

My name is Terice Jones from Waterbury, CT. I am a Junior & a Psychology Major.

When I was a senior in high school, a girl was recorded in a sexual act. After it was exposed she stopped coming to school altogether.

Although sexting should not be treated as a nullity, it is important to consider some developmental factors, such as adolescent sexual desire and sexual concerns that arise during puberty. "In some ways, it's even more difficult to describe adolescent's sexual behavior than their attitudes towards sex." (Pg. 253 Adolescence) According to research published in the *Handbook of Psychology*, sexual desire can be defined as "an interest in sexual objects or activities or a wish, need, or drive to seek out sexual objects or to engage in sexual activities. (Regan & Berscheid, 1995, pg. 489) Young children might become aroused in response to erotic stimuli; many do not experience strong urges to act on those feelings until puberty (p. 489). According to research published in the *Handbook of Psychology*, adolescents sexual desire is often presumed to be a fairly uniformed experience propelling adolescents toward a diverse array of sexual behaviors. It is important to understand that desire is linked to variability in gonadal hormones. Early childhood experiences of desire stem from hormone - independent arousabilities, whereas the classic pubertal surges in self-reported sexual desire reflect the hormonally mediated urge to seek sexual activity (p. 489). There are also gender differences in desire. Empirical data have suggested that women experience less frequent and insistent sexual desire than do men. Boys become aware of their sexual interest and impulse several years earlier than do girls. It is important to consider that this may explain why boys request and pressure girls to send nude pictures of themselves, thereby, contributing to this sexting behavior which is also being called the digital disease and the adolescent mating call.

#### References

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- Diamond, L. M. & Savin-Williams, R.C. (2009). *Adolescent sexuality*. In Lerner, R. & Steinberg, L. (Eds). *Handbook of Psychology* (pp. 479-523). New Jersey: John Wiley& Sons.