

Facebook Roundtable Discussion:
 Sexting, the associated risks, and the non-consensual distribution of sexually explicit images among teens
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Contextual factors that impact the risk of harms associated with teen sexting and the occurrence of actual harm

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* Thank you for your interest in this presentation. Please note that analyses included herein are preliminary. More recent, finalized analyses may be available by contacting CIPHR for more information.



Teen Health and Technology Survey

- Conducted between August 2010 - January, 2011
- Youth were:
 - Recruited through HPOL and online outreach efforts
 - U.S. resident
 - Ages 13 to 18
 - In 5th grade or above; and
 - Assent to participate in the survey
 - Parental permission requirements waived
- Median survey length was 23 minutes
- Response rate: 7.2%
- Data were weighted to national youth demographic characteristics
- Current sample restricted to cisgender youth

Defining “sexting”

In the past 12 months, how often have you **sent or showed someone sexual pictures of yourself where you were nude or nearly nude.**

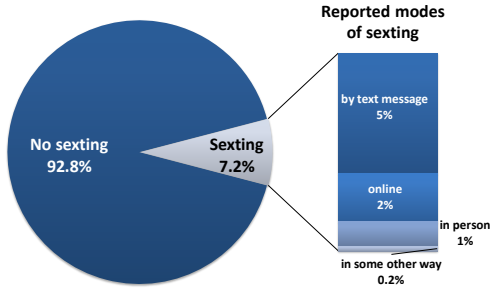
We are talking about times when you wanted to do these things.

Please keep in mind that these things can happen anywhere including in-person, on the Internet, and on cell phones or text messaging.

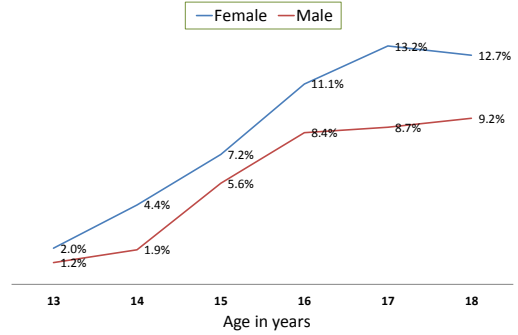
Demographic Comparison of Sexters and Non-sexters

Demographic characteristics	Younger youth (13-15 years old; n = 1,617)			Older youth (16-18 years old; n = 2,098)		
	No “sexting” (96%, n = 1,555)	“Sexting” (4%, n = 62)	p-value	No “sexting” (89%, n = 1,893)	“Sexting” (11%, n = 205)	p-value
	M (SE)	M (SE)		M (SE)	M (SE)	
Age	14.0 (0.02)	14.4 (0.1)	<0.001	17.0 (0.02)	17.0 (0.07)	0.56
Female	46.4 (813)	55.7 (38)	0.24	52.7 (1111)	62.2 (140)	0.03
Hispanic ethnicity	17.8 (132)	11.7 (6)	0.28	16.7 (216)	31.6 (43)	<0.001
LGB / non-heterosexual identity	3.0 (48)	15.4 (11)	<0.001	4.6 (79)	12.2 (28)	<0.001
Race			0.85			0.08
White	71.5 (1244)	73.5 (52)		67.5 (1376)	58.5 (129)	
Black / African American	13.9 (117)	15.2 (4)		14.2 (217)	19.9 (39)	
All other	14.6 (194)	11.3 (6)		18.3 (300)	21.6 (37)	
Household income lower than average	25.6 (325)	23.9 (16)	0.78	28.9 (479)	31.1 (53)	0.58
Small town / rural setting	41.7 (525)	40.2 (24)	0.25	40.5 (609)	41.2 (68)	0.12
Born-again Christian	27.5 (410)	28.4 (13)	0.91	28.9 (519)	18.0 (38)	0.003
Public school	86.9 (1310)	90.2 (55)	0.71	86.3 (1620)	89.1 (184)	0.64
Caregiver education attainment high school or less	27.5 (286)	23.1 (10)	0.61	30.3 (400)	35.4 (47)	0.23

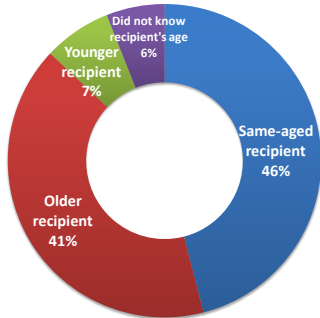
Past-Year Sexting Prevalence among Youth 13-18 Years of Age



Past-Year Sexting Prevalence by Age and Sex



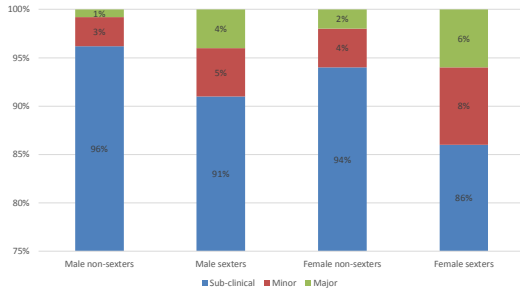
Age Difference of Sexting Recipient



Associations between Sexting and Other Sexual Behaviors for Females and Males

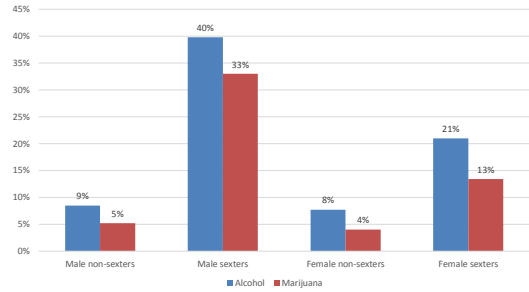
Youth characteristics	Male youth (n = 1,613)			Female youth (n = 2,102)		
	No sexting (94%, n = 1,524)	Sexting (6%, n = 89)	Adjusted Odds Ratio	No sexting (91%, n = 1,924)	Sexting (9%, n = 178)	Adjusted Odds Ratio
Sexual behaviors (past 12 months)						
Vaginal sex	13.0 (199)	51.1 (41)	5.6 (3.1 - 10.1)	13.0 (248)	67.0 (115)	11.4 (7.6 - 17.0)
Anal sex	2.7 (38)	21.6 (15)	7.5 (2.7 - 20.4)	2.1 (38)	25.5 (41)	10.8 (6.1 - 19.2)
Risky sexual behaviors						
Had concurrent sex partners	9.4 (21)	23.4 (8)	3.9 (1.3 - 11.6)	5.6 (14)	10.6 (15)	1.9 (0.8 - 4.5)
Consistent condom use	75.1 (166)	63.9 (26)	0.6 (0.3-1.5)	68.3 (177)	61.0 (65)	0.7 (0.4-1.2)
# of past-year sex partners (M:SE)	1.9 (.4)	3.5 (1.1)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	1.4 (.1)	2.8 (.4)	1.4 (1.2-1.6)
Most recent sex partner had an STI	1.8 (6)	3.9 (3)	2.9 (.6-14.5)	4.5 (10)	5.1 (6)	1.1 (.3-4.6)

Depressive symptomatology



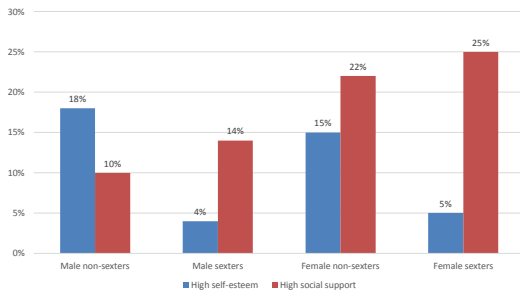
Prevalence rate of minor depressive symptomatology for women is significantly different

Substance use



Both monthly alcohol and marijuana use is significantly higher for "sexters" than their same-sex non-sexting peers.

Positive psychosocial indicators



Sexters had significantly lower self-esteem than non-sexters. Social support was similar between the two groups.

Conclusions

- "Sexting" is not common, nor is it specific to text messaging:
 - 7% in our study – likely because it included all spaces and places
 - 3-4% of youth based upon other national studies
 - 1% based upon Mitchell et al's more narrow definition
- "Sexting" is related to both sexual behaviors, and in some cases, risky sexual behaviors
- "Sexters" are more likely to be using alcohol and marijuana and alcohol, and have low self-esteem
- BUT "sexters" are no more likely to have low social support, to use condoms inconsistently

Conclusions

Although the media has portrayed sexting as a problem caused by new technology, health professionals may be more effective by approaching it as an aspect of **adolescent sexual development and exploration** and, in some cases, a marker for **risk-taking and psychosocial challenge**



Image from: <http://www.amatteroflifeandtech.com/blog/tech-life/techtrends-the-dangers-of-adult-sexting/>

Acknowledgements

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