A Qualitative Study of Children, Young People and “Sexting”

A report prepared for the NSPCC
(Institute of Education, King’s College, London, London School of Economics and Open University)
What is ‘sexting’

• ‘exchange of sexual messages or images and creating sharing and forwarding sexually suggestive nude or nearly nude images through mobile phones and the internet’
Background

- Small scale qualitative study
- 35 young people in 2 London schools
- Years 8 and 10
- Listening to young people
Findings

• Diversity of experiences
• Threat from peers
• Sexting is often coercive
• Girls are most adversely affected
• Technology amplifies the problem
• Sexting reveals wider sexual pressures
Evidenced Based Policy Recommendations

- Providing the right support
- Learning from anti-bullying initiatives
- Confronting age old double standard
- Improving safety features for young people
- Undermining culture of silence
- Protecting younger children
Further research

• More research
• Newest smartphone technology
• Development of resources
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Report available on NSPCC website (www.nspcc.org.uk/sexual abuse)

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