



# Harms to Children

The average age children are exposed to pornography is 11. For many, such exposure is not sought, but seen unintentionally via the Internet. Others may seek sexual content out of curiosity, for “educational” purposes. Children do not always act immediately on what they have seen, but may store those images and knowledge to be used when a situation induces it. Learning about sex through pornography provides misinformation about sexuality, and distorts a child’s development and sense of self, leaving the child damaged and changed. Simply turning 18 does not reduce the trauma and negative effects of viewing sexual acts.

- Pornography gives children unrealistic ideas about sex (violence is appropriate and women are to be subjugated), affecting their ability to develop healthy relationships. They have difficulty forming intimate relationships beyond sexual arousal and pleasure.
- 90% of youth ages 12-18 use the Internet. It has arguably become the leading sex educator in the U.S. rather than parents and school education programs.
- Children exposed to pornography tend to engage in sexual acts at younger ages, resulting in increased STDs, unwanted pregnancy and emotional consequences.
- 90% of 8-16 year olds have seen porn online, most admit to viewing during homework.



When asked about parental controls at home, a group of 20 boys and girls, aged 13-14 said “their parents trusted them. They all admitted their parents had no idea what they were watching, and would be shocked if they did know.”

Martin Daubney, Journalist

“Children's exposure to pornography can undermine their abilities to avoid, resist, or escape sexual victimization, thereby making them more vulnerable to sexual victimization.”

Dr. Diana E. H. Russell

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