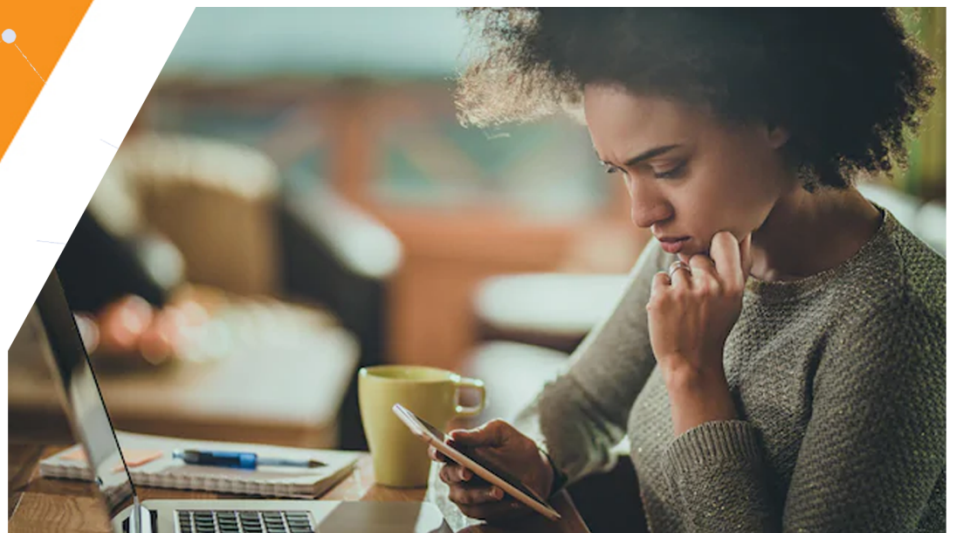


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Obed SINDY



**Mapping cyberbullying
cases and its effects
on victims in Haiti**

2021

Mapping cyberbullying cases and its effects on victims in Haiti

by Obed Sindy

February 2021

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Biography of the author

Obed Sindy has been recognized as one of [Ten Outstanding Young Persons Awardee 2019 by Junior Chamber International \(JCI \) in Haiti](#), an ICANN 66 selected Fellow, and an Internet Society IoT and Public Policy Fellow 2019. He is a Youth IGF Fellow 2017 of the Internet Society and he attended IGF 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland. He is the President of the Internet Society Haiti Chapter and co-founder of Digital Grassroots, which works to proactively engage youth in addressing Internet-related issues in their communities through digital literacy, networking, and activism. Elected to the council of the Latin American and Caribbean Islands Regional At-Large Organization (LACRALO), he took his seat in October 2020 for a two-year term.

Obed Sindy is the coordinator of Haiti National Forum on Internet Governance 2018, 2019, and 2020 to foster an inclusive, multistakeholder debate on Internet governance within Haiti. Over 300 participants engaged in this annual dialogue in 2018 and over 400 participants in 2019. He is a certified Internet Society expert moderator on Internet Governance and has received professional certifications (Level 1 & 2) on ICT for teaching and learning from Université de Cergy Pontoise / France. Certified in parliamentarism at Laval University, he holds a Bachelor of Science in Education from the Adventist University of Haiti and he is a Master Candidate in Public Communication & Lobbying at Madison International & Business School.

He is also a member of Just Net Coalition, Keep It On, the Internet Society, NPOC ICANN, At Large ICANN and Cercle de Communicants et Journalistes Francophones.

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1-Introduction to cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is when someone repeatedly and intentionally harasses, mistreats, or makes fun of another person online or while using cell phones or other electronic devices. For the Internet to remain a safe space for everyone, cyberbullying must be at the heart of the deliberations because suicides and mental illnesses can arise from its severity in the digital society in Haiti. An important first step in examining this is to identify victims as well as the effects of cyberbullying in order to create an environment where stakeholders can come together to fight this scourge which affects acceptance of the Internet as a trusted tool.

As technology has developed over the last twenty years, cyberbullying has become an increasingly larger issue. The immense popularity of smartphones, various instant messaging apps, and the rise of social media have opened up an ever-growing number of ways for cyberbullies to hurt their targets and take advantage of the online environment that provides a sense of anonymity and the convenience of not having to face your victim.

1.1-What is cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying is bullying with the use of digital technologies. It can take place on social media, messaging platforms, gaming platforms and mobile phones. It is repeated behavior, aimed at scaring, angering or shaming those who are targeted. Examples include:

- spreading lies about or posting embarrassing photos of someone on social media
- sending hurtful messages or threats via messaging platforms
- Impersonating someone and sending mean messages to others on their behalf.

1.2-What are the effects of cyberbullying?

When bullying happens online it can feel as if you're being attacked everywhere, even inside your own home. It can seem like there's no escape. The effects can last a long time and affect a person in many ways, such as:

- Mentally — feeling upset, embarrassed, stupid, even angry
- Emotionally — feeling ashamed or losing interest in the things you love
- Physically — tired (loss of sleep), or experiencing symptoms like stomach aches and headaches
- The feeling of being laughed at or harassed by others can prevent people from speaking up or trying to deal with the problem. In extreme cases, cyberbullying can even lead to people taking their own lives.

2-Origins of bullying

The desire to survive is instinctual and common among all living things. Survival is associated directly with competition due to the multitude of species and limited natural resources on the planet. Since the beginning of time there has been a constant drive to out-perform others and overcome obstacles. This survival instinct, along with a competitive atmosphere, has remained the same as the human race has evolved. Both of these forces have flowed over into the educational, social, and economic realms. This competitive hierarchy, though prevalent in most societies, varies across cultures depending on their ethical systems, traditions, and the type of control exerted by the government. Unfortunately, the capitalistic society inadvertently pushes the belief that success and wealth go hand in hand. This ideology has shaped a nation where bullying is unintentionally instilled as a survival tactic from a very young age.

From the time an American child enters grade school, he or she is taught to be the best he or she can. This seemingly innocent lesson can morph as a child develops throughout his or her education. Students often learn corrupt ways to get ahead in the highly competitive educational

and social environments that grade school presents. These bullying tactics may include pressuring others for answers on assignments to attain higher grades, which leads toward better college opportunities, or spreading social rumors about fellow students. These tactics are dangerous because once a student realizes their effectiveness, he or she may construct a life style from them. Developing a habitual use of bullying tactics can lead to negatively affecting a countless number of people as well as corruption in the workplace.

2-Bullying and adults

Often when we talk about bullying, we think of school yard scenarios involving children. It is important, however, to consider the impact bullying can have in the context of adult interactions. The outcomes of bullying can be equally as severe for adults as it can for children, including feelings of anxiety, fear, depression and lowered confidence and self-esteem.

Like child bullies, adult bullies may use strategies such as intimidation, exclusion, and harassment, however adult bullies can also be more sly, subtle, and difficult to expose. It is also important to note that often these people do not consider themselves to be a bully. Adult bullies are usually motivated by the same things as child bullies. That is, they are often compensating for a sense of powerlessness by exerting their will over another. As such, when dealing with these bullies it is important to realize that it is not about you, and that you have done nothing wrong.

3-Bullying and the Evolution of Technology

As technology has evolved, bullying has proliferated. With the advent of the Internet, chat rooms soon followed. Online forums provided a communal breeding ground for youth to assault one another. Chat rooms were supplemented by AOL Instant Messenger (AIM), an online communication program that allowed teens to spend hours talking to one another in private, one-on-one conversations or in public chat rooms. The program further allowed youth to create group-specific chat rooms. This exclusive forum allowed for youth to get together with select groups of friends and talk about the latest gossip.

Online innovations have continued due to telecommunication advances. The advent of cell phones in the late 1980s and early 1990s changed the way people communicated. However, these portable communication devices did not become widespread, or make it into a majority of youth's hands, until the appearance of the second generation of digital network phones in the 2000s.

Further progress on the Internet brought about more and more websites and with this came the advent of social media. The site MySpace is often considered the pioneer of social media. MySpace, Facebook and others allow individual users to create their own unique profiles and interact in cyberspace with friends and foes alike.

Online publication of personal information is dangerous because it allows many people to see a side of a person more often kept private in a face-to-face interaction. This vulnerability puts many teens in a position as either the victim or active offender partaking in cyberbullying actions. Another aspect of social media that can be misleading and hazardous is the ability to create alias profiles. The ability for teens to mask their identities provides them with an opportunity to say anything to another individual without the worry of any repercussions.

4-Differences from Traditional Bullying

Cyberbullying is very different from traditional bullying, but it is still bullying. Its consequences and dangers remain the same, but may be increased in their severity and duration. Even though it occurs online instead of in-person, cyberbullying needs to be taken as seriously as traditional bullying.

There are a few aspects of cyberbullying that differentiate it from traditional bullying, which make it a unique concern for parents and teachers. Some of these differences include that it is:

Anonymous: While victims usually know who their bully is, online bullies may be able to hide their identities online. The anonymity of the Internet can lead to crueler or harsher abuses from the bully, all while the victim has no means of discovering who his or her harasser is.

Relentless: Traditional bullying typically ends once the victim is removed from the negative social situation. However, smartphones, laptops, and other devices have made it possible for people to communicate with each other at all hours and from nearly any location. Cyberbullies

may be able to torment their victim twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week, making it difficult for the victim to escape it by going home or even changing schools.

Public: With traditional bullying, often only people that interact with those involved will know of the abuse. However, when content is posted or shared online, it's possible that anyone may see it. This opens up the victim to more potential ridicule or pain from strangers. This is compounded by the anonymity afforded by virtual spaces: While bullying in person may be done covertly or out of view to avoid punishment, cyberbullies need not fear being witnessed in the act if their identities are not known.

Permanent: Because online content is impossible to delete entirely, cyberbullying may damage the victim's, or possibly the bully's, reputation permanently. Even if the content is removed or deleted from the original site, someone may find it posted elsewhere later. This may negatively impact future employment, college admissions, or relationships for victim and bully alike.

Easy to Overlook: Cyberbullying may be harder for teachers, administrators, and parents to discover, because they may not have access to students' online activities. They may not be able to overhear or see the abuse taking place. Unless someone comes forward, parents and teachers may never know that bullying is taking place.

Intimidating to Confront (or Paralysing): Victims may be ashamed or fearful to seek help or feel powerless to confront the bullying or the bully. This worsens the adverse effects and could lead to a state of despondency.

5-Differences between males and females when it comes to cyberbullying

According to the Pew Internet and American Life Project survey in 2006 about cyberbullying, girls were more likely than boys to say they have experienced cyberbullying; 38% of online girls reported being bullied compared to 26% of online boys.

According to a study conducted in 2008 by Hinduja & Patchin, females are as likely, if not more likely, to be involved in cyberbullying in their lifetime. Although, when students were asked about their recent experiences of being cyberbullies, males and females responded equally. When

asked about lifetime participation, females reported higher rates of participating in cyberbullying, which leads one to believe females engage in these activities for a longer period of time. Females tended to take pictures of victims without them knowing and posting them online more than males did. Females also tended to post things online to make fun of someone more often, although males tended to send emails to make them angry or to make fun of them.

Females were more likely to have experienced the effects of cyberbullying than males, although the difference disappeared when they were asked about the last 30 days. The data shows that females were 6% more likely to have been cyberbullied in their lifetime than males.

Hinduja & Patchin researched the reasons why females participated in and experienced cyberbullying more often than males. They found that due to females being more verbal and cyberbullying being text based, it was more likely for females to partake in cyberbullying. Females also tended to bully in more emotional and psychological ways, such as spreading rumors and gossiping, which is more in line with cyberbullying.

Females tended to be less confrontational when in a face to face situation and therefore the anonymity of the online community may be more appealing to them. Hinduja & Patchin also stated that females were generally culturally and socially constrained when it comes to using aggression or physical violence, however, are not under those constraints while they are online. Females are often more apt to require social support and in order to gain that, they often ganged up against other females. The online community is an easy and quick way to gang up against other females and to have many people view it which adds to the humiliation.

6-Cyberbullying in the world

Cyberbullying is not something that parents or their teenager have made up. It's more common than you may think. And for many teenagers, young adults, and social media users, it poses a very real threat.

According to the School Crime Supplement from the National Center for Education Statistics and Bureau of Justice Statistics, 28 percent of all students from grades six to twelve have experienced some kind of bullying.

Stopbullying.gov notes that about 30 percent of students have bullied others in some way or form during their lifetime.

A survey from the World Health Organization reports that, compared to 35 other countries in the Americas and Europe, the U.S. experiences an average amount of bullying. Across various age groups, Estonia and Lithuania rank highest for both bullying and victimization, while the Czech Republic, Slovenia, and Sweden report the lowest rates.

The Cyberbullying Research Center reported that in 2016, about 34 percent of students had been a victim of cyberbullying at some time in their lives.

Girls were somewhat more likely to be a victim of cyberbullying than boys: 36.7 percent of adolescent girls had experienced cyberbullying at some point in their lives, compared to 30.5 percent of adolescent boys. Overall, about 16 percent of students had cyberbullied others at some point in their lifetime.

A study published in the Journal of Adolescent Health, entitled “The Overlap Between Cyberbullying and Traditional Bullying”, found that fewer than five percent of bullying victims experience cyberbullying alone. Typically, victims will encounter at least one other form of traditional bullying in addition to cyberbullying.

7-The Potential Effects of Cyberbullying

Traditional bullying is known to have adverse effects on victims. Academic performance can suffer, anxiety and depression can develop — and these issues can continue into adulthood. And much like traditional bullying, cyberbullying can have severe, negative consequences for the victim.

One student shared that “all bullying hurts, whether in person or through technology, the end result is that bullying in any form is emotionally damaging.”Some of the most common cyberbullying tactics currently listed on stopbullying.gov include:

- Posting comments or rumors about someone online that are mean, hurtful, or embarrassing.
- Threatening to hurt someone or telling them to kill themselves.
- Posting a mean or hurtful picture or video.
- Pretending to be someone else online in order to solicit or post personal or false information about someone else.
- Posting mean or hateful names, comments, or content about any race, religion, ethnicity, or other personal characteristics online.
- Creating a mean or hurtful webpage about someone.
- Doxing, an abbreviated form of the word documents, is a form of online harassment used to exact revenge and to threaten and destroy the privacy of individuals by making their personal information public, including addresses, social security, credit card and phone numbers, links to social media accounts, and other private data.

8-How to prevent cyberbullying

Unfortunately, as long as there are mean-spirited people, it seems unlikely we’ll ever be able to stop cyberbullying completely. It can also be difficult to stop the vitriol cyberbullies create — the posts, websites, or videos that attack the target — as it can require a lengthy, difficult process to get platform administrators to delete that content. And by that point, copies often may have been made and distributed, such that it could be nearly impossible to delete the content for good.

However, several actions may be taken to prevent cyberbullying and even stop it in its tracks.

Block harmful or hateful accounts

One way to handle cyberbullying is to unfriend and block the bully. Whether it's Facebook, Instagram, or an online game, there should always be an option to block another user. This prevents the bully from messaging you, posting on your profile, tagging you in posts, or contacting you in any way.

Make your social media accounts private

If a bully can't find your account, they'll have a much harder time getting to you. You should only connect on social media with people you trust. Additionally, it's better from a data-privacy standpoint to have your accounts locked down.

Don't send photos or videos

You should avoid sending any photos or videos of yourself, your home, or anything private to people you meet online. These images could be used against you or to find more information about you. This is especially true about explicit photos or videos, which you should never send to anyone. Even spouses should not send these types of pictures to each other, as hackers could steal them from your drive and use them for harassment or blackmail.

Report the bullies

All online platforms should have the option to report inappropriate or derogatory content. Moderators should be able to remove the content and even block repeat offenders from using the platform.

Protect your passwords

Another way to prevent cyberbullying is to protect your devices and passwords. You should set a password on your phone, tablet, and computer so that no one can break in and use your devices without your consent.

You should also make sure to have strong, unique passwords for each of your online accounts. Weak passwords could allow cyberbullies to break in and use your accounts for fraping, dissing, or other forms of harassment.

If it seems difficult to remember complicated passwords for each separate account, consider using a password manager.

Protect your online privacy with a VPN

If cyberbullies can't get any information on you, they won't have any ammunition. A virtual private network will encrypt your entire Internet connection to keep you private online. That means any hackers or cyberbullies who attempt to spy on you will be completely blocked. A VPN also protects you on unsecured public Wi-Fi networks, preventing anyone from eavesdropping on you while you're online.

9-Protecting young schoolchildren: the role of states and educators

The virtual world combines intimacy and distance in a unique way that raises new questions about young people's social and personal development. A case can be made for some degree of censorship, but it also must acknowledge the need for educators to provide children and young people with the skill to manage risk effectively, to know how to protect themselves and to support vulnerable peers who are being mistreated online. In other words, while sanctions will always have a place, these will not be effective without the counteracting force of working with the emotions that are at the heart of all people's social interactions. Being connected online to a

community is an essential part of young people's social reality. Its importance cannot be underestimated as a significant aspect of all young people's daily activity.

A majority of states have enacted some kind of legislation to combat bullying and more recently cyberbullying, implementing programs designed to address these acts as well as the norms and social values of students. All students must be taught ways to respond appropriately to cyberbullying and potential bullies must recognize there are serious consequences associated with such behavior, including school discipline, litigation, and criminal prosecution. Until more is known about proven effective ways to combat bullying, care must be taken to monitor the outcomes of current practices to help ensure that they result in the desired effects.

Some research shows that cyberbullying is often an extension of real-world bullying with some young people, such as bully-victims, being especially at risk. While it is tempting to think that tighter regulation and stricter sanctions will have an impact on rates of cyberbullying, it may be more productive to work holistically with the relationships in the peer group and at school in order to develop heightened awareness of the consequences of cyberbullying as well as empathy towards those who are badly affected. Rivers and Noret point out, virtual interactions should not be considered fantasy since they are real to the young people engaged with them. We need to understand more about the communities in which these interactions take place.

10- Overview of cybercrime and cyber laws in Haiti

Cybercrime is a growing concern to countries at all levels of developments and affects all Internet users. While 154 countries (79 per cent) have enacted cybercrime legislation, the pattern varies by region: Europe has the highest adoption rate (93 per cent) and Asia and the Pacific the lowest (55 per cent). The evolving cybercrime landscape and resulting skills gaps are a significant challenge for law enforcement agencies and prosecutors, especially for cross-border enforcement.

10.1-Cyber laws in Haiti

In Haiti, there are only three decrees relating to electronic transactions which was published in the Moniteur, the official journal of the Republic of Haiti on January 29, 2016 with summary titles of a decree relating to electronic signature, a decree recognizing the right of any

administered to address the Public Administration by electronic means and a decree establishing the procedures and modalities necessary for the formulation and management of the Public Investment Program.

There is no consumer protection law, cybercrime law and data protection & privacy law.

10.2-Child online protection

Specific legislation on child online protection has been enacted through the following instrument:

- Article 282 of the Criminal Code – forbids molestation not pornography, for people under 21.

For UN conventions and protocols, Haiti has acceded, with no declarations or reservations to articles 16, 17 (e) and 34 (c), to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and has also acceded, with no declarations or reservations to articles 2 and 3, to the Optional Protocol to The Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

11-Methodology of data collection on cyberbullying in Haiti

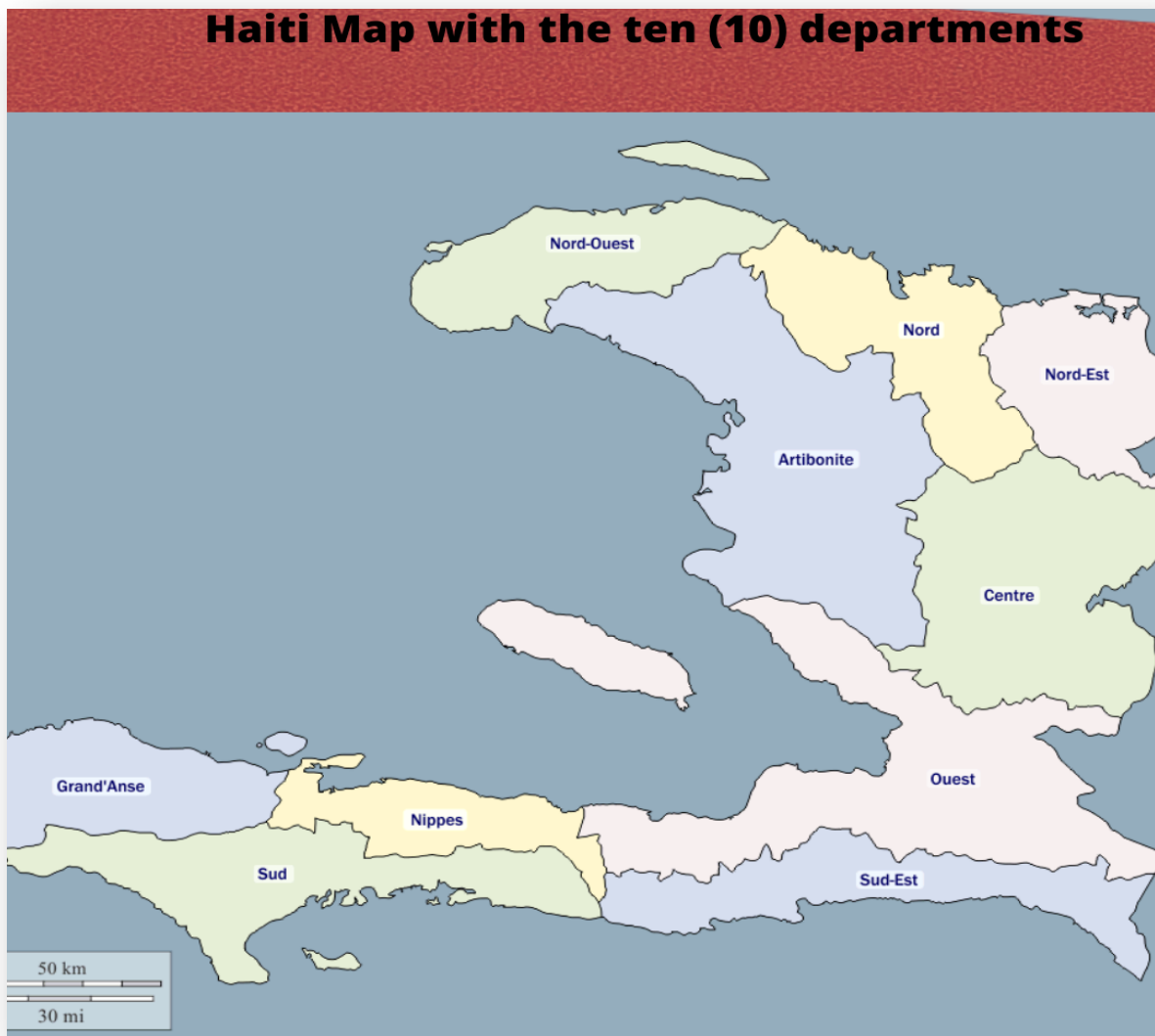
Haiti is a country of the Caribbean which has 10 geographical departments (Figure 1) and an area of 27,750 km². The researcher was able to conduct semi-structured interviews for 50 women to better identify the victims while identifying the discomforts caused by cyberbullying. A survey questionnaire was the priority instrument for an additional 142 people (Figure 2) from Haiti's 10 departments for the research.

The time allocated to work was insufficient but through the combination of semi-structured interviews and duly completed questionnaires of different age and sex groups, a mapping of cyberbullying cases covering all departments of Haiti was developed to give an overview of the existence of this annoying problem that affects the Internet as a trusted tool in Haiti.

12- Mapping cyberbullying cases and its effects on victims in Haiti

In this part, the research findings present the characteristics of the respondents (age group, sex, department) , the use of the respondent's Internet, some cases of cyberbullying and its effects on victims in Haiti.

Figure 1: The ten geographic departments of Haiti



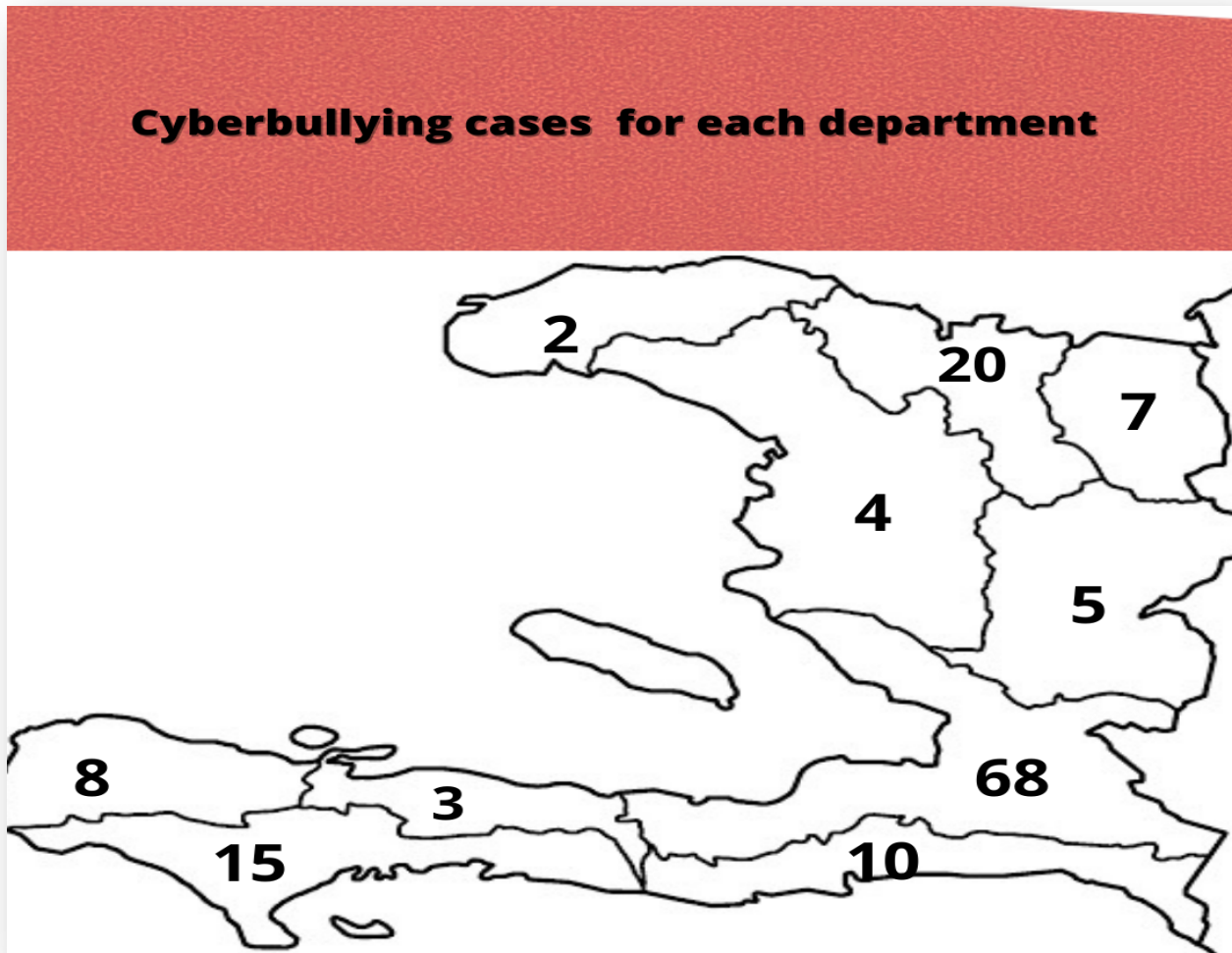
12.1-Characteristics of respondents

For the survey questionnaire, 71.8% of respondents are male and 28.2% female. Through the interviews with 50 respondents, female respondents were given 100% priority to encourage female participation in the study because females are very vulnerable to cyberbullying.

Although the word cyberbullying itself sometimes refers to teens who attend school anywhere in the age range of 10 to 15 years or even younger, no matter how old you are, you can be a victim. However adults are more likely to face intimidating acts than children. For the age group of respondents, 92.3% are between 22 to 38 years and the remaining percentage is divided between 10 to 15 years, 16 to 21 years and 39 and more.

Haiti has ten departments and they are all included in this research work. Port-au-Prince, the capital which is overcrowded with people from the ten departments represents (Figure 3) 47.9% of respondents and from other departments come 52.1% of respondents.

Figure 2 : Cyberbullying cases for each department



12.2-Use of the respondent's Internet

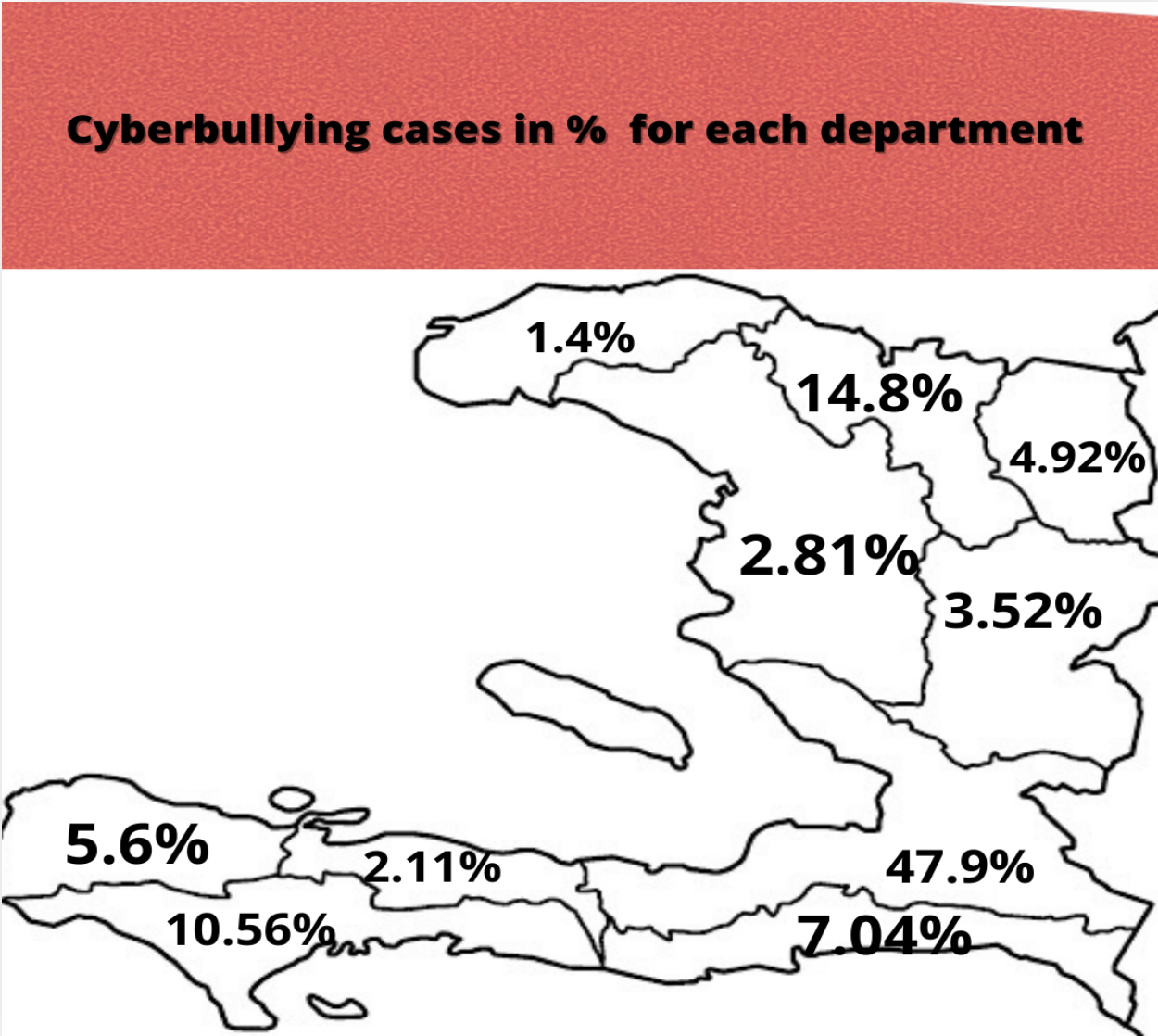
Respondents' device types, social media platforms used and messaging applications used are discussed in this section.

92.3% of respondents use Smartphones to surf the Internet, 40.8% use a laptop to browse the Internet, 16.2% use a tablet to access the Internet and 12% browse the Internet from a desktop computer.

As always Facebook is at the top of the list of social networks of our respondents because 98.6% of them use it. With 87.3% of respondents, Youtube occupies the second place. 73.2% of our respondents use Instagram, 23.9% use Snapchat and 17.6% use TicToc.

For messaging apps, WhatsApp has 98.6% of respondents, Facebook Messenger has 87.3% of respondents, Telegram has 54.2% and Wechat has 1.4% of respondents.

Figure 3 : Cyberbullying cases in percentage for each departement

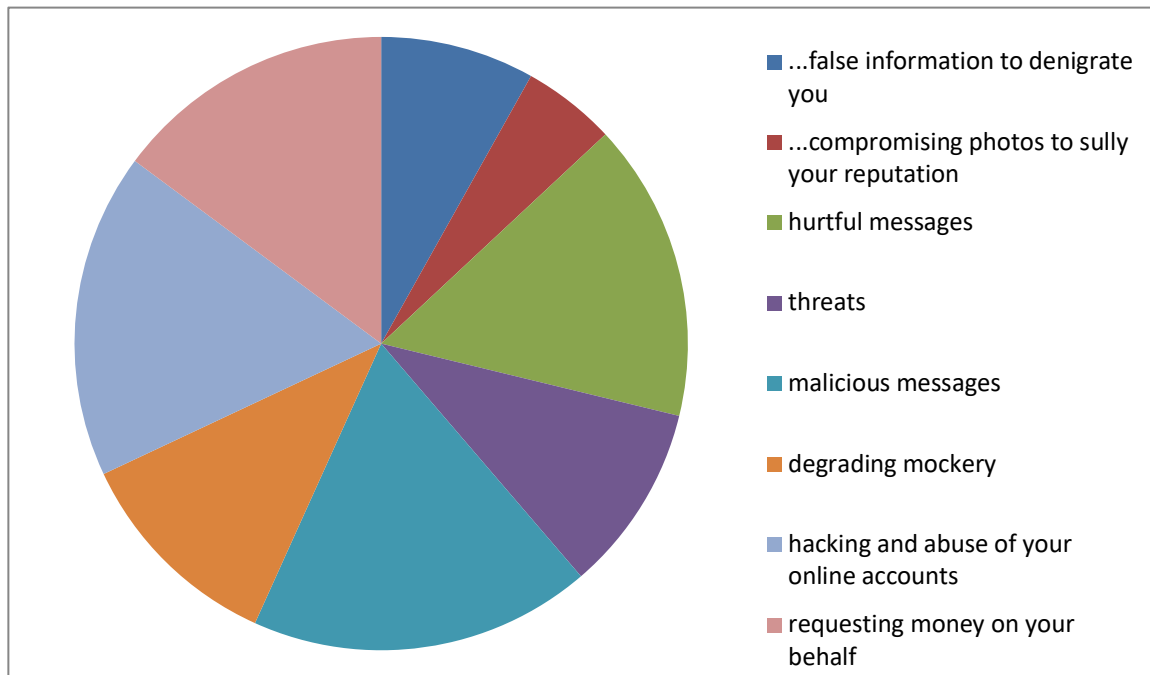


12.3-Cyberbullying Cases

Survey respondents indicated to question 8 (Figure 4) which bullying acts have been in texting or on the Internet via social networks, email messages and instant messaging applications?

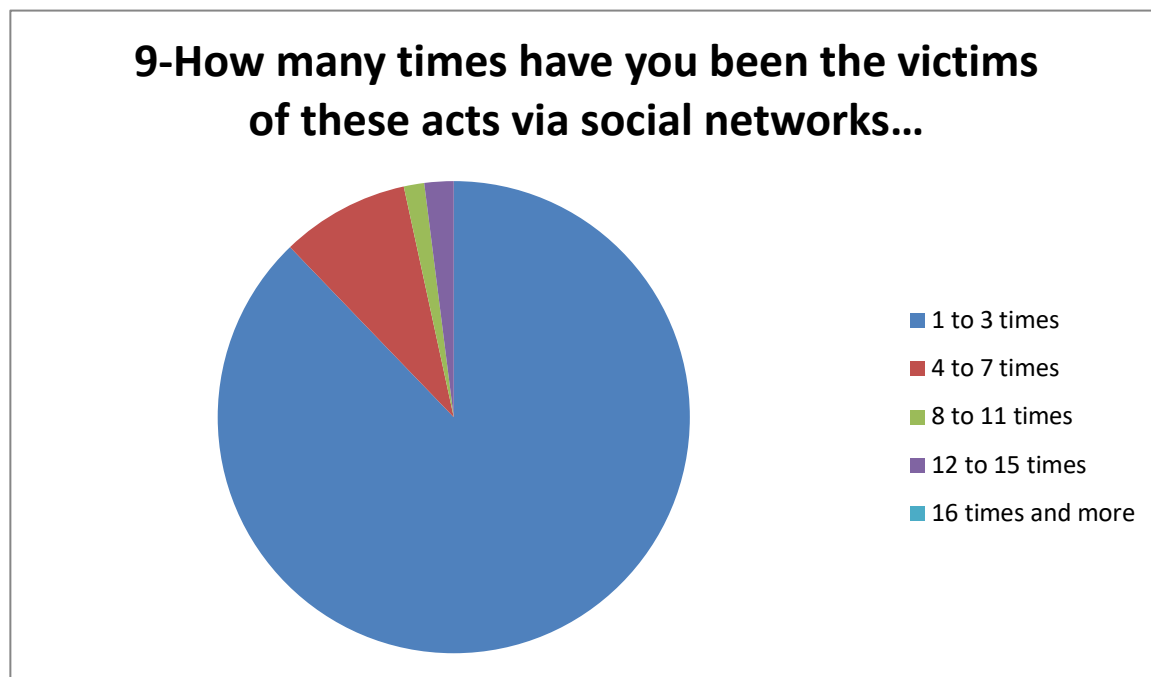
On the Internet, 28.2% of respondents received malicious messages, 24% received hurtful messages, 17.6% faced degrading mockery, 15.5% received threats, 12.7% faced false information for denigration, 7.7% are were victims of the publication of compromising photos to sully their reputation, 26.8% faced hacking and abuse of their online accounts and 23.2% faced the demand for money in their name.

Figure 4 : Bullying Acts Online (8-Which of these intimidating acts have you ever been the victim of by texting or on the Internet via social networks, e-mails and instant messaging applications?)



These data above confirm the alarming problem of cyberbullying in Haiti as all of these actions affect the mental health of Internet users in Haiti and challenge the Internet network which should be a safe place for everyone. 88% of our respondents were victimized 1-3 times, 9.2% 4-7 times, and 2.8% were victimized 8-15 times (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Number of times victims of intimidating acts (9-How many times have you been the victims of these acts via social networks, electronic messages and instant messaging applications?)



12.4-Effects of cyberbullying on victims in Haiti

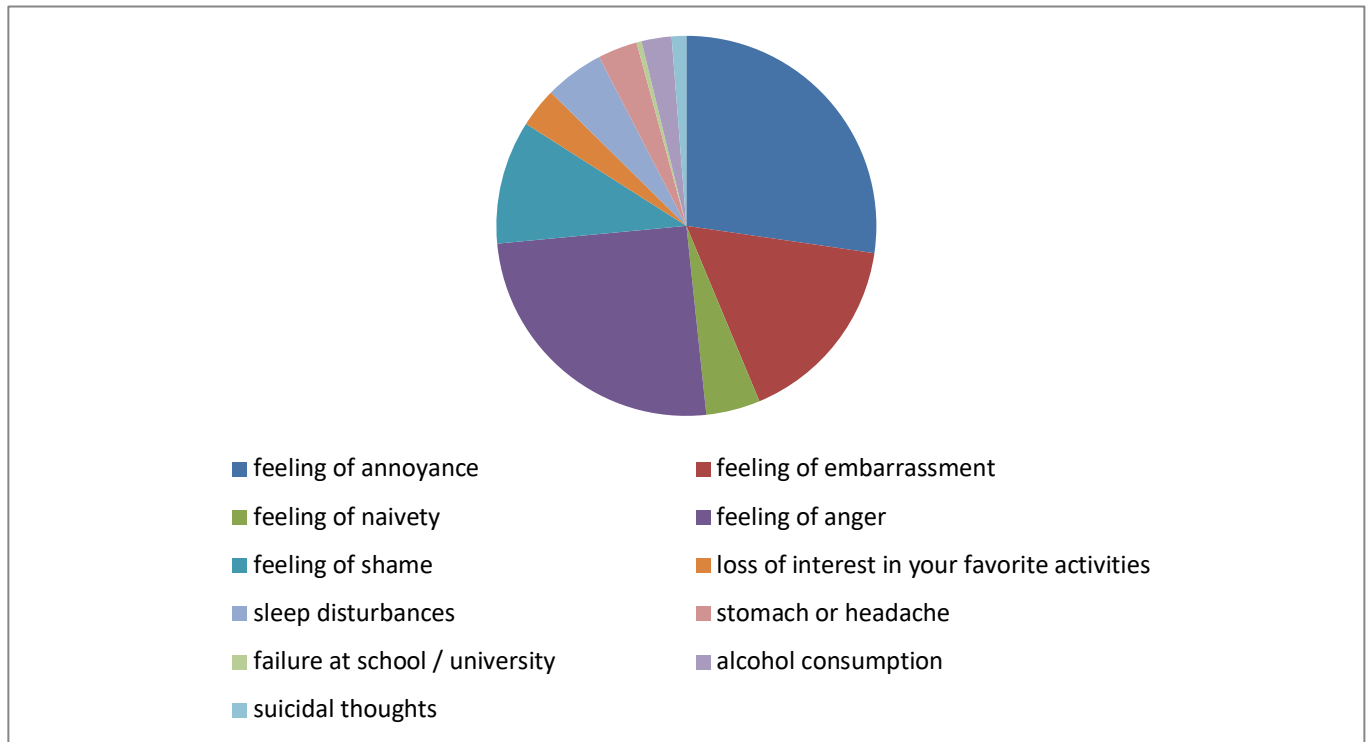
In Haiti after being the victim of cyberbullying at least once, our respondents disclosed information about the effect of this problem on their lives (Figure 6).

44.4% of our respondents had a feeling of annoyance, 26.8% had a feeling of embarrassment, 7.7% had a feeling of naivety, 40.8% had a feeling of anger, 16.9% had a feeling of shame 5.6% had a loss of interest in their favorite activities; 8.5% had a sleep disturbances, 4.9% had stomach ache or headache, 4.2% drank alcohol and 2.1% had suicidal thoughts.

All of the above effects can adversely affect the mental health of children, youth and adults and may even lead to the onset of other diseases leading to death. Suicidal thoughts are dangerous

and can cost the lives of our respondents. It is therefore necessary for Haitian society to be informed of the danger posed by cyberbullying in cyberspace in Haiti for children, for young people and for adults.

Figure 6 : Effects of cyberbullying on victims (10-If you have been the victim of at least one of these previous intimidating acts, check at least one of the effects of these acts on you.)



Respondents also expressed themselves on what bothers them online. Pornographic photos and films that may affect children, phishing, scams, disclosure of offensive images, failure of online privacy, misinformation, hacking attempts, repeat ads in videos, unauthorized group uploads, the tags on posts without notice and also the bashing of honest people online are all acts that deserve special consideration for the well-being of all online according to them.

For the 50 women selected for the interview, all of them were victims of cyberbullying at least once. Some of them believed it was not serious but others insisted on the harmful nature of the

act because it was as if everything was falling apart, since even your relatives and friends may believe lies published without your knowledge and postings that violate privacy to denigrate you like a nude photo can destroy you forever. All respect for you would be gone.

Sometimes ex-boyfriends can be very dangerous if they have access to unauthorized information such as your Facebook account credentials because they can use them against you for revenge. Videos taken in the midst of sexual intercourse have already traveled the web in Haiti in order to degrade persons.

The most common effects among the interviewees were mainly the feeling of annoyance, headaches which are due to stress and a desire to commit suicide although suicide is not too common in Haiti but this harmful threat to life should be avoided.

13-How to fight cyberbullying in Haiti

Since cyberbullying takes place online, it is about protecting the victims and punishing the perpetrators with a justice system where digital evidence is legal. In Haiti, there are many legal gaps to be filled for an effective framework for electronic evidence, in particular, the criminalization of criminal behavior in cyberspace. We need campaigns and a legal framework on cyberbullying in Haiti and some perspectives recommended by many actors and stakeholders in the country.

Haitians schools are struggling to create policies that deal with cyberbullying and the use of cell phones at schools. Experts say banning technology is not the answer, but rather teaching kids to be good digital citizens. When schools adopt codes of conduct, they should apply to activity in or out of school and set the consequences up front. The notion that home and school are two separate spaces no longer exists in the minds of digital kids.

Schools are an important place to connect with parents and disseminate information about online safety. It's important to have a schools' online safety policy and invite parents to workshops about cyberbullying to share this policy.

Here are some tips that can help fight cyberbullying :

Don't respond or retaliate : Sometimes a reaction is exactly what aggressors are looking for because they think it gives them power over you, and you don't want to empower a bully. As for retaliating, getting back at a bully turns you into one – and can turn one mean act into a chain reaction.

Save the evidence : The only good news about bullying online or on phones is that it can usually be captured, saved, and shown to someone who can help. You can save that evidence in case things escalate.

Reach out for help : especially if the behavior's really getting to you. You deserve backup. See if there's someone who can listen, help you process what's going on and work through it – a friend, relative or maybe an adult you trust.

Use available tech tools : Most social media apps and services allow you to block the person. Whether the harassment's in an app, texting, comments or tagged photos, do yourself a favor and block the person. You can also report the problem to the service. That probably won't end it, but you don't need the harassment in your face, and you'll be less tempted to respond.

Protect your accounts : Don't share your passwords with anyone – even your closest friends, who may not be close forever – and password-protect your phone so no one can use it to impersonate you.

14-Conclusion

Cyberbullying remains a serious problem affecting the Internet and Haitians without exception, since children as well as young people and adults are victims. Sometimes cases are popularized within social networks but do not give a turn of revenge online. On Monday, September 28, 2020, Karl Henry Chatelier was dismissed from his post as first secretary of the consular service of Haiti in the Bahamas.

He was fired from his post after posting a video on social media in which he masturbates. No investigation was carried out and he claimed the video was taken without his knowledge. If he wasn't the author of the post that cost him his job, who wanted to make him lose his job? Why would he want to lose his job? His life was turned upside down via social media and it seems there was an unnamed cyberbully in this story. Some online media talk about *masturbating diplomat* in articles to denigrate him.

The case of this consul proves that life changing opportunities can depend sometimes on what people post about you online and your ability to be reborn is very important.

To fight this problem in Haiti, all social strata must be aware that our society is not the same as before because the Internet is involved in almost everything we do and anyone can be online (from rowdy children to criminals).

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Annex

Questionnaire on the mapping of cases of people victims of online bullying in Haiti and the effects on victims

Cyberbullying occurs when someone repeatedly and intentionally harasses, mistreats, or teases another person online or by using cell phones or other electronic devices. For the Internet to remain a safe space for all, cyberbullying must be at the heart of open debates as suicides and mental illnesses can result from its severity in the digital society in Haiti. The first step is to identify the victims as well as the effects of cyberbullying and create an environment where stakeholders come together to fight this scourge that plagues the internet as a trusted tool.

1-Your gender

- Male
- Female

2-Your age group

- 10-15
- 16-21
- 22-27
- 28-33
- 33-38
- 39+

3-Your department

- Department of Artibonite
- Center Department
- Department of Grand'Anse
- Department of Nippes

- Department of the North
- North-East Department
- North West Department
- West Department
- South Department
- Southeast Department

4-Do you use the Internet?

- Yes
- No

If not stop the questionnaire.

5-If you answer yes to the previous question with which device?

- Smart phone
- Laptop
- Tablet
- Desktop computer
- Other, specify

6-Check the social networks you use

- Instagram
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Youtube
- Snapchat
- TicToc
- Other, specify

7-What messaging applications do you use?

- o WhatsApp
- o Telegram
- o WeChat
- o Facebook Messenger
- o Other specify

8-Which of these intimidating acts have you ever been the victim of by texting or on the Internet via social networks, e-mails and instant messaging applications?

- o publication of false information to denigrate you
- o publication of compromising photos to sully your reputation
- o hurtful messages
- o threats
- o malicious messages
- o degrading mockery
- o hacking and abuse of your online accounts
- o requesting money on your behalf
- o Others specify

9-How many times have you been the victims of these acts via social networks, electronic messages and instant messaging applications?

- o 1 to 3 times
- o 4 to 7 times
- o 8 to 11 times
- o 12 to 15 times
- o 16 times and more

10-If you have been the victim of at least one of these previous intimidating acts, check at least one of the effects of these acts on you.

- o feeling of annoyance,

- feeling of embarrassment,
- feeling of naivety,
- feeling of anger;
- feeling of shame
- loss of interest in your favorite activities;
- sleep disturbances
- stomach or headache
- failure at school / university
- alcohol consumption
- suicidal thoughts

11- Do you have other acts that bother you or make you angry on the Internet?

- Yes
- No

If yes, tell us about them and how they affect you.

Questions for interview with female respondents

Cyberbullying is an act of bullying performed in cyberspace. It can occur through different means of communication: social networks, blogs, online games, instant messaging, text messages, emails ...

1-Have you been the victim of any of these cyberbullying acts? if yes explain

- publication of false information to denigrate you
- publication of compromising photos to sully your reputation
- hurtful messages
- threats
- malicious messages
- degrading mockery
- hacking of your online accounts
- requesting money on your behalf

2-In this list what are the effects that have been attributed to you? explain

- feeling of annoyance,
- feeling of embarrassment,
- feeling of naivety,
- feeling of anger;
- feeling of shame
- loss of interest in your favorite activities;

- o sleep disturbances
- o stomach or headache
- o failure at school / university
- o alcohol consumption
- o suicidal thoughts