Multiple online victimization of Spanish adolescents: Results from a community sample

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## Sample

The sample consisted of 3,897 adolescents between 12 and 17 years old (M = 14.45, SD =1.59), 1,836 males and 2,049 females, recruited from 39 secondary schools in the east of Spain

## Implications For Parents About

Parenting guidance / support

## Implications For Policy Makers About

## Implications For Stakeholders About

Researchers

# Abstract

Little is known about online victimization of Spanish adolescents. The present study aims
to determine the past-year prevalence of online victimization in a community sample
of Spanish adolescents. The final sample consisted of 3,897 adolescents between 12 and
17 years old (M = 14.45, SD = 1.59), 1,836 males and 2,049 females, recruited from 39
secondary schools in the east of Spain. The Cuestionario de victimización juvenil mediante
internet y/o teléfono móvil (hereinafter, Juvenile Online Victimization Questionnaire, JOV-Q,
Montiel Carbonell, 2012) was applied for the assessment of eight types of online victimization
grouped in two major domains: sexual (sexual coercion, sexual pressure, online
grooming by an adult, unwanted exposure to sexual content and violation of privacy); and
nonsexual victimization (online harassment, happy slapping, pressure to obtain personal
information). Sixty-one percent of adolescents reported online victimization during the
last year. Online sexual victimization was reported by 39.5% of adolescents and nonsexual
victimization by 53.4% of them, whereas 31% of youth reported having experienced online
victimization in both domains. The highest prevalence rates were recorded for online
harassment (50%), unwanted exposure to sexual content (24.4%), pressure to obtain
personal information (18.4%) and online grooming by an adult (17.2%), and the lowest for
sexual coercion (6.7%) and happy slapping (2.2%). Thirty-five percent of the adolescents
were considered online polyvictims and most of them experienced victimization in both
sexual and nonsexual domains (88%). This study illustrates that Spanish adolescents
experience high levels of online victimization and that multiple online victimization
appears to be the norm among cybervictims.

# Outcome

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were considered online polyvictims and most of them experienced victimization in both
sexual and nonsexual domains (88%).
This study illustrates that Spanish adolescents experience high levels of online victimization and that multiple online victimization appears to be the norm among cybervictims.
The results obtained underline that clinicians and researchers should inquire about a wide range of online victimization experiences, and avoid assessments organized around a single form of online victimization. In this manner, they could identify adolescents who have suffered multiple online victimizations, and could thus tailor prevention and intervention programs to the full range of threats that children and youth face online.