

Part 1

The Current State of "Dating Sites"

1. The Number of "Dating Sites"

In September of 2002, the National Police Agency conducted a sample survey of the number of "Dating Sites."

According to this survey, the estimated number of sites accessible by personal computers (surveyed using a search engine for personal computers) is 2,038. The estimated number of sites accessible by i-mode for cellular telephones (surveyed using an i-mode search engine) is 3,401. In comparing these figures with the estimated figures of a survey conducted in September of 2001, the number of "Dating Sites" accessible by personal computers and similar sites accessible by i-mode for cellular telephones are both increasing. See Table 1.

Table 1. The Estimated Number of "Dating Sites." (Source: National Police Agency)

	Survey of September, 2001	Survey of September, 2002
"Dating Sites" Accessible from Personal Computers	884	2,038
"Dating Sites" Accessible from Cellular Telephones	2,569	3,401

2. The Business Models of "Dating Sites"

"Dating Sites" can be divided into pay "Dating Sites," which collect user fees as "member fees" or some other type of fee, and free "Dating Sites," which do not collect user fees from its users. An important characteristic of "Dating Sites" is that the large number of sites that can be used for free by their users.

According to the National Police Agency, the number of free "Dating Sites" involved in child prostitution crimes in the first half of 2002 was 129, a number that constitutes 36.5%, or approximately 1/3 of the total number of sites with known free/pay

distinction. The number of sites that offered pay services to both sexes was 29, or 7.3% of the total (8.2% of sites of known pay/free distinction). See Table 2.

What allows so many "Dating Sites" to offer free services is thought to be the existence of income from sources excluding their users, such as banner advertisements and the sale of users' e-mail addresses to e-mail marketers and other types of businesses. This and the low running costs of "Dating Sites" allow conditions that produce adequate profits even with just the aforementioned sources of income.

Table 2. Pay/Free Distinctions of "Dating Sites" (Figures from Child Pornography Cases of the First Half of 2002).

Pay/Free Distinction		Number of Arrests		
Pay		224	56.0%	63.5%
	Pay for Both Sexes	29	7.3%	8.2%
	Pay for Males Only	174	43.5%	49.3%
	Unknown, etc.	21	5.3%	5.9%
Free		129	32.3%	36.5%
Unknown		47	11.7%	-
Total		400	100.0%	100.0%

Note: Column on the far right shows ratios that exclude sites of unknown distinction.

3. The Use of "Dating Sites" by Children

The widespread use of cellular telephones by children parallel the increase in the use of "Dating Sites" by children.

"Report of the Research Conducted on Measures against Internet Contents Harmful to Youth" was published by the Measures against Internet Contents Harmful to Youth Research Group in March of 2003. This report describes a questionnaire survey of second year junior and senior high school students conducted in September of 2001. According to this survey, 83.1% of high school students and 23.1% of junior high students owned cellular telephones, while 22.0% of high school girls and 18.4% of high school boys surveyed answered that they have used a "Dating Site." Of these students, 43.2% of the high school girls and 27.8% of the high school boys have met face to face with somebody that he or she came to know through a "Dating Site." See

Table 3.

**Table 3. The Use of "Dating Sites" by Junior High and High School Students.
(Source: "Report of the Research Conducted on Measures against Internet Contents Harmful to Youth")**

	Total	Have Used	Never Used	No Answer
Total (Percentage)	539 (100.0%)	67 (12.4%)	455 (84.4%)	17 (3.2%)
Junior High School Boys (Percentage)	147 (100.0%)	3 (2.0%)	139 (94.6%)	5 (3.4%)
Junior High School Girls (Percentage)	126 (100.0%)	9 (7.1%)	113 (89.7%)	4 (3.2%)
High School Boys (Percentage)	98 (100.0%)	18 (18.4%)	77 (78.6%)	3 (3.0%)
High School Girls (Percentage)	168 (100.0%)	37 (22.0%)	126 (75.0%)	5 (3.0%)

Part 2

Issues Concerning "Dating Sites"

1. Child Crime Damage Resulting from "Dating Site" Use

(1) Sharp Rise in Crime Damage

The number of crimes resulting from the use of "Dating Sites" is increasing sharply. In the first half of 2002, the number of arrests resulting from crimes related to "Dating Sites" was 793, a figure approximately 2.6 times the 302 arrests made in the first half of 2001. (The increase in the number of detected criminal law crimes for the same period was 4.9%.)

Of crimes related to "Dating Sites", child prostitution cases numbered 400, or roughly one-half of the total, a 300% increase from the 133 cases in the same period of the year before. Crimes in violation of Ordinances relating to Development and Protection of Youth numbered 213, a 360% increase from the 59 cases in the same period of the year before. Also of note are crimes causing serious danger to human life: 23 incidences of rape (a 15% increase from the year before), 33 incidences of blackmail (a 313% increase from the year before). See Table 4.

Table 4. The Number of Crimes Related to the "Dating Sites."

		First Half of 2002	2001		Increase/ Decrease Rate
			First Half		
Serious Crimes	Murder	1	5	6	-80.0%
	Robbery	6	2	10	200.0%
	Rape	23	20	44	15.0%
	Kidnapping	1	1	3	0%
	Indecent Assault	3	7	10	-57.1%
Assault		1	2	3	-50.0%
Injury Infliction		11	5	13	120.0%
Intimidation		13	8	16	62.5%
Blackmail		33	8	34	312.5%
Theft		13	14	23	-7.1%
Fraud		13	8	26	62.5%
Violation of Child Prostitution and Child Pornography Law	Child Prostitution	400	133	379	200.8%
	Child Pornography	10	0	8	-
Violation of Youth Development and Protection Ordinances		213	59	221	261.0%
Others		52	30	92	73.3%
Total		793	302	888	162.6%

(2) A Majority of Victims are Children

A majority of the victims of these crimes are children under 18 years of age, and the percentage for this group is increasing yearly. In the first half of 2002, the total number of victims was 692; of these, children numbered 595, or 86.0% of the total. Of these child crime victims, high school girls numbered 335 (48.4%), while junior high school girls numbered 173 (25.0%), meaning that high school and junior high school girls constitute approximately 3/4 of the total number of victims. See Tables 5 and 6.

Table 5. Increase/Decrease in the Number of Child and Female Victims.

	Total	Child Victims	Female Victims
2000	102	71 (69.6%)	96 (94.1%)
2001	757	584 (77.1%)	699 (92.3%)
First Half	283	211 (74.6%)	265 (93.6%)
2002 (First Half)	692	595 (86.0%)	647 (93.5%)

Note: Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage against total number of victims.

Table 6. Composition of Victims.

	Female	Male	Total
High School Students	335 (48.4%)	8 (1.2%)	343 (49.6%)
Junior High School Students	173 (25.0%)	2 (0.3%)	175 (25.3%)
Total	508 (73.4%)	10 (1.4%)	518 (74.9%)

Note: Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage against 692, the total number of victims.

2. Child Prostitution Cases Involving "Dating Sites"

Of the 400 child prostitution cases involving "Dating Sites" apprehended in the first half of 2002, circumstances regarding solicitation in 211 of the cases have been ascertained, leading to the following conclusions. See Table 7.

(1) The Overwhelming Majority of Cases Are Initiated by Solicitations from Girls

Cases initiated with solicitations from girls constitute an overwhelming majority with 198 cases (93.8%); cases initiated with solicitations from adult men number only 13 (6.2%).

(2) The Majority of Solicitations Are for "Enjo Kosai (Compensated Dating)" *

Of the solicitations, 62 (29.3% of the total) were offers for dating with children that includes sexual intercourse ("Enjo Kosai offered for 50,000 yen"). 58 (27.5%) were offers for dates with children in exchange for the giving or receiving of money ("If you're somebody who can give me pocket money, please spend some time with me"). In addition, 54 (25.6%) were offers that were posted on "Dating Sites" that specialized in Enjo Kosai and were in essence solicitations for such activity. The above solicitations (illegal solicitations) for sex with children and the soliciting for the

* Also referred to as "Patronage Dating" or "Schoolgirl Prostitution."

giving or receiving of money in exchange for dating with children total 174 (82.4%).

(3) Calls for Mail Friends Have Lead to Criminal Cases

There are 37 cases (17.6%) in which solicitations that are not classified as illegal solicitations (such as calls for mail friends) have lead to criminal cases.

Table 7. Breakdown of Solicitations in Child Prostitution Cases.

Sex	Type of Solicitation (with Example of Message)	Number of Cases (Percentage of Total)
From Female (Child) 198 (93.8%)	General messages (self-introductions, "I'm bored," "Let's have fun")	34 (16.2%)
	Solicitations for paid dating "Send me a mail if you can meet me Sunday for 30,000 yen." "I'm a teenager in high school. Let's get together if you're somebody who can give me pocket money. Send profile."	50 (23.7%)
	Solicitations for dating posted on sites specializing in Enjo Kosai	54 (25.6%)
	Solicitations for sexual intercourse (solicitations for Enjo Kosai) "Buy my virginity. I'm an innocent 15-year old." "I'm in my second year of junior high. I'm interested in sex and I play with myself every day. If you're nice, teach me." "I want to try real sex! I'm bored with playing with myself. Somebody with lots of yen please make me feel good."	60 (28.4%)
From Male (Adult) 13 (6.2%)	Solicitations for sexual intercourse (solicitations for Enjo Kosai) "Will pay 50,000 yen maximum for Enjo Kosai."	2 (0.9%)
	Solicitations for dating posted on sites specializing in Enjo Kosai	0
	Solicitations for paid dating "Awaiting messages from high school girls short in pocket money."	8 (3.8%)
	General messages (calls for mail friends, "Let's meet," "Contact me")	3 (1.4%)
<i>Illegal solicitations</i>		174 (82.4%)

3. Crime Damage from the Use of "Dating Sites" Using Cellular Telephones

(1) An Overwhelming Majority of "Dating Site" Criminal Cases Involved the Use of Cellular Telephones

In the first half of 2002, 758 cases out of a total of 793 cases (or 95.6% of the total) involved the use of cellular telephones.

In child prostitution cases, 390 out of a total of 400 cases (or 97.5% of the total) involved the use of cellular telephones. See Table 8.

The proportion of "Dating Site" criminal cases involving the use of cellular telephones in relation to all cases is growing yearly. In 2000, the proportion was 56.7%; in 2002, the proportion had grown to 95.6%.

Table 8. Cellular Telephone Use in Crimes Involving "Dating Sites."

	2000	2001	2002 (First Half Only)
(a) Number of Crimes Involving "Dating Sites"	59/104 (56.7%)	714/888 (80.4%)	758/793 (95.6%)
Of (a), the Number of Child Prostitution Crimes	26/40 (65.0%)	311/379 (82.1%)	390/400 (97.5%)

Note: Figures show the number of cases involving the use of cellular telephones/number of cases, followed by the percentage against the number of cases.

(2) An Overwhelming Majority of Child Crime Victims Used Cellular Telephones

Of the child victims of the "Dating Site" cases for the first half of 2002, 571 out of a total of 595 (or 96.0% of the total) involved the use of cellular telephones. Meanwhile, 357 out of a total of 368 victims (or 97.0% of the total) of child prostitution cases involved the use of cellular telephones. See Table 9.

Table 9. Child Victims of "Dating Site" Crimes Involving the Use of Cellular Telephones.

	(a) Victims of Crimes Involving the Use of "Dating Sites"	(b) Of (a), the Victims of Child Prostitution Crimes
(c) Number of Victims (Total)	692	368
(d) Of (c), the Number of Children	595	368
(e) Of (d), the Number of Children Using Cellular Telephone Use	571 (96.0%)	357 (97.0%)