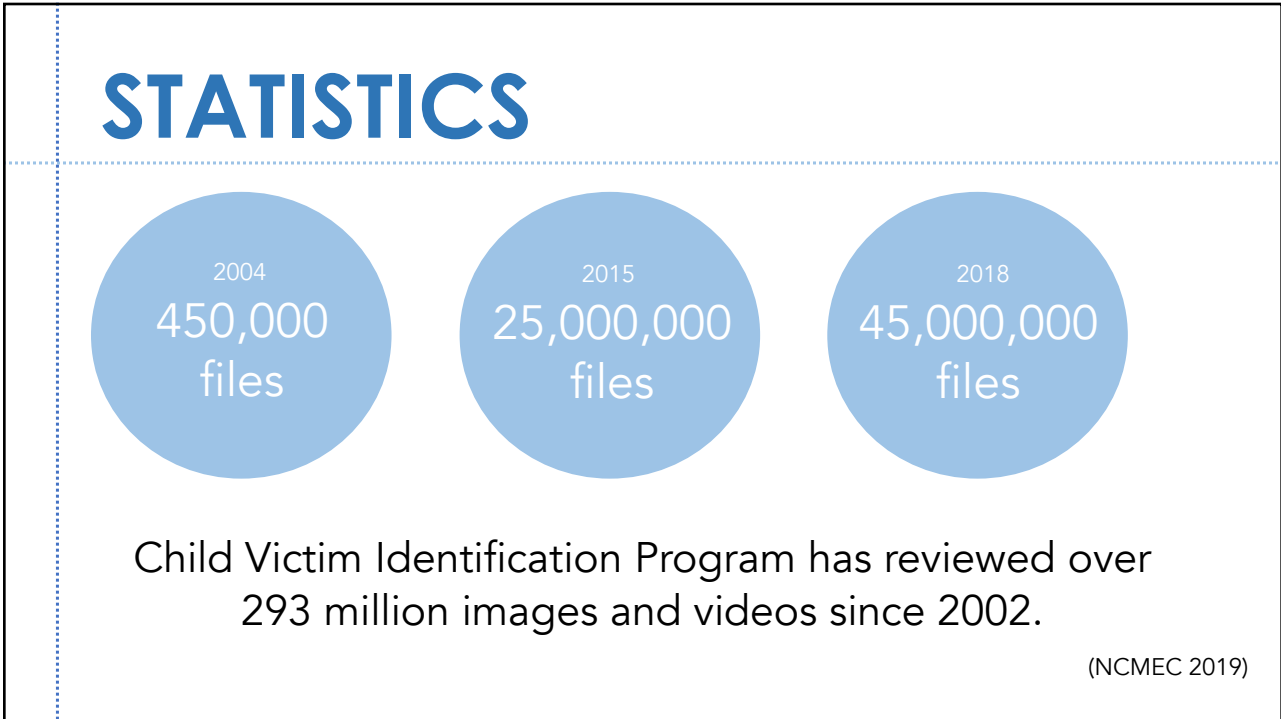
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## GREEN FLAGS

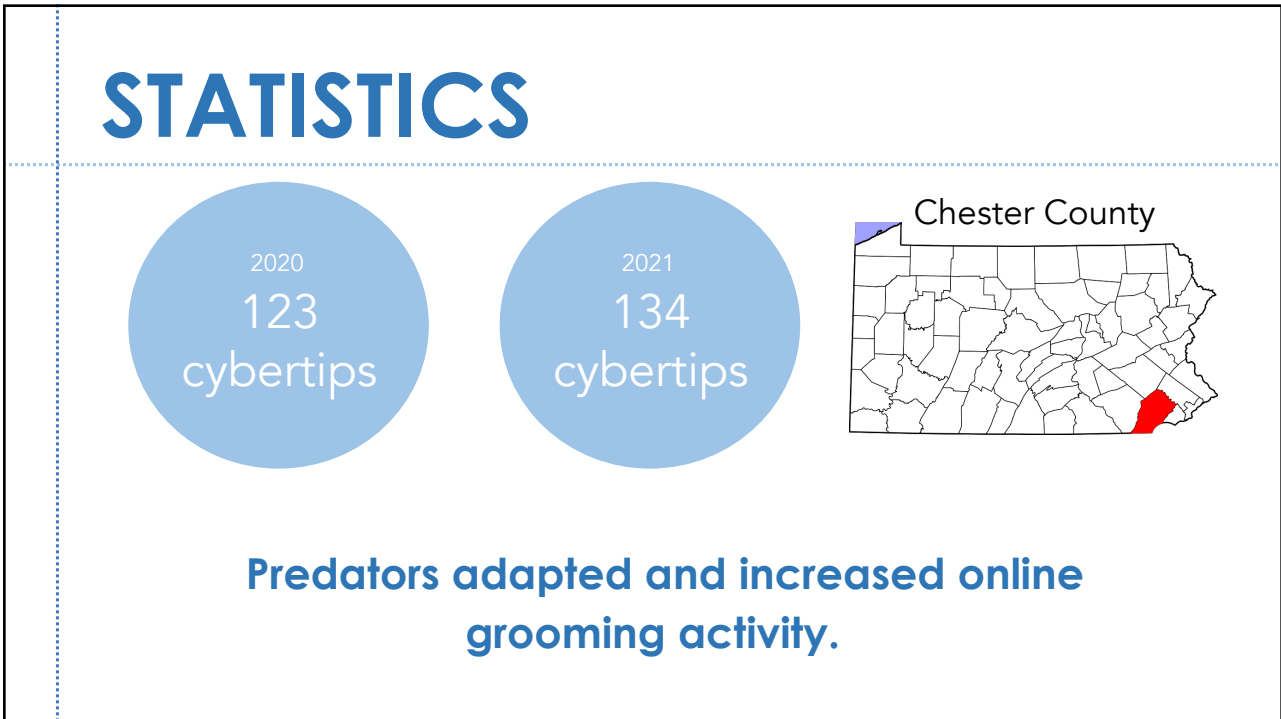
- Parents can:
  - Check their child's device anytime
  - Give consent to teachers and police
  - **Invade their online privacy**



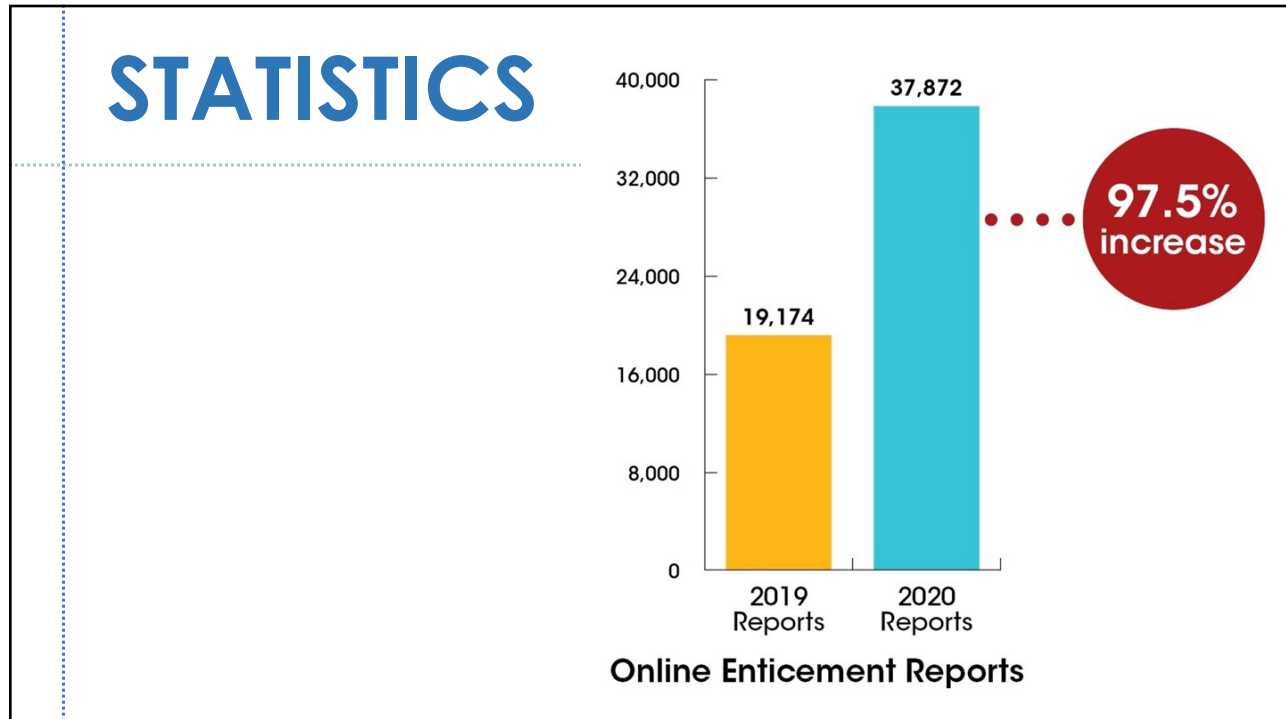
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# COVID IMPACT

- Forced use of internet communication for predators and children.
- The Number of Online Solicitation Reports nearly **doubled** from 2019 to 2020.
- The use of the internet and social media by schools and parents helps to validate this as a means for engaging to children.

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## TACTICS

- The internet has changed the pace of dating and the false sense of security and distance have reduced the barriers to revealing personal information.
- The topic of sex can be brought up in as little as **3 minutes**.
- The topic of an in-person meeting in as little as **18 minutes**.

(INHOPE, 2012)  
(Davis, 2016)

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## TYPES OF OFFENDERS

- The **blunt offender** makes little attempt to mask their desires.
- The **groomer** attempts to connect, to fill an emotional need of the victim.
  - They may engage in layered chatting schemes to create believability and can be impulsive.

(Saar, Peters & Remy, 2022)

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# PREVENTION

## Monitor

- Invade their privacy

## Friends

- Know your child's friends

## Internet Safety

- Discuss safety online, memes, and types of people online.
- Watch Catfish on MTV.



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# CONTACT

- Detective Ben Martin
  - [bsmartin@chesco.org](mailto:bsmartin@chesco.org), (610) 344-6883
- NCMEC Resources
  - <https://www.missingkids.org/theissues/onlineenticement>
- ICAC Resources
  - <https://www.icactaskforce.org/internetsafety>



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