

the dark side of social media

Nearly half of all young adults (ages 14-24) say they "sometimes or frequently" see "mean behavior" on social networking sites, according to an AP-MTV poll.

Three in 10 (29%) of the young people polled say they "often or sometimes" receive gossip and rumor-mongering text messages about a peer. But when they see abusive behavior online, many of them say they don't tolerate it—half (48%) report they're "very likely or somewhat likely" to tell another online user to stop being mean to someone.

The poll asked young people to weigh in on the kinds of abusive practices they've personally experienced on social networking sites. Here are the eye-opening results...

55%—Peer used social media to pretend to be romantically interested

55%—Peer looked at text or phone call log without permission

46%—Peer sent message encouraging them to harm themselves

41%—Peer blackmailed victim by threatening to post things online

32%—Peer secretly videotaped, photographed, and shared with others

43%—Peer created fake social network profile

40%—Peer impersonated victim online without permission

40%—Peer teased victim in person about embarrassing information discovered online

32%—Peer used social media to threaten physical harm

32%—Victim of cruel Internet posting

32%—Victim of embarrassing pictures posted online without permission

29%—Peer shared personal email or IM with other peer

27%—Peer shared embarrassing information discovered online with others

26%—Peer spied on victim by logging onto their accounts without permission

26%—Victim of inaccurate online posting

25%—Peer used social media to spread inaccurate rumors