

Background:

- Sexting research has previously focused on heterosexual teens
- However, there is data indicating greater sexual health risks for bisexual girls
- Research suggests bisexual girls have different strengths and may face different sexting challenges with males than heterosexual girls

Hypotheses:

Compared to heterosexual girls, bisexual girls will...

- Sext more frequently
- Sext for sexual expression more frequently
- Sext due to body image concerns less frequently
- Experience more coercion to sext
- Experience both more negative and more positive sexting consequences

Methods/Measures:

- Secondary data analysis
- A racially-diverse sample (N = 193) included heterosexual (54.5%) and bisexual (45.6%) girls ages 14–18 years old (M = 16.36, SD = 1.19)
- Psychometrically validated instruments assessed differences in sexting frequency, sexting motivations (sexual expression, body image validation, sexting partner coercion) and positive and negative sexting consequences

Experiences of Heterosexual and Bisexual Adolescent Girls who Sext with Males

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Results:

- 71.6% of bisexual girls have sexted at least once in the past month compared to 46.7% of heterosexual girls, $\chi^2(2)=12.67, p=.002$
- Bisexual girls (M=3.12, SD=0.967) were more motivated to sext for sexual expression than heterosexual girls (M=2.64, SD=0.92), $t(191)= -3.51, p<.001$
- Bisexual girls (M=2.58, SD=1.22) engaged in sexting due to body image concerns more than heterosexual girls (M=1.99, SD=1.03), $t(191)= -3.65, p<.001$
- Bisexual girls (M=2.32, SD=1.32) experienced more coercion to sext than heterosexual girls (M=1.67, SD=0.94), $t(153.2)= -3.88, p<.001$
- Bisexual girls (M=2.08, SD=0.680) experienced more negative consequences of sexting than heterosexual girls (M=1.76, SD=0.59), $t(191)= -1.87, p<.001$
- Bisexual girls (M=2.66, SD=0.711) experienced similar positive consequences compared to heterosexual girls (M=2.47, SD=0.679), $t(191)= -3.51, p=0.06$

Discussion:

- The results of this study suggest that heterosexual and bisexual adolescent girls may navigate different spaces when it comes to discovering and exerting their sexuality through technologies such as sexting
- These data can inform the development of programs that help teach safe sexting practices to adolescents of different sexual orientations in order to minimize the negative consequences and experiences of all adolescents
- This study also suggest that additional research is necessary to evaluate different motivations and consequences of sexting among adolescents who identify with different sexual orientations

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