Negative experiences with meeting online strangers: Adolescent girls’ risk prevention

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Meeting online strangers
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30 % of 9-16 years old children talk to unknown people on the internet

(EU Kids Online II, 2010, \( N = 25,142 \))
Meeting online strangers
Meeting online strangers

9 % of 9-16 years old children met online stranger offline in past year

(EU Kids Online II, 2010, N = 25,142)
Meeting online strangers

1 % of all children felt upset after meeting online stranger
= 11% of those who went to such meeting
(EU Kids Online II, 2010, \( N = 25,142 \))
Current study

- Sampling: 18,950 invitations

- Sample: 14 girls, aged 15-18 who had negative experience with meeting online stranger

- Semi-structured online interviews, capturing the whole story of meeting online strangers and dealing with negative experience afterwards

- Focus on their risk perception & prevention
Results
Results

General risk perception

- Attitude toward meeting strangers
Results

General risk perception
- Attitude toward meeting strangers

Perception of the stranger
- Online communication
  - References
  - Expectations
Results

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Specific risk perception
- Attitude toward concrete stranger
Results

Risk prevention before meeting

Place & time of the meeting
- Informing someone
- Having someone with them
- Mobile phones

Other people

Perception of the stranger
- Online communication
- References
- Expectations

Specific risk perception
- Attitude toward concrete stranger

General risk perception
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Results

Risk prevention before meeting

- Informing someone
- Having someone with them
- Mobile phones

Other people

Place & time of the meeting

Risk prevention during meeting

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

MEETING

General risk perception
- Attitude toward meeting strangers

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- Online communication
- References
- Expectations

Specific risk perception
- Attitude toward concrete stranger

General risk perception
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Risk prevention during meeting

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

MEETING
I kept checking if there are still other people in the bar... kept checking time and I kept looking at my coffee, played with spoon, moved the cup on the plate...

How did your friend react to that sms?

She called me after 30 minutes that she had a problem and I have to come.. If she would call sooner, it would be way too obvious

Risk prevention during meeting

ACTIVE
- Leaving
- Direct „no“
- Making excuses to leave (delayed)
- Staying among people
- Escape plan

PASSIVE
I told him I was tired and want to go to sleep and kept turning away from him... And I kept telling myself "only a short time till you go home, you can go through it."

And how did you feel then...?

...embarrassed, bored and I wanted to go home. But I couldn't tell him "sorry, boy, you're horrible, I'm leaving!", could I?

Why couldn't you?

It would be awkward, I don't know...
Summary

Adolescent girls know about possible dangers of meeting strangers
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- They trust strangers they are about to meet
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- When meeting goes wrong, they can hesitate to directly express their impression and leave
Summary

- Adolescent girls know about possible dangers of meeting strangers.
- They trust strangers they are about to meet.
- But prepare escape plans anyway.
- When meeting goes wrong, they can hesitate to directly express their impression and leave.
- Rather they act indirectly and passively wait till the end of the meeting.
Recommendations

- Adolescent girls know about possible dangers of meeting strangers
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- It seems that most information they have is aimed to discourage them from meeting online strangers.
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- It seems that most information they have is aimed to discourage them from meeting online strangers
- But don’t prepare them for what to do during actual meeting
Recommendations

- Adolescent girls know about possible dangers of meeting strangers
- It seems that most information they have is aimed to discourage them from meeting online strangers
- But don’t prepare them for what to do during actual meeting
- This should change

*If you don’t like the meeting, say it and leave.*

*Prepare excuse to leave in advance.*
Thank you for your attention.

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References

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age of the girl</th>
<th>Expected age of the stranger</th>
<th>Actual age of the stranger</th>
<th>Negative experience</th>
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