Understanding risky online behavior of 14 – 17 years old Russian children (St. Petersburg and Leningrad region)

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Context for the research

- In Russia a number of research, awareness raising and prevention campaigns, rehabilitation programs on the issue have been conducted since the beginning of 2000s;
- At the moment National Plan of Action on Children’s Best Interests for 2013 – 2020 is being developed by the Child Ombudsman Office with participation of representatives of Ministries, experts and civil society. Measures to protect children in different areas including protection from vulnerable information will be included into the plan.
General information about research

Main implementing organization: 
NGO “Vremya Git”

Financial support: NGO “Soprotivlenie”

Period: August – September 2011

Geography: St. Petersburg and Leningrad region

Method: Survey

Sample

Sample: 14 – 17 years old children who study in different types of educational institutions (schools, vocational schools and universities) (N=1000).

4 stages:
1. Quota sample of St. Petersburg districts (3 central districts and 8 sleeping districts of St. Petersburg and 2 districts of Leningrad region);
2. Random sample of educational institutions (3 educational institutions in each district, at least 2 types of educational institutions in each district);
3. Purposive sample of school classes (main criteria – approx. equal number of boys and girls of different age groups);
4. All children who were in the class at the moment of survey and who were interested in taking part in the study took part in the survey.
Gender

- Male: 42%
- Female: 58%

Geography

- St. Petersburg: 94%
- Leningrad region: 6%
**Type of educational institution**

- School: 82%
- Vocational school: 10%
- University: 8%

**Age**

- 16 y.o.: 31%
- 15 y.o.: 30%
- 14 y.o.: 15%
- 17 y.o.: 24%
Risky online behavior

Within 12 months before the survey:
- 63.9% - added to their friends list in social networks or address book people whom they never met in real life;
- 61.8% - were looking for a new friend online;
- 42.2% - sent personal contact details (telephone, address) to people they have never met in real life;
- 37.6% – sent photos or videos containing images of themselves to people whom they never met in real life.

Within the life 52.3% have ever dated someone whom they initially met online (Me=4), 2.7% of them have experienced sexual harassment.

Factors of risky online behavior we have checked

1. Socio-demographic characteristics:
   - Gender
   - Age
   - Level of income
2. Health
3. Family factors
   - Type of family
   - Number of siblings
   - Parental control over Internet use
Factors of risky online behavior we have checked (end)

4. Referent group
- Satisfaction of the relations with friends

5. School factors
- Type of educational institution
- Level of school performance
- Discussions on Internet safety at school

6. Characteristics of computer and Internet use

Risky behavior: looking for a new friends online at least once within 12 months before the study

- Using Internet in a private room (bedroom)
  - AOR = 1.49 (CI: 1.04 – 2.96), p<0.05

- Parents know something or very little about what child is doing online
  - AOR = 1.43 (CI: 1.06 – 1.92), p≤0.05

- Vocational or boarding school
  - AOR = 1.75 (CI: 1.04 – 2.96), p<0.05
Risky behavior: adding at least once within 12 months before study to a contact list people whom a child never met in real life

- Adding unknown people to a contact list
  - AOR = 1.52 (CI: 1.07 – 2.16), p ≤ 0.05
  - AOR = 1.79 (CI: 1.33 – 2.41), p ≤ 0.001
- Using Internet in a private room (bedroom)
  - Older children
  - Parents know something or very little about what child is doing online
  - AOR = 1.19 (CI: 1.03 – 1.37), p ≤ 0.05
  - AOR = 1.79 (CI: 1.33 – 2.41), p ≤ 0.001
- There are no brothers or sisters

Risky behavior: sending at least once within 12 months before study personal contact details to unknown people

- Sending personal contact details to unknown people
  - AOR = 1.57 (CI: 1.15 – 2.14), p ≤ 0.01
  - AOR = 1.80 (CI: 1.17 – 2.76), p ≤ 0.01
- Using Internet in a private room (bedroom)
  - Poor school performance
  - Parents know something or very little about what child is doing online
  - AOR = 1.52 (CI: 1.02 – 1.97), p ≤ 0.05
  - AOR = 1.5 (CI: 1.07 – 2.11), p ≤ 0.01
- There are no brothers or sisters
Risky behavior: sending at least once within 12 months before study photo or video to unknown people

- **Sending photo or video to unknown people**
  - AOR = 1.52 (CI: 1.1 – 2.09), p<0.05

- **Using Internet in a private room (bedroom)**
  - AOR = 1.61 (CI: 1.03 – 2.52), p<0.05

- **Parents know something or very little about what child is doing online**
  - AOR = 2.00 (CI: 1.37 – 2.91), p<0.001

- **There are no brothers or sisters**
  - AOR = 0.84 (CI: 0.71 – 0.99), p<0.05

- **No discussions on Internet safety at school**
  - AOR = 1.55 (CI: 1.11 – 2.16), p<0.05

- **Older children**

Risky behavior: dating in real life at least once with a person whom they initially met online

- **Meeting with virtual friends in real life**
  - AOR = 1.51 (CI: 1.16 – 1.95), p<0.01

- **Vocational or boarding school**
  - AOR = 1.63 (CI: 1.04 – 2.57), p<0.05

- **Discussions on Internet safety at school**
  - AOR = 0.75 (CI: 0.66 – 0.85), p<0.001

- **Younger children**
Negative outcome of offline meeting with virtual acquaintance: sexual harassment

- Sexual harassment during offline meeting: AOR = 5.01 (CI: 1.06 – 23.67), \(p\leq 0.05\)
- Middle or lower level of income: AOR = 5.01 (CI: 1.3 – 19.36), \(p\leq 0.05\)
- Poor performance at school

Risk factors

- **Socio-demographic characteristics:** older age (mostly) and middle or lower level of income
- **Family factors:** no siblings, limited knowledge on what child is doing in the Internet
- **School factors:** vocational or boarding school, poor school performance, no (?) discussions on Internet safety at school
- **Characteristics of Internet use:** using Internet in a private room/bedroom
Thank you very much for your attention!

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