

**Pamela Huiskes**



*Prevalence of and Attitudes towards Technology-Facilitated Sexual  
Violence during the COVID-19 Pandemic*

Fernando Pessoa University  
Faculty of Human and Social Sciences  
Porto, 2021



Prevalence of and Attitudes towards TFSV during the COVID-19 Pandemic

**Pamela Huiskes**



*Prevalence of and Attitudes towards Technology-Facilitated Sexual  
Violence during the COVID-19 Pandemic*

Fernando Pessoa University  
Faculty of Human and Social Sciences  
Porto, 2021

**Pamela Huiskes**

***Prevalence of and Attitudes towards Technology-Facilitated Sexual  
Violence during the COVID-19 Pandemic***

Signature:



---

Master thesis presented to University Fernando Pessoa as a requirement for obtaining a Master's degree in Criminology under supervision of Professora Doutora Sónia Caridade.

## Abstract

Despite the emerging body of literature concerning Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence (TFSV) experienced by adults, it still is an underexplored topic. This study aimed to explore the scarce, but emerging literature, and to approach this phenomenon in the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic. One of the key findings from the literature review (article 1), is that there seems to be inconsistency whether there are significant differences between the prevalence of male and female victimization of TFSV. Previous studies showed, however, significant differences in *types* of TFSV victimization experienced by men and women. The available empirical data regarding adult victimization is difficult to compare because terminology, definitions and measures being used to define TFSV remain inconsistent. To fill the gap within empirical research on online sexual victimization experienced by adults, a literature review has been carried out, followed by an empirical study on the prevalence of, and attitudes towards TFSV during the COVID-19 pandemic. To create some degree of standardization within this field of study, the TFSV Victimization Scale developed by Powell & Henry (2016) has been used to explore the topic in the theoretical framework (article 1). After this, the victimization scale has also been applied to a sample of 289 adults aged between 18 and 56 years old in the empirical study (article 2). In this sample, women were significantly more likely than men to report several forms of sexual harassment victimization. Non-heterosexual respondents were significantly more likely than heterosexual respondents to report 11 behaviors from the 21-item scale, spread over all four dimensions of TFSV. During the current COVID-19 pandemic, many types of violence against women and the LGBT+ community have intensified, and TFSV seems to be no exception. With almost half of the participants reporting that they ignored the behavior as a response to TFSV victimization, future research could focus on motives behind the underreporting of this type of violence. Additionally, more research should be conducted on sexuality- and gender-diverse persons, to better assess the scope and nature of TFSV experiences within this group.

**Key-words:** Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence, Online Sexual Harassment, Digital Sexual Harassment, Gender- and sexuality-based harassment, Image-based sexual abuse, Sexual aggression and/or coercion

## Resumo

Apesar de alguma emergente literatura sobre a Violência Sexual Facilitada pela Tecnologia (TFSV) experimentada por adultos, continua a ser um tema subexplorado. Esta dissertação visa explorar a literatura escassa, mas emergente, e abordar este fenómeno no contexto da atual pandemia da COVID-19. Uma das principais conclusões da revisão da literatura (artigo 1), é que parece haver inconsistência acerca das diferenças significativas entre a prevalência de vitimização masculina e feminina de TFSV. Estudos anteriores mostraram, contudo, diferenças significativas nos tipos de vitimização de TFSV em função do género. Os dados empíricos disponíveis relativos à vitimização de adultos são difíceis de comparar porque a terminologia, definições e medidas utilizadas para definir a TFSV continuam a ser inconsistentes. Para preencher a lacuna dentro da investigação empírica sobre vitimização sexual em linha sofrida por adultos, procedeu-se a uma revisão da literatura, seguida de um estudo empírico sobre a prevalência e as atitudes em relação ao TFSV durante a pandemia de COVID-19. Para criar algum grau de padronização dentro deste campo de estudo, a Escala de Vitimização de TFSV desenvolvida por Powell & Henry (2016) foi utilizada para explorar o tema no quadro teórico (artigo 1) e foi também administrada a uma amostra de 289 adultos entre os 18 e os 56 anos de idade no estudo empírico (artigo 2). Nesta amostra, as mulheres apresentaram uma probabilidade significativamente maior do que os homens de denunciar várias formas de vitimização de assédio sexual. Os adultos não heterossexuais eram significativamente mais prováveis do que os heterossexuais dos inquiridos a denunciar 11 comportamentos da escala de 21 itens, repartidos pelas quatro dimensões da TFSV. Durante a atual pandemia de COVID-19, muitos tipos de violência contra as mulheres e a comunidade LGBTQ+ intensificaram-se, e a TFSV parece não ser exceção. Os resultados indicaram padrões de género na vitimização sexual, bem como na natureza da TFSV. Com quase metade dos participantes a relatar que ignoraram o comportamento como resposta à vitimização da TFSV, a investigação futura poderia concentrar-se nos motivos por detrás da subnotificação deste tipo de violência. Além disso, deveria ser conduzida mais investigação sobre pessoas com diversidade sexual e de género, para melhor avaliar o âmbito e a natureza das experiências de TFSV dentro deste grupo.

**Palavras-chave:** Violência sexual facilitada pela tecnologia, assédio sexual online, assédio sexual digital, assédio baseado na sexualidade e gênero, abuso sexual baseado na imagem, coerção e agressão sexual.

## **Acknowledgements**

Throughout the whole process of this dissertation, I have received a lot of support and help from friends, family, and colleagues.

First, I would like to thank my supervisor Sónia Caridade, for always being available to answer any of my questions, even during evenings and weekends. Besides that, I would like to thank her for supporting me with writing an empirical article about my research, which might be published in a scientific journal.

Second, I would like to thank Eline Hendrix, my friend and partner in crime, who was always there to give me critical feedback and to provide me a study place with enough day light.

Finally, thanks to all my friends and family for their interest in my thesis, and their help to collect as many respondents as possible to my survey questionnaire.

# Content

<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Article 1. Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence – A Simple Literature Review ...</b>	<b>4</b>
Introduction.....	5
Theoretical Framework.....	6
Prevalence of TFSV .....	11
Attitudinal acceptance of violence .....	17
COVID-19 Pandemic and the Routine Activity Theory .....	18
Conclusion .....	23
References.....	26
<b>Article 2. Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence: Empirical Research.....</b>	<b>33</b>
Abstract.....	34
Introduction.....	35
Prevalence of Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence .....	36
Method .....	40
Results.....	44
Discussion .....	52
Study Limitations and Future Research.....	56
Conclusion .....	57
References.....	59
Appendixes .....	62
1. Appendix A. Questionnaire approval Ethics Commission.....	62
2. Appendix B. English questionnaire.....	63

3. Appendix C. Portuguese Questionnaire ..... 73

## List of Figures

Figure 1. <i>Meta-Analysis and Systematic Review by Patel &amp; Roesh (2020). Prevalence of TFSV Victimization.</i> .....	13
Figure 2. <i>Routine Activity Theory (RAT)</i> .....	20
Figure 3. <i>Daily time spent on digital platforms</i> .....	45
Figure 4. <i>Degree of acceptance</i> .....	52

## List of Tables

Table 1. <i>Characteristics of participants</i> .....	41
Table 2. <i>Prevalence of TFSV victimization in the past 12 months</i> .....	45
Table 3. <i>Characteristics of TFSV victims in the past 12 months</i> .....	48
Table 4. <i>Actions taken in response to TFSV victimization</i> .....	50

# Introduction

In today's world, technology and the Internet became an increasingly important part of many people's lives and made it easy for us to quickly connect and communicate with family, friends and even strangers. Alongside many benefits of this technological advancements, its use is not without potential risk (Machimbarrena et al., 2018). The last couple of years showed an increased amount of attention towards Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence (TFSV) - a term used to encompass different forms of violence, aggression or harassment involving technological devices or platforms (Henry & Powell, 2016a). Especially since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the body of literature regarding this phenomenon seems to grow exponentially.

The emerging interest in this topic might be a result of the pandemic changing the landscape of cybercrime, which offered many opportunities for research. To explain this nature change in cybercrime, we might have to go back to the late 70s. This was the year in which Cohen & Felson (1976) developed the Routine Activity Theory (RAT). The idea was that crime is a result of people's routine activities that structure everyday life. During the current COVID-19 pandemic, the measurements that have been taken to reduce the risk of the coronavirus, drastically changed daily routines and everyday behaviors of citizens all over the world. People were confined to their homes and spent an increased amount of time online. This radical change in routine activity raised motives for research towards the impact of this on the nature of cybercrime. The present study explored the prevalence of and attitudes towards TFSV during the COVID-19

pandemic. The aim of this study was to fill the gap within empirical research on gender patterns in online sexual victimization experienced by adults, as well as on the nature of TFSV between related factors such as gender, age, and sexual orientation. More specifically, the overall objectives were to: i) analyze how much time people spend daily on several digital platforms; ii) analyze the prevalence of TFSV victimization during the COVID-19 pandemic; iii) explore the nature of TFSV victimization with respect to specific behaviors experienced, attitudes, relationship with the perpetrator, and key victim demographics of gender, age and sexuality; and v) explore actions taken in response to TFSV as reported by self-identified victims. To explore these objectives, the scarce, but emerging body of literature on TFSV experienced by adults has been explored (article 1), followed by an empirical research (part 2). The literature review first focused on several unwanted sexual behaviors, classified as TFSV, namely: (a) digital sexual harassment; (b) image-based sexual abuse; (c) sexual aggression and/or coercion, and (d) gender and/or sexuality-based harassment. Second, the prevalence of TFSV in previous samples has been explored and summarized. The third topic of this article demonstrates an example of how attitudinal acceptance can influence (continuous) victimization of violence. Fourth, the Routine Activity Theory of Cohen & Felson (1979) has been used and applied to the current COVID-19 pandemic, to explain the nature change of cybercrime during this pandemic. Article 1 finishes with summarizing the key findings of all literature described above. Article 2 demonstrates the empirical study in which the prevalence of and attitudes towards TFSV has been explored within a sample of 298 adults, aged between 18 and 56 years.



**Article 1**  
**Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence – A**  
**Simple Literature Review**

## **Introduction**

Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence (TFSV) is a rising, yet under-researched topic and until today, there is still no universal-accepted definition for this phenomenon (Patel & Roesch, 2020). Researchers use different terms like ‘cyber-sexual violence’, ‘ICT-facilitated violence’, and ‘online sexual abuse’ to describe different forms of violence, aggression or harassment involving technological devices or platforms (Cripps & Stermac, 2018; UN Women, 2020; Jonsson et al., 2019). Despite the lack of a universal definition, in all cases it refers to types of sexually based behaviors, committed with the facilitation of digital technologies. Some examples are non-consensual pornography and other image-based sexual exploitation, online/digital sexual harassment, cyber-stalking, online gender-based hate speech and the use of a carriage service to arrange/attempt to arrange a victim’s sexual assault (Cripps & Stermac, 2018; Henry et al., 2020).

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, quarantine measures and self- isolation policies have increased the internet use between 50% to 70%, as people switched to using the internet for work, school, and social activities (UN Women, 2020). This increased time spent online, puts people at more risk of being exposed to potentially harmful and violent content (UNICEF, 2020). As for this reason, prevalence of TFSV might have increased in the past year. Not only the internet use grew because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but studies show that since the outbreak of the virus, all types of violence against women and girls have intensified (UN Women et al., 2021; UN Women, 2020). Even though some studies suggest it is unclear whether there is a gender difference in cyber aggression and violence or not, the European Institute for Gender Equality (2017a) states that ‘women are more likely than men to be victims of severe forms of cyber

violence’ and for this reason it can be considered a form of Violence Against Women (VAW). Despite the lack of data, the EU estimates that one in ten women have experienced some form of cyber violence since the age of 15 and calls the emergence of cyber violence against women and girls as a ‘global problem’ (European Institute for Gender Equality, 2017b).

As there is no universal-accepted definition for sexual violence committed with the use of technology, studies approach the subject in many ways. These different approaches make it difficult to compare studies and to estimate the scope of the problem. Even though there is a large amount of literature on various forms of victimization in the digital world, most of these studies are focused on children and young people (e.g., Jonsson et al., 2019; Patchin & Hinduja, 2018; Reed et al., 2019). Less is known about adult victims of TFSV (Powell & Henry, 2016).

## **Theoretical Framework**

Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence (TFSV) is the term used in this study to encompass all sexually aggressive behaviors and harassment involving technology. Research towards TFSV experienced by adults is scarce, yet emerging. However, especially after the outbreak of the pandemic, research towards this phenomenon has substantially increased. This theoretical framework seeks to understand the phenomenon of TFSV, the behaviors in which it expresses itself, and to explore links between the current COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the nature of TFSV.

Sexual violence is defined as:

any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work (World Health Organization, 2002, p. 149).

There are different ways in which sexual violence can occur, including (but not limited to) rape (within a marriage, dating relationship or by a stranger), unwanted sexual advances or sexual harassment (including demanding sex in return for favors), sexual abuse of children or mentally or physically disabled people, forced marriage or cohabitation (including the marriage of children), forced abortion, violent acts against the sexual integrity of women (including female genital mutilation and obligatory inspections for virginity) and forced prostitution and trafficking of people for the purpose of sexual exploitation (World Health Organization, 2002). This definition and these forms of sexual violence are, however, not all applicable for sexual violence facilitated by technology, since it cannot be explained how technology has been used to perpetrate or spread harm in all examples (Henry & Powell, 2016).

Until today, there is still no universal-accepted definition for TFSV. Researchers use different terms like 'cyber-sexual violence' or 'online sexual abuse' to describe different forms of violence, aggression or harassment involving technology. Despite the lack of a universal definition, in most cases it refers to forms of harmful sexually aggressive behaviors, committed with the facilitation of digital technologies (Henry et al., 2020). Some examples are: non-consensual pornography and other image-based sexual

exploitation, online/digital sexual harassment, cyber-stalking, online gender-based hate speech and the use of an online platform to arrange/attempt to arrange a victim's sexual assault (Cripps & Stermac, 2018; Henry et al., 2020). Some of these examples will be explained later in this chapter.

Because there is no universal-accepted definition of technology-facilitated sexual violence (or other terms that are being used by researchers), studies approach the subject in a different way. These different approaches make it difficult to compare studies and to estimate the scope of the problem. Following Henry & Powell (2016), the four key dimensions of TFSV are: (a) digital sexual harassment; (b) image-based sexual abuse (c) sexual aggression and/or coercion, and (d) gender and/or sexuality-based harassment.

The Istanbul Convention of the council of Europe (2011) defines sexual harassment in an offline context as: “any form of unwanted verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature with the purpose or effect of violating the dignity of a person, in particular, when creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment” (article 40). Powell & Henry (2016) translated a similar definition into one that is applicable for an online context, and define it as “unwanted or unwelcome sexual behavior conducted by electronic means such as email, voice and/or video calls, text and/or picture messages, and posts in online context (including social media, online discussion forums, and virtual worlds)”. Few is known about the online forms of sexual harassment experienced by adults (Powell & Henry, 2016).

In the past years, the term ‘revenge porn’ has been used a lot to describe the wide variety of non-consensual image-based harms. McGlynn & Rackley (2017) however argue, that the use of this term is problematic because of several reasons. First, the term

‘revenge porn’ only focuses on a relatively small group of private sexual images. It’s not always about revenge and for this reason it only captures one form of image-based sexual abuse. Secondly, it is not ‘porn’. By definition, ‘porn’ (or pornography) is intended to cause sexual excitement (Merriam Webster, w.d.). Labelling revenge porn as ‘porn’ could mislead governments by thinking that the images must be pornographic, before being unlawful. Besides that, it might give the impression that the perpetrator must have been motivated by stimulating sexual excitement rather than causing harm to a former partner (McGlynn & Rackley, 2017). McGlynn & Rackley (2017) also mention that the term ‘pornography’ could make it seem or sound like there was some kind of free choice in the process, while this is irrelevant when it comes to the creation and/or distribution of sexual images without consent. Because of the reasons mentioned, McGlynn & Rackley (2017) and Henry, et al. (2017) rather use the term ‘image-based sexual abuse’ and define this as the ‘‘non-consensual creation and/or distribution of private sexual images’’ (McGlynn & Rackley, 2017 p. 536).

Even though ‘revenge porn’ does not represent the whole concept of image-based sexual abuse, it is one of the best-known forms. ‘Revenge porn’ is usually used to describe a vicious ex-partner distributing private, sexual images without the permission of their former partners (McGlynn & Rackley, 2017). Examples of other forms are: ‘upskirting’ (taking images or videos up a woman’s skirt without their consent); recording rape or sexual assault; and pornographic photoshopping (e.g., putting someone’s face on a pornographic image and share it in a group chat) (McGlynn & Rackley, 2016; Project deSHAME, 2017). ‘Sextortion’ was also mentioned by McGlynn & Rackley as an example of ‘image-based sexual abuse’, however, because in this research the TFSV victimization scale developed by Powell & Henry (2016) will be used to give insight in

the prevalence of TFSV victimization, this form will be placed and defined in the next category 'sexual aggression and/or coercion'.

Following Powell & Henry (2016), there are three types of behaviors that define sexual aggression and coercion with the use of digital technologies. The first one is 'sextortion' (or 'sexual coercion'). McGlynn & Rackley (2016) define sextortion as:

the practice whereby perpetrators typically coerce victims into creating and sharing images, or performing sexual acts, and then threatening the victim with exposure unless they continue the activities. Other times, the perpetrator hacks into people's social media profiles and, on finding intimate images, threatens to share them (p. 2).

The second type of sexual aggression is when a perpetrator uses digital technologies to perpetrate a sexual offence in real life, for example, using social media or dating apps to organize meeting up with a person to sexually assault them (Powell & Henry, 2016; Powell & Henry, 2017). The third and last type concerns a perpetrator using technology to extend the harm of a sexual assault. An example of the third type, is a perpetrator who takes and/or distributes images or videos of a sexual assault (Powell & Henry, 2016; Powell, 2010).

Barak (2005) defines gender-based harassment as a form of sexual harassment that involves "unwelcome verbal and visual comments and remarks that insult individuals because of their gender or that use stimuli known or intended to provoke negative emotions"(p. 78). This form of harassment is very common in the online world, and it manifest itself mainly in the form of offensive sexual messages like gender-humiliating

comments (e.g., “Go back to the kitchen, where you belong”), sexual remarks (e.g. “We need more boobs in this chatroom”), ‘jokes’ of a sexual nature and so on (Barak, 2005). This form of harassment can occur in many online environments like chat rooms, social media platforms, forums, but it can also appear through private online communication channels like commercial e-mails of pornographic sites (Powell & Henry, 2016; Barak, 2005).

Especially in the gaming world, gender- and sexuality-based harassment experienced by women is a relevant problem (Fox & Tang, 2016), due to women often being seen as outsiders and as an intrusive minority (Cote, 2016; Tang et al., 2019). Over the past years, women and LGBTQ+ game developers have been fighting to make the gaming industry more inclusive. Attention towards sexism in the gaming world increased when the tension in this industry exploded in 2014, and a campaign called ‘Gamergate’ emerged. Gamergate is an organized harassment campaign in which groups of sexist gamers targeted female videogame developers and journalists. Different types of game consumers joined together to harass people (mostly women) that were perceived as destroying the gaming culture. Forms of harassment included, for example but not limited to: rape threats, death threats and doxing (publicly revealing private personal information about someone) (Heron et al., 2014).

### **Prevalence of TFSV**

In a recent report, UN Women (2020) highlighted emerging trends and impacts of COVID-19 on online and ICT-facilitated violence against women and girls. They concluded that gender-based violence increased exponentially during the pandemic, and that the violence manifested in different forms, including technology-facilitated violence

(UN Women, 2020). Not only gender-based violence increased. After COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, most countries around the world had closed their schools (UNESCO, 2021). From that moment on, children were at more risk of online child sexual abuse, as their lives increasingly shifted to online learning and socializing (UNICEF, 2020). As a result, experts expected online sexual abuse of children to rise (Salter & Wong, 2021). It seems like the quarantine measures during the COVID-19 pandemic have shifted the orientation of community sexual violence, to technology-facilitated sexual violence.

Before the pandemic, a lot of research have been focusing on the prevalence of TFSV. However, these studies mostly focus on young people and adolescents (e.g., Jonsson et al., 2019; Patchin & Hinduja, 2018; Reed et al., 2019). Less is known about this phenomenon experienced by adults (Powell & Henry, 2016a; Snaychuk & O'Neill, 2020). Patel and Roesch (2020) recently analyzed the prevalence of TFSV within the adolescent and adult population regarding victimization and perpetration, by doing a systematic review and meta-analysis. In their victimization studies, a total of 24.495 participants were included with a mean age of 26.86 (of the studies that provided a mean age) (Patel & Roesch, 2020). They found significant differences between the prevalence rates of each behavior categorized in (1) the distribution of private or sexually explicit materials, (2) threats to distribute sexually explicit media, and (3) the creation of sexually explicit media and decided to examine each form of TFSV independently (see figure 1). Their overall results showed a prevalence rate of TFSV distribution of 8.8%, threats to distribute of 7.2%, and creation of 17.6% regarding victimization. However, as mentioned in several research towards TFSV, the definitions of this phenomenon differ from study

to study (Patel & Roesch, 2020; Powell & Henry, 2019; Snaychuk & O'Neill, 2020), which means the results of these prevalence rates should be interpreted and compared with caution.

### Figure 1.

*Reprinted from Patel & Roesch (2020) Meta-Analysis and Systematic Review. Prevalence of TFSV Victimization.*

Study	N	Mean Age (SD)	% Female	Total Prevalence (%)	95% CI
<b>Distribution (k = 15)</b>					
Abraham (2015)	401	18.9 (n/a)	73.6	8.6	[5.73, 11.47]
Borrajao et al. (2015)	433	20.4 (2.1)	60	5.1	[2.97, 7.23]
Branch et al. (2017)	470	18.95 (n/a)	62.6	10.5	[7.57, 13.43]
Englander & McCoy (2017)	1,320	n/a (n/a)	n/a	24.09	[21.44, 26.74]
Fido et al. (2019), Study 1	241	36.32 (12.78)	50.2	1.2	[-0.18, 2.58]
Fido et al. (2019), Study 2	402	34.91 (11.65)	50.5	4.5	[2.43, 6.57]
Gámez-Guadix et al. (2015)	873	31.11 (9.58)	65.4	1.1	[0.4, 1.8]
Henry et al. (2019)	4,274	34.54 (8.96)	56.3	10.6	[9.62, 11.58]
Lenhart et al. (2016)	3,002	n/a	n/a	3	[2.38, 3.62]
Powell & Henry (2019)	2,956	n/a (n/a)	50.1	9.3	[8.2, 10.4]
Reed et al. (2019)	159	17 (1.1)	100	6	[2.19, 9.81]
Ruvalcaba & Eaton (2020)	3,044	40.31 (19.02)	53.8	8.02	[7.01, 9.03]
Snaychuk & O'Neill (2020)	127	23.79 (7.49)	72	16.54	[9.47, 23.61]
Waldman (2019)	834	n/a	0	14.5	[11.92, 17.08]
Walker et al. (2019)	391	20.44 (1.59)	82.1	12.53	[9.02, 16.04]
<b>Threats (k = 7)</b>					
Abraham (2015)	401	18.9 (n/a)	73.6	7.28	[4.64, 9.92]
Henry et al. (2019)	4,274	34.54 (8.96)	56.3	8.6	[7.72, 9.48]
Lenhart et al. (2016)	3,002	n/a	n/a	4	[3.28, 4.72]
Patchin & Hinduja (2020)	5,568	14.5 (n/a)	49.9	5	[4.41, 5.59]
Powell & Henry (2019)	2,956	n/a (n/a)	50.1	9.6	[8.48, 10.72]
Snaychuk & O'Neill (2020)	127	23.79 (7.49)	72	17.38	[4.17, 7.43]
Waldman (2019)	834	n/a	0	5.8	[5.29, 9.14]
<b>Creation (k = 3)</b>					
Henry et al. (2019)	4,274	34.54 (8.96)	56.3	20.2	[18.85, 21.55]
Powell & Henry (2019)	2,956	n/a (n/a)	50.1	10.7	[9.52, 11.88]
Snaychuk & O'Neill (2020)	127	23.79 (7.49)	72	23.62	[15.17, 32.07]

*Note.* Reprinted from ‘‘The Prevalence of Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence: A Meta-Analysis and Systematic Review’’, by Patel, U. & Roesch, R., 2020, *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 1-16

Since this literature review adopted the definition of TFSV created by Powell & Henry (2016), this article gives special attention to the results of their research to TFSV victimization among Australian adults (Powell & Henry, 2016), which has also been included in the meta-analysis of Patel & Roesch (2020). The results of Powell & Henry

(2016) showed that in total 62% of the respondents (n=1841) reported having experienced at least one of the TFSV behaviors in their lifetime. For 13.1% of these respondents, the TFSV was still occurring, 36.5% experienced it (for the last time) within the 12 months prior to filling out the survey, and 50.4% said it occurred more than 12 months ago (Powell & Henry, 2016).

When reviewing the results of several studies and sources, there seems to be inconsistency about whether there is a gender difference in TFSV victimization. Powell & Henry (2016) found, however, that women and men were similarly likely to report ever experiencing any of the sexually based behaviors as presented in their 21-item TFSV victimization scale. Their results did show a difference in types of TFSV victimization between men and women. Men were significantly more likely to report experiencing the following 5 TFSV behaviors from the 21-TFSV victimization scale: (1) nude or semi-nude images taken without permission, (2) nude or semi-nude images sent onto others without permission, (3) images taken of an unwanted sexual experience, (4) offensive comments about their sexuality or sexual identity, and (5) visual representations of unwanted sex acts in a virtual world (Powell & Henry, 2016). Women on the other hand were significantly more likely to report experiencing sexual harassment, which is also found in the results of a more recent study towards American adults' experiences and attitudes related to online harassment by Pew Research Center (2021). In this study, a representative sample of 10,093 adults from the United States has been surveyed. Results of this study showed that women are more likely than men to report having been sexually harassed online (16% vs. 5%) or stalked (13% vs. 9%) and that young women are particularly likely to have experienced sexual harassment online. More than one third (33%) of women under 35 said they have been sexually harassed online versus

approximately one out of ten (11%) men under 35 (Pew Research Center, 2021). The share of women who report being sexually harassed online, had doubled since their earlier research in 2017 (Pew Research Center, 2017; Pew Research Center, 2021). Young women who have used dating sites or apps were particularly more likely to report having negative interactions with others on these platforms. More than half of the women under the age of 35 who had used online dating sites or apps, received sexually explicit messages or images they didn't ask for (Anderson & Vogels, 2020). These results are not surprising, since sexual harassment is an example of gender-based violence (GBV) and Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG). Following Pandea et al. (2019), there are several explanations for women and girls being more likely to become a victim of GBV. It is important, to acknowledge that it is not just a single factor that can explain GBV, but that the problem lays within the interaction between different factors. Examples of factors include patriarchal and sexist views, gender stereotypes and prejudice; normative expectations of femininity and masculinity; general acceptance of violence as part of the public sphere (e.g. street harassment). Even though in most European countries many forms of GBV are criminalized, often the practices of law enforcement are in favor of the perpetrator. This results in distrust in public authorities and underreporting of the violence. In many societies, being a victim of GBV is perceived as shameful since women are often accused of attracting the violence themselves by behaving or dressing in a certain way. Besides that, until recently, the law still differentiated between the public and private space and this resulted in women being more vulnerable to domestic violence. Another factor is the under-representation of women in politics, which results in fewer opportunities to influence changes in policy, or combat GBV (Pandea et al., 2019).

Not only young women, but young adults in general seem to be at more risk of experiencing any form of TFSV, looking at the results of Powel & Henry (2016), where young adults aged 18-24 were significantly more likely than older age groups (35-44, 45-54) to report experiencing any lifetime experience of TFSV victimization.

Champion et al. (2021), Henry & Powell (2016), and Pew Research Center (2021) all found differences between victims and non-victims regarding sexual orientation. In the American sample, the group of non-heterosexual identifying individuals who had ever experienced any online harassment, was more likely to report the harassment happened because of their gender (54%), compared with 31% of the heterosexuals targeted adults (Pew Research Center, 2021). That non-heterosexual identifying individuals are more likely to report experiencing online sexual harassment (as well as both gender and sexuality-based harassment), is also underwritten by the findings of Powel & Henry (2016).

In a sample of 127 Canadian undergraduate students, Snaychuk & O'Neill (2020) found that the most reported form of TFSV victimization was the receiving of unwanted sexually explicit images, comments, emails, or text messages. 65% of the participants reported this, and this number increased to 73% when filtering on just the female respondents (Snaychuk & O'Neill, 2020).

When we talk about sexual violence against men, it is very difficult to exactly assess its scope. Reason for this is the great reluctance of many men and boys to report sexual violence (Russell, 2007), which causes a scarcity on statistics. Hlavka (2016) mentions that this underreporting is often caused by the shame and stigma of sexual victimization and the limited amount of statistics that are available, most probably under-

represent the actual number of male victims. Even though the framework of Gender Based Violence (GBV) is mainly focused on violence perpetrated against girls and women (Durham, 2020), it is, however, important to realize that gender based TFSV against males is a growing phenomenon.

### **Attitudinal acceptance of violence**

Even though a study from 2016 shows no significant difference in overall lifetime prevalence between male and female TFSV victimization (Powell & Henry, 2016), the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women stated that this modern form of violence ‘must be understood within the broader scope of gender-based violence’ (Šimonovic et al., 2018). Studies show that there are sociodemographic and behavioral risk factors for Gender Based Violence, and attitudinal acceptance has been considered an important one (Amir-ud-Din et al., 2018). When searching the internet, no concrete definition of ‘attitudinal acceptance’ was found, even though several studies have been focusing on it (e.g. Amir-ud-Din et al., 2018; Ibala et al., 2021; Meinhart et al., 2020). In this study, ‘attitudinal acceptance of TFSV’ will refer to a form of normalization of this type of violent behavior. Following Amir-ud-Din et al. (2018) people may accept and justify violence because of their image of conventional gender roles, cultural and religious norms, emotional dependency and so forth. When a person accepts and justifies certain violent behavior, it can cause them to continue suffering from this form of violence and make them choose not to report this (Amir-ud-Din et al., 2018). Research also points out that attitudinal acceptance of Intimate Partner Violence, is associated with victimization for women and perpetration for men (Fleming et al, 2015; Heise & Kotsadam, 2015).

Amir-ud-Din et al. (2018) found in their analysis of domestic violence against women in Pakistan, that women's attitudinal acceptance of violence significantly affects their experience of spousal violence: "when a woman believes that a husband is not at all justified in beating his wife, she is significantly less likely to experience spousal violence" (p. 21). Additionally, the study shows that the more years of education and/or wealth, the less women are accommodating of spousal violence which could result in their refusal to accept violence. This, in their turn, is associated with a smaller likelihood of their experience of spousal violence (Amir-ud-Din et al., 2018). This result seems contradictory to the results of the World Report on Violence and Health of the World Health Organization (2002), where they mention that the empowerment of women in relation with a higher education, is considered a risk factor because it could result in a man resorting in violence, in an attempt to regain control. However, they did mention that the connection between empowerment and physical violence is a reversed U-shape, meaning that a higher education/empowerment is only a risk factor until a certain point, at which it turns into a protective factor. If attitudinal acceptance is also a risk factor for TFSV, has yet to be proven (World Health Organization, 2002).

### **COVID-19 Pandemic and the Routine Activity Theory**

The current COVID-19 pandemic changed the landscape of cybercrime, and this might be explained by the Routine Activity Theory (henceforth RAT), which was first proposed by Cohen & Felson (1979). Cohen and Felson originally developed RAT to explain why crime rates in many western countries increased instead of decreased between the 50s and 70s. Many of the older criminological theories had said that crime is related to poverty and that if poverty goes down, crime goes down. However, the opposite

happened: poverty went down, and crime went up. In their initial formulation, Cohen & Felson (1979) assumed that the rise in crime that had occurred after World War II, could be explained by changes in the structure of patterns of daily activity. What they said, was that the reason that crime went up, didn't have a lot to do with the motivation of offenders. Instead, they argue that there were several causes for this increase in crime. Women more and more started to work outside of their home, which meant that in everyday life, fewer people were present in their resident. There were also more single person households and people started to go out more, like going on a holiday. This meant that overall, fewer people were home and guardianship in the residential areas went down. In other words, it became easier to commit crime, because there was lower guardianship. Besides that, there were more and more suitable targets in this period, because people started to buy valuable goods like televisions and stereos. Basically, it became easier to commit crimes because there were fewer capable guardians, and simultaneously there were more things to steal (suitable targets). The fundamental premise of the theory is that crime events are the product of crime opportunities. These crime opportunities occur when a motivated offender converges with a suitable target, in the absence of a capable guardian. The idea is that crime is a result of people's routine activities that structure everyday life, for example work, school, social contacts (Cohen & Felson, 1979; Estévez-Soto, 2021).

**Figure 2**



**Note:** *Routine Activity Theory (RAT). Reprinted from Wikipedia, n.d., Retrieved September 2, 2021, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Routine\\_activity\\_theory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Routine_activity_theory). Copyright 2021*

The RAT is not very focused on the motivation of an offender, but simply assumes that a motivated offender is always present. RAT does not argue that offenders have a complex, psychological motivation to commit a crime but instead, they are quite easy to be convinced to commit a crime. Whether people make the decision to commit a crime, depends on the two other elements: a suitable target and present guardianship. In this sense, crime can be seen as a product of everyday life (CriminologyWeb, 2021). It occurs when people's daily routines, like the way they go to school or work, produces opportunities for crime. For example, when a motivated offender comes across a situation where there is an object or victim that is not well guarded (Cohen & Felson, 1979; CriminologyWeb, 2021). During the current COVID-19 pandemic, the measurements taken to reduce the risk of the corona virus, had a lot of impact on daily routines and everyday behaviors of citizens all over the world. With the imposed lockdown, people were confined to their homes and spent a lot of time online for work, school, and leisure. It is estimated that the internet use increased up to 50-70% (UN Women, 2020). This

change in routine activity (the increased number of people connected to the Internet and the time spent online each day), made people more vulnerable to, and provided more opportunities for cybercriminals to take advantage of this situation (Estévez-Soto, 2021; INTERPOL, 2020; Radoini, 2020).

As addressed above, a suitable target needs to be present for a crime to occur. There are several factors playing a role in whether a target is suitable: i) value (e.g. the financial worth of something); ii) inertia (e.g. the possibility to move or transport an object); iii) visibility (e.g. valuables that are left out in plain sight are easier to steal); iv) access (e.g. public spaces where everybody can enter are easier to target compared to a private space)

The RAT was originally developed to explain direct-contact predatory crimes (offenses in which one person directly attacks another person or takes the property of another) (Cohen & Felson, 1979), and this can be one of the reasons the elements above are best applicable to property crimes and robbery. However, the theory has been applied to many more types of crime, and one example is cybercrime (Leukfeldt & Yar, 2016). Target suitability doesn't just refer to property, but also refer to crimes against people because it can also relate to the vulnerability of people to become a victim (CriminologyWeb, 2021). Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, measures and self-isolation policies have significantly increased the internet use (Fernandes et al., 2020). This put people at more risk of being exposed to potentially harmful and violent content (UNICEF, 2020), and therefore created more suitable targets. On top of that, several studies argue that women and children were already more vulnerable to become a victim of various forms of cyber crime (e.g. cyber stalking or cyber bullying) (Kury et al., 2016),

even before the pandemic. For this reason, these groups could especially be considered suitable targets for cyber criminals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The third element, guardianship, can be interpreted in many ways. Often people think about the police when thinking about guardianship, but following Cohen & Felson (1979) the presence of ordinary citizens and its impact on the prevention of crime is often neglected. By simply being present, these ordinary citizens act as guardians, because they might take action when they see something happening (Cohen & Felson, 1979). With people being homebound because of the pandemic, most professional and social interactions occur online, without any bystanders. This could indicate an absence of guardianship. For example, it is more difficult to sexually harass a colleague in the office when there are many colleagues around, compared to when you are working from home. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the imposed measurements, people rely more than ever on technology for work, to communicate, shop, share and receive information (Radoini, 2020; Council of Europe, 2020). This change in activity can in some cases lead to an absence of guardianship. With many companies switching to remote work, it might be easier for a motivated offender to say inappropriate things or send inappropriate messages to someone.

In short, the initial theory of Cohen & Felson (1979) argues that crime occurs when 3 elements converge: a motivated/likely offender, a suitable target, and the absence of capable guardianship. The idea is that crime is a result of people's routine activities that structure everyday life, and any change in 1 of the 3 elements can result in a nature change of crime. If we apply this to the current COVID-19 pandemic, we can argue that according to the RAT, a motivated/likely offender is always present, and for this reason,

whether people make the decision to commit a crime during this pandemic depends on the two other elements: a suitable target and present guardianship. The exceptional change in lifestyle and routine activity during the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in not only an increased number of online users, but also an increased amount of daily time spent online (suitable targets). On top of that, it is easier for online perpetrators to approach people without any bystanders (guardians) because most contact has shifted from physical to online.

## **Conclusion**

Following Henry & Powell (2016), the four key dimensions of TFSV are: (a) digital sexual harassment; (b) image-based sexual abuse (c) sexual aggression and/or coercion, and (d) gender and/or sexuality-based harassment. These four dimensions include behaviors like receiving unwanted sexually explicit images, a nude or semi-nude image posted online/sent onto others without permission, someone taking an image of an unwanted sexual experience, and gender- or sexuality humiliating comments. Not much is known about prevalence rates of TFSV experienced by adults, even though the body of literature regarding this topic increased substantially since the outbreak of the current COVID-19 pandemic. When reviewing the limited amount of empirical data regarding TFSV experienced by adults, one could find some interesting results from previous studies. A study from Powell & Henry (2016) showed that in total, more than 1 in 2 respondents (62%, N=1841) reported having experienced one of the TFSV behaviors in their lifetime. Of these victims, 36.5% experienced it (for the last time) within the 12 months prior to the research. Young adults aged 18-24 were significantly more likely than older age groups (35-44, 45-54) to report experiencing any lifetime experience of TFSV

victimization. In this study, men and women were similarly likely to report experiencing any of the TFSV behaviors. However, men and women did differ in which types of TFSV they reported. Men were significantly more likely to report experiencing the following 5 TFSV behaviors from the 21-TFSV victimization scale, including nude or semi-nude images taken/sent without permission, and experiencing offensive comments about their sexuality or sexual identity (Powell & Henry, 2016). Women were more likely to report experiencing any form of behavior classified as digital sexual harassment, and this was consistent with a more recent study towards American adult's experiences and attitudes related to online harassment (Pew Research Center, 2021). Multiple studies found differences between victims and non-victims regarding sexual orientation. Results showed that non-heterosexual identifying individuals were more likely to report experiencing online sexual harassment (as well as both gender- and sexuality-based harassment), and this is also underwritten by findings of Powell & Henry (2016). The scope of TFSV against men is very difficult to assess, because under-reporting caused by shame and stigma of sexual victimization resulted in the reluctance of many men and boys to report sexual violence.

It seems that since the outbreak, the landscape of cybercrime has changed, and interest in this topic has risen. The expectation that cybercrime rates would increase during the pandemic, could be explained by the Routine Activity Theory (RAT), initially developed by Cohen & Felson (1979). The idea of this theory is that crime is a result of people's routine activities that structure everyday life, e.g. work, school, social contacts. The authors argue that crime occurs when 3 elements converge: a motivated/likely offender, a suitable target, and the absence of capable guardianship. Any change in 1 of the 3 elements can result in a nature change of crime. The theory argues that a

motivated/likely offender is always present, and that it depends on the two other elements (a suitable target and present guardianship), whether someone decides to commit a crime. During the current COVID-19 pandemic, the measurements that have been taken to reduce the risk of the corona virus, had a lot of impact on daily routines and everyday behaviors of citizens all over the world. People were confined to their homes and spent an increased amount of time online for work, school, and leisure. This exceptional change in lifestyle and routine activity resulted in an increased number of online users and an increased time spent online (suitable targets). It is also easier for online perpetrators to approach people without any bystanders (guardians). These changes had its impact on the nature of crimes and might have shifted physical sexual violence and harassment to sexual violence in online contexts.

## References

- Amir-ud-Din, R., Fatima, S., & Aziz, S. (2018). Is Attitudinal Acceptance of Violence a Risk Factor? An Analysis of Domestic Violence Against Women in Pakistan. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 36(7–8), 1–28. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260518787809>
- Anderson, M., & Vogels, E. A. (2020, March 6). *Young women often face sexual harassment online – including on dating sites and apps*. Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/03/06/young-women-often-face-sexual-harassment-online-including-on-dating-sites-and-apps/>
- Barak, A. (2005). Sexual Harassment on the Internet. *Social Science Computer Review*, 23(1), 77–92. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0894439304271540>
- Champion, A., Oswald, F., & Pedersen, C. L. (2021). *Technology-facilitated sexual violence and suicide risk: A serial mediation model investigating bullying, depression, perceived burdensomeness, and thwarted belongingness*. *The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality*, 30(1), 125–141. <https://doi.org/10.3138/cjhs.2020-0044>
- Cohen, L. E., & Felson, M. (1979). Social Change and Crime Rate Trends: A Routine Activity Approach. *American Sociological Review*, 44(4), 588–608. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2094589>
- Cote, A. C. (2016). “I Can Defend Myself.” *Games and Culture*, 12(2), 136–155. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1555412015587603>
- Council of Europe. (2020, June 29). *COVID-19: The suffering and resilience of LGBT persons must be visible and inform the actions of States*. Commissioner for Human Rights. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/-/covid-19-the-suffering-and-resilience-of-lgbt-persons-must-be-visible-and-inform-the-actions-of-states>
- CriminologyWeb. (2021, February 22). *Routine Activities Theory: Definition of the Routine Activity Approach to Crime* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTdvABcsJCc>
- Cripps, J., & Stermac, L. (2018). *Cyber-Sexual Violence and Negative Emotional States among Women in a Canadian University*. *International Journal of Cyber Criminology*, 12(1): 171-186. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1467891>

- Durham, S. (2020, November 19). *Hidden Suffering: Gender Based Violence (GBV) Against Boys and Men*. SACAP. <https://www.sacap.edu.za/blog/applied-psychology/hidden-suffering-gender-based-violence-gbv-against-boys-and-men>
- Estévez-Soto, P. R. (2021). Crime and COVID-19: effect of changes in routine activities in Mexico City. *CrimRxiv*, 15. <https://doi.org/10.21428/cb6ab371.beddec7e>
- European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). (2017a, June 19). *Cyber violence is a growing threat, especially for women and girls*. <https://eige.europa.eu/news/cyber-violence-growing-threat-especially-women-and-girls>
- European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). (2017b, June). *Cyber violence against women and girls*. EIGE. <https://eige.europa.eu/publications/cyber-violence-against-women-and-girls>
- Fleming, P. J., McCleary-Sills, J., Morton, M., Levtov, R., Heilman, B., & Barker, G. (2015). Correction: Risk Factors for Men's Lifetime Perpetration of Physical Violence against Intimate Partners: Results from the International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) in Eight Countries. *PLOS ONE*, 10(5), 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0126676>
- Fox, J., & Tang, W. Y. (2016). Women's experiences with general and sexual harassment in online video games: Rumination, organizational responsiveness, withdrawal, and coping strategies. *New Media & Society*, 19(8), 1290–1307. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1461444816635778>
- Guan, S. S. A., & Subrahmanyam, K. (2009). Youth Internet use: risks and opportunities. *Current Opinion in Psychiatry*, 22(4), 351–356. <https://doi.org/10.1097/ycp.0b013e32832bd7e0>
- Heise, L., & Kotsadam, A. (2015). *Cross-national and multilevel correlates of partner violence: an analysis of data from population-based surveys*. *The Lancet Global Health*, e332–e340. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(15\)00013-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(15)00013-3)
- Henry, N., Flynn, A., & Powell, A. (2020). Technology-Facilitated Domestic and Sexual Violence: A Review. *Violence Against Women*, 26(15–16), 1828–1854. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801219875821>
- Henry, N., & Powell, A. (2016a). Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence: A Literature Review of Empirical Research. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 19(2), 195–208. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838016650189>

- Henry, N., & Powell, A. (2016b). Sexual Violence in the Digital Age. *Social & Legal Studies*, 25(4), 397–418. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0964663915624273>
- Henry, N., Powell, A., & Flynn, A. (2017, May). *Not Just 'Revenge Pornography': Australians' Experiences of Image-Based Abuse: A Summary Report*. RMIT University. <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.29903.59045>
- Heron, M. J., Belford, P., & Goker, A. (2014). Sexism in the circuitry. *ACM SIGCAS Computers and Society*, 44(4), 18–29. <https://doi.org/10.1145/2695577.2695582>
- Hlavka, H. R. (2016). Speaking of Stigma and the Silence of Shame. *Men and Masculinities*, 20(4), 482–505. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1097184x16652656>
- INTERPOL. (2020). *Global landscape on COVID-19 cyberthreat*. <https://www.interpol.int/Crimes/Cybercrime/COVID-19-cyberthreats>
- Jonsson, L. S., Fredlund, C., Priebe, G., Wadsby, M., & Svedin, C. G. (2019). Online sexual abuse of adolescents by a perpetrator met online: a cross-sectional study. *Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health*, 13(1), 13–32. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13034-019-0292-1>
- Kringen, J. A., & Felson, M. (2014). Routine Activities Approach. *Encyclopedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice*, 4544–4551. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4614-5690-2\\_586](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4614-5690-2_586)
- Kury, H., Redo, S., & Shea, E. (2016). Systemic Vulnerabilities on the Internet and the Exploitation of Women and Girls: Challenges and Prospects for Global Regulation. *Women and Children as Victims and Offenders: Background, Prevention, Reintegration*, 575–601. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-28424-8\\_22](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-28424-8_22)
- Leukfeldt, E. R. & Yar, M. (2016). Applying Routine Activity Theory to Cybercrime: A Theoretical and Empirical Analysis. *Deviant Behavior*, 37(3), 263–280. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01639625.2015.1012409>
- Machimbarrena, J. M., Calvete, E., Fernández-González, L., Álvarez-Bardón, A., Álvarez-Fernández, L., & González-Cabrera, J. (2018). Internet Risks: An Overview of Victimization in Cyberbullying, Cyber Dating Abuse, Sexting, Online Grooming and Problematic Internet Use. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 15(11), 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph15112471>
- McGlynn, C., & Rackley, E. (2017). Image-Based Sexual Abuse. *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies*, 37(3), 534–561. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ojls/gqw033>

- Meinhart, M., Seff, I., Darmstadt, G. L., Weber, A. M., & Stark, L. (2020). Attitudinal Acceptance of Intimate Partner Violence Among Adolescents and Young Adults in Nigeria and Tanzania: An Exploration Into Target Reference Groups. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 66*(1), S3–S8.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2019.10.006>
- Merriam-Webster. (w.d.). Pornography. *Merriam-Webster.com dictionary*.  
<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/pornography>
- Pandea, A. R., Grzemny, D., & Keen, E. (2019). *Gender Matters - A manual on addressing gender-based violence affecting young people* (2nd ed.). Council of Europe Publication. <https://rm.coe.int/gender-matters-a-manual-on-addressing-gender-based-violence-affecting-/16809e1c34>
- Patchin, J. W., & Hinduja, S. (2018). Sextortion Among Adolescents: Results From a National Survey of U.S. Youth. *Sexual Abuse, 32*(1), 30–54.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1079063218800469>
- Patel, U., & Roesch, R. (2020). The Prevalence of Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence: A Meta-Analysis and Systematic Review. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 1*–16. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838020958057>
- Pew Research Center. (2017). *Online Harassment 2017*. Pew Research Center.  
<https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2017/07/11/online-harassment-2017/>
- Pew Research Center. (2021). *The State of Online Harassment*. Pew Research Center.  
<https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2021/01/13/the-state-of-online-harassment/>
- Powell, A. (2010). Configuring Consent: Emerging Technologies, Unauthorized Sexual Images and Sexual Assault. *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology, 43*(1), 76–90. <https://doi.org/10.1375/acri.43.1.76>
- Powell, A., & Henry, N. (2016). Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence Victimization: Results From an Online Survey of Australian Adults. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 34*(17), 3637–3665. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260516672055>
- Powell, A., & Henry, N. (2019). *Sexual Violence in a Digital Age (Palgrave Studies in Cybercrime and Cybersecurity)* (1st ed. 2017 ed.). Palgrave Macmillan.
- Project deSHAME. (2017, December). *Young people's experiences of online sexual harassment*.  
[https://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Project\\_deSHAME\\_Dec\\_2017\\_Report.pdf](https://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Project_deSHAME_Dec_2017_Report.pdf)

- Radoini, A. (2020). Cyber-crime during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Freedom from Fear*, 2020(16), 6–10. <https://doi.org/10.18356/5c95a747-en>
- Reed, E., Salazar, M., Behar, A. I., Agah, N., Silverman, J. G., Minnis, A. M., Rusch, M. L., & Raj, A. (2019). Cyber Sexual Harassment: Prevalence and association with substance use, poor mental health, and STI history among sexually active adolescent girls. *Journal of Adolescence*, 75, 53–62. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.adolescence.2019.07.005>
- Russell, W. (2007). Sexual Violence against Men and Boys. *Forced Migration Review*, 27: 22–23.
- Salter, M., & Wong, W. K. T. (2021, May). *The impact of COVID-19 on the risk of online child sexual exploitation and the implications for child protection and policing*. UNSW Sydney. <https://www.end-violence.org/sites/default/files/paragraphs/download/esafety%20OCSE%20report%20-%20salter%20and%20wong.pdf>
- Šimonovic, D., UN. Human Rights Council. Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, & UN. Human Rights Council. Secretariat. (2018, June). *Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences on online violence against women and girls from a human rights perspective*. United Nations. <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1641160#record-files-collapse-header>
- Snaychuk, L. A., & O'Neill, M. L. (2020). Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence: Prevalence, Risk, and Resiliency in Undergraduate Students. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 29(8), 984–999. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10926771.2019.1710636>
- Tang, W. Y., Reer, F., & Quandt, T. (2019). Investigating sexual harassment in online video games: How personality and context factors are related to toxic sexual behaviors against fellow players. *Aggressive Behavior*, 46(1), 127–135. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ab.21873>
- UNESCO. (2021, August 5). *Education: From disruption to recovery*. <https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse#schoolclosures>
- UNICEF. (2020, 15 april). *Children at increased risk of harm online during global COVID-19 pandemic - UNICEF*. <https://www.unicef.org/southafrica/press->

releases/children-increased-risk-harm-online-during-global-covid-19-pandemic-  
unicef

UN Women. (2020). *COVID-19 and Ending Violence Against Women and Girls*. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

<https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/issue-brief-covid-19-and-ending-violence-against-women-and-girls-en.pdf?la=en&vs=5006>

UN Women. (2020). Online and ICT\* facilitated violence against women and girls during COVID-19.

<https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/brief-online-and-ict-facilitated-violence-against-women-and-girls-during-covid-19-en.pdf?la=en&vs=2519>

UN Women, Quilt.AI, & UNFPA. (2021, March 3). *COVID-19 and Violence Against Women: The evidence behind the talk*. UN Women.

<https://data.unwomen.org/publications/covid-19-and-violence-against-women-evidence-behind-talk>

World Health Organization. (2002). *World report on violence and health*.

[https://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/violence/world\\_report/en/summary\\_en.pdf](https://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/world_report/en/summary_en.pdf)



## **Article 2**

# **Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence: Empirical Research**

## **Abstract**

Despite the growing attention to Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence (TFSV) experienced by adults, it is still an underexplored topic and until today, there is no universal-accepted definition for this phenomenon. This article presents the results of an online survey of 289 adults (aged 18 to 56), which was mainly focused on the prevalence of TFSV in a year that was entirely dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The prevalence was analyzed using an existing 21-item scale, that encompassed four dimensions of TFSV: (a) digital sexual harassment; (b) image-based sexual abuse; (c) sexual aggression and/or coercion; and (d) gender and/or sexuality-based harassment. While examining the experience of one or more TFSV behaviors by independent socio-demographic variables (e.g. gender, age, sexuality), results showed that women were significantly more likely than men to report several forms of sexual harassment victimization. Non-heterosexual identifying adults were significantly more likely than heterosexual identifying respondents to report 11 behaviors from the 21-item scale, spread over all four dimensions of TFSV. During the current COVID-19 pandemic, many types of violence against women and the LGBT+ community have intensified, and the authors conclude that TFSV seems to be no exception. The presents results indicated gendered patterns in online sexual victimization, as well as in the nature of TFSV.

**Key-words:** Sexual violence, digital sexual harassment, gender- and sexuality-based harassment, COVID-19 pandemic

## **Introduction**

The use of electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, laptops, game consoles) and limitless access to digital platforms, are integrated in the daily practice of many people and influence the way in which interpersonal relationships are established. Technology became an increasingly important part of our lives and made it easy for us to quickly connect and communicate with family, friends and even strangers. Alongside the great advantages of digital media, its use is not without potential risk (Machimbarrena et al., 2018). Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, quarantine measures and self-isolation policies have significantly increased the internet use (Fernandes et al., 2020), as people switched to using the internet for work, school, and social activities. This increased time spent online, puts people at more risk of being exposed to potentially harmful and violent content (UNICEF, 2020). Violence committed with the use of technology might have increased in the past year, which gives rise to research specifically focused on prevalence rates during this pandemic.

Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence (TFSV), the term used in this study to encompass all sexually aggressive behaviors and harassment involving technology, is a rising, yet under-researched topic and until today, there is still no universal-accepted definition for this phenomenon. Researchers use different terms like 'cyber-sexual violence', 'ICT-facilitated violence', and 'online sexual abuse', to describe different forms of violence, aggression or harassment involving technological devices or platforms (Cripps & Stermac, 2018; Jonsson et al., 2019; UN Women, 2020b). As there is no universal-accepted definition for sexual violence committed with the use of technology, studies approach the subject in many ways. These different approaches make it difficult

to compare results of studies and to estimate the scope of the problem. There is a large amount of literature available on various forms of victimization in the digital world, however, most of these studies are focused on children and young people (e.g., Jonsson et al., 2019; Patchin & Hinduja, 2018; Reed et al., 2019). Less is known about adult victims of TFSV (Powell & Henry, 2016). There is also little consensus about the role gender exactly plays in TFSV victimization (Champion et al., 2021; Powell & Henry, 2016; Snaychuk & O'Neill, 2020), and for this reason, it is valuable to analyze this subject with a gender-based approach.

### ***Prevalence of Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence***

Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence is a term used to encompass all sexually aggressive behaviors and harassment involving technological devices or platforms. Following Powell & Henry (2016), there are four key dimensions of TFSV: (a) digital sexual harassment (e.g. receiving unwanted sexually explicit images, comments, emails, or text messages); (b) image-based sexual abuse (e.g. a nude or semi-nude image taken/shared without permission); (c) sexual aggression and/or coercion (e.g. having an unwanted sexual experience with someone met online); and (d) gender and/or sexuality-based harassment (e.g. receiving gender- or sexuality-based offensive and/or degrading messages).

In a sample of 2,956 Australian adults, 62.3% reported having experienced at least one behavior classified as TFSV in their lifetime (Powell & Henry, 2016). This percentage was almost half (34.2%) in a sample of 521 individuals between the ages of 14 and 74 (Champion, et al. 2021), but even higher (84%) in a sample of 127

undergraduate students (Snaychuk & O'Neill, 2020). All three studies measured the lifetime prevalence with the use of the TFSV Victimization Scale, developed by Powell & Henry (2016). In the Australian sample, 36.5% reported the TFSV experience occurred within the last 12 months (Powell & Henry, 2016). The most reported forms experienced within this sample, were all classified as digital sexual harassment and included: receiving unwanted sexually explicit images, comments, emails, or text messages (29%); receiving repeated and/or unwanted sexual requests online or via email or text message (21.3%); and sexual harassment (20%). Snaychuk & O'Neill (2020) also found that the most reported forms of TFSV victimization were the receiving unwanted sexually explicit content, and online sexual harassment. 65% of their participants reported receiving unwanted sexually explicit content, and this number increased to 73% when filtering on just the female respondents. Approximately 53% of their participants reported that they had experienced online sexual harassment, with the number increasing to 68.1% when only focusing on females (Snaychuk & O'Neill, 2020).

There seems to be inconsistency about whether or not there is a gender difference in lifetime TFSV victimization. Results of the study from Powell & Henry (2016) indicated no significant difference between women and men to report experiencing any TFSV victimization in their lifetime (Powell & Henry, 2016), however, in a more recent study, Champion, et al. (2021) did observe significant differences between victims and non-victims regarding gender: their victim-group included significantly more women.

When focusing on sexual violence against men, it is very difficult to exactly assess its scope. Reason for this is the great reluctance of many men and boys to report sexual violence (Russell, 2007; Touquet & Gorris, 2016), which causes a scarcity on statistics.

Hlavka (2016) mentions that this underreporting is often caused by the shame and stigma of sexual victimization, and the limited amount of statistics that are available, most probably under-represent the actual number of male victims. Even though the framework of Gender Based Violence (GBV) is mainly focused on violence perpetrated against girls and women (Durham, 2020), it is important to realize that gender-based TFSV against males is a growing phenomenon. Even though Powell & Henry (2016) did not observe any significant difference between women and men to report any lifetime TFSV victimization, they did find differences in individual behaviors classified as TFSV experienced by women and men. Males were significantly more likely to report experiencing the following 5 TFSV behaviors from the 21-TFSV victimization scale: (1) nude or semi-nude images taken without permission, (2) nude or semi-nude images sent onto others without permission, (3) images taken of an unwanted sexual experience, (4) offensive comments about their sexuality or sexual identity, and (5) visual representations of unwanted sex acts in a virtual world. Women on the other hand, were significantly more likely to report experiencing sexual harassment (Powell & Henry, 2016), which is also observed by Pew Research Center (2021). In their sample of American adults, young women were particularly more likely to have experienced this: one-third of women under 35 said they have been sexually harassed online versus approximately one out of ten men under this age. The share of women who report being sexually harassed online, had doubled since their earlier research in 2017 (Pew Research Center, 2017; Pew Research Center, 2021). Especially young women who have used dating sites or apps were likely to report having negative interactions with others on these platforms. More than half of the women under the age of 35 who had used online dating sites or apps, received sexually explicit messages or images they didn't ask for (Anderson & Vogels, 2020). Not only

young women, but young adults in general seem to be at more risk of experiencing any form of TFSV, looking at the results of Powel & Henry (2016), where young adults aged 18-24 were significantly more likely than older age groups (35-44, 45-54) to report experiencing any lifetime experience of TFSV victimization. Champion, et al. (2021), Henry & Powell (2016), and Pew Research Center (2021) all found differences between victims and non-victims regarding sexual orientation. In the American sample, the group of non-heterosexual identifying individuals who had ever experienced any online harassment, was more likely to report the harassment happened because of their gender (54%), compared with 31% of the heterosexuals targeted adults (Pew Research Center, 2021). That non-heterosexual identifying individuals are more likely to report experiencing online sexual harassment (as well as both gender and sexuality-based harassment), is also underwritten by the findings of Powel & Henry (2016).

When it comes to the gendered nature of TFSV, little is known about the actions adults take in response to TFSV victimization and the relationship they had with the perpetrator. Powel & Henry (2016), however, found that their respondents were most likely to report that the perpetrator was a stranger to them (28.2%), a friend they knew face-to-face (21.8%), or that they did not know the identity of the person perpetrating the TFSV (16.6%). Men were significantly more likely than women to report that the perpetrator was a friend they only met online, a family member, or a current or past work colleague. When asking respondents about the actions they took in response to the TFSV experience, Powell & Henry found that more than half (54%) of the respondents ignored the TFSV behavior. Females were significantly more likely than males to report that they told the person to stop, changed their online details or profile settings, and/or left the site or turned off their device (Powell & Henry, 2016).

## **Present study**

To fill up the gap within empirical research regarding gendered patterns in online sexual victimization, as well as the nature of TFSV across (potentially) intersecting factors such as gender, age and sexual orientation, the present study aims to explore the prevalence of and attitudes towards TFSV during the COVID-19 pandemic. More specifically, we try to: i) analyze how much time people spend daily on several digital platforms; ii) analyze the prevalence of TFSV victimization during the COVID-19 pandemic; iii) explore the nature of TFSV victimization with respect to specific behaviors experienced, attitudes, relationship with the perpetrator, and key victim demographics of gender, age and sexuality; and v) explore actions taken in response to TFSV as reported by self-identified victims.

## **Method**

### ***Participants***

In total, 392 people responded to the online questionnaire survey. Participants that selected inconsistent and contradictory answers have been disqualified. After removal of these respondents, a total of 289 participants, aged between 18 and 56 years ( $M=27.21$ ,  $SD=7.56$ ), were included in the study. Table 1 shows the overall characteristics of all participants. More than two-third of the participants were female (71.2%) and almost half of the participants were aged between 18 and 24 (49.1%). The majority of the respondents (73.7%) were dating or have been in a relationship at the moment of, or in the twelve months prior to, the survey. The biggest number of respondents were Dutch (42.5%) or Portuguese (33.7%). Individuals had to be 18 years or older to participate and were selected based on non-random criteria.

**Table 1.**  
*Characteristics of participants*

Characteristics of participants		N (%)
Gender	Female	205 (71.2)
	Male	83 (28.8)
Age	18-24	142 (49.1)
	25-34	102 (35.3)
	35-44	30 (10.4)
	45-54	12 (4.2)
	55-64	3 (1)
Sexual orientation	Heterosexual or straight	245 (85.1)
	Non-heterosexual	43 (14.9)
Nationality	Dutch	121 (42.5)
	Portuguese	96 (33.7)
	Other	68 (23.9)
Country	The Netherlands	132 (46.3)
	Portugal	113 (39.6)
	Other	40 (14)
Highest degree or level of education	High school	42 (14.6)
	Bachelor's Degree	135 (46.9)
	Master's Degree	104 (36.1)
	Ph.D. or higher	5 (1.7)
In a relationship (now or in the past 12 months)	Yes	213 (73.7)
	No	76 (26.3)

### ***Variables and Measures***

The survey consisted of 40 multiple-choice questions, 2 select-all-that-apply questions, 3 open questions and 5 questions with a Likert scale response. One of the multiple-choice questions was a check question ('Please select 'more than once'') that has been added to the questionnaire to find out if respondents did or did not pay attention while answering the survey questions.

*Background characteristics.* To give insight in the socio-demographic background of participants, they were asked to provide information about their age, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, educational degree, and relationship status.

*Technology use.* Participants were requested to select how much time they spend daily on several digital platforms (1 = *Less than 30 minutes*, 5 = *more than 3 hours*). Respondents were asked to select 'N/A' if they were not active on the digital platform.

*Attitudes.* Participants were requested to select their degree of acceptance on five descriptions of sexually based behaviors (e.g. 'A friend sends me a nude or semi-nude of someone else'), using a 5-point Likert-type scale (1 = *totally unacceptable*, 5 = *totally acceptable*).

*Prevalence.* The 21-item TFSV Victimization Scale developed by Powell and Henry (2016) was used to explore prevalence of TFSV victimization. It consisted of 21 descriptions of sexually based behaviors on which respondents had to select how many times they had experienced the behaviors in the 12 months prior to completing the survey ('none', 'once' or 'more than once'). In the original study, Powell & Henry (2016) studied the lifetime experience of any TFSV victimization. However, in the current study, a time frame of 12 months prior to completing the survey has been chosen because those months have been dominated by the current COVID-19 pandemic, and quarantine measures and self-isolation policies might have increased the prevalence of TFSV victimization. The 21-item Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence Victimization (TFSV-V) scale had a good internal consistency in the sample of the current study ( $\alpha = .80$ ). In the original study, the alpha was 0.93 (Powell & Henry, 2016).

*Nature of, and response to TFSV experience.* 2 select-all-that-apply questions have been added to the questionnaire to explore the victim's relationship to the perpetrator/s involved and to explore actions taken in response to previous TFSV experience(s).

### ***Procedures***

The TFSV Victimization Scale developed by Powell & Henry (2016) is a dichotomous 21-item measure that has been used in this study to give insight in the prevalence of four TFSV victimization dimensions during the COVID-19 pandemic: (a) digital sexual harassment; (b) image-based sexual abuse (c) sexual aggression and/or coercion, and (d) gender and/or sexuality-based harassment. The developers of this victimization scale gave their permission for the use of it. Data collection was carried out in May 2021, using an internet-based survey which was developed using the online software Google Forms. The survey has been provided in Portuguese and English to be able to gather data from Portuguese people, as well as foreign people. Prior to the recruitment of participants, the survey received approval from the Ethics Committee of the university where this study has been developed. A reason for the decision of using an online questionnaire was that it was easy to reach and analyze a large group of people in a short period of time. Besides that, it was considered the safest option during the COVID-19 pandemic, and an option that is less sensitive to changes in measures taken by governments to reduce the spread of the virus.

### ***Data analysis***

The results of the online questionnaire surveys in English and Portuguese have been coded and then analyzed with the use of SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social

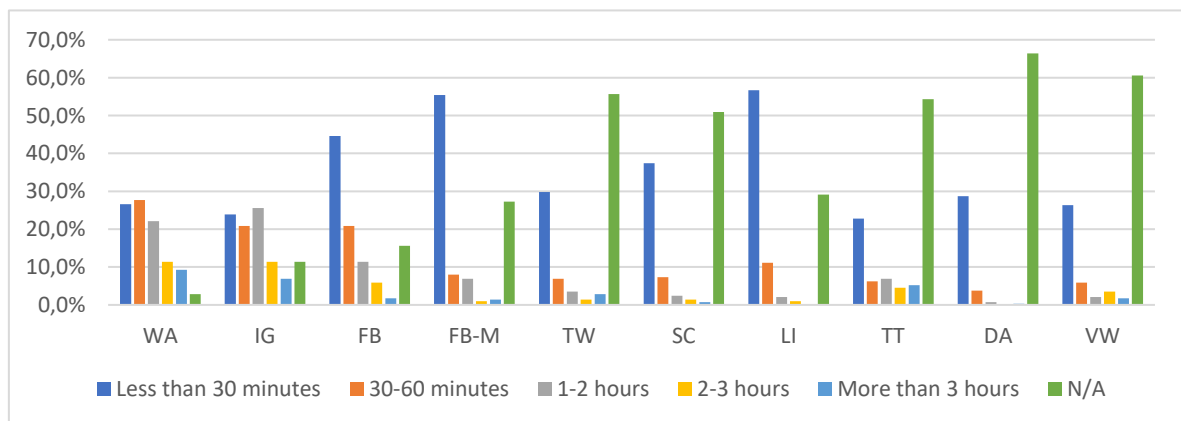
Sciences). Descriptive frequency tests were carried out to examine the experience of one or more TFSV behaviors in the 12 months prior to the survey. Chi-square tests have then been used to examine the experience of one or more TFSV behaviors by independent demographic variables of gender, age, nationality, country, sexuality, education, and relationship status. The reported age of respondents has been categorized into four groups for the purpose of comparing the results with the results in the original study from Powell & Henry (2016), for which the TFSV victimization scale has been developed.

## Results

Figure 3 gives an overview of the time participants reported to spend daily on several digital platforms. Most respondents reported being active on Whatsapp (97.2%) and Instagram (88.6%). Around 1 in 5 respondents reported using Whatsapp for more than 2 hours per day, and for Instagram this amount was almost the same (18.3%). Dating apps were least used, with 2/3 of all respondents reporting not being active on this kind of digital platform.

**Figure 3.**

*Daily time spent on digital platforms*



*Note. Respondents were asked to select 'N/A' if they were not active on the digital platform*

WA = Whatsapp, IG = Instagram, FB = Facebook, FB-M = Facebook Messenger, TW = Twitter, SC = Snapchat, LI = LinkedIn, DA = Dating app(s) (e.g. Tinder, Bumble, Happn), VW = Virtual world/online gaming space

### ***Prevalence of TFSV victimization in the past 12 months***

Prevalence rates of TFSV victimization in the past 12 months are shown in table 2. In total, 69.9% of the respondents reported having experienced at least one of the TFSV behaviors in the 12 months prior to the survey, of which 86.1% experienced it more than once. The most reported behaviors of TFSV were receiving unwanted sexually explicit images, comments, emails, or text messages (53.3%); receiving repeated and/or unwanted sexual requests online or via email or text message (42.9%); and sexual harassment via a digital device (26.4%). Another commonly reported experience of TFSV was someone sending or posting online gender-based offensive and/or degrading messages, comments, or other content (23.2%). Almost 1 in 5 (19.7%) reported that a current or former intimate partner had checked up on them multiple times a day either online or via mobile phone, to find out where they were, who they were with, or what they were doing. Approximately 1 in 10 reported that someone had taken a nude or semi-nude image of them without their permission (10.7%). Also 1 in 10 (11.1%) reported that someone posted gender-based offensive and/or degrading messages, comments, or other content in an online gaming space or virtual world.

**Table 2.**

*Prevalence of TFSV victimization in the past 12 months (females N=205, males N=82)*

---

**Past 12 months**

---

Prevalence of and Attitudes towards TFSV during the COVID-19 Pandemic

	<b>Total <i>n</i> (%)</b>	<b>Females <i>n</i> (%) of all females)</b>	<b>Males <i>n</i> (%) of all males)</b>
<i>Digital sexual harassment</i>			
Sexually harassed you	76 (26.4)	64 (31.2)	11 (13.4)
Unwanted sexually explicit images, comments, emails, or text messages	154 (53.3)	122 (59.5)	31 (37.3)
Partner has checked up on location/activities multiple times a day	57 (19.7)	40 (19.5)	16 (19.3)
Repeated and/or unwanted sexual requests online or via email or text message	124 (42.9)	101 (49.3)	23 (27.7)
Partner gained access to your emails or other online accounts without permission	26 (9)	20 (9.8)	6 (7.2)
Publicly posted online an offensive sexual comment about you	22 (7.6)	19 (9.3)	3 (3.6)
Posted personal details online saying you are available to have sex	14 (4.8)	8 (3.9)	6 (7.2)
<i>Image-based sexual abuse</i>			
Nude or semi-nude image taken without permission	31 (10.7)	22 (10.7)	9 (10.8)
Nude or semi-nude image posted online/sent onto others without permission	11 (3.8)	8 (3.9)	3 (3.6)
Nude or semi-nude image threat to post online/send onto others	20 (6.9)	15 (7.3)	5 (6)
<i>Sexual aggression and/or coercion</i>			
Image/video of an unwanted sexual experience taken	5 (1.7)	5 (2.4)	0 (0)
Image/video of an unwanted sexual experience posted online/sent onto others	6 (2.1)	5 (2.4)	1 (1.2)
Image/video of an unwanted sexual experience threat to post online/send onto others	8 (2.8)	6 (2.9)	2 (2.4)
Unwanted sexual experience with someone met online	24 (8.3)	17 (8.3)	7 (8.4)
Unwanted sexual experience with someone met dating site/app	25 (8.7)	19 (9.3)	6 (7.2)
<i>Gender/sexuality-based harassment</i>			
Gender-based offensive and/or degrading messages, comments, or other content	67 (23.2)	47 (22.9)	19 (22.9)

Prevalence of and Attitudes towards TFSV during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Sexuality or sexual identity-based offensive and/or degrading messages, comments, or other content	14 (4.8)	8 (3.9)	5 (6)
Gender-based offensive and/or degrading messages, comments, or other content in virtual world	32 (11.1)	20 (9.8)	12 (14.5)
Sexually violent threats	10 (3.5)	6 (2.9)	4 (4.8)
Described or visually represented an Unwanted sexual act against your avatar or game character	8 (2.8)	4 (2)	4 (4.8)
Described or visually represented unwanted sexual act against you using an online site, email, or text messages	25 (8.7)	21 (10.2)	4 (4.8)
<b>Experienced at least one of the above</b>	<b>202 (69.9)</b>	<b>152 (74.1)</b>	<b>49 (59)</b>

---

*Note. TFSV = Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence*

*Note. Differences between the amount at 'total' and the sum of females and males are caused by missing items.*

### ***Characteristics of victims of TFSV***

Chi-square tests on independent characteristics (table 3) and TFSV victimization in the 12 months prior to the research, indicated that participants who identified themselves as female (n = 205), were significantly more likely than males to report having experienced at least one of the TFSV behaviors in the 12 months prior to the research ( $\chi^2 = 6.398, p < .05$ ). When focusing on the specific items of the TFSV victimization scale, females were significantly more likely to report experiencing online sexual harassment ( $\chi^2 = 9.619, p < .01$ ); receiving unwanted sexually explicit images, comments, emails, or text messages ( $\chi^2 = 11.653, p < .001$ ); and receiving repeated and/or unwanted sexual requests online or via email or text message ( $\chi^2 = 11.198, p < .001$ ). Non-heterosexual identifying participants were significantly more likely to report experiencing any form of TFSV in the past 12 months compared with heterosexual identifying participants ( $\chi^2 = 6.107, p <$

.05). Independence testing on the individual scale items further indicated that non-heterosexual identifying respondents were significantly more likely to experience the following 11 TFSV items: receiving unwanted sexually explicit images, comments, emails, or text messages ( $\chi^2 = 3.965, p < .05$ ), receiving repeated and/or unwanted sexual requests online or via email or text message ( $\chi^2 = 6.249, p < .05$ ), sexual harassment via a digital device ( $\chi^2 = 6.145, p < .05$ ), someone taking a nude or semi-nude image of them without their permission ( $\chi^2 = 5.439, p < .05$ ), someone posting online or sending onto others a nude or semi-nude image of them without their permission ( $\chi^2 = 8.390, p < .01$ ), someone posting their personal details online saying that they are available to have sex

**Table 3.***Characteristics of TFSV victims in the past 12 months*

Variables		Victim of TFSV	
		Victim N (%)	Non-victim N (%)
Gender	Female	152 (74.1)	53 (25.9)
	Male	49 (59)	34 (41)
Age	18-24	103 (72.5)	39 (27.5)
	25-34	69 (67.6)	33 (32.4)
	35-44	20 (66.7)	10 (33.3)
	45-54	8 (66.7)	4 (33.3)
	55-64	2 (66.7)	1 (33.3)
Sexual orientation	Heterosexual	165 (67.3)	80 (32.7)
	Non-heterosexual	37 (86)	6 (14)
Nationality	Dutch	80 (66.1)	41 (33.9)
	Portuguese	66 (68.8)	30 (31.3)
	Other	56 (82.4)	12 (17.6)
Country	The Netherlands	90 (68.2)	42 (31.8)
	Portugal	80 (70.8)	33 (29.2)
	Other	31 (77.5)	9 (22.5)
Highest degree or level of education	High school	29 (69)	13 (31)
	Bachelor's Degree	94 (69.6)	41 (30.4)
	Master's Degree	74 (71.2)	30 (28.8)
	Ph.D. or higher	4 (80)	1 (20)

Prevalence of and Attitudes towards TFSV during the COVID-19 Pandemic

In a relationship (now or in the past 12 months)	Yes	153 (71.8)	60 (28.2)
	No	49 (64.5)	27 (35.5)

*Note. TFSV = Technology Facilitated Sexual Violence*

( $\chi^2 = 5.005, p < .05$ ), someone describing or visually representing an unwanted sexual act against them using an online site, email, or text message ( $\chi^2 = 6.280, p < .05$ ), someone posting offensive and/or degrading messages, comments, or other content about their gender in an online gaming space or virtual world ( $\chi^2 = 7.549, p < .01$ ), someone sending them, or posting online, offensive and/or degrading messages, comments, or other content because of their sexual orientation ( $\chi^2 = 36.982, p < .001$ ), someone sending them, or posting online, gender-based offensive and/or degrading messages, comments, or other content ( $\chi^2 = 9.792, p < .01$ ), and someone threatening to post or send onto others an image/video of an unwanted sexual experience that happened to them ( $\chi^2 = 7.968, p < .01$ ). A Chi-Square test on age groups and experiencing any of the TFSV behaviors in the past 12 months, didn't indicate there is a significant correlation between these two variables. Results did indicate that the age group of 18-24 is significantly more likely than other age groups to experience one individual item from the scale: someone publicly posting online an offensive sexual comment about them ( $\chi^2 = 12.081, p < .05$ ). Participants that were in a relationship at the time of filling out the survey (or had been in the 12 months prior to that), were not significantly more likely to report any of the individual scale items, neither to overall TFSV victimization in the past 12 months.

***Relationship with the perpetrator and actions taken in response to TFSV***

In total, most respondents (38.9%) reported that the perpetrator was a stranger to them. This percentage increases to 45.6% when only filtering on females. A chi-square test on

gender and relationship to perpetrator indicates that females are significantly more likely to report a stranger being the perpetrator in (one of) their TFSV experience(s) ( $\chi^2 = 14.210, p < .001$ ). Around 17% of all participants reported that their perpetrator was an intimate partner/date (17.4%), a friend they knew face-to-face (16.7%), or that they didn't know the identity of the person (14.6%). These relationships did not show any significant correlations with gender. Non-heterosexual participants were significantly more likely to report the perpetrator being a friend they had only met online' ( $\chi^2 = 7.482, p < .01$ ), and someone of whom they did not know the identity ( $\chi^2 = 4.852, p < .05$ ) than heterosexual identifying participants.

**Table 4.**

*Actions taken in response to TFSV victimization (females N=205, males N=83)*

	<b>Total n (%)</b>	<b>Females n (% of all females)</b>	<b>Males n (% of all males)</b>
Ignored the behavior	128 (44.6)	96 (47.1)	31 (37.3)
Told the person to stop	92 (32.1)	72 (35.3)	20 (24.1)
Changed online details/profile settings	30 (10.5)	22 (10.8)	8 (9.6)
Reported it to the digital platform it happened on	72 (25.1)	58 (28.4)	13 (15.7)
Reported it to the police	7 (2.4)	4 (2)	3 (3.6)
Left the site or turned off device	36 (12.5)	31 (15.2)	5 (6)
Blocked the person	9 (3.1)	7 (3.4)	2 (2.4)
N/A	82 (28.6)	50 (24.5)	32 (38.6)

*Note. Respondents were asked to select 'N/A' if they were not active on the digital platform*

*Note. Differences between the amount at 'total' and the sum of females and males are caused by missing items.*

The actions taken in response to the TFSV experience(s) are shown in Table 4. Almost 45% of all respondents reported that they ignored the behavior, which included about 47% of all females and about 37% of all males. 1 in 3 (32.1%) reported that after the TFSV victimization, they told the perpetrator to stop. 1 in 10 reported that they changed their online details/profile settings (10.5%) and only 2.4% of all respondents selected that they reported the TFSV experience to the police. 28.4% of all women selected that they reported the experience to the digital platform it happened on, compared with 15.7% of all men. Chi-Square tests indicated that women are more likely than men to report the TFSV to the platform it happened on ( $\chi^2 = 5.166, p < .05$ ) and to leave the site or turn off the device ( $\chi^2 = 4.524, p < .05$ ). The same is indicated for non-heterosexual respondents compared with heterosexual respondents ( $\chi^2 = 7.572, p < .01$ ;  $\chi^2 = 10.882, p < .001$ , respectively).

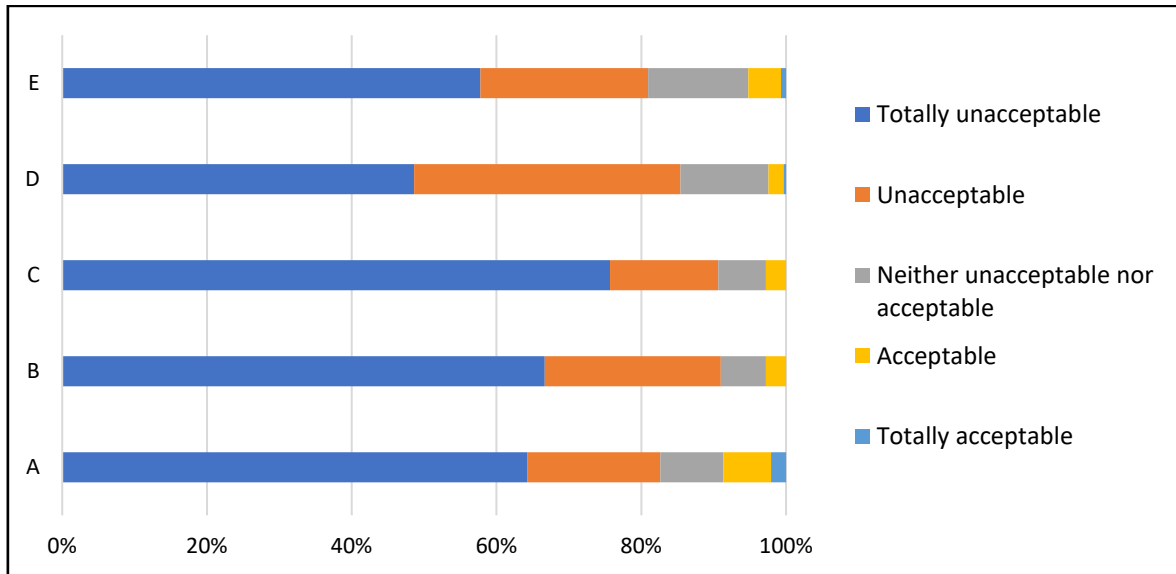
### ***Attitudes towards TFSV***

As shown in figure 4, the most percentage of respondents reported their degree of acceptance towards all 5 examples of TFSV behaviors as ‘totally unacceptable’ or ‘unacceptable’. This is the case for both male and female respondents. Chi-square tests on gender and degree of acceptance does indicate though, that females were significantly

#### **Figure 4.**

*Degree of acceptance*

Prevalence of and Attitudes towards TFSV during the COVID-19 Pandemic



- A = *A friend sends me a nude or semi-nude of someone else.*
- B = *My partner calls me or checks up on me multiple times a day to find out where I am, who I am with and what I am doing.*
- C = *A friend modifies my picture to make it sexual (e.g. putting your face on a pornographic).*
- D = *A stranger sends me sexually explicit images, comments, or text messages.*
- E = *My partner takes a nude or semi-nude image of me without asking my permission.*

more likely than males to select ‘totally unacceptable’ to all 5 scenarios of TFSV: their partner taking a nude or semi-nude image without asking their permission ( $\chi^2 = 19.461, p < .001$ ), a stranger sending them sexually explicit images, comments, or text messages ( $\chi^2 = 31.522, p < .001$ ), a friend modifying their picture to make it sexual ( $\chi^2 = 29.565, p < .001$ ), their partner calling them or checking up on them multiple times a day to find out where they are, who they are with and what they are doing ( $\chi^2 = 11.686, p < .05$ ), and a friend sending them a nude or semi-nude of someone else ( $\chi^2 = 40.349, p < .001$ ).

**Discussion**

The results of the present study show alarming prevalence rates during the COVID-19 pandemic, with 69.9% of all respondents reporting having experienced at least one of the

TFSV behaviors in the past year. 86.1% of this group reported it more than once. The percentage of victims is almost two times higher than in a previous research, in which 36.5% of the respondents reported their TFSV experience(s) occurred within the 12 months prior to the research (Powell & Henry, 2016). One should take into account, that the sample from Powell & Henry (2016) consisted for 50.1% of females, compared with 71.2% in the present study. Even though Powell & Henry (2016) did not find any differences by gender in overall lifetime prevalence of TFSV, the results of the present study indicate that females were significantly more likely than males to report experiencing overall TFSV victimization in the past 12 months.

Consistent with other studies using the 21-TFSV Scale (Powell & Henry, 2016; Snaychuk & O'Neill, 2020), the most reported form of TFSV victimization was the receiving of unwanted sexually explicit images, comments, emails, or text messages (53.3%). The second and third most reported behaviors in the present study were the receiving of repeated and/or unwanted sexual requests online or via email or text message (42.9%), and sexual harassment via a digital device (26.4%). This was also in line with the results from Powell & Henry (2016). Since more than two-third of the participants were female, and the three most reported TFSV-items were all considered to be significantly more reported by females, prevalence rates should be interpreted and compared with caution.

Non-heterosexual identifying participants did not only seem significantly more likely than heterosexual identifying respondents to experience overall TFSV victimization in the past 12 months, also were they significantly more likely to experience 11 individual TFSV items from the 21-item scale, spread over all four dimensions of

TFSV. This amount was substantially higher compared with previous results by Powell & Henry (2016), in which the non-heterosexual identifying participants were more likely to lifetime victimization of only 3 individual scale items. The significant representation of women and non-heterosexual identifying people in the victim-group of present study, might be explained within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. During this pandemic, violence against women has intensified (UN Women et al., 2021; UN Women, 2020a), and risks of hate crimes against LGBT and gender-diverse persons, such as harmful exposure on social media, have increased (Council of Europe, 2020; OHCHR, 2020).

Respondents were most likely to report a stranger being the perpetrator in (one of) their TFSV experience(s), which is consistent with outcomes from Powell & Henry (2016). Women were significantly more likely than men to report this. This outcome might be explained within the context of endless possibilities to encounter strangers online nowadays, with many platforms, websites, apps, and gaming environments, facilitating, and encouraging interactions between strangers (Salerno-Ferraro et al, 2021). Non-heterosexual participants were significantly more likely to report the perpetrator being a friend they had only met online, and/or someone of whom they did not know the identity, and that they reported the TFSV experience to the platform it happened on, and/or to leave the site or turn off the device as a response to the experience. With almost half of the respondents reporting that they ignored the behavior (44.6%), this was the most reported response to TFSV victimization in the present study. This result is consistent with the results of Powell & Henry (2016) in their sample. It is unknown why this high percentage of respondents chose to ignore the behavior, instead of to report it. Outcomes of the present study regarding actions taken in response to TFSV victimization indicated a gendered nature, with women being significantly more likely than men to

report the TFSV experience to the platform it happened on, and/or to leave the site or turn off the device. In the sample of Powell & Henry (2016), females were also significantly more likely to leave the site or turn off their device as a response to TFSV victimization.

Of the suggested digital platforms (Whatsapp, Instagram, Facebook, Facebook Messenger, Twitter, Snapchat, LinkedIn, dating app(s) and virtual world/gaming space), participants in the present study were least likely to report being active on dating apps. This can be explained by the fact that more than two-third of the participants was in a relationship at the time of the survey (or had been in the 12 months prior to the survey). It is unknown what impact this had on prevalence rates, considering that results of a recent study shows that more than half of the women under 35 who had used online dating sites or apps, received sexually explicit messages or images they didn't ask for (Anderson & Vogels, 2020). This large number of participants being in a relationship (or having been in the past 12 month), brought opportunities to analyze this group in specific. Relationship status was a relevant variable, because of the increasing role digital technologies play nowadays in strategies of domestic violence perpetrators in a romantic/sexual relationship (Freed, et al., 2017; Henry & Powell, 2014; Woodlock, 2016). Results in this study showed, however, that participants who were/had been in a relationship at the time of the survey, did not show any significant differences in reporting experiencing any TFSV victimization compared with participants who weren't in a relationship.

The attitudinal acceptance towards several examples of TFSV behaviors indicated a gendered nature, with females being significantly more likely to select 'totally unacceptable' to all 5 scenarios of TFSV. Even though no previous studies researched the attitudinal acceptance of TFSV, Powell & Henry (2016) did analyze the impact of TFSV

victimization by asking respondents how upsetting the experience was perceived by them. Females turned out to be significantly more likely than males to report their experience as moderately to extremely upsetting. The perceiving of TFSV experiences as moderately to extremely upsetting, might be an explanation for being more disapproving in their attitudes. Another explanation might be that in their research, males turned out to be twice as likely as females to be the perpetrator of TFSV against females, which could be in relation with less disapproving attitudes towards this (Powell & Henry, 2016).

### **Study Limitations and Future Research**

There are several limitations to the study that are important to be taken into consideration. First, definitions of sexual violence committed with the use of technology differ from study to study, so prevalence rates should be interpreted and compared with caution. In this study, the TFSV Victimization Scale developed by Powell & Henry (2016) has been used to create some degree of standardization within this field of study, and to partially overcome this problem. Second, this research was entirely exploratory in nature, and therefore, results cannot be generalized to the whole population. Third, the percentage of women that participated in the study was substantially higher than the percentage of men. Even though Powell & Henry (2016) did not find any differences by gender in overall lifetime prevalence of TFSV, the results of the present study indicate that females were significantly more likely than males to report experiencing overall TFSV victimization in the past 12 months. Sexuality- and gender-diverse groups were also underrepresented in the current sample. It is unclear what impact the underrepresentation of these groups had on the (overall) prevalence rates of TFSV victimization.

Partly based on the limitations discussed above, there are several suggestions for future research on TFSV. First, it is relevant to ask future participants on which platform(s) their TFSV experience happened. Signifying which forms of TFSV happen most frequently on which platforms, could help digital platforms to combat this type of violence. Second, because of the alarming results on prevalence rates of non-heterosexual identifying respondents, it deserves recommendation to conduct more research on samples with a more substantive representation of this group. Third, with almost half of the participants reporting that they ignored the behavior in response to TFSV victimization, future research into the motives behind this is important to better understand why people choose not to report this type of violence.

## **Conclusion**

Outcomes of the present study indicate high prevalence rates of TFSV during the COVID-19 pandemic, with significant higher risks for women and non-heterosexual individuals. This result might be unsurprising, considering the overall increase of violence against women and the LGBT+ community during this global pandemic. Many results presented here, are consistent with findings within the scarce, but emerging body of literature on this phenomenon. In short, the most commonly reported forms of TFSV appear to be behaviors classified as digital sexual harassment, and women seem more likely than men to experience several behaviors from this dimension. Non-heterosexual identifying participants were significantly more likely to experience more than half of the items from the 21-item scale, spread over all four dimensions of TFSV. Unlike results from several previous studies, outcomes in the present sample indicated a gendered nature of overall TFSV victimization in the past 12 months, with females being significantly more likely

than males to report overall TFSV victimization in a timeframe of 12 months. Previous research indicated a significant difference in lifetime TFSV victimization for young people (18-24), but results in this study did not indicate the same for the past 12 months.

Outcomes of this study show alarming results regarding actions taken in response to TFSV victimization, with almost half of all respondents reporting that their response to the experience, was to ignore the behavior. Future studies into TFSV experiences among adults, should explore the motives behind the underreporting of TFSV, to get a better understanding of this phenomenon. Additionally, more research should be conducted on sexuality- and gender-diverse persons, to better assess the scope and nature of TFSV experiences within this group. Another valuable follow-up research could focus on understanding which forms of TFSV happen most frequently on which platforms, to improve measures taken by digital platforms to prevent and eliminate this type of violence.

## References


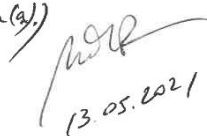
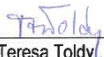

- Anderson, M., & Vogels, E. A. (2020, March 6). *Young women often face sexual harassment online – including on dating sites and apps*. Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/03/06/young-women-often-face-sexual-harassment-online-including-on-dating-sites-and-apps/>
- Champion, A., Oswald, F., & Pedersen, C. L. (2021). *Technology-facilitated sexual violence and suicide risk: A serial mediation model investigating bullying, depression, perceived burdensomeness, and thwarted belongingness*. *The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality*, 30(1), 125–141. <https://doi.org/10.3138/cjhs.2020-0044>
- Council of Europe. (2020, June 29). *COVID-19: The suffering and resilience of LGBT persons must be visible and inform the actions of States*. Commissioner for Human Rights. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/-/covid-19-the-suffering-and-resilience-of-lgbt-persons-must-be-visible-and-inform-the-actions-of-states>
- Cripps, J., & Stermac, L. (2018). *Cyber-Sexual Violence and Negative Emotional States among Women in a Canadian University*. *International Journal of Cyber Criminology*, 12(1): 171-186. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1467891>
- Durham, S. (2020, November 19). *Hidden Suffering: Gender Based Violence (GBV) Against Boys and Men*. SACAP. <https://www.sacap.edu.za/blog/applied-psychology/hidden-suffering-gender-based-violence-gbv-against-boys-and-men>
- Freed, D., Palmer, J., Minchala, D. E., Levy, K., Ristenpart, T., & Dell, N. (2017). *Digital Technologies and Intimate Partner Violence*. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, 1(CSCW), 1–22. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3134681>
- Henry, N., & Powell, A. (2014). Beyond the ‘sext’: Technology-facilitated sexual violence and harassment against adult women. *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology*, 48(1), 104–118. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0004865814524218>
- Hlavka, H. R. (2016). Speaking of Stigma and the Silence of Shame. *Men and Masculinities*, 20(4), 482–505. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1097184x16652656>
- Jonsson, L. S., Fredlund, C., Priebe, G., Wadsby, M., & Svedin, C. G. (2019). Online sexual abuse of adolescents by a perpetrator met online: a cross-sectional study. *Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health*, 13(1), 13–32. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13034-019-0292-1>

- Machimbarrena, J. M., Calvete, E., Fernández-González, L., Álvarez-Bardón, A., Álvarez-Fernández, L., & González-Cabrera, J. (2018). Internet Risks: An Overview of Victimization in Cyberbullying, Cyber Dating Abuse, Sexting, Online Grooming and Problematic Internet Use. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 15(11), 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph15112471>
- OHCHR. (2020, June). *The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the human rights of LGBT persons*. IE SOGI. <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/SexualOrientation/ImpactCOVID19LGBTpersons.pdf>
- Patchin, J. W., & Hinduja, S. (2018). Sextortion Among Adolescents: Results From a National Survey of U.S. Youth. *Sexual Abuse*, 32(1), 30–54. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1079063218800469>
- Pew Research Center. (2017). *Online Harassment 2017*. Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2017/07/11/online-harassment-2017/>
- Pew Research Center. (2021). *The State of Online Harassment*. Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2021/01/13/the-state-of-online-harassment/>
- Powell, A., & Henry, N. (2016). Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence Victimization: Results From an Online Survey of Australian Adults. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 34(17), 3637–3665. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260516672055>
- Reed, E., Salazar, M., Behar, A. I., Agah, N., Silverman, J. G., Minnis, A. M., Rusch, M. L., & Raj, A. (2019). Cyber Sexual Harassment: Prevalence and association with substance use, poor mental health, and STI history among sexually active adolescent girls. *Journal of Adolescence*, 75, 53–62. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.adolescence.2019.07.005>
- Russell, W. (2007). Sexual Violence against Men and Boys. *Forced Migration Review*, 27: 22–23.
- Salerno-Ferraro, A. C., Erentzen, C., & Schuller, R. A. (2021). Young Women’s Experiences With Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence From Male Strangers. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 1–26. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08862605211030018>
- Snaychuk, L. A., & O’Neill, M. L. (2020). Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence: Prevalence, Risk, and Resiliency in Undergraduate Students. *Journal of Aggression*,

- Maltreatment & Trauma*, 29(8), 984–999.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10926771.2019.1710636>
- Touquet, H., & Gorris, E. (2016). Out of the shadows? The inclusion of men and boys in conceptualisations of wartime sexual violence. *Reproductive Health Matters*, 24(47), 36–46. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rhm.2016.04.007>
- UNICEF. (2020, April 14). Children at increased risk of harm online during global COVID-19 pandemic - UNICEF. <https://www.unicef.org/maldives/press-releases/children-increased-risk-harm-online-during-global-covid-19-pandemic-unicef>
- UN Women. (2020a). *COVID-19 and Ending Violence Against Women and Girls*. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/issue-brief-covid-19-and-ending-violence-against-women-and-girls-en.pdf?la=en&vs=5006>
- UN Women. (2020b). *Online and ICT\* facilitated violence against women and girls during COVID-19*. <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/brief-online-and-ict-facilitated-violence-against-women-and-girls-during-covid-19-en.pdf?la=en&vs5006>
- UN Women, Quilt.AI, & UNFPA. (2021, March 3). *COVID-19 and Violence Against Women: The evidence behind the talk*. UN Women. <https://data.unwomen.org/publications/covid-19-and-violence-against-women-evidence-behind-talk>
- Woodlock, D. (2016). The Abuse of Technology in Domestic Violence and Stalking. *Violence Against Women*, 23(5), 584–602. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801216646277>

## Appendixes

### 1. Appendix A. Questionnaire approval Ethics Commission

	<b>Universidade Fernando Pessoa</b>	<i>Da comissão é a tua e o senhor(a.)</i>  13.05.2021
		Exmo. Senhor Prof. Doutor Pedro Reis Diretor da FCHS
<b>Nº</b>	<b>Data</b>	
FCHS/CRL -165/21	12 de Maio de 2021	
<p>Exmo. Senhor Professor Doutor,</p> <p>A Comissão de Ética, depois de analisado o projeto de dissertação de Mestrado em Criminologia de Pamela Huiskes, intitulado "Prevalence of and Attitudes towards Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence during the COVID-19 Pandemic", considera o estudo pertinente com o título e objetivos concordantes. Trata-se de um estudo quantitativo a realizar, online, através de um questionário de autoria da doutoranda e de uma escala com adaptação autorizada pelos autores da versão original. É objetivo do estudo explorar atitudes relacionadas com a violência sexual facilitada pela tecnologia durante o Covid, bem como a relação entre vítimas e vitimizadores, a existência ou não de uma relação entre características sociodemográficas e as atitudes relacionadas com o tema central.</p> <p>Está acautelada a confidencialidade dos dados e o anonimato dos participantes, processando-se o acesso aos mesmos através da divulgação do link para o questionário em redes sociais.</p> <p>A Comissão de Ética considera <u>nada haver a opor</u> à realização do estudo nos termos da documentação agora enviada.</p> <p>Com os melhores cumprimentos,</p> <p>A Presidente da Comissão de Ética da UFP</p> <p> Teresa Toldy</p>		
	<b>Fundação Ensino e Cultura "Fernando Pessoa"</b> NIPC. 502 057 602 - Reg. Comercial nº 26 Conservatória do Registo Comercial do Porto UNIVERSIDADE FERNANDO PESSOA [REITORIA] - [FACULDADE DE CIÊNCIA E TECNOLOGIA] - [FACULDADE DE CIÊNCIAS HUMANAS E SOCIAIS] Praça 9 de Abril, 349 - 4249-004 Porto - Portugal - T. +351 22 507 1300 - www.ulfp.pt - geral@fundacaofernandopessoa.pt [FACULDADE DE CIÊNCIAS DA SAÚDE] Rua Carlos da Maia, 286 - 4200-150 Porto - Portugal - T. +351 22 507 4630	<b>ESCOLA SUPERIOR DE SAÚDE FERNANDO PESSOA</b> Rua Dellim, Maia, 334 - 4200-253 Porto - Portugal T. +351 22 509 6371 - geral@ess.fernandopessoa.pt

## 2. Appendix B. English questionnaire

9/7/2021 Prevalence of and attitudes towards Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence during the COVID-19 pandemic

# Prevalence of and attitudes towards Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence during the COVID-19 pandemic

---

**\*Required**

### Informed Consent

Dear all,

I, Pamela Huiskes, Master's student Criminology at Universidade Fernando Pessoa, invite you to participate in a research study about the prevalence of and attitudes towards Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence (TFSV) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**CONFIDENTIALITY & ANONYMITY**  
The questionnaire is anonymous and confidential. All data will only be used for scientific research purposes and will be treated in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of 2016/679 of the European Union, which came into force on May 25, 2018 in Portugal. The study will take approximately 6 months and after this period, data will be deleted.

**PARTICIPATION**  
Your participation in this survey is voluntary. You may refuse to take part in the research or exit the survey at any time without penalty. You are free to decline to answer any question you do not wish to answer for any reason by leaving the questionnaire. The questionnaire will take around 10 minutes of your time.

**RISK**  
Questions in this survey can be perceived as sensitive. As mentioned before, you may refuse to take part in the research, and you are free to decline to answer any question you do not wish to answer.

**BENEFITS**  
Your participation will be a valuable addition to my research, and findings could lead to greater public understanding of the prevalence of and attitudes towards Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence.

In case you have any requests or questions about the study or questionnaire, don't hesitate to contact me:  
[thesis.ufp@gmail.com](mailto:thesis.ufp@gmail.com)

1. Do you wish to participate? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes. I have been informed of the purpose, benefits, and risks of participating in this study. I have been given the opportunity to ask questions and have them answered to my satisfaction. I am at least 18 years of age, and I agree to participate in this study.

Sociodemographic information

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/17V10QuuGG4OmJqgFXbqChqcuv2f98Ampu4VcUtlmF4/edit> 1/10

## Prevalence of and Attitudes towards TFSV during the COVID-19 Pandemic

9/7/2021

Prevalence of and attitudes towards Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence during the COVID-19 pandemic

2. Age: \*

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Sex:

*Mark only one oval.*

Male

Female

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Sexual orientation:

*Mark only one oval.*

Asexual

Bisexual

Gay

Heterosexual or straight

Pansexual

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you consider yourself to be transgender?

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

I don't know

## Prevalence of and Attitudes towards TFSV during the COVID-19 Pandemic

9/7/2021

Prevalence of and attitudes towards Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence during the COVID-19 pandemic

6. Nationality:

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Country you live in:

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Highest degree or level of education you have followed/completed:

*Mark only one oval.*

- High school
- Bachelor's Degree
- Master's Degree
- Ph.D. or higher
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Are you in a relationship or dating someone (now or in the past 12 months)?

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No

Digital Platforms

Prevalence of and Attitudes towards TFSV during the COVID-19 Pandemic

9/7/2021

Prevalence of and attitudes towards Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence during the COVID-19 pandemic

10. On average, how many hours per day do you spend on the following digital platforms? When you are using your phone to fill in this questionnaire, please turn your phone horizontal to be able to see all answer options in your screen. In case you are not active on the digital platform, please answer with 'N/A'. \*

Mark only one oval per row.

	Less than 30 minutes	30-60 minutes	1-2 hours	2-3 hours	More than 3 hours	N/A
WhatsApp	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Instagram	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facebook	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facebook Messenger	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Twitter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Snapchat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
LinkedIn	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
TikTok	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dating app(s) (e.g. Tinder, Bumble, Happn)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Virtual world/online gaming space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Degree of acceptance

In this section you will find several sexually based behaviors either online or via other electronic devices.

Prevalence of and Attitudes towards TFSV during the COVID-19 Pandemic

9/7/2021

Prevalence of and attitudes towards Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence during the COVID-19 pandemic

11. Please read each statement carefully and select your degree of acceptance with each of the following behaviors. When you are using your phone to fill in this questionnaire, please turn your phone horizontal to be able to see all answer options in your screen. \*

Mark only one oval per row.

	Totally unacceptable	Unacceptable	Neither unacceptable nor acceptable	Acceptable	Totally acceptable
My partner takes a nude or semi-nude image of me without asking my permission.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A stranger sends me sexually explicit images, comments, or text messages.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A friend modifies my picture to make it sexual (e.g. putting your face on a pornographic image and share it in a group chat).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My partner calls me or checks up on me multiple times a day to find out where I am, who I am	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

# Prevalence of and Attitudes towards TFSV during the COVID-19 Pandemic

9/7/2021

Prevalence of and attitudes towards Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence during the COVID-19 pandemic

with and what  
I am doing.

---

A friend sends  
me a nude or  
semi-nude of  
someone  
else.

---

Prevalence and characteristics

Prevalence of and Attitudes towards TFSV during the COVID-19 Pandemic

9/7/2021

Prevalence of and attitudes towards Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence during the COVID-19 pandemic

12. Please read each sentence carefully and select only one of the responses. How often have you personally experienced the following, sexually based behaviors either online or via other electronic devices in the last 12 months? When you are using your phone to fill in this questionnaire, please turn your phone horizontal to be able to see all answer options in your screen. \*

Mark only one oval per row.

	None	Once	More than once
Someone has taken a nude or semi-nude image of you without your permission	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Someone has posted online or sent onto others a nude or semi-nude image of you without your permission	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Someone has threatened to post online or send onto others a nude or semi-nude image of you without your permission	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Someone has taken an image or video of an unwanted sexual experience that happened to you	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Someone has posted online or sent onto others an image or video of an unwanted sexual experience that happened to you	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Someone has threatened to post or sent onto others an image/video of an unwanted sexual experience that happened to you	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
You had an unwanted sexual experience with someone you first met online	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
You met a person on an online dating site or app and then had an unwanted sexual experience	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Someone posted your personal details online saying you are available to have sex	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Please select 'more than once'	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
You received unwanted sexually explicit images, comments, emails, or text	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/17V10QuuGG4OmJqgFXbqChqcuv2rf98Ampu4VcUtlmF4/edit>

7/10

Prevalence of and Attitudes towards TFSV during the COVID-19 Pandemic

9/7/2021 Prevalence of and attitudes towards Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence during the COVID-19 pandemic

messages

---

You experienced repeated and/or unwanted sexual requests online or via email or text message

---

Someone publicly posted online an offensive sexual comment about you

---

Someone sexually harassed you via a digital device

---

Current or former intimate partner gained access to your emails or other online accounts without your permission

---

A current or former intimate partner has checked up on you multiple times a day either online or via mobile phone, to find out where you are, who you are with, or what you are doing

---

Someone sent you, or posted online, comments, emails, or text messages threatening to sexually assault you

---

Someone described or visually represented an unwanted sexual act against your avatar or game character

---

Someone described or visually represented an unwanted sexual act against you using an online site, email, or text message

---

In an online gaming space or virtual world someone posted offensive and/or degrading messages, comments, or other content about your gender (e.g. sexist or rape jokes)

---

Someone sent you, or posted online, offensive and/or degrading messages, comments, or other content because of your sexual orientation

---

Someone sent you, or posted online, gender-based offensive and/or degrading messages, comments, or other content (e.g. sexist or rape jokes)

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/17V10QuuGG4OmJqgFXbqChqcuv2rf98Ampu4VcUtlmF4/edit> 8/10

Prevalence of and Attitudes towards TFSV during the COVID-19 Pandemic

9/7/2021 Prevalence of and attitudes towards Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence during the COVID-19 pandemic

---

Experienced at least one of the behaviors above

---

Experienced at least one of the behaviors above with a man as the perpetrator

---

Experienced at least one of the behaviors above with a woman as the perpetrator.

---

13. In case you ever experienced at least one of the behaviors described above: what action(s) did you take in response to the experience? Select all that apply. In case you didn't experience at least one of the behaviors described above, please answer with 'N/A'. \*

*Tick all that apply.*

I ignored the behavior

I told the person to stop

I changed my online details/profile settings

I reported it to the digital platform it happened on

I reported it to the police

Left the site or turned off device

N/A

Other:  \_\_\_\_\_

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/17V10QuuGG4OmJqgFXbqChqcuv2rf98Ampu4VcUtlmF4/edit> 9/10

## Prevalence of and Attitudes towards TFSV during the COVID-19 Pandemic

9/7/2021

Prevalence of and attitudes towards Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence during the COVID-19 pandemic

14. In case you ever experienced at least one of the behaviors described above: what was your relationship with the perpetrator? Select all that apply. In case you haven't experienced at least one of the behaviors described above, please answer with 'N/A'. \*

*Tick all that apply.*

- Intimate Partner/date
- Stranger
- A friend I know face-to-face
- A friend I only met online
- Someone from work
- I don't know the identity of the person
- N/A

Other:  \_\_\_\_\_

---

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms

### 3. Appendix C. Portuguese Questionnaire

9/7/2021 Prevalência e atitudes em relação à violência sexual facilitada pela tecnologia durante a pandemia COVID-19

## Prevalência e atitudes em relação à violência sexual facilitada pela tecnologia durante a pandemia COVID-19

**\*Required**

### Consentimento informado

Caros colegas,

Eu, Pamela Huiskes, estudante de Mestrado em Criminologia da Universidade Fernando Pessoa, convido-vos a participar na investigação que estou a desenvolver e na qual queremos caracterizar a prevalência e as atitudes em relação a eventuais comportamentos abusivos de cariz sexual praticados através das Tecnologias de Informação e Comunicação (TIC), durante o período pandémico gerado pela COVID-19.

### CONFIDENCIALIDADE & ANONIMATO

O questionário é anónimo e confidencial. Todos os dados serão utilizados apenas para fins de investigação científica e serão tratados de acordo com o Regulamento Geral de Proteção de Dados (GDPR) de 2016/679 da União Europeia, que entrou em vigor a 25 de Maio de 2018 em Portugal. O estudo levará aproximadamente 6 meses e, após este período, os dados serão apagados.

### PARTICIPAÇÃO

A sua participação neste inquérito é voluntária. Pode recusar-se a participar na investigação ou abandonar o inquérito a qualquer momento sem penalização. O questionário demorará cerca de 10 minutos do seu tempo.

### RISCO

As perguntas deste inquérito podem ser entendidas como sensíveis. Como mencionado anteriormente, pode recusar-se a participar na investigação, e é livre de recusar responder a qualquer pergunta que não deseje responder.

### BENEFÍCIOS

A vossa participação será um acréscimo valioso à minha investigação, e os resultados poderão levar a uma maior compreensão pública da prevalência e das atitudes em relação à violência ciber-sexual.

Caso tenha quaisquer pedidos ou perguntas sobre o estudo ou questionário, não hesite em contactar-me: [thesis\\_ufp@gmail.com](mailto:thesis_ufp@gmail.com)

1. Você deseja participar? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

Sim. Fui informado/a sobre o objetivo, benefícios e riscos de participar neste estudo. Foi-me dada a oportunidade de fazer perguntas e de as ter respondidas de forma satisfatória. Tenho pelo menos 18 anos de idade, e concordo em participar neste estudo

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Rd4fIRyHazKSinADOq3-u91HFsJg60EagIQYexYUcUs/edit> 1/10

9/7/2021

Prevalência e atitudes em relação à violência sexual facilitada pela tecnologia durante a pandemia COVID-19

### Informação Sociodemográfica

2. Idade: \*

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Sexo: \*

*Mark only one oval.*

Sexo masculino

Sexo feminino

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Orientação sexual: \*

*Mark only one oval.*

Assexual

Bissexual

Homossexual

Heterossexual

Pansexual

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Considera-se transgénero? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

Sim

Não

Não sei

## Prevalence of and Attitudes towards TFSV during the COVID-19 Pandemic

9/7/2021

Prevalência e atitudes em relação à violência sexual facilitada pela tecnologia durante a pandemia COVID-19

6. Nacionalidade: \*

\_\_\_\_\_

7. País onde vive: \*

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Grau ou nível de educação mais elevado que tenha seguido/concluído: \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Ensino secundário
- Bacharelato/Licenciatura
- Mestrado
- Doutoramento ou superior
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Está numa relação íntima/namoro com alguém (agora ou nos últimos 12 meses)? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Sim
- Não

Plataformas digitais

Prevalence of and Attitudes towards TFSV during the COVID-19 Pandemic

9/7/2021

Prevalência e atitudes em relação à violência sexual facilitada pela tecnologia durante a pandemia COVID-19

10. Em média, quantas horas por dia passa nas seguintes plataformas digitais? Quando estiver a utilizar o seu telefone para preencher este questionário, por favor rode o seu ecrã na horizontal para poder ver todas as opções de respostas no seu ecrã. Caso não esteja activo na plataforma digital, por favor responda com "N/A". \*

Mark only one oval per row.

	Menos de 30 minutos	30-60 minutos	1-2 horas	2-3 horas	Mais de 3 horas	N/A
WhatsApp	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Instagram	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facebook	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facebook Messenger	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Twitter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Snapchat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
LinkedIn	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
TikTok	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dating app(s) (e.g. Tinder, Bumble, Happn)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mundo virtual/online gaming space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Grau de aceitação

Prevalence of and Attitudes towards TFSV during the COVID-19 Pandemic

9/7/2021

Prevalência e atitudes em relação à violência sexual facilitada pela tecnologia durante a pandemia COVID-19

11. Assinale o seu grau de aceitação face às afirmações que se seguem. Quando estiver a utilizar o seu telefone para preencher este questionário, por favor rode o seu ecrã na horizontal para poder ver todas as opções de respostas no seu ecrã. \*

Mark only one oval per row.

	Totalmente inaceitável	Inaceitável	Nem inaceitável nem aceitável	Aceitável	Totalmente aceitável
O/a seu/sua parceiro/a tirar uma fotografia minha nua ou semi-nua, sem autorização.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Um estranho enviar imagens, comentários, ou mensagens de texto sexualmente explícitos.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Um/a amigo/a modificar a sua imagem para a tornar sexual (por exemplo, colocar a sua cara numa imagem pornográfica e partilhá-la).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
O/a seu/sua parceiro/a telefonar ou verificar várias vezes por dia para saber onde está, com quem está e o que está a fazer.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Um/a amigo/a enviar-lhe uma imagem de outra pessoa nua ou semi-nua.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Rd4flRyHazKSinADOq3-u91HFsjg60EagIQYexYUcUs/edit>

5/10

9/7/2021

Prevalência e atitudes em relação à violência sexual facilitada pela tecnologia durante a pandemia COVID-19

### Prevalência e características

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Rd4flRyHazKSinADOq3-u91HFsjg60EagIQYexYUcUs/edit>

6/10

Prevalence of and Attitudes towards TFSV during the COVID-19 Pandemic

9/7/2021

Prevalência e atitudes em relação à violência sexual facilitada pela tecnologia durante a pandemia COVID-19

12. Por favor, leia cada frase cuidadosamente e selecione apenas uma das respostas. Indique com que frequência experimentou pessoalmente os seguintes comportamentos de base sexual, através de dispositivos eletrônicos, nos últimos 12 meses? Quando estiver a utilizar o seu telefone para preencher este questionário, por favor rode o seu ecrã na horizontal para poder ver todas as opções de respostas no seu ecrã. \*

Mark only one oval per row.

	Nenhum	Uma vez	Mais de uma vez
Alguém já tirou uma imagem sua nua ou semi-nua sem a sua permissão	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Alguém já colocou online ou enviou a outros uma imagem sua nua ou semi-nua, sem a sua permissão	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Alguém já ameaçou colocar online ou enviar para outros uma imagem sua nua ou semi-nua, sem a sua permissão	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Alguém já tirou uma imagem ou vídeo de uma experiência sexual indesejada que lhe aconteceu	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Alguém já colocou online ou enviou a outros uma imagem ou vídeo de uma experiência sexual indesejada que lhe aconteceu	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Alguém já ameaçou colocar ou enviar a outros uma imagem/vídeo de uma experiência sexual não desejada	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Alguma vez teve uma experiência sexual indesejada com alguém que conheceu online pela primeira vez	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Já alguma vez conheceu uma pessoa num site ou aplicação de encontros online e depois teve uma experiência sexual indesejada	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Já alguém colocou os seus dados pessoais online dizendo que está disponível para ter sexo	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Rd4flRyHazKSinADOq3-u91HFfsJg60EagIQYexYUcUs/edit>

7/10

Prevalence of and Attitudes towards TFSV during the COVID-19 Pandemic

9/7/2021	Prevalência e atitudes em relação à violência sexual facilitada pela tecnologia durante a pandemia COVID-19		
Por favor seleccione 'mais de uma vez'	)	)	)
Já recebeu imagens, comentários, e-mails ou mensagens de texto sexualmente explícitos não desejados	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Já alguma vez teve propostas sexuais repetidas e/ou indesejadas online ou através de e-mail ou mensagem de texto	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Já alguém postou publicamente um comentário sexual ofensivo sobre si	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Já alguém o assediou sexualmente através de um dispositivo digital	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
O/a seu/sua atual ou antigo/a parceiro/a íntimo teve acesso aos seus e-mails ou outras contas online, sem a sua permissão	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
O/a seu/sua atual ou antigo/a parceiro/ já o vigiou várias vezes por dia, online ou via telemóvel, para saber onde está, com quem está, ou o que está a fazer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Já alguém lhe enviou, ou colocou online, comentários, e-mails, ou mensagens de texto ameaçando agressão sexual	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Já alguém descreveu ou representou visualmente um ato sexual indesejado contra o seu avatar ou personagem de jogo	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Já alguém descreveu ou representou visualmente um ato sexual indesejado contra si, usando um site online, e-mail ou mensagem de texto	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Em um espaço de jogo online ou no mundo virtual, alguém já postou mensagens ofensivas e / ou degradantes, comentários ou outro conteúdo sobre seu género (por exemplo, sexistas ou piadas de estupro)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Alguém já lhe enviou ou postou online mensagens, comentários ou outros conteúdos ofensivos e / ou degradantes devido à sua orientação sexual	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Prevalence of and Attitudes towards TFSV during the COVID-19 Pandemic

9/7/2021

Prevalência e atitudes em relação à violência sexual facilitada pela tecnologia durante a pandemia COVID-19

Alguém já lhe enviou ou postou online mensagens ofensivas e / ou degradantes de gênero, comentários ou outro conteúdo (por exemplo, piadas sexistas ou de estupro)

Já experienciou pelo menos um dos comportamentos acima

Já experienciou pelo menos um dos comportamentos acima com um homem como autor

Já experienciou pelo menos um dos comportamentos acima com uma mulher como autora

13. No caso de alguma vez ter experimentado pelo menos um dos comportamentos acima descritos: que ação(ões) tomou em resposta a essa experiência? Identifique todas as opções possíveis. Caso não tenha experimentado pelo menos um dos comportamentos acima descritos, por favor responda com 'N/A'. \*

*Tick all that apply.*

- Ignorei o comportamento
- Eu disse à pessoa para parar
- Alterei os meus dados/parâmetros de perfil online
- Reportei para a plataforma digital em que aconteceu
- Fiz queixa à polícia
- Saiu do site ou desligou dispositivo
- N/A

Other:  \_\_\_\_\_

## Prevalence of and Attitudes towards TFSV during the COVID-19 Pandemic

9/7/2021

Prevalência e atitudes em relação à violência sexual facilitada pela tecnologia durante a pandemia COVID-19

14. No caso de alguma vez ter experimentado pelo menos um dos comportamentos acima descritos: qual foi a sua relação com o perpetrador? Identifique todas as opções possíveis. Caso não tenha experimentado pelo menos um dos comportamentos acima descritos, por favor responda com 'N/A'. \*

*Tick all that apply.*

- Parceiro/a Íntimo/a  
 Estranho/a  
 Um/a amigo/a que conheço cara a cara  
 Um/a amigo/a que só conheci online  
 Alguém do trabalho  
 Não conheço a identidade da pessoa  
 N/A

Other:  \_\_\_\_\_

---

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms