



# Online Sexual Harassment in Adolescence: a systematic review

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## BACKGROUND

Adolescence is a time of great vulnerability (Erikson, 1968), crossed by important changes at emotional and sexual level. Many adolescents are exposed to unsolicited or sexual content (Smahel et al., 2020). Online sexual harassment, with the possibility of having an audience and being able to keep incriminating images and/or videos facilitates the spread of sexual harassment and makes it possible to victimize someone in a very easy way (Project DeShame, 2017).

## METHOD

Following PRISMA Guidelines (Moher, Liberati, Tetzlaff, Altman, & PRISMA Group, 2009).

### KEYWORDS:

**CYBERSPACE** online, cyber, digital, internet, virtual, «social media», «social network»

**SEXUAL CONNOTATION** sex\* - sexual

**AGGRESSIVE CONNOTATION** harassment, abuse, aggression, victimization, coerci\*, pressure, offen\*, solicitation, violence, assault

**AGE OF SAMPLE** adolescen\*, teen\*, youth

**DATABASE:** Scopus, PsycInfo, PubMed, Web of Science

The literature search was conducted at the end of March 2021 and led to 18207 records. 59 works were included and three clusters of paper were identified: online sexual harassment among peer (OSH-P), online sexual harassment in the context of unspecified relationship between victim and aggressor (OSH), online sexual solicitation (OSS).

## AIM OF THE PRESENT STUDY

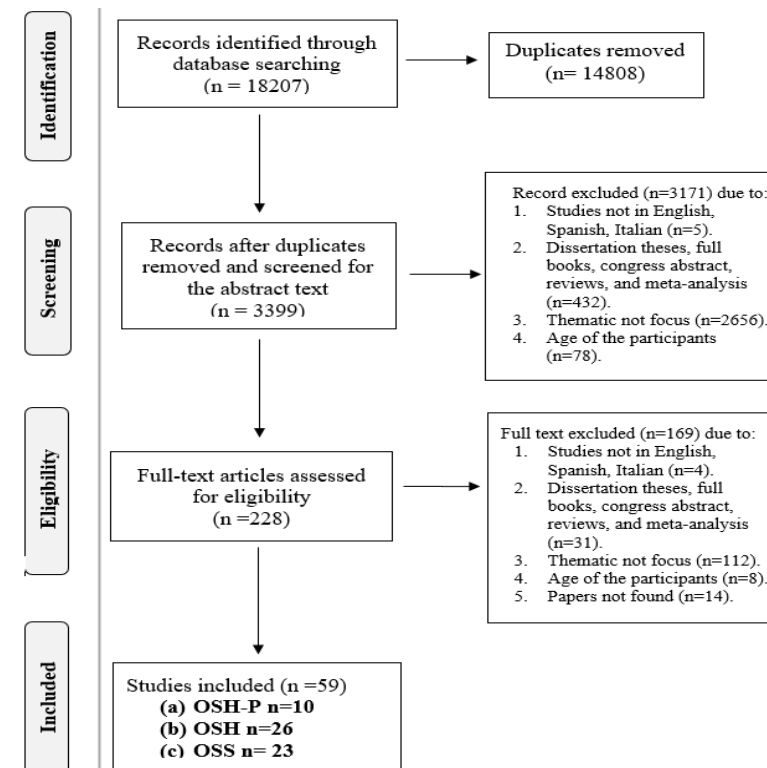
1. To **define** the construct of online sexual harassment in adolescence, analyzing terms and labels with which it is defined
2. To **describe** different ways in which it occurs.

## DISCUSSION

The 59 analyzed studies are particularly recent, ranging from 2010 to 2021 and highlighting interest of scholars on this topic. A recent work of Reed et al. (2019), tries to summarize the literature on cyber sexual harassment identifying three prevalent types: a) unwanted sexual solicitation; b) send/receive unwanted sexual content; c) non consensual sharing of sexual content. This work confirms classification above. Future studies might investigate in a more systematic way the different behaviors that define sexual harassment online, also considering the specific dynamics of adolescence and the online context, to learn more about the phenomenon, to raise awareness among young people and help them dealing with possible negative consequences. Then, it is important to develop and validate specific measures in order to confront the phenomenon between age and different cultural context.

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## RESULTS

<b>LABEL</b>	Cyber Sexual Harassment, Online Sexual Harassment, Online Sexual Victimization, Online (Unwanted) Sexual Solicitation		
<b>THEORETICAL DEFINITION</b>	OSH: <i>no specific theoretical definition</i> OSS: <i>“Online requests of youth to engage in sexual activities or sexual talk or give personal sexual information that were unwanted or, whether wanted or not, were made by an adult”</i>		
<b>ABUSIVE CONNOTATION</b>	unwanted, without permission, non-consensual, coerced		
<b>MODALITY</b>	<b>VISUAL</b>	<b>VERBAL</b>	<b>CYBERSEX</b>
	non-consensual production and dissemination of photo, video, etc.	text messages, notes, etc.; talk about sex; asking sex information	do something sexual; having sex online
<b>FREQUENCY OF ASSESTMENT</b>	How often in the past...(3/6/12 months)? – Assessed by a Likert Scale In the last year did you ever...? – Response Yes/No		

