

Sexting: What Clinicians Need to Know

LCA Annual Conference 2016

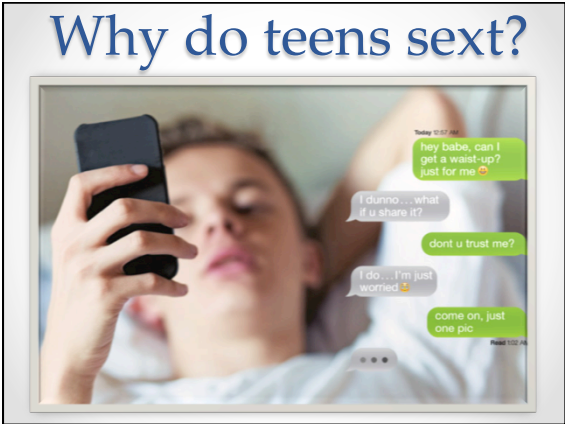
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Agenda

- What is Sexting?
- Sexting Statistics
- Adolescent Development
- Working with Clients & their Parents
- Legal Issues
- Case Examples

What is Sexting?

- Sending explicit photos of yourself from your phone
- Receiving, copying, or sharing explicit photos that were sent to you
- Any form on an electronic device or social media platform, not just text messaging



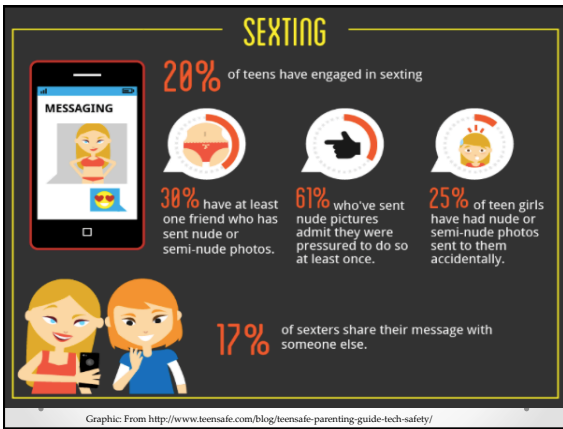
Consequences

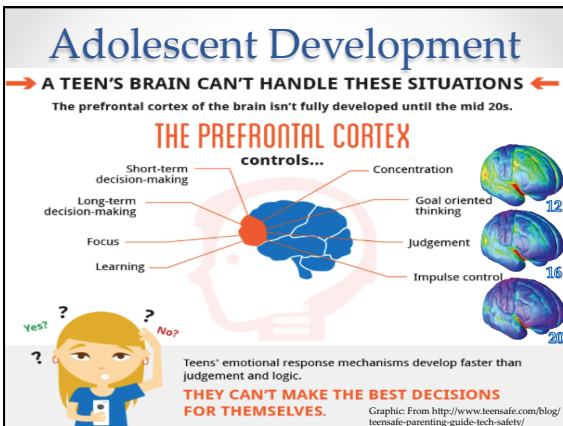
- "Scarlett Letter"
- Social Isolation
- Taunting and abuse
- Viral isn't fun, it's fast
- Legally it can be lifetime catastrophic. Just one picture can legally label one as a registered sex offender

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Ally's Story





Working with Clients

- Assess each case individually to determine the intentions of the sexting teens, the scope and circumstances around the dissemination and the presence and breadth of any possible harm for their actions
- Ask teens who sent photos if they felt pressured, assess dynamics of power and control
- Other bullying?
- Self-esteem building, affirmations
- Discuss healthy relationships
- Talk about appropriate technology usage

What Teens Should Ask

Are you willing to take the chance that someone other than your intended recipient will see your image?	Will those images be a source of embarrassment or humiliation to you?
<i>Before you hit "Send"</i>	
Are you willing to take the chance that the images may be a "career killer" or prevent you from some future opportunities?	Will the images/videos that you send violate the law?

Graphic From the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Public Affairs Division, Sexting: Criminal Teen Trend Presentation

Talking to Client's Parents

- Encourage responsibility development for teen's safety and actions
- Have discussions with teen about permanency of cyberspace
- Help teens set personal boundaries
- Create and enforce consequences for inappropriate media usage
- Promote parental controls on electronic devices or consider nanny software
 - Have passwords to your child's phones, social media accounts, etc
 - TeenSafe: child cell phone monitoring for parents

Federal Law

- Felony
 - Distribution of Child Pornography
 - Possession of Child Pornography
- Misdemeanor
 - Failure to report Child Abuse
- Punishment
 - Mandatory Sex Offender Registry
 - Child porn or exploitation may face minimum 5 years in prison up to a maximum of 20 years



Louisiana Laws: Under 17

- In Louisiana, people younger than 17 are prohibited from knowingly and voluntarily using a computer, cell phone, or other telecommunications device to transmit indecent images they take of themselves. It's also a crime for someone younger than 17 to have or transmit an indecent image that was transmitted by another person younger than 17 who took the image of him or herself. (Louisiana Revised Statutes § 14:81.1.1.)

Louisiana Laws: Under 17

- It's also a crime in Louisiana to produce, promote, distribute, or possess any pornographic images or material that involve juveniles. This type of material includes any kind of film, image, photograph, or other reproduction that depicts people younger than 17 engaging in sexual conduct. Committing the crime of pornography involving juveniles in Louisiana is a felony offense. (Louisiana Revised Statutes § 14:81.1.)

Louisiana Laws: Under 17

- Anyone in Louisiana who transmits or delivers an image or written communication to any person younger than 17 with the intent to arouse or gratify sexual desires commits the crime of indecent behavior with juveniles. However, if the age difference between the juvenile and the person sending the written communication or image is two years or less, no crime has occurred. (Louisiana Revised Statutes § 14:81.)

Louisiana Juvenile Penalties

- A teen who commits a sexting crime (Louisiana Revised Statutes § 14:81.1.1) faces a number of possible penalties for a first offense. Louisiana juvenile courts have broad discretion in the types of penalties they can impose. For example, the court can order the teen to pay a fine, perform community service, or stay under house arrest, or it can impose other punishments as it deems appropriate. For second or third sexting offenses, more significant penalties such as higher fines and up to six months in jail are possible.

Case Example: Phillip Alpert

- Orlando, FL
- Has been dating a girl for 2 ½ years and she sent him naked photos of herself
- He was 18, sent photos to dozens of friends
- "It was a stupid thing I did because I was upset and tired and it was the middle of the night and I was an immature kid"
- Arrested and charged with sending child pornography
- Convicted, sentenced to 5 years probation and required to register as a sex offender



Case Study: [Jessica Logan](#)

- From Cincinnati, Ohio
- Sent a nude photo of herself and sent it to the boy she had been dating for a couple of months
- They broke up, he forwarded it to 4 girls, who then forwarded it, It went viral
- Hundreds of teenagers in at least 7 greater Cincinnati high schools received the picture
- July 3, 2008, Jessica hung herself in her room



Resources

- www.kidshealth.org/en/parents/2011-sexting.html#
- <https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-sexting>
- <https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/userfiles/file/Judicial/Effective%20Responses%20to%20Teen%20Sexting.pdf>
