

**Lubenets Iryna,**

Candidate of Juridical Sciences, Leading Researcher,  
State Reserch Institute MIA Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine  
ORCID ID 0000-0003-2597-0356

**Tolochko Halyna,**

Senior Researcher, State Reserch Institute MIA  
Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine  
ORCID ID 0000-0003-2913-9439

**Naumova Iryna,**

Senior Researcher, State Reserch Institute MIA  
Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine  
ORCID ID 0000-0002-6643-0375

**INTERNET RISKS AND THREATS TO MINOR USERS:  
CRIMINOLOGICAL ASPECT**

A variety of means of communication and the Internet are an integral part of the life of modern society in general and children in particular. In turn, the information environment has significant potential for the development and self-realization of a child's personality. Using the resources of open digital repositories of libraries, museums, sites of an educational, cognitive and entertaining nature, modern schoolchildren are able to download digitized books, music, photographs, etc. Thanks to modern technical means, children communicate with friends and have a rest. That is, the means of communication and the Internet for them is part of life, and the virtual world is a means of socialization.

Since the Internet has become as accessible as the telephone, studying its impact on minors is a pressing issue today. On the one hand, it is a means of increasing erudition and communication skills, and on the other hand, it is a situation of increased risk of facing some threats of the virtual world from cyber-violence and fraud to the distribution of narcotic substances and the propensity to commit suicide.

This article is devoted to a comprehensive analysis of risks and threats, the source of which is modern means of communication and the Internet. The aim of the study is to establish certain aspects of the vulnerability of the child in the information sphere, as well as to determine the level of awareness of schoolchildren about safety on the Internet.

The article lists the main features and the most common types of crimes and other antisocial acts committed on the Internet or with its use. A particular danger of such acts is that often underage Internet users become victims, because they are the most active users of the Internet and other means of communication. In this regard, there is a need for further investigation of this problem from a criminological point of view to clarify the causes and conditions of the above crimes and antisocial actions, which, in turn, will help to increase the effectiveness of their prevention measures.

**Keywords:** Internet, Internet risks, users, minors, children, gadgets, cyber violence, Internet fraud, pornography, «death groups».

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