

# DefendDignity

## 10 Reasons Pornography Harms Children

**Child online safety needs to be uppermost in the minds of society. Wide open access to adult content on the internet has been shown to be harmful to children. The increased use of technology over the last number of months has intensified these concerns.**

***Today's "adult content," pornography, is misogynistic, violent, degrading, racist, and is negatively impacting children and youth's empathy and sexual templates.***

1. There is a seamless link between pornography and other forms of sexual exploitation, such as human trafficking, including those who traffic children.<sup>1</sup> Traffickers will often make pornography of their victims. This child sexual abuse material (CSAM) and videos of non-consensual sex are easily available on porn websites.
2. Globally, porn is a \$97 billion dollar industry.<sup>2</sup> This value chain links not just film producers and distributors, but also bankers, software producers, credit card companies, internet providers, cable companies, and hotel chains.<sup>3</sup>
3. Today's pornography is based on the domination and hatred of women and girls. Prominent themes are the humiliation and degradation of women and girls. One meta-analysis study, which analyzed 304 scenes, found that 88% contained physical aggression and 49% contained verbal aggression.<sup>4</sup>
4. The "teen" porn category has topped porn site searches for the last number of years.<sup>5</sup> It is important to keep in mind that teens are children.
5. Child pornography is a growing problem in Canada. In 2017, Statistics Canada reports 233% jump in child pornography incidents in the last decade.<sup>6</sup> This explosive growth continues. In 2020, the number of reported cases increased by 89% over the five-year average.<sup>7</sup>
6. Reports of online sexual exploitation of Canadian children have soared during the COVID-19 pandemic as abusers take advantage of the fact that kids are spending more time online.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Farley, Melissa. "Pornography, Prostitution, & Trafficking: Making the Connections." Presented at the Pornography: a Public Health Crisis forum, hosted by National Center on Sexual Exploitation, Washington DC, July 14, 2015.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nbcnews.com/business/business-news/things-are-looking-americas-porn-industry-n289431>

<sup>3</sup> Dr. Gail Dines in <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2011/jan/04/pornography-big-business-influence-culture>

<sup>4</sup><http://pornharmresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/Violence-Against-Women-2010-Bridges-1065-85.pdf>

<sup>5</sup>"PornHub Year in Review" summary at <https://fightthenewdrug.org/this-years-most-popular-genre-of-porn-is-pretty-messed-up/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/sexual-offences-children-increase-statscan-1.4218870>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.protectchildren.ca/en/press-and-media/news-releases/2021/stats-canada-crime-data-pandemic>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/pandemic-child-sexual-abuse-1.5645315>

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7. Among the documented harms of pornography is the link between pornography use and sexual violence, including child molestation and rape.<sup>9</sup>
8. In the UK, reports of children sexually assaulting each other have almost doubled in the few years; experts blame the rise in the availability of online pornography.<sup>10</sup>
9. Because of brain development during adolescence, there is a greater potential for porn to impact the mental health of youth. “There are over [85 studies](#) that link poor mental and emotional health to porn use. These effects range from brain fog and social anxiety through to depression, negative body image and flashbacks.”<sup>11</sup>
10. These mental health issues extend to an increased risk of suicide. The regular consumption of pornography has been shown to be an aggravating factor for suicidal thoughts.<sup>12</sup>



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<sup>9</sup> [http://www.socialcostsofpornography.com/Layden\\_Pornography\\_and\\_Violence.pdf](http://www.socialcostsofpornography.com/Layden_Pornography_and_Violence.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/10/09/number-child-on-child-sexual-assaults-almost-doubles/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://rewardfoundation.org/health/mental-effects-of-porn/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.alsc.ala.org/blog/2020/02/children-pornography-and-suicide/>