

SEXTING IN ADOLESCENTS: PREVALENCE AND BEHAVIOURS

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INTRODUCTION



Sexting

Sending, receiving and forwarding sexually suggestive and explicit images, videos or text messages via the internet and electronic media

Considerable prevalence rates across the different sexting behaviours; however, they do not allow them to be considered as normative practices



METHODOLOGY

Normalisation Sexting Questionnaire (NSQ) to evaluate implication and la normalisation

3.314 adolescents
 (48,6% girls)
 12 - 16 years old
 15 secondary schools in the south of Spain

Table 1. Sample characteristics		
Variables	N	%
Sexual orientation		
Heterosexual	1602	85.6
Non-heterosexual	270	14.4
Asexual	133	7.1
Bisexual	112	6.0
Homosexual	25	1.3
Romantic/sexual partner in the last 3 months		
Yes	1015	31.4
No	2218	68.6
SNS used		
None	53	1.6
At least one	3259	98.4
WhatsApp	3197	96.6
Instagram	2737	82.6
Snapchat	1433	43.6
Facebook	914	28.0
Twitter	882	26.6
Telegram	142	4.4
Tinder	13	0.4

RESULTS

Sexting behaviours

receiving (21,2%)

receiving via an intermediary (28,4%)

followed by third-party forwarding of sexual content (9,3%)

sending (8,1%)

The relative importance attached to each analysed variable is shown to depend on the specific sexting behaviour and the participants' gender



CONCLUSIONS

For both boys and girls, sexting is an invitation to participate in sexual activities

Girls are more involved as victims in sexting, suffering the negative consequences of this phenomenon

The need to disentangle the diversity behind sexting behaviours and to address each one in an educational setting

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