



B4 Exploring the Progression of Nondeviant and Deviant Pornography Use By Age of Onset and Sex

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After attending this presentation, attendees will be presented with the results of an empirical study assessing the difference in age of onset for engaging in various forms of nondeviant and deviant pornography and the progression of pornography use between men and women. In addition, attendees will learn whether there is a progression of increased risk for engaging in nondeviant to deviant forms of pornography based on age of onset.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by adding to the body of knowledge examining the age of onset for consuming various forms of nondeviant and deviant pornography.

Although seemingly counterintuitive, research indicates the collections of child pornography users not only contain sexualized images of children, but other genres of pornography both deviant and socially acceptable in nature (c.f., Quayle & Taylor, 2002; Quayle & Taylor, 2003).^{1,2} In fact, interviews with child pornography users have suggested that some offenders move “through a variety of pornographies, each time accessing more extreme material” (Quayle & Taylor, 2002, p. 343)¹ as a result of desensitization or appetite satiation, which lead to collecting and discovering other forms of deviant pornography (Quayle & Taylor, 2003).² Also, some consumers stated they downloaded the images simply because they were available and accessible, making the behaviors primarily a result of compulsivity rather than a specific sexual interest in children (Basbaum, 2010).³

Some child pornography consumers exhibit a complex array of sexual interests, which may be representative of a more general level of paraphilic tendencies rather than a specific sexual interest in children. In a study conducted by Endrass et al. (2009),⁴ the collection of images from 231 men charged with child pornography use also revealed other types of deviant pornography. Specifically, nearly 60% of the sample collected child pornography and at least one other type of deviant pornography, such as bestiality, excrement, or sadism, with at least one out of three offenders collecting three or more types of deviant pornography (Endrass et al., 2009).⁴ This research suggests the majority of Internet child pornography users are collecting a wider range of deviant pornography, which may reflect a general level of sexual deviance rather than a specific paraphilia, such as pedophilia. In other words, some child pornography consumers may be dissidents within the normal population who exhibit a wider range of sexual interests.

Although case studies exist, few empirical research studies have assessed the question of whether individuals who use nondeviant forms of pornography (e.g., adult pornography) are at a greater risk for consuming deviant forms of pornography (e.g., animal and child pornography). The current study adds to this body of knowledge by examining the age of onset for consuming various forms of nondeviant and deviant pornography. Specifically, the present project will explore at what age individuals first knowingly searched for, downloaded, and exchanged/shared the following pornography genres: adult-only, animal (bestiality), and child pornography. By examining the interrelations among the self-reported age and pornography use variables, the goal is to provide a better understanding of how nondeviant pornography use either facilitates or accelerates the probability of engaging in more deviant forms of pornography.

The first goal of this study is to determine whether or not the *age of onset* is a risk factor for engaging in deviant pornography. In other words, are individuals who engage in nondeviant pornography use at an earlier age more likely to engage in deviant forms of pornography use compared to late onset users? The second goal of this study is to determine whether or not the age of onset for nondeviant and deviant pornography differs by sex (male, female). Finally, the third goal of this study will explore the frequency of pornography use by collapsing the respondents into pornography categories: none, adult-only, animal-only, child-only, adult-animal, adult-child, animal-child, and adult-child-animal. This will assess whether self-reported child pornography users are more likely to self-report adult and animal pornography behaviors compared to the other categories of users.

Results and future implications of the study’s findings will be discussed.

References:

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