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Proactive Protection for Adolescents, the Innocent Victim: Risk and Protective Factors for Pornography

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Proactive Protection for Adolescents, the Innocent Victim

Risk and Protective Factors for Pornography



Julie Varner; Kellie Hoch; Michael Goates, MS; Carl Hanson, PhD

Objectives

1

Following completion of the presentation, all participants (100%) will be able to explain the four major domains of the social development model.

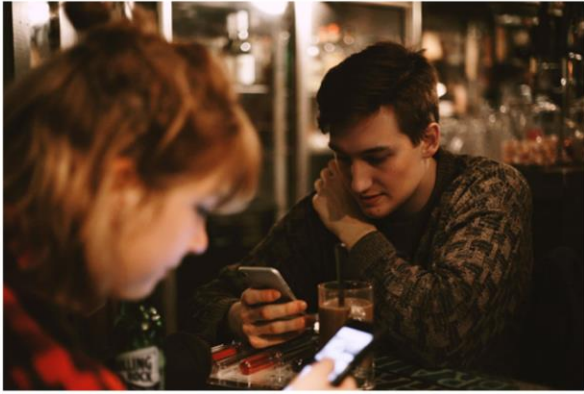
2

Following completion of the presentation, all participants (100%) will be able to list four important steps in conducting a systematic review.

3

Following completion of the presentation, all participants (100%) will be able to identify the root causes of adolescent digital pornography use.

Pornography



Visual material that is sexually explicit and intended primarily for the purpose of sexual arousal.

Rationale

- Impacts of pornography use on adolescents
- Lack of systematic reviews on the antecedents



Root Causes



What are reasons for adolescent pornography use?

Purpose of the Study

Conduct a systematic review of the research literature on the risk and protective factors for adolescent pornography use.

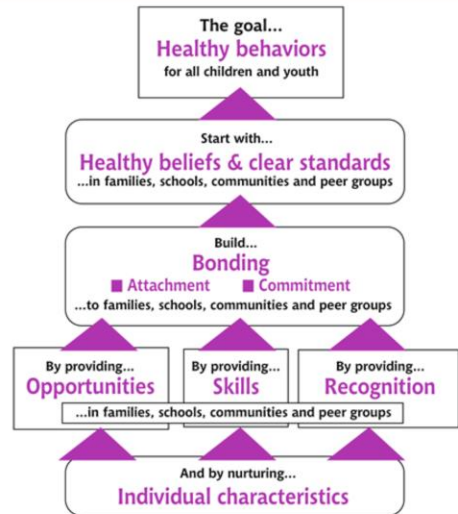


Theoretical Model

Social Development Model

Four Domains:

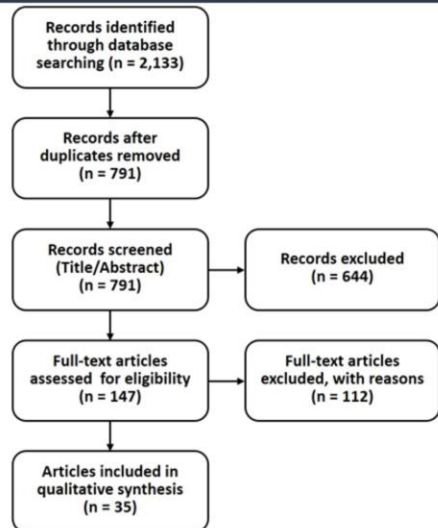
1. Community
2. Family
3. School
4. Individual/Peer



Methods

Systematic Review

- Comprehensive literature search
- Article screening and evaluation
- Qualitative synthesis



Comprehensive literature search - 25 electronic databases, Publication date January 2005 through October 2016

Eligibility Criteria

- **Study population:** Adolescents, ages 10 to 19 years, who use pornography
- **Article research focus:** Predictors or other factors leading to or protecting from pornography use
- **Source type:** Journal articles, dissertations, theses, government reports, and meeting proceedings
- **Study Design:** Quantitative research
- **Article Language:** English

Methods - Codebook

- Study design
- Demographics
- Risk and protective factors
 - Community
 - Family
 - School
 - Individual/Peer
- Media channels for pornography use



Study design - longitudinal vs. cross sectional, experimental/quasi-experimental

Demographics - age, race, gender

Define - Risk Factor: increase the likelihood of consumption of pornography

Define - Protective Factor: decrease the likelihood of consumption of pornography

Risk/protective factors examples (based on Social Development Model)

Community - availability of pornographic materials, economic deprivation, neighborhood attachment/disorganization, infrastructure, etc.

Family - family history of pornography use, family conflict, family connectedness, parenting style, etc.

School - academic performance, caring school climate, participating in extracurricular activities, etc.

Individual/Peer - experienced child abuse, friends who engage in pornography, positive self concept, religious/spiritual beliefs, etc.

Results

Study Design

- Cross-sectional: 75%
- Longitudinal: 25%

Demographics

- Mean age: 15.2
- Male: 50%
- White: 56%

Media Channels for Pornography Use

- Internet: 69%
- Cell phone: 22%
- Computer: 18%



Limited data was available - specifically for percentage male and white.

Results - Community

Risk Factors

- Availability and access to pornographic material, alcohol and other drugs



Other Risk Factors

- None

Community was light on research

3 articles for community risk factors

1. "Students who drink alcohol and labelled as 'sometimes' were two times more likely exposed to SEM than those who never drink alcohol. Regarding SEM access, school youths with label 'easy access' were exposed in odds of six folds than youths of no access".
2. "youth who used file-sharing programs to download images, talked online to unknown persons about sex, used the Internet at friends' homes"

Results - Community

Protective Factors

- None
-

Other Protective Factors

- Local, state policies and practices that support healthy norms and child-youth programs



Only one article identifies this

1. "Filtering and blocking software reduced the risk of unwanted exposure, as did attending an Internet safety presentation by law enforcement personnel"

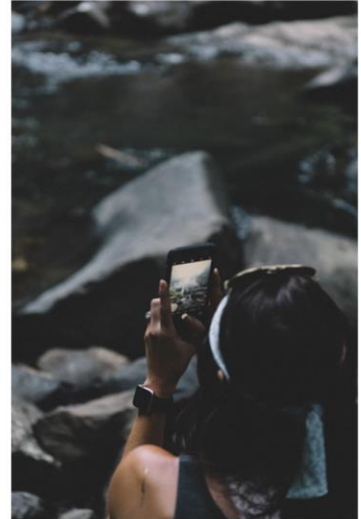
Results - Family

Risk Factors

- Family management problems
 - Family conflict
-

Other Risk Factors

- Family structure



2nd most prevalent category

Family risk factors:

7 articles

- “emotional bond with their caregiver as poor, low caregiver monitoring, frequent coercive discipline”
- “Communicate about sexual matters”
- “Parental mediation”

3 articles

- “Family psychological violence and to sexual violence”
- “Conflict at wave 1 with more porn later”

Other risk factors: 5 articles

- “Not having two parents”
- “Just mother, only grandparents”

Results - Family



Protective Factors

- Connected to family
 - Positive parenting style
-

Other Protective Factors

- Family regulation of internet and phone use

Family Protective Factors: 4 articles

- “mutuality (mutual support, love, and concern among family members)”
- “Strong attachment to family”

3 articles

- “Less restrictive (not mediating internet usage)”
- “Perceived family functioning”

Other: 2 articles

- “filtering, blocking, or monitoring software on the home computer”

Results - School

Risk Factors

- None
-

Other Risk Factors

- Type of school (private, public)

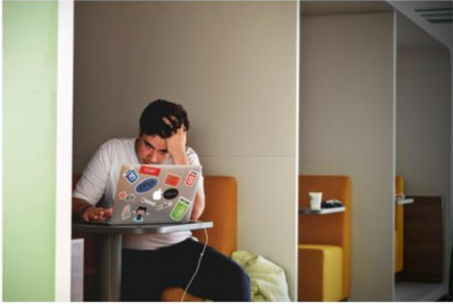


We did not find evidence to support school risk factors leading to pornography use in adolescents using this model.

Other Risk Factors, Type of School: (2 articles)

- “Students who attended private school were more than two times more likely exposed to SEM than public schools”
- “adolescents attending secular schools proved more likely to report seeking X-rated materials than those attending religious schools.”

Results - School



Protective Factors

- Connected to school
-

Other Protective Factors

- Type of school (religious)

Connected to school (2 articles)

- “attachment to school were all negatively related to the likelihood of visiting regularly pornographic websites.”
- “Attachment to school was negatively related to pornography consumption.”

Type of School - Religious (2 articles)

- “the effect of attending a religious school, which was negatively related to pornography consumption”
- “Girls and boys enrolled in religious schools are less likely to report seeking pornography content online”

Results - Individual / Peer

Risk Factors

- Constitutional factors
- Favorable attitudes toward pornography
- Friends who consume pornography

Other Risk Factors

- Being male
- Age
- Frequent internet use
- Antisocial behavior



Constitutional Factors (8 articles)

- Depressive feelings (3)
- Mental health issues (1)
- Sensation seeking (4)

Favorable Attitudes (4 articles)

- Permissive attitudes about sexual behaviors → seeking sexual media content (2)
- Favorable attitudes (1)
- Positive view on and arousal from pornography (1)

Friends who engage in the problem behavior (3 articles)

- Used the internet with friends at a friend's home to view pornography
- Peer pressure
- Friends with risky sexual behavior

Others:

Being Male (14 articles)

- More likely than females to view pornography

Age (8 articles) - more likely in the younger range of ages included in our study (13-15)

- Average age = 15.2

Frequent Internet Use (5 articles)

- “Frequency of Internet indicated that adolescents visiting pornographic websites were more likely to be heavy Internet users.”
- “Heavy internet users were also heavy consumers of pornographic material.”

Antisocial Behavior (5 articles)

- Includes delinquent behavior and substance misuse

Results - Individual / Peer



Protective Factors

- Religious or spiritual beliefs
-

Other Protective Factors

- Positive self-concept

Religious Spiritual Beliefs (3 articles)

- “To the extent that attitudes predict behaviour it can be assumed that condemnation of pornography, which is more common among religious individuals, leads to abstaining from searching for pornography.”
- “Pornography consumption is weaker at higher levels of religious attendance, particularly among boys”
- “Religious commitment was negatively correlated with intentional pornography exposure”

Other:

Positive Self-Concept (6 articles)

- Self esteem, self efficacy
- Positive youth development qualities
 - bonding, resilience, social competence, recognition for positive behavior, emotional competence, cognitive competence, behavioral competence, moral competence, self-determination, self-efficacy, clear and positive identity, beliefs in the future, prosocial involvement, prosocial norms, and spirituality.

Conclusions

Studies revealed:

- Risk factors for pornography use were identified at the community level (e.g., availability and access, alcohol and other drugs), family level (e.g., family management problems), school level (e.g., type of school), and individual/peer level (e.g., favorable attitudes).
- Protective factors for pornography use were identified at the community level (e.g., policies to support healthy norms), family level (e.g., positive parenting), school level (e.g., connection to school), and individual/peer level (e.g., spiritual beliefs).



- Reduce availability and access (*community*)
 - No filters on community computers, file-sharing programs
 - Filtering and blocking software reduced the risk, and attending an Internet safety presentation by law enforcement personnel.
- Reduce alcohol usage (*community*)
- Improve family management (*family*)
 - Workshops
- Involve students in activities to help form a connection to the school (*school*)
- Implement peer health education (*peer*)
 - Friends who consume pornography
- Target young males and discuss frequent internet use (*individual*)