

Sexting among Czech Preadolescents and Adolescents

Abstract

The work addresses the issue of sexting among Czech preadolescents and adolescents. It monitors the prevalence of this phenomenon, focuses on the forms of sharing of these sexual materials on the Internet and describes children's motivation for such sharing. It also focuses on the dangers of this phenomenon and the consequences of sexting implementation (damage of one's reputation, cyber bullying, suicides, etc.). The paper is an outcome of an original survey which was carried out by the author in cooperation with other researchers from The Centre for the Prevention of High-risk Virtual Communication at the Faculty of Education at Palacký University in Olomouc. The survey was conducted in 2011 on a sample of 10,000 respondents aged 11–17.

Key words: *sexting, sexualisation of children, victim, sexual content, child pornography.*

Introduction

For the needs of our text, the term sexting is defined as *an electronic distribution of text messages, one's own photographs or one's own videos with sexual content* (Kopecký, 2010), which occurs via virtual electronic media, especially the Internet.

One of the first definitions of sexting defines it as *the act of sending pictures of a sexual nature between cell phones or between other electronic media such as the Internet* (Streichman, 2009). Other authors define it as *youth-produced sexual images which are further distributed* (Wolak, J., Finkelhor, D., Mitchell, J.,