

ONLINE PORNOGRAPHY AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE BEHAVIOR OF COLLEGE
STUDENTS

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The primary goal of this study was to investigate the habits of college students who use pornography. The study was designed to collect data on the use of online pornography by college students. Through the use of an online survey, the study collected general demographic data and data on the frequency with which students used online pornography. The study also collected data on the general attitudes of college students towards online pornography. Participants consisted of students enrolled at the University of North Texas during the Spring 2016 semester. The participants of the study were contacted by an email requesting the student to respond to an online anonymous survey regarding their use of online pornography. The survey consisted of thirty questions and statements, primarily utilizing a five point Likert scale. Analysis of the data collected as well as a discussion of the findings are included.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	iii
LIST OF TABLES.....	vii
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
Purpose of the Study	5
Research Questions	6
Conclusion	7
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW.....	9
Introduction	9
Historical Background	10
President's Commission on Obscenity and Pornography	10
Attorney General's Commission on Pornography	12
Overview of Current Research.....	14
Current Research on the Effects of Pornography on Sexual Behaviors	17
Research Conducted Between 1980-1999	17
Research Conducted 2000-Present	21
Conclusion	23
CHAPTER 3 METHODS	26
Introduction	26

Definitions.....	26
Research Design	28
Survey	28
Sample	29
Research Benefits	32
Conclusion	32
CHAPTER 4 RESULTS.....	33
Introduction	33
Demographic Data	34
Pornography Use	34
Gender Comparison of Pornography Use	35
Comparison of Graduate and Undergraduate Use	37
Attitudes toward Pornography Use and Sexual Behaviors	38
Viewpoints on Sexual Behaviors	38
Gender Comparison of Viewpoints on Sexual Behaviors	40
Viewpoints on Pornography use	41
Gender Comparison of Viewpoints on Pornography Use	43
Response to Pornography Use	45
Types of Pornography Used.....	46

Sexual Interactions	49
Direct Response to Pornography Use.....	52
Gender Comparison of Direct Response to Pornography Use	54
Summary.....	56
CHAPTER 5 DISCUSSION.....	58
Implications.....	63
Conclusion	65
APPENDIX A SURVEY TABLE.....	66
APPENDIX B NIH CERTIFICATE	72
APPENDIX C IRB APPLICATION.....	74
APPENDIX D INFORMED CONSENT NOTICE	84
APPENDIX E EMAIL TO STUDENTS.....	87
APPENDIX E EMAIL TO STUDENTS.....	89
REFERENCES.....	91

LIST OF TABLES

	Page
Table 1 Sample Demographics	34
Table 2 Pornography Use	35
Table 3 Gender Comparison of Pornography Use	36
Table 4 Comparison of Graduate and Undergraduate Pornography Use.....	37
Table 5 Attitudes toward Sexual Behaviors	39
Table 6 Gender Comparison of Attitudes Toward Sexual Behaviors	41
Table 7 Viewpoints on Pornography	43
Table 8 Gender Comparison of Viewpoints on Pornography	45
Table 9 Types of Pornography	48
Table 10 Sexual Interactions	50
Table 11 Direct Response	53
Table 12 Gender Comparison to Direct Response.....	56

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

“The internet is for porn,” suggests the iconic song of the same title from the Broadway musical Avenue Q. Though the humor is tongue in cheek, there is some level of truth to it, in that the internet has allowed unprecedented access to pornographic material. The Pornhub NETWORK alone is one of the largest and most popular hubs of free pornographic clips, based on Alexa rankings, the network’s primary website, Pornhub, is in the top 100 most globally visited websites (Alexa, 2015). While Alexa is typically only an estimate of a website’s metrics based on internet usage patterns, it is generally considered a reliable estimate of web traffic rankings (Lin, Huarng, Chen, & Lin, 2004). In 2014 alone, the Pornhub website received approximately 18 billion visits (Pornhub Insights, 2015). Large volumes of pornography are readily and easily available online to anyone with an internet connected device, such as a smartphone, laptop computer, gaming console or desktop computer; and all available in the privacy of one’s own home.

Much of the exposure to pornography can occur at a young age, especially with adolescents becoming more and more technically capable. More adolescents today have ready access to an internet capable device than ever before (Ybarra & Mitchell, 2005). Though pornographic websites should theoretically require some form of confirmation that the person accessing the site is of a legal age to access pornography, this is not truly a viable means of preventing any person from accessing the contents of the website. Online pay-per-view and subscription pornography services can confirm the age of the user more easily through the use of a credit or a debit card, but more youth under the age of legal majority are obtaining debit cards for their personal bank accounts which can be used for

online transactions (Flood & Hamilton, 2003). Further, websites that offer free clips of pornography often do not have any warning posted before entering the website that the content contained within the website is not intended for those below the legal age of majority. The landing page for Pornhub, for example, brings the user to a page with several thumbnails for popular clips of pornography, but contains, in no obvious location, any warning that the material hosted on the website is adult in nature.

Though the production of pornographic materials is by no means a new type of media - certainly some form of pornography has existed as long as human sexuality – it has not necessarily always been readily available. Those that view pornographic materials typically do so in secrecy, pretending they have no interest in the matter or that they do not do so at all as it is often considered such a taboo topic. The general consensus of society is that the use of pornographic materials is obscene and abnormal. From a religious perspective, the use of pornography is generally considered immoral (Baron, 1987). From a feminist perspective, the existence of pornography is an attack on women and the viewing of pornography is proof of systemic patriarchal violence against women (Silbert & Pines, 1984). While some of these perspectives may be considered extreme in our modern society, perhaps the concern of the obscenity and the content matter of pornography is not complete unfounded.

Certainly we have seen examples in which deviant behavior is, at least, partially blamed on pornography, such as serial killer Ted Bundy, who claimed, that his addiction to violent pornography was the fuel that helped spark his violent crime streak. In his final interview, hours before his execution, he professed that long term exposure to violent pornography helped to create his uncontrollable need towards violent sexual behavior

(Dobson, 1989). Another infamous example, the BTK killer, from Wichita, Kansas also cited pornography as a factor in what sparked a long term sexually vicious series of murder. He even used his victims as a means to create his own violent pornography to further fuel his lifestyle (Wenzl, Potter, Laviana, & Kelly, 2008). However, not everyone who views pornography, violent or otherwise, becomes a serial murderer, rapist or other sexually motivated offender. Still, there is the question as to how likely those who do view pornography are to turn to aggressive sexual behaviors.

The concern over behaviors fueled by pornography use is especially magnified when one considers the current ease with which pornography can be obtained and the speed with which it can be produced. Our society has become more accepting of pornographic materials, even allowing television networks to air what can be considered softcore pornography on cable access television (Andrews, 2007). The television network, HBO, for example, is notorious for producing what can be considered softcore pornography (Moore & Murray, 2007). Popular TV shows such as Game of Thrones and the Tudors hardly go a week without an involved sex scene, many of which depict particularly violent and non-consensual sex. In particular, access to online pornography is also on the rise. For example, the pornography website Pornhub, is popular enough that the company is able to run a research and statistics department, which allows for them to keep track of several statistics, including their web traffic. Pornhub, which features free five minute or longer clips of hardcore pornographic material, saw approximately 18 billion visits to their website in 2014, which breaks down to approximately 2.1 million visits per hour (Pornhub Insights, 2015a). This was a nearly 4 billion visit increase from their 2013 numbers (Pornhub Insights, 2015a). Based on these statistics, it is clear that interest

in online pornography is on the rise. The increasing ease and frequency with which the average person can access pornographic material raises new concern over the effects of such material on an individual's behavior.

Previous research on the subject of how pornographic material might affect one's behavior was conducted primarily before the current boom of the internet and before the nearly consistent access the average person has to the internet. Even more recent research fails to fully emphasize the ease with which the average American has access to the internet and the materials contained within. Approximately 79% of Americans own a home computer, and approximately 75% of Americans have traditional access to the internet through an Ethernet landline or wireless connection (File & Ryan, 2014). While many internet users access the web through traditional desktop and laptop computers those who do not may use mobile phones, tablet computers or even console gaming systems to access the internet. Further, a survey conducted by the Pew Research Center revealed that approximately 64% of Americans owned smartphones in 2015, of those, 10% use the mobile data offered by their cell phone service provider in lieu of traditional broadband internet access (Smith A. , 2015). Finally, according to a presentation made at the 9th Workshop on the Economics of Information Security, in 2010 approximately 43% of people with access to the internet frequently viewed online pornography (Wondracek, Holz, Platzer, Kirda, & Kruegel, 2010). Further, Pornhub, which boasts the largest collection of online pornography videos, currently advertises over a million videos on their primary webpage, with several million more videos hosted on their twelve sister webpages all hosted on the Pornhub NETWORK. There is no question that pornographic material is readily available to those who desire to view it.

Purpose of the Study

This study examines how online pornographic material that is explicitly violent in nature effects the behavior of the viewer. Violent online pornography is that which depicts typically non-consensual sex or sex that involves inflicting pain onto a person or persons. Online pornography that may fall under this category may include bondage, whipping, and domination over another person, etc. Based on this definition, there is no doubt that there has been an increase in interest in more violent pornography (Pornhub Insights, 2015). In 2015, for example, the Pornhub NETWORK saw a 55% increase in searches for the term “submission”, a 40% increase in the search for the term “dominate” and an approximate 10% increase in the search for terms like “punish” and “slave” (Pornhub Insights, 2015). It is possible that the increase in interest in violent pornography combined with the ease of access to the large amounts of pornographic material available online could be having a negative effect on the sexual behavior of college students. A study conducted in 1988, suggests that the combination of the use of violent pornography in particular may increase the likelihood that an individual might participate in sexually violent behavior (Demaré, Briere, & Lips, 1988).

Certainly, it is necessary to update the research on the effect of pornography on the individual. It is clear that pornographic material, particularly violent pornographic material, is readily available and sees relatively more frequent use and as a result might have a greater effect on individuals than past research suggests. As much of the research on the effects of violent pornography was conducted before the internet boom, it fails to take into consideration the large volume of pornography that is easily accessible on the internet. Even research conducted after the turn of the century, took place before the

majority of people had access to at least one internet capable device, prior research also focused primarily on adolescent behavior and not adult behavior (Brown & L'Engle, 2009).

The current study examines the frequency of pornographic usage, particularly that of violent pornography, as well as the effects that the use of violent pornography might have on college students in the North Texas area. This study was conducted with the intention to update the research on the effects of pornographic material and to ensure the research's relevancy in this modern era. The study also served as a means to confirm whether or not the research on the matter was obsolete. This was accomplished by the use of a web-based self-report survey of eligible students.

Research Questions

While concern over the effects of pornographic materials on the individual has been investigated in the past, the current research is contradictory and generally does not make a distinction between the effects of violent pornography and less violent pornography. The intention of this study is to provide a means of clarification to the current literature, with a distinction made between two dichotomies of pornography. The questions this study intends to answer are as follows:

- 1) What is the frequency of pornography use amongst college students?
- 2) What is the extent of the use of violent pornography by the average college student?
- 3) What age groups and gender see the most frequent online pornography use? What is the frequency of use amongst undergraduate and graduate students?

- 4) Does the college student draw a distinction between real sexual interactions versus the ones depicted in pornography?

Conclusion

As established in this introduction, the general conclusion is that the use of pornography alone does not necessarily cause sexually violent behavior. However, criticisms of this research such as that the research does not generally consider the use of particularly violent pornography and that most of the current research does not consider the typical habits of the average pornographic user but instead exposes them to pornography they may not watch regularly. The existing research was conducted before the modern era of the internet in which the majority of American's not only have access to the internet, but also have a form of personal computing device with which they can easily access large volumes of pornography. The modern age of the internet allows for the production and publication of pornographic material to be created and sold significantly faster than pre-millennial pornography. Further, a significant amount of pornographic material can be obtained on the internet for nothing more than the cost of the internet connection, making pornography much more readily available to a larger audience. As a result of these factors, there is question as to the validity and relevance of the current research on how pornography effects the behavior of the individual, thus demanding new research to be conducted on the subject.

The following chapter analyzes the current literature on the subject of the effects of pornography on the sexual behavior of the user. It discusses some of the issues in the current research and assists in establishing justification for continued research in the matter. In particular, chapter two establishes the history of pornographic research in

relation to the production and ease of access to pornography at the time and will further establish the need to update the research in light of the current era of technology.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction

As mentioned previously, the accessibility of potentially obscene material is concerning due to the potential for the viewer to learn unacceptable or aggressive behavior (Bleakeley, Hennessy, Fishbein, & Jordan, 2008). In a 2009 study, a longitudinal analysis of young teenagers that were exposed to sexually explicit content showed that there was some correlation between males who were exposed to sexually explicit media and pornography also developed more permissive sexual attitudes, while at the same time, developed less progressive norms towards the female gender, such as displaying less sympathy to victims of sexual assault. (Brown & L'Engle, 2009). Further, the accessibility of pornographic material, especially to teenagers and young adults, may also be used in lieu of proper sexual education (Tjaden, 1988). The 1970 President's Commission on Obscenity and Pornography suggested in part, that a decriminalization of sexually explicit material may be necessary due to the sexual education some American's receive from the material (President's Commission on Obscenity and Pornography, 1970). A poll conducted by Newsweek in 1985 determined that over 50% of Americans at the time believed that sexually explicit, pornographic material served as a means to provide accurate sexual education to people. A small scale study conducted in 1988, showed that less than half of college aged youth believed they received their sexual education from pornographic material (Tjaden, 1988).

Tjaden's (1988) study, falls under some criticism as it was such a small study, conducted with a sample size of only 24 students. It is difficult to draw generalized conclusions from a study with such a small sample population. Further, the questionnaire provided in the study did not define pornographic materials, but instead asked the individual to define pornography. Finally, Tjaden did not make clear what "sexual education" meant within the scope of the study, it was unclear as to whether or not the respondents assumed she was referring to biological sex education or more socially taboo topics, such as the means and ways of having sexual intercourse.

While the results generated from the Tjaden study may not be serviceable in determining the effects of pornographic material on the individual, it serves as a worthwhile example of many of the problems with research into the effects of pornography. The criticism of definitions and obfuscation of sexual topics is a consistent criticism with many studies conducted into the effects of the use of pornography. Slang terminology and direct questions are substituted for more clinical questions – presumably to prevent offense to the subjects being investigated – however, this serves to generate more confusion on the part of the subject, than clarification on the matters of the effects of pornography on the individual.

Historical Background of Pornography Research

President's Commission on Obscenity and Pornography

Research in general as to the effects, purpose, and use of pornography has been difficult to generalize and much of it, especially the majority of research conducted directly after the publication of the findings of the 1970 President's Commission on Obscenity and

Pornography, is extremely limited due to inconvenience of sample, lack of appropriate definition of terms, and hesitation to offend the general public. This is particularly true of research conducted in the mid to late 1980s, as much of it suffers from being politically motivated, religiously motivated, or conducted by those whose biases come into question (Ferguson & Hartley, 2009). In the United States especially, the discussion of sex beyond a purely clinical standpoint is generally considered a very sensitive topic and the use of pornographic materials is generally considered to be a poor way to seek sexual arousal or gratification (Irvine, 2002). As a result, it is difficult to conduct a non-inflammatory discussion on the matter of sexual behavior and, further, to conduct research on the matter.

Just prior to 1970, concern over the explicit nature and the value of pornography in the United States reached a tipping point. It came under question as to whether or not pornography should receive any First Amendment protections or if the American people should be protected from obscene, explicit, or potentially offensive material. Thus a commission was generated at the federal level and charged with finding if the effects of pornography on behavior was deleterious enough to require control and management of the manufacture of pornography (Malamuth & Donnerstein, 1984). The commission published their initial report in 1970. The report focused primarily on the legal aspects of pornographic media within the bounds of the First Amendment and generally found that pornographic material was not being distributed maliciously or distributed with poor intent. The commission determined that there were no real deleterious effects of pornography and in particular that it did not generally create anti-social or dangerous behaviors. Therefore there was no need for more stringent regulation of pornographic production

beyond that regulation which sought to prevent the particularly obscene – such as pornography involving children. Further, that it was the right of adult Americans to use pornography if they choose to do so. (President's Commission on Obscenity and Pornography, 1970).

The result of this commission, at the time, was somewhat unexpected and received a relatively loud and angry response from the American people. The commission received letters and testimony from individuals who found themselves suffering from a negative effect from the porn industry. One such letter reported of a mother and father who forced their underage children to perform sexual acts while being filmed, then sold the resulting pornographic media. Another witness who spoke before the commission told of women frequently being tortured and physically abused by producers in the industry who were seeking sadomasochistic materials to sell to major pornographic publications (Russell D. E., 1988a). Many religious leaders and women's rights groups also found fault with the results of the commission, determining that the initial report was incorrect or somehow flawed. Subsequently, a large portion of the American public pushed for new research. (Ferguson & Hartley, 2009).

Attorney General's Commission on Pornography

As a result of this reaction, the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography was initiated. The commission ultimately concluded that there was indeed a worrying causal link between the use of pornography and sexual violence, in particular violence against women initiated by men. Further, the commission found that public opinion on the matter of generating common standards of decency in the United States, demanded that pornography and obscene material be better regulated for the safety and preservation of

modern society. The findings of the commission determined that there should be a significant increase in the strictness of obscenity laws as well as the expansion of these laws (Attorney General's Commission on Pornography, 1986). The report of this commission – more commonly known as the Meese report– came almost immediately under fire for the presentation of its results as well as the circumstances surrounding the findings. First, the commission itself was accused of mostly consulting experts who primarily promoted a political, ethical and moral stance completely against pornography (Ferguson & Hartley, 2009). Second, the Meese commission was suffering considerably for federal funding and, as a result, conducted very little of its own research. Third, upon further analysis of the commission's data, a trend was discovered in which the members of the commission typically picked data sets that would serve to prove their opinions. As a result, the report consisted only of the opinions of the committee members, a summary based on testimony hearing, and what little research existed at the time. It concluded with a long list of legal recommendations covering more than half of the report (Linz, Donnerstein, & Penrod 1987). While the results found by the Meese Report were not particularly surprising, researchers wasted no time finding fault in the conclusion of the causal link between violence and use of pornography as well as flaws in the analysis of data on public opinion.

Public opinion concerns over pornography was the primary driving factor to fund the Attorney General's Commission. In the Final Report, the commission stressed the driving factor of public opinion in the generation of new laws restricting obscene material and holding to a higher standard the enforcement of current laws (Attorney General's Commission on Pornography, 1986). However, the commission tended to pick data that

supported their opinions. For example, the commission did not use the General Social Survey generated by the initial commission, which tracked the general population's public opinion on the topic of obscenity and pornography between 1973-1976. The survey showed that there was a downward trend of public concern that pornography caused negative or harmful behavior (Smith T. W., 1987). Further criticism of the commission is the inappropriate comparisons made between social research conducted for the 1970 commission and research conducted after the 1970 report, which lead to potentially incorrect causal links between public self-reporting of their attitudes and behaviors as a result of pornography, both its usage and its existence (Smith T. W., 1987; Linz, Donnerstein, & Penrod, 1987).

The inconsistent and conflicting findings of both of these commission set the standard for research on the effects of pornography for the next several decades. While both commissions proved to be valuable in initiating the discussion on pornography and assisting in generating some social survey tools to track the short term attitudes on pornography, both commissions contained flawed research and analysis and had clear political agendas.

Overview of Current Research

Current research on the subject of how frequent pornography usage effects behavior is contradictory. Some of the research suggests that adult exposure to violent pornography is not a driving force behind sexually aggressive behavior (Zillman & Bryant, 1982). This research suggests that the connection between pornography and violent sexual crimes, such as rape, is a weak one. Researchers such as Zillman and Bryant (1982) have concluded that some other factor beyond pornography is the driving force

behind such aggressive behavior. Though, there is a possibility that pornography may simply provide fuel for the individual's fantasies or provide an influence (Kutchinsky, 1991). Other studies suggest that an increase in access to pornographic materials may have a connection to decreasing the incidence of violent sex crimes (Cline, 1974). Other researchers suggest that while violent pornographic material may not be the leading cause of sexual aggression, that it creates a sexual callousness toward women (Zillman & Bryant, 1982). In particular, those who watch pornography, may become desensitized to sexually violent crimes, they may also have developed a lowered tolerance of rape victims (Allen, Emmers, Gebhardt, & Giery, 1995).

Further criticism of studies on pornographic research includes that the investigators often do not consider the typical behavior of someone who views pornography, and may instead show them pornographic material they would not typically choose to watch (Huesmann & Taylor, 2006). While each of these research studies encountered challenges and suffered their share of complications, the largest problem with all of these studies is that they cannot account for the modern age of technology and the internet. By far the largest problem with studies on the effects of pornography, is that many of the most significant studies were conducted before the era of the internet and before the average person had at least one computing device with which to access the internet. While pornography was not necessarily difficult to access prior to the internet boom, it could not be accessed as quickly, as easily or in the large volume that exists today.

In recent years, high speed internet access has become more readily available, allowing users to stream videos directly to their computer. As a result, the individual user

can create a more personalized experience, seeking out the pornography that they desire to see in private without ever having to leave their home. With a simple search the user can find easily video clips and photos that suit their desires. Further, due to the nature of internet production, there is no need to have a company with access to large volume printing equipment. Anyone with internet access a camera and other basic digital media accessories can produce pornographic material. Thus increasing the volume of internet pornography and only limiting the types of pornography produced to the forms of technology that exist and the technical capability of the person creating the material. Because of the large volumes of pornographic material being produced and hosted for free on a regular basis, there is likely pornography to serve every user's desires, even those desires which may seem completely bizarre or possibly dangerous. Thus, it is possible that modern pornography habits may be more likely to create potentially dangerous behavior in an individual. As a result of these factors, there is question to the modern relevancy of previous research on the effects of pornography.

In the last several years, there has been a greater level of concern toward the issues of sexually aggressive and violent behavior, in particular on college campuses. Despite a 2% increase in college enrollment between 2012 and 2013, the National Center for Education Statistics predicts a record number of students enrolling into college over the next eight to ten years (2015). A recent survey published by the Association of American Universities found that approximately 23% of female undergraduate students suffered some form of sexual misconduct, 10% of which reported that their assault involved penetration. However, these numbers may actually be low, as the rate of reporting of sexually aggressive or violent behavior was relatively low, likely due to a belief

that the behavior was not serious enough to report or that the report may not be taken seriously by campus safety officials (Cantor, et al., 2015). Pornography is a potential trigger for this sexually aggressive behavior, as a result it is necessary to conduct research into the effects of pornographic material into sexually aggressive behavior.

Current Research on the Effects of Pornography on Sexual Behaviors

Much of the current research conducted on the effects of pornography was either produced in the decade immediately following the publication of the Final Report of the Attorney General's Commission or just after the turn of the century. There are two focuses to this type of research. The first focuses on concerning adults and their pornography habits, the second on studies examines the effects of obscene or pornographic materials on adolescents, especially that material which is presented to them by the mainstream media. The following sections outline these two research trends and include the challenges these studies have faced as well as resulting criticism which question the validity of the studies.

Research Conducted Between 1980-1999

Immediately after the publication of the Meese Report, outlined in the first chapter, the number of studies conducted on the effects of pornography on individual behavior dramatically increased. Initially the results of these studies found showed that men who were exposed to violent and sexually explicit media, tended to react more aggressively towards women or when exposed to similar media, and displayed less sympathy to women who were victims of violent sexual crimes (Allen, Emmers, Gebhardt, & Giery, 1995)

The initial arguments in support of the findings of the Meese report and the demand for tougher obscenity laws were based on protecting women, both from the violation of pornography itself and from the potentially violent behaviors of men. Check and Malamuth (1982) for example, found in their research that repeated exposure to pornography, and in particular, violent pornography, tend to result in a sexual callousness towards women. Additionally, men exposed to such pornography tended to display greater sexual aggression towards women and even supported some rape myths (Check & Malamuth, 1982). This concern is the basis for a study conducted by Zillmann and Bryant (1982) in which the investigators conclude that repeated exposure to large amount of pornography may create a “sexual callousness” towards women.

In pornographic films, for example, the female characters are typically created in such a way that they are extremely receptive to every advance by the male characters. They are interested in every sexual interest and need created by the male characters and typically they are extremely reactive to the pleasures created by the male characters. As Zillmann and Bryant (1982) point out, the reality of human sexual interactions are typically very different from what is displayed in pornographic film. This disconnect between reality and pornography might lead to two problems. The first is that pornography might cause men to develop a calloused attitude towards women and the second is that pornography may cause women to develop lowered self-esteem, opening themselves up to potentially dangerous situations. The Zillmann and Bryant study found that repeated exposure to pornography created a significant increase in male sexual callousness towards women. They also found that men exposed to large amount of pornography viewed rape as a less

serious crime, feeling less compassion for rape victims and even suggested reduced sentences for rapists (Zillman & Bryant, 1982).

This concern of a negative attitude change towards women became a point of concern for researchers. For example, in a 1984 study conducted by Linz, Donnerstein, and Penrod, men were exposed to five slasher and horror movies each depicting violence against women. The study results found that after exposure to such films, these men were more accepting of the violence committed against women and had less sympathy for women who became victims of domestic violence. (Linz, Donnerstein, & Penrod, 1984). A similar study was conducted in 1995 by Mullin and Linz, in which they exposed their sample to three violent “slasher” films, which showed eroticized and brutal violence against women. The study found that the men who viewed these films became emotionally desensitized towards the violence they were viewing and as a result were less sympathetic towards women who suffered domestic assault or became the victim of a sex crime (Mullin & Linz, 1995).

There are several criticisms to the “laboratory” and self-report research studies. The first is that these studies do not necessarily focus on the exposure of individuals to actual pornography, such as in the case of Linz, Donnerstein & Penrod’s (1984) study. The particular types of slasher movies utilized, such as *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, fail to simulate the use of actual pornography (Kutchinsky, 1991). While these studies may successfully suggest that there might be some causal link between violent media and aggressive behavior the literature fails to truly connect violent media to actual crime committed (Ferguson & Hartley, 2009). Instead, the laboratory studies, in particular, show that in the short term there is some level of desensitization to the violence viewed on film.

Another criticism of the laboratory setting in particular, is that the men who make up the samples of these studies typically do not subject themselves to daily long term exposure of specifically violent media (Kutchinsky, 1991). Certainly most people do not sit down to watch a two hour violent slasher movie on a daily basis.

A study contradictory to these laboratory studies was conducted by Demaré, Briere and Lips in 1988, suggesting that the translation of erotically charged and violent media causing callousness and potential aggression towards women was a weak link at best. The study surveyed 227 male undergraduates asking them to respond to a self-report survey in which they were asked about their pornography usage and their estimated likelihood of sexual aggression as a result of their pornography habits. A total of 81% of the respondents admitted to viewing non-violent pornography and 35% of the respondents admitted to using sexually violent pornography. Of the total number of respondents, only 27% reported that they could potentially commit a sexually violent act (Demaré, Briere, & Lips, 1988).

Kutchinsky (1991) determined that the previous literature failed to make a connection between media violence, potentially violent behavior and actual crime statistics. Kutchinsky compared the crimes statistics of violent sexual crimes in four countries in which pornography was readily available. The study was conducted using the crime statistics of the United States, Denmark, Sweden and West Germany. Despite having ready access to pornography in these countries, there was no significant increase in reported crimes involving non-violent sexual crimes or violent sexual crimes (Kutchinsky, 1991). However, more recent research suggests that while the sale and use of pornography may indeed not be the link between sexual aggression, there may instead

be a link to society's views on women and sexual aggression. Pornography may simply be fuel to further male aggression (Davies, 1997).

It is clear that much of the literature regarding pornography research conducted before 2000 is contradictory. Though the link that has been drawn between the use of pornography and aggressive behavior is correlative at best, later research does not fully rule out the possibility that pornography may be a driving factor for sexually aggressive behavior. While the link may be weak, the lack of generalizability of the research makes it difficult to come to any definite conclusion.

Research conducted 2000-Present

At the turn of the century, the research on the effects of pornography continued the trend of focusing on how exposure to media violence effected behavior, however, focus shifted from adult males to developing adolescents. Concerns were raised that the regular access to violent media and the ease of access to newer technologies such as larger scale cable tv access, larger scale internet access and the eventual development of mobile computing would begin to have a negative effect on adolescent development. In particular, the potential existed that exposure to this sort of media could cause adolescents to become aggressive and calloused adults.

Hesmann & Taylor (2006) conducted a review of the literature into the effects of violent media. In this review, consideration was taken for the massive amount of media the average person is flooded with in their daily lives. The intention of the review was to determine if media violence was a public health threat. Their review determined that short term exposure to violent media did indeed have the potential to generate more violent

behaviors in adolescents, and longer term exposition threatened to reduce the adolescent's ability to process social situations without potentially resorting to violence (Huesmann & Taylor, 2006). It should be noted, that these effects may not actually be significant as their review did not fully take into consideration other factors that are involved in an adolescent's development, such as learning to differentiate reality from fiction.

In 2008, a longitudinal web-based survey was conducted to determine the effects of sexual content in everyday media and its effects on adolescent sexual behaviors (Bleakeley, Hennessy, Fishbein, & Jordan, 2008). The study considered the significantly increased level of exposure to visual and other media on a daily basis, in comparison to studies conducted before the year 2000 (Bleakeley, Hennessy, Fishbein, & Jordan, 2008). The theory was that as a result of such massive and consistent exposure to potentially sexually explicit media, that there was an increased likelihood that young teens would advance faster in their sexual behaviors. The study came to the conclusion adolescents who reported to be more advanced in their sexual behaviors were significantly more likely to seek out sexually explicit media. However, it was not necessarily initial media exposure that caused them to have more advanced sexual behaviors (Bleakeley, Hennessy, Fishbein, & Jordan, 2008).

Another longitudinal study was conducted shortly after, by Brown & L'Engle (2009), determined that adolescents were becoming better capable of accessing explicit media, especially that media which could be located on sexually explicit websites. Their study sampled fourteen-year-old students and found that approximately 66% of males and 39% of females had come in contact with at least one form of sexually explicit media. While

their analysis did not find that the adolescents who were exposed to the sexually explicit media necessarily displayed sexually aggressive behaviors, these adolescents did develop sexual behaviors that included increased sexual harassment of women and regressed gender norms (Brown & L'Engle, 2009).

While more recent studies focus primarily on the long terms effects of adolescent behavior when exposed to violent and sexually explicit media, there is somewhat more conclusive evidence that the exposure does not necessarily lead to violent behavior (Zillman & Bryant, 1982). This is despite a significant increase in media exposure, especially in the last decade. However, longitudinal studies have shown some concerning developments in the behaviors of adolescents, such as significantly advanced sexual behaviors and regressed gender norms (Brown & L'Engle, 2009).

Conclusion

As stated in the introductory chapter, interest in the effects of pornography on individual was sparked by the 1970s President's Commission on Obscenity and Pornography conclusion that sexually explicit material, such as pornography was not necessarily harmful or deleterious to long term behavioral health (President's Commission on Obscenity and Pornography, 1970). However, this conclusion was not well accepted by the American public, who loudly demanded increased restrictions on obscene material due especially to moral and religious concerns. Thus the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography was tasked with again determining the effects of pornography usage on the individual. The commission determined that there was a significant enough negative effect on behavior health to cause enough concern over public health and safety that the commission recommended an increase in restrictions on

the production and distribution of obscene material (Attorney General's Commission on Pornography, 1986). This conclusion was eventually challenged by social scientists who found the commission lacking in science based evidence (Linz, Donnerstein, & Penrod, 1987; Davies, 1997).

As a result of American general public opinion, research conducted over the next several decades would come to support the conclusion of the Attorney Generals Commission, that exposure to violent pornography and other violent media had concerning negative effects, such as an increased aggression towards women (Linz, Donnerstein, & Penrod, 1984). Other concerning behaviors included a sexual callousness towards women and a sudden lack of sympathy of women who became victims of sexually explicit crimes (Silbert & Pines, 1984; Zillman & Bryant, 1982). Later research would conclude that these aggressive behaviors might not have been as dangerous as once presumed (Demaré, Briere, & Lips, 1988). Further analysis of these laboratory studies would find them lacking in developing a direct link to violent behavior and exposure to pornography, especially when comparing access to pornographic materials to violent sexual crime statistics (Kutchinsky, 1991).

Modern research suggests that there is a concern over adolescents and exposure to violent media. The massive exposure young adolescents have to violent and sexually explicit media may be significantly advancing their sexual development in a negative way (Bleakeley, Hennessy, Fishbein, & Jordan, 2008). Further, this sudden sexual development can cause adolescents to display sexually aggressive behavior in the form of sexual harassment of their peers and regressive gender norms (Brown & L'Engle, 2009).

As this review has shown, the research is somewhat contradictory. It is difficult to conclusively rule out potentially negative or aggressive behaviors that may be caused by exposure to pornographic material. Much of the research was conducted at a time before the current media boom and certainly before this age of prevalent access to the internet and internet capable devices, thus the research does not factor in the extensive accessibility there is to explicit content there is currently. Limitations of the existing research include a lack of generalizability and questionable validity in terms of the motivations of the researchers, especially that research which was conducted directly after the publication of the Meese Report.

As evidenced by this review of the literature, it is necessary to continue study into the effects of pornographic material. The strength or weakness of the links between exposure to pornography and violent or aggressive behaviors must be established through new research. This research must take into consideration the current level of exposure to sexually explicit media, especially the ease with which sexually explicit content can be accessed by anyone with an internet connection and a computing device.

While this study may suffer from some of the limitations of the available research, such as sample sizes and the use of a self-report survey, it will add to the current body of literature. The study will take into consideration the accessibility of pornography, current societal views on the use of pornography, and will especially attempt to overcome definition barriers that have caused confusion in past surveys.

The following chapter outlines the method with which this study was conducted. It includes an outline of the research design as well as discussion into the development of the survey tool and how the data will ultimately be analyzed.

CHAPTER 3

METHODS

Introduction

As outlined in chapter two, research into the effects of pornography usage on individual behavior is contradictory. This study will factor in some of the failings of previous research, in particular, the study will attempt to remove the language barrier that often exists in self-report surveys. The survey tool utilized in this study will make use of common terminology and colloquialisms that are typically used to navigate online pornographic websites. The intention of this study is to examine the modern use of pornographic materials, including its frequency of use, the reactions of its users, and will answer the question of whether or not the use of pornography has a real effect on its users. Through the use of the survey tool, the study will examine the frequency with which college students use pornography as well as their general attitudes towards pornography.

This chapter will discuss the research design of this study, including establishing the instrument of the study, the target population and the development of the sample, and the benefits of conducting this research. The chapter will also discuss potential threats to reliability and validity this study might suffer and the methods chosen to limit these threats.

Definitions

In order to avoid a potential language barrier, it is necessary to establish a few definitions. This section will establish what the investigators are communicating when using terms that may have ambiguous or subjective definitions, in particular the definition of pornography and the types of pornographic materials.

In previous research, the definition has been ambiguous, extremely vague and left up to individual interpretation. Further, there is debate that there should be an established difference between pornographic material and materials that can be classified as erotica. Pornography for the purposes of this study is a general term that refers to sexually explicit materials that are produced and marketed for the sole purpose of generating sexual arousal (Demaré, Briere, & Lips, 1988; Russell D. E., 1998b).

Pornography can be broken down into two primary categories, the first of which can be classed as “non-violent” or “non-aggressive” pornography. Non-Violent pornography is that which does not explicitly show aggression or sexual hostility towards women (Malamuth & Ceniti, 1986). Non-violent pornography portrays willing and responsive partners who are portrayed as having consensual intercourse (Russell D. E., 1998b). Violent pornography is that which depicts hostile and aggressive behaviors toward women, this may include depictions of rape, dominance, punishment, and otherwise non-consensual sex (Linz, Donnerstein, & Penrod, 1984). For the purposes of this study, questions regarding the use of pornography will refer to the use of online pornographic websites that include pornographic images, video or other forms of media.

For the sake of clarity, erotica should also be defined. Erotica typically consists of mutually beneficial and consensual sexual content. It typically does not depict one person taking advantage of another or enacting some form of sexual violence upon the other person. (Russell D. E., 1998a). Erotica is typically marketed as more of an art form rather than explicit material for the sole purpose of sexual arousal (Donnerstein, Linz, & Penrod, 1987).

Research Design

Survey

This study utilized a survey based research design which consisted of a 30 question, web-based, self-report survey. The survey was administered to a public university located in the North Texas area. The first several questions of the survey were designed to establish basic demographic data including the general age, sex, level of the respondent's education, and whether or not the respondent used pornographic materials. The remainder of the survey utilized a five point Likert scale, as justified by Joshi and colleagues (2015) to measure the attitude and response of the sample to the use of pornographic materials. The Likert scale serves as a useful means with which to gauge the attitude of a respondent to the abstract and subjective concepts that are pervasive in social science and are difficult to measure (Joshi, Kale, Chandel, & Pak, 2015).

By using an online survey tool, the investigators were better capable of ensuring the anonymity of the respondents. Many online survey tools allow for the deletion of personal identifying data and allow respondents to complete the survey from the safety and privacy of an environment of their choosing (Buchanan & Hvizdak, 2009). The use of the online survey also allowed for the survey to reach a larger audience of potential candidates. This study makes use of the online tool SurveyMonkey, which helped to ensure the anonymity of the respondents. SurveyMonkey also proved to be the most efficient method of data collection for the purposes of this study. The service allowed for the creation of a uniform survey that the respondents could access via a weblink, by using this service the respondents did not have to interact directly with the investigators, thereby further protecting their anonymity. Students received the request to complete the survey

via their University email addresses. The email containing the link to the survey was sent through the campus's Dean of Students office. Before seeking respondents to the survey, permission to conduct the study was sought through the internal review board of the participating university.

Sample

The survey's target population are students, both undergraduate and graduate, over the age of eighteen attending a large university located in the North Texas region. The university currently has an approximate enrollment of 38,000 students including undergraduate and graduate students. A total of 47% of students currently attending the school are male, while 53% of the student population is female. The bulk of the student population, approximately 76%, is between the ages of 18 to 24. Less than 1% of the student population is under the age of eighteen, while almost 24% of the student population is aged between 25 and 64 (Forbes, 2014).

This study utilized a non-probability, convenience method of generating its sample. The use of a convenience sample is suitable for this research study due to budget and time constraints. This method of sampling is suitable to develop a large enough sample within the time frame of the study and ensures that the study will have a suitable number of respondents in order to be able to conduct a proper analysis of the data. Non-probability sampling in general can be quite common when developing data through the use of social surveys, especially self-report surveys. This method of sampling is also useful when a researcher does not know how pervasive a phenomenon is within their overall population. By utilizing a convenience sample, the researcher increases their chances of capturing the phenomena in action (O'Dwyer & Bernauer, 2014). However, there are some potential

challenges a researcher faces when utilizing any non-probability sample. For example, it can be difficult to ensure a sample that will translate the study's findings to the general population and it is difficult to generate truly quantitative results from such a qualitative sample (Fowler, 2009).

Students under the age of eighteen were excluded from the study. This decision was made due to the sexually explicit nature of the study. Utilizing respondents under the age of eighteen would have required the additional need for parental consent and other precautions to ensure the protection of such a vulnerable population. Further, as the number of students attending the university under the age of eighteen was less than 1% of the target population, excluding these students should not serve to damage the generalizability of the results.

As with any study, there is concern over the reliability of the survey tool and the research design. A reliable tool is one that allows for a repeat of the experiment and ensures that the experiment can produce the same result on repeated tests (Carmines & Zeller, 1979). The primary way in which this study attempted to ensure its reliability was taking steps to establish survey questions which meant the same thing to everyone who responded. This was accomplished by establishing definitions of terms early on and placing these definitions into the survey so the respondents would understand the questions presented to them. The statements in the survey which were posed to measure attitudes and reactions to pornography were designed to be simple, understandable and in a common language without confusing terminology or language. As stated previously, the survey was also designed to be completely anonymous. Taking advantage of the

anonymity offered by the web-based self-report survey design should help to ensure more accurate responses from the students.

Of course, there are still some internal validity threats this experiment faced. As this study relies on the survey tool, rather than direct observational data or interview data, the study did risk that some of the questions or statements may be unintentional leading questions or express a bias against a certain gender or ethnicity, some ways in which this was prevented included presenting the same survey questions to everyone. The respondents were also presented with a uniform survey that allowed them to respond in the same way. Further, by utilizing an online survey the respondents would not be influenced by interacting with the investigator. The investigators also analyzed and evaluated the statements placed into the survey in order to ensure that the statements would be understood and show as little bias as possible.

Finally, social experiments must minimize threats to external validity, that is the generalizability of the experiment to other populations beyond the sample (Carmines & Zeller, 1979). In particular, the threat to external validity in this experiment is its generalizability to other collegiate regions, attitudes towards sexuality, sexual behavior, and pornography shift in social and cultural context. Regions and universities with more religious backgrounds will be less likely to find pornography acceptable as universities with more socially liberal populations. While this particular study is limited to the North Texas region and therefore cannot guarantee the generalizability to other populations, it still serves as a stepping stone for future research on the matter.

Research Benefits

As the review of the literature has outlined, the contradictory results of previous research serves to confuse more than clarify whether or not pornography has a dangerous negative effect on an individual's behavior. For the sake of public health and safety, it is necessary to modernize the research on the matter and begin to develop conclusive evidence on the effects of pornography. This is especially true for the university environment when considering the increase in reports of sexual assault on college campuses (Cantor, et al., 2015).

While this study utilized a quantitative method of collecting and analyzing data, this will aid in developing new information with which to conduct a modern study into the effects of pornography. The choice to use a web-based survey will better guarantee the anonymity of individual respondents, which should allow for more accurate responses from the students (Sillis & Song, 2002). The data collected in the study will serve as a baseline for future research to develop conclusive evidence on the effects of pornographic material on individual behavior.

Conclusion

This study utilized a web-based self-report survey to collect data on the attitudes, reactions and usage of pornography on a large college campus in the North Texas region. The survey instrument utilized a common instrument of social surveys, the five point Likert scale, to gauge the responses of the subjects (Joshi, Kale, Chandel, & Pak, 2015). The decision to use a web-based survey was made due to ease of access for the respondents and to better ensure respondent anonymity (Sillis & Song, 2002). The study was designed in such a way so as to minimize the threats to internal and external validity.

CHAPTER 4

RESULTS

Introduction

This chapter is designed to provide a presentation of the data collected from the survey students of a North Texas university on their use of online pornography and how it effects their attitudes and behaviors. This chapter will examine in detail the student demographic data, their general attitudes towards pornography use, and the results of how the use of pornography effects their attitudes. It will also examine how the use of pornography directly affects their mental and emotional state.

Demographic Data

Several pieces of important demographic data were obtained through the survey. In particular, the survey tool sought the age, gender, college classification and the overall GPA of the students who responded. Table 1 below presents the recorded demographic data. The most commonly reported age of the sample was 18-23, which accounted for 75.9% of the sample size. The genders of the reported sample were split evenly with a sample that was comprised of 50.8% male and 48.9% female. The largest college classification response rate were Junior year students, comprising of 24.4% of the sample size, however the response rate of all college classifications was very similar, with graduate level students being the smallest size at 14.8%. The majority of respondents reported a GPA of between 3.5 and 4.0, totaling 38.9% of the sample size.

Table 1
Sample Demographics (N=2,290)

<i>Question</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Age		
18-23	1737	75.9
24-28	330	14.4
29-34	136	5.9
35+	85	3.7
No response	2	0.1
Gender		
Male	1164	50.8
Female	1120	48.9
No response	6	0.3
College Classification		
Freshman	496	21.7
Sophomore	438	19.1
Junior	559	24.4
Senior	446	19.5
Graduate	338	14.8
No Response	13	0.5
GPA		
2.0 or below	83	3.6
2.1-2.5	214	9.3
2.6-3.0	459	20.0
3.1-3.5	543	23.7
3.5-4.0	890	38.9
I don't know	83	3.6
No response	18	0.9

Pornography Use

Of the 2,290 respondents to the survey, 1,839 or 80.3% indicated that they do watch online pornography. Only 411 or 18% of the respondents indicated that they did not view online pornography. Of the respondents who reported that they view online pornography, the majority, 38.7%, chose to watch pornography only 1-2 days out of the week, 18% responded that they were unsure of the number of days per week they viewed

online Pornography. Surprisingly, 19% of respondents indicated they viewed online pornography between 5 and 7 days out of the week. While these numbers may seem high, 73.9% of the sample responded that on the days they chose to watch online pornography, they do so for less than a half hour. Very few student respondents indicated that they viewed pornography for longer than four hours. Less than 2% of respondents indicated they viewed pornography for longer than 4 hours.

Table 2
Pornography Use (N=2,290)

<i>Question</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Pornography use		
Yes	1839	80.3
No	411	18.0
No Response	40	1.7
Number of Days		
I don't	413	18.0
1-2	886	38.7
3-4	488	21.3
5-7	434	19.0
No response	69	3.0
Number of Hours		
>1/2 Hour	1691	73.9
1-3	454	19.8
4-6	19	0.8
6+	29	1.3
No response	97	4.2

Gender Comparison of Pornography use

The majority of men, 89.9% reported that they used pornography. Only 8.8% of men reported that they did not use pornography, 1.4% of men chose not to respond to the question. Surprisingly, a large percentage of women also reported using pornography,

approximately 68.1%., though 27.6% of women reported that they did not use pornography. Finally, 1.8% chose not to answer the question.

Men typically watch porn 5-7 days out of the week, with approximately 31.6% of men reporting that they do so, 28.0% of men report watching porn 1-2 days out of the week and 28.5% of men report that they watch porn 3-4 days out of week. A total of 49.9% of women tend to watch porn 1-2 days out of the week. 13.9% of women watch porn 3-4 days out of the week. Only 5.8% of women report watching porn for 5-7 days out of week.

The majority of men, 68.1%, watch porn for less than half an hour per day. 25.8% of men report watching porn for 1-3 hours per day, 0.9% of men report watching porn for 4-6 hours per day. Only 1.5% of men report watching porn for more than 6 hours per day. 80% of women report watching porn for less than half an hour per day. While, 13.8% of women report watching porn between 1 and 3 hours per day, 0.8% of women report watching porn for 4-6 hours and .9% of women report watching porn for 6+ hours.

Table 3
Gender Comparison of Pornography Use (N=2,284)

<i>Question</i>	<i>Male (n=1,164)</i>	<i>Female (n=1,120)</i>
Pornography use		
Yes	89.9	70.6
No	8.8	27.6
No Response	1.3	1.8
Number of Days		
I don't	8.9	27.6
1-2	28.0	49.9
3-4	28.5	13.9
5-7	31.6	5.8
No response	3.0	2.8

(table continues)

Table 3 (continued).

Question	Male (n=1,164)	Female (n=1,120)
Number of Hours		
>1/2 Hour	68.1	80.0
1-3	25.8	13.8
4-6	0.9	0.8
6+	1.5	0.9
No response	3.7	4.5

Comparison of Graduate and Undergraduate Pornography use

The majority of both graduate and undergraduate students reported that they used pornography, with 74.6% of graduate students reporting yes and 81.7% of undergraduate students reporting yes. Most graduate and undergraduate students reported using pornography only 1-2 days per week, 36.7% and 39.3% respectively. Most graduate and undergraduate students reported using pornography less than half an hour on the days they utilized pornography

Table 4

Comparison of Graduate and Undergraduate Use of Pornography (N=2,277)

Question	Graduate (n=338)	Undergraduate (n=1,939)
Pornography use		
Yes	74.6	81.7
No	24.2	17.0
No Response	1.2	1.3
Number of Days		
I don't	26.3	16.7
1-2	36.7	39.3
3-4	20.4	21.6
5-7	14.2	19.8
No response	2.4	2.6
Number of Hours		
>1/2 Hour	77.5	73.7
1-3	16.3	20.6
4-6	0.6	0.9
6+	0.9	1.2
No response	4.7	3.6

Attitudes toward Pornography Use and Sexual Behavior

The next series of questions on the survey asked the students to report their general viewpoints on sexual behavior and pornography use. The remaining questions on the survey were written utilizing the five point Likert scale asking students if they strongly agreed, agreed, were neutral, disagreed, or strongly disagreed with a statement. Student respondents were also given the choice to not respond to these statements.

Viewpoints on Sexual Behaviors

Students were first asked to respond to the subject of premarital sex. The majority, 41.6%, indicated that they strongly disagreed with the statement that premarital sex is unacceptable. A total of 24.3% indicated that they disagreed with the statement. Only 7.7% of respondents indicated that they strongly agreed that premarital sex is unacceptable and 7% of respondents agreed with the statement, 15.7% of respondents indicated that they felt neutral toward the statement.

Interestingly 20% of respondents indicated that they strongly agreed that sex should be reserved for intimate relationships, 24.5% of respondents indicated that they agreed that sex should be reserved for intimate relationships. Conversely, 16.4% of respondents indicated that they disagreed with the statement that sex should be reserved for intimate relationships, 9.1% of respondents indicated that they strongly disagreed with this statement. While, 26.2% of respondents indicated a neutral response toward the statement that sex should be reserved for intimate relationships.

Surprisingly, the majority of respondents, 30.9% had a neutral response to the statement that hooking up with a stranger is acceptable behavior. A total of 21.6% of the

respondents agreed with this statement, while 21.9% of the respondents disagreed with this statement. Only 6.8% of respondents strongly agreed with the statement that hooking up with a stranger is acceptable behavior and 13.9% strongly disagreed with the statement. A total of 30.9% of respondents reported a neutral response to the statement, 4.9% of the survey's respondents chose not to respond.

Table 5
Attitudes toward Sexual Behaviors (N=2,290)

<i>Question</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Premarital sex is		
Unacceptable		
Strongly Agree	177	7.7
Agree	161	7.0
Neutral	360	15.7
Disagree	557	24.3
Strongly Disagree	952	41.6
No Response	83	3.7
Sex should be reserved for		
Intimate relationships		
Strongly Agree	457	20.0
Agree	561	24.5
Neutral	601	26.2
Disagree	376	16.4
Strongly Disagree	209	9.1
No Response	96	3.8
Hooking up with a stranger is		
acceptable		
Strongly Agree	156	6.8
Agree	495	21.6
Neutral	707	30.9
Disagree	501	21.9
Strongly Disagree	319	13.9
No Response	112	4.9

Gender Comparison on Attitudes Toward Sexual Behavior

Generally, men, more than women found premarital sex to be unacceptable, 6.5% of men reported that they agreed with the statement and 9.7% indicated that they strongly agreed. A total of 5.7% of women reported that they strongly agreed that premarital sex is unacceptable and 7.6% of women reported that they agreed. However, in both cases the majority of respondents reported that they strongly disagreed with the statement with 38.6% of men and 44.7% of women reporting strong disagreement.

The majority of men, 26.2%, reported a neutral response to the statement that sex should be reserved for intimate relationships, 17.8% of men indicated that they strongly agreed with this statement and 25.3 agreed. The majority of women, 26.4% had a neutral response to the statement. However, a large portion of female respondents reported agreement with the statement; 23.8% agreed and 22.3% strongly agreed. Only 17.4% of men indicated that they disagreed with the statement, and 9.6% of men indicated that they strongly disagreed. While, 15.5% of women reported that they disagreed with the statement and 8.6% of women reported that they strongly disagreed.

The majority of men, 30.6%, indicated a neutral response to the statement hooking up with a stranger is acceptable behavior. The majority of women, 31.3% also indicated a neutral response to the statement. A total of, 7.8% of men indicated that they strongly agreed with the statement, 24.2% of men indicated that they agreed with the statement. Only 5.8% of women strongly agreed with the statement and 18.9% of the female respondents agreed with the statement. 20.4% of men disagreed with the statement, 12.0% indicated that they strongly disagreed. 23.6% of women disagreed with the statement and 16.0% of women strongly disagreed.

Table 6
Gender Comparison of Attitudes on Sexual Behaviors (N=2,284)

<i>Question</i>	<i>Men (n=1,164)</i>	<i>Women (n=1,120)</i>
Premarital sex is Unacceptable		
Strongly Agree	9.7	5.7
Agree	6.5	7.6
Neutral	15.4	16.2
Disagree	26.2	22.5
Strongly Disagree	38.6	44.7
No Response	3.6	3.3
Sex should be reserved for Intimate relationships		
Strongly Agree	17.8	22.3
Agree	25.3	23.8
Neutral	26.2	26.4
Disagree	17.4	15.5
Strongly Disagree	9.6	8.6
No Response	3.7	3.4
Hooking up with a stranger is acceptable		
Strongly Agree	7.8	5.8
Agree	24.2	18.9
Neutral	30.6	31.3
Disagree	20.4	23.6
Strongly Disagree	12.0	16.0
No Response	5.0	4.4

Viewpoints on Pornography Use

The next series of statements were intended to understand the student population's viewpoint on pornography use. These questions asked whether the students considered the use of pornography to be normal. The response data for these questions are illustrated in the table below.

In response to the statement that viewing pornography is normal behavior for any individual, 42.3% of respondents agreed and 23.8% of respondents indicated that they

strongly agreed. Only 6.8% and 3.8% of respondents indicated that they disagreed or strongly disagreed respectively with the statement. A total of 32.8% of respondents disagreed that viewing pornographic material is morally wrong, while 28.3% strongly disagreed with this statement. Only 7.8% of respondents strongly agreed that viewing pornographic material is morally wrong, while 11% agreed with the statement. 19.0% of students indicated a neutral response. A total of 99 students, or approximate 4.3% of the students chose not to respond to this statement.

The majority of respondents, 35.2% or 750 students, disagreed with the statement that they consider viewing pornographic material to be shameful behavior, while 650 students or 24.5% strongly disagreed with the statement, 13.7% had a neutral response to the statement, while 13.7% of the respondents agreed with the statement that viewing pornography is shameful behavior. A total of 15.6% of respondents reported a neutral response to the statement. Generally, the respondents did not consider viewing pornography to be shameful behavior, however, 104 students or 5.4% of those who responded to the survey chose to not respond to this question.

In response to the statement that pornographic websites should be banned on college campuses, 32.2% of student respondents indicated that they strongly disagreed and 25% indicated that they disagreed. While, 10.3% of students indicated agreement with the statement that pornographic websites should be banned and 9% of students indicated that they strongly agreed that pornographic websites should be banned on college campuses. A total of 91 students, approximately 3.9% chose not to respond to this statement.

Table 7
Viewpoint on Pornography Use (N=2,290)

<i>Question</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Viewing Pornography is Normal		
Strongly Agree	546	23.8
Agree	968	42.3
Neutral	434	19.0
Disagree	157	6.8
Strongly Disagree	80	3.8
No Response	99	4.3
Viewing Pornography is morally wrong		
Strongly Agree	178	7.8
Agree	251	11.0
Neutral	357	15.6
Disagree	750	32.8
Strongly Disagree	650	28.3
No Response	104	4.5
Pornography Should Be Banned		
Strongly Agree	205	9.0
Agree	236	10.3
Neutral	448	19.6
Disagree	571	25.0
Strongly Disagree	739	32.2
No Response	91	3.9

Gender Comparison of Viewpoints on Pornography Use

The majority of both men and women considered the use of pornography to be normal behavior for any individual. 42.5% of men indicated that they agreed with the statement and 28.5% indicated that they strongly agreed with the statement. While 42.2% of women indicated that they agreed with the statement and 19.0% of women indicated that they strongly disagreed with the statement. At total of 17.0% of men and 21.1% of

women indicated that they felt neutral towards the statement. Only 4.2% of men disagreed with the statement and 3.3% of men strongly disagreed with the statement. 9.6% of women disagreed with the statement and 4.3% indicated that they strongly disagreed with the statement.

The majority of men and women disagreed with the statement viewing pornography is morally wrong, 31.2% of men indicated that they strongly disagreed with the statement and 31.1% of men indicated that they disagreed. A total of 34.7% of women indicated that they disagreed with the statement and 25.5% of women indicated that they strongly disagreed with the statement. While 14.8% of men and 16.4% of women indicated they had a neutral response to the statement. Total, 12.2% of women indicated they agreed with the statement and 7.4% indicated that they strongly agreed with the statement. 9.9% of men indicated that they agreed with the statement and 8.2% of men indicated that they strongly agreed with the statement.

Generally, more women indicated that they would want to see pornography banned on college campuses, with 11.3% indicating that they agree and 9.7 indicating that they strongly agree. Interestingly, only 9.4% of men indicate that they agree with the statement and 8.2% indicate that they strongly agree. While 16.8% of men and 22.5% of women indicated that they felt neutral toward the statement. A total of 22.7% of men indicated that they disagreed with the statement and 38.9% indicated that they strongly disagreed. While 27.4% of women indicated that they disagreed with the statement and 25.4% of women indicated that they strongly disagreed that pornography should be banned on college campuses.

Table 8
Gender Comparison of Viewpoints on Pornography use (N=2,284)

<i>Question</i>	<i>Men (n=1,164)</i>	<i>Women (n=1,120)</i>
Viewing Pornography is Normal		
Strongly Agree	28.5	19.0
Agree	42.5	42.2
Neutral	17.0	21.1
Disagree	4.2	9.6
Strongly Disagree	3.3	4.3
No Response	4.5	3.8
Viewing Pornography is morally wrong		
Strongly Agree	8.2	7.4
Agree	9.9	12.2
Neutral	14.8	16.4
Disagree	31.1	34.7
Strongly Disagree	31.2	25.5
No Response	4.8	3.9
Pornography Should Be Banned		
Strongly Agree	8.2	9.7
Agree	9.4	11.3
Neutral	16.8	22.5
Disagree	22.7	27.4
Strongly Disagree	38.9	25.4
No Response	4.0	3.6

Response to Pornography Use

The next series of questions were intended to determine how the student population responds when exposed to online pornography. These questions can be broken down into three primary categories: types of pornography used, sexual interactions, and the direct response to pornography use. Like the previous section, these questions utilized a five point Likert scale. Respondents did have the opportunity to

choose not to respond to the statements presented to them. The results are described in the following sections.

Types of Pornography

The following statements asked the population to report the types of pornography they used. While this can be difficult to categorize, as there are many categories of pornography, the respondents were asked to respond to a general categorization of pornography.

Students were first asked to respond to a statement inquiring as to their use of bondage and fetish pornography, or pornography that involves discipline or the use of unusual implements to simulate sexual intercourse. The majority of respondents, 866 or 37.8% indicated that they strongly disagreed that they made use of this sort of pornography, 25.8% of the population indicated that they disagreed with the statement. However, 14.9% indicated that they agreed to the statement, which 6.9% indicated that they strongly agreed, 151 respondents, approximately 6.6%, chose not to respond to the statement.

The next statement asked if they typically viewed more common hardcore pornographic categories or sexual material that depicts typical intercourse. The majority of students, 38.3%, indicated that they agreed with this statement, 10.8% indicated that they strongly agreed with this statement. A total of 15.9% of respondents indicated that they strongly disagreed with the statement, while 11.5% of respondents disagreed, 7.5% of the population chose not to respond to the statement.

Next, respondents were asked to respond to a statement asking if they preferred pornographic material that included someone being tied down or disciplined. The majority, 831 respondents or 36.3% of the population, indicated that they strongly disagreed with this statement. 618, or 27%, of respondents indicated that they disagreed with this statement, 11.1% of respondents indicated that they felt neutral about the statement. Only 8.8% of respondents indicated that they agreed with this statement, while only 4.6% of respondents indicated that they strongly agreed with this statement. A total of 15.9% of respondents indicated that they felt neutral about the statement.

Respondents were then asked to respond to the statement that they prefer pornographic material that included someone being raped or otherwise pressured to commit a sex act against their will. The majority of respondents, 1454 or 63.5%, indicated that they strongly disagreed with this statement. While 15.9% of the population indicated that they disagreed with this statement. Only 36 respondents, 1.6% of the population indicated that they strongly agreed with the statement, while 104 respondents or 4.5% of the population indicated that they agreed with the statement, 175 or 7.4% of the respondents chose not to answer the question.

Finally, respondents were asked whether they preferred pornographic material in which all parties are depicted as consenting. The majority of respondents, 960 or 41.9%, indicated that they strongly agreed with this statement, 30.4% of respondents indicated that they agreed with this statement. While 13.4% or 308 of respondents indicated that they felt neutral about the statement. Only 2% or 45 of the respondents indicated that they disagreed with this statement, while 4.3% indicated that they strongly disagreed with this statement, 186 respondents, or 8.0%, chose not to respond to this statement.

Table 9
Types of Pornography Used (N=2,290)

<i>Question</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Bondage/Discipline		
Strongly Agree	147	6.4
Agree	319	13.9
Neutral	255	11.1
Disagree	552	24.1
Strongly Disagree	866	37.8
No Response	151	6.6
Common/Hardcore		
Strongly Agree	248	10.8
Agree	876	38.3
Neutral	366	16.0
Disagree	26	11.5
Strongly Disagree	365	15.9
No Response	171	7.5
Tied Down/Disciplined		
Strongly Agree	105	4.6
Agree	202	8.8
Neutral	364	15.9
Disagree	618	27.0
Strongly Disagree	831	36.3
No Response	170	7.4
Nonconsenting		
Strongly Agree	36	1.6
Agree	104	4.5
Neutral	156	6.8
Disagree	365	15.9
Strongly Disagree	1454	63.5
No Response	175	7.7
Consenting		
Strongly Agree	960	41.9
Agree	696	30.4
Neutral	308	13.4
Disagree	45	2.0
Strongly Disagree	98	4.3
No Response	183	8.0

Sexual Interactions

The next series of statements asked respondents to consider how they approached sexual interactions. Respondents were asked to consider the statement that when a woman says no to sexual advances, she is really playing hard to get. The majority of respondents, 1,478 or 64.5%, indicated that they strongly disagreed with this statement, 19.9%, 455 responders, indicated that they disagreed with the statement. Only 18 responders, less than 1%, indicated that they strongly agreed with the statement. At total of 1.3%, 29 responders, indicated that they agreed with the statement. While 1,068, 46.6% of respondents indicated that they strongly disagreed with the next statement that all women want to be controlled/dominated during sex. 30.2%, 691, respondents indicated that they disagreed with the statement. Only 30 respondents, 1.3% indicated that they strongly agreed with the statement, 83 respondents, 3.6% indicated that they agreed with the statement.

The majority of respondents, 1,336 or 58.3%, indicated that they strongly disagreed with the next statement that women like to be degraded/humiliated during sex, 21.9% responded that they disagreed with the statement. Only 18 respondents, less than 1% of the population indicated that they agreed with the statement and 18 respondents indicated that they strongly agreed with the statement. A total of 201 respondents or approximately 8.8% of the population chose to not to respond to the statement.

A large portion, 53%, of the population indicated that they strongly disagreed that pornography is an accurate representation of sexual interactions, 26.5% indicated that they disagreed with the statement. While 8.0% indicated that they felt neutral towards the statement that pornography is an accurate representation of sexual interactions. Only

1.2% of the population indicated that they strongly agreed with the statement and 2.1% indicated that they agreed with the statement. While 9.2% of respondents chose not to respond to the statement. The next statement, I desire to act out the scenes I have viewed in porn, received more mixed results. The majority of respondents, 25.7% had a neutral response. A total of 21.8% of respondents, strongly disagreed with the statement, 19.9% disagreed. And 18.7% of respondents agreed with the statement, while only 4.2% strongly agreed with the statement. 9.7% of the respondents chose not to respond.

To the statement, people who make themselves sexually available should expect to be taken advantage of, the majority, 51.4% strongly disagreed, and 23.2% disagreed with the statement. Only 2.0% of the population strongly agreed with the statement, 5.7% of the respondents agreed with the statement. To the statement people who sexually provocative clothing should expect to be hit on had more mixed results, 30.2% of the respondents strongly disagreed with the statement and 18.1% disagreed. However, 24.4% of the respondents agreed with the statement and 6.0% of the respondents indicated that they strongly agreed with the statement.

Table 10
Sexual Interactions (N=2,290)

<i>Question</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Percent</i>
When a woman says no to sexual advances		
Strongly Agree	18	0.8
Agree	29	1.3
Neutral	128	5.6
Disagree	455	19.9
Strongly Disagree	1478	64.5
No response	182	7.9

(table continues)

Table 10 (continued).

<i>Question</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Women want to be controlled/dominated		
Strongly Agree	30	1.3
Agree	83	3.6
Neutral	221	9.7
Disagree	691	30.2
Strongly Disagree	1068	46.6
No response	197	8.6
Women like to be degraded/humiliated		
Strongly Agree	18	0.8
Agree	18	0.8
Neutral	215	9.4
Disagree	502	21.9
Strongly Disagree	1336	58.3
No response	201	8.8
Porn is an accurate representation of sex		
Strongly Agree	26	1.2
Agree	49	2.1
Neutral	184	8.0
Disagree	607	26.5
Strongly Disagree	1214	53.0
No response	210	9.2
I desire to act out the scenes in porn		
Strongly Agree	95	4.2
Agree	429	18.7
Neutral	589	25.7
Disagree	457	19.9
Strongly Disagree	499	21.8
No response	221	9.7
People who make themselves sexually available should expect to be taken advantage of		
Strongly Agree	46	2.0
Agree	131	5.7
Neutral	177	7.7
Disagree	532	23.2
Strongly Disagree	1177	51.4
No response	227	9.9

(table continues)

Table 10 (continued).

<i>Question</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Percent</i>
People who wear sexually provocative clothing should expect to be hit on		
Strongly Agree	138	6.0
Agree	503	22.0
Neutral	316	13.8
Disagree	414	18.1
Strongly Disagree	692	30.2
No response	227	9.9

Direct Response to Pornography Use

The next series of statements asked the respondent to indicate how the use of pornography made them feel. In particular, this section asked the respondents how porn directly affected their mood and sexual desires. To the statement viewing pornographic material reduces my sexual need the majority of respondents, 25.8%, indicated that they agreed with the statement. Only 7.4% of respondents indicated that they strongly agreed with the statement. Many of the respondents, 24.6% indicated a neutral response to the statement. While 21.7% of respondents indicated that they disagreed with the statement and 11.9% of respondents indicated that they strongly disagreed with the statement. Finally, 8.6% of respondents chose not to answer.

The next statement, viewing pornography helps me to relax, had a majority response of 31.1% agree. Only 9.1% of respondents indicated that they strongly agreed with the statement and 24.7% of respondents indicated a neutral response. 13.9% of respondents indicated that they disagreed with the statement, while 10.6% of respondents indicated that they strongly disagreed with the statement and 10.6% of respondents chose not to answer the question. The majority of respondents, 35.9%,

agreed with the next statement, when I have finished viewing pornographic materials, I feel relaxed, 12.1% of respondents indicated that they strongly agreed with the statement. While 21.4% of respondents indicated that they felt neutral about the statement, 10.2% of respondents indicated that they disagreed, while 9.7% of respondents indicated that they strongly disagreed. Finally, 9.7% of respondents chose not to respond to the statement.

Finally, students were asked to respond to the statement, when I have finished viewing pornographic materials, I feel agitated. The majority of respondents, 40.4%, indicated that they disagreed with the statement and 27.6% of respondents indicated that they strongly disagreed, 12.4% of respondents indicated they felt neutral toward the statement, while 6.5% of respondents indicated they agreed with the statement. Only 2.2% of respondents indicated that they strongly agreed with the statement.

Table 11
Direct Response to Pornography (N=2,290)

<i>Question</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Reduces sexual need		
Strongly Agree	170	7.4
Agree	591	25.8
Neutral	562	24.6
Disagree	497	21.7
Strongly Disagree	273	11.9
No response	197	8.6
Pornography Helps Me Relax		
Strongly Agree	209	9.1
Agree	712	31.1
Neutral	566	24.7
Disagree	319	13.9
Strongly Disagree	242	10.6
No response	242	10.6

(table continues)

Table 11 (continued).

<i>Question</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Percent</i>
When finished viewing, I feel relaxed		
Strongly Agree	277	12.1
Agree	821	35.9
Neutral	491	21.4
Disagree	234	10.2
Strongly Disagree	221	9.7
No response	246	10.7
When finished view, I feel agitated		
Strongly Agree	51	2.2
Agree	148	6.5
Neutral	284	12.4
Disagree	924	40.4
Strongly Disagree	633	27.6
No response	250	10.9

Gender Comparison of the Direct Responses to Pornography Use

Men more than women find that pornography reduces their sexual need, 31.6% of men indicated that they agreed with the statement and 9.5% of men indicated that they strongly agreed. Only 5.4% of women indicated that they strongly agreed that pornography reduces their sexual need, while 19.9% indicated that they agreed. While 27.6% of women and 21.7% of men indicated a neutral response to the statement, 19.1% of men indicated that they disagreed with the statement and 9.6 % indicated that they strongly disagreed with the statement. Finally, 24.4% of women indicated that they disagreed with the statement and 14.4% of women indicated that they strongly disagreed.

A total of 38.0% of men agreed with the statement viewing pornography helps me relax, 12.4% of men indicate that they strongly agree with the statement. While 24.0% of women of women indicated that they agreed with the statement. However, only 5.8% of

women indicated that they strongly agreed with the statement 22.1% of men and 27.5% of women indicated a neutral response to the statement. A total of 11.1% of men indicated that they disagreed with the statement and 5.7% of men responded that they strongly disagreed with the statement. Finally, 16.9% of female respondents indicated that they disagreed with the statement and 15.7% indicated that they strongly disagreed with the statement.

To the statement after viewing pornography, I feel relaxed 31.1% of women indicated that they agreed with the statement, 7.5% of women indicated that they strongly agreed. While 40.5% of men indicated that they agreed with the statement, 16.6% of men indicated that they strongly agreed with the statement. A total of 24.6% of women and 18.5% of men indicated that they felt neutral toward the statement. While 8.2% of men indicated that they disagreed with the statement and 5.5% of men strongly disagreed, 12.4% of women indicated that they disagreed with the statement and 14.0% indicated that they strongly disagreed.

Finally, to the statement after viewing pornography, I feel agitated, the majority of men, 42.3%, responded that they disagreed with the statement, 28.1% indicated that they strongly disagreed. A total of 38.5% of women indicated that they disagreed with the statement, 27.3% indicated that they strongly disagreed, 9.8% of men and 15.2% of women indicated that they felt neutral about the statement. While 6.7% of women responded that they agreed with the statement, 1.5% of women indicated that they strongly agreed, 6.2% of men agreed with the statement and 2.9% of men strongly agreed with the statement.

Table 12
Gender Comparison of Direct Responses to Pornography (N=2,284)

<i>Question</i>	<i>Male (n=1,164)</i>	<i>Women (n=1,120)</i>
Reduces sexual need		
Strongly Agree	9.5	5.4
Agree	31.6	19.9
Neutral	21.7	27.6
Disagree	19.1	24.4
Strongly Disagree	9.6	14.4
No response	8.5	8.3
Pornography Helps Me Relax		
Strongly Agree	12.4	5.8
Agree	38.0	24.0
Neutral	22.1	27.5
Disagree	11.1	16.9
Strongly Disagree	5.7	15.7
No response	10.7	10.1
When finished viewing, I feel relaxed		
Strongly Agree	16.6	7.5
Agree	40.5	31.1
Neutral	18.5	24.6
Disagree	8.2	12.4
Strongly Disagree	5.5	14.0
No response	10.7	10.4
When finished view, I feel agitated		
Strongly Agree	2.9	1.5
Agree	6.2	6.7
Neutral	9.8	15.2
Disagree	42.3	38.5
Strongly Disagree	28.1	27.3
No response	10.7	10.8

Summary

The purpose of this chapter was to present the results of the data gathered from the survey presented to the student population at a North Texas university. The data

shows that a large portion of the student population uses pornographic materials. Generally, students do not report a desire to have pornography banned on college campuses. Students also show a greater interest in pornography that shows consenting parties and that does not make use of violent imagery, such as rape or bondage. Students also tended to report that pornography either relaxed them or had no effect on them. Very few students reported feeling agitated after viewing pornography. The findings of the study, as well as implications and recommendations for further study, are discussed in detail in the following chapter.

CHAPTER 5

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study was to examine the prevalence of use of online pornography at a North Texas university and how it effects the student population. This includes their attitudes toward online pornography and their reactions. The survey data shows that 1) the majority of the survey population makes use of online pornography; 2) males and females both use pornography with nearly equal prevalence; 3) students are comfortable with the use of online pornography and do not want to see it banned on college campuses; 4) Students tend to view pornography that shows consensual sexual encounters with less violent imagery; 5) students do not confuse the sexual imagery of porn with real sexual interactions; 6) students tend to find that pornography is more likely to relax them than it is to agitate them. This chapter further discusses the findings of the survey as well as implications and future recommendations.

Previous research has suggested that the use of pornography leads to dangerous views on sexual interactions, such as sexual callousness toward women and increased sexual aggression toward women (Linz, Donnerstein, & Penrod, 1984; Silbert & Pines, 1984; Zillman & Bryant, 1982). A previous nationwide survey of citizens revealed that there is a stigmatization of pornography and that there is concern for social and psychological health (Attorney General's Commission on Pornography, 1986). Of course, there is also a concern about pornography use from a moral or religious perspective (Baron, 1987).

Based on the previous research, it might be expected that the highest rate of pornography use would be amongst young men who might have a propensity toward sexual aggression (Demaré, Briere, & Lips, 1988). The results of the survey show different results. Pornography has seen an increase to widespread use amongst respondent population, approximately 80% of respondents utilize online pornography. Further, pornography use amongst males and females is very similar where just under 90% of men report pornography use and, surprisingly, 70% of women report that they use online pornography. Women also do not use pornography infrequently, 50% of female respondents reported that they used pornography one to two days out of the week. Generally, men and women tend to use pornography at the same rates, approximately less than half an hour of use per day of use. Interestingly, a relatively large percent of women, 13.8% reported that they used pornography between one and three hours per day of use.

Undergraduates and graduates tend to use pornography at similar rates, 74.6% of graduate students reported using pornography and 81.7% of undergraduates reported using pornography. Generally undergraduates and graduates both watch pornography one to two days out of the week. 39.3% of undergraduates and 36.7% of graduates students reported viewing porn at this frequency. Graduates and undergraduate students also viewed porn for similar number of hours per day, 77.5% of graduate students and 73.7% of undergraduate students reported viewing pornography for less than half an hour per day that they chose to watch pornography. These results indicate that academic level does not determine the likelihood of pornography use.

Initial research into the use of pornography suggested that people generally had a conservative view on sexual behaviors, in particular that the use of pornography was not only abnormal, but also immoral (Attorney General's Commission on Pornography, 1986). However, the results of this survey suggests that this viewpoint has changed. Over 50% of the respondent population as a whole indicated that they felt viewing pornography was normal behavior for any individual. Interestingly, there was not a huge gender divide on this subject, 71% of men and 61.4% of women indicated some level of agreement that viewing pornography was normal. Generally, the population disagreed that pornography was immoral with 61.2% of the population indicating disagreement.

Of further interest is a change from the typical conservative values expressed in previous research (Attorney General's Commission on Pornography, 1986; Malamuth & Donnerstein, 1984). Stereotypical conservative sexual behaviors might include reserving sexual intercourse until after marriage or for intimate relationships. The overall population showed a deviation from these conservative stereotypes. A majority of the population, 65.9%, found premarital sex to be acceptable. Interestingly, more female respondents indicated that they found premarital sex to be acceptable than male respondents; 67.2% of female respondents reported agreement to the acceptability of premarital sex versus 63.5% of males indicating agreement. Less than half of the population, 44.5%, agreed that sex should be reserved for intimate relationships, of those that responded to the question 51.7% had a neutral response to the idea or disagreed that sex should be reserved for intimate relationships. Further, 43.1% of men reported that they felt sex should be reserved for intimate relationships, while only 46.1% of women indicated agreement. This might be considered a deviation from the norm as the stereotypical

expectation might be that men are less likely to seek more emotional attachment in sexual encounters. Interestingly, female respondents tended to show outright disagreement or a neutral reaction to the statement that sex should be reserved for intimate relations. However, the majority of women, 31.3%, reported a neutral response to the idea that hooking up with strangers is acceptable behavior. The results of the survey show that college students show an acceptance of the use of pornographic materials; they consider it normal behavior to utilize pornography. Further, they believe that sexual interactions and intercourse, in particular, is acceptable beyond stereotypical conservative standards. Intimate knowledge of a person is not necessary to partake in healthy sexual behavior.

While it was of interest the frequency with which students use pornography, of particular concern was the type of pornography the students were utilizing. Research has suggested that people who view violent pornography tend to show a greater propensity for sexual aggression, particularly toward women (Malamuth & Ceniti, 1986). To gauge whether or not students made use of violent pornography, students were asked to report the types of pornographic material they used. Students reported that they generally preferred pornographic material that included imagery of consenting parties having typical intercourse – that is intercourse that did not include the use of additional instruments such as those used to discipline or otherwise simulate intercourse. Students did not show interest in pornography that shows bondage, discipline, other violent actions, or that pornography which showed nonconsenting parties. The respondents also did not show an interest in the use of pornography that involved outside implements, such as those used to bind, strike or discipline the participants. Generally, very few students showed an

interest in particularly violent pornography and there should be no concern that there is a prevalence of violent pornography usage among college students.

Previous research has suggested that those who use pornography may show regressed gender norms or an inability to display normal behavior in sexual interactions. The use of pornography may even effect the individual's ability to make a true distinction between real life and the interactions shown in pornographic material (Bleakeley, Hennessy, Fishbein, & Jordan, 2008; Davies, 1997). The data collected from this research shows a different. College students generally understand a difference between real life interactions and those actions depicted in pornography. They recognize that in pornographic materials women may seem inclined toward sexual advances despite verbal implications otherwise, but real life interactions may be different. Generally, the respondents did not believe that all women enjoy, or prefer, to be degraded and humiliated during sexual interactions, even though this is a common trope in pornographic material. Futher, the general respondent to the survey does not believe that pornographic materials are an accurate representation of sexual encounters or intercourse. A small percentage of students indicated they had a desire to act out some of the scenes they have seen in pornography, with approximately 22.8% of respondents indicating that they had a desire to do so. However, only a small percentage of the respondent population, 3.2%, indicated they they felt pornography was an accurate representation of sexual encounters.

Further, there are also indications that the population separated real life encounters from pornographic ones in that the majority believe that people who made themselves sexually available should not expect to be taken advantage of sexually or that people who wear sexually provocative clothing should not necessarily expect to be

interacted with in a sexual manner. Both of these scenarios are typical tropes in pornography, as such, if there was a disconnection of understanding the difference between real life interactions and those displayed in pornography, the population would show indications toward the contrary. However, there are limitations to these questions as they are also dependent on social and environmental factors, they cannot be concretely linked to determining if the population understands the separation between pornography and real life. However, if taken in conjunction with the previous questions, indicate that the population does recognize a difference between real sexual interactions and those of fantasy.

Finally, the population indicated that the use of pornography generally reduced their sexual need. Men, however, find that pornography is more likely to reduce their sexual need, while women indicate they experience more mixed results. The majority of men also indicated that they feel relaxed after viewing pornography. Many women indicated that they also feel relaxed, but the female population generally reported mixed results. Just under half the male population reported that they seek out pornography to help them relax. The survey respondents are more likely to find that the use of pornography relaxes them and very few students will find that the use of pornography agitates or upsets them. This indicates that the respondents are less likely to utilize pornography to fuel aggressive desires and that pornography does not necessarily contribute to any dangerous or aggressive behaviors.

Implications

The purpose of this study was to determine if there was a prevalent use of pornography on a college campus in North Texas and if that phenomenon had a

noticeable effect on the students at the campus. The study discovered that indeed, there is a prevalent use of pornography on the campus, the majority of the respondents utilize pornographic material with some frequency. The immediate concern with this use, is whether or not pornography has a negative effect on the student body, in particular does the student body find that they have difficulty separating real life from the fantasy presented in pornography?

From an analysis of the collected data it is apparent that college students indeed have an understanding of the difference. Generally, students do not confuse real life sexual interactions with that presented in pornography. They understand that some of the situation that may be typical of pornography, such as the degradation and humiliation of women or taking sexual advantage of people, are not examples of ideal real life behavior. Further, the student body, did not display an interest in particularly violent pornography, instead preferring pornography that displayed consenting parties performing typical sexual acts that did not include the use of outside implements or the use of humiliation and discipline. The results of the survey also suggested that students had a more progressive approach to normal sexual behaviors, including agreeing that the use of pornography is normal behavior and is not immoral.

Students were also not further agitated by pornographic materials, instead they reported that they instead felt generally relaxed by the use of pornography or they felt indifferent. Generally, there was no indication that the use of pornography caused aggression, regressed behavior, or other potentially dangerous behavior. Again, the student body was able to make distinction between real life sexual interactions and the use of pornographic materials.

Finally, the students indicated that they they did not want to see pornography banned from college campuses. This is, of course, the likely result of such a prevalent use of pornography, though this topic should be opened to further discussion. There is, however, no indication based on this research that the use of pornography presents a danger to the student body in terms of regressed gender norms, such as those indicated in previous research (Brown & L'Engle, 2009)

Conclusion

In summation, the findings of this study indicate that the use of pornography is prevalent on the college campus surveyed. It is used consistently by both men and women and with similar frequency between graduate and undergraduate students. Students do not typically gravitate to violent pornography, instead preferring pornography that shows consensual sexual interactions and does not include causing pain or humiliation. Students indicated that they see pornography usage as normal behavior. They also do not show signs of regressed or dangerous behavior as they are able to make distinctions between real life sexual interactions and those of fantasy. While further study may be necessary, the data shows that pornography has no major adverse effect on the student body.

APPENDIX A
SURVEY TABLE AND VARIABLE CODING

<i>Variable</i>	<i>Question/ Statement</i>	<i>Coding/Answer Choices</i>
<i>Demographic 1</i>	What is your age?	0= 18-23 1= 24-28 2=29-34 3=35+
<i>Demographic 2</i>	What is your gender?	0= male 1= female
<i>Demographic 3</i>	What is your college classification?	0= Freshman 1= Sophomore 2= Junior 3= Senior 4= Graduate Student
<i>Demographic 4</i>	What is your GPA?	0=2.0 or below 1= 2.1 – 2.5 2= 2.6- 3.0 3= 3.1- 3.5 4= 3.6 – 4.0 5= I don't know
<i>Demographic 5</i>	Do you view pornographic material such as video clips on websites such as Pornhub?	0= yes 1= no
<i>Demographic 6</i>	How many days per week do you view at least one online pornographic video or image?	0= I do not view pornographic material 1= 1-2 days/week 2= 3-4 days/week 3= 6-7 days/week
<i>Demographic 7</i>	How many hours per day do you view online pornography?	0= Less than a half hour 1= 1-3 hours 2= 4-6 hours 3= 6+ hours

<i>Attitude 1</i>	Premarital sex is unacceptable.	0= Strongly Agree 1= Agree 2= Neutral 3= Disagree 4=Strongly Disagree
<i>Attitude 2</i>	Sex should be reserved for intimate relationships.	0= Strongly Agree 1= Agree 2= Neutral 3= Disagree 4=Strongly Disagree
<i>Attitude 3</i>	Pornographic websites should be banned on college campuses.	0= Strongly Agree 1= Agree 2= Neutral 3= Disagree 4=Strongly Disagree
<i>Attitude 4</i>	Viewing pornography is normal.	0= Strongly Agree 1= Agree 2= Neutral 3= Disagree 4=Strongly Disagree
<i>Attitude 5</i>	Viewing pornographic material is morally wrong.	0= Strongly Agree 1= Agree 2= Neutral 3= Disagree 4=Strongly Disagree
<i>Attitude 6</i>	Hooking up with is stranger is acceptable behavior.	0= Strongly Agree 1= Agree 2= Neutral 3= Disagree 4=Strongly Disagree
<i>Attitude 7</i>	Viewing pornographic material is shameful behavior.	0= Strongly Agree 1= Agree 2= Neutral 3= Disagree 4=Strongly Disagree

<i>Attitude 8</i>	When I view online pornographic material I tend to visit fetish and bondage websites.	0= Strongly Agree 1= Agree 2= Neutral 3= Disagree 4=Strongly Disagree
<i>Attitude 9</i>	When I view online pornographic material, I tend to view more common hardcore porn.	0= Strongly Agree 1= Agree 2= Neutral 3= Disagree 4=Strongly Disagree
<i>Attitude 10</i>	I prefer pornographic material that include someone being tied down or disciplined.	0= Strongly Agree 1= Agree 2= Neutral 3= Disagree 4=Strongly Disagree
<i>Attitude 11</i>	I prefer pornographic material that includes someone being raped or pressured to commit a sex act against their will.	0= Strongly Agree 1= Agree 2= Neutral 3= Disagree 4=Strongly Disagree
<i>Attitude 12</i>	I prefer pornographic material in which all parties are depicted as consenting.	0= Strongly Agree 1= Agree 2= Neutral 3= Disagree 4=Strongly Disagree
<i>Reaction 1</i>	When a woman says no to sexual advances, she is really playing hard to get.	0= Strongly Agree 1= Agree 2= Neutral 3= Disagree 4=Strongly Disagree

<i>Reaction 2</i>	Viewing pornographic material reduces my sexual need.	0= Strongly Agree 1= Agree 2= Neutral 3= Disagree 4=Strongly Disagree
<i>Reaction 3</i>	All women want to be controlled/dominated during sex.	0= Strongly Agree 1= Agree 2= Neutral 3= Disagree 4=Strongly Disagree
<i>Reaction 4</i>	Women like to be degraded/humiliated during sex.	0= Strongly Agree 1= Agree 2= Neutral 3= Disagree 4=Strongly Disagree
<i>Reaction 5</i>	Porn is an accurate representation of sexual interactions.	0= Strongly Agree 1= Agree 2= Neutral 3= Disagree 4=Strongly Disagree
<i>Reaction 6</i>	I desire to act out the scenes I have viewed in porn.	0= Strongly Agree 1= Agree 2= Neutral 3= Disagree 4=Strongly Disagree
<i>Reaction 7</i>	People who make themselves sexually available should expect to be taken advantage of.	0= Strongly Agree 1= Agree 2= Neutral 3= Disagree 4=Strongly Disagree

<i>Reaction 8</i>	People who wear sexually provocative clothing should expect to be hit on.	0= Strongly Agree 1= Agree 2= Neutral 3= Disagree 4=Strongly Disagree
<i>Reaction 9</i>	Viewing pornography helps me relax at the end of the day.	0= Strongly Agree 1= Agree 2= Neutral 3= Disagree 4=Strongly Disagree
<i>Reaction 10</i>	When I have finished viewing pornographic materials I feel satisfied.	0= Strongly Agree 1= Agree 2= Neutral 3= Disagree 4=Strongly Disagree
<i>Reaction 11</i>	When I have finished viewing pornographic materials I feel regret.	0= Strongly Agree 1= Agree 2= Neutral 3= Disagree 4=Strongly Disagree

APPENDIX B
NIH CERTIFICATION



APPENDIX C
IRB APPLICATION

Expedited or Full Board Review Application

University of North Texas Institutional Review Board
OHRP Federalwide Assurance: FWA00007479

For IRB Use Only	
File Number:	
Approval	

Save this file as a Word document on your computer, answer all questions completely within Word, and submit it along with all supplemental documents to the IRB Office as described in the Electronic Submission Checklist on page 7.

For Mac Users: To select your response for each check box, click on the appropriate check box and then hit the space bar to place an "X" in the box to indicate your answer.

Type only in the blue fields, and closely follow all stated length limits. Handwritten forms will not be accepted.

1. Title of Study

Must be identical to the title of any related internal or external grant proposal.

Online Pornography and Its Effects on the Behaviors of College Students

2. Investigator (or Supervising Investigator for Student Studies)

Must be a full-time UNT faculty member or a full-time staff employee whose job responsibilities include conducting human subjects research. A faculty **Supervising Investigator** is required for all student studies which require IRB review, including some theses and dissertations. Student Investigator information is entered in Section 4.

First Name

Last Name

Title

Scott

Belshaw

Associate Professor

UNT Department

Email Address

Office Phone Number

CJUS

Scott.Belshaw@unt.edu

940-565-4591

3. Co-Investigator (if applicable)

First Name

Last Name

E-mail Address

UNT Department or University

Title

4. Student Investigator (if applicable, for student studies such as theses and dissertations)

First Name

Last Name

E-mail Address

Michelle	Hassell	Michelle.Hassell@unt.edu
-----------------	----------------	--------------------------

UNT Department CJUS	Degree Program MSCJ
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5. Key Personnel

List the name of all other Key Personnel (including students) who are responsible for the design, conduct, or reporting of the study (including recruitment or data collection).

NIH or CITI IRB Training

Have you, any Co-Investigator, any Student Investigator, and all Key Personnel completed the NIH IRB training course ("Protecting Human Research Participants") or the CITI IRB training course ("Human Subjects Research") and electronically submitted a copy of the completion certificate to untirb@unt.edu?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

If you answered "No," this training is required for all Key Personnel before your study can be approved. The NIH IRB course may be accessed by visiting: <http://phrp.nihtraining.com>. The CITI IRB course may be accessed by visiting: <https://www.citiprogram.org/>.

6. Funding Information (if applicable)

Has **external or internal funding** been proposed or awarded for this project?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

If yes, please submit the statement of work or a project summary and provide the Proposal Number or Project ID Number for any external funding or the account number for any internal funding for this project.

Proposal Number or Project ID Number _____

Statement of work or project summary attached?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

7. Financial Conflict of Interest Disclosure (if applicable)

Has **external funding** been proposed or awarded for this project?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

If yes, the UNT Conflict of Interest Policy for Sponsored Projects requires the Principal Investigator, any Co-Investigator, any project director, and any other person with responsibility for designing, conducting, or reporting of externally funded research to complete an online Financial Conflict of Interest disclosure each fiscal year. Have all Investigators and other key personnel for this proposed project completed an online Financial Conflict of Interest disclosure for the current fiscal year? (The online process for submitting a Financial Conflict of Interest Disclosure is available at: <https://research.unt.edu/faculty-resources/research-integrity-and-compliance/financial-conflict-interest>.)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

8. Purpose of Study

In no more than a half a page, briefly state the purpose of your study in **lay language**, including the research question(s) you intend to answer. A brief summary of what you write here should be included in the informed consent form.

The purpose of this study is to determine the frequency with which college students use online pornography, particularly the use of violent pornography, as well as their general attitudes and responses to this use. The study will also collect demographic data including age, gender and the level of education of the respondents. The student intends to update the research on the effects of pornographic material and ensure the research's relevancy, especially in this current age of easy internet access. The study intends to answer the following questions:

- 1) What is the frequency of pornography use amongst college students?
- 2) What is the extent of the use of violent pornography by the average college student?
- 3) What age groups and gender see the most frequent online pornography use? What is the frequency of use amongst undergraduate and graduate students?
- 4) Does the college student draw a distinction between real sexual interactions versus the ones depicted in pornography? For example, does a student who views pornography regularly assume that women act in real life as they do in pornography?

9. Previous Research

In no more than half a page, summarize previous research leading to the formulation of this study, including any past or current research conducted by the Investigator that leads directly to the formulation of this study (including citations and references.)

The Attorney General's Commission on Pornography was tasked in 1986 with determining the effects of pornography usage on the individual. The commission determined that there was a significant enough negative effect on behavior health to cause enough concern over public health and safety that the commission recommended an increase in restrictions on the production and distribution of obscene material (Attorney General's Commission on Pornography, 1986). This conclusion was eventually challenged by social scientists who found the commission lacking in science based evidence (Linz, Donnerstein, & Penrod, 1987; Davies, 1997).

As a result, science based research was conducted with contradictory results. Some studies discovered concerning behaviors associated with pornography use included a sexual callousness towards women and a sudden lack of sympathy of women who became victims of sexually explicit crimes (Silbert & Pines, 1984; Zillman & Bryant, 1982). Other research concluded that these aggressive behaviors might not have been as dangerous as presumed (Demaré, Briere, & Lips, 1988). However, further analysis of these studies found them lacking in developing a direct link to violent behavior and exposure to pornography, especially when comparing access to pornographic materials to violent sexual crime statistics (Kutchinsky, 1991).

Attorney General's Commission on Pornography. (1986). *Attorney General's Commission on Pornography, Final Report*. U.S Department of Justice.

Davies, K. A. (1997). Voluntary Exposure to Pornography and Men's Attitudes Toward Feminism and Rape. *The Journal of Sex Research*, 131-137.

Demaré, D., Briere, J., & Lips, H. M. (1988, June). Violent Pornography and Self Reported Likelihood of Sexual Aggression. *Journal of Research in Personality*, pp. 140-153.

Kutchinsky, B. (1991). Pornography and Rape: Theory and Practice? *The International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, 47-64.

Linz, D., Donnerstein, E., & Penrod, S. (1987). The Findings and Recommendations of the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography: Do the Psychological "Facts" Fit the Political Fury? *American Psychologist*, 946-953.

Silbert, M. H., & Pines, A. M. (1984). Pornography and Sexual Abuse of Women. *Sex Roles*, 857-868.

Zillman, D., & Bryant, J. (1982). Pornography, Sexual Callousness, and the Trivialization of Rape. *Journal of Communication*, 10-21.

10. Recruitment of Participants

Describe the projected number of subjects.

As the sample is a convenience based one, there is no current projected sample size.

Describe the population from which subjects will be recruited (including gender, racial/ethnic composition, and age range).

The population of the study are currently enrolled students including undergraduate and graduate students over the age of 18.

Describe how you will recruit subjects (face-to-face, e-mail, flyer, classroom announcement, etc.).

Subjects will be recruited via an email sent through the Dean of Student's office. This email will include a link to the SurveyMonkey web based survey

Have you attached a copy of all recruitment materials such as flyers, e-mails, and scripts for classroom announcements?

☒

Yes

☐

No

11. Vulnerable Populations

Please Identify any vulnerable populations who will be participating in this study:

☐

Children (under 18 years of age)

☐

Pregnant Women

☐

Prisoners

☐

Mentally Impaired or Mentally Retarded

If any boxes are checked, describe any special precautions to be taken in your study due to the inclusion of these populations.

12. Location of Study

Identify all locations where the study will be conducted.

The study consists of a web based survey, as such will take place on the internet connected computer of the subject's choosing.

For data collection sites other than UNT, have you attached a signed and dated letter on the cooperating institution's letterhead giving approval for data collection at that site?

☐

Yes

☐

No

13. Informed Consent

Describe the steps for obtaining the subjects' informed consent (by whom, where, when, etc.).

Information on the study and what the subjects are consenting to will be provided in both the email sent to the respondents as well as in the weblink contained in the email. The subjects will be asked to review the consent notice before responding to the survey.

14. Informed Consent Forms

Written informed consent forms to be signed by the subject after IRB approval are required for most research projects with human participants (exceptions include telephone surveys, internet surveys, and other circumstances where the subject is not present; an informed consent notice may be substituted). Templates for creating informed consent forms are located on the IRB website at <http://research.unt.edu/faculty-resources/research-integrity-and-compliance/use-of-humans-in-research>. **Final drafts of all informed consent documents you plan to use must be submitted before IRB review can begin.**

15. Foreign Languages

Will your study involve the use of any language other than English for informed consent forms, data collection instruments, or recruitment materials?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

If “Yes,” after the IRB has notified you of the approval of the English version of your forms, you must then submit the foreign language versions along with a back-translation for each. Specify all foreign languages below:

16. Data Collection

Which methods will you use to collect data?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interviews | <input type="checkbox"/> Internet Surveys |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Surveys | <input type="checkbox"/> Review of Existing Records |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Focus Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Observation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assessment Instruments | <input type="checkbox"/> Other - Please list below |

If “Review of Existing Records” and/or “Observation” are checked above, please describe below the records you plan to review and/or the observations you plan to make for your study.

Will your study involve audio-recording or video-recording the participants?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Have you attached a copy of all data collection instruments, interview scripts, focus group topics, and intervention protocols to be used?

☒ Yes

☐ No

What is the estimated time for a subject's participation in each study activity (including time per session and total number of sessions)?

Subjects will only attend a single session, which should take no longer than fifteen minutes to complete.

17. Compensation

Describe any compensation subjects will receive for participating in the study. Include the timing for payment and any conditions for receipt of such compensation. If extra credit for a course is offered, an alternative non-research activity with equivalent time and effort must also be offered.

No compensation will be offered.

18. Risks and Benefits

Describe any foreseeable risks to subjects presented by the proposed study and the precautions you will take to minimize such risks.

The primary risk in this study is the typical risks someone might encounter through the general use of the internet.

Describe the anticipated benefits to subjects or others (including your field of study).

Concern over the effects of pornography has long been a public health and safety issue. The primary benefit of this study is having a better understanding of the pornography habits of the college student, especially in the modern age of the internet. The data collected from this research will also allow for future research into the subject, particularly research into the effects of pornography on violent sexual behaviors.

19. Confidentiality

Describe the procedures you will use to maintain the confidentiality of any personally identifiable data.

First, the email with the link to the survey will be sent through the Dean of Student's office, as such the investigators will not have direct contact with the students. Second, the survey will be administered in an online setting, the investigators will have no direct contact with the subjects and the subjects will be encouraged to respond to the survey in a location of their choosing to best ensure their privacy. Finally, the survey is designed to obtain some demographic data, such as age, gender and level of education, but does not include any directly identifiable data such as name, student ID number, or email.

Please specify where your research records will be maintained, any coding or other steps you will take to separate participants' names/identities from research data, and how long you will retain personally identifiable data in your research records. Federal IRB regulations require that the investigator's research records be maintained for 3 years following the end of the study.

No personal identifying data will be collected in this survey. Physical copies of any data collected will be stored in Dr. Scott Belshaw's office. Digital data will be kept on a password protected computer. SurveyMonkey offers the option for an SSL encryption to help protect the respondent data. SSL links create a secure connection between the website and the respondent's browser, better protecting the respondent from the risks that can arise from the general use of the internet.

20. Publication of Results

Please identify all methods in which you may publicly disseminate the results of your study.

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Academic Journal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Thesis or Dissertation for One of Your Students |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Academic Conference Paper or Public Poster Session | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNT Scholarly Works Repository |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Book or Chapter | <input type="checkbox"/> Other – Please list below. (Website, blog, etc.) |

Investigator or Supervising Investigator Certification

☒ By checking this box and e-mailing this application to the UNT IRB from my UNT e-mail account, I am certifying that the

information in this application is complete and accurate. I agree that this study will be conducted in accordance with the
UNT IRB Guidelines and the study procedures and forms approved by the UNT IRB.

Electronic Submission Checklist

1. Attach all supplementary documents, including:
 - a. Copies of all NIH or CITI IRB Training completion certificates not previously submitted to the IRB Office;
 - b. A copy of the statement of work or project summary for any internal or external funding for this study;
 - c. A copy of all recruitment materials;
 - d. A copy of the approval letter from each data collection site (other than UNT);
 - e. A copy of all informed consent forms or notices; and
 - f. A copy of all data collection instruments, interview scripts, focus group topics, and intervention protocols.
2. The application and all supplementary documents must be **e-mailed from the Investigator's or Supervising Investigator's UNT e-mail account to untirb@unt.edu**. Please insert "Expedited or Full Board Review" in the subject line of your email.

Contact Shelia Bourns at Shelia.Bourns@unt.edu for any questions about completion of your application.

APPENDIX D
INFORMED CONSENT NOTICE

University of North Texas Institutional Review Board

Informed Consent Notice

Before agreeing to participate in this research study, it is important that you read and understand the following explanation of the purpose, benefits and risks of the study and how it will be conducted.

Title of Study: Online Pornography and Its Effects on the Behavior of College Students

Student Investigator: Michelle Hassell, University of North Texas (UNT) Department of Criminal Justice. **Supervising Investigator:** Dr. Scott Belshaw, Ph. D, Associate Professor

Purpose of the Study: You are being asked to participate in a research study which involves determining the frequency with which college students use online pornography, their general attitudes towards pornography use, and their reactions to the use of it.

Study Procedures: You will be asked questions about the amount of time that you use online pornography, you will also be asked to respond to statements about online pornography that will take about ten to fifteen minutes of your time.

Foreseeable Risks: There are no foreseeable risks involved in participating in this study.

Benefits to the Subjects or Others: This study may not benefit you directly, however it is expected that this study will help to better understand potential triggers of sexual assault and sexual violence amongst college students. The study will also help create baseline data to conduct further studies into the matter of how pornography can effect sexual violence.

Compensation for Participants: There is no compensation for participation

Procedures for Maintaining Confidentiality of Research Records: The use of an online survey is designed to protect your personal identifying data. At no time will the survey ask for your personal identification. You are encouraged to respond to the survey in a private location of your choosing where you feel comfortable. The confidentiality of your individual information will be maintained in any publications or presentations regarding this study. Any physical data will be stored in a secured office in the Criminal Justice Department. All digital data will be kept on a secured computer. Confidentiality will be maintained to the degree possible given the technology and practices used by the online survey company. Your participation in this online survey involves risk to confidentiality similar to a person's everyday use of the internet.

Questions about the Study: If you have any questions about the study, you may contact Michelle Hassell at Michelle.Hassell@unt.edu or Dr. Scott Belshaw at Scott.Belshaw@unt.edu

Review for the Protection of Participants: This research study has been reviewed and approved by the UNT Institutional Review Board (IRB). The UNT IRB can be contacted at (940) 565-4643 with any questions regarding the rights of research subjects.

Research Participants' Rights:

Your participation in the survey confirms that you have read all of the above and that you agree to all of the following:

- Michelle Hassell has explained the study to you and you have had an opportunity to contact him/her with any questions about the study. You have been informed of the possible benefits and the potential risks of the study.
- You understand that you do not have to take part in this study, and your refusal to participate or your decision to withdraw will involve no penalty or loss of rights or benefits. The study personnel may choose to stop your participation at any time.
- Your decision whether to participate or to withdraw from the study will have no effect on your grade or standing in any course.
- You understand why the study is being conducted and how it will be performed.
- You understand your rights as a research participant and you voluntarily consent to participate in this study.
- You understand you may print a copy of this form for your records.

APPENDIX E
EMAIL TO STUDENTS

Dear Students,

We are seeking students to participate in a research study on how the use of online pornography affects behavior. This survey seeks to collect demographic data as well as data on the general attitudes and reactions of students to online pornography. We are seeking students willing to volunteer ten to fifteen minutes of their time to take a completely anonymous online survey.

To participate you must:

- *be an undergraduate or graduate student attending UNT
- *be 18 or older
- *have command of the English language

Please click the link below to open the completely anonymous survey. We encourage you to find a comfortable and private location to complete the survey in. No identifying information will be asked.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/cjus_Pornography-Study

If you have any questions about the study or the survey, please contact:

Michelle Hassell, Student Investigator at Michelle.Hassell@unt.edu

Dr. Scott Belshaw, Ph.D., Supervising Investigator at Scott.Belshaw@unt.edu

Thank you for your time,

Michelle Hassell, Student Investigator

APPENDIX F
IRB APPROVAL LETTER



Research and Economic Development
THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH INTEGRITY AND COMPLIANCE

December 22, 2015

Dr. Scott Belshaw
Student Investigator: Michelle Hassell
Department of Criminal Justice
University of North Texas

Re: Human Subjects Application No. 15-530

Dear Dr. Belshaw:

As permitted by federal law and regulations governing the use of human subjects in research projects (45 CFR 46), the UNT Institutional Review Board has reviewed your proposed project titled "Online Pornography and Its Effects on the Behaviors of College Students." The risks inherent in this research are minimal, and the potential benefits to the subject outweigh those risks. The submitted protocol is hereby approved for the use of human subjects in this study.

Federal Policy 45 CFR 46.109(e) stipulates that IRB approval is for one year only, December 22, 2015 to December 21, 2016.

It is your responsibility according to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regulations to submit annual and terminal progress reports to the IRB for this project. The IRB must also review this project prior to any modifications. **If continuing review is not granted before December 21, 2016, IRB approval of this research expires on that date.**

Please contact Jordan Harmon, Research Compliance Analyst II at 940-565-4258, if you wish to make changes or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CT", is written over a thin horizontal line.

Chad Trulson, Ph.D.
Professor
Chair, Institutional Review Board

CT: jh

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS®

1155 Union Circle #310979 Denton, Texas 76203-5017
940.369.4643 940.369.7486 fax www.research.unt.edu

PROUDLY USING ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PAPER

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