



# SEXUAL EXPLOITATION EDUCATION

## SEXTORTION SCHEME

LESSON #5



### NOTE

Log in to [WalkingWise.com](https://WalkingWise.com) and refer to the Implementation Toolkit for classroom teaching tips.

### Most importantly:

#### DEFINE SCHOOL POLICY

Establish a sexual exploitation reporting protocol with a trauma-informed response. The Walking Wise Implementation Toolkit provides a sample protocol.

#### AGE & AUDIENCE

This presentation can be edited by following the procedures on page 3 to align with your school policies, specific age groups, and the involvement of at-risk audiences.

#### SUPPORT PROCEDURE

Provide your students with guidance on how to access immediate help or arrange a private meeting with a social worker, counselor, nurse, school resource officer, or another trustworthy staff member to report concerns about themselves or a peer.

#### SECOND SAFE ADULT

Ensure a second trustworthy adult, such as a teacher, is present in the learning setting to observe student reactions and identify those who may benefit from a follow-up meeting. This person should remain focused and free from other duties during the presentation.



## NOTE TO PRESENTER

This PDF contains the same content as the PowerPoint presentation but has been condensed into fewer pages for easier reference. For live presentations, please use the PowerPoint version. It reveals bullet points one at a time.

Meaningful learning takes time. By introducing topics gradually over several years, educators can create steady growth in awareness and understanding.

Our recommended teaching plan offers a long-term path for middle and high school students to build knowledge and confidence.



## 5-YEAR TRACK

### PARENTS & STAFF

#1 Myths & Reality

### 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE

#2 Trustworthy vs. Unsafe Adult  
#3 Grooming Process

### 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE

#4 Pornography Link  
#5 Sextortion Scheme

### 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE

#6 Male Victims  
#7 Runaways as Targets  
#8 Rural Risks

### 9<sup>th</sup> GRADE

#9 Human Traffickers  
#10 Female & Peer Recruiters

### 10<sup>th</sup> GRADE

#11 Family Secret  
#12 Hidden Buyers

## NOTE TO PRESENTER

This presentation is exclusively for Walking Wise® subscribers and not for redistribution.

Walking Wise encourages the use of Slido.com, an interactive digital tool, to enhance audience engagement. For more information, contact us at [support@WalkingWise.com](mailto:support@WalkingWise.com). Once configured, integrate Slido polling and add a post-evaluation to the PowerPoint presentation.

Presenters are encouraged to edit speaker notes to match their speaking style (viewable in presentation mode). You can also delete slides and content from this Walking Wise presentation to ensure the information aligns with your school policies, is age-appropriate, and fits within available class time. However, the slides are copyright-protected and may not be reworded without prior written permission from Walking Wise.

We encourage you to add your own content by following these instructions:

- Insert new PowerPoint slides.
- Remove the Walking Wise logo and copyright "©2026 Walking Wise" from the new slides.
- Always add your organization's name or logo to each new slide.

Please delete this instruction page before presenting to audiences.



## NOTE TO PRESENTER

This presentation is part of the Walking Wise curriculum for middle and high school students.

Schools may adapt the presentation to match their policies and available class time.

The goal is to introduce difficult topics gradually so students build awareness and confidence over time.

For revision requests, please email us at: [support@WalkingWise.com](mailto:support@WalkingWise.com).

# STATISTICS

## Why Study Results Can Vary

- **Some crimes are never reported, making it hard to reveal the entire issue.**
- **Studies collect information in different ways, leading to different results.**
- **Small studies may not represent everyone.**

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In this presentation, we'll discuss statistics, but it's important to note that while statistics provide valuable insights into an issue, they cannot be relied upon entirely.

Here are a few reasons:

### UNREPORTED

Victims often do not report the crimes committed against them due to fear, shame, or manipulation.

### INCONSISTENT COLLECTION

Geographical areas have different legal definitions for sexual crimes, which may make data hard to compare.

### FOCUS GROUPS

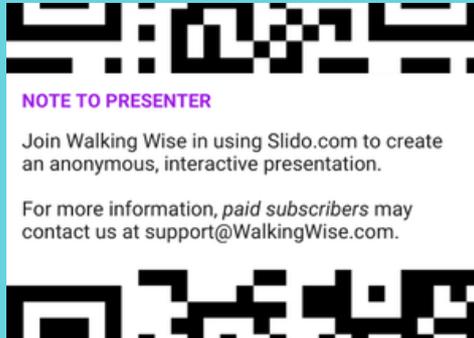
Small or specific focus groups participating in a study or survey may not accurately reflect the diversity or experiences of the broader population.

# INTERACTIVE PARTICIPATION

## Use Slido for Anonymous Questions

### Presenter Instruction

After setting up Slido for this lesson, add the assigned access code or QR code to this slide so participants can join at Slido.com using their computers or phones.



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## NOTE

For Online Interactive Polling with audiences:

Join Walking Wise in using Slido.com to create an anonymous user experience.

Contact us at [support@WalkingWise.com](mailto:support@WalkingWise.com) for more information.

Upon activating Slido.com:

Determine whether the Q&A feature will be enabled. If activated, a staff member should monitor questions and comments to ensure they remain appropriate for the audience. Slido's moderation tools allow administrators to delete or hide inappropriate submissions.

SENSITIVE TOPICS WILL BE DISCUSSED

# CONTENT NOTICE

We'll be discussing serious issues about sexual exploitation.

Some parts may be difficult to hear.

If you ever feel uncomfortable, you can step out and speak with a trustworthy adult for support.

You're not alone—we're here to help you.

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## NOTE TO PRESENTER

### Presenter Guidelines for Delivery

Present the information in a calm, matter-of-fact way and avoid sensational language.

Avoid graphic details. Focus on understanding behaviors and staying safe.

Never blame victims. Responsibility always belongs to the person who caused harm.

Maintain a steady tone. Students often mirror the presenter's emotional cues.

Do not ask students to share personal experiences.

If students laugh or react awkwardly, stay calm and continue teaching.

Always pair risk information with solutions and support.

Remind students they are not alone and help is available.

EDUCATION HELPS PREVENT EXPLOITATION

# WALKING WISE



**KNOWLEDGE** is one of the best protections against sextortion.

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Education is one of the strongest tools for preventing exploitation.

When young people understand how predators operate, they are better able to recognize manipulation and avoid dangerous situations.

Reinforce that awareness increases safety.

FORMS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

# WALKING WISE



## SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

includes grooming,  
sextortion, pornography  
& sex trafficking.

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Sexual exploitation can include:

### GROOMING

Building trust to manipulate someone.

### SEXTORTION

Threatening to share private images.

### PORNOGRAPHY

Involving vulnerable people in creating sexual images or videos.

### SEX TRAFFICKING

Manipulating or forcing someone into sexual activity in exchange for money or something of value.

# VOCABULARY



## KEY TERMS

- Sexting
- Sextortion
- Extortion
- Predator
- Catfishing
- Manipulative
- Intimidation



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Understanding vocabulary helps students recognize dangerous situations. When students know the language used to describe exploitation, they are more likely to identify warning signs and report concerns to trusted adults.

# VOCABULARY

## SEXTING

**Sending, receiving, or sharing sexual content, typically using smartphones.**



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Assisting Source

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT [Large language model]. <https://chatgpt.com>

# VOCABULARY

## **EXTORTION**

To obtain money, property, or services from someone through threats of physical harm, property damage, or other forms of pressure.



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Assisting Source

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT [Large language model]. <https://chatgpt.com>

# VOCABULARY

## SEXTORTION

The threat of exposing someone's sexual content, such as photos and videos, if they do not comply with demands.



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### HISTORY

Wireless phone service providers began to connect their networks for text messaging in 2001.

Sexting emerged in 2009.

The term 'sextortion' was coined in 2009 in a webinar hosted by the International Association of Women Judges.

#### Source

SendHub (n.d.). When Did Texting Start? Retrieved November 22, 2024, from <https://www.sendhub.com/when-did-texting-start/>

International Association of Women Judges (2023, March). Sextortion: The Impact on Judging and Courts. Retrieved November 22, 2024, from <https://www.iawj.org/sextortion-impact-on-judging-and-courts-asean>

#### Vocabulary Source

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT [Large language model]. <https://chatgpt.com>

# IMAGE EXCHANGE

When predators sent a sexual image, what percentage of victims sent their image back?



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Online Interactive Polling  
SLIDO.com: Multiple Choice

When predators sent a sexual image, what percentage of victims sent their image back?

- A) 62%
- B) 72%
- C) 82%
- D) 92%

ANSWER

B) 82% of reports indicated that victims sent their sexual images to a sextortionist after receiving an image from the predator first.

Source

Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, p. 13.

[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_TrendsInFinancialSextortion\\_June2024.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_TrendsInFinancialSextortion_June2024.pdf)

# WHAT DO YOU THINK?

When predators sent a sexual image, what percentage of victims sent their image back?

- A) 62%
- B) 72%
- C) 82%
- D) 92%

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MULTIPLE CHOICE: C

## ANSWER

**82%** of reports indicated that victims sent their sexual image after receiving an image from the predator first.

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Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, p. 13

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### Source

Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, p. 13.

[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_TrendsInFinancialSextortion\\_June2024.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_TrendsInFinancialSextortion_June2024.pdf)

# VOCABULARY

## **PREDATOR**

**Someone who harms, abuses, or takes advantage of others for personal gain or profit.**



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Assisting Source

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT [Large language model]. <https://chatgpt.com>



### Message Especially for Teens:

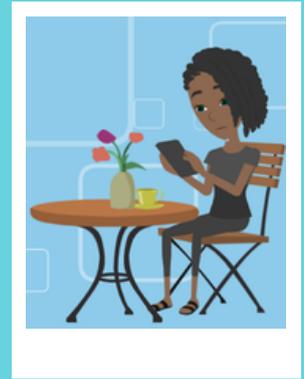
Explainer-style animation is used by businesses worldwide for employee training. Similarly, the Walking Wise animated video series is designed for teenagers (ages 11+) and adults to understand how sexual predators use manipulation, intimidation, and coercion to exploit young people.

### NOTE

Log in to Walking Wise.com to watch the three-minute animated video with audiences.

# REPORTING CRIME

How common is sextortion?



# REPORTING CRIME

## Sextortion Incidents

- **1 in 5 teens** report sextortion threats.
- **Each week, 800 reports** are made.

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1. Thorn. (2025). Sexual Extortion & Young People: Navigating threats in digital environments.  
2. Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data.

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Thorn's 2025 research found that almost all sextortion threats happened via digital tools like social media or messaging.

## TECHNOLOGY

Thorn.org was founded in 2009 by actor Ashton Kutcher. Thorn uses technology to combat online sexual exploitation of children and raises awareness about issues like sextortion and child sexual abuse material (aka, child pornography). Thorn's digital tools have had a significant impact, assisting in the identification of thousands of child victims and contributing to numerous arrests of sexual predators.

## NCMEC & THORN 2024 STUDY

Thorn analyzed data provided by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), which compiles reports of sextortion from individuals and online platforms. Out of approximately 118 million child sexual exploitation reports submitted between 2020 and 2023, Thorn examined a sample of 15 million reports. The analysis revealed that NCMEC received an average of 812 sextortion reports per week.

Source:

1. Thorn. (2025). Sexual Extortion & Young People: Navigating threats in digital environments, pp. 4, 13. Retrieved January 16, 2016, from <https://www.thorn.org/research/library/sexual-extortion-young-people/>

2. Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, pp. 4, 7.  
[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_TrendsInFinancialSextortion\\_June2024.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_TrendsInFinancialSextortion_June2024.pdf)

# REPORTING CRIME

## Sextortion Often Goes Unreported

- **43%** who report this crime contact the **App or platform**.
- **16%** who report this crime contact **law enforcement**.

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1. Thorn (2023). LGBTQ+ Youth Perspectives: How LGBTQ+ Youth are Navigating Exploration and Risks of Sexual Exploitation Online  
2. Thorn and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, p. 33.

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## NCMEC & THORN 2024 STUDY

Thorn analyzed data provided by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), which compiles reports of sextortion from individuals and online platforms. Out of approximately 118 million child sexual exploitation reports submitted between 2020 and 2023, Thorn examined a sample of 15 million reports. The analysis revealed that NCMEC received an average of 812 sextortion reports per week.

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Thorn (2023). LGBTQ+ Youth Perspectives: How LGBTQ+ Youth are Navigating Exploration and Risks of Sexual Exploitation Online.

[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_LGBTQ+YouthPerspectives\\_June2023\\_FNL.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_LGBTQ+YouthPerspectives_June2023_FNL.pdf)

Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, p. 33.

[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_TrendsInFinancialSextortion\\_June2024.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_TrendsInFinancialSextortion_June2024.pdf)

# REPORTING CRIME

## Why Some Victims Do Not Report

- Fear of embarrassment or shame
- Fear that parents will be angry
- Worry about getting in trouble
- Not knowing whom to tell
- Feeling alone and panicked

Many victims do not report sextortion right away because they feel embarrassed or afraid of getting into trouble.

Predators intentionally use shame and threats to keep victims silent.

It's important to understand that these feelings are common, but reporting to a trusted adult is the safest step because predators rely on secrecy, and speaking up helps stop the crime.

# VOCABULARY

## CATFISHING

The act of creating a fake online identity to deceive someone, typically for personal gain, manipulation, or malicious intent.



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Assisting Source

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT [Large language model]. <https://chatgpt.com>

# SEXTORTION

**How do most predators get sexual images from young people?**



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Online Interactive Polling  
SLIDO.com: Multiple Choice

How do most predators get sexual images from victims?

- A) Catfishing
- B) Hacking Accounts & Phones
- C) AI Generation
- D) Peers

ANSWER

A) Catfishing is currently the most frequent method for obtaining sexual images from victims.

Most sextortion cases begin with deception. Predators pretend to be someone else online to gain trust. In some cases, they also claim they hacked a device, even when that claim is false. The goal is always the same: obtain images that can later be used for threats.

Source

Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, pp. 9, 12, 13, 25, 34

[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_TrendsInFinancialSextortion\\_June2024.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_TrendsInFinancialSextortion_June2024.pdf)

# WHAT DO YOU THINK?

How do most predators get sexual images from young people?

- A) Catfishing
- B) Hacking Accounts & Phones
- C) AI Generation
- D) Peers

NOTE TO PRESENTER:

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MULTIPLE CHOICE: A

## ANSWER

**Catfishing** is currently the most frequent method for getting sexual images from young people.

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Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data.

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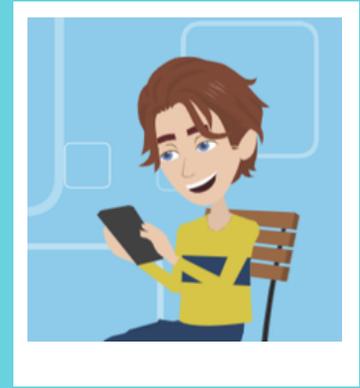
### Source

Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, pp. 9, 12, 13, 25, 34

[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_TrendsInFinancialSextortion\\_June2024.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_TrendsInFinancialSextortion_June2024.pdf)

# GROOMING PROCESS

**Sextortion usually does not begin with threats.**



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## ONLINE GROOMING

- Sextortion usually does not begin with threats; instead, it begins with a strategy.
- Offenders follow steps designed to build trust and lower defenses.
- Recognizing the pattern makes it easier to interrupt sexual extortion early.

# GROOMING PROCESS

## How Sextortion Usually Starts

- **Make Contact:** Predators randomly follow, send a friend request, or message.
- **Fake Identity:** They pretend to be the same age.
- **Build Trust:** They claim shared interests and send supportive messages.
- **Create Romance:** They flirt or express strong feelings quickly.
- **Cross the Line:** They send a sexual image and ask for one back.
- **Escalate:** They push for a private video chat and may pressure live nudity.

### MAKE CONTACT

- Sextortionists often cast a wide net by sending messages to dozens of people at once.
- Contact often starts with a random follow, friend request, or direct message.
- Offenders send messages to many young people, hoping someone responds.
- The first interaction usually seems casual and harmless.

### FALSE IDENTITY

- Most sextortion offenders pretend to be teenagers.
- Their profile photos are often stolen.
- Accounts may look realistic, but are carefully constructed.

### BUILD TRUST

- Offenders study social media profiles.
- They mention hobbies, sports, music, or shared experiences.
- They position themselves as understanding and supportive.
- Definition: Grooming is the process of building trust with the intent of exploiting or abusing someone.

### CREATE ROMANCE

- Strong feelings are expressed very quickly.
- Statements like “no one understands me like you” are common.
- Flattery and attention are used strategically.
- Key message: Healthy relationships develop over time. Fast emotional intensity from a stranger

is a warning sign.

#### CROSS THE LINE

- The offender often sends a sexual image first.
- This lowers resistance and creates pressure.
- The goal is to obtain an image in return.
- Red Flag: The shift from flirting to pressure marks a turning point in the scheme.

#### ESCALATION

- The offender suggests moving to a more private platform.
- Pressure increases for live video or explicit behavior.
- Once images or videos are obtained, threats often begin.
- Key Message: Responsibility always lies with the offender; the victim is not to be blamed.

#### Source

Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, pp. 12, 13.

[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_TrendsInFinancialSextortion\\_June2024.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_TrendsInFinancialSextortion_June2024.pdf)

# SEXTORTION METHODS

**Predators use a variety of ways to extort the people they target.**



# SEXTORTION METHODS

## How Sexual Images are Obtained

**82% Catfishing:** Pretend to be someone else online to get images.

**11% Fake Images:** Use edited or AI photos to threaten or embarrass.

**5.9% Hacking Devices:** Access photos from phones or Apps.

**3.8% Threats of Harm:** Use fear, intimidation, or social threats.

**1.4% In-Person Grooming:** Manipulate through “real-life” relationships.

**1.1% Offer to Buy Images:** Promise money, game currency, gift cards.

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Thorn and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data.

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## COMMON MYTH:

Teens often assume sextortion is caused by hackers breaking into devices. Research shows most cases begin with manipulation, not technology.

## CATFISHING

Predators often create fake online identities to deceive potential victims.

## FAKE IMAGES

Predators may threaten victims with sexual photos of other people who resemble the victim, altering those images with editing software, or using “nudifying Apps.” These tools use AI to generate nude images from clothed photos.

## HACKING DEVICES

Sextortionists claim they have gained access to the victim's private photos or videos by hacking into their electronic devices, which can be particularly threatening if the victim has stored self-generated nude images of themselves. Offenders often lie about hacking to create fear.

## THREATS of HARM

Sextortionists may threaten violence against the victim or their loved ones to scare them into sending sexual photos or videos.

## INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP

A romantic partner threatens to share sexual photos or videos of the victim to force them into

providing:

- 1) more explicit content
- 2) stay in the relationship
- 3) revenge over a breakup, which is sometimes referred to as "revenge porn" in the media.

#### OFFERS TO BUY IMAGES

Promises made by predators to buy images are rarely delivered.

#### Source

Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, p. 13.

[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_TrendsInFinancialSextortion\\_June2024.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_TrendsInFinancialSextortion_June2024.pdf)

# WHO IS AT RISK

## People They Target

- Children, teens, and adults can be targets of sextortion.
- Risk increases when sexual photos or videos are **taken, shared, or stored on devices.**

### Source

Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, pp. 9, 11, 23.

[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_TrendsInFinancialSextortion\\_June2024.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_TrendsInFinancialSextortion_June2024.pdf)

# WHO IS AT RISK

What is most often demanded from teenage **BOYS**?



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Online Interactive Polling  
SLIDO.com: Multiple Choice

What is most often demanded from teenage BOYS?

- A) Demands for Sexual Image
- B) Demands for Money
- C) Demands for Sexual Activity
- D) Demands by Peer

ANSWER

B) Demand for money is how teenage males are most often victimized.

Source

Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, pp. 4, 9, 11, 34.

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# WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What is most often demanded from teenage BOYS?

- A) Demands for Sexual Image**
- B) Demands for Money**
- C) Demands for Sexual Activity**
- D) Demands by Peer**

NOTE TO PRESENTER:

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MULTIPLE CHOICE: B

**ANSWER**

**Demand for Money** most often  
impacts teenage boys.

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Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data.

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**Source**

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# WHO IS AT RISK

## Teenage Boys

- **90% of financial sextortion victims are male.**
- **Most are ages 14–17.**
- **Cases are also increasing among young men, ages 18+.**



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Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data.

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## TARGETING MALES

Financial sextortion most often targets teenage males. In these cases, offenders pose as teenage girls and send a sexual image first. This is designed to lower suspicion and trigger curiosity or impulsive decision-making. The tactic moves quickly before the target has time to think critically.

Most male victims are between the ages of 14 and 17. Adolescence is a stage when social approval, attraction, and risk-taking behaviors are heightened, which offenders exploit intentionally.

Reports also show a growing number of cases among young men 18 and older. Although current trends highlight teenage males in financial sextortion, anyone can be targeted.

### Source

Thorn and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, pp. 4, 9, 11, 34.

[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_TrendsInFinancialSextortion\\_June2024.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_TrendsInFinancialSextortion_June2024.pdf)

# WHO IS AT RISK

What is most often demanded from teenage **GIRLS**?



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Online Interactive Polling  
SLIDO.com: Multiple Choice

What is most often demanded from teenage GIRLS?

- A) Demands for Sexual Image
- B) Demands for Money
- C) Demands for Sexual Activity
- D) Demands made by a boyfriend or peer

ANSWER

- A) Demands for Sexual Image
- C) Demands for Sexual Activity
- D) Demands made by a Boyfriend or Peer

Source

Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, pp. 4, 9, 11.

[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_TrendsInFinancialSextortion\\_June2024.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_TrendsInFinancialSextortion_June2024.pdf)

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- B) Demands for Money**
- C) Demands for Sexual Activity**
- D) Demands made by a boyfriend or peer**

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MULTIPLE CHOICE: A, C, D

## ANSWER

**Demands for sexual content, sexual activity, and demands made by a boyfriend or peer** most often impact girls.

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Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data.

37

### NOTE TO PRESENTER:

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### Source

Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, pp. 4, 9, 11.

[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_TrendsInFinancialSextortion\\_June2024.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_TrendsInFinancialSextortion_June2024.pdf)

# WHO IS AT RISK?

## Teenage Girls

- Often pressured for **sexual images**.
- **Romantic** or relationship demands are common tactics.
- About half are exploited by **online predators**, while the other half is exploited by **someone they know**.

Pressure tactics differ depending on the individual being targeted. Teenage females are frequently targeted through sexual pressure rather than financial demands.

Offenders often use emotional manipulation, flattery, or relationship expectations to obtain private or sexual images.

Romantic pressure is a common tactic. Statements framed as proof of trust, love, or commitment are used to persuade victims to share images or videos.

Data shows that about half of female victims are exploited by online offenders, while about half are harmed by someone they know, such as a dating partner or peer. This highlights that exploitation can occur both online and within real-life relationships.

### Source

Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, pp. 4, 9, 11.

[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_TrendsInFinancialSextortion\\_June2024.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_TrendsInFinancialSextortion_June2024.pdf)

# WHO IS AT RISK?

What is most often demanded from  
**LGBTQ+** teens?



# WHO IS AT RISK?

## LGBTQ+ Teens

- A common threat is to **reveal personal identity**.
- Some teens spend **more time in online spaces**, increasing their exposure to harmful strangers.
- Fear of judgment, rejection, or family conflict may **reduce reporting**.

Some predators threaten to expose a teen’s sexual orientation or gender identity to family or peers. This threat can create intense fear and silence victims.

Research shows that many LGBTQ+ young people rely on digital spaces for connection and support. The 2023 Thorn study reports, “Many LGBTQ+ participants reported digital forums as places where they can be their true and authentic selves, compared to engaging with people offline.” While these spaces can provide community, they can also increase exposure to strangers with harmful intentions.

Fear of judgment, rejection, or family conflict may make reporting more difficult. This does not reflect weakness; it reflects real social pressures. Supportive adults, affirming environments, and clear reporting pathways are especially important protective factors for LGBTQ+ youth.

### Source

Canadian Center for Child Protection. (2021). Online sextortion: Examining the prevalence and impact on LGBTQ+ youth. Canadian Centre for Child Protection.  
<https://www.protectchildren.ca>

Thorn (2023). LGBTQ+ Youth Perspectives: How LGBTQ+ Youth are Navigating Exploration and Risks of Sexual Exploitation Online, p. 10, 14.  
[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_LGBTQ+YouthPerspectives\\_June2023\\_FNL.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_LGBTQ+YouthPerspectives_June2023_FNL.pdf)

# INITIAL CONTACT

Where does contact often begin in sextortion cases?



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Online Interactive Polling  
SLIDO.com: Word Cloud

## NOTE

The more frequently a word is used, the larger it appears in the cloud, making it easy to see which words or ideas are most common among the audience.

# INITIAL CONTACT

## Online Platforms

- Social media platforms
- Online gaming
- Messaging Apps
- Photo and video sharing platforms
- Dating Apps (teens often pretend to be older)
- Live streaming platforms



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Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data.

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Most sextortion cases begin on common online platforms used for communication and entertainment. Predators often send messages to many users, hoping someone will respond.

### SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

Example: Facebook, Whisper, WeChat, Voxer

Users on these platforms may be more likely to maintain long-term connections, allowing sextortionists to groom victims over extended periods and multiple victims at the same time.

### ONLINE GAMING PLATFORMS

Example: Fortnite, Roblox

Gaming platforms allow real-time interaction, which can make conversations feel personal. These platforms often attract young users who might be more naive and less experienced in recognizing potential threats, making them easier targets.

### DATING APPS

Example: Tinder, Blendr, Hoop

People on dating apps are often open to building trust with potential partners, making them receptive to sharing personal information and intimate content. Some teens create profiles on dating apps by misrepresenting their age.

### MESSAGING APPS

Example: Snapchat, Telegram, Kik, Tubler, Yik Yak, Facebook Messenger, Reddit

Messaging apps are often used to move conversations into more private spaces. The apps have

features that allow messages to disappear, which sextortionists often exploit. This technology can also make it difficult for victims to gather evidence or report the crime.

#### PHOTO & VIDEO SHARING PLATFORMS

Example: Instagram, Flickr

The visual nature of these platforms can facilitate the exchange of explicit images or the manipulation of images using AI technology and photo/video editing software.

#### LIVE STREAMING PLATFORMS

Example: YouTube, TikTok, Periscope, Spotify

Live streaming services enable real-time interaction and also make conversations feel personal and intimate. The visual nature of these platforms can facilitate the exchange of explicit images or the manipulation of images using AI technology and photo/video editing software.

#### Source

Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, pp. 6, 18, 20, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30.

[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_TrendsInFinancialSextortion\\_June2024.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_TrendsInFinancialSextortion_June2024.pdf)

# SECOND LOCATION



**What percentage of predators ask teens to move from direct messages to a private chat?**



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Online Interactive Polling  
SLIDO.com: Multiple Choice

What percentage of predators ask teens to move from direct messages to a private chat?

- A) 25%
- B) 45%
- C) 65%
- D) 85%

ANSWER:

C) 65% of victims were asked to move from the initial point of contact to another App for a private conversation.

Source

Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, pp. 6, 20, 21, 22, 26.

[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_TrendsInFinancialSextortion\\_June2024.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_TrendsInFinancialSextortion_June2024.pdf)

# WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What percentage of predators ask teens to move from direct messages to a private chat?

- A) 25%
- B) 45%
- C) 65%
- D) 85%

NOTE TO PRESENTER:

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# ANSWER

**65%** of victims were asked to move from the initial point of contact to another App for a private conversation.

## NOTE TO PRESENTER:

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## Source

Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, pp. 6, 20, 21, 22, 26.

[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_TrendsInFinancialSextortion\\_June2024.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_TrendsInFinancialSextortion_June2024.pdf)

# SECOND LOCATION

## Moving to a Private Apps

- Some platforms are **less likely to identify** harmful behavior.
- Private chats **increase secrecy and pressure.**
- Apps with **disappearing messages** hide conversations.

Predators often ask victims to move conversations to a private platform. This step reduces oversight and increases secrecy. Moving to a second location is a major warning sign.

This shift is intentional. Private messaging platforms may have fewer safety filters, encrypted communication, or disappearing message features. Offenders use these tools to reduce detection and increase secrecy.

Teaching students to recognize this “second location” tactic is critical to disrupting the grooming process. The risk increases when an offender attempts to isolate a teen in a less monitored digital space. Moving to a private App early in a conversation is a significant red flag.

### Source

Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, pp. 6, 20, 21, 22, 26.

[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_TrendsInFinancialSextortion\\_June2024.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_TrendsInFinancialSextortion_June2024.pdf)

# SECOND LOCATION

## Common Private Locations

- **35.8% - Snapchat**
- **23.8% - Google Platforms**
- **14.0% - WhatsApp**
- **8.1% - iMessage (Texting)**
- **7.5% - Telegram**



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Thorn and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, pp. 6, 20, 21, 22, 26.

n = 869

47

## Snapchat Risks

Disappearing messages, rapid image exchange, and location sharing

## Higher Risk Google Platforms:

Google Chat (direct messaging), Gmail (private communication), Google Meet (live video), Google Voice (texting/calling)

## WhatsApp Risks

Limited platform moderation, phone number required, international communication, and easy and high-quality media sharing

## Telegram Risks

High anonymity, secret chats with self-destruct timers, can distribute content widely, and minimal content moderation

## Source

Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, pp. 6, 20, 21, 22, 26.

[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_TrendsInFinancialSextortion\\_June2024.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_TrendsInFinancialSextortion_June2024.pdf)

# VOCABULARY

## MANIPULATION

To influence or control someone's behavior or decisions in a deceptive or unfair way, often for personal gain.



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Assisting Source

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT [Large language model]. <https://chatgpt.com>

# VOCABULARY

## INTIMIDATION

To influence or control another person's actions or behavior by causing fear.



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Assisting Source

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT [Large language model]. <https://chatgpt.com>

# THREAT TACTICS



Verbal threats are used to scare young people into fulfilling demands.



# THREAT TACTICS

## How Predators Apply Pressure

- Threats often begin within the **first few hours** of contact.
- Predators make **rapid, repeated demands**.
- Short deadlines and constant messaging **increase panic**.

Predators often move quickly once they obtain an image.

Rapid and repeated demands create intentional pressure, designed to force quick decisions.

Urgent deadlines are meant to overwhelm the victim emotionally. This tactic discourages victims from seeking help.

Their goal is to create panic before the victim has time to think clearly.

### Source

Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, p. 15.

[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_TrendsInFinancialSextortion\\_June2024.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_TrendsInFinancialSextortion_June2024.pdf)

# SEXTORTION SCRIPT



**Predators often use common scripts or patterns when making threats.**



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## NOTE TO PRESENTER

The statements on the following slides are commonly identified as patterns of threats in sextortion cases.

The purpose is not to frighten students but to help them recognize manipulation tactics.

# SEXTORTION SCRIPT

Knowing common threats helps young people recognize manipulation tactics.

## Threats of Rejection

- “Your life will be ruined.”
- “Everyone is going to think you’re a slut.”
- “Your family, friends & followers will judge you.”
- “Your parents won’t love you.”
- “We’ll kill your sister...your brother...your pet.”
- “You may as well kill yourself.”

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Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data.

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Investigators have found that predators often repeat the same threats across many cases. These threats are designed to create shame and fear. Recognizing these patterns helps students understand that the predator is following a script.

According to the FBI, at least three dozen deaths by suicide have been linked to sextortion cases in recent years. In some investigations, offenders escalated their threats by encouraging self-harm to increase panic and control.

**STUDENT SAFETY STATEMENT** (It is strongly recommended that the presenter make a safety statement following this slide.)

Possible Statement: “If anyone ever feels overwhelmed or unsafe, immediate support from a trusted adult or the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is available.”

Source

Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, pp. 15, 16.

[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_TrendsInFinancialSextortion\\_June2024.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_TrendsInFinancialSextortion_June2024.pdf)

# SEXTORTION SCRIPT

Knowing common threats helps young people recognize manipulation tactics.

## Threats of Failure

- “Your images will be shared with everyone you know.”
- “You’ll be expelled from school.”
- “You won’t get into college.”
- “You’ll never get a job.”

These statements are commonly identified as patterns of threats in sextortion cases.

The purpose is not to frighten students but to help them recognize manipulation tactics.

### Source

Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, pp. 15, 16.

[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_TrendsInFinancialSextortion\\_June2024.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_TrendsInFinancialSextortion_June2024.pdf)

# SEXTORTION SCRIPT

Knowing common threats helps young people recognize manipulation tactics.

## Legal Threats

- “You’ll be the one to get into trouble for this.”
- “You’re the one who broke the law.”
- “You’ll go to jail for sending child pornography.”

These statements are commonly identified as patterns of threats in sextortion cases.

The purpose is not to frighten students but to help them recognize manipulation tactics.

### Source

Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, pp. 15, 16.

[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_TrendsInFinancialSextortion\\_June2024.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_TrendsInFinancialSextortion_June2024.pdf)

# PAYMENT DEMANDS

How many victims reported sending money to a predator?



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Online Interactive Polling  
SLIDO.com: Multiple Choice

How many victims reported sending money to a predator?

- A) 28%
- B) 38%
- C) 48%
- D) 58%

ANSWER

B) 38% of victims reported sending money in sextortion cases.

Emphasize that victims sometimes send money because they are frightened or pressured.

Source

Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, p. 19.

[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_TrendsInFinancialSextortion\\_June2024.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_TrendsInFinancialSextortion_June2024.pdf)

# WHAT DO YOU THINK?

How many victims reported sending money to a predator?

- A) 28%
- B) 38%
- C) 48%
- D) 58%

NOTE TO PRESENTER:

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MULTIPLE CHOICE: B

## ANSWER

**38%** of sextortion victims reported sending money to the predator.

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Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data.

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### Source

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# PAYMENT DEMANDS

## After Money Is Sent

- Predators may **still release images.**
- **More money or images** may be demanded.
- **New or repeated threats continue.**



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Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data.

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People may believe sending money will solve the problem. However, research shows that payment often leads to additional demands.

Sending money often signals to the offender that the target is fearful and responsive, which can increase repeated threats.

Sextortion is about control. Payment often increases the predator's leverage.

### Source

Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, p. 17.

[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_TrendsInFinancialSextortion\\_June2024.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_TrendsInFinancialSextortion_June2024.pdf)

# PAYMENT DEMANDS

How much money do you think predators typically demand?



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Online Interactive Polling  
SLIDO.com Word Cloud

## NOTE

The more frequently a word is used, the larger it appears in the cloud, making it easy to see which words or ideas are most common among the audience.

# PAYMENT DEMANDS

## Demanded vs. Paid

- **\$390 – typical amount demanded**
- **\$100 – typical amount victims send**



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Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data.

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These numbers represent median values, meaning half of the cases involve higher amounts and half involve lower amounts.

The median amount actually paid is closer to \$100. This suggests that some victims make partial payments to stop the threats.

The safest course of action is not to negotiate or send money, but to stop communication and seek help from a trusted adult or law enforcement.

### Source

Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, p. 19.

[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_TrendsInFinancialSextortion\\_June2024.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_TrendsInFinancialSextortion_June2024.pdf)

# PAYMENT DEMANDS

## Common Payment Methods Used

- **26.6% – Gift Cards**
- **25.7% – Cash App**



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Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data.

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Predators prefer payment methods that are fast and difficult to reverse. Gift cards and digital payment apps allow money to be transferred quickly.

Gift cards are particularly attractive to offenders because the codes can be sent digitally and redeemed quickly, often without identification.

Peer-to-peer payment apps allow immediate transfers, which supports the offender's use of urgency and pressure.

### Source

Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, p. 22.

[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_TrendsInFinancialSextortion\\_June2024.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_TrendsInFinancialSextortion_June2024.pdf)

# REFUSAL TO PAY

## When Victims Refuse Payment

- Most often, predators **do not follow through** on threats.
- **1 in 6 victims** report that images were shared.[1]
- When images are released, they are usually **sent to a small number** of friends, family, or followers.

In most cases, offenders do not follow through on threats to widely distribute images. The primary goal is control and financial gain, not exposure.

Approximately one in six victims reported that images were shared. While this number is serious, it also means that most threats are not carried out. Offenders rely heavily on the victim's fear of exposure to pressure cooperation.

When images are released, reports indicate they are typically sent to a limited number of contacts rather than broadly distributed. This reinforces that the threat is often exaggerated to create panic.

### Source

1. Thorn. (2025). Sexual Extortion & Young People: Navigating threats in digital environments. Retrieved January 16, 2016, from <https://www.thorn.org/research/library/sexual-extortion-young-people/>

2. Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, p. 17.

[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_TrendsInFinancialSextortion\\_June2024.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_TrendsInFinancialSextortion_June2024.pdf)

# EMOTIONAL IMPACT

**Sextortion can cause significant emotional harm.**



# EMOTIONAL IMPACT

## Effects of Fear or Shame

- **Loss of self-worth**
- **Lowers self-esteem**
- **Depression**
- **Anxiety**
- **PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder)**
- **Thoughts of Suicide**



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Harter et al., 2003; Mann et al., 2017; McCauley, 2017.

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Sextortion is not only a financial or digital crime, but it can also have serious psychological consequences. Offenders intentionally use shame, fear, and isolation to create emotional distress and maintain control.

Loss of self-worth and lowered self-esteem are common reactions. Victims may internalize blame or feel responsible for what occurred, even though responsibility lies solely with the offender.

Depression and anxiety may develop as a result of ongoing threats. Fear of exposure can lead to hypervigilance, sleep disruption, and withdrawal from friends or activities.

In some cases, individuals experience symptoms consistent with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, including intrusive thoughts, distressing memories, or heightened emotional reactions.

Thoughts of suicide have been reported in some sextortion cases. These situations require immediate adult intervention. Educators should clearly reinforce that no image or threat is worth a life, and that support is available.

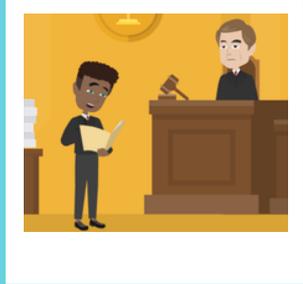
**STUDENT SAFETY STATEMENT** (Again, the presenter should consider making a safety statement following this slide.)

“If anyone ever feels overwhelmed or unsafe, immediate support from a trusted adult or the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is available.”

Source

Harter et al., 2003; Mann et al., 2017; McCauley, 2017.

# LAWS PROTECT MINORS



**It is important to understand who is a minor according to the law.**



# LAWS PROTECT MINORS

## Age of Consent

- A “minor” is anyone **under the age of 18**.
- This includes children and teens through age 17.
- A minor’s permission **is not legal consent**.

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67

The law recognizes that minors are still developing and may not fully understand the risks of sexual activity or image sharing.

### Source

1. FBI (n.d.). How We Can Help You. [fbi.gov](https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/safety-resources/scams-and-safety/common-scams-and-crimes/sextortion). Retrieved November 22, 2024, from <https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/safety-resources/scams-and-safety/common-scams-and-crimes/sextortion>
2. RAINN (2023, April). Consent Laws. [apps.rainn.org](https://apps.rainn.org). Retrieved November 22, 2024, from [https://apps.rainn.org/policy/compare/consent-laws.cfm?\\_ga=2.98895902.1228014705.1714664121-2040521015.1714504137](https://apps.rainn.org/policy/compare/consent-laws.cfm?_ga=2.98895902.1228014705.1714664121-2040521015.1714504137)
3. Stop It Now (n.d.). Why Permission from a Child or Underage Teen Doesn't Count. [stopitnow.org](https://www.stopitnow.org). Retrieved November 22, 2024, from <https://www.stopitnow.org/ohc-content/why-permission-from-a-child-or-underage-teen-doesnt-count#:~:text=The%20law%20recognizes%20that%20children,to%20engage%20in%20sexual%20behaviors.>

# SHARING IMAGES IS ILLEGAL

## U.S. Laws Protect Minors

- Possessing sexual images of a minor is illegal.
- Laws apply even when sharing is between minors.

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### Source

1. FBI (n.d.). How We Can Help You. fbi.gov. Retrieved November 22, 2024, from <https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/safety-resources/scams-and-safety/common-scams-and-crimes/sexortion>

2. RAINN (2023, April). Consent Laws. apps.rainn.org. Retrieved November 22, 2024, from [https://apps.rainn.org/policy/compare/consent-laws.cfm?\\_ga=2.98895902.1228014705.1714664121-2040521015.1714504137](https://apps.rainn.org/policy/compare/consent-laws.cfm?_ga=2.98895902.1228014705.1714664121-2040521015.1714504137)

3. Stop It Now (n.d.). Why Permission from a Child or Underage Teen Doesn't Count. stopitnow.org. Retrieved November 22, 2024, from <https://www.stopitnow.org/ohc-content/why-permission-from-a-child-or-underage-teen-doesnt-count#:~:text=The%20law%20recognizes%20that%20children,to%20engage%20in%20sexual%20behaviors.>

# SHARING IMAGES IS ILLEGAL

## How to Respond to Circulating Images

- Never **save, share, or forward** sexual images of a child.
- **Immediately delete** any nude photos or videos received.
- Youth should **immediately report** it to a trusted adult.



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Passing sexual images of minors between friends is illegal, even for teens. The safest response is to delete the image and report it.

# LAWS PROTECT MINORS

## Message from Law Enforcement

The FBI informs minors who are victims of sextortion:

**“You are NOT the one who is breaking the law.”**

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FBI (2024). How we can help you. Sextortion. fbi.gov

70

The offender is always the person who is held accountable.

Source

FBI (n.d.). How We Can Help You. fbi.gov. Retrieved November 22, 2024, from <https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/safety-resources/scams-and-safety/common-scams-and-crimes/sextortion>

# RESPONDING TO SEXTORTION

## Stay Calm. Take Action.

- **Do not send** money or images.
- **Stop** all communication immediately.
- **Block** the predator on all platforms.
- **Change** your usernames and privacy settings.

When sextortion occurs, it's important to remember that panic benefits the predator. Instead, calm, immediate action reduces their control and limits escalation.

Victims should not send money or additional images. Payment or cooperation typically increases demands rather than resolving the situation.

All communication should stop immediately. Continuing to respond gives the offender leverage and confirms the targeted person is engaged.

Blocking the offender on every platform is an important step.

Usernames and privacy settings should also be updated to reduce further contact.

### Source

Thorn and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). (2024). Trends in Financial Sextortion: An investigation of sextortion reports in NCMEC CyberTipline data, p. 15.

[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_TrendsInFinancialSextortion\\_June2024.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_TrendsInFinancialSextortion_June2024.pdf)

# RESPONDING TO SEXTORTION

## Preserve Evidence

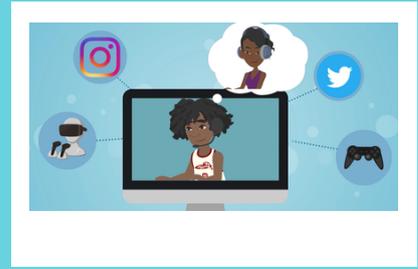
- Do not delete **conversations**.
- Do not delete **images** received or sent.
- Do not delete **accounts** involved in the incident.

When sextortion occurs, preserving evidence is critical.

Although the instinct may be to delete everything out of fear or embarrassment, doing so can remove valuable evidence.

Law enforcement relies on online conversations, transaction records, and images to investigate and identify offenders, increasing the likelihood of stopping them.

# REDUCE RISK



**Wise online habits can help reduce the risk of being targeted.**



Risk reduction does not eliminate the possibility of exploitation, but it significantly decreases exposure to offenders.

# REDUCE RISK

## Be Proactive While Online

- **Limit public posts** and oversharing.
- Use **privacy settings**.
- **Set personal boundaries** for sharing images.
- **Connect only with people known** in real life.
- **Pay attention** to unfamiliar or suspicious messages.

Limiting public posting and oversharing reduces the visibility and personal information available to someone with harmful intent. Offenders often study profiles to identify interests, routines, and vulnerabilities.

Strong privacy settings create an additional barrier. Accounts set to private and restricted messaging features make unsolicited contact more difficult.

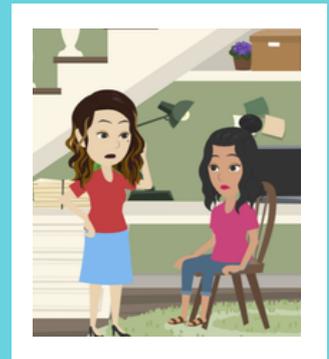
Establishing personal boundaries around photo sharing is critical. Decide for yourself the type of photos and videos you will make and share. Once an image is sent digitally, control over that image is lost.

Connecting only with people known offline reduces the likelihood of interacting with a fake profile. Offenders frequently rely on deception and stolen images.

Awareness is a protective skill. Sudden flattery, fast romantic language, requests to move to private apps, or pressure to share images are significant red flags.

# IMAGES AT SCHOOL

**How to stop the spread of private images at school.**



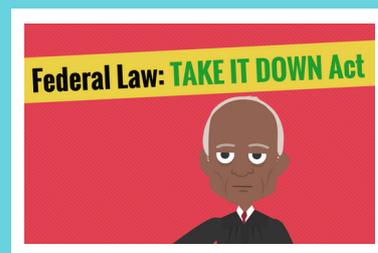
# STOP CIRCULATION

## How to End Image Sharing at School

- Tell a **trusted adult** immediately.
- Report it to a trusted **school staff member**.
- Inform **school administrators**.
- Seek support from a **counselor** for emotional care.

Schools have procedures for stopping the spread of private images and supporting students.

# REMOVE IMAGES



**How to remove an online sexual image of a minor.**



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## TAKE IT DOWN ACT

The Take It Down Act is a federal law passed by Congress and signed by the President on May 19, 2025.

It makes it a crime to publish or share sexual images of someone without their consent, including AI-generated “deepfake” images, and requires websites and social media platforms to remove these images quickly when a victim asks.

The law aims to protect people, especially young people, from online exploitation and gives law enforcement and platforms tools to stop harmful content.

### Source

Congress.gov (2025, April 28). The Take It Down Act: A Federal Law Prohibiting the Nonconsensual Publication of Intimate Images. Retrieved on January 13, 2026, from [https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/LSB11314?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/LSB11314?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

# REMOVE IMAGES

## NCMEC's Take It Down Service

- Free and anonymous service.
- Designed for minors under 18.
- Creates a **digital fingerprint** of the image.
- Helps some platforms **detect and remove images**.

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NCMEC (2024). Take It Down - National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

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The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) operates a free service called Take It Down, designed to help remove online sexual images involving minors.

This process is anonymous and available to minors under 18. It provides a proactive way to reduce further distribution and restore a sense of control.

The Take It Down service creates a unique digital code, called a hash, from the image. This code acts like a fingerprint for that specific photo. The actual image is not uploaded, copied, or stored by NCMEC.

Only the digital fingerprint is securely shared with online platforms to help detect and remove matching images.

If the image is uploaded or shared, the platform can detect the match and remove the image.

Educators should reinforce that removal tools exist and that early reporting improves effectiveness. Involving a trusted adult remains an important first step.

### Source

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (n.d.). CyberTipline. Report.Cybertip.org. Retrieved November 22, 2024, from <https://takeitdown.ncmec.org/>

# ASK FOR HELP



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Most importantly, sextortion should be reported to a trustworthy adult right away.

Parents, guardians, school administrators, or law enforcement can help eliminate harm.

Adult involvement immediately shifts control away from the predator.

# ASK FOR HELP

## Trustworthy People Stop Sextortion

- **Sextortion is a crime.**
- **Threats are tricks to manipulate.**
- **Adults can help end the situation.**
- **Images can be reported and removed.**
- **Support is available for emotional healing.**

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This closing slide is designed to restore a sense of safety and control. After discussing threats and trauma, it is critical to end with reassurance and clarity.

Sextortion is a crime. Responsibility always lies with the predator, never the victim.

Threats are designed to create panic and eliminate clear thinking.

Trusted adults can provide protection. This includes parents, guardians, the school nurse, the social worker, the resource officer, the counselor, administrators, and law enforcement.

Reporting shifts power away from the predator.

Tools such as NCMEC's Take It Down service provide real options for limiting online distribution of images.

Emotional support from counselors and trusted adults helps students recover and move forward.

# Help Lines for Sextortion

- ✓ National Center for Missing & Exploited Children 800-843-5678 or [CyberTipline.org](https://www.CyberTipline.org)
- ✓ Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) [IC3.gov](https://www.IC3.gov) or Contact your local office
- ✓ National Human Trafficking Hotline 888-373-7888 or TEXT 233733
- ✓ Homeland Security 1-877-4-HSI-TIP
- ✓ App or Internet Platform Go to the "Report" menu option
- ✓ Suicide & Crisis Lifeline 800-273-TALK (8255) or TEXT 988

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## NOTE TO PRESENTER

Presenters may ask their audience to consider adding a few "hotline for help" phone numbers to their cell phone contacts or take a photo of this slide.

# EVALUATION



## NOTE TO PRESENTER

If you would like to conduct an online student evaluation, *paid subscribers* may contact us at [support@WalkingWise.com](mailto:support@WalkingWise.com) for information about using Slido.com.

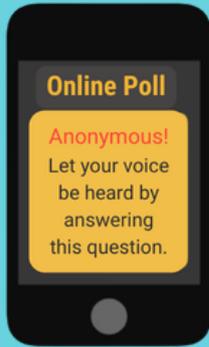
Otherwise, refer to the Walking Wise lesson plan on this topic to access a pre- and post-student survey.



Two ways to conduct a pre-/post-student evaluation:

- 1) Use the pre/post survey in the Walking Wise lesson plan for this topic.
- 2) Activate Slido.com to conduct an online survey.

# SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS



1. How would you rate this lesson?
2. What was the one thing you liked?
3. What one thing should we improve?

**slido.com**  
**#XXXX**

If Using Slido: Replace "#XXXX" with your organization's custom Slido code.

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Interactive Online Polling  
SLIDO.com: 3-Question Survey

IF SLIDO IS ACTIVATED:

Follow the instructions provided on WalkingWise.com to access your school or organization's custom Slido QR code and #code, which the audience will use to complete the 3-question evaluation.

Please send any feedback you want to share to Walking Wise at [support@WalkingWise.com](mailto:support@WalkingWise.com).

Feedback helps improve future presentations and understand student reactions.

# Thank you!

WalkingWise.com



Online Course for Adults Accredited by:  
Postgraduate Institute for Medicine  
Academy of Forensic Nursing



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## NOTE

To access additional resources about sextortion, please refer to the last page of Lesson Plan #5 on the Walking Wise Learning Platform.

We welcome your feedback at [support@WalkingWise.com](mailto:support@WalkingWise.com).