



# **PERCEPTIONS OF INTERNET SAFETY AND THE RISK TO CHILDREN**

A National Survey of Parents

July 2022

# CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
Introduction.....	2
Methodology.....	3
Index of Tables.....	4
Profile of Respondents.....	5
Key Findings.....	6
Detailed Findings	
Parents’ Concerns About Children’s Internet Use.....	11
Assessing Efforts to Protect Children Online .....	18
Awareness of Internet Safety and Risks.....	23
Teaching Internet Safety in Schools.....	26
Support for National Legislation.....	31

# INTRODUCTION

- This report presents the key findings of a national survey of the U.S. adult population about topics related to internet safety and risks to children. Overall, 511 parents with children younger than age 18 were interviewed. The research was sponsored by The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NYSPCC) whose mission is to help prevent child abuse through its work with parents, teachers, children, and foster care agencies.
- The overall objectives of the research were to investigate:
  - Parents’ concerns about children interacting with strangers online, the impact of “screen time” on their children’s development of social skills, and the potential for “screen time” addiction among their children
  - Parents’ awareness of “sextortion,” that it’s possible for predators to track the location of children and teens who use popular apps, and that children using popular apps may be exposed to advertising with inappropriate content
  - Ratings of the job being done to protect children from inappropriate online content by technology and social media companies, government, schools, and parents in general
  - Support for teaching internet safety in schools
  - Support for two pieces of federal legislation: the “Invest in Child Safety Act” and the “Kids Online Safety Act”
- The research was designed by Michaels Opinion Research, Inc. in collaboration with staff at the NYSPCC.

## METHODOLOGY

- The survey results summarized in this report are based on completed interviews with a national probability sample of 511 parents in the U.S. with children younger than age 18.
- The research was designed for the NYSPCC by Michaels Opinion Research, Inc. and utilized the AmeriSpeak panel.
  - Funded and operated by NORC at the University of Chicago, AmeriSpeak is a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. The mixed-mode panel (online and telephone) provides sample coverage of approximately 97% of the U.S. household population.
- Data have been weighted to national U.S. Census benchmarks and are balanced by gender, age, education, race/ethnicity, and region. The tabulated results have a margin of error of  $\pm 6.0$  percentage-points.
- The survey was fielded July 14-17, 2022.

Notes: Columns may not total 100% because of rounding, non-response, or the acceptance of multiple responses.  
An asterisk (\*) in tables and charts indicates a value of less than one-half of one percent (<0.5%).

# INDEX OF TABLES

<b>Table</b>	<b>Page</b>
1 Profile of Respondents.....	5
2 Parents’ Internet Concerns About Children’s Internet Use.....	12-14
3 Parents’ Agreement with Statements on Children’s Internet Use.....	15-17
4 Assessing Efforts to Protect Children Online.....	19-22
5 Parent Awareness of Internet Safety and Risks.....	24-25
6 Parent Support for Teaching Internet Safety in Schools.....	27
7 Internet Safety Topics Schools Should Address.....	28-29
8 Awareness of Schools Teaching Internet Safety.....	30
9 Parent Support for the “Invest in Child Safety Act”.....	32-33
10 Parent Support for the “Kids Online Safety Act”.....	32-33

# PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

Table 1  
Profile of Respondents

	TOTAL
<b>Respondent Sex</b>	
Male	45%
Female	55
<b>Respondent Age</b>	
18-24	7%
25-34	22
35-44	41
45-54	23
55-64	6
65-74	1
75+	*
<i>Median Age</i>	40
<b>Respondent Education</b>	
Less than H.S.	9
H.S. or equivalent	24
Vocational/some college/A.A.	25
B.A.	20
Post-grad/professional degree	22

	TOTAL
<b>Respondent Race/Ethnicity</b>	
White, non-Hispanic	57%
Black, non-Hispanic	11
Asian, non-Hispanic	10
2+ Races, non-Hispanic	*
Other, non-Hispanic	*
Hispanic	22
<b>Household Income</b>	
Less than \$30,000	18%
\$30,000 to under \$60,000	23
\$60,000 to under \$100,000	23
\$100,000 or more	36

	TOTAL
<b>Ages of Children</b> multiple responses	
Under age 3	19%
Ages 3-5	24
Ages 6-12	51
Ages 13-17	50
Ages 18 and older	23
<b>Party Identification</b>	
Democrat	30%
Lean Democrat	11
Independent/None	27
Lean Republican	11
Republican	22
<b>Census Region</b>	
Northeast	16%
South	39
Midwest	21
West	25



## KEY FINDINGS

# KEY FINDINGS

According to the results of a national survey of parents with children younger than age 18, parents are both aware of and deeply concerned about potential risks related to their children's use of the internet and popular apps. Survey findings also indicate parents are significantly dissatisfied with numerous entities for job they're doing to protect children from inappropriate online contact.

## AWARENESS OF INTERNET SAFETY AND RISKS FOR CHILDREN

- Nearly two-thirds (64%) report they are aware that many popular apps used by children and teens allow people and companies to track a child's or teen's location.
- More than half (58%) also report they know that many popular apps used by children and teens allow advertising that may display sexually-explicit, violent, and other inappropriate content.
- Half of parents surveyed (50%) indicate they are aware of the serious internet crime called "sextortion."

## PARENTS' CONCERNS

- A 53% majority of parents express strong concerns about the potential risks of their children interacting with strangers online through popular websites and apps.
  - More than four-in-10 parents (45%) are also deeply concerned about the potential for their children to develop "screen time" addiction.
- A 57% majority of parents feel that "it's getting harder to control the amount of time" their children spend online outside of school.
- And there is discontent among parents about using parental control tools on internet platforms: 60% of parents agree that current parental control tools are inadequate to block access to inappropriate online content and 51% agree they need better information about how to use parental control tools.



## KEY FINDINGS, continued

### NUMEROUS GROUPS RECEIVE NEGATIVE RATINGS FOR THE JOB BEING DONE TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM INAPPROPRIATE ONLINE CONTENT

- Over seven-in-10 parents think social media companies (78%), the government (73%), and technology companies (72%) are doing only a “fair” or “poor” job protecting children and teens from inappropriate or risky online content.
- Two-thirds (65%) also rate parents in general as doing only a “fair” or “poor” job protecting children and teens from risky or inappropriate content, and 57% also give negative ratings to schools.

### THE ROLE OF SCHOOLS

Survey findings also suggest internet safety is not being addressed by schools and parents favor greater involvement by schools.

- Only 19% of parents surveyed indicate their children’s schools provided teaching on internet safety and risks during the past school year (2021-22), while 41% don’t know if schools have addressed this topic with students.
- Overall, 86% favor having schools conduct annual sessions with children and teens about internet safety and risks.

## KEY FINDINGS, continued

### SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Given the negative ratings of the job being done by internet companies and government to protect children and teens from risky online content, parents broadly support two bills that have been introduced in Congress to address these issues.

- A significant majority of parents (77%) favor passage of the “Invest in Child Safety Act” and the “Kids Online Safety Act.” More than four-in-10 parents “strongly” support both pieces of legislation.
  - The “Invest in Child Safety Act” is legislation that was re-introduced in Congress in 2021 and seeks to protect children and teens from online exploitation by directing funds to investigate and target predators who create and share child sexual abuse material online. It also directs funding for community-based efforts to prevent children and teens from becoming victims in the first place.

- The “Kids Online Safety Act” would require software app and electronic service companies to implement internet safeguards that would include settings that help minors and their parents limit the ability of others to find minors online, restrict the amount of data that can be collected on them, and allow them to opt out of recommendation systems using their data.



## **DETAILED FINDINGS**

## Detailed Findings

# **PARENTS' CONCERNS ABOUT CHILDREN'S INTERNET USE**

# PARENTS' CONCERNS ABOUT CHILDREN'S INTERNET USE

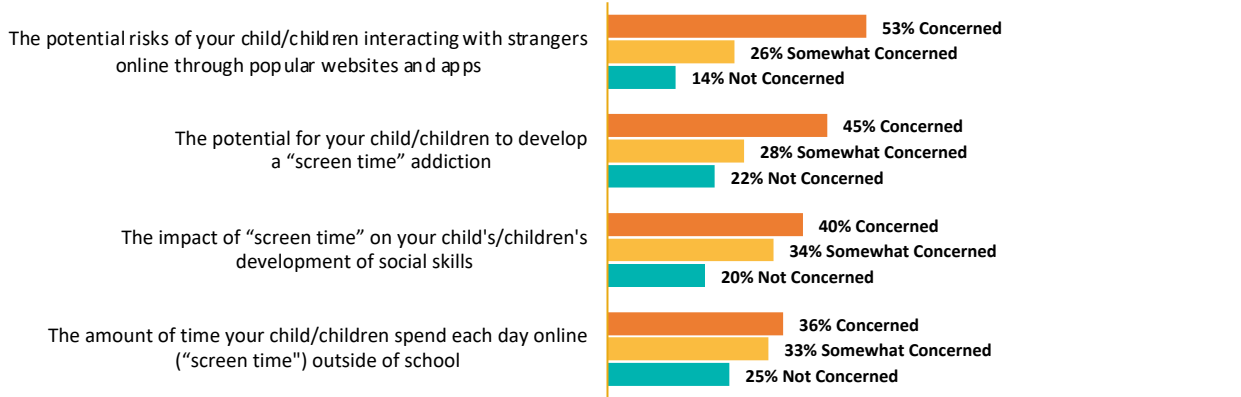
Parents nationwide with children younger than age 18 are deeply or somewhat concerned about several potential risks associated with their children's use of the internet.

- A 53% majority of parents with children under 18 express strong concerns about the potential risks of their children interacting with strangers online through popular websites and apps. And even more parents with children ages 6 to 12 (60%) are worried about their children interacting with strangers online.

- More than four-in-10 parents (45%) are deeply concerned about the potential for their children to develop "screen time" addiction, including 53% of parents in Western states and 51% of fathers.
- Four-in-10 parents indicate they are concerned about the impact of "screen time" on their children's development of social skills, while fewer (36%) are concerned about the amount of time their children spend online outside of school.

Table 2

**How Concerned Are You About Each of the Following As It Relates To Your Child's/Children's Use of the Internet and Popular Apps?**



Q2 Concerned=Extremely+Very Concerned. Not Concerned=Not Very+Not at All Concerned. "Doesn't apply/child not online" not shown.

# PARENTS' INTERNET CONCERNS, continued

Table 2, detail

How Concerned Are You About Each of the Following as It Relates to Your Child's/Children's Use of the Internet and Popular Apps?

	TOTAL	RESPONDENT SEX		AGE OF CHILDREN			
		Male	Female	Under 3	3-5	6-12	13-17

**The potential risks of your child/children interacting with strangers online through popular websites and apps**

Extremely concerned	28%	21%	33%	31%	22%	35%	27%
Very concerned	25	30	21	22	29	25	24
Somewhat concerned	26	27	25	24	32	18	30
Not very concerned	9	11	7	2	3	10	10
Not at all concerned	5	5	6	5	5	5	7
Doesn't apply/child not online	7	7	8	16	10	6	2

**The potential for your child/children to develop a "screen time" addiction**

Extremely concerned	22%	22%	23%	28%	23%	27%	18%
Very concerned	23	26	19	16	18	25	25
Somewhat concerned	28	29	26	32	38	25	26
Not very concerned	17	12	20	12	13	13	22
Not at all concerned	5	6	5	2	2	5	6
Doesn't apply/child not online	5	4	6	11	5	5	2

Q2

# PARENTS' INTERNET CONCERNS, continued

Table 2, detail continued

How Concerned Are You About Each of the Following as It Relates to Your Child's/Children's Use of the Internet and Popular Apps?

	TOTAL	RESPONDENT SEX		AGE OF CHILDREN			
		Male	Female	Under 3	3-5	6-12	13-17

**The impact of "screen time" on your child's/children's development of social skills**

Extremely concerned	20%	19%	21%	21%	18%	26%	19%
Very concerned	20	25	17	20	23	22	20
Somewhat concerned	34	34	33	30	42	27	38
Not very concerned	16	14	17	11	12	16	17
Not at all concerned	5	5	4	5	2	4	5
Doesn't apply/child not online	5	3	7	13	3	4	1

**The amount of time your child/children spend each day online ("screen time") outside of school**

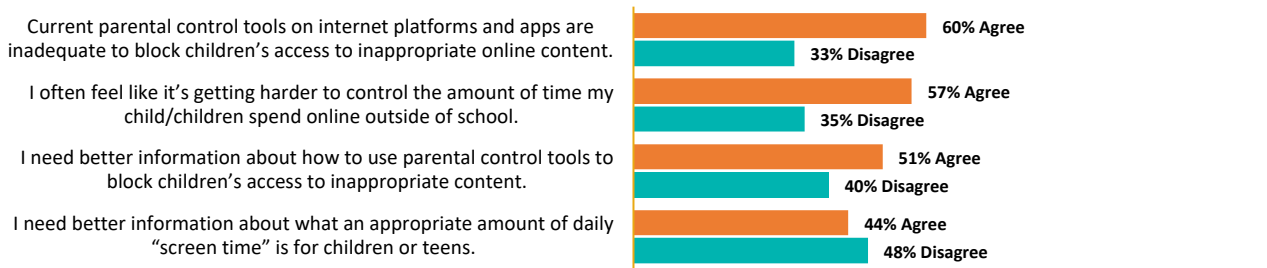
Extremely concerned	17%	15%	19%	18%	12%	24%	17%
Very concerned	19	24	15	14	21	19	23
Somewhat concerned	33	32	34	34	40	30	33
Not very concerned	20	18	21	19	19	19	18
Not at all concerned	5	5	6	4	3	2	8
Doesn't apply/child not online	5	6	5	10	5	5	2

Q2

# PARENTS' AGREEMENT WITH STATEMENTS ON INTERNET USE

- Regardless of the age of their children, 60% of parents agree that current parental control tools on internet platforms are inadequate to block access to inappropriate online content. And another 51% agree they need better information about how to use parental control tools.
  - Those most likely to agree they need better information about how to use parental control tools include 60% of parents ages 45 and older and 59% of parents with college degrees.
- A 57% majority of parents also feel that “it’s getting harder to control the amount of time” their children spend online outside of school.
  - Parents who are 45 years of age and older are more apt than parents ages 18 to 44 to agree it’s getting harder to control the time their children are spending online (69% vs 51%).
- At the same time, parents are more likely to disagree than agree—48% vs 44%—that they need more information about what an appropriate amount of daily “screen time” is for children and teens.

Table 3  
**How Strongly Do You Agree or Disagree With Each of the Following Statements That Some Parents Have Made About Children’s Use of the Internet and Popular Apps?**



Q3 Agree=Strongly+Somewhat Agree. Disagree=Somewhat+Strongly Disagree. “Doesn’t apply/child not online” not shown.



# PARENTS' AGREEMENT WITH STATEMENTS, continued

Table 3, detail  
**How Strongly Do You Agree or Disagree With Each of the Following Statements That Some Parents Have Made About Children's Use of the Internet and Popular Apps?**

	TOTAL	RESPONDENT SEX		AGE OF CHILDREN			
		Male	Female	Under 3	3-5	6-12	13-17
<b>Current parental control tools on internet platforms and apps are inadequate to block children's access to inappropriate online content.</b>							
Strongly agree	23%	20%	26%	25%	22%	27%	21%
Somewhat agree	37	37	36	34	38	39	42
Somewhat disagree	24	25	23	14	24	21	26
Strongly disagree	9	10	8	8	10	8	9
Doesn't apply/child not online	6	7	6	19	4	5	1

**I often feel like it's getting harder to control the amount of time my child/children spend online outside of school.**

Strongly agree	19%	15%	22%	16%	12%	20%	22%
Somewhat agree	38	42	35	30	40	39	45
Somewhat disagree	20	19	21	12	18	20	20
Strongly disagree	15	19	12	21	17	12	10
Doesn't apply/child not online	8	6	10	20	13	7	2

Q3

# PARENTS' AGREEMENT WITH STATEMENTS, continued

Table 3, detail continued  
**How Strongly Do You Agree or Disagree With Each of the Following Statements That Some Parents Have Made About Children's Use of the Internet and Popular Apps?**

	TOTAL	RESPONDENT SEX		AGE OF CHILDREN			
		Male	Female	Under 3	3-5	6-12	13-17
<b>I need better information about how to use parental control tools to block children's access to inappropriate content.</b>							
Strongly agree	18%	16%	20%	13%	19%	24%	18%
Somewhat agree	33	34	32	25	36	36	35
Somewhat disagree	24	29	20	19	17	17	29
Strongly disagree	16	16	16	18	18	15	14
Doesn't apply/child not online	9	6	11	23	9	6	4

**I need better information about what an appropriate amount of daily "screen time" is for children or teens.**

Strongly agree	13%	12%	13%	14%	10%	17%	14%
Somewhat agree	31	38	26	25	33	30	29
Somewhat disagree	28	27	28	23	26	27	33
Strongly disagree	20	17	22	21	19	20	18
Doesn't apply/child not online	8	6	11	17	12	7	5

Q3

## Detailed Findings

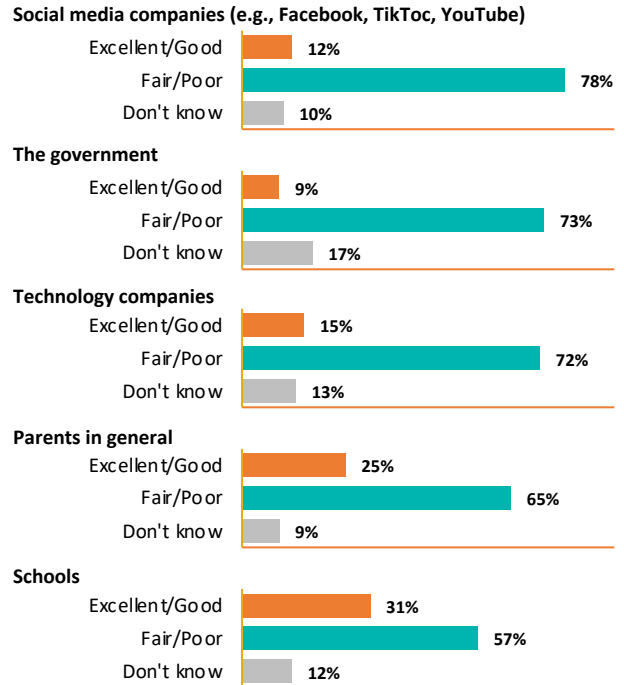
# **ASSESSING EFFORTS TO PROTECT CHILDREN ONLINE**

# ASSESSING EFFORTS TO PROTECT CHILDREN ONLINE

Parents provide highly critical ratings of numerous groups for the job they’re doing to protect children and teens from exposure to inappropriate or risky online content.

- Nearly eight-in-10 parents (78%) think social media companies are doing a “fair” or “poor” job protecting their children from inappropriate content.
- Just over seven-in-10 parents also think the government (73%) and technology companies (72%) are not doing an adequate job preventing children’s and teens’ exposure to inappropriate or risky online content.
- Parents aren’t letting themselves off the hook, either—two thirds (65%) rate parents in general as doing only a “fair” or “poor” job protecting children and teens from risky or inappropriate content.
- While 31% give positive ratings to schools for the job being done to protect children from risky online content, 57% also give negative ratings to schools.

Table 4  
**How Would You Rate the Job Being Done to Protect Children and Teens From Exposure to Inappropriate or Risky Online Content By Each of the Following Groups?**



# ASSESSING EFFORTS TO PROTECT CHILDREN ONLINE, continued

Table 4, detail  
 How Would You Rate the Job Being Done to Protect Children and Teens From Exposure to Inappropriate or Risky Online Content  
 By Each of the Following Groups?

	TOTAL	RESPONDENT SEX		AGE OF CHILDREN				
		Male	Female	Under 3	3-5	6-12	13-17	
<b>Social media companies (e.g., Facebook, TikTok, YouTube)</b>								
Excellent	3%	2%	3%	1%	1%	3%	3%	
Good	9	10	9	10	10	9	8	
Fair	18	17	18	14	12	14	23	
Poor	61	64	58	66	72	65	58	
Don't know	10	8	11	8	5	8	8	

**The government**

Excellent	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	3%
Good	7	7	6	7	7	7	7
Fair	26	28	24	15	20	27	29
Poor	48	46	49	63	51	46	45
Don't know	17	16	18	13	21	18	15

Q4

# ASSESSING EFFORTS TO PROTECT CHILDREN ONLINE, continued

Table 4, detail continued  
 How Would You Rate the Job Being Done to Protect Children and Teens From Exposure to Inappropriate or Risky Online Content  
 By Each of the Following Groups?

	TOTAL	RESPONDENT SEX		AGE OF CHILDREN			
		Male	Female	Under 3	3-5	6-12	13-17
<b>Technology companies</b>							
Excellent	2%	3%	2%	1%	3%	3%	3%
Good	13	11	14	7	13	9	16
Fair	22	22	21	26	19	24	18
Poor	50	56	45	53	59	51	51
Don't know	13	8	17	13	6	13	11
<b>Parents in general</b>							
Excellent	6%	4%	7%	7%	6%	5%	7%
Good	19	19	20	15	23	20	22
Fair	42	46	39	46	42	40	42
Poor	23	23	23	16	23	27	19
Don't know	9	8	10	16	5	7	10

Q4

# ASSESSING EFFORTS TO PROTECT CHILDREN ONLINE, continued

Table 4, detail continued  
**How Would You Rate the Job Being Done to Protect Children and Teens From Exposure to Inappropriate or Risky Online Content By Each of the Following Groups?**

	TOTAL	RESPONDENT SEX		AGE OF CHILDREN			
		Male	Female	Under 3	3-5	6-12	13-17
<b>Schools</b>							
Excellent	4%	4%	5%	7%	4%	6%	4%
Good	27	27	27	24	23	28	30
Fair	38	36	39	33	49	38	34
Poor	19	21	18	19	18	20	20
Don't know	12	12	12	18	6	9	12

Q4



## Detailed Findings

# **AWARENESS OF INTERNET SAFETY AND RISKS**



# AWARENESS OF INTERNET SAFETY AND RISKS

Parents indicate they are aware of several important issues related to internet safety and risks to children.

- Nearly two-thirds (64%) report they are aware that many popular apps used by children and teens allow people and companies to track the child’s or teen’s location.
  - Awareness that apps can track a child’s or teen’s location is highest among fathers (75%) and parents ages 45 and older (72%).
- A 58% majority also report they know that many popular apps used by children and teens allow advertising that may display sexually-explicit, violent, and other inappropriate content, with awareness highest among parents ages 45 and older (68%).
- Half of the parents surveyed (50%) indicate they are aware of the serious internet crime called “sextortion.”
  - Awareness of “sextortion” is highest among those who live in the Midwest (64%, compared to 50% or less of those living in other regions), fathers (56%, compared to 44% of mothers), and parents with college degrees (56%, compared to 41% of those with a high school education).

Table 5

## Are You Aware of Each of the Following Issues Related to Internet Safety and Risks to Children?

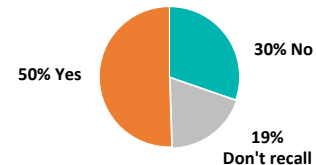
**That many popular apps used by children and teens allow people and companies to see and track the child’s or teen’s location**



**That many popular apps used by children and teens allow advertising that may display sexually-explicit, violent, and other inappropriate content**



**An internet crime called “sextortion”**



# AWARENESS OF INTERNET SAFETY AND RISKS, continued

Table 5, detail  
**Are You Aware Of Each Of The Following Issues Related To Internet Safety And Risks To Children?**

	TOTAL	RESPONDENT SEX		AGE OF CHILDREN			
		Male	Female	Under 3	3-5	6-12	13-17

**That many popular apps used by children and teens allow people and companies to see and track the child’s or teen’s location**

Yes	64%	75%	55%	65%	59%	63%	68%
No	21	17	24	11	24	23	21
Don’t recall	15	8	20	24	17	13	11

**That many popular apps used by children and teens allow advertising that may display sexually-explicit, violent, and other inappropriate content**

Yes	58%	67%	51%	73%	61%	58%	57%
No	23	21	25	7	19	25	23
Don’t recall	18	12	23	20	18	15	19

**An internet crime called “sextortion”**

Yes	50%	56%	44%	54%	41%	46%	51%
No	30	29	31	20	29	33	31
Don’t recall	19	14	22	25	28	20	15

## Detailed Findings

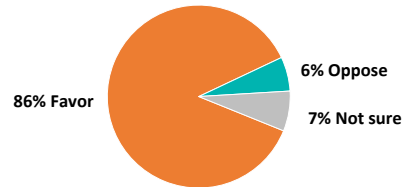
# **TEACHING INTERNET SAFETY IN SCHOOLS**

# SUPPORT FOR TEACHING INTERNET SAFETY IN SCHOOLS

According to the survey results, there is strong support among parents for schools to play a greater role in teaching students about internet safety and risks.

- Overall, 86% favor having schools conduct annual sessions with children and teens about internet safety and risks.
  - Parents who are most likely to “strongly” favor having schools conduct annual sessions about internet safety and risks are those with college degrees (68%), those ages 45 and older (65%), those with children ages six to 12 (63%), and parents in Western states (63%).

Table 6  
**How Strongly Do You Favor Or Oppose Having Schools Conduct An Annual Session With Children And Teens About Internet Safety And Risks?**



Q6

Table 6, detail

	TOTAL	RESPONDENT SEX		AGE OF CHILDREN			
		Male	Female	Under 3	3-5	6-12	13-17
Strongly favor	55%	57%	53%	54%	50%	63%	54%
Somewhat favor	31	30	31	31	28	23	36
Somewhat oppose	5	8	3	3	10	6	3
Strongly oppose	1	1	*	*	1	1	*
Not sure	7	4	10	12	11	7	5

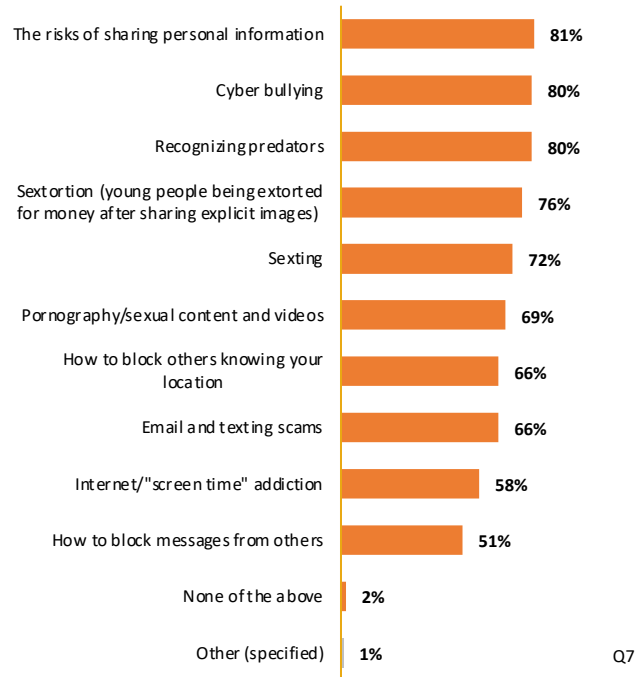
Q6

# INTERNET SAFETY TOPICS SCHOOLS SHOULD ADDRESS

Parents who favor having schools provide annual sessions on internet safety to students identify numerous topics they believe are important to address with students.

- Eight-in-10 parents would like schools to teach students about “the risks of sharing personal information” online, “cyber bullying,” and “recognizing predators.”
- More than seven-in-10 parents want schools to educate students about the risks of “sextortion” and “sexting,” while 69% also want students educated about the risks of sexual content and videos (including pornography).
- Two-thirds think knowing “how to block others from knowing your location” and “email and texting scams” are important topics to be addressed by schools with students.
- A majority of parents also would like schools to include “internet and screen time addiction” (58%) and “how to block messages from others” in an annual session on internet safety (51%).

Table 7  
**Which of the Following Topics on Internet Safety and Risks Do You Think are Most Important for Schools To Address With Students?**  
 Among those who favor annual school sessions on internet safety.  
 Multiple Responses



# INTERNET SAFETY TOPICS SCHOOLS SHOULD ADDRESS, continued

Table 7, detail

**Which of the Following Topics on Internet Safety and Risks Do You Think are Most Important for Schools To Address With Students?**

Among those who favor annual school sessions on internet safety.

Multiple Responses

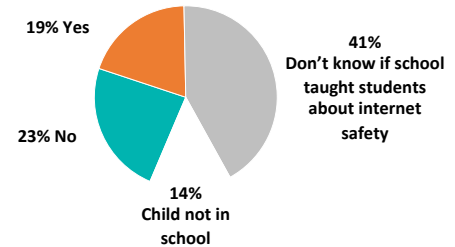
	TOTAL	RESPONDENT SEX		AGE OF CHILDREN			
		Male	Female	Under 3	3-5	6-12	13-17
The risks of sharing personal information	81%	79%	83%	83%	87%	86%	78%
Cyber bullying	80	79	82	74	84	85	76
Recognizing predators	80	78	82	78	83	86	79
Sextortion (young people being extorted for money after sharing explicit images)	76	72	80	75	70	81	78
Sexting	72	69	74	65	70	75	71
Pornography/sexual content and videos	69	65	72	62	66	73	69
How to block others knowing your location	66	63	68	59	62	69	64
Email and texting scams	66	63	69	69	75	71	62
Internet/"screen time" addiction	58	59	57	54	64	64	58
How to block messages from others	51	51	50	38	57	55	50
Other (specified)	1	1	*	*	*	1	1
None of the above	2	1	3	6	2	1	*

Q7

# AWARENESS OF SCHOOLS TEACHING INTERNET SAFETY

- Overall, one-in-five parents (19%) indicate their children’s schools provided teaching on internet safety and risks during the past school year (2021-22). Among parents with teenagers, 24% report schools provided some form of education about internet safety.
- Importantly, 23% of parents indicate schools did not provide any teaching on internet safety risks and 41% are not aware if schools did or did not provide teaching on internet safety and risks.

**Table 8**  
**As Far As You Know, Has Your Child’s/Children’s School Provided Any Teaching On Internet Safety And Risks In The Past School Year (2021-22)?**



Q8

Table 8, detail

	TOTAL	RESPONDENT SEX		AGE OF CHILDREN			
		Male	Female	Under 3	3-5	6-12	13-17
Yes, school taught students about internet safety	19%	15%	22%	3%	8%	20%	24%
No, didn't teach students about internet safety	23	23	22	13	33	22	21
Don't know if school taught students about internet safety	41	48	36	25	40	47	50
Child not in school	14	14	14	57	18	4	1

Q8

## Detailed Findings

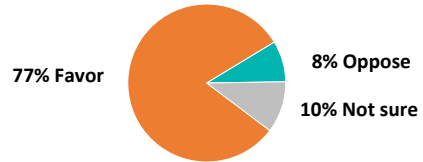
# **SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL LEGISLATION**



# SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL LEGISLATION

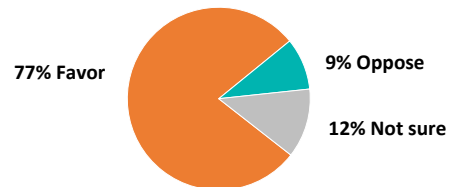
- A significant majority of parents (77%) favor passage of two bills that have been introduced in Congress: the “Invest in Child Safety Act” and the “Kids Online Safety Act.” More than four-in-10 parents “strongly” support both pieces of legislation.
- The “Invest in Child Safety Act” is legislation that was re-introduced in Congress in 2021 and seeks to protect children and teens from online exploitation by directing funds to investigate and target predators who create and share child sexual abuse material online.
- The “Kids Online Safety Act” would require software app and electronic service companies to implement internet safeguards that would include settings that help minors and their parents limit the ability of others to find minors online, restrict the amount of data that can be collected on them, and allow them to opt out of recommendation systems using their data.
- Both pieces of legislation have bi-partisan support from a majority of parents, though parents who identify as Democrats are significantly more likely than parents who identify as Republicans or independents to “strongly” favor passage of both bills.

Table 9  
Parent Support for the “Invest in Child Safety Act”



Q9

Table 10  
Parent support for the “Kids Online Safety Act”



Q10

## SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL LEGISLATION, continued

Table 9, detail

In February 2021, the “Invest in Child Safety Act” was re-introduced in Congress to protect children and teens from online exploitation. The legislation would direct \$5 billion in funding to investigate and target predators and abusers who create and share child sexual abuse material online. It also directs substantial new funding for community-based efforts to prevent children from becoming victims in the first place. The legislation has not been voted on by Congress. How strongly do you favor or oppose passage of this legislation?

	TOTAL	RESPONDENT SEX		AGE OF CHILDREN				PARTY AFFILIATION		
		Male	Female	Under 3	3-5	6-12	13-17	Dem	Rep	Ind
Strongly favor	44%	42%	45%	37%	46%	46%	44%	59%	35%	32%
Somewhat favor	33	38	29	38	32	33	37	27	37	37
Somewhat oppose	6	8	5	3	8	7	5	4	10	6
Strongly oppose	2	2	1	1	3	2	2	1	4	2
Not sure	14	9	18	21	9	12	11	8	15	21

Table 10, detail

The “Kids Online Safety Act” was introduced in Congress in February of this year (2022). It would require software app and electronic service companies to implement internet safeguards that minors or their parents can easily access to “control their online experience and personal data.” Safeguards would include settings that help minors and their parents limit the ability of others to find minors online, restrict the amount of data that can be collected on them, allow them to opt out of recommendation systems using their data, and limit their time spent online. The legislation has not been voted on by Congress. How strongly do you favor or oppose passage of this legislation?

	TOTAL	RESPONDENT SEX		AGE OF CHILDREN				PARTY AFFILIATION		
		Male	Female	Under 3	3-5	6-12	13-17	Dem	Rep	Ind
Strongly favor	45%	44%	46%	34%	36%	52%	48%	59%	41%	31%
Somewhat favor	31	35	28	41	35	26	31	28	36	32
Somewhat oppose	7	9	6	3	10	7	7	5	8	9
Strongly oppose	2	3	1	2	3	1	1	*	3	3
Not sure	12	9	16	20	15	12	10	8	12	20