

Pornography Statistics

Office of Child Protection and Safety

CHILDREN/YOUTH

- More than 20,000 images of child pornography are posted online every week.
- Approximately 20 percent of all Internet pornography involves children.
- 100,000 websites offer illegal child pornography.
- 1 in 7 children who use the Internet have been sexually solicited.
- 76 percent of victims in Internet-initiated sexual exploitation cases were 13-15; 75 percent were girls.
- Average age of first Internet exposure to pornography: 11 years old.
- Largest consumer of Internet pornography is 12 - 17 year-olds.
- Youth with significant exposure to sexuality in the media were significantly more likely to have intercourse at ages 14 to 16.
- 89 percent of youth admit to receiving sexual solicitation in chat rooms.
- 80 percent of 15-17 year-olds have had multiple hard-core exposures.
- According to an anonymous survey published in the *Journal of Adolescent Health* in August 2009:
 - 96 percent of teens interviewed had Internet access.
 - 55.4 percent reported that they had visited a sexually explicit website.
 - Adolescents exposed to these sites are more likely to have multiple lifetime sexual partners, more likely to have had more than one sexual partner in the last 3 months, and more likely to have used alcohol or other substances during last sexual encounter.
- According to a study done by Symantec, after scanning 3.5 million online searches done between February 2008 and July 2009, "sex" was the 4th most used term; "porn" was the 6th. This reflects searches done by children in households that use OnlineFamily.Norton.
- In a survey (2008) of teens and young adults done by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy and CosmoGirl.com:
 - 20 percent of teens overall have sent or posted nude or semi-nude pictures and/or videos of themselves.
 - 39 percent of teens are sending or posting sexually suggestive messages.
 - 71 percent of teen girls and 67 percent of teen guys who have sent or posted sexually suggestive content say they have sent/posted this content to a boyfriend/girlfriend.
 - 21 percent of teen girls and 39 percent of teen boys say they have sent such content to someone with whom they wanted to 'hook up' or date.
 - 15 percent of teens who have sent or posted nude/semi-nude images of themselves say they have done so to someone they only knew online.
 - 51 percent of teen girls say pressure from a guy is a reason girls send sexy messages or images; only 18 percent of teen boys cited pressure from female counterparts as a reason.

Pornography Statistics

Office of Child Protection and Safety

- 23 percent of teen girls and 24 percent of teen boys say they were pressured by friends to send or post sexual content.
- 66 percent of teen girls and 60 percent of teen boys who have sent sexually suggestive content say they did so to be “fun or flirtatious” (this was their most common reason for sending sexy content).
- 40 percent of teen girls who have sent sexually suggestive content said they sent sexually suggestive messages or images as “a joke.”
- 34 percent of teen girls who have sent sexually suggestive content say they sent/posted sexually suggestive content to “feel sexy.”
- Among teen girls, 38 percent say they have had sexually suggestive text messages or emails—originally meant for someone else—shared with them, and 25 percent say they have had nude or semi-nude images—originally meant for someone else—shared with them.
- Among teen boys, 39 percent say they have had sexually suggestive text messages or emails—originally meant for someone else—shared with them, and 33 percent of teen boys say they have had nude or semi-nude images—originally meant for someone else—shared with them.

Pornography Statistics

Office of Child Protection and Safety

- In 2007, a study from Grunwald Associates, LLC, in cooperation with the National School Boards Association reported:
 - 9-17 year-olds spend about 9 hours a week on online social networking activities (compared to about 10 hours watching TV).
 - 96 percent of students with online access report that they use social networking technologies (chat, text messaging, blogging, online communities, etc.).
 - 71 percent say they use social networking tools at least weekly.
- According to research done by the Crimes Against Children Research Center between 2004 to 2008:
 - 1 in 25 youth in one year received an online sexual solicitation where the solicitor tried to make offline contact.
 - Most victims go voluntarily to meet and have sex with Internet offenders.
 - Internet offenders target teens willing to talk online about sex.
 - Offenders typically manipulate young people into criminal sexual relationships by appealing to young people's desire to be appreciated, understood, take risks, and find out about sex.

YOUNG ADULTS

- 87 percent of young men report that using pornography is acceptable.
- 31 percent of young women report that using pornography is acceptable.
- 70 percent of 18-24 year-old men visit pornographic sites monthly.
- In 2009, Michael Leahy released results of a survey of 29,000 individuals at North American universities. This was published in *Porn University: What College Students Are Really Saying about Sex on Campus*.
 - 51 percent of male students and 32 percent of female students first viewed pornography before teenage years (12 and younger).
 - 35 percent of all students' first exposure was Internet or computer-based (compared to 32 percent from magazines, 13 percent from VHS or DVD, and 18 percent from Cable or pay-per-view).
 - 51 percent of male students and 16 percent of female students spend less than 5 hours per week online for sex.
 - 11 percent of male students and 1 percent of female students spend 5-20 hours a week online for Internet sex.
 - 36 percent of male students and 82 percent of female students say they do not spend *any* time online for Internet sex.
 - 42 percent of male students and 20 percent of women said they regularly read romance novels, sexually explicit magazines, or regularly visited sexually explicit websites or chat rooms.

Pornography Statistics

Office of Child Protection and Safety

- A study conducted in 2007 by researchers at Brigham Young University found that 21 percent of male college students view pornography “every day or almost every day,” and 27 percent view pornography “1 or 2 days a week.”

ADULTS

- 10 percent of adults surveyed admit to Internet sexual addiction; 28 percent of those are women.
- 1 in 3 porn viewers is a woman.
- 40 million U.S. adults regularly visit Internet pornography websites.
- 67 percent of 18-26 year-old men believe viewing pornography is acceptable, while 49 percent of 18-26 year-old women believe viewing pornography is acceptable.
- 13 percent of women admit to accessing pornography at work.
- 70 percent of women keep their cyber activities secret.
- 72 percent of men visit pornographic sites.
- 66 percent of men in their 20s and 30s report being regular users of pornography.
- 20 percent of men admit to accessing pornography at work.
- According to a 2009 survey commissioned by Morality in Media, Inc. (an American interfaith organization) and conducted by Harris Interactive:
 - 76 percent of U.S. adults disagree that “viewing hardcore adult pornography on the Internet is morally acceptable.”
 - 74 percent disagree that “viewing hardcore adult pornography on the Internet provides, generally, harmless entertainment.”
 - 67 percent disagree with the following two statements: 1) viewing hardcore pornography on the Internet is morally acceptable; and 2) such viewing provides, generally, harmless entertainment.
 - 80 percent of Republicans, 64 percent of Independents, and 59 percent of Democrats disagree with both statements.
 - 69 percent of Whites, 74 percent of Hispanics, and 53 percent of African Americans disagree with both statements.
 - 69 percent of married adults and 61 percent of single adults (three-fifths) disagree with both statements.
 - Adults who have children in the home (68 percent) are more likely to disagree with both statements than those who do not have children (56 percent).
 - Only 10 percent agree with both statements.

MARRIAGE/DIVORCE

Pornography Statistics

Office of Child Protection and Safety

- Studies show an association between pornography acceptance and its use resulting in risky sexual attitudes and behaviors, substance use and patterns and non-marital cohabitation values.
- A press release from the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers reported that the most salient factors present in divorce cases are as follows:
 - 68 percent of the divorces involved one party meeting a new lover over the Internet.
 - 56 percent involved one party having “an obsessive interest in pornographic websites.”
 - 47 percent involved spending excessive time on the computer.
 - 33 percent involved excessive time spent speaking in chat rooms.
- According to news reports (published in 2009) about one of the most popular pro-adultery sites, AshleyMadison.com:
 - 92 percent of male members and 60 percent of female members are married or otherwise attached.
 - A new member joins every 15 seconds and the site has made more than \$20 million.

PERFORMERS/VICTIMS

- In 2008, Shelley Lubben, founder of the Pink Cross Foundation, reported: Lobbyist Bill Lyon of the Free Speech Coalition (representing 900 companies in the porn business) reported to 60 Minutes television that the porn industry employs 12,000 people in California and pays the state \$36 million in taxes per year.
 - Only 17 percent of performers use condoms in heterosexual adult films.
 - In 2004, only two of 200 adult film companies required the use of condoms.
 - One male pornographic performer, Rocco (600 films and 3,000 women), said: “Every professional in the porn-world has herpes, male or female.”
 - Dr. Sharon Mitchell confirms the STD prevalence in an interview with *Court TV*, in which she states: “66 percent of porn performers have Herpes, 12-28 percent have sexually transmitted diseases (other than Herpes/HIV), and 7 percent have HIV.”
 - Porn actress Erin Moore admits, “The drugs we binged on were Ecstasy, Cocaine, Marijuana, Xanax, Valium, Vicodin and alcohol.”
 - Tanya Burleson, formerly known as Jersey Jaxin, says, “Guys are punching you in the face. You get ripped. Your insides can come out of you. It’s never ending. You’re viewed as an object—not as a human with a spirit. People do drugs because they can’t deal with the way they’re being treated.”

Pornography Statistics

Office of Child Protection and Safety

CLERGY

- 33 percent of clergy admitted to having visited a sexually explicit website.
 - 53 percent had visited such sites “a few times” in the past year.
 - 18 percent visit sexually explicit sites between a couple of times a month and more than once a week.
- Over half of evangelical pastors admit to viewing pornography “a few times” a year.

CHRISTIANS

- 29 percent of born again adults in the U.S. feel it is morally acceptable to view movies with explicit sexual behavior.
- 34 percent of female readers of Today's Christian Woman's online newsletter admitted to intentionally accessing Internet porn in a recent poll.
- 1 out of every 6 women, including Christians, struggles with an addiction to pornography.
- In March 2005, Christianity Today published the results of a study called “Christians and Sex” in their Leadership Journal. 680 pastors and 1,972 laypersons were surveyed, with the following results:
 - 44 percent of churchgoers want to hear more scriptural teaching from their pastors on the subject of sex.
 - 22 percent of pastors feel they should spend more time on the topic.
 - 85 percent of pastors say they speak about sexual issues once a year.
 - 63 percent of churchgoers say their pastors speak about sexual issues once a year.
 - 57 percent of pastors say that addiction to pornography is the most damaging issue to their congregation.
 - Almost 9 in 10 pastors reported counseling a layperson on sexual issues once a year or more.

WORKPLACE

- In 2009, the agency inspector of the National Science Foundation (NSF) had to shift his primary focus from grant fraud to finding out who is using government computers to search for porn. Deputy Inspector General Tim Cross said, “We were consumed with a lot of these cases.”
 - One senior executive spent at least 331 days looking at pornography and chatting online with partially clad or nude women (his “humanitarian” defense was that he frequented the porn sites to provide a living to poor overseas women); this cost tax payers anywhere from \$13,800 to \$58,000.

Pornography Statistics

Office of Child Protection and Safety

- One worker perused hundreds of pornographic websites during work hours in a three week time frame in June 2008; that employee received a 10-day suspension.
- Another employee was caught with hundreds of pictures, videos and even PowerPoint slide shows containing pornography on his work computer.
- Another employee stored nude images of herself on her work computer.
- Overall, investigative recoveries totaled more than \$2 million for the year.

ONLINE SEARCHES/PAID SUBSCRIPTIONS

- 4.2 million pornographic websites and 420 million pornographic pages exist on the internet.
- In 2008, according to research done by Kirk Doran, Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Notre Dame:
 - 14 percent of the online population of America visit adult sites and spend an average of 6.5 minutes per visit.
 - 80-90 percent (approximately 32-37 million) of these people only access *free* pornographic material.
 - The remaining 3 million Americans who *pay* for Internet pornography pay an average of \$61 per month; this generates \$2.5 billion in annual revenues for the Internet porn industry.
- According to a report in The Journal of Economic Perspectives, Ben Edleman studied a list of zip codes associated with all credit card subscriptions for a top adult entertainment seller for about two years, 2006-2008:
 - There were *higher percentages* of subscriptions to porn sites in zip codes that...
 - Are more urban than rural.
 - Have experienced an increase in higher than average household income.
 - Have a greater density of young people (age 15-24).
 - Have a higher proportion of people with undergraduate degrees.
 - Have higher measures of social capital (i.e., more people who donate blood, engage in volunteer activities, or participate in community projects).
 - Have enacted conservative legislation on sexuality (such as “defense of marriage” amendments) or have conservative positions on religion, gender roles and sexuality.
 - There were lower percentages of subscriptions to porn sites in zip codes that...
 - Have experienced an increase in marriage rates and divorce rates.

Pornography Statistics

Office of Child Protection and Safety

- Have a higher percentage of graduate degrees.
- Have experienced a higher percentage increase of elderly people (65+).
- There was no significant statistical increase or decrease in subscriptions to porn sites based on . . .
 - Voting for the 2004 presidential elections.
 - Regions where more people report regularly attending religious services (however, in such regions, a statistically significant smaller proportion of subscriptions are initiated on Sunday, compared with other regions).
- The top ten states with the most subscriptions (per thousand home broadband users, relative to subscription rates predicted, based on demographics) are:

1. Utah	5. Hawaii	9. North Dakota
2. Florida	6. West Virginia	10. Maine
3. Alaska	7. Arkansas	
4. Mississippi	8. Oklahoma	
- In 2009, the Media Research Center (MRC) examined the most popular YouTube searches for the word “porn,” yielding 330,000 results. MRC studied the 157 videos with more than 1 million views:
 - Two-thirds of the 157 “porn” videos advertise themselves as being actual pornography.
 - Many videos feature clips from actual porn movies, interviews with porn stars, advertisements for porn sites and phone sex lines.
 - Profanity is commonplace in the titles and comments for the videos.
- 42.7 percent of internet users view pornography.
- 25 percent of daily search engine requests are for pornography (68 million per day).
- 2.5 billion pornographic e-mails are sent every day (8 percent of total e-mails sent).
- 12 percent of the websites on the internet are pornographic (24,644,172 sites).
- Every second, \$3,075.64 is spent on pornography and 28,258 internet users are viewing porn.
- 35 percent of all internet downloads are pornographic.
- Top pornographic search terms: “sex”, “adult dating” and “porn”. Elmhurst, Illinois is the #1 city in the US to search for “sex”, “porn” and “xxx.”
- Utah has the nation’s highest online porn subscription rate per thousand home broadband users: 5.47.

Pornography Statistics

Office of Child Protection and Safety

- 34 percent of internet users have experienced unwanted exposure to porn through pop-up ads, misdirected links or e-mails.
- There are 116,000 searches for "child pornography" every day.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Total porn industry revenue for 2006: \$13.3 billion in the United States; \$97 billion worldwide.
- In the U.S., internet porn pulls in \$2.84 billion per year (as of 2010). The entire worldwide industry is worth \$4.9 billion per year.
- Hotel viewership for adult films: 55 percent.
- The least popular day of the year for viewing porn is Thanksgiving.
- The most popular day of the week for viewing porn is Sunday.

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Pornography Statistics

Office of Child Protection and Safety

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Pornography Statistics

Office of Child Protection and Safety

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This list of pornography statistics has been compiled by Paola A. Maldonado-Torres, intern for the Office for the Protection of Children and Young People (OPCYP) at the Catholic Diocese of Arlington. The information contained in this list, including quotations from various speakers, is for educational purposes only. It does not necessarily reflect the opinions or beliefs of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington or any of its affiliates. For more information consult the "Sources" section of this document.