

SEXTING:

IT'S YOUR FUTURE!
THINK B4 YOU TEXT

Quick Facts:

- The "Always On" generation 10 -18 yrs text/instant message several times a day
- 1.56 trillion text messages were sent last year
- 52,083 texts are sent every second.
- 254 Million users on Twitter
- Over 500 Million users on Facebook

What is Sexting?

- A combination of the words “sex” and “texting”
- The term used to describe sending and receiving sexually explicit messages, or nude or semi-nude photographs or videos electronically (primarily between cell phones, but can occur between any media-sharing device or other technologies).

How's it being done?

- Cell phones
 - Text and Picture Messages
 - Video Conversations
 - Face Time
- Video
 - Skype
 - Webcam
- Chat rooms
- Instant Messages



Who's doing it?

- Teens 10 – 18 years of age
 - 20% of teens say they have sent/posted nude or semi-nude pictures or videos of themselves (1 in 5 teens)
 - 39% of teens say they have sent or posted sexually suggestive messages
 - 48% of teens have received sexually suggestive messages



Created by Cst. Amy Haggerty & Cst. Michael Pelletier - Ottawa Police Service

Who's doing it?!

- Although most teens and young adults who send sexually suggestive content are sending it to boyfriends/ girlfriends, others say they are sending pictures and videos to those they want to hook up with or to someone they only know ***online!!!!!!***
- Sending and posting nude or semi-nude photos or videos starts at a young age and becomes even more frequent as teens become young adults.

Why is it happening?

- 
- 36% of teen girls and 39% of teen boys are sending sexually explicit messages and images, even though they know such content often gets shared with those other than the intended recipient
 - Why do teens send or post sexually suggestive content?
 - 51% of teen girls say pressure from a guy

Why is it happening?

- Reasons why teens have sent or posted sexually suggestive content
 - Most say it is a “fun and flirtatious” activity.
 - As a “sexy present” for a boyfriend or girlfriend
 - In response to a sexually suggestive messages or images they received
 - As a perceived “joke”
 - To feel sexy
 - A majority of girls say they felt pressure to do so from a guy
 - To get noticed from the opposite sex
 - To get positive feedback

Why it is happening?

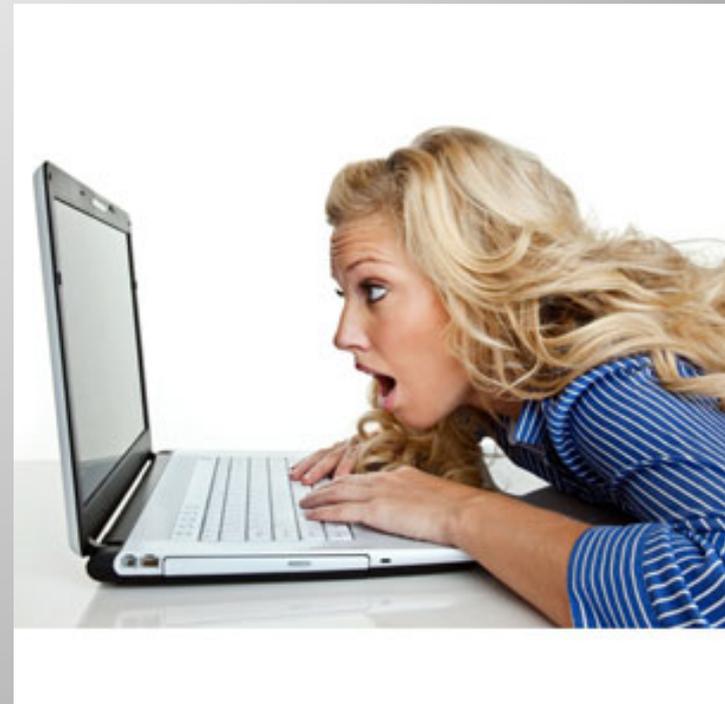
- Quote from a teenage girl:
 - “It’s not normally the sluttier girls who do this – it’s more likely to be the shy type of girl who wants to be popular. They’re the ones who will get easily swayed by boys, because boys want to see them naked, and they think this if they show themselves.....”

Sarah age 15



Dangers of Sexting!

- How do teens feel about sending /posting sexually suggestive content?
 - 75% of teens say sending sexually suggestive content *“can have serious negative consequences”*



Consequences?!

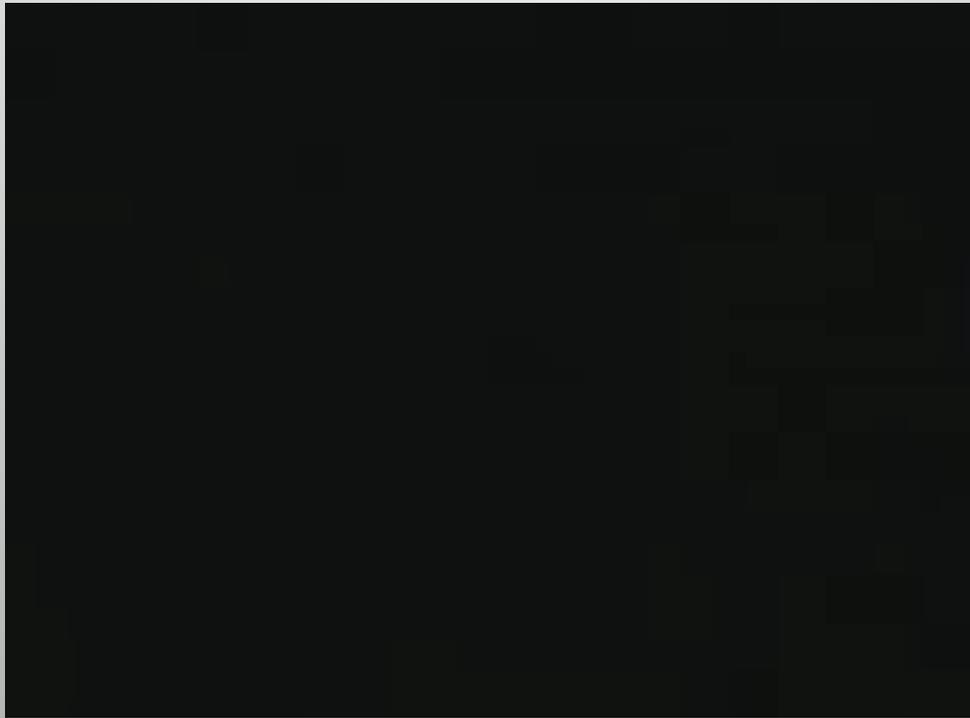
- Pictures and Videos can be easily and quickly shared with others
- Once the message or image is in cyberspace, the sender loses control over the material and cannot assume that it will remain private
- Even the police can't get those images back!!



Consequences?!

- Nothing in cyberspace ever gets deleted
- Friends, enemies, parents, teachers, coaches, police, strangers, sexual predators and potential employers may receive or find past postings





Consequences?!

- Criminal Offences associated with Sexting
 - Possession & Distribution, Accessing of Child Pornography
 - (Having a picture or video, looking at it on the internet or just simply showing someone)
 - Luring
 - (asking someone to do a sexual act over the computer)
 - Voyeurism
 - (taking a picture or video without someone knowing)
 - Threats
 - (telling someone you'll distribute their pictures unless they provide more)

Consequences?!



Harassment

Cyber Bullying

Depression

Suicide

What Can You Do?

- If you've already sent a picture, **TELL!** someone
 - A Trusted Adult, Student Services, Teacher, Parent, Police
- Don't send anything else, even if threatened to do so!
- Tell someone if you think a friend may be in trouble or needs help!

What Can You Do?

- Don't let other people, including your friends, convince you to do something you're not comfortable with.
- It's YOU who has to live with the future consequences!!!



Created by Cst. Amy Haggerty & Cst. Michael Pelletier - Ottawa Police Service

What Can You Do?

- If you receive an inappropriate text message/picture?
 - Tell a trusted adult
- Delete the picture immediately
 - If you keep it, you **ARE** in possession of child pornography and can be charged

Internet Safety

- Webcam Dangers
 - It is an open window into your life, and bedroom!
 - Webcams are the single most dangerous device to be attached to your computer
 - Who is watching you on webcam?
 - Others can take screen shots and/or Record the video chat

Internet Safety

- Specific viruses can turn on your webcam even if you turn it off, it can still be turned on remotely and record you without you knowing.
- If you use a webcam, make sure to unplug it when not in use or turn it towards a wall
- **Do not have a webcam in your bedroom!!!**

Internet Safety

- Log all your chats!!!!
- What is a “friend”? (Facebook)
- Don't allow someone you don't know on your contact or friends list
- Who are you really talking with? Ask questions if you're not sure who you're chatting with
- Tell your parents if someone asks you to do something you're not comfortable with

Internet Safety

- Be cautious about information your posting on a blog or message boards
- Don't believe everything you're told on the internet
- Never arrange to meet anyone you have met on the Internet

Cyber Bullying

- Sending texts or emails that are hurtful, hateful, harassing, or threatening physical harm.
- Spreading rumors about someone in hopes to embarrass or cause mental and perhaps physical harm.
- Sending personal or embarrassing information including pictures of others, all with the intention of intimidating, frightening, ridiculing, or harming someone else.
- Pretending to be someone else with the intention of deceptive harm.

Consequences?!

- Could be considered a Criminal Offence
 - Criminal Harassment
 - Threats
 - Public Mischief

Tips For Dealing with Cyber Bullies:

- Don't respond
- Don't retaliate
- Tell a trusted adult.
- Save all evidence.
- Never delete any communications.

Tips For Dealing with Cyber Bullies:

- Save all information that contains even a hint of a threat and contact Police
- If the person who is harassing you continues this behaviour
 - Block the person after you have made copies of all communications.



Created by Cst. Amy Haggerty & Cst. Michael Pelletier - Ottawa Police Service

Questions?

IT'S YOUR FUTURE!
THINK B4 YOU TEXT



Created by Constables Amy Haggerty and
Michael Pelletier – Ottawa Police Service

www.ottawapolice.ca



OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE
SERVICE DE POLICE D'OTTAWA

Working together for a safer community
La sécurité de notre communauté, un travail d'équipe