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LGBTQ+ Youth and the Internet

2023 LGBTQ+ Youth Report



Last updated November 1, 2023

APPENDIX 1. METHODOLOGY

STUDY VARIABLES

For all measures, respondents who answered “don’t know” or did not answer the question were marked as ‘missing’ and not included in analyses of that variable.

Variable	Survey Question	Coding Scheme
Ever used the internet to locate information about LGBTQ+ identity	How often do you use the internet to locate information about your identity as an LGBTQ+ person?	No = Not at all Yes = Not that often, Somewhat often, Often
Ever used the internet to locate sexual health information relevant to LGBTQ+ identity	How often do you use the internet to locate information about sexual health and behavior relevant to you as an LGBTQ person?	No = Not at all Yes = Not that often, Somewhat often, Often
Ever used internet to locate information relevant to LGBTQ+ identity due to fears of being outed	How often are you able to use the internet to locate information about your LGBTQ identity and relevant sexual health information without fear of being outed?	No = Not at all Yes = Not that often, Somewhat often, Often
Currently participates in online communities for LGBTQ+ people in age group	How often do you participate in online communities, like Discord or Facebook groups, that are specifically for LGBTQ people around your age?	No = Not at all Yes = Not that often, Somewhat often, Often



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<p>Ever seen anti-LGBTQ+ content on social media</p>	<p>Have you ever seen content on social media, like a video, meme or post, that you perceived as offensive or hurtful toward LGBTQ people?</p>	<p>Yes/No</p>
<p>Ever been cyberbullied due to one or more identity</p>	<p>IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, how often have you been teased, bullied, or treated badly by other students at your school because of your: (Body weight, Gender, Race/ethnicity, Sexual identity, Religion, Disability, Because I am an immigrant to the US, How masculine or feminine I am)</p>	<p>No = Never, Rarely Yes = Sometimes, Often, Very often</p>
<p>Ever been cyberbullied because of sexual identity, gender or gender expression</p>	<p>IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, how often have you been teased, bullied, or treated badly by other students at your school because of your: (Gender, Sexual identity, How masculine or feminine I am)</p>	<p>No = Never, Rarely Yes = Sometimes, Often, Very often</p>
<p>Ever been cyberbullied because of sexual identity</p>	<p>IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, how often have you been teased, bullied, or treated badly by other students at your school because of your: (Sexual identity)</p>	<p>No = Never, Rarely Yes = Sometimes, Often, Very often</p>
<p>Ever been cyberbullied because of gender</p>	<p>IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, how often have you been teased, bullied, or treated badly by other students at your school because of your: (Gender)</p>	<p>No = Never, Rarely Yes = Sometimes, Often, Very often</p>



<p>Ever been cyberbullied because of gender expression</p>	<p>IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, how often have you been teased, bullied, or treated badly by other students at your school because of: (How masculine or feminine I am)</p>	<p>No = Never, Rarely Yes = Sometimes, Often, Very often</p>
<p>Would not report cyberbullying or hate speech on social media to educator in school</p>	<p>If I experience online bullying/cyberbullying or hate speech on social media, I feel comfortable reporting it to a teacher or other educator in my school</p>	<p>Comfortable = Strong agree, Somewhat agree Uncomfortable = Strongly disagree, Somewhat disagree, Neither agree nor disagree</p>
<p>Does not think reporting an incident of cyberbullying or hate speech online to a teacher would help resolve the problem</p>	<p>I feel that if I report an incident of online bullying/cyberbullying or hate speech on social media to a teacher or other educator, they will help me resolve the problem</p>	<p>Yes = Strong agree, Somewhat agree No= Strongly disagree, Somewhat disagree, Neither agree nor disagree</p>
<p>Does not know how to report cyberbullying or speech on social media to a social media platform</p>	<p>If I experience online bullying/cyberbullying or hate speech on social media, I know how to report it to the social media platform.</p>	<p>Comfortable = Strong agree, Somewhat agree Uncomfortable = Strongly disagree, Somewhat disagree, Neither agree nor disagree</p>
<p>Does not feel like reporting an incident of cyberbullying or hate speech to a platform would help resolve the problem</p>	<p>I feel that if I report an incident of online bullying/cyberbullying or hate speech on social media to the social media platform, it will help me resolve the problem (e.g., delete the remarks, freeze the person's account, etc.)</p>	<p>Yes = Strong agree, Somewhat agree No= Strongly disagree, Somewhat disagree, Neither agree nor disagree</p>



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Does not feel safe participating in online activities such as gaming	How safe do you feel when you participate in online activities such as gaming?	Does feel safe = Somewhat safe, Safe Does not feel safe = Not safe at all, Not that safe
Ever had education from parents about staying safe while online	Have you ever had any education from the following groups in your life about staying safe while online? (Parents)	Yes/No
Ever had education from teachers about staying safe while online	Have you ever had any education from the following groups in your life about staying safe while online? (Teachers)	Yes/No
Ever had education from other adults (than parents or educator) about staying safe while online	Have you ever had any education from the following groups in your life about staying safe while online? (Other Adults)	Yes/No



ANALYSIS

All percentages presented in tables and figures are unadjusted, and come from crosstabs (aka the percentage of LGBTQ+ youth who experienced cyberbullying based on an identity vs. not experienced).

Table 1. Use of the Internet for Information Related to LGBTQ+ Identity & Harmful Anti-LGBTQ+ Content (Ages 13-17)

	All LGBTQ+		Transgender and Gender-expansive	
	%	N	%	N
Ever used the internet for any LGBTQ+ information-seeking	96.7%	9830	98.0%	7114
Ever used the internet for information about LGBTQ+ identity	95.3%	9661	97.1%	7026
Ever used the internet for information about sex-related health information	82.5%	8344	83.2%	6015
Frequently use the internet for information LGBTQ+ identity due to fear of being outed	89.2%	9010	90.4%	6518
Participate in online communities that are specifically for LGBTQ+ people	68.3%	6919	73.3%	5304
Ever seen content on social media that was offensive or hurtful toward LGBTQ people	96.0%	9468	96.9%	6850



Table 2. Online Experiences of LGBTQ+ Youth (Ages 13-17)

	All LGBTQ+		Transgender and Gender-expansive	
	%	N	%	N
Does not feel safe participating in online activities	15.2%	1539	16.7%	1204
Ever seen content on social media that was offensive or hurtful toward LGBTQ people	96.0%	9468	96.9%	6850

Table 3. Cyberbullying Experiences Among All LGBTQ+ Youth (Ages 13-17)

	All LGBTQ+		Transgender and Gender-expansive	
	%	N	%	N
Experienced cyberbullying based on an identity group	49%	6131	52.9%	4609
Experienced SOGIE-based cyberbullying	35.2%	4405	38.5%	3359
Experienced sexual identity-based cyberbullying	34.8%	4345	37.7%	3275
Experienced gender/gender expression based cyberbullying	36.7%	4590	43.5%	3792
Experienced gender-based cyberbullying	29.0%	3620	37.5%	3265
Experienced gender expression-based cyberbullying	25.3%	3133	28.9%	2497



Table 4. Knowledge and Efficacy of Reporting Cyberbullying Only Among Youth Experiencing Cyberbullying

	All LGBTQ+		Transgender and Gender-expansive	
	%	N	%	N
Would not report cyberbullying to educator	80.0%	2934	81.6%	2304
Does not think reporting to educator will help resolve the cyberbullying	80.9%	2968	83.5%	2359
Does not know how to report cyberbullying to platform	19.4%	710	17.8%	502
Does not think reporting to platform will help resolve the cyberbullying	69.1%	2530	70.5%	1987

Table 5. Education About Online Safety Among LGBTQ+ Youth (Ages 13-17)

	All LGBTQ+		Transgender and Gender-expansive	
	%	N	%	N
Received education about online safety from parents, educator, or other adult	93.4%	9415	93.1%	6695
Received education about online safety from parents	83.0%	7487	82.5%	5279
Received education about online safety from educators	91.2%	8344	91.0%	5917
Received education about online safety from another adult	62.9%	4996	61.1%	3426