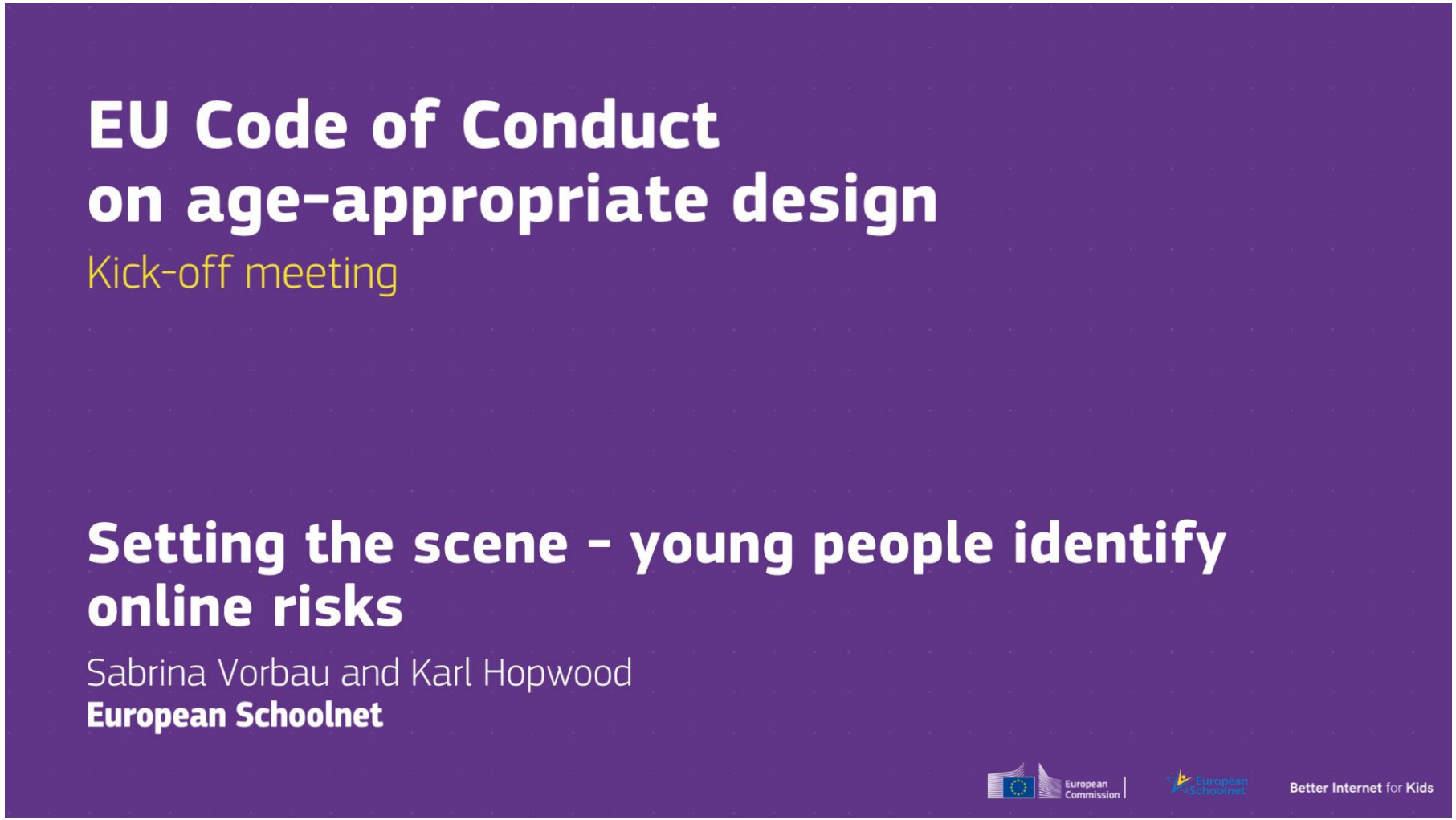
EU Code of Conduct on age-appropriate design

Presentation of risks and main concerns
by European Schoolnet

Kick-off meeting, 13 July 2023

Newsreel


EU Code of Conduct
on age-appropriate design
Kick-off meeting
Setting the scene - young people identify online risks
Sabrina Vorbau and Karl Hopwood
European Schoolnet
European Commission
European Schoolnet
Better Internet for Kids

YouTube found to push content about guns to children watching games video

Video site recommended videos related to weapons, shooting and murderers to accounts for boys aged nine and 14, report says

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

CYBERSECURITY

Online dangers for children are rife. We must both pre-empt them and treat the consequences

Social media triggers children to dislike their own bodies, says study

Exclusive: Study shows social media a 'significant risk' to young people's view of themselves and can provoke mental health distress

What is digital self-harm? Why teens are posting hurtful things about THEMSELVES online

WARNING: This article may contain content some pe
youngsters are engaging in 'digital self-harm' - but w

Is social media creating a generation of thin-skinned Americans? Children who are constantly on Instagram and Snapchat become 'hypersensitive' to criticism as adults, study suggests

Home / Irish News

One-third of schoolboys playing online video games are 'exposed to harmful content'

CyberSafeKids also says a quarter of eight- to 12-year-olds have seen content that 'bothered' them

'Taking innocence from children': Two-thirds of youngsters exposed to harmful online content - but only 16% report it

1 in 7 children in Bulgaria have experienced online bullying.
15,694 reports of online violence were received by the National Centre for Safe Internet in 2021.

Self-harm images online 'can trigger young people to hurt themselves'

Study finds link between young people viewing such material but says further studies are needed

French MPs back social media age restrictions for teenagers

The bill is aimed at protecting children from harmful online content not intended for their age group

4 March 2023 13:30

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"Social media is definitely negatively affecting me. As young people we constantly compare ourselves to good-looking people online. On sites like TikTok, the only people you see are gorgeous due to the algorithms and that makes us feel really bad about ourselves."

Antonio Guillem / Alamy Stock Photo

Social media: How (some) use can be good for teenagers

3 days ago

The Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health

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Child and Adolescent Mental Health

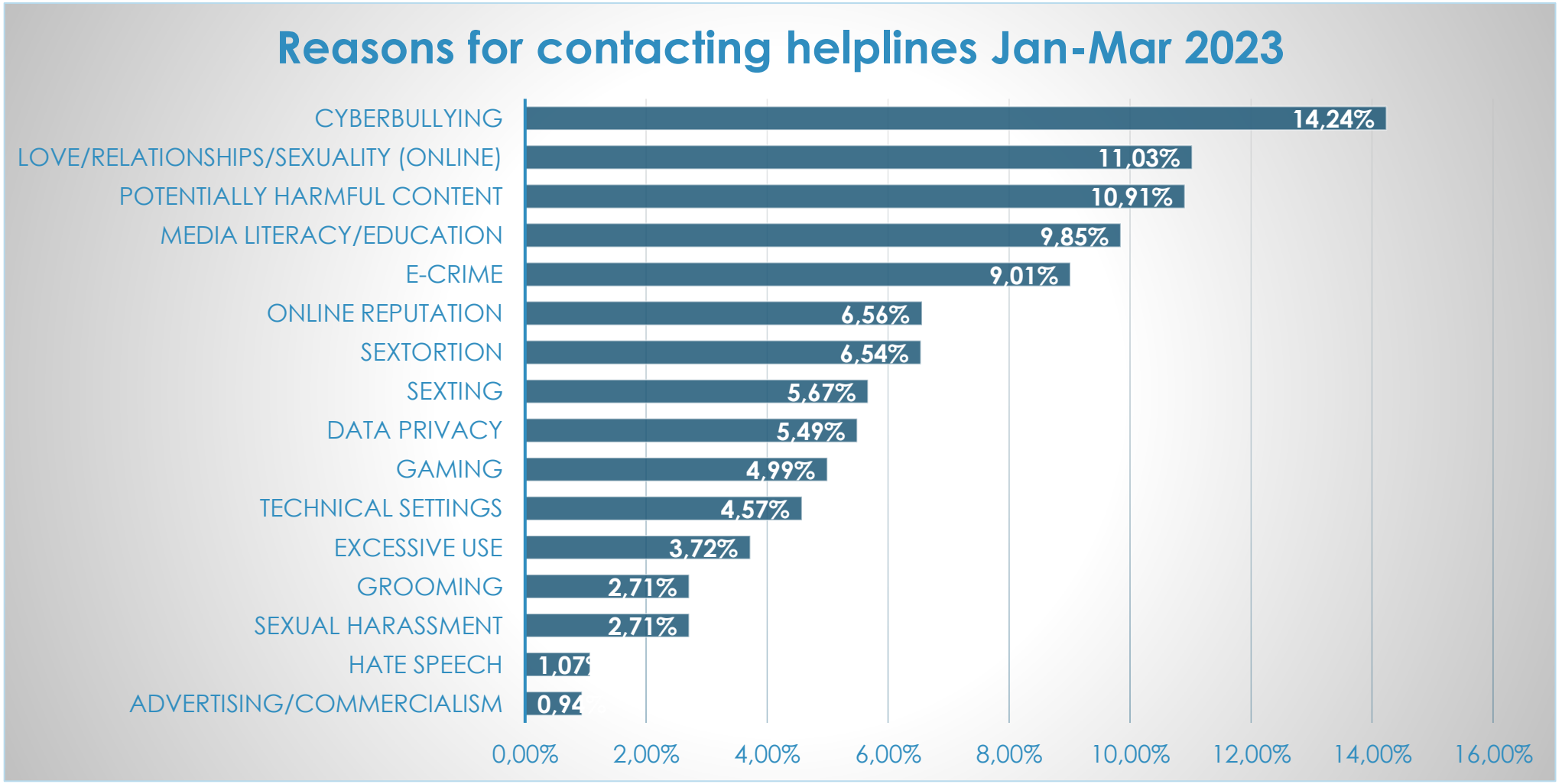
Original Article | Open Access

Young people's online communication and its association with mental well-being: results from the 2019 student health and well-being survey

Rebecca Anthony, Honor Young, Gillian Hewitt, Luke Sloan, Graham Moore, Simon Murphy, Steven Cook

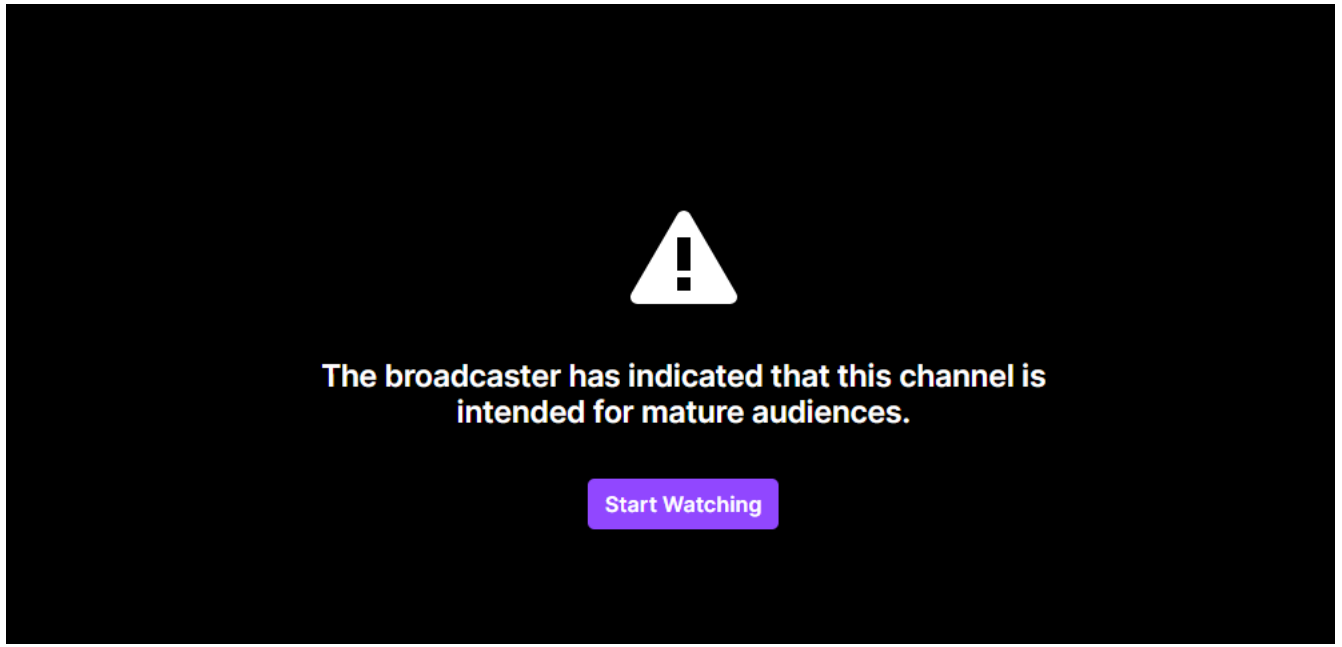
Students are highly engaged on social networking sites, and these sites are used to communicate with existing friendship groups and develop virtual friendships. Frequent online communication with best friends and bigger friendship groups was associated with higher levels of well-being. However, the frequency of online contact with virtual friends made online was negatively and significantly associated with well-being with a larger negative association for girls than boys.

Reasons for contacting helplines Jan-March 2023

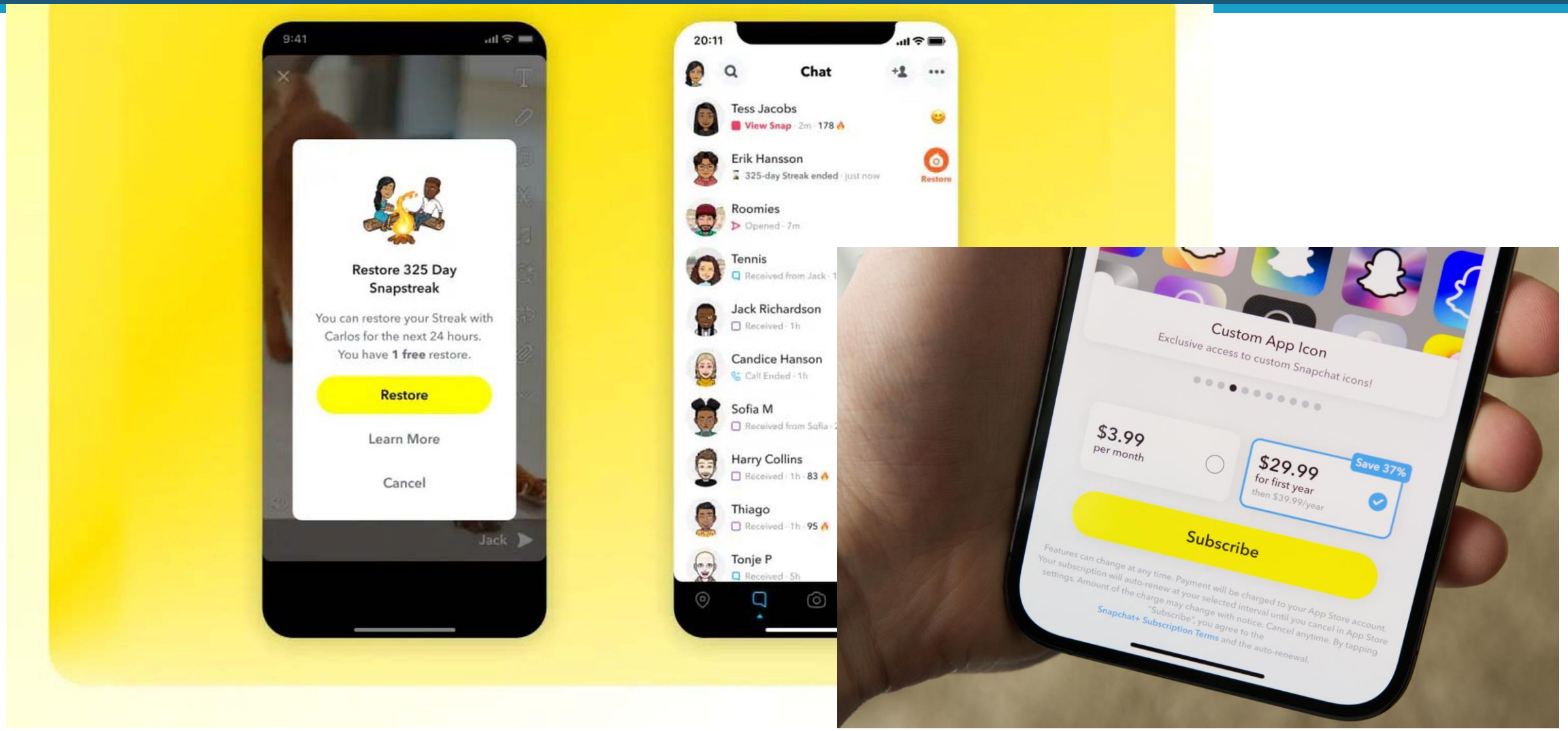


Privacy tools

- These are too complex – privacy and safety needs to be switched on by default and not dependent on age…
- The "worried well" will do what they can to keep their children safe but a lot of parents/carers won't do anything at all.



Premium services...



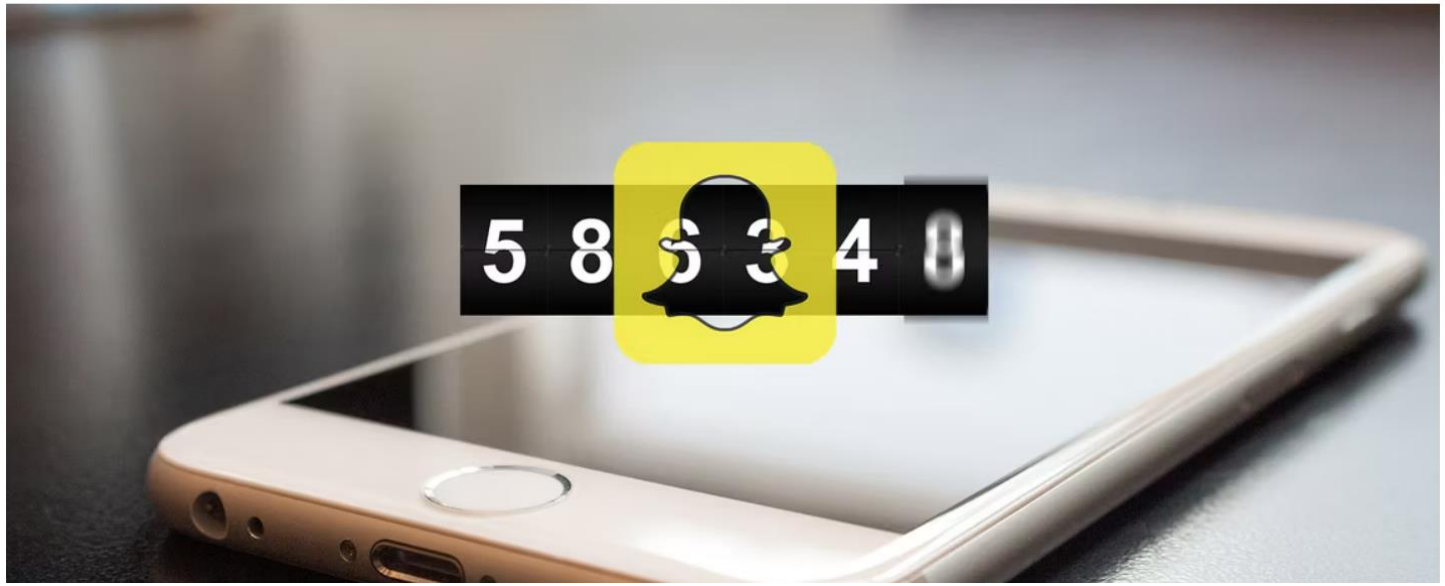
Screentime (v screen use)

- Amount of screen time – is this problematic? Persuasive design elements built into products

How to Increase Your Snapchat Score (and How Your Snapchat Score Works)

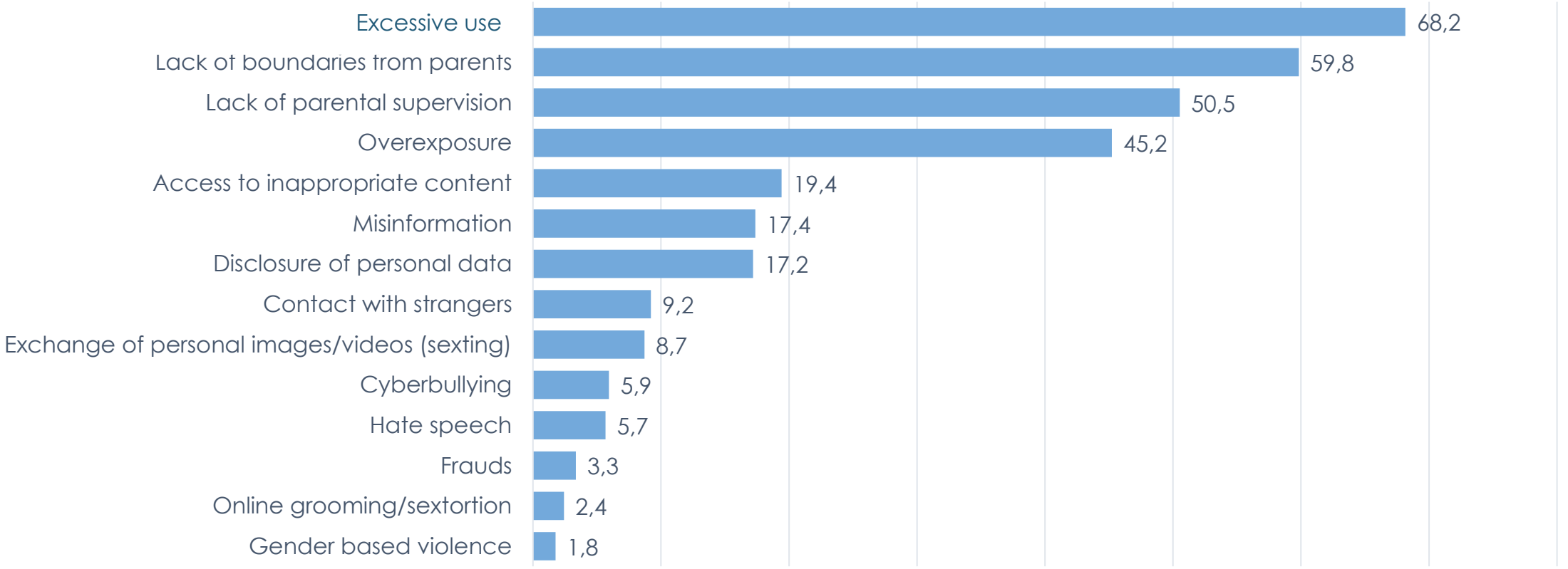
Here's what you need to know about how the Snapchat score works and how you can increase your Snapchat score.

BY **BRIALLYN SMITH** UPDATED MAR 29, 2023



Teachers - Greece

From the list below, choose the three most common internet-related problems you face with your students



Sexual content – sharing of nudes/semi-nudes

Influence

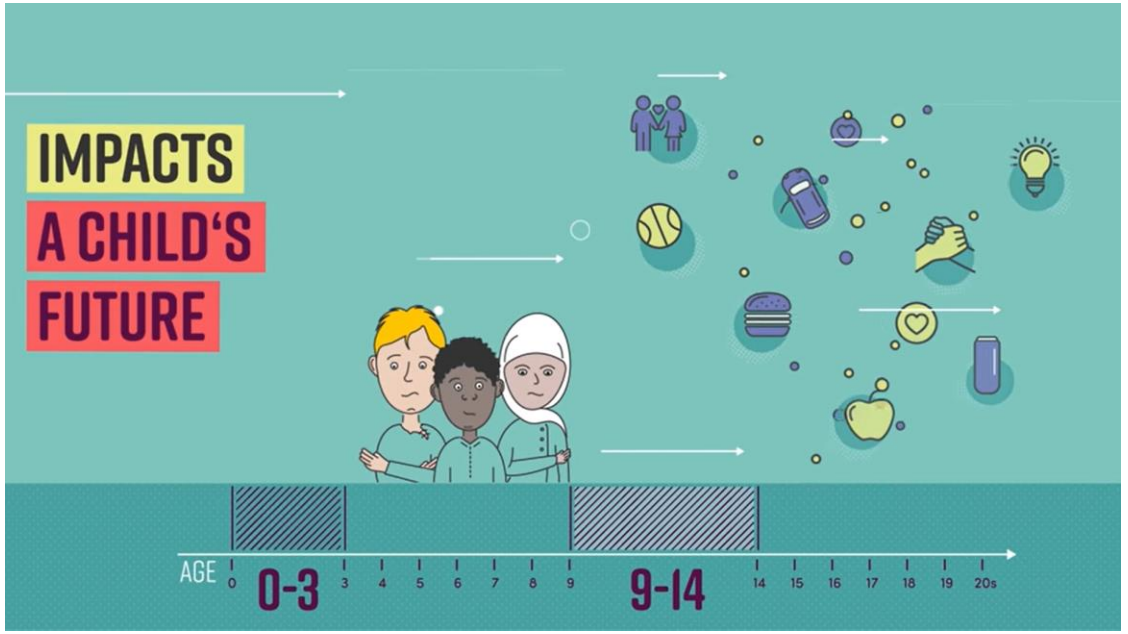
- Inappropriate content – children are becoming desensitised?
- Online influencers/role models – effects of filter bubbles caused by algorithms

1. Khaby Lame — 161.3 million TikTok followers

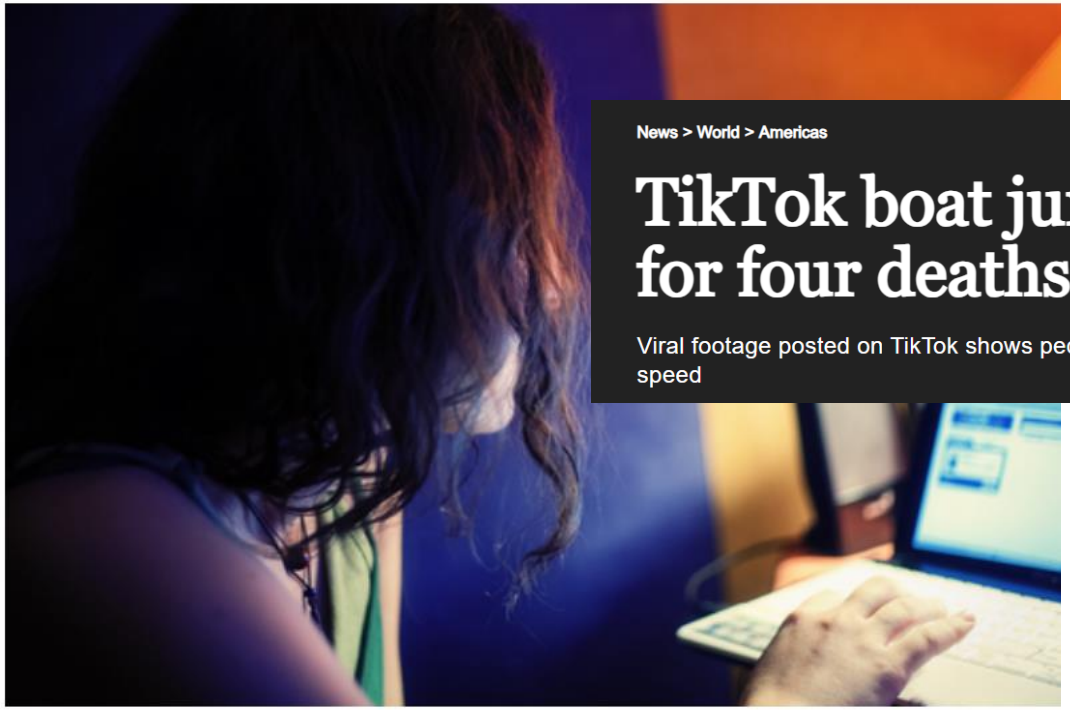
Khaby skyrocketed up through the TikTok top 20 rankings.

Italian TikToker Khaby Lame is officially TikTok's most-followed account, having taken over the likes of Addison Rae and Charli D'Amelio on his ascent.

Creating reactions to many other videos, such as one of the platform's most-liked videos in which he responds to someone's method of peeling a banana, Lame has also overtaken the likes of Dixie D'Amelio, Zach King, and Bella Poarch insanely fast.



Dutch teen, 16, dies after attempting online 'choking challenge'



A 16-year-old Dutch boy has died after carrying out an online challenge to auto asphyxiate,

News > World > Americas

TikTok boat jumping challenge blamed for four deaths, authorities say

Viral footage posted on TikTok shows people throwing themselves into the wake of a moving boat at high speed

Italy blocks TikTok for certain users after death of girl allegedly playing 'choking' game

Probe launched after girl's sister reportedly told parents she had been 'playing the blackout game' before her death

Italy has temporarily blocked access to TikTok for users whose age cannot be proven. Photograph: Kiichiro Sato/AP

Italian prosecutors have opened an investigation into the accidental death of a 10-year-old girl who allegedly took part in a "blackout challenge" on the

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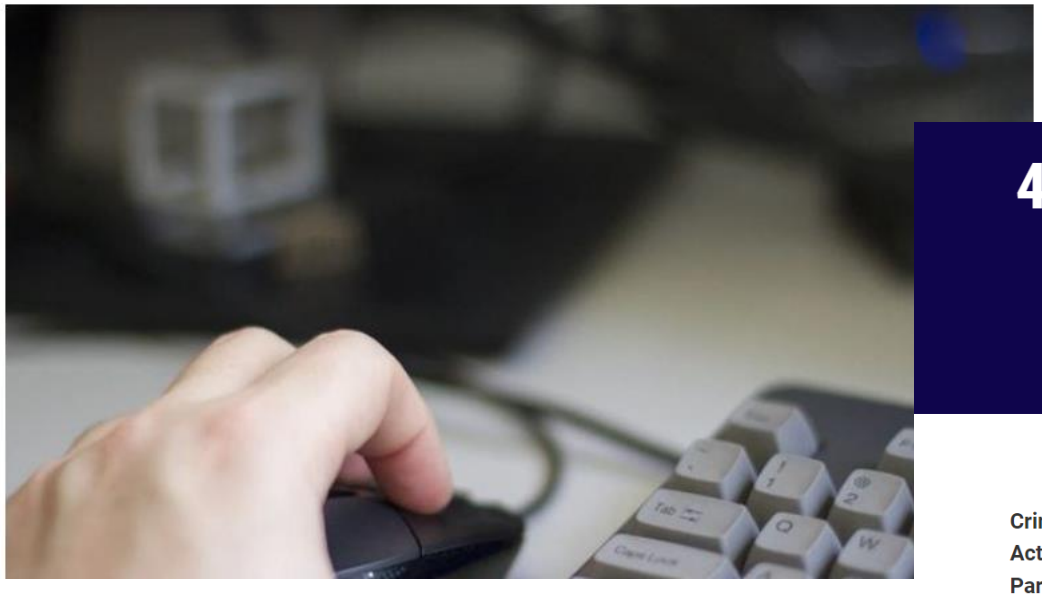
Online sexual coercion and extortion of children

Over 4,600 sextortion scams reported to Belgian watchdog last week

Wednesday, 9 November 2022

By The Brussels Times with Belga



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FBI warns of explosion in sextortion cases targeting teenagers

20 December 2022

49 arrests in Poland in an operation targeting child sexual exploitation online

17 MAR 2023

Crime Area: Child sexual exploitation online
Action days: February/March 2023
Participating countries: Poland
Authorities involved: Polish Central Cybercrime Bureau (Centralne Biuro Zwalczania Cyberprzestępczości)

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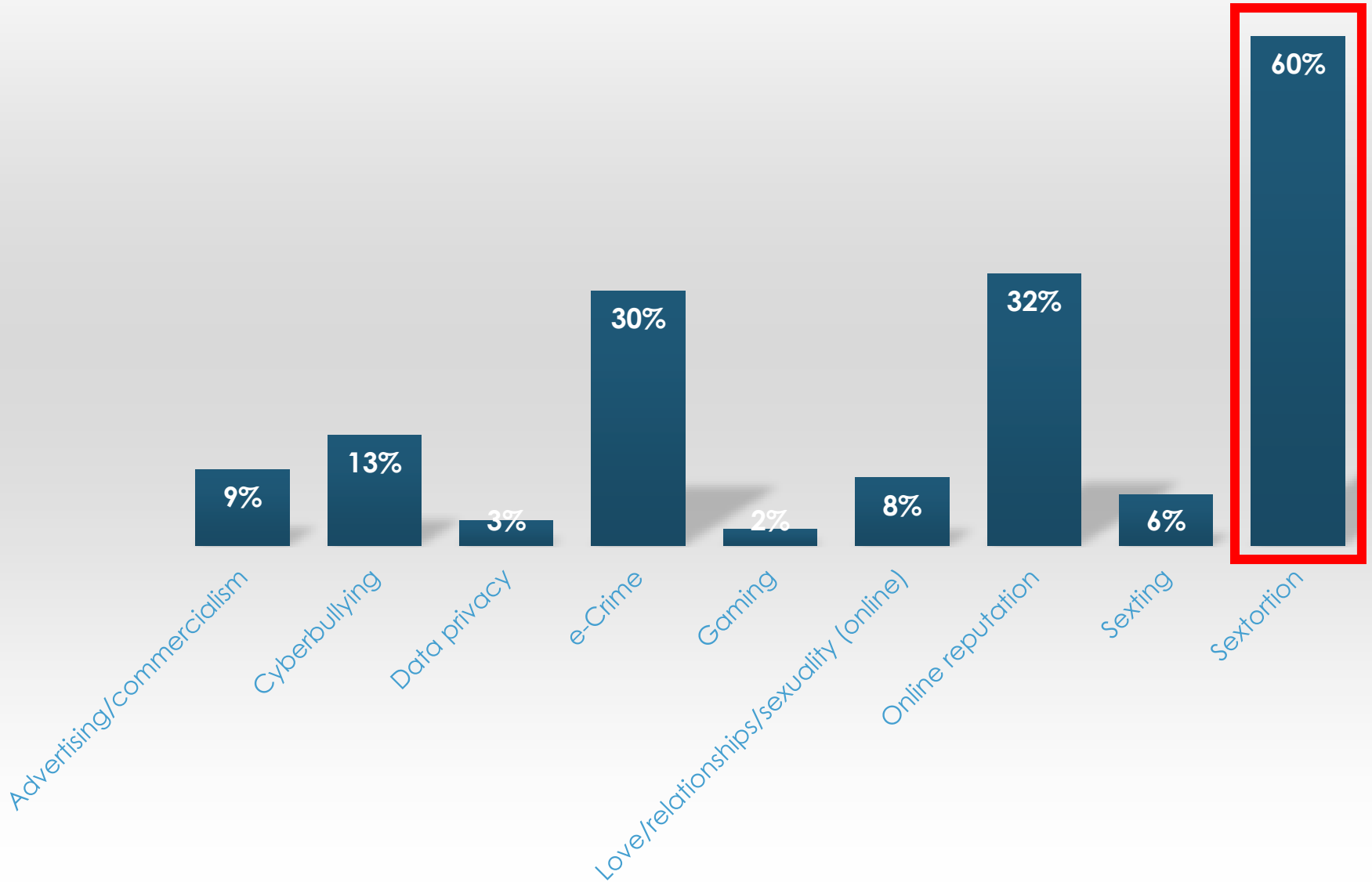
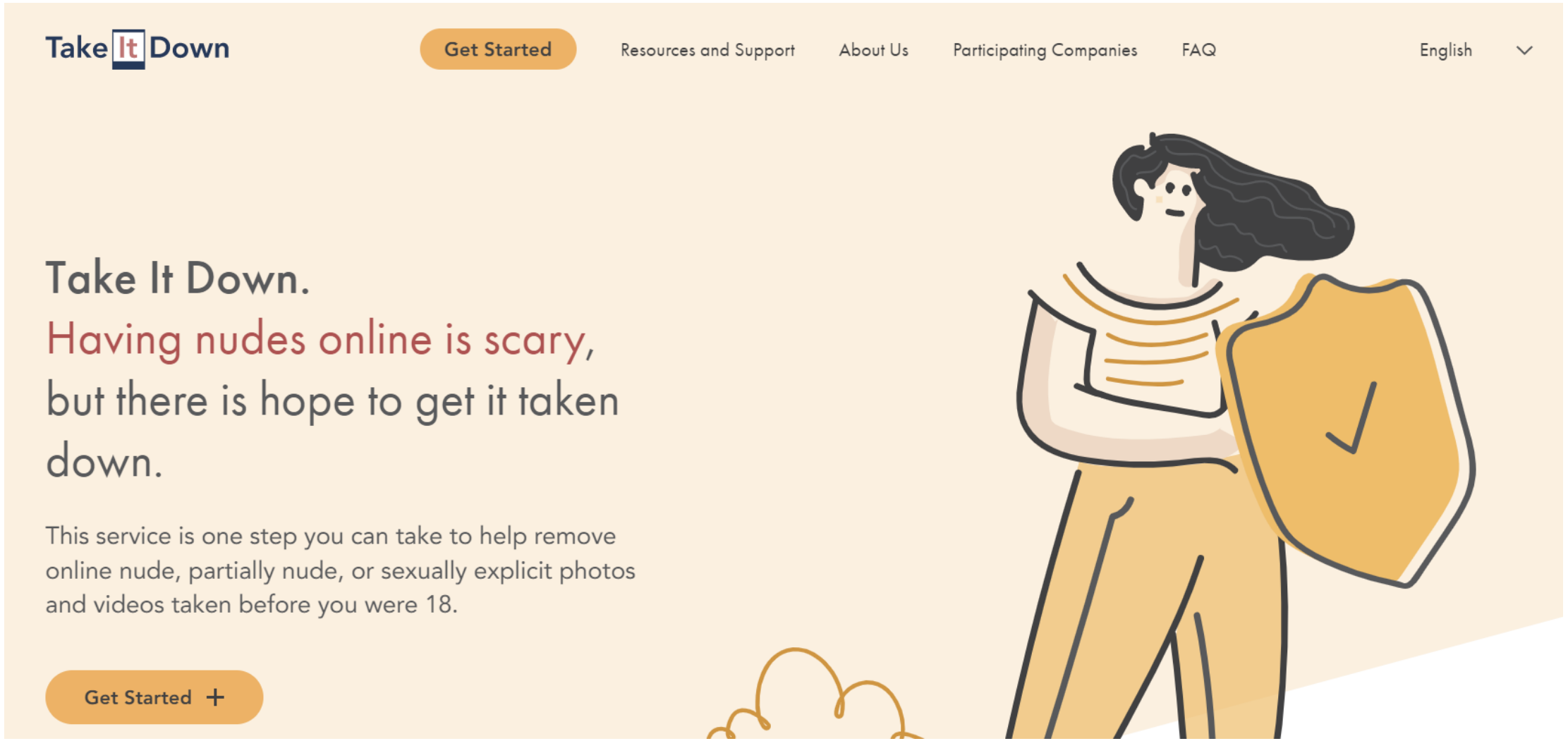
A graph to show the increase in the **number** of contacts made to Insafe helplines between 2021 and 2022



Lack of awareness of tools/solutions…



Online Sexual Bullying
Advice for Parents and Carers of 9-12 year olds
The thing that is happening online but nobody talks about
Childnet has produced this guidance to help parents and carers and their children talk about the important issue of online sexual bullying – specifically when this is happening between children of around the same age.
Step Up, Speak Up!
Childnet International
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Skole > Sikker på nettet > deSHAME 2 - Bare en Joke? >
DESHAME 2 - BARE EN JOKE?
DIGITALE KRÆNKELSER BLANDT 9-12-ÅRIGE

Szexualizált cyberbullying
Tanácsok, információk 13-17 éves fiatalok szüleinek
Online történik, csak nem beszélünk róla...
A Kék Vonal Gyermekkrízis Alapítvány azért hozta létre ezt a rövid útmutatót, hogy segítséget nyújtson szülőknek, felnőtteknek ahhoz, hogy beszélgetni tudjanak gyerekekkel a kortársak közötti szexualizált cyberbullyingról
Step Up, Speak Up!
Childnet International

Online Sexual Harassment
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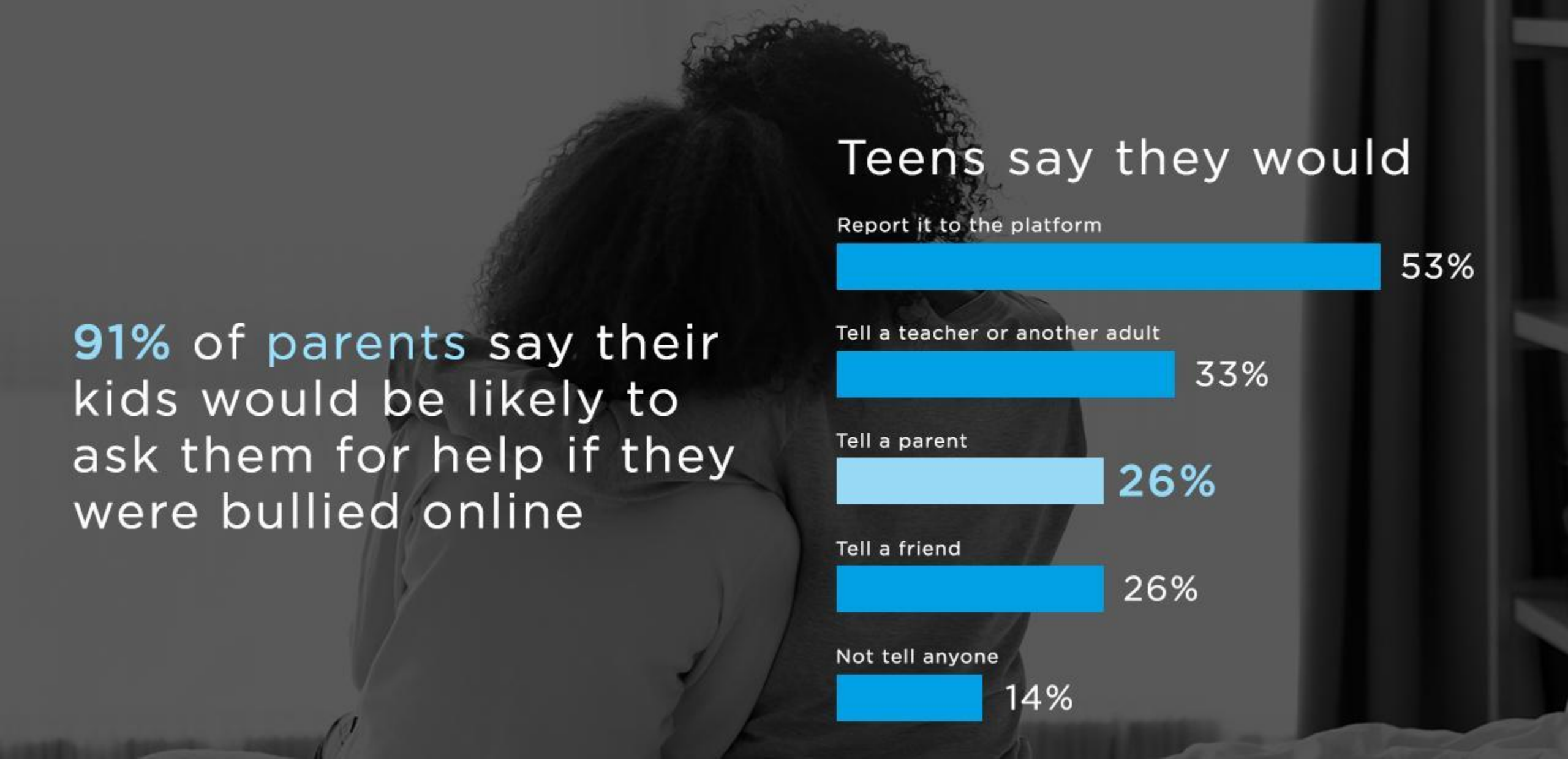
91% of parents say their kids would be likely to ask them for help if they were bullied online


91% of parents say their kids would be likely to ask them for help if they were bullied online
Teens say they would
Report it to the platform
53%
Tell a teacher or another adult
33%
Tell a parent
26%
Tell a friend
26%
Not tell anyone
14%

BIK Youth putting BIK+ into action

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Better Internet for Kids

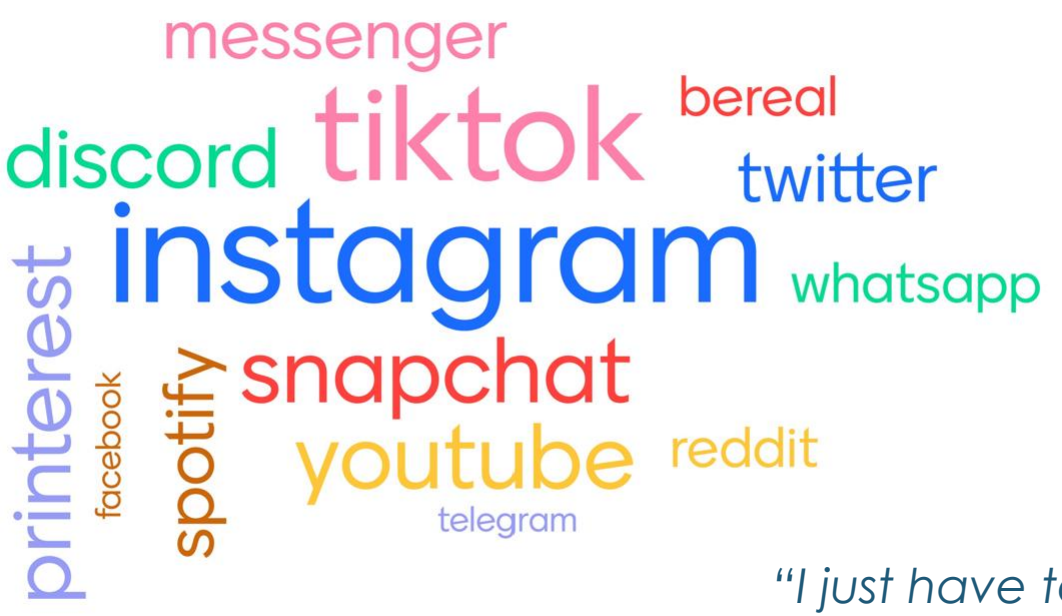
BIK Youth co-creating the Insafe network

- An important sound board and integral part of our and the national Safer Internet Centre's work.
- The BIK Youth Ambassador network currently consists of 40+ engaged and motivated teens and young adults between the age of 14 to mid-20s from across the EU, Norway and Iceland.
- The following input consist of views from 36 BIK Youth Ambassadors from 14 countries, between the ages:
  - 14-15 years old - 5 youngsters
  - 16-18 years old – 21 youngsters
  - 19+ years old – 10 youngsters

Which social media platform/gaming apps are currently your favourite?

"I currently use no social media platforms or have game apps." (19 years, Luxembourg)

"A lot of children have TikTok and post stuff that is not supposed to be on there but if I report it with my friends, it doesn't do anything. It is really bad that it doesn't work." (16 years, Estonia)



"I just have to, not be a full-on weirdo and because you can't live without it. […] There's no way around that."(16 years, Estonia)

What are the main problems/risks for you and your peers online?

*"**A lot of content is not age-appropriate yet** is not really controlled, lack of awareness regarding data theft, terms & conditions often being too long and boring to read." (15 years, Malta)*

"The lack of design for young people. **The internet is not a one size fits all solution**."(16 years, Malta)

*"Internet addiction, misinformation, negativity from **overexposure** to the "perfect social media life" perspective."(18 years, Portugal)*

*"Anonymous people trying to scam us, or sell us or buy illegal or uncomfortable things (drugs, nudes....) and the **unrealistic expectations that online sets us**, like for example having to look like something specific on social media or having certain things in certain time in our life´s to be "good enough." (19 years, Finland)*

*"I believe **the main risks come from the lack of knowledge and awareness** from the users, as many of them are related to interactions with malicious people: grooming, cyberbullying, harassment, etc." (17 years, Spain)*

*"I think **the main problem is with informing the youth**: information given about internet safety is often insufficient and contains many gaps. For example, I know my digital footprint exists and that data is recorded online, but how do I make sure my digital footprints are protected, or how do I avoid encountering dangers on the internet? […](17 years, Cyprus)*

What commitments/action is needed?

*"**Transparency** from the service providers about the potential side effects of use. Proper controls to minimize the side effects."(26 years, Portugal)*

"**News industry** could give **more space for good happenings** in the world as well, it doesn't have to take the space away from the other things to add something good. Social media platforms could pay more attention to bots and scams […]." (19 years, Finland)

*"We need strong policies that assure that the interests of the people, specially minors, are the main focus, even over companies' profit. This is why governments should make sure that the **safety of vulnerable people is the number 1 priority**." (17 years, Spain)*

"More reliable age verification and keeping in mind children and young people when designing platforms."(16 years, Malta)

"**More youth participation**, faster and more effective decision-making processes." (17 years, Malta)

"Stricter age verifications and get better at removing inappropriate posts." (15 years, Norway)

*"Test some actions on small representative groups before making changes - **include young people who want to have a say**."(18 years, Portugal)*

"Raising of awareness, **strict guidelines**, quick ways to delete and report inappropriate content"(17 years, Netherlands)

*"Young people, who are the people which use social media the most, must be put at the centre of these industry's agenda and should be catered for. Industry must commit to make their platforms **more child-friendly** and safer and include more checks and balances when it comes what content pops up on the app." (17 years, Malta)*

*"More **focus on regulating** comments, videos and pictures. Less focus of benefits for the company (money), more focus on user's well-being."(19 years, Luxembourg)*

*"**Better filtering on comments and posts.** For example fact checks and **"learn more about this subject" - buttons on posts** that are about sensitive and possibly harmful subjects. The systems for reporting users and the filtering of hateful speech could also be more efficient - especially with less spoken languages." (16 years, Finland)*

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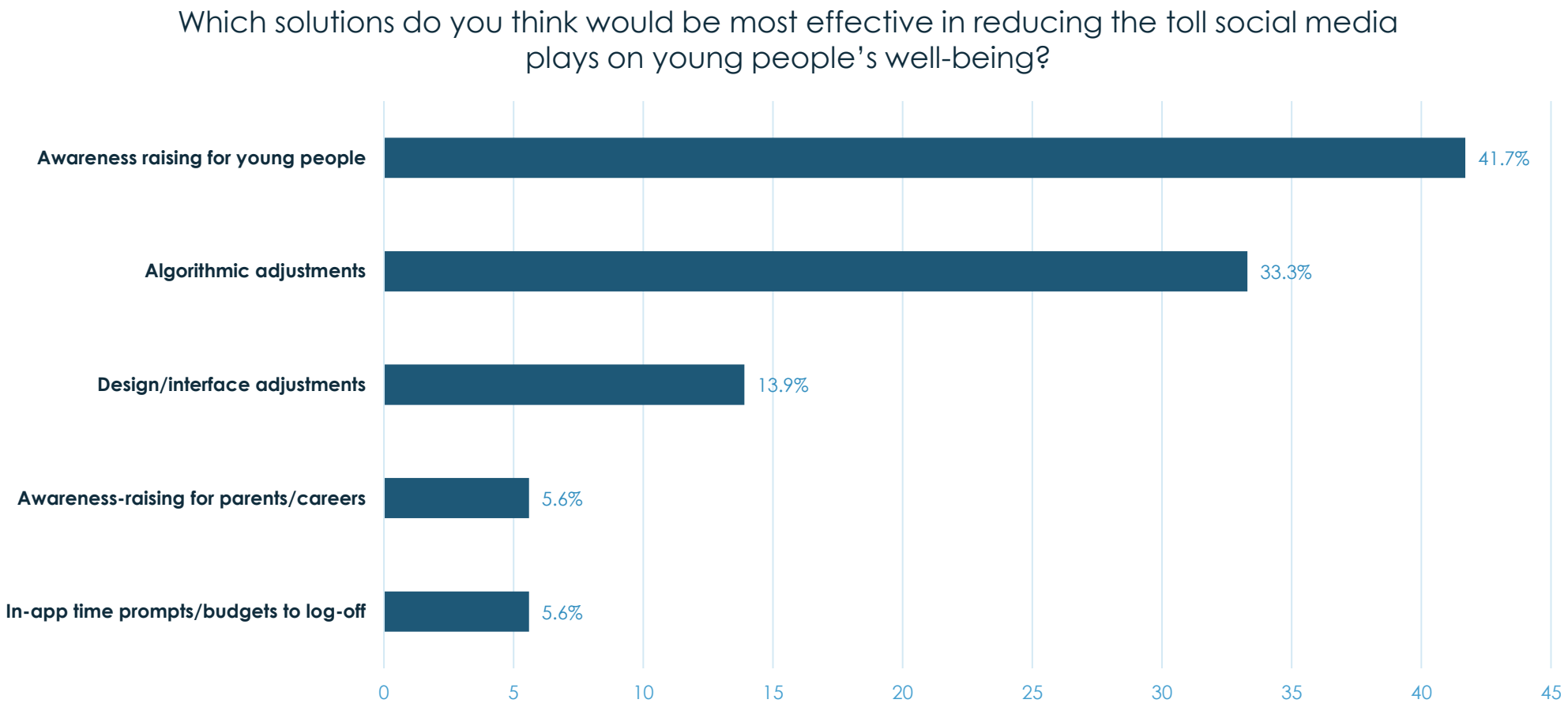
Better Internet for Kids

BIK Youth views on solutions



Source: Poll question asked at DSA event (June 2023)

What else?

"Awareness should not just be about cyberbullying, but it should also be about how different videos, photos and content we see might affect us mentally as well as physically." (17 years, Malta)

*"More awareness and education about **young people's rights online**." (19 years, Ireland)*

"***Good effective identification and logging in**, information to help what to share and how to deal with scams and bullies and coping with all the bad things and how can I make the online place better, I know pretty much about those already, but someone might not and **there´s never too much information about making online safer and a better place**. "(19 years, Finland)*

"Although many major social media platforms have prompts which tell you that it is time to log-off, these have to be switched on by the user and not a lot of people use it, I would make it so that the **log-off button is always turned on** by the social media platform."(17 years, Malta)

Thank you!

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