

The Internet Pornography Pandemic's Impact on Youth

The invasion of graphic online pornography worldwide is “the largest unregulated social experiment in human history” (Seto 2013) and is a hidden public health hazard. Pornography is “deforming the sexual development of young viewers” (Eberstadt and Layden 2014).

- **Porn sites get more visitors each month than Netflix, Amazon and Twitter combined (Huffington Post 2013). Searches for “teen porn” tripled 2005 – 2013 (Google 2014).**
- **The average age of first exposure to pornography is 12.2 years. By age 10, 32% of children in the sample had been exposed to pornography. The impact of exposure to children 9 and younger: more sexually questionable acts, more sexual arousal to violence, and more time using pornography later in life (Skau 2007).**
- **53% of boys and 28% of girls (ages 12 – 15) use sexually explicit pornography, most via the Internet (Brown and Engle 2009); 98.9% of boys and 73.5% of girls have viewed pornographic sites (Swedish study -- Anderson 2011).**
- **88.2% of top-rated porn scenes contain physical aggression (spanking, gagging, slapping, etc.); 48.7% contain verbal aggression (name calling). Perpetrators were usually male, 94% of the targets were women (Bridges & Wosnitzer 2007).**
- **When exposed to pornography, a child's developing brain becomes neurobiologically altered, damaging the sense of self and reality (Riesman 2003)**
- **For some adults and youth, pornography increases the risk of sexually aggressive behavior (Hald, Malamuth & Yuen 2009), and is one factor contributing to sexual dysfunction, including sexually deviant tendencies, sexual offenses, difficulty with intimacy and acceptance of rape myths (Paolucci-Oddone, Genious & Violato 2000).**
- **Juvenile sex offenders are more likely to have been sexually abused, have atypical sexual fantasies, or had early exposure to pornography (Seto & Lalumiere 2010).**
- **Children as young as 5 are imitating sex acts at school because they are allowed to stay up late and watch pornography (Journal of Family Violence 2009)**
- **Just 28% of parents have installed software on computers to prohibit certain website visitation, only 17% have such software on mobile devices, and just 15% on gaming consoles (Cox Communications 2012).**