

WELCOME TO
UNDERSTANDING
& PREVENTING
SEXTORTION

PART 1

amaze.org

FEATURING:

THORN



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CONTENT WARNING:

SEXUAL ABUSE, SEXUAL HARRASSMENT, SEXUAL ASSAULT,
SUICIDE, EXTORTION / BLACKMAIL, VIOLENCE



TODAY'S OBJECTIVES

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1. UNDERSTAND THE DEFINITION OF SEXTORTION.
2. REFLECT ON CURRENT RESEARCH IN ORDER TO ASSESS IMPACT ON YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES
3. IMPLEMENT THE STEPS OF PREVENTION INTO YOUR WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

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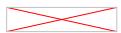


— WHO WE ARE

Our Programs

Advocates for Youth works alongside thousands of young people here in the U.S. and around the globe as they fight for sexual health, rights and justice.

THORN ↗



About Thorn

Our Mission: To defend children from sexual abuse online.



Building technology to accelerate victim identification



Equipping companies with tech to make their platforms safer for children



Growing resilience in youth and their communities to navigate threats they face online

3 Things Adults Need to Know



40%

of teens agree it is common for people their age to share nudes with each other.

Kids report being asked for nudes by strangers online as young as 9.



1 in 3

kids that had shared nudes did so with someone that they had never met offline.

For kids, categories like stranger and friend don't translate so clearly online.



**MORE THAN
50%**

of kids and parents blame the person in the photo when nudes are leaked.

Shame is the biggest obstacle for kids to seeking help.

WHAT IS SEXTORTION?

SEXTORTION:

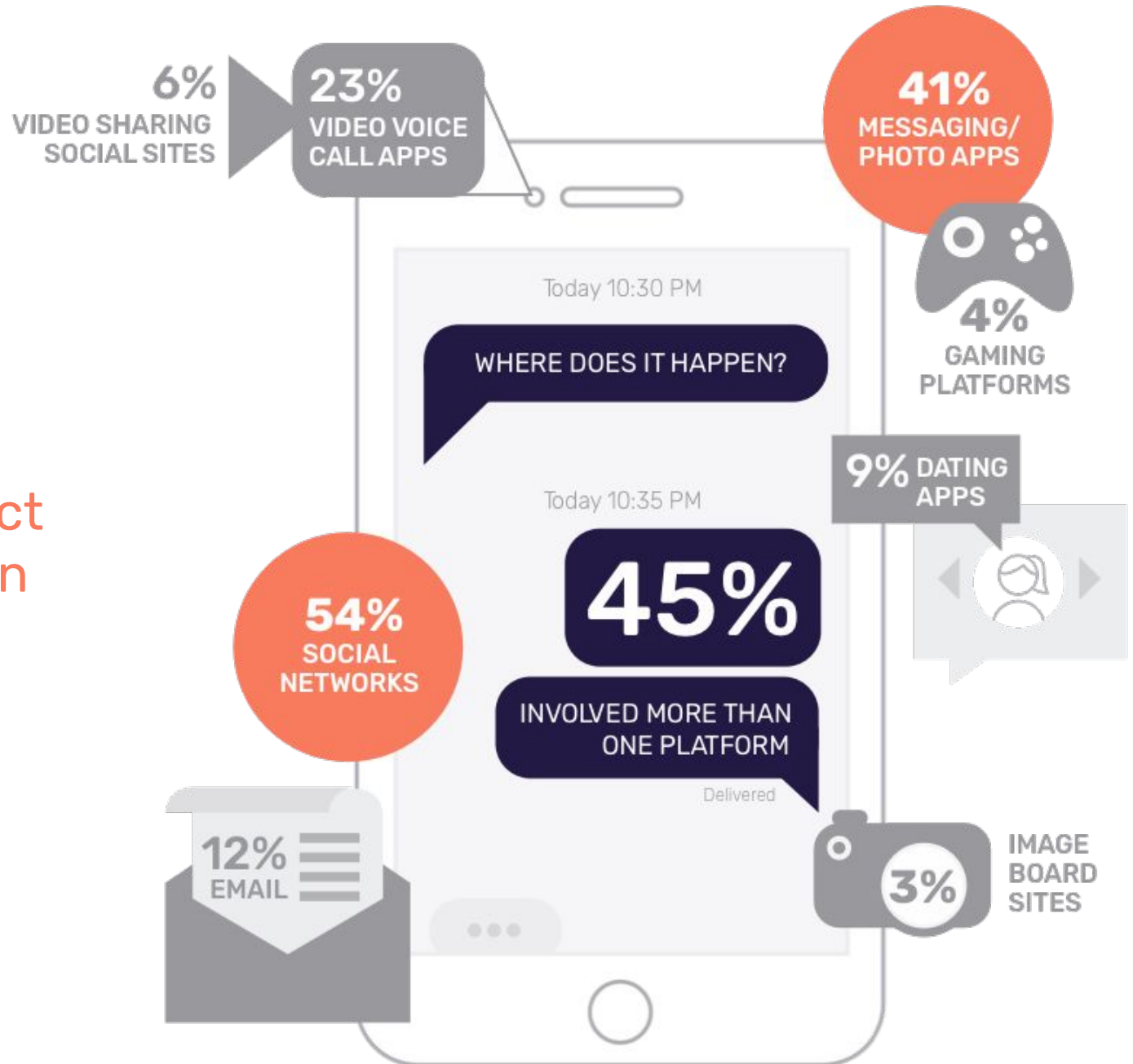
threats to expose explicit images if a victim does not comply with demands

(a form of online blackmail)

2017 Research

Sextortion spans technology

45% of victims reported contact with perpetrators on more than one platform.



A 17-year-old boy died by suicide hours after being scammed. The FBI says it's part of a troubling increase in 'sextortion' cases.

By Josh Campbell and Jason Kravarik, CNN

Updated 11:40 AM EDT, Mon May 23, 2022

PRESS RELEASE

FBI and Partners Issue National Public Safety Alert on Sextortion Schemes



Thursday, January 19, 2023

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For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of Indiana

Over 3,000 minor victims targeted in 2022 across the United States

MINNESOTA · Published February 11, 2023 8:00am EST

Growing 'sextortion' trend tricks boys into sending explicit images through gaming sites, extorted for money

Emerging Threat

- Since 2016, the NCMEC CyberTipline has received **262,573 reports** of Online Enticement, the category that includes **sexortion**.
- Between 2019 and 2021, sextortion reports to NCMEC more than **doubled**.
- In reports from 2022, **79%** of the offenders were **seeking money**.



“Early today I had accepted this person on my Instagram page. After talking a few minutes, we moved on to snapchat. Then the scammer sent some nude images and I stupidly sent some back. After that they had screenshots of my whole following list from Instagram, most of them were my family members and they threatened that they will expose me if I didn’t send them money.”

- Sextortion victim (2022 report)

Shame is the biggest obstacle to getting help.

85% of sextortion victims cited shame / embarrassment as their reason for **not** getting help.

Shame

Caregiver blame attitudes can either inhibit or reinforce a child's likelihood to turn to a trusted adult if and when they are in need of help.

1 in 4

caregivers believe the receiver of nude imagery has a **right to re-share the content at their discretion**

1 in 2

caregivers would ultimately **blame the victim** in situations involving the nonconsensual re-sharing of their nudes

2x

caregivers of girls were twice as likely to **blame the victim** in situations involving the nonconsensual re-sharing of their nudes



HOW MIGHT LGBTQ+ YOUTH AND OTHER
VULNERABLE GROUPS BE FURTHER IMPACTED?

2021 Research

LGBTQ+ minors demonstrate areas of increased risk. When compared to non-LGBTQ+ minors, they were:

2x

as likely to report having an online sexual interaction with someone they believed to be an adult

Compared to 2020, LGBTQ+ minors reported increased rates of online sexual experiences with adults (+8%) while non-LGBTQ+ minors reported a decrease (-4%), significantly widening the gap between these two groups.

2x

as likely to indicate they have had an online sexual interaction on Instagram

LGBTQ+ minors were also more than 2x as likely to indicate they had an online sexual interaction on Snapchat than their non-LGBTQ+ counterparts.

5x

less likely to disclose their online sexual experience to a trusted adult

1 in 20 LGBTQ+ minors reported turning to a trusted adult as compared to 1 in 4 non-LGBTQ+ minors.

SEXTORTION IMPACTS YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR
FAMILIES...IN THEIR OWN WORDS



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“I know all the usual tells of a scam like this but the scammer made it very believable, they had normal amount of followers on insta, a high snap score and a consistent face from the snaps. so, I was convinced that it wasn't a scam. I was wrong.”

- Sextortion victim



I am smart, educated, independent, and have self-esteem. I never imagined I would be mixed up with this type of person ... it can happen to anyone because the type of person who threatens somebody like this is also smart, but malicious and selfish.

- Sextortion victim

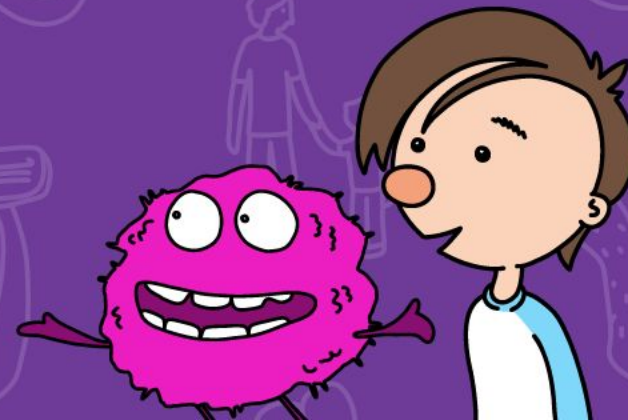


This has ruined my self-image, my relationships, and my trust of others. I still to this day don't feel like myself.

- Sextortion victim

Ryan left behind a suicide note describing how embarrassed he was for himself and the family.

PREVENTION



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BE A TRUSTED ADULT

- HAVE CONVERSATIONS EARLY & OFTEN
- STOP THE BLAME & SHAME GAME
 - REMOVE PHRASES LIKE:
 - I TOLD YOU SO!
 - THIS IS WHY YOU SHOULDN'T...
 - WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?
 - THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN...
 - WHY DIDN'T YOU...

BE A TRUSTED ADULT

- INSTEAD USE PHRASES LIKE:
 - HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
 - THIS MIGHT BE SCARY
 - THIS ISN'T YOUR FAULT
 - WHAT THEY DID IS A CRIME
 - WE CAN GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER
 - LET'S TALK TO...
 - THANK YOU FOR TRUSTING ME WITH THIS
 - I'M GLAD YOU CAME TO ME
 - I'M SO PROUD YOU ARE TALKING TO ME
 - IT TOOK COURAGE FOR YOU TO COME TO ME

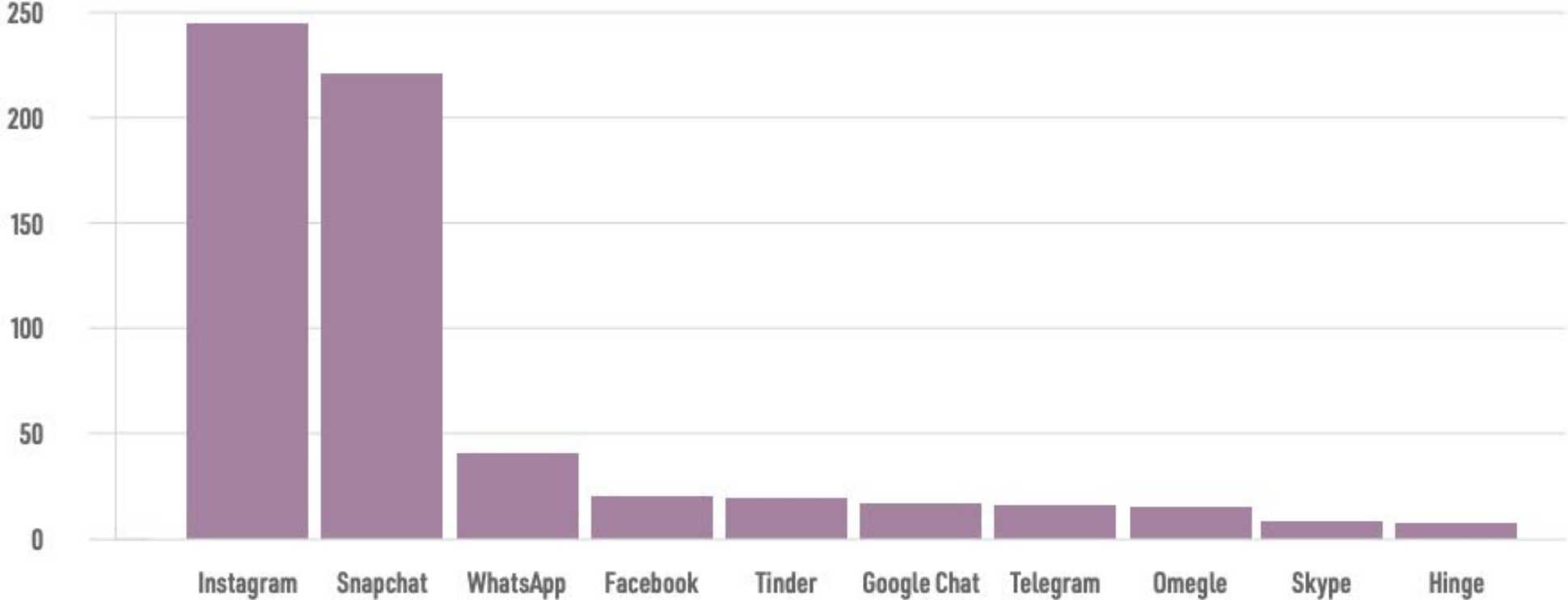
UNDERSTAND THE PLATFORMS

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2022 DATA

PLATFORMS IDENTIFIED BY VICTIMS ON R/SEXTORTION (TOP 8 ONLY | BASED ON VICTIM NARRATIVES)



DEVICE ACCESS & MONITORING

- TALK & TEACH ABOUT PRIVACY SETTINGS
- CHAT ABOUT 'CHAT'
- BE TRANSPARENT AS POSSIBLE:
 - LET THEM KNOW YOU MAY MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITY
- CHECK-IN ON A REGULAR BASIS

AWARENESS & EDUCATION

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- THORN / THORN FOR PARENTS
- AMAZE RESOURCES
 - SEXTORTION VIDEO & MORE INFO.
 - SEXTORTION RESOURCE GUIDE
 - DIGITAL & MEDIA LITERACY TOOLKIT
- COMMON SENSE MEDIA
- BE INTERNET AWESOME
- THE SMART TALK

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QUESTIONS?



REVIEW

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- SEXTORTION IS AN URGENT AND EMERGING CRIME
- YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE BEING IMPACTED
- IT IS NEVER THE FAULT OF THE YOUNG PERSON
- PREVENTION IS THE FIRST STEP

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TOMORROW

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DAY 2
MARCH 1, 2023

- ➔ RESPONSE & HEALING
- ➔ AMAZE + THORN VIDEO COLLABORATION
- ➔ SUPPORT & RESOURCES
- ➔ CLOSING & EVALUATION

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Additional Resources from Thorn

- thorn.org
- parents.thorn.org
- stopsextortion.org
- nofiltr.org
- info@thorn.org

Subscribe to Thorn's
newsletter here:





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#MOREINFOLESSWEIRD

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UNDERSTANDING & PREVENTING SEXTORTION PART 2

WELCOME TO:
UNDERSTANDING
& PREVENTING
SEXTORTION
PART 2

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FEATURING:

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CONTENT WARNING:

SEXUAL ABUSE, SEXUAL HARRASSMENT, SEXUAL ASSAULT,
SUICIDE, EXTORTION / BLACKMAIL, VIOLENCE

DAY 2

MARCH 1, 2023

AGENDA

- ➔ REVIEW OF DAY 1
- ➔ AMAZE + THORN VIDEO COLLABORATION
- ➔ RESPONSE & HEALING
- ➔ SUPPORTS & RESOURCES
- ➔ REFLECTION
- ➔ CLOSING & EVALUATION



TODAY'S OBJECTIVES

1. IMPLEMENT THE **STEPS OF RESPONSE** & ACTION PLANNING
2. PRIORITIZE **HEALING** WHEN INSTANCES OF SEXTORTION HAVE OCCURRED.
3. EXAMINE **RESOURCES** THAT WILL SUPPORT TEACHING OF SEXTORTION PREVENTION, RESPONSE, AND HEALING



REVIEW

- SEXTORTION IS AN URGENT AND EMERGING CRIME
- YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE BEING IMPACTED
- IT IS NEVER THE FAULT OF THE YOUNG PERSON
- PREVENTION IS THE FIRST STEP

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

PREVENTION

REMEMBER:

- BE A TRUSTED ADULT
 - REMOVE BLAME & SHAME
- UNDERSTAND THE PLATFORMS YOUNG PEOPLE ARE USING
- TALK ABOUT DEVICE ACCESS & MONITORING EARLY AND OFTEN
- SPREAD AWARENESS
- IMPLEMENT EDUCATION



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THORN 1

RESPONSE...WHAT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW

WHAT IF SEXTORTION HAPPENS?

STEPS TO TAKE IN AN INSTANCE OF SEXTORTION:

- ❑ STOP RESPONDING TO THE MESSAGES
- ❑ TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT
- ❑ DO NOT SEND MONEY
- ❑ REPORT
- ❑ ACTION PLAN

STOP RESPONDING
TO THE MESSAGES
IMMEDIATELY

- WARNING SIGNS OF SEXTORTION:
 - "I'LL SHOW YOU MINE...IF YOU SHOW ME YOURS"
 - "I WORK FOR A MODELING AGENCY"
 - WANTS TO QUICKLY DEVELOP A ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP
 - USE MULTIPLE (FAKE) IDENTITIES TO CONTACT YOU
 - YOU HAVE MANY COMMON 'FRIENDS' BUT HAVE NEVER MET THEM
 - WANTS TO SWITCH TO DIFFERENT APPS
- WHEN YOUR INSTINCTS TINGLE
 - PAUSE
 - CONTACT THE 'FRIEND' ON A DIFFERENT PLATFORM
- SAVE MESSAGES FOR AUTHORITIES (DON'T DELETE)

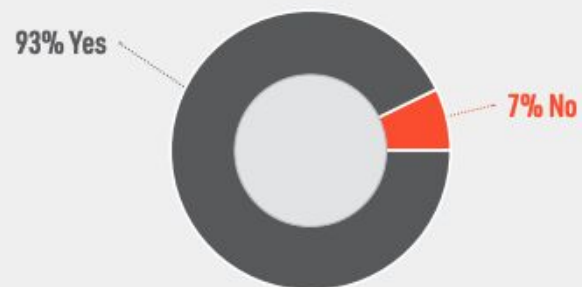
DO NOT SEND
MONEY TO THE
BLACKMAILER



2022 DATA

WHEN VICTIMS COMPLIED WITH EXTORTERS' DEMANDS FOR MONEY...

DID EXTORTERS DEMAND MORE MONEY?¹²



DID EXTORTERS FOLLOW THROUGH ON THEIR THREATS OF IMAGE DISTRIBUTION?



DID EXTORTERS FOLLOW THROUGH ON THEIR THREATS OF IMAGE DISTRIBUTION WHEN VICTIMS *DID NOT COMPLY*?

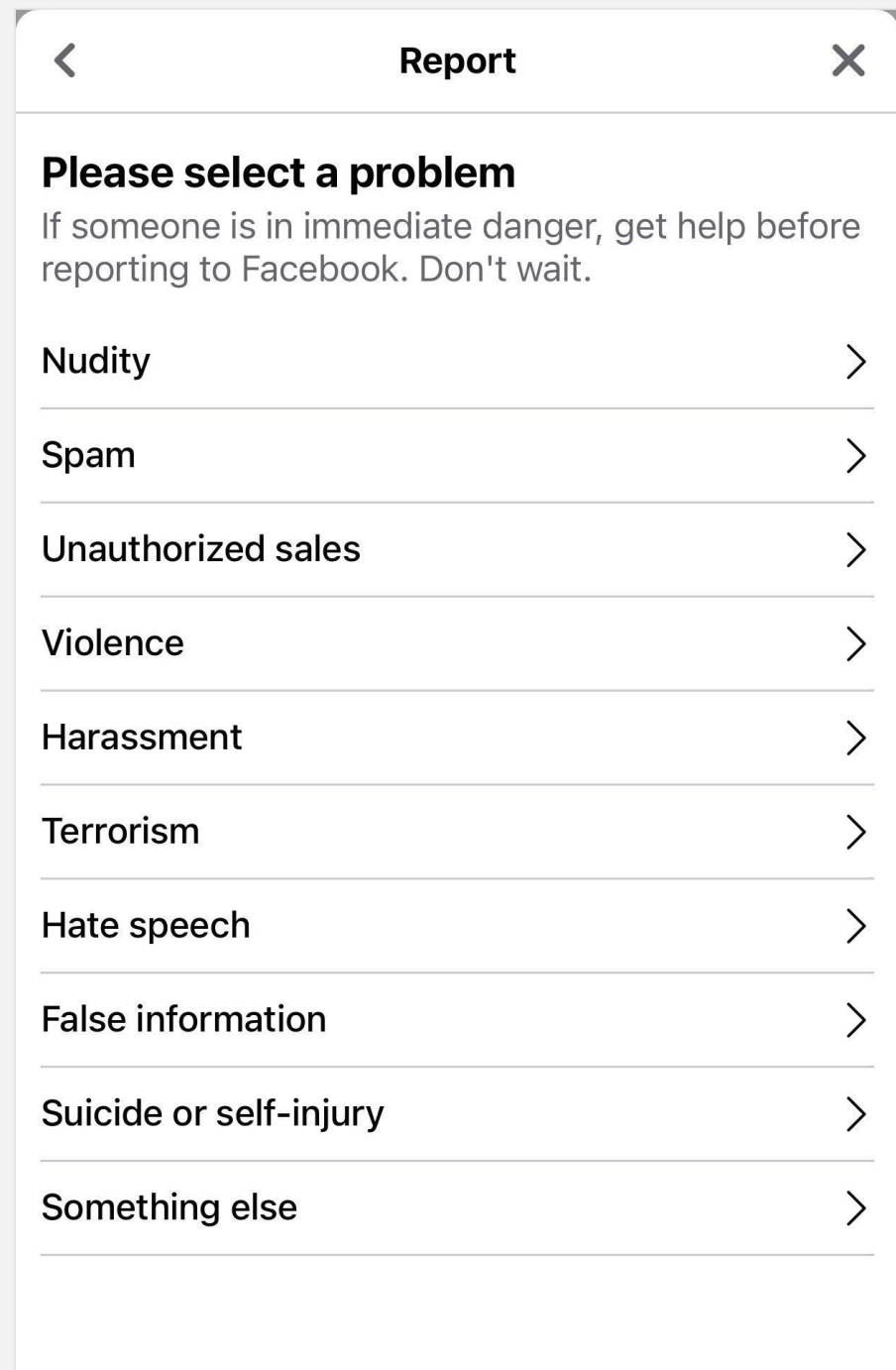


TALK TO A
TRUSTED ADULT

- AS SOON AS YOU THINK IT MIGHT BE SEXTORTION OR ANY TYPE OF HARASSMENT/BULLYING
- HAVE A CONVERSATION:
 - SHAME-FREE
 - ASK QUESTIONS
 - REMOVE THE BLAME
- MAKE A **PLAN OF ACTION** IN CASE PHOTOS ARE RELEASED

ACTION PLAN

STEP 1: REPORT IN-APP



STEP 2: REPORT TO AUTHORITIES

WHERE SHOULD YOU REPORT?

- NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN (NCMEC)
[CYBERTIPLINE](https://www.cybertipline.com), GETHELP@NCMEC.ORG OR
1-800-THE-LOST.
- FBI

LET'S TALK ABOUT NUANCE...

STEP 3: COMMUNITY OUTREACH

WHAT IF THE PHOTOS GET RELEASED?

- SCHOOL
- FRIENDS
- FAMILIES

STEP 4: REMOVE

WHAT IF THE PHOTOS GET RELEASED?

- SCRUB FROM INTERNET
- [MISSINGKIDS.ORG/ISYOUREXPLICITCONTENTOUTTHERE](https://missingkids.org/isyourexplicitcontentoutthere)
- TAKE IT DOWN
 - [HTTPS://TAKEITDOWN.NCMEC.ORG/](https://takeitdown.ncmec.org/)

STEP 5: CONTINUED SUPPORT

- MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDER
 - SCHOOL COUNSELOR
 - THERAPIST
 - SUPPORT GROUP
- CHECK-IN OFTEN
- FOLLOW-UP WITH REPORTING
- FOLLOW-UP WITH IN-COMMUNITY

MOST IMPORTANT:

IF SEXTORTION HAPPENS, IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT.

THE BLACKMAILER IS TO BLAME-THEY ARE
COMMITTING A CRIME.

QUESTIONS?

LET'S TALK ABOUT HEALING...



COMMON EFFECTS OF SEXTORTION AND OTHER FORMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

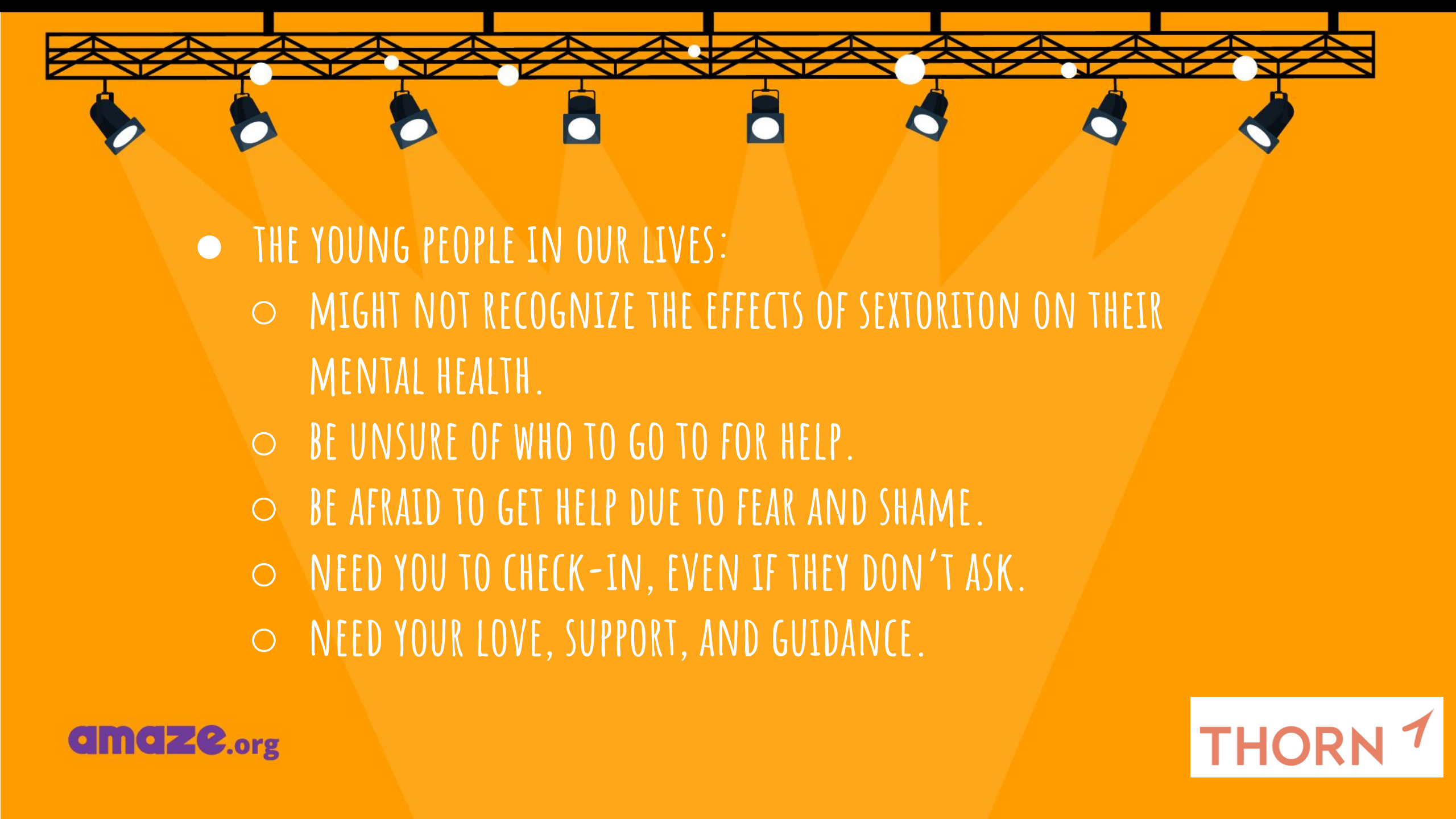
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- INTENSE SHAME & GUILT
- ANXIETY
- DEPRESSION
- PTSD
- ISOLATION
- BULLYING
- SUICIDAL IDEATION OR ATTEMPTS

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IMPORTANT DO'S

- BLAME THE BLACKMAILER
- CULTIVATE SELF-COMPASSION
- FOCUS ON POSITIVE QUALITIES
- TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT
 - CONFIDE IN A FRIEND
- MINDFULNESS PRACTICES
- WORK WITH A MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDER
 - COUNSELING & THERAPY
 - CBT & EMDR
- BEGIN TO REBUILD RELATIONSHIPS
 - WITH THE SUPPORT OF FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND OTHER TRUSTED ADULTS

- 
- THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR LIVES:
 - MIGHT NOT RECOGNIZE THE EFFECTS OF SEXTORITON ON THEIR MENTAL HEALTH.
 - BE UNSURE OF WHO TO GO TO FOR HELP.
 - BE AFRAID TO GET HELP DUE TO FEAR AND SHAME.
 - NEED YOU TO CHECK-IN, EVEN IF THEY DON'T ASK.
 - NEED YOUR LOVE, SUPPORT, AND GUIDANCE.



CAREGIVERS



EDUCATORS



COMPANIES



POLICY MAKERS



CAREGIVERS

- THORN FOR PARENTS
- AMAZE PARENTS
- COMMON SENSE MEDIA
- BE INTERNET AWESOME
- THE SMART TALK


THORN FOR PARENTS: [PARENTS.THORN.ORG](https://parents.thorn.org)

THORN For Parents

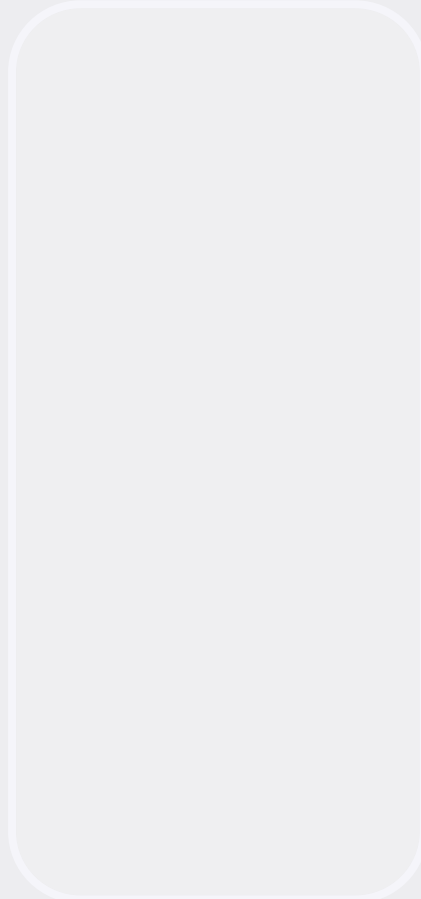
BE YOUR KID'S SAFETY NET

Kids today face a very different set of challenges. There's a whole new landscape to navigate, with a bigger digital divide and a whole new set of experiences online. And they need your help to navigate it safely.

The Situation →




TALK IT OUT



CONVERSATION STARTERS

Let's start talking

Suitable for a Child (6-12) Teen (13+)



"Do you know anyone who's ever shared a nude?"

Flip to Learn More

CARD NEXT CARD NEXT CARD NEXT

Conversation Starter

CONVERSATION SCRIPT

Let's play this out

When can I get my own tablet?

Tell me about why you want your own tablet.

Choose your child's response

I don't know.

I want to play games.

I want to talk to my friends.

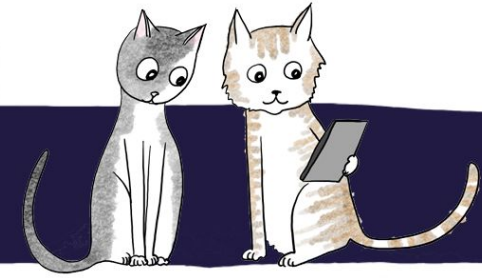


- AMAZE EDUCATORS
 - SEXTORTION VIDEO & MORE INFO SECTION
 - DIGITAL & MEDIA LITERACY TOOLKIT
 - LESSON ACTIVITIES/OUTLINE
- AMAZE/THORN RESOURCE GUIDE
- COMMON SENSE MEDIA
- BE INTERNET AWESOME
- NOFILTR YOUTH RESOURCES

The logo for 'safer' is displayed in white lowercase letters on a dark blue rectangular background. The letter 'a' is lowercase, and the 'r' has a small blue square at the end of its tail.

- [SAFER \(THORN'S SOLUTION FOR TECH COMPANIES\)](#)
- [STOP SEXTORTION - TIPS FOR COMPANIES](#)

POLICY MAKER RESOURCES ON SEXTORTION.



“ THE KEY TO GOOD CRIMINAL LEGISLATION IS THAT THE END RESULT APPLIES TO REAL-WORLD HARMS WHILE BEING NARROWLY TAILORED TO PASS CONSTITUTIONAL MUSTER, AND FOR THE PUNISHMENT TO BE SUFFICIENT TO DETER THE BEHAVIOR.

- C.A Goldberg, Victims' Rights Law Firm

- STOP SEXTORTION - TIPS FOR POLICY MAKERS



POLICY MAKERS

How to Help

Remove Shame



Kids must know that they are NEVER at fault if someone abuses, betrays or tricks them, and have the confidence to get support when harmful situations occur



REFLECTION ACTIVITY

QUESTIONS?

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EVALUATION
LINK:



Scan me!



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#MOREINFOLESSWEIRD

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