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# Responding to Online Threats: Minors' Perspectives on Disclosing, Reporting, and Blocking in 2021

Findings from 2021 quantitative research among 9-17-year-olds

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Research conducted by Thorn in partnership with Benenson Strategy Group

THORN 

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Group

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# Acknowledgments

Understanding the complex intersection of technology and child sexual abuse empowers us to safeguard kids from the ever-evolving threats they face online. Without direct insights from kids who are encountering these issues every day, we risk falling behind in developing valuable resources for them to navigate the digital age safely.

## THANK YOU

We are grateful to the kids who took the time to participate in our research. Without their gracious participation, we would not be able to share these key insights about the hurdles to disclosure from online harms.

This report was commissioned and published by Thorn. Thorn is a 501c(3) organization with a mission to build technology to defend children from sexual abuse. For more information about Thorn, please visit our website: [www.thorn.org](http://www.thorn.org). For inquiries about this research, please send an email to [research@thorn.org](mailto:research@thorn.org).

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# Introduction

Since 2019, Thorn has undertaken multiple research initiatives into a key area of concern for those working to combat online child sexual exploitation: **self-generated child sexual abuse material (SG-CSAM)**. Research shows this imagery can result from both consensual and coercive interactions. The imagery's distribution beyond a consensual exchange represents serious harms to the child.

As part of a larger portfolio of research into the issue of SG-CSAM, in 2020, Thorn surveyed 1,000 minors aged 9-17 about their attitudes and experiences around online interventions (e.g., blocking or reporting users) within the context of potentially harmful online sexual interactions.<sup>1</sup> The findings from that survey revealed (1) minors reported having online sexual interactions with both peers and adults at concerning similar rates; (2) minors were more than twice as likely to use online safety tools to combat potentially harmful online sexual interactions than they were to use offline support systems (i.e., caregivers or peers); (3) minors more commonly used blocking tools compared with reporting tools; and (4) online safety tools like blocking and reporting were not sufficient in protecting minors from continued harassment by another user on a platform.

## TERMINOLOGY

### SG-CSAM

Explicit imagery of a child that appears to have been taken by the child in the image. This imagery can result from both consensual or coercive experiences.

Thorn fielded that survey again in 2021, and those results are provided in this report. The 2021 data largely reinforced findings from the previous year's findings:

**1. Minors continued to report experiencing online sexual interactions with peers and individuals they perceived to be adults at similar rates.**

**2. Minors remained nearly 2 ½ times as likely to respond to online sexual interactions by using online support tools compared with offline support systems.**

**3. Minors continue to prefer blocking over reporting as the primary online safety feature when responding to online sexual interactions.**

**4. Minors continue to experience recontacts at a high rate, with one-half of minors experiencing recontacts from problematic users after blocking or reporting them.**

<sup>1</sup> Thorn. (2021). Responding to Online Threats: Minors' Perspectives on Disclosing, Reporting, and Blocking. Available at: <https://www.thorn.org/thorn-research-minors-perspectives-on-disclosing-reporting-and-blocking/>

# Methodology & Research Design

Research into youth experiences – and how they intersect with the potential for harmful online interactions – continues to present unique challenges within an ever-changing digital environment. Survey authors have included here a brief discussion of some of these challenges and their corresponding mitigation strategies.

## Challenges

**CHALLENGE:** The issues and risks associated with online SG-CSAM exist within a dynamic online environment where the technologies and platforms intersecting with this issue area are in constant flux, as are the habits of the kids who use them.

**Action:** *This research relies on dynamic social research methodologies, which enable faster collection and analysis of data, to ensure it best reflects the current digital landscape. Because design limitations restrict the number of platforms shown to participants, this survey includes a diverse but non-exhaustive list of platforms, with top priority given to social platforms. The final list is informed by historical research, external reports, and expert consultation, and is reevaluated for the needs of each individual survey.*

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**CHALLENGE:** Attitudes towards sexuality vary widely across demographics.

**Action:** *This is a universal issue, but the way it impacts kids differs across demographics. This research aims to identify trends among kids overall, as well as within some significant subgroups – such as age and gender groups. A secondary objective was to get a broad understanding of how trends around this issue manifest differently across demographics. To this end, enhanced quotas were used in 2021 to ensure large enough base sizes of 9-17-year-olds of color for analysis. Nevertheless, given sample size limitations, some of the data points within subgroups are more appropriately viewed as starting points.*

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**CHALLENGE:** Entrenched stigma and sensitivity surrounding the topic may lead to an undercounting of the scale and frequency.

**Action:** *Asking individuals – especially kids – to open up about a subject as delicate and personal as sharing nude images of themselves likely activates self-report bias, where participants lean into more socially desirable responses. It also requires the design of survey instruments that are safe and supportive. Sequence was*

*important in our research instruments: each sensitive question was prefaced with a note acknowledging the difficulty of discussing the topic and reiterating the anonymity of the responses. Questions were also written in a manner that gave the space or permission for individuals to answer generally about “people they know” in lieu of exclusively asking respondents point-blank about their own online experiences. Resources for additional information and referrals for real-time support were highlighted in all survey instruments.*

**CHALLENGE:** This study captured SG-CSAM attitudes and behaviors during 2021 – a year in which a worldwide pandemic (COVID-19) continued to influence kids, their online experiences, and their social relationships.

**Action:** *The researchers acknowledge that the continued and ever-changing pandemic inhibits our ability to distinguish the precise role COVID-19 has had on the ways kids explore and interact with their online worlds. As with the research conducted in 2020, the 2021 survey did include one question to record participants’ perception of the pandemic’s impact on the frequency of SG-CSAM experiences among their peers. A brief discussion of this data is included on page 39.*

## Research Design

This research represents a continuation of research originally performed in 2020.<sup>2</sup> Quantitative survey tools were used in 2020 and 2021 to collect self-reported data from minors aged 9-17.<sup>3</sup>

### QUANTITATIVE ONLINE SURVEY

In 2021, the research was designed to identify and monitor changes in minors’ perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors related to harmful online experiences and related disclosure as originally benchmarked by the quantitative research conducted in 2020. The 2021 survey repeated the majority of questions originally fielded in 2020 and added a small number of questions designed to deepen our understanding of youth experiences. Throughout the report, figures presenting data collected from new questions will be marked with: **NEW**.

In total, 2,282 minors from across the United States participated in an 18-minute online survey from October 27 to December 1, 2021. Specifically, sample makeup included:

- n=659 9-12-year-olds
- n=1,623 13-17-year-olds

However, only the demographic questions and some of the broader questions, such as those related to platform usage, were asked of the entire sample. For the majority of the survey, kids were split evenly and randomly into two groups and shown a set of questions based on the group to which they were assigned. One group was shown questions pertaining to the Experience of and Attitudes About Sharing SG-CSAM which was reported on in 2022.<sup>4</sup> The current report will focus on the

<sup>2</sup> Thorn. (2021). Responding to Online Threats: Minors’ Perspectives on Disclosing, Reporting, and Blocking. Available at: <https://www.thorn.org/thorn-research-minors-perspectives-on-disclosing-reporting-and-blocking/>

<sup>3</sup> In the context of this report, and unless otherwise noted, the term “minors” is used to describe young people represented in the survey sample (9-17-year-olds).

<sup>4</sup> Thorn. (2022). Self-Generated Child Sexual Abuse Material: Youth Attitudes and Experiences in 2021. Available at: [https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_SG-CSAM\\_Monitoring\\_2021.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_SG-CSAM_Monitoring_2021.pdf)

Responding to Online Threats<sup>5</sup> questions, which were asked of 1,141 minors. Specifically, this sample included:

- n=326 9-12-year-olds
- n=815 13-17-year-olds

As mentioned, the 2021 research sought to ensure large enough base sizes to analyze the data by specific racial and ethnic subgroups and as a result, incorporated an increased recruitment of minor participants who identified as persons of color within the 2021 cohort.<sup>6</sup> The subsequent racial and ethnic breakdown was:

- n=447: White
- n=694: Persons of color (POC) (e.g., total respondents that identified as a racial or ethnic group other than “white”<sup>7</sup>)
  - n=310: African American/Black/Caribbean American
  - n=271: Hispanic or Latino
  - n=148 Other POC<sup>8</sup>
    - n=95: Asian or Pacific Islander
    - n=39: Native American or American Indian
    - n=7: Middle Eastern
    - n=13: Other

Throughout the report, data regarding racial and ethnic breakdowns from 2020 is shown to provide context to the 2021 data. However, given comparatively smaller sample sizes for those groups in the 2020 research, the prior years’ racial and ethnic subgroup data should be considered directional.

<sup>5</sup> In prior reports this survey branch was referred to “Hurdles to Disclosure.”

<sup>6</sup> Base sizes for racial and ethnic subgroups will not add up to the total base size of n=1,141 because some participants identified as multiple racial or ethnic identities.

<sup>7</sup> Participants who identified as “white” and another race or ethnicity (n=109) were coded as the other race or ethnicity they selected. Among this subsample, 29 participants identified as white and another race or ethnicity which fell into the “Other POC” category.

<sup>8</sup> For the purpose of reporting racial and ethnic findings within this report, individual groups with a sample size greater than 100 are reported individually, while all groups with a sample size less than 100 were clustered together as “Other POC.”

To ensure a representative nationwide sample, data was weighted to age, gender, race, and geography based on US Census data.

## A Note on Data Reporting

Due to rounding, many of the figures included in this report may not have columns or rows that add up to exactly 100%. Some questions also featured multi-select response options, which have been noted.

## A Note on Privacy and Safety

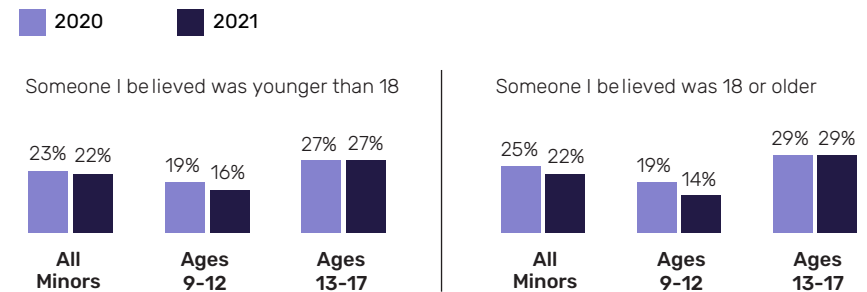
Ensuring the privacy and safety of those who chose to participate in this research was paramount. All participant responses were anonymized. Minor participants were recruited via existing youth panels or directly through caregivers at the time of this survey. Caregiver consent was required for minors’ participation in youth panels, as well as for those minors recruited directly for the survey. In addition, help resources were provided to participants in the event they wanted to learn more about the topics discussed or needed professional support to talk about these issues.

# Disclosure Metrics at a Glance

As the online world continues to evolve, so do the threats minors face and the methods in which they experience and respond to them. Minors look to different outlets for help when confronted with potentially harmful online experiences: offline support (such as parents and peers) and online support (such as platform-based safety tools like blocking or reporting tools). In order to understand minors' experiences related to how they seek out help in the face of potentially harmful online experiences, it is critical to track youth experiences and behaviors over time. This section is intended to provide a broad overview of minors' potentially harmful online experiences, as well as how they respond to them, in 2020 and 2021. In-depth demographic segmentation, including age, gender, sexual identity, and race and ethnicity, is featured in subsequent sections of this report.

**Fig 1 | Percentage of minors who have had an online sexual interaction with peers or adults**

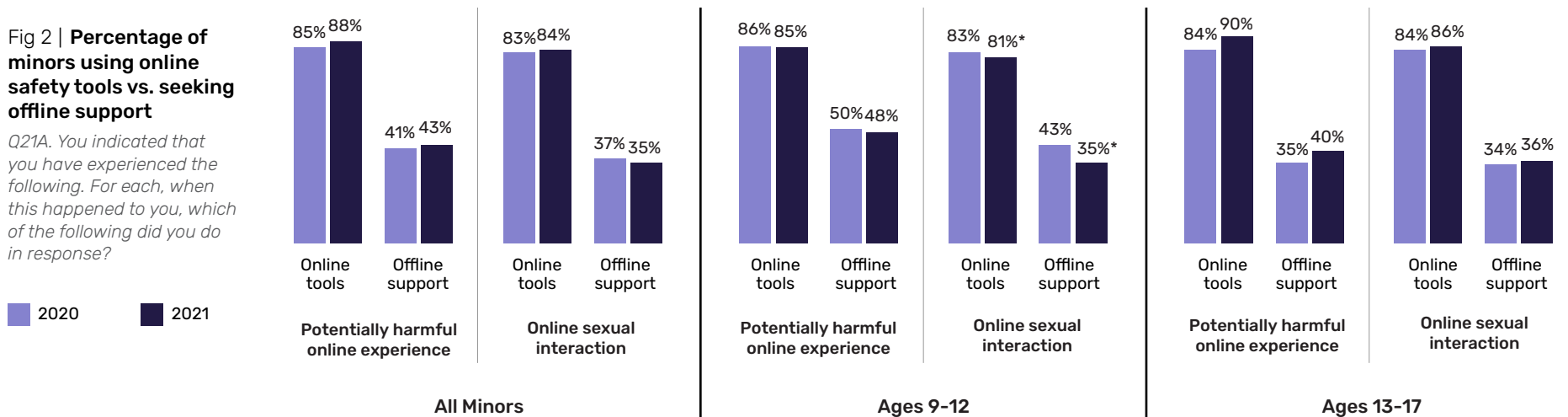
Q19B. Please indicate if you have ever experienced any of the following on a platform? Please select all that apply and remember that your answers are anonymous.



Note: Percentages reflect the net percentage of minors who indicated they experienced any sexual interaction on a platform. See Figure 5 for a more in-depth breakdown.

**Fig 2 | Percentage of minors using online safety tools vs. seeking offline support**

Q21A. You indicated that you have experienced the following. For each, when this happened to you, which of the following did you do in response?



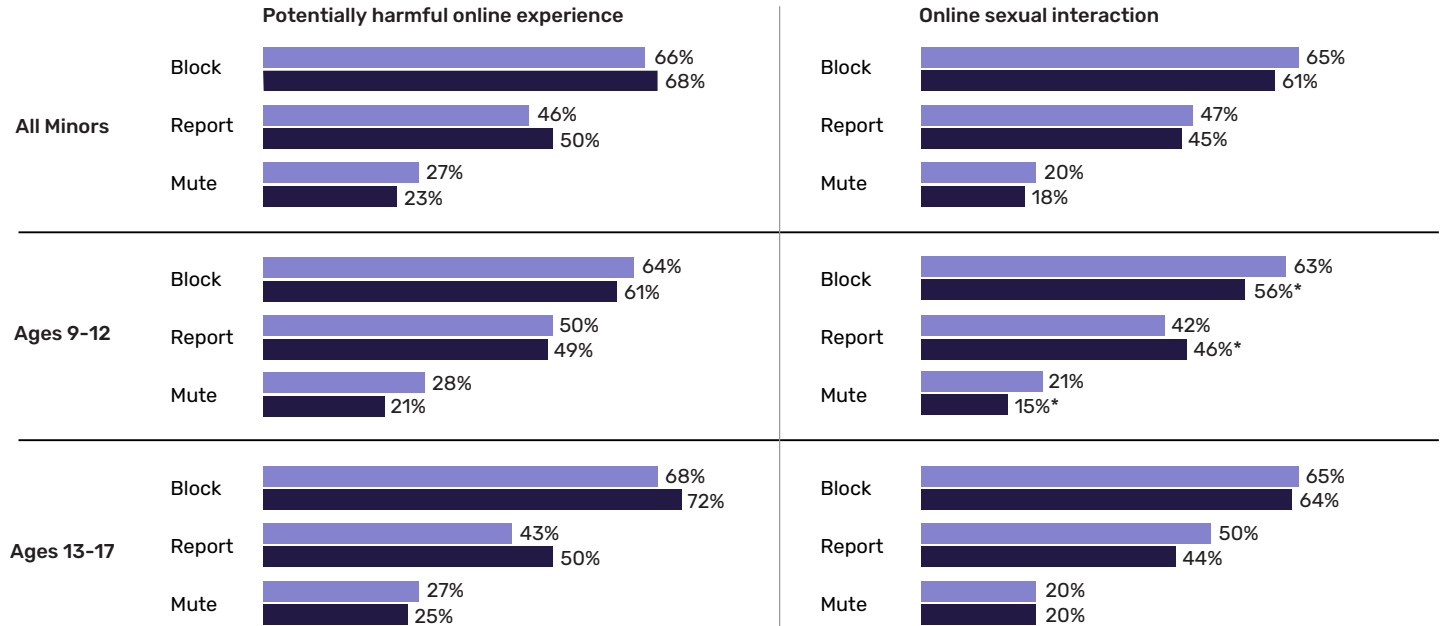
Note: Columns will total more than 100 because question was multiple select. "Online tools" reflects the net percentage of minors who selected "Block the person," "Report the person to the platform," or "Mute the person." "Offline support" reflects the net percentage of minors who selected "Tell a friend what happened" or "Tell a parent, caregiver, or other trusted adult what happened." \*Base size <100



**Fig 3 | Minors' use of online safety tools, by tool type**

Q21A. You indicated that you have experienced the following. For each, when this happened to you, which of the following did you do in response?

2020 2021

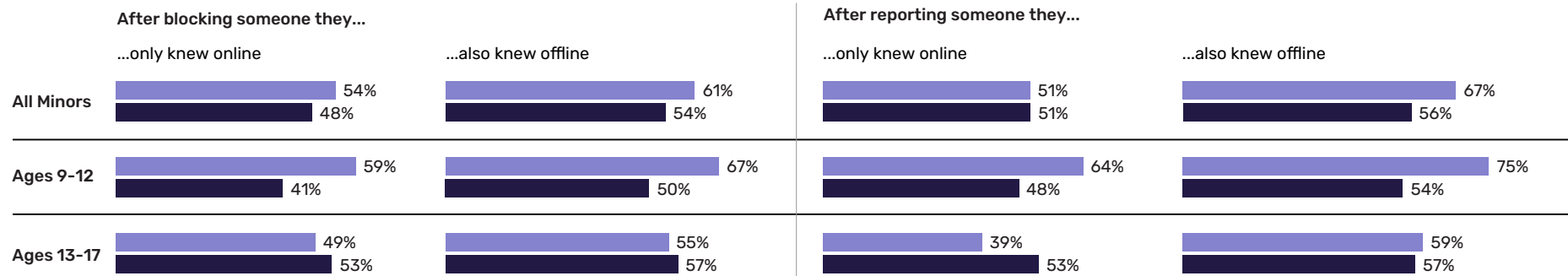


Note: Columns will total more than 100 because question was multiple select.  
\*Base size <100

**Fig 4 | Rates of recontacts, by online safety tool type**

Q24A. Below is the list of platforms you indicated you have blocked someone you only know online. For each please indicate if after you blocked someone on this platform, that person ever... // Q29A. Below is the list of platforms you indicated you have reported someone you only know online on. For each please indicate if after you reported someone on this platform, that person ever... // Q24B. Below is the list of platforms you indicated you have blocked someone you also know offline/in real life. For each please indicate if after you blocked someone on this platform, that person ever... // Q29B. Below is the list of platforms you indicated you have reported someone you also know offline/in real life on. For each please indicate if after you reported someone on this platform, that person ever...

2020 2021



# Potentially Harmful Online Experiences

While the internet offers young people beneficial opportunities to connect, learn, and play, it also creates new risks and opportunities for them to experience harm. In 2021, the data again revealed that around 1 in 2 (49%) minors reported they had a potentially harmful online experience<sup>9</sup> and nearly 1 in 3 (31%) minors reported they had an online sexual interaction (Fig 5).<sup>10</sup>

**1 in 3**  
minors reported having an online sexual interaction

Fig 5 | Rates of potentially harmful online experiences among minors

Q19B. Please indicate if you have ever experienced any of the following on a platform.

	Potentially harmful online experience		Bullied/made uncomfortable online				Made me feel uncomfortable				Online sexual interaction		Asked me to send a nude photo or video		Asked me to go 'on cam' with a nude or sexually explicit stream		Shared a nude photo or video of themselves with me		Shared a nude photo or video of another kid with me		Sent me sexual messages	
	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-
<b>All Minors</b>	49%	+1	39%	+1	27%	+3	28%	+1	31%	-2	16%	-2	10%	-2	14%	-4	9%	-1	17%	-4		
<b>Girls</b>	50%	0	41%	-1	27%	0	30%	0	35%	+1	20%	-2	10%	-4	16%	-2	10%	0	19%	-6		
<b>Boys</b>	48%	+5	37%	+7	27%	+6	24%	+4	27%	-2	11%	-1	9%	0	11%	-5	8%	-2	13%	-2		
<b>Ages 9-12</b>	44%	-3	36%	-2	26%	-2	22%	0	20%	-7	10%	-4	6%	-2	9%	-4	6%	-3	8%	-7		
<b>Girls</b>	41%	-5	32%	-6	22%	-7	20%	+1	21%	-5	10%	-4	4%	-6	11%	0	7%	-2	8%	-8		
<b>Boys</b>	46%	-2	38%	+2	27%	+1	22%	-2	20%	-7	10%	-2	8%	+2	7%	-8	6%	-3	9%	-4		
<b>Ages 13-17</b>	53%	+4	42%	+4	28%	+6	32%	+2	39%	+2	21%	+1	12%	-3	17%	-4	11%	-1	23%	-3		
<b>Girls</b>	58%	+4	48%	+2	30%	+6	39%	0	46%	+5	28%	0	14%	-2	20%	-5	12%	+1	29%	-3		
<b>Boys</b>	49%	+9	37%	+12	26%	+10	25%	+9	33%	+2	13%	+2	10%	-2	14%	-3	11%	0	17%	0		
<b>LGBTQ+</b>	62%	+5	54%	+9	32%	+3	45%	+11	50%	+8	27%	+3	12%	-7	27%	-5	15%	-2	32%	0		
<b>Non-LGBTQ+</b>	46%	0	36%	-1	26%	+2	24%	-1	26%	-4	13%	-3	9%	-1	10%	-7	8%	-1	13%	-5		
<b>African American</b>	53%	-5	39%	0	28%	+1	25%	+5	36%	-1	19%	+3	13%	+1	13%	-3	12%	+1	19%	-3		
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	53%	+5	40%	+4	29%	+5	28%	+1	34%	+1	15%	-4	11%	-2	18%	0	9%	-2	16%	-5		
<b>Other POC</b>	43%	+7	39%	+10	25%	+2	35%	+11	32%	+6	22%	+8	8%	-2	13%	-4	9%	+1	20%	+2		
<b>White</b>	48%	-2	39%	-2	26%	+1	27%	-2	28%	-6	15%	-5	8%	-6	12%	-6	8%	-4	17%	-5		

Note: Rows will total more than 100 because question was multiple select.

<sup>9</sup> "Potentially harmful online experience" is an aggregate label applied by the researchers during analysis to any of the individual response options.

<sup>10</sup> Response options coded as an "online sexual interaction" included being asked for a nude image or video, being asked to go "on cam" with a nude or sexually explicit stream, being sent a nude photo or video, or being sent sexually explicit messages.

# 1 in 5

minors reported having an online sexual interaction with someone they believed to be an adult

# 1 in 7

9-12-year-olds reported having an online sexual interaction with someone they believed to be an adult

# 2x

LGBTQ+ minors were twice as likely to report having an online sexual interaction with someone they believed to be an adult compared with their non-LGBTQ+ counterparts

In 2021, teen boys reported an overall increase (+9%) in potentially harmful online experiences, driven primarily by an increase in online experiences of bullying (+10%) and being made to feel uncomfortable (+9%). LGBTQ+ youth also reported increases in online experiences of being made to feel uncomfortable (+11%) and in online sexual interactions (+8%). Compared with their non-LGBTQ+ counterparts (46%), LGBTQ+ youth (62%) were almost 1 ½ times more likely to report experiencing a potentially harmful online interaction. In 2021, African American youth (36%) and Hispanic and Latino youth (34%) were more likely to report having an online sexual interaction compared with their white peers (28%).

Like in 2020, the rate of minors who reported having online sexual interactions with adults and other minors in 2021 remained similar: approximately 1 in 5 (22%) minors

reported having online sexual interactions with adults and other minors (Fig 6). LGBTQ+ youth and teen girls (aged 13-17) remained the most likely to report having an online sexual interaction with adults and teens. Nevertheless, and despite a slight decrease (-5%) from 2020, 1 in 7 (14%), 9-12-year-olds reported they had an online sexual interaction with an adult. Notable decreases in reported online sexual interactions with adults were identified among younger boys (aged 9-12) (-8%) and white youth (-8%).

Alarming, in 2021, the gap between LGBTQ+ minors and their non-LGBTQ+ counterparts in their rates of online sexual experiences with adults widened: LGBTQ+ minors (40%) were twice as likely to report having an online sexual interaction with an adult compared with their non-LGBTQ+ counterparts (18%).

**Fig 6 | Online sexual interactions of minors involving peers and adults**

Q19B. Please indicate if you have ever experienced any of the following on a platform.

Someone I believed was 18 or older...	Online sexual interaction		...asked me to send a nude photo or video		...asked me to go 'on cam' with a nude or sexually explicit stream		...shared a nude photo or video of themselves with me		...shared a nude photo or video of another kid with me		...sent me sexual messages	
	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-
<b>All Minors</b>	22%	-3	9%	-3	6%	-3	10%	-2	5%	-1	11%	-5
<b>Girls</b>	25%	-1	11%	-4	7%	-3	12%	-2	6%	0	12%	-7
<b>Boys</b>	19%	-3	7%	0	5%	-1	6%	-3	4%	-2	10%	-1
<b>Ages 9-12</b>	14%	-5	4%	-4	3%	-2	6%	-2	3%	-2	4%	-6
<b>Girls</b>	15%	-1	3%	-4	3%	-3	8%	+1	4%	+1	3%	-7
<b>Boys</b>	13%	-8	4%	-4	3%	0	5%	-3	1%	-5	6%	-3
<b>Ages 13-17</b>	29%	0	14%	-1	9%	-3	13%	-2	7%	0	16%	-4
<b>Girls</b>	34%	0	16%	-6	11%	-2	16%	-4	8%	0	18%	-8
<b>Boys</b>	24%	+1	9%	+2	7%	-2	8%	-1	6%	+1	13%	+1
<b>LGBTQ+</b>	40%	+8	17%	+1	11%	-4	22%	+5	11%	+1	23%	-3
<b>Non-LGBTQ+</b>	18%	-4	7%	-3	5%	-2	7%	-3	4%	-1	8%	-5
<b>African American</b>	29%	+4	13%	0	10%	+1	10%	0	6%	+1	15%	+3
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	26%	-1	11%	-3	8%	-2	12%	-2	5%	0	12%	-6
<b>Other POC</b>	24%	+5	13%	+4	4%	-5	10%	0	5%	0	13%	-3
<b>White</b>	19%	-8	8%	-5	5%	-4	9%	-2	5%	-2	10%	-6

Someone I believed was younger than 18...	Online sexual interaction		...asked me to send a nude photo or video		...asked me to go 'on cam' with a nude or sexually explicit stream		...shared a nude photo or video of themselves with me		...shared a nude photo or video of another kid with me		...sent me sexual messages	
	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-
<b>All Minors</b>	22%	-1	11%	0	5%	-3	7%	-3	6%	-1	10%	-3
<b>Girls</b>	26%	+2	14%	-1	5%	-4	7%	-3	7%	0	13%	-3
<b>Boys</b>	19%	-2	7%	0	5%	-1	6%	-4	6%	0	6%	-3
<b>Ages 9-12</b>	16%	-3	7%	-1	4%	-2	4%	-3	5%	0	5%	-4
<b>Girls</b>	16%	-3	8%	-2	3%	-5	3%	-3	4%	-4	6%	-4
<b>Boys</b>	17%	-2	6%	-1	5%	+2	4%	-4	6%	+3	4%	-2
<b>Ages 13-17</b>	27%	0	13%	-1	6%	-3	10%	-3	7%	-1	14%	-3
<b>Girls</b>	34%	+6	18%	-1	7%	-2	10%	-3	9%	+2	19%	-1
<b>Boys</b>	21%	-2	8%	+2	6%	-2	8%	-4	6%	-2	8%	-3
<b>LGBTQ+</b>	34%	+4	17%	0	5%	-4	12%	+1	9%	-1	19%	-2
<b>Non-LGBTQ+</b>	20%	-2	9%	-1	5%	-2	6%	-4	6%	0	8%	-3
<b>African American</b>	25%	+1	9%	+1	6%	0	6%	-3	8%	+1	8%	-7
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	24%	+1	10%	-1	4%	-3	9%	0	5%	-2	10%	-5
<b>Other POC</b>	27%	+7	16%	+5	5%	-2	5%	-6	6%	-1	11%	+2
<b>White</b>	20%	-5	10%	-3	5%	-4	7%	-5	6%	-1	11%	-3

Note: Rows will total more than 100 because question was multiple select.

## The Digital Landscape

The digital landscape where minors form connections remains dynamic and continues to present both beneficial and harmful opportunities for interactions.<sup>11</sup> Young people continue to use the same platforms as adults, despite age limitations in the policies of many platforms. Similar to 2020, many minors reported increased usage on some platforms in 2021, while others dropped off.<sup>12</sup> Gaming platforms such as Roblox (+12%), Fortnite (+10%), and Minecraft (+9%) showed the greatest increase in the number of minors who reported they have ever used them, driven primarily by younger users (aged 9-12) (Fig 7). Roblox (+8%), TikTok (+8%), and Minecraft (+5%) showed the greatest increases in minors who reported daily use where the increases in usage were more generally distributed across both age cohorts (Fig 8). Decreases in daily usage were most pronounced on Google Hangouts (-16%), Among Us (-13%), and Instagram (-8%) (however, Instagram remained among the top five most used platforms daily by minors). In 2021, the top five platforms used by minors at least once a day were YouTube (79%), TikTok (53%), Instagram (42%), Snapchat (42%), and Facebook (36%).

11 These questions were asked of a sample of n=2,000 minors (subsequent questions focused specifically on blocking, reporting, and disclosure were asked of a subset of this sample, n=1,000 minors).

12 Platforms where percent change data is not available indicate platforms added into the 2021 survey. For more detail on how platforms were selected for this survey, see the Methodology & Research Design section of this report.

Fig 7 | General platform use among minors – Ever used

Q14B. How often do you use/check/play each of the following?

	All Minors		Ages 9-12		Ages 13-17	
	2021	+ / -	2021	+ / -	2021	+ / -
Amino	6%	-4	4%	-4	7%	-4
Among Us	43%	0	44%	+21	42%	-17
Byte	4%	-1	4%	-1	4%	0
Call of Duty	52%	+4	48%	+3	55%	+4
Chatroulette	4%	-	5%	-	4%	-
Discord	34%	0	24%	+4	43%	-2
Facebook	61%	-1	52%	-14	67%	+7
Fortnite	57%	+10	61%	+14	54%	+7
Google Hangouts/ Meet	51%	-13	47%	-16	54%	-11
GTA	44%	+5	40%	+4	47%	+5
Instagram	66%	-10	49%	-16	79%	-6
Kik	13%	-1	10%	-1	15%	-1
Live.me	7%	-	6%	-	7%	-
Marco Polo	10%	0	11%	-1	9%	+1
Messenger	64%	+2	61%	-8	66%	+10
Minecraft	71%	+9	72%	+15	70%	+5
Monkey	6%	-1	6%	-1	6%	-2
Omegle	13%	-	9%	-	17%	-
OnlyFans	8%	+2	7%	+3	10%	+2
Reddit	34%	+2	26%	+6	41%	0
Roblox	59%	+12	66%	+24	54%	+4
Signal	5%	+3	6%	+3	5%	+3
Slack	6%	0	6%	+1	6%	0
Snapchat	68%	-3	58%	-9	77%	+3
Tagged	5%	+1	5%	0	5%	+2
Telegram	13%	+2	13%	-4	14%	+7
TikTok	75%	+6	69%	+3	80%	+9
Triller	6%	-1	5%	-3	7%	0
Tumblr	34%	-6	27%	-18	39%	+3
Twitch	33%	-3	25%	-5	39%	-2
Twitter	51%	-8	39%	-17	61%	-1
VSCO	8%	-4	6%	-2	10%	-5
WhatsApp	44%	-3	39%	-16	47%	+7
Whisper	5%	+1	5%	0	4%	0
Wickr	4%	-	4%	-	4%	-
Wink	5%	0	6%	0	4%	-1
Wishbone	7%	-	5%	-	8%	-
YouTube	98%	+1	97%	-1	98%	+1
Yubo	7%	-	5%	-	9%	-

Note: Columns will total more than 100 because question was multiple select. Percentages were derived from the full survey sample (n=2,282).

Fig 8 | **General platform use among minors – At least once a day**

Q14B. How often do you use/check/play each of the following?

	All Minors		Ages 9-12		Ages 13-17	
	2021	+ / -	2021	+ / -	2021	+ / -
Amino	2%	-1	2%	-2	2%	-1
Among Us	10%	-13	13%	0	7%	-24
Byte	2%	+1	1%	0	2%	+1
Call of Duty	15%	-3	14%	-6	15%	-1
Chatroulette	1%	-	1%	-	1%	-
Discord	17%	-2	12%	0	20%	-5
Facebook	36%	0	32%	-13	39%	+11
Fortnite	19%	+2	23%	+1	16%	+3
Google Hangouts/ Meet	17%	-16	16%	-20	18%	-12
GTA	12%	0	11%	-3	13%	+2
Instagram	42%	-8	26%	-14	55%	-4
Kik	3%	-1	3%	-2	3%	0
Live.me	2%	-	2%	-	2%	-
Marco Polo	3%	+1	4%	+1	3%	+2
Messenger	34%	+2	32%	-6	36%	+9
Minecraft	25%	+5	30%	+7	21%	+4
Monkey	2%	0	3%	+1	2%	0
Omegle	4%	-	4%	-	4%	-
OnlyFans	3%	0	3%	+1	3%	0
Reddit	10%	0	9%	+1	10%	-2
Roblox	25%	+8	35%	+13	17%	+4
Signal	2%	+1	3%	+1	2%	+1
Slack	2%	0	3%	+1	2%	0
Snapchat	42%	-5	29%	-11	52%	0
Tagged	2%	+1	2%	0	2%	+2
Telegram	6%	0	5%	-5	7%	+4
TikTok	53%	+8	45%	+4	59%	+10
Triller	3%	+1	2%	0	3%	+1
Tumblr	11%	-2	10%	-8	12%	+3
Twitch	10%	-4	7%	-7	11%	-3
Twitter	24%	-4	19%	-11	29%	+2
VSCO	3%	0	2%	0	3%	-1
WhatsApp	20%	-6	20%	-19	20%	+4
Whisper	2%	+1	3%	+2	2%	+1
Wickr	1%	-	2%	-	1%	-
Wink	2%	0	2%	0	2%	0
Wishbone	2%	-	2%	-	2%	-
YouNow	2%	-1	2%	-3	1%	0
YouTube	79%	-1	78%	0	79%	-2
Yubo	2%	-	2%	-	2%	-

Note: Columns will total more than 100 because question was multiple select. Percentages were derived from the full survey sample (n=2,282). The remainder of the report focuses only on platforms with base sizes above n=100 for "ever used."

Minors were again asked about their usage of online dating platforms. These are platforms that are age-gated exclusively for adult users (aged 18 or older) and are designed to foster romantic connections. In 2021, minors reported a slight increase (+5%) in their usage of dating apps overall, where around 1 in 5 (22%) minors reported they had used an online dating app (Fig 9). This increase was primarily driven by teen boys (aged 13-17) (+12%) and some youth of color. Regardless of age, boys (28%) remained more likely to have used an online dating app than girls (16%) where 1 in 4 (24%) younger boys (aged 9-12) also reported using an online dating app. In 2021, Hispanic and Latino (33%) and African American (28%) youth were much more likely to report dating app usage compared with their white counterparts (17%).

**1 in 4**  
younger boys  
(aged 9-12) have  
used an online  
dating app

Fig 9 | **Dating app usage – Ever used**

*QApps. Do you use any of the following dating apps?*

	2021	+/-
<b>All Minors</b>	22%	+5
<b>Girls</b>	16%	+5
<b>Boys</b>	28%	+5
<b>Ages 9-12</b>	21%	0
<b>Girls</b>	18%	+4
<b>Boys</b>	24%	-3
<b>Ages 13-17</b>	22%	+8
<b>Girls</b>	14%	+5
<b>Boys</b>	31%	+12
<b>LGBTQ+</b>	22%	+3
<b>Non-LGBTQ+</b>	22%	+5
<b>African American</b>	28%	+10
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	33%	+18
<b>Other POC</b>	11%	0
<b>White</b>	17%	-3

Note: Question was multiple select. Participants were asked about Bumble, Grindr, Hinge, and Tinder, as well as given an option to select "Other" and specify the app.

## Potentially Harmful Online Experiences by Platform

What remains clear from minors' self-reported experiences in 2021 is that potentially harmful online experiences, including online sexual interactions, are not relegated to isolated or "dark" corners of the internet. In fact, consistent with findings from 2020, widely popular platforms remained the ones where many of their potentially harmful online experiences occurred.

As in Thorn's 2020 research,<sup>13</sup> this study analyzed minor's online sexual experiences on platforms in two different ways: (1) the share of all minors who have had a given experience on a specific platform, and (2) the share of a platform's users who have had a given experience. The former helps inform where the greatest number of minors are having online sexual

interactions, while the latter illustrates which platforms have the highest rate of these experiences for minor users. In other words, more minors overall may have an online sexual interaction on some of the more widely used platforms, however there may be a greater likelihood of users having an online sexual interaction on lesser-used platforms.

In 2021, there was little change in which platforms minors reported the highest rates of potentially harmful online experiences (Fig 10): the top five platforms were Instagram (24%), Snapchat (23%), Messenger (22%), and Facebook (21%). Platforms where the most minors reported having an online sexual interactions were Snapchat (14%), Instagram (13%), Messenger (12%), Facebook (12%), and Twitter (10%).

13 Thorn. (2021). Responding to Online Threats: Minors' Perspectives on Disclosing, Reporting, and Blocking. Available at: <https://www.thorn.org/thorn-research-minors-perspectives-on-disclosing-reporting-and-blocking/>

**Fig 10 | Potentially harmful online experiences by platform**

Q20. For each of the following platforms, please indicate if you have ever experienced any of the following. // Q14B. How often do you use/check/play each of the following?

	Minors who have ever used each platform		Minors who have had a potentially harmful online experience		Minors who have had an online sexual interaction	
	2021	+ / -	2021	+ / -	2021	+ / -
<b>Among Us</b>	43%	0	6%	-2	2%	-1
<b>Call of Duty</b>	52%	+4	9%	0	3%	-2
<b>Discord</b>	34%	0	10%	+3	5%	0
<b>Facebook</b>	61%	-1	21%	+4	12%	+2
<b>Fortnite</b>	57%	+10	11%	+3	4%	+1
<b>Google Hangouts/ Meet</b>	51%	-13	14%	-1	8%	-1
<b>Grand Theft Auto</b>	44%	+5	8%	+2	3%	-1
<b>Instagram</b>	66%	-10	24%	-2	13%	-3
<b>Kik</b>	13%	-1	4%	0	3%	+1
<b>Marco Polo</b>	10%	0	2%	0	2%	+1
<b>Messenger</b>	64%	+2	22%	+4	12%	+1
<b>Minecraft</b>	71%	+9	11%	+1	3%	0
<b>Omegle</b>	14%	-	7%	-	5%	-
<b>Reddit</b>	34%	+2	6%	+2	4%	+2
<b>Roblox</b>	59%	+12	12%	+3	3%	0
<b>Snapchat</b>	68%	-3	23%	-3	14%	-2
<b>Telegram</b>	13%	+2	4%	-1	2%	0
<b>TikTok</b>	75%	+6	19%	+1	9%	0
<b>Tumblr</b>	34%	-6	12%	+1	7%	0
<b>Twitch</b>	33%	-3	6%	0	3%	0
<b>Twitter</b>	51%	-8	17%	+1	10%	+1
<b>WhatsApp</b>	44%	-3	13%	-2	8%	-1
<b>YouTube</b>	98%	+1	17%	-2	8%	-1

Note: Columns will total more than 100 because question was multiple select. Percentages of minors who have ever used each platform were derived from the full survey sample (n=2,282). Percentages of those who had a potentially harmful online experience and those who had an online sexual interaction are among participants from the Responding to Online Threats survey branch (n=1,141), not users of each platform.

While there was minimal variation in the percentage of all minors who indicated they had a potentially harmful online experience across all platforms, in 2021, more variation was identified among individual demographics (Fig 11). For instance, more pervasive increases were seen among teens (aged 13-17), particularly for experiences that occurred on Facebook (+10%), Grand Theft Auto (+10%), and Messenger (+8%).

The 2021 data also continued to reveal LGBTQ+ minors are more likely to encounter potentially harmful online experiences than their non-LGBTQ+ peers. The platforms with the most significant differences in the rates of potentially harmful online experiences between LGBTQ+ minors and their non-LGBTQ+ counterparts were Snapchat (+18%) and Instagram (+15%). The most significant increase in potentially harmful online experiences among LGBTQ+ minors in 2021 occurred on Messenger (+12%).



Fig 11 | Potentially harmful online experiences, by platform and minor demographics

Q20. For each of the following platforms, please indicate if you have ever experienced any of the following.

	All Minors		Ages 9-12				Ages 13-17				LGBTQ+		Non-LGBTQ+		African American		Hispanic/Latino		Other POC		White					
	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	Girls	Boys	2021	+/-	Girls	Boys	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-				
Among Us	6%	-2	6%	+1	6%	-1	5%	+2	6%	-4	6%	-5	6%	-1	5%	-5	7%	0	6%	+1	9%	+1	6%	-2	5%	-3
Call of Duty	9%	0	9%	-3	2%	-6	16%	0	9%	+2	7%	+3	12%	+1	4%	+1	10%	-1	10%	+1	10%	+3	4%	-5	9%	-2
Discord	10%	+3	7%	+2	4%	+2	9%	+3	12%	+3	11%	+3	12%	+5	13%	+5	9%	+2	10%	+4	12%	+7	12%	+5	8%	0
Facebook	21%	+4	18%	-3	16%	0	19%	-6	24%	+10	22%	+11	26%	+10	22%	+6	22%	+4	22%	+10	25%	+7	22%	+5	19%	-1
Fortnite	11%	+3	11%	+4	6%	0	17%	+8	11%	+3	7%	+3	16%	+5	9%	+4	13%	+4	13%	+6	10%	+4	8%	0	13%	+3
Google Hangouts/Meet	14%	-1	13%	-5	9%	-1	16%	-9	14%	+2	12%	+4	17%	+1	14%	+1	14%	-2	15%	+2	20%	+7	5%	-10	12%	-5
Grand Theft Auto	8%	+2	9%	+3	4%	0	10%	+2	7%	+10	4%	0	9%	+1	9%	+5	7%	0	14%	+6	7%	+3	3%	-3	8%	+1
Instagram	24%	-2	18%	-3	17%	+2	16%	-11	28%	-1	29%	-5	27%	+4	36%	+7	21%	-4	29%	-1	34%	+7	23%	-3	18%	-8
Kik	4%	0	3%	0	3%	0	2%	0	4%	-1	6%	+1	2%	-1	7%	+1	3%	0	5%	+2	5%	0	2%	-2	3%	-1
Marco Polo	2%	0	3%	0	1%	-1	4%	+1	2%	+1	1%	+1	2%	0	1%	0	2%	0	3%	+3	2%	0	1%	-1	2%	-1
Messenger	22%	+4	21%	0	19%	+2	21%	-5	23%	+8	22%	+8	24%	+7	25%	+12	22%	+2	24%	+8	27%	+10	20%	+2	20%	-1
Minecraft	11%	+1	11%	-2	8%	-7	13%	+1	11%	+4	11%	+5	10%	+2	12%	+1	10%	0	11%	-5	12%	+4	6%	-4	12%	+3
Omegle	7%	-	7%	-	6%	-	8%	-	8%	-	8%	-	7%	-	8%	-	7%	-	9%	-	13%	-	5%	-	4%	-
Reddit	6%	+2	3%	+1	1%	0	5%	+3	8%	+3	7%	+3	8%	+1	7%	+2	6%	+3	8%	+5	8%	+8	4%	0	4%	-1
Roblox	12%	+3	15%	+5	13%	-2	17%	+11	11%	+3	12%	+4	10%	+3	9%	+2	13%	+3	15%	0	15%	+9	9%	0	11%	+1
Snapchat	23%	-3	15%	-10	15%	-7	14%	-13	30%	+3	33%	+3	28%	+8	38%	+5	20%	-5	26%	-5	30%	+7	18%	-8	21%	-6
Telegram	4%	-1	4%	-4	2%	-2	7%	-4	4%	+1	2%	0	5%	+2	3%	0	4%	-2	7%	+5	6%	+2	1%	-4	3%	-4
TikTok	19%	+1	17%	-4	14%	-6	19%	-2	21%	+5	21%	+5	21%	+6	26%	-1	18%	+1	23%	-1	30%	+16	16%	-2	14%	-6
Tumblr	12%	+1	12%	-3	9%	+2	12%	-11	12%	+4	10%	+5	14%	+4	14%	0	11%	0	17%	+5	21%	+12	5%	-6	8%	-5
Twitch	6%	0	6%	-1	2%	0	8%	-3	7%	+2	4%	0	9%	+3	9%	+3	6%	-1	8%	+2	6%	0	5%	-1	7%	+1
Twitter	17%	+1	15%	-3	14%	+4	17%	-9	18%	+3	17%	+6	19%	+3	19%	+3	17%	0	20%	+3	27%	+12	14%	-2	11%	-7
WhatsApp	13%	-2	12%	-7	9%	+2	16%	-15	14%	+2	11%	+4	19%	+3	12%	+2	14%	-3	17%	+3	21%	+9	9%	-6	10%	-8
YouTube	17%	-2	16%	-8	14%	-5	18%	-11	19%	+4	17%	+3	21%	+6	21%	-1	17%	-1	22%	-2	27%	+12	12%	-7	13%	-6

Note: Columns will total more than 100 because question was multiple select. Percentages were derived from the Responding to Online Threats survey branch sample (n=1,141).

## Online Sexual Interactions by Platform

From 2020 to 2021, there was marginal variation among minors reporting they had an online sexual experience across most platforms (Fig 12). However, distributed changes were identified among LGBTQ+ youth and some youth of color. In 2021, LGBTQ+ youth were twice as likely to indicate they have had an online sexual interaction on Instagram (21%) and were more than twice as likely to indicate the same on Snapchat (28%) compared with their non-LGBTQ+ counterparts (11%). This gap appeared much smaller in 2020, when LGBTQ+ youth were marginally more likely than non-LGBTQ+ youth to report the same on Instagram or Snapchat. In 2021, African American and Hispanic and Latino youth were more likely than their white counterparts to indicate they had online sexual interactions on Instagram (+6%, +11%), YouTube (+6%, +8%), Snapchat (+4%, +8%), and Twitter (+4%, +8%).

In 2021, the top five platforms on which youth reported the highest prevalence of online sexual interactions (Fig 10) were

also among the top platforms where minors reported having had online sexual interactions with adults (Fig 13).

Yet, platform popularity alone did not account for all platforms with higher rates of online sexual interactions among minor users of each platform. Omegle – a platform that was asked about for the first time in 2021 – was the platform where the most minor users reported having an online sexual interaction with anyone (37%), as well as an online sexual interaction with an adult, where 1 in 5 (22%) minor users of the platform reported they had an online sexual interaction with an adult. More broadly, in 2021, the top five platforms where minor users reported having the highest rates of online sexual interactions with adults were Omegle (22%), Instagram (11%), Kik (11%), Tumblr (11%), Facebook (10%), Snapchat (10%), and Telegram (10%).

**1 in 5**  
minor users of Omegle indicated they have had an online sexual interaction with someone they believed to be an adult on the platform

Fig 12 | Online sexual interactions, by platform and minor demographics

Q20. For each of the following platforms, please indicate if you have ever experienced any of the following.

	All Minors		Ages 9-12				Ages 13-17				LGBTQ+		Non-LGBTQ+		African American		Hispanic/Latino		Other POC		White					
	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	Girls	Boys	2021	+/-	Girls	Boys	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-				
Among Us	2%	-1	1%	0	0%	-2	2%	+1	2%	-2	2%	-1	1%	-2	2%	-1	3%	0	2%	0	0%	-3	1%	-2		
Call of Duty	3%	-2	3%	-4	1%	-4	5%	-5	4%	0	3%	0	5%	+1	3%	+1	4%	-2	4%	-3	4%	0	2%	-3	3%	-3
Discord	5%	0	2%	-1	1%	-1	4%	0	7%	+1	7%	+3	7%	+2	9%	+3	4%	0	5%	0	6%	+4	5%	0	5%	0
Facebook	12%	2	10%	-1	9%	+1	11%	-3	13%	+4	13%	+5	13%	-3	13%	+5	12%	2	13%	+4	14%	+5	6%	-4	11%	0
Fortnite	4%	1	4%	+1	3%	0	5%	+2	4%	0	4%	+2	4%	-2	6%	+5	4%	0	9%	+4	4%	0	3%	0	3%	0
Google Hangouts/Meet	8%	-1	7%	-3	5%	-1	9%	-5	8%	0	6%	+1	10%	-2	8%	+1	8%	-2	10%	0	11%	+4	3%	-6	6%	-5
Grand Theft Auto	3%	-1	3%	-2	2%	-1	5%	-1	2%	-1	2%	0	2%	-2	2%	-1	3%	-1	6%	-1	3%	0	1%	-3	2%	-1
Instagram	13%	-3	8%	-5	9%	-1	8%	-8	16%	-2	16%	-5	16%	+1	21%	+4	11%	-4	15%	-3	20%	+4	12%	-4	9%	-8
Kik	3%	+1	2%	+1	2%	+1	2%	+1	3%	-1	5%	+1	1%	-1	6%	+2	2%	0	3%	+2	4%	+2	1%	-1	2%	-1
Marco Polo	2%	+1	2%	+1	1%	0	3%	+1	1%	0	1%	+1	2%	0	1%	0	2%	+1	2%	+2	2%	+1	1%	0	2%	0
Messenger	12%	+1	10%	-2	11%	+3	9%	-7	13%	+3	14%	+6	13%	+1	16%	+8	11%	-1	13%	+1	14%	+6	10%	-1	11%	-1
Minecraft	3%	0	2%	0	1%	-1	2%	-1	5%	+1	5%	+2	4%	0	4%	-1	4%	+1	4%	0	5%	+2	1%	-2	3%	0
Omegle	5%	-	3%	-	6%	-	8%	-	6%	-	8%	-	7%	-	8%	-	4%	-	7%	-	8%	-	3%	-	3%	-
Reddit	4%	+2	1%	0	1%	0	2%	+1	6%	+3	5%	+3	5%	+1	6%	+5	3%	+1	5%	+3	6%	+6	2%	0	3%	0
Roblox	3%	0	3%	+1	3%	0	3%	+1	4%	+1	4%	+1	3%	0	2%	0	4%	+1	3%	-1	6%	+2	2%	-1	3%	+1
Snapchat	14%	-2	7%	-7	8%	-2	6%	-9	20%	+2	24%	+3	16%	+2	28%	+9	11%	-5	16%	+3	20%	+7	13%	-3	12%	-6
Telegram	2%	0	2%	-1	0%	-2	4%	0	2%	+1	1%	0	3%	+1	1%	-1	3%	+1	5%	+4	3%	+2	1%	-1	2%	-2
TikTok	9%	0	7%	-4	7%	-1	8%	-6	11%	+3	8%	+2	13%	+3	12%	+2	9%	0	11%	0	16%	+9	8%	-1	7%	-3
Tumblr	7%	0	7%	-2	6%	+3	8%	-6	7%	+1	6%	+2	8%	0	7%	-1	7%	0	11%	+4	11%	+6	3%	-4	5%	-4
Twitch	3%	0	2%	-2	2%	+1	3%	-2	4%	+1	3%	+1	4%	+1	4%	+1	3%	0	5%	+1	2%	0	1%	-2	4%	+1
Twitter	10%	+1	9%	-1	10%	+5	9%	-5	10%	+3	8%	+4	12%	+2	12%	+3	9%	0	11%	+1	15%	+10	4%	-5	7%	-3
WhatsApp	8%	-1	8%	-2	6%	+1	10%	-5	8%	0	7%	+3	10%	-3	7%	+1	8%	-2	12%	+2	10%	+5	4%	-5	7%	-4
YouTube	8%	-1	7%	-4	8%	+1	6%	-9	8%	+1	5%	0	11%	+1	7%	-2	8%	-1	11%	+1	13%	+5	4%	-5	5%	-5

Note: Columns will total more than 100 because question was multiple select. Percentages were derived from the Responding to Online Threats survey branch sample (n=1,141).

Fig 13 | Online sexual interactions involving both peers and adults, by platform

Q20. For each of the following platforms, please indicate if you have ever experienced any of the following.

Key: Above average %

	% of <u>users</u> who have had...				% of <u>all minors</u> who have had...			
	...an online sexual interaction		...an online sexual interaction w/ someone they thought was 18 or older		...an online sexual interaction		...an online sexual interaction w/ someone they thought was 18 or older	
	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-
<b>Average</b>	14%		7%		4%		2%	
<b>Among Us</b>	4%	-2	2%	-3	2%	-1	1%	-1
<b>Call of Duty</b>	7%	-4	3%	-2	3%	-2	1%	-1
<b>Discord</b>	15%	+1	8%	0	5%	0	3%	0
<b>Facebook</b>	20%	+4	10%	0	12%	+2	6%	0
<b>Fortnite</b>	7%	-1	3%	-2	4%	0	2%	0
<b>Google Hangouts/Meet</b>	16%	+1	8%	-1	8%	-1	4%	-1
<b>Grand Theft Auto</b>	6%	-4	3%	-2	3%	-1	1%	-1
<b>Instagram</b>	20%	-2	11%	-2	13%	-3	7%	-2
<b>Kik</b>	26%	+3	11%	-3	3%	0	1%	-1
<b>Marco Polo</b>	20%	+3	9%	+1	2%	+1	1%	0
<b>Messenger</b>	20%	+2	9%	-1	12%	+1	5%	-1
<b>Minecraft</b>	5%	0	2%	-1	3%	0	2%	0
<b>Omegle</b>	37%	-	22%	-	5%	-	3%	-
<b>Reddit</b>	11%	+4	7%	+3	4%	+2	2%	+1
<b>Roblox</b>	5%	0	3%	+1	3%	0	2%	+1
<b>Snapchat</b>	22%	-1	10%	-5	14%	-2	7%	-3
<b>Telegram</b>	19%	-2	10%	-4	2%	0	1%	0
<b>TikTok</b>	13%	-1	5%	-2	9%	0	4%	-1
<b>Tumblr</b>	23%	+3	11%	-1	7%	0	4%	0
<b>Twitch</b>	9%	0	5%	+1	3%	0	2%	0
<b>Twitter</b>	19%	+4	8%	0	10%	+1	4%	-1
<b>WhatsApp</b>	20%	-1	9%	-2	8%	-1	4%	-1
<b>YouTube</b>	8%	-1	3%	-2	8%	-1	3%	-2

Note: Columns will total more than 100 because question was multiple select.

# Responding to Online Risks

## 1 in 7

minors who experienced an online sexual interaction did not disclose their experience to anyone

In 2021, the percentage of minors who chose to not disclose their potentially harmful online experience to anyone decreased (Fig 14). This decrease applied to minors who had a potentially harmful online experience more generally (-8%) and among those who reported they had an online sexual interaction (-12%). Nevertheless, 1 in 6 (16%) minors who had a potentially harmful online experience and 1 in 7 (14%) minors who had an online sexual interaction indicated they had not disclosed their experience to anyone.

## 2.5x

Minors who have had an online sexual interaction were 2 ½ times more likely to use online reporting tools than to seek offline help

The leading reason, among minors who chose not to disclose their experience to anyone, remained that they “felt this was not a big deal” (51%) (Fig 15). Another notable decrease was in minors’ concern that their report would not be anonymous (-14%). Regarding online sexual interactions, more minors indicated they chose not to disclose the interaction to someone because they felt they were to blame for the situation (+12%) and were worried they would be judged (+11%). The persistence and increase of these perceptions underscore key attitudinal hurdles minors face in disclosing harmful online sexual interactions.

Fig 14 | **Percentage of minors who did not disclose their potentially harmful online experience**

Among minors who have had...

Q33. Earlier you indicated that you have experienced the following on a platform. For the scenarios you experienced, which of the following, if any, did you turn to for support?

	2021	+ / -
...a potentially harmful online experience	16%	-8
...an online sexual interaction	14%	-12

Note: Percentages reflect the percentage of minors who selected the response option “no one.”

**“I didn’t feel it was necessary in the moment and that they would leave me alone after ignoring.”**

**CIS MALE, 17, BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN, SOUTH**

**Fig 15 | Reasons why minors did not disclose their potentially harmful online experience**

Among minors who turned to 'no one' for support who have had...

Q34. Which of the following describe why you did not look for additional support following experiences you have had on a platform?

	...a potentially harmful online experience		...an online sexual interaction	
	2021*	+ / -	2021*	+ / -
<b>You felt this was not a big deal</b>	51%	-11	49%	0
<b>You felt embarrassed and worried of being judged</b>	26%	+3	28%	+11
<b>You worried about being in trouble with your family</b>	21%	+2	33%	+7
<b>You felt like you were to blame or partly to blame for the situation</b>	16%	+1	24%	+12
<b>You worried about police or law enforcement getting involved</b>	12%	-3	17%	-2
<b>You worried about not being allowed to use a platform</b>	12%	-3	12%	-7
<b>You worried your report would not be anonymous</b>	10%	-14	12%	-11
<b>You worried about losing friends</b>	7%	-1	7%	-2
<b>You worried about being in trouble with your school</b>	2%	-3	4%	-2
<b>You worried about getting bullied at school</b>	2%	-3	2%	0

Columns will total more than 100 because question was multiple select. \*Base size <100

**Fig 16 | How minors respond to potentially harmful online experiences**

Among minors who have had...

Q21A. You indicated that you have experienced the following. For each, when this happened to you, which of the following did you do in response?

	...a potentially harmful online experience		...an online sexual interaction	
	2021	+ / -	2021	+ / -
<b>Total online action</b>	88%	+3	84%	+1
Blocked the person	68%	+2	61%	-4
Reported the person to the platform	50%	+4	45%	-2
Muted the person	23%	-4	18%	-2
<b>Total offline action</b>	43%	+2	35%	-2
Told a friend	22%	-4	20%	-1
Told a parent, caregiver, or other trusted adult	29%	0	21%	-2
<b>Ignored it</b>	15%	-1	15%	+1

Note: Columns will total more than 100 because question was multiple select.

Consistent with findings from 2020, the 2021 data revealed that minors who have had potentially harmful online experiences and decided to take action were more likely to use online safety tools than they were to turn to offline support systems, such as a caregiver or a friend (Fig 16). Among those who have had a

potentially harmful online experience, minors were twice as likely to use online reporting tools (88%) than they were to seek offline help (43%). Minors who have had an online sexual interaction were nearly 2 ½ times more likely to engage with online safety tools (84%) than they were to seek offline help (35%).

**84%**  
of minors who have had an online sexual interaction have used an online safety tool as part of their response

**35%**  
of minors who have had an online sexual interaction sought offline help as part of their response

## Offline Help-Seeking

In 2021, the rates of disclosure to someone in minors' offline support systems remained consistent with 2020 rates, as did the distribution of minors who chose to disclose to a parent or trusted adult and/or a peer (Fig 17). LGBTQ+ youth remained much less likely than their non-LGBTQ+ counterparts to have disclosed their experience(s) to a parent or trusted adult, including being more than five times less likely to have disclosed an online sexual interaction. In 2021, boys (+9%), especially teen boys (aged 13-17) (+15%),

and white minors (+10%), were more likely to disclose their potentially harmful online experience to their offline support system compared with the year prior. They were also more likely to disclose to their offline support system (50%) compared with their African American (38%) and Hispanic and Latino (34%) counterparts. Similar demographic differences in minor disclosures to offline support were also noted among minors who had an online sexual interaction.

**5x**  
LGBTQ+ youth were more than 5x less likely to disclose their online sexual experience to a trusted adult than their non-LGBTQ+ counterparts

Fig 17 | **Minors' use of offline support by minor demographics**

Among minors who have had...

Q21A. You indicated that you have experienced the following. For each, when this happened to you, which of the following did you do in response?

	...a potentially harmful online experience						...an online sexual interaction					
	Total offline action		Told a parent, care-giver, or other trusted adult		Told a peer		Total offline action		Told a parent, care-giver, or other trusted adult		Told a peer	
	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-
<b>All Minors</b>	43%	+2	29%	0	22%	-4	35%	-2	21%	-2	20%	-1
<b>Girls</b>	40%	-6	27%	-8	21%	-9	36%	-10	22%	-9	19%	-5
<b>Boys</b>	46%	+9	32%	+9	23%	+1	38%	+10	22%	+7	25%	+8
<b>Ages 9-12</b>	48%	-2	38%	-2	19%	-11	35%*	-8	24%*	-9	19%*	0
<b>Girls</b>	43%*	-9	32%*	-20	17%*	-11	30%**	-23	23%**	-26	7%**	-6
<b>Boys</b>	51%*	+5	42%*	+12	19%*	-13	40%**	+5	24%**	+6	31%**	+5
<b>Ages 13-17</b>	40%	+5	24%	+3	24%	+2	36%	+2	20%	+3	21%	-2
<b>Girls</b>	39%	-3	25%	+1	23%	-8	37%	-5	21%	-1	23%	-7
<b>Boys</b>	42%	+15	24%	+7	25%	+13	37%	+14	20%	+7	22%	+11
<b>LGBTQ+</b>	32%	-5	15%	-7	24%	-5	17%*	-12	5%*	-8	14%*	-8
<b>Non-LGBTQ+</b>	47%	+5	35%	+4	22%	-3	43%	+4	28%	+3	23%	+1
<b>African American</b>	38%	-5	24%	-3	20%	-10	29%	-15	17%	-7	20%	-2
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	34%	-6	16%	-12	21%	-9	32%	-6	15%	-11	20%	-3
<b>Other POC</b>	51%*	+7	34%*	-2	34%*	+10	45%**	0	24%**	-10	24%**	-6
<b>White</b>	50%	+10	39%	+11	22%	0	40%	+6	28%	+8	20%	0

Note: Columns will total more than 100 because question was multiple select. \*Base size <100  
\*\*Base size <50

“I would first turn to my girlfriend and best friends to get it off my chest. Then get in contact with a therapist, a counselor, or a trusted adult that can do something about it.”

**CIS FEMALE, 16, HISPANIC OR LATINA, NORTHEAST**

would respond and how, among minors who had the experience, they actually responded was even more pronounced regarding online sexual interactions. In fact, minors were nearly twice as likely to think they would report an online sexual experience to someone offline (66%) than those who actually turned to someone offline (35%) following such an experience. Little deviation in this disconnect was identified between online sexual interactions involving peers and adults (Fig 19). That said, in 2021, minors who had experienced an online sexual interaction, with peers or adults, were more likely to indicate they had told a parent, caregiver, or other trusted adult about the experience.

“I would likely go to my parents. And if my parent isn’t around I would go to my grandparents.”

**CIS FEMALE, 15, BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN, SOUTH**

In 2021, a significant disconnect persisted between how minors say (or anticipate) they would respond to potentially harmful online experiences and, among those who had the experiences, how they actually responded (Fig 18).

Minors were more than 1 ½ times more likely to indicate they think they would report a potentially harmful online experience to someone offline (69%) than those who actually turned to someone offline (43%) following such an experience. This disconnect between how minors think they

Fig 18 | **Offline resources for potentially harmful online experiences: What minors say they will do vs. what they actually do**  
Among minors who have not had the experience and minors who have had...

Q21. You indicated that you have not experienced the following. For each, if this did happen to you, which of the following would you be likely to do in response? // Q21A. You indicated that you have experienced the following. For each, when this happened to you, which of the following did you do in response?

	Total offline action				Told a parent, caregiver, or other trusted adult				Told a peer			
	Say they would do		Actually did		Say they would do		Actually did		Say they would do		Actually did	
	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-
...a potentially harmful online experience	69	+1	43	+2	60	+5	29	0	34	-5	22	-4
...an online sexual interaction	66	+2	35	-2	56	+5	21	-2	28	-6	20	-1

Note: Columns will total more than 100 because question was multiple select. Minors who have not had the experience were asked to say what they WOULD DO in that situation, while minors who have had the experience were asked what they ACTUALLY DID.



Fig 19 | **Offline resources for online sexual interactions with peers and adults: What minors say they will do vs. what they actually do**

Among minors who have had the experience and those who have not

Q21. You indicated that you have not experienced the following. For each, if this did happen to you, which of the following would you be likely to do in response?  
 // Q21A. You indicated that you have experienced the following. For each, when this happened to you, which of the following did you do in response?

With someone I believed was 18 or older	Total offline action				Told a parent, caregiver, or other trusted adult				Told a peer			
	Say they would do		Actually did		Say they would do		Actually did		Say they would do		Actually did	
	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-
<b>Online sexual interation</b>	59%	0	29%	+1	52%	+6	20%	+3	20%	-5	13%	-2
...asked me to send a nude photo or video	43%	+5	28%	+8	38%	+6	22%	+10	8%	-2	8%	-2
...asked me to go 'on cam' with a nude or sexually explicit stream	43%	+6	21%*	-3	39%	+8	11%*	-3	7%	-2	11%*	-5
...shared a nude photo or video of themselves with me	44%	+7	17%	+2	39%	+8	11%	+5	9%	0	6%	-5
...shared a nude photo or video of another kid with me	45%	+5	25%*	+2	40%	+8	15%*	+10	9%	-2	10%*	-3
...sent me sexual messages	45%	+6	27%	+5	40%	+8	21%	+9	7%	-3	9%	-2

With someone I believed was younger than 18	Total offline action				Told a parent, caregiver, or other trusted adult				Told a peer			
	Say they would do		Actually did		Say they would do		Actually did		Say they would do		Actually did	
	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-
<b>Online sexual interation</b>	59%	+2	33%	-1	50%	+6	26%	+7	20%	-5	19%	-2
...asked me to send a nude photo or video	42%	+3	24%	+2	37%	+5	11%	-2	8%	-1	13%	+1
...asked me to go 'on cam' with a nude or sexually explicit stream	41%	+6	28%*	+8	38%	+9	14%*	+2	7%	-1	14%*	+4
...shared a nude photo or video of themselves with me	43%	+7	18%*	-1	38%	+8	5%*	-6	8%	-2	14%*	+4
...shared a nude photo or video of another kid with me	46%	+8	18%*	-15	40%	+9	11%*	-5	9%	-2	7%*	-15
...sent me sexual messages	41%	+7	36%	+8	36%	+9	18%	+3	8%	-2	20%	+4

Note: Columns will total more than 100 because question was multiple select. Minors who have not had the experience were asked to say what they WOULD DO in that situation, while minors who have had the experience were asked what they ACTUALLY DID.  
 \*Base size <100

## Online Help-Seeking

In 2021, minors continued to use online safety tools in response to potentially harmful online experiences at a similar rate to self-reports from 2020. Like in 2020, blocking remained the primary online safety tool of choice for minors, followed by reporting and muting (Fig 20).

**“I would only report a person if they were being offensive to me or if they were talking about me or hurting me. I would block a person if they posted stuff [I] shouldn’t see or that I didn’t want to see.”**

**CIS FEMALE, 12, WHITE, SOUTH**

As seen in 2020, the frequency of blocking continued to be notably higher among teen girls (aged 13-17) compared with other age and gender

cohorts. Among younger girls (aged 9-12) there was a notable decrease in the use of both blocking (-13%) and reporting (-7%). In 2021, self-reports also increased among LGBTQ+ minors who blocked a user following a potentially harmful online experience (+15%) and among African American minors who blocked a user following a potentially harmful online experience (+23%), including online sexual interactions (+15%). Additionally, African American youth displayed the largest increase in their use of reporting tools following an online sexual interaction (+22%).

In 2021, the consistency between how minors anticipated they would respond with online safety tools to potentially harmful online experiences and how, among those who had the experiences, actually engaged with those tools remained stable with limited variation (Fig 21, Fig 22).

**Fig 20 | Minors’ use of online resources by minor demographics**

Among minors who have had...

*Q21A. You indicated that you have experienced the following. For each, when this happened to you, which of the following did you do in response?*

	...a potentially harmful experience						...an online sexual experience					
	Blocked the person		Reported to the platform		Muted the person		Blocked the person		Reported to the platform		Muted the person	
	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-
<b>All Minors</b>	68%	+2	50%	+4	23%	-4	61%	-4	45%	-2	18%	-2
<b>Girls</b>	71%	-1	47%	-3	24%	0	65%	-5	42%	-8	15%	-2
<b>Boys</b>	62%	+4	51%	+5	22%	-11	54%	-2	45%	-2	23%	-3
<b>Ages 9-12</b>	61%	-3	49%	-1	21%	-7	56%*	-7	46%*	+4	15%*	-6
<b>Girls</b>	55%*	-13	47%*	-7	24%*	+4	58%**	-9	39%**	-5	17%**	+5
<b>Boys</b>	64%*	+4	50%*	+1	18%*	-18	53%**	-7	53%**	+9	14%**	-18
<b>Ages 13-17</b>	72%	+4	50%	+7	25%	-2	64%	-1	44%	-6	20%	0
<b>Girls</b>	79%	+3	47%	0	24%	-2	68%	-4	44%	-8	14%	-5
<b>Boys</b>	61%	+5	52%	+9	25%	-5	54%	0	42%	-6	27%	+5
<b>LGBTQ+</b>	83%	+15	56%	+10	27%	+3	64%*	-4	42%*	+3	14%*	-8
<b>Non-LGBTQ+</b>	63%	-3	48%	+10	22%	-7	59%	-6	46%	-5	20%	0
<b>African American</b>	73%	+23	48%	+5	19%	-4	63%	+15	47%	+22	19%	-3
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	64%	0	49%	+6	36%	-1	57%	-6	49%	+4	26%	0
<b>Other POC</b>	83%*	+9	52%*	+1	23%*	-11	75%**	0	33%**	-17	12%**	-13
<b>White</b>	65%	-7	50%	+1	19%	-5	59%	-8	46%	-7	17%	0

Note: Rows will total more than 100 because question was multiple select. \*Base size <100, \*\*Base size <50

“I think reporting someone is because they are doing something wrong to a lot of people. I block someone who is being rude to me. The difference is [I] report them so the site can remove them forever.”

**CIS FEMALE, 14, BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN, SOUTH**

“I would block someone that I didn’t want to see my info. I would report someone who was doing something abusive and/or illegal. I would block someone that I had to report because I wouldn’t want them having access to my platform if they needed to be reported.”

**CIS MALE, 16, WHITE, NORTHEAST**

Fig 21 | **Online resources for potentially harmful online experiences: What minors say they would do vs. what they actually do**

Among minors who have not had the experience and minors who have had...

Q21. You indicated that you have not experienced the following. For each, if this did happen to you, which of the following would you be likely to do in response? // Q21A. You indicated that you have experienced the following. For each, when this happened to you, which of the following did you do in response?

	Total offline action				Block				Report to a platform				Mute			
	Say they would do		Actually did		Say they would do		Actually did		Say they would do		Actually did		Say they would do		Actually did	
	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-
<b>...a potentially harmful online experience</b>	91%	+2	88%	+3	79%	-2	68%	+2	73%	+5	50%	+4	34%	-6	23%	-3
<b>...an online sexual interaction</b>	88%	+1	84%	+1	74%	-1	61%	-4	68%	+4	45%	-2	29%	-4	18%	-2

Note: Minors who have not had the experience were asked to say what they WOULD DO in that situation, while minors who have had the experience were asked what they ACTUALLY DID.

Fig 22 | **Online resources for online sexual interactions with peers and adults: What minors say they would do vs. what they actually do**

Among minors who have not had the experience and minors who have had it

Q21. You indicated that you have not experienced the following. For each, if this did happen to you, which of the following would you be likely to do in response? // Q21A. You indicated that you have experienced the following. For each, when this happened to you, which of the following did you do in response?

	Total online action				Block				Report				Mute			
	Say they would do		Actually did		Say they would do		Actually did		Say they would do		Actually did		Say they would do		Actually did	
	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-
<b>With someone I believed was 18 or older</b>	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-
<b>Online sexual interaction</b>	83%	-2	85%	-2	65%	+1	55%	-5	62%	+4	42%	-1	21%	-3	17%	+1
...asked me to send a nude photo or video	69%	+3	75%	+3	43%	-4	52%	+4	42%	+6	40%	+10	9%	-2	11%	+1
...asked me to go 'on cam' with a nude or sexually explicit stream	70%	+2	71%*	+2	45%	+1	47%*	-8	41%	+3	28%*	-3	9%	-2	9%*	+5
...shared a nude photo or video of themselves with me	69%	+2	80%	+2	44%	+1	56%	+14	40%	+4	27%	-9	8%	-1	17%	+1
...shared a nude photo or video of another kid with me	68%	-1	73%*	-1	45%	0	44%*	-9	43%	+3	34%*	+5	8%	-1	8%*	-5
...sent me sexual messages	68%	+2	81%	+2	44%	+2	52%	-6	39%	+3	35%	0	9%	0	13%	+1

	Total online action				Block				Report				Mute			
	Say they would do		Actually did		Say they would do		Actually did		Say they would do		Actually did		Say they would do		Actually did	
	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-
<b>With someone I believed was younger than 18</b>	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-
<b>Online sexual interaction</b>	83%	0	79%	0	67%	+1	54%	-4	59%	+2	38%	-4	21%	-4	13%	-3
...asked me to send a nude photo or video	68%	+2	72%	-4	48%	+5	49%	-7	36%	+2	28%	-6	10%	+1	8%	-1
...asked me to go 'on cam' with a nude or sexually explicit stream	70%	+3	72%*	0	46%	+2	46%*	-3	40%	+4	35%*	+10	9%	0	6%*	+2
...shared a nude photo or video of themselves with me	67%	-2	72%*	-3	42%	-2	53%*	-2	38%	+2	26%*	+1	10%	0	14%*	+5
...shared a nude photo or video of another kid with me	68%	+1	79%*	-2	44%	+1	44%*	-1	41%	+3	31%*	-2	9%	-1	10%*	-6
...sent me sexual messages	67%	-1	68%	+3	45%	+1	49%	+5	35%	+5	32%	+5	8%	-4	10%	+1

Note: Minors who have not had the experience were asked to say what they WOULD DO in that situation, while minors who have had the experience were asked what they ACTUALLY DID. \*Base size <100

# Optimizing Reporting

Data from both 2020 and 2021 underscores young people’s use of online resources more than offline support when confronted with potentially harmful online experiences. The data has also shown that minors may not view some online sexual interactions as a “big deal,” contributing to a general reluctance to report these experiences. Like in 2020, the top three

reasons minors who had a potentially harmful online experience and had never reported the interaction to a platform in 2021 were because they felt embarrassed, they did not feel it was “important enough to report someone for,”<sup>14</sup> and/or they were worried their report would not be anonymous (Fig 23).

Fig 23 | **Reasons minors did not report potentially harmful online experiences**

Among minors who have NOT reported an experience

*Q31. Earlier you indicated you have experienced the following but also have not reported an experience like this. Which of the following reasons describe why you did not report someone the platform after each of the following experiences?*

	All Minors		Girls		Boys*		Ages 9-12**		Ages 13-17		LGBTQ+**		Non-LGBTQ+	
	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-
<b>Did not think it was important enough to report and/or thought that the app would do nothing in response</b>	50%	-4	52%	-4	48%	+3	47%	+5	52%	-9	59%	-22	48%	0
<b>Worried your report would not be anonymous, you'd be banned from the app, and/or restrictions would be placed on your account</b>	49%	+11	44%	+7	57%	+15	49%	-3	50%	+20	51%	+23	48%	+9
<b>Felt embarrassed and/or to blame</b>	45%	+6	50%	+9	39%	+4	41%	+1	48%	+10	52%	-10	43%	+9
<b>Worried about police involvement, getting in trouble with school, and/or getting in trouble with your family</b>	35%	+4	36%	+1	30%	+4	34%	-4	36%	+9	52%	+6	29%	+3
<b>Worried the person you reported would find you in real life and/or retaliate</b>	22%	+4	19%	+4	24%	+4	19%	+2	23%	+4	22%	-9	22%	+7
<b>Something else</b>	13%	-6	12%	-8	14%	-6	5%	-8	17%	-5	18%	+3	10%	-8

Note: Ethnicity and age-gender demographics have been excluded due to small sample sizes. Columns will total more 100 because question was multiple select. \*Base size <100 \*\*Base size <50

14 This sentiment was not unique to minors’ decisions on whether or not to report to a platform. See Figure 15.

Consistent with findings from 2020, in 2021 the most common outcome minors indicated they wanted as a result for reporting a user to a platform remained to cut off contact with that user (57%) (Fig 24).

In 2021, minors were increasingly likely to indicate that they want platforms to provide additional information and resources on how to use online tools alongside the tools themselves (Fig 25). Notable increases were identified among African American youth and younger boys (aged 9-12) interested in information on how to report and/or block people, as well as information on how to protect themselves from risky sexual experiences. More specifically, younger boys (aged 9-12) were the most likely to indicate they would like additional support resources from platforms compared with other age, gender, and demographic cohorts.

# 4 in 5

minors want platforms to provide more information on how to stay safe from risky online sexual interactions

# +10

Younger boys (aged 9-12) were generally 10 percentage points more likely to indicate they would like additional support resources from platforms than other age and gender cohorts

Fig 24 | **Minors’ aspirations for reporting repercussions**

Q18B. If you reported someone on one of the platforms you use, which of the following would you want to happen?

	All Minors	
	2021	+/-
<b>The person would never be able to contact you again</b>	57	+5
<b>The person would no longer be able to see your activity on the platform, but wouldn't be kicked off the platform</b>	50	+2
<b>Any content posted by the individual that made you feel uncomfortable would be removed</b>	49	+3
<b>The person would be kicked off the platform</b>	37	+1

Note: Column will total more than 100 because question was multiple select.

Fig 25 | **Desired platform resources and actions as expressed by minors**

Q32. Thinking about the platforms you use, would you want them to provide you with each of the following when you use the platform?

	Information on how to report people		Information on how to block people		Information on how to protect yourself online from uncomfortable or risky sexual experiences		Tutorial videos on how to report or block someone		Pop-up messages that check in on how safe you feel on their platform		Support or counseling if you've had a bad experience on their platform	
	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-
<b>All Minors</b>	80%	+6	82%	+7	77%	+5	73%	+5	67%	+4	65%	-2
<b>Girls</b>	78%	+3	81%	+4	76%	+3	70%	-1	67%	0	63%	-5
<b>Boys</b>	82%	+9	84%	+11	78%	+8	77%	+11	68%	+6	66%	0
<b>Ages 9-12</b>	84%	+6	85%	+8	81%	+9	77%	+5	73%	+2	67%	-3
<b>Girls</b>	80%	+2	81%	+2	77%	0	72%	-4	71%	-5	63%	-7
<b>Boys</b>	89%	+11	90%	+15	85%	+18	84%	+16	76%	+9	72%	+2
<b>Ages 13-17</b>	77%	+6	80%	+7	74%	+3	70%	+5	63%	+5	63%	-1
<b>Girls</b>	76%	+3	80%	+5	75%	+6	69%	+2	65%	+6	64%	-1
<b>Boys</b>	77%	+8	78%	+7	73%	+1	71%	+7	61%	+4	62%	-1
<b>LGBTQ+</b>	77%	+1	80%	+1	73%	+1	70%	+3	60%	-7	69%	-1
<b>Non-LGBTQ+</b>	81%	+6	83%	+8	79%	+6	75%	+5	69%	+6	65%	-2
<b>African American</b>	81%	+18	79%	+11	79%	+15	73%	+6	69%	+1	70%	+2
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	78%	+3	78%	+5	75%	+8	75%	+12	67%	+11	68%	-1
<b>Other POC</b>	79%	-3	81%	+6	75%	0	72%	0	72%	+6	67%	0
<b>White</b>	81%	+6	84%	+7	77%	+2	74%	+4	66%	+2	62%	-4

Note: Percentages reflect the net percentage of minors who selected "yes - feel strongly" or "yes - don't feel strongly."

## Increasing minors' use of reporting tools

Consistent with 2020 findings, in 2021, when asked what would increase their likelihood to use a platform's reporting tool, 3 in 4 (75%) minors indicated anonymity in their report would make them more likely to engage with reporting tools (Fig 26). The desire for anonymity in reporting was most pronounced among younger minors (aged 9-12) (79%), especially among younger boys (83%).

The representative importance of anonymity in minors' reports was further reinforced by the outcomes minors indicated would make them less likely to report: knowing that the user they reported would be aware of who reported them (50%) or being deplatformed themselves (47%) (Fig 27).

"I think kids my age are mostly afraid for all kinds of different reasons to tell anyone on the platform of any kind of incident that might happen to them. Sometimes telling actually backfires on you and then it becomes worse for you. Even with adults that happens to[o]."

**CIS MALE, 17, WHITE, SOUTH**

Fig 26 | What makes minors more likely to use online reporting tools

Q30. Regardless of the specific situation, if another user on a platform did something that made you feel uncomfortable or unsafe, would knowing the following make you more or less likely to report them to the platform?

	Report would be anonymous		Report would be evaluated and responded to by a real human being who works for the platform		Only know the person online		Believe the person is lying about who they are or their identity in some way		Report would go to an independent organization for review		Know the person offline/ in real life		Report would be evaluated and responded to by an artificial intelligence program or bot		The reported user would know you were the one who reported them		Possibility of being kicked off of the platform in response	
	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-
<b>All Minors</b>	75%	+7	71%	+3	61%	0	67%	+6	54%	-1	42%	+2	40%	+1	34%	-3	37%	+3
<b>Girls</b>	74%	0	72%	+2	61%	-4	68%	+6	51%	-3	40%	+3	38%	+4	32%	+6	36%	+7
<b>Boys</b>	77%	+14	70%	+4	62%	+4	65%	+5	55%	-1	44%	0	42%	-3	38%	-10	38%	-2
<b>Ages 9-12</b>	79%	+9	72%	+4	63%	-4	71%	+10	57%	-3	48%	0	42%	-4	38%	-3	41%	+1
<b>Girls</b>	77%	+11	74%	0	65%	-5	71%	+12	56%	-2	48%	+5	43%	+3	36%	+5	43%	+9
<b>Boys</b>	83%	+18	71%	+7	61%	-5	71%	+7	59%	-4	47%	-6	42%	-10	41%	-12	40%	-6
<b>Ages 13-17</b>	72%	+5	71%	+4	60%	+3	63%	+3	51%	+1	38%	+4	38%	+4	31%	-2	33%	+4
<b>Girls</b>	71%	-1	71%	+4	58%	-3	66%	+2	48%	-2	34%	+2	33%	+3	29%	+7	31%	+7
<b>Boys</b>	71%	+9	69%	+1	62%	+10	61%	+3	53%	+3	42%	+5	42%	+3	35%	-8	36%	+2
<b>LGBTQ+</b>	68%	-2	71%	+5	60%	-6	62%	+2	47%	-15	38%	0	33%	-6	31%	-4	34%	-1
<b>Non-LGBTQ+</b>	77%	+8	72%	+4	62%	+1	68%	+6	56%	+3	44%	+3	42%	+2	36%	-1	38%	+4
<b>African American</b>	72%	+7	71%	+5	61%	-2	67%	+13	51%	-1	49%	+4	46%	+2	42%	+5	42%	+2
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	74%	+14	74%	+11	61%	+4	68%	+7	64%	+7	53%	+12	50%	+11	45%	+9	45%	+12
<b>Other POC</b>	76%	+5	74%	+8	58%	-4	64%	+13	48%	-6	35%	-2	31%	-9	23%	-9	29%	-7
<b>White</b>	76%	+3	70%	-1	62%	-1	67%	+2	51%	-2	38%	-1	35%	-3	30%	-7	33%	0

Note: Percentages reflect the net percentage of minors who selected "much more likely" or "somewhat more likely."



Fig 27 | What makes minors less likely to use online reporting tools

Q30. Regardless of the specific situation, if another user on a platform did something that made you feel uncomfortable or unsafe, would knowing the following make you more or less likely to report them to the platform?

	Report would be anonymous		Report would be evaluated and responded to by a real human being who works for the platform		Only know the person online		Believe the person is lying about who they are or their identity in some way		Report would go to an independent organization for review		Know the person offline/ in real life		Report would be evaluated and responded to by an artificial intelligence program or bot		The reported user would know you were the one who reported them		Possibility of being kicked off of the platform in response	
	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-
<b>All Minors</b>	14%	-2	18%	0	21%	+1	19%	-4	27%	+2	39%	-1	43%	+2	50%	+3	47%	-2
<b>Girls</b>	16%	+3	17%	0	21%	+5	19%	-5	30%	+6	42%	0	46%	0	53%	-3	48%	-5
<b>Boys</b>	12%	-7	19%	0	20%	-4	19%	-3	24%	-1	36%	-1	39%	+3	47%	+10	46%	+1
<b>Ages 9-12</b>	11%	-7	18%	-2	18%	0	15%	-13	24%	+4	33%	-4	39%	+3	47%	+1	42%	-4
<b>Girls</b>	14%	+1	16%	+1	18%	+5	16%	-16	28%	+9	34%	-5	41%	+2	49%	-4	41%	-7
<b>Boys</b>	8%	-14	20%	-3	19%	-3	12%	-13	21%	+1	32%	-4	37%	+4	46%	+9	44%	+1
<b>Ages 13-17</b>	16%	+1	18%	+1	23%	+1	23%	+3	29%	0	44%	+2	45%	-1	53%	+5	51%	-1
<b>Girls</b>	17%	+3	19%	0	23%	+4	21%	+3	31%	+2	48%	+2	50%	-2	57%	-1	53%	-4
<b>Boys</b>	15%	-2	19%	+4	22%	-4	24%	+4	27%	-1	40%	+2	41%	+2	49%	+12	47%	0
<b>LGBTQ+</b>	21%	+4	20%	-1	22%	+2	25%	-1	33%	+6	45%	-3	50%	+6	57%	+1	51%	-4
<b>Non-LGBTQ+</b>	12%	-4	17%	-1	20%	0	17%	-6	25%	0	37%	-1	41%	+1	48%	+3	46%	-1
<b>African American</b>	16%	-4	17%	-4	21%	+3	19%	-14	31%	+12	33%	-2	36%	+4	42%	+8	41%	+7
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	16%	-4	17%	-7	22%	-10	20%	-9	24%	-3	32%	-9	33%	-14	44%	-7	39%	-14
<b>Other POC</b>	12%	-6	15%	+2	18%	+4	22%	-3	30%	+4	43%	+1	56%	+20	62%	+6	50%	+2
<b>White</b>	13%	-1	19%	+2	20%	+2	19%	0	26%	-2	43%	+1	45%	0	53%	+5	52%	-1

Note: Percentages reflect the net percentage of minors who selected "much less likely" or "somewhat less likely."

## Reporting Categories

The process for reporting varies widely within and across platforms: reporting features are located in different places and use inconsistent language and reporting categories. Better understanding of the language minors associate with online sexual interactions can be critical to enhancing the utility of online safety tools made available to them.

Between 2020 and 2021, when minors were shown a series of commonly available options from reporting menus and prompted to select which option they thought best suited different potentially harmful online scenarios, their selections remained consistently ranked with some small variations. In 2021, minors remained most likely to indicate they would select a “sexually explicit or suggestive content” reporting category if they were asked to send nude imagery of themselves by an adult (38%), as well as by another minor (31%) (Fig 28). At the same time, fewer minors indicated that they did not think any of the listed reporting categories “fit the situation” (-8%). This again applied to experiences involving an adult and those involving another minor. As in 2020, minors were the least likely to identify they would select “nudity” as the reporting category for situations involving both an adult (11%) and another minor (12%).

**1 in 7**  
minors do not feel like common reporting categories fit situations involving an adult asking them to share nude imagery of themselves

In 2021, when minors were asked what reporting category they would select if their nudes were nonconsensually reshared or “leaked,” minor responses revealed no consensus in reporting category selection (Fig 29). In 2021, 1 in 4 indicated they would select “pornography” (24%) or “abusive or harmful” (25%), while 1 in 5 indicated they would select “sexually explicit or suggestive content” (21%). That said, in 2021, minors were less likely to identify they felt like none of the provided choices fit such a situation (-6%).

Younger minors (aged 9-12) (26%) were more likely than their older counterparts (17%) to indicate they would select “sexually explicit or suggestive content,” while older girls (aged 13-17) were the most likely to indicate they would select “abusive or harmful” (31%) for such a scenario. LGBTQ+ youth showcased the greatest variability in 2021: They were much more likely to identify they would select a reporting category of “pornography” (+17%) and were substantially less likely to identify they felt like none of the provided choices fit such a situation (-18%).

**1 in 6**  
minors do not feel like common reporting categories fit situations involving the nonconsensual resharing or “leaking” of their nude imagery

Fig 28 | **Minors’ preferred reporting category if they were solicited to send nude imagery of themselves...**

Q31A. Which of the following reporting categories would you select to report a user to a social media platform if that user is an adult 18+ who asked you for nude photos or videos? // Q31B. Which of the following reporting categories would you select to report a user to a social media platform if that user is a person under 18 who asked you for nude photos or videos?

...by someone they believed was 18 or older	Nudity		Sexually explicit or suggestive content		Pornography		It's abusive or harmful		None of these fit	
	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-
<b>All Minors</b>	11%	-1	31%	+5	20%	+5	23%	-1	15%	-8
<b>Girls</b>	10%	-2	31%	+4	21%	+4	22%	-2	16%	-4
<b>Boys</b>	13%	+2	31%	+7	20%	+7	23%	-2	13%	-14
<b>Ages 9-12</b>	11%	+1	30%	+10	20%	+6	23%	-7	15%	-11
<b>Girls</b>	10%	-1	27%	+3	24%	+9	24%	-7	15%	-4
<b>Boys</b>	13%	+4	32%	+15	17%	+5	23%	-6	15%	-18
<b>Ages 13-17</b>	11%	-2	32%	+2	20%	+3	22%	+2	14%	-7
<b>Girls</b>	10%	-3	34%	+4	19%	0	20%	+3	17%	-3
<b>Boys</b>	13%	0	30%	+1	22%	+8	24%	+2	12%	-10
<b>LGBTQ+</b>	13%	+4	26%	+1	23%	+6	22%	0	16%	-10
<b>Non-LGBTQ+</b>	11%	-1	33%	+6	20%	+5	23%	-2	14%	-7
<b>African American</b>	12%	+4	28%	+5	19%	+6	22%	-6	18%	-10
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	15%	+8	27%	-3	18%	+7	22%	-1	19%	-10
<b>Other POC</b>	6%	-5	27%	-4	22%	+6	31%	+9	13%	-7
<b>White</b>	11%	-4	35%	+10	21%	+3	23%	0	11%	-7

...by someone they believed younger than 18	Nudity		Sexually explicit or suggestive content		Pornography		It's abusive or harmful		None of these fit	
	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-
<b>All Minors</b>	12%	-1	38%	+9	15%	+1	19%	-1	16%	-8
<b>Girls</b>	12%	-3	36%	+7	14%	+2	21%	0	16%	-7
<b>Boys</b>	13%	+1	39%	+12	16%	0	17%	-2	15%	-11
<b>Ages 9-12</b>	12%	0	37%	+13	15%	0	21%	-1	15%	-12
<b>Girls</b>	14%	+2	29%	+4	19%	+7	23%	-4	15%	-8
<b>Boys</b>	11%	-2	42%	+21	12%	-4	19%	+1	16%	-15
<b>Ages 13-17</b>	12%	-1	38%	+5	15%	+1	18%	-1	16%	-6
<b>Girls</b>	11%	-6	42%	+10	11%	-1	20%	+5	17%	-6
<b>Boys</b>	15%	+4	37%	+5	19%	+3	15%	-5	15%	-6
<b>LGBTQ+</b>	9%	0	43%	+13	17%	+5	16%	-5	15%	-13
<b>Non-LGBTQ+</b>	13%	-1	37%	+8	15%	0	20%	0	15%	-7
<b>African American</b>	12%	-1	38%	+9	13%	-7	16%	-5	21%	-5
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	14%	+3	31%	+3	16%	+4	21%	+2	19%	-12
<b>Other POC</b>	11%	-7	30%	+4	13%	-4	32%	+14	15%	-6
<b>White</b>	12%	-1	42%	+9	16%	+2	16%	-4	13%	-7

Fig 29 | Minors' preferred reporting category if their nude imagery was leaked

Q31C. Which of the following reporting categories would you select to report a user to a social media platform if that user leaked nude photos or videos of you?

	Nudity		Sexually explicit or suggestive content		Pornography		It's abusive or harmful		None of these fit	
	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-
All Minors	14%	-2	21%	+4	24%	+4	25%	-1	16%	-6
Girls	13%	-3	20%	+3	27%	+2	24%	+2	16%	-5
Boys	16%	0	22%	+5	21%	+6	25%	-3	15%	-9
Ages 9-12	14%	-1	26%	+9	21%	0	21%	-3	18%	-6
Girls	12%	-3	27%	+9	26%	-2	16%	-3	18%	-2
Boys	16%	+1	26%	+9	15%	+2	26%	-1	17%	-12
Ages 13-17	15%	-2	17%	0	26%	+8	28%	-1	14%	-5
Girls	14%	-3	14%	-2	28%	+7	31%	+8	14%	-8
Boys	17%	0	18%	+1	26%	+10	25%	-4	14%	-6
LGBTQ+	12%	-3	14%	0	40%	+17	23%	+3	10%	-18
Non-LGBTQ+	15%	-2	22%	+5	21%	+2	26%	-1	17%	-2
African American	16%	+2	18%	0	22%	-2	26%	+9	18%	-9
Hispanic/Latino	19%	+1	18%	-2	23%	+10	22%	-3	18%	-6
Other POC	14%	-5	13%	-3	25%	+8	30%	+3	18%	-3
White	11%	-4	25%	+7	25%	+4	26%	-2	13%	-5

Fig 30 | Report resolution times

Among minors who have reported someone on any platform

Q27. After you reported someone to each of the following platforms, how long did it take before you felt the issue or your concern was addressed and resolved?

	Total resolved		Resolved within a day		Resolved within a week		Resolved longer than a week		Never resolved	
	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-
All Minors	92%	+1	77%	+4	85%	-1	17%	-2	17%	-5
Girls	90%	-2	71%	0	80%	-4	16%	-6	19%	-4
Boys	94%	+5	81%	+7	89%	+2	14%	-2	14%	-6
Ages 9-12	94%	-1	79%	0	85%	-6	14%	+2	10%	+1
Girls	92%	-3	70%	-7	77%	-10	18%	+3	13%	+2
Boys	97%	+2	87%	+7	92%	-2	8%	+1	6%	-1
Ages 13-17	91%	+3	75%	+8	85%	+4	18%	-8	23%	-9
Girls	88%	-1	72%	+6	83%	+2	15%	-13	24%	-9
Boys	92%	+8	76%	+8	87%	+8	18%	-7	21%	-13
LGBTQ+*	87%	-1	67%	-3	75%	-10	23%	+4	26%	-3
Non-LGBTQ+	94%	+1	79%	+4	88%	0	15%	-4	15%	-2
African American	96%	-2	84%	+5	91%	-3	17%	+7	14%	+6
Hispanic/Latino	96%	+4	81%	+13	90%	+1	15%	-7	14%	-7
Other POC	80%	-6	55%	-4	69%	-8	24%	-5	32%	+3
White	92%	+2	77%	+2	86%	0	16%	-3	16%	-7

Note: Columns will total more than 100 because the question was multiple select – e.g., minors who have reported experiences on multiple platforms may have experienced different wait times until resolution.

\*Base size <100

## Report Resolution and Recontacts

In 2020 and 2021, the vast majority of minors – approximately 9 in 10 – who have reported someone to a platform indicated they had a report that was addressed and resolved, including 3 in 4 who indicated they had a report resolved within a day (Fig 30).<sup>15</sup>

Nevertheless, 1 in 6 minors (17%) who have reported something to a platform reported that a resolution took more than one week and 1 in 6 (17%) indicated their report was never resolved.

These ratios represent a decrease from 2020 when they were 1 in 5.

Despite the majority of minors indicating reports they made have been resolved, recontacting, whereby an individual who has been blocked or reported by a person on a platform seeks to reconnect with the person who blocked or reported them, remains a significant problem for minors. This includes experiences of being recontacted that involve users the minor

**1 in 6**  
minors who have reported someone to a platform indicated their report was never resolved

Fig 31 | **Recontacts after blocking or reporting a user known offline vs. online**

Among minors who have blocked/reported someone they knew online and/or offline

Q24A. Below is the list of platforms you indicated you have blocked someone you only know online. For each please indicate if after you blocked someone on this platform, that person ever... // Q29A. Below is the list of platforms you indicated you have reported someone you only know online on. For each please indicate if after you reported someone on this platform, that person ever... // Q24B. Below is the list of platforms you indicated you have blocked someone you also know offline/in real life. For each please indicate if after you blocked someone on this platform, that person ever... // Q29B. Below is the list of platforms you indicated you have reported someone you also know offline/in real life on. For each please indicate if after you reported someone on this platform, that person ever...

	After <b>blocking</b> someone they...				After <b>reporting</b> someone they...			
	...only knew online		...also knew offline		...only knew online		...also knew offline	
	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-	2021	+/-
<b>All Minors</b>	48%	-6	54%	-7	51%	0	56%	-11
<b>Girls</b>	45%	-1	48%	-4	47%	+6	48%	-7
<b>Boys</b>	50%	-12	59%	-11	53%	-8	60%	-19
<b>Ages 9-12</b>	41%	-18	50%	-17	48%	-16	54%	-21
<b>Girls</b>	40%*	-7	43%*	-9	45%*	+3	51%**	-8
<b>Boys</b>	42%	-28	57%*	-26	50%*	-28	56%*	-30
<b>Ages 13-17</b>	53%	+4	57%	+2	53%	+14	57%	-2
<b>Girls</b>	49%	+4	52%	-1	48%	+8	46%	-5
<b>Boys</b>	56%	+1	60%	+1	55%	+14	63%	-8
<b>LGBTQ+</b>	58%	-2	56%*	-11	55%*	+5	62%*	-6
<b>Non-LGBTQ+</b>	46%	-6	53%	-7	50%	-2	53%	-16
<b>African American</b>	58%	-2	54%	-3	60%	+9	64%	-11
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	56%	-2	73%	+9	65%	+2	72%	0
<b>Other POC</b>	31%*	-13	37%*	-14	30%*	-8	22%**	-30
<b>White</b>	45%	-10	49%	-16	45%	-4	46%	-22

Note: Some groupings may come from a combination of multi-select questions; year-over-year change data for aggregated answer choices may not reflect year-over-year changes from individual responses. \*Base size <100 \*\*Base size <50

<sup>15</sup> Percentages for reporting time resolutions will total more than 100, as minors who have reported on multiple platforms may have experienced different wait times until resolution

only knows online and those they also know offline (Fig 31).

In 2021, LGBTQ+, African American, and Hispanic and Latino minors, as well as older boys (aged 13-17), reported the highest rates of recontacts among users they had previously blocked or reported and only knew online. Compared with 2020, younger boys (aged 9-12) and white youth indicated the greatest decreases in their recontact rates with users they had previously blocked or reported and only knew online. Future data collection related to recontact rates will be critical for evaluating the context of these changes.

In 2021 around half of minors who blocked someone (46%) and half of minors who reported someone (50%) indicated they had been recontacted by the problematic user (Fig 29). The most notable decreases in recontact rates were reported by younger minors (aged 9-12). In both 2020 and 2021, minors reported similar rates of recontacts. This included rates of recontact that occurred after they had blocked a user on the same platform where they had originally blocked the user and on different platforms. Minors who reported a user continued to indicate it was more common for that problematic user to recontact them on the same platform they reported the user on (42%), rather than on a different platform (34%).

The sustained prevalence of recontacting continues to represent a red flag that blocking and reporting can and do fail as primary responses to prevent continued harassment of one user by another.

**1 in 2**  
minors who blocked or reported someone indicated they were recontacted by the problematic user

Fig 32 | **Where minors are being recontacted**

Among minors who have blocked/reported someone

*Q24A. Below is the list of platforms you indicated you have blocked someone you only know online. For each please indicate if after you blocked someone on this platform, that person ever... // Q29A. Below is the list of platforms you indicated you have reported someone you only know online on. For each please indicate if after you reported someone on this platform, that person ever... // Q24B. Below is the list of platforms you indicated you have blocked someone you also know offline/in real life on. For each please indicate if after you blocked someone on this platform, that person ever... // Q29B. Below is the list of platforms you indicated you have reported someone you also know offline/in real life on. For each please indicate if after you reported someone on this platform, that person ever...*

	After blocking		After reporting	
	2021	+/-	2021	+/-
<b>Total recontacted</b>	46%	-9	50%	-5
On the same platform under a new identity	37%	-8	42%	-5
On a different platform	35%	-8	34%	-6

Note: Some groupings may come from a combination of multi-select questions; year-over-year change data for aggregated answer choices may not reflect year-over-year changes from individual responses.

# Perceptions of Covid Impact

Survey responses were collected from October 27 to December 1, 2021, during which COVID-19 remained a global pandemic. In an attempt to understand the impact the pandemic has had on minors' online experiences, including those that are potentially harmful, a COVID-specific

question was included in the 2021 survey. That question asked minors who have had potentially harmful online experiences whether or not they have experienced such more or less often since the onset of COVID in March of 2020.

**NEW**

## Fig 33 | Experiences with potentially harmful online interactions since pandemic onset

Among minors who have had the experience

*Q21B. You indicated that you have experienced the following. Would you say you've experienced this more or less often since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic (March 2020)?*

"Happening more" reflects the net percentage of minors who selected "much more often" or "somewhat more often." "Happening less" reflects the net percentage of minors who selected "much less often" or "somewhat less often."

	All Minors		
	Happening more	No change	Happening less
<b>Someone I believed was 18 or older</b>			
...asked me to send a nude photo or video	48%	23%	29%
...sent me sexual messages	49%	21%	30%
...bullied me	48%	30%	22%
<b>Someone I believed was younger than 18</b>			
...asked me to send a nude photo or video	50%	27%	23%
...sent me sexual messages	59%	17%	24%
...bullied me	46%	30%	24%

# Final Thoughts

The immense value young people get from exploring and experimenting online is undeniable. However, equally impactful are the very real and ever-evolving risks and threats they face and are forced to navigate within their digital environments. Both offline support systems and online safety tools offer critical intervention points for if and when a young person experiences online harm.

At present, online safety tools, such as blocking and reporting, serve as a child's first choice for online intervention and protection; they are often the only place that child may disclose their exposure to potentially harmful online experiences. It remains vital to young people's well-being that platforms prioritize scalable implementation of effective, accessible, and cocreated safety tools and features – ones that incorporate the voices of youth and the reality of their lived experiences.

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