

**Generation XXX:
Safeguarding Our Families from a Pornographic World
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Generation XXX: Safeguarding Our Families from a Pornographic World



BYU Conference of Family Life
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March 28, 2008

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The Prevalence of Pornography



- Sex is reported to be the most frequently searched topic on the Internet (Cooper, 2000).
- Pornographic search engine requests total nearly 70 million per day (25% of total search engine requests).
- It is estimated that the pornography industry generates nearly \$60 billion dollars annually worldwide, with approximately \$12 billion in revenue from the United States (Ropelato, 2006).

The Proliferation of Pornography



- Rapidly changing technological context (Buzzell, 2005).
- Cooper and colleagues (2000) suggest that these technological advances have created a “Triple-A Engine” that fuels an increased trend of pornography consumption.
 - ✦ *Accessibility* (millions of web sites available 24/7)
 - ✦ *Affordability* (competition → low prices, “free” porn)
 - ✦ *Anonymity* (privacy → perceived anonymous)
- Concerns about pornography are particularly relevant for teens and young adults who are coming of age in a context where computers and Internet access are ubiquitous in households and college campuses.

Project READY



Carroll, J. S., Padilla-Walker, L. M., Nelson, L. J., Olson, C. D., Madsen, S., & Barry, C. (2008). Generation XXX: Pornography Acceptance and Use Among Emerging Adults. *Journal of Adolescent Research*, 23, 6-30.

- **Question #1:**
What are the levels of acceptance and use of pornography among emerging adults and how do these patterns vary across age cohorts within this developmental period?
- **Question #2:**
To what extent are levels of pornography acceptance and use associated with sexuality, substance use, and family formation patterns in emerging adulthood?



Acceptance of Pornography

“Viewing pornographic material (such as magazines, movies, and/or Internet sites) is an acceptable way to express one’s sexuality.”

	EA Men (<i>n</i> = 313)	EA Women (<i>n</i> = 500)
Very Strongly Disagree	8.0 %	14.5 %
Strongly Disagree	7.4 %	11.3 %
Disagree	18.0 %	25.5 %
Agree	45.3 %	39.0 %
Strongly Agree	9.6 %	6.3 %
Very Strongly Agree	11.6 %	3.4 %

Fathers = 36.6%
Mothers = 20.4%

66.5%
Accept

48.7%
Accept

Use of Pornography



“During the past 12 months, on how many days did you view pornographic material (such as, magazines, movies, and/or Internet sites)?”

	EA Men	EA Women
None	13.9	69.0
Once a month or less	16.8	20.7
2 or 3 days a month	21.0	7.1
1 or 2 days a week	27.1	2.2
3 to 5 days a week	16.1	.8
Every day or almost every day	5.2	.2

86% Use

31% Use

Men: 21.3% daily or every-other-day use; 48.3% weekly or more use

Women: Most = less than monthly use; 3.2% weekly or more use

Control Variables



	Men		Women	
	Accept	Use	Accept	Use
Age	.02	.06	.13**	.08
Dating Status	.01	-.02	.11**	.18**
Religiosity	-.39***	-.30***	-.44***	-.20***
Impulsivity	.22***	.19**	.06	.04

Sexual Values & Behaviors



	Men		Women	
	Accept	Use	Accept	Use
Its all right for individuals to have sexual relations before marriage.	.58***	.32***	.50***	.11**
It is all right for two people to get together for sex and not necessarily expect anything further.	.53***	.31***	.49***	.18***
It is all right for a married person to have sexual relations with someone other than his/her spouse.	.08	.15**	.13**	.05
# of sexual partners last 12 mos.	.02	.06	.22***	.09*

Substance Use



	Men		Women	
	Accept	Use	Accept	Use
Frequency of alcohol use	.25***	.22***	.28***	.13***
Frequency of binge drinking (4-5 drinks or more)	.19***	.21***	.26***	.06***
Frequency of cigarette smoking	.08	.10	.17***	.11*
Frequency of marijuana use	.02	.13*	.17***	.18***
Frequency of illegal drug use	.08	.04	.08	.17***

Family Formation Values



	EA Men		EA Women	
	Accept	Use	Accept	Use
It's all right for a couple to live together without planning to get married.	.39***	.10	.39***	.11**
I would personally consider having a child out of wedlock.	.07	.06	.21***	.05
Being married is an important goal for me.	-.06	-.02	-.08	-.03

Summary Findings



- Pornography is a prominent feature of the current emerging adulthood culture.
- Pornography is as common as drinking among college-age men. It also appears that a sizeable number of emerging adult men “binge” on pornography with a similar frequency and intensity that defines binge drinking on American college campuses.
- About half of emerging adult women were accepting of pornography use among their peers, but only about 1 in 10 viewed pornography with any regularity.
- The acceptance of pornography was as strongly correlated (or more) with emerging adults’ attitudes and behaviors as their actual pornography use. This finding suggests that pornography should be regarded as much as a personal sexual ethic as a behavioral pattern.

Summary Findings



- Both pornography users and nonusers shared a mutually high regard for eventually getting married. Therefore, pornography patterns should be evaluated within a framework of marital readiness (Carroll et al., 2006).
- Pornography use was linked to permissive sexuality and nonmarital cohabitation, two variables that have been found to be associated with less marital stability in future marriages (Dush, Cohan, & Amato, 2003; Heaton, 2002; Kline et al., 2004).
- The disparity between women's acceptance and men's use of pornography raises a number of questions about couple formation patterns. These patterns likely differ from couple to couple and the patterns that emerge likely influence future couple dynamics and outcomes.

Safeguarding Our Families



- **Two Areas of Focus:**

Environments

Practices, Behaviors, Accessibility

(External Monitoring)

and

Personal Conviction

Principles, Reasons, and Testimony

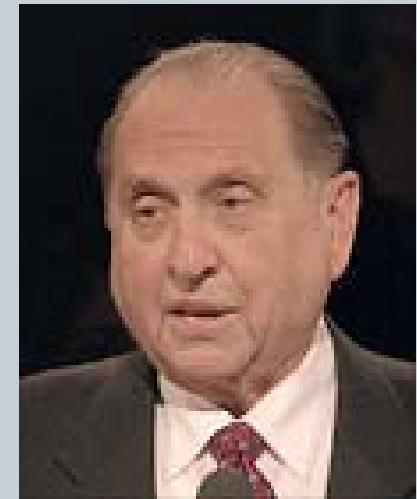
(Internal Monitoring)

Environments—“Stand ye in holy places.” (D&C 87:8)



- Parental Example “Mature” and “Adult” ≠ “Mature Adult”

“Avoid any semblance of pornography. It will desensitize the spirit and erode the conscience. We are told in the Doctrine and Covenants—that which doth not edify is not of God, and is darkness. Such is pornography”



—President Thomas S. Monson, April 2006

- Gateway Media—“Prepornographic Images”
 - Proactive Parenting: Cocooning vs. Pre-Arming

Environments—“Stand ye in holy places.” (D&C 87:8)



- **Tone and Atmosphere**

“As our children grow, they need information taught by parents more directly and plainly about what is and is not appropriate. Parents need to teach children to avoid any pornographic photographs or stories... talk to them plainly about sex and the teachings of the gospel regarding chastity. Let this information come from parents in the home in an appropriate way.”



—Elder M. Russell Ballard, April 1999

Personal Conviction—Metaphors of Sexual Purity

- Undesirable Food
- Wilted Flower
- Broken Plate

Fear-Based Metaphors

Negative portrayal of
sexual intimacy

Discourage dialogue

Precept vs. principle

- Cookies on Fast Sunday
- Chocolate kisses trade-in

Abstinence-Based Metaphors

Added emphasis on context

Correct, but incomplete

Behavioral / Individual

“Marriage Finish Line”

Personal Conviction



- **A Third Option: Marriage-Centered Chastity**

“Chastity and fidelity are more than sexual abstinence before marriage and physical fidelity after marriage. This is because human sexuality is not simply a physical matter, as the world invites to believe.



Chastity and fidelity begin in the spirit, not in the body, and involve the giving of our hearts—our broken hearts, our softened hearts—to our mates unequivocally”



—Dr. Terrance Olson,
School of Family Life, BYU

Personal Conviction



The Whys Behind the How Comes

- Why be morally clean? (Elder Holland)
 - Of Souls, Symbols, and Sacraments
- ***Nature*** of Sexual Intimacy:
 - *Sexual Desire*: Physical Drive or Spiritual Motivation?
 - *Sexual Fulfillment*: Belonging and sharing,
Not Personal Gratification
 - *Intimacy*: Nonphysical and Physical



Personal Conviction



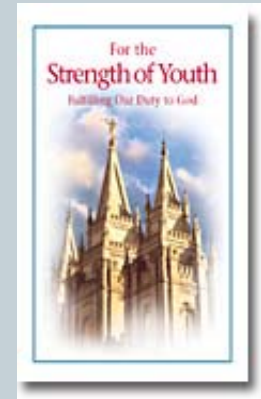
- True ***Purposes*** of Sexual Intimacy
 - A “means” not an “end”
 - “Sacred powers of procreation” (Proc. ¶ 7), “multiply and replenish”
 - Unifying spouses with each other and with God



Behavioral vs. Spiritual Chastity

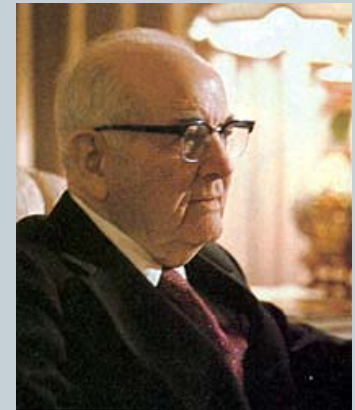


- “Do not have sexual relations with someone outside of marriage, and be completely faithful to your spouse after marriage... In God’s sight, sexual sins are extremely serious because they defile the power God has given us to create life...Before marriage, *do not do anything to arouse the powerful emotions that must be expressed only in marriage.* Do not participate in passionate kissing, lie on top of another person, or touch the private, sacred parts of another person’s body, with or without clothing. Do not allow anyone to do that to you. Do not arouse those emotions in your own body.”



(For the Strength of Youth, 2001, p. 27)

Divine Love



“Divine love is not like that association of the world which is misnamed love, but which is mostly physical attraction...

The love of which the Lord speaks is not only physical attraction, but also faith, confidence, understanding, and partnership. It is devotion and companionship, parenthood, common ideals and standards. It is cleanliness of life and sacrifice and unselfishness. This kind of love never tires nor wanes. It lives on through sickness and sorrow, through accomplishment and disappointment, through time and eternity.” —Pres. Spencer W. Kimball

Contact Information



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