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**UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN’S FUND (UNICEF)**

PRELIMINARY

TOPLINE REPORT

**2020 Disrupting Harm Survey**

**Child Survey**

November 2020

**Compiled by**

**Youth Research Unit  
Bureau of Market Research (Pty) Ltd  
University of South Africa (Unisa)**

## INTRODUCTION

The Youth Research Unit (YRU) of the Bureau of Market Research (Pty) Ltd (BMR) at the University of South Africa has been contracted by UNICEF South Africa to conduct nationally representative research into the online behaviour of children in South Africa. The Disrupting Harm Survey forms part of an international initiative and includes 14 countries. Based on the outcome the research information will contribute to the development and implementation of effective online safety initiatives in South Africa and across the world.

This topline report presents descriptive analyses of the data captured from **1549 questionnaires completed by children between the ages of 9 and 17 years**, across all 9 provinces in South Africa. The sample distribution by provinces is listed in table 1 below.

**TABLE 1**  
**SAMPLE PER PROVINCE**

Province	n	%
KwaZulu-Natal	344	22.2%
Gauteng	341	22.0%
Limpopo	191	12.3%
Western Cape	165	10.7%
Eastern Cape	159	10.3%
Mpumalanga	132	8.5%
North-West	100	6.5%
Free State	65	4.2%
Northern Cape	52	3.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1549</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The initially proposed research methodology included a multi-dimensional approach consisting of face-to-face interviews and CATI (Computer Aided Telephonic Interviews) questionnaires. However, in March 2020, South Africa has declared a national state of disaster due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and national lockdown regulations were enacted with immediate effect. These regulations included a restriction on social interaction and traveling between provinces in South Africa, which had a direct impact on the initially proposed research methodology. In an attempt to continue with the research study, the Youth Research Unit (YRU) of the Bureau of Market Research (Pty) Ltd (BMR), in consultation with UNICEF South Africa, adjusted the research methodology to an online research approach. This approach included the completion of online questionnaires among parents or caregivers and children.

## DATA ANALYSIS

Following the return of the completed questionnaires, all data were edited, coded, captured, and analysed of which the main findings are summarized in this topline report. The structure of the report synchronizes with the sequence of the research themes and questions included in the child questionnaire. The report does primarily include descriptive analyses and a summary of the outcomes. The analyses serve to provide preliminary insights on the outcome of the child survey and the structure of the final report.

## TOPLINE RESEARCH RESULTS

## CHILDREN'S INTERNET ACCESS

## Internet Access

**Research Question:** How often do you use the Internet?

Internet usage	n	%
Daily or almost daily	459	29,60%
At least every month	310	20,00%
At least every week	290	18,70%
Almost all the time	235	15,20%
Several times each day	190	12,30%
Never	50	3,20%
Hardly ever	15	1,00%

n = 1549

**15.20% of children use the Internet almost all the time.**

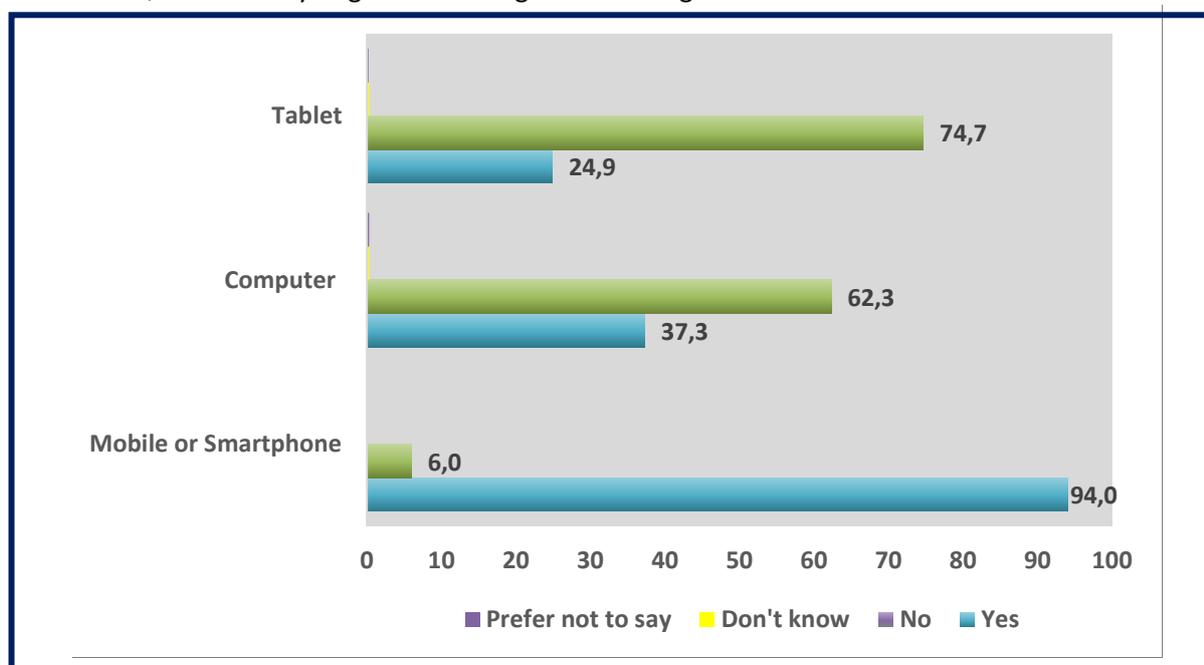
**Research Question:** How often do you go online or use the Internet at the following places?

Places	Monthly (%)
At home	78,6%
Somewhere else	74,3%
At work	66,0%
At a mall	43,8%
At school	34,8%
At an Internet I	14,8%

n = 1549



**Research Question:** Do you go online using the following devices?



n = 1549

### Barriers to Internet Access

**Research Question:** If you are unable to use the Internet, what are the reasons?

Reasons	<i>n</i>	%
<b>My teachers don't allow me to</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>54,9%</b>
Paying for internet/data is too expensive	832	53,7%
There is no network or poor signal where I live	829	53,5%
My devices are too slow to connect to the internet	827	53,4%
Devices (mobile phone, computer, tablet) are too expensive	813	52,5%
My parent(s)/caregiver(s)/guardian(s) don't allow me to	727	46,9%
I can always access the internet	624	40,3%
There is limited electricity where I live	465	30,0%

(\*Multiple Mentions)

**For each selected reason, please indicate how often does this stop you from using the Internet?**

How often	%
<b>Paying for internet/data is too expensive</b>	<b>87,86%</b>
My parent(s)/caregiver(s)/guardian(s) don't allow me to	76,34%
There is limited electricity where I live	67,74%
My devices are too slow to connect to the internet	66,51%
Devices (mobile phone, computer, tablet) are too expensive	61,99%
There is no network or poor signal where I live	58,75%
My teachers don't allow me to	52,71%

## Fix Limited access No internet access



## ONLINE ACTIVITIES

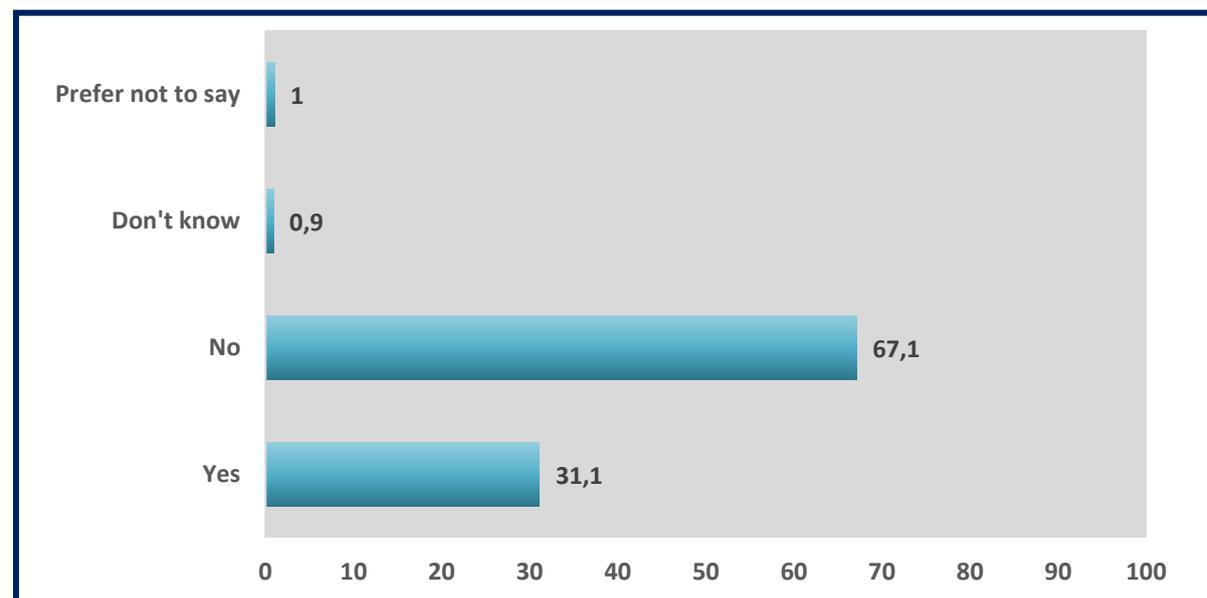
**Research Question:** How often have you done these things online in the past month?

How often	%
I used social media (e.g., Facebook, Snapchat, WhatsApp, Instagram)	81,3%
I used the internet for schoolwork	77,8%
I learned something new by searching online	71,7%
I used instant messaging (e.g., Viber, WhatsApp, Line, Telegram)	71,5%
I watched video clips (e.g., videos on YouTube)	67,5%
I looked for information about work or study opportunities	57,3%
I followed celebrities or public figures on social media	42,5%
I talked to family or friends who live further away (e.g., on Skype)	42,1%
I used the internet to talk to people from places or backgrounds different from mine	39,9%
I looked for health information for myself or for someone I know	36,5%
I looked for news online	34,5%
I played online games	32,7%
I browsed for things to buy or checked to see what things cost	29,2%
I participated in a site where people share my interests or hobbies	28,6%
I used the internet to seek emotional support	20,0%
I looked for information or events about my local neighbourhood	18,5%
I watched a live stream (e.g. on Twitch)	18,3%
I discussed political or social problems with other people online	18,3%
I created my own video or music	23,5%
I created a game on a computer or mobile phone	11,4%
I created a blog or story or website online	9,8%
I tried to sell things online	5,7%

*n* = 1549

### Meeting with online contacts face-to-face

**Research Question:** In the past year, have you ever met anyone face-to-face that you first got to know on the Internet? (*n* = 1549)



If yes, **the last time** you met with the person face-to-face that you first got to know on the Internet, how did you feel about it? **(Select one or more).**

Feeling	Yes	
	n	%
Happy	259	53,8%
Excited	210	43,7%
Proud	53	11,0%
Thoughtful	47	9,8%
Sad	8	1,7%
Angry	5	1,0%
Fearful	37	7,7%
Depressed	5	1,0%
Anxious	39	8,1%
Threatened	6	1,2%
Prefer not to say	14	2,9%



(\*Multiple Mentions) n = 481

#### SUMMARY OF RESEARCH FINDINGS:

- ❖ Approximately three out of every 10 children (29.60%) who participated in the survey use the Internet daily. Only 3.20% of children reported that they never use the Internet.
- ❖ Children who participated in the survey mostly use the Internet at home (78.6%) or somewhere else (74.3%). This might be at a friend or relatives' house.
- ❖ Children mostly go online using a mobile phone or smartphone (94.0%). Almost six out of every 10 children (54.9%) reported that teachers do not allow them to use mobile phones at school. Although mobile phones can contribute to the learning process, it can be a distraction in class and interfere with the learning and teaching process. It is noteworthy that the cost of data (53.7%) and technical difficulties including poor signal (53.5%) and slow connection (53.4%) remain among the main reasons for not accessing the Internet.
- ❖ The survey confirms that the Internet is mainly used for social media (81.3%), schoolwork (77.8%), to learn something new by searching online (71.7%), instant messaging (71.5%) and, watching video clips (YouTube) 67.5%.
- ❖ It is distressing that 31.1% of children met someone face-to-face during the past year, who they first got to know on the Internet. The last time they met the person face-to-face, they experienced feelings of happiness (53.8%) and excitement (43.7%).

## DIGITAL SKILLS

**Research Question:** Think about how you use the Internet. How true are these things for you?

*n = 1549*

	True*
I know when to remove people from my contact lists	77,5%
I know which images of me and my friends to share online	76,6%
I know how to change my privacy settings (e.g., on a social networking site)	62,4%
I know how to report negative content relating to me or a group to which I belong	55,8%
I know more about the internet than my parent/carer/guardian	54,8%
I know how to choose the best keywords for online searches	54,2%
I know how to post online video or music that I have created myself	48,4%
I know how to check whether a website can be trusted	34,4%
I know how to design a website	15,3%

*\*Includes mostly and very true*

	Not true**
I know how to design a website	78,6%
I know how to check whether a website can be trusted	58,4%
I know more about the internet than my parent/carer/guardian	40,6%
I know how to choose the best keywords for online searches	38,7%
I know how to report negative content relating to me or a group to which I belong	38,8%
I know how to post online video or music that I have created myself	47,1%
I know how to change my privacy settings (e.g., on a social networking site)	31,8%
I know which images of me and my friends to share online	19,7%
I know when to remove people from my contact lists	18,9%

*\*\*Includes not at all or not very true*

#### SUMMARY OF RESEARCH FINDINGS:

- ❖ Children must have basic digital skills to use online devices effectively. The survey found that most children knew when to remove people from their contact list (77.5%), which images to share of themselves and their friends online (76.6%) and how to change their privacy settings (62.4%). Improving children's digital skills is essential to help them to be safe online.

## PARENTAL INTERNET MEDIATION

### Enabling mediation practices by parents

**Research Question:** When you use the internet, how often does your parent/caregiver/guardian do any of these things? *n* = 1549

	Often*
Suggests ways to use the internet safely	62,8%
Helps me when something is difficult to do or find on the internet	58,2%
Encourages me to explore and learn things on the internet	57,6%
Helps me when something bothers me on the internet	49,5%
Suggests ways to use the internet safely	40,9%

\*Includes sometimes, often & very often

	Never**
Suggests ways to use the internet safely	57,3%
Helps me when something bothers me on the internet	48,7%
Encourages me to explore and learn things on the internet	41,8%
Helps me when something is difficult to do or find on the internet	40,6%
Suggests ways to use the internet safely	35,5%

\*\*Includes never and hardly ever



**Research Question:** Does your parent/caregiver/guardian allow you to do the following things on the Internet and if so, do you need their permission to do them? *n* = 1549

Allow	Yes	
	n	%
Use instant messaging (e.g., WhatsApp, Line, Telegram, Messenger)	1023	66,0%
Download music or films	1005	64,9%
Visit a social networking site (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter)	944	60,9%
Watch video clips (e.g., on YouTube)	932	60,2%
Use a web or phone camera (e.g., for Skype or video chat)	885	57,1%
Share photos, videos or music online with others (including on social networks or IM services)	783	50,5%
Play games with other people online	561	36,2%

(\*Multiple Mentions)

Permission	Yes	
	n	%
Watch video clips (e.g., on YouTube)	331	35,5%
Use instant messaging (e.g., WhatsApp, Line, Telegram, Messenger)	360	35,2%
Use a web or phone camera (e.g., for Skype or video chat)	308	34,8%
Visit a social networking site (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter)	325	34,4%
Download music or films	335	33,3%
Share photos, videos or music online with others (including on social networks or IM services)	230	29,4%
Play games with other people online	160	28,5%

**SUMMARY OF RESEARCH FINDINGS:**

- ❖ It is encouraging that almost two-thirds (62.8%) of children who participated in the survey, reported that their parents or caregivers often suggest that they use the Internet safely or helps them when something is too difficult to find on the Internet (58.2%).
- ❖ Further exploration of restrictive mediation practices by parents identified that most children are mostly allowed to use instant messaging (66%), download music or films (64.9%), and visit social networking sites (60.9%). However, almost three out of every 10 children (35.5%), need permission from their parents to watch video clips (e.g. on YouTube), use instant messaging (35.2%), or use a web or phone camera (34.8%).

**RISKY ONLINE BEHAVIOURS***Child engaging in potentially risky activities online*

**Research Question:** In the past year, how often if ever have you done these things online? *n = 1549*

	Often*
I looked for new friends or contacts on the internet	53,1%
Sent a photo or video of myself to someone I have never met face-to-face	42,9%
I sent my personal information (e.g., my full name, address or phone number) to someone I have never met face-to-face	26,5%
I pretended to be a different kind of person online from who I really am	23,5%
I added people who I have never met face-to-face to my friends or contacts list	20,0%
I advertised on social media that I was looking for work	6,5%

\*Includes sometimes, often & very often

*Cyberbullying**Emotional/psychological violence*

**Research Question:** Please indicate: (i) how often these things have happened to you and (ii) how has it happened? *n = 1549*

	Often*
Other children made fun of me	32,9%
Someone spread false rumours about me	31,5%
Other children ignored or left me out	30,5%
I felt threatened by one (or several) children	25,4%
Other children have touched, grabbed, or pinched me in a sexual way	17,6%
Other children directed homophobic remarks at me (for example 'faggot', 'that's so gay', 'queer', 'poof')	11,7%
I have been hit by one (or several) children	0,0%

\*Includes sometimes, often & very often

	Never**
Other children have touched, grabbed, or pinched me in a sexual way	89,6%
Other children directed homophobic remarks at me (for example, 'faggot', 'that's so gay', 'queer', 'poof')	86,1%
I have been hit by one (or several) children	80,9%
I felt threatened by one (or several) children	73,4%
Other children ignored or left me out	67,2%
Other children made fun of me	65,3%
Someone spread false rumours about me	64,3%

\*\*Includes never and hardly ever

### Child bullying others

**Research Question: In the past year, how often – if ever – have you done these things online? *n = 1549***

	Often*
I made rude or nasty comments to someone on the internet	16,8%
I used the internet to harass or embarrass someone	6,6%

\*Includes sometimes, often & very often

	Never**
I used the internet to harass or embarrass someone	92,8%
I made rude or nasty comments to someone on the internet	82,0%

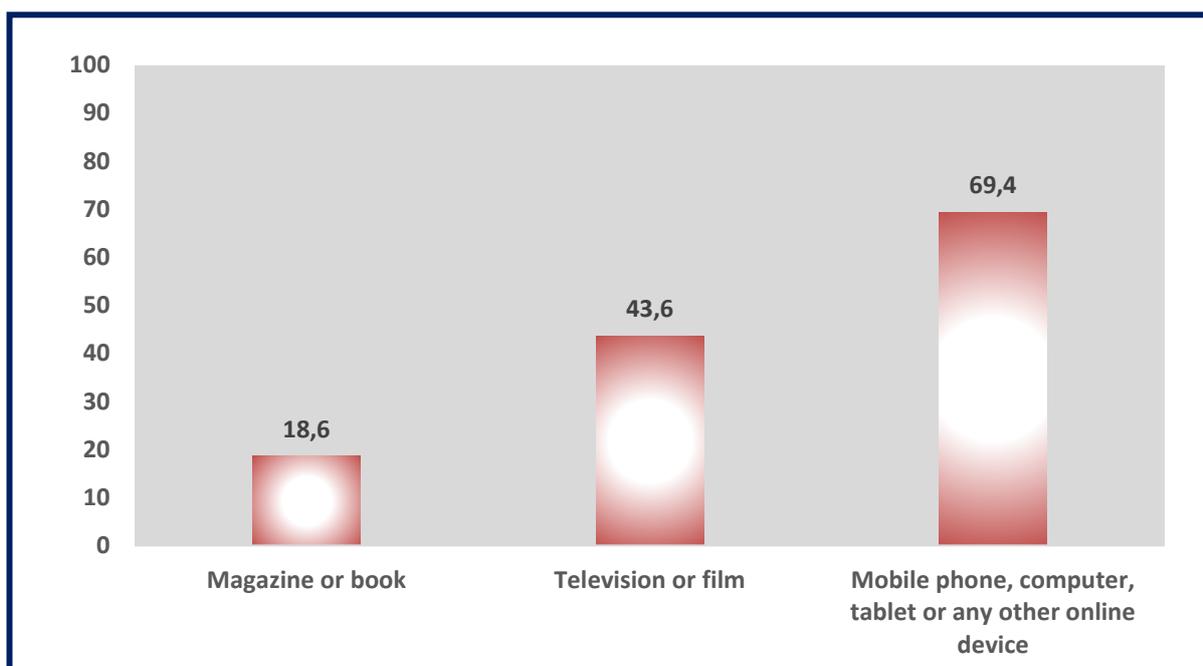
\*\*Includes never and hardly ever

### Exposure to sexual images

**Research Question: In the past year:** (i) how often – if ever – have you seen any sexual images, and (ii) if seen, where did you last seen the sexual images?

Never	<i>n</i>	<b>714</b>
	%	46,1%
Hardly ever	<i>n</i>	136
	%	8,8%
Sometimes	<i>n</i>	474
	%	30,6%
Often	<i>n</i>	<b>111</b>
	%	<b>7,2%</b>
Very often	<i>n</i>	<b>78</b>
	%	<b>5,0%</b>
Don't know	<i>n</i>	14
	%	0,9%
Prefer not to say	<i>n</i>	22
	%	1,4%
Total	<i>n</i>	1549
	%	100,0%





### Child taking naked images

**Research Question:** In the past year, how often -if ever- have you ever done these things online?  
*n = 1549*

	Never*
I allowed someone else to take naked pictures or videos of me (breasts, genitals or someone's bottom)	96,6%
I pressured someone my age to send me sexual pictures or videos	94,3%
I took naked pictures or videos of myself (showing breasts, genitals or someone's bottom)	94,1%

\*Includes never and hardly ever

	Often**
I took naked pictures or videos of myself (showing breasts, genitals or someone's bottom)	4,6%
I pressured someone my age to send me sexual pictures or videos	4,6%
I allowed someone else to take naked pictures or videos of me (breasts, genitals or someone's bottom)	2,5%

\*\*Includes sometimes, often & very often

### Child sending naked images



**93.9% of children have never shared naked pictures or videos of themselves with someone else online**

**Research Question:** Why did you decide to share naked pictures or videos of yourself with someone else? (Select ALL that apply) *n = 82*

	Yes	
	<i>n</i>	%
I am/was in love with the person I shared the pictures or videos with	42	51,2%
I was flirting or having fun with the person I shared the pictures or videos with	41	50,0%
I trust/trusted the person I shared the pictures or videos with	31	37,8%
I did not think there was anything wrong with sharing the pictures or videos	16	19,5%
I was worried that I would lose the person if I didn't share the pictures or videos	12	14,6%
I wanted the attention of the person I shared the pictures or videos with	7	8,5%
I was threatened to share the pictures or videos	4	4,9%
My friend(s) pressured me to share the pictures or videos	4	4,9%
Someone offered me money or gifts in exchange for the pictures or videos	1	1,2%

(\*Answered Yes - Multiple Mentions)

### *Child's perception of what constitutes a risky activity*

**Research Question:** How risky, if at all, do you think the following things are for people your age? (Please remember that we are interested in your opinion, not what your family or community thinks.)

*n = 1549*

	Very risky	
	<i>n</i>	%
Sending a sexual image or video to someone on the internet	1289	83.2%
Sending personal information (e.g., your full name, address or phone number) to someone they have never met face-to-face	1236	79.8%
Going to meet someone face-to-face that they first got to know online	1175	75.9%
Talking about sexual acts with someone on the internet	1106	71.4%
Talking to someone on the internet who they have not met face-to-face before	799	51.6%

### *Child's attitudes towards the consequences of risky online behaviour*

**Research Question:** Generally, to what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? (In this question, we are talking about images or videos of naked people taken by the person themselves or by someone else). *n = 1549*

	Agree
If someone has these kinds of image(s) or video(s) of someone else, it should be against the law for them to share it with other people	71,3%
A person shouldn't take these kinds of image(s) or video(s) of themselves or allow someone else to take one of them	67,7%
If someone allows these kinds of image(s) or video(s) to be taken, they shouldn't be surprised if it is shared further	63,4%

	Disagree
A person shouldn't take these kinds of image(s) or video(s) of themselves or allow someone else to take one of them	22,1%
If someone allows these kinds of image(s) or video(s) to be taken, they shouldn't be surprised if it is shared further	21,9%
If someone has these kinds of image(s) or video(s) of someone else, it should be against the law for them to share it with other people	14,5%

#### SUMMARY OF RESEARCH FINDINGS:

- ❖ The survey confirms that children engage in risky online behaviour.
- ❖ More than half (53.1%) of the children who participated in the survey looked for new friends or contacts on the Internet (53.1%) or sent a photo or video of themselves to someone they have never met face-to-face (42.9%). It is noteworthy that despite basic online safety information, 26.5% of children sent their personal information to someone they never met face-to-face.
- ❖ Based on the survey results, children often experience emotional or psychological violence online. Approximately three out of every 10 children (32.9%) who participated in the survey were made fun of by other children or someone, 31.5% reported that false rumours were spread about them and 31.5% were ignored or left out by other children. It is noteworthy that the research findings found that 17.6% experienced sexual violence (other children have touched, grabbed, or sexually pinched me).
- ❖ Concerningly, sexual violence occurred more than physical violence.
- ❖ During the past year, 16.8% of children made rude or nasty comments to someone on the Internet and 6.6% used the Internet to harass or embarrass someone.
- ❖ Approximately one out of every 10 children, often (7.2%) or very often (5.0%), had exposure to sexual images. This exposure mainly happens online (69.40) through a mobile phone, computer, tablet, or any other online device.
- ❖ Almost all the children who participated in the survey (96.6%) reported that they have never allowed someone else to take naked pictures or videos of themselves or pressured someone their age to send them sexual pictures or videos (94.3%) or took naked pictures or videos of themselves (94.1%).
- ❖ Those children who did take naked pictures or videos of themselves during the past year, shared the images with someone else online mainly because they were in love with the person (51.2%), they were flirting or having fun with the person (50%) or trusted the person they shared the pictures or videos with (37.8%).
- ❖ The survey found that approximately eight out of every 10 children (83.2%) indicated that sending sexual images or videos to someone on the Internet is very risky.
- ❖ Exploration of children's attitudes towards the consequences of risky online behaviour, found that most children (71.3%) agreed that if someone has these kinds of images or videos of someone, it should be against the law for them to share it with other people, 67.7% agreed that a person shouldn't take these kinds of images or videos of themselves or allow someone else to take one of them, 63.4% agreed that if someone allows these kinds of images or videos to be taken, they should not be surprised if it is shared further.



## UNWANTED EXPOSURE TO SEXUAL EXPERIENCES AND MATERIALS

### Unwanted sexual experiences online

**Research Question:** In the past year, how often – if ever – have these things happened to you personally? *n = 1549*

	Never
Someone shared sexual images of me without my consent	94,1%
Someone sent me sexual images I did not want	81,3%
I received an unwanted advertisement that contained a link to pornographic websites	76,4%
Someone made sexual comments about me (e.g. jokes, stories or comments about my body, appearance or sexual activities) that made me feel uncomfortable	70,8%

*\*Includes never and hardly ever*

	Often
Someone made sexual comments about me (e.g. jokes, stories or comments about my body, appearance or sexual activities) that made me feel uncomfortable	27,4%
I received an unwanted advertisement that contained a link to pornographic websites	21,6%
Someone sent me sexual images I did not want	17,2%
Someone shared sexual images of me without my consent	4,4%

*\*\*Includes sometimes, often & very often*

**Research Question:** Thinking about the last time this happened, can you tell me if it happened in any of these ways? **(Select only one)**

	n	%
<b>On a social networking site (e.g. Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter)</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>36,7%</b>
In person face-to-face (a person who is together with you in the same place at the same time)	236	33,3%
By text or instant messaging (IM) (e.g. A forum, WhatsApp, Viber, Line)	90	12,7%
Don't know	38	5,4%
On a media sharing platform (e.g. YouTube)	23	3,2%
Some other way	21	3,0%
Prefer not to say	21	3,0%
In an online game	19	2,7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>100,0%</b>

*(n = 708)*

**Research Question:** If it **happened the last time** on a social media site, media sharing platform or IM, on which platform or website did this happen? **(Select one only)**

Platform/Website	n	%
Facebook or Facebook Messenger	238	64,0%
WhatsApp	94	25,3%
YouTube	18	4,8%
Twitter	9	2,4%
Instagram	5	1,3%
Don't know	3	0,8%
Snapchat	2	0,5%
Line	1	0,3%
Tumblr	1	0,3%
Live.me	1	0,3%
TikTok	0	0,0%
Flickr	0	0,0%
Periscope	0	0,0%
Twitch	0	0,0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>100,0%</b>

(n = 372)

#### *Perpetrator's relation to child*

**Research Question:** Still thinking now about **the last time this happened**, as far as you know, who did this? **(Select one only)**

Perpetrator	n	%
I don't know who the person was	197	27,8%
A friend or someone else I knew who is younger than 18 years old	115	16,2%
Someone I didn't know before this happened	114	16,1%
A romantic partner (or ex-) for example a girlfriend, boyfriend or an ex	95	13,4%
A friend or someone else I knew who is 18 years or older	70	9,9%
Prefer not to say	67	9,5%
Someone in my family	25	3,5%
Someone else - Please specify under 'other'	25	3,5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>100,0%</b>

(n = 708)

### Children reporting instances of online child sexual exploitation and abuse (OCSEA)

Research Question: Who did you tell about what happened? (Select all that apply) *n* = 708

	Yes	
	n	%
I didn't tell anyone about it	376	53,1%
Friend	177	25,0%
Brother or sister	61	8,6%
Mother, step/foster mother, or female caregiver/guardian	58	8,2%
Prefer not to say	35	4,9%
Don't know	22	3,1%
Father, step/foster father, or male caregiver/guardian	21	3,0%
Teacher or educator	20	2,8%
Other adult I know and trust, e.g., coach, neighbour, doctor or babysitter	14	2,0%
Social worker	11	1,6%
Police	11	1,6%
Helpline	9	1,3%



### Unwanted sexual advances online

Research Question: In the past year, how often – if ever – have things happened to you? *n* = 1549

	Never		Hardly ever		Sometimes		Often		Very often		Don't know		Prefer not to say	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
I have been asked for sexual information about myself (like what my body looks like without clothes on or sexual things I have done) when I did not want to answer such questions	1189	76,8%	104	6,7%	177	11,4%	34	2,2%	21	1,4%	9	0,6%	15	1,0%
I have been asked to talk about sex or sexual acts with someone when I did not want to	1240	80,1%	99	6,4%	127	8,2%	39	2,5%	21	1,4%	12	0,8%	11	0,7%
I have been asked by someone to do something sexual when I did not want to	1329	85,8%	78	5,0%	87	5,6%	19	1,2%	9	0,6%	12	0,8%	15	1,0%
I have been asked for a photo or video showing my private parts when I did not want to	1268	81,9%	79	5,1%	121	7,8%	33	2,1%	25	1,6%	5	0,3%	18	1,2%
I was threatened or blackmailed to engage in sexual activities	1418	91,5%	67	4,3%	27	1,7%	11	0,7%	7	0,5%	8	0,5%	11	0,7%

**Research Question:** Thinking about the last time this happened, can you tell me if it happened in any of these ways (**Select one only**)

	n	%
On a social networking site (e.g. Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter)	195	57,4%
By text or instant messaging (IM) (e.g. A forum, WhatsApp, Viber, Line)	59	17,4%
In person face-to-face (a person who is together with you in the same place at the same time)	44	12,9%
Don't know	18	5,3%
In an online game	10	2,9%
Prefer not to say	10	2,9%
On a media sharing platform (e.g.YouTube)	4	1,2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>100,00</b>

(n = 340)

**Research Question:** If it happened the last time on a social media site, media sharing platform or IM, which platform or website did this happen? (**Select one only**)

Social media site, media sharing platform or IM	n	%
Facebook or Facebook Messenger	163	63,20%
WhatsApp	71	27,50%
TikTok	10	3,90%
Instagram	5	1,90%
Twitter	4	1,60%
YouTube	2	0,80%
Don't know	2	0,80%
Tumblr	1	0,40%
Snapchat	0	0,00%
Line	0	0,00%
Flickr	0	0,00%
Live.me	0	0,00%
Periscope	0	0,00%
Twitch	0	0,00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>100,00%</b>

(n = 258)

### *Perpetrator's relation to the child*

**Research Question:** Still thinking now about the last time this happened, as far as you know, who did this? (**Select one only**)

	n	%
I don't know who the person was	78	22,90%
A friend or someone else I knew who is 18 years or older	58	17,10%
A friend or someone else I knew who is younger than 18 years old	55	16,20%
Someone I didn't know before this happened	53	15,60%
A romantic partner (or ex-) for example a girlfriend, boyfriend or an ex	50	14,70%
Prefer not to say	36	10,60%
Someone in my family	10	2,90%
<b>Total</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>100,00%</b>

(n = 340)

### Children reporting instances of online child sexual exploitation and abuse (OCSEA)

**Research Question:** Who did you tell about what happened? (Select ALL that apply)

	n	%
I didn't tell anyone about it	187	55,0%
Friend	120	35,3%
Brother or sister	20	5,9%
Mother, step/foster mother, or female caregiver/guardian	13	3,8%
Prefer not to say	10	2,9%
Father, step/foster father, or male caregiver/guardian	7	2,1%
Police	5	1,5%
Other adult I know and trust, e.g., coach, neighbour, doctor or babysitter	4	1,2%
Social worker	3	0,9%
Teacher or educator	2	0,6%
Don't know	2	0,6%
Helpline	1	0,3%

(n = 340)

### Online commercialized sexual solicitation

**Research Question:** In the past year, how often – if ever – have these things happened to you?

	Often*
Someone offered me money or gifts to meet them in person to do something sexual	5,4%
Someone offered me money or gifts in return for sexual images or videos	5,3%

\*Includes sometimes, often & very often

	Never**
Someone offered me money or gifts to meet them in person to do something sexual	93,6%
Someone offered me money or gifts in return for sexual images or videos	93,5%

\*\*Includes never and hardly ever

### Child's response to sexual solicitation

**Research Question:** The last time this happened, what did you do? (Select one only)

	n	%
I said no	45	41,70%
I blocked the person from contacting me	26	24,10%
I ignored it or hoped it would go away by itself	15	13,90%
I tried to get the other person to leave me alone	5	4,60%
I deleted any messages from the other person	5	4,60%
Prefer not to say	5	4,60%
I did as the person asked	4	3,70%
I stopped using the internet for a while	2	1,90%
I reported what happened online	1	0,90%
I changed my privacy settings	0	0,00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>100,00%</b>

(n = 108)

### Support Services

#### Would the child report OCSEA?

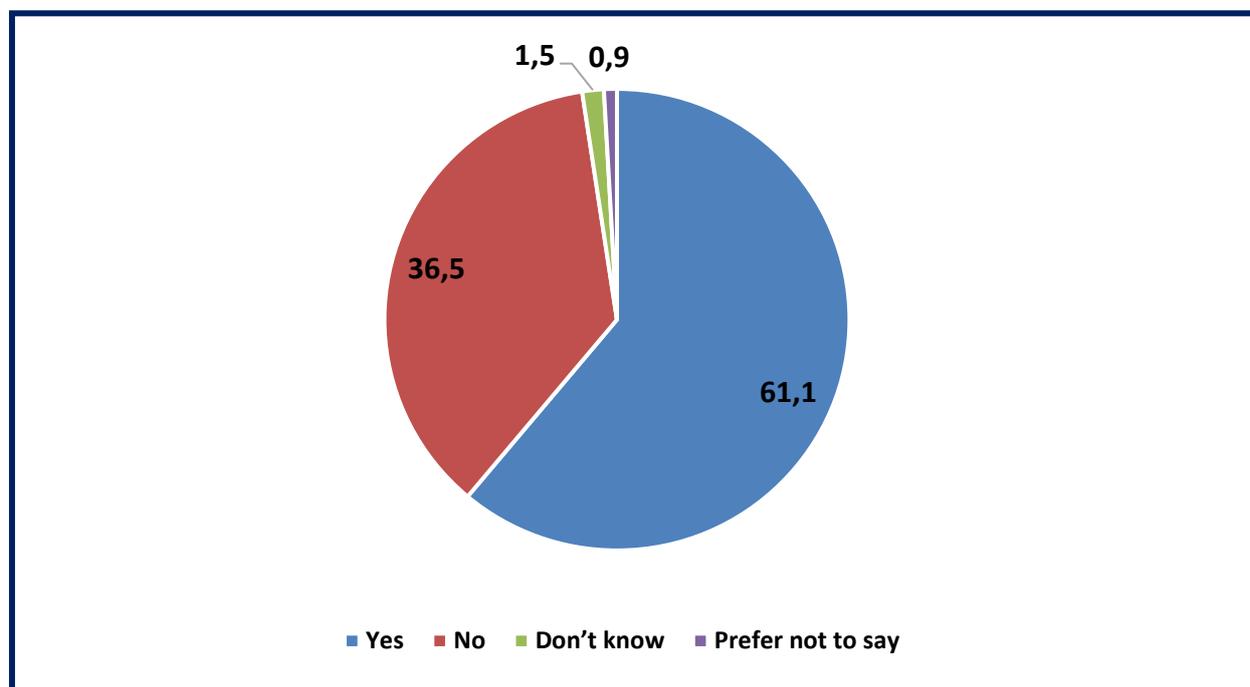
**Research Question:** What actions do you think you would take if you experience any of the things we spoke about? (Select ALL that apply) *n = 1549*

	Yes	
	n	%
Tell a friend	333	21,5%
Tell a brother or sister	301	19,4%
Tell another family member (e.g. aunt, uncle, grandparent, cousin)	273	17,6%
Report to the police	270	17,4%
Keep it to myself	164	10,6%
Tell a parent/carer	164	10,6%
Tell a teacher	208	13,4%
Call a helpline	142	9,2%
Tell a social welfare officer	141	9,1%
Don't know	97	6,3%

### Sex Education

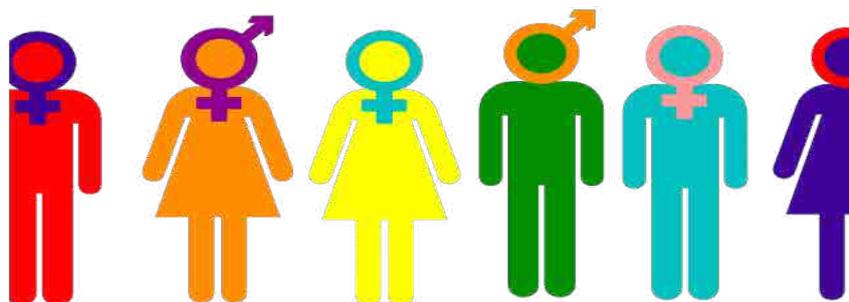
#### Receiving sex education

**Research Question:** Have you received any sex education? *n = 1549*



## If yes, did it cover any of the following topics? (n = 947)

		n	%
The facts about sexual intercourse	Yes	810	85,5%
	No	107	11,3%
	Don't know	23	2,4%
	Prefer not to say	7	0,7%
Contraception in general	Yes	682	72,0%
	No	211	22,3%
	Don't know	46	4,9%
	Prefer not to say	8	0,8%
Demonstration of condoms	Yes	635	67,1%
	No	287	30,3%
	Don't know	17	1,8%
	Prefer not to say	8	0,8%
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	Yes	841	88,8%
	No	97	10,2%
	Don't know	7	0,7%
	Prefer not to say	2	0,2%
Morality (what is right and wrong for you)	Yes	793	83,7%
	No	119	12,6%
	Don't know	29	3,1%
	Prefer not to say	6	0,6%
Assertiveness skills (how to say 'no' if you do not want to engage in sexual activities)	Yes	791	83,5%
	No	124	13,1%
	Don't know	25	2,6%
	Prefer not to say	7	0,7%



**SUMMARY OF KEY RESEARCH FINDINGS:**

- ❖ It is noteworthy that the survey found that during the past year, 27.4% of children felt uncomfortable because someone made sexual comments about them, 21.06% received an unwanted advertisement that contained a link to pornographic websites, and 17.2% receive a sexual image from someone which they did not want.
- ❖ Most of these unwanted sexual experiences happened on a social networking site (36.7%) or in-person face-to-face (33.3%).
- ❖ Facebook or Facebook Messenger (64.0%) and WhatsApp (25.3%) were identified as the most common social media and instant messaging sites where unwanted sexual experiences happened.
- ❖ The survey found that 22.9% of the children who had unwanted sexual experiences did not know who the person was who did it, 17.10% knew it was a friend or someone else they know who was 18 years or older.
- ❖ It is concerning that more than half (55%) of the children who had unwanted sexual experiences, did not tell anyone about the experience. Almost four out of ten children (35.3%) told a friend about what happened.
- ❖ Further exploration of online commercialised sexual solicitation of children found that 5.4% of the children who participated in the survey, indicated that someone offered them money or gifts to meet them in person to do something sexual. 5.3% were offered money or gifts in return for sexual images or videos.
- ❖ Almost half of the respondents who experienced sexual solicitation (41.70%) reported that they said no, 24.10% blocked the person from contacting them again and 13.90% ignored it or hoped it would go away by itself.
- ❖ The survey found that 21.5% will tell a friend if they experience incidents of online child sexual exploitation and abuse, 19.4% will tell a brother or sister, 17.6% will tell a family member, and 17.4% will report to the police.
- ❖ Approximately six out of 10 children (61.1%) have received sex education.
- ❖ Among those children who received sex education, topics included information about sexually transmitted diseases (88.8%), facts about sexual intercourse (85.5%), morality (83.7%), assertive skills (83.5%), contraception in general (72.0%), and a demonstration of condoms (67.1%).

## CHILD'S WELLBEING AND WELLNESS

### Psychological wellbeing

**Research Question:** Please indicate how much you agree with each of the following statements about your life as a whole? *n = 1549*

	Agree*
I like being the way I am	91,5%
I feel positive about my future	89,0%
I feel that I am learning a lot at the moment	84,6%
I have enough choice about how I spend my time	75,6%
People are generally friendly towards me	75,4%
I am good at managing my daily responsibilities	75,3%

\* Include agree and strongly agree

	Disagree**
I have enough choice about how I spend my time	10,1%
I am good at managing my daily responsibilities	8,3%
People are generally friendly towards me	7,9%
I feel that I am learning a lot at the moment	5,2%
I like being the way I am	4,7%
I feel positive about my future	4,6%

\*\* Include disagree and strongly disagree



### Discrimination

**Research Question:** In your day-to-day life, do any of these things happen to you? *n = 1549*

	True*
People seem to think I am not smart	27,6%
Other children are treated better than me	26,1%
People seem to think they're better than me	41,3%
I get called names or insulted by other children	23,9%

\* Include mostly and very true

	Not true**
I get called names or insulted by other children	69,9%
Other children are treated better than me	65,3%
People seem to think I am not smart	60,7%
People seem to think they're better than me	46,9%

\* Include not very and not at all true

### Anxiety

Research Question: **In the last two weeks**, how often did you? *n = 1549*

	Not at all		Rarely		Sometimes		Often		Don't know		Prefer not to say	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Feel fearful	815	52,6%	291	18,8%	349	22,5%	66	4,3%	23	1,5%	5	0,3%
Feel faint, dizzy, or weak, have headaches	832	53,7%	227	14,7%	392	25,3%	83	5,4%	14	0,9%	1	0,1%
Feel nervous	751	48,5%	274	17,7%	399	25,8%	108	7,0%	16	1,0%	1	0,1%
Feel your heart pounding or racing	882	56,9%	239	15,4%	316	20,4%	90	5,8%	19	1,2%	3	0,2%
Feel tense	892	57,6%	241	15,6%	285	18,4%	98	6,3%	31	2,0%	2	0,1%
Feel restless, like you can't sit still	895	57,8%	226	14,6%	296	19,1%	102	6,6%	24	1,5%	6	0,4%
Generally feel worried	252	16,3%	252	16,3%	409	26,4%	143	9,2%	21	1,4%	5	0,3%

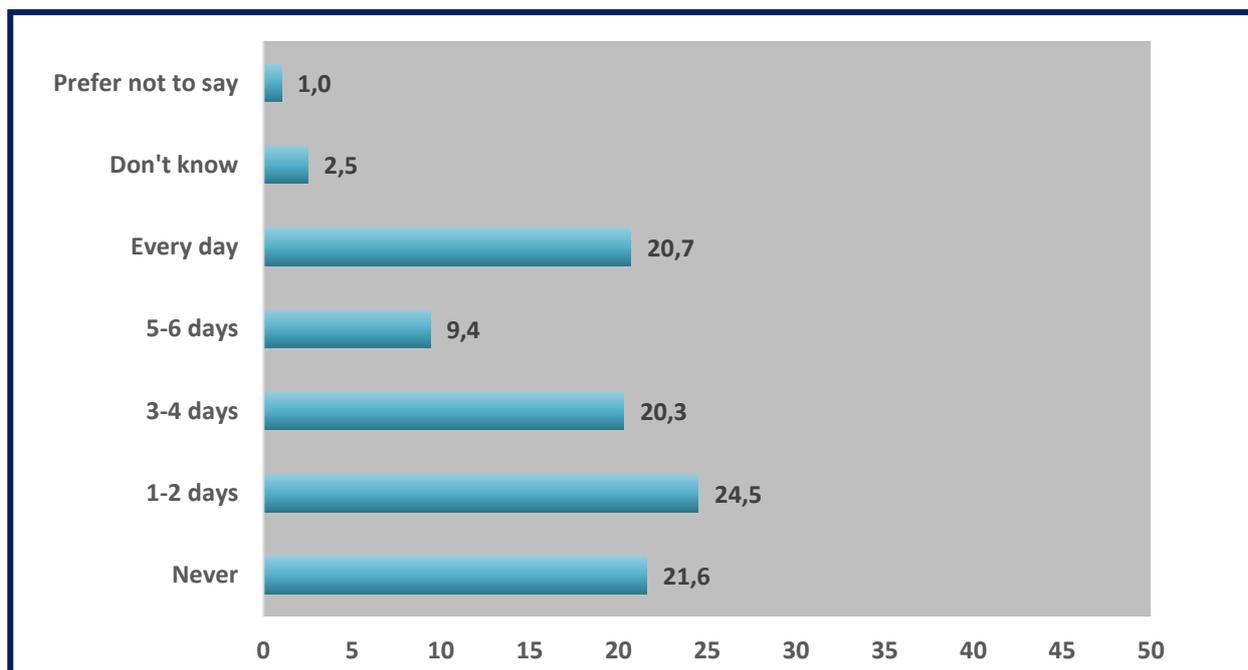
### Emotions and wellbeing

Research Question: **For the past seven days**, please indicate how often? *n = 1549*

	Never		1-2 days		3-4 days		5-6 days		Everyday		Don't know		Prefer not to say	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Did you sleep well?	46	3,0%	78	5,0%	115	7,4%	313	20,2%	970	62,6%	20	1,3%	7	0,5%
Were you happy?	37	2,4%	89	5,7%	152	9,8%	263	17,0%	964	62,2%	34	2,2%	10	0,6%
Did you have trouble concentrating?	747	48,2%	318	20,5%	133	8,6%	98	6,3%	168	10,8%	70	4,5%	15	1,0%
Did you feel hopeful about the future?	163	10,5%	83	5,4%	106	6,8%	156	10,1%	962	62,1%	65	4,2%	14	0,9%
Did you feel that everything you did was an effort?	117	7,6%	117	7,6%	179	11,6%	203	13,1%	677	43,7%	114	7,4%	13	0,8%
Did you feel lonely?	923	59,6%	267	17,2%	136	8,8%	73	4,7%	93	6,0%	39	2,5%	18	1,2%
Did you feel depressed?	1113	71,9%	178	11,5%	82	5,3%	64	4,1%	54	3,5%	39	2,5%	19	1,2%
Did you feel that you could not motivate yourself to do the things you had to do?	850	54,9%	238	15,4%	152	9,8%	62	4,0%	141	9,1%	80	5,2%	26	1,7%
Were you bothered by things that don't usually bother you?	859	55,5%	309	19,9%	122	7,9%	88	5,7%	68	4,4%	85	5,5%	18	1,2%
Did you feel fearful?	903	58,3%	291	18,8%	122	7,9%	73	4,7%	76	4,9%	66	4,3%	18	1,2%

### Physical activity

**Research Question:** How many days a week do you usually participate in a rigorous physical activity or sport (e.g. running rugby, soccer, swimming, basketball, dancing) *n* = 1549



#### SUMMARY OF KEY RESEARCH FINDINGS:

- ❖ The survey found that the majority of children (91.5%) agreed that they like being the way they are and 89% feel positive about their future. These positive feelings are indicative of overall psychological wellbeing among the respondents.
- ❖ Approximately four out of every 10 children (41.3%) who participated in the survey felt that other people think they are better than them, 27,6% felt that other people think they are not smart and 26.1% felt that other children are treated better than them.
- ❖ In the last two weeks preceding the research study, 9,2% of the respondents generally felt worried, 7,0% felt nervous and 6.6% feel restless.
- ❖ Most of the respondents reported that they sleep well every day (62.6%), feel happy (62.2%), and hopeful about the future (62.1%).
- ❖ Only 24,5% participate in rigorous physical activity or sport 1-2 days per week. Taking into consideration the importance of physical activity especially for growing children, it is notable that 21.6% indicated that they never participate in any sports activity.

## PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP

### Child's relationships at home

**Research Question:** How much do you agree or disagree with each of the statements? *n* = 1549

	Agree*
There are people in my family who care about me	94,2%
I feel safe at home	92,4%
If I have a problem, people in my family will help me	90,5%
We have a good time together in my family	88,9%
My parents/carers/guardians listen to me and take what I say into account	74,3%
My parents/carers/guardians and I make decisions about my life together	70,0%

\* Include agree and strongly agree

	Disagree**
My parents/carers/guardians and I make decisions about my life together	13,5%
My parents/carers/guardians listen to me and take what I say into account	9,1%
If I have a problem, people in my family will help me	4,2%
We have a good time together in my family	4,1%
There are people in my family who care about me	3,6%
I feel safe at home	3,1%

\*\* Include disagree and strongly disagree

### Violence at home

#### Emotional/psychological violence

**Research Question:** In the past year, how often -if ever- has a parent, caregiver, guardian or other adult relative: *n* = 1549

	Never*
Said they wished you had never been born or were dead?	92,1%
Told you that you were not loved, or did not deserve to be loved?	90,7%
Talked down to you (for example, said that you were stupid or useless)?	79,5%

\* Include never and hardly ever

	Often**
Talked down to you (for example, said that you were stupid or useless)?	19,4%
Told you that you were not loved, or did not deserve to be loved?	8,0%
Said they wished you had never been born or were dead?	6,1%

\*\* Include sometimes, often and very often

### Physical violence

**Research Question:** In the past year how often – if ever- has a parent, caregiver, guardian or other adult relative punched, kicked or beaten you in any way? *n = 1549*

Parent, carer, guardian or other adult relative punched, kicked or beaten me		n	%
	Never	945	61,0%
	Hardly ever	215	13,9%
	Sometimes	349	22,5%
	Often	15	1,0%
	Very often	10	0,6%
	Don't know	7	0,5%
	Prefer not to say	8	0,5%

### Sexual violence

**Research Question:** In the past year how often – if ever- has anyone from your family? *n = 1549*

	Never*
Pressured you in a nonphysical way, to have sexual intercourse of any kind when you did not want to and sex happened? (threats, harassment, luring you, or tricking you into having sex.)	97,5%
Tried to make you have sexual intercourse of any kind without your permission, but did not succeed?	96,9%
Touched you in a sexual way without your permission (fondling, pinching, grabbing, or touching you on or around your sexual body parts)?	96,2%

\* Include never and hardly ever

	Often**
Touched you in a sexual way without your permission (fondling, pinching, grabbing, or touching you on or around your sexual body parts)?	3,1%
Tried to make you have sexual intercourse of any kind without your permission, but did not succeed?	2,2%
Pressured you in a nonphysical way, to have sexual intercourse of any kind when you did not want to, and sex happened? (threats, harassment, luring you, or tricking you into having sex.)	1,5%

\*\* Include sometimes, often and very often

## NORMS AND ATTITUDES AROUND DATING AND SEX

### Child's attitudes around sex

**Research Question:** How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Please remember that we are interested in your opinion, not what your family or community thinks.

*n = 1549*

	Disagree*
A woman should tolerate violence to keep her family together	72.1%
Men need to have sex with other women, even if they have good relationships with their partners/wives	59.8%
Men should decide when to have sex	51.8%
Women who carry condoms have sex with a lot of men	48.2%
Having sex before marriage is acceptable	45.0%
Men need more sex than women	40.2%

\* Include disagree and strongly disagree

	Agree**
Having sex before marriage is acceptable	25.7%
Men need more sex than women	15.7%
Men should decide when to have sex	14.4%
Women who carry condoms have sex with a lot of men	11.7%
Men need to have sex with other women, even if they have good relationships with their partners/wives	8.7%
A woman should tolerate violence to keep her family together	7.2%

\* Include agree and strongly agree

### Family attitudes around sex

**Research Question:** Now we want to ask you what people in your family think about certain things. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? *n = 1549*

	Disagree*
Members of my family believe that a woman should tolerate violence to keep her family together	62,2%
Members of my family believe that men need to have sex with other women, even if they have good relationships with their partners/wives	54,4%
Members of my family believe having sex before marriage is acceptable	48,6%
Members of my family believe that men should decide when to have sex	46,0%
Members of my family believe that women who carry condoms have sex with a lot of men	45,4%
Members of my family believe that men need more sex than women	41,4%

\* Include disagree and strongly disagree

	Agree**
Members of my family believe having sex before marriage is acceptable	15,6%
Members of my family believe that men need more sex than women	10,2%
Members of my family believe that men should decide when to have sex	8,8%
Members of my family believe that women who carry condoms have sex with a lot of men	8,6%
Members of my family believe that a woman should tolerate violence to keep her family together	6,8%
Members of my family believe that men need to have sex with other women, even if they have good relationships with their partners/wives	6,0%

\* Include agree and strongly agree

**SUMMARY OF KEY RESEARCH FINDINGS:**

- ❖ The survey found that most children agreed that there are people in their families who care about them (94.2%) and that they feel safe at home (92.4%). Based on the research results, fewer parents or caregivers make decisions about their child's life together with their child.
- ❖ Further exploration of emotional and psychological violence at home identified that during the past year, 19.4% of children indicated that a parent, caregiver, guardian, or other adult relative talked down on them and 8.0% were told that they are not loved.
- ❖ In the past year six out of ten children (61.0%) have never been punched, kicked, or beaten by a parent, caregiver, guardian, or another adult relative.
- ❖ The survey found that although the majority of respondents never experienced sexual violence, it is distressing that during the past year 3.1% of respondents reported that they have often been touched in a sexual way without their permission, 2.2% experienced someone trying to make them have sexual intercourse of any kind without their permission but they did not succeed and 1.5% were pressured in a nonphysical way, to have sexual intercourse of any kind when they did not want to and sex happened.
- ❖ Further exploration of children's attitudes around sex found that 25.7% agreed that having sex before marriage is acceptable and 15.7% agreed that men need more sex than women.
- ❖ Further exploration of family norms and attitudes around dating and sex identified that most respondents agreed that their family members believe that women should not tolerate violence to keep her families together (62.2) and that men do not have to engage in sexual activity with other women, besides their partners or wives (54.4%).

**CHILD'S RELATIONSHIP WITH PEERS***Peer support*

**Research Question:** How true are the following things? *n = 1549*

	True*
My friends really try to help me	89,3%
I can count on my friends when things go wrong	77,1%
I can talk about my problems with my friends	73,9%

\* Include a bit, fairly and very true

*Violence at school**Physical violence*

**Research Question:** In the past year, how often – if ever – has someone in your school punched, kicked or beaten you in any way? *n = 1549*

		n	%
Someone in my school punched, kicked or beaten me	Never	1089	70,3%
	Hardly ever	210	13,6%
	Sometimes	219	14,1%
	Often	23	1,5%
	Very often	6	0,4%
	Don't know	1	0,1%
	Prefer not to say	1	0,1%

### Sexual violence

**Research Question: In the past year, how often – if ever- has someone in your school? *n = 1549***

	Never*
Pressured you in a nonphysical way, to have sexual intercourse of any kind when you did not want to, and sex happened? (threats, harassment, luring you or tricking you into having sex)	95,8%
Tried to make you have sexual intercourse of any kind without your permission, but did not succeed?	95,3%
Touched you in a sexual way without your permission? Touching in a sexual way without permission includes fondling, pinching, grabbing, or touching you on or around your sexual body parts?	92,6%

\* Include never and hardly ever

	Often**
Touched you in a sexual way without your permission? Touching in a sexual way without permission includes fondling, pinching, grabbing, or touching you on or around your sexual body parts?	6,8%
Tried to make you have sexual intercourse of any kind without your permission, but did not succeed?	4,3%
Pressured you in a nonphysical way, to have sexual intercourse of any kind when you did not want to, and sex happened? (threats, harassment, luring you or tricking you into having sex)	3,1%

\*\* Include sometimes, often and very often



**7.1% of children have stayed home because they were bullied at school.**

#### SUMMARY OF KEY RESEARCH FINDINGS:

- ❖ Most of the children who participated in the survey (89.3%) indicated that their friends really try to help them, 77.1% can count on their friends when things go wrong, and 73.9% can talk about their problems with their friends.
- ❖ Further investigation into violence at school identified that 70.3% of children have never been punched, kicked, or beaten by someone in any way at school.
- ❖ It is concerning that during the past year, 6.8% of children who participated in the survey have been touched sexually by someone at their school, without their permission.

## COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VIOLENCE

### Community safety

**Research Question:** Here are some statements about the area where you live. How true are these for you? *n = 1549*

	True*
I feel safe in the area where I live	70,2%
It is safe for younger children to play outside during the day	65,6%
You can trust people around here	50,2%

\* Include mostly or very true

	Not True**
I feel safe in the area where I live	26,5%
It is safe for younger children to play outside during the day	29,5%
You can trust people around here	43,0%

\* Include not very or not at all true

### Physical violence

**Research Question:** In the past year, how often – if ever – has one of the people from your community or the area where you live ever punched, kicked or beaten you in any way?

		n	%
People from community punched, kicked or beaten me	Never	1268	81,9%
	Hardly ever	124	8,0%
	Sometimes	125	8,1%
	Often	13	0,8%
	Very often	7	0,5%
	Don't know	6	0,4%
	Prefer not to say	6	0,4%
	Total	1 549	100,0%

### Sexual violence

**Research Question:** In the past year, how often -if ever- has anyone in your community or the area where you live: *n = 1549*

	Never*
Touched you in a sexual way without your permission? (fondling, pinching, grabbing, or touching you on or around your sexual body parts)?	95,4%
Tried to make you have sexual intercourse of any kind without your permission, but did not succeed?	96,0%
Pressured you in a nonphysical way, to have sexual intercourse of any kind when you did not want to and sex happened? (threats, harassment, luring you, or tricking you into having sex).	96,0%

\* Include never and hardly ever

	Often**
Touched you in a sexual way without your permission? (fondling, pinching, grabbing, or touching you on or around your sexual body parts)?	3,9%
Tried to make you have sexual intercourse of any kind without your permission, but did not succeed?	3,2%
Pressured you in a nonphysical way, to have sexual intercourse of any kind when you did not want to and sex happened? (threats, harassment, luring you, or tricking you into having sex).	2,7%

\*\* Include sometimes, often and very often

#### SUMMARY OF KEY RESEARCH FINDINGS:

- ❖ It is noteworthy that approximately four out of 10 children (43%) who participated in the survey agreed that they cannot trust people around their community.
- ❖ Most of the respondents (81.9%) reported that during the past year they have never been punched, kicked or beaten in any way by people from their community or area.
- ❖ Concerningly, 3.9% of the respondents have been touched in a sexual way without their permission, 3.2% were pressured to have sexual intercourse, but it did not happen and 2.7% were pressured in a nonphysical way, to have sexual intercourse of any kind when they did not want to and sex happened.

#### CHILD DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

**Research Question: What is your sex/gender (Select one)**

What is your sex/gender?	n	%
Boy	704	45.4%
Girl	845	54.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1549</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Research Question: How old are you? (Select one)**

Age group	n	%
9-12 years	572	36.9%
13-17 years	977	63.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1549</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Research Question: What is the highest school grade you have completed (so far)? (Select one)**

Grade	n	%
3	82	5.3%
4	85	5.5%
5	134	8.7%
6	149	9.6%
7	182	11.7%
8	202	13.0%
9	211	13.6%
10	237	15.3%
11	192	12.4%
12	75	4.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1549</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

