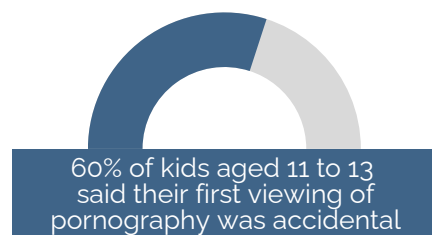


Protecting kids online

Kids are spending more time online, at younger ages.

Children and youth are exposed to harmful content online, such as sexually violent images.



British Board of Film Classification, Children see pornography as young as seven, new report finds, 2019;

1 in 8

Sexually violent titles shown to first-time users on the home page of pornography platforms

British Journal of Criminology, Sept. 2021

Much of the content freely and easily accessible on pornography platforms features violent, degrading and abusive behaviour.

Pornography affects the sexual health and behaviours of viewers, especially young viewers such as kids and teens. And the viewing of this content normalizes and contributes to sexual violence in Canadian culture.

Children and teens can access harmful content from their friends' phones or from public internet access, even if there are content blockers on their personal devices or at their home.

Canada already age assurance at point of sale restricting access to gambling and under-age purchase of products like tobacco or alcohol. Kids need this kind of protection from harmful content online, as well.



Other countries like the UK, Germany and France have laws that protect kids from harmful content while also protecting privacy. Canada's Office of the Privacy Commissioner takes the position that it is possible to design and use age assurance in a privacy-protective manner.

What steps will you take to protect kids and teens from harmful content online?