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THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE



In their own words: What bothers children online?

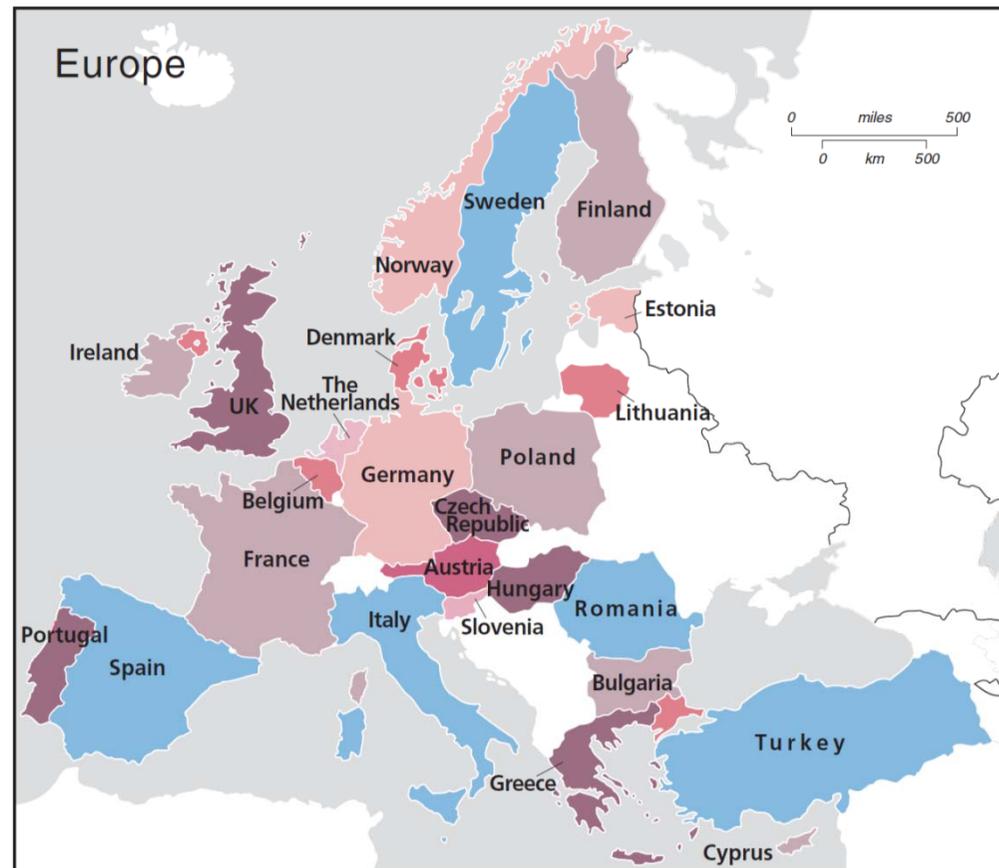
Youth 2.0 conference, Antwerp, March 2013

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The survey



- **EU Kids Online aims to enhance knowledge of the experiences and practices of European children and parents regarding risky and safer use of the internet and online technologies.**
- **The aim is to provide a rigorous evidence base to support stakeholders in their efforts to maximize online opportunities while minimizing the risk of harm.**
- **Detailed face-to-face interviews with 25,000 European 9-16 year old internet users and their parents in 25 countries.**



Classifying risks (exemplars)



	Content Child as receiver (of mass productions)	Contact Child as participant (adult-initiated activity)	Conduct Child as actor (perpetrator / victim)
Aggressive	Violent / gory content	Harassment, stalking	Bullying, hostile peer activity
Sexual	Pornographic content	'Grooming', sexual abuse on meeting strangers	Sexual harassment, 'sexting'
Values	Racist / hateful content	Ideological persuasion	Potentially harmful user-generated content
Commercial	Embedded marketing	Personal data misuse	Gambling, copyright infringement

EU Kids Online findings



	Content Child as receiver (of mass productions)	Contact Child as participant (adult-initiated activity)	Conduct Child as actor (victim / perpetrator)
Aggressive	Violent / gory content	Harassment, stalking	Bullying 6%
Sexual	Pornographic content 14%	Meeting 'strangers' 9%	'Sexting' 15%
Values	Racist / hateful content 12%	Ideological persuasion	Potentially harmful user-generated content 21%
Commercial	Embedded marketing	Personal data misuse 9%	Gambling, copyright infringement

Did this bother or upset you?



	Content Child as receiver (of mass productions)	Contact Child as participant (adult-initiated activity)	Conduct Child as actor (victim / perpetrator)
Aggressive	Violent / gory content	Harassment, stalking	Bullying 4 in 5
Sexual	Pornographic content 1 in 3	Meeting a 'stranger' 1 in 9	'Sexting' 1 in 4
Values	Racist / hateful content	Ideological persuasion	Potentially harmful user-generated content
Commercial	Embedded marketing	Personal data misuse	Gambling, copyright infringement

What are children's concerns?



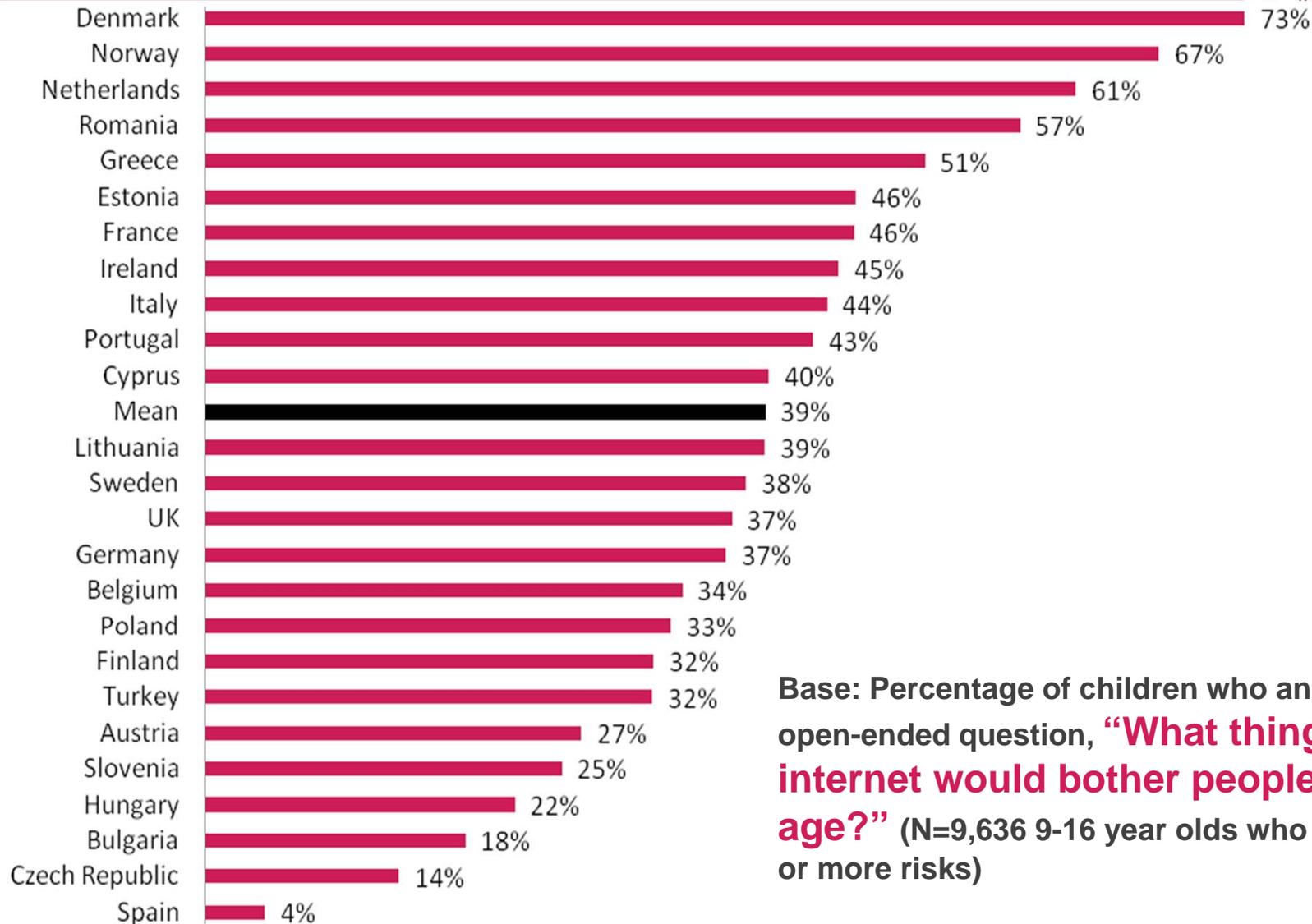
- **What can we learn from comparing prompted and unprompted answers?**
- **Do children prioritise the same risks as adults?**
- **Are children concerned about other risks not considered by adults?**
- **How do children talk about risks online?**

What things on the internet would bother people about your age?



- **To take a photo of me without my knowledge and upload it to an inappropriate website.** (Girl, 10, Bulgaria)
- **Violence, child pornography pictures, religious sects, self-harm or suicide sites.** (Boy, 15, Greece)
- **Videos where older teenagers mistreat disabled children and upload the video on YouTube.** (Girl, 9, Italy)
- **When strangers message me on the Internet, sex sites that open without me clicking on them.** (Boy, 10, Austria)
- **What worries me is how correct information is on a website. You can also end up on a site where you don't wanna be.** (Girl, 16, Belgium)
- **Some types of pornography, websites containing pictures/film of dead people or animals. Entertainment sites that are racist and other things that are ethically wrong.** (Boy, 11, Norway)
- **YouTube. The things that come up straight away as soon as you search for the website. Facebook shows scary things even if you click on something that does not look or sound scary.** (Girl, 9, UK)
- **Propositions to meet from people whom I do not know, photos of naked people, bullying somebody or scenes showing homicide.** (Boy, 12, Poland)
- **Racist messages; sexual messages; some sending horror movies such as Russian Morgue.** (Girl, 11, Romania)

Response rate, by country



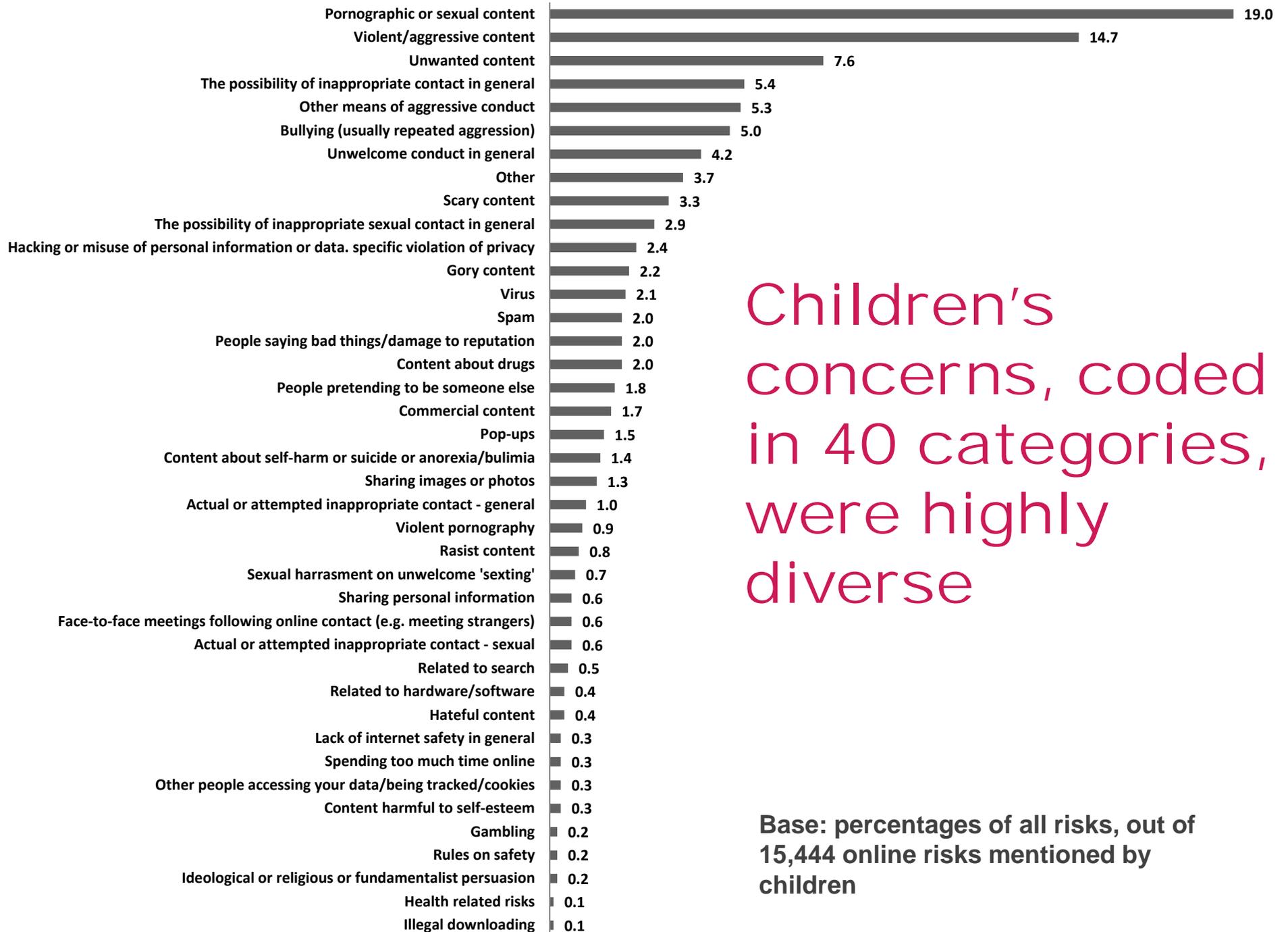
Base: Percentage of children who answered the open-ended question, **“What things on the internet would bother people about your age?”** (N=9,636 9-16 year olds who described one or more risks)

Answers in 25 languages



Double coded for

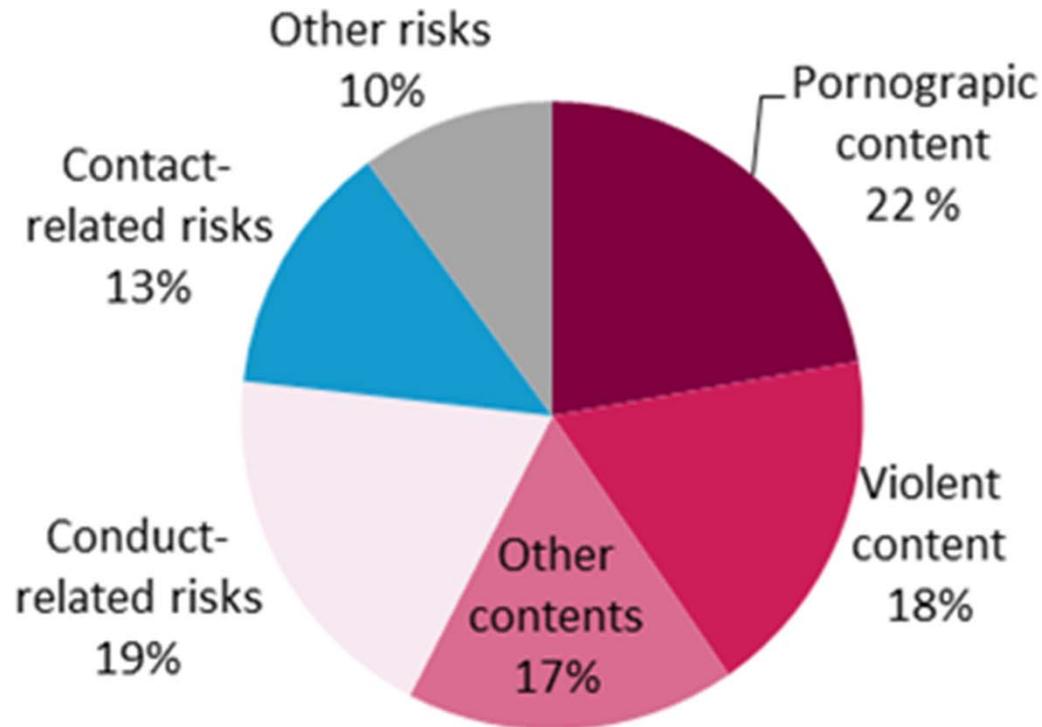
- Type of response
- Type of platform
- Number of risks
- Type of 1st, 2nd, 3rd risk
- Emotional reaction



Children's concerns, coded in 40 categories, were highly diverse

Base: percentages of all risks, out of 15,444 online risks mentioned by children

Porn tops the list



Base: N=9,636 children who identified one or more risks online
Note: First mentioned risks only are included here

- **One time I was looking for a game and rude pictures came on the computer, people without clothes on.**
(Girl, 9, Ireland)
- **See people having sex or naked people.**
(Boy, 10, Portugal)
- **I think it is not appropriate for children of my age to see images of naked women, as in online advertisements that pop up when I am not looking for it, such as on the website where I check my email.**
(Girl, 15, Italy)
- **Ugly pictures, ugly videos that suggest sex really bother me.** (Boy, 11, Slovenia)

Prompted vs. unprompted



Survey of all internet-using children (% who experienced the risk):

- 21% potentially harmful UGC *
- 15% sexting (1 in 4 upset) *
- 14% pornography (and 1 in 3 upset)
- 12% racist/hateful
- 9% personal data misuse *
- 9% meeting strangers (1 in 9 upset)
- 6% cyberbullying (4 in 5 upset)

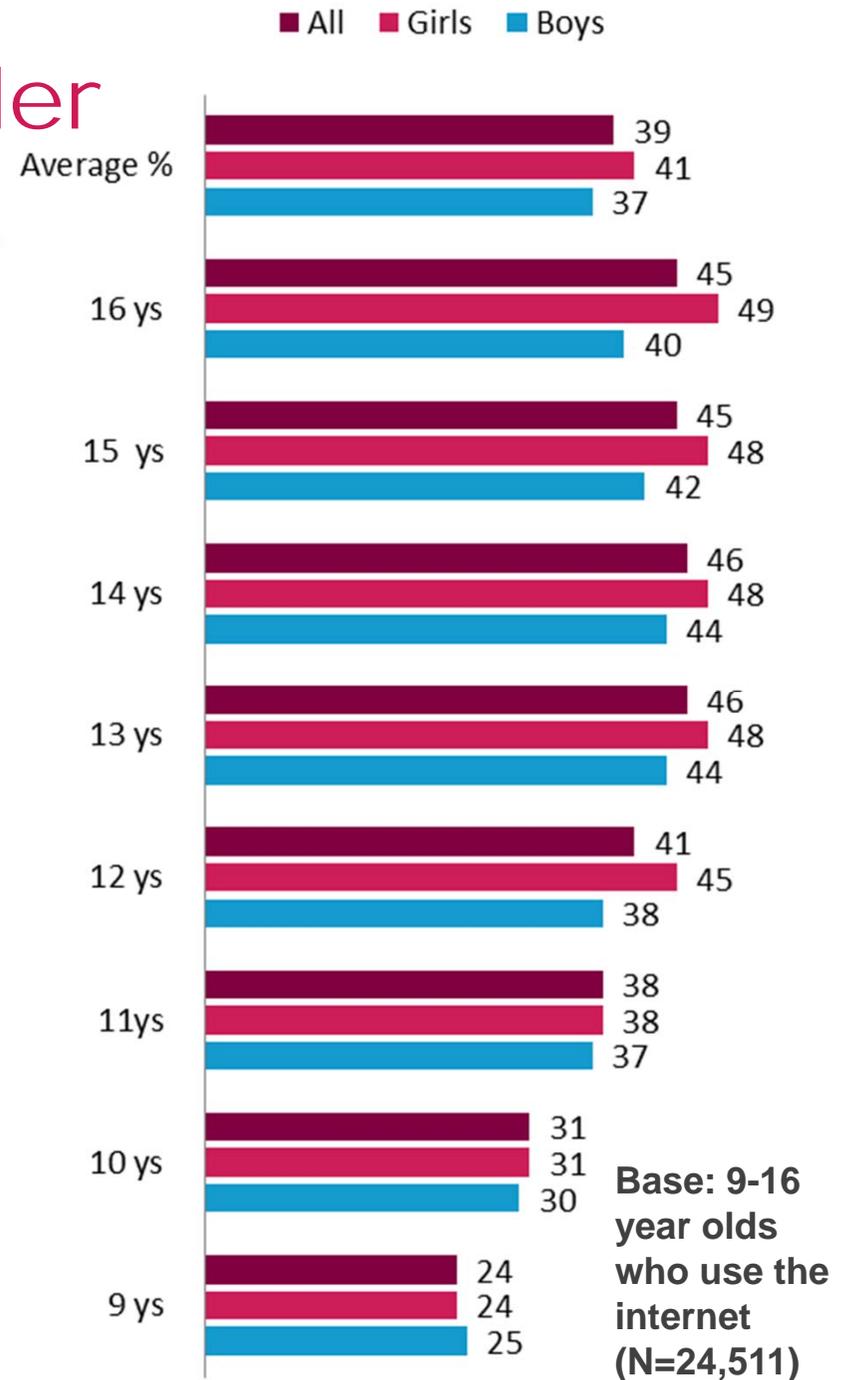
Open-ended question (just children who mentioned risks):

- 22% pornography
- 19% conduct-related risks
- 18% violence
- 17% other contents
- 13% contact-related risks
- 10% other risks

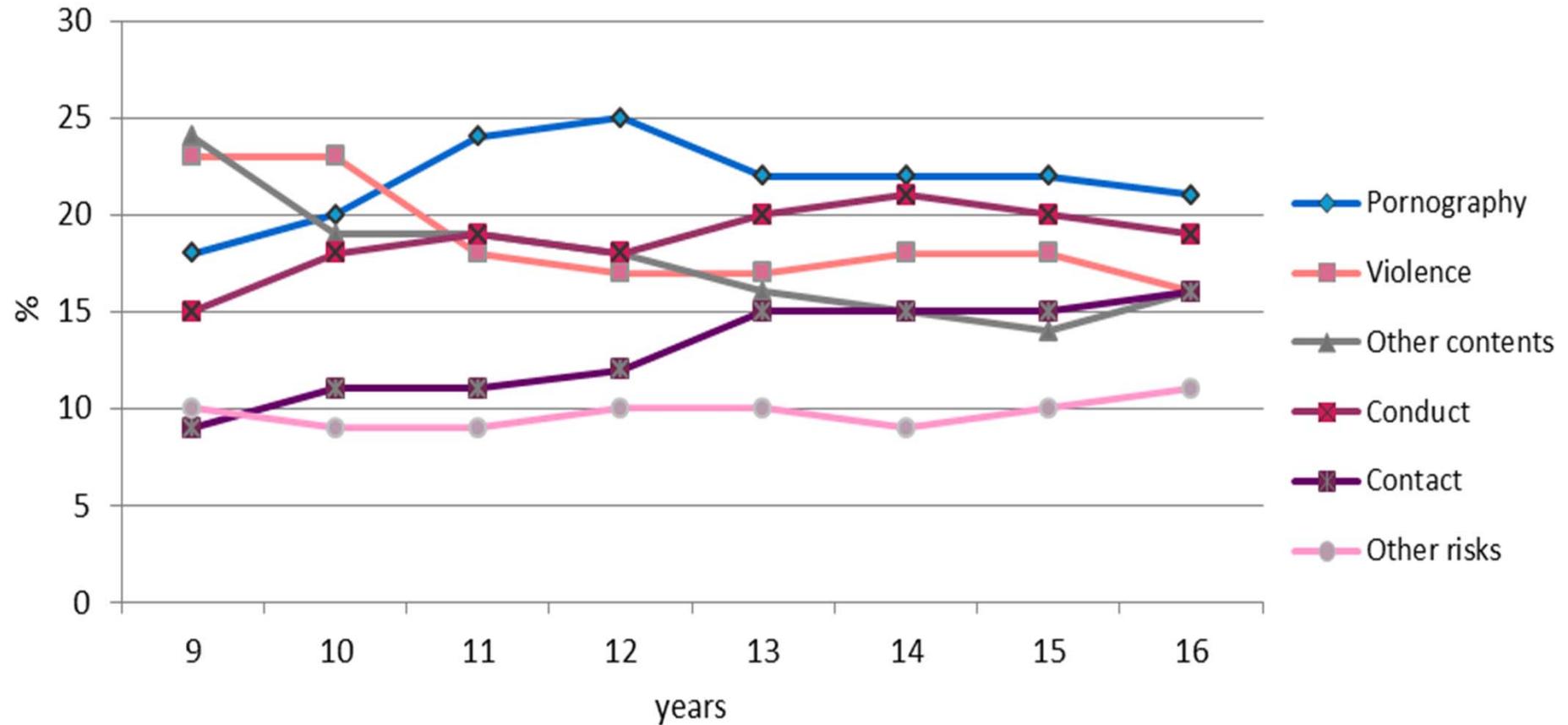
* 11-16 years only

Risks, by age & gender

- Prompted (closed) survey found that older children encounter more risks but younger children are more upset when they do encounter them.
- It also found no differences for exposure to risk overall, but that girls report more upset on encountering risks online.
- As the graph shows, older children are spontaneously more concerned to tell us about risks that affect their age group.
- Younger boys are as likely to tell us of risks as girls. But around 12 years old, a gender gap appears with girls reporting more concerns.

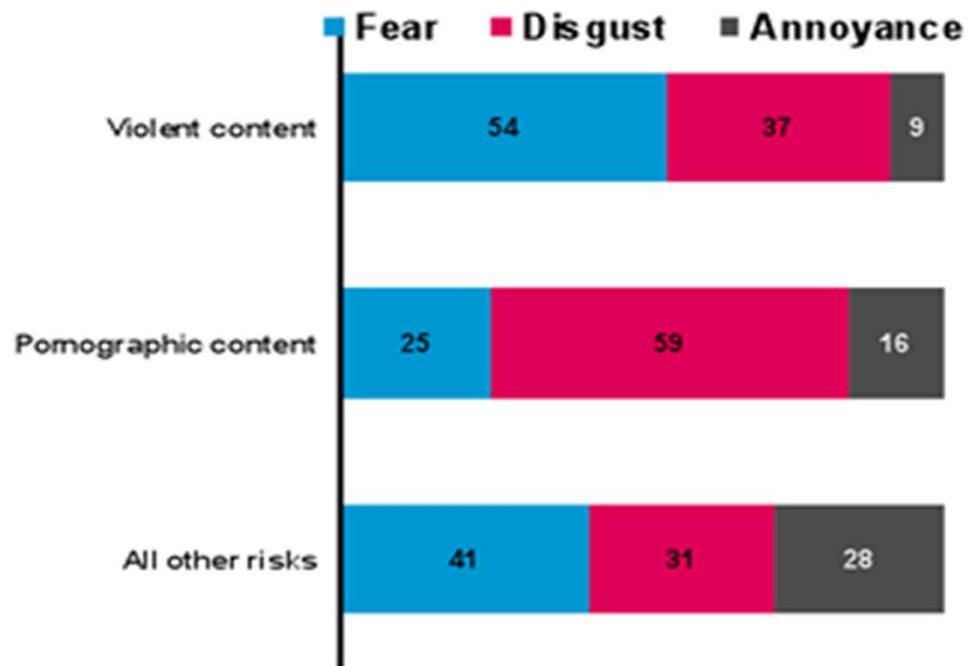


Type of risk, by age



Base: Children who mentioned at least one online risk (N=9,636)

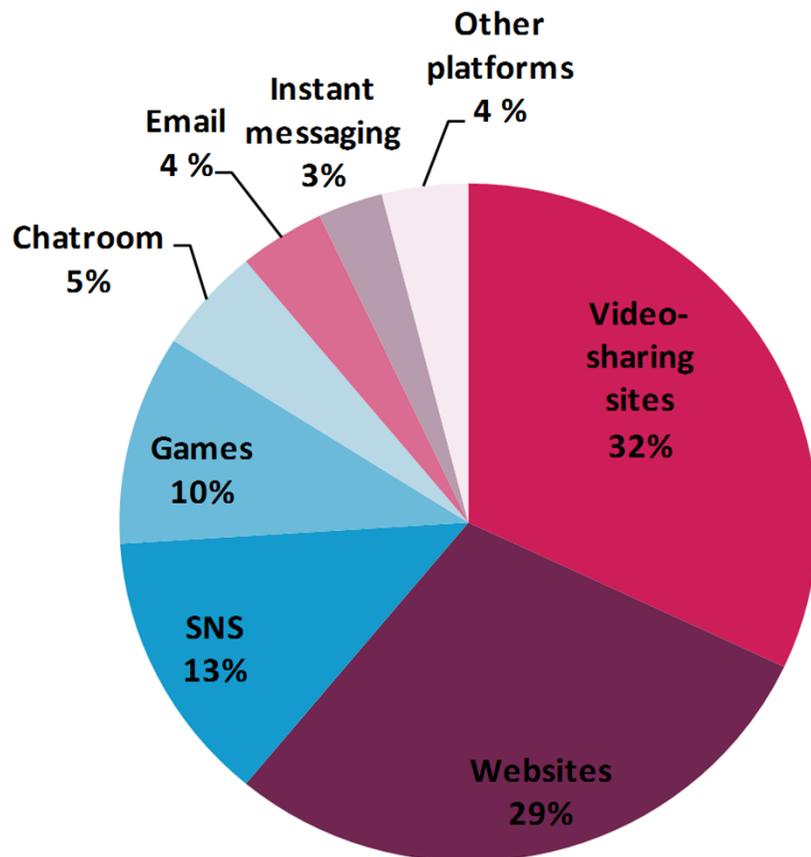
Emotions linked to risk



Base: Children who mentioned risks and expressed an emotion (N=1,077)

- Scary things - I saw something at my friend's house and I can't get it out of my head. (Boy, 11, Ireland)
- People sometimes upload things online such as animal cruelty and other content that is not human! I believe that this is really shocking. (Girl, 15, Netherlands)
- Killing stories of all sorts; videos about torturing; it doesn't matter whether animals or children are bullied/tortured, both are disgusting. (Boy, 11, Estonia)
- I was shocked seeing a starving African child who was going to die and a condor waiting to eat him. Also, news about soldiers who died while serving the army, Palestine and Israel war scenes upset me very much. (Girl, 13, Turkey)
- There are a lot of sites showing video clips with disgusting videos. A mate showed me once a video about an execution. It was not fun, but insane. I get scared. (Boy, 15, Sweden)

YouTube: the riskiest platform



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

- **YouTube. Terrible videos. Terrible images.** (Boy, 13, UK)
- **Showing images of physical violence, torture and suicide images.** (Girl, 12, Slovenia)
- **Those things that show other people's suffering or torment as a funny thing.** (Boy, 14, Hungary)
- **Violence against women and children and perverted humiliations and cruelty against people in general.** (Girl, 14, Germany)
- **Animal cruelty, adults hitting kids.** (Girl, 9, Denmark)
- **Some shocking news like terrorist attacks.** (Boy, 12, Finland)
- **I saw a video in which a little boy was hanging in a Ferris wheel and men were filming it. I was shocked because the men did not help the boy, instead they stopped the wheel and the boy fell down.** (Girl, 15, Finland)
- **Awful videos of real-life car accidents.** (Boy, 12, Slovenia)

Search "suffering children"



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar containing the URL: www.youtube.com/results?search_query=suffering+children&oq=suffering+children&gs_l=youtube.3.012.43306.46565.0.47129.29.17.0.2.2.4.443.2084.8j4j1j1j1.15.0...0.0...1ac.1. The search results are as follows:

- Children suffering in silence the pain of domestic violence**
by KXLY • 5 years ago • 32,498 views
Domestic violence has plagued our society for a long time but often people forget
- Syria, al-Bab Mahmoud Haj Husain, The endless suffering of Syria's children by Assad 12 9 2012**
by SyriaTranslators2 • 5 months ago • 4,328 views
<http://www.facebook.com/Syrian.Organization4Human.Rights.Defence> Syria, al-
- JAMAICA: SHOCKING! WOMAN SUFFERS WITH 8 KIDS**
by brianmaxw • 2 years ago • 43,892 views
JAMAICA: SHOCKING! WOMAN SUFFERS WITH 8 KIDS.

At the bottom of the page, the YouTube interface includes a navigation bar with the following elements:

- YouTube logo
- Language: English
- Country: Belgium (highlighted with a yellow circle)
- Safety: Off
- Help

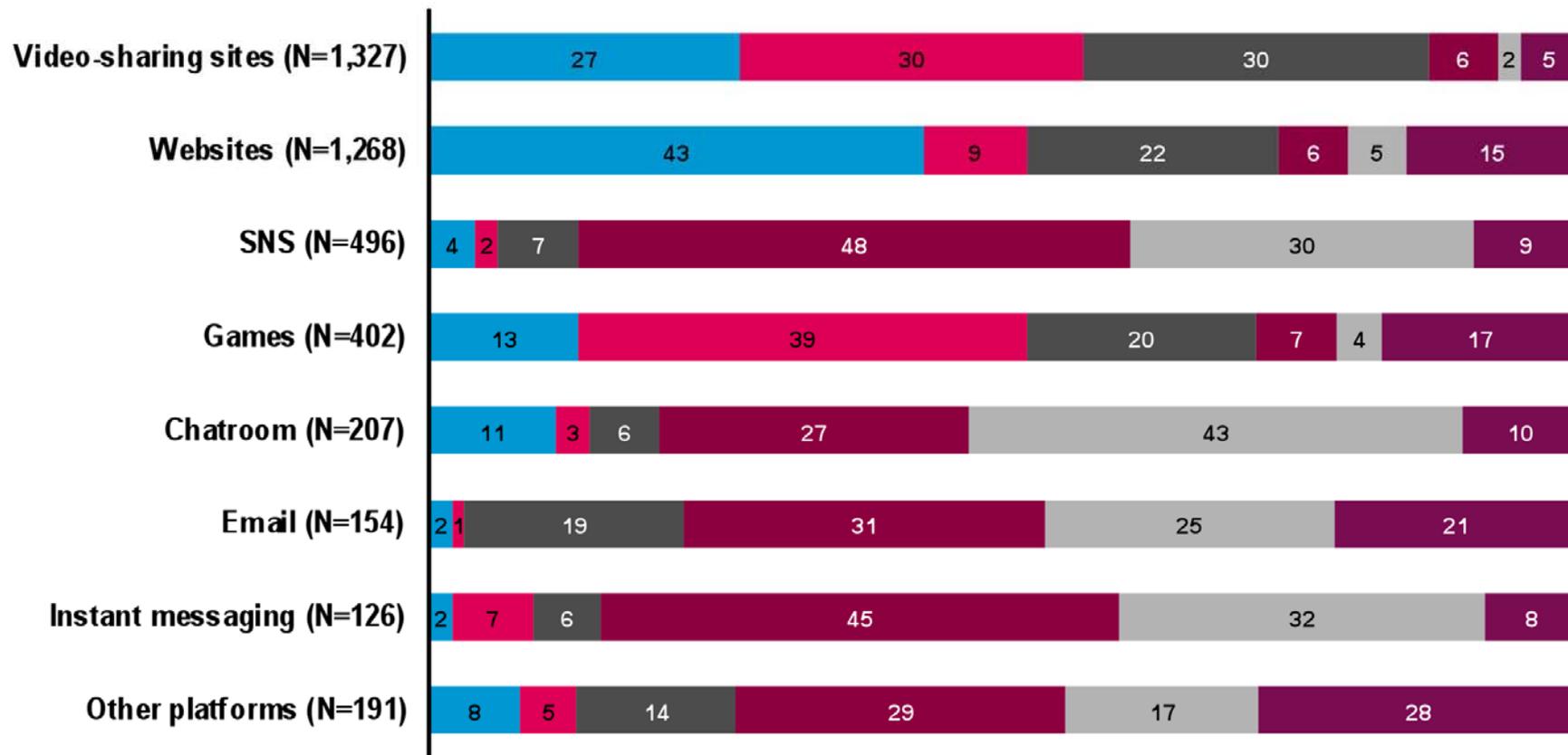
Below the navigation bar are links for: About, Press & Blogs, Copyright, Creators & Partners, Advertising, Developers, Terms, Privacy, Safety, Send feedback, and Try something new!

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons and the system tray with the date 22/03/2013 and time 08:56.

Which risks, by platform?

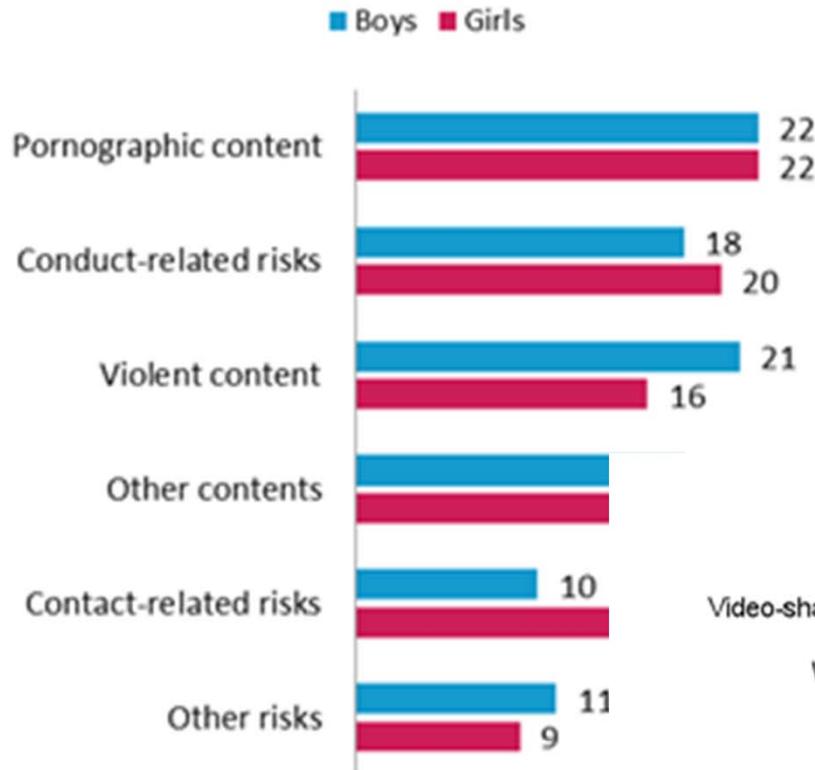


- Pornographic content (N=1,018) ■ Violent content (N=690) ■ Other contents (N=867)
- Conduct-related risks (N=646) ■ Contact-related risks (N=459) ■ Other risks (N=491)

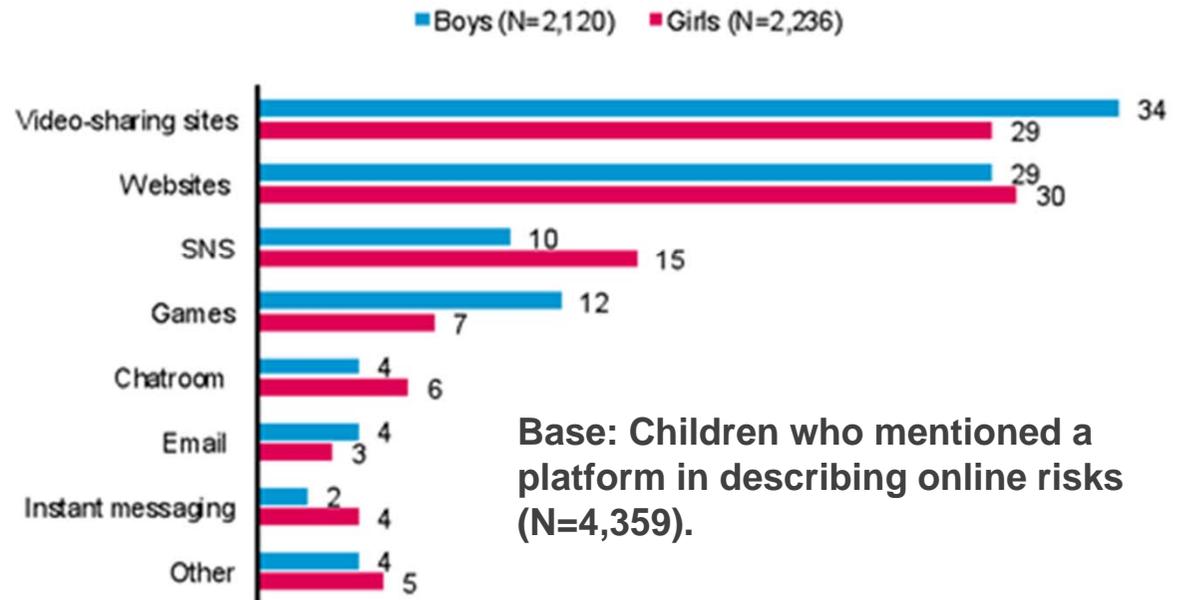


Base: 9-16 year olds who mentioned a platform when describing online risks (N=4,171)

Risk and platform, by gender



Base: 5,033 girls and 4,603 boys who mentioned at least one risk (first-mentioned risks only)



Base: Children who mentioned a platform in describing online risks (N=4,359).

Conclusions



Adult vs. child risk agendas:

- Children's concerns about online risks are highly diverse, which is difficult for policy makers
- There is some mismatch between child and adult agendas - children more concerned about violence than recognised by adult/policy

Children's priorities:

- Some (many?) children find pornography disgusting and violence scary, while they can be irritated by other things on the internet
- YouTube concerns many children (though in other ways they love it), for its violent/gory/scary/horrifying content
- This seems to be amateur content, shared p2p, focused on physical violence, often with vulnerable (child, animal) victims
- Much is realistic, even real (e.g. from the news), but decontextualised – cf. research on children's fear responses to TV/film

What should be done?



- In my opinion all sites are welcome, if you don't like a certain site, you simply avoid it. We are different people, with different tastes. So, on the internet there should be all sorts of websites, with ample, diverse content, for all tastes. (Boy, 14, Romania)
- Excessive violence, porn, commercial products that are totally annoying and I think the European Union should use its power at computer level to block websites that we all know where we can find that content. (Boy, 15, Portugal)
- I think that many youths in my age are worried about some people like paedophiles and other guys who want you to tell them how you look like. You should absolutely not give away personal information. And it is not so bad to tell some of it to your parents so they know something about what is happening. (Girl, 16, Sweden)
- It depends what age you are. If you are around 10 years then it might be gross to suddenly end up on a porn-site. When you are a little older and end up in a porn site, you do not care so much and just cross it out instead. (Girl, 15, Norway)
- Blocking some beneficial websites that we are happy to use (such as video and music sharing sites) and difficulty in accessing whatever we want on internet bother us. The restriction of things that we wonder at and the availability of the things that make us unhappy bother us as well. (Boy, 15, Turkey)
- I think that the fewer things a kid knows about the internet, the greater the risks. Nevertheless, I may accidentally come across violent or inappropriate scenes while doing coursework online. Also, a stranger might bother me. (Girl, 12, Greece)

Thank you



- EU Kids Online is a multi-national collaboration of 150 researchers in 33 countries, funded by the EC Safer Internet Programme
- Reports and findings can be freely accessed from: www.eukidsonline.net

