

Sexting

TODAY WE ARE MORE CONNECTED THAN EVER AND TEXTING HAS BECOME AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR SOCIAL LIVES, BUT IT'S IMPORTANT TO THINK TWICE BEFORE HITTING SEND.

WHAT IS SEXTING?

Sexting is sending or receiving sexual messages or photos on your cell phone.

HOW OFTEN DOES IT HAPPEN?

- Roughly half of teens have *received* a sexual message from someone else
- 2 out of 5 teens have *sent* a sexual message to someone else



20% of teens say they've sent or posted

a nude or semi-nude picture

or video of themselves.

WHY IS SEXTING AN ISSUE?

In some cases it's illegal. If you send or receive a sexual picture of someone underage, you could face child pornography charges, go to jail, or have to register as a sex offender in your state.

Also when you send an image or suggestive message, you aren't guaranteed any privacy. At times, especially after break-ups, images or messages are sent to other people.

Sexting is an issue that affects

all of us ...



BEFORE PUSHING SEND

- Don't assume anything you send will remain private. Your messages and images might get passed around, even if you don't think so now.
- Remember that anything you send or post will never truly go away. Even if you delete something, there is no telling who has already copied, saved it, or forwarded it elsewhere.
- Don't give in to peer pressure. Many teens say that pressure from friends or someone they liked is what prompted them to send sexual messages or photos. It may be easier to express yourself through texting or communicating online, but remember that whatever you write or post will shape people's beliefs about the real you.
- Consider the recipient's reaction. Just because a message is meant in fun doesn't mean that someone else will take it that way.



Sexting continued...



FOR WEEKLY HEALTH TIPS

CONTESTS AND LIFE ADVICE...

TEXT 'NATIVE' TO 24587

TIPS FOR TEENS

- Never take photos of yourself or send messages that you wouldn't want everyone – your classmates, teachers, friends, and family – to see.
- Report any nude pictures you receive on your phone to an adult you trust (like a teacher or school counselor).

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SEXTING

For additional information visit:

- <http://us.reachout.com/facts/factsheet/understanding-sexting>
- <http://pewresearch.org/assets/pdf/teens-and-sexting.pdf>
- www.weRnative.org

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