Children’s voices: What content and behaviour do they find disturbing online?

First preparatory meeting of the Alliance to Better Protect Minors Online

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DG Connect, European Commission
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Children: diverse, subtle, hopeful
What upsets children online?

- When strangers message me on the internet, sex sites that open without me clicking on them. (boy, 10, Austria)
- Violence against women and children and perverted humiliations and cruelty. (girl, 14, Germany)
- Showing images of physical violence, torture and suicide images. (girl, 12, Slovenia)
- Proposions to meet from people whom I do not know. (boy, 12, Poland)
- A mate showed me once a video about an execution. It was not fun, but insane. I get scared. (boy, 15, Sweden)
- Those things that show other people's suffering or torment as a funny thing. (boy, 14, Hungary)
- See people having sex or naked people. (boy, 10, Portugal)
- To take a photo of me without my knowledge and upload it to an inappropriate website. (girl, 10, Bulgaria)
- Facebook shows scary things even if you click on something that does not look or sound scary. (girl, 9, UK)
- Scary things - I saw something at my friend's house and I can't get it out of my head. (boy, 11, Ireland)
- I was shocked seeing a starving African child who was going to die and a condor waiting to eat him. (girl, 13, Turkey)

http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/48357/
What bothers kids your age online?

- Pornographic content: 22%
- Violent content: 18%
- Other contents: 17%
- Conduct-related risks: 19%
- Contact-related risks: 13%
- Other risks: 10%

Base: 9-16 year olds in Europe who identified one or more risks online (N=9,636)

Base: 9-16 year olds in Europe who mentioned a platform when describing online risks (N=4,356)

http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/48357/
Sources of European evidence

European evidence database

EU Kids Online

This is a database of European research on children and young people’s online activities, risks and safety.

Video explaining the database. This database contains over 1,500 entries.

You can search for information about recent studies to discover their focus, methods, main findings and publications.

The database was produced by EU Kids Online for the general audience and for the public according to our collection policy. Email us if you would like to be included in the database or if you need information about further studies to include.

Enter any keywords, for example, 'parent' or 'Austria'.

Query operators permit greater control:

- Use double quotes to search for a phrase: e.g. “European research”
- Prefix words with + or ? to include or exclude them: e.g. +European +research -children
- Use * as a wildcard: e.g. safe*
- Use square brackets to match at least one word: e.g. [child*]
- Basic stemming occurs for plurals (e.g. parent) and compound words (e.g. Europe and European) should be searched with the operators.
Some change over time

- Had contact with someone not met face to face before:
  - 2010: 32
  - 2014: 29

- Seen sexual images online:
  - 2010: 18
  - 2014: 20

- Received sexual messages:
  - 2010: 14
  - 2014: 12

- Seen websites where people publish hate messages that attack certain groups or individuals:
  - 2010: 13
  - 2014: 20

- Seen websites where people promote eating disorders (such as being very skinny, anorexic or bulimic):
  - 2010: 9
  - 2014: 13

http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/60513/
Vulnerable minorities

- Seen websites where people discuss ways of committing suicide:
  - 2010: 4
  - 2014: 6

- Seen websites where people discuss ways of physically harming or hurting themselves:
  - 2010: 7
  - 2014: 11

- Seen websites where people talk about or share their experiences of taking drugs:
  - 2010: 7
  - 2014: 10

- Seen websites where people promote eating disorders (such as being very skinny, anorexic or bulimic):
  - 2010: 13
  - 2014: 12

- Seen websites where people publish hate messages that attack certain groups or individuals:
  - 2010: 10
  - 2014: 11

- Received sexual messages:
  - 2010: 4
  - 2014: 6

- Seen sexual images online:
  - 2010: 8
  - 2014: 7

- Had contact with someone not met face to face before:
  - 2010: 11
  - 2014: 12

- Met online contact offline:
  - 2010: 9
  - 2014: 13

- Been cyberbullied:
  - 2010: 8
  - 2014: 12

http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/60513/
Age and gender

% Have experienced one or more risks 2010

% Have experienced one or more risks 2014

Boys

Girls

11-12 yrs

13-14 yrs

15-16 yrs

All
“I wasn’t sure it was normal to watch it”

Overall
- 47% of 11-16 year olds had never seen pornography online
- At 11 years old, most (72%) hadn’t seen online pornography. By 15, many (65%) had seen it

Of those who had seen pornography online
- More boys (59%) than girls (25%) view online pornography
- 42% of 12-16 year olds (more boys) want to try out what they have seen

Sending and receiving
- Pornographic material had been received by 26%
- 4% had taken naked/semi-naked self-images
- Repeated viewing may desensitise: teens felt less negative or disgusted over time
4 in 5 young people exposed to online hate

82% of 13-18s said they have seen something hateful on the internet about a certain group in the last year.

It made them feel...

- Angry (37%)
- Sad (34%)
- Shocked (30%)

#SID2016
www.saferinternet.org.uk
## What risks?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Conduct</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Child as receiver</strong></td>
<td>Child as receiver (of mass productions)</td>
<td>Child as participant (adult-initiated activity)</td>
<td>Child as actor (perpetrator / victim)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aggressive</strong></td>
<td>Violent / gory content</td>
<td>Harassment, stalking, trolling</td>
<td>Bullying, hate, ‘drama’, peer victimisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sexual</strong></td>
<td>Pornographic content</td>
<td>Grooming’, sexual abuse and exploitation</td>
<td>Sexual harassment, ‘sexting’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Values</strong></td>
<td>Racist / hateful content</td>
<td>Ideological/political persuasion</td>
<td>Harmful user-generated content (self-harm, pro-ana)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commercial</strong></td>
<td>Viruses, embedded marketing, in-app purchases, profiling</td>
<td>Personal data misuse, hacking, identity theft, fraud</td>
<td>Gambling, copyright infringement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/60512/]
Children upset by ‘digital ecology’

- Many frustrations with pop-ups and restrictive choices online, and with adult misunderstanding about their experiences

- Children are influenced by the media myths and parental anxieties of the internet as a fearful place

- A large minority (especially younger kids) cannot find online safety information, don’t know how to block unwanted messages, and can’t change their privacy settings

- Few children use the available tools (reporting, privacy, blocking, etc.) and even fewer find them helpful

http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/44213/
Risks versus opportunities

FIGURE 1. Motor-vehicle–related deaths per million vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and annual VMT, by year — United States, 1925–1997
1 **Free, unrestricted access:** We want free, unrestricted access to the internet so we can learn and share.

2 **Education and support:** We want support and education about the internet - for everyone!

3 **Privacy and data protection:** We want to be able to protect our data and privacy online.

4 **Respect online:** We want an online world free from bullying, racism and intolerance.

5 **Infrastructure and connectivity:** We want more investments in ICT infrastructures to provide widespread high-quality, high-speed connectivity.

6 **Terms and conditions:** We want terms and conditions that are simple to understand.

7 **Good quality and reliable content:** We want access to good quality and reliable content online.

8 **A hack-free online environment:** We want our personal information kept safe from online hackers.

9 **Freedom of expression:** We want to be able to express ourselves freely online.

10 **Democracy online:** We want an open and democratic internet.
EU Kids Online is a multinational research network. It seeks to enhance knowledge of European children's online opportunities, risks and safety. It uses multiple methods to map children's and parents' experience of the internet, in dialogue with national and European policy stakeholders. It has been funded by the EC's Better Internet for Kids programme.

**Now:** Internet helplines: Operation, effectiveness, emerging issues for internet safety helplines. European Schoolnet.

For our main findings, click the interactive report below.

For recent updates, click news and reports links on the right.

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**EU Kids Online**

**Findings • methods • recommendations**

Click here for our full interactive report

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**Participating countries - country names in national language:**


In English:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK.

**Affiliated:**

Country projects: Australia and Brazil.

Regional project: Kids Online Latin America (English, Spanish, Portuguese).

Linked projects: Net Children Go Mobile, Global Kids Online, Toddlers and Tablets.