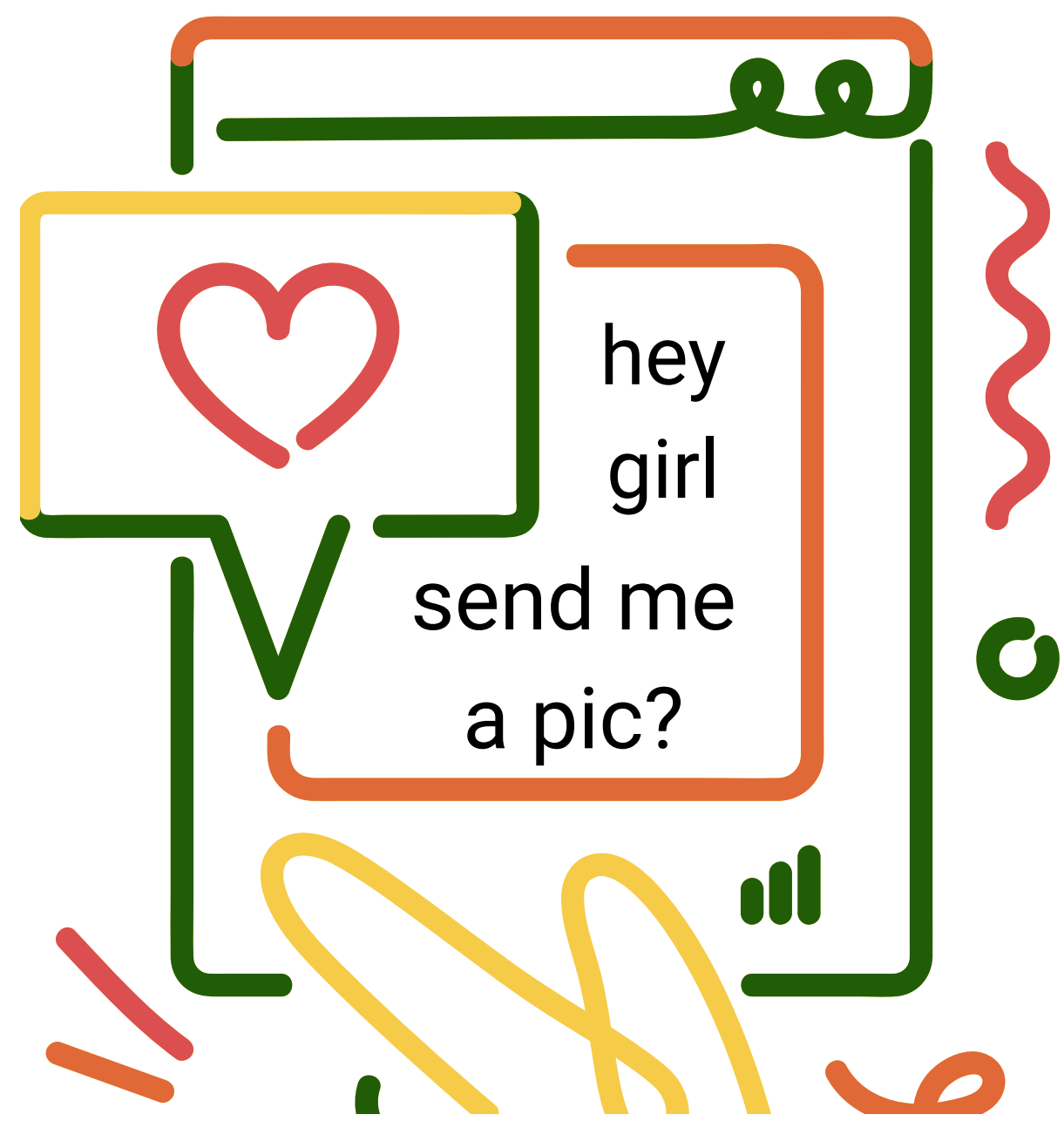


THE TALK WE (DON'T) HAVE:

EXAMINING FACTORS IN ADOLESCENTS' DISCLOSURE OF ONLINE SEXUAL SOLICITATIONS TO PARENTS

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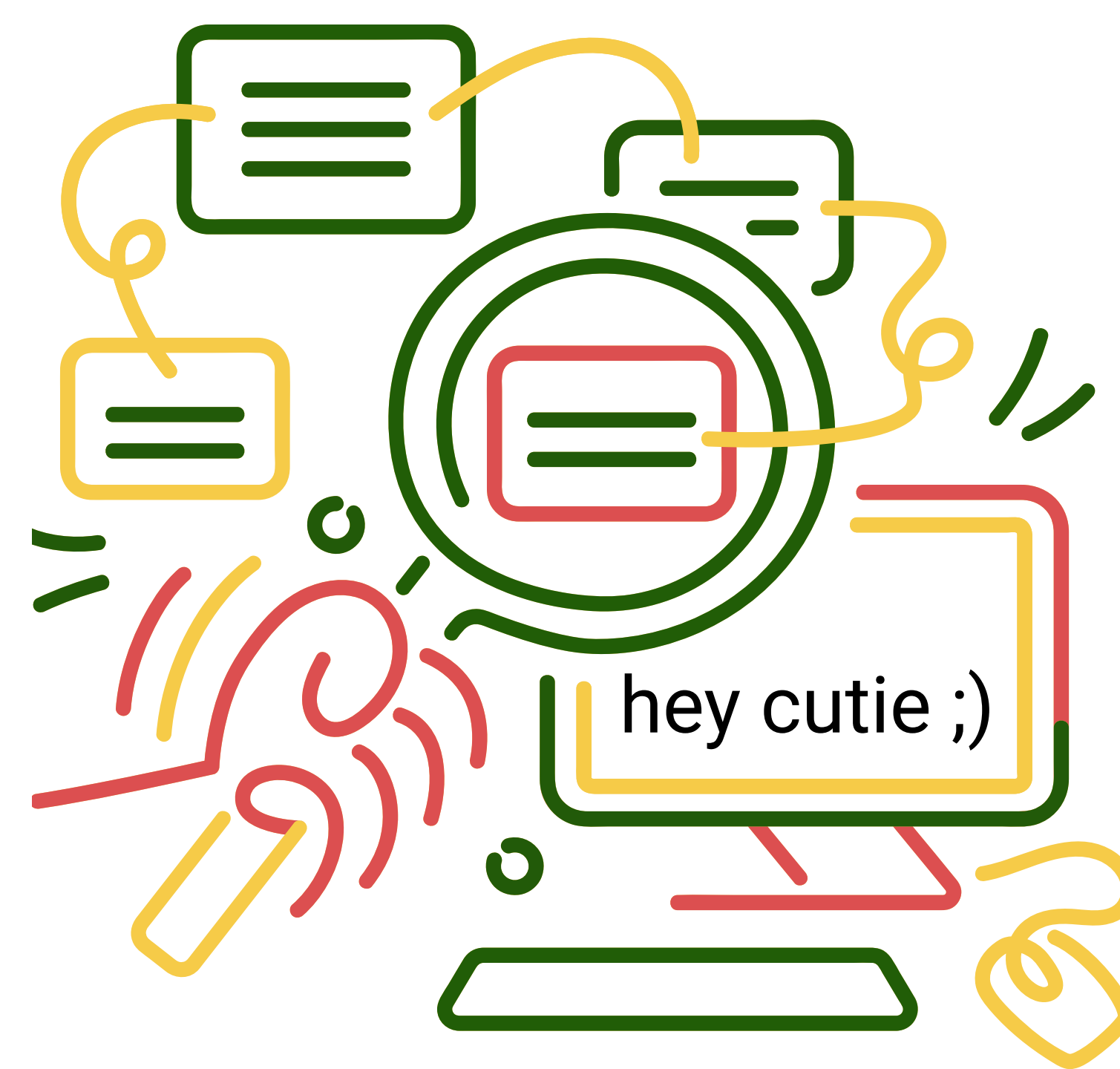
INTRODUCTION

- Adolescents commonly encounter online sexual solicitations (Madigan et al., 2018), often finding them **intrusive or unwelcome** (Finkelhor et al., 2000), yet many choose **not to disclose** these experiences to their parents (Mishna, 2023).
- Disclosure to parents is an **effective coping strategy**, crucial for receiving **support** and **reducing harm** (Kaiser et al., 2020).
- Instead, adolescents often choose to **handle the situation on their own** because they feel **ashamed** or **fear being misunderstood or punished** (Lisztwan Honusová et al., 2025).

OBJECTIVE

To examine factors that relate to adolescents' likelihood of disclosing sexual solicitations to parents. It examines:

- **parent-child relationship** (connectedness, hostility, conflict);
- **aspects of digital parenting** (parental solicitation of information, use of ICT punishments, perceived parental SNS skills);
- **risky experience-related context** (adolescents' perceived severity, perceived norm)
- **gender & age**



METHOD

Design: cross-sectional survey of **1,562 Czech parent-adolescent dyads** (adolescents aged 11-14, $M = 12.51$, $SD = 1.13$, 51.4% boys)

Studied sample: those who received online sexual solicitation, $N = 244$.

RESULTS

- 16 %** of adolescents received such message at least once in the past 6 months
- 29 %** of them never told their parents about it
- 67 %** of those who received it felt at least somewhat upset by it

Predictor	OR (95% CI)	p
Age	0.79 (0.58-1.07)	.137
Gender	0.60 (0.31-1.15)	.126
Parental Connectedness	0.83 (0.59-1.13)	.243
Parental Hostility	1.16 (0.82-1.66)	.417
Parental Conflict	1.05 (0.60-1.83)	.857
Parental Solicitation	3.53 (2.23-5.85)	< .001
ICT punishment	0.99 (0.72-1.38)	.024
Parental SNS skills	1.48 (1.06-2.09)	.024
Severity	1.13 (0.85-1.50)	.390
Perceived norm	0.87 (0.70-1.08)	.224

A logistic regression predicting the likelihood of disclosing online sexual solicitations to parents. $\chi^2(10) = 60.38$, $p < .001$; Pseudo- R^2 : Cox & Snell = .22, Nagelkerke = .31. Unstandardized variables

CONCLUSIONS

- **Parental solicitation fosters disclosure** - adolescents are much more likely to share sexual solicitation experiences when parents actively ask about their online lives.
- **Parental digital competence helps** - adolescents disclosed more often when parents were seen as digitally competent (especially with regard to social media), suggesting that competence increases credibility and trust.
- **Implication** - promoting active, informed parental engagement is crucial to encourage adolescents to disclose sensitive and/or unpleasant online experiences.

→ Madigan, S., Villani, V., Azzopardi, C., Laut, D., Smith, T., Temple, J. R., Browne, D., & Dimitropoulos, G. (2018). The prevalence of unwanted online sexual exposure and solicitation among youth: A meta-analysis. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 63(2), 133-141. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2018.03.012>

→ Finkelhor, D., Mitchell, K. J., & Wolak, J. (2000). Online Victimization: A Report on the Nation's Youth. <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/Digitization/188393NCJRS.pdf>

→ Mishna, F., Milne, E., Cook, C., Slane, A., & Ringrose, J. (2023). Unsolicited Sexes and Unwanted Requests for Sexes: Reflecting on the Online Sexual Harassment of Youth. *Youth & Society*, 55(4), 630-651. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0044118X211058226>

→ Kaiser, S., Kyrrestad, H., & Fossum, S. (2020). Help-seeking behavior in Norwegian adolescents: The role of bullying and cyberbullying victimization in a cross-sectional study. *Scandinavian Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychology*, 8(1), 81-90. <https://doi.org/10.21307/sjcap-2020-008>

→ Lisztwan Honusová, B., Dedkova, L., Mýlek, V. (2025). "It would be awkward": Why Adolescents Do Not Confide in Their Parents About Online Sexual Solicitation. [Manuscript submitted for publication]. Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University.

