

Idaho leads the U.S. in cyberbullying

By ANNA WEBB
Idaho Statesman

BOISE, Idaho — Rylee Driscoll was a student at Rocky Mountain High School in Meridian when fellow students began harassing her online.

It started with an old-fashioned rumor that she was “the rudest person ever.” The criticism quickly blew up on Twitter. Classmates started sharing messages accusing her of theft. Going to school became so hard that she started skipping class.

She heard the advice from parents and teachers to ignore the comments and turn off the messages. She couldn’t do it.

“I know I shouldn’t have responded,” said Driscoll, who graduated last year. “I just got so mad, and so sad. You want to know what people are saying so you can defend yourself?”

One in five Idaho high school students say they have been cyberbullied, according to the latest Youth Risk Behavior Survey taken by the Idaho Department of Education. The 21.1 percent rate is the highest reported in the U.S., according to a new report by Educents, an educational products company.

Girls were bullied far more than boys — 31 percent vs. 11 percent. The rates



Katherine Jones /Idaho Statesman via AP

Rylee Driscoll experienced bullying in high school, founded an anti-bullying group and is now studying nursing at College of Western Idaho. One in five Idaho high school students say they have been cyberbullied, according to the latest Youth Risk Behavior Survey taken by the Idaho Department of Education.

actually might be higher, the survey report said, because students may underreport socially undesirable or illegal

behaviors, including bullying. The agency surveyed 1,760 students in 48 public high schools in spring 2015.

But rates are also high in surrounding states: 18.5 percent in Montana and 17.5 percent in Wyoming. The national rate is 15.6 percent. Other studies have found that Intermountain West states also rank high for suicides, so similar factors might be in play, including limited access to mental-health services.

Chris Bates is a Boise parent who became an anti-bullying activist after classmates bullied her daughter several years ago in high school. She blames Idaho’s high rates on a coarsening of American culture, in which adults’ dialogue in the public and political spheres has become crass.

“Kids see adults being bullied online and on TV on a daily basis,” Bates said. “People have become desensitized.”

Apps that let users make anonymous comments can foster bullying. The College of Idaho banned the use of the now-defunct Yik Yak app in 2015 after students used it to criticize classmates. Some groups, including Educents, are now raising similar concerns about a newer anonymous messaging app, Sarahah.

The app description in the Google Play store says Sarahah “helps people self-develop by receiving constructive anonymous feedback.” Some reviews say Sarahah is being used as a cyberbullying tool. In a CNN Tech story, the app’s founder said the app experienced massive growth among younger users after teens started posting Sarahah messages on Snapchat. It’s reported to have 62 million users.

One of the cruelest aspects of cyberbullying is that a child’s own home is no longer a refuge. Driscoll, the former Rocky Mountain High student, received bullying texts and emails no matter where she was.

Driscoll eventually was able to channel her grief. She founded an anti-bullying group that she has since passed on to a younger friend still in high school. Through that effort, Driscoll created her own, more supportive social group. She is now studying nursing at the College of Western Idaho.

Yet she still contends with harassment and said it only recently subsided.

David Gomez, a Meridian police officer, is the school resource officer at Mountain View High School in the West Ada School District.

He questions whether cyberbullying is as common as the report suggests. He doesn’t believe people define the term precisely enough.

Gomez defines it as repeated, one-way harassment of a victim who does not engage in the exchange.

“Normally, there’s a Twitter fight, and I get a call from a parent who tells me their child is being bullied,” he said. “When I start asking questions, I usually find out that there are two active participants. That’s not cyberbullying. It’s social conflict.”

Social conflict, of course, must be resolved, “or you end up with adults having issues, road rage and more,” Gomez said.

The survey question that led to Idaho’s high ranking asked students whether they had been electronically bullied through email, chat rooms, instant messaging, websites or texting on school property during the past 12 months.

Though Gomez believes that cyberbullying as he defines it is rare, it does happen. In his three years at Mountain View, he’s written just four \$74 citations for cyberbullying. That happened after school officials intervened and disciplined students as required by law, but harassment continued.

After Harvey, insurance drones survey damage from Texas skies

WINDSOR, Conn. (AP) — Insurance adjusters are bringing more drones with them than ever before as they head to Texas to assess the damage from Harvey.

Companies are using the drones on a much larger scale to record images, save time and spare human adjusters from venturing into potentially unsafe areas. Insurers have increased their fleets since the Federal Aviation Administration eased some restrictions a year ago, and tried them out in areas of the southeastern U.S. hit by Hurricane

Matthew last October.

Travelers Insurance, based in Hartford, had 65 certified drone pilots as of Friday among the 600 employees deployed to the Houston area. Claims specialist Laura Shell, who will be in Texas this week, spent last week at the company’s training center in Windsor, Connecticut, learning how to pilot drones.

“This is great,” said Shell, 55, of Lexington, Virginia, whose job typically has involved climbing a lot of ladders. “It’s going to allow me to get a look into areas that

aren’t easily accessible and onto roofs and do it quickly.”

The drones will dramatically cut the time it takes to assess damage, according to Jim Wucherpfennig, vice president of claims for Travelers. The company has trained 300 employees as certified drone operators and expects to have about 600 by early 2018, he said.

Instead of making two or three trips to a house, often with an outside contractor trained in setting up scaffolds and ladders, the adjusters will now be able to do detailed

exterior inspections in one trip. The drone’s camera is linked to an application on the employee’s phone, allowing them to take measurements and shoot high-definition photos and videos, often while the customer looks on.

The drones do have limitations. They cannot fly in heavy wind or rain, and they cannot go inside homes to inspect damage.

That’s one reason State Farm has decided, for now, not to use its drone fleet in Houston, spokesman Chris Pilcic said.

“With the damages caused by Hurricane Harvey, our claims adjusters will likely need to inspect both the interior and exterior of the home to assess coverage and damages,” he said. “For this situation, we find that the best way to service our customers and evaluate coverage and damages is through on-the-ground claims handling.”

Most major insurers now have a fleet of drones, and the technology has become so inexpensive that even smaller companies are beginning to use it, according to Jim Whittle,

chief claims counsel for the American Insurance Association. He said the benefits were evident in the response to Hurricane Matthew.

“If you had a good line of sight, for example, but you were stopped by nature or law enforcement from entering an area, you could put a drone in the area and get access to that property,” he said. “That could demonstrate immediately that that was a property that had considerable wind damage, let’s say, and allow the insurer to cut a check.”

TUESDAY AFTERNOON & EVENING

	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
FOX	11	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
CBS	19	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
NBC	25	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
ABC	42	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
PBS	31																							
KTWV	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
OPB	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59

SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
A&E	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52
AMC	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
ANPL	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
CMT	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43
CNBC	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72
CNN	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68
DISC	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
DISN	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
ESPN	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33
ESPN2	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
FNC	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66
FOOD	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61
FREE	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32
GOLF	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65
GOLF	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88
GSN	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	76
HALL	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87
HGTV	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62
HIST	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
LIFE	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
NICK	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
ROOT	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37
SPIKE	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42
SYFY	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67
TBS	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59
TCM	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56
TLC	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49
TNT	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57
UNI	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
USA	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58
WE	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118
WGN	MASH	MASH	MASH	MASH	MASH	MASH	MASH	MASH	MASH	MASH	MASH	MASH	MASH	MASH	MASH	MASH	MASH	MASH	MASH	MASH	MASH	MASH	MASH	MASH
HBO	518	518	518	518	518	518	518	518	518	518	518	518	518	518	518	518	518	518	518	518	518	518	518	518
HBO2	520	520	520	520	520	520	520	520	520	520	520	520	520	520	520	520	520	520	520	520	520	520	520	520
HBO3	521	521	521	521	521	521	521	521	521	521	521	521	521	521	521	521	521	521	521	521	521	521	521	521
MAX	549	549	549	549	549	549	549	549	549	549	549	549	549	549	549	549	549	549	549	549	549	549	549	549
STARZ	578	578	578	578	578	578	578	578	578	578	578	578	578	578	578	578	578	578	578	578	578	578	578	578
SHOW	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621
STZENC	644	644	644	644	644	644	644	644	644	644	644	644	644	644	644	644	644	644	644	644	644	644	644	644

TUESDAY LATE NIGHT & WEDNESDAY MORNING

	12 AM	12:30	1 AM	1:30	2 AM	2:30	3 AM	3:30	4 AM	4:30	5 AM	5:30	6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11
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