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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ICT KIDS ONLINE BRAZIL SURVEY

2019

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Brazilian Internet Steering Committee

Brazilian Network Information Center - NIC.br

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Executive Summary ICT Kids Online Brazil 2019

The goal of the ICT Kids Online survey is to generate evidence about the opportunities and risks associated with Internet use among individuals 9 to 17 years old in Brazil. The survey is based on interviews with children about their Internet access and use, as well as with their parents or legal guardians about their mediation regarding the use of the Internet by their children or those under their guardianship.

The data of the eighth edition of the survey, which were collected in the period immediately prior to the COVID-19 pandemic (between October 2019 and March 2020), details the scenario of digital inclusion of children in the country, whose understanding has became even more important in the context of the health crisis. Thus, it is expected that the evidence gathered by the survey can guide discussions and strengthen the development of public policies aimed at ensuring the rights and well-being of children in the digital era.

CONNECTIVITY AND DYNAMICS OF INTERNET USE

In 2019, 89% of the population 9 to 17 years old were Internet users in Brazil, a proportion that represents about 24 million children in the investigated age range. Although advances in connectivity have been observed, digital exclusion still persists in some socioeconomic strata and regions. The proportions of Internet users were lower in rural areas (75%), in the North (79%) and Northeast (79%), and in classes DE (80%). In absolute numbers, 3 million children had not accessed the Internet in the three months prior to the survey (Figure 1).

The absence of access in the household was the main reason for not going online, which was reported by 1.6 million children (6% of the Brazilian population 9 to 17 years old). Not knowing how to use the Internet (4%) and not wanting to use the Internet (4%) also stood out among the reasons reported by the investigated population to explain why they were disconnected.

In the pre-pandemic scenario, 16.5 million children 9 to 17 years old lived in households with limited Internet access conditions (without any Internet or with download speeds below 4 Mbps)[1]. Mobile phones predominated as the devices used to go online, used by almost all children who were Internet users (95%). Two other trends stood out in terms of devices: a reduction in the use of computers, from 44% in 2018 to 38% in 2019; and a sharp increase in the use of television to access the Internet (25% in 2017, 32% in 2018, and 43% in 2019). The survey results also show that most children 9 to 17 years old (15.5 million) did not have computers at home in 2019, whether desktop, portable or tablet computers.

[1] According to a report published by The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (Eclac), speeds at 5.5 Mbps are classified as "low" connectivity, which allow using functions such as e-mail, and basic consumption of videos and streaming, but are not suitable for remote work or education. Ideal speeds for non-simultaneous remote work and education start at 18.5 Mbps, and above 25 Mbps for simultaneous remote work and education. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean – Eclac. Universalizing access to digital technologies to address the consequences of COVID-19. Retrieved on September 20, 2020, from https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/45939-universalizing-access-digital-technologies-address-consequences-covid-19

ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES AND PRACTICES

Multimedia, education, and communication activities were among those most commonly carried out by children in the country. Considering the total of Internet users 9 to 17 years old, 83% watched videos, shows, movies or TV series online; 76% looked up information on the Internet for schoolwork; and 68% used social networks. In general, online activities were carried out more intensely among higher socioeconomic classes and older age groups considered in the survey (Chart 1).

In 2019, 31% of the investigated population reported having looked up health information online. Among individuals 9 to 17 years old, this proportion was 37% among girls and 25% among boys. Additionally, 35% of children said they had talked using video calls. This activity was more frequent among Internet users of classes AB (56%) and C (34%) compared to those of classes DE (27%).

58% OF THE POPULATION 9 TO 17 YEARS OLD ACCESSED THE INTERNET EXCLUSIVELY BY MOBILE PHONE. THE PROPORTION OF EXCLUSIVE MOBILE USE WAS MORE PRESENT IN CLASSES DE (73%)

RISKS AND HARM

The evidence shows differences in the proportions of girls (31%) and boys (24%) who reported experiencing offensive treatment and who reported having witnessed someone being discriminated against on the Internet (48% of girls and 39% of boys). When asked about the reasons why they saw someone being discriminated against, 33% of the girls referred to color or race, and another 26% to physical appearance. The proportions among boys were 20% and 15%, respectively.

Differences between the genders were also observed in terms of being exposed to sensitive content. The proportion of girls (27%) who had been exposed to violent scenes on the Internet was higher than that of boys (17%), similar to the other types of content investigated (Table 1).

INTERNET SKILLS

Instrumental skills and those related to mobile phone use were reported in high proportions by children: More than 90% said they knew how to connect to a Wi-Fi network (93%) and how to download or install applications (94%).

Informational skills and those related to critical use of the Internet were less mentioned. In 2019, 87% of the population 9 to 17 years old said they knew how to choose the best words to search for something on the Internet.

New indicators in the 8th edition of the ICT Kids Online Brazil survey

In 2019, the survey explored whether children helped their parents or legal guardians to carry out activities on the Internet. One-third of the investigated population said they had helped their parents or legal guardians carry out activities online every day or almost every day. These proportions were higher among children in classes C and DE, as shown in Chart 2.

The survey also investigated to whom children talked about offensive situations experienced on the Internet. The results show that they spoke most with friends of the same age (10%), followed by parents or legal guardians (9%) (Table 2).

FIGURE 1

INTERNET USE IN THE THREE MONTHS PRIOR TO THE SURVEY (2019)

Total number of children 9 to 17 years old (%)

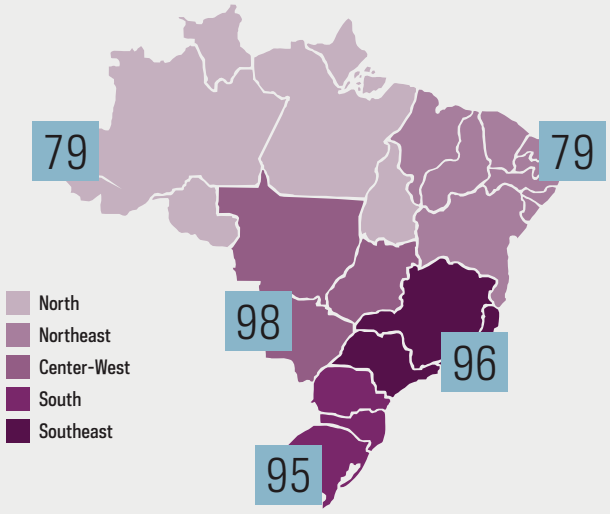


CHART 1

CHILDREN BY EDUCATION AND SEARCHING FOR INFORMATION ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT ON THE INTERNET, BY AGE GROUP AND SOCIAL CLASS (2019)

Total number of children Internet users 9 to 17 years old (%)

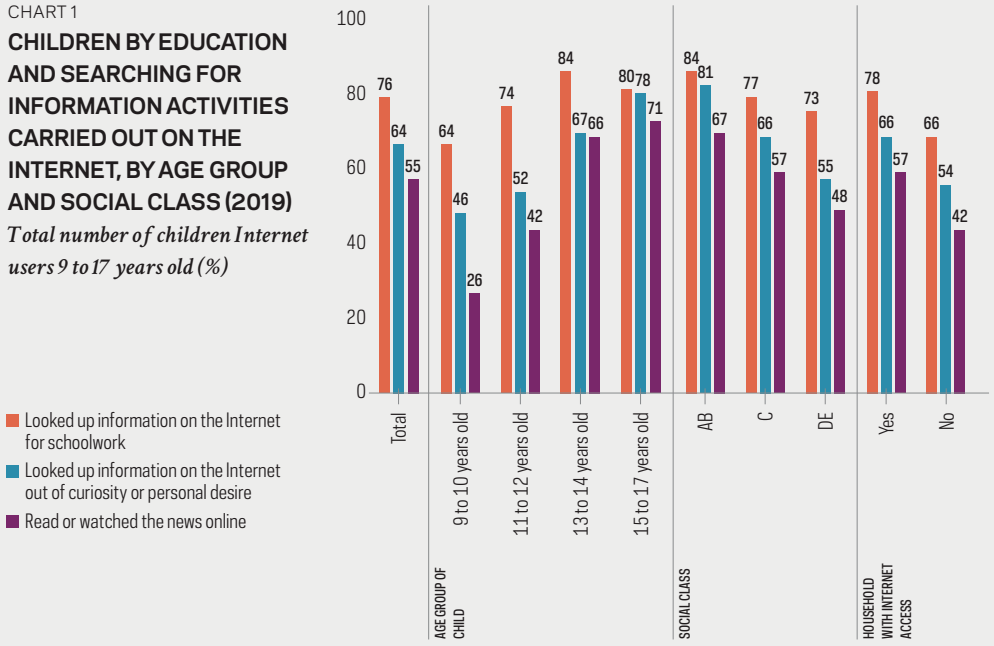


TABLE 1

EXPOSURE TO SENSITIVE CONTENT, BY SEX OF CHILD (2019)

Total number of children Internet users 9 to 17 years old (%)

	Total	Male	Female
Violent scenes	22	17	27
Ways to become very thin	15	10	21
Ways to commit suicide	15	9	22
Ways to hurt oneself	12	7	18
Drug use or experiences	10	8	13

The proportion of users who said they knew how to check whether information on the Internet was accurate was 67%.

MEDIATION BY PARENTS AND LEGAL GUARDIANS

Regarding guidance strategies for Internet use, 77% of children had parents or legal guardians who said they taught them how to use the Internet safely; 57% who sat together while they use the Internet, talking or participating in what they are doing; and 55% who helped them do something on the Internet that they did not understand.

Considering monitoring measures by parents or legal guardians for Internet use, 55% of children had parents who monitored friends or contacts added to their children's social networks; 51% monitored their e-mail; 50%, their history or records of visited websites; and 48%, their social networks.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE SURVEY'S HISTORICAL SERIES, INTERNET ACCESS VIA TELEVISIONS (43%) SURPASSED ACCESS VIA COMPUTERS (38%)

In general, the parents or legal guardians' level of education was associated with guidance and monitoring practices regarding activities carried out online by their children. Parents or legal guardians with Secondary Education or more reported having helped their children to do something on the Internet that they do not understand (68%) in higher proportions than those with Elementary Education I (33%). Differences were also observed for the other activities investigated. Furthermore, the proportions were also higher among children who lived in households with Internet access in comparison with those without (Chart 3).

Survey methodology and access to data

The objective of the ICT Kids Online Brazil survey is to understand how individuals from 9 to 17 years old use the Internet and how they deal with the risks and opportunities associated with its use. The survey follows the conceptual framework defined by the EU Kids Online[2] network, which considers the influence of individual, social and national contexts on Internet use by children. The data was collected between October 2019 and March 2020. A total of 2,954 children and 2,954 parents or legal guardians were interviewed across Brazil. The data was collected using in-person interviews while administering a structured questionnaire. The results of the ICT Kids Online Brazil survey, including tables of total values and margins of error for each indicator are available on Cetic.br's website (http://www.cetic.br) and data visualization portal (http://data.cetic.br/cetic). The methodological report and the data collection report can be accessed in both the printed publication and the website.

[2] The European network EU Kids Online originally developed the framework, and is now part of the Global Kids Online initiative. For more information on the countries participating in the network, in addition to the results for each context, visit the project website. Retrieved on September 20, 2020, from http://globalkidsonline.net/

24 million
children online

4.8 million
lived in households without Internet access

1.4 million
had never accessed the Internet

TABLE 2
OFFENSIVE TREATMENT, BY PEOPLE TO WHOM THEY TOLD (2019)
Total number of children Internet users 9 to 17 years old (%)

	2019
A friend their age	10
Parents or legal guardians	9
Siblings or cousins	5
Another adult whom they trust	2
Another adult relative	1
A teacher	1
Someone else	2
Did not tell anyone	6

CHART 2
CHILDREN BY HELP PROVIDED TO PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIANS TO CARRY OUT ACTIVITIES ON THE INTERNET (2019)
Total number of children Internet users 9 to 17 years old (%)

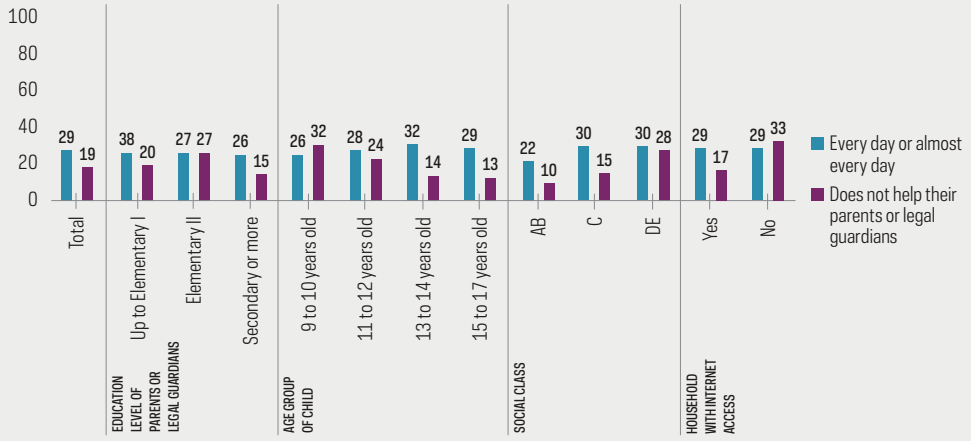
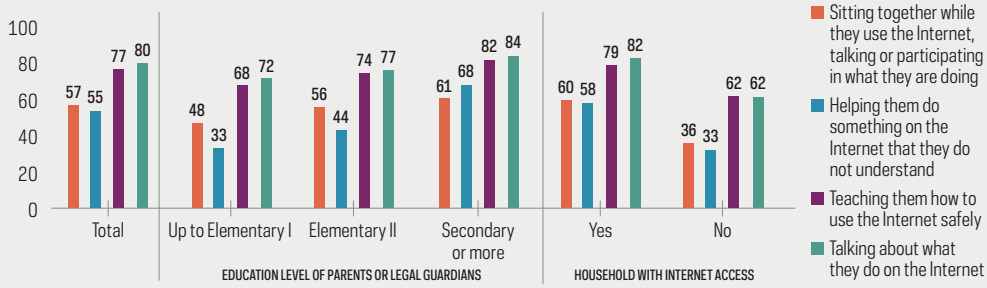


CHART 3
CHILDREN BY GUIDANCE RECEIVED ABOUT INTERNET USE (2019)
Total number of children Internet users 9 to 17 years old (%)



ABOUT CETIC.br

The Regional Center for Studies on the Development of the Information Society, a department of NIC.br, is responsible for producing indicators and statistics on the access and use of the Internet in Brazil, disseminating analyzes and periodic information on the Internet development in the country. Cetic.br is a Regional Study Center, under the auspices of UNESCO. More information at http://www.cetic.br/.

ABOUT NIC.br

The Brazilian Network Information Center – NIC.br (http://www.nic.br/) is a non-profit civil entity, which in addition to implementing the decisions and projects of the Brazilian Internet Steering Committee, has among its attributions: coordinate the registration of domain names – Registro.br (http://www.registro.br/), study, address and handle security incidents in Brazil – CERT.br (http://www.cert.br/), study and research network technologies and operations – CEPTRO.br (http://www.ceptro.br/), produce indicators on information and communication technologies – Cetic.br (http://www.cetic.br/), implement and operate Internet Exchange Points – IX.br (http://ix.br/), enable the participation of the Brazilian community in the global development of the Web and support the formulation of public policies – Ceweb.br (http://www.ceweb.br), and host the Brazilian W3C office (http://www.w3c.br/).

ABOUT CGI.br

The Brazilian Internet Steering Committee, responsible for establishing strategic guidelines related to the use and development of the Internet in Brazil, coordinates and integrates all Internet service initiatives in the country, promoting technical quality, innovation and dissemination of the services offered. Based on the principles of multistakeholderism and transparency, CGI.br represents a democratic Internet governance model, internationally praised, in which all sectors of society participate equitable in the decision-making. One of its formulations is the 10 Principles for the Governance and Use of the Internet in Brazil (http://www.cgi.br/principios). More information at http://www.cgi.br/.

Access complete data from the survey

The full publication and survey results are available on the **Cetic.br** website, including the tables of proportions, totals and margins of error.

ACCESS
WWW.CETIC.BR