



News Alert

Northeast Community Challenge Coalition

The Truth About Sexting

The teen trend of “sexting”- where a user sends sexually explicit images or messages via text on a cell phone, has parents struggling for a way to address the situation.

“We’re seeing 14, 15 and 16-year-olds and up are commonly sharing naked pictures or sexual pictures of themselves,” said Internet safety expert and attorney Parry Aftab, of Wired Safety. One in five teens has admitted to sexting. “We’re talking about kids who are too young to wear bras who are posing in them, and then topless and then actually engaged in sex. So we are seeing a lot of kids who are sexually active,”

Children as young as 12, who aren’t sexually active, are sending explicit, provocative and even pornographic images to their peers.

“We found that 44 percent of the high school boys that we have polled have seen at least one naked picture of a female classmate, and the boys are sharing their pictures too,” Aftab said.

Aftab said children now deal with so many pieces of technology that parents often don’t know all their uses.

She encourages parents to:

- Google your children’s first and last name in quotation marks to see what was posted
- Google your children’s cell phone numbers in quotation marks
- Download Google Desktop, a free program that helps find every video and picture on a computer
- Browse through the pictures on your children’s cell phones
- Examine your children’s and their friends online profiles
- Make sure your children aren’t hiding a profile

For more information please visit Parry Aftab’s website: [Wired Safety.org](http://WiredSafety.org)

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