

Before You Begin...

Youth & Adult Awareness Presentations on Sexting

The intent of this presentation is to provide a starting place or a template for your program when responding to requests, typically from schools, for basic information or awareness raising presentations. We have included the key points and best practice approaches to discussing the topic and expect you may customize some aspects of the slides to meet your community's needs, experiences, and resources.

- Two versions of this PowerPoint presentation:
 - A version for youth/teens.
 - A version for caregivers and educators.
 - Most of these slides are for both caregivers and educators. However some slides are designed solely for either caregivers OR educators, so please feel free to turn on these slides as appropriate to your audience.
- The slides contain detailed notes and considerations for the trainer.
- There are three 'Key Points' handouts for this presentation: for youth, for caregivers, and for educators.

Philosophy of this Presentation:

These slides and resources intentionally and importantly come from a different perspective than some other sexting presentations.

The key messages in this presentation are designed to:

- Avoid scare tactics or the message: "Just Don't Do It."
 - This message won't resonate with young people and has been proven ineffective in other related social health issues.
- To help teens and adults think through sexting in the larger context of healthy relationships.
- To help teens be better equipped to make informed choices.
- To recognize what two national studies found, that half of girls feel pressured to sext, and so talk about how get help if they don't feel like they have a choice or if it's already happened to them.
- To help teens help each other by:
 - Not forwarding a sext.
 - Telling their friends it is not cool to pressure someone to sext.
 - Helping a friend think it through if they have been asked to sext.

Trainer Notes:

- These slides have minimal formatting so that you can drop them into an existing presentation or format to match other presentations your agency has developed.
- There are trainer notes for every slide. Both new and experienced trainers can benefit from reading through everything beforehand.
- Take time to read the background resources and visit the websites we suggest for teens before you deliver the presentation.
- Feel free to adapt the language to your audience.
 - Depending on the age and community you're working with, you might know already that some words should be different. Please feel free to change them in the slides ahead of time, or just use the more tailored words in your verbal presentation.
- Be thoughtful about all the different identities and backgrounds of the teens, families, and communities you are talking to.
 - Don't assume that anyone is straight or that the gender you think you see is how they identify. Use inclusive language so that the audience knows it is okay to be LGBTQI.
 - By modeling inclusive and respectful language, you can help youth practice this with their peers with both youth and adults.

Trainer Resources:

- Building a Prevention Framework to Address Teen "Sexting" Behaviors
<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/grants/244001.pdf>
 - It is highly recommended that trainers take the time to review this resource, particularly the Findings and the Recommendations for Policy & Practice. This study included focus groups of teens, parents and educators, resulting in extensive quotes which are a rich resource for presentations and discussions, and takes a big picture approach to sexting by both defining it broadly and by placing it in a larger ecological context. It recommends more effective approaches to the issue and was funded by the federal Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

- Common Sense Media's Digital Citizenship curricula
<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/educators/scope-and-sequence>
 - This resource was developed for teachers, and has content developed for each age group and is designed to be used in schools. This is a great resource to recommend to educators, and to use for your own presentations to kids, on topics including sexting, privacy, cyberbullying, etc.

- The Major National Studies
 - Executive Summary: 2011 AP-MTV Digital Abuse Study
http://www.athinline.org/pdfs/MTV-AP_2011_Research_Study-Exec_Summary.pdf.
This is a widely quoted "study that provides an in-depth look at bullying, abuse, and discrimination in the digital age."
 - Cox Communications Teen Online & Wireless Safety Survey
<http://www.cox.com/wcm/en/aboutus/datasheet/takecharge/2009-teen-survey.pdf>.
This is another widely quoted study that was done by Cox in Partnership with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® (NCMEC) and John Walsh

- The Pew Research Center.
 - Teen Voices: Dating in the Digital Age <http://www.pewinternet.org/online-romance/>
Pew does the most frequent and detailed studies on this topic, and this particular piece is based on focus groups, so has some great quotes and also gives the bigger context of dating and technology use.
 - Teens and Sexting, <http://www.pewinternet.org/2009/12/15/teens-and-sexting/>
This is one of the older studies, from 2009. They have not done a study solely on sexting since then, but they have questions in other studies that are more recent
 - The Best (and Worst) of Mobile Connectivity
<http://www.pewinternet.org/2012/11/30/part-v-cell-phone-usage/>
A chapter of a larger report that includes more recent information on sexting.

- The Urban Institute's Technology Teen Dating Violence and Abuse, and Bullying
<http://www.urban.org/research/publication/technology-teen-dating-violence-and-abuse-and-bullying>. "This study explores the role of technology in teen dating violence and abuse and teen bullying."

- The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy's "Sex and Tech: Results from a Survey of Teens and Young Adults" (2009)
https://thenationalcampaign.org/sites/default/files/resource-primary-download/sex_and_tech_summary.pdf. This is the oldest of the studies, from 2009, and

was one of the first to comprehensively approach the issue. Beyond just a report on findings, this includes recommendations for how to help teens navigate the issue.