Risky communication online

# Details

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## Language

English

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## Type

Short report

## Topics

* Risks and harms
* Online safety and policy regulation
* Internet usage, practices and engagement

## Sample

EU Kids Online conducted a face-to-face, in home survey of 25,000 9-16 year old internet users and their parents in 25 countries, using a stratified random sample and self-completion methods for sensitive questions.

# Abstract

Which European 11-16 year olds who use the internet say, “I find it easier to be myself on the internet than when I am with people face-to-face”?
-37% say this is ‘a bit true’ for them, both girls and boys, of all ages from 11-16.
-12% say it is ‘very true’ for them, and they are:
--more likely to have problems with their peers, suggesting that they are seeking online relationships to compensate for offline ones;
--more likely to look for new friends online, to ‘add’ people or send personal information to
people that they haven’t met face to face, or to pretend to be a different kind of person.

While most children enjoy communicating online, for those with peer problems offline, internet use may increase risky communication online.

# Outcome

-Half of European 11-16 year olds find it easier to be themselves online than offline.
-1 in 8 find that statement to be 'very true'
-Nearly half (45%) talk about different things on the internet than when speaking to people face-to-face
-Peer problems are strongly associated with an increased likelihood of saying it's 'very true' that 'I find it easier to be myself on the internet'
-"Those who say it is ‘very true’ that it is easier to be oneself online than offline are more likely to undertake several types of risky communication" (Livingstone Ólafsson, 2011, p. 3)