

# THE URGENT STATE OF SEXTORTION

Sextortion is crime in which someone uses explicit images — real, stolen, or AI-generated — to coerce a child or teen into sending more content, engaging in sexual acts, or handing over money.

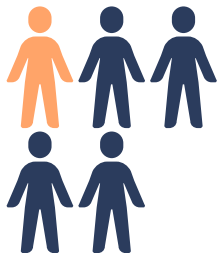
*...and it can begin with something as ordinary as a friend request.*

## SEXTORTION IS

...occurring at a scale most people **don't realize.**

80k<sup>+</sup>

Reports to the CyberTipline concerning sextortion in 2025 <sup>1</sup>



1 in 5 teenage respondents reported having a lived experience with sextortion <sup>2</sup>



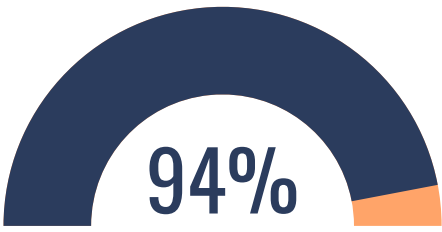
137 reports of financial extortion per day in 2025 — **a 37% increase from 2024** <sup>1</sup>

## SEXTORTION IS

...happening to kids where they feel the **safest.**

- Gaming platforms
- Group chats
- DMs from someone who seems like a peer

These are just a few examples of where offenders operate, with victims as young as 8 having been identified.



94% of threats made toward victims were in digital forums <sup>2</sup>

## SEXTORTION IS

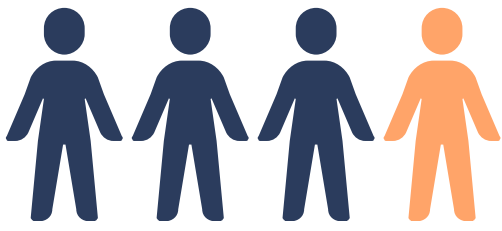
...**preventable.**  
*And that starts with all of us.*

When young people know this tactic exists, they're far less likely to be deceived — and far more likely to speak up. **Awareness is the first line of defense.**

When the professionals who serve them — law enforcement, advocates, educators — **are trained to respond with skill and compassion**, outcomes change and lives are saved.

## SEXTORTION IS

...**over before** most parents even know it started.



Nearly 3 in 4 victims were threatened with distribution of the explicit imagery or personal information <sup>2</sup>

From first contact to blackmail demand, entire schemes can unfold in hours — sometimes minutes.

- Can escalate within days
- Isolation is intentional
- Demands: financial threats, meet-ups or sexual imagery

## SEXTORTION IS

...an emerging **threat** to children.



• **1 in 6 victims** sent additional sexual imagery to their extortionist <sup>2</sup>



• 15% reported **self-harming** or remained in a relationship with their extortionist <sup>2</sup>



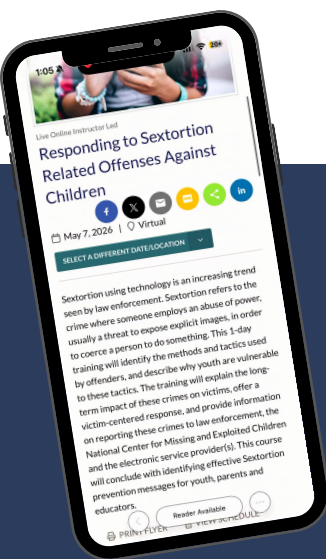
• **36 teens have died by suicide** as a direct result of sextortion since 2021 <sup>1</sup>

#StartTheConversation

**Shame** perpetuates silence.

Many victims report being hesitant to tell a parent or others...offenders count on that.

- Education protects kids
- Trained responders & parents can change outcomes



Explore sextortion training and resources at [ncjtc.org](https://ncjtc.org)

- TRAINING
- GUIDE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT
- 3 QUICK TIPS
- ICAC TTA

<sup>1</sup> NCMEC 2025 CyberTipline Report | <sup>2</sup> Thorn Sexual Extortion Report