Big Data in Child Protection

What is big data?

Volume
Large amounts of data that traditional analytical softwares are often unable to process.

Variety
Gathered from multiple sources and in various forms often as a by-product of technological activities

Velocity
Big data provides an opportunity for real-time analysis, enabling immediate feedback or warning

TOP sources of data

Online information
- social media posts
- web searches
- news articles

Transactional data
- purchases and payments
- travel records

Big data

Crowd-sourced information
- online surveys
- hotlines
- user generated maps

Physical sensors
- satellite images
- traffic patterns
- infrared images

Where does it come from?

What is unique about it?

Time effective
Massive quantities of information, from multiple agencies can be easily reviewed and analysed

Real-time awareness
Analysts are able to detect current events and processes, for instance through tweets or location data

Predictive
Algorithms can predict outcomes based on identified risk factors, enabling early warning / intervention

Complimentary
Combined with data from multiple sources and time points, it provides a more holistic picture

Privacy issues
Being a byproduct of online activities, data is often owned by private companies who can give access to researchers and public sector organisations

For more information visit www.childhub.org

CHILD PROTECTION HUB
FOR SOUTH EAST EUROPE

Sources:

UN Global Pulse (2012) Big Data for Development: Challenges and Opportunities
UN Global Pulse (2013) Big Data for Development: A Primer
UN Global Pulse (2016) The Role of Big Data in Official Statistics