

# Sextortion: Prevalence and correlates in 10 countries

## The growing threat of sexortion in the digital age

Sexual extortion ("sexortion") involves threats to distribute intimate images (photos or videos) unless the victim complies with certain demands. Sexortion is a growing form of technology-facilitated abuse. Our study, based on a survey of 16,693 respondents across 10 countries, examined the prevalence, risk factors and key patterns of sexortion, highlighting the need for stronger prevention interventions, as well as law/policy responses and victim support.

### What did we do?

- Conducted a large-scale online survey across 10 countries, ensuring representative samples.
- Investigated prevalence rates of sexortion victimisation and perpetration.
- Analysed key demographic risk factors such as gender, age and sexual orientation.
- Examined victim-perpetrator relationships, identifying the most common offenders.

### What did we find?

- 1 in 7 adults (14.5%) reported being a victim of sexortion at least once.
- Men (15.7%) were slightly more likely than women (13.4%) to report sexortion victimisation.
- LGBTQ+ individuals (26.6%) were twice as likely as non-LGBTQ+ individuals (12.8%) to report sexortion victimisation.
- Young adults (18-24 years) were at the highest risk of both sexortion victimisation and perpetration.
- The most common perpetrators were current or former intimate partners, rather than strangers.
- Perpetrators were often also past victims, showing a victim-offender overlap.

## What do these findings mean?

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- Sextortion is widespread and needs greater policy attention, beyond financial scams targeting minors.
- Prevention efforts should focus on young people, particularly boys and men, through digital literacy and respectful relationships
- Support services for victim-survivors must be expanded, including tech support, mental health resources and legal aid.
- Technology platforms must improve their responses, implementing better reporting tools and deterrents.
- Stronger legal frameworks are needed, as many jurisdictions still lack specific sextortion laws.

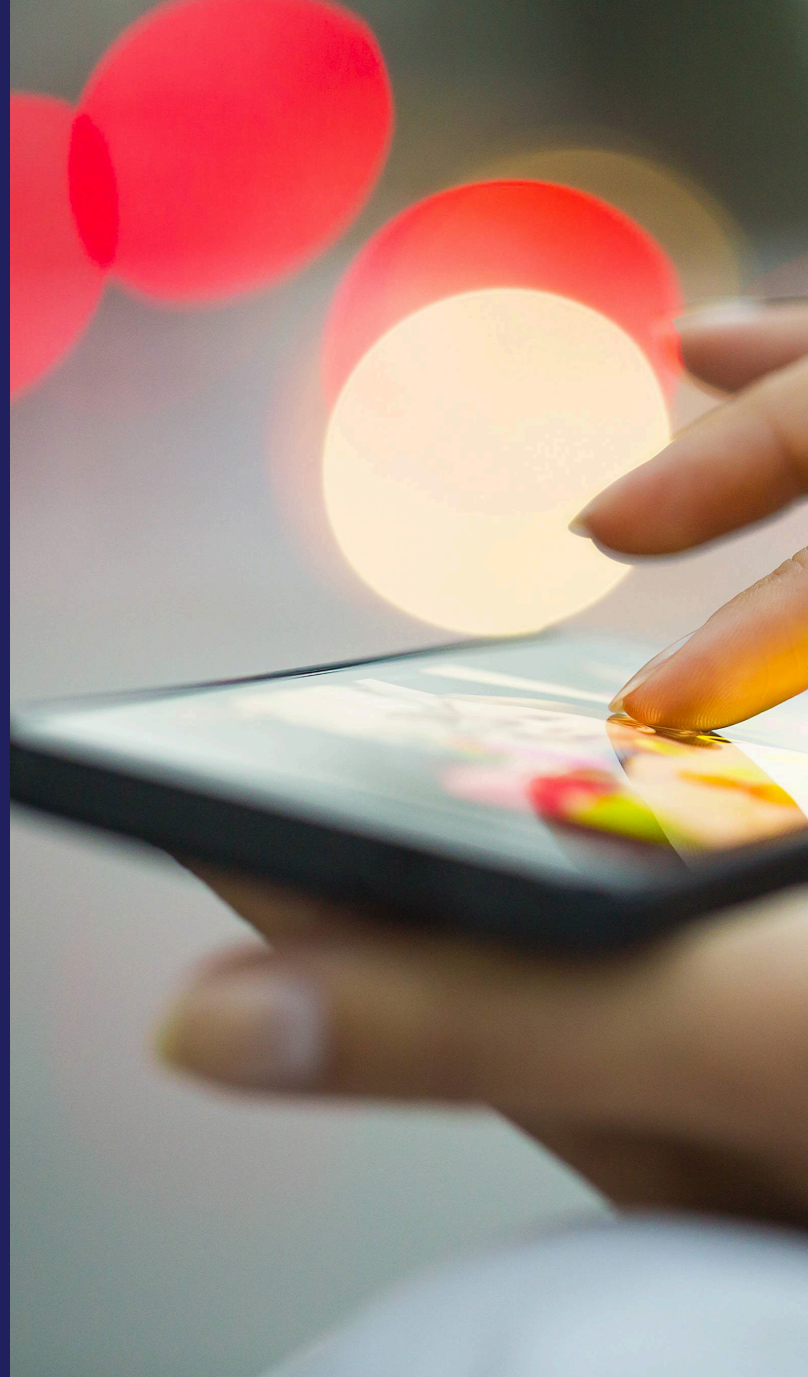
## Where can I find out more?

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Access paper [here](#).

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