РОЗДІЛ ІІ
Суспільні комунікації
та міжнародна інформація

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THE ATTITUDES OF NATIONAL SECURITY STUDENTS TOWARDS SEXTING

The article discusses the problem of sexting. After introduction where the phenomenon is presented, some of the the results of author's research are described. They survey was conducted among the students of National Security at the Pedagogical University of Cracow, and they were asked about their knowledge, experiences and also they shared their opinions on the subject. At the end there are key conclusions and postulates for the practice.
Keywords: *sexting, internet threats, attitudes, education, communication*

1. INTRODUCTION

The development of modern technologies causes many positive but also negative phenomena. Along with opportunities, chances and amenities, there appear new threats, especially associated with the use of internet. They are connected with content, conduct and contact. In this article I would like to bring the issue related to sexual sphere, namely the risks caused by sexting. The term is a combination of "sex" and "texting" and it refers to creation and transmission (producing, sending, sharing, receiving, forwarding) of sexual messages or images mainly via cell phone, but it can apply to any digital media, such as e-mail, instant messaging, and social networking [11]. The most controversial, for obvious reasons, are situations in which participants engaged in transmitting nude or semi-nude pictures or videos are children and youth.

Although the term sexting did not exist before 2008, it was a finalist for the "word of the year" by the New Oxford American Dictionary in 2009 [8, p. 2]. So, this is a relatively new phenomenon, lacking its consistent legal definition [13, p. 23], but in the last decades it became popular especially among adolescents and thus it appeared as a serious problem. No wonder then, that there are more and more worldwide studies on the subject (e.g. in USA [14], Australia [1], South Africa [6]), including European studies (e.g. conducted under EU Kids Online - multinational research network seeking to enhance knowledge of children's online opportunities, risks and safety [7]) and Polish research (e.g. conducted by The Empowering Children Foundation; formerly Nobody's Children Foundation [18]). There are also more and more scientific publications, in which attention is paid to the risks posed by sexting and is seeking the explanation why teenagers take such risks and how it can be counteracted. In some countries sexting is forbidden, e.g. in China and the United Arab Emirates have enforced criminal penalties for some sexting, regardless of the age of the parties involved [8, p. 12]. However in Europe or United States critical opinions against punishment for sexting seem to prevail (when sending and receiving is considered, the issue of dissemination such materials as well as children pornography certainly looks different) and there is an emphasis on supporting, protecting and educating minors about the threats and legal consequences of misconduct, teaching them empathy as well as taking good care of the mutual communication [10, p. 12]. The problem is complex and multifaceted, which is why it is worth undertaking further research in various environments, addressing many aspects of this phenomenon.

Such assumptions accompanied my own research, described in this article, in which I have outlined selected issues. The survey was dedicated to the activity of young people on the Internet and on cyber

threats, with particular emphasis on sexting in 2017[1]. It was conducted among first-year students of the Pedagogical University (1st year in the field of National Security) and that choice was dictated by the relation of the subject matter to security, involved in the students' interests, who, therefore, should be more aware of the risks associated with the use of modern technologies. In the planned, broader research the sample will be more numerous and will include young people from different backgrounds. The subject of the research was the attitudes of the respondents to sexting. In order to solve the main problem, they were asked a number of questions verifying their knowledge, experiences and opinions about the latter phenomenon. The students completed over one hundred questionnaires, of which one hundred were qualified for the analysis; 62 obtained from women and 38 from men. The respondents came from both cities (51 %) and villages (49 %). Most of them (4/5) grew up in a full family, in 1/6th cases their parents had split up and in three cases there was only one parent. The article focuses on selected aspects and embraces only actions related to using photographs or films, omitting the text messages as the least risky form of sexting.

2. RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH

Students' knowledge and its sources

The first task, among others, was checking if the respondents were aware of any threats related to sexting (Figure 1). Not many, because slightly more than one-third of them answered affirmatively. As many as half of the respondents state that they do not know the risks discussed, and 15% did not answer that question. There were no meaningful differences considering female and male gender.

Figure 1. The awareness of threats related to sexting (%)
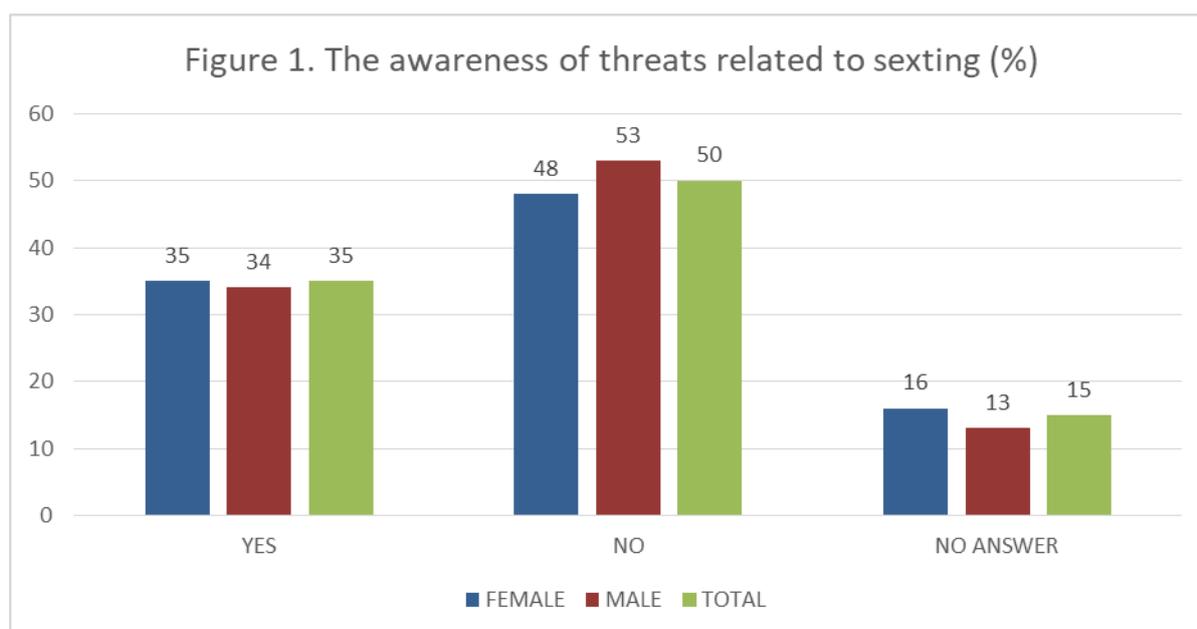
Declarations obviously do not give the whole picture, therefore the respondents were asked to name examples of the risk caused by sexting (table 1). The most common threat (14 %) was seen in the opportunity to share/publish their photos (especially if they fell into the wrong hands, which was emphasized by two students). Nearly 1/10th indicated the danger of becoming a victim of a blackmail. A similar number of respondents mentioned psychological problems (8 %). Only women (7%) mentioned possible suicides as well as violence (5 %, also psychological one, e.g. bullying), pedophilia (5%), rape

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[1] More details about particular parts of the research can be found in my articles in Polish: *Znajomość i źródła wiedzy studentów Bezpieczeństwa Narodowego o zagrożeniach związanych z sekstingiem*, «Annales Universitatis Paedeagogicae Cracoviensis, Studia de Securitate», no.8/2018; *Seksting i wybrane kwestie związane z seksualnością w opiniach młodych kobiet i mężczyzn*, «Kultura i Wychowanie», Akademia Humanistyczno-Ekonomiczna w Łodzi, no.1(15)/2019; *Doświadczenia studentów Bezpieczeństwa Narodowego związane z sekstingiem*, «Chowanna», 2019 (in print).

(5%), pornography, the use of someone else's image, ridiculing, exclusion, low self-esteem, demoralization of children and human trafficking (3% each). In individual responses, which I had not included in the table, the female students commented on phenomena such as molestation and grooming, the irreversibility of placing their own image on the web ("when a picture is on the Internet, it will be there forever"), "sexist talks", negative consequences in the future; while male students pointed to impersonation and legal responsibility. All together there were 70 examples of threats, which was not that many, considering 35 persons who had declared their knowledge in that area.

Table 1

Threats related with sexting (%)

| THREATS	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
distribution of photos	10	21	14
blackmail	8	11	9
psychological problems	10	5	8
suicide	11	0	7
violence	8	0	5
pedophilia	5	0	3
rape	5	0	3
pornography	3	0	2
use of the image	3	0	2
ridicule	3	0	2
exclusion	3	0	2
low self-esteem	3	0	2
demoralization of children	3	0	2
human trafficking	3	0	2

The next three questions referred to the students' experiences considering their education in that matter. Only half of survey respondents declared that they had been educated at home about the risk. There is considerable variation in the data, since the affirmative answers were given by 80% of women and only 1/3rd of men. Considering that parents are the first and most important educators in the child's life, this result is not satisfactory. It may be caused by the reluctance of adults to take up topics related to sexuality or their ignorance about quite new threats in the virtual world, which often for their children is a more natural environment than for themselves.


Figure 2. Educating on the risk of sexting by parents (%)
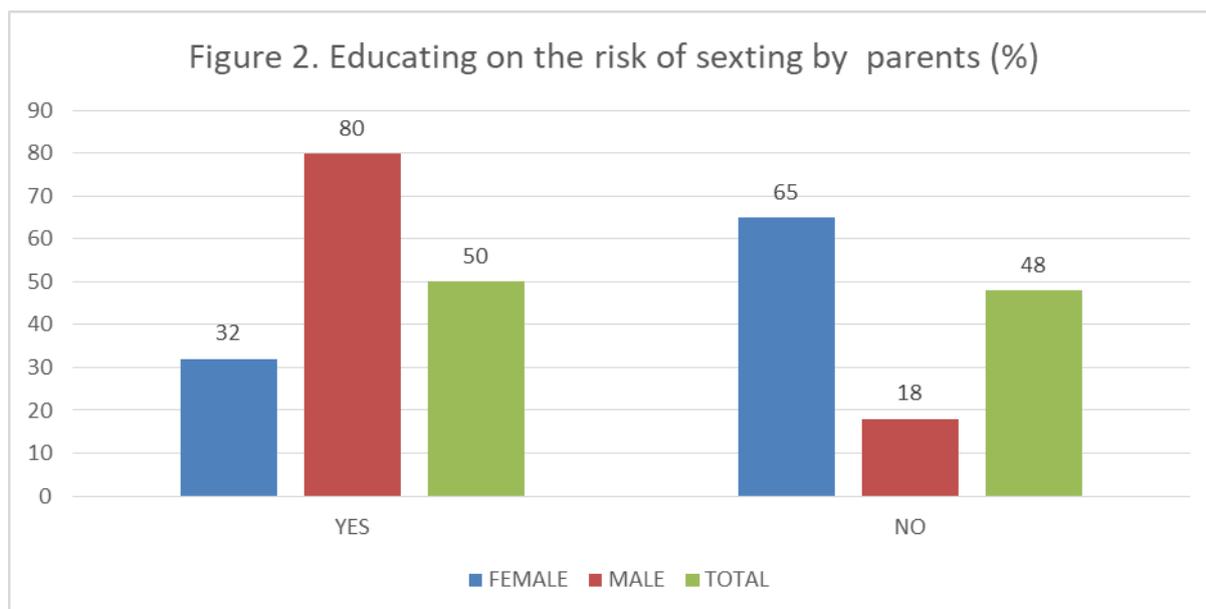
Considering school (Figure 3), over half of the respondents did not experience such education there. Only 1/10th had it in primary school and less than 1/3rd in junior high school and in high school (in every case the percentage was higher regarding women). While the lack of awareness of parents may be understandable (which does not mean that it should not change), the pedagogical knowledge of teachers is supposed to determine them to ensure that they cautiously warn children and adolescents against risky online behavior and tell them how to cope with the potential effects of carefree or ill-conceived actions. There has to appear a question, whether teachers themselves are prepared to do it.

Figure 3. Educating on the risk of sexting at school (%)
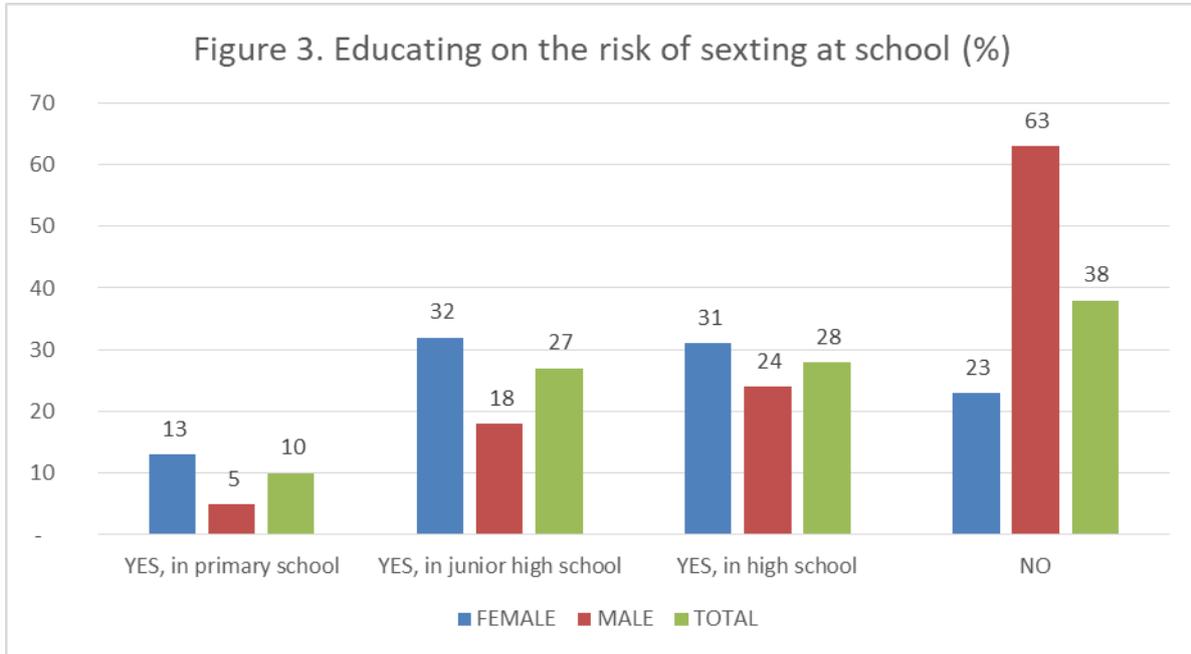
The media can play only a supplementary role in the discussed aspect, although it cannot be underestimated because they have the potential to reach both children and adults. However, in this case the results were even lower (Figure 4): 3/4th of respondents did not experience educating in the media about the possible threats of sexting.

Figure 4. Educating on the risk of sexting by media (%)
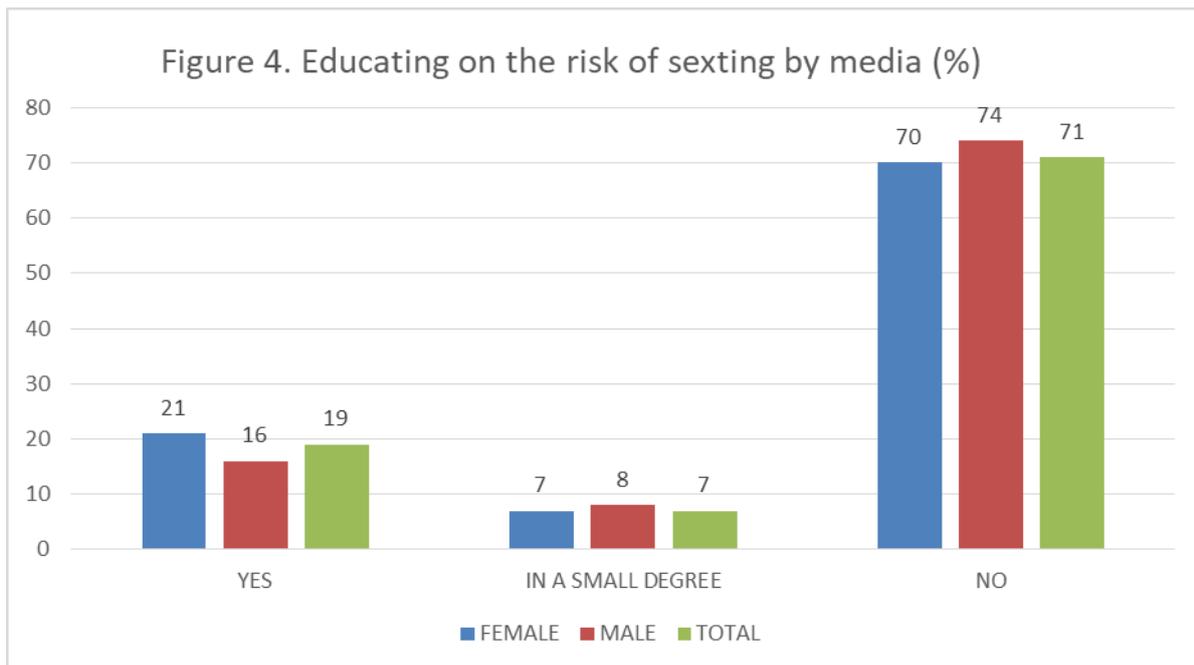
Having learnt the answers about the educational experience related to the analyzed issue, it was logical to ask the question on the respondents preferences in that matter (chart 5). The biggest group (66 %) indicated school as the most preferred source of knowledge, a smaller one (58 %) - a family (however regarding sex, that was the first choice for the surveyed women). The significant role of the media in this area was recognized by 1/4th of the students and only a few of them pointed to the Church.

Figure 5. Preferable sources of knowledge about the risk of sexting (%)
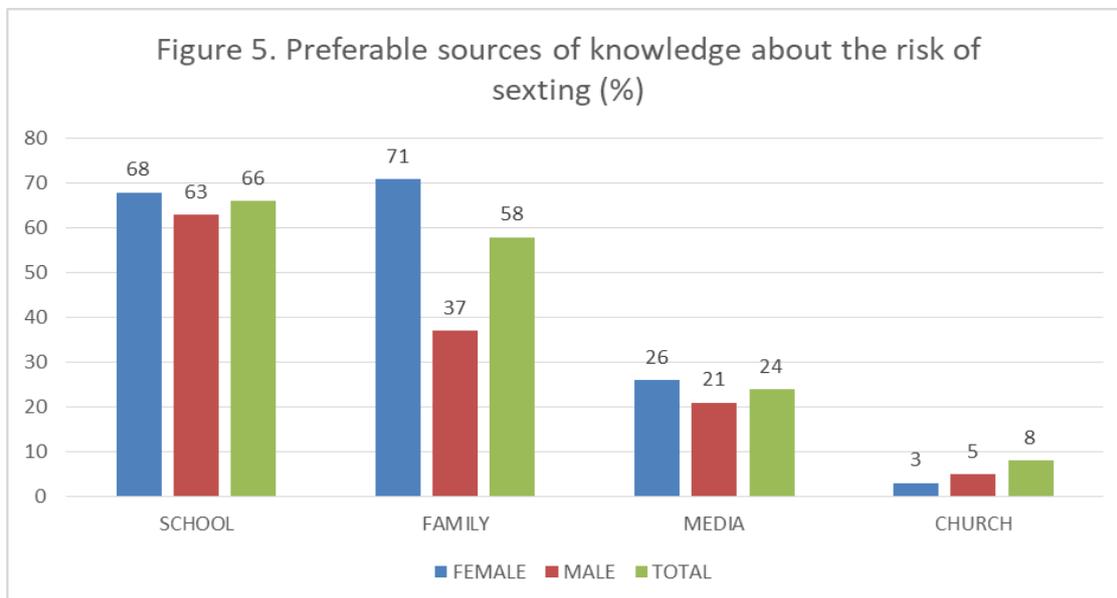
Students' experiences

Next, the respondents were asked a few retrospective questions to find out how common sexting was around them, and how often they experienced it as recipients of such materials and as broadcasters of their own sexual images or films. The data on the prevalence of the phenomenon among the respondents' friends in their opinion (Table 6) showed growth trends at particular stages of education, although in primary school sexting in the mentioned form almost did not exist. In the middle school it was clearly noticeable, in high school there was a culmination, after which it again slightly decreased at the stage of studies. Perhaps this is a sign of increased responsibility in young people, and sometimes sexual activity in the network just gives way to real experiences in this matter.

Based on the data below, it can be stated that the discussed phenomenon was noticed more often by the female students than the male ones at the lower educational stages, and less frequently – at the higher ones.

Figure 6. Sexting in respondents' schools (%)
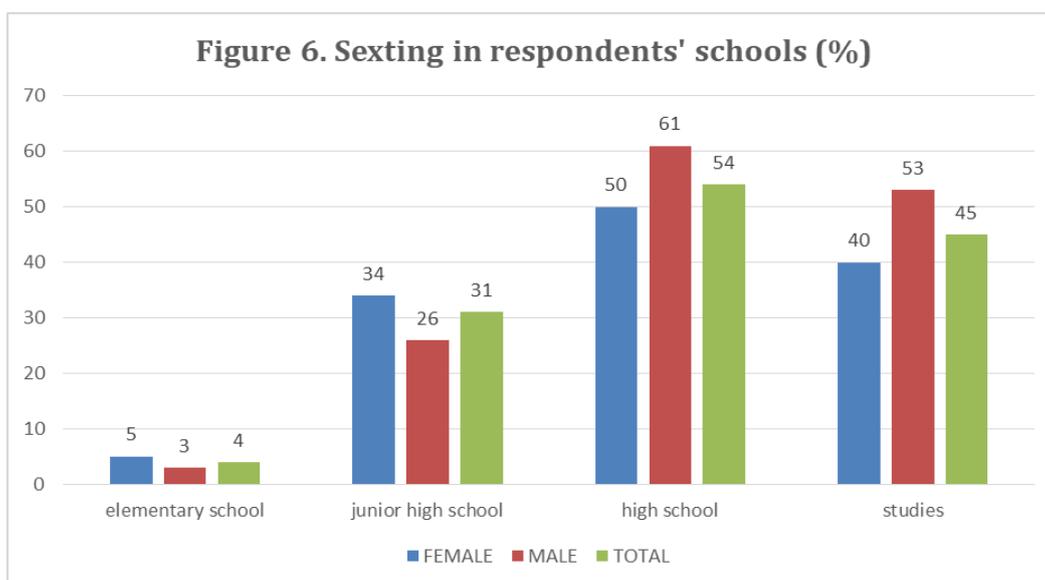
In the next question, referring to the respondents' experiences as recipients in the sexting, they were able to choose from the given proposals the persons from whom they received or to whom they sent such photos or videos.

Receiving photos/videos of a sexual nature representing the sender is not common (Figure 7), although it is clearly present in the relationships of young people. Only half of them had no such experiences at all; 1/4th got such materials several times and 1/7th - many times. While it is easier to imagine what the motives of such behaviour in love relationships are, it is more difficult to understand them in other cases, where the phenomenon was sporadic (and 77–84 % did not experience it), but still it also took place. What's more, though very rarely, there happened situations when such materials were sent by strangers – it was declared by two women (happening once) and one man (happening many times). 4 % of respondents did not answer the above question.

Analysing the data obtained from representatives of both sexes, one can notice quite clear differences between the indications. In all options, the answers of men predominate, especially considering receiving sexual images from a person with whom they were in a relationship (18 % more), from female friends (as much as 39 % more) and online acquaintance (7 % more). From these data, it appears that the transmission of intimate pictures or films involves female gender more often (while men are recipients).

Figure 7. Getting sexual image of a sender (%)
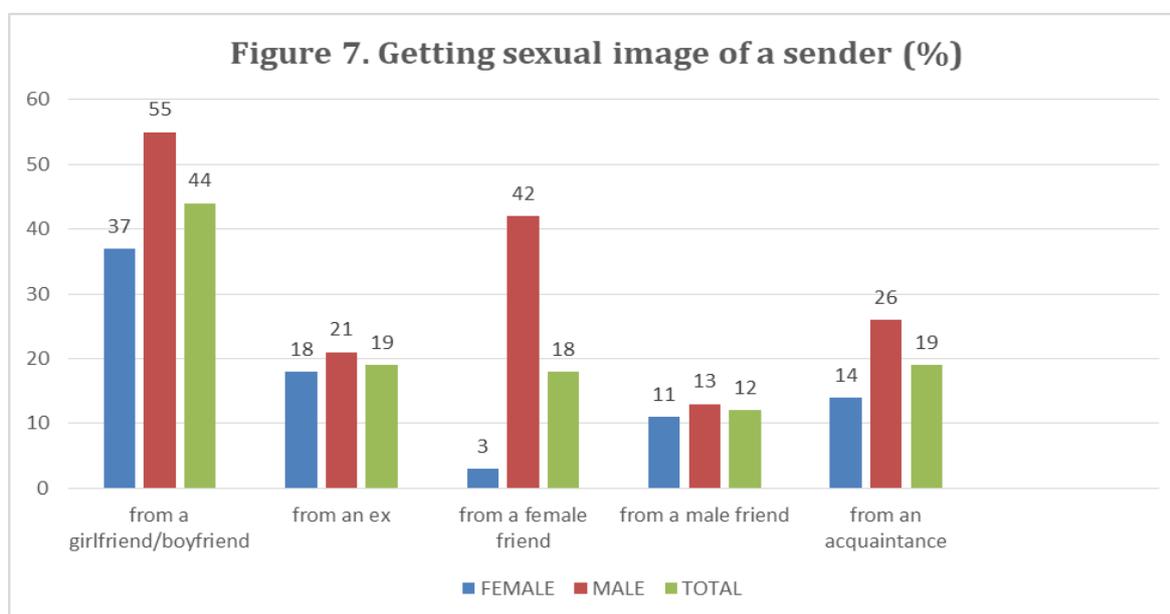
When asked about sending their own sexual images/videos (Figure 8), the majority of respondents did not answer(14%, including 12 women and 2 men). The data show that the majority did not have such experiences besides relationships, where nearly 70% did not have them either in them. Additionally, sending these materials to a girlfriend or a boyfriend was declared by 1/10 to have taken place many times, 1/7 - a few times, other people admitted to single situations of this type. The affirmative answers in other cases were quite rare, but they still show an insufficient awareness of the risk of those who treat their privacy so carelessly.

It is interesting that the data considering the gender of respondents refute gender stereotypes. Because it turns out that sending these materials is not only attributed to the females. In most cases (apart from the option regarding former partners) the surveyed men more often admitted to such activity. Of course, these data should be treated with a distance, taking into account the lack of response from part of a research sample which had not been numerous even before.

Explaining the reasons for the above conduct, the respondents named such motives as flirting (indicated by nearly 1/3 of them, more often by men), followed by joking and attracting attention (7% and 6%, in both cases a little bit more often - females), three students stated that the main reason was simply the sender's request (one woman and two men).

Figure 8. Sending respondents' sexual images (%)
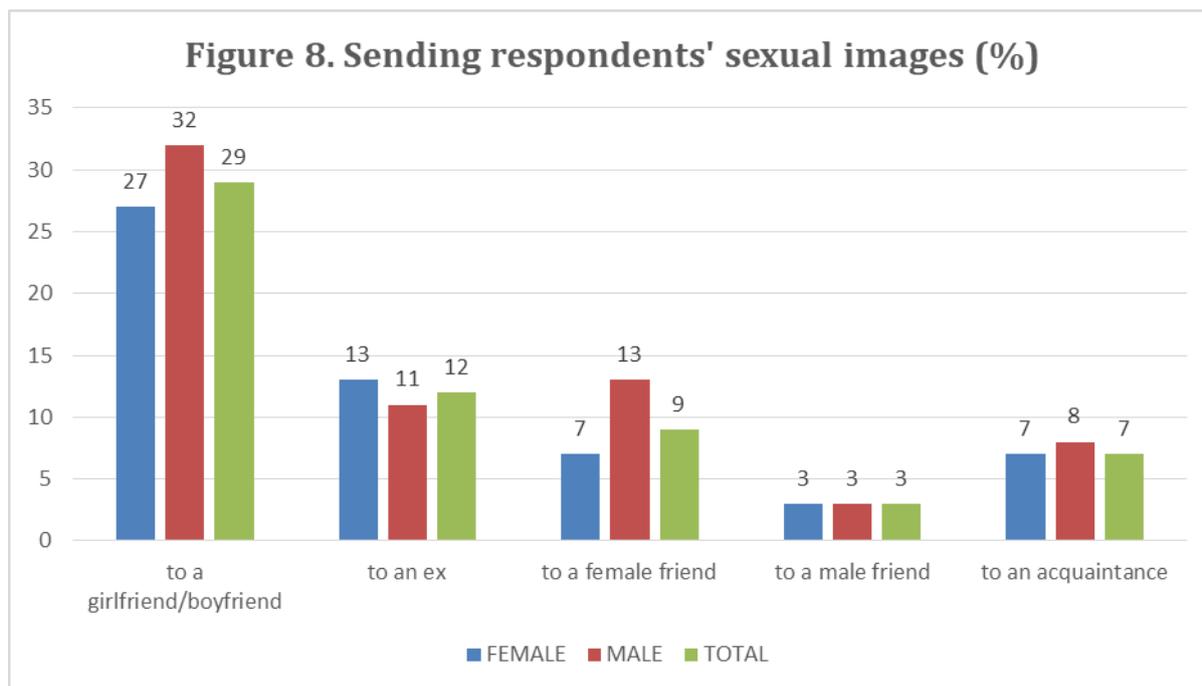
Students' opinions

As for the transmission of one's sexual photos/videos (Table 2), the most-accepted recipient of such content seem to be a person with whom the relationship is formed, although the approval for such conduct is not that common. It was expressed by less than half of the respondents (39 %), ¼th assessed it negatively, and 1/3 – neutrally. Women slightly more often declared extreme opinions (for and against), while men more often showed a neutral attitude (and this tendency dominated in the majority of the data obtained here).

In a situation where the recipient of the discussed materials is a former partner or a friend, only single persons judge it positively and less than 1/10th of the students – in a neutral way.

When photos/videos are sent to a stranger, to many recipients or to an unlimited number of people, the respondents almost unanimously evaluate this as a negative practice.
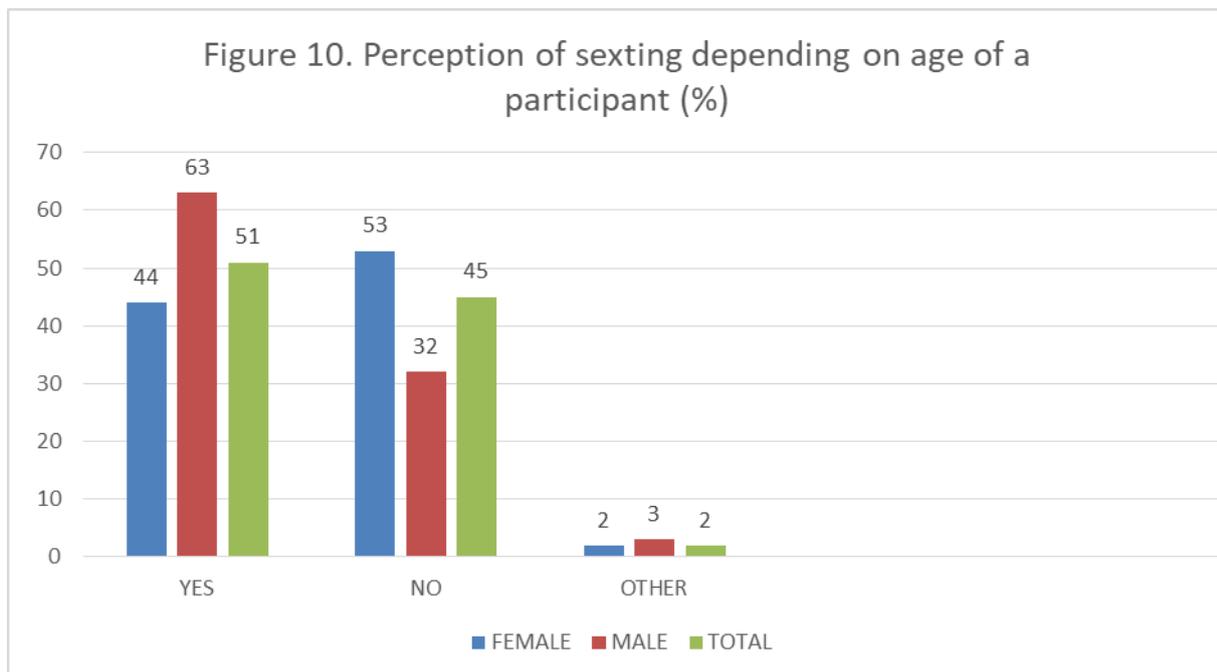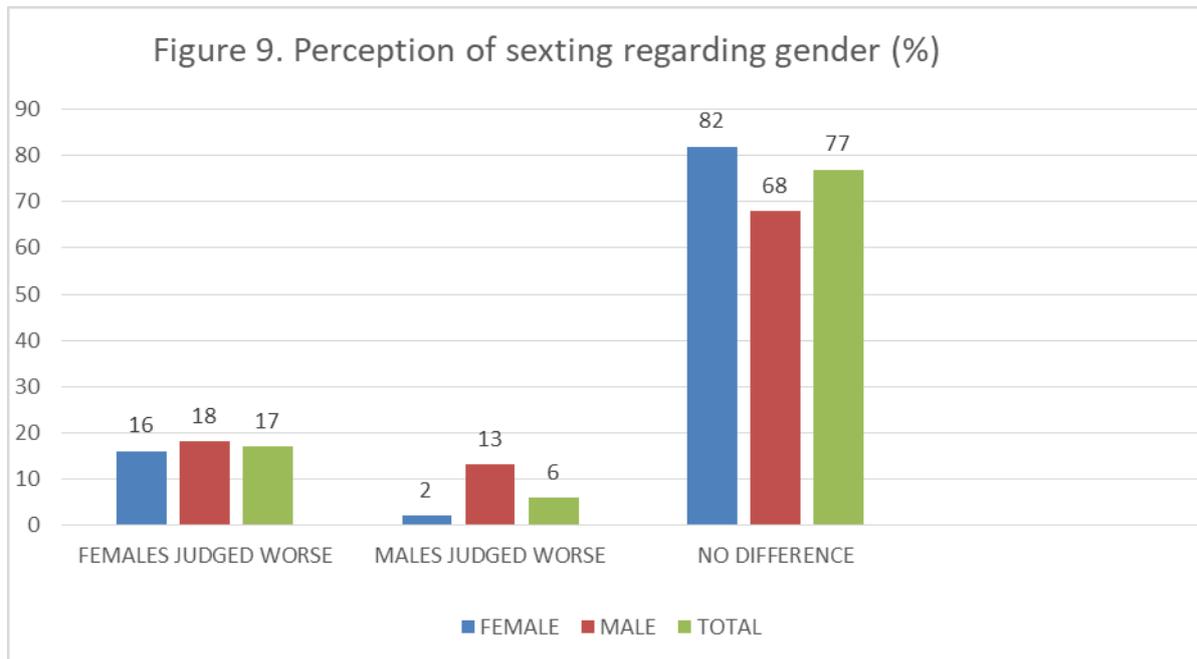
Table 2

Opinions on sending sexual images depending on the receiver, %

OPINION DEPENDING ON THE RECEIVER	POSITIVE - TOTAL (F; M)	NEUTRAL - TOTAL (F; M)	NEGATIVE - TOTAL (F; M)
to a boyfriend/girlfriend	39 (40; 37)	33 (29;40)	26 (29; 21)
to an ex	1 (2; 0)	8 (5;13)	89 (92; 84)
to a friend	2 (2;3)	9 (7;13)	87 (90; 82)
to a stranger	1 (2;0)	0	97 (97; 97)
to many people	0	0	98 (99; 97)
to unlimited no. of people	0	1 (2;0)	97 (97; 97)

Making a judgement on sexting, most of the respondents (more often women) think that gender is irrelevant here (Figure 9). Less than 1/5th believe it is more negative referring to female gender. Boys or men are estimated more severely in this aspect by male respondents (over 1/10) than female ones (only 6 % of indications).

As for age, the opinions of the respondents were divided: slightly more students claimed that age was important in their assessment of sexting (51 % in relation to 45 %). Larger differences could be seen considering their gender, especially male ones. Most men decided that age was an important factor here, 1/3rd had the opposite opinion. More than half of women answered in the negative and less than half in affirmative way. Almost every third respondent indicated that a minimum age limit for sexting should be 18, nearly 1/10th estimated it as 15–17 years, according to two respondents it should be 19 years, and according

to one – 21. Two students did not answer this question and two more added their own answers claiming that one should not do it at all or that it depends on the specific image.

Figure 9. Perception of sexting regarding gender (%)

Figure 10. Perception of sexting depending on age of a participant (%)

It is worth mentioning that sexting in the form which can be equated with pornography, is not legal in Poland in case of minors (formerly the limit was 15 years). Article 202 of the Criminal Code says that one, who for the purpose to disseminate produces, imports, stores, owns, distributes or presents pornographic content with a minor is a subject to the penalty of deprivation of liberty from 2 to 12 years. Also holding, storing or gaining access to pornographic content involving a minor may result with the penalty of deprivation of liberty from 3 months to 5 years. In addition, it is punishable to record the image of a naked person or person during sexual activity, if it is obtained by violence, threat or deception, as well as the

dissemination of that image without that person's consent [15]. Therefore, the consequences are clearly defined, however young people are not always aware of them.

The next issue related to the influence on the respondents' attitudes towards sexting and only three people did not answer that question. They were to mark it on a scale of 0 to 3 (0 meant none, 1 – small, 2 – medium, 3 – big). Analyzing the average numbers of these data (Table 3), it can be concluded that the highest scores were obtained by peers, which is not necessarily the most competent source of knowledge or role models. The second place belongs to parents (with higher grades from the females), and just behind them is faith. Media in this ranking came in last place. It is interesting that none of the respondents indicated school here - this option was not mentioned in the survey, but they had the opportunity to add their own answers.

Table 3

Sources influencing respondents' attitudes towards sexting (scale 1–3)

SOURCES OF INFLUENCE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
parents	1.7	1.4	1.6
peers	2.0	1.6	1.8
media	1.3	0.8	1.1
religion	1.5	1.5	1.5

Finally, the respondents were asked how sexting could be prevented (Figure 11). Some of them did not think that was necessary (16 %, dominated by men), and 19 % did not answer this question and 12 % admitted they did not know how to counteract the phenomenon. It can therefore be assumed that the majority see the need to take action in this area, although this did not transfer neither to the quantity nor to the quality of their ideas. Usually they (1/5) vaguely stated that the awareness in the society should be made higher. Over 1/10, mainly women, could not give a specific course of action. Similar group stated it was a good idea to use media to educate, mainly through social campaigns. The role of the school was emphasized only by 7% of the respondents (more often men), a slightly smaller group indicated the need to educate children and/or young people. Several women suggested technical limitations (from the website or imposed by the user or his parents), writing about setting the filter in applications, blocking the possibility of sending naked photos or with erotic subtexts, checking various published photos by page administrators, increasing the control of the content that can be found online. Legal restrictions, including the criminal proceedings, were also included in the female responses.

Figure 11. The Ways to counteract sexting (%)
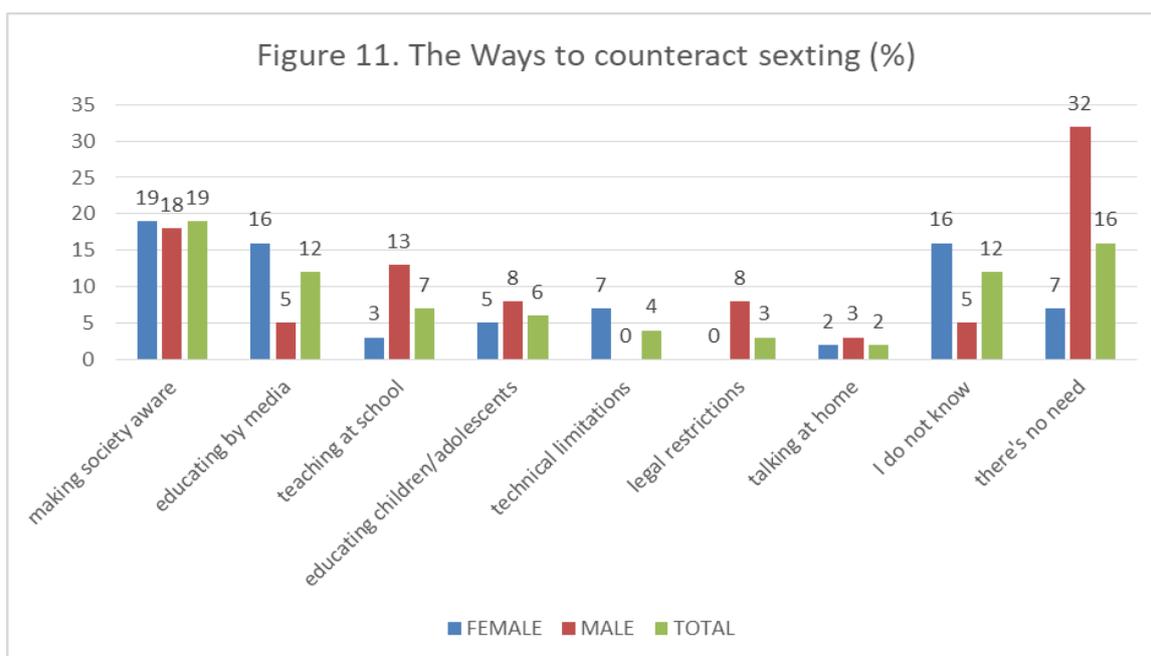
3. CONCLUSIONS AND PROSPECTS OF FURTHER RESEARCH

My research has shown that respondents have insufficient awareness of the risks associated with sexting (half of the students admitted to have no knowledge on the subject). There is a lack of illumination of the discussed problem at school, despite the fact that the majority of the surveyed students emphasized such a need. School as the preferred source of knowledge in this matter was indicated most often. Parents also often do not teach their children how dangerous sexting may be, although most of the respondents think that educating about these threats should take place at home. Media, according to young people, do not cover it either, and some believe that in fact they even contribute to the dissemination of this problem[1].

Referring to the experiences of the respondents related to sexting, it can be assumed that this is not a niche phenomenon, but it is also not common. It should be considered taking into account various aspects. One of them is the relationship between the recipient and the sender, because sexting takes place in relationships most often; in other configurations it happens much more occasionally (however that seems to be very precarious). Certainly, forms such as text messages should be distinguished from photos/videos, because the distribution of the latter is much more risky and threatens with more serious consequences.

Considering the assessment of sexting, the youngsters are more positive about the conduct with regard to the person with whom they are in a relationship. However, young people are not always aware of the snowball effect [17, p. 15]. that can appear as the result of sending intimate materials to the theoretically close person (or even owning them themselves). The majority of respondents state that sender's gender is not important in their assessment of sexting, while more than half of the respondents state that age is important and some of them express the need for age limits. The most important influence on how young people judge sexting seem to be their peers.

There should be underlined that the research sample was minor, therefore it can only show certain tendencies and constitute an incentive to planned further, in-depth studies devoted to this subject. Certainly the phenomenon should not be underestimated, as the effects of something that sometimes comes up as just a careless behavior may turn out to be very serious (from shame, loss of good opinion through social ostracism, legal consequences, to depression and even suicides.) Regardless of the results of research on the experience of youth with sexting, where estimates may vary considerably (from several to several dozen percent regarding its prevalence) depending on methodology, target, definition and what activities are included in the concept of sexting [14], the fact is that young people are involved in this practice, having no clue or reflection on possible consequences. It must be emphasized that no content on electronic media is fully secured. The phone can be lost, it can be taken away or stolen, the laptop or computer can always be hacked, a trusted boyfriend or any friend may render to be unreliable, let alone online acquaintance or completely foreign person.

The peers pointed out by young people as the main influence on their attitudes towards sexting should certainly not be a cognitive or axiological basis, which means that something must be changed in order to provide them with such a foundation. The majority of respondents recognize the need to counteract this phenomenon, although they have largely limited their postulates to general statements about the need to raise the awareness in the society, to educate young people, to talk about it at home and school, to expose the problem in the media and to apply various technical restrictions. Undoubtedly, such activities are needed. Parents should teach their children about all dangers, both in the virtual and the real world. However, it will not happen if they themselves are not aware of the risks and are not able to monitor the situation. Therefore, educating children should begin with raising the level of pedagogical culture of parents[2], not only in issues related to online threats including sexting, but also increasing their competence in the field of interpersonal communication.

Schools can contribute in this matter to a large extent, having all the tools to run not only students' but parents' education in parallel. This may turn out to be the only way to reach those children whose parents cannot overcome the barriers they feel in relation to topics related to the sexual sphere. Complementary role

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[1] There are many publications devoted to the problem of the influence of media on the way people perceive their bodies, including its objectification and emphasis on sexuality, e.g. K. Karsay, J. Knoll, J. Matthes, *Sexualizing Media Use and Self-Objectification: A Meta-Analysis*, «Psychology of Women Quarterly» no.42(1), 2017.

[2] That topic was covered in my book: *Kultura pedagogiczna rodziców w społeczeństwie informacyjnym*, Wydawnictwo Naukowe UP, Kraków 2015.

to education at school and at home can be performed by the media via programs, articles, broadcasts dedicated to these issues. The mass media also have the opportunity to reach their recipients of all ages through social campaigns that can have an enormous impact on the audience. At the same time it is important to associate informing and raising awareness about the potentially risky consequences of sexting (legal, moral, psychological, social, etc.) with axiological education, pointing that the body and the sexual sphere are values that should not be objectified, and attitudes of respect (for onerself and others), assertiveness and responsibility are crucial. So, counteracting internet-related threats, including sexting should run on as many levels as possible and ought to cover different spheres of children and young people's lives.

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ОПИТУВАННЯ ЩОДО СЕКСТИНГУ СТУДЕНТІВ НАЦІОНАЛЬНОЇ БЕЗПЕКИ

У статті розглядається проблема секстингу. У вступі представлено сутність самого явища, описані результати авторських досліджень. Опитувались студентів національної безпеки в Краківському

педагогічному університеті, питання стосувалися отримання знаннь, досвід. Наприкінці є ключові висновки та постулати для практики.

Ключові слова: секстинг, Інтернет-загрози, ставлення, освіта, спілкування

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ПОШИРЕННЯ ВПЛИВУ МЕКСИКАНСЬКИХ КАРТЕЛІВ ЗАСОБАМИ ІНФОРМАЦІЙНИХ ТЕХНОЛОГІЙ І ПРОПАГАНДИ

У статті висвітлено історію становлення та проникнення наркокартелів на світову арену злочинної діяльності. Визначено, що в мексиканському законодавстві немає чіткого визначення таких понять, як кібербезпека, кіберзлочинність та фітинг. Наголошено, що проблема наркотиків стала основною загрозою Мексики сьогодні, а також зростання впливу великих мексиканських картелів, які активно почали поширювати свою діяльність у мережі Інтернет. Доведено, що більшість методів у їхньому арсеналі далеко не мирні. Велика частина «акцій» картелів спрямована на залякування населення та опонентів і відрізняється непомірною жорстокістю. Утім, цікавими залишаються дані про інформаційні методи протиборства. До них належить не лише боротьба безпосередньо в кіберпросторі, але й такі методи інформаційно-психологічного впливу, як пропаганда, поширення неправдивої інформації, організація «витоків» інформації про конкуруючі картелі, порнографічні матеріали та ін.

Розкрито, що на сьогодні, Інтернет – це головне джерело залякування населення з боку наркокартелів, а також наголошено на ЗМІ як одному з методів боротьби з організованою злочинністю. Охарактеризовано надзвичайно потужну підтримку наркоторговців у мережі youtube.com, де в піснях, у коротких проморіках, відомих як наркокоріоди або балади наркотиків, постійно оспівують та висвітлюють їхні найбільші «подвиги».

Доведено, що експонентне збільшення кіберпростору призвело до корельованої ескалації злочинної діяльності в Мексиці, зокрема у випадку незаконного злому, крадіжки особистих даних, шахрайства з кредитними картками й експлуатації неповнолітніх. У 2017 р. фінансовий сектор активно співпрацював і продовжує роботу з офіцером Генерального прокурора (PGR), який створив спеціальний підрозділ для розслідування кіберзлочинів; цей підрозділ тісно співпрацює з Банком Мексики, щоб швидко виявляти та санкціонувати всіх осіб, відповідальних за кібератаки.

Проаналізовано той факт, що у 2013 р. Мексика займала позицію номер один у світі за порнографічними матеріалами, у яких брали участь неповнолітні, і друге місце за її виробництвом в Інтернеті. Також наркокартелі були пов'язані з проституцією неповнолітніх.

***Ключові слова:** картель; Мексика; кіберзлочинність; інформаційні технології; Інтернет; ЗМІ.*

1. ВСТУП

На сьогодні Інтернет, а особливо соціальні мережі, є невід'ємним атрибутом життя сучасної людини. Підтвердження цього – велика кількість користувачів. Аудиторія соціальної мережі «Facebook» становить понад один мільярд користувачів, «Twitter», «Vk.com» та «Google +» – більше 200 мільйонів, «LinkedIn» й «Odnoklassniki.ru» – понад 100 мільйонів.

Постановка проблеми

Яскравим прикладом інформаційно-психологічного впливу в сучасних умовах є соціальні мережі. Попри те, що соціальні мережі забезпечують спілкування між людьми, надають широкий