Insight
Attitudes to Online Sexual Activities

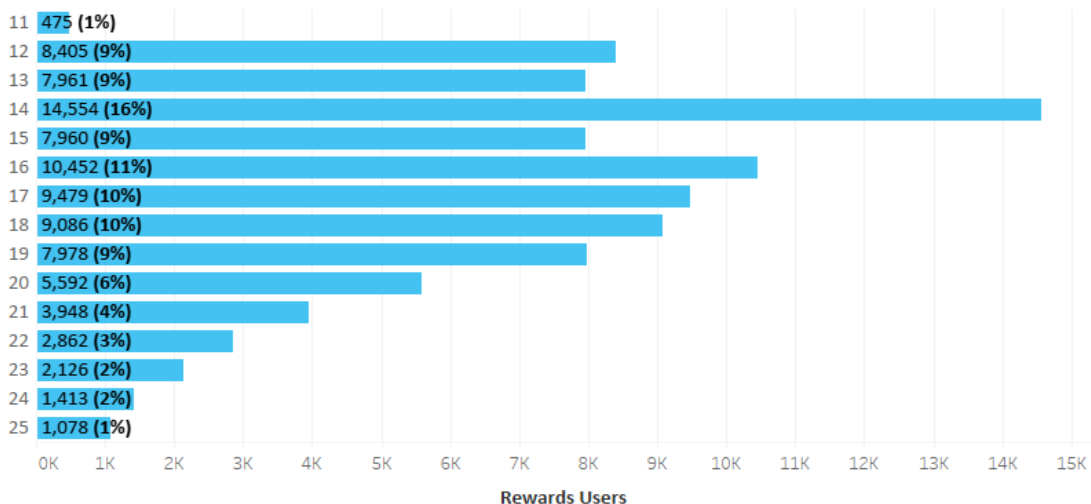**#YSObservatory**

Contents

Attitudes Towards Online Sexual Activities Survey

The Scottish Government was interested to find out more about young people's knowledge of and opinions about sexual behaviours occurring online. To help achieve this, they approached Young Scot to host and disseminate an online survey.

Young Scot currently has 689,210 cardholders across the whole of Scotland. The age range of these cardholders span 11-25, with the largest age groups being 20 and 21. A full breakdown of the current* cardholder numbers by age is shown below.

Age	Cardholders
11	549 (0.1%)
12	38,626 (5.6%)
13	47,048 (6.8%)
14	48,522 (7.0%)
15	49,232 (7.1%)
16	48,668 (7.1%)
17	49,744 (7.2%)
18	51,643 (7.5%)
19	52,868 (7.7%)
20	53,700 (7.8%)
21	53,825 (7.8%)
22	52,671 (7.6%)
23	52,010 (7.5%)
24	46,813 (6.8%)
25	43,291 (6.3%)
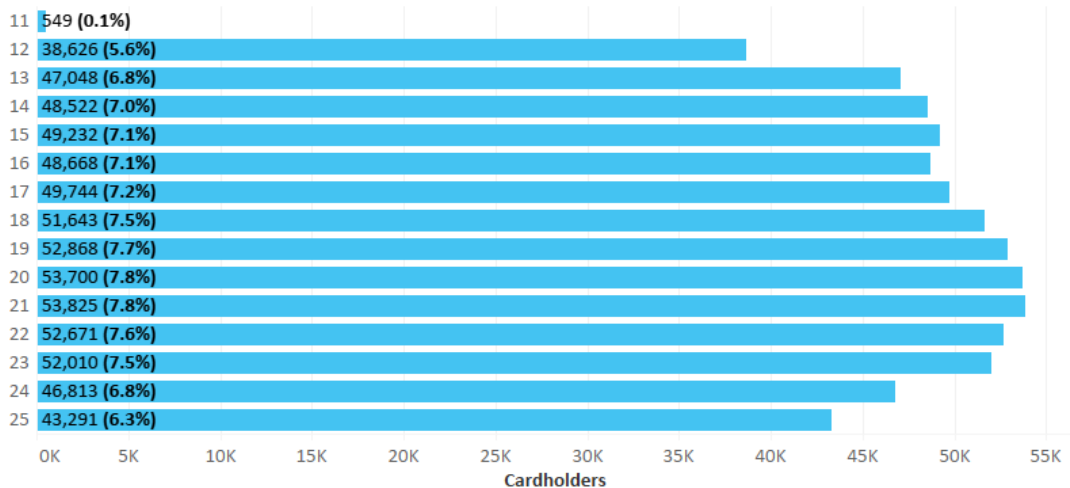
A major part of the Young Scot service is Young Scot Rewards (https://rewards.youngscot.org/). Each cardholder is eligible to register for the Young Scot Rewards platform, whereby they can complete "Activities" to earn "Rewards Points". These points can then be exchanged for a variety of products, opportunities and experiences. The Rewards platform currently** has 93,369 users. Below is a breakdown of the current** Rewards Users by age.

Age	Rewards Users
11	475 (1%)
12	8,405 (9%)
13	7,961 (9%)
14	14,554 (16%)
15	7,960 (9%)
16	10,452 (11%)
17	9,479 (10%)
18	9,086 (10%)
19	7,978 (9%)
20	5,592 (6%)
21	3,948 (4%)
22	2,862 (3%)
23	2,126 (2%)
24	1,413 (2%)
25	1,078 (1%)

The survey was hosted on Young Scot Rewards from 11th January to 5th February 2019 and was promoted across Young Scot's social media platforms, Young Scot's Get Involved page (www.young.scot/get-involved) and other relevant networks. There were 1,173 completed responses to the survey.

*based on the most up to date figures provided by NECPO (data as of 31st January 2019).
**based on an extract pulled from the Rewards platform on 31st January 2019.

Executive Summary

Survey Results

Personal Safety Online

1. Over three quarters of respondents (78%) stated that they felt either *Safe* or *Very Safe* online. Five percent selected either *Very Unsafe* or *Unsafe* and 17% were *Not sure.* Older respondents were more likely to select *Safe* or *Very Safe* compared to younger respondents.

2. The majority of respondents (81%) stated that they feel either *Confident* or *Very Confident* online, 16% selected *Slightly confident* and 3% *Not confident.* Older respondents were more likely to select *Confident* or *Very Confident* compared to younger respondents.

Sharing Photos Online

1. Most respondents (78%) were aware that it is an offence to take a nude photo of themselves and share it if they are under 18. Respondents who were 11-13 years old selected *No* or *Don't know* more often than older respondents.

2. A large majority (93%) were aware that it is an offence for someone else to share a nude photo of them if they are under 18. A tenth of 11-13 year old respondents selected *No*.

3. Three quarters were aware that it is not possible to ensure that a photo that has been shared is not seen by people that they did not want to see it. Around a quarter (26%) of respondents aged 11-13 thought that you were able to make sure that a photo is not shared.

4. Almost two thirds (65%) of respondents stated that the main reason that they think people ask for nude photos is *Because they are attracted to them.* Older respondents selected this more often that younger respondents. Around a quarter (26%) of respondents aged 11-13 selected *so they can show their friends.* Respondents who selected *Other* provided reasons such as *for sexual pleasure,* because of *pressure or power* and for *status.*

5. When asked how easy it would be to say no to someone popular who was requesting nude photos, around three quarters (76%) stated that it would be *Easy* or *Very easy* to say no. Younger respondents stated that they would find this more difficult to say no to than older respondents. A quarter of respondents aged 11-13 selected *Difficult* or *Very difficult.*

Education About Sexual Issues

1. Over half of respondents (56%) stated that their school had given them guidance about sharing sexual images and sexual behaviour online. This rate was similar across the age ranges.

2. When asked what type of guidance, respondents stated that they had been *informed of risks and consequences, informed of the law* and told *do not engage in online sexual activities.* Respondents also gave examples of how this guidance had been given (e.g. via *PSE lessons* or *police talks*) and examples of specific organisations that had visited them (e.g. *CEOP* and *RASAC*).

3. When asked where they preferred to get information about sex from, almost half of respondents (47%) selected *Internet*. However, a third of 11-13 year old respondents selected *Classes at school.* The second

most popular choice within this age group was a tie between *Internet* and *Friends.* Respondents who selected *Other* provided examples such as *professional services* (e.g. GP or other health professionals) and *education or youth groups.*

4. When asked if they thought if there were concerns/issues/problems that boys faced more than girls in regards to sexual behaviour online, 50% agreed that there were, 37% disagreed and 6% thought that issues were equal for both genders.

5. When asked if they thought if there were concerns/issues/problems that girls faced more than boys in regards to sexual behaviour online, 83% agreed that there were, 17% disagreed and 4% thought that issues were equal for both genders*.

6. Respondents identified similar issues for both of these questions, with the most frequent responses being in relation to *Peer pressure or unfair expectations*, *Body image or self-esteem*, *Expected to share photos of themselves* and *Can be exploited by scammers online*.

7. Themes that were applicable to only boys included *Risk of being blamed or prosecuted*, *Share more between peers about online activities* and *Porn as a source of sex education*.

8. Themes that were applicable to only girls included *Judged for actions more than boys*, *Unsolicited attention online* and *Objectification or sexualisation*.

Important Notes

Non-pertinent responses

Some responses have been labelled as 'non-pertinent'. These were typed responses that were deemed either overly explicit or not understandable. Due to the emotive nature of this survey we have been vigilant when labelling responses as non-pertinent.

Segmentation by age

The survey gathered responses from young people across the Young Scot target age range (11-25). It was requested that responses be filtered by school age (11-18) and non-school age (19-25). However, respondents aged 19-25 only made up 7% of the total respondent sample, meaning that removing these responses did not impact the results. Therefore, responses are reported firstly as the overall result (from respondents aged 11-25) and then split down into three groups: 11-13, 14-16 and 17-18. Responses to the qualitative questions have not been split in this way.
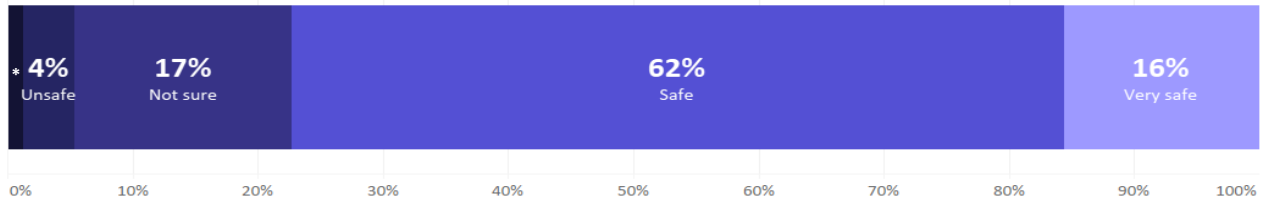
*Some responses included "Yes" and "No" and would have therefore been categorised into both themes. This is why the total of these figures is above 100%.

Survey Results

Personal Safety Online

How safe do you feel online?

Most respondents (78%) stated that they feel either *Safe* or *Very Safe* online.

* 4% Unsafe	17% Not sure	62% Safe	16% Very safe

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Very unsafe: 1%

Safe was the most commonly selected response across respondents aged 11-18. However, older respondents were more likely to select *Safe* or *Very Safe* compared to younger respondents.

11-13

3% Unsafe	20% Not sure	56% Safe	19% Very safe

14-16

5% Unsafe	18% Not sure	60% Safe	17% Very safe

17-18

3% Unsafe	17% Not sure	67% Safe	12% Very safe

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%
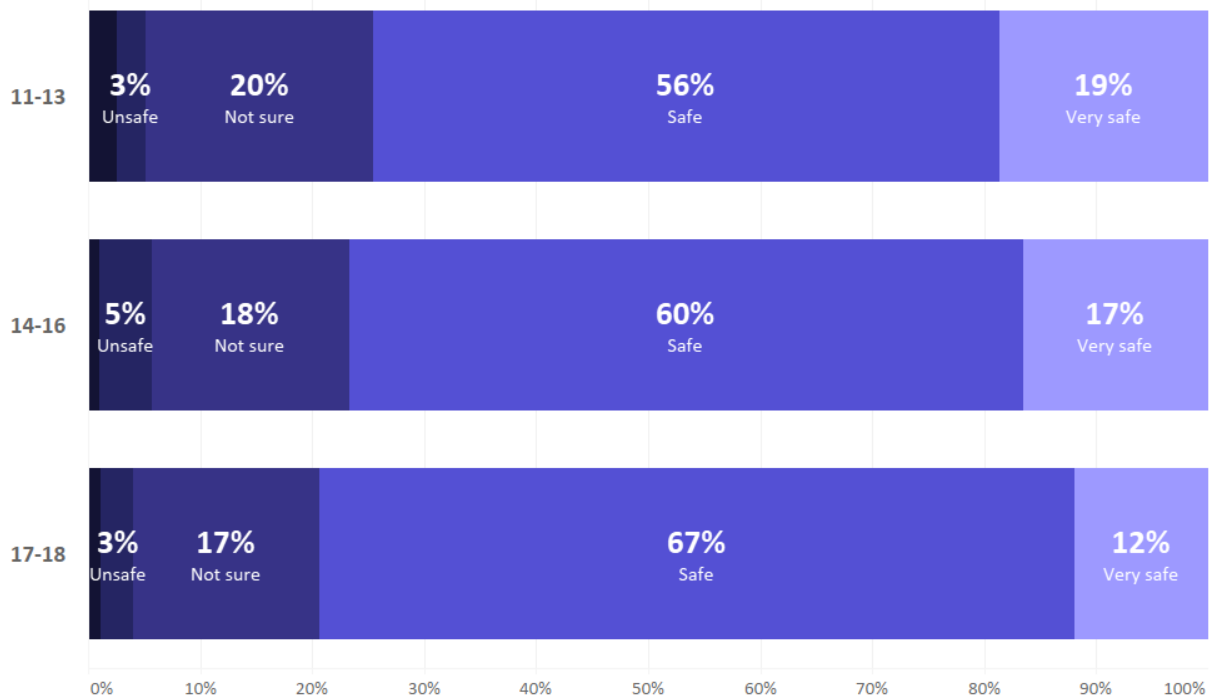
11-13 *Very unsafe:* 3%; 14-16 *Very unsafe:* 1%; 17-18 *Very unsafe:* 1%

How confident are you that you understand the risks around online sexual behaviour?

Most respondents (81%) stated that they feel either *Confident* or *Very Confident* online.

16% Slightly confident	44% Confident	37% Very confident

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Not confident: 3%

Confident was the most commonly selected response across respondents aged 11-18. However, older respondents were more likely to select *Confident* or *Very Confident* compared to younger respondents.
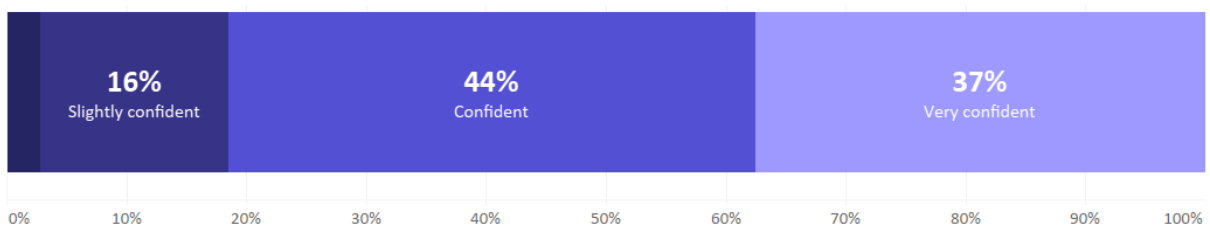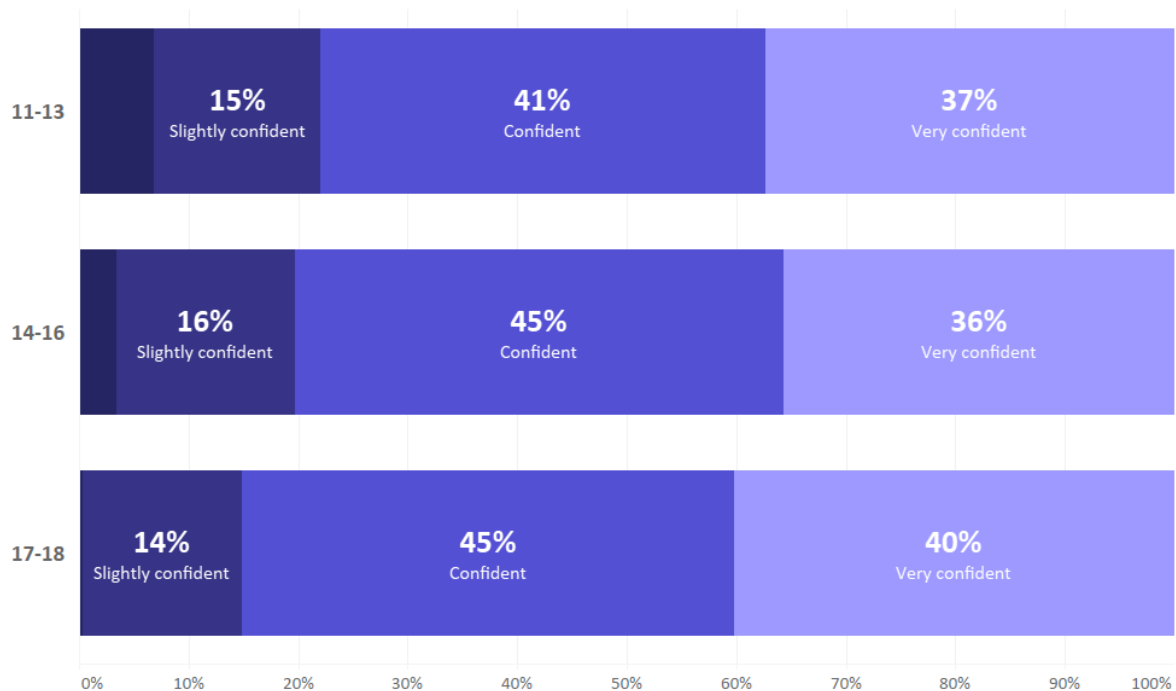
Age	Slightly confident	Confident	Very confident
11-13	15%	41%	37%
14-16	16%	45%	36%
17-18	14%	45%	40%

11-13 *Not confident:* 7%; 14-16 *Not confident:* 3%; 17-18 *Not confident:* 1%

Sharing photos online

Is it an offence to take a nude photo of yourself and share it if you are under 18?

78% Yes

12% Don't know

10% No
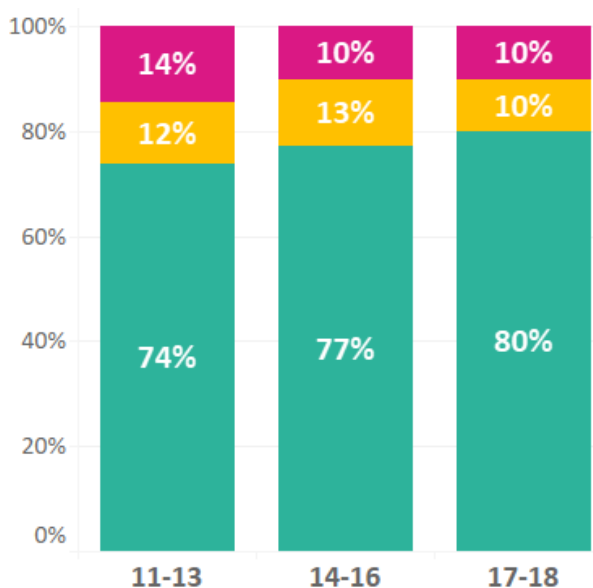
The majority of respondents aged 11-18 selected *Yes.* When looking between the age groups, the 11-13 year old respondents selected *No* or *Don't know* more often than older respondents.

Age	No	Don't know	Yes
11-13	14%	12%	74%
14-16	10%	13%	77%
17-18	10%	10%	80%

Is it an offence for someone else to share a nude photo of you if you are under 18?

93% Yes

4% Don't know

3% No
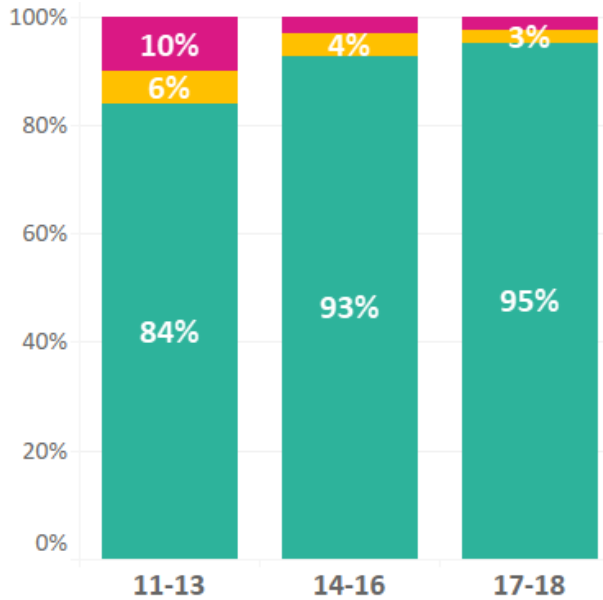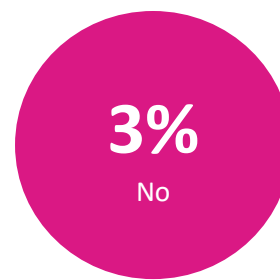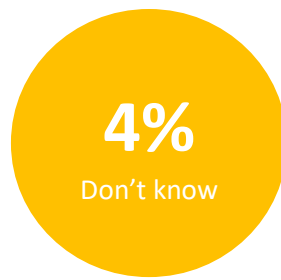
The majority of respondents aged 11-18 selected *Yes.* A tenth of 11-13 year old respondents selected *No.*

14-16 *No:* 3%
17-18 *No:* 3%

Chart (11-13, 14-16, 17-18):
- 11-13: Yes 84%, Don't know 6%, No 10%
- 14-16: Yes 93%, No 4%
- 17-18: Yes 95%, No 3%

Is it possible to make sure that a nude photo you have shared is not seen by people that you do not want to see it?

15% Yes

10% Don't know

75% No
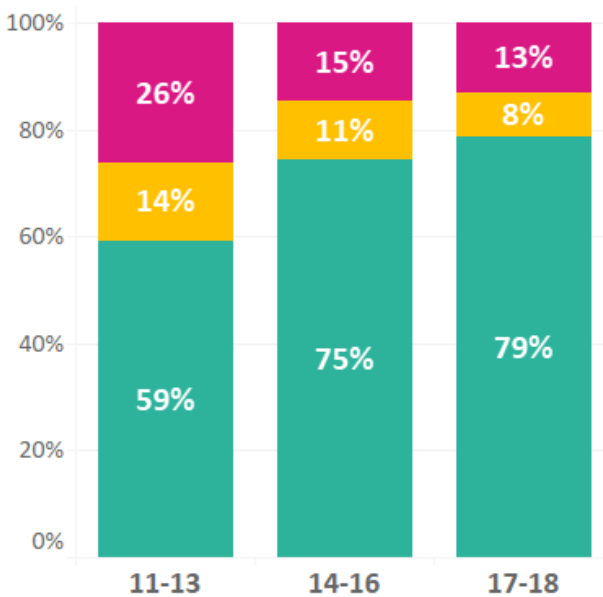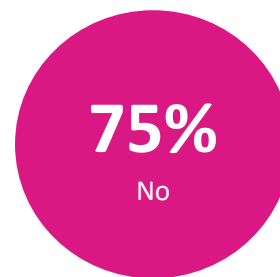
When looking at the age breakdown, around a quarter of respondents aged 11-13 selected *Yes.*

Chart (11-13, 14-16, 17-18):
- 11-13: Yes 59%, Don't know 14%, No 26%
- 14-16: Yes 75%, Don't know 11%, No 15%
- 17-18: Yes 79%, Don't know 8%, No 13%

What do you think is the main reason people ask others to send them nude photos?

65% Because they are attracted to them

18% So they can show their friends

13% Other - Please specify

4% To stop the other person sharing photos that they have sent

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70%
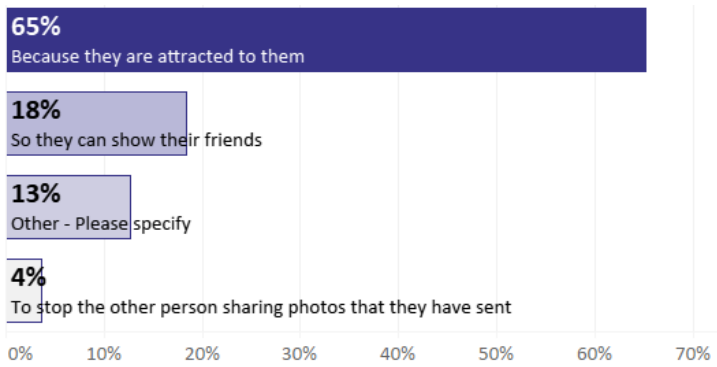
Almost two thirds of respondents (65%) selected *because they are attracted to them*.

The most common answer for respondents aged 11-18 was *because they are attracted to them.* However, older respondents selected this more often that younger respondents. Around a quarter of respondents aged 11-13 selected *so they can show their friends.*

Because they are attracted to them	11-13	52%
	14-16	65%
	17-18	71%
So they can show their friends	11-13	26%
	14-16	19%
	17-18	13%
Other - Please specify	11-13	16%
	14-16	13%
	17-18	11%
To stop the other person sharing photos that they have sent	11-13	6%
	14-16	3%
	17-18	5%

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%
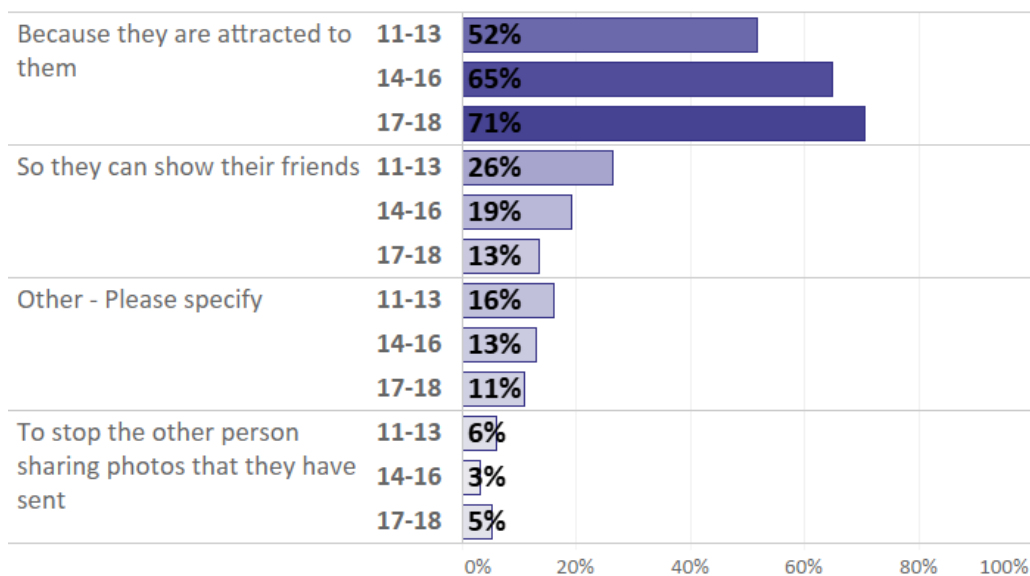
Of the 149 respondents who selected *Other,* all provided a written response. Two responses were deemed non-pertinent. Six respondents wrote a version of *Don't know/not sure* and thirteen respondents wrote a version of *All of the above.*

50% Sexual pleasure

30% Pressure or power

19% Status

10% Boredom

9% All of the above

7% Dependent on situation

4% Don't know or not sure

3% Online aspect

1% N/A

1% Other

0% 5% 10% 15% 20% 25% 30% 35% 40% 45% 50%
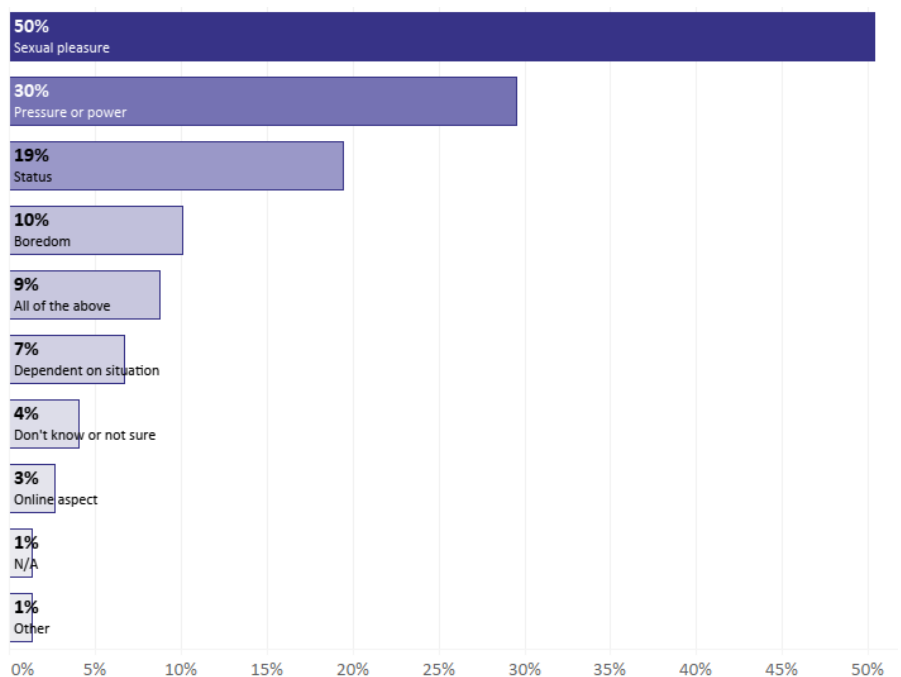
Responses may have been categorised under several themes so the graph does not total 100%.

Half of respondents who selected *Other* identified some form of sexual pleasure. Four respondents stated that pictures could be used as an alternative to pornography.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Sexual pleasure	Sexual pleasure	70
	Alternative to pornography	4
	Long distance relationships	1

Forty-four responses described pressure – either to send photos or an expectation to request photos from someone else.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Pressure or power	Blackmail or manipulation	22
	Peer pressure	9
	Bullying	6
	Societal or cultural expectation	4
	Sexual abuse	3

Twenty-nine respondents stated that sharing/receiving images can give individuals status. Six respondents highlighted that some people collect pictures as prizes or "trophies".

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Status	It's popular or cool	10
	Brag to friends	9
	Collect as "trophies"	6
	Share or sell to others	2
	Proud of bodies	2

Fifteen respondents said that people send/request photos when they are bored.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Boredom	For fun	10
	Excitement	5

Ten respondents said that the reasons people ask for photos depends on the situation or relationship that the individual is in.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Dependent on situation	Dependent on situation	10

Four respondents stated that people may ask for photos as they are sometimes "masked" online.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Online aspect	Anonymity online	2
	Targeted through social media	2

Two responses were categorised as *Other* as they did not fit under the other themes.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Other	Unable to express emotions	1
	"Boys are weird"	1

If a popular person in your school asked you to send a nude photo of yourself and you didn't want to, how easy would it be to say no?

Around three quarters (76%) stated that it would be *Easy* or *Very easy* to say no.

55% Very easy	21% Easy	11% Not sure	10% Difficult
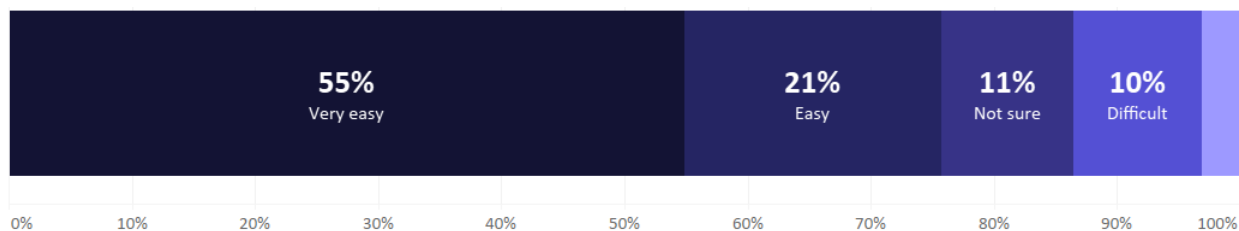
*Very difficult: 3%

When looking at responses from those aged 11-18, younger respondents would find this more difficult to say no to than older respondents. A quarter of respondents aged 11-13 selected *Difficult* or *Very difficult.*

11-13 | 46% Very easy | 23% Easy | 6% Not sure | 14% Difficult | 11% Very difficult

14-16 | 53% Very easy | 23% Easy | 12% Not sure | 10% Difficult

17-18 | 64% Very easy | 16% Easy | 8% Not sure | 10% Difficult
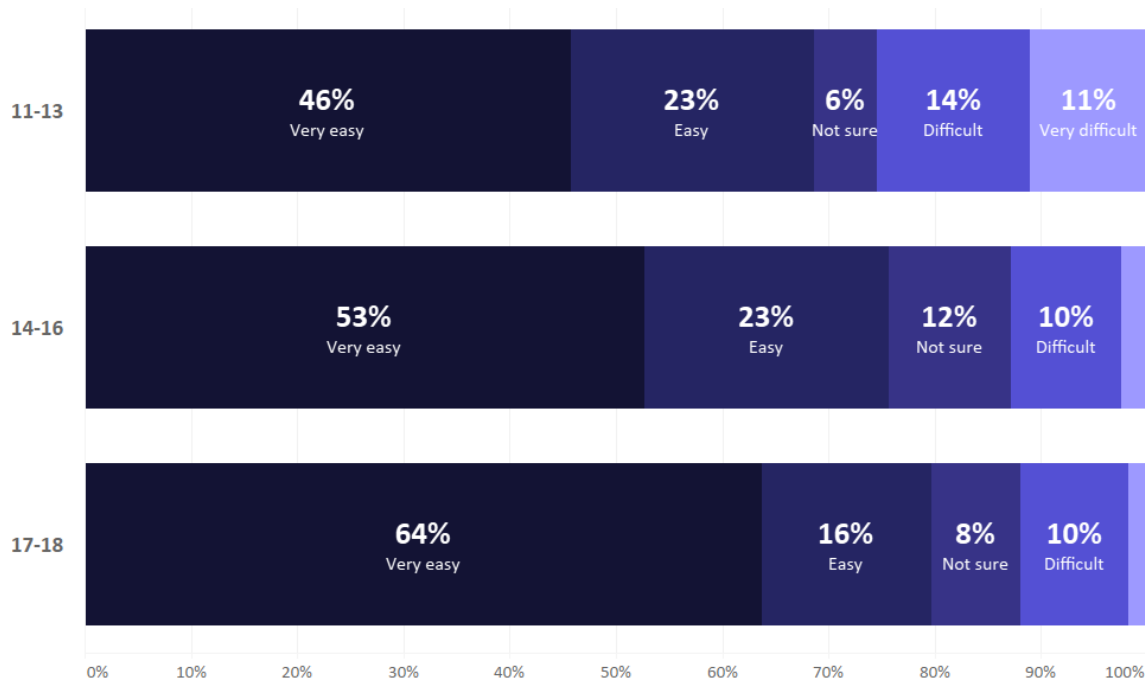
14-16 Very difficult: 2%; 17-18 Very difficult: 2%

Education about sexual issues

Has your school given you any guidance about sharing sexual images and sexual behaviour online?

56% Yes   **8%** Don't know   **36%** No
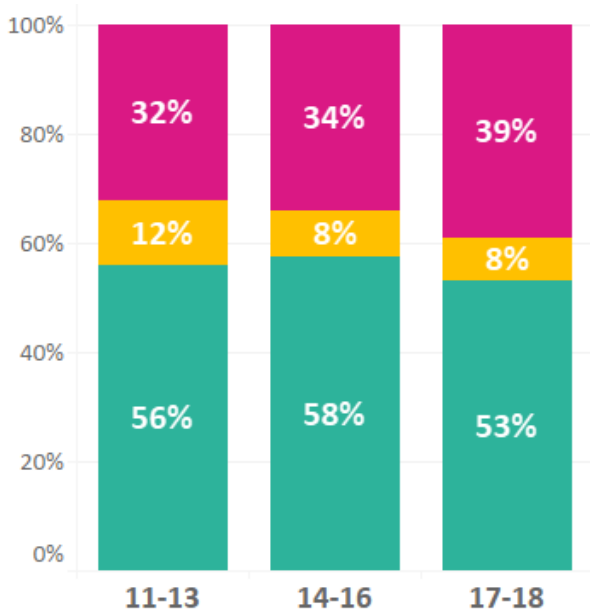
These responses were similar across respondents aged 11-18.

What kind of guidance have they given you?

Of the 652 respondents who stated that their school had given them some form of guidance, all provided a written description of this guidance.

Of the 149 respondents who selected *Other,* all provided a written response. Twenty-six responses were deemed non-pertinent and eleven respondents wrote a version of *Don't know/not sure.* Two responses were categorised as *Other* as they did not fit under the other themes.
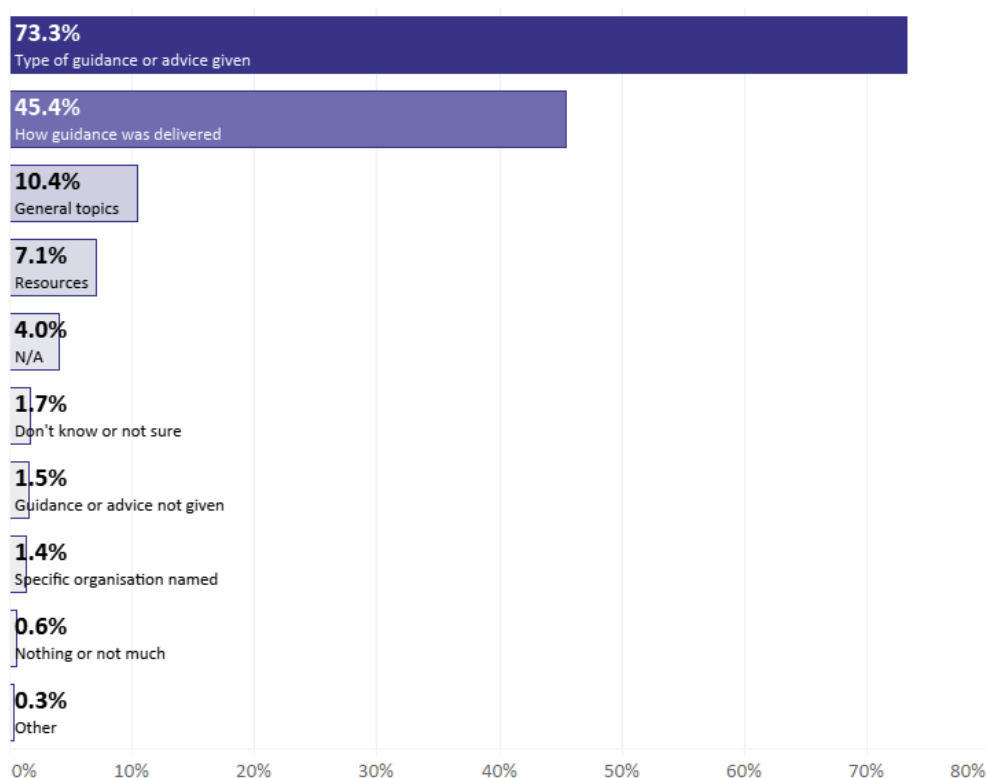
Responses may have been categorised under several themes so the graph does not total 100%.

Most respondents described the type of guidance or advice. This was mainly in relation to the risks and consequences of inappropriate sexual behaviour online or warning against doing it at all.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Type of guidance or advice given	Informed of risks or consequences	190
	Do not engage in any online sexual activities	138
	Informed of law	81
	How to report someone	18
	Shared real life experiences	12
	Only send if you trust the person	9
	Do not feel pressured	8
	Do not share received photos	6
	How to deal with scammers online	4
	How to say no	4
	What to do if a photo is leaked	4
	Impact on parents or family	3
	Do not exchange money for photos	1

"Explained the consequences of sharing images online including, how you don't know someone you trust won't pass it on to someone else. Provided guidance as to how to report others sharing inappropriate content, or seek help if you feel unsafe."

Almost 300 responses (296) described how the guidance was delivered, with most stating PSE or sex education lessons.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
How guidance was delivered	PSE or sex education lessons	138
	Assemblies, presentations or talks	98
	Police talk	55
	Youth organisations	3
	Event	1
	Question and answer session	1

"They've given us lots of PSE lessons from teachers in the school and people outside the school on what it's about and how to prevent it from happening and getting yourself into trouble."

Sixty-eight responses described the topics that were covered as part of the guidance given by schools, with internet safety being identified.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
General topics	Internet safety	40
	General information on online behaviour	16
	Sexual health	9
	Revenge porn	2
	Relationships	1

"We had a lesson about online safety and the topic of 'sexual images' was brought in the lesson."

Forty-six responses described the resources used to give the guidance. Six respondents identified the need for these to be updated.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Resources	Videos	33
	Posters or leaflets	7
	Outdated resources or advice	6

"Presentation slides and an out of date video. It wasn't very modern - probably from 2000 - and wasn't very up to date on the local laws and modern technology. It was outdated and didn't help many people in the class understand."

Ten respondents identified areas where guidance was *not* given, including what is against the law.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Guidance or advice not given	Not informed of risks or consequences	6
	Not informed of law	3
	Not enough information about consent or underage sex	1

"…They didn't tell us about the exact laws surrounding explicit photos though. They didn't explain that it was an offence to take an explicit photo of yourself if you were under 18."

Nine respondents identified a specific organisation that helped give them guidance.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Specific organisation named	CEOP	3
	RASAC	2
	LANDED	1
	Romance Academy	1
	Wave Trust	1
	Women's Aid	1

Two responses were categorised as *Other* as they did not fit under the other themes, with one respondent making a suggestion as to how to improve guidance. This respondent did not give permission to be quoted in this report.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Other	Parents were given information but not students	1
	Suggestion	1

"There was an information evening but I think it was actually for parents but I was helping at it so heard it"

Where do you prefer to get most of your information about sex from?

Response	Percentage
Internet	47%
Classes at school	21%
Friends	19%
Parent/carer	8%
Other - please specify	5%
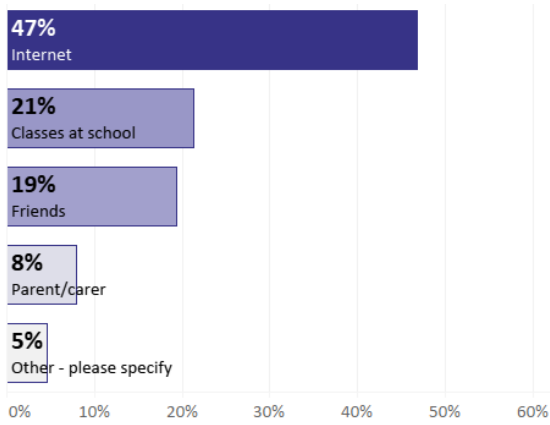
Almost half of respondents (47%) selected *Internet*.

The most common response differed between age groups. While most respondents aged 14-18 selected *Internet*, a third of 11-13 year old respondents selected *Classes at school.* The second most popular choice within this age group was a tie between *Internet* and *Friends*.
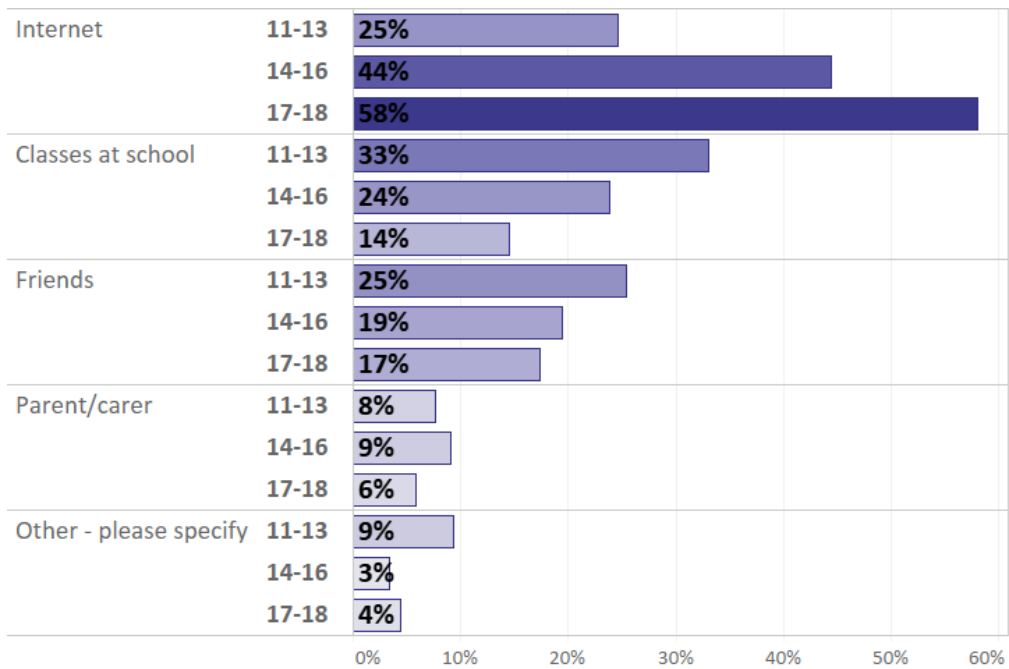
Response	Age	Percentage
Internet	11-13	25%
	14-16	44%
	17-18	58%
Classes at school	11-13	33%
	14-16	24%
	17-18	14%
Friends	11-13	25%
	14-16	19%
	17-18	17%
Parent/carer	11-13	8%
	14-16	9%
	17-18	6%
Other - please specify	11-13	9%
	14-16	3%
	17-18	4%

Of the 54 respondents who selected *Other,* all provided a written response. One response was deemed non-pertinent and five respondents wrote a version of *Don't know/not sure.* Three respondents wrote a version of *All of the above.*

Response	Percentage
Nowhere	27%
Internet	17%
Personal social network	16%
Professional services	13%
Education or youth groups	8%
Don't know or not sure	8%
Other	5%
All of the above	5%
N/A	2%
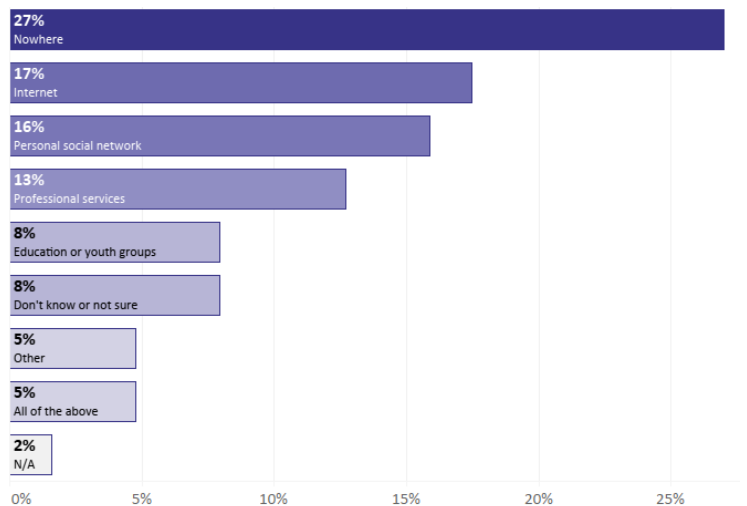
Seventeen respondents stated that they do not access their information about sex from any particular place.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Nowhere	Nowhere	9
	Common sense or personal experience	8

Eleven responses described somewhere on the internet, four of which were references to pornography sites.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Internet	Pornography	4
	Internet - general	3
	Google or other search engine	1
	Young Scot	1
	Youtube	1
	Social media	1

Ten respondents identified someone within their regular social circle.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Personal social network	Family	6
	Friends	3
	Partner	1

Eight respondents mentioned a professional service.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Professional services	Medical professionals	4
	Sexual health drop in centres	2
	Phonelines	1
	Authorities	1

Five respondents identified an educational/youth group facility.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Education or youth group	School	3
	College	1
	Youth groups	1

Three responses were categorised as *Other* as they did not fit under the other themes.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Other	Variety of places	2
	TV shows or films	1

Do you think that there are concerns/issues/problems that boys in general face more than girls in regards to sexual behaviour online?

All respondents provided a response to this question. Forty responses were deemed non-pertinent and 158 respondents wrote a version of *Don't know/not sure.* Seven responses were categorised as *Other* as they did not fit under the other themes. Themes were generally split into agreement or disagreement with the statement (shown below). There were also respondents who stated that issues between boys and girls were equal.
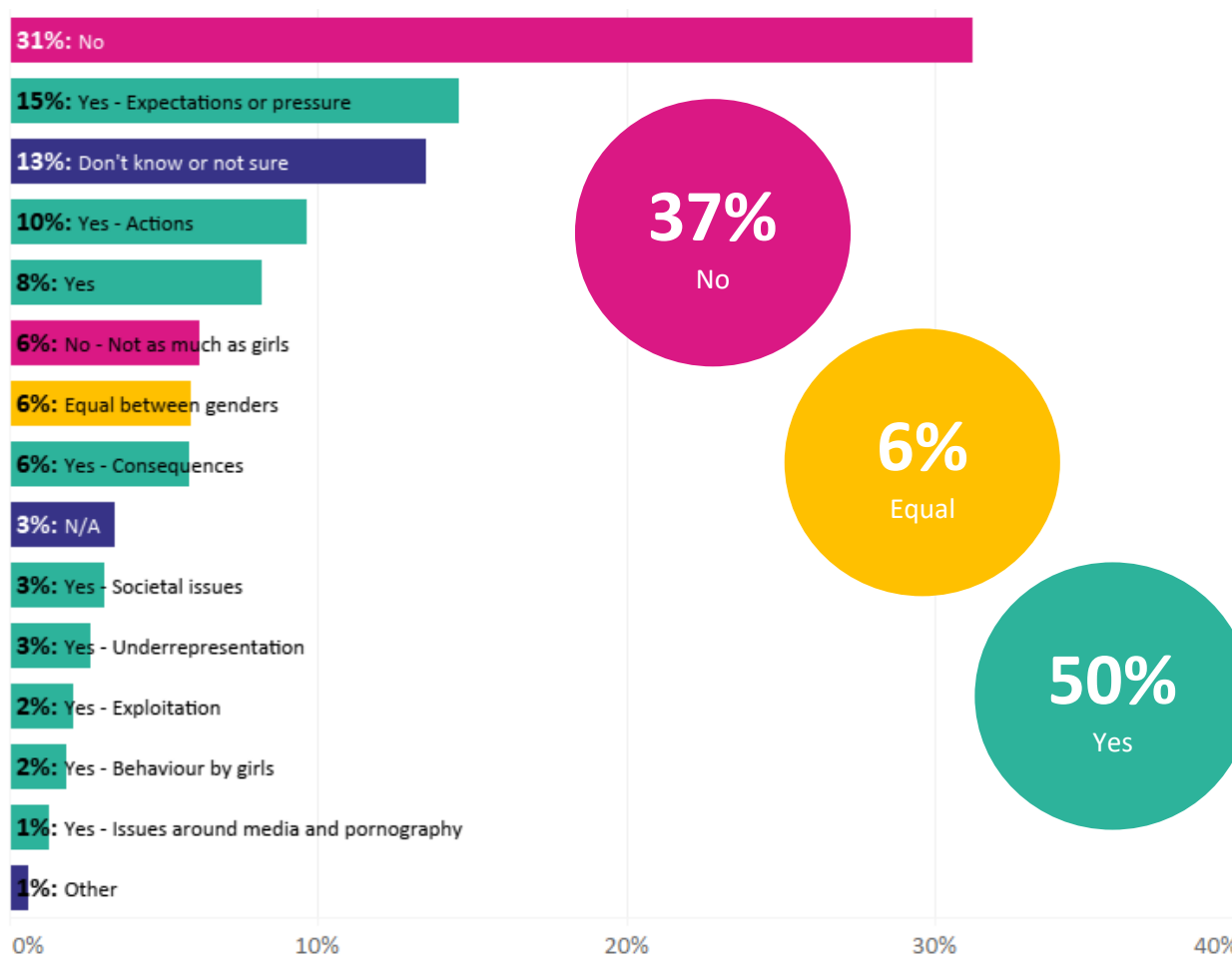
Responses may have been categorised under several themes so the graph does not total 100%.

The response provided most often was a version of *No* (366 responses).

The most common response by those who agreed with the statement was that there were expectations placed on boys (168 responses). This was mainly from peers, but the wider issues of stereotyping and media representation were also highlighted.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Yes - Expectations or pressure	Peer pressure or unfair expectations	104
	Expected to share photos of themselves	37
	Stigma or stereotyping	27

"There is a lot of pressure on boys to be always flirting with the girls and if he doesn't he could get judged by his friends. I think many teenage boys feel pressured to do certain things with girls or send or ask for photos they don't necessarily want just to look cool amongst their friends"

A tenth of respondents (113) identified actions of boys that cause them more concerns than girls.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Yes - Actions	Boys ask for photos more often	47
	Send unwanted explicit pictures	16
	Share more between peers about online activities	15
	Higher sex drive	13
	Exploitation of or risk to girls	11
	Do stupid things	3
	Don't think about person behind pictures	3
	Share things they shouldn't	3
	Don't think about consequences	2

"I feel that boys tend to be more comfortable talking about those kind of things (not always in a positive or respectful way) and it's less of a tabooed topic. I know that boys are far more likely to send pictures - one of my friends gets dick pics every day. They're also more likely to share them around - one girl got in a lot of trouble after sending a picture to one boy, who then shared it so practically everyone in our year had seen it."

Ninety-six respondents wrote a version of *Yes.*

Seventy-two respondents stated that boys do not experience as many concerns/issues/problems as girls.

"Not really. I feel girls are more likely to be victimised or pressured into conducting some form of sexual behaviour online. Boys may get victimised too perhaps but not as often as girls."

Sixty-nine respondents stated that issues are the same across all genders.

"No, I feel as though sexual behaviours and their problems are generally equal between the sexes."

Sixty-eight respondents stated that boys experience more consequences than girls, mainly that they are at greater risk of being blamed for sexual behaviour.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Yes - Consequences	Risk of being blamed or prosecuted	41
	Punishment is greater than girls	11
	Ridiculed more over online behaviour	10
	Punishment is lesser than girls	6

"Boys are looked at as being monsters and the ones always in the wrong like it's always going to be the boy asking for the pictures when it isn't always the case. They are blamed automatically."

Thirty-six respondents stated that society judges boys differently to girls. Seven responses highlighted some difficulties faced by the LGBTQ+ community.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Yes – Societal Issues	Body image or self-esteem	27

	LGBTQ+ Issues	7
	Toxic masculinity	2

"I think that there is also a lot of body image pressure towards boys, just as much if not more than girls, but this is rarely ever mentioned."

Thirty-one respondents stated that the issues that boys experience are underrepresented compared to girls'. Some respondents highlighted that they may not be able to talk about these issues as a result.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Yes – Underrepresentation	Unable to talk about issues or ask for help	14
	Underrepresentation of these issues	9
	Not taken as seriously as girls	5
	Less educated than girls on these topics	3

"Boys are taken less seriously than girls in the topic of sexual behaviour if they have an issue therefore have fear of speaking up about it"

Twenty-four respondents stated boys can be targeted by scams or predators.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Yes – Exploitation	Can be exploited by scammers online	14
	Not expected to be target of grooming	10

"Scammers/viruses often prey on boys' sexuality and naivety."

Twenty-two respondents identified behaviour by girls that could cause boys issues.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Yes – Behaviour by girls	Photos that they send are shared more often	11
	Harassment by girls	5
	Blackmail	4
	Ignored by girls	2

"Getting harassed by girls and nothing gets done about it because "all guys want it" and girls perpetuate this myth the most. Look at videos online, when a man is harassed by a woman no one bats an eye. Also, girls are a lot worse for spreading around nude pictures of both genders in my area."

Eighteen respondents highlighted issues around pornography and media representation.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Yes – Issues around media and pornography	Porn as a source of sex education	12
	Media representation of males	3
	Revenge porn	2
	Addiction to pornography	1

Seven responses were categorised as *Other* as they did not fit under the other themes.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Other	Comment on government	1
	Bad feelings towards each other	1
	Forced into relationships	1
	Lie online	1
	Make inappropriate jokes	1
	Seen as more mature	1
	Boys may feel uncomfortable using urinals	1

Do you think that there are concerns/issues/problems that girls in general face more than boys in regards to sexual behaviour online?

All respondents provided a response to this question. Forty-seven responses were deemed non-pertinent and 133 respondents wrote a version of *Don't know/not sure.* Six responses were categorised as *Other* as they did not fit under the other themes. Themes were generally split into agreement or disagreement with the statement (shown below). There were also respondents who stated that issues between boys and girls were equal.
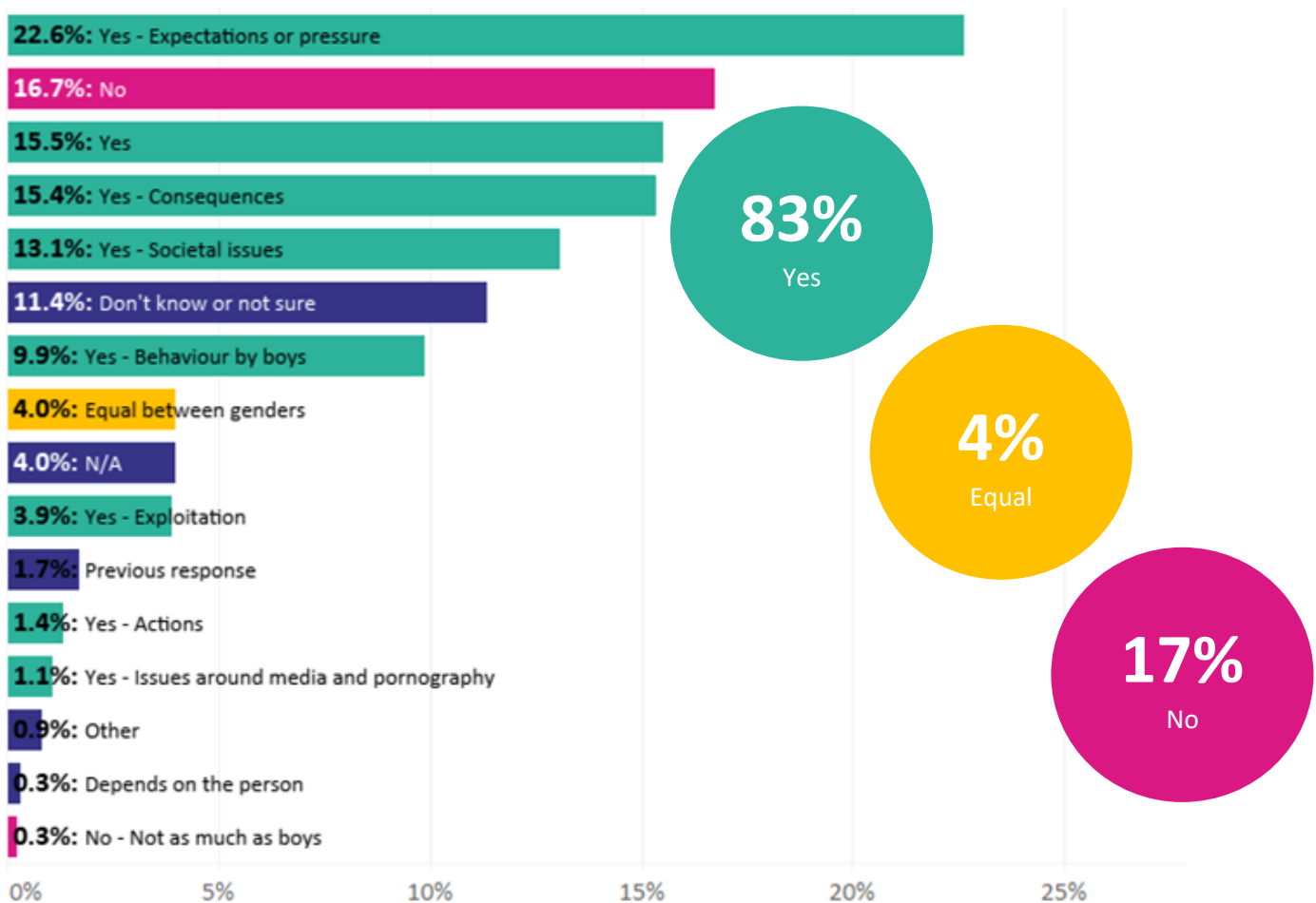
Responses may have been categorised under several themes so the graph does not total 100%.
Some respondents said "Yes" and "No" which would be placed under both categories which is why the bubbles above do not total 100%.

The most common response by those who agreed with the statement was that there were expectations placed on girls (265 responses). Girls were identified as being sent photos more often than boys, and that they were expected to respond. There also seems to be more pressure arising from social media.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Yes - Expectations or pressure	Peer pressure or unfair expectations	100
	Asked for photos more often	80
	Expected to share photos of themselves	45
	Pressure from social media	16
	Difference in sexual expectations compared to boys	13
	Pressure in relationships	7
	Stigma or stereotyping	4

"They seem to be more often pressured to send nude pictures. There is also pressure amongst girls to post slightly revealing pictures on social media such as Instagram and Snapchat, to which many boys often feel it's their right to comment on - sexualised comments that they would be a lot less likely to use in real life."

The next most common response provided was a version of *Yes* (182 responses).

Almost all of the 180 respondents that mentioned consequences thought that girls face more problems when it comes to their sexual behaviour compared to boys. However, three respondents stated that girls are less punished than boys when it comes to this behaviour.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Yes - Consequences	Photos are shared more than boys'	44
	Bullying	20
	Repercussions of rumours are stronger	8
	Sensitive	8
	Judged by other females	6
	Punishment is lesser than boys	3
	Regret actions more than boys	3

"I think for girls often nude photos being spread have more of a lasting effect on a girl's reputation compared to guys"

Around 13% of respondents (153) stated that society judges girls differently to boys.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Yes – Societal Issues	Body image or self-esteem	48
	More often victims of violence or harassment	36
	Objectification or sexualisation	34
	More vulnerable	15
	Unable to speak up for themselves	8
	Victimisation or victim blaming	7
	Sexism	5

"Girls bodies still aren't accepted in our society, it's is still seen as inappropriate to show a bit of skin and it makes girls feel more self-conscious."

A tenth of respondents (116) identified behaviour by boys that could cause girls issues. These responses were mainly in relation to receiving unwanted comments/pictures online.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Yes – Behaviour by girls	Unsolicited attention online	51
	Unsolicited explicit pictures	42
	Blackmail	13
	Threatened if they do not want to send pictures	10

"It does seem that girls receive explicit invitations online an awful lot more than boys. I was shocked to learn how many of my female friends had received requests for nude photos or online relationships from complete strangers."

Forty-seven respondents stated that issues are the same across all genders.

"I think both genders have issues online. For examples, both sending or receiving unwanted pictures"

Forty-six respondents stated girls can be targeted by scams or predators.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Yes – Exploitation	Targets for older men or grooming	36
	Can be exploited by scammers online	7
	Photos being taken without knowledge	3

"Definitely as girls for some reason are always getting 'perved' on by mainly men and most of the time it leads into blackmail which is really bad and scary too."

Twenty respondents asked for the reader to look at their answer to the previous question.

Sixteen respondents identified actions that girls made that caused them issues.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Yes - Actions	Insecure or want attention	11
	Take advantage of being seen as a victim	2
	Ignore boys	1
	More likely to make first move	1
	Able to ask for photos more than boys	1

"I feel like girls do share sexual things online because they are insecure and want that attention from others."

Thirteen respondents highlighted issues around pornography and media representation.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Yes – Issues around media and pornography	Media representation of females	6
	Revenge porn	4
	Pressure from pornography	3

Four respondents stated that it was dependent on the person.

Three respondents stated that boys do not experience as many concerns/issues/problems as girls.

Ten responses were categorised as *Other* as they did not fit under the other themes. Four respondents stated that girls have to deal with puberty and periods.

Main Theme	Secondary Theme	Number of responses
Other	Periods and puberty	4
	Boys on internet more	1
	Contraception	1
	Doing stuff without permission	1
	High expectations of boys	1
	Random encounters	1
	Yes if underage	1

Summary of Findings

It is clear that the young people who completed this survey are aware of the risks of online sexual behaviour, with most feeling safe and confident being online. Most respondents stated that they were aware of the laws surrounding behaviour online, and around three quarters said that it would be easy to refuse a request for photos from someone popular.

However, responses to the two open questions at the end of the survey suggest that respondents feel that both boys and girls are under pressure to send nude photos to others. *Peer pressure or unfair expectations, Expected to share photos of themselves* and *Stigma or stereotyping* were themes that arose from both questions. Despite the fact that similar themes were produced from both questions, only 6% of responses in the first question and 4% in the second stated that they thought issues were the same across the gender spectrum.

The majority of main themes were present in answers to both questions: *Actions, Behaviour by [opposite sex], Consequences, Expectations or pressure, Exploitation, Issues around media and pornography* and *Societal issues.* However, the amount of responses differed between each gender: more respondents for the question about boys gave an answer regarding *Actions* whereas *Societal issues* were more common answers for the question about girls.
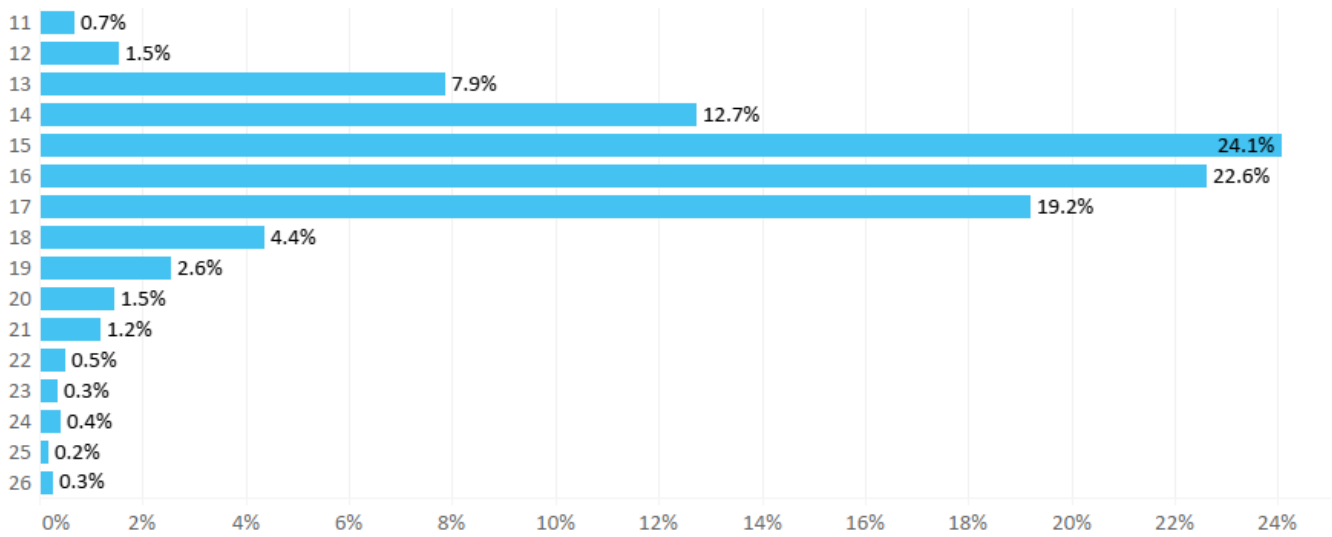
There were also some themes that were not present in both sets of answers. For the question about boys, one of the main themes was *Underrepresentation*, with secondary themes of *Unable to talk about issues or ask for help, Not taken as seriously as girls* and *Less educated than girls on these topics*. There were also secondary themes regarding *Risk of being blamed or prosecuted, Not expected to be targets of grooming* and *Use of porn as sex education*. For the question about girls there were secondary themes such as *Judged for actions more than boys, More often victims of violence or harassment* and *Unsolicited attention online.*

When it comes to education around these issues, over half of respondents had received some guidance via their school. These were mostly in the form of assemblies, presentations and talks and delivered by a variety of people including police and youth organisations. Most of the guidance was about the risks or consequences of such actions, with laws also being highlighted. However, some respondents highlighted that they were *not* aware of the range of consequences or laws, simply being told not to engage in such behaviour. This was seen as insufficient, and some respondents highlighted that the approach they experienced was "outdated".
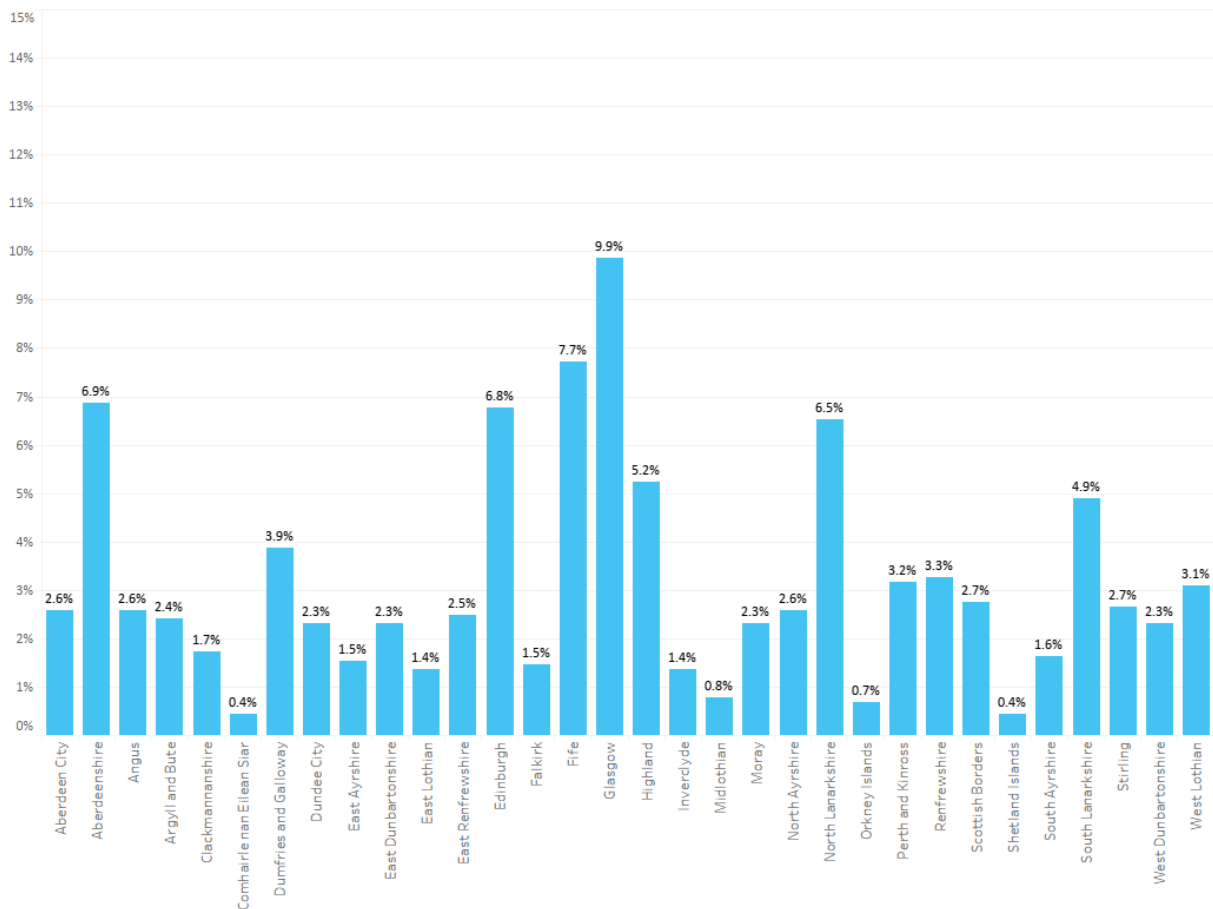
Demographics

Demographics: Age

The survey received responses from across the whole Young Scot age range. Most were aged 15 or 16.

Age	Percentage
11	0.7%
12	1.5%
13	7.9%
14	12.7%
15	24.1%
16	22.6%
17	19.2%
18	4.4%
19	2.6%
20	1.5%
21	1.2%
22	0.5%
23	0.3%
24	0.4%
25	0.2%
26	0.3%

Demographics: What Local Authority do you live in?

There was representation across all 32 Local Authorities from survey respondents.

Local Authority	Percentage
Aberdeen City	2.6%
Aberdeenshire	6.9%
Angus	2.6%
Argyll and Bute	2.4%
Clackmannanshire	1.7%
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	0.4%
Dumfries and Galloway	3.9%
Dundee City	2.3%
East Ayrshire	1.5%
East Dunbartonshire	2.3%
East Lothian	1.4%
East Renfrewshire	2.5%
Edinburgh	6.8%
Falkirk	1.5%
Fife	7.7%
Glasgow	9.9%
Highland	5.2%
Inverclyde	1.4%
Midlothian	0.8%
Moray	2.3%
North Ayrshire	2.6%
North Lanarkshire	6.5%
Orkney Islands	0.7%
Perth and Kinross	3.2%
Renfrewshire	3.3%
Scottish Borders	2.7%
Shetland Islands	0.4%
South Ayrshire	1.6%
South Lanarkshire	4.9%
Stirling	2.7%
West Dunbartonshire	2.3%
West Lothian	3.1%

Demographics: Gender

Sixty-one percent of respondents in the survey identified as *female* and 36% identified as *male*. Of the remaining three percent, 24 respondents selected *non-binary* 12 respondents selected *something else,* and one respondent selected *intersex.* Fifty-three respondents have identified as transgender at some point in their lives.

Appendix 1: Preview of Survey

Attitudes Towards Online Sexual Activities

Introduction and Permissions

The Scottish Government is interested in learning more about young people's knowledge of and opinions about sexual behaviours occurring online.

This survey includes questions that some people may find sensitive. Please be assured that your responses are completely anonymous and you can leave the survey at any time.

1. Survey results (including your response) will be analysed and reported on by Young Scot and the Scottish Government. These reports may become publicly available. Young Scot may also use results to help us develop our services and create future content.

Do you agree for your response to be used for these purposes? *

○ Yes

○ No

2. Are you happy for your typed responses to be anonymously quoted in publications by Young Scot and the Scottish Government? If you do not provide permission then no direct quotes will be used. Your responses will be included within report analysis. *

○ Yes

○ No

About You

The following questions will help the Scottish Government find out the types of young people that this survey is reaching. Most of these questions are entirely optional.

3. How old are you? *

[-- Please Select -- ▾]

4. Which Local Authority do you live in? *

[-- Please Select -- ▾]

5. Do you identify as...?

○ Male

○ Female

○ Non-binary

○ Intersex

○ Something else

6. Do you or have you ever identified as transgender?

○ Yes

○ No

Personal Safety Online

How safe do you feel online? *

Very unsafe	Unsafe	Not sure	Safe	Very safe
○	○	○	○	○

How confident are you that you understand the risks around online sexual behaviour? *

Not confident	Slightly confident	Confident	Very confident
○	○	○	○

Sharing photos online

The following questions are about sharing nude photos with other people. Your responses are entirely anonymous.

Is it an offence to take a nude photo of yourself and share it if you are under 18? *

○ Yes

○ No

○ Don't Know

Is it an offence for someone else to share a nude photo of you if you are under 18? *

○ Yes

○ No

○ Don't Know

Is it possible to make sure that a nude photo you have shared is not seen by people that you do not want to see it? *

○ Yes

○ No

○ Don't Know

7. What do you think is the main reason people ask others to send them nude photos? *

○ Because they are attracted to them

○ So they can show their friends

○ To stop the other person sharing photos that they have sent

○ Other - Please specify [   ]

8. If a popular person in your school asked you to send a nude photo of yourself and you didn't want to, how easy would it be to say no? *

Very easy	Easy	Not sure	Difficult	Very difficult
○	○	○	○	○

Education about sexual issues

9. Has your school given you any guidance about sharing sexual images and sexual behaviour online? *

○ Yes

○ No

○ Don't know

16. Where do you **prefer** to get most of your information about sex from? *

○ Parent/carer

○ Classes at school

○ Friends

○ Internet

○ Other - please specify [   ]

10. Do you think that there are concerns/issues/problems that boys in general face more than girls in regards to sexual behaviour online? *

[   ]

Words used: 0 out of 200.

11. Do you think that there are concerns/issues/problems that girls in general face more than boys in regards to sexual behaviour online? *

[   ]

Words used: 0 out of 200.

Thank You!

Thank you for taking our survey. Your responses are completely anonymous and are very important to us.

If someone has shared explicit images of you or someone else online without permission and/or against the law, there are a number of steps you can take to report them. Find out information about reporting what is commonly known as 'revenge porn' on Young Scot's website.

Are you a Young Scot Rewards member? Claim 50 points with the code **SNW4T3** for completing this survey.

Get in touch...

🏠 Visit us on the web at **www.youngscot.net**

📞 Call us on **0131 313 2488**

✉️ Email us at **info@young.scot**

🐦 Tweet us **@youngscot**

f Like us at **www.facebook/YoungScot**

👻 Follow us on Snapchat a**t youngscotsnaps**

📷 Follow us on Instagram at **youngscot**

Or pop in for a cuppa and a hobnob…

We were happy to consider requests for this document in other languages or formats

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