Non-consensual sexting: characteristics and motives of youths who share received-intimate content without consent

# Details

## DOI

10.1071/sh19201

## Issued

2020

## Language

English

## Volume

17

## Issue

3

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## Type

Journal article

## Journal

Sexual Health

## Publisher

CSIRO Publishing

## Sample

Young adults (24-26)

## Implications For Parents About

Parental practices / parental mediation

## Implications For Educators About

Other

## Implications For Stakeholders About

Other

## Other Stakeholder Implication

Family and Children welfares, Public and private digital literacy initiatives

# Abstract

Background
One of the possible negative consequences of sexting is the non-consensual sharing of received-intimate content. This study aimed to determine the characteristics and motives of youths who shared received-intimate images without consent. Methods: Data were obtained from a self-administrated Swiss survey on sexual behaviours among young adults (aged 24–26 years). Out of the 7142 participants, 5175 responded to the question ‘Have you ever shared (forwarding or showing) a sexy photograph/video of someone else (known or unknown) without consent’?; 85% had never shared (Never), 6% had shared once (Once) and 9% had shared several times (Several). Data are presented as relative risk ratios with 95% confidence intervals. Results: Participants who had shared received-intimate content without consent had higher odds of being male [2.73 (2.14–3.47)], foreign-born [1.45 (1.04–2.03)], reporting a non-heterosexual orientation [1.46 (1.10–1.93)], having sent one’s own intimate image [1.76 (1.32–2.34)] and receiving a shared-intimate image of someone unknown [4.56 (3.28–6.36)] or known [2.76 (1.52–5.01)] compared with participants who had never shared. The main reported motivations were for fun (62%), showing off (30%) and failure to realise what they were doing (9%). Conclusions: Given the reported motivations, it appears crucial to remind youths of the seriousness of non-consensual sharing. Although females may also be perpetrators, the behaviour was more prevalent among males. Prevention and education need to consider a broad range of young people in their scenarios. Even if a particular focus on understanding and preventing males’ perpetration must be considered, overall perpetration, including female’s, must be discussed.

# Outcome

Out of the 7142 participants, 5175 responded to the question Have you ever shared (forwarding or showing) a sexy photograph/video of someone else (known or unknown) without consent?: 85% had never shared (Never), 6% had shared once (Once) and 9% had shared several times (Several). Data are presented as relative risk ratios with 95% confidence intervals. Results: Participants who had shared received-intimate content without consent had higher odds of being male (2.73 [2.14-3.47]), foreign-born (1.45 [1.04-2.03]), reporting a non-heterosexual orientation (1.46 [1.10-1.93]), having sent one’s own intimate image (1.76 [1.32-2.34]) and receiving a shared-intimate image of someone unknown (4.56 [3.28-6.36]) or known (2.76 [1.52-5.01]) compared to participants who had never shared. The main reported motivations were for fun (62%), showing off (30%) and failure to realize what they were doing (9%).