Insights from Internet Matters tracker survey

June 2022

internet matters.org

About our tracker survey:

- Conducted **twice a year** with a representative sample of **1,000 UK children aged 9-16** and **2,000 parents.**
- Enables us to analyse **trends over time** and to **compare responses by child's age, gender, vulnerabilities** (e.g. special educational needs) and more.
- Also enables us to analyse **differences in what parents and children are reporting.**

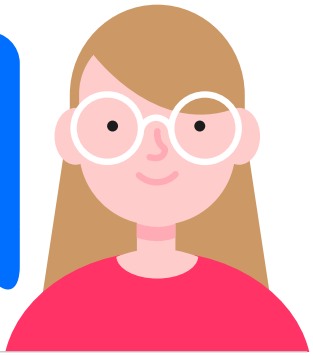
Key findings from the latest wave

Time spent online

- Children spend a significant amount of time online: on average **3h 48m** on weekdays, and **4h 54m** each weekend day. **That means that in a typical week, children are spending more than one complete day online.**
- Parents underestimate how much time children are spending online by around **one hour.**

Children's own estimates:
4h 54m weekend
3h 48m weekday

Parents' estimates:
3h 54m weekend
2h 42m weekday

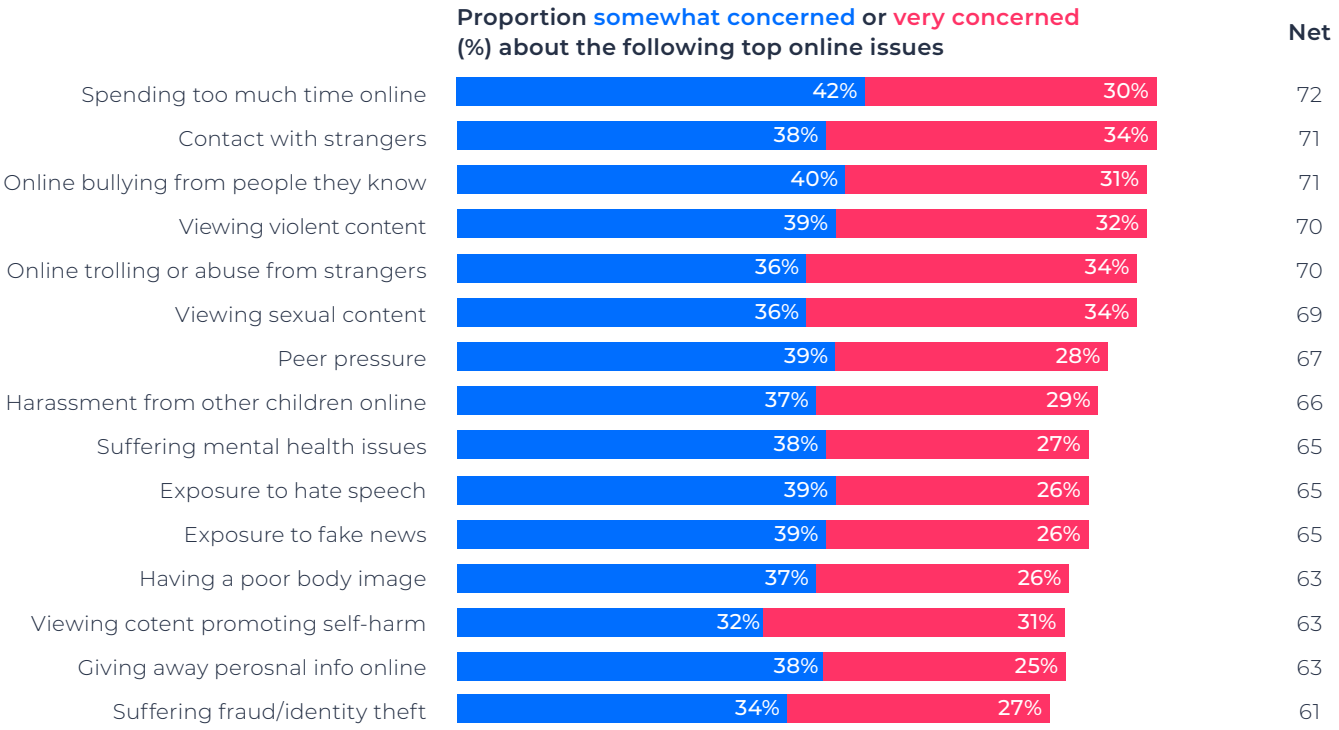


Top five platforms used regularly by children

YouTube	Netflix	WhatsApp	TikTok	Disney+
67%	64%	58%	55%	47%

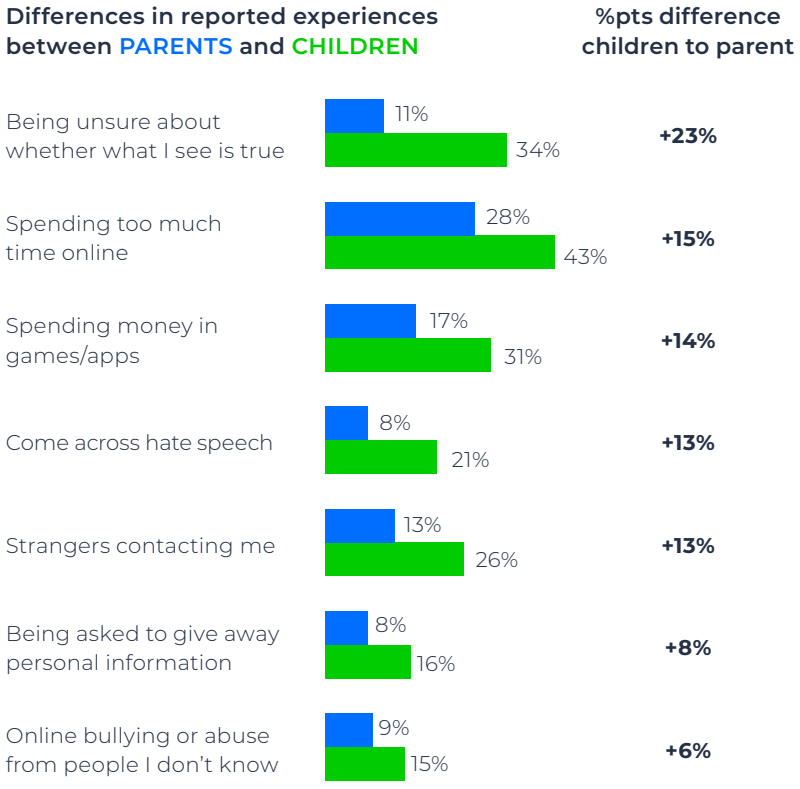
There is significant and widespread concern among parents about the dangers of the internet

- Parents are particularly concerned about their children spending too much time online, contact with strangers and online bullying.
- Many of the risks that parents are concerned about fall into the category of **"legal but harmful"**, suggesting the continued importance of this aspect of the Online Safety Bill.



Even though parental concern is high, parents underestimate the extent to which children are having negative experiences online

- In particular, children are much more unsure about how to distinguish between what is **true and false online** than parents think they are.
- The gap between children's responses on the one hand and parents' responses on the other shows that there is still **more to do to educate parents** about children's online lives.



This is just a snapshot of our survey findings. For further information and insight please contact **Simone Vibert, Head of Policy:** simone.vibert@internetmatters.org