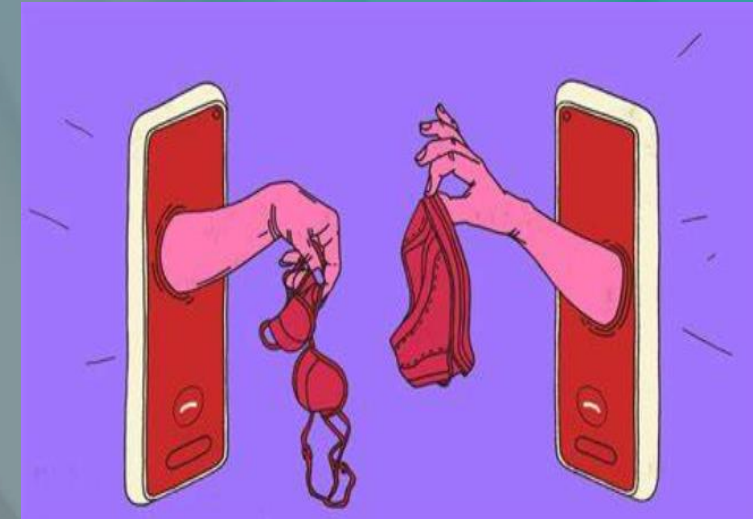


# What Do Social Scientists Know About Sexting?



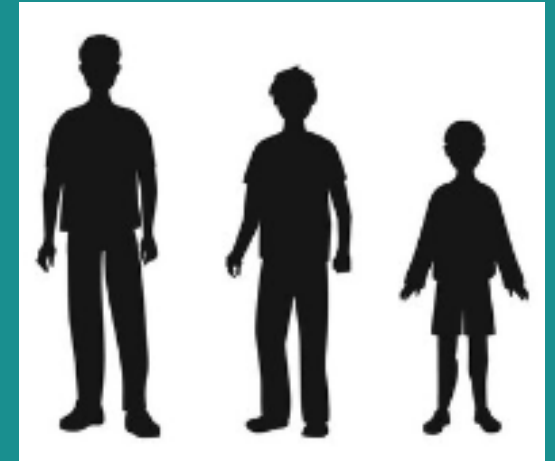
JACORY CARTER

9/25/2024



# Introduction:

- The topic for this presentation is sexting, specifically teenage sexting (ages 12-17).
- In this presentation, I will be gathering points from three articles that contribute to the audiences' understanding of teenage sexting as a phenomenon and how it affects this demographic in various areas.
- The viewer can expect to see statistics, visuals, and some explanation as to the impact sexting has on teens whether positive or negative.



# What is Sexting?

- Sexting is known as the consensual sharing of sexually explicit images and videos through the internet or via electronic devices (smartphones, laptops, etc.).
  - As of late, this act has been on the rise as the availability of electronic devices has increased significantly, especially for the younger demographics.
  - Among the different articles, there is a recurring theme of the correlation between pornography and sexting. It can be understood that the consumption of pornography will result in sexual behavior among the youth (like sexting).
-

# Article 1:

## What parents and educators need to know about teens' pornography and sexting experiences at school

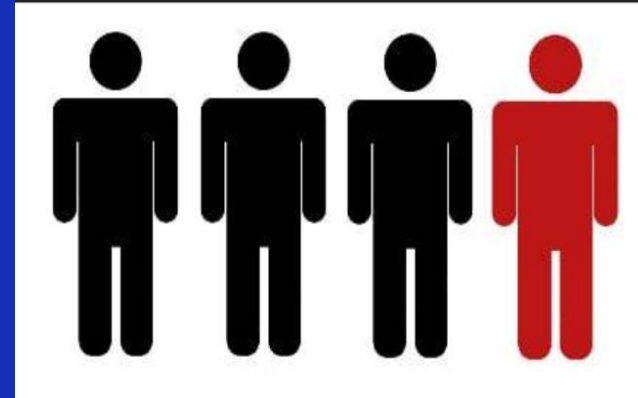
Published: March 6, 2023 8:35am EST



- Three out of four teenagers have seen online pornography.
  - *In most cases, viewing pornography contributes to the sexual behavior (sexting) in teens.*
- Consensual sexting can be a normal and healthy part of adolescent sexuality (exploring their sexuality by expressing their feelings and desires)
- It is important for teens to have an adequate amount of sexual education if they're going to be involved in the digital space and be sexually active.
  - *This can prevent negative mental health, embarrassment, and any type of explicit content being exposed to unintended individuals.*

## Article 2:

- One in seven teens report that they are sending sexts, and one in four are receiving sexts (according to a study of 110,000+ teens).
- Boys are often portrayed as the requesters, and girls as the senders, which shows that boys and girls are equally likely to participate in sexting.
- Some suggest that consensual teen sexting may be a normal component of sexual behavior and development in the digital age.
- Sexting has been linked to impulsive and risk-taking behaviors but the evidence for an association between sexting and poor mental health such as depression or loneliness is weak to non-existent.





# Article 3:

## Teenage sexting linked to increased sexual behaviour, drug use and poor mental health

Published: June 17, 2019 11:12am EDT



- Individuals (12-17) who are sexting are four times more likely to be having sex.
- Youth who sexted were two and a half times more likely to have engaged in delinquent behaviors such as stealing and property damage.
- Additionally, they were almost four times more likely to have consumed alcohol and were approximately three times more likely to have used drugs.
- Age is important in determining the risk level. As age increases, the act of sexting becomes normative and expected in committed relationships. If the age is lower, then it becomes more concerning and harder to protect those involved.

# Conclusion:

After reviewing these three articles and learning more about the topic, it can be concluded that sexting, especially with those in their teenage years, can be challenging to approach. From the articles, it is clear that most people have a neutral opinion on the act, as there are both positives and negatives that can result from it. The academics who authored the articles shared similar thoughts and provided statistics that closely relate to one another. For example, the amount of sexual behavior in teens is strongly dependent on exposure to sexual content online.

Furthermore, external factors like age, relationship status, and sexual education all contribute to the amount of sexual behaviors and acts among teens.

---