



# UNH-Assisted Report Highlights Strategies to Keep Kids Safe Online

Thursday, December 1, 2022



DURHAM, N.H.—  
Researchers from the University of New Hampshire’s Crimes against Children Research Center were instrumental in a new report published by the World Health Organization (WHO) that presents ways to address the growing worldwide concern of keeping children safe online.



**MEDIA RELATIONS**

“Technology can be a wonderful tool but it’s important that we also make it a safe one,” said David Finkelhor, professor of sociology and director of UNH’s Crimes against Children Research Center. “This report highlights the effectiveness of implementing educational programs designed for children and parents to help reduce the levels of online victimization. Safety online can be addressed in the same way we address the wide variety of childhood risks such as delinquency, substance use, bullying and

## LATEST NEWS

**Franchise Index Ends 2022 with Strong Return, Signals Recovery in the Franchising Sector**  
February 10, 2023

**UNH Research Finds Well Water Risks More Detectable During Warmer Weather**  
February 8, 2023

**University of New Hampshire Dean's List**  
January 23, 2023

**University of New Hampshire Announces December 2022 Graduates**  
January 9, 2023

**UNH Catholicism Expert to Comment on Funeral and Legacy of Pope Benedict XVI**

risky sexual behavior.”

January 3, 2023

The report, [What works to prevent online violence against children](#), was compiled and co-authored by researchers at UNH, the WHO and Queensland University of Technology. It highlights features that make school-based educational programs successful like having multiple sessions, interaction among youth and the engagement of parents. It also underscores the importance of training youth in specific life skills such as assertiveness, empathy, problem-solving and emotion management. The authors say educational programs are more successful when they use multiple and varied delivery formats such as videos, games, posters, infographics and guided discussions.

The report cites evidence that comprehensive forms of sex education can reduce physical and sexual aggression, in particular dating and partner violence and homophobic bullying.

“There is a lot of valuable scientific information that hasn’t yet been fully incorporated into the design of prevention strategies for online safety,” said Finkelhor. “This report should make those insights more available to program developers.”

The [University of New Hampshire](#) inspires innovation and transforms lives in our state, nation and world. More than 16,000 students from all 50 states and 71 countries engage with an award-winning faculty in top-ranked programs in business, engineering, law, health and human services, liberal arts and the sciences across more than 200 programs of study. A Carnegie Classification R1 institution, UNH partners with NASA, NOAA, NSF and NIH, and received \$260 million in competitive external funding in FY21 to further explore and define the frontiers of land, sea and space.

## Media Contact

[Robbin Ray '82](#) | Communications and Public Affairs |  
[robbin.ray@unh.edu](mailto:robbin.ray@unh.edu) | 603-862-4864

[VIEW ALL](#) 

 [SUBSCRIBE  
TO UNH TODAY](#)



## University of New Hampshire

UNH Today is produced for the UNH community and for friends of UNH.

The stories are written by the staff of [UNH Communications and Public Affairs](#).

Email us: [unhtoday.editor@unh.edu](mailto:unhtoday.editor@unh.edu).

[MANAGE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION](#)  [CONTACT US](#)



UNH Today • UNH Main Directory: 603-862-1234  
Copyright © 2023 • TTY Users: 7-1-1 or 800-735-2964 (Relay NH)

[USNH Privacy Policies](#) • [USNH Terms of Use](#) • [ADA Acknowledgement](#)