-;

AITR

I want pizza!

The Sexting Reference Guide for Teachers & School Administrators

©2018
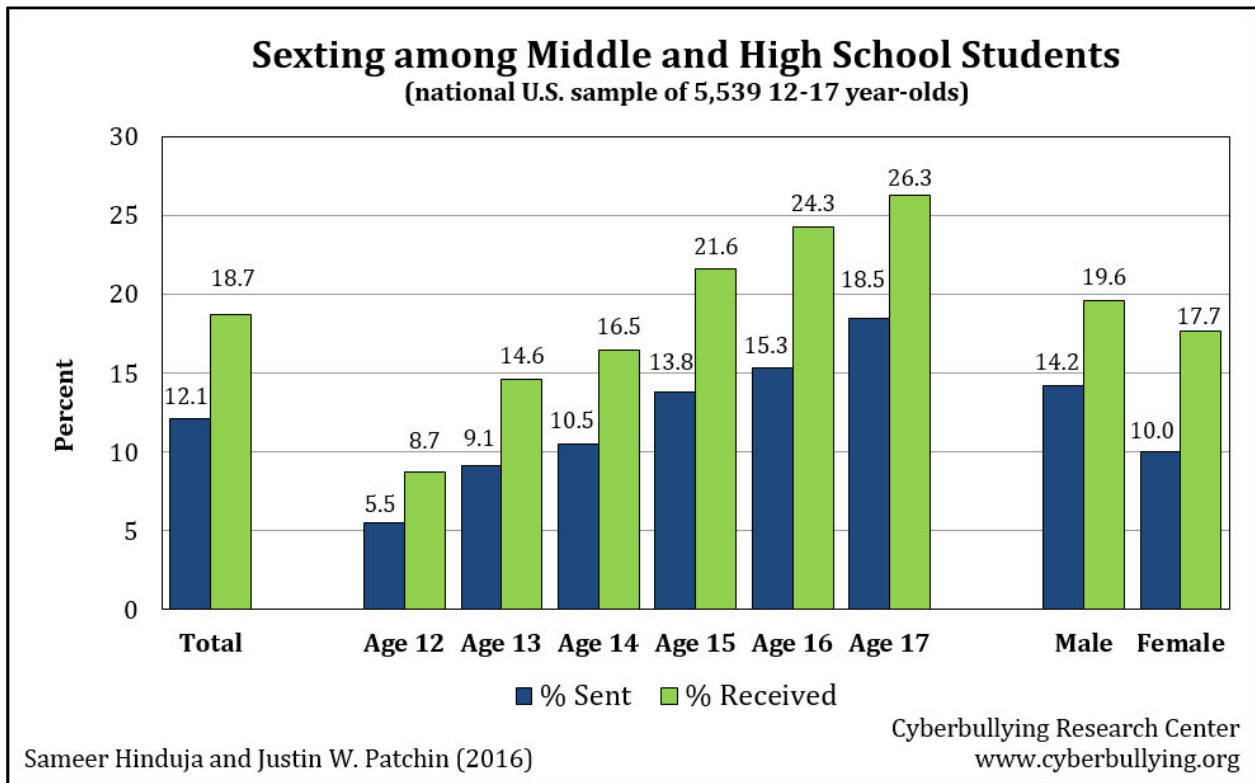
SAFETY NET OF PA, LLC

$50.00

Contents

Introduction

The Cyberbullying Research Center has conducted numerous studies on sexting involving 12-17 year olds in the U.S. Some of the results of their most recent studies indicate the following:

- 12% of students said that they had sent an explicit image of themselves to another person.
- 19% of the students reported receiving an explicit image.

Sexting among Middle and High School Students
(national U.S. sample of 5,539 12-17 year-olds)

■ % Sent   ■ % Received

Sameer Hinduja and Justin W. Patchin (2016)

Cyberbullying Research Center
www.cyberbullying.org

Bear in mind that this is what the students admit to – the actual number may be *much* higher! This is especially true since it involved minors, who may have been reluctant to admit what they did. Drexel University conducted a similar study in 2014. They asked college students about their activities during high school. They reported that *most* students had admitted to engaging in sexting, albeit, not always with images.

Improvements in technology now allow people to send text, images, even videos to one another instantaneously. In what most likely began as a way to shorten the time to send a message and to save data charges, people quickly found ways to quicken the amount of time it took to send a message. That led to abbreviations and acronyms, which are now used to conceal a message's true meaning.

When tweens and teenagers started using cellphones to send messages, it led to all sorts of unusual abbreviations and acronyms, such as "AITR", "LH6" and "SMH". Those abbreviations will be explained later on in this guide.

While all of them are intended to quicken the process, many of them were also intended to keep adults in the dark as to what was really being said. Not all of the examples shown here are directly related to sex, drugs or other undesirable activities, but they will give you a better understanding of how minors behave online.

In some cases, the abbreviations, shortcuts, etc. may be used in hopes that the service provider or app will not be able to understand the message. They do this to avoid being found in violation of the company's terms and conditions, not realizing that if the companies were "spying" on their conversations, it would be a violation of their privacy.

In other cases, they intentionally misspell a word to avoid the app from searching for words or phrases which they think would get them into trouble. Examples of this would include "slvt" instead of "slut" and "s e x" instead of "sex". Others spell words phonetically in hopes of avoiding content auditors used by the apps.

In most cases, the sexters have nothing to fear. Most apps, like Snap, Kik, etc., rely mainly on users to report others who have violated the terms and conditions. Even so, when this happens, it rarely ever leads to any legal or long-term form of punishment. This is largely due to how easy it would be for someone to simply create a new account.

Please note that this guide defines and explains some things that may be uncomfortable for some people to see. It contains some profanity and concepts that may offend some people. However, only by acknowledging the problem directly will educators and parents be properly prepared to understand what might be happening with their students/children.

Sexting can have consequences, both legal and personal, that can have long-lasting and devastating effects. Most, if not all jurisdictions in the U.S. have laws forbidding the transmission of images involving minors and nudity. A potential new federal law would mandate a 25-year sentence for the first offense.

As difficult as the legal issues might be, they pale compared to the personal consequences often involved with sexting. It can lead to body shaming, cyberbullying, depression, self-harm and even suicide. These are all reasons to avoid the problems before they start.

One of the most misunderstood issues of using social media apps like Instagram and Snap is who owns the rights to the images. The person who took the photograph owns the rights, unless they have signed a waiver or took the photo under a "work for hire" scenario. However, most social media apps' terms and conditions include something similar to what Facebook has in theirs, allowing others to share/use their content. The images essentially become part of the public domain.

When you publish content or information using the Public setting, it means that you are allowing everyone, including people off of Facebook, to access and use that information, and to associate it with you (i.e., your name and profile picture). Facebook Terms & Conditions, 9/27/2017.

In some cases, people are allowed to take images and content from someone's account and use it as they see fit, even to the point of making a profit from it.

Richard Prince, from New York City, has taken images from people's Instagram accounts, modified them, blown them up to life-size and sold them for as much as $90,000 each! The image to the right is some of his work. The images shown here are some of the more modest images.

All of this can be done without the original poster's permission, or in some cases, even their knowledge.
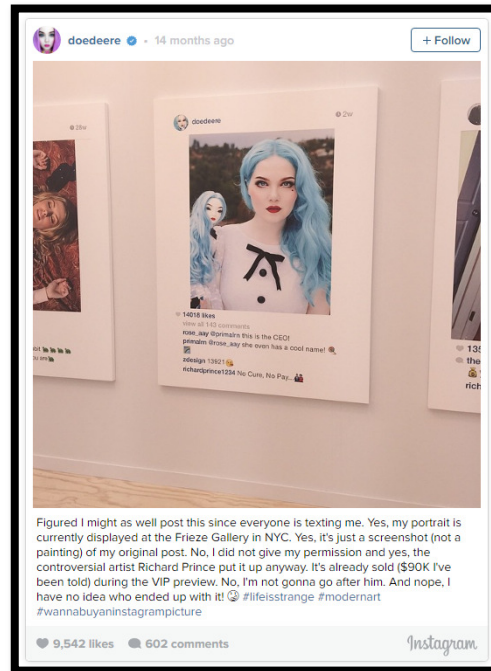
Most social media sites are free to use, but may have unexpected requirements in their terms and conditions. All users should review them before agreeing to them!

Want the rest?

Call Joe Yeager at

(215) 378-5585