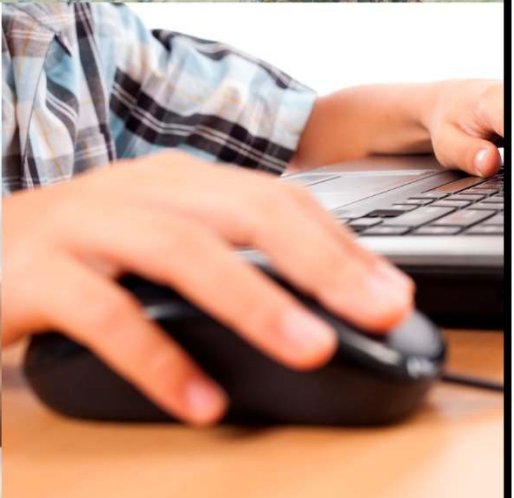


THE PORN EPIDEMIC

Facts
Stats &
Solutions

by: Josh D. McDowell

Executive Summary



The Porn Epidemic
Executive Summary
Josh D. McDowell
September 25, 2018

For further research and documentation go to www.josh.org/epidemic. You will find beneath the synopsis the 16-chapter Porn Epidemic Portfolio containing a combined 1,744 pages of research. Also available are executive summaries, synopsis and portfolios of the Gen Z and the Father Factor.

This was a hard-executive synopsis to write.

My deep concern...if the Church does not tweak its global discipleship approach and right up-front deal with porn in an effective, biblically-based, scientifically accurate, culturally relevant way, then the Global Church will soon be marginalized.

We have a gigantic challenge facing the Church and families today.

The pastor of a church (500-700 members), recently came to me and said, “Can you help...I don’t know what to do about pornography. I don’t know how to research it. I don’t know how to talk to my people about it.” His wife added, “Honey, tell him why we approached him.”

The pastor hesitated, looked around and then leaned in towards me,

“Josh, my 22-year-old son, who is a youth pastor, just told me he is addicted to pornography. He can’t stop. I don’t know what to say. I don’t know how to talk about it to my people. Can you help me? It started at 7 years old.”

“By the end of 2016, global internet traffic will reach 1.1 zettabytes per year...by 2019, global traffic is expected to hit 2 zettabytes per year. One zettabyte is the equivalent of 36,000 years of high-definition video, which in turn, is the equivalent of streaming Netflix’s entire catalog 3,177 times; in

just three minutes, the amount of data travelling over the internet in just three minutes is the digital equivalent of every motion picture ever made in the last 120 years.”

“...the [Washington Post](#) estimated that there are 305,500,000,000 pages online. **How long would it take to download the entire Web:** 11 trillion years.”

- One **porn** site total bandwidth last year was 3110 petabytes which
 - Would equal 3,110,400,000 GB.
 - If printed out on 8¹/₂” x 11” sheets of paper it would be 201,497,932,800,000 (T)
 - For one person to count the pages would take over 100,000,000 years just to count the pages
 - Would fill 20,149,793,280 (B) 4-drawer file cabinets.



Those pages above looked at by children would be 60,449,379,840,000 (T) which would fill 6,044,937,984 (B) 4-drawer file cabinets watched by children.

Another Porn site distributes 99 GB of steamed data or 6,413,413 (M) pages of data or 2,556 4-drawer file cabinets per second. The above watched by children equals 770 4-drawer file cabinets per second.

Just think...it is all “just one click away.”

- “The average age for a child to be exposed to pornography is 11 years old [8-11 years old].” (“Children Internet Pornography Statistics”, Family Safe Pornography Statistics, Accessed April 2, 2015, http://www.familysafemedia.com/pornography_statistics.html)
- “Some researchers believe the average age of exposure to pornography is now 8 years old.” (Rob Jackson, “How to Confront Children Using Pornography”, Pure Intimacy, 2004, <http://www.pureintimacy.org/piArticles/A000000593.cfm>)



- “90 percent of 8- to 16-year-olds have been to a porn site.” “...in a global survey of 19,000 parents, children as young as six are accessing porn.” (“Children Internet Pornography Statistics”, Family Safe Pornography Statistics, Accessed April 2, 2015, http://www.familysafemedia.com/pornography_statistics.html)
- “Young Age of First Exposure: A study of university students found that 93% of boys and 62% of girls had seen internet pornography during adolescence. 49% first encountered pornography before age 13.”² (“Pornography & Public Health Research Summary”, National Center on Sexual /Exploitation, August 2, 2017, http://endsexualexploitation.org/wp-content/uploads/NCOSE_Pornography-PublicHealth_ResearchSummary_8-2_17_FINAL-with-logo.pdf) (1. Chiara Sabina, Janis Wolak, and David Finkelhor, ‘The Nature and Dynamics of Internet Pornography Exposure for Youth,’ *CyberPsychology & Behavior* 11, no. 6 (2008):691-693.; 2. 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 (May, 2016):983-94.)
- At one of the most prestigious, elite Christian schools, there are 331 students 13 to 15 years old. After I spoke on sex and love. The school designed a survey. Incorporated into the survey were two critical questions:
 - a) Do you watch porn on the internet?
 - b) If you do, do you want help/counseling to stop?


An email was sent to me the first of April 2016 stating

Josh, your stats on our students and pornography staggered us. We didn't think they could be true of our school. So we took a survey.

They circulated a 20-question questionnaire and embedded in the survey were the two questions they wanted answered:

- a) *Josh, every one of our 13 – 15-year-old Christian students (331) answered “yes” to “Do you watch porn on the internet?” and*
 - b) *“No” to “Do you want help/counseling?”*
- *A Leading Christian Pastor wrote:*
“Josh, you really shook up our church leaders. They all left

questioning the prevalence of porn in their families and church. The top leader in the country went home to his 19-year-old son. He was shocked and deeply hurt when his son confided that he is addicted to porn...and it all started when he was seven years old. Needless to say, the pastor is shaken up and so sad.”

- “The University of Montreal was commissioned to study the implications of porn on 18-25 year-olds. They had to terminate the study after several months. They couldn’t establish a control group of students in all of Canada who hadn’t watched porn.” (Jonathan Liew, “All men watch porn, scientists find”, Telegraph, December 2, 2009, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/sex/6709646/All-men-watch-porn-scientists-find.html>)
-  Université de Montréal
- Recently during a large youth convention in Mexico, I asked the director of the ministry if they talked to their kids about porn. He replied, “No, but we need to”. I asked why? He replied, “We did a survey of all our youth groups and 90%+ of all our students watch porn.

Men

- “Christian men who “actively seek out pornography:”
 - “81% (ages 13-18)”
 - “76% (ages 18-24)”
 - “65% (ages 25-39)”
 - “47% (ages 36-60)”(“Porn Phenomenon”, Barna Group, February 5, 2016, <https://www.barna.com/the-porn-phenomenon/>)
- “A 2014 Barna group study commissioned by Proven Men Ministries revealed high levels of pornography use and rampant extramarital affairs among Christian men. Of men between the ages of 18-30 years old:”
 - “77% look at pornography at least monthly”
 - “36% view pornography at least daily”
- Those who identify themselves as *born-again* Christians:

“95% admit that they have viewed pornography”
(Barna Group, 2014 Pornography Survey and Statistics, Proven Men Ministries, <http://www.provenmen.org/2014pornsurvey/>)

Women

- “Christian women who actively seek out pornography:”
 - “56% (ages 18-24)”

(“Porn Phenomenon”, Barna Group, February 5, 2016, <https://www.barna.com/the-porn-phenomenon/>)
- “Women account for 1/3 of entire porn viewers.” (Jason Chen, Gizmodo, June 1, 2010, “Finally, Some Actual Stats on Internet Porn,” <https://gizmodo.com/5552899/finally-some-actual-stats-on-internet-porn>)
- “In 2003, 34% of female readers of Today’s Christian Woman’s online newsletter admitted to intentionally accessing internet porn.” (Ramona Richards, “Dirty Little Secret”, Today’s Christian Woman, September 2003, <http://www.todayschristianwoman.com/articles/2003/september/5.58a.html>)
- “64% of men were not interested in marriage because of pornography.” (Steve Weatherbe, “Porn still ‘morally unacceptable’ to most Americans: Gallup”, Life Site News, June 23, 2016, <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/porn-still-morally-unacceptable-to-most-americans-gallup>)
- “Pornography use increases the marital infidelity rate by more than 300%” (Webroot, Site Accessed March 21, 2018, “Internet pornography by the numbers; a significant threat to society”, <https://www.webroot.com/us/en/home/resources/tips/digital-family-life/internet-pornography-by-the-numbers>)

Family

- “According to National Coalition for the Protection of Children & Families, 2010, 47% of families in the United States reported that pornography is a problem in their home.” (Webroot, Site Accessed March 21, 2018, “Internet

pornography by the numbers; a significant threat to society”,
<https://www.webroot.com/us/en/home/resources/tips/digital-family-life/internet-pornography-by-the-numbers>)

The Church

- “50-58% of pastors are sex addicts.” (Dr. Ted Roberts, Pure Desire Ministry, as quoted April 5, 2016, Greensboro, NC.)
- A counseling pastor of a very large Baptist church: “the overwhelming majority of my counseling is pornography.”
- A denomination president: “It’s our Achilles heel and our pastors won’t talk about it.”

Missions

- A representative of a large missionary organization which sends out about 400 short term missionaries (all university students) stated, “*Josh, we have to reject 85% of our applicants because of pornography.*”
- A director of one of the largest Evangelical missionary ministries explained to me that January 1 to April 1, 2017 they have had 196 applicants for joining staff in that ministry. “*Josh, 99% of the men and 80% of the women have watched or do watch porn.*”

The Workplace (TWP)

- “20% of men admit to watching porn online at work.” (Jason Chen, Gizmodo, June 1, 2010, “Finally, Some Actual Stats on Internet Porn,”
<https://gizmodo.com/5552899/finally-some-actual-stats-on-internet-porn>)
- “The financial cost of pornography to business productivity in the U.S. alone is estimated at \$16.9 Billion annually.” (Webroot, Site Accessed March 21, 2018, “Internet pornography by the numbers; a significant threat to society”

<https://www.webroot.com/us/en/home/resources/tips/digital-family-life/internet-pornography-by-the-numbers>)

- Recently, I was at a hotel in Gilroy, CA. The porter was a sharp young man about 22 years old. I asked him, “Do you watch porn on the Internet?” He responded, “Of course...everyone does.” He went on to say, “Why should I quit? I’m not in a relationship.” When I shared the consequences for future relationships, he replied, “I will worry about it then.”

After asking the same question to a waiter in the same hotel, he replied, “Oh yeah...a whole lot...I don’t know anyone who doesn’t watch porn.”

- On a recent American Airlines flight there were two young flight attendants interacting with me. One of them, Crystal, 23 years old, listened carefully when I shared, “*Be careful when you get married ... try to find out if he watches porn.*” She sadly explained, “*Sir, I don’t think I have ever met a man who doesn’t watch pornography.*”
- While Dottie and I were having a great meal at The Outback Steakhouse, near our house, our waitress was very friendly. She was 21 and came to Christ at a great church near our house. I said, “*Amy, when you get serious about a guy, in a relaxed moment, ask him if he watches pornography ...*” Her head popped up and she exclaimed, “*I don’t think I know any guys in my church who don’t!*”

As I sat watching a cable news channel recently, a cultural activist being interviewed said,

“We won the sex education war, we won the gay/lesbian war, we have now won the same-sex marriage war and trust me, we will win the porn war ... you might as well give up.”

“Upon hearing this, I rose from my chair and exclaimed, ‘***not if I can help it!***’”

“No wound is so deep as to be out of the reach of Christ’s redeeming grace.”

(Catholic Church

Bishops)

“For I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal, declares the Lord.”

Jeremiah 30:17

“I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.”

Psalm 119:11

“Behold The LORD’s hand is not so short That it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull that it cannot hear.”

Isaiah 59:1

For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11

The Porn Phenomenon

“Most Americans believe porn is ‘bad for society,’ but those attitudes are shifting toward neutrality or ‘good for society’ among younger generations.”

“When they talk about porn with friends, 89% of teens, and 95% of young adults say they do so in a neutral, accepting, or encouraging way. That is, only one in 20 young adults and one in 10 teens say their friends think viewing pornography is a bad thing.”

“Teens & young adults view ‘not recycling’ as more immoral than viewing porn.”

“32% say viewing porn is ‘usually or always wrong’ compared to 56% who say not recycling is ‘usually or always wrong.’”

(David Kinnaman, “The Porn Phenomenon”, Barna, February 5, 2016, <https://www.barna.com/the-porn-phenomenon/>)

What are the Solutions to Porn?

There is no solution or answer for porn addiction! With that statement people look confused. Why...because there is no one solutions/answer. There is no silver bullet. One must apply anywhere from 4-10 solutions.

Porn intrusion into our minds and lives is so profound that one cannot counsel porn the way we do any other sin.

- 1) The answer is not to:
 - a. Make the decision to stop.
 - b. Pray.
 - c. Read the Word and just trust Jesus.

That approach can lead a person into greater despair and shame – one must go into greater depth.

- 2) Why, because porn is a surface symptom of a deeper emotional wound. (See “*Why Do I Continue to Struggle?!? 19 Possible Motive-Triggers for Pornography*” at the end of the Executive Summary.)

If we do not deal with the deeper wound then our solutions will be superficial (See the incredible books by Dr. Ted Roberts, *Pure Desire* and Dr. Mark Laasar, *Healing Wounds of Sexual Addiction*). This is why I often state that the majority of pastors, leaders and even counselors are doing more damage than good when counselling on porn. We usually deal with the surface issue (porn) without the deeper wound or trauma. i.e. most spiritual counselling is behavior modification. That style of counseling is irresponsible and destructive. Why. Because if we don't deal with the deeper trauma or woundedness, then one stops watching porn for maybe 1-2 months, but they will end up into a deeper darkness of porn enslavement and then lose hope of any solution.

Please don't get me wrong, we need to make a decisive decision “I am going to stop watching porn.” It is, so important to pray, absorb God's Word and of course “Trust Jesus.” But we need to show them what the Scripture truly says. More important is to explain how we “trust Jesus” when it comes to porn compulsiveness. (Carefully look at the Porn Epidemic portfolio section, “Solutions.”)

Every pastor ... Every Christian leader owes it to their congregation, their area of influence, to learn how to help folks entangled in the web of destructive porn.

You and I have an awesome responsibility to make the effort (and it will take effort and time) to be prepared to help those struggling with porn.

If you read this lengthy e-mail – thank you.

In light of our high calling,

Josh D. McDowell (Cru 32005)

For further research and documentation go to www.josh.org/epidemic. You will find beneath the synopsis the 16-chapter Porn Epidemic Portfolio containing a combined 1,744 pages of research. Also available are executive summaries, synopsis and portfolios of the Gen Z and the Father Factor.