

Sexuality and Romantic Relationships in the Digital Age

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MANAGING RELATIONSHIPS ONLINE

Students in grades 7-11 say friends come first online:

Who should be able to see your social media posts?

9 out of 10 say their friends

6 out of 10 say their boyfriend/girlfriend

Who would you share your password with?

31% say their best friend

16% say their boyfriend/girlfriend

Who should be able to see where you are with geo-locational devices?

39% said their friends

27% say their boyfriend/girlfriend

IMPACT OF FAMILY RULES

Do household rules make a difference?

YES for seeking pornography:

Students who have a rule about sites they are not supposed to visit are more likely to say that they have never looked for pornography online.


But boys - who are most likely to seek out pornography - are less likely than girls to have a rule in the home on this topic.

NO for sexting:

Students who have a rule about treating people with respect online are not less likely to forward sexts.

SEXTING (those in grades 7-11 with access to a cell phone)

GRADE	SENT SEXT OF SELF TO SOMEONE
7	2%
8	4%
9	8%
10	11%
11	15%



GRADE	RECEIVED SEXT CREATED BY SENDER	RECEIVED SEXT FORWARDED BY SOMEONE ELSE
7	11%	9%
8	17%	13%
9	26%	21%
10	28%	27%
11	36%	30%

GRADE	SEXT OF SELF WAS FORWARDED BY RECIPIENT	FORWARDED SENDER-CREATED SEXT
7	10%	14%
8	26%	10%
9	24%	11%
10	25%	17%
11	17%	15%

BOYS VS GIRLS



FLIRTING ONLINE

13% of students have pretended to be someone else online to flirt

4% of students in Grade 5 do this compared to **22%** in Grade 10

SEEKING OUT INFORMATION ON SEXUALITY

8% of students turn to the Internet to learn about sexuality

1% in Grade 6 to **20%** in Grade 11

11% of boys and **6%** of girls turn to the Internet to learn about sexuality

PORNOGRAPHY

Seeking pornography online has increased (Grades 7-11):

23% of students did so in 2013 **16%** of students did so in 2005

Boys are much more likely to seek pornography online:

40% of boys compared to **7%** of girls

Boys who seek pornography do so frequently:

28% of boys do so daily or weekly

French-language students in Quebec seek pornography more often:

25% of French students in Quebec do so daily or weekly, compared to **12%** of English students in the rest of Canada

METHODOLOGY

Conducted February to June of 2013

5,436 Canadian students in grades 4-11 in 10 provinces and three territories

41% boys **46% girls** **13% no indication**

126 English 14 French

140 schools in 51 school boards