

THE PORN INDUSTRY – RESOURCE FILE

YOUR BRAIN ON PORN

Exposure to pornography has been found to produce:

- **Greater acceptance of violence against women**

(Allen, M., Emmers, T. M., Gebhardt, L., & Giery, M. (1995). 'Pornography and rape myth acceptance.' *Journal of Communication*, 45, 5-26.

Weisz, M.G., & Earls, C. M. (1995). 'The effects of exposure to filmed sexual violence on attitudes toward rape.' *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 10, 71-84.

Hald, G., Malamuth, N. & Yuen, C. (2010). 'Pornography and attitudes supporting violence against women: revisiting the relationship in non experimental studies.' *Aggressive Behavior*, 36, 14-20.)

- **Greater likelihood of using prostituted women, increased use if already using**

(Monto, M. (1999). 'Focusing on the clients of street prostitutes: a creative approach to reducing violence against women.' Final report for the National Institute of Justice.

Stack, S., Wasserman, I. & Kern, R. (2004). 'Adult Social Bonds and Use of Internet Pornography.' *Social Science Quarterly*, 85, 75-88.)

- **Increased estimates of how often other people engage in violent sex**

(Zillmann, D & J. Bryant. (1984). 'Effects of massive exposure to pornography.' In Malamuth, N and Donnerstein, E. (Eds), *Pornography and sexual aggression*. San Diego, Academic Press.)

- **More self-reported likelihood of rape and forced sex acts**

(Check, J. V. P., & Guloien, T. H. (1989). 'The effects of repeated exposure to sexually violent pornography, nonviolent dehumanizing pornography, and erotica.' In D. Zillmann & J. Bryan (Eds.), *Pornography: Recent research, interpretations, and policy considerations* (pp. 159-184). Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum.)

- **Greater likelihood of *actually* forcing a woman sexually or committing rape**

(Boeringer, S.B. (1994). 'Pornography and sexual aggression: Associations of violent and nonviolent depictions with rape and rape proclivity.' *Deviant Behavior*, 15, 289-304.

Check, J. V. P., & Guloien, T. H. (1989). 'The effects of repeated exposure to sexually violent pornography, nonviolent dehumanizing pornography, and erotica.' In D. Zillmann & J. Bryan (Eds.), *Pornography: Recent research, interpretations, and policy considerations* (pp. 159-184). Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum.)

- **Using verbal coercion to have sex**

(Boeringer, S.B. (1994). 'Pornography and sexual aggression: Associations of violent and nonviolent depictions with rape and rape proclivity.' *Deviant Behavior*, 15, 289-304.)

- **Using drugs/alcohol to sexually coerce women**

(Boeringer, S.B. (1994). 'Pornography and sexual aggression: Associations of violent and nonviolent depictions with rape and rape proclivity.' *Deviant Behavior*, 15, 289-304.)

- **Creating more sexually violent fantasies in order to become aroused**

(Malamuth, N. (1981). 'Rape fantasies as a function of exposure to violent sexual stimuli.' *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 10, 33-47.)

- **Increased engagement in sexual harassment behaviours**

(Barak, A., Fisher, W.A., Belfry, S., & Lashambe, D. R. (1999). 'Sex, guys, and cyberspace: Effects of internet pornography and individual differences on men's attitudes toward women.' *Journal of Psychological and Human Sexuality*, 11, 63-92.

Bonino, S., Ciairano, S. Rabaglietti, E. & Cattelino, E. (2006). 'Use of pornography and self-reported engagement in sexual violence among adolescents.' *European Journal of Developmental Psychology*, 3, 3, 265-288.

Brown, J. & L'Engle, K. (2009). 'X-Rated: Sexual attitudes and behaviors associated with U.S. early adolescents' exposure to sexually explicit media.' *Communication Research*, 36, 129-151.

Vega, V. & Malamuth, N. (2007). 'Predicting sexual aggression: The role of pornography in the context of general and specific risk factors.' *Aggressive Behavior*, 33, 104-117.)

- **Greater willingness to have sex with 13-14 year olds**

(Hegna, H., Mossige, S. & Wichstrom, L. (2004). 'Older adolescents' positive attitudes toward younger adolescents as sexual partners.' *Adolescence*, 39, 156, 627-651.)

- **Greater sexual attraction to children**

(Briere, J. & Runtz, M. (1989). 'University males sexual interest in children: Predicting potential indices of "pedophilia" in a nonforensic sample.' *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 13, 65-75.

Smiljanich, K. & Briere, J. (1996). 'Self-reported sexual interest in children: Sex differences and psychosocial correlates in a university sample.' *Violence and Victims*. 11, 1, 39-50.)

Exposure to pornographic material makes an adult (18+) has been found to produce **greater belief** in the following '**rape myths**':

- **a rape victim enjoyed rape**

(Check, J. & Malamuth, N. (1985). 'An empirical assessment of some feminist hypotheses about rape.' *International Journal of Women's Studies*, 8, 414-423.

Also Ohbuchi, K. Ikeda, T. & Takeuchi, G. (1994) 'Effects of violent pornography upon viewers rape myth beliefs: A study of Japanese males.' *Psychology, Crime & Law*, 1, 71-81)

- **women suffer less from rape**

(Check, J. & Malamuth, N. (1985). 'An empirical assessment of some feminist hypotheses about rape.' *International Journal of Women's Studies*, 8, 414-423)

- **women in general enjoy rape**

(see Check, J. & Malamuth, N. (1985). 'An empirical assessment of some feminist hypotheses about rape.' *International Journal of Women's Studies*, 8, 414-423)

- **a rape victim experienced pleasure and that she 'got what she wanted'**

(Millburn, M., Mather, R. & Conrad, S. (2000). 'The effects of viewing R-rated movie scenes that objectify women on perceptions of date rape.' *Sex Roles*, 43, Nov 2000, 645-664.)

- **women often make false accusations of rape**

(Ohbuchi, K. Ikeda, T. & Takeuchi, G. (1994) 'Effects of violent pornography upon viewers rape myth beliefs: A study of Japanese males.' *Psychology, Crime & Law*, 1, 71-81)

- **rapists deserve less jail time**

(Check, J. V. P., & Guloien, T. H. (1989). 'The effects of repeated exposure to sexually violent pornography, nonviolent dehumanizing pornography, and erotica.' In D. Zillmann & J. Bryan (Eds.), *Pornography: Recent research, interpretations, and policy considerations* (pp. 159-184). Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum.

Also Weisz, M.G., & Earls, C. M. (1995). 'The effects of exposure to filmed sexual violence on attitudes toward rape.' *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 10, 71-84.)

Numerous studies have connected **exposure to pornographic materials with rape**

- (Alexy, E., Burgess, A. & Prentky, R. (2009). 'Pornography use as a risk marker for an aggressive pattern of behavior among sexually reactive children and adolescents.' *Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association*, 14, 442-453.
- Baron, L. & Straus, M. (1984). 'Sexual stratification, pornography, and rape in the United States.' In N. Malamuth and E. Donnerstein (Eds) *Pornography and Sexual Aggression*. New York: Academic Press.
- Boeringer, S.B. (1994). 'Pornography and sexual aggression: Associations of violent and nonviolent depictions with rape and rape proclivity.' *Deviant Behavior*, 15, 289-304.
- Bonino, S., Ciairano, S. Rabaglietti, E. & Cattelino, E. (2006). 'Use of pornography and self-reported engagement in sexual violence among adolescents'. *European Journal of Developmental Psychology*, 3, 3, 265-288.
- Carr, J. & VanDeusen, K. (2004). 'Risk factors for male sexual aggression on college campuses.' *Journal of Family Violence*, 19, 279-289.
- Cramer, E. & McFarlane, J. (1994). 'Pornography and abuse of women.' *Public Health Nursing*, 11, 4, 268-272.
- Crossman, L. (1995). 'Date rape and sexual aggression by college males: Incidence and the involvement of impulsivity, anger, hostility, psychopathology, peer influence and pornography use.' *Dissertation Abstracts International: Section B: The Sciences and Engineering*, 55, 4640
- Malamuth, N., Addison, T. & Koss, M. (2000). 'Pornography and sexual aggression: Are there reliable effects and can we understand them?' *Annual Review of Sex Research*, 11, 26-68.
- Marshall, W. L. (1988). 'The use of sexually explicit stimuli by rapists, child molesters and non-offenders.' *Journal of Sex Research*, 25, 2, 267-288.
- Senn, C. (1993). 'The research on women and pornography: The many faces of harm.' In D. E. H. Russell (Ed.), *Making violence sexy*. New York: Teachers College Press.
- Vega, V. & Malamuth, N. (2007). 'Predicting sexual aggression: The role of pornography in the context of general and specific risk factors.' *Aggressive Behavior*, 33, 104-117.

A meta-analysis of 46 published research studies on the effects of pornography on sexual perpetration, attitudes regarding intimate relationships, and attitudes regarding the rape myth found that exposure to pornographic material puts one at increased risk for committing sexual offenses, experiencing difficulties in one's intimate relationships, and accepting rape myths (i.e. beliefs that trivialize rape or blame the victim for the crime).

Specifically, there is a **22% increase in sexual perpetration**; a **20% increase in negative intimate relationships**; and a **31% increase in believing rape myths**. A total sample size of 12,323 people comprised the present meta-analysis. The studies confirmed the link between increased risk for negative development when exposed to pornography.

(Elizabeth Oddone-Paolucci, Mark Genuis and Claudio Violato, *The Changing Family and Child Development*, (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2000), pp. 48-59.)

Another meta-analysis examined 30 different studies with a total of 2,040 participants and concluded that **exposure to pornography increases behavioral aggression**.

(M. Allen, D. D'Alessio, and K. Brezgel, "A Meta-Analysis Summarizing the Effects of Pornography II," *Human Communication Research*, Vol. 22, Number 2 (December, 1995): pp. 258-283.)

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WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING?

Of 304 scenes analysed, a 2010 study found that 88.2% of scenes in the most popular pornographic videos contained physical aggression, the aggression being carried out against a woman in 94.4% of cases. In 95.1% of cases, the woman was portrayed as responding neutrally or with pleasure to the violence.

(Bridges, Ana J., et al. "Aggression and sexual behavior in best-selling pornography videos: A content analysis update." *Violence Against Women* 16.10 (2010): 1065-1085.)

Pornography says that women want to be hurt, forced, and abused;
pornography says women want to be raped, battered, kidnapped, maimed;
pornography says women want to be humiliated, shamed, defamed;
pornography says that women say No but mean Yes—Yes to violence, Yes to pain.

Also: pornography says that women are things; pornography says that being used as things fulfils the erotic nature of women; pornography says that women are the things men use.

Andrea Dworkin

"Themes in these porn videos are incestuous and non-consensual — teaching men and boys alike that rape and coercion is hot. Titles include: "Virgin Manipulations" and "Daddy's Girl Gets Filled" and feature much older men (father and uncle figures) and what are meant to be teen girls. One of the more popular sites is literally called "ExploitedTeens.com." The "consensual adults" line pushed on us by liberal media is laughable when you acknowledge what it is that consumers really want: exploited, non-consenting, underage girls who are not enjoying the acts inflicted on them. They don't want empowered adult women. Men don't look at porn to see sexually liberated, powerful women." – Documentary, *Hot Girls Wanted*

In 2014, abuse porn websites averaged 60 million hits.

“To keep the legions of easily bored male viewers aroused, porn makers produce videos that are increasingly violent and debasing. Extreme Associates, which specializes in graphic rape scenes, along with JM Productions, promotes the very real pain endured by women on its sets. JM Productions pioneered “aggressive throat fucking” or “face fucking” videos such as the “Gag Factor” series, in which women gag and often vomit. It ushered in “swirlies,” in which the male performer dunks the woman’s head into a toilet after sex and then flushes. The company promises, “Every whore gets the swirlies treatment. Fuck her, then flush her.” Repeated and violent anal penetration triggers anal prolapse, a condition in which the inner walls of a woman’s rectum collapse and protrude from her anus. This is called “rosebudding.” Some women, penetrated repeatedly by numerous men on porn shoots, often after taking handfuls of painkillers, require anal and vaginal reconstructive surgery.”

- Chris Hedges

You shouldn’t have to wonder if “Girl is kidnapped by a group of men and savagely tortured” is the name of a porn video or a news article on crime. (That one *was* porn, by the way.)

“Pornography permits men to have whatever they want sexuality. It is their “truth about sex”... It shows how men see the world, how in seeing it they access and possess it, and how this is an act of dominance over it. It shows what men want and gives it to them. From the testimony of the pornography, what men want is: women bound, women battered, women tortured, women humiliated, women degraded and defiled, women killed. Or, to be fair to the soft core, women sexually accessible, have-able, there for them, wanting to be taken and used, with perhaps just a little light bondage. Each violation of women- rape, battery, prostitution, child sexual abuse, sexual harassment- is made sexuality, made sexy, fun, and liberating of women’s true nature in the pornography.

Each specifically victimized and vulnerable group of women, each tabooed target group... distinguishes pornographic genres and subthemes, classified according to diverse customers’ favourite degradation. Women are made into and coupled with anything considered lower than human: animals, objects, children, and (yes) other women. Anything women have claimed as their own- motherhood, athletics, traditional men’s jobs, lesbianism, feminism- is made specifically sexy, dangerous, provocative, punished, made men’s in pornography.”

– Catherine MacKinnon

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WHO ARE YOU WATCHING?

Testimonies from ex-porn stars:

- **Corina Taylor:** "When I arrived to the set I expected to do a vaginal girl boy scene. But during the scene with a male porn star, he forced himself anally into me and would not stop. I yelled at him to stop and screamed 'No' over and over but he would not stop. The pain became too much and I was in shock and my body went limp."
- **Jenna Jameson:** "Most girls get their first experience in gonzo films – in which they're taken to a crappy studio apartment in Mission Hills and penetrated in every hole possible by some abusive asshole who thinks her name is Bitch."
- **Alexa James:** "The first shoot I did was with a man who was probably 40 and he was as thick as a soda can. He held me down and shoved it in me with no lube tearing my vagina. When I started to tear up and cry he flipped me over and continued from behind because they wouldn't get me crying on film. He pulled my hair and choked me over and over again even when I told him it hurt and I could barely breathe."
- **Linda Lovelace:** "My initiation into prostitution was a gang rape by five men, arranged by Mr. Traynor. It was the turning point in my life. He threatened to shoot me with the pistol if I didn't go through with it. I had never experienced anal sex before and it ripped me apart. They treated me like an inflatable plastic doll, picking me up and moving me here and there. They spread my legs this way and that, shoving their things at me and into me, they were playing musical chairs with parts of my body. I have never been so frightened and disgraced and humiliated in my life. I felt like garbage. I engaged in sex acts for pornography against my will to avoid being killed. The lives of my family were threatened."
- **Andi Anderson:** "After a year or so of that so-called "glamorous" life, I sadly discovered that drugs and drinking were a part of the lifestyle. I began to drink and party out of control! Cocaine, alcohol and ecstasy were my favourites. Before long, I turned into a person I did not want to be. After doing so many hardcore scenes I couldn't do it anymore. I just remember being in horrible situations and experiencing extreme depression and being alone and sad."
- **Alexa Milano:** "My first movie I was treated very rough by 3 guys. They pounded on me, gagged me with their penises, and tossed me around like I was a ball! I was sore, hurting and could barely walk. My insides burned and hurt so badly. I could barely pee and to try to have a bowel movement was out of the question. I was hurting so bad from the physical abuse from these 3 male porn stars."

- **Jessie Jewels:** "People in the porn industry are numb to real life and are like zombies walking around. The abuse that goes on in this industry is completely ridiculous. The way these young ladies are treated is totally sick and brainwashing. I left due to the trauma I experienced even though I was there only a short time."
- **Genevieve:** "I had bodily fluids all over my face that had to stay on my face for ten minutes. The abuse and degradation was rough. I sweated and was in deep pain. On top of the horrifying experience, my whole body ached, and I was irritable the whole day. The director didn't really care how I felt; he only wanted to finish the video."
- **Jersey Jaxin:** "Guys punching you in the face. You have semen from many guys all over your face, in your eyes. You get ripped. Your insides can come out of you. It's never ending."
- **Elizabeth Rollings:** "I didn't want to feel the pain of penetration from an over average sized man, being told to freeze in a position until the camera man was happy with his shots was very painful. I had peoples body fluids forced on my face or anywhere else the producer pleased and I had to accept it or else no pay. Sometimes you would get to a gig and the producer would change what the scene was supposed to be to something more intense and again if you didn't like it, too bad, you did it or no pay."
- **Lucky Starr:** "I was worried about my first anal scene for quite a few days ... then the big moment arrived. It REALLY hurt! I almost quit and said, "I can't do this". When it was all over, I was so happy and relieved I was able to do it..."
- **Ashlyn Brooke:** "I honestly felt that if I had to have another strange man in my face, his hands (God knows where they've been all over me) him calling me his baby and having to exude some sort of forged passion for the world to see, I probably would have exploded. And what would have been stuck to the walls would have probably been nothing, just pieces of skin, bone, the brain of a robot, and what would have been left of what would have existed once as a huge and warm heart."
- **Roxy:** "After only 30 movies I caught two sexually transmitted diseases. Herpes, a non-curable disease and HPV, which led to cervical cancer where I had to have half of my cervix removed. Porn destroyed my life."
- **Anita Cannibal:** "Yeah, there are a lot of cover-ups going on. There is a lot of tragedy. There are a lot of horrible things."
- **Tamra Toryn:** "As for myself, I ended up paying the price from working in the porn industry. In 2006, not even 9 months in, I caught a moderate form of dysplasia of the cervix (which is a form of HPV, a sexually transmitted disease) and later that day, I also found out I was pregnant. I had only 1 choice which was to abort the baby during my first month. It was extremely painful emotionally and physically. When it was all over, I cried my eyes out."
- **Jessi Summers:** "I also did a scene where I was put with male talent that was on my no list. I wanted to please them so I did it. He put his foot on my head and stepped on it while he was doing me from behind. I freaked out and started balling; they stopped filming and sent me home with reduced pay since they got some shot but not the whole scene."
- **Shelley Lubben:** "Some women hate it so much you can hear them vomiting in the bathroom between scenes."

A study across nine countries found that 89% of women in the sex industry want to escape but have no other means of survival. It also showed that these women experience post-traumatic stress disorder at rates equivalent to veterans of combat war.

(Farley et al., *Prostitution and Trafficking in Nine Countries: An Update on Violence and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder*, 2003)

You know, most of these films are made in private locations, and private mansions, or hotel rooms where's there's no government access. So it's like two young girls, 18, 19, 20-year-old girls on a mostly older male set. The producer's male, the crew's male...so of course, we're intimidated into doing scenes we don't wanna do. I can't tell you how many times I've showed up and they said, 'You need to do this scene,' [and] I said, 'No, that's not what my agent said,' or 'That's not what I was told to do,' and they're like, 'Well, you're gonna do it or we're not gonna pay you, we're going to sue you.' And now with the Internet they tell the girls, 'If you don't do this scene, we're going to send your porn to your family members, we're gonna ruin your reputation, you're never gonna work again, we're gonna take away your finances, we're gonna physically hurt you,' or they threaten to sue them. This is sex trafficking. Every porn star has been trafficked at least at one time or another in the porn industry.

Shelley Lubben, ex- porn star

"Almost all, if not all the girls, go to their shoots high on something. Whether it's painkillers, weed, ecstasy, or cocaine. So that's why when people watch [porn] it looks like the performers are having a blast but in reality they're just dissociated and don't even want to be there." – Jessie Rogers, ex-porn star