

**Adolescent Sexual Behavior and the Digital Revolution**

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**Introduction/Results:** Electronic technologies (e.g., Internet, cellular phone, social networking sites, instant messaging) influence adolescent sexual behavior in increasingly complicated ways. Although novel technologies affect adult sexual behavior as well, this interface may be particularly complex for adolescents given the biological, neurodevelopmental and psychological changes that characterize this period, and the fact that teenagers are the defining users of these technologies. Adolescents typically possess greater facility with electronic devices than most adults. The ways in which electronic and communication technologies affect adolescent sexual behavior therefore remain poorly understood even as these influences increasingly affect debates about what constitutes 'normal' or atypical adolescent sexual behavior. In turn, the rapid rate of technological development has outpaced the ability of law and society to respond in a reasoned and calculated manner to unforeseen dilemmas that result this nexus.

**Methods/Objectives/Aims:** The aims of this presentation is provide a comprehensive review (following an in-depth analysis of literature) of the current state of empirical knowledge regarding 'normal' sexual development and behaviors among children and adolescents; explore the effects of novel electronic communication technologies on sexual development and behavior among adolescents today; and provide an up to date analysis of current issues pertaining to "sexting" and cyber-bullying.

**Conclusion:** The ways in which electronic and communication technologies affect adolescent sexual behavior remain poorly understood even as these influences increasingly affect debates about what constitutes 'normal' or atypical adolescent sexual behavior.