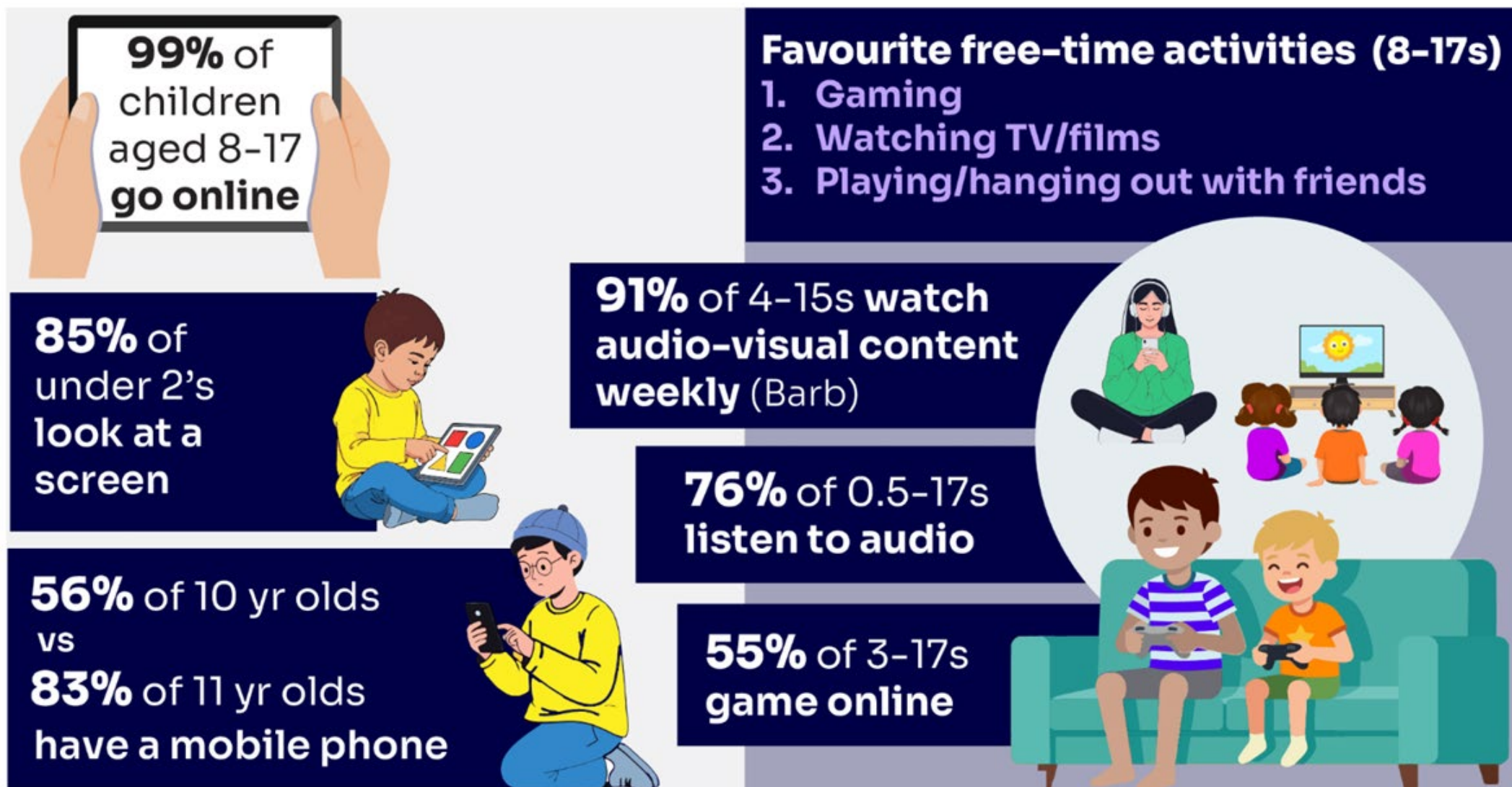


Fostering Child-Safe Digital Environments on Social Media

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What does current research tell us about children's use of social media?



Source:

November to December 2025; 8-17 years; 3,426 respondents
Ofcom, 2026b

Top 10 sites / apps used by 8-17s in the past 4 weeks

Aged 8-17

-  YouTube **67%**
-  WhatsApp **61%**
-  TikTok **60%**
-  Snapchat **50%**
-  Instagram **44%**
-  Roblox **42%**
-  Facebook **41%**
-  Minecraft **34%**
-  Facebook Messenger **29%**
-  YouTube Kids **22%**

8-14

-  YouTube **66%**
-  WhatsApp **57%**
-  TikTok **54%**
-  Roblox **51%**
-  Snapchat **43%**
-  Minecraft **39%**
-  Instagram **34%**
-  Facebook **33%**
-  YouTube Kids **31%**
-  Facebook Messenger **22%**

15-17

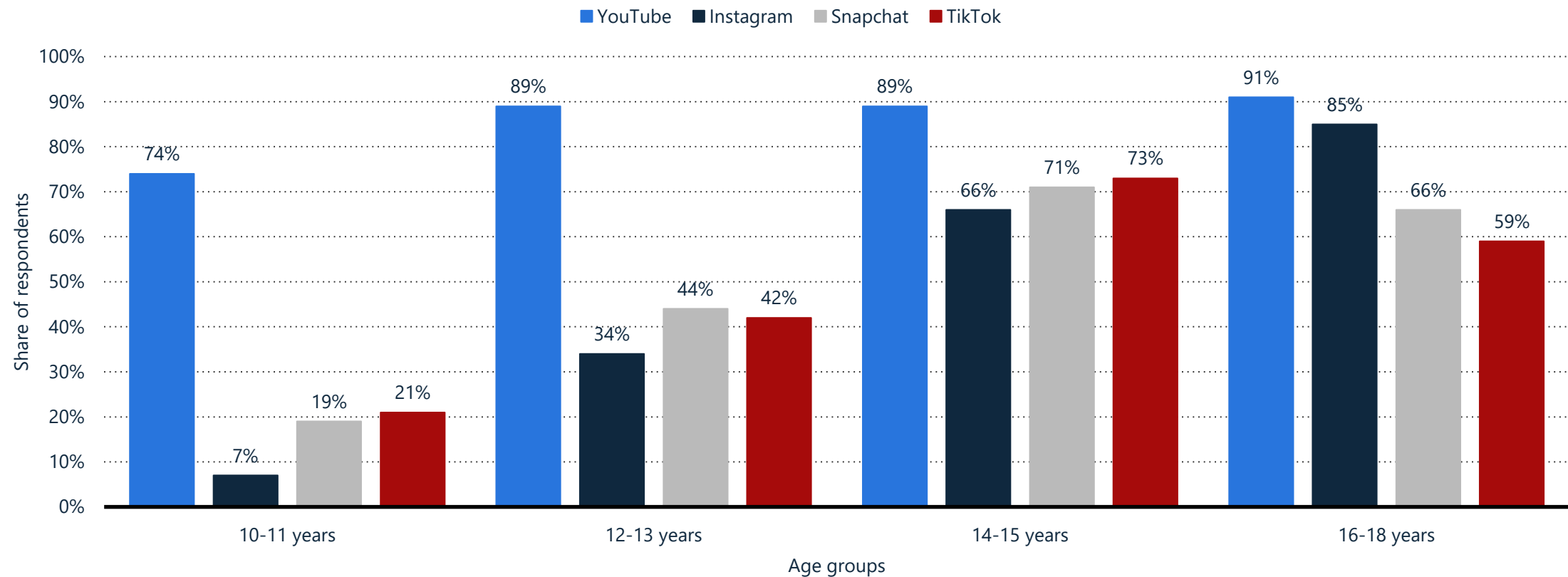
-  YouTube **70%**
-  TikTok **69%**
-  WhatsApp **68%**
-  Snapchat **63%**
-  Instagram **62%**
-  Facebook **54%**
-  Facebook Messenger **43%**
-  Roblox **26%**
-  Minecraft **24%**
-  Call of Duty **18%**

Source:

November to December 2025; 8-17 years; 3,426 respondents
Ofcom, 2026b

Share of children and teenagers who actively used the following social media in Germany in 2024, by age group

Social media usage of children and teenagers in Germany 2024



Note(s): Germany; CW 20 to CW 22, 2024; 10-18 years; 644 children and teenagers

Further information regarding this statistic can be found on [page 8](#).

Source(s): Bitkom; 2024

MDDI: Online Safety Poll 2024

- Survey of 2,098 Singapore respondents aged 15 years old and above in April 2024

Respondents who encountered harmful content on:

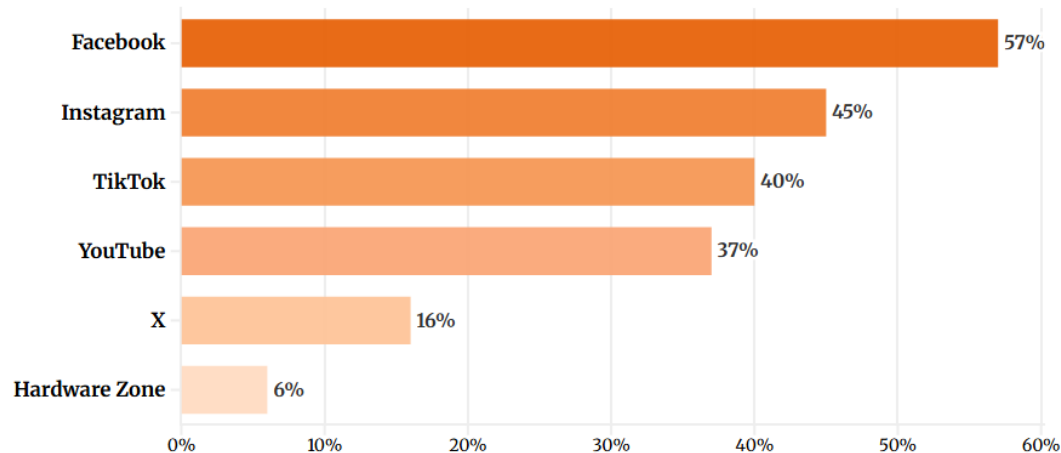


Chart: Clara Ho
Source: Ministry of Digital Development and Information, Jul 25, 2024



Most common types of harmful online content

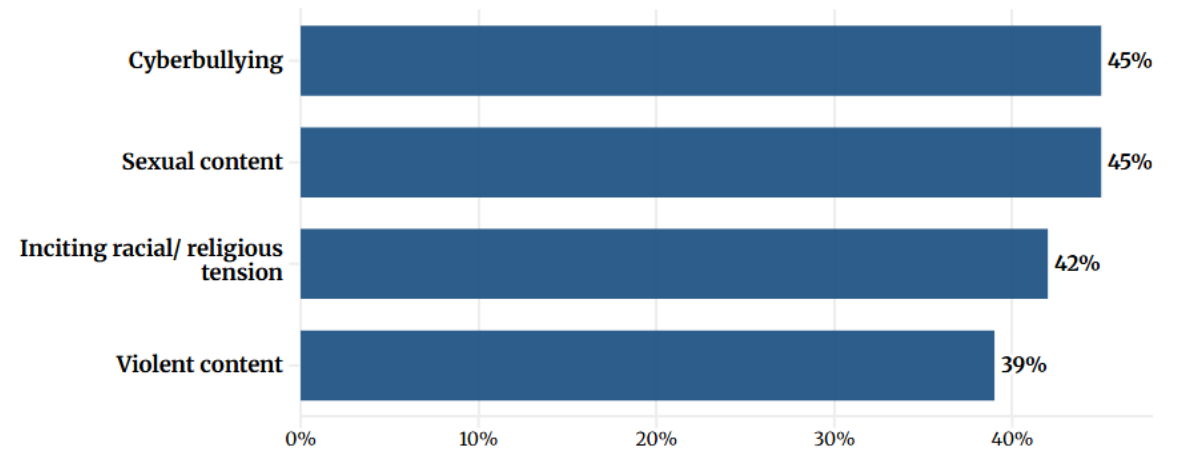
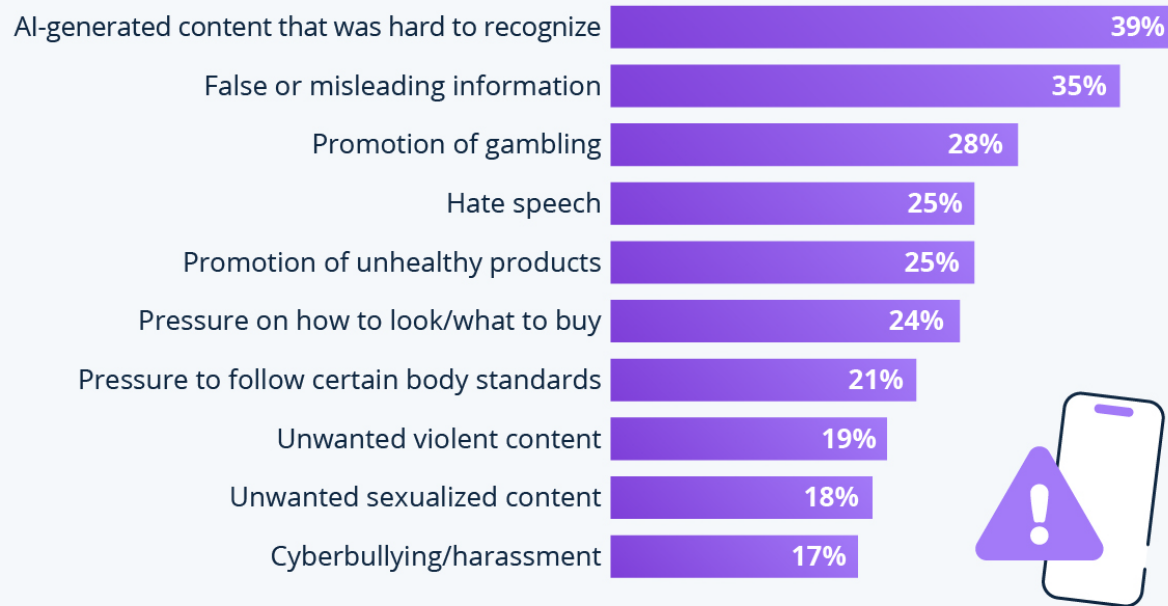


Chart: Clara Ho
Source: Ministry of Digital Development and Information, Jul 25, 2024



Teens Encounter a Myriad of Problematic Content Online

Share of EU teenagers who have seen/experienced the following on social media in the past three months



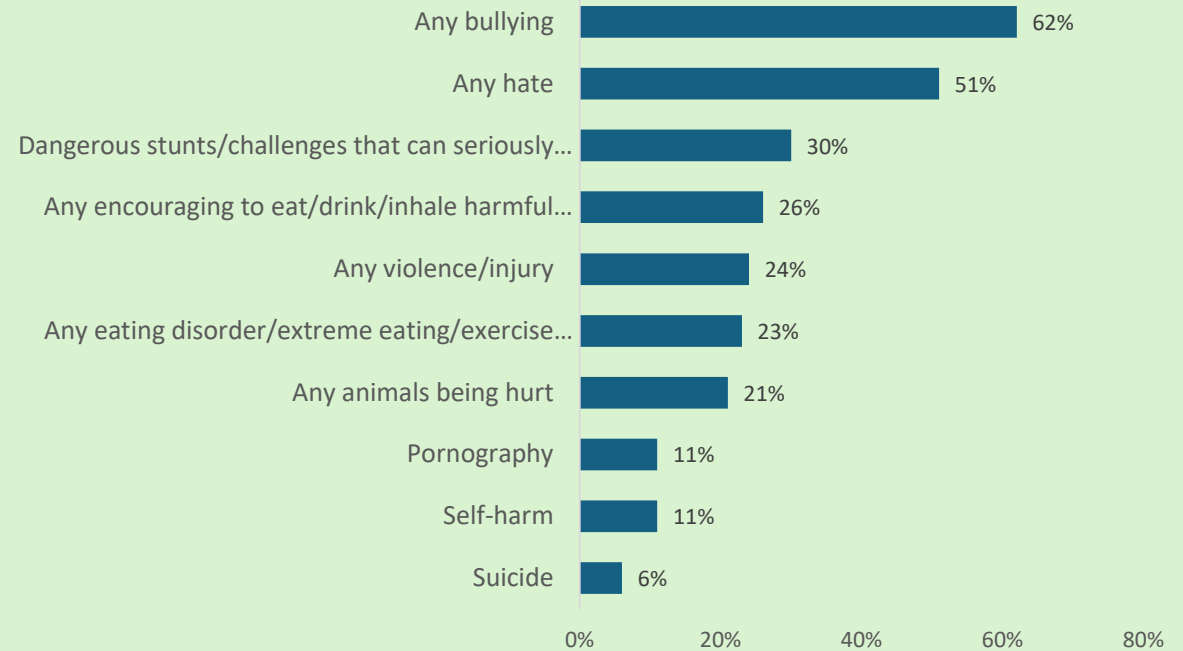
23,702 EU adolescents (13–18 y/o) who use social media on a typical school day surveyed Mar.–Apr. 2026

Source: Eurobarometer



statista

Proportion of 11-17yo who recall exposure to harmful content



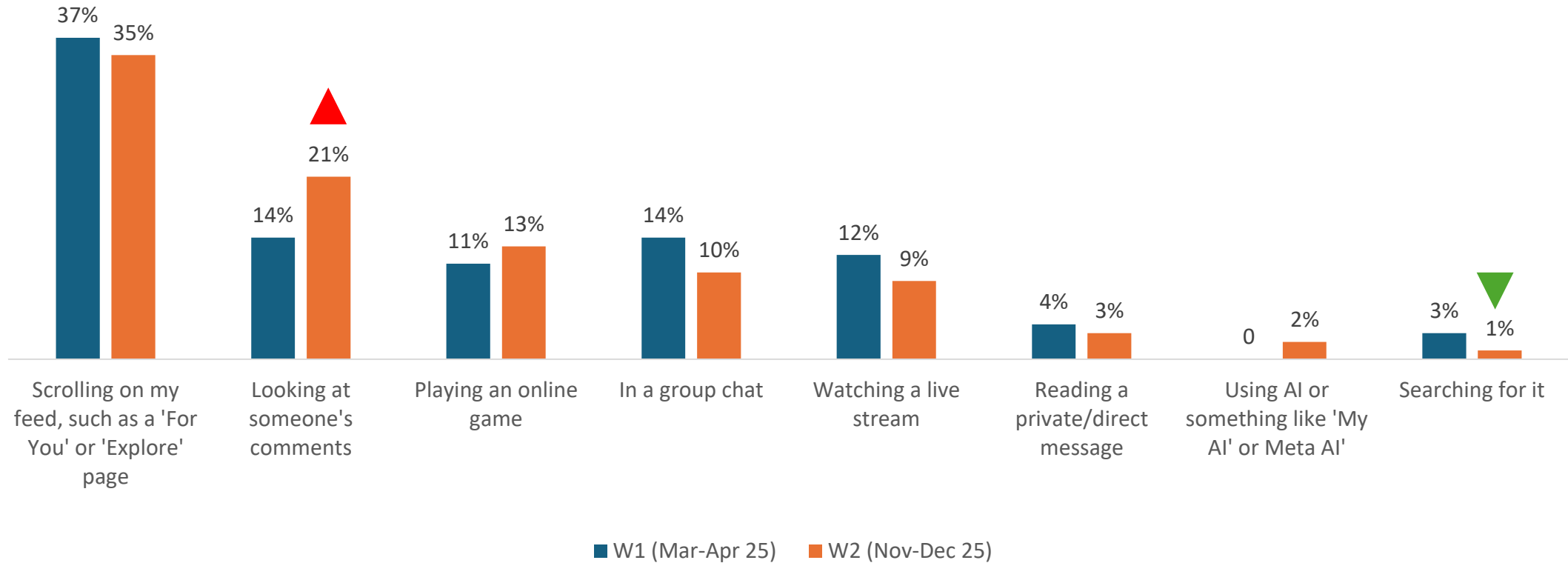
3,387 children (8-17 y/o), Wave 2 survey Nov-Dec 2025 (4 months after children's safety duties came into force).

Source: Ofcom, 2026b



Department of Communications & New Media
Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences

How 11-17yo encounter harmful content

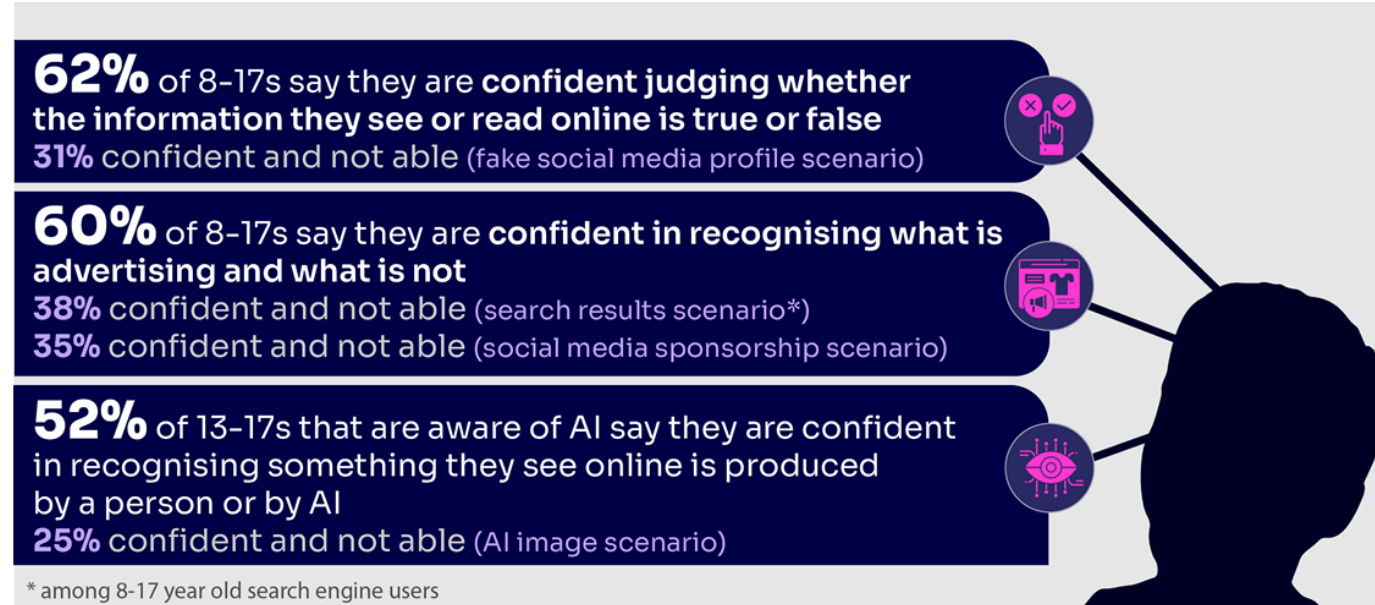


3,142 children (W1), 3,387 children (W2), Survey with 8-17s

Source: Ofcom, 2026b

Final remarks

- Confidence-ability gaps in discerning online falsehoods, advertising and AI-generated content (Ofcom, 2026)
- Issues in reporting (MDDI, 2024; Ofcom, 2026a)
- Gender differences e.g. girls are more likely to turn to social media for support (Ofcom, 2026a)



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