How pornography fuels sex trafficking, child exploitation, and sexual violence

Collection of papers from Symposium held at the U.S. Capitol on July 14, 2015

HOSTED BY
NATIONAL CENTER ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
Founded 1962

Headquarters 1100 G Street NW #1030
Washington, DC 20005

Vision All individuals have a right to be free from the effects of pornography and all other forms of sexual exploitation.


About National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE) is the leading national organization dedicated to opposing pornography and works to expose the seamless connections between all forms of exploitation.

EDUCATE: NCOSE directs national awareness campaigns to educate the public on the public health crisis from pornography. ACTION: NCOSE works to change government and corporate policies that facilitate sexual exploitation. RESEARCH: NCOSE compiles peer-reviewed data on this public health issue and works with many scholars to help the public understand what the research proves in relation to these issues.

Areas of Concentration
- Pornography
- Sex Trafficking of Adults & Children
- Prostitution
- Violence Against Women
- Sexualization of Children
- Sexual Addictions and Compulsivity
- Sexual Assault and Violence
- Child Pornography
- Sexually Oriented Businesses
- Child Sexual Abuse
- Sexual Coercion

Websites
- EndSexualExploitation.org
- PornHarms.com
- PornHarmsResearch.com
- StopTraffickingDemand.com
- WarOnIllegalPornography.com
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .......................................................... 4
Dawn Hawkins, Vice President and Executive Director,
National Center on Sexual Exploitation

SYMPOSIUM PAPERS

Today’s Pornography and the Crisis of Violence Against Women and Children ... 5
Gail Dines, PhD, Founder and President, Culture Reframed

Why Pornography is a Public Health Issue .................................. 11
Cordelia Anderson, MA, Founder, Sensibilities Prevention Services

Pornography and the Brain: Public Health Considerations ................. 21
Don Hilton, MD, Neurosurgeon, University of Texas

Pornography: Sex Education for the Developing Brain ..................... 26
Sharon Cooper, MD, FAAP, CEO, Development and Forensic Pediatrics

Pornography, Prostitution, and Trafficking: Making the Connections .... 30
Melissa Farley, PhD, Executive Director, Prostitution Research & Education

Sexual Obesity: Research on a Public Health Crisis .......................... 34
Mary Anne Layden, PhD, Director, Sexual Trauma and Psychopathology
Program Center for Cognitive Therapy, University of Pennsylvania

Sexual Exploitation: Connecting the Dots in Real Life ....................... 43
Ed Smart, activist and father of kidnap victim, Elizabeth Smart;
Director of Prevention and Rehabilitation, Operation Underground Railroad

Why is Finding a Solution So Difficult? ...................................... 47
Ernie Allen, Former President and CEO, National Center for Missing & Exploited
Children and International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children

SUMMARIES OF KEY RESEARCH ON PORNOGRAPHY

Impact on the Brain ................................................................. 51
Connections to Violence ............................................................ 54
Effect on Children ................................................................. 59
Impact on the Body ................................................................. 65
Family & Relationships ........................................................... 66
Sex Trafficking & Prostitution .................................................... 70

PERSONAL STORIES .................................................................. 72

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS .......................................................... 80

SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS ................................................................ 81
Executive Summary

Dawn Hawkins
Vice President and Executive Director,
National Center on Sexual Exploitation

The purpose of this briefing is to bring together Members of Congress, their staffs, the national press, and the public to educate on the public health crisis resulting from pornography and sexual exploitation. Experts—including medical doctors, a cognitive therapist, sociologists, leading child safety advocates, and the former head of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children—will discuss many facets of the issue.

Science and research now show a wide range of harm caused by pornography, including direct links to increased demand for sex trafficking, child sexual exploitation and violence against women. Pornography affects the developing brains and shapes the sexual templates of children. It also contributes to the rise in sexual dysfunction now experienced by many young men, and can be tied to the normalization of dangerous sexual and social behaviors.

The briefing is intended to demonstrate that pornography has caused a public health crisis and we hope Congress receives this message and responds accordingly, including perhaps having one or more Congressional hearings to explore the crisis and solutions to it.
Today’s Pornography and the Crisis of Violence Against Women and Children

Gail Dines, Ph. D.
Professor of Sociology, Wheelock College, Boston, MA
Founder and Chair, Culture Reframed

I have studied the nature and extent of pornography for over twenty-five years, during which time the porn industry has grown to be one of the world’s most lucrative and harmful businesses. As an academic and founding chair of the non-profit health education organization Culture Reframed, I am here today to speak about porn as what we recognize to be the public health crisis of the digital age. For many in this room today, porn may seem like a minor issue given the tsunami of violence against women and children and the prevailing misrepresentation of porn as harmless or even empowering. In reality, porn is deeply and increasingly implicated in virtually all forms of sexual violence. We cannot speak about rape, child sexual abuse, commercial sexual exploitation, teen dating violence, domestic violence, sexual harassment, college sexual assault, sexting, or teen suicide following cyberbullying without understanding porn as a driving force behind the normalization and legitimization of violence against women and children. Failure to see and address the role pornography can play in sexual violence, as well as myriad other health problems related to exposure such as PTSD, depression, compulsive use, and hypersexualized behavior, is to turn a blind eye on an environmental risk factor of epic proportions. Ignoring the role porn plays in socializing our children and youth is a dereliction of our collective duty to protect the safety and well-being of the next generation.

The most important point I want to make today is that mainstream porn, the porn you see within 15 seconds of typing “porn” into Google, is cruel, abusive, violent, and free. No credit card is needed to enter this world of sexual abuse. Advances in technology, especially mobile devices, enable pornography to be viewed anywhere, anytime, by any child or adult who has Internet access. Never before have we reared a generation of boys on hardcore porn, and we are in the midst of a social experiment that few have signed on for, but everyone will ultimately pay a price for.

Today’s porn is not your father’s Playboy. Type “porn” into Google, and you won’t see anything that looks like the old pinups; instead, you will be catapulted into a world of sexual cruelty and brutality where women are
subject to body-punishing sex and called vile names. You will see women being gagged with a penis till they almost pass out, spat on, penetrated by multiple men in all orifices, ejaculated on, and treated as disposable objects.

In porn, sex is not about making love. The feelings and emotions we normally associate with such an act—connection, empathy, tenderness, caring, affection—are missing. In their place are those emotions we normally associate with hate—fear, disgust, anger, loathing and contempt. In porn, the man “makes hate” to the woman, as each sex act is designed to deliver the maximum amount of degradation. Yet, the women are still portrayed as enjoying these scenes. Now commonplace and pervasive throughout the Internet, these images are shaping the way a whole generation of boys thinks about and relates to sex, relationships, and intimacy.

Today, the average age of first viewing porn is eleven years old. This is not an unfortunate byproduct of easily accessible porn, but a business strategy developed by the porn industry to attract younger and younger viewers. The younger the boy starts masturbating to porn, the more likely he is to develop habitual and/or addictive porn use. Porn is often misleadingly defined as fun or fantasy, but in reality, it is a predatory multi-billion dollar industry that has our sons (and daughters) in its crosshairs.

Andrew Edmond, President and CEO of Flying Crocodile, a $20 million pornography Internet business, succinctly explained why so few people understand the scale and scope of the industry. He stated that “a lot of people [outside adult entertainment], get distracted from the business model by [the sex]. It is just as sophisticated and multilayered as any other market place. We operate just like any Fortune 500 company.”1 Similarly, 2009, Steven Yagielowicz, a well known porn industry journalist, stated in an article for XBIZ:

The corporatization of porn isn’t something that will happen or is happening, it is something that has happened—and if you’re unaware of that fact then there truly is no longer a seat at the table for you. It’s Las Vegas all over again: the independent owners, renegade mobsters and visionary entrepreneurs pushed aside by mega-corporations that saw a better way of doing things and brought the discipline needed to attain a whole new level of success to the remaining players.2

The size and scale of the pornography business has important cultural implications. The entertainment industries do not just influence us, they constitute our dominant culture, our identities, our conceptions of the world, and our norms of acceptable behavior. Moreover, in the void of
comprehensive school-based sex education, porn fills the knowledge gap for children and youth and significantly shapes adolescent sexual templates. This is especially worrisome given the findings from a comprehensive content analysis of contemporary porn by Bridges (2010) and her team. They found that the majority of scenes from 50 of the top-rented and downloaded porn movies contained both physical and verbal abuse targeted against the female performers. Physical aggression, which included spanking, open-hand slapping, and gagging, occurred in over 88% of scenes, while expressions of verbal aggression—calling the woman names such as “bitch” or “slut”—were found in 48% of the scenes. The researchers concluded that 90% of scenes contained at least one aggressive act if both physical and verbal aggression were combined.³

Porn as a major industry engages in the normal business activities that other industries pursue. Porn businesses raise capital, hire managers and accountants, undergo mergers and acquisitions, organize trade shows, have their own lobbying group (The Free Speech Coalition, FSC) and enter into co-marketing arrangements with other companies. While these activities are in themselves unremarkably normal business operations, they signal that porn is becoming a mainstream, normal, business—a legitimate business, being taken more seriously by Wall Street, the media, and the political establishment. The porn business is embedded in a complex value chain, linking not just film producers and distributors, but also bankers, software producers, Internet providers, cable companies, and hotel chains. These other businesses become allies and collaborators, with a vested interest in the growth and continued viability of the porn business. Banks, for example, make money from the porn industry, as the revenue it generates is invested in stocks, bonds, mutual funds etc. Indeed, everyone in the supply chain from production to consumption is complicit in building and strengthening the porn industry.

This is a business with considerable political clout, with the capacity to lobby politicians, engage in expensive legal battles, and use public relations to influence public debate. Like the tobacco industry, this is not a simple matter of consumer choice; rather the business is increasingly able to deploy a sophisticated and well-resourced marketing machine, not just to push its wares but also to cast the industry’s image in a positive light. Indeed, one of the key myths that the industry promotes is that porn is harmless fun: that it is all about fantasy and play, and that we should not take it too seriously.

Over forty years of empirical research tells a very different story. My colleagues here today will discuss the major findings, but to give a snapshot
view of the research, I will list some of the most consistent results that span a range of studies using varied methodologies.

Youth with greater pornography exposure have been found more likely to:

- have sex at a younger age
- engage in risky sexual behavior
- have negative attitudes toward using condoms
- have oral sex, anal sex, and sex with multiple partners, which increases their risk for sexually transmitted infections
- view women as sex objects
- have attitudes that support violence against women
- believe “rape myths”—beliefs that justify or defend rape
- report decreased empathy for rape victims
- choose not to intervene when witnessing college sexual assault
- have increasingly aggressive behavioral tendencies
- report increased interest in coercing partners into unwanted sex acts
- experience increased difficulty in developing intimate relationships with partners
- report decreased sexual interest in their girlfriends or wives
- develop compulsive Internet use

Teen Porn as a major Growth Niche

In 2002, the FSC took a case to the US Supreme Court to change the 1996 Child Pornography Prevention Act, which prohibited any image that “is, or appears to be, of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct.” Arguing that the term “appears-to-be” limiting the free speech of the pornographers, the coalition succeeded in removing this “limitation,” and the law was narrowed to cover only those images in which an actual person (rather than one who appears to be) under the age of eighteen was involved in the making of porn. Thus, the path was cleared for the porn industry to use either computer-generated images of children or real porn performers who, although age eighteen or over, are “childified” to look much younger.

Since that 2002 decision, there has been an explosion in the number of sites that childify women, as well as those that use computer-generated imagery. Pseudo Child Pornography (PCP) sites that use adults (those people defined by law as eighteen years of age or over) to represent children are never called child pornography by the industry. Instead, almost all of those sites that childify the female porn performer are found in the sub-genre
called “teen-porn” or “teen-sex” by the industry. There are any number of ways to access these sites, the most obvious one being through Google. Typing “Teen Porn” into Google yields over sixteen million hits, giving the user his choice of thousands of porn sites. A number of the hits are actually for porn portals where “teen porn” is one sub-category of many, and when the user clicks on that category, a list of sites comes up that runs over ninety pages.

Many of the actual sites in this category have the word “teen” in the name—for example, Solo Teen, Solo Teen Babe, Sexy Teen Girl, Teen Cuties, and Solo Teen Girls. When the user clicks on any one of these sites, the first and most striking feature is the body shape of the female porn performers. In place of the large-breasted, curvaceous bodies that populate regular porn websites, one sees small-breasted, slightly built women with adolescent-looking faces that are relatively free of makeup. Many of these performers do look younger than eighteen, but they do not look like children, so the pornographers use a range of techniques to make them appear more childlike than they actually are. Primary among these is the use of childhood clothes and props such as stuffed animals, lollipops, pigtails, pastel-colored ribbons, ankle socks, braces on the teeth, and, of course, the school uniform. It is not unusual to see a female porn performer wearing a school uniform, sucking a lollipop, and hugging a teddy bear while she masturbates with a dildo.

Evidence as to just how this win on the part of the FSC shaped the content of mainstream porn can be found in the fact that “teen porn” has grown rapidly, and is now the largest single genre, whether measured in terms of search term frequency or proportion of web sites. In original research I conducted in 2013 with David Levy (Professor of Management at U/Mass Boston), for the Department of Justice in the case [Free Speech Coalition, Inc., et al. vs. Holder], a Google Trends analysis indicates that searches for “Teen Porn” have more than tripled between 2005–2013, and teen porn was the fastest-growing genre over this period. Total searches for teen-related porn reached an estimated 500,000 daily in March 2013, far larger than other genres, representing approximately one-third of total daily searches for pornographic web sites. Moreover, the content of the three most popular “porntubes,” the portals that serve as gateways to online porn contained about 18 million teen-related pages—again, the largest single genre and about one-third of the total content.

There is a wealth of research within media studies that shows that people construct their notions of reality from the media they consume, and the more consistent and coherent the message, the more people believe
it to be true. Thus, the images of girls in PCP do not exist within a social vacuum, but rather are produced and consumed within a society where the dominant pop culture images are of childified women and hypersexualized, youthful female bodies. Encoded within all of these images is an ideology that encourages the sexual objectification of the female body, an ideology that is internalized by both males and females, and has become so widespread that it normalizes the sexual use and abuse of females. This does not mean that all men who masturbate to PCP will rape a child, or even be sexually attracted to a child. What it does mean, however, is that on a cultural level, when we sexualize the female child, we chip away at the norms that define children as off limits to male sexual use. The more we undermine such cultural norms, the more we drag girls into the category of “woman,” and in a porn-saturated world, to be woman is to be a sexual object deserving of male contempt, use, and abuse.

To prevent unprecedented emotional, psychological, and physical damage to the generations born in the digital age, we must first recognize pornography as a public health crisis, and then respond with skillfully prepared and executed intervention. The pornography epidemic requires collaborative, comprehensive, evidence-based response across the lifespan and diverse ecology of human experience. Committed to urgent, effective action, Culture Reframed pursues a multilevel, multidisciplinary, multiculturally competent solution to prevent, build resilience to, and ultimately eradicate the harmful effects of pornography. We aim to build the public’s capacity to deal with pervasive sexually violent online pornography through education and support that promote healthy development, relationships, and sexuality.

1 Brandweek, October 2000, v41, p 1Q48.
5 I refer to the user in the masculine since the majority of porn consumers are men. While it is impossible to give an accurate breakdown of male and female consumers, Mark Kernes, senior editor of the pornography trade magazine Adult Video News, stated: “Our statistics show that 78% of the people that go into adult stores are men. They may have women with them, but it’s men, and 22%, conversely, is women or women with other women or women alone.” Interview at the Adult Entertainment Expo in Las Vegas with Robert Jensen, January 7, 2005.
Why Pornography is a Public Health Issue

Cordelia Anderson, M.A.
Founder and Director of Sensibilities Prevention Services

• A therapist calls first thing in the morning; she is looking for a referral for a ten-year-old girl who is developing problematic thoughts and behaviors after repeated exposure to pornography. After a training on the impact of pornography, a participant says she is concerned about her own porn use and preference for violent images. It never bothered her before; she is a therapist who works with men who’ve committed sex offenses. However, since becoming a mother she is no longer comfortable with the shift in her own arousal, which is focused solely on these sexually violent images.

• A mother called frustrated and in search of better help for her family. Her spouse had a life-threatening illness and they were also dealing with a fourteen-year-old son who quickly became so obsessed with Internet pornography that they had to lock up all their technology. Attempts to find a therapist who would actually talk about the pornography and the way it had become problematic in his life failed. Even after the boy’s behavior escalated to include behaving in sexually inappropriate ways with a young girl, the therapists were not attentive to his and his family’s stated concerns with his pornography use.

• A young female college student said her abuser seemed to get more aroused the more she suffered. It seemed like he was reenacting a scene from pornography.

• An adult male survivor of child sexual abuse who often speaks about his childhood victimization only recently began considering how his early trauma was linked to what he now considered to be his problematic use of pornography.

Individual stories and realities do not constitute a public health concern, but because the reach of today’s pornography—through ever expanding and changing technologies—create what some researchers, academics, and activists have called “the largest unregulated social experiment ever,” (Dines, 2010; Seto, 2013; Carr, 2014) we have reason to be concerned. When the increased access and excessive use of pornography is linked to problematic behaviors, this trend then becomes a public health issue. As a public health
concern we must go beyond the individual responsibility to also include a system-wide response to address pornography’s toxic reach and impact.

Yesterday’s pornography is today’s mainstream media and it, along with the pornography industry, has been the country’s main “sex” educator of young people. Contrary to common arguments protecting the industry, there is ample research that shows a wide-range of harms from ease of access, exposure and use. Understanding the research that is outlined by the other speakers that are part of this Symposium is critical to laying the foundation of pornography as a public health issue. Additionally, many children/teens learn more about sex, gender and relationships from mainstream media (pop culture) and today’s pornography than from parents and other caring adults in their lives. Certainly adults who care about the healthy development of children need to know what they are learning and how to have deeper conversations with their children to counter the harm. However, the harms related to pornography cannot be addressed only through individual parent’s application of filters, education, treatment, prosecution, or incarceration of sex offenders. This massive unregulated social experiment has been allowed to go unchecked for too long and requires broader social change and leadership. Until now, our approach to this growing concern has been to allow complete individual freedom and choice, but few are considering the long-term costs to their own health or the expense of the broader well being of society.

Part of the challenge is that images and other depictions of sexual harm have become normalized in the hyper-sexualized mainstream media. Images of women as sexual objects in mainstream media and especially in pornography have become so common as to no longer be a novelty. Novelty sells, and from a pornography business point of view, is needed to keep the viewers’ attention (Wilson, 2013). So business decisions were made to use images using younger and younger children, designed to shock and hook more and more “customers.”

Many argue that pornography and the industry behind it are simply an established reality that is harmless, or is too big and pervasive to challenge. Other defenders argue that any concerns about pornography stem only from a religious or moral basis or from those who are anti-male, or who have repressive or prudish sexual norms. However, research shows that in actuality the content of pornography is far more about violence than sex (Bridges, et.al. 2010). Equally disturbing is the fact that excessive use of pornography is harmful, not helpful, to sexual functioning and development for males and females of all ages. Recent research has shown that a child or teen’s exposure to violent pornography or excessive exposure to pornography can contribute to changing a child’s brain, social interactions, and emotional skills, well into their mid-20s (Anderson, 2011).
Why Pornography is a Public Health Issue

Pornography has been identified as a public health concern for over 25 years (Perrin, et. al., 2008; Koop, 1987). However, rising concern about its increasing violent content and ever-expanding reach through advancing technologies has increased this concern in recent years. Finally, the mounting research showing the negative impact of viewing violent pornography on health and on the brain, especially to developing children and adolescents, has created urgency for public action. An important aspect of a public health perspective is adding resources to problems that affect individuals or groups beyond their capacity to correct them. In a public health approach, the responsibility shifts from that of individuals alone to the public as a whole, to address external social causes or influences and hold them accountable for their impact on individuals and society (Wallack, 1989).

Public health is a societal strategy to assure the conditions are in place so that people can be healthy (Institute of Medicine, 2001). Therefore, strategies to counter the harm of pornography need to target the whole population. Public health approaches have worked with many other social issues that, at the time, seemed too entrenched to change including tobacco control versus an individual’s right to smoke; use of seat belts and car seats versus individual freedoms; concern for shaken baby syndrome versus a parents’ rights to discipline; mandated vaccines versus individual parental rights to choose health treatment for their child. But over time, when it was society’s decision to step into the debate, the public health of our society has been improved. As George Albee, a public health leader in 1983 said, “No mass disorder afflicting mankind is ever brought under control or eliminated by attempts at treating the affected individual” (Cohen, Chavez, & Chehimi, 2007).

What is missing from the current conversation is our society’s responsibility to invest in primary prevention. Primary prevention is taking action to prevent health and social problems before their onset. Primary prevention requires fostering health-supportive community environments through a range of strategies that make the healthy choice the easy choice (Cohen, Chavez, & Chehimi, 2007).

Public Health Model

The Center for Disease Control identifies four elements of a public health model as: 1) define and monitor the problem, 2) identify risk and protective factors, 3) develop and test prevention strategies, and 4) assure widespread adoption (Center for Disease Control & Prevention). Following this format, some factors to consider when applying this approach to pornography include:
1. Define the problem: Part of the challenge of taking a public health approach is that we have not consistently defined what we mean by the term “pornography.” And we have learned that how this issue has been framed will have an impact on how we define and attempt to resolve the problem. Some argue that a standard definition of pornography such as ‘sexually explicit materials designed for sexual arousal’, or ‘visual sexual stimuli’, or ‘sexually explicit Internet materials’ needs to be neutral. Yet for those who are persuaded by the research that pornography is harmful, especially to children, are concerned that the definition of pornography should not be neutral, especially when it enters the mainstream media.

This definition (or frame) as a neutral approach has far-reaching impacts. For example, the laws in the United States on this topic refer to “pornography” that involves children as “child pornography.” In contrast to this “neutral approach,” around the world these same illegal materials are recognized as harmful to the child and referred to as “child sexual abuse images” or “child abuse images.” Through these abuse-oriented terms, these images are recognized as the documentation of sexual abuse, not of sex. These images of children and young teens are recognized in the United States as evidence of crimes and are not something protected as free speech. However, once the person being exploited reaches the age of eighteen, the arguments go back to harmlessness, choice, and just sex; any victimization or exploitation is ignored for the benefit of those who use and profit

Imagine the difference if pornographic images were defined as ‘sexually exploitive images’ or ‘sexual violence images’ irrespective of the ages of those portrayed.

Various studies document the harms of viewing pornography including sexually aggressive behavior in adults and youth, sexually reactive behaviors in youth, desensitization to others in sexual situations, rape supportive attitudes, arousal to increasingly violent content, increased levels of sexual insecurities, and difficulties with intimacy or sexual functioning such as erectile dysfunction in males (Deem, 2014).

2. Identify risk and protective factors: Further research and analysis is needed to identify the various risk and protective factors within the pornography industry for victims (e.g., adult “actors,” child victims, as well as those harmed by exposure), the adult, adolescent and even children who are users, the partners and family of users, and society in general. Additionally, there is research that provides some indication of a “second hand effect” from pornography (World Vision, 2006). This means that if a parent manages to protect their children from any exposure in or outside of the home, their children are likely to be effected by the attitudes, behaviors and expectations of others who were exposed. Like with tobacco, it is not only the individual user’s “choice” but the effect of the second hand smoke all around the user.
3. Develop and test programs and strategies: There are a number of emerging programs and strategies that could have an impact on limiting the negative consequences of unlimited access to pornography across all age groups. These would include programs to educate children, parents, and professionals about the impact of pornography, especially on the developing brain, along with broader initiatives to engage communities, build broader coalitions, change organizational practices and identify necessary policy changes. One example is an “opt in” rather than an “opt out” strategy that requires default filters that automatically block access to pornography unless an individual opts in. Beyond individual homes, this can help minimize unwanted exposure to pornography in hotels or other public access places. In these cases, adults would need to make a conscious decision to view pornography rather than shifting the burden to parents to understand all of the points of access to these materials available to their children.

4. Assure widespread adoption: Once programs are tested and the most effective strategies are identified, financial support is needed to disseminate information and programs while continuing to evaluate for adaptability. Policies can also set the expectation that no family or child is left alone to deal with these issues, but rather that protecting our children and adolescents from harm is a community and societal responsibility.

An Example that Change is Possible:
Smoking & Tobacco Industry

Remember when doctors were depicted in ads heralding the benefits of smoking? Remember when smoking was a regular activity of cartoon characters that children watched while playing with their candy cigarettes? Remember when the Marlboro man was depicted as the embodiment of manliness and sexiness? Smoking was such a norm, even in confined spaces like airplanes that no one could have imagined a smoke-free area in a restaurant much less a complete ban of smoking in an entire public building.

When people began to recognize the health consequences of smoking, our initial approach was to educate the individual and encourage him or her to stop smoking. Over time, despite the industry’s denial, it became evident that smoking was addictive and that the harm was done to the individual and to the public all for the industry’s profit. The pornography industry now, in many ways equates with the dominance of the tobacco industry and social norms of smoking of just a few decades ago (Eberstadt, 2009). Now that research has documented pornography’s harm to individuals and the public—especially children—it is time for a societal response on this issue as well.
The Environment Matters

In our current environment, hypersexualized media including pornography is easily accessible and educational messages about sexuality are regulated and censored. This is arguably a sexually toxic environment.

The term, “normalization of sexual harm” refers to the process by which a harmful idea or behavior goes from clearly problematic to an accepted part of societal culture. Once accepted it becomes “just the way it is” or “just what people do.” With further indoctrination and barriers removed, it can even become viewed as beneficial or preferential. Additionally, it becomes beyond questionable; if questions are raised, then the questioner gets identified as the problem, rather than the image or social norm they are questioning (Anderson, 2011). Consider the “soft core pornography” of the 1960s that is non-existent as a stand-alone industry today because it is currently found in advertisements, films, videos, and other media formats, as well as a wide-range of merchandise.

There are many examples of products that depict this normalization of sexual harm but a particularly egregious category is the infant onesies that promote messages such as: “pimp squad junior,” “playground pimp,” and “mother sucker.” Keep in mind that no child will think of, create, produce, market or buy these products—it is the adults surrounding that child who do so. Toxic decisions make sense in a toxic environment. Given today’s sexually toxic environment it becomes far less easy for people to make the healthy choices expected of them and that they are responsible.

Earlier and earlier exposure to pornography is just one impact of this growing normalization of sexual harm. One study indicated that when the age of first exposure to pornography was under eleven years old, the adolescent developed sexual sensation-seeking behaviors and demonstrated more sexual risk-taking as a young adult, both female and male (Sinkovic, 2014). Another study shows a significant link for both boys and girls between sexting and pornography use (Liebert, 2014). A study of fourteen to twenty-one-year-olds found that nearly one in ten of them, 9% report some type of sexually abusive behaviors and that 9% had significantly higher exposure to and use of violent sexual materials (Ybarra & Mitchell, 2013). Another powerful indicator of the pervasiveness of pornography in the environment and its toxicity is in the demand for the relatively new Fortify Program. Fortify offers on-line treatment for young people who reach out for help because of the negative impact pornography is having on their life. According to the June 2015, data from the program, the average age of
first pornography exposure for youth reaching out to the Fortify program for help is 11.9. Of the applicants to the program, 9% have viewed pornography by age eight, 24 percent by age ten, and 77 percent by age 13. Of the 16,185 applicants to the program between February 2014 and July 2015, 85% are males and 15% are females. The Fortify program has great promise and is showing a significant reduction of pornography use and symptoms of depression among its participants.

The Cat is Out of the Bag, but it is Not Too Late

There is a lot that can be done through individual and collective action at local, state and federal levels. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have documented significant achievements within public health including:

- immunizations
- motor vehicle safety
- workplace safety
- control of infectious diseases (typhoid: hygiene and sanitary conditions)
- decline in death from heart disease and stroke (identification of risk factors)
- healthier mothers and babies
- family planning
- fluoride in drinking water
- tobacco as a health hazard

To counter the pervasive reach of pornography, an equally extensive set of initiatives are needed to counter and ultimately prevent the harm.

Invest in Research

Efforts are needed to draw attention to the existing research that shows the harmful impact of pornography/sexually exploitive images while simultaneously investing in the promotion of accurate and evidence-based information on sexual development and sexual and relational health. Further funding is needed for more research on expected child and adolescent sociosexual development. In addition, more research is needed on the specific impact of pornography on various groups—the risks and protective factors.
Name the Harm & Ignite Champions for Change

Massive changes happened around child sex trafficking when government and business leaders stepped up in concert with survivors and non-profits agencies to name the harm and identify critical changes needed. It is time to name the links between pornified or hyper-sexualized mainstream media, the pornography industry, and a wide range of harms including demand for children and youth as sexual objects and commodities. It’s time to build a much broader coalition of diverse groups working together in a movement to ignite more champions for change and to take back sexual and relational health and well-being. Leadership is needed among government and business leaders and men who are willing to speak to the harm of the pornography industries who profit at the expense of their health and well-being. Adults need to address the gendered socialization of girls, also as well as boys who are groomed to behave as users, takers, and pornography makers until they cross a line and become identified as sex offenders who then need to be registered as such. Initiatives are also needed to engage youth to help them see how the industry is manipulating and grooming them and then how to take action to counter the harm. The collective strengths of new and long-term leaders on this issue, non-profits, and others with direct-lived experiences as a result of the harms of pornography are all needed to focus on prevention and broad-based, social change. Education and broader support efforts are needed for all these groups, including parents, so they can effectively educate their children; but it is important not to put all of the burden on individual parents to filter out pornography. In fact, wouldn’t it be a whole lot better if they didn’t have so much to filter against and weren’t the only ones concerned about protecting their children from toxic images?

Policy

For major social change to be effective it has to go beyond education and awareness to a broad range of actions across the spectrum of prevention. In England, with the leadership of Prime Minister Cameron, there was an initiative to create an ‘opt in’ versus an ‘opt out’ approach to limiting access to pornography via the Internet. The idea is that for those who want to view pornography, they simply sign up for it. It means that adults need to make a conscious decision to view this material. The various filters that are automatically put into all technology in the UK can then be removed to provide access to pornography for those who choose to consume it. This alternative highlights the shift towards empowering consumers to make an active decision to view pornography rather than the provision of unlimited
access until you decide to learn about and install the appropriate filters on every technology at home. Furthermore, parents currently have to consistently view cell phones, iPads, iPods, and so much more because they can’t be assured that there are safety nets installed in every place a parent or child may go. Iceland is another interesting example of a country that decided against unlimited access to pornography based on the fact that gender equity is part of their constitution. Advertisers in the US could make a difference by picking up on the work of the Dangerous Promises campaign – a volunteer effort amongst the wine companies to not use women’s bodies as objects to sell their product. Perhaps a start is agreement amongst advertisers to not use sexually exploitive images of children to sell products. Other policy actions that could help prevent harm from pornography include requiring accurate, age appropriate, healthy relationship and sexuality education that includes a broader understanding of consent and media literacy skills to challenge the tsunami of unhealthy images young people are exposed to.

**Truth Campaign**

When the tobacco industry was held accountable, part of the settlement went in part to a Truth Campaign that allowed for multiple media exposures available at that time to creatively demonstrate the lies in typical advertisements and to name the harm. A Truth Campaign is needed to address the lies of pornography and to promote health.

**Priority of Health Groups**

Given the impact of pornography on the health of many, places like the Institute of Medicine, the office of the Surgeon General, and the Center for Disease Control, should also have this as a priority area along with state departments of health and local public health departments. For instance, in 2014, the Minnesota Department of Health sponsored a daylong data symposium that brought in a range of professionals to address the issue and a panel of those directly affected while also outlining potential areas for action.

**Closing**

Perhaps, sooner rather than later, unlimited access to increasingly violent pornography will be recognized as a barrier to sexual and relational health. Perhaps, sooner rather than later, it will be seen as a barrier to prevention of all types of sexual abuse, exploitation, and violence. Perhaps,
sooner rather than later, pornography will be also recognized as a barrier to gender equity and contributor to harmful gender socialization. The pervasiveness and ease of access to pornography is a social justice and public health concern. By building on the growing body of research, it is possible to transform what is often a sexually toxic culture to one where sexual dignity, sexual respect and equity become modeled as the expected norms. **Indeed, by not doing all we can to limit our constant exposure to sexually exploitive images/pornography—at least to children—while also not allowing for accurate health based information, to promote sexual health and to prevent the harm—we are contributing to a type of sexual neglect.** Other public health campaigns have shown that major social change is possible and health can be reclaimed. It is time to take similar actions against pornography as a barrier to public health.


For an extensive resource list see: cordeliaanderson.com/Resources/Documents/Porn%20Resource%20List%204%202015.pdf
For too long, pornography has been protected as a First Amendment right, with little consideration for the rights of those who might be harmed in its production and consumption. The time has come to consider pornography from the perspective of public health. As a medical doctor, I would like to address two considerations regarding pornography that have been largely ignored in the past, and which now warrant our attention. First, pornography is a biologically addictive medium that alters brain reward and motivation systems in a negative way.  In the past, addiction was defined only from the perspective of the behavioral sciences, whereas the definition of addiction is now increasingly informed by the biological sciences.  For instance, drug addiction has long been associated with shrinkage in key brain areas important in valuing and processing reward and judgment. It has also been associated with negative metabolic, or functional, changes in how the reward system works. Based on an evolving understanding of how the chemistry of the brain changes with both drug addiction and with behavioral addictions such as to food, sex, and gambling, Dr. Clark Watts and I predicted in a paper published in the journal Surgical Neurology International in 2011 that pornography would be associated with shrinkage in the brain’s reward areas, and that it would also demonstrate similar metabolic changes in these same reward areas, both of which are seen in drug addiction.¹ This hypothesis was based on our understanding that similar DNA mechanisms are involved with craving states associated both with drug addiction and with natural rewards as well. I was involved in a study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) which demonstrated that one of the most basic natural drives, the craving for salt, is driven by the same DNA transcripts which drive drug craving. Our paper summarized that addiction ‘usurps’ these natural craving pathways.² In an article about this paper, National Geographic used the work ‘hijack’ to describe how addiction changes the perspective of the brain’s reward mechanism.³

In the last year, our prediction that these changes would be associated with pornography addiction has been verified. A study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Society Psychiatry* (*JAMA Psychiatry*) out of the Max Planck Institute in Germany demonstrated that pornography is associated both with shrinkage in the brain’s reward center as well as with impairment in connectivity with the frontal judgment and control areas.\(^4\) This shrinkage was more pronounced in the heaviest users. While this was a correlational study rather than a longitudinal one, causation must be inferred based on other prospective data. However, the fact that the shrinkage was more pronounced in heavier pornography users versus those with less hours per week is certainly supportive of causation when considering what we know about how our brains change with learning.

For instance, until the mid ’90s we all thought that learning did not change the physical structure of the brain. However, in 1995 a study published in the journal *Science* in 1995 demonstrated that the part of the brain that controls hand function is enlarged in violin players, and that this effect is increased the earlier they begin playing.\(^5\) Other learning modalities have been found to cause physical enlargement in the brain, with a diversity encompassing taxi cab drivers and even jugglers. One study published in the *Journal of Neuroscience* in 2006 showed that medical students’ brains show enlargement in key learning areas when scanned before and after a three-month period of studying for exams.\(^6\) These are prospective, rather than correlational, and thus support a causative role for learning in changing the structure of the brain. For instance, in a study in the journal *Nature* on learning and juggling, the authors summarize: “This discovery of a stimulus-dependent alteration in the brain’s macroscopic structure contradicts the traditionally held view that cortical plasticity is associated with functional rather than anatomical changes.”\(^7\) Another study in *Behavioral Brain Research* voices the same conclusion: “Contrary to assumptions that changes in brain networks are possible only during critical periods of development, modern neuroscience adopts the idea of a permanently plastic brain.”\(^8\) Zatorre et al., in the journal *Nature Neuroscience* said in 2012: “The brain is the source of behavior, but in turn it is modified by the behaviors it produces . . . learning sculpts brain structure.”\(^9\)

---

4 Kuhn S., Gallinat J. (2014). *JAMA Psychiatry*, May 28
Kaeur and Malenka, in a paper in Nature Neuroscience Reviews looking at how brain cell connections are affected by addiction said, “Addiction represents a pathological, yet powerful, form of learning and memory.”10 Given what we now know about how learning changes the brain, would we expect to see physical changes in the brain in addiction? We would, and we do. Virtually every study looking at addiction has shown shrinkage and abnormality in the reward areas and in judgment centers. These include addictions to drugs such as cocaine,11 methamphetamine,12 and opiates,13 and to behavioral addictions such as to food,14 sex,15 the Internet,16 and as we have discussed, pornography.17 When we look at the Kuhn study showing shrinkage with pornography, and interpret the results in the context of the other studies, we would have to come to the ludicrous conclusion that if pornography does not cause at least some of the shrinkage seen, it is the only learning to which the brain is immune!

Incentive sensitization is where the brain’s reward center is hypersensitive to cues associated with addiction. For instance, when a person with a cocaine addiction is shown a picture of a line of cocaine, the brain’s reward center lights up more than a person who is not addicted and shown the same picture. Voon et al., in a study done at Cambridge University and published in two papers in the journal PlosOne last year found that the brains of those addicted to pornography light up just like the cocaine addicts when shown pornography cues as compared to normal controls. They also found that pornography addicts demonstrate a wanting/liking split, where the addict craves the drug or behavior of choice, but does not even like it anymore. This is a hallmark of addiction. They summarize: “These studies together provide support for an incentive motivation theory of addiction underlying the aberrant response towards sexual cues in CSB [compulsive sexual behaviors].”18

---

10 Kaeur JA, Malenka JC: “Synaptic plasticity and addiction.” Nature Reviews Neuroscience 8, 844-858 (November 2007)
Pornography, particularly as presented via the Internet, is a supranormal stimulus. Nicholas Tinbergen, a Nobel Prize winning biologist, coined the term. He did an experiment where he painted plaster bird eggs bigger and brighter than normal eggs and found that the birds would try to roost their plaster eggs and ignore the real eggs. Even more relevant to the present discussion, he did another experiment with a butterfly species where the males were attracted to the females based on the color of their wings. He painted paper butterfly wings bigger and brighter than normal. When given the choice between the real and the artificial, the males chose and tried to mate with the artificial females and ignored the real females.

We are seeing a generation of adolescent males conditioned to prefer the endless novelty of porn to actual females. As feminist Naomi Wolfe said, “For the first time in human history, the images’ power and allure have supplanted that of real . . . women. Today, real . . . women are just bad porn.”19 I described this phenomenon in a paper on pornography as a supranormal stimulus and on its potential to invoke a neuroplastic response20

The second issue is exploitation. Pornography conditions men to view women as objects to exploit and use. It conditions women to become those objects. The brain’s mirror systems are involved in this conditioning process. One functional MRI study looking at the brain’s mirror systems found that “the mirror-neuron system prompts the observers to resonate with the motivational state of other individuals appearing in visual depictions of sexual interactions.”21 What is that motivational state? Male pornography performer Bill Margold described it as follows: “I’d like to really show what I believe the men want to see: violence against women. I firmly believe that we serve a purpose by showing that.”22 We should not be surprised, then, that sexual assault on college campuses and in the military is becoming rampant. Pornography apologists such as Milton Diamond and Anthony DeAmato published correlative data with no prospective perspective in the past claiming that because sexual assault was decreasing and pornography was increasing, men would watch violent pornography and then be content not to go and do likewise. If this is true, car advertisers must beware; consumers will be more inclined to admire the advertised cars instead of buy! However, no one today is trying to claim that rape is decreasing, and

19 Naomi Wolfe, The Porn Myth, New York Magazine
22 Bill Margold, pornography performer, as quoted by Gail Dynes, Pornland: How Porn Has Hijacked our Sexuality. Beacon Press, Boston 2010, pg xxvi
recent papers such as that by Cory Yung published in the Iowa Law Review expose their discredited studies. He summarized: “Instead of experiencing the widely reported ‘great decline’ in rape, America is in the midst of a hidden rape crisis.”

Adolescents are more vulnerable to the molding and addicting power of pornography. They elaborate DeltaFosB, a brain protein important in addiction, more potently than adults. Their frontal reward and control areas are not fully pruned and myelinated until the mid to late 20s, yet we allow pornographers to ruin the lives of countless young girls who are consumed and discarded by the pornography industry, which is primarily fueled by men using vulnerable women to make money from other men. We got rid of Joe Camel and the marketing of tobacco to kids. We decided that the tobacco industry’s right to free speech infringed on the emerging generations right to live. Can we not do the same with pornography and our youth? The allure of the toxic sex of pornography to our emerging adults has much more in common with Joe Camel than we thought. It is time to protect the vulnerable. We need to be as serious about keeping pornography out of their eyes as we are about keeping tobacco out of their lungs, and pass Internet ‘op-in’ protection for youth. It is time to stop this harmful cultural conditioning.

Our brains are marvelous, and are designed for a much richer human experience than the cheap food of toxic porn sex. We are designed to experience pleasure, but also to think, to feel, and to love. We can do better. Let us reclaim our humanity for ourselves and for future generations.

Pornography: Sex Education for the Developing Brain

Sharon Cooper, MD, FAAP
CEO, Development and Forensic Pediatrics

The easy accessibility of adult pornography on the Internet, and its availability through mobile phone technology, is a significant threat to the safety and healthy development of children in America. The multibillion dollar industry intended for the sexual satisfaction of adults has so profoundly invaded the space of children that the impact is mind-boggling. There is no doubt that adult pornography brings great harm to children.

There are numerous ways that children are harmed by the availability of online explicit material. The argument that parents must have the responsibility of making sure that children cannot access this content is unrealistic when one considers the ubiquitous nature of information and communication technology. The past reality of domain name usage to startle and shock children with pornographic images underscores the desire of producers to make this content as easy to find as possible, even for children. The Truth in Domain Names Act as part of the PROTECT Act (2003) was passed in an attempt to protect children from such prurient practices, but today far more is needed to protect children from extraordinarily perverse media content.

Adult Internet pornography has only made child sex offenders’ efforts to seduce children easier. Whereas in the past, adults would show children magazine images, or illicit DVDs when non-offending parents or guardians were not in the vicinity, today access to the Internet on any device makes this visual exploitation so much more facile.

It has been a well-known practice that adults who seek to sexually harm children have used adult pornography to groom children and youth into believing that sex with adults is normal. The offender’s motives of such exposure are:

- to educate children of the mechanics of sexual behaviors,
• to encourage children to be comfortable in re-enacting these behaviors,

• to sexually excite children, and,

• to have children enter into sexual contact with adults and/or other children.

When children are exposed to adult pornography by sex offenders who are voyeurs, the entrance into a sexual liaison with other children is facilitated as a “rite of passage,” often in a youth serving organizational setting. When such exposure to a child is facilitated by a smartphone, it is nearly impossible for protection to take place, short of the presence of multiple adults at all times. The very smartphone which is used to “show” exploitative images can then easily be used to “tell” others as the offender may surreptitiously or overtly photograph or videotape children who are being encouraged to sexually experiment with each other. These child abusive images (erroneously referred to as child pornography), when jettisoned into cyberspace cannot at this time be destroyed. The goal of this production is not only to make an illicit “keepsake” for the offender to revisit repeatedly for sexual gratification, but also as a potential instrument for blackmail of children into continued sexually exploitative behaviors. This latter phenomenon is often referred to as “sextortion.”

Sextortion cases of children are increasing in frequency as has been noted from cybertipline reports to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. These sobering cases lead children into an endless maze of acquiescing to producing sexually explicit content of themselves to never-ending demands of invisible offenders who threaten distribution onto adult pornography sites, should the youth refuse. Such production causes such guilt, shame, and self-blame that severe depression, rational paranoia, and suicidality remain a constant threat to the well-being of such victim children.

The well-known case of Amanda Todd, is just such an example. This 14-year-old girl shared one provocative image to a person that she thought was a peer within a romantic relationship. The adult offender threatened to place the image online if she did not produce more. When she was brave enough and strong enough to refuse, the offender put her image on an adult pornography site and sent the link to her family and friends on her social networking site. The subsequent horrendous cyberbullying, despite more than a year of parental protection efforts, lead eventually to her taking her own life. Her self-reported story remains on YouTube.com with more than 30 million visits.
Another way that Internet adult pornography harms children occurs when adults network and dialogue with like-minded individuals to access children for the purpose of re-enacting what is shown in adult images.

Unlike the above mentioned plan for action, this networking component further normalizes the cognitive distortions of offenders that children, as “little adults,” would like to be treated as do adult actors in the pornography industry and that though this type of thinking is not accepted by society overall, others are merely narrow minded and provincial. In investigations where children have been sexually abused and often videotaped or photographed, not only are adult videos found in the offender’s collection, but also chat and even online child sexual abuse grooming guides for the newly initiated who wish to access children. Organizations such as the North American Man Boy Love Association (NAMBLA) provide networking opportunities for such individuals.

Adult Internet pornography is the most common form of teen sex education in the US and because of the violent nature and lack of relationship depicted in this media, it has resulted in a remarkable increase in adolescent relationship abuse. The Centers for Disease Control and Injury Prevention (CDC) reports that teens receive messages about how to behave in dating relationships from friends, family and the media. Unfortunately the latter includes adult pornography which all too often links sexual contact with violence. The CDC tracks this form of injury and reports that 1 out of 10 youth surveyed had experienced both physical and sexual violence from a dating partner in the 12 months before they were surveyed (2013).

Another huge risk of harm for children is when teens view adult images, become sexually excited and disinhibited, and then act out abusive sexual acts on younger children. The easy access of adult pornography in the digital world has dramatically increased this dynamic in youth with problematic sexual behaviors. The brain and mind of youth are works in progress and research has revealed that the prefrontal cortex of the brain is not completely mature until 24-25 years of age. This part of the brain is the home of impulse control, good judgment, cognitive behaviors, and emotional stability. If we add to this brain immaturity, the reality of mirror neuron research, we are plunging children into a quicksand of potential sexual dysfunction. Mirror neurons first became known in 2007 when Italian scientists helped us to know that many parts of the brain process visual input – far beyond just the eyes and optic tracts. Mirror neurons cause us to believe that we are experiencing what we see. What does the future hold for boys who are watching adult Internet pornography with regularity, when it is already clear
that research notes that adult exposure to these images has become the most common cause of erectile dysfunction in men less than 40.

It is so easy to understand that if adults become sexually excited by online videos (often of violent sexual assault), then a youth is even more vulnerable. It has become commonplace now, that therapists who treat children and adolescents with problematic sexual behaviors carefully explore exposure to adult Internet pornography as a major contributor to these behaviors.

Finally, children are harmed by adult Internet pornography when they begin the slippery slope of viewing this obscene content, and then begin to look for “someone who looks like me” content in the “barely legal” sites, finally ending in the more difficult to find peer-to-peer exchanges of online child abuse images. Once a youth has begun to download, trade and possess these illegal images, their life can be forever changed into one of incarceration and sex offender registration.

Having evaluated and testified regarding children who have been so egregiously harmed in this manner, I cannot state more emphatically, that this multi-billion dollar industry must be harnessed. To protect our children from the harm of adult Internet pornography is one of the most important steps that we can and must take.
Pornography is an act of prostitution. A survivor of prostitution explained, “Pornography is prostitution that is legalized as long as someone gets to take pictures.”

Pornography documents and facilitates trafficking.

Please don’t mystify the sex industry. Don’t assume it’s vastly different from other types of exploitation and human cruelty.

The real lives of those who are trafficked or prostituted or made into pornography are often indistinguishable from the real lives of victims of rape, incest, and intimate partner violence. The main difference is money. Profits turn sexual assault of children, rape, domestic violence, humiliation and sexual harassment, and pictures taken of those things into a business enterprise.

Like other global businesses, there are domestic and international sectors, marketing sectors, a range of physical locations out of which sex businesses operate. There are many different owners and managers, and the sex trafficking industry is constantly expanding as technology, law, and public opinion permit.

In the real world, from the perspective of the person in the sex trade—pornography, prostitution, and sex trafficking are the same.

More than 80% of the time, women in the sex industry are under pimp control—that is trafficking. Pornography meets the legal definition of trafficking if the pornographer recruits, entices, or obtains women for the purpose of photographing live commercial sex acts.

Women are coerced into pornography by deception, threats, or violence.

A survivor of pornography and prostitution explained that she had been pressured to do more extreme sex acts on film, was physically hurt, and was
raped on film—just the way women in prostitution are pressured by pimps and sex buyers to perform more harmful and dangerous sex acts.

Pornographers are specialty pimps who use pornography to advertise prostitution and to traffic women.

Backpage, which advertises and sells pornography, is owned by a Dutch company.

Last week the Massachusetts Attorney General said, “Most of the human trafficking cases that our office has prosecuted involve advertisements on Backpage.”

Here is an example of the links between pornography, prostitution and trafficking: Glenn Marcus ran a torture pornography website.

A woman was psychologically coerced by Marcus to permit pornography of her to be sold on Slavespace.com. She brought charges against Marcus who was her pimp/pornographer/trafficker—and torturer. At one point he stuffed a gag in her mouth, sewed her mouth shut and hung her on a wall.

Her attorneys used the following definition: **Sex trafficking is coercing or selling a person into a situation of sexual exploitation, such as prostitution or pornography.**

On March 5, 2007, pornographer Marcus was convicted of sex trafficking. This legal decision reflects a deepening understanding of the ways in which pornography, prostitution, and trafficking are the same for the person who is being sexually coerced and exploited for profit.

Another example: The convergence of different arms of the sex industry can be seen in a law enforcement action in Las Vegas. A sex business that looked like an office complex from the street, blended pornography production and trafficking with escort and webcam prostitution. On a webcam site, the sex buyer pays to chat with women who prostitute on streaming video, performing in real time what masturbating sex buyers pay them to do.

In this case, the pimp/pornographer rented six offices that functioned as Internet pornography businesses, and as cyber-prostitution via webcam, and a place where women were pimped out to hotels and to a brothel. As you know, Nevada has legal pimping in rurally zoned brothels, but prostitution in Las Vegas is illegal, so when the women were pimped to Las Vegas hotels, that is trafficking.
The same oppressive experiences channel women into pornography, prostitution, and trafficking.

Childhood abuse and neglect, a lack of quality education and job training opportunities, culturally mainstreamed misogyny, racism and poverty coerce women into the sex trade.

The same kinds of violence against women are perpetrated in pornography, prostitution, and trafficking.

Women in prostitution face a likelihood of weekly rape. A Canadian woman in prostitution said, “What is rape for others, is normal for us.” A woman at a Nevada legal brothel explained that legal prostitution was “like you sign a contract to be raped.”

The emotional consequences of prostitution and trafficking are the same in widely varying cultures whether it’s pornography or trafficking, high class or low class, legal or illegal, in a brothel, strip club, massage parlor, or the street.

Symptoms of emotional distress among those in sex businesses are off the charts: depression, suicidality, posttraumatic stress disorder, dissociation, substance abuse. Two-thirds of women, men and transgendered people in prostitution in nine countries met diagnostic criteria for posttraumatic stress disorder. This level of emotional distress is the same as the most emotionally traumatized people studied by psychologists—battered women, raped women, combat vets, and torture survivors.

Why do sex industry advocates de-link pornography, prostitution and trafficking?

The answer is because it increases profits. Disconnecting trafficking from prostitution and pornography normalizes most of the sex industry. Here’s how the de-linking works:

Every time an adjective is put in front of the word prostitution, pornography, or trafficking, it falsely carves out a group of human beings who we allow to be sold for sex. For example:

- Forced vs. voluntary trafficking: It’s assumed that some people volunteer to traffic themselves.

- Child vs. adult pornography: It’s assumed to be normal and mainstreamed to make pornography of adults.
• Illegal vs. legal prostitution: It’s assumed that legal prostitution reduces harm and thus it’s acceptable.

Did we de-link child from adult slavery? Did abolitionists focus on saving child slaves, leaving their parents behind? No we did not. Do we de-link various injuries in situations of domestic violence? Do advocates focus on only the most extreme cases and leave behind the woman who “only” has bruises but no broken bones? No we do not. Yes, pornography is a public health crisis. It’s time to start linking all arms of the hydra-headed sex industry, and understand that yes, individuals who are pornographized and trafficked and prostituted are harmed. And the sex industry also harms the rest of us. Sex business entrepreneurs count on our tolerance for social injustice. Your presence here tells me they made a mistake.
Introduction

Most people say that the hardest thing you will ever do is raise children. It is parent’s job to teach children how to be happy, healthy adults. Children need to learn the social rules about how and when to interact with others and with whom they should interact. They need to learn how to play and work and eat and take care of their health among a million other things. Parents are the first and the main source of teaching attitudes and behaviors and children are always watching and learning. It has been noted that children will not do what you say: they will do what you do. Children first watch their parents and then they watch their friends and then they watch the whole world. Media can bring that world to them. So children learn to do what they see and they learn to do what they see others get rewarded for. Whatever they practice they get good at.

But how do they learn about sexuality? Parents have an uncomfortable time discussing the topic with their children. In addition, for good reasons, children rarely observe the actual behavior. There are few sources of information about healthy attitudes, healthy behaviors, and the psychological and moral aspects of sexuality. Children and young adults naturally have an interest in learning about sexuality and someone will be teaching them. Who? What?

With the birth of the Internet and the almost universal exposure of children and young adults to Internet pornography this has become an overwhelmingly potent source of information about sex. It is potent because it comes in images: a picture is worth a thousand words. It is potent because it is arousing and we learn more deeply information that we are given when we are aroused. It is potent because there are role models showing the actual behavior that we almost never see in real life and it is potent because we see these people enjoying these behaviors and getting rewarded for them. Often the viewer is also rewarded by his or her own orgasm. Internet pornography
is an almost perfectly designed teaching and learning model. There is just one flaw in this almost perfect teaching and learning model and that is that close to 100% of what it teaches is a lie. Internet pornography shows behaviors that are toxic, hurtful, narcissistic, traumatizing, boundary crossing and untrue and shows them in a way that makes them totality believable, enticing and with no negative consequences.

The Internet tells the story about sexuality that makes you think that you can never have too much sex. It shows sex that is not about intimacy, caring, love or respect; not about marriage or having children. Internet pornography portrays sex as recreational, adversarial, non-intimate and anonymous. In Internet pornography you don’t need to know your partner and sex with strangers is portrayed as the best and most intense kind of sex. None of this is true about healthy sexuality, of course, but it seems true to the viewer because they have seen it with their own eyes in highly stimulating and physically rewarding pictures.

In addition, seeing others act sexually in these ways gives permission for the viewer to act these ways as well. Permission-giving beliefs are beliefs that make a person say what I am doing is normal, that everyone is doing it and since it doesn’t hurt anyone, I don’t need to stop or change my behavior. These permission-giving beliefs become releasers of the behaviors that we have seen.

So Internet pornography fills the vacuum of missing information about sexuality and exposes almost the entire population of children and young adults to massively potent misinformation about sexuality and then spreads permission-giving beliefs, which release the viewer to behave in a toxic and narcissistic way. No wonder psychologist’s call Internet pornography the new crack cocaine.

We have seen other societal problems arise in similar ways. The universal availability of cigarettes with smokers portrayed in media as popular, sexy, and having fun combined with the addictive nature of nicotine produced a public health crisis involving the deaths of 450,000 a year and a tobacco industry that made money by selling a product that killed people.

The universal availability of junk food mixed with media that showed happy, healthy, slim people enjoying fast food, or processed food with unhealthy ingredients, contributed to the public health crises of massive obesity.

Unhealthy products combined with stimulating and dishonest media targeting children and young adults by industries that care only about
making money produce problems too large for any one individual to fix and impossible for any one family to protect their loved ones from these problems. Sometimes families or the society will focus on repairing the symptoms and outcomes rather than focusing on the primary causes. You cannot fix these problems by pulling victims out of the river one at a time; sometimes, you have to go upstream and see who is pushing them in.

Internet pornography is sexual junk food and has made us sexually obese and the consequences are as varied and damaging and as impossible to contain as physical obesity.

Research on the impact of pornography

MALES: ATTITUDES

Research shows the impact of pornography on attitudes. Research finds that males who have been exposed to pornography are more likely to think that women enjoy rape, that she “got what she wanted” when she was raped, and that women make false accusations of rape. These males show more acceptance of the rape myth, which is a set of untrue beliefs about rape. Horrifyingly, these males are more accepting of violence against women and they begin to believe that rapists deserve less time in prison. Could it be that they no longer think that rape is a heinous crime?

Not surprisingly then, these males use more sexual terms to describe women, see women as sex objects and have reduced support for the women’s liberation movement. In addition, it affects their attitudes toward marriage, family, and raising children. Men who view pornography rate their partners as less attractive and they are less satisfied with their partner’s sexual performance. They have a greater desire for sex without emotional involvement. They have more sexually callous beliefs, have a greater acceptance of sex before marriage, and have a greater acceptance of sex outside of marriage for married individuals. What happens to marriages when partners begin to accept and expect that they will cheat?

It also dramatically shifts responses and reactions to and about children. Males who view pornography are less child centered during marriage, less desiring of having female children, more willing to have sex with thirteen to fourteen year olds, more sexually attracted to children, and less likely to think pornography needs to be restricted from children.

Even though I was aware of the many research findings showing diverse negative outcomes on male attitudes from the viewing of pornography, I was still surprised when my own research with young adult males showed that males who had increasing use of pornography had higher psychopath
scores. What happens to a society when all of our young adult males are exposed to material that has the potential to teach them to think and act like psychopaths?

**MALES: BEHAVIORS**

Research indicates that pornography not only produces these significant attitudes; it affects behavior as well. The permission-giving beliefs that pornography produces become releasers of attitudes to become behaviors. The underlying message of pornography that others are having fun, exciting, mind blowing, and consequence-free sex and that you are entitled to that as well is challenged by the research of sexual dysfunction. Those who use pornography are more likely to have erectile dysfunction, premature ejaculation and retarded ejaculation. Rather than making the male’s sex lives spectacular, these males are on the super highway to sexual crashing. In one study, 58% of male pornography users (average age twenty-five) had erectile dysfunction with women but not with pornography. Internet pornography is making a generation of men who can only have sex with pixels but not with people. They may have a greater desire for sex but they have a reduced ability to engage in sex in a healthy way.

Along with sexual dysfunction effects, research has also shown brain differences in males who use pornography. Less gray matter, less brain sensitivity to sexual stimuli, and less connectivity are all seen in male pornography users. In some functions, the brains of these adult pornography users resemble the brain reactions of teen brains with impulsive brain centers being more active than the more rational and “executive” brain centers.

Research on attitudes shows that male pornography users had attitudes that were more accepting of sex outside of marriage for married individuals. The behavioral research shows the comparable effect. Males who use pornography are more likely to have affairs if they are married. In addition, they are more likely to go to prostitutes adding an illegal aspect to their behavioral responses. In my own research, I found that almost 25% of nineteen to twenty-one-year-old males said that they had either gone to a prostitute already or planned to in the future. The more pornography these males used the more likely they were to have gone to a prostitute or say they would in the future. I also found that men who use pornography are more likely to go to strip clubs and men who go to strip clubs are more likely to engage in non-consenting sex than men who do not go to strip clubs.

Sexual violence is significantly connected to the use of pornography. In one research study, males who were exposed to a single media presentation of a mixture of sex with violence later used violent sexual fantasies to get
them aroused. Pornography users are more likely to sexually harass women, sexually abuse partners whom they have battered, and engage in date rape, stranger rape and marital rape. They are more likely to verbally coerce sex, physically coerce sex, and use drugs and alcohol to coerce sex. In my own research, I found that the earlier male children are exposed to pornography, the more likely they are to engage in non-consensual sex as young adults.

Malamuth has identified three factors that are connected to sexual violence: hostility toward women; beliefs that sex is a casual, non-intimate, recreational, adversarial behavior; and the use of pornography. It is my contention that all three of these factors are connected to pornography use. Pornography increases hostility toward women and spreads the beliefs that sex is casual, non-intimate, recreational and adversarial. The use of pornography produces the other two factors.

Statistics on sexual violence show it affects millions of people. One in five women are raped in their lifetime, which translates to almost 22 million women. On college campuses, 25% of women experience either a rape or an attempted rape during their four years in college. By the time a female is eighteen years old, 38% have been sexually molested. The vast majority of these crimes go unreported to authorities.

In addition, most males who engage in non-consenting sex do so repeatedly. Looking at both a college sample and a military sample found that 63–71% of males who perpetrated non-consenting sex had perpetrated multiple times.

**FE MALES: ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOR**

It is not just males who are affected by pornography. There is less research on females but many of the outcomes seen in females are either similar to the outcomes seen in males or are the flip side.

Females who were exposed to pornography as children are more likely to accept the rape myth and are more likely to have sexual fantasies that involve rape. Adult females who have been exposed to pornography were more negative about their bodies and think their partners are more critical of their bodies. Females, similar to the males, have reduced support for the women’s liberation movement. Also similar to the males, females think rapists deserve less time in prison. In my own research, I found that the more pornography young adult females use the more likely they are to become victims of non-consensual sex.
CHILDREN: ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOR
Minors who have been exposed to sexualized media (both pornographic and mildly sexualized media) show numerous negative outcomes and many of them are similar to the adult effects. It affects their attitudes and they have higher sexual permissiveness scores. It affects their sexual behaviors including earlier initiation of their first sexual experience, having sexual activity more frequently, having more sex partners, and having multiple lifetime sexual partners. They are more likely to have engaged in sexual intercourse, oral sex, and anal sex. This increased sexual activity is combined with a more negative attitude about contraception and a reduced use as well. Research indicates that minors exposed to sexualized media have a more negative attitude toward using condoms, have not used contraception during the last intercourse, and have not used contraception in the past six months. Instead they are more likely to have used alcohol or other substances at last sexual encounter. In addition, they are more likely to test positive for chlamydia. It changes their point of view on pregnancy and they have a stronger desire to conceive and unfortunately, they are more likely to become pregnant.

It changes their point of view on women and they have less progressive gender role attitudes and are more likely to see women as sex objects. Finally and tragically, it affects sexual violence behaviors in these minors. They are more accepting of sexual harassment and are more likely to engage in it. They are more likely to engage in forced sex and more likely to be a juvenile sex offender. Are there any effects of pornography that we were hoping for our children?

Public Health Crisis
The glut of Internet pornography sends the message that you can never have too much sex; there is no toxic sex, no damaging sex, no traumatic sex. It tells us that the sexual activity that we consume with our eyes on the Internet is normal, hurts no one, and is done by everyone. This produces permission-giving beliefs that move our attitudes into behavior. The research tells a different story. Research indicates that exposure to Internet pornography has a massive impact on attitudes and then on behaviors in the areas of marriage, family, children, sexual violence, and other crimes like prostitution.

In addition, the number of people who are exposed is massive. In some age groups there is nearly universal exposure to this potent toxin. According to the last census there were 33 million males between the ages of ten to
twenty-four. It is my belief that we are approaching nearly 100% exposure of that group. However, these 33 million are just a portion of those who are exposed because it does not include young adult females or the majority of older adult males who are also massively exposed.

Parents on their own cannot protect their children. Even if they could decide to avoid their own personal exposure and effectively implement that, even if they could make a decision to protect their children and effectively implement that, they still would not be protected. The others who choose to expose themselves to this toxin become carriers of these attitudes and behaviors. They carry this contamination back into their homes, onto their jobs, onto the street, into the schoolyard.

The sexual exploitation industry is making money from pornographic websites on the Internet that hurt men, women and children. They make money by teaching our boys to think and act like psychopaths. They make money by turning our girls into victims. They are serving men, women and children the sexual junk food. They will not easily be convinced to stop.

This means that this Internet contamination cannot be neutralized on the individual level. This is a problem that must be confronted on the societal level. Sexual obesity is a true public health crisis.

Finally

The philosopher Roger Scruton has described the problems caused by pornography in a more poetic way. He said that the real problem with pornography is that “it threatens the loss of love in a world where only love brings happiness.” We have eaten the sexual junk food, have become sexually obese and we have missed the feast that sex was supposed to be. Love is the feast. Don’t miss the feast.


Sexual Exploitation:  
Connecting the Dots in Real Life

Ed Smart  
Activist and father of kidnap victim, Elizabeth Smart  
President of The Surviving Parents Coalition  
Director of Prevention and Rehabilitation, 
Operation Underground Railroad

I am here today testifying as a father, President of the Surviving Parents Coalition and as the Director of Prevention and Rehabilitation for Operation Underground Railroad.

Brian David Mitchell my daughter’s captor grew up in a middle class family. At a young age he was exposed to pornography by his father. He told Elizabeth that his father loved pornography and had enjoyed it his entire life. Mitchell said that he loved it too. His father didn’t seem to think there was anything wrong with a little healthy exposure for his son. At such a young age it appeared to have piqued his interest beginning the slippery slope that pushed him to take the next step to experiment. It resulted in a complaint filed against him for molestation of the girl next door. The juvenile court found him another troubled youth.

He shared with Elizabeth that during his senior year in high school he stuck his hand down a girl’s shirt. He was always excited to see what he could get away with; it was a challenge. The girl didn’t report it and he was never reprimanded.

Pornography appeared to have encouraged further experimentation. The use of pornography followed him into his married life, accusations of abuse and pornography by his stepchildren and children were made. Law enforcement attributed the accusations to a bad divorce. Further investigation confirmed such abuse had occurred substantiated by a clinical exam. What reconfirmed the issue of pornography was his stepdaughter’s testimony during the trial of our daughter’s kidnapping. His stepdaughter testified of him exposing her to pornography in bed. Was it just exposure? Or was it an effort to normalize his behavior, to desensitize his victims, and to make them feel that this is a normal activity of life, no harm done.
His insatiable appetite for sex called for multiple partners and, of course, his excuse became belabored with, “God wants me to experience all” and “you must experience the worst to enjoy the best”. The night he abducted Elizabeth he told her, “I have a knife at your throat. Don’t say a word or I will kill you and your family.” Is this the end result of an innocent exposure to pornography? Did this desire lead him to break into our home in the middle of the night when everyone was at home? Who would take such a risk and why? It seemed inconceivable to me.

Elizabeth was a fourteen-year-old girl when she was kidnapped. During the time she was gone she was repeatedly raped, molested, abused, tortured, terrified, threatened, tormented, lied to, cabled between two trees withholding the basic necessities of life, and forced to look at pornography as both an example of what he wanted and also a way to normalize his actions. She had to do many things against her will and beliefs. Elizabeth said that she “felt like the dirt on the ground, broken and of little worth.” It made her question her self-worth and how people would look at her and treat her. “Who could love me after that?” she had thought. After thinking about it she determined her family would love her, regardless of anyone else. She decided that she would do whatever was necessary to survive.

Mitchell used many of the typical tactics of predators: vulnerability, manipulation, coercion, and grooming.

During our family’s nine-month ordeal, my wife Lois and I learned many things. Some of them we didn’t particularly want to know, especially when it came to thinking about what our daughter might be going through. We learned that one of the main reasons children are abducted is for sexual exploitation whether abducted for one person’s sexual exploitation or trafficked for multiple persons’ exploitation.

During her captivity Elizabeth was repeatedly exposed to his pornography on a regular basis. She said Mitchell loved it and couldn’t get enough.

She recounted another experience while they were in California just outside of Lakeside. As they were hiking up a mountain side trying to find a new camp they came across a cave like crevice that might act as a shelter. He had Elizabeth crawl into it. As she got into it, she found a pornographic magazine and crawled right back out. Because of her concerned excitement he wanted to know what the problem was. She told him that she had found a pornographic magazine and she wanted out. She said he hurried back in there and brought it out. For days he devoured it. The use of pornography appeared to have had profound affect upon Brian David Mitchell.
The build up of the excitement from viewing this pornographic material put him on the prowl once again for his next victim. This greed and lust resulted in an unsuccessful attempt when he was almost caught, sending him on an alcoholic binge to console his failure.

Elizabeth has commented many times that what would have been even worse than being raped is the thought that it might be recorded in the virtual world for everyone to view.

This feeling has been confirmed by many other survivors of abduction who have experienced the nightmare of not knowing where or when their picture or video would pop up and further victimize them.

Alicia Kozakiewicz is another outstanding survivor/advocate stated: “Before the trial the FBI needed me to identify myself in the videos. I had to watch myself being tortured. Being abused is indescribable, but to see it through the eyes of your abuser is another thing entirely. That’s why I now fight so hard against child exploitation. I know how it feels to have people watch your suffering and enjoy it.”

Families are torn apart by pornography which has become unfortunately far too common, especially with the use of their own children as the new pornography. Two crimes are then being committed: First, the child being raped and second, posting the rape on the Internet.

One of my other good friends came home to find the FBI besieging her home. Unaware of the abuse her daughter had been put through by her father, he would then post it on the Internet, leaving an almost eternal trail of sexual exploitation. The devastation and destruction of the family is unbelievable.

Being in charge of prevention and rehabilitation at Operation Underground Railroad has given me a unique opportunity of hearing about the use of pornography in trafficking on a global basis. It is such an integral part of trafficking being used from both the supply and demand sides. Many of our operation missions occur under the disguise of being a sex party focusing on the youngest of children or virgins if possible.

We had a number of missions down in Columbia this past year and had invited five of our partners to Salt Lake. Two of them were women that deal with the children. Part of their job is to conduct prosecutorial interviews and assessments to collect information. I asked them, “What role does pornography play in pimping of sexual trafficking victims?” One woman said,
“It comes up as having been viewed by all the children in every case. Once again it is used to instruct the kids on what to do for the clients and also to desensitize the children so that the children aren’t as traumatized by what they’re forced to do. Pornography drives the demand side [i.e., individual sexual exploiters and commercial sex buyers] to experiment further. No longer are they satisfied just looking, but must experience what they have seen.”

OUR is currently furthering the development of software used for tracking those who are trading child pornography. The commonality of these experiences is that pornography provides the slippery slope to take the next step to abuse and exploitation.
The brains of young children are being bombarded with graphic, extreme Internet pornography, causing significant harm. The average age of first exposure to Internet pornography is twelve years old and is declining. By age ten, 32% of children have been exposed to pornography. Also, 53% of boys and 28% of girls ages 12–15 use sexually explicit pornography via the Internet.

This situation is exacerbated by the fact that on today’s Internet, and so-called “soft porn” has largely disappeared. Today, the content is increasingly extreme, graphic, often violent, and degrades and humiliates females in particular. A recent study found that 88% of top-rated porn scenes contain physical aggression and 49% verbal aggression, with 94% of the targets of that aggression being female.

This phenomenon is also fueled by the explosion of free porn sites, which serve as pathways to the commercial pornography industry. New York Magazine reported that ten years ago total daily adult site traffic averaged less than 1 million unique visitors on the entire Internet; today, the free pornography tube sites alone get 42 million unique visitors every day.

This is a particular problem today when the Internet is no longer tethered to a PC on a desk at home. Today, children carry the Internet around in their hands via mobile devices. A recent Cisco report estimated that mobile data traffic will increase 11-fold between today and 2018.

Thirty years ago, we could zone pornography off, regulate it, deny access to children, require that plain brown wrappers cover material, and cover the windows to prevent inadvertent display. In the Internet era, we can’t do that anymore.

Today, you will hear from some of the leading scholars, researchers and experts in this field regarding what we know, what the challenges are and how significant the damage is that is being done to our children.
But my question for Congress is, “Why is finding a solution so difficult?” My answer is threefold:

1. **Our laws have failed.** Congress tried to address this problem at least three times: Through the 1996 Communications Decency Act; the 1998 Child Online Protection Act; and the 1999 Children’s Internet Pornography Act. Yet, most of that legislation was struck down by the courts as an unconstitutional infringement on free speech.

2. **Our efforts to educate parents on ways to protect their children from this kind of content have failed.** Internet companies and NGOs have tried to educate parents and persuade them to use the tools that are readily available today. Yet, just 28% of parents have installed filtering software, just 17% on mobile devices, and only 15% on gaming consoles. Over the past twenty years we have made great progress in educating children and families in how to use the Internet safely and responsibly. However, in the area of protecting children from exposure to graphic, extreme content, we have failed miserably.

3. **Obscenity prosecutions have declined dramatically.** With the advent of the Internet, we have seen a marked decline in obscenity prosecutions. Obscenity is not protected speech, but in order to be deemed “obscene,” content must be adjudicated. The Supreme Court established a three-part obscenity test in the 1973 case, Miller v. California:

   - Whether “the average person, applying contemporary community standards” would find that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest;
   - Whether the work depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct or excretory functions specifically defined by applicable state law; and
   - Whether the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value.

   Today, in this era of the Internet, some question whether community standards mean the same for Internet distribution as for distribution by other means and whether in light of the extreme, dehumanizing content that appears regularly on Internet sites, anything can be held to be “obscene.” Given the public health crisis we are discussing today and the emergence of content far beyond what used to be prosecuted under obscenity law, my hope is that public officials at all levels will reexamine the
use of obscenity prosecutions as at least one element of a comprehensive strategy.

However, even in light of the challenges we face, I am convinced that there are other options we should explore. Let me suggest one:

**Default Filtering**

On July 22, 2013, UK Prime Minister David Cameron spoke about an issue that is “hard for our society to confront, that is frankly difficult for politicians to talk about, but that I believe we need to address as a matter of urgency.” Prime Minister Cameron explained that the issue is “the Internet, the impact it is having on the innocence of our children and how online pornography is corroding childhood.”

He called upon British Internet companies to take voluntary action to provide default filtering for all users. He approached this not as a limitation on free speech—those who want to access pornography can still get it. But instead of depending on parents to adopt and implement available filtering tools, he urged the Internet companies to provide these tools for them automatically, unless users opt out of receiving them.

Today, the four major British ISPs—British Telecom, BSkyB, Talk Talk, and Virgin—are implementing default-filtering. British households are being contacted by their Internet service provider to specify whether they want to activate the “family friendly filters.” For those who do not state a preference, the filters are automatically switched on by their service provider.

In January 2015, Sky Broadband switched on its “Shield” filter for every one of its 5.3 million users, with those wishing to access pornography needing to explicitly “opt-out” of the filter. Thus, the UK does not deny access to adults who seek to access the content; it only seeks to deny it to children.

The UK initiative is not without critics. Recently, the Council of the European Union proposed measures to stop mobile phone and Internet providers from being able to automatically block pornography. Thus, in all likelihood this battle has only just begun.

Nonetheless, recognizing the experience of the past twenty years, it is inescapable that educating parents is not enough and will not work, and that congressional action may not meet the test of constitutionality. Thus,
a voluntary, industry-driven initiative like the British model would seem to have potential for the United States and other countries.

As Internet pornography has become more extreme, we are seeing growing demand for action from all parts of the political and philosophical spectrum. We hear it from feminist leaders who see extreme porn as an assault on women and their rights, and have concerns that the content affects the way boys (soon-to-be men) view women, relationships and sexuality. And we hear similar concerns from the anti-obscenity, family values community.

We all embrace the ideal of free speech and a free, unfettered Internet. Yet, there are limits. Unless we better protect our children, we will see future generations of damaged adults and societal disruption. One prominent researcher called the inundation of young children with extreme Internet pornography as “the single, largest unregulated social experiment in history.” We have to confront this emerging reality and develop real solutions that maximize individual freedom but better protect our children.

My message to Congress today is that we need leadership and we need action. The British model offers one creative option that does not require a statutory mandate and that engages industry in finding a solution that will work. But if that is not the best solution, we must find another one.

The use of the Internet is changing, the challenges are increasing, and the children of America and the world are at greater risk than ever before. We need to take action.
Summaries of Key Research on Pornography

Impact on the Brain

Pornography Addiction – A Supranormal Stimulus Considered in the Context of Neuroplasticity
Publication: Socioeffective Neuroscience & Psychology
Author: Donald Hilton, MD
Date: 07/19/2013

Addiction has been a divisive term when applied to various compulsive sexual behaviors (CSBs), including obsessive use of pornography.

Findings: Evidence increasingly supports the description of CSBs as an addiction. This evidence is multifaceted and is based on an evolving understanding of the role of the neuronal receptor in addiction-related neuroplasticity, supported by the historical behavioral perspective. This addictive effect may be amplified by the accelerated novelty and the ‘supranormal stimulus’ (a phrase coined by Nikolaas Tinbergen) factor afforded by Internet pornography.

Natural and Drug Rewards Act on Common Neural Plasticity Mechanisms with FosB as a Key Mediator
Publication: The Journal of Neuroscience (Vol. 33, Iss. 8)
Author: Kyle K. Pitchers, Vincent Vialou, Eric J. Nestler, Steven R. Laviolette, Michael N. Lehman, and Lique M. Coolen
Date: 02/20/2013

This study tests evidence that suggests natural rewards may induce neuroplasticity in the natural reward pathway, specifically the nucleus accumbens (NAc), thereby causing development and expression of addictive behavior.

Findings: The sexual experience in male rats when followed by short or prolonged periods of loss of sex reward causes enhanced amphetamine reward. The onset, but not the longer-term expression, of enhanced amphetamine reward was correlated with a transient increase in dendritic spines in the NAc. These findings demonstrate that drugs of abuse and natural reward behaviors act on common molecular and cellular mechanisms of plasticity that control vulnerability to addiction.
Pornography Addiction: A Neuroscience Perspective
Publication: *Surgical Neurology International* (Vol. 2, Iss. 19)
Author: Donald L. Hilton, Jr and Clark Watts
Date: 02/21/2011

Commentary by leading neurosurgeons that seeks to encourage an examination by medicine in general and the clinical neuroscience specialties specifically of the role for medical treatment in the management of the addictive nature of the pathology of pornography. While noting the huge contribution by the industry of the physical material of pornography that will need to be addressed through nonmedical resources, it also suggests a place for medicine in management of the addiction.

Impulsive-Compulsive Sexual Behavior
Publication: *CNS Spectrums* (Vol. 11, Iss. 12)
Author: Thomas M. Mick and Eric Hollander
Date: 11/09/2006

An argument for the classification of impulsive-compulsive sexual behavior by the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM). Information is presented regarding its diagnostic criteria, epidemiology, types of behavior it can involve, relationship to hypersexuality, comorbidities, treatment, and etiology. The specific harms of pornography use are discussed.

Neural Correlates of Sexual Cue Reactivity in Individuals with and without Compulsive Sexual Behaviours
Publication: *PLOS ONE* (Vol. 9, Iss. 7)
Date: 07/11/2014

The processing of cues of varying sexual content was assessed in individuals with and without compulsive sexual behaviour (CSB), focusing on neural regions identified in prior studies of drug-cue reactivity.

Findings: Compared to healthy volunteers, CSB subjects had greater subjective sexual desire or wanting to explicit cues and had greater liking scores to erotic cues, thus demonstrating a dissociation between wanting and liking. CSB subjects also had greater impairments of sexual arousal and erectile difficulties in intimate relationships but not with sexually explicit materials highlighting that the enhanced desire scores were specific to the explicit cues and not generalized heightened sexual desire.
Brain Structure and Functional Connectivity Associated With Pornography Consumption: The Brain on Porn
Publication: *JAMA Psychiatry*
Author: Simone Kühn, Jürgen Gallinat
Date: 05/28/2014

Findings: A significant negative association between reported pornography hours per week and gray matter volume in the right caudate (P < .001, corrected for multiple comparisons) as well as with functional activity during a sexual cue–reactivity paradigm in the left putamen (P < .001). Functional connectivity of the right caudate to the left dorsolateral prefrontal cortex was negatively associated with hours of pornography consumption.

Chapter 4: “Acquiring Tastes and Loves: What Neuroplasticity Teaches Us About Sexual Attraction and Love”
Publication: *The Brain That Changes Itself*
Author: Norman Doidge, MD
Date: 2007

These pages of *The Brain That Changes Itself* by psychiatrist Norman Doidge are very relevant to porn addiction, and explain how Internet porn tastes escalate (a phenomenon that addiction experts call “tolerance“). Here are some excerpts from the chapter:

“By hijacking our dopamine system, addictive substances give us pleasure without our having to work for it... An important link with porn is that dopamine is also released in sexual excitement, increasing the sex drive in both sexes, facilitating orgasm, and activating the brain’s pleasure centers. Hence the addictive power of pornography.”

Inferring Sexually Deviant Behavior From Corresponding Fantasies: The Role of Personality and Pornography Consumption
Publication: *Criminal Justice and Behavior: An International Journal* (Vol. 36, Iss. 2)
Author: Kevin M. Williams, Barry S. Cooper, Teresa M. Howell, John C. Yuille, Delroy L. Paulhus
Date: 12/01/2008

Undergraduate males reported their deviant sexual fantasies, deviant sexual behaviors, and pornography use and were evaluated for psychopathy. Deviant sexual fantasies were significantly correlated with deviant sexual behaviors. Current pornography users had higher deviant sexual fantasy scores and higher deviant sexual behavior scores than non-users. The influence of deviant sexual fantasies on behavior was stronger for individuals high in psychopathy.
Narcissism and Internet Pornography Use
Publication: *Journal of Sex & Marital Therapy* (Vol. 41, Iss. 5)
Author: Thomas Edward Kaspera, Mary Beth Shorta & Alex Clinton Milam
Date: 09/10/2014

This study examined the relation between Internet pornography use and narcissism. Participants (N=257) completed an online survey that included questions on Internet pornography use and 3 narcissism measures (i.e., Narcissistic Personality Inventory, Pathological Narcissistic Inventory, and the Index of Sexual Narcissism).

Findings: The hours spent viewing Internet pornography was positively correlated to participants’ narcissism level. In addition, those who have ever used Internet pornography endorsed higher levels of all 3 measures of narcissism than did those who have never used Internet pornography.

Connections to Violence

Pornography Viewing among Fraternity Men: Effects on Bystander Intervention, Rape Myth Acceptance and Behavioral Intent to Commit Sexual Assault
Publication: *Sexual Addiction & Compulsivity*
Author: John D. Foubert, Matt W. Brosi, R. Sean Bannon
Date: 11/28/2011

Findings: College men’s exposure to pornography is nearly universal, with growing viewing rates nationwide. Substantial research documents the harmful effects of mainstream, sadomasochistic, and rape pornography on men’s attitudes and behavior related to sexual assault. The present study surveyed 62% of the fraternity population at a Midwestern public university on their pornography viewing habits, bystander efficacy, and bystander willingness to help in potential rape situations. Results showed that men who view pornography are significantly less likely to intervene as a bystander, report an increased behavioral intent to rape, and are more likely to believe rape myths.

Repeated Exposure to Violent and Nonviolent Pornography: Likelihood of Raping Ratings and Laboratory Aggression Against Women
Publication: *Aggressive Behavior* (Vol. 12, Iss. 2)
Author: Neil M. Malamuth, Joseph Ceniti
Date: 02/13/2006
This study examined the relatively long-term effects of repeated exposure to violent and nonviolent pornography on males’ laboratory aggression against women.

Findings: Exposure to the violent or nonviolent pornographic stimuli was found to affect laboratory aggression. These data are discussed in terms of a recent analysis of media effects emphasizing the temporary activation of ideas in audiences’ minds. Likelihood of raping ratings was found to predict laboratory aggression.

Pornography and Attitudes Supporting Violence Against Women: Revisiting the Relationship in Non-experimental Studies
Publication: Aggressive Behavior (Vol. 36, Iss. 1)
Author: Gert Martin Hald, Neil M. Malamuth, and Carlin Yuen
Date: 10/27/2009

A meta-analysis was conducted to determine whether non-experimental studies revealed an association between men’s pornography consumption and their attitudes supporting violence against women. The meta-analysis corrected problems with a previously published meta-analysis and added more recent findings.

Findings: The results showed an overall significant positive association between pornography use and attitudes supporting violence against women in non-experimental studies. In addition, such attitudes were found to correlate significantly higher with the use of sexually violent pornography than with the use of nonviolent pornography, although the latter relationship was also found to be significant. The study resolves what appeared to be a troubling discordance in the literature on pornography and aggressive attitudes by showing that the conclusions from non-experimental studies in the area are in fact fully consistent with those of their counterpart experimental studies. This finding has important implications for the overall literature on pornography and aggression.

Aggression and Sexual Behavior in Best-Selling Pornography Videos: A Content Analysis Update
Publication: Violence Against Women (Vol.16, Iss. 10)
Author: Ana J. Bridges, Robert Wosnitzer, Erica Scharrer, Chyng Sun, and Rachael Liberman
Date: 10/01/2010

This current study analyzes the content of popular pornographic videos, with the objectives of updating depictions of aggression, degradation, and sexual
practices and comparing the study's results to previous content analysis studies.

Findings: High levels of aggression in pornography in both verbal and physical forms. Of the 304 scenes analyzed, 88.2% contained physical aggression, principally spanking, gagging, and slapping, while 48.7% of scenes contained verbal aggression, primarily name-calling. Perpetrators of aggression were usually male, whereas targets of aggression were overwhelmingly female. Targets most often showed pleasure or responded neutrally to the aggression.

Predicting Sexual Aggression: The Role of Pornography in the Context of General and Specific Risk Factors
Publication: Aggressive Behavior (Vol. 33, Iss. 2)
Author: Vanessa Vega, Neil M. Malamuth
Date: 12/29/2006

Findings: Even after controlling for the contributions of risk factors associated with general antisocial behavior and those used in Confluence Model research as specific predictors of sexual aggression, we found that High pornography consumption added significantly to the prediction of sexual aggression. Further analyses revealed that the predictive utility of pornography was due to its discriminative ability only among men classified (based on their other risk characteristics) at relatively high risk for sexual aggression. Other analyses indicated that the specific risk factors accounted for more variance in sexual aggression than the general risk factors and mediated the association between the general risk factors and sexual aggression.

Men's Likelihood of Sexual Aggression: The Influence of Alcohol, Sexual Arousal, and Violent Pornography
Publication: Aggressive Behavior (Vol. 32, Iss. 6)
Author: Kelly Cue Davis, Jeanette Norris, William H. George, Joel Martell, and Julia R. Heiman
Date: 10/17/2006

Findings: A path analytic model illustrated that participants’ self-reported likelihood of behaving like the sexual aggressor in the story was directly related to their own sexual arousal. Heightened sexual arousal was reported by participants who had consumed alcohol and who believed that drinking women are sexually vulnerable. Results suggest that sexual arousal to violent pornography, as influenced by acute alcohol intoxication and other factors, may be an important component of men’s perceptions of their own sexual aggression likelihood.
When Words Are Not Enough: The Search for the Effect of Pornography on Abused Women
Publication: Violence Against Women (Vol. 10, Iss. 1)
Author: Janet Hinson Shope
Date: 1/2004

Using data obtained from 271 women who were participating in a battered women’s program, this study examined whether the abusive partner’s use of pornography increased the probability that the women would be sexually abused by a partner.

Findings: The use of pornography (by the batterer) significantly increases a battered woman’s odds of being sexually abused. Use of pornography and alcohol increases the odds of sexual abuse. Pornography alone increases the odds by a factor of almost 2 and the combination of pornography and alcohol increases the odds of sexual abuse by a factor of 3.

Linking Male Use of the Sex Industry to Controlling Behaviors in Violent Relationships: An Exploratory Analysis
Publication: Violence Against Women (Vol. 14, Iss. 4)
Author: Catherine A. Simmons, Peter Lehmann, Shannon Collier-Tenison
Date: 4/2008

A total of 2,135 female residents of a shelter for victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) were interviewed about batterers’ use of the sex industry (i.e. pornography and strip clubs) and the men’s controlling behaviors, so as to compare the controlling behaviors of men who did and did not use the sex industry.

Findings: Males who are involved with interpersonal violence in their relationships and who use pornography and go to strip clubs use more controlling behaviors with their partners. These males engage in more sexual abuse, stalking and marital rape than abusers who do not use pornography and go to strip clubs.

Exploring the Connection Between Pornography and Sexual Violence
Publication: Violence and Victims (Vol. 15, Iss. 3)
Author: Raquel Kennedy Bergen, Kathleen A. Bogle
Date: 1/1/2000

This study was conducted to further delineate the relationship between pornography and sexual violence against women. Data about women’s experiences of sexual violence and their abusers’ use of pornography were collected at a rape crisis center from 100 survivors.
Findings: Pornography is clearly implicated in some of the abusive experiences of women in this sample. Subjects were 100 women who presented to a rape crisis center. 28% said that their abuser used pornography; 58% did not know if he used pornography or not. Of those whose abuser used pornography, 40% said the pornography was part of the abuse incident being used either during the abuse or just prior to it and 43% said that it affected the nature of the abuse. None of them thought it decreased the frequency of the abuse; 21% thought it increased the frequency of the abuse and 14% believed it increased the level of violence. In fact, 18% thought their abuser became more sadistic with the use of pornography. Of the total sample, 12% said the abuser imitated the pornography and 14% said someone had tried to force them to do something they had seen in pornography.

Risk Factors for Male Sexual Aggression on College Campuses
Publication: Violence and Victims (Vol. 15, Iss. 3)
Author: Joetta L. Carr, Karen M. VanDeusen
Date: 1/1/2000

Participants were 99 undergraduate men with an average age of 20 years. Sexual aggression measured by the Sexual Experiences Survey was correlated with higher scores on the Rape Myth Acceptance Scale, the Acceptance of Interpersonal Violence scale, the Adversarial Sexual Beliefs scale, the Sex-Role Stereotyping scale, the Sexual Conservatism scale, the Hostility Toward Women scale, pornography use and alcohol use. Regression analyses indicated that these gender attitudes, pornography use, and alcohol abuse were significant predictors of perpetration of sexual violence.

Use Of Pornography and Self-Reported Engagement in Sexual Violence Among Adolescents
Publication: European Journal of Developmental Psychology (Vol. 3, Iss. 3)
Author: Silvia Bonino, Silvia Ciairanoa, Emanuela Rabagliettia, Elena Cattelino
Date: 09/2006

Findings: Reading and viewing pornographic material (magazines, comics, films and videos) was linked to perpetrating sexual violence (both sexual harassment and forced sex) for both male and female adolescents. Reading and viewing pornographic material was linked to being a victim of sexual violence (both sexual harassment and forced sex) for female adolescents. Reading and viewing pornographic material was linked to being the victim of forced sex for male adolescents.
This study examined the unique contribution of pornography consumption to the longitudinal prediction of criminal recidivism in a sample of 341 child molesters.

Findings: After controlling for general and specific risk factors for sexual aggression, pornography added significantly to the prediction of recidivism. Statistical interactions indicated that frequency of pornography use was primarily a risk factor for higher-risk offenders, when compared with lower-risk offenders, and that content of pornography (i.e., pornography containing deviant content) was a risk factor for all groups. For those who viewed deviant pornography, the predicted odds of criminal recidivism increased by 177%, the predicted odds for violent (including sexual) recidivism increased by 185%, and the predicted odds of sexual recidivism was 233%.

Effect on Children

Emerging Patterns and Trends Report #1: Youth-Produced Sexual Content
Publication: Internet Watch Foundation
Author: Internet Watch Foundation, in partnership with Microsoft
Date: 03/10/2015

Findings: The study found an increasing trend for the distribution of sexually explicit content produced by younger children using laptop webcams, which, due to the nature of the technology used, they are aware is being shared with at least one other party.

- 17.5% of content depicted children aged 15 years or younger.
- 85.9% of content depicting children aged 15 or younger was created using a webcam.
- 93.1% of the content depicting children aged 15 or younger featured girls.
- 46.9% of content depicting children aged 15 years or younger was
Category A or B5 compared to 27.6% of content in the 16-20 years age range.

- 89.9% of the total images and videos assessed as part of the Study had been harvested from the original upload location and were being redistributed on third party websites.

**The Associations Between Adolescents’ Consumption of Pornography and Music Videos and Their Sexting Behavior**

Publication: *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking* (Vol. 17, No. 12)  
Author: Joris Van Ouytsel, Koen Ponnet, and Michel Walrave  
Date: 12/01/2014

The purpose of this study was to investigate whether music video and pornography consumption are able to predict a range of sexting behaviors among a sample of 329 adolescents with a mean age of 16.71 years (SD = 0.74).

Findings: Sexting behaviors were significantly associated with the consumption of pornography, when controlling for age, gender, school track, and Internet use. Taking into account the gender of the adolescents, the significant relationship between engagement in the four types of sexting behavior and pornography use held true for both boys and girls. Music video consumption was only significantly associated with asking someone for a sexting message and having received a sexting message. Further analyses revealed that these significant relationships only held for boys.

**Pornography’s Impact on Male Adolescents**

Publication: *Adolescent Medicine: State of the Art Reviews* (Vol. 4, No. 3)  
Author: Neil M. Malamuth  
Date: 10/15/2010

Findings:
1. Exposure to certain media presentations may affect people’s attitudes and perceptions, even if the audience is well aware that the media depictions are fiction;
2. Exposure to fictionalized portrayals of sexually violent messages in the media may, like some other media content, affect people’s attitudes;
3. The effects of the messages may differ depending on the presence or absence of sexually arousing stimuli;
4. Research on sexually violent media may be applicable to other media that do not contain sexual violence; and
5. Once negative attitudes have been formed, they may not easily be reversed by educational interventions.

Anal Heterosex Among Young People and Implications for Health Promotion: A Qualitative Study in the UK
Publication: BMJ Open
Author: Cicely Marston, Ruth Lewis
Date: 07/18/2014

To explore expectations, experiences and circumstances of anal sex among young people.

Findings: Anal heterosex often appeared to be painful, risky and coercive, particularly for women. Interviewees frequently cited pornography as the ‘explanation’ for anal sex, yet their accounts revealed a complex context with availability of pornography being only one element. Other key elements included competition between men; the claim that ‘people must like it if they do it’ (made alongside the seemingly contradictory expectation that it will be painful for women); and, crucially, normalisation of coercion and ‘accidental’ penetration. It seemed that men were expected to persuade or coerce reluctant partners.

Impact of Exposure to Sexually Explicit and Exploitative Materials
Publication: National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation
Date: 12/01/2013

As electronic information sharing increases, parents must consider that their child may be exposed to sexually explicit and inappropriate content and the impact these materials may have on youth and adolescents. The National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation encourages parents to have on-going dialogue with their children about materials they might encounter, explain possible consequences, as well as consistently monitor their children’s electronic activities. This fact sheet studies children’s exposure to sexually explicit material and sexual exploitation.

Internet Porn Is an Experiment in Dehumanization
Publication: The Los Angeles Times
Author: David Horsey
Date: 12/15/2014

“You do not have to be a prude to worry about porn. Thanks to the Internet, Americans have been pushed, unwittingly, into a vast social experiment.
testing whether unfettered access to the most freakish and foul pornography will warp sexual relations for generations to come.”

**Linking Exposure to Outcomes: Early Adolescents’ Consumption of Sexual Content in Six Media**  
Publication: *Mass Communication & Society* (Vol. 8, Iss. 2)  
Author: Carol J. Pardun, Kelly Ladin L'Engle, Jane D. Brown  
Date: 2005

A media-use questionnaire was completed by 3,261 7th and 8th graders and a subsample of 1,074 respondents was interviewed about their sexual attitudes and behaviors.

Findings: Overall, 11% of the media used by respondents’ contained sexual content. The respondents’ Sexual Media Diet (SMD) showed a statistically significant association with adolescents’ sexual activity and future intentions to be sexually active, with measures of movie and music exposure showing the strongest associations.

**Web Pornography’s Effect on Children**  
Publication: American Psychological Association  
Author: Tori DeAngelis  
Date: 11/01/2007

Findings: The more often young people sought out online porn, the more likely they were to have a “recreational” attitude toward sex—specifically, to view sex as a purely physical function like eating or drinking.

- A relationship between porn use and the feeling that it wasn’t necessary to have affection for people to have sex with them.
- A link between the type and explicitness of sexual media the teens saw and their tendency to view women as sexual “play things.”

**Adolescents’ Exposure to a Sexualized Media Environment and Their Notions of Women as Sex Objects**  
Publication: *Sex Roles* (Vol. 56)  
Author: Jochen Peter, Patti M. Valkenburg  
Date: 02/28/2007

Based on data from an on-line survey of 745 Dutch adolescents aged 13 to 18, researchers found that the relationship between exposure to a sexualized media environment and notions of women as sex objects followed a hierarchical pattern: Starting with adolescents’ exposure to sexually semi-explicit content, the statistical significance of the relationship with notions
of women as sex objects moved from semi-explicit to explicit sexual content and from visual to audio-visual formats. Exposure to sexually explicit material in on-line movies was the only exposure measure significantly related to beliefs that women are sex objects in the final regression model, in which exposure to other forms of sexual content was controlled. The relationship between exposure to a sexualized media environment and notions of women as sex objects did not differ for girls and boys.

**Pornography Use as a Risk Marker for an Aggressive Pattern of Behavior Among Sexually Reactive Children and Adolescents**
Publication: *Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association* (Vol. 14, No. 6)
Author: Eileen M. Alexy, Ann W. Burgess, Robert A. Prentky
Date: 01/2009

Sexually reactive children and adolescents (SRCAs), sometimes referred to as juvenile sexual offenders, may be more vulnerable and likely to experience damaging effects from pornography use because they are a high-risk group for a variety of aggressive behaviors. The purpose of this study is to describe the characteristics of those who use pornography and those who do not and to examine the associations between pornography use and aggressive behaviors among SRCAs.

Findings: SRCAs who used pornography were more likely to display aggressive behaviors than their non-using cohort. They are more likely to engage in coerced vaginal penetration and forced sexual acts such as oral or digital penetration, to express sexually aggressive remarks (obscenities), to engage in sex with animals. Additionally, they are more likely to engage in a prominent pattern of lying, a persistent pattern of theft/stealing, to be truant, to frequently con/manipulate others, and to engage in arson/fire setting behaviors.

**Child Pornography Offenses Are a Valid Diagnostic Indicator of Pedophilia**
Publication: *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* (Vol. 115, Iss. 3)
Author: Michael C. Seto, James M. Cantor, Ray Blanchard
Date: 08/01/2006

This study investigated whether being charged with a child pornography offense is a valid diagnostic indicator of pedophilia, as represented by an index of phallometrically assessed sexual arousal to children. The sample of 685 male patients was referred between 1995 and 2004 for a sexological assessment of their sexual interests and behavior.
Findings: Individuals who use child pornography and have offended against children, and individuals who use child pornography and have not offended against children are more likely to be pedophiles than individuals who have offended against adults or individuals who have offended against children but do not use child pornography. Therefore, using child pornography is a better indicator of who might get the diagnosis of pedophilia than having sexually molested a child.

**Sexualized Innocence: Effects of Magazine Ads Portraying Adult Women as Sexy Little Girls**
Publication: *Journal of Media Psychology* (Vol. 21, Iss. 1)
Author: Marty Machia, Sharon Lamb
Date: 2009

Subjects were shown magazine ads that contained images of nature or adult sexy women or adult sexy women portrayed as little girls. They were then given the Child Sexual Abuse Myth Scale. There was more acceptance of child sexual abuse myths for those who saw the sexy women portrayed as little girls and for those who saw the sexy adult women when compared to those who saw nature images. In addition, the greater the acceptance of child sexual abuse myths, the more normal the subject thought it was to be attracted to young girls and the less concerned the subject was about women posed as young girls in various media.

**The Role of Cognitive Distortions in Paedophilic Offending: Internet and Contact Offenders Compared**
Publication: *Psychology, Crime & Law* (Vol. 13, Iss. 5)
Author: Dennis Howitt & Kerry Sheldon
Date: 09/06/2007

This paper explores the role of cognitive distortions in sex offending by comparing the distortions of contact sex offenders against children with Internet child pornography offenders without contact offences against children.

Findings: Contrary to the expectation that contact offenders would have more cognitive distortions, it was found that Internet offenders had more cognitive distortions that children are sexual beings.

Publication: *Journal of Family Violence* (Vol. 24, Iss. 3)
Author: Michael L. Bourke, Andres E. Hernandez
Date: 12/10/2008
Subjects were 155 imprisoned child pornography offenders. Information known at the time of sentencing was compared to information known at the end of their treatment program in prison. At the time of sentencing, 115 (74%) subjects had no documented hands-on victims. The number of victims known at the time of sentencing was 75, or an average of 1.88 (SD=1.88) victims per offender. By the end of treatment, 24 (15%) subjects denied they committed hands-on sexual abuse, and 131 subjects (85%) admitted they had at least one hands-on sexual offense, a 59% increase in the number of subjects with known hands on offenses. The number of reported victims known at the end of treatment, among all offenders, was 1,777, an average of 13.56 (SD=30.11) victims per offender. When analyzed separately, we found that the 40 subjects who had known histories of hands-on sexual offending at the time of sentencing disclosed an average of 19.4 victims during their treatment period. In comparison, the 115 subjects with no known histories of these crimes ultimately disclosed an average of 8.7 victims.

In fact, of the 24 subjects in our sample who denied they committed a hands-on offense at the end of treatment, nine were polygraphed, and only two “passed.” In other words, less than 2% of subjects who entered treatment without known hands-on offenses were verified to be “just pictures” cases. It is noteworthy that both of these offenders remarked that while they had not molested a child prior to their arrest for the instant offense, with access and opportunity they would have been at risk for engaging in hands-on molestation. This calls into question whether it is pragmatically, not to mention theoretically, useful to discriminate between “child pornographers” and “child abusers” or even “pedophiles.”

Impact on the Body

Neural Correlates of Sexual Cue Reactivity in Individuals with and without Compulsive Sexual Behaviours
Publication: PLOS ONE (Vol. 9, Iss. 7)
Date: 07/11/2014

Findings: Individuals with compulsive sexual behaviour (CSB) “reported that as a result of excessive use of sexually explicit materials... [they] experienced diminished libido or erectile function specifically in physical
relationships with women (although not in relationship to the sexually explicit material) (N = 11).”

Chapter 4: Acquiring Tastes and Loves: What Neuroplasticity Teaches Us About Sexual Attraction and Love
Publication: The Brain That Changes Itself
Author: Norman Doidge, MD

These pages of The Brain That Changes Itself by psychiatrist Norman Doidge are very relevant to porn addiction, and explain how Internet porn tastes escalate (a phenomenon that addiction experts call “tolerance“). Here are some excerpts from the chapter:

“Today young men who surf porn are tremendously fearful of impotence, or ‘erectile dysfunction’ as it is euphemistically called. The misleading term implies that these men have a problem in their penises, but the problem is in their heads, in their sexual brain maps. The penis works fine when they use pornography. It rarely occurs to them that there may be a relationship between the pornography they are consuming and their impotence.”

Family & Relationships

Are Pornography and Marriage Substitutes for Young Men?
Publication: Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA)
Author: Michael Malcolm, George Naufal
Date: 11/15/2014

An investigation of the effect of Internet usage, and of pornography consumption specifically, on the marital status of young men.

Findings: Increased Internet usage is negatively associated with marriage formation. Pornography consumption specifically has an even stronger effect. Instrumental variables and a number of robustness checks suggest that the effect is causal. Substitutes for marital sexual gratification may impact the decision to marry. Proliferation of the Internet has made pornography an increasingly low-cost substitute.

Pornography and the Male Sexual Script: An Analysis of Consumption and Sexual Relations
Publication: Archives of Sexual Behavior
Author: Chyng Sun, Ana Bridges, Jennifer Johnson, Matt Ezzell
Date: 12/03/2014
These researchers argue pornography creates a sexual script that then guides sexual experiences. Cognitive script theory argues media scripts create a readily accessible heuristic model for decision-making. To test this, they surveyed 487 college men (ages 18–29 years) in the United States to compare their rate of pornography use with sexual preferences and concerns.

Findings: The more pornography a man watches, the more likely he was to use it during sex, request particular pornographic sex acts of his partner, deliberately conjure images of pornography during sex to maintain arousal, and have concerns over his own sexual performance and body image. Further, higher pornography use was negatively associated with enjoying sexually intimate behaviors with a partner. We conclude that pornography provides a powerful heuristic model, which is implicated in men’s expectations and behaviors during sexual encounters.

**Parental Desensitization to Violence and Sex in Movies**
Publication: American Academy of Pediatrics
Author: Daniel Romer, Patrick E. Jamieson, Brad J. Bushman, Amy Bleakley, Anli Wang, Daniel Langleben, and Kathleen Hall Jamieson
Date: 10/20/2014

To assess desensitization in parents’ repeated exposure to violence and sex in movies.

Findings: As exposure to successive clips progressed, parents supported younger ages of appropriate exposure. Parents also reported increasing willingness to allow their target child to view the movies as exposures progressed. Desensitization was observed across parent and child characteristics, violence toward both human and non-human victims, and movie rating. Those who frequently watched movies were more readily desensitized to violence. Parents become desensitized to both violence and sex in movies, which may contribute to the increasing acceptance of both types of content by both parents and the raters employed by the film industry.

**Viewing Sexually-Explicit Materials Alone or Together: Associations with Relationship Quality**
Publication: *Archives of Sexual Behavior*
Author: Amanda M. Maddox, Galena K. Rhoades, and Howard J. Markman
Date: 12/29/2009

This study investigated associations between viewing sexually-explicit material (SEM) and relationship functioning in a random sample of
1291 unmarried individuals in romantic relationships. Measures of communication, relationship adjustment, commitment, sexual satisfaction, and infidelity were examined.

Findings: Individuals who never viewed SEM reported higher relationship quality on all indices than those who viewed SEM alone. Those who viewed SEM only with their partners reported more dedication and higher sexual satisfaction than those who viewed SEM alone. The only difference between those who never viewed SEM and those who viewed it only with their partners was that those who never viewed it had lower rates of infidelity.

**Fiction or Not? Fifty Shades is Associated with Health Risks in Adolescent and Young Adult Females**
Publication: *Journal of Women's Health* (Vol. 23, No. 9)
Author: Amy E. Bonomi, Julianna M. Nemeth, Lauren E. Altenburger, Melissa L. Anderson, Anastasia Snyder, Irma Dotto
Date: 08/21/2014

This study characterized the association between health risks in women who read and did not read *Fifty Shades*; while our cross-sectional study design precluded causal determinations, an empirical representation of the health risks in women consuming the problematic messages in *Fifty Shades* is made.

Findings: In age- and race-adjusted models, compared with nonreaders, females who read at least the first novel (but not all three) were more likely than nonreaders to have had, during their lifetime, a partner who shouted, yelled, or swore at them and who delivered unwanted calls/text messages they were also more likely to report fasting and using diet aids at some point during their lifetime. Compared with nonreaders, females who read all three novels were more likely to report binge drinking in the last month and to report using diet aids and having five or more intercourse partners during their lifetime.

**When Words Are not Enough: The Search for the Effect of Pornography on Abused Women**
Publication: *Violence Against Women* (Vol. 10, Iss. 1)
Author: Janet Hinson Shope
Date: 1/2004

Using data obtained from 271 women who were participating in a battered women’s program, this study examined whether the abusive partner’s use of pornography increased the probability that the women would be sexually abused by a partner.
Findings: The use of pornography (by the batterer) significantly increases a battered woman’s odds of being sexually abused. Use of pornography and alcohol increases the odds of sexual abuse. Pornography alone increases the odds by a factor of almost 2 and the combination of pornography and alcohol increases the odds of sexual abuse by a factor of 3.

**Adult Social Bonds and Use of Internet Pornography**
Publication: *Social Science Quarterly*
Author: Steven Stack, Ira Wasserman, Roger Kern
Date: 02/11/2004

Complete data on 531 Internet users measured social bonds, including religious, marital, and political ties. Measures of participation in sexual and drug-related deviant lifestyles, and demographic controls are included.

Findings: Traditional theoretical perspectives on deviance are apparently applicable to this new form of deviant behavior. Among the strongest predictors of use of cyberporn were weak ties to religion and lack of a happy marriage. However, past sexual deviance (e.g., involvement in paid sex) was also a strong predictor of cyberporn use. Overall the model explained 40 percent of the variance in porn use on the Internet.

**More Than a Dalliance? Pornography Consumption and Extramarital Sex Attitudes Among Married U.S. Adults**
Publication: *Psychology of Popular Media Culture*
Author: Paul Wright, Robert S. Tokunaga, Soyoung Bae
Date: 12/31/2014

Extramarital sex is one of the most commonly cited reasons for divorce. Given pornography’s positive portrayal of extramarital sex, several recent studies have explored whether people who consume pornography have a more positive attitude toward extramarital sex.

Findings: Consistent with a social learning perspective on media, prior pornography consumption was correlated with more positive subsequent extramarital sex attitudes in both samples, even after controlling for earlier extramarital sex attitudes and nine additional potential confounds. Contrary to a selective exposure perspective on media, prior extramarital sex attitudes were unrelated to subsequent pornography consumption in both samples.
“At the 2003 meeting of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, a gathering of the nation’s divorce lawyers, attendees documented a startling trend. Nearly two-thirds of the attorneys present had witnessed a sudden rise in divorces related to the Internet; 58% of those were the result of a spouse looking at excessive amounts of pornography online “(p 167).

Sex Trafficking & Prostitution

The Slave and the Porn Star: Sexual Trafficking and Pornography
Publication: The Protection Project Journal of Human Rights and Civil Society
Author: Robert W. Peters, Laura J. Lederer, Shane Kelly
Date: 07/20/2012

This article argues that there are a number of links between pornography and sex trafficking and that curbing pornography can reduce sex trafficking. The first two sections describe the links between pornography and sex trafficking. The third section makes the case that legislators and prosecutors should give greater consideration to the relationship between pornography and sex trafficking as they determine budgetary and law enforcement priorities and as they make recommendations for how to address this link at the federal level.

Pornography as Trafficking
Publication: Michigan Journal of International Law (Summer, 2005)
Author: Catherine A. Mackinnon
Date: 3/14/2005

Catherine A. Mackinnon goes through the realities and concepts of pornography links to trafficking. Those participating in pornography do so due to lack of choice rather than personal choice. Pornography increases the demand for prostitution and, therefore, sex trafficking. Those who deny this are asserting a mind-body distinction between pornography and trafficking, although sexually it is both. She asserts one difference between pornography and trafficking in that one is supply-driven and the other is demand-driven, respectively.
Publication: WHISPER Oral History Project
Author: Evelina Giobbe, Denise Gamache
Date: 1990

Findings: 80% of prostitution survivors at the WHISPER Oral History Project reported that their customers showed them pornography to illustrate the kinds of sexual activities in which they wanted to engage. 52% of the women stated that pornography played a significant role in teaching them what was expected of them as prostitutes. 30% reported that their pimps regularly exposed them to pornography in order to indoctrinate them into an acceptance of the practices depicted.

Comparing Sex Buyers with Men Who Don’t Buy Sex: “You can have a good time with the servitude” vs. “You’re supporting a system of degradation”
Publication: Psychologists for Social Responsibility Annual Meeting
Author: Melissa Farley, Emily Schuckman, Jacqueline M. Golding, Kristen Houser, Laura Jarrett, Peter Qualliotine, & Michele Decker
Date: 7/15/2011

Findings: The sex buyers masturbated to pornography more often than non-sex buyers, imitated it with partners more often, and had more often received their sex education from pornography than the non-sex buyers. Over time, as a result of their prostitution and pornography use, sex buyers reported that their sexual preferences changed such that they sought more sadomasochistic and anal sex. Significantly more of the sex buyers compared learned about sex from pornography compared to the non-sex buyers.
Take Action!

Members of Congress
1. Recognize that there is a public health crisis.
2. Request and organize Congressional Hearings on this topic.
3. Encourage vigorous enforcement of all laws prohibiting sexual exploitation, including adult obscenity laws which prohibit distribution of hard-core pornography on the Internet, on cable/satellite TV, in hotels/motels, in retail shops and by common carrier.
4. Issue a public statement about pornography as a public health crisis, or as a factor driving other forms of sexual exploitation.
   • Ideas include: Give NCSE a quote to share, write an op-ed, include in a speech, make a short video statement
5. Keep these facts in mind as new legislation is created. Try to work in the issue of pornography in efforts to curb demand for sex trafficking and other forms of sexual exploitation.
6. Explore the “opt-in” option in the framework of U.S. law and encourage U.S. Internet providers to adopt such policies.

Press
Investigate how pornography effects and influences sexual violence, child sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and other forms of sexual exploitation when covering these issues.

Public
1. Contact your elected representatives in Congress to request a hearing on this issue.
2. Write and submit letters to the editor of your local newspapers about this issue, mentioning the need for a Congressional hearing.
3. Urge that laws prohibiting sexual exploitation be enforced.
Biographies

Patrick A. Trueman, Esq.
CEO & President, National Center on Sexual Exploitation

Patrick Trueman is a former Chief of the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. from 1988 to 1993. While there, he supervised the prosecution of child sex crimes, child pornography, and obscenity, and worked with the nation’s ninety-three United States Attorneys to initiate and coordinate federal prosecutions.

During his 40 years as a lawyer, Mr. Trueman has litigated cases at all levels of the federal system, including in the United States Supreme Court. He has been an adviser to many municipalities on First Amendment law and has helped draft ordinances to end or curb the impact of sexually oriented businesses. A recognized international expert, Mr. Trueman has traveled all around the world to speak and train on the issue of human trafficking and deliver papers about the harms of sexual exploitation and pornography.

Dawn E. Hawkins
Vice President & Executive Director, National Center on Sexual Exploitation

Dawn Hawkins is a passionate defender of human rights who has dedicated her life to fighting against societal harms that threaten the dignity of others. Her energy, creativity and mobilization skills have revived the anti-pornography movement.

Prior to joining NCSE in February 2011, Mrs. Hawkins was employed by a political consulting firm. Using her expertise in social networking and digital strategies, Mrs. Hawkins helped businesses and political candidates reach expansive audiences and raise funds.

As Executive Director of NCSE, Mrs. Hawkins has developed a national strategy uniting conservative, liberal, women’s rights, child advocacy and religious groups, including a bipartisan political leadership, to work together raising awareness of the pandemic of harm from pornography. Through her leadership, NCSE has grown an international network reaching hundreds of
thousands of people. Mrs. Hawkins is a frequent guest a featured expert on radio and television shows such as CNN, Good Morning America, Fox News and more. She regularly authors articles and speaks around the country addressing the harms of pornography and what can be done to curb the growing pornification of our culture.

Speaker Biographies

**Ernie Allen**  
Former President and CEO of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children  

**Why is Finding a Solution So Difficult?**

Ernie Allen is a world leader in the fight against child abduction, sexual exploitation, sexual violence and human trafficking. He is a frequent keynote speaker at major U.S. and international conferences and currently serves as a consultant to governments, corporations and organizations on issues related to child protection, trafficking, public-private partnerships, the Internet and the digital economy.

Mr. Allen was founder, first Chairman of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children in 1984 and served as President and CEO until 2012. During his tenure, more than 180,000 missing children were recovered and the recovery rate increased from 62% in 1990 to 97% in 2012. He created the national 24-hour missing children hotline; brought age progression, facial reconstruction and other forensic resources to law enforcement; and provided training for more than 300,000 police officers. He established the national CyberTipline for reporting child sexual exploitation; the Child Victim Identification Program to analyze millions of child pornography images to rescue child victims; and helped U.S. Marshals track 100,000 fugitive sex offenders.

To extend the effort to protect children globally, in 1998 he founded the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children and served as its President and CEO until 2014. He built a global missing children’s network that included 23 nations, trained law enforcement in 121 countries, worked with parliaments in 100 countries to enact new laws and developed partnerships with Interpol, the Organization of American States and the Hague Conference on Private International Law.
He brought global attention to the risks of unregulated virtual currencies and the anonymous “Deep Web” and created a task force whose policy recommendations are being implemented worldwide. He also created a coalition involving the world’s leading financial institutions which reduced commercial child pornography from a $30 billion industry to virtually zero; created a coalition with leading technology companies to address child victimization; and formed a global health coalition with major pharmaceutical companies to address child sexual exploitation as a public health crisis.

Mr. Allen’s work has been widely recognized and he is the author of numerous articles and book chapters.

Cordelia Anderson, MA
Leading child advocate, founder, National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse & Exploitation

Why Pornography is a Public Health Issue

Cordelia Anderson founded the National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse & Exploitation and serves on the Board of Directors of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Since 1976, she has worked with a wide variety of organizations to prevent sexual abuse, exploitation, and violence and to promote sexual health. With an MA in human development, Anderson has served as an advocate for child victims and a consulting therapist with survivors of prostitution and sexual abuse, and with perpetrators.

She has conducted over 2,500 trainings nationally and internationally on a range of issues surrounding child sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and prevention, the impact of pornography, the normalization of sexual harm, countering demand and compassion fatigue.

Anderson spent many years using theater for prevention education and social change. In 1992, Anderson founded Sensibilities Prevention Services, her own consultation and training business based in Minneapolis, MN. She co-hosts a national web conference series, Ending Child Sexual Abuse through California Coalition Against Sexual Assault. In 2014, Anderson wrote “Fired Up” a prevention play based on stories of adult survivors of sexual abuse/sexual exploitation who performed the piece. In 2011 she wrote a booklet, “The Impact of Pornography on Children, Youth, and Culture.”
Sharon Cooper, MD, FAAP  
CEO of Development & Forensic Pediatrics  
**Pornography: Sex Education for the Developing Brain**

Dr. Sharon Cooper is a developmental and forensic pediatrician who evaluates and treats children who have been victims of all forms of abuse, though her primary area of expertise is that of sexual exploitation. Dr. Cooper holds faculty positions at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Department of Pediatrics and the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. She is a consultant and Board member of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. She has lectured nationally and internationally, providing Congressional testimony in the United States, Russia, Manitoba Canada, and Italy on child sexual exploitation. She has spoken at the European Commission on a Safer Internet and is the lead author of one of the most comprehensive text on child sexual exploitation. Dr. Cooper provides training to numerous national and international investigative agencies in the area of Internet and Communication Technology crimes against children.

Dr. Cooper recently served as a Task Force member on the Defending Childhood-Children Exposed to Violence report, having been appointed by Attorney General Eric Holder. She actively evaluates victims of child abuse, images, and the commercial sexual exploitation of children and has been qualified as in expert witness in more than 300 court proceedings.

Gail Dines, PhD  
Founder and President of Culture Reframed  
**Today’s Pornography and the Crisis of Violence Against Women and Children**

Dr. Gail Dines is an author and professor of sociology and women’s Studies at Wheelock College, where she is also chair of the American Studies department. She is internationally recognized as a leading expert on the harmful effects of pornography and hypersexualization of the culture.

She is founder and board chair of Culture Reframed, a non-profit organization dedicated to building public health programs to educate the public and professionals on pornography. She has been researching and
writing about the damaging effects of pornography for well over twenty years.

Dr. Dines' latest book is Pornland: How Porn Has Hijacked Our Sexuality. She is a recipient of the Myers Center Award for the Study of Human Rights in North America.

Gail Dines is a regular guest on television and radio shows and has worked with Hollywood studios to develop strategies for creating progressive images of women on national television. She is also a featured speaker in several documentaries and a documentary based on her book, Pornland, is available after the presentation.

**Melissa Farley, PhD**

Executive Director of Prostitution Research & Education

**Pornography, Prostitution, and Trafficking: Making the Connections**

Dr. Melissa Farley is a practicing clinical psychologist with a 40-year career. She regularly advises agencies, governments, and advocates for prostituted and trafficked women. She has articulated the harms of prostitution, pornography, and trafficking as an expert witness in forensic evaluations. She has been categorized as a legal expert on the effects of sexual violence against women and children, post-traumatic stress disorder, dissociation, prostitution and trafficking.

She is a frequent keynote speaker at conferences on prostitution and trafficking. In her work, Dr. Farley has consistently addressed the connections between prostitution, racism, poverty, and both domestic and international trafficking.

In 1995, Dr. Farley founded Prostitution Research & Education, a nonprofit organization, which provides information about trafficking and prostitution, including a list of agencies offering services to women who have been in prostitution.

Among her many published research articles, Dr. Farley authored Prostitution and Trafficking in 9 Countries: Update on Violence and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, which is currently being distributed by the Trafficking in Persons Office of the U.S. State Department.
Donald Hilton, MD  
Neurosurgeon at the University of Texas  
**Pornography and the Brain: Public Health Considerations**

Dr. Don Hilton is a neurosurgeon and clinical associate professor in the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center, serving as director of the spine fellowship at the medical school program, and director of neurosurgical training for the residency program at the Methodist Hospital. He travels and speaks nationally and internationally, and has published book chapters and peer-reviewed journal articles, with special interest in minimally invasive spinal surgery and neural mechanisms involving addiction.

He is currently listed in Best Doctors in America, is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society, and is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons.

He has recently authored and co-authored several papers on addiction in peer-reviewed journals. One published in 2011 in the Journal of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) investigated the role of natural instinctive craving in addiction. In addition, other papers published in 2013 and 2014 in the journal Socioaffective Neuroscience and Psychology explored pornography addiction from the perspective of neural learning models.

Mary Anne Layden, PhD  
Director of the Sexual Trauma and Psychopathology Program, Center for Cognitive Therapy, University of Pennsylvania  
**Sexual Obesity: Research on a Public Health Crisis**

Dr. Mary Anne Layden is a psychotherapist and Director of Education at the Center for Cognitive Therapy at the University of Pennsylvania. She is the Director of the Sexual Trauma and Psychopathology Program. She specializes in the treatment of victims and perpetrators of sexual violence and sexual addiction.

Dr. Layden has often appeared on television and other media, and is a respected commentator on the effects of prostitution and the international
trafficking of women in prostitution. Dr. Layden has testified before the U.S. Congress on five occasions in relation to issues of sexual violence, the sexual exploitation industry and the media. She has also lectured extensively both in the U.S. and abroad on Cognitive Therapy, Personality Disorders particularly Borderline Personality Disorder, childhood sexual trauma, sexual addiction, sexual exploitation industry and imagery techniques.

She has written numerous chapters on Cognitive Therapy especially on treatment of Borderline Personality Disorder. Dr. Layden’s focus on the demand side of sex trafficking is based in her clinical work with johns.

Ed Smart
Vice President of the Elizabeth Smart Foundation;
Director of Prevention and Rehabilitation,
Operation Underground Railroad

Sexual Exploitation: Connecting the Dots in Real Life

Ed Smart is the father of Elizabeth Smart, who was abducted on June 5, 2002, and miraculously rescued nine months later. He is also Vice President of the Elizabeth Smart Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering children through education and understanding of choices and options, and supporting law enforcement in the rescuing of victims.

Mr. Smart has become a nationally renowned spokesperson for child protection, advocating for legislation and non-profit organizations that focus on the prevention and recovery of missing children. He works with and serves on the board of several non-profit agencies, including the National Child ID program, radKIDS, and the I Keep Safe program from the Governors’ Spouses Coalition for Internet Safety. Mr. Smart is also a frequent guest speaker for Law Enforcement and other agencies involved in protecting children from predators.

Through the loss and return of his daughter, Mr. Smart passionately sought the passage of the “Amber Alert,” for the protection and rescue of other children and is now a member of the State of Utah’s Amber Alert committee.

Mr. Smart has been involved in numerous conferences designed to further the awareness and cooperation in the area of child protection within law enforcement, media, and the public.
Eradicating the public health crisis of pornography, one family at a time.

www.covenanteyes.com