

**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"



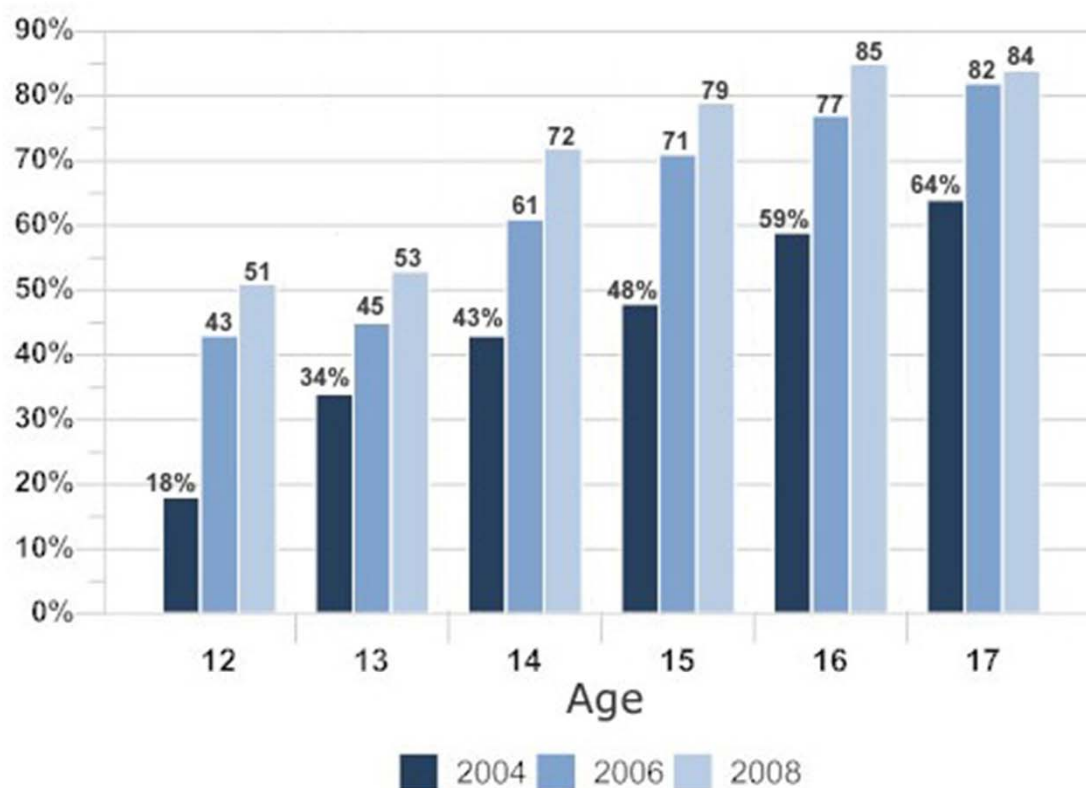
**WARNING:** the information in the next slide is sexually explicit.

# 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
- 13 DUSL =Do You Scream Loud?
- 14 FB =\*\*\*\* Buddy
- 18 GNOC =Get Naked On Cam
- 12 DUM =Do You Masturbate?

## Older teens more likely to own cell phones

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



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  $\pm 3\%$ . Margin of error for teens in the Oct.-Nov. 2004 survey is  $\pm 3\%$  (n=1,100), and margin of error for the Oct.-Nov. 2006 survey is  $\pm 4\%$  (n=935).

## Demographics of Teen Cell Phone Users

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

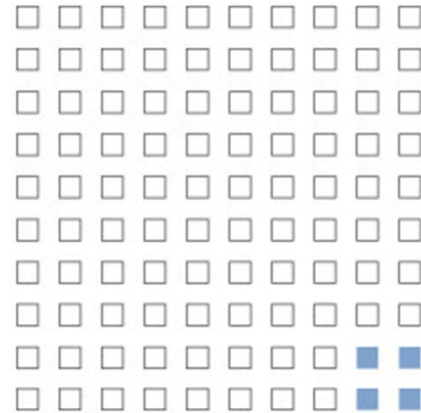
	% of teens
<b>All teens</b>	<b>71%</b>
<b>Sex</b>	
Male	70%
Female	72
<b>Age</b>	
12-14	59%
15-17	83*
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>	
White (not Hispanic)	73%
Black (not Hispanic)	64
Hispanic (English-speaking)	71
<b>Internet user</b>	
Yes	72%*
No	51
<b>Household income</b>	
Less than \$30K	62%
\$30K-\$50K	63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

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

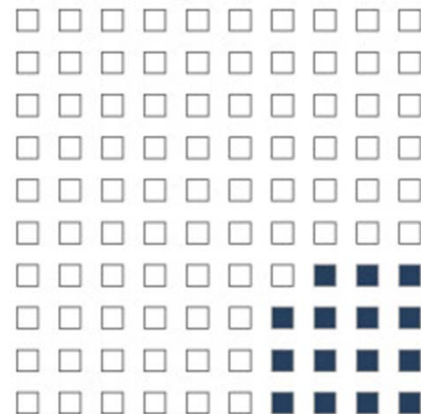
Source: Pew Internet & American Life Project, Gaming and Civic Engagement Survey of Teens/Parents, Nov. 2007-Feb. 2008. N=1,102 and margin of error is +/-3%, based on all teens ages 12-17.

## 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 2009 tracking survey, September 2008. Interviews conducted in English. Margin of error is  $\pm 4\%$  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 the possibility 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 change the instructional dynamic from one of *dictating* behavior to *empowering* teens

# Reports & Resources

- The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, and CosmoGirl.com. Sex and tech: Results from a survey of teens and young adults.  
[http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/sextech/PDF/SexTech\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/sextech/PDF/SexTech_Summary.pdf)
- American Academy of Pediatrics. Talking to kids and teens about social media and texting.  
<http://www.aap.org/advocacy/releases/june09socialmedia.htm>
- 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>