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Social networking, risk and safety - a road paved with paradoxes

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Safer Internet Forum, September 25th 2008

“It’s fun to do things that one isn’t allowed to do....Things you’re allowed to do are boring”

Boy, 12 years























Varieties of online risk researched in Europe

	Commercial	Aggressive	Sexual	Values
Content <i>Child as recipient</i>	Advertising, spam, sponsorship	Violent/ gruesome/ hateful content	Pornographic/ unwelcome sexual content	Racist, biased or misleading info/ advice (drugs etc)
Contact <i>Child as participant</i>	Tracking/ harvesting personal info	Being bullied, harassed or stalked	Meeting strangers, being groomed	Self-harm, unwelcome persuasion
Conduct <i>Child as actor</i>	Gambling, hacking, illegal downloads	Bullying or harassing another	Creating and uploading porn material	Providing advice e.g. suicide/ pro-anorexic

Source: Hasebrink, Livingstone, & Haddon, 2008



*“I have stopped using deiligst.no [delicious.no] and penest.no [prettiest.no], because every time I uploaded a picture of myself older people provoked me, they were pedo [paedophiles] the whole bunch...only thinking of tits and pussy”
(14 year old female)*





Public policy regarding the Internet framed by

1. Rapid diffusion and development
2. Endemic cultural fear of the new – framed by media (e.g. grooming, pornography), children mostly portrayed as innocent victims
3. Reverse generation gap – children know more, use more and evade adult management
4. E.g. European Commission's *Safer Internet Action Plan* has since 1999 focused on children as victims – also in terms of bullying – or “techno savvy”



What is Cyber-Delinquency?

In 2001, the European Council passed “Agreement of Cyber-Delinquency” then signed by all the participating countries.

This agreement classified computer crimes in four different categories, (which can also be seen in almost every National Criminal Code):

- Crimes against confidentiality, integrity and the availability of data and computer systems
 - e.g. hacking, stealing passwords
- Crimes of falsification and computer fraud
 - e.g. pretending to be someone else, e.g. MSN, falsify schoolwork
- Crimes related to content, such as child pornography
 - e.g. publication of pictures of others, creation of illegal content, defamation, aggression
- Crimes related to copyright
 - e.g. Illegal download, violation of copyright

FBI seizes computers from high-school hackers

'Lord Flathead' and pals had access to bank but never did any business

New York Times

NEW YORK — A group of at least 23 teen-age computer users broke into a Chase Manhattan Bank computer installation by telephone in July.

guardian.co.uk

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Pupils posing as paedophiles in cyber-bullying, police warn

Steven Morris

The Guardian, Thursday April 10 2008

[Article history](#)

Children as young as 10 may be posing as predatory paedophiles on internet networking sites to frighten boys and girls they have fallen out with, police revealed yesterday. Officers have warned parents and children to be vigilant after as many as nine youngsters in Padstow, Cornwall, were targeted through the networking sites Bebo and MSN.

trap in the computer system that traced the calls to homes in the San Diego area Tuesday night, nearly 50 FBI agents armed with search warrants seized 25 personal computers from the homes but made no ar-

rest of the FBI, and I man at one of

rously "

The electronic break-in was only the latest in a series of incidents that have plagued the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, AT&T, and the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, among others. But it appeared to be the largest case yet involving a bank, and it

entertainment

NEWS FROM NORWAY

First published: 07 Jan 2003, 10:58

'DVD Jon' scores huge legal victory

A Norwegian teenager who helped crack a code meant to protect the content of DVDs won full backing from an Oslo court on Tuesday. The court acquitted him on all charges, a ruling that comes as a crushing blow to public prosecutors and entertainment giants. The case had been

widely described as a "David vs Goliath" battle, pitting 16-year-old Jon Lech Johansen from a small town south of Oslo against huge corporations and organizations including the Motion Picture Association of America.

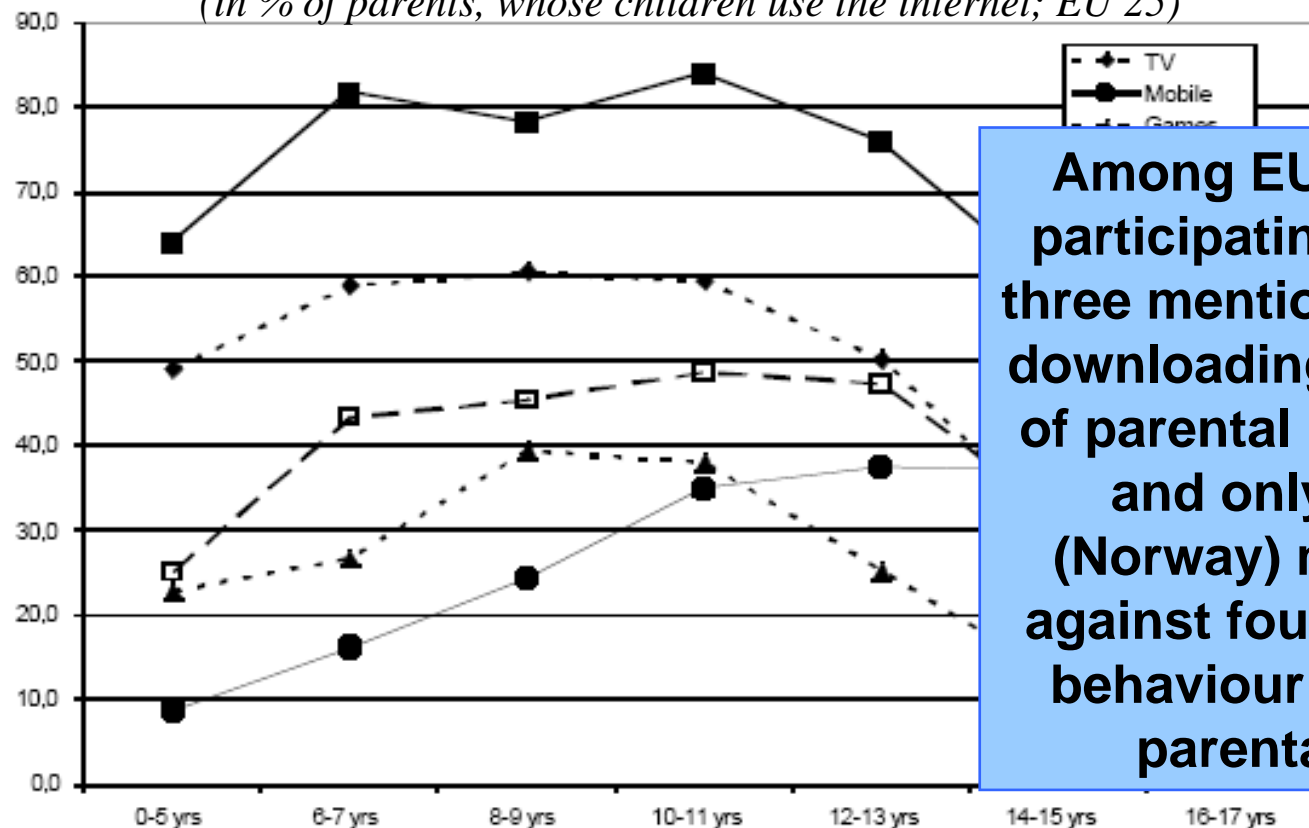
"David" clearly won.



Elisabeth Staksrud, communication, Univ. of Oslo

Parental mediation in Europe

*Parents who have set rules for using different media
(in % of parents, whose children use the internet; EU 25)*

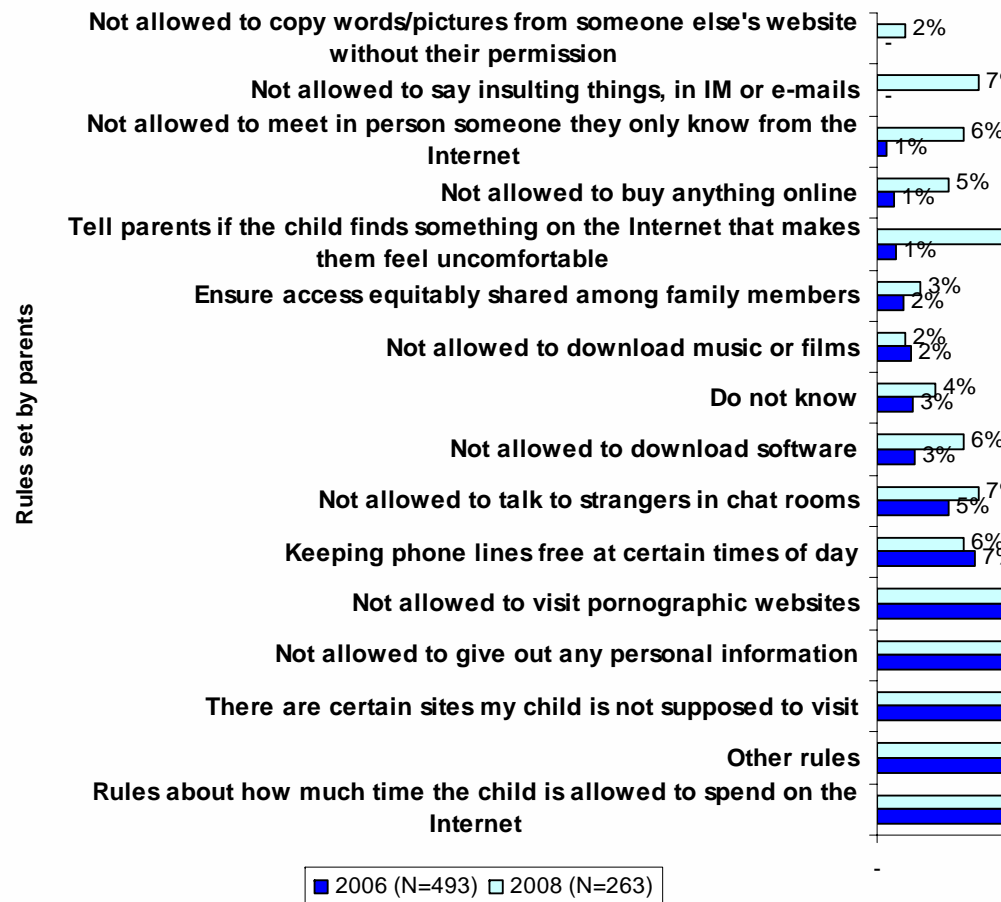


Among EU Kids Online 25 participating countries only three mentioned rules against downloading files as strategy of parental mediation in use, and only one country (Norway) mentioned rules against foul language/"bad" behaviour as a strategy of parental mediation.

Source: Eurobarometer 64.4 – Special No. 250: Safer Internet, December 2005; basis: parents/guardians with children less than 18 years.



Rules set by parents 2006 vs 2008



• No parent (2003/2006/2008) believe that their child has bullied someone online

• 1% (2006) -2% (2008) of parents believe that their child has ever illegally downloaded or fileshared any type of content



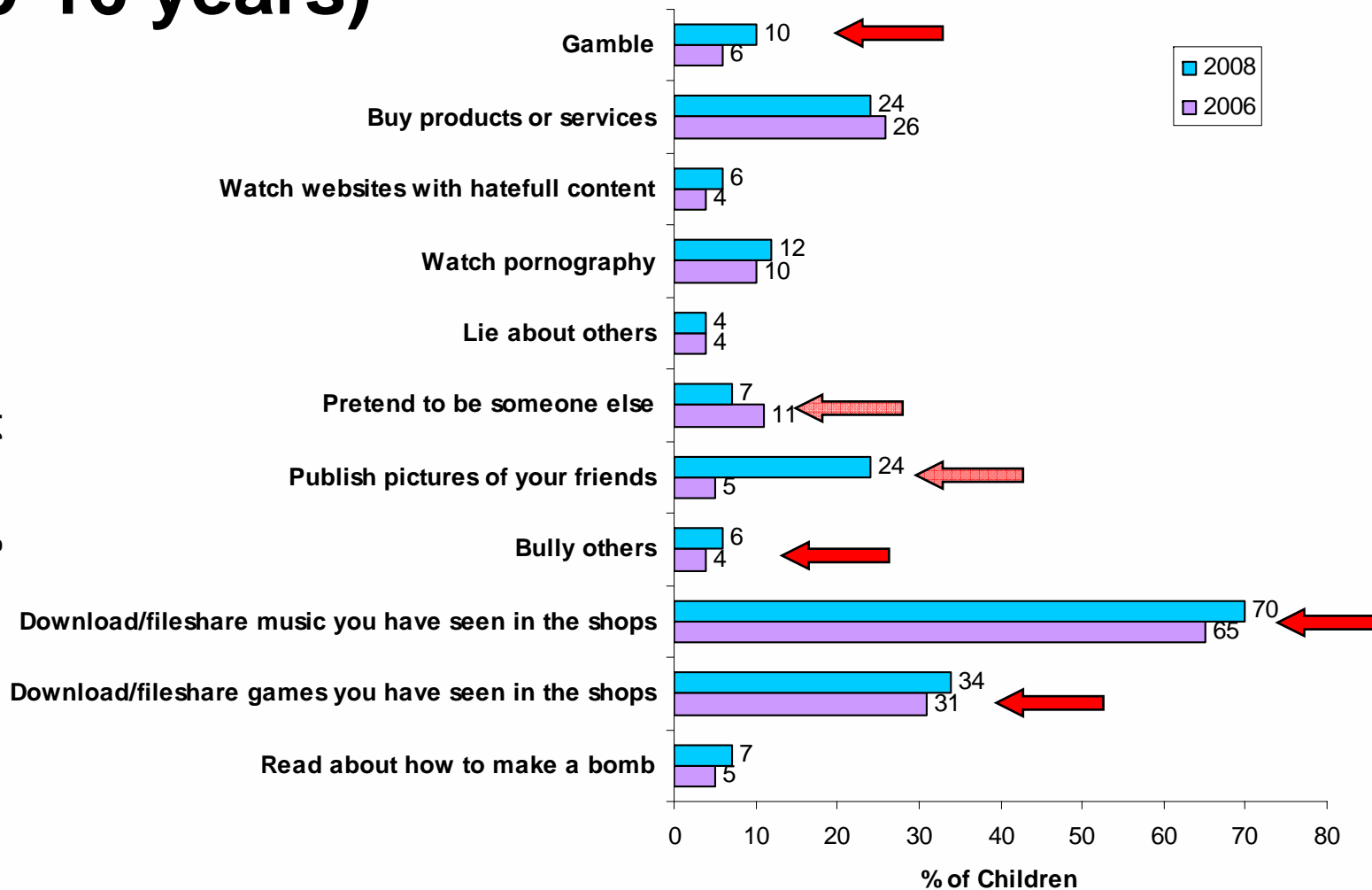
• Children (2008) claim to have more rules than their parents claim to have set:

- 23% say they are not allowed to download software
- 22% are not allowed to copy info
- 14% are not allowed to download music or movies
- Overrepresentation of non-regular users (less than once a week) and those from 2-parent homes among those children claiming to have rules regarding Internet usage



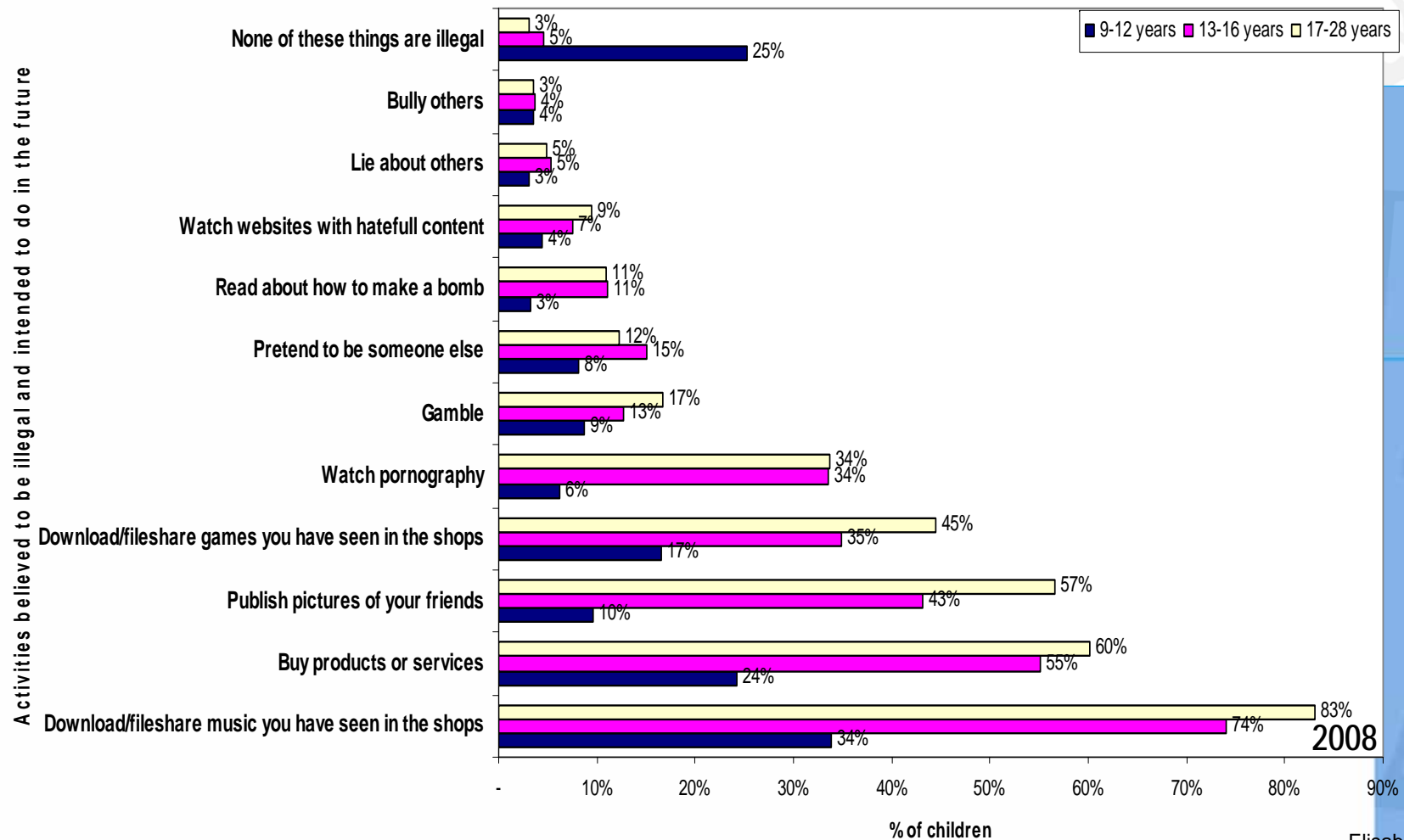
Children who believe something is illegal but still plan to do it in the future (9-16 years)

Percieved illegal activity planned to do in the future



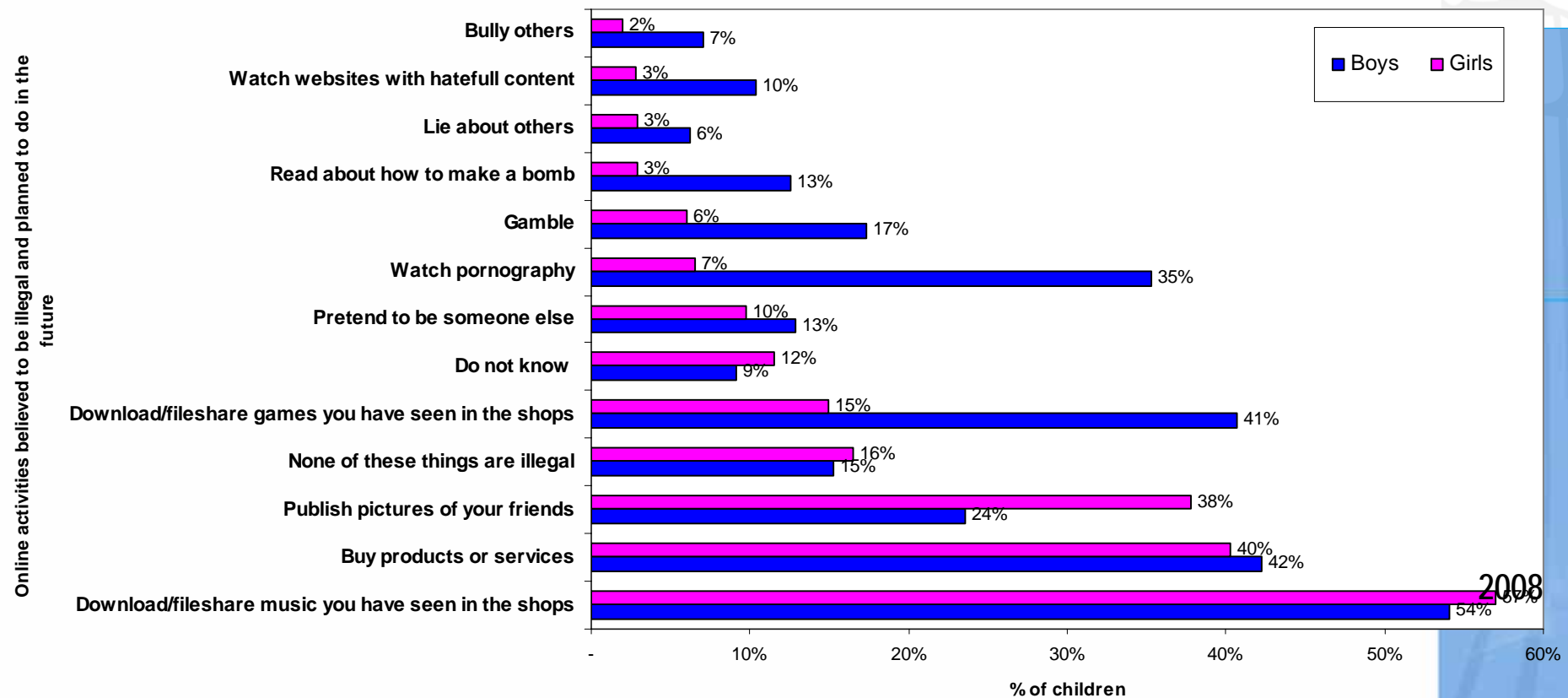


Planned (percieved) illegal activities by age



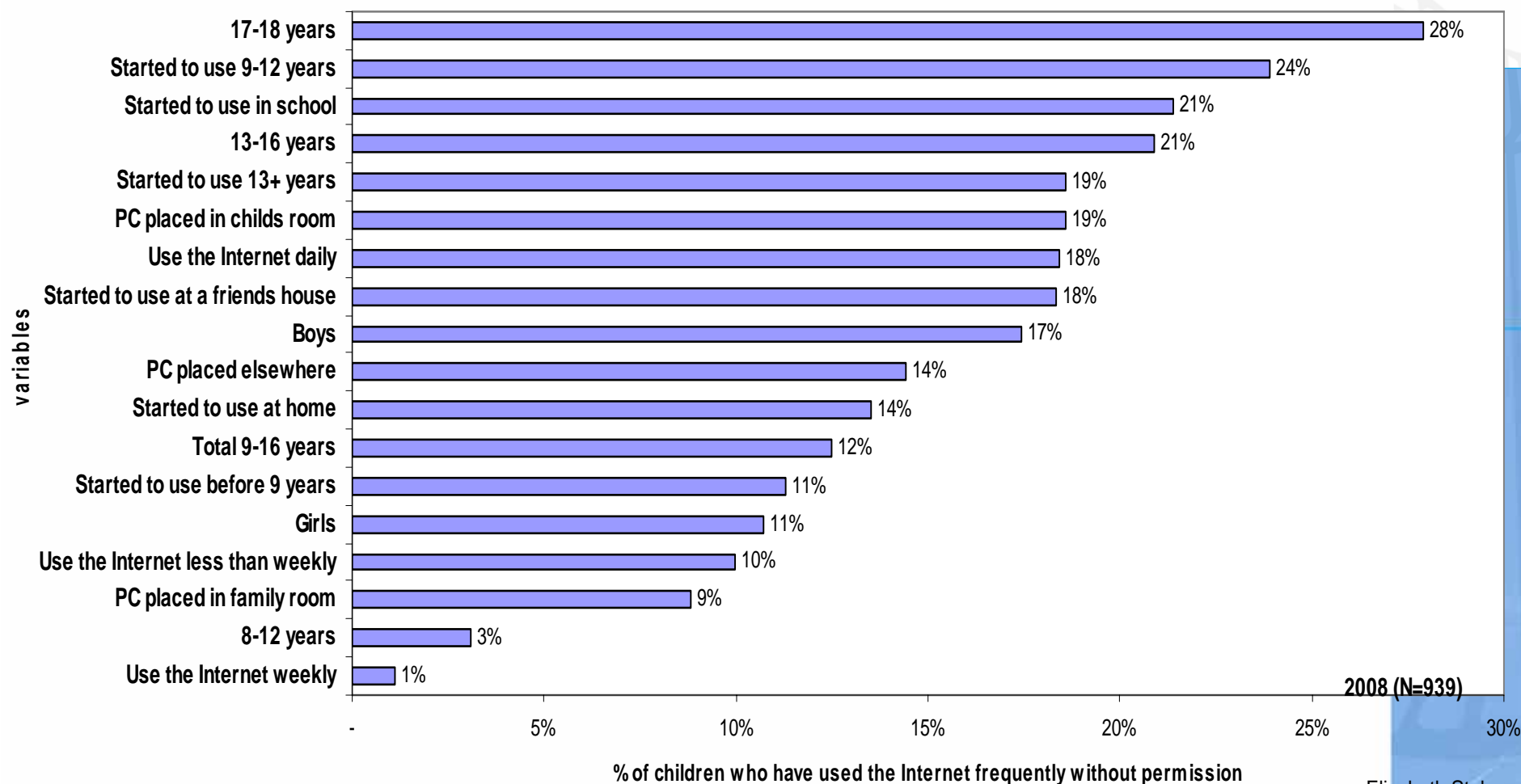


Planned (percieved) illegal activities by gender



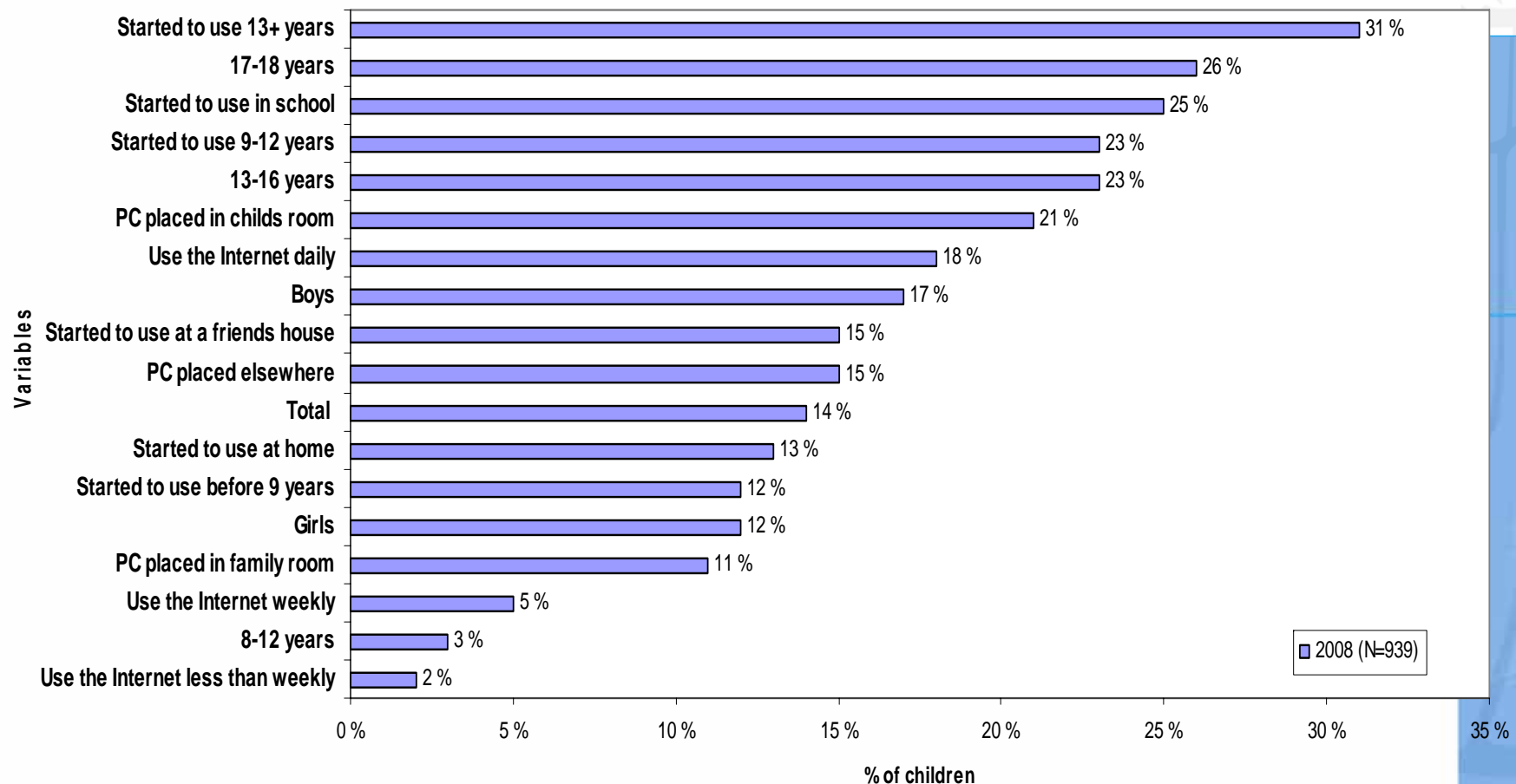


Deviant practices among children: frequently defy parental rules



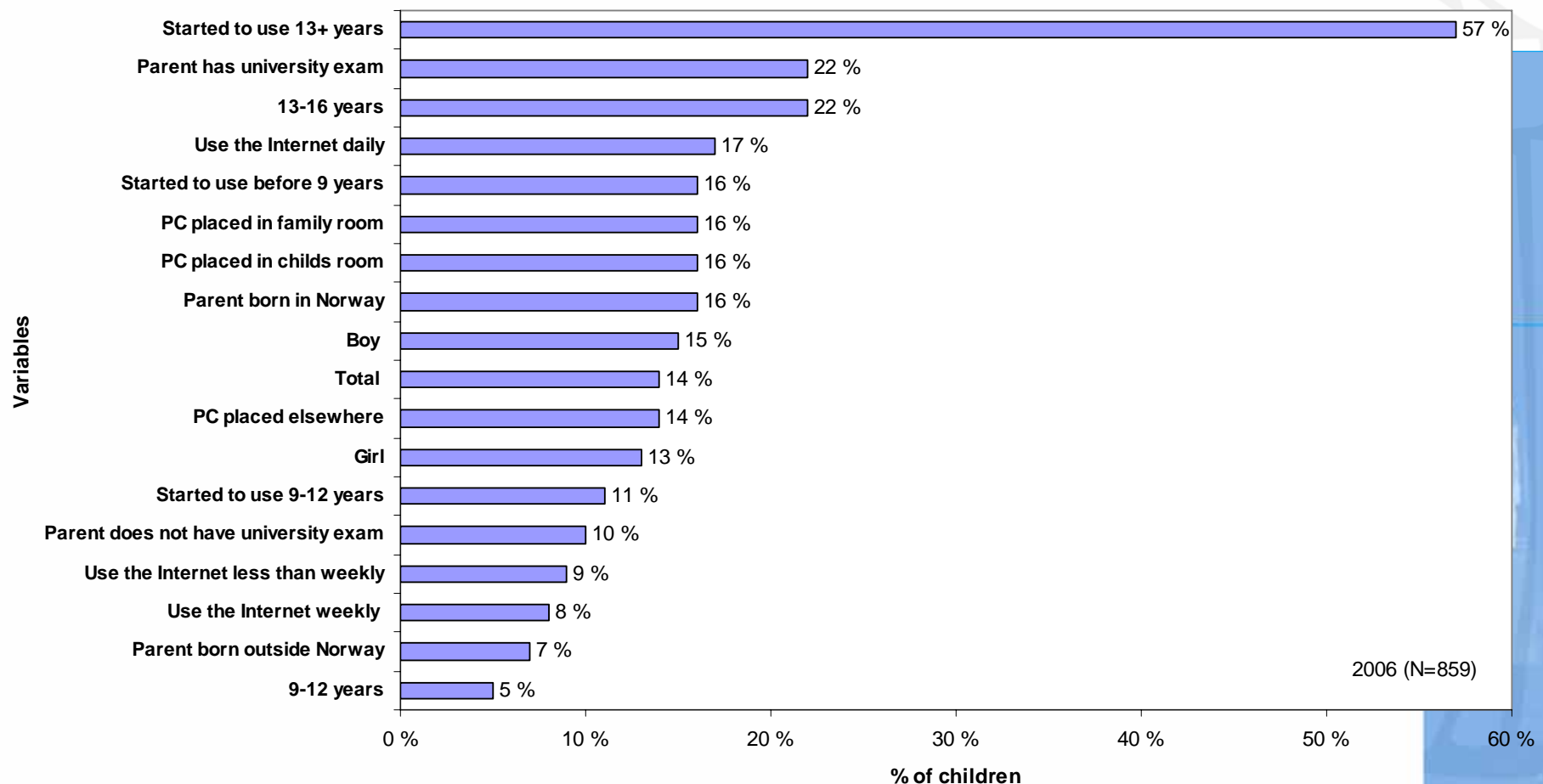


Deviant practices among children: **Bully others online**



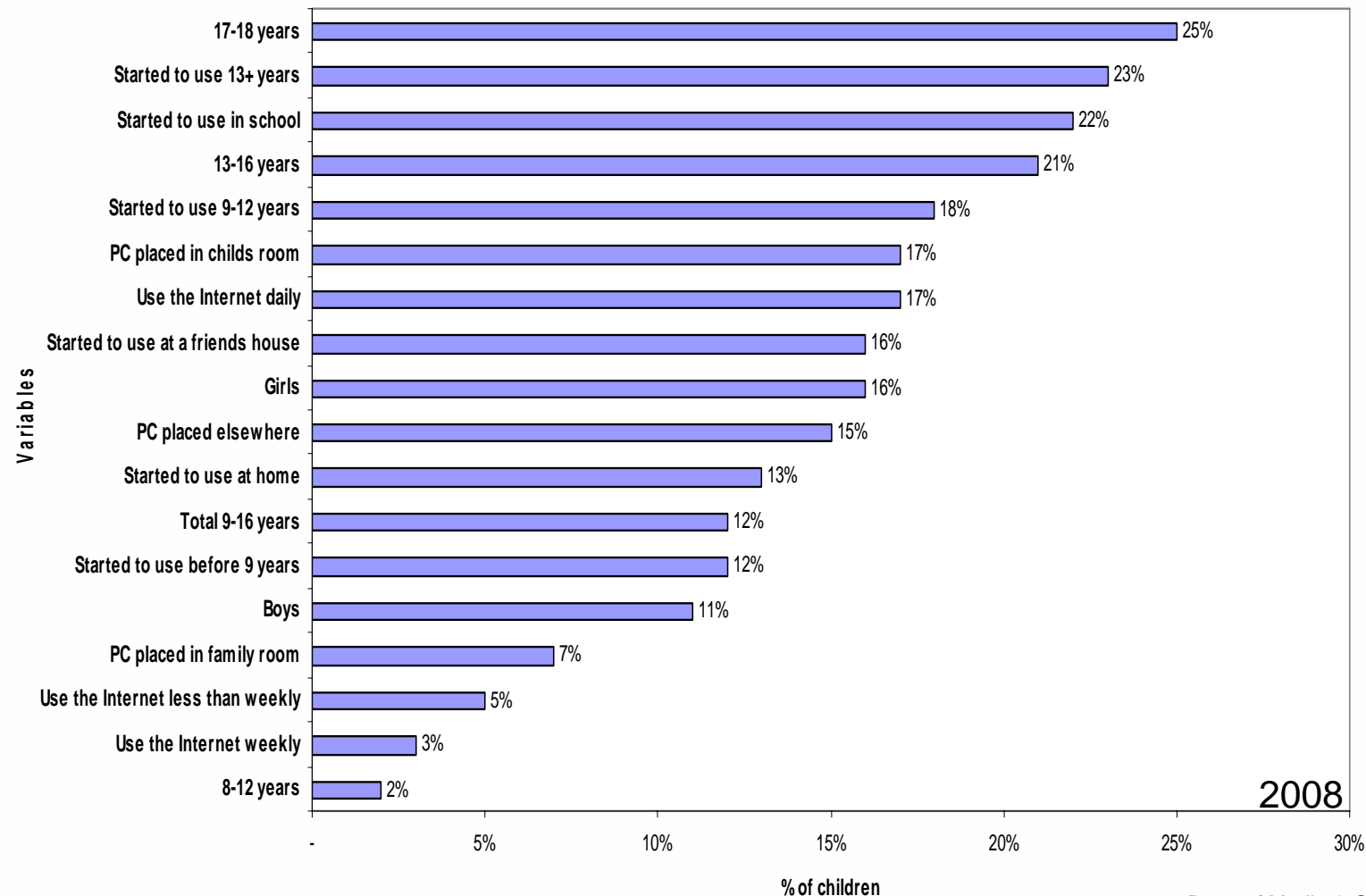


Deviant practices among children: posting racist comments online



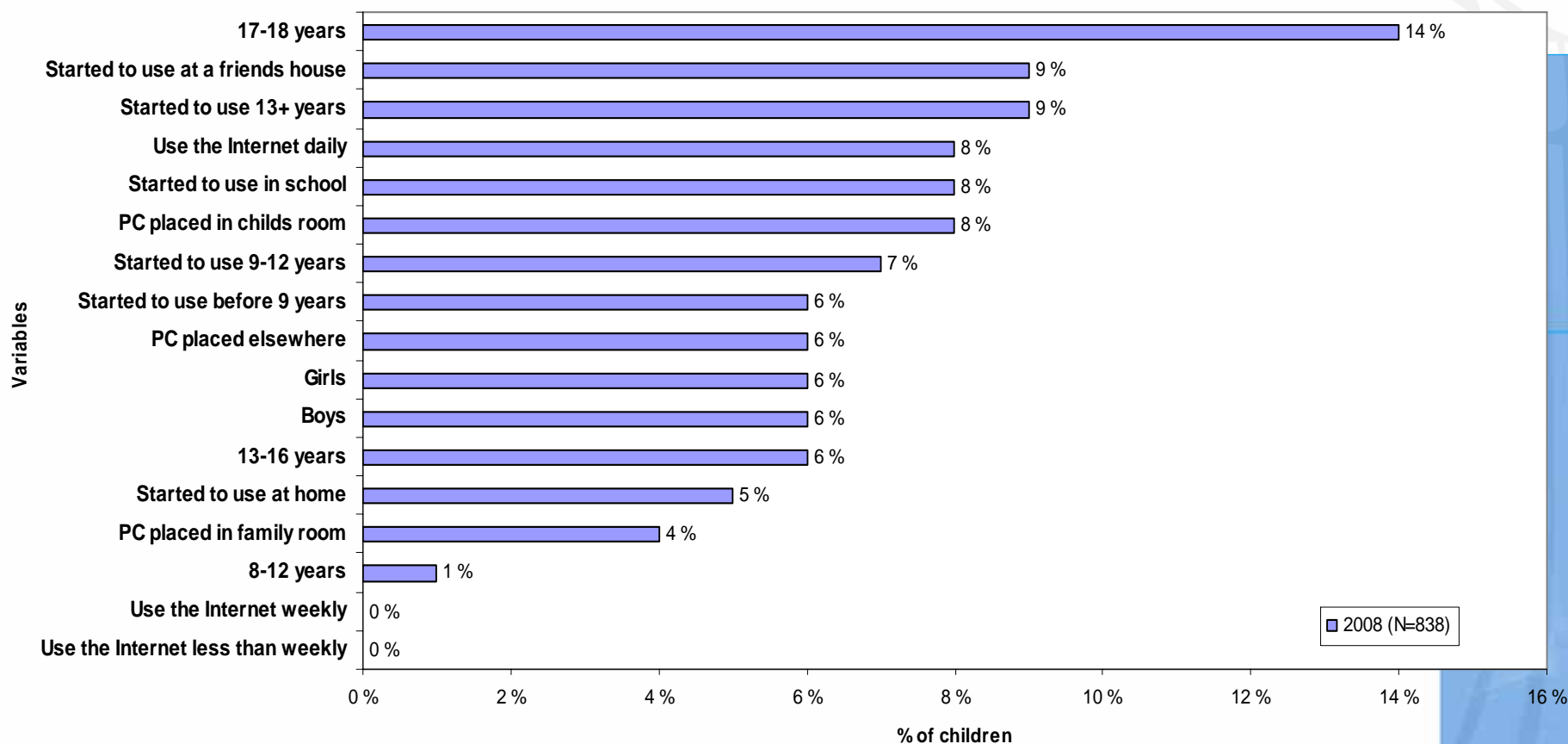


Deviant practices among children: Publish pictures of others without their permission





Deviant practices among children: Produce and distribute pornography



Question posed: Have you ever taken a picture of yourself without clothes and districted to others via your mobile phone?



Summary of findings:

- Lack of public awareness and parental input regarding illegal conduct online
- Children do not have a correct understanding of what is illegal – or what is legal
- Increased belief (2006 – 2008) that "everything" is illegal, decrease only for porn, bombs & publishing among the 13-16 year olds
- All planned deviant/illegal actions increases except buying things and pretend to be someone else



Summary of findings:

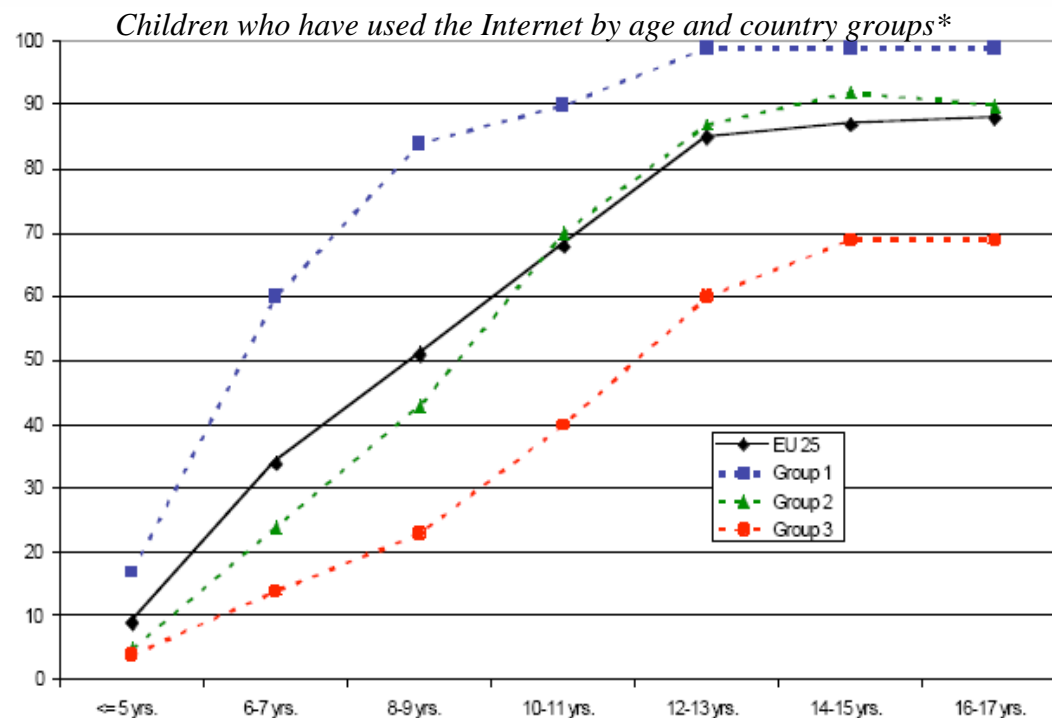
- Deviant practices increases with age – except pretend to be someone else and watch pornography
- Boys plan and do more deviant actions than girls, except regarding publishing pictures of friends (girls+) and produce and distribute porn (same)
- Most deviant in general are the oldest children, the late starters (outside the home) and the regular users
- Least deviant are the youngest, the rare(r) users, girls (except publish pictures) and those with the computer placed in a family room
- Parental education and background matter for racist comments



Recommendations

- Promote early adaption and ensure access, competence and confidence among the youngest
- Give parents advice on how to create awareness with their children regarding various risk issues – even if those issues do not seem relevant for the parent (it is never their child) or the age of the child
- Accept that children will and should encounter some online risks in order to develop skills and resilience

Increase of access to and frequency of use of online media stops around 12/13 years due to ceiling effect



*Classification of countries according to percentage of children who access the Internet at home

Group 1 (more than 80%): NO, IS, NL, SE, DK, SI, BE, DE

Group 2 (58%-70%): UK, EE, IE, AT, FR, CY, CZ, IT, ES

Group 3 (less than 50%): PL, GR, PT, BG

Source: Eurobarometer 64.4 – Special No. 250: Safer Internet, December 2005; basis: parents/guardians with children less than 18 years.



Challenges:

- Some of our common safety advise (e.g. pretend to be someone else) is in conflict with:
 - what many children think is legal
 - the nature of most social networking sites
- Between 50%-75% of children are criminalized because their perception of what is acceptable and reasonable does not fit current legislation (e.g. download music)

FBI seizes computers from high-school hackers

'Lord Flathead' and pals had access
to bank

New York Times

NEW YORK — A group of 23 teen-age computer hackers broke into a Chase Manhattan computer installation by July 1, according to a report by the FBI.

guardian.co.uk

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Pupils posing as bullies, police

Steven Morris

The Guardian, Thursday
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Children as young as 10 were using the internet networking site MySpace, police revealed yesterday. Children in Cornwall, were targeted

Tom



Mood: busy



View My: [Pics](#) | [Videos](#)

":-)"

Male

32 years old
Santa Monica,
CALIFORNIA
United States

Last Login:
10/22/2007

Sources and contact info

- Elisabeth.staksrud@media.uio.no
- EU Kids Online project can be found at www.eukidsonline.net
- Statistical bases: SAFT 2003 and 2006 and Trygg bruk 2008, Norwegian Board of Film Classification
- MMS pictures used with permission from Eivind Lentz
- References:
 - Hasebrink, U., Livingstone, S., & Haddon, L. (2008). *Comparing children's online opportunities and risks across Europe: Cross-national comparisons for EU Kids Online*. London: EU Kids Online (Deliverable 3.2.).
 - Lentz, E., Bing, J., & Hoel, A. S. (2007). *MMS TV*. [Oslo]: Multi Press.
 - Staksrud, E. (2008). *Children as online (ab)users*. Paper presented at the LSE Media Communication and Humanity Conference, London
 - Staksrud, E., Brandtzæg, P. B., Hagen, I., & Wold, T. (forthcoming). Online bullying and harassment [working title].
 - Staksrud, E., & Livingstone, S. (2008). *Children and online risk: Powerless victims or resourceful participants?* . Paper to be presented at the AoIR Copenhagen, October.



Method – parent survey

Target:

Parents with children between the ages of 6-16 with an Internet connection in the household. (23% of Norway's population.)

Method:

CATI, telephone interviews.

Data collection period:

28.11. – 11.12 2005 and 26.11-10.12 2007

Number of interviews:

802 interviews (2006) and 708 interviews (2008)

Weighting:

The results are weighted based on gender, age and geography



Method – Children survey

Target:

Children between the ages of 9-16

Method:

Self-completion questionnaire in classroom situation at school
(no teacher or parent present)

Data collection period:

23.1 – 8.2 2006 and 03.12.07 – 04.01.2008

Number of interviews:

888 interviews (2006) and 786 interviews (2008) + 142 (17-18 years)

Weighting:

The results are weighted based on gender, age and geography.