

FACT SHEET ON TEENS AND PORNOGRAPHY

- 42% of Internet users ages 10 to 14 have viewed sexual images online. By age 17, an overwhelming majority of boys (93%) and girls (62%) have been exposed to pornography.ⁱ
- A majority of those exposures (66%) were accidental or unwanted.ⁱⁱ
- Online pornography is a significant source of sex education for adolescents and emerging adults,^{iii iv} lacks information about the consequences of risky sexual choices,^v and portrays inaccurate and unrealistic expectations about sexual encounters.^{vi}
- Content analysis of best-selling pornographic videos reveals over 88% of scenes involve acts of physical aggression, with 70% of the aggressive acts being perpetrated by men and 87% of the acts being committed against women.^{vii}
- Increased pornography exposure is associated with:
 - earlier and/or quicker onset of sexual activity^{viii ix}
 - more permissive attitudes towards casual sex^x
 - higher likelihood of engaging in risky sexual behaviors such as anal sex, sex with multiple partners, and using drugs or alcohol during sex^{xi}
 - an acceptance of more negative gender stereotypes including a sexual hierarchy of dominant men and subservient women^{xii}
 - more acceptance of sexual violence, as well as more sexual harassment perpetration among male adolescents and callousness towards victims^{xiii xiv xv xvi}
 - acceptance of rape myths and interpersonal violence^{xvii}
 - negative body image and lowered self esteem among boys and girls^{xviii}
 - increased loneliness,^{xix} social isolation, depression,^{xx} anxiety, mood disorders, school problems,^{xxi} substance abuse^{xxii}
 - increased sexual uncertainty, preoccupations, compulsions and dysfunctions^{xxiii xxiv xxv xxvi xxvii}
 - belief that pornographic sex depicts real world sexual practices.^{xxviii}
- Mainstream online pornography is created through an organized production and distribution network that markets free and easily accessible pornography as a pathway into more sophisticated niche pay sites.^{xxix}
- Between December 2009 and December 2010, Manwin (one of the biggest porn companies in the world) pretax earnings increased more than 40%.^{xxx}
- Pornhub and Xvideos (two major pornography sites) have 2.5 billion and 4.4 billion page views per month, respectively.^{xxxi}
- A recent Google Trends analysis indicates that “teen porn” searches have increased by 215% over the eight years for which data is available.^{xxxii}
- “Teen porn” is the number one most popular porn search term in the USA.^{xxxiii}
- Approximately 20% of all porn on the Internet involves children.^{xxxiv}
- Porn is pervasive: 37% of web pages contain porn content,^{xxxv} 35% of all internet downloads are of pornography,^{xxxvi} and porn search engine requests (68 M) constitute 25% of the total search engine requests made on the Internet worldwide daily.^{xxxvii}

This fact sheet was developed by an informal group of researchers and public health advocates originally assembled as part of a symposium held at Virginia Commonwealth University in the Spring of 2013. Wendy Maltz LCSW, of Healthysex.com, worked on the committee that produced this fact sheet.

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