



## Presentación de la publicación *Niños, niñas y adolescentes conectados: informe Kids Online Uruguay*



### *Presenting Children and Adolescents Online: Kids Online Uruguay Report*

**Wednesday, May 2, 2018 - The “Kids Online” study, which explores online access and usage by boys, girls, and adolescents was conducted for the first time in Uruguay** in the framework of a partnership formed by UNICEF, Plan Ceibal, AGESIC, Universidad Católica del Uruguay, and UNESCO. This research study is part of an international project that seeks to gather rigorous and comparable evidence on children’s use of the Internet, and inform on the dangers and opportunities children face online.

**Global Kids Online is a collaborative initiative** of the UNICEF Innocenti Research Center, the London School of Economics, and the EU Kids Online Network. **Over 40 countries have now implemented this research project** in Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia.

**Uruguay has witnessed significant advances in the democratization of Internet connectivity** in recent years as a result of public policies for digital inclusion, which have **placed the country above the average** in terms of online access, both in the continent and in the world. In this respect, it is ever more important to **explore further** the ways in which children and adolescents access and use the Internet, to **know what they actually do there, and their engagement with the digital environment.**

**In 2017 Kids Online Uruguay set out to offer a better understanding about aspects** that were previously unexplored in the country **in terms of access, risks, and opportunities** of boys, girls and adolescents online, through **country-level representative data** on the engagement of children in the digital world. The **main issues** addressed in the survey conducted in Uruguay were the **Internet access and use** by children, their **digital skills**, the **risks and opportunities** they face online, and the **mediation of their environment.**

The **main** findings are summarized below:

- **All children and adolescents who took part in the survey have used the internet** at least once. 7 out of 10 access the internet daily.
- The **mobile phone is the device** children and adolescents **use most frequently** to connect to internet. While 8 in 10 children use it, nearly half use it “almost all the time” or “several times a day”.
- **Children are not experts in the use of internet.** Their digital skills vary mainly according to age and socioeconomic status. For example, only 36% of children aged 9-12 know how to make their profiles private, while 91% of adolescents between 16 and 17 know how to do it.
- **7 out of 10 children think there are good things for them on the internet** and value the opportunities to use the internet in family activities.
- Children and adolescents **recognize their difficulties in self-regulating the time they spend online.** 1 in 10 children have experienced problems with grades, family, or missing meals, due to

excessive time spent online. Children also point out that adults in their families have similar problems, which damages the quality of the time they spend with them.

- Many children and adolescents **are aware of the risks** that exist on internet. Half of them say they do not feel entirely safe when they are online.
- **A safe use of the internet involves support and mediation from responsible adults** in the life of the children. Almost 2 in 3 children and adolescents state that they “always” or “almost always” receive advice from a responsible adult on how to use internet safely. However, **almost 3 out of 10 believe their parents know little or nothing about what they do online.**
- **28%** of children and adolescents note that **they have had negative experiences online.** Only **half of them asked for help** or discussed the incident with another person.
- **Parents are not always aware when their children contact online people they do not know in person.** While 42% of children and adolescents say they have been in contact online or added as a friend someone they do not know, only 18% of adults say their child has been in contact with someone they do not know.
- **The use of internet always entails a mix of opportunities and risks. The more children and adolescents go online and spend time online, the greater the benefits and the risks they face.**

Report findings draw mainly on **quantitative inputs** from the Kids Online Uruguay survey, which had three versions of questionnaire: one version for adults, one for children between 9 and 12 years, and one for adolescents aged between 13 and 17 years old. The report also **contextualizes these results with findings from a qualitative study** conducted by UNICEF Uruguay in the framework of the State of the World’s Children 2017: Workshops RErights, which gathered the **views of children and adolescents** on their access and use of digital technology.

Both studies highlight the need for **further research on their findings in order to understand better the relationship of children and adolescents with the digital world.** Having quality data to provide reliable information to all stakeholders is a **vital starting point to assess, plan, and design evidence-based public policies** that may help **protect the rights of children and enhance their development online.**

With the advent of new technologies, the **most efficient path** for human rights-based public policies is to **empower children and adolescents, and support them in the strengthening of their digital competences.** It is through **capacity building** that they will be able to reap **the highest benefits** that technology can offer **with the lowest risk.** But this also requires **more attentive supervision** by **responsible adults**, seeking a balance between **regulating and fostering an advantageous**, but safe and responsible use of the internet, so that children and adolescents may **act in a responsible manner**, and be aware of the perils they face.

Even though the report focuses on some especially relevant areas, **Kids Online Uruguay provides an overview on this issue**, aiming at **serving as input to inform debates and contribute to the strengthening of both existing and developing public policies in the realm of digital inclusion and development.**

---

**DOWNLOAD PUBLICATION**

**Children and adolescents online: Kids Online Uruguay Report**

<http://bit.ly/KidsOnlineUruguay>

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** [#KidsOnlineUY](#) - [#GlobalKidsOnline](#)

**MORE INFORMATION:**

**UNICEF Uruguay**

Sofía Chans

Prensa y Comunicación

Tel: 098 94 90 98

[schans@unicef.org](mailto:schans@unicef.org)