

A TEXTING PANDEMIC

Last December, teenager Reina Hardesty sent 14,258 text messages—one every two waking minutes. We know this because Reina's father got a 440-page bill from AT&T. Imagine the celebration when Reina's dad discovered he was still signed up for unlimited texting.

But, it turns out, Reina's 14,258-text pace was donkey speed compared to ninth-grader Emilee Cox's thoroughbred 35,000 per month. Kind of makes the teenager average of 1,700 texts per month not even radar-worthy.

Of course, teenagers have quickly graduated from mere serial texting to even more troubling cell phone

behaviors. According to a recent survey by Teenage Research Unlimited, one out of five (22 percent) teenage girls has electronically sent or posted online nude or semi-nude images of themselves. And a third of all teenage boys say they've had racy images sent to them (a quarter of girls said the same thing). That's bad enough