

THE IMPACT OF PORNOGRAPHY ON YOUTH

- WHEREAS, Pornography is defined as printed or visual material containing the explicit description or display of sexual organs or activity, intended to stimulate erotic rather than aesthetic or emotional feelings^{1,2}; and
- WHEREAS, In 1996 the U.S. Department of Justice stated, “Never before in the history of telecommunications media in the United States has so much indecent material been so easily accessible by so many minors in so many American homes with so few restrictions”^{3,4}; and
- WHEREAS, Due to advances in technology and the universal availability of the internet, young children are exposed to what used to be referred to as “hard core” pornography, now considered “mainstream” pornography, at an alarming rate with the average age of exposure being 11-12 years of age^{5,6}; and
- WHEREAS, Teenagers with frequent exposure to sexual content on TV have a substantially greater likelihood of teenage pregnancy; and the likelihood of teen pregnancy is twice as high when the quantity of sexual content exposure within the viewing episodes is high^{9,10}; and
- WHEREAS, Pornography viewing among teenagers disorients them during that developmental phase when they have to learn how to handle their sexuality and when they are most vulnerable to uncertainty about their sexual beliefs and moral values^{9,10}; and
- WHEREAS, A study of 2,343 adolescents found that sexually explicit Internet material significantly increased their uncertainties about sexuality^{9,10}; and
- WHEREAS, Prolonged and increased exposure to sexually explicit materials “can lead to exaggerated beliefs of sexual activity among peers, sexually permissible attitudes, and sexual callousness, including more negative attitudes toward sexual partners”^{7,8}; and
- WHEREAS, Youth who view pornography have an increased likelihood of having less progressive gender role attitudes, being more accepting of sexual harassment, and engaging in more sexual harassment perpetration^{7,11}; and
- WHEREAS, Youth who view pornography have an increased likelihood of engaging in forced sex and being a juvenile sex offender^{12,13}; now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent associations work with policy makers in government, non-government, school and community organizations to raise awareness of the effects of prolonged and increased exposure to sexually explicit materials, and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent associations educate students, parents, schools and communities about the impact of viewing pornography and the resources, tools, and services available to prevent exposure, combat addiction, and aide in recovery; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent associations support the adoption and enforcement of laws, at all levels of government, to include appropriate penalties for predators who

purposely distribute pornographic material to minors and that will curtail the production, distribution and exhibition of materials which depict, in an explicit manner, intimate and sexual conduct and violence of a sexually-oriented nature; and be it further

Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent associations call for business establishments to remove from public display sexually oriented material and to make such material unavailable to minors and support its members in contacting businesses to request such action.

(Replaces SAF 2002-1 Internet Pornography)

Documentation:

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- ³U.S. Department of Justice. Post Hearing Memorandum of Points and Authorities, at 1, *ACLU v. Reno*, 929 F. Supp. 824, 1996
- ⁴Covenant Eyes: Internet Accountability and Filtering. *Pornography Statistics: Annual Report 2015*. Porn Stats. Covenant Eyes, 2015
- ⁵Dines, Gail. *Today's Pornography and the Crisis of Violence Against Women and Children*, Gail Dines, US Capitol Hill Symposium. Vimeo. 14 July 2014
- ⁶Porn Proof Kids. *My Kids Say They Haven't Seen Porn...should I Believe Them?* pornproofkids.org. Glen Cove Press, 05 Nov. 2014
- ⁷Braun-Courville, D. K., & Rojas, M. *Exposure to sexually explicit web sites and adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviors*. Journal of Adolescent Health, 45(2), 156- 162. (p. 157) 2009
- ⁸National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation. *Impact of Exposure to Sexually Explicit and Exploitative Materials* (2013)
- ⁹*Effects of Pornography on Adolescents* [Marrimedia]. Marriage and Religion Institute, 13 Nov. 2015. Web. 29 Aug. 2016
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- ¹¹Brown, J. & L'Engle, K. (2009). *X-Rated: Sexual attitudes and behaviors associated with U.S. early adolescents' exposure to sexually explicit media*. Communication Research, 36, 129-151
- ¹²Strouse, J., Goodwin, M. & Roscoe, B. (1994). Correlates of attitudes toward sexual harassment among early adolescents. Sex Roles, 31, 559-577
- ¹³Ford, M. & Linney, J. A. (1995). Comparative analysis of juvenile sexual offenders, violent nonsexual offenders and status offenders. Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 10, 1, 56-70