

(Cyber)victimization among Czech youth: Comparing experiences of non-heterosexual and heterosexual adolescents



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**Interdisciplinary Research Team
on Internet and Society**

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(Cyber)victimization



- (Sexual) identity development – **developmental goal** in adolescence (e.g., Erikson, 1968)
- Cyberspace
 - **Opportunities:** knowledge, exploration, safe interaction (e.g., Fabian et al., 2014); self-awareness of sexual orientation identity, communication, facilitation of the coming out process (e.g., Harper et al., 2016)
 - **Challenges:** heterosexism, stigma and prejudice, cyberaggression and cyberbullying (e.g., Jadvá et al., 2021; McConell et al., 2017; Menaley et al., 2020)

(Cyber)victimization



- Sexual minorities are among the most **vulnerable populations** to experience (cyber)victimization (Abreu & Kenny, 2018)
- **National context** and legislation (Chojnicka, 2015; Guasti & Bustikoa; 2022; Kalmar, 2022; Wilson, 2020; Takács & Szalma, 2019)
- Online and offline victimization **overlap** (e.g., Görzig, 2016)
- **Minority stress** (Meyer, 2003)

(Cyber)victimization



- **Cybervictimization**

- Non-heterosexual adolescents: psychological distress, depressive symptoms, self-harm (e.g., Gámez-Guadix & Incera, 2021; Jadva et al., 2021)
- Heterosexual adolescents: depression, anxiety, substance use, suicide ideation (e.g., Kim et al., 2018; Rose & Tynes, 2015)

- Sexual orientation cybervictimization of sexual minorities: **41.1%** (12-18 yo, Spain)
(Gámez-Guadix & Incera, 2020)

(Cyber)victimization



- **Cybervictimization**
 - Non-heterosexual adolescents: psychological distress, depressive symptoms, self-harm (e.g., Gámez-Guadix & Incera, 2021; Jadva et al., 2021)
 - Heterosexual adolescents: depression, anxiety, substance use, suicide ideation (e.g., Kim et al., 2018; Rose & Tynes, 2015)
- Sexual orientation cybervictimization of sexual minorities: 41.1% (12-18 yo, Spain) (Gámez-Guadix & Incera, 2020)
- **RQ1:** How prevalent are online and offline victimization experiences among Czech adolescents? Is this prevalence different for heterosexual and non-heterosexual adolescents?

Cyberhate



- Cyberhate – hateful expressions and content attacking people due to their **group identity** or **group characteristics** (Kansok-Dusche et al., 2022)
- Increasingly prevalent on mainstream online platforms where youth encounter it
 - EU Kids Online IV (Machackova et al., 2020):
59% Czech adolescents encountered cyberhate
(11-17 yo, data collected 2017-2018)



Cyberhate

- **Direct victimization**

- Adolescent is directly targeted by cyberhate, e.g., due to their sexual orientation



- **Exposure**

- Adolescent is exposed as a bystander, audience
- Witnessed hate does not have to attack their group or identity



Cyberhate

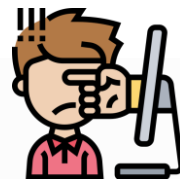
- **Direct victimization**

- Adolescent is directly targeted by cyberhate, e.g., due to their sexual orientation
- Adverse psychological and physical outcomes of **direct victimization**

(e.g., Gámez-Guadix & Incera, 2021; Jadva et al., 2021)

- **Exposure**

- Adolescent is exposed as a bystander, audience
- Witnessed hate does not have to attack their group or identity
- **Harm after exposure:** lower subjective and physical well-being, lower social trust, etc. (Jakubowicz et al., 2017; Keipi et al., 2018, Näsi et al., 2015)



Cyberhate



- **RQ2:** How prevalent is **direct cyberhate victimization** due to sexuality?
- **RQ3:** How prevalent is **exposure to cyberhate** content?
- **RQ4:** Is this prevalence **different for heterosexual and non-heterosexual adolescents**?
- **RQ5:** Are **non-heterosexual adolescents more impacted** by exposure to cyberhate content?

Sample

- **Modeling the future: Understanding the impact of technology on adolescent's well-being (FUTURE)**
- Representative sample
- Quota sampling (SES, region, municipality size)
- Spring 2021
- **$N = 3,040$ Czech adolescents**
- **11-16 yo** ($M_{\text{age}} = 13.47$, $SD = 1.74$)
- **50.3% male**



Measures



- **Romantic attraction** (adapted: Saewyc et al., 2004)
 - *When you think about who would you want to date, would it be: (1) a boy / a man, (2) a girl / a woman, (3) it doesn't matter if it's a boy / a man or a girl / a woman, (4) I don't think about such things yet, (-99) I do not want to respond*

78.8 % Heterosexual

12.8 % I don't think about such things yet

5.2 % Bisexual

1.6 % Homosexual

1.5 % *I do not want to respond*

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$M_{\text{age}} = 13.57, SD = 1.72$; **Heterosexual**

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$M_{\text{age}} = 13.57, SD = 1.72$; **Heterosexual**

12.8 % **I don't think about such things yet**

$M_{\text{age}} = 12.45, SD = 1.46$; **Unsure**

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$M_{\text{age}} = 14.26, SD = 1.65$; **Non-heterosexual**

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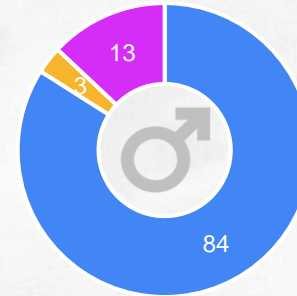
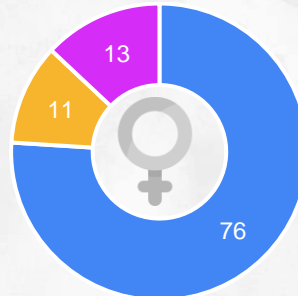
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Measures



- **Offline victimization** (adapted: Bosworth et al., 1999)
 - 5 items; **1** never – **7** several times each day; $M = 2.14$, $SD = 0.94$; $\alpha = .860$
 - *How often did other children or adolescents do following things to you in past 6 months?*
E.g., *I was pushed, shoved, slapped, or kicked; I was called names*

Measures



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 - *How often did other children or adolescents do following things to you in past 6 months?*
E.g., *I was pushed, shoved, slapped, or kicked; I was called names*
- **Online victimization** (adapted: Shapka & Maghsoudi, 2017)
 - 5 items; **1** never – **7** several times each day; $M = 1.42$, $SD = 0.66$; $\alpha = .844$
 - *How often did the following things happen to you in the past 6 months?*
E.g., *Something embarrassing or mean was posted or re-posted about me online; I received a hurtful message from someone (by email or Messenger)*
 - Questions about cyberhate not included in the scale.

Measures

- All adapted from EU Kids Online (Machackova et al., 2020; Zlamal et al., 2020)
- **Cyberhate victimisation (direct)**
 - *How often did the following things happen to you in the past six months? You received hateful or degrading comments or messages about your sexual orientation (it means whether you like boys or girls)*
 - 1 never – 7 several times each day; $M = 1.22$, $SD = 0.68$



Measures

- All adapted from EU Kids Online (Machackova et al., 2020; Zlamal et al., 2020)



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- **Cyberhate exposure**

- *How often during the past 6 months have you seen on the internet contents including following: Hateful contents that target groups of people or individuals (e.g., people with different colour of skin, different religion, nationality, or sexual orientation)*
- 1 never – 7 several times each day; $M = 2.60$, $SD = 1.52$



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- **Cyberhate – feeling upset after exposure**

- 1 I was not upset at all – 4 I was very upset; $M = 2.64$, $SD = 0.93$



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- **Cyberhate – feeling upset after exposure**

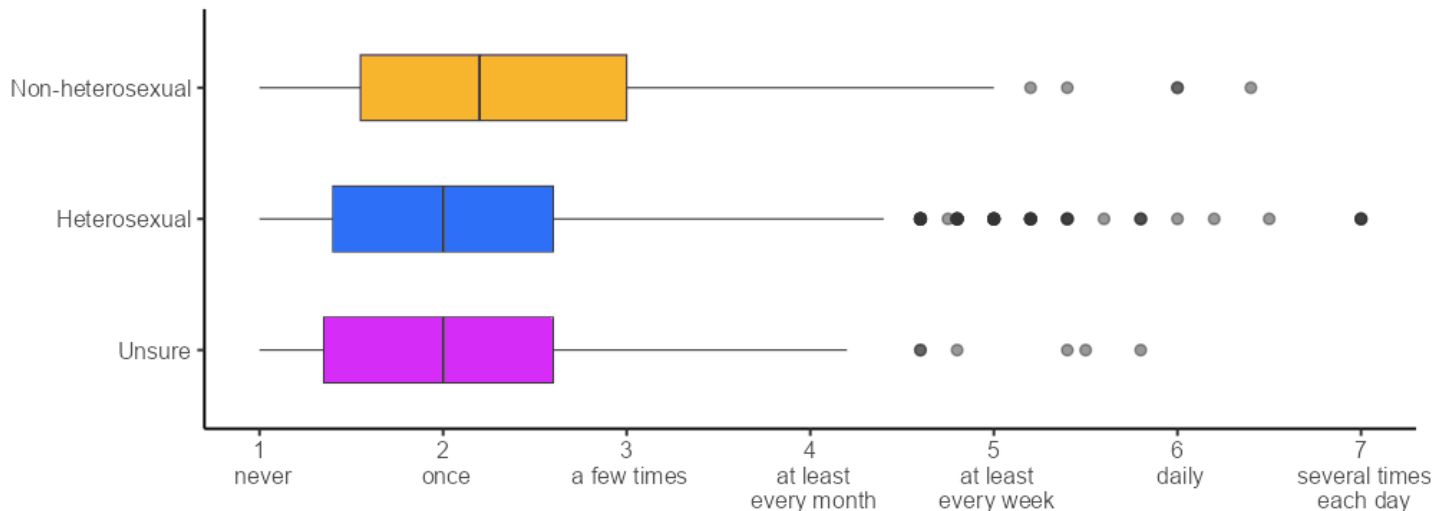
- 1 I was not upset at all – 4 I was very upset; $M = 2.64$, $SD = 0.93$



- **Cyberhate – persistence of feeling upset after exposure**

- 1 I got over it straight away – 6 a couple of months or more; $M = 2.54$, $SD = 1.15$

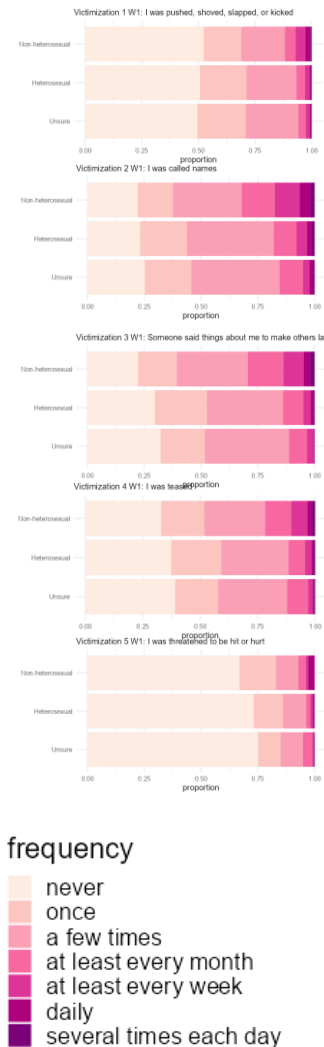
Results – offline victimization



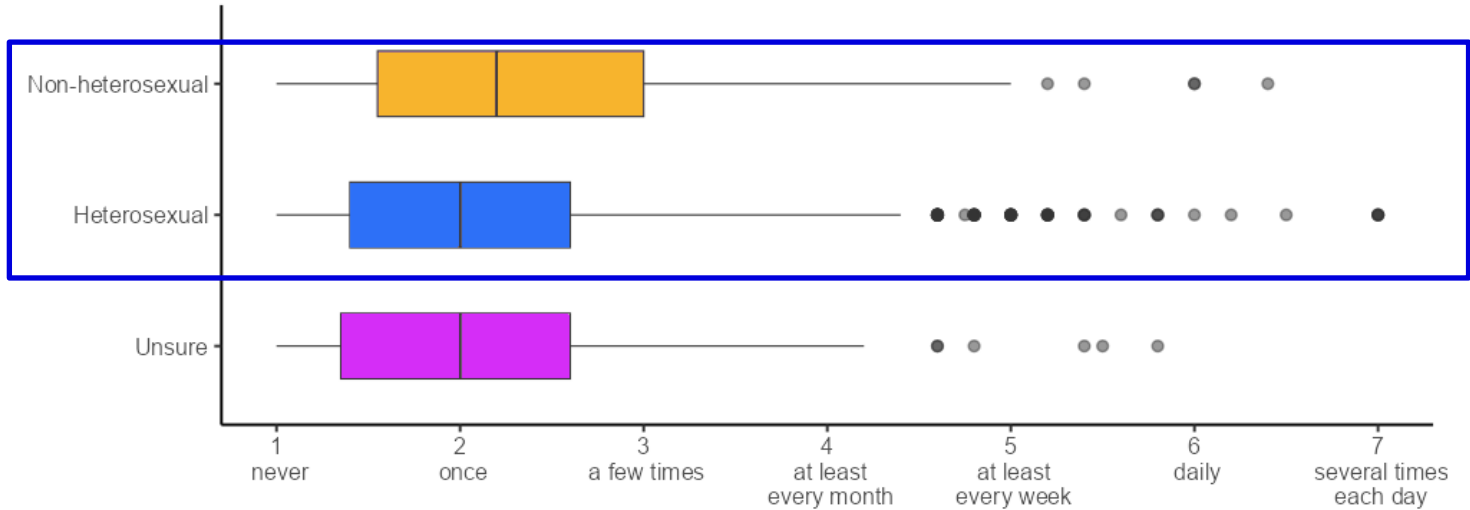
	<i>N</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>
Non-heterosexual	212	2.40	1.12
Heterosexual	2425	2.12	0.93
Unsure	396	2.08	0.91
Total	3080	2.14	0.94

Multiple Comparisons Games-Howell

	<i>Mdiff</i> (I-J)	<i>SE</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	95% CI	
				LB	UB
Heterosexual / Non-heterosexual	-0.28	0.08	0.001	-0.47	-0.10



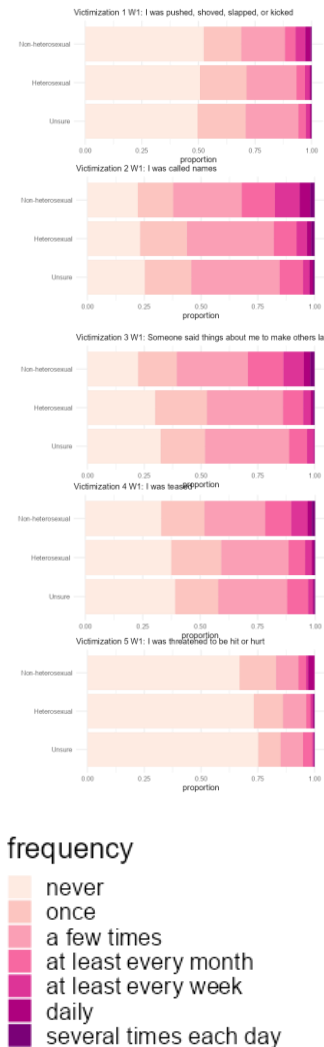
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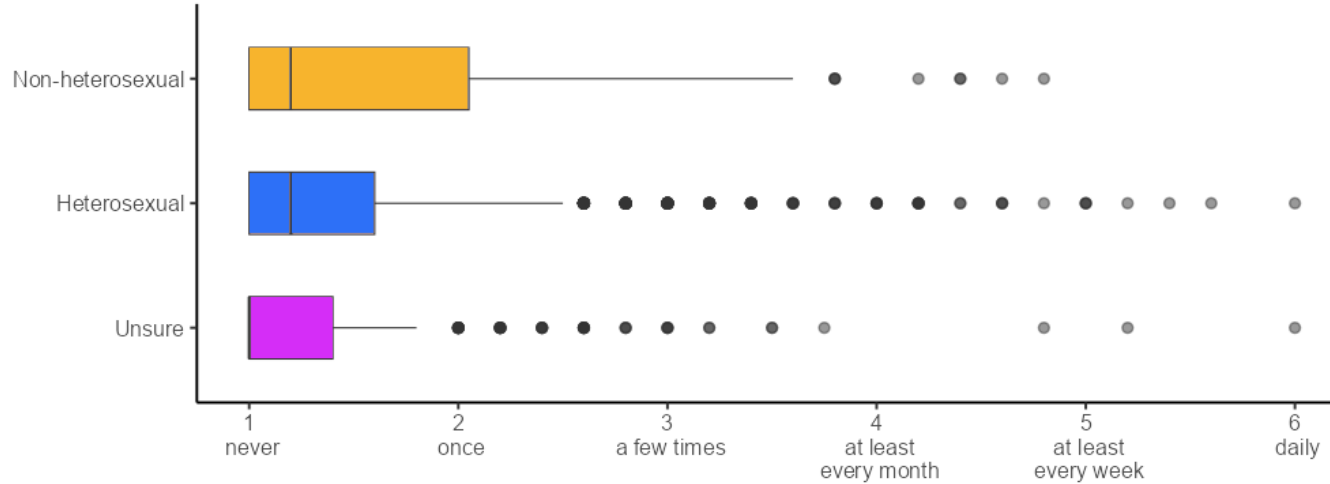
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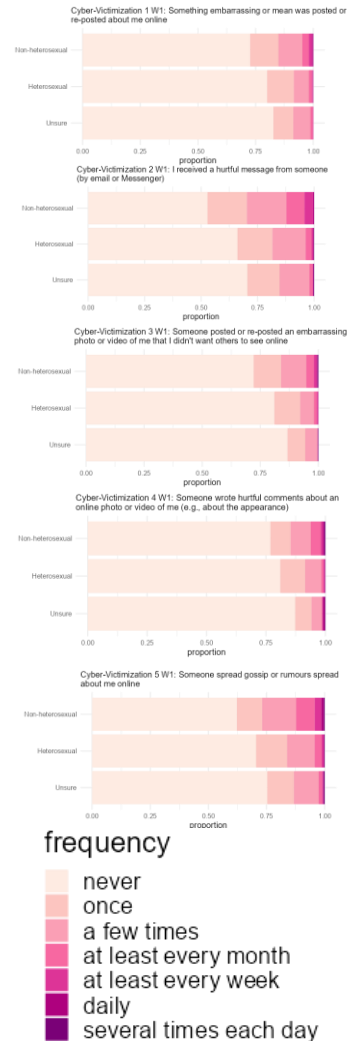
Results – online victimization



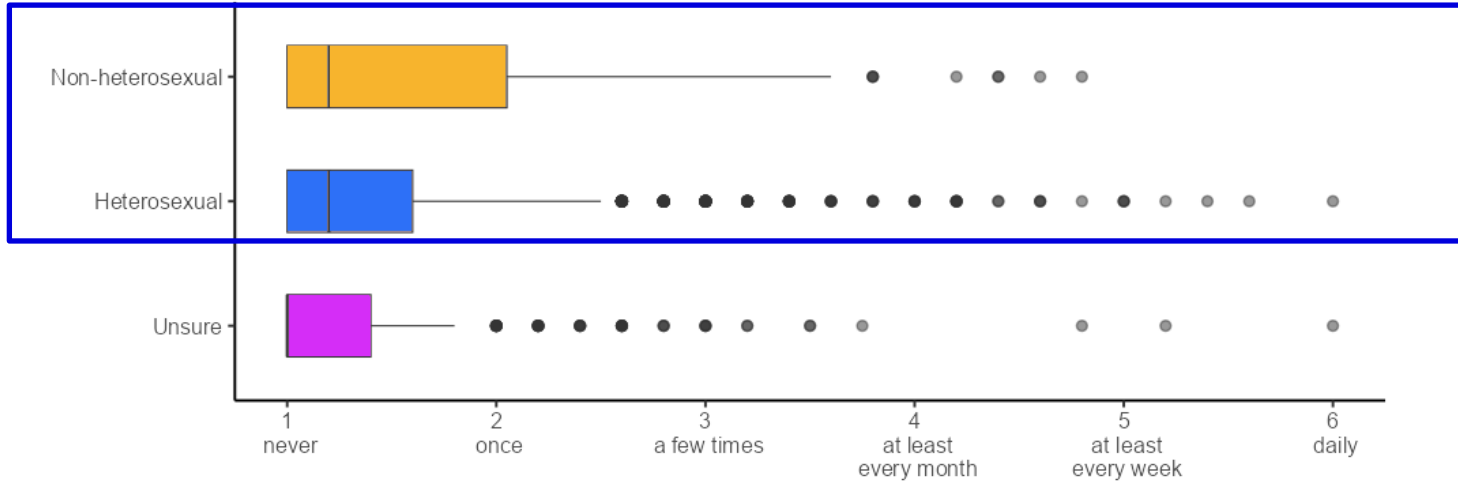
	<i>N</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>
Non-heterosexual	212	1.65	0.87
Heterosexual	2424	1.40	0.63
Unsure	393	1.33	0.62
Total	3075	1.41	0.66

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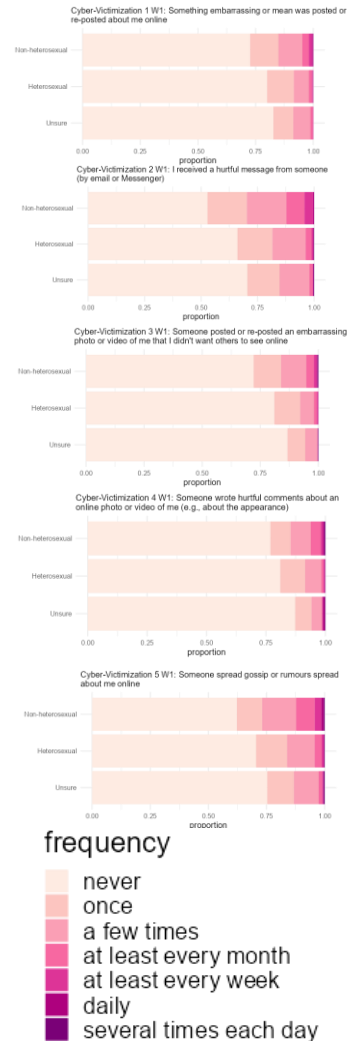
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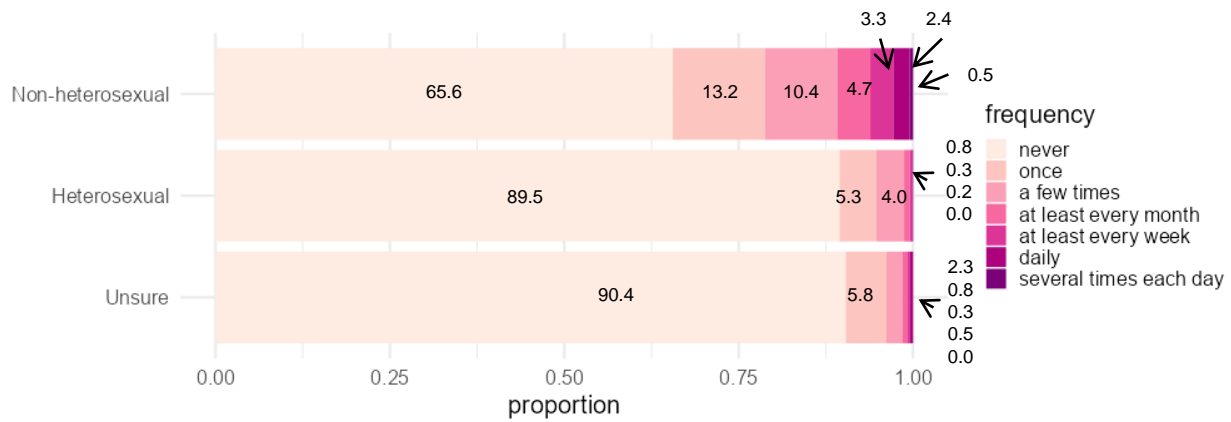
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Results – direct cyberhate victimization

You received hateful or degrading comments or messages about your sexual orientation (it means whether you like boys or girls)



Kruskal-Wallis test, pairwise comparison

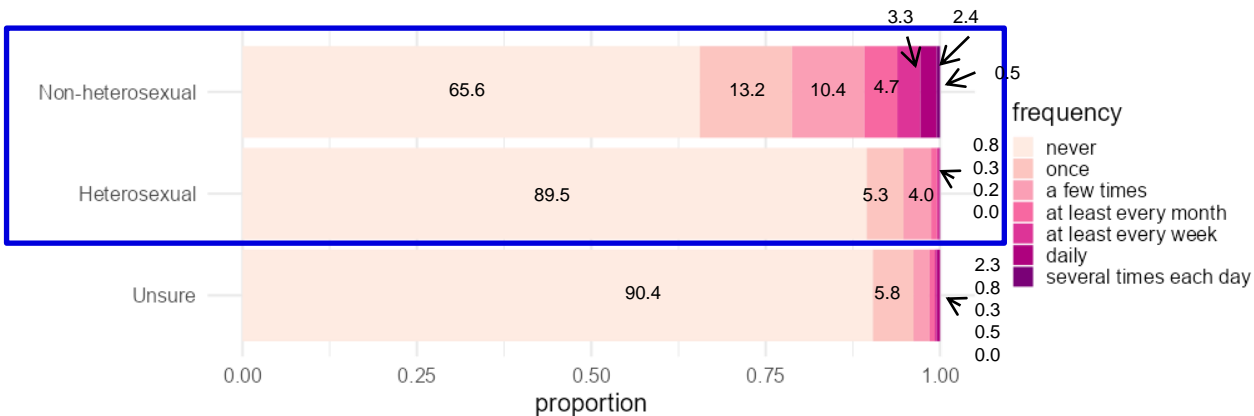
	N	M	SD
Non-heterosexual	212	1.76	1.30
Heterosexual	2423	1.18	0.59
Unsure	394	1.16	0.60
Total	3029	1.22	0.68

	Test Statistic	Std. Error	Std. Test Stat.	Sig.	Adj. Sig.
Heterosexual / Non-heterosexual	-456.908	60.039	-7.61	<.001	0.000



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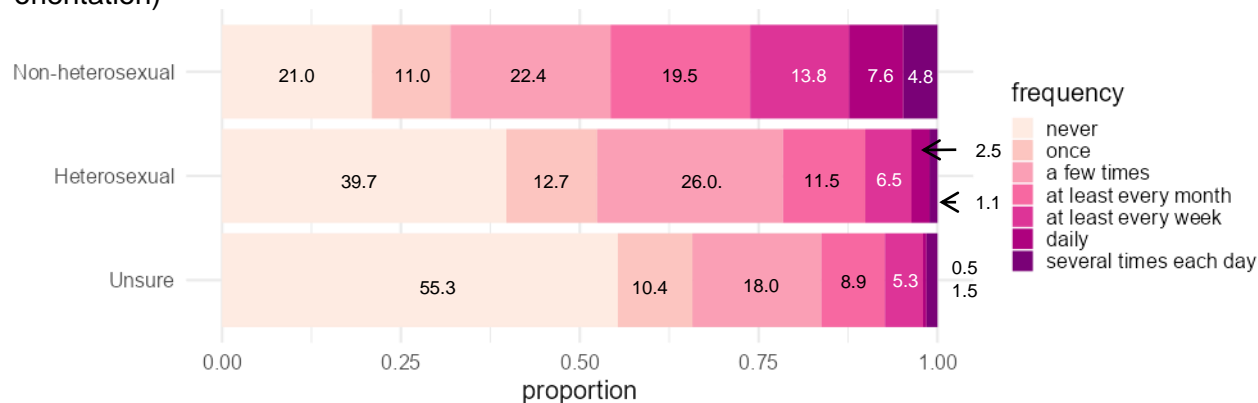
	Test Statistic	Std. Error	Std. Test Stat.	Sig.	Adj. Sig.
Heterosexual / Non-heterosexual	-456.908	60.039	-7.61	<.001	0.000

- **34.5% non-heterosexual** vs. **10.6% heterosexual** adolescents experienced direct cyberhate victimisation at least once during the past 6 months
- **6.2% non-heterosexual** vs. **0.5% heterosexual** adolescents experienced it weekly or more often



Results – cyberhate exposure

Hateful contents that target groups of people or individuals (e.g., people with different colour of skin, religion, nationality, or sexual orientation)



Kruskal-Wallis test, pairwise comparison

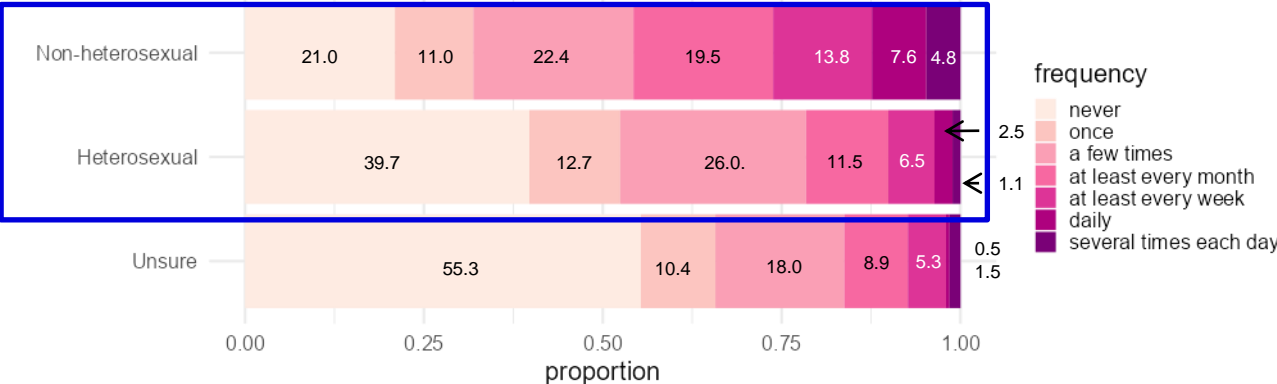
	N	M	SD
Non-heterosexual	211	3.60	1.70
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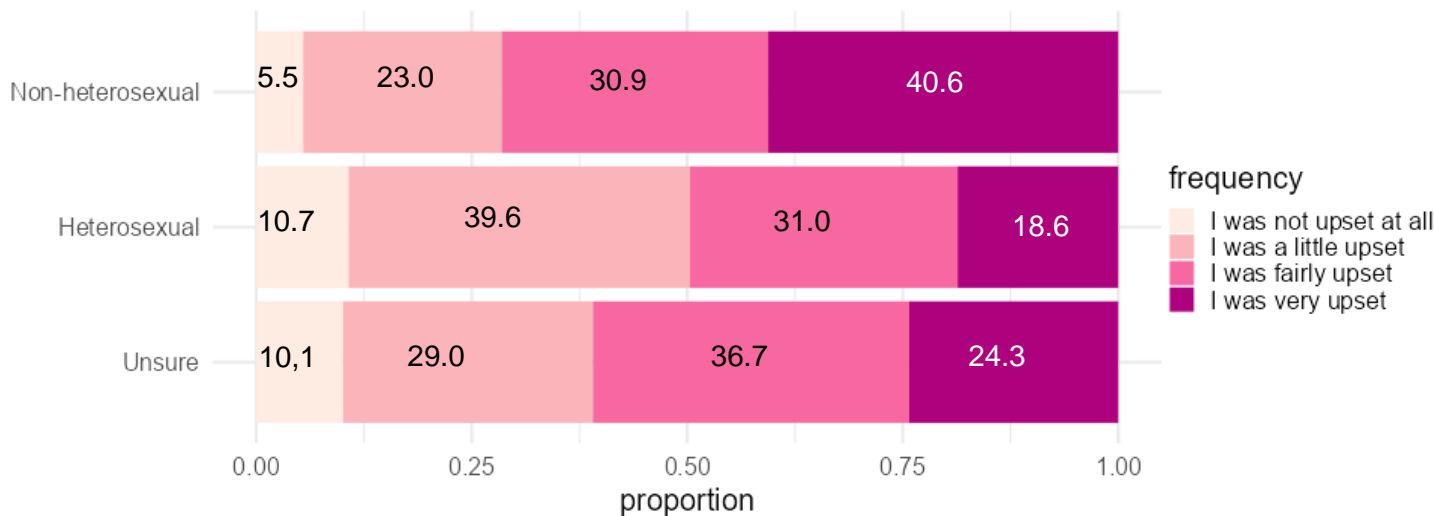
Kruskal-Wallis test, pairwise comparison

	Test Statistic	Std. Error	Std. Test Stat.	Sig.	Adj. Sig.
Heterosexual / Non-heterosexual	-456.908	60.039	-7.61	<.001	0.000

- **79.1% non-heterosexual** vs. **60.3% heterosexual** adolescents reported cyberhate exposure at least once during the past 6 months
- **26.2% non-heterosexual** vs. **10.1% heterosexual** adolescents were exposed weekly or more often



Results – harm after cyberhate exposure



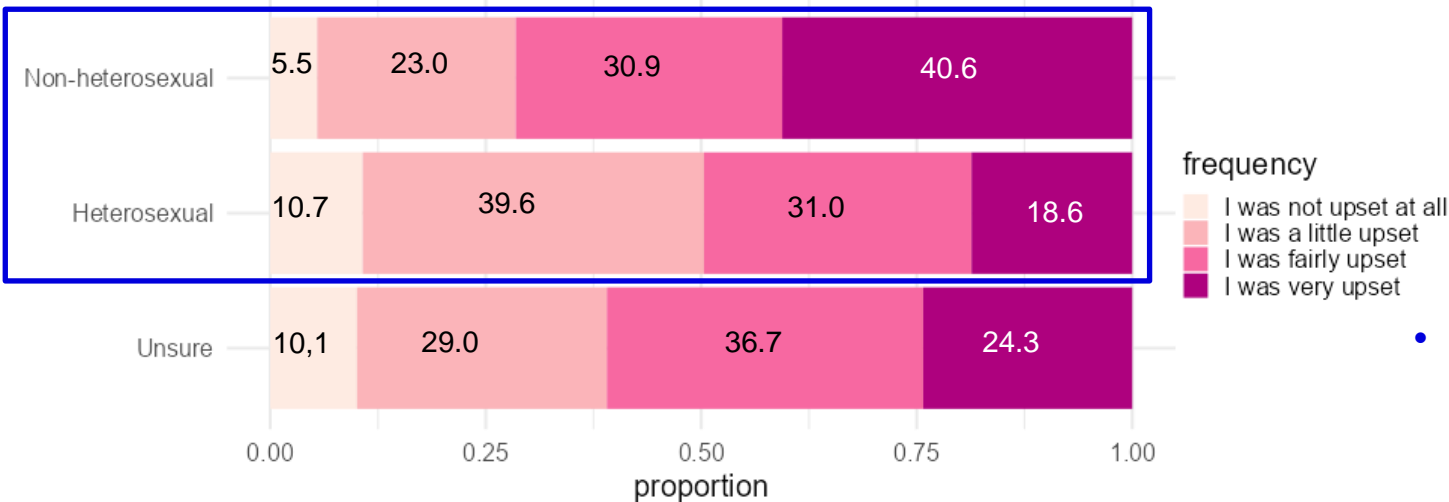
Kruskal-Wallis test, pairwise comparison

	N	M	SD
Non-heterosexual	165	3.07	0.93
Heterosexual	1427	2.58	0.91
Unsure	169	2.75	0.94
Total	1761	2.64	0.93

	Test Statistic	Std. Error	Std. Test Stat.	Sig.	Adj. Sig.
Heterosexual / Non-heterosexual	-255.881	39.824	-6.425	<.001	0.000



Results – harm after cyberhate exposure



- 40.6% non-heterosexual vs. 18.6% heterosexual adolescents were very upset by the experience

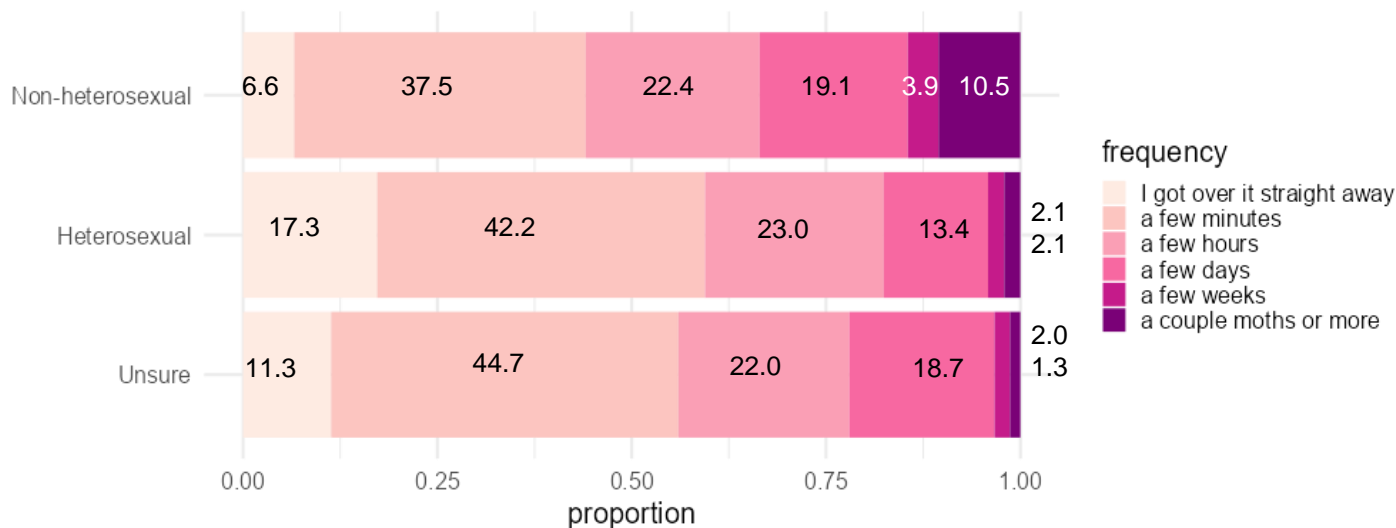
Kruskal-Wallis test, pairwise comparison

	N	M	SD
Non-heterosexual	165	3.07	0.93
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Unsure	169	2.75	0.94
Total	1761	2.64	0.93

	Test Statistic	Std. Error	Std. Test Stat.	Sig.	Adj. Sig.
Heterosexual / Non-heterosexual	-255.881	39.824	-6.425	<.001	0.000



Results – persistence of harm



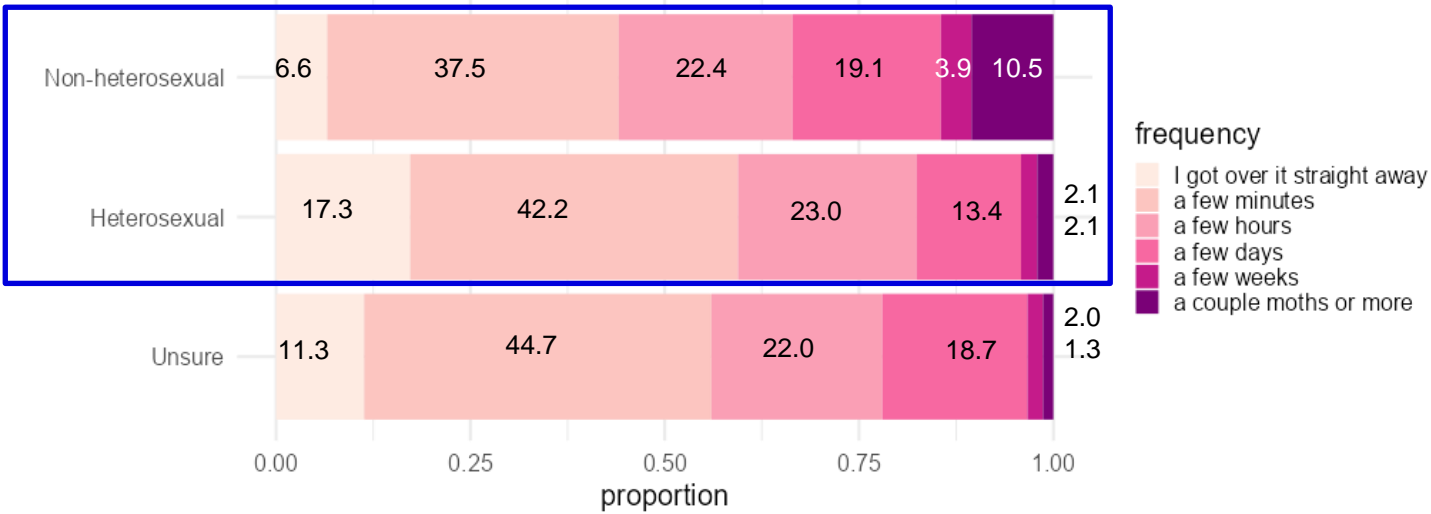
	N	M	SD
Non-heterosexual	152	3.08	1.39
Heterosexual	1252	2.47	1.11
Unsure	150	2.59	1.06
Total	1554	2.54	1.15

Kruskal-Wallis tst, pairwise comparison

	Test Statistic	Std. Error	Std. Test Stat.	Sig.	Adj. Sig.
Heterosexual / Non-heterosexual	-188.129	36.715	-5.124	<.001	0.000



Results – persistence of harm



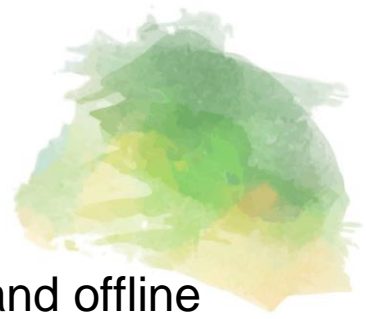
• **14.4% non-heterosexual** vs. **4.2% heterosexual** were upset for a few weeks or longer

	N	M	SD
Non-heterosexual	152	3.08	1.39
Heterosexual	1252	2.47	1.11
Unsure	150	2.59	1.06
Total	1554	2.54	1.15

Kruskal-Wallis tst, pairwise comparison

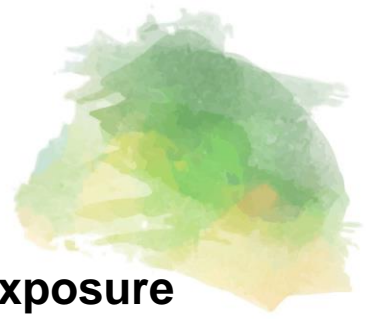
	Test Statistic	Std. Error	Std. Test Stat.	Sig.	Adj. Sig.
Heterosexual / Non-heterosexual	-188.129	36.715	-5.124	<.001	0.000

Discussion and future directions



- Significant **differences in all victimization** experiences online and offline
 - **Offline victimization** more prevalent
- Non-heterosexual adolescents systematically report more victimization
 - Early experiences of stress impact mental health and development and increase likelihood of maladaptive coping strategies (Birkett et al., 2015; Meyer, 2003)
⇒ Are the patterns of experienced harm the same?

Discussion and future directions

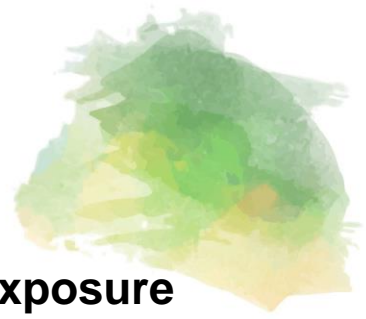


- Non-heterosexual adolescents report more **harm after cyberhate exposure**
- Non-heterosexual adolescents are **exposed to more cyberhate in general**
 - Greater sensitivity and recognition?

⇒ What coping strategies are used by non-/heterosexual adolescents?

(e.g., Gámez-Guadix et al., 2020; Schultze-Krumboz et al., 2022)

Discussion and future directions



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- Non-heterosexual adolescents are **exposed to more cyberhate in general**
 - Greater sensitivity and recognition?

⇒ What coping strategies are used by non-/heterosexual adolescents?

(e.g., Gámez-Guadix et al., 2020; Schultze-Krumboz et al., 2022)

⇒ Who are the perpetrators?

- Educational efforts for victims (coping) but also for perpetrators

Thank you for your attention!

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