

# **Webinar Transcript - Preventing Child Abduction and Exploitation in Indian Country**

Welcome to the National Criminal Justice Training Center webinar, Preventing Child Abduction and Exploitation in Indian Country, presented by David Chewiwie and Francis Bradley. My name is Tanea Parmenter and I'll be your moderator for today.

This webinar is provided under award-- provided by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, the US Department of Justice, and supported by the AMBER Alert in Indian Country Program. The opinions expressed by presenters in their oral or written material are theirs alone, and do not necessarily represent those of the National Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College or OJJDP.

In conjunction with our mission, our webinar series works to bring together state, local, and tribal subject matter experts to present and discuss critical issues relating to missing, abducted, and exploited children.

I'm pleased to introduce you to today's presenters, David Chewiwie and Francis Bradley, Sr. Thanks again for joining us today. Presenters, the time is now yours.

Good morning, everybody. Thank you for joining us today. I'm very excited to bring this presentation today because there's a lot of really good information on keeping our native children safe. And so we're going to try to bring a whole lot of information to you in the time that we have. So I appreciate you all being here. Francis?

Yes, good morning, everyone. Welcome to the day. Let's get this started. Start off with going over our learning objectives today. As you can see there, there are three particularly-- three learning objectives for this webinar today, learn how to detect threats to Native American children as it relates to the danger of sexual trafficking, reviewing methods and technologies-- or techniques to prevent, prepare and respond to luring, sextortion, and internet exploitation within tribal communities, and to discuss current methods and resources to bring awareness to the communities and strategies to keep our children safe or to keep children safe.

As we all know, we're in a digital age within not only our communities, our countries, but within our own homes. And what we're going to be talking about today is the digital age and Indian country. Now keeping that in mind, also we're going to talk a lot about what the tribes have insofar as broadband access is concerned. And then we're going to talk about how the bridge to internet access gaps, that currently exist between ourselves and our children, and all the things that they're going to be doing and seeing and what we see.

Then, of course, we'll talk about the access to the internet for the first time, and then expanded access for purchases for things that normally happen when you're looking for something, shopping for something, things like that. And then we're going to talk a little bit about how the increased internet capabilities have come about, into today's world in our age, and right into our homes. Next slide.

Yeah, and so historically, there's been a gap in broadband and internet access throughout Indian country. And so recently, there's been more of a government and private-sector investment in tribal broadband and access. And so what we're trying to do is we're trying to bridge that gap, that information, so that parents and guardians of Native children can have that information and to be better prepared for that and to keep our children safe.

So we're going to start off with some basic terms for access to the digital age. The internet is basically just a large network of websites and information that spans throughout the entire world. The broadband is what allows you to access this information from the internet to your home, via a router. And then your Wi-Fi is that type of wireless connection which allows the devices, your computer, or your cell phone, your tablet, other devices, to connect to your router, which then connects to the internet.

And there's a lot of ways that that's done. And recently, I just realized-- and of course, I'm not as internet savvy as a lot of people-- but I realized recently that I could just use my phone just as a Wi-Fi connection. So as we go along, you can see that there's a lot of different ways that we can access our Wi-Fi, broadband, and internet.

With all of this that we're talking about now, when you really think about it, in this day and age, that depending upon what your tribal community's access is to the broadband, you're going to find that there are a lot of communities in our Indian country that do have some pretty good broadband access. With that comes the need to understand what that brings into the home as well.

I don't know if you all are like me, older than dirt, that you could consider that-- I remember back in the day when we had to do dial up to get onto the internet. And that was back in 1996, which is pretty much-- '95, '96-- which is pretty much really recent for looking at where it's come from and what it's expanded to, and right up to our front doors right now.

Then there are other places within Indian country where there are some vast areas that just don't have any internet access, like our native communities in Alaska have very little or no internet access or access to the digital world, so to speak. Next slide?

And you're absolutely right, Francis. And in some areas, there has been, like you said, very little access. And the technology and the way that it's accessed is constantly changing. And for some families, it's just being introduced now, as you said.

So this is the perfect time. The timing is perfect to be able to bring our Native communities online with the information and to bring everyone up to speed with what the threats are and what we can do about it in our communities, to keep our kids safe.

So some of the methods and some of the devices-- and this is real basic-- is just that it's on our computers, our tablets, our cell phones, our smart TVs and devices. And also, where are the locations where these are accessible? So it's not just at our home computer, at our home, but also accessible from the library, friends, relatives, from our phones, anywhere where we can connect to interact with other people.

Cell phone technology and data access is constantly changing. And so it's important to keep up with what the basic technology is, what the threats are, and how we can go about mitigating those threats.

With that being said also, when we talk about internet-based threats, we look at the fact of the matter that our children, as young as they are-- I've seen my grandchildren and nieces and nephews, who are two and three years old right now, who can navigate an iPhone and be able to go where they need to go to see what they want to see and to entertain themselves on the internet.

And what that does is it brings up some real basic concerns when it comes to what the threats are out there, which are real. In our communities-- and I know we've all been touched by this in one shape, form, fashion, or another, by a story that's been told, something happened to your relative-- but there are some serious threats out there that-- let's talk about at the beginning here-- like child abduction.

What is child abduction? Because that could end up coming from something that ends up happening when the kids get on the internet and befriend somebody and start moving from there. We'll get a little bit more into that as we go along. But again, internet-based threats, child abduction, unauthorized taking of a child from a parent or legal guardian. And of course, we've all heard about child sex trafficking, where our children are recruited, harbored, transported.

There's provisions obtaining-- that obtaining, patronized, or solicit of a minor for the purpose of commercial, sexual act. We used to call that child pornography back in the day. It used to be called child pornography. But now, when you look at it from the simple fact that a matter of what the terms are today, it's child sexual trafficking. And then there's online child sexual exploitation.

And again, that term is basically the usage of the internet or communication technology as a method to facilitate the sexual abuse of children and adolescents. And we're starting to see more and more of those types of calls for service and calls that we're getting reported to our departments, that our children are becoming more and more involved in. David? Next slide.

So we also have online enticement or luring. And that's where the internet is used to either entice, invite, persuade a child to meet for sexual acts, or help arrange for a meeting. And we think about sometimes, as our social media, where we're connecting and interacting with other people. But there are so many different ways that it's used now. Any way that someone can interact, whether it's through messaging, SMS, social media, gaming.

Gaming is something-- and that's not to be confused with Indian gaming. But gaming is somewhere where people are-- there's multiple people that are playing a game sometimes. And they're able to interact with each other. And those are used for luring children as well. With sexting, that's the sending and receiving of sexual words or pictures or videos. And sometimes that starts with internet bullying. And then it goes into something more unlawful, like sexting.

The scary thing about all of that, as well, is that when you think about it, and you think about our children in our homes and the access we have nowadays to broadband and the internet, this is what our children know, especially the gaming portion. The gaming portion, I've seen, again, my grandchildren-- and what they do, when they get out of school, get back home, and the first thing they do is jump on the old cell phone and start playing their games. Or they get on the game console and start gaming.

I have a nephew who I live with, here in the Valley, who is an avid gamer. He and his friends-- it makes me laugh at times because I can listen to them at night, playing their game, and how involved they get and the number of people in this one particular game that they're playing. And know that's the same way with the children out there.

So again, our concerns come down to the online enticement and luring. This is how the children get into it or how are our teenagers get into these types of things. And again, sexting is a bigger and bigger problem than what we know of now. And again, that comes with what we'll talk about, how to talk to our children about getting them to tell us what's going on or working with them to do these issues that they're going to be found, working on the internet. David?

Yeah, and what people need to realize is that once that sexual material or those photos are out there, that it is out there. You can't-- you don't just delete it and from your phone or your computer and it goes away. It doesn't work that way. And so people need to realize, and kids need to realize, that that's what happens. It's out there. It's going to be sent from that provider, from that social media company, to places like the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. It's going to be out there.

And so that information can also be removed. And we'll talk more about that in just a little bit. But Child Sexual Abuse Material, CSAM, as it's known now, is what used to be referred to as child pornography. And industry wide, that's being changed because it is something that's a little bit more appropriate to be able to use.

And cyberbullying, like I said before, it starts with things that will cause embarrassment or humiliation to somebody. But sometimes they also extend further, into things that are unlawful, like sextortion or other things.

Then when we talk d let's go back and talk about what is it-- what do we look at and who do we call a minor? Not somebody that's taking minerals out of the Earth. We're talking about our children 18 years and younger. And when you think about it from that standpoint, that's how we look at and define who a minor is in our society today.

And again, back in our days when we were growing up, bullying was face to face, within each other and with each other, across from each other. But now it takes place across the internet. And it may not just be other children who do this. It may be other people, who are working to humiliate, groom, lure, whatever, your children into doing something that they shouldn't be doing.

And then sextortion, again, is a really big issue that's starting to come up now. And we're seeing more and more cases of sextortion, especially amongst our males, our young males between 14 and 18 years old. We're seeing a lot more of that. Next slide.

In a 2015 study by the National Congress of American Indians, NCAI, it said the 40% of women who are victims of trafficking identify as American Indian, Alaska Native, First Nations. And so here on the next slide, we're going to show you some of those reasons, some of those factors that they included in this study. Next slide.

So some of these are associated with fetishes, long hair, exotic looks, maybe that-- a native look. But some factors are just the high rates of poverty and the hardship that is in some tribal communities, and maybe trying to lure children away from that with promises of money and other things.

Some historical trauma, cultural loss will play some roles into that-- homelessness, runaway youth, there's high rates of involvement with child welfare systems, through ICWA, some exposure to violence, domestic violence in the home. Drugs, alcohol play a factor. And also, just the lack or the lower resources in law enforcement in some Native communities.

Because when you look at it from these standpoints, all of these factors do affect our communities in Indian country, especially now that we're all-- within our public safety and our law enforcement entities across the nation within law enforcement in Indian country-- we don't have the staffing. We don't have the technology.

And a lot of times, we don't have the expertise to work these cases through. So we're going out and finding the resources in the people like the FBI, our state counterparts, our local counterparts, our sheriff's departments, to work with, to help us with these cases. And more and more, we're reaching out too, just as well as-- like you would be as parents and guardians and those who are looking for more answers about how do we deal with preventing our children from being abducted, taken, or bullied, and basically sexually exploited. So those are the things that we're faced with just as well.

So there's other factors as well. We look at the new jobs. There's new workers, new visitors to the area, new industry in certain areas-- example being man camps in North Dakota-- other areas where people will come from other states and other areas. And they'll be involved in human trafficking and child sex trafficking.

Another factor would be just the anonymity of the internet, when you have end-to-end encryption or when you have the dark web. So a lot of those will keep some of the users and some of these abusers anonymous. And so those are some things to look at as well.

Then there's enticements, promises of romantic relationships, wealth, better life, all these things like I mentioned before, better living conditions, perhaps, relationships. And there's a lot of different forms of coercion that happen. And it involves all types of children and genders and everything else. So it's important to note that children and youth of all ages, under 18, and genders can be recruited and enticed.

And let's look at it from the other portion of this as well, is that in those communities, or within our nations that have gaming, and then those of our nations and our tribes that have a lot of tourism, when you think about it from that standpoint, we have a lot of people moving about, a lot of people coming in, leaving. We have resorts. We have casinos. We have tourism spots that come. We expect these visitors every year. And in my experiences, not only working on the Navajo Nation but on the Hualapai nation as well, those two areas are heavy tourism areas.

Of course, the Navajo has gaming nowadays. And combine that with tourism and then the fact of the matter that the location it's in and the sites you can come and visit-- Hualapai is the same way. Historic Route 66 runs right through Peach Springs, right through the Hualapai nation. And it's the access to the Grand Canyon these places that bring people to us. So tourism is high. And people come in and out of there.

And where I currently work now, with the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, we have different enterprises, like the gaming enterprise. And then we have the tourism enterprise, of course, that we're dealing with. And then we have a major route that comes straight through. So we're constantly seeing people coming through our communities.

And when we talk about that, it's not just the fact of the matter that it could be these workers or anyone else that comes through. It could be our everyday visitors. But combine that with the issues that we see within our own communities as well, where we do have our sexual predators and our persons that would end up looking at children and abusing them just as well. So keep that in mind also. Next slide.

That's very, very true so now we're going to switch from some of the things-- some of the basic terms and what are some of the threats and stuff to safety and prevention. So we're going to cover a whole lot of information in a rather short time because we have a lot of things to show you, not only how you can keep your family safe, your children safe, what are some of the resources.

But the first thing that we want to mention is that the internet safety for our children is-- and the prevention of that online exploitation-- is not the responsibility of our Native children, but rather the responsibility of Native parents and caregivers and families and the community, law enforcement, everybody working together to reduce the risk, to prepare for the incident response, to help heal the child, the family, and community after an incident has occurred. And so basically, the holistic approach to risk reduction involves all areas of our tribal communities.

And in that, when we talk about that as well, it's like, what do we need to know? And in many of our tribes and our beliefs, we talk about never having to stop learning. It's always learning and that where we are right now, in this age of technology which we live in, and the things that we have available and so far as that technology is concerned, it's up to all of us to know something about how to find information, look for information.

And of course, we go right back to where's the best place to find that information. It's getting back on the internet, finding those resources because there are a lot of resources out there, that are available to us all, to help us learn about what it is that create these hazards for our children and how we can mitigate those hazards and reduce the risks that are associated with our children being on the internet.

So again, it's up to all of us to do this. One, take a look at it from the family's side. Think about it now. Nowadays-- and it hasn't changed very much in the last 20, 30 years. We still have single parent families We still have jobs. We still have lives to live and things to do, to make sure our families can move forward.

So a lot of times, what ends up happening is having a phone available that would take the place-- not take the place, but help with the babysitting of the children. And in doing that, we're not telling our children about what they should be looking out for. And again, we start out at the family level.

Then we move into the community level. What do our communities provide for us in so far as that broadband access is concerned? And how do we prepare our communities to better take care of the children that we have and what we use our internet for? So again, it comes down to tribal communities.

There are places, like the schools, that our children go to, that internet is available there there. Are other places where you may have internet available to the community on a free web access. It just depends. And again, then of course, there's always the business. There's that side of all of us. We've used the internet in what we do in work, in everything we do in work.

We know a little bit about that side. And David mentioned earlier about the dark web. I was surprised. And this is-- really, for me, it's been within the last two to three years that I started learning more and more about the different terminologies and the things that happened and the layers that are associated with the internet. And the dark side, the dark web, as they call it, is-- it was totally fascinating to me.

And it was also scary for the simple fact that a matter about just how all of this plays into the safety of our children and ourselves when we're online, and what we need to do and learn about to prevent ourselves from being exploited, and especially our children, to maintain their safety.

So again, we have all of these things that we deal with and see. And part of what we deal with and end up doing is we do a lot of family work within our communities because of the things that we see. And so our social services, our family services, whatever you may call them, and those who provide guidance to our families and the parents and dealing with the children and issues that they're dealing with now, they also have a role to play in this. It's not just the family or the child. Next slide.

Yeah, well said. So how do we go about this? How do we reduce that risk? So there's some basic things that we need to do, is we need to learn about each threat in general, so the general threats that apply pretty much to everybody and families and children on the internet, and what they mean. We talked a little bit about luring. It's extortion and bullying and some of those things.

So we need to know what the threats are in general. We need to learn how to avoid some of those threats, empower our teams to work together with parents and guardians to reduce that risk, and assess and discuss more than once, not just talk about it once and then forget about it. But talk about it often because some of these threats and vulnerabilities and technologies and all these things are constantly changing.

The other thing we want to do is we want to talk about your family-specific threats, threats and vulnerabilities that may be specific to you because of your situation. And so this is based on your family's awareness, your equipment, your digital knowledge. What are those vulnerable areas? And what do we do specifically for your family, for these online threats?

So you can start at, for example, at [preventht.org](http://preventht.org). And that'll give you information on some of those threats and what are the vulnerabilities and how your family can specifically protect themselves. We can discuss things like sexting, and sextortion, internet bullying, online enticement, all of these things and how they specifically affect your family.

The important thing is that you're having an honest and frank discussions between your family about this, not in a scary manner, not in a threatening manner, but just talking about it so that everyone knows what it is, having some role playing, like hey, what would you do in this situation if this happened or if somebody was trying to lure you or this or that or the other, and encourage questions from your children on that. And then create some of those strategies.

Some of these strategies include researching the security settings for our phones, tablets, computer computers, checking the privacy on the accounts themselves, always being careful about what's being posted about children, especially pictures, personal information, and those things.

We want to get out all of these pictures and stuff about what's happening in our lives and our children and everything else. But it's important that we also consider what the privacy is and what the threats and vulnerabilities are to our families.

And so we also want to create cell phone and computer rules for our children so that they're aware and they have some buy in on what's going on and how we are going to keep them safe. A term that is used commonly on the internet and in social media and things like that are friends. And that has to be explained, that the 5,000 people that call themselves friends are not friends-- and that's the term that's being used very loosely-- that few of those are actually friends.

When it comes to younger children, we want to open a family account. We want to consistently monitor what sites are being visited, what's being shared. And also, we want to know and be aware that our children have access to other places where they can get on the internet, whether it's a library, it's a friend's house, a relative's house. So we want to talk about the other things that they're doing, the other devices that are being used, what content is being shared.

We want to talk about protecting our children's identity. So when they log on and they and they create identities online, email addresses, usernames, screen names, all of those things, that they're gender neutral and also, that they protect their privacy. And they all want to play games online. They all want to do all of these things. But it's important that the people on the other end, that may be a threat to them, that they don't know much about them.

We want to find out if your child has been tagged or any of your photos have been tagged on social media accounts, those kind of things. We want to find out who the people are on our kids' friends lists. We want to look for any signs or symptoms that our children may have, that they might be vulnerable to human trafficking, whether it's lack of self esteem, stealing from home, they're tired all the time, they're withdrawn or disconnected from family.

There may be a change in their personality, and possessing other digital means of communication if their items were taken away, such as burner phones or other places that they go, secretly, to try to log on. Some of those signs or symptoms could be red flags about what's going on with them and that they may be doing things or involved with persons on the internet that they shouldn't be.

And also, we want to learn how to talk to our children about internet safety and what are some of the most effective means of communications to get buy in because that's the important thing. Long term, we want our children to buy into those strategies that we're using to keep them safe.

When you talk about that point right there in itself, David, that's a really good point because right now, if I have questions about what they're doing, what they're playing, or what's happening with this particular application or whatever, I always go to my granddaughters and my grandchildren. My grandchildren are great teachers. And for me, that's always been the way to open the door to start that conversation about, OK, Papa doesn't know this. So how do I do this? What kind of security settings should I have for this or that?

And you would be surprised what your children can teach you. And that door opens up right there, in itself, and say, OK, they're interested in something that I'm interested in. So I can teach them this. But at the same time, you're figuring out where are your children, your grandkids, and where are your family, insofar as these safety concerns are. And again, a lot of what we take into account is that we, ourselves, in our accounts that we have for social media, we always think about those things as well.

But we don't know what our children are thinking and what they're doing. And again, it really comes down to-- the real fact of the matter is what's happening on the dark web, who's out there and who's trying to lure them, who's looking at them. And again, when it comes down to those pictures that we're taking and sharing, you have predators out there, who are looking for these pictures that would entice them, excite them, and bring them towards-- lure them into trying to find that child and have that child fall under their spell, so to speak. So again, there's those types of things that we talk about there, when it comes to that.

And remember, you can always look at the simple fact of the matter that-- especially if your children have cell phones, personal cell phones and things like that, make sure you know where they are. Make sure that you have that app set to where you can find that phone, find that child. And for me, I have on my phone, it's called Find My Friends. I can locate my wife. I can locate my grandchildren, my daughter, my children. I can find him.

And of course, it's not to track my kids. But it's to know where they're at but at the same time, also know that if they're moving online or something, then it gives me an idea of where they are. Of course, that's one of the basic law enforcement tools we're going to be looking at is, do you have this enabled? Can we find that device? Because if we find that device, we'll probably find your child.

And just because you may not have cell phone service or you may not have it hooked up to the cell phone, that doesn't mean that our children will go find those areas where internet access is available because then it enables those types of services to be given to them. So then we go back and say, where's the last time they were at when they logged on? So that's another thing, Find My Phone, AirTags. We've heard a lot about AirTags lately, about how they're good and how they're bad. But they actually work pretty neat.

I never thought about it in this standpoint, about our children and tracking them, because there was Find My Friends in the phone, itself. But in AirTag, I actually provide you some really good information. My granddaughter-- this is an example of how she thought about-- how do I find my dogs when they run off from home, when we let them out to go do their thing in the morning?

Put an AirTag on their collar and then track them that way, using the phone. I'd have ever thought of that. So that was when the AirTags first came out. Of course, AirTag technology has gotten a lot better. But I had never thought of that. This is the ingenuity our children have when they talk about things that they figure out.

But also, we also have those predators and others out there who are looking at our children to exploit them or harm them in whatever way and even abduct them. They're looking at the same technologies. And they have their ways around it. And the dark web provides them that access to figure out how to do this, by the others who do this, in general. So again, be aware of the threats.

Empower your children to talk with you, work with you, teach you, learn from them, and work with them to help them understand why we're concerned about their safety, especially in this day and age. The safety threat is to all of us, not just as a family, but to our individual selves and our children, especially. Especially our children because they're vulnerable. They're vulnerable in this day and age. And our children have always been vulnerable, but now more so with the technology that's there.

And again, about the buy-in part, it's know what your children are doing, understand what they're doing. But have them teach you and help you because they're better at this than we are. Sorry about that, David. Go ahead.

Well said because you brought up a really good point. And that is about our children knowing about that technology. And our kids, it seems almost like they're born tech savvy, right? And so that's why it's so important for us to get a better understanding of what's out there but also having that communication with our kids because although they may be tech savvy, they may not fully understand what the threats and the dangers are with the internet, that are out there.

And so it's good to tell them about reporting suspicious questions asked by people who may be trying to lure them and those kinds of things, about keeping these gaming consoles somewhere where we could see them, to see what's going on and to know, and just to be aware of what's going on, privacy rules, those kind of things.



The other things too, aside from that, is discussing other things like bus safety, bullying, recruitment. Sometimes there's other locations where human trafficking recruitment is taking place. And sometimes that's through other peers and other students and with child welfare locations and other places like that, where children may be recruited as well.

Personal safety, like discussing things like what's a trusted adult, reporting things that are uncomfortable, asking their parent or trusted adult before they go somewhere or help somebody or accept things so that they're aware of some of these things that are going out there. And also school safety and working with the schools, to make those environments a lot safer for our students, and having those frank and honest discussions as well.

Yeah, when we talk about this standpoint-- oh, before I move on, there's a question that's been asked about tracking devices and what I look at. And I'll answer that as we go along here, as soon as I get a little bit more time. So I can answer that question for you. It's in the chat question-and-answer chat box.

So let's talk about risk reduction-- tribal law enforcement. Let's look at it from the standpoint of what I had mentioned earlier, about where we are in this day and age here, with tribal law enforcement. There are some of our tribes and some of our nations that have some really good information technology departments and staff. And there are also some of our tribal law enforcement agencies that have some really good investigators and detectives that are up to par on what the current threats are in dealing with the internet, the dark web and those kinds of things.

So when we talk about risk reduction, let's first of all start off with just simply looking at it from this standpoint. We need to do a lot more information campaigns for our native families. We really do. And I, for myself, being the chief of police for the Fort McDowell Yavapai nation, is something that we're looking at right now and how do we incorporate that into our web page, to give some basic information and some direction for our families to look at, when it comes to risk reduction about internet safety.

And let's look at Internet Crimes against Children Task Forces, that we will ultimately end up getting involved in, especially if it becomes a case of abduction or sextortion or sexual abuse, those kind of things. And again, there are task forces that end up being formed with our partners. Our tribe, other tribal departments, the FBI, sheriff's department, state police, they're all-- would be part of what we would look at to help us with this risk reduction for Indian country.

And then, of course, we all have-- now most of our tribes have access to services through the Tribal Access Program, which gives us the ability to start to look at and bring in and message our partners about this is what we're seeing. Let's find out about this person, that person kind of thing. So it gives us that.

And of course, there's the good old AMBER Alert in Indian Country Program that Fox Valley has. And with that, what we have available on the AMBER Alert Indian Country website are a lot of resources. There are a lot of training and a lot of tools that you can look at and find out more about how to reduce the risk to our children for abductions and abuse and things like that, and then the training and technical assistance that's available there.

Then let's talk about our communities in general. Do we have some type of tribal community response plan for these different things? We talk about fire. We talk about floods. We talk about inclement weather. We talk about all these other things. But we forget at times that there are far more reaching issues that we're faced with, like the internet safety that we're talking about today.

So is that included in some type of Tribal Response Plan that we have for law enforcement, fire departments, social services, the courts, Family Services, public works, our information department, information technology departments-- are involved in this response plan?

And then look at it from this standpoint. It's not about if a child is going to go missing. It's going to be when. And when we talk about that, do we have a Child Abduction Response Team? Or do we even have a plan for that? So of course, it's called a CART team. And that's what we would utilize when we talk about children going missing. So again, we can start off with what we do at our department.

We have handouts that we give out every once in a while. And of course, then there's our website that we have, that could give more information. And having a website also would lead us to the simple fact of the matter that we would be using social media to get this information out. And it's still a common practice today, in our law enforcement and our public safety services, that we still go door to door and knock on doors.

Depending on the size of your community and the size of your police force and what you're dealing with, there are a lot of times when-- during investigations, we do it all the time. But there are other times when we just would go door to door and say, hey, today the water pressure is low because there's not enough public works people to go out and give these messages. Or the power's down. Or the power is out. Air conditioners aren't working today.

So let's go check on our people. So going door to door would be one of the things that we do. And that helps us in learning more about the families that we're working with and that are within the home.

So again, there's going door to door, giving people your business cards, say call me if you ever have a question. There's stickers and coloring books and materials that are used to educate as well, for a lot of different things, especially about child safety. And then of course, a lot of times we can set up resource tables at a lot of the events.

We have health fairs. We have powwows. We have basketball tournaments, volleyball tournaments, all these things that we can take advantage of the gathering of the people so we can give out this information at these events, so everyone has access to some type of information. And they may plant a seed that says, hey, I think I need to go learn more about this or hey, Bradley, what are you talking about with this, that, or the other? So again, there's that.

And then, of course, there are a lot of presentations that can be done at the schools and by the schools. We can't depend on the schools to teach and do all of these things. But it's a place where internet is heavily used in the schools as well. And so are computers. So again, I know that they have different types of resources, rules, and things that they follow when they do this. So again, that's in our schools because that's a primary place in the community where internet access and web access is commonly available.

And then of course, there's the good old Tribal Council meetings and community forums. And sometimes it could be just parked at a basketball game and you start talking to people about different things. And the topic of internet safety comes up. And you start talking about that and discussing.

And you find out a lot from your people about this is what's going on, that's what's happening. What about this? What about that? And it's that good old one-to-one sitting down. You may not be at the kitchen table, talking about this. But you're there, in the parking lot, giving this information out, finding out more about what it is that our people are faced with.

Then of course, all of this comes down to it's basic crime prevention. These are presentations we do for crime prevention, using every tool in our agency's disposal to get the word out about internet safety. We all know-- everyone-- like my teammates. My teammates and I were heavily dependent upon the laptop computer and internet access for data transmission. That's just the bottom line of saying, we use the internet to get our stuff back and forth from our cars to our police station and doing our reports. So we do a lot of data entry.

But with that comes a lot of research and a lot of software and a lot of things that our IT departments tell us that we have to have these layers to protect our information that we're using in our public safety service. And so when you look at it from that standpoint, then you put it back in the home, how are we protecting our homes and teaching our people about those types of layers of safety that you need to have? So there's that type of teaching that can be done. And those are the things that we have at our disposal, that we can teach.

Again, we can talk about how our police departments can be these rally points for these things that happen because that's what's going to end up happening if a child gets abducted or ends up being missing. We're going to be that center point about where and how to start this investigation or look for this child.

And again, there are task forces out there that are available like the IAC, 61 task forces throughout the US, representing 4,500 affiliated agencies. And this task force helps share-- state and local agencies-- helps them develop effective responses to technology-facilitated child exploitation and internet crimes against the children.

And again, all of this stuff is done for-- when we think about forensic technology or forensic examinations, we need to think about forensic technologies as well, meaning that it's not the human body we're talking about. It's about the way our technology is set up through our phones, our computers, what that internet site has, all of these things because again, it's all of these layers that you look at when you're talking about forensic technology.

And one of the things that I was told, about 10 years ago, in a training that I was at, is that in 10 years, we are going to be using our mobile devices to solve crimes. And that's exactly where we are now. And when you think about what's available to you and what our children see, just as well as we do, through the use of that cell phone, it's amazing the type of information you can get off of your cell phone and what it provides you.

Next time you're looking for a pair of shoes, Nike red shoes, you type that into your web browser, you're going to start getting advertisements and information about where to find these red Nike shoes that you're looking for, or that cast-iron skillet, 12-inch diameter, that you need to fry your potatoes in. You'll start to get all of this information sent to you. And you didn't even ask for it. It was off of that one search. That's the power of what it is that we're dealing with. And that's where the forensic technology and science helps us with. So again, we talked about that.

One thing that I did want to add, Francis, was with the ICAC, Internet Crimes Against Children task force, that although that task force is primarily law enforcement and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, who feeds that information and those explicit photos and information to the task forces-- and those are law enforcement.

However, as a parent or a guardian, there is a place, when you go online and you look up the Internet Crimes Against Children task force, ICAC-- and we'll put up the website-- but when you look that up, there is a place that is open for the public to get information on how to keep children safe. And so even though that is a law enforcement and a NCMEC site that's used to share information, it also has a button that you can click on as a parent or guardian.

So let's talk about risk reduction. We talked about it in our communities. We talked about it now in our schools. And so our schools, our tribal communities-- we are all stakeholders in this, in keeping our kids safe. So we, as our school administrators and teachers and people in our schools, we need to review some of those protocols, some of the policies, discuss what are some of the vulnerabilities.

How do we work with parents to prevent the luring, the exploitation, the sexual abuse, and then to recommend and coordinate some of those changes that may be done? As you mentioned, Francis, before, the schools having some of these events where they can talk and discuss and have resource tables and present some of this information.

And also, look at what are some of the physical barriers that may be needed at the schools to prevent not only intruders on the campus, but also to prevent violence and things like that, police volunteers, community volunteers, for off-campus events, those kind of things. But it's basically looking inward at the schools and working with the parents and saying, hey, these are our vulnerabilities. And this is how we work through those.

Now this is another point where we talk about every one of us has a job. And we have not just our businesses out in our communities. But we all have these events and events that take place and organizers who put these events together. And everyone uses some type of broadband or internet to get business done.

So when you think about that, that's a resource in itself. But also there's funding available there that could help you, let's say, do some educational material, put some educational material out with what they're doing when they're doing these things. And then there's information ad campaigns that they can help you get out because that's a resource in itself. We don't do ads and campaigns like that. And they do. It's a resource that we have with our enterprises and our businesses.

And of course, there's the participation in Tribal Community Response Plan is we forget our business partners just like we forget our community, our religious community, our faith-based community. We forget to bring them into our risk-reduction plans because again, when we talk about it, everybody has events. So risk reduction involves all of us, the school, the family, and now we're talking about our businesses.

You're right. So we have jewelry marketplaces, trade shows, casinos, powwows, those kind of things, that are all stakeholders and that all are, for the most part, looking to have that buy in with the community. But we also have our Native Chamber of Commerce agencies that are willing to put that word out and to assist in getting the information out there to everybody.

So some of our other child advocacy groups or agencies are our Social Services, ICWA-- ICWA is obviously very much involved in not only the protection of our children, but helping them through those years, the formative years, and growing up and those kind of things.

So they are very much a big part of what's going on. And many victims of human trafficking have been through foster care or social service systems. So it's important that we all work together through that.

Yes, exactly because that's where we're going to-- and everyone knows as well as we do, there's a Family Services and there are social service programs. And ICWA falls under one of those, especially for Native children. There's a history that's developed. And we find out more about our children. If they ever go abducted or if they're ever found missing, then that's a good resource to use as well.

So again, now we talk about resource other resources that are available to us out there. In the next few slides, you're going to see that there are a lot of resources out there, like this one here, where it says the [internetsafety101.org](http://internetsafety101.org). That's a good place to start because it gives you the basics of what we're talking about today. It gives you more information on what we're talking. We're not the experts in this. The experts are out there. And we have to find and educate ourselves in these matters.

Then there's cyberwise. And then there's Common Sense Media, [missingkids.org](http://missingkids.org), [NetSmartz/resources](http://NetSmartz/resources), these kind of things.

Right.

There are--

So on some of these-- missingkids.org, we look at explicit content. So what it does is, it talks about the child sexual abuse material that's on the internet. If you have-- missingkids.org is going to give you a lot of different things on their cyber tip line, how those things happen.

There's another one-- Family Safety Online. If you can-- OK, yeah, that's the right one. But Family Safety Online, it's going to be an online, nonprofit organization that provides information for families, family safety, professionals, those kind of things. Connect Safely is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to educating people about the online safety, privacy, security. The next one, Not Cool, talks about online teen dating violence and online abuse. Next slide.

Support.google.com talks about parental control information, those kind of things. Epic Games will talk about how to keep your kids safe while playing some of these games. Roblox has also gaming parental control information. Support at Apple also has Apple parental locks, controls for online safety, parental control.

Kidlives has different tools to keep your child safe from child abduction. Stop Bullying has cyber information for families. Enough.org has information on sex trafficking, cyber bullying, internet safety, a lot of interactive stuff that you could use.

And then, of course, there's some of the apps that are out there. Find My is, as Francis was talking about earlier, it's a locator for Apple devices, smartphones, tablets, et cetera. But you could also use it for a lot of different things, things that you want to find.

There's those Find my-- the Q5idGuardian. This was started by-- it was designed by Elizabeth Smart, who was a child abduction victim. And it uses, basically, a virtual perimeter. It uses geofencing, sends localized alerts to maximize the first 48 hours.

A parent can download a profile of their child. And we talked about earlier, some of the things that keep-- that parents should have like a child ID kit. You can go online and get things like that. Internet Safety sites, a Child Protector, missingkids.org, OurPact, which is also an internet parental control app.

So when you talk about all of these things, also think about this as well. When's the last time you watched a TikTok video? Ask your children about TikTok. And ask them to show you what they've produced, what they've done, because you'll be amazed about their technical ability and savvy when it comes to this. And again it's talking about all of these resources to help us understand how to protect them when they do these things online.

And of course, there's TikTok. And there are all these resources out there for us that we can use to help protect our children. And next slide.

As we come to an end here, let's remember these key takeaways that we have, that Native children of all ages and genders are at risk for online criminal activity. And the best way to help protect our children and our communities, in our communities, is to take a community approach to the risk reduction. And this is an important part of reducing that risk, is understanding what's there now and what's happening now, within our communities, and what our children are doing.

We're already behind the curve if we're talking about this now. And so it's up to us to continue to go out and learn more about this. So there's no Native child who's immune from threats of online luring, exploitation, or abuse. There is no holistic approach-- or using a holistic approach involving all of these areas and tribal communities arer working together, will make our Native America a less attractive target for criminals seeking to exploit and harm our Native children.

We hope that this course has provided awareness of the threats as well as the tools and strategies to raise awareness and reduce the risk. So again, we really appreciate your time and attention.

Thank you. Yes, well said.

And now let me get to the question that I was going to answer earlier. "How do you weigh the benefits of tracking apps to finding friends and relatives versus the risk of criminals using those to geolocate their victims?" Right now, again, depending on how tech savvy these persons are, they're already looking and tracking our children, and using their resources to find out where our children are, especially when you talk about when they use the internet.

Now when I look at this from the standpoint of where I am as a parent, a grandpa, and just my nature as being a police officer, the benefit to me is far greater than the risk because I know where they are. And when we talk about these things-- my son-in-law-- he is the tech director for a school district on the Navajo Nation. So I have a young-- my son-in-law, this young man of mine, in my family, helps us maintain our security and these kinds of things.

So I don't know what it is. But I turn to him to help me deal with that. So again, to me, the benefit of being able to find my family far outweighs the risk of someone else tracking them as well because of what I through my son-in-law, about how to prevent those and mitigate those risks. So that's the way I look at it.

The benefit far outweighs the risk, especially when you take into consideration what we mentioned earlier, about knowing what your security settings are, knowing what your settings are for your devices, and letting your children know, and working with them about how it is to keep safe, and make sure that they take care of their information.

Again, a lot of it depends on what kind of pictures and things we're talking about and what we're doing. And again, there are ways to find a lot of different things nowadays. So to me, the benefit of being able to track people is far outweighs the concern I have about criminals using the same information to geobase their victims because it's a lot harder to do, especially if you take the proper precautions and secure your device.

Right. And if I could add one thing, also, to that, if you have certain apps like the Q5idGuardian. which was basically designed by a victim of a kidnapping, that app, for example, has a very-- I would say almost difficult process of getting on there and getting the information that you need, and putting yourself and your child's information all in there.

So it is something that I think is pretty secure. And so I think it's a matter of looking at these different apps and deciding for yourself which ones you feel good about using.

Thank you, David. Thank you, Francis. Great job today. And then for additional information on general technical assistance or services or links offerings or to request technical assistance, please visit our website. This course was developed by the US Department of Justice, office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and its AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance program.

This concludes our webinar today. Thank you again, David and Francis, for sharing your time and knowledge with us. And thank you, attendees, for joining today. We hope you can join again in future webinars. Have a great day.