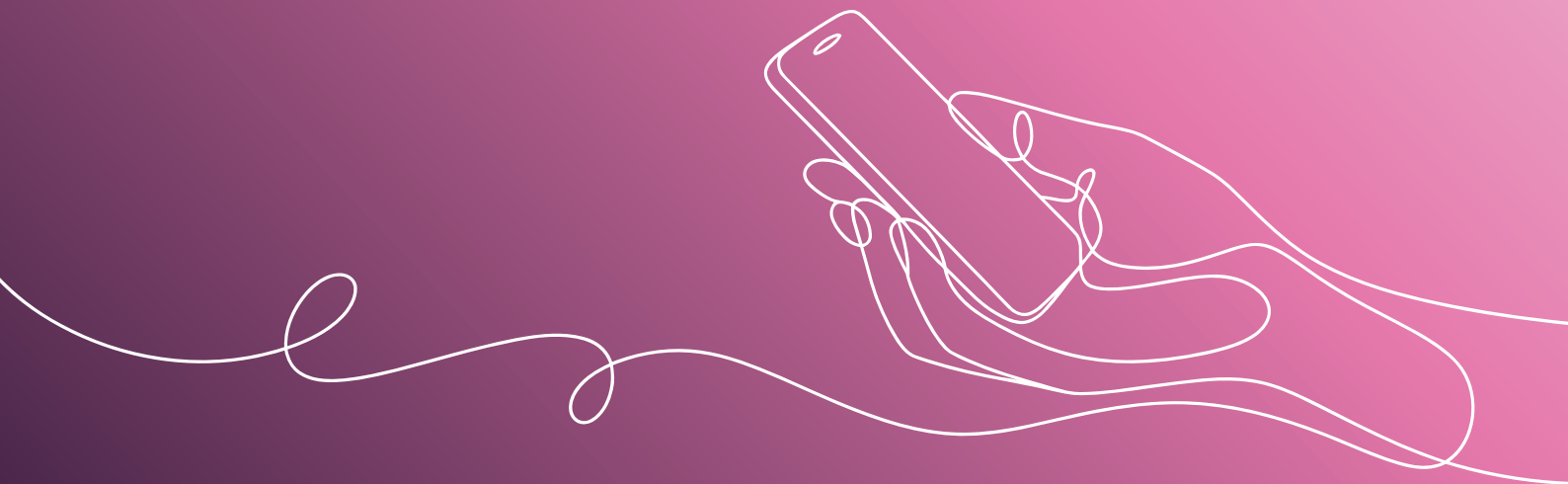


Sexting in Czechia

Insights From Three Surveys of Czech
Adolescents and Adults (2021-2025)



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Project website: <https://irtis.muni.cz/research/projects/future>

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Project website: <https://irtis.muni.cz/research/projects/parka>

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Sexting

refers to the sending and receiving of sexually suggestive or explicit messages, images, or videos through digital platforms.

How many people **received sexting**:

21 % of adolescents aged 11–16

- 15 % received sexts they **expected**
- 18 % received sexts they **did not expect**

47 % of adults aged 18–59

- 40 % consensual, they **wanted to receive it**
- 33 % nonconsensual, they **did not want to receive it**

19 % of adolescents aged 11–14

How many people **sent sexting**:

11 % of adolescents aged 11–16

7 % of adolescents aged 11–14

36 % of adults aged 18–59

- 35 % consensually, they **wanted to send it**
- 13 % nonconsensually, they **did not want to send it**

Sexual solicitation

means being asked or pressured to create and send sexual content of oneself.

16 % of adolescents aged 11–14 **received** sexual solicitation

6 % of adolescents aged 11–14 **solicited** sexual content from others

Forwarding

refers to situation when people forward someone's sexual message to a third person without permission of the original sender.

9 % of adults aged 18–59 **had their sexts forwarded**

9 % of adults aged 18–59 **forwarded someone else's sext**

Note: Data about adolescents aged 11–16 are from 2021, data from adolescents aged 11–14 and adults aged 18–59 are from 2025. All percentages refer to experiences in the past 6 months.

General Patterns Across Age Groups

Sexting and age

Sexting is most common among young adults (ages 18–29) – 62% received and 49% sent sexts in the past 6 months. The prevalence of sexting (both received and sent) changes with age. In adolescence, it increases with age, but in adulthood, it decreases with age.

Sexting and gender

Across all age groups, girls and women consistently receive more unwanted sexual attention than boys and men. Girls and women more often report receiving unexpected sexts, sexual solicitations, and non-consensual sexual messages, highlighting the gendered nature of online sexual behaviors.

Receiving vs. sending

More people reported receiving sexts than sending them, but the gap narrows with age. Among adolescents, receiving sexts is nearly twice as common as sending them (21% vs. 11% among 11–16-year-olds; 19% vs. 7% among 11–14-year-olds). However,

among adults, the difference is minimal (40% vs. 35%), suggesting that sexting becomes more reciprocal and mutual in adult intimate relationships. For adolescents, sexting appears to be less often mutual, with recipients less frequently responding in the same fashion as receiving sexting. This gap may also reflect adolescents' reluctance to disclose sending sexts due to concerns about judgment or parental discovery, potentially leading to underreporting of sending behaviors in this age group.

Non-consensual sexting

Non-consensual forms of sexting are widespread across all ages. Among adolescents, unexpected and expected sexts occurred at similar rates (18% vs. 15%), with unexpected sexts being slightly more common than expected ones. Among adults, receiving consensual (40%) and non-consensual (33%) sexting also occurred at similar rates, representing a substantial burden of unwanted sexual attention.

Sexting Among Adolescents (11–16)

Sexting and gender

Adolescent girls face more unwanted sexual attention than boys. Among 11–14-year-olds in 2025, more girls received sexts (22% vs. 15% of boys) and sexual solicitations (20% vs. 12% of boys), but among 11–16-year-olds in 2021, sending and receiving rates were similar for boys (20%; 10%) and girls (22%; 12%). However, girls consistently felt more upset than boys after receiving sexts.

Feelings after sexting

Most adolescents felt upset at least in some cases after receiving sexts, regardless of whether they were unexpected (80% felt upset at least in some cases) or expected (77%). Feeling happy after receiving sexts

was less common both for expected sexts (65% felt happy at least in some cases) and especially for unexpected ones (35%). Thus, the absence of consent dampens positive feelings and slightly intensifies negative feelings. However, even expected sexting can be upsetting.

Sexual solicitation

Among 11–14-year-old adolescents, 16% were asked to send sexual messages, and 6% reported soliciting them from others. This shows that sexual requests occur even before mid-adolescence, when many young people lack the emotional maturity or sexual literacy to navigate them safely. Two-thirds of solicited adolescents felt upset, regardless of their gender or age.

Sexting Among Adults (18–59)

Sexting and consent

About a third of adults (ages 18–59) received non-consensual sexts, with around 6% experiencing this monthly or more often. Women encountered such unwanted sexual attention disproportionately more often (40% vs. 27% of men). Since young adults participate in sexting the most, they also report the highest rates across all non-consensual experiences: receiving sexts (45%), sending sexts (16%), and having their messages forwarded (13%). For some, these are not isolated incidents but recurring patterns, suggesting ongoing vulnerability during a critical developmental period.

Pressured sexting

Around 13% of adults send sexting messages even when they do not really want to (e.g., when they are pressured into doing so). Men report sending such messages more often (15%) than women (10%). Such a form of sexting can lead to shame, guilt, regret, and violated autonomy. Three percent of adults reported sending such messages monthly or more, indicating recurring patterns rather than isolated incidents.

Forwarding sexting

Forwarding of sexts challenges gendered stereotypes. While women are often seen as primary victims of “revenge porn,” our data reveal a more complex reality. More men experienced (12%) and perpetrated (11%) forwarding than women (5%; 6%). This highlights that image-based sexual abuse affects both genders and underscores the need for education addressing these issues across different contexts.

The rapid growth of digital technology has transformed the way people connect, communicate, and build relationships. For both adolescents and adults, who navigate a world of instant messaging, social media, and smartphones, online interactions have become a natural extension of their social and romantic lives. Technology not only supports friendships and dating but also plays a central role in how individuals explore their personal identity, including their sexuality.

One important aspect of this digital landscape is sexting, a term that combines “sex” and “texting”. Sexting usually refers to the sending and receiving of sexually suggestive or explicit messages, images, or videos through digital platforms. Although often associated with romantic relationships, sexting can also occur between peers outside of a romantic relationship or even between strangers.

Sexting is also not a single behavior but rather a broad set of practices. Researchers often distinguish between active sexting (such as creating, sending, or forwarding content) and passive sexting (such as receiving or being asked for content).

Consent is a key factor in determining whether sexting is a safe and consensual form of intimacy or a harmful and potentially illegal act. Consensual sexting is often viewed as a modern form of flirting or self-expression. However, it can still carry risks such as reputational damage, regret, or anxiety about potential misuse of shared content. Non-consensual sexting (i.e., receiving unsolicited sexual content, being coerced into sharing images, or having private content forwarded without permission) can have serious emotional, social, and even legal consequences. In some cases, especially when minors are involved, the possession or sharing of sexting material may even fall under child sexual abuse materials laws.

This report describes several aspects of sexting among Czech people, across the ages 11-59. Since these experiences can vary by age and gender, we also present the corresponding demographic differences. The report utilizes survey data from three projects (see Table 1), each of which explored sexting from a slightly different perspective and focused on a distinct population (see Section 6, Methodology, for details).

Table 1 Projects overview

| FUTURE | PARKA | DigiWELL |
|---|---|---|
| Modeling the future: Understanding the impact of technology on adolescent's well-being | Parental Knowledge of Early Adolescents' Online Social Lives: The role of Parental Mediation | Research of Excellence on Digital Technologies and Wellbeing |
| 2,500 Czech adolescents aged 11–16 | 1,562 Czech adolescents aged 11–14 | 3,460 Czech adults aged 18–59 |
| data collected in June 2021 | data collected in April–May 2025 | data collected in April–May 2025 |
| https://irtis.muni.cz/research/projects/future | https://irtis.muni.cz/research/projects/parka | https://irtis.muni.cz/research/projects/digiwell |

Sexting Among Adolescents Aged 11–16 in 2021

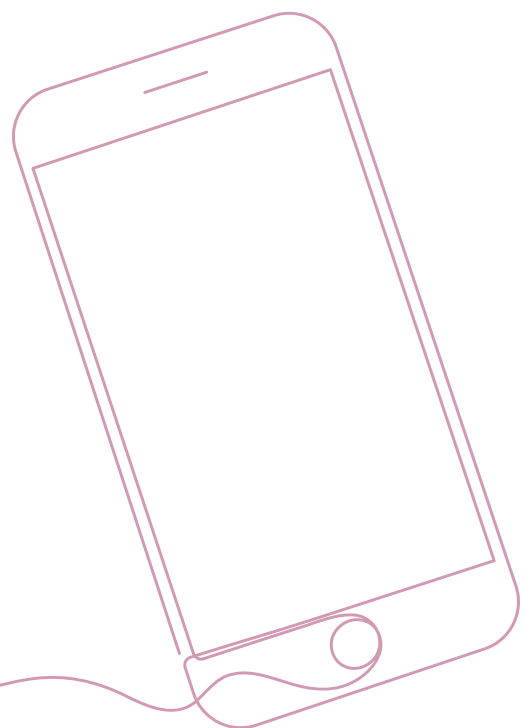
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This section uses data from the project FUTURE, collected in June 2021. Using a representative online survey, we asked 2,500 adolescents aged 11-16 about their experiences with sexting as recipients, differentiating between expected and unexpected sexting, as well as their experiences as senders. We also asked about their emotional reactions to receiving and sending sexts.

Before asking, we explained what we meant by **sexting** as follows:

People do all kinds of things on the internet. Sometimes they may send sexual messages, pictures, images or videos. By this we mean talk about having sex or sending images of people naked or images of people having sex. The next few questions ask you about things like this.

Some questions were asked only of a part of the respondents. Please note that the number of respondents shown in each chart may vary across questions. Percentages in charts are rounded to whole numbers and might not add to 100%.



3.1 Receiving Sexting

3.1.1 General Prevalence

In total, about one in five adolescents (21%) reported receiving at least one sexual message in the previous 6 months (Figure 1). This shows that while receiving sexting is not a majority experience, it affects a substantial minority of adolescents, meaning that most young people either experience it themselves or knowpeers who do. Gender differences were small and non-significant, with girls and boys reporting similar rates of receiving sexts. However, age differences showed a clear pattern: more older adolescents received sexts than younger adolescents. While 10% of the youngest adolescents (11–12) reported receiving sexual messages, 30% of the oldest adolescents (15–16) said they had.

3.1.2 Expected Sexting

When discussing expected sexting, we refer to sexting that occurs when the recipient actively consents to or is aware of and prepared for the content. An example could be sexting between romantic partners or as part of ongoing flirting.

As noted in the previous section, 21% of adolescents reported receiving at least one sexual message (Figure 1). Among them, most had received an expected sext at least a few times (39%) or more often (23%). Still, few adolescents reported receiving sexts daily (i.e., 3% from those who received a sext, or 0.6% from the whole sample) (Figure 2). Boys and girls, as well as younger and older adolescents, did not differ in the frequency of receiving expected sexts. Although the figure shows some minor differences, they were not statistically significant. In other words, we do not have sufficient evidence to demonstrate that such differences truly exist in the adolescent population—they may reflect random variation within our sample.

3.1.3 Unexpected Sexting

Unexpected sexting happens when the recipient does not anticipate the content and receives sexual messages or images without prior consent or warning. It can be motivated by flirting initiation or the hope of receiving sexual images or favors in return.

Fig. 1 In the PAST 6 MONTHS, have you EVER RECEIVED any sexual messages?
This could be words, pictures or videos.
% “yes” of all adolescents (N = 2 399)

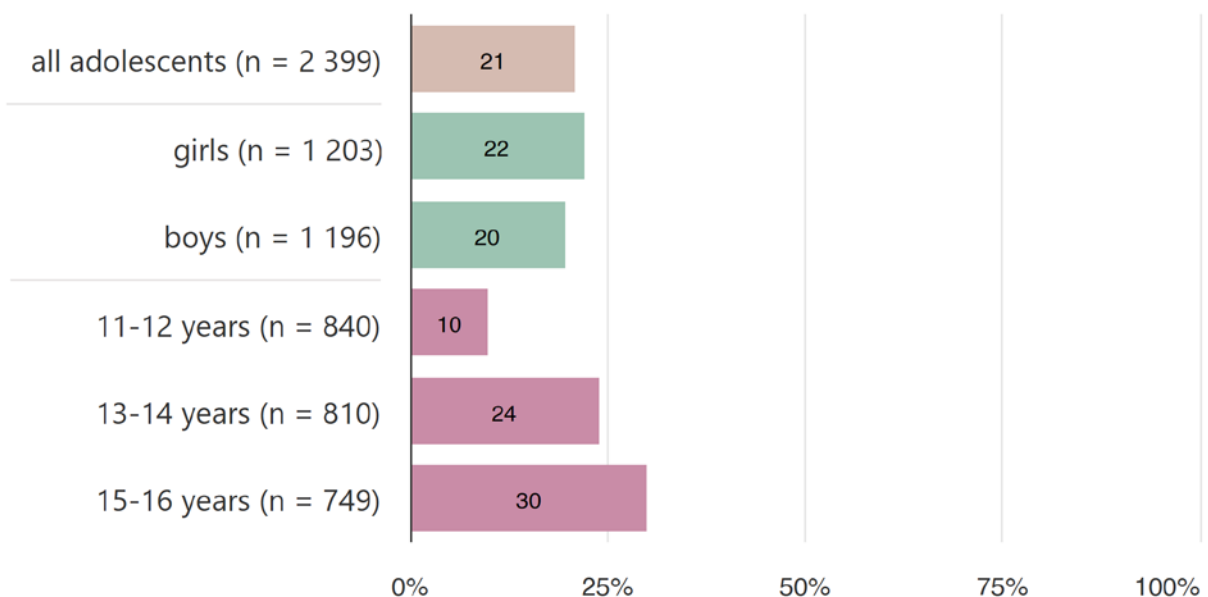


Figure 3 shows that, out of the 21% of adolescents who reported receiving sexts, more than half had received an unexpected sext at least a few times (53%), and nearly a quarter (23%) received them more often. Only 7% of those who received a sext said they had never received an unexpected one. In contrast, 23% reported no experiences with expected sexting, meaning that receiving unexpected sexts is more common than receiving expected sexts. As with expected sexting, even if there appear to be some differences between girls and boys or between younger and older adolescents, these differences were not statistically significant. In other words, we do not have sufficient evidence to suggest that these groups truly differ from one another.

3.1.4 Feelings After Receiving Sexting

Research suggests that adolescents experience a range of positive and negative feelings after sexting. Our data reveal a clear difference between expected and unexpected sexts in terms of the feelings they evoke afterwards.

Adolescents more commonly felt upset rather than happy after receiving expected sexts. As shown in Figures 4 and 5, 26% reported feeling happy “every time” or “in most cases,” while 33% felt upset with the same frequency. The majority (61%) reported feeling happy “never” or “in some cases” after receiving expected sexts.

Fig. 2 How often have you received something sexual when you EXPECTED (or intended) to receive it?

% of adolescents who received any sexting in the past 6 months (N = 477)

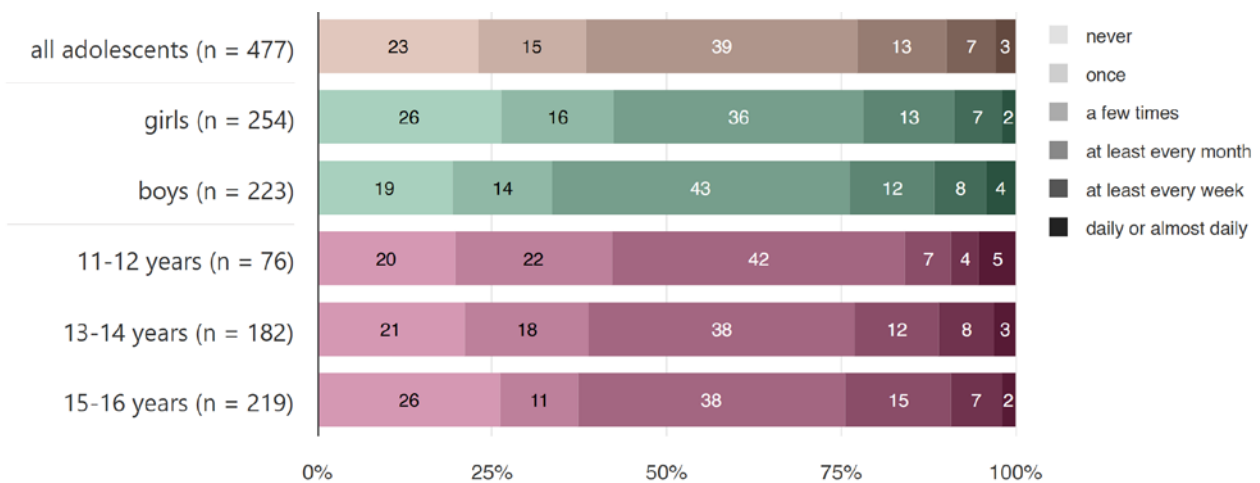


Fig. 3 How often have you received something like this when you DID NOT EXPECT (or intended) to receive it?

% of adolescents who received any sexting in the past 6 months (N = 472)

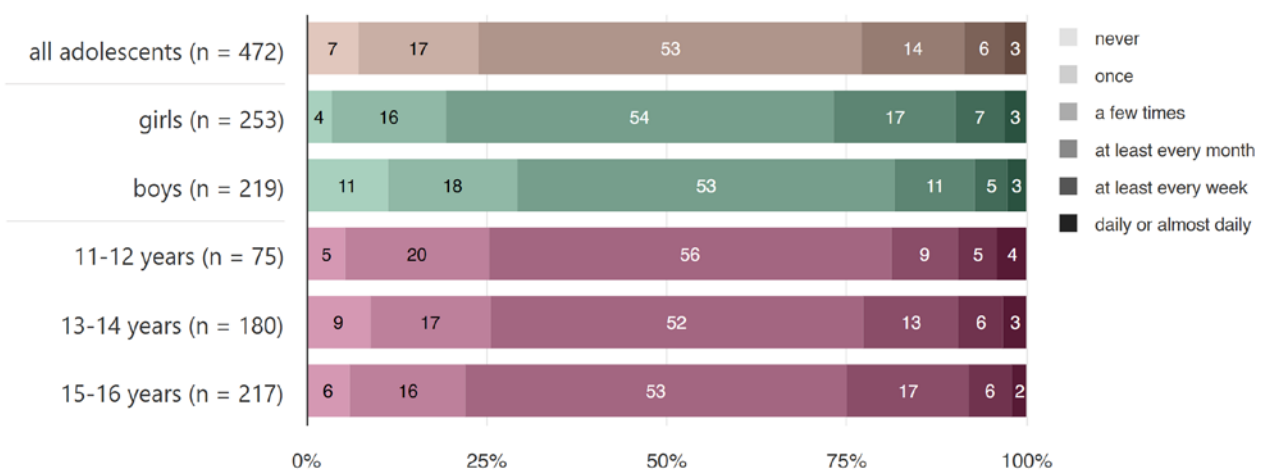


Fig. 4 How often did you feel HAPPY after receiving this type of EXPECTED message?
 % of adolescents who received expected sexting in the past 6 months (N = 344)

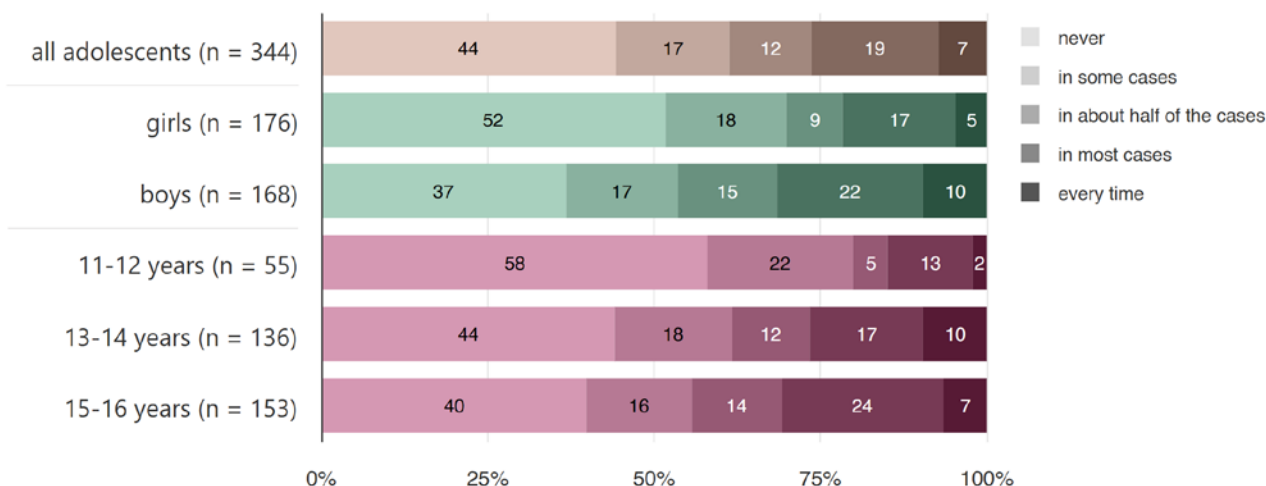


Fig. 5 How often did you feel UPSET after receiving this type of EXPECTED message?
 % of adolescents who received expected sexting in the past 6 months (N = 349)

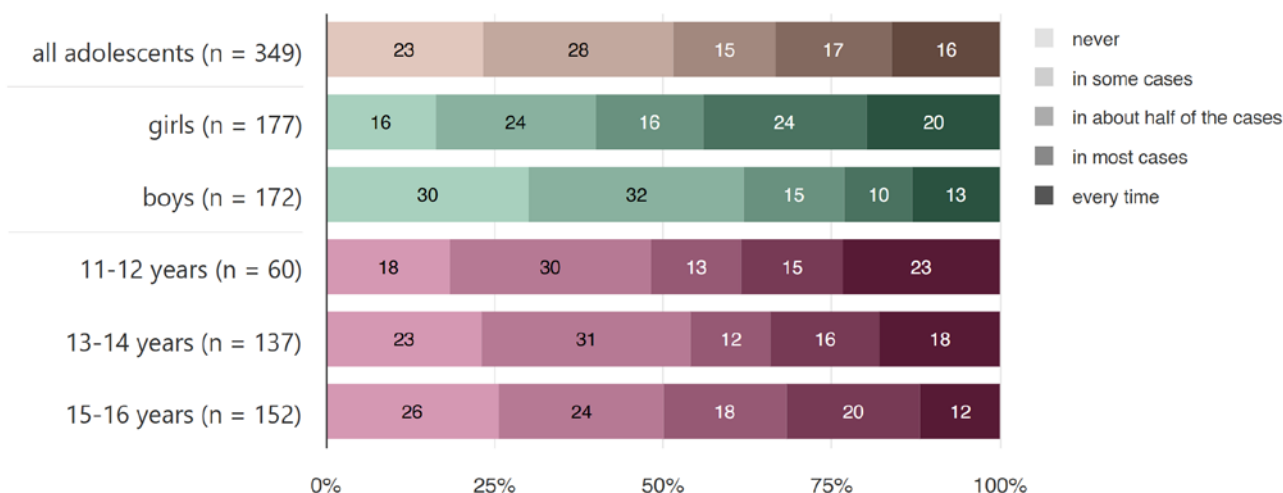


Fig. 6 How often did you feel HAPPY after receiving this type of UNEXPECTED message?
 % of adolescents who received unexpected sexting in the past 6 months (N = 413)

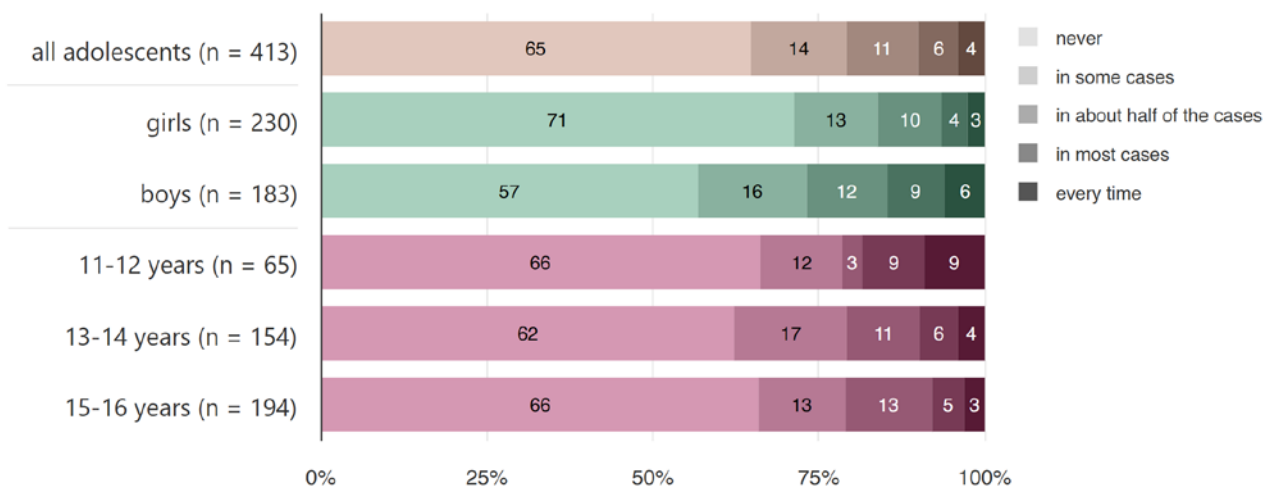
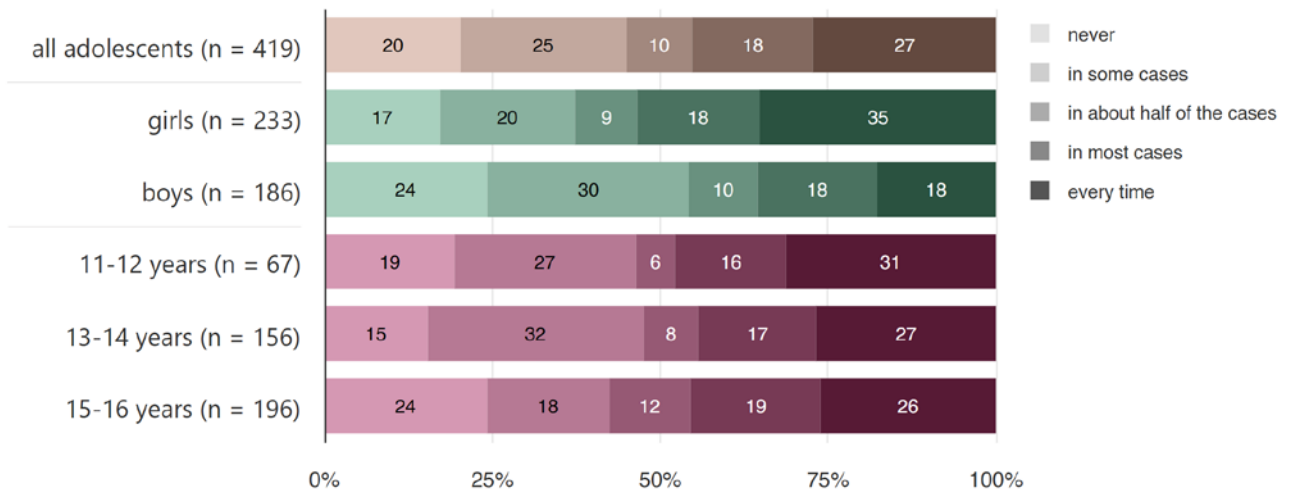


Fig. 7 How often did you feel UPSET after receiving this type of UNEXPECTED message?
 % of adolescents who received unexpected sexting in the past 6 months (N = 419)



The pattern was more pronounced for unexpected sexts, where upset feelings clearly dominated. As shown in Figures 6 and 7, only 10% of adolescents reported feeling happy “every time” or “in most cases.” In comparison, 45% felt upset with this frequency. The vast majority (79%) reported feeling happy “never” or “in some cases” after receiving unexpected sexts.

We also found statistically significant gender differences. Boys felt happy more often and upset less often than girls after receiving both expected and unexpected sexual messages. In expected sexting, the figures point to a possible age trend, with older adolescents feeling happy more often and upset less often than younger adolescents after receiving expected sexts. However, these differences were not significant, and we can’t say with sufficient confidence that such differences exist. Similarly, we found no significant age differences regarding the feelings after receiving unexpected sexts.

significant, with girls and boys reporting similar rates of involvement. However, there was a significant age trend – sending or posting sexual messages, images, or videos was more common among older adolescents than younger ones.

3.2.2 Feelings After Sending Sexts

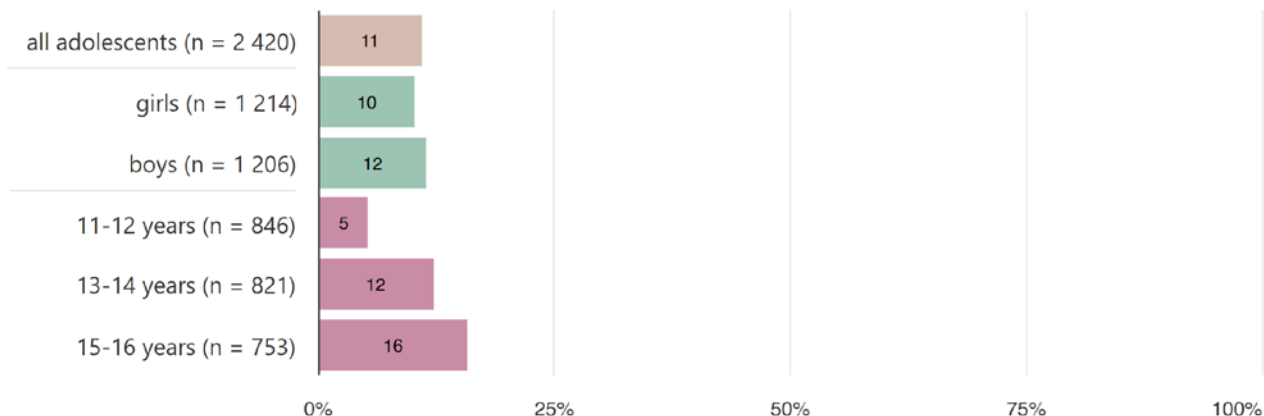
The 263 (11%) adolescents who had sent a sext in the past 6 months reported feeling happy afterwards more often than feeling upset. Feelings after sending sexts did not differ between boys and girls or younger and older adolescents. Although there may seem to be a difference between boys and girls in the frequency with which they feel happy when sending a sext (Figure 9), these differences were not statistically significant. Regarding age, we also found no statistically significant differences.

3.2 Sending Sexting

3.2.1 General Prevalence

Figure 8 shows that about one in ten adolescents (11%) reported sending or posting sexual messages at least once in the previous 6 months. Thus, receiving sexts is far more common than sending them among adolescents. Gender differences were non-

Fig. 8 In the PAST 6 MONTHS, how often, if ever, have you SENT or POSTED any sexual MESSAGES (words, pictures or videos)? This could be words, pictures or videos related to you or someone else.
% „at least once“ of all adolescents (N = 2 420)*



* Due to low prevalence, the original scale (1 = never - 6 = daily or almost daily) was recoded to 1 = never and 2 = at least once.

Fig. 9 How often did you feel HAPPY after sending or posting this type of message?
% of adolescents who sent or posted sexual messages in the past 6 months (N = 239)

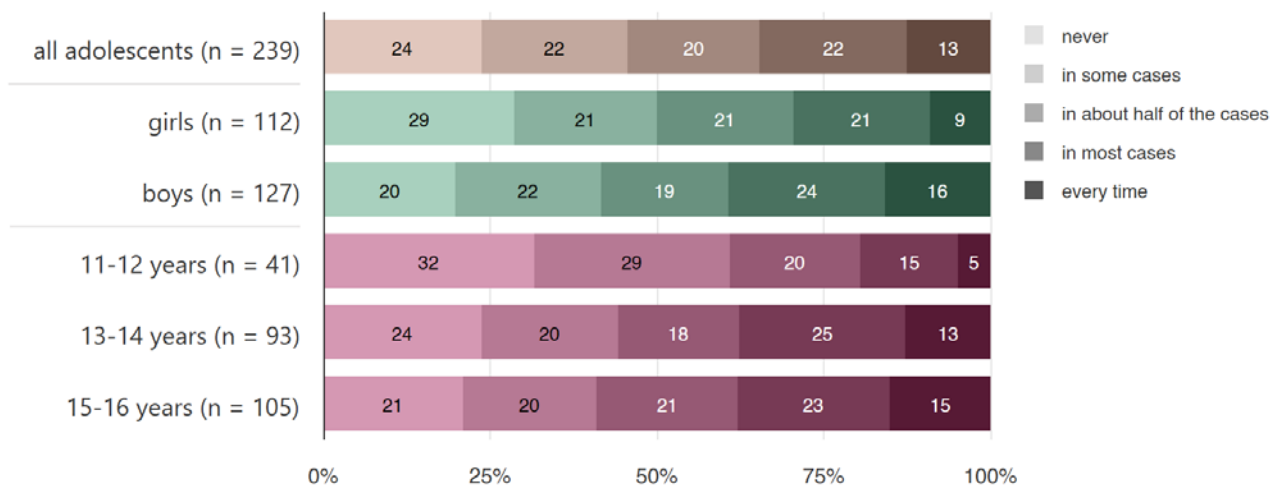
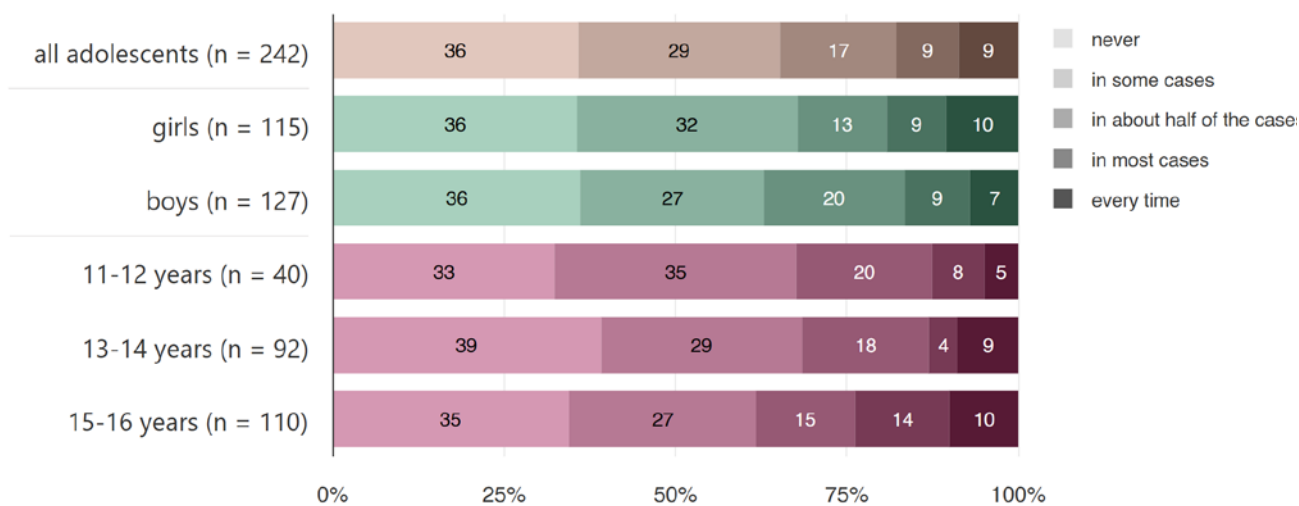


Fig. 10 How often did you feel UPSET after sending or posting this type of message?
% of adolescents who sent or posted sexual messages in the past 6 months (N = 242)



3.3 Understanding the Findings

Overall, there appears to be a trend of older adolescents engaging more in sexting than younger ones. This is in line with previous research showing that adolescents are more likely to engage in sexting as they get older (Madigan et al., 2018). From a developmental perspective, sexting may reflect normative sexual development, as it coincides with adolescence, a period when sexual identity and exploration typically emerge. As adolescents spend more of their lives online, the increase in sexting with age can be understood as an emerging, and potentially normative, aspect of sexual behavior and development (Madigan et al., 2018; Mori et al., 2022).

Another interesting finding concerns the “happy” and “upset” feelings after sexting. Adolescents were more often upset and less often happy after receiving unexpected sexts. This pattern suggests that the absence of consent and control plays a crucial role in adolescents’ emotional responses. Notably, even when the sexting was expected and likely consensual, almost half of adolescents (49%) still felt upset in at least half of the cases. These findings suggest that receiving sexts is often upsetting for adolescents, regardless of whether they were expected or not. When adolescents receive sexual content without having anticipated or agreed to it, the violation of their expectations and boundaries appears to intensify negative feelings. When sexts are expected, other contextual factors may contribute to “upset” feelings, such as who the sender is (e.g., a romantic partner, a crush, a peer, or a stranger), what content they sent specifically, and the level of trust in the relationship. The fact that substantial proportions of adolescents feel upset even when receiving expected sexts highlights that consent and expectation alone do not guarantee a positive experience; the broader relational and situational context matters significantly.

Moreover, after receiving sexts (whether expected or unexpected), adolescent boys felt upset less often and happy more often

than adolescent girls. This gender disparity may reflect several factors: socialization patterns that encourage boys to view sexual attention as validating or status-enhancing. At the same time, girls may face greater pressure and judgment around sexual content. There may also be differences in the types of content or contexts in which boys and girls receive sexts. Additionally, girls may be more aware of the social risks associated with sexting, including reputational consequences and the possibility of images being shared without consent, which could contribute to more negative emotional responses even in consensual contexts.

Sexting Among Adolescents Aged 11–16 in 2025

04

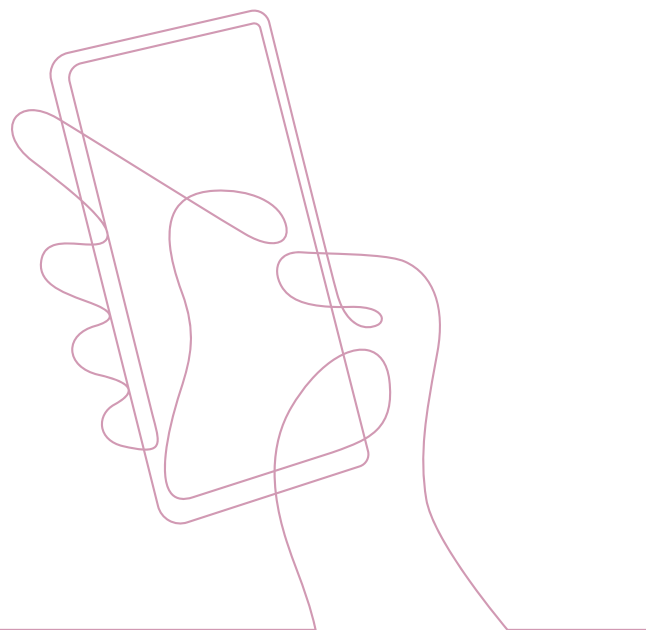
This section uses data from the PARKA project. We collected the data in April-May 2025 from a representative sample of 1,562 adolescents aged 11–14 through an online survey. The survey explored adolescents' sexting experiences, both as recipients and as senders. It also examined their experiences with sexual solicitation (both as targets and as initiators) as well as their feelings about these situations.

In the survey, we explained sexting and sexual solicitations as follows:

Sexting: *People do various things on the internet. One of these is sexting - that is, sending sexually explicit or suggestive messages or photos/videos of themselves, e.g., in a provocative pose or naked.*

Sexual solicitations: *Sometimes you may also receive unsolicited messages or requests with a sexual undertone. For example, someone may ask for your nude or provocative photos of you, ask what you're wearing, or make sexual suggestions.*

Some questions were asked only of a part of the respondents. Please note that the number of respondents shown in each chart may vary across questions. Percentages in charts are rounded to whole numbers and might not add to 100%.



4.1 Receiving and Sending Sexting

Figure 11 shows that 19% of adolescents aged 11–14 reported receiving a sexual message in the past six months. The remaining 81% did not receive any sexual messages during that period. More girls (22%) than boys (15%) had received such messages, and older adolescents aged 13–14 (21%) reported this more frequently than those aged 11–12 (16%). Both gender and age differences were statistically significant.

As shown in Figure 12, sending sexual messages was relatively uncommon among adolescents. Only 7% reported sending sexual messages in the past six months, while 92% said they had not sent

such a message. Slightly more girls (9%) than boys (7%) reported sending sexual messages, but this gender difference was not statistically significant. In contrast, the age difference was statistically significant, with 6% of 11–12-year-olds and 9% of adolescents aged 13–14 reporting having sent a sexual message to someone else.

4.2 Sexual Solicitations

Sexual solicitation means being asked or pressured to create and send sexual content of oneself. It is a particularly concerning form of online risk, as it involves explicit requests that can make recipients feel uncomfortable, pressured, or unsafe.

Fig. 11 How often, in the past 6 months, have you received such a message, from anyone?
% of adolescents aged 11–14 years (N = 1 559)

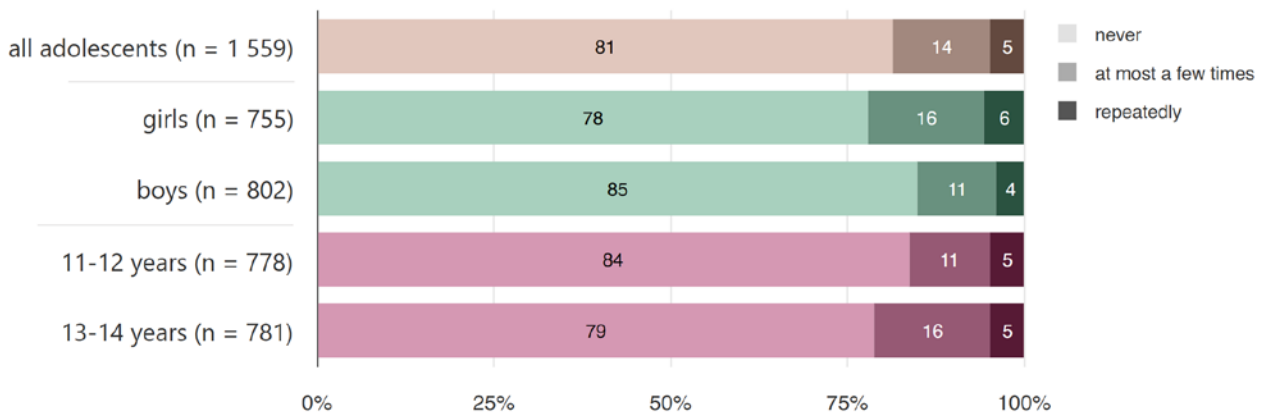
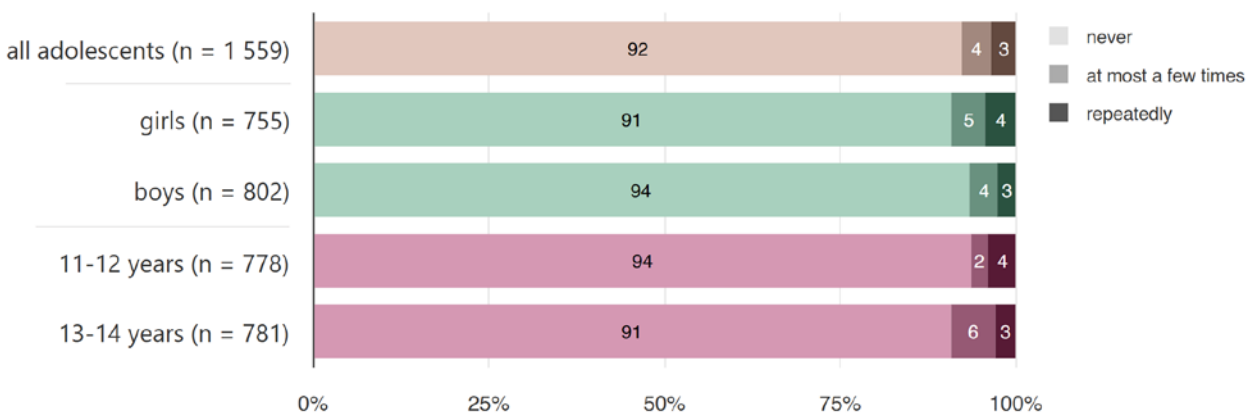


Fig. 12 How often have you sent such a message to someone else in the last 6 months?
% of adolescents aged 11–14 years (N = 1 559)



4.2.1 Receiving Sexual Solicitations

Figure 13 shows that 16% of adolescents reported being asked to send a sexual message in the past six months, including 4% who were asked repeatedly. We found statistically significant gender differences, with more girls (20%) reporting such solicitations than boys (12%). Age differences were also statistically significant: 13% of younger adolescents (11-12 years old) reported being solicited for sexual messages, compared to 18% among older ones (13-14 years old).

4.2.2 Feelings After Sexual Solicitations

We asked adolescents who reported being sexually solicited (n = 244; 16%) about how they felt afterwards (Figure 14). The majority of adolescents found sexual solicitation distressing. Approximately two-thirds (67%) reported feeling upset to varying degrees, with 12% stating “it

really upsets me a lot”. However, it’s worth noting that 9% of adolescents reported that it pleased them to some degree to be solicited for sexual messages. Both gender and age differences were small and non-significant, with girls and boys, as well as younger and older adolescents, reporting similar emotional responses.

4.2.3 Sending Sexual Solicitations

As shown in Figure 15, 6% of adolescents reported asking someone else to send them a message with a sexual undertone in the past six months. Gender and age differences were statistically significant. Nevertheless, these differences were driven by the distinction between the “at most a few times” and “repeatedly” categories. The proportions of girls and boys, as well as younger and older adolescents, who had never sent this type of message are virtually the same.

Fig. 13 How often in the last 6 months have you received such a message, from anyone?
% of adolescents aged 11-14 years (N = 1 559)

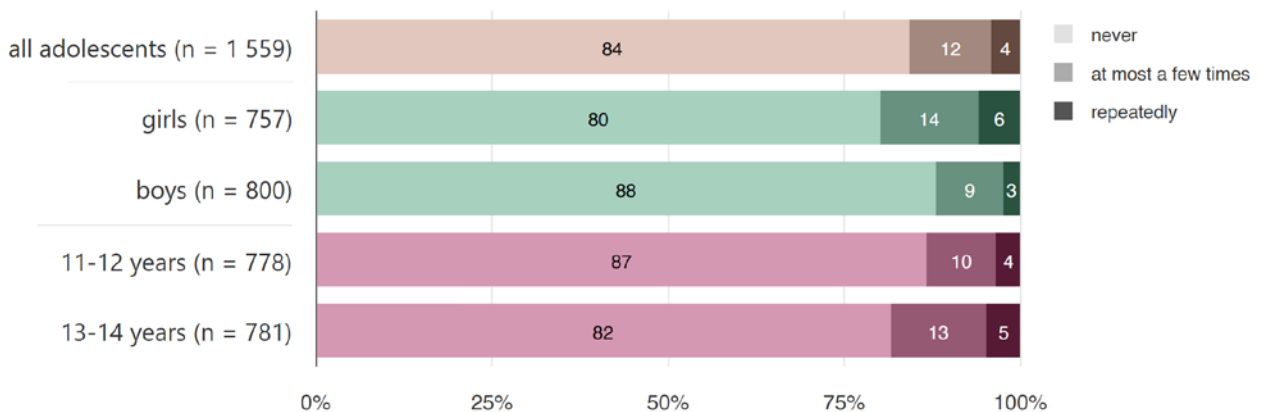


Fig. 14 When you get a message like that, what does it usually do to you?
% of adolescents aged 11-14 years (N = 244)

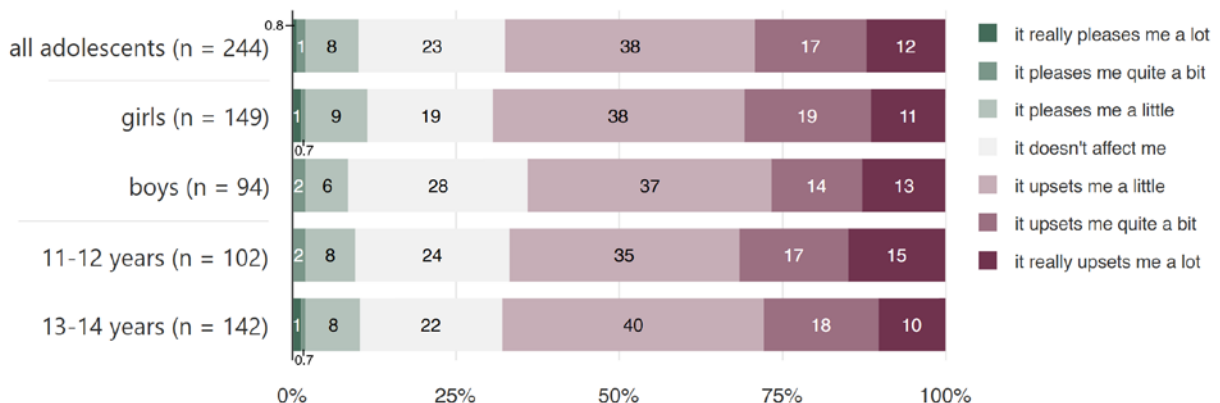
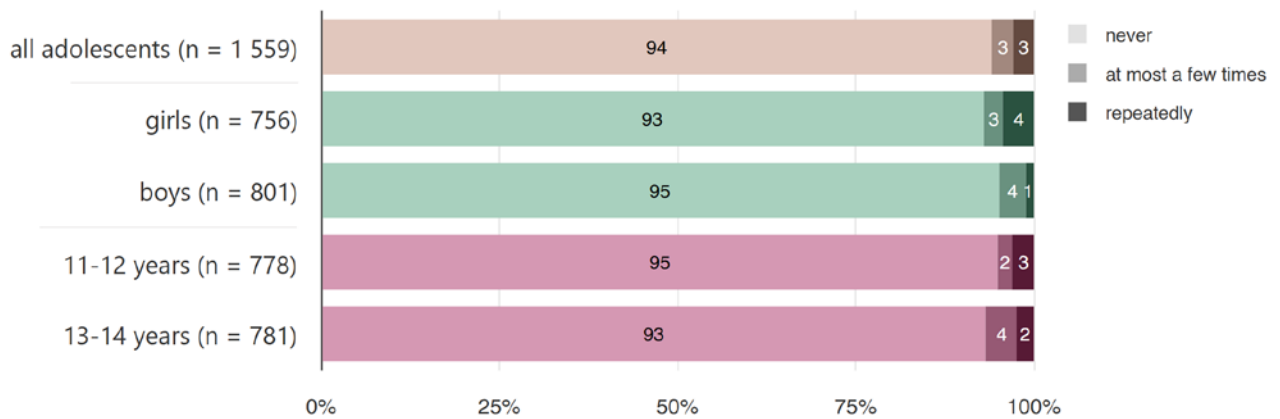


Fig. 15 How often have you sent such a message to someone else in the last 6 months?

% of adolescents aged 11–14 years (N = 1 559)



4.3 Understanding the Findings

Our findings indicate that around one in five adolescents had received a sexual message in the past six months. At the same time, fewer than one in ten had sent one. This pattern mirrors those found in older samples, suggesting that sending sexts is a less frequent and more deliberate behavior than receiving them (Mori et al., 2022). The increase in both receiving and sending sexts with age reflects a developmental trajectory consistent with adolescents' growing romantic exploration, as well as greater exposure to digital communication and peer influence.

The data on sexual solicitations underscore that this online risk is relevant even for early adolescents. About one in six reported being asked to send a sexual message, and a smaller but notable share admitted to soliciting from others. Although these proportions are lower than those observed in older adolescents, they show that sexual requests occur even before mid-adolescence. For many young people, these experiences can be confusing or distressing, particularly when they lack the emotional maturity or sexual literacy to navigate them safely (Klettke et al., 2019).

The emotional responses to sexual solicitation provide crucial insight into adolescents' experiences. The fact that two-thirds of solicited adolescents reported

feeling upset highlights the discomfort and potential harm linked to such interactions. Only a small minority found such attention pleasing, which may reflect genuine comfort with the situation, but also curiosity or a desire for social validation. Importantly, the lack of significant gender or age differences in emotional reactions suggests that distress following solicitation is a broadly shared experience across groups.

Overall, these findings emphasize the importance of early, open, and developmentally appropriate communication about online sexual behaviors between parents, educators, and children. As sexualized interactions are already present among preteens and early teens, preventive education and parental mediation should begin before adolescence. Encouraging discussions around consent, respect, and digital boundaries can help young people understand and manage such experiences more safely and confidently.

Sexting Among Adults Aged 18–59 in 2025

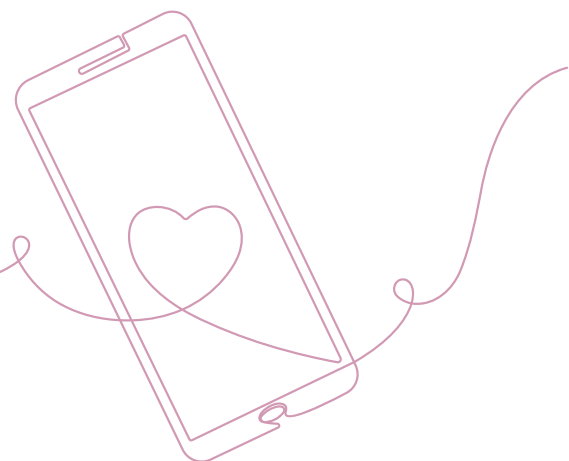
05

This section uses data from the DigiWELL project, collected in April–May 2025 via an online survey of Czech adults aged 18–59. In total, we collected data from 3,460 individuals. The survey explored adults' experiences with both consensual and non-consensual sexting, including their roles as senders and recipients. We also examined experiences related to forwarding of sexual content, both as those who forwarded such material and as those whose content was forwarded.

We explained **sexting** to the participants as follows:

People do all kinds of things on the internet. One of them may be sexting, the practice of sending or receiving sexually suggestive or explicit text messages, partially or fully nude photos, or videos of involved individuals using digital technologies (e.g., smartphone, computer). Sexting may be consensual (e.g., wanted) and non-consensual (e.g., one of the people involved did not want to sext). The next questions will ask you about these sexual messages.

Some questions were asked only of a part of the respondents. Please note that the number of respondents shown in each chart may vary across questions. Percentages in charts are rounded to whole numbers and might not add to 100%.



5.1 Receiving Consensual and Non-consensual Sexting

Overall, 47% of adults aged 18–59 reported receiving some form of sexting messages in the past six months. Since consensual and non-consensual sexting are very different experiences, we further describe them separately.

As shown in Figure 16, 40% of adults aged 18 to 59 reported having received at least one consensual sexual message in the past six months. Such messages were mostly received occasionally, with 30% respondents having received consensual messages once or a few times. Receiving sexting regularly, that is, every month or more often, was less common (10%). Note that since few people received sexting daily, we merged the categories “at least every week” and “daily or almost daily” into one.

We found statistically significant age differences, with younger adults receiving more consensual sexting than older adults. Among young adults (18–29 years), 50% reported receiving consensual sexting at least once, while only 25% of adults aged 50–59 years had similar experiences. Men and women reported similar experiences. About 40% of men and 37% of women said

they had received a consensual sexual message. While the gender differences were statistically significant, note that the difference was very small.

Figure 17 shows that 33% of adults aged 18–59 reported receiving at least one non-consensual sexual message in the past six months. Again, this was mostly occasional, with 27% of adults having received non-consensual sexting once or a few times, and only 6% every month or more often.

We found statistically significant gender differences, as women were more likely than men to report receiving non-consensual sexts. Forty percent of women reported at least one such experience, compared to 27% of men. As with consensual sexting, we also found statistically significant age differences. Nearly half (45%) of young adults aged 18–29 reported receiving unwanted sexual messages at least once. Approximately 9% of them experienced this monthly or more frequently. Among adults aged 50–59, the figures were significantly lower, with 26% having received any non-consensual sexts, and just 4% said it had happened “at least every month” or more often.

Fig. 16 In the past 6 months, how often have you received a sexual message that you consented to (you wanted to receive it)?
% of adults aged 18–59 years (N = 3 436)

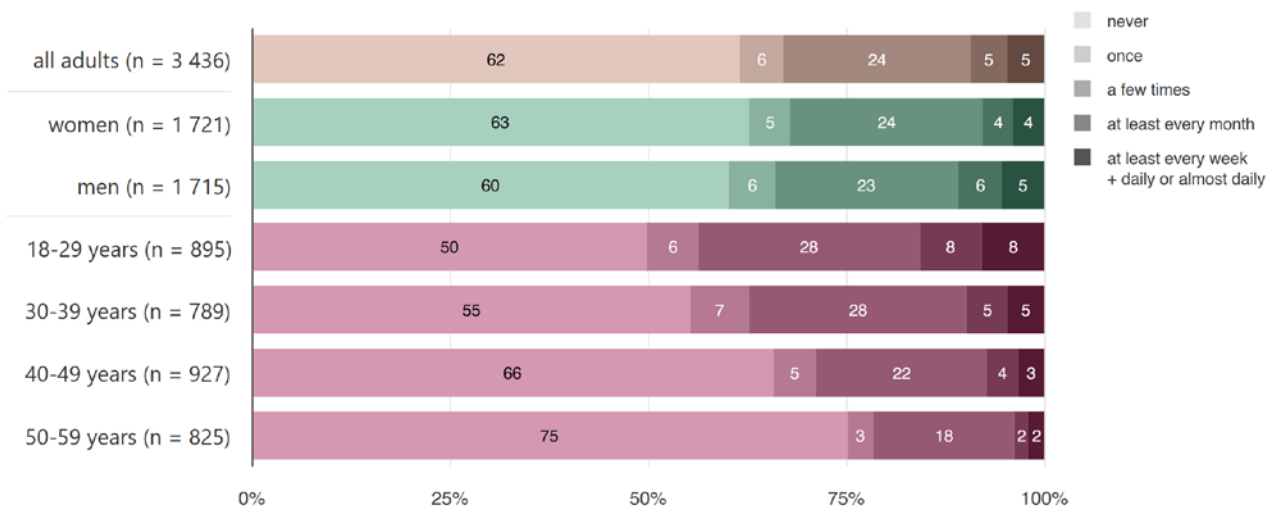
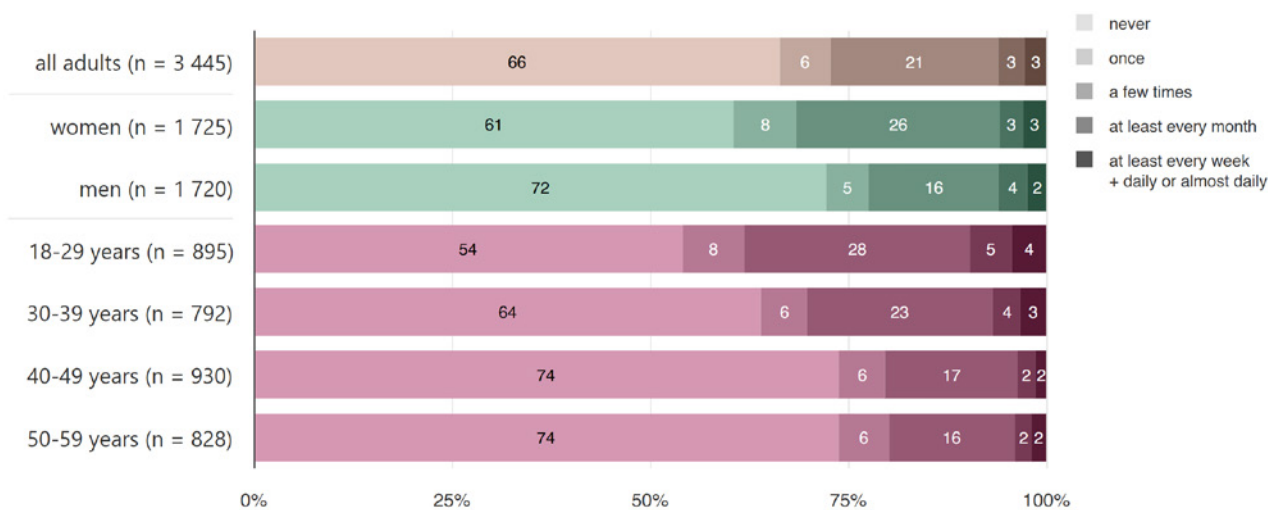


Fig. 17 And how often, in the past 6 months, have you received a sexual message even though you did not want to (it was not consensual)?

% of adults aged 18–59 years (N = 3 445)



5.2 Sending Consensual and Non-consensual Sexting

Overall, 36% of adults aged 18–59 reported sending some form of sexting messages in the past six months. Since consensual and non-consensual sexting are very different experiences, we further describe them separately.

About one-third of adults (35%) reported sending sexual messages consensually in the past six months (Figure 18). As with receiving, this was typically occasional for most people. Approximately 21% sent such messages a few times, while 9% did so at least once every month.

We found some statistically significant gender differences. More men (37%) than women (32%) sent more sexual messages, and they also did so more frequently (10% of men vs. 6% of women did it every month or more often). Age patterns for sending sexts mirrored the significant differences we saw for receiving sexts. Sending sexual messages was most common among younger adults, with about 47% of 18–29-year-olds reporting having sent a sexual message in the last six months, and 13% doing so at least monthly. For 30–39-year-olds, 39% sent such messages,

dropping to 31% for 40–49-year-olds and just 20% for those aged 50–59.

A concerning finding is that about one in eight adults (13%) reported sending sexual messages even though they did not want to send them (Figure 19). For most people, this was rare, with about 7% reporting it had happened a few times; however, 3% experienced it at least monthly.

Once again, some statistically significant differences between men and women appeared. Interestingly, more men (15%) than women (10%) reported sending sexts when they did not want to. Age remained a significant factor, as about 16% of 18–29-year-olds and 16% of 30–39-year-olds sent sexual messages they didn’t want to send. In contrast, 10% of 40–49-year-olds and only 7% of those aged 50–59 did so.

Fig. 18 How often have you sent a sexual message in the past 6 months consensually (because you wanted to)?
% of adults aged 18–59 years (N = 3 443)

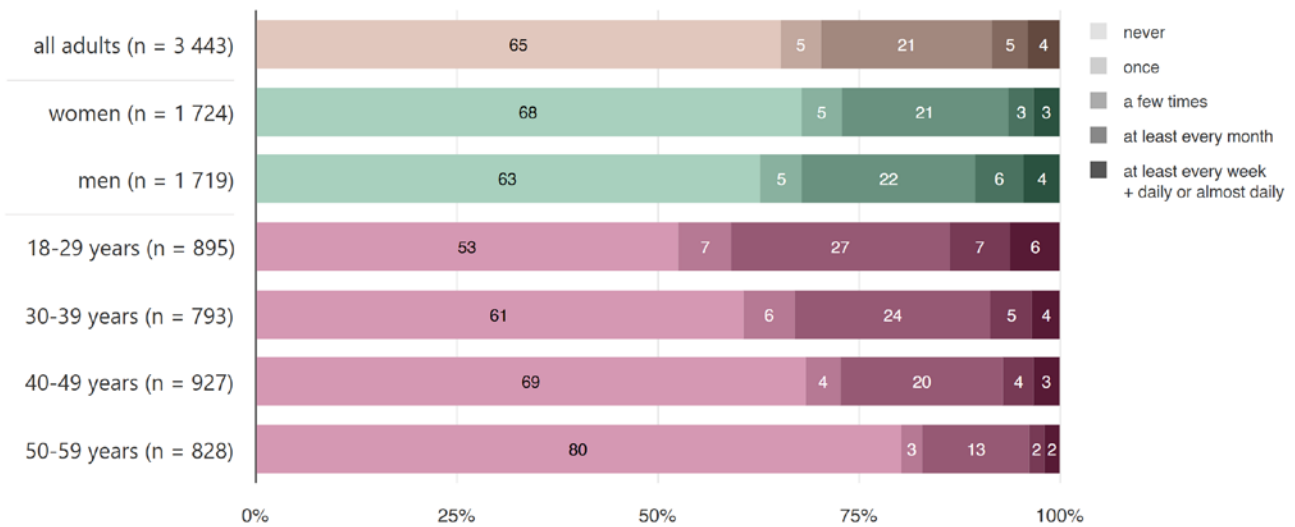
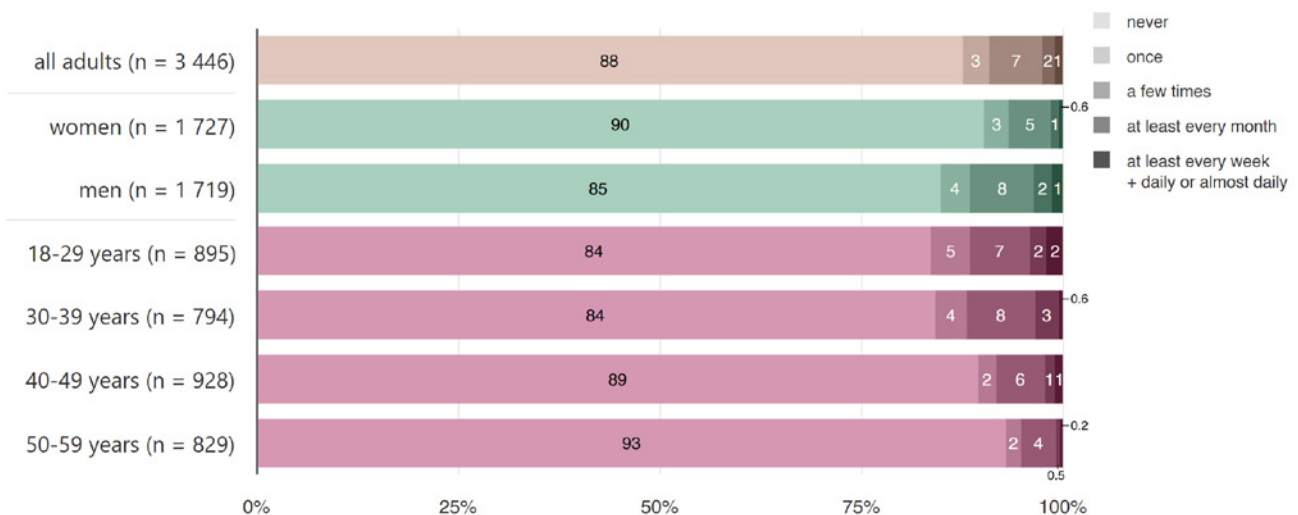


Fig. 19 And how often, in the past 6 months, have you sent a sexual message even though you did not want to (it was not consensual)?
% of adults aged 18–59 years (N = 3 446)



5.3 Forwarding Sexual Messages

Nearly one in ten adults (9%) reported having their sexual messages forwarded to others without permission in the past six months (Figure 20). While most participants (91%) reported never having experienced it, 2% still reported having experienced it at least once a month. It is important to note that these figures represent only instances where individuals became aware of the forwarding; the actual prevalence may be higher.

Gender differences in this type of victimization were significant. About 5% of women had their messages forwarded without consent. Surprisingly, men reported higher rates, with 12% stating that their sexual messages had been shared without permission. Age patterns also showed some significant differences. Approximately 13% of 18–29-year-olds and 12% of 30–39-year-olds experienced this. The rate dropped to

7% for individuals aged 40–49 and to just 5% for the oldest group.

About 9% of adults admitted to forwarding someone else’s sexual messages without permission (Figure 21), with 3% stating that they do it at least every month. Once again, gender showed some statistical differences,

with more men admitting to forwarding others’ messages (11%) than women (6%). Forwarding without consent also showed some significant differences regarding age. About 13% of 18–29-year-olds forwarded sexual messages, dropping to 8% for those aged 40–49, and 5% for the oldest group.

Fig. 20 Sometimes people forward sexual messages to others without asking the person in the message for permission. How often, in the past 6 months, has this happened to you?
% of adults aged 18–59 years (N = 3 441)

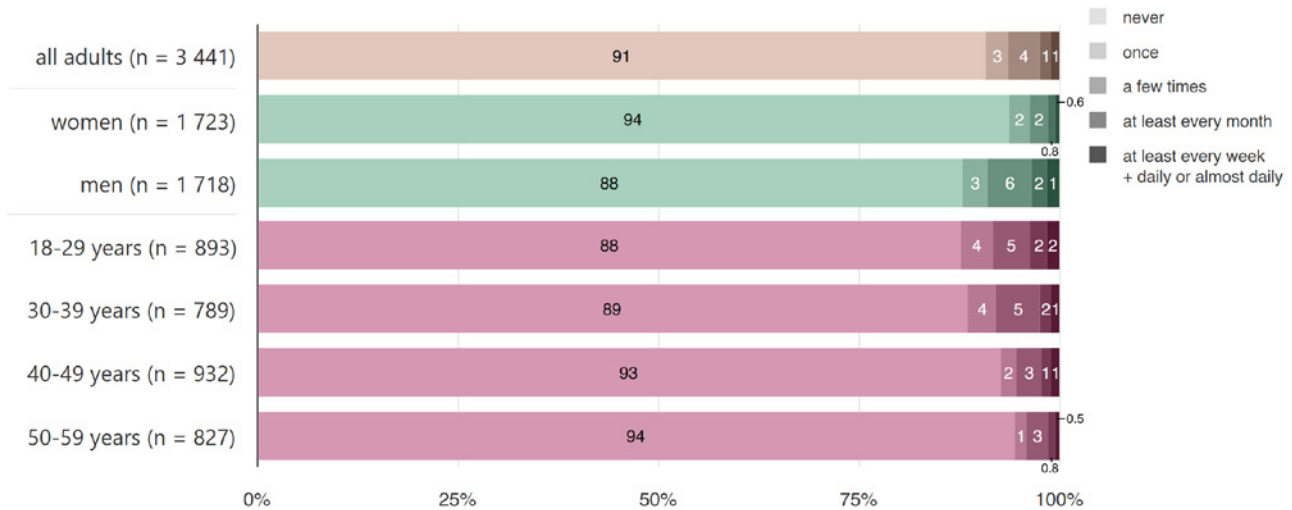
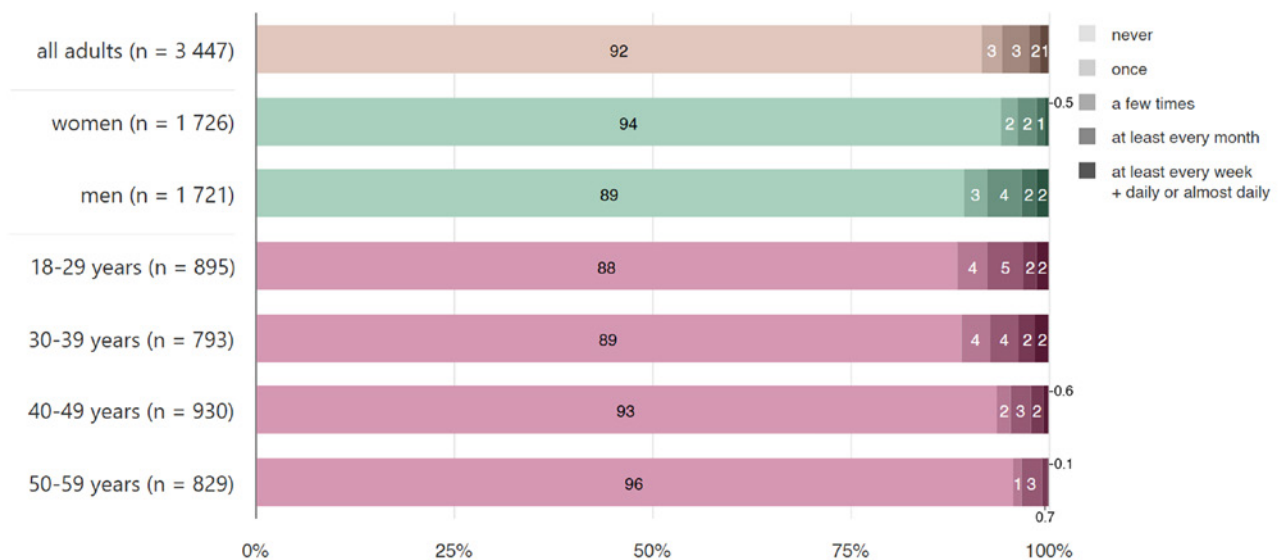


Fig. 21 And how often have you forwarded sexual messages of someone else without asking them for permission?
% of adults aged 18–59 years (N = 3 447)



5.4 Understanding the Findings

Sexual messaging has become a normal part of digital life for Czech adults. More than one-third engage in consensual sexting, suggesting this is no longer a fringe behavior, but rather a common aspect of intimate relationships in the digital age. However, it is worth noting that this behavior is concentrated among younger adults. Nearly half of 18–29-year-olds engage in sexting, compared to just one-fifth of those aged 50–59. This age gradient suggests that sexting may continue to become more common as younger generations age, fundamentally changing how sexual communication occurs in intimate relationships.

The findings revealed concerning patterns of non-consensual experiences. About a third of adults reported receiving unwanted sexual messages, with women significantly more likely to experience this than men (40% vs. 27%). These gender differences suggest that women disproportionately bear the burden of unwanted sexual attention in digital spaces. Research shows that receiving unwanted sexual messages is associated with depression, anxiety, stress, and lower self-esteem (Klettke et al., 2019). Young adults again face higher risks, with nearly half of the 18–29-year-olds receiving unwanted sexts compared to just over a quarter of the oldest age group. In addition, for some young adults, these are not isolated incidents, with 10% receiving unwanted sexual messages monthly or more frequently, creating ongoing exposure to potentially harmful content.

Perhaps more troubling is the finding that 13% of adults reported sending sexual messages even though they did not want to, implying sexual coercion in the digital context. This type of pressured sexting can lead to feelings of shame, guilt, regret, and a sense of violated autonomy. In this case, men reported higher rates (15%) than women (10%). This challenges common assumptions about gender dynamics and

suggests that sexual coercion in digital communication affects both men and women. The rate was also higher among younger adults, which points to the need for better education about consent and boundaries in digital intimate relationships. The fact that 3% of adults experience this pressure monthly or more frequently indicates that, for some individuals, coercive sexting is a recurring pattern rather than an isolated incident.

Findings on forwarding sexual content reveal another dimension of non-consensual sexting. Nearly one in ten adults reported having their sexual messages shared without permission, a serious privacy violation that can lead to emotional distress, reputational damage, relationship problems, and in some cases, legal repercussions (Schokkenbroek et al., 2023). Notably, men experienced this more frequently than women (12% vs. 5%), a finding that runs counter to common narratives about image-based sexual abuse. Popular discourse and media coverage often focus on women as the primary victims of “revenge porn” and unauthorized sharing of intimate images. Yet, our data suggest a more complex reality. This finding highlights the importance of moving beyond gendered stereotypes in understanding image-based sexual abuse. While women may still face unique vulnerabilities and more severe social consequences when intimate content is shared without consent, men are clearly also affected by these privacy violations. Similarly, men were more likely to admit to forwarding others’ messages without permission (11% vs. 6% women), suggesting that men may be both more likely to perpetrate and experience this form of violation. This pattern highlights the need for education and interventions that address the normalized sharing of intimate content in male peer groups, where such behavior may be trivialized or perceived as acceptable.

This report uses data from three surveys conducted as part of three research projects: FUTURE, PARKA, and DigiWELL. In all three cases, we collected the data via anonymous online surveys, and an external agency conducted the sampling and data collection. Participants were recruited from existing online panels. See Table 2 for details about the surveys.

We used quota sampling to ensure our samples represented target populations well (i.e., Czech households with children in FUTURE and PARKA; adult Czech internet users in DigiWELL). See the quotas in Table 2. The relative size of each quota category was based on the latest available data from the Czech Statistical Office.

To ensure participants understood our questions correctly, we conducted cognitive testing. This involved semi-structured interviews with individuals from the target group, focusing on their understanding of the questionnaire. For FUTURE and DigiWELL, we also ran small pilot studies using quantitative methods.

In DigiWELL, the panelists were invited via email, completed a screening for eligibility and quota characteristics, provided informed consent for their participation, and then completed the questionnaire. In FUTURE and PARKA, parents were invited via email, and their eligibility and quota characteristics were checked. Parents were asked to provide informed consent for their participation and that of their adolescent children (we enabled parents to review a PDF with questions for adolescents). Adolescents were also

informed about the study and asked to provide their assent. After completing the questionnaire, adolescents were shown a debriefing message thanking them for their participation, normalizing their online experiences, and providing a contact for a helpline, Modrá linka.

Participation in all three surveys was voluntary – participants could leave the survey at any point and skip any question (except those checking eligibility and quota) by selecting “I don’t want to respond.” Each participant or household received compensation in accordance with the agency’s standards. The Research Ethics Committee of Masaryk University approved all three data collections. The agencies are members of the professional associations SIMAR and ESOMAR, and adhere to their respective ethical guidelines and quality standards.

To assess the potential differences between gender and age groups reported in the main findings, we used chi-square tests of independence with a standard significance level of $p < .05$.

Table 2 Data collections overview

| | FUTURE | PARKA | DigiWELL |
|--|---|---|--|
| Participants | Czech adolescents | Czech adolescents | Czech adults |
| N | 2,500 | 1,562 | 3,460 |
| Age | 11–16 <i>M</i> = 13.43, <i>SD</i> = 1.70 | 11–14 <i>M</i> = 12.51, <i>SD</i> = 1.13 | 18–59 <i>M</i> = 39.18, <i>SD</i> = 11.74 |
| Gender | 50.0% boys | 51.4% boys | 50.0% men |
| Data collection | June 1–8, 2021 | April 29–May 15, 2025 | April 10–May 13, 2025 |
| Method | Online survey (CAWI) | Online survey (CAWI) | Online survey (CAWI) |
| Agency | STEM/MARK & DataCollect | STEM/MARK | STEM/MARK |
| Online panels | ivyzkumy.cz, MNforce panel, Kantar | European National Panel, Median, Dialog | European National Panel |
| Quotas | | | |
| <i>Participant age</i> | Equally sized cohorts | Equally sized cohorts | 4 categories (18–29, 30–39, 40–49, 50–59) |
| <i>Participant sex</i> | Balanced in each cohort | Balanced in each cohort | Balanced in each age category |
| <i>Parent sex</i> | — | 60/40% split or more balanced | — |
| <i>Household socio-economic status</i> | Family head education (3 categories) | Parent education (3 categories) | Participant education (4 categories) |
| <i>Household municipality population</i> | 5 categories | 4 categories | 5 categories |
| <i>Household region</i> | NUTS3 (14 regions) | NUTS2 (8 regions) | NUTS2 (8 regions) |
| Cognitive testing | 30 adolescents, 2 mothers | 7 adolescents, 4 parents | 16 adults |
| Pilot study | <i>N</i> = 195 adolescent-parent dyads | — | <i>N</i> = 804 adults |

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