

Introduction

Effective family communication about online safety can **help reduce risky adolescent online behavior** and limit the consequences after if it occurs

Ensuring teen online safety is a balancing act between parental concerns and the need of the teen **for independence and privacy**

Our study examines how various factors affect parent and teen's perceptions on **family communication around online risks**

Research Questions

RQ1: Is there a difference between how teens and parents view family communication around the teen's online safety?

RQ2: What factors contribute to how teens and parents view their family communication around the teen's online safety?

Methodology

Online survey-based study with **215** parent-teen dyads

Survey questions were based on their perceptions of different variables around online safety

Answered **RQ1** with a **paired T-test**
Answered **RQ2** with a **multiple regression model**

Findings

- The results from the paired t-test are shown below which demonstrate that parents and teens have different perceptions on multiple topics, including their perception of family communication regarding online safety
<: less than, >: greater than

Family Communication	Teens > Parents
Risk Exposure	Teens < Parents
Risk Concern	Teens < Parents
Active Parental Mediation	Teens < Parents
Restrictive Parental Mediation	Teens > Parents
Monitoring Parental Mediation	Teens < Parents
Tech Monitoring	Teens > Parents
Positive Affect Schedule	NS
Negative Affect Schedule	NS

- The results from the linear regression model are shown below. These results show what factors impact parents and teens perceptions of online safety.
NS: not significant, +: positive, -: negative

Risk Exposure	• Teen: NS, Parent: NS, Summary: NS
Risk Concern	• Teen: +, Parent: NS, Summary: Different
Active Parental Mediation	• Teen: +, Parent: +, Summary: Same
Restrictive Parental Mediation	• Teen: -, Parent: NS, Summary: Different
Monitoring Parental Mediation	• Teen: +, Parent: NS, Summary: Different
Technical Monitoring Parental Mediation	• Teen: NS, Parent: +, Summary: Different
Positive Affect Schedule	• Teen: +, Parent: +, Summary: Same
Negative Affect Schedule	• Teen: NS, Parent: NS, Summary: NS

Discussion

Teens and parents experience family communication about online safety differently but **do not disagree**

Parents have greater online safety concern than their teens and teens have a positive association between communication and **concern** about online risks

Teens have a positive relationship between **active** and **monitoring** mediation strategies and family communication, negative with **restriction**

Parents have positive relationship between **active** and **technical monitoring** and family communication

Teens resent control but welcome parental involvement

Technology solutions should balance autonomy, privacy, and active mediation with monitoring and transparency

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