

Teen sexting linked to intimate partner violence, sexual abuse

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(HealthDay)—Teen sexting is associated with sexual abuse, with higher

victimization in girls and intimate partner violence perpetration in boys, according to a study presented at the annual meeting of the Pediatric Academic Societies, held from May 5 to 8 in Toronto.

Kanani E. Titchen, M.D., from the Children's Hospital at Montefiore in New York City, and colleagues examined the correlation of sexting with [sexual abuse](#), [intimate partner violence](#) (IPV), drug use, and arrest among 588 boys and girls aged 14 to 17 years living in a high-poverty community. Data from 555 participants were included in the analysis.

The researchers found that 20 and 24 percent of boys and girls had sent a sext, 45 and 44 percent had ever had sex, 25 and 28 percent had used marijuana in the past year, and 6 and 10 percent had reported IPV perpetration, respectively. Compared with boys, girls were more likely to have been sexually abused, been a victim of IPV, and have moderate/severe depressive symptoms. Compared with girls, boys were more likely to have been arrested. Independent correlations for having sent a sext were seen for having been sexually abused, IPV perpetration, ever had sex, ever arrested, used marijuana in past year, older age, and "other race/ethnicity" for boys. For [girls](#), independent correlations were seen for having been sexually abused, IPV victimization, and ever had sex.

"These findings suggest that teen sexting may be part of a continuum of exploitative sexual experience," the authors write.

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