



**Snaps, Sexts and Sex Ed – Education and
Protection from
Technology-Facilitated Sexual Abuse in K12
and Higher Ed**

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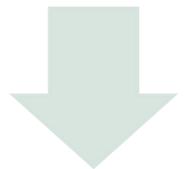
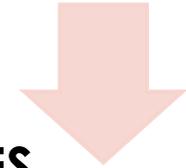
Agenda

WHAT IS TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED SEXUAL ABUSE – SOME WORKING DEFINITIONS

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES FOR STUDENTS WHO EXPERIENCE TFSA?

HOW DO WE COMBAT TFSA IN THE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT?

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO TFSA ON OUR CAMPUSES?



What is TFSA? (Henry & Powell, 2014)

Online sexual harassment and cyberstalking

Gender-based hate speech

The use of a carriage service to procure a sexual assault

Virtual Rape

The unauthorized creation and distribution of sexual images (IBSA)

The creation and distribution (actual or threatened) of sexual assault images (RSA)

Online sexual harassment

Gender harassment (e.g., inappropriate sexual jokes), unwanted sexual attention (e.g., unwanted sexual comments) and sexual coercion (e.g., making requests for sexual acts)

(Buchanan & Mahoney, 2022; Fitzgerald et al, 1988; Hill & Kearl, 2011).

Cyber stalking

Repetitive and unwanted communication or contact that is directed toward an individual through electronic means (e.g., Internet, social media, email or other forms of technology)

(Maple et al., 2012; Marcum et al., 2017; Nobles et al., 2014; Paullet et al., 2009; Strawhun et al., 2013)

Gender- based hate speech

Dangerous speech, fear speech or extreme speech directed at certain individuals or groups of people considered to be inferior based on core identity features or demographic markers¹, encouraging stigmatization of a person or group². Such hate speech legitimizes violence against targeted individuals or groups of people³

1.(Hernandez, 2011; Townsend, 2014; Traum, 2014) 2. (Benesch, 2014; Maussen & Grillo, 2014) 3.(Jubany & Roiha, 2018; Parekh, 2006)

The use of a carriage service to procure a sexual assault

Using technology, such as a social media or messaging application, to plan, coordinate or solicit the sexual assault of another person, regardless of whether such sexual assault actually occurs.

(Henry & Powell, 2014)

Virtual rape (Strikwerda, 2013)

Within the virtual world (i.e., within a video game, Metaverse, or virtual reality simulation) wherein one or more persons use technology to have their avatar forcibly perform sexual activities upon another person's avatar without the victim's consent





What is Image-Based Sexual Abuse (IBSA)

The creation and/or sharing of sexual or nude images or videos of another person, without their consent

(McGlynn & Rackley, 2015; 2017)

Nonconsensual Sexting

The forced sharing of nude
images via text or messenger
services

(Albury, 2015)

Nonconsensual Distribution (NDII)

The distribution or sharing of nude or intimate images or videos, without the consent of the person or persons in the images

(Citron & Franks, 2014; Henry & Powell, 2015; McGlynn et al, 2017)

Sextortion

The sharing or threat to share nude or intimate images or videos without the consent of the victim, as a form of extortion

(Henry & Powell, 2018).

Deepfakes or Digital Forgeries

Sexual images or videos created using artificial intelligence-based human synthesis technology which replicate or alter a person's features or body, to make it appear as though the victim is participating in the sexual activity shown in the images.

(Fido et al, 2022; Henry & Powell, 2015; McGlynn et al., 2017).

Recorded Sexual Assault (RSA)

RSA occurs when either a perpetrator or an observer record a person's sexual assault using one or more forms of video or audio recording device

Sharing intimate images is common among minors and adults

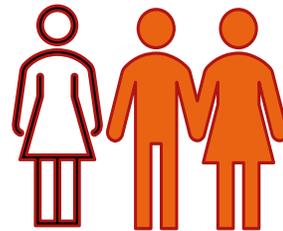
54% of women report receiving an intimate image

47% of receivers were unsolicited

46% of receivers were under age 18



1 in 5 minors report sharing nudes



1 in 3 minors report receiving nonconsensually shared nudes of other minors

7-17% of adults report having experienced NDII (Cyber Civil Rights Initiative, 2017; Powell & Henry, 2015; Ruvalcaba & Eaton, 2020)

Low-income adults and people of color are disproportionately more likely to experience IBSA (Lenhart et al, 2016)

40,000 people in the United States reported being sextorted in 2022 (Federal Bureau of Investigations, 2023)

17% of LGBTQ adults report experiencing at least one form of IBSA (Lenhart et al, 2016)

1 in 20 U.S. adults self-report perpetrating IBSA (Ruvalcaba & Eaton, 2020)

What are the consequences for students who experience TFSA?

- ▶ PHYSICAL
- ▶ EMOTIONAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL
- ▶ EDUCATIONAL



Physical

- ▶ Head and body aches
- ▶ Decreased or increased appetite
- ▶ Lethargy
- ▶ Struggle to complete basic self care tasks
- ▶ Increased alcohol and substance use



(Bates, 2017; Champion et al, 2022; Cripps, 2016; Ruvalcaba & Eaton, 2020; Reed et al, 2019; Spiker et al, in progress)

Emotional/Psychological



- ▶ Anxiety
- ▶ Depression
- ▶ Stress
- ▶ Isolation/Loneliness
- ▶ Decreased self-esteem
- ▶ Increased feelings of objectification
- ▶ Increased suicidality

(Champion et al, 2021; 2022; Cripps, 2016; Henry & Powell, 2015; Klettke et al, 2019; Pashang et al, 2019; Ruvalcaba & Eaton ,2020; Reed et al, 2019; Spiker et al, in progress)

Educational

- ▶ Poorer academic performance
- ▶ Lower rates of academic retention and graduation
- ▶ Program changes
- ▶ Social isolation
- ▶ Potential and actual loss of income, social mobility, social stability

(Al-Rahmi et al, 2022; Champion et al, 2022; Spiker et al, in progress)



How can we combat TFSA on our campuses?

- ▶ Holistic Sexual Education
- ▶ Digital Citizenship
- ▶ Public Leadership

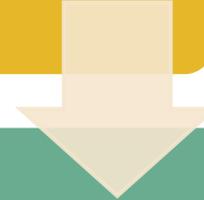


Sexual Education in K12

Not all students
receive sexual health
and consent
education



Not all students receive
the same quality of
education

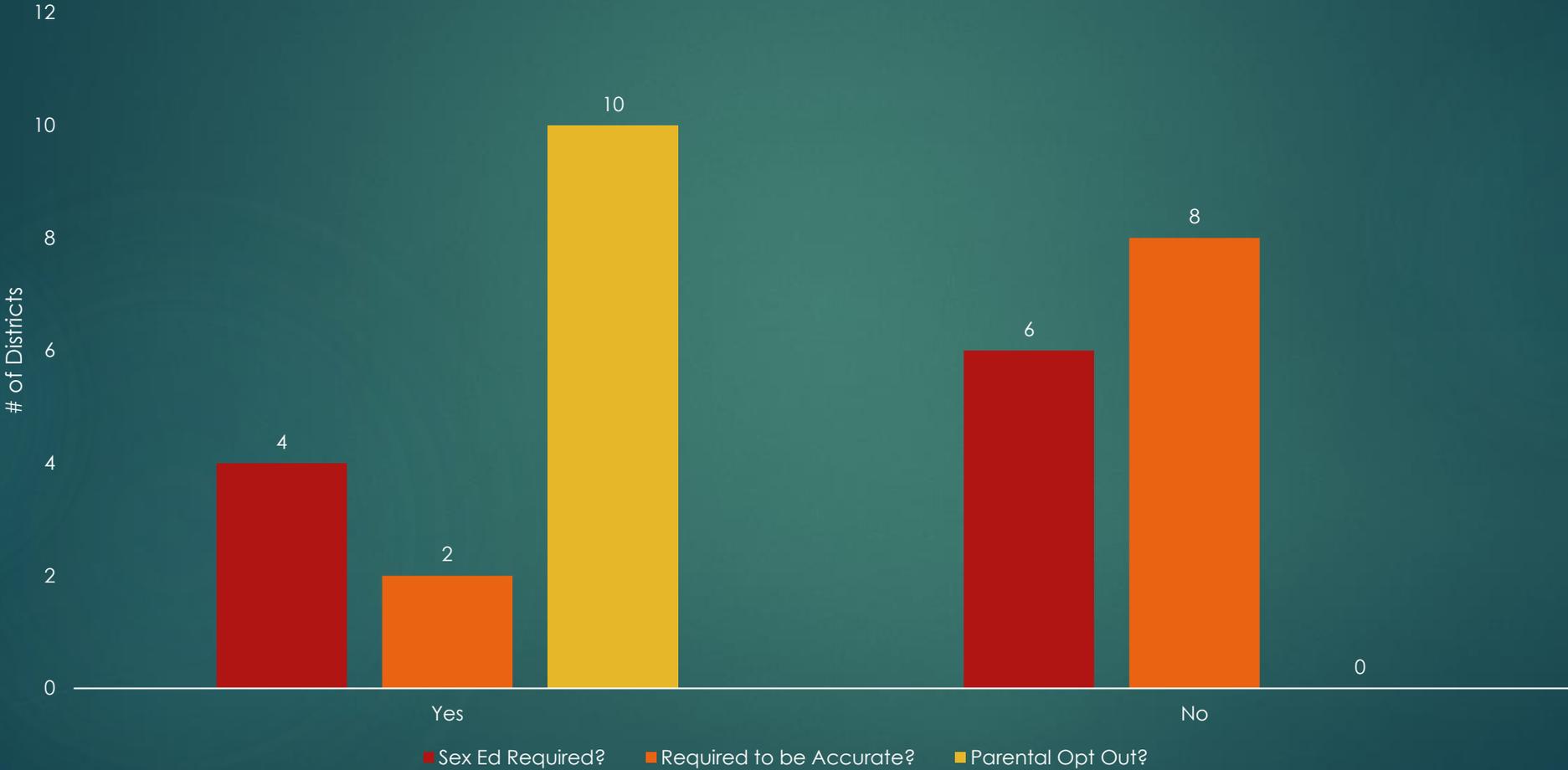


Current Title IX
requirements for student
education do not include
TFSA or digital citizenship

K12 Sex Ed – is it being taught?

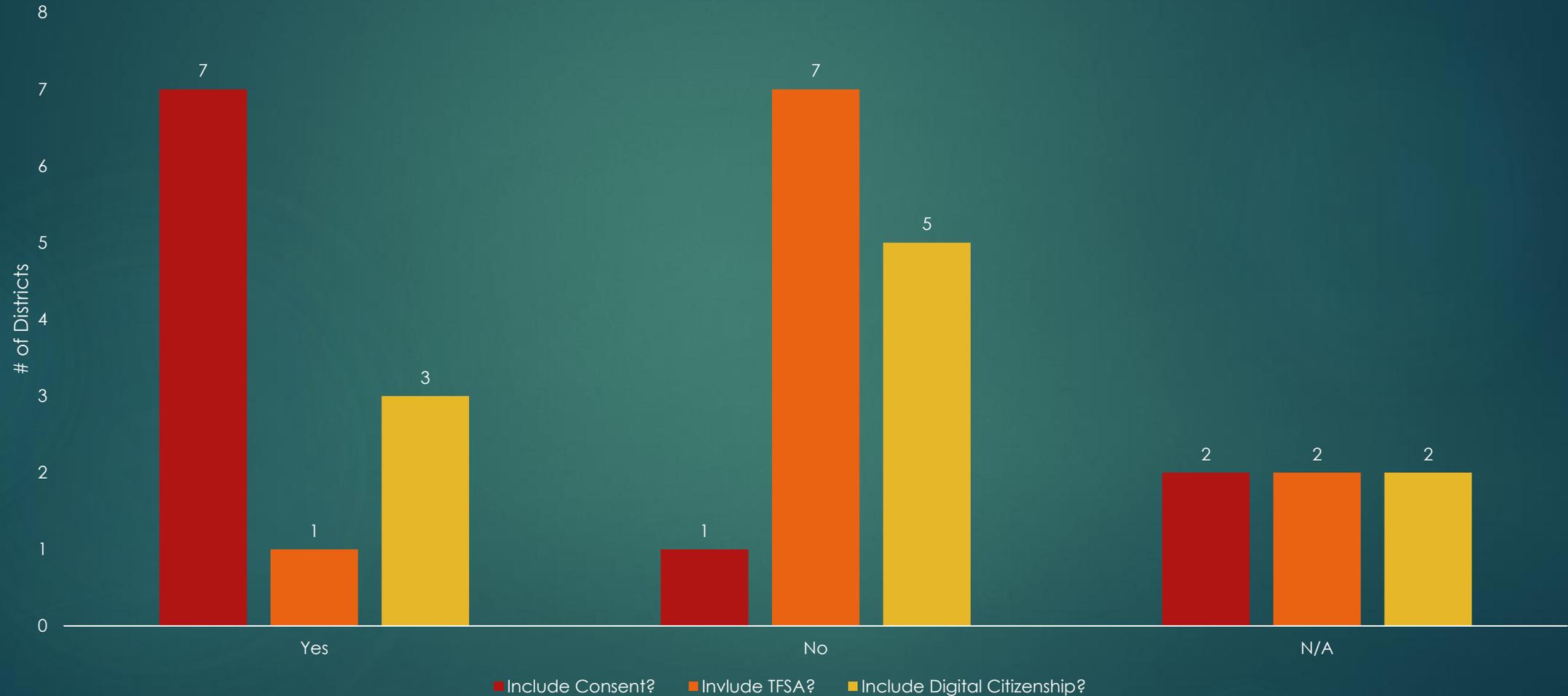


Top Ten Public High School Sex Ed Requirements



What is being taught in K12?

Top Ten Public Schools Sex Ed Requirements



A Challenge to Change!



Is your school actively encouraging egalitarian values (Ringrose & Regehr, 2023)?

- ▶ Typical U.S. sexual education does not address power structures and gender imbalances (Haberland, 2015; Lloyd, 2020)
- ▶ Health and sexual education classes remain largely single-sex, encouraging further divide
- ▶ Exposure encourages compassion

What does this mean for Higher Ed?

- ▶ Many undergraduates come to campus with little to no sexual or consent education
- ▶ Undergraduates are coming to campus with already established schemas about sex and gender roles and norms, and social power structures (Ballonoff Suleiman et al, 2014)
- ▶ 17% of students are coming to campus already having experienced TFSA (Pew Research Center, 2022)

But it's not all bad news....

The Importance of Holistic Sexual Education



- ▶ Students report wanting to receive more interactive and in-depth coverage (Muscarì et al, 2023)
- ▶ Emerging adults are still susceptible to peer pressure while doing their own identity exploration (Arnett, 2014)
- ▶ Consent education works, particularly in male-dominated populations (Ortiz & Schafer, 2018; Schipani-McLaughlin et al, 2023)
- ▶ Consent education must include training in both verbal and non-verbal consent communication



Digital Citizenship

Responsible social media and technology use

- ▶ Do your students understand the impacts to others?
- ▶ Do your students understand the potential impacts to themselves (i.e., legal risk?)



Public Leadership

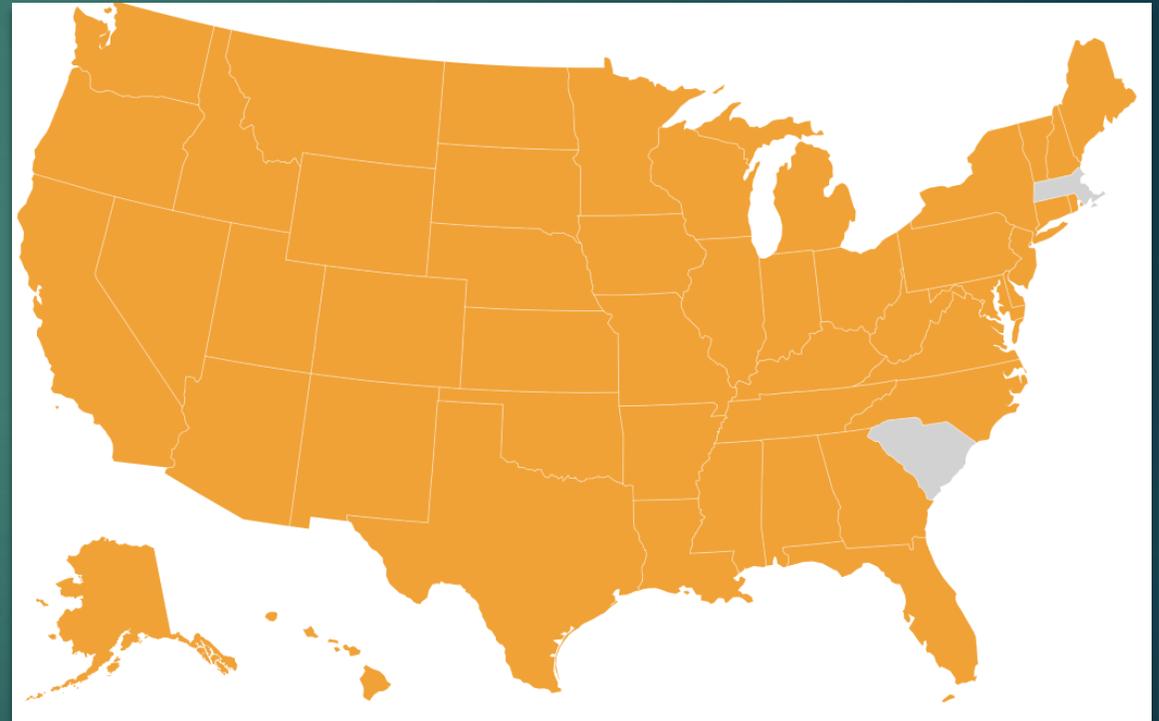
- ▶ No tolerance for TFSA
- ▶ Affirmative Consent policies must include intimate image sharing
- ▶ Target vulnerable populations, e.g. athletes, Greek life

(Mellons et al, 2017; Ortiz & Schafer, 2018)

48 states and the District of Columbia have laws explicitly criminalizing NDII

- ▶ Perpetrators may face jail time, fines and/or the prospect of having a sex crime on their record
- ▶ The VAWA reauthorization (March 2022) introduced the 1st federal law, allowing victims of NDII to sue their perpetrators in civil court.

(Communications Decency Act, 2022; Cyber Civil Rights Initiative, 2021)



Map courtesy of Ballotpedia
[https://ballotpedia.org/Nonconsensual_pornography_\(revenge_porn\)_laws_in_the_United_States](https://ballotpedia.org/Nonconsensual_pornography_(revenge_porn)_laws_in_the_United_States)

What can we do when TFSA has happened among our students?

- ▶ How are we supporting Complainants
- ▶ How are we supporting Respondents
- ▶ How are we addressing and supporting the student body
- ▶ How are we addressing parental concerns



How are we supporting Complainants?

- ▶ Are all Title IX staff fully trained in understanding and responding to TFSA?
- ▶ Does your team make it easy for students to come forward for help?
- ▶ Do you actively partner with law enforcement?
- ▶ Are your responses complainant-led and individualized to each situation?
- ▶ Do you practice Restorative Justice?
- ▶ Do you have an up-to-date list of resources available in office and on your website?

How are we supporting Respondents?

Many students struggle to understand differences in consent languages

(Herman et al., 2018; Hickman & Muehlenhard, 1999; Jozkowski, et al., 2013; Jozkowski, et al., 2017; Orchowski et al., 2009, Spiker & Chin, 2023)

- ▶ Can you offer additional training in affirmative consent, healthy boundaries and digital citizenship?
- ▶ In our practice of restorative justice, how can we encourage respondents to support increased TFSA awareness?

How are we addressing wider student body concerns?



- ▶ Mandatory Title IX training should encourage reporting behaviors
- ▶ Has your school made it easy to report TFSA anonymously?
- ▶ Do your students know that their Title IX office can handle complaints of TFSA (Spiker & Chin, 2023)?
- ▶ Do you have a campaign advocating for affirmative consent, and does the language explicitly include TFSA?
- ▶ Have your student mental health workers been trained in responding to TFSA?
- ▶ Do your student mental health services include support groups for victims of TFSA?

How are we addressing parental concerns?

- ▶ Does your school include language about TFSA safety on its website and in its literature?
- ▶ Is it clear who a parent should reach out to with concerns about TFSA?
- ▶ Are TFSA resources freely available on your website?
- ▶ For K12 – do you have a system in place for parent reporting?



Conclusions

- ▶ TFSA is a real and growing problem for both minors and adults – the law is not keeping up with the technology
- ▶ Many students will go to college having already experienced at least one form of TFSA
- ▶ TFSA awareness and education needs to be increased on K12 and Higher Ed campuses
- ▶ Consent education works, especially when targeted at male-dominated and vulnerable populations
- ▶ Many Respondents are likely not aware of the long-term consequences to themselves of perpetrating TFSA
- ▶ Title IX offices need to be fully prepared to handle complaints that only involve harassment and abuse in the digital world

Image Take Down:

For images taken before age 18:

Missing Kids.org

<https://www.missingkids.org/isyourexplicitcontentoutthere>

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

<https://takeitdown.ncmec.org/>

For images taken after age 18:

Without My Consent

<https://withoutmyconsent.org/resources/something-can-be-done-guide/take-down/>

For Support:



Cyber Civil Rights Initiative

<https://cybercivilrights.org/>
1-844-878-CCRI (2274)

National Domestic Violence Hotline

<https://www.thehotline.org/>
1-800-799-SAFE (7233), or text START to 88788

Federal Trade Commission

<https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/what-do-if-youre-target-revenge-porn>