

# the NUMBERS

**53%**  
of teens who sext are girls



**47%**  
of teens who sext are boys



**86%**  
OF SEXTERS ARE NOT CAUGHT

**CYBERSPACE...  
WHAT'S OUT THERE YOU CAN NEVER TAKE BACK!**

PERCENTAGE OF TEENS THAT SEXT TO BE "FUN OR FLIRTATIOUS"

**60%**

**AND**

**11%**

OF TEENAGE GIRLS, AGES

**13 to 16**

HAVE SEXTED NUDE/SEMI-NUDE PHOTOS OF THEMSELVES

**40%**

OF TEENAGE BOYS HAVE SENT SEXUALLY SUGGESTIVE MESSAGES

## SOCIAL IMPACT

- Reduced school attendance
- .....
- Increased bullying & harassment
- .....
- Learned "distrust" of relationships
- .....
- Emotionally destructive



## RESOURCES

- [www.texasattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov)
- [www.expectrespectaustin.org](http://www.expectrespectaustin.org)
- [www.netsmartz.org/sexting](http://www.netsmartz.org/sexting)



**TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
P.O. Box 1748 / Austin, TX 78767  
512.854.9770 / [www.tcsheriff.org](http://www.tcsheriff.org)



**THINK  
B4 YOU HIT**

**SEND**

**CYBER SAFETY**

presented by the  
Travis County Sheriff's Office



## WHAT IS SEXTING?

Sexting ("sex texting") is the sending or receiving of sexually explicit or sexually suggestive images, messages or video via a cell phone or internet.

Examples may include:

- Nude/nearly nude photos or "selfies"
- Videos that show nudity, sex acts or simulated sex
- Text messages that propose/refer to sex acts

## WHY DO YOUTH SEXT?

Youth sext for many reasons. They may be pressured by friends or a dating partner. Some may be trying to impress a crush. They make these decisions without thinking about how it will affect their future, nor how quickly digital information is spread via cell phone and across the internet.

# 3

## MAIN SCENARIOS FOR SEXTING

1. Exchange of images solely between two romantic partners
2. Exchange between partners that are shared with others outside the relationship
3. Exchanges between people who aren't yet in a relationship, but where at least one person hopes to be

# TIPS for TEENS

**THINK ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES** of taking, sending or forwarding a sexual text or picture of someone, including yourself. You could get kicked out of school clubs, sports teams, lose your job, and even become a victim of bullying - **WORST CASE** - get in trouble with the law!

### NEVER TAKE

a photo of yourself that you wouldn't want everyone to see - once it's out there you can't control who sees it.

### IF YOU FORWARD

a sexual picture of someone underage, you are legally responsible for the image as the original sender. You could possibly face child pornography charges and serve jail time.

### REPORT

any nude pictures or sexually suggestive messages you receive on your phone to an adult you trust. **DO NOT** delete the text.

## WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?

- **Talk to your teen about these issues** bring up current events, have a discussion not a debate, give them ideas of how to get out of a situation.
- **Set your expectations** for phone/camera and online use
- **Encourage your teen's self-esteem** give them a positive body image, talk to them about realistic media/peer influences and how it affects their sense of identity.
- **Teach your teen good decision making skills** we can't always be with them, but parental influence is THE most important one. Discuss your family values.
- **Be a positive role model** your actions speak louder than your words!

## LEGAL IMPACT

According to Texas Penal Code Section 43.261, it is possible for a minor to be charged with either a misdemeanor or a felony offense for possession or promotion of child pornography, depending upon the circumstances. If a child is adjudicated for the offense of sexting, legal consequences may include probation until the child's 18th birthday. If a minor who is not a child, is found guilty of the offense of sexting, penalties range from a fine not to exceed \$500 to up to one year in jail. If an individual is convicted of the felony offense of possession or promotion of Child Pornography, penalties range from 2 to 20 years in prison.

In general, you are illegally engaging in sexting if you – knowingly or on purpose – send, show or keep a picture or video of a minor – including yourself – engaging in "sexual conduct."

## WHAT is the difference between POSSESSION & PROMOTION?

### POSSESSION

having actual care, custody, control or management of material that depicts another minor engaging in sexual conduct that has not been destroyed in a reasonable amount of time.

### PROMOTION

to procure, manufacture, issue, sell, give, provide, lend, mail, deliver, to transfer, transmit, publish, distribute, circulate, disseminate, present, exhibit, or advertise, or agree to do any of the above, sexually-explicit or sexually-suggestive images or video via mobile device or computer.