

NOT YOUR GRANDFATHER'S

P O R N O G R A P H Y

THE PROBLEM, THE HARM AND A POLICY RESPONSE



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CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA

Concerned Women for America (CWA) is the largest public policy organization for women in the country, with thousands of supporters and activist across the fifty states. CWA's Board of Trustees has established Sexual Exploitation as one of our seven core issues.

We are concerned of the ever-increasing prevalence of pornography, prostitution and sex-slavery, and the ways that those forms of commercial sexual exploitation feed off of each other to form a multi-billion dollar industry that exploits thousands of girls and women in this country and millions around the world. Also concerning is the lack of enforcement of existing laws, and the lack of cooperation between agencies and law enforcement that should be protecting vulnerable children and women.

We are working to increased awareness that the demand for pornography and prostitutes drives both the pornography and sex trafficking industries. We want to educate the public about the harms to children, women and men from pornography and prostitution and the prevalence of sex-slavery even here in the United States.



Mario Diaz, Esq. is CWA's legal counsel and a passionate advocate for law enforcement action against illegal pornography in any form. Follow him on Twitter @Mariodiazesq.



THE PROBLEM

- Not your grandfather's porn
- Easy access
- Widespread use

THE HARMS

- Sexual addiction
- Changes in the brain
- Damaged Sexual/Romantic Relationships
- Distorted view of women
- Psychological and emotional trauma
- Supports illegal activity, like child abuse, prostitution, and sex trafficking

POLICY RESPONSE

- Education
- Enforcement
- Empathy

INTRODUCTION

As the country wrestles with the widespread problem of sexual assault (as embodied in the recent “#MeToo” phenomena) and how to respond to it, we must consider the multiple factors that lie at the root of the issue. The rapid spread of online pornography, with its decisive sexual objectification of women, is one area that should be explored and prioritized among policymakers.

The violent, sexual subjugation of women is not an unfortunate byproduct of pornography but one of its main selling points. Physical and mental abuse of women is not uncommon — both on and off camera — in the porn industry. It is an industry that rewards risky sexual behavior and preys on the minds of both young men and women by appealing to their prurient instincts and feeding their most debased desires.

Pornography, taken as a whole, lacks any serious societal value, and whatever value

it may have is greatly outweighed by the numerous unintended consequences it continues to produce among our citizens. As Ross Douthat of *The New York Times* argued in a recent op-ed:

The belief that [porn] should not be restricted is a mistake; the belief that it cannot be censored is a superstition. Law and jurisprudence changed once and can change again, and while you can find anything somewhere on the internet, making hard-core porn something to be quested after in dark corners would dramatically reduce its pedagogical role, its cultural normalcy, its power over libidos everywhere.¹

This paper discusses the problems of online pornography, the numerous harms that make it a public health hazard, and suggests a three-pronged approach (three “E”s) to tackle the issue going forward: education, enforcement, and empathy.

¹ Ross Douthat, Let's Ban Porn, N.Y. TIMES, Feb. 10, 2018 at SR11.

THE PROBLEM



NOT YOUR GRANDFATHER'S PORN

One of the challenges of the public policy discussion of pornography is definitions. About what are we talking? Pornography defenders want you to think of *Playboy*-type material. But the days of *Playboy* are long gone. Consider the magazine itself tried getting rid of nude pictures altogether, in an attempt to stay alive in our post-online environment. The magazine's chief executive

Scott Flanders explained to *The New York Times*, **"You're now one click away from every sex act imaginable for free."**²

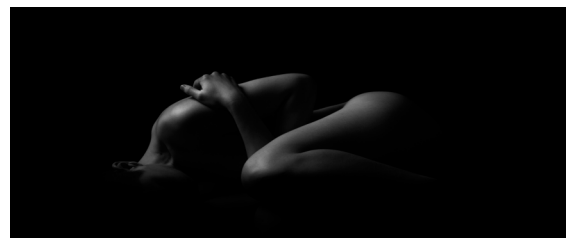
Every sex act imaginable. For free. That is the challenge we face. Dr. Gail Dines is a professor of sociology and women's studies at Wheelock College in Boston, Massachusetts, who specializes in the study of pornography. In her *TEDx Talk* titled, "Growing Up in a Pornified Culture," she emphasizes that the Internet has made pornography (1) affordable, (2) accessible, and (3) anonymous, leading to putrefaction of already rotted material. She explains how easily accessible online are scenes portraying "money shots" and "gagging," among other things.³

are often short and nearly always hardcore; that is, they show penetrative sex. Among the most popular search terms in 2015 were 'anal,' 'amateur,' 'teen,' and — one that would surely have made Freud smile — 'mom and son.'⁴

² Ravi Somaiya, *Nudes Are Old News at Playboy*, N.Y. TIMES, Oct. 12, 2015 at A1.

³ A note of caution for graphic description on this footnote: Dr. Dines explains, "A money shot is ejaculation on the face," and gagging "is where the man puts the penis so far down her throat that she gags almost to the point of vomiting." TEDx Talks, *Growing Up in a Pornified Culture*, YOUTUBE (Apr 28, 2015), at https://youtu.be/_YpHNImNsx8.

⁴ Katrina Forrester, *Making Sense of Modern Pornography*, THE NEW YORKER, Sept. 26, 2016, at <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/09/26/making-sense-of-modern-pornography>.

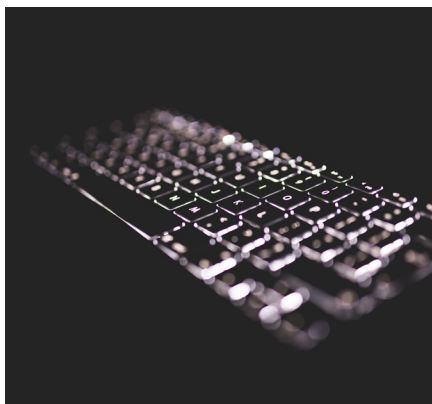


An article highlighting new trends in *The New Yorker* emphasized, "Today's films

EASY ACCESS

All one needs to prove how easy anyone can access this material is a computer or smart device with Internet access. Searching for anything near the topic will provide a million entry points to this dark universe. Studies show children generally come in contact with pornography as soon as their curiosity is aroused, around the age of 13 (some much younger).⁵ **A study at the University of New Hampshire found, “Ninety-three percent of boys and 62% of girls were exposed to online pornography during adolescence.”**⁶

But easy access is a two-way street in today’s pornography industry. Not only is it easier for the consumer to access pornography, it is also easier for producers. The recent Netflix documentary “Hot Girls Wanted” exposed the “careers” (if it can be called that; most girls are used and disposed of in three to six months) of a handful of girls wanting to “be stars” by recording “amateur” pornography, a booming trend online. One young woman describes her first “job” in the “industry” for a hideous outfit



called “Latina Abuse.” Even as she is seen trying to justify it, saying, “Good and bad is what your opinion is at the moment,” the young girl confesses it was “abuse” and particularly “degrading.”

As *The New Yorker* notes, “Most porn is viewed on easily accessible ‘tube sites,’ such as ... These work on the same model as YouTube: they are free, and steer users to amateur videos, snippets uploaded by commercial producers, and pirated material.”⁷

⁵ Chyng Sun, Ana Bridges, Jennifer Johnson, and Matt Ezzell, *Pornography and the Male Sexual Script: An Analysis of Consumption and Sexual Relations*, *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 45, No. 4, 983–94 (2016).

⁶ Chiara Sabina, Janis Wolak and David Finkelhor, *The Nature and Dynamics of Internet Pornography Exposure for Youth*, *Cyberpsychology & Behavior*, Volume 11, No. 6 (2008).

⁷ Forrester, *supra*. [Note of caution: In an effort to be sensitive to our readers I have concealed the identity of these websites from the main text. They are: YouPorn, RedTube, XVideos, and Pornhub.]



WIDESPREAD USE

You can spend a lifetime watching online pornography and never exhaust its vast resources. In 2016, Pornhub alone reported it had 23 billion visits (that's 64 million visits a day), and those visitors spent 4.6 billion hours on just one porn site.⁸ Reports show porn sites get more visitors each month than Netflix, Amazon, and Twitter combined.⁹

The number of websites is also troubling. Although estimates vary (is it millions or billions?), there is no disputing that the amount of porn online is no match for any one

individual, no matter how aggressive he or she is — they could spend every minute of every day of their lives looking at new pornographic content.

Back in 2011, Attorney General Eric Holder expressed alarm at the rapid growth of pornography associated with children and sex abuse saying, **“Tragically, the only place we’ve seen a decrease is in the age of victims.”**¹⁰

Law enforcement simply could not keep up with the growth of online child pornography content, which is just a subset of all the porn available. And the problem has only intensified

exponentially since then. Recent reports alerted authorities of a user on Reddit who created an app that can put the pictures of celebrities on porn actresses' bodies on video clips.¹¹ This disturbing trend has sent shockwaves, as it could potentially be used against anyone who has uploaded enough images on social media.

⁸ *World's Largest Porn Site Reveals the Most Searched Porn Genre of 2016*, FIGHT THE NEW DRUG (Jan. 9, 2017), at <https://fightthenewdrug.org/most-popular-porn-genre-search-of-2016/>.

⁹ Alexis Kleinman, *Porn Sites Get More Visitors Each Month Than Netflix, Amazon And Twitter Combined*, THE HUFFPOST, (May 4, 2013; updated Dec. 06, 2017), at https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/05/03/Internet-porn-stats_n_3187682.html.

¹⁰ *Remarks by U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder Jr. at the National Strategy Conference on Combating Child Exploitation*, San Jose, CA (May 19, 2011) at <https://www.justice.gov/opa/speech/attorney-general-eric-holder-speaks-national-strategy-conference-combating-child>.

¹¹ Annie Palmer, Cheyenne Macdonald, *Reddit user who revealed disturbing AI that can make fake porn videos using celebrities' faces has now launched an app so ANYONE can do it*, Daily Mail (January 25, 2018) at <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-5313645/Fake-celebrity-porn-Reddit-thanks-new-app.html>.



THE HARMS

In many ways we are charting new territory in terms of understanding the scope of harm generated by such unprecedented extremes in terms of early access and continued exposure to pornography.

A recent study presented at the American Psychological Association found that “the younger a man was when he first viewed pornography, the more likely he was to want power over women.”¹² That is why we must continue to raise this issue as society struggles to grapple with

the revelations emphasized by the #MeToo movement.

¹² Alyssa Bischmann, Christina Richardson, *Age of First Exposure to Pornography Shapes Men's Attitudes Toward Women*, AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (Aug. 3, 2017), at <http://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2017/08/pornography-exposure.aspx>.

SEXUAL ADDICTION

Pornography can become part of a serious sexual addiction.¹³ Studies have shown it can induce alterations in the brain that are similar to those seen with drug abuse.¹⁴ The evidence has become so compelling, it prompted

SEXUAL ADDICTION (CONT.)

Dr. Nora Volkow, who heads the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), to advocate for changing the name of the organization to the National Institute on Diseases of Addiction because she felt, “The institute’s name should encompass addictions such as pornography, gambling, and food.”¹⁵ This is why there are so many clinics offering to treat various kinds of sexual addictions today, as we have seen many “Harvey Weinsteins” go into these places to seek treatment in recent days.

¹³ Donald L. Hilton and Clark Watts, *Pornography addiction: A neuroscience perspective*, SURGICAL NEUROLOGY INTERNATIONAL 2: 19 (Feb. 21, 2011).

¹⁴ Pitchers KK, Balfour ME, Lehman MN, Richtand NM, Yu L, and Coolen LM, *Neuro-plasticity in the mesolimbic system induced by natural reward and subsequent reward abstinence*, BIOLOGICAL PSYCHIATRY 67, 872–9 (May 1, 2010).

¹⁵ Constance Holden, *More Addictions, Less Stigma*, SCIENCE Vol. 317, Issue 5834, pp. 23 (Jul. 6, 2010).

CHANGES IN THE BRAIN

Learning changes the brain.¹⁶ And children are learning about sexual relations online, not knowing what they are getting into. John T. Chirban, Ph.D., Th.D., clinical instructor in psychology at Harvard Medical School, wrote:

Studies reveal that nine out of ten children from ages 8 to 16 learn about sex from porn...The impact upon children varies and stirs mixed responses: from alluring feelings and confusing thoughts to shame and even addiction — certainly not experiences that you want your children to have as they build their foundation for sexuality and relationships.¹⁷

Neurosurgeon Dr. Donald Hilton of the University of Texas has said that, “The focused searching and clicking, looking for the perfect masturbatory subject, is an exercise in neuroplastic learning.” This means that the prolonged use of pornography is chemically and biologically altering our brains, especially for the fast-developing, still-growing bodies of children.

¹⁶ See: Draganski B, Gaser C, Busch V, Schuierer G, Bogdahn U, and May A, *Neuroplasticity: Changes in Grey Matter Induced by Training*, NATURE 427, pp. 311–312 (2004); Draganski B, Gaser C, Kempermann G, Kuhn H. G, Winkler J, Buchel C, et al., *Temporal and Spatial Dynamics of Brain Structure Changes During Extensive Learning*, JOURNAL OF NEUROSCIENCE 26(23), 6314–6317 (2006); Elbert T, Pantev C, Wienbruch C, Rockstroh B, and Taub E, *Increased use of the Left Hand in String Players Associated With Increased Cortical Representation of the Fingers*, SCIENCE, 270, pp. 305–307 (1995).

¹⁷ Pitchers KK, Balfour ME, Lehman MN, Richtand NM, Yu L, and Coolen LM, *Neuro-plasticity in the mesolimbic system induced by natural reward and subsequent reward abstinence*, BIOLOGICAL PSYCHIATRY 67, 872–9 (May 1, 2010).



DAMAGED SEXUAL/ ROMANTIC RELATIONS

The use of pornography negatively affects the physical and emotional relationship between men and women. One study in the *Journal of Applied Social Psychology* found, **“After consumption of pornography, subjects reported less satisfaction with their intimate partners — specifically, with these partners' affection, physical appearance, sexual curiosity, and sexual performance proper.**

In addition, subjects assigned increased importance to sex without emotional involvement. These effects were uniform across gender and populations.”¹⁸

¹⁸ Dolf Zillmann and Jennings Bryant, *Pornography's Impact on Sexual Satisfaction*, *JOURNAL OF APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY* (Apr. 1988), at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1559-1816.1988.tb00027.x/abstract>.

DISTORTED VIEW OF WOMEN

Pornography overall presents a distorted view of women that promotes aggression and violence.

Porn thrives on the idea that women enjoy violence. A content analysis

study of aggression and sexual behavior in best-selling pornography videos showed that **sexually aggressive behavior towards women permeates the genre.** The study reported “high levels of aggression in pornography in both verbal and physical forms.” **Eighty-eight percent of the scenes analyzed contained physical aggression (like spanking, gagging, or slapping).** Almost half contained verbal aggression. It also found that, as you would expect, the perpetrators were male and the targets female. But, of course, the women targeted often “showed pleasure or responded neutrally to the aggression.”¹⁹

Other studies prove the same correlation that shows “an overall significant positive association between pornography use and attitudes supporting violence against women.”²⁰

Further, it should be of no surprise to find these attitudes are often played out in real life. A study of battered women filing charges against their male partners found 40 percent of them said their partner used pornography.

“Use of the [pornographic] materials was significantly associated with the women being asked or forced to participate in violent sexual acts including rape.”²¹ Similarly, let us not ignore the fact that every time a serial sexual predator is apprehended, the investigation inevitably reveals they fed their sexual deviant appetites with hard core pornography. Their computers are always full of it.²²

¹⁹ Bridges A. J, Wosnitzer R, Scharrer E, Chyng S, and Liberman R, *Aggression and sexual behavior in best selling pornography videos: A content analysis update*, VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN 16(10), pp. 1065–1085 (Oct. 16, 2010).

²⁰ Hald GM, Malamuth NM and Yuen C, *Pornography and attitudes supporting violence against women: Revisiting the relationship in nonexperimental studies*, AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR 36, pp. 14–20 (Jan.-Feb. 2010).

²¹ Elizabeth Cramer R.N., M.S., Judith McFarlane R.N., Dr.P.H., F.A.A.N., *Pornography and abuse of women*, PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING Vol. 11, Issue 4, pp. 268-272 (Aug. 1994).

²² Mario Diaz, *Nassar Case Demonstrates Harms of Pornography*, CNS NEWS (Jan. 26, 2018), at <https://www.cnsnews.com/commentary/mario-d-az/nassar-case-demonstrates-harms-pornography>. SCIENCE Vol. 317, Issue 5834, pp. 23 (Jul. 6, 2010).

PSYCHOLOGICAL AND EMOTIONAL TRAUMA

Being aroused by these hideous sorts of materials, young people in particular embark on a lonely road of struggle that leads to unimaginable shame and guilt. As Harvard Professor Dr. John T. Chirban puts it:

Young men who watch porn are likely to be depressed, unable to enjoy intimacy, and suffer from desensitization of feelings,

dissatisfaction, loneliness, isolation, and compulsion. Girls take away the message that their most worthy attribute is their sexual hotness, which chips away at their self-esteem and the full range of their attributes. More than ever parental involvement is essential today regarding the healthy sexual growth of their kids. Pornography ultimately desensitizes emotional and spiritual feelings of sexuality and devalues the person.²³

A study in the Journal of Adolescent Research also found “associations between pornography acceptance and use and emerging adults’ risky sexual attitudes and behaviors, substance use patterns, and non-marital cohabitation values.”²⁴

²³ Supra: John T. Chirban, Ph.D., Th.D., *Pornography: The New Sex Ed For Kids*, PSYCHOLOGY TODAY (Dec. 15, 2012).

²⁴ Carroll, J. S., Padilla-Walker, L. M., Nelson, L. J., Olson, C. D., Barry, C. M., & Madsen, S., *Generation XXX: Pornography acceptance and use among emerging adults*, JOURNAL OF ADOLESCENT RESEARCH, 23, 1, 6-30 (2008).





A FINAL NOTE ON THE HARMS

Space and practical considerations, not lack of data, compel us to constrain the amount of information discussed here in order to provide a few ideas on how to handle the issue at a policy level in the next section. **Pornography is also linked to numerous criminal activities, like child abuse,²⁵ prostitution,²⁶ and sex trafficking.²⁷** We hope the footnotes included serve as a practical guide for further research to those interested. **There is an ocean of both scientific and experiential information that should compel us to stop supporting this industry and treat this problem like the public health crisis it is.** Acting now will allow us to protect future generations from these harms and discourage both the production and consumption of these deviant materials. We suggest three general areas of engagement.

²⁵ Child pornography is always abuse and it is not protected under First Amendment. In fact, the law does not require that an image depict a child engaging in sexual activity, only that the picture of a naked child be sufficiently sexually suggestive. Of note is that the age of consent in a given state is irrelevant. Any depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct is illegal.

²⁶ Ellie Hamalian, *How Pornography Fuels Exploitation*, THE HUFFINGTON POST (Nov. 19, 2014), at https://www.huffingtonpost.com/ellie-hamalian/how-pornography-fuels-exp_b_6187936.html.

²⁷ *Porn & Trafficking*, THE NATIONAL CENTER ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (Apr. 19, 2011), at <http://pornharmresearch.com/2011/04/trafficking/>.



EDUCATION

Perhaps the most important hurdle to overcome in our society when it comes to pornography is our collective desensitization towards the topic. The apathy we have developed did not happen by accident. Pornographers have invested millions to exploit our sense of individual liberty, autonomy, and freedom, among others, to push acceptance to the point of indifference. Our hypersexualized media, from movies to music to sports, have left us, and our children especially, vulnerable to increasingly more harmful material that carries with it harms they are not prepared to consider, let alone avoid. As is commonly known with regards to other addictions, recognition of the problem is an important first step towards healing.

Many are trying to raise awareness, and we are starting to see some traction. Most significantly, **several states have named pornography as a public health hazard**. This is important. As was the case with tobacco, there are big commercial enterprises deeply invested in pornography, and they deny the addictive nature of pornography, just as the

EDUCATION (CONT.)

tobacco industry did at the time they were being challenged. We must press on. This issue carries with it cultural, economic, philosophical, religious, and political pressures that must be overcome. Dr. Hilton discussed how they affect science:

Consider hypothetically two individuals, frantically fixated to their computers, both trying to win an intermittently reinforced reward. Both spend hours a night at their task, and have for some period, to the point of exhaustion. Work and personal relationships are affected negatively, yet they cannot stop. One is looking at pornography, searching for just the right clip for sexual consummation; the other is engrossed in an online poker game. One reward is masturbatory, and the other monetary, yet the DSM-5 classifies only the poker as an addiction. This is both behaviorally and biologically inconsistent.²⁸

The DSM-5 associates the extensive use of pornography with other mental disorders, like sexual masochism disorder, sexual sadism disorder, pedophilic disorder, but fails to give proper attention to pornography addiction itself.²⁹ The same is true

of our public policy. As we are seeing with the shocking revelations of the #MeToo movement, we continue to experience the consequences of our apathy towards the widespread use of pornography but fail to address the problem of pornography itself, and many continue to even deny the link at all. We cannot afford to continue to ignore the warnings that abound.

²⁸ Donald L. Hilton Jr., M.D., *Pornography addiction – a supranormal stimulus considered in the context of neuroplasticity*, SOCIOAFFECTIVE NEUROSCIENCE & PSYCHOLOGY Vol. 3, Is. 1 (Mar. 4, 2013).

²⁹ *Diagnostics and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Ed.*, AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION (2013).

ENFORCEMENT

A big part of our education efforts must be directed to letting people know that **the hardcore pornography they find online is actually illegal and not protected by the First Amendment. It is material that would meet the legal definition of obscenity and would be considered a criminal offense.** The U.S. Supreme Court has established what is known as the Miller test to determine if material is obscene. Here is what must be determined:

1. Whether the average person, applying contemporary adult community standards, finds that the matter, taken as a whole, appeals to prurient interests (i.e., an erotic, lascivious, abnormal, unhealthy, degrading, shameful, or morbid

ENFORCEMENT (CONT.)

interest in nudity, sex, or excretion);

2. Whether the average person, applying contemporary adult community standards, finds that the matter depicts or describes sexual conduct in a patently offensive way (i.e., ultimate sexual acts, normal or perverted, actual or simulated, masturbation, excretory functions, lewd exhibition of the genitals, or sado-masochistic sexual abuse); and

3. Whether a reasonable person finds that the matter, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.³⁰

Unfortunately, years of neglect have made obscenity laws practically meaningless. Law enforcement has made a conscious decision to only go after child pornography, leaving our children vulnerable to harmful, illegal, obscene material. The effects have been horrendous. In some ways, it seems obscenity enjoys a specialized kind of protection that goes beyond the Frist Amendment.

Of the 485 cases reported by the Child Exploitation and Obscenity



Section (CEOS) of the Department of Justice since 2009, only *two* dealt with obscene material, as opposed to child pornography (one in 2009 and one in 2012).³¹ The 2009 case was prosecuted by the Obscenity Prosecution Task Force that President Barak Obama, under Attorney General Eric Holder's guidance, closed down in 2011.³² The message from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) was clear: Anything goes in terms of pornography as long as children are not involved. Pornographers responded with glee.

CEOS' commitment to fight child pornography is to be commended. But this necessary work need not be done at the expense of a lack of focus on obscenity law enforcement. Children are hurt through both types of material. Since that 2009 case, only one case of obscenity was highlighted by the DOJ. That is *seven* years without

an obscenity prosecution that merits the public's attention. Two cases in 485 are less than half of a percent in attention to obscenity. This is simply unacceptable. We must demand better from our law enforcement. Perhaps it is time for President Trump and Attorney General Sessions to re-institute the Obscenity Prosecution Taskforce, sending a clear message that this administration is serious about protecting children and is committed to curtail the sexual objectification of women.

³⁰ *Miller v. California*, 413 U.S. 15, 24-25 (1973); *Smith v. United States*, 431 U.S. 291, 300-02, 309 (1977); and *Pope v. Illinois*, 481 U.S. 497, 500-01 (1987).

³¹ *Press Releases*, Child Exploitation & Obscenity Section, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, at <https://www.justice.gov/criminal-ceos/press-releases-2018> (last accessed Mar. 9, 2018).

³² Josh Gerstein, *Holder accused of neglecting porn*, *POLITICO* (Apr. 16, 2011), at <https://www.politico.com/story/2011/04/holder-accused-of-neglecting-porn-053314>.

Less than half of a percent of the cases reported by the Department of Justice's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section dealt with obscenity prosecutions. It's open season for hard-core pornographers and our children are paying the price of law enforcement's inaction.

EMPATHY

The final part of our approach permeates all others. Empathy for the trail of victims of pornography is key to the victim's restoration and the prevention of future abuse in our society. **The voices of concerned women are key. Women from the entire spectrum of political ideologies, from the left and right, can come together on this issue to model and demand protection and valuing of women and children, who are the most vulnerable targets of this predatory industry.** It's time to take obscenity laws seriously.

The appropriate resources must be given to law enforcement and education institutions to equip a new generation of citizens who can address the needs of an ever-changing technological and cultural landscape.

CONCLUSION

Online pornography continues to grow wider and darker, making it more accessible and more deviant and harmful than ever before. It exploits women primarily for the purpose of appealing to the most prurient instincts of men. Porn is addictive, showing many of the same characteristics as other addictions, and is incredibly harmful to the consumer. Studies show it damages the brain, transforming neurological pathways, especially for the young, creating lasting effects than can follow them for the rest of their lives. It promotes a distorted view of women that endorses violence and disrespect. This makes it a significant contributing factor to the pain we're seeing revealed through the “#MeToo” movement. Pornography destroys relationships and causes deep psychological and emotional trauma that affect our society at every level.

Future generations will continue to be at greater risk with the incredible advancements in technology we are

experiencing by the second. **Unless we respond, as a society, courageously and with a sense of urgency, we can expect the problem to grow increasingly harder to handle.** We call on lawmakers all over the country to follow the several states that are taking the serious first step of declaring pornography a public health crisis and commencing the process of reversing its damage. Serious efforts in education and enforcement, with empathy, can make a big difference in our children's lives and for generations to come.



***“Defend the poor and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and needy.*”**



EDUCATION

As was the case with tobacco, there are big commercial interests deeply invested in pornography, and they deny the addictive nature of pornography, just as the tobacco industry did at the time they were being challenged. We must press on.



ENFORCEMENT

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Deliver the poor and needy; Free them from the hand of the wicked."

Psalms 82:3-4



Concerned Women for America (CWA) is leading a movement dedicated to impacting the culture with Christian principles through prayer, education and public policy.