

Pornography Objectifies Women

Issue: Pornography objectifies women in a number of alarming ways, and its usage perpetuates a culture in which the degradation of women is acceptable.

Men's Degradation of Women

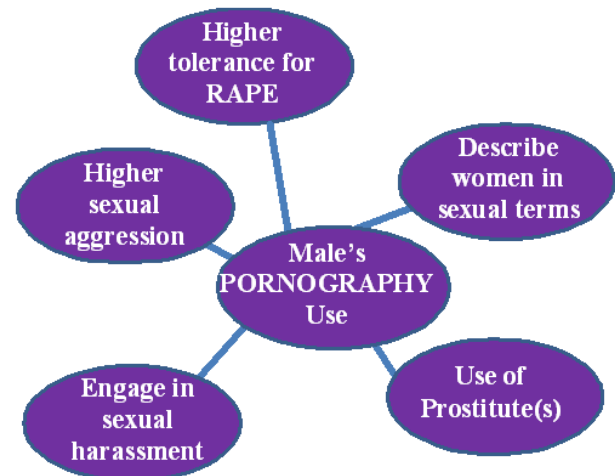
- Men exposed to pornography are more likely to describe women in overtly sexual terms, rather than by personal attributes. ¹
- Men who view pornography regularly have a higher tolerance for abnormal sexual behavior, including rape, sexual aggression, and sexual promiscuity. ²
- Married men who are involved in pornography feel less satisfied with their conjugal relations and less emotionally attached to their wives. ³
- Wives of pornography viewers feel unattractive and sexually inadequate. They frequently become so depressed they require clinical treatment. ⁴
- Internet pornography use is 3.7 times greater among those who engage in sexual relations with a prostitute than among those who do not.⁵

Women's Self-Degradation

- Women who view pornography develop a negative body image about themselves because they do not measure up to the depictions in the pornographic material. ⁶
- More women (90 percent) see pornography as degrading of women than men do (65 percent).⁷

Sexualization of Women

- Men's viewing pornography is significantly correlated with an increased likelihood of committing rape,⁸ performing acts of sexual aggression,⁹ and engaging in sexual harassment.¹⁰
- Exposure to material high in sexual imagery is associated with greater acceptance by men and women of attitudes that sexually objectify women.¹¹
- After prolonged exposure to pornography, men especially, but also some women, trivialize rape as a criminal offense.¹²



Conclusion: To viewers of pornography, a woman ceases to be a person and becomes a sex object. As indicated by MARRI research available online,¹³ pornography usage and dissemination infuse society with social norms that are offensive and dangerous to women.

¹ Deborah E.S. Frable, Anne E Johnson, and Hildy Kellman, "Seeing Masculine Men, Sexy Women, and Gender Differences: Exposure to Pornography and Cognitive Constructions of Gender," *Journal of Personality* 65 (1997): 311-355 (333).

American Psychological Association, Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls. (2010). Report of the APA Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls. Retrieved from <http://www.apa.org/pi/women/programs/girls/report-full.pdf>. Accessed 31 July 2014.

² Patrick F. Fagan, "The Effects of Pornography on Individuals, Marriage, Family, and Community," (December 2009). Available at <http://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF12D43.pdf>. Accessed July 2014.

³ Patrick F. Fagan, "The Effects of Pornography on Individuals, Marriage, Family, and Community," (December 2009). Available at <http://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF12D43.pdf>. Accessed July 2014.

⁴ Barbara A. Steffens and Robyn L. Rennie, "The Traumatic Nature of Disclosure for Wives of Sexual Addicts," *Sexual Addiction & Compulsivity* 13 (2006): 247-67.

⁵ Steven Stack, Ira Wasserman, and Roger Kern, "Adult Social Bonds and Use of Internet Pornography," *Social Science Quarterly* 85 (2004): 75-88 (83).

⁶ Sheilah Siegel, "Applying Social Comparison Theory to Women's Body Image and Self-esteem: The Effects of Pornography" (Doctoral dissertation, Pacific Graduate School of Psychology, Palo Alto, CA, 1997).

American Psychological Association, Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls. (2010). Report of the APA Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls. Retrieved from <http://www.apa.org/pi/women/programs/girls/report-full.pdf>. Accessed 31 July 2014.

⁷ Thomas Johansson and Nils Hammaren, "Hegemonic Masculinity and Pornography: Young People's Attitudes Toward and Relations to Pornography," *The Journal of Men's Studies* 15 (2007): 57-70 (62).

⁸ SB Boeringer, "Pornography and Sexual Aggression: Associations of Violent and Nonviolent depictions with rape and rape proclivity," *Deviant Behavior* 15 (1994): 289-304. As cited in Neil M. Malamuth, Tamara Addison, and Mary Koss, "Pornography and Sexual Aggression: Are There Reliable Effects and Can We Understand Them?" *Annual Review of Sexual Research* 11 (2000): 26-91 available at <http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/comm/malamuth/pdf/00arsr11.pdf>

⁹ D Demare, J Briere, and HM Lips, "Violent Pornography and Self-Reported Likelihood of Sexual Aggression," *Journal of Research in Personality* 22 (1999): 140-153. As cited in Neil M. Malamuth, Tamara Addison, and Mary Koss, "Pornography and Sexual Aggression: Are There Reliable Effects and Can We Understand Them?" *Annual Review of Sexual Research* 11 (2000): 26-91 available at <http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/comm/malamuth/pdf/00arsr11.pdf>

¹⁰ A Barak, WA Fisher, S Belfry, and DR Lashambe, "Sex, Guys, and Cyberspace: Effects of Internet Pornography and Individual Differences on Men's Attitude Toward Women," *Journal of Psychology and Human Sexuality* 11: 63-92.

¹¹ L.M Ward, A. Merriwether, & A. Caruthers, "Media use, gender ideology, and beliefs about women's bodies" (Presented at the biennial Gender Development Conference, San Francisco, April 2006).

¹² James B. Weaver III, "Effects of Pornography Addiction on Families and Communities (Presented before the Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Space of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Washington, D.C, November 18, 2004).

¹³ www.marri.us For example, "The Effects of Pornography on Individuals, Marriage, Family and Community"