

SEXTORTION



CREATED BY COMPLEX SAFEGUARDING HUB
GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

What is sextortion?

Sexual extortion is where a person threatens to share indecent images or videos of someone in exchange of something. This could be for more images, money or other sexual requests.

OFFENCES-

REVENGE PORN- Section 33 of the Criminal Justice & Courts Act 2015 makes it an offence to *“disclose a private sexual photograph or film if the disclosure is made without the consent of the individual who appears in the photograph or film, and with the intention of causing that individual distress”*.

FINANCIAL DEMANDS- Section 21 of the Theft Act 1968 covers blackmail. This could include an offender making demands such as ‘SEND ME £200 OR I WILL SHARE YOUR NAKED IMAGES TO YOUR FAMILY’.

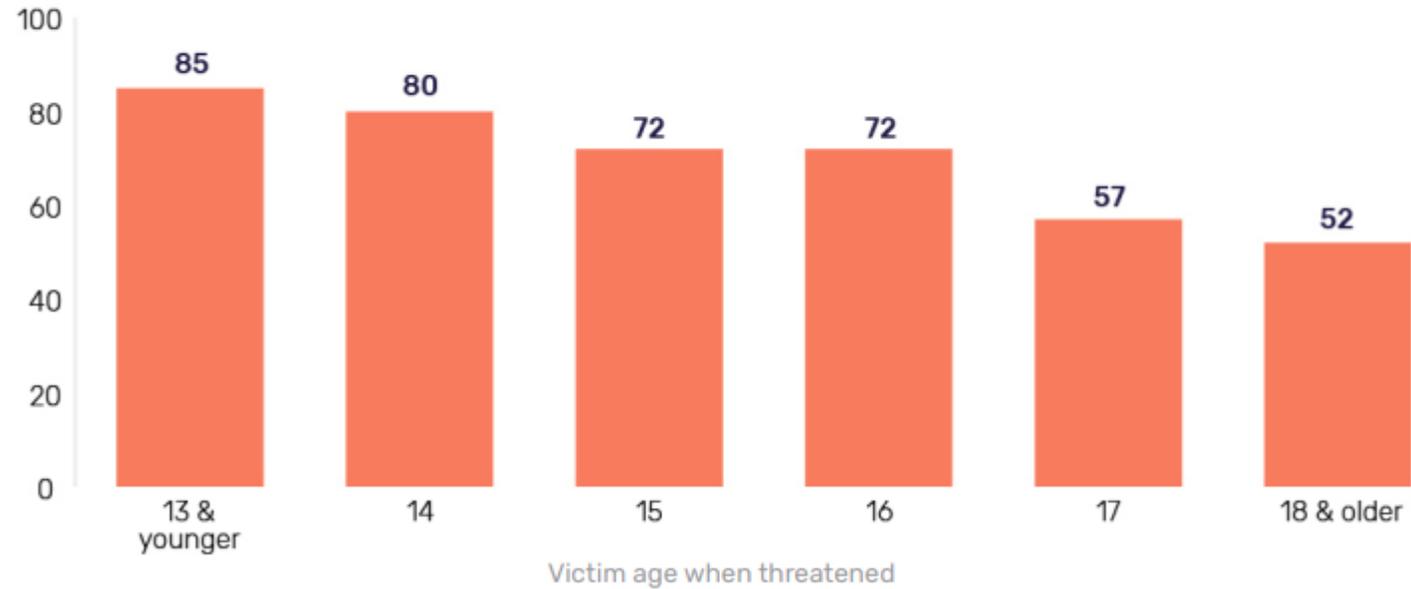
SENDING INDECENT IMAGES- Section 1 Protection of Children Act 1978. It is an offence to share any indecent image of a child under the age of 18 years old. This includes a child then sends images of themselves. The images do not have to be ‘full nudes’ and can include any sexual images eg underwear pictures. It is a separate offence to be in POSSESSION of an indecent image.

Other offences-

- Stalking and harassment
- Malicious communications

Who are the victims?

Figure 2 | Percentage of victims threatened for explicit imagery



Who are the offenders?

 **60%**
KNEW PERPETRATORS IN
PERSON BEFORE THREATS

Offenders can be either known or unknown to them.

 **40%**
MET PERPETRATORS ONLINE

Example of Known- (family/ friends)

Child A is in a relationship with Child B. Child A requests 'nudes' from his girlfriend and because Child B thinks there is nothing wrong with this, she does. Child A tells Child B to send another image, this time it is more sexually explicit and he tells her that if she does not then he will send it around school.

Example of Unknown-

Child A receives a friend request from 'Mike16'. Child A accepts and 'Mike16' tells the child that he is 16 years old. He sees her location on snapchat maps. He tells her how pretty she is and the communication leads to requesting an image. Child A sends an image, on the basis that he doesn't screenshot it. Mike doesn't screenshot it, but he has a screen recording application which captures the indecent image and now demands a video of her masturbating otherwise he shares it on a facebook platform in the area she lives.

What to do if a disclosure is made?

- Reassure the child that they are not to blame and be clear that they will not be in any trouble.
- Save the evidence: Take screenshots. Save messages and images. Collect URL links to where the information is being shared online.
- Advise parents to report it to social media companies if communication happened on these channels. For example, Facebook or Instagram.
- Advise the child to block all communication with the person targeting them.
- Phone 101 to report it to the police. If there is any indication that the child is at immediate harm, phone 999.

How to stay safe online

Speak to parents and advise them to;

- Control nighttime internet use. Either get the children to turn their devices in at a reasonable time or turn the WiFi router off.
- Monitor their applications.

Speak to children about;

- Social media privacy settings. Ensure they are in GHOST mode on snapchat maps to hide their location.
- Don't accept a friend request from anyone online you don't know in real life.
- Never share personal information
- Never share 'nude' images to ANYONE.