

PORNOGRAPHY

(Josh McDowell research 2006 to present)

“PORNOGRAPHY GREATER THREAT TO CHILDREN AND TEENS THAN NATIONAL STUDY INDICATES”

“University of New Hampshire (UNH) researchers reported in the official...”

“University of New Hampshire (UNH) researchers reported in the official journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics that 42 percent of Internet users ages 10-17 surveyed said they had seen online pornography in the previous year. Of those, 66 percent said they exposure was unwanted.”

(“Pornography Greater Threat to Children and Teens than National Study Indicates,” Standard Newswire, February 2007, www.standardnewswire.com/news/68795645.html)

“RECENT STATISTICS ON INTERNET DANGERS”

“Internet Porn”

“• Two in five Internet users visited an adult site in August of 2005, according to tracking by comScore Media MExtrix.”

“• 87% of university students polled have virtual sex mainly using Instant Messenger, webcam, and telephone (‘CampusKiss and Tell’ University and College Sex Survey. Released on February 14, 2006. CampusKiss.com. February 17, 2006 <http://www.campuskiss.com/default.aspx?survey=show&homepage=true>.)”

“• According to comScore Media Metrix, there were 63.4 million unique visitors to adult websites in December of 2005, reaching 37.2% of the Internet audience.”

“• According to the Florida Family Association, PornCrawler, their specialized software program, identified 20 U.S. companies that accounted for more than 70 percent of 297 million porn links on the Internet.”

“• By the end of 2004, there were 420 million pages of pornography, and is believed that the majority of these websites are owned by less than 50 companies (LaRue, Jan. ‘Obscenity and the First Amendment.’ Summit on Pornography. Rayburn House Office Building. Room 2322. May 19, 2005).”

“The pornography industry generates \$12 billion dollars in annual revenue – larger than the combined annual revenues of ABC, NBC, and CBS. Of that, the Internet pornography industry generates \$2.5 billion dollars in annual revenue. (Pornography Statistics. Family Safe Media. January 10, 2006. http://www.familysafemedia.com/pornography_statistics.html)”

“• The largest group of viewers on Internet porn in children between ages 12 and 17 (Family Safe Media, December 15, 2005, http://www.familysafemedia.com/pornography_statistics.html).

“• According to comScore Media Metrix, 71.9 million people visited adult sites in August 2005, reaching 42.7 percent of the Internet audience.”

“• According to comScore Media Metrix, Internet users viewed over 15 billion pages of adult content in August 2005.”

“• According to comScore Media Metrix, Internet users viewed over 15 billion pages of adult content in August 2005.”

“• More than 32 million unique individuals visited a porn site in Sept. of 2003. Nearly 22.8 million of them were male (71 percent), while 9.4 million adult site visitors were female (29 percent) (Nielsen/Net Ratings, Sept. 2003).”

“• N2H2’s database contained 14 million identified pages of pornography in 1998, so the growth to 260 million represents an almost 20-fold increase in just five years (N2H2, 9/23/03).”

“• The cybersex industry generates approximately \$1 billion annually and is expected to grow to \$5-7 billion over the next 5 years, barring unforeseen change (National Research Council Report, 2002).

“• The total porn industry – estimates from \$4 billion to \$10 billion (National Research Council Report, 2002).”

“• The two largest individual buyers of bandwidth are U.S. firms in the adult online industry (National Research Council Report, 3-1, 2002).”

“• 40,000 expired domain names were porn-napped (National Research Council).”

“• Commercial pornography sites:”

- “74 percent display free teaser porn images on the homepage, often porn banner ads.”
- “66 percent did not include a warning of adult content.”
- “11 percent included such a warning but did not have sexually explicit content on the homepage.”
- “25 percent prevented users from exiting the site (mousetrapping).”
- “Only 3 percent require adult verification.”

(Child-proofing on the World Wide Web: A Survey of Adult Webservers, 2001, Jurimetrics. National Research Council Report, 2002).”

“Child Porn”

“• The commercial business of child pornography over the Internet has been estimated to be as high as \$20 billion worldwide, according to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.”

“• Over 3.5 million child pornography images have been identified U.S. law enforcement, according to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.”

“• According to ‘The Global Coalition To End Human Trafficking Now,’ \$34 Billion generated annually from Internet child pornography with victims as young as infants.”

“• The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children revealed, in a June 2005 study, that 40% of arrested child pornography possessors had both sexually victimized children and were in possession of child pornography (also known as ‘dual offenders’). Both crimes were discovered in the same investigation. Another 15% were ‘dual offenders’ who tried to victimize children by soliciting undercover investigators who posed as minors online. Overall 36% of ‘dual offenders’ showed or gave child pornography to identified victims or undercover investigators posing as minors online.”

“• Of those arrested in the U.S. for the possession of child pornography between 2000 and 2001, 83% had images involving children between ages 6 and 12; 39% had images involving children between ages 3 and 5; and 19% had images of infants and toddlers under age 3 (National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. Child Pornography Possessors Arrested in Internet-Related Crimes: Findings from the National Juvenile Online Victimization Study. Virginia: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, 2005).”

“• According to a National Children’s Homes report, the number of Internet child pornography images has increased 1500% since 1988.”

“• Approximately 20% of all Internet pornography involves children (National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. Internet Sex Crimes Against Minors: The Response of Law Enforcement. Virginia: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, 2003).”

“• Child pornography has become a \$3 billion annual industry (Ropelato, Jerry. Top Ten Reviews. Top Ten Reviews, Inc. 5 Dec. 2005 <<http://internet-filter-review.toptenreviews.com/internet-pornography-statistics.html>>).”

“• According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), child pornography reports increased 39% in 2004. Ernie Allen, president and CEO of NCMEC, states that the statistics show a significant and steady increase in child pornography reports for the seventh year.”

“• More than 20,000 images of child pornography are posted on the Internet every week (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, 10/8/03).”

“• 140,000 child pornography images were posted to the Internet according to researchers who monitored the Internet over six weeks. Twenty children were estimated to have been abused for

the first time and more than 1,000 images of each child created (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, 10/8/03).”

“• More than half of all illegal sites reported to the Internet Watch Foundation are hosted in the United States. Illegal sites in Russia have more than doubled from 286 to 706 in 2002 (National Criminal Intelligence Service, 8/21/03).”

“• More babies and toddlers are appearing on the net and the abuse is getting worse. It is more torturous and sadistic than it was before. The typical age of children is between six and 12, but the profile is getting younger (Prof. Max Taylor, Combating Paedophile Information Networks in Europe, March 2003).”

“• Approximately 20 new children appear on the porn sites every month – many kidnapped or sold into sex (Combating Paedophile Information Networks in Europe, March 2003).”

“• In the last couple of years, we’ve just seen such young children on regular seizures – babies, 2-, 3-, 4-year-olds (Det. Sgt. Paul Gillespie, Toronto Police Force).”

“• The U.S. Customs Service estimates that there are more than 100,000 Web sites offering child pornography – which is illegal worldwide. Revenue estimates for the industry range from about \$200 million to more than \$1 billion per year. These unlawful sexual images can be purchased as easily as shopping at Amazon.com. ‘Subscribers’ typically use credit card to pay a monthly fee of between \$30 and \$50 to download photos and videos, or a one-time fee of a few dollars for single images. (Red Herring Magazine, 1/18/02).”

“Child Sexual Abuse”

• “According to Interpol, the international police organization, as many as one in 1,000 men has a sexual interest in children.”

“• A New Zealand Internal Affairs study suggests that there is an association between viewing child pornography and committing child sexual abuse (New Zealand’s Department of Internal Affairs. Internet Traders of Child Pornography: Profiling Research. By Caroline Sullivan. October 2005. January 10, 2006. [http://www.diagovt.nz/pubforms.nsf/URL/Profilingupdate2.pdf/\\$file/Profilingupdate2.pdf](http://www.diagovt.nz/pubforms.nsf/URL/Profilingupdate2.pdf/$file/Profilingupdate2.pdf)).

“• A study of The American Journal of Preventive Medicine found that one in six men reported being sexually abused as children. Almost 40 percent of the perpetrators were female (Long-Term Consequences of Childhood Sexual Abuse by Gender of Victim. Volume 28, Issue 5. The American Journal of Preventive Medicine. June 2005).”

“• One in four women reported childhood sexual abuse and in most cases perpetrated by males (Long-Term Consequences of Childhood Sexual Abuse by Gender of Victim. Volume 28, Issue 5. The American Journal of Preventive Medicine. June 2005).”

“• In 2005, worldwide revenue from mobile phone pornography is expected to rise to \$1 billion and could grow to three times that number or more within a few years (Bryan-Low, Cassel and Pringle, David. ‘Sex Cells: Wireless Operators Find That Racy Cellphone Video Drives Surge in Broadband Use. The Wall Street Journal. May 12, 2005.)”

“• According to IDC, a technology research firm, by the end of 2004 approximately 21 million 5- to 19-year-olds had wireless phones.”

“• One-third of youth ages 11 to 17 have their own cell phones today; it is expected that half will have them within the next two years (English, Bella. ‘The Secret Life of Boys: Pornography is a Mouse Click Away, and Kids Are Being Exposed To It In Ever-Increasing Numbers.’ The Boston Globe May 12, 2005. December 15, 2005
http://www.boston.com/ae/media/articles/2005/05/12/the_secret_life_of_boys/”

“• Adult Content on mobile telephones and other portable devices is anticipated to hit \$1 billion in worldwide revenues during 2005, according to market research firm Juniper Research. (Juniper Research, ‘Adult to Mobile: Personal Services,’ February 2005)”

“•The Juniper report said a 50 percent hike in mobile porn revenues for 2005 over 2004 is likeliest to come from Europe and the Asia-Pacific regions, but by 2009 the world mobile porn market could well enough hit \$2.1 billion. (Juniper Research, ‘Adult to Mobile: Personal Services,’ February 2005)”

“Online Sexual Predators”

“•Internet pedophiles are increasingly adopting counter-intelligence techniques to protect themselves from being traced (National Criminal Intelligence Service, 8/21/03).”

“• Forty percent of people charged with child pornography also sexually abuse children, police say. But finding the predators and identifying the victims are daunting tasks (Reuters, 2003).”

“•One in five children who use computer chatrooms has been approached over the Internet by pedophiles. (Detective Chief Superintendent Keith Akerman, Telegraph.co.uk January 2002).”

“•1 in 5 received sexual solicitation or approach in last year. (Online Victimization, NCMEC, June 2000).”

“• 1 in 33 received AGGRESSIVE sexual solicitation (asked to meet, called them via phone, sent mail, money or gifts). (Online Victimization, NCMEC, June 2000)”

“• 25% of youth who received sexual solicitation told a parent. (Online Victimization, NCMEC, June 2000).”

“• 1 in 4 kids participate in Real Time Chat. (FamilyPC Survey, 2000).”

“• About four million teens-19% of 12- to 17-year olds who use the Internet-have created some sort of blog, according to a November 2005 Pew Internet & American Life Project study.”

“• In a survey conducted by the Intelligence Group, Dateline questioned 500 teenagers across the country, ages 14-18, about their computer habits. . . .When asked if someone they’ve met online has wanted to meet them in person, 58 percent said ‘yes’ and 29 percent said they’ve had a ‘scary’ experience online (Most Teens Say They’ve Met Strangers Online, MSNBC Interactive, April 26, 2006, <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/12502825/from/ET/print/1/displaymode/1098/>.)”

“• The number one media concern for parents has shifted from television to the Internet, with 85 percent of parents saying that it posed the greatest risk to their children among all forms of media (National Attitudinal Poll, Common Sense Media, June 7, 2006, <http://www.common sense media.org/news/press-releases.php?id=23>.)”

“• 77% of Parents say they see the Internet as an important tool to help their kids learn (National Attitudinal Poll, Common Sense Media, June 7, 2006, <http://www.common sense media.org/news/press-releases.php?id=23>.)”

“• 80% of Parents worry about predators in their kids’ Internet use (National Attitudinal Poll, Common Sense Media, June 7, 2006, <http://www.common sense media.org/news/press-releases.php?id=23>.)”

“• 76% of Parents say they would like to make the Internet a safer place for kids (National Attitudinal Poll, Common Sense Media, June 7, 2006, <http://www.common sense media.org/news/press-releases.php?id=23>.)”

“• 83% of Parents say there is no excuse for not knowing enough about the Internet to protect your kids or teens (National Attitudinal Poll, Common Sense Media, June 7, 2006, <http://www.common sense media.org/news/press-releases.php?id=23>.)”

“• 88% of Parents think it’s more important to know what their kids are doing online than to respect their kids’ privacy (National Attitudinal Poll, Common Sense Media, June 7, 2006, <http://www.common sense media.org/news/press-release.php?id=23>.)”

“• 87% of Parents seek out information about their kids’ Internet use a few times a month (National Attitudinal Poll, Common Sense Media, June 7, 2006, <http://www.common sense media.org/news/press-releases.php?id=23>.)”

“• Half of teens ages 13-18 often communicate through the Internet with someone they have not met in person (Internet Safety: Realistic Strategies & Messages for Kids Taking More and More Risks Online. December 21, 2005. Polly Klaas Foundation. February 17, 2006 < <http://www.pollyklaas.org/internet-safety/pkfsummary.pdf>>.)”

“• One-third of youth ages 8-18 have talked about meeting someone they have only met through the Internet (Internet Safety: Realistic Strategies & Messages for Kids Taking More and More

Risks Online. December 21, 2005. Polly Klaas Foundation. February 17, 2006 <<http://www.pollyklaas.org/internet-safety/pkfsummary.pdf>>.”

“• Almost one in eight youth ages 8-18 discovered that someone they were communicating with online was an adult pretending to be much younger (Internet Safety: Realistic Strategies & Messages for Kids Taking More and More Risks Online. December 21, 2005. Polly Klaas Foundation. February 17, 2006 <http://www.pollyklaas.org/internet-safety/pkfsummary.pdf>>).”

“• The entire study is online at: <http://www.pollyklaas.org/internet-safety/pkfsummary.pdf> (Polly Klaas Foundation, 2005)”

“• ‘30% of teenage girls polled by the Girl Scout Research Institute said they had been sexually harassed in a chatroom. Only 7%, however, told their mothers or fathers about the harassment because they were worried that their parents would ban them from going online’ (Girl Scout Research Institute, 2002).”

“• ‘86% of the girls polled said they could chat online without their parents knowledge, 57% could read their parents’ e-mail, and 54% could conduct a cyber relationship’ (Girl Scout Research Institute, 2002).”

“• According to a New Zealand Internal Affairs study, the largest single age group viewing child pornography is young people aged 15 to 19, accounting for a quarter of 202 convicted child porn users. (New Zealand’s Department of Internal Affairs. Internet Traders of Child Pornography: Profiling Research. By Caroline Sullivan. October 2005. January 10, 2006. <[http://www.dia.govt.nz/pubforms.nsf/URL/Profilingupdate2.pdf/\\$file/Profilingupdate2.pdf](http://www.dia.govt.nz/pubforms.nsf/URL/Profilingupdate2.pdf/$file/Profilingupdate2.pdf)>)”

“• More than 11 million teens regularly view porn online (‘Protecting Kids Online.’ Editorial. The Washington Post, July 1, 2004).”

“• 81% of parents of online teens say that teens aren’t careful enough when giving out information about themselves online and 79% of online teens agree with this (Family, Friends & Community: Protecting Teens Online, Amanda Lenhart, March 17, 2005, Pew Internet & American Life Project, December 12, 2005 http://www.pewinternet.org/PPF/r/152/report_display.asp).”

“• 65% of all parents and 64% of all teens say that teens do things online that they wouldn’t want their parents to know about (Family, Friends & Community: Protecting Teens Online, Amanda Lenhart, March 17, 2005, Pew Internet & American Life Project, December 12, 2005 <http://www.pewinternet.org/PPF/r/152/report_display.asp>).”

“• 42% of parents do not review the content of what their teenager(s) read and/or type in chat rooms or via instant messaging. 58% do (Parents’ Internet Monitoring Study. June 2005. Cox Communications, The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and NetSmartz. December 14, 2005 <<http://www.cox.com/TakeCharge/includes/docs/results.pdf>>).”

“• Teenagers use chat lingo to communicate when Instant Messaging and parents don’t know the meanings of some of the most commonly used phrases. 57% don’t know LOL (laughing out loud), 68% don’t know BRB (be right back), and 92% don’t know A/S/L (age/sex/location) (Parents’ Internet Monitoring Study. June 2005. Cox Communications, The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and NetSmartz. December 14, 2005 <http://www.cox.com/TakeCharge/includes/docs/results.pdf>>).”

“• 95% of parents didn’t recognize common chat room lingo that teenagers use to let people they’re chatting with know that their parents are watching. Those phrases are POS (parent over shoulder) and P911 (parent alert) (Parents’ Internet Monitoring Study. June 2005. Cox Communications The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and NetSmartz. December 14, 2005 < <http://www.cox.com/TakeCharge/includes/docs/results.pdf>>).”

“• In 26% of cases where youth accidentally stumbled into pornographic websites, the youth stated being exposed to another sex website when they were attempting to exit the initial website (Mitchell, K.J., Finkelhor, and D., Wolak, J. ‘The Exposure of Youth to Unwanted Sexual Material on the Internet: A National Survey of Risk, Impact, and Prevention’. Youth & Society, 34 (2003): 330-358).”

“• 23% of youth were ‘very’ or ‘extremely upset’ by exposures to sexual content online (Mitchell, K.J., Finkelhor, D., and Wolak, J. ‘Victimization of Youths on the Internet.’ The Victimization of Children: Emerging Issues. Ed. J.L. Mullings, J.W. Marquart, and D.J. Hartley. New York: Haworth Maltreatment & Trauma Press, 2003).”

“• Adolescents’ access to sexual and reproductive health information is minimally affected by pornography-blocking software. For example, only 5% of online health information was filtered out by pornography-blocking software when installed at moderate settings while blocking 90% of pornographic content (Richardson, C.R., Resnick, P.J., Hansen, D.L., Derry, H.A. & Rideout, V.J. ‘Does pornography-blocking software block access to health information on the Internet?’ Journal of the American Medical Association, 288(22), (2002): 2887-2894).”

“• 23% of parents have rules about what their kids can do on the compute (The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Study, March 2005).”

“• 25% of 7th- to 12th-graders with a computer at home say it has a filter or parental controls on it (The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Study, March 2005).”

“• 31% of 7th to 12th-graders pretended to be older to get onto a website (The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Study, March 2005).”

“• Nearly all young people have used a computer (98%) and gone online (96%) (The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Study, March 2005).”

“• In a typical day, just over half (54%) of all young people use a computer for recreation (The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Study, March 2005).”

“• Nearly one-third (31%) of 8- to 18-year-olds have a computer in their bedroom, and one in five (20%) have an Internet connection there (The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Study, March 2005).”

“• About half of young people (48%) go online from home, 20% from school, and 16% from someplace else (The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Study, March 2005).”

“• Among the 96% of young people who have ever gone online, 65% say they go online most often from home, 14% from school, 7% from a friend’s house, and 2% from a library or other location (The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Study, March 2005).”

“• One in ten young people (13%) reports having a handheld device that connects to the Internet (The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Study, March 2005).”

“• The most common recreational activities young people engage in on the computer are playing games and communicating through instant messaging (The Henry J. Kaiser Foundation Study, March 2005).”

“• The Kaiser Family Foundation found that among teens online, 70 percent have accidentally come across pornography on the Web (Kaiser Family Foundation).”

“• A study by the NOP Research Group found that of the four million children aged seven to 17 who surf the net, 29% percent would freely give out their home address and 14% would freely give out their e-mail address if asked. (Telegraph.co.uk January 2002)”

“• Nine out of 10 children aged between eight and 16 have viewed pornography on the Internet. In most cases, the sex sites were accessed unintentionally when a child, often in the process of doing homework, used a seemingly innocent sounding word to search for information or pictures. (London School of Economics January 2002).”

“• The Kaiser Family Foundation’s study on teens’ use of the Internet for health information has some shocking findings:”

Pornography and Internet Filtering Among all 15-24 year-olds:”

- “Two-thirds (67%) support the law requiring Internet filters at schools and libraries.”
- “Two out of three (65%) say being exposed to online pornography could have a serious impact on those under 18.”
- “A majority (59%) think seeing pornography on the Internet encourages young people to have sex before they’re ready.”

“Among the 95% of all 15-17 year-olds who have ever gone online:”

- “Seventy percent have accidentally stumbled across pornography online, 23% ‘very’ or ‘somewhat’ often.”
- “A majority (55%) of those who were exposed to pornography say they were ‘not too’ or ‘not at all’ upset by it, while 45% were ‘very’ or ‘somewhat’ upset.”
- “A third (33%) of those with home Internet access have a filtering technology in place there. Among the 76% of all 15-17 year-olds who have sought health information online.”
- “Nearly half (46%) say they have been blocked from non-pornographic sites by filtering technology.”
- “The entire study is online at <http://www.kff.org/content/2001/20011211a/GenerationRx.pdf> (The Kaiser Family Foundation, 2001)”

“Adults”

“• 32 million women had visited at least one pornography website in one month of 2004 along (Paul, Pamela. Pornified: How Pornography is Transforming Our Lives, Our Relationships, and Our Families. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2005).”

“• 41% of women said they had deliberately viewed or downloaded pornographic pictures and movies (Paul, Pamela. Pornified: How Pornography is Transforming Our Lives, Our Relationships, and Our Families. New York: Henry Ho and Company, 2005).”

“• Cyber-sex is the crack cocaine of sexual addiction. (Dr. Robert Weiss, Sexual Recovery Institute, Washington Times 1/26/2000).”

“• Cyber-sex reinforces and normalized sexual disorders. (Dr. Robert Weiss, Sexual Recovery Institute, Washington Times 1/26/2000).”

“• 57 million Americans have Internet access. (MSNBC/Stanford/Duquesne Study, 2000).”

“• 25 million Americans visit cyber-sex sites between 1-10 hours per week Another 4.7 million in excess of 11 hours per week. (MSNBC/Stanford/Duquesne Study, Washington Times, 1/26/2000).”

“• At least 200,000 Internet users are hooked on porn sites, X-rated chat rooms or sexual materials online. (MSNBC/Standford/Duquesne Study, Associated Press Online, 2/29/2000).”

“• MSNBC/Stanford/Duquesne Study, 2000”

- “Men prefer visual erotica twice as much as women”
- “Women favor chat rooms twice as much as men”

- “Women had slightly lower rate of sexually compulsive Internet behavior”
- “70% keep their habit a secret”

“Christians And Sexual Brokenness”

“• One out of every six women, including Christians, struggles with an addiction to pornography. That’s 17 percent of the population, which, according to a survey by research organization Zogby International, is the number of women who truly believe they can find sexual fulfillment on the Internet (Today’s Christian Woman, September/October 2003).”

“• ‘More than 80 percent of women who have this addiction take it offline,’” says Marnie Ferree. “‘Women, far more than men, are likely to act out their behaviors in real life, such as having multiple partners, casual sex, or affairs’” (Today’s Christian Woman, September/October 2003).”

“• 51% of pastors say cyberporn is a possible temptation. 37% say it is a current struggle (Christianity Today, Leadership Survey, December 2001). 4 in 10 pastors have visited a porn site (Christianity Today, Leadership Survey, December 2001).”

“• According to ‘The Global Coalition To End Human Trafficking Now’ 10 Million child prostitutes worldwide.”

“• \$19 Billion generated annually on the street from human trafficking (Christine Dolan, The Global Coalition to End Human Trafficking NOW).”

“• According to Sex on TV 4, a Kaiser Family Foundation study (November, 2005), the number of television sexual scenes has almost doubled since 1998. 70% of all shows have some sexual content – averaging 5 sexual scenes per hour compared to 56% and 3.2 scenes per hour respectively in 1998.”

“• According to Sex on TV 4, a Kaiser Family Foundation study (November, 2005), among the top 20 most popular shows among teens 70% include sexual content and almost half (45%) include sexual behavior.”

“• The adult-film industry is bigger than ever, making some 6,000 movies a year and grossing more than \$4 billion – roughly as much as the National Football League (New York Post, Russell Scott Smith, 9/25/03).”

(“Recent Statistics on Internet Dangers,” www.ProtectKids.com)

“DANCING IN THE DARK”

“Physical Manifestations”

“The dynamics of sexual addiction have been increasingly well-documented by numerous authorities, yet the information is seldom mentioned to teenagers. For example, few teens are aware that when one views pornography, powerful biochemical reactions are unleashed which can quickly lead to addiction. When a teen is excited by an image, the adrenal gland secretes a chemical called epinephrine into the bloodstream. The chemical then travels to the brain and locks the image. From this point, the mind may recall the image at any time and trigger the feeling of arousal. The effect of this process is why so many adults can still vividly recall the first pornographic image they saw as a youngster.”

“Other biochemical’s are at work as well such as serotonin, endorphins, adrenaline and dopamine which produce powerful euphoric states in the pornography user. Teens experiencing this self-indeed chemical thrill will naturally wish to do so again. Indeed, like Robert, the very act of approaching pornography then creates a rush of consumption to maximize the thrill. Teens who begin with causal viewing may suddenly find themselves consumed by recalled erotic images and may compulsively devote ever-more time and attention to them. Teens trapped in the cycle may require ever-more explicit (and in some cases illegal) images to achieve the same response.”

“The Effects”

“Certainly, not all kids who view pornography end up as sexual addicts, but pornography is harmful to them nonetheless. Developmentally, the teenage years are a key formative stage, and the normalized yet ridiculously skewed depiction of sexuality in pornography can greatly impair a young persons development of a healthy sexual identity (if you doubt this, consider the numerous recent media stories of the consequences of teens acting out what they say on the Playboy Channel and adult videos).”

“Pornography fosters a demeaning attitude towards women by depicting females as insatiable play things, and attitude that has been correlated with incidents of sexual abuse and rape. Pornography also creates the expectation in teenage males that women’s bodies should look like the air-brushed and surgically enhanced versions in the movies, an expectation that can lead to condemnation and rejection of girls fighting this impossible standard. The act of sex itself through pornography is dehumanized and desensitized, and teens may have a hard time discovering real intimacy when raised on this dysfunctional and destructive model.”

“Finally, and most importantly, pornography represents a spiritual assault on God’s gift of sexuality and the purpose for which it was created. Christian teenagers are forced to try to maintain a Godly conception of their sexuality in the midst of a well-conceived, all-out blitzkrieg on their values, and many of our teens are quietly losing the fight.”

“Robert didn’t realize had had a problem until he started falling asleep in class and his grades began to slip. Despite these detrimental effects, he continued his nightly affair with

pornography. It began to scare him when he realized that he could no longer control himself, and that's when he came to talk to me.”

“1. Never judge or shame a teenager. Whether you are addressing a group or an individual, the teenager who's indulging in pornography probably feels both shame and isolation for their actions. They may feel deviant, and that they're the only ones who are engaged in this behavior. If teenagers feel the possibility of rejection, they won't open up.”

“2. Normalize teenagers' sexuality. It's psychologically crucial to affirm that sexual thoughts are a normal and unavoidable part of being a teenager. Acknowledge how difficult it is to maintain godly thoughts about sexuality when one is bombarded with constant and graphic sexual images and expectations. Reinforce that sexuality is a gift from God to be cherished, and that it's what we do with it that makes it a sin.”

“3. Be cognizant of gender issues. When talking about sensitive sexual topics, it's often more comfortable for the teens have men addressing boys and women addressing girls. It's also protection for the youth worker, since teens struggling with their sexual issues often have dangerously ambiguous physical and emotional boundaries.”

“4. Affirm each individual. For anyone who has come to you with this problem, give them your undivided attention and affirm the courage and trust it took for them to discuss it with you.”

“5. Preach forgiveness. For some reason, sexual sin is often falsely regarded as being much more heinous than other types of sin (which is yet another example of the mechanics of guilt and shame at work). Help the teens realize that God's forgiveness is theirs for the asking and that you forgive them too.”

(John Haney, “Dancing in the Dark,” Youth Specialties, November 2006, www.youthspecialties.com/articles/topics/sexuality/dancing.php?)

“STUDY: RISING NUMBER OF KIDS EXPOSED TO ONLINE PORN, AND MOST SAY IT TURNS THEM OFF”

“More than one-third of 16- and 17-year-old boys surveyed said they had intentionally visited X-rated sites in the past year. Among girls the same age, 8% had done so.”

“Overall, 34% had unwanted exposure to online pornography, including some children who had willingly viewed pornography in other instances. The 2005 number was up from 25% in a similar survey conducted in 1999 and 2000.”

(“Study: Rising number of kids exposed to online porn, and most say it turns them off,” USA TODAY, February 2007, www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2007-02-05-kids-onlineporn_x.htm)