

(Young) children and online risks



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9 March, 2015*

With which types of online risks were children (9-16) confronted with in 2010?

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

What has changed since 2010 (1)?

- Rise in **cyberbullying**, esp. for **girls**, but offline bullying is still greater (9% vs 12%)

news.com.au National World Lifestyle Travel Entertainment Technology Finance Sport Video

Cyber bullying spiralling out of control in schools

This story was published: 3 YEARS AGO | DECEMBER 31, 2011 12:00AM 60 comments



Online spats between school children are spiralling out of control, leading to hate messages, violence and death threats. Picture: The Daily Telegraph Source: The Advertiser



What has changed since 2010 (2)?

- Rise in **meeting strangers** (offline) (8% vs. 12%)



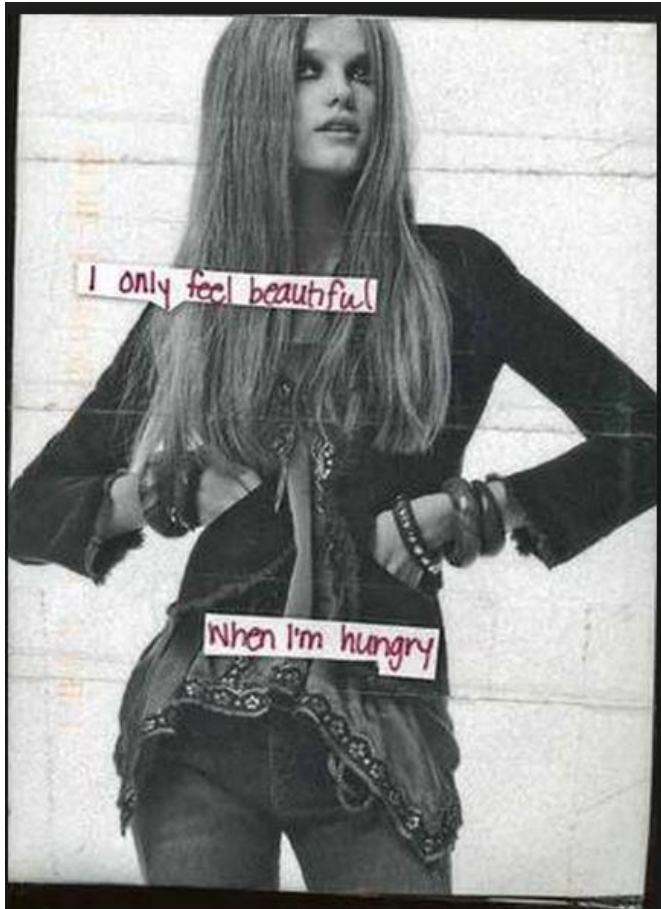
What has changed since 2010 (3)?

- Rise in **negative UGC**
- Many websites address and, tacitly or explicitly, encourage harmful behaviour among children and adolescents:
 - websites and blogs that discuss **suicide** (including the efficacy of different methods)
 - **eating disorders** (“pro-ana” and “pro-mia” sites)
 - 8% vs. 14%
 - **self-harm** (especially “cutting”) and drug use



What has changed since 2010 (4)?

- Rise in % who **self-report harmful experiences**, especially girls & teens



self harm

self harm is an important part of being ana. When you think about food or when you do eat something you can use some "techniques" to help you get away from food. The one that i use the most and that has worked out pretty fine is one that i learned from an ana friend. She told me to keep a rubber band around my wrist and snap myself every time I think of food. Other ways of self harm are cutting and burning yourself. There are some safety rules that you must follow in order to keep yourself safe during self injury.

1. Use clean artefacts to cut yourself
2. clean the injuries to make sure you don't get an infection and cover them with bandages or guaze
3. Never share the instruments that you use
4. If the bleeding does not stop apply pressure and consult a doctor.
5. Never wear rough clothes that would irritate the cut or burn.
6. If you have a burning cover it but let it "breathe" each day.
7. Cut yourself in safety places not near a very big vein.
8. But most of all cut and burn yourself in hidden place so nobody will notice.

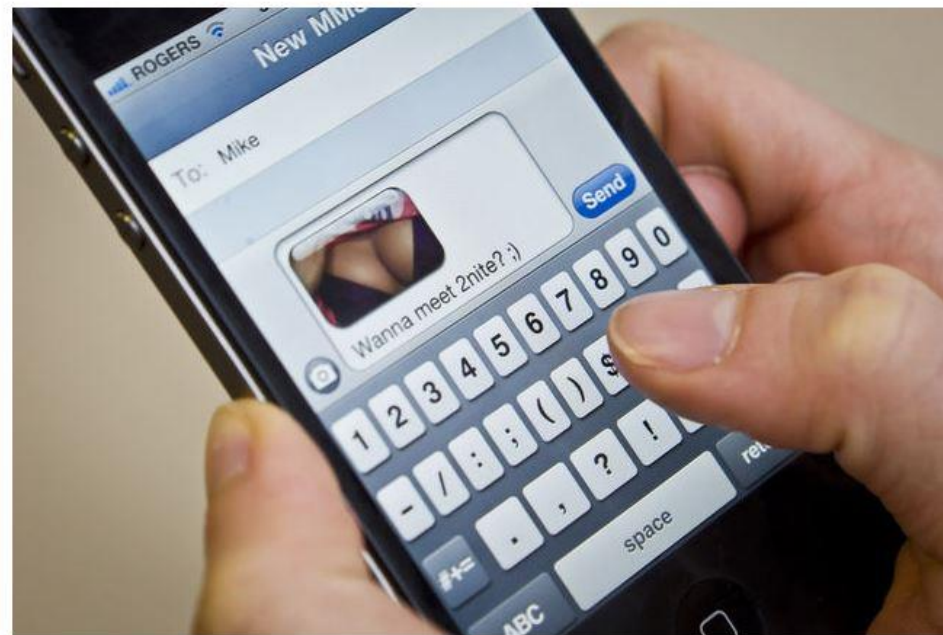
What has changed since 2010 (5)?

- Slight rise in **porn**
- **Sexting** remains the same

Girls more often victimized by sexting, experts say Carleton University panel looks at reducing abusive forms of social media

BY DANIELLE BELL, OTTAWA SUN

FIRST POSTED: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2012 09:59 PM EDT | UPDATED: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2012 12:01 AM EDT



Police warn that sexting is becoming more common, and has serious risks. (ERROL MCGIHON/OTTAWA SUN)



Lots of concerns, many relate to violence

What bothers kids your age?



Fighting. People being cruel to animals and hitting them. (Girl, 11)

Horrid games. Killing each other. Batting games. Zombie. (Boy, 10)

Dead bodies, blood, sexual images/videos. Dying people. (Girl, 13)

Death by beating. Inappropriate images, sexual images. (Girl, 15)

Porn. Websites showing people doing suicide. (Boy, 12)

Porn websites. Information on how to be anorexic, kill yourself, get drugs. (Girl, 15)

Hate groups on Facebook being created about them. (Boy, 12)

Graphic images like gore or pornography. (Boy, 14)

Winding people up. Cyber bullying. Threatening. (Boy, 13)

Bullying, racism, fighting, weird voice clips, too many webcam requests!! (Girl, 14)

Freddie Kruger. Scary films. Facebook. YouTube. (Girl, 9)

YouTube. Terrible videos. Terrible images. (Boy, 13)

Bothered or upset online
8% vs. 14%

Children are 'upset' by online violence, study finds

Researchers say too much attention paid to pornography and bullying when children also upset by violence and animal cruelty



Upset is caused many issues - not just pornography and online bullying. Photograph: Sean Smith for the Guardian Sean Smith/Guardian

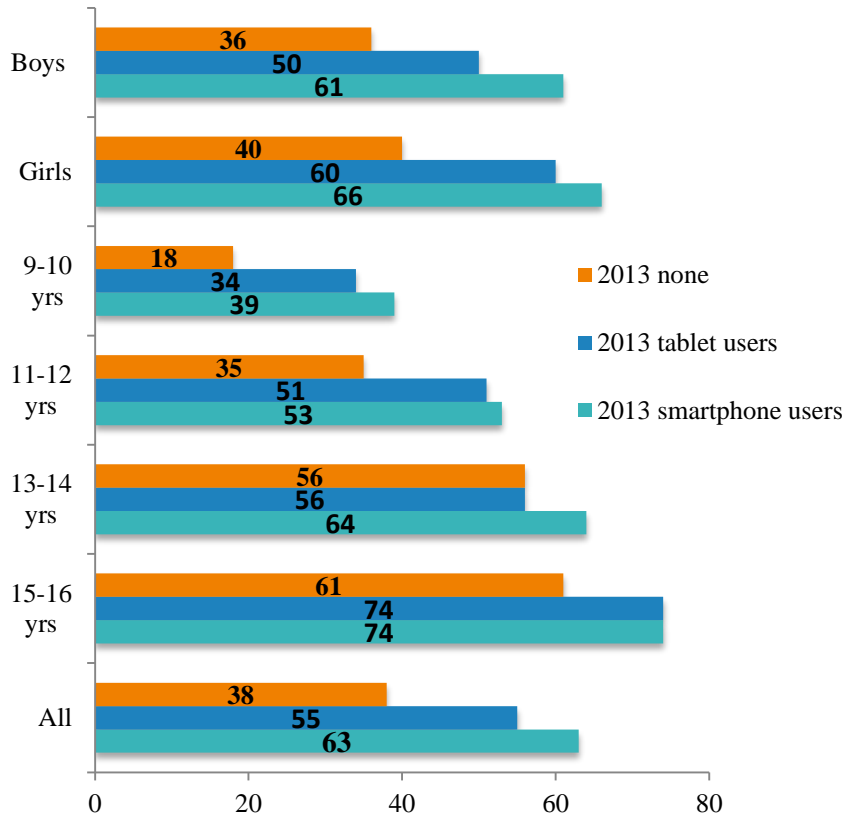


Violent material

- Violent material receives **less public attention** than sexual material, but many **children are particularly concerned** about violent, aggressive or gory online content
 - images and descriptions associated with war and other atrocities
 - domestic abuse and violence
 - cruelty to animals
 - material that promotes racial and religious hatred, homophobia or misogyny



Tablet and smart phone users more likely to encounter one or more risks



BUT younger children who are tablet users claim considerably more safety skills related to SNS

The older the safer?

- **Boys and teenagers** claim more safety skills than girls and younger children
- **Not all risks result in harm** and not all children are affected by risks in the same way
- **Opportunities and risks go hand in hand:** The more online activities children engage in, the more children are skilled and self-confident (also to deal with online risks) and vice versa



Perceptions of risks: 5-7-year olds` views

- Some children are aware of some risks, but not their parents:
 - “Sometimes big people post *silly videos online*” (girl, 6)
 - “*I don’t like it when boys play games where they shoot people dead*” (girl, 6)
 - “*Girl 7: [my 15-year old brother] always looks at pictures of pretty girls*
 - *Interviewer: And you look at those pictures with him?*
 - *Girl 5: Real **naked women** and so, that’s what he looks at. To see if he can get a girlfriend*
 - *Interviewer: Ah, ok. And those are really naked women? What do you mean by that?*
 - *B9g7: They sometimes wear a bra and panties and sometimes **they are completely naked.**”*

Conclusions

- **Media literacy and education** are essential to mitigate online risks, but also to fully take advantage of the opportunities new ICT offer
 - Start from an early age => prevention!
- Special attention for **vulnerable groups** is needed
 - children from certain minority groups, and children with disabilities, may be more likely to be bullied, harassed or exploited online
 - **Online and offline vulnerability** are interrelated
 - Double jeopardy effect: children with more psychological problems suffer more from online as well as offline risks

Thanks!

More info and reports available at:



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[Young Children \(0-8\) and digital technology: A qualitative exploratory study across seven countries](#)

[Young children \(0-8\) and digital technology: A qualitative exploratory study - National report – Belgium](#)

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