



**Save the Children**  
救助兒童會

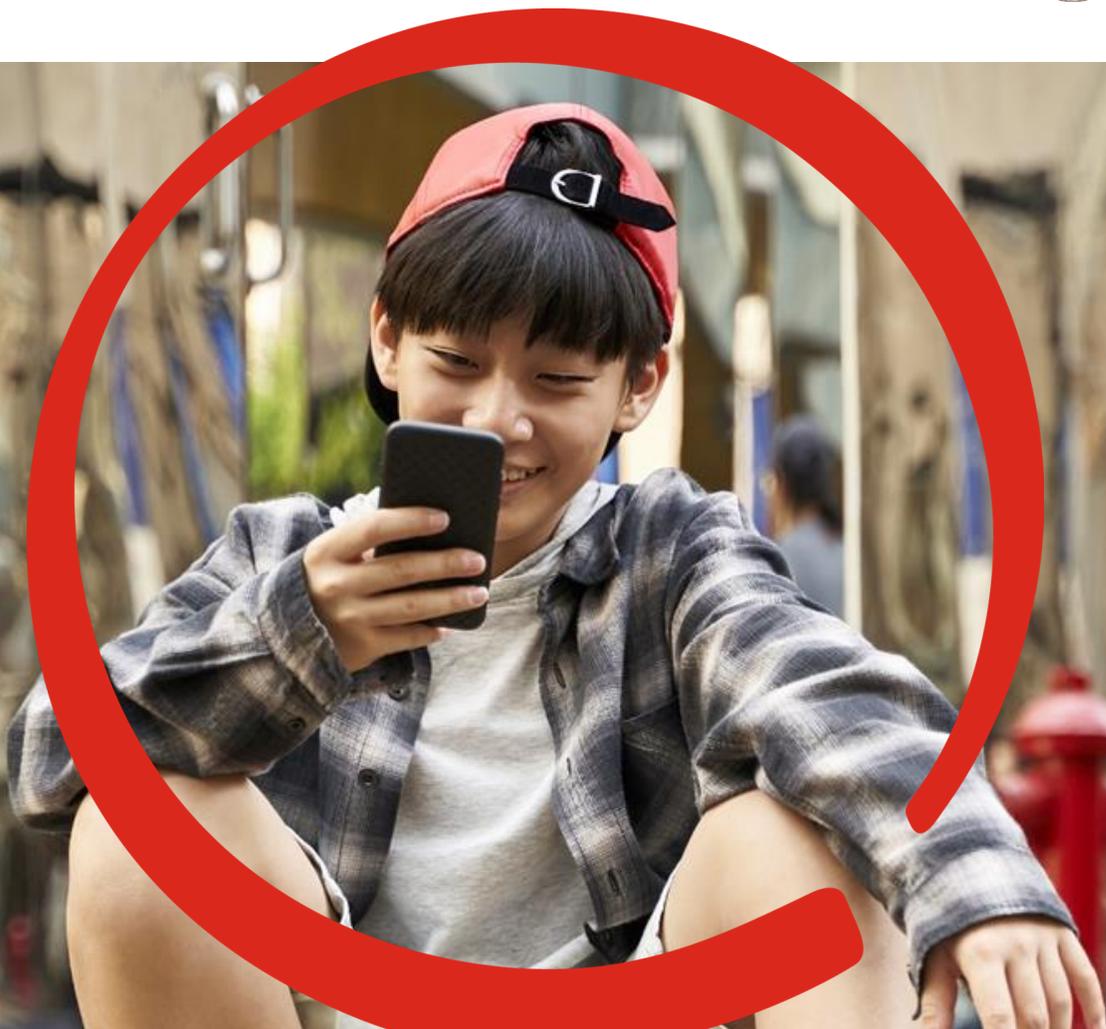


**HKU**  
*SWSA*

Department of Social Work and Social Administration  
The University of Hong Kong  
香港大學社會工作及社會行政學系

# 香港兒童在線 研究報告 新聞發佈會





**香港兒童在線 HONG KONG KIDS ONLINE**

**KEY FIGURES AND FINDINGS**

Hong Kong Kids Online

## Why did Save the Children launch this study?

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For **Save the Children** ensuring all children are protected, healthy and learning is at the core of everything we do.

Hong Kong Kids Online is a step forward in understanding how the digital era has significantly changed what parents, government, and society need to do to keep young people in Hong Kong safe and help them thrive.

We launched this study to raise awareness and fill an important void in research and evidence around child protection risks and protection in the digital world.

# Hong Kong Kids Online

## About this study

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Using the “Global Kids Online” study framework Save the Children Hong Kong invited the University of Hong Kong Department of Social Work and Social Administration to collaborate on a study to answer the questions:

- **How commonly do children and teenagers in Hong Kong face online risks and abuse?**
- **What are the factors that make some children more vulnerable to these risks and what are the factors that help protect children online?**

# Hong Kong Kids Online

## Online child sexual abuse



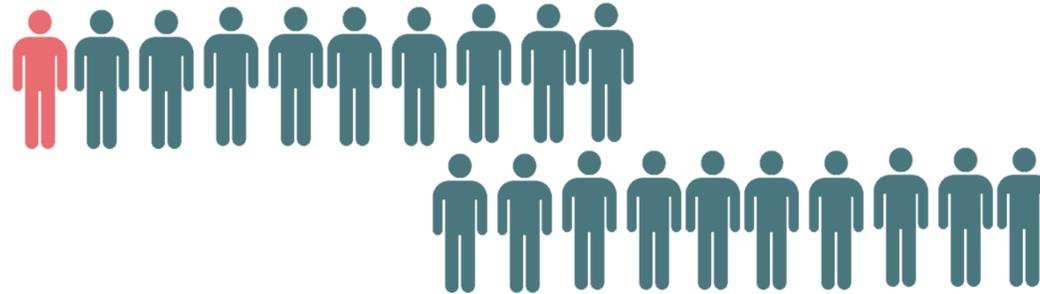
4 out of every 10 secondary school students have had at least one unwanted online sexual content exposure, solicitation, or experience in the last 12 months.

**That's as many as 131,604 Hong Kong secondary school students getting virtually “flashed” or sexually harassed at least once in the last year.**

# Hong Kong Kids Online

## Online child sexual abuse

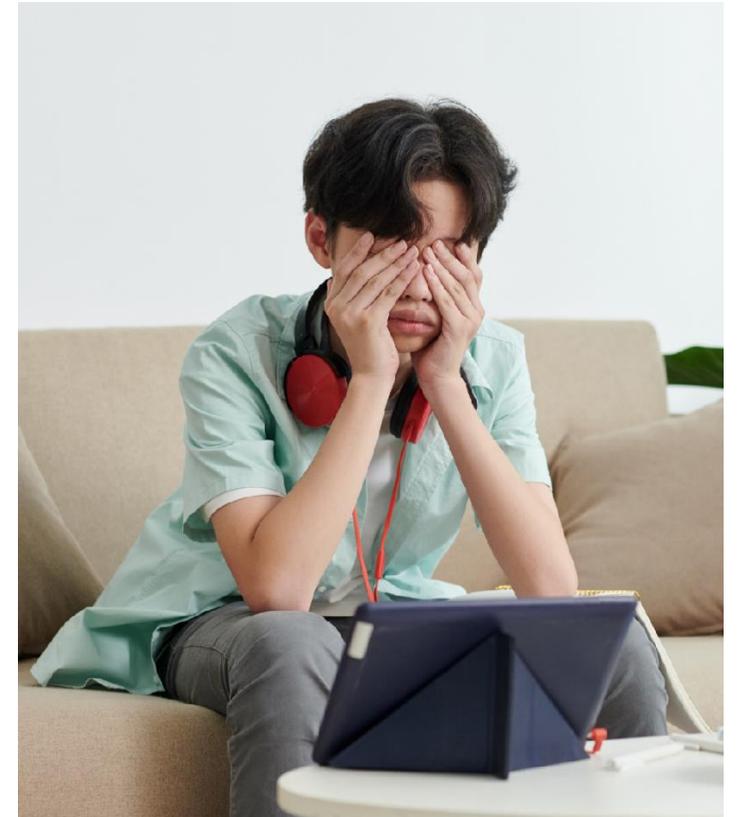
- Child sexual abuse is happening **twice as often in the virtual world** compared to the physical world.
- **1 in 20 teenagers** in Hong Kong had received unwanted requests for sexual photos of themselves, with some of the requests potentially coming from peers.



# Hong Kong Kids Online

## Cyberbullying

- Young people in Hong Kong **are equally likely to experience cyberbullying** as they are to experience **bullying in real life**.
- Most children who face bullying in real life, such as at school, will find **the bullying follows them into the digital world**.



# Hong Kong Kids Online

## Our approach

We collected around **1,400 survey responses** from 11 secondary schools and 5 primary schools using a representative random sampling method.

- Our study allows for the **first time** a “**prevalence estimate**” that shows how commonly young people across Hong Kong face abuse online.
- The study includes 11 in-depth group interviews with secondary school students.
- The themes we explored include:



**The digital lives of teens and positive practices**



**Online child sexual abuse and risks**



**Cyberbullying and sexual harassment**



**The role of parents and teachers in protecting children online**

# The digital lives of Hong Kong teenagers

- The Internet is an incredibly important resource for young children and teenagers. Many rely on it to **support their personal development, learning and wellbeing.**

**67%**

Learn new things online  
every week or more often

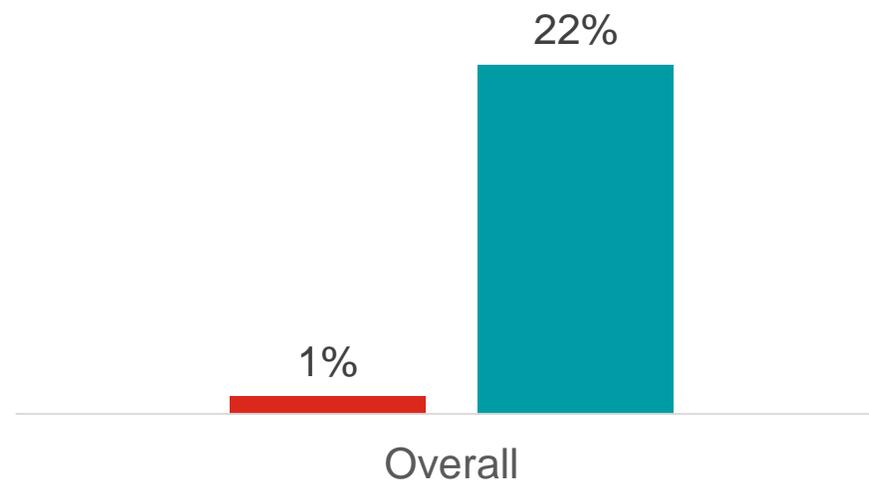
**40%**

Use the internet for  
**artistic and creative  
expression** every month

**81%**

Use the internet for  
**social activities** every week

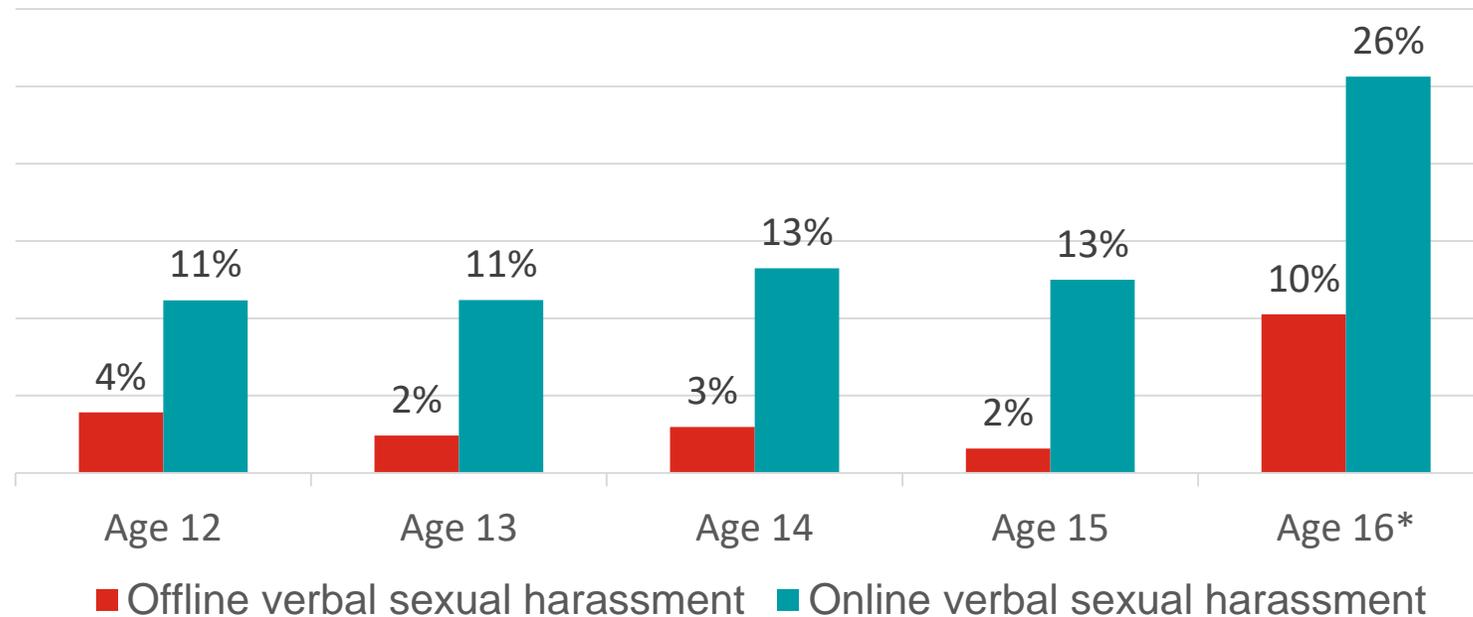
# Getting “flashed” is 22x more common in the digital world



- Was shown someone's private parts in real life against will
- Was sent and saw an unwanted nude image via online messaging

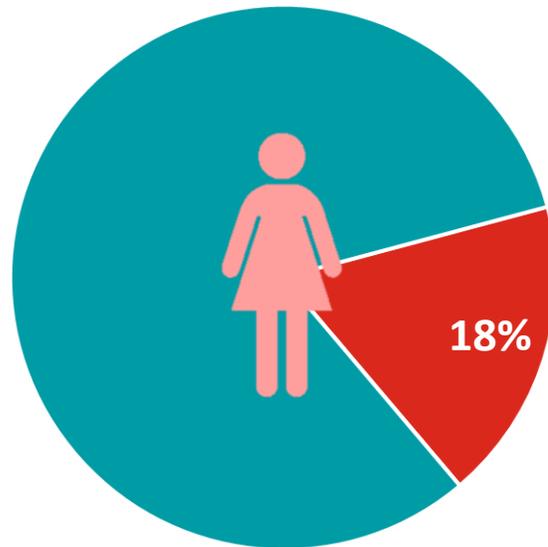
# 1 in 10 secondary school students experienced sexual harassment online in the last year

Compared to life outside the digital world, how much more commonly are children sexually harassed when they go online?

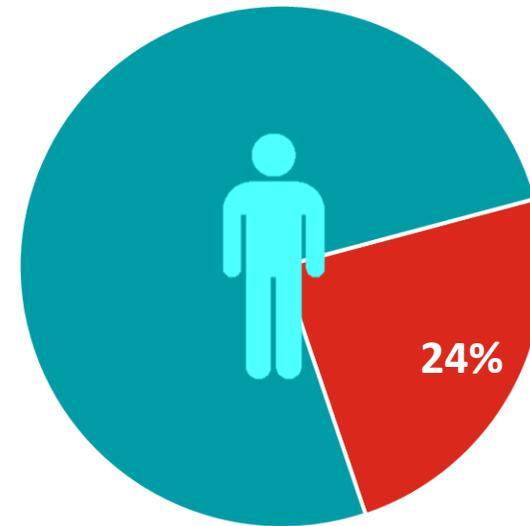


# 1 in 5 teenagers in Hong Kong experienced cyberbullying in the last year

Girls who experienced cyberbullying

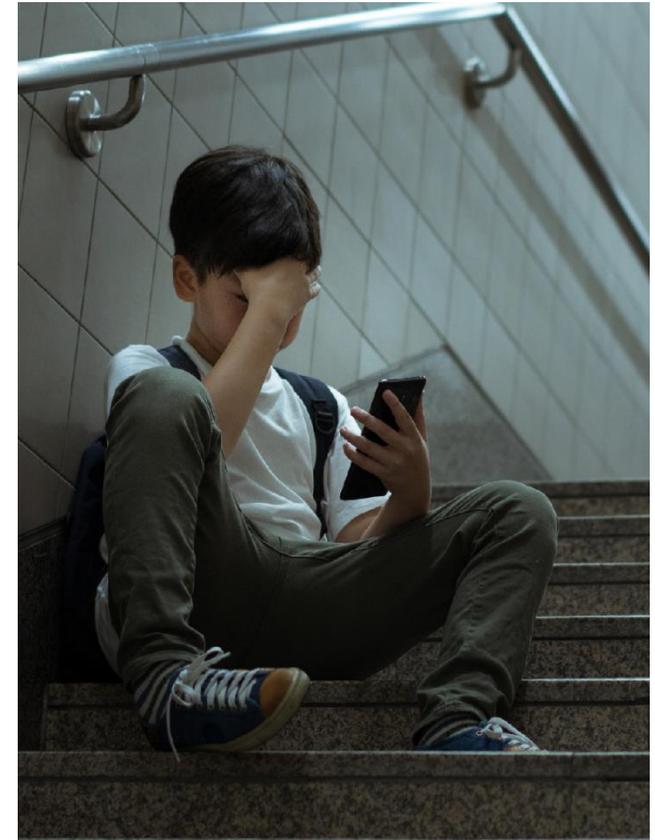


Boys who experienced cyberbullying



# Hong Kong Kids Online Vulnerability Factors

- **Children who experienced abuse or neglect in real life** are at much greater risk of being re-victimised online than their peers.
- **Children who may be lonely and those more dependent on the internet for socializing** (incl. with strangers) were also at significantly greater risk.



## The role of parents

- Children of parents who more often encourage their child to explore the internet and suggest ways for the child to stay safe on the internet **face less unwanted online sexual experiences on average.**



# The role of teachers and schools

- Children whose **teachers suggest safe ways to use the internet** are less likely to have unwanted online sexual experiences.
- Students who reported that their **school or teachers provide internet education or regularly guide them** appear to face harm online less often.



# Hong Kong Kids Online Recommendations

- Recommendations to create a **safe and empowering online environment for youngsters:**

## LAWS & POLICIES

Relevant authorities to **introduce digital inclusion policies** that ensure all youngsters have equal and effective access to internet.

**Create a child online safety commissioner** and an independent body on eSafety to coordinate a child-friendly help-seeking & complaint mechanism and to inform regulations for online safety.

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

The government should provide **training to teachers and social workers** on identifying, intervening, and handling online abuse cases,

Relevant authorities to support education institutions in **guiding students on techniques to keep themselves safe online.**

## PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

Recommend to find ways to **stay engaged with your child's digital life** and explore the Internet safely together.

If your child runs into problems in the digital world, **take it seriously and reach out to professionals** like school teachers or school social workers for guidance.

“Excluding time I spent on sleeping, having meals, and school, I almost spend all my time on my smartphone.”

- Boy, form 2

“There were also strangers approaching me through WhatsApp, WeChat, and Instagram. They kept asking me to be their girlfriend. It’s really scary as I did not know how they found me online and what they will do to me.”

- Girl, Young Voices

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**HONG KONG KIDS ONLINE**



“My parents taught me how to use the computer, but have never taught me the appropriate attitude to have online.”

- Boy, form 2

“I don’t think the school has provided enough support. They should add online safety content into courses and not teach it in a boring way”

- Girl, form 2

“I think it is better to teach this in the family. Children will understand how important of an issue it is if the parents start teaching it from a young age.”

- Girl, form 2



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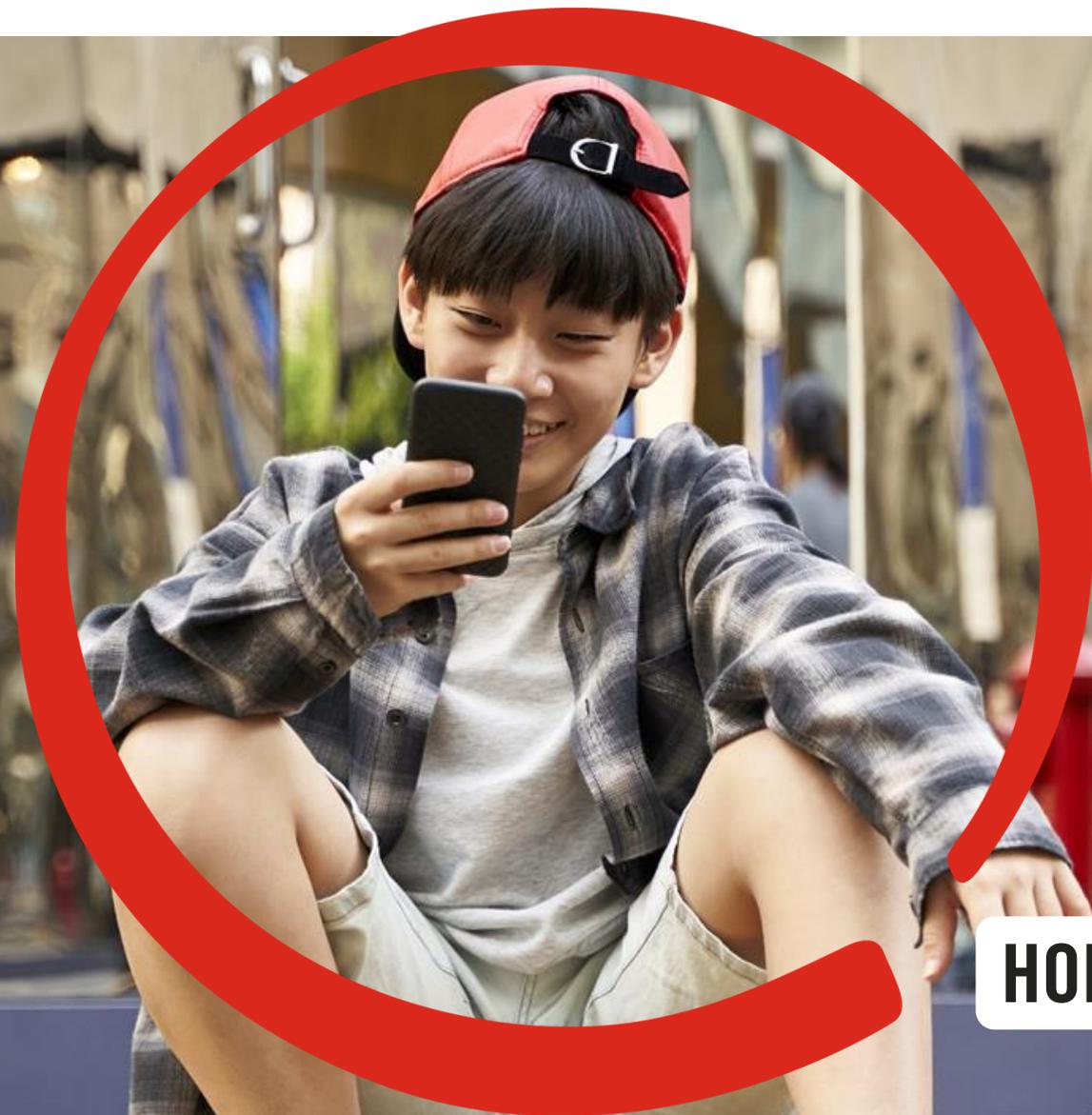


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