Safe Sexting: ... you may want to think before you hit the send button!

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Do you sext ?????

- Nancy: "Wut do u want?"
  Bob: "Cum over to my place now."
- Nancy: "Is NE1 else there?"
  Bob: "No. I need to c u."
- Nancy: "K. Will b there soon"
WARNING: the information in the next slide is sexually explicit.
Are you K-P-C??

- 1 8 = Oral sex
- 2 1337 = Elite
- 3 143 = I love you
- 4 182 = I hate you
- 5 459 = I love you
- 6 1174 = Nude club
- 7 420 = Marijuana
- 17 FOL = Fond of Leather
- 15 16 FMLTWIA = **** Me Like The Whore I Am

- 8 ADR = Address
- 9 ASL = Age/Sex/Location
- 10 Banana = Penis
- 11 CD9 or Code 9 = Parents are around
- 12 DUM = Do You Masturbate?
- 13 DUSL = Do You Scream Loud?
- 14 FB = **** Buddy
- 18 GNOC = Get Naked On Cam
Older teens more likely to own cell phones

Percentage of teen cell phone owners by age, 2004-2008

Age

12  13  14  15  16  17
18% 43% 51% 43% 48% 59% 79% 85% 82% 84%

All data based on teens ages 12-17. Source: Pew Internet & American Life Project, Gaming and Civic Engagement Survey of Teens/Parents, Nov. 2007-Feb. 2008. N=1,102 and margin of error is ±3%. Margin of error for teens in the Oct.-Nov. 2004 survey is ±3% (n=1,100), and margin of error for the Oct.-Nov. 2006 survey is ±4% (n=935).
# Demographics of Teen Cell Phone Users

The percentage of teens in each demographic group who have a cell phone

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% of teens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>All teens</strong></td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sex</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-14</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-17</td>
<td>83%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Race/ethnicity</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White (not Hispanic)</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black (not Hispanic)</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic (English-speaking)</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Internet user</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>72%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Household income</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than $30K</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$30K-$50K</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50K-$75K</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than $75K</td>
<td>79%*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* indicates a statistically significant difference from other data points within the same demographic variable.

One in six teens with a cell phone have received a sexually suggestive image or video of someone they know.

Four percent of cell-owning teens have sent a sexually suggestive nude or nearly nude image or video via text message.

4% of cell-owning teens say they have sent sexually suggestive nude or nearly nude images of themselves to someone else via text messaging.

15% have received a sexually suggestive nude or nearly nude image or video of someone they know.

Source: Pew Internet & American Life Project Fall 2008 tracking survey, September 2008. Interviews conducted in English. Margin of error is ±4% based on cell phone-owning teens ages 12-17.
Attitudes towards sexting

• “No, [it’s not a big deal] we are not having sex, we are sexting,” wrote one 9th/10th grade boy. “It’s not against my religion or anything.”

• “Most people are too shy to have sex. Sexting is not as bad.”

• Another high school boy wrote “I know people think [sexting] is dangerous, but to me, it’s no big deal because I get them a lot.”

• Source Pew Institute
Attitudes towards sexting

• Other teens avoid it because of their concerns about legality and the potential for public release of the images

• “This is common only for girls with ‘slut’ reputations. They do it to attract attention.”
What is going on.....

• Approximately 71% of teen girls and 67% of teen boys had sent or posted sexually suggestive content

• 21% of teen girls and 39% of teen boys had sent material to individuals they wanted to ‘hook up’ with.
What is going on......

• 44% of teen girls and 36% of teen boys said that it is common for sexually suggestive text messages, and nude or seminude photographs to be shared with people other than the intended recipients.

• 22% were more likely to use sexually suggestive words and images in text messages than in face-to-face communications,
Why they doing it?

• The most common reason for male and female teens to send sexually suggestive content was that it was regarded as a ‘fun or flirtatious’ activity.
Consequences

• Social

• Psychological

• Legal consequences
Legal Consequences

• Teens need to be aware that they can be arrested, charged and convicted for possessing and distributing child pornography, even when the pornography they are sending is of themselves.

• They also face the prospect of being required by the Court to register as sex offenders.
FIVE THINGS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE PRESSING “SEND”

• Don’t assume anything you send or post is going to remain private
• There is no changing your mind in cyberspace—anything you send or post will never truly go away
• Don’t give in to the pressure to do something that makes you uncomfortable, even in cyberspace
• Consider the recipient’s reaction
• Nothing is truly anonymous.
Parents’ Role

• “my mom goes through my phone.”

• “I get(s) text picture messages from girls because they like me. The picture would have nudity, but I put those on security for my phone.”
5 TIPS TO HELP PARENTS TALK TO THEIR KIDS ABOUT SEX AND TECHNOLOGY

• Talk to your kids about what they are doing in cyberspace.
• Know who your kids are communicating with.
• Consider limitations on electronic communication.
• Be aware of what your teens are posting publicly.
• Set expectations.
Possible Solution

• One possible solution is to teach teens that they are in control of their own image and they are in control of who should get to see their body.

• We need to changes the instructional dynamic from one of dictating behavior to empowering teens.
Reports & Resources

• Sexting & Youth: Achieving a Rational Response, Nancy Willard, M.S., J.D.1; Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use Website http://csriu.org.
• National center for Missing and Exploited Children http://www.netsmartz.org/index.aspx