

Girls Shout Out – a perspective from Rebekah Pior

Aim:

- To compare how young people and parents' perceptions of risk differ

Objectives:

- To find the perspective of the risks young girls (11-18 years) are likely to come across
- To research why teenage boys (11-18 years) are more exposed to some risks than teenage girls (11-18 years)
- To speak to young girls about their perspective of risks
- To get parents'/carers' views on their perspective of risks

Introduction

My name is Rebekah Pior, I am 14 years old and I have decided to do some research following up on the Girl Guides 'Shout Out Report' (Girlguiding UK, April 2009). I joined Weoley Hill Girl Guides in 2010. Being there has given me loads of experience and knowledge. We do a lot of activities and courses, most of them all working towards badges.

This project was completed as the main part of my work experience placement for two weeks at RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents). At Kings Norton Girls' School we do one week of work experience in year ten before we break up for the summer holidays however, when I applied for RoSPA, I got told that one week wouldn't be enough so I ended up doing two weeks.

For my research project I started by comparing different results and opinions between the other girls at my guide unit, their parents and my friends. I focused on what they would think of as a risk nowadays and how they think those risks have changed in comparison to years when they were teenagers. My opinion is that when girls were going out with their mates for a day it wasn't an issue whereas today, they hardly get any freedom and most parents like to know where they're going and/or drop them off and pick them up from wherever they have been to make sure they get there and back home safely.

Hypothesis

Boys like to impress and show off in front of their peers, especially if they're with their mates. Logically this would make them more accident prone however; in my opinion I think that some girls are just as likely to have accidents because of their changing attitudes and behaviour. Also more girls now like to ride their bikes and play football ect, they do most of the same activities which most boys tend to do.

Procedure

Stage one: Research – collect research involving the 'draw and write activity' (reference) with Guides (15.07.13). Find out their views and look back over them once they have all be collected in. Collect research papers from Ibi and Anita (RoSPA Information Centre) and look over them.

Stage two: Surveys – have a meeting with Lindsey (RoSPA Road Safety Research & Evaluation Officer) to prepare the questions that will be included in the survey. Make a survey for 11-18 year olds, get two practice people, send it round to all staff and ask Charlotte (RoSPA Press Officer/Web Editor) to publish it on the RoSPA's youth network (facebook and twitter). Make a parents'/carers' survey, and ask Cassius (Youth Liaison Worker) to check over it and make any changes. Send it to Lindsey for a final check over and then send it out.

Stage three: Proposal – write up proposal (introduction, hypothesis and overview)

Stage four: Analyze –

- Collect all results from kids survey (11-18years old) *WEDNESDAY*
- Collect all results from parents' survey *THURSDAY*

Stage five: Write up – Draft most of what I'm going to say. Then write the proper thing

Stage six: Presentation – deliver my presentation to RoSPA staff and representatives from Girl Guiding West Midlands and my parents

Research

For my research I decided to do two different surveys, as well as doing desk research and finding out background information through the RoSPA Information Centre. For my surveys I used www.surveymonkey.com there are some advantages and disadvantages to using this website. I used this website because Lindsey (an experienced researcher at RoSPA) recommended it to me and you can sign up with the basic account for free. An advantage of this website is that it is quick and fairly easy to make surveys, it also limits you to a maximum of 10 questions on the basic account. This is good and bad because it makes sure that your survey isn't too long. However, it includes the introduction you write and the thank you comment at the end as questions which waste two of them, so if you run out you might have to leave out some relevant questions that you wanted to ask. Before doing my survey I met with a experienced researcher to get advice i.e. Lindsey. Once I had completed making my survey and she had checked it over, I sent it to a friend to test it out and make sure that the questions that I had included in my survey were easy to read and understand, so people with all abilities could fill it out (Appendix 1 – Survey for 11-18 year olds). Another disadvantage of using survey monkey is that all the responses I gained were anonymous. Even though this can be a good thing as more people may be willing to talk about their personal experiences as I asked them to, if I get stupid replies I don't know who it is and whether they are being serious. Also I don't know who filled it out, so if I didn't understand what they had written I couldn't ask them either in person, over a social networking site or by email to explain their answer and what they meant by it. However, survey monkey organizes all of your responses and answers together. It can handle both qualitative and quantitative data; this helps because it will make my write up and organization better, more accurate and quicker.

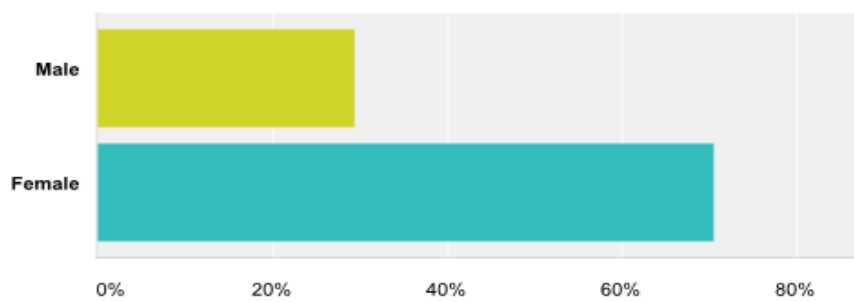
Results

Teenage survey results:

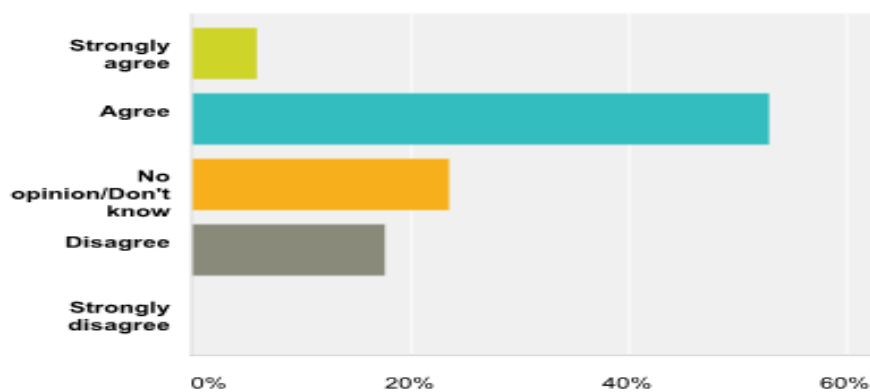
Q1. How old are you?

11-13	4
14-16	6
17-18	7

Q2. Please tick the correct gender



Q3. Please say how much you agree with the statement below.
'Teenage boys are more likely to be injured in an accident than teenage girls.'



Q4. What risks do you think you are most likely to across inside and out of the home?

The most popular answers for outside of the home were; personal safety and other people being violent against you.

- 'Driving related issues'
- 'Personal safety'
- 'Being out alone at night makes you an easier target for getting stabbed, mugged or kidnapped'

The most popular answers for inside of the home were; fires or burning yourself and falling down the stairs.

- 'falling down the stairs'
- 'Burning yourself of the cooker'
- 'It is easy for technology based objects to become overheated and lead to fires for example straighteners and laptops'

Q5. Do you have any personal experiences? Please specify.

- 'Texting while walking downstairs' (inside)
- 'Talking to friends and not looking at the surroundings' (outside)
- 'Fell downstairs' (inside)
- 'I was attacked' (outside)
- 'I burned my arm with hot water' (inside)
- 'I fell off of the trampoline' (outside)

Q6. What do you think are the most serious risks to your safety?

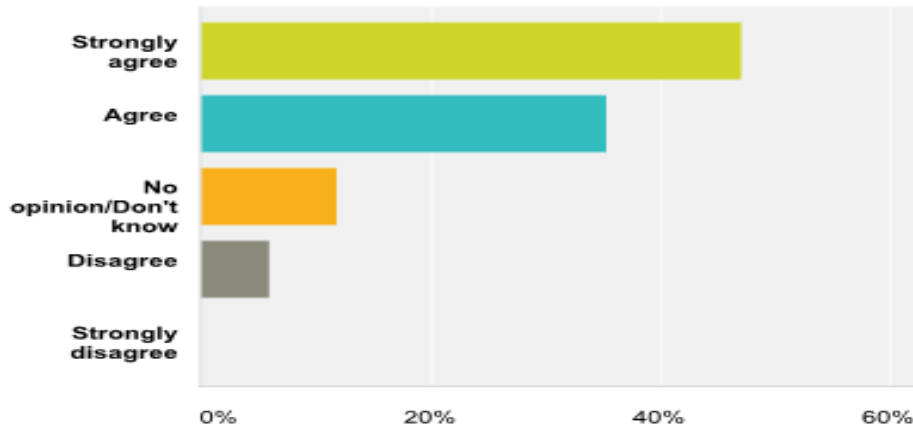
- 'Being out at night either alone or in a small group'
- 'Issues associated with driving'
- 'Not concentrating'
- 'Being approached by a stranger'
- 'House fires'

Q7. Why do you think this is the most serious risk(s)?

The most popular answers were: dying and having no control over the situation.

- 'Because I would have no control over more people ganging up on me'
- 'Because I would be vulnerable'
- 'Because I could seriously injure myself or die'

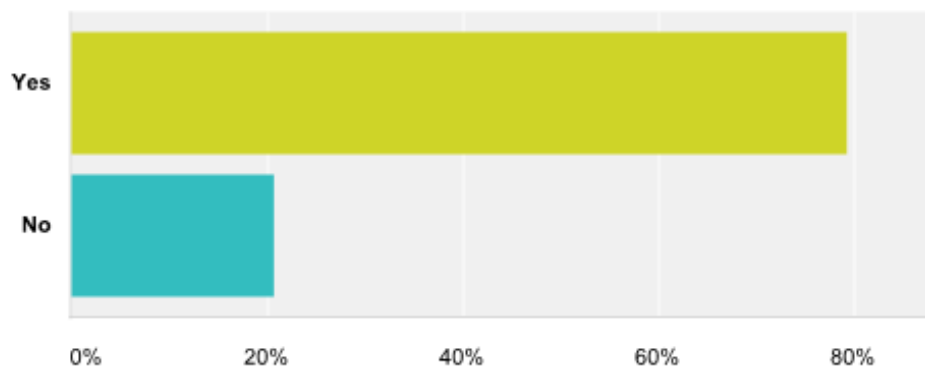
Q8. Please say how much you agree or disagree with the statement below. 'There are benefits to taking risks, eg. Experiencing something new or challenging yourself to doing something different like rock climbing.'



Results

Parents/Carers survey results:

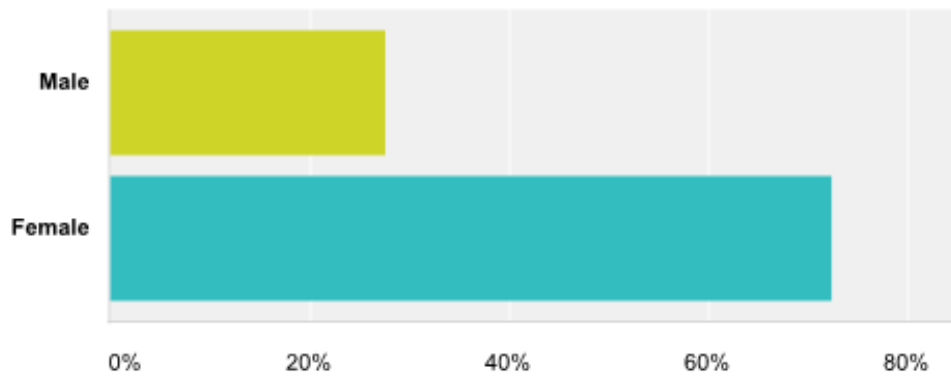
Q1. Do you have a child aged 11-18?



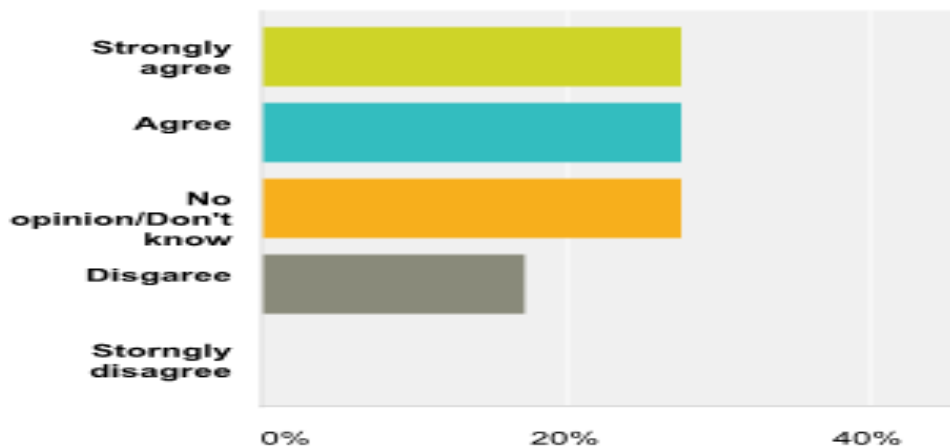
Q2. How old are you?

20+	0
30+	3
40+	26

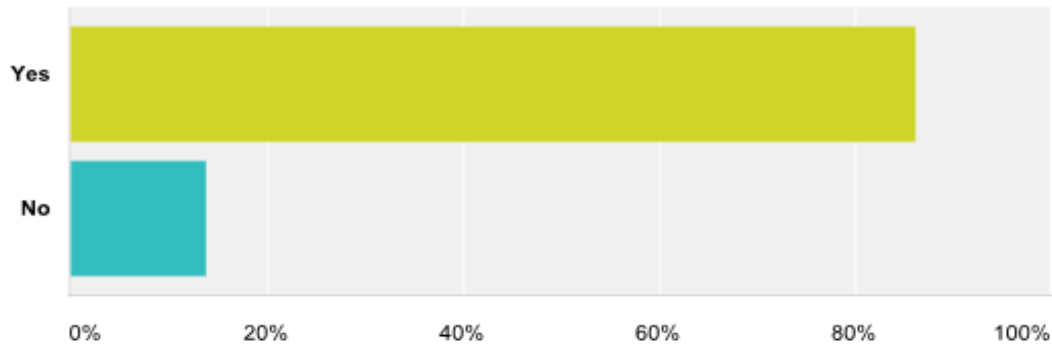
Q3. Please tick the correct gender.



Q4. Please say how much you agree or disagree with the statement below. 'Teenage boys were more likely to be injured in an accident than teenage girls.'



Q5. Do you think that the risks teenagers face inside and outside of the home today are different to when you were a teenager?



Q6. Do you have any personal experiences? Please specify what happened and when.

Some of the most popular answers for inside of the home were; 'inappropriate things on the internet' and 'technology making teenagers unsociable'

- 'Teenagers upset by messages on facebook'
- 'My son won't do his homework through proper reading and research. He waits until last minute and copies things straight from wikipedia or other internet sites.'
- 'Inappropriate use of mobile phones'
- 'Cooking at a young age'

Some of the most popular answers for outside the home were; 'stranger danger' and 'gangs'

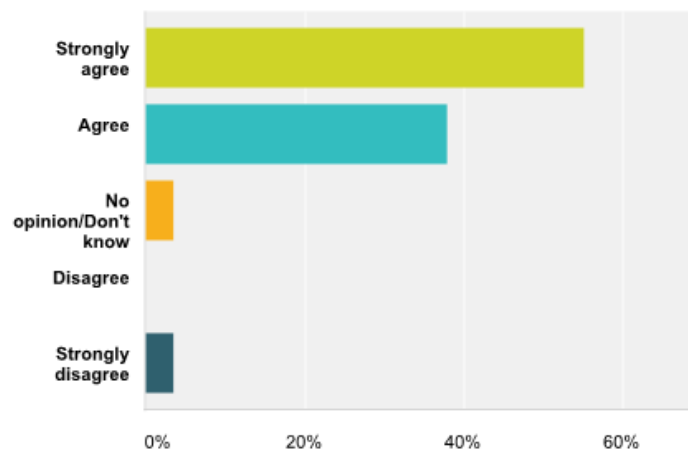
- 'I was mugged walking home late'
- 'Alcohol'
- 'Road accidents'
- 'Gun crime'

Q7. What do you think the most serious risks to your safety were when you were a teenager?

Some of the most popular answers were; 'road safety' and 'alcohol'

- 'Teachers were not CRB'd'
- 'The road when I was on my bike'
- 'Making poor judgements after too much alcohol'
- 'Seat belts weren't compulsory in cars'

Q8. Please say how much you agree or disagree with the statement below. There are benefits to taking risks, eg. Experiencing something new or challenging yourself to doing something different like rock climbing



Conclusion

Overall the survey responses from young people tell me that they think boys tend to show off in front of their peers however, they also said that you 'can't predict' who's going to get injured in any situation and that it isn't 'gender specific'.

In my hypothesis I stated that 'boy's like to impress and show off in front of their peers, especially if they're with their mates.' This is a fact, but on the other hand the responses I got proves my hypothesis because they said that you 'can't predict' and it isn't 'gender specific' which also links with when I said how girls' attitudes and behaviours are changing.

Recommendations

From my research I would recommend that teenage girls should think about what they're doing first, don't be pressured into doing things by your friends if you know it's not right and if you are going to do something that could be dangerous think it through and assess what's the worst that could happen to you first. Parents and carers should trust their children more and give them more freedom depending on how mature they are and not depending on their age. I would also recommend RoSPA to keep trying to get through to younger people about safety and risk.

Selected Bibliography

1. Girlguiding UK, Redefining risk: Girl shout out! April 2009, Girlguiding
2. http://www.resolution.org.uk/site_content_files/files/separation_and_divorce_helping_parents_to_help_children_2.pdf
3. <http://www.kogs.org.uk/>
4. http://nya.org.uk/dynamic_files/research/staying%20safe.pdf
5. http://www.ioe.ac.uk/Study_Browse/Young_People_at_Risk_Research_Summary.pdf