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I Want Your Sext: Sexting And Sexual Risk In Young Men

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I WANT YOUR SEXT: SEXTING AND SEXUAL RISK IN YOUNG MEN

A THESIS
PRESENTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
OF
YALE UNIVERSITY
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MASTERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Abstract

Purpose: Sexting, the act of sending or receiving sexually suggestive or explicit messages, photos or videos via mobile phone, and sexual risk have not been studied extensively within a young adult population. The overall aim of this study is to understand the predictors associated with sexting within a low-income, minority, emerging adult, male population and assess the association between sexting behaviors and sexual risk.

Methods: 119, male, heterosexual, young adults participated in a longitudinal study of social networks, health behavior and health outcomes, which included a questionnaire on sexting behaviors and sexual health outcomes. This study is based on the baseline data from this longitudinal study.

Results: Exposure to sexual stimuli was a predictor for most sexting behaviors but there were differences between those who sent/received to steady partners and those who sent/received to hookups. Those who sent sexts to a steady partner were less likely to use condoms over the past six months. Those who sent a sext to a hookup were 4.59 times more likely to have had concurrent relationships over their lifetime.

Conclusions: The study found that sexting is a reciprocal behavior within young adult relationships. The main predictors of sexting and sexual risk outcomes vary depending on whether the sext is sent or received and to whom. The study shows that sexting is marginally related to sexual risk.

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Background

Cell phone use is widespread within the United States with over 90% of American adults owning a cell phone and 58% owning a smartphone (PewResearch 2014). Over 81% of Americans use their cellphones mainly to receive and send text messages (PewResearch 2014). This is especially true of young adults and adolescents, with these groups using text messaging more frequently than voice calls (Dourin et al. 2012). It is no surprise that mobile technology has become a major form of communication within relationships, especially to remit messages around sex; known as sexting.

Research in this area is new and definitions of sexting vary considerably within the literature. Some definitions of sexting limit the devices that the messages are sent from to only mobile phones, while others include alternate forms of electronic communication such as computers (Henderson et al 2011, Lounsbury et al. 2011). Some definitions view sexting solely as the sending of explicit photos whereas others include messages or videos, or all three (Lounsbury et al. 2011). Lack of consensus on a definition and measurement makes comparison between studies difficult (Klettke et al 2014, Lounsbury et al. 2011, Drouin et al. 2012).

The prevalence of sexting amongst young adults varies greatly from study to study. In a systematic review conducted by Klettke et al (2014) the mean prevalence of sending a sexually suggestive text across 12 studies of young adult populations was 53%, whereas the mean prevalence of adolescents sending a sexually suggestive text or photo was 10% (Klettke et al 2014). The 2014 Love, Relationship & Technology survey by McAfee found that 50% of adults had sent or received intimate or sexual messages from someone and 16% had sent intimate content to a stranger (McAfee 2014). There is a much higher prevalence of sexting within the

young adult population and as a result more research is necessary to see what the impacts of this behavior are on sexual health.

A majority of the research on sexting to date has focused heavily on adolescents and the legal ramifications of sexting, its effects on mental health and sexual health risks (Ahern et al. 2013, Judge 2012, Korenis et al. 2014, Richards & Calvert 2009). There has been limited research focused on emerging adults and sexting, especially as it relates to sexual risk. The few studies that have focused on sexting amongst emerging adults have concentrated on undergraduate populations, which does not explore how this behavior happens and may be impacting higher risk populations (Dir et al. 2013, Benotsch et al. 2013, Dir et al. 2013, Drouin et al. 2012, Drouin et al. 2013, Englander 2012, Ferguson 2012, Gordon-Messer et al. 2012, Henderson & Morgan 2011, Hudon 2011). There is a distinct gap in looking at adult populations outside of undergraduates, especially those of different race/ethnicities, where sexual risk is high. There are much higher rates of reported STD's amongst racial/ethnic minority groups when compared with rates among the White population. In 2010, according to the Center for Disease Control, the chlamydia rate among Black men between the ages of 20-24 was eight times the rate among White men of the same age group (CDC 2014). This study attempts to fill the gap in knowledge by focusing on a predominantly Black, low-income, emerging adult sample to understand predictors of sexting and whether sexting is associated with sexual risk.

There have been a few studies looking specifically at sexual risk and sexting (Benotsch et al. 2013, Ferguson et al., Gordon-Messer et al. 2012) but the evidence has been inconclusive. Some have demonstrated a strong relationship between sexting and sexual risk (Benotsch et al. 2013, Ferguson et al. 2011) while others have found no significant association between the two (Gordon-Messer et al 2012). This may be in part due to the populations studied and the ways in

which sexting and sexual risk are defined and measured. Other studies that have focused on adolescents have found a relationship between sexting and sexual risk, including higher number of sexual partners (Dake et al 2012, Giroux 2011, rice et al. 2012, temple et al. 2012, AP-MTV 2009).

It is important to establish if there is an association between sexting and sexual risk in emerging adults as prevalence of sexting within this population is high and the effects of the behavior on health have not been established. There are three theories around sexting and how it may impact sexual health: 1) that sexting may encourage risky sexual behaviors 2) that sexting may be a safe outlet for sexual behavior and may lead to less sexual risk behaviors and 3) sexting may be a new medium within long standing relationships (both committed and otherwise) with no associations to risky or safe sex behaviors (Gordon-Messer et al 2013, Levine 2013).

Understanding how sexting is linked to sexual health can direct responses to sexual health interventions targeted within these populations.

Within the literature that exists about sexting, a number of potential predictors of this behavior have emerged. There have been studies looking at sensation seeking and risky behaviors as predictors of sexting (Crimmins & Seigfried 2014, Benotsch et al. 2012, Dir et al. 2013). We included risky and reckless behavior, sexual sensation seeking, sexual attitudes, general sensation seeking and measures around masculinity based on previous research. One study looked at notion of place as a predictive element. In this the researchers were comparing different European countries and found that sexting varied based on how conservative or liberal a country was (Baumgartner et al. 2014). Based on this study, we included the participant's perception of how religious they are as a predictor, viewing those who are more religious as being similar to those who are conservative and less likely to sext. Another study looked at

exposure to sexual stimuli such as pornography, so we included recent exposure to pornography and strip clubs (Crimmins & Seigfried-Spellar 2014). In this study they found that viewing adult pornography was a predictor for sexting. Lastly, self-esteem was researched in relation to sexting in one particular study, and this inspired us, to see in our research whether or not, there was a link between self-esteem and sexting within this population (Gordon-Messer et al. 2013).

Study Goals and Objectives

The overall aim of this study is to understand factors associated with sexting within a low-income, minority, emerging adult, male population and see if there is any association between sexting behaviors and increased sexual risk. We break sexting down into four categories based on whether the sext is sent or received and to whom: 1) sext sent to steady partner 2) sext received from steady partner 3) sext sent to non-steady partners (i.e., hookups) 4) sext received from hookups. Much of the research has looked at sexting in terms of sending and receiving but not broken down by both sent/received and to whom (hookup/steady partner) (Gordon-Messer 2013, Benotsch et al. 2012, Ferguson 201, Houck et al 2014). This study fills a gap in the literature in terms of looking at how sexting behaviors vary depending on whether messages are sent or received and to whom. The study aims to see if there are any major differences in sexual risk or in the predictors behind sexting between these categories.

Methods

Procedures

The study includes emerging adult men participating in a longitudinal study of social networks, health behavior and health outcomes. The recruitment process began with identification of emerging adult men who were recruited from areas and organizations that we

previously identified as having high frequencies of young men. Snowball sampling was used to recruit friends of participants. Inclusion criteria for all participants included: (a) male gender; (b) age 18-25; (c) English-speaking; (d) heterosexual; (e) in possession of a cell phone with texting capabilities, and ability to maintain cell phone service.

Data were collected at 3 time points: baseline (Time 1), 3 months after baseline (Time 2), and 6 months after baseline (Time 3). During the baseline appointment, research staff obtained written informed consent. Participants completed structured interviews via audio computer-assisted self-interviews (ACASI) with trained research staff. Participation was voluntary and confidential, and all procedures were approved by the Yale University Human Investigation Committee. Participants were remunerated a minimum of \$150 and a maximum of \$300 for time and effort. Data from these analyses come from the baseline ACASI assessment.

Measures

Sexting. Participants answered a set of 18 questions on sexting behaviors in terms of lifetime behaviors around sexting including the sending and receiving of sexts and who the sexts were sent to and from. Out of all of these questions, twelve looked specifically at “sexting” as defined within this study as the sending or receiving of sexually explicit/suggestive messages, pictures, or videos sent via mobile phone. These questions were grouped into four sexting variables based on if sexts were sent or received to a steady partner or a hookup (e.g., casual partner, cheating partner, stranger, and acquaintance). The “hookup” partners were grouped together because they indicate a relationship that is not steady and committed. The resulting four variables used to look at sexting were: 1) sexts sent to steady partners 2) sexts received from steady partners 3) sexts sent to hookups 4) sexts received from hookups.

Sexual Risk. Sexual risk was defined through three variables.

- 1) Lifetime concurrency. This was a combination of two questions asking about lifetime concurrency: “did you ever have sex with someone while you were in a steady relationship?” and “in your life did you ever have sex with someone over the same time period that you were having sex with someone else?” Participants were coded as having lifetime concurrency if they answered yes to either of these questions.
- 2) Lifetime total number of casual partners. This variable was created by subtracting the number of reported steady lifetime partners from the number of reported lifetime partners to create the variable for the total number of lifetime casual partners.
- 3) Condom use. This was created through two questions. One asking, of the times you had sex in the last 3 months with steady partners how often did you use condoms? The other asking, of the times you had sex with non-steady partners in the last three months how often did you use a condom? The answer was reported in a percentage and the mean of the answers from the two questions was used to create the total condom use variable.

Sociodemographic Characteristics

Participants reported their age, income, race/ethnicity, education, how religious they were and whether they were currently in a romantic relationship at the time or not.

Predictors

Risky and Reckless Behavior. This was assessed through 9-items intended (Arnett 1996) to measure how often participants engaged in risky and reckless behaviors (e.g. in the past 6 months, how many times have you driven an automobile while intoxicated? In the past 6 months, how many times have you shoplifted?) Participants scored their answers on a scale from 0-5 with 0= 0 times and 5= more than 20 times. We calculated a mean risk and reckless behavior score

with a higher score indicating riskier behavior. The Cronbach's alpha was 0.81 showing good reliability.

Positive Sexual Sensation Seeking This scale consists of four questions to assess if the participant considered themselves sexually sensation seeking. Questions included "I like wild uninhibited sexual encounters" and "I feel like exploring my sexuality". The answers to these questions were on a four point scale with 1 being "not at all like me" and 4 being "very much like me". The Cronbach's Alpha was 0.67 showing fairly good reliability.

Sexual Attitudes This was measured through ten questions from the Hendrick Sexual Attitude Scale (HSAS) (Hendrick, 1987). Example questions include: "It is okay to have ongoing sexual relationships with more than one person at a time," "It is possible to enjoy sex with a person and not like that person very much". Participants responded on a 5 point Likert scale ranging from 0 "Strongly Disagree" to 5 "Strongly Agree". These items intended to evaluate the participants' overall openness to sex including permissiveness and various sexual practices. The Cronbach's alpha was 0.89 showing good reliability.

Sensation Seeking This was assessed through an 11-item scale looking at sensation seeking behaviors (Kalichmen et al. 1994). Each item was a statement (e.g. "I would like parachute jumping, I have been known by my friends as a risk taker") and was scored by participants on a 4 point scale with 1= Not at all like me and 4= Very much like me. We created a mean sensation seeking score with higher scores indicating higher sensation seeking. The Cronbach's alpha was 0.83 showing good reliability.

Communicate with friends about HIV/AIDS. Participants were given a statement “with my closest friends I talk about HIV/STDs” and answered using a five point scale ranging from 1=Never to 5=Very Often.

Communicate with friends about sex. Participants were given a statement “with my closest friends I talk about sex” and answered using a five point scale ranging from 1=Never to 5=Very Often.

Masculinity Norms We assessed masculinity norms from the Masculine Norm Scale (MRNS) developed by Thompson and Pleck (1986). This scale had three subscales: masculinity status norms, masculinity toughness, and masculinity anti-femininity. Masculine status norms had 11 items (e.g. “Success in his work has to be a man’s central goal in this life”) Masculinity toughness was assessed with 8 items (e.g. “When a man is feeling a little pain he should try not to let it show much”). Masculine anti-femininity was assessed with 5 items (e.g. It is a bit embarrassing for a man to have a job that is usually filled by a woman). The participants are asked to respond using a 7-point Likert Scale ranging from 1 strongly disagree to 7 strongly agree. We calculated mean scores for each subscale and higher scores indicated more status norms, toughness, and anti-femininity. Results showed good internal consistency for status norms ($\alpha=.86$), toughness ($\alpha=.71$), and anti-femininity ($\alpha=.67$).

Exposure to pornography. This was assessed through one question, which asked if the participant had watched pornography in the last three months. The answer was coded as 0=no and 1=yes.

Exposure to strip clubs Participants answered one question reporting whether or not they had gone to a strip club in the last three months. The answer was coded as 0=no and 1=yes.

Religion Participants were asked how religious they were. This was measured on a scale from 0-3 with 0 being not at all religious and 3 being very much so.

Self Esteem. Self Esteem was assessed using the 10-item Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (1965). Participants responded to items on a scale from 1–4, 1 being strongly disagree and 4 being strongly agree. The Cronbach's alpha was 0.81 showing good reliability.

Data Analysis

We first assessed factors associated with sexting by exploring predictors of each of our four sexting variables: 1) sext sent to steady partner 2) sext received from steady partner 4) sext sent to hookup and 4) sext received from hookup. Logistic regression models were used to assess factors associated with sexting. We first assessed unadjusted models and then ran backward logistic regressions to identify the best predictive model for each sexting variable. To analyze sexual risk and sexting, backward logistic (for lifetime concurrency) and linear regression models (for condom use and total number of casual partners) were run with the four sexting variables as primary predictors as well as controlling for possible covariates (gender, age, education and income). All analysis was performed using SPSS version 19.0.

Results

Sample demographic information is listed in Table 1. The sample (n=119) consisted of heterosexual males with a racial breakdown of 79.0% Black, 16.8% Latino and 4.2% White. The average age of the participants was 20 years (SD =1.97) and the average level of education

reached was Grade 12 (SD =1.68). Over half of the participants were in a romantic relationship (54.6%) and religiously inclined (68%).

Sexting Behaviors and Prevalence

Out of the entire sample, 53.5% (n=61) had sent a sext and 70.2% (n=80) had received a sext, and 27.2% of participants had never sent or received a sext. Figure 1 shows that 2.6% of participants had sent a sext but never received one whereas 19.3% had received a sext but never sent one. Figure 1 demonstrates that sexting is a reciprocal behavior with most of those who sext engaging in both sending and receiving of messages. When broken down into who these sexts were sent to and received from, 42.9% (n=51) had received a sext from a steady partner, 53.8% (n=64) had received a sext from a hookup, 42% (n=48) had sent a sext to a steady partner, and 40.3% (n=48) had sent a sext to a hookup.

Figure 2 demonstrates that the participants received nude photos most and sent messages asking for sex most out of the sexting categories. Figures 2 and 3 demonstrate the breakdown of the sexts received and sent by the young men and show that whilst a majority of sexts are sent to and from steady partners, there is a fair amount that are sent to and received from “hookups”, including strangers.

Predictors of sexting

Unadjusted results demonstrated in Table 2 show that older, wealthier, more educated individuals who took part in riskier behaviors, had positive sexual sensation seeking behaviors, talked with friends about relationships, and watched porn in the last three months were more likely to have received a sext from a steady partner. Individuals who engaged in positive sexual sensation seeking behaviors, talked with friends about relationships, had more open and

permissive attitudes towards sex, and watched porn in the last three months were more likely to send a sext to a steady partner. The results changed slightly for those who sent and received sexts from a hookup with exposure to porn in the last three months and having had open attitudes towards sex still remaining predictors for both. However, for those who received sexts from a hookup, having visited a strip club in the past three months was related to being less likely to receive a sext from a hookup.

The results from the adjusted model, demonstrated in Table, 3 show that predictors for sending or receiving a sext from a steady partner were: exposure to porn and talking with friends about sex. Those who watched porn in the past three months were 5.20 times more likely to have received a sext from a steady partner and 5.42 times more likely to have sent a sext to steady partner. Young men who engaged in risky and reckless behaviors and had more open attitudes about sex were more likely to have received a sext from a hookup. Those who had higher education, open attitudes about sex and who watched porn in the last three months were more likely to have sent a sext to a hookup.

Sexting and Sexual Risk

The unadjusted model shows that young men who sent sexts to a steady partner were less likely to use condoms over the last six months. Those who were older were 1.38 times more likely to have had concurrent relationships over their lifetime and those who sent a sext to a hookup were 4.59 times more likely to have been concurrent over their lifetime. There was no relationship found between sexting and total number of causal partners.

Discussion

Much of the current literature around sexting has focused on adolescents, especially around the legalities and social implications of this behavior within this population. Less research has concentrated on the health implications, especially within an adult population. Amongst young adults our results do show that sexting is moderately linked to sexually risky behaviors such as concurrency and less condom use. More importantly, these results vary depending on whom the messages are sent to.

In this study a majority of participants (72.8%) reported sexting, with only 27.2% having never engaged in the behavior. More striking was the vast difference in numbers between those who had sent a sext (53.5%) and those who had received one (70.4%). In comparison to Ferguson's (2011) study on young Hispanic women where only 20% reported engaging in the behavior, it becomes evident that the prevalence of sexting is hard to capture. In addition this study shows that young men are receiving more sexts than they are sending which implies that women are the ones sending more sexts.

Overall the findings demonstrate that sexting is a reciprocal behavior with those who sext engaging in both sending and receiving (Figure 4). This is similar to other findings in the literature (Gordon-Messer et al. 2013, Lenhart et al 2010). However, it is very apparent that the young men received more sexts than they sent which gives insight into how sexting behaviors vary between genders and may factor in with sexual risk. Further, the behaviors vary significantly depending on the population of interest, hookups or steady partners, as does the risk. Young men generally sexted more with steady partners. Overall it is evident that sexting is a part of adult romantic relationships and occurs more often than it does not.

The predictors of sexting give insight into the behavior and basic motivations. These predictors differ slightly depending on whether the sext is sent or received and to whom. However, exposure to sexual stimuli, i.e. pornography, factored in as a predictor for almost all scenarios except for sexts received from a hookup. There may be a peer component present around sexting as talking with friends about sex is a predictor. The predictors surrounding sexts sent and received to hookups align with general risky behaviors, permissive sexual attitudes and exposure to sexual stimuli which create a greater amount of general risk within this group, especially given the “hookup” category includes strangers. Future studies are needed to ascertain the motivations behind sexting and how these are linked to sexual risk. Future research looking at if the behavior is an intentional means of trying to have more sex or if it is a substitute for sex as has been shown amongst some adolescents, could inform the link between sexting and sexual risk (Lenhart 2009).

Overall, the young men were more likely to be receivers of sexts than senders of sexts, especially nude photos, which supports previous findings (Gordon-Messer et al 2013. Lenhart et al. 2010). This may be due to the men asking for photos more, as they did send more messages asking for sex than they received. Or, it may demonstrate a pattern within sexting behaviors, which could inform research into motivations of this behavior. A study by Bernotsch et al. (2013) found that 14% of participants reported having sex with a new partner for the first time after sexting, implying that sexting may be a “technology-mediated flirtation” strategy. The results from this study support a theory like that but more research is needed to ascertain if this is indeed the case. Understanding how young men are sending and receiving sexts and why could direct future research when looking at sexual risk and the implications of these sexting patterns.

Our results also show that the predictors of sexting differ based on who the sext is being sent to. For those who received sexts only, most were received from hookups whereas; those who sent sexts only, sent them mostly to steady partners. This is inline with the literature, which shows that those in committed relationship are more likely to send sexts (Dir et al. 2013, Drouin et al 2013, Hudso 2011, Weisskirch & Delevi 2012). This demonstrates a clear difference in how sexts work within the two categories of relationships and shows a different engagement with the behavior, on the part of the young men. This could imply that there are gender norms at play within sexting behaviors and that technology could be mediating and shifting the norms about sexual initiation and interactions between males and females. Perhaps in the sexting world, females are more likely to initiate sexting than males are, or the expectations differ on what is acceptable and when, from males and females. This could also be linked with the outcomes young men hope to receive from steady partners versus hookups (longstanding relationship versus immediate sex) and this difference may have effects on sexual risk. The fact that the participants who sexted received more sexts from hookups may be due to the participants actively asking for sexts more within this group or due to a wider engagement with dating websites, or apps from which they receive more responses. Lenhart & Duggan (2014) found that 55% of adults who date online received a suggestive image. This behavior could be linked to differing sexual risk than sexting between steady partners and should be further explored.

There has been limited research looking specifically at sexual risk and sexting within an adult population. A study of primarily Hispanic women by Ferguson found that sexting was not associated with riskier sexual behaviors (number of partners or unprotected sex with new partners) whereas a study by Benotsch et al (2013) found that sexting was related to riskier sexual behaviors (multiple partners, unprotected sex, STI's). The findings between sexting and

sexual behavior in this study support the perspective that sexting is part of young adults sexual relationships and is moderately correlated with riskier sexual behaviors. The results show that only sending of sexts was related to sexual risk and that the risk differed between steady partners and hookups. Those who sent sexts to hookups were more likely to have had concurrent relationships, whereas those who had sent sexts to steady partners were less likely to use condoms. These findings show that the pattern of risk does follow the expectations of the two categories of relationships. Those in steady relationships are willing to be more risky with a steady, committed partner. Those sending sexts to hookups are engaging in riskier behaviors that are more common with non-committed relationships, such as sleeping with multiple people. Future research should try to determine if sexting is a catalyst for these riskier behaviors and establish causality.

The implications of this study are that sending and receiving of sexts as well as who the sexts are sent to and received from are important both in looking at the predictors of sexting and at looking at the sexual risk. Future studies should ensure that these distinctions are made when looking at the effects of sexting on health and differentiate between steady partners and casual partners. Future research should aim to create uniform definitions and measurements of sexting so that studies can be compared and research can have a better impact on related health behaviors. Currently it is difficult to compare prevalence rates and other indicators across studies. In addition the motivations around sexting should be explored to better understand why people sext and how that may be affecting their risk. Further research is also needed to see if sexting establishes norms which are related to sexual risk or if certain personality types that are prone to riskier behavior engage in the practice more. This study shows that those inclined to riskier behaviors are more likely to engage in sexting with hookups.

In addition studies looking at sexting and positive outcomes are also needed to establish if there are good outcomes to this behavior such as feeling closer in a relationship, greater sexual satisfaction or greater intimacy within a relationship. There has been some research looking at technology and relationships where 41% of 18-29 year old participants in a committed relationship have felt closer to their partner because of exchanges they have had online or via text, but is not specific to sexting (Lenhart & Duggan 2014).

Limitations

This sample consisted of mainly low-income minority males and as a result may not be generalizable to other populations. However, to date there has been no research focused on low-income minority emerging adult males, sexting and sexual risk and this adds to the literature base. The data mostly relied on self-report and participants may have been over-reporting or under-reporting sexting behaviors. Social desirability bias may play into this although the conditions under which the surveys were completed ensured each participant had privacy. In addition, the study is concurrent and therefore causality cannot be determined. The questions measuring sexting looked at this behavior over a lifetime whereas some of the predictors were assessing current behaviors. The sexual risk items, number of casual partners and lifetime concurrency looked at these behaviors having occurred throughout a lifetime which means that temporality is hard to ascertain between sexting and the behavior. Longitudinal studies are needed to better ascertain the nature of the relationship between sexting and sexual risk. The study did not look at the motivations behind sexting which may be an important piece when looking at risk. Understanding why people engage in this behavior and what they hope to gain through it could inform the relationship with sexual risk.

Conclusions

The main predictors of sexting and the sexual risk outcomes vary depending on whether the sext is sent or received and to whom. The study shows that sexting is marginally related to sexual risk in terms of concurrency and condom use. Those who sent sexts to steady partners were less likely to wear condoms and those who sent sexts to hookups were more likely to have had concurrent relationships. Sexual risks were related only to the sending of messages and not to receiving them which means active participation in sexting (sending) may have a link to risk.

However, more research is needed to determine causality between sexting and sexual risk. Future research needs to ensure that definitions and measurements of sexting are uniform and should explore further the relationship between sexting and sexual risk with emerging adult populations outside of convenience samples to see how these behaviors are affecting populations with higher sexual risk, such as minorities.

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Tables and Figures

Table 1: Sample Demographic Characteristics

Characteristic	Means (SD)/ Percentages (n)
Age (years)	Mean= 20.6 (SD=1.97)
Income (dollars)	Mean = 20965.25 (SD= 24484.62)
Race/Ethnicity	
White	4.2% (n=5)
Black	79.0% (n=94)
Latino	16.8% (n=20)
Education (grade)	Mean = 12.0 (SD=1.68)
Currently in Romantic Relationship	
Yes	54.6% (n=65)
No	45.3% (n=54)
Religious	
Not at all	21.8% (n=26)
Somewhat	30.3% (n=36)
More religious than not	37.8%(n=45)
Very much	10.1%(n=12)

N = 119

SD = Standard Deviation

Table 2: Sexting Behavior Demographics

Sexting Behaviors	%
Total number who have sexted	72.8
Received Sexts	70.2
Steady Partner	42.9
Hookup	53.8
Sent Sexts	53.5
Steady Partner	42.1
Hookup	40.3
Neither sent nor received sexts	27.2

Table 3: Unadjusted model showing predictors of sexting

Variable	Sexts received from steady Partner	Sext sent to steady partner	Sexts received from hookup	Sexts sent to hookup
Race (Black)	1.05 (0.42, 2.63)	0.6 (0.24, 1.51)	0.61 (0.24, 1.57)	0.56 (0.22, 1.42)
Age	1.27 (1.04, 1.54)*	1.02 (0.85, 1.23)	1.01 (0.84, 1.22)	1.17 (0.96, 1.43)
Income	1.23 (1.02, 1.48)*	1.18 (0.99, 1.41)	1.10 (0.92, 1.31)	1.22 (1.02,1.45)
Education	1.25 (0.99, 1.57)*	1.12 (0.90, 1.40)	1.15 (0.92, 1.44)	1.43 (1.11, 1.83)*
Risky and Reckless Behavior	1.10 (1.01, 1.19)*	1.18 (1.08, 1.30)	1.16 (1.05, 1.28)*	1.12 (1.03, 1.21)*
Positive Sexual Sensation Seeking	1.16 (1.01, 1.32)*	1.23 (1.06, 1.42)*	1.18 (1.03, 1.36)*	1.28 (1.10, 1.49)*
Sexual Attitudes	1.02 (0.99, 1.05)	1.04(1.01, 1.07)*	1.03 (1.00, 1.07)*	1.03 (0.10, 1.06)
Sensation Seeking	1.04 (0.99, 1.10)	1.04 (0.98, 1.09)	1.03 (0.98, 1.09)	1.03 (0.97, 1.08)
Talk with Friends about HIV/AIDS	1.14 (0.85, 1.53)	1.11 (0.82, 1.48)	1.09 (0.81, 1.46)	1.11 (0.82, 1.49)
Talk with Friends about Relationships	1.95 (1.32, 2.87) *	1.70 (1.17, 2.45)*	1.54 (1.089, 2.17)*	1.58 (1.09, 2.28)
Talk with Friends about Sex	2.34 (1.57, 3.47)	2.34 (1.56, 3.50)	1.54 (1.12, 2.13)*	1.86 (1.28, 2.69)*
Masculinity Status Norms	0.87 (0.61, 1.23)	0.94 (0.66, 1.33)	1.150 (0.81, 1.63)	1.16 (0.80, 1.67)
Masculinity Toughness	1.10 (0.77, 1.56)	1.288 (0.90, 1.85)	1.169 (0.82, 1.67)	1.17 (0.82, 1.68)
Masculinity Anti-femininity	0.81 (0.57, 1.15)	0.07 (0.76, 1.53)	0.99 (0.70, 1.41)	1.02 (0.71, 1.47)
Exposure to Pornography	4.93 (2.16, 11.24)*	7.03 (2.96, 16.72)*	2.40 (1.08, 5.32)*	6.88 (2.84,16.69)*
Visited a Strip Club	0.71 (0.23,2.17)	0.57 (0.18,1.81)	0.28 (0.09,9.0)*	1.00 (0.33,3.05)
Religious	1.24 (0.83,1.85)	0.98 (0.66,1.46)	0.77 (0.52,1.16)	1.22 (0.81, 1.84)
Self Esteem	1.06 (0.98,1.14)	1.02 (0.95, 1.10)	1.06 (0.98, 1.14)	1.06 (0.98,1.15)

Table 4: Adjusted model showing predictors of sexting

Variable	Sexts received from steady partner	Sexts sent to steady partner	Sexts received from hookup	Sexts sent to hookup
Race (Black)	–	–	–	–
Age	–	–	–	–
Income	–	–	–	–
Education	–	–	–	1.63(1.16, 2.30)*
Risky and Reckless Behavior	–	–	1.15 (1.02,1.29)*	–
Positive Sexual Sensation Seeking	–	–	–	–
Sexual Attitudes	–	–	1.04 (1.00, 1.08)*	1.05 (1.01, 1.10)*
Sensation Seeking	–	–	–	–
Talk with Friends about HIV/AIDS	–	–	–	–
Talk with Friends about Sex	1.95 (1.21, 3.13)*	2.22 (1.35, 3.68)*	–	–
Masculinity Status Norms	–	–	–	–
Masculinity Toughness	–	–	–	–
Masculinity Anti-Femininity	–	–	–	–
Exposure to Pornography	5.29 (1.99, 14.09)*	5.42 (1.98, 14.82)*	–	6.31 (2.27, 17.55)*
Visited a Strip Club	–	–	–	–
Religious	–	–	–	–
Self Esteem	–	–	–	–

Table 5: Unadjusted table showing the relationship between sexual risk and sexting

Variable	Condom Use over the past 3 months	Total Number of Casual Partners	Concurrency ever
Race	0.09	0.18	0.71 (0.26, 1.96)
Age	-0.07	0.13	1.43 (1.12, 1.84)*
Income	-0.35	-0.71	1.00 (0.83, 1.20)
Education	0.98	0.02	1.14 (0.89, 1.46)
Sexts Sent to Steady Partner	-0.023*	-0.21	2.03 (0.86, 4.81)
Sexts Received from Steady Partner	-0.19	0.044	2.30 (0.97, 5.43)
Sexts Sent to Hookup	0.02	0.12	6.41 (2.06 19.89)*
Sexts Received from Hookup	-0.08	0.08	5.43 (2.22 13.28)*

a linear regression values Beta
 b logistic regression values Odds Ratio
 *p <0.05

Table 6: Adjusted table showing the relationship between sexual risk and sexting

Variable	Condom Use over the past 3 months	Total Number of Casual Partners	Concurrency ever
Race			
Age			1.38 (1.03,1.86)*
Income			
Education			
Sexts Sent to Steady Partner	-0.25 *		
Sexts Received from Steady Partner			
Sexts Sent to Hookup			4.59(1.40,15.02)*
Sexts Received from Hookup			

a linear regression values Beta
 b logistic regression values Odds Ratio
 *p <0.05

Figure 1: Chart showing sexting behaviors within sample

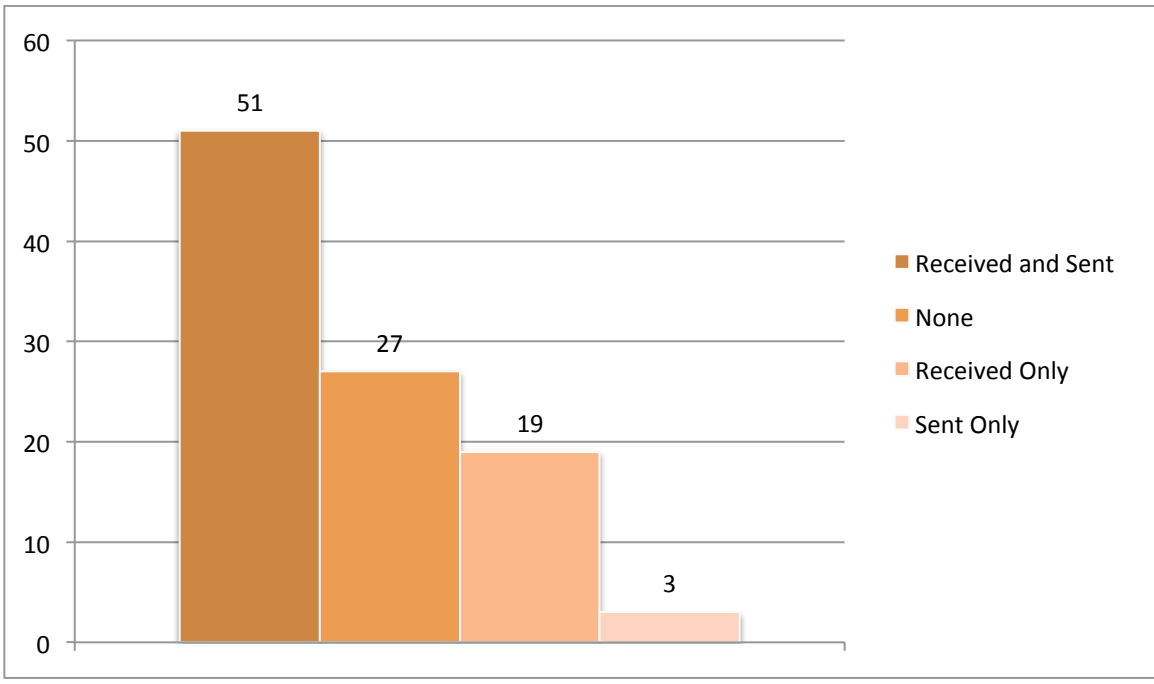


Figure 2: Chart showing sexts sent and received by young men who sext

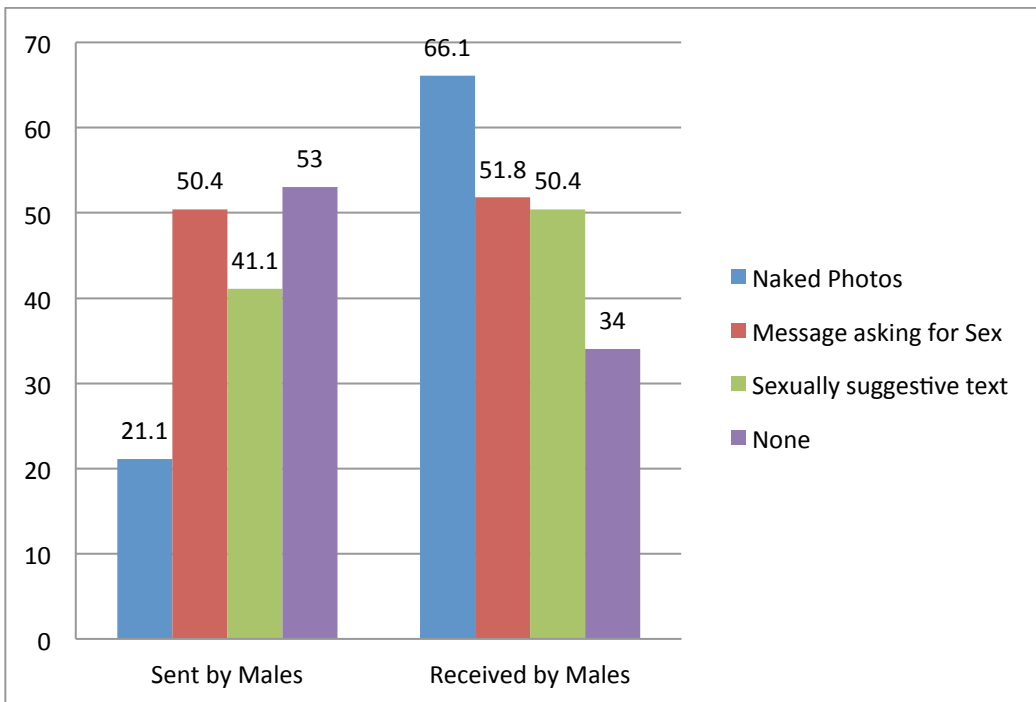


Figure 3: Chart showing breakdown of sexts received by young men who sext

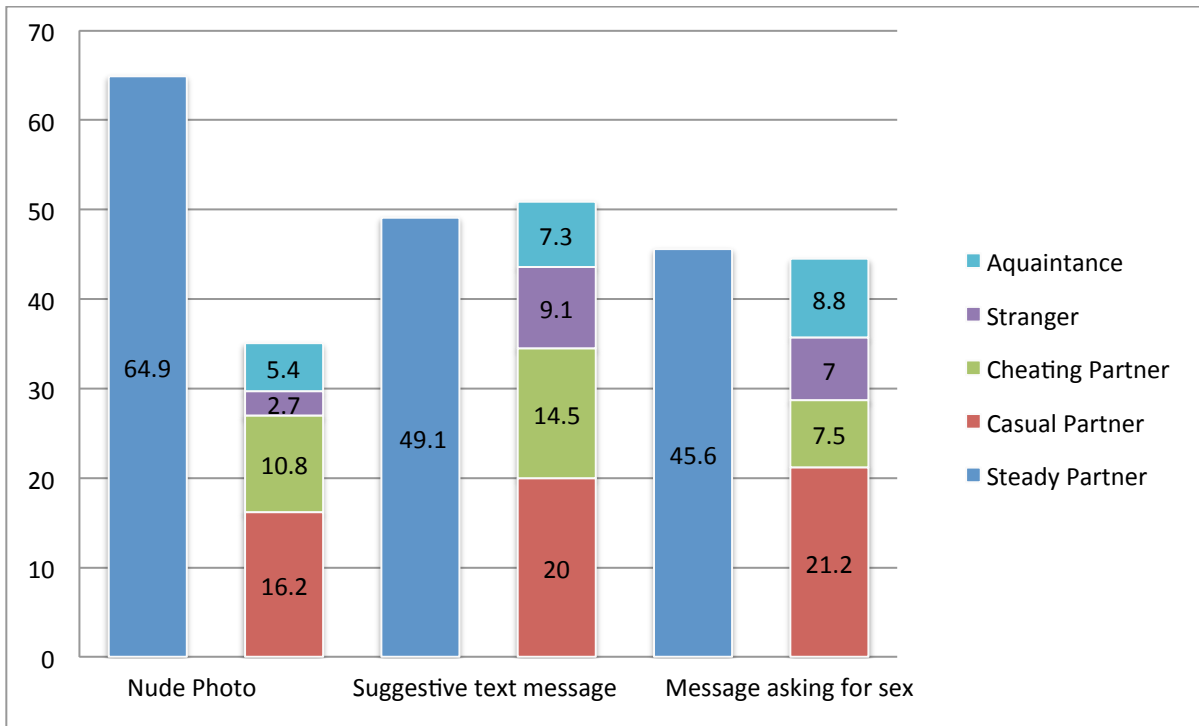


Figure 4: Chart showing breakdown of sexts sent by young men who sext

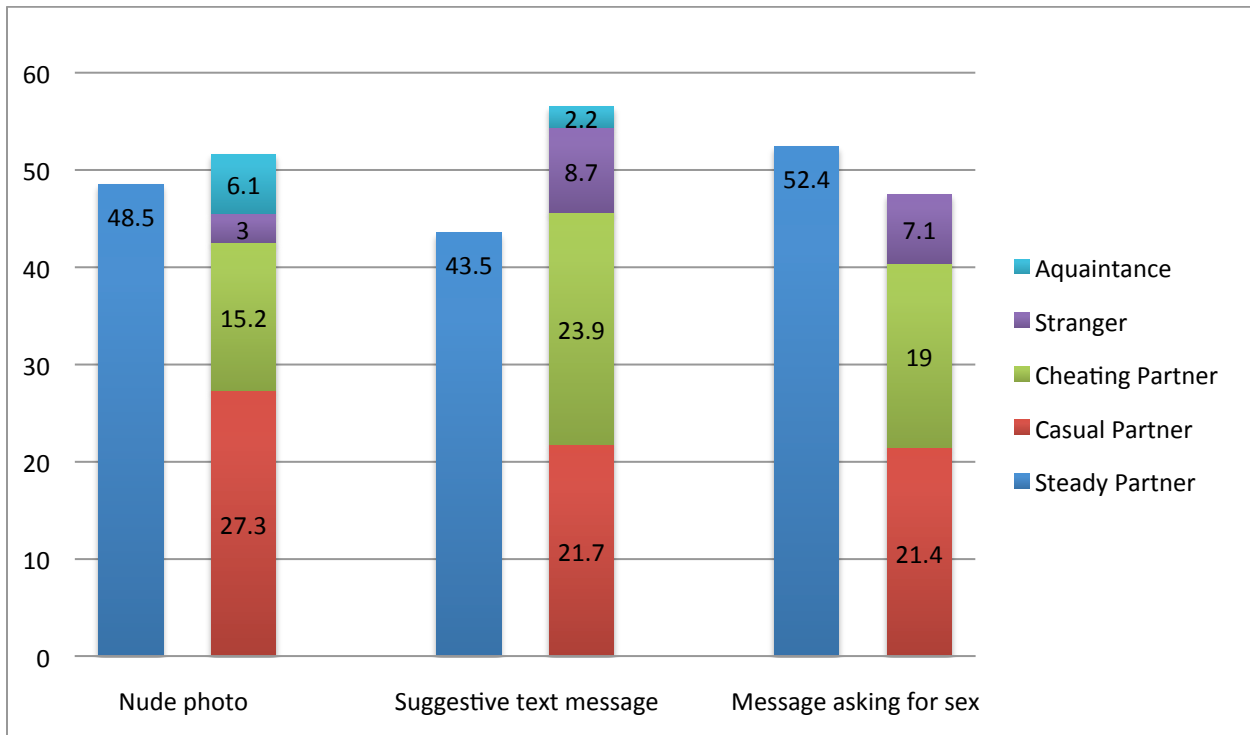


Figure 5: Chart showing breakdown of sexting based on partner type

